



2017 VERMONT WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT



FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
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The MISSION of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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2017 White-tailed Deer Report

Overview

Hunters harvested a total of 15,984 deer during the four Vermont deer seasons in 2017, providing more than 3 million servings of local, nutritious venison. The total harvest was 13 percent higher than the previous 3-year average (14,186), and the buck harvest was 8 percent higher than the previous 3-year average (8,760 bucks). The overall harvest was 1 percent less than 2016 (16,220), and the total buck harvest of 9,477 was 5 percent less than the 2016 buck harvest (9,995; Figure 1).

Hunting conditions were generally difficult during the 2017 hunting seasons. Statewide surveys conducted in 2017 indicated that apple, beechnut, and oak mast production were all good to excellent. In years with abundant fall foods, deer need to move less and tend to be more spread out on the landscape, which can make it difficult for hunters to locate them. Additionally, warm weather persisted for most of the October archery season, causing deer to move less during the day. November and December saw more seasonable weather, but conditions were often very noisy which made it difficult for hunters to get close to deer. Despite the challenging conditions, it was still a successful season for many Vermont hunters.

Perhaps the more important factor causing a slight decline in the buck harvest from 2016 was the way Vermont's antler restriction affects the harvest. Data from biological check stations operated during youth season indicated that 63 percent of yearling bucks had spike antlers in 2017 compared to only 48 percent in 2016. Since yearlings account for more than half of all antlered bucks, this can significantly affect the number of legal bucks that are

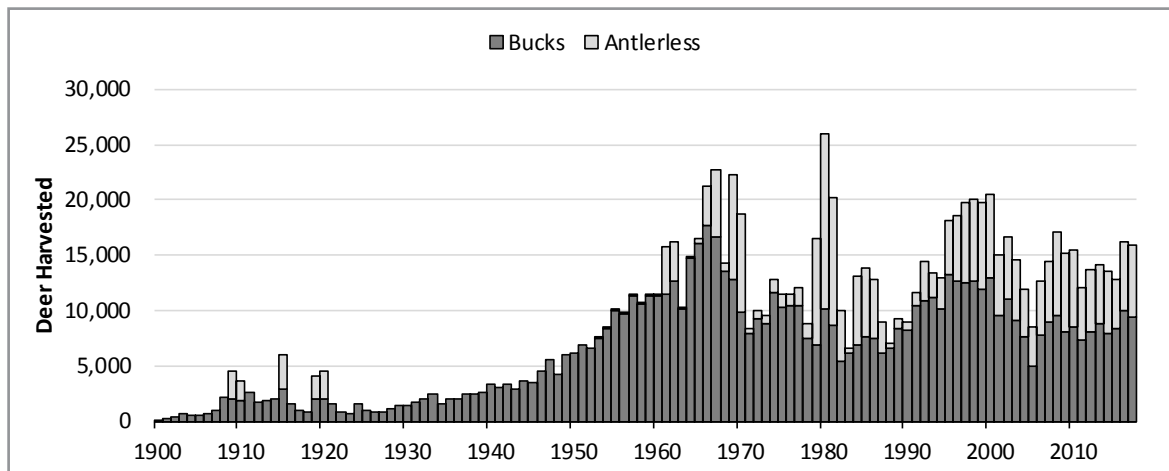


Figure 1. Annual antlered buck and total deer harvest in Vermont, 1900-2017.

available for hunters. In other words, while there may have been more bucks in Vermont in 2017, there may have been fewer legal bucks than in 2016.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department estimated a 7 percent increase in the 2017 deer population due to consecutive mild winters in 2016 and 2017. Each winter, a Winter Severity Index (WSI) is calculated from 38 weather stations throughout Vermont. Points are accumulated for each day when temperatures are 0 degrees Fahrenheit or below or the snow depth is 18 inches or more. The statewide average WSI for 2017 was 29.4, well below the 30-year average of 43.9 (Figure 2). In response, the number of muzzleloader season antlerless permits was increased to provide additional harvest opportunity and to limit population growth in some parts of the state.

The primary goal of Vermont's deer management strategy is to keep the deer herd stable, healthy, and in balance with available habitat. Fawn weights and reproductive data from road-killed deer continue to indicate populations in most of Vermont are in balance with their habitat. Deer that go into winter with heavier body weights are better able to survive harsh winter conditions, and high reproductive rates mean the population can rebound

quickly. This helps to minimize the boom and bust cycles that have historically characterized Vermont's deer population and harvest (Figure 1). Allowing an appropriate number of antlerless deer to be harvested helps to keep populations from becoming overabundant, and thereby helps to keep the deer and their habitats healthy and productive.

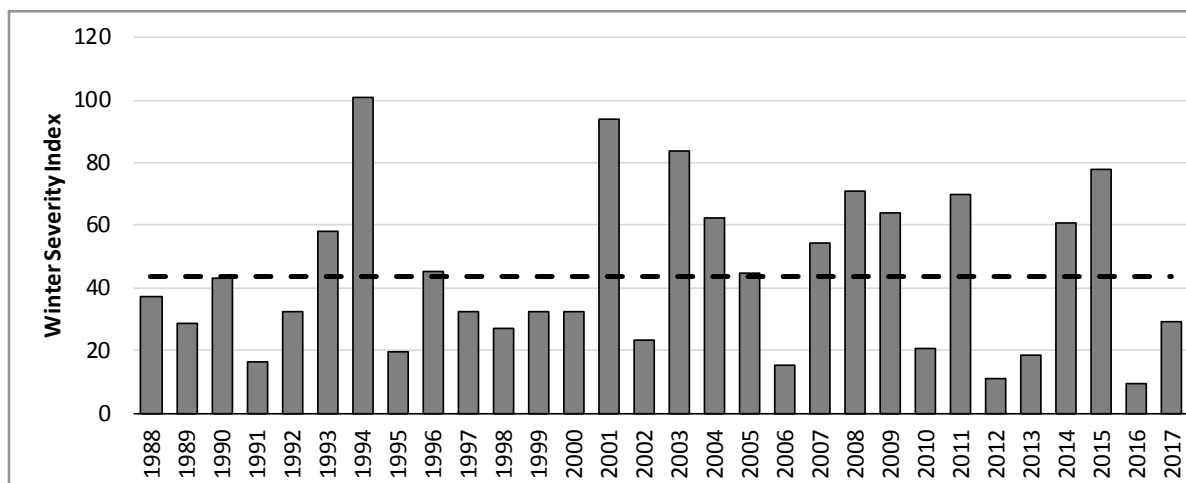


Figure 2. Statewide winter severity index (WSI) in Vermont, 1988-2017. The horizontal dashed line shows the 30-year average WSI of 44.

Season Results

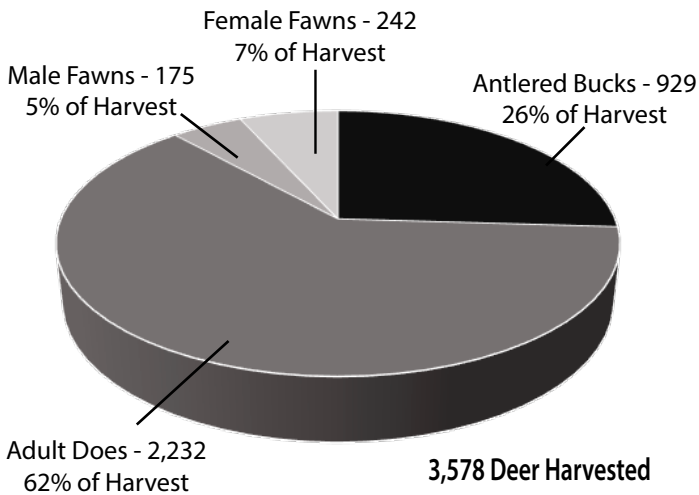
Antlered bucks comprised 59 percent of the total harvest, while 33 percent were adult does, 3 percent were male fawns, and 5 percent were female fawns (Figure 3, Table 1). Rifle season accounted for 46 percent of the total deer harvest, while 22 percent were harvested during archery season, 23 percent during muzzleloader season, and 9 percent during youth season (Figure 4, Table 1).

Archery Season (October 7–November 3, December 2–10, 2017)

Archers harvested 3,578 deer during the split 37-day archery season (28 days in October–November and 9 days in December). This was up slightly (3 percent) from the 2016 harvest (3,468) and was 7 percent higher than the previous 3-year average (3,336). The archery harvest was composed of 26 percent antlered bucks, 62 percent adult does, and 12 percent fawns (Figure 5, Table 1). The late archery season accounted for 4 percent (145 deer) of the overall archery harvest and 2 percent (18 deer) of the archery buck harvest. Hunters using crossbows accounted for 34 percent of the harvest, up slightly from 32 percent in 2016. Crossbows became legal for all hunters age 50 or older for the first time in 2016. In 2015, crossbows accounted for 14 percent of the archery harvest.

The prevalence of does in the archery harvest demonstrates that bow hunting is an important mechanism for deer population management. Harvesting does helps prevent overabundant and unhealthy deer. All wildlife management units were open to the taking of antlerless deer during the archery season in 2017.

Figure 5. Age and sex distribution of the archery harvest.



Youth Season (November 4–5, 2017)

Youth hunters harvested a total of 1,462 deer during the 2-day youth season. This was 2 percent more than 2016 (1,436), and similar to the previous 3-year average (1,455). The youth harvest was composed of 41 percent antlered bucks, 39 percent adult does, and 20 percent fawns (Figure 6, Table 1).

The youth season is particularly important for deer research and management in Vermont. Youth hunters during the youth season can harvest any deer, regardless of sex or antler characteristics.

Figure 3. Age and sex distribution of the harvest.

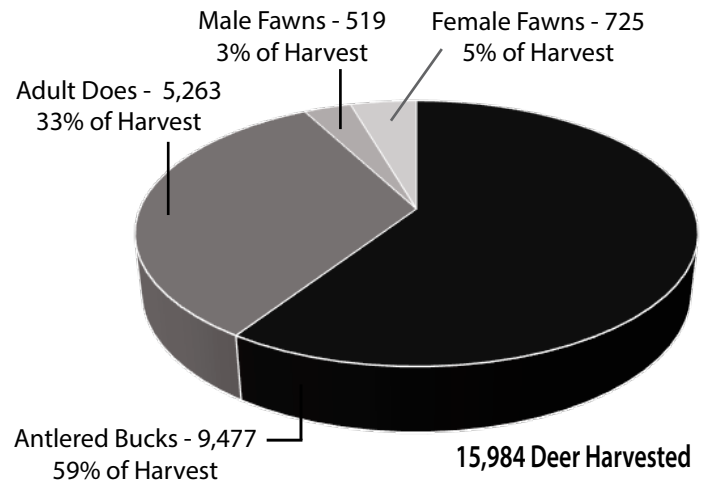


Figure 4. Distribution of the harvest by season.

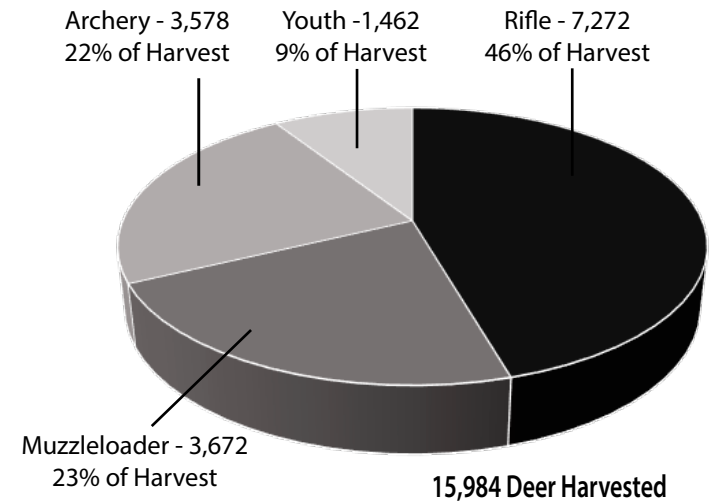
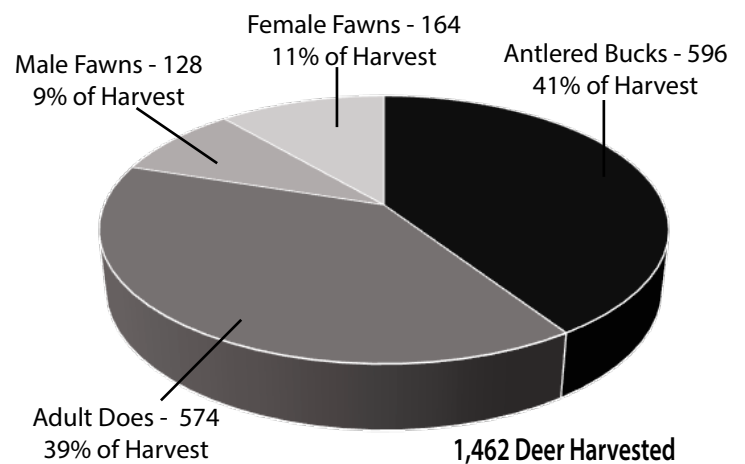


Figure 6. Age and sex distribution of the youth harvest.



As a result, the youth harvest provides a representative cross-section of the entire deer population, including spike-antlered bucks. Data from harvested does and fawns are also useful for deer management purposes.

Table 1. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest Numbers and Percentages by Season and Age–Sex

| Season | | Antlered Buck | Adult Doe | Male Fawn | Female Fawn | Total |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Archery | Number Harvested | 929 | 2,232 | 175 | 242 | 3,578 |
| | % of Archery Season | 26% | 62% | 5% | 7% | |
| | % of Age/Sex Class | 10% | 42% | 34% | 33% | |
| | % of Total Harvest | 6% | 14% | 1% | 2% | 22% |
| Youth | Number Harvested | 596 | 574 | 128 | 164 | 1,462 |
| | % of Youth Season | 41% | 39% | 9% | 11% | |
| | % of Age/Sex Class | 6% | 11% | 25% | 23% | |
| | % of Total Harvest | 4% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 9% |
| Rifle | Number Harvested | 7,272 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7,272 |
| | % of Rifle Season | 100% | | | | |
| | % of Age/Sex Class | 77% | | | | |
| | % of Total Harvest | 46% | | | | 46% |
| Muzzleloader | Number Harvested | 680 | 2,457 | 216 | 319 | 3672 |
| | % of Muzzleloader Season | 18% | 67% | 6% | 9% | |
| | % of Age/Sex Class | 7% | 47% | 42% | 44% | |
| | % of Total Harvest | 4% | 14% | 1% | 2% | 23% |
| Total | Number Harvested | 9,477 | 5,263 | 519 | 725 | 15,984 |
| | % of Total Harvest | 59% | 33% | 3% | 5% | |

Rifle Season (November 11–26, 2017)

Hunters reported a total of 7,272 antlered bucks during the traditional 16-day rifle season. This was a 6 percent decrease from 2016 (7,753), but 6 percent more than the previous 3-year average (6,840).

Hunter effort surveys were again mailed to 10,000 randomly selected licensed Vermont hunters in 2017. This survey provides information on the number of hunters actively participating in deer hunting, the amount of time they spend afield, and the number of deer, moose, and other species they see while hunting. These data are used to monitor deer, moose, bear, and furbearer distribution and population trends.

Hunters returned 1,556 valid surveys (16 percent return rate), with 23 percent reporting that they did not hunt during the rifle season in 2017. Hunters reported an average of 35 hours afield during the rifle season which is lower than the previous 3-year average (41 hours) and the lowest average hunting effort since the department began tracking this number in 2006. Timing of hunter effort within the rifle season is also useful for modeling population size and harvest rates. As usual, Saturday and Sunday of opening weekend saw the greatest hunting effort and yielded the greatest harvests among all 16 days of the season (Figure 7). Respondents reported a total of 42,053 hunter-hours, equivalent to 20 people working 40 hours per week year-round. Clearly, this volunteer survey effort is more than the department could ever achieve with its own staff.

Hunters reported seeing an average of 2.8 deer per 10 hours of hunting. This was slightly higher than 2016 (2.6 deer/10 hours hunting), and the highest sighting rate since 2007 (Table 2). The buck sighting rate of 0.37 per 10 hours of hunting (about 1 buck per 27 hours) was 23 percent higher than the rate reported in 2016 (0.30/10 hours) and the highest buck sighting rate since the department began tracking this number in 2003.



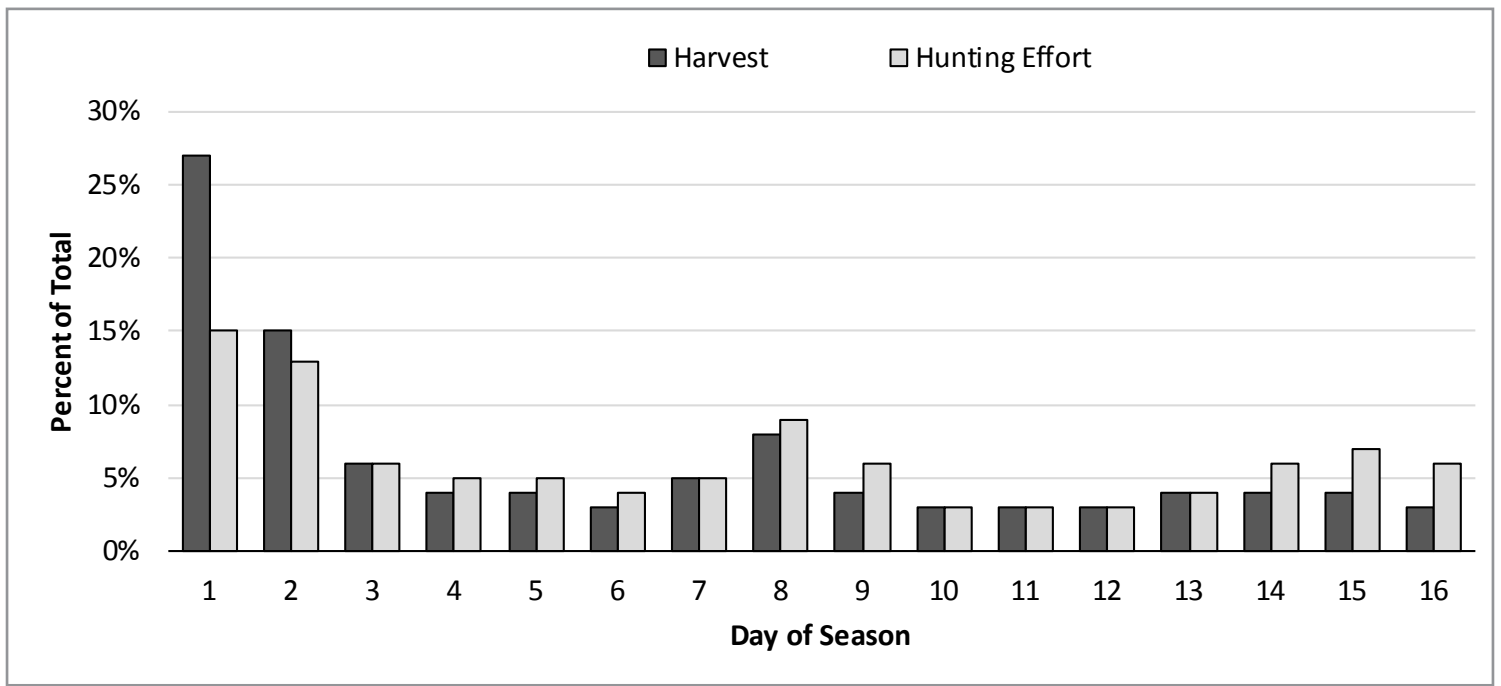


Figure 7. Daily hunting effort and buck harvest during the rifle season.

Table 2. Number of Deer Seen per 10 Hours Hunting by WMU as Reported by Rifle Hunters

| WMU | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| A | 2.0 | 6.0 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 4.1 | 2.6 | 4.9 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 5.6 |
| B | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 2.1 | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| C | 2.1 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| D1 ¹ | 1.5 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 3.2 |
| D2 ¹ | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 2.3 |
| E1 ¹ | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| F1 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 5.2 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| F2 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 4.6 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| G | 1.4 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.6 |
| H ¹ | 1.5 | 3.8 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 4.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| I | 2.2 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 2.2 |
| J1 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 3.9 | 4.5 |
| J2 ¹ | 2.8 | 3.6 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.9 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| K | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| L | 2.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 3.0 | 2.1 |
| M ² | 2.4 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 2.4 |
| N | 3.8 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.7 |
| O ^{1,2} | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 2.6 |
| P | 1.6 | 0.9 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Q ¹ | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 3.5 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Total | 2.4 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.8 |

¹ WMU boundaries were changed in 2014.

² Prior to 2014, data shown for WMU M are from old WMUs M1 and O1. Data for WMU O are from old WMUs M2 and O2.

Muzzleloader Season (December 2–10, 2017)

Muzzleloader hunters harvested a total of 3,672 deer during the 9-day season. This was 3 percent more than 2016 (3,563) and 44 percent more than the previous 3-year average (2,554). The muzzleloader harvest was composed of 18 percent antlered bucks, 67 percent adult does, and 15 percent fawns (Figure 8, Table 1).

Muzzleloader hunters play an important role in deer management, helping control total deer numbers in Vermont through shooting of antlerless deer. In 2017, a total of 24,500 antlerless deer permits were authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Board for 18 of the state's 21 wildlife management units (WMUs). This represented a 29 percent increase from the number of permits issued in 2015, in response to the expected increase in the deer population as a result of consecutive mild winters in 2016 and 2017.

Antlerless permits were not recommended for 3 WMUs, located in the mountain and northeast regions, where deer populations were estimated to be below established long-term goals. Permit holder success was 14 percent statewide (2,992 antlerless deer harvested), varying from a high of 28 percent in WMU D1 to a low of 11 percent in WMUs F1, F2, and I (Table 3).

Figure 8. Age and sex distribution of the muzzleloader harvest.

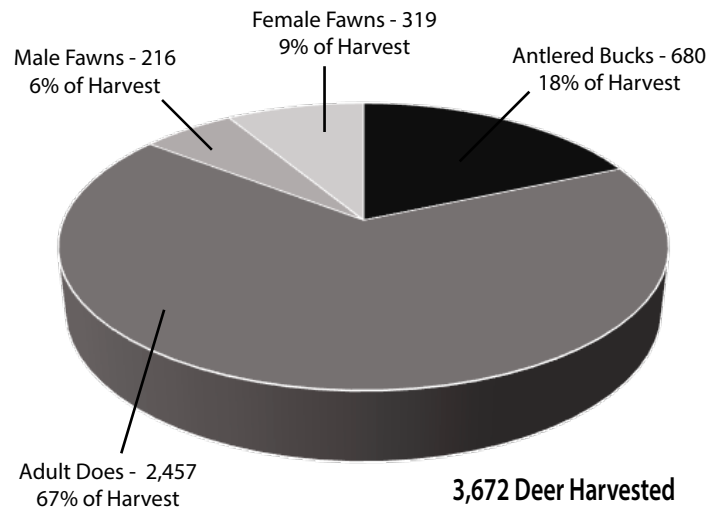


Table 3. 2017 Muzzleloader Antlerless Permit Allotments and Harvest by WMU

| WMU | Permits Available | Permits Distributed | Landowner Permits ¹ | Antlerless Harvest | % Success |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| A | 1,100 | 843 | 18 (2%) | 103 | 12% |
| B | 5,500 | 5,500 | 243 (4%) | 705 | 13% |
| C | 700 | 700 | 132 (19%) | 134 | 19% |
| D1 | 500 | 500 | 226 (45%) | 140 | 28% |
| D2 | 300 | 300 | 93 (31%) | 54 | 18% |
| F1 | 1,200 | 917 | 19 (2%) | 104 | 11% |
| F2 | 1,500 | 1,297 | 37 (3%) | 143 | 11% |
| G | 300 | 300 | 48 (16%) | 47 | 16% |
| H | 900 | 900 | 136 (15%) | 149 | 17% |
| I | 300 | 300 | 20 (7%) | 32 | 11% |
| J1 | 750 | 750 | 119 (16%) | 141 | 19% |
| J2 | 1,750 | 1,750 | 232 (13%) | 272 | 16% |
| K | 4,100 | 2,505 | 43 (2%) | 303 | 12% |
| L | 300 | 300 | 16 (5%) | 43 | 14% |
| M | 300 | 300 | 29 (10%) | 46 | 15% |
| N | 2,100 | 1,588 | 17 (1%) | 193 | 12% |
| O | 2,000 | 2,000 | 91 (5%) | 299 | 15% |
| Q | 900 | 692 | 21 (3%) | 84 | 12% |
| Total | 24,500 | 21,442 | 1,540 (7%) | 2,992 | 14% |

¹Permits issued through the landowner lottery. These are included in the total number of permits distributed.

Geographic Distribution

Deer are not evenly distributed across Vermont, and neither was the 2017 deer harvest. Deer harvest densities ranged from 4.8 deer/square mile in WMU A to 0.3 deer/square mile in WMU E (Figure 9). Areas west of the Green Mountains (WMUs A, B, F1, F2, K, and N) once again accounted for nearly 40 percent of the total deer harvest in 2017 (Table 4) despite having only 24 percent of the state's deer habitat. These areas have productive soils, a lot of farmland, and generally

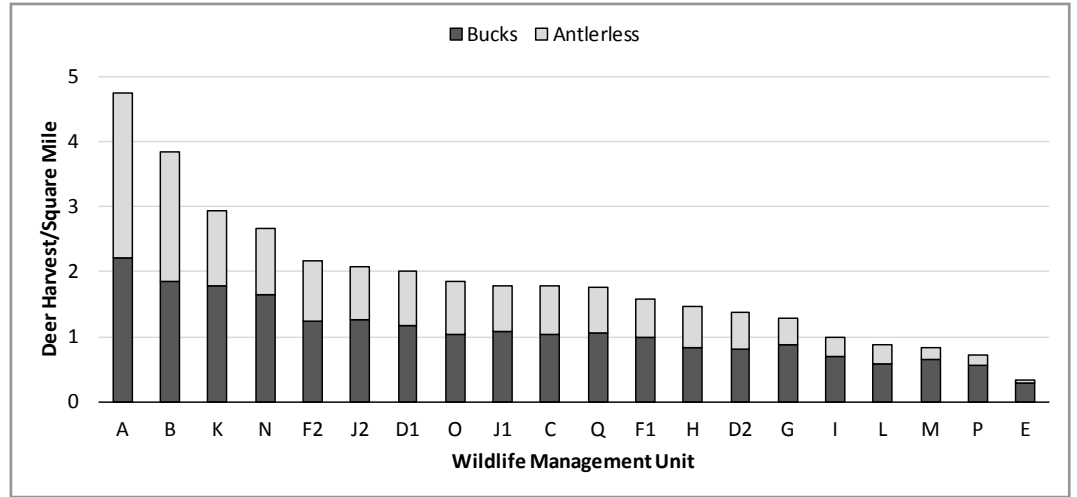


Figure 9. Antlered buck and total deer harvest density by wildlife management unit.

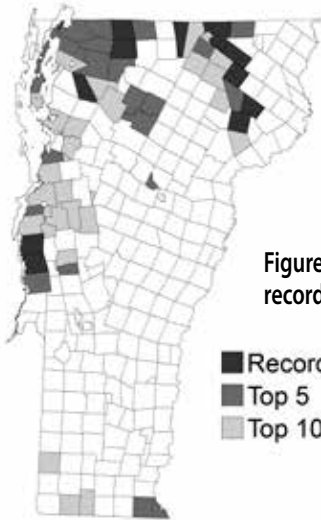


Figure 10. Towns with record or near-record total deer harvests in 2017.

■ Record
 ■ Top 5
 ■ Top 10

experience less severe winter conditions than the rest of the state, allowing them to sustain higher deer densities.

The distribution of the deer harvest changes over time as habitat conditions change. In 2017, 11 towns saw their highest total deer harvests ever, and another 52 towns had total deer harvests among their 10 best (Figure 10). Conversely, 23 towns had total deer harvests that were among their 10 worst since 1960.

Table 8 provides a breakdown of the harvest by county, town, and season. A map of the 2017 deer harvest distribution by town and WMU is available at the end of this report.

Table 4. 2017 Deer Harvest by Wildlife Management Unit and Season

| WMU | Archery | | Youth | | Rifle Buck | Muzzleloader | | Total | | Total Harvest |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Buck | Antlerless | Buck | Antlerless | | Buck | Antlerless | Buck | Antlerless | |
| A | 32 | 71 | 8 | 21 | 119 | 12 | 103 | 171 | 195 | 366 |
| B | 154 | 478 | 105 | 123 | 876 | 82 | 705 | 1,217 | 1,306 | 2,523 |
| C | 43 | 108 | 19 | 53 | 322 | 23 | 134 | 407 | 295 | 702 |
| D1 | 111 | 265 | 75 | 125 | 500 | 56 | 140 | 742 | 530 | 1,272 |
| D2 | 33 | 116 | 33 | 65 | 249 | 29 | 54 | 344 | 235 | 579 |
| E1 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 91 | 8 | 0 | 105 | 16 | 121 |
| E2 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 74 | 11 | 0 | 88 | 17 | 105 |
| F1 | 61 | 64 | 24 | 23 | 228 | 24 | 104 | 337 | 191 | 528 |
| F2 | 29 | 91 | 20 | 29 | 280 | 25 | 143 | 354 | 263 | 617 |
| G | 27 | 104 | 13 | 20 | 289 | 20 | 47 | 349 | 171 | 520 |
| H | 59 | 175 | 26 | 32 | 351 | 30 | 149 | 466 | 356 | 822 |
| I | 23 | 88 | 10 | 9 | 239 | 26 | 32 | 298 | 129 | 427 |
| J1 | 54 | 199 | 37 | 56 | 489 | 30 | 141 | 610 | 396 | 1,006 |
| J2 | 69 | 250 | 56 | 92 | 771 | 67 | 272 | 963 | 614 | 1,577 |
| K | 70 | 148 | 56 | 73 | 631 | 61 | 303 | 818 | 524 | 1,342 |
| L | 19 | 59 | 8 | 7 | 178 | 15 | 43 | 220 | 109 | 329 |
| M | 10 | 25 | 8 | 12 | 260 | 29 | 46 | 307 | 83 | 390 |
| N | 42 | 115 | 34 | 38 | 439 | 34 | 193 | 549 | 346 | 895 |
| O | 45 | 148 | 32 | 51 | 487 | 63 | 299 | 627 | 498 | 1,125 |
| P | 21 | 55 | 18 | 18 | 208 | 14 | 0 | 261 | 73 | 334 |
| Q | 22 | 65 | 10 | 11 | 191 | 21 | 84 | 244 | 160 | 404 |
| Total | 929 | 2,649 | 596 | 866 | 7,272 | 680 | 2,992 | 9,477 | 6,507 | 15,984 |

Bag Limits

A total of 13,365 different hunters were successful in harvesting a deer in 2017. Of those, 1,955 (15 percent) harvested two deer, and 332 (2 percent) reached the 3-deer bag limit for all seasons (Figure 11). These percentages are identical to those observed in 2016 and similar to those observed in prior years. Table 5 provides a detailed breakdown of the number of antlered bucks and antlerless deer harvested by individual successful hunters.

Biological Data Collection

Each fall department biologists visit big game reporting stations throughout the state to collect biological information from harvested deer. These data are important for monitoring the health of Vermont's deer herd and evaluating the effects of deer management strategies. In 2017 the department operated 25 biological reporting stations during the youth season and 11 during opening weekend of the rifle season and examined a total of 1,331 deer.

Youth season is an important data collection period because youth hunters may harvest any deer regardless of sex, age or antler characteristics. Biologists examined 577 deer (39 percent of the youth harvest) during youth weekend, including 240 antlered bucks, 221 adult does, and 107 fawns. Yearlings accounted for 66 percent of antlered bucks examined during youth weekend, 28 percent were 2 years old, and 6 percent were 3 years old or older (Table 6).

Data collected during the rifle season provide additional information on age and antler development in legal-antlered bucks and, when compared to youth season data, allow the department to assess the effect of the antler restriction on the harvest. Since 2015, a concerted effort has been made to collect additional data on buck age structure and antler development. Biologists examined 669 antlered bucks (16 percent of the rifle harvest) during the 2017 rifle season.

Additionally, the department asked all successful rifle season hunters to provide a tooth from their deer. This effort resulted in an additional 2,658 teeth (37 percent of the rifle harvest). In total, accurate age information will be available for 47 percent of the rifle buck harvest and more than 40 percent of the total buck harvest. These data will help evaluate the antler restriction and allow for comparison of age distribution and antler development among different regions of the state.

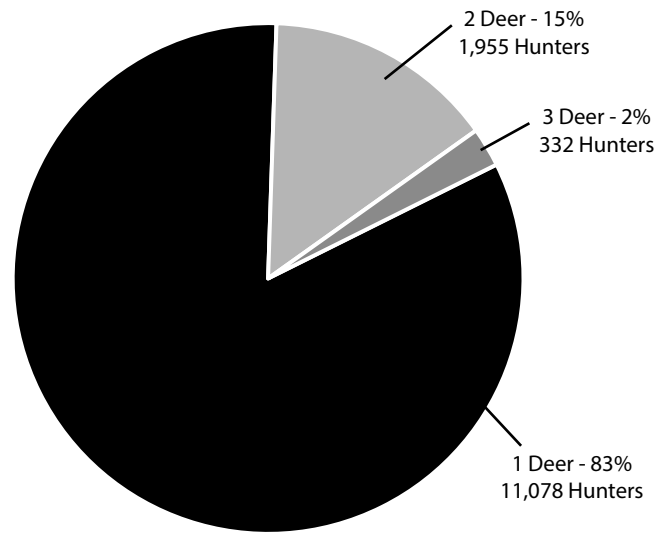


Figure 11. Percentage of hunters harvesting 1, 2, or 3 deer in 2017

Table 5. Number of antlered bucks and total deer harvested by individual successful hunters in 2017

| | | Antlered Bucks | | | Total |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------|-----|-------------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | |
| Antlerless Deer | 0 | | 7,079 | 375 | 7,454 (56%) |
| | 1 | 3,999 | 1,210 | 135 | 5,344 (40%) |
| | 2 | 370 | 167 | | 537 (4%) |
| | 3 | 30 | | | 30 (0%) |
| | Total | 4,399 | 8,456 | 510 | 13,365 |
| | (33%) | (63%) | (4%) | | |

Table 6. Average Dressed Weights and Antler Beam Diameters (ABD) of Deer Examined at Biological Reporting Stations During Youth Season

| | Age | Weight (lbs) | ABD (mm) | Sample Size | % of Adults |
|---------|-----|--------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Males | 0 | 64.7 | | 52 | |
| | 1 | 116.8 | 16.2 | 150 | 66% |
| | 2 | 132.6 | 19.9 | 64 | 28% |
| | 3 | 171.1 | 25.8 | 10 | 4% |
| | 4+ | 151.3 | 29.2 | 3 | 1% |
| Females | 0 | 58.3 | | 55 | |
| | 1 | 98.7 | | 50 | 24% |
| | 2 | 107.1 | | 41 | 20% |
| | 3 | 111.9 | | 24 | 12% |
| | 4+ | 120.5 | | 91 | 44% |

Looking to the Future

The winter of 2017-2018 has been quite variable so far. A prolonged cold stretch in late December and early January saw many nights with below zero temperatures. That was followed by a thaw in mid-January that greatly reduced the snowpack and allowed deer to venture outside of traditional wintering areas for a couple of weeks. Early February brought increased snowfall and a return to relatively normal winter conditions, but another thaw in late February once again reduced or eliminated the snowpack. Winter severity in March and April have the greatest effect on overwinter deer survival, so it's too early to make predictions. However, barring substantial late-winter snowfall, deer numbers in 2018 should be similar to those observed in 2017. A stable, healthy deer population indicates we are meeting one of our primary management objectives. However, there will still be some parts of Vermont that have more deer than the habitat can support over time.

In 2017, the department was left with unallocated muzzleloader antlerless deer permits in WMUs A, F1, F2, K, N, and Q (Table 3). It is very likely that there were more permits available in these units than there are muzzleloader hunters. In order to responsibly manage deer in these units, it may be necessary to find alternative ways to harvest antlerless deer and thereby control deer numbers. For example, the antlerless harvest in WMU N could be doubled with little or no impact on the population and would need to be increased even further to achieve the population objectives established in the 2010-2020 Big Game Management Plan. If the region continues to have mild winters, and too few does continue to be taken, the deer herd in southwestern Vermont will become unhealthy and susceptible to drastic winter losses and disease. Deer from this region already have consistently lower body weights and smaller antlers than deer from other parts of the state. Habitats damaged by overabundant deer take longer to recover than reduced deer numbers. Some parts of Vermont are still dealing with lingering effects of habitat impacts caused by overabundant deer decades ago.

Hunters play a critical role in the management of deer in Vermont. They provide the mechanism for controlling deer numbers and they provide useful biological information from the animals they harvest. Some rifle season hunters also provide valuable information on hunting effort and sighting rates of deer, moose, and other species. Hunters have a responsibility to contribute to the sound management of these species, yet only 16 percent of rifle season hunter effort surveys were returned in 2017. Low return rates for this survey, as well as other surveys like bear hunter effort surveys and trapper surveys, make the information less useful and limit the department's ability to estimate deer, moose, bear, and furbearer population sizes.

Comprehensive Deer Management Evaluation

The Fish and Wildlife Department is nearing the completion of phase II of our comprehensive deer management evaluation. Phase I resulted in the Fish and Wildlife Board approving several changes to deer hunting regulations which took effect in 2016. These included a ban on natural urine lures, allowing hunters age 50 or older to use crossbows, adding 5 days to the end of



the October archery season, and reducing the bag limits during archery and muzzleloader seasons from three to two.

During phase II, the department made a concerted effort to collect additional information on the buck population to further evaluate the effects of the antler restriction. This began in 2015 with an increased number of biological reporting stations and the rifle season tooth collection effort and continued through the 2017 deer seasons. This has provided three years of increased age and antler data collection and allowed for two years of monitoring the effects of the regulation changes on the archery harvest. Additionally, the department reviewed all aspects of deer management in search of options that improve both hunter satisfaction and the department's ability to manage the deer herd.

Age results from 2017 are not yet available as of this writing, but data from 2015 and 2016 have proven useful in assessing the antler restriction. The department will produce a final report on our findings from the comprehensive deer management evaluation later this year, after all the data from 2017 have been received and analyzed. Any specific recommendations for regulation changes resulting from this evaluation will be made in 2019 (to take effect in 2020), following opportunities for public input this coming fall and winter.

2020-2030 Big Game Management Plan

The department recently began the process of developing a new 10-Year Big Game Management Plan for Vermont's four big game species. The plan identifies the major issues facing each species, establishes management goals, and guides management actions for the next decade. There will be lots of public involvement during the development of this plan, so if you have any ideas about how these species should be managed or important issues the department should address, there will be ample opportunity to let us know.

Heaviest Deer

A total of 123 deer were reported with scaled weights of 200 pounds or more. The heaviest deer weighed 234 pounds and was taken in the town of Lewis. At least one 200-pound deer was

reported from every WMU except A. For more information on large deer harvested in Vermont, visit the Vermont Big Game Trophy Club website at vermontbiggametrophyclub.com.

Table 7. Bucks Weighing at Least 200 Pounds in the 2017 Deer Harvest

(Weights have been corrected to account for remaining organs. Weights in parentheses are the reported weights of deer that were not completely field dressed.)

| Season | WMU | Town | Weight | Points |
|--------|-----|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Rifle | E1 | LEWIS | 234 | 7 |
| Rifle | E1 | NORTON | 232 | 9 |
| Rifle | C | LOWELL | 230 | 10 |
| Rifle | I | HANCOCK | 227 | 7 |
| Rifle | F1 | BRIDPORT | 223 | 3 |
| Rifle | M | CAVENDISH | 222 | 8 |
| Rifle | D2 | GLOVER | 221 (234) | 6 |
| Rifle | D2 | NEWARK | 220 | 9 |
| Rifle | D1 | COVENTRY | 217 | 6 |
| Rifle | D2 | SHEFFIELD | 217 (230) | 8 |
| Rifle | M | BRIDGEWATER | 217 | 6 |
| Rifle | O | ROYALTON | 217 (219) | 9 |
| Rifle | D1 | ALBANY | 217 | 8 |
| Rifle | F1 | SHELBURNE | 215 | 10 |
| Rifle | N | MANCHESTER | 215 (228) | 9 |
| Rifle | L | BRIDGEWATER | 214 | 8 |
| Rifle | H | WATERBURY | 214 | 8 |
| Rifle | L | MOUNT HOLLY | 214 | 9 |
| Bow | D2 | WHEELLOCK | 213 | 8 |
| Rifle | F1 | SHELBURNE | 213 | 8 |
| Rifle | F2 | SHOREHAM | 213 | 9 |
| Rifle | O | PUTNEY | 213 | 7 |
| Rifle | E2 | BRIGHTON | 213 | 8 |
| Rifle | E2 | VICTORY | 213 (226) | 10 |
| Bow | K | DANBY | 212 | 8 |
| Rifle | D1 | CHARLESTON | 212 | 8 |
| Rifle | F2 | ORWELL | 212 | 8 |
| Rifle | E1 | BLOOMFIELD | 212 | 8 |
| Rifle | J1 | ROCHESTER | 212 | 8 |
| Rifle | P | STAMFORD | 212 | 7 |
| Youth | D1 | NEWPORT | 212 | 8 |
| Bow | D1 | HOLLAND | 211 | 6 |
| Rifle | D1 | CHARLESTON | 211 | 8 |
| Bow | L | WESTON | 211 (220) | 5 |
| Rifle | D2 | WESTMORE | 210 | 9 |
| Rifle | J2 | BARNET | 210 | 8 |
| Rifle | D1 | IRASBURG | 210 | 8 |
| Rifle | J2 | VERSHIRE | 210 | 9 |
| Rifle | D1 | MORGAN | 210 | 5 |
| Rifle | J1 | ROCHESTER | 209 | 8 |

| Season | WMU | Town | Weight | Points |
|--------|-----|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Rifle | E2 | GRANBY | 209 | 10 |
| Rifle | D1 | IRASBURG | 209 | 8 |
| Youth | D1 | NEWPORT | 209 | 5 |
| Rifle | M | WINDHAM | 209 | 9 |
| Rifle | E1 | AVERILL | 209 | 8 |
| Rifle | D2 | SUTTON | 208 | 8 |
| Rifle | D2 | WALDEN | 208 | 6 |
| Rifle | Q | DUMMERSTON | 208 | 9 |
| Rifle | D1 | MORGAN | 208 | 8 |
| Rifle | P | POWNAI | 208 | 8 |
| Rifle | M | PLYMOUTH | 208 | 7 |
| Rifle | E2 | FERDINAND | 208 | 8 |
| Rifle | F1 | SHELBURNE | 208 | 6 |
| Rifle | D2 | NEWARK | 208 | 6 |
| Rifle | E1 | AVERYS GORE | 208 | 10 |
| Bow | K | SUDBURY | 207 | 8 |
| Bow | D1 | COVENTRY | 207 | 6 |
| Rifle | E1 | AVERILL | 207 | 9 |
| Rifle | E1 | NORTON | 207 | 8 |
| Rifle | B | CAMBRIDGE | 207 | 8 |
| Rifle | D2 | KIRBY | 207 | 4 |
| Rifle | M | LONDONDERRY | 207 | 10 |
| Rifle | B | CAMBRIDGE | 207 | 8 |
| Rifle | H | MIDDLESEX | 207 | 8 |
| Rifle | E1 | BRIGHTON | 207 | 8 |
| Rifle | E1 | LEMINGTON | 206 | 7 |
| Rifle | H | ELMORE | 206 | 6 |
| Rifle | B | BAKERSFIELD | 206 | 8 |
| Bow | O | ROCKINGHAM | 206 | 9 |
| Bow | L | KILLINGTON | 206 | 8 |
| Rifle | B | GEORGIA | 206 | 8 |
| Bow | I | MIDDLEBURY | 205 | 6 |
| Rifle | J1 | MORETOWN | 205 | 5 |
| Rifle | B | BERKSHIRE | 204 | 7 |
| Rifle | I | WARREN | 204 (212) | 5 |
| Rifle | O | WEST WINDSOR | 204 | 8 |
| Rifle | O | READING | 204 | 8 |
| Rifle | M | LONDONDERRY | 203 | 9 |
| Rifle | O | ROYALTON | 203 | 8 |
| Rifle | H | MARSHFIELD | 203 | 7 |

Table 7. Bucks Weighing at Least 200 Pounds in the 2017 Deer Harvest

| Season | WMU | Town | Weight | Points |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----------|--------|
| Rifle | C | EDEN | 203 (215) | 8 |
| Bow | I | BRISTOL | 202 | 10 |
| Rifle | B | SWANTON | 202 | 7 |
| Rifle | I | RIPTON | 202 | 8 |
| Rifle | D1 | HYDE PARK | 202 | 7 |
| Rifle | O | CAVENDISH | 202 | 8 |
| Muzzleloader | J2 | NEWBURY | 202 | 10 |
| Bow | F1 | ORWELL | 201 | 8 |
| Rifle | F1 | WILLISTON | 201 | 8 |
| Rifle | B | BERKSHIRE | 201 | 8 |
| Rifle | D2 | SUTTON | 201 (203) | 8 |
| Rifle | D1 | DERBY | 201 | 8 |
| Rifle | C | MONTGOMERY | 201 | 8 |
| Rifle | D2 | BURKE | 201 (207) | 8 |
| Rifle | K | RUTLAND | 201 | 8 |
| Rifle | O | POMFRET | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | D1 | ALBANY | 200 | 7 |
| Rifle | O | ROYALTON | 200 | 5 |
| Rifle | G | DUXBURY | 200 | 10 |
| Rifle | F1 | ORWELL | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | P | STAMFORD | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | H | HARDWICK | 200 (202) | 10 |

| Season | WMU | Town | Weight | Points |
|--------|-----|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Rifle | C | JAY | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | I | GOSHEN | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | M | READING | 200 | 6 |
| Rifle | D1 | IRASBURG | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | Q | DUMMERSTON | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | J1 | WILLIAMSTOWN | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | B | HIGHGATE | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | J2 | TOPSHAM | 200 (212) | 9 |
| Rifle | C | RICHFORD | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | C | WESTFIELD | 200 | 8 |
| Rifle | N | MANCHESTER | 200 | 9 |
| Rifle | H | WORCESTER | 200 | 10 |
| Bow | H | PLAINFIELD | 199 (201) | 5 |
| Bow | O | HARTLAND | 198 (210) | 11 |
| Rifle | D2 | SUTTON | 198 (203) | 8 |
| Rifle | J1 | MORETOWN | 198 (200) | 8 |
| Rifle | J2 | TOPSHAM | 198 (200) | 8 |
| Rifle | C | EDEN | 196 (205) | 9 |
| Rifle | J1 | WILLIAMSTOWN | 194 (205) | 6 |
| Rifle | J2 | CONCORD | 191 (202) | 8 |
| Rifle | C | JAY | 191 (202) | 8 |

Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County, Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|----------------|------------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| ADDISON | ADDISON | 6 | 2 | 23 | 13 | 44 | 1.05 |
| | BRIDPORT | 8 | 2 | 22 | 7 | 39 | 0.89 |
| | BRISTOL | 12 | 3 | 32 | 14 | 61 | 1.53 |
| | CORNWALL | 10 | 4 | 19 | 16 | 49 | 1.69 |
| | FERRISBURG | 19 | 12 | 40 | 24 | 95 | 1.98 |
| | GOSHEN | 2 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 13 | 0.62 |
| | GRANVILLE | 0 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 0.24 |
| | HANCOCK | 1 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 17 | 0.44 |
| | LEICESTER | 7 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 46 | 2.19 |
| | LINCOLN | 37 | 5 | 40 | 10 | 92 | 2.00 |
| | MIDDLEBURY | 17 | 5 | 32 | 21 | 75 | 1.92 |
| | MONKTON | 20 | 3 | 34 | 9 | 66 | 1.83 |
| | NEW HAVEN | 26 | 12 | 48 | 36 | 122 | 2.98 |
| | ORWELL | 18 | 16 | 51 | 29 | 114 | 2.43 |
| | PANTON | 5 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 21 | 1.31 |
| | RIPTON | 12 | 1 | 41 | 7 | 61 | 1.24 |
| | SALISBURY | 8 | 8 | 24 | 12 | 52 | 1.79 |
| | SHOREHAM | 20 | 15 | 32 | 21 | 88 | 2.05 |
| | STARKSBORO | 14 | 2 | 50 | 17 | 83 | 1.84 |
| | VERGENNES | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.50 |
| WALTHAM | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 1.22 | |

Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| ADDISON (cont.) | WEYBRIDGE | 4 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 27 | 1.59 |
| | WHITING | 2 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 16 | 1.14 |
| | TOTAL | 250 | 105 | 568 | 282 | 1,205 | 1.57 |
| BENNINGTON | ARLINGTON | 10 | 6 | 57 | 17 | 90 | 2.14 |
| | BENNINGTON | 26 | 11 | 62 | 33 | 132 | 3.14 |
| | DORSET | 11 | 7 | 36 | 13 | 67 | 1.43 |
| | GLASTENBURY | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0.07 |
| | LANDGROVE | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0.56 |
| | MANCHESTER | 7 | 1 | 29 | 8 | 45 | 1.07 |
| | PERU | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 0.22 |
| | POWNAI | 37 | 22 | 83 | 31 | 173 | 3.68 |
| | READSBORO | 14 | 3 | 19 | 1 | 37 | 1.03 |
| | RUPERT | 20 | 10 | 66 | 28 | 124 | 2.76 |
| | SANDGATE | 13 | 4 | 42 | 17 | 76 | 1.81 |
| | SEARSBURG | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 0.43 |
| | SHAFTSBURY | 33 | 15 | 72 | 54 | 174 | 4.05 |
| | STAMFORD | 7 | 5 | 25 | 0 | 37 | 0.95 |
| | SUNDERLAND | 6 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 22 | 0.49 |
| | WINHALL | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 0.23 |
| | WOODFORD | 6 | 1 | 19 | 1 | 27 | 0.57 |
| TOTAL | 193 | 89 | 548 | 209 | 1,039 | 1.55 | |
| CALEDONIA | BARNET | 20 | 16 | 47 | 37 | 120 | 2.86 |
| | BURKE | 27 | 15 | 22 | 8 | 72 | 2.12 |
| | DANVILLE | 24 | 12 | 42 | 10 | 88 | 1.44 |
| | GROTON | 5 | 5 | 30 | 8 | 48 | 0.89 |
| | HARDWICK | 22 | 15 | 28 | 16 | 81 | 2.13 |
| | KIRBY | 2 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 17 | 0.68 |
| | LYNDON | 24 | 20 | 26 | 10 | 80 | 2.05 |
| | NEWARK | 8 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 24 | 0.65 |
| | PEACHAM | 8 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 34 | 0.72 |
| | RYEGATE | 16 | 9 | 41 | 20 | 86 | 2.39 |
| | SHEFFIELD | 4 | 5 | 23 | 5 | 37 | 1.12 |
| | ST JOHNSBURY | 29 | 13 | 28 | 17 | 87 | 2.42 |
| | STANNARD | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 0.77 |
| | SUTTON | 11 | 10 | 25 | 5 | 51 | 1.34 |
| | WALDEN | 4 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 27 | 0.69 |
| | WATERFORD | 21 | 10 | 43 | 28 | 102 | 2.68 |
| | WHEELLOCK | 3 | 4 | 15 | 7 | 29 | 0.73 |
| TOTAL | 230 | 142 | 430 | 191 | 993 | 1.53 | |
| CHITTENDEN | BOLTON | 9 | 2 | 26 | 5 | 42 | 1.00 |
| | BUELS GORE | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0.40 |
| | BURLINGTON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | CHARLOTTE | 20 | 3 | 25 | 16 | 64 | 1.56 |
| | COLCHESTER | 30 | 2 | 19 | 31 | 82 | 2.28 |

Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County, Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| CHITTENDEN (cont.) | ESSEX | 27 | 1 | 22 | 22 | 72 | 1.85 |
| | HINESBURG | 14 | 5 | 34 | 13 | 66 | 1.69 |
| | HUNTINGTON | 15 | 2 | 41 | 10 | 68 | 1.79 |
| | JERICO | 22 | 5 | 24 | 12 | 63 | 1.80 |
| | MILTON | 29 | 8 | 39 | 34 | 110 | 2.16 |
| | RICHMOND | 9 | 2 | 30 | 23 | 64 | 2.00 |
| | SHELBURNE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | SOUTH BURLINGTON | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1.50 |
| | ST GEORGE | 19 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 36 | 1.50 |
| | UNDERHILL | 35 | 3 | 39 | 21 | 98 | 1.92 |
| | WESTFORD | 27 | 3 | 31 | 30 | 91 | 2.33 |
| | WILLISTON | 12 | 3 | 23 | 13 | 51 | 1.70 |
| | WINOOSKI | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1.00 |
| | TOTAL | | 270 | 40 | 372 | 234 | 916 |
| ESSEX | AVERILL | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 0.25 |
| | AVERYS GORE | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0.11 |
| | BLOOMFIELD | 2 | 1 | 18 | 2 | 23 | 0.58 |
| | BRIGHTON | 7 | 2 | 14 | 0 | 23 | 0.43 |
| | BRUNSWICK | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.08 |
| | CANAAN | 2 | 4 | 12 | 2 | 20 | 0.61 |
| | CONCORD | 8 | 0 | 30 | 10 | 48 | 0.94 |
| | EAST HAVEN | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 0.22 |
| | FERDINAND | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 0.19 |
| | GRANBY | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 0.18 |
| | GUILDHALL | 2 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 0.36 |
| | LEMINGTON | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0.26 |
| | LEWIS | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0.08 |
| | LUNENBURG | 5 | 2 | 23 | 2 | 32 | 0.71 |
| | MAIDSTONE | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0.13 |
| | NORTON | 6 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 29 | 0.76 |
| | VICTORY | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0.12 |
| | WARNERS GRANT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | WARREN GORE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | | 33 | 12 | 174 | 27 | 246 | 0.37 |
| FRANKLIN | BAKERSFIELD | 29 | 6 | 72 | 31 | 138 | 3.29 |
| | BERKSHIRE | 43 | 25 | 69 | 67 | 204 | 4.86 |
| | ENOSBURG | 54 | 26 | 61 | 57 | 198 | 4.13 |
| | FAIRFAX | 48 | 22 | 61 | 65 | 196 | 4.90 |
| | FAIRFIELD | 61 | 37 | 119 | 110 | 327 | 4.88 |
| | FLETCHER | 24 | 11 | 60 | 42 | 137 | 3.61 |
| | FRANKLIN | 58 | 26 | 80 | 64 | 228 | 6.00 |
| | GEORGIA | 22 | 10 | 36 | 34 | 102 | 2.62 |
| | HIGHGATE | 86 | 29 | 97 | 87 | 299 | 5.86 |
| | MONTGOMERY | 17 | 2 | 52 | 20 | 91 | 1.63 |
| | RICHFORD | 25 | 9 | 41 | 30 | 105 | 2.44 |

Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County, Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| FRANKLIN (cont.) | SHELDON | 34 | 22 | 47 | 43 | 146 | 3.74 |
| | ST ALBANS | 15 | 8 | 23 | 11 | 57 | 1.54 |
| | SWANTON | 29 | 12 | 57 | 44 | 142 | 2.96 |
| | TOTAL | 545 | 245 | 875 | 705 | 2,370 | 3.77 |
| GRAND ISLE | ALBURGH | 30 | 11 | 47 | 37 | 125 | 4.31 |
| | GRAND ISLE | 26 | 6 | 22 | 23 | 77 | 4.81 |
| | ISLE LA MOTTE | 8 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 29 | 3.63 |
| | NORTH HERO | 14 | 4 | 20 | 25 | 63 | 5.25 |
| | SOUTH HERO | 25 | 6 | 21 | 20 | 72 | 4.80 |
| | TOTAL | 103 | 29 | 119 | 115 | 366 | 4.58 |
| LAMOILLE | BELVIDERE | 5 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 24 | 0.67 |
| | CAMBRIDGE | 32 | 9 | 66 | 28 | 135 | 2.14 |
| | EDEN | 10 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 35 | 0.56 |
| | ELMORE | 11 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 36 | 0.92 |
| | HYDE PARK | 21 | 10 | 33 | 12 | 76 | 2.00 |
| | JOHNSON | 17 | 7 | 40 | 31 | 95 | 2.11 |
| | MORRISTOWN | 20 | 11 | 43 | 18 | 92 | 1.80 |
| | STOWE | 34 | 7 | 45 | 19 | 105 | 1.46 |
| | WATERVILLE | 11 | 8 | 19 | 8 | 46 | 2.88 |
| | WOLCOTT | 22 | 5 | 32 | 18 | 77 | 1.97 |
| | TOTAL | 183 | 59 | 321 | 158 | 721 | 1.56 |
| ORANGE | BRADFORD | 16 | 11 | 48 | 20 | 95 | 3.17 |
| | BRAINTREE | 5 | 5 | 23 | 12 | 45 | 1.18 |
| | BROOKFIELD | 22 | 2 | 39 | 12 | 75 | 1.83 |
| | CHELSEA | 15 | 19 | 44 | 20 | 98 | 2.45 |
| | CORINTH | 11 | 1 | 37 | 15 | 64 | 1.33 |
| | FAIRLEE | 6 | 3 | 23 | 5 | 37 | 1.85 |
| | NEWBURY | 21 | 14 | 53 | 28 | 116 | 1.81 |
| | ORANGE | 9 | 9 | 18 | 11 | 47 | 1.21 |
| | RANDOLPH | 23 | 13 | 50 | 29 | 115 | 2.40 |
| | STRAFFORD | 20 | 7 | 52 | 19 | 98 | 2.23 |
| | THETFORD | 34 | 19 | 73 | 25 | 151 | 3.51 |
| | TOPSHAM | 10 | 7 | 32 | 14 | 63 | 1.29 |
| | TUNBRIDGE | 26 | 10 | 45 | 25 | 106 | 2.36 |
| | VERSHIRE | 13 | 4 | 32 | 12 | 61 | 1.69 |
| | WASHINGTON | 12 | 5 | 24 | 5 | 46 | 1.18 |
| | WEST FAIRLEE | 5 | 3 | 25 | 6 | 39 | 1.70 |
| | WILLIAMSTOWN | 44 | 17 | 54 | 21 | 136 | 3.40 |
| | TOTAL | 292 | 149 | 672 | 279 | 1,392 | 2.03 |
| ORLEANS | ALBANY | 15 | 6 | 30 | 9 | 60 | 1.58 |
| | BARTON | 29 | 14 | 26 | 18 | 87 | 2.02 |
| | BROWNINGTON | 18 | 9 | 24 | 4 | 55 | 1.96 |
| | CHARLESTON | 24 | 12 | 40 | 13 | 89 | 2.41 |

Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County, Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ORLEANS (cont.) | COVENTRY | 11 | 12 | 23 | 9 | 55 | 2.04 |
| | CRAFTSBURY | 19 | 9 | 22 | 9 | 59 | 1.51 |
| | DERBY | 75 | 40 | 64 | 27 | 206 | 4.20 |
| | GLOVER | 14 | 7 | 20 | 7 | 48 | 1.26 |
| | GREENSBORO | 15 | 6 | 22 | 6 | 49 | 1.29 |
| | HOLLAND | 28 | 15 | 49 | 10 | 102 | 2.68 |
| | IRASBURG | 19 | 11 | 44 | 20 | 94 | 2.35 |
| | JAY | 7 | 3 | 22 | 3 | 35 | 1.03 |
| | LOWELL | 8 | 4 | 23 | 9 | 44 | 0.79 |
| | MORGAN | 16 | 11 | 20 | 6 | 53 | 1.71 |
| | NEWPORT | 34 | 20 | 38 | 20 | 112 | 2.73 |
| | TROY | 27 | 22 | 36 | 18 | 103 | 2.86 |
| | WESTFIELD | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 23 | 0.58 |
| | WESTMORE | 7 | 7 | 23 | 7 | 44 | 1.29 |
| | TOTAL | | 370 | 210 | 535 | 203 | 1,318 |
| RUTLAND | BENSON | 17 | 8 | 61 | 32 | 118 | 2.74 |
| | BRANDON | 10 | 3 | 30 | 15 | 58 | 1.45 |
| | CASTLETON | 22 | 12 | 57 | 23 | 114 | 2.92 |
| | CHITTENDEN | 16 | 3 | 31 | 7 | 57 | 0.78 |
| | CLARENDON | 37 | 6 | 42 | 37 | 122 | 3.94 |
| | DANBY | 13 | 8 | 42 | 15 | 78 | 1.86 |
| | FAIR HAVEN | 7 | 2 | 17 | 7 | 33 | 1.94 |
| | HUBBARDTON | 10 | 2 | 40 | 10 | 62 | 2.30 |
| | IRA | 3 | 6 | 27 | 9 | 45 | 2.05 |
| | KILLINGTON | 4 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 0.23 |
| | MENDON | 5 | 0 | 21 | 6 | 32 | 0.84 |
| | MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS | 7 | 8 | 31 | 19 | 65 | 2.83 |
| | MOUNT HOLLY | 12 | 2 | 36 | 6 | 56 | 1.17 |
| | MOUNT TABOR | 1 | 0 | 16 | 6 | 23 | 0.52 |
| | PAWLET | 18 | 15 | 71 | 61 | 165 | 3.84 |
| | PITTSFIELD | 2 | 0 | 11 | 4 | 17 | 0.85 |
| | PITTSFORD | 17 | 11 | 52 | 31 | 111 | 2.58 |
| | POULTNEY | 17 | 16 | 58 | 38 | 129 | 3.07 |
| | PROCTOR | 3 | 3 | 14 | 9 | 29 | 4.14 |
| | RUTLAND | 16 | 3 | 25 | 10 | 54 | 2.84 |
| | SHREWSBURY | 11 | 4 | 35 | 11 | 61 | 1.24 |
| | SUDBURY | 8 | 2 | 21 | 6 | 37 | 1.76 |
| | TINMOUTH | 9 | 6 | 32 | 19 | 66 | 2.28 |
| | WALLINGFORD | 19 | 4 | 31 | 11 | 65 | 1.51 |
| | WELLS | 22 | 7 | 38 | 24 | 91 | 4.14 |
| | WEST HAVEN | 7 | 9 | 38 | 24 | 78 | 2.89 |
| WEST RUTLAND | 6 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 34 | 1.89 | |
| TOTAL | | 319 | 147 | 895 | 450 | 1,811 | 1.97 |

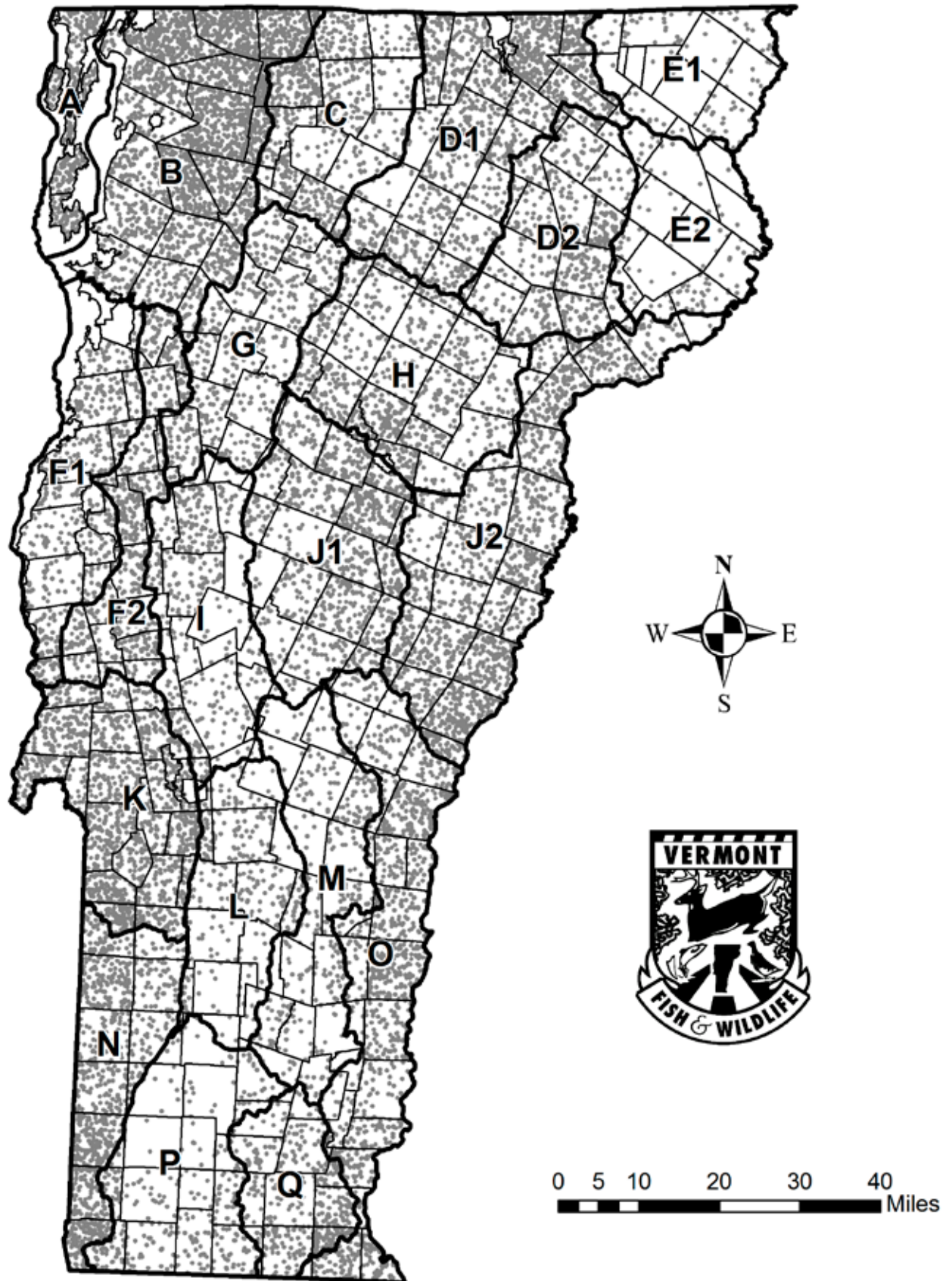
Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| WASHINGTON | BARRE | 40 | 13 | 39 | 20 | 112 | 3.61 |
| | BERLIN | 32 | 10 | 48 | 19 | 109 | 3.03 |
| | CABOT | 10 | 3 | 23 | 12 | 48 | 1.30 |
| | CALAIS | 13 | 0 | 25 | 3 | 41 | 1.08 |
| | DUXBURY | 15 | 3 | 18 | 8 | 44 | 1.02 |
| | EAST MONTPELIER | 33 | 7 | 29 | 19 | 88 | 2.75 |
| | FAYSTON | 12 | 0 | 21 | 4 | 37 | 1.03 |
| | MARSHFIELD | 14 | 1 | 35 | 12 | 62 | 1.44 |
| | MIDDLESEX | 23 | 5 | 41 | 16 | 85 | 2.18 |
| | MONTPELIER | 24 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 37 | 3.70 |
| | MORETOWN | 9 | 5 | 35 | 5 | 54 | 1.35 |
| | NORTHFIELD | 18 | 4 | 45 | 5 | 72 | 1.60 |
| | PLAINFIELD | 14 | 4 | 15 | 20 | 53 | 2.52 |
| | ROXBURY | 1 | 0 | 20 | 3 | 24 | 0.57 |
| | WAITSFIELD | 12 | 2 | 17 | 7 | 38 | 1.46 |
| | WARREN | 12 | 5 | 29 | 9 | 55 | 1.38 |
| | WATERBURY | 24 | 6 | 38 | 12 | 80 | 1.67 |
| | WOODBURY | 12 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 38 | 1.00 |
| | WORCESTER | 5 | 1 | 20 | 3 | 29 | 0.74 |
| | | TOTAL | 323 | 72 | 521 | 190 | 1,106 |
| WINDHAM | ATHENS | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 0.50 |
| | BRATTLEBORO | 20 | 9 | 25 | 15 | 69 | 2.16 |
| | BROOKLINE | 1 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 16 | 1.23 |
| | DOVER | 6 | 3 | 21 | 7 | 37 | 1.03 |
| | DUMMERSTON | 15 | 4 | 36 | 35 | 90 | 2.90 |
| | GRAFTON | 2 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 18 | 0.47 |
| | GUILFORD | 33 | 12 | 56 | 52 | 153 | 3.92 |
| | HALIFAX | 8 | 4 | 37 | 23 | 72 | 1.80 |
| | JAMAICA | 6 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 31 | 0.63 |
| | LONDONDERRY | 6 | 0 | 27 | 3 | 36 | 1.03 |
| | MARLBORO | 3 | 0 | 15 | 11 | 29 | 0.73 |
| | NEWFANE | 14 | 1 | 29 | 13 | 57 | 1.43 |
| | PUTNEY | 8 | 0 | 30 | 19 | 57 | 2.11 |
| | ROCKINGHAM | 9 | 7 | 42 | 22 | 80 | 1.95 |
| | SOMERSET | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 0.28 |
| | STRATTON | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 0.20 |
| | TOWNSHEND | 1 | 1 | 26 | 5 | 33 | 0.79 |
| | VERNON | 19 | 3 | 22 | 9 | 53 | 2.79 |
| | WARDSBORO | 2 | 1 | 15 | 5 | 23 | 0.79 |
| | WESTMINSTER | 7 | 2 | 23 | 8 | 40 | 0.89 |
| | WHITINGHAM | 18 | 4 | 23 | 2 | 47 | 1.27 |
| | WILMINGTON | 14 | 8 | 24 | 9 | 55 | 1.38 |
| | WINDHAM | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0.58 |
| | | TOTAL | 194 | 62 | 532 | 246 | 1,034 |

Table 8. 2017 Legal Deer Harvest by County,Town and Season

| County | Town | Archery | Youth | Rifle | Muzzleloader | Total | Harvest/Mi.2 |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| WINDSOR | ANDOVER | 2 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 19 | 0.66 |
| | BALTIMORE | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 1.80 |
| | BARNARD | 1 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 32 | 0.67 |
| | BETHEL | 19 | 4 | 24 | 5 | 52 | 1.16 |
| | BRIDGEWATER | 1 | 3 | 31 | 8 | 43 | 0.86 |
| | CAVENDISH | 6 | 6 | 23 | 9 | 44 | 1.13 |
| | CHESTER | 3 | 3 | 48 | 11 | 65 | 1.16 |
| | HARTFORD | 21 | 7 | 46 | 36 | 110 | 2.44 |
| | HARTLAND | 38 | 15 | 41 | 46 | 140 | 3.11 |
| | LUDLOW | 13 | 4 | 23 | 8 | 48 | 1.33 |
| | NORWICH | 44 | 9 | 74 | 33 | 160 | 3.64 |
| | PLYMOUTH | 1 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 15 | 0.31 |
| | POMFRET | 2 | 2 | 32 | 16 | 52 | 1.33 |
| | READING | 1 | 2 | 20 | 12 | 35 | 0.85 |
| | ROCHESTER | 8 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 34 | 0.60 |
| | ROYALTON | 14 | 6 | 26 | 17 | 63 | 1.58 |
| | SHARON | 8 | 5 | 54 | 15 | 82 | 2.05 |
| | SPRINGFIELD | 38 | 13 | 64 | 47 | 162 | 3.31 |
| | STOCKBRIDGE | 2 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 17 | 0.37 |
| | WEATHERSFIELD | 17 | 7 | 43 | 35 | 102 | 2.37 |
| | WEST WINDSOR | 10 | 6 | 24 | 6 | 46 | 1.84 |
| | WESTON | 4 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 0.31 |
| | WINDSOR | 4 | 0 | 18 | 25 | 47 | 2.47 |
| WOODSTOCK | 13 | 4 | 35 | 27 | 79 | 1.80 | |
| | TOTAL | 273 | 101 | 710 | 383 | 1,467 | 1.51 |
| STATE | TOTAL | 3,578 | 1,462 | 7,272 | 3,672 | 15,984 | 1.74 |

Figure 12. Distribution of Vermont's 2017 deer harvest by town and wildlife management unit.



Each dot represents a single deer harvested in a particular town and wildlife management unit. Dots do not show the actual location of harvest, and some dots may not be visible on the map.

