IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

Surveys and Inventories

FY2018 Statewide Report

PRONGHORN

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Prepared by:

Rick Ward ..... Southwest Region
Mike McDonald ..... Magic Valley Region
Zach Lockyer ..... Southeast Region
Curtis Hendricks ..... Upper Snake Region
Greg Painter, Chris Gaughan ..... Salmon Region
Mike Elmer ..... Data Coordinator
David Smith ..... Grants/Contracts Specialist

Compiled and edited by: Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist

2019
Boise, Idaho

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran's status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of DEPARTMENT, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: WSFR, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Department for assistance.

Please note that Department databases containing this information are dynamic. Records are added, deleted, and/or edited on a frequent basis. This information was current as of the date of this report. Raw data do not have the benefit of interpretation or synthesis by the Department.

The Department requests that you direct any requests for this information to us rather than forwarding this information to third parties.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEWIDE....1
Summary....1
Introduction....1
SOUTHWEST REGION....5
GROUP 1 (GMUS 32, 39, 40, 41, 42)....5
Historical Background....5
Management Objectives....5
Habitat Management and Monitoring....5
Biological Objectives....6
Interspecific Issues....6
Predation Issues....6
Winter Feeding and Depredation....6
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....7
Capture and Translocation....7
Disease Monitoring....7
Management Discussion....7
GROUP 4 (GMU 38)....8
Historical Background....8
Management Objectives....8
Habitat Management and Monitoring....8
Biological Objectives....8
Interspecific Issues....8
Predation Issues....8
Winter Feeding and Depredation....9
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....9
Capture and Translocation....9
Disease Monitoring....9
Management Discussion....9
MAGIC VALLEY REGION....12
GROUP 2 (GMUS 45, 46, 47, 49, 52, 52A, 53)....12
Historical Background....12

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Management Objectives....12
Habitat Management and Monitoring....12
Biological Objectives....12
Interspecific Issues....13
Predation Issues....13
Winter Feeding and Depredation....13
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....14
Capture and Translocation....14
Disease Monitoring....14
Management Discussion....14
GROUP 3 (GMU 44)....17
Historical Background....17
Management Objectives....17
Habitat Management and Monitoring....17
Biological Objectives....17
Interspecific Issues....17
Predation Issues....18
Winter Feeding and Depredation....18
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....18
Capture and Translocation....18
Disease Monitoring....18
Management Discussion....18
GROUP 4 (GMUS 48, 54, 57)....20
Historical Background....20
Management Objectives....20
Habitat Management and Monitoring....20
Biological Objectives....20
Interspecific Issues....21
Predation Issues....21
Winter Feeding and Depredation....21
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....21

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Capture and Translocation 22
Disease Monitoring 22
Management Discussion 22
SOUTHEAST REGION 25
GROUP 2 (GMU 68) 25
Historical Background 25
Management Objectives 25
Habitat Management and Monitoring 25
Biological Objectives 25
Interspecific Issues 27
Predation Issues 27
Winter Feeding and Depredation 27
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics 27
Capture and Translocation 27
Disease Monitoring 28
Management Discussion 28
GROUP 3 (GMU 76) 28
Historical Background 28
Management Objectives 28
Habitat Management and Monitoring 28
Biological Objectives 28
Interspecific Issues 28
Predation Issues 29
Winter Feeding and Depredation 29
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics 29
Capture and Translocation 29
Disease Monitoring 29
Management Discussion 29
UPPER SNAKE REGION 31
GROUP 2 (GMUS 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A) 31
Historical Background 31

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Management Objectives....31
Habitat Management and Monitoring....31
Biological Objectives....31
Interspecific Issues....31
Predation Issues....31
Winter Feeding and Depredation....32
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....32
Capture and Translocation....32
Disease Monitoring....32
Management Discussion....32
GROUP 3 (GMUS 60, 60A, 61, 63)....35
Historical Background....35
Management Objectives....35
Habitat Management and Monitoring....35
Biological Objectives....35
Interspecific Issues....36
Predation Issues....36
Winter Feeding and Depredation....36
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics....36
Capture and Translocation....36
Disease Monitoring....36
Management Discussion....36
SALMON REGION....40
GROUP 1 (GMUS 28, 36B, 37 PART)....40
Historical Background....40
Management Objectives....40
Habitat Management and Monitoring....40
Biological Objectives....41
Interspecific Issues....41
Predation Issues....41
Winter Feeding and Depredation....41

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics 42
Capture and Translocation 42
Disease Monitoring 42
Management Discussion 42
GROUP 2 (GMUS 21A PART, 29, 30, 36A, 37 PART, 37A) 45
Historical Background 45
Management Objectives 45
Habitat Management and Monitoring 45
Biological Objectives 46
Interspecific Issues 46
Predation Issues 46
Winter Feeding and Depredation 46
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics 46
Capture and Translocation 47
Disease Monitoring 47
Management Discussion 47
GROUP 3 (GMU 30A) 50
Historical Background 50
Management Objectives 50
Habitat Management and Monitoring 50
Biological Objectives 51
Interspecific Issues 51
Predation Issues 51
Winter Feeding and Depredation 51
Hunting and Harvest Characteristics 51
Capture and Translocation 52
Disease Monitoring 52
Management Discussion 52
APPENDIX A 55

LIST OF FIGURES

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Figure 1. Pronghorn management groups in Idaho.....3
Figure 2. Statewide Pronghorn harvest.....4
Figure 3. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 1, Southwest Region, 2010-present. 10
Figure 4. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 1, Southwest Region, 2010-present. 11
Figure 5. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present. 15
Figure 6. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present. 16
Figure 7. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 3, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present. 19
Figure 8. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 4, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present. 23
Figure 9. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 4, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present. 24
Figure 11. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present 33
Figure 12. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present 34
Figure 13. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 3 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present. 38
Figure 14. Pronghorn archery harvest, Groups 3 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present.....39
Figure 15. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 1 Salmon Region, 2010-present. 43
Figure 16. Pronghorn archery harvest, Groups 1 Salmon Region, 2010-present. 44
Figure 17. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2 Salmon Region, 2010-present.....48
Figure 18. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2 Salmon Region, 2010-present.....49
Figure 19. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 3 Salmon Region, 2010-present.....53
Figure 20. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 3 Salmon Region, 2010-present.....54

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, 2017 to June 30, 2018

STATEWIDE

Summary

A total of 28,069 hunters (26,522 resident hunters and 1,547 non-resident hunters) applied for 2,365 controlled pronghorn tags offered in 2017. Forty-eight 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 1,161 hunters participated in 4 unlimited entry controlled archery pronghorn seasons, converted from general season archery hunts in prior years. One hundred forty tags were offered in 2017 for youth hunters (12-17 years of age) to take pronghorn.

An estimated 4,362 (includes unlimited tags) controlled hunt tag holders hunted pronghorn and harvested 1,404 pronghorn in 14,420 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 2017 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 GMUs 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 GMUs 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.

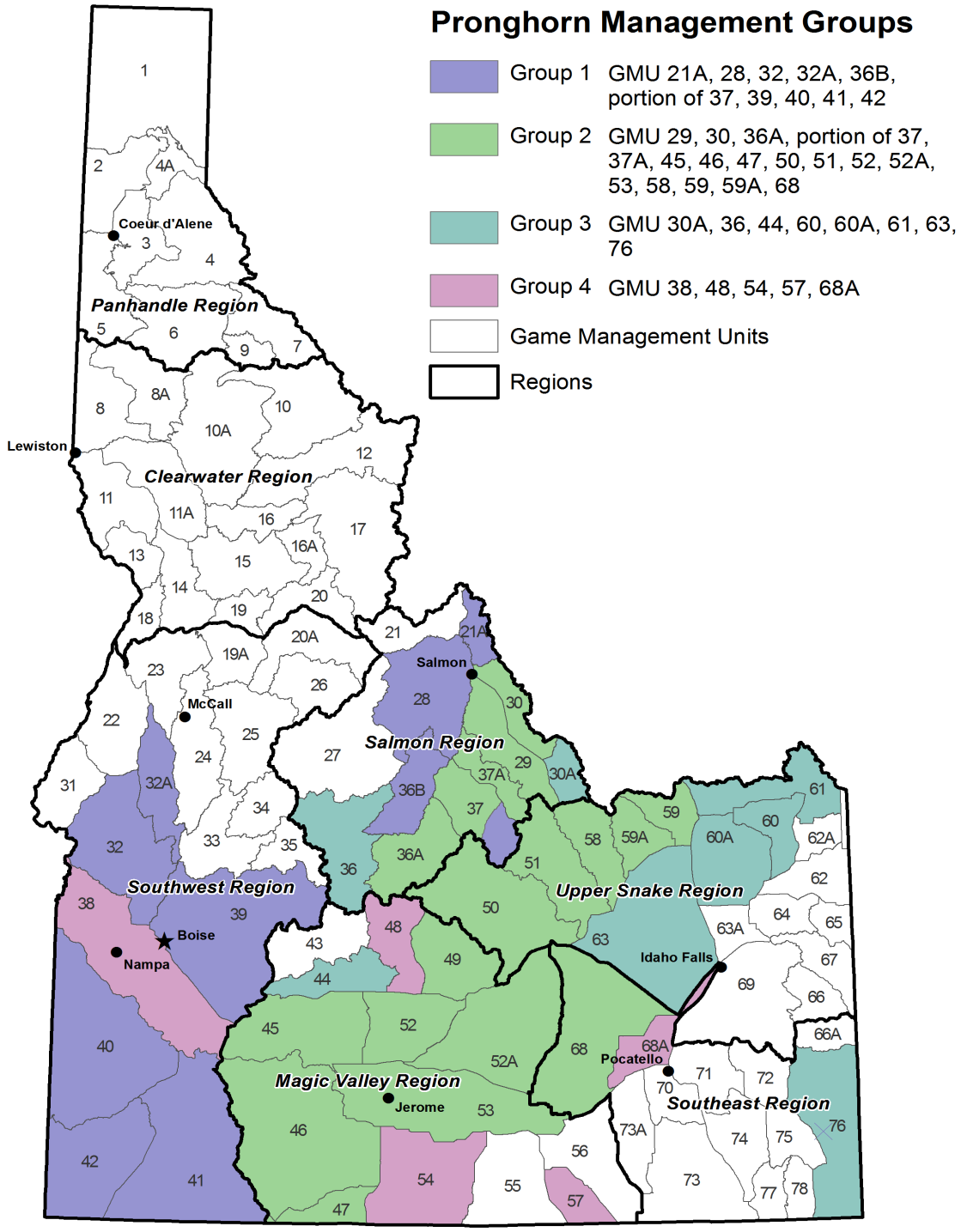


Figure 1. Pronghorn management groups in Idaho.

Pronghorn Statewide

Statewide Any Weapon and Archery Controlled Hunts			
Square Miles =	41,014	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	73	Hunters	4,188
		Harvest	1,786

Any Weapon	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tags Issued	1,854	1,942	2,093	2,248	2,325	1,745
Male Harvest	986	893	946	1,052	1,097	917
Female Harvest	194	276	284	422	233	152
Average Horn length	12.2	12.3	12.5	12.4	12.6	13.6

Archery	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tags Issued	1,693	1,791	1,836	1,958	2,104	2,617
Male Harvest	289	278	328	387	399	285
Female Harvest	64	61	77	84	48	50
Average Horn length	11.5	12.1	11.7	11.5	11.7	12.7

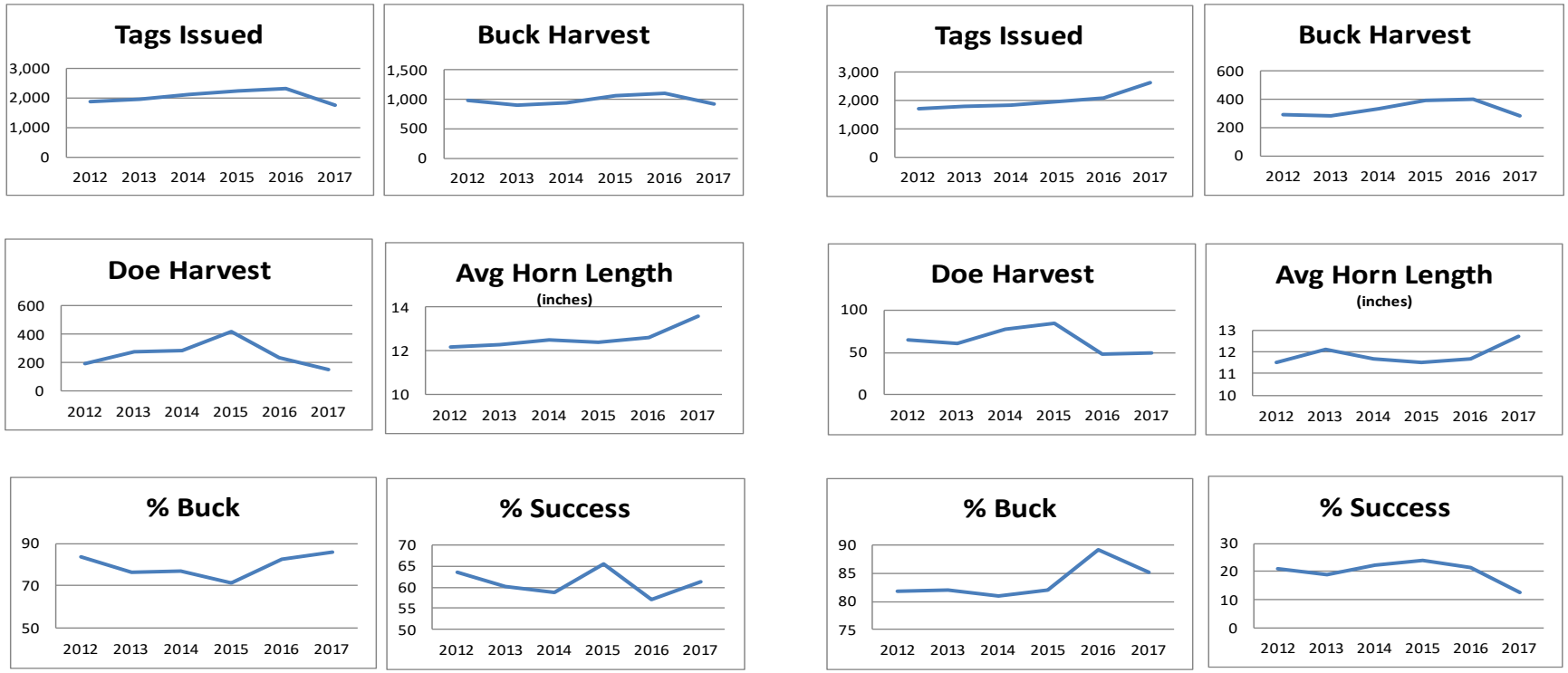


Figure 2. Statewide Pronghorn harvest.

SOUTHWEST REGION

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

Historical Background

Pronghorn habitat in this Group ranges from broken foothills and broad mountain valleys in GMUs to the north, to flatlands bisected by deep canyons in the southwest. These GMUs have been characterized by overall low hunter densities resulting from low tag numbers and widely distributed pronghorn populations. However, relatively high hunter densities can occur at localized habitat features such as water holes. High aesthetic appeal is generally associated with hunts in these units. Pronghorn densities are usually moderate to high; however, low densities in some units are compensated for by reduced tag levels to maintain a quality hunting experience.

Management Objectives

- Maintain an average horn length of 12.0 inches in the firearm buck harvest.
- Maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 50:100.
- Prevent or minimize depredations to agricultural crops.
- Include adequate forb and shrub mixtures in seedings to reduce negative effects on pronghorn habitat quality.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

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 irrigated agriculture or plantings of crested wheatgrass or other species to benefit livestock. Additionally, much of the private land and adjacent public land is grazed heavily. Frequent wildfires and limited moisture have allowed annual grasses to take over as the dominate plant in a significant portion of habitat. Vegetation manipulation has the ability to impact pronghorn, especially those practices that remove/alter the forb component of the understory and native brush communities. Noxious weeds and annual grasses are a major threat to pronghorn habitat.

In 2015, the Soda Fire burned 283,000 acres in the northern portion of GMU 40. The lower elevations of this fire burned in predominately annual grass/crested wheatgrass range with a history of frequent fires. However, in upper elevations the fire burned in a mosaic pattern in native sagebrush stands and could improve habitat conditions for pronghorn over the long-term. Fire rehabilitation efforts were substantial, but antelope numbers could decline until the habitat has recovered.

In GMUs 32 and 39, the conversion of ranches and agricultural land into subdivisions and planned communities has the potential to 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 development, coupled with increased public utilities and roads could 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 and potential effects of military training in the area. Fencing that is not wildlife compatible can impede pronghorn migration throughout the region.

Pronghorn depredation complaints have increased slightly over the last few years and are generally confined to isolated tracts of irrigated agriculture surrounded by annual grasslands. Occasionally a complaint is received about pronghorn depredations in the Owyhee GMUs, 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.

Biological Objectives

Manage for a biologically acceptable pronghorn population.

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No pronghorn radio-marking occurred in these GMU's during the reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

No pronghorn surveys were conducted in these GMU's during the reporting period.

Interspecific Issues

Livestock grazing is, and has been, the predominant land use in the area. In the early part of the twentieth century, excessive grazing by livestock combined with fire suppression severely altered plant communities to favor shrubs. Extensive areas have burned during the past several decades, and much of the sagebrush steppe was reseeded to crested wheatgrass or was invaded by cheatgrass. The reestablishment of sagebrush to benefit pronghorn may conflict with livestock grazing interests in some areas. Livestock numbers are currently significantly less than during the early part of the twentieth century, and serious conflicts are localized rather than widespread on winter ranges and critical riparian areas.

Predation Issues

Coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, wolves and black bears are the large predators in this area. No known predation issues occurred during the reporting period.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

No winter-feeding specific to pronghorn has occurred for many years in these GMUs. The Department will work with the Regional Winter Feeding Advisory Committee to identify any situations where feeding may be appropriate.

Pronghorn depredation has occurred on a localized scale, primarily associated with irrigated agriculture and often surrounded by habitat unsuitable to sustain pronghorn.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

Based on harvest reports, controlled rifle and muzzleloader harvest decreased slightly from 2016. In 2017, 200 pronghorn were harvested with a success rate of 53%. Average horn length in 2017 met the minimum management objective of 12 inches in all GMUs.

In area 40-1 archery hunts, an estimated 463 hunters harvested 122 antelope (23% success rate) in 2017. An estimated 44 pronghorn were harvested by 171 hunters on the early (Aug 15-30) controlled hunt, and 64 were harvested by 292 hunters on the unlimited controlled hunt (Sept 10-24).

Two new archery youth hunts in GMU 39 were initiated in 2017 to address localized depredation issues. An estimated 11 pronghorn were harvested by 25 hunters for an overall success rate of 44%.

Capture and Translocation

One fawn pronghorn from GMU 32 was translocated to a zoo in Idaho. No management or research related translocations occurred during the reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No potential disease cases were reported to the Department for the reporting period.

Management Discussion

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 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)

Historical Background

No hunts or surveys took place in this area prior to this 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, a landscape that is of little value for pronghorn. However, anecdotal observations by staff indicate a slight increase in pronghorn numbers in GMU 38, primarily associated with irrigated agriculture in the southern and eastern portions of the GMU. Pronghorn depredations are uncommon and isolated, but have recently increased. In 2017, a 10-tag pronghorn depredation hunt was added to GMU 38 to address localized depredation issues.

Management Objectives

- Include adequate forb and shrub mixtures in seedings to reduce negative effects on pronghorn habitat quality.
- Prevent or minimize depredations to agricultural crops.
- Maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

In 2017, the Yeti fire burned 2,339 acres, the Crater fire burned 1,073 acres, the Sim fire burned 492 acres and the Beet Dump fire burned 4,583 acres.

Biological Objectives

Manage for a biologically acceptable pronghorn population.

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No pronghorn radio-marking occurred in this GMU during the reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

No pronghorn surveys were conducted in this GMU during the reporting period.

Interspecific Issues

Livestock grazing is, and has been, the predominant land use in the area. The reestablishment of sagebrush to benefit pronghorn may conflict with livestock grazing interests in some areas.

Predation Issues

Coyotes and golden eagles are the large predators in this area. No known large-scale predation issues during the reporting period.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

No winter-feeding specific to pronghorn has occurred in this GMU. The Department will work with the Regional Winter Feeding Advisory Committee to identify any situations where feeding may be appropriate.

A hunt was initiated in 2017 to address localized depredation concerns associated with irrigated agriculture in the southern and eastern portions of GMU 38. The hunt has 10 tags with season dates September 25 through October 24.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

Based on 2017 harvest reports, 6 mature bucks were harvested with a success rate of 60%. Average horn length in 2017 was 14.2 inches.

Capture and Translocation

Pronghorn were not captured and translocated during the reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No potential disease cases were reported to the Department for the reporting period.

Management Discussion

Range manipulation projects, long-term grazing by livestock and wildfire has altered pronghorn habitat quality in the GMU. The Department will continue to urge land managers to include adequate forb and shrub mixtures in seeding's to improve quality of forage habitat and fawn cover for pronghorn.

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

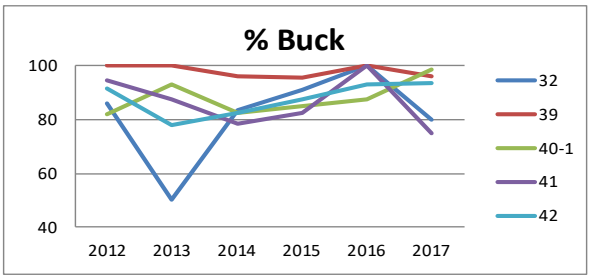
Square Miles =	**10,488**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**73**	**Hunters**	**376**
Any Weapon		**Harvest**	**206**

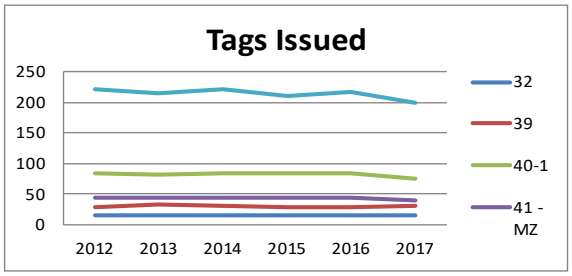
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
32	15	15	15	15	15	15
39	28	32	30	28	28	30
40-1	83	82	83	83	83	75
41 - MZ	44	44	44	44	44	40
42	220	214	220	211	217	200
	390	387	392	381	387	360

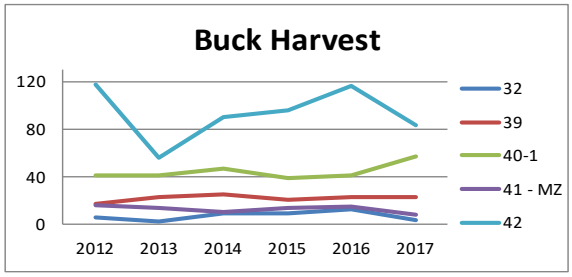
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
32	6	3	10	10	13	4
39	18	23	25	21	23	23
40-1	41	41	47	39	41	57
41 - MZ	17	14	11	14	16	9
42	118	56	90	96	117	84
	200	137	183	180	209	177

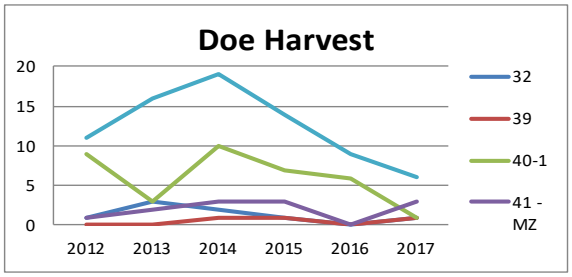
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
32	1	3	2	1	0	1
39	0	0	1	1	0	1
40-1	9	3	10	7	6	1
41 - MZ	1	2	3	3	0	3
42	11	16	19	14	9	6
	22	24	35	26	15	12

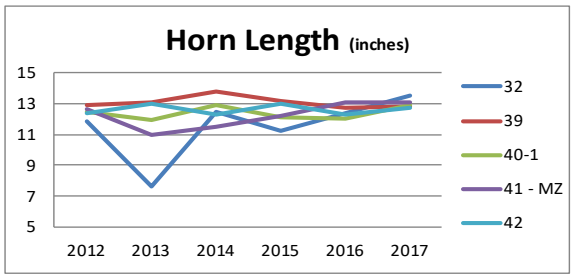
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
32	11.8	7.6	12.5	11.2	12.4	13.5
39	12.9	13.1	13.8	13.2	12.7	12.8
40-1	12.5	11.9	12.9	12.1	12	12.9
41 - MZ	12.6	11	11.5	12.2	13.1	13.1
42	12.4	13	12.3	13	12.3	12.7











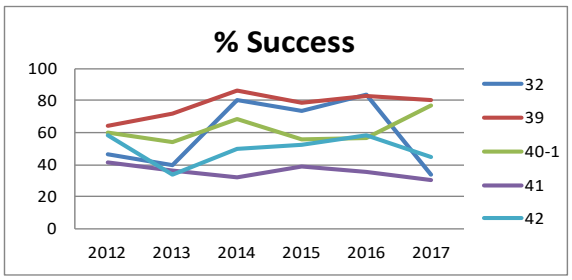


Figure 3. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 1, Southwest Region, 2010-present.

Pronghorn
Southwest Region
Group 1 (GMUs 39 and 40)

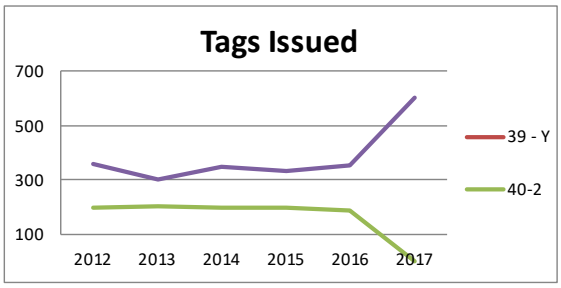
Square Miles =	**10,488**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**73**	**Hunters**	**563**
Archery		**Harvest**	**139**

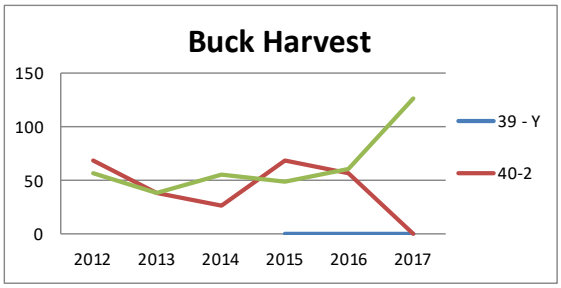
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
39 - Y				5	5	5
40-2	200	203	200	200	187	0
40-2 U	359	302	348	333	353	601
	559	505	548	538	545	606

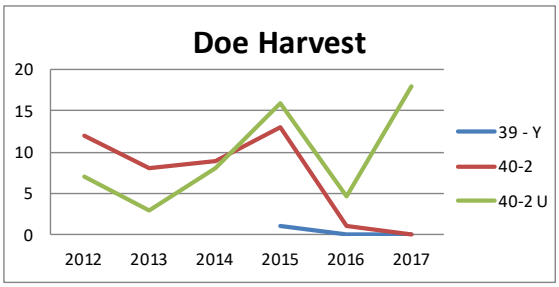
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
39 - Y				0	1	0
40-2	69	38	27	69	57	0
40-2 U	57	38	56	49	61	127
	126	76	83	118	119	127

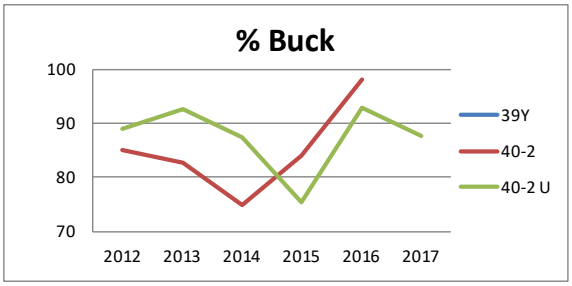
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
39 - Y				1	0	0
40-2	12	8	9	13	1.1	0
40-2 U	7	3	8	16	5	18
	19	11	17	30	6	18

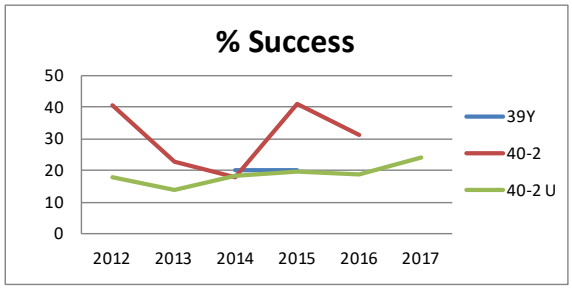
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
39 - Y					13	
40-2	11.9	10.9	12.3	11.4	11.2	
40-2 U	12.2	11.3	11.1	11.5	11.2	11.1











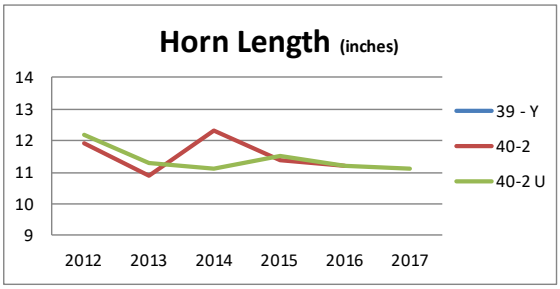


Figure 4. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 1, Southwest Region, 2010-present.

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

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

Historical Background

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 1992-1993 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. Pronghorn numbers in GMUs 46 and 47 have declined since 1994, but seem to be recovering and improving after the large wildfires of 2008. Numbers have remained low in GMU 53, except during harsh winters when pronghorn congregate along I-84.

Management Objectives

- Increase pronghorn populations within their social carrying capacity of landowners.
- Prevent or minimize depredations to agricultural crops.
- Include adequate forb and shrub mixtures in range habilitation seedings to reduce negative effects on pronghorn habitat quality.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

Much of the federally managed pronghorn habitat in this group is in very poor condition. Wildfires in particular have taken a toll in recent years. The Murphy Complex fire burned nearly three quarter of a million acres in GMUs 46 and 47 in 2007—the largest wildfire in Idaho since 1910. The Blair fire burned almost 40,000 acres of winter range in GMU 45 in 2011. These large wildfires removed native shrubs, grasses, and forbs and typically recovered in annual grasses and weeds. Early rehabilitation efforts often included exotic perennial grasses that favor soil stabilization and livestock grazing and generally did not include shrubs and forbs needed by pronghorn and other wildlife species. Over the last decade, rehabilitation seed mixes have become more diverse and now often include forbs and sagebrush favored by pronghorn. The southern half of GMU 52A and most of the public land in GMU 53 have been converted by wildfire to exotic annual grasses and weeds without significant amounts of sagebrush in the overstory and few forbs that pronghorn desire. This proliferation of exotic annuals perpetuates the fire cycle and wildfires occur almost annually in these degraded habitats.

Biological Objectives

Objectives are to maintain an August ratio of 0.40 bucks/doe and an average horn length of 12 inches for harvested bucks in the either sex any-weapon hunt.

Capture and Radio-Telemetry

No pronghorn capture or radio collaring occurred during this reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

Sex and age composition data are collected annually on ground surveys during August in GMUs 46, 47, and 49. Observed buck/doe ratios in 2017 were 0.47 in GMU 46 and 0.25 in GMU 49. The observed ratio of 0.30 fawns/doe was lower than the 1982-2010 mean of 0.50 fawns/doe. In GMU 49, the observed ratio of 0.62 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 2017, observed bucks/doe ratios were above objective in GMUs 46/47; (0.47 bucks/doe) and below objective in GMU 49 (0.25 bucks/doe).

Interspecific Issues

In GMU 45 and 52, over 16,000 deer and over 5,000 elk share winter range with an unknown number of pronghorn. Additionally, nearly 5,000 elk and thousands of domestic cattle share rangeland with pronghorn in GMUs 46 and 47. It is not known how other ungulates and domestic livestock impact pronghorn, but competition, especially on poor-quality winter ranges many be a factor limiting pronghorn survival and productivity.

Predation Issues

Coyotes and golden eagles are known predators of pronghorn in Group 2; however, predation is not thought to be a significant source of mortality to pronghorn.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

Winter feeding did not occur during this reporting period.

Depredations occur infrequently and are generally not severe in nature. The most common depredations occur in small areas in GMU 45 and 46 and usually involve pronghorn foraging in growing alfalfa, winter wheat, or rangeland. The depredations are typically resolved with a minimal number of Landowner Permission Hunt (LPH) tags given to the landowner.

During the winter of 2016-2017, a winter with record high snowfall, nearly 200 pronghorn tried to cross the ice on Lake Walcott. Many pronghorn were stranded on the ice, unable to walk. Approximately 30 pronghorn were killed by coyotes or dispatched by Department, largely due to split or fractured pelvises from crossing the ice. Many of these pronghorn now reside between the Snake River and I-84.

Large groups of pronghorn congregated along I-84 during the winter and likely had above average mortality rates as a result of the harsh winter and heavy snow conditions based on anecdotal observations.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

In 2017, 385 tags were available in Group 2 GMUs, excluding archery-only hunts. These hunters harvested 230 pronghorn (163 bucks and 67 does or fawns).

In 2017, 860 archery hunters harvested 119 pronghorn (108 bucks and 11 does or fawns). Hunter success for all Group 2 any weapon hunts (including GMU 47 muzzleloader) was 68%, and archery hunter success was 14%.

In Hunt Areas 45-2 (45/52) and 46-2 (46/47), the number of archery hunters increased to592 in 2017 from 435 in 2016. Archery hunters in 45-2 had an overall success rate of 12% in the controlled hunt compared to 2% in the unlimited controlled hunt. Archery hunter success was 35% in the 46-2 controlled hunt compared to 16% 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 of hunter-killed pronghorn reported in 2017 met the 12-inch objective in all GMUs except 49, which was 10.5 inches. Historically, GMU 49 horn lengths are frequently less than 12-inches (Figures 5 and 6).

Capture and Translocation

No captures or translocations occurred during this reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring occurred during this reporting period.

Management Discussion

Seasonal movements of pronghorn between summer and winter ranges are largely unknown in the Magic Valley. Research efforts to document movements and migration corridors are needed to aid in management decisions and to assist the Idaho Transportation Department and county planning and zoning in improving and mitigating highway and fence crossings during migrations.

Range manipulation projects, long-term grazing by livestock and wildfire has altered pronghorn habitat quality throughout Group 2 GMUs. The Department will continue to work with land managers to include adequate forb and shrub mixtures in seedings to improve quality of forage habitat and fawn cover for pronghorn.

Pronghorn

Magic Valley Region

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

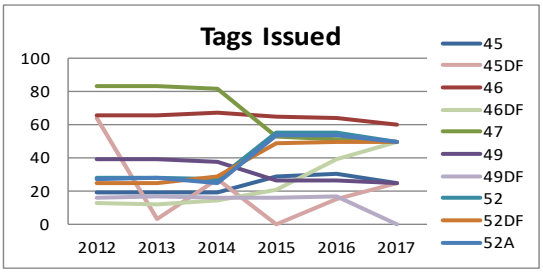
Square Miles =	**9,475**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**69**	**Hunters**	**385**
Any Weapon		**Harvest**	**255**

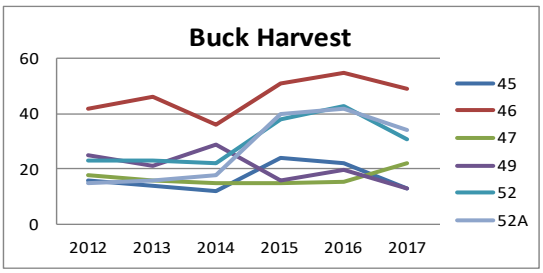
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
45	19	19	19	29	30	25
45DF	64	3	27	0	15	25
46	66	66	67	65	64	60
46DF	13	12	14	21	39	50
47	83	83	82	53	51	50
49	39	39	38	26	26	25
49DF	16	17	16	16	17	0
52	28	28	27	55	55	50
52DF	25	25	29	49	50	50
52A	27	28	25	54	54	50
	380	320	344	368	401	385

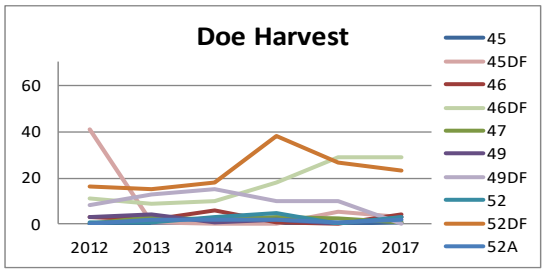
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
45	16	14	12	24	22	13
46	42	46	36	51	55	49
47	18	16	15	15	16	22
49	25	21	29	16	20	13
52	23	23	22	38	43	31
52A	15	16	18	40	42	34
	139	136	132	184	197	162

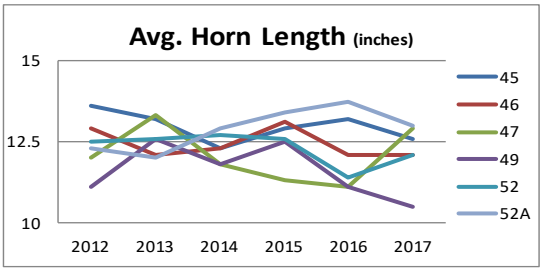
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
45	0	0	0	0	0	1
45DF	41	1	0	0	6	3
46	3	2	6	1	0	4
46DF	11	9	10	18	29	29
47	0	3	2	3	3	1
49	3	4	1	2	0	3
49DF	8	13	15	10	10	0
52	1	1	3	5	0	3
52DF	16	15	18	38	27	23
52A	0	2	2	2	1	2
	83	50	57	79	75	69

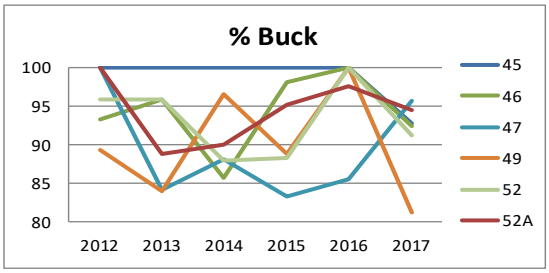
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
45	13.6	13.2	12.3	12.9	13.2	12.6
46	12.9	12.1	12.3	13.1	12.1	12.1
47	12	13.3	11.8	11.3	11.1	12.9
49	11.1	12.6	11.8	12.5	11.1	10.5
52	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.6	11.4	12.1
52A	12.3	12	12.9	13.4	13.7	13











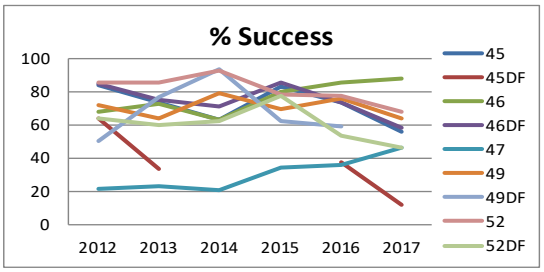


Figure 5. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

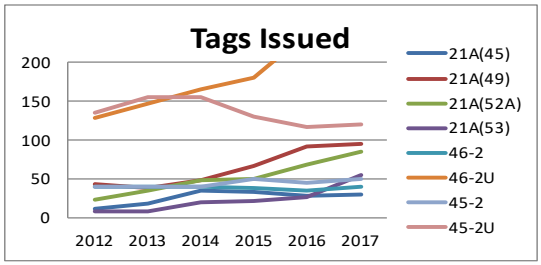
Pronghorn

Magic Valley Region

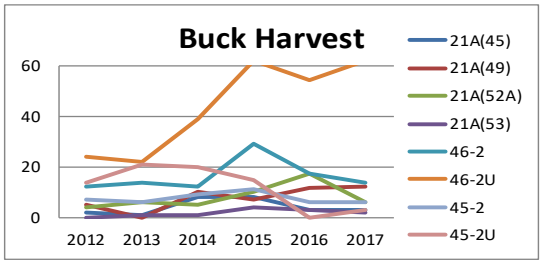
Group 2 (GMUs 45, 46, 49, 52A, and 53)

Square Miles =	**9,475**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**69**	**Hunters**	**593**
Archery		**Harvest**	**142**

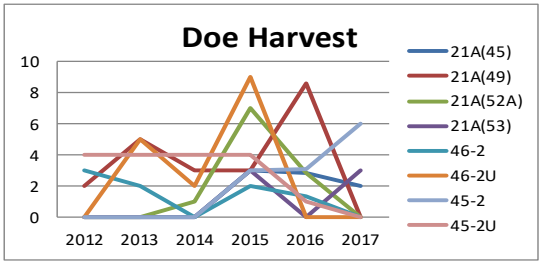
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(45)	12	19	35	34	29	30
21A(49)	44	38	49	67	92	96
21A(52A)	23	35	49	51	69	86
21A(53)	9	9	20	21	26	56
46-2	40	40	41	39	35	40
46-2U	128	147	166	180	237	381
45-2	40	40	40	50	46	50
45-2U	135	155	156	130	117	121
	431	483	556	572	651	860



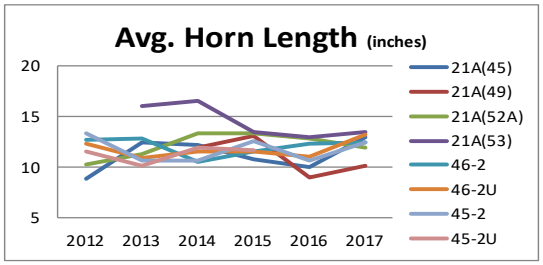
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(45)	2	1	8	8	3	3
21A(49)	5	0	10	7	12	12
21A(52A)	4	6	5	10	17	6
21A(53)	0	1	1	4	3	2
46-2	12	14	12	29	17	14
46-2U	24	22	39	62	54	62
45-2	7	6	9	11	6	6
45-2U	14	21	20	15	0	3
	68	71	104	146	112	108

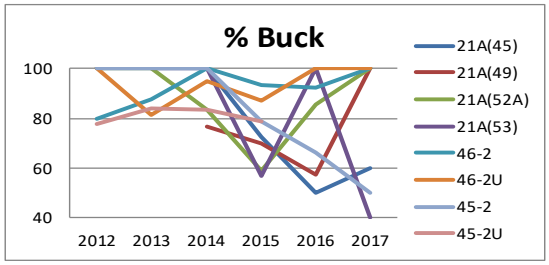


Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(45)	0	0	0	3	3	2
21A(49)	2	5	3	3	9	0
21A(52A)	0	0	1	7	3	0
21A(53)	0	0	0	3	0	3
46-2	3	2	0	2	1	0
46-2U	0	5	2	9	0	0
45-2	0	0	0	3	3	6
45-2U	4	4	4	4	1	0
	9	16	10	34	20	11



Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(45)	8.8	12.5	12.2	10.8	10	13
21A(49)	8.2		11.9	13.1	9	10.1
21A(52A)	10.3	11.3	13.3	13.3	12.8	11.9
21A(53)		16	16.5	13.5	13	13.5
46-2	12.7	12.8	10.5	11.6	12.3	12.5
46-2U	12.3	10.9	11.6	11.6	11	13.2
45-2	13.3	10.6	10.7	12.6	10.6	12.5
45-2U	11.6	10.2	11.9	11.7		12.2





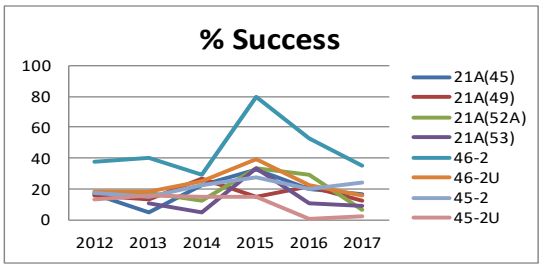


Figure 6. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

Group 3 (GMU 44)

Historical Background

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 2016 herd composition survey exceeded 500 head, with over 800 comped in recent years. Although we have not confirmed the seasonal movements of Camas Prairie pronghorn, many are thought to migrate to winter range north of Bliss, where the habitat is in generally poor condition and is considered the primary population-limiting factor.

Management Objectives

Maintain pronghorn populations within their social carrying capacity of landowners. Prevent or minimize depredations to agricultural crops.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

Much of the Camas Prairie is private agricultural land and little can be done by the Department to manage the habitat for pronghorn.

Biological Objectives

Objectives are to maintain an August ratio of 0.40 bucks/doe and an average horn length of 12 inches for harvested bucks in the either sex any-weapon hunt.

Capture and Radio-Telemetry

No pronghorn were captured or radio collared during this reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

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 2017, the observed ratio was 0.92 fawns/doe compared to 0.53 fawns/doe in 2016. The observed ratio of 0.74 bucks/doe in 2017 is higher than the objective of 0.40 bucks/doe, albeit with a low sample size of 226 pronghorn.

Interspecific Issues

No issues are identified at this time.

Predation Issues

Coyotes and golden eagles are known predators of pronghorn in Group 3. A graduate student documented survival rates of neonatal pronghorn fawns of 0.52 and 0.62 in 2015 and 2016, respectively, in the Camas Prairie. These rates were the highest of three study areas in the state. Predation is not considered a limiting factor in pronghorn survival and population growth.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

Pronghorn migrate out of the Camas Prairie during winter and depredations are not a concern.

Only 226 pronghorn were comped during August surveys, down from over 800 in 2016. It is possible that pronghorn had high winter mortality due to the severity of the 2016-2017 winter.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

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 2016, 100 either-sex tags were offered and 300 tags were authorized in the doe-fawn hunt in GMU 44. 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 450 tags in 2017 (excluding archery hunters). Since 2008, hunter success in the Camas Prairie has been slowly increasing. Hunter success in 2014 was 95% on the any weapon either-sex hunt, which is the highest hunter success rate since pre-2003 (Table 5). Hunter success was 71% on this hunt in 2017. The minimum mean horn length reported by hunters in 2017 was 11.7 inches. From 1991-2017, mean horn length met the 12-inch plan objective in 11 years (Figure 7).

Capture and Translocation

No captures or translocations occurred during this reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring occurred during this reporting period.

Management Discussion

Seasonal movements of pronghorn between summer and winter ranges are largely unknown in the Magic Valley. Research efforts to document movements and migration corridors are needed to aid in management decisions and to assist the Idaho Transportation Department and county planning and zoning in improving and mitigating highway and fence crossings during seasonal migrations. Tag numbers will be analyzed and changes made if winter mortality was higher than anticipated. Hunter access to private land continues to be a challenge, as over half of this group is private land. Additionally, much of the public land is higher elevation or timbered and not considered pronghorn habitat, so the importance of private land access for hunting cannot be overstated.

Pronghorn
Magic Valley Region
Group 3 (GMU 44)

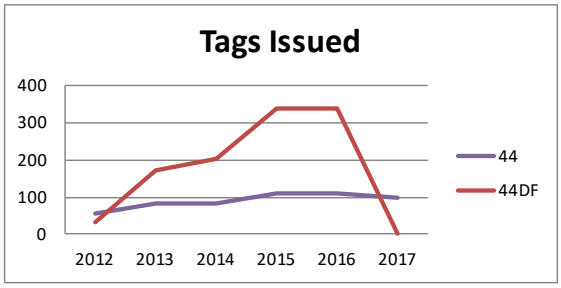
Square Miles =	552	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	52	Hunters	331
Any Weapon		Harvest	183

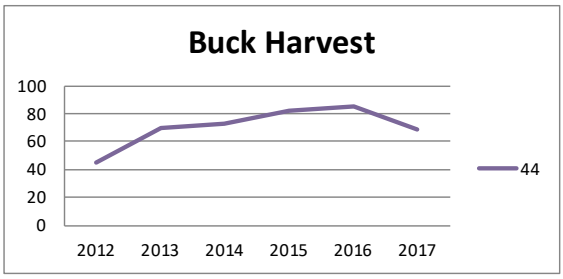
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
44	54	81	81	110	110	100
44DF	32	170	201	335	338	0
	86	251	282	445	448	100

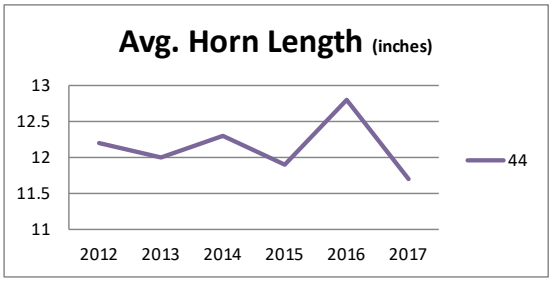
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
44	45	70	73	82	85	69

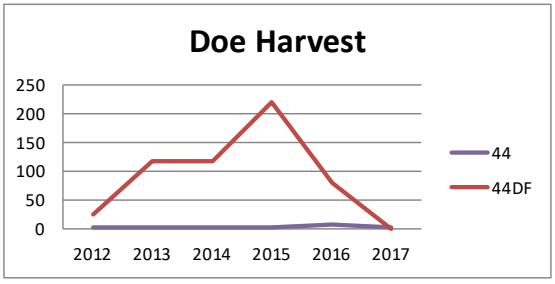
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
44	3	4	4	2	7.6	2
44DF	26	117	118	221	80	0
	29	121	122	223	88	2

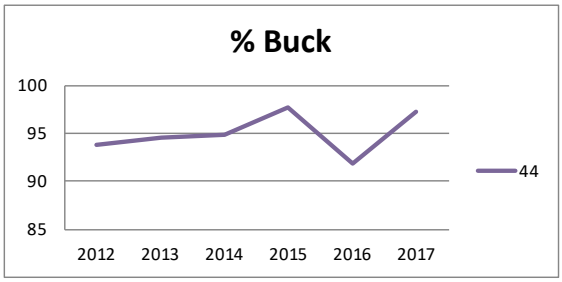
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
44	12.2	12	12.3	11.9	12.8	11.7











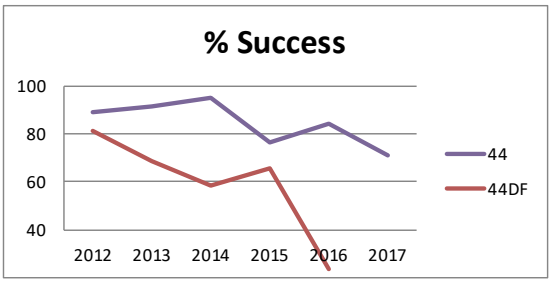


Figure 7. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 3, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

Group 4 (GMUs 48, 54, 57)

Historical Background

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.

Origin of the GMU 57 pronghorn herd is unknown but it increased during the 1990s with a hunt established in 1996 with 5 permits. This hunt was discontinued in 2001, but was again started in 2017 with 10 any-weapon and 10 archery permits available due to increasing numbers and depredation concerns.

Management Objectives

- Manage pronghorn populations within their social carrying capacity of landowners.
- Prevent or minimize depredations to agricultural crops.
- Manage for a quality hunting opportunity.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

Much of the best pronghorn habitat occurs on private land in these units. The Department can do little to improve pronghorn habitat within these units.

Biological Objectives

Objectives are to maintain an August ratio of 0.40 bucks/doe and an average horn length of 12 inches for harvested bucks in the either sex any-weapon hunt.

Capture and Radio-Telemetry

No pronghorn capture or radio-collaring occurred during this reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

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 and Dry Creek. Pronghorn have been observed as far east as Oakley and are also commonly observed in the cultivated lands near Hub Butte. A small herd of pronghorn commonly use Milner Butte and the Department has been actively trying to eliminate that herd through agency action and kill permits to appease private landowner concerns.

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. However, due to increasing numbers of pronghorn and increasing depredation concerns, this hunt was renewed in 2017, including GMUs 55 and 56 west of I-84.

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

GMUs 54 and 57 have relatively low numbers of pronghorn and have been managed for quality hunting opportunity. Fawn production was low in August 2017 with only 0.19 fawns/doe observed. The buck/doe ratio was 0.59 during the same survey, but a small sample size of only 139 pronghorn were observed.

Interspecific Issues

Pronghorn share public and private rangeland with thousands of domestic sheep and cattle. In areas with poor habitat conditions (i.e., habitat compromised by annual grasses and weeds) competition with domestic livestock may occur.

Predation Issues

Predation is not thought to be a significant source of mortality to pronghorn in this group.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

Winter feeding did not occur during this reporting period.

Depredations occur infrequently and generally only involve a few animals and are not considered severe in nature. Depredations largely occur during the spring/summer and typically occur in isolated locations in GMU 54 and 55, and usually involve pronghorn foraging in growing alfalfa or rangeland. The depredations are generally resolved with a minimal number of LPH tags given to the landowners. In the Milner Butte area of GMU 54, Department personnel exercised kill permits on a small herd of pronghorn to appease a landowner.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

A hunting season has been authorized in GMU 54 since 1996. Since 2006, 25 either sex tags have been available, and in 2017 an additional 50 doe fawn tags were added to address depredations in the northern portion of the GMU. A youth hunt with 25 doe/fawn tags and an LPH hunt also occur in GMU 54. In 2017, 20 pronghorn were harvested in the any-weapon hunt, which remains consistent with the 10 year average. Horn lengths have ranged from 13.0 in. to 15.2 in. with a mean of 13.7 in. Mean horn length of bucks harvested in GMU 54 is often the highest in the state, and was 13.4 inches on the any weapon hunt in 2017. Twenty-two does and fawns were harvested in the any-weapon controlled hunt in 2017 along with 17 in the youth hunt.

Additionally, 24 archery hunters harvest 7 bucks and 1 doe, with a mean horn length of 14.5 inches.

In GMU 57, during the any weapon hunt in 2017, 10 hunters harvested 10 pronghorn bucks with

a mean horn length of 14.5 inches. Ten archery hunters harvested 10 bucks with a mean horn length of 14.5 inches.

Capture and Translocation

No captures or translocations occurred during this reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring occurred during this reporting period.

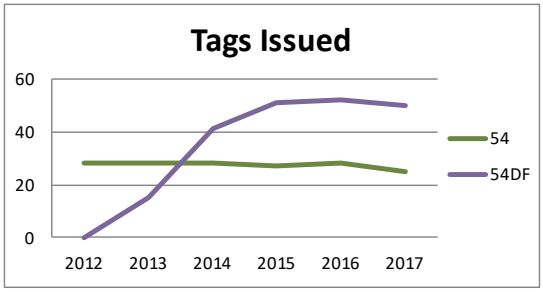
Management Discussion

Seasonal movements of pronghorn between summer and winter ranges are largely unknown in Shoshone Basin of GMU 54. Additionally, interstate movements of these pronghorn are also unknown. It is possible these pronghorn experienced a high level of mortality during the severe winter of 2016-2017. Very few pronghorn were observed during the August composition survey in Shoshone Basin in 2017.

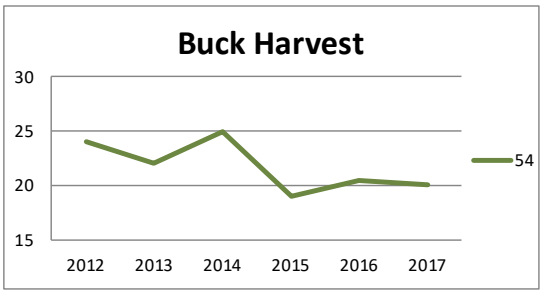
Pronghorn
Magic Valley Region
Group 4 (GMU 54)

Square Miles =	2,330	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	67	Hunters	78
Any Weapon		Harvest	42

Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	28	28	28	27	28	25
54DF	0	15	41	51	52	50
	28	43	69	78	80	75

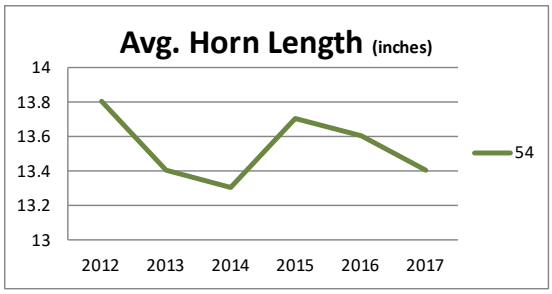


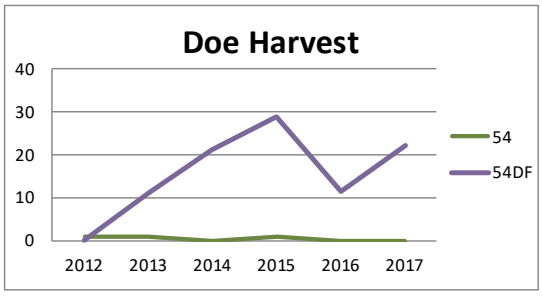
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	24	22	25	19	20	20

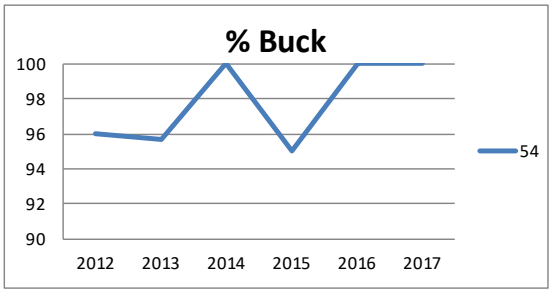


Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	1	1	0	1	0	0
54DF	0	11	21	29	12	22
	1	12	21	30	12	22

Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	13.8	13.4	13.3	13.7	13.6	13.4







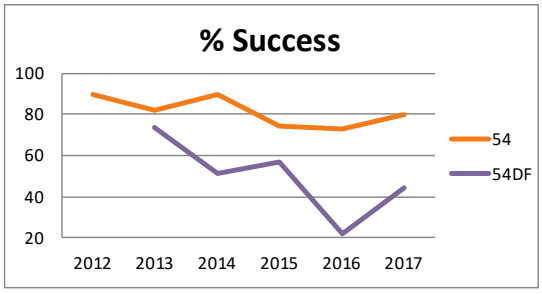
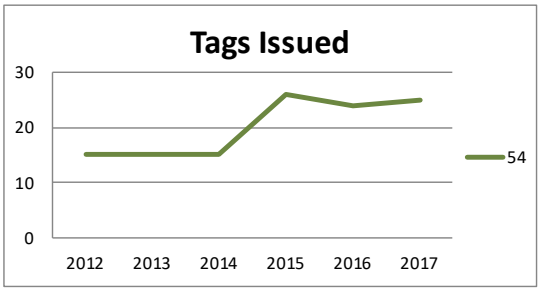


Figure 8. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 4, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

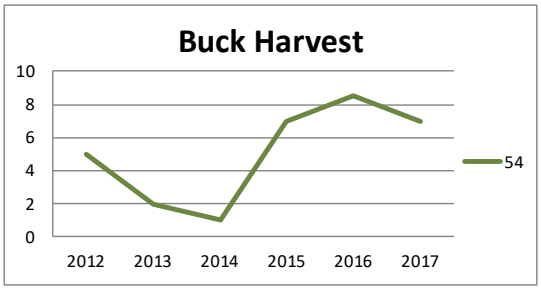
Pronghorn
Magic Valley Region
Group 4 (GMU 54)

Square Miles =	2,330	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	67	Hunters	22
Archery		Harvest	6

Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	15	15	15	26	24	25

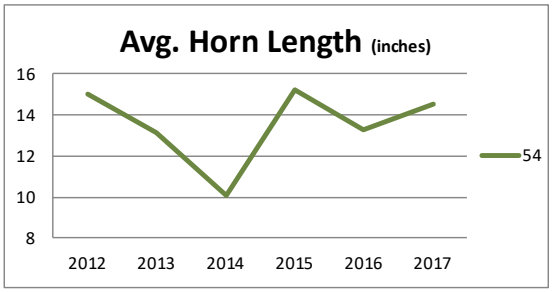


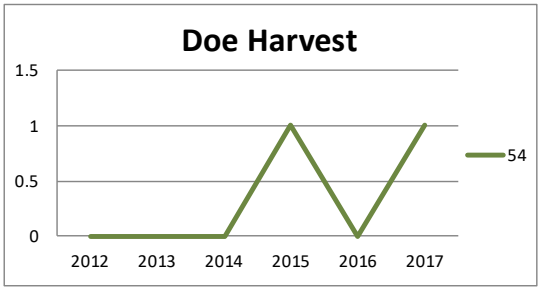
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	5	2	1	7	9	7

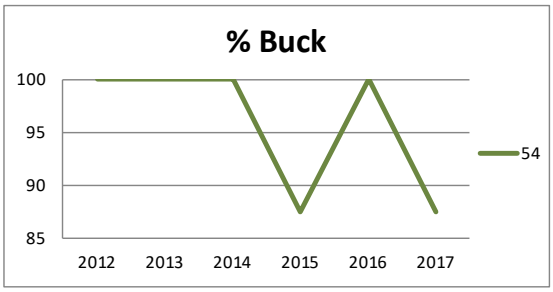


Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	0	0	0	1	0	1

Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
54	15	13.1	10.1	15.2	13.3	14.5







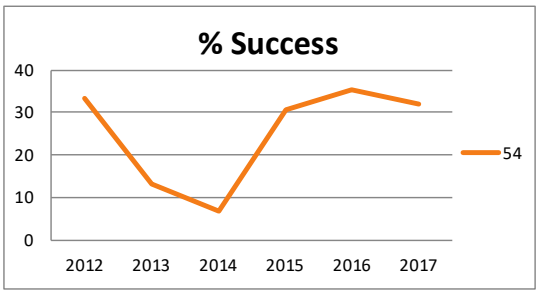


Figure 9. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 4, Magic Valley Region, 2010-present.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Group 2 (GMU 68)

Historical Background

GMU 68 is the only unit in the Southeast region with a significant pronghorn population. Harvest within the region has generally been extremely conservative. During this reporting period there was a controlled any weapon hunt in GMU 68 with 25 tags, a controlled archery-only hunt in late August with 20 tags, and a controlled archery-only hunt in September with 75 tags. These tag levels are 50% of the 2016 level when there were 50 any weapon tags, 40 archery-only tags in August, and an unlimited archery-only hunt in September. The reduction was in response to ~300 pronghorn migrating out of GMU 68 across American Falls Reservoir on the ice.

Archery harvest has typically been low, averaging around 12 antelope annually. However, archery pronghorn hunter numbers and harvest have been increasing for the past several 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 combined with 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, Department separated GMU 68 into its own archery hunt for 2013. Since that time, hunter numbers and harvest specific to GMU 68 have been obtained.

Management Objectives

Management objectives for Group 2, which includes GMU 68, are outlined in Idaho's Pronghorn Management Plan (1991 – 1995). Management objectives for Group 2 include maintaining an average horn length of 12.0 inches during any-weapon seasons and to maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

Biological Objectives

Objectives for Group 2, which includes GMU 68, are outlined in Idaho's Pronghorn Management Plan (1991 – 1995). Management objectives for Group 2 include maintaining an average horn length of 12.0 inches during any-weapon seasons and to maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No capture, radio-marking, or telemetry were conducted in GMU 68 during this reporting period.

In March 2014, 15 adult females were captured in GMU 68 and fitted with GPS collars. In January 2016, another 7 adult females were captured in GMU 68 and fitted with GPS collars.

Results from this effort indicated that adult mortality was high, mostly due to coyote predation. Additionally, most individuals do not show strong migratory behavior and remain close to agricultural fields throughout the year. The sample size was low and additional efforts or research such as this with larger sample sizes is needed to better understand population trends.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

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.

In January, 2017 approximately 300 pronghorn again crossed the ice on American Falls reservoir into GMU 68A between I-86 and the reservoir. During the severe winter months (January-March) following this migration numerous mortalities (~30 individuals) were documented from feral dogs, coyotes, vehicle collisions, and severe winter conditions. As winter subsided this large aggregation began dispersing and breaking up into smaller groups scattered from American Falls dam to areas within the Fort Hall Reservation. It is unknown if any of these individuals were able to migrate back to GMU 68.

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, 227, 332, and 147 pronghorn were observed on these routes in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Interspecific Issues

In GMU 68, mule deer, elk, and livestock share habitat throughout the year. Anecdotally, the elk population in this area has increased in recent years. It is not known how other ungulates and domestic livestock impact pronghorn, but competition could be a factor limiting pronghorn survival and productivity.

Predation Issues

Predation by coyotes and golden eagles may be affecting neonate fawn and/or adult survival in GMU 68.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

It is rare that pronghorn become a depredation problem in GMU 68 in winter. However, 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 were able to lure the pronghorn with other bales of alfalfa farther into the desert and away from the commercial stacks. In 2017, deep snow caused ~215 pronghorn to concentrate near Tilden and Pingree where feed sites were established to alleviate damage to haystacks. Additionally, a feed site was established in GMU 68A near Rainbow Road to reduce winter stress and mortality on the large group (~300) of pronghorn that crossed American Falls reservoir on the ice. No winter feeding occurred during this reporting period.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

The GMU 68 any-weapon tag level was reduced from 50 to 25 in 2017 compared to 2016 in response to the large herd that left GMU 68 during the prior severe winter. Hunter report cards were used to estimate harvest, participation, and horn length. Hunter success was 86% in 2017 on the any weapon hunt.

Archery hunters reported harvesting 10 pronghorn in 2017, all of which were bucks. Prior to 2013, the archery hunt in GMU 68 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. During this reporting period the August archery only hunt was reduced from 40 tags to 20 tags. Similarly, the unlimited controlled archery only hunt in September was reduced from unlimited (~150 hunters each year) to 75 tags.

Mean maximum horn length for the 2017 harvest was 12.9 inches, which exceeds the 12.0-inch objective established in the 1991-1995 Pronghorn Management Plan.

Capture and Translocation

No capture and translocation occurred during this reporting period.

In December 2004, the 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.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring occurred during this reporting period.

Management Discussion

Group 3 (GMU 76)

Historical Background

Pronghorn have likely always been present in GMU 76, although at low densities. However, increasing reports in recent years led to the inception of a 5 tag (plus 1 LAP tag) hunt in 2011.

Management Objectives

Habitat Management and Monitoring

Biological Objectives

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

Population Surveys and Monitoring

No population surveys are currently conducted for pronghorn in GMU 76. This population is both small and scattered, making any effort to count pronghorn quite difficult.

Interspecific Issues

Predation Issues

Winter Feeding and Depredation

No winter feeding has occurred for pronghorn in GMU 76. There have been reports of crop depredations by small groups of pronghorn but no actions have been taken to this point.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

The GMU 76 any-weapon tag level (5) has remained the same since its inception in 2011. Additionally, GMU 76 has 1 landowner appreciation tag available. Hunter success was 100% in 2017. There are no archery hunting opportunities for pronghorn in GMU 76.

Capture and Translocation

No trapping or transplanting has occurred in this population.

Disease Monitoring

Management Discussion

Literature Cited

Burnham, K. P., D. R. Anderson, and J. L. Laake. 1980. Estimation of density from line transect sampling of biological populations. Wildlife Monographs 72:1-202.

Johnson, B., and F. Lindzey. 1990. Guidelines for estimating pronghorn numbers using line transects. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, USA.

Laake, J. L., K. P. Burnham, and D. R. Anderson. 1979. User's manual for Program TRANSECT. Utah State University Press, Logan, USA.

White, G. C. 1986. Program TRANSECT II. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, USA.

Pronghorn
Southeast Region
Groups 2 (68), **3** (76), and **4** (68A)

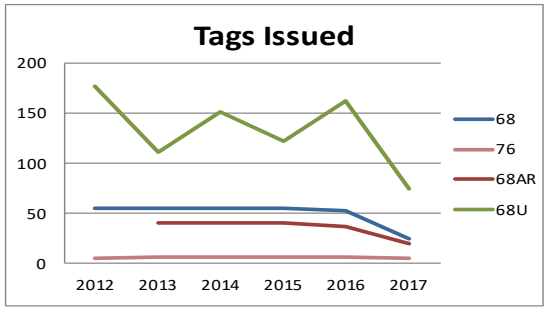
Square Miles =	**3,657**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**61**	**Hunters**	**202**
Any Weapon		**Harvest**	**79**

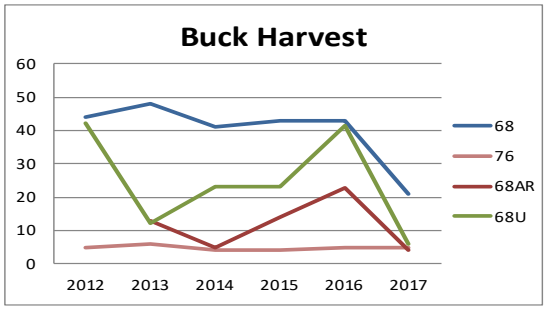
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
68	55	55	55	55	53	25
76	5	6	6	7	6	5
68AR		40	40	40	37	20
68U	177	111	151	122	162	75
	237	212	252	224	258	125

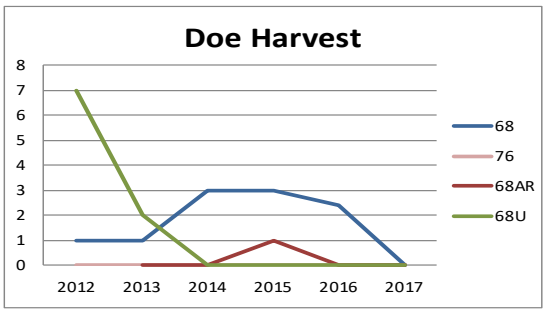
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
68	44	48	41	43	43	21
76	5	6	4	4	5	5
68AR		13	5	14	23	4
68U	42	12	23	23	42	6
	91	79	73	84	112	36

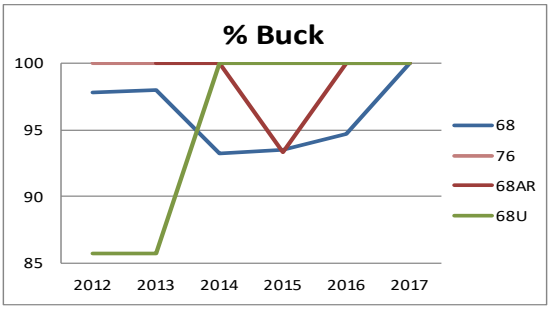
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
68	1	1	3	3	2	0
76	0	0	0	0	0	0
68AR		0	0	1	0	0
68U	7	2	0	0	0	0
	8	3	3	4	2	0

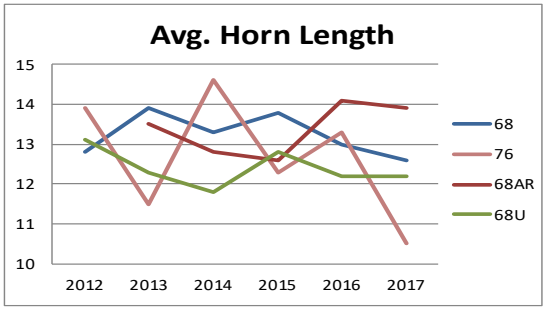
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
68	12.8	13.9	13.3	13.8	13	12.6
76	13.9	11.5	14.6	12.3	13.3	10.5
68AR		13.5	12.8	12.6	14.1	13.9
68U	13.1	12.3	11.8	12.8	12.2	12.2











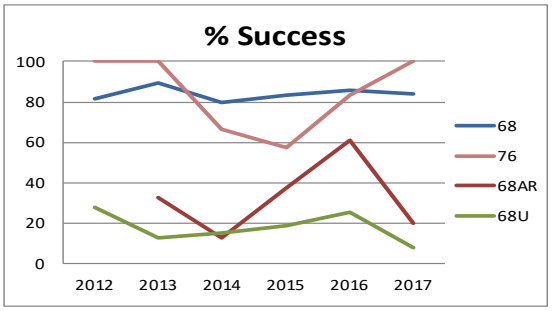


Figure 10. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 2, 3, & 4, Southeast Region, 2010-present.

UPPER SNAKE REGION

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

Historical Background

Pronghorn harvest was 2-3 times higher during the 1980's and early 1990's. Pronghorn harvest has largely been focused on the male portion of the population for the last decade with the exception of high depredation areas. Pronghorn populations have not rebounded to previous levels despite the limited amount of female harvest.

Management Objectives

- Maintain an average horn length of 12.0 inches in the firearm buck harvest.
- Maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

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. During the summers of 2015 and 2016 Department radio-collared and monitored neonate pronghorn in GMU 51 as part of a research project that is still ongoing. Results will be included as soon as they are available.

Biological Objectives

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No capture or radio-marking of pronghorn was conducted during the reporting period. The department did monitor radio-collared pronghorn in GMU 51 that were captured for a research project in 2016.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

No herd composition or population trend survey was conducted in any Group 2 GMUs during this reporting period.

Interspecific Issues

No interspecific issues were observed during this reporting period.

Predation Issues

Coyote predation made up a substantial amount of the mortality observed (60%) on neonate pronghorn fawns during a research project in GMU 51 in 2015 and 2016.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

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.

Depredations on stored hay are also common during moderate to severe winters in the area around Howe.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

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 on pronghorn harvested during any weapon controlled hunts. 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 above the 12-inch management plan objective for pronghorn harvested in units 50 and 51 and below the objective in units 58 and 59 during 2017.

Capture and Translocation

No capture and translocation occurred during this reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring activities took place during this reporting period.

Management Discussion

Pronghorn in this group are managed for hunting opportunity and to allow population growth. Depredation conflicts are managed on a case by case basis rather than by limiting the overall population.

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

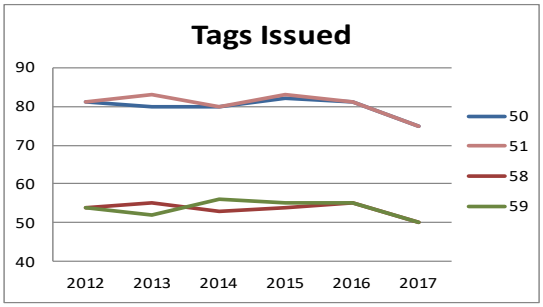
Square Miles =	**3,955**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**86**	**Hunters**	**265**
Any Weapon		**Harvest**	**207**

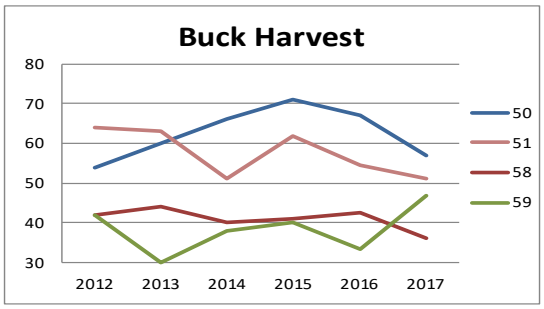
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50	81	80	80	82	81	75
51	81	83	80	83	81	75
58	54	55	53	54	55	50
59	54	52	56	55	55	50
	270	270	269	274	272	250

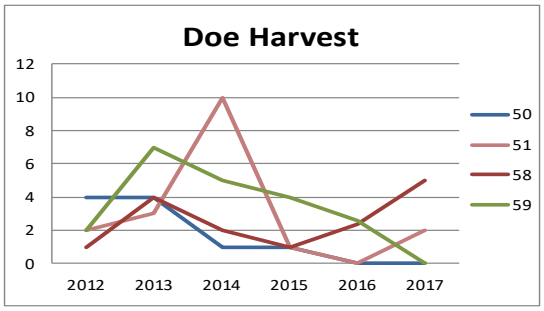
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50	54	60	66	71	67	57
51	64	63	51	62	54	51
58	42	44	40	41	43	36
59	42	30	38	40	34	47
	202	197	195	214	198	191

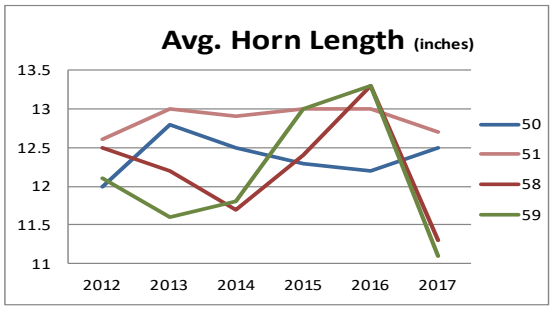
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50	4	4	1	1	0	0
51	2	3	10	1	0	2
58	1	4	2	1	2	5
59	2	7	5	4	3	0
	9	18	18	7	5	7

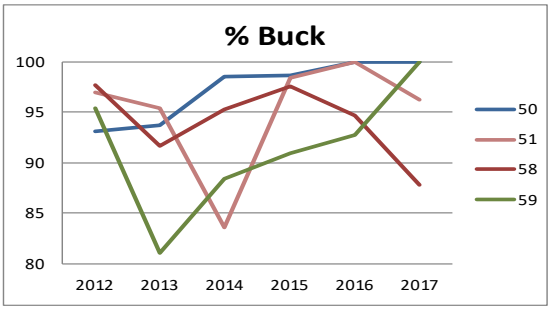
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50	12	12.8	12.5	12.3	12.2	12.5
51	12.6	13	12.9	13	13	12.7
58	12.5	12.2	11.7	12.4	13.3	11.3
59	12.1	11.6	11.8	13	13.3	11.1











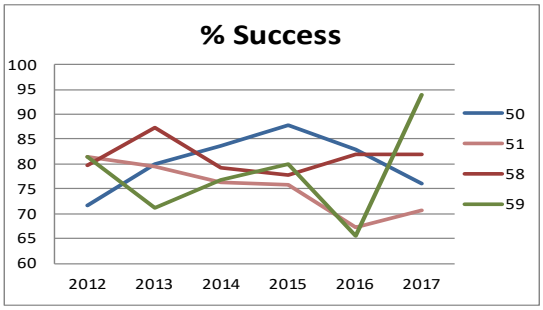


Figure 11. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present

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

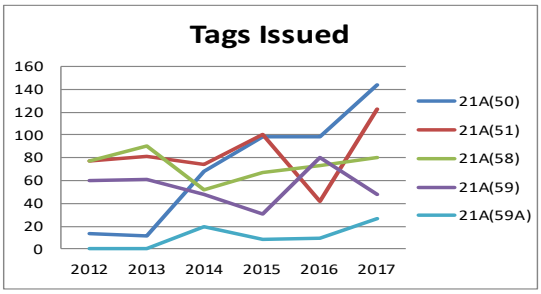
Square Miles =	**3,955**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**86**	**Hunters**	**343**
Archery		**Harvest**	**82**

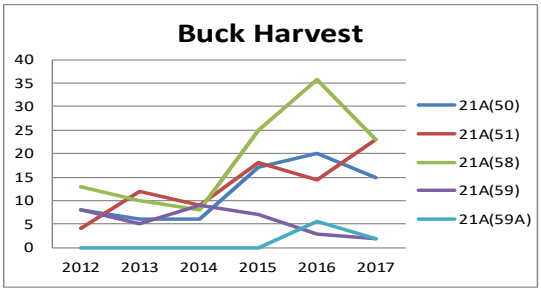
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(50)	13	11	68	98	98	144
21A(51)	77	81	74	100	42	123
21A(58)	77	90	52	67	73	80
21A(59)	60	61	48	31	80	48
21A(59A)	0	0	20	8	9	27
	227	243	262	304	302	422

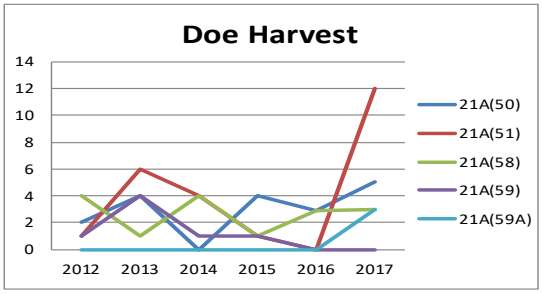
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(50)	8	6	6	17	20	15
21A(51)	4	12	9	18	14	23
21A(58)	13	10	8	25	36	23
21A(59)	8	5	9	7	3	2
21A(59A)	0	0	0	0	6	2
	33	33	32	67	79	65

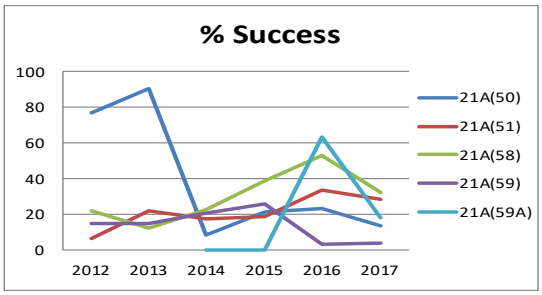
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(50)	2	4	0	4	3	5
21A(51)	1	6	4	1	0	12
21A(58)	4	1	4	1	3	3
21A(59)	1	4	1	1	0	0
21A(59A)	0	0	0	0	0	3
	8	15	9	7	6	23

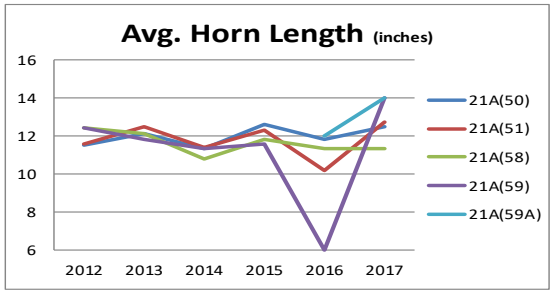
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(50)	11.5	12.1	11.3	12.6	11.8	12.5
21A(51)	11.6	12.5	11.4	12.3	10.2	12.7
21A(58)	12.4	12.1	10.8	11.8	11.3	11.3
21A(59)	12.4	11.8	11.3	11.6	6	14
21A(59A)		13			12	14











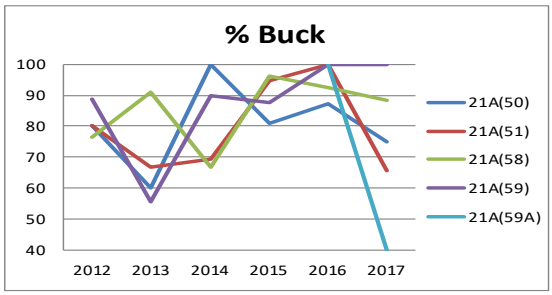


Figure 12. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present

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

Historical Background

Pronghorn harvest was 2-3 times higher during the 1980's and early 1990's. Pronghorn harvest has largely been focused on the male portion of the population for the last decade with the exception of high depredation areas. Pronghorn populations have not rebounded to previous levels despite the limited amount of female harvest.

Management Objectives

Maintain an average horn length of 12.0 inches in the firearm buck harvest. Maintain a preseason buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

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.

Biological Objectives

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No capture, radio-marking, or telemetry took place during this reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

No composition or population trend survey was conducted in Group 3 GMUs during this reporting period.

Interspecific Issues

No interspecific issues were observed during this reporting period.

Predation Issues

No predation occurred during this reporting period.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

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.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

Tag numbers and harvest dates remained the same from 2013 for this group. The average horn length was above the 12-inch management plan objective in GMU 63 controlled hunts in 2017 and below objective for pronghorn harvested in the remaining Group 3 GMU's.

Capture and Translocation

No capture and translocation occurred during this reporting period.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring activities took place during this reporting period.

Management Discussion

These GMUs provide important pronghorn habitat but are difficult to manage. Game Management Units 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.

Game Management Unit 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).

Literature Cited

Autenreith R. E. 1982. Antelope-sage grouse ecology [W-160-R-9], Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, USA.

Johnson, B., and F. Lindzey. 1990. Guidelines for estimating pronghorn antelope numbers using line transects. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, USA.

Pojar, T. M., D. C. Bowden, and B. R. Gill. 1995. Aerial counting experiments to estimate pronghorn density and herd structure. Journal of Wildlife Management 59(1):117-128.

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

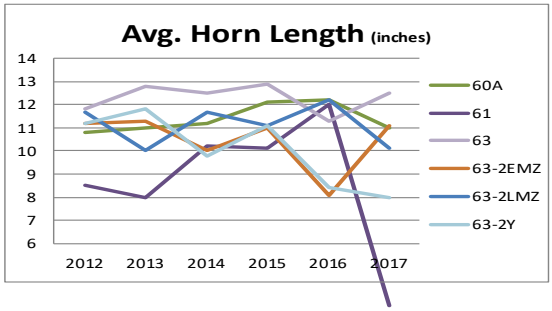
Square Miles =	4,159	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	66	Hunters	258
Any Weapon		Harvest	160

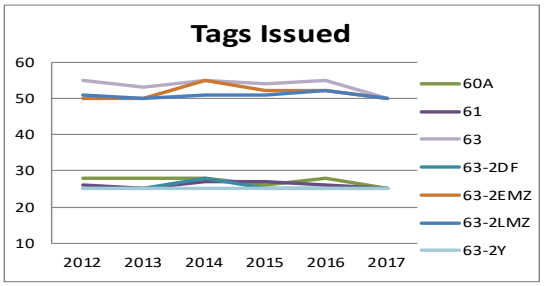
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
60A	28	28	28	26	28	25
61	26	25	27	27	26	25
63	55	53	55	54	55	50
63-2DF	25	25	28	25	25	25
63-2EMZ	50	50	55	52	52	50
63-2LMZ	51	50	51	51	52	50
63-2Y	25	25	25	25	25	25
	260	256	269	260	263	250

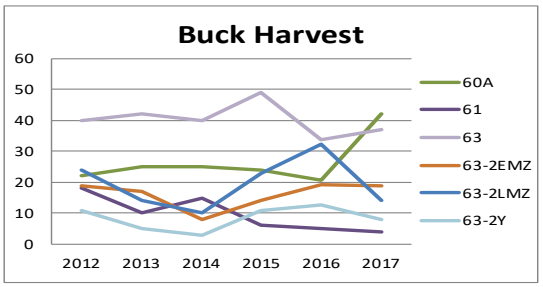
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
60A	22	25	25	24	21	42
61	18	10	15	6	5	4
63	40	42	40	49	34	37
63-2EMZ	19	17	8	14	19	19
63-2LMZ	24	14	10	23	32	14
63-2Y	11	5	3	11	13	8
	134	113	101	127	123	124

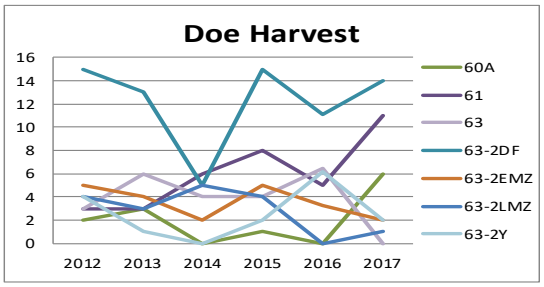
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
60A	2	3	0	1	0	6
61	3	3	6	8	5	11
63	3	6	4	4	7	0
63-2DF	15	13	5	15	11	14
63-2EMZ	5	4	2	5	3	2
63-2LMZ	4	3	5	4	0	1
63-2Y	4	1	0	2	6.2	2
	36	33	22	39	32	36

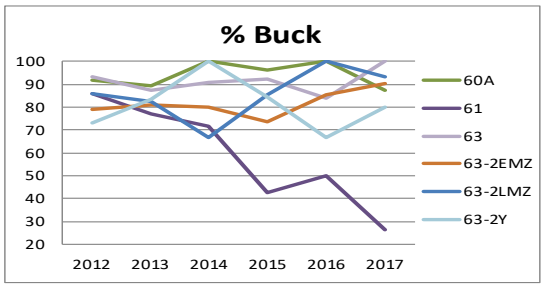
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
60A	10.8	11	11.2	12.1	12.2	11
61	8.5	8	10.2	10.1	12	3.3
63	11.8	12.8	12.5	12.9	11.3	12.5
63-2EMZ	11.2	11.3	10	11	8.1	11.1
63-2LMZ	11.7	10	11.7	11.1	12.2	10.1
63-2Y	11.2	11.8	9.8	11.1	8.4	8











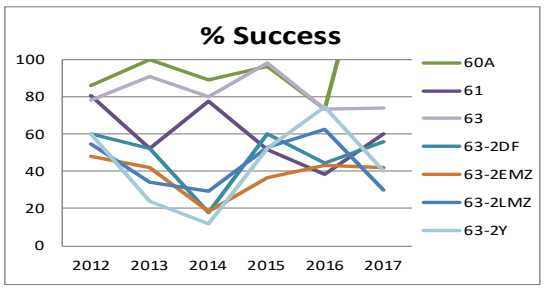


Figure 13. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 3 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present.

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

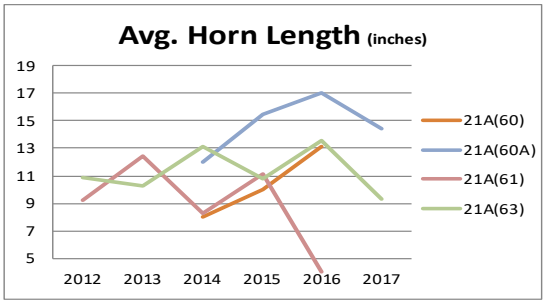
Square Miles =	**4,159**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**66**	**Hunters**	**162**
Archery		**Harvest**	**35**

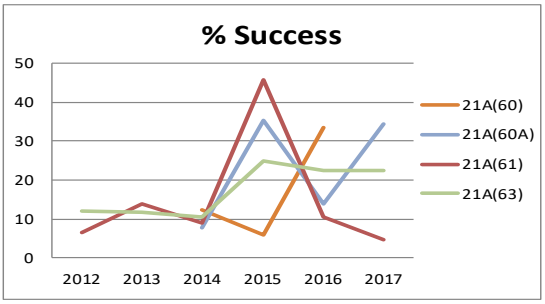
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(60)	14	19	8	17	17	20
21A(60A)	7	3	13	17	10	29
21A(61)	45	57	33	35	55	41
21A(63)	100	129	57	84	77	84
	166	208	111	153	159	174

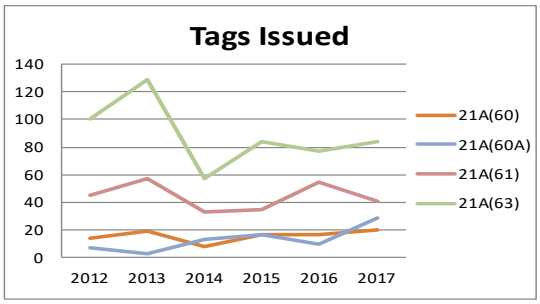
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(60)	0	0	1	1	6	0
21A(60A)	1	0	1	3	1	5
21A(61)	3	4	3	10	3	0
21A(63)	10	12	3	14	12	17
	14	16	8	28	22	22

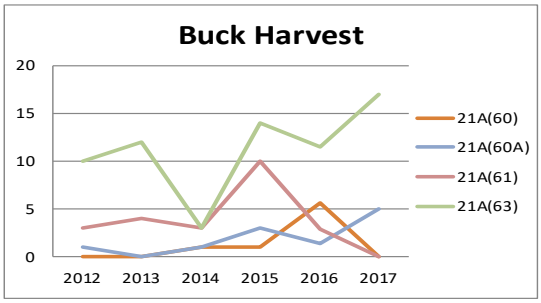
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(60)	0	0	0	0	0	0
21A(60A)	1	0	0	3	0	5
21A(61)	0	4	0	6	3	2
21A(63)	2	3	3	7	6	2
	3	7	3	16	9	9

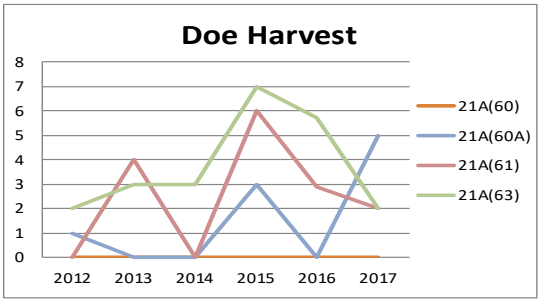
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(60)			8	10	13.1	
21A(60A)	12.8		12	15.5	17	14.4
21A(61)	9.2	12.4	8.3	11.1	4	
21A(63)	10.9	10.3	13.1	10.8	13.6	9.3











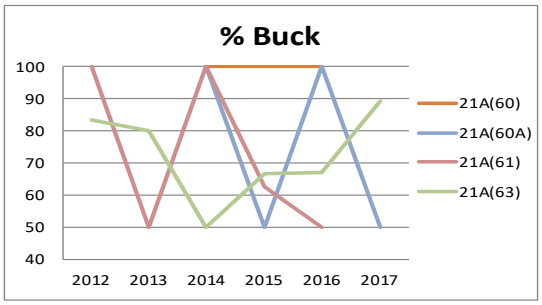


Figure 14. Pronghorn archery harvest, Groups 3 Upper Snake Region, 2010-present.

SALMON REGION

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

Historical Background

Pronghorn densities in this Group have always been low because of limited habitat. That portion of GMU 37 that is contained within the Group 1 boundary, the Donkey Hills, has typically had the highest density of all the GMU's in the group. Populations were relatively low in the 50's and 60's, then began to increase during the 70's and 80's. Populations were very high by the early 90's and were beginning to cause depredation damage and complaints in some areas. In response, hunting pressure was increased dramatically to address depredations. Populations declined and have only begun to increase over the last several years, equivalent to population surveys conducted in the late 70's and early 80's.

Habitat conditions for this Group have undergone moderate changes over time. Conversion of sage-steppe grassland to agricultural or residential use has been fairly minor in scope. Some small fires have occurred over the years, but none large enough to cause major habitat conversions. Perhaps the most significant impact has been an increase in noxious weed invasion and varying levels of domestic livestock grazing.

Hunting opportunity in this Group has been controlled hunts since the late 1960's with varying permit levels. The number of permits available was relatively high in the late 60's and 70's declining in the 80's. Permit numbers were then ramped up into the mid-90's to an historic high. This number was reduced precipitously to over the next 5 years where it remains today. Archery hunting was a general season opportunity starting in the late 60's to mid-70's depending on the GMU. Beginning in 2009, all general archery seasons were converted to unlimited controlled hunts. Archery hunter numbers have climbed steadily since then.

Management Objectives

The Salmon Region will promote a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend in this Group. The objectives outlined in the species management plan, maintain an average horn length of 12 inches and a pre-season buck:doe ratio of greater than 50:100, will be assessed through harvest analysis and aerial or ground composition surveys. The region will adjust permit levels in controlled rifle, short-range, muzzleloader, and archery hunts to achieve these objectives.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

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.

Regional wildlife biologists regularly interact with land managers on various projects occurring

on sage-steppe habitat and suggest project designs that enhance habitat quality for pronghorn. In addition, biologists provide feedback to land managers on habitat conditions they encounter in the field.

Biological Objectives

The department will endeavor to maintain a buck:doe ratio that is close to the stated goal of 50:100 in the management plan. Survey data indicates that buck:doe ratios have fallen short of this goal in recent years. Only the portion of GMU 37 in this Group is surveyed annually so expanded survey routes into the other GMU's may be needed to more accurately capture this metric. In addition, fawn:doe ratios will be monitored to assess future population trend.

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No capture or collaring activities took place in this Group in the 2017-2018 reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

There is no specific survey protocol for pronghorn. The Salmon Region conducted ground surveys throughout the region during a few years throughout the 1990's, primarily to monitor the effects of increased harvest. In addition, records indicate an aerial survey was conducted in 2003 in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Valleys. A few ground surveys were accomplished between 2003 and 2009 when annual ground surveys following fixed routes were implemented.

Ground composition surveys were conducted in the Donkey Hills area to estimate fawn and buck ratios in late August – early September of 2017. In that portion of GMU 37, 34 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 8:100 does and a buck ratio of 29:100 does. This survey covered only a portion of the route because of road conditions. No surveys were conducted in the other 3 GMU's in this Group.

Interspecific Issues

Historic improper livestock grazing has caused changes to habitat quality for pronghorn, primarily forb composition. In some specific areas, livestock grazing may still be impacting habitat quality for pronghorn.

Predation Issues

Predation by coyotes and golden eagles may be affecting neonate fawn survival in this Group.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners generally tolerate pronghorn in Group 1. 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 the 2017-2018 reporting period.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

Hunting opportunity in this Group consists of an unlimited archery hunt and a limited number of either sex controlled hunt tags. The GMU's and portions of GMU's in this Group offer an experience in relatively rugged terrain with limited accessibility. This results in a slightly lower success rate, but offers a chance to harvest a large buck.

There were 75 pronghorn reported harvested in 2017 with 5 of those a doe. Average horn length was over 12 inches for Group 1.

Capture and Translocation

No capture and translocation operations were conducted in these GMU's.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring was conducted in these GMU's.

Management Discussion

Interest in the general season archery hunt has increased in recent years. 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. Participation and harvest for this hunt will be monitored to determine if management actions are necessary.

Ground based monitoring will be continued to collect population trend and composition information. Opportunities to evaluate alternate methods of population monitoring will be explored as they come available.

Work will continue with federal land managers to identify opportunities to improve the health of sagebrush-steppe habitat to benefit pronghorn. This will include habitat manipulation projects, grazing management, and off-road vehicle management.

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

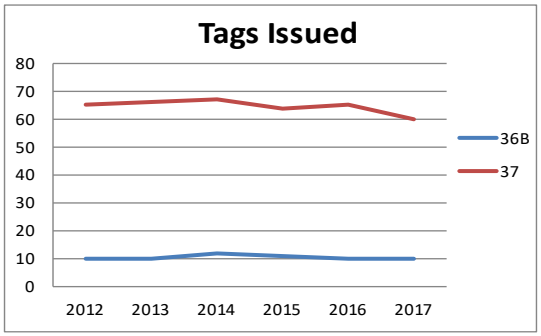
Square Miles =	2,375	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	95	Hunters	73
Any Weapon		Harvest	60

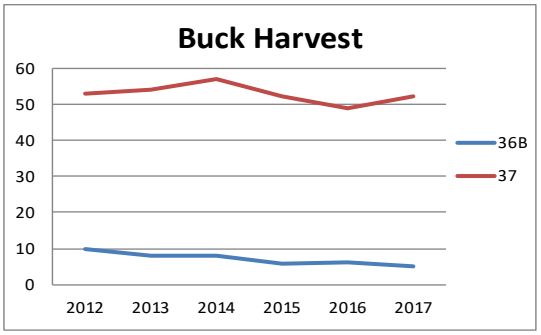
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
36B	10	10	12	11	10	10
37	65	66	67	64	65	60
	75	76	79	75	75	70

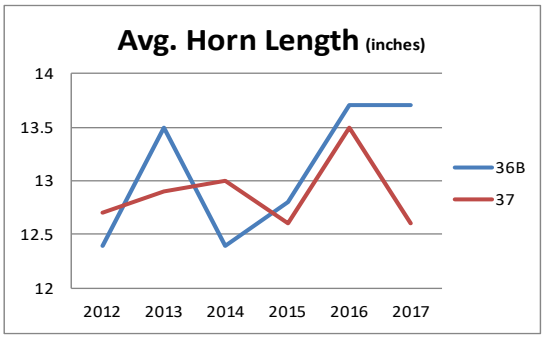
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
36B	10	8	8	6	6	5
37	53	54	57	52	49	52
	63	62	65	58	55	57

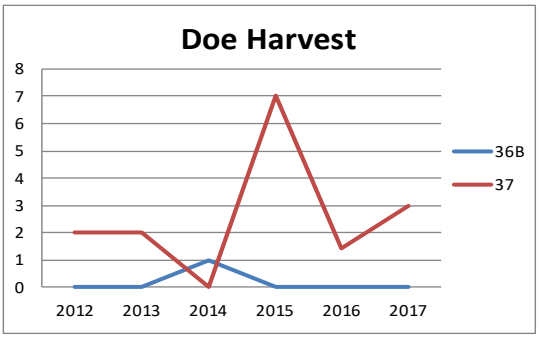
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
36B	0	0	1	0	0	0
37	2	2	0	7	1	3
	2	2	1	7	1	3

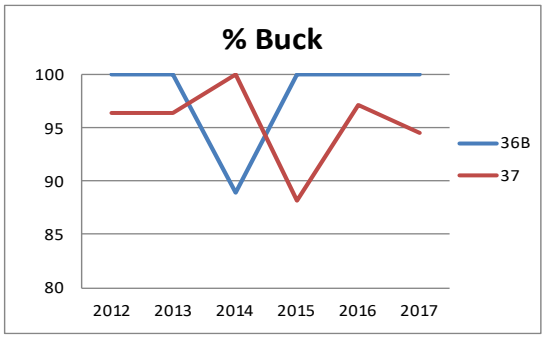
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
36B	12.4	13.5	12.4	12.8	13.7	13.7
37	12.7	12.9	13	12.6	13.5	12.6











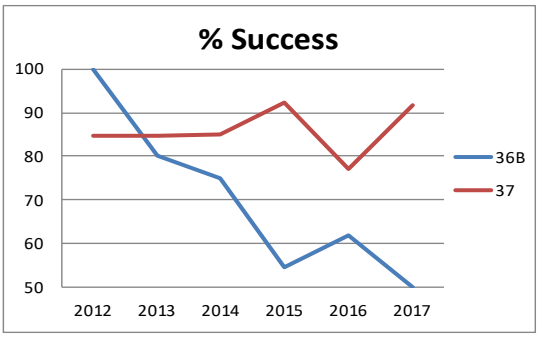


Figure 15. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Groups 1 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

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

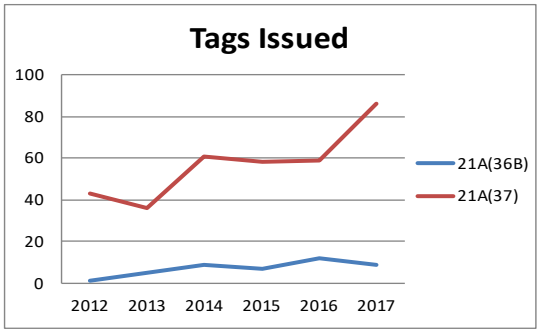
Square Miles =	2,375	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	95	Hunters	77
Archery		Harvest	10

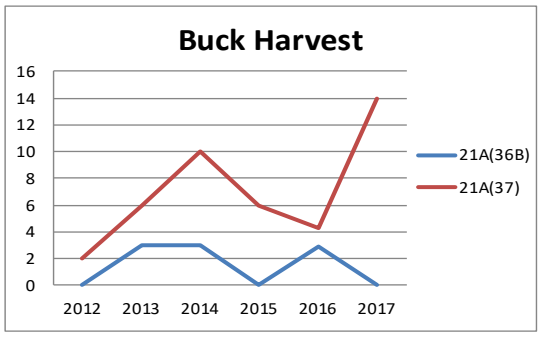
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(36B)	1	5	9	7	12	9
21A(37)	43	36	61	58	59	86
	44	41	70	65	71	95

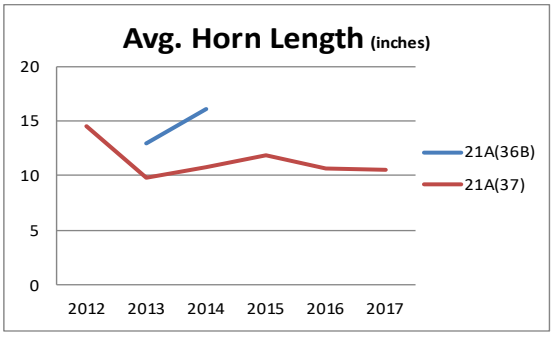
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(36B)	0	3	3	0	3	0
21A(37)	2	6	10	6	4	14
	2	9	13	6	7	14

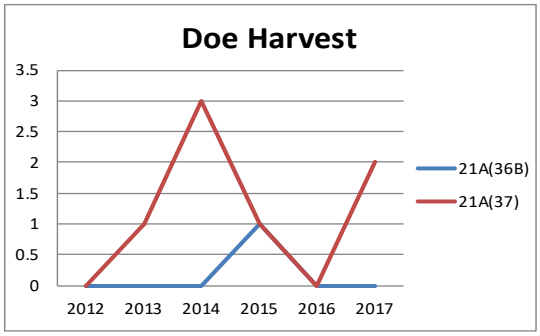
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(36B)	0	0	0	1	0	0
21A(37)	0	1	3	1	0	2
	0	1	3	2	0	2

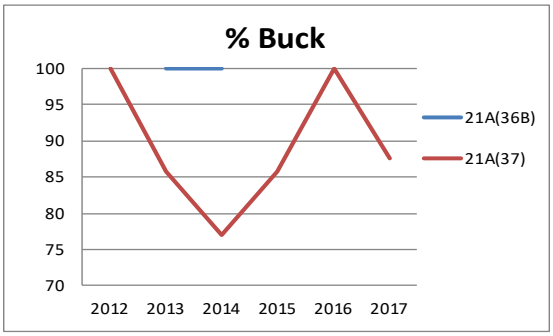
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(36B)		13	16.1		15	
21A(37)	14.5	9.8	10.8	11.9	10.7	10.5











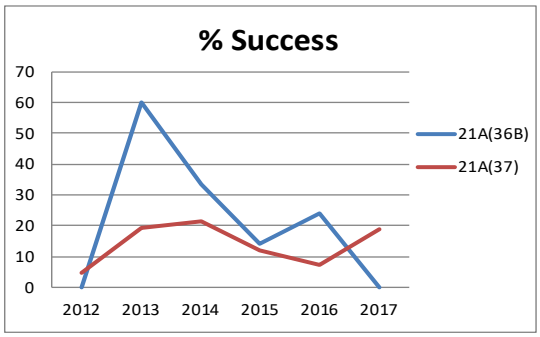


Figure 16. Pronghorn archery harvest, Groups 1 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

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

Historical Background

Pronghorn densities in this Group are the highest for the entire Salmon Region. The majority of pronghorn are found in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi valleys. Populations were relatively low in the 50's and 60's, and then began to increase during the 70's and 80's. Populations were very high by the early 90's and were beginning to cause depredation damage and complaints in some areas. In response, hunting pressure was increased dramatically to address depredations. Populations declined and have only begun to increase over the last several years, equivalent to population surveys conducted in the late 70's and early 80's.

Habitat conditions for this Group have undergone moderate changes over time. Conversion of sage-steppe grassland to agricultural or residential use has been fairly minor in scope, but greater than any other part of the Salmon Region. Some small fires have occurred over the years, but none large enough to cause major habitat conversions. Perhaps the most significant impact has been an increase in noxious weed invasion and varying levels of domestic livestock grazing.

Hunting opportunity in this Group has been controlled hunts since the late 1960's with varying permit levels. The number of permits available was relatively high in the late 60's and 70's declining in the 80's. Permit numbers were then ramped up into the mid-90's to an historic high. This number was reduced precipitously to over the next 5 years where it remains today. Archery hunting was a general season opportunity starting in the late 60's to mid-70's depending on the GMU. Beginning in 2009, all general archery seasons were converted to unlimited controlled hunts. Archery hunter numbers have climbed steadily since then.

Management Objectives

The Salmon Region will promote a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend in this Group. The objectives outlined in the species management plan, maintain an average horn length of 12 inches and a pre-season buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100, will be assessed through harvest analysis and aerial or ground composition surveys. The region will adjust permit levels in controlled rifle, short-range, muzzleloader, and archery hunts to achieve these objectives.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

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.

Regional wildlife biologists regularly interact with land managers on various projects occurring on sage-steppe habitat and suggest project designs that enhance habitat quality for pronghorn. In addition, biologists provide feedback to land managers on habitat conditions they encounter in the field.

Biological Objectives

The department will endeavor to maintain a buck:doe ratio that is close to the stated goal of 40:100 in the management plan. Survey data indicates that buck:doe ratios have fallen short of this goal in recent years, hovering around about 30:100. All of the GMU's in this Group are surveyed annually with the exception of 36A. In addition, fawn:doe ratios will be monitored to assess future population trend.

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No capture or collaring activities took place in this Group in the 2017-2018 reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

There is no specific survey protocol for pronghorn. The Salmon Region conducted ground surveys throughout the region during a few years throughout the 1990's, primarily to monitor the effects of increased harvest. In addition, records indicate an aerial survey was conducted in 2003 in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Valleys. A few ground surveys were accomplished between 2003 and 2009 when annual ground surveys following fixed routes were implemented.

Ground composition surveys were conducted in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi in Group 2. In 2017, the Upper Lemhi sample size was 94 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 47:100 does and a buck ratio of 14:100 does. In the Pahsimeroi, 350 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 7:100 does and a buck ratio of 22:100 does.

Interspecific Issues

Historic improper livestock grazing has caused changes to habitat quality for pronghorn, primarily forb composition. In some specific areas, livestock grazing may still be impacting habitat quality for pronghorn.

Predation Issues

Predation by coyotes and golden eagles may be affecting neonate fawn survival in this Group.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners generally tolerate pronghorn in Group 2. There was an increase in depredation complaints, primarily in GMU 29 and 37A, but Region 7 did not have an active claim for pronghorn damage during the 2017-2018 reporting period. No winter feeding is conducted.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

Hunting opportunity in this Group consists of an unlimited archery hunt and a limited number of either sex controlled hunt tags. In addition, there is a short-range weapon hunt in 36A. The GMU's in this Group offer a hunting experience in relatively flat terrain with good roads and

accessibility. Small parts of it offer rugged terrain with limited accessibility. Success rates are typically very high with a good chance to harvest a larger buck.

There were 97 pronghorn reported harvested in 2017 with 8 does in the harvest. Average horn length was about 11.5 inches for Group 2. This is below the stated objective of 12.0 inches found in the management plan.

Capture and Translocation

No capture and translocation operations were conducted in these GMU's.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring was conducted in these GMU's.

Management Discussion

Interest in the general season archery hunt has increased in recent years. 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. Participation and harvest for this hunt will be monitored to determine if management actions are necessary.

Ground based monitoring will be continued to collect population trend and composition information. Opportunities to evaluate alternate methods of population monitoring will be explored as they come available. The Department will continue to address depredation complaints in GMU's 29 and 37A.

Work will continue with federal land managers to identify opportunities to improve the health of sagebrush-steppe habitat to benefit pronghorn. This will include habitat manipulation projects, grazing management, and off-road vehicle management.

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

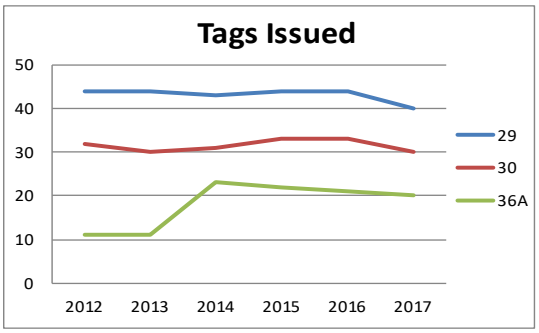
Square Miles =	2,698	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	88	Hunters	96
Any Weapon		Harvest	74

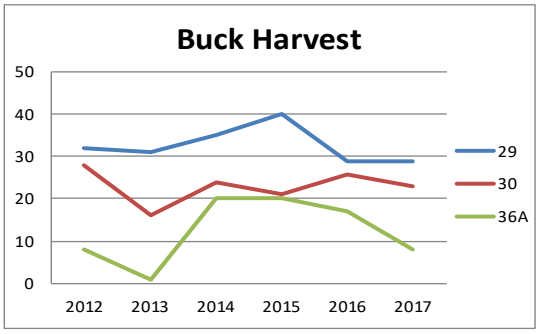
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
29	44	44	43	44	44	40
30	32	30	31	33	33	30
36A	11	11	23	22	21	20
	87	85	97	99	98	90

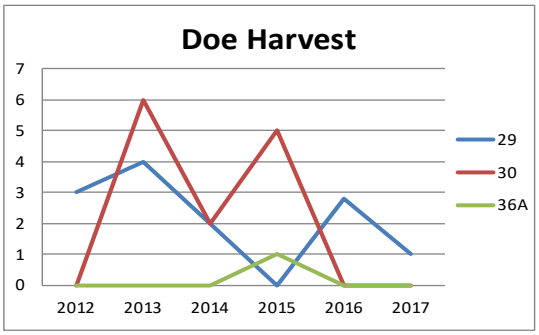
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
29	32	31	35	40	29	29
30	28	16	24	21	26	23
36A	8	1	20	20	17	8
	68	48	79	81	72	60

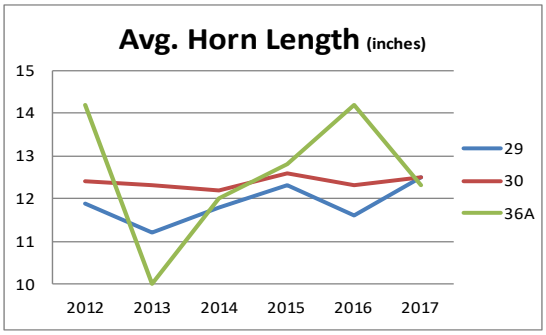
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
29	3	4	2	0	3	1
30	0	6	2	5	0	0
36A	0	0	0	1	0	0
	3	10	4	6	3	1

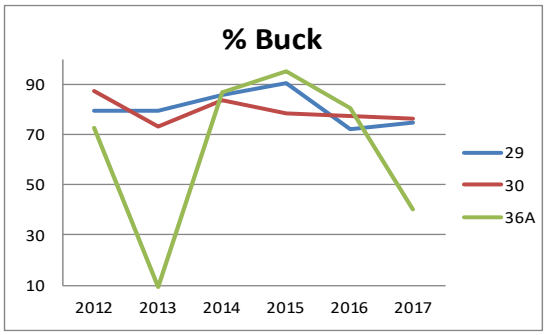
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
29	11.9	11.2	11.8	12.3	11.6	12.5
30	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.6	12.3	12.5
36A	14.2	10	12	12.8	14.2	12.3











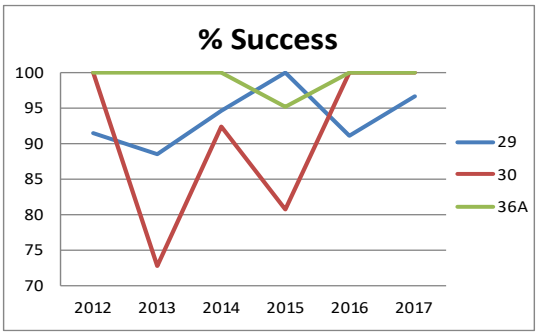


Figure 17. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 2 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

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

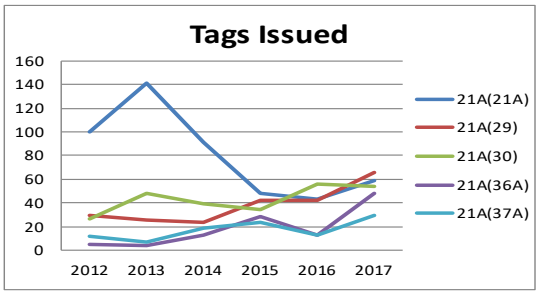
Square Miles =	**2,698**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**88**	**Hunters**	**200**
Archery		**Harvest**	**36**

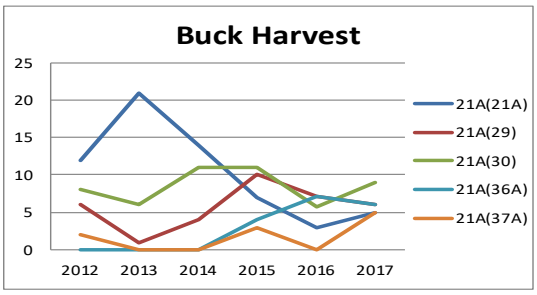
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(21A)	100	141	91	48	43	59
21A(29)	30	26	24	42	42	66
21A(30)	27	48	39	34	56	54
21A(36A)	5	4	13	29	13	48
21A(37A)	12	7	19	24	13	30
	174	226	186	177	167	257

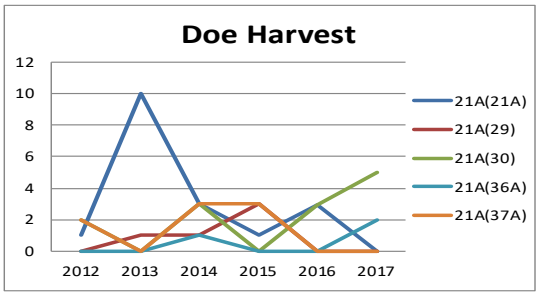
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(21A)	12	21	14	7	3	5
21A(29)	6	1	4	10	7	6
21A(30)	8	6	11	11	6	9
21A(36A)	0	0	0	4	7	6
21A(37A)	2	0	0	3	0	5
	28	28	29	35	23	31

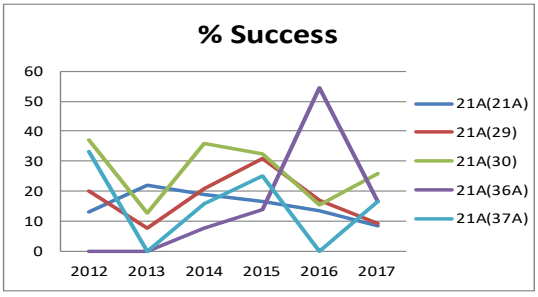
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(21A)	1	10	3	1	3	0
21A(29)	0	1	1	3	0	0
21A(30)	2	0	3	0	3	5
21A(36A)	0	0	1	0	0	2
21A(37A)	2	0	3	3	0	0
	5	11	11	7	6	7

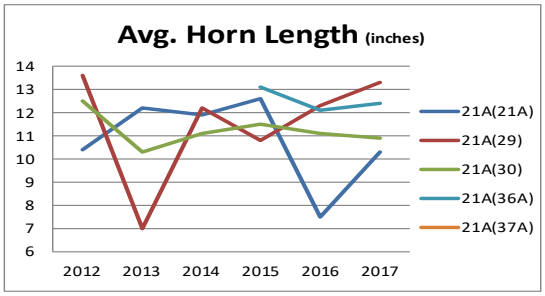
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(21A)	10.4	12.2	11.9	12.6	7.5	10.3
21A(29)	13.6	7	12.2	10.8	12.3	13.3
21A(30)	12.5	10.3	11.1	11.5	11.1	10.9
21A(36A)				13.1	12.1	12.4
21A(37A)	8.8			9.5		8.3











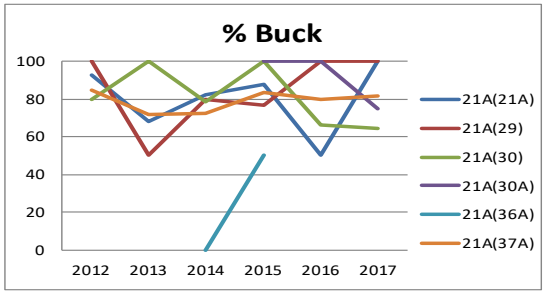


Figure 18. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 2 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

Group 3 (GMU 30A)

Historical Background

Pronghorn densities in this Group are high in GMU 30A and low and seasonal in GMU 36. The major concentration areas in GMU 36 are in Valley Creek to the west of Stanley and in the upper end of the Sawtooth valley. Populations were relatively low in the 50's and 60's, and then began to increase during the 70's and 80's. Populations were very high by the early 90's and were beginning to cause depredation damage and complaints in some areas. In response, hunting pressure was increased dramatically to address depredations. Populations declined and have only begun to increase over the last several years, equivalent to population surveys conducted in the late 70's and early 80's.

Habitat conditions for this Group have undergone moderate changes over time. Conversion of sage-steppe grassland to agricultural or residential use has been fairly minor in scope. Some small fires have occurred over the years, but none large enough to cause major habitat conversions. Perhaps the most significant impact has been an increase in noxious weed invasion and varying levels of domestic livestock grazing.

Hunting opportunity in this Group has been controlled hunts since the late 1960's with varying permit levels. The number of permits available was relatively high in the late 60's and 70's declining in the 80's. Permit numbers were then ramped up into the mid-90's to an historic high. This number was reduced precipitously to over the next 5 years where it remains today. Archery hunting was a general season opportunity starting in the late 60's to mid-70's depending on the GMU. Beginning in 2009, all general archery seasons were converted to unlimited controlled hunts. Archery hunter numbers have climbed steadily since then.

Management Objectives

The Salmon Region will promote a productive pronghorn herd with an upward population trend in this Group. The objective outlined in the species management plan, maintain a pre-season buck:doe ratio of greater than 40:100, will be assessed through harvest analysis and aerial or ground composition surveys. The region will adjust permit levels in controlled rifle, short-range, muzzleloader, and archery hunts to achieve these objectives.

Habitat Management and Monitoring

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.

Regional wildlife biologists regularly interact with land managers on various projects occurring on sage-steppe habitat and suggest project designs that enhance habitat quality for pronghorn. In addition, biologists provide feedback to land managers on habitat conditions they encounter in the field.

Biological Objectives

The Department will endeavor to maintain a buck:doe ratio that is close to the stated goal of 40:100 in the management plan. Survey data indicates that buck:doe ratios have fallen short of this goal in recent years in 30A, hovering around about 30:100. Buck:doe ratios in 36 have been much higher, around 50:100. Both of the GMU's are surveyed annually. In addition, fawn:doe ratios will be monitored to assess future population trend.

Capture, Radio-mark and or Telemetry

No capture or collaring activities took place in this Group in the 2017-2018 reporting period.

Population Surveys and Monitoring

There is no specific survey protocol for pronghorn. The Salmon Region conducted ground surveys throughout the region during a few years throughout the 1990's, primarily to monitor the effects of increased harvest. In addition, records indicate an aerial survey was conducted in 2003 in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi Valleys. A few ground surveys were accomplished between 2003 and 2009 when annual ground surveys following fixed routes were implemented.

Ground composition surveys were conducted in both GMU's to estimate fawn and buck ratios in late August – early September of 2017. The GMU 30A sample size was 114 pronghorn with a fawn ratio of 43:100 does and a buck ratio of 47:100 does. In GMU 36, 45 pronghorn were classified with a fawn ratio of 39:100 does and a buck ratio of 52:100 does.

Interspecific Issues

Historic improper livestock grazing has caused changes to habitat quality for pronghorn, primarily forb composition. In some specific areas, livestock grazing may still be impacting habitat quality for pronghorn.

Predation Issues

Predation by coyotes and golden eagles may be affecting neonate fawn survival in this Group.

Winter Feeding and Depredation

Minor depredations on stored hay and standing alfalfa occur mostly during summer and fall. Landowners generally tolerate pronghorn in Group 3. There was an increase in depredation complaints in GMU 30A, but Region 7 did not have an active claim for pronghorn damage during the 2017-2018 reporting period. No winter feeding is conducted.

Hunting and Harvest Characteristics

Hunting opportunity in this Group consists of an unlimited archery hunt, a muzzleloader only hunt in 30A and a short-range weapon hunt in 36. The GMU's in this Group offer a hunting experience in relatively flat terrain with good roads and accessibility. Depending on weather conditions, there is sometimes a very short window of opportunity to harvest a pronghorn in

GMU 36. Small parts of it offer rugged terrain with limited accessibility. Success rates are typically moderate to high with a good chance to harvest a larger buck.

There were 52 pronghorn reported harvested in 2017 with 7 does in the harvest. Average horn length was 11.0.

Capture and Translocation

No capture and translocation operations were conducted in these GMU's.

Disease Monitoring

No disease monitoring was conducted in these GMU's.

Management Discussion

Interest in the general season archery hunt has increased in recent years. 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. Participation and harvest for this hunt will be monitored to determine if management actions are necessary.

Ground based monitoring will be continued to collect population trend and composition information. Opportunities to evaluate alternate methods of population monitoring will be explored as they come available. The Department will continue to address depredation complaints in GMU 30A.

Work will continue with federal land managers to identify opportunities to improve the health of sagebrush-steppe habitat to benefit pronghorn. This will include habitat manipulation projects, grazing management, and off-road vehicle management.

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

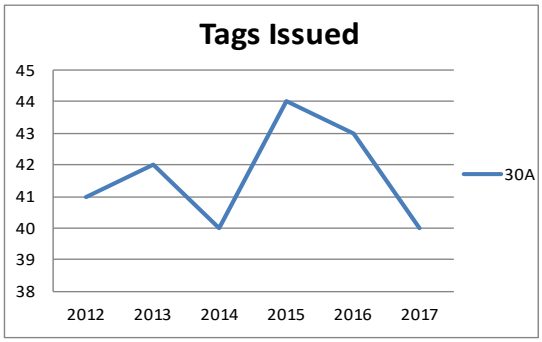
Square Miles =	**1,325**	**3-Year Averages**	
% Public Land =	**95**	**Hunters**	**42**
Any Weapon		**Harvest**	**22**

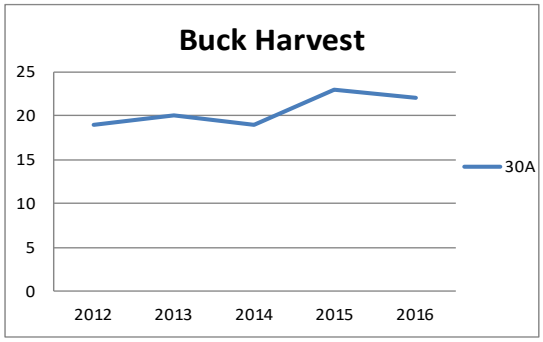
Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
30A	41	42	40	44	43	40
	41	42	40	44	43	40

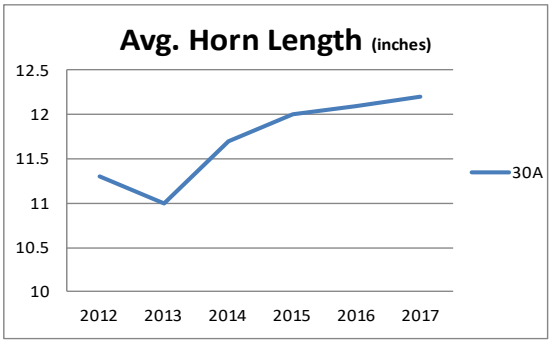
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
30A	19	20	19	23	22	20
	19	20	19	23	22	20

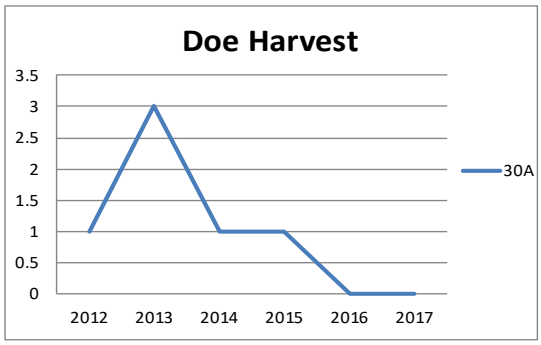
Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
30A	1	3	1	1	0	0
	1	3	1	1	0	0

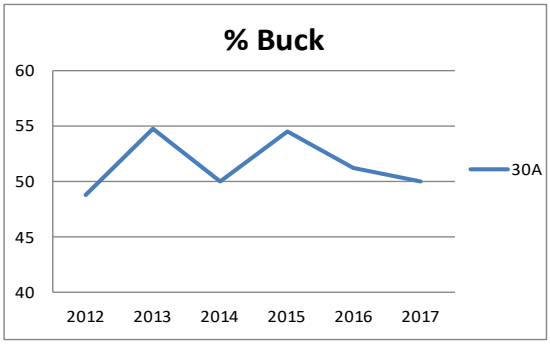
Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
30A	11.3	11	11.7	12	12.1	12.2











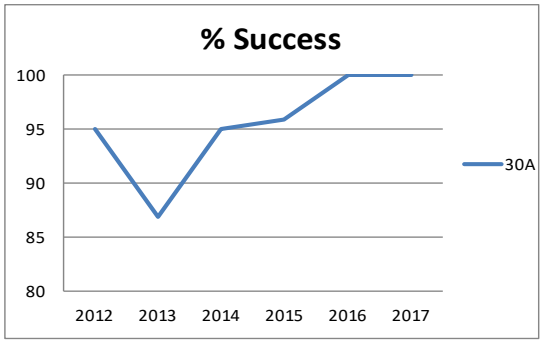
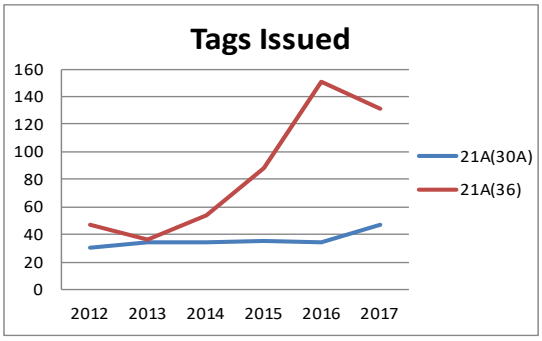


Figure 19. Pronghorn any weapon harvest, Group 3 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

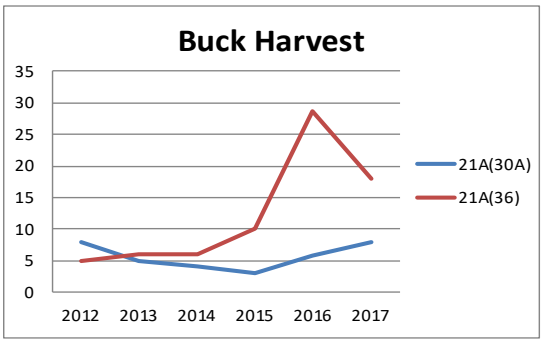
Pronghorn
Salmon Region
Group 3 (GMUs 30A and 36)

Square Miles =	1,325	3-Year Averages	
% Public Land =	95	Hunters	162
Archery		Harvest	31

Tags	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(30A)	30	34	34	35	34	47
21A(36)	47	36	54	88	151	131
	77	70	88	123	185	178

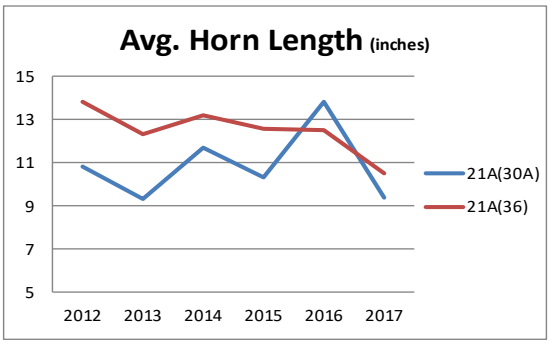


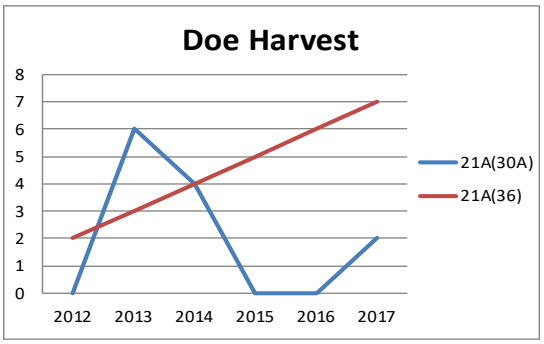
Bucks	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(30A)	8	5	4	3	6	8
21A(36)	5	6	6	10	29	18
	13	11	10	13	34	26

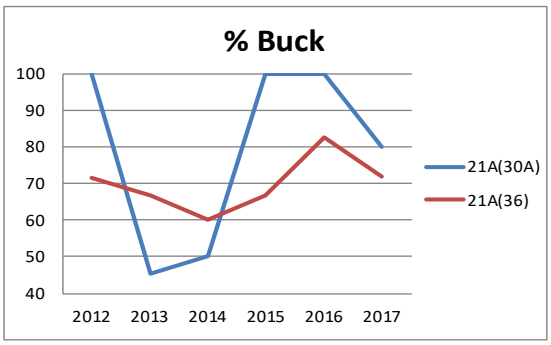


Does	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(30A)	0	6	4	0	0	2
21A(36)	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2	9	8	5	6	9

Avg Horn	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
21A(30A)	10.8	9.3	11.7	10.3	13.8	9.4
21A(36)	13.8	12.3	13.2	12.6	12.5	10.5







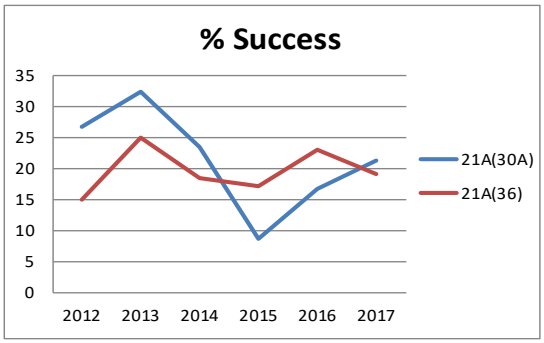


Figure 20. Pronghorn archery harvest, Group 3 Salmon Region, 2010-present.

APPENDIX A

IDAHO

2017 SEASON

PRONGHORN RULES

Idaho Big Game

2017 and 2018 Seasons & Rules

2nd Edition, 2018

Idfg.Idaho.gov

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 2017 - February 2018 & August 2018 - February 2019
Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2017 - June 2018 & August 2018 - June 2019
Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2017 - June 2018 & July 2018 - June 2019
Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Black Bear

PRONGHORN CONTROLLED HUNTS

For details on controlled hunt rules and restrictions please see pages 106 - 110.
Hunters: Please check Pronghorn Controlled Hunt Area descriptions on page 65. 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, see page 96 or contact your local Bureau of Land Management office.

Youth Only Hunt

See page105 for more information.

2017 & 2018 Controlled Pronghorn Hunts (2,440 Tags Plus Unlimited Tags)
Either Sex Pronghorn

Hunt No.	Controlled Hunt Areas	Tags	Season Dates	Notes
4001	29-1[b] (See pg 65)	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4002	30-1[a] (See pg 65)	30	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 30, See Pages 101 - 103*
4003	36B-1[a] (See pg 65)	10	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4004	37-1[a] (See pg 65)	60	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4005	38-1[b] (See pg 65)	10	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4006	39	30	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4007	40	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4008	41-1[a] (See pg 65)	200	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4009	44-1[a] (See pg 65)	100	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 45, See Pages 101 - 103*
4010	45-1[b] (See pg 65)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4011	46	60	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4012	49	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4013	50 (See pg 65)	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4014	51-1[a] (See pg 65)	75	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 51, See Pages 101 - 103*
4015	52-1[a] (See pg 65)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 52, See Pages 101 - 103*
4016	52A-1[a] (See pg 65)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 53, See Pages 101 - 103*
4017	54	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4018	55-1[a] (See pg 65)	10	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 56, See Pages 101 - 103*
4019	58	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4020	59-1[a] (See pg 65)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*

[a] This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.
[b] 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 - 110.

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4021	60A-1[a] (See pg 65)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4022	63-1[b] (See pg 65)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4023	68	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	
4024	76-1[b] (See pg 65)	5	Aug 15 - Sep 15	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Doe or Fawn Pronghorn				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4025	44-1[a] (See pg 65)	150	Oct 5- Oct 24 Dec 1 - Dec 31	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 45, See Pages 101 - 103*
4026	44-2[a] (See pg 65)	150	Nov 1 - Nov 30	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 45 & 52, See Pages 101 - 103*
4027	54-1[b] (See pg 65)	50	Oct 5 - Oct 24	
4028	63-2[b] (See pg 65)	25	Nov 1 - Nov 30	*Short Range weapons **only** on Mud Lake WMA*

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Archery Only - Archery Permit Required				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4029	21A-1[a] (See pg 65)	Unlimited	Aug 15 - Sep 15	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 49, 50, 51, 53, 59 & 59A, See Pages 101 - 103*
4030	40-1[a] (See pg 65)	200	Aug 15 - Aug 30	
4031	40-1[a] (See pg 65)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	
4032	45-2[a] (See pg 65)	50	Aug 15 - Aug 30	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4033	45-2[a] (See pg 65)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4034	46-1[a] (See pg 65)	40	Aug 15 - Aug 30	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 101 - 103*
4035	46-1[a] (See pg 65)	Unlimited	Sep 10 - Sep 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 101 - 103*
4036	54	25	Aug 15 - Sep 15	
4037	55-1[a] (See pg 65)	10	Aug 15 - Sep 15	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 56, See Pages 101 - 103*
4038	68	20	Aug 15 - Aug 30	
4039	68	75	Sep 10 - Sep 24	

[a] This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.
[b] 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 - 110.

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Muzzleloader Only - Muzzleloader Permit Required				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4040	30A	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4041	41-2[b] (See pg 65)	40	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Portion of Unit **only***
4042	47	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4043	63-2[b] (See pg 65)	50	Aug 15 - Sep 18	
4044	63-2[b] (See pg 65)	50	Sep 19 - Oct 24	

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Either Sex Pronghorn Short Range Weapon				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4045	36A-1[a] (See pg 65)	20	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4046	61-1[b] (See pg 65)	25	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Very limited access, Portion of Unit **only***

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Pronghorn Youth Only				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4047	32-1[a] (See pg 65)	15	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Either sex,* *Short range weapons **only** on Montour WMA* *Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103*
4048	39	5	Aug 15 - Sep 15	*Either sex, Archery **only***
4049	39	20	Oct 25 - Nov 30	*Doe or Fawn **only***
4050	52-1[a] (See pg 65)	50	Sep 25 - Oct 24	*Doe or Fawn **only**,* *Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 52,* *See Pages 101 - 103*
4051	54-2[b] (See pg 65)	25	Aug 15 - Oct 24	*Doe or Fawn **only***
4052	63-2[b] (See pg 65)	25	Aug 8 - Oct 24	*Either sex, Muzzleloader **only***

2017 & 2018 Controlled Hunts Landowner Permission Required EXTRA Doe or Fawn Pronghorn				
Hunt No.	**Controlled Hunt Areas**	**Tags**	**Season Dates**	**Notes**
4053*	45-1X[b] (See pg 65)	25	Nov 1 - Dec 31	*Private land **only**,* *For application information, See Page 109*
4054*	46-1X[a] (See pg 65)	50	Aug 15 - Oct 24	*Private land **only**,* *For application information, See Page 109*
*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

[a] This hunt includes other units or parts of other units. See controlled hunt area descriptions.
[b] 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 - 110.

PRONGHORN CONTROLLED HUNT AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Please note that hunt areas are different for each species. For full text of legal description and boundaries for Game Management Units, see pages 84–93, or visit **http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/0108.pdf**.

Hunt Area 21A-1 — All of Units 21A, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52A, 53, 58, 59, 59A, 60, 60A, 61, and that portion of Unit 45 within the Camas Creek drainage, and that portion of Unit 63 south of Highway 33. (See Craters of the Moon closure, page 96.)

Hunt Area 29-1 — All of Unit 29 except the Poison Creek drainage.

Hunt Area 30-1 — All of Unit 30 and that portion of Unit 21A south and east of Carmen Creek Road.

Hunt Area 30A — All of Unit 30A.

Hunt Area 32-1 — All of Units 32 and 32A.

Hunt Area 36A-1 — All of Units 36 and 36A.

Hunt Area 36B-1 — All of Unit 36B, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Iron Creek drainage.

Hunt Area 37-1 — All of Units 37 and 37A, and that part of Unit 29 in the Poison Creek drainage.

Hunt Area 38-1 — That portion of Unit 38 within the following boundary: starting at the junction of Interstate I-84 and State Highway 69, south on State Highway 69 to E. Avalon St., then West on E. Avalon St to Swan Falls Road, then south on Swan Falls Road to the Snake River, then east on the Snake River to State Highway 51, then north on State Highway 51 to Interstate I-84, then west on Interstate I-84 to point of beginning.

Hunt Area 39 — All of Unit 39.

Hunt Area 40 — All of Unit 40.

Hunt Area 40-1 — All of Units 40, 41 and 42.

Hunt Area 41-1 — That portion of Unit 41 west of State Highway 51 and all of Unit 42.

Hunt Area 41-2 — That portion of Unit 41 east of State Highway 51.

Hunt Area 44-1 — All of Unit 44 and that portion of Unit 45 within Camas Creek drainage.

Hunt Area 44-2 — All of Units 44, 45 and 52.

Hunt Area 45-1 — All of Unit 45 excluding that portion within Camas Creek drainage.

Hunt Area 45-2 — All of Unit 45 excluding that portion within Camas Creek drainage, and all of Unit 52.

Hunt Area 45-1X — Private land within Unit 45 excluding that portion within the Camas Creek drainage.

Hunt Area 46 — All of Unit 46.

Hunt Area 46-1 — All of Units 46 and 47.

Hunt Area 46-1X — Private land within Units 46 and 54 and private land within that portion of Unit 47 east of Salmon Falls Creek.

Hunt Area 47 — All of Unit 47.

Hunt Area 49 — All of Unit 49.

Hunt Area 50 — All of Unit 50.
(See Craters of the Moon closure, page 96.)

Hunt Area 51-1 — All of Unit 51 and that portion of Unit 63 within Butte County.

Hunt Area 52-1 — All of Units 48 and 52.

Hunt Area 52A-1 — All of Units 52A and 53.
(See Craters of the Moon closure, page 96.)

Hunt Area 54 — All of Unit 54.

Hunt Area 54-1 — That portion of Unit 54 north of the following boundary: Beginning on U.S, Highway 93 near Hollister, east on the E 2400 N Road to the N 2700 E Road (Foothill Road), then southeast on the Hopper Gulch Road (Forest Road 546) to the Oakley-Rogerson Road (Forest Service 500 Road), then east on the Oakley-Rogerson Road (Forest Service 500 Road) to the town of Oakley.

Hunt Area 54-2 — All of Unit 54 within one mile of cultivated fields.

Hunt Area 55-1 — All of Units 55, 56 and 57.

Hunt Area 58 — All of Unit 58.

Hunt Area 59-1 — All of Units 59 and 59A.

Hunt Area 60A-1 — All of Units 60 and 60A, and that portion of Unit 61 west of Hotel Creek.

Hunt Area 61-1 — That portion of Unit 61 east of Hotel Creek.

Hunt Area 63-1 — That portion of Unit 63 south of State Highway 33.

Hunt Area 63-2 — That portion of Unit 63 north of State Highway 33, excluding the Camas National Wildlife Refuge which is closed.

Hunt Area 68 — All of Unit 68.

Hunt Area 76-1 — That portion of Unit 76 south of Highway 89.

Submitted by:

Rick Ward Regional Wildlife Manager	Mike McDonald Regional Wildlife Manager	Zach Lockyer Regional Wildlife Manager
Curtis Hendricks Regional Wildlife Manager	Greg Painter Regional Wildlife Manager	

Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Toby Boudreau, Asst. Chief Bureau of Wildlife	Scott Reinecker, 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.