

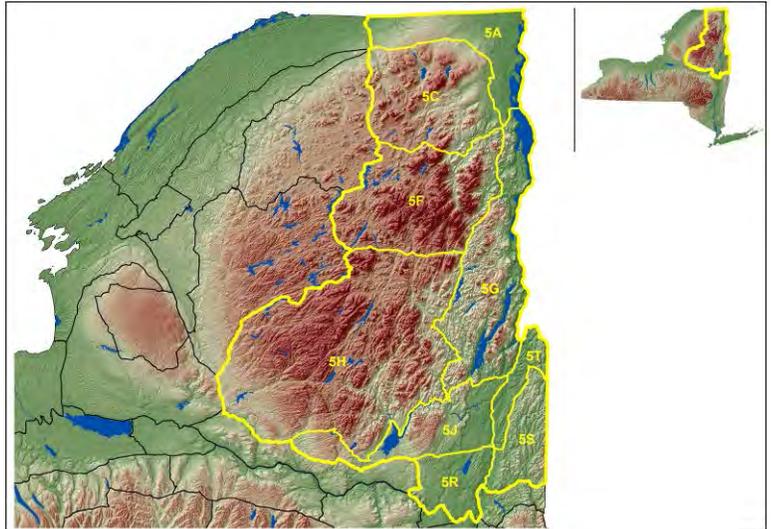
2016 DEER HUNTING FORECAST



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Region 5

Region 5 is the largest region in New York. Occupying the northeast corner of the state, the region varies from river bottom farmlands in the south, through the high mountain wilderness of the Adirondacks, to the flat farmlands in the St. Lawrence Valley in the north. Deer populations reflect this variety of terrain, with relatively dense populations in the south and north, and low populations in the mountainous areas. Deer hunting opportunities range from suburban woodlots to vast wilderness forests. The region consists of six Northern Zone [Wildlife Management Units \(WMUs\)](#), and three Southern Zone WMUs, as well as small parts of five other WMUs that are managed by other regions. Overall, the forecast for this upcoming season will be a stable or slight increase in deer take for most units primarily due to mild conditions this past winter.



WMU 5C

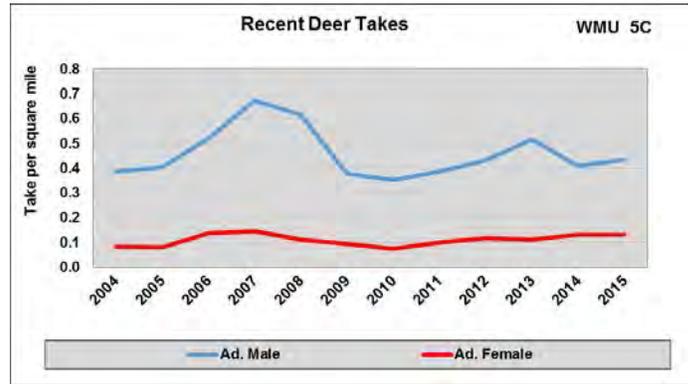
Area = 1,126 mile²

BTO = None

2015 Buck Take = 0.4 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 0.6 deer harvested per mile²

This unit is a transition area from the farm country in the Champlain Valley to the peaks of the Adirondack Mountains. Deer population density is low, with the buck harvest varying from 0.3 to 0.6 per mile² since 1992. The buck take in 2014 was 0.4 per mile², similar to previous years. The deer population is mainly controlled by winter weather in this unit. Winter conditions were mild this past year, which should increase the number of yearling bucks this upcoming season. Overall, buck harvest can be expected to remain stable, or slightly increase. Antlerless harvest is restricted to archery and early muzzleloading seasons. The early muzzleloading season will be for deer of either sex this fall. Public access in this unit is very good, with plenty of state forest preserve which is open to hunting, some Conservation Easements that are open to public hunting, and paper company leases available on large tracts. No DMPs are available in this unit.



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WMU 5F

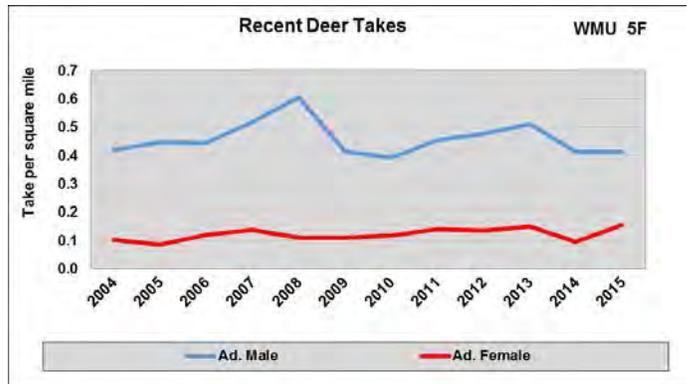
Area = 1,328 mile²

BTO = None

2015 Buck Take = 0.4 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 0.6 deer harvested per mile²

This unit is dominated by the highest peaks in the Adirondack Mountains and is almost entirely forested. Elevations reach from around 1,000 feet to over 5,000 feet above sea level. Much of the land here is steep and remote with few roads and trails. The deer population is low, but the unit offers classic Adirondack wilderness hunting for those who are willing to hike or ride horses into the back county. The deer population in this unit is mainly controlled by winter weather, with the buck take consistently near 0.5 per mile² for the last ten years. The 2015 buck take was similar at 0.4 per mile². Despite moderate to severe winter conditions during 2013 and 2014, winter kill was low, and the 2015 winter was very mild. A similar or slightly increased buck harvest can be expected for the 2016 hunting season. Since the land is remote and difficult to access, many bucks live longer and the average antler size is larger than most other areas of the state. Antlerless harvest is restricted to archery and muzzleloader seasons. The early muzzleloading season will be for deer of either sex this fall. Public access in this unit is very good, with plenty of state forest preserve open to hunting. No DMPs are available in this unit.



WMU 5G

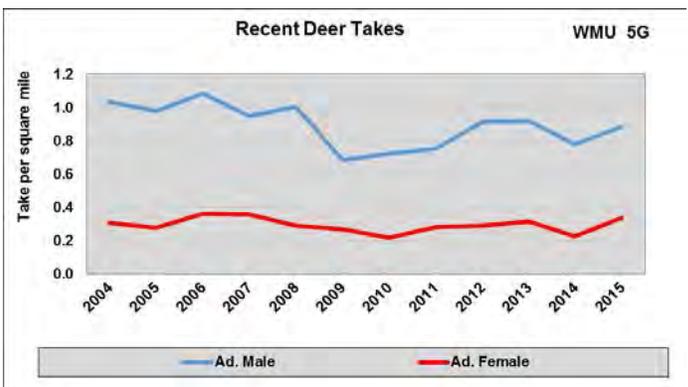
Area = 1,113 mile²

BTO = None

2015 Buck Take = 0.9 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 1.3 deer harvested per mile²

This unit covers most of the Lake Champlain Valley and the eastern foothills of the Adirondacks. The topography ranges from rolling farms near the lake to steep forested hills to the west. The harvest increased to 0.9 bucks per mile² in 2015, up from 0.8 in 2014. Expect a slight increase in the buck take this year due to the mild severity of last winter. Both the early muzzleloading season and the late muzzleloading season will be for deer of either sex. Public access is good, with quite a bit of state forest preserve open to hunting in the western part of the unit. No DMPs are available.



WMU 5H

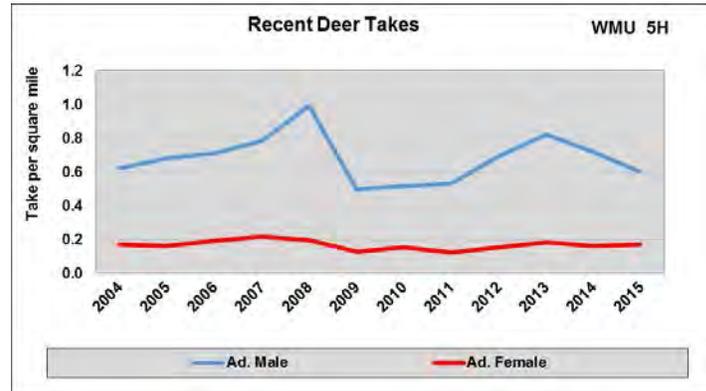
Area = 3,047 mile²

BTO = None

2015 Buck Take = 0.6 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 0.8 deer harvested per mile²

This large unit comprises most of the central Adirondack Mountains, and is almost entirely forested. Elevations range from around 1,000 feet to over 4,000 feet above sea level. Much of the land here is steep and remote, with few roads and trails. The deer population is low and fairly stable, and the unit offers classic Adirondack wilderness hunting for those who are willing to hike or ride horses into the back county. Last year's buck take was similar to 2014 at 0.6 bucks per mile², but the deer herd continues to recover from recent severe winters. Due to mild winter conditions this past year, winter mortality was likely minimal. Expect the buck take to remain similar to last year. The early muzzleloading season will be for deer of either sex. Public access in this unit is very good, with plenty of state forest preserve which is open to hunting, and paper company leases available on large tracts. No DMPs are available in this unit.



WMU 5J

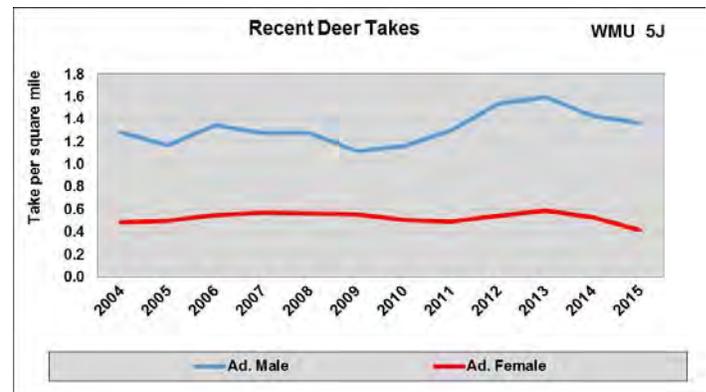
Area = 674 mile²

BTO = None

2015 Buck Take = 1.4 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 1.9 deer harvested per mile²

This unit comprises the transition area from the Hudson and Mohawk River valleys to the foothills of the Adirondacks. The topography ranges from farm country in the eastern and southern portions to steep forested hills to the west and north. The harvest in 2015 was the same as 2014 at 1.4 bucks per mile². Buck take is expected to remain stable or slightly increase this year. Both the early muzzleloading season and the late muzzleloading season will be for deer of either sex. Public access is fair in this unit, with some state forest preserve. No DMPs are available in this unit.



WMU 5R

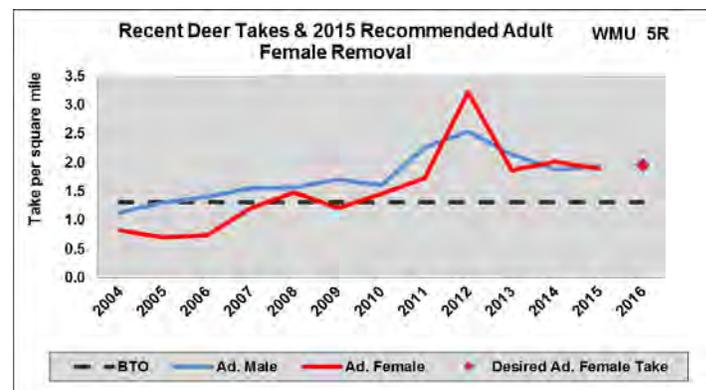
Area = 373 mile²

BTO = 1.3 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 1.9 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 4.4 deer harvested per mile²

This unit is comprised of small farms and suburban developments, mostly in southern Saratoga County. The buck harvest remained 1.9 per mile² in 2015, still above the buck take objective. The adult female take was high due to readily available DMPs last fall, which should continue to decrease the population. The buck take this year is expected to decrease again, but the DMP allocation will remain high to continue decreasing the population toward the objective. Both resident and non-resident hunters will have high odds of obtaining a 1st permit DMP, and some second DMPs will be issued to resident hunters. There is limited public access in this unit, which is complicated by expanding development.



WMU 5S

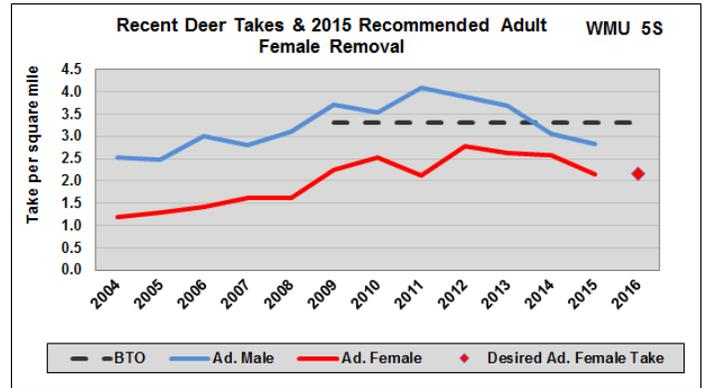
Area = 422 mile²

BTO = 3.3 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 2.8 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 5.6 deer harvested per mile²

This unit consists of farm country stretching from the Hudson River valley on the west to the Taconic Highlands along the Vermont border on the east. The topography is primarily farms interspersed with woodlots on small rolling hills, with some larger forested ridges in the eastern portion of the unit near Vermont. The buck harvest decreased from 3.1 per mile² in 2014 to 2.8 per mile² in 2015 which is expected to stabilize. Resident hunters must have preference points to obtain a DMP this year. There is limited public access in this unit, with some state forest land in the eastern part of the unit and one wildlife management area.



WMU 5T

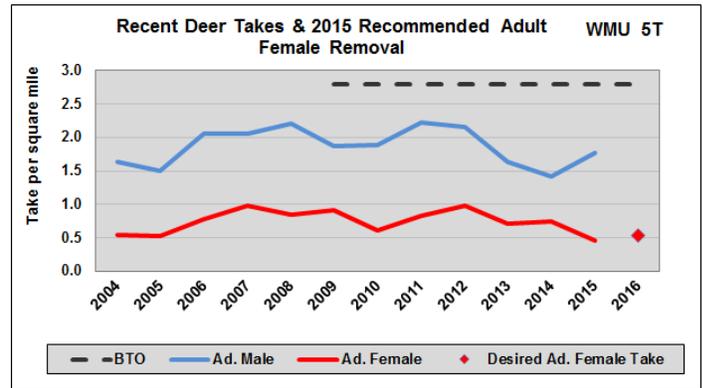
Area = 223 mile²

BTO = 2.8 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 1.8 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 2.4 deer harvested per mile²

This unit is made up of the Hudson River valley on the eastern side of the river in northwestern Washington County, plus some areas in northeastern Washington County in the Champlain valley. The topography is mostly open farm country with interspersed woodlots on small rolling hills. The buck harvest in 2015 was 1.8 bucks per mile², up from 1.4 in 2014, with the population remaining well below the objective. To allow the herd to grow toward the objective, no DMPs will be issued this year. There is limited public access in this unit.



Jim Stickle
Region 5 Big Game Biologist