

# Southeast Idaho Mule Deer Advisory Committee



# Outline

- ◇ Goals – review why we are here
- ◇ Data examples with changes
- ◇ Recap and review ideas from September
- ◇ Refinement of Ideas
- ◇ Time permitting – Predation, Roadkill, others?
- ◇ Identify what information is needed for next meeting
- ◇ Wrap up





# Why are we here

- ◆ Assess how your hunting opportunity is allocated and what you would like to change/test...if anything
- ◆ This group is passionate about overall population status, recovery, and longevity
- ◆ Primary Goal is Harvest Management
- ◆ Focus on Task at Hand - Harvest
- ◆ Factors influencing how many deer are on the landscape...population health/trajectory
  - ◆ Habitat – connectivity, quality, conservation
  - ◆ Weather – habitat, winter feeding, road mortality
  - ◆ Disease
  - ◆ Competition
  - ◆ Survival – predation, nutrition

# Objectives

- ◆ Develop proposals/rule changes for Department and Commission consideration that will:
  1. Maintain Idaho's general OTC deer hunting opportunity
  2. Improve hunter experience and satisfaction during mule deer seasons
  3. Increase buck abundance and age structure





# How can this be accomplished?

1. Maintain Idaho's general OTC deer hunting opportunity
2. Improve hunter experience and satisfaction during mule deer seasons = **More Deer/Less Hunters**
3. Increase buck abundance and age structure = **Reduce hunter success/More bucks need to live!**



# How can this be accomplished?

## More Deer/Less Hunters

Reduce female mortality (doe hunts eliminated)

Improve habitats (ongoing)

Winter mortality, roadkill, disease, predators

Hunters – longer seasons

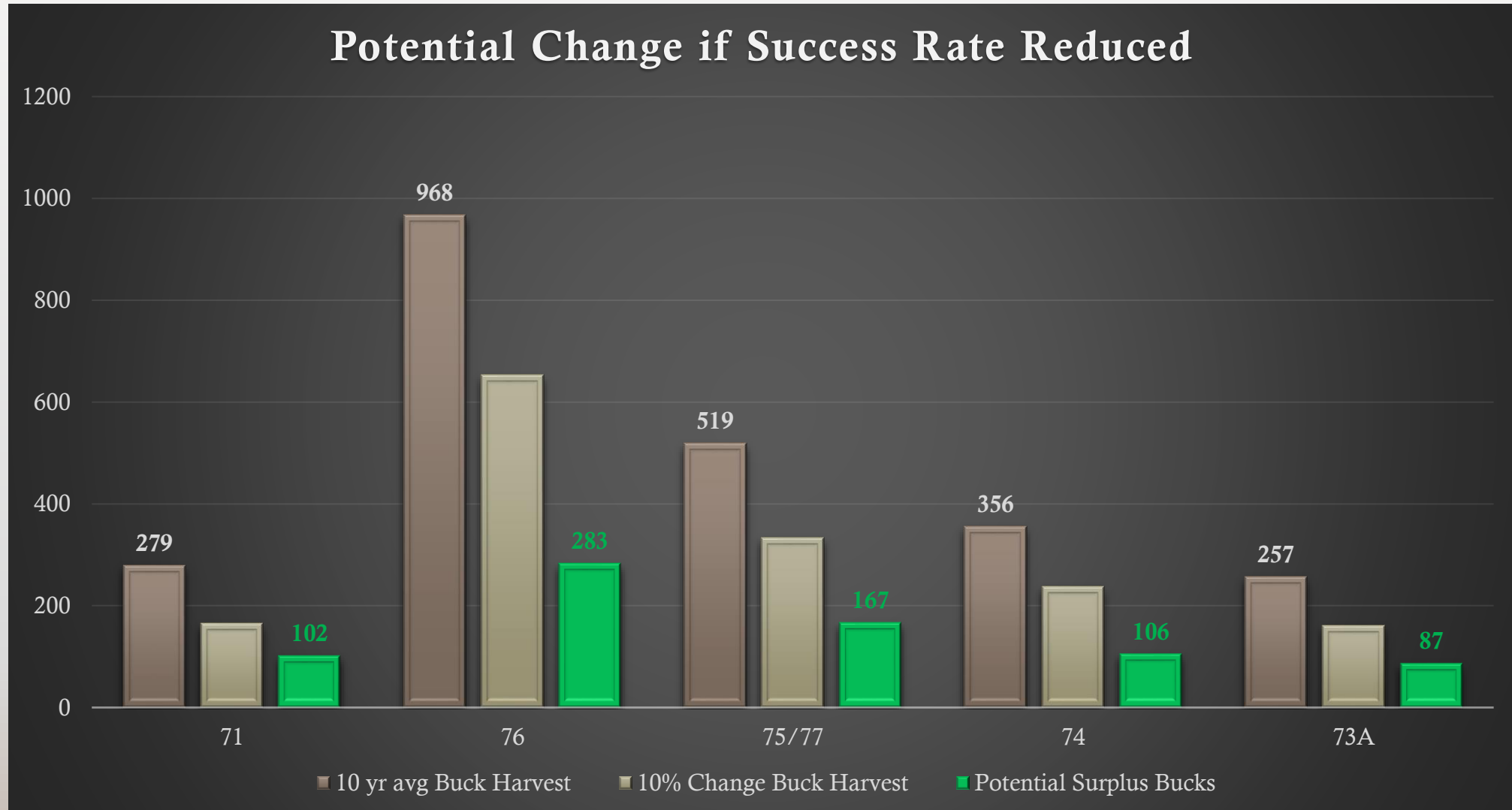
## Reduce hunter success/More bucks need to live!

Restrict weapon types and/or technology

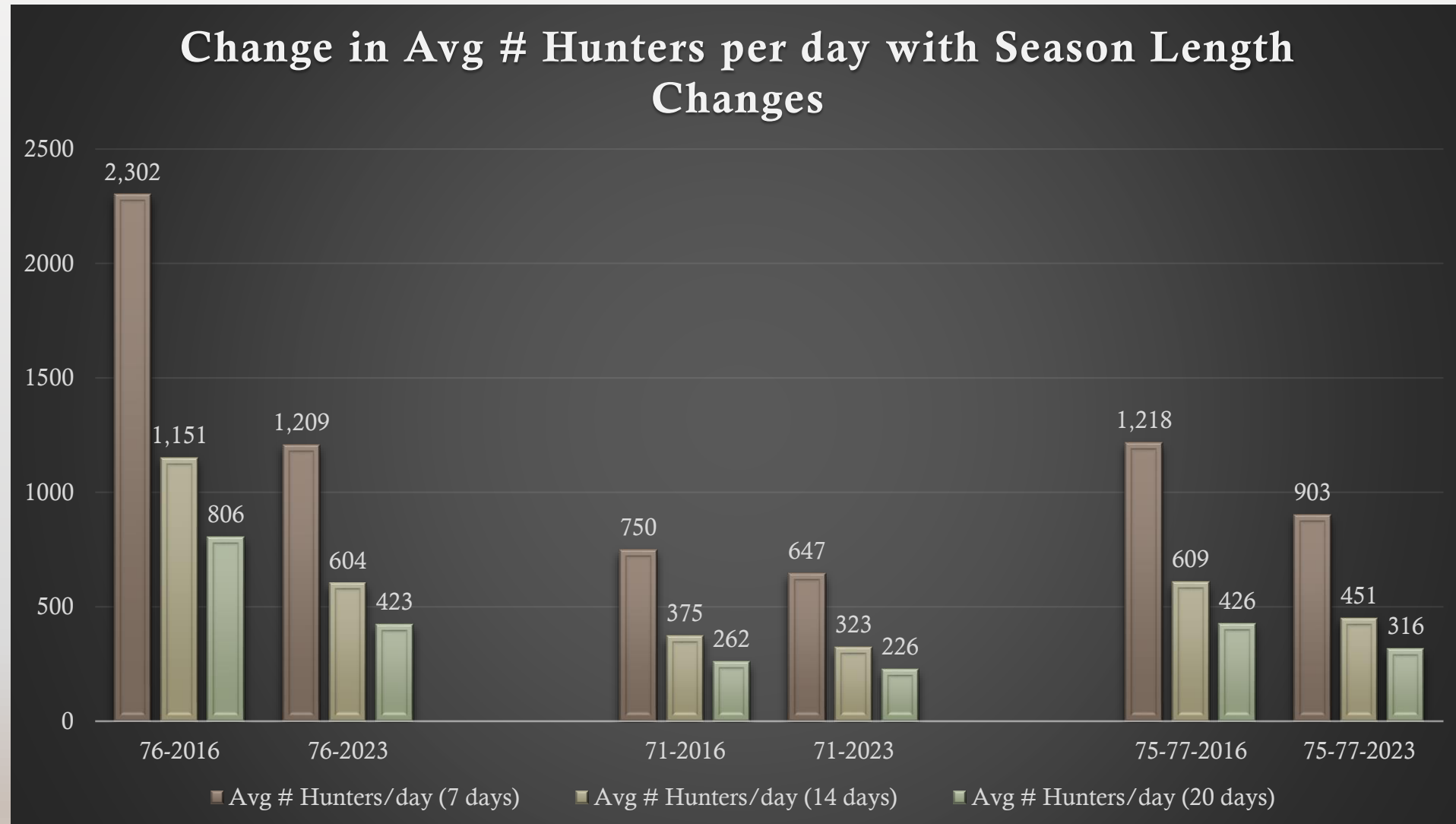




# What would reducing success rates achieve?



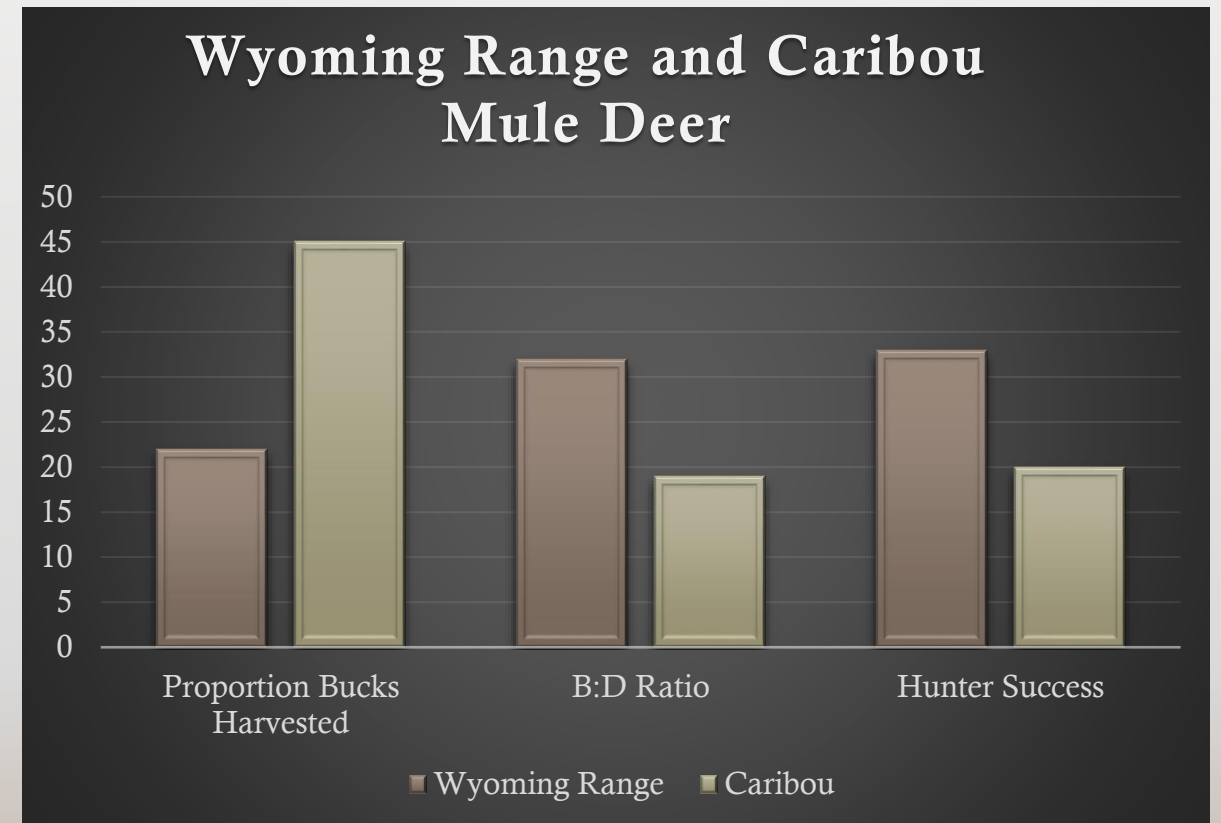
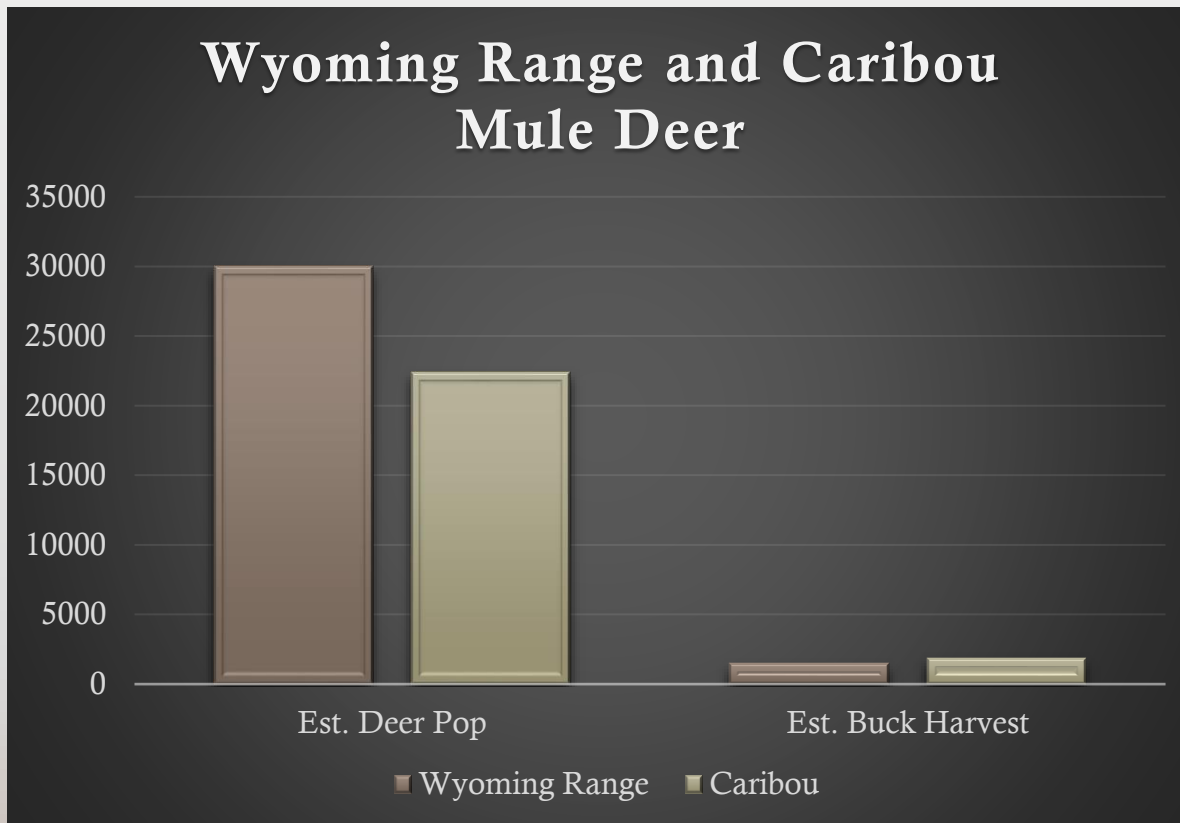
# What would happen if season length were changed?





# Amount of Harvest in Proportion to Population

◆ Contrast between Wyoming and Idaho



# Recap of Sept 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- ◆ Reviewed advisory committee goals and timeline.
- ◆ Discussed “What is consensus?” – group agreed to 75% - (9 out of 12)
- ◆ Reviewed habitat conservation and enhancement efforts
- ◆ Introduced the breakout groups – discussed some topics that came from the group that were outside the scope of this group – e.g. MHR, antlerless hunting, habitat, winter feeding, grazing, elk management
  - ◆ This generated passionate conversation, specifically regarding winter feeding. Staff committed to presenting and thoroughly discussing winter feeding at a later date after season/rule proposal ideas were finalized.
- ◆ Three groups of 4 were assigned and groups were asked to evaluate their ideas, rank if possible, and discuss which ideas to keep and which to exclude

# Recap of Sept 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- ALL GROUPS
- **In Favor**
  - **Misc**
    - Habitat Stamps
    - Access to private land in exchange for LAP tags OR LAP tags only valid for immediate lands
    - Clean up language on baiting
    - Increase Fees
    - Predator management/bounties
    - Address Technology/limit technology
  - **Season Changes**
    - Concept of testing limited or primitive weapon types in a few GMUs
- **Mixed support/lack of support**
  - **Season Changes**
    - Modifying controlled hunt structures (merits more discussion)
    - Season length



# Time to discuss further...

- ◇ Season Length – longer, shorter
- ◇ Test limited or primitive weapon in a few GMUs
- ◇ Modifying controlled hunt structures
  - ◇ Concurrent general muzzleloader season with any-weapon controlled hunt
  - ◇ Eliminate controlled hunt and offer general muzzleloader season
- ◇ Antler point restrictions
- ◇ No change

# Time to discuss further...

## ◆ Rules

- ◆ Revenue – habitat stamp, fee increase, predator bounty
- ◆ Private Lands – pursue rule change to require public access if participating in Department programs (e.g. depredation, LAP)
- ◆ Allow residents to hunt 3-5 days before non-residents
- ◆ Tag structure
- ◆ Baiting language change
- ◆ Technology – formalize what “rules” you as a committee you want considered. What is most important?