

2015 Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge White-tailed Deer Harvest Report

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Saginaw, MI

The white-tailed deer hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is designed to regulate harvest and distribute hunting pressure by allocating permits across 15 time periods (i.e., hunt choice codes). The current system is a quota based system in which the number of hunting days, method, and permit type (antlerless versus either sex) are set prior to the hunt. The 2015 hunt marked a transition to a new lottery system that is managed and administered by the State of Michigan under the state wide hunting and fishing license system (Retail Sales System and Electronic Licensing System). From July 15th to August 15th hunters could apply for one reserved deer hunt in-person at any license agent across the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Customer Service Center, or on-line through the DNR Electronic Licensing System. Hunters were randomly selected until the quota for each hunt was met. Any permits that were not purchased after the initial lottery were made available on a first-come first-served basis to the general public through the same licensing system.

In 2015, we received 1,111 applications for 596 permits and issued 406 permits through the lottery (Table 1, Figure 1). The remaining 192 permits were purchased as “leftover” permits. Hunters are required to report harvest via a post-season survey. Hunters reported harvesting 131 deer, which varied by age and gender; 16% adult male, 8% fawn male, 74% adult doe, and 2% fawn doe (Table 2). Hunter success averaged 22%, which was slightly above the 5-year average of 21% (Table 1). Hunter success varied by season: 10% late archery, 16% early archery, 20% youth, 21% muzzleloader, 22% non-ambulatory, 33% limited firearm (Tables 2 - 3).

Table 1. Permits available and issued, registered harvest, and success rate for all white-tailed deer (1982 – 2015) hunts at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.

Year	Permits		Registered harvest	Success (%)
	Available	Issued		
1982	4000	3973	437	11
1983	2350	2375	285	12
1984	1650	1667	150	9
1985	898	857	60	7
1986	a	a	a	a
1987	659	600	3	0.5
1988	900	867	26	3
1989	705	725	116	16
1990	b	b	b	b
1991	455	455	182	40
1992	1280	1282	564	44
1993	715	527	127	24
1994	770	b	229	b
1995	925	b	241	b
1996	920	769	246	32
1997	910	799	220	28
1998	1010	829	227	27
1999	925	761	211	28
2000	957	765	227	30
2001	820	764	156	20
2002	861	784	172	22
2003	946	835	235	28
2004	1221	1083	329	30
2005	886	724	201	28
2006	886	774	256	33
2007	766	634	172	27
2008	901	714	240	34
2009	981	927	212	23
2010	1216	1058	220	21
2011	926	799	183	23
2012	806	659	113	17
2013	566	469	93	20
2014	661	661	149	23
2015	596	598	131	22

^a White-tailed deer hunt was not held due to flooding.

^b Missing data.

Table 2. Hunt area, applicants, permits available and issued, registered harvest by age and gender, and success rate by hunt code for the 2015 white-tailed deer hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.

Hunt Code ^a	Applicants	Permits		Male ^b		Female ^b		Total Harvest	Success (%) ^c
		Available	Issued	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn		
201	66	15	15	3	0	0	0	3	20
202	70	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
203	20	75	75	0	0	16	0	16	21
204	358	25	25	7	0	0	0	7	28
205	16	75	75	0	0	6	0	6	8
206	25	18	18	4	1	0	0	5	28
207	15	18	18	3	0	0	0	3	17
208	49	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	20
209	81	80	81	0	5	27	1	33	41
210	40	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	20
211	58	80	81	0	3	18	0	21	26
212	185	10	10	2	0	1	0	3	30
213	45	50	50	0	1	6	1	8	16
214	70	80	80	0	1	18	0	19	24
215	13	50	50	0	0	5	0	5	10
Total	1,111	596	598^d	21	11	97	2	131	22

^a 201 = September 19 – 20, 202 = October 1 – 5, 203 = October 1 – 5, 204 = October 30 – November 3, 205 = October 30 – November 3, 206 = November 15 – 16, 207 = November 17 – 18, 208 = November 20 – 24, 209 = November 20 – 24, 210 = November 26 – 30, 211 = November 26 – 30, 212 = December 4 – 8, 213 = December 4 – 8, 214 = December 11 – 15, 215 = December 26 – January 1.

^b Hunter reported data subject to error.

^c Success was determined by the following formula: Success = (Total Harvest/Permits Issued)*100.

^d Permits issued exceeds available if the last individual selected for a hunt applied with a partner then both individuals received the permit.

Table 3. Permits available and issued, registered harvest by gender and age, and success rates by hunting season for the 2015 white-tailed deer hunt at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.

Hunt Season ^a	Permits		Male ^d		Female ^d		Total Harvest	Success (%) ^e
	Available	Issued	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn		
Youth	15	15	3	0	0	0	3	20
Early archery ^b	185	185	7	0	22	0	29	16
Non-Ambulatory	36	36	7	1	0	0	8	22
Limited Firearm	170	172	2	8	45	1	56	33
Muzzleloader	140	140	2	2	25	1	30	21
Late archery ^c	50	50	0	0	5	0	5	10
Total	596	598^f	21	11	97	2	131	22

^a Hunt season refers to the combined hunt codes for the corresponding State Of Michigan hunting season (e.g., early archery information is hunt codes 201 and 202 combined).

^b Early archery refers to season held prior to the statewide firearm opener (November 15th).

^c Late archery refers to season held after the statewide firearm season closes (November 30th).

^d Hunter reported data is subject to error.

^e Success was determined by the following formula $\text{Success} = (\text{Total Harvest} / \text{Permits Issued}) * 100$.

^f Permits issued exceeds available if the last individual selected for a hunt applied with a partner then both individuals received the permit.

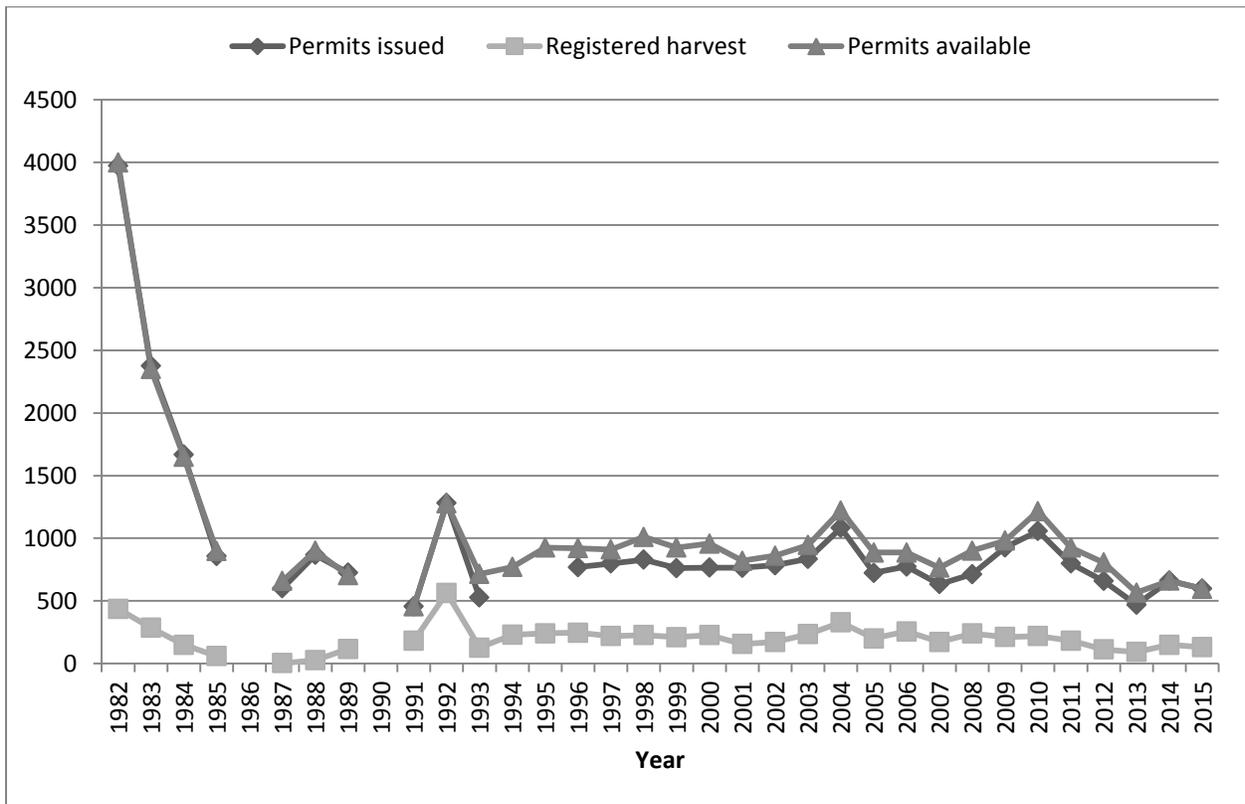


Figure 1. Permits issued, registered harvest, and permits available for the white-tailed deer hunts 1982 – 2015 at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, MI.