

Deer and Elk Status Overview

January 27, 2011



White-tailed Deer

- All Whitetail Data Analysis Units are meeting management plan objectives for buck harvest and % 5pts in harvest.
- DAUs 4 and 6 are slightly below objectives for hunter number and hunter days, but whitetails are not the major focus for hunters in these units.
- Still recovering from losses during 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 winters in northern part of state.
- No formal population surveys for whitetails—awaiting harvest results.



Table 1. Hunter participation and harvest of white-tailed deer by DAU in Idaho.

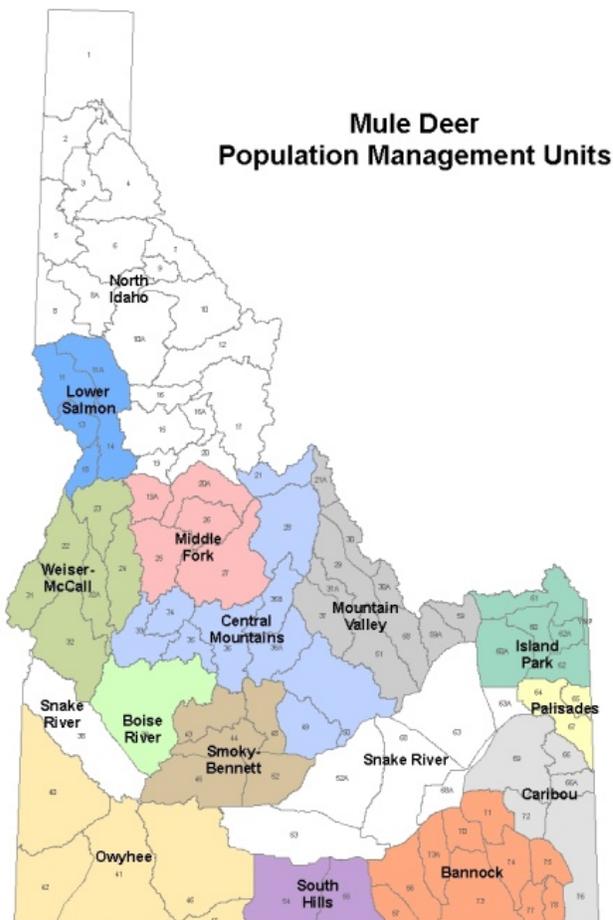
White-tailed Deer Data Analysis Unit	Units	Hunters		Hunter-days of recreation		Buck harvest		% 5+ points	
		Goal	3-yr Average	Goal	3-yr Average	Goal	3-yr Average	Goal	3-yr Average
DAU 1	1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6	14,000	23,678	85,000	146,385	2,700	4,949	17%	25%
DAU 2	7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24	5,200	8,152	25,500	39,524	1,500	1,949	10%	18%
DAU 3	5, 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13	12,700	22,972	81,000	128,897	4,300	5,920	17%	26%
DAU 4	16A, 17, 19, 19A, 20, 20A, 26, 27	700	610	3,500	3,228	N/A	155	10%	24%
DAU 5	21, 21A, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 50, 51, 58, 59, 59A, 60, 60A, 62, 63A, 64, 65, 67, 68A	900	4,069	4,700	21,186	N/A	645	19%	23%
DAU 6	22, 25, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35, 36, 43, 44, 48, 49, 61, 62A	1,000	977	2,100	4,405	N/A	102	10%	11%
DAU7	40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 52, 52A, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 63, 66, 66A, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78	800	1,052	1,600	4,535	N/A	104	10%	22%

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Mule Deer



Deer tag sales

2008 – 145,869

2009 – 137,907

2010 – 133,154

Sales declined 12,715 tags since 2008

- ALL Population Management Units exceed objective of 15 bucks : 100 does.
- Mid-Dec to mid-Jan, regional wildlife staff captured and radio-collared 225 new mule deer including 193 fawns.
- Currently monitoring 189 fawns and 616 adult does spread among 39 units in 12 PMUs as part of annual mule deer survival monitoring effort.
- Dec/Jan fawn capture weights are about in the middle of the range we've observed over the last 10 years. Winter condition concerns and depredation issues in Magic Valley, Southeast, and Upper Snake Regions.
- Aerial surveys underway to estimate populations in Central Mountains and Middle Fork PMUs.
- Fawn survival ~70% statewide w/ high doe survival. Expect good recruitment, increase in 2pts available for harvest.
- Detailed preliminary harvest results available for first look ~Feb. 16.

Table 2. Winter herd composition and survival of mule deer in Idaho. (updated 1/26/2011.)

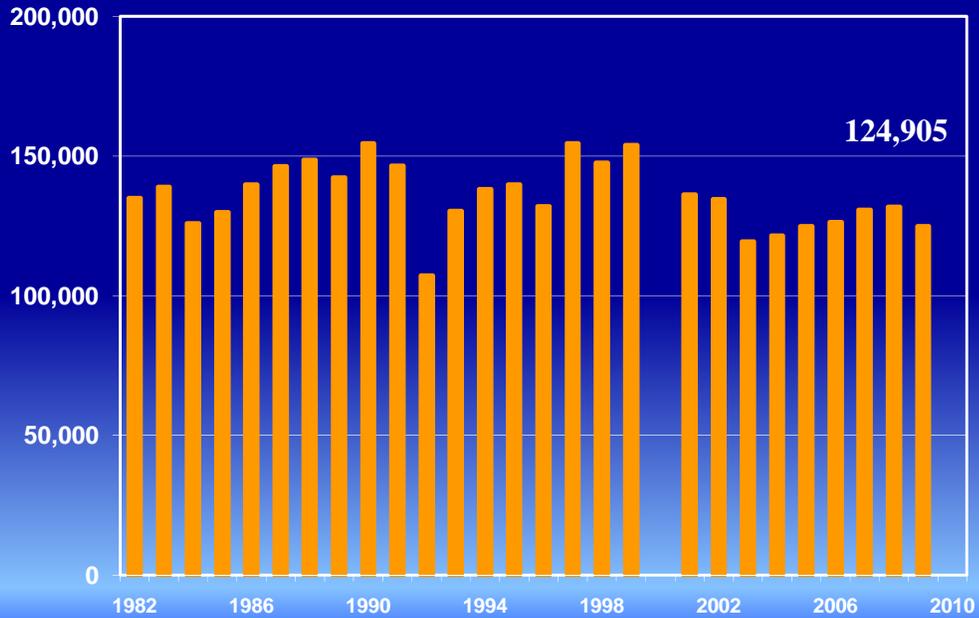
Mule Deer Population Mgt Units	Units	Bucks : Does : Fawns	Last Survey	2010 Ad Doe ŝ	2010 fawn¹ ŝ (KM)
PMU 1 Lower Salmon	11, 11A, 13, 14, 18	nd		0.83	
PMU 2 McCall-Weiser	22, 23, 24, 31, 32, 32A	26:100:75	2010	0.98	0.55
PMU 3 Middle Fork	19A, 20A, 25, 26, 27	27:100:47	2010	1.00	nd
PMU 4 Central Mountains	21, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 36A, 36B, 49, 50	18:100:62	2010	0.94	0.86
PMU 5 Boise River	39	17:100:76	2010	0.91	0.75
PMU 6 Smoky-Bennett	43, 44, 45, 48, 52	22:100:60	2010	0.94	0.88
PMU 7 Owyhee	40, 41, 42, 46, 47	nd			
PMU 8 South Hills	54, 55	24:100:57	2010	0.91	0.91
PMU 9 Bannock	56, 57, 70, 71, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 77, 78	19:100:54	2010	0.98	0.75
PMU 10 Caribou	66, 66A, 69, 72, 76	19:100:54	2010	0.98	0.79
PMU 11 Palisades	64, 65, 67	33:100:85	2010	0.90	0.75
PMU 12 Island Park	60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A	29:100:77	2010	0.92	0.74
PMU 13 Mountain Valley	21A, 29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A, 51, 58, 59, 59A	19:100:59	2010	0.96	0.64
PMU 14 Snake River	38, 52A, 53, 63, 63A, 68, 68A	nd			
PMU 15 North Idaho	1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 9, 10, 10A, 12, 15, 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20	nd			

1 – Overwinter fawn survival Jan – Jun 1.



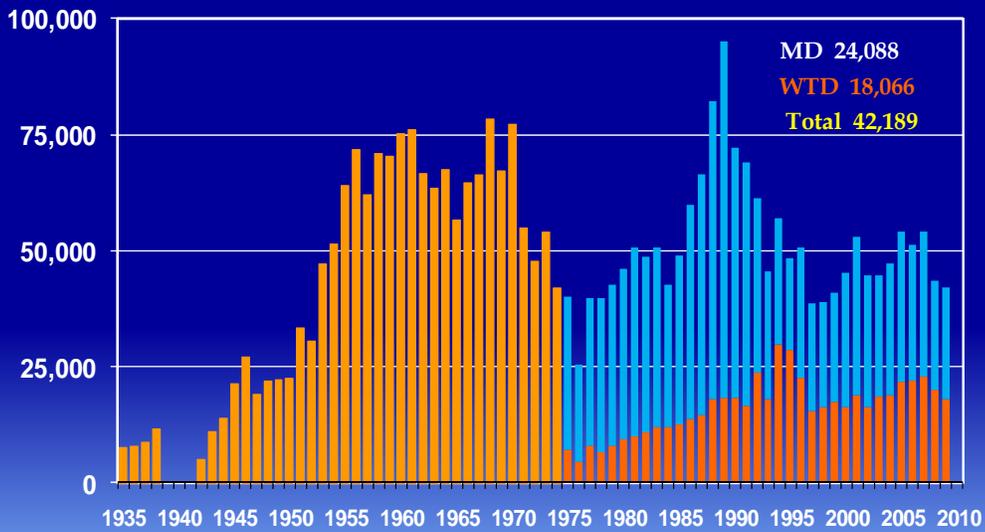
2011 Deer & Elk
Status Update

Statewide Deer Hunters



2011 Deer & Elk
Status Update

Statewide Deer Harvest



General Season Success: WTD = 37%, MD = 32%





Deer and Elk Status Overview

January 27, 2011



Elk

- 12 zones are meeting cow population objectives, 11 over objective, 6 below.
- 7 zones are meeting total bull objectives, 13 over objective, 9 below.
- Aerial surveys during February in Panhandle, Dworshak, Boise River, Middle Fork, Teton, and Lemhi Zones.
- First look at detailed harvest results Feb. 16.

Elk tag sales

2008 – 92,565

2009 – 87,021

2010 – 84,765

Sales declined 7,800 tags since 2008

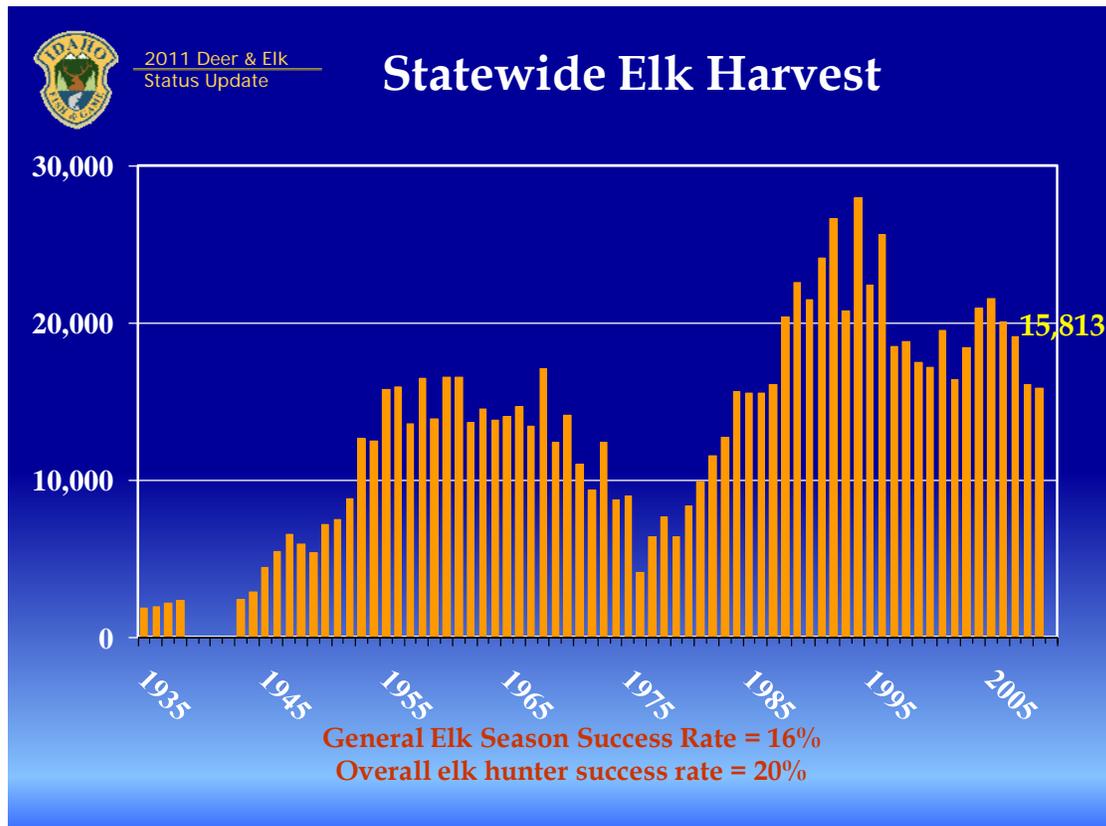


Table 3. Winter population management objectives and status of elk in Idaho. 1/26/2011.

Elk Management Zone	Units	Cow Objective ¹	Cow Status	Bull Objective	Bull Status	Last Survey
Panhandle ²	1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9	2,900 – 3,900	4,339	600 - 800	1,256	2009 ⁵
Palouse	8, 8A, 11A	1,075 – 1,575	2,153	220 - 330	411	2009
Lolo³	10, 12	6,100 – 9,100	1358	1,300 – 1,900	594	2010
Dworshak	10A	2,900 – 4, 300	3,236	600 – 900	477	2007 ⁵
Hells Canyon	11, 13, 18	1,600 – 2,300	3,642	400 – 625	973	2009
Elk City	14, 15, 16	3,150 – 4,650	4,264	675 – 1,000	863	2008
Selway	16A, 17, 19, 20	4,900 – 7,300	3,381	1,325 – 1,950	934	2007
Sawtooth³	33, 34, 35, 36	3,050 – 4,550	2,696	600 – 695	251	2009
Owyhee-South Hills	38, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 54, 55, 57	370 – 570	700 ⁴	55 - 145	240	NA
Boise River	39	3,200 – 4,800	4,216	650 – 950	962	2008 ⁵
McCall	19A, 23, 24, 25	2,450 – 3,700	3,292	525 – 800	616	2010
Middle Fork	20A, 26, 27	3,850 – 5,750	5,137	950 – 1,500	834	2006 ⁵
Weiser River	22, 32, 32A	2,125 – 3,275	5,372	450 – 650	909	2007
Brownlee	31	550 – 850	412	125 – 175	206	2007
Pioneer	36A, 49, 50	3,350 – 5,050	3,448	1,100 – 1,700	845	2008
Smoky Mountains	43, 44, 48	1,875 – 2,800	1,560	600 – 900	502	2009
Bennett Hills	45, 52	275 – 425	495	60 – 95	145	2010
Big Desert	52A, 68	120 - 200	160 ⁴	25 – 45	40	NA
Snake River	53, 63, 63A, 68A	25 - 35	260 ⁴	5 – 10	120	NA
Bannock	56, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74	510 - 745	1,035 ⁴	125 – 165	390	NA
Diamond Creek	66A, 76	1,300 – 1,960	1,205	400 – 600	478	2009
Bear River	75, 77, 78	400 - 600	606	80 – 120	98	2010
Island Park	60, 60A, 61, 62A	1,200 – 1,800	1,476	400 – 575	313	2010
Teton	62, 65E	150 - 250	173	35 – 55	125	2006 ⁵
Palisades	64, 65W, 67	400 – 600	461	125 – 200	195	2009
Tex Creek	66, 69	2,000 – 3,000	2,277	425 – 625	577	2010
Salmon	21, 21A, 28, 36B	4,600 – 7,000	5,628	975 – 1,425	778	2010
Lemhi	29, 37, 37A, 51	1,650 – 2,550	3,262	455 – 750	1,442	2007 ⁵
Beaverhead	30, 30A, 58, 59, 59A	2,050 – 3,050	3,257	540 - 835	862	2009

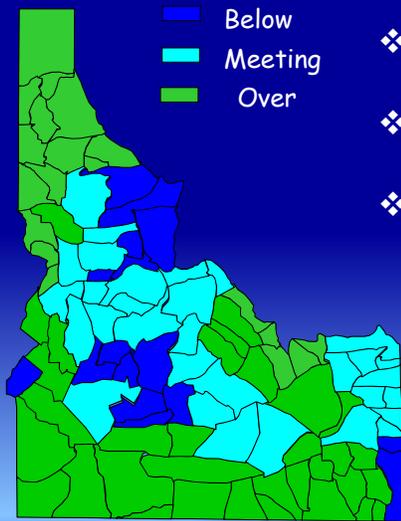
- 1 Population objectives established in the 1999 White-tailed Deer, Mule Deer, and Elk Management Plan.
- 2 Population objective and status only established for a portion of the entire zone (winter range trend area in Units 4, 6, 7). Efforts are ongoing to estimate the entire elk population within the Panhandle Zone and establish a zone-wide objective.
- 3 Zones where adult female elk were monitored for survival and cause-specific mortality.
- 4 Population status based on information other than sightability surveys.
- 5 Sightability Survey scheduled for Feb. 2011



2011 Deer & Elk
Status Update

Statewide Update - Elk

Cow Populations



Current Jan 2011

- ❖ 12 zones meeting cow objectives.
- ❖ 11 zones over objective.
- ❖ 6 zones below objective.



2011 Deer & Elk
Status Update

Statewide Update - Elk

Bull Populations



Current Jan. 2011

- ❖ 7 zones meeting total bull objective.
- ❖ 13 over objective.
- ❖ 9 below.



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Winter Conditions & Depredations

Panhandle: Bare ground in CDA. Having an atypical problem year with elk in haystacks.

Clearwater: Snow gone from lower elevations. One depredation hunt for elk and one kill permit underway for deer. January controlled x-tag elk hunt in Unit 8—directing hunters to 3 producers. Panels delivered to 7 landowners who have been plagued with deer and elk in haystacks since Christmas.

Southwest: Elk depredations at 21 locations in region, 6 deer, and 1 pronghorn. Range of panels, kill permits, depredation hunts, baiting, hazing. 5 other elk nuisance complaints on ornamentals, etc. Baiting elk at 2 locations near Council to keep them out of feed lots and calving pens. Recent warming conditions and rain opened up south facing slopes near Garden Valley. No feeding.

Magic Valley: Most of region at or above long term average snow pack. Large elk herds (200) in standing corn crops. Hammett: 500 elk in standing corn; Glens Ferry: 35 deer in vineyard; King Hill: 150-200 deer damaging seed onion field, 200-500 elk in standing corn; Gooding 100 elk in corn; Bliss: 200 elk damaging standing corn at 2 locations; Big Wood River Valley: 600+ elk rading haystacks between Gannett and Picabo—have wrapped or paneled haystacks. Feeding 120 near Ketchum at Bullwhacker feed site. No feeding as sites along S Fk Boise River. Eden: 300 pronghorn in haystacks—stacks have been wrapped. Oakley: 500+ deer in winter wheat, alfalfa, and rye—concerned about trampling. Malta: 200 deer in haystacks. Wrapping seems to have solves problem. Minidoka: 200 pronghorn, 50 deer, 30 elk damaging large number of haystacks.

Southeast: Snowpack 120-144% of average in Portneuf and Bear River drainages. Baiting elk away from conflicts areas. Feeding deer in Georgetown Canyon. Expect full scale feeding throughout Bear Lake soon. >1,000 problem elk in region @ >13 locations. Banks Valley: 200 elk. Trying to get elk up to historic feed site. Dingle/ south Montpelier: 100 elk roaming and damaging haystacks. 8th St, Montpelier: 50 elk in haystacks, alfalfa, and cattle feedlines. Kill permit issued, several taken. Bennington: 150 elk. Georgetown WMA: 100 elk. Thundermountain/Soda: 150 elk—kill permits and hazing underway. Potential feed sites would put elk within close proximity to cattle and/or domestic elk. Drue Smith/Pine Canyon: 100 elk. Goshen: 150 elk, 500 deer. Banida—200 elk poised... but no trouble yet. Nounan: 100 elk. Geneva: 100 elk. Depredation Release Agreement in place, and x-tag hunters. Firth: 50 elk at small farms. Niter Bench: multiple small groups of elk—xtag hunt around Grace seems to be helping.

Upper Snake: Crusting conditions continue to be a problem in the northern part of region. Elk/cattle brucellosis concerns: 100 elk in vicinity of Iona Hill but no additional/recent complaints. Ririe: still have several hundred elk. 40-60 w/in a mile of a cattle feed lot. Heise 40-60 elk—kill permit in effect. Teton Valley: elk approaching Breckinridge's cattle. Kill permit in effect, 7 elk taken so far. Depredation hunt being initiated. Hamer: elk approaching Dalling feedlot. Initiating depredation hunt to pressure elk out of area. Elsewhere in region, haystack protection provided to 20 landowners, 3 kill permits issued where deer continue to feed with livestock. 5 deer taken so far. Pronghorn depredation on haystacks in NW unit 63. Depredation claim will likely be filed.

Salmon: Winter conditions this year are “more normal” (more severe than last several). Well below criteria for snow and temperature to initiate feeding in Sawtooth Valley, but few elk remain (20-30). Probably won't be feeding. Have conducted 8 depredation hunts since November and distributed over 700 panels so far.

Preview of Issues and Anticipated Season proposals for 2011

Clearwater Region

- Create new 11X deer hunt with 100 tags to address depredations.
- 15X deer hunt reduce tags in response to effectiveness in reduce depredation complaints.
- Consider converting Unit 11 late rifle hunt (71 tags) to Antlered elk archery hunt with 50 tags and extend early rifle hunt. Change Unit 18 either-sex archery hunt to antlered-only to create 1 year waiting period to increase drawing odds for highly sought-after tags.

Southwest Region

- Consider final reduction of 3yr phase in of quotas on Sawtooth A and B tags.
- Evaluate pronghorn archery controlled hunt harvest results.

Magic Valley Region

- Develop strategies to address chronic elk depredations in GMUs 52A, 56 and 45. Landowner Permission Hunts, Xtra tag controlled hunts, increased tag levels, etc. will be considered.
- Consider expansion of elk hunting opportunities in GMUs 46, 47, 57 where elk have increased.
- Move rotating deer muzzleloader hunt from GMUs 52 & 56/57 to GMUs 54 & 47.

Salmon Region

- Eliminate cows from Middle Fork A tag hunt.
- Adjust Lemhi unit tag levels depending on results of aerial survey.
- Scope changing Unit 30A rifle bull hunt (10 tags) to muzzleloader either-sex hunt.
- Evaluate and consider options for controversial unlimited controlled deer hunt in 36A.