

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Virgil Moore, Director**

**Surveys and Inventories**

**FY2015/2016 Statewide Report**



**PRONGHORN**

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016

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## **STATEWIDE REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY**

**JOB TITLE:** Pronghorn Surveys and Inventories

**STUDY NAME:** Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

**PERIOD COVERED:** July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016

### **STATEWIDE**

#### **Summary**

A total of 21,569 hunters (20,578 resident hunters and 991 non-resident hunters) applied for 2,040 controlled pronghorn tags offered in 2014. Forty-four different limited controlled hunts were offered in Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon regions and generally ran from 25 September to 24 October. In addition, 2,770 hunters participated in 5 unlimited entry controlled archery pronghorn seasons, converted from general season archery hunts in prior years in 32 Game Management Units (GMUs). Sixty-five tags were offered in 2014 for youth hunters (12-17 years of age) to take pronghorn.

An estimated 3,929 controlled hunt tag holders hunted pronghorn and harvested 1,567 pronghorn in 14,015 days of hunting.

A total of 24,613 hunters (23,436 resident hunters and 1,177 non-resident hunters) applied for 2,270 controlled pronghorn tags offered in 2015. Forty-four different limited controlled hunts were offered in Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon regions and generally ran from 25 September to 24 October. In addition, 2,894 hunters participated in 5 unlimited entry controlled archery pronghorn seasons, converted from general season archery hunts in prior years in 32 GMUs. Sixty-five tags were offered in 2015 for youth hunters (12-17 years of age) to take pronghorn.

An estimated 4,191 controlled hunt tag holders hunted pronghorn and harvested 1,984 pronghorn in 13,980 days of hunting.

#### **Introduction**

Pronghorn populations in Idaho vary from low to moderate density. In general, Idaho's pronghorn habitats do not support the population numbers that are characteristic of high-quality habitats in Wyoming and Montana. Low annual precipitation, range conditions, and conflicts with private landowners are probably important reasons for the differences. However, Camas, Birch Creek, Medicine Lodge, Little Wood, Big Lost, and Little Lost valleys support herds at higher densities than elsewhere in the state.

The 2014/2015 pronghorn season structure is presented in the Appendix.

In the Idaho 1991-1995 Pronghorn Management Plan, the pronghorn GMUs were divided into 5 groups of GMUs with similar attributes and hunting opportunities (Figure 1). Knowledge of the

opportunities present in these units will allow hunters to select the type of area and hunting experience they prefer. The Department's objective is to provide a variety of opportunities allowing hunters to match the setting and experience they desire. Variables used to classify units were hunting pressure, pronghorn density and herd composition, road density and condition, natural condition of the environment, and distance from major human population centers.

In Group 1 GMUs, hunting pressure is light or dispersed and generally occurs in areas of high aesthetic appeal away from major human population centers. Roads often traverse rough terrain, are of poor quality, and are limited in number. Pronghorn numbers may be low or moderate, but the opportunity to harvest a mature buck is high. Management objectives for Group 1 hunts include: 1) maintain an average horn length of 12.0 inches in the firearm buck harvest, and 2) maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 50:100.

Group 2 GMUs can provide a full range of opportunities to hunters. Pronghorn numbers are moderate, supporting higher hunter densities, higher harvest, and higher success rates in many GMUs. Doe/fawn pronghorn hunts are often offered in these GMUs for population control. Within many of these GMUs, opportunities exist to participate in Group 1 or Group 3 type hunts if desired. Management objectives for Group 2 hunts include: 1) maintain an average horn length of 12.0 inches in the firearm buck harvest, and 2) maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

In general, Group 3 GMUs are characterized by variable hunter and pronghorn densities, high road densities, and motorized vehicle use. Availability of pronghorn bucks is limited. Private ownership of, and restricted access to, pronghorn habitat is high in most GMUs and has resulted in depredation problems that often dictate hunting season structure and harvest levels. Management objectives for Group 3 hunts include: 1) maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

With the exception of GMUs 48 and 54, no hunts are offered in Group 4 and Group 5 GMUs. Although pronghorn are present in GMUs of Group 4, low population numbers and/or low production levels limit harvest opportunity at this time. Portions of Group 5 GMUs were historically pronghorn habitat, but currently support few or no pronghorn.

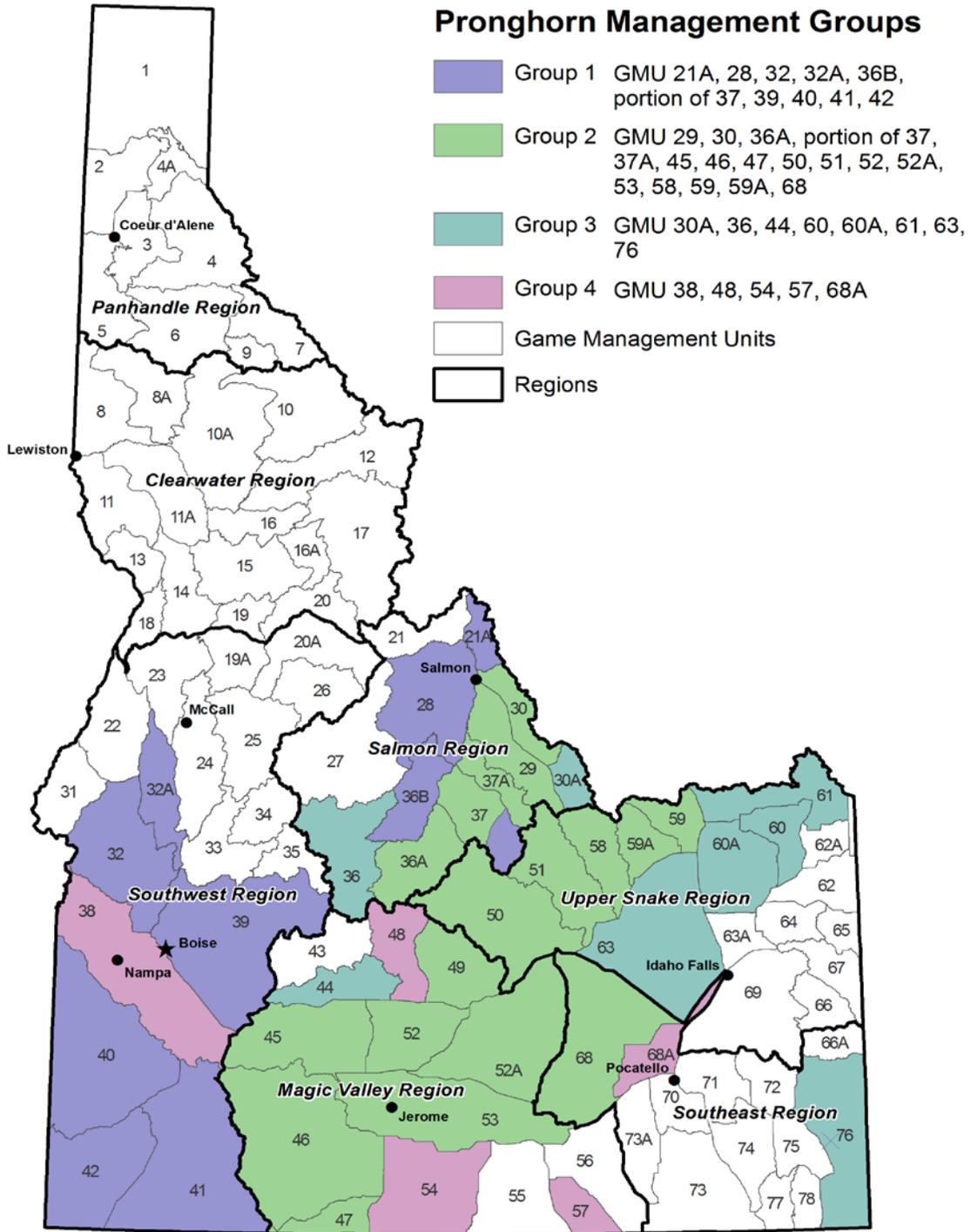


Figure 1. Pronghorn management groups in Idaho.

## Pronghorn Statewide

Statewide Any Weapon and Archery Controlled Hunts		
Square Miles = 34,616	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land = 55%	Hunters	3,485
	Harvest	1,699

Any Weapon	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Tags Issued	1523	1450	1542	1665	1766	1976
Male Harvest	931	870	948	877	928	1062
Female Harvest	174	124	185	274	289	376
Average Horn length	12.3	12.2	12.3	12.5	12.4	12.6

Archery	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Tags Issued	1389	1494	1487	1539	1719	1791
Male Harvest	302	275	331	281	317	471
Female Harvest	45	58	56	65	59	99
Average Horn length	11.7	11.5	12.1	11.7	11.5	11.7

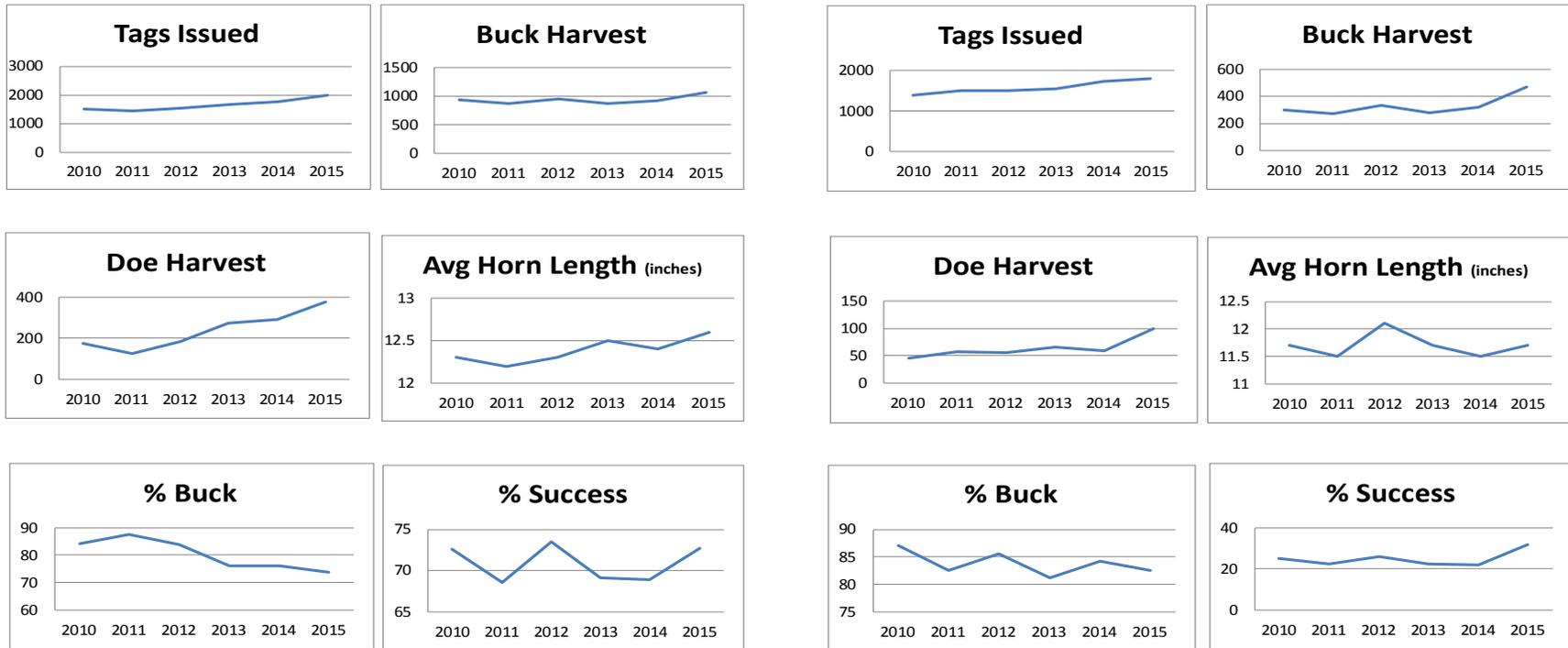


Figure 2. Statewide Pronghorn harvest.

## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Abstract

Group 1 – In 2014, a total of 940 antelope tags were issued and 318 pronghorn were harvested. Hunter success averaged 34%. Average horn length increased in 2014 from 2013, and is comparable with previous years. The minimum management objective for an average horn length of 12 inches was met in all GMUs except 41 in the any weapon hunt, and the late season archery hunt.

There were 899 tags issued in 2015, and 343 pronghorn were harvested. Hunter success averaged 38%. Average horn length during the any weapon hunt exceeded the minimum management objective of 12 inches in all GMUs; however, the average horn length objectives were not met in either archery hunt.

Group 4 - No hunts or surveys took place in this area during the reporting period.

### Group 1 (GMUs 32, 39, 40, 41, 42)

#### Habitat Issues

In Owyhee County, pronghorn habitat is characterized by sagebrush uplands bisected by deep canyons. Domestic livestock grazing is prevalent on most range shared by pronghorn. Much of the pronghorn habitat in GMUs 32 and 39 is under private ownership and many have been converted from native rangeland to plantings of crested wheatgrass or other species to benefit livestock. Additionally, the private land and adjacent public land is grazed heavily and annual grasses have taken over as the dominate plant in a significant portion of habitat.

Pronghorn habitat is largely impacted by range fire, livestock grazing, noxious weed invasion, and low precipitation. Any vegetation manipulation has the ability to impact pronghorn, especially those practices that remove/alter the forb component of the understory and native brush communities. Invasion of noxious weeds and annual grasses is a major threat to pronghorn habitat and these threats should continue to be addressed with the appropriate land management agencies.

A large wildfire burned approximately 10,000 acres in northern GMU 41 in August, 2010. The fire was constrained between Highway 51 and the Bruneau River north of Grassmere. The lower portion of this fire burned in predominately annual grass/crested wheatgrass range with a history of frequent fires. However, where this wildfire burned in the upper elevations, largely between Blackstone Reservoir and the Bruneau River, the fire burned in a mosaic pattern in native sagebrush stands and could improve habitat conditions for pronghorn. This area is used by hundreds of wintering pronghorn.

A lightning caused wildfire burned nearly 50,000 acres between Big Jacks and Little Jacks Creek in the summer of 2012. This area is winter range for several hundred pronghorn. The fire occurred near the elevational transition, where cheat grass may or may not reestablish. If cheat grass is able to take over, pronghorn use will likely decline as the habitat quality will be

significantly lower than if native grasses, forbs, and browse were to reestablish.

In GMUs 32 and 39, the conversion of ranches and agricultural land into ranchettes and planned communities has the ability to significantly reduce the effectiveness of remaining available pronghorn habitat. Several proposed communities in the Mayfield area could potentially bring over 40,000 residents into the area. This huge development, coupled with increased public utilities and roads would severely impact this pronghorn herd. The Mayfield/Mountain Home area of GMU 39 winters over 500 pronghorn. However, only half of those pronghorn are believed to summer in GMU 39. It is speculated that pronghorn are migrating from the Camas Prairie; however, the extent of this migration is unknown.

Additional threats to pronghorn habitat may be power transmission lines that are planned to cross the region, wind power development, and potential effects of military training in the area. Fencing that is not wildlife compatible can impede pronghorn migration throughout the region.

Occasionally a complaint is received about pronghorn depredations, usually during winter in the Little Jacks area or near Jordan Valley; however, complaints are rare, and generally not considered a significant issue for this region.

### **Population Surveys**

No pronghorn surveys were conducted in fiscal year 2015 or 2016.

### **Harvest**

Based on harvest reports, controlled hunt harvest (rifle and muzzleloader) increased from 2013, and is closer to previous years (Figure 3). In 2014, 218 pronghorn were harvested with a success rate of 56%; and in 2015, 195 pronghorn were harvested with a success rate of 53%. Average horn length in 2014 met the minimum management objective of 12 inches in all GMUs except 41. In 2015, average horn length exceeded the minimum management objective in all GMUs (Figures 3 and 4).

An estimated 548 hunters harvested 100 antelope (18% success rate) in 2014. An estimated 36 pronghorn were harvested by 200 hunters on the early (Aug 15-30) controlled hunt, and 64 were harvested by 348 hunters on the unlimited controlled hunt (Sept 10-24).

Approximately 533 hunters harvested 148 pronghorn in 2015, for a success rate of 28%. An estimated 82 pronghorn were harvested by 200 hunters during the early archery hunt, 65 were harvested by 333 hunters on the unlimited controlled hunt, and one doe was harvested in the GMU 39 youth hunt.

### **Translocation**

No translocations occurred in 2014 or 2015.

### **Management Implications**

Interest in the general season archery hunt in GMUs 40, 41, and 42 has increased in recent years,

and participation has nearly doubled since 2000. This increase in archery hunters has led to conflicts as hunters contend over a limited number of watering holes, and lowered the quality of the hunting experience for many. Additionally, controlled hunt tag numbers were not adjusted to account for an increase in harvest from archery hunters. To address some of these concerns, the general season archery hunt was changed to an unlimited controlled hunt in 2009. This did not achieve intended goals as an increase in hunters (782 applicants) applied for this hunt in 2009. This hunt was again changed in 2010, with 200 tags offered in a controlled hunt from August 15-30, and an unlimited controlled hunt offered from September 10-24. Applications again were higher than anticipated as 492 hunters applied for the unlimited controlled hunt. Application numbers continue to be high, and antelope harvest will be closely monitored to determine if additional management actions are necessary.

The use of off-road vehicles has dramatically increased in recent years and new trails have been pioneered into pronghorn habitat, especially in the Murphy area of GMU 40. Off-road vehicle use has the potential to displace pronghorn from important winter habitat, cause undue stress to the animals during critical times of the year (winter and spring), as well as potentially impact habitat with noxious weed introduction and fire.

#### **Group 4 (GMU 38)**

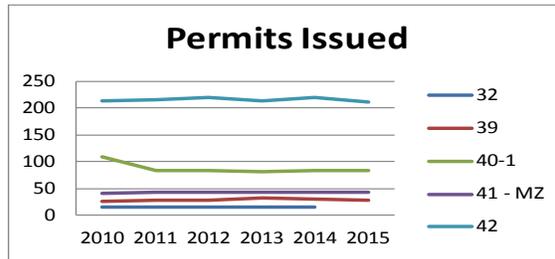
No hunts or surveys took place in this area during the reporting period. Most of the habitat in GMU 38 has been converted to housing developments or agriculture. The remaining area that could potentially sustain pronghorn has largely been altered (primarily by fire) to a monoculture of annual grasses and is of little value for pronghorn.

# Pronghorn Southwest Region

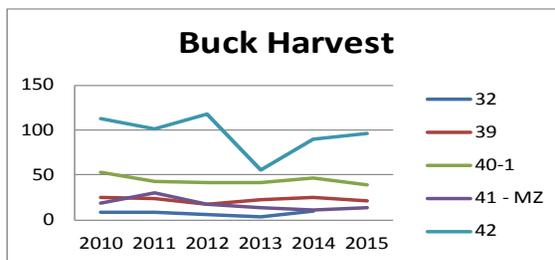
Group 1 (GMUs 32, 32A, 39, 40, 41, and 42)

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>10,488</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>Hunters</b> <b>382</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b> <b>191</b>

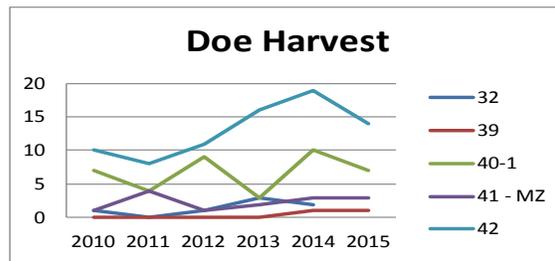
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
32	15	15	15	15	15	
39	27	28	28	32	30	28
40-1	110	83	83	82	83	83
41 - MZ	42	44	44	44	44	44
42	214	215	220	214	220	211
	408	385	390	387	392	366



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
32	8	9	6	3	10	
39	25	24	18	23	25	21
40-1	53	43	41	41	47	39
41 - MZ	19	30	17	14	11	14
42	113	101	118	56	90	96
	218	207	200	137	183	170



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
32	1	0	1	3	2	
39	0	0	0	0	1	1
40-1	7	4	9	3	10	7
41 - MZ	1	4	1	2	3	3
42	10	8	11	16	19	14
	19	16	22	24	35	25



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
32	10.3	12.9	11.8	7.6	12.5	
39	13.7	13.6	12.9	13.1	13.8	13.2
40-1	11.9	12.2	12.5	11.9	12.9	12.1
41 - MZ	11.8	11.2	12.6	11	11.5	12.2
42	12.3	12.7	12.4	13	12.3	13

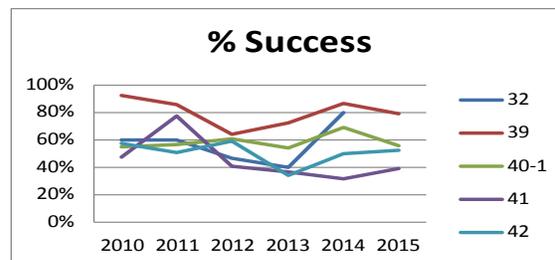
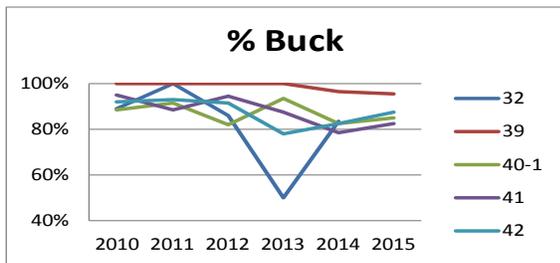
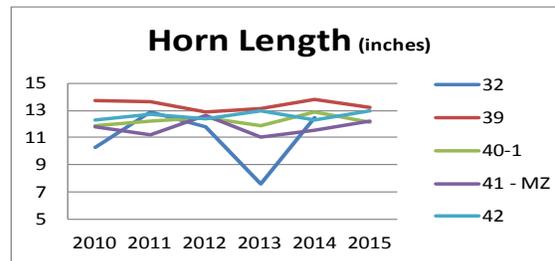
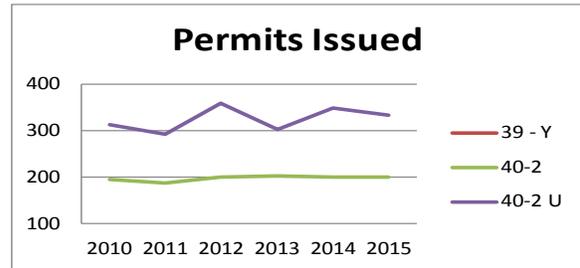


Figure 3. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 1, Southwest Region, 2010-present.

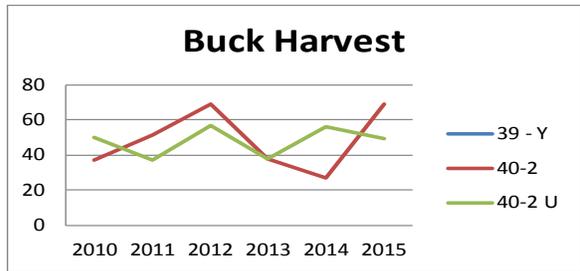
## Pronghorn Southwest Region Group 1 (GMUs 39 and 40)

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>10,488</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>Hunters 530</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest 112</b>

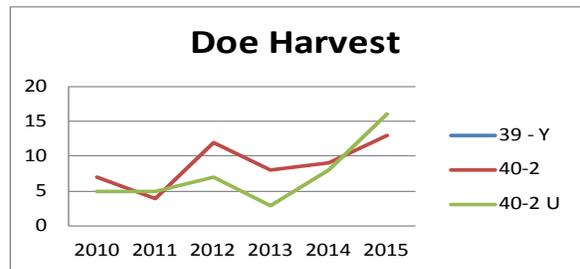
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
39 - Y						5
40-2	195	188	200	203	200	200
40-2 U	313	292	359	302	348	333
	508	480	559	505	548	538



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
39 - Y						0
40-2	37	51	69	38	27	69
40-2 U	50	37	57	38	56	49
	87	88	126	76	83	118



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
39 - Y						1
40-2	7	4	12	8	9	13
40-2 U	5	5	7	3	8	16
	12	9	19	11	17	30



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
39 - Y						
40-2	12.2	12.3	11.9	10.9	12.3	11.4
40-2 U	11.2	11.6	12.2	11.3	11.1	11.5

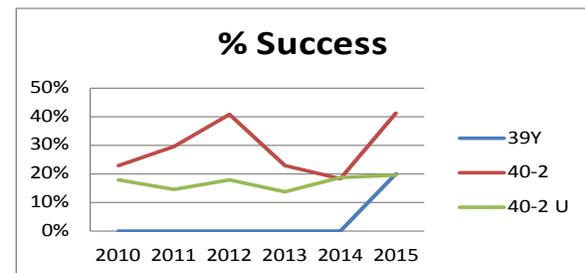
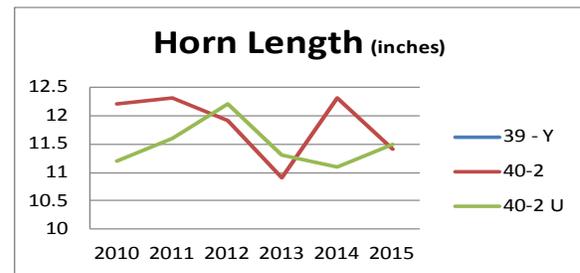
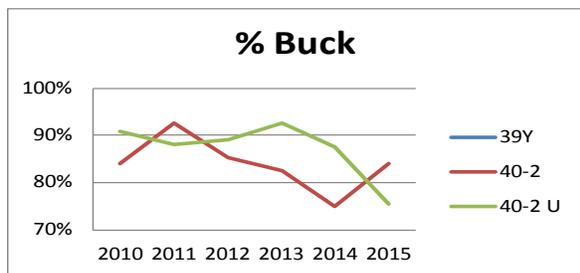


Figure 4. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 1, Southwest Region, 2010-present.

## MAGIC VALLEY REGION

### Abstract

In 2009, all pronghorn archery hunts were converted to controlled hunts. While most (26) GMUs in Idaho are grouped into a single controlled hunt area with unlimited tags, a few GMUs were placed in more discrete controlled hunt areas (still with unlimited tags) to address hunter crowding issues. A portion of GMU 45 and all of GMU 52 comprise a single controlled hunt area, and GMUs 46 and 47 comprise another controlled hunt area. Despite the fact that converting archery hunts to unlimited controlled hunts undoubtedly affected participation and harvest rates in some GMUs, archery harvest data are still presented in the archery tables (rather than controlled hunt tables) below.

From 1987-1992, pronghorn populations in Magic Valley Region increased due to a series of mild winters and improved summer-fall habitat in some GMUs. Hunting opportunity was increased substantially during this period and summer depredation problems were common. The combined effects of drought and the harsh conditions of the 1992-93 winter resulted in a substantial decline in pronghorn numbers region-wide, although populations south of Snake River did not experience the magnitude of decline that occurred in GMUs in the northern portion of the region. Since 1993, pronghorn numbers have increased throughout much of the Magic Valley, especially in the Camas Prairie area. In GMUs 46 and 47, continued habitat loss due to frequent wildfire has kept the population at lower levels than experienced in the late 1980s. The pronghorn population in GMU 54 has continued to expand its distribution north and east and will continue to be managed to provide quality-hunting opportunity.

There is a high demand for pronghorn hunting in the region as evidenced by the difficult drawing odds for tags. Almost all either sex pronghorn tags have draw odds that are less than 5%.

During the past 20 years, fires have removed more than a million acres of sagebrush steppe habitat in the Magic Valley Region. While these fires may have improved spring, summer, and fall pronghorn habitat in some areas, there have been long-term negative effects on winter range and fawning habitat. These fires will likely hinder recovery of pronghorn populations in some areas, especially GMUs 46, 47, 49, and 52A, to the high levels of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Group 2 – Pronghorn populations have generally remained lower than the levels achieved in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Hunting opportunity has been substantially curtailed since 1994 to encourage population growth and meet management objectives. Tag levels in 2011 were only 43% of 1993 levels. Observed fawn production in August 2014 was 0.66 fawns/doe in GMUs 44, 45, and 45; 0.43 fawns/doe in GMUs 46 and 47; 0.70 fawns/doe in GMU 49; and 0.56 fawns/doe in GMU 54. Horn lengths of hunter-killed pronghorn reported in 2014 met the 12-inch objective in all GMUs except 47 and 49, which were 11.8 inches. Observed buck/doe ratios in 2014 were 0.60 in GMU 46, 0.33 in GMU 49, and 0.24 in GMU 54.

Observed fawn production in August 2015 was 0.72 fawns/doe in GMUs 44, 45, and 45; 0.54 fawns/doe in GMUs 46 and 47; 0.48 fawns/doe in GMU 49, and 0.36 fawns/doe in GMU 54. Horn lengths of hunter-killed pronghorn reported in 2015 met the 12-inch objective in all GMUs

except 47. Observed buck/doe ratios in 2015 were 0.63 on the Camas Prairie, 0.47 in Unit 46, 0.73 in GMU 49, and 0.43 in GMU 54.

Group 3 - Fawn production on the Camas Prairie measured during August surveys averaged 0.80 fawns/doe from 1996-2015, the highest in the region. In August 2014, the observed ratio was 0.67 fawns/doe. A ratio of 0.44 bucks/doe was observed in August 2014; meeting the management goal of 0.40 bucks/doe.

In August 2015, the observed ratio was 0.72 fawns/doe and a ratio of 0.64 bucks/doe, exceeding the management goal of 0.40 bucks/doe.

Group 4 - GMUs 54 and 57 have relatively low numbers of pronghorn and have been managed for quality hunting opportunity. Mean horn length of bucks harvested in GMU 54 is generally the highest in the state. The hunt in GMU 57 was discontinued in 2002 because of low numbers.

### **Group 2 (GMUs 45, 46, 47, 49, 52, 52A, 53)**

#### **Management**

Pronghorn populations in Group 2 GMUs have fluctuated widely during the past 30 years. After declining to low levels in the early 1980s, pronghorn populations increased to relatively high levels in the late 1980s and early 1990s before declining again in 1993. Successive years of drought followed by severe conditions during the 1992-93 winter resulted in population declines estimated at 30-50%. Following the 1993 decline, hunts and tag levels were adjusted to encourage population recovery. Hunting seasons were eliminated in GMUs 45, 52, and 52A, and doe-fawn hunts were eliminated except in GMU 46. Since 1993, pronghorn populations have increased moderately in GMUs 45, 49, 52, and 52A, and hunts have been restored in all GMUs. Tag levels have increased fivefold on the Camas Prairie (portions of GMUs 44, 45, and 52) since 2012 for a total of 445 tags in 2015 (excluding archery hunters). Pronghorn numbers in GMUs 46 and 47 have declined since 1994, and numbers have remained low in GMU 53.

#### **Harvest**

In 2014, 344 tags were available in Group 2 GMUs, excluding archery-only hunts. These hunters harvested 187 pronghorn (132 bucks and 57 does or fawns). In 2014, 556 archery hunters harvested 114 pronghorn (104 bucks and 10 does or fawns). Hunter success for all Group 2 any weapon hunts was 80%, and archery hunter success was 20%.

In 2015, 368 tags were available in Group 2 GMUs, excluding archery-only hunts. These hunters harvested 163 pronghorn (187 bucks and 79 does or fawns). In 2015, 572 archery hunters harvested 180 pronghorn (146 bucks and 34 does or fawns). Hunter success for all Group 2 any weapon hunts was 78%, and archery hunter success was 34%.

In Hunt Areas 45-2 (45/52) and 46-2 (46/47), the number of archery hunters slightly increased from 382 in 2013 to 403 in 2014. Archery hunters in 45-2 had an overall success rate of 23% in the controlled hunt compared to 15% in the unlimited controlled hunt. Archery hunter success was 29% in the 46-2 controlled hunt compared to 25% in the 46-2 unlimited controlled hunt.

In Hunt Areas 45-2 (45/52) and 46-2 (46/47), the number of archery hunters were similar from 403 in 2014 to 399 in 2015. Archery hunters in 45-2 had an overall success rate of 28% in the controlled hunt compared to 15% in the unlimited controlled hunt. Archery hunter success was 79% in the 46-2 controlled hunt compared to 39% in the 46-2 unlimited controlled hunt.

One of the goals in the 1991-1995 Pronghorn Management Plan is to maintain a minimum mean horn length of 12 inches in any-weapon controlled hunts. Horn lengths reported in 2014 were above the 12-inch objective in all Group 2 GMUs except 47 and 49. Historically, GMU 49 horn lengths are frequently less than 12-inches (Figures 5 and 6).

Horn lengths reported in 2015 were above the 12-inch objective in all Group 2 GMUs except 47 (Figures 5 and 6).

### **Population Surveys**

Sex and age composition data are collected annually on ground surveys during August in GMUs 46, 47, and 49. During 2014 in GMUs 46/47, the observed ratio of 0.43 fawns/doe was lower than the 1982-2010 mean of 0.50 fawns/doe and also lower than the 2013 ratio, which was 0.61. In GMU 49, the observed ratio of 0.69 fawns/doe was lower than the 1976-2010 mean of 0.79 fawns/doe.

During 2015 in GMUs 46/47, the observed ratio of 0.54 fawns/doe was higher than the 1982-2010 mean of 0.50 fawns/doe and also higher than the 2014 ratio. In GMU 49, the observed ratio of 0.48 fawns/doe was lower than the 1976-2010 mean of 0.79 fawns/doe.

An objective in the 1991-1995 management plan is to maintain an August ratio of 0.40 bucks/doe. In 2014, observed bucks/doe ratios were above objective in GMUs 46/47; (0.60 bucks/doe) and below objective in GMU 49 (0.33 bucks/doe).

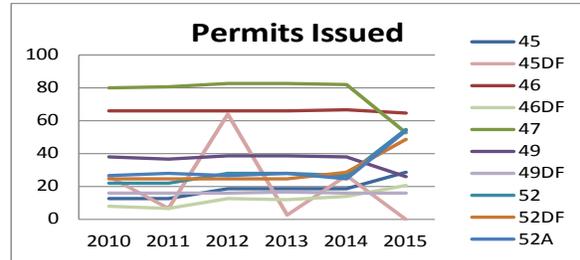
In 2015, observed bucks/doe ratios were above objective in GMUs 46/47 (0.48 bucks/doe) and GMU 49 (0.74 bucks/doe).

## Pronghorn Magic Valley Region

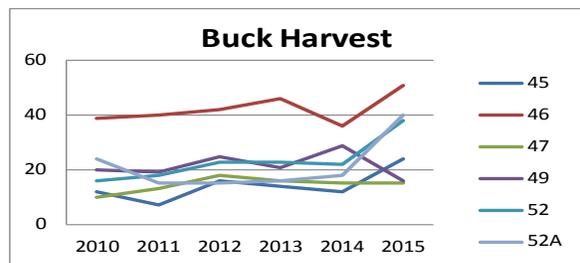
Group 2 (GMUs 45, 46, 47, 49, 52, and 52A)

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>9,475</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>344</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>213</b>

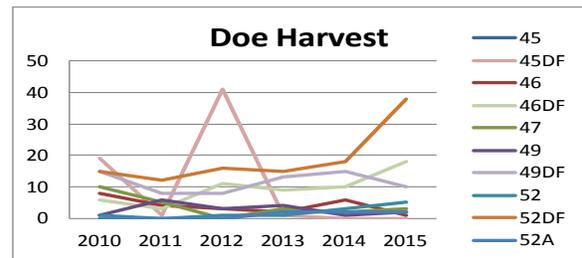
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
45	13	13	19	19	19	29
45DF	26	7	64	3	27	0
46	66	66	66	66	67	65
46DF	8	7	13	12	14	21
47	80	81	83	83	82	53
49	38	37	39	39	38	26
49DF	16	16	16	17	16	16
52	22	22	28	28	27	55
52DF	25	25	25	25	29	49
52A	27	28	27	28	25	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>368</b>



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
45	12	7	16	14	12	24
46	39	40	42	46	36	51
47	10	13	18	16	15	15
49	20	19	25	21	29	16
52	16	18	23	23	22	38
52A	24	15	15	16	18	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>184</b>



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
45	0	0	0	0	0	0
45DF	19	1	41	1	0	0
46	8	4	3	2	6	1
46DF	6	3	11	9	10	18
47	10	5	0	3	2	3
49	1	6	3	4	1	2
49DF	15	8	8	13	15	10
52	1	0	1	1	3	5
52DF	15	12	16	15	18	38
52A	0	0	0	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>79</b>



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
45	14.3	15	13.6	13.2	12.3	12.9
46	12.2	12.6	12.9	12.1	12.3	13.1
47	12.2	12.7	12	13.3	11.8	11.3
49	10.5	11.4	11.1	12.6	11.8	12.5
52	11.8	13.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.6
52A	12.6	13.7	12.3	12	12.9	13.4

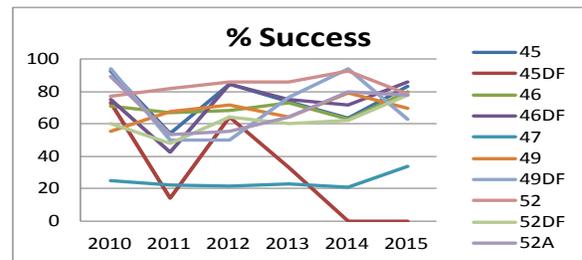
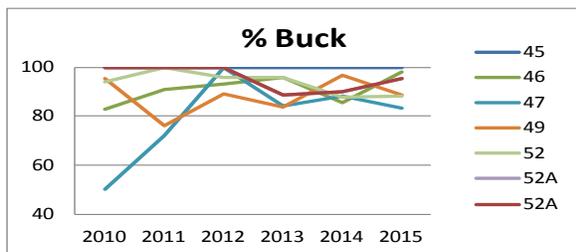
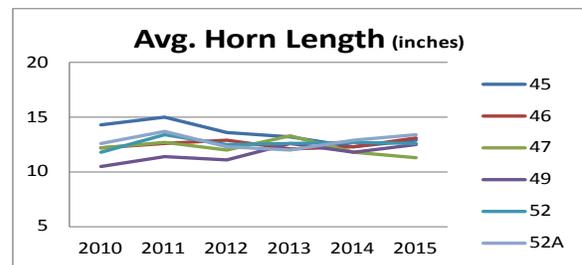
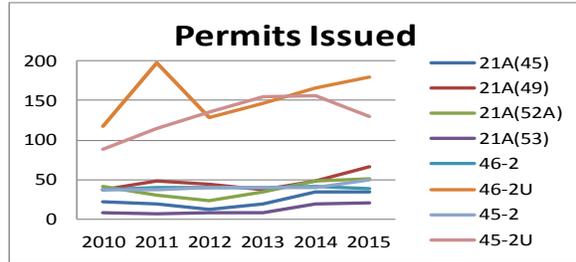


Figure 5. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

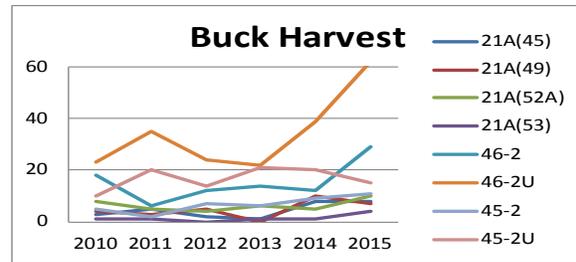
**Pronghorn  
Magic Valley Region  
Group 2 (GMUs 45, 46, 49, 52A, and 53)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>9,475</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>537</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>127</b>

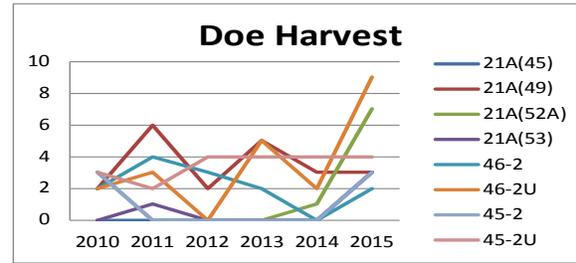
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(45)	22	20	12	19	35	34
21A(49)	37	49	44	38	49	67
21A(52A)	42	31	23	35	49	51
21A(53)	8	7	9	9	20	21
46-2	37	40	40	40	41	39
46-2U	117	198	128	147	166	180
45-2	38	38	40	40	40	50
45-2U	89	114	135	155	156	130
	390	497	431	483	556	572



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(45)	3	5	2	1	8	8
21A(49)	4	3	5	0	10	7
21A(52A)	8	5	4	6	5	10
21A(53)	1	1	0	1	1	4
46-2	18	6	12	14	12	29
46-2U	23	35	24	22	39	62
45-2	5	2	7	6	9	11
45-2U	10	20	14	21	20	15
	72	77	68	71	104	146



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(45)	0	0	0	0	0	3
21A(49)	2	6	2	5	3	3
21A(52A)	3	0	0	0	1	7
21A(53)	0	1	0	0	0	3
46-2	2	4	3	2	0	2
46-2U	2	3	0	5	2	9
45-2	3	0	0	0	0	3
45-2U	3	2	4	4	4	4
	15	16	9	16	10	34



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(45)	7	11.8	8.8	12.5	12.2	10.8
21A(49)	8.3	9.5	8.2		11.9	13.1
21A(52A)	12.4	10.4	10.3	11.3	13.3	13.3
21A(53)	11	10		16	16.5	13.5
46-2	11.7	11.6	12.7	12.8	10.5	11.6
46-2U	11.8	10.9	12.3	10.9	11.6	11.6
45-2	11.2	6.8	13.3	10.6	10.7	12.6
45-2U	11.4	12.6	11.6	10.2	11.9	11.7

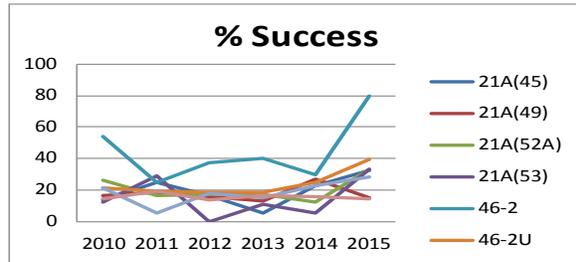
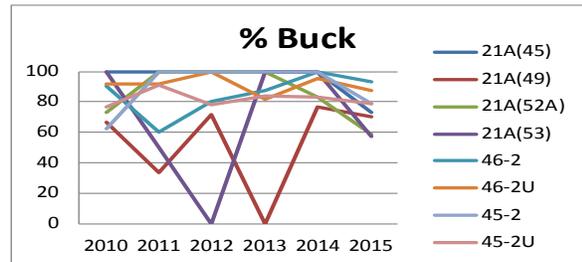
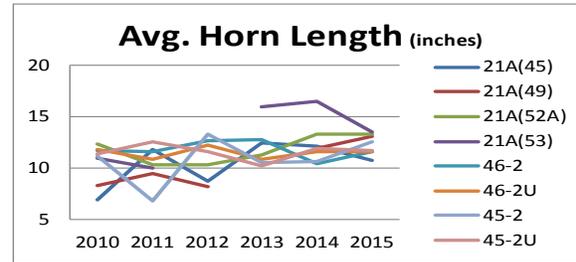


Figure 6. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

## **Group 3 (GMU 44)**

### **Management**

GMU 44 is the only Group 3 GMU in Magic Valley Region. Pronghorn on the Camas Prairie (GMU 44, the Camas Creek drainage in GMU 45, and the northwest corner of GMU 52) are migratory and subsidized by agriculture, primarily alfalfa. During the late 1970s to mid-1980s, depredation complaints on Camas Prairie were common, and the management objective was to maintain the pronghorn population below 100 head. However, depredation complaints have been minimal during the past 15 years, indicating increased landowner tolerance for pronghorn use of private lands. The number of pronghorn observed during the August 2014 herd composition survey exceeded 850 head. Camas Prairie pronghorn migrate to winter range north of Bliss, where the habitat is in generally poor condition and is considered the primary population-limiting factor.

### **Harvest**

Camas Prairie pronghorns suffered high losses during the 1992-1993 winter. Doe-fawn hunting was curtailed from 1994-1998 to encourage population growth. Since 1999, doe-fawn seasons have been authorized to control the population and minimize depredations. In 2014, 75 either-sex tags were offered and 175 tags were authorized in the doe-fawn hunt. Tag numbers for the doe-fawn hunt increased from 50 tags in 2013. Tag levels have increased fivefold on the Camas Prairie (portions of GMUs 44, 45, and 52) since 2012 for a total of 445 tags in 2015 (excluding archery hunters). Since 2008, hunter success in the Camas Prairie has been slowly increasing. Hunter success for 2014 was 95%, which is the highest hunter success rate since pre-2003 (Table 5). The minimum mean horn length reported by hunters in 2014 was 12.3 inches and 11.9 inches in 2015. From 1991-2014, mean horn length met the 12-inch plan objective in 10 years (Figure 7).

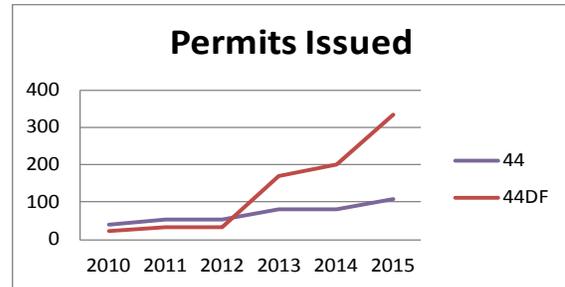
### **Population Surveys**

The Camas Prairie pronghorn population typically exhibits high August fawn/doe ratios, presumably a function of their high nutritional status from use of agricultural lands. From 1998-2010, observed ratios have averaged 0.83 fawns/doe, higher than any other pronghorn population in Magic Valley Region. In 2014, the observed ratio was 0.66 fawns/doe compared to 0.72 fawns/doe in 2015. The observed ratio of 0.50 bucks/doe in 2014 and 0.64 in 2015 is higher than the objective of 0.40 bucks/doe.

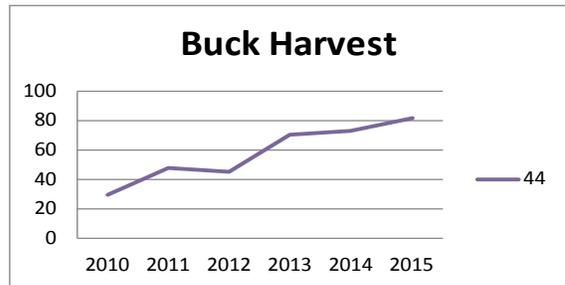
**Pronghorn  
Magic Valley Region  
Group 3 (GMU 44)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>326</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>230</b>

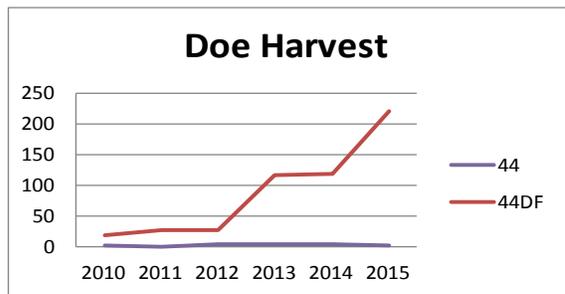
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
44	40	54	54	81	81	110
44DF	22	33	32	170	201	335
	62	87	86	251	282	445



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
44	30	48	45	70	73	82



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
44	2	0	3	4	4	2
44DF	18	27	26	117	118	221
	20	27	29	121	122	223



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
44	11.2	12.2	12.2	12	12.3	11.9

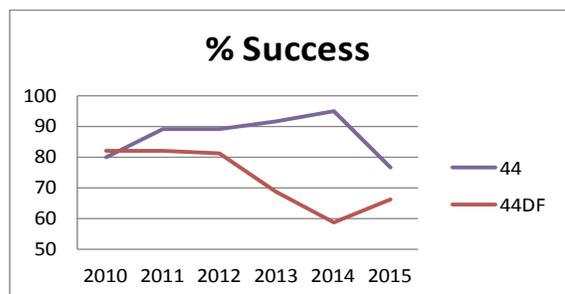
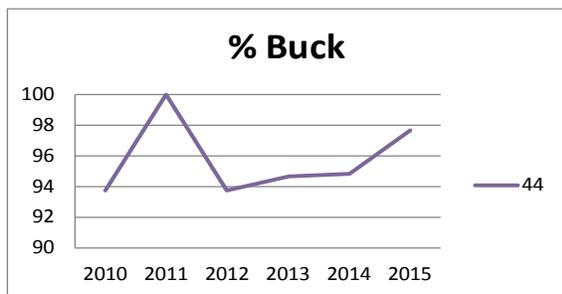
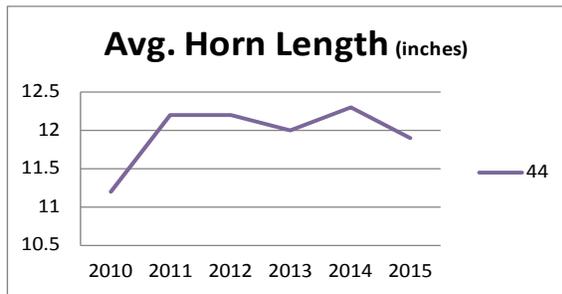


Figure 7. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 3, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

## **Group 4 (GMUs 48, 54, 57)**

### **Management**

In 1989, the Department transplanted 29 pronghorn from the Mud Lake area (GMU 63) to the Shoshone Basin area of GMU 54. In addition, the Nevada Division of Wildlife released pronghorn east of Jackpot, Nevada, near Shoshone Basin in the late 1980s. This interstate population has increased and provides hunting opportunity in Idaho and Nevada.

### **Harvest**

A hunting season has been authorized in GMU 54 since 1996. Since 2006, 28 either sex tags have been available, and in 2014, 25 pronghorn were harvested compared to 20 harvested in 2015, which remains consistent with the 10 year average. Horn lengths have ranged from 13.0 in. to 14.8 in. with a mean of 13.7 in. The mean horn length in 2014 was 13.3” and 13.7” in 2015 (Figures 8 & 9).

### **Population Surveys**

In GMU 54, no formal population surveys were conducted. Casual observations by hunters and agency personnel indicate the population has expanded its distribution north of Shoshone Basin to include the area around Nat-Soo-Pah and the foothill areas adjacent to Rock Creek. Pronghorn have been observed as far east as Oakley and are also commonly observed in the cultivated lands near Hub Butte.

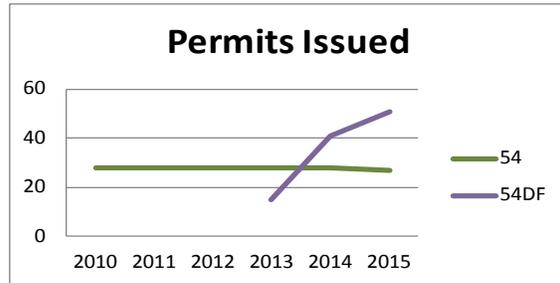
In GMU 57, the resident pronghorn population has remained relatively low. A standardized September ground survey was conducted annually from 1999-2008 to help monitor herd numbers. In 2008, 71 pronghorn were counted; the highest count since the survey was implemented in 1999. This survey was discontinued in 2009. A hunt with 5 tags was authorized from 1996-2001 to allow some opportunity to harvest the mature bucks this small population supports. The hunt was discontinued in 2002 because of low pronghorn numbers.

Pronghorn numbers in GMU 48 have increased in recent years, allowing this GMU to be included in a hunt area with GMU 52.

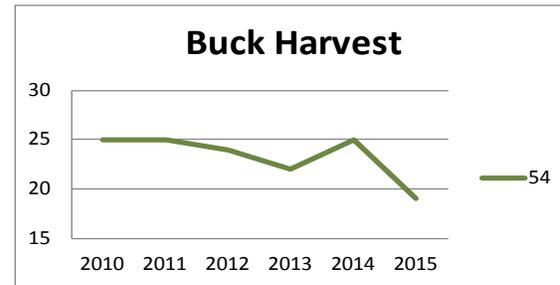
**Pronghorn  
Magic Valley Region  
Group 4 (GMU 54)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>43</b>

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
54	28	28	28	28	28	27
54DF				15	41	51
	28	28	28	43	69	78



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
54	25	25	24	22	25	19



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
54	0	1	1	1	0	1
54DF				11	21	29
	0	1	1	12	21	30

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
54	13.6	13	13.8	13.4	13.3	13.7

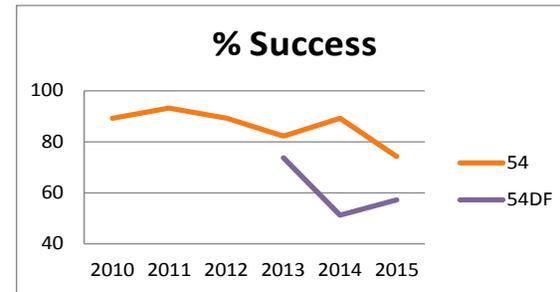
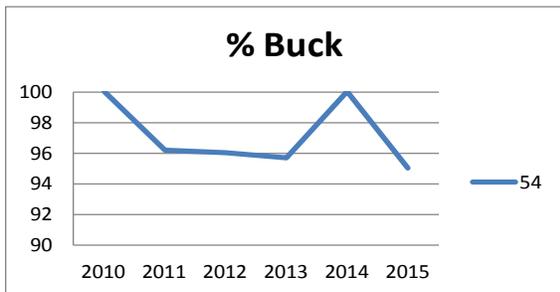
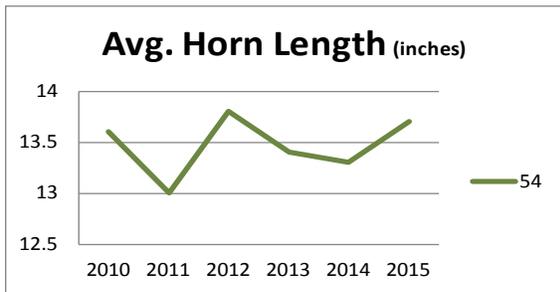
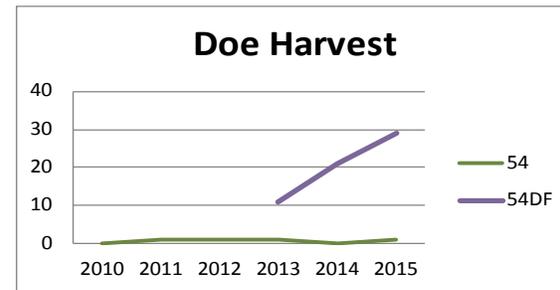
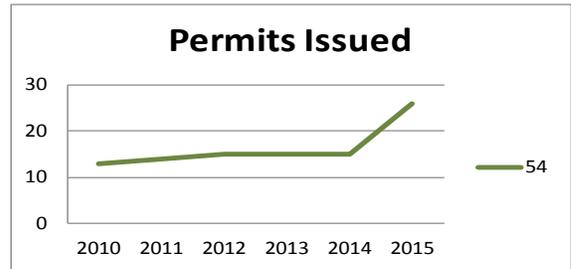


Figure 8. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 4, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

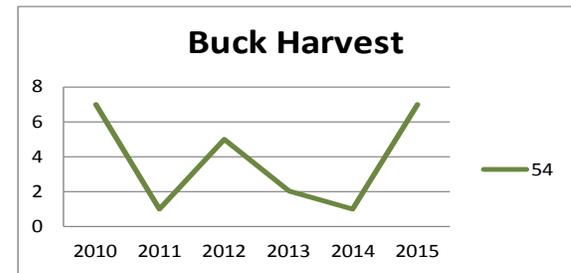
**Pronghorn  
Magic Valley Region  
Group 4 (GMU 54)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>2,330</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>4</b>

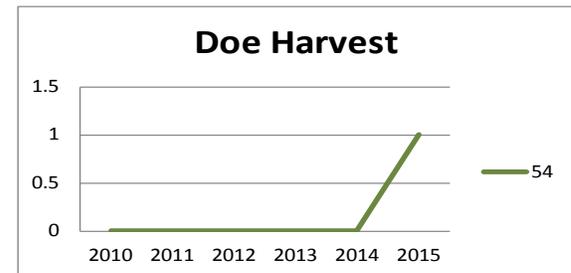
<b>Permits</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
54	13	14	15	15	15	26



<b>Bucks</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
54	7	1	5	2	1	7



<b>Does</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
54	0	0	0	0	0	1



<b>Avg Horn</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
54	13.8	15	15	13.1	10.1	15.2

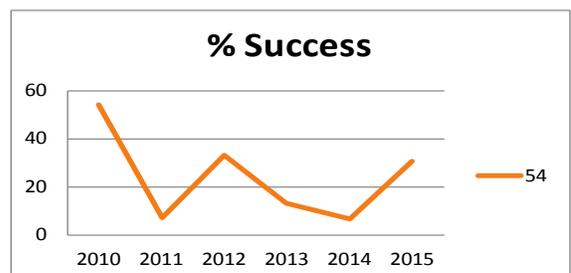
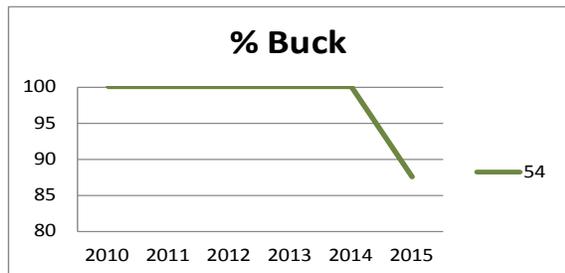
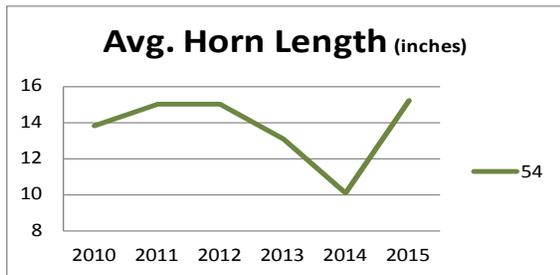


Figure 9. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 4, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

## SOUTHEAST REGION

### Abstract

Group 2 – Fifty-five either-sex pronghorn tags were issued for GMU 68 in 2014 and 2015. Harvest success rate was 80% in 2014 and 84% in 2015. Three females and 41 male pronghorn were harvested in 2014 while 3 female and 43 male pronghorn were harvested in 2015. Harvested males had an average maximum horn length of 13.6 inches during the reporting period. Archery hunters harvested an estimated 28 and 37 pronghorn in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Population information is limited for the GMU because of low density and wide dispersion. A new either sex pronghorn hunt was established in 2011 in GMU 76 with five tags. Four pronghorn were harvested each year in 2014 and 2015 in GMU 76, reporting a 13.5 inch average horn length (Figure 10).

### Group 2 (GMU 68)

#### Harvest

The GMU 68 any-pronghorn tag level (50) remained the same in 2014 as in the previous reporting period. Additionally, GMU 68 has 5 landowner appreciation tags available. Hunter report cards were used to estimate harvest, participation, and horn length. Hunter success was 80% and 84% in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The GMU 76 any-pronghorn tag level (5) has remained the same since its inception in 2011. Additionally, GMU 76 has 1 landowner appreciation tag available. Hunter success was 67% and 57% in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Archery hunters reported harvesting 65 pronghorn in 2014 and 2015, only 1 of which was a female. The archery hunt in GMU 68 in 2012 was part of an aggregation of several GMUs. However, in 2013 GMU 68 was separated into its own unlimited archery hunt to better acquire data on hunter participation and harvest. In 2014, the archery hunt was split into a 40 tag controlled hunt from August 15 – August 30 and an unlimited controlled hunt from September 10 – September 24. Splitting archers into two separate hunts during different times of year was intended to reduce hunter crowding conflicts during the month of August while still providing opportunity to hunters.

Mean maximum horn length for the 2014-2015 harvest was 13.0 inches which exceeds the 12.0-inch objective established in the 1991-1995 Pronghorn Management Plan.

#### Population Surveys

In the past, little population data has been available on size and trend of this pronghorn herd. Subjective observations by Department personnel and other observers suggest the population increased from the most recent low reached during spring 1993 through 2001; however, significant losses may have occurred during winter 2001-2002.

Approximately 70-80 pronghorn are believed to have crossed American Falls reservoir on the ice during the 2001-2002 winter to the vicinity of the Pocatello Regional Airport. Extensive efforts to haze the animals away from the airport were only partially effective. Observed numbers

declined to around 15 by winter 2002. A fencing project to exclude wildlife from the airport property was undertaken in spring 2004.

Past estimates of the pronghorn population on the Big Desert have been obtained through fixed-wing surveys using line-transect methodology based on Burnham et al. (1980) and modified by Johnson and Lindzey (1990). Line-transect surveys in GMU 68 were flown in autumn 1987 and in spring 1988, 1990, and 1991.

Population estimates calculated for the Big Desert have varied greatly. Confidence limits for the population estimates have been unacceptably wide due to the low density of pronghorn in the area and their unpredictable distribution.

An aerial survey for pronghorn was conducted during August 1999 within GMU 68. The intent of the survey was to collect distribution and minimum known count data for pronghorn. Strip transects, each 1,500 m, were flown north-south across the GMU. A total of 7.5 hours of flight time was used. Six groups of pronghorn were located with a total count of 64.

Beginning in 2014, staff initiated a fall composition survey that consists of driving 9 different routes on the same day in GMU 68. This survey is a trial to try and discern if this methodology can provide trend data on pronghorn in the Big Desert. A total of 252 and 227 pronghorn were observed on these routes in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Currently, no population surveys are conducted for pronghorn in GMU 76.

### **Trapping and Transplanting**

In December 2004, Southeast Region assisted Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in capturing 56 pronghorn near Torrey, Utah. These animals were transported to GMU 68 in Southeast Region for release. The 56 pronghorn transferred were composed of 36 adults (16 male, 19 female), 6 yearlings (3 male, 3 female), and 14 fawns (6 male, 8 female). Ten of 56 pronghorn released were fitted with radio collars. Radio tracking conducted within a month of the release found 3 mortalities and 7 live animals.

### **Historical Perspective**

The Southeast Region only has one GMU with a significant antelope population, GMU 68. Harvest within the SE Region has been extremely conservative with a controlled hunt in GMU 68 with 50 tags plus 5 LAP tags.

Archery harvest has typically been low averaging around 12 antelope annually. Recently, however, archery antelope harvest increased in harvest in 2007 and in hunter numbers for the past few years. In order to prevent over harvest of a population with little population data available, GMU 68 was placed in an unlimited controlled hunt in 2008 with several other GMU's within the state to keep archery antelope hunting growth in check. Because GMU 68 was part of several other GMU's in the same hunt it was difficult to evaluate how many hunters actually hunted and harvested pronghorn in GMU 68. To better understand hunting effort and success specific to GMU 68, IDFG separated GMU 68 into its own archery hunt for 2013. Since that time, hunter numbers and harvest specific to GMU 68 have been obtained.

## **Winterfeeding and Depredation**

It is rare that pronghorn become a depredation problem in GMU 68 in winter. During the winter of 2010 some temporary deep snows on the big desert caused approximately 250 pronghorn to start feeding on third crop alfalfa haystacks in the area west of Aberdeen, Idaho. Staff was able to lure the pronghorn with other bales of alfalfa farther in the desert and way from the commercial stacks. After a break in the weather caused much of the snow to melt that group of antelope returned on to the native range in the desert.

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- Laake, J. L., K. P. Burnham, and D. R. Anderson. 1979. User's manual for Program TRANSECT. Utah State University Press, Logan, USA.
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**Pronghorn  
Southeast Region  
Groups 2 (68), 3 (76), and 4 (68A)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>3,657</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>82</b>

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
68	54	55	55	55	55	55
76		5	5	6	6	7
68AR				40	40	40
68U	88	114	177	111	151	122
	142	174	237	212	252	224

Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
68	37	41	44	48	41	43
76		5	5	6	4	4
68AR				13	5	14
68U	27	16	42	12	23	23
	64	62	91	79	73	84

Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
68	2	1	1	1	3	3
76		0	0	0	0	0
68AR				0	0	1
68U	4	3	7	2	0	0
	6	4	8	3	3	4

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
68	13	13	12.8	13.9	13.3	13.8
76		13.2	13.9	11.5	14.6	12.3
68AR				13.5	12.8	12.6
68U	12.2	12	13.1	12.3	11.8	12.8

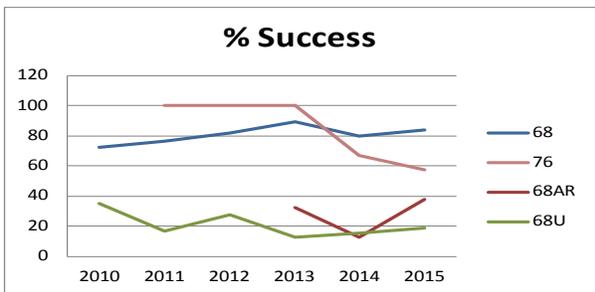
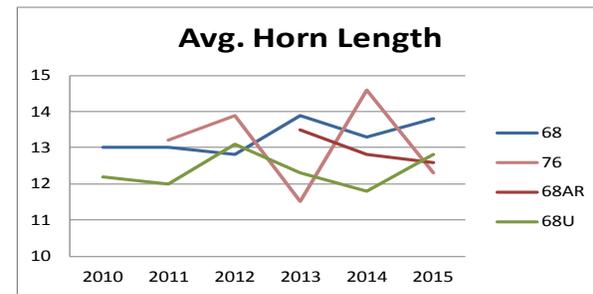
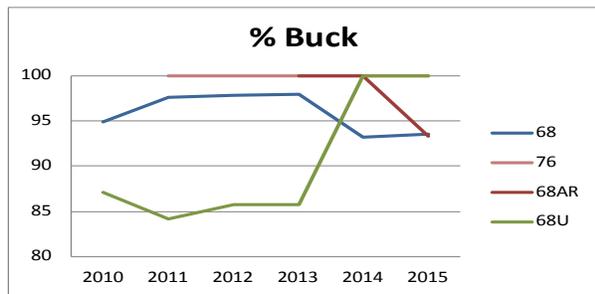
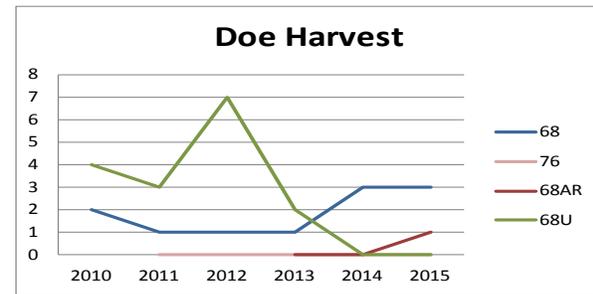
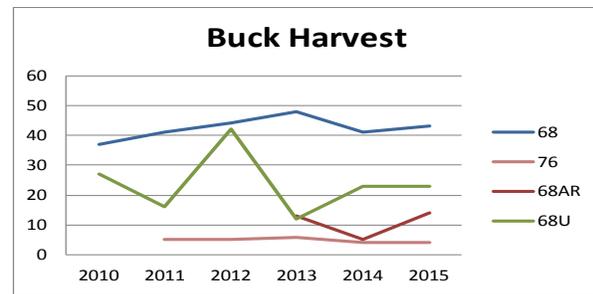
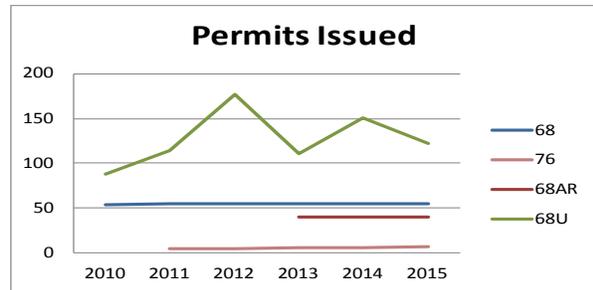


Figure 10. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 2, 3, & 4, Southeast Region, 2010-present.

## UPPER SNAKE REGION

### Abstract

Controlled hunt tag numbers were 538 and 534 in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Estimated pronghorn harvest was 336 and 436 in 2014 and 2015, respectively for the Upper Snake Region. These estimates do not include *Access Yes!* super hunt tags.

Summer conditions during 2014 and 2015 were average while winter conditions were mild.

Group 2 - No composition or population survey was conducted in Group 2 GMUs during this reporting period. Harvest estimates and horn length data were collected by a mandatory mail-in report of pronghorn tag buyers that was followed by a telephone survey sample of non-responders. The average horn length was below the 12-inch management plan objective in GMUs 58 and 59/59A controlled hunts in 2014 and all Group 2 GMUs were above objective in 2015. There was 1 summer complaint in GMU 50 during 2015 and no winter time depredation complaints received for Group 2 during the winter of 2014-2015. There was 1 depredation complaint in GMU 50 and 1 depredation complaint in GMU 59A during the winter of 2015-2016.

Group 3 - No composition or population survey was conducted in Group 3 GMUs during this reporting period. Tag numbers and harvest dates remained the same from 2012 for this group. Harvest estimates and horn length data were collected by a mandatory mail-in report of pronghorn tag buyers that was followed by a telephone survey sample of non-responders. The average horn length was below the 12-inch management plan objective in GMU 60A and 61 controlled hunts in 2014 and in the GMU 61 controlled hunt in 2015. The region received 3 depredation complaints from GMU 63 during the winter of 2014-2015 and 3 depredation complaints from GMU 63 and 1 complaint from GMU 60A during the winter of 2015-2016.

### **Group 2 (GMUs 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A)**

### Management

These mountain-valley GMUs support the most productive pronghorn herds in the region. The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service manage most of the land with limited private cultivated land occurring along the major stream corridors. Pronghorn occurring in these GMUs are seasonally migratory and frequently migrate into GMU 63 during winter months.

Minor depredations on hay and grain crops are common during summer, but landowners tolerate most problems when they receive assistance from the Department. Major depredation complaints are received during extremely dry years when pronghorn congregate on irrigated fields. Under these conditions, the Department has authorized additional depredation hunts and paid for crop damage.

### Harvest

One of the objectives of the 1991-1995 pronghorn plan for this group of GMUs is to maintain an

average horn length of 12 inches in the firearm either-sex harvest. This information was collected by telephone survey from 1994-2000. From 2001-2011, the harvest estimate and horn length estimate were collected by a mandatory report of tag buyers that was followed by a telephone survey of a sample of non-responders. These estimates do not include tags, harvest estimates, or horn length estimates for super hunt harvest. The average horn length was below the 12-inch management plan objective in GMUs 58 and 59/59A controlled hunts in 2014 and all Group 2 GMUs were above objective in 2015 (Figure 11 & 12).

### **Population Surveys**

No herd composition or population trend survey was conducted in any Group 2 GMUs during this reporting period. Unfortunately the Department does not currently have sufficient budget to conduct aerial surveys for pronghorn.

### **Depredation**

There was 1 summer complaint in GMU 50 during 2015 and no winter time depredation complaints received for Group 2 during the winter of 2014-2015. There was 1 depredation complaint in GMU 50 and 1 depredation complaint in GMU 59A during the winter of 2015-2016.

**Pronghorn**  
**Upper Snake Region**  
 Group 2 (GMUs 50, 51, 58, 59, and 59A)

Square Miles =	3,955	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
% Public Land =	86%	Hunters	271
Any Weapon		Harvest	216

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
50	81	81	81	80	80	82
51	82	80	81	83	80	83
58	55	54	54	55	53	54
59	55	50	54	52	56	55
	273	265	270	270	269	274

Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
50	63	57	54	60	66	71
51	63	51	64	63	51	62
58	41	43	42	44	40	41
59	36	33	42	30	38	40
	203	184	202	197	195	214

Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
50	9	4	4	4	1	1
51	11	10	2	3	10	1
58	7	7	1	4	2	1
59	5	1	2	7	5	4
	32	22	9	18	18	7

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
50	12.7	12.2	12	12.8	12.5	12.3
51	12.9	12.4	12.6	13	12.9	13
58	11.9	12.1	12.5	12.2	11.7	12.4
59	11.8	11.9	12.1	11.6	11.8	13

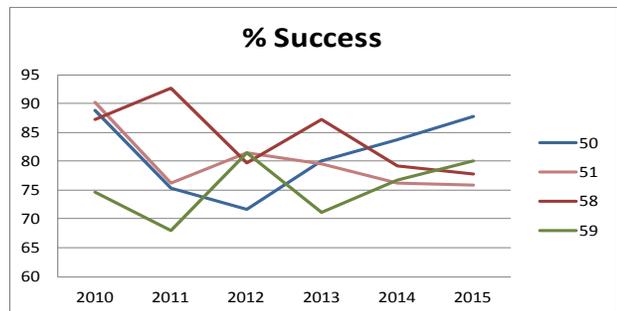
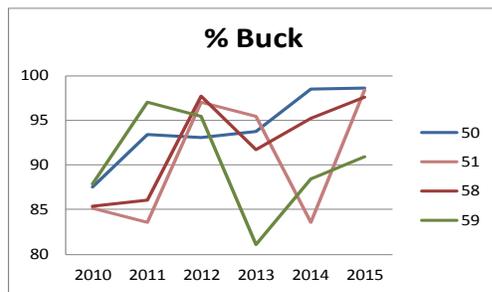
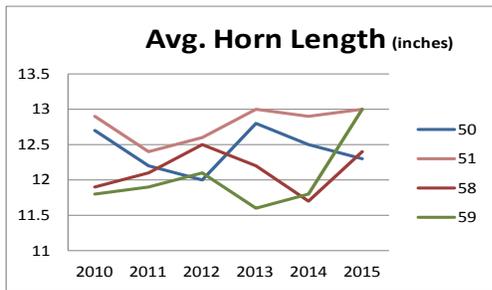
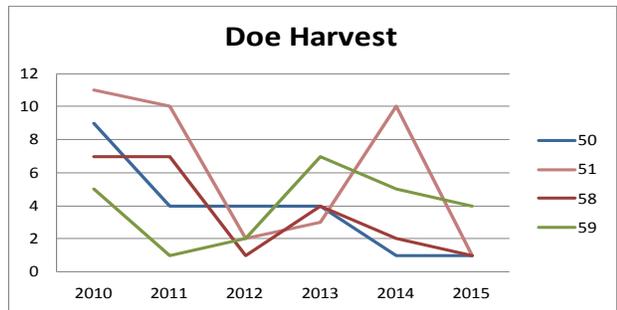
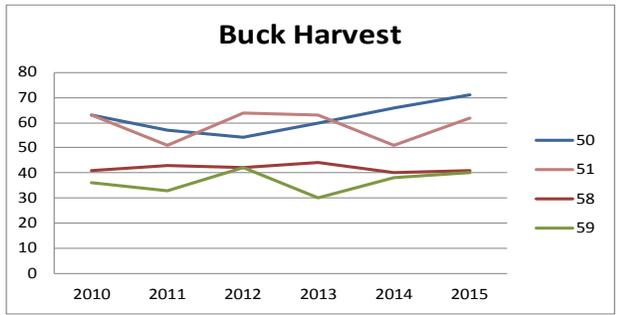
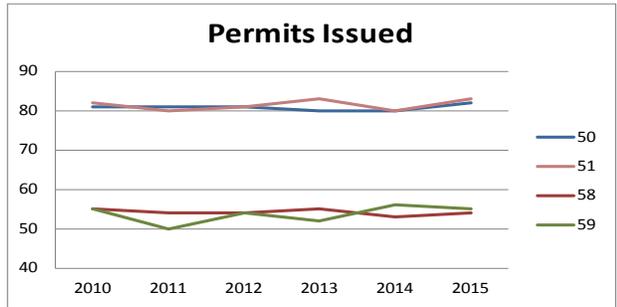


Figure 11. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present

**Pronghorn  
Upper Snake Region  
Group 2 (GMUs 50, 51, 58, 59, and 59A)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>54</b>

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(50)	47	40	61	37	68	98
21A(51)	64	62	69	73	74	100
21A(58)	59	72	51	64	52	67
21A(59)	46	53	58	59	48	31
21A(59A)	1	2	0	0	20	8
	217	229	239	233	262	304

Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(50)	2	2	8	6	6	17
21A(51)	6	8	4	12	9	18
21A(58)	13	15	13	10	8	25
21A(59)	9	6	8	5	9	7
21A(59A)	1	2	0	0	0	0
	31	33	33	33	32	67

Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(50)	2	1	2	4	0	4
21A(51)	0	2	1	6	4	1
21A(58)	3	2	4	1	4	1
21A(59)	3	6	1	4	1	1
21A(59A)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	11	8	15	9	7

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(50)	14.5	12.9	11.5	12.1	11.3	12.6
21A(51)	12.3	12.3	11.6	12.5	11.4	12.3
21A(58)	12.6	9.4	12.4	12.1	10.8	11.8
21A(59)	11.3	11.3	12.4	11.8	11.3	11.6
21A(59A)	13	14		13		

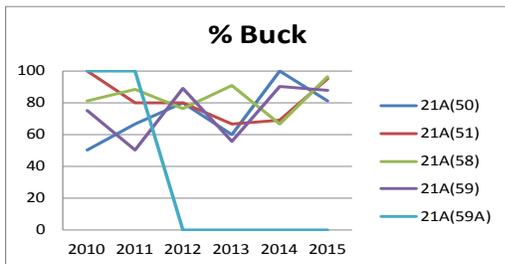
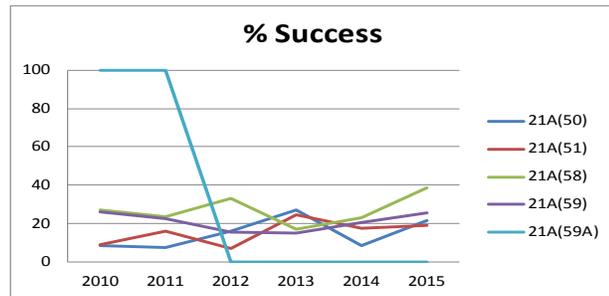
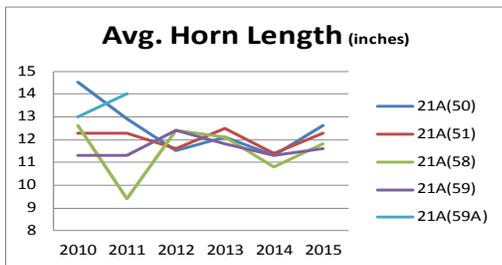
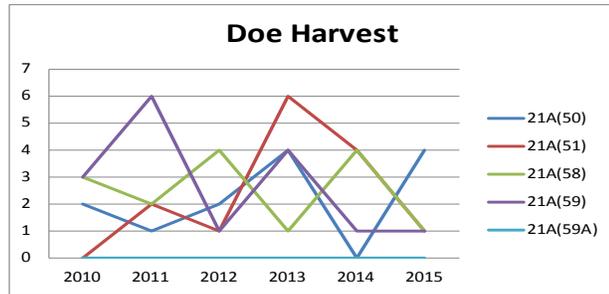
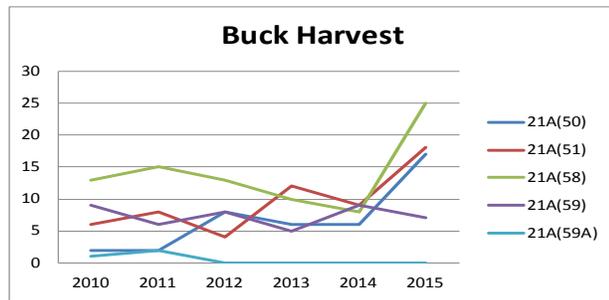
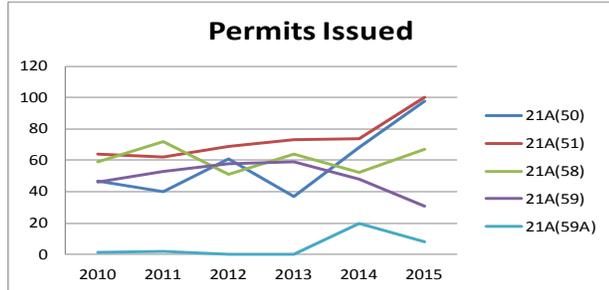


Figure 12. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present

### **Group 3 (GMUs 60, 60A, 61, 63)**

#### **Management**

These GMUs provide important pronghorn habitat but are difficult to manage. GMUs 60, 60A, and the west part of GMU 61 have productive summer range, but access to traditional winter range from these GMUs was blocked when Interstate 15 (I-15) was built. Under current conditions, the herd increases during light to moderate winters but is decimated during hard winters.

Pronghorn summering on the Henrys Lake Flat area of GMU 61 winter in the Madison River Valley, Montana. These pronghorn are managed for non-consumptive value, to minimize landowner depredation and hunter access concerns during summer, and consistent with winter pronghorn population objectives of Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks.

GMU 63 provides important wintering habitat for pronghorn summering in Group 2 GMUs. Pronghorn summering in GMU 63 are managed to minimize depredations on hayfields around the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

#### **Habitat Conditions**

Pronghorn habitat in the eastern portion of GMU 61 is restricted to summer range on the Henrys Lake Flat area. These pronghorn winter in the Madison River Valley of Montana. Summer range is predominantly privately owned. Montana experiences some winter depredation problems involving these pronghorn. Therefore, the Department's goal is to manage this herd for non-consumptive value and use sport harvest to prevent it from increasing and causing more severe depredations.

Habitat in the western portion of GMU 61 is primarily confined to the Beaver Creek and Camas Creek drainages and their tributaries. These pronghorn winter southeast of Dillon, Montana, and currently are not causing any winter depredation problems.

Pronghorn that summer in GMUs 60 and 60A historically migrated across what is now I-15 into GMU 63 to winter. However, with the construction of I-15, this traditional migration route was blocked, forcing them to winter in GMUs 60A and 63A. Consequently, during winters of heavy snowfall, this small herd of pronghorn suffers severe winter loss.

GMU 63 provides winter range for pronghorn summering in Group 2 GMUs and year-round habitat for resident pronghorn. Approximately half the GMU is controlled by the U.S. Department of Energy as INL and is closed to hunting with the exception of a half buffered hunting area near actively growing agricultural fields. In several areas, irrigated crops are grown on private lands that abut the INL. Consequently, some of the pronghorn summering in GMU 63 cause depredation problems on private lands. These pronghorn are unavailable to sportsmen for harvest. Summer crop depredations occur on other private land in the GMU but are easier to control with hunting. Fall and winter depredations on stored hay are common from pronghorn summering in, and migrating from, Group 2 GMUs.

## **Harvest**

Tag numbers and harvest dates remained the same from 2013 for this group. The average horn length was below the 12-inch management plan objective in GMUs 60A and 61 controlled hunts in 2014 and in the GMU 61 controlled hunt in 2015 (Figure 13 & 14).

## **Depredation**

The region received 3 depredation complaints from GMU 63 during the winter of 2014-2015 and 3 depredation complaints from GMU 63 and 1 complaint from GMU 60A during the winter of 2015-2016. In order to address the depredation issues in the northern half of GMU 63, two temporary water tanks were placed 1.5 miles onto the Idaho National Laboratory property during the summers of 2009 and 2010. These sites are being evaluated for the placement of permanent guzzlers.

## **Population Surveys**

No composition or population trend survey was conducted in Group 3 GMUs during this reporting period. Unfortunately, the Department does not currently have sufficient money to conduct aerial surveys for pronghorn.

The Environmental Science and Research Foundation, Inc., and, since July 2000, Stoller Corporation, have conducted pronghorn population estimates following methodology described by Johnson and Lindzey (1990). Table 8 shows summer and winter pronghorn population estimates (Transect II; Johnson and Lindzey 1990, Pojar et al. 1995) for INL, 1994-2005. Summer flights were conducted during July or August; winter flights were conducted during January or February. Stoller Corporation did not calculate population estimates in 2007 due to concern over generating erroneous estimates with the current methodology available.

Pronghorn in GMUs 60 and 60A appear to have recovered from heavy winter mortality suffered during the hard winters of 1983-1984, 1984-1985, and 1992-1993.

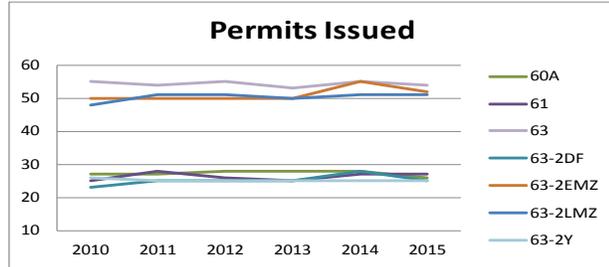
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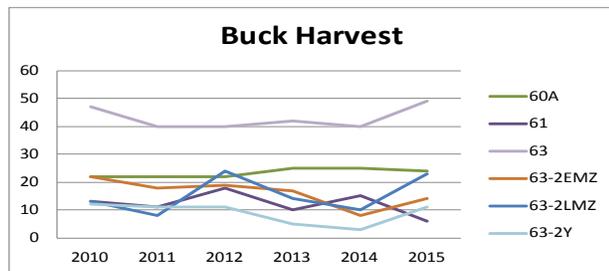
**Pronghorn  
Upper Snake Region  
Group 3 (GMUs 60, 60A, 61, and 63)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>145</b>

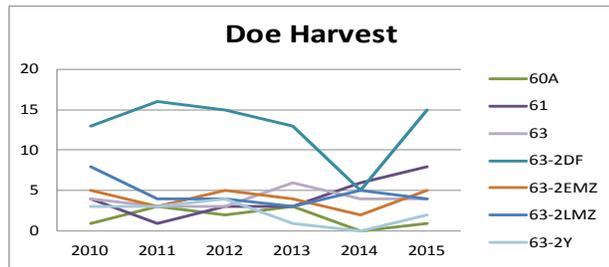
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
60A	27	27	28	28	28	26
61	25	28	26	25	27	27
63	55	54	55	53	55	54
63-2DF	23	25	25	25	28	25
63-2EMZ	50	50	50	50	55	52
63-2LMZ	48	51	51	50	51	51
63-2Y	26	25	25	25	25	25
	254	260	260	256	269	260



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
60A	22	22	22	25	25	24
61	13	11	18	10	15	6
63	47	40	40	42	40	49
63-2EMZ	22	18	19	17	8	14
63-2LMZ	13	8	24	14	10	23
63-2Y	12	11	11	5	3	11
	129	110	134	113	101	127



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
60A	1	3	2	3	0	1
61	4	1	3	3	6	8
63	4	3	3	6	4	4
63-2DF	13	16	15	13	5	15
63-2EMZ	5	3	5	4	2	5
63-2LMZ	8	4	4	3	5	4
63-2Y	3	3	4	1	0	2
	38	33	36	33	22	39



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
60A	11.5	10.7	10.8	11	11.2	12.1
61	9.9	12.2	8.5	8	10.2	10.1
63	12.8	12.4	11.8	12.8	12.5	12.9
63-2EMZ	11.1	11.6	11.2	11.3	10	11
63-2LMZ	12.1	9.3	11.7	10	11.7	11.1
63-2Y	11.3	10.7	11.2	11.8	9.8	11.1

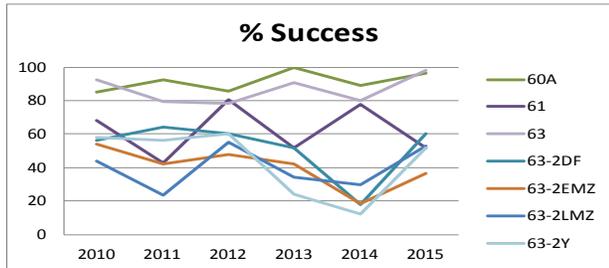
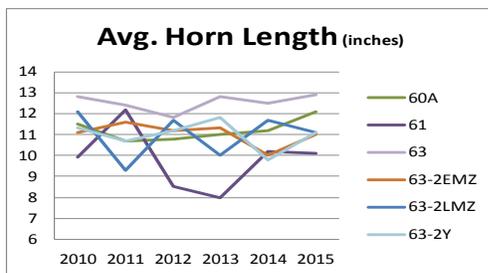
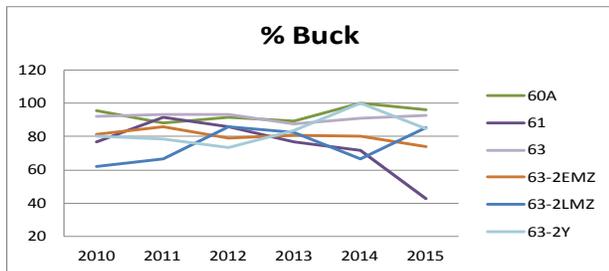


Figure 13. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 3 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present.

**Pronghorn  
Upper Snake Region  
Group 3 (GMUs 60, 60A, 61, and 63)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>26</b>

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(60)	17	8	4	9	8	17
21A(60A)	10	17	15	11	13	17
21A(61)	21	26	21	33	33	35
21A(63)	44	53	42	71	57	84
	92	104	82	124	111	153

Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(60)	1	0	0	0	1	1
21A(60A)	2	0	1	0	1	3
21A(61)	7	6	3	4	3	10
21A(63)	11	4	10	12	3	14
	21	10	14	16	8	28

Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(60)	0	0	0	0	0	0
21A(60A)	0	0	1	0	0	3
21A(61)	1	0	0	4	0	6
21A(63)	0	2	2	3	3	7
	1	2	3	7	3	16

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(60)	13				8	10
21A(60A)	12		12.8		12	15.5
21A(61)	10.3	10.6	9.2	12.4	8.3	11.1
21A(63)	12.8	11.1	10.9	10.3	13.1	10.8

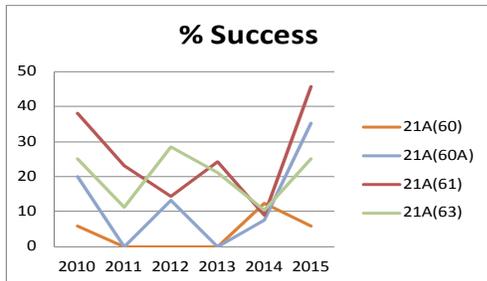
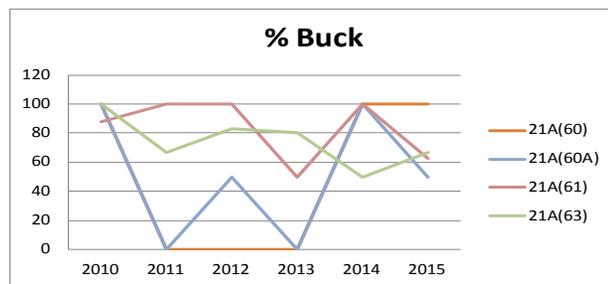
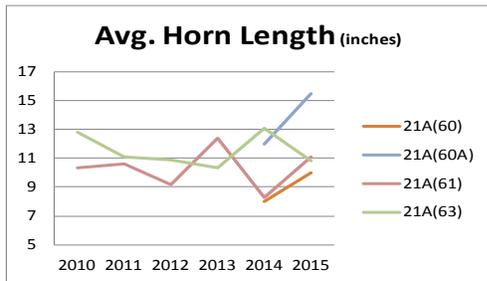
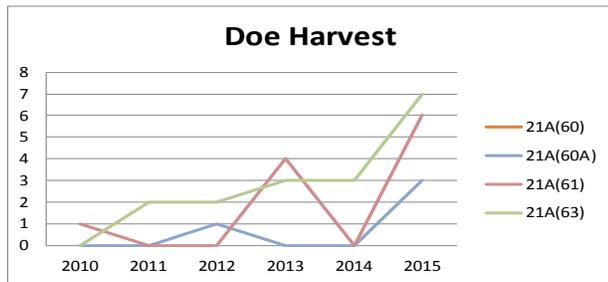
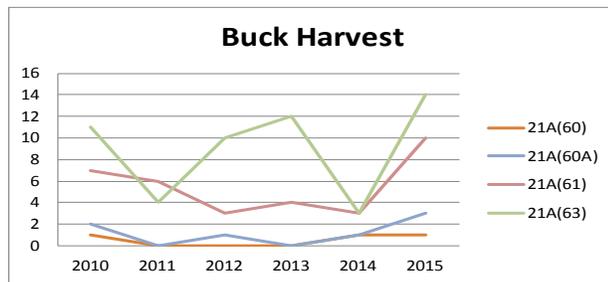
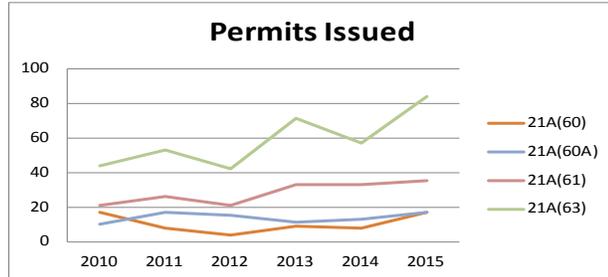


Figure 14. Pronghorn archery harvest, Groups 3 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present.

## **SALMON REGION**

### **Abstract**

There were 268 pronghorn reported harvested in 2014 and 272 pronghorn reported harvested in 2015 in the Salmon Region. Of these harvested pronghorn 19% were taken during the archery season in both 2014 and 2015. Female harvest accounted for less than 5% in 2014 and 7% in 2015 during the any weapon season. Female harvest was higher during the archery season with 37% in 2014 and 26% in 2015. Since 2009, pronghorn archery opportunity has been converted from general season to unlimited controlled hunts across the state because archery harvest had been increasing over the years. Success for active firearms hunters in all controlled hunts was 80% in 2014 and 77% in 2015; archery success was 19% in 2014 and 20% in 2015. Average horn length was over 12 inches for all seasons combined.

All doe/fawn tags were eliminated in 1998, compared to 100 issued in 1997 and 825 in seasons during 1992-1993. In 2004, the any-weapon season in GMU 30A was converted to a traditional muzzleloader hunt to maintain hunting opportunity. In 2009, GMU 36A was added as a muzzleloader hunt with 10 tags. In 2014 the hunt area 36A-1 was expanded to include GMU 36 due to expanding herd numbers in the Stanley area.

### **Management**

The Salmon supports a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend. The region manages pronghorn with controlled rifle, short-range, and muzzleloader hunts and an unlimited controlled archery season.

### **Habitat Conditions**

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service manage most of the land occupied by pronghorn. The sage-steppe in Region 7 is generally intact providing quality range conditions during years with adequate precipitation. During dry years with low quality range conditions on public lands private cultivated lands are utilized more often by pronghorn. Pronghorn occurring in the Salmon region are seasonally migratory and may migrate into the Upper Snake and Southeast regions during winter months.

### **Harvest**

There were 239 pronghorn reported harvested in 2014 and 243 pronghorn reported harvested in 2015 in the Salmon Region. Of these harvested pronghorn 41% were taken during the archery season in 2014 and 38% in 2015. Female harvest accounted for 10% in 2014 and 11% in 2015 during the any weapon season. Since 2009, pronghorn archery opportunity has been converted from general season to unlimited controlled hunts across the state because archery harvest had been increasing over the years. Success for active firearms hunters in all controlled hunts was 80% in 2014 and 77% in 2015; archery success was 19% in 2014 and 20% in 2015. Average horn length was over 12 inches for all seasons combined.

All doe/fawn tags were eliminated in 1998, compared to 100 issued in 1997 and 825 in seasons during 1992-1993. In 2004, the any-weapon season in GMU 30A was converted to a traditional

muzzleloader hunt to maintain hunting opportunity. In 2009, GMU 36A was added as a muzzleloader hunt with 10 tags. In 2014 the hunt area 36A-1 was expanded to include Unit 36 due to expanding herd numbers in the Stanley area.

### **Depredation**

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners tolerate pronghorn in many areas and Region 7 only received one depredation complaint for pronghorn in 2015-2016. The Department has engaged in active hazing and directs hunters to problem areas to help alleviate problems. Region 7 did not have an active claim for pronghorn damage during FY 2015-2016.

### **Population Surveys**

Ground composition surveys were conducted in the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi and Stanley areas to estimate fawn and buck ratios in late August – early September of 2014 and 2015. In 2014, the Upper Lemhi sample size was 421 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 50:100 does and a buck ratio of 32:100 does. In the Pahsimeroi, 323 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 35:100 does and a buck ratio of 31:100 does. In the Stanley area, 193 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 57:100 does and a buck ratio of 90:100 does.

During the 2015 ground composition surveys the Upper Lemhi sample size was 284 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 43:100 does and a buck ratio of 19:100 does. In the Pahsimeroi, 433 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 50:100 does and a buck ratio of 14:100 does. In the Stanley area, 77 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 78:100 does and a buck ratio of 63:100 does.

## **Group 1 (GMUs 28, 36B, 37 Part)**

### **Management**

The Salmon supports a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend. The region manages pronghorn with controlled rifle, short-range, and muzzleloader hunts and an unlimited controlled archery season.

### **Habitat Conditions**

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service manage most of the land occupied by pronghorn. The sage-steppe in Salmon is generally intact providing quality range conditions during years with adequate precipitation. During dry years with low quality range conditions on public lands private cultivated lands are utilized more often by pronghorn. Pronghorn occurring in Group 1 are seasonally migratory within the region.

### **Harvest**

There were 82 pronghorn reported harvested in 2014 and 73 pronghorn reported harvested in 2015 in Group 1. Female harvest accounted for 4 animals 2014 and 9 in 2015. Average horn length was over 12 inches for Group 1.

**Depredation**

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners generally tolerate pronghorn in Group 1.

**Population Surveys**

Ground composition surveys were conducted in the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi and Stanley. This only takes in a very small area within Group 1.

**Pronghorn  
Salmon Region  
Group 1 (GMUs 36B and 37)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>65</b>

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
36B	11	10	10	10	12	11
37	63	64	65	66	67	64
	74	74	75	76	79	75

Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
36B	8	7	10	8	8	6
37	49	42	53	54	57	52
	57	49	63	62	65	58

Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
36B	0	1	0	0	1	0
37	1	3	2	2	0	7
	1	4	2	2	1	7

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
36B	13.4	13.3	12.4	13.5	12.4	12.8
37	13.7	13.5	12.7	12.9	13	12.6

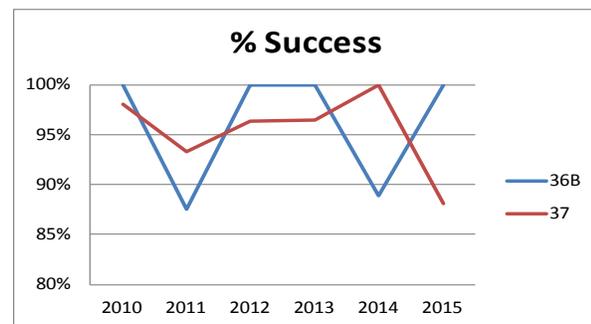
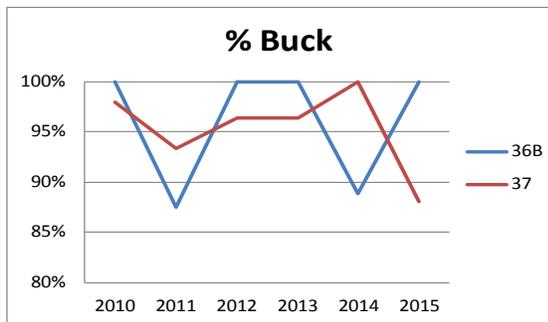
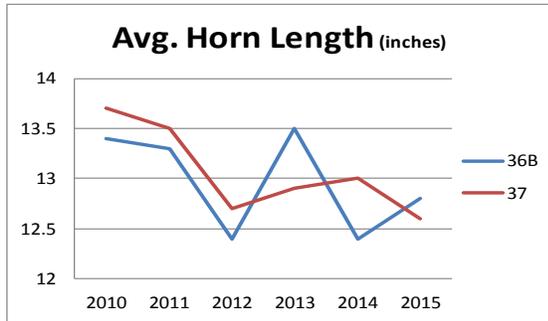
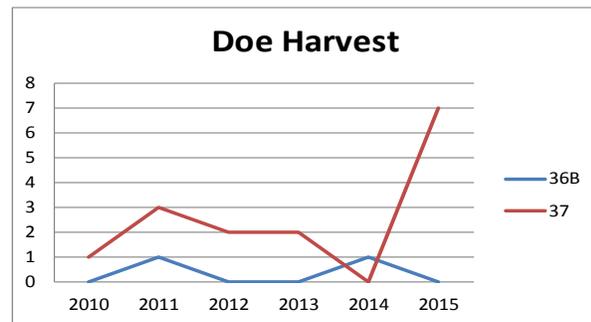
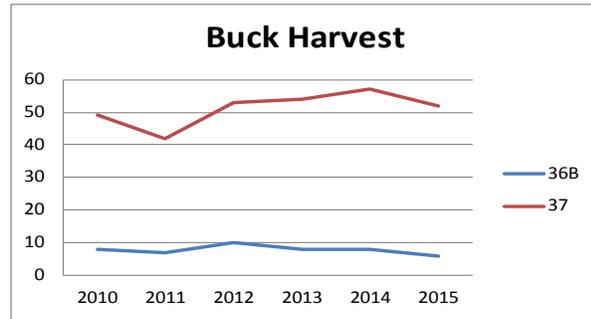
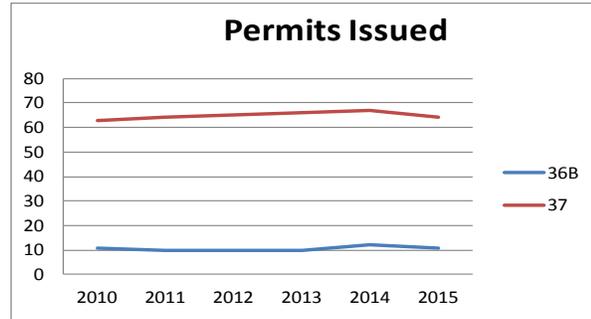
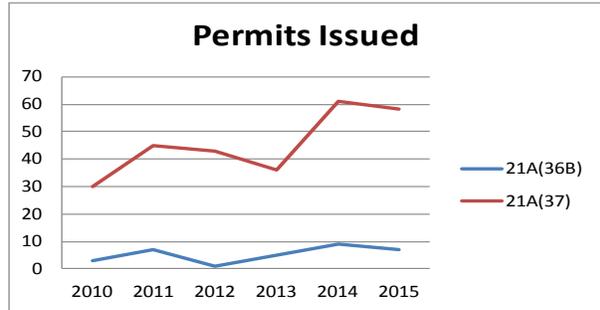


Figure 15. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 1 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

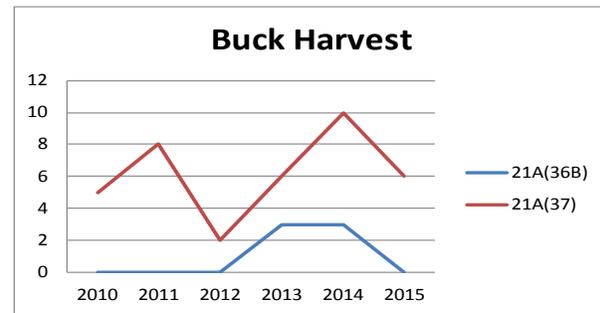
**Pronghorn  
Salmon Region  
Group 1 (GMUs 21A, 28, 36B, and 37)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>11</b>

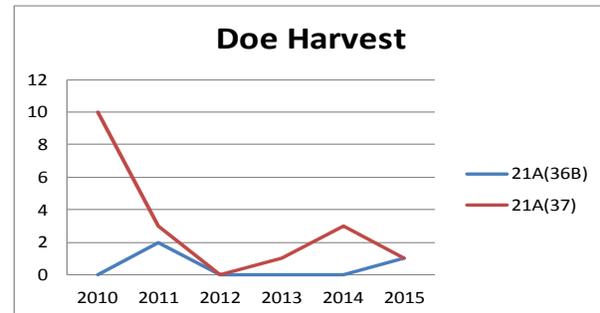
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(36B)	3	7	1	5	9	7
21A(37)	30	45	43	36	61	58
	33	52	44	41	70	65



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(36B)	0	0	0	3	3	0
21A(37)	5	8	2	6	10	6
	5	8	2	9	13	6



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(36B)	0	2	0	0	0	1
21A(37)	10	3	0	1	3	1
	10	5	0	1	3	2



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(36B)				13	16.1	
21A(37)	10	12.3	14.5	9.8	10.8	11.9

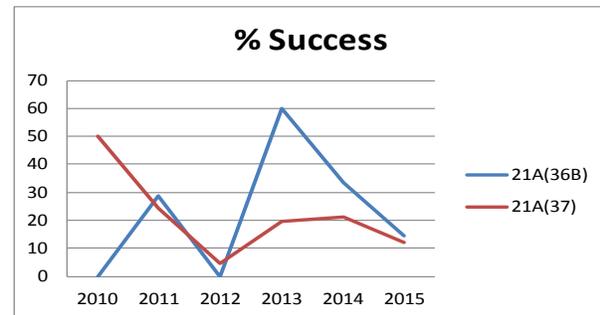
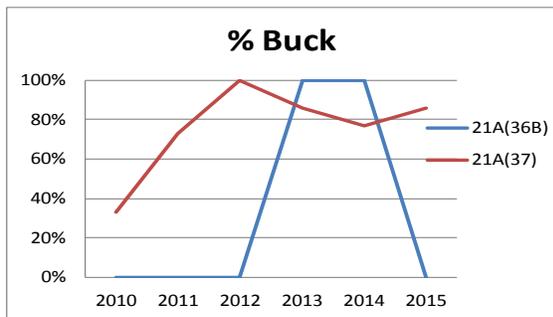
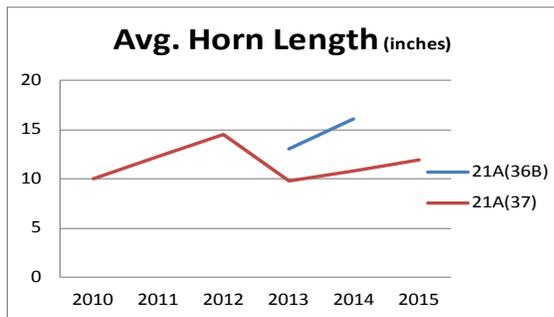


Figure 16. Pronghorn archery harvest, Groups 1 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

## **Group 2 (GMUs 21A Part, 29, 30, 36A, 37 Part, 37A)**

### **Management**

Region 7 supports a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend. The region manages pronghorn with controlled rifle, short-range, and muzzleloader hunts and an unlimited controlled archery season.

### **Habitat Conditions**

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service manage most of the land occupied by pronghorn. The sage-steppe in Region 7 is generally intact providing quality range conditions during years with adequate precipitation. During dry years with low quality range conditions on public lands private cultivated lands are utilized more often by pronghorn. Pronghorn occurring in Group 2 are seasonally migratory and may migrate into Region 5 and 6 during winter months.

### **Harvest**

There were 122 pronghorn reported harvested in 2014 and 129 pronghorn reported harvested in 2015 in Group 2. Female harvest accounted for 14 animals 2014 and 13 in 2015. Average horn length was over 12 inches for Group 2.

### **Depredation**

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners generally tolerate pronghorn in Group 2.

### **Population Surveys**

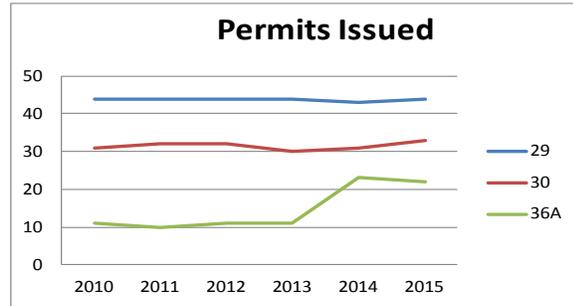
Ground composition surveys were conducted in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi in Group 2. In 2014, the Upper Lemhi sample size was 421 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 50:100 does and a buck ratio of 32:100 does. In the Pahsimeroi, 323 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 35:100 does and a buck ratio of 31:100 does.

During the 2015 ground composition surveys the Upper Lemhi sample size was 284 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 43:100 does and a buck ratio of 19:100 does. In the Pahsimeroi, 433 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 50:100 does and a buck ratio of 14:100 does.

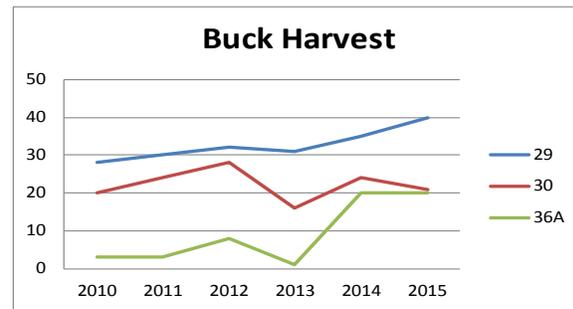
**Pronghorn  
Salmon Region  
Group 2 (GMUs 29, 30, and 36A)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>76</b>

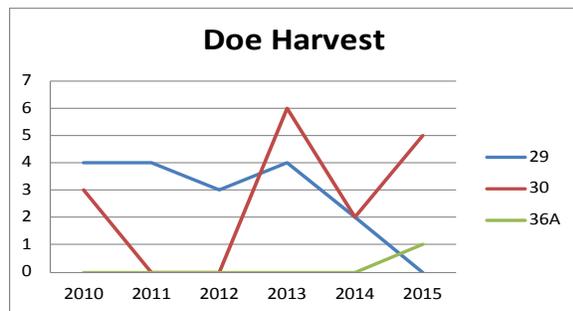
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
29	44	44	44	44	43	44
30	31	32	32	30	31	33
36A	11	10	11	11	23	22
	86	86	87	85	97	99



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
29	28	30	32	31	35	40
30	20	24	28	16	24	21
36A	3	3	8	1	20	20
	51	57	68	48	79	81



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
29	4	4	3	4	2	0
30	3	0	0	6	2	5
36A	0	0	0	0	0	1
	7	4	3	10	4	6



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
29	11.9	11.1	11.9	11.2	11.8	12.6
30	11.3	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.8
36A	12.7	13.3	14.2	10	12	12.6

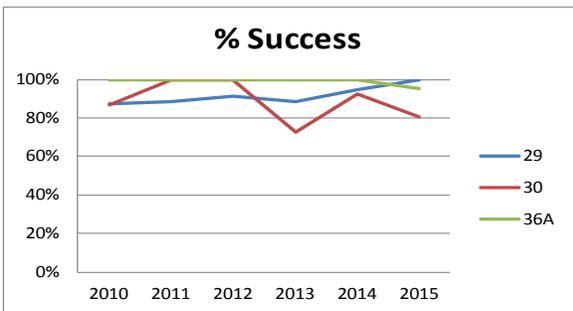
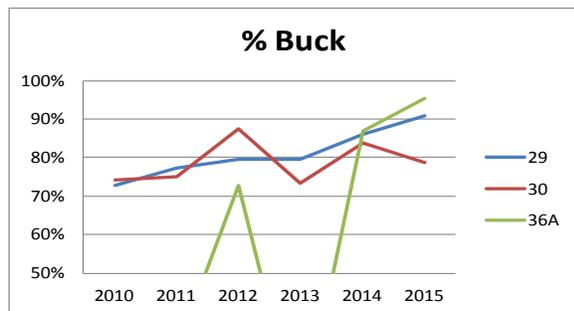
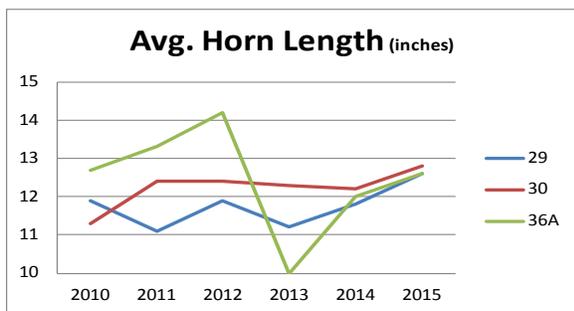
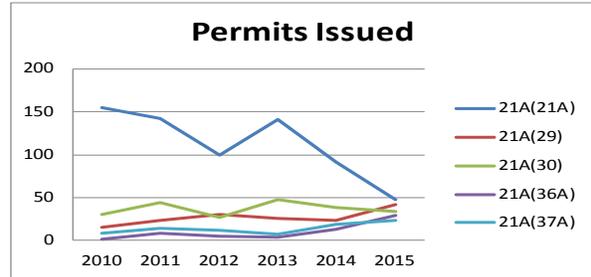


Figure 17. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

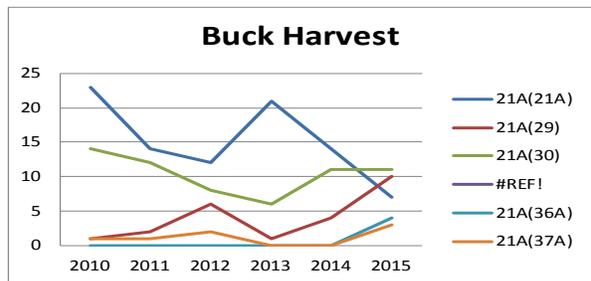
**Pronghorn  
Salmon Region  
Group 2 (GMUs 29, 30, 36A, and 37A)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>40</b>

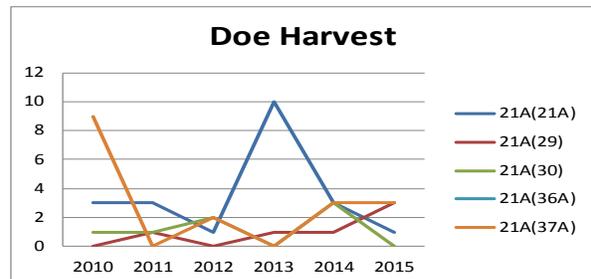
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(21A)	155	142	100	141	91	48
21A(29)	15	23	30	26	24	42
21A(30)	30	44	27	48	39	34
21A(36A)	2	8	5	4	13	29
21A(37A)	9	14	12	7	19	24
	211	231	174	226	186	177



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(21A)	23	14	12	21	14	7
21A(29)	1	2	6	1	4	10
21A(30)	14	12	8	6	11	11
21A(36A)	0	0	0	0	0	4
21A(37A)	1	1	2	0	0	3
	39	29	28	28	29	35



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(21A)	3	3	1	10	3	1
21A(29)	0	1	0	1	1	3
21A(30)	1	1	2	0	3	0
21A(36A)	0	0	0	0	0	0
21A(37A)	9	0	2	0	3	3
	13	5	5	11	10	7



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(21A)	10.4	10.3	10.4	12.2	11.9	12.6
21A(29)	12	13	13.6	7	12.2	10.8
21A(30)	12.1	11.9	12.5	10.3	11.1	11.5
21A(36A)						13.1
21A(37A)	9	10.3	8.8			9.5

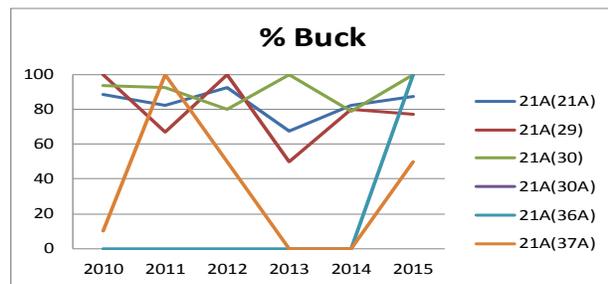
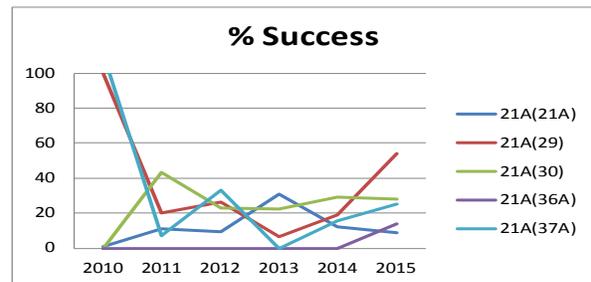
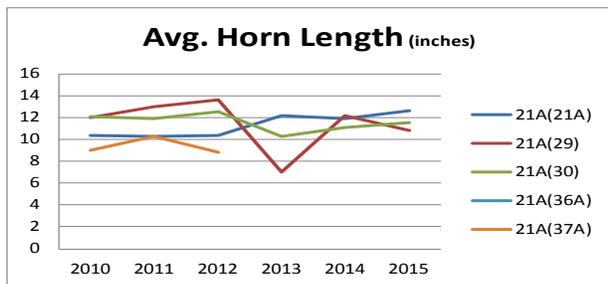


Figure 18. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

## **Group 3 (GMU 30A)**

### **Management**

Region 7 supports a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend. The region manages pronghorn with controlled rifle, short-range, and muzzleloader hunts and an unlimited controlled archery season.

### **Habitat Conditions**

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service manage most of the land occupied by pronghorn. The sage-steppe in Region 7 is generally intact providing quality range conditions during years with adequate precipitation. During dry years with low quality range conditions on public lands private cultivated lands are utilized more often by pronghorn. Pronghorn occurring in Group 3 are seasonally migratory and typically migrate into Region 6 during winter months.

### **Harvest**

There were 34 pronghorn reported harvested in 2014 and 41 pronghorn reported harvested in 2015 in Group 3. Female harvest accounted for 5 animals in each 2014 and 2015. Average horn length was 11.7 in 2014 and 12 inches in 2015 for Group 3.

### **Depredation**

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners generally tolerate pronghorn in Group 3.

### **Population Surveys**

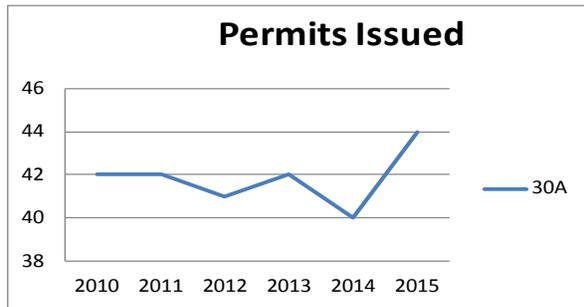
Ground composition surveys were conducted in the Lemhi in Group 2. In 2014, the Upper Lemhi sample size was 421 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 50:100 does and a buck ratio of 32:100 does.

During the 2015 ground composition surveys the Upper Lemhi sample size was 284 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 43:100 does and a buck ratio of 19:100 does.

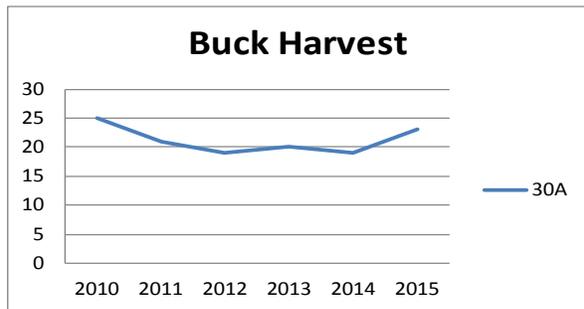
**Pronghorn  
Salmon Region  
Group 3 (GMUs 30A and 36)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Any Weapon</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>22</b>

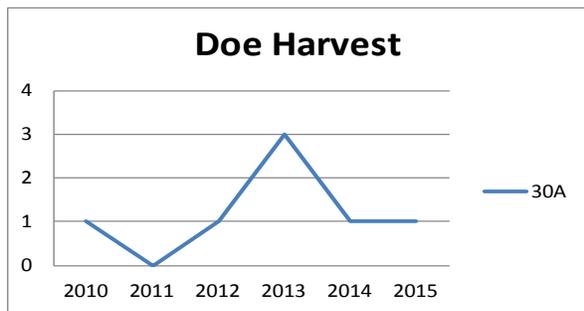
Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
30A	42	42	41	42	40	44
	42	42	41	42	40	44



Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
30A	25	21	19	20	19	23
	25	21	19	20	19	23



Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
30A	1	0	1	3	1	1
	1	0	1	3	1	1



Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
30A	10.4	10.8	11.3	11	11.7	12

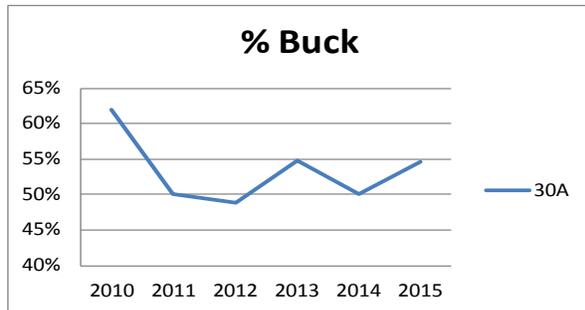
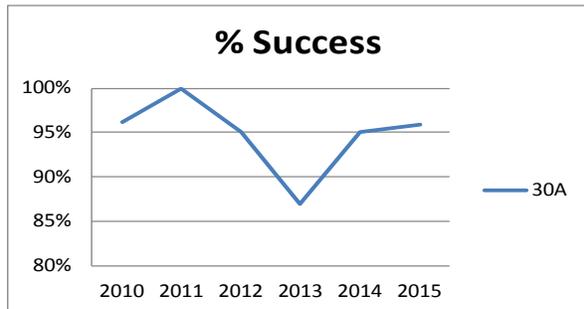
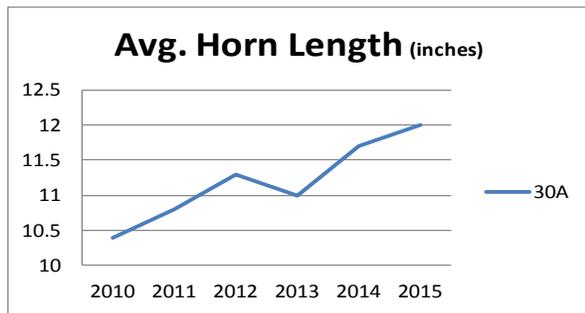


Figure 19. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 3 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

**Pronghorn  
Salmon Region  
Group 3 (GMUs 30A and 36)**

<b>Square Miles =</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>3-Year Averages</b>	
<b>% Public Land =</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Archery</b>		<b>Harvest</b>	<b>16</b>

Permits	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(30A)	24	24	30	34	34	35
21A(36)	28	48	47	36	54	88
	52	72	77	70	88	123

Bucks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(30A)	5	3	8	5	4	3
21A(36)	1	6	5	6	6	10
	6	9	13	11	10	13

Does	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(30A)	0	3	0	6	4	0
21A(36)	1	1	2	0	0	4
	1	4	2	6	4	4

Avg Horn	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21A(30A)	10.7	12.2	10.8	9.3	11.7	10.3
21A(36)	13	13.5	13.8	12.3	13.2	12.6

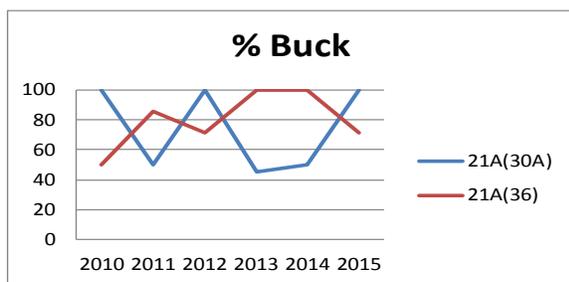
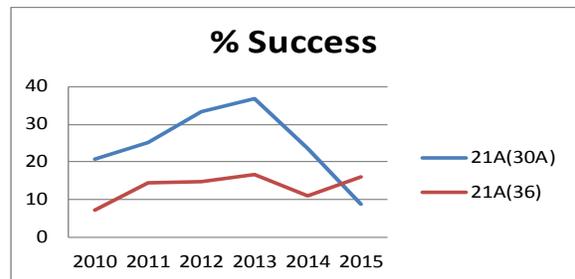
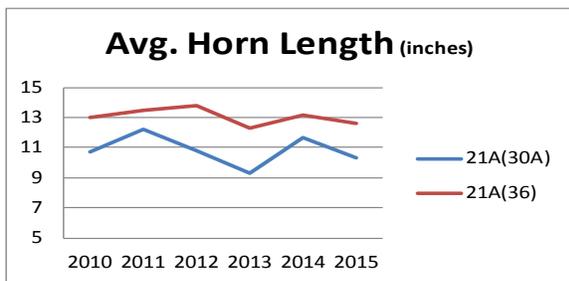
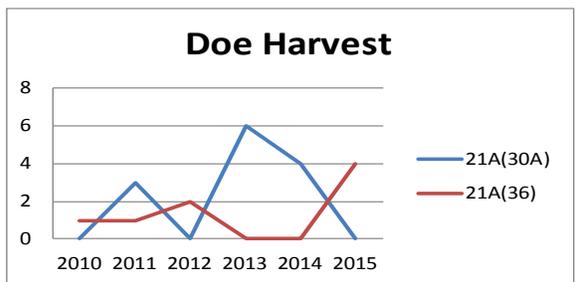
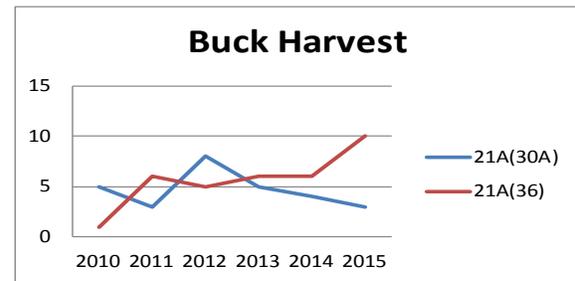
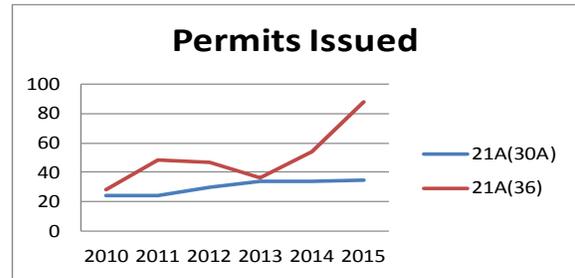


Figure 20. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 3 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

**APPENDIX A**  
**IDAHO**  
**2014 SEASON**  
**PRONGHORN RULES**

# Big Game

2014 Seasons and Rules

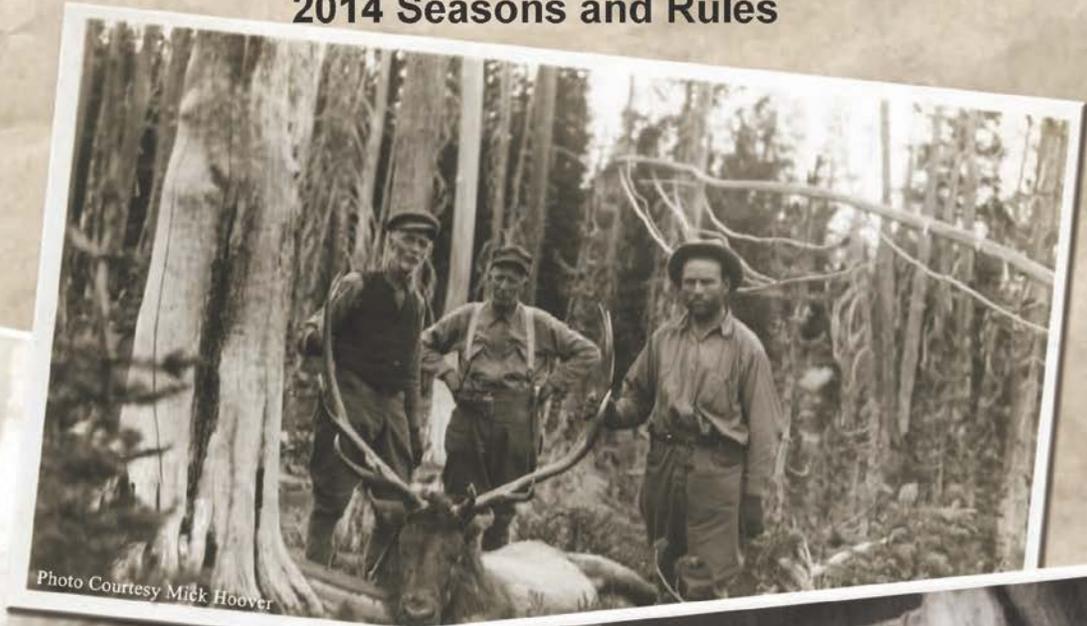


Photo Courtesy Mick Hoover



Photo Courtesy Mick Hoover

Photo Courtesy Alton Howell



## Pronghorn Controlled Hunts

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 108-111.

**Hunters: Please check Pronghorn Controlled Hunt Area descriptions on page 68. Hunt Areas may change annually.**

All pronghorn hunting, including archery seasons, is by controlled hunt.

**Doe or fawn only:** Only pronghorn without a black cheek patch or with horns less than 3 inches long may be taken during doe or fawn only pronghorn seasons. To participate in an archery only pronghorn hunting season, hunters must have in their possession an archery permit in addition to required license and tag.

**Attention Pronghorn Archery Hunters!** Don't give your sport a black eye. Did you know that leaving blind material is considered littering? And, digging pits on federal land is a violation of federal law? For more information on how to construct a legal blind, see page 98 or contact your local Bureau of Land Management office.

<b>2014 Controlled Pronghorn Hunts (2,115 Tags Plus Unlimited Tags)</b> <b>Either Sex Pronghorn</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4001	29 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4002	30 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	30	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 30, See Pages 103-105</i>
4003	36B <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	10	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4004	37 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	60	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4005	39 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Portion of Unit only</i>
4006	40-1	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4007	42 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	200	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4008	44-1 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 45, See Pages 103-105</i>
4009	45-1 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	15	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4010	46-1	60	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4011	49	35	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4012	50	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4013	51 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 51, See Pages 103-105</i>
4014	52 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 52, See Pages 103-105</i>
4015	52A <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 53, See Pages 103-105</i>
4016	54-1	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4017	58	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4018	59 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4019	60A <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4020	63-1 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4021	68	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4022	76 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	5	Aug 15 - Sep 15	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

**For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions, please see pages 108-111.**

 <b>2014 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Archery Only - Archery Permit Required</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4023	21A <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	Unlimited	Aug 15 - Sep 15	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 49, 50, 51, 53, 59 &amp; 59A, See Pages 103-105</i>
4024	40-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	200	Aug 15 - Aug 30	
4025	40-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	
4026	45-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	40	Aug 15 - Aug 30	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4027	45-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4028	46-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	40	Aug 15 - Aug 30	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 103-105</i>
4029	46-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 103-105</i>
4030	54-1	15	Aug 15 - Sep 15	
4031	68	40	Aug 15 - Aug 30	
4032	68	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	

 <b>2014 Controlled Hunts Doe or Fawn Pronghorn</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4033	44-1 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	75	Oct 5 - Oct 24 Dec 1 - Dec 31	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 45, See Pages 103-105</i>
4034	44-2 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	100	Nov 1 - Nov 30	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 45 &amp; 52, See Pages 103-105</i>
4035	49	15	Oct 5 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4036	54-3 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Oct 5 - Oct 24	
4037	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Nov 1 - Nov 30	<i>Short Range weapons only on Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area</i>

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions, please see pages 108-111.

PRONGHORN

## Your nonresident hunting license now includes a three-day fishing license!



Use the Fish & Game Fish Planner to find the best fishing locations



Year-round seasons in most waters



You pick the days you want to fish



 <b>2014 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Muzzleloader Only - Muzzleloader Permit Required</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4038	30A	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4039	41 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Portion of Unit only</i>
4040	47	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4041	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	50	Aug 15 - Sep 18	
4042	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	50	Sep 19 - Oct 24	

 <b>2014 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Short Range Weapon</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4043	36A <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	20	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
4044	61 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Very limited access, Portion of Unit only</i>

 <b>2014 Controlled Hunts Pronghorn Youth Only</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4045	32 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	15	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Either sex, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105 Short range weapons only on Montour WMA</i>
4046	39 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	5	Aug 15 - Sep 15	<i>Either sex, Portion of Unit only, Archery only</i>
4047	52 <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Doe or Fawn only, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 52, See Pages 103-105</i>
4048	54-2 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	15	Aug 15 - Oct 24	<i>Doe or Fawn only</i>
4049	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Aug 8 - Oct 24	<i>Either sex, Muzzleloader only</i>

 <b>2014 Controlled Hunts Landowner Permission Required EXTRA Doe or Fawn Pronghorn</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4050	45-3X <sup>b</sup> (see pg 68)	50	Nov 1 - Dec 31	<i>Private land only, See Page 111 for application information</i>
4051	46-3X <sup>a</sup> (see pg 68)	25	Aug 15 - Oct 24	<i>Private land only, See Page 111 for application information</i>

Landowner Permission Required Hunts are a form of Depredations Hunts. Do not apply for these hunts during the controlled hunt application period. Please see Page 111 for application information.

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions, please see pages 108-111.

# 2015 & 2016 BIG GAME Seasons & Rules



## Controlled Hunt Application Periods

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn & Fall Black Bear: May 1 – June 5

Spring Black Bear: January 15 – February 15

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn Seasons: August 2015 - February 2016 & August 2016 - February 2017

Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2015 - June 2016 & August 2016 - June 2017

Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2015 - June 2016 & July 2016 - June 2017

*Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Black Bear*



First Edition, 2015



## Pronghorn Controlled Hunts

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 106 - 109.

**Hunters: Please check Pronghorn Controlled Hunt Area descriptions on page 64. Hunt Areas may change.**

All pronghorn hunting, including archery seasons, is by controlled hunt.

**Doe or fawn only:** Only pronghorn without a black cheek patch or with horns less than 3 inches long may be taken during doe or fawn only pronghorn seasons. To participate in an archery only pronghorn hunting season, hunters must have in their possession an archery permit in addition to required license and tag.

**Attention Pronghorn Archery Hunters!** Don't give your sport a black eye. Did you know that leaving blind material is considered littering? And, digging pits on federal land is a violation of federal law? For more information on how to construct a legal blind, see page 96 or contact your local Bureau of Land Management office.

### **Youth Hunt Only:**

See page 105 for more information.

<b>2015 &amp; 2016 Controlled Pronghorn Hunts (2,345 Tags Plus Unlimited Tags) Either Sex Pronghorn</b>				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
<b>4001</b>	29-1 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4002</b>	30-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	30	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 30, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4003</b>	36B-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	10	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4004</b>	37-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	60	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4005</b>	39	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4006</b>	40	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4007</b>	41-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	200	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4008</b>	44-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	100	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 45, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4009</b>	45-1 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4010</b>	46	60	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4011</b>	49	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4012</b>	50 (See pg 64)	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4013</b>	51-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 51, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4014</b>	52-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 52, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4015</b>	52A-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 53, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4016</b>	54	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4017</b>	58	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4018</b>	59-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
<b>4019</b>	60A-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4020</b>	63-1 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4021</b>	68	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
<b>4022</b>	76-1 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	5	Aug 15 - Sep 15	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

**For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 106 - 109.**

**PRONGHORN**

2015 & 2016 Controlled Hunts Doe or Fawn Pronghorn				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4023	44-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	150	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 45, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
			Dec 1 - Dec 31	
4024	44-2 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	150	Nov 1 - Nov 30	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 45 &amp; 52, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4025	49	15	Oct 5 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4026	54-1 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Oct 5 - Oct 24	
4027	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Nov 1 - Nov 30	<i>Short Range weapons only on Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area</i>

2015 & 2016 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Archery Only - Archery Permit Required				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4028	21A-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	Unlimited	Aug 15 - Sep 15	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 49, 50, 51, 53, 59 &amp; 59A, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4029	40-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	200	Aug 15 - Aug 30	
4030	40-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	
4031	45-2 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Aug 15 - Aug 30	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4032	45-2 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4033	46-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	40	Aug 15 - Aug 30	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4034	46-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4035	54	25	Aug 15 - Sep 15	
4036	68	40	Aug 15 - Aug 30	
4037	68	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	

2015 & 2016 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Muzzleloader Only - Muzzleloader Permit Required				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4038	30A	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4039	41-2 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Portion of Unit only</i>
4040	47	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4041	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Aug 15 - Sep 18	
4042	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Sep 19 - Oct 24	

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 106 - 109.

**PRONGHORN**

2015 & 2016 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Short Range Weapon				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4043	36A-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	20	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4044	61-1 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Very limited access, Portion of Unit only</i>

2015 & 2016 Controlled Hunts Pronghorn Youth Only				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4045	32-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	15	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Either sex, Short range weapons only on Montour WMA Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4046	39	5	Aug 15 - Sep 15	<i>Either sex, Archery only</i>
4047	52-1 <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	<i>Doe or Fawn only, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 52, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
4048	54-2 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Aug 15 - Oct 24	<i>Doe or Fawn only</i>
4049	63-2 <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Aug 8 - Oct 24	<i>Either sex, Muzzleloader only</i>

2015 & 2016 Controlled Hunts Landowner Permission Required EXTRA Doe or Fawn Pronghorn				
Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4050*	45-1X <sup>b</sup> (See pg 64)	50	Nov 1 - Dec 31	<i>Private land only, For application information, See Page 109</i>
4051*	46-1X <sup>a</sup> (See pg 64)	25	Aug 15 - Oct 24	<i>Private land only, For application information, See Page 109</i>

\*Landowner Permission Required Hunts are a form of Depredations Hunts. Do not apply for these hunts during the controlled hunt application period. Please see page 109 for application information.

**PRONGHORN**

<sup>a</sup> This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

<sup>b</sup> This hunt includes only a portion of this unit. See controlled hunt area descriptions.

**For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 106 - 109.**

Submitted by:

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Bureau of Wildlife

Jeff Gould  
Jeff Gould, Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

## FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment.

The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a

formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit.

These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

