

*Preview of
2020-21 &
2021-22*



*Hunting &
Trapping
Seasons*

**Chuck Yoest, Species Program Manager
Wildlife & Forestry Division**

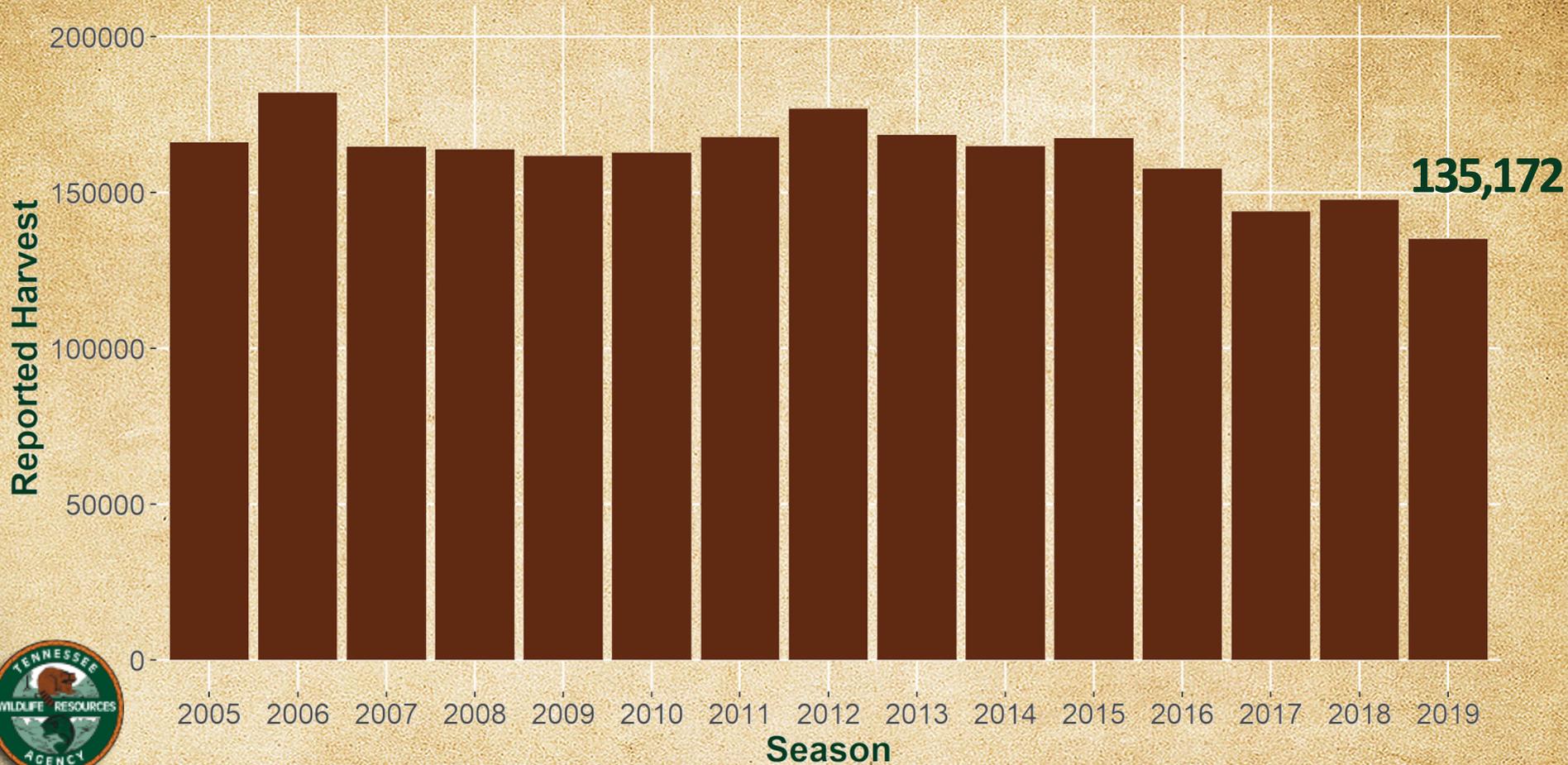




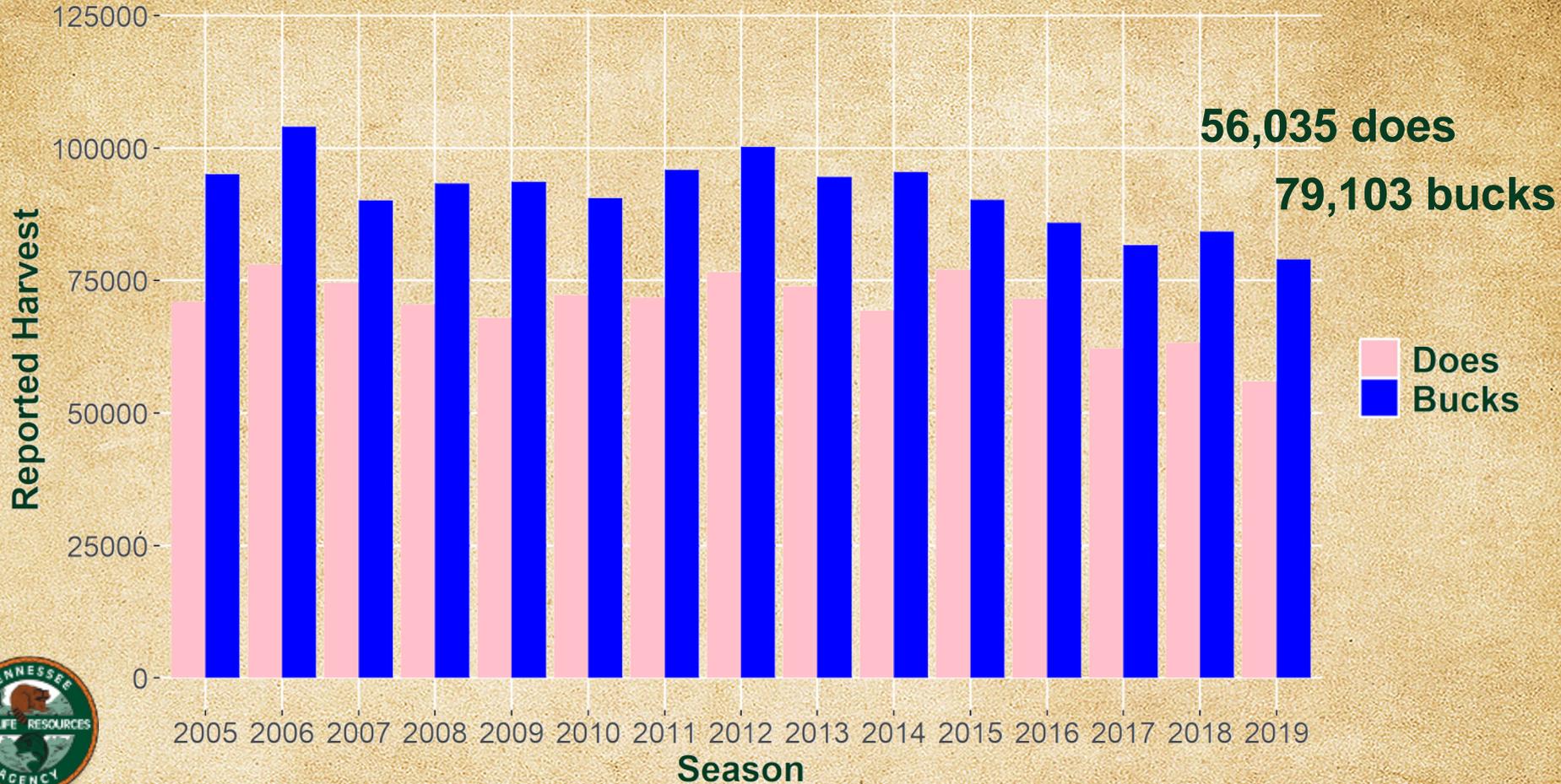
Deer Hunting



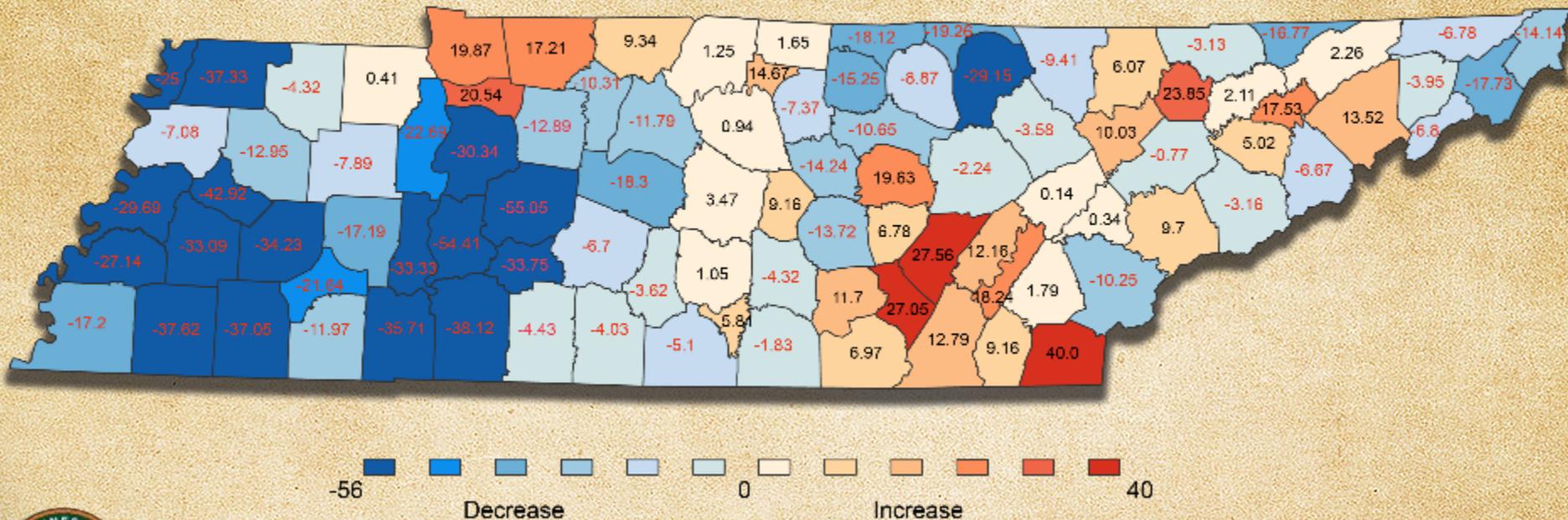
Statewide Reported Harvest



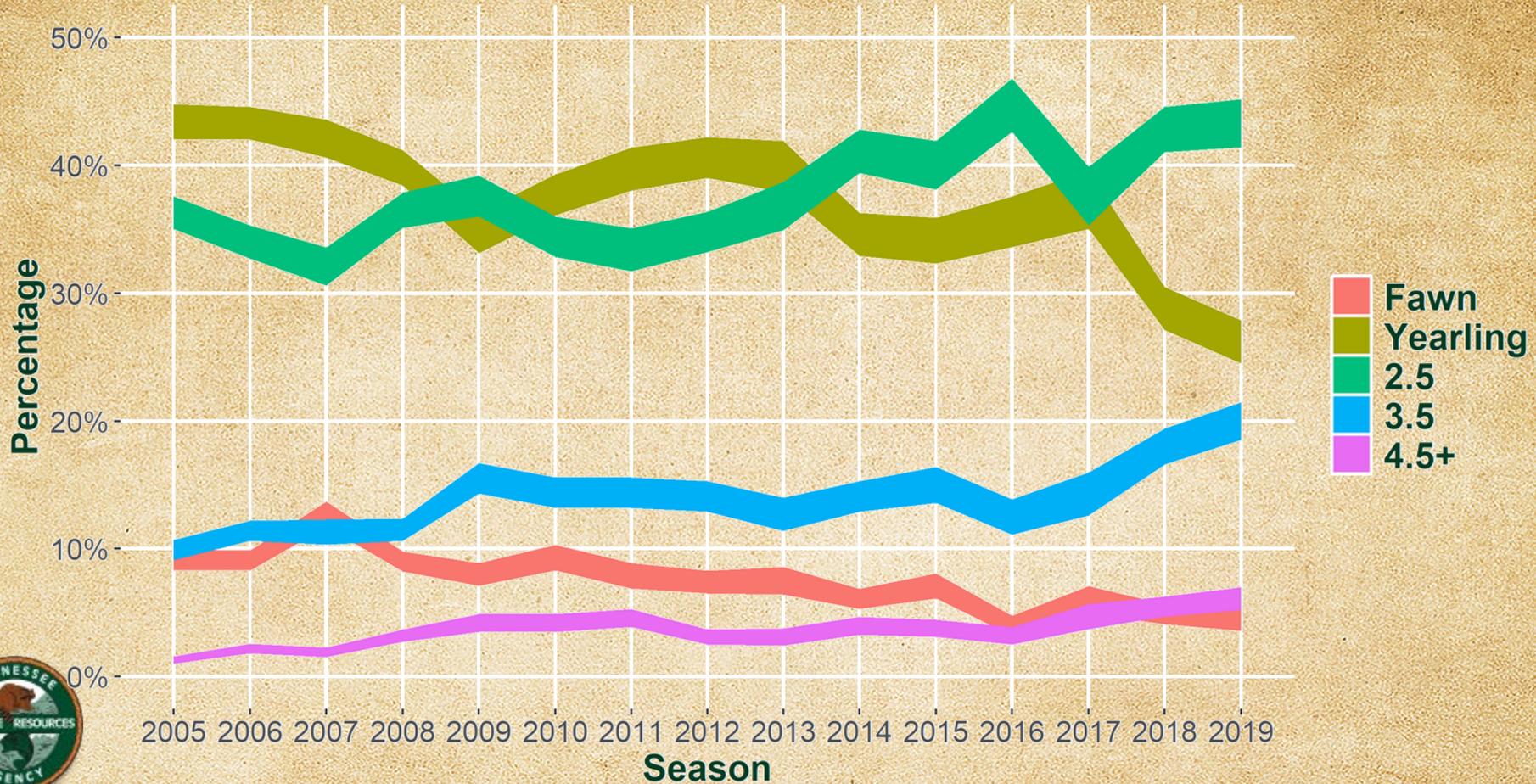
Statewide Reported Harvest



Percent change in doe harvest 2018 vs 2019



Statewide Buck Age Distributions

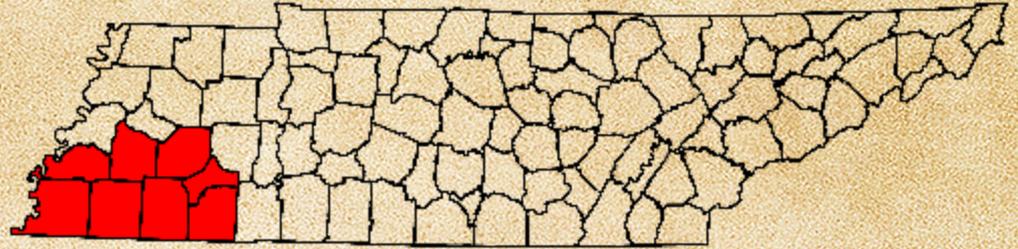


Unit CWD Harvest Results

- Overall harvest down 18%

- Bucks ↓ 7%

- does ↓ 30%



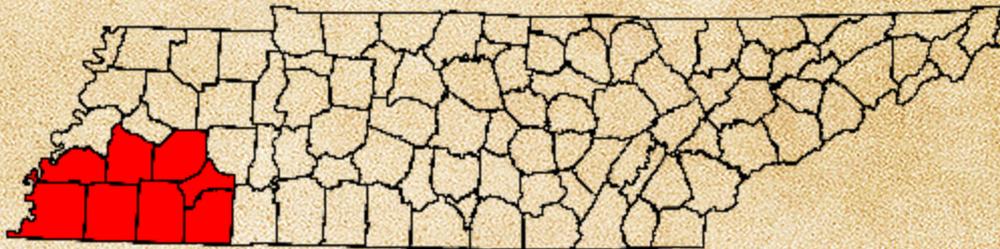
- August Hunt- ↑ by 75% (27 deer)

- January Private Land Hunt- ↑ by 28%



Unit CWD Harvest Results

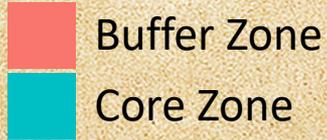
- **1,894 Earn-A-Bucks earned**



- **347 harvested antlered deer tested positive**
- **74% harvested (14,029) were sampled (10,419)**



Prevalence by county



0.2%
n= 592

0.3%
n= 729

0.4%
n=1,684

0.6%
n= 963

0.6%
n= 861

7.8%
n=2,122

13.5%
n=2,237

Chester

Tipton

Madison

Haywood

Shelby

Hardeman

Fayette

*2019-20 hunter-harvested deer only





***Statewide Big Game
Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits
Proclamation 20-03***



Unit CWD- G/M/A except during Archery-only Season

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

August Hunt
G/M/A
Antlered-only

Archery-only
Either Sex

Young Sportsman
G/M/A
Either Sex

Muzzleloader
M/A
Either Sex

Gun
G/M/A
Either Sex

Private Land
G/M/A
Either Sex

Questions?

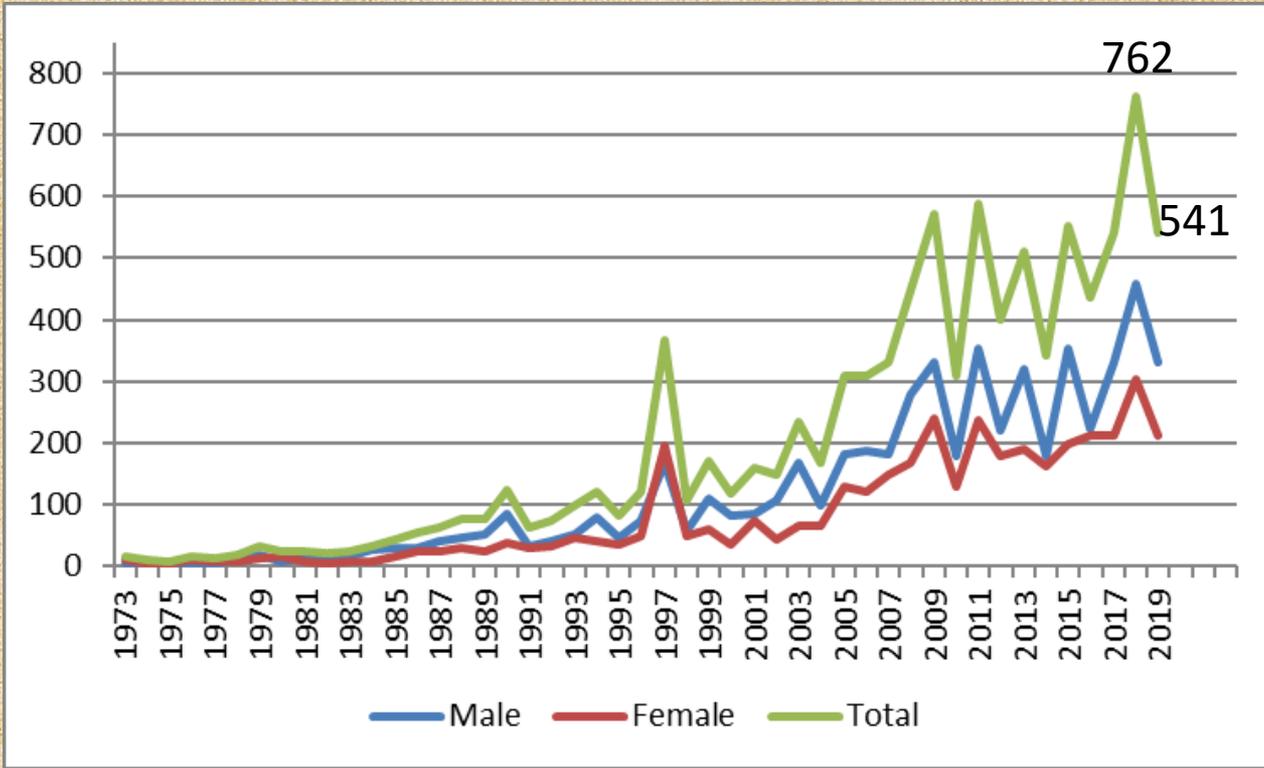


A black bear cub is peering through a hole in a piece of aged, yellowish parchment paper. The cub's face is visible on the left side of the frame, looking towards the right. The parchment paper has a textured, slightly mottled appearance with some darker spots and a rough, torn edge where the hole is. The background behind the parchment is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

Bear Hunting



Statewide Harvest



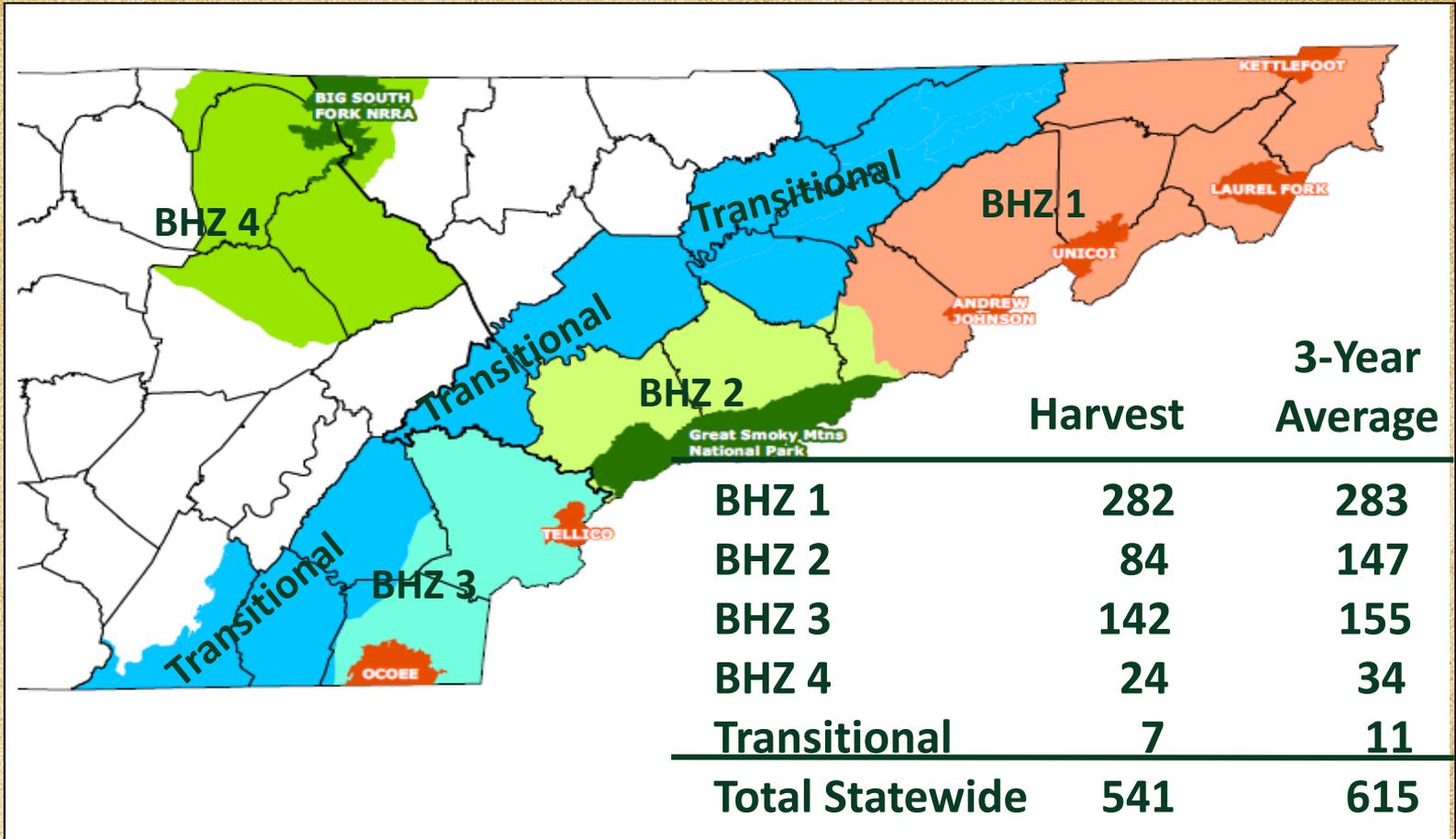
2019 Harvest

Male = 61%

Female = 39%



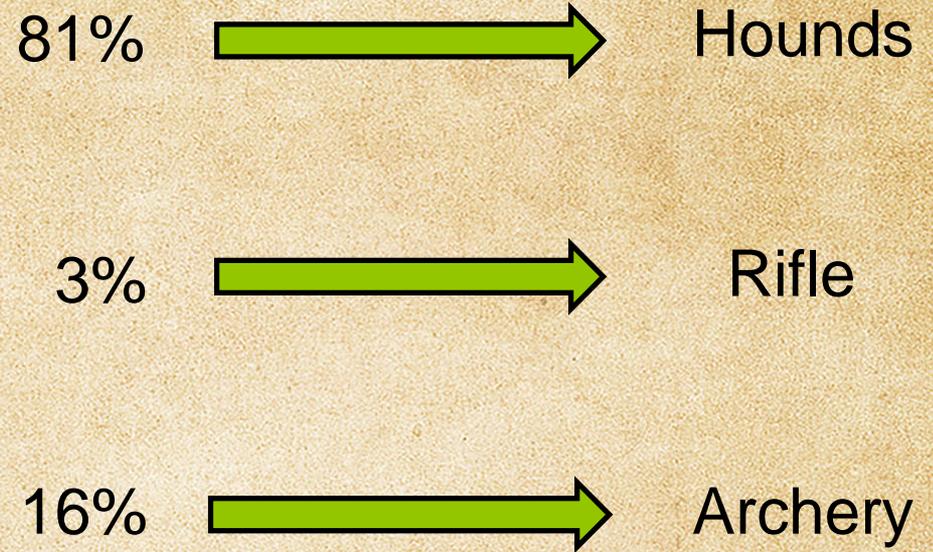
2019 Harvest Summary





Harvest Summary

3-Year Average



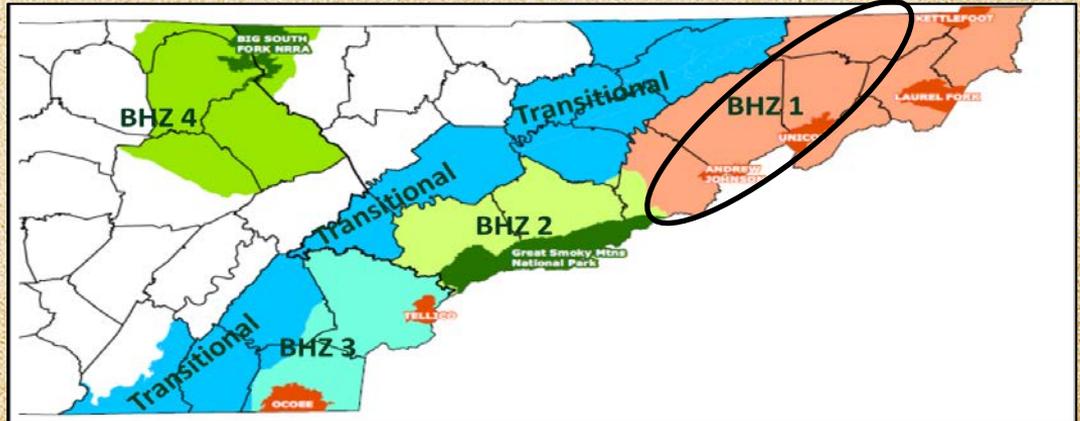


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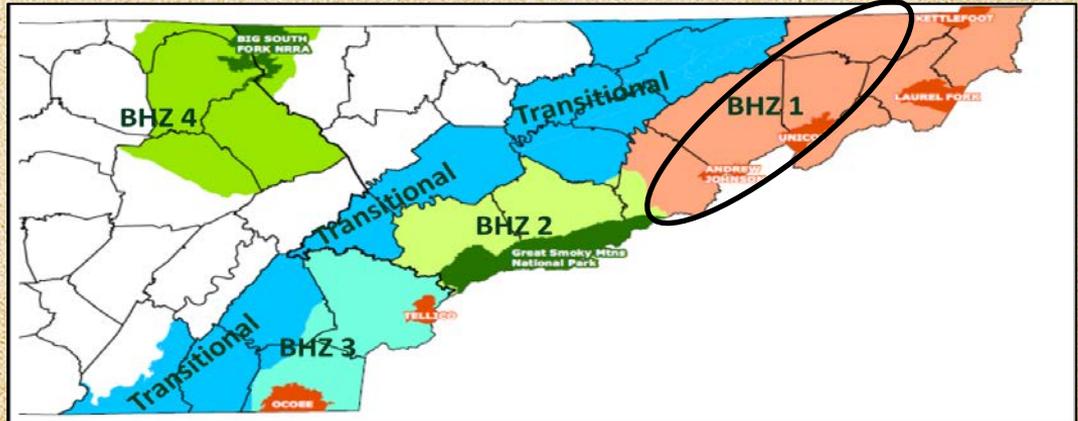
Hunt Zone 1 (hound hunt)

- **Move 3 days from Segment 3 to Segment 2**
 - To address annual road closures (beginning on Dec 15) on Cherokee National Forest
 - Minimize the number of roads closed before hunting ends
 - No change in total days (25)

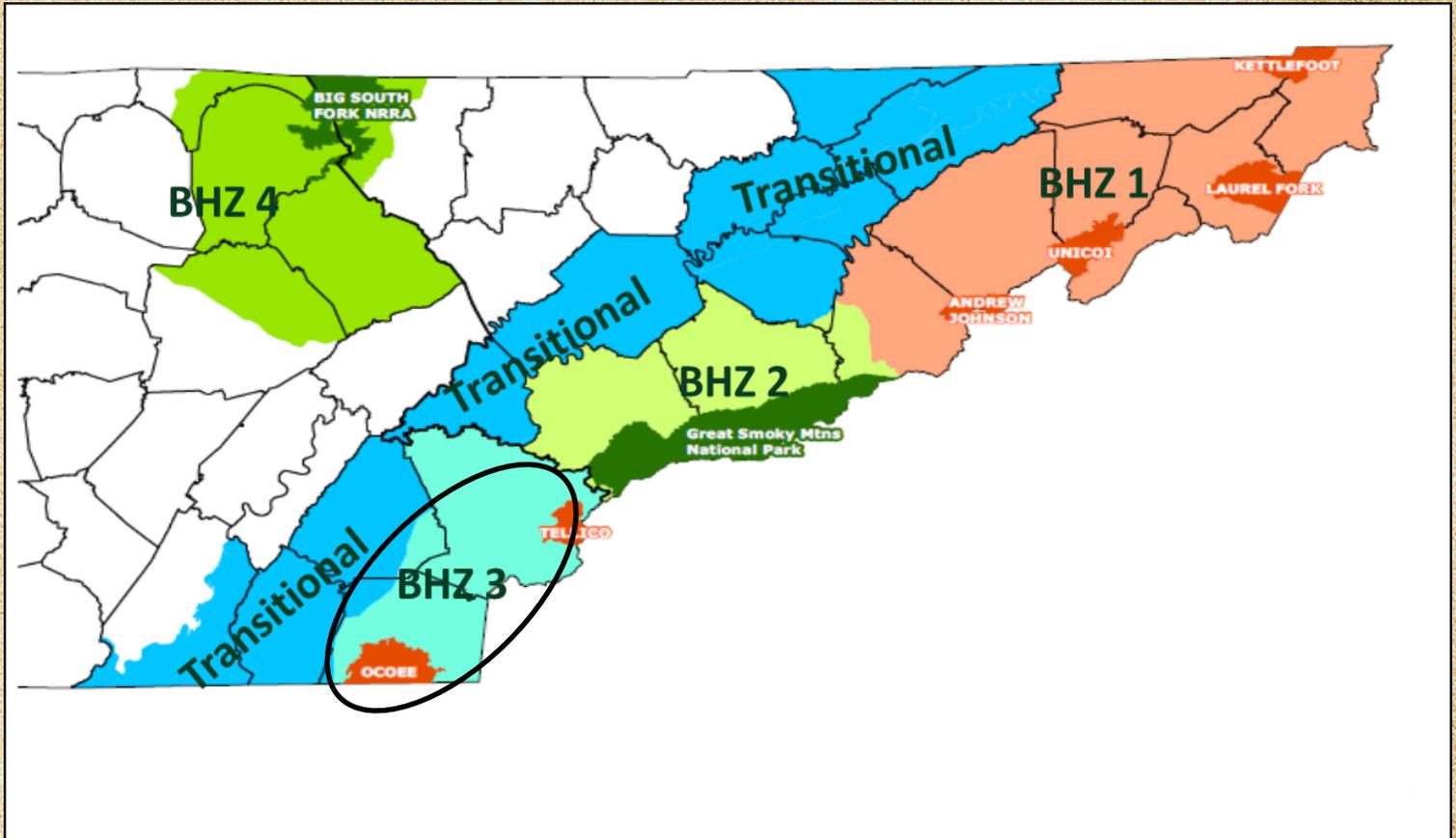


Hunt Zone 1 (hound hunt)

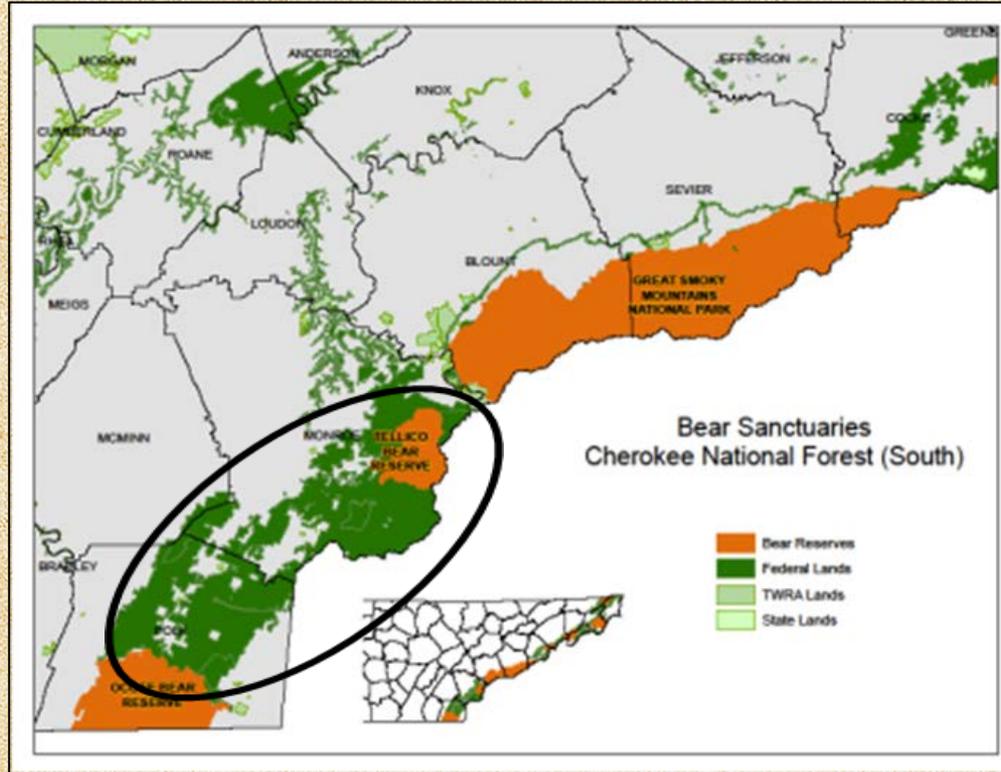
- **Shift Segment 2 a week later**
 - With the 3 additional days from previous recommendation, with no other changes, the segment will overlap opening weekend of muzzleloader
 - Only expected to ↑ harvest slightly (+ 30)
 - Supported by U.S. Forest Service and Bear Hunters in Zone 1



Hunt Zone 3



South Cherokee WMA In Hunt Zone 3



Cherokee National Forest in Green



Hunt Zone 3 (hound hunt)

- **Split Segment 1 while still having 9 total hunt days**
 - Recommended by Bear Hunters and supported by U.S. Forest Service
 - Will retain hunting the traditional opening weekend and then close the following Monday – Friday for a rest period
 - Reopen Saturday and run through the following Friday
 - Allows party-dog hunting on S. Cherokee to occur following rest periods

October 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Questions?





Elk Hunting



2019 Elk Hunting

- **7-day Archery-only Hunt (Sept. 28- Oct. 4)**
 - 7 hunters
- **7-day Young Sportsman Gun Hunt (Oct. 5-11)**
 - 1 hunter
- **7-day Gun Hunt (Oct. 12-18)**
 - 7 hunters



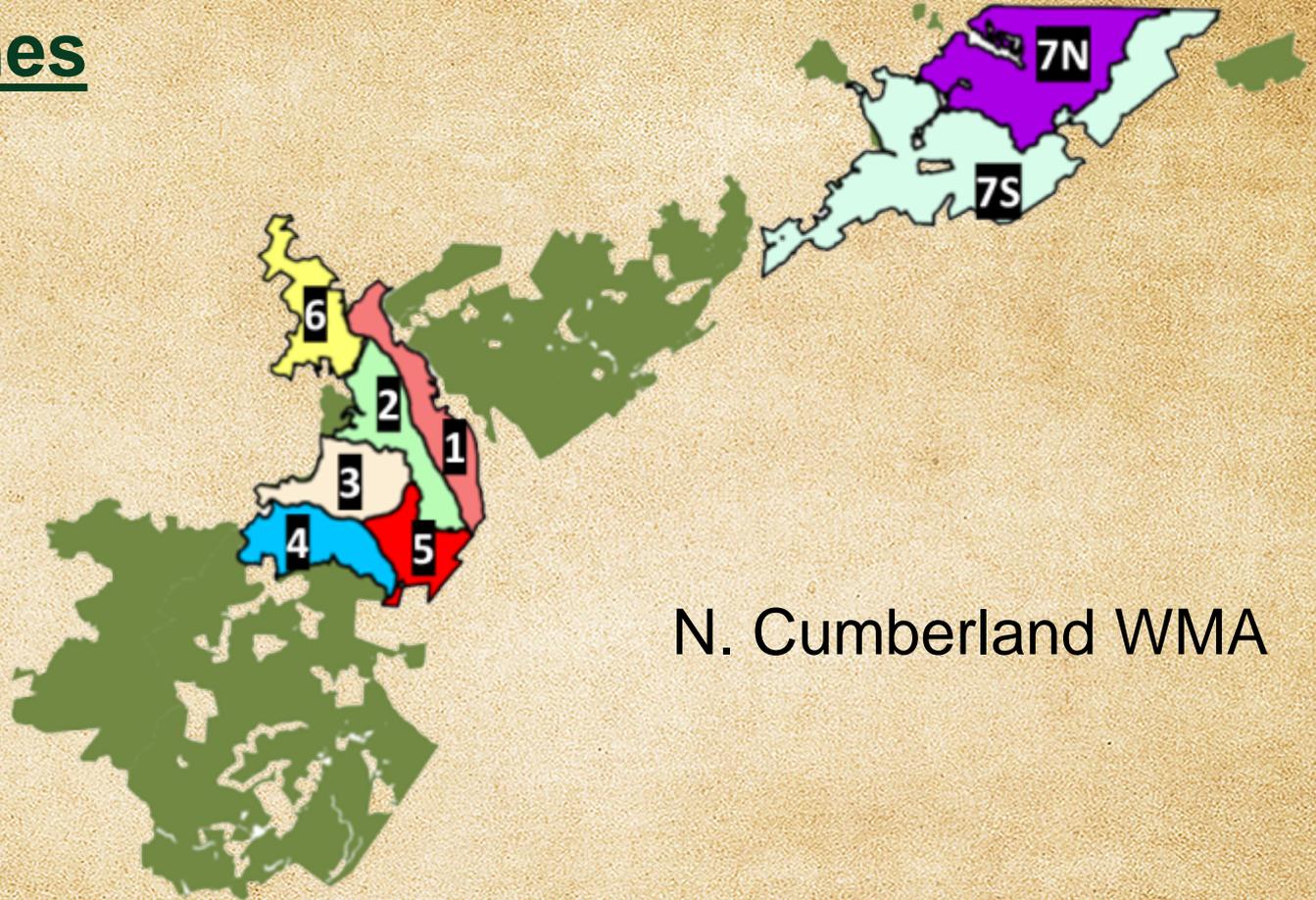
2019 Elk Hunting

- **Permitted hunters could hunt private lands in Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Scott and Morgan Counties or an assigned elk hunt zone at North Cumberland WMA**



Elk Hunt Zones

- Zone 1
- Zone 2 & 6
- Zone 3
- Zone 4
- Zone 5
- Zone 7N
- Zone 7S



N. Cumberland WMA



2019 Results

- **Archery-only Hunt**
 - 2 taken by 7 hunters
- **7-day Young Sportsman Gun Hunt**
 - 1 taken by the only hunter
- **7-day Gun Hunt**
 - 4 taken by the 7 hunters

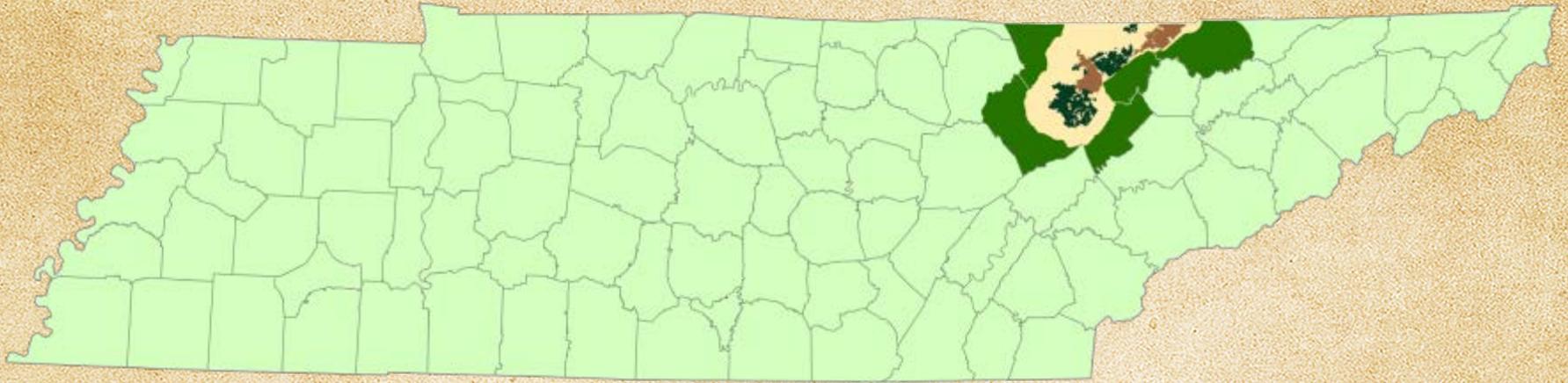




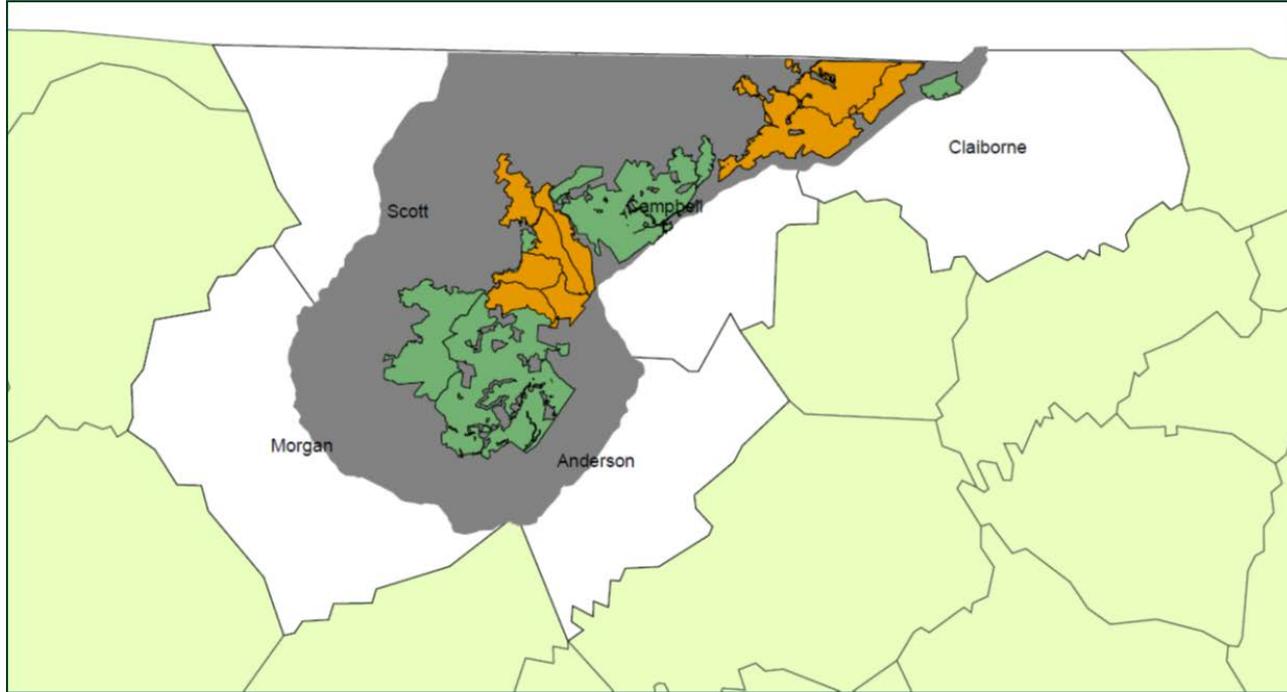
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Elk Restoration Zone



Elk Restoration Zone



Elk Restoration Zone



Allow Incidental take by licensed deer hunters in non-restoration counties- only

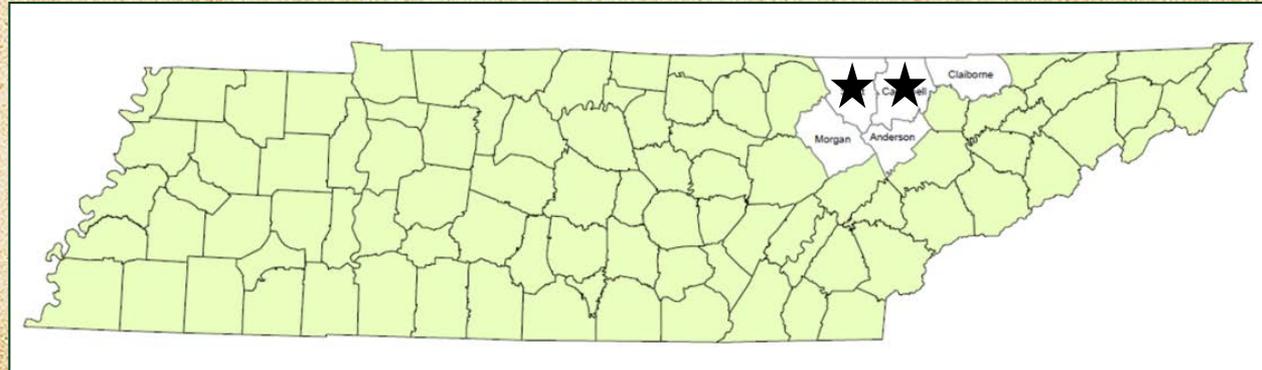
- **Outside of Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Morgan and Scott Counties**
- **Limit of one elk (either sex) per deer season**
- **Mandatory physical check-in**



Concept-only:

Private Lands Quota Hunt Campbell and Scott Counties

- Landowners with property meeting certain criteria may apply to participate in a drawing for quota permits to hunt elk for a short season on their property
- Those drawn may use the permit themselves or specify another person to be the hunter
- Bag limit of one (1) elk- either sex



Questions?





Turkey Hunting



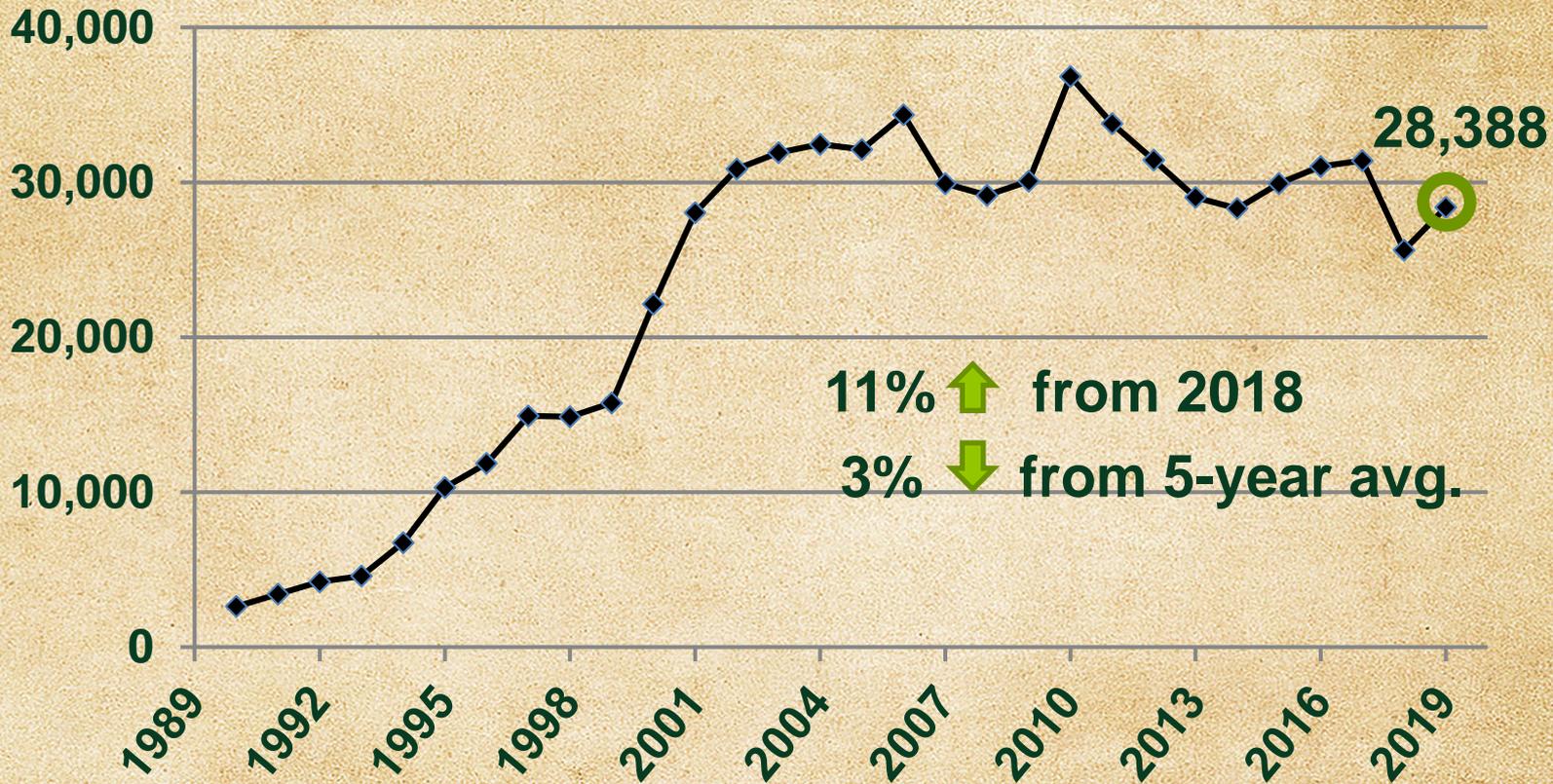
2019 Spring Harvest*

Type	Dates	Harvest
Youth	March 23 - 24	951
Private Lands*	March 30 - May 12	28,388
WMAs	March 30 - May 12	1,854
Total		31,193

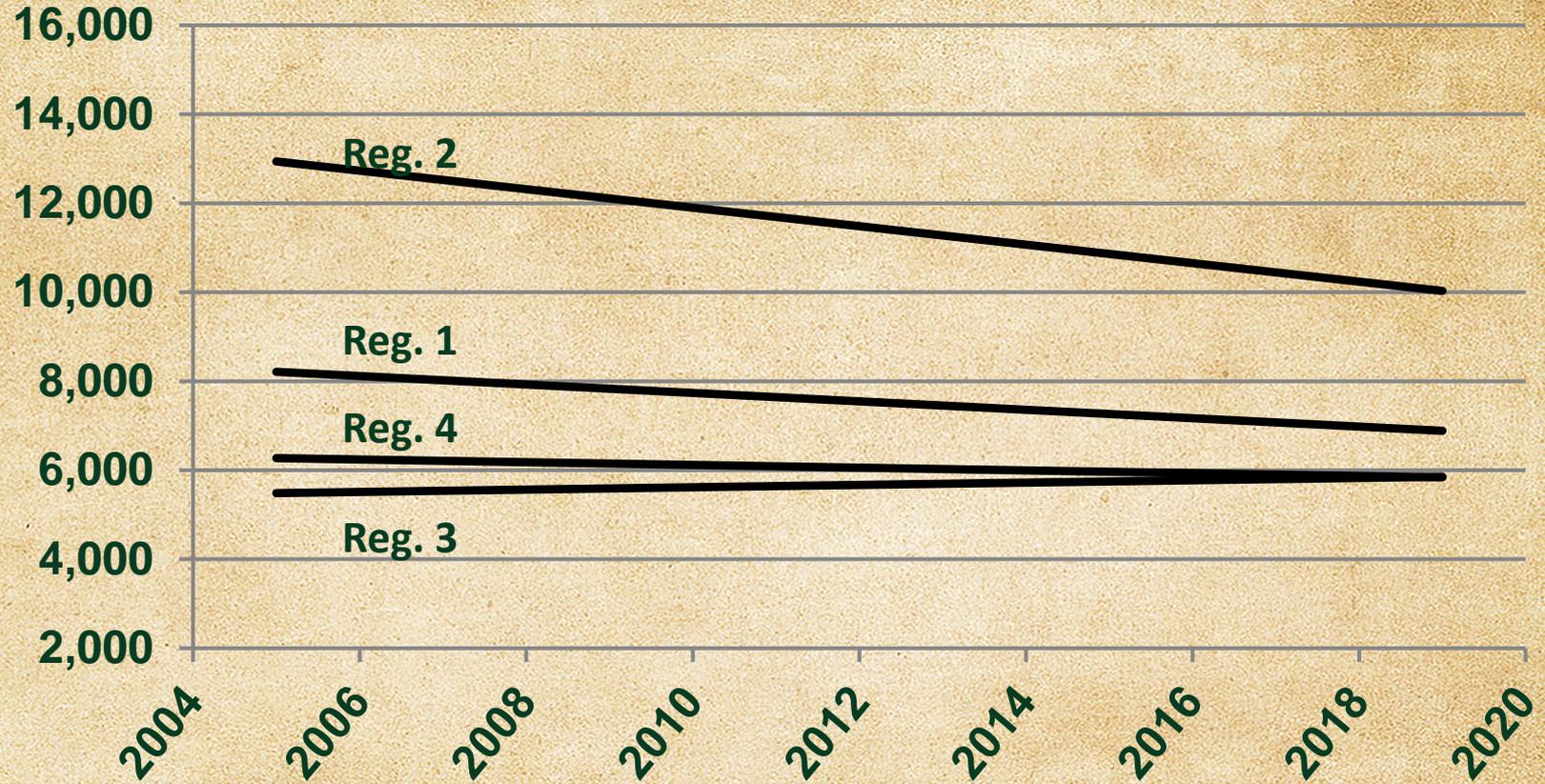
*Includes partner lands, e.g., TVA, USACOE



Reported Spring Harvest 1990-2019

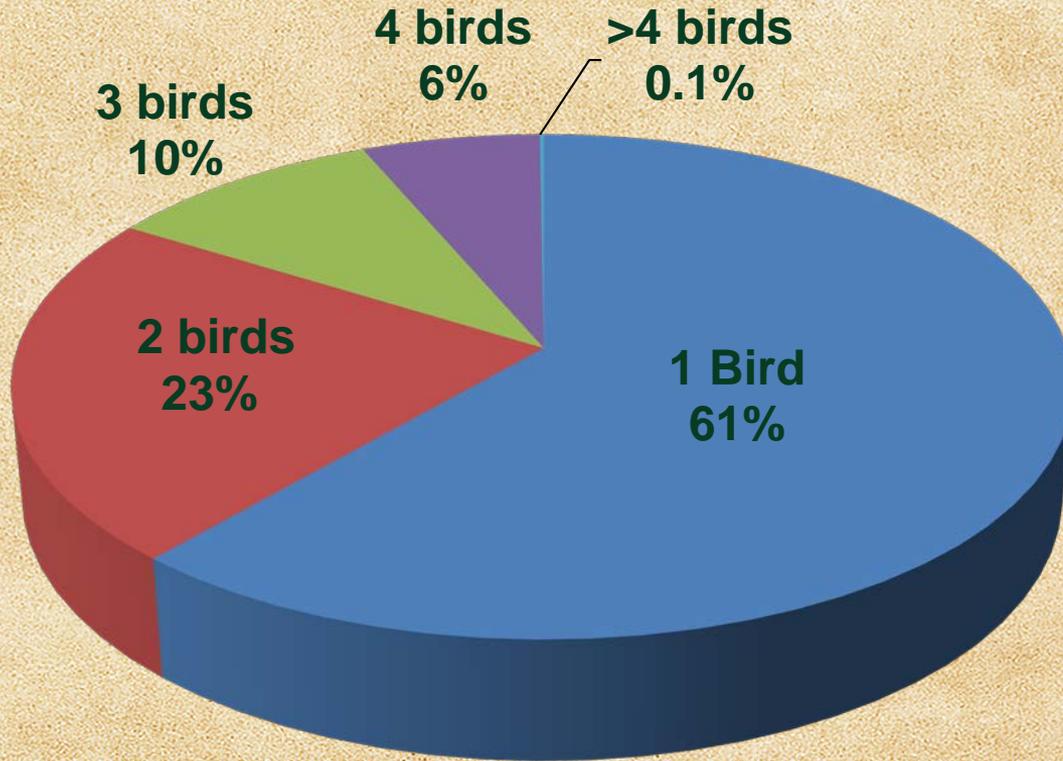


Regional Harvest - 15 Years



2019 Spring Harvest - Hunter Success

19,332 Successful Hunters



Fall Harvest

Year*	Males	Females	Total
2017	286	442	728
2018	259	19**	278
2019	328	32**	360

*2017 fall season - either sex

2018/2019 fall seasons - bearded birds only

** bearded hens are legal



2020 Spring Season

- **Harvest during the Young Sportsman hunt was 1,864**
 - a 67% increase from the 5-year average
- **Harvest during first 18 days of the season was 28,317**
 - up 36% over 5-year average
- **Long-term impacts are likely to be limited from a population standpoint**
- **Future hunting success likely lower for a few years**





***Statewide Big Game
Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits
Proclamation 20-03***



Mississippi River and S. Middle TN Counties



Spring Season – MS River Counties

(Dyer, Lake, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton Counties)

- **Two week season delay, ending with statewide season**
- **Young Sportsman Hunt would be the weekend prior to the delayed opener**
- **Bag limit of two bearded turkeys for the grouping of counties**



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- Bag limit of two bearded turkeys for the grouping of counties



Reduce disturbance and removal of gobblers during critical breeding time



Spring Season – MS River Counties

(Dyer, Lake, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton Counties)

- **Two week season delay, ending with statewide season**



Reduce disturbance and removal of gobblers during critical breeding time

- **Young Sportsman Hunt would be the weekend prior to the delayed opener**

- **Bag limit of two bearded turkeys for the grouping of counties**



Reduced bag limit should improve annual survival of gobblers so there are more to breed hens and available for harvest in the following years

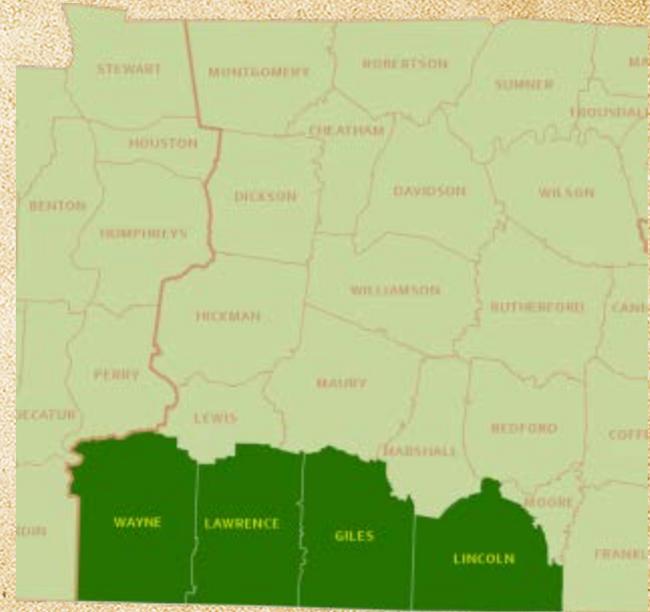
Overall nesting success should improve and future hunter success could improve with these changes



Spring Season – Southern Middle TN

(Giles, Lawrence, Lincoln and Wayne Counties)

- **Two week season delay, ending with statewide season**
- **Young Sportsman Hunt would be the weekend prior to the delayed opener**
- **No change to Bag limit**



Spring Season – Southern Middle TN

(Giles, Lawrence, Lincoln and Wayne Counties)

- **Two week season delay, ending with statewide season**
- **Young Sportsman Hunt would be the weekend prior to the delayed opener**
- **No change to Bag limit**



Reduce disturbance and removal of gobblers during critical breeding period to increase reproductive success. UT Project allows direct monitoring of impacts.



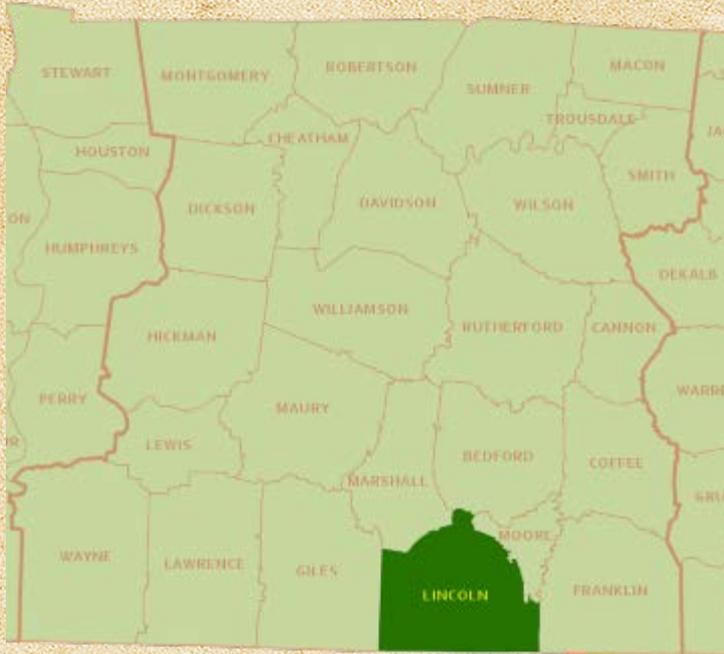
Spring Season – Southern Middle TN

(Giles, Lawrence, Lincoln and Wayne Counties)

- **Two week season delay, ending with statewide season** → Reduce disturbance and removal of gobblers during critical breeding period to increase reproductive success. UT Project allows direct monitoring of impacts.
- **Young Sportsman Hunt would be the weekend prior to the delayed opener**
- **No change to Bag limit** → This was considered, however, adult survival is already good and it would have little positive impact on reproduction. Furthermore, changing the bag limit would hinder ability for UT Project to evaluate impacts of delayed opener.



Eliminate Fall Season – Lincoln County



Year	Harvest
2016	8
2017	9
2018	2
2019	3
Total	22



*Jake Harvest**

	Adult	Jake	Total	%Jakes
2015	26,260	3,853	30,113	13
2016	26,384	4,363	30,747	14
2017	28,368	4,520	32,888	14
2018	24,412	2,773	27,185	10
2019	26,267	3,488	29,755	12
Average				13

* Does not include those harvested during youth hunts or those reported of unknown age



Thank You!

Questions?





Preview of 2020-21 and 2021-22 Hunting and Trapping Season Recommendations

**Presented to
Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission**

April 24, 2020
via Zoom



Season-Setting Process



Hunting Seasons

Data collection

Agency Meetings

Data review

Public Comments

Data compilation

Commission Meetings

Recommendations presented

Prepare Hunting Guide



Public Input

- **Comments welcome year-round**
 - TWRA.huntingcomments@tn.gov
 - Solicit input (Jan 15 – Feb 15)



Public Input

- **Comments welcome year-round**
 - TWRA.huntingcomments@tn.gov
 - Solicit input (Jan 15 – Feb 15)
- **Public Meetings - June 2019**
 - Cookeville, Nashville, Cleveland, Morristown
 - 20-30 attendees/meeting
 - Facebook Live- Q&A
 - 26,599 views, 6,000 engagements
 - 344 questions



Public Input

New Hunter Outreach

- Hunter Surveys
 - Effort & Success, Attitudes & Opinion
- Small game hunters (includes migratory birds)
- Deer hunters
- Spring turkey hunters



What's Ahead

Chuck Yoest, Species Program Manager

Statewide Big Game Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits



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Statewide Big Game Hunting Seasons & Bag Limits

Joe Benedict, Chief, Wildlife & Forestry

Wildlife Management Area, Public Hunting Area and
Refuge Hunting Seasons, Bag Limits

National Wildlife Refuges and Other Federal Areas Hunting
Seasons & Bag Limits

Changes to two additional proclamations



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Changes to two additional proclamations

Cape Taylor, Lt. Col. Boating & Law Enforcement

Manner and Means of Hunting, Taking and Trapping



What's Ahead

~ Comfort break ~



What's Ahead

~ Comfort break ~



What's Ahead

~ Comfort break ~



What's Ahead

~ Comfort break ~



Break provided in part by Ripley Pepper Co., LLC



What's Ahead

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*Preview of
2020-21 &
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*Hunting &
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Seasons*

**Chuck Yoest, Species Program Manager
Wildlife & Forestry Division**



***Wildlife Management Areas,
Public Hunting Areas and Refuge
Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits
Proclamation 20-04***

**Joe Benedict, Chief
Wildlife & Forestry Division**



Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- **110 Wildlife Management Areas**



- **More than 1.5 million acres**
- **All WMAs are open to public access**





REGION 1

Beech River, Camden (Unit II) and Wolf River (Unit II) WMAs



Beech River, Camden (Unit II) and Wolf River (Unit II) WMAs

- **Waterfowl shooting hours to end daily at 3 p.m.**
 - Beech River WMA
 - Increased frequency and duration of flooding
 - Hunting pressure has increased
 - Allows waterfowl to roost

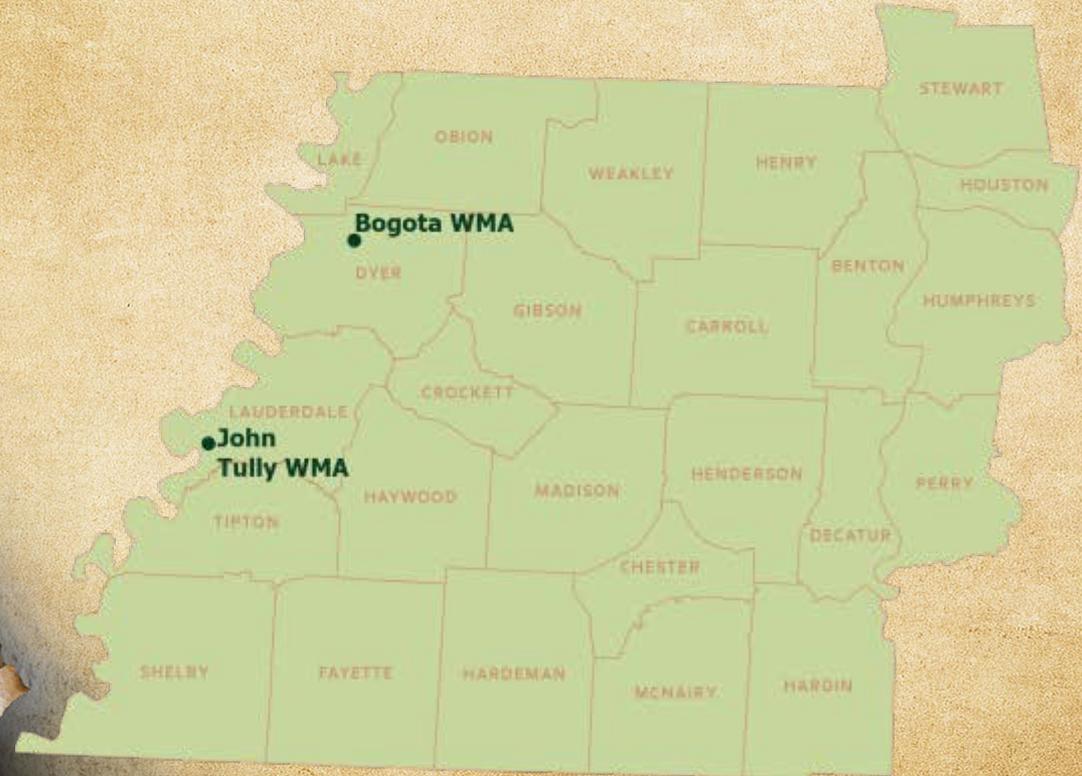


Beech River, Camden (Unit II) and Wolf River (Unit II) WMAs

- **Waterfowl shooting hours to end daily at 3 p.m.**
 - Beech River WMA
 - Increased frequency and duration of flooding
 - Hunting pressure has increased
 - Allows waterfowl to roost
 - Camden (Unit II)
 - Consistency with existing Unit I closure
 - Wolf River WMA (Unit II)
 - Consistency with existing Unit I closure
 - Same boat ramp serves both Units



Bogota and John Tully WMAs



Bogota and John Tully WMAs

- **Youth Dove Hunts**
 - Date correction for youth dove fields
 - If opening day (Sept. 1) falls on school day -
 - Move opener to the first Saturday after opening day



Presidents Island, Ensley Unit



Presidents Island, Ensley Unit

Presidents Island
~6,800 acres

← Ensley Unit
~900 acres

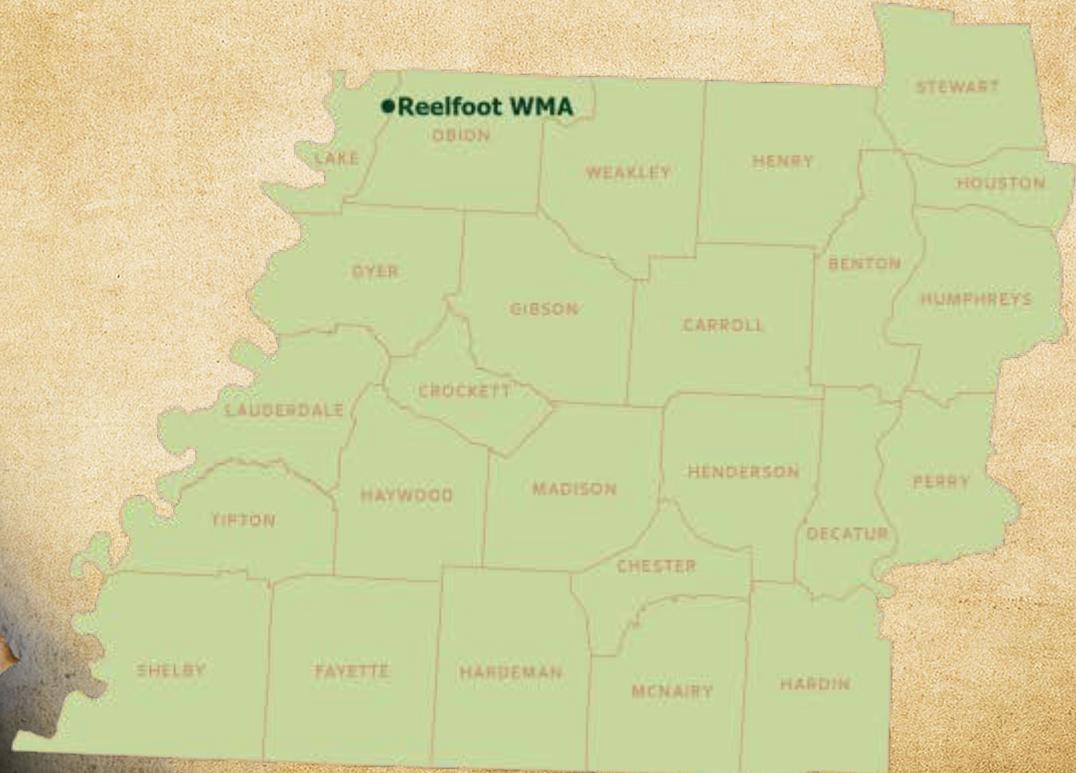


Presidents Island, Ensley Unit

- **Eliminate the Ensley Unit Archery deer hunt (quota)**
 - Growing safety concerns
 - Continuous flooding in recent years
 - Lowered deer population
 - Declining hunter satisfaction & success (3-4 deer/ 8 yrs)
 - 3 day hunt, 30 quota permits



Reelfoot WMA



Reelfoot WMA

- **Archery Deer Season**
 - Clerical change
 - *Archery - Same as statewide season except archery only from the start of the 1st segment of the late Reelfoot Duck Zone waterfowl season until the end of the statewide deer season.*
 - Changed in 2008 to address safety issues with rifles/muzzleloaders



White Oak WMA



White Oak WMA

- **Lebanon Pond Waterfowl quota hunt area**
 - Not currently defined
 - Wetland area fluctuates with rainfall/ flooding
 - Define as:

“The land and water north of White Oak Creek canal, east of Hurricane Creek Canal, west of the agricultural fields on Sulfur Wells Rd., and south of the TWRA boat ramp off of Lebanon Loop Rd. and Pintail Lane.”



Lebanon Pond

Draw Hunt Area

Legend

 Lebanon Pond draw hunt boundaries



Google Earth

© 2020 Google

3000 ft

© 2020 Google



White Oak WMA

- **Set spring turkey hunting season dates and bag limits to match other *wetland WMAs* in Region 1**
 - Flooding and declining turkey population
 - Increased hunting pressure
 - Two week season delay-
Open the third Saturday of the statewide spring season through the end of the statewide season
 - Youth hunt is weekend prior to the new opener
 - Bag limit of one bearded turkey (no change)



Region 1 WMAs with Unit CWD changes



Region 1 WMAs with Unit CWD changes

Same regulations as Unit CWD

- **Horns Bluff Refuge**
- **Maness Swamp Refuge (Gibson County portion)**
- **Parker Branch Wetland**
- **Perry Switch WMA**
- **John Tully WMA**
 - Remove antler restrictions
 - Remove check-in location requirements



Questions?

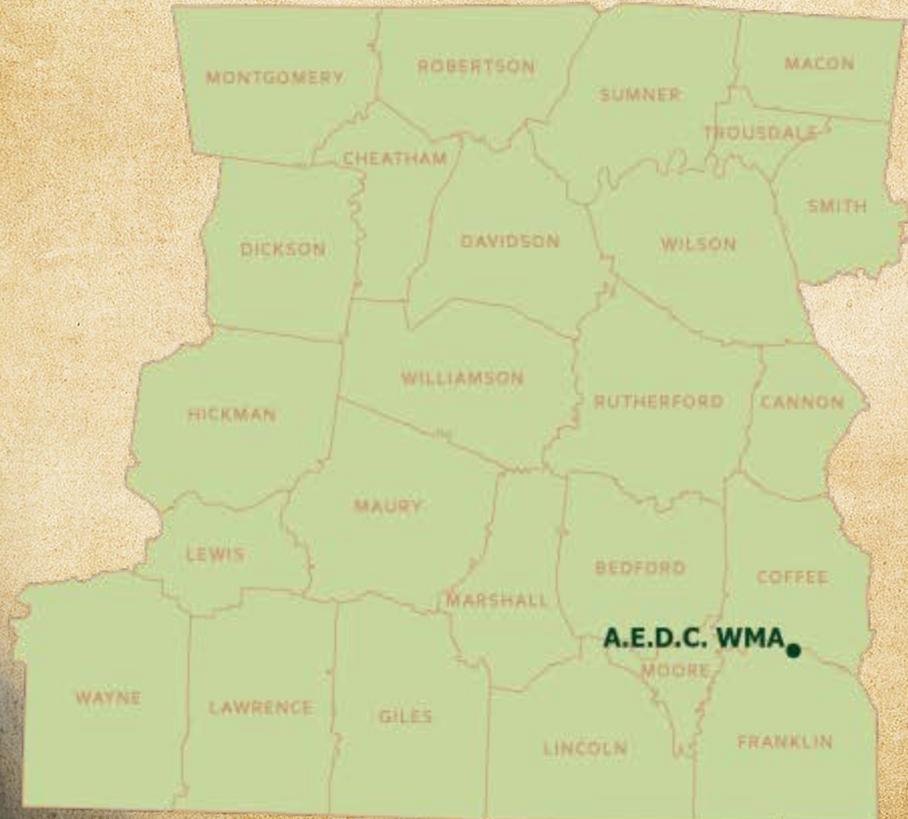




REGION 2



AEDC WMA



AEDC WMA

- **Several changes**
 - Increase opportunity
 - Move to standardize with statewide seasons
- **Add the 2nd Young Sportsman hunt (January)**
- **Move both to Statewide dates**
- **Open spring and fall turkey seasons to statewide dates/ bags limits**
 - Opens spring season on Monday - Thursday
 - Fall bag from 3 bearded birds to 1 bearded bird/county
 - More fall days



AEDC WMA

- **Archery season - same as statewide**
 - Opens 4th Saturday in September continues through 1st Sunday in January
 - Except closed one day before and during gun and muzzleloader quota hunts
- **Allow small game hunting during Archery season**
 - Previously, small game was closed during all big game hunts



Bark Camp Barrens WMA



Bark Camp Barrens WMA

- **Close Quail Season**
 - Region 2 Quail Anchor Area
 - Only Anchor Area with quail hunting
 - Hunting allowance included stipulation of constant or increasing spring census numbers and hunter flush rates
 - Spring counts have declined over the last 5 years
 - During 2019, 11 hunters flushed 1 bird

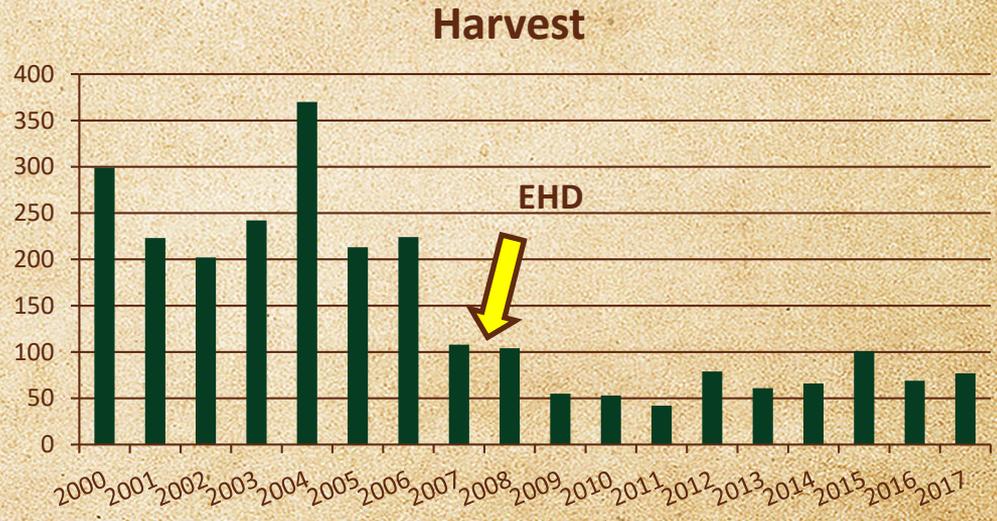


Cheatham WMA



Cheatham WMA

- Older Age Class in Harvest
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Outbreak (2007)
- Reduced participation
- Reduced harvest (avg. 224 deer/yr to 67/yr)
- Population increasing



Cheatham WMA

- **Archery**
 - Remove archery quota
 - Combine three hunts into one hunt
 - Statewide archery opener
 - 1 deer, antlerless or antlered
 - Antler restrictions apply (no change)
 - Closed Monday-Friday before statewide youth hunt (rest days)
 - Sept. 26-Oct. 18, 2020 (Sept. 25-Oct 17, 2021)



Cheatham WMA

- **Young Sportsman (no change)**
 - Non-quota hunt
 - 1 deer, antlerless or antlered
 - No antler restrictions
 - One week before statewide youth hunt
 - Oct 24-25, 2020 (Oct 23-24, 2021)



Cheatham WMA

- **Muzzleloader**

- 450 quota permits/ hunt (added 50, likely leftovers for local hunters)
- 1 deer, antlered or antlerless (new)
- Antler restrictions apply (no change)
- Two 3-day hunts
 - Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2020 (Oct. 29-31, 2021)
 - Nov. 6-Nov. 8, 2020 (Nov. 5-7, 2021)
- Hunts are the weekend prior to and weekend after statewide muzzleloader opener



Cheatham WMA

- **Gun**

- 450 quota permits (added 50, allow for leftovers for local hunters)
- 1 deer, antlered or antlerless (new)
- Antler restrictions apply (no change)
- Two hunts:
 - Fri.- Fri. Nov. 13-20, 2020 (Nov. 12-19, 2021)
 - Mon.- Sun. Nov. 30-Dec. 6, 2020 (Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 2021)
- First hunt is prior to statewide gun opener



Long Hunter State Park

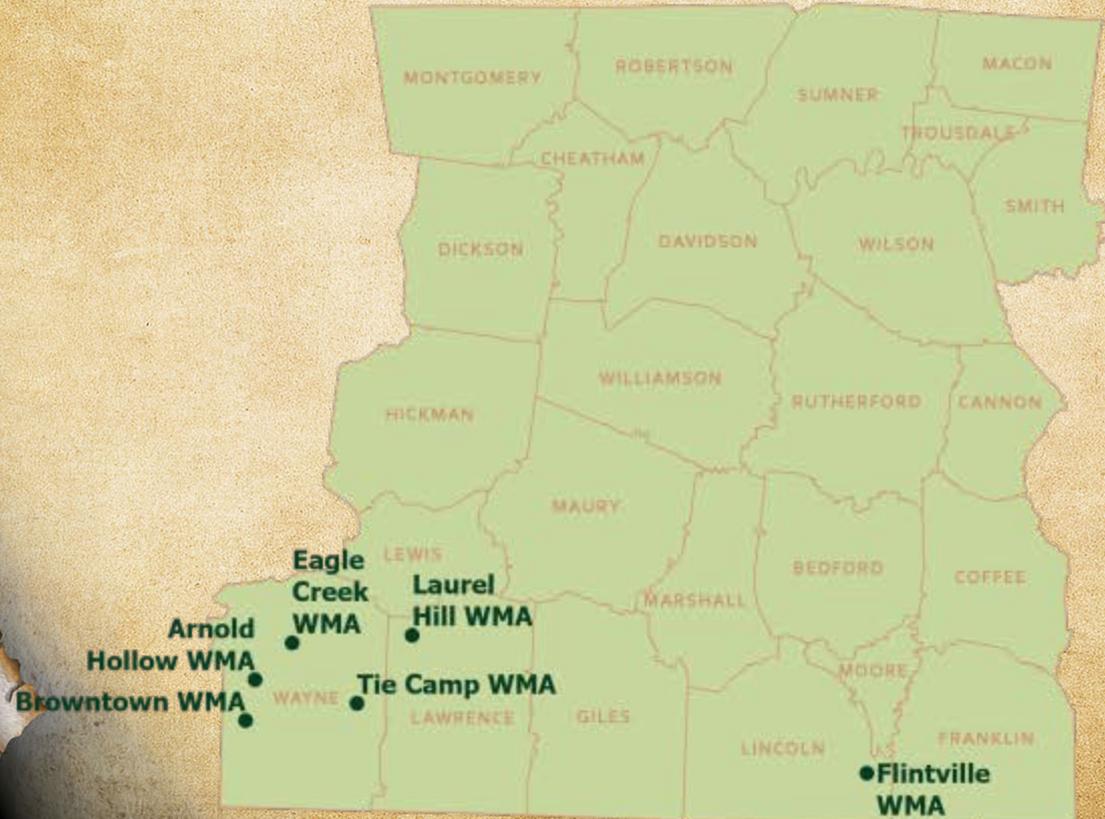


Long Hunter State Park

- **Archery Hunt (New)**
 - December 12-19, 2020
 - 50 quota permits, access by land only
 - Hand-held drawing Sept. 12, 2020
 - Big Game License required to enter drawing
 - Mandatory safety meeting (Nov. 7 or 16)
 - Unit L bag limits apply, however, hunters must harvest an antlerless deer before an antlered deer



Region 2 WMAs with 2-week turkey season delay



Region 2 WMAs with 2-week turkey season delay

- **Wayne, Lawrence, Giles and Lincoln County WMAs:**
 - Arnold Hollow
 - Browntown
 - Eagle Creek
 - Flintville Hatchery
 - Laurel Hill
 - Tie Camp



Questions?





REGION 3



Region 3 WMAs

- **Generic wording in Proclamation**
 - For hunts with standard dates
 - Eliminates need for annual date changes
 - Simplicity and allows hunter to plan better
 - WMAs in other Regions next season setting
- **Example:** Catoosa WMA, Deer (Archery) - One nine-day hunt beginning the Saturday following the fourth Saturday in September.



Cordell Hull WMA and Refuge



Cordell Hull WMA and Refuge

- **Deer Seasons**

- Simplify regulations
- Additional hunting opportunities to reduce deer herd
- Retain Wheelchair Bound Hunter Only Zone on WMA
- Allow Wheelchair bound hunters on all hunt days
- Expand to same as statewide (until Refuge closure on Nov 15)



Edgar Evins State Park



Edgar Evins State Park

- **Archery Hunt (previously held)**
 - Park has extremely high deer numbers
 - Statewide deer season
 - Desire additional harvest
 - Requested archery hunt in Park Safety Zone
 - 100 quota permits, handheld drawing Sept. 9
 - 2 deer, first must be antlerless (no change)



Luper Mountain WMA



Luper Mountain WMA

- **Discontinue antlerless harvest during gun season**
 - Deer numbers are low
 - Consistent with other WMAs in area

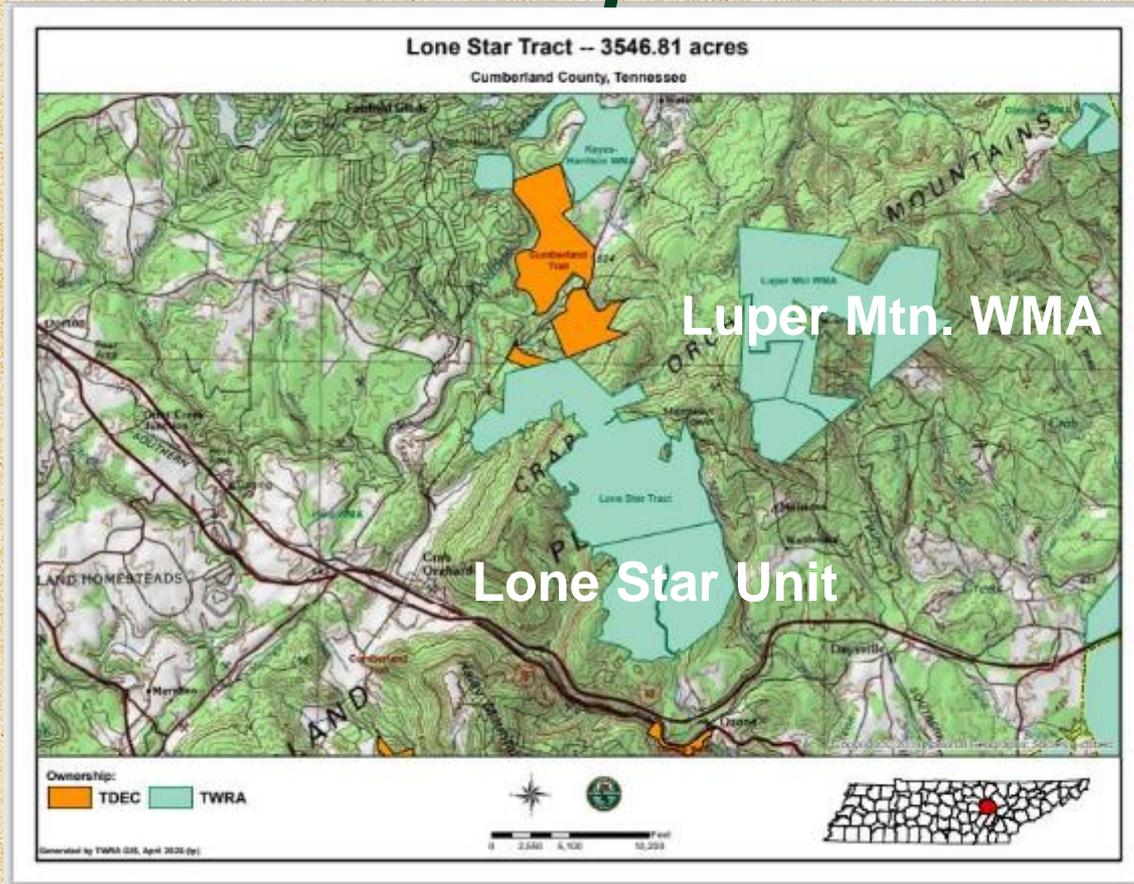


Luper Mountain WMA

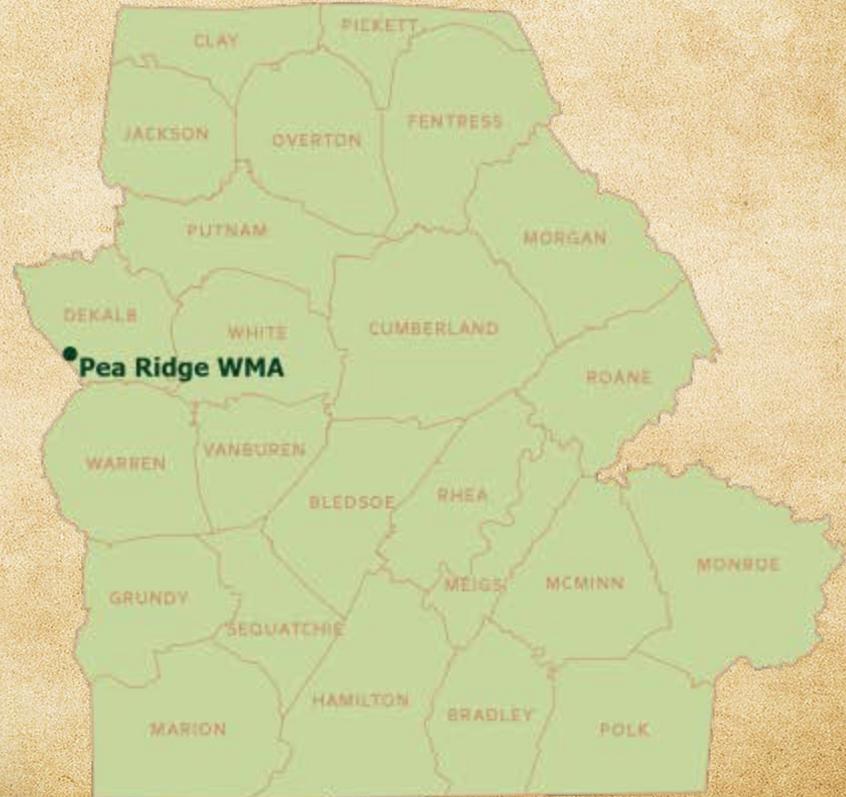
- **Discontinue antlerless harvest during gun season**
 - Deer numbers are low
 - Consistent with other WMAs in area
- **Add Lonestar Unit to Luper Mtn. WMA**
 - New property recently acquired
 - Close proximity to Luper Mtn. WMA
 - Same regulations



Luper Mountain WMA



Pea Ridge WMA



Pea Ridge WMA

- **Move Youth Quail Season**
 - From 2nd week of Muzzleloader to last week of Archery
 - Prevent conflicts with peak deer hunting



Prentice Cooper WMA



Prentice Cooper WMA

- **Fox, raccoon & opossum season**
 - Change opening day from 3rd Friday to 1st Friday in October
 - Avoids conflict with deer hunts (changed 2 years ago)
 - Provides additional 2-weeks of hunting



South Cherokee WMA



South Cherokee WMA

- **Bear Hunts and Party Dog Hunts**

- Update hunt days to reflect new statewide season
- Bear (gun, dogs permitted)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Oct. 3-4, 2020 | Oct. 2-3, 2021 |
| • Oct. 10-16, 2020 | Oct. 9-15, 2021 |
| • Nov. 2-6, 2020 | Nov. 1-5, 2021 |
| • Nov. 30-Dec. 13, 2020 | Nov. 29-Dec. 12, 2021 |
| • Dec. 31-Jan. 3, 2021 | Dec. 30-Jan. 2, 2022 |



Tellico Lake WMA



Tellico Lake WMA

- **Wear's Bend Unit**

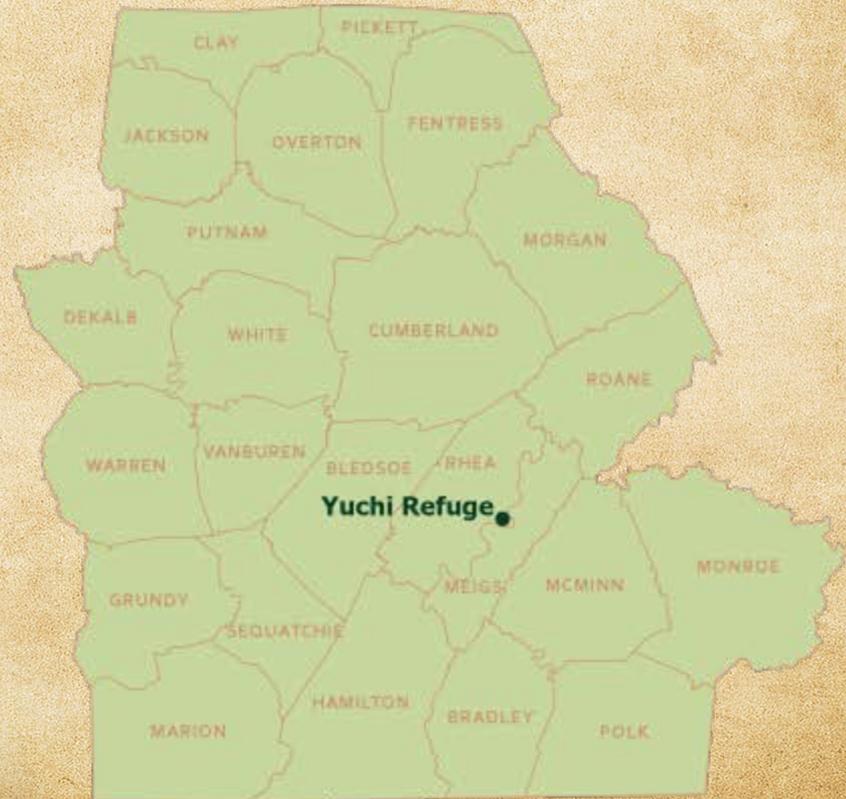
- Remove from Proclamation as seasons are the same as listed for WMA (housekeeping)

- **McGhee Carson Unit**

- Move young sportsmen deer hunt (quota)
- From 2nd weekend in December to 2nd weekend in November
- Eliminate conflict with bear hunt dates on South Cherokee

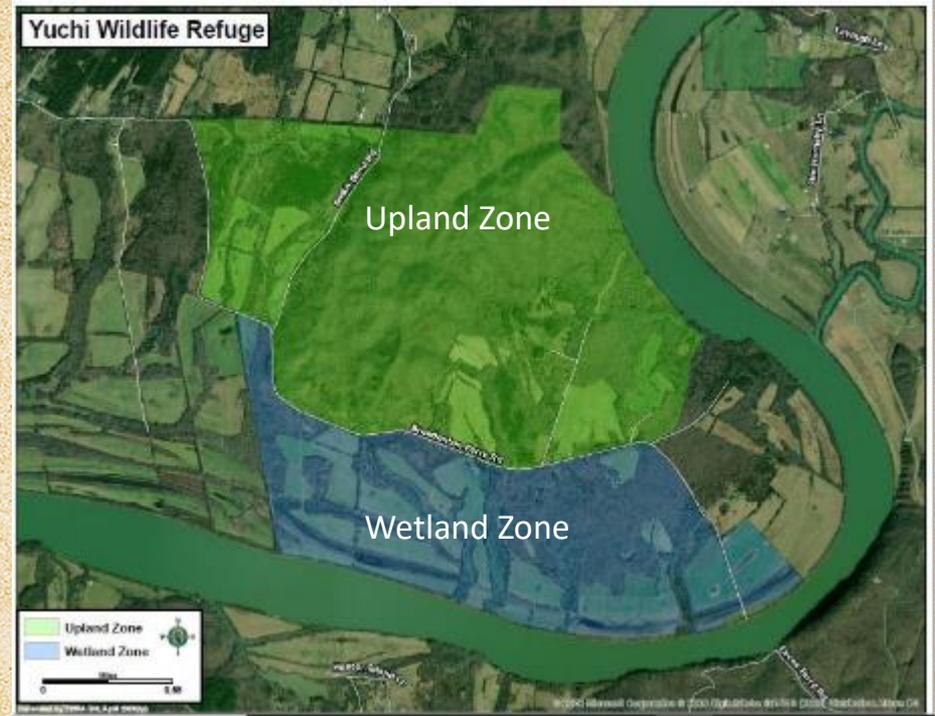


Yuchi Refuge



Yuchi Refuge

- Increasing deer herd
- Damage to waterfowl crops
- Need additional harvest
- Increase gun hunt days
- Require antlerless harvest before antlered
- No change to youth hunts



Yuchi Refuge

- **Limit disturbance to increase harvest**
 - One scout day (Tuesday before each hunt)
 - Move Dog Training & Dog Hunting to after deer hunt
 - Eliminates hunting in wetland zone
 - Small game hunting through last day of February



Yuchi Refuge

- **Limit disturbance to increase harvest**
 - One scout day (Tuesday before each hunt)
 - Move Dog Training & Dog Hunting to after deer hunt
 - Eliminates hunting in wetland zone
 - Small game hunting through last day of February
- **Change Archery & Muzzleloader hunts to Gun hunts**
- **Increase bag from 2 to 3 deer (antlerless only)**
- **Require antlerless harvest before antlered (last 2 gun hunts)**
- **Remove Check Station Requirement**



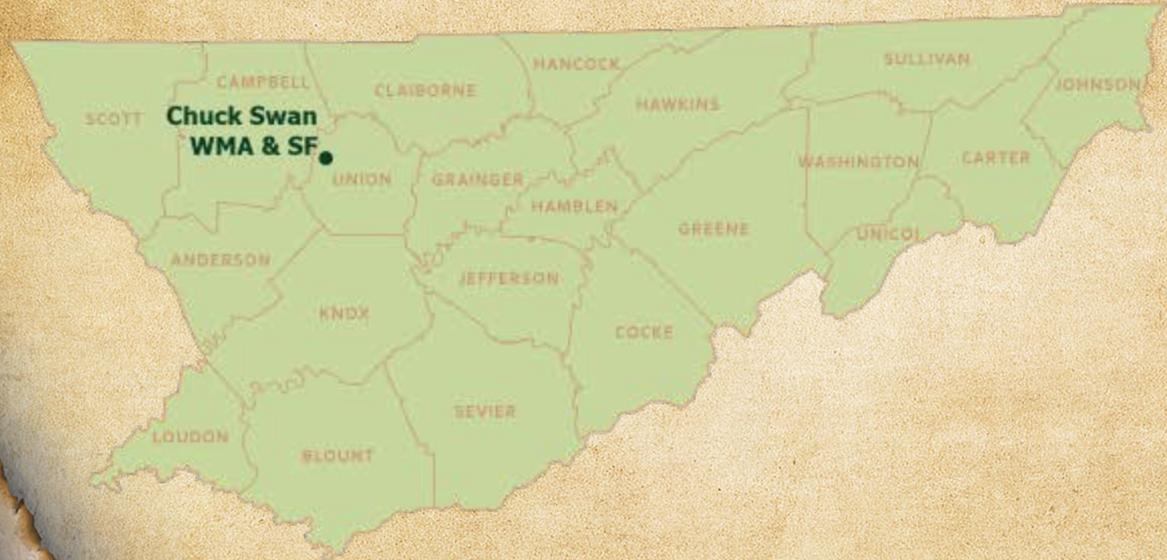
Questions?





REGION 4

Chuck Swan WMA



Chuck Swan WMA

- **Raccoon Bag Limit**

- Increase daily bag from one/party to one/person
- Population is healthy
- Hunter participation is down
- Change may increase harvest, hunter participation and satisfaction

- **Spring Turkey**

- Correct clerical error
- One bearded turkey per hunt



Cove Creek WMA

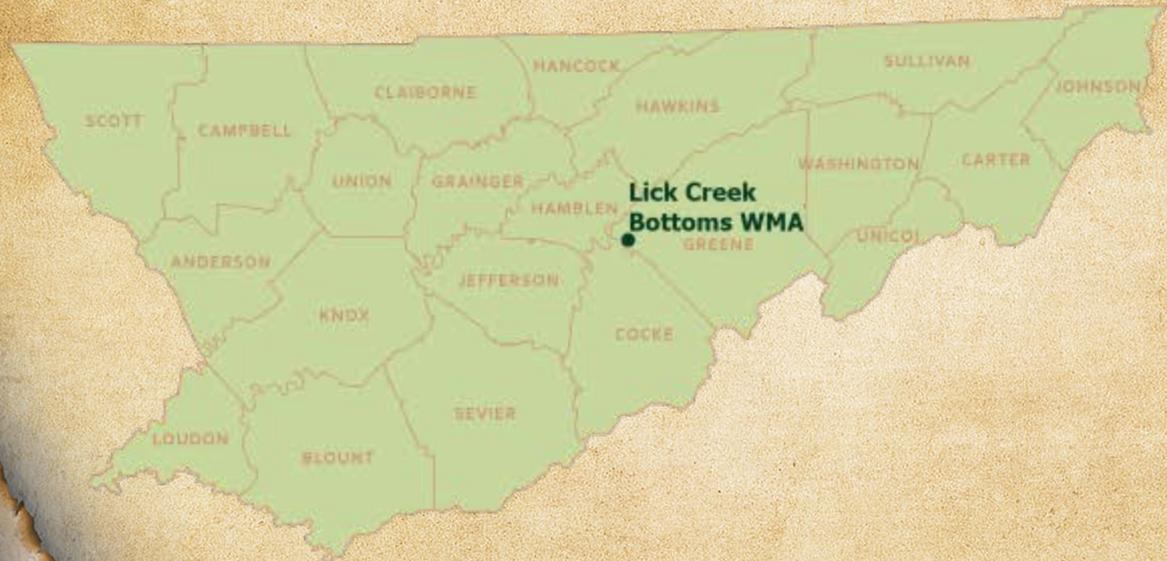


Cove Creek WMA

- **Deer seasons and bag limits**
 - Change to match North Cumberland WMA (nearby)
 - Two EHD outbreaks during last 5 years
 - Population decline
 - Public requests to improve the deer herd
 - Located in Campbell County (has large portion of NCWMA)
 - No change to number of hunt days, but reduction in antlerless limit (follows NCWMA table)



Lick Creek Bottoms WMA

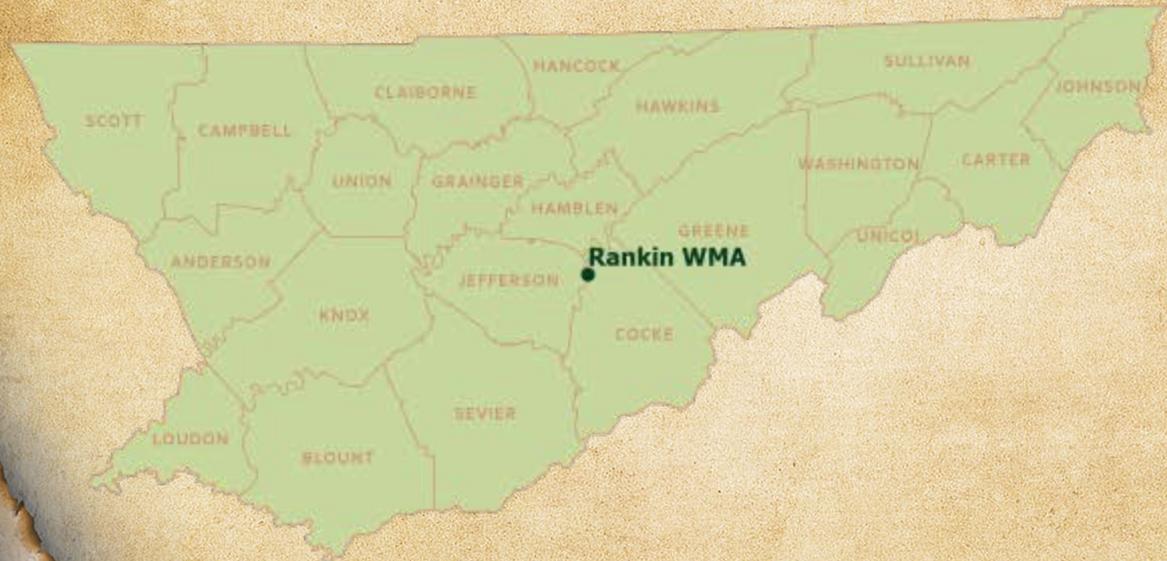


Lick Creek Bottoms WMA

- **Waterfowl hunt drawing**
 - Hunter request - (30+ miles to drawing site for many)
 - Change weekly drawings to occur every two weeks
 - Two hunt areas, one area hunted each week (30 sites)
 - Drawing would be for both hunt areas (60 sites)
 - Hunting continues on one area each week
 - Improved odds for attendees to be drawn



Rankin WMA



Rankin WMA

- **Consistent with other WMAs in area**
- **Coyote – allow incidental take**
 - May be taken on any big game hunt with devices legal for that hunt
 - No dogs allowed
- **Hunting Closure**
 - Closed to hunting from March 1st through 4th Friday in August, except open for spring turkey and spring squirrel



Questions?





Miscellaneous Proclamations



Proclamation 20-06

Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits on Select National Wildlife Refuges and Other Federal Areas

- **Calendar Date Changes “Only”**
 - Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (clarification)
 - *1st deer hunt: long or recurve bows, side-hammered ML w/ iron sights*
 - Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges
 - Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges
 - Sunk Lake Public Use Management Area (Northern Unit Only)
 - Reelfoot and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges
 - Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

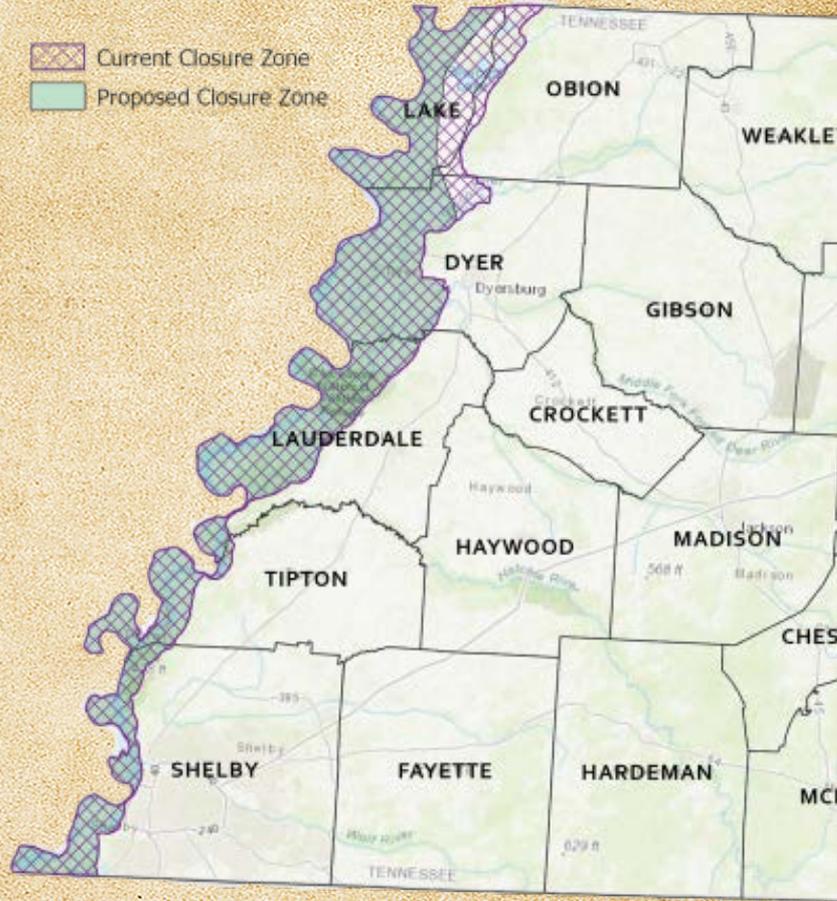


Mississippi River Floodwaters Zone Hunting Closure

- **Amend Proclamation 16-45**
 - Hunting closure occurs when the Mississippi River at Caruthersville gauge reaches 34 ft. and remains closed until the river drops below 34 ft. at the Caruthersville gauge
 - Simplicity of using one gauge for entire MRFZ
 - *Hunting is closed on all land and WMAs within the Zone*
 - Exclude areas that historically do not flood because of the Miss. River Levee (East of Hwy 78)
 - Public request, staff agree



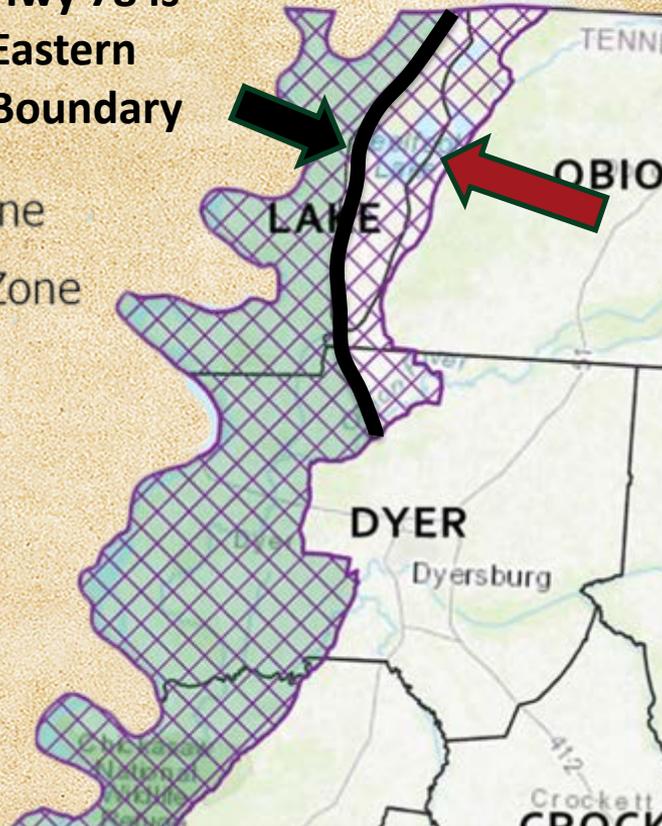
Mississippi River Floodwaters Zone Hunting Closure



Mississippi River Floodwaters Zone Hunting Closure

Hwy 78 is
Eastern
Boundary

-  Current Closure Zone
-  Proposed Closure Zone



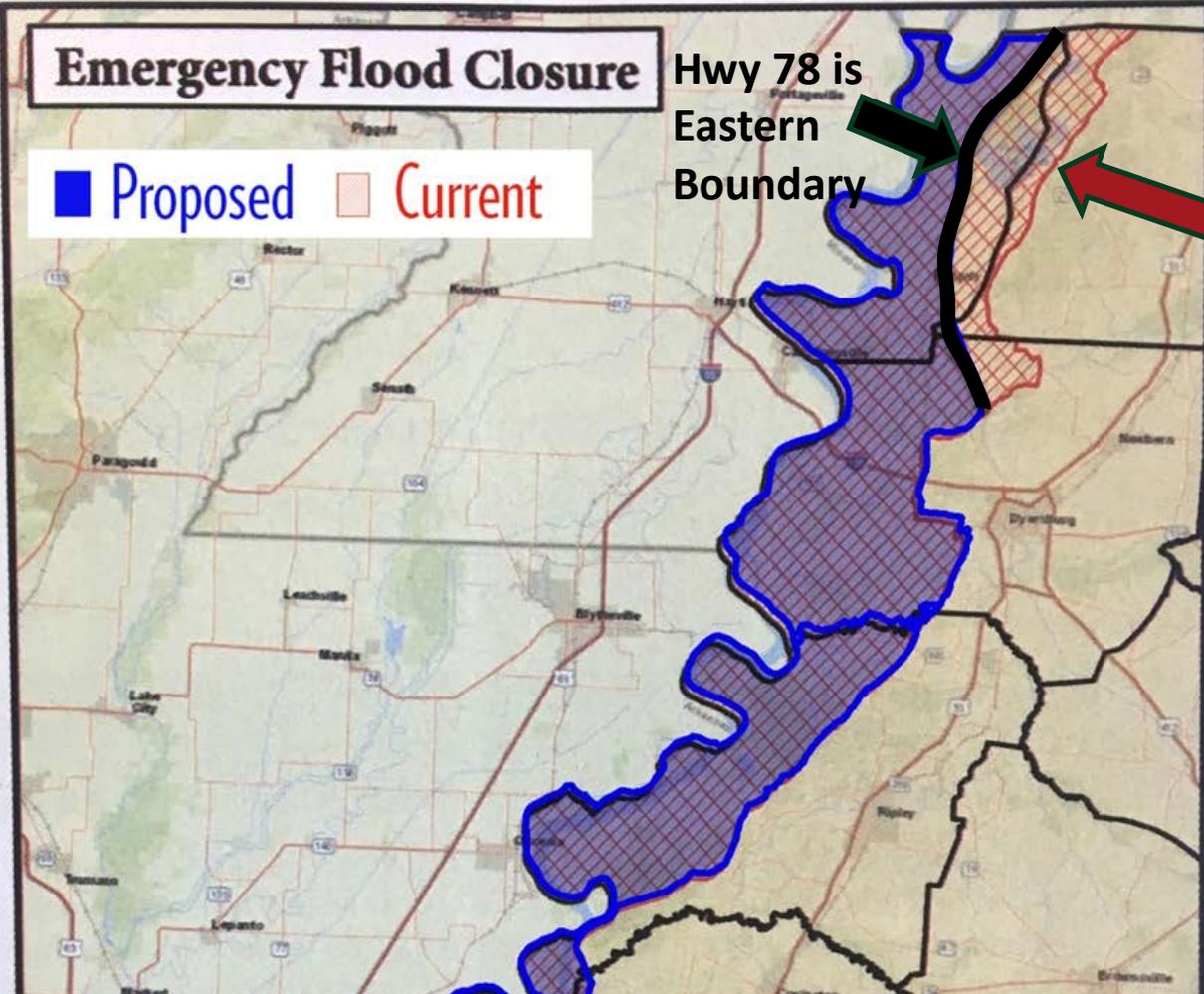
Allow
hunting in
portion that
never floods



Emergency Flood Closure

■ Proposed ■ Current

Hwy 78 is
Eastern
Boundary



Allow
hunting in
portion that
never floods



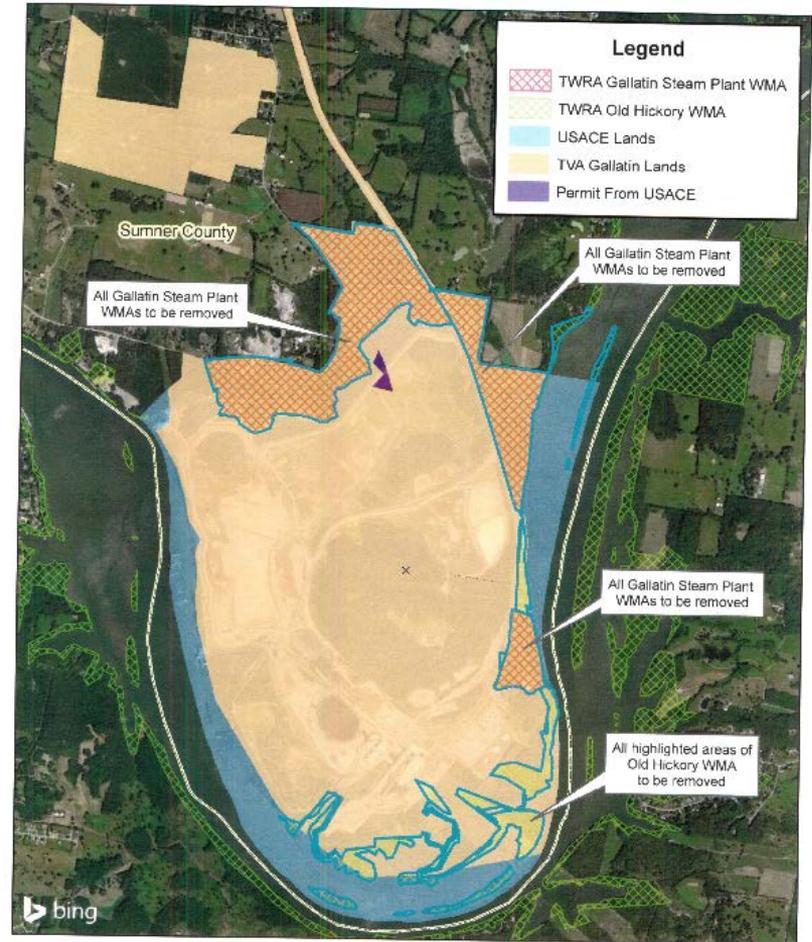
Gallatin Steam Plant WMA Proclamation 20-07

- **Repeal Proclamation 74-5**
 - TVA Gallatin Steam Plant WMA (268 acres)**
 - Site selected by TVA as landfill site for 12,000,000 cubic yards of coal ash from active settlement ponds on site
 - Requested by TVA (landowner)



Gallatin Steam Plant

Exhibit A - GAF TWRA WMA Removal Areas



Thank You!

Questions?



*Preview of
2020-21 &
2021-22*



*Manner
and
Means*

Cape Taylor, Lt. Colonel, Boating and Law Enforcement Division





Manner and Means of Hunting, Taking, and Trapping



Manner and Means of Hunting, Taking, and Trapping

SECTION III LEGAL TRAPPING DEVICES AND DEFINITIONS

(1) ~~Steel leg-hold~~ **foothold** traps **used for water sets**, must have an exterior jaw measurement of nine (9) inches or less, measured at the **hinge of the trap** ~~widest point~~. ~~Steel leg-hold-foothold~~ traps **used for ground sets must have an exterior jaw measurement of seven (7) inches or less measured at the hinge of the trap.** Steel square instant-kill traps must have an exterior jaw measurement of sixteen (16) inches or less measured at the widest point, and steel circular instant-kill traps must have an exterior measurement twelve (12) inches or less measured at the widest point.



(5) For ground sets, a trapper may use cushion-hold traps, laminated jaw traps, offset wide jaw traps, offset laminated jaw traps and wide jaw traps with an exterior jaw measurement of seven **(7)** 9 inches or less, measured at the **hinge** widest-point and with a minimum jaw thickness of one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of an inch. For ground sets, a trapper may also use double-jaw traps with an exterior jaw measurement of seven **(7)** 9 inches or less of the upper and lower jaws combined and a minimum jaw thickness of one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of an inch.

For water sets, a trapper may use cushion-hold traps, laminated jaw traps, offset wide jaw traps, offset laminated jaw traps and wide jaw traps with an exterior jaw measurement of nine (9) inches or less measured at the hinge point. For water sets, a trapper may also use double-jaw traps with an exterior jaw measurement of nine (9) inches or less of the upper and lower jaws combined.



(7) Trappers shall mark all traps **and snares** with their name or TWRA ID number.

(7)



***Number 4
cushion
hold trap.
Measures
less than
7 inches
at the
hinge
point***



***TS 85 Trap
Measures
less than 9
inches at the
hinge point***





***MB 750 Coil
Spring Trap.
Measures
less than 9
inches at
hinge point***



Questions?





Coyote Hunting at Night Commission update

Cape Taylor
LT Colonel
Boating and Law Enforcement



Manner and Means

Coyote hunting at night notes:

During the comment period, TWRA had 53 comments wanting to hunt coyotes at night.

TWRA Wildlife Division has no biological concerns with coyote hunting at night and defers to LE Division.



Manner and Means

Reasons that Boating and Law Enforcement Division is not recommending a night hunting season for coyotes:

Officer safety:

2010-US Forrest Service Officer killed when mistaken for a coyote while working night hunting.



Manner and Means

- **Public safety:**
- **2014-Colorado-** Three companions were hunting coyotes at night and got separated, and one hunter shot the other when he saw eyes reflecting.
- **2018-Illinois-**Two hunters hunting coyotes after sunset using thermal scope. Shooter could not see a fence post near the end of his barrel and shot sending shrapnel back into his hunting partner.
- **2019-Illinois-**Three hunters were using thermal scopes to hunt coyotes. After shooting at a coyote, the group went to look for blood and one hunter got separated from others. The two hunters saw movement and thought it was the wounded coyote and shot hitting the other hunter.
- **2017-North Dakota-**Two hunters were hunting coyotes at night and got separated. One hunter stayed at original location and he shot the other hunter that was returning after he mistook him for a coyote.



Manner and Means

Livestock safety:

2016- A hunter in Robertson County Tennessee was illegally hunting coyotes at night and he shot at a coyote which ran, the hunter began to look for the coyote with a light and saw eyes and shot, killing a horse.



Manner and Means

- No recommendations from any of the eight LE Districts or Law Enforcement supervision to allow night hunting of coyotes. All cited safety as their greatest concern.
- Concern about taking of non-target species (fox, bobcat and deer). Also, dogs/cats and other domestic animals.
- Hunters cannot see homes or vehicles that are not illuminated or over a contour in the terrain
- Opening a night hunting season would open the season to ALL private land in the state, to include small properties within urban areas. People would be able to hunt coyotes, even on these small properties, in or near subdivisions at night.



Manner and Means

- TCA 70-4-115 provides:
- 70-4-115 Destruction and disposal of wildlife — Permit — Penalty.
- (a) The owner of lands may destroy any wild animals, wild birds, or wild fowl when such wild animals, wild birds, or wild fowl are destroying property upon such lands. Any person, before destroying any big game under the conditions provided for in this section, is required to obtain a permit for destroying such big game. Such permit shall be issued by an officer of the wildlife resources agency.



Manner and Means

Questions?

