

**DEER HARVEST REPORT 2001
THE BLACK ROCK FOREST**

THE SEASON

November 19 to December 11

Unseasonably warm weather dominated the hunting season, perhaps contributing to the increase of hunters and their visits to the forest. A clear 35^o F opening day produced half the seasonal buck take as the forest hunter capacity (102) was filled. Temperatures ranging from 39^o F to 61^o F, with generally clear skies and occasional fog during mid-season was then interrupted with a four inch snowfall December 8th. With the arrival of winter, hunters produced seven late season kills ending a successful and productive hunting season.

During the 23-day season 208 hunters visited the forest 692 times harvesting 28 bucks and 21 does totaling 49 deer.

SEASON HUNTING PRESSURE AND SUCCESS RATE

Year	HUNTERS	HUNTER	PERMITS	DMU	VISITS PER	SUCCESS RATE		
		VISITS	(VEHICLES)	PERMITS	HUNTER	BUCKS	DMU	TOTAL
1993-2000								
Average	183	564	398	92	3.1	13%	21%	22%
Range (Hi-Low)	203-153	670-384	434-275	127 - 52	3.3 - 2.5	18% - 7%	30% - 13%	29% - 13%
2001	208	695	510	98	3.3	11%	27%	23%

PERMITS AND LICENSES FILLED

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number Harvested</u>
Resident Sportsman	16
Resident Big Game	3
Resident Senior	4
Deer Management Permit	17
Deer Management Assistance Program	<u>9</u>
	49

HUNTING PRESSURE AND SUCCESS BY ZONE

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>HUNTER VISITS</u>	<u>BUCKS</u>	<u>DOES</u>
I	450	93	3	4
II	520	91	3	2
III	450	61	4	3
IV	460	116	6	4
V	400	96	3	3
VI	500	107	4	0
VII	150	54	1	0
VIII	330	68	4	5
MINERAL SPRINGS	<u>120</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	338	695	28	21

Deer Harvest Report 2001 continued...

THE DEER

The harvest produced 49 kills.

- 1) Rifle Season -- 48 Deer 27 Bucks 21 Does
- 2) Bow Season -- 1 Deer 1 Buck

Bucks: (28)

Fawns: (4)

The Four button bucks harvested averaged 48 lbs. Two were 38 lbs the remaining two 56 and 58 lbs. This is an excessive range from severely under developed to healthy. This could possibly be explained by the smallness of the sample (4). But does give insight to the lingering effects of habitat conditions over the past two years. Developing young females may have been in poor physical condition during the gestation period resulting lower fawn survival rates, slow early fawn development and growth. Adult females may have survived habitat conditions better, carrying over to healthier fawns.

Yearlings (7)

The lowest yearling take since seven were harvested in 1994. That low take was explained by the devastation of the blizzard of March 13-14, 1993. This decline of the yearling age class has been experienced as a gradual deterioration more than a single event.

The individuals of this age class were born in the spring of 2000. Having been spawned by deer weakened by the summer drought of 1999 and a complete collapse of that Autumn's acorn drop. The undernourished fawns of the year 2000 entered their first winter under weight and a poor acorn crop to supply over-wintering energy. The abnormally long, continuous snowpack of that winter contributed to the death of at least 9 deer of this age class, two more than the fall harvest. We will continue to observe the impact (or lack of) of this age class as it becomes older. On the positive side the outlook appears good for the surviving members, as average weights are very good and food availability is excellent this winter.

		YEARLING MALES													
												(mm)	(lbs.)	% OF	
YEAR	TOTAL	ANTLER POINT CLASS										ANTLER POINTS	BEAM DIAMETER	BODY WEIGHT	TOTAL BUCK TAKE
	YEARLINGS	SPK	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	sub legal			(dressed)	
1990 - 2000															
TOTAL	182	78	30	48	10	10	1	1	0	0	3				
AVERAGE	17	PER YEAR													60%
		PER DEER										3.2	15.8	89	
RANGE (hi - low)	7 - 31	PER YEAR										3.7 - 2.6	16.7 - 14.7	94 - 84	83% - 44%
2001	7	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.3	16.0	90	29%

Adults (17)

This year marks the highest percentage of adult bucks (2 1/2, 3 1/2 and 4 1/2 years of age) in total buck harvest. 71% of all legal bucks harvested were adults. (1994 was the only other year when more adult bucks were harvest than yearling bucks.) This wide deviation from the norm (39%) is emphasized by the lack of yearlings present in the population.

The above average adult individuals demonstrated their abilities to survive harsh environmental condition where the yearling class did not succeed as well. Although signs of physical stress can be seen in the average body weights, which are lowered by 15% of the normal dressed weight of adult bucks.

		<u>2 1/2 YEAR OLDS</u>											(mm)	(lbs.)	% OF	
	TOTAL												ANTLER BEAM	BODY	TOTAL	
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>YEARLINGS</u>	<u>ANTLER POINT CLASS</u>										sub	POINTS	DIAMETER	WEIGHT	BUCK TAKE
		SPK	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	legal			(dressed)		
1990 - 2000																
TOTAL	81	3	4	13	12	24	7	18	0	0	0					
AVERAGE	7	-----PER YEAR-----											5.8	21.4	110	25%
		-----PER DEER-----														
RANGE (hi - low)	2 - 14	-----PER YEAR-----											6.3 - 4.2	23.1 - 18.4	122 - 103	40% - 8%
2001																
TOTAL	10	1	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	0	0		5.7	20.0	95	41%

		<u>3 1/2 + 4 1/2 YEAR OLDS</u>											(mm)	(lbs.)	% OF	
	TOTAL												ANTLER BEAM	BODY	TOTAL	
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>YEARLINGS</u>	<u>ANTLER POINT CLASS</u>										sub	POINTS	DIAMETER	WEIGHT	BUCK TAKE
		SPK	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	legal			(dressed)		
1990 - 2000																
TOTAL	39	0	0	2	3	7	5	19	1	2	0					
AVERAGE	4	-----PER YEAR-----											7.2	25.3	126	14%
		-----PER DEER-----														
RANGE (hi - low)	2 - 14	-----PER YEAR-----											10.0 - 5.0	28.6 - 21.7	140 - 94	44% - 3%
2001																
TOTAL	7	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	0		7.0	23.4	109	30%

Does (21)

The 2 ½ and 3 ½ year old age classes are well represented (as well as bucks) in the harvest. Hindsight demonstrates these age classes benefited greatly from good acorn crops feed on by themselves and their parent in the years of '97 and '98.

The young age classes of female deer show the identical signs of the populations male component, lack of individuals and a wide range of physical development.

AGE CLASS	Fawn	1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5	10.5	Unknown	% 3.5+	Total
Number Harvested	2	1	7	5	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	50%	21
Avg. Dressed Weight	41	78	83	86	98	96		101					

Conclusion

At this point in time, the deer harvest has given a picture of a deer herd that has suffered from environment and habitat conditions since 1999. Last fall's (2001) mast crop may well be the benchmark to the upward trend of the forest's deer herd. The growth should be gradual, as effects of the acorn crop will begin to be seen in spring with winter survival and birth rates possibly being productively successful. This will result in the fawn class being well represented in the fall harvest of 2002.

Of special interest will be the possible observation of increased deer numbers along northern boundaries. Deer numbers over the past two years has increased in backyards, orchards and open fields in the town of Cornwall possibly being driven there by the same reasons the forest herd has lessened. These "urban" deer have been successful in these protected lands, increasing in numbers. These increased densities may be pressured into expanding their range and may be drawn to the abundant natural diet the forest now offers. Close observation during the tracking season of 2002 may reveal insight to this possibility.

Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

DMAP Permits became increasingly popular and effective. The permits, which must be used for antlerless deer in BRF only, were signed out 115 times. Twenty permits (from DEC) were issued to BRF with nine permits being filled. The harvest using these tags was as follows: 6 Adult Females, 2 Male Fawns and 1 sub-legal buck. The availability of these tags has increased the antlerless take by over 50% (9/17).

Bow and Muzzle Loading Season

Bow Hunting - Oct. 15 through Oct. 18
Dec. 12 through Dec.16

Muzzle Loading – Dec. 12 through Dec. 18

These hunting seasons are by written permission (by Forest Manager) only.
18 Permits were granted.

Results: One 7 point buck was taken during Early Bow Season.

Management Experiment – Zone VI

The second year of a voluntary restrictive harvest of Bucks 4 Points or better and No Does, resulted in the taking of 4 Bucks and No Does.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BUCKS</u>	<u>DOES</u>
2000	8 Pointer	2 (Fawn + 8 ½ - 9 ½ year old)
2001	Spike, 4, 6, and 8 Pointers	No Does

1990 - 2001 WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT

YEARLING MALES

YEAR	TOTAL MALES	SPK	ANTLER POINT CLASS										SUB LEGAL	AVG. PTS.	AVG BEAM DIA. (MM)	AVERAGE WT. (LBS)	FREQ. %	
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
1990	17	5	5	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	16.3	88	56
1991	31	14	3	11	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.2	16.6	94	63
1992	20	6	3	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.7	16.7	86	61
1993	15	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2.6	14.7	89	68
1994	7	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.0	15.0	91	44
1995	10	6	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.1	16.3	91	72
1996	20	11	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.6	14.8	88	83
1997	16	8	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.8	15.5	87	53
1998	20	9	2	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	16.2	88	60
1999	11	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.4	16.3	89	52
2000	15	4	3	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3.2	15.1	84	50
2001	7	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2.3	16.0	90	29

2 1/2 YEAR OLD MALES

YEAR	TOTAL MALES	SPK	ANTLER POINT CLASS										SUB LEGAL	AVG. PTS.	AVG BEAM DIA. (MM)	AVERAGE WT. (LBS)	FREQ. %	
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10								
1990	13	0	1	2	1	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.1	21.6	105	40
1991	14	0	0	2	1	6	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.3	21.8	112	28
1992	7	0	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.6	20.9	110	21
1993	5	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.2	18.4	103	23
1994	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.5	20.0	122	12
1995	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.5	22.0	118	14
1996	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.5	21.5	119	8
1997	11	2	0	1	0	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.8	21.4	109	37
1998	8	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.3	23.1	115	24
1999	6	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.0	22.5	111	29
2000	11	0	0	3	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.5	20.7	106	37
2001	10	1	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.7	20.0	95	41

1990 - 2001 WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST REPORT

3 1/2 - 4 1/2 Year Old Males

Year	Total Males	Antler Point Class										Sub Legal	Average Avg. Beam Points	Average Avg. Beam Dia. (mm)	Average Wt. (lbs.)	Freq. %
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	10					
1990	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	22.0	94	3
1991	4	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	7.8	24.3	117	8
1992	6	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	7.0	26.3	140	18
1993	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	23.5	126	9
1994	7	0	1	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6.4	23.1	124	44
1995	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8.5	28.0	137	14
1996	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10.0	26.0	138	4
1997	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7.3	27.7	123	10
1998	5	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	28.6	137	15
1999	4	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7.3	26.3	122	19
2000	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	6.7	21.7	113	13
2001	7	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	7.0	23.4	109	30

FEMALE AGE CLASS IN YEARS

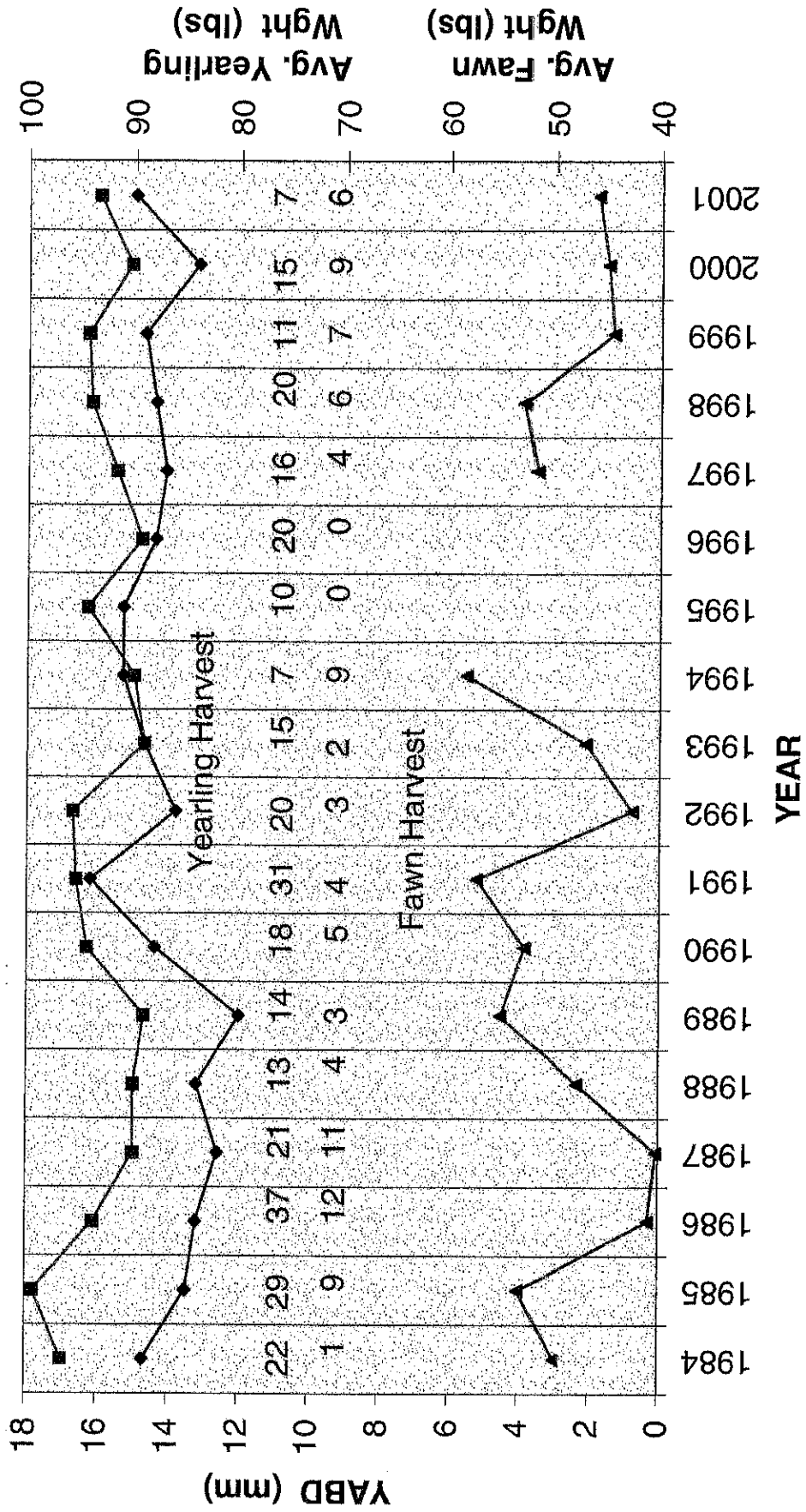
Year	Fawn	Age Class										10.5+	Unknown	TOTAL	% 3 1/2 yrs. +	
		1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5-9.5	10.5+						
1990	2	1	4	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	16	56	
1991	1	7	6	3	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	23	39	
1992	2	6	5	3	2	5	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	32	59	
1993	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	45	
1994	5	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	18	50	
1995	0	2	3	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	54	
1996			NO DOES TAKEN												0	
1997	1	1	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	45	
1998	3	5	5	4	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	46	
1999	3	4	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	21	43	
2000	3	2	2	6	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	18	61	
2001	2	1	7	5	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	21	50	

1984-2001 HARVEST DATA: FAWNS

YEAR	TOTAL FAWN		TOTAL		FAWNS AS % OF		MALE		FEMALE			
	HARVESTED	ANTLERLESS	ANTLERLESS	TAKE	ANTLERLESS	HARVEST	TOTAL	HARVESTED	TOTAL	HARVESTED	AVG DRESSED	AVG DRESSED
											WEIGHT (LBS)	WEIGHT (LBS)
1984	1		10		10%		0		1		50	
1985	9		20		45%		6		3		48	
1986	12		37		32%		8		4		33	
1987	11		36		29%		7		4		44	
1988	4		25		16%		1		3		49	
1989	3		14		21%		3		0		0	
1990	5		19		26%		3		2		48	
1991	4		26		15%		3		1		52	
1992	3		33		9%		1		2		40	
1993	2		12		16%		1		1		48	
1994	9		22		40%		4		5		53	
1995	0		11		0%		0					
1996		NO ANTLERLESS TAKE										
1997	4		16		25%		3		1		48	
1998	6		25		24%		3		3		51	
1999	7		29		24%		4		3		43	
2000	9		23		39%		6		3		46	
2001	6		21		29%		4		2		41	
TOTALS	95		352				57		38			
AVERAGE					27%						51	46

* DRESSED WEIGHT - Weight of animal with all internal body organs removed.
 (Live weight calculation = dressed weight x 1.25)

POPULATION TREND



YABD
 Avg. Yearling Weight
 Avg. Fawn Weight

POPULATION COMPOSITION BY YEAR CLASS FOR DEER KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN HARVESTED

BIRTH YEAR	19 91		19 92		19 93		19 94		19 95		19 96		19 97		19 98		19 99		20 00		20 01		MIN POP TOTAL	AGE AS OF FALL 2001 (yrs)		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
1991	3	1	2	6	5	3	7	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	35	18	53	10.5	
1992			1	2	15	2	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	20	13	33	9.5	
1993					1	1	7	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	11	10	21	8.5	
1994							4	5	10	2	1	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	19	15	34	7.5	
1995									0	0	20	0	1	4	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	36	9	45	6.5	
1996														16	1	8	5	3	3	0	2	0	27	12	39	5.5
1997														3	1	20	5	6	8	4	6	2	35	22	57	4.5
1998															3	3	11	4	11	2	5	30	14	44	3.5	
1999																4	3	15	2	10	7	29	12	41	2.5	
2000																		6	3	7	1	6	4	10	1.5	
2001																					4	2	4	2	6	FAWN
TOTAL																						252	131	383		

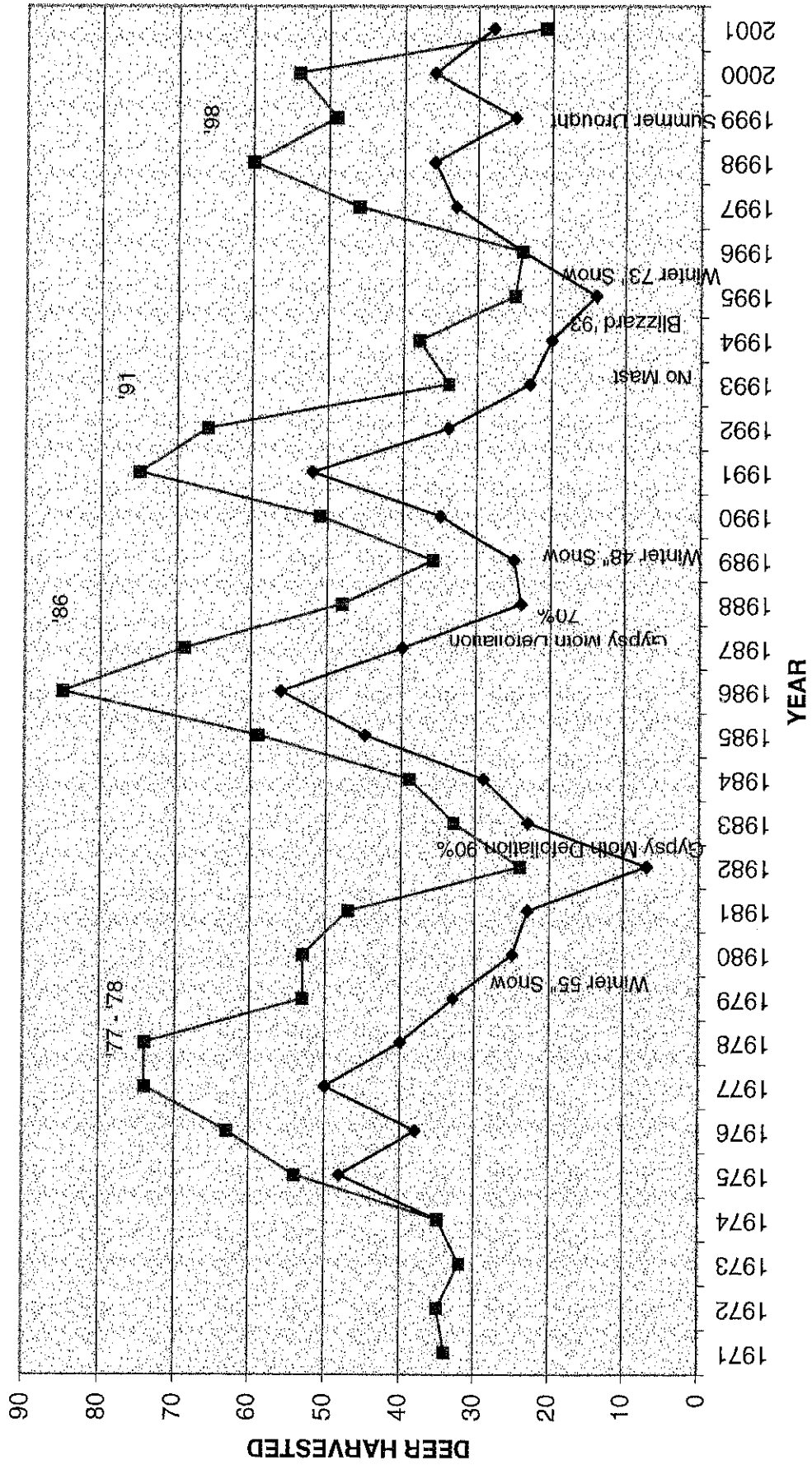
*The data represents the population composition each year at the time fawns were born.

DEER HARVEST

1970 - 2000

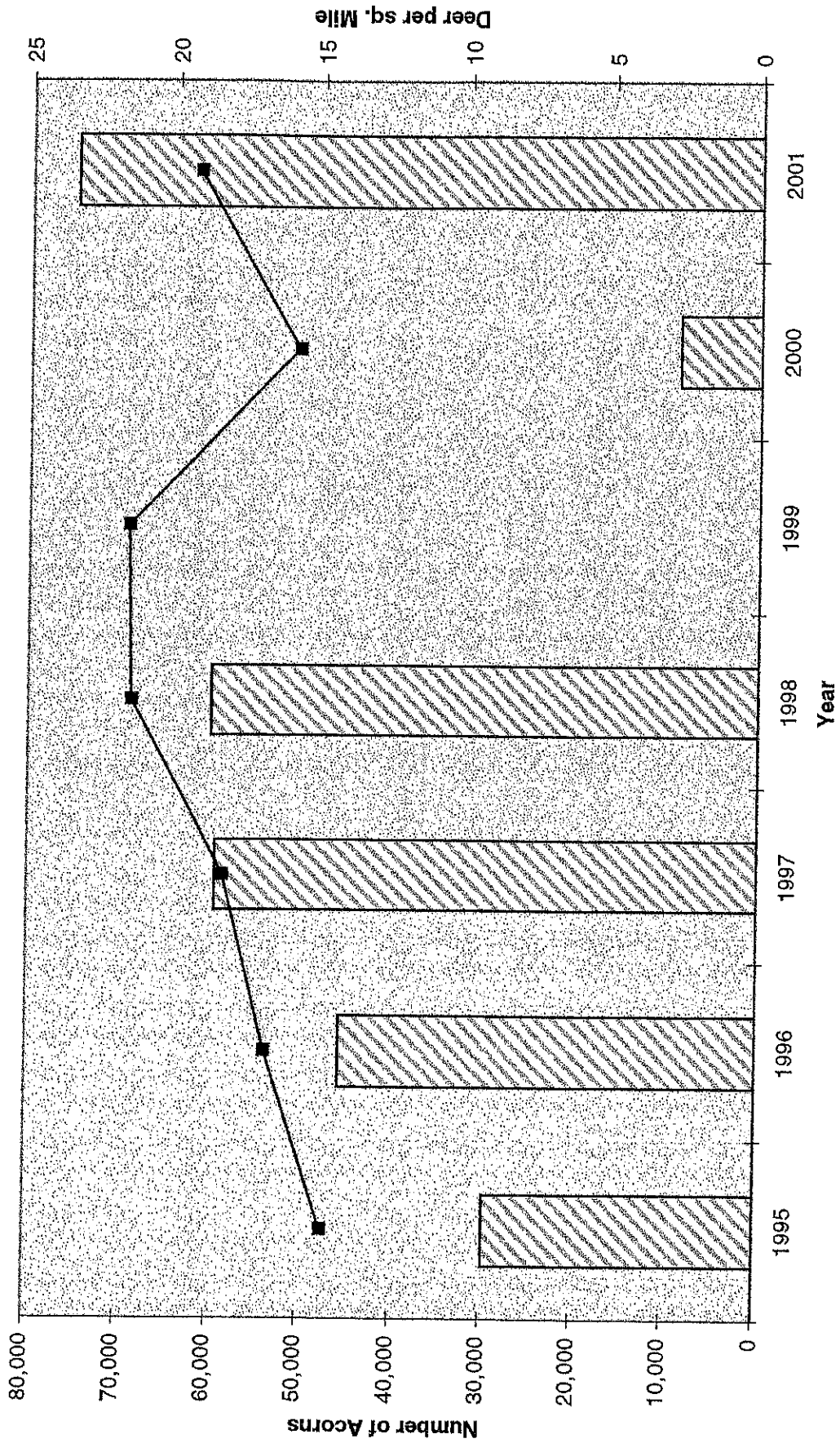
DATE	BUCK	DOES	TOTAL HARVEST
1970	24	0	24
1971	34	0	34
1972	35	0	35
1973	32	0	32
1974	35	0	35
1975	48	6	54
1976	38	25	63
1977	50	24	74
1978	40	34	74
1979	33	20	53
1980	25	28	53
1981	23	24	47
1982	7	17	24
1983	23	10	33
1984	29	10	39
1985	45	14	59
1986	56	29	85
1987	40	29	69
1988	24	24	48
1989	25	11	36
1990	35	16	51
1991	52	23	75
1992	34	32	66
1993	23	11	34
1994	20	18	38
1995	14	11	25
1996	24	0	24
1997	33	13	46
1998	36	24	60
1999	25	24	49
2000	36	18	54
2001	28	21	49

BUCK HARVEST VS TOTAL HARVEST 1970 - 2000



—◆— Bucks Harvested —■— Total Harvested

Acorn Crop and Overwinter Deer Density



Total Acorn Crop
 Overwinter Deer Density

Acorn Production

