



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Note: The 2016 Deer Management Update was simulcast to audiences gathered throughout the state and to online participants on May 10 and May 12, 2016.

Slide notes may be viewed by placing your cursor over or double clicking the small message icon  in the upper left corner of the slides.

NY Deer Management Update - 2016



NY Deer Management Update - 2016

May 10, 2016

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Albany County | - Jeremy Hurst (Big Game Unit Leader) |
| Columbia County | - Michael Clark (Region 4 Wildlife Manager) |
| Dutchess County | - Kevin Clarke (Region 3 Wildlife Biologist) |
| Erie County | - Ken Baginski (Region 9 Wildlife Manager) |
| Franklin County | - Ed Reed (Region 5 Wildlife Manager) |
| Jefferson County | - Steve Heerkens (Region 6 Wildlife Biologist)
James Farquhar (Region 6 Wildlife Manager) |
| Monroe County | - Art Kirsch (Region 8 Wildlife Biologist) |
| Onondaga County | - Courtney LaMere (Region 7 Wildlife Biologist) |
| Orange County | - Jonathan Russell (Region 3 Wildlife Biologist) |
| Otsego County | - Larry Bifaro (Region 4 Wildlife Biologist) |
| Suffolk County | - Leslie Lupo (Region 1 Wildlife Biologist) |



Photo: Dave Spier



NY Deer Management Update – 2016

May 12, 2016

- Albany County - Jeremy Hurst (Big Game Unit Leader)
- Cattaraugus County - Ken Baginski (Region 9 Wildlife Manager)
- Cortland County - Courtney LaMere (Region 7 Wildlife Biologist)
- Nassau County - Leslie Lupo (Region 1 Wildlife Biologist)
- Oneida County - Steve Heerkens (Region 6 Wildlife Biologist)
- Saratoga County - Ed Reed (Region 5 Wildlife Manager)
- Steuben County - Art Kirsch (Region 8 Wildlife Biologist)
- St. Lawrence County - James Farquhar (Region 6 Wildlife Manager)
- Ulster County - Jonathan Russell (Region 3 Wildlife Biologist)



Photo: Dave Spier



NY Deer Management Update - 2016

Overview of NY Deer Management Plan

Deer Management Process

Completed Projects

Buck Harvest Management

Current Management Priorities

Ongoing Projects

Q & A

Feedback



Photo: Dave Spier



An Important Resource



NY Deer Management Plan



Photo: Dick Thomas

Environmental Conservation Law 11-0303:

Maintain wildlife numbers with consideration of ecological concerns, land uses, recreational values and public safety.



Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in New York State 2012-2016



Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
Bureau of Wildlife

October 2011

NY Deer Management Plan

1. Population Management

appropriate for human and ecological concerns

2. Hunting & Recreation

an important tradition and management tool

3. Conflict & Damage Management

reduce negative impacts caused by deer



NY Deer Management Plan

4. Education & Communication

foster understanding about deer ecology;
enhance our understanding of public interests

5. Deer Habitat

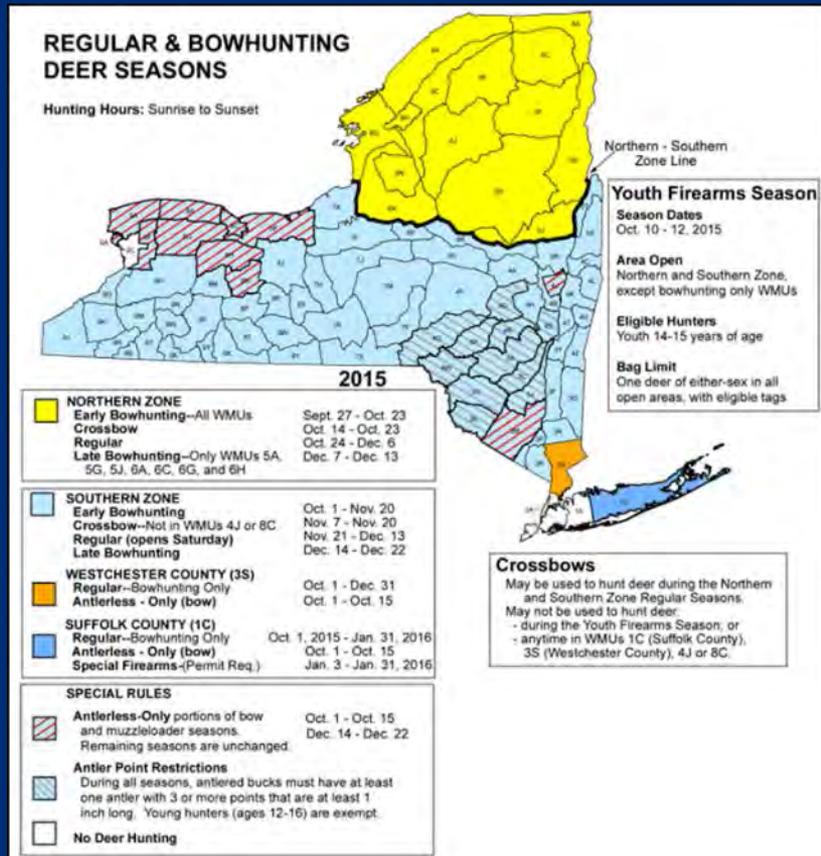
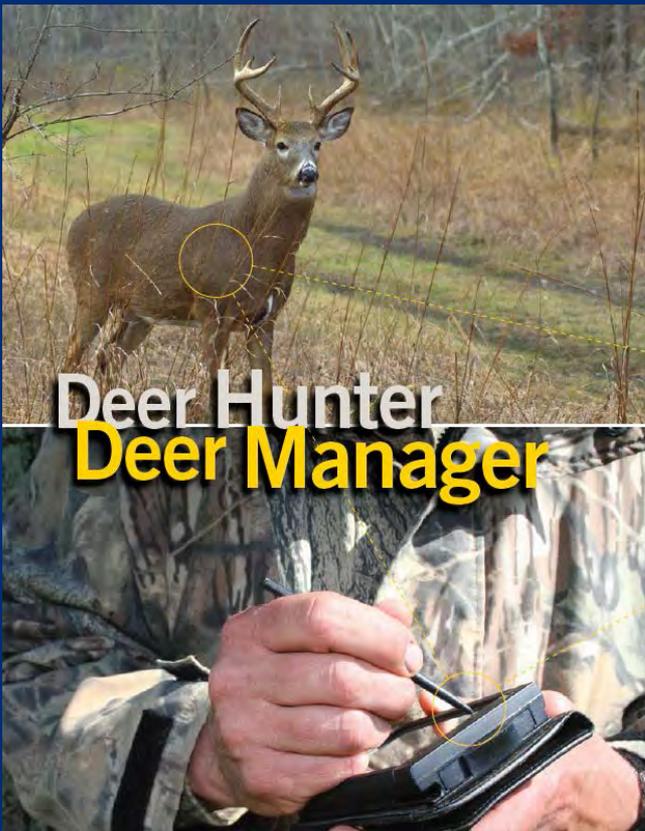
promote healthy and sustainable forests

6. Operational Resources

ensure necessary resources are available



Deer Hunting is Deer Management



Deer Management Process

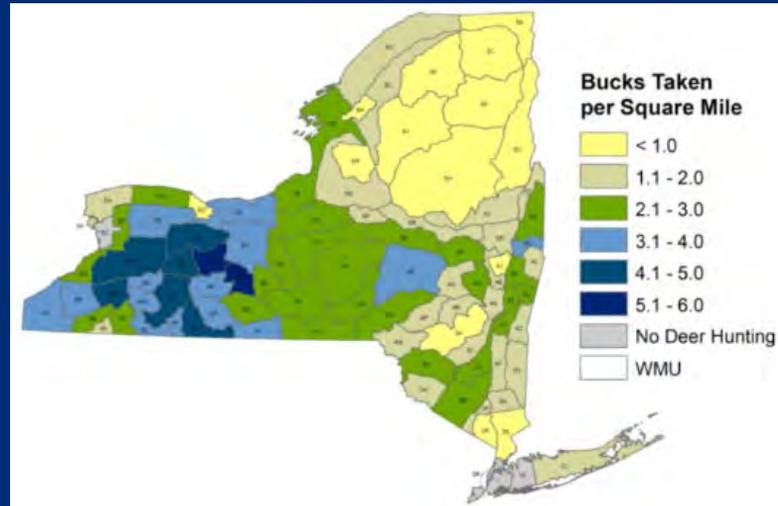
Primary Data

Harvest

- density, distribution
- sex, age, physical condition

Bowhunter Sighting Log

Winter Severity

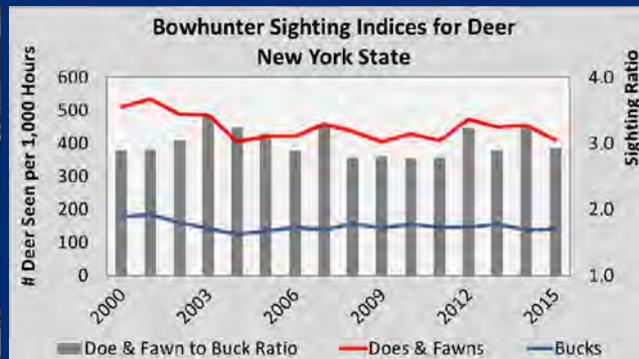


In Development

Deer-Forest Impacts

Hunter Effort

Regular Season Sighting Rates



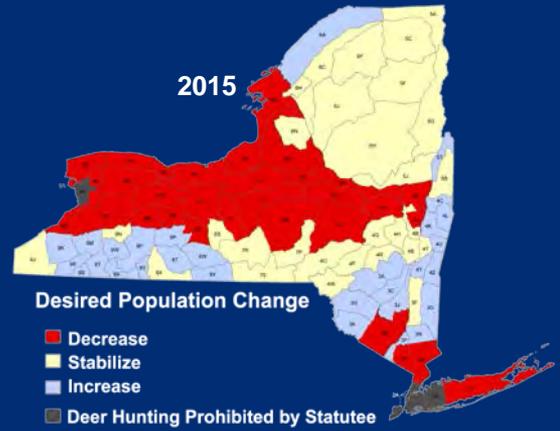
Deer Management Process



Forest Impacts
&
Public Input



Management
Direction



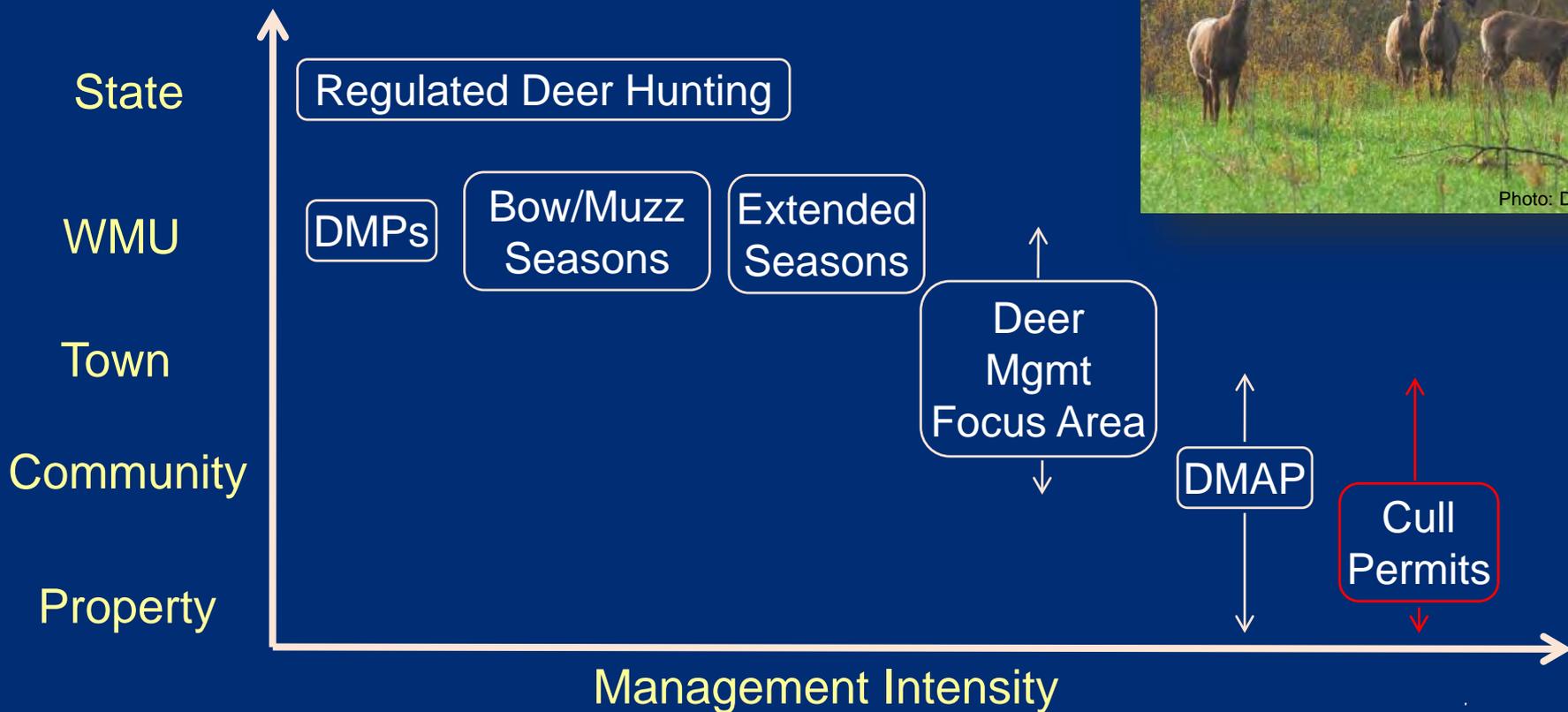
Assess
Population
Trends

Adjust DMPs,
Seasons

Hunt



Deer Management Process



Deer Management Rules

Law (Elected)

vs.

Regulation (DEC)

Crossbow

Discharge Setbacks

Discharge Ordinances

Penalties

License Fees

Bait, lights, sale of venison

Suffolk / Westchester

Rifle, Shotgun, Bow-only
counties

Season Dates

Tags: Regular, Bow, Muzz

Doe Tags (except ADKs)

DMAP

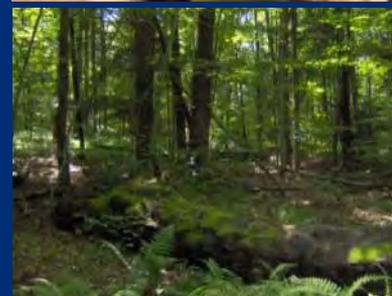
Youth Hunt

Hunting hours

WMU boundaries

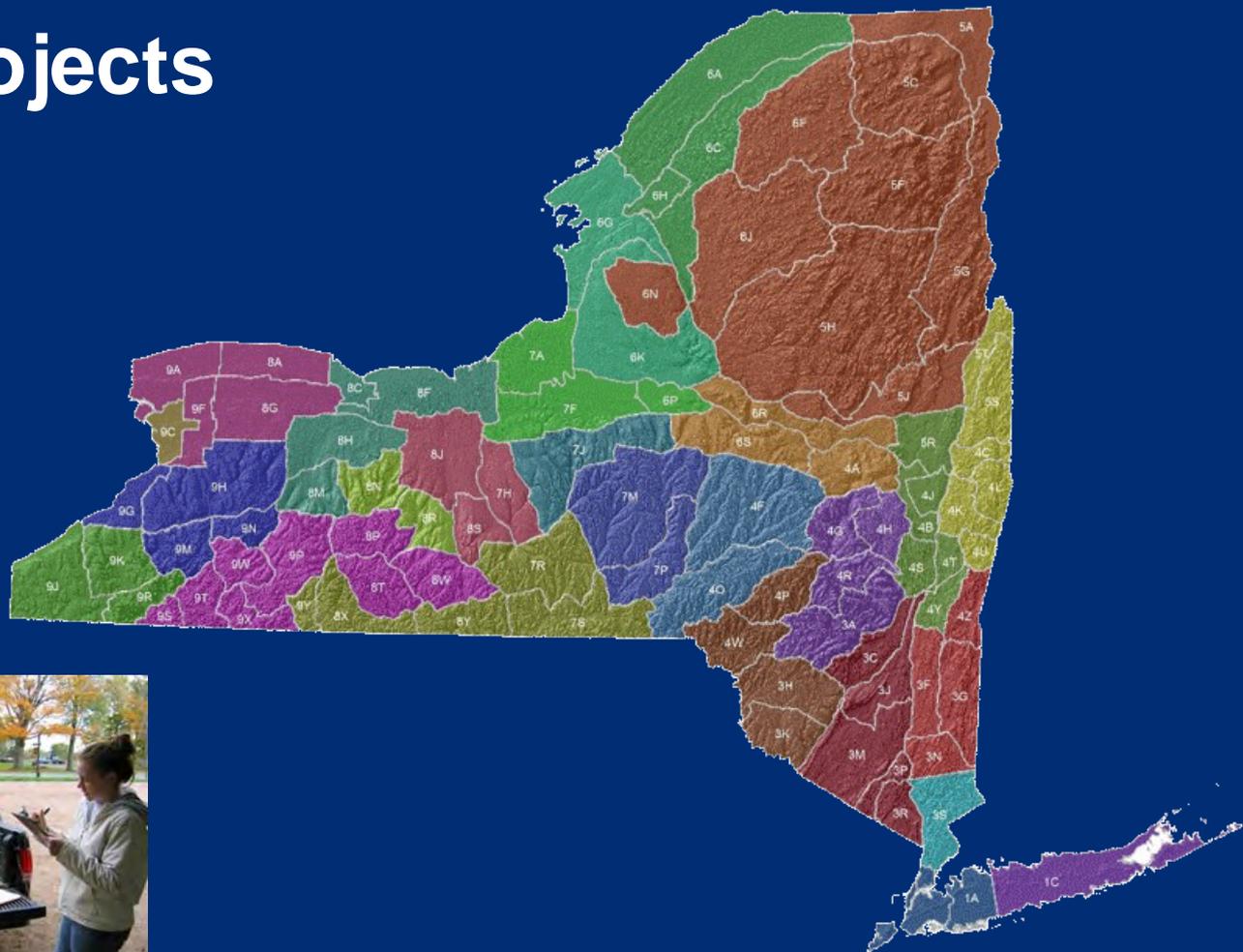


Photo: Dave Spier



Completed Projects

WMU Aggregates



Completed Projects

WMU Aggregates

Chronic Wasting Disease

Surveillance Plan

Interagency Response Plan

Risk Assessment



SURVEILLANCE PLAN FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN NEW YORK STATE 2013-2014



Illustration by Jean Gawell

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center
August 2013

Completed Projects

WMU Aggregates

CWD Risk Assessment & Surveillance Plan

Expanded Deer Hunting Opportunities

Youth Deer Hunt

Lengthened Bow Season

(NZ, SZ, Westchester & Suffolk)

Increased DMP flexibility in some NZ units



Completed Projects

WMU Aggregates

CWD Risk Assessment & Surveillance Plan

Expanded Hunting Opportunities

Enhanced Deer Management Assistance
Program



Photo: Dick Thomas

Completed Projects

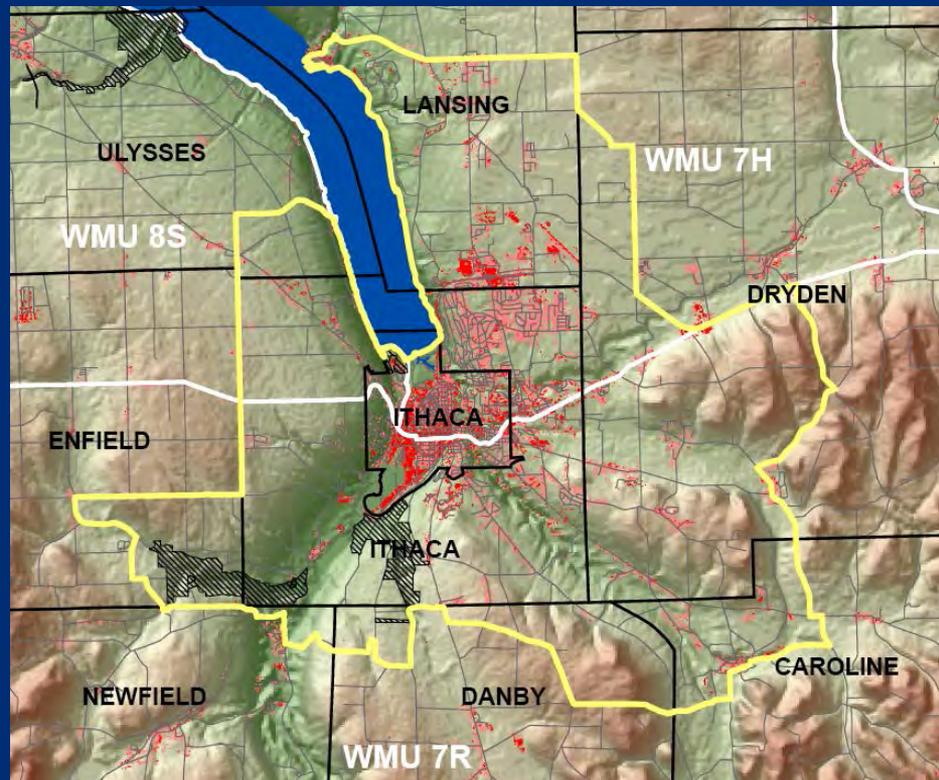
WMU Aggregates

CWD Risk Assessment & Surveillance Plan

Expanded Hunting Opportunities

Enhanced DMAP

Deer Management Focus Area



Completed Projects

WMU Aggregates

CWD Risk Assessment & Surveillance Plan

Expanded Hunting Opportunities

Enhanced DMAP

Deer Management Focus Area

Coyote Study

Commentary

Can Managers Compensate for Coyote Predation of White-Tailed Deer?

Research indicates coyote predation on deer in East manageable



Completed Projects

WMU Aggregates

CWD Risk Assessment & Surveillance Plan

Expanded Hunting Opportunities

Enhanced DMAP

Deer Management Focus Area

Coyote Study

**Structured Decision Making (SDM) for Buck
Management**



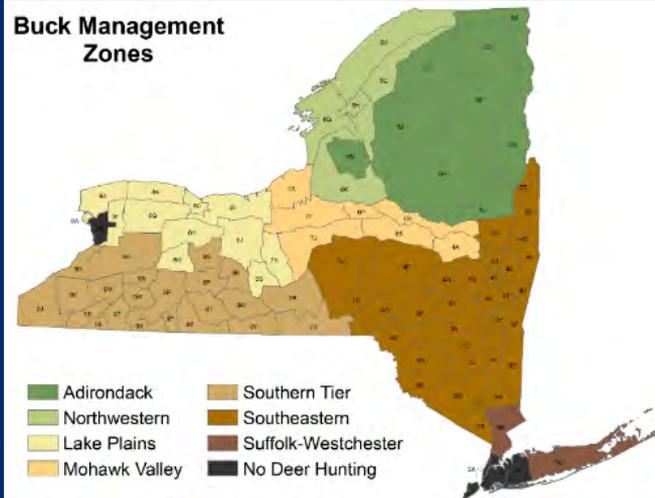
Change Buck Hunting Rules?



55% greatly value a better chance to take a large antlered buck.
57% greatly value maintaining their freedom to choose.

SDM for Buck Management

Buck Management Zones



SDM for Buck Management

Objectives

Maximize Hunter Satisfaction

- Opportunity to see/take a big buck
- ... any buck
- ... any deer
- Other (hunting opportunity, complexity)

Minimize Deer Management Impacts

Minimize Management Costs



SDM for Buck Management

Alternatives...more than one way to satisfy the objectives!

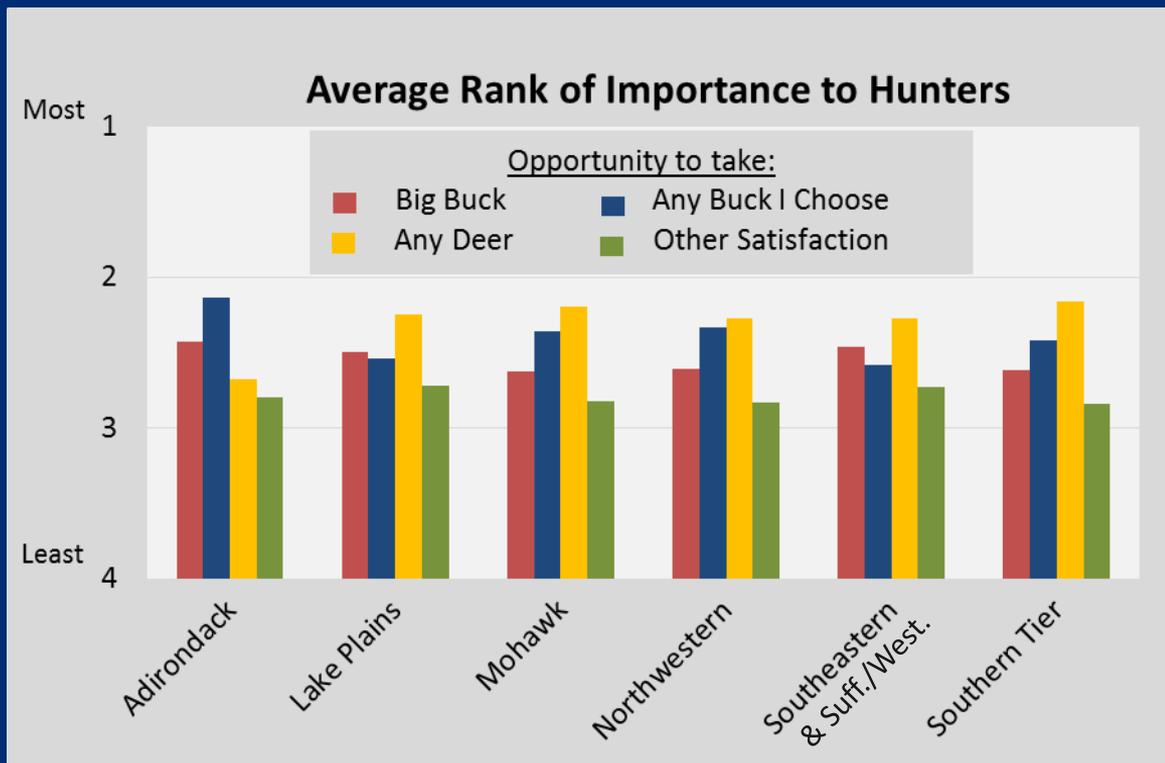
- Mandatory ARs – all seasons
- Mandatory ARs – part season
- 1-buck bag limit
- Shorten regular season
- Actively promote voluntary restraint
- No change

Big Buck	Maximize Hunter Satisfaction
Any Buck	
Any Deer	
Other	
Minimize Mgmt. Impact	
Minimize Cost	



SDM for Buck Management

What do hunters value?



SDM for Buck Management

Maximize Hunter Satisfaction

- Opportunity to see/take a big buck
- ... any buck
- ... any deer
- Other (hunting opportunity, complexity)

75%



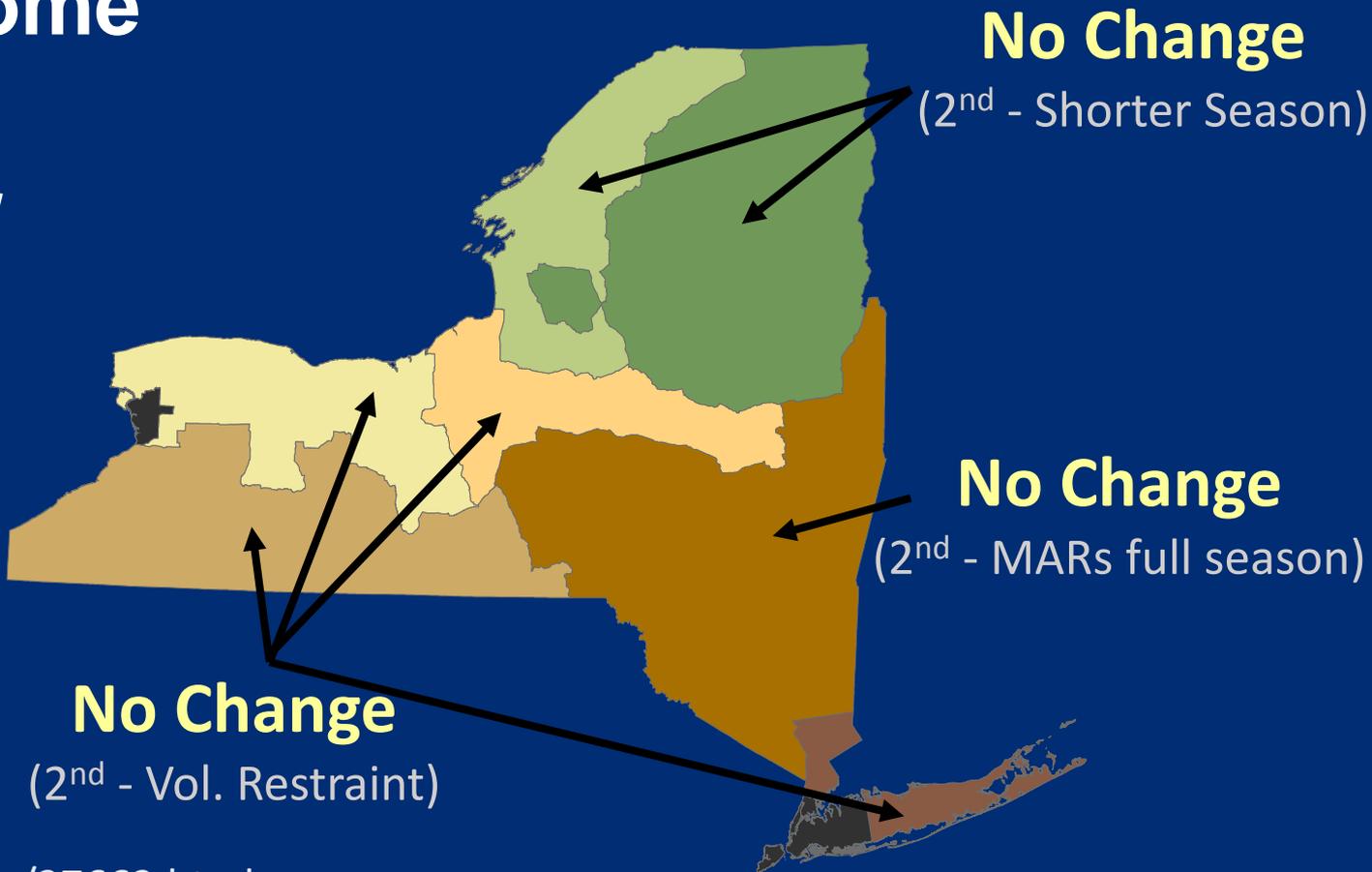
Minimize Deer Management Impacts

15%

Minimize Management Costs

10%

SDM Outcome



Encourage Voluntary Restraint

*Hunters want more large bucks
AND
the freedom to choose.*



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Q & A

Feedback

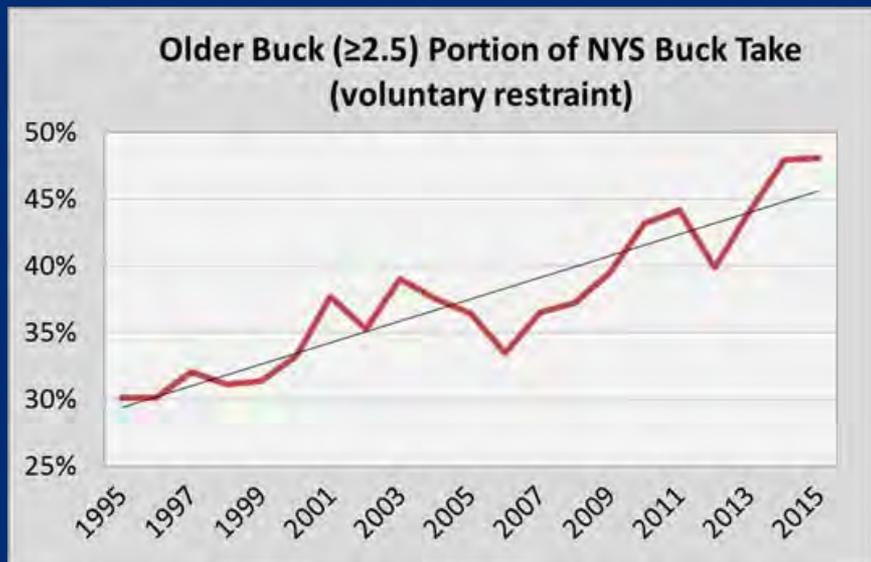


Photo: Dave Spier

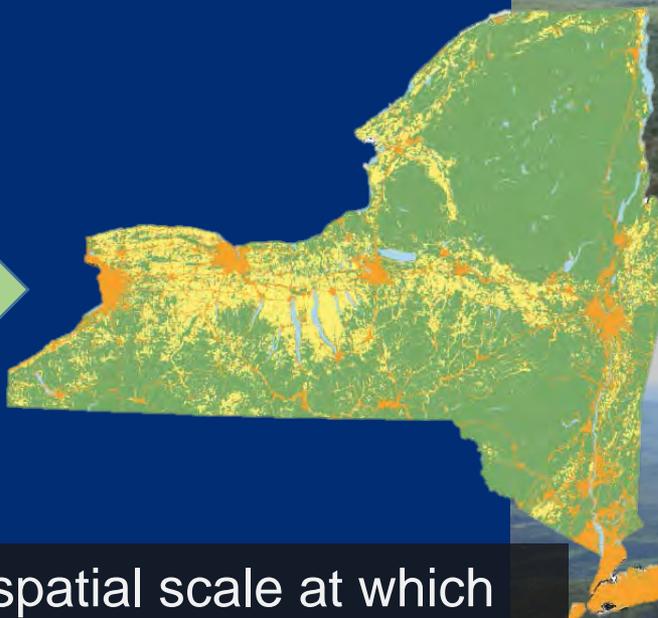


Reduce Yearling Buck Harvest by Choice

Hunters' Choices
Matter!



Monitor Deer Impacts on Forests



Align the spatial scale at which deer impacts are studied and at which deer are managed

Monitor Deer Impacts on Forests

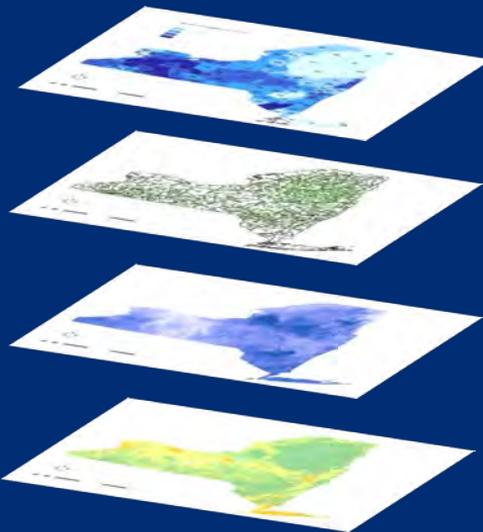
Landscape analysis – modeling seedling abundance

Relative deer abundance

Forest stand variables

Climate variables

Land cover variables



Monitor Deer Impacts on Forests

Monitor Impacts with Local Data

*Deer Impact Assessment Project
Find out if Deer are Affecting Your
Woodland - Get Involved Today!*



AVID

Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer



*A Rapid Assessment Method for
Evaluating Deer Impacts to Forest Vegetation*

DRAFT

ESF

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Revise the Citizen Task Force process

Pilot Area



Residents' attitudes about deer and deer management in the Central Finger Lakes Management Unit



December 2015

FDRT Series No. 15-10

Prepared by

William F. Simon, Emily F. Zimmerman,
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Cornell University
Department of Natural Resources
Human Dimensions Research Unit

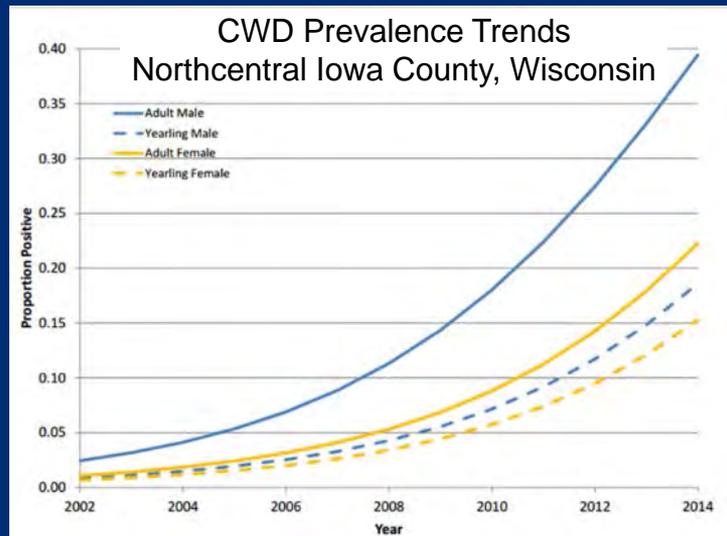
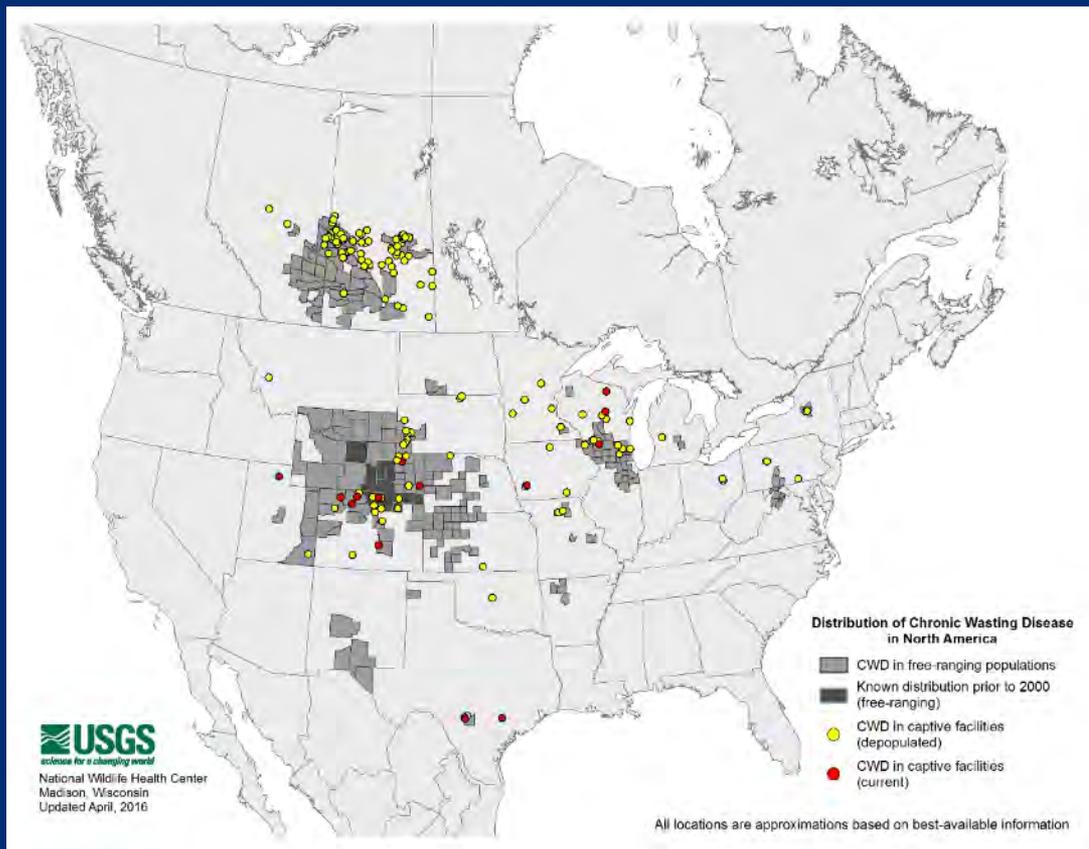


Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Adopt an Interagency CWD Prevention Plan



Adopt an Interagency CWD Prevention Plan

Potential Avenues of Introduction



Prevention is the Best Method of Disease Control!

Increase Antlerless Harvest Where Needed

Phase 1: Expand Bonus DMPs

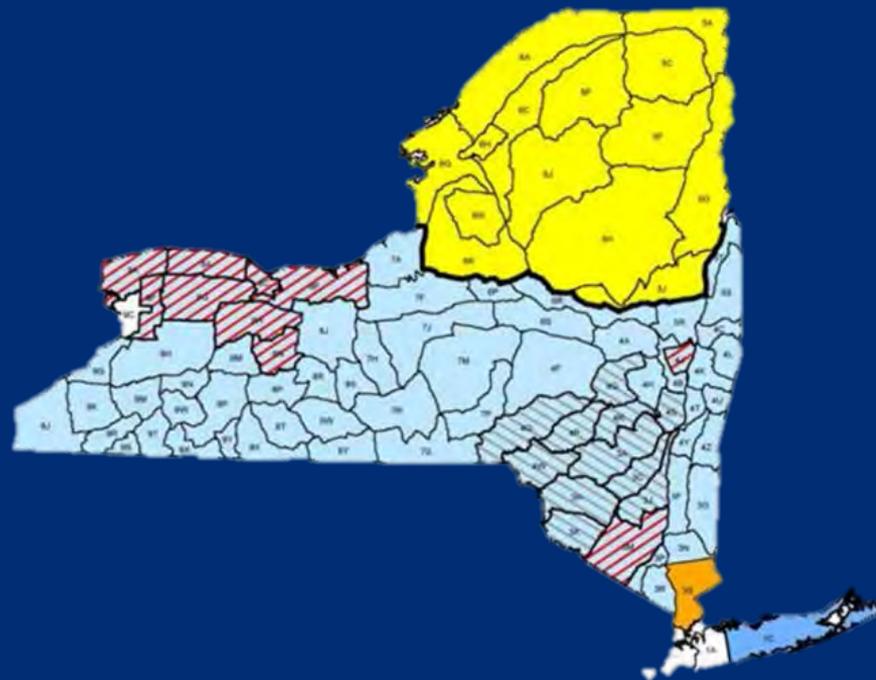
X

Phase 2: Antlerless-only portion of
bow & muzzleloader Season

X

Phase 3: Special antlerless-only
muzzleloader season

?



Urban - Suburban Deer Management

*An Ecological and
Social Imperative*



Urban - Suburban Deer Management

Community responsibility & commitment

Local & state law changes likely needed

Partner with hunters

Sharpshooters may be needed

Fertility control alone is not effective

Integrated, Progressive, Strategic



Other Issues – Beyond Deer Management



Non-Lead
Ammunition



Hunter Recruitment
& Retention



Hunting Access

*We Want
Your Input!*



[www.dec.ny.gov/animals/
57795.html#input](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/57795.html#input)



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