

Iowa Deer Population and Harvest Summary

Deer Study Advisory Committee Meeting

25 February 2020

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Balancing Iowa's deer herd



- Hunting opportunity
- Viewing opportunity
- Economy
- Tourism
- Food resource
 - HUSH

- Agricultural depredation
- Property damage
 - accidents, ornamentals/landscaping
- Deer health and disease
 - resource competition, CWD, EHD
- Environmental impacts
- Human impacts

Benefits

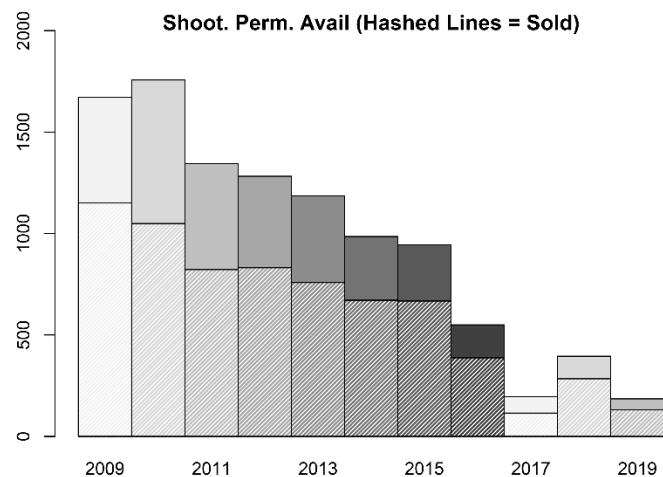
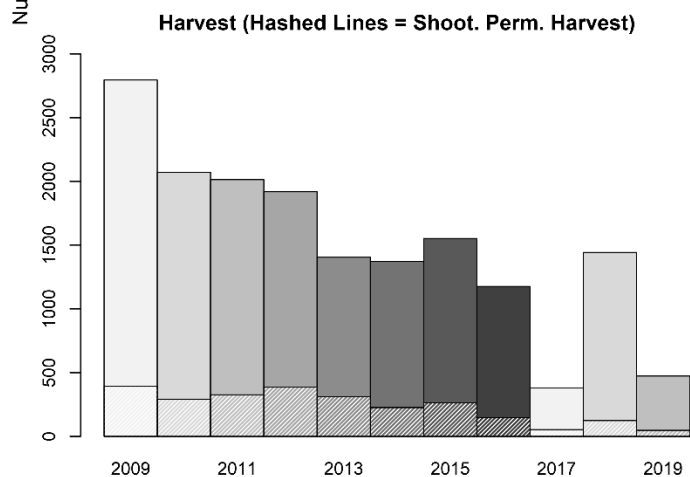
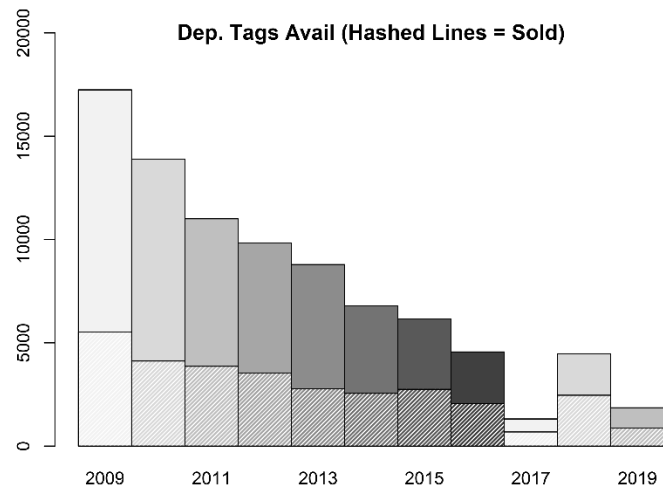
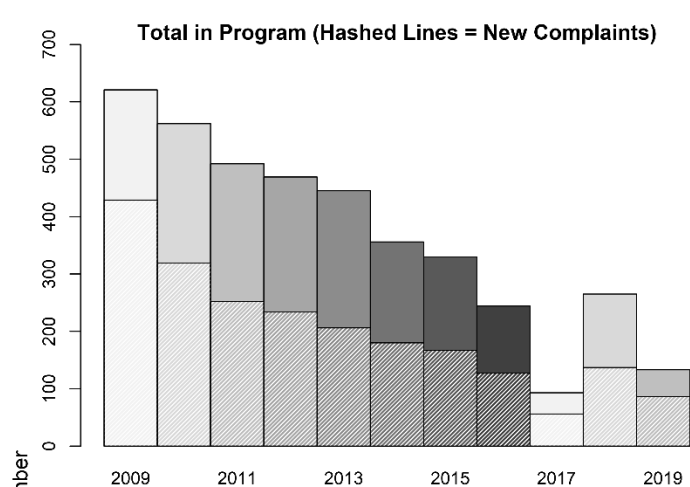
Costs

Deer population goal

Manage Iowa's deer population at a level consistent with that in the mid-1990's, which sustains an annual harvest of 100,000 – 120,000 deer



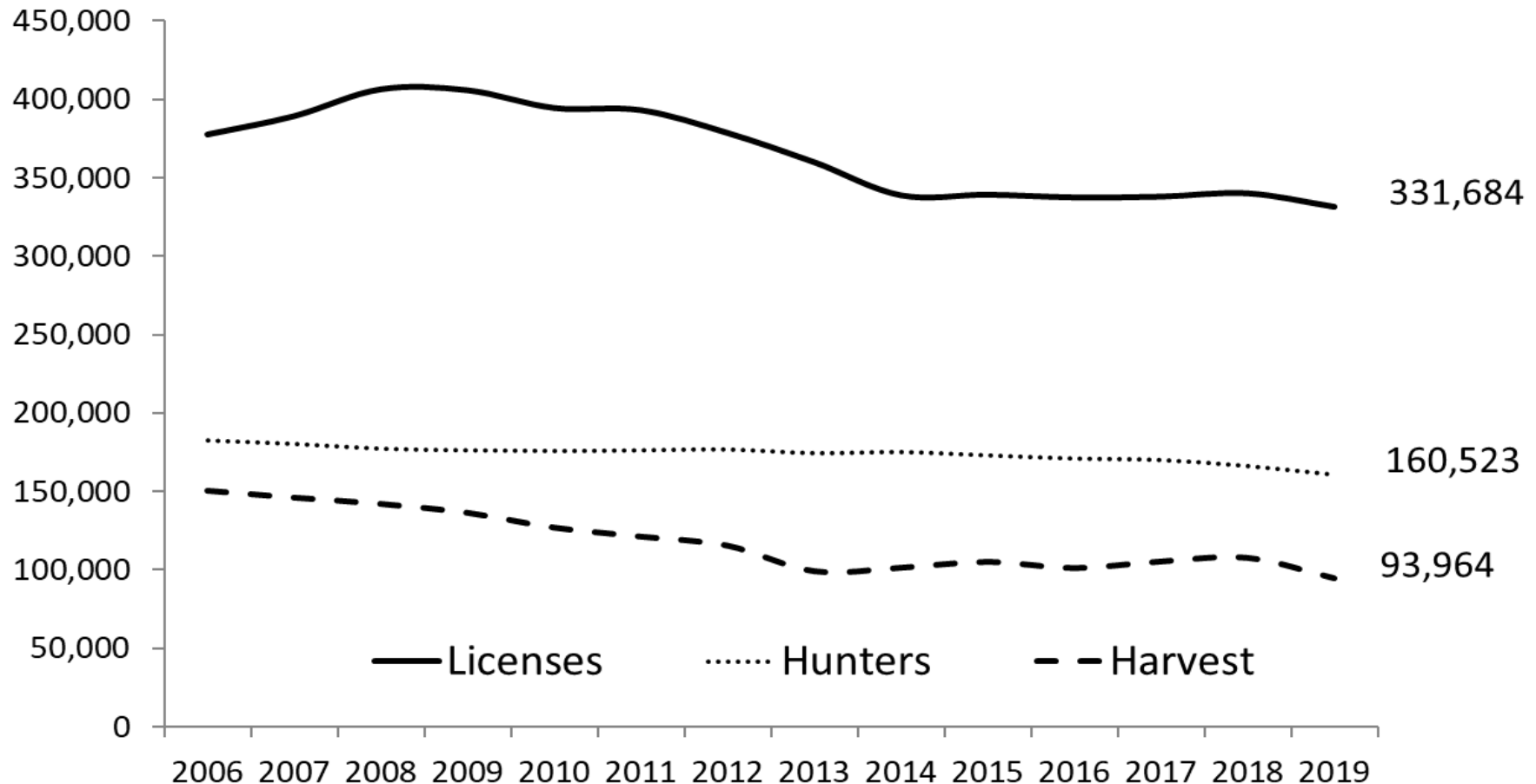
Depredation summary



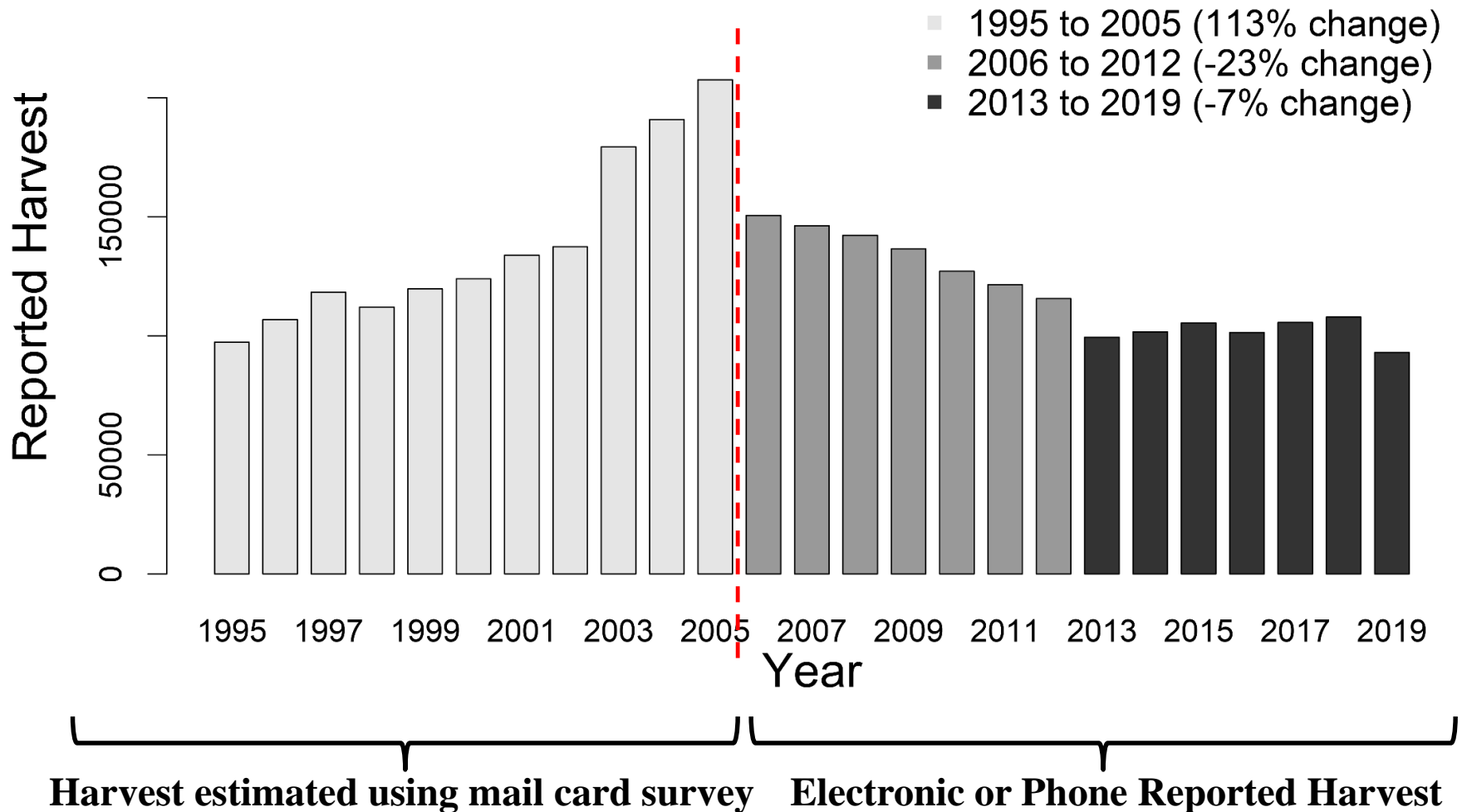
Harvest summary

Season	2018 - 2019		2019 - 2020		% Change	
	Licenses	Harvest	Licenses	Harvest	Licenses	Harvest
Youth	9,693	3,650	10,110	3,510	4%	-4%
Disabled	397	138	410	142	3%	3%
Archery	87,559	21,344	85,761	22,836	-2%	7%
Early Muzzleloader	10,514	3,594	10,023	3,687	-5%	3%
Shotgun 1 (Paid) ¹	60,087	24,142	59,752	18,147	-1%	-25%
Shotgun 2 (Paid) ²	64,508	23,259	62,382	19,809	-3%	-15%
Shotgun LOT ³	42,302	11,837	39,647	10,075	-6%	-15%
Late Muzzleloader	39,972	9,885	36,303	7,724	-9%	-22%
Special Hunts	2,827	1,405	3,116	1,499	10%	7%
Depredation	3,875	2,242	4,298	2,070	11%	-8%
January Antlerless	3,059	797	4,247	1,202	39%	51%
Nonresidents ⁴	15,002	5,476	14,897	5,017	-1%	-8%
Total	340,252	107,857	331,684	93,964	-3%	-13%

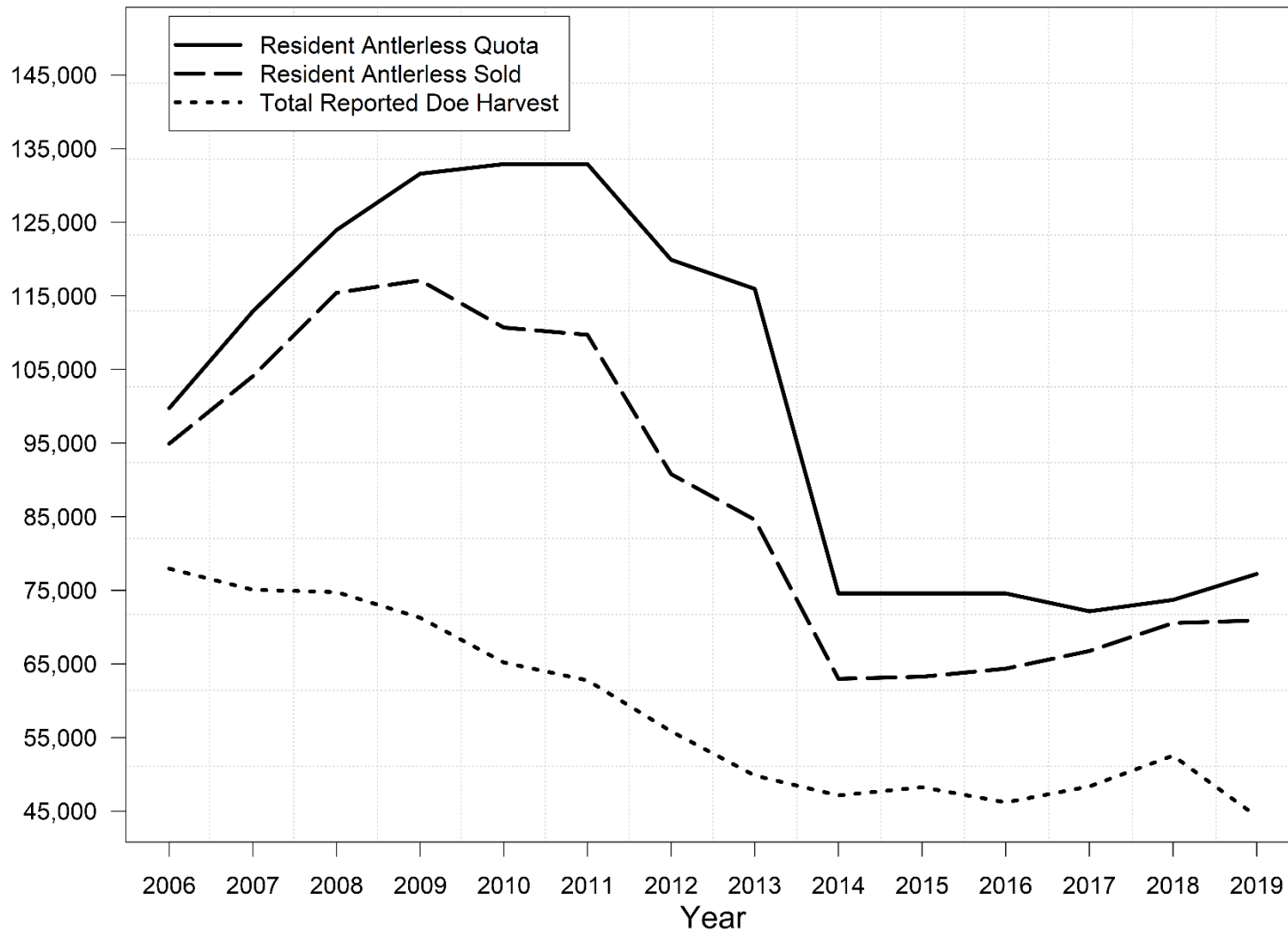
License, hunter, and harvest trends



Statewide antlered harvest



Resident antlerless license sales, quota, and harvest

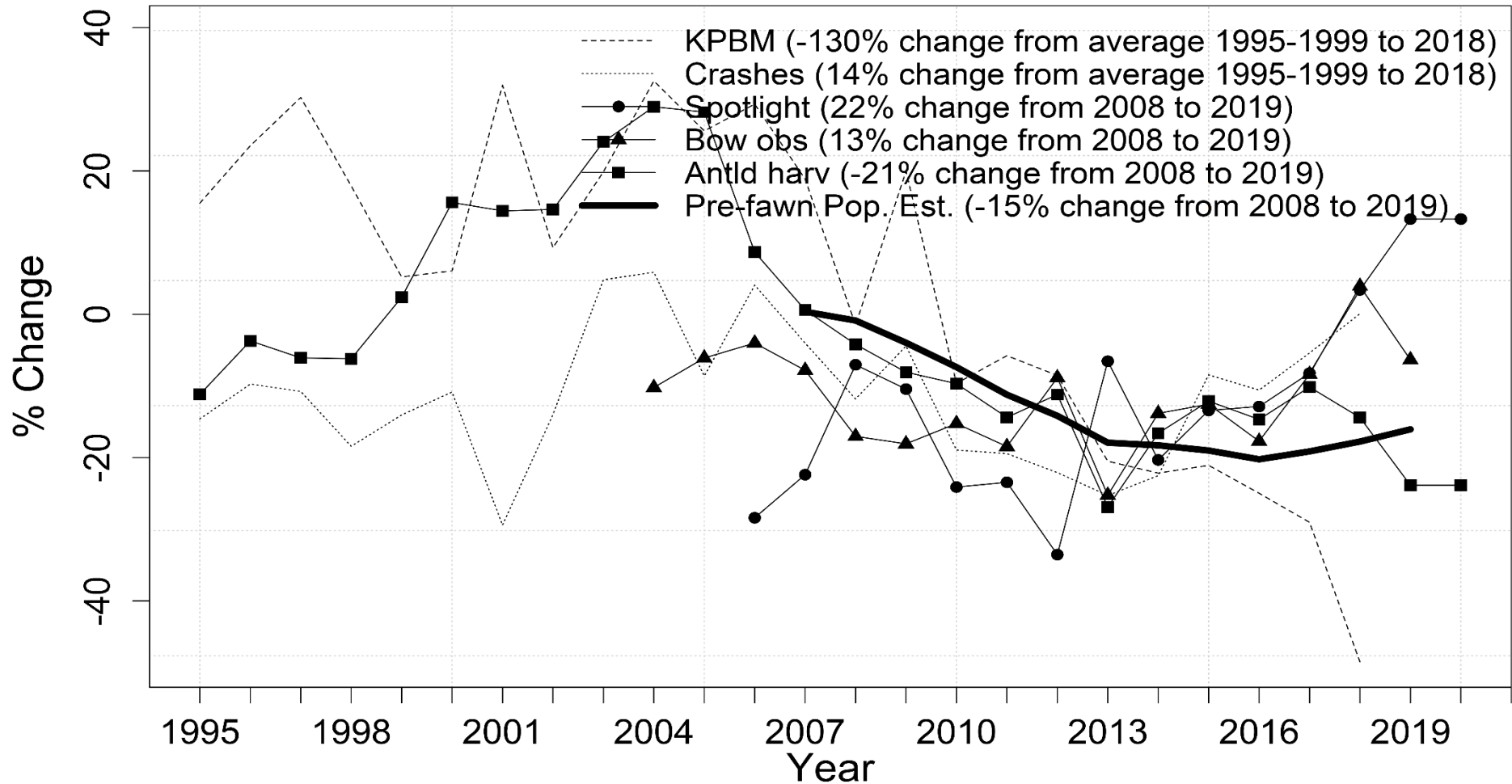


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Licenses sold may exceed quota in some counties.

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Statewide population trend



Preliminary as of February 24, 2020

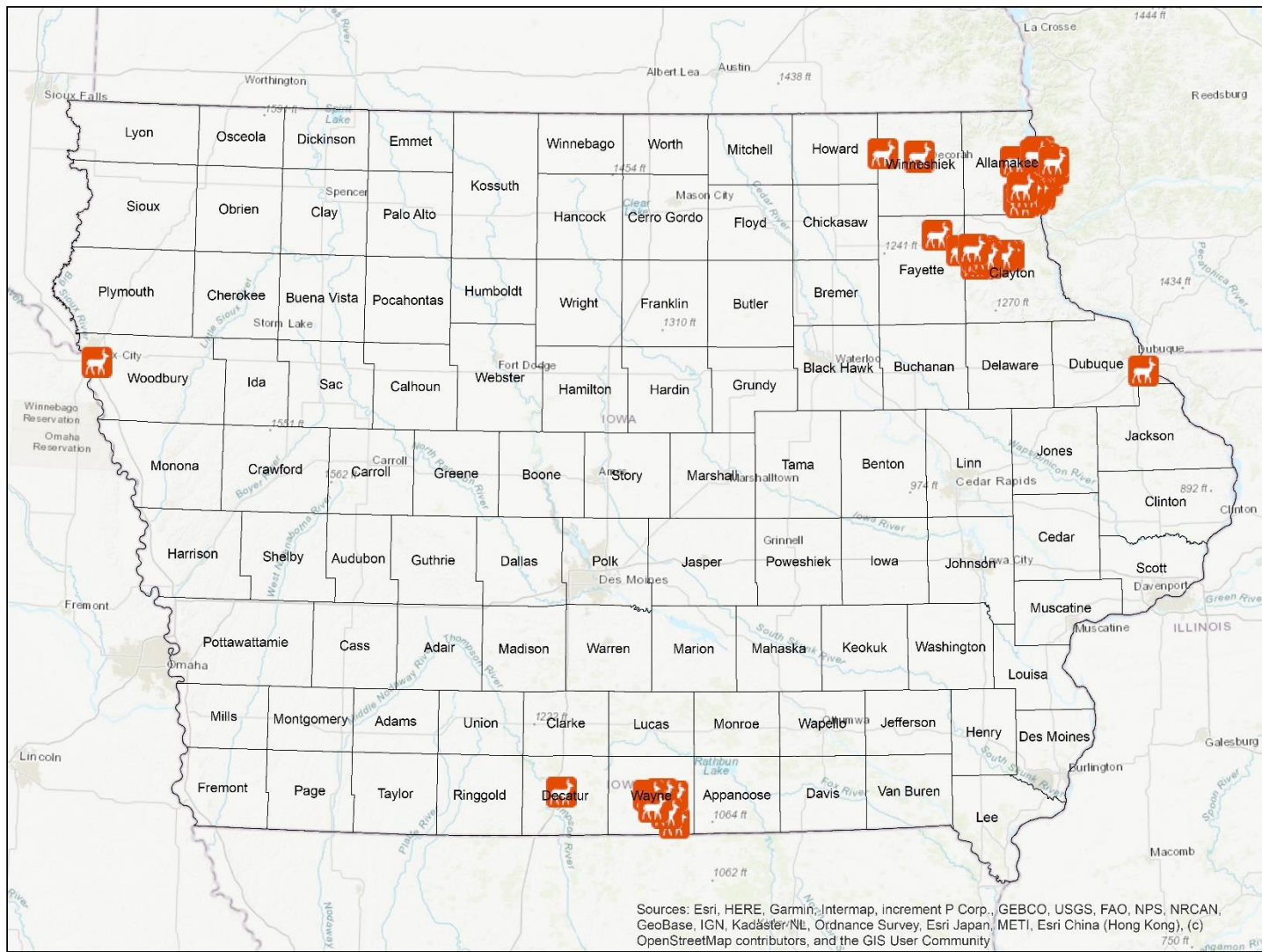
Deer Hunter Survey

- Postcard survey sent to 4,000 deer hunters in 2018/2019
 - 1,640 responses (41% response rate)
- Overall, 76% of deer hunters are satisfied with their Iowa deer hunting experience
- 53% of respondents feel the current deer population is about right, 32% feel it is too low, and 10% feel it is too high
- 57% of respondents feel the deer population should increase in the future, while 30% feel it should remain the same and 13% feel it should decrease

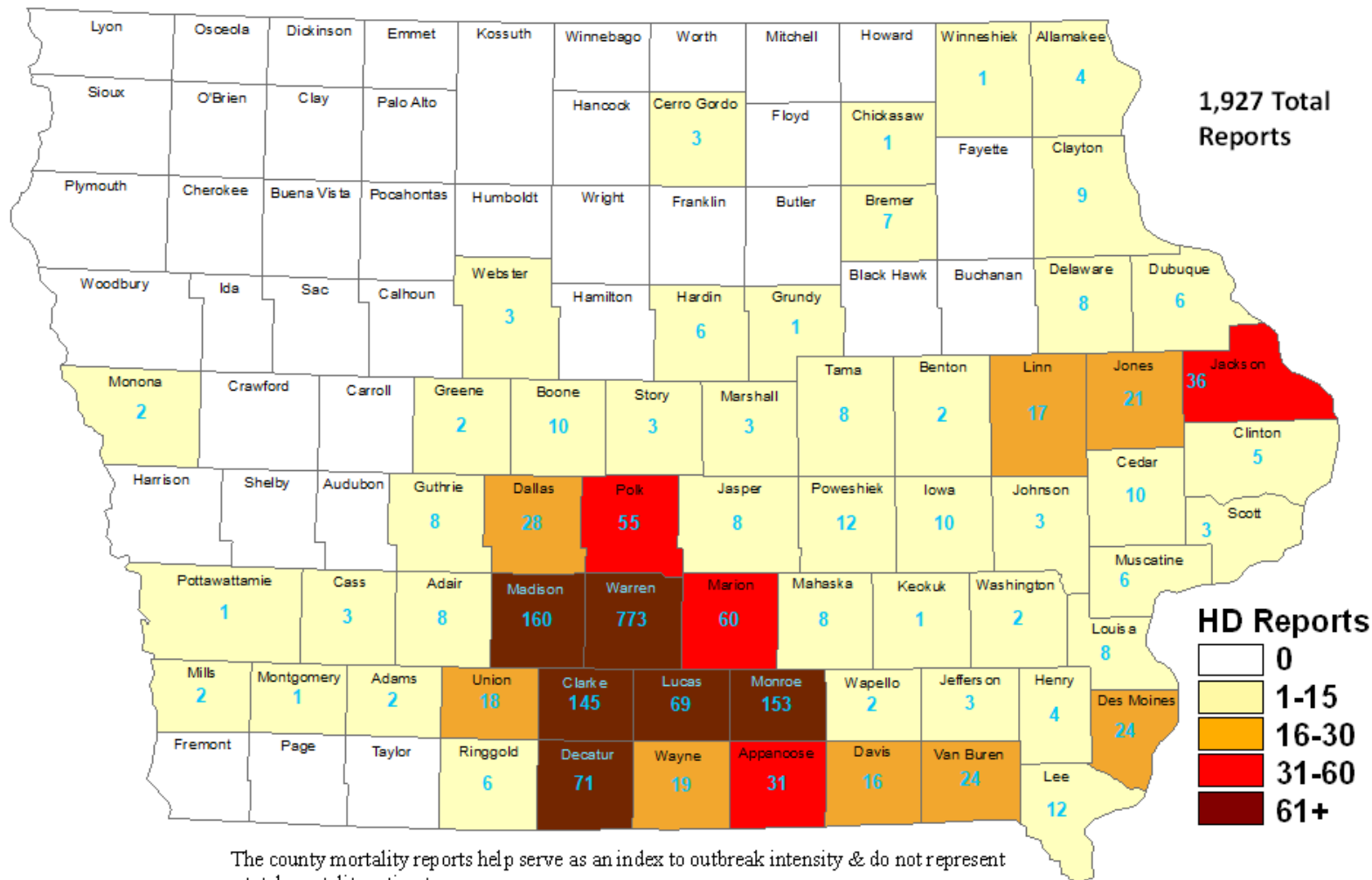
Landowner Survey

- Mail and telephone survey to Iowa landowners
 - 1,242 responses
- 92% of landowners had deer on their property
- 40% of landowners thought the deer population was too high
 - 67% thought deer population was too high during peak in 2002
- 38% of landowners thought the deer population should stay the same, whereas 15% thought it should increase and 29% thought it should decrease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)



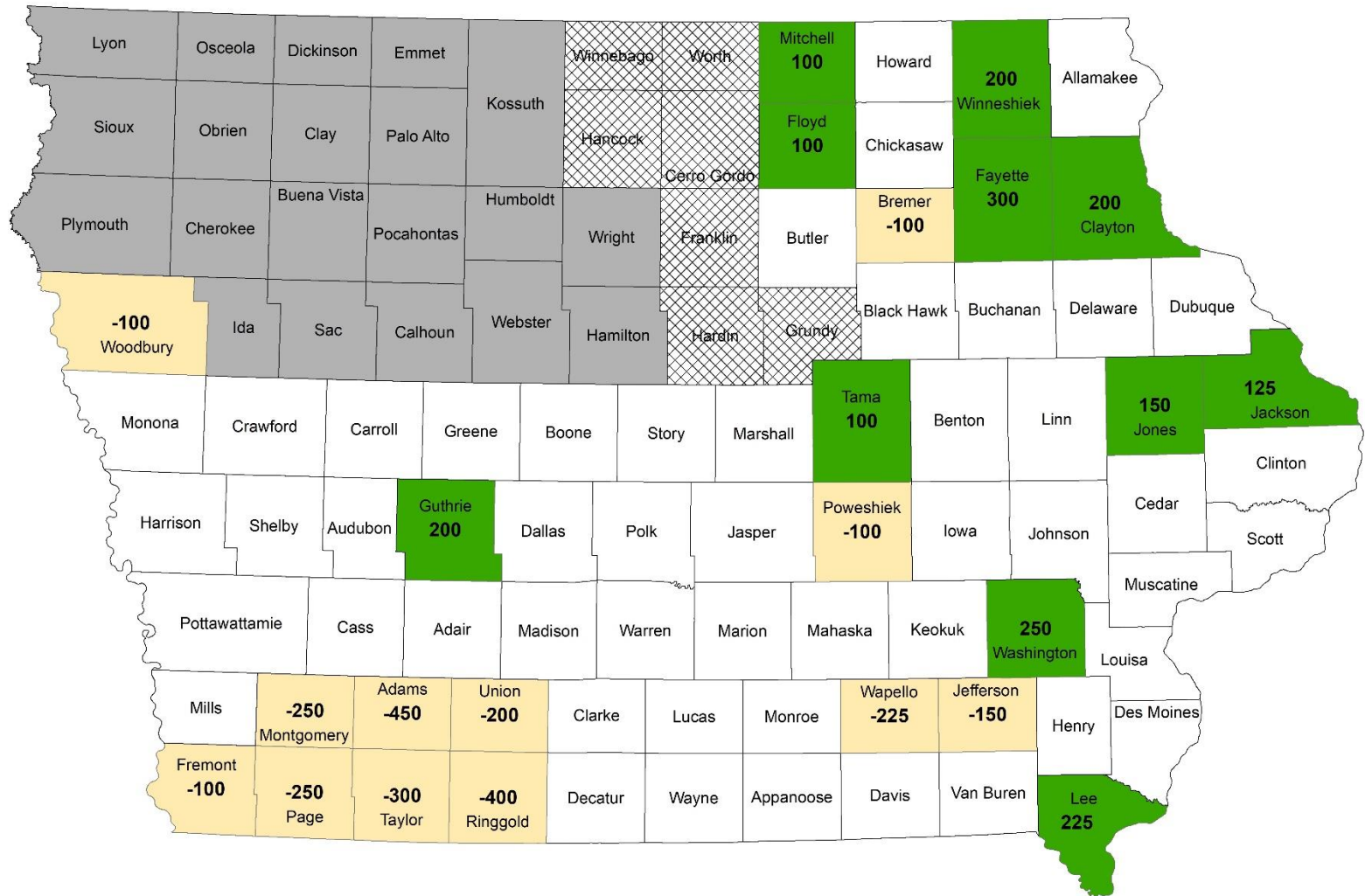
Suspect HD Reports - 2019



Proposed changes for 2019-2020

- 11 counties with proposed antlerless quota increases
 - Eastern Iowa
- 12 counties with proposed antlerless quota decreases
 - Southwest Iowa
- Net decrease of 575 antlerless licenses statewide
- Remove buck-only restriction for early muzzleloader season in 20 northwest Iowa counties
- Remove buck-only restriction for both early muzzleloader and first shotgun seasons in 7 northwest Iowa counties
- January antlerless season

Proposed changes for 2019-2020



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