

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-170-R-29

Progress Report



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Study I, Job 3

July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

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**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>White-tailed Deer Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>1-2</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>3</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</u>		

STATEWIDE

Summary

White-tailed deer are found primarily in the 10 northern counties of Idaho (Figure 1). 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. 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. Spring and summer diets consist largely of grasses and forbs or agricultural crops if available.

Winter conditions in northern Idaho can be severe. Snow depths can reach 3 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 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.

Effect of harvest mortality is highly variable in white-tailed deer. Generally, the majority of 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

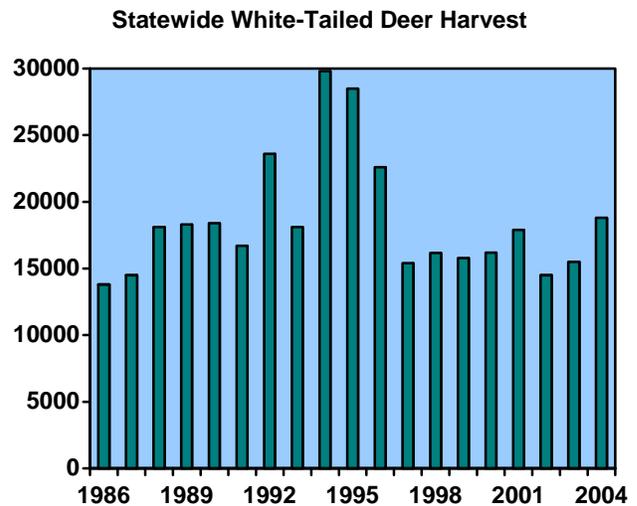
hunter harvest on buck age structure. Hunting seasons (Appendix A) designed to offer much more opportunity for antlered deer than antlerless deer, or during periods when bucks are vulnerable (rut, winter range), can reduce the proportion of bucks and particularly older bucks in the population. Throughout 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.

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 collection 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 7 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.



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, or harvest exploitation. The Department will continue to monitor these parameters and recommend appropriate action to ensure that 3-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	2002-2004	60	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	25	7

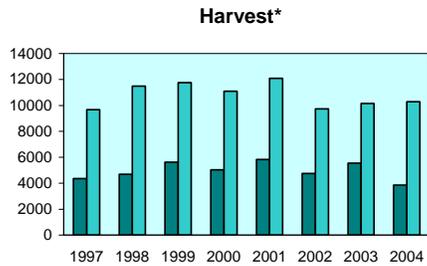


WHITETAIL DEER	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
TOTAL HARVEST	14,019	16,159	17,380	16,118	17,900	14,474	15,692	14,123

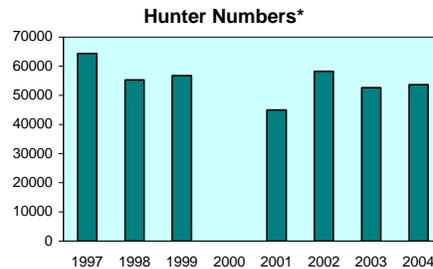
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	4352	4675	5623	5027	5822	4750	5545	3850
Antlered Harvest	9667	11484	11757	11091	12078	9724	10147	10273
% 4+ Points	49	49	46	57	57	58	61	61
% 5+ Points	19	19	15	22	21	22	26	26
Hunter Numbers	64303	55345	56761	ND	45000	58259	52618	53612

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.

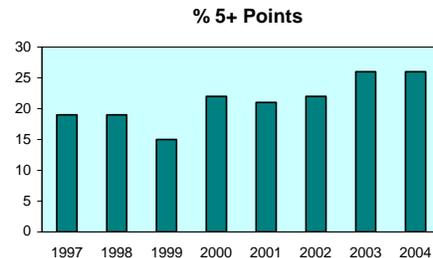
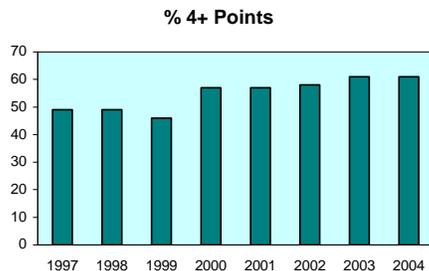


Figure 1. White-tailed deer status and minimum criterion statewide.

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PANHANDLE REGION

Analysis Area 1 (Unit 1)

Management Objectives

Buck survival in Analysis Area 1 (Figure 2) will be managed to maintain a minimum 30% bucks with 4 or more antler points per side and a minimum 7% with 5 or more antler points per side. These management objectives were met for 2002-2004 with 56% and 23%, respectively.

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 1910-1931 included 5 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 5 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

Management criteria are easily met in this Analysis Area. Research in the Priest River drainage from 1986-1995 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 3 or 4 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 10-15 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 percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but long seasons (Appendix A) 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 5, 18, and 23 September 2002. Ratios of 66 fawns and 34 bucks per 100 does were observed. Similar surveys were conducted on 11, 12, 17, and 19 September 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

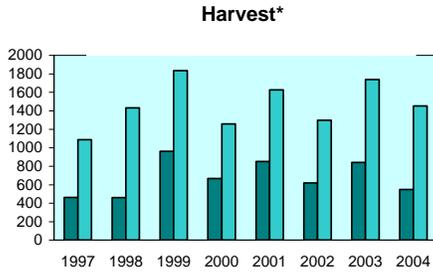
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	56	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	23	7



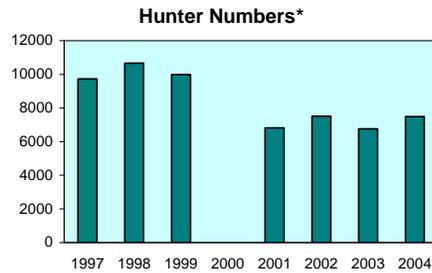
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	461	459	962	668	851	619	843	549
Antlered Harvest	1088	1431	1834	1258	1626	1298	1740	1452
% 4+ Points	56	51	41	52	52	52	58	58
% 5+ Points	21	23	17	20	21	22	24	24
Hunter Numbers	9733	10670	9984	ND	6815	7505	6761	7490

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.

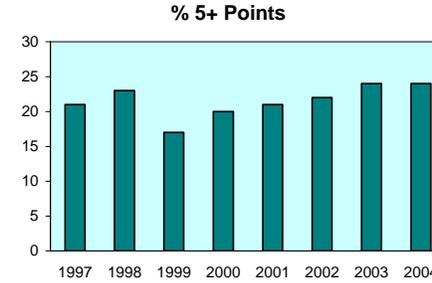
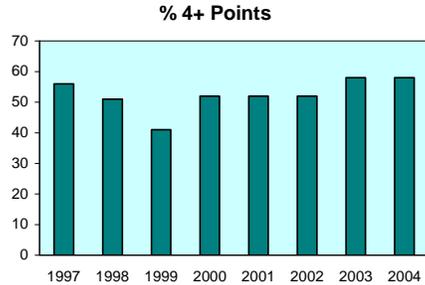


Figure 2. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 1.

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

Management Objectives

Buck survival in Analysis Area 2 (Figure 3) will be managed to maintain a minimum 30% bucks with 4 or more antler points per side and a minimum 7% with 5 or more antler points per side. These management objectives were met for 2002-2004 with 58% and 26%, respectively.

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 1- to 10-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 were 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 10-15 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 10-20 deer annually.

Information Requirements

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 2. Success rates and percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but long seasons (Appendix A) 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 12 and 16 September 2002. Ratios of 50 fawns and 34 bucks per 100 does were observed. Similar surveys were conducted on 24-25 September and 1 October 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

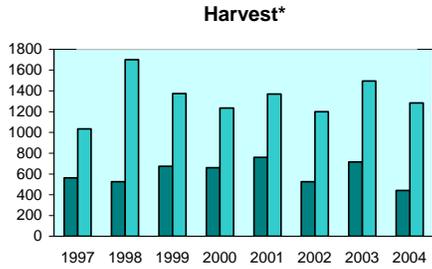
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	58	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	26	7



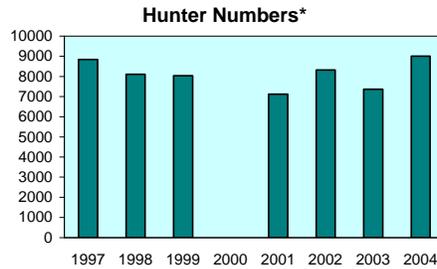
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	562	525	674	661	761	526	716	441
Antlered Harvest	1033	1700	1374	1236	1369	1200	1495	1285
% 4+ Points	50	49	47	55	49	55	60	60
% 5+ Points	21	21	17	24	21	25	27	27
Hunter Numbers	8838	8111	8037	ND	7119	8326	7359	9012

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.

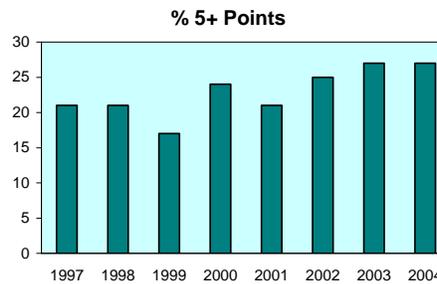
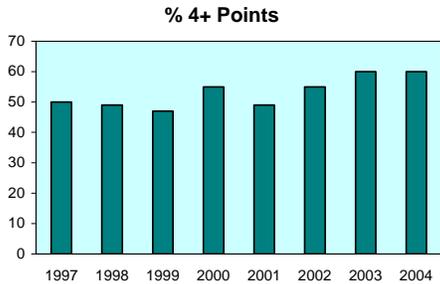


Figure 3. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 2.

Analysis Area 3 (Units 5, 6)

Management Objectives

Buck survival in Analysis Area 3 (Figure 4) will be managed to maintain a minimum 30% bucks with 4 or more antler points per side and a minimum 7% with 5 or more antler points per side. These management objectives were met for 2002-2004 with 62% and 26%, respectively.

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 were 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 10-20 deer annually.

Information Requirements

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 3. Success rates and percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but long seasons (Appendix A) 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 10, 16, and 18 September 2002. Ratios of 41 fawns and 86 bucks per 100 does were observed. Similar surveys were conducted on 1 and 4 October 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

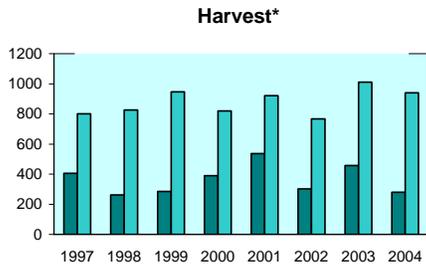
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	62	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	26	7



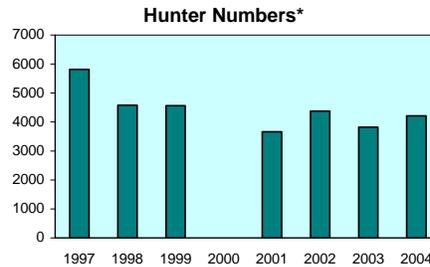
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	406	262	286	390	537	302	457	280
Antlered Harvest	801	827	947	820	921	767	1010	940
% 4+ Points	58	56	55	61	58	58	62	66
% 5+ Points	32	31	16	27	25	20	29	30
Hunter Numbers	5815	4580	4566	ND	3668	4379	3817	4216

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.

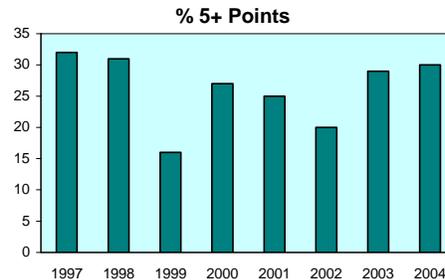
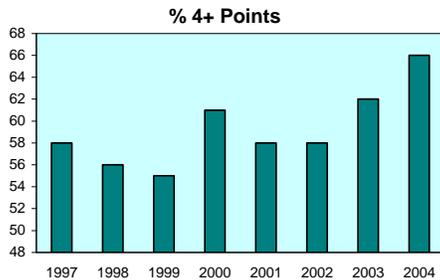


Figure 4. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 3.

Analysis Area 4 (Units 4, 7, 9)

Management Objectives

Buck survival for Analysis Area 4 (Figure 5) will be managed to maintain a minimum 30% bucks with 4 or more antler points per side and a minimum 7% with 5 or more antler points per side. These management objectives were met for 2002-2004 with 56% and 24%, respectively.

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 1910-1931 included 5 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 5 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 3 or 4 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 were 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 10-20 deer annually.

Information Requirements

Only harvest data are currently available for white-tailed deer management in Analysis Area 4. Success rates and percentage of females in the harvest are used to index population trend, but long seasons (Appendix A) 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	2002-2004	56	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	24	7

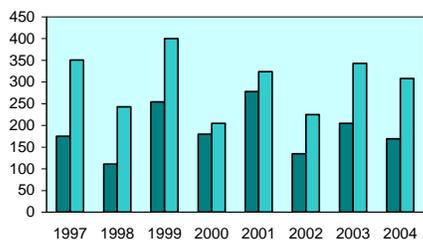


Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	175	111	254	180	278	135	205	169
Antlered Harvest	351	243	400	205	324	225	343	308
% 4+ Points	42	49	34	52	57	57	56	55
% 5+ Points	13	22	10	25	25	20	27	24
Hunter Numbers	12525	6641	8218	ND	5057	8531	8531	6620

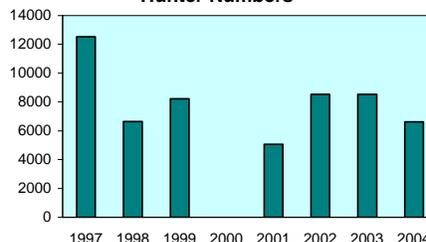
Note: Telephone survey harvest data prior to 1998 does not include general primitive weapons season data.
Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

Harvest*



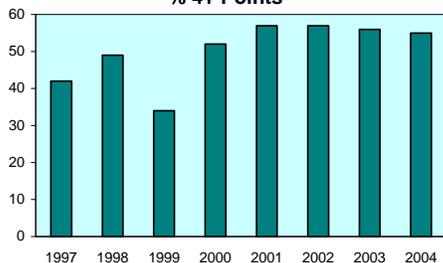
* Note: Harvest prior to 1998 data does not include general primitive weapons season data.

Hunter Numbers*



* Note: Hunter numbers include all deer hunters.

% 4+ Points



% 5+ Points

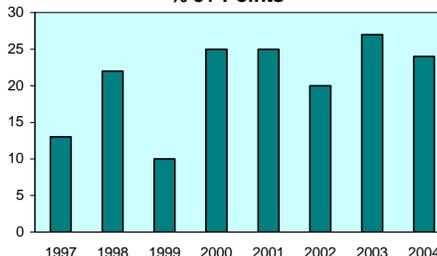


Figure 5. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 4.

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>White-tailed Deer Surveys and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-29</u>		<u>Inventories</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>2</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Big Game Population Status,</u>
STUDY:	<u>1</u>		<u>Trends, Use, and Associated</u>
JOB:	<u>3</u>		<u>Habitat Studies</u>
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005</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 for Analysis Area 5 (Figure 6) will be limited to not falling below 50% ≥ 4 points and 17% ≥ 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 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 20th 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 Clearwater Region.

These units have either-sex hunting seasons in October (Appendix A). 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 and continued through the 2004 season.

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, dry-land agriculture began in the 1880s. 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 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 dry-land 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 Idaho Department of Lands or 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 ≥ 4 and ≥ 5 points easily exceeded management criterion. Some units, such as 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 Clearwater, South Fork Clearwater, and Salmon rivers. While actual losses will never be known, localized losses were high (likely 20-80% 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. No outbreaks have been detected since 2003.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1995.

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 harvest survey 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 buck:doe:fawn ratios, total numbers, and mature buck status.

Harvest Characteristics

Total harvest in Analysis Area 5 units during 2004 was estimated at 6,307 white-tailed deer (4,414 antlered and 1,893 antlerless) based on mandatory harvest reports. This represents a 7% decrease in harvest from 2003 (6,746). The harvest in this Analysis Area accounted for 73% of white-tailed deer taken in Clearwater Region during 2004. Hunter numbers were estimated at 18,269 hunters with an average success rate of 35%. Hunter numbers in 2004 increased 3% from 2003 while success rates decreased by 3%. These trends indicate relatively stable harvest and stable hunter numbers for the past few years.

Controlled hunts were offered in Units 8, 8A, 10A, and 11A to alleviate depredations 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 2004 mandatory harvest report information, all Analysis Area 5 units exceeded the ≥ 4 -point buck objective of 50% (2002-2004 average = 63%). All units in this Analysis Area also exceeded the ≥ 5 -point buck objective of 17% (2002-2004 average = 26%).

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

Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

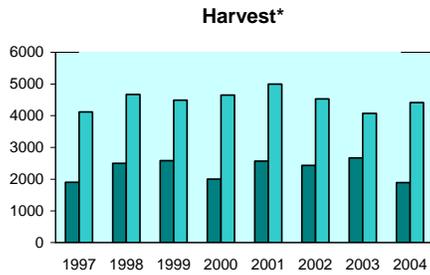
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	63	50
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	26	17



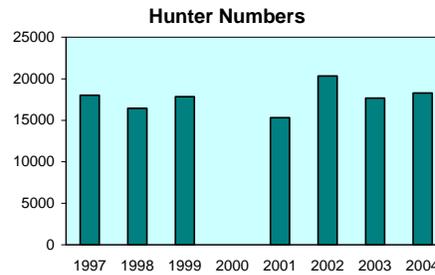
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	1900	2498	2584	2005	2571	2436	2673	1893
Antlered Harvest	4119	4673	4490	4652	5001	4526	4073	4414
% 4+ Points	49	53	52	62	62	62	65	63
% 5+ Points	19	19	18	24	23	23	28	26
Hunter Numbers	18007	16438	17834	ND	15321	20331	17665	18269

Note: 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.

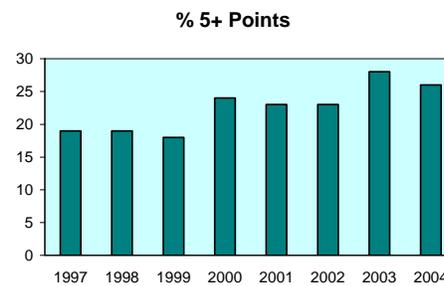
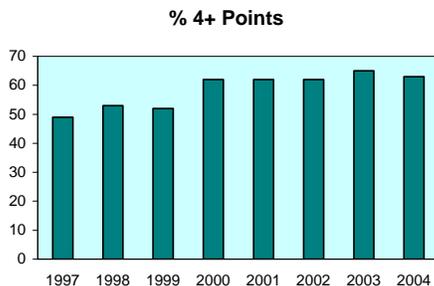


Figure 6. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 5.

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 for Analysis Area 6 (Figure 7) will be limited to not falling below 50% ≥ 4 points and 17% ≥ 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 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 Clearwater Region.

These units have either-sex hunting seasons in October (Appendix A). During the mid-1980s, the white-tailed deer hunting season was extended into mid-November. In 1990, most November seasons became either-sex hunts. In 1997, an extra doe tag was established in Unit 16 south of Selway River. In 1998, the Clearwater Deer Tag was established and continued through the 2004 season.

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 Clearwater River. Units 14 and 18 are mixed ownership with private land being located at lower elevations along 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 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 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 Salmon River. The majority of 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 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 ≥ 4 points averaged 55% from 2002-2004 and percent ≥ 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 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 during 2004 was estimated at 2,245 white-tailed deer based on mandatory harvest reports. This represents a 12% decrease in harvest from 2003. The harvest in this Analysis Area accounted for 26% of white-tailed deer taken in Clearwater Region during 2004. Hunter numbers were estimated at 6,734 hunters with an average success rate of 33%. Hunter numbers in 2004 decreased 8% from 2003, while success rates increased by 3%.

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 5 years. Analysis Area 6 exceeded the ≥ 4 -point buck objective of 50% with a 2002-2004 average of 56%. The ≥ 5 -point buck objective of 17% for the Analysis Area was also exceeded for 2002-2004 (19%).

A check station is conducted in Unit 15 each year during the white-tailed deer season. Check station data in 2004 indicated a total white-tailed deer harvest of 273. This harvest represents a 34% increase over 2003. Prior to 1998, the majority of deer hunters stopping at check stations were residents from outside the Region. Since 1998, the majority of deer hunters have been from within the Region.

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

Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

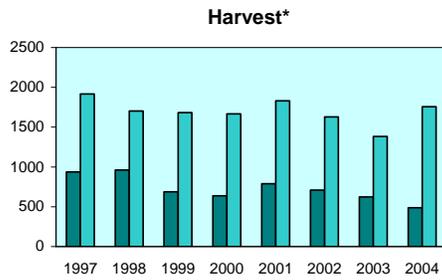
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	56	50
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	19	17



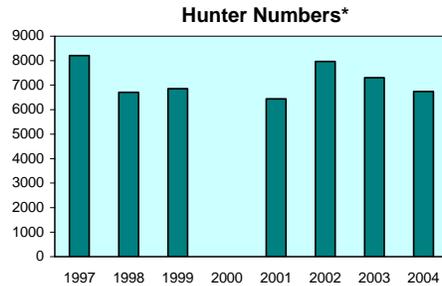
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	937	961	686	637	790	709	623	487
Antlered Harvest	1916	1704	1683	1667	1832	1629	1383	1758
% 4+ Points	43	48	46	55	55	53	56	58
% 5+ Points	11	18	14	16	16	16	19	23
Hunter Numbers	8208	6707	6854	ND	6437	7968	7304	6734

Note: 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.

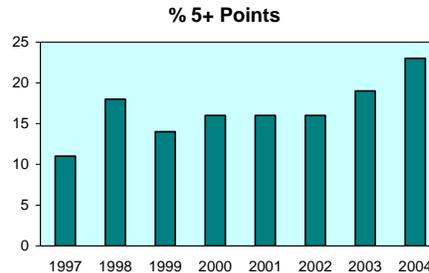
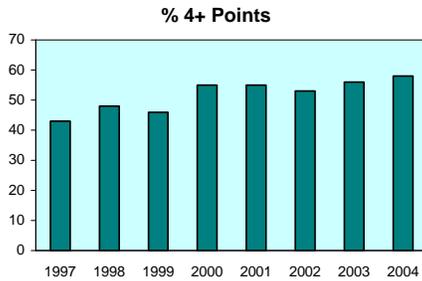


Figure 7. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 6.

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 for Analysis Area 7 (Figure 8) will be limited to not falling below 30% ≥ 4 points and 7% ≥ 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 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 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 and continued through the 2004 season.

Habitat Issues

Habitat productivity varies throughout the Analysis Area from high-precipitation forested areas along Lower Selway River to dry, steep, south-facing ponderosa pine and grassland habitat along Salmon River. Many areas along Salmon River have a good mixture of successional stages due to frequent fires within 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 ≥ 4 and ≥ 5 points easily exceed management criterion for this Analysis Area for the 2002-2004 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 2004 was estimated at 147 white-tailed deer. This represents a 12% increase in harvest from 2003. 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 2% of white-tailed deer taken in Clearwater Region during 2004. Hunter numbers were estimated at 1,271 hunters with an average success rate of 12%. Hunter numbers in 2004 increased 7% from 2003, while success rates increased by 4%. White-tailed deer hunter numbers in these units have decreased 34% since 1996, and harvest has decreased 20%. There are no controlled hunts offered for white-tailed deer in these units.

Estimates for management objectives in Analysis Area 7 (percent ≥ 4 -points and ≥ 5 -points in the buck harvest) both easily exceeded established criterion. However, due to small sample sizes, status is highly variable and difficult to reliably assess.

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

Buck Status & Minimum Criterion

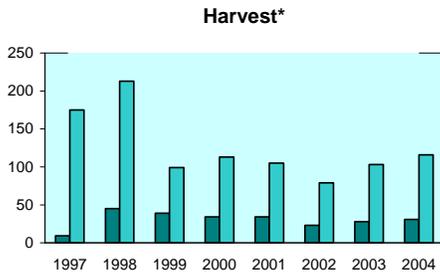
	Survey Years	Current Status	Minimum Criterion
% 4+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	64	30
% 5+ Points In The Harvest	2002-2004	24	7



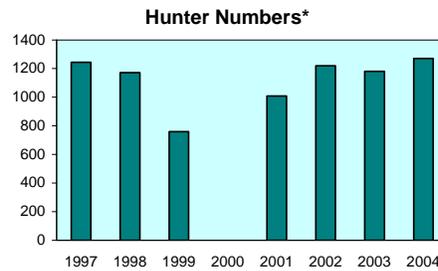
Analysis Area Harvest Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antlerless Harvest	9	45	39	34	34	23	28	31
Antlered Harvest	175	213	99	113	105	79	103	116
% 4+ Points	58	37	61	62	60	61	73	57
% 5+ Points	21	9	27	29	24	24	25	24
Hunter Numbers	1244	1172	759	ND	1008	1219	1181	1271

Note: 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.

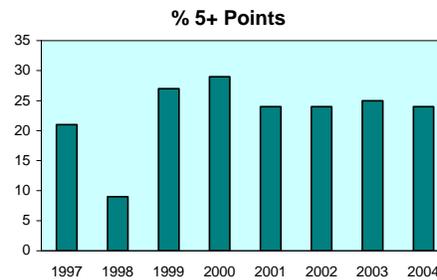
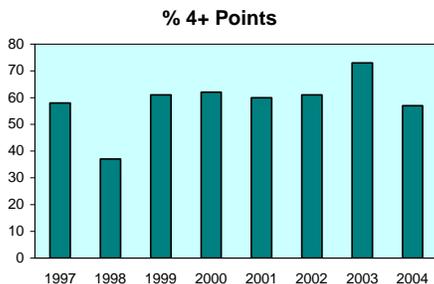


Figure 8. White-tailed deer Analysis Area 7.

APPENDIX A
IDAHO
2004 SEASON
WHITE-TAILED DEER RULES

2004 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 2004. 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.

FOUR-POINT DEER: Only deer having at least one antler with four or more points, not including the brow point or tine, may be taken in any season which is open for four-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. 1048 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. 1047, 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.

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 or 4-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.

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.

NONRESIDENT DEER TAG - USE FOR BLACK BEAR OR MOUNTAIN LION

Nonresident deer tags, **EXCLUDING Nonresident Junior Mentored deer tags**, are valid to take a black bear or mountain lion instead of a deer where and when the deer tag is valid, and there is an open deer season in that unit; and there is also an open bear season if taking a bear or open mountain lion season if taking a lion in that same unit. Hunters may buy other bear or lion tags, but after 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.

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 2005 tags will be accepted from December 1, 2004 through January 31, 2005. For more information or an application, contact the Licensing Section at (208) 334-3717 or visit the IDFG website at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

DEER

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 (2003-2006). To apply for a permit or for more information, visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater, or call the Lochsa Ranger District at (208) 926-4274.

2004 GENERAL ANY WEAPON DEER SEASONS

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
1, 2, 3, 4A, 5, 6,	Nov 1 - Dec 1	Nov 1 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
4, 7, 9	Oct 9 - Nov 3	Oct 9 - Nov 3 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	
8, 8A	Oct 9 - Nov 9	Oct 9 - Nov 9	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
	Nov 10 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Nov 10 - Dec 1 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
10, 10A	Oct 9 - Nov 9	Oct 9 - Nov 9	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
11	Oct 9 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 9 - Nov 9 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
11A	Oct 9 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 9 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
12, 15, 16	Oct 9 - Nov 9	Oct 9 - Nov 9	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Nov 10 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
13	Oct 9 - Nov 3 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 9 - Oct 16 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Limited access, Clearwater deer tag required</i>
14	Oct 9 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 9 - Oct 16 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
16A, 17, 19, 20	Sep 15 - Nov 18	Sep 15 - Nov 18	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
18	Oct 9 - Nov 20 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 9 - Oct 16 <i>(White-tailed deer ONLY)</i>	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>

(continued)

2004 GENERAL ANY WEAPON DEER SEASONS

DEER

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
19A	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
20A, 26	Sep 15 - Oct 31	None	
21, 21A, 28	Oct 5 - Oct 22	None	
22	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
23, 24, 25	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See notes 1 & 2, Page 21
27	Sep 15 - Oct 22	None	
29, 30, 30A	Oct 5 - Oct 22	None	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
31	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See notes 1 & 3, Page 21
32	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See notes 1 & 3, Page 21 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
		Oct 5 - Nov 24	MOSTLY PRIVATE PROPERTY, ONLY a small portion of unit is open to Antlerless hunting, See note 4, Page 21 Short-Range weapons ONLY, Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
32A	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
33, 34, 35	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
36, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A	Oct 5 - Oct 22	None	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 36A, 37A, See note 10, Page 21
38	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	See note 5, Page 21
39	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
40, 41	Oct 5 - Oct 18 <i>(Two-point deer ONLY)</i>	Oct 5 - Nov 24 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	Youth Hunt ONLY in a small portion of Units 40 & 41, see note 11. See notes 1 & 6, page 21
42	Oct 5 - Oct 18 <i>(Two-point deer ONLY)</i>	None	
43	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
46	Oct 5 - Oct 31	None	See note 3, Page 21
48, 49	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 24 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
50, 51	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
52A	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
53	Oct 5 - Oct 31	Oct 5 - Oct 31	See note 7, Page 21 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
56	Oct 5 - Oct 9	None	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
	Oct 10 - Oct 19 <i>(Two-point deer ONLY)</i>		
58, 59, 59A	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21

(continued)

2004 GENERAL ANY WEAPON DEER SEASONS

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
60, 61, 62, 62A, 63	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See notes 1 & 6, Page 21
60A	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See notes 1 & 8, Page 21
63A	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	Short-range weapons ONLY See note 1, Page 21
64, 65, 66	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See note 1, Page 21, Motorized Vehicle Restriction Unit 66, See note 10, Page 21
66A	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	
67	Oct 5 - Oct 24	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY)</i>	See notes 1 & 9, Page 21
68	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	
69	Oct 5 - Oct 19	Oct 5 - Oct 19 <i>(Youth Hunt ONLY.)</i>	See note 1, Page 21
70, 73	Oct 5 - Oct 9 <i>(4-point or larger deer ONLY)</i>	None	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21
71, 72, 73A, 74, 76,	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	
75, 77, 78	Oct 5 - Oct 19	None	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 10, Page 21

DEER

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 Boydstun Street, then south on Boydstun 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 for antlerless deer: Beginning at the intersection of State Highway 52 and the Montour Road, south on the Montour Road to Shalerock Road, west on Shalerock 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 on 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 (Henrys) 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. See page 28.
- 11 — Only that portion of Units 40 and 41 within the following boundary are open to youth antlerless hunting: starting at the Oregon border on the Snake River then upstream to the C.J. Strike Dam Road then south on C.J. Strike Dam Road to Highway 78 at Rim Rock High School, then east on Highway 78 to Highway 51, then south on Highway 51 to the Shoofly Cut-off Road, then west on the Shoofly Cut-off Road to the Mudflat Road, then north on the Mudflat Road to Highway 78, continue west on Highway 78 to the powerline that crosses Noble Island, then west along the powerline to the Oregon border, then north along the Oregon border to the Snake River, the point of beginning.

2004 GENERAL DEER ARCHERY SEASONS
Archery Permit Required

DEER

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 23
	Nov 1 - Dec 1	Nov 1 - Dec 1	See note 2, Page 23
	Dec 10 - Dec 23	Dec 10 - Dec 23	See note 1, Page 23
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)	
29, 30, 30A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30 (White-tailed deer only)	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23
31	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
32, 32A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23
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)	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 36A, 37A, See note 5, Page 23
38	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	See note 3, Page 23
39	Nov 10 - Nov 30	Nov 10 - Nov 30	See note 6, Page 23
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 5, Page 23
48, 49 50, 51	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23
52A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
53	Aug 30 - Dec 19	Aug 30 - Dec 19	See note 4, Page 23 Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23
54	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
55	Nov 25 - Dec 19	Nov 25 - Dec 19	
56	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23
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 5, Page 23
60, 60A, 62, 63A, 64, 65, 67, 69	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Nov 1 - Dec 19 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	Nov 1 - Dec 19 (White-tailed deer ONLY)	
61, 62A	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
63	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	
	Nov 1 - Dec 19	Nov 1 - Dec 19	

(continued)

2004 GENERAL DEER ARCHERY SEASONS - continued
Archery Permit Required

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
66	Aug 30 - Sep 30	Aug 30 - Sep 30	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23</i>
66A, 68, 71, 72, 73A, 74, 76	Aug 30 - Sep 30	None	
70, 73	Aug 30 - Sep 30 <i>(4-point or larger deer ONLY)</i>	None	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23</i>
75, 77, 78	Aug 30 - Sep 30	None	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units, See note 5, Page 23</i>

Notes:

- | | |
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| <p>1 — Farragut State Park and Farragut Wildlife Management Area are CLOSED.</p> <p>2 — Farragut State Park and Farragut Wildlife Management Area ONLY.</p> <p>3 — That portion of Unit 38 within the Lake Lowell Sector of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is CLOSED.</p> <p>4 — That portion of Unit 53 east of U.S. Highway 93.</p> <p>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. See page 28.</p> | <p>6 — 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.</p> <p>7 — 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.</p> |
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DEER

2004 GENERAL DEER MUZZLELOADER SEASONS
(See also General Any Weapon Seasons - Muzzleloader Permit Required)

Unit(s)	Antlered	Antlerless	Notes
4, 7	Nov 10 - Nov 29	Nov 10 - Nov 29	
8A	None	Dec 2 - Dec 14	<i>See note 7, Page 23 Clearwater deer tag required</i>
10A	None	Nov 21 - Dec 9	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
16	Nov 21 - Dec 9	Nov 21 - Dec 9	<i>Clearwater deer tag required</i>
39	None	Sep 8 - Sep 30	<i>Traditional Muzzleloader ONLY Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 5, Page 23</i>

**2004 CONTROLLED DEER HUNTS (12,917 Permits Plus Unlimited Permits)
ANTLERED DEER**

DEER

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1001	Aug 30 - Oct 31	1	50	
1002	Oct 9 - Nov 3	11	74	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1003	Nov 10 - Nov 24	11	35	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1004	Oct 9 - Nov 3	11A	63	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1005	Oct 9 - Nov 3	13	200	<i>See note 1, Page 27, Mule deer ONLY</i>
1006	Oct 9 - Nov 3	14	180	<i>Mule deer ONLY</i>
1007	Oct 9 - Nov 3	18	120	<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 deer ONLY</i>
1016	Nov 10 - Nov 24	31	30	
1017	Nov 10 - Nov 24	32	40	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1018	Nov 10 - Nov 24	32A	30	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1019	Aug 15 - Sep 24	39-1	199	
1020	Nov 10 - Nov 24	40-1	195	
1021	Nov 10 - Nov 24	41	100	<i>Short-range weapons ONLY on CJ Strike WMA</i>
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	75	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1026	Nov 10 - Nov 24	45	50	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1027	Oct 5 - Oct 31	47-1	90	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1028	Nov 10 - Nov 24	47-2* (see pg 27)	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1029	Nov 10 - Nov 24	48	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1030	Nov 10 - Nov 24	49	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1031	Nov 1 - Nov 30	50-1	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1032	Oct 5 - Oct 31	52-1	75	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1033	Nov 10 - Nov 24	52-3	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
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	Oct 5 - Oct 31	57	109	
1040	Nov 10 - Nov 24	57	10	
1041	Nov 1 - Nov 30	58* (see pg 27)	10	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1042	Nov 1 - Nov 30	60-1* (see pg 27)	50	
1043	Nov 1 - Nov 30	62	30	
1044	Nov 1 - Nov 30	64* (see pg 28)	50	
1045	Nov 1 - Nov 30	66	25	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1046	Nov 1 - Nov 30	69	25	

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

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
ANTLERLESS DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1047	Aug 30 - Dec 1 <i>(See note 2, Page 27)</i>	8X	300	<i>White-tailed deer ONLY</i>
1048	Aug 30 - Dec 14 <i>(See note 2, Page 27)</i>	8AX	300	<i>White-tailed deer ONLY</i>
1049	Aug 30 - Dec 9 <i>(See note 2, Page 27)</i>	10AX	400	<i>White-tailed deer ONLY</i>
1050	Aug 30 - Nov 20 <i>(See note 2, Page 27)</i>	11AX* (see pg 27)	450	
1051	Aug 30 - Dec 20 <i>(See note 2, Page 27)</i>	15X* (see pg 27)	200	<i>White-tailed deer ONLY</i>
1052	Oct 5 - Oct 24	22	100	
1053	Aug 15 - Sep 30	23X	200	<i>Short-range weapons ONLY Aug 15 - Sep 30</i>
	Oct 5 - Nov 3			<i>White-tailed deer ONLY</i>
1054	Oct 5 - Oct 24	31	100	
1055	Oct 5 - Oct 24	32	350	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1056	Oct 5 - Oct 24	32A	150	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1057	Oct 5 - Oct 31	39-2	900	
1058	Oct 5 - Oct 31	43	700	
1059	Oct 15 - Nov 9	44-1	700	
1060	Oct 25 - Nov 9	45	450	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1061	Oct 5 - Oct 24	48	50	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1062	Oct 5 - Oct 24	49	300	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1063	Nov 15 - Nov 30	50-2	600	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1064	Oct 25 - Nov 9	52-1	200	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1065	Aug 30 - Dec 19 <i>(See note 2, Page 27)</i>	60X* (see pg 28)	1,000	<i>White-tailed deer ONLY Motorized Vehicle Restriction Unit 66, See note 4, Page 27</i>
1066	Nov 1 - Nov 30	60-1* (see pg 27)	300	

DEER

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
EITHER SEX DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1067	Oct 5 - Nov 17 Nov 18 - Nov 30	60-2* (see pg 28)	800	<i>Antlerless ONLY - Nov 18 - Nov 30</i>
1068	Oct 5 - Nov 8	62	100	
1069	Oct 5 - Nov 8	64* (see pg 28)	100	

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
ARCHERY DEER - Archery Permit Required**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1070	Nov 16 - Dec 16	39-3	125	<i>Either sex, See note 5, Page 27 Roads on Boise River WMA closed to Motorized Travel</i>
1071	Aug 15 - Sep 30	40-2* (see pg 27)	25	<i>Either sex</i>
1072	Aug 30 - Dec 19	68A	Unlimited	<i>Antlered ONLY</i>
	Dec 1 - Dec 19	72	Unlimited	<i>Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27, Antlered ONLY</i>

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

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
MUZZLELOADER DEER - Muzzleloader Permit Required**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1073	Nov 25 - Dec 9	29* (see pg 27)	121	Antlered ONLY
1074	Nov 10 - Nov 30	33* (see pg 27)	149	Antlered ONLY
1075	Oct 5 - Oct 31	45	30	Antlered ONLY Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27
1076	Nov 25 - Dec 9	51* (see pg 27)	100	Either sex Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27
1077	Oct 5 - Nov 9	52-2	Unlimited	Traditional Muzzleloader ONLY, Either sex Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27
1078	Nov 11 - Dec 9	61	Unlimited	Either sex
1079	Nov 16 - Nov 30	75* (see pg 28)	194	Traditional Muzzleloader ONLY, Antlered ONLY, Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
SHORT-RANGE WEAPON DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1080	Nov 10 - Dec 9	21* (see pg 27)	Unlimited	White-tailed deer ONLY, See note 1, Page 27 Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 29, 30, 30A, 37A, 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, See note 4, Page 27.

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
YOUTH DEER**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1081	Oct 25 - Nov 9	44-2* (see pg 27)	400	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 45 & 52, See notes 3 & 4, Page 27, antlerless ONLY
1082	Oct 5 - Oct 31	46* (see pg 27)	400	Motorized Vehicle Restriction Unit 47 See notes 3 & 4, Page 27, either sex

**2004 CONTROLLED HUNTS
OUTFITTER ALLOCATION DEER - Antlered Deer Only**

Hunt No.	Season Dates	Controlled Hunt Areas	Permits	Notes
1083	Sep 1 - Oct 31	1	2	
1084	Oct 9 - Nov 3	11	1	Antlered Mule deer ONLY
1085	Oct 9 - Nov 3	11A	2	Antlered Mule deer ONLY
1086	Oct 9 - Nov 3	13	37	Antlered Mule deer ONLY
1087	Oct 9 - Nov 3	14	22	Antlered Mule deer ONLY
1088	Oct 9 - Nov 3	18	9	Antlered Mule deer ONLY
1089	Nov 25 - Dec 9	29* (see pg 27)	4	Muzzleloader ONLY, Antlered ONLY, Motorized Vehicle Restriction Units 29 & 37A, See note 4, Page 27
1090	Nov 10 - Nov 24	33	1	Muzzleloader ONLY
1091	Aug 15 - Sep 24	39-1	1	
1092	Nov 10 - Nov 24	40-1	5	
1093	Nov 10 - Nov 24	42	1	
1094	Nov 10 - Nov 30	50-1	1	Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27
1095	Oct 5 - Oct 31	55	1	
1096	Oct 5 - Oct 31	57	1	
1097	Nov 16 - Nov 30	75* (see pg 28)	6	Traditional Muzzleloader ONLY, Antlered ONLY, Motorized Vehicle Restriction, See note 4, Page 27

All successful outfitter allocation applicants must hunt with a licensed outfitter and purchase their permit and tag by Aug 20, 2004. 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@ogib.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 — 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.
- 3 — Youth Hunt: ONLY hunters 12 - 17 years of age with a valid license may apply for this hunt.
- 4 — 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. See page 28.

- 5 — 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 Area 11A — All of Unit 11A.

Hunt Areas 11AX — All of Unit 11A and that portion of Unit 14 north and west of U.S. Highway 95 and Whitebird Creek.

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, 30A, 37, 37A, 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, 61 and 62A.

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.

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.

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 that portion of Unit 52 west of State Highway 75.

Hunt Area 45 — All of Unit 45.

Hunt Area 46 — All of Units 46, 47, 54, 55, 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 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 52-1 — That portion of Unit 52 west of State Highway 75.

Hunt Area 52-2 — That portion of Unit 52 east of State Highway 75.

Hunt Area 52-3 — 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.

DEER

(continued)

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

Hunt Area 60X — All of Units 60, 60A, 62, 63, 63A, 64, 65, 66, 67 and 69.

Hunt Area 61 — All of Unit 61.

Hunt Area 62 — All of Unit 62.

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 Unit 66.

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 in that portion of Unit 75 between U.S. Highway 30 and the Bear River is CLOSED.

BIG GAME MOTORIZED VEHICLE RESTRICTION RULE

Over the past two years, the Fish and Game Commission has implemented restrictions for motor vehicle use while hunting big game to address many sportsmen's concerns about off-road travel. The Commission has added more units this year in response to public comments. The restricted units are marked in the lists of hunts.

The rule is found at IDAPA 13.01.08.411. The rule reads:

411. Motorized Vehicle Use Restrictions.

The use of motorized vehicles by hunters as an aid to hunting big game is restricted in certain areas. This use restriction is in addition to all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders; including, but not limited to, any motorized vehicle licensing, registration, and permitting requirements and traffic laws. Hunters must comply with all motorized vehicle limits or prohibitions instituted by the landowner or land manager. Also, this use restriction rule is not an exception from, and is in addition to, the statutory prohibition against hunting from or by the use of any motorized vehicle set forth in Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

01. Use Restriction. In designated areas and hunts, hunters may only use motorized vehicles on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. Any other use by hunters is prohibited. All off-road use by hunters is prohibited.

02. Exceptions. This use restriction rule shall not apply to the following permissible motorized vehicle uses:

- a. Holders of a valid Handicapped Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit may use a motorized vehicle as allowed by the land owner or manager.
- b. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager.

- c. Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to pack camping equipment in or out if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager; however, hunters shall not hunt while packing camping equipment.
- d. Private landowners, their authorized agents and persons with written landowner permission may use a motorized vehicle on their private land; however, they may not hunt from or by the use of any motorized vehicle as prohibited by Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

03. Restricted Areas and Hunts. This motorized vehicle use restriction shall apply to identified areas and hunts in all Big Game Management Units. The hunts and areas with a motorized vehicle use restriction are identified in the Commission's Big Game Season Proclamation, which is published in a brochure available at department offices and license vendors.

04. Defined Terms.

- a. A full-sized automobile shall be defined as any motorized vehicle with a gross weight in excess of one thousand five hundred (1,500) pounds.
- b. An established roadway shall be defined as any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any governmental entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the wheel tracks.
- c. A hunter shall be defined as a person engaged in the activity of hunting as defined in Idaho Code Section 36-202(j).

Submitted by:

Jim Hayden

Regional Wildlife Manager

Jay Crenshaw

Regional Wildlife Manager

Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Towell
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James W. Unsworth, Chief
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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.

