

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Presentation of 2014 Conservationist of the Year Award** – Presentation given by Director Paul Peditto and Western Region Wildlife Response Manager Clarissa Harris.

- Director Peditto thanked the guests for attending and traveling from Western Maryland to Annapolis for this award.
- On behalf of the Commission, employees of the Wildlife and Heritage Service, and all of the individuals that benefited from the great work of the Western Maryland Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Director Peditto acknowledged the Western Maryland Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation as the 2014 Conservationist of the Year.
- Western Region Wildlife Response Manager Clarissa Harris nominated the Western Maryland Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for their continuing work regarding hunter recruitment, youth mentoring opportunities, and wildlife conservation. [ATTACHMENT A]
- The following individuals were in attendance: Bobby Boarman, President of State NWTF; Roger Griffin, Committee Member of Western Maryland Chapter of the NWTF; Brian Friend, President of Western Maryland Chapter of the NWTF; Shawn Weddle, Regional Director of the NWTF to accept the 2014 Conservationist of the Year Award.
- Director Peditto acknowledged the Western Maryland Chapter of NWTF for their college scholarship.
- Western Maryland Chapter of the NWTF members recognized and thanked those committee members that were not able to attend because the committee members of the Western Maryland Chapter of the NWTF work as a team and that is how the members are able to accomplish what they are able to do.
- The NWTF has given almost five million dollars to students through the NWTF Academic Scholarship Program through the United States. On the local level, Maryland has 12 chapters and it has been difficult to get the message out about this scholarship program. The local chapters contribute from \$250 to \$1,000. If students win the local scholarships, those students have the opportunity to win an additional \$1,000 at the State level of the NWTF and \$10,000 at the National Wild Turkey Federal. There is a lot of money to help students get through higher education. The criteria to apply are available online at <http://www.nwtf.org/>.
- The Maryland Chapter of the NWTF raised over 1 million dollars' worth of funds back into the State of Maryland.
- Chairman Compton is the Director of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) in Maryland. Chairman Compton indicated that NWTF is a strong supporter of Maryland's NASP.

**Approval for the November 18, 2015 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael moved to accept the November 18<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from October 21, 2015 Meeting**

- Commissioner Michael requested to change the statement in the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes to "...the images in the presentation were from Western Maryland" - instead of Backbone Mountain.

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Michael moved to approve the corrected version of the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Game Program Update** – Presentation given by Associate Director Pete Jayne.

- The Game Program Update included an update on white-tailed deer and sika deer. Associate Director Jayne reminded the Commission that staff members are working on the two-year 2016-2018 hunting cycle. Staff will be presenting changes on the hunting regulations to the Commission next year. Normally, during that period staff members receive many comments and questions related to deer, so Associate Director Jayne decided to update the Commission on data related to deer along with information about the deer population in Maryland.
- Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler presented to the Commission the Deer Status Update in a Power Point presentation. **[ATTACHMENT B]** Answers to the Commission members' questions are incorporated below as statements.
  1. Maryland hunters lead the Nation in the number of deer harvested per square mile.
  2. Deer Management Permit (DMP) is underutilized. In 2014, staff issued 1700 permits for a potential total harvest of 33,000 deer. However, only 8400 deer were actually taken – or less than 25% of the issued deer management permits were used. The total amount of people that could have taken deer under the DMP was 11,400 and only 2,000 actually harvested deer. Hunters took more than ten times these figures during the regulated hunting seasons.
  3. The annual harvest for white-tailed deer is around 90,000 and the conservative population estimate of deer is 199,000 so we are taking about a third of the deer each year. Deer winter mortality is rare in most parts of Maryland and even in Garrett and Allegany Counties, deer mortality due to winter conditions is insignificant.
- Associate Director Peter Jayne highlighted Waterfowl Season Changes to the Commission from the last two slides in the Power Point Presentation. These changes will be required of all the Atlantic Flyway states. This will continue to be an annual process.

**Break 10:40 AM to 10:50 PM**

**Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update**

- Associate Director Peter Jayne updated the Commission on the Deer Management Permits Workshop, given by Maryland Farm Bureau with the help of Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler and Associate Director Peter Jayne. There were five farmers who attended the workshop in Baltimore. Unfortunately, the attendance was very low. There are two more workshops scheduled; one in Frederick and one in Talbot. Staff will assess whether this is worth our time if the attendance and interest remains low. This is a Maryland Farm Bureau initiative.

**Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update**

- Former Captain Lloyd Ingerson retired but has been hired back to manage some of the issues related to fisheries and wildlife. There is no current organizational chart available at this time to outline Mr. Ingerson's new position.

**Old Business**

- No old business.

### **New Business**

- Agenda Items for the January Meeting:
  1. Wildlife Rehabilitators Report suggested by Commissioner Boyles Griffin. Commissioner Boyles Griffin agreed to work with Tracey to get this item on the January Agenda.
  2. 2016 Legislative Session Update will be on the January Agenda.
  3. Drone Usage to Harass Hunters and for Hunting suggested by Commissioner Michael. Director Peditto mentioned that staff could bring a drone so the Commission can see how a drone operates under ideal conditions.
- Commissioner Michael asked about the usage of drones to harass hunters or to hunt with.
  1. Staff members have been involved in internal conversations about developing policy for the usage of drones for law enforcement and data gathering. The policy will include some results from the national conversations on this topic.
  2. Maryland has an electronic hunting prohibition so there is little opportunity for someone to legally use this tool to ‘hunt’.

### **Question from the Audience**

- Question from the audience about the status with the State in reference to the language change related to baiting turkey and bear.
  1. The Commission talked about this request some time ago in the context of strict liability with the waterfowl. The request came from the Western Maryland Sportsmen’s Coalition. The State’s understanding is that the focus of this potential change is for those counties where bear and deer hunting overlap; and where fall turkey hunting is authorized. The Western Maryland Sportsmen Coalition is not trying to make turkey and bear baiting legal. The goal is to set an objective standard for hunters and law enforcement to follow. This will be reviewed during the 2016-2018 Hunting Season Regulations Concepts/Proposals period. There will be a public comment period. There is an internal stakeholders meeting that will be held to discuss concepts. After the internal stakeholders meeting, staff will arrange an external stakeholders meeting, which will include groups such as Wild Turkey Federation, Maryland Waterfowlers Association, and Maryland Bowhunters Society. The Commission will review the concepts/proposals. Staff will probably arrange two public meetings along with a public comment online forum.
  2. Currently, baiting for turkey and bear is still under strict liability.

**Public Comment Period** – no comment.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.  
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, G. Fratz, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, and J. Michael,
Absent:	J. Schroyer and R. Weinberg
Guest:	B. Boarman, E. Hovermale, R. Griffin, B. Friend, S. Weddle
Staff:	B. Eycler, C. Harris, P. Jayne, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and H. Spiker



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Mark J. Belton, Secretary*  
*Frank W. Dawson, III, Deputy Secretary*

April 2, 2015

Paul A. Peditto, Director  
 Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
 Wildlife & Heritage Service  
 Tawes State Office Building  
 580 Taylor Avenue  
 Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Paul,

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate the Western MD Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) for the department's Conservationist of the Year award.

The Chapter members have been phenomenal when it comes to promoting hunter retention and recruitment youth activities and partnering with our agency in promoting wildlife conservation and management. They have volunteered for over 6 years in helping us make the Junior Hunter Field Day events in Garrett and Allegany counties a huge success. Their members, particularly, Kevin Smith, conducts a Turkey Biology and Management program which includes teaching the kids about turkey hunting, calling, safety, etc.

Even though they have a small group of truly dedicated "workers", they sponsor several youth events of their own throughout the year. In May, they hold an annual Jakes fishing rodeo in Accident where they provide a day of free fishing, food and fun. The last 3 summers they have sponsored an "Extreme Jakes Event" at the Wings of Challenge sporting clays range where the older youth and an adult mentor can come to shoot clay birds and learn about gun safety and wildlife conservation. In August, they also hold a Jakes Field Day event at New Germany State Park where the kids continue to learn about hunting safety, wildlife conservation and how to become responsible outdoorsmen and women. In addition to all of these activities, they also award a college scholarship to a high school senior.

Our department relies heavily upon conservation groups such as the NWTF to help us reach out to the youth of our state in an effort to spread the word about hunting safety and wildlife conservation and management. The youth programs that our department conducts would not be a success without the Western MD Chapter of the NWTF's true dedication to the resource and youth of Maryland. We couldn't do it without their help. Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,

Clarissa Harris  
 Regional Wildlife Response Coordinator

Nominee

Western MD Chapter of the NWTF  
 Brian Friend, President

Nominated by:

Clarissa Harris  
 Regional Wildlife Response Coordinator  
 MD DNR WHS  
 3 Pershing St., Room 110  
 Cumberland, MD 21502  
[Clarissa.harris1@maryland.gov](mailto:Clarissa.harris1@maryland.gov)

# Deer Status Update

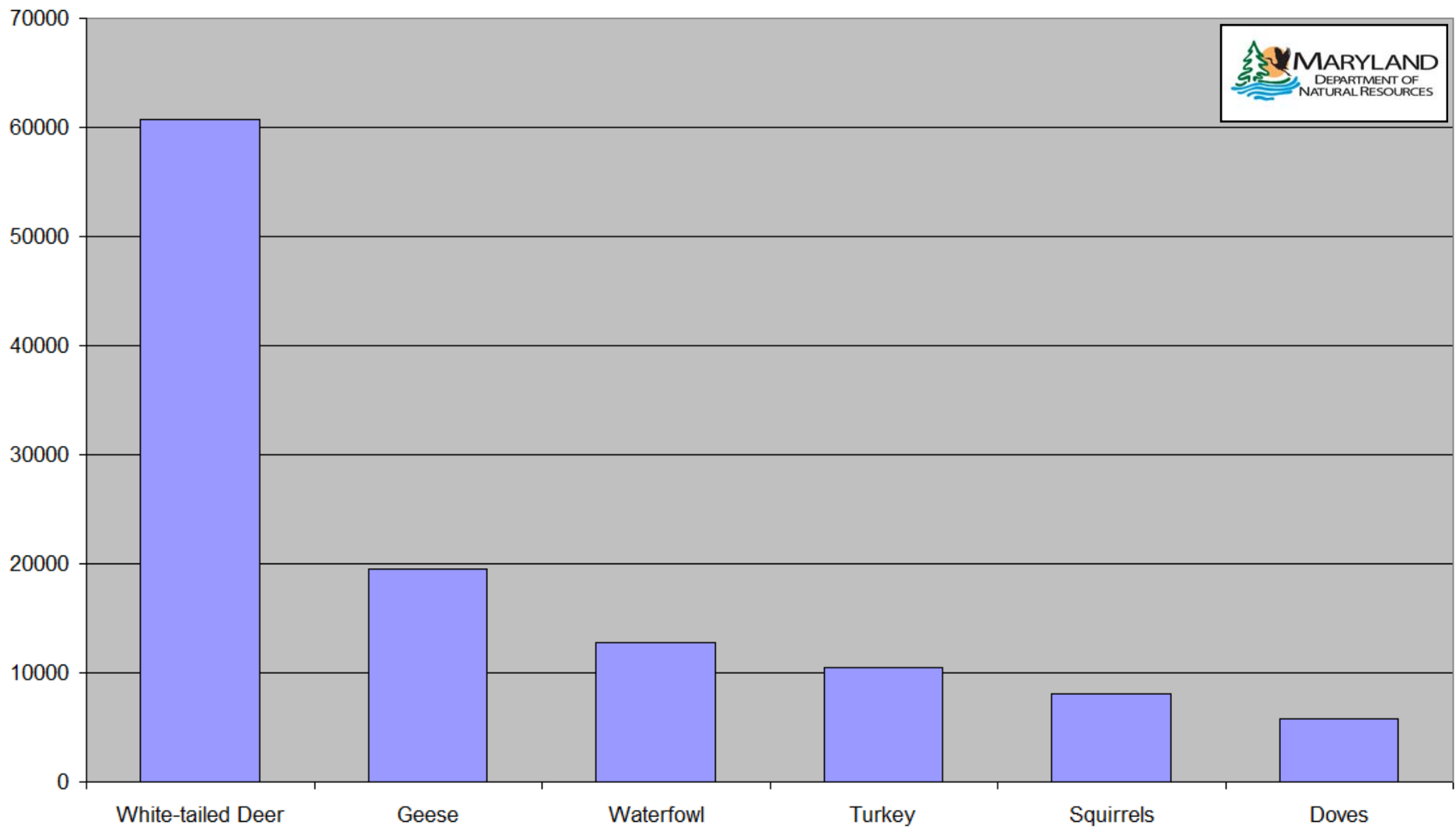
**-Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting,  
November 18, 2015**





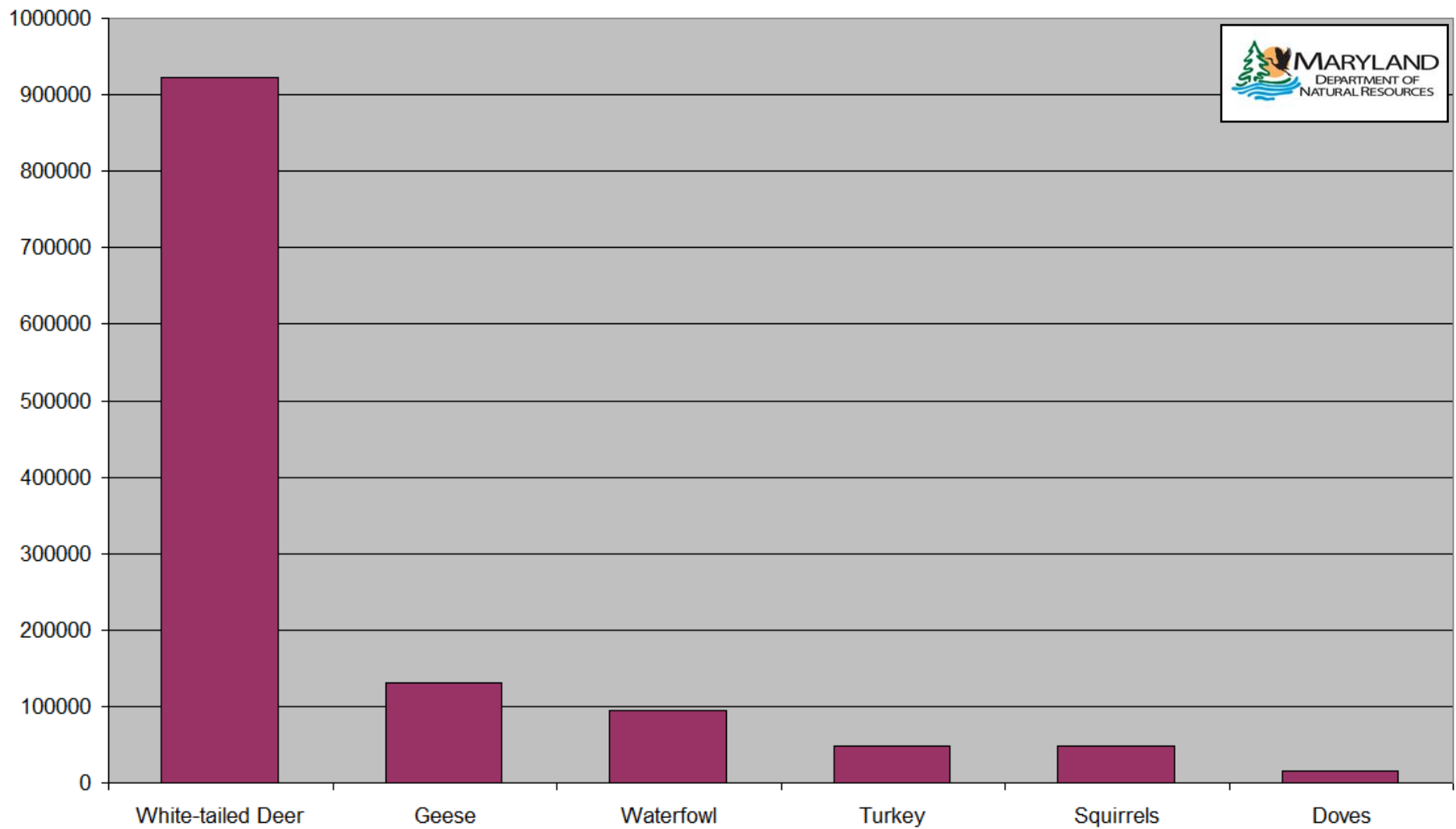
# Number of Hunters

Maryland Hunter Mail Survey, 2013-14



# Days Afield Hunting

Maryland Hunter Mail Survey, 2013-14







## **Deer Hunting in Maryland 2011:**

- \$221 million retail sales + multiplier effect**
- \$69 million salaries/wages/business owner income**
- 2,435 deer-related jobs**
- \$17.5 million state/local tax revenue**
- \$19 million federal tax revenue**

## **Wildlife & Heritage Service Budget:**

- 63% special funds (mainly hunting license sales)**
- 31% Federal Aid**





## **Deer Hunting Maryland 2011:**

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- \$19 million federal tax revenue**

## **Wildlife & Heritage Service Budget:**

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## **Agricultural Wildlife Damage Maryland:**

- \$9 million total**
- \$7.5 million deer annually**

## **Deer-Vehicle Collisions Maryland:**

- 30,000+ estimated collisions**
- \$100+ million in damage annually**

## **Forest and Landowner Damage \$\$?**





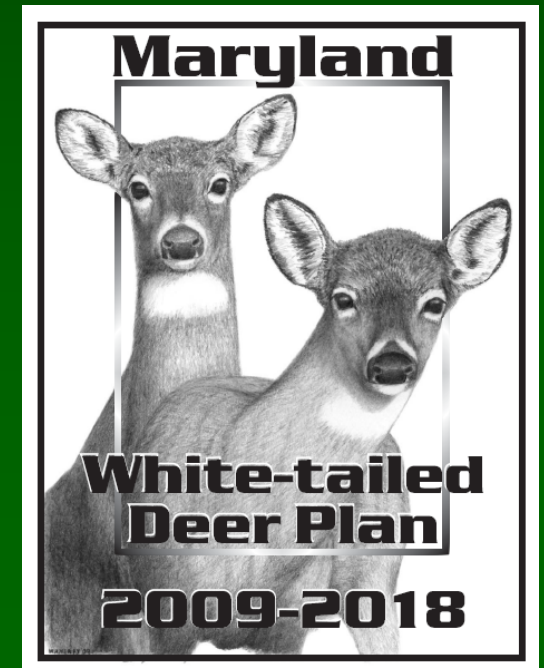
# Deer Management Today

-DNR Statewide Deer Management Plan (2009-2018)

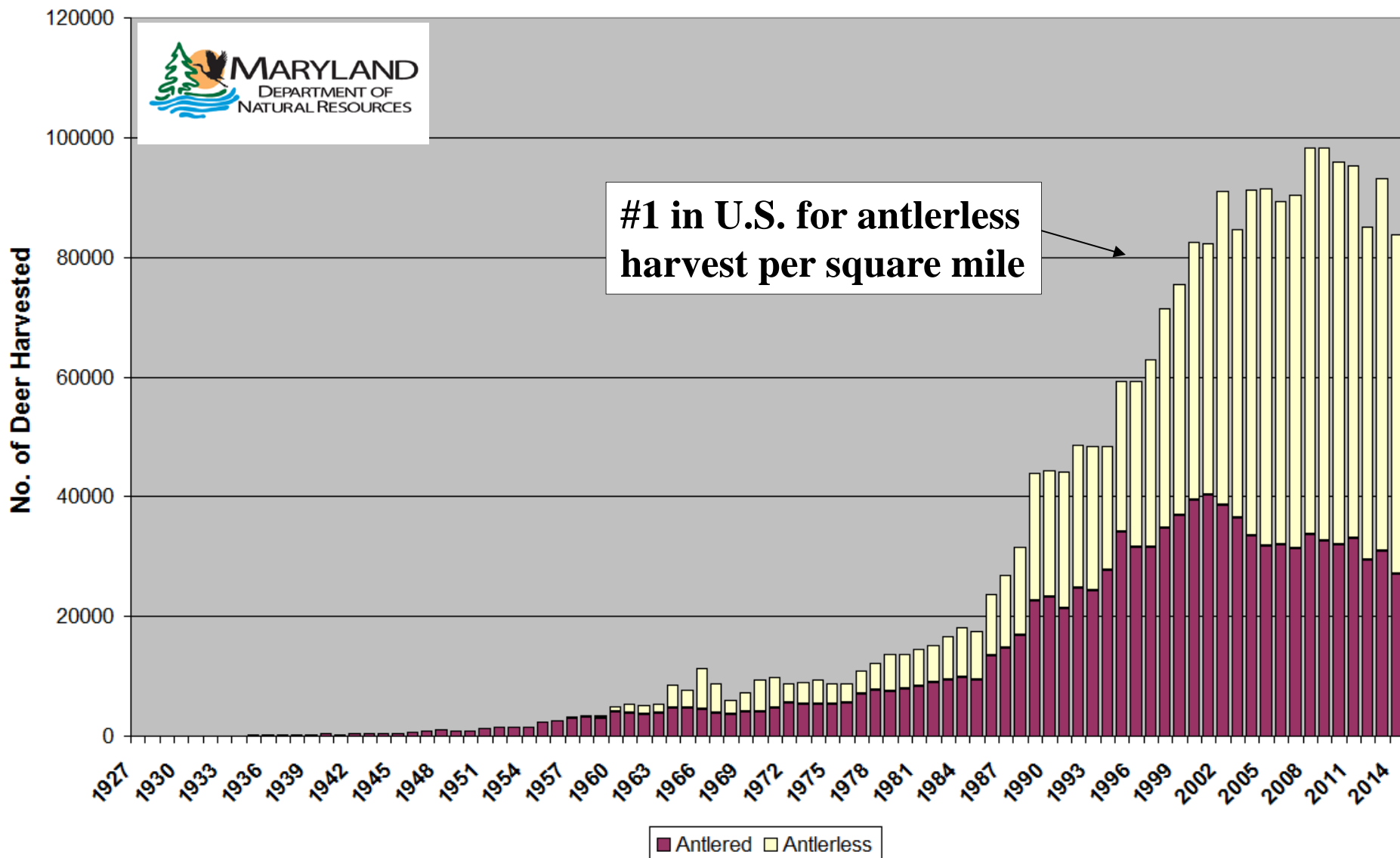
**-Manage deer for balance between cultural and biological carrying capacities**

## Primary Management Options

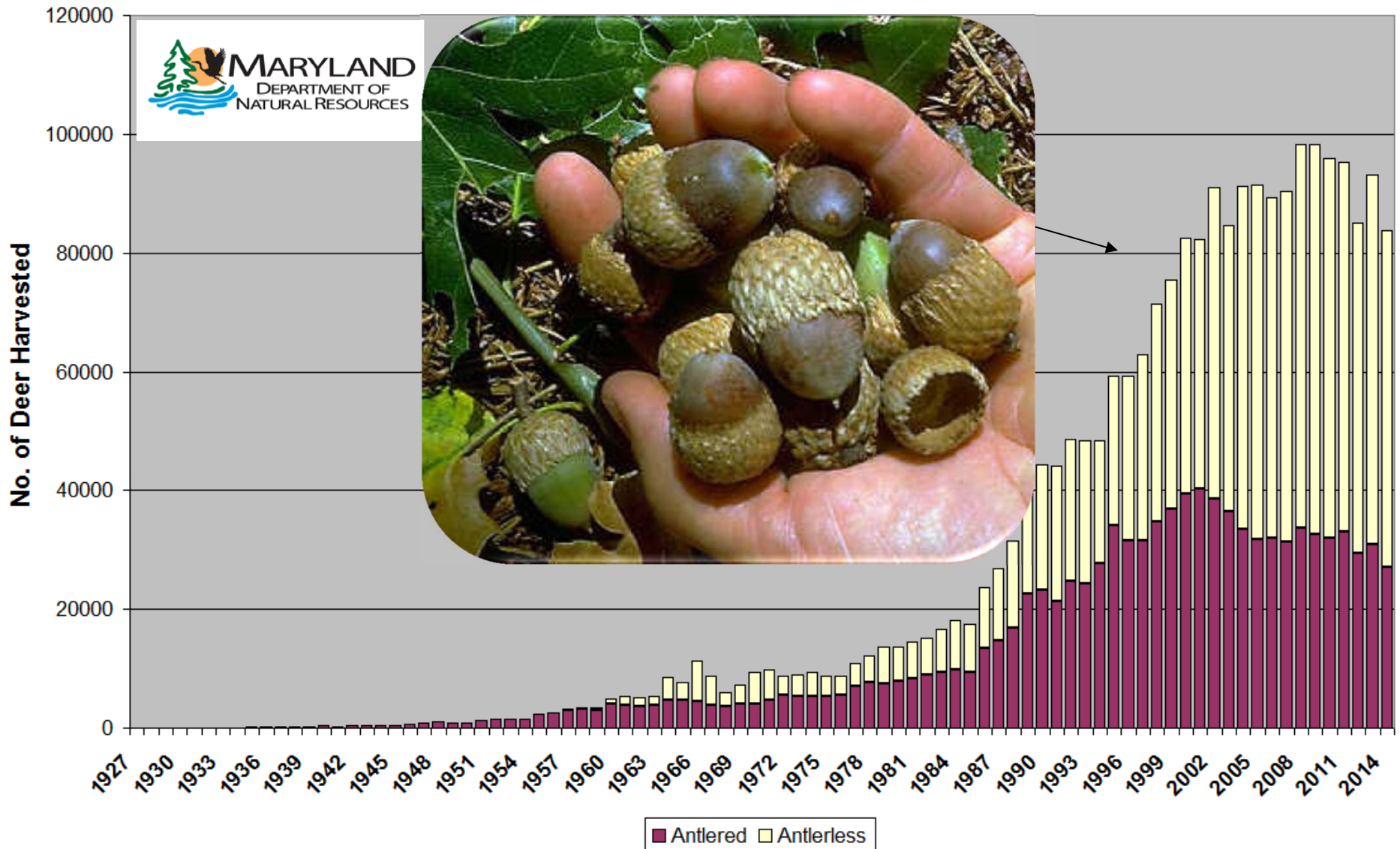
- Hunter Harvest
- Deer Management Permits (i.e., crop damage permits)
- Deer Cooperator Permits/Sharpshooting/LOAs
- Fencing
- Repellents/Deer resistant plants
  
- Deer Contraceptives / Sterilization



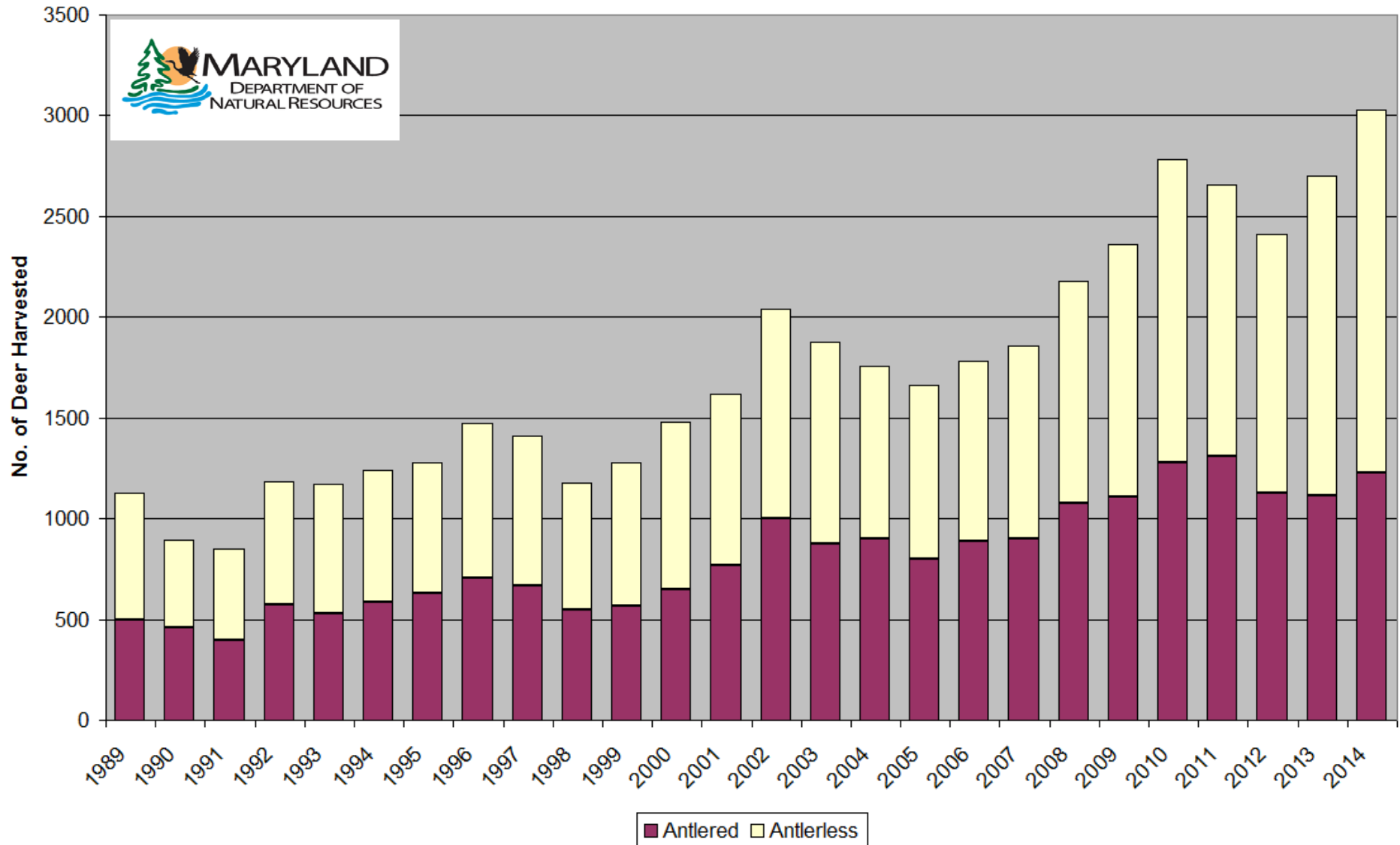
# Maryland White-tailed Deer Harvest 1927 - 2014



# Maryland White-tailed Deer Harvest 1927 - 2014



## Maryland Sika Deer Harvest, 1989 - 2014







## **Deer Seasons & Bag Limits**

**Early September – January 31 annually**

**45+ deer bag limit in Region B**

**5 deer bag limit in Region A**

**Region B unlimited antlerless deer bag limit for archery hunters**

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

**Variety of weapons allowed (modern muzzleloaders, crossbows, etc.)**

**Added opportunity via Sundays**

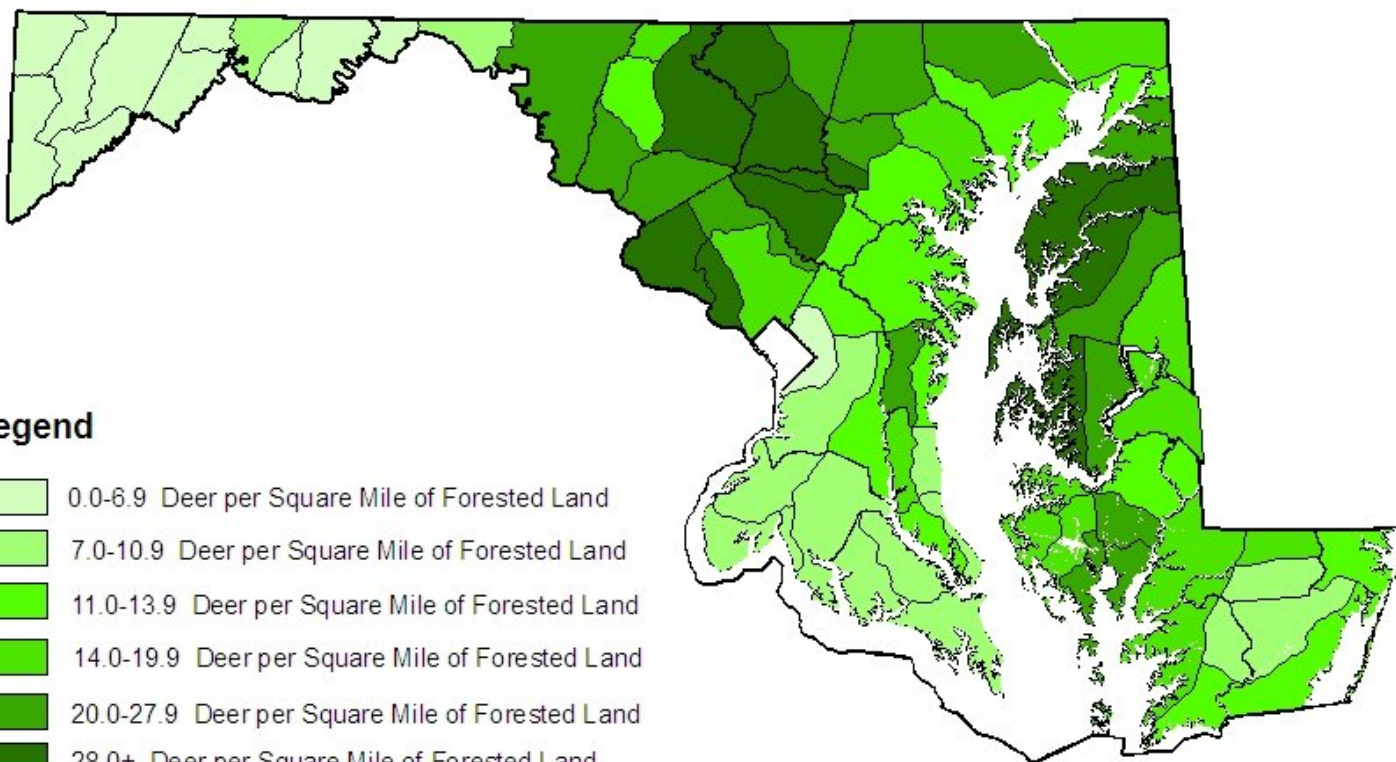
**WIN – WIN**

**Great recreational opportunities and serving a valuable management purpose at the same time**



# ANTLERLESS HARVEST BY HMU

*Average of 2012-13, 2013-14, & 2014-15 Seasons*

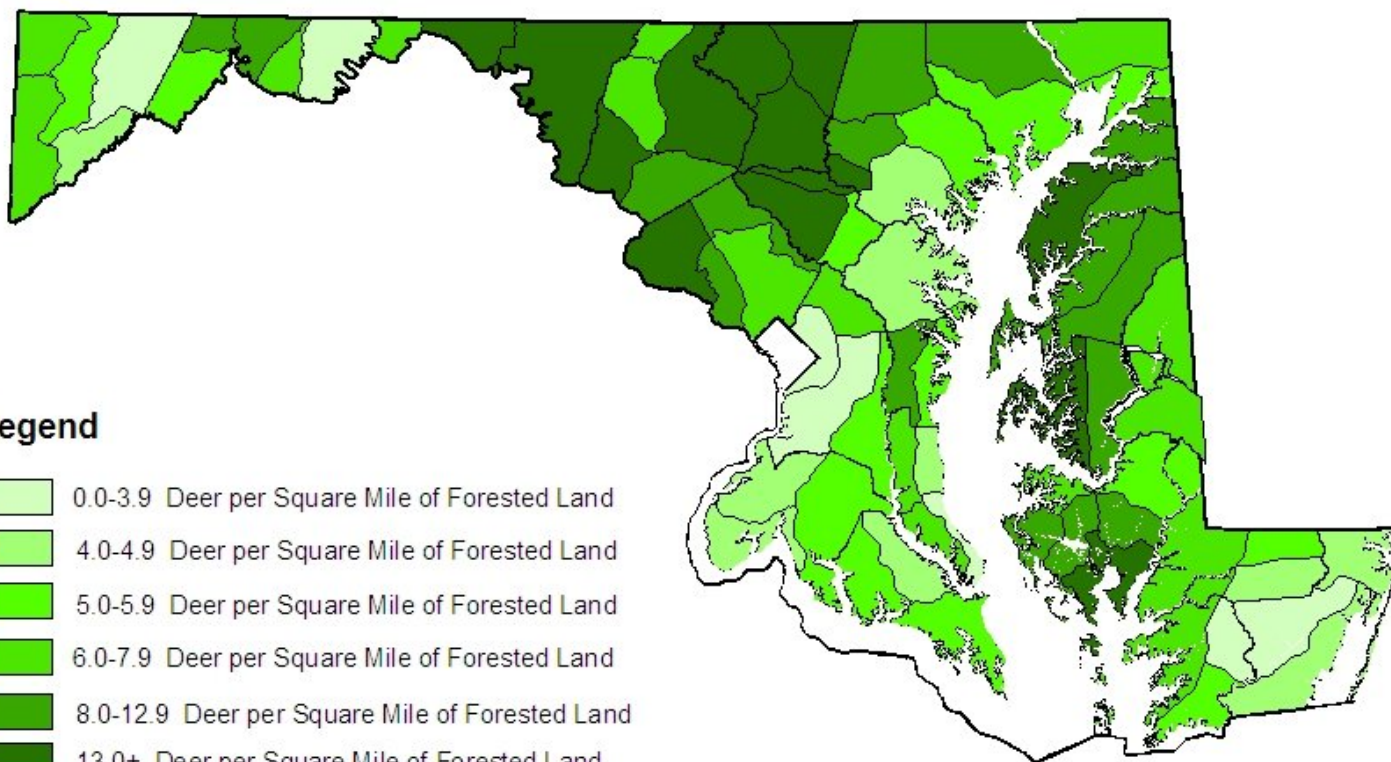


0 25 50 100 Miles



# ANTLERED HARVEST BY HMU

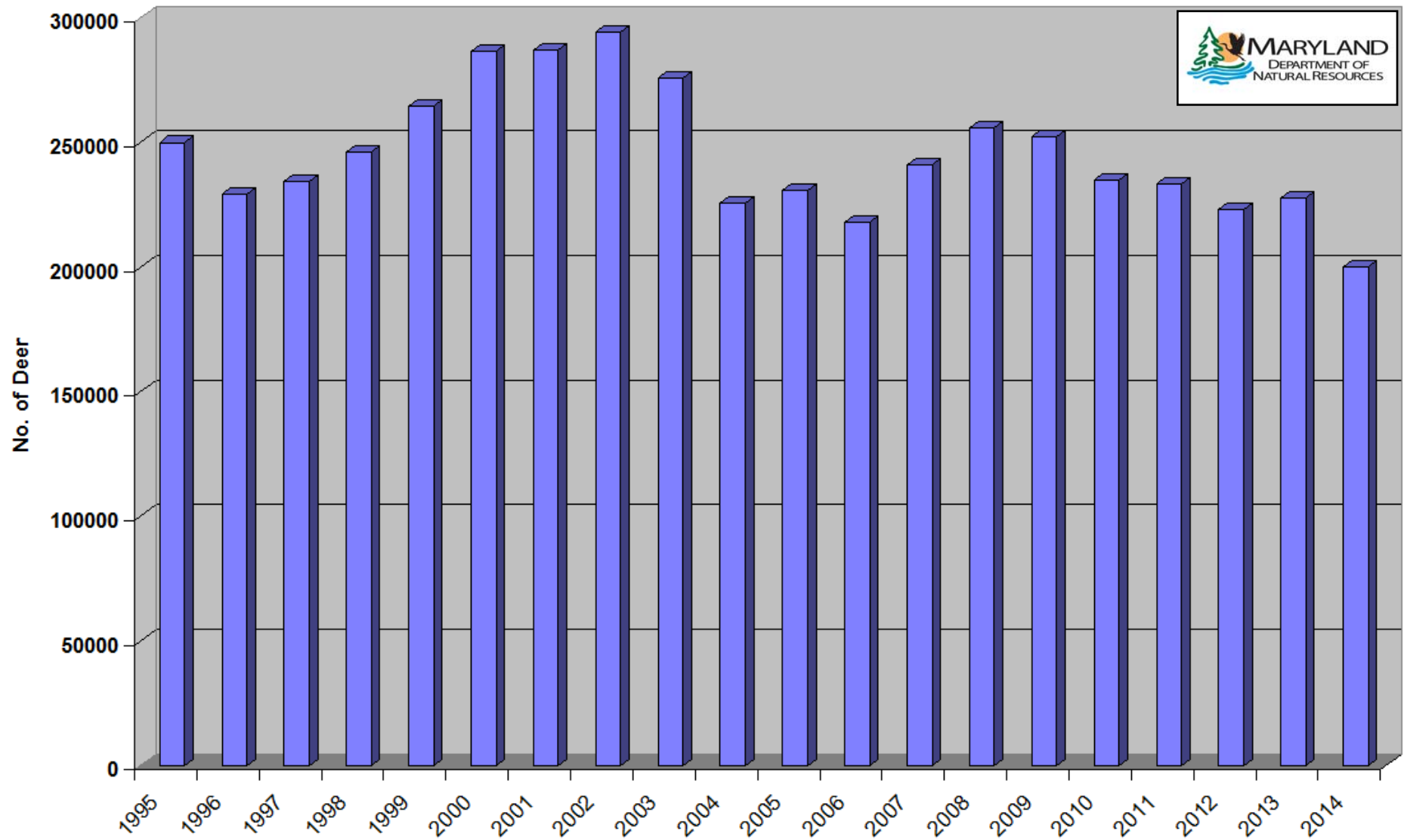
*Average of 2012-13, 2013-14, & 2014-15 Seasons*



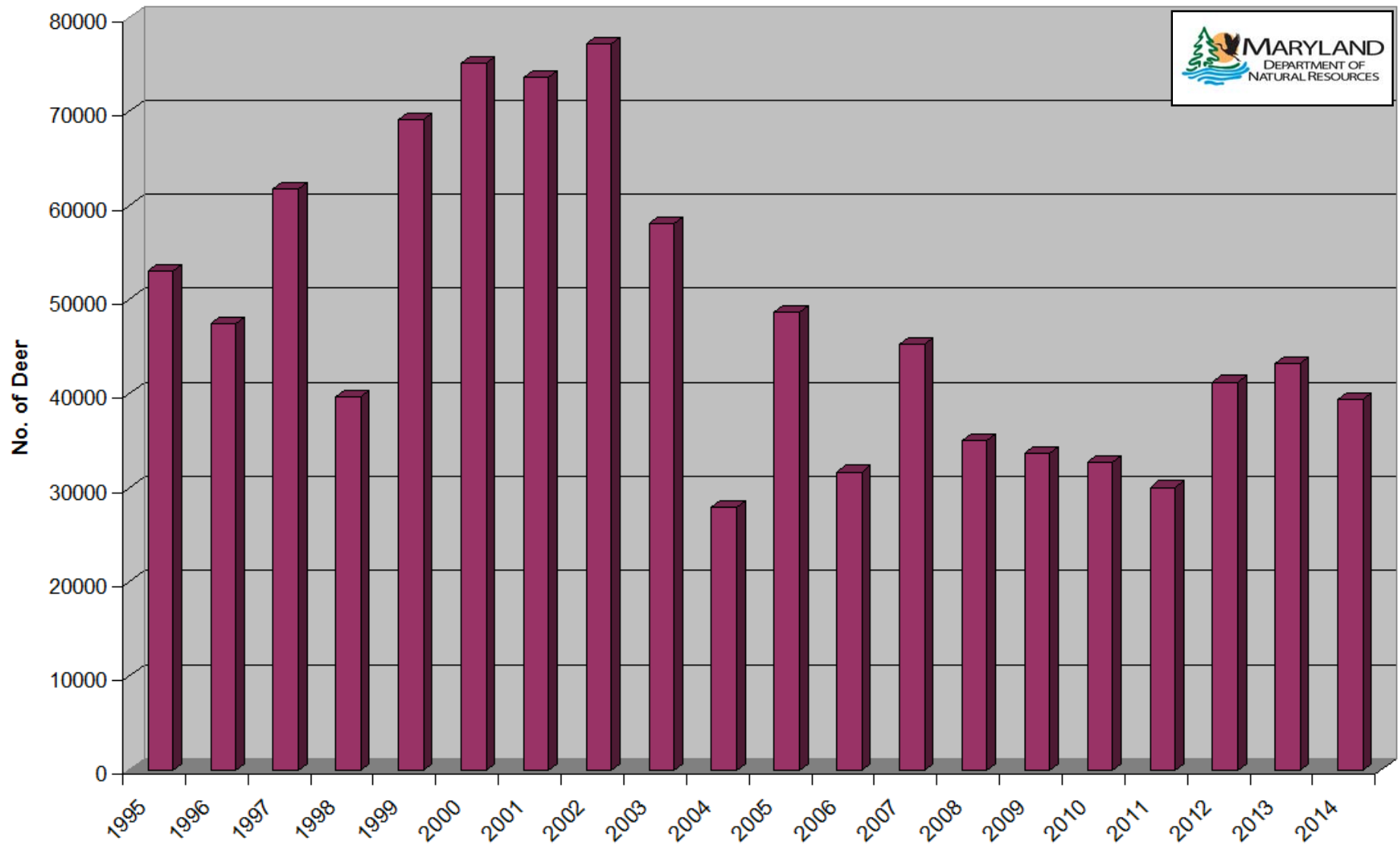
0 25 50 100 Miles



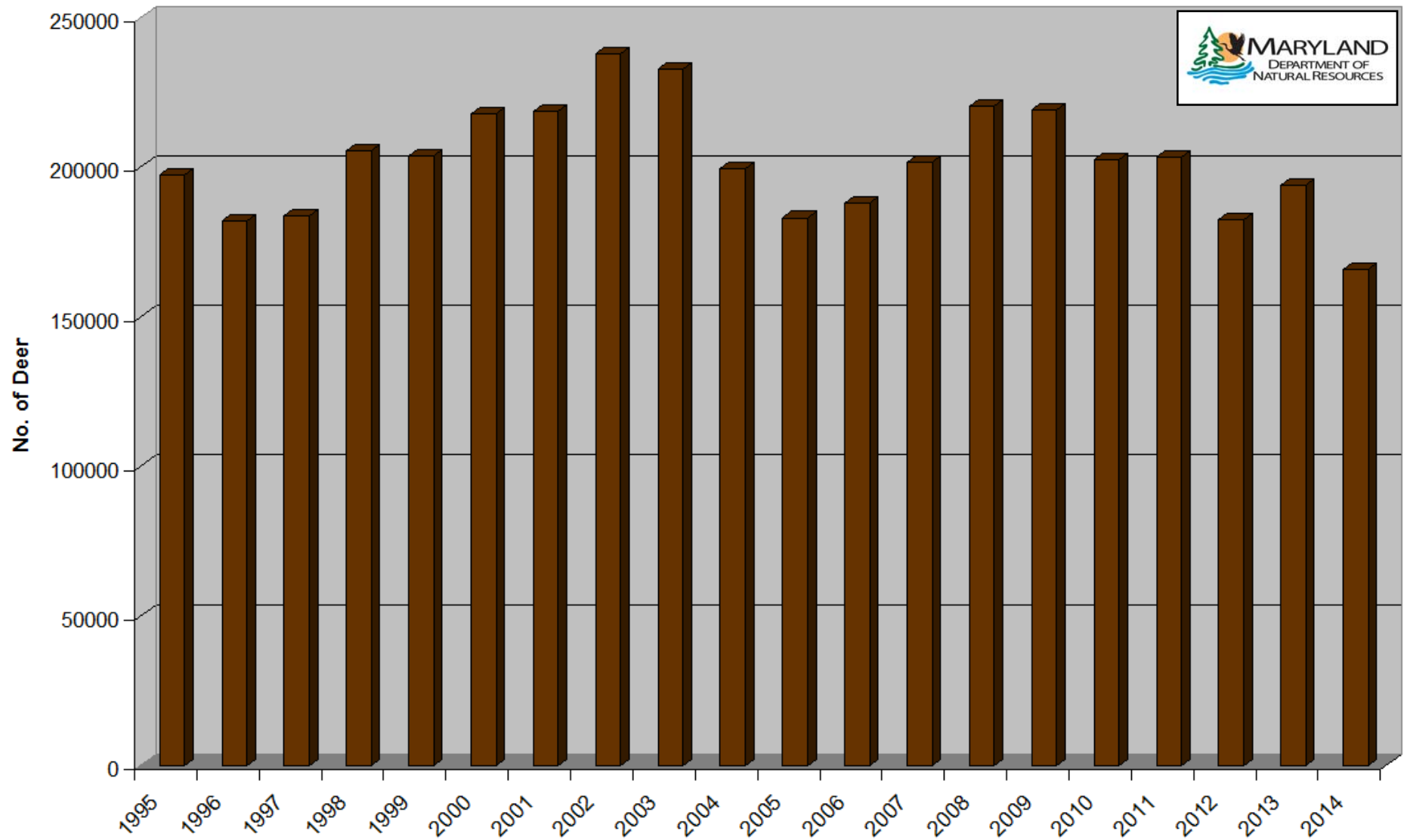
## Statewide Estimated White-tailed Deer Population, 1995 - 2014



## Region A Estimated White-tailed Deer Population, 1995 - 2014



## Region B Estimated White-tailed Deer Population, 1995 - 2014





# Deer Management Problems

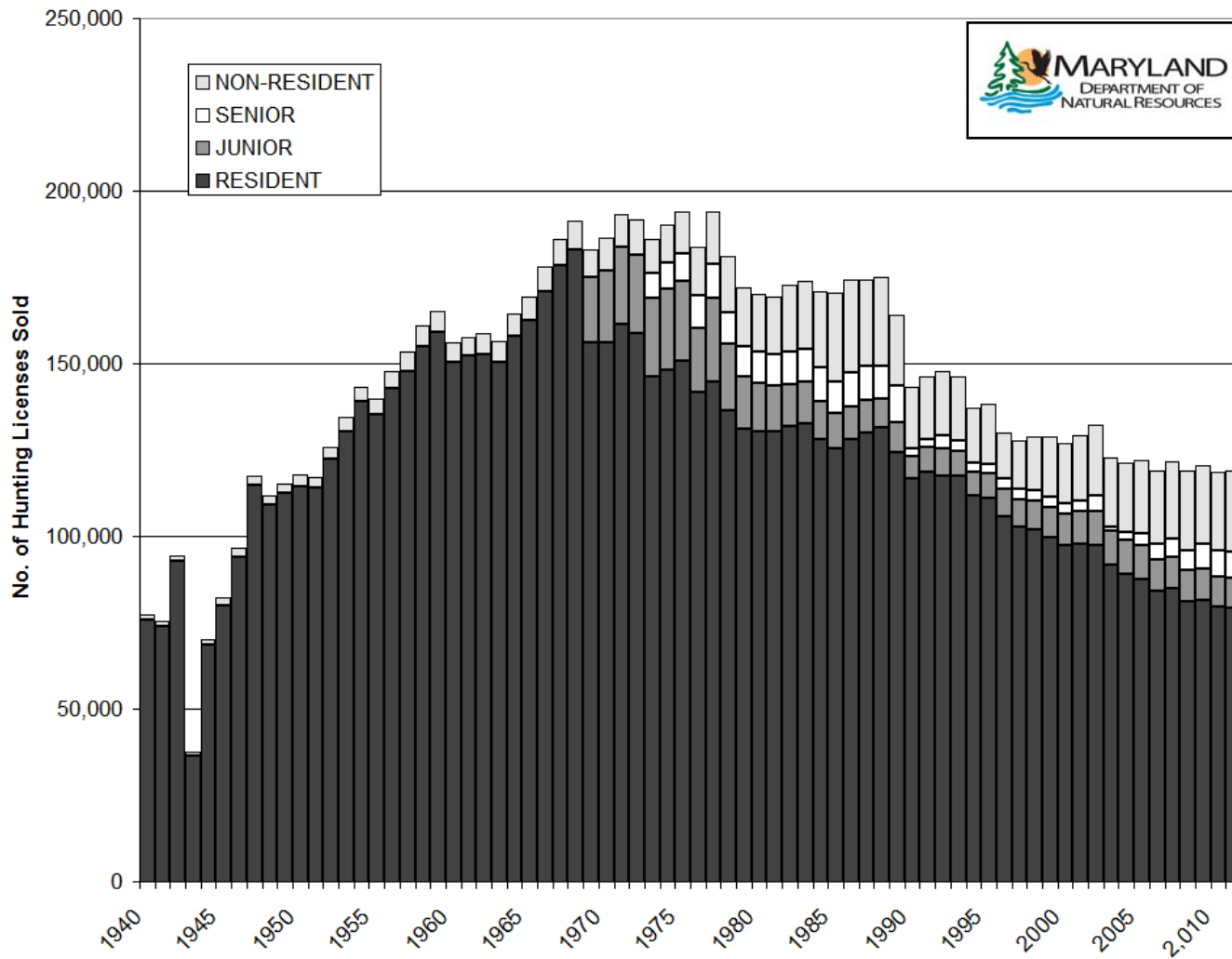
## 1. Lack of Access for Deer Hunting





# Deer Management Problems

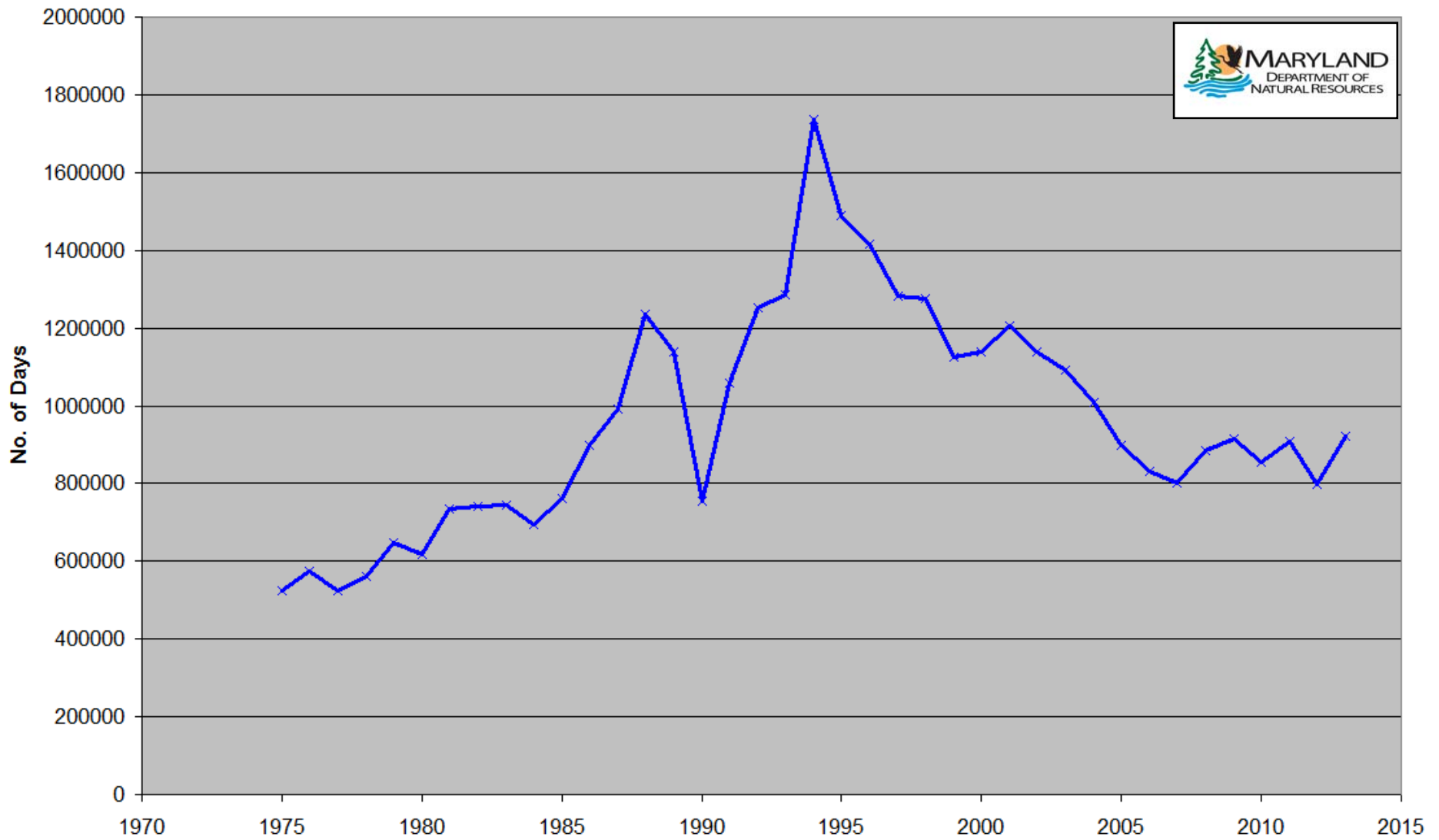
## 2. Lack of Hunters



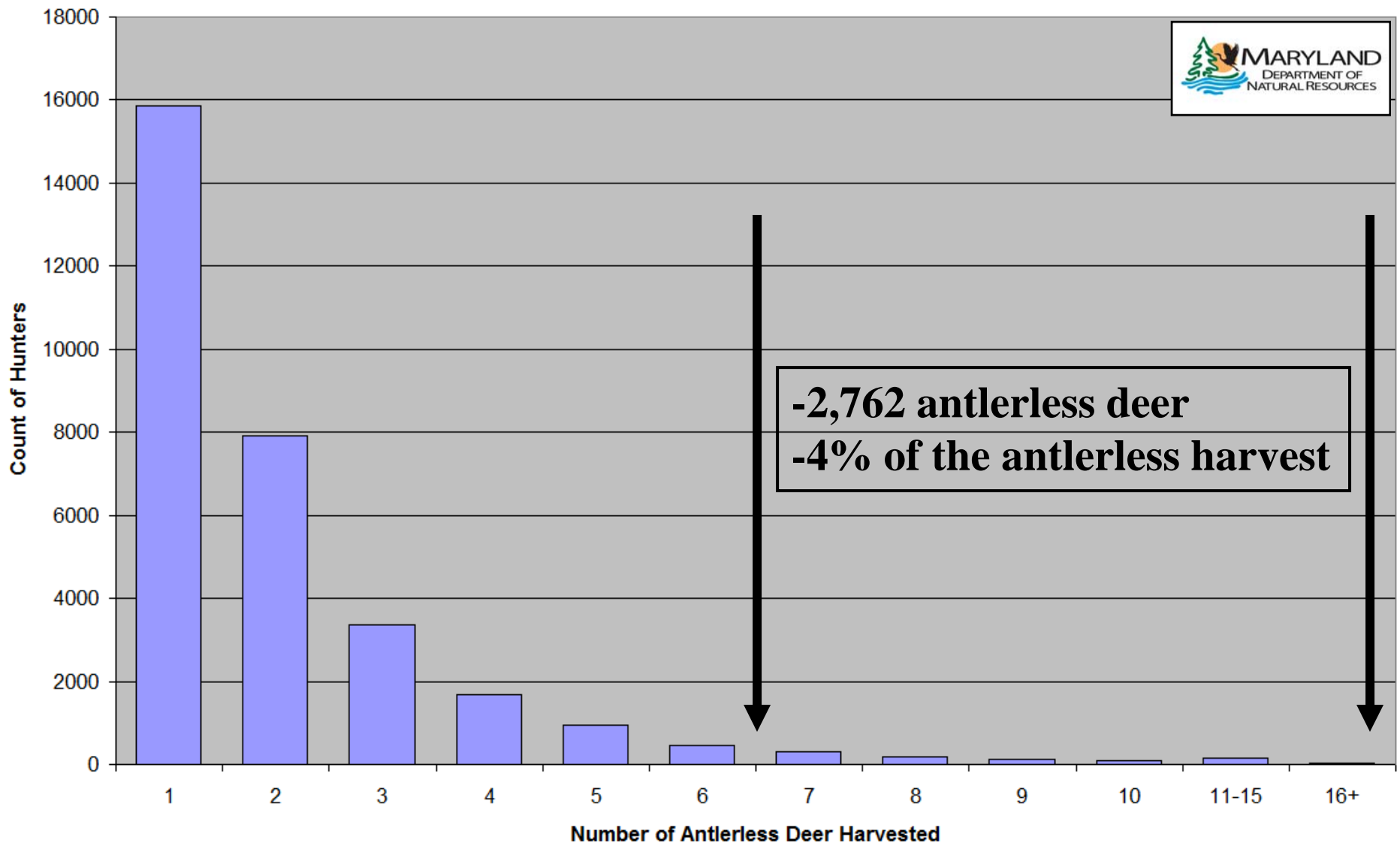


## Deer Hunting Effort

Number of Days Spent Deer Hunting Annually Based on Hunter Mail Survey



### Count of Hunters By Number Of Antlerless Deer They Harvested, 2013-14





# Deer Management Problems

## 3. Not Shooting Enough Deer & Not Shooting the Right Deer

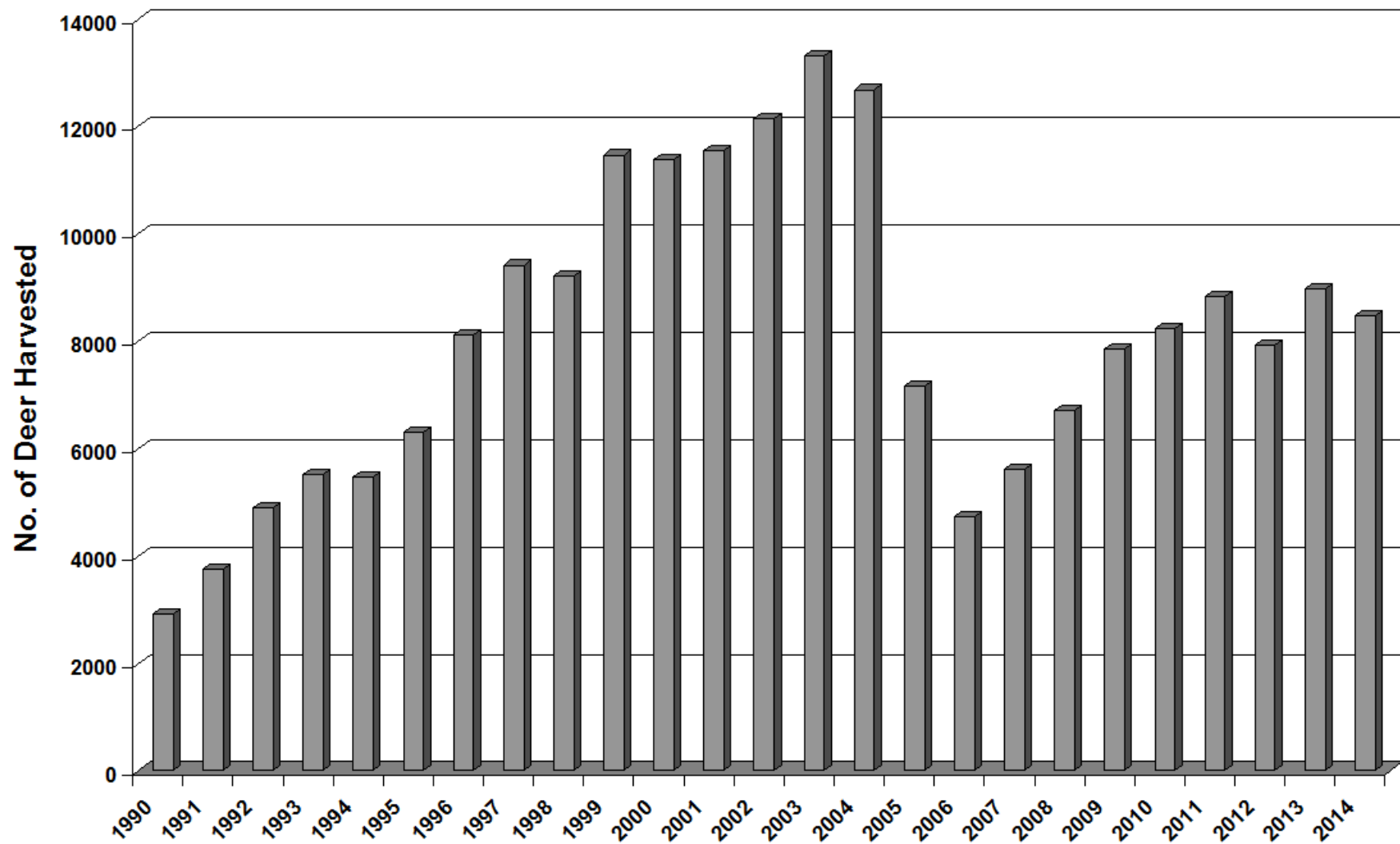


VS.



# Deer Management Permits

Statewide Deer Management Permit (DMP) Harvest, 1990 - 2014



# Deer Management Permits

- Farmers complaining about deer damage
- Hunters complaining about farmers with crop damage permits

## 2014 DMP Stats

- 1,711 permits issued
- Authorized the harvest of 33,000+ deer
- 8,482 deer actually harvested (25%)
- 11,400 “agents” listed on the permits
- 2,000 “agents” actually harvested anything



# Recent Regulatory/Legislative Changes

- **Crossbow expansion**
- **Region A boundary change**
- **Reduced archery safety zones\***
- **Statewide antlered deer bag limit**
- **Reduced antlerless deer bag limit in Region A**
- **Expanded white-tailed and sika deer bag limits**
- **Expanded Sunday hunting – public & private\***
- **Antler restrictions**
- **Shotgun/rifle zone change in Frederick County**
- **January – March firearm season in St. Mary's & Charles counties\***
- **Weapons allowed to be used on DMPs\***

\*Legislative change



M2

6lr0757  
CF 6lr0758

Bill No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Drafted by: Tracy

Typed by: Gail

Stored – 10/30/15

Proofread by \_\_\_\_\_

Checked by \_\_\_\_\_

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Prohibition on Bow Hunting**

3 **PG 436-16**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from hunting with a bow and arrow or crossbow  
5 in Prince George's County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Natural Resources  
8 Section 10-410(o) and (p)(2)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Natural Resources  
13 Section 10-410(q)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

# Waterfowl Season Changes

Here is what we used to do:

- Population review in mid-summer with current-year data
- Federal frameworks set by early August
- Public meeting and comment period in mid-August
- Season selection by early September to set that fall's hunting season
- WAC and Mig. Bird Committee input in July and August
- Very tight timeline!



# Waterfowl Season Changes

Here is what we will do:

- Population review in late September (3 yr average)
- Federal frameworks set by mid-December
- Public meeting and comment period in early March
- Season selection during April for the following fall's hunting season
- WAC and Mig. Bird Committee input in February and March
- Hunters will know the seasons five months in advance
- Seasons will be selected in time to be included in Hunting Guide

# Questions?

