

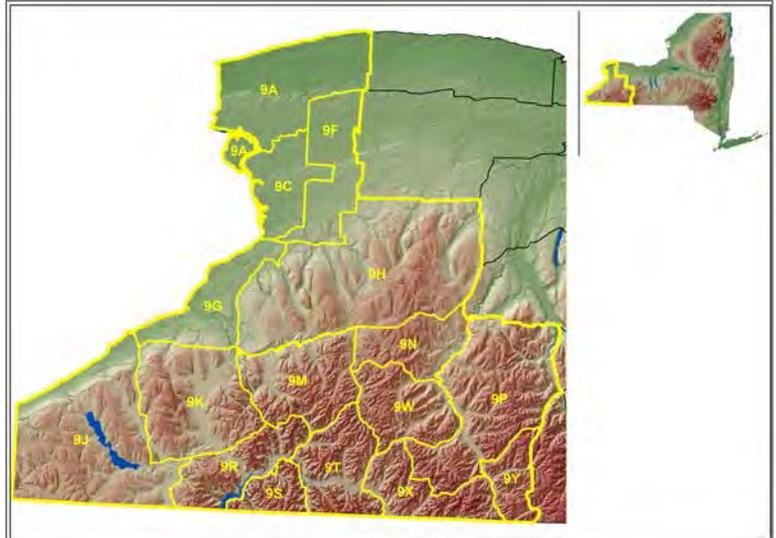
2016 DEER HUNTING FORECAST



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Region 9

Region 9 is comprised primarily of two major eco zones: the Lake Plains of Lakes Erie and Ontario and the Appalachian Plateau. The Lake Plains area is characterized by flat topography with human activity focused on agriculture and residential uses. The Lake Plains eco zone is considered excellent deer habitat as it offers an abundance of food and mild winters. The Appalachian Plateau is characterized by rolling hills and vast expanses of forest land. Human habitation is much less dense than in the northern half of the region. This area offers good deer hunting opportunities, due to a healthy mix of forest and agricultural lands. In the extreme southern tier of this region, large tracts of mature forest dominate the landscape. As these forests continue to mature, the need for habitat improvement will become more apparent. Landowners willing to put forth the effort and expense to improve their lands through active forest management and creation of young forest habitat will see better hunting.



Public access for hunting continues to be a major concern for NYSDEC. We promote access for hunting on all DEC owned lands wherever possible. There are many opportunities for public access and hunting throughout this region, with the best access occurring in the southern counties. There are also a number of cooperative hunting areas in the region giving hunters additional lands to recreate. Finally, there are many landowners willing to allow hunting on private lands. We encourage you to ask permission from these landowners prior to entering private lands and to be mindful that you are a guest.

Unit Summaries for the 2016 Season

Included in the discussion of most WMUs is a term called the Buck Take Objective (BTO). The BTO for a WMU is the desired number of antlered bucks expected to be harvested per square mile when the WMUs deer population is at the desired level as recommended by the Citizen Task Force. The BTO is not the estimated take for the coming season but rather is the objective of our management efforts. The annual buck harvest is used as a gauge of population size and its relationship to the desired population level.

WMU 9A

Area = 462 mile²

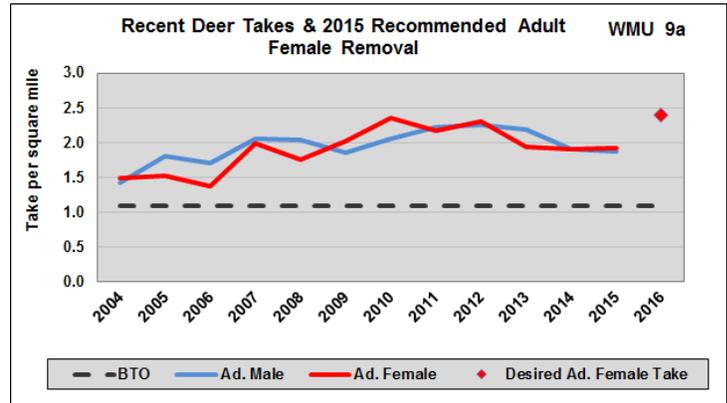
BTO = 1.1 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 1.9 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 4.6 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9A is situated primarily in Niagara and Erie Counties and is characterized by relatively flat land sloping north toward Lake Ontario. The majority of the landscape is comprised of small stands of mixed hardwood forest and agricultural fields with a number of wetlands intermixed. There is very little public access for hunting in this unit, so

most hunters will need to arrange access to private lands. The only public hunting land available in this unit is the Hartland Swamp WMA. Buck take in 9A has consistently been above objective despite liberal DMP allocations. This unit has been identified as one of several WMUs in Region 9 where alternative measures are needed to increase antlerless harvest. Resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of obtaining first and second permits. It is likely that the number of permits available will exceed the number of applicants.



WMU 9F

Area = 277 mile²

BTO = 2.5 bucks harvested per mile²

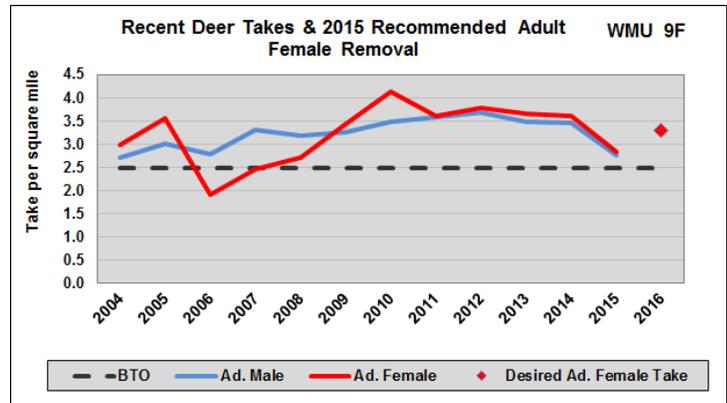
2015 Buck Take = 2.8 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 6.8 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9F is located in Erie and Niagara Counties, primarily in the suburban areas northeast and east of metro Buffalo. This area is highly residential with a number of medium-sized family farms. Old abandoned farm fields make up the majority of the non-residential landscape with a few small

parcels of hardwood forest interspersed. There is no public access for hunting in this unit. Archery and crossbow hunters should consider requesting access to private lands as this unit receives less hunting pressure and supports a healthy population of big deer. The deer population in this unit has consistently remained above objective levels despite liberal antlerless harvest options. Both buck and doe harvest dropped in 2015 suggesting the population may be moving down closer toward the objective level. The decline was likely due in part to some deer mortality during the 2014-15 winter, but possibly also influenced by mild hunting conditions during the 2015 season that reduced daytime deer activity.

Nonetheless, with a history of deer overabundance in this unit, we are hesitant to ease up on doe harvest too quickly, especially following such a mild winter as we had in 2015-16. Thus, antlerless harvest opportunities will be plentiful again this season, but there will be approximately 10% fewer permits than in 2015. Resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving first and second permits.



WMU 9G

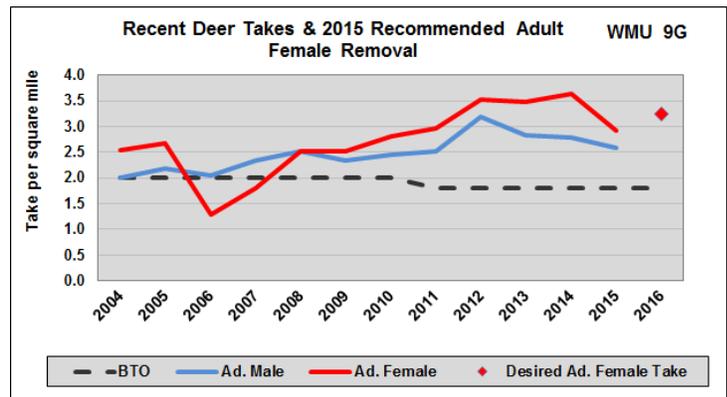
Area = 230 mile²

BTO = 1.8 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 2.6 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 6.7 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9G includes portions of Erie and Chautauqua counties sloping west toward Lake Erie. This unit includes a mix of suburban residential areas, large vineyards, old farm fields mixed with hardwood and occasional conifer stands. The southern portion of 9G is primarily agricultural.

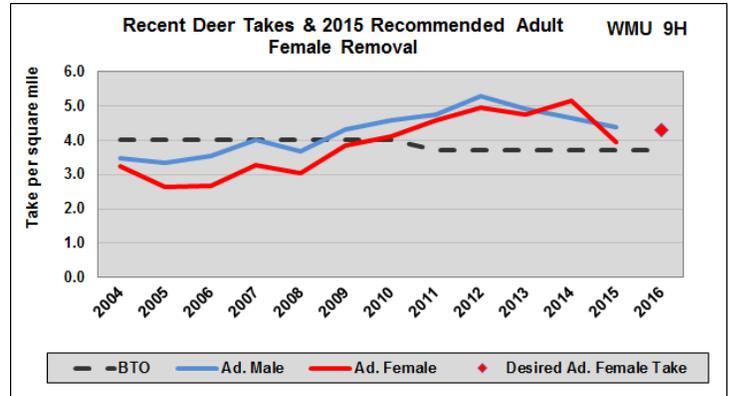


Hunters in this unit will need to arrange access to private lands, as there are no public hunting areas available. The deer population in this unit remains larger than desired, though high antlerless harvests in recent years appear to be initiating the desired reduction. Too the long winter of 2014-15 likely aided in reducing the population. We intend to issue the same number of DMPs this fall, to further reduce the population toward objective and counter any rebound induced by strong survivorship through this past very mild winter and good fawn production this spring. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving first and second permits.

WMU 9H

Area = 973 mile²
 BTO = 3.7 bucks harvested per mile²
 2015 Buck Take = 4.4 bucks harvested per mile²
 2015 Total Deer Take = 9.9 deer harvested per mile²

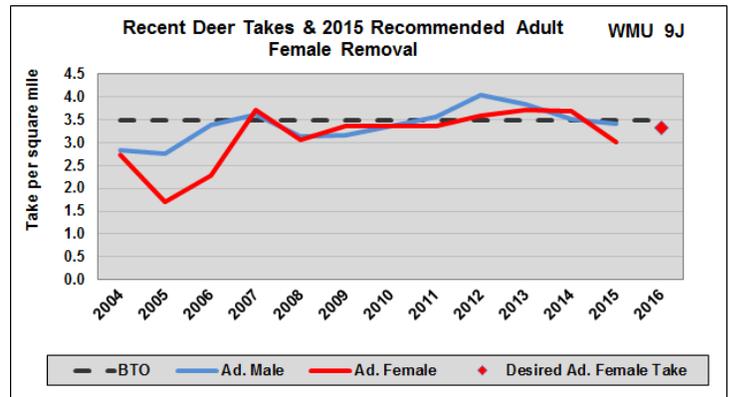
This large WMU includes portions of Erie and Wyoming Counties. Although there is limited public access in this unit, it is well known for producing some of the best quality bucks in Western New York. The unit includes some residential areas, but the majority of this heavily hunted unit is either agricultural or mature forest. Rolling hills make up the majority of the landscape, with many freshwater wetlands interspersed. Visiting hunters should consider Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area (MUA) or Sulphur Springs Hill Cooperative Hunting Area. Similar to neighboring WMU 9G, the deer population in 9H has been above objective for several years, but recent harvests indicate the population is slowly declining toward objective. With an 8.5% reduction in DMPs, resident applicants will still have a high probability of receiving first and second permits. Non-residents will have a high probability for a first permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



WMU 9J

Area = 694 mile²
 BTO = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile²
 2015 Buck Take = 3.4 bucks harvested per mile²
 2015 Total Deer Take = 7.7 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9J is situated entirely in Chautauqua County and is characterized by gentle hills sloping toward Lake Erie. This unit is highly agricultural with many large family farms and vineyards. The southwest corner of the unit contains some large freshwater wetlands. Visiting hunters should consider Watts Flats WMA or any one of the many NYSDEC state forests. The deer population in WMU 9J has fluctuated near the objective level for about the past decade, and management efforts are geared toward maintaining stability at this level. The number of permits issued this year will increase slightly from 2015. Resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first permit, and a low probability of receiving a second permit. Non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



WMU 9K

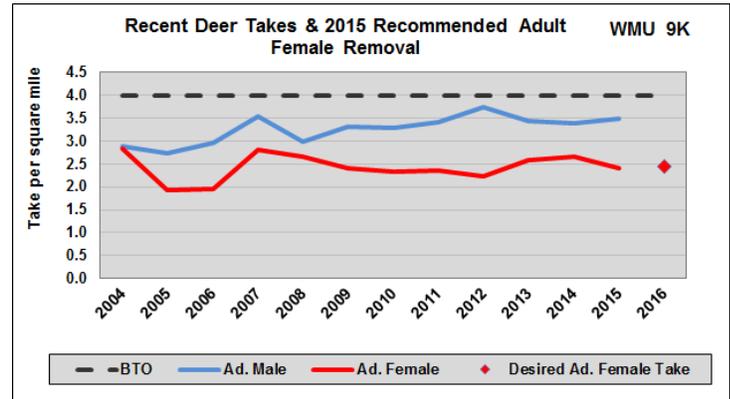
Area = 446 mile²

BTO = 4.0 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 6.9 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9K includes portions of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. Mostly rural bottomland, this unit is predominantly agricultural with some large stands of hardwood forests and an occasional conifer stand. The unit has limited public access, and visiting hunters should consider Canadaway Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) or a number of NYSDEC state forests. The deer population in 9K has stabilized slightly below the objective level. In effort to induce modest population growth, we reduced DMP allocation in 2015 and will again allocate for a similar adult female harvest in 2016. Resident applicants without preference points will have a medium probability of receiving a first permit. There will be no second permits for resident hunters, and no permits will be available to non-resident hunters.



WMU 9M

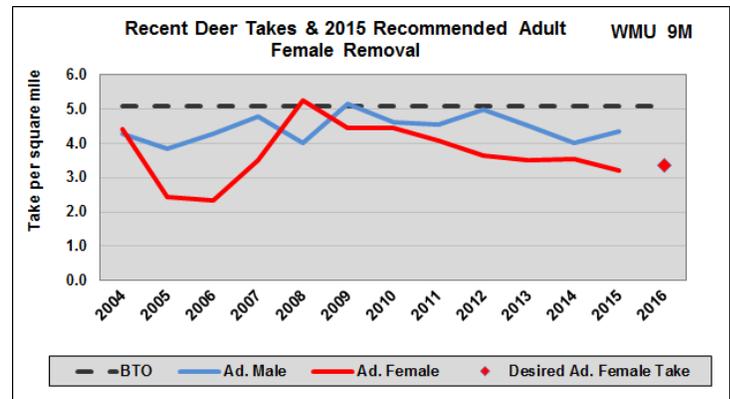
Area = 330 mile²

BTO = 5.1 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 4.3 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 8.8 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9M is entirely located within Cattaraugus County and is typified by rolling hills and a mix of hardwood forest and agricultural lands. Some larger conifer forests exist on the southern end of this unit. WMU 9M has relatively little public access for hunting, and visiting hunters should consider Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area or the few state forest tracts in the southern part of the unit. The deer population in this unit is slightly below the objective level but is expected to be growing as a result of intentionally reduced antlerless harvests last year followed by the exceptionally mild winter. For 2015, there will be a 13% increase in antlerless permits, still slightly below the recent average in DMP availability. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first permit, and a low probability of receiving a second permit. Non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



WMU 9N

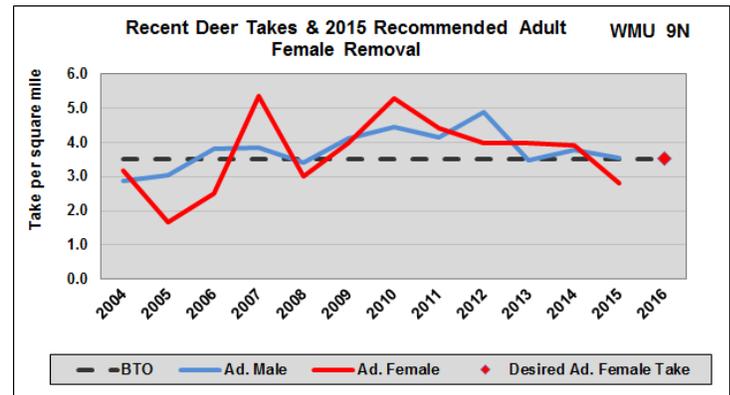
Area = 207 mile²

BTO = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 7.5 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9N includes portions of Allegany, Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties and is comprised of rolling hills and large tracts of hardwood forest throughout, with the occasional wetland area. This unit is sparsely occupied with family farms and has limited public access for hunting. Hunters looking for public access should consider either Lost Nation State Forest or Swift Hill State Forest. After several years above objective, the deer population in this unit has been near objective level the past 3 years. We reduced antlerless harvest in 2015 to counter impact of deer mortality during the harsh 2014-15 winter. After the mild winter this past year, we increased the DMP allocation back toward a more average level. Resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first permit, and a medium probability of receiving a second permit. Non-resident applicants will



have a high probability of receiving a first permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.

WMU 9P

Area = 582 mile²

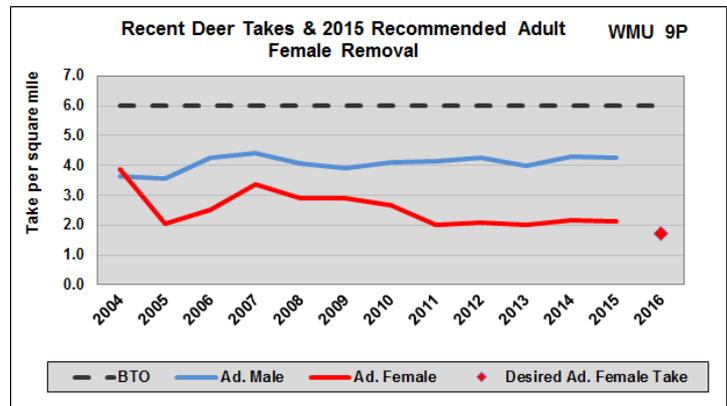
BTO = 6.0 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 4.3 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 7.1 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9P is situated primarily in Allegany County but includes small portions of Livingston and Steuben Counties. With large rolling hills, this unit is more heavily forested with a good mix of hardwood and conifer forests. Some rural agriculture exists in the lower elevations. WMU

9P has a large amount of public property open to hunting. Visiting hunters should consider Keaney Swamp WMA, Rattlesnake Hill WMA or a host of state forest properties throughout this unit. The deer population in this unit has flatlined below the rather high objective level, but is still well above the average harvest and population density across the state. We have maintained conservative DMP availability for the past 5 years in effort to stimulate growth modest growth. Take by bow and muzzleloader hunters has increased, as has participation in the Deer Management Assistance Program, likely a response to the reduced number of DMPs. Still, this year we intend to cut antlerless permits further to capitalize on good survival through the mild winter and good production this spring. Resident applicants will need preference points to be eligible for a first permit. There will be no second permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents.



WMU 9R

Area = 218 mile²

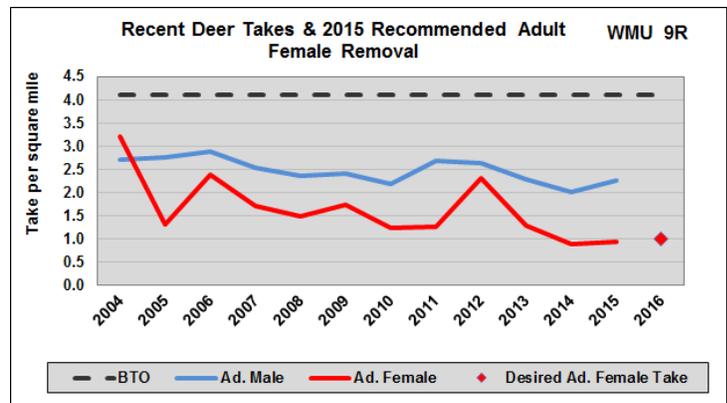
BTO = 4.1 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 2.3 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 3.5 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9R is situated primarily in Cattaraugus County on the foothills of the Allegany Mountains. The eastern boundary of this unit is made up of valleys and lowlands associated with the Allegany Reservoir. The unit is more heavily forested than areas to the north. There are several

parcels of state land in WMU 9R that provide opportunities for hunting. Hunters looking for public access should consider South Valley State Forest or Bucktooth State Forest. The mature forests and lack of early successional habitat make for poor deer hunting relative to neighboring units to the west and north. Though, hunters pursuing black bears will have good opportunities here. The deer population in this unit remains below the rather high objective and is still recovering from an over-issuance of DMPs in 2012. Therefore we will need to remain conservative in our approach to antlerless harvest. The number of available antlerless permits will remain the same as 2015. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident hunters will need preference points in order to be eligible for a first permit. There will be no second permits available to resident hunters. There will be no DMP's available to non-residents.



WMU 9S

Area = 92 mile²

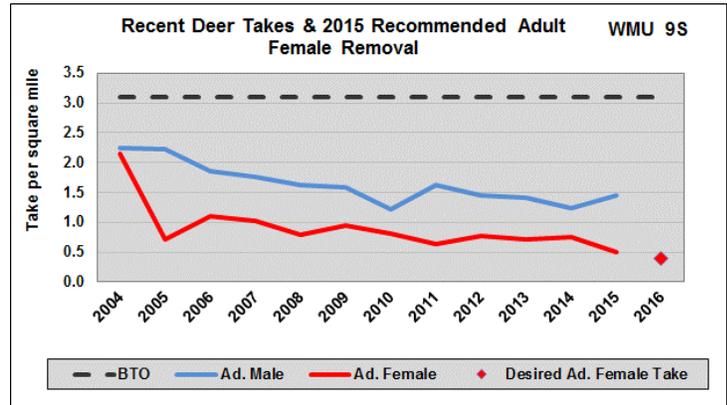
BTO = 3.1 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 1.5 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 2.2 deer harvested per mile²

Recreational hunting is a primary use for Allegany State Park, which comprises most of WMU 9S. This unit has the most public land available in western New York, being almost entirely forested with a good combination of hardwood and mixed forest. A few larger water bodies exist within this unit, including the Allegany Reservoir.

Ample opportunities for hunting exist, but separate hunting permits must be secured from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for hunting within the Park. The large wooded tracts and limited road access within WMU 9S are unique in western New York. The population of deer in this unit remains well below the objective level, and harvests may be as affected by hunter effort within the Park as by overall population levels. There will be a reduction in the number of antlerless permits this year. Resident applicants will need preference points to be eligible for a first permit. There will be no second permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents



WMU 9T

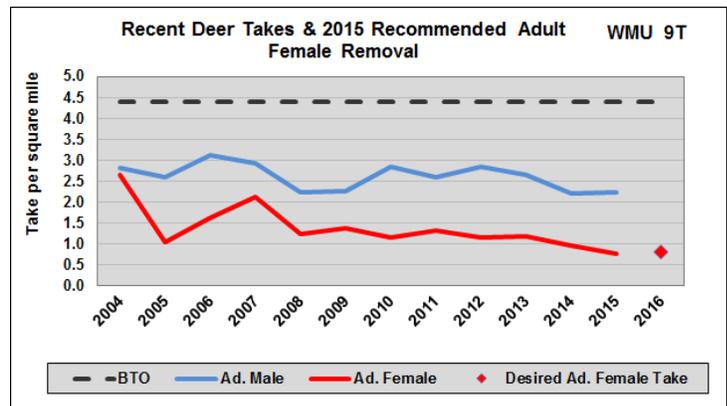
Area = 248 mile²

BTO = 4.4 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 2.2 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 3.3 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9T is located in Cattaraugus County and contains a small amount of public hunting access. The unit is primarily forested, though a few small family farms are interspersed across the landscape. Hunters requiring public access should consider Golden Hill State Forest and Windfall Creek State Forest. As in neighboring units in the extreme southern tier, deer populations in 9T have remained well below the rather high objective level for several years. The number of available antlerless permits will remain the same as 2015. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident hunters will need preference points in order to be eligible for a first permit. There will be no second permits available to resident hunters. There will be no DMP's available to non-residents.



WMU 9W

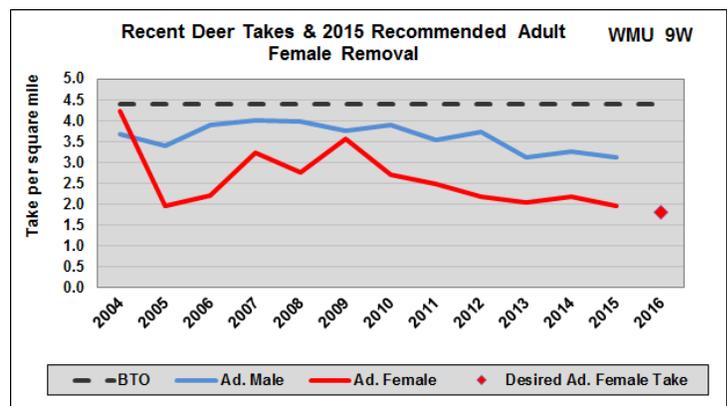
Area = 250 mile²

BTO = 4.4 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 3.1 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 5.9 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9W includes portions of Cattaraugus and Allegany counties and is similar in character to WMU 9N. The unit is heavily forested with a number of medium sized farms in the northern portion. WMU 9W contains several areas with public access for hunting, and visiting hunters should consider Hanging Bog WMA or Bush Hill State Forest. The deer population in this unit has declined steadily over the past 5 years, and we have been easing back on antlerless harvest accordingly. The number of permits to be issued for 2016 will again be reduced slightly. Resident applicants will have a low probability of receiving a first permit. There will be no second permits available to residents. There will be no permits available to non-residents.



WMU 9X

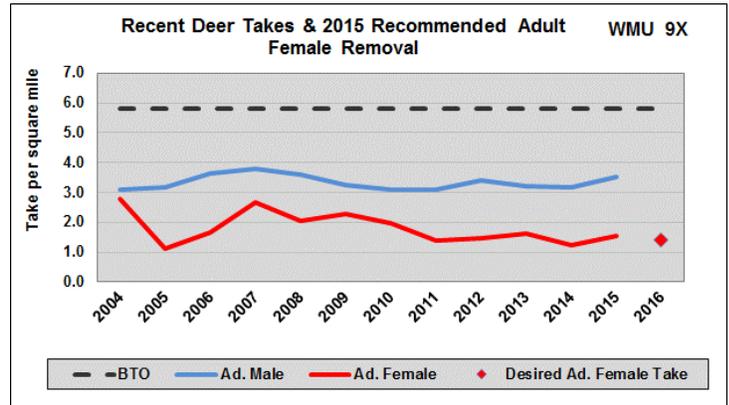
Area = 219 mile²

BTO = 5.8 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 5.6 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9X is situated in Allegany and Cattaraugus counties and has no public lands accessible for hunting. This unit is characterized by large forested ridges running north-south as waters drain south into Pennsylvania. Mostly mixed hardwood forest, the unit does include a spattering of small farms and a few wetlands. As in neighboring units, the deer population in WMU 9X has stabilized below the objective for several years. However, the objective, based on prior public input, is exceptionally high and should be re-evaluated. The number of available antlerless permits will remain the same as 2015. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident hunters will need preference points in order to be eligible for a first permit. There will be no second permits available to resident hunters. There will be no DMP's available to non-residents.



WMU 9Y

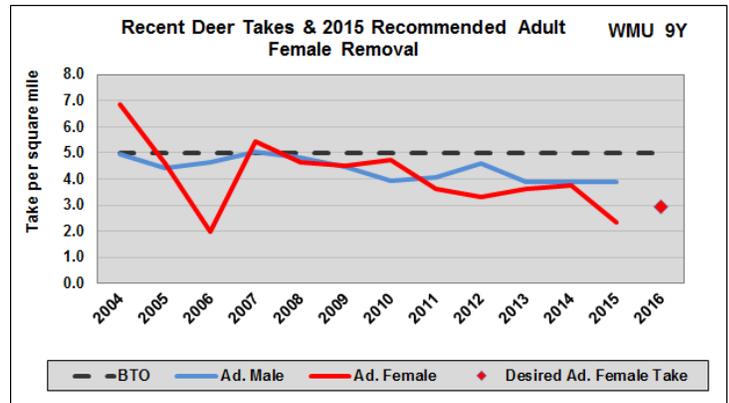
Area = 125 mile²

BTO = 5.0 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Buck Take = 3.9 bucks harvested per mile²

2015 Total Deer Take = 7.2 deer harvested per mile²

WMU 9Y is located in southeastern Allegany county. Mostly forested, this unit is comprised of round topped hills and valley floors. Little agriculture is found here, but the occasional family farm does exist. There is little public access to hunting lands in this unit. Hunters requiring access to public lands should consider either Phillips Creek State Forest or Vandermark State Forest. Hunters are advised to heed WMU boundary descriptions, as both state forest properties span the boundary between WMU's 9P and 9Y. Buck harvests in this unit have been relatively stable but slightly below the objective level. We reduced the DMP allocation in 2015 and will hold it at the same level in 2016. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident hunters will have a high probability of receiving a first permit. There will be no second permits available to residents. There will be no permits available to non-residents.



Ken Baginski

Region 9 Wildlife Manager