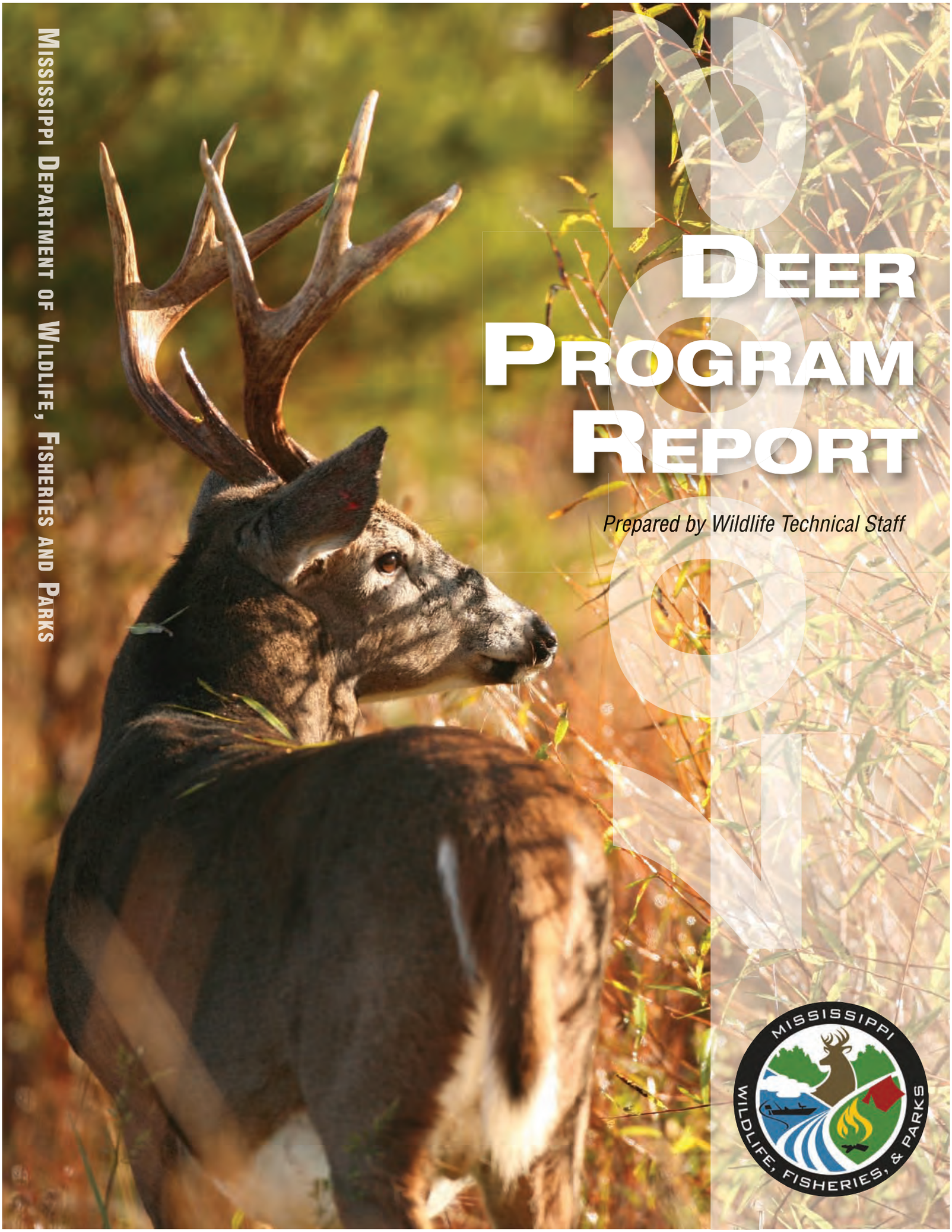

# 2019 Deer Program Report

*Prepared by Wildlife Technical Staff*

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

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# Mississippi Deer Program Report 2007

**Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks**
1505 Eastover Drive | Jackson, MS 39211

# Dedication

## In Memory of Bill Lunceford

*1945 - 2007*

This and all future Deer Data Books are dedicated to Bill Lunceford.

On September 20, 2007, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the sportsmen of Mississippi lost a hero. William (Bill) Lunceford passed away as a result of complications due to a previous injury. Bill became a quadriplegic after a diving accident in 1979. After rehabilitation, he came back to work with the MDWFP, as the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) Coordinator. He filled this role until his retirement on June 30, 2006. The work he completed in his position is immeasurable. Using a mouthpiece, wooden dowel, and large eraser, he typed faster than most of the staff. His knowledge of computer programs combined with deer management experience made the rest of the staff's roles easier. He combined the DMAP data for the entire state annually and produced reports to assist the field biologists in making better deer management decisions. The data and reports eventually became the Deer Program Report. His work has impacted millions of acres of deer habitat in the state. He also assisted other states with the implementation of DMAP programs.

Bill was a man of Christian values, strong work ethic, and immense knowledge. It was impossible to not make friends with him. After his accident, he continued his passion of hunting deer. He designed a rifle mounted on a football helmet, with trigger activation by solenoid from a mouthpiece. He was a crack shot with this weapon, bagging several deer, and designed several versions in different calibers.

Bill traveled the state to give motivational speeches. He proved that adversity can be overcome. You just have to want to. Many lives have been touched, and changed, by Bill's time on Earth. As a firm believer, Bill can now walk again.

You will be missed.

# 2007

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**ROBERT L. COOK**
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# Table of Contents

# Acknowledgements

Numerous people are responsible for the information presented in this report. The vision and work of Mississippi Game and Fish Commission patriarchs like Fannie Cook and Bill Turcotte initiated plans in the 1930's that ultimately provided Mississippi Sportsmen with the deer population we enjoy today.

Leaf River Refuge Manager Quinton Breeland, Upper Sardis Refuge Manager Garald Mize, and other dedicated Commission employees protected, trapped, and relocated hundreds of deer throughout the state during the days of Mississippi's deer restoration. In addition, game wardens of the deer restoration era protected a growing deer population through the early period of wildlife conservation. During this time in the history of Mississippi's Wildlife Management Agency, game wardens provided their own gun and vehicle. Mobile communication with other officers was little more than a futuristic dream. Wildlife enforcement, or the game warden that interfered with the "jacklighting" of deer and illegal harvest of game, was not a welcome sight to some hunters at that time. Refuge managers and game wardens of the restoration era are pioneers of the deer population restoration success of today.

Today the conservation officer is considered differently. Most men and women who enjoy the bountiful wildlife that exist today regard the conservation officer as a partner in wildlife conservation. As those who are responsible for the deer populations we treasure are remembered, the conservation officers of today should not be forgotten.

The Mississippi Legislature is also to be thanked for their historic and sustained funding of this agency. Since the establishment of the Game and Fish Commission in the days of the Great Depression, the Mississippi Legislature has funded efforts necessary for the wildlife conservation success story of the white-tailed deer.

Mississippi landowners have made deer in the Magnolia State a reality. Without landowner desire to have deer, most agency efforts would have proved ineffective. Those of us who hunt, study, or admire the white-tailed deer truly thank you.

This report would not have been possible without the efforts and cooperation of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) Wildlife Bureau technical staff and district field personnel. An extra-special appreciation is extended to Dene Smith for assistance with many aspects of producing and mailing this report. And to Cindy Clark who was responsible for the report design.

Additionally, Mississippi's deer hunters deserve special recognition. Your data collection efforts, concern, and support for white-tailed deer are vital to the success of the White-tailed Deer Program.

Look for this information on *www.mdwfp.com/deer*. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Cover photo courtesy of Steve Gulledge Photography.

***Special thanks and recognition goes out to Bill Lunceford. Bill had the vision and foresight to put the first DMAP Annual Report together in 1988. In 1993 the report changed to the Mississippi Deer Data book. Without Bill's vision of the DMAP program and the Deer Data Book, today's report would not have been possible.***

Chad Dacus
Deer Program Coordinator

Chris McDonald
Regional Deer Biologist

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Regional Deer Biologist

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Regional Deer Biologist

**FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION**

**A PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUNDED PROJECT**

This report is produced by the Technical Guidelines Project, Statewide Wildlife Development Project and Statewide Wildlife Investigations Project and is primarily funded by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration.

# White-tailed Deer Program Report 2006-2007

The first Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) report was completed in 1982. The DMAP report evolved into the Mississippi Deer Program Report in 1992. Since its inception, the purpose of this report was to consolidate all deer-related information obtained by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) personnel. Compilation of these data provides managers the opportunity to analyze trends in deer harvest and physiological condition. In the future, managers will have a chronicled reference to more effectively critique effects of changes in season framework, hunter success, and climatic conditions on the deer population.

Decision makers such as the Mississippi Legislature and the Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks have served the sportsmen of the state well. Deer harvest and management opportunities exist today that were considered far-fetched twenty years ago.

Deer hunting regulations are subject to change each year. The most notable change is the creation of two deer management zones (See page 39).

Annual mail surveys are used to monitor trends in hunter harvest and effort. This report includes mail survey data from the 2005 – 2006 hunting season. Currently, Mississippi State University conducts these mail surveys. Recognizing that biases exist in mail survey data, and assuming all biases remain constant, the estimates obtained from the survey provide adequate indices for monitoring harvest and effort trends.

The MDWFP began using a new computer summary program (XtraNet) in 2004 – 2005. Data from 2001 – 2007 was analyzed using XtraNet, while data prior to 2001 was analyzed using DeerTrax, the old computer summary program. This may be the cause for drastic differences in some numbers. Once all of the historic data is entered into the XtraNet system, the numbers are expected to fall along the same trend and eliminate the drastic drop in the graphs and tables. Additionally, all DMAP summary tables and graphs now include harvest reports from WMAs that collect deer harvest data.

Sample methods were unchanged for the following data sets:
- Hunter effort and harvest information collected on state-operated WMAs
- Employee observations of deer mortality due to motor vehicle collisions
- Enforcement Bureau monitoring of deer hunting-related citations
- Deer research projects conducted in cooperation with Mississippi State University Forest and Wildlife Research Center

Department wildlife biologists continued to inform and educate sportsmen relative to deer management needs and issues. Our goals are to provide insight into current deer management needs while providing the leadership to identify and guide future issues. All known media sources were utilized in this process. In addition, public presentations were made to hunting, civic, and conservation groups throughout the state. This report captures a portion of the informational and educational efforts.

*Swayze Bozeman, with his dad Harvey, harvested these two deer on a DMAP property in Madison County.*

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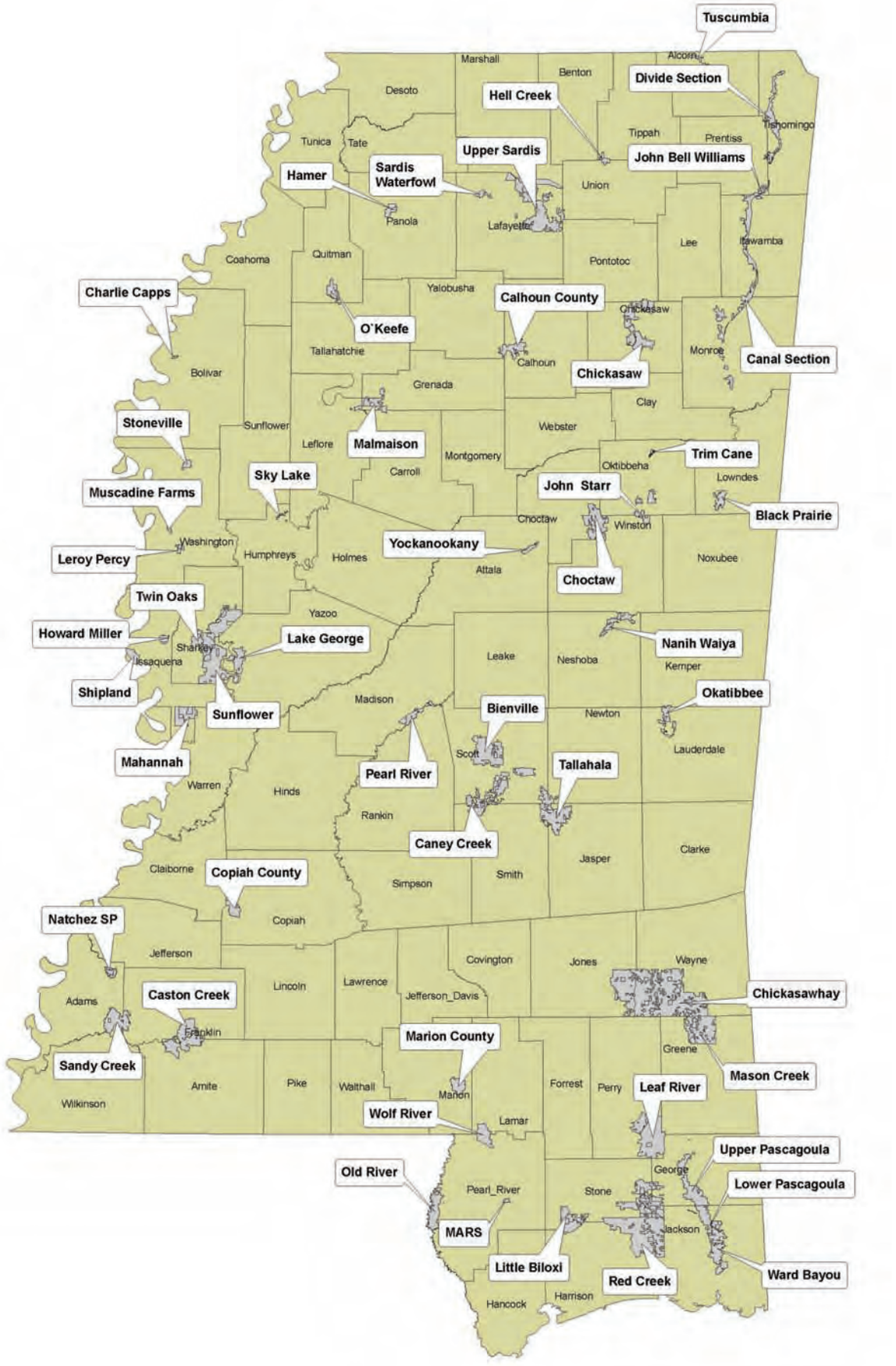
# Wildlife Management Areas



# Wildlife Management Areas 2006-2007

A summary of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) deer harvest and hunter activity is presented in Figure 1. The majority of data was collected from self-service permit stations. Mandatory check-in and harvest reporting is required from all hunters on all WMAs.

Throughout the year, conservation officers monitor compliance of hunters checking-in on WMAs. Differences in compliance rates among WMAs are seen each year. These differences are mainly due to the degree of hunter acceptance of the check-in system. Some conservation officers assigned to WMAs have informed hunters of the importance of accurate check-in more than officers on other areas. Also, some officers have enforced the mandatory check-in regulation more diligently. The size of a WMA and control of hunter access also affects compliance rates.

Some WMAs provide very restrictive hunting opportunities due to area size, habitat type, and management objectives. The location and soil region in which a WMA lays impacts deer productivity. Because of these factors, as well as other unique differences between areas, caution should be exercised in comparing data between WMAs (Table 1 on page 7).

Hunter man-days for the 2006 – 2007 season increased slightly from last year by approximately 8,200 man-days. The previous four seasons showed a decline in hunter effort from average as depicted in Figure 1. Reasons for these decreases vary. Hurricane Katrina certainly decreased hunter activity, as did the increase in fuel prices that followed the hurricane in 2005 – 2006. Hunter opportunity has generally remained stable or increased on most WMAs; therefore, opportunity is not likely a causative factor of this decrease. Conservation officers report an apparent statewide decline in hunter numbers as well as hunter time spent in the field. This perceived trend seems to be applicable on private and public hunting acreage.

However, while hunter effort increased, the total harvest remained stable from last season (Figure 1). The 2006 – 2007 season was the third and fourth seasons that many WMAs had a minimum inside spread restriction for legal bucks. WMAs with spread restrictions are noted on Table 1 by an *. The harvest should continue to increase for a few years before leveling off. However, an increase in harvest can only be expected if hunter effort remains constant or increases.

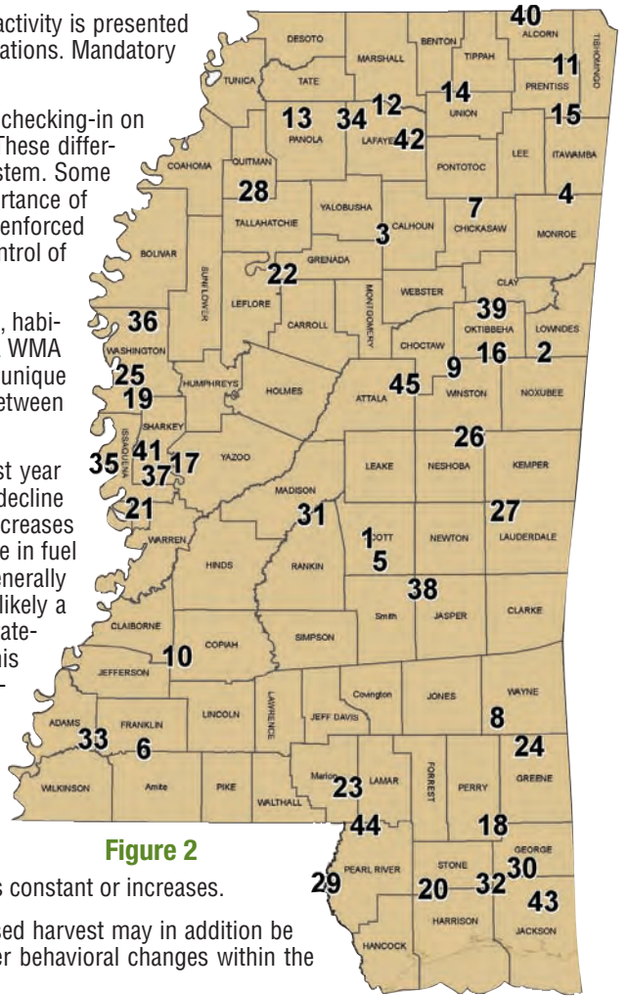



Figure 2

Average success rate also increased across WMAs. Therefore, the increased harvest may in addition be partially attributed to increased deer populations on the WMA system. Other behavioral changes within the deer herd are also likely culprits in the increased harvest.

Figure 2 illustrates the location of WMAs in the state. For a list of WMAs in the state see the Wildlife Management Area information table on page 6.

## Wildlife Management Area Reported Deer Harvested and Hunter Mandays

# Wildlife Management Area Information 2006-2007

| Wildlife Management Area | Acreage | Nearest Town | Contact Person | Phone Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Bienville | 26,136 | Morton | Clayton Lott | 601-469-5993 |
| 2. Black Prairie | 5,673 | Brooksville | | 662-272-8303 |
| 3. Calhoun County | 10,900 | Calhoun City | Donnie Cain | 662-628-6328 |
| 4. Canal Section | 26,000 | Fulton | Clark Adams | 662-862-2723 |
| 5. Caney Creek | 28,000 | Forest | Art Bradshaw / Gary Crumpton | 601-537-3555 |
| 6. Caston Creek | 29,875 | Meadville | A.J Smith | 601-384-3606 |
| 7. Chickasaw | 27,259 | Houston | Matt Gray / Doug Swords | 662-447-0141 |
| 8. Chickasawhay | 122,740 | Laurel | Ronnie Hurst / Jay Landrum | 601-344-0600 |
| 9. Choctaw | 24,314 | Ackerman | John Taylor | 662-285-6928 |
| 10. Copiah County | 6,583 | Hazlehurst | Allen Patrick | 601-277-3636 |
| 11. Divide Section | 15,337 | Iuka | David Overby / Tim Ryan | 662-423-1455 |
| 12. Graham Lake Waterfowl | 1,400 | Oxford | Bobby Young | 662-234-6125 |
| 13. Hamer | 4,000 | Sardis | Walt Hardy | 662-563-6330 |
| 14. Hell Creek | 2,284 | New Albany | Steve Coleman / Jack Griffin | 662-685-4508 |
| 15. John Bell Williams | 2,938 | Fulton | John Tigner | 662-862-2723 |
| 16. John W Starr | 8,244 | Starkville | Wayne Gordon | 662-840-5172 |
| 17. Lake George | 8,383 | Holly Bluff | Scottie Jones | 662-828-3449 |
| 18. Leaf River | 42,000 | Wiggins | Le Don Cooley | 601-598-2323 |
| 19. Leroy Percy | 1,642 | Hollandale | Scottie Jones | 601-859-3421 |
| 20. Little Biloxi | 14,540 | McHenry | Dwight Morrow | 601-928-3720 |
| 21. Mahannah | 12,675 | Redwood | Lee Harvey | 601-636-2045 |
| 22. Malmaison | 9,696 | Greenwood | Dale Adams / Shannon Chunn | 662-453-5409 |
| 23. Marion County | 7,200 | Columbia | Danny Stringer | 601-736-0066 |
| 24. Mason Creek | 28,000 | Richton | Ted Hooper | 601-928-3720 |
| 25. Muscadine Farms | 700 | Avon | Scottie Jones | 601-859-3421 |
| 26. Nanih Waiya | 7,655 | Philadelphia | Larry Waddell | 662-724-2770 |
| 27. Okatibbee | 6,883 | Collinsville | Randy Akins / Brent Baucum | 601-737-5831 |
| 28. O'Keefe | 6,239 | Lambert | Robbie Kiihnl | 662-326-8029 |
| 29. Old River | 14,764 | Poplarville | Patrick Rush | 601-772-9024 |
| 30. Pascagoula River | 37,124 | Lucedale | Ben Hare | 601-947-6376 |
| | | Moss Point | Michael Everett | 228-588-3878 |
| 31. Pearl River | 6,925 | Canton | Nathaniel Emerson | 601-859-3421 |
| 32. Red Creek | 91,139 | Wiggins | Doyce Bond | 601-928-4296 |
| 33. Sandy Creek | 16,407 | Natchez | Mark Reid | 601-835-3050 |
| 34. Sardis Waterfowl | 4,000 | Oxford | Vic Theobold | 662-236-9762 |
| 35. Shipland | 3,642 | Mayersville | Michael Thompson | 662-873-9331 |
| 36. Stoneville | 2,500 | Leland | Scottie Jones | 601-859-3421 |
| 37. Sunflower | 58,480 | Rolling Fork | Bobby Hodnett / Jason Kerr | 662-828-3456 |
| 38. Tallahala | 28,120 | Montrose | Brian Gordon | 601-739-3671 |
| 39 Trim Cane | 891 | Starkville | Wayne Gordon | 662-840-5172 |
| 40. Tuscumbia | 2,436 | Corinth | Jimmy Drewery | 662-284-0740 |
| 41. Twin Oaks | 5,675 | Rolling Fork | Scottie Jones | 601-859-3421 |
| 42. Upper Sardis | 42,274 | Oxford | Bobby Young | 662-234-6125 |
| 43. Ward Bayou | 13,234 | Moss Point | Lynn McCoy | 228-826-1012 |
| 44. Wolf River | 10,881 | Poplarville | Ricky McDaniel | 601-795-8682 |
| 45. Yockanookany | 2,379 | McCool | Brad Holder | 662-563-6330 |

## Table 1. Wildlife Management Area Harvest Information for the 2006-2007 Season

| Wildlife Management Area | Acreage | Total Harvest | Acres/Deer | Buck Harvest | Acres/ Buck | Doe Harvest | Acres/Doe | Total Mandays | Mandays/ Deer | Mandays/ Acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bienville* | 25,300 | 74 | 342 | 54 | 469 | 20 | 1,265 | 1,924 | 26 | 0.08 |
| Black Prairie | 5,825 | 29 | 201 | 7 | 832 | 22 | 265 | 103 | 4 | 0.02 |
| Calhoun County* | 9,888 | 57 | 173 | 36 | 275 | 21 | 471 | 1,990 | 35 | 0.20 |
| Canal/John Bell | 32,500 | 131 | 248 | 83 | 392 | 48 | 677 | 3,912 | 30 | 0.12 |
| Caney Creek* | 30,900 | 63 | 490 | 19 | 1,626 | 44 | 702 | 2,347 | 37 | 0.08 |
| Caston Creek* | 27,785 | 44 | 631 | 22 | 1,263 | 22 | 1,263 | 2,887 | 66 | 0.10 |
| Chickasaw* | 28,319 | 98 | 289 | 50 | 566 | 48 | 590 | 6,281 | 64 | 0.22 |
| Chickasawhay* | 35,000 | 75 | 467 | 54 | 648 | 21 | 1,667 | 2,829 | 38 | 0.08 |
| Choctaw* | 24,314 | 111 | 219 | 46 | 529 | 65 | 374 | 5,655 | 51 | 0.23 |
| Copiah County* | 6,583 | 77 | 85 | 16 | 411 | 61 | 108 | 729 | 9 | 0.11 |
| Divide Section* | 15,336 | 60 | 256 | 9 | 1,704 | 51 | 301 | 2,902 | 48 | 0.19 |
| Hamer* | 3,909 | 76 | 51 | 28 | 140 | 48 | 81 | 1,270 | 17 | 0.32 |
| Hell Creek | 2,500 | 12 | 208 | 4 | 625 | 8 | 313 | 180 | 15 | 0.07 |
| John Starr* | 8,244 | 81 | 102 | 33 | 250 | 48 | 172 | 1,933 | 24 | 0.23 |
| Lake George* | 8,383 | 15 | 559 | 8 | 1,048 | 7 | 1,198 | 297 | 20 | 0.04 |
| Leaf River* | 41,411 | 65 | 637 | 37 | 1,119 | 28 | 1,479 | 5,794 | 89 | 0.14 |
| Leroy Percy* | 2,200 | 10 | 220 | 6 | 367 | 4 | 550 | 554 | 55 | 0.25 |
| Little Biloxi* | 14,980 | 19 | 788 | 10 | 1,498 | 9 | 1,664 | 1,995 | 105 | 0.13 |
| Lower Pascagoula* | 18,735 | 18 | 1,041 | 14 | 1,338 | 4 | 4,684 | 1,584 | 88 | 0.08 |
| Mahannah* | 12,675 | 152 | 83 | 46 | 276 | 106 | 120 | 1,755 | 12 | 0.14 |
| Malmaison* | 10,016 | 85 | 118 | 24 | 417 | 61 | 164 | 1,727 | 20 | 0.17 |
| Marion County* | 7,200 | 80 | 90 | 47 | 153 | 33 | 218 | 2,101 | 26 | 0.29 |
| Mason Creek* | 27,346 | 28 | 977 | 23 | 1,189 | 5 | 5,469 | 1,751 | 63 | 0.06 |
| Nanih Waiya | 7,655 | 61 | 125 | 16 | 478 | 45 | 170 | 1,420 | 23 | 0.19 |
| Okatibbee | 6,883 | 29 | 237 | 9 | 765 | 20 | 344 | 983 | 34 | 0.14 |
| O'Keefe* | 6,100 | 62 | 98 | 31 | 197 | 31 | 197 | 1,825 | 29 | 0.30 |
| Old River* | 15,042 | 9 | 1,671 | 6 | 2,507 | 3 | 5,014 | 360 | 40 | 0.02 |
| Pearl River | 6,000 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Red Creek* | 83,345 | 17 | 4,903 | 16 | 5,209 | 1 | 83,345 | 4,003 | 235 | 0.05 |
| Sandy Creek* | 16,407 | 36 | 456 | 22 | 746 | 14 | 1,172 | 2,628 | 73 | 0.16 |
| Shipland* | 3,642 | 28 | 130 | 12 | 304 | 16 | 228 | 840 | 30 | 0.23 |
| Stoneville* | 2,000 | 12 | 167 | 5 | 400 | 7 | 286 | 590 | 49 | 0.30 |
| Sunflower* | 60,115 | 95 | 633 | 49 | 1,227 | 46 | 1,307 | 3,771 | 40 | 0.06 |
| Tallahala* | 28,000 | 74 | 378 | 31 | 903 | 35 | 800 | 1,924 | 26 | 0.07 |
| Tuscumbia | 2,600 | 6 | 433 | 5 | 520 | 1 | 2,600 | 252 | 42 | 0.10 |
| Twin Oaks* | 5,675 | 70 | 81 | 20 | 284 | 50 | 114 | 980 | 14 | 0.17 |
| Upper Pascagoula* | 20,482 | 12 | 1,707 | 9 | 2,276 | 3 | 6,827 | 892 | 74 | 0.04 |
| Upper Sardis* | 42,000 | 169 | 249 | 76 | 553 | 93 | 452 | 8,995 | 53 | 0.21 |
| Ward Bayou* | 13,234 | 2 | 6,617 | 2 | 6,617 | 0 | 0 | 1,112 | 556 | 0.08 |
| Wolf River* | 10,301 | 63 | 164 | 29 | 355 | 34 | 303 | 3,035 | 48 | 0.29 |
| Yockanookany* | 2,483 | 7 | 355 | 1 | 2,483 | 6 | 414 | 166 | 24 | 0.07 |
| TOTAL | 731,313 | 2,212 | | 1,015 | | 1,189 | | 86,276 | | |
| AVERAGE | 17,837 | 55 | 667 | 25 | 1,074 | 30 | 3,266 | 2,157 | 58 | 0.15 |

*WMA with minimum inside spread criteria for legal bucks.

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**AJ Smith**
Conservation Officer
Caston Creek

**Ricky McDaniel**
Conservation Officer
Wolf River

**Mark Reid**
Wildlife Manager
Sandy Creek

**Med Palmer**
Wildlife Manager
Copiah County

**Danny Stringer**
Conservation Officer
Marion County

## Southeast

**Dwight Morrow**
Wildlife Supervisor

**Ben Hare**
Wildlife Manager
Upper Pascagoula

**Ronnie Hurst**
Conservation Officer
Chickasawhay

**Ted Hooper**
Conservation Officer
Mason Creek

**Jay Landrum**
Wildlife Manager
Chickasawhay

**Lynn McCoy**
Wildlife Manager
Ward Bayou

**Michael Everette**
Conservation Officer
Lower Pascagoula

**Le Don Cooley**
Wildlife Manager
Leaf River

**Ronnie Lee**
Wildlife Manager
Little Biloxi

## West Central

**Bobby Hodnett**
Conservation Officer
Sunflower

**Jason Kerr**
Conservation Officer
Sunflower

**Mike Thompson**
Conservation Officer
Shipland

**Nathaniel Emerson**
Wildlife Manager
Pearl River

# Wildlife Management Area Directory

## Northeast Central

**Tim Brinkley**
Wildlife Supervisor

**John Taylor**
Conservation Officer
Choctaw

**Wayne Gordon**
Wildlife Manager
John Starr Forest

**Steve Coleman**
Conservation Officer
Hell Creek

**Matt Gray**
Conservation Officer
Chickasaw

**Jack Griffin**
Wildlife Manager
Hell Creek

**Doug Swords**
Wildlife Manager
Chickasaw

## Delta

**Scottie Jones**
WMA Supervisor

**Lee Harvey**
Conservation Officer
Mahannah


## Northeast

**Doug Epps**
Wildlife Supervisor

**Jimmy Drewery**
Wildlife Manager
Tuscumbia

**David Overby**
Conservation Officer
Divide Section

**Clark Adams**
Conservation Officer
Divide Section

**Tim Ryan**
Conservation Officer
Divide Section

**John Tigner**
Wildlife Manager
John Bell Williams

## East Central

**Paul Windham**
Wildlife Supervisor

**Larry Waddell**
Conservation Officer
Nanih Waiya

**Randy Akins**
Conservation Officer
Okatibbee

**Brent Baucum**
Wildlife Manager
Okatibbee

**Clayton Lott**
Conservation Officer
Beinville

**Brian Gordon**
Wildlife Manager
Tallahala

**Art Bradshaw**
Conservation Officer
Caney Creek

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

*Chickasaw WMA*

## Bienville WMA
## Written by: Chad M. Dacus

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 60 | 2,931 |
| 2005-2006 | 87 | 1,806 |
| 2006-2007 | 74 | 1,924 |

Bienville WMA is a 31,000 acre area within the Bienville National Forest located north of Morton. For the third year bucks must have 4 or more antler points and an inside spread of 12 inches or more to be legal for harvest and antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. The 2006 – 2007 season was the second year where antlerless deer were legal for harvest during gun season. Antlerless deer were legal for harvest on the 2 statewide doe days.

Deer harvest numbers consisted of 54 bucks and 20 does. Total harvest decreased by 15% from last year but hunter effort increased by 107%.

Habitat conditions on Bienville WMA improved over the years due to management for the Red-cockaded woodpecker, which is an endangered species that resides on the WMA. However, Hurricane Katrina damaged much of the hardwoods along creeks across the area. The MDWFP has proposed new openings in timber thinning/harvest areas which will provide additional food sources for wildlife.

As deer populations continue to grow in response to habitat improvements on the area, it has become necessary to increase antlerless hunting opportunities. For the 2007-2008 season, antlerless hunting opportunities on Bienville WMA will include archery season, primitive weapon season, and during the still the gun without dogs season (December 15 – 23). This is the first year for antlerless opportunity during the gun without dogs season.

## Black Prairie WMA
## Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Black Prairie WMA offers a lottery draw hunt that has provided a very high success rate during the past several years. Hunter effort and harvest were both significantly lower than previous years, with a harvest this year of 7 bucks and 22 does. Overall harvest, doe harvest, and buck harvest decreased 46% each. Man-days of effort decreased 73% but harvest success doubled from 14% in 05-06 to 28% in 06-07. There were no significant changes in deer hunting regulations, opportunity, or bag limits to account for the decrease in man-days of effort. We offer two possible reasons for the decline. Because the application process was available online for the first time this past season, many hunters may have applied due to the ease of the application process but their desire to hunt the area was limited. The second possible explanation is that unseasonably warm, dry winter discouraged hunters from hunting.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 53 | 373 |
| 2005-2006 | 54 | 377 |
| 2006-2007 | 29 | 103 |

Doe body weights were higher than the 5 year average but lactation rates were somewhat lower . Hunters who desire a quality buck are passing up young bucks and waiting for an opportunity to harvest a mature buck; therefore, fewer yearling bucks are being harvested. The result is an increase in buck quality because bucks are allowed to grow older. Habitat quality is maintained by keeping the deer population below carrying capacity, planting supplemental food plots, in addition to planting summer agriculture crops on approximately 1,600 acres.

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Calhoun County WMA
## Written by: Brad Holder

Calhoun County WMA is a 10,900-acre area located near Bruce, MS in Calhoun County. This area is unique because it offers extensive opportunity to those who hunt deer with dogs. Deer man-days increased by 29% compared to the 2005-2006 season. Harvest on the WMA continues to be skewed towards bucks. Thirty-six bucks and 21 does were harvested this past season. We would like to see more does than bucks harvested during future seasons. Buck and doe weights and lactation were down 5-15% for 1.5 and 2.5 year old classes compared to past seasons. However, buck weights for 3.5 and 4.5+ year old classes increased slightly, although data was from a small sample size. Antler indices increased slightly for all age classes during the 2006-2007 season. Weights and lactation rates for 3.5+ does increased significantly. Again, sample sizes were low (3 does). Those who hunt deer without dogs continue to find hunting conditions less favorable in the aging pine stands on Calhoun County WMA. The canopy closure occurring in the mid-rotation pine stands and 2-4 year old clearcuts on most of the WMA are making it harder to encounter deer. However, timber thins and small clear-cuts continue to improve habitat to an extent. The logging decks and lanes provide additional areas that can be planted or maintained as openings. Acorn production was low on the area. Food plots were slow to develop until cooler temperatures and increased rainfall arrived during November.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 40 | 1,739 |
| 2005-2006 | 57 | 1,406 |
| 2006-2007 | 57 | 1,990 |

## Canal Section and John Bell Williams WMAs
## Written by: Jerry Hazelwood

Canal Section WMA (32,500 ac.) and John Bell Williams WMA (3,000 ac.) share common boundaries and harvest data is combined. These areas stretch approximately 54 linear miles along the west side of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway from MS Hwy. 4 at Bay Springs Lake to 5 miles south of MS Hwy. 45 at Aberdeen. These WMAs lie in Tishomingo, Prentiss, Itawamba, and Monroe counties.

During the past deer season, a total of 3,912 man-days were recorded for deer hunting with a harvest of 131 deer, consisting of 83 bucks and 48 does. The majority of usage and harvest occurred during the gun seasons with 2003 man-days and 55 bucks harvested (doe harvest was not allowed during gun season). The man-day usage total increased 25% while harvest increased 96%. There were no changes in regulations or habitat to explain these increases.

Antlered buck harvest criteria and bag limit are the same as statewide. Approximately 250 acres of the area is handicapped hunting only, 200 acres is archery only and 100 acres is primitive weapon only for deer hunting.

The WMAs have 164 winter food plots and 79 summer food plots. The winter food plots on the area did not do well due to late acquisition of seed and fertilizer which led to late planting dates with little or no seed bed preparation. Acorn production throughout the WMA was very poor.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 133 | 3,929 |
| 2005-2006 | 67 | 3,140 |
| 2006-2007 | 131 | 3,912 |

## Caney Creek WMA
## Written by: Chad M. Dacus

Caney Creek WMA is a 31,000 acre area within the Bienville National Forest located near Forest. For the third year bucks must have 4 or more antler points and an inside spread of 12 inches or more to be legal for harvest and antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. The 2006 – 2007 season was the second year that antlerless deer were legal for harvest during gun season. Antlerless deer were legal for harvest on the 2 statewide doe days

Deer harvest numbers consisted of 19 bucks and 44 does. Total harvest decreased by 21% from last year and hunter effort decreased slightly. This is the fourth year in a row that reported hunter effort and harvest has decreased. This could be attributed to an actual decrease in effort or hunters are becoming more apathetic in regards to filling out permit cards when hunting on the area. Hunter apathy can also account for the reduction in reported deer harvested.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 111 | 3,333 |
| 2005-2006 | 79 | 2,371 |
| 2006-2007 | 63 | 2,347 |

Historically, antlerless harvest was by permit only during the gun seasons and during archery and primitive weapon seasons. This year antlerless deer were legal for harvest on the 2 statewide doe days.

During the 2007 – 2008 season, the antlerless opportunity during gun season will be available during archery, primitive weapon seasons and during the gun without dogs season (December 15 – 23). This is the first year for antlerless opportunity during the gun without dogs season.

Measures are being taken to improve habitat conditions on the area. The U. S. Forest Service conducted timber harvest operations on Caney Creek WMA and continue spring prescribed burns, which should increase available browse for deer and other wildlife. As a result of the timber harvest operation, the MDWFP will be allowed to maintain several areas as permanent wildlife openings, which will improve habitat conditions on the area for years to come.

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Caston Creek WMA
### Written by: Josh Moree

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 65 | 4,436 |
| 2005-2006 | 61 | 2,693 |
| 2006-2007 | 44 | 2,887 |

Caston Creek WMA is a 27,785-acre WMA located within the Homochitto National Forest. Total reported deer harvest decreased 28% for the 2006-2007 hunting season compared to the 2005-2006 hunting season, with 44 deer harvested, which consisted of 22 bucks and 22 does. Total reported man-days for deer hunting increased by 7% compared to the previous season. The increase in man-days was likely due to conditions returning to normal after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A 12-inch minimum inside spread regulation has been in effect on Caston Creek WMA for three hunting seasons. The buck harvest decreased 39% from the 2005-2006 buck harvest.

## Chickasaw WMA
### Written by: Brad Holder

Chickasaw WMA is a 28,000-acre area located within the Tombigbee National Forest near Houston, MS in Chickasaw County. Deer hunting activity increased by 9% compared to the 2005-2006 season; however, harvest decreased by 65%. A total of 50 bucks and 48 does were harvested which is a 9-season low. This past season's buck:doe harvest ratio was almost even and much improved compared to the 87 bucks and 64 does harvested during the 2005-2006 season. When comparing the 2006-2007 season to past seasons, harvest weights for bucks increased 10-22% for all but the 2.5 year old age class. Antler indices increased for all age classes as well. Doe weights increased 5-12% for all age classes. Lactation rates increased significantly for 2.5 and 3.5+ year old does when compared to past seasons. Although harvest hit a 9-year low, herd health indices continue to improve which indicates a better managed herd. Winter food plots planted in clovers, oats, and wheat responded to cooler temperatures and increased rainfall in late fall and early winter. Deer used food plots early and often due to the below average acorn crop. However, above average fall and winter temperatures served to decrease deer movements. Antler measurements appear to be increasing when compared to past seasons. Sportsmen and women continue to look forward to the potential that more progressive antler criteria such as the 12-inch inside spread rule will unlock.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 100 | 6,317 |
| 2005-2006 | 151 | 5,732 |
| 2006-2007 | 98 | 6,281 |

## Chickasawhay WMA
### Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 66 | 3,474 |
| 2005-2006 | 34 | 2,129 |
| 2006-2007 | 75 | 2,829 |

Chickasawhay WMA is a large U.S. Forest Service area spanning across 122,153 acres in Jones and Wayne Counties. The fire maintained pine stands combined with scattered creeks and drains on the area attract many outdoor types. As with other southern WMAs, Katrina dampened Chickasawhay man-days during the 2005-2006 season. However, improved accessibility to the area and more hunters having the ablility to go afield surged numbers for 2006-2007. The drought from the spring and summer months provided a lower than average mast crop across the area. Increased sunlight from downed and logged timber should provide more browse for deer this summer. The surge in hunters increased man-days by 25% to 2,829. Harvest showed a strong increase of 55% to 75. Harvest included 54 bucks and 21 does. Work continues on the WMA to improved accessibility for the upcoming season.

## Choctaw WMA
### Written by: Brad Holder

Choctaw WMA is a 24,500-acre area located within the Tombigbee National Forest near Ackerman, MS in Choctaw County. Deer were harder to come by on Choctaw WMA during the 2006-2007 season. Hunter effort was up significantly (48%) from the 2005-2006 season although harvest remained about the same. An increase in man-days may be attributed to continued visits from south Mississippi hunters still displaced from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Harvest comprised 46 bucks and 65 does this past season. Buck weights were up by 4% when compared to past seasons, but doe weights and lactation were down, particularly among 2.5 year old class, by 10-43%. These numbers along with a large percentage (58%) of 3.5+ year old does in the 2006-2007 total doe harvest indicate overpopulation. The acorn crop was less than desirable and caused deer to use food plots early and often. Habitat quality on the WMA continues to improve following timber management by the U.S. Forest Service and their prescribed burning program. The majority of the food plots continue to be maintained in wheat, oats, crimson clover, and arrowleaf clover mixtures which are better adapted to soil conditions on the WMA.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 106 | 3,106 |
| 2005-2006 | 107 | 2,926 |
| 2006-2007 | 111 | 5,655 |

## Copiah County WMA
### Written by: Josh Moree

Copiah County WMA is comprised of 6,583 acres owned by the State of Mississippi.

Total reported man-days for deer hunting decreased 34% compared to the previous season. Total reported deer harvest decreased by 3 deer for the 2006-2007 deer hunting season compared to the previous season. A total of 77 harvested deer were reported, which consisted

of 16 bucks and 61 does. Buck harvest decreased 54% compared to the previous season. A 12-inch minimum inside spread regulation has been in effect on Copiah County WMA since the 2004-2005 hunting season. The purpose of this regulation is to protect 1.5 year old bucks from harvest. The regulation has been successful. Young bucks have been protected, hunters have reported more buck observations, and age of harvested bucks has increased.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 73 | 2,000 |
| 2005-2006 | 80 | 1,102 |
| 2006-2007 | 77 | 729 |

## Divide Section WMA
## Written by: Jerry Hazelwood

Divide Section WMA (15,300 ac.) lies along both sides of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway from the northwest side of Bay Springs Lake northward to MS Hwy. 25 near Pickwick Lake. A small portion of the area is in Prentiss County and the remainder is in Tishomingo County. This WMA annually undergoes intense habitat management in order to increase the value to wildlife and provide a quality hunting experience. The WMA has 141 winter food plots and 78 summer food plots. The food plots range in size from one-half acre to one acre. Approximately one-third of the WMA is spoil area, which is material excavated during the construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. This acreage is very poor soil still in early stages of plant succession.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 60 | 2,479 |
| 2005-2006 | 61 | 2,389 |
| 2006-2007 | 60 | 2,902 |

Divide Section WMA is a primitive weapons only area for deer with a season bag limit of two antlerless deer and one legal antlered buck. Regulations state that a buck must have 4 or more antler points and an inside spread of 12 inches or more to be legal for harvest. Antlerless deer must weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. Approximately 950 acres of this area is devoted to youth and handicapped deer hunting. Youth and handicapped hunters may use modern firearms.

The buck harvest was 9 in 2006-2007, which was a decrease of 1 from the 2005-2006 season. The antlerless harvest was 51, exactly the same as last season. Man-days for deer hunting increased 21%.

The winter food plots on the area did not do well due to late acquisition of seed and fertilizer which led to late planting dates with little or no seed bed preparation. Acorn production throughout the WMA was very poor.

## Hamer WMA
## Written by: Brad Holder

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 14 | N/A |
| 2005-2006 | 98 | 1,388 |
| 2006-2007 | 76 | 1,270 |

Hamer WMA is a 4,000-acre area located near Sardis, MS in Panola County. The 2006-2007 season marked the third deer season on the area. The WMA provides mostly bow hunting opportunity due to its layout of small upland woodlots. Man-days decreased slightly when compared to the 2005-2006 season. Twenty-eight bucks and 48 does were harvest during the 2006-2007 season. Buck harvest decreased by 45% from the 2005-2006 season. This was expected due to the large buck harvest (53) during the 2005-2006 season. Warmer than average fall and winter temperatures served to decrease deer activity during the daytime. Doe weights from the 2006-2007 season decreased for 2.5 and 3.5+ year old classes by 10% when compared to the previous 2 seasons. Lactation rates for the previously mentioned age classes decreased by 33% and 48%. Older does (3.5+) made up 43% of the total doe harvest which continues to indicate a large deer herd. Signs of browse pressure on native vegetation and agricultural crops support this. Buck weights and antler measurements increased slightly when compared to the 2005-2006 season. Because antler data indicate good potential, more progressive antler regulations have been adopted for the 2007-2008 season on the WMA. A minimum inside spread of 15 inches or a minimum main beam length of 18 inches should protect younger, better quality bucks which should ensure more sightings of better deer in the future. A less than favorable acorn crop was offset by winter food plot plantings of clover, wheat, and oats and by the large agricultural fields on the area that were planted in wheat. Habitat conditions should continue to improve with large scale prescribed burning.

## Hell Creek WMA
## Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 10 | 108 |
| 2005-2006 | 16 | 180 |
| 2006-2007 | 12 | 99 |

Deer hunting opportunity on this area is by draw only. Deer hunting activity and harvest on Hell Creek WMA decreased compared to recent hunting seasons. Man-day usage decreased 45% from last season. There were no significant changes in deer hunting regulations, opportunity or bag limits to account for the decrease in man-days of effort. We offer two possible reasons for the decline. Because the application process was available online for the first time this past season, many hunters may have applied due to the ease of the application process, but their desire to hunt the area was limited. The second possible explanation is that unseasonably warm, dry winter discouraged hunters from hunting.

The deer harvest of 12 deer (4 bucks, 8 does) was a 25% decrease from last year, but the overall success rate increased from 9% to 12%. Body weights were average for this area during 2006-2007. Habitat management efforts to improve 400 acres of mid-rotation pine plantations by drastically thinning the stands should be beneficial to white-tailed deer on Hell Creek WMA. Much of the open farmland is leased to local farmers and the extreme drought conditions during the early summer of 2007 have limited production of soybeans and corn and could impact the availability of deer food on Hell Creek WMA.

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## John Starr Forest WMA
## Written by: Brad Holder

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 80 | 1,515 |
| 2005-2006 | 88 | 1,273 |
| 2006-2007 | 81 | 1,933 |

John Starr Forest WMA is an 8,244-acre area located near Starkville, MS in Oktibbeha County. Deer harvest continues to remain fairly consistent on the area. Thirty-three bucks and 48 does were harvested this past season. Man-days were up 35% from last year. This was probably due to continued visits from Gulf Coast hunters displaced from the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. Harvested deer weights and doe lactation were down compared to last season. Weights and lactation rates for 2.5 year old does decreased by 9% and 71%. Weights and lactation rates for 3.5+ year old does were similar in pattern but decreases were not as drastic. Buck weights and antler measurements were similar to past seasons with a slight increasing trend for 3.5 year old bucks. Acorn production on the area was similar to many other parts of the state with low abundance causing deer to hit clover, oats, and wheat plots early and often. Food plots were slow to get started but began to grow well when temperatures cooled and rainfall increased in late fall and early winter. The development of new food plots, pine timber management in the form of prescribed burning and thinning, and increased harvest should help to increase health indices of the deer herd.

## Lake George WMA
## Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Lake George WMA is an 8,383-acre tract consisting primarily of 15 year-old replanted bottomland hardwood timber. The 2006 – 2007 season was the fourth year requiring legal bucks to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes . Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of the deer hunters in the area. Nineteen of these special buck tags were given out for use on Lake George WMA, and none were turned in as being used. Deer hunting man-days increased from 286 in 2005 – 2006 to 297 in 2006 – 2007. Buck harvest increased from 7 to 8, and doe harvest remained at 7. Body weights were excellent on bucks and does, and antler indices were outstanding as well. Buck harvest consisted of 2½, 3½, and 4½ year-old bucks.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 10 | 222 |
| 2005-2006 | 14 | 286 |
| 2006-2007 | 15 | 297 |

Rainfall was consistent until late summer and early fall, which resulted in high browse availability. Mast crop production was good where available, but most of the trees were not old enough to produce mast. Warm weather and abundant food limited deer movement during much of the winter. This area has a fairly low deer density, but the herd is growing in numbers and in buck quality, which is due to excellent deer habitat.

## Leaf River WMA
## Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 111 | 6,881 |
| 2005-2006 | 41 | 3,788 |
| 2006-2007 | 65 | 5,794 |

Leaf River is one of, if not the most, storied WMAs in Mississippi. The rich history and excellent hunting make this area a popular draw for south Mississippi hunters. The 41,411-acre WMA, located in Perry County, is a mix of fire-maintained pine stands and scattered creeks and drains. Reported man-days for Leaf River WMA rose by 34% to 5,794 this season. Most of the area was accessible to hunting after much effort to get roads cleaned and food plots planted. Harvest was also up from 41 to 65 (37%), with 37 bucks and 28 does harvested. The creation of new openings from Hurricane Katrina coupled with fresh burned areas should provide excellent browse this year. Conditions will further improve with the recent addition of a new wildlife manager.

## Leroy Percy WMA
## Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Leroy Percy WMA is located about 5 miles west of Hollandale on MS Hwy 12. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. Deer harvest consisted of 6 bucks and 4 does, which is down slightly from 5 bucks and 7 does harvested during the 2004 – 2005 season. This was the fourth year that regulations required legal bucks to have a minimum 15-inch inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes. Nineteen tags were issued and no tags were turned in as being used. Hunting pressure this season was up slightly at 554 man-days compared to 472 man-days last season. Deer body weights declined slightly. Lactation rates for 3½+ year-old does were low at 50%; however, this sample size was small. Buck indices declined slightly but are also based on a small sample size. Average rainfall during summer and fall resulted in good browse conditions. The amount of browse is diminishing due to shading caused by canopy closure. Some timber harvest in the form of thinning is needed. Acorn production was fair. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 8 | 488 |
| 2005-2006 | 12 | 472 |
| 2006-2007 | 10 | 554 |

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Little Biloxi WMA
### Written by: Russ Walsh

The 15,622-acre Little Biloxi WMA is a popular hunting destination for many coastal county residents. Access to roads and food plots across the hurricane ravaged area was much improved for the 2006-2007 season. Man-days showed a significant increase of 66% (1,995) over the previous hunting season. Reported harvest also increased to pre-hurricane numbers with 10 bucks and 9 does harvested. Conditions will continue to improve on the WMA with the recent addition of a wildlife manager.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 19 | 2,713 |
| 2005-2006 | 6 | 662 |
| 2006-2007 | 19 | 1,995 |

## Mahannah WMA
### Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Mahannah WMA is a 12,675-acre area located approximately 12 miles north of Vicksburg. Deer hunting is by permit only except for the January archery hunt which is open to the public. This was the fourth year under the regulations that required legal bucks to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes. Four hundred twenty-four of these special buck tags were issued on Mahannah WMA and sixteen were turned in as being used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Deer man-days decreased slightly to 1,755. Deer harvest increased to 152. Doe harvest increased from 51 to 106 due to hunters being entered in a draw for a special hunt if they harvested an antlerless deer. Buck harvest decreased from 75 to 46. Buck condition indices remained good with weights remaining stable and antler measurements increasing slightly. Lactation rates were very good at 86% for 3½+ year-old does, and 64% in 2½ year-old does. Doe body weights remained stable at 125 pounds for 3½+ year-old does. The percent of 3½+ year-old does in the harvest remained good at 42%. Below normal rainfall for much of the summer and fall resulted in fair browse conditions. Acorn production was poor in most species but good in overcup. The warm weather during much of the winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 87 | 1,459 |
| 2005-2006 | 126 | 1,766 |
| 2006-2007 | 152 | 1,755 |

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Mahannah WMA on February 19, 2007. A total of twelve does were collected with two does being 1.5 years old, and ten does being 2.5 years old or older. Overall, the current herd health indices on Mahannah WMA are below the expected values for the WMA and the region as a whole. Dressed weight, reproductive potential, and kidney fat indices are all lower than the expected values for the WMA and region. Reproductive timing is slightly late with a mean breeding date of January 6. The reproductive rate is higher than normal. One primary concern is that the range of conception dates was almost 2 months long. Conception dates ranged from December 9 until February 5

The deer herd health evaluation suggests that the decreased antlerless harvest in 2004 and 2005, coupled with the poor browse conditions in the summer and winter of 2006 and the poor acorn production in 2006, has caused a decrease in the overall health of the antlerless population on Mahannah WMA. A selective timber harvest was started in 2006 to increase browse and an intensified antlerless harvest program was begun in 2006 to help in future years of poor habitat conditions. Hopefully, these management practices will reverse the current trends.

## Malmaison WMA
### Written by: Brad Holder

Malmaison WMA is a 9,483-acre area located near Grenada, MS in Grenada and Carroll Counties. Twenty-four bucks and 61 does were harvested during the 2006-2007 season. Man-days were at a 3-season low; however harvest remained similar to last season. Annual harvest continues to follow a decreasing trend particularly when compared to 1997-2005 seasons when doe harvest regularly surpassed triple digits. Man-days have decreased over the past three seasons. Doe weights, particularly in the 2.5 and 3.5+ year old classes, decreased by 7% and 11% compared to past seasons. The lactation rate for 2.5 year old does decreased by 43% when compared to past seasons. Buck weights seem to be stable or increasing in each age class. Deer density appears to be fairly high as indicated by summer browse pressure on native vegetation and food plots, decreasing doe weights and lactation, and a large percentage of 3.5+ year old does in this past season's total doe harvest. Antler measurements seem to be improved when compared to years past. This is probably due to progressive antler regulations on the area which many hunters support. Acorn production from white and red oaks was average to below average this year. Deer used food plots early and often this past season. Above average winter temperatures seemed to reduce deer movements. Winter food plots developed well following cooler temperatures and increased rainfall in late fall and early winter.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 118 | 2,860 |
| 2005-2006 | 89 | 2,394 |
| 2006-2007 | 85 | 1,727 |

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Marion County WMA
## Written by: Josh Moree

Marion County WMA is comprised of 7,200 acres owned by the State of Mississippi. Total reported deer harvest increased 63% for the 2006-2007 hunting season compared to the 2005-2006 hunting season, with 80 deer harvested consisting of 47 bucks and 33 does. Compared to the 2005-2006 season, buck harvest increased by 35 bucks; however, doe harvest remained stable. The increase in buck harvest is largely due to the increase in reported man-days for the 2006-2007 deer season. Also, a 12-inch minimum inside spread regulation was implemented for the first time during the 2005-2006 hunting season. This protected many 1.5 year old bucks that normally would have been harvested under the old 4-point regulation. This protection is the goal of using the 12-inch regulation. Hunters have reported more buck observations and age of harvested bucks has increased.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 64 | 1,931 |
| 2005-2006 | 49 | 1,388 |
| 2006-2007 | 80 | 2,101 |

Total reported man-days for deer hunting increased by 34% compared to the previous season. The increase in man-days was most likely due to more hunters returning to the area after conditions began to return to normal after Hurricane Katrina. Katrina caused extensive timber damage on Marion County WMA. Due to downed timber, access was physically challenging in many parts of the area during the 2005-2006 season. Timber salvage operations prior to the 2006-2007 deer season improved hunter access throughout the area.

## Mason Creek WMA
## Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 21 | 1,360 |
| 2005-2006 | 19 | 1,744 |
| 2006-2007 | 28 | 1,751 |

The 27,272-acre Mason Creek WMA, located in Greene County, adjoins the larger Chickasawhay WMA to the south. Hunter compliance continued to improve this year with the continued presence of a full-time area manager. While there is no check-in station on Mason Creek, hunters are still required to record harvests on the daily permit card. Man-days for the 2006-2007 season increased slightly to 1,751. Reported harvest showed a much improved increase of 32% to 28. Of these, 23 were bucks and 5 were does. In addition to improving hunter compliance, the area manager is working to increase food plot programs on the area.

## Nanih Waiya WMA
## Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Man-days of deer hunting effort for the 2006-2007 season increased 66% from the previous year. Total deer harvest included 16 bucks and 45 does, very similar to last year's harvest. Harvest success decreased from 6% in 2005-2006 to 4% in 2006-2007.

No significant differences were noticed in the 2006-2007 doe weights compared to the previous five year average. Minimum weight limits for legal harvest were implemented in the 2004 – 2005 season and continue to be effective at limiting the number of fawns harvested. The lactation rate for mature does was 51%, which is the average for the past five years.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 47 | 1,017 |
| 2005-2006 | 52 | 854 |
| 2006-2007 | 61 | 1,420 |

Deer hunting opportunity on the WMA is largely dependent upon rainfall and water levels in the Pearl River. The dry fall and winter experienced during the deer season allowed for good hunter access throughout the WMA. Wind damage to trees from Hurricane Katrina was significant and many access roads were blocked for the 2005-2006 season. The primary road system on the WMA was opened before the beginning of the 2005-2006 deer season, but the northeastern half of the area remained inaccessible to hunters. However, due to the hard work of WMA personnel and their supervisor, nearly all access trails were opened by the beginning of the 2006-2007 season. Likewise, timber blockages along the length of the Pearl River, within the bounds of the WMA, were removed therefore increasing boat access. The increase in man-days was likely attributable to the increase in hunter access.

After seven hunting seasons on this WMA, deer hunting potential remains largely untapped, particularly in the more remote areas throughout the WMA. The early successional habitat which comprises most of the WMA has provided an abundant food supply for deer. Populations continue to remain at higher levels than when mature hardwood timber dominated the area. The early successional habitat which provides abundant deer forage, however, is quickly changing and will be reaching a closed-canopy stage in 3 – 6 years over most of the WMA. The openings created by Hurricane Katrina in areas with mature hardwoods will provide a short-term increase in the amount of deer browse available. In an effort to manage deer populations, doe harvest opportunity extends throughout the entire length of the deer season.

## Okatibbee WMA
## Written by: Jerry Hazlewood

Man-days increased 117% from the previous year. Total deer harvest was 29, which included 9 bucks and 20 does. This is a 107% increase from the previous year's harvest. Harvest data indicated that doe weights across all age classes were not significantly different from the previous five year average. The lactation rate for mature does was 88%, compared to last year's rate of 67%.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 11 | 609 |
| 2005-2006 | 14 | 451 |
| 2006-2007 | 29 | 983 |

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Hurricane Katrina has had a lasting impact on the WMA. Timber damage from sustained, hurricane-force winds ranged from 5% to 75% of the standing timber. High winds damaged stands of mature, bottomland hardwood more than upland stands of mixed pine and hardwood. Downed timber from the hurricane was scattered throughout much of the WMA, and hunters were unable to access large portions of the area. However, due to the hard work of WMA personnel and their supervisor, nearly all access trails were opened by the beginning of the 2006-2007 season. The increase in man-day usage is most likely due to increased hunter access.

Below average rainfall during the previous spring and early summer limited browse in areas which receive adequate sunlight. Browse pressure on summer food plots was heavy. Winter food plots, however, yielded low returns because of an exceptionally dry fall and winter and late planting dates.

Timber management practices are being implemented to increase production of deer browse. Most of the mature, upland pine stands have been thinned and burned. Most Hurricane Katrina timber salvage efforts are complete. As a result of Katrina, the mature, closed-canopy bottomland hardwood stands which dominated most of the area have had the ecological impact of a timber thin. Although such areas will be difficult for hunters to access, the amount of deer browse generated will continue to provide quality habitat for deer on the WMA.

## O'Keefe WMA
### Written by: Brad Holder

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 54 | 1,366 |
| 2005-2006 | 60 | 1,615 |
| 2006-2007 | 62 | 1,825 |

O'Keefe WMA is a 5,919-acre area located near Lambert, MS in Quitman County. Man-days and harvest have continued to increase on the area over the past 9 seasons. Thirty-one bucks and 31 does were harvested during the 2006-2007 season. Buck weights seem to be stable or slightly increasing when compared to past seasons. Doe weights and lactation rates decreased 3-11%. Lower doe weights, lactation rates, and a large percentage (52%) of 3.5+ year old does in this past season's harvest indicate an overpopulated deer herd. An average to below average acorn crop on the area may have also contributed to lower weights. This area is surrounded by crop land which provides above average summer and winter forage. Area food plots of clover, oats, and wheat developed well particularly later in the fall and early winter and were used early and often. Hunters indicated lower deer sightings. This was probably due to above average winter temperatures. Hunters continue to support more progressive antler regulations on the area such as the 15-inch minimum inside spread.

## Old River WMA
### Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 5 | 410 |
| 2005-2006 | 5 | 207 |
| 2006-2007 | 9 | 360 |

Old River WMA was in the direct path of Hurricane Katrina as it roared through south Mississippi. It was estimated that 70% of the prime bottomland hardwood on the 15,408-acre area was left a tangled, ravaged mess. Logging operations are still ongoing in an effort to salvage and clean up the area. It will take decades, if not longer, for the area to return to pre-storm conditions. Although access was tough, man-days increased 42% to 360. Harvest also increased from 5 to 9 (44%) with 6 bucks and 3 does. The large areas of new growth will provide excellent habitat for several years to come.

## Lower Pascagoula River WMA
### Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 30 | 2,589 |
| 2005-2006 | 11 | 1,559 |
| 2006-2007 | 18 | 1,584 |

Lower Pascagoula River WMA is a mix of bottomland hardwoods traversing along the Pascagoula Basin in Jackson County. Parts of the area were heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina, with road access being a significant issue. As with other areas, increased sunlight from downed timber will provide excellent browse for several years. The Hurricane Katrina hindered road and water access was greatly improved for the 2006-2007 season. However, man-days only rose a slight 2% to 1,584. Harvest increased 39% to 18, with 14 bucks and 4 does.

## Upper Pascagoula River WMA
### Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 2 | 2,081 |
| 2005-2006 | 0 | 341 |
| 2006-2007 | 12 | 892 |

Upper Pascagoula River WMA lies within George County, and coupled with Lower Pascagoula, totals 37,124 acres. Continued work by area personnel following Hurricane Katrina improved access and food plot plantings across the area. Although Hurricane Katrina hindered access during the 2005-2006 season, lack of hunter compliance was also a problem. The 2006-2007 hunting season brought additional law enforcement to the area, thus helping to improve the situation. Reported man-days increased 61% to 892 and harvest increased 100% to 12. Of the 12, 9 were bucks and 3 were does.

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Pearl River WMA
### Written by: Chad M. Dacus

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 14 | 1,046 |
| 2005-2006 | 13 | 715 |
| 2006-2007 | n/a | n/a |

Pearl River WMA is a 6,000 acre area along the Ross Barnett Reservoir north of Hwy. 43 near Canton. There is a 1,500 acre Youth and Handicap Only area within the waterfowl refuge. Regulations state that a buck must have 4 or more antler points to be legal for harvest and antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. There were no reported deer harvested on the area. This can be directly attributed to no personnel assigned to the WMA.

Habitat conditions on the WMA were favorable for deer with good browse and improvements will continue. A carbon dioxide well was drilled in the Youth and Handicap Only Area in the summer of 2007. As a result of this operation, Denbury Onshore will make improvements to a 30-acre cutover area within Hurricane Lake and along roadsides within this area. Once the drilling is completed, the drill pad will be maintained as a permanent wildlife opening.

## Red Creek WMA
### Written by: Russ Walsh

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 35 | 2,950 |
| 2005-2006 | 9 | 3,933 |
| 2006-2007 | 17 | 4,003 |

Red Creek WMA is a 91,139-acre area spanning across Stone, George, and Harrison Counties. Akin to Little Biloxi, the area is a popular draw for many coastal county residents. Reported man-days increased a slight 2% to 4,003 in the 2006-2007 season. Reported harvest also increased 47%. Seventeen total deer were reported with 16 bucks and 1 doe. As with Lower Pascagoula, increased law enforcement in the upcoming season will help to improve hunter compliance.

## Sandy Creek WMA
### Written by: Josh Moree

Sandy Creek WMA is a 16,407-acre WMA located within the Homochitto National Forest. The area manager position on this WMA has remained vacant for the past four years. Only 36 harvested deer were reported during the 2006-2007 hunting season on Sandy Creek WMA (22 bucks and 14 does). Reported harvest decreased by one deer compared to the 2005-2006 hunting season. Total reported man-days increased 31% compared to the 2005-2006 deer hunting season. The increase in man-days was likely due to conditions returning to normal after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Reported deer harvest and man-days are expected to remain low until the area manager position is filled on Sandy Creek WMA.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 32 | 2,571 |
| 2005-2006 | 37 | 2,012 |
| 2006-2007 | 36 | 2,628 |

## Sardis Waterfowl WMA
### Written by: Brad Holder

Sardis Waterfowl WMA is a 2,480 acre-area located north of Oxford, MS in Lafayette County. Sardis Waterfowl WMA's four-day, draw youth hunt affords young hunters a unique opportunity to hunt an unpressured, high density deer herd. Sixteen bucks and 8 does were harvested during the 2006-2007 season. This follows a continued trend of greater buck than doe harvest. Harvest weights for both sexes as well as lactation rates remain consistently below average for the Upper Coastal Plain soil region by 10-25%. Hunters reported numerous sightings this past season and usually opted to pass up does for a shot at a buck. Low lactation rates, low weights, and numerous deer observations suggest overpopulation. Supplemental plantings like clover, wheat, and oats were cropped low throughout the season by heavy browsing pressure. Acorn production was low on the area. Habitat on the area should see improvement within the next couple of years due to projected pine stand thins and prescribed burning. An additional 2-day hunt has been added for the upcoming 2007-2008 season in hopes of increasing doe harvest. Youth who harvest does during their regular draw hunt will be qualified for the additional draw hunt.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 42 | 112 |
| 2005-2006 | 20 | 78 |
| 2006-2005 | 24 | 96 |

## Shipland WMA
### Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Shipland WMA is the only state-owned land in the Batture soil region. The west boundary is the Mississippi River. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. The WMA consists of bottomland hardwood and an approximately 100-acre sandfield. Timber thinning in the recent past has greatly increased the browse and escape cover on the WMA. This was the fourth year that regulations required legal bucks to have a minimum 15-inch inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes. Nineteen of these special buck tags were issued on Shipland WMA and none were turned in as being used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the WMA. Hunting pressure increased to 840 man-days in 2006 – 2007. Harvest included 12 bucks and 16 does, which was up from 7 bucks and 13 does last season. The harvest consisted of 98% 2½+ year-old bucks. Antler production continued to be good according to harvest data.

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

Body weights of bucks and does remained stable or increased slightly. Lactation rate of 2½+ year-old does was 64%. Mast production on pecan trees was poor. Below normal rainfall during the summer and fall resulted in fair browse conditions. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 10 | 622 |
| 2005-2006 | 20 | 628 |
| 2006-2007 | 28 | 840 |

## Stoneville WMA
## Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Stoneville WMA is located about 4 miles north of Leland, MS. Most of the timber on the area was cut in the mid to late 1990's. This WMA has abundant browse and escape cover. Only primitive weapons and archery equipment are allowed for deer hunting. This was the fourth year under the regulations that required legal bucks to have a minimum 15-inch inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes. Nineteen of these special buck tags were given out for use on Stoneville WMA and none were turned in as being used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Hunting pressure decreased to 590 man-days in 2006 – 2007. Deer harvest decreased to 12. This harvest included 5 bucks and 7 does. No other scientific data was collected because no personnel are assigned to this WMA. Below normal rainfall during summer and fall resulted in only fair browse conditions. Acorn production was poor. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 7 | 542 |
| 2005-2006 | 13 | 721 |
| 2006-2007 | 12 | 590 |

## Sunflower WMA
## Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Sunflower WMA is a 60,000-acre U.S. Forest Service area in Sharkey County.

This was the fourth year under the regulations that required legal bucks to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes. Two hundred of these special buck tags were issued on Sunflower WMA and six were turned in as being used. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the area. Overall, body weight and antler dimension indices remained stable or increased slightly. Below normal rainfall during summer and fall resulted in intermediate browse conditions. The mild winter resulted in limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings during the later deer seasons. Acorn production was spotty. Flooding was not a factor in November and December, as it commonly is. Buck harvest decreased from 85 to 49 in 2006 - 2007. Doe harvest decreased from 61 to 46. Man-days were down from 5,123 to 3,771.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 119 | 5,276 |
| 2005-2006 | 146 | 5,123 |
| 2006-2007 | 95 | 3,771 |

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Sunflower WMA on February 26-27, 2007. A total of 11 does were collected with one doe being 1 ½ years old and 10 does being 2 ½ years old or older. Overall herd health indices on Sunflower WMA are consistent with the expected values for the WMA and the region as a whole. The only statistics not within expected ranges are the kidney fat index and the conception date. The kidney fat index is 66% of the historical expected value for Sunflower and is 74% of the expected value for the Delta. Reproductive timing is a little late with mean conception occurring around January 5. The range of conception was relatively short and occurred between December 21 and January 15. The reproductive rate and potential are average. The herd health evaluation suggests that harvest on Sunflower WMA has kept the deer population in balance with existing habit conditions, and that the population could be increased. The reduction in the kidney fat index can be attributed to drought stressed browse and a poor mast crop.

## Tallahala WMA
## Written by: Chad M. Dacus

Tallahala WMA is a 28,120 acre area within the Bienville National Forest located near Montrose. For the third year bucks must have 4 or more antler points and an inside spread of 12 inches or more to be legal for harvest and antlerless deer had to weigh at least 65 pounds live weight. The 2006 – 2007 season was the second year that antlerless deer were legal for harvest during gun season. Antlerless deer were legal for harvest on the 2 statewide doe days.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 97 | 2,930 |
| 2005-2006 | 57 | 2,227 |
| 2006-2007 | 74 | 1,924 |

Deer harvest consisted of 31 bucks and 35 does. Total harvest increased 130% from last year and buck harvest increased by 115%. Deer hunters accounted for 1,924 man-days which were down slightly from last year. This decrease in man-days could be due to hunter's reluctance to turn in permit cards at WMA permit stations.

During the 2007 – 2008 season, the antlerless opportunity during gun season will be available during the gun without dogs season (December 15 – 23) along with antlerless opportunity during archery and primitive weapon seasons. This is the first year for antlerless opportunity during the gun without dogs season.

The U.S. Forest Service continues to conduct spring prescribed burns on the WMA. This helps to encourage browse production during the spring and fall.

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Tuscumbia WMA
## Written by: Jerry Hazelwood

Tuscumbia WMA, located in Alcorn County, is a relatively new WMA. The area comprises 2,600 acres and consists primarily of abandoned agricultural fields and beaver slash. The area is comprised of two separate units. The northern unit (1400 ac.) is mainly permanent water and slash, which is not easily accessed and provides little deer habitat. The southern unit (1200 ac.) has mostly abandoned agricultural fields and seven newly constructed waterfowl impoundments. Both units experience frequent flooding in the winter months.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 1 | 60 |
| 2005-2006 | 0 | 61 |
| 2006-2007 | 6 | 252 |

As part of a waterfowl management strategy, the southern unit (Unit 2) of the area was closed to all hunting for the 2005-2006 season. This season (2006-2007), Unit 2 was opened for draw waterfowl hunting beginning Dec. 16 and archery hunting was allowed Sept. 30 – Nov. 30, which accounted for the majority of the increase in man-days of hunter effort. Deer hunting is not a primary use of the area and only 6 deer (5 bucks, 1 doe) were harvested. Effort and harvest numbers are low due to the relatively small size of the area and limited deer habitat and public access.

## Twin Oaks WMA
## Written by: Jackie Fleeman

Twin Oaks WMA is a 5,675-acre bottomland hardwood area 5 miles southeast of Rolling Fork. Deer hunting is restricted to archery and primitive weapon and is by permit only except for the January archery hunt which is open to the public. This was the fourth year that regulations required legal bucks to have a 15-inch minimum inside spread. Also, hunters could apply for a tag that would allow them to harvest a buck with at least one unforked antler for research purposes. Both of these regulations appear to be supported by the majority of deer hunters on the WMA. Four hundred twenty-four of these special buck tags were issued on Twin Oaks WMA and eight were turned in as being used. Hunter effort decreased to 980 man-days in 2006 – 2007. Buck harvest decreased from 23 to 20. Doe harvest increased from 34 to 50. Buck weights increased or remained stable in all age classes. Antler indices were mixed but were basically unchanged from last year. Doe weights were up slightly in the two and three year old age classes. Lactation rates decreased to 64% in two year olds and older. Below normal rainfall during summer and fall resulted in intermediate browse conditions. Acorn production was poor. The mild winter limited deer movement which caused a reduction in deer sightings during the late season deer hunts.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 38 | 1,515 |
| 2005-2006 | 57 | 1,206 |
| 2006-2007 | 70 | 980 |

A deer herd health evaluation was conducted on Twin Oaks WMA on February20, 2007. A total of 12 does were collected, two of which were 1 ½ years old and 10 were 2 ½ years old or older. Overall herd health indices on Twin Oaks WMA are below the expected values for the WMA and the region as a whole. Dressed weight, reproductive potential and rate, and kidney fat index are all lower than the expected values for the WMA and region. Reproductive timing is slightly late with a mean conception date of January 12. The range of conception was 52 days long, ranging from December 17 until February 6, with three does bred February 6.

The deer herd health evaluation suggests that the decreased antlerless harvest in 2004 and 2005, poor browse conditions in the summer and winter of 2006, and the poor acorn production in 2006 has caused a decrease in the overall health of the antlerless population on Twin Oaks WMA.

## Upper Sardis WMA
## Written by: Brad Holder

Upper Sardis WMA is a 42,274-acre area located within the Holly Springs National Forest near Oxford, MS in Lafayette County. Man-days increased by 26% from the 2005-2006 season and seem to be holding relatively steady when looking at the past 9 seasons. Harvest decreased by 20% when compared to the 2005-2006 season. Harvest favored does this season and we hope to see this trend continue. Seventy-six bucks and 93 does were harvested. Weights from harvested bucks in the 4.5+ year old class were down by 5%. Doe weights for 2.5+ age classes experienced increases from 4-6% when compared to past seasons. Lactation decreased by 64% and 24% for 2.5 and 3.5+ year old does when compared to past seasons. The numbers and a large percentage (63%) of 3.5+ year old does in the past season's harvest indicate an overpopulated deer herd on the area. A poor acorn crop in some parts of the WMA may have contributed to lower weights. Planted winter forages like clovers, wheat, and oats benefited from cooler temperatures and increased rainfall amounts later in the fall and early winter. Food plot plantings also helped to offset low acorn abundance as they were used early and often. Habitats continue to improve on Upper Sardis WMA due to timber management practices such as timber thinnings, limited clearcuts, and burning, which are conducted by the Holly Springs National Forest.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 188 | 7,580 |
| 2005-2006 | 212 | 6,726 |
| 2006-2007 | 169 | 8,995 |

# 2006-2007 WMA Deer Harvest Narratives

## Ward Bayou WMA
**Written by: Russ Walsh**

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 22 | 1,881 |
| 2005-2006 | 3 | 1,078 |
| 2006-2007 | 2 | 1,112 |

Ward Bayou WMA is a 13,234-acre parcel of bottomland hardwoods and some upland areas nestled within the Pascagoula River Basin. Many of the low-lying areas are boat accessible through navigable waters off the main river channel. Depending on rainfall and river levels during winter, hunting access is hit and miss. Compared to most areas, Hurricane Katrina damage was mild across the WMA. The 1,112 reported man-days were a slight 3% increase over the 2005-2006 season. Harvest was down by one deer with only 2 bucks being reported.

## Wolf River WMA
**Written by: Russ Walsh**

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 69 | 3,250 |
| 2005-2006 | 57 | 2,484 |
| 2006-2007 | 63 | 3,035 |

The 10,801-acre Wolf River WMA is located in Lamar and Pearl River Counties. The various aged pine plantations and intermittent stream bottoms received substantial damage during Hurricane Katrina. However, the increased available forage from downed timber and logging operations provided above average habitat conditions. While many roads on the area were closed temporarily, MDWFP personnel worked hard to get most of the area ready for the 2006–2007 season. Wolf River had a 20% increase in man-days (3,035) over the 2005-2006 season. The reported deer harvest also showed an increase over the previous season. Harvest was comprised of 29 bucks and 34 does.

## Yockanookany WMA
**Written by: Brad Holder**

Yockanookany WMA is a 2,379-acre area located in Attala County approximately 12 miles east of Kosciusko. This marked the third year of legal hunting on this WMA. The lack of hunting on this WMA continues to be the main reason for habitat stress and over-population of deer. Deer hunting man-days decreased slightly when compared to the 2005–2006 season. The harvest consisted of 1 buck and 6 does. Doe harvest remains fairly consistent over the past three seasons. Buck harvest has decreased. Doe harvest remains inadequate. The deer herd is overpopulated as indicated by large percentages (60-80%) of 3.5+ year old does in the harvest during the past three seasons. Also, doe weights and lactation are below average for the Upper Coastal Plain soil region. The overall harvest was lower than expected, which can be attributed to less than favorable hunting conditions provided by warm fall and winter temperatures and some flood events. Hopefully, next season will provide more quality hunting opportunities on this area resulting in a greater overall deer harvest. An intense antlerless harvest is needed on the area to balance the number of deer with the available habitat. The hunts on this area were restricted to draw hunts for archery, primitive weapon, and rifle. Draw hunts for archery season have been removed on the WMA for the upcoming 2007-2008 deer season. The WMA consists of bottomland hardwoods of varying ages that produced an average acorn crop this past season which was unavailable at times due to large scale flooding. Habitat conditions should continue to improve on the area with creation of additional food plots and proposed timber thins of selected stands on the area.

| Season | Harvest | Man-days |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 15 | 91 |
| 2005-2006 | 12 | 189 |
| 2006-2007 | 7 | 166 |

*Mahannah WMA*

# 2006-2007 Regional Narratives

## North Region
## Written by: William T. McKinley

The North region is experiencing localized deer population explosions. The harvest rate has almost doubled in just five years, according to DMAP harvest. Deer herds that have been afforded protection on the antlerless side are becoming overpopulated. The sentiment against harvesting antlerless deer is still strong in the North region, and is the strongest of any region in the state. Overall, the herd appears healthy. However, site visits to this region have revealed grossly over-populated deer herds on the lands that continue to refrain from antlerless harvest.

The summer drought in 2006 appeared to have little impact on the deer herd. Average lactation rates and body weights on bucks and does showed very little change. In fact, lactation increased slightly to 65%. Average doe body weights remained at 111 lbs. The percent of 3 ½+ year old does in the harvest is increasing, indicating an expanding herd.

Buck harvest is changing due to increasing management. Hunters are realizing that age is a limiting factor in their harvest, and are choosing to let some state-legal bucks go. The percent of 4 ½+ year old bucks in the harvest has increased to 22%, while the percent of 2 ½ year old bucks has decreased to 29%. However, even with the increase in management, the percent of 1 ½ year old bucks in the harvest continues to be higher in the north region than in most of the state.

The late freeze and subsequent drought of 2007 most likely will impact the health of the North region deer herd. The freeze practically eliminated the white oak crop. However, red oaks appear to have a moderate crop. The drought has reduced food resources even further. Harvest should be high in the 2007-2008 season, especially if food plots are established.

## West Central Region
## Written by: Lann M. Wilf

In the West Central Region, the 2006-2007 deer season was relatively successful. Deer were readily seen during cool periods in the late season when rutting and feeding activity were consistent. Several above average bucks were harvested, and overall harvest was fairly high on DMAP clubs and Wildlife Management Areas. Deer harvest was above average when compared to recent years. Increased harvest and deer visibility can primarily be attributed to dry weather throughout most of the summer, which stressed deer browse and limited mast production. Warmer temperatures during most of December inhibited daylight deer movement and reduced the visibility of the rut. However, a fair amount of rutting activity was observed in late January. Hopefully, next season will provide more favorable deer hunting weather during the rut.

Mast crops were heavily impacted by dry conditions in the summer. As a result, acorns and pecans were spotty. The only oaks with a presentable mast crop were water oaks and willow oaks. Some cherrybark oaks, swamp chestnut oaks, and even white oaks produced, but most of these were in creek bottoms that had water throughout summer. Overall, the mast crop in the West Central Region was fair.

The physical condition of deer within the region was down slightly from previous years, especially on areas that had a good fawn crop. Buck and doe body weights were reduced on most properties, which are expected from a drought year. Lactation rates within the region were reduced by the drought in most cases, but areas with a lower deer density had a decent fawn crop.

Overall, food plots did well this year. Food plot use was higher than the previous couple of years because of lower mast success and reduced quality of available winter browse. Based on food plot exclosures, use seemed to peak in late December and January.

Anticipation is high for the 2007-2008 season due to the return of regular rainfall in early July. Last year's drought had reduced deer body conditions and antler production going into this year. However, recent rains have improved the quality of summer browse and set acorn crops that were weeks away from being lost. These rains are good news for lactating does, fawns that are hitting the ground in July, and bucks that are growing antlers.

So far this year, the most detrimental factor for mast production was the freeze that occurred in early April. This freeze completely decimated white oak mast production in the northern part of the region. However, the impact to red oaks may have been minimal. South of the freeze line, we expect most of the mast crop to be exceptional, although much can change between July and October

## North Central Region
## Written by: William T. McKinley

The North Central region experienced one of the best deer seasons in recent history. Harvest on DMAP properties increased to 1 deer per 97 acres, with over 60% of the harvest being does. Mature buck harvest (4 ½+ year olds) continues to increase and was 25% of the total buck harvest. Total harvest on Wildlife Management Areas also increased. Overall, the herd appears relatively healthy. However, localized areas are still over-populated and are in desperate need of a change in management.

The summer drought in 2006 appeared to have a minimal negative impact on the north central region deer herd. Average body weights for does decreased by 1 – 3 pounds, with the average mature doe weighing 110 pounds. Lactation rates remained constant from the previous season. The percent of 3 ½+ year old does in the harvest is increasing, indicating an expanding herd.

The mast crop was very low, due mainly to the summer drought. This caused deer to move more, thus increasing harvest opportunity. Rains came just at food plot planting time, resulting in very productive food plots.

The late freeze of 2007 will affect the northern counties of the North Central Region. Counties such as Yalobusha, Calhoun, Chickasaw, and Monroe can expect white oak acorns to be spotty at best. However, red oaks appear to have a moderate crop. Counties and portions of

counties below the freeze line appear to have good white oak and red oak crops this year. The drought of 2007 was broken in July and has resulted in abundant growth in natural foods

### East-Central Region
### Written by: Chad M. Dacus

Harvest reports from DMAP clubs and WMAs remained stable when compared to last season. Reported harvest was down 13% from the 2004 – 2005 to 2005 – 2006 season. This decline in deer harvest may have been a direct result of the effects of Hurricane Katrina. If this was the case, harvest should have returned to pre-Katrina numbers. The habitat damage may have hurt the deer population numbers in some localities.

However, on most lands hunters are seeing just as many deer, if not more than ever. So over-harvest is not an issue on most properties. There is still a concern of poor reporting of harvest on WMAs. Man-days have decreased, but this is not the reason for the decreased harvest. WMA hunters have become apathetic in regards to checking in deer and reporting their harvest. Also, due to decreased man-power on this region's WMAs, hunters do not feel the need to report/check-in deer at check stations.

Complaints from crop depredation decreased slightly this year. Depredation permits were issued in 4 counties (Lauderdale, Newton, Simpson, and Smith). Complaints from sub-divisions and small towns remained high this year. With new sub-divisions being constructed in the Jackson Metro area, these complaints will continue to rise. Also, as municipalities outlaw bow hunting within city limits, these complaints will be harder to deal with in the future.

Reports of HD/Bluetongue increased from last year. HD/Bluetongue was found in 4 counties in east-central Mississippi. However, the numbers of affected deer were much higher than last year. On some properties, mortality due to HD/Bluetongue was extremely high. Samples were taken from hunter harvested and road killed deer for chronic wasting disease testing. No occurrence of the disease was found.

### Southwest Region
### Written by: Chris McDonald

For the second consecutive year, environmental conditions were dry going into the hunting season. Limited rainfall during the summer decreased the amount of quality deer browse. Acorn crop was fair to good across the region, but mostly fair. Utilization of food plots by deer was high throughout the hunting season due to limited browse caused by drought. Hunters reported good success on food plots. Even though environmental conditions were not optimum, body weights of harvested deer during the 2006-2007 hunting season were consistent with the past 5 years.

Cold weather was sporadic throughout the hunting season. However, due to limited food sources, harvest success was good. This can be seen in harvest numbers reported by DMAP clubs in the region. The number of harvested deer reported by DMAP clubs was the second highest in the past five years. DMAP clubs once again harvested more does than bucks (1.6 does per buck). Overall, DMAP clubs in the region do a good job of letting bucks get to an older age before they are harvested. The majority of bucks harvested in the region are 3 ½ years old and older, with many 5 ½ year old bucks harvested. Deer herds continue to exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat on most properties in the western portion of the region.

Reports of hemorrhagic disease throughout the region increased this year. This was expected because reports of hemorrhagic disease have been limited over the past three years. Samples were collected once again for Chronic Wasting Disease. All samples tested negative for the disease and Chronic Wasting Disease has not been found in Mississippi.

### Southeast Region
### Written by: Chris McDonald

Conditions going into the 2006-2007 hunting season were good for a successful hunting season. Deer harvest for the previous season decreased drastically due to Hurricane Katrina. Many hunters could not get into the woods due to downed timber. Because of the decrease in hunting opportunity, many deer were carried over for the 2006-2007 season.

Hurricane damaged trees produced little or no acorns, which limited a primary food source for deer. However, the lack of acorns was made up for by an increase in browse. Hurricane Katrina created openings and thinned timber, which made conditions good for new vegetative growth. Deer were in good condition going into the 2006-2007 hunting season. This is illustrated by an increase in body weights and lactation rates for the hunting season.

The number of deer harvested increased on both private and public land. Hunters were finally able to get to their favorite hunting spot. Hunters reported good harvest success on food plots. Hunters in the region continued to harvest old does and young bucks. Most bucks harvested in the region are 2.5 years old or younger. This was the second year the region was under the 10 inch spread or 13 inch main beam regulation. Under the regulation, legal bucks in areas south of Hwy. 84 and east of Hwy. 35 are those with at least 4 antler points and a minimum inside spread of 10 inches or a minimum main beam of 13 inches. Because of this regulation, hunters should have more opportunity to harvest older bucks. Hunters continue to enjoy the late primitive weapons season in the region. The late season was provided to give hunters more opportunity to hunt during the rut.

Improvement of deer habitat by Hurricane Katrina will continue into the 2007-2008 hunting season. Two years of new vegetative growth will have taken place once the season opens. Hunters should have the opportunity to harvest deer that are both older and healthier.

# Road Kill Survey Report 2006-2007

MDWFP personnel have monitored statewide deer road kill since January 1997. All dead deer observed on or adjacent to roads and highways are recorded during the personnel's regular course of travel from October 1 – January 31. The cause of death of these animals is assumed to be a vehicle collision. The specific location by county is recorded for every deer observed. Personnel also record their monthly mileage. In the past these data were analyzed, and the average number of deer observed per 10,000 miles is was calculated by district. However, with changing district lines and MDWFP personnel routinely traveling outside their home district, we have changed this to a statewide average and not district averages.

Graphical monthly statewide summaries of these data are presented in Figure 3. The precise value and accuracy of this method of data collection have not been critically evaluated. No evaluation has been made to determine if number of vehicles on the highways has increased, decreased, or remained constant. Therefore, any inferences or interpretation of these data should be approached cautiously. Every effort has been made to standardize sampling protocol.

When these data are examined graphically, fluctuations over time are apparent. Certain assumptions may be logical. For example, an increase in observed deer vehicular related mortality is a result of an increase in deer activity. Data are currently collected from October – January. Activity peaked during the fall and winter around breeding seasons, when deer activity is at its highest.

A second assumption is if deer numbers are fluctuating annually and the number of deer observed is density dependent, then in lower population years, fewer road-killed deer will be observed. Conversely, during high population years, a greater number of road-killed deer will be observed. If this assumption is correct, deer populations increased during the 2006 – 2007 season. In addition to increasing or expanding deer herds, road kill observations may be heavily influenced by weather conditions and mast availability. The dry weather during the summer of 2006 may have caused deer movement to increase earlier in the year in addition by causing mast crops to fail. This past year, observed road kills increased the most during the months of October and November, with December and January remaining consistent with previous years. This is most likely due to increased deer movement due to dry conditions, stressed browse, and an overall poor mast crop caused by the late summer drought. Also, road side right-of-ways being which are planted in cool season grasses and legumes tended to congregate deer along highways.

## Road Kill Data By Month (In Deer Per 10k Miles) 2006-2007

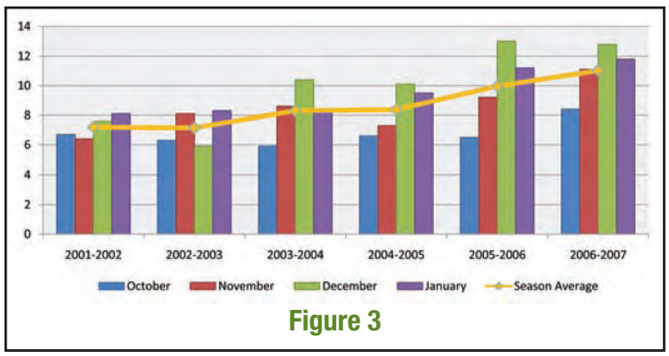



Figure 3

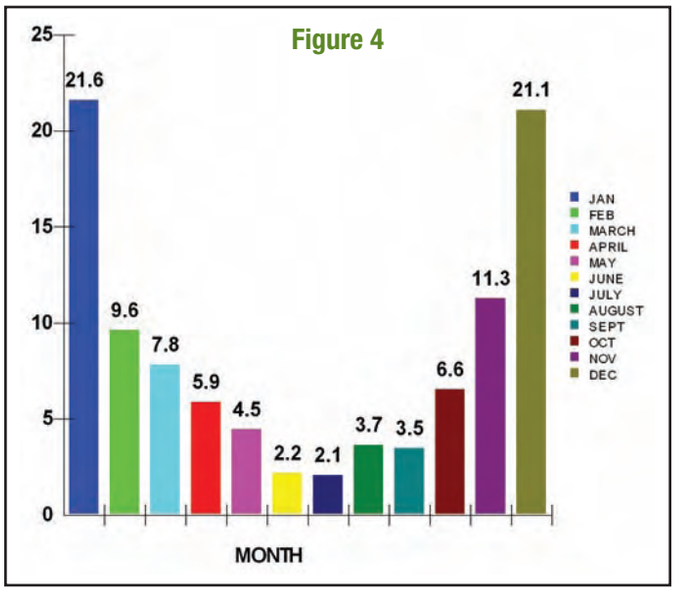



Figure 4

We also collect road-kill data from two outside sources: State Farm Insurance Company and The Mississippi Office of Highway Safety. According to State Farm's estimates there were 12,146 deer-vehicle collisions in 2005 – 2006 and 13,197 in 2006 – 2007. These estimates fit the same increasing trend from the MDWFP personnel's road-kill observations.

The data from State Farm has been projected for the whole insurance industry, based on State Farm's known auto insurance market share within each state. This data is based on actual comprehensive and collision claims, and as such, would not include deer-vehicle collisions where the policy holder had only liability insurance coverage (which is typically carried on older vehicles in some states).

## Table 2. Road Kill Data By Month (In Deer Per 10k Miles) 2006-2007

| Month | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | Avg. all Years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| October | 6.7 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 8.4 | 6.7 |
| November | 6.4 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 7.3 | 9.2 | 11.1 | 8.5 |
| December | 7.6 | 5.9 | 10.4 | 10.1 | 13.0 | 12.8 | 10.0 |
| January | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 9.5 | 11.2 | 11.8 | 9.5 |
| Season Avg. | 7.2 | 7.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 10.0 | 11.0 | |

# Depredation By Deer

Conservation officers annually deal with agricultural depredation by deer. Landowners who experience deer depredation problems are required to apply for a permit before any action is taken to harass or remove problem animals. The process for permit issuance includes an on-site evaluation by an MDWFP officer to verify the occurrence of depredation. Permits are issued primarily for agricultural damage, but ornamental vegetation is included. Miscellaneous problems such as deer on airport runways also occur and are handled on a case-by-case basis. Property owners should know that permits are not issued in every situation.

A total of 81 depredation permits were issued in 27 counties during 2006, which increased from 67 permits during 2005 (Figure 5). However, the number of counties that had recorded depredation permits decreased. This increase in the number of permits can be attributed to rising deer populations throughout most of the state and the effects of drought stress on vegetation. Counties with the most depredation problems are either the same counties with the most rapidly expanding deer populations or counties that had the least rainfall during the summer of 2006. Cases of deer depredation included damage to soybeans, corn, cotton, peas, sweet potatoes, watermelons, cantaloupe, okra, peanuts, lettuce, numerous gardens and truck crops, flowers, and interference on airports.

The preferred method of controlling deer depredation problems is adequate hunter harvest. This lowers the deer population to levels that are in balance with the environmental carrying capacity of the habitat. Normally this involves cooperation with adjoining landowners and hunting clubs.

Alternative direct methods used to solve depredation problems include scare or harassment tactics, assorted chemical applications, electric fencing, and traditional fencing at a height that eliminates deer access. High fencing around gardens and small problem areas is costly but provides assured control on a long-term basis with little or no maintenance.

In some instances, after other control measures have been exhausted, deer will be lethally removed. This process seldom provides a long-term solution but is used in some problem situations.

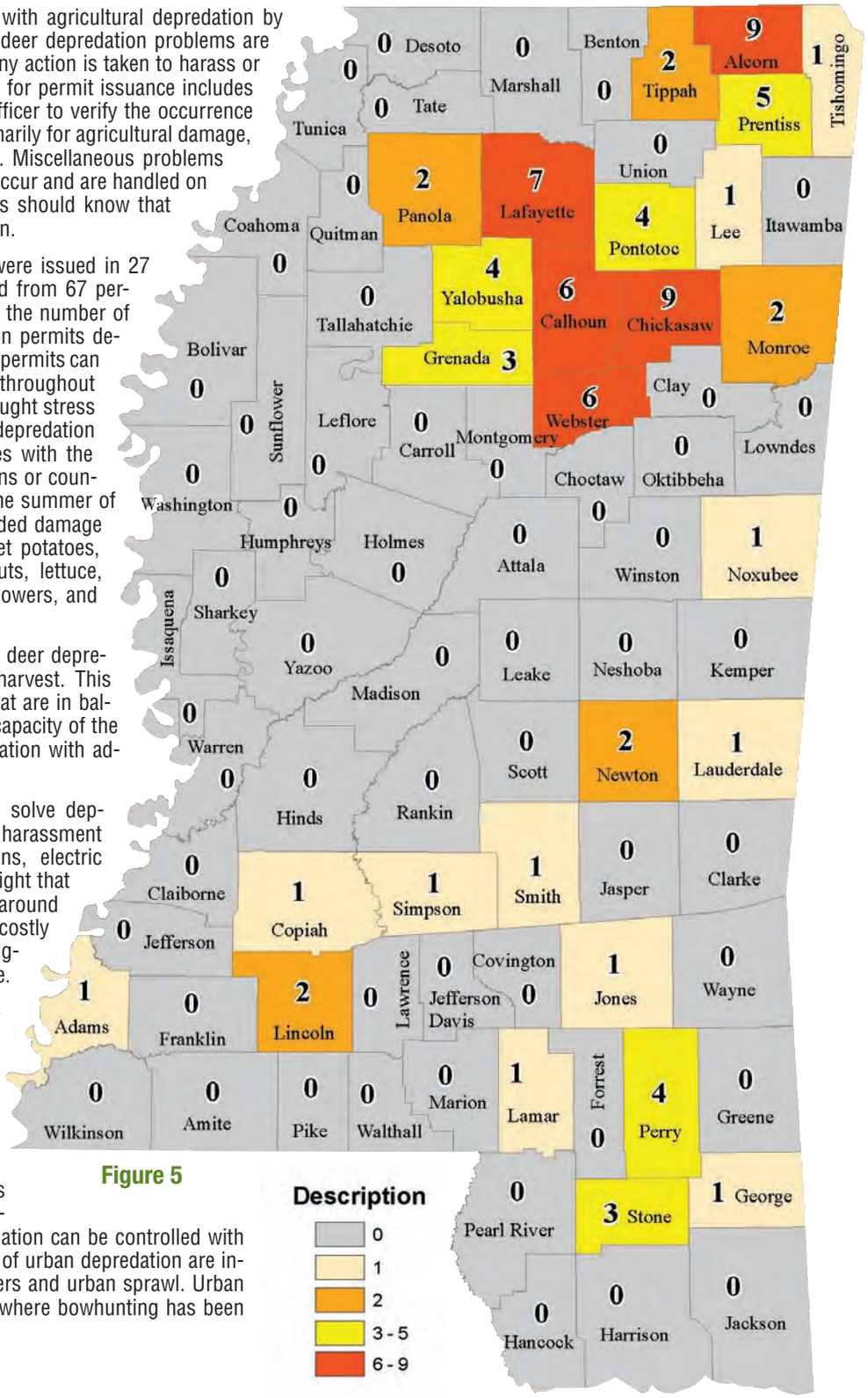



**Figure 5**

Depredation problems will continue to occur in Mississippi as long as abundant deer populations exist. Extensive problems with agricultural depredation can be controlled with adequate antlerless harvest. Instances of urban depredation are increasing due to escalating deer numbers and urban sprawl. Urban deer problems are magnified in cities where bowhunting has been banned.

# Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a progressively degenerative fatal disease that attacks the central nervous system of members of the deer family. To date it has been diagnosed in elk, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and white-tailed deer. CWD is one of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). These diseases are characterized as transmissible because they can be transmitted from one infected animal to another. They are further classified as spongiform due to the "spongy-like" areas which form in the brain of the infected animal, hence the encephalopathy portion of the name.

The scientific community generally accepts that the infectious agents of CWD are prions. Prions are abnormal proteins that seem to have the ability to alter the structure of normal proteins found in the body of the animal they enter. Logical natural methods of prion transmission include, but may not be limited to, secretions and excretions from infected animals. In a new study conducted this past year at Colorado State University found that CWD can be transmitted experimentally from saliva and blood. Also, human activity contributes to environmental prion contamination. Prions are hideously durable and impervious to most disinfectants and natural conditions, remaining in the environment for years.

Animals suffering from CWD typically behave abnormally by separating themselves from their usual social group. They often stand alone, with a drooped posture, and may not respond to human presence. As the disease progresses they will appear very skinny on close examination and will salivate, drink, and urinate excessively.

The goal for the 2006 – 2007 monitoring period was to test approximately 1,500 deer statewide. Routine testing involved Mississippi hunters in this disease monitoring effort. Hunters throughout the state were asked to voluntarily submit the heads of harvested deer for CWD testing. Additionally samples were obtained from taxidermists and deer processing facilities. Most of these samples came from wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges, and Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) cooperators.

A total of 1,120 samples were taken from free-ranging white-tailed deer in Mississippi during 2006 – 2007. Samples were obtained from hunter harvested animals, spring herd health evaluations, target animal surveillance, and road-killed animals. Samples were obtained from 72 counties (Figure 6). The samples were submitted to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia following the 2006 – 2007 hunting season and 1,089 of those samples were tested for evidence of the CWD agent using immunohistochemistry. The remaining 31 samples were not tested because the containers did not contain testable specimens. Evidence of CWD was not detected in 1,087 of the tested samples and the remaining 2 results cannot be considered official test results, because the correct specimens for testing were not available.

The MDWFP, in cooperation with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Veterinary Services will continue target animal surveillance. A target profile animal is any adult cervid that is emaciated and shows some neurological disorder. These target animals should be reported to the local county conservation officer who has been trained to properly handle them and coordinate their transport to the appropriate laboratory for CWD testing. Most deer exhibiting symptoms of CWD are actually suffering from other conditions or diseases common to white-tailed deer in Mississippi. Malnutrition, hemorrhagic disease, brain abscesses, and other conditions may cause some of the same symptoms. However, due to the seriousness of CWD and the importance of early detection and control, it is necessary to test target animals for infection. The ability to diagnose disease is dependent on quick reporting because deer carcasses deteriorate rapidly in Mississippi's climate.

In 1967 CWD was first recognized at a captive mule deer research facility in Colorado. A Wyoming research facility documented the disease in deer and elk in 1978. CWD was then documented in free-ranging deer in Colorado and Wyoming in the 1980s. Further testing from 1996 through the end of 2001 found additional positive animals (either captive or wild elk or deer) in Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Then in February 2002 the first case was confirmed east of the Mississippi River in Wisconsin, in wild white-tailed deer. In 2004, CWD was found in New York and West Virginia. As of October 1, 2007, there are 11 states with CWD infected wild populations (Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming) and two Canadian provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan). Additionally, CWD has been found in captive cervid populations in all of the above states as well as Minnesota, Montana, and Oklahoma.

All public health officials maintain that venison is safe for human consumption. However, hunters who wish to take additional steps to avoid potential unnecessary contact with prions or environmental contamination can do the following:

- Avoid shooting, handling, or consuming any animal that appears sick. Contact the MDWFP at 601-432-2199 if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.
- Wear latex gloves when field dressing or processing deer.
- Avoid eating or contact with brain, spinal cord, spleen, lymph nodes, or eyes.
- Cut through the spinal cord only when removing the head. Use a knife designated solely for this purpose.
- Bone out meat to avoid cutting into or through bones. Remove all fat and connective tissue to avoid lymph nodes.
- Dispose of all carcass material, including the head, in a landfill or pit dug for carcass disposal purposes.
- Either process your animal individually or request that it be processed without adding meat from other animals.
- Disinfect knives and other processing equipment in a 50% bleach solution for a minimum of one hour.
- Discontinue baiting and feeding which unnaturally concentrate deer.

***Deer With Chronic Wasting Disease from Wisconsin***

# Chronic Wasting Disease

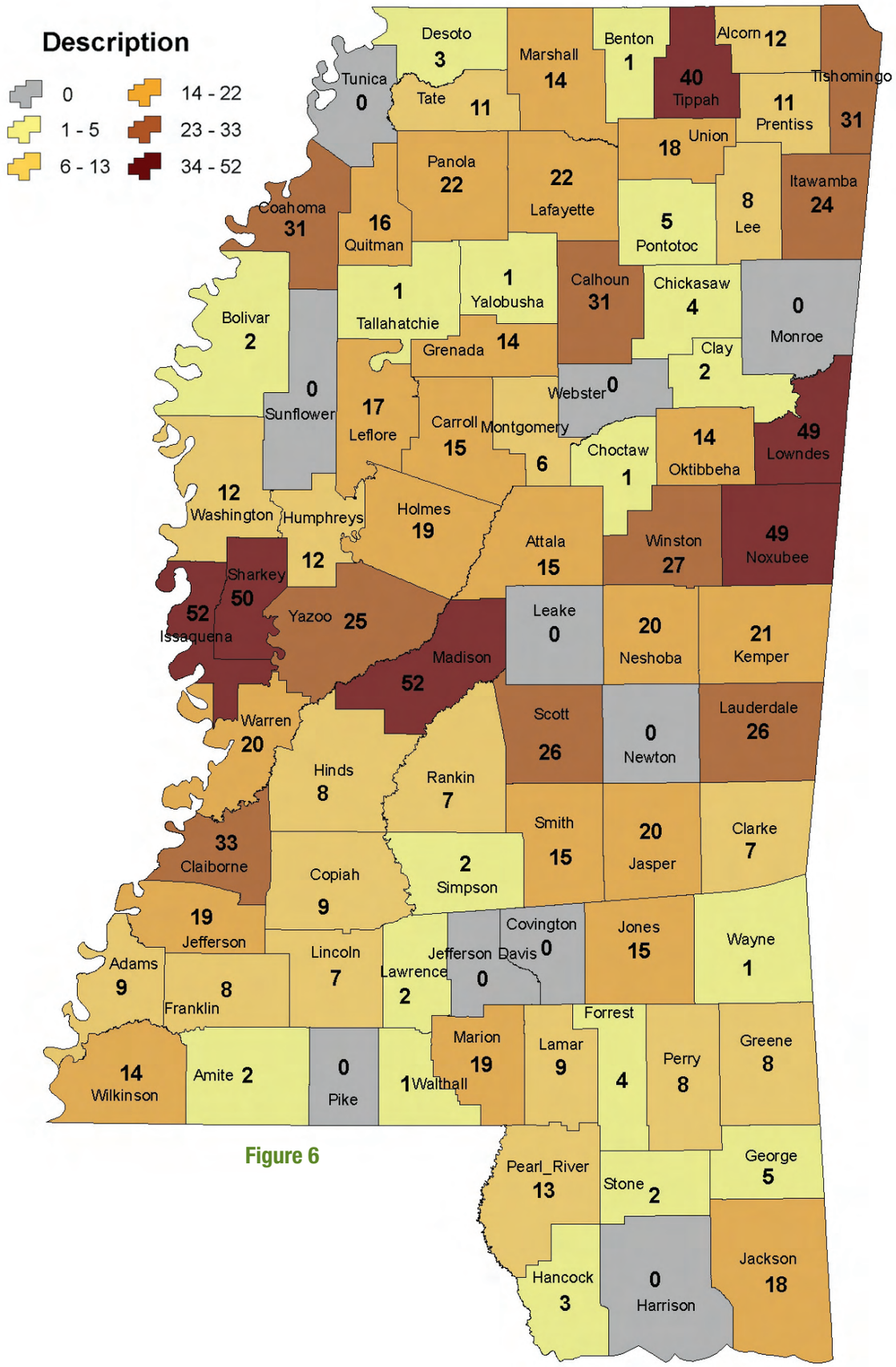



Figure 6

# Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Hemorrhagic Disease (HD), sometimes referred to as Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) or Bluetongue (BT), is considered the most important viral disease of white-tailed deer in the United States. Different subtypes of two closely related viruses cause HD: EHD and BT. Technically, there are five subtypes of the BT virus and two subtypes of the EHD virus. A distinguishable difference does not visually exist between these diseases, so wildlife managers normally group the symptoms into one category and refer to the condition as HD.

Biting midges of the genus *Culicoides* transmit HD; therefore the disease is seasonal, based on the abundance of the midge vectors. Normal occurrence of HD is late summer through fall (approximately late July – November). Deer that become infected with the HD virus may exhibit a variety of outward symptoms. Some mildly infected deer will exhibit few symptoms. Others which contract a more potent form of the virus will appear depressed, become feverish, have swollen areas around the head or neck, and may have trouble breathing. Still others, which become infected with a particularly potent form of the virus, can die within 1 to 3 days. Normal mortality rates from HD are usually less than 25 percent. However, rates greater than 50 percent of the population have been documented. On a brighter note, HD has destroyed no free-ranging deer population.

HD is first suspected when unexplained deer mortality is observed in late summer or early fall. Typically, archery hunters who are scouting during late September are the first to observe carcasses in the woods. On some occasions HD deer are found dead during the late summer in or adjacent to water. The fever produced by the disease causes the sick deer to seek water. These deer subsequently succumb to the disease in creeks and ponds.

Hunters will most frequently encounter the evidence of HD while observing harvested deer during the winter months. During the high fever produced by HD, an interruption in hoof growth occurs. This growth interruption causes a distinctive ring around the hoof, which is readily identifiable on close examination. Hoof injury, as well as bacterial or fungal infection can cause a "damaged" appearance on a single hoof. HD is not considered unless involvement is noticed on two or more feet.

Fortunately, people are not at risk by HD. Handling infected deer or eating the venison from infected deer is not a public health factor. Even being bitten by the biting midge that is a carrier of the virus is not a cause of concern for humans. Deer which develop bacterial infections or abscesses secondary to HD may not be suitable for consumption.

The case is not as clear regarding domestic livestock. A small percentage of BT infected cattle can become lame, have reproductive problems or develop sore mouths. Variations exist between BT and EHD virus infection in cattle and domestic sheep. Sheep are usually unaffected by EHD but can develop serious disease symptoms with the BT virus.

Occasionally overpopulation of the deer herd has been blamed for outbreaks of HD. Abnormally high deer populations are expected to have greater mortality rates simply because the deer are in sub-optimal condition. The spread of the virus would be expected to be greater in dense deer herds. However, an outbreak of HD cannot be directly attributed to an overpopulated deer herd.

HD can be diagnosed several ways. A reliable tentative diagnosis can be made after necropsy by a trained biologist or veterinarian. A confirmed diagnosis can only be made by isolating one of the viruses from refrigerated whole blood, spleen, lymph node, or lung from fresh a carcass.

MDWFP biologists have been monitoring the presence of HD in Mississippi by several methods: sudden, unexplained high deer mortality during late summer and early fall, necropsy diagnosis, isolation of EHD or BT virus, and the observation of hoof lesions on hunter-harvested deer. HD or previous HD exposure is always present in Mississippi deer herds. Previous HD exposure is good. Exposure yields antibodies to future outbreaks of the disease. Without the antibody presence significant mortality would occur.

The 2006 – 2007 season produced a moderate HD occurrence. Evidence of HD was reported in only 20 counties during the 2006 – 2007 hunting season (Figure 7). Researchers have documented a distinctive 2 - 3 year cycle in HD outbreaks. Assuming that these cyclic outbreaks occur, we can expect a high occurrence of HD during the 2007 – 2008 hunting season.

***Mouth Lesions from EHD***

***Biting Midge (Culicoides spp.) Transmits EHD***

***Hoof Sloughing from EHD***

# Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

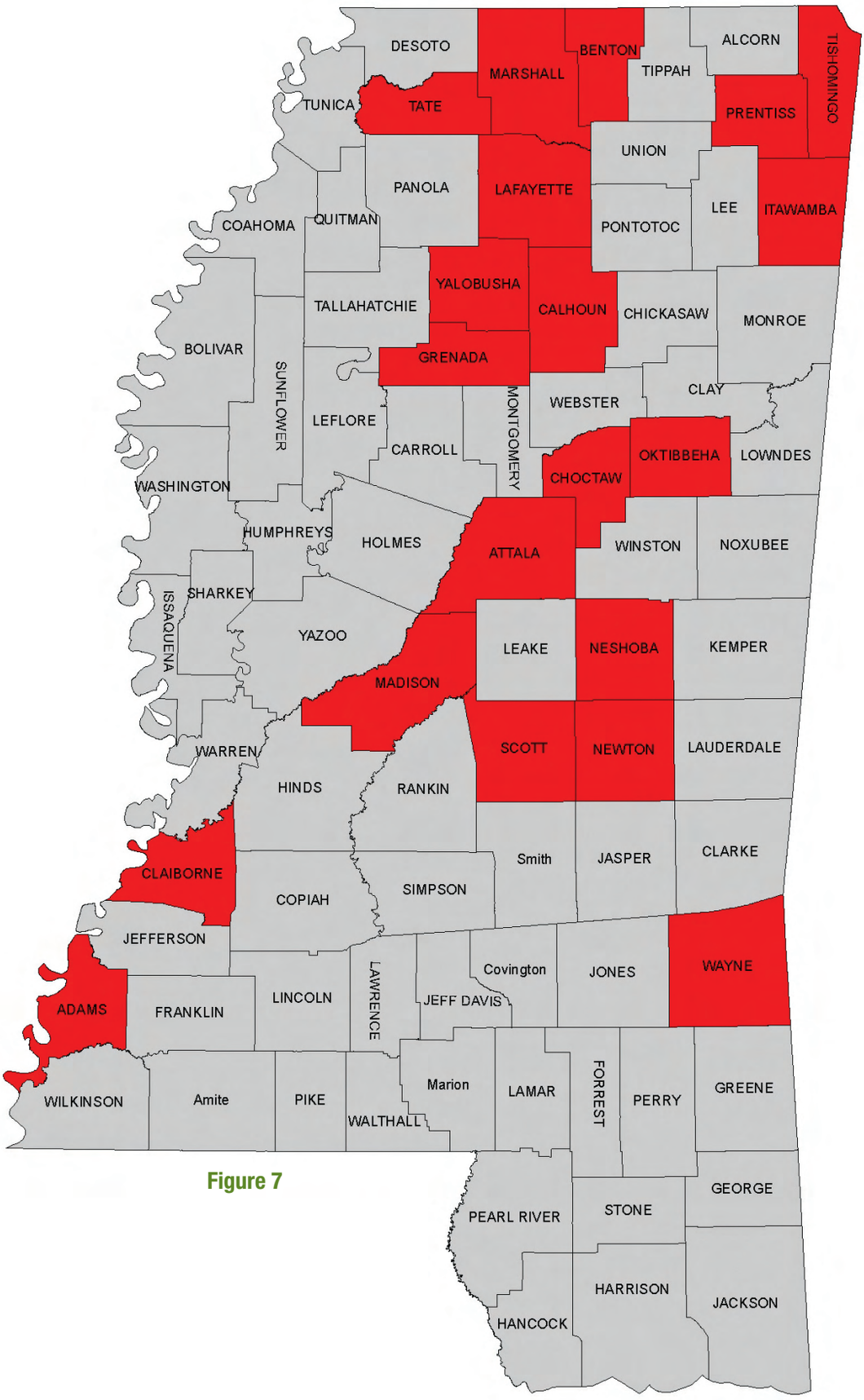



**Figure 7**

# 2007 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

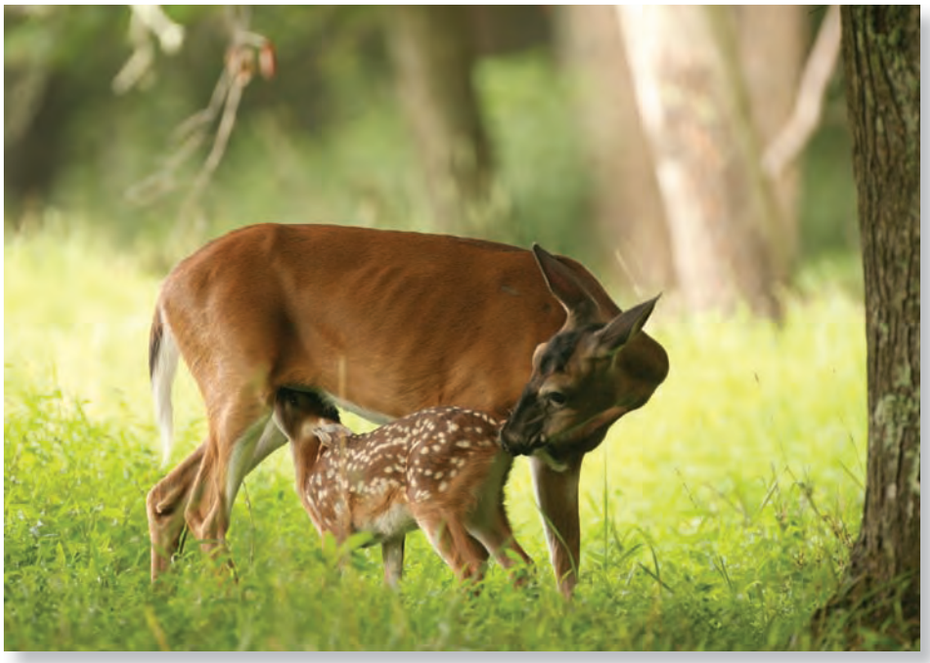


Photo by Steve Gulledge

Deer herd health evaluations are conducted by MDWFP biologists annually. Evaluation sites are selected each year based on a specific need for additional information, which cannot be obtained from hunter-harvested deer. These sites may be on DMAP cooperator lands, WMAs, open public lands, or areas with a special deer management concern. Some sites are sampled annually, others on a rotational schedule of two – three years and some locations on an as-needed basis.

Time constraints normally limit the number of locations biologists sample each year. Deer collections are conducted during the months of February, March, and April. Collection timing must be late enough to insure that all does have been bred, but early enough to precede the spring green-up when foliage density reduces the ability to readily observe and identify deer. The sampling window is most critical in the southern portion of the state where late breeding is a chronic problem and early green-up of native vegetation occurs.

Biologists complete an application for approval to conduct each herd health evaluation during a specific time period. The MDWFP Deer Committee reviews these applications and denies or grants approval. Other agency personnel assist the biologist in charge of the deer collection. When non-agency personnel are participating in the process, specific prior approval is obtained on the application.

During a typical herd health evaluation, biological data regarding reproduction, body condition, and disease are collected from mature females. A minimum of 10 mature females is necessary to obtain an adequate sample size to assess herd parameters. Mature does are shot during the late afternoon on existing food plots or at night with the aid of a light and from a truck platform, which has been designed specifically for this purpose. Other deer are occasionally taken by mistake during the collection process. Data are obtained from all deer but the purpose of the evaluation is to obtain reproductive, physical condition and disease data from mature females. All measurements and data are obtained from the deer on site or at a convenient nearby location. All deer are donated to a charitable institution or to an individual determined needy by agency personnel. Neither deer nor portions thereof are utilized by any MDWFP employees. Receipts are obtained from every deer donated. Rarely, instances have occurred where deer had to be disposed of in a manner where human utilization was not possible.

## Reproduction

Reproductive data collected during herd health evaluations include conception dates, fawning dates, number of corpus lutea per doe, and number of fetuses per doe. Conception dates and fawning dates are determined using a fetal aging scale. Fetal length is measured on the fetal aging scale and the length is used to calculate conception data and fawning date. Data from the 2007 statewide deer herd health evaluations are given in Table 3. Data were collected from 310 deer on 27 sites across the state.

In Table 3, conception date ranges and corresponding fawning dates are given for each collection site. The earliest conception date (18-November) was detected at Coahoma Conservation League in Coahoma County. The latest conception date (20-March) was detected on Leaf River WMA in Perry County. Mean fawning dates based on the conception dates ranged from 20-June on Conservation League in Coahoma County to 17-August on Leaf River WMA in Perry County. The statewide average conception date was 9-January and the corresponding state average fawning date was 10-July.

Sample sizes for each collection site are given as N1 or N2. Different groupings by age and sex are mandatory to accurately interpret condition and reproductive data. Total 1½ year-old or older fecund (capable of breeding) does are represented as N1. Mature 2½ years old and older does are represented as N2. Both N1 and N2 deer are utilized to calculate conception dates, but only N2 deer are considered in the sample when reproductive rates and condition data are compared.

# 2007 Deer Herd Health Evaluations

Data comparing conception ranges and mean conception dates are self-explanatory. Average number of corpus lutea (CLs) is determined by examination of the ovaries of each N2 deer in the sample and counting the number of CLs present at the time of collection. A CL is a structure in the ovary, which forms when an egg is released. The CL functions to maintain pregnancy by the release of hormones. As in domestic livestock, healthy deer on a high plane of nutrition will produce more eggs than deer in poor condition. Therefore, CL data provide a quantitative index to gauge not only reproductive performance at a specific site but also provide a general index to overall herd condition. CL data ranged from a low of 1.0 CLs per doe on Wilderness Forever in Claiborne County to a high of 2.7 CLs per doe on Weyerhaeuser in Kemper County.

Average number of fetuses are also self-explanatory, but will, in most instances, be a lower number than average number of CLs because all CLs do not represent a viable fetus. As the average number of CLs provides an index to reproductive rates and herd condition, the average number of fetuses per doe provides an additional index to determine site-specific herd health. Average number of fetuses per doe ranged from a low of 1.0 on Wilderness Forever in Claiborne County and Copiah County WMA in Copiah County to a high of 2.3 on Williams Farm in Coahoma County.

## Body Condition

Body condition data collected during herd health evaluations include dressed weight and kidney fat index (KFI). Average dressed weight only includes N2 deer. A wide range of weights are apparent due to soil type, deer herd condition, and habitat type. In general, dressed weight is a reliable indicator to help gauge herd condition but should not be used to compare different sites unless all soil and habitat types are uniform.

KFI provides a quantitative index to energy levels within a deer herd. KFI is calculated by expressing the weight of the kidney fat as a percentage of the kidney weight. Substandard kidney fat levels were found at several areas. The highest value during 2007 was seen on Infolab in Quitman County.

## Disease

During herd health evaluations, blood serum samples are collected from deer. The serum samples are tested for antibodies to the various sub-types of Hemorrhagic disease (HD). HD can be caused by several different strains of either the epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) virus or the bluetongue (BT) virus. The presence of antibodies indicates previous exposure, not current infection. During 2007, deer from 22 of the 27 collection sites tested positive for the EHD virus, and deer from 23 of the 27 collection sites tested positive for the BT virus. Specific serotype information was not available at press time.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples were also collected on all deer harvested during the 2007 herd health evaluations. There was no incidence of CWD found in any samples.



Photo by Steve Gulledge

## Table 3. Deer Herd Health Evaluation Summary for 2007

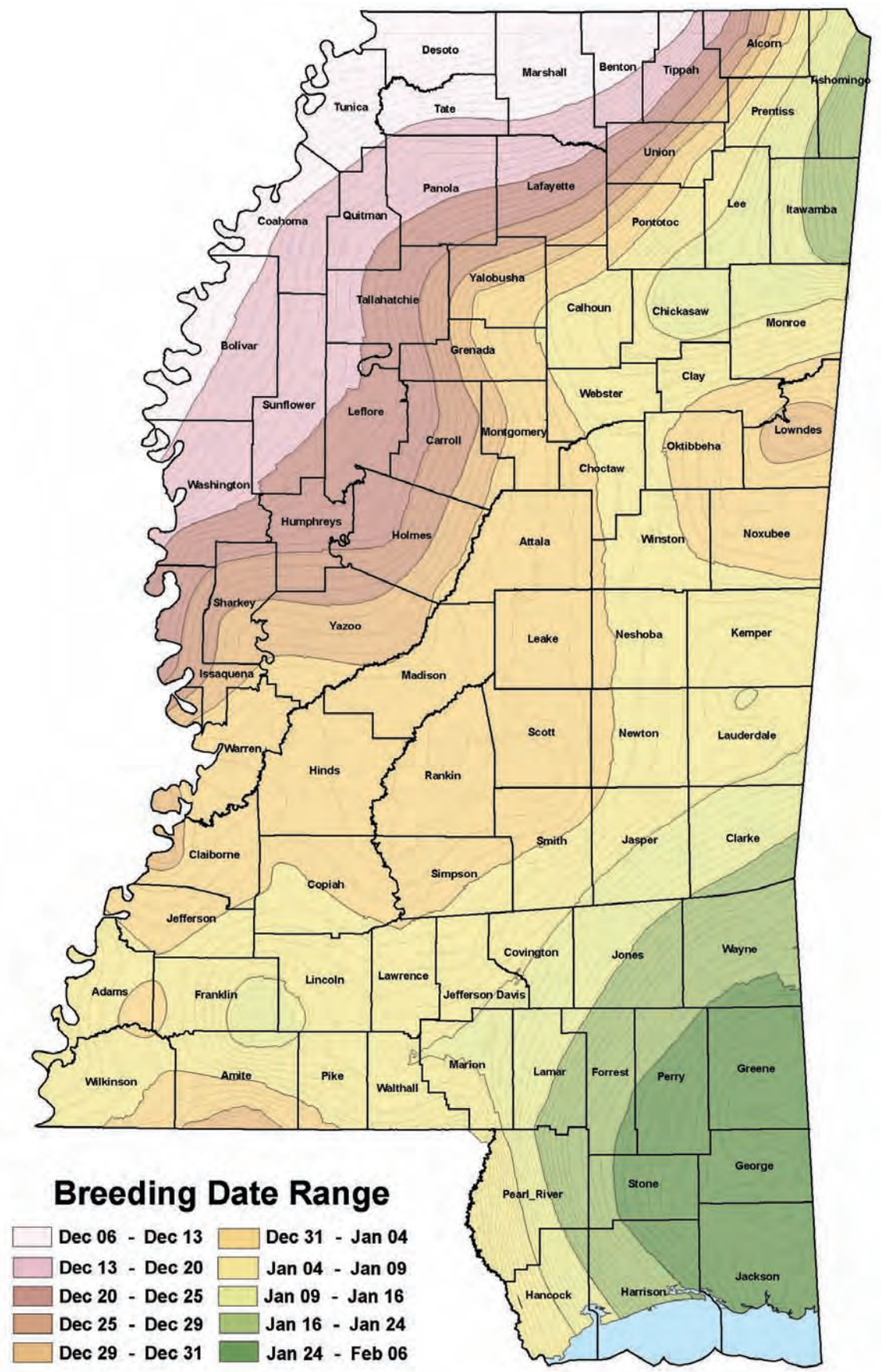
| # | Soil Area | Collection Site | Date of Collection | N1 | N2 | Range of Conception | | Mean Conception Date | Mean Fawning Date | Average # CLS | Average # Fetuses | Avg. Dressed Weight | Average KFI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 900 | Archer Island HC, Washington County | 15-Feb-2007 | 11 | 6 | 27-Nov | 24-Dec | 11-Dec | 25-Jun | 2.0 | 1.8 | 94.7 | 144.4 |
| 2 | 903 | Big Black Association, Attala County | 5-Mar-2007 | 14 | 14 | 19-Dec | 12-Feb | 10-Jan | 25-Jul | 2.0 | 1.8 | 76.5 | 61.8 |
| 3 | 901 | Black Bear Plantation, Issaquena County | 13-Feb-2007 | 25 | 21 | 9-Dec | 31-Dec | 22-Dec | 6-Jul | 2.0 | 2.1 | 94.2 | 144.9 |
| 4 | 902 | Bozeman Property, Madison County | 19-Feb-2007 | 10 | 8 | 18-Dec | 29-Jan | 3-Jan | 18-Jul | 1.8 | 1.7 | 88.0 | 79.5 |
| 5 | 902 | Cameron Plantation, Madison County | 20-Feb-2007 | 5 | 5 | 23-Nov | 2-Jan | 19-Dec | 3-Jul | 2.0 | 2.0 | 93.4 | 87.3 |
| 6 | 905 | Canal Section WMA, Itawamba County | 5-Mar-2007 | 10 | 10 | 27-Dec | 7-Feb | 13-Jan | 28-Jul | 2.0 | 1.6 | 74.8 | 53.8 |
| 7 | 900 | Coahoma Conservation League, Coahoma Co. | 6-Feb-2007 | 11 | 10 | 18-Nov | 24-Dec | 6-Dec | 20-Jun | 1.6 | 1.8 | 102.7 | 89.5 |
| 8 | 913 | Copiah Co WMA, Copiah County | 6-Mar-2007 | 9 | 9 | 8-Dec | 20-Feb | 17-Jan | 1-Aug | 1.2 | 1.0 | 73.8 | 22.5 |
| 9 | 913 | Cotton Branch Plantation, Franklin County | 15-Feb-2007 | 2 | 2 | 18-Jan | 1-Feb | 25-Jan | 9-Aug | 1.5 | 1.5 | 79.5 | 102.1 |
| 10 | 905 | Divide Section WMA, Tishomingo County | 26-Feb-2007 | 11 | 9 | 29-Dec | 19-Jan | 12-Jan | 27-Jul | 2.0 | 2.0 | 78.4 | 57.8 |
| 11 | 902 | Hamer WMA, Panola County | 6-Feb-2007 | 12 | 10 | 30-Nov | 23-Jan | 16-Dec | 30-Jun | 2.3 | 1.9 | 90.0 | 76.3 |
| 12 | 903 | Horseshoe Lake, Madison County | 7-Mar-2007 | 4 | 3 | 31-Dec | 20-Jan | 12-Jan | 27-Jul | 2.0 | 2.0 | 91.0 | 98.4 |
| 13 | 901 | Infolab, Quitman County | 8-Feb-2007 | 6 | 5 | 11-Dec | 18-Jan | 23-Dec | 7-Jul | 2.0 | 2.0 | 112.6 | 172.9 |
| 14 | 907 | Leaf River WMA, Perry County | 3-Apr-2007 | 11 | 10 | 18-Jan | 21-Mar | 2-Feb | 17-Aug | 1.9 | 1.9 | 66.2 | 32.4 |
| 15 | 901 | Magna Vista, Issaquena County | 13-Feb-2007 | 10 | 9 | 3-Dec | 30-Jan | 21-Dec | 5-Jul | 2.3 | 2.1 | 95.0 | 120.9 |
| 16 | 912 | Magnolia, Claiborne County | 21-Feb-2007 | 10 | 9 | 31-Jan | 24-Jan | 29-Jun | 11-Jan | 1.6 | 1.6 | 94.2 | 97.6 |
| 17 | 901 | Mahannah WMA, Issaquena County | 19-Feb-2007 | 20 | 20 | 9-Dec | 5-Feb | 5-Jan | 20-Jul | 1.6 | 2.0 | 88.1 | 68.0 |
| 18 | 907 | Old Pearl Game Mgt, Simpson County | 14-Mar-2007 | 3 | 2 | 17-Dec | 20-Jan | 30-Dec | 14-Jul | 2.0 | 2.0 | 77.5 | 56.5 |
| 19 | 901 | Sunflower WMA, Sharkey County | 26-Feb-2007 | 21 | 19 | 21-Dec | 12-Feb | 3-Jan | 18-Jul | 1.8 | 1.8 | 97.5 | 71.5 |
| 20 | 905 | Tallahatchie/Pinhook, Tippah County | 20-Feb-2007 | 13 | 10 | 4-Dec | 6-Feb | 6-Jan | 21-Jul | 2.0 | 1.9 | 78.0 | 56.6 |
| 21 | 900 | Togo Island, Claiborne County | 22-Feb-2007 | 10 | 8 | 17-Dec | 9-Jan | 28-Dec | 12-Jul | 2.1 | 1.9 | 94.5 | 98.9 |
| 22 | 907 | Triple Creek Game Farm, Jasper County | 20-Mar-2007 | 9 | 9 | 30-Dec | 20-Feb | 15-Jan | 30-Jul | 1.9 | 1.8 | 79.1 | 46.5 |
| 23 | 901 | Twin Oaks WMA, Sharkey County | 20-Feb-2007 | 22 | 20 | 17-Dec | 6-Feb | 10-Jan | 25-Jul | 1.7 | 1.8 | 91.5 | 58.4 |
| 24 | 908 | Weyhauser - Kemper Co., Kemper County | 28-Feb-2007 | 23 | 20 | 24-Dec | 28-Feb | 11-Jan | 26-Jul | 2.7 | 1.9 | 91.9 | 42.7 |
| 25 | 912 | Wilderness Forever, Claiborne County | 22-Feb-2007 | 2 | 2 | 26-Dec | 1-Jan | 29-Dec | 13-Jul | 1.0 | 1.0 | 91.0 | 41.0 |
| 26 | 901 | Williams Farm, Coahoma County | 6-Feb-2007 | 10 | 7 | 20-Nov | 26-Dec | 9-Dec | 23-Jun | 2.3 | 2.3 | 103.6 | 159.2 |
| 27 | 906 | Yates Property, Noxubee County | 12-Mar-2007 | 16 | 16 | 24-Dec | 25-Jan | 6-Jan | 21-Jul | 2.1 | 1.8 | 85.4 | 96.2 |
| | | | **Total:** | **310** | **273** | | **Average:** | **9-Jan** | **10-Jul** | | | | |

| Soil Area | Region Name | Soil Area | Region Name |
|---|---|---|---|
| 900 | Batture | 907 | Lower Coastal Plain |
| 901 | Delta | 908 | Interior Flatwoods |
| 902 | Upper Thick Loess | 909 | Coastal Flatwoods |
| 903 | Upper Thin Loess | 912 | Lower Thick Loess |
| 905 | Upper Coastal Plain | 913 | Lower Thin Loess |
| 906 | Blackland Prairie | | |

N1 = Total 1½ year-old or older fecund (capable of breeding) does

N2= Mature 2½ years old and older does

# 2007 Deer Herd Health Evaluation



# Mail Survey Data 2005-2006

## Resident Hunter Survey Results

There were two significant factors acting on hunter numbers in the 2005-2006 season. First, the definition of a primitive weapon changed to allow some cartridge fired rifles to be used. From this change, we expected, and received, an increase in primitive weapon hunters. Second, and certainly not least, there was Hurricane Katrina. With the damage and displacement that this storm caused, we expected overall hunter numbers and effort to decrease. While the numbers did decrease, the drops were not as drastic as we expected. Possibly, hunting provided a little piece of normalcy to uprooted lives.

Survey methods changed beginning with the 2003 – 2004 season. All data collected after this change, which includes the 2005 – 2006 data, must be looked at carefully. Total resident deer hunters by user group (gun, archery, and primitive weapons) are shown in Figure 8. Overall, total hunter numbers decreased, but only by a little over 1%. However, an increase is apparent in archery and primitive weapon hunter numbers. Primitive weapons hunters increased by 13%.

Deer hunting man-days by user group are shown in Figure 9. A long-term evaluation of hunter man-days reveals a declining trend that began in the mid 1980s. This year, however, a large drop in total man-days was expected, due to restricted travel and increased fuel prices following Hurricane Katrina. Total man-days dropped by over 200,000 or by almost 8%. Man-days decreased by all hunting methods. Primitive weapon hunter man-days showed the smallest decrease, likely due to the influx of new primitive weapon hunters. Primitive weapon and archery hunters have shown an increasing trend in man-days for several years. We expect this trend to continue in the 2006-2007 season. Total hunter numbers have remained relatively constant for the past few years, but the remaining hunters are choosing to hunt with more than just modern firearms.

Total resident deer harvest for the 2005 – 2006 season is depicted in Figure 10. This graph includes the harvest of bucks and does from archery, primitive weapon, and gun deer seasons. Total resident deer harvest increased by about 1,100 compared to the 2004 – 2005 season. This increase is surprising when the 8% decrease in hunter effort is considered. The percent of successful hunters increased to 73.7% of all hunters. Additionally, the average seasonal harvest increased to 2 deer per hunter. Fewer hunters are harvesting more deer, with less time expended. This would suggest an increasing deer population statewide. A balanced buck to doe harvest, also exhibited in Figure 10, can be directly attributed to continued antlerless opportunity offered on private lands.

Archery and primitive weapon deer hunters harvested 31% of the total deer harvested and 39% of total does harvested. Archery and primitive weapon hunters harvested more does than bucks.

## Non-Resident Hunter Survey Results

Non-resident deer hunter numbers are shown in Figure 11. Total hunter numbers remained relatively stable compared to the 2004 – 2005 season.

Non-resident harvest information is presented in Figure 12. Both buck and doe harvest increased. Non-resident man-days by method are shown in Figure 13. Man-days decreased slightly for archery hunters, but increased substantially for primitive weapon and gun hunters. Hurricane Katrina did not have the same effect on non-resident hunters as it did on resident hunters. Success rates for non-resident hunters increased from the 2004 – 2005 season.

## 2005-2006 Summary (Resident and Non-Resident Combined)

The total number of deer harvested increased by about 2,700 from the 2004 – 2005 season. A total of 146,700 deer hunters spent 2,829,309 man-days deer hunting and harvested 144,118 bucks and 141,012 does, for a total of 285,130 deer. It took an average of 9.9 man-days per deer harvested. Hunters spent an average of 19.3 man-days hunting during the season.

### Table 4. Mail Survey Summary for 2005-2006 Season

| | Total Harvest | | | Total Numbers | | | Average Seasonal Harvest | | Total Man-days | | | Percent Successful Hunters | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Resident | Non-Resident | Total | Resident | Non-Resident | Total | Resident | Non-Resident | Resident | Resident | Total | Resident | Non-Resident |
| **Total Deer** | 256,870 | 28,260 | 285,130 | 128,180 | 18,520 | 146,700 | 2.00 | 1.53 | 2,542,662 | 286,647 | 2,829,309 | 73.70 | 69.20 |
| **Buck** | 130,629 | 13,489 | 144,118 | | | | 1.02 | 0.73 | | | | 59.20 | 49.40 |
| **Doe** | 126,241 | 14,771 | 141,012 | | | | 0.98 | 0.80 | | | | 51.60 | 47.70 |
| **Archery Total** | 31,841 | 3,236 | 35,077 | 37,250 | 4,534 | 41,784 | 0.85 | 0.71 | 372,463 | 39,512 | 411,975 | 48.50 | 44.50 |
| **Buck** | 9,389 | 913 | 10,302 | | | | 0.25 | 0.20 | | | | 20.30 | 15.90 |
| **Doe** | 22,452 | 2,323 | 24,775 | | | | 0.60 | 0.51 | | | | 41.60 | 36.80 |
| **Primitive Total** | 46,741 | 4,294 | 51,035 | 57,354 | 5,831 | 63,185 | 0.81 | 0.74 | 381,539 | 37,367 | 418,906 | 56.80 | 52.50 |
| **Buck** | 20,003 | 1,714 | 21,717 | | | | 0.35 | 0.29 | | | | 30.60 | 26.10 |
| **Doe** | 26,738 | 2,579 | 29,317 | | | | 0.47 | 0.44 | | | | 39.10 | 36.00 |
| **Gun Total** | 178,289 | 20,731 | 199,020 | 120,220 | 16,902 | 137,122 | 1.48 | 1.23 | 1,681,590 | 200,931 | 1,882,521 | 69.80 | 68.30 |
| **Buck** | 101,238 | 10,862 | 112,100 | | | | 0.84 | 0.64 | | | | 55.80 | 48.00 |
| **Doe** | 77,051 | 9,869 | 86,920 | | | | 0.64 | 0.58 | | | | 42.10 | 41.50 |

# Mail Survey Data 2005-2006

**Figure 8:** Total Deer Hunters – Resident

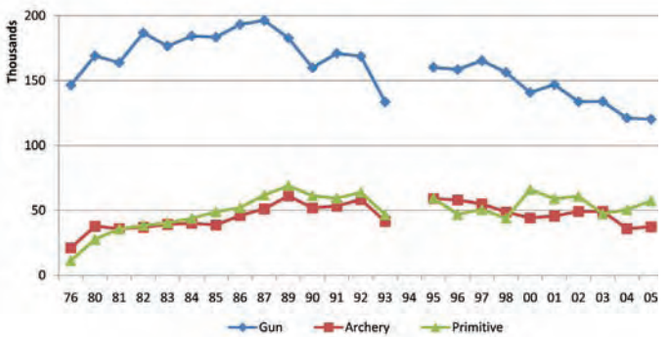



**Figure 9:** Total Man-days – Resident


**Figure 10:** Total Deer Harvest – Resident

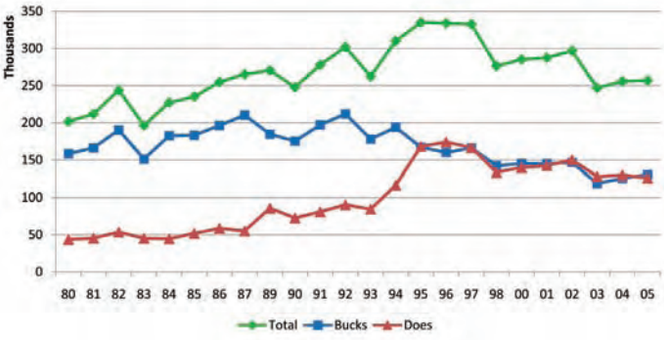



**Figure 11:** Total Deer Hunters – Non-Resident

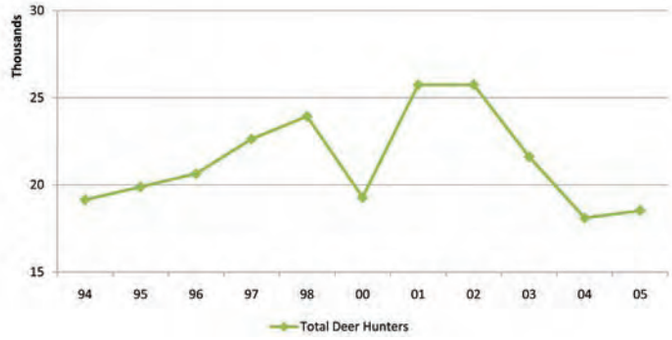



**Figure 12:** Total Deer Harvest – Non-Resident

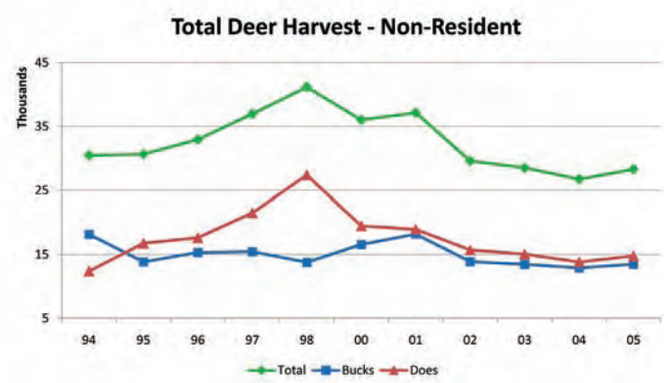
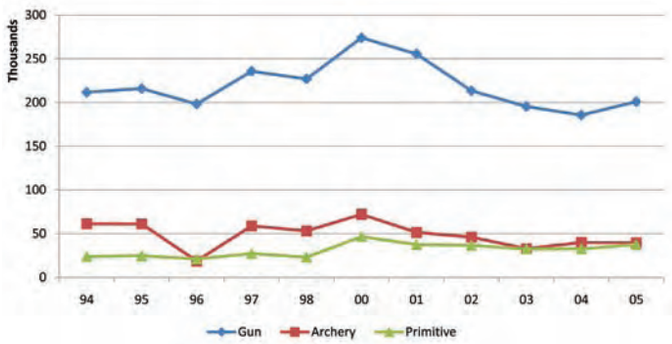



**Figure 13:** Total Man-days – Non-Resident



# Statewide Sex Ratio and Fawn Crop Estimates

MDWFP began distributing Bowhunter Observation Books before the 2005-2006 deer archery season. Efforts to increase distribution of the books increased in the 2006-2007 season. Also, a statewide spotlight count was conducted from October 16 – 20, 2006 to gain data to compare against the Bowhunter Observation Books. Following is a description and the results of each method.

The Bowhunter Observation Books were distributed through sporting goods stores, feed stores, and were available online. Almost 2,000 of the books were distributed in September 2006. A total of 88 books were returned by the December 1st deadline. Participating bowhunters observed 3,803 total deer at 1.11 deer per hour. They recorded 3,431.75 hours in 49 counties. Total hours of observation by county are presented in Figure 14. Not enough data was collected to produce sex ratio and fawn crop estimates by county.

A total of nine different spotlight routes were established across the state, with six of the routes on the Natchez Trace Parkway (Figure 15). All routes except one were sampled three nights. One route was sampled two nights. Total numbers of bucks, does, fawns, and unknown deer observed were recorded for each night. An approximate age was assigned to each buck. No density estimates were derived from the survey. A total of 917 miles were driven during the survey and 2,012 deer were counted, of which 68% were identified as buck, does, or fawns. Estimates are provided for each route on Figure 15.

The Statewide Spotlight Count and Bowhunter Observation Books produced very similar statewide estimates (Table 5). Based on these results, Mississippi has about 3 does for every buck. We will discontinue the Statewide Spotlight Count. However, we plan to continue distributing Bowhunter Observation Books. If you would like to assist the MDWFP in collecting observation data during archery season, you may download the book from our website, www.mdwfp.com/deer or call 601-432-2199 to request a book.

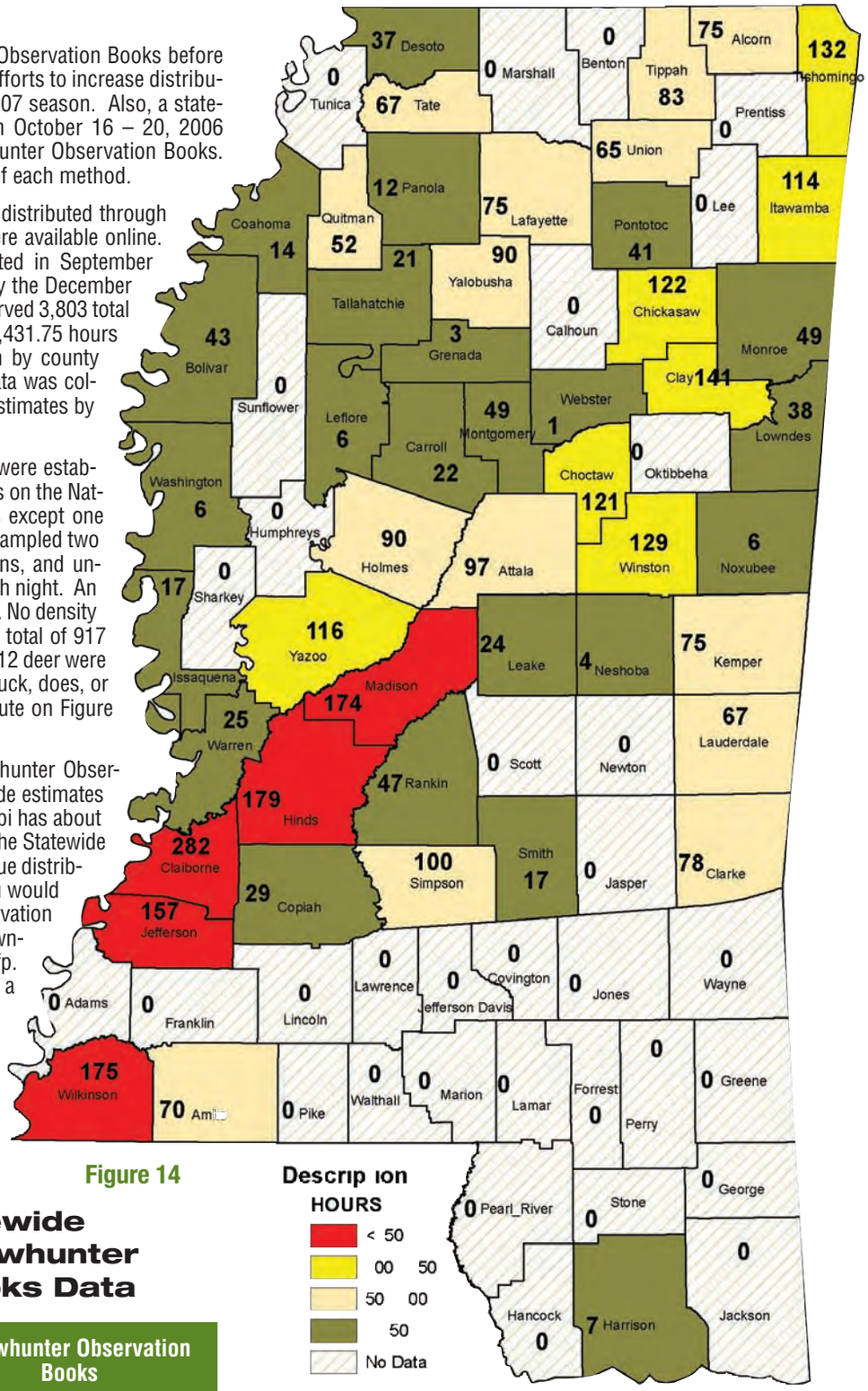



Figure 14

## Table 5. Statewide Spotlight and Bowhunter Observation Books Data

| Statewide Spotlight Count | Bowhunter Observation Books |
|---|---|
| 1 Buck : 3 Does | 1 Buck : 2.69 Does |
| 0.60 Fawns : 1 Doe | 0.52 Fawns : 1 Doe |

# Statewide Sex Ratio and Fawn Crop Estimates

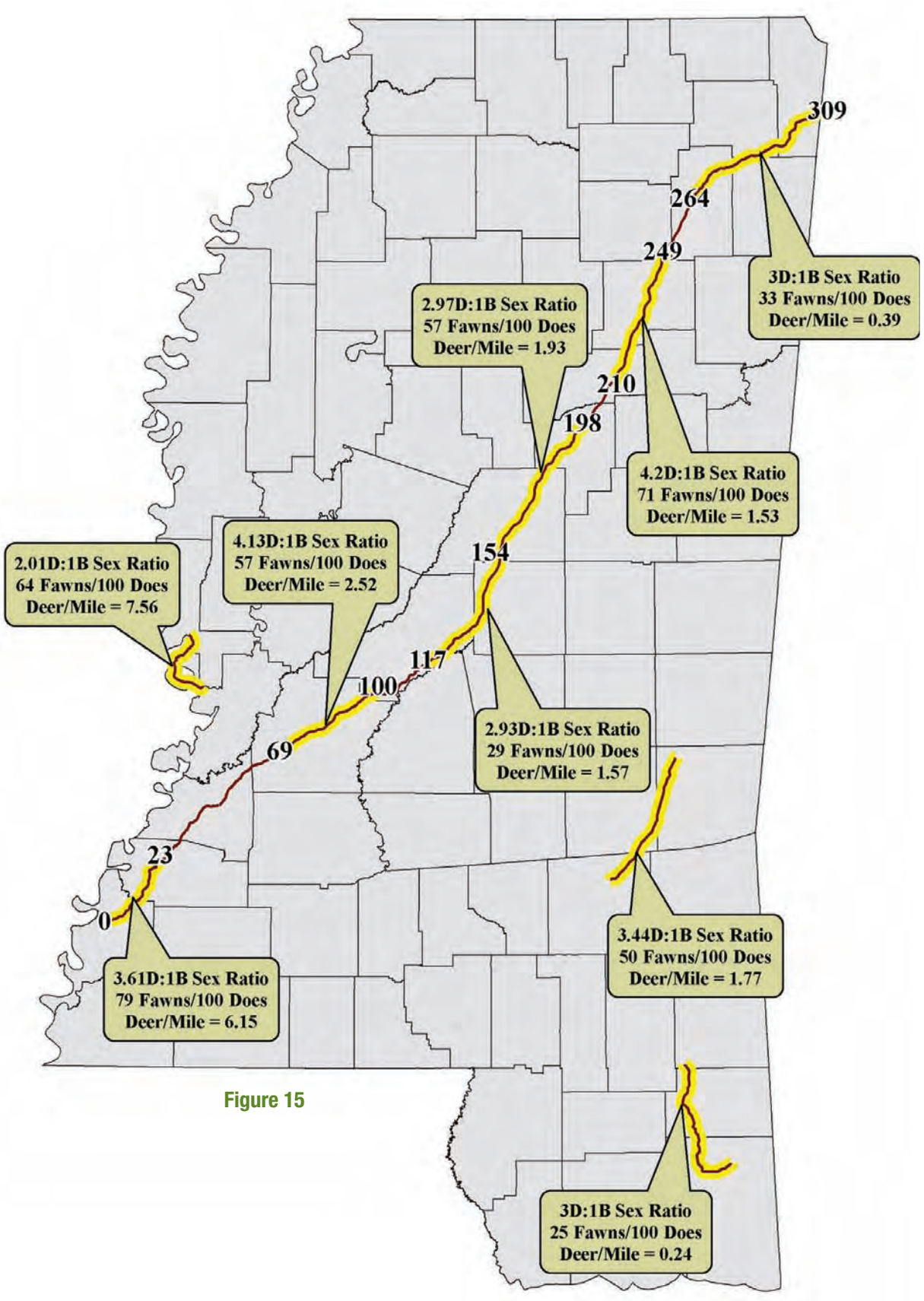



Figure 15

# Deer Tags

## Management Buck Tags

In 2003 – 2004, the first time since 1995, sub – 4 point bucks were legal for harvest with sub – 4 point tags issued by biologists to DMAP cooperators on a limited basis for management purposes. In 2005– 2006 this was expanded to include management bucks. Management buck tags were issued to DMAP cooperators which allowed the harvest of sub-optimal bucks. The management buck harvest criteria were for an individual property and were determined by the DMAP biologist. A written management justification issued by the MDWFP must accompany any request for such a permit. Management bucks harvested under this permit must be identified with a tag immediately upon possession. Antlered deer taken by permit are not subject to the annual or daily bag limit on antlered deer.

Permits were issued to the following WMAs for the 2006 – 2007 season: Calhoun County, Copiah County, Hamer, Lake George, Leroy Percy, Mahannah, Malmaison, O'Keefe, Shipland, Stoneville, Sunflower, Twin Oaks, Upper Sardis, and Yockanookany. A total of 1,501 permits were issued to these WMAs and 39 of these permits were used.

*An example of proper usage of a management buck tag.*

Permits were issued to the following DMAP clubs for the 2006 – 2007 season: Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Coahoma County Conservation League, Ashbrook, Bledsoe, Riverside Farms, Chesterfield, Casey Jones, Moore Farms, Big Black Wildlife, LLC, Clifton Plantation, Cameron Farms, Big River Farms, Box B, TCP, Deviney, Togo Island, Catfish Point, Black River, Burkes, Ward Lake, Yates, Bozeman Farms, Dry Grove, Breakwater, Itta Bena, Horseshoe Lake, Halifax, Red Gate, Providence 2, Providence 1, White Oak, Spell, Barefoot, Infolab, Woodstock, Atwood, Merigold, Deer Creek Timber, Canemount, Bush Bottom, Montgomery Farms, Triple Creek Game Club, Miller Point, Palmer Farms, Fairview, Black Bear, Magna Vista, Jackson Point, Millbrook, Lockhardt - Dalewood, Duck Lake, Burl Branch, Arkabutla Lake, Brierfield, Paradise, Palmyra, Rosedale, Chiefs, Goat Hill, Bellweather Plantation, Melrose, Delta Wildlife – Luckett, Delta Wildlife – Mabry, Delta Wildlife – Greasy Bayou, Delta Wildlife – Parker Gary, Delta Wildlife - Thornton, Willow Oak, A&B, P&L, Clanton Farms, Pinhook, Solitude, J. Cameron Plantation, Centennial, Cypress Brake, Riverbend Farms, Riverbend South, Tara, Scotland H.C., Woodburn, Fitler Farms, East Line, Casey Jones, Hunters Chaple, Dave Kitchens, Wrights Creek, Prewitt, Mt. Ararat, Ellislie, Cedar Ridge, Jeff H.C., Riverland H.C., 27 Break, Deerfield, Wolf Creek, Wildwood, Williams Farm, Craigside Plantation, Donaldson Pt., Black Bayou, Bogue Felia, Wood Lawn, Sewell H.C., Bowman, Attala Deer Camp, Dancing Rabbit, Big Horn, Robertson, Willow Break, Smallwood, Refuge. A total of 1,760 permits were issued to these clubs and 910 of these permits were used.

## Fee Management Assistance Program

The Fee Management Assistance Program (FMAP) was implemented during the 1989-1990 season. It began as a pilot program in two north-central counties at the request of local conservation officers, in response to "We have too many does, how do we get a hold on them. Current season either-sex opportunity does not allow enough time to harvest our does." Under this program, doe tags were purchased for $10 each at a rate of one per 50 acres. The landowner or club was required to show proof of ownership or hunting control. FMAP allowed the permittee to harvest antlerless deer in addition to the state bag limit. This program was accepted and quickly spread statewide. Sportsmen realized they could properly harvest does and still maintain a huntable number of deer.

Initially, a large number of permits were sold. However, liberalization of antlerless opportunity has occurred throughout the state. This has decreased the need for permits in most areas to the point of considering termination of the program. There were only 242 permits sold during the 2006-2007 hunting season.

Continuation of the program is recommended because it provides an opportunity to harvest antlerless deer in excess of the season bag limit on specific areas that are in excess of the environmental carrying capacity.

## DMAP Antlerless Tags

MDWFP issues antlerless tags to DMAP clubs. This allows the harvest of antlerless deer in excess of the daily and seasonal bag limits. These tags have been issued since the implementation of DMAP. When antlerless seasons were liberalized statewide, the need for antlerless tags was reduced. However, some landowners and managers still have the need for more antlerless harvest than state bag limits allow.

Antlerless tags are issued by the DMAP Biologists, based on an individual landowner's or manager's need. The tags can only be used on antlerless deer on the property to which they were issued.

DMAP biologists issued 4,226 tags to 141 DMAP clubs in 2006-2007.

# Antler Regulations

The 2006 – 2007 hunting season was the second season for Deer Management Zone 2 in southeast Mississippi. This zone includes private and open public lands south of U.S. Hwy. 84 and east of MS Hwy. 35. Within the zone, deer hunting opportunity is allowed October 15 through February 15. The objectives of Deer Management Zone 2 were as follows:

1) To protect adult does early which may still be caring for fawns by opening the season two weeks later (Oct 15);

2) To provide more hunting opportunity during the breeding period (Feb. 1-15). Deer herd health evaluation data collected within the zone indicates most breeding occurs during the latter part of January through early February; and

3) To improve the age structure of adult bucks through more restrictive antler harvest requirements (4-points AND 10 inch inside spread or 13 inch main beam).

The inside spread antler restrictions placed on many of the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) is in its third year. Results from studies on the effects of the "four-point law" and apparent over-harvest of bucks on some WMAs support this antler restriction. Initiated for the 1995 – 1996 hunting season, the "four point law" is an example of a framework change.

In 2003 – 2004, the first time since 1995, sub – 4 point bucks were legal for harvest with sub – 4 point tags issued by biologists to DMAP cooperators on a limited basis for management purposes. In 2005 – 2006 this was expanded to include management bucks. Management buck tags were issued again in 2006 – 2007 to DMAP cooperators which allowed the harvest of sub-optimal bucks. The management buck harvest criteria were for an individual property and were determined by the DMAP biologist.

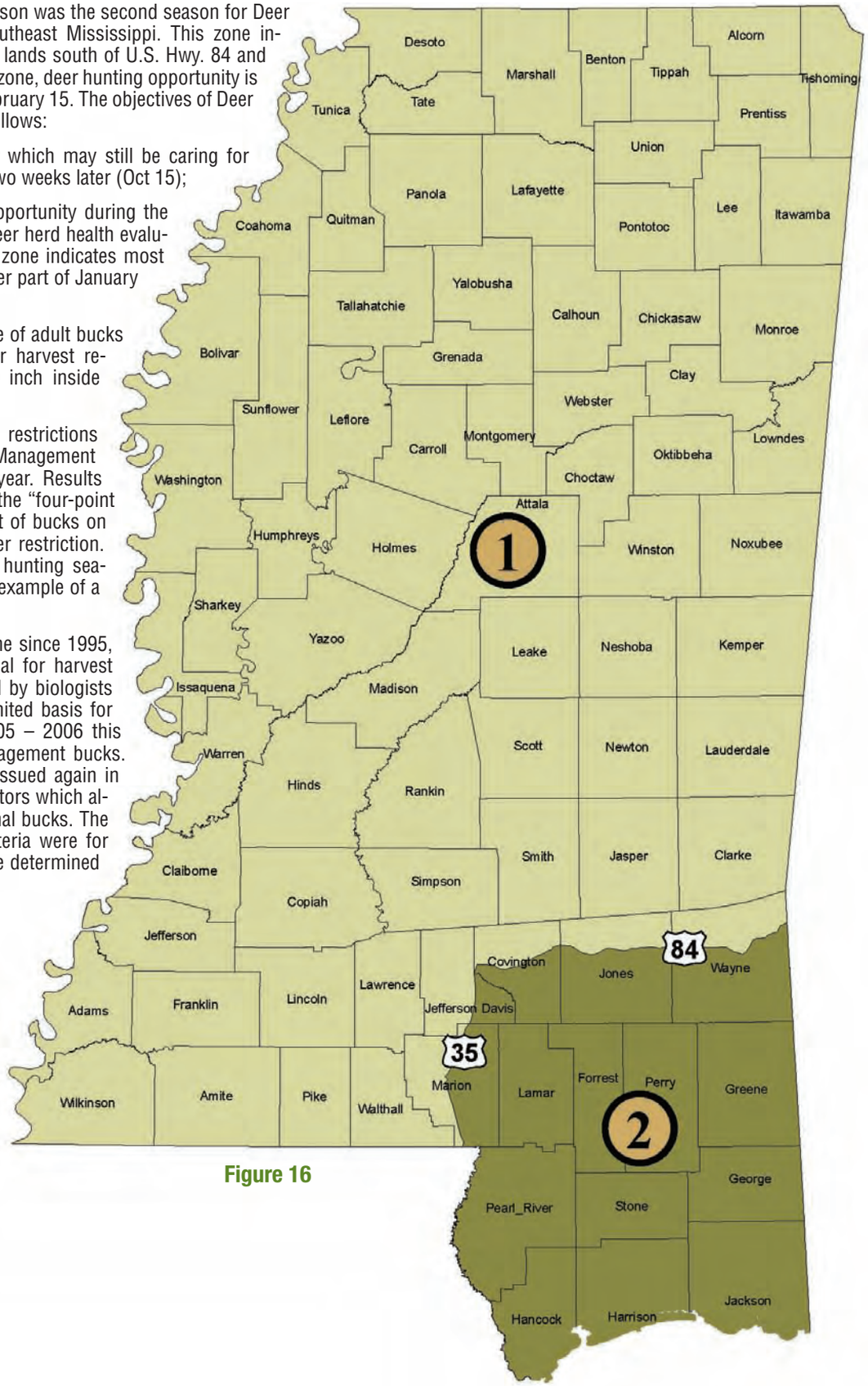



Figure 16

# High-Fenced Enclosures

House Bill 1144 was signed into law during 2007 (Section 49-7-58.4, Mississippi Code of 1972). This legislation gave the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) plenary power to regulate all commercial and noncommercial wild animal enclosures. House Bill 1144 will allow the agency to conserve and protect native wildlife for all citizens to enjoy in addition to protecting our recreational economy, which is dependent on native wildlife resources. House Bill 1144 mandated that the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks regulate any facility that prevents the free ingress and egress of native or nonnative cervids. The bill also required the MDWFP to inventory the number, location, and size of wild animal enclosures within the state and record the types of non-native animals held in such enclosures. This bill also required the MDWFP to file a report containing the above information with the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives before January 3, 2007.

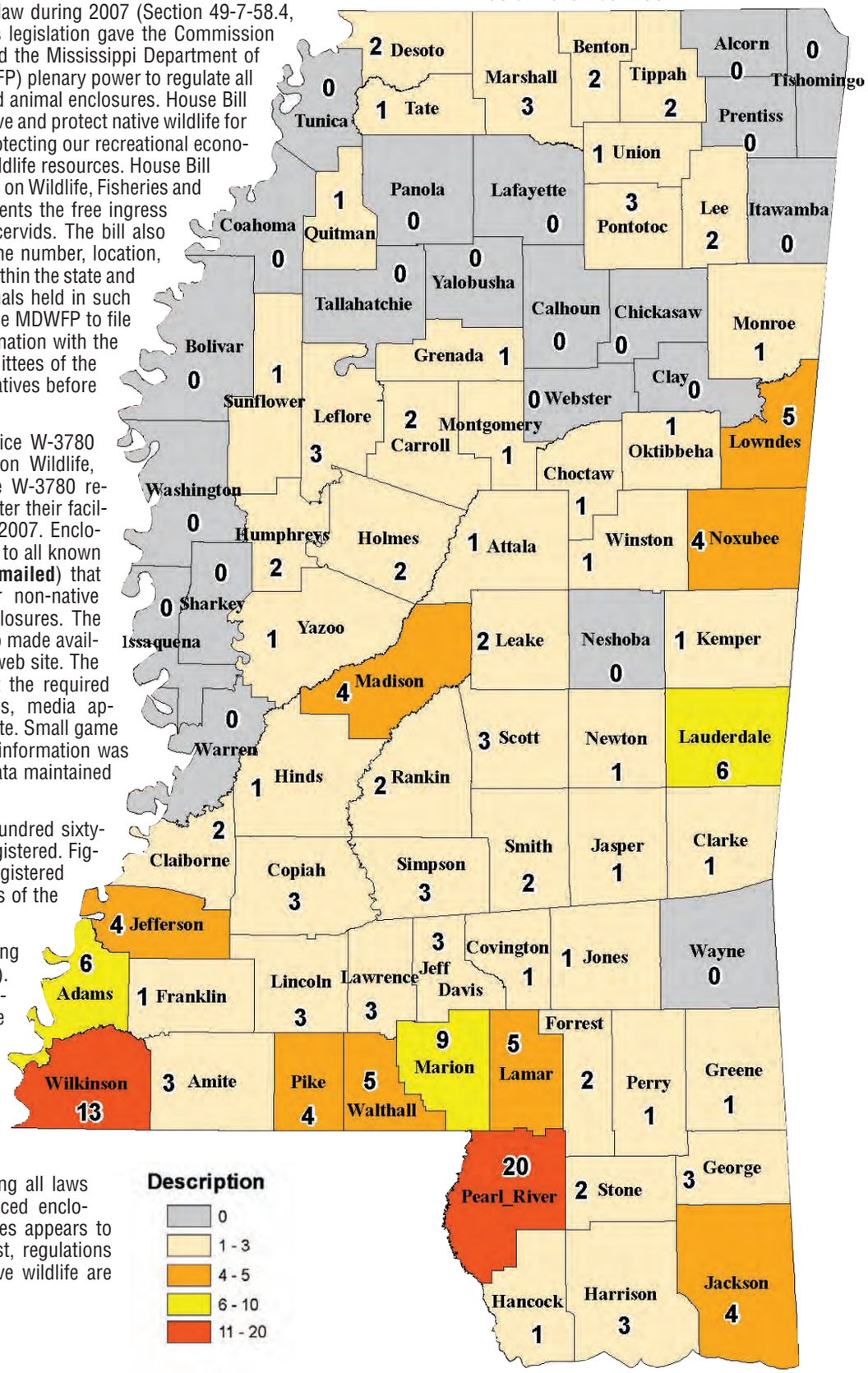
On August 18, 2006, Public Notice W-3780 was adopted by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Public Notice W-3780 required all enclosure owners to register their facility with the MDWFP by January 1, 2007. Enclosure registration forms were mailed to all known owners of enclosures (**177 forms mailed**) that contained white-tailed deer and/or non-native animals, excluding small game enclosures. The enclosure registration form was also made available to the public on the MDWFP's web site. The general public was informed about the required registration through press releases, media appearances, and the MDWFP's web site. Small game (coyote, fox, and rabbit) enclosure information was obtained from registration/permit data maintained by MDWFP District Offices.

As of December 31, 2006, one hundred sixty-nine (169) enclosures have been registered. Figures 17 – 18 illustrate locations of registered enclosures. Following are the results of the registration:

- 48 registered enclosures containing white-tailed deer only (38,648 acres).
- 35 registered enclosures containing white-tailed deer and non-native animals (18,686 acres).
- 86 registered enclosures containing non-native animals only (9,655 acres).
- 15 registered species of non-native animals.

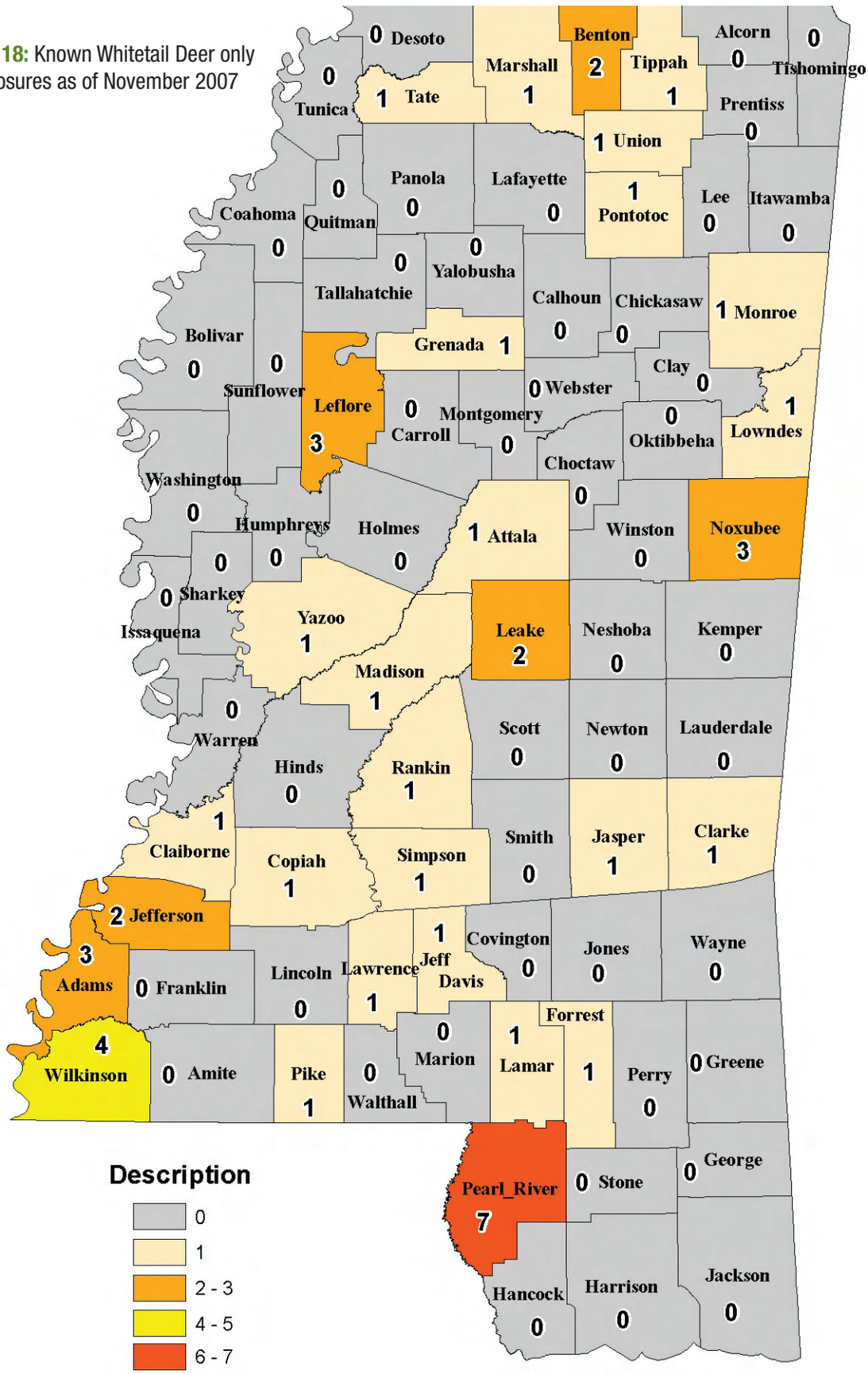
The MDWFP is currently reviewing all laws and regulations regarding high-fenced enclosures. Interest in building enclosures appears to be growing. Because of this interest, regulations that will conserve and protect native wildlife are needed.

**Figure 17:** Known Large Mammal Enclosures as of November 2007



# High-Fenced Enclosures

**Figure 18:** Known Whitetail Deer only Enclosures as of November 2007



# Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

Through a cooperative research program with Mississippi State University in 1976, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks gained information which provided biologists with the ability to evaluate population density relative to carrying capacity, using condition indicators rather than population estimates or browse surveys. This Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) directly involved hunters in management through the collection of biological data. The interpretation of these data, in consultation with a biologist, is the guiding principle of DMAP. From a two-county pilot project in its first year, DMAP grew steadily until participation peaked in 1994 at almost 1,200 cooperators with over 3.25 million acres under management.

SPECIAL NOTE: Beginning with the 2001 data, the MDWFP began using a new computer summary program (XtraNet). This may be the cause for drastic differences in some numbers. Once all of the historic data is entered into the XtraNet system the numbers are expected to fall along the same trend, thus eliminating the drastic drop currently observed in the graphs and tables. Additionally, all DMAP summary tables and graphs now include harvest reports from WMA's that collect deer harvest data.

Liberalized season structure and bag limits during the mid-1990's allowed land managers the flexibility to meet harvest objectives outside DMAP guidelines, which resulted in a decline in DMAP participation (Figure 20). This decline reduced both total acreage and number of cooperators in DMAP. Current enrollment includes 670 cooperators with 2.1 million acres. Total DMAP harvest has declined proportionally with the decline in cooperators and acreage in DMAP (Figure 21.

The ability to collect and analyze DMAP data has been exceptional. Hundreds of thousands of deer are now part of the statewide DMAP database. In excess of 10,000 deer have annually been available for comparative purposes since 1983 (Figure 21). Analysis of these data over time captured the obvious trends and subtle changes in deer herd condition and structure. These trends and changes would have gone undocumented and possibly undetected without DMAP. Clubs and landowners participating in DMAP may or may not be representative of hunter goals and objectives on a statewide basis. Therefore, deer condition and herd structure on DMAP lands may not reflect herds on un-managed lands.

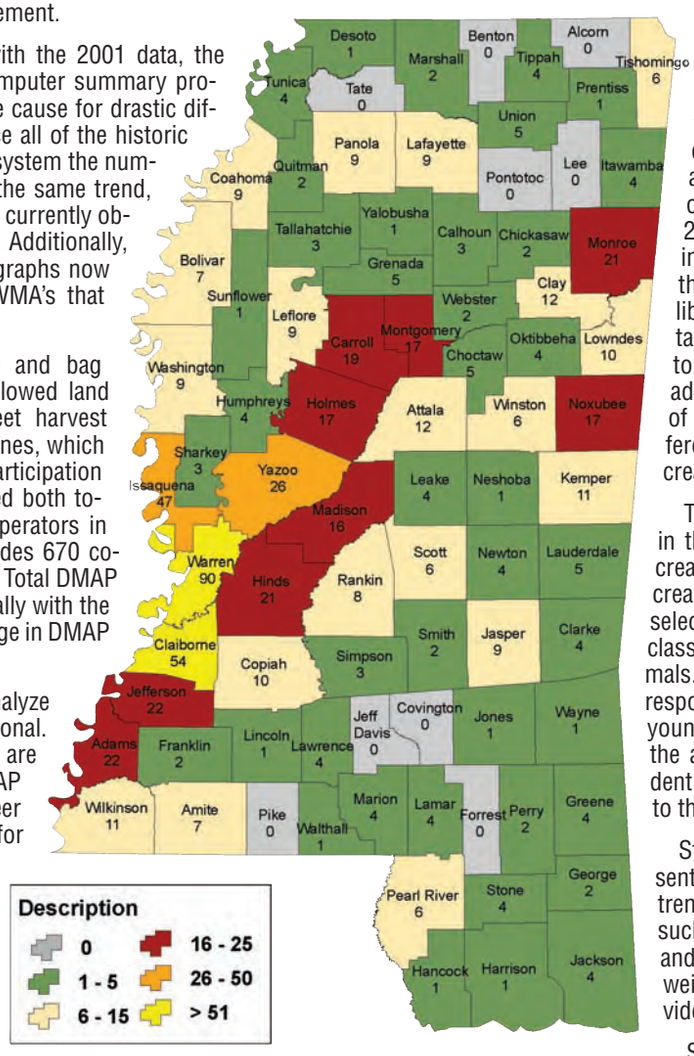



**Figure 19:** DMAP Cooperators by County

However, a data source representing over 2 million acres is credible and can be used to examine trend data. The extensive statewide coverage of DMAP at the county level can be seen in Table 6.

All DMAP data are evaluated based on soil region. These data are presented in Tables 10-20. These summaries allow individual DMAP cooperators to compare their data to soil region averages. In these tables are two sets of averages as well. The first is an average from 1991 – 1994 and the second is of the last five years (2002 – 2006). The 1991 – 1994 average is the four years prior to the 4-point law. Significant differences are obvious when comparing these averages.

A significant trend in DMAP data is obvious. The average age of all harvested bucks has increased from 2.1 years old in 1991 to 3.0 years old in 2006 (Figure 23). In addition, these older age class bucks are being produced and harvested on a declining acreage base (Figure 24). One possible reason for the drop in acres per 3½ year old bucks over the last couple of seasons is the more liberalized use of management buck tags which allowed DMAP properties to harvest sub-optimal adult bucks. In addition, the average spread, number of points, beam length, and circumference on all harvested bucks has increased proportionally.

The percentage of harvested bucks in the older age classes (4½+) has increased as well (Figure 25). This increase is the result of a shift in buck selection by hunters from younger age class bucks (1½ year olds) to older animals. Notice in the same graph, the corresponding decline in the percentage of younger age class bucks, which occur in the annual harvest. These are very evident when comparing the past 10 years to the 1991 – 1994 average.

Statewide condition data are presented in Table 9. This table presents trend data on various antler parameters such as spread, length, circumference, and points. Other information, such as weight and lactation data are also provided in this table.

Soil region condition data are presented in Tables 10-20. These tables also present trend data on various antler parameters such as spread, length, circumference, and points. Other information, such as weight and lactation data are provided in these tables as well.

# Mississippi DMAP Data

**Figure 20:** DMAP Acreage & Cooperators

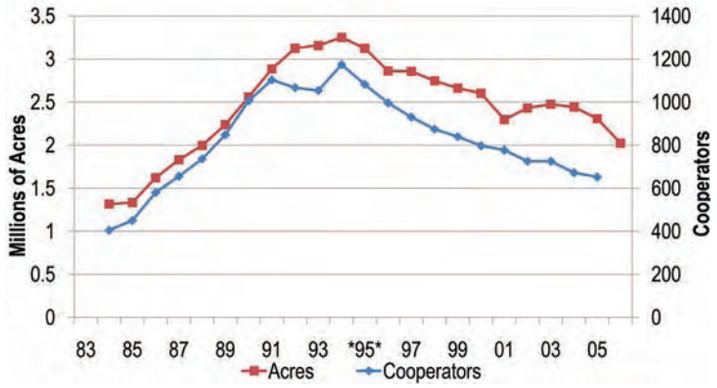



**Figure 21:** DMAP Deer Harvest

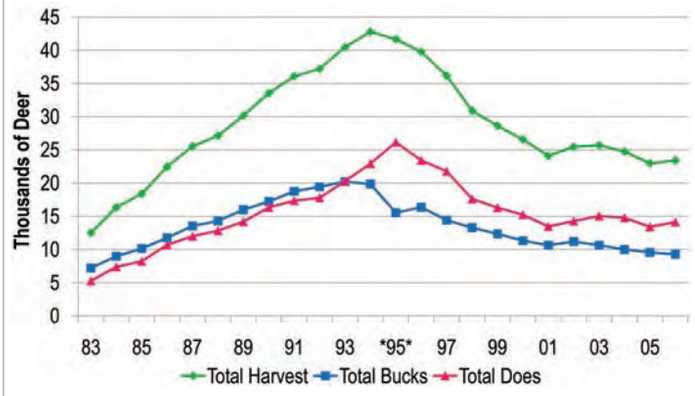



**Figure 22:** Acres/Deer Harvested

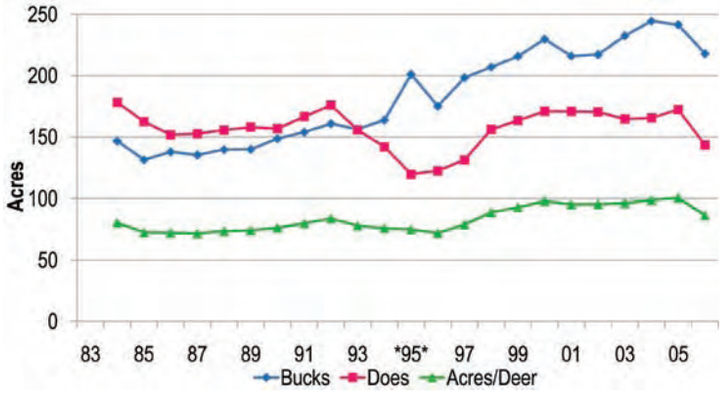



**Figure 23:** Average Age All Bucks

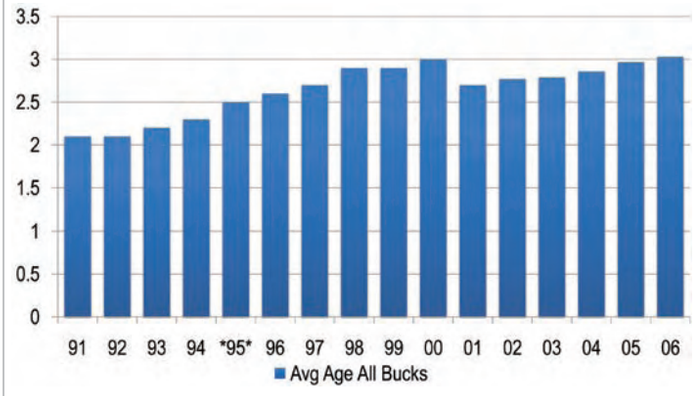



**Figure 24:** Acres/3.5+ Bucks

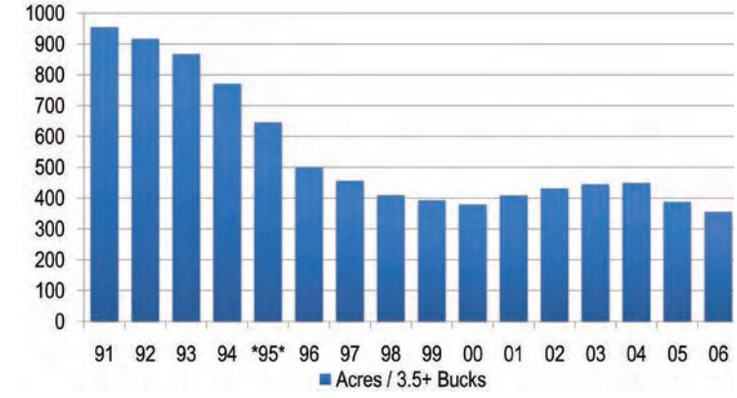
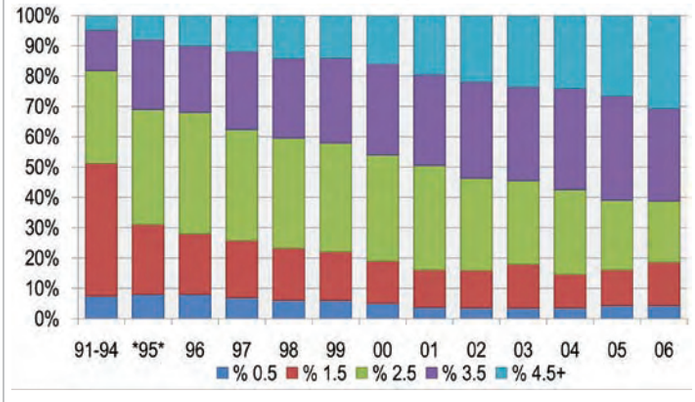



**Figure 25:** Percent Bucks by Age Class



## Table 6. DMAP Participation and Harvest by County During 2006-2007

| County | Cooperators | Acres | Harvest | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Bucks | Does | Total |
| Adams | 22 | 74,988 | 379 | 572 | 951 |
| Alcorn | 0 | | | | |
| Amite | 7 | 27,679 | 150 | 206 | 356 |
| Attala | 12 | 41,064 | 187 | 273 | 460 |
| Benton | 0 | | | | |
| Bolivar | 7 | 41,824 | 263 | 369 | 632 |
| Calhoun | 3 | 14,088 | 84 | 64 | 148 |
| Carroll | 19 | 52,454 | 363 | 511 | 874 |
| Chickasaw | 2 | 29,500 | 34 | 37 | 71 |
| Choctaw | 5 | 31,800 | 72 | 103 | 175 |
| Claiborne | 54 | 95,365 | 742 | 1,226 | 1,968 |
| Clarke | 4 | 18,200 | 47 | 114 | 161 |
| Clay | 12 | 30,243 | 104 | 113 | 217 |
| Coahoma | 9 | 44,750 | 242 | 340 | 582 |
| Copiah | 10 | 28,678 | 130 | 341 | 471 |
| Covington | 0 | | | | |
| Desoto | 1 | 5,000 | 14 | 7 | 21 |
| Franklin | 2 | 3,700 | 30 | 24 | 54 |
| George | 2 | 18,750 | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| Greene | 4 | 10,652 | 25 | 29 | 54 |
| Grenada | 5 | 15,000 | 48 | 103 | 151 |
| Hancock | 1 | 5,880 | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Harrison | 1 | 1,400 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Hinds | 21 | 43,590 | 335 | 575 | 910 |
| Holmes | 17 | 30,226 | 168 | 305 | 473 |
| Humphries | 4 | 9,800 | 24 | 75 | 99 |
| Issaquena | 47 | 107,686 | 728 | 1,087 | 1,815 |
| Itawamba | 4 | 34,348 | 128 | 74 | 202 |
| Jackson | 4 | 24,510 | 47 | 32 | 79 |
| Jasper | 9 | 43,478 | 106 | 200 | 306 |
| Jefferson | 22 | 54,419 | 277 | 588 | 865 |
| Jeff Davis | 0 | | | | |
| Jones | 1 | 35,000 | 21 | 13 | 34 |
| Kemper | 11 | 35,492 | 232 | 292 | 524 |
| Lafayette | 9 | 58,658 | 156 | 225 | 381 |
| Lamar | 4 | 12,569 | 29 | 23 | 52 |
| Lauderdale | 5 | 20,222 | 47 | 82 | 129 |
| Lawrence | 4 | 13,501 | 52 | 102 | 154 |
| Leake | 4 | 11,730 | 61 | 93 | 154 |
| Lee | 0 | | | | |
| Lef ore | 9 | 11,987 | 62 | 170 | 232 |
| Lincoln | 1 | 3,642 | 18 | 21 | 39 |
| Lowndes | 10 | 24,248 | 76 | 151 | 227 |
| Madison | 16 | 40,264 | 221 | 648 | 869 |
| Marion | 4 | 16,695 | 115 | 80 | 195 |
| Marshall | 2 | 5,200 | 18 | 68 | 86 |
| Monroe | 21 | 61,777 | 219 | 343 | 562 |
| Montgomery | 17 | 28,004 | 177 | 320 | 497 |
| Neshoba | 1 | 7,655 | 16 | 45 | 61 |
| Newton | 4 | 9,198 | 55 | 71 | 126 |
| Noxubee | 17 | 54,900 | 283 | 406 | 689 |
| Oktibbeha | 4 | 12,494 | 34 | 76 | 110 |
| Panola | 9 | 19,312 | 115 | 228 | 343 |
| Pearl River | 6 | 35,945 | 88 | 63 | 151 |
| Perry | 2 | 41,778 | 52 | 35 | 87 |
| Pike | 0 | | | | |
| Pontotoc | 0 | | | | |
| Prentiss | 1 | 6,000 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Quitman | 2 | 12,214 | 37 | 75 | 112 |
| Rankin | 8 | 24,666 | 116 | 159 | 275 |
| Scott | 6 | 17,110 | 53 | 116 | 169 |
| Sharkey | 3 | 67,040 | 79 | 118 | 197 |
| Simpson | 3 | 14,000 | 51 | 78 | 129 |
| Smith | 2 | 9,267 | 43 | 43 | 86 |
| Stone | 4 | 93,292 | 18 | 13 | 31 |
| Sunflower | 1 | 1,585 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Tallahatchie | 3 | 4,795 | 11 | 39 | 50 |
| Tate | 0 | | | | |
| Tippah | 4 | 17,213 | 51 | 103 | 154 |
| Tishomingo | 6 | 21,847 | 101 | 143 | 244 |
| Tunica | 4 | 13,904 | 50 | 125 | 175 |
| Union | 5 | 20,100 | 68 | 67 | 135 |
| Walthall | 1 | 5,325 | 28 | 30 | 58 |
| Warren | 90 | 148,937 | 1,231 | 1,672 | 2,903 |
| Washington | 9 | 34,934 | 252 | 381 | 633 |
| Wayne | 1 | 11,500 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Webster | 2 | 7,610 | 41 | 42 | 83 |
| Wilkinson | 11 | 32,215 | 228 | 296 | 524 |
| Winston | 6 | 16,700 | 89 | 106 | 195 |
| Yalobusha | 1 | 4,872 | 23 | 57 | 80 |
| Yazoo | 26 | 54,625 | 412 | 566 | 978 |
| TOTAL | 670 | 2,139,094 | 9,891 | 15,184 | 25,075 |

## Mississippi DMAP Data
## Table 7. Harvest Summary of Bucks by Age Class

| Season | Sample | 0.5 Bucks | | 1.5 Bucks | | 2.5 Bucks | | 3.5 Bucks | | 4.5+ Bucks | | Avg. Age | Total | Acres/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | All Bucks | 3.5+ Bucks | 3.5+ Bucks |
| 1992 | 17,631 | 1,410 | 8 | 8,025 | 46 | 5,154 | 29 | 2,255 | 13 | 831 | 5 | 2.1 | 3,086 | 847 |
| 1993 | 18,585 | 1,301 | 7 | 8,527 | 46 | 5,488 | 30 | 2,489 | 13 | 852 | 5 | 2.1 | 3,341 | 740 |
| 1994 | 19,128 | 1,530 | 8 | 7,063 | 37 | 6,529 | 34 | 3,020 | 16 | 1,045 | 5 | 2.2 | 4,065 | 685 |
| *1995* | 14,650 | 1,172 | 8 | 3,391 | 23 | 5,503 | 38 | 3,367 | 23 | 1,187 | 8 | 2.5 | 4,554 | 560 |
| 1996 | 16,350 | 1,308 | 8 | 3,246 | 20 | 6,489 | 40 | 3,601 | 22 | 1,697 | 10 | 2.3 | 5,298 | 500 |
| 1997 | 14,405 | 1,296 | 9 | 2,737 | 19 | 5,474 | 38 | 3,601 | 25 | 1,585 | 11 | 2.4 | 5,186 | 456 |
| 1998 | 13,278 | 1,062 | 8 | 2,257 | 17 | 4,913 | 37 | 3,452 | 26 | 1,859 | 14 | 2.5 | 5,311 | 410 |
| 1999 | 12,336 | 864 | 7 | 1,727 | 14 | 4,441 | 36 | 3,577 | 29 | 1,850 | 15 | 2.5 | 5,428 | 393 |
| +2000 + | 11,329 | 680 | 6 | 1,586 | 14 | 3,965 | 35 | 3,285 | 29 | 1,813 | 16 | 2.6 | 5,098 | 379 |
| 2001 | 10,639 | 426 | 4 | 1,277 | 12 | 3,511 | 33 | 3,192 | 30 | 2,021 | 19 | 2.7 | 5,213 | 457 |
| 2002 | 11,191 | 448 | 4 | 1,343 | 12 | 3,357 | 30 | 3,469 | 31 | 2,462 | 22 | 2.8 | 5,931 | 434 |
| 2003 | 10,646 | 426 | 4 | 1,490 | 14 | 2,874 | 27 | 3,300 | 31 | 2,449 | 23 | 2.8 | 5,749 | 449 |
| 2004 | 9,992 | 300 | 3 | 1,099 | 11 | 2,798 | 28 | 3,297 | 33 | 2,398 | 24 | 2.9 | 5,695 | 450 |
| 2005 | 9,559 | 382 | 4 | 1,147 | 12 | 2,199 | 23 | 3,250 | 34 | 2,485 | 26 | 3.0 | 5,735 | 389 |
| 2006 | 9,891 | 396 | 4 | 1,385 | 14 | 1,978 | 20 | 3,066 | 31 | 3,066 | 31 | 3.0 | 6,132 | 358 |

## Mississippi DMAP Data
## Table 8. Harvest Summary of Antlerless Deer by Age Class

| Season | Sample | 0.5 Bucks | | 0.5 Does | | 1.5 Does | | 2.5 Does | | 3.5+ Does | | Avg. Age |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | All Does |
| 1992 | 16,870 | 1,366 | 8 | 1,897 | 11 | 3,634 | 22 | 3,434 | 20 | 6,539 | 39 | 2.4 |
| 1993 | 20,481 | 1,218 | 6 | 1,827 | 9 | 4,756 | 23 | 4,352 | 21 | 8,328 | 41 | 2.4 |
| 1994 | 23,330 | 1,470 | 6 | 2,339 | 10 | 4,769 | 20 | 5,353 | 23 | 9,399 | 40 | 2.5 |
| *1995* | 25,997 | 1,187 | 5 | 2,691 | 10 | 5,903 | 23 | 5,599 | 22 | 10,619 | 41 | 2.4 |
| 1996 | 23,410 | 1,171 | 5 | 2,341 | 10 | 5,150 | 22 | 5,150 | 22 | 9,598 | 41 | 2.5 |
| 1997 | 21,763 | 1,088 | 5 | 2,176 | 10 | 4,788 | 22 | 4,570 | 21 | 9,140 | 42 | 2.5 |
| 1998 | 17,601 | 704 | 4 | 1,584 | 9 | 3,872 | 22 | 3,696 | 21 | 7,744 | 44 | 2.6 |
| 1999 | 16,288 | 652 | 4 | 1,466 | 9 | 3,420 | 21 | 3,746 | 23 | 7,004 | 43 | 2.6 |
| +2000 + | 15,228 | 457 | 3 | 1,066 | 7 | 3,350 | 22 | 3,350 | 22 | 7,005 | 46 | 2.7 |
| 2001 | 13,451 | 390 | 3 | 713 | 5 | 3,040 | 23 | 3,242 | 24 | 5,959 | 44 | 2.7 |
| 2002 | 14,260 | 385 | 3 | 913 | 6 | 3,009 | 21 | 3,437 | 24 | 6,702 | 47 | 2.7 |
| 2003 | 15,038 | 361 | 2 | 917 | 6 | 3,399 | 23 | 3,624 | 24 | 7,023 | 47 | 2.8 |
| 2004 | 14,763 | 340 | 2 | 989 | 7 | 3,145 | 21 | 3,558 | 24 | 6,732 | 46 | 2.7 |
| 2005 | 13,397 | 402 | 3 | 938 | 7 | 2,545 | 19 | 2,947 | 22 | 6,565 | 49 | 2.8 |
| 2006 | 15,184 | 456 | 3 | 1,063 | 7 | 2,885 | 19 | 3,037 | 20 | 7,744 | 51 | 2.9 |

*1995* Four points or better law initiated and bag limit changed from 5 bucks and 3 antlerless to 3 bucks and 5 antlerless with DMAP and FMAP participants exempt from the annual bag limit - 2 additional antlerless may be taken with archery equipment

+2000+ Bag limit changed to 3 bucks and 3 antlerless with DMAP and FMAP participants exempt from the annual bag limit, 2 additional antlerless may be taken with archery equipment. Four points or better law remain in effect.

## Table 9. Statewide Compiled DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 2,139,094 | 2,308,263 | 2,443,444 | 2,475,480 | 2,430,506 | 2,297,401 | 2,602,586 | 2,662,032 | 2,748,231 | 2,857,272 | 3,105,186 | 2,355,719 |
| **Total Deer** | 25,075 | 22,956 | 24,755 | 25,684 | 25,451 | 24,090 | 26,557 | 28,624 | 30,879 | 36,168 | 39,138 | 24,718 |
| Bucks | 9,891 | 9,559 | 9,992 | 10,646 | 11,191 | 10,639 | 11,329 | 12,336 | 13,278 | 14,405 | 19,562 | 10,230 |
| Does | 15,184 | 13,397 | 14,763 | 15,038 | 14,260 | 13,451 | 15,228 | 16,288 | 17,601 | 21,763 | 19,576 | 14,488 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 85 | 101 | 99 | 96 | 95 | 95 | 98 | 93 | 89 | 79 | 79.5 | 95 |
| Bucks | 216 | 241 | 245 | 233 | 217 | 216 | 230 | 216 | 207 | 198 | 159 | 230 |
| Does | 141 | 172 | 166 | 165 | 170 | 171 | 171 | 163 | 156 | 131 | 160 | 163 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| **Avg Points ALL Bucks** | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 4.8 | 7.0 |
| **Avg Length ALL Bucks** | 16.5 | 16.6 | 16.4 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 14.6 | 14.2 | 13.5 | 13.7 | 10.4 | 31.1 |
| **Avg Spread ALL Bucks** | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.4 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 11.6 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 8.7 | 12.7 |
| **Acres/3.5+Bucks** | 358 | 388 | 449 | 445 | 431 | 457 | 379 | 393 | 410 | 456 | 808 | 413 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| Weight* | 67 | 74 | 66 | 71 | 75 | 66 | 64 | 63 | 64 | 62 | 63 | 65 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 14 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 44 | 13 |
| Weight* | 115 | 115 | 112 | 111 | 118 | 115 | 116 | 118 | 115 | 116 | 115 | 115 |
| Points | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 4.0 |
| Circumf. | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Length | 6.8 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 9.0 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.7 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 6.8 | 8.1 |
| Spread | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 6.0 | 7.0 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 20 | 22 | 28 | 27 | 30 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 37 | 31 | 25 |
| Weight* | 148 | 149 | 149 | 148 | 150 | 145 | 147 | 149 | 146 | 149 | 148 | 148 |
| Points | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 6.9 |
| Circumf. | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Length | 14.7 | 14.6 | 14.5 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 14.4 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 14.4 | 14.0 | 14.4 |
| Spread | 12.0 | 11.9 | 12.0 | 11.7 | 11.9 | 11.6 | 11.7 | 11.9 | 11.5 | 11.9 | 11.4 | 11.7 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 31 | 34 | 33 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 26 | 14 | 32 |
| Weight* | 169 | 170 | 169 | 172 | 169 | 166 | 168 | 170 | 165 | 165 | 163 | 169 |
| Points | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.8 |
| Circumf. | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| Length | 17.6 | 17.5 | 17.3 | 17.6 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 16.9 | 17.1 | 16.7 | 17.3 |
| Spread | 14.2 | 14.1 | 14.0 | 14.1 | 13.9 | 13.8 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 13.6 | 13.9 | 13.5 | 14.0 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 31 | 27 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 5 | 25 |
| Weight* | 185 | 185 | 185 | 186 | 184 | 182 | 182 | 183 | 178 | 175 | 173 | 183 |
| Points | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.3 |
| Circumf. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.5 |
| Length | 19.7 | 19.7 | 19.7 | 19.7 | 19.5 | 19.4 | 19.6 | 19.4 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 18.6 | 19.5 |
| Spread | 15.8 | 15.7 | 15.7 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 14.9 | 15.5 |
| **# 4.5 Yr** | 1672 | 1609 | 1461 | 1511 | 1484 | 1250 | 1257 | 1183 | 1082 | 1093 | 589 | 1543 |
| Weight* | 183 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 182 | 179 | 181 | 182 | 176 | 173 | 173 | 181 |
| Points | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.3 |
| Circumf. | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| Length | 19.3 | 19.2 | 19.4 | 19.4 | 19.2 | 18.9 | 19.4 | 19.1 | 18.7 | 18.7 | 18.6 | 19.2 |
| Spread | 15.5 | 15.4 | 15.6 | 15.4 | 15.3 | 15.1 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 14.8 | 15.0 | 14.8 | 15.3 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

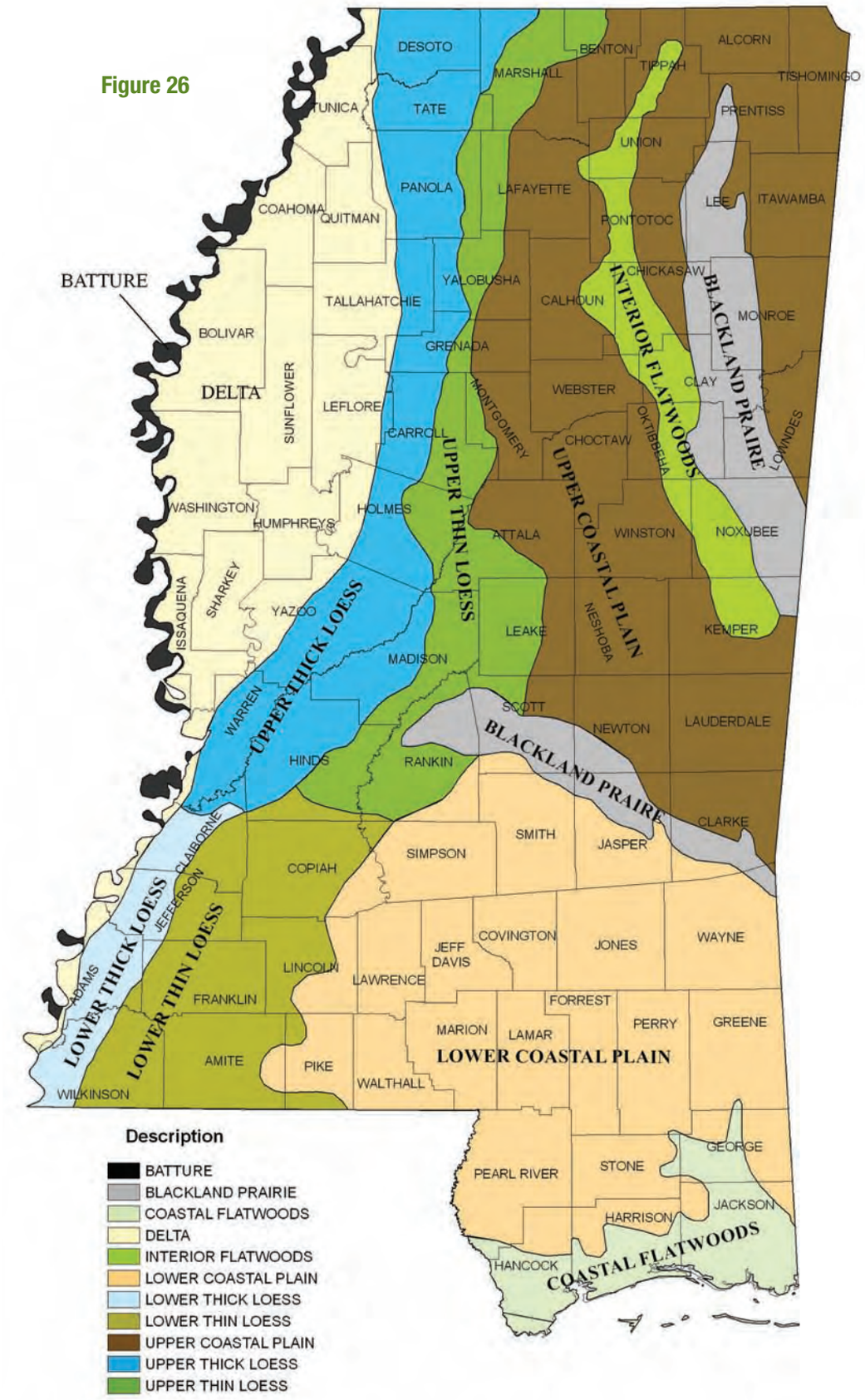
## Table 9. Continued

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **# 5.5 Yr** | 834 | 650 | 530 | 576 | 579 | 467 | 395 | 372 | 339 | 334 | 151 | 633 |
| Weight* | 186 | 189 | 189 | 190 | 186 | 185 | 186 | 185 | 181 | 180 | 174 | 187 |
| Points | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 8.4 |
| Circumf. | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.6 |
| Length | 19.9 | 20.4 | 20.2 | 20.2 | 20.0 | 20.1 | 19.9 | 20.1 | 19.6 | 19.7 | 18.9 | 20.1 |
| Spread | 15.9 | 16.1 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.9 | 15.8 | 15.4 | 15.9 | 15.1 | 15.9 |
| **# 6.5 Yr** | 327 | 236 | 194 | 202 | 146 | 159 | 125 | 112 | 118 | 85 | 44 | 221 |
| Weight* | 191 | 192 | 192 | 191 | 191 | 187 | 186 | 187 | 182 | 178 | 176 | 189 |
| Points | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 |
| Circumf. | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| Length | 21.0 | 20.8 | 20.4 | 20.5 | 20.6 | 20.6 | 20.4 | 19.9 | 20.1 | 19.9 | 19.4 | 20.5 |
| Spread | 16.4 | 16.4 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 16.4 | 16.3 | 16.1 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 15.9 | 15.2 | 16.2 |
| **# 7.5 Yr** | 99 | 78 | 65 | 71 | 45 | 63 | 39 | 48 | 35 | 35 | 18 | 72 |
| Weight* | 192 | 192 | 189 | 190 | 192 | 183 | 187 | 189 | 185 | 170 | 168 | 188 |
| Points | 8.6 | 8.3 | 8.7 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 7.4 | 8.5 |
| Circumf. | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.7 |
| Length | 21.0 | 20.6 | 20.8 | 20.5 | 20.2 | 20.0 | 20.6 | 19.8 | 20.2 | 19.2 | 18.3 | 20.4 |
| Spread | 16.3 | 16.0 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 15.3 | 15.8 | 16.2 | 15.8 | 15.8 | 15.2 | 15.0 | 16.1 |
| **# 8.5+ Yr** | 59 | 46 | 27 | 36 | 44 | 36 | 29 | 23 | 13 | 18 | 11 | 42 |
| Weight* | 186 | 195 | 183 | 186 | 180 | 190 | 183 | 179 | 191 | 173 | 171 | 184 |
| Points | 7.7 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 8.4 | 7.4 | 9.1 | 10.5 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 8.1 |
| Circumf. | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 4.6 |
| Length | 20.8 | 19.8 | 18.6 | 19.3 | 20.1 | 19.5 | 19.6 | 20.4 | 21.5 | 19.5 | 18.5 | 19.8 |
| Spread | 16.2 | 15.5 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 15.7 | 15.2 | 16.5 | 16.4 | 16.8 | 16.2 | 14.4 | 15.7 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| %0.5 Yr | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 7 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 20 | 20 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 59 | 21 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 20 | 22 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 66 | 22 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 53 | 51 | 46 | 47 | 47 | 45 | 47 | 45 | 45 | 44 | 70 | 49 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weight 0.5 Yr | 65 | 66 | 64 | 67 | 66 | 64 | 63 | 62 | 63 | 61 | 11 | 63 |
| Weight 1.5 Yr | 98 | 98 | 96 | 96 | 99 | 97 | 96 | 96 | 95 | 95 | 23 | 96 |
| Weight 2.5 Yr | 109 | 111 | 109 | 108 | 110 | 108 | 107 | 108 | 107 | 107 | 24 | 108 |
| Weight 3.5+ Yr | 116 | 117 | 115 | 116 | 116 | 117 | 114 | 115 | 113 | 113 | 42 | 115 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 11 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 13 | 60 | 13 |
| 2.5 Yr | 58 | 57 | 56 | 56 | 58 | 58 | 61 | 64 | 59 | 58 | 96 | 60 |
| 2.5+ Yr | 68 | 66 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 68 | 71 | 68 | 67 | 108 | 67 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 71 | 70 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 72 | 75 | 73 | 71 | 115 | 71 |
| **All Antlerless H'vst** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr Bk Fawns | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| % 0.5 Yr Doe Fawns | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| %1.5 Yr Does | 19 | 19 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| % 2.5 Yr Does | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 20 |
| % 3.5+ Yr Does | 51 | 49 | 46 | 47 | 47 | 44 | 46 | 43 | 44 | 42 | 39 | 48 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

# Mississippi Soil Resource Areas

Figure 26



## Table 10. Batture Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 241,639 | 243,394 | 234,398 | 227,838 | 236,582 | 207,187 | 178,239 | 171,795 | 173,182 | 156,481 | 172,527 | 236,070 |
| **Total Deer** | 4,392 | 4,340 | 4,158 | 4,588 | 4,711 | 4,073 | 3,191 | 2,950 | 2,933 | 2,752 | 2,906 | 4,417 |
| Bucks | 1,775 | 1,757 | 1,595 | 1,879 | 1,935 | 1,530 | 1,300 | 1,308 | 1,444 | 1,288 | 1,449 | 1,779 |
| Does | 2,617 | 2,583 | 2,563 | 2,709 | 2,776 | 2,543 | 1,891 | 1,642 | 1,489 | 1,464 | 1,457 | 2,638 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 55 | 56 | 56 | 50 | 50 | 51 | 56 | 58 | 59 | 57 | 60 | 107 |
| Bucks | 136 | 139 | 147 | 121 | 122 | 135 | 137 | 131 | 120 | 121 | 119 | 133 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 167 | 177 | 205 | 168 | 191 | 215 | 232 | 239 | 240 | 283 | 693 | 181 |
| Does | 92 | 94 | 91 | 84 | 85 | 81 | 94 | 105 | 116 | 107 | 120 | 89 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 3.4 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 3.2 |
| Weight* | 70 | 67 | 72 | 84 | 77 | 65 | 70 | 70 | 74 | 67 | 73 | 73.8 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 28 | 6 |
| Weight* | 124 | 115 | 116 | 112 | 119 | 115 | 130 | 129 | 127 | 123 | 134 | 117 |
| Points | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 2.6 |
| Circumf. | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Length | 6.7 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 9.2 | 9.5 | 8.6 | 6.6 | 8.2 | 5.8 |
| Spread | 6.1 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 7.1 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 6.0 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 12 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 24 | 27 | 34 | 36 | 44 | 49 | 16 |
| Weight* | 165 | 159 | 165 | 166 | 166 | 164 | 168 | 167 | 165 | 166 | 169 | 164 |
| Points | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Circumf. | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| Length | 16.9 | 16.3 | 16.8 | 16.8 | 16.5 | 16.4 | 16.7 | 16.8 | 16.2 | 16.1 | 15.5 | 16.7 |
| Spread | 13.9 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 13.8 | 13.6 | 13.4 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 13.4 | 13.5 | 13.0 | 13.7 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 33 | 35 | 35 | 39 | 38 | 36 | 35 | 36 | 32 | 30 | 14 | 36 |
| Weight* | 183 | 184 | 185 | 187 | 184 | 183 | 188 | 189 | 185 | 187 | 187 | 185 |
| Points | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| Circumf. | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| Length | 19.4 | 19.6 | 19.5 | 19.5 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.9 | 19.9 | 19.3 | 18.8 | 18.7 | 19.4 |
| Spread | 15.5 | 15.7 | 15.8 | 15.6 | 15.3 | 15.4 | 16.2 | 16.1 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 15.6 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 45 | 41 | 42 | 36 | 32 | 27 | 24 | 19 | 18 | 13 | 4 | 39 |
| Weight* | 193 | 192 | 193 | 195 | 194 | 192 | 202 | 197 | 193 | 198 | 198 | 194 |
| Points | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 |
| Circumf. | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| Length | 20.9 | 21.1 | 20.9 | 20.8 | 20.5 | 20.7 | 21.4 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 20.6 | 20.8 | 20.8 |
| Spread | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 17.1 | 17.0 | 16.8 | 16.7 | 16.8 | 16.6 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 10 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 8 |
| 2.5 Yr | 63 | 51 | 58 | 55 | 47 | 57 | 63 | 70 | 51 | 48 | 58 | 55 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 77 | 67 | 69 | 65 | 59 | 65 | 77 | 75 | 63 | 65 | 68 | 67 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 7 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 6 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 19 | 19 | 22 | 18 | 20 | 24 | 24 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 20 | 20 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 24 | 27 | 25 | 27 | 31 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 30 | 27 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 50 | 48 | 47 | 47 | 42 | 40 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 42 | 39 | 47 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 68 | 68 | 66 | 68 | 69 | 64 | 67 | 68 | 67 | 66 | 68 | 68 |
| 1.5 Yr | 103 | 98 | 98 | 101 | 100 | 98 | 104 | 106 | 101 | 104 | 108 | 100 |
| 2.5 Yr | 114 | 114 | 112 | 112 | 115 | 114 | 115 | 114 | 115 | 118 | 121 | 113 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 122 | 121 | 119 | 122 | 122 | 121 | 123 | 124 | 122 | 125 | 126 | 121 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 11. Delta Soil Resource Area
## Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 285,183 | 302,538 | 318,554 | 282,497 | 283,851 | 240,653 | 178,239 | 269,772 | 256,237 | 240,360 | 254,153 | 293,149 |
| **Total Deer** | 2,867 | 2,802 | 2,912 | 3,026 | 2,938 | 2,652 | 3,476 | 3,503 | 3,393 | 3,632 | 3,909 | 2,867 |
| Bucks | 1,093 | 1,191 | 1,169 | 1,231 | 1,343 | 1,096 | 1,360 | 1,469 | 1,467 | 1,364 | 1,830 | 1,195 |
| Does | 1,774 | 1,611 | 1,743 | 1,795 | 1,595 | 1,556 | 2,116 | 2,034 | 1,926 | 2,268 | 1,457 | 1,672 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 99 | 108 | 109 | 93 | 97 | 91 | 84 | 77 | 76 | 66 | 66 | 204 |
| Bucks | 261 | 254 | 273 | 229 | 211 | 220 | 215 | 184 | 175 | 176 | 140 | 245 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 401 | 335 | 445 | 382 | 407 | 432 | 243 | 375 | 416 | 503 | 962 | 395 |
| Does | 161 | 188 | 183 | 157 | 178 | 155 | 138 | 133 | 133 | 106 | 124 | 175 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3.6 |
| Weight* | 74 | 76 | 73 | 69 | 75 | 67 | 69 | 73 | 65 | 66 | 70 | 73.4 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 18 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 41 | 9 |
| Weight* | 125 | 124 | 127 | 124 | 133 | 120 | 134 | 135 | 131 | 126 | 134 | 127 |
| Points | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.1 |
| Circumf. | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Length | 5.0 | 5.3 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 8.9 | 6.5 | 8.1 | 9.2 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 6.8 |
| Spread | 4.9 | 5.5 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.5 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 13 | 16 | 24 | 22 | 28 | 28 | 32 | 34 | 40 | 46 | 36 | 21 |
| Weight* | 170 | 170 | 174 | 175 | 170 | 164 | 167 | 168 | 167 | 163 | 169 | 171 |
| Points | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.4 |
| Circumf. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| Length | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.9 | 16.5 | 15.8 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 15.8 | 15.3 | 14.8 | 15.1 | 16.4 |
| Spread | 13.9 | 13.6 | 14.2 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 12.9 | 13.1 | 13.2 | 13.0 | 12.7 | 12.8 | 13.6 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 30 | 38 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 33 | 36 | 33 | 28 | 26 | 12 | 35 |
| Weight* | 189 | 188 | 190 | 191 | 187 | 183 | 191 | 191 | 187 | 184 | 187 | 189 |
| Points | 8.4 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 |
| Circumf. | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Length | 19.3 | 19.1 | 19.0 | 18.9 | 18.2 | 18.4 | 19.0 | 18.6 | 18.4 | 18.2 | 18.0 | 18.9 |
| Spread | 15.8 | 15.5 | 15.7 | 15.2 | 14.8 | 14.8 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 14.8 | 14.9 | 15.4 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 34 | 35 | 32 | 30 | 26 | 25 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 9 | 4 | 31 |
| Weight* | 199 | 199 | 197 | 200 | 196 | 198 | 204 | 202 | 200 | 197 | 197 | 198 |
| Points | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 8.5 |
| Circumf. | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| Length | 20.6 | 20.7 | 20.9 | 20.3 | 20.0 | 20.2 | 21.0 | 20.8 | 20.2 | 20.3 | 19.5 | 20.5 |
| Spread | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.7 | 16.0 | 16.2 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.1 | 16.3 | 15.8 | 16.4 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 16 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 20 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 16 | 13 |
| 2.5 Yr | 61 | 60 | 58 | 57 | 59 | 57 | 68 | 70 | 59 | 59 | 58 | 60 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 72 | 68 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 76 | 78 | 70 | 69 | 71 | 69 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 9 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 8 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 21 | 19 | 21 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 20 | 24 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 25 | 29 | 27 | 24 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 50 | 48 | 43 | 44 | 46 | 45 | 47 | 47 | 44 | 40 | 41 | 46 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 69 | 69 | 67 | 72 | 73 | 70 | 70 | 69 | 67 | 68 | 66 | 70 |
| 1.5 Yr | 108 | 105 | 103 | 105 | 106 | 103 | 107 | 107 | 103 | 104 | 109 | 105 |
| 2.5 Yr | 119 | 118 | 116 | 119 | 119 | 116 | 117 | 117 | 116 | 117 | 121 | 118 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 126 | 125 | 124 | 127 | 126 | 124 | 124 | 123 | 121 | 125 | 129 | 125 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 12. Upper Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 289,445 | 286,330 | 256,675 | 258,147 | 242,703 | 236,886 | 196,733 | 234,944 | 245,798 | 268,894 | 210,775 | 266,446 |
| **Total Deer** | 5,294 | 4,624 | 4,148 | 4,053 | 3,595 | 3,680 | 2,909 | 3,722 | 3,596 | 4,268 | 2,732 | 4,328 |
| Bucks | 1,960 | 1,800 | 1,564 | 1,489 | 1,416 | 1,404 | 1,142 | 1,509 | 1,466 | 1,691 | 1,443 | 1,642 |
| Does | 3,334 | 2,824 | 2,584 | 2,564 | 2,179 | 2,276 | 1,767 | 2,213 | 2,130 | 2,577 | 1,457 | 2,685 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 55 | 62 | 62 | 64 | 68 | 64 | 68 | 63 | 68 | 63 | 78 | 123 |
| Bucks | 148 | 159 | 164 | 173 | 171 | 169 | 172 | 155 | 168 | 159 | 146 | 162 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 262 | 287 | 290 | 298 | 316 | 344 | 392 | 399 | 493 | 468 | 1179 | 290 |
| Does | 87 | 101 | 99 | 101 | 111 | 104 | 111 | 106 | 115 | 104 | 169 | 99 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.8 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5.3 |
| Weight* | 68 | 68 | 69 | 74 | 69 | 70 | 69 | 69 | 68 | 68 | 72 | 69.5 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 18 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 53 | 14 |
| Weight* | 119 | 118 | 114 | 112 | 124 | 120 | 121 | 128 | 129 | 131 | 132 | 117 |
| Points | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 3.9 | 3.0 |
| Circumf. | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.2 |
| Length | 6.4 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 8.1 | 6.5 |
| Spread | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 6.0 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 19 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 30 | 32 | 38 | 36 | 40 | 38 | 28 | 24 |
| Weight* | 155 | 157 | 154 | 154 | 160 | 154 | 156 | 161 | 160 | 161 | 163 | 156 |
| Points | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 7.1 |
| Circumf. | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Length | 15.1 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 14.8 | 14.8 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 15.1 | 14.9 | 15.0 |
| Spread | 12.4 | 12.4 | 12.4 | 12.6 | 12.5 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.6 | 12.5 | 12.5 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 28 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 31 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 11 | 32 |
| Weight* | 176 | 178 | 176 | 179 | 176 | 173 | 179 | 186 | 185 | 186 | 190 | 177 |
| Points | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.9 |
| Circumf. | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Length | 18.2 | 18.1 | 17.8 | 18.1 | 17.6 | 17.4 | 17.9 | 18.2 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 18.0 |
| Spread | 14.7 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 14.7 | 14.4 | 14.2 | 14.5 | 14.9 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 14.6 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 29 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 20 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 24 |
| Weight* | 189 | 191 | 189 | 192 | 193 | 189 | 193 | 201 | 200 | 195 | 211 | 191 |
| Points | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.2 | 8.6 | 8.3 |
| Circumf. | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 4.6 |
| Length | 20.1 | 19.9 | 19.8 | 19.9 | 19.8 | 19.6 | 20.3 | 20.4 | 20.5 | 20.4 | 21.1 | 19.9 |
| Spread | 16.0 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 15.8 | 16.0 | 15.8 | 16.1 | 16.3 | 16.2 | 16.7 | 17.1 | 15.9 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 12 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| 2.5 Yr | 58 | 59 | 56 | 54 | 66 | 61 | 64 | 64 | 61 | 57 | 60 | 59 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 71 | 73 | 68 | 66 | 70 | 70 | 72 | 77 | 70 | 67 | 66 | 69 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 7 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 19 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 20 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 21 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 23 | 21 | 25 | 21 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 54 | 52 | 49 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 48 | 43 | 43 | 46 | 41 | 51 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 65 | 65 | 65 | 68 | 65 | 66 | 64 | 66 | 69 | 67 | 66 | 66 |
| 1.5 Yr | 101 | 102 | 100 | 99 | 106 | 103 | 103 | 104 | 104 | 105 | 107 | 102 |
| 2.5 Yr | 112 | 115 | 113 | 113 | 115 | 114 | 115 | 117 | 116 | 118 | 120 | 114 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 120 | 122 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 122 | 125 | 124 | 126 | 128 | 121 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 13. Lower Thick Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 143,685 | 145,715 | 147,216 | 160,276 | 153,658 | 148,830 | 166,906 | 193,570 | 211,427 | 226,654 | 233,912 | 149,758 |
| **Total Deer** | 2,607 | 2,406 | 2,651 | 2,914 | 2,864 | 2,721 | 3,022 | 3,515 | 4,299 | 4,943 | 6,077 | 2,678 |
| Bucks | 998 | 1,064 | 1,111 | 1,125 | 1,218 | 1,239 | 1,252 | 1,407 | 1,871 | 1,783 | 2,776 | 1,099 |
| Does | 1,609 | 1,342 | 1,540 | 1,789 | 1,646 | 1,482 | 1,730 | 2,108 | 2,458 | 3,160 | 1,457 | 1,579 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 55 | 61 | 56 | 55 | 54 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 46 | 39 | 112 |
| Bucks | 144 | 137 | 133 | 142 | 126 | 120 | 129 | 138 | 116 | 127 | 84 | 136 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 223 | 234 | 205 | 254 | 218 | 244 | 284 | 313 | 276 | 318 | 417 | 226 |
| Does | 89 | 109 | 96 | 90 | 93 | 100 | 96 | 92 | 87 | 72 | 73 | 95 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 3.4 |
| Weight* | 61 | 109 | 63 | 64 | 67 | 70 | 66 | 61 | 67 | 58 | 63 | 72.8 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 34 | 9 |
| Weight* | 113 | 111 | 107 | 112 | 121 | 113 | 111 | 119 | 113 | 116 | 117 | 113 |
| Points | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| Circumf. | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Length | 7.1 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 9.1 | 7.7 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.2 |
| Spread | 6.7 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.8 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 6.0 | 6.7 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 19 | 19 | 23 | 30 | 27 | 30 | 34 | 35 | 39 | 35 | 38 | 24 |
| Weight* | 147 | 148 | 145 | 152 | 149 | 148 | 150 | 149 | 146 | 149 | 151 | 148 |
| Points | 7.0 | 7.2 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 7.1 |
| Circumf. | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Length | 14.4 | 14.8 | 14.0 | 14.5 | 14.6 | 14.1 | 14.3 | 14.2 | 13.8 | 14.1 | 14.3 | 14.4 |
| Spread | 11.6 | 12.0 | 11.8 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 11.8 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 29 | 34 | 35 | 27 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 23 | 22 | 16 | 31 |
| Weight* | 165 | 165 | 166 | 169 | 168 | 164 | 170 | 168 | 166 | 163 | 169 | 167 |
| Points | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.8 |
| Circumf. | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Length | 17.3 | 17.3 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 17.1 | 16.8 | 17.3 | 17.2 | 16.8 | 16.8 | 17.1 | 17.2 |
| Spread | 14.0 | 14.0 | 13.6 | 13.8 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 13.5 | 13.7 | 13.8 | 13.8 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 39 | 31 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 23 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 5 | 32 |
| Weight* | 182 | 182 | 183 | 185 | 184 | 183 | 184 | 186 | 181 | 180 | 182 | 183 |
| Points | 8.4 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.6 |
| Circumf. | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 |
| Length | 19.4 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 20.0 | 19.6 | 19.2 | 19.9 | 19.5 | 19.4 | 19.6 | 19.5 | 19.5 |
| Spread | 15.4 | 15.2 | 15.3 | 15.4 | 15.5 | 15.4 | 15.6 | 15.5 | 15.1 | 15.7 | 15.4 | 15.4 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 8 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| 2.5 Yr | 53 | 61 | 50 | 59 | 65 | 58 | 62 | 62 | 53 | 56 | 60 | 58 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 74 | 76 | 65 | 73 | 75 | 74 | 72 | 78 | 71 | 70 | 72 | 73 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 6 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 21 | 20 | 24 | 25 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 21 | 25 | 23 | 24 | 22 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 18 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 23 | 19 | 21 | 20 | 25 | 20 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 55 | 50 | 47 | 48 | 51 | 48 | 48 | 51 | 45 | 46 | 42 | 50 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 64 | 67 | 61 | 64 | 67 | 66 | 63 | 61 | 64 | 59 | 60 | 65 |
| 1.5 Yr | 98 | 97 | 94 | 96 | 101 | 98 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 97 | 97 |
| 2.5 Yr | 110 | 110 | 110 | 111 | 110 | 111 | 112 | 110 | 109 | 109 | 111 | 110 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 116 | 118 | 116 | 117 | 116 | 117 | 117 | 116 | 117 | 116 | 118 | 117 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 14. Upper Thin Loess Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 111,780 | 100,316 | 186,374 | 188,073 | 193,902 | 171,215 | 181,754 | 187,806 | 211,555 | 206,051 | 221,531 | 154,880 |
| **Total Deer** | 1,688 | 1,375 | 2,086 | 2,029 | 1,974 | 1,818 | 2,020 | 2,459 | 2,757 | 2,993 | 3,045 | 1,818 |
| Bucks | 629 | 577 | 906 | 860 | 935 | 890 | 999 | 1,004 | 1,145 | 1,247 | 1,656 | 777 |
| Does | 1,059 | 798 | 1,180 | 1,169 | 1,039 | 928 | 1,021 | 1,455 | 1,612 | 1,746 | 1,457 | 1,042 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 66 | 73 | 89 | 93 | 98 | 94 | 90 | 76 | 77 | 69 | 73 | 170 |
| Bucks | 178 | 174 | 206 | 219 | 207 | 192 | 182 | 187 | 185 | 165 | 134 | 199 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 353 | 257 | 450 | 492 | 539 | 422 | 520 | 567 | 596 | 551 | 1365 | 415 |
| Does | 106 | 126 | 158 | 161 | 187 | 184 | 178 | 129 | 131 | 118 | 163 | 149 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.6 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| Weight* | 62 | 66 | 62 | 66 | 97 | 66 | 58 | 62 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 70.8 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 16 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 23 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 23 | 21 | 52 | 19 |
| Weight* | 107 | 115 | 115 | 118 | 121 | 117 | 116 | 118 | 116 | 116 | 112 | 115 |
| Points | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 3.8 |
| Circumf. | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Length | 5.9 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 9.2 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 6.7 | 7.7 |
| Spread | 6.1 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 5.8 | 7.0 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 25 | 26 | 31 | 28 | 30 | 34 | 47 | 45 | 37 | 40 | 31 | 28 |
| Weight* | 142 | 145 | 144 | 148 | 147 | 147 | 142 | 145 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 145 |
| Points | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 6.6 |
| Circumf. | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Length | 14.3 | 13.9 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 13.8 | 14.4 | 13.9 | 14.0 | 13.6 | 14.0 |
| Spread | 11.5 | 11.2 | 11.1 | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 11.3 | 11.7 | 11.2 | 11.5 | 11.0 | 11.3 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 29 | 32 | 34 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 23 | 25 | 9 | 30 |
| Weight* | 155 | 157 | 156 | 159 | 160 | 154 | 158 | 166 | 165 | 162 | 164 | 157 |
| Points | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.3 |
| Circumf. | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| Length | 16.1 | 15.9 | 15.7 | 15.8 | 16.3 | 15.5 | 16.7 | 17.3 | 17.3 | 17.0 | 17.3 | 16.0 |
| Spread | 12.7 | 13.0 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 13.4 | 12.5 | 13.3 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 14.0 | 12.9 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 25 | 15 | 14 | 17 | 14 | 17 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 17 |
| Weight* | 169 | 168 | 170 | 173 | 171 | 166 | 171 | 171 | 173 | 170 | 174 | 170 |
| Points | 8.0 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 7.9 |
| Circumf. | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| Length | 18.1 | 18.0 | 18.3 | 18.0 | 18.2 | 17.8 | 18.7 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 18.1 |
| Spread | 14.5 | 14.3 | 14.4 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 14.2 | 15.0 | 15.2 | 14.9 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 14.5 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 10 | 21 | 20 | 10 | 17 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 16 |
| 2.5 Yr | 54 | 59 | 54 | 56 | 61 | 51 | 59 | 59 | 60 | 57 | 54 | 57 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 64 | 61 | 70 | 70 | 71 | 66 | 67 | 70 | 71 | 66 | 65 | 67 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 9 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 9 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 21 | 21 | 23 | 26 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 24 | 23 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 17 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 23 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 20 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 52 | 47 | 45 | 44 | 45 | 43 | 43 | 38 | 42 | 43 | 39 | 47 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 59 | 62 | 62 | 73 | 74 | 66 | 63 | 63 | 62 | 60 | 60 | 66 |
| 1.5 Yr | 91 | 95 | 93 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 89 | 92 | 94 | 93 | 93 | 95 |
| 2.5 Yr | 103 | 109 | 107 | 106 | 106 | 107 | 102 | 102 | 105 | 104 | 104 | 106 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 110 | 109 | 111 | 112 | 112 | 112 | 109 | 110 | 110 | 111 | 111 | 111 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 15. Lower Thin Loess Soil Resource Area
## Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 100,734 | 131,044 | 177,211 | 170,730 | 178,461 | 171,661 | 223,985 | 230,662 | 236,033 | 197,471 | 214,591 | 150,334 |
| **Total Deer** | 1,547 | 1,327 | 2,188 | 2,453 | 2,284 | 2,173 | 2,776 | 3,426 | 3,915 | 4,798 | 3,892 | 1,944 |
| Bucks | 504 | 487 | 811 | 891 | 897 | 836 | 1,043 | 1,157 | 1,379 | 1,502 | 1,705 | 712 |
| Does | 1,043 | 840 | 1,377 | 1,562 | 1,387 | 1,337 | 1,733 | 2,269 | 2,536 | 3,296 | 1,457 | 1,233 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 65 | 99 | 81 | 70 | 78 | 79 | 81 | 67 | 60 | 41 | 55 | 155 |
| Bucks | 200 | 269 | 219 | 192 | 199 | 205 | 216 | 199 | 171 | 131 | 126 | 211 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 336 | 307 | 362 | 394 | 377 | 419 | 430 | 391 | 364 | 313 | 578 | 353 |
| Does | 97 | 156 | 129 | 109 | 129 | 128 | 130 | 102 | 93 | 60 | 99 | 122 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 3.0 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 3.1 |
| Weight* | 66 | 69 | 69 | 74 | 131 | 71 | 61 | 60 | 66 | 57 | 62 | 81.7 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 16 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 18 | 39 | 13 |
| Weight* | 109 | 116 | 110 | 114 | 122 | 121 | 115 | 115 | 111 | 109 | 110 | 114 |
| Points | 2.9 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 2.8 | 3.5 |
| Circumf. | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Length | 5.3 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 7.6 | 8.9 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 7.3 | 8.0 | 5.8 | 7.1 |
| Spread | 5.8 | 7.0 | 7.8 | 7.0 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 7.0 | 5.6 | 7.0 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 16 | 19 | 22 | 26 | 27 | 31 | 35 | 28 | 32 | 30 | 30 | 22 |
| Weight* | 147 | 146 | 143 | 149 | 150 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 143 | 143 | 142 | 147 |
| Points | 7.1 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 6.7 |
| Circumf. | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Length | 14.7 | 14.0 | 13.5 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 13.9 | 14.1 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 13.9 | 13.6 | 14.0 |
| Spread | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 11.4 | 10.9 | 11.3 | 11.1 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 10.7 | 11.3 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 28 | 37 | 37 | 31 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 16 | 33 |
| Weight* | 165 | 164 | 162 | 168 | 167 | 164 | 163 | 163 | 159 | 159 | 163 | 165 |
| Points | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Circumf. | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Length | 16.6 | 16.2 | 16.4 | 16.9 | 17.1 | 16.5 | 17.0 | 16.6 | 16.2 | 16.8 | 16.7 | 16.6 |
| Spread | 13.1 | 12.9 | 13.3 | 13.4 | 13.7 | 13.3 | 13.5 | 13.4 | 12.8 | 13.4 | 13.3 | 13.3 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 35 | 26 | 26 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 24 | 19 | 15 | 7 | 27 |
| Weight* | 180 | 177 | 179 | 181 | 181 | 179 | 176 | 177 | 174 | 173 | 176 | 180 |
| Points | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.2 |
| Circumf. | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Length | 18.8 | 18.7 | 18.7 | 19.1 | 19.3 | 19.3 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 19.1 | 19.2 | 18.9 |
| Spread | 15.1 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 14.9 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.0 | 14.9 | 14.9 | 15.1 | 15.0 | 14.9 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| 2.5 Yr | 66 | 61 | 63 | 61 | 61 | 64 | 60 | 62 | 57 | 57 | 61 | 62 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 74 | 74 | 72 | 74 | 77 | 74 | 74 | 77 | 77 | 74 | 75 | 74 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 6 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 6 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 19 | 21 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 22 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 18 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 59 | 54 | 49 | 49 | 47 | 47 | 46 | 47 | 46 | 48 | 43 | 52 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 64 | 67 | 63 | 63 | 74 | 70 | 61 | 59 | 62 | 55 | 59 | 66 |
| 1.5 Yr | 96 | 99 | 96 | 98 | 101 | 99 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 93 | 94 | 98 |
| 2.5 Yr | 107 | 110 | 107 | 109 | 110 | 108 | 107 | 104 | 106 | 104 | 107 | 109 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 115 | 115 | 115 | 115 | 116 | 116 | 114 | 113 | 114 | 112 | 115 | 115 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 16. Black Prairie Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 117,686 | 147,416 | 225,121 | 210,923 | 217,575 | 186,663 | 142,720 | 155,976 | 173,388 | 170,057 | 156,927 | 184,488 |
| **Total Deer** | 902 | 926 | 1,513 | 1,776 | 1,663 | 1,475 | 1,246 | 1,328 | 1,455 | 1,625 | 1,994 | 1,370 |
| Bucks | 333 | 366 | 640 | 916 | 785 | 722 | 540 | 629 | 675 | 646 | 857 | 612 |
| Does | 569 | 560 | 873 | 860 | 878 | 753 | 706 | 699 | 780 | 979 | 1,457 | 758 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 130 | 159 | 149 | 119 | 131 | 127 | 115 | 117 | 119 | 105 | 79 | 269 |
| Bucks | 353 | 403 | 352 | 230 | 277 | 259 | 265 | 248 | 257 | 263 | 186 | 301 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 497 | 737 | 828 | 799 | 659 | 547 | 539 | 551 | 642 | 752 | 913 | 702 |
| Does | 207 | 263 | 258 | 245 | 248 | 248 | 203 | 223 | 222 | 174 | 139 | 243 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.6 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| Weight* | 65 | 74 | 64 | 60 | 63 | 63 | 62 | 60 | 63 | 62 | 64 | 64.8 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 10 | 9 | 9 | 37 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 22 | 23 | 49 | 17 |
| Weight* | 118 | 124 | 113 | 105 | 114 | 110 | 114 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 113 | 114 |
| Points | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 5.0 | 4.6 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 4.0 |
| Circumf. | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| Length | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.3 | 6.3 | 9.5 | 8.5 | 9.7 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 6.9 | 8.2 |
| Spread | 6.9 | 7.9 | 6.9 | 5.7 | 7.4 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 23 | 25 | 38 | 27 | 30 | 33 | 29 | 34 | 32 | 36 | 23 | 28 |
| Weight* | 144 | 147 | 146 | 136 | 141 | 130 | 132 | 142 | 139 | 143 | 143 | 143 |
| Points | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 6.6 |
| Circumf. | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 |
| Length | 14.6 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 13.4 | 13.8 | 13.3 | 13.5 | 14.0 | 13.8 | 14.5 | 13.7 | 14.2 |
| Spread | 12.0 | 12.1 | 11.7 | 10.9 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 10.9 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.9 | 10.9 | 11.5 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 39 | 39 | 32 | 20 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 30 | 27 | 26 | 15 | 32 |
| Weight* | 160 | 164 | 165 | 158 | 155 | 154 | 154 | 158 | 152 | 163 | 160 | 161 |
| Points | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.5 |
| Circumf. | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| Length | 16.5 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 16.4 | 16.1 | 16.1 | 16.6 | 16.9 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 16.4 | 16.5 |
| Spread | 13.3 | 13.5 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 12.9 | 13.0 | 13.1 | 13.4 | 12.6 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 13.3 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 26 | 24 | 14 | 10 | 14 | 15 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 18 |
| Weight* | 182 | 182 | 179 | 177 | 170 | 170 | 174 | 177 | 168 | 172 | 173 | 178 |
| Points | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 8.1 |
| Circumf. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.4 |
| Length | 19.3 | 19.1 | 18.1 | 18.6 | 18.3 | 18.6 | 18.7 | 18.5 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 18.4 | 18.6 |
| Spread | 14.9 | 15.0 | 14.2 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 15.0 | 14.6 | 14.8 | 14.3 | 15.1 | 14.5 | 14.7 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 19 | 24 | 16 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 15 | 14 | 15 |
| 2.5 Yr | 57 | 64 | 61 | 54 | 61 | 57 | 52 | 58 | 50 | 61 | 57 | 59 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 73 | 70 | 70 | 63 | 71 | 66 | 66 | 66 | 62 | 71 | 66 | 69 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 8 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 7 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 18 | 24 | 20 | 28 | 19 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 20 | 24 | 22 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 20 | 21 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 23 | 19 | 22 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 55 | 47 | 42 | 44 | 47 | 45 | 50 | 47 | 48 | 43 | 47 | 47 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 67 | 71 | 63 | 55 | 54 | 56 | 55 | 62 | 61 | 60 | 59 | 62 |
| 1.5 Yr | 97 | 96 | 94 | 92 | 94 | 90 | 90 | 95 | 93 | 98 | 95 | 94 |
| 2.5 Yr | 107 | 108 | 106 | 104 | 103 | 100 | 101 | 105 | 104 | 105 | 105 | 105 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 115 | 117 | 113 | 110 | 110 | 110 | 109 | 111 | 110 | 113 | 113 | 113 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 17. Upper Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 422,077 | 452,273 | 419,692 | 510,396 | 511,330 | 496,206 | 557,521 | 705,830 | 727,380 | 741,776 | 879,440 | 462,410 |
| **Total Deer** | 3,765 | 3,735 | 3,519 | 3,433 | 3,724 | 3,595 | 4,786 | 5,409 | 5,719 | 7,044 | 8,488 | 3,621 |
| Bucks | 1,579 | 1,630 | 1,515 | 1,541 | 1,749 | 1,804 | 2,155 | 2,648 | 2,536 | 3,147 | 4,677 | 1,599 |
| Does | 2,186 | 2,105 | 2,004 | 1,892 | 1,975 | 1,791 | 2,631 | 2,761 | 3,183 | 3,897 | 1,457 | 2,022 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 112 | 121 | 119 | 149 | 137 | 138 | 116 | 130 | 127 | 105 | 105 | 255 |
| Bucks | 267 | 277 | 277 | 331 | 292 | 275 | 259 | 267 | 287 | 236 | 188 | 289 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 557 | 626 | 790 | 714 | 689 | 703 | 631 | 762 | 797 | 693 | 997 | 676 |
| Does | 193 | 215 | 209 | 270 | 259 | 277 | 212 | 256 | 229 | 190 | 237 | 229 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 3.4 |
| Weight* | 60 | 65 | 65 | 63 | 61 | 60 | 59 | 58 | 62 | 59 | 58 | 62.9 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 17 | 14 | 15 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 20 | 21 | 24 | 24 | 51 | 17 |
| Weight* | 108 | 107 | 109 | 108 | 113 | 112 | 112 | 113 | 112 | 111 | 108 | 109 |
| Points | 3.9 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.4 | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| Circumf. | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Length | 8.0 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 6.7 | 8.4 |
| Spread | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 5.8 | 7.3 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 30 | 31 | 41 | 32 | 32 | 38 | 35 | 38 | 33 | 36 | 24 | 33 |
| Weight* | 137 | 137 | 140 | 136 | 139 | 138 | 137 | 138 | 137 | 139 | 134 | 138 |
| Points | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 6.5 |
| Circumf. | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 |
| Length | 13.8 | 13.2 | 13.8 | 13.4 | 14.1 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 13.9 | 13.2 | 13.7 |
| Spread | 11.1 | 10.8 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 11.1 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 10.5 | 11.0 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 31 | 31 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 14 | 29 |
| Weight* | 153 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 152 | 152 | 150 | 156 | 152 | 157 | 152 | 152 |
| Points | 7.3 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 7.2 |
| Circumf. | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Length | 15.8 | 15.6 | 15.8 | 15.7 | 15.7 | 15.9 | 16.1 | 16.4 | 15.8 | 16.5 | 15.6 | 15.7 |
| Spread | 12.8 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 12.6 | 12.7 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 13.2 | 12.6 | 13.3 | 12.7 | 12.7 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 19 | 19 | 12 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 16 |
| Weight* | 168 | 164 | 167 | 164 | 166 | 167 | 164 | 171 | 170 | 166 | 164 | 166 |
| Points | 7.9 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.9 |
| Circumf. | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Length | 17.8 | 17.4 | 17.8 | 17.9 | 18.2 | 18.4 | 18.2 | 18.3 | 17.9 | 18.3 | 17.7 | 17.8 |
| Spread | 14.4 | 14.1 | 14.4 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 14.4 | 14.8 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 14.6 | 14.1 | 14.3 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 11 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 13 |
| 2.5 Yr | 53 | 57 | 56 | 51 | 56 | 59 | 57 | 65 | 57 | 57 | 56 | 55 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 69 | 68 | 67 | 69 | 68 | 71 | 67 | 72 | 70 | 68 | 65 | 68 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 7 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 20 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 22 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 19 | 20 | 25 | 21 | 18 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 20 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 55 | 51 | 45 | 48 | 48 | 43 | 45 | 43 | 44 | 42 | 45 | 50 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 59 | 62 | 63 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 58 | 57 | 59 | 58 | 58 | 61 |
| 1.5 Yr | 89 | 89 | 88 | 87 | 90 | 89 | 87 | 89 | 88 | 89 | 89 | 89 |
| 2.5 Yr | 97 | 99 | 100 | 97 | 100 | 100 | 97 | 99 | 97 | 99 | 99 | 99 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 107 | 107 | 106 | 106 | 105 | 107 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 107 | 105 | 106 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 18. Lower Coastal Plain Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 314,852 | 397,543 | 397,659 | 402,461 | 343,592 | 334,038 | 202,709 | 264,521 | 328,344 | 356,712 | 308,965 | 371,221 |
| **Total Deer** | 1,253 | 1,142 | 1,468 | 1,500 | 1,590 | 1,512 | 1,506 | 1,721 | 2,163 | 2,818 | 2,944 | 1,391 |
| Bucks | 610 | 541 | 596 | 698 | 838 | 832 | 686 | 812 | 977 | 1,064 | 1,467 | 657 |
| Does | 643 | 601 | 872 | 802 | 752 | 680 | 820 | 909 | 1,186 | 1,754 | 1,457 | 734 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 251 | 348 | 271 | 268 | 216 | 221 | 135 | 154 | 152 | 127 | 104 | 534 |
| Bucks | 516 | 735 | 667 | 577 | 410 | 401 | 295 | 326 | 336 | 335 | 210 | 565 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 1086 | 1636 | 1446 | 2064 | 1108 | 1152 | 672 | 740 | 820 | 860 | 1098 | 1468 |
| Does | 490 | 661 | 456 | 502 | 457 | 491 | 247 | 291 | 277 | 203 | 209 | 505 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 2.7 |
| Weight* | 57 | 68 | 71 | 60 | 62 | 61 | 55 | 58 | 61 | 57 | 56 | 63.6 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 18 | 11 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 18 | 24 | 47 | 14 |
| Weight* | 109 | 109 | 104 | 110 | 113 | 111 | 109 | 108 | 107 | 108 | 102 | 109 |
| Points | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 2.7 | 4.1 |
| Circumf. | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.4 |
| Length | 8.5 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 5.4 | 8.4 |
| Spread | 7.2 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 5.3 | 7.0 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 29 | 35 | 33 | 55 | 46 | 53 | 38 | 35 | 34 | 29 | 25 | 40 |
| Weight* | 133 | 135 | 138 | 136 | 134 | 134 | 132 | 131 | 130 | 131 | 126 | 135 |
| Points | 6.6 | 6.8 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 5.2 | 6.6 |
| Circumf. | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Length | 13.7 | 13.5 | 13.6 | 13.6 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 13.6 | 12.9 | 12.7 | 13.1 | 11.5 | 13.6 |
| Spread | 11.1 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 10.7 | 10.2 | 10.9 | 9.3 | 11.0 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 34 | 30 | 33 | 19 | 26 | 22 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 14 | 29 |
| Weight* | 143 | 148 | 149 | 147 | 142 | 151 | 152 | 145 | 145 | 143 | 146 | 146 |
| Points | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.4 |
| Circumf. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Length | 15.5 | 15.0 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.2 | 16.2 | 15.5 | 15.3 | 15.3 | 15.3 | 15.0 | 15.3 |
| Spread | 12.5 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 13.0 | 12.8 | 12.5 | 12.3 | 12.5 | 12.1 | 12.6 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 17 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 14 |
| Weight* | 161 | 153 | 154 | 156 | 155 | 162 | 158 | 158 | 153 | 150 | 155 | 156 |
| Points | 8.3 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 8.1 |
| Circumf. | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| Length | 18.1 | 17.2 | 17.6 | 17.7 | 17.8 | 18.2 | 17.7 | 17.8 | 17.3 | 17.0 | 17.0 | 17.7 |
| Spread | 14.6 | 13.9 | 14.6 | 13.9 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 14.5 | 14.3 | 14.1 | 13.7 | 13.8 | 14.3 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 10 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 19 | 8 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| 2.5 Yr | 60 | 48 | 52 | 60 | 58 | 61 | 63 | 68 | 69 | 59 | 58 | 56 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 59 | 68 | 66 | 64 | 66 | 71 | 73 | 70 | 73 | 73 | 68 | 65 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 4 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 19 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 22 | 20 | 24 | 23 | 19 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 24 | 23 | 30 | 38 | 30 | 40 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 19 | 21 | 29 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 53 | 56 | 46 | 37 | 47 | 35 | 51 | 48 | 50 | 49 | 45 | 48 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 59 | 62 | 63 | 57 | 55 | 57 | 55 | 57 | 56 | 58 | 54 | 59 |
| 1.5 Yr | 88 | 88 | 88 | 83 | 88 | 86 | 90 | 87 | 85 | 84 | 86 | 87 |
| 2.5 Yr | 100 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 95 | 93 | 95 | 97 | 94 | 93 | 95 | 97 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 104 | 101 | 102 | 101 | 100 | 99 | 101 | 101 | 100 | 96 | 100 | 101 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 19. Coastal Flatwoods Soil Resource Area
## Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 49,790 | 47,790 | 63,810 | 55,927 | 55,650 | 55,650 | 51,850 | 52,850 | 51,850 | 59,229 | 46,517 | 54,593 |
| **Total Deer** | 110 | 47 | 67 | 148 | 156 | 178 | 202 | 161 | 202 | 87 | 177 | 106 |
| Bucks | 63 | 23 | 29 | 82 | 89 | 116 | 101 | 93 | 101 | 56 | 105 | 57 |
| Does | 47 | 24 | 38 | 66 | 67 | 62 | 101 | 68 | 101 | 31 | 1,457 | 48 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 453 | 1017 | 952 | 378 | 357 | 313 | 257 | 328 | 257 | 681 | 526 | 1034 |
| Bucks | 790 | 2078 | 2200 | 682 | 625 | 480 | 513 | 568 | 513 | 1058 | 1332 | 941 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 2165 | 2987 | 4908 | 3728 | 2319 | 2140 | 960 | 1229 | 1127 | 1851 | 3445 | 3221 |
| Does | 1059 | 1991 | 1679 | 847 | 831 | 898 | 513 | 777 | 513 | 1911 | 3219 | 1110 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 2.6 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 0.8 |
| Weight* | 58 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 0 | 48 | 35 | 45 | 60 | 45 | 36 | 25.5 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 17 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 31 | 10 |
| Weight* | 120 | 106 | 94 | 96 | 83 | 106 | 103 | 106 | 106 | 85 | 96 | 100 |
| Points | 4.2 | 2.0 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.8 |
| Circumf. | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.0 |
| Length | 7.9 | 0.0 | 7.6 | 9.2 | 6.9 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 8.1 | 5.9 | 4.3 | 6.3 |
| Spread | 7.2 | 0.0 | 5.5 | 7.1 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.1 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 43 | 18 | 48 | 68 | 64 | 72 | 31 | 39 | 42 | 32 | 29 | 48 |
| Weight* | 143 | 114 | 128 | 130 | 125 | 122 | 126 | 120 | 123 | 118 | 120 | 128 |
| Points | 7.1 | 4.8 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 5.9 |
| Circumf. | 3.5 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
| Length | 14.3 | 13.3 | 12.8 | 12.1 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.1 | 11.4 | 11.9 | 10.6 | 10.0 | 13.0 |
| Spread | 12.6 | 10.3 | 11.2 | 9.7 | 9.9 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 8.7 | 7.8 | 10.8 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 26 | 32 | 29 | 16 | 19 | 16 | 41 | 35 | 32 | 36 | 16 | 24 |
| Weight* | 152 | 146 | 130 | 134 | 132 | 139 | 132 | 136 | 131 | 122 | 115 | 139 |
| Points | 8.0 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 7.3 |
| Circumf. | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 3.7 |
| Length | 16.4 | 16.7 | 15.5 | 14.5 | 15.2 | 15.6 | 13.3 | 13.6 | 12.0 | 12.4 | 10.7 | 15.6 |
| Spread | 13.3 | 13.5 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 13.2 | 12.3 | 11.1 | 10.9 | 9.7 | 10.4 | 8.9 | 12.9 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 14 | 41 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 17 | 17 | 25 | 6 | 16 |
| Weight* | 145 | 160 | 132 | 141 | 155 | 165 | 163 | 155 | 136 | 138 | 116 | 147 |
| Points | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 6.0 | 7.9 | 8.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 5.1 | 7.6 |
| Circumf. | 3.8 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.9 |
| Length | 16.3 | 17.9 | 16.4 | 11.9 | 16.5 | 18.9 | 16.6 | 16.9 | 15.4 | 14.7 | 11.5 | 15.8 |
| Spread | 13.2 | 13.9 | 12.7 | 9.1 | 13.2 | 14.8 | 13.6 | 13.0 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 9.6 | 12.4 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 0 | 0 | 43 | 22 | 7 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 25 | 40 | 6 | 14 |
| 2.5 Yr | 33 | 60 | 33 | 77 | 50 | 50 | 54 | 80 | 63 | 50 | 65 | 51 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 55 | 56 | 45 | 43 | 65 | 47 | 65 | 56 | 68 | 78 | 67 | 53 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 3 | 14 | 18 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 9 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 16 | 19 | 21 | 30 | 22 | 22 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 10 | 21 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 8 | 24 | 18 | 38 | 35 | 41 | 29 | 25 | 27 | 27 | 23 | 25 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 54 | 43 | 44 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 45 | 57 | 53 | 47 | 67 | 41 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 37 | 44 | 48 | 70 | 68 | 61 | 52 | 57 | 58 | 47 | 0 | 53 |
| 1.5 Yr | 81 | 89 | 81 | 83 | 77 | 84 | 81 | 76 | 86 | 77 | 41 | 82 |
| 2.5 Yr | 78 | 79 | 92 | 92 | 85 | 86 | 90 | 84 | 81 | 78 | 69 | 85 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 98 | 98 | 92 | 96 | 89 | 90 | 94 | 93 | 92 | 95 | 90 | 95 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

## Table 20. Interior Flatwoods Soil Resource Area Summary of DMAP Data

| | Season | | | | | | | | | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 06 | 05 | 04 | 03 | 02 | 01 | 00+ | 99 | 98 | 97 | 91-94 | 02-06 |
| **Acres** | 93,989 | 92,685 | 76,412 | 61,260 | 63,200 | 66,210 | 40,870 | 38,770 | 36,270 | 41,867 | 69,015 | 77,509 |
| **Total Deer** | 927 | 697 | 564 | 315 | 409 | 514 | 397 | 429 | 373 | 419 | 1,107 | 582 |
| Bucks | 428 | 290 | 243 | 143 | 212 | 265 | 179 | 199 | 135 | 180 | 517 | 263 |
| Does | 499 | 407 | 321 | 172 | 197 | 249 | 218 | 230 | 238 | 239 | 1,457 | 319 |
| **Acres/Deer** | 101 | 133 | 135 | 194 | 155 | 129 | 103 | 90 | 97 | 100 | 63 | 266 |
| Bucks | 220 | 320 | 314 | 428 | 298 | 250 | 228 | 195 | 269 | 233 | 135 | 294 |
| 3.5+ Bucks | 445 | 598 | 772 | 1075 | 658 | 534 | 486 | 487 | 548 | 646 | 642 | 710 |
| Does | 188 | 228 | 238 | 356 | 321 | 266 | 188 | 169 | 152 | 175 | 120 | 242 |
| **Avg Age ALL Bucks** | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| **% 0.5 Yr Bucks** | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 4.3 |
| Weight* | 64 | 64 | 63 | 61 | 59 | 61 | 59 | 64 | 67 | 69 | 63 | 62.3 |
| **% 1.5 Yr** | 14 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 45 | 14 |
| Weight* | 105 | 126 | 105 | 109 | 116 | 122 | 117 | 119 | 114 | 123 | 111 | 112 |
| Points | 2.9 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.8 | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 3.0 | 3.4 |
| Circumf. | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Length | 6.4 | 6.0 | 6.4 | 8.9 | 9.7 | 11.2 | 11.9 | 9.0 | 7.3 | 9.2 | 6.5 | 7.5 |
| Spread | 7.2 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 8.3 | 9.0 | 7.9 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 6.0 | 7.2 |
| **% 2.5 Yr** | 27 | 21 | 36 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 23 | 33 | 25 | 30 |
| Weight* | 143 | 143 | 151 | 134 | 142 | 143 | 145 | 144 | 138 | 140 | 137 | 143 |
| Points | 6.6 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 5.7 | 6.6 |
| Circumf. | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| Length | 13.7 | 14.0 | 14.5 | 12.7 | 14.9 | 14.2 | 14.4 | 14.0 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 13.0 | 13.9 |
| Spread | 11.1 | 11.2 | 12.3 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 11.7 | 11.4 | 12.0 | 11.5 | 12.0 | 10.1 | 11.2 |
| **% 3.5 Yr** | 33 | 38 | 25 | 24 | 32 | 35 | 30 | 25 | 35 | 27 | 16 | 31 |
| Weight* | 161 | 156 | 161 | 166 | 162 | 159 | 160 | 164 | 152 | 154 | 153 | 161 |
| Points | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.7 |
| Circumf. | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| Length | 16.6 | 15.8 | 15.8 | 15.3 | 16.7 | 16.5 | 16.6 | 15.0 | 15.5 | 15.7 | 15.6 | 16.1 |
| Spread | 13.2 | 12.5 | 13.0 | 12.5 | 13.0 | 13.4 | 13.5 | 12.5 | 12.3 | 13.1 | 12.5 | 12.8 |
| **% 4.5+ Yr** | 21 | 22 | 21 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 17 | 15 | 14 | 9 | 5 | 19 |
| Weight* | 172 | 184 | 184 | 158 | 185 | 176 | 179 | 179 | 171 | 163 | 176 | 177 |
| Points | 8.2 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 7.5 | 8.6 | 9.0 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 8.1 |
| Circumf. | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| Length | 18.4 | 17.9 | 18.8 | 17.0 | 19.8 | 18.8 | 19.4 | 18.8 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 18.5 | 18.4 |
| Spread | 14.6 | 14.2 | 14.7 | 13.8 | 15.5 | 15.1 | 14.7 | 16.0 | 14.3 | 14.8 | 15.0 | 14.6 |
| **% Doe Lactation** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.5 Yr | 5 | 18 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 8 | 18 | 10 | 15 | 12 |
| 2.5 Yr | 54 | 56 | 47 | 59 | 51 | 55 | 69 | 51 | 67 | 54 | 53 | 54 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 67 | 69 | 65 | 70 | 73 | 67 | 66 | 67 | 75 | 66 | 65 | 69 |
| **Doe Age Classes** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % 0.5 Yr | 4 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 6 |
| % 1.5 Yr | 25 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 17 | 19 | 27 | 27 | 21 | 17 | 28 | 21 |
| % 2.5 Yr | 28 | 19 | 27 | 21 | 19 | 27 | 26 | 26 | 19 | 25 | 20 | 23 |
| % 3.5+ Yr | 43 | 56 | 42 | 45 | 53 | 49 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 42 | 48 |
| **Doe Weights*** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 Yr | 58 | 57 | 60 | 60 | 56 | 68 | 56 | 58 | 65 | 63 | 60 | 58 |
| 1.5 Yr | 91 | 92 | 95 | 93 | 94 | 93 | 94 | 94 | 96 | 99 | 93 | 93 |
| 2.5 Yr | 106 | 106 | 108 | 105 | 103 | 103 | 105 | 105 | 101 | 109 | 103 | 106 |
| 3.5+ Yr | 110 | 113 | 115 | 116 | 112 | 117 | 114 | 114 | 111 | 116 | 111 | 113 |

* ALL weights are live weights
00+ Year bag limit changed (3-5 to 3-3, bucks-antlerless) continue minimum 4 points or more

# Enforcement of Deer Hunter-Related Citations 2006-2007

The Law Enforcement Division began monitoring all statewide citations at the district and county levels during the 1996 – 1997 deer season. The eight most common deer hunting citations from October 1 – January 31 were extracted from the database and summarized. Citation totals by county are shown in Table 22 on page 61. Yearly trends in various citations show some variability.

A total of 2,567 citations were written during the 2006 – 2007 deer hunting season. This is an increase of 311 citations from the previous season. The total number of citations was at an all time high in 2003 – 2004. Over the past 3 hunting seasons, citations have been significantly lower (Table 21 and Figure 27). The decline in citations can be attributed to a number of things: violations actually decreased, fewer hunters in the woods, and new or no officers in an area.

It is logical to assume that if fewer citations were written for a specific violation, then a decreased incidence of that violation occurred. The only notable decreases in recorded violations from the 2006 – 2007 were No License-Resident and Trespassing. Some violations are still occurring at dangerously high levels. Failure to wear hunter orange is a good example. Many hunters still refuse to wear their hunter orange. This law is in place to protect the hunters. Trespassing also still occurs at a high rate, indicating that anyone could be on the land without a hunter's knowledge. Headlighting is another citation that occurs at a high rate. Last year, headlighting citations were the third highest on record.

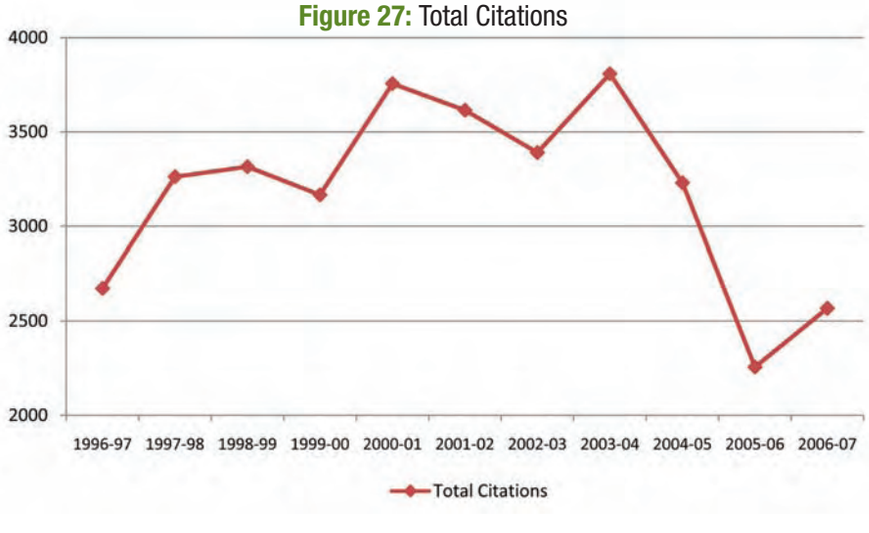
The number of licensed hunters continues to decline. This could be another reason for the general decrease in citations. With fewer hunters taking to the field, the number of violations should decrease. However, many hunters are ignoring license requirements and taking their chances. This is evident by the increase in citations for no hunting license by non-residents which increased from last year.

The number of baiting citations for the 2006 – 2007 season increased 151% from last year. However, hunter acceptance of baiting continues to increase. Bait is readily available and a big seller. When a citation is written and a conviction obtained, the minimal fine assessed the violator is hardly a deterrent to prevent future baiting.

With more hunters managing their land for bigger deer, many poachers are trying to take advantage of the results that managers have created. More large-antlered bucks on roadsides equal more temptations. Many would-be hunters are giving in and turning to poaching. This is evidenced by the number of trespassing and headlighting citations written each year.

Our officers are doing a good job across the state, but they need the help of sportsmen. Hunters can assist our officers by reporting wildlife violations by calling 1-800-BE-SMART. Most counties have only 2 officers, but with concerned sportsmen, they have eyes and ears all over the county.

**Figure 27:** Total Citations




## Table 21. Statewide Citations Summary by Most Frequent Violations During Deer Season

| Season Totals | Hunt From | | No Hunter Orange | No License | | Baiting | Trespassing | Headlighting | Total Citations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Motor Vehicle | Public Road | | Resident | Non-Resident | | | | |
| **2006-2007** | 59 | 609 | 363 | 341 | 115 | 554 | 223 | 303 | 2567 |
| **2005-2006** | 57 | 528 | 271 | 445 | 68 | 365 | 343 | 179 | 2256 |
| **2004-2005** | 104 | 725 | 652 | 391 | 125 | 689 | 283 | 261 | 3230 |
| **2003-2004** | 136 | 914 | 700 | 482 | 159 | 724 | 330 | 363 | 3808 |
| **2002-2003** | 99 | 867 | 658 | 491 | 184 | 569 | 240 | 282 | 3390 |
| **2001-2002** | 120 | 840 | 702 | 491 | 179 | 781 | 275 | 227 | 3615 |
| **2000-2001** | 236 | 1137 | 612 | 505 | 118 | 519 | 297 | 332 | 3756 |
| **1999-2000** | 238 | 938 | 415 | 422 | 87 | 449 | 318 | 299 | 3166 |
| **1998-1999** | 433 | 1037 | 409 | 378 | 152 | 356 | 290 | 260 | 3315 |
| **1997-1998** | 476 | 1063 | 403 | 335 | 112 | 313 | 278 | 282 | 3262 |
| **1996-1997** | 282 | 920 | 312 | 348 | 150 | 208 | 281 | 172 | 2673 |

## Table 22. Citations Summary of Most Frequent Violations During 2006-2007 Deer Season

| County | Hunt From Motor Vehicle | Hunt From Public Road | No Hunter Orange | No License Resident | No License Non-Res | Baiting | Tresspassing | Headlighting | Total Citations |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| Alcorn | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Amite | 2 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 34 | 1 | 4 | 70 |
| Attala | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 3 | 21 | 54 |
| Benton | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Bolivar | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Calhoun | 3 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 41 |
| Carroll | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 34 |
| Chickasaw | 0 | 17 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 48 |
| Choctaw | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Claiborne | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 35 |
| Clarke | 0 | 20 | 26 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 6 | 3 | 98 |
| Clay | 0 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Coahoma | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Copiah | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 28 |
| Covington | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Desoto | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 16 |
| Forrest | 0 | 18 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 39 |
| Franklin | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| George | 0 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 29 |
| Greene | 0 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 21 | 2 | 0 | 61 |
| Grenada | 1 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 32 |
| Hancock | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Harrison | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 14 |
| Hinds | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12 |
| Holmes | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 21 |
| Humphreys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Issaquena | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 17 |
| Itawamba | 0 | 31 | 6 | 24 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 85 |
| Jackson | 0 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 29 |
| Jasper | 0 | 7 | 24 | 8 | 12 | 63 | 3 | 5 | 122 |
| Jeff Davis | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Jefferson | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Jones | 0 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 38 |
| Kemper | 0 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 6 | 41 |
| Lafayette | 2 | 29 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 85 |
| Lamar | 1 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 41 |
| Lauderdale | 0 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 25 | 1 | 5 | 60 |
| Lawrence | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 25 |
| Leake | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 20 |
| Lee | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| Lef ore | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 28 |
| Lowndes | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 24 |
| Madison | 0 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 43 |
| Marion | 5 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 5 | 7 | 57 |
| Marshall | 0 | 18 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 39 |
| Monroe | 0 | 37 | 6 | 13 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 83 |
| Montgomery | 0 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 28 |
| Neshoba | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 16 |
| Newton | 0 | 11 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 41 |
| Noxubee | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 14 |
| Oktibbeha | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 13 |
| Panola | 0 | 22 | 13 | 11 | 3 | 25 | 11 | 19 | 104 |
| Pearl River | 0 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| Perry | 0 | 40 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 9 | 78 |
| Pike | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Pontotoc | 0 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 19 |
| Prentiss | 0 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 21 |
| Quitman | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 11 |
| Rankin | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Scott | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 26 |
| Sharkey | 7 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 33 |
| Simpson | 1 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 34 |
| Smith | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Stone | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| Sunf ower | 3 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 22 |
| Tallahatchie | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 18 |
| Tate | 0 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 29 |
| Tippah | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 13 |
| Tishomingo | 0 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Tunica | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 20 |
| Union | 0 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 49 |
| Walthall | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 29 |
| Warren | 3 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 37 |
| Washington | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Wayne | 4 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 29 |
| Webster | 0 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 34 |
| Wilkinson | 0 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 5 | 0 | 43 |
| Winston | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| Yalobusha | 1 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 32 |
| Yazoo | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 42 |

# 2006-2007 Hunting Incident/Accident Summary

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A hunting accident/incident is one in which a person is injured by the discharge of a hunting firearm, bow and arrow, or a fall from a hunting tree stand arising from the activity of hunting.

There were 27 total hunting related incident/accidents investigated in Mississippi during the 2006-2007 hunting season, an increase from last season. Of these, 16 were firearm/bow related with 2 fatalities and 11 were tree stand related with 2 fatalities.

The majority of hunting incidents occurred while deer hunting, but there were also incidents reported while dove, duck, squirrel, and hog hunting. (Figure 28).

Firearms related accidents increased from last year and treestand accidents remained constant. Since 2001 total hunting accidents had been on a steady decline until last season (Figure 29).

Sportsmen, Hunter Education Instructors, and Conservation Officers in Mississippi should be commended for keeping hunting among the safest of sports. Volunteer instructors and Conservation Officers certified 10,387 sportsmen in Hunter Education during the 2006 – 2007 season (Figure 30). Hunting accidents in Mississippi average about one injury for every 13,000 licensed hunters: an average of around seven injuries per 100,000 participants. When compared to other sports such as football, which averages around 3,500 injuries per 100,000 participants, hunting is a very safe sport.

Hunter education regulations changed slightly for the 2006 – 2007 season as an effort to increase hunter recruitment. Youths 12 – 15 year of age must complete a Hunter Education course in order to hunt unsupervised. Youths 12 – 15 years of age may hunt without a Hunter Education certificate if under the direct supervision of a licensed adult 21 years of age and older. Youths under 12 years of age must still be under adult supervision while hunting. An apprentice license was also created. The apprentice license is for residents over the age of 15 which do not have the required certificate of hunter education. This apprentice license may be purchased only one time by a resident and the apprentice hunting licensee must be accompanied by a licensed or exempt resident hunter at least twenty-one (21) years of age when hunting. With these new hunter education requirements, we are confident accident numbers will continue to decline.

# 2006-2007 Hunting Incident/Accident Data

**Figure 28:** Hunting Incident by Animal Hunted

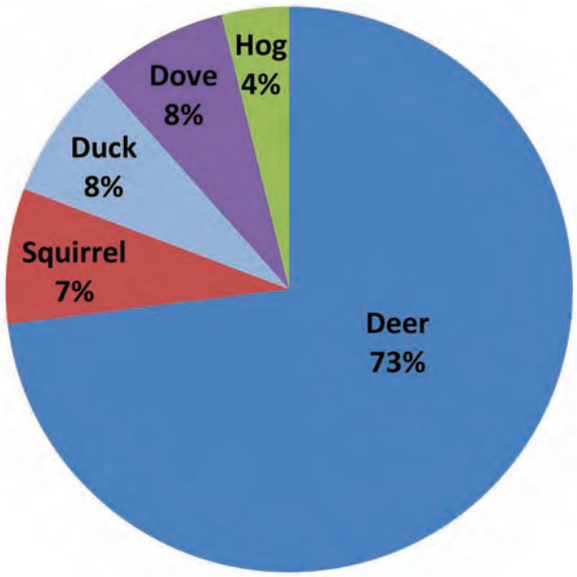



**Figure 29:** Hunting Incidents

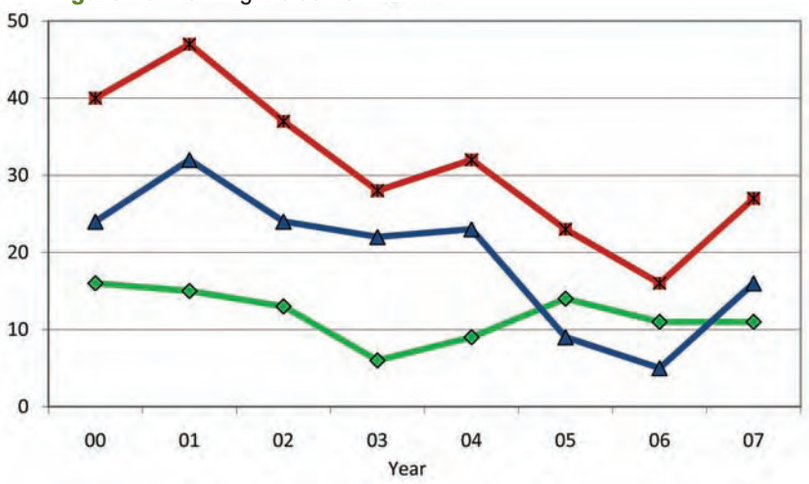
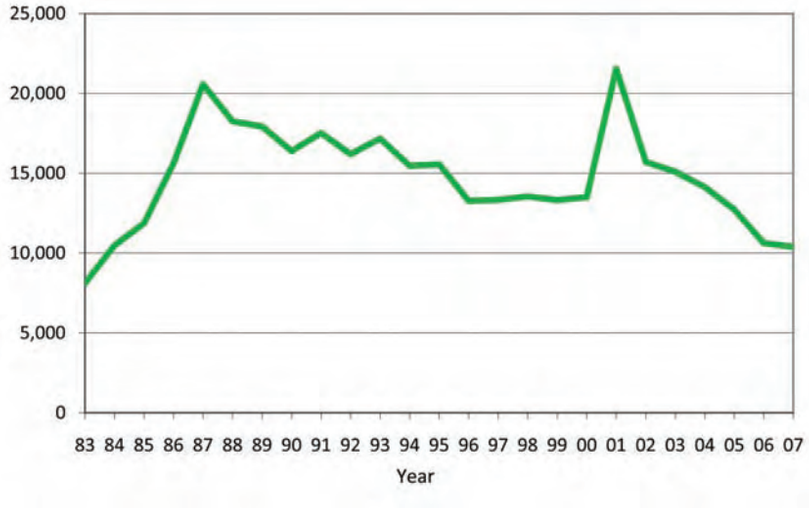



**Figure 30:** Students Trained by Year



# Magnolia Records Program

**By: Rick Dillard**

The year 2007 marks the 7th year of the Magnolia Records Program. Since the beginning, over 4,300 deer have been scored and over 2,800 met the minimum requirements (125 inches for typical and 155 inches for non-typical). Counties bordering the Mississippi River and the Big Black River continue to stand out as the top contributors of bucks to Magnolia Records.

Over 500 deer with inside spreads greater than or equal to 20" have been entered. The widest deer on record was harvested by Ken Helmick in Madison County with an inside spread of 28 6/8 inches.

A total of 172 bucks in Magnolia Records have been harvested on public land (WMAs, National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Ray Barrett harvested the largest non-typical from public land with a 201 3/8 inch buck.

During the 2006 – 2007 hunting season, several bucks worthy of being recognized were harvested. The largest typical buck scored 171 and was taken by Kirk Hannon in Madison County. The largest non-typical buck scored 219 6/8 and was taken by Stephen Brian Smith in Marshall County. Lastly, Angus Catchot's 187 3/8 non-typical buck from Washington County was the largest taken by archery.

Many outstanding bucks, too numerous to list here, are being entered in Magnolia Records each year. To view all entries and their photos visit www.mdwfp.com and look for Magnolia Records.

**Figure 31:** MRP Qualified Non-typical Deer

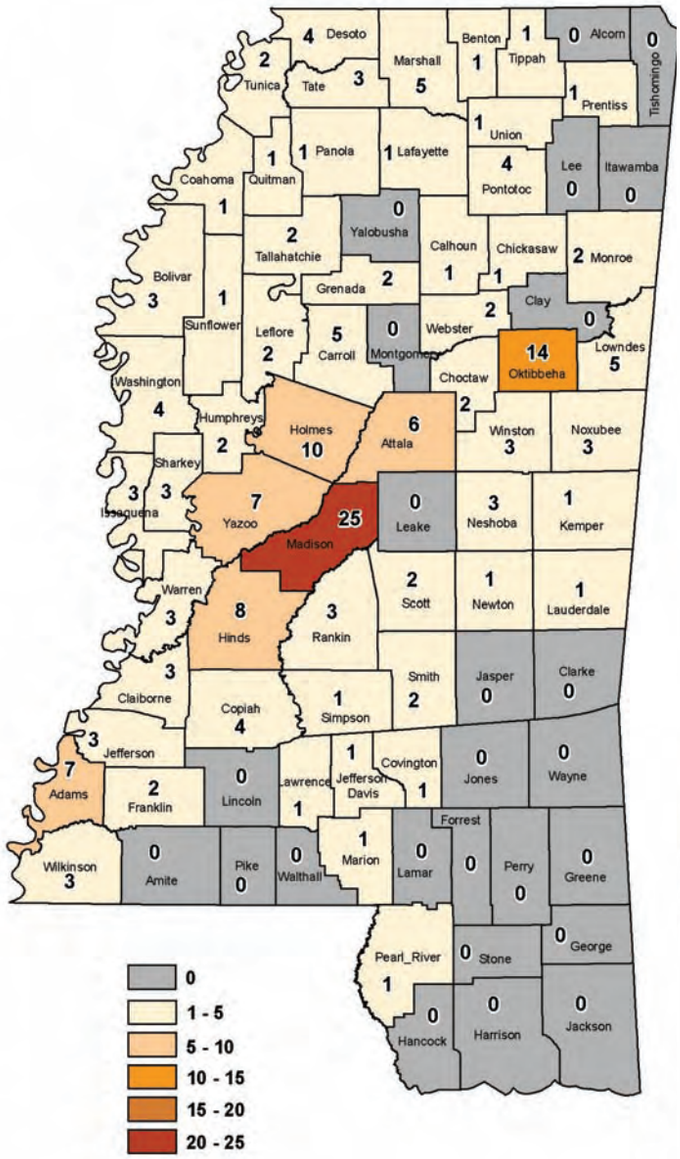
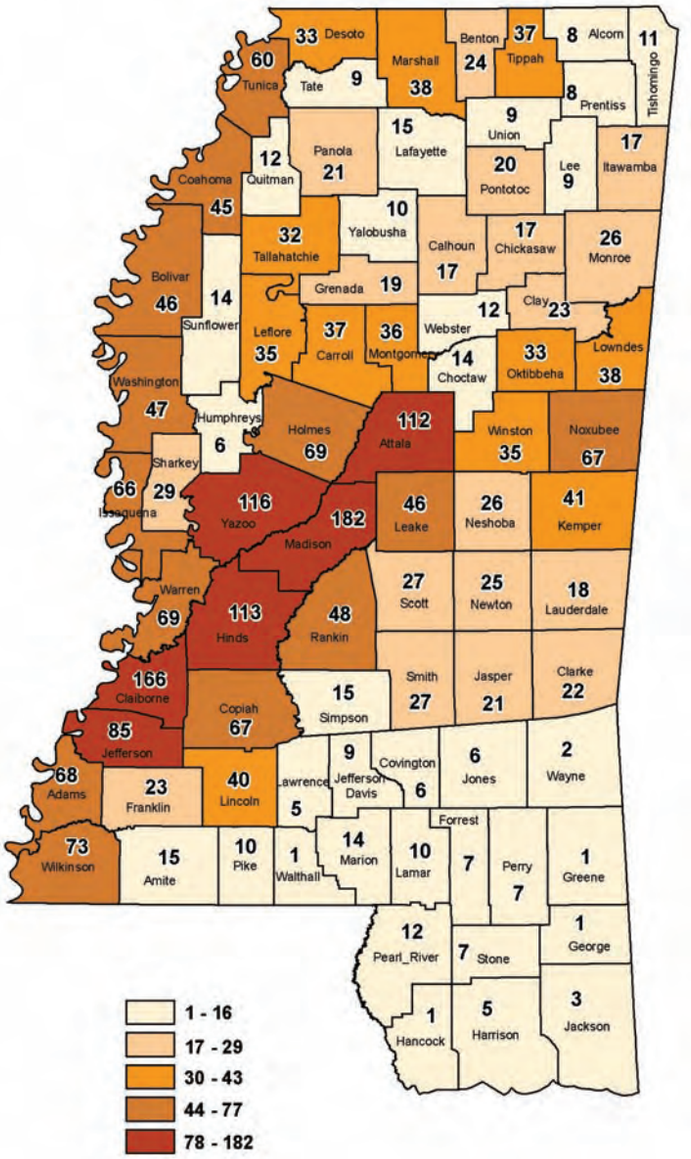



**Figure 32:** MRP Qualified Typical Deer



# Pope and Young Deer Taken in Mississippi

## Table 23. Non-Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 155)

| RANK | SCORE | STATUS | TAKEN BY | SEASON | COUNTY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1** | 236 1/8 | 1 | Tracy Laird | 2003-04 | Adams |
| 2 | 204 | 1 | Denver Eshee | 1996-97 | Webster |
| 3 | 195 5/8 | 1 | Damon C. Saik | 2000-01 | Madison |
| 4 | 187 3/8 | 3 | Angus Catchot | 2006-07 | Washington |
| 5 | 178 3/8 | 3 | Wyn Diggs | 2006-07 | Holmes |
| 6 | 177 3/8 | 2 | Adam McCurdy | 2005-06 | Holmes |
| 7 | 173 3/4 | 1 | Jimmy Riley | 2000-01 | Adams |
| 8 | 165 5/8 | 1 | James Goss, Jr. | 1987-88 | Washington |

## Table 24. Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 125)

| RANK | SCORE | STATUS | TAKEN BY | SEASON | COUNTY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 165 6/8 | 2 | Carl Taylor | 2004-05 | Issaquena |
| 2 | 164 7/8 | 1 | James House | 1999-00 | Issaquena |
| 3 | 160 1/8 | 1 | Odis Hill, Jr. | 1989-90 | Washington |
| 4 | 159 6/8 | 1 | Steve Nichols | 1986-87 | Washington |
| 5 | 158 4/8 | 1 | John Harvey | 1989-90 | Adams |
| 6 | 157 | 1 | James Morris | 1998-99 | Tunica |
| 7 | 156 7/8 | 2 | Allen Henry | 1993-94 | Simpson |
| 8 | 156 2/8 | 1 | Chris Cordell | 1996-97 | DeSoto |
| 9+ | 155 7/8 | 1 | Charles Neely | 1993-94 | Coahoma |
| 9+ | 155 7/8 | 1 | John Windham | 1997-98 | Jefferson |
| 10 | 155 2/8 | 1 | Marty Hendrix | 2000-01 | Claiborne |
| 11 | 155 1/8 | 1 | Jim Agent | 1997-98 | Jefferson |

** OFFICIAL STATE RECORD
1 - IN BOWHUNTING RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN WHITETAIL DEER
2 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND ACCEPTED
+ TIES
3 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND PENDING
4 - OFFICIALLY SCORED BUT NOT ENTERED

# Boone and Crockett Deer Taken in Mississippi

## Table 25. Non-Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 195)

| RANK | SCORE | STATUS | TAKEN BY | SEASON | COUNTY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ** | 295 6/8 | 1 | Tony Fulton | 1994-95 | Winston |
| 2 | 225 | 1 | Richard Herring | 1988-89 | Lowndes |
| 3 | 221 2/8 | 1 | Milton Parrish | 1972-73 | Holmes |
| 4 | 220 3/8 | 1 | Dean Jones | 1976-77 | Oktibbeha |
| 5 | 219 6/8 | 3 | Brian Smith | 2006-07 | Marshall |
| 6 | 219 2/8 | 1 | Matt Woods | 1997-98 | Hinds |
| 7 | 217 5/8 | 1 | Mark Hathcock | 1977-78 | Carroll |
| 8 | 216 5/8 | 4 | (Pick up) Matthew Freeny | 1989-99 | Winston |
| 9 | 212 5/8 | 2 | Stephen McBrayer | 2005-06 | Pontotoc |
| 10 | 212 | 1 | Wayne Parker | 1999-00 | Madison |
| 11 | 210 | 4 | (Pick up) Chip Haynes | 2000-01 | Madison |
| 12 | 209 6/8 | 1 | Ronnie Strickland | 1981-82 | Franklin |
| 13 | 207 3/8 | 1 | Larry Reece | 2001-02 | Madison |
| 14 | 205 6/8 | 1 | Joe Shurden | 1976-77 | Lowndes |
| 15 | 205 | 1 | (Pick up) Tommy Yateman | 1959 | Lowndes |
| 16 | 204 | 1 | Denver Eshee | 1996-97 | Webster |
| 17 | 202 5/8 | 1 | George Galey | 1960'S | Carroll |
| 18 | 202 4/8 | 1 | William Westmoreland | 2001-02 | Pontotoc |
| 19 + | 202 1/8 | 1 | Oliver Lindig | 1983-84 | Oktibbeha |
| 19 + | 202 1/8 | 2 | Bobby Smith | 1992-93 | Tate |
| 20 | 201 6/8 | 1 | Jimmy Ashley | 1985-86 | Wilkinson |
| 21 | 201 3/8 | 1 | Ray Barrett | 2002-03 | Washington |
| 22 | 200 7/8 | 4 | Don Williams | 1997-98 | Jefferson |
| 23 | 200 6/8 | 1 | Pamela Reid-Rhoades | 1993-94 | Oktibbeha |
| 24 | 199 3/8 | 2 | John E. Hayes | 1976-77 | Holmes |
| 25 | 199 1/8 | 4 | Jay Leggette | 1999-00 | Hinds |
| 26 | 198 5/8 | 1 | Timothy Watson | 1997-98 | Oktibbeha |
| 27 | 198 4/8 | 1 | John T. Campbell | 2001-02 | Issaquena |
| 28 | 197 2/8 | 1 | Arthur Halfacre | 1997-98 | Noxubee |
| 29 | 197 | 2 | Patrick Cenac | 2005-06 | Adams |
| 30 | 196 7/8 | 1 | Eddie Alias, Jr. | 1989-90 | Yazoo |
| 31 | 196 5/8 | 1 | Robert Sullivan | 1981-82 | Wilkinson |
| 32 | 195 7/8 | 1 | Ken Dye | 1986-87 | Monroe |
| 33 | 195 6/8 | 4 | Mark Kinard | 1978-79 | Oktibbeha |
| 34 + | 195 5/8 | 1 | Kathleen McGehee | 1981-82 | Adams |
| 34 + | 195 5/8 | 1 | Damon C. Saik | 2000-01 | Madison |
| 35 + | 195 2/8 | 1 | Leland N. Dye, Jr. | 2001-02 | Tunica |
| 35 + | 195 2/8 | 1 | Bill Kimble | 1995-96 | Copiah |

** OFFICIAL STATE RECORD
1 - IN RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME
2 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND ACCEPTED
+ TIES
3 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND PENDING
4 - OFFICIALLY SCORED BUT NOT ENTERED

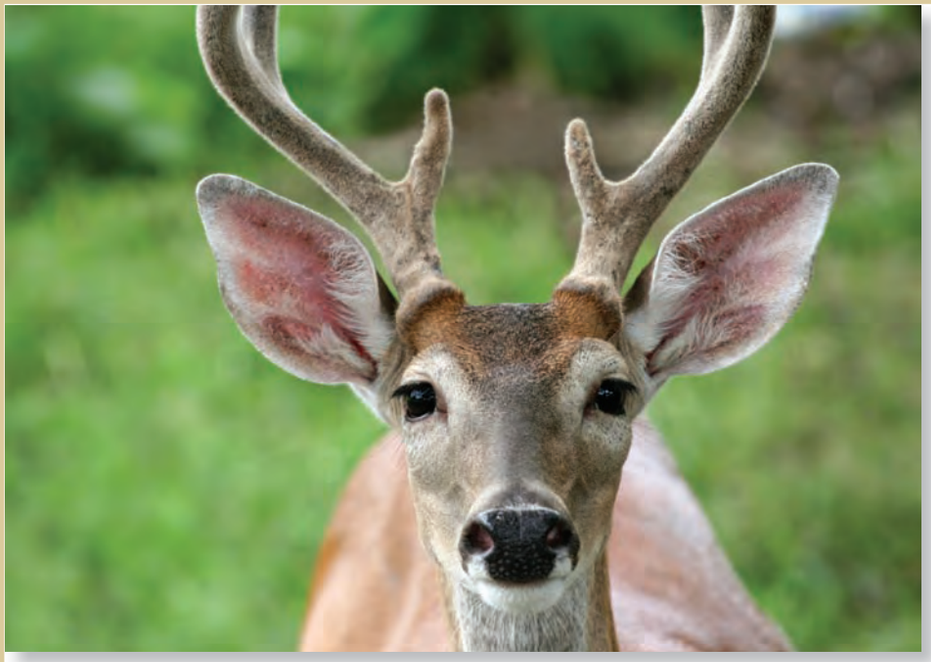
# Boone and Crockett Deer Taken in Mississippi

## Table 26. Typical Trophies (Minimum Score 170)

| RANK | SCORE | STATUS | TAKEN BY | SEASON | COUNTY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 ** | 182 7/8 | 1 | Glen Jourdan | 1986-87 | Noxubee |
| 2 | 182 2/8 | 1 | R. L. Bobo | 1955-56 | Claiborne |
| 3 | 181 5/8 | 1 | Ronnie Whitaker | 1980-81 | Wilkinson |
| 4 | 180 4/8 | 1 | W. F. Smith | 1968-69 | Leflore |
| 5 | 180 2/8 | 1 | Steve Greer | 1995-96 | Madison |
| 6 | 179 2/8 | 1 | Marlon Stokes | 1988-89 | Hinds |
| 7 | 178 5/8 | 1 | Grady Robertson | 1951-52 | Bolivar |
| 8 | 176 5/8 | 1 | Sidney Sessions | 1952-53 | Bolivar |
| 9 | 176 1/8 | 1 | J.D. Hood | 1972-73 | Monroe |
| 10 + | 175 2/8 | 1 | Johnnie Leake, Jr. | 1977-78 | Wilkinson |
| 10 + | 175 2/8 | 1 | Charlie G. Wilson, II | 2001-02 | Neshoba |
| 11 | 175 | 2 | Kyle Gordon | 2005-06 | Madison |
| 12 + | 174 6/8 | 1 | O. P. Gilbert | 1960-61 | Coahoma |
| 12 + | 174 6/8 | 1 | Jeremy Boelte | 1997-98 | Adams |
| 13 + | 174 1/8 | 1 | William Ladd | 1999-00 | Noxubee |
| 13 + | 174 1/8 | 4 | Mike Shell, current owner | 1940 | Warren |
| 13 + | 174 1/8 | 1 | Bill Walters | 1995-96 | Coahoma |
| 14 | 173 5/8 | 1 | Geraline Holliman | 1982-83 | Lowndes |
| 15 | 173 3/8 | 1 | Richard Powell | 1994-95 | Coahoma |
| 16 | 172 5/8 | 1 | Adrian Stallone | 1983-84 | Adams |
| 17 + | 172 | 1 | Barry Barnes | 2003-04 | Yazoo |
| 17 + | 172 | 1 | Nan Foster New | 1977-78 | Adams |
| 18 | 171 6/8 | 1 | Delton Davis | 1990-91 | Tunica |
| 19 | 171 4/8 | 1 | Ricky Lee | 1999-00 | Tallahatchie |
| 20 | 171 | 2 | Kirk Hannon | 2006-07 | Madison |
| 21 | 170 7/8 | 1 | W. A. Miller | 1920 | Issaquena |
| 22 | 170 4/8 | 4 | Joe Reed Perry | Unknown | Sharkey |
| 23 | 170 2/8 | 1 | David G. McAdory | 1994-95 | Madison |
| 24 | 170 1/8 | 4 | Joe W. Martin | 1994-95 | Madison |

** OFFICIAL STATE RECORD
1 - IN RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME
2 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND ACCEPTED
+ TIES
3 - OFFICIALLY SCORED AND PENDING
4 - OFFICIALLY SCORED BUT NOT ENTERED

# In Conclusion



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## Status

As in previous reports, data collected from a wide array of sources during the 2006 – 2007 season continued to indicate a diverse statewide deer herd. Unique populations continued to exist in all regions of the state.

Condition data and field habitat evaluations conducted by biologists continued to document the effects of current and long-term overpopulation in some areas of the state. Degradation of deer habitat and noticeable substandard condition indicators such as low reproduction were prevalent. Many locations in the state have experienced on-going damage of native browse by overpopulation of the deer herd since the early 1970's. Deer habitat on poorer soils has been damaged at a greater level than habitat on more fertile soils. In addition, habitat damage on lower fertility soils requires a longer recovery time than on the more fertile soils in regions like the Mississippi Delta. Reduction of deer populations to levels where habitat can recover is unacceptable to many hunters. The result has been continued over-use of quality browse species by deer.

The effects of Hurricane Katrina are beginning to be realized and will be observed for years to come. Lack of hunter's ability to access public and private lands in southeast Mississippi due to timber damage was evident in the hunter man-days and harvest during the 2005 – 2006 season. Access to these lands was improved prior to the 2006 – 2007 season, but man-days and harvest have not returned to pre-Katrina levels. In the next few years the population levels may increase due to the habitat shift from mature pine stands to more of a cut-over type makeup in this section of the state.

Declines in deer condition and habitat quality have occurred in regions of the state where extensive acreage were converted from agriculture to pine monocultures in the late 1980s. Assorted federal and state incentive programs perpetuated this condition by providing cost-share opportunities to landowners. The result was an increasing acreage of densely planted plantations of pine on sites with a history of agriculture. Herbicide applications to other pine plantations to prevent competition and thereby eliminating browse plants caused decreased body weights and reproduction. Minimal amounts of deer forage were found in these sites, which allow only a moderate deer population to cause over-utilization of the browse that does occur. The result was a poor herd health due to a lack of quality and quantity of native browse plants. However, most of these pine monocultures are at mid-rotation age (14 – 20 years old). Timber thinning has begun on some of these sites, resulting in additional browse production because sunlight is reaching the forest floor where it has been lacking in the past. These thinnings along with mid-rotation stand improvements (i.e., herbicide application and/or prescribed fire) will drastically improve browse production.

For the fourth year a tool was offered to landowners and hunting clubs which suffer from extreme overpopulation or whose objective is

to reduce total deer numbers. This tool is also effective for the removal of management bucks on above average habitat. Legislation was passed in 2003 allowing the harvest of sub - 4 point bucks by special permit; and altered to include management bucks in 2005. Landowners or clubs must meet certain requirements, such as cooperating with an approved wildlife biologist and be enrolled in DMAP for a minimum of at least one year to be eligible for these tags. A written justification from the biologist must be approved by the MDWFP Deer Committee before management tags will be issued to a property. The biologist recommendations are used to determine the management buck criteria on individual properties.

## Recommendations

Statewide variance in parameters such as breeding dates, condition indicators, and changes in habitat quality continue to warrant intelligent site-specific deer management recommendations. Because of the extreme diversity in management needs across the state, landowners can implement these recommendations only if they are provided with a season framework that offers maximum opportunity or with special permits that allow additional opportunity.

A liberal antlerless season framework is mandatory if landowners are to meet management goals. Antlerless opportunity should be provided to allow landowners in all regions of the state the opportunity to manage deer populations. Decision makers will receive an increasing number of negative reports associated with antlerless hunting opportunity, as behavioral changes in the deer population create changes that make deer less visible to hunters. Continued complaints will arise as hunters incorrectly associate decreasing deer populations to antlerless season opportunity. These complaints will be more frequent in areas of the state with poor soil quality, previously high deer populations, and/or declining habitat quality.

An effective method to monitor statewide harvest on a county basis is needed to take deer management to the next level in Mississippi. Harvest data, which would include sex, harvest method, and county of harvest would provide information from which detailed analyses of the deer herd could occur. A telephone-based reporting system, which provides this type of information, is currently in use in many states across the Southeast. Harvest data at a county level are instantaneously available to wildlife officials in these states. Voluntary implementation of a similar, efficient and cost-effective system, known as Tel-Chek, began in 2002, but has been underutilized. A mandatory tagging and reporting system like Tel-Chek would provide biologists with much needed data, and law enforcement officers with a new tool to enforce bag limits.

Evaluation of the 4-Point Law has led to a recommendation by the MDWFP Deer Committee to eliminate this law. The new proposal is to divide the state into 3 Deer Management Zones and use a minimum spread or main beam length criteria based on local parameters in place of one statewide point based criteria. The proposal includes recommendations to change the antlerless bag limit from 3 antlerless deer with any weapon and 2 additional antlerless deer with archery equipment to 5 antlerless deer with any weapon. Additionally, the proposal is to alter the 3 buck bag limit to 2 bucks that meet antler criteria and one buck of choice (AKA “Charlie” Buck). This would give the hunter more flexibility to manage the deer herd on their property.

Research funding should continue. Continued advancement of the state deer program hinges on the professional association and interaction with current deer research projects. The MDWFP Wildlife Technical Staff has benefited professionally from this relationship with Mississippi State University for over 20 years. Many of the advances in the management of Mississippi’s deer herd would not have occurred without this relationship. The opportunity to find answers, which address practical management questions, should continue to receive priority.

Existing data collection procedures on public and private lands must continue if responsible harvest recommendations for these lands are expected. Extensive baseline data exists from which objective evaluations can be conducted to examine the effects of changes in habitat, hunting opportunity, and harvest schemes. The annual mail survey will continue to be a valuable tool to monitor trends in a variety of important categories.

Information and education should remain the top priority of the deer program in Mississippi. Deer management needs are well documented in most regions of the state. Landowner and hunter understanding, acceptance, and support of sound deer management will continue to determine the success of deer management in Mississippi. Deer management objectives should be better communicated to the users of this resource. Without landowner and hunter support, success is not expected. When provided the freedom, sportsmen in Mississippi have proven they can make informed decisions that benefit the deer resource if they are provided with the correct management and biological information.

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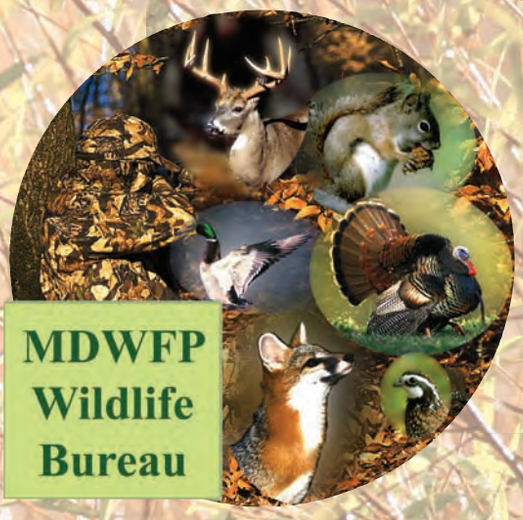


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