

Deer Management



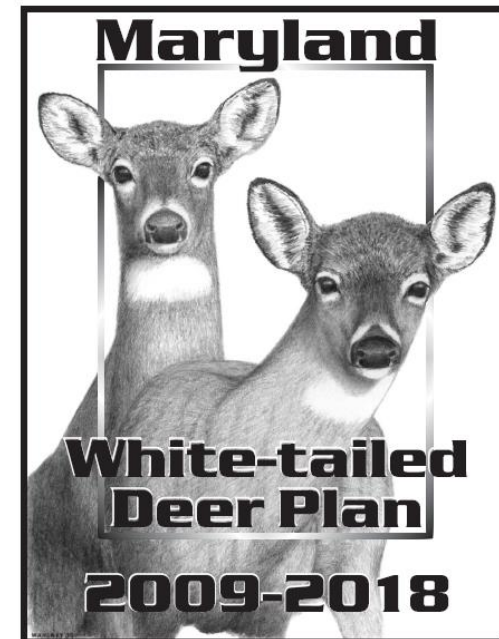
**Brian Eyler
George Timko
Jonathan Trudeau**

Deer Management Plan



How the Plan is Developed

- First deer plan was created in 1998
- Revisions in 2009 and 2020
- Significant input from stakeholder committees and public meetings/forums
- Professional public opinion surveys of hunters, general public, and landowners
- Lethal and non-lethal methods for deer management
- Plan describes DNR deer management programs and data sources and identifies responsibilities for managing deer
- Plan includes Goals, Objectives, and Strategies under five main categories (Deer Population, Education, Recreation, Damage, Operational Resources)

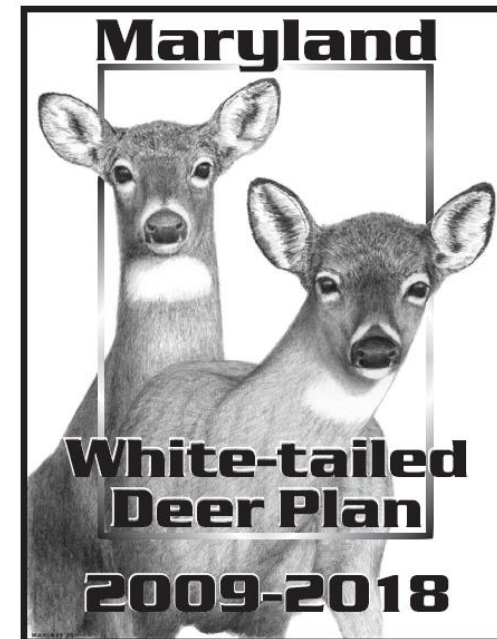


Deer Management Plan



Appendix 2. 2020–2034 White-tailed Deer Management Plan stakeholder group participants

Allegany-Garrett Sportsmen's Association
Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks
Carroll County Sportsmen's Association
Chesapeake Farms
Deer Cooperator Permit Holders
Howard County Recreation and Parks
Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service
Maryland Farm Bureau
Maryland Horse Council
Maryland Hunting Coalition
Maryland Native Plant Society
Maryland-Delaware Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Montgomery County Parks
Mountain Club of Maryland
National Park Service
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation
Quality Deer Management Association
The Humane Society of the United States
U.S. Army
U.S Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
University of Delaware
University of Maryland
Washington County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Western Maryland Sportsmen's Coalition
Wildlife Advisory Commission
Wildlife Rescue, Inc.

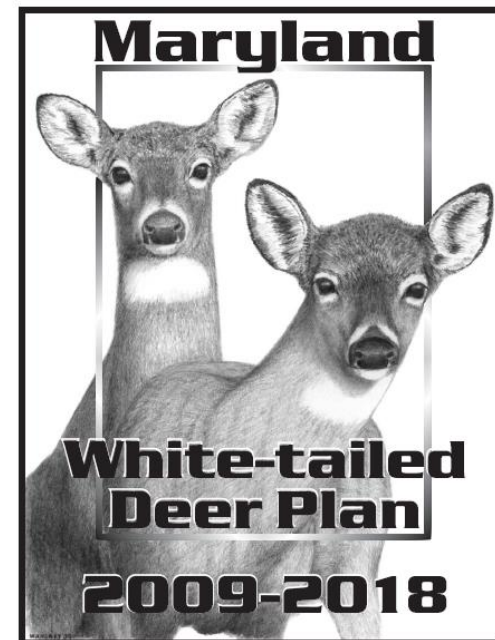


Management Tools

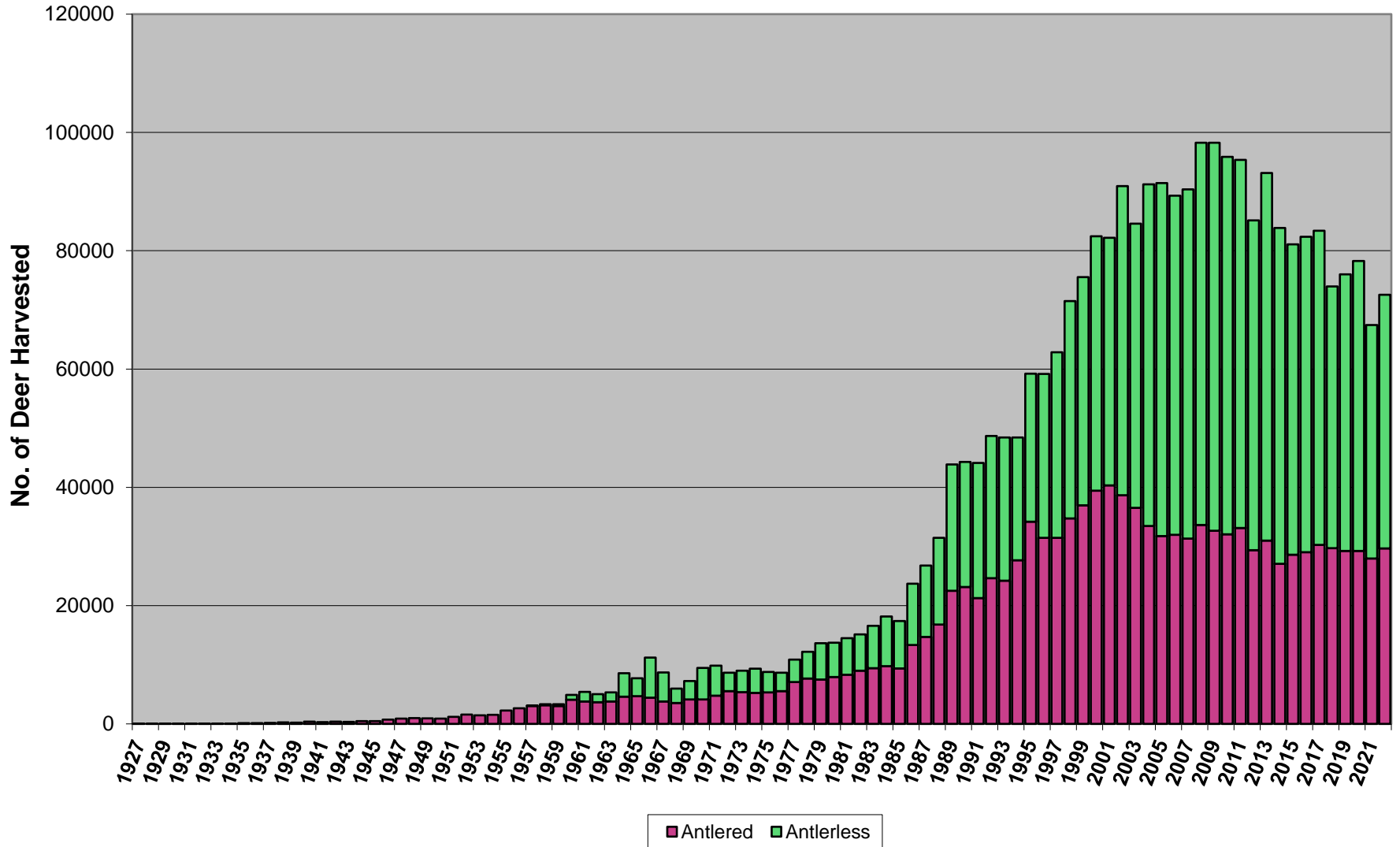


Primary Management Options

- Hunter Harvest
- Deer Management Permits (i.e., crop damage permits)
- Deer Cooperator License (sharpshooting permits)
- Fencing
- Repellents/Deer resistant plants
- Deer Contraceptives/Sterilization



Maryland White-tailed Deer Harvest 1927 - 2022



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Economic Data

How important are hunters for Maryland's economy?

Hunting specifically supports thousands of jobs, both rural and urban, across the state of Maryland, and our goal is to provide a unified voice for all of these stakeholders. Hunting Works For Maryland will monitor public policy decisions and weigh in on hunting-related issues that impact Maryland jobs.

\$266 million spent annually.

- 88,000 people hunt in Maryland each year.
- Of those hunters, 19,000 are from out of state.
- Maryland hunters spend \$50 million on trip-related expenditures.
- Hunters in Maryland spend \$128 million on hunting equipment.
- Each hunter spends an average of \$3,000 a year in Maryland.
- Hunter spending translates to \$128 million in salaries and wages.
- Hunting in Maryland supports over 4,500 Maryland jobs.
- Hunters generate \$32 million in state and local taxes.

\$401 million ripple effect.

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Hunter Harvest



Deer Seasons & Bag Limits

Early September – February 3 annually

35+ deer bag limit in Region B (Suburban Archery Zone – unlimited)

5 deer bag limit in Region A

Encourage the harvest of antlerless deer (i.e., females)

Liberal allowance of weaponry (modern muzzleloaders, crossbows, etc.)

Expanded Sunday hunting



Deer Management Permits

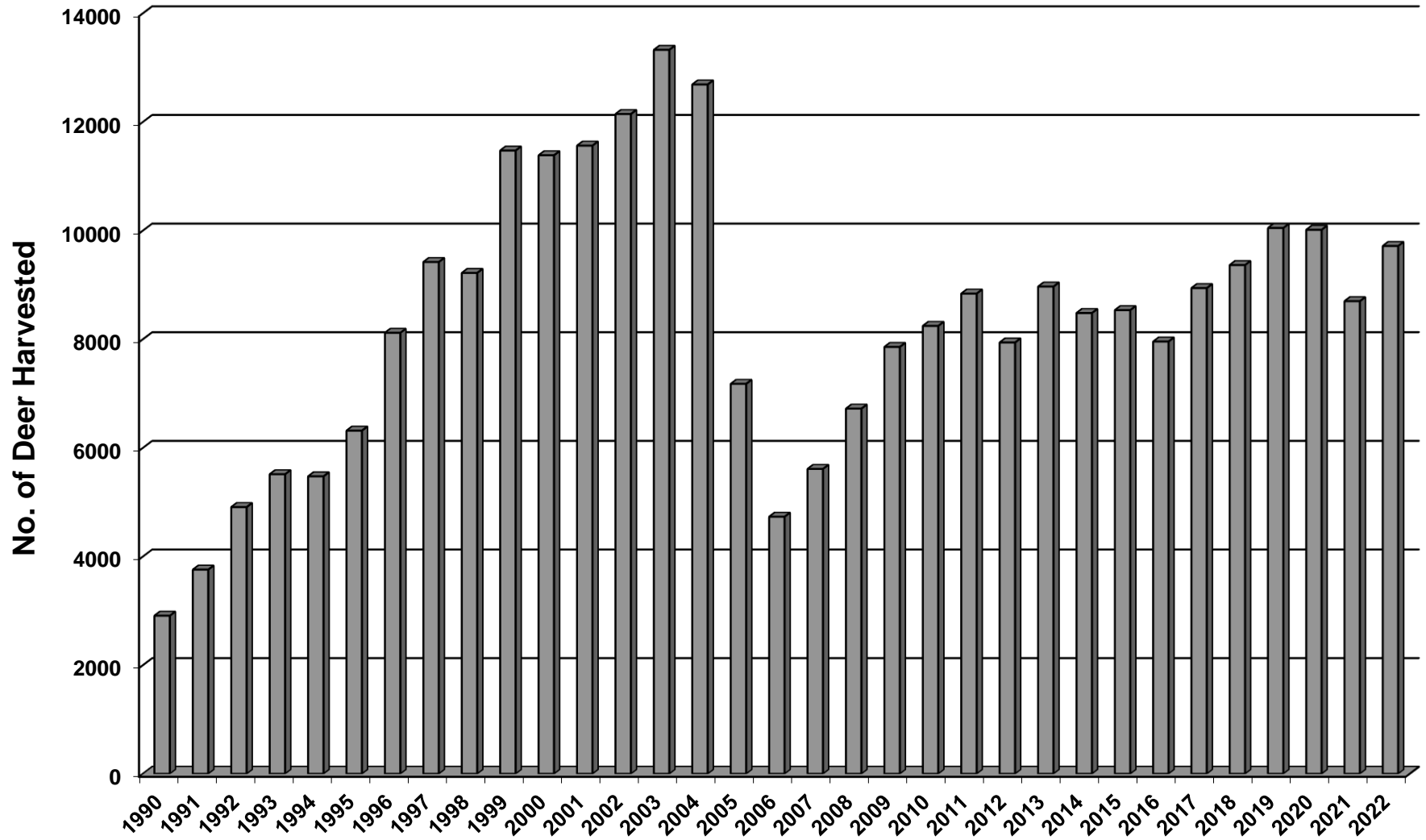


Crop Damage Permits

- Issued for agricultural damage by deer
- Also forest damage with a forest management plan
- 365 day use (including Sundays)
- Daytime use only
- ~1,800 permits issued annually



Statewide Deer Management Permit (DMP) Harvest, 1990 - 2022



2022-23 Deer Management Permit Statistics

County	No. Permits Issued	No. Shooters Authorized	No. Successful Shooters	No. Deer Authorized to Harvest	Whitetail Males Harvested	Whitetail Females Harvested	Sika Males Harvested	Sika Females Harvested	Total Harvested	Tags Utilized (%)
Allegany	51	253	68	460	21	227			248	54
Anne Arundel	27	159	24	800	19	73			92	12
Baltimore	95	787	97	1,852	65	449			514	28
Calvert	19	121	17	555	5	41			46	8
Caroline	34	190	57	590	37	233			270	46
Carroll	189	853	206	4,450	96	731			827	19
Cecil	41	322	58	847	43	190			233	28
Charles	47	212	49	1,620	18	194			212	13
Dorchester	72	522	140	1,840	30	340	20	262	652	35
Frederick	127	745	160	2,530	95	659			754	30
Garrett	439	1,968	501	4,035	139	1,369			1,508	37
Harford	76	576	53	1,250	22	226			248	20
Howard	46	282	68	960	24	211			235	24
Kent	39	306	80	770	53	343			396	51
Montgomery	56	391	86	1,330	14	334			348	26
Prince George's	26	141	45	930	16	185			201	22
Queen Anne's	39	276	88	670	31	291			322	48
St. Mary's	53	299	50	1,720	24	153			177	10
Somerset	43	337	64	828	20	273		1	294	36
Talbot	60	317	100	1,105	69	464			533	48
Washington	106	462	134	1,440	35	419			454	32
Wicomico	85	439	99	1,482	32	441	2	14	489	33
Worcester	92	578	127	1,854	63	600			663	36
Total	1,862	10,536	2,371	33,918	971	8,446	22	277	9,716	29

Deer Cooperator License



DCP's (sharpshooting permits)

- Agricultural and General licenses/permits available
- Agricultural lands, government facilities, county parks, airports, etc.
- Higher bar - test requirement and \$100 annual fee
- Nighttime shooting permitted
- Safety-related permits – 365 day use
- All other permits – January 15 – April 15
- 1,500 – 2,000 deer taken annually



Non-lethal Management



Mechanical Fencing

- Effective
- Variety of types
 - plastic, woven wire, single-strand
- Various options
 - temporary vs permanent, electric vs non-electric
- Variable cost, but relatively expensive – installation and maintenance

Vegetative “Fencing”

- Diversionary crops – current research being conducted by University of Maryland and others

Repellants

- Mixed results

Contraception/Sterilization

- Small scale
- Largely still research phase

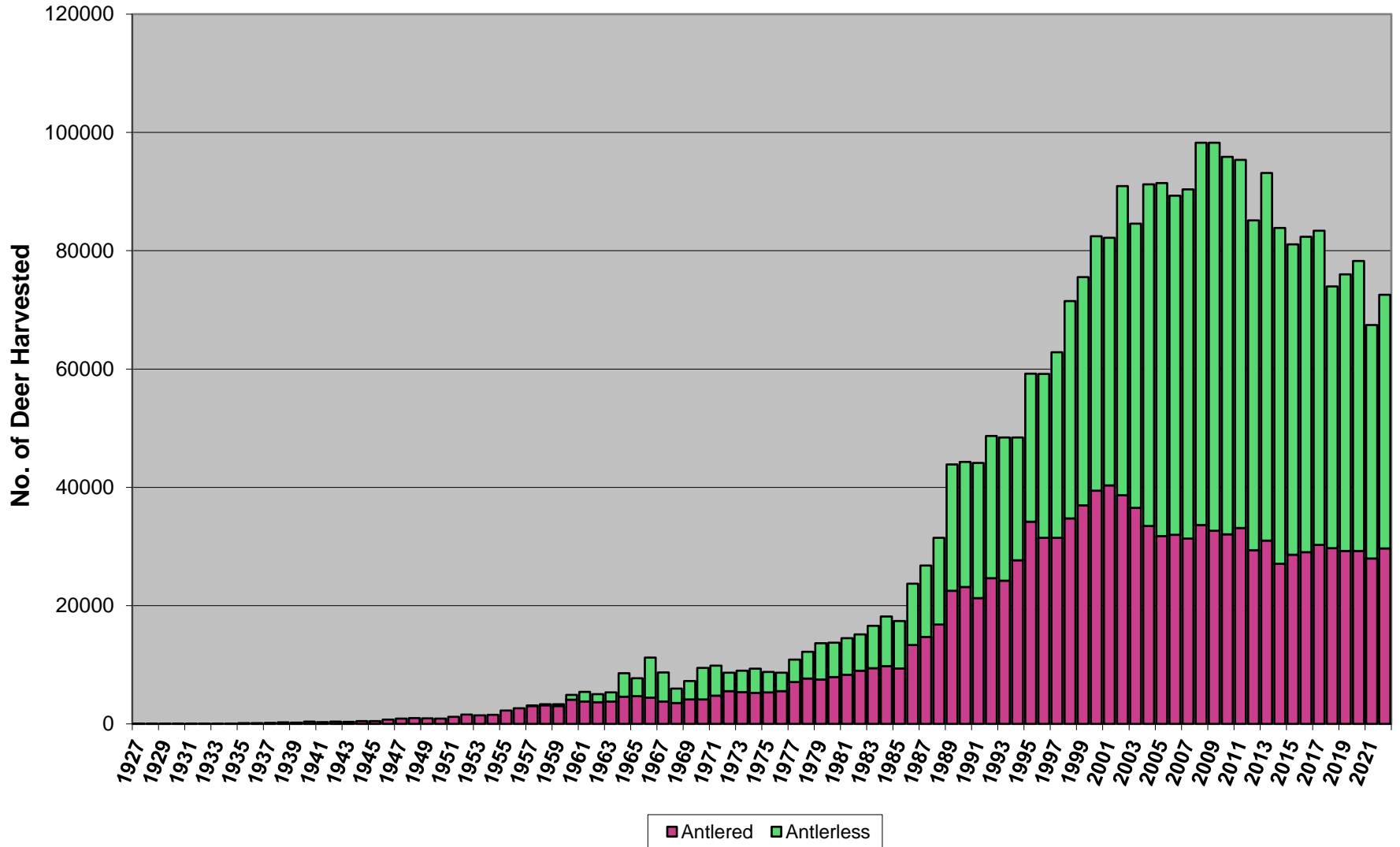


Deer Population Status

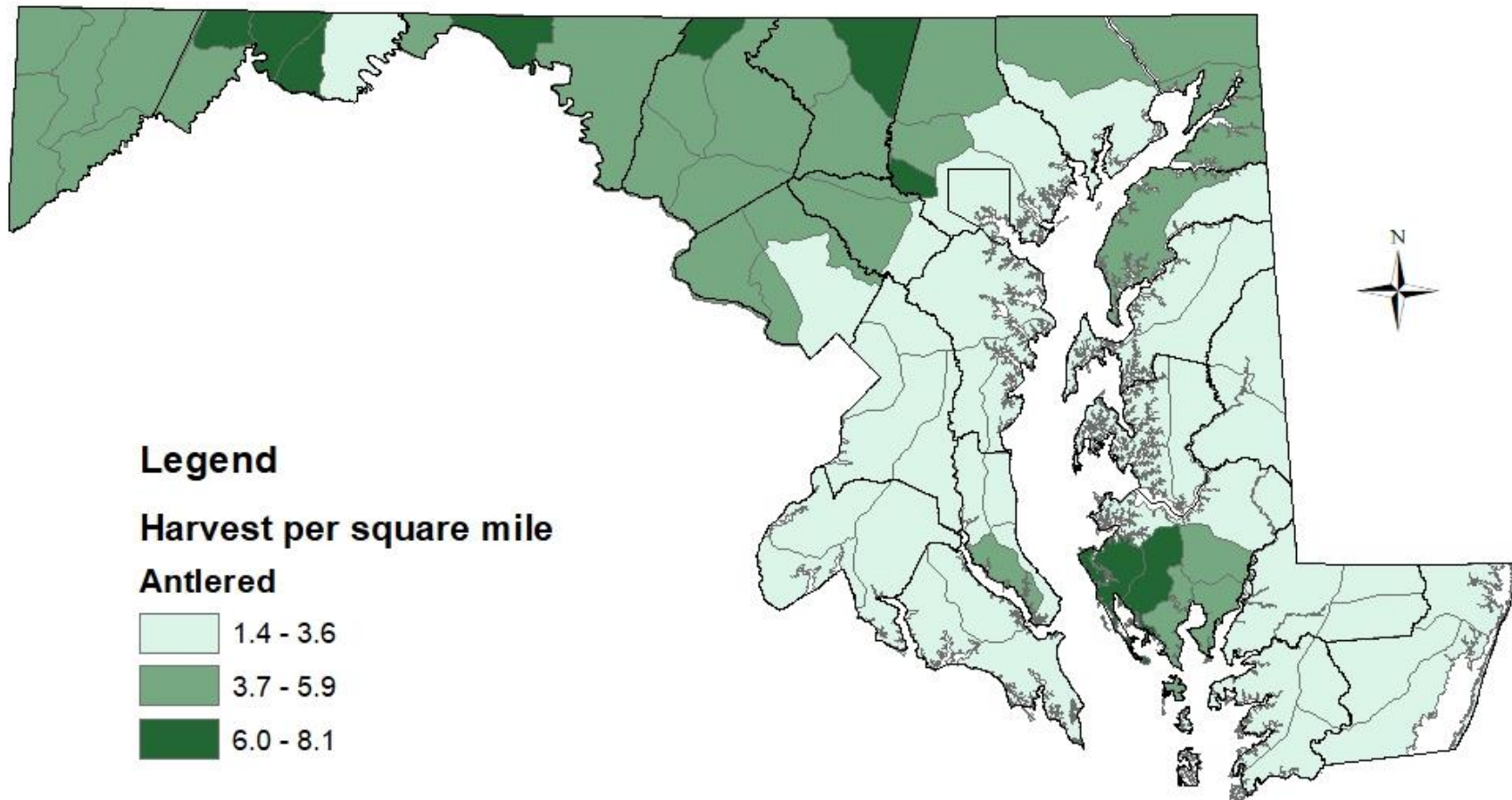


- To monitor the status of the population, DNR uses a metric of the number of antlered deer harvested per square mile.
- We also use an overall annual population estimate generated with a modified reconstruction model (Lang and Wood 1976; Downing 1980).
- Electronic licensing and mandatory deer check-in, which has been in place since 1927, are foundational to calculating these metrics and have improved the accuracy of our estimates over the years.
- Using these estimates, DNR sets management regulations, including hunting seasons and bag limits, on a biennial basis that includes a robust public input process.

Maryland White-tailed Deer Harvest 1927 - 2022

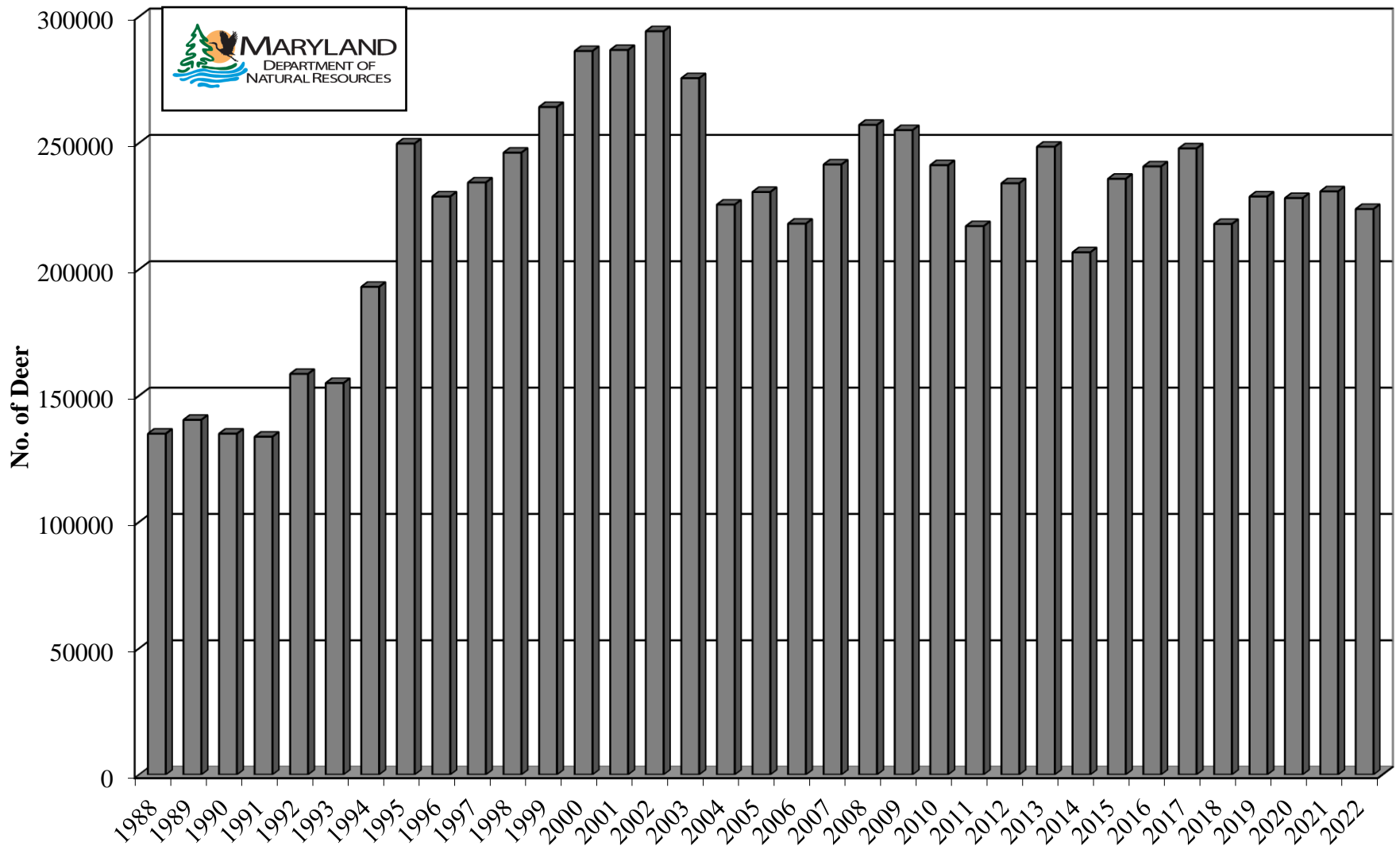


2022-2023 Antlered Deer Harvest Per Square Mile of Deer Habitat

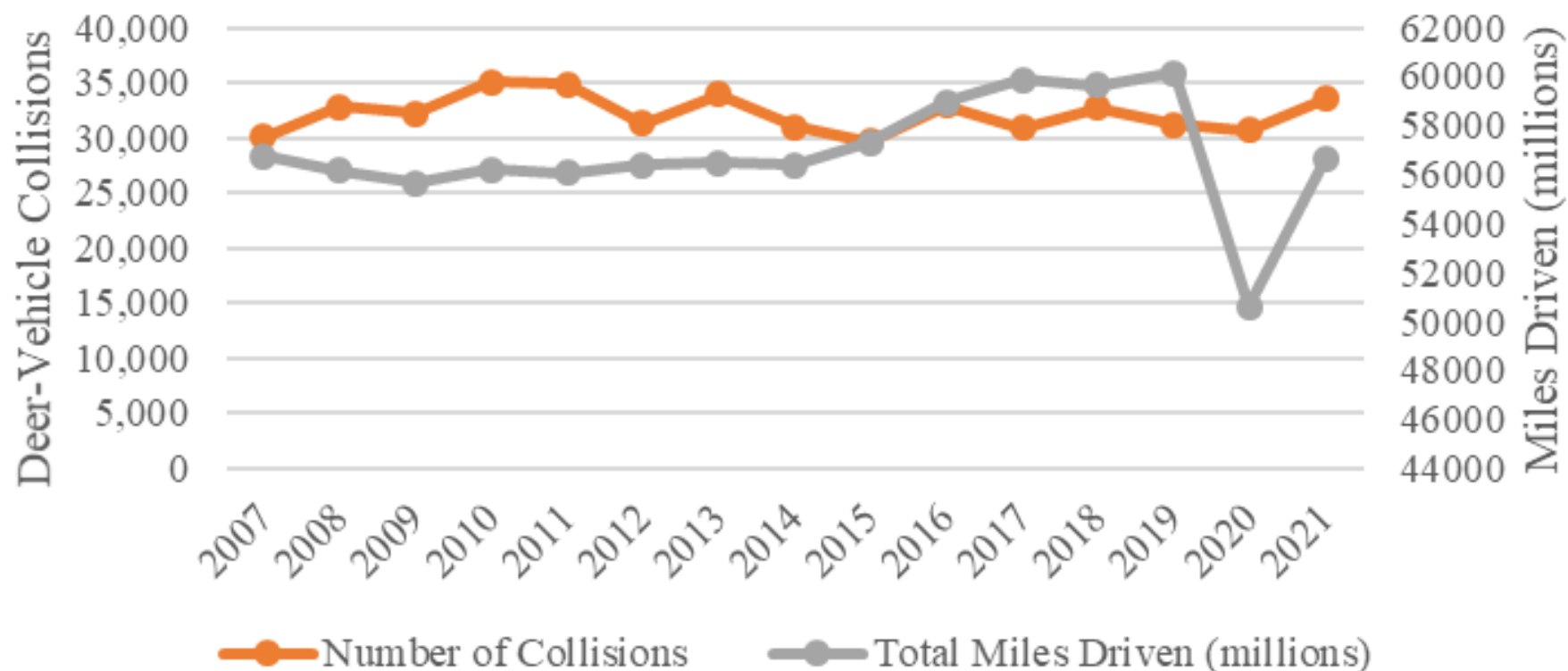


0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

Maryland White-tailed Deer Population Trend, 1988 - 2022



Total Annual Miles Driven (SHA) and Number of Deer-Vehicle Collisions (State Farm) in Maryland 2007-2021



Summary



- **Stable deer population**
- **Too high in certain areas**
- **Working to maximize effectiveness of available tools**
- **Cooperating on alternative management techniques**
- **Can't do it alone**



Where to Focus Efforts



- **Increase access for hunting**
- **Improve hunting effectiveness where it currently exists**
- **Increase the number of hunters (R3)**
- **Maximize hunting season effectiveness (e.g. Sundays)**
- **Develop/improve non-lethal management tools**



Contact Information



Questions?

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