

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Steven M. Huffaker, Director**

**Project W-170-R-28**

**Progress Report**



**WHITE-TAILED DEER**

Study I, Job 3

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

Prepared by:

Jim Hayden, David Spicer ..... Panhandle Region  
Jay Crenshaw, Dave Koehler ..... Clearwater Region

Compiled and edited by: Brad Compton, Wildlife Game Manager

August 2004  
Boise, Idaho



Findings in this report are preliminary in nature and not for publication without permission of the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

STATEWIDE.....1  
    SUMMARY .....1  
PANHANDLE REGION .....5  
    ANALYSIS AREA 1 (UNIT 1).....5  
    ANALYSIS AREA 2 (UNITS 2, 3, 4A).....9  
    ANALYSIS AREA 3 (UNITS 5, 6) .....12  
    ANALYSIS AREA 4 (UNITS 4, 7, 9) .....15  
CLEARWATER REGION .....18  
    ANALYSIS AREA 5 (UNITS 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13).....18  
    ANALYSIS AREA 6 (UNITS 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18) .....23  
    ANALYSIS AREA 7 (UNITS 16A, 17, 19, 20).....27  
APPENDIX A.....31

**LIST OF FIGURES**

STATEWIDE

Figure 1. White-tailed Deer Status and Minimum Criterion Statewide .....4

PANHANDLE REGION

Figure 2. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 1 .....8  
Figure 3. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 2 .....11  
Figure 4. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 3 .....14

CLEARWATER REGION

Figure 5. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 4 .....17  
Figure 6. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 5 .....22  
Figure 7. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 6 .....26  
Figure 8. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 7 .....30

**PROGRESS REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

<b>STATE:</b>	<u>Idaho</u>	<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<u>White-tailed Deer Surveys and</u>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<u>W-170-R-28</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
<b>SUBPROJECT:</b>	<u>1-2</u>	<b>STUDY NAME:</b>	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
<b>STUDY:</b>	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
<b>JOB:</b>	<u>3</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
<b>PERIOD COVERED:</b>	<u>July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004</u>		

**STATEWIDE**

**Summary**

White-tailed deer are found primarily in the ten northern counties of Idaho. This area corresponds roughly to that portion of the state north of the Salmon River and encompasses the Department's administrative Panhandle and Clearwater regions. A few small, localized populations are found throughout the remainder of the state. This plan establishes criteria and objectives for white-tailed deer populations in north-central and northern Idaho. Management efforts in the remainder of the state will be incidental to mule deer.

Whitetails are primarily browsers. The fall and winter diets consist primarily of shrubs and evergreens. Western red-cedar and western yew are often utilized. Preferred shrubs include red-osier dogwood, red-stem ceanothus, serviceberry, maple, and chokecherry. The spring and summer diets consist largely of grasses and forbs or agricultural crops if available.

Winter conditions in northern Idaho can be severe, especially in the Clearwater Region. Snow depths can reach three feet on low-elevation winter ranges, restricting whitetails to closed canopy timber stands where they are forced to concentrate in "deer yards" under mature forest canopies. In the best whitetail habitats, the major limiting factor on population growth appears to be the severity of the winter.

Due to their secretive behavior and ability to use dense cover for concealment, white-tailed deer often live close to human habitation. Consequently, whitetails may suffer a higher mortality rate from poaching, free-ranging dogs, and vehicle collisions than other big game species in Idaho.

White-tailed deer frequently inflict damage on vegetable gardens, orchards, nurseries, and field crops. Depredation control is, therefore, an important aspect of Idaho's white-tailed deer management program.

The effect of harvest mortality is highly variable in white-tailed deer. Generally, the majority of the annual mortality is not hunter-harvest related. Factors such as predation, malnourishment over winter, accidents, and disease are responsible for the majority of deaths in whitetail populations. Therefore, population response tends to be independent of harvest. Exceptions to

this rule include extremely liberal antlerless opportunity designed to reduce populations and effects of hunter harvest on buck age structure. Hunting seasons designed to offer much more opportunity for antlered deer than antlerless deer, or during periods when bucks are vulnerable (rut, winter range), can reduce the proportion of bucks and particularly older bucks in the population. Throughout much of Idaho, white-tailed deer habitat provides high amounts of security cover; thus, the effects of harvest tend to be extremely limited.

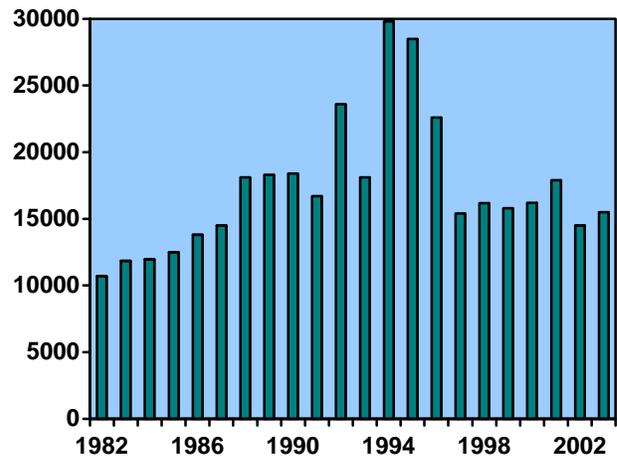
Proper harvest management for white-tailed deer, given their relative independence to harvest effects, is to adequately monitor populations annually and be responsive to population changes. Liberal seasons can be applied during most periods and conservative seasons applied when environmental factors are limiting population growth. The 2003 season structure for white-tailed deer is presented in Appendix A.

Because of their secretive behavior and habitats used, management information on white-tailed deer is difficult to collect. Consequently, no population estimates are provided in this plan. Some limited aerial survey and late-summer age composition data have been collected periodically, but how that information relates to actual population size and population trends cannot be determined at the present time.

Other data collection efforts have included tabulating numbers of harvested animals and collection of antler point and spread data at check stations, jaw collections for age analyses, obtaining reproductive information from road-killed does, determining habitat use and mortality rates, and harvest surveys.

The mandatory harvest report survey provides management information available on whitetails. However, this information is limited to an estimate of total harvest and participation by unit and corresponding antler point data of bucks harvested. These data will be monitored as indices of population status. Criterion for the minimum percent of bucks with 4+ and 5+ antler points in the harvest have been established for each of the seven Analysis Areas (grouping of Game Management Units [GMUs]). Antler point criteria were established as minimums the general public would accept and are believed above that necessary to maintain healthy, productive populations. Minimum criteria do not ensure “trophy” animals.

**Statewide White-Tailed Deer Harvest**



The development of a technique to estimate population size and composition would allow for considerable refinement of whitetail management in Idaho.

Overall, white-tailed deer populations are healthy in Idaho and are probably near all-time highs for the state. Heavy snows during the 1996-1997 winter impacted most populations throughout northern Idaho. During 2003, an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the Clearwater Region killed several thousand white-tailed deer. Given high quality habitat, populations impacted by the winter and EHD should rebound relatively quickly.

A differential change in hunting pressure has occurred between south and north Idaho since the early 1990s. While southern Idaho mule deer hunter numbers have remained relatively stable or declined, hunter numbers in north-central and north Idaho have increased. It is unknown whether restrictive mule deer seasons, combined with a mule deer population decline in parts of southern Idaho following the 1992-1993 winter has shifted some pressure northward, or a change in human demographics has led to this differential change.

Concurrent with the increasing hunter numbers during the mid-1990s in northern Idaho was a general decline in both percent 4+ and percent 5+ points in the harvest since 1993. More recently, the percentage of 4+ and 5+ points in the harvest have been stable to increasing. Antler ratio data is not a direct reflection of harvest exploitation because it can be influenced by a broad array of factors including population changes, changing age structures, differential cohort demographics, hunting season frameworks, and/or harvest exploitation. The Department will continue to monitor these parameters and recommend appropriate action to ensure that three-year-average antler point criteria do not fall below minimum.

## White-Tailed Deer Status & Minimum Criterion Statewide

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

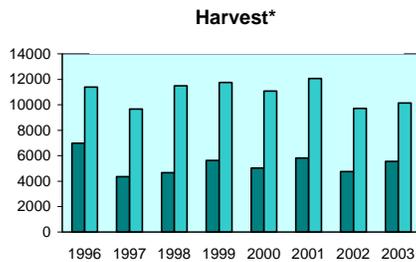
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	59	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	23	7



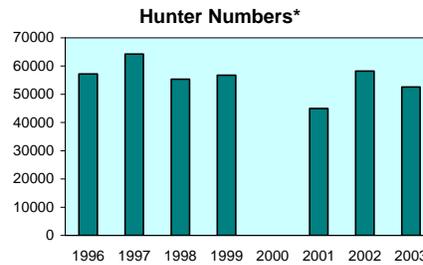
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	6980	4352	4675	5623	5027	5822	4750	5545
Antlered Harvest	11401	9667	11484	11757	11091	12078	9724	10147
% 4+ Points	57	49	49	46	57	57	58	61
% 5+ Points	22	19	19	15	22	21	22	26
Hunter Numbers	57180	64303	55345	56761	ND	45000	58259	52618

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1998 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1998 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

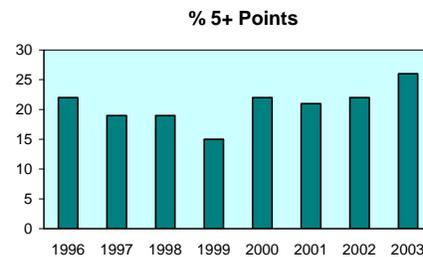
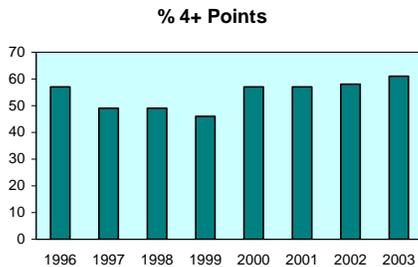


Figure 1. White-tailed Deer Status and Minimum Criterion Statewide.

**PROGRESS REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

<b>STATE:</b>	<u>Idaho</u>	<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<u>White-tailed Deer Surveys and</u>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<u>W-170-R-28</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
<b>SUBPROJECT:</b>	<u>1</u>	<b>STUDY NAME:</b>	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
<b>STUDY:</b>	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
<b>JOB:</b>	<u>3</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
<b>PERIOD COVERED:</b>	<u>July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004</u>		

**PANHANDLE REGION**

**Analysis Area 1 (Unit 1)**

**Management Objectives**

Buck survival will be managed to maintain a minimum of 30% of bucks with four or more antler points per side, and a minimum 7% with five or more antler points per side.

**Historical Perspective**

Prior to the 1900s, deer were apparently relatively scarce, existing along the rivers and edges of mature conifer stands and within younger stands created by fire, disease, and insects. As mining, logging, and the railroads entered the picture around the turn of the century, deer habitat began to slowly change. The period from 1910 to 1931 included five major fires, each creating hundreds of thousands of acres of younger forests beneficial to white-tailed deer. The newly-created habitat and a major predator control program allowed deer numbers to continue this growth, even through five major die-offs: 1927, 1932, 1946, 1948, and 1949.

Concern about “over-browsed winter ranges” and “too many deer” prompted liberal hunting seasons in an effort to reduce deer numbers in the early 1950s. Long seasons were the rule from 1954 through 1974.

By the early 1970s, deer numbers had come down substantially from the peak numbers in the 1950s and 1960s. Hunting seasons were shortened, but no major habitat-creating fires had occurred for over 40 years. Since shorter seasons began in the mid-1970s, the number of whitetails killed by hunters in the Panhandle rose from 3,000 per year to 10,000 per year.

**Habitat Issues**

This Analysis Area can be broadly described as heavily timbered, with very little agricultural land. Habitat security is high, with heavy vegetative cover, and access restrictions through mid-November to protect grizzly bears. Timber harvest in portions of this Analysis Area has improved whitetail summer range. However, research in this area has demonstrated the closed

canopies of low-elevation; mature timber is important to deer during severe winters. Loss of this habitat component to logging and development affecting winter range is probably the major habitat issue in the Analysis Area. Grazing is negligible.

### **Biological Issues**

The management criteria are easily met in this Analysis Area. Research in the Priest River drainage from 1986 through 1995 indicated hunting-related mortality was 7% for does and 18% for bucks. Natural mortality was the major factor influencing total mortality rates of both sexes. In terms of effect, the 1996-1997 winter was probably one of the three or four most severe winters during the last century. Research adjacent to this Analysis Area in Montana indicated 99% of fawns died, as did 26% of adult females. Favorable environmental conditions since the winter of 1996-1997, particularly snow depth on winter range, have allowed substantial recovery of deer populations in this Analysis Area.

### **Inter-specific Issues**

Other wild ungulates within the Analysis Area include mule deer, elk, moose, mountain goats, and woodland caribou. None are believed to be limiting white-tailed deer numbers, and white-tailed deer are not believed to be in competition with any of these species for forage or space.

As the most abundant ungulate in the Analysis Area, white-tailed deer do have an indirect influence on other species in the ecosystem. In those years when white-tailed deer numbers change rapidly in response to environmental factors, the resultant effect of predation will be reflected within the population dynamics of alternate prey species. For example, it is hypothesized that whitetail numbers are maintaining enough mountain lions that caribou numbers may be affected.

### **Predation Issues**

The Priest River research indicated natural causes, primarily predation, were the primary cause of mortality of adult deer. Twenty-three percent of adult males and 10% of adult females died annually to natural mortality, primarily predation. No information is available on the effect on fawn deer or to the population as a whole.

White-tailed deer have the highest intrinsic rate of increase among Idaho's ungulates. Although predation may be a major influence in their population dynamics, predation has not been identified as limiting hunting opportunity for whitetails in northern Idaho. Between 1995 and 1998, mountain lion numbers are believed to have increased substantially, while white-tailed deer numbers dropped substantially due to the severe 1996-1997 winter. Mountain lion populations are believed to be considerably lower in 2002 than during the mid and late 1990s.

### **Winter Feeding Issues**

The Department has undertaken emergency winter feeding about once every ten to 15 years in this Analysis Area. The most recent feeding occurred during the 1996-1997 winter, when about

3,000 whitetails were fed at Department-sanctioned sites, primarily in the Bonner's Ferry and Priest River locales. Extrapolating harvest and telemetry data to calculate a crude population estimate of 29,000 deer, it appears approximately 10% of the population in the Analysis Area was fed.

### **Information Requirements**

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 1. Success rates and the percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but the long seasons and variable weather influence makes interpretation difficult. Antler point summaries from harvested bucks index adult buck survival.

Spotlight surveys have been conducted in this Analysis Area to assess herd composition. A total of 302 white-tailed deer were classified on September 5, 18, and 23, 2002. Ratios of 66 fawns and 34 bucks per 100 does were observed. Similar surveys were conducted on September 11, 12, 17, and 19 2001, when 359 deer were classified with fawn:doe:buck ratios of 64:100:39. Additional surveys will be required over a number of years for us to understand the implications of these population parameters.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 1 (Unit 1)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

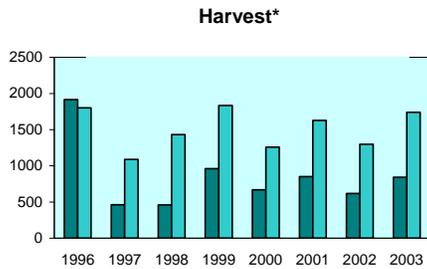
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	54	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	22	7



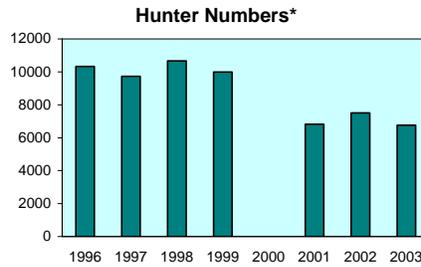
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	1913	461	459	962	668	851	619	843
Antlered Harvest	1801	1088	1431	1834	1258	1626	1298	1740
% 4+ Points	52	56	51	41	52	52	52	58
% 5+ Points	26	21	23	17	20	21	22	24
Hunter Numbers	10324	9733	10670	9984	ND	6815	7505	6761

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1998 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1998 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

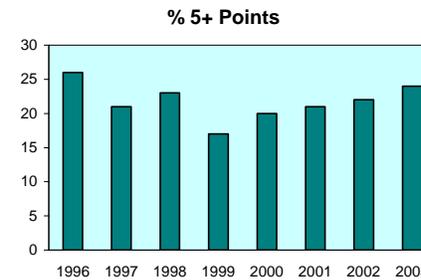
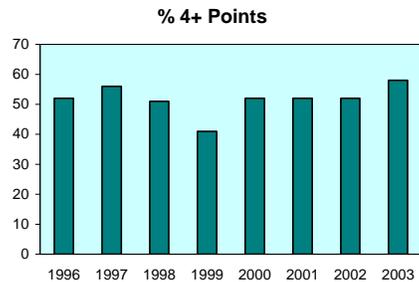


Figure 2. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 1.

## **Analysis Area 2 (Units 2, 3, 4A)**

### **Management Objectives**

Buck survival will be managed to maintain a minimum of 30% of bucks with four or more antler points per side, and a minimum 7% with five or more antler points per side.

### **Historical Perspective**

Prior to the 1900s, deer were apparently relatively scarce, existing along the rivers and edges of mature conifer stands and within younger stands created by fire, disease, and insects. As mining, logging, and the railroads entered the picture around the turn of the century, deer habitat began to slowly change.

Concern about “over-browsed winter ranges” and “too many deer” prompted liberal hunting seasons in an effort to reduce deer numbers in the early 1950s. Long seasons were the rule from 1954 through 1974.

By the early 1970s, deer numbers had come down substantially from the peak numbers in the 1950s and 1960s. Hunting seasons were shortened, but no major habitat-creating fires had occurred for over 40 years. Since shorter seasons began in the mid-1970s, the number of whitetails killed by hunters in the Panhandle rose from 3,000 per year to 10,000 per year.

### **Habitat Issues**

This Analysis Area can be broadly described as heavily timbered, with very little agricultural land. Habitat security is good, with heavy vegetative cover. This Analysis Area includes substantial development associated with the Coeur d’Alene area. The primary impact with the one- to ten-acre parcels common in the areas surrounding urban development is the loss of range critical during severe snow accumulations. Timber harvest in portions of this Analysis Area has improved whitetail summer range substantially. Grazing is negligible.

### **Biological Issues**

The management criteria are easily met in this Analysis Area. As indexed by antler point information from the harvest, buck survival is very good in this Analysis Area despite the human population of the area.

### **Inter-specific Issues**

Other wild ungulates within the Analysis Area include mule deer, elk, and moose. None are believed to be limiting white-tailed deer numbers, and white-tailed deer are not believed to be in competition with any of these species for forage or space. As the most abundant ungulate in the Analysis Area, white-tailed deer do have an indirect influence on other species in the ecosystem. In those years when white-tailed deer numbers change rapidly in response to environmental

factors, the resultant effect on predation will be reflected within the population dynamics of alternate prey species.

### **Predation Issues**

White-tailed deer have the highest intrinsic rate of increase among Idaho's ungulates. Although predation may be a major influence in their population dynamics, predation has not been identified as limiting hunting opportunity for whitetails in northern Idaho. Between 1995 and 1998, mountain lion numbers are believed to have increased substantially, while white-tailed deer numbers dropped substantially due to the severe 1996-1997 winter. Mountain lion populations are believed to be considerably lower in 2002 than during the mid and late 1990s.

### **Winter Feeding Issues**

The Department has undertaken emergency winter feeding about once every ten to 15 years in this Analysis Area. The most recent feeding occurred during the 1996-1997 winter, when about 200 whitetails were fed at Department-sanctioned sites, primarily in the Spirit Lake area. Many private individuals feed small herds of ten to 20 deer.

### **Information Requirements**

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 2. Success rates and the percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but the long seasons and variable weather influence makes interpretation difficult. Antler point summaries from harvested bucks index adult buck survival.

A white-tailed deer survival study is nearing completion along the east side of Lake Coeur d'Alene in GMU 3. Survival estimates will be calculated for female deer when the study concludes.

Spotlight surveys have been conducted in GMUs 2 and 3 to assess herd composition. A total of 472 white-tailed deer were classified on September 12 and 16, 2002. Ratios of 50 fawns and 34 bucks per 100 does were observed. Similar surveys were conducted on September 24, 25, and October 1, 2001, when 316 deer were classified with fawn:doe:buck ratios of 68:100:58. Additional surveys will be required over a number of years for us to understand the implications of these population parameters.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 2 (Units 2, 3, 4A)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

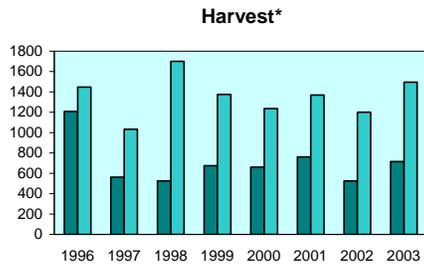
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	55	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	24	7



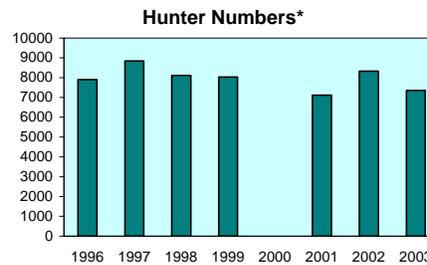
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	1207	562	525	674	661	761	526	716
Antlered Harvest	1448	1033	1700	1374	1236	1369	1200	1495
% 4+ Points	48	50	49	47	55	49	55	60
% 5+ Points	23	21	21	17	24	21	25	27
Hunter Numbers	7901	8838	8111	8037	ND	7119	8326	7359

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1998 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1998 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

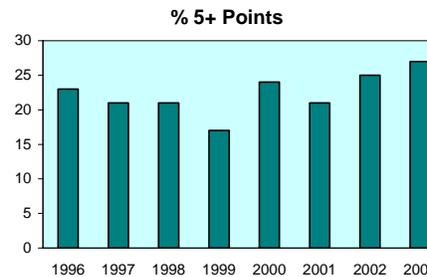
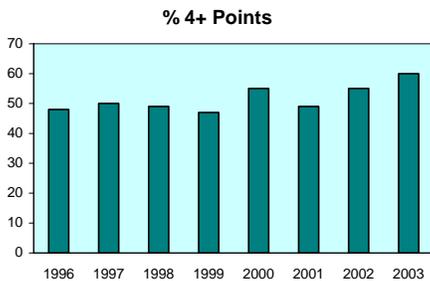


Figure 3. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 2.

## **Analysis Area 3 (Units 5, 6)**

### **Management Objectives**

Buck survival will be managed to maintain a minimum of 30% of bucks with four or more antler points per side, and a minimum 7% with five or more antler points per side.

### **Historical Perspective**

Prior to the 1900s, deer were apparently relatively scarce, existing along the rivers and edges of mature conifer stands and within younger stands created by fire, disease, and insects. As mining, logging, and the railroads entered the picture around the turn of the century, deer habitat began to slowly change.

Concern about “over-browsed winter ranges” and “too many deer” prompted liberal hunting seasons in an effort to reduce deer numbers in the early 1950s. Long seasons were the rule from 1954 through 1974.

By the early 1970s, deer numbers had come down substantially from the peak numbers in the 1950s and 1960s. Hunting seasons were shortened, but no major habitat-creating fires had occurred for over 40 years. Since shorter seasons began in the mid-1970s, the number of whitetails killed by hunters in the Panhandle rose from 3,000 per year to 10,000 per year.

### **Habitat Issues**

This Analysis Area can be broadly described as heavily timbered to the east, but with abundant agricultural land to the west. Habitat security is variable. This Analysis Area includes most of the Coeur d’Alene Indian Reservation. Timber harvest in portions of this Analysis Area has improved whitetail summer range substantially. Loss of low-elevation, closed canopy stands important during deep-snow winters is the primary habitat issue in this Analysis Area. Grazing is negligible.

### **Biological Issues**

The management criteria are easily met in this Analysis Area. As indexed by antler point information from the harvest, buck survival is very good in this Analysis Area. It did not experience high winter mortality during the 1996-1997 winter, as did the eastern portion of the Area.

### **Inter-specific Issues**

Other wild ungulates within the Analysis Area include mule deer, elk, and moose. None are believed to be limiting white-tailed deer numbers, and white-tailed deer are not believed to be in competition with any of these species for forage or space. As the most abundant ungulate in the Analysis Area, white-tailed deer do have an indirect influence on other species in the ecosystem. In those years when white-tailed deer numbers change rapidly in response to environmental

factors, the resultant effect on predation will be reflected within the population dynamics of alternate prey species.

### **Predation Issues**

White-tailed deer have the highest intrinsic rate of increase among Idaho's ungulates. Although predation may be a major influence in their population dynamics, predation has not been identified as limiting hunting opportunity for whitetails in northern Idaho. Between 1995 and 1998, mountain lion numbers are believed to have increased substantially, while white-tailed deer numbers dropped substantially. Mountain lion populations are believed to be considerably lower in 2002 than during the mid and late 1990s.

### **Winter Feeding Issues**

The Department has not fed deer in this Analysis Area in recent years. Many private individuals feed small herds of ten to 20 deer.

### **Information Requirements**

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 3. Success rates and the percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but the long seasons and variable weather influence makes interpretation difficult. Antler point summaries from harvested bucks index adult buck survival.

Given the relatively minor effect of harvest measured in Analysis Area 3, whitetails and similar buck survival (as indexed by antler point data), detailed population information is not needed for setting hunting regulations.

Spotlight surveys have been conducted in GMUs 5 and 6 to assess herd composition. A total of 132 white-tailed deer were classified on September 10, 16, and 18, 2002. Ratios of 41 fawns and 86 bucks per 100 does were observed. Similar surveys were conducted on October 1 and 4, 2001, when 260 deer were classified with fawn:doe:buck ratios of 41:100:31. Additional surveys will be required over a number of years for us to understand the implications of these population parameters.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 3 (Units 5, 6)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

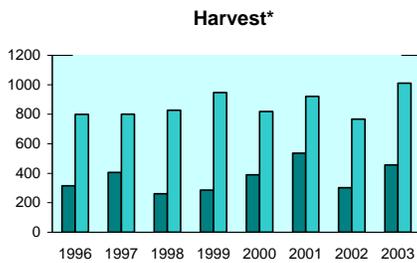
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	59	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	25	7



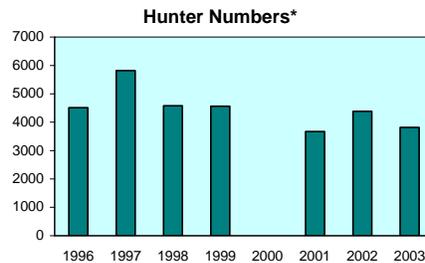
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	316	406	262	286	390	537	302	457
Antlered Harvest	799	801	827	947	820	921	767	1010
% 4+ Points	55	58	56	55	61	58	58	62
% 5+ Points	22	32	31	16	27	25	20	29
Hunter Numbers	4513	5815	4580	4566	ND	3668	4379	3817

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1998 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1998 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

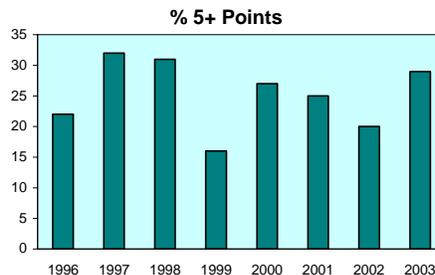
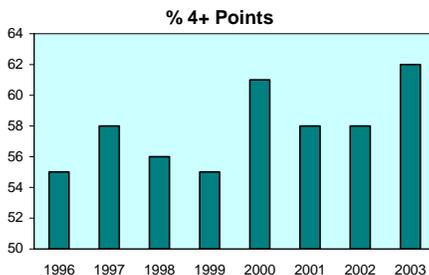


Figure 4. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 3.

## **Analysis Area 4 (Units 4, 7, 9)**

### **Management Objectives**

Buck survival will be managed to maintain a minimum of 30% of bucks with four or more antler points per side, and a minimum 7% with five or more antler points per side.

### **Historical Perspective**

Prior to the 1900s, deer were apparently relatively scarce, existing along the rivers and edges of mature conifer stands and within younger stands created by fire, disease, and insects. As mining, logging, and the railroads entered the picture around the turn of the century, deer habitat began to slowly change. The period from 1910 to 1931 included five major fires, each creating hundreds of thousands of acres of younger forests beneficial to white-tailed deer. The newly-created habitat, and a major predator control program, allowed deer numbers to continue this growth, even through five major die-offs: 1927, 1932, 1946, 1948, and 1949.

Concern about “over-browsed winter ranges” and “too many deer” prompted liberal hunting seasons in an effort to reduce deer numbers in the early 1950s. Long seasons were the rule from 1954 through 1974.

By the early 1970s, deer numbers had come down substantially from the peak numbers in the 1950s and 1960s. Hunting seasons were shortened, but no major habitat-creating fires had occurred for over 40 years. Since shorter seasons began in the mid-1970s, the number of whitetails killed by hunters in the Panhandle rose from 3,000 per year to 10,000 per year.

### **Habitat Issues**

This Analysis Area can be broadly described as heavily timbered to the east, but with abundant agricultural land to the west. Habitat security is variable. Timber harvest in portions of this Analysis Area has improved whitetail summer range substantially. Loss of low-elevation, closed canopy stands important during deep-snow winters is the primary habitat issue in this Analysis Area. Grazing is negligible.

### **Biological Issues**

The management criteria are easily met in this Analysis Area. As indexed by antler point information from the harvest, buck survival is very good in this Analysis Area. Deer densities appear lower in this Area than adjacent Areas, particularly at the southern end. The 1996-1997 winter was probably one of the three or four most severe winters during the last century in this Analysis Area. Favorable environmental conditions since the winter of 1996-1997, particularly snow depth on winter range, have allowed substantial recovery of deer populations in this Analysis Area.

## **Inter-specific Issues**

Other wild ungulates within the Analysis Area include mule deer, elk, moose, and mountain goats. None are believed to be limiting white-tailed deer numbers, and white-tailed deer are not believed to be in competition with any of these species for forage or space. As the most abundant ungulate in the Analysis Area, white-tailed deer do have an indirect influence on other species in the ecosystem. In those years when white-tailed deer numbers change rapidly in response to environmental factors, the resultant effect on predation will be reflected within the population dynamics of alternate prey species.

## **Predation Issues**

White-tailed deer have the highest intrinsic rate of increase among Idaho's ungulates. Although predation may be a major influence in their population dynamics, predation has not been identified as limiting hunting opportunity for whitetails in northern Idaho. Between 1995 and 1998, mountain lion numbers are believed to have increased substantially, while white-tailed deer numbers dropped substantially due to the severe 1996-1997 winter. Mountain lion populations are believed to be considerably lower in 2002 than during the mid and late 1990s.

## **Winter Feeding Issues**

The Department has fed deer about once every 20 years in this Analysis Area. Many private individuals feed small herds of ten to 20 deer.

## **Information Requirements**

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 4. Success rates and the percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but the long seasons and variable weather influence makes interpretation difficult. Antler point summaries from harvested bucks index adult buck survival.

Given the relatively minor effect of harvest measured in Analysis Area 4 whitetails and similar buck survival (as indexed by antler point data), detailed population information is not needed for setting hunting regulations. No spotlight surveys were conducted in this Analysis Area.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 4 (Units 4, 7, 9)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

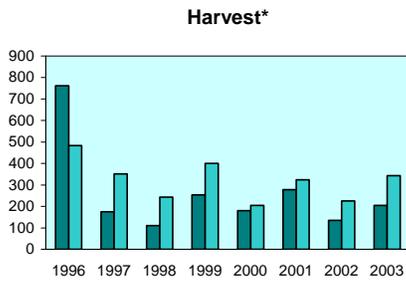
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	57	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	24	7



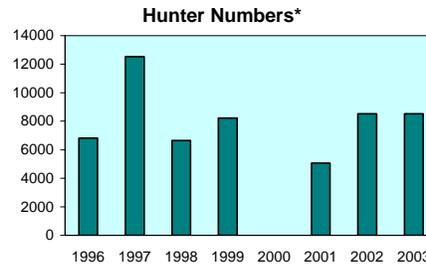
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	762	175	111	254	180	278	135	205
Antlered Harvest	483	351	243	400	205	324	225	343
% 4+ Points	44	42	49	34	52	57	57	56
% 5+ Points	22	13	22	10	25	25	20	27
Hunter Numbers	6810	12525	6641	8218	ND	5057	8531	8531

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1998 does not include general primitive weapons season data. Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1998 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

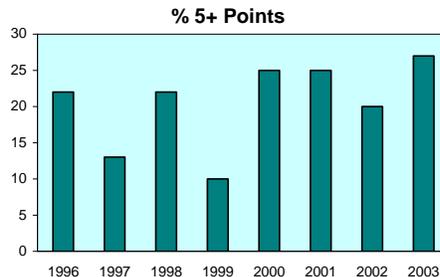
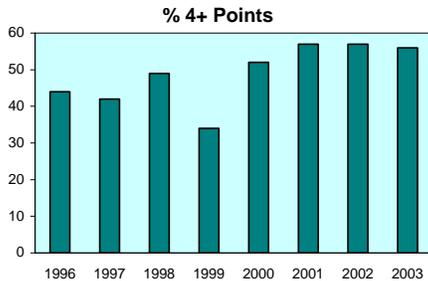


Figure 5. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 4.

**PROGRESS REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

<b>STATE:</b>	<u>Idaho</u>	<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<u>White-tailed Deer Surveys and</u>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<u>W-170-R-28</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
<b>SUBPROJECT:</b>	<u>2</u>	<b>STUDY NAME:</b>	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
<b>STUDY:</b>	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
<b>JOB:</b>	<u>3</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
<b>PERIOD COVERED:</b>	<u>July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004</u>		

**CLEARWATER REGION**

**Analysis Area 5 (Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13)**

**Management Objectives**

Given the current inability to efficiently census population parameters of white-tailed deer, management objectives will be limited to not falling below 50%  $\geq 4$  points and 17%  $\geq 5$  points in the harvest. Although the population size is unknown, efforts will be made to maintain current status.

**Historical Perspective**

White-tailed deer populations in this Analysis Area were historically low. Accounts from Lewis and Clark during the 1800s suggested that very few animals were found throughout the Clearwater River country. Populations probably did not change much until the early 1900s when large fires and settlement by humans, including grazing of domestic livestock and clearing of land for agricultural purposes, changed the landscape. Logging also converted dense coniferous forests into a mosaic of vegetation-succession types and intensified throughout the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Currently, populations are at historic highs.

Historically, white-tailed deer and mule deer were managed as a “single species”; a single general season harvest framework was established for both species. In 1973, the Department began to offer some species-specific seasons in the Clearwater Region.

These units have either-sex hunting seasons in October. During the mid-1980s, most units extended the antlered white-tailed deer hunting season into mid-November. In 1990, most November white-tailed deer seasons were changed to either-sex hunts. In 1997, an extra doe tag was established in the southern portion of Unit 10A and the southeastern portion of 11A. The 11A hunt was expanded to include the entire unit in 2000 and to include antlerless mule deer. In 1998, the Clearwater Deer Tag was established.

## Habitat Issues

This Analysis Area includes the highly productive Palouse and Camas prairies, the timbered mountainous terrain of the Lower North Fork Clearwater River, and the drier ponderosa pine uplands and deep canyons along the Snake and Salmon Rivers. In Units 8 and 8A, dryland agriculture began in the 1880s and currently, non-forested land is tilled, and only small patches of perennial vegetation remain. Timber harvest began in Unit 10A during the early 1900s and increased dramatically in the 1970s. In 1971, Dworshak Reservoir flooded approximately 45 miles of the North Fork Clearwater River in Unit 10A and permanently removed thousands of acres of prime, low-elevation big game winter range. Historically, sheep and cattle ranchers homesteaded the canyon lands in Units 11, 11A, and 13, while prairie farmers settled land. Around the turn of the century, northern Unit 11 and the prairie land in Unit 11A were under intensive use for dryland agriculture, and numerous orchards were planted in the Lewiston area. As settlement increased, the forested portions of the area were intensively logged, especially on private land. In addition, past improper grazing practices degraded many meadow areas and canyons, allowing invasion of noxious weed species in drier areas.

This Analysis Area contains large tracts of privately-owned land. Units 8, 11, and 11A are mostly private lands except for the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area along the Snake and Salmon Rivers. Unit 13 has been mostly under private ownership since settlement, and is managed for agriculture and livestock. Units 8A and 10A contain a mixed ownership of private acreage, private timber companies, and public land owned by either the Idaho Department of Lands or the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Farmland in Units 8 and 8A has provided high-quality forage for deer. Depredations have occurred mostly along timbered edges and canyon lands. The flat, low-elevation areas, abundance of meadows, and high productivity of the land make Units 8 and 8A highly productive for wildlife, but with a high likelihood of conflict with humans. Cash crops that receive damage from white-tailed deer include wheat, barley, oats, peas, lentils, rapeseed, organic vegetables, bluegrass, and hay. Landowners establishing tree plantations, tree farms, and orchards also experience damage by white-tailed deer.

Units 8A and 10A have both been heavily logged with large tracts of land in seed tree cuts or clearcuts. This early successional forest intermixed with meadows and thousands of acres of brush fields has created excellent white-tailed deer summer and winter range. The habitat in this Analysis Area can support high white-tailed deer populations. Habitat productivity varies widely throughout with steep, dry, river canyon grasslands having low annual precipitation, to higher elevation forests having good habitat productivity and greater precipitation. Late successional forest cover types have become fragmented within the area. Many grassland cover types have been disturbed by various weeds and non-native grasses including cheat grass and yellow starthistle. Open road densities are high within the Analysis Area except along the Snake River and Salmon River below White Bird. Construction of new home-sites have decreased available white-tailed deer winter ranges and limited hunter access.

## **Biological Issues**

White-tailed deer numbers have increased dramatically in this Analysis Area during the past several decades. The increase was not as dramatic during the mid-1990s, although in some areas such as Unit 11, the herd is still expanding. As deer herds have expanded and white-tailed deer hunting in Idaho has become more popular, hunter numbers have continued to increase in this Analysis Area. Similarly, harvest has increased over the same time period. Due to increased hunter densities in Units 8A, 10A, and 11A, there have been concerns about hunter interactions, landowner trespass complaints, and mature buck survival. Percent of bucks with  $\geq 4$  and  $\geq 5$  points easily exceeded lofty management criterion. Some units, such as Units 8, 8A, and 10A, have high doe densities surrounding agricultural fields and town sites.

An Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) outbreak started in the Kamiah area in late July, 2003. Previously, EHD had been confirmed only one time in the Region, that being a small-scale outbreak in 2000 near Peck. The 2003 outbreak ended with a hard frost that interrupted the *Culicoides* spp. gnat life cycle in October. While centered around the Kamiah and Kooskia area, whitetail deaths caused by EHD were observed in lower elevations along the Clearwater, South Fork Clearwater, and Salmon Rivers. While actual losses will never be known, localized losses were high (likely 20-80 percent in some areas). It is likely that several thousand white-tailed deer died. After the outbreak, whitetails were still plentiful in the region and harvest levels declined only slightly.

## **Inter-specific Issues**

Increasing white-tailed deer populations within this Analysis Area may have had a negative impact on mule deer populations. Mountain lion populations tend to fluctuate in response to changes in white-tailed deer populations due to deer being a major food source for mountain lions.

## **Predation Issues**

Mountain lion numbers have increased in this Analysis Area during the past decade and seemingly peaked during 1997, especially in Unit 10A, possibly due to the dramatic increase in white-tailed deer populations. Black bear numbers have remained relatively static throughout most of this area for the past decade. Increases in road densities during the past several decades due to logging have contributed to increased predator hunting opportunities. Wolves have recently begun to establish themselves in Unit 10A due to reintroduction efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

## **Winter Feeding Issues**

Emergency winter feeding of white-tailed deer has not occurred in recent years.

## **Information Requirements**

Population statistics are needed for white-tailed deer. An improved telephone harvest survey and/or the mandatory harvest report could help improve harvest data. There is currently no aerial survey technique perfected for white-tailed deer in north Idaho. Census methodologies are needed to assess population parameters such as fawn:doe:buck ratios, total numbers, and mature buck status.

## **Harvest Characteristics**

Total harvest in Analysis Area 5 units during 2003 was estimated at 6,746 white-tailed deer (4,073 antlered and 2,673 antlerless) based on mandatory harvest reports. This represents a 3% decrease in harvest from 2002 (6,962). The harvest in this Analysis Area accounted for 76% of the white-tailed deer taken in the Clearwater Region during 2003. Hunter numbers were estimated at 17,665 hunters with an average success rate of 38% in 2003. Hunter numbers in 2003 decreased 13% from 2002 while success rates increased by 4%. These trends indicate relatively stable harvest and stable hunter numbers for the past few years. Hunter numbers in this Analysis Area have decreased 9% since the mid-1990s (1996), while harvest has remained relatively stable.

Controlled hunts were offered in Units 8, 8A, 10A, and 11A to alleviate depletions and increase harvest opportunities for antlerless deer.

Mandatory report information indicates that buck quality has remained stable in all units for the past decade. Using 2003 mandatory harvest report information, all Analysis Area 5 units exceeded the  $\geq 4$ -point buck objective of 50% (2001-2003 average = 63%). All units in this Analysis Area also exceeded the  $\geq 5$ -point buck objective of 17% (2001-2003 average = 24%).

## **Aerial Surveys**

There are currently no aerial survey techniques developed for white-tailed deer in Idaho.

## **Climatic Conditions**

The Clearwater Region experienced moisture conditions in 2003-2004 that were considered slightly below normal. Snow-pack in the Clearwater Basin was 89% of average (October-March), while the Salmon River Basin averaged 78% for the same time period. Snowfall was earlier than usual in the Region, but most accumulation at the lower elevations did not persist. This allowed big game populations to forage and move easily and probably had a positive effect on big game over-winter survival.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 5 (Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

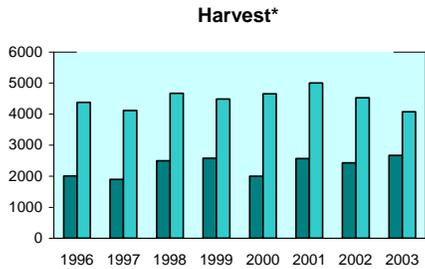
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	63	50
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	25	17



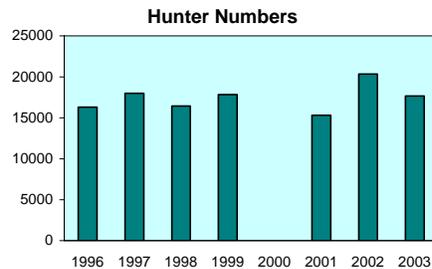
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	2006	1900	2498	2584	2005	2571	2436	2673
Antlered Harvest	4379	4119	4673	4490	4652	5001	4526	4073
% 4+ Points	66	49	53	52	62	62	62	65
% 5+ Points	22	19	19	18	24	23	23	28
Hunter Numbers	16300	18007	16438	17834	ND	15321	20331	17665

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1997 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers prior to 1996 include all deer hunters.  
Antlered and antlerless data does not include primitive weapons.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1997 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers prior to 1996 include all deer hunters.

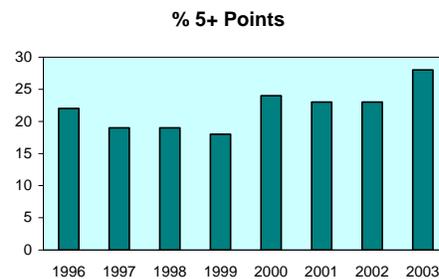
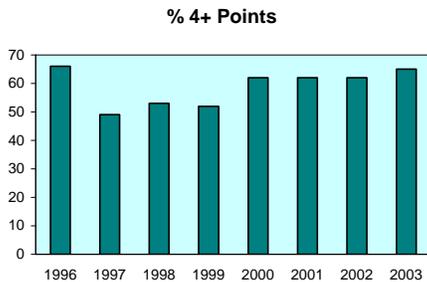


Figure 6. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 5.

## **Analysis Area 6 (Units 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18)**

### **Management Objectives**

Given the current inability to efficiently census population parameters of white-tailed deer, management objectives will be limited to not falling below 50%  $\geq 4$  points and 17%  $\geq 5$  points in the harvest. Although the population size is unknown, efforts will be made to maintain current status.

### **Historical Perspective**

White-tailed deer populations in this Analysis Area were historically low. Accounts from Lewis and Clark during the 1800s suggested that very few animals were found throughout the Clearwater River country. Populations probably did not change much until the early 1900s, when fires converted large expanses of dense coniferous forest into a mosaic of vegetation succession types. Logging also contributed to creating a mosaic of brush fields and uneven-aged forest stands. Populations probably peaked around the 1940-1950s, followed by a slight decline. Currently, populations are high.

Historically, white-tailed deer and mule deer were managed as a “single species”; a single general season harvest framework was established for both species. In 1973, the Department began to offer species-specific seasons in the Clearwater Region.

These units have either-sex hunting seasons in October. During the mid-1980s, the white-tailed deer hunting season was extended into mid-November. In 1990, most November white-tailed deer seasons became either-sex hunts. In 1997, an extra doe tag was established in Unit 16 south of the Selway River. In 1998, the Clearwater Deer Tag was established.

### **Habitat Issues**

Units 10, 12, 15, and 16 are predominately timber intermixed with brush or grass. The majority of land is public in USFS ownership. Most private ownership is on lower elevation ground located along the Clearwater River. Units 14 and 18 are mixed ownership with private land being located at lower elevations along the Salmon River and mostly USFS-owned ground at higher elevations. Private land in Units 14 and 18 consists of summer resort homes and large cattle ranches with limited access. Past logging activities have created high road densities and young successional forests in the western portions of the Analysis Area and throughout most of Unit 15. These areas provide excellent white-tailed deer habitat along with high vulnerability to hunters. The eastern portion of this Analysis Area is characterized by rough terrain and limited access except for trails and a few major roads and is generally too high in elevation to sustain good white-tailed deer populations. In general, the western portions of the Analysis Area provide good white-tailed deer habitat, especially at lower elevations along the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers. Construction of new home-sites has increased white-tailed deer depredation problems and limited hunter access. Noxious weeds, such as yellow starthistle and spotted knapweed, are out-competing native vegetation on white-tailed deer spring and winter ranges.

Until the 1930s, wildfire was the primary habitat disturbance mechanism in Units 10, 12, and 16. Between 1900 and 1934, approximately 70% of the Lochsa River drainage was burned by wildfires. From the 1920s to 1990, thousands of miles of roads were built for timber harvest in Units 10, 12, 14, 15, and 16. In 1964, most of the southern portion of Unit 12 was designated as part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Historically, sheepherders ran their flocks in the canyons of Units 14 and 18, and logging occurred in the forested areas. Units 14 and 18 are two-thirds public lands with the remaining private land at lower elevations along the Salmon River. The majority of the Hells Canyon Wilderness Area, designated in 1975, is in Unit 18.

Cash crops that receive damage from white-tailed deer include wheat, barley, oats, and irrigated alfalfa and hay. Unfenced orchards along the Salmon River in Units 14 and 18 experience damage from white-tailed deer.

### **Biological Issues**

White-tailed deer numbers have increased dramatically in this Analysis Area during the past several decades; the increase was not as dramatic during the mid-1990s. Due to increased hunter densities since the late-1980s in the southern units such as 14, 15, and 18, some sportsmen and landowners have been concerned about hunter interactions, landowner trespass, and mature buck survival, although the Clearwater Deer Tag (implemented in 1998) has reduced trespass complaints dramatically. Percent of bucks with  $\geq 4$  points averaged 55% from 2001-2003 and percent  $\geq 5$  points averaged 17% for the same time period. Therefore, both management criteria are being met for this Analysis Area.

While some deer were lost to EHD in 2003, this Analysis Area was not impacted as heavily as Analysis Area 5.

### **Inter-specific Issues**

Increasing white-tailed deer populations within this Analysis Area may have a negative impact on mule deer populations. Mountain lion populations tend to fluctuate in response to changes in white-tailed deer populations due to deer being a major food source for mountain lions.

### **Predation Issues**

Mountain lion numbers have increased in this Analysis Area during the past decade, probably due to a dramatic increase in white-tailed deer numbers. Black bear numbers have remained relatively static throughout most of this area for the past decade. Increases in road densities over the past several decades and liberalized season frameworks have contributed to increased predator hunting opportunities. Wolves have established themselves in Units 10, 12, 14, 15, and 18 due to reintroduction efforts by the USFWS.

### **Winter Feeding Issues**

Emergency winter feeding of white-tailed deer has not occurred in recent years.

## **Information Requirements**

Population statistics are needed for white-tailed deer. An improved mandatory harvest report could help improve harvest data. Better harvest information is needed concerning mature buck status. There is currently no aerial survey technique perfected for white-tailed deer in north Idaho. Census methodologies are needed to assess population parameters such as fawn:doe:buck ratios, total numbers, and mature buck status.

## **Harvest Characteristics**

Total harvest in Analysis Area 6 units during 2003 was estimated at 2,006 white-tailed deer, based on the 2003 mandatory harvest reports. This represents a 14% decrease in harvest from 2002. The harvest in this Analysis Area accounted for 23% of the white-tailed deer taken in the Clearwater Region during 2003. Hunter numbers were estimated at 7,304 hunters with an average success rate of 27% in 2003. Hunter numbers in 2003 decreased 8% from 2002, while success rates decreased by 5%.

A controlled hunt was offered in portions of Units 15 and 16 (Hunt Area 15X) to alleviate depredations and increase harvest opportunities for antlerless deer.

Buck quality has been relatively stable in this Analysis Area during the past five years. Analysis Area 6 units are currently above the  $\geq 4$ -point buck objective of 50%. All Analysis Area 5 units except Unit 16 (16%) met the  $\geq 5$ -point buck objective of 17%.

A check station is conducted in Unit 15 each year during the November white-tailed deer season. Check station data in 2003 indicated a total white-tailed deer harvest of 204. This harvest was a 36% increase since 2002. Previous to 1998, the majority of the deer hunters stopping at the check station were residents from outside the Region. Since 1998, the majority of the deer hunters have been from within the Region.

## **Aerial Surveys**

There is currently no aerial survey technique developed for white-tailed deer in Idaho. Observed white-tailed deer are recorded while performing sightability surveys for mule deer and elk.

## **Climatic Conditions**

The Clearwater Region experienced moisture conditions in 2003-2004 that were considered slightly below normal. Snow-pack in the Clearwater Basin was 89% of average (October-March), while the Salmon River Basin averaged 78% for the same time period. Snowfall was earlier than usual in the Region, but most accumulation at the lower elevations did not persist. This allowed big game populations to forage and move easily and probably had a positive effect on big game over-winter survival.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 6 (Units 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

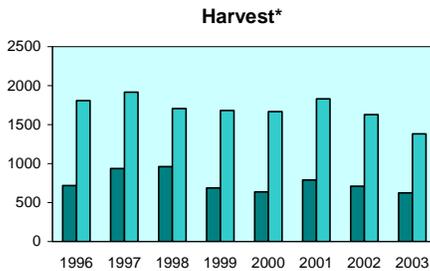
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	55	50
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	17	17



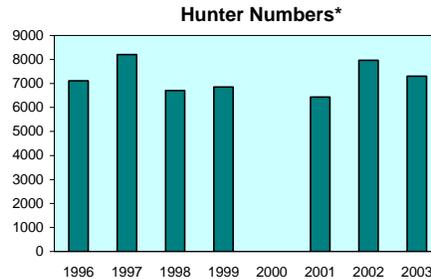
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	717	937	961	686	637	790	709	623
Antlered Harvest	1808	1916	1704	1683	1667	1832	1629	1383
% 4+ Points	55	43	48	46	55	55	53	56
% 5+ Points	16	11	18	14	16	16	16	19
Hunter Numbers	7107	8208	6707	6854	ND	6437	7968	7304

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1997 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers prior to 1996 include all deer hunters.  
Antlered and antlerless data does not include primitive weapons.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1997 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers prior to 1996 include all deer hunters.

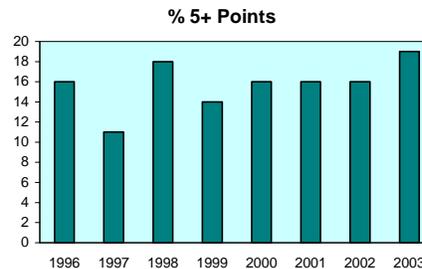
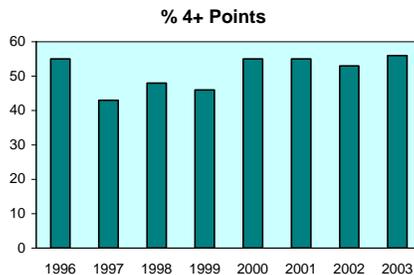


Figure 7. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 6.

## **Analysis Area 7 (Units 16A, 17, 19, 20)**

### **Management Objectives**

Given the current inability to efficiently census population parameters of white-tailed deer, management objectives will be limited to not falling below 30%  $\geq 4$  points and 7%  $\geq 5$  points in the harvest. Although the population size is unknown, efforts will be made to maintain current status.

### **Historical Perspective**

White-tailed deer populations in this Analysis Area were probably historically low. Accounts from Lewis and Clark during the 1800s suggested that very few animals were found throughout the Clearwater River country. Populations probably did not change much until the early 1900s, when fires converted large expanses of dense coniferous forest into a mosaic of vegetation succession types. Logging also contributed to creating a mosaic of brush fields and uneven-aged forest stands. Populations probably peaked around the 1940-1950s, followed by a slight decline. Currently, populations are high.

Historically, white-tailed deer and mule deer were managed as a “single species”; a single general season harvest framework was established for both species. In 1973, the Department began to offer species-specific seasons in the Clearwater Region. Deer seasons in these units have historically been general season, either-sex, and either species. In 1998, the Clearwater Deer Tag was established.

### **Habitat Issues**

Habitat productivity varies throughout the Analysis Area from high precipitation forested areas along the Lower Selway River to dry, steep, south-facing ponderosa pine and grassland habitat along the Salmon River. Many areas along the Salmon River have a good mixture of successional stages due to frequent fires within the wilderness areas. Fire suppression within portions of the Selway River drainage has led to decreasing forage production for deer. Road densities are low, contributing to low vulnerability for deer. Noxious weeds, such as spotted knapweed, are out-competing native grasses and vegetation throughout deer habitat, especially on drier sites at lower elevations. Large fires have burned much of the wilderness over the last few years and will likely improve habitat for most game in the near future.

Due to the rugged and remote nature of this area, human impacts have been very limited. In 1964, almost all of Unit 17 and a small portion of Unit 16A were included in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Most of Unit 19 became part of the Gospel Hump Wilderness in 1978, and, in 1980, part of Unit 20 was included in the Frank Church River-of-No-Return Wilderness.

### **Biological Issues**

White-tailed deer numbers are believed to be increasing within this Analysis Area, especially at lower elevations where they can better survive severe winter weather. Most of the deer hunting

pressure in these units occurs incidentally by hunters targeting elk. Declines in elk numbers leading to reduced elk hunting opportunity has resulted in a fairly dramatic decline in deer hunter numbers as well. Percent of bucks with  $\geq 4$  and  $\geq 5$  points easily exceed management criterion for this Analysis Area for the 2001-2003 period.

### **Inter-specific Issues**

Increasing white-tailed deer populations within this Analysis Area may have a negative impact on mule deer populations. Mountain lion populations tend to fluctuate in response to changes in white-tailed deer populations due to deer being a major food source for mountain lions.

### **Predation Issues**

Mountain lion harvest has remained relatively static in this area for several decades. Bear numbers appear to be stable as well. The small amount of harvest on these species probably has little impact on populations. Harvest rates of bears and mountain lions are probably reflective of access difficulty due to snow accumulation and few roads. Mountain lion numbers may impact white-tailed deer densities; however, bears have limited impact on deer populations. Wolves have become well established in these backcountry units.

### **Winter Feeding Issues**

Emergency winter feeding of white-tailed deer has not occurred in recent years.

### **Information Requirements**

Currently, without an estimate of the total white-tailed deer population and improved harvest estimates, it is difficult to assess whether or not to manage these units specifically for white-tailed deer. An improved mandatory harvest report should help improve harvest data. Better harvest information is needed concerning mature buck status. There is currently no aerial survey technique perfected for white-tailed deer in north Idaho. Census methodologies are needed to assess population parameters such as fawn:doe:buck ratios, total numbers, and mature buck status.

### **Harvest Characteristics**

Total harvest in Analysis Area 7 units during 2003 was estimated at 131 white-tailed deer. This represents a 6% decrease in harvest from 2002. Harvest estimates and success rates tend to fluctuate for this Analysis Area, probably due to low sample sizes for white-tailed deer harvest. The Analysis Area 7 harvest accounted for 1% of the white-tailed deer taken in the Clearwater Region during 2003. Hunter numbers were estimated at 1,219 hunters with an average success rate of 8% during 2003. Hunter numbers in 2002 increased 17% from 2001, while success rates decreased by 6%. White-tailed deer hunter numbers these units have decreased 49% since the mid-1990s (1996), and harvest has decreased 67%. There are no controlled hunts offered for white-tailed deer in these units.

Estimates for management objectives in Analysis Area 7 are difficult to obtain due to low sample sizes.

### **Aerial Surveys**

There is currently no aerial survey technique developed for white-tailed deer in Idaho. Observed white-tailed deer are recorded while performing sightability surveys for mule deer and elk; however, to date, the observed numbers are extremely low for this group of units.

### **Climatic Conditions**

The Clearwater Region experienced moisture conditions in 2003-2004 that were considered slightly below normal. Snow-pack in the Clearwater Basin was 89% of average (October-March), while the Salmon River Basin averaged 78% for the same time period. Snowfall was earlier than usual in the Region, but most accumulation at the lower elevations did not persist. This allowed big game populations to forage and move easily and probably had a positive effect on big game over-winter survival.

## White-Tailed Deer Analysis Area 7 (Units 16A, 17, 19, 20)

### Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

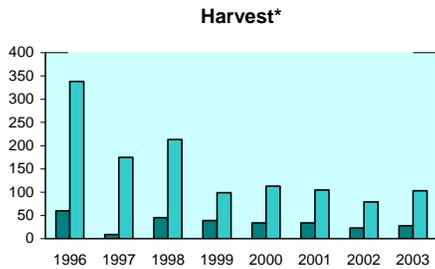
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	65	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2001-03	24	7



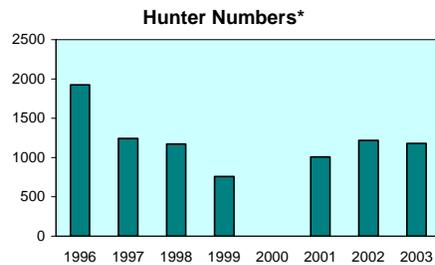
### Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antlerless Harvest	60	9	45	39	34	34	23	28
Antlered Harvest	338	175	213	99	113	105	79	103
% 4+ Points	46	58	37	61	62	60	61	73
% 5+ Points	29	21	9	27	29	24	24	25
Hunter Numbers	1926	1244	1172	759	ND	1008	1219	1181

Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1997 does not include general primitive weapons season data.  
Hunter numbers prior to 1996 include all deer hunters.  
Antlered and antlerless data does not include primitive weapons.



\* Note: Harvest prior to 1997 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.



\* Note: Hunter numbers prior to 1996 include all deer hunters.

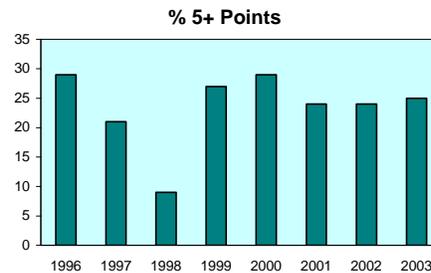
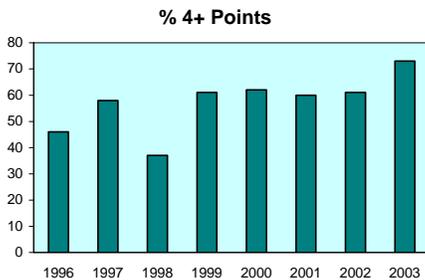


Figure 8. White-tailed Deer Analysis Area 7.

## **APPENDIX A**

## 2003 DEER HUNTING SEASONS



**HOW MANY DEER CAN I HARVEST?** In general, the answer is one deer per hunter per year. But a few controlled hunts and depredation hunts offer the opportunity for hunters to harvest another deer. In addition, deer hunters may purchase leftover nonresident deer tags at the non-resident price to get an opportunity to harvest a second deer in 2003. See below.

**ANTLERED DEER:** Only deer with at least one antler longer than 3 inches may be taken in any season which is open for antlered deer only. In antlered-only seasons, antlers must accompany the carcass while in transit.

**ANTLERLESS DEER:** Only deer without antlers or with antlers shorter than 3 inches may be taken in any season which is open for antlerless deer only.

**TWO-POINT DEER:** Only deer with *not more than two points* on one side, not including brow point, and at least one antler longer than 3 inches may be taken in any season which is open for two-point deer only. A point is an antler projection that is at least one inch long and longer than the width of the projection.

**THREE-POINT DEER:** Only deer having at least one antler with three or more points, not including the brow point or tine, may be taken in any season which is open for three-point or larger deer only.

**TRANSIT:** In any hunt with point restrictions, the antlers must accompany the carcass while in transit.

**SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:** In seasons restricted to mule deer only or white-tailed deer only, if the head is removed, the fully-haired tail must be left naturally attached to the carcass.

Any person who receives a controlled hunt permit for deer is prohibited from hunting in any other deer hunt, EXCEPT extra deer tag hunts or by purchasing a leftover nonresident deer tag when available. See below.

**EXTRA DEER HUNTS:** All controlled deer hunt areas designated by an "X" are extra deer hunts, usually for antlerless deer. Hunters may apply for a regular controlled hunt and a controlled hunt designated for extra deer tags. For example, you may apply for Controlled Hunt No. 1003, and send in a second controlled hunt application for Hunt No. 1047 in area 8X. Hunters also may buy a general deer tag, and apply for Hunt No. 1048. If you draw a permit for Hunt No. 1048, you could harvest a deer during the general season and then harvest a second deer in Controlled Hunt Area 8X.

**BAG LIMIT:** No person may take more deer than the number for which he possesses legal tags.

**MANDATORY REPORT REQUIREMENTS:** All deer hunters are required to fill out a Harvest Report within 10 days after harvest or within 10 days after the close of the hunting season.

**EVIDENCE OF SEX**— See page 11.

### LEGAL DEER IN TWO-POINT HUNTS



**SPIKE MULE DEER**

Legal buck under 2-point regulations if at least one antler is 3 inches or longer.



**1 X 2 POINT MULE DEER**

Legal buck under 2-point regulations.



**2 X 2 POINT MULE DEER**

Legal buck under 2-point regulations. Not legal in 3-point hunts.



**2 X 3 POINT MULE DEER**

Legal buck under 2-point regulations. Also legal under 3-point regulations.



Point must be one inch or longer.

### NONRESIDENT DEER TAG - USE FOR BLACK BEAR OR MOUNTAIN LION

Nonresident, including Nonresident Junior Mentored, deer tags are valid to take a black bear or mountain lion instead of a deer where there is an open deer season and an open bear or mountain lion season. Hunters may buy other bear or lion tags, but once the deer tag is used to harvest a deer, black bear, or mountain lion, a second deer tag may not be purchased, except to hunt in an area where the harvest of two deer is allowed, or by purchasing a leftover nonresident deer tag when available.

**NOTE:** Residents or nonresidents may purchase unsold nonresident deer or elk tags at the nonresident price starting Aug 28, to be used as a second tag. The nonresident deer tag may also be used to tag a black bear or mountain lion.

DEER

**Clearwater Deer Tag:** Required for residents and nonresidents to hunt deer in Units 8, 8A, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16A, 17, 18, 19, 20.

**ATTENTION HUNTERS!**

**DEER TAG TYPES:** A Regular deer tag is required for all other units, EXCEPT, nonresidents must purchase a nonresident Southeast Idaho deer tag to hunt in units 75, 76, 77, 78.

**Southeast Idaho Deer Tag:** Required for nonresidents to hunt for deer during the general season in Units 75, 76, 77, 78. Not valid in other units. See page 6. NOTE: Because of high demand, these tags are issued through a limited entry drawing. Applications for 2004 tags will be accepted from December 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004. For more information or an application, contact the Licensing Section at (208) 334-3717 or visit the IDFG website at: [www2.state.id.us/fishgame](http://www2.state.id.us/fishgame)

**Lolo Motorway Permits:** A Forest Service permit is required to travel the section of the Lolo Motorway (Road 500) between Parachute Road 569 and Weitas Butte Road 557 from July 15 - October 1. Permits are not required from October 2, through July 14. No permit is needed to cross into Gravey Creek on Road 107. The permits will be required during the Lewis & Clark commemoration years (2003-2005). To apply for a permit or for more information, visit [www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater), or call the Lochsa Ranger District at (208) 926-4274 or (208) 935-4274.

**2003 GENERAL ANYWEAPON DEER SEASONS**

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
1, 2, 3,	Nov 1 - Dec 1	Nov 1 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
4	Oct 10 - Nov 3	Oct 10 - Nov 3 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
4A, 5, 6	Nov 1 - Dec 1	Nov 1 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
7	Oct 10 - Nov 3	Oct 10 - Nov 3 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
8, 8A	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(Mule deer and white-tailed deer)</i>	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(Mule deer and white-tailed deer)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
	Nov 10 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Nov 10 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
9	Oct 10 - Nov 3	Oct 10 - Nov 3 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
10, 10A	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(Mule deer and white-tailed deer)</i>	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(Mule deer and white-tailed deer)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
11	Oct 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
11A	Oct 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
12	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(Mule deer and white-tailed deer.)</i>	Oct 10 - Nov 9 <i>(Mule deer and white-tailed deer)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required
	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Clearwater deer tag required

(continued)

**2003 GENERAL ANY WEAPON DEER SEASONS**

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
13	Oct 10 - Nov 3 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Oct 10 - Oct 16 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Limited access, Clearwater deer tag required
14	Oct 10 - Nov 20 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Oct 10 - Oct 16 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Clearwater deer tag required
15, 16	Oct 10 - Nov 9 (Mule deer and white-tailed deer)	Oct 10 - Nov 9 (Mule deer and white-tailed deer)	Clearwater deer tag required
	Nov 10 - Nov 20 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Nov 10 - Nov 20 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Clearwater deer tag required
16A, 17	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Clearwater deer tag required
18	Oct 10 - Nov 20 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Oct 10 - Oct 16 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Clearwater deer tag required
19	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Clearwater deer tag required
19A	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
20	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Clearwater deer tag required
20A	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	
21, 21A	Oct 5 - Oct 22	None	
22	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
23	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
24	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 2, Page 22
25	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
26	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	
27	Sep 15 - Oct 22	None	
28, 29, 30, 30A	Oct 5 - Oct 22	None	
31	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 3, Page 22
32	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 3, Page 22 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 22
		Oct 5 - Nov 24	VERY LIMITED ACCESS, ONLY a portion of unit is open to hunting, See note 4, Page 22, Short-Range weapons ONLY, Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 22
32A	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 22
33, 34, 35	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
36, 36A, 36B 37, 37A	Oct 5 - Oct 22	None	
38	Oct 5 - Nov 24	Oct 5 - Nov 24	See note 5, Page 22
39	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
40, 41, 42	Oct 5 - Oct 18 (Two-point deer ONLY)	None	See note 6, Page 22
43	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22

**DEER**

(continued)

**2003 GENERAL ANYWEAPON DEER SEASONS**

**DEER**

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
46	Oct 5 - Oct 31	None	See note 3, Page 22
48, 49, 50, 51	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 22
52A	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
53	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31	See note 7, Page 22
56	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Two-point deer ONLY)	None	
58, 59, 59A	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 22
60	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 6, Page 22
60A	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 8, Page 22
61, 62, 62A, 63	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 6, Page 22
63A	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	Short-range weapons ONLY See note 1, Page 22
64, 65, 66	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
66A	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	
67	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See notes 1 & 9, Page 22
68	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	
69	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 (Youth Hunt ONLY)	See note 1, Page 22
70, 73	Oct 5 - Oct 9 (Any antlered deer)	None	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 22
	Oct 10 - Oct 19 (Two-point deer ONLY)		
71, 72, 73A, 74 75, 76, 77, 78	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	

**Notes:**

- 1 — YOUTH HUNTS: ONLY hunters 12 - 17 years of age with a valid license and tag may hunt either sex deer in this hunt.
- 2 — Short-range weapons ONLY in that portion of Unit 24 within the following boundary: Beginning in McCall at the junction of State Highway 55 and Boydston Street, then south on Boydston Street to West Valley Road, then west and south along West Valley Road and West Mountain Road to Cabarton Road, then north on Cabarton Road to State Highway 55, then north on State Highway 55 to Farm-To-Market Road, then north on Farm-To-Market Road to Elo Road, then west on Elo Road to State Highway 55, then north on State Highway 55 to the point of beginning.
- 3 — Short-range weapons ONLY on the islands in the Snake River.
- 4 — ONLY that portion of Unit 32 within the following boundary is open to hunt: Beginning at the intersection of State Highway 52 and the Montour Road, south on the Montour Road to Shaleroak Road, west on Shaleroak Road to the Black Canyon Canal, south on the Black Canyon Canal to State Highway 16, west on State Highway 16 to State Highway 52, north on State Highway 52 to the Payette River in the city of Emmett, then west on the Payette River to where the North Side Canal drains into the Payette River, then east along the North Side Canal to Black Canyon Dam, then east along State Highway 52 to the point of beginning. SHORT-RANGE WEAPONS ONLY.
- 5 — Short-range weapons ONLY. EXCEPT that portion of Unit 38 within the Lake Lowell Sector of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is CLOSED.
- 6 — Short-range weapons ONLY in CJ Strike, Mud Lake, and Chester Wetlands Wildlife Management Areas.
- 7 — Short-range weapons ONLY in that portion of Unit 53 west of U. S. Highway 93. Archery ONLY east of U.S. Highway 93.
- 8 — Short-range weapons ONLY in that portion of Unit 60A south and east of the North (Henry's) Fork Snake River, and that portion within one mile north and west of the North Fork Snake River.
- 9 — Short-range weapons ONLY in that portion of Unit 67 south and west of State Highway 26.
- 10 — Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for wildlife is restricted to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 1500 pounds.

**2003 GENERAL DEER ARCHERY SEASONS**  
(See also General Any Weapon Seasons)

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Dec 10 - Dec 23	Dec 10 - Dec 23	
2	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	See note 1, Page 24
	Nov 1 - Dec 1	Nov 1 - Dec 1	See note 2, Page 24
	Dec 10 - Dec 23	Dec 10 - Dec 23	See note 1, Page 24
3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Dec 10 - Dec 23	Dec 10 - Dec 23	
8, 8A, 10, 10A, 11A, 12	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Clearwater deer tag required
	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Clearwater deer tag required
15	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Clearwater deer tag required
	Dec 5 - Dec 20	Dec 5 - Dec 20	Clearwater deer tag required
19A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
21, 21A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (White-tailed deer only)	
22, 23, 24, 25	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
28	Dec 1 - Dec 31	Dec 1 - Dec 31 (White-tailed deer only)	
	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (White-tailed deer only)	
29, 30, 30A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (White-tailed deer only)	
31	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
32, 32A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 7, Page 24
33, 34, 35	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
36, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (White-tailed deer only)	
	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	See note 3, Page 24
39	Nov 10 - Nov 30	Nov 10 - Nov 30	See note 8, Page 24
40, 41, 42	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (Two-point deer ONLY)	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
43, 46	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
47	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 7, Page 24
48, 49 50, 51	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 7, Page 24
52A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
53	Aug 30 - Dec 19	Aug 30 - Dec 19	See note 4, Page 24
54	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
55	Nov 25 - Dec 19	Nov 25 - Dec 19	
56	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (Two-point deer ONLY)	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
57	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 7, Page 24
60	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
60A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Nov 1 - Dec 19	Nov 1 - Dec 19	See note 5, Page 24
61, 62, 62A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
63, 63A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Nov 1 - Dec 19	Nov 1 - Dec 19	
64, 65, 66, 66A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	

DEER

**2003 GENERAL DEER ARCHERY SEASONS - continued**  
(See also General Any Weapon Seasons)

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
67	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Nov 1 - Dec 19	Nov 1 - Dec 19	See note 6, Page 24
68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 70, 73, See note 7, Page 24

**DEER**

**Notes:**

- 1 — Farragut State Park and Farragut Wildlife Management Area are CLOSED.
- 2 — Farragut State Park and Farragut Wildlife Management Area ONLY.
- 3 — That portion of Unit 38 within the Lake Lowell Sector of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is CLOSED.
- 4 — That portion of Unit 53 east of U.S. Highway 93.
- 5 — That portion of Unit 60A south and east of the North (Henry's) Fork Snake River, and that portion within one mile north and west of the North Fork Snake River ONLY.
- 6 — That portion of Unit 67 south and west of State Highway 26 ONLY.
- 7 — Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for wildlife is restricted to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 1500 pounds.
- 8 — EXCEPT that portion of Unit 39 within Ada County and that portion of Unit 39 within the following boundary: Beginning at the intersection of state highway 21 and the Middle Fork Boise River road (Forest Rd 268), east on Forest Rd 268 to Cottonwood Creek-Thorn Creek Road (Forest Rd 377), north and west on Forest Road 377 to State Highway 21, south and west on Highway 21 to the point of beginning is CLOSED.
- 9 — That portion of Unit 8A east of State Highway 6 and State Highway 9 and north of the following line: Beginning at the boundary of Unit 8A at its junction with State Highway 8 at Deary, then east on Highway 8 to Forest Service Road 1963 at Helmer, then south and east on Forest Service Road 1963 to Long Meadow Creek, then southeast on Long Meadow Creek to Dworshak Reservoir, then east along the shoreline of Dworshak Reservoir to the Unit 8A boundary at Dent Bridge.

**2003 GENERAL DEER MUZZLELOADER SEASONS**  
(See also General Any Weapon Seasons)

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
4, 7	Nov 10 - Nov 29	Nov 10 - Nov 29	
8A	None	Dec 2 - Dec 14	See note 9, Page 24 Clearwater deer tag required
10A	None	Nov 21 - Dec 9	Clearwater deer tag required
16	Nov 21 - Dec 9	Nov 21 - Dec 9	Clearwater deer tag required

**2003 CONTROLLED DEER HUNTS (14,848 Permits Plus Unlimited Permits)**  
**ANTLERED DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1001	Aug 30 - Oct 31	1	50	
1002	Oct 10 - Nov 3	11	74	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1003	Nov 10 - Nov 20	11	25	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1004	Oct 10 - Nov 3	11A	50	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1005	Oct 10 - Nov 3	13	152	<i>See note 1, Page 28, Mule deer ONLY</i>
1006	Oct 10 - Nov 3	14	136	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1007	Oct 10 - Nov 3	18	93	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1008	Nov 10 - Nov 24	19A	10	
1009	Nov 1 - Nov 18	20A	Unlimited	
1010	Nov 10 - Nov 24	22	40	
1011	Nov 10 - Nov 24	23	25	
1012	Nov 10 - Nov 24	23	25	<i>White-tailed deer ONLY</i>
1013	Nov 10 - Nov 24	25	10	
1014	Nov 1 - Nov 18	26	Unlimited	
1015	Oct 23 - Nov 18	27	Unlimited	<i>3-point or larger bucks ONLY</i>
1016	Nov 10 - Nov 24	31	30	
1017	Nov 10 - Nov 24	32	40	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1018	Nov 10 - Nov 24	32A	30	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1019	Aug 15 - Sep 24	39-1	199	
1020	Nov 10 - Nov 24	40-1	195	
1021	Nov 10 - Nov 24	41	100	
1022	Nov 10 - Nov 24	42	74	
1023	Oct 5 - Oct 31	44-1	200	
1024	Nov 10 - Nov 24	44-1	25	
1025	Oct 5 - Oct 31	45-1	75	
1026	Nov 10 - Nov 24	45-1	50	
1027	Oct 5 - Oct 31	47-1	90	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1028	Nov 10 - Nov 24	47-2* (see pg 29)	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1029	Nov 10 - Nov 24	48	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1030	Nov 10 - Nov 24	49	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1031	Nov 10 - Nov 30	50-1	26	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1032	Oct 5 - Oct 31	52	75	
1033	Nov 10 - Nov 24	52	10	
1034	Nov 10 - Nov 24	52A	10	
1035	Oct 5 - Oct 31	54	450	
1036	Nov 10 - Nov 24	54	20	
1037	Aug 15 - Sep 24	55	25	
1038	Oct 5 - Oct 31	55	350	
1039	Nov 10 - Nov 24	56	35	
1040	Oct 5 - Oct 31	57	109	
1041	Nov 10 - Nov 24	57	10	
1042	Nov 10 - Nov 30	58* (see pg 29)	20	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28</i>
1043	Nov 10 - Nov 30	60-1* (see pg 29)	40	
1044	Nov 10 - Nov 30	62	20	
1045	Nov 10 - Nov 30	64* (see pg 29)	50	
1046	Nov 10 - Nov 30	66* (see pg 29)	50	

**DEER**

\* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes other units or parts of other units.

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
ANTLERLESS DEER**

**DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1047	Oct 10 - Dec 1	8X	300	See note 2, Page 28
1048	Oct 10 - Dec 1	8AX	300	See note 2, Page 28
1049	Oct 10 - Nov 20	10AX	500	See note 2, Page 28
1050	Oct 10 - Nov 20	11AX-1	300	
1051	Oct 10 - Nov 20	11AX-2	400	
1052	Oct 10 - Nov 20	15X* (see pg 28)	350	See note 2, Page 28
1053	Oct 5 - Oct 24	22	300	
1054	Aug 15 - Sep 30	23X	200	Short-range weapons ONLY Aug 15 - Sep 30 See note 2, Page 28
	Oct 5 - Nov 3			
1055	Oct 5 - Oct 24	31	350	
1056	Oct 5 - Oct 24	32	350	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28
1057	Oct 5 - Oct 24	32A	150	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28
1058	Oct 5 - Oct 31	39-2	900	
1059	Oct 5 - Oct 31	43	800	
1060	Oct 15 - Nov 9	44-1	800	
1061	Oct 25 - Nov 9	45-2	800	
1062	Oct 5 - Oct 31	48	150	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28
1063	Nov 15 - Nov 30	50-2	400	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28
1064	Oct 25 - Nov 9	52	200	
1065	Oct 5 - Oct 31	58* (see pg 29)	150	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28
1066	Nov 1 - Nov 30	60-1* (see pg 29)	300	
1067	Oct 5 - Nov 8	63	50	

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
EITHER SEX DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1068	Aug 30 - Dec 19	50X* (see pg 29)	1,000	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, See note 5, Page 28 See notes 2, 3, Page 28
1069	Oct 5 - Nov 17 Nov 18 - Nov 30	60-2* (see pg 29)	800	Antlerless ONLY - Nov 18 - Nov 30
1070	Oct 5 - Nov 8	62	100	
1071	Oct 5 - Nov 8	64* (see pg 29)	100	
1072	Oct 5 - Nov 8	69	50	

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
ARCHERY DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1073	Nov 16 - Dec 16	39-3	125	Either sex, See note 6, Page 28
1074	Aug 15 - Sep 30	40-2* (see pg 28)	25	Either sex
1075	Aug 30 - Dec 19	68A	Unlimited	Either sex
	Dec 1 - Dec 19	72	Unlimited	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28, Either sex

\* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes other units or parts of other units.

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
MUZZLELOADER DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1076	Nov 25 - Dec 9	29* (see pg 28)	121	Antlered ONLY
1077	Nov 10 - Nov 24	33* (see pg 28)	149	Antlered ONLY
1078	Oct 5 - Oct 31	45-1	30	Antlered ONLY
1079	Oct 5 - Oct 31	45-3	Unlimited	Either sex
1080	Nov 25 - Dec 9	51* (see pg 29)	100	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28 Either sex
1081	Nov 11 - Dec 9	61	Unlimited	Either sex
1082	Nov 16 - Nov 30	75* (see pg 29)	388	Either sex, Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
SHORT-RANGE WEAPON DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1083	Nov 10 - Dec 9	21* (see pg 28)	Unlimited	See notes 1, 2, Page 28, either sex

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
YOUTH DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1084	Oct 25 - Nov 9	44-2* (see pg 29)	300	See note 4, Page 28, antlerless ONLY
1085	Oct 5 - Oct 31	46* (see pg 29)	300	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Unit 47, See notes 4, 5, Page 28, either sex

**2003 CONTROLLED HUNTS  
OUTFITTER ALLOCATION DEER - Antlered Deer Only**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1086	Sep 1 - Oct 31	1	2	
1087	Oct 10 - Nov 3	11	1	Mule deer ONLY
1088	Oct 10 - Nov 3	13	28	Mule deer ONLY
1089	Oct 10 - Nov 3	14	14	Mule deer ONLY
1090	Oct 10 - Nov 3	18	7	Mule deer ONLY
1091	Nov 25 - Dec 9	29* (see pg 28)	4	Muzzleloader ONLY, Antlered ONLY
1092	Nov 10 - Nov 24	33	1	Muzzleloader ONLY
1093	Aug 15 - Sep 24	39-1	1	
1094	Nov 10 - Nov 24	40-1	5	
1095	Nov 10 - Nov 24	42	1	
1096	Nov 10 - Nov 30	50-1	4	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28
1097	Oct 5 - Oct 31	55	1	
1098	Oct 5 - Oct 31	57	1	
1099	Nov 16 - Nov 30	75* (see pg 29)	12	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 28 Muzzleloader ONLY

All successful outfitter allocation applicants must hunt with a licensed outfitter and purchase their permit and tag by Aug 20, 2003. Unsold permits and tags after Aug 20, will be considered leftover and sold on a first-come first-served basis. Applicants who apply for an outfitter controlled hunt, by their application, authorize the Department to provide names and addresses of successful applicants to the outfitter licensed for that controlled hunt. Contact the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board by calling (208) 327-7380 (or e-mail at [licensing@oglb.state.id.us](mailto:licensing@oglb.state.id.us)) to obtain a list of eligible licensed outfitters in the applicable controlled hunt area or unit.

\* See controlled hunt area descriptions. This hunt includes other units or parts of other units.

**Notes:**

- 1 — This hunt has very limited access.
- 2 — White-tailed deer ONLY.
- 3 — All holders of this permit/tag may only hunt during dates that the individual unit is open to general tag holders. Hunters are also limited to the weapon type that the general tag holder must use for the given dates.
- 4 — Youth Hunt: ONLY hunters 12 - 17 years of age with a valid license may apply for this hunt.

- 5 — Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for wildlife is restricted to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 1500 pounds.
- 6 — Mandatory class required - Anyone drawing a deer controlled archery-only hunt permit for this hunt must satisfactorily complete a mandatory hunter education course. The course will be administered by the southwest region and will include the hunt boundaries and legal restrictions, and will emphasize proper hunter ethics.

**DEER CONTROLLED HUNT AREA DESCRIPTIONS**

**Hunt Area 1** — All of Unit 1 excluding the Kootenai River drainage.

**Hunt Area 8X** — All of Unit 8.

**Hunt Area 8AX** — That portion of Unit 8A within one mile of private land. (For the purpose of this hunt, 'private land' does not include corporate timberlands).

**Hunt Area 10AX** — That portion of 10A within one mile of private land. (For the purpose of this hunt, 'private land' does not include corporate timberlands.)

**Hunt Area 11** — All of Unit 11.

**Hunt Areas 11A and 11AX-1** — All of Unit 11A.

**Hunt Area 11AX-2** — That portion of Unit 11A south of State Highway 162 and east of State Highway 7.

**Hunt Area 13** — All of Unit 13.

**Hunt Area 14** — All of Unit 14.

**Hunt Area 15X** — That portion of Units 15 and 16 outside of and up to one mile inside the National Forest System Boundary. The National Forest System Boundary is a legislatively set boundary - it is not necessarily the boundary of Forest Service property. Please refer to a US Forest Service travel plan map for the location of this boundary.

**Hunt Area 18** — All of Unit 18.

**Hunt Area 19A** — All of Unit 19A.

**Hunt Area 20A** — All of Unit 20A.

**Hunt Area 21** — All of Units 21, 21A, 28, 29, 30, 37, and 37A.

**Hunt Area 22** — All of Unit 22.

**Hunt Area 23** — All of Unit 23.

**Hunt Area 23X** — That area of Unit 23 outside the National Forest System Boundary and within the Little Salmon River drainage, upstream from and including the Boulder Creek drainage on the west side of the Little Salmon River; and upstream from but excluding the Hazard Creek drainage on the east side of the Little Salmon River.

**Hunt Area 25** — All of Unit 25.

**Hunt Area 26** — All of Unit 26.

**Hunt Area 27** — All of Unit 27.

**Hunt Area 29** — All of Units 29, 37, and 37A.

**Hunt Area 31** — All of Unit 31.

**Hunt Area 32** — All of Unit 32.

**Hunt Area 32A** — All of Unit 32A.

**Hunt Area 33** — All of Units 33 and 35, and that portion of Unit 34 south and west of the Landmark-Stanley Road.

**Hunt Area 39-1** — All of Unit 39.

**Hunt Area 39-2** — All of Unit 39 EXCEPT that portion of Unit 39 south and east of the Blacks Creek Road and south of the South Fork of the Boise River.

**Hunt Area 39-3** — That portion of Unit 39 within the following boundary: Beginning at a point 400 yards north of State Highway 21 at the Ada County Line, south and west on a line 400 yards north of State Highway 21 to Warm Springs Avenue, and west on a line 400 yards north of Warm Springs Avenue to the Highlands-Table Rock powerline, north and west on the Highlands-Table Rock powerline to State Highway 55, north on Highway 55 to the Ada County Line, and southeast on the Ada County Line to the point of beginning; AND that portion of Unit 39 within the following boundary: Beginning at the intersection of State Highway 21 and the Middle Fork Boise River road (Forest Rd 268), east on Forest Rd 268 to Cottonwood Creek-Thorn Creek Road (Forest Rd 377), north and west on Forest Road 377 to State Highway 21, south and west on Highway 21 to the point of beginning.

**Hunt Area 40-1** — All of Unit 40.

**Hunt Area 40-2** — All of Units 40, 41, and 42.

**Hunt Area 41** — All of Unit 41.

(continued)

**Hunt Area 42** — All of Unit 42.

**Hunt Area 43** — All of Unit 43.

**Hunt Area 44-1** — All of Unit 44.

**Hunt Area 44-2** — All Units of 44, 45, and 52 EXCEPT that portion of Unit 45 within the following boundary: Beginning at Bliss, then north on the Bliss-Hill City Road to the two-pole powerline at White Arrow Ponds (9.5 miles north of Bliss), then west along the two-pole powerline to U.S. Highway 20 (milepost 102.3), then southwest on U.S. Highway 20 to Mountain Home, then south on State Highway 51 to the Snake River, then upstream on the Snake River to the Malad River, then upstream on the Malad River to U.S. Highway 30, then northwest on U.S. Highway 30 to Bliss, the point of beginning.

**Hunt Area 45-1** — All of Unit 45.

**Hunt Area 45-2** — All of Unit 45, EXCEPT that portion of Unit 45 within the following boundary: Beginning at Bliss, then north on the Bliss-Hill City Road to the two-pole powerline at White Arrow Ponds (9.5 miles north of Bliss), then west along the two-pole powerline to U.S. 20 (Milepost 102.3), then southwest on U.S. Highway 20 to Mountain Home, then south on State Highway 51 to the Snake River, then upstream on the Snake River to the Malad River, then up the Malad River to U.S. Highway 30, then northwest on U.S. Highway 30 to Bliss, the point of beginning.

**Hunt Area 45-3** — That portion of Unit 45 within the following boundary: Beginning at Bliss, then north on the Bliss-Hill City Road to the two-pole powerline at White Arrow Ponds 9.5 miles north of Bliss, then west along the two-pole powerline to U.S. Highway 20 (milepost 102.3), then southwest on U.S. Highway 20 to Mountain Home, then south on State Highway 51 to the Snake River, then upstream on the Snake River to the Malad River, then upstream on the Malad River to U.S. Highway 30, then northwest on U.S. Highway 30 to Bliss, the point of beginning.

**Hunt Area 46** — All of Units 46, 47, 54, 55, 56, and 57.

**Hunt Area 47-1** — All of Unit 47.

**Hunt Area 47-2** — All of Units 46 and 47.

**Hunt Area 48** — All of Unit 48.

**Hunt Area 49** — All of Unit 49.

**Hunt Area 50X** — All of Units 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 69.

**Hunt Area 50-1** — That portion of Unit 50 west of U.S. 93.

**Hunt Area 50-2** — All of Unit 50.

**Hunt Area 51** — All of Unit 51 and that portion of Unit 50 east of U.S. Highway 93.

**Hunt Area 52** — All of Unit 52.

**Hunt Area 52A** — All of Unit 52A. (Caution: See Craters of the Moon closure, page 9)

**Hunt Area 54** — All of Unit 54.

**Hunt Area 55** — All of Unit 55. Most of the City of Rocks National Reserve is open to hunting. Information about hunting within the Reserve is available to permittees at IDFG offices and at the National Park Service office in Almo.

**Hunt Area 56** — All of Unit 56.

**Hunt Area 57** — All of Unit 57.

**Hunt Area 58** — All of Units 58, 59, and 59A.

**Hunt Area 60-1** — All of Units 60, 62A and that portion of Unit 60A beyond one mile north and west of the North (Henry) Fork of the Snake River.

**Hunt Area 60-2** — All of Units 60, 61, and 62A.

**Hunt Area 61** — All of Unit 61.

**Hunt Area 62** — All of Unit 62.

**Hunt Area 63** — All of Unit 63.

**Hunt Area 64** — All of Unit 64 and that portion of Unit 67 north and east of State Highway 26.

**Hunt Area 66** — All of Units 66 & 69.

**Hunt Area 68A** — All of Unit 68A.

**Hunt Area 69** — All of Unit 69.

**Hunt Area 72** — All of Unit 72.

**Hunt Area 75** — All of Units 75, 77, and 78 EXCEPT private land east and north of Bear River in Unit 75 is CLOSED.



Submitted by:

*Jim Hayden*  
Regional Wildlife Manager

*Jay Crenshaw*  
Regional Wildlife Manager

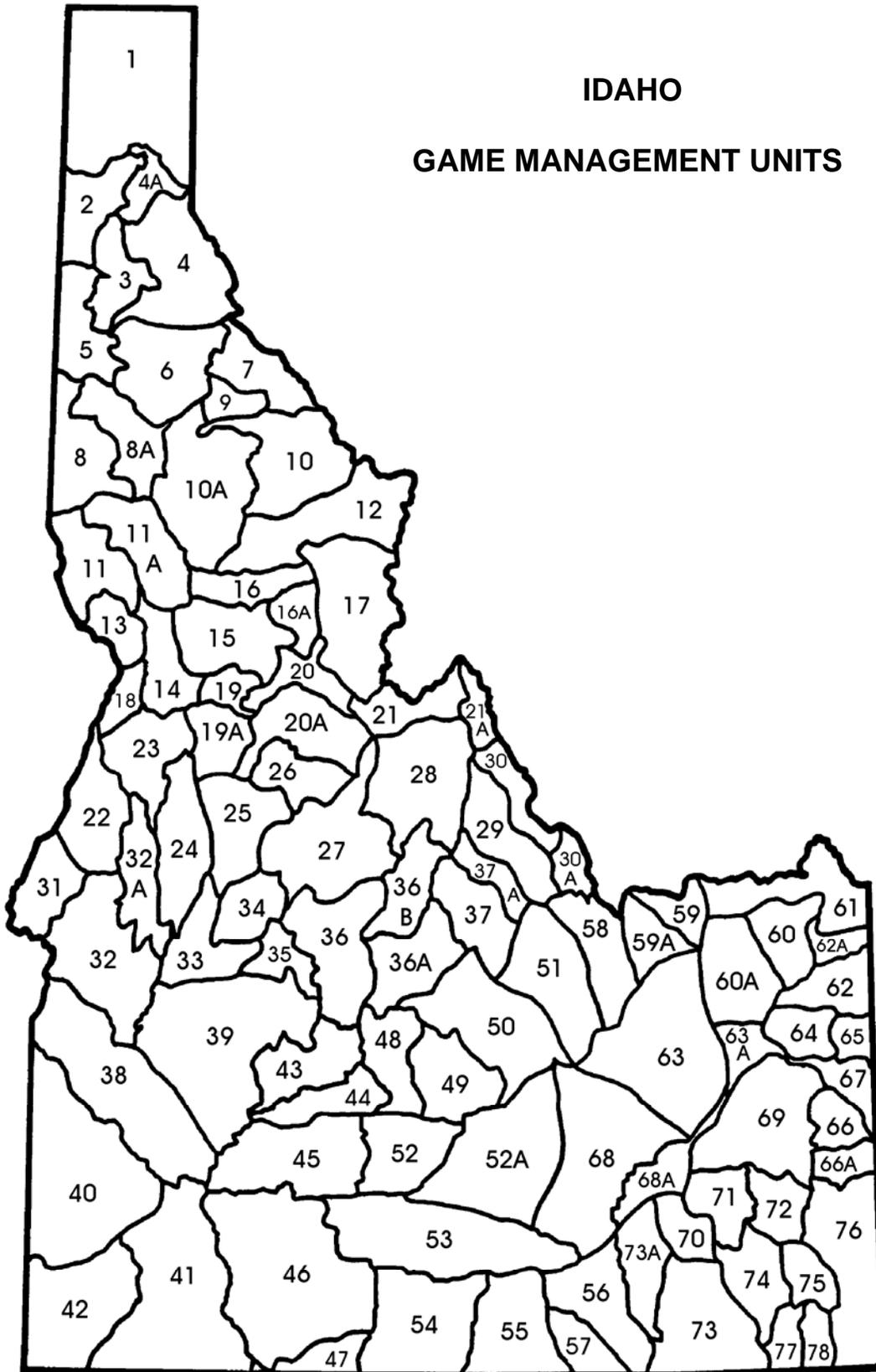
Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale E. Toweill  
Wildlife Program Coordinator  
Federal Aid Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
James W. Unsworth, Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

# IDAHO

## GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



## 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.

