Deer
19.31.13 NMAC

October 2, 2014

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Socorro, NM

Wildlife Management Division

Public Meetings

Alamogordo – 47 people in attendance
Raton – 4 people in attendance
Las Cruces – 17 people in attendance
Farmington – 14 people in attendance
Silver City – 22 people in attendance
Santa Fe – 5 people in attendance
Roswell – 3 people in attendance

Public Comment

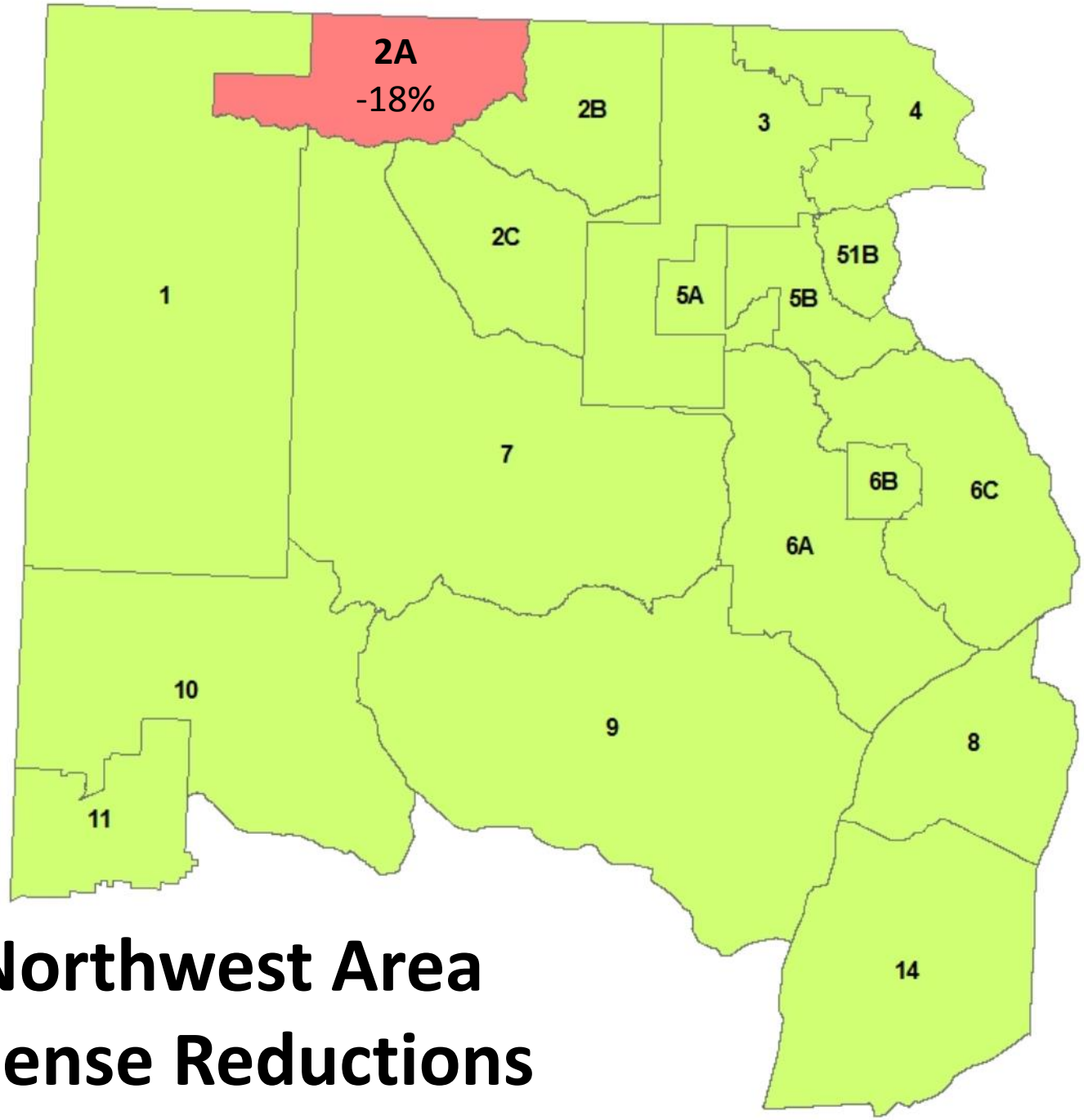
- 293 Public Comments Received to Date
- Common Comments
  - Reduce deer harvest/license numbers
  - Implement more predator control measures; including more hunter harvest
  - Antler restrictions – both for and against
  - Increase doe harvest (too many does and too few bucks)
  - Provide more mobility impaired and youth hunt opportunities
  - Archery season hunt dates

Final Amendments:

- Reduce deer licenses by 11.5% statewide beyond 2014-2015 license numbers
- Extended all September archery hunts from September 1 to September 24
- Adjust muzzleloader hunts following the first archery season to September 27-October 3

Final Amendments:

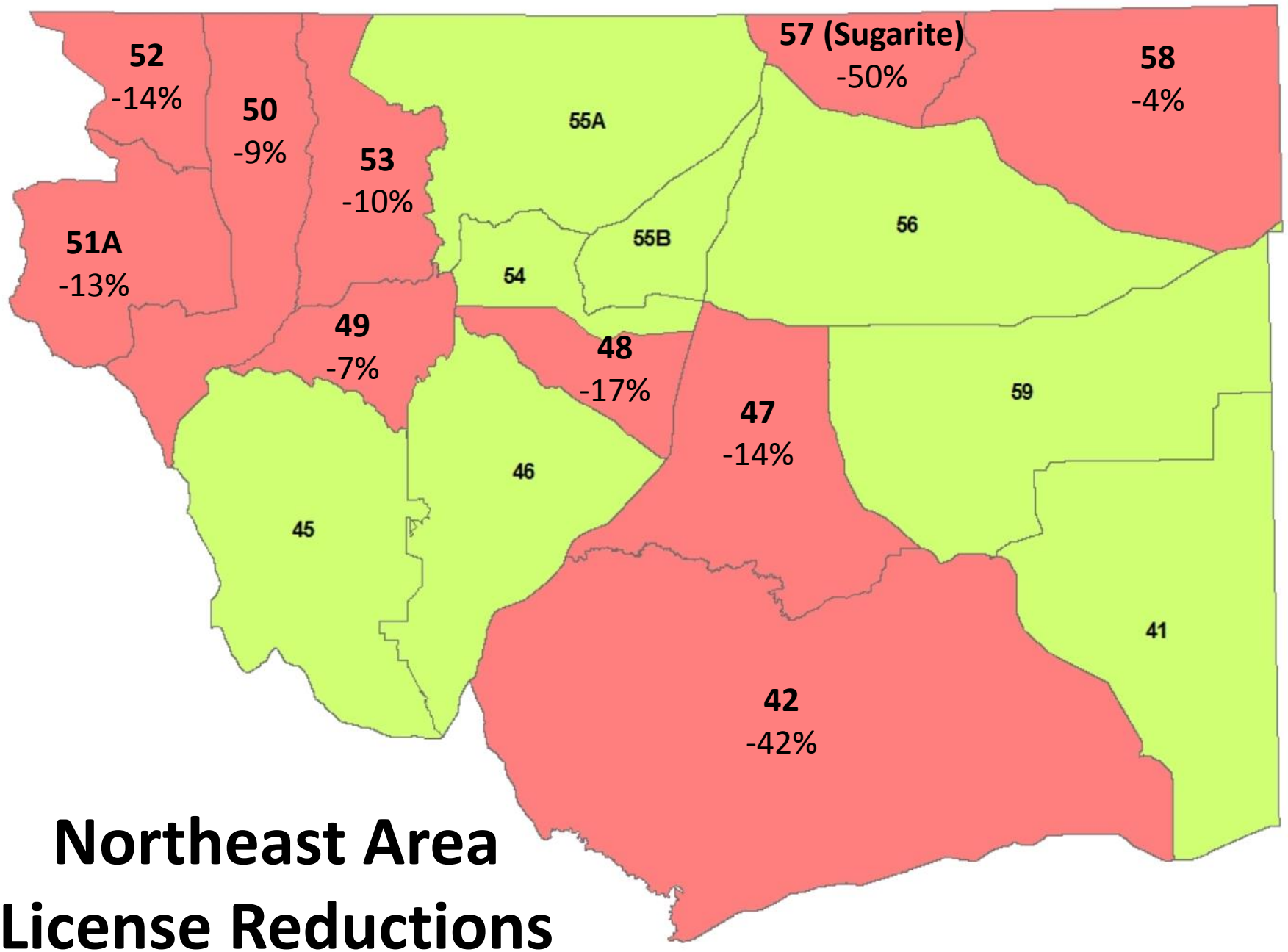
- Extend hunts held over the Thanksgiving holiday from 4 to 5 days
- Continue to allow archery hunters to hunt in both September and January
- Adjust season dates for calendar shift and to minimize overlap in deer and elk hunts



Northwest Area License Reductions

Northwest Area

- Add a private land archery hunt in GMU 8.



Northeast Area License Reductions

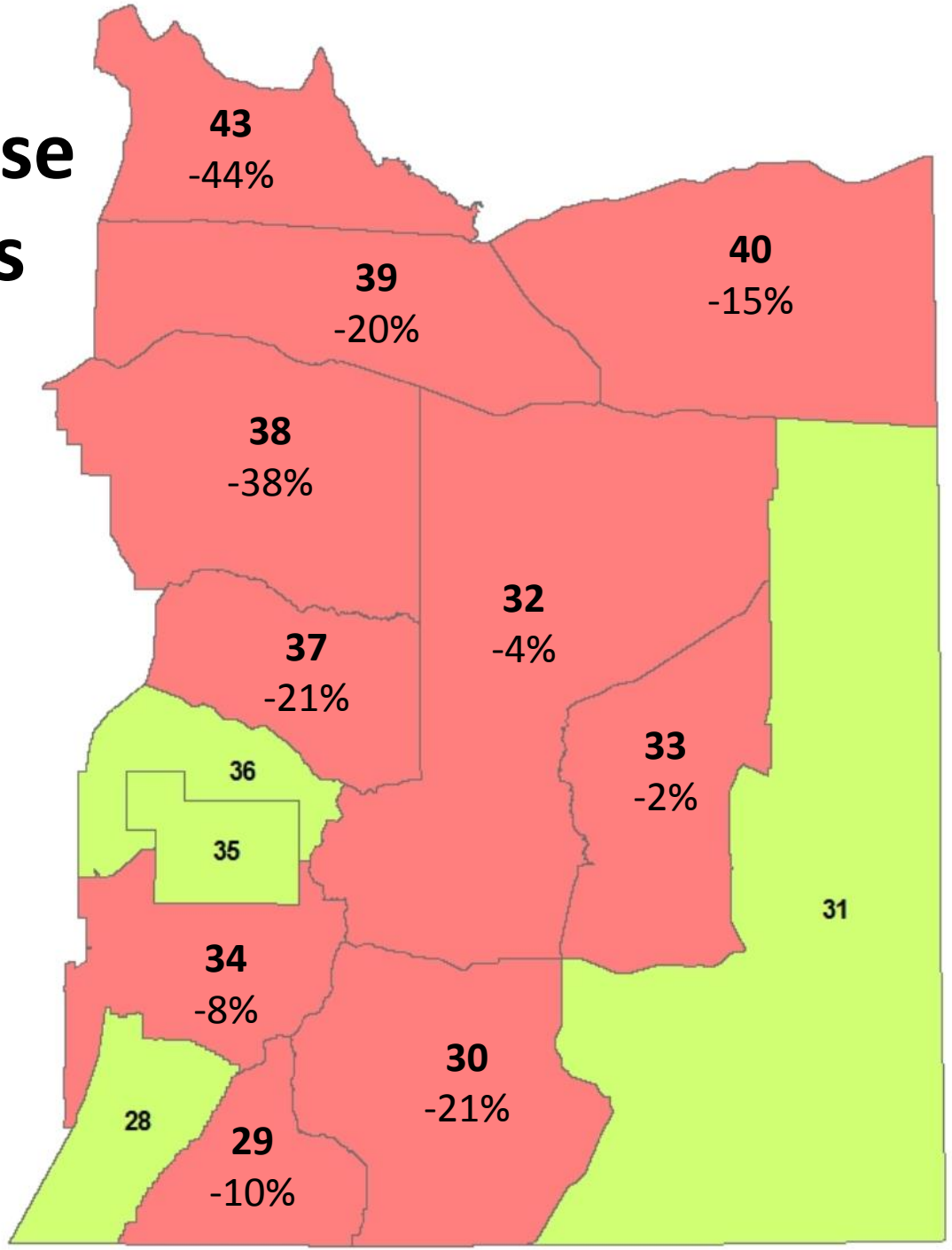
Northeast Area

- In an attempt to increase hunter success and reduce overlap with elk hunts
  - GMU 43: Shift muzzleloader hunt dates to late October
  - GMU 45: Remove 2nd Muzzleloader hunt and add licenses to 1st due to overlap with muzzleloader elk hunt
  - GMU 51: Combine the 1st and 2nd rifle hunts
- Create a new Muzzleloader hunt in GMU 48 of 20 Licenses

Northeast Area

- Create GMU 54 and GMU 55 YO Private Land deer hunts over the Thanksgiving holiday.
- GMU 57 Sugarite Canyon State Park: Reduce archery hunt license numbers by 50% at the request of Park staff due to crowding and safety concerns

Southeast Area License Reductions



Southeast Area

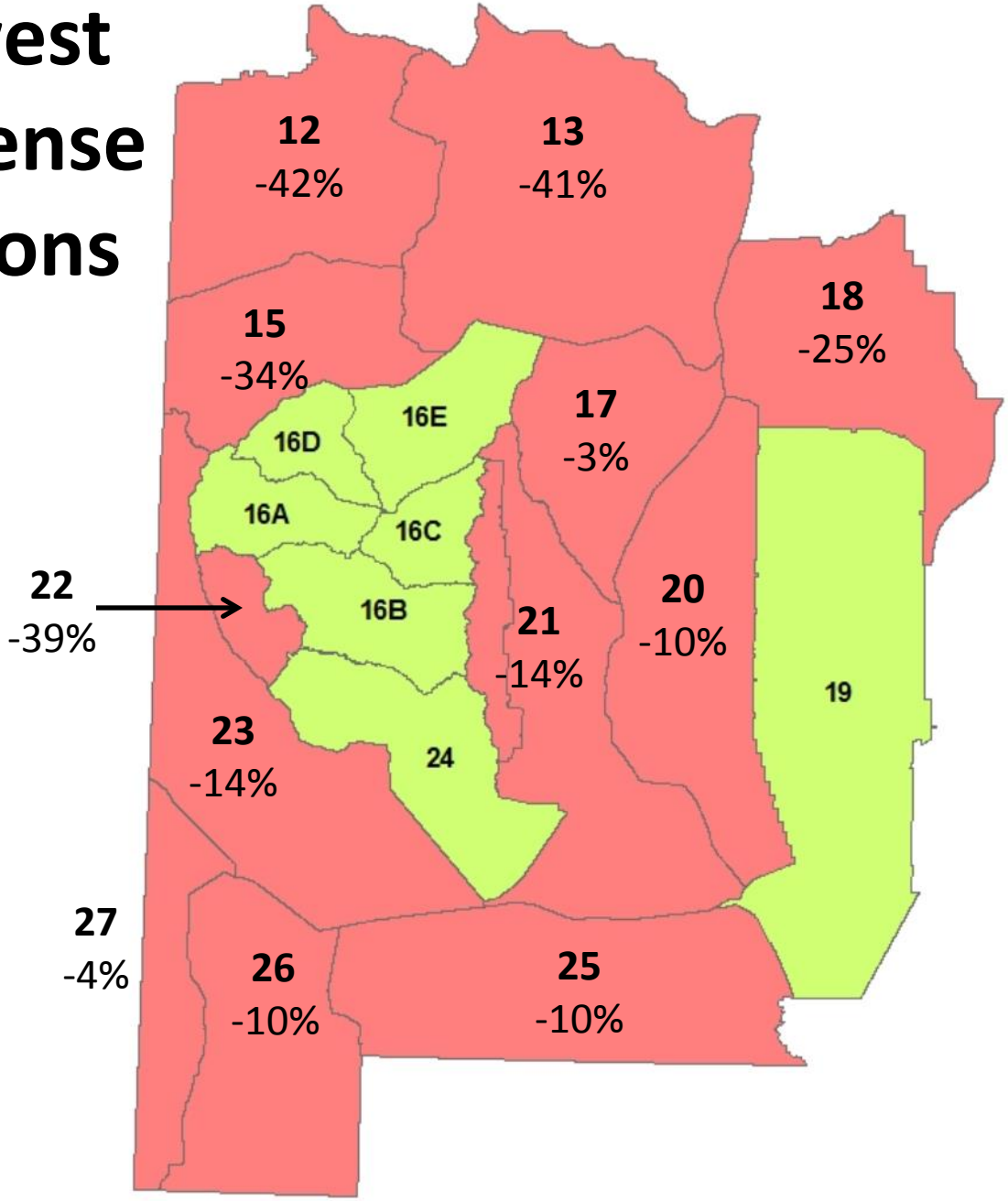
- Add specific wording to the deer rule noting that deer hunting is allowed on the prairie chicken conservation areas

- GMU 28 McGregor Range
  - Former Proposal: Have start date of GMU 28 rifle hunts match GMU 29 1st rifle hunt
  - Adjusted Proposal: Adjust GMU 28 rifle hunt dates to fall the Saturday and Sunday prior to Thanksgiving every year.

- Change the bag limit of the 1st Brantley, Seven rivers and Huey (YO) hunt from antlerless deer to either sex

- GMU 34: Shift season dates to separate MI and YO hunts from general rifle hunts

Southwest Area License Reductions



Deer License Reductions

- Reduce deer license numbers by 11.5% statewide (approximately 4,100 licenses)
- Purpose
  - Increase hunter satisfaction ratings
  - Increase hunter success

Questions?

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Harvest Data

Statewide Public Draw and Private Land License Totals 2013-2014											
								Estimated Harvest			
Hunt Code	GMU(s)	Weapon	Hunt Dates	Licenses Sold	# Hunters Reporting	Percent Reporting	Success Rate	Bucks	Does	Satisfaction Rating	Days Hunted
All	Statwide	Archery	All	7,629	6,903	90%	22%	1,407	42	3.2	6.6
All	Statwide	Muzzleloader	All	5,663	5,207	92%	20%	992	8	2.9	3.6
All	Statwide	Rifle	All	23,802	20,427	86%	26%	5,628	65	3.0	3.5
Over The Counter - Estimate			*All*	*1,207*	*0*	*0%*	*44%*	*483*	*10*	*3.5*	*3.7*
Grand Total		All	All	38,301	32,537	85%	25%	8,509	124	3.0	4.1

- 38,301 licenses sold
- 25% Success
- 3.0 Satisfaction Rating

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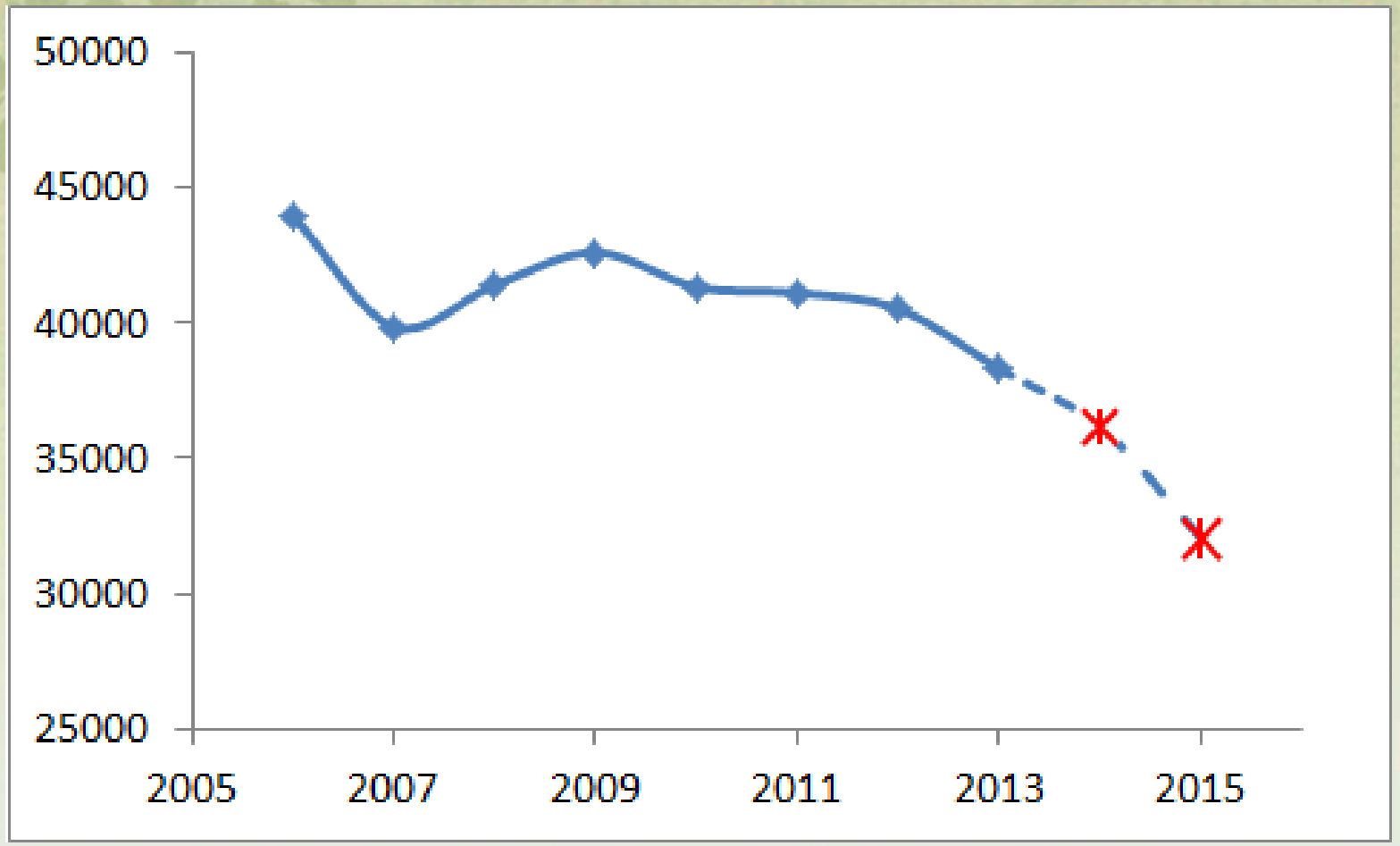
Statewide License Issuance



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Antler Point Restrictions (APR's)

Perceived Benefits

- More mature bucks in population (all hunting pressure is focused this segment of population, resulting in younger age structure)
- Improves population productivity (may be true when Buck:Doe ratios fall below 10:100)
- More bucks in population (may occur if Buck:Doe very low [10:100] but no evidence of increase in adult bucks)

http://www.muledeerworkinggroup.com/Docs/MDWG%20Fact%206.pdf

Antler Restrictions and New Mexico

- Hunter success 5% lower during restrictions
  - However, harvest was only focused on the older age class deer (>3.5 years old)
- B:D Ratio did not differ during restrictions or after restrictions

http://www.muledeerworkinggroup.com/Docs/MDWG%20Fact%206.pdf

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Antler Restrictions

- Focus all hunting pressure on oldest age class, lowering average age of bucks in the population.
- Protects smaller antlered bucks (including those that will never become trophy animals)
- Most western states have discontinued the use of APR.

http://www.muledeerworkinggroup.com/Docs/MDWG%20Fact%206.pdf

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Population Status New Mexico

- Statewide Population Data (5 Year Averages)
  - 32 Bucks:100 Doe
  - 30% Yearling Bucks in the Population
  - 50 Fawns:100 Doe
- Given the current data and experiences from past antler restrictions, it is unlikely that implementing new antler restrictions will greatly influence mule deer population dynamics, including trophy potential.

http://www.muledeerworkinggroup.com/Docs/MDWG%20Fact%206.pdf

Detailed Harvest Data 2013-2014

Statewide Public Draw License Totals										
			Licenses	# Hunters	Percent	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction	Days
Hunt Code	GMU(s)	Weapon	Sold	Reporting	Reporting	Rate	Bucks	Does	Rating	Hunted
All	Statewide	Archery	6874	6329	92%	21%	1173	30	3.2	6.7
All	Statewide	Muzzleloader	5431	5015	92%	19%	889	8	2.9	3.6
All	Statewide	Rifle	19934	17625	88%	23%	4023	36	2.9	3.5
Grand Total		**All**	**32239**	**28969**	**90%**	**22%**	**6085**	**74**	**3.0**	**4.2**

Statewide Private Land License Totals										
			Licenses	# Hunters	Percent	Success	Estimated Harvest		Satisfaction	Days
Hunt Code	GMU(s)	Weapon	Sold	Reporting	Reporting	Rate	Bucks	Does	Rating	Hunted
All	Statewide	Archery	755	574	76%	36%	234	12	3.5	5.7
All	Statewide	Muzzleloader	232	192	83%	47%	103	0	3.5	3.4
All	Statewide	Rifle	3868	2847	74%	45%	1605	29	3.4	3.3
OTC (Non Reporting) - Estimate			*1207*	*0*	*0%*	*44%*	*483*	*10*	*3.5*	*3.7*
Grand Total		**All**	**6062**	**3613**	**60%**	**44%**	**2424**	**50**	**3.5**	**3.7**

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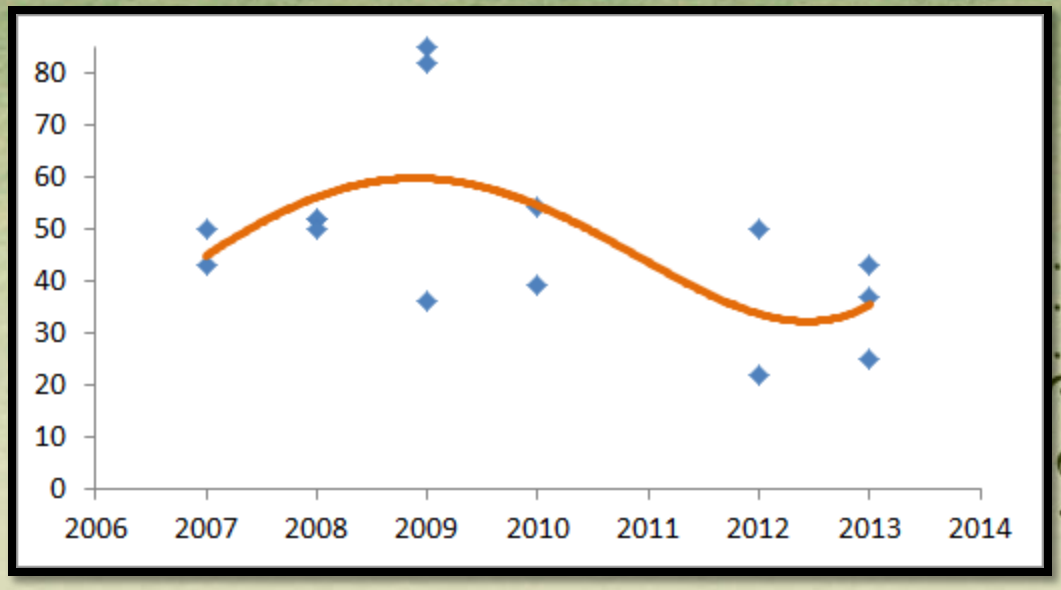
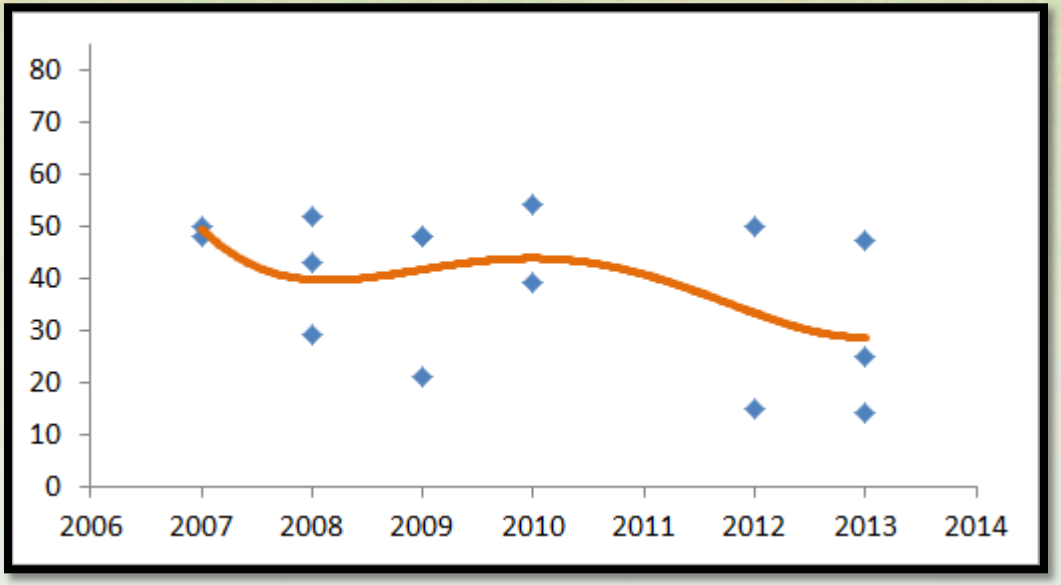
Statewide Trend Bucks:100 Does



Statewide Trend Fawns:100 Does



Coues White-tailed Deer

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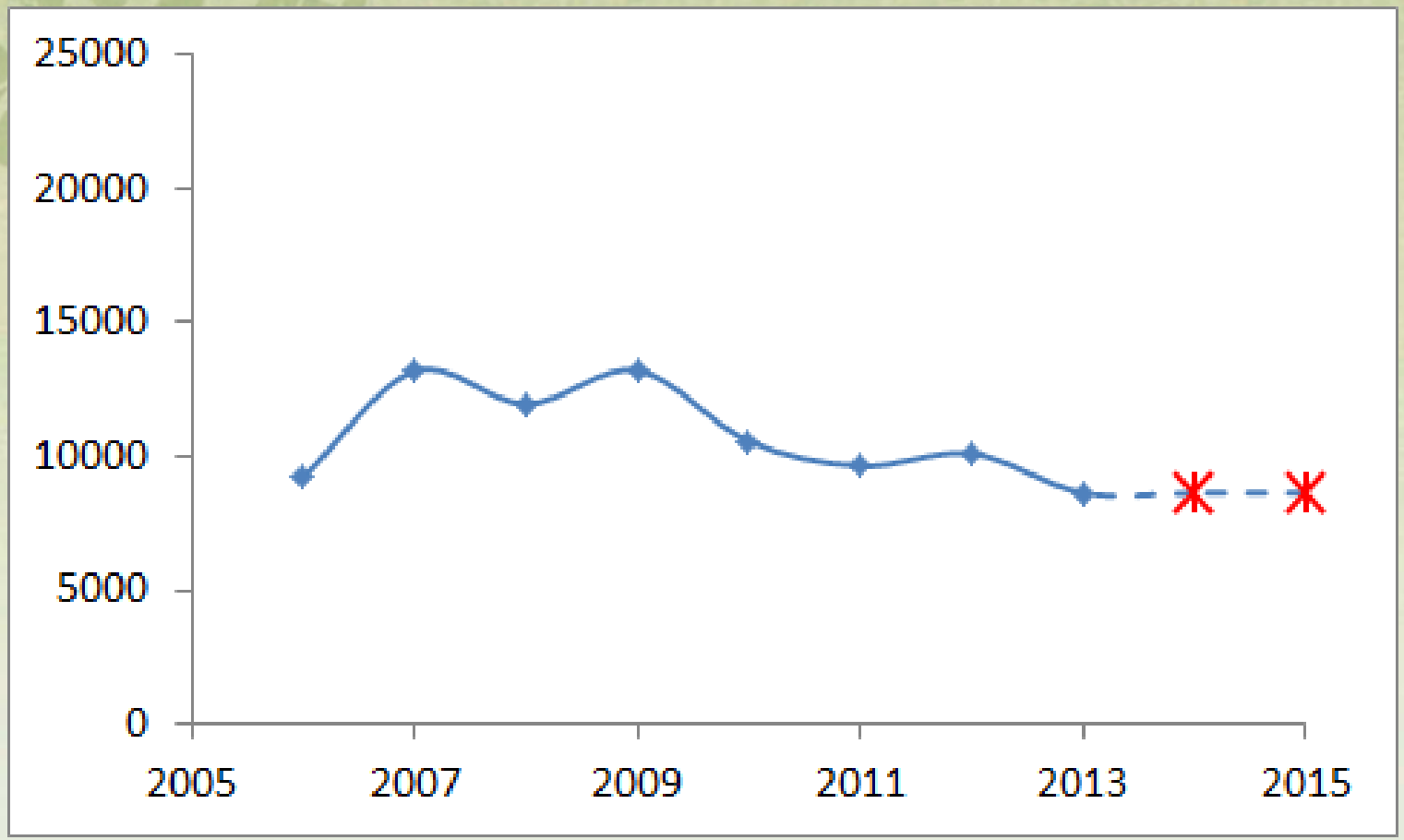
Statewide Harvest



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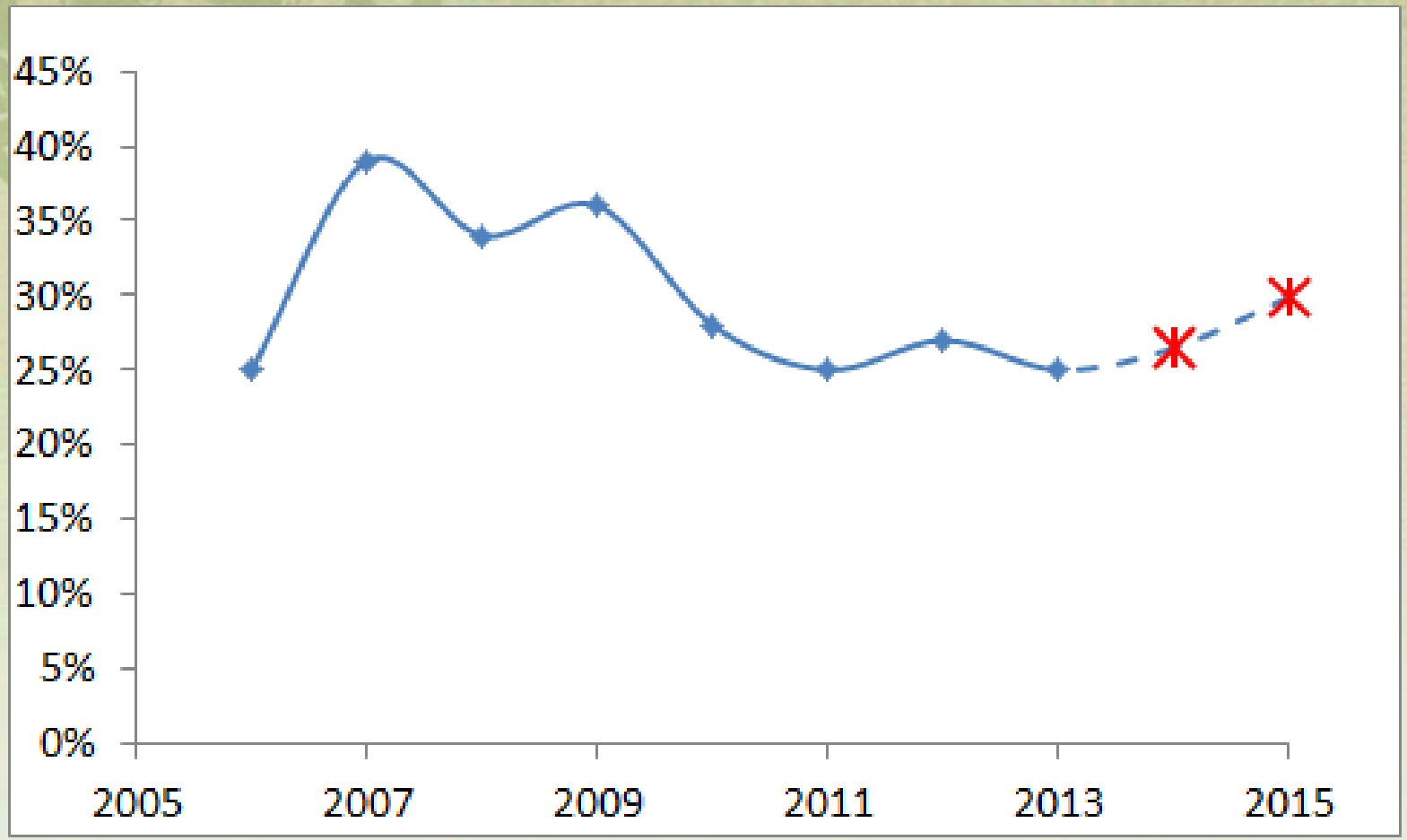
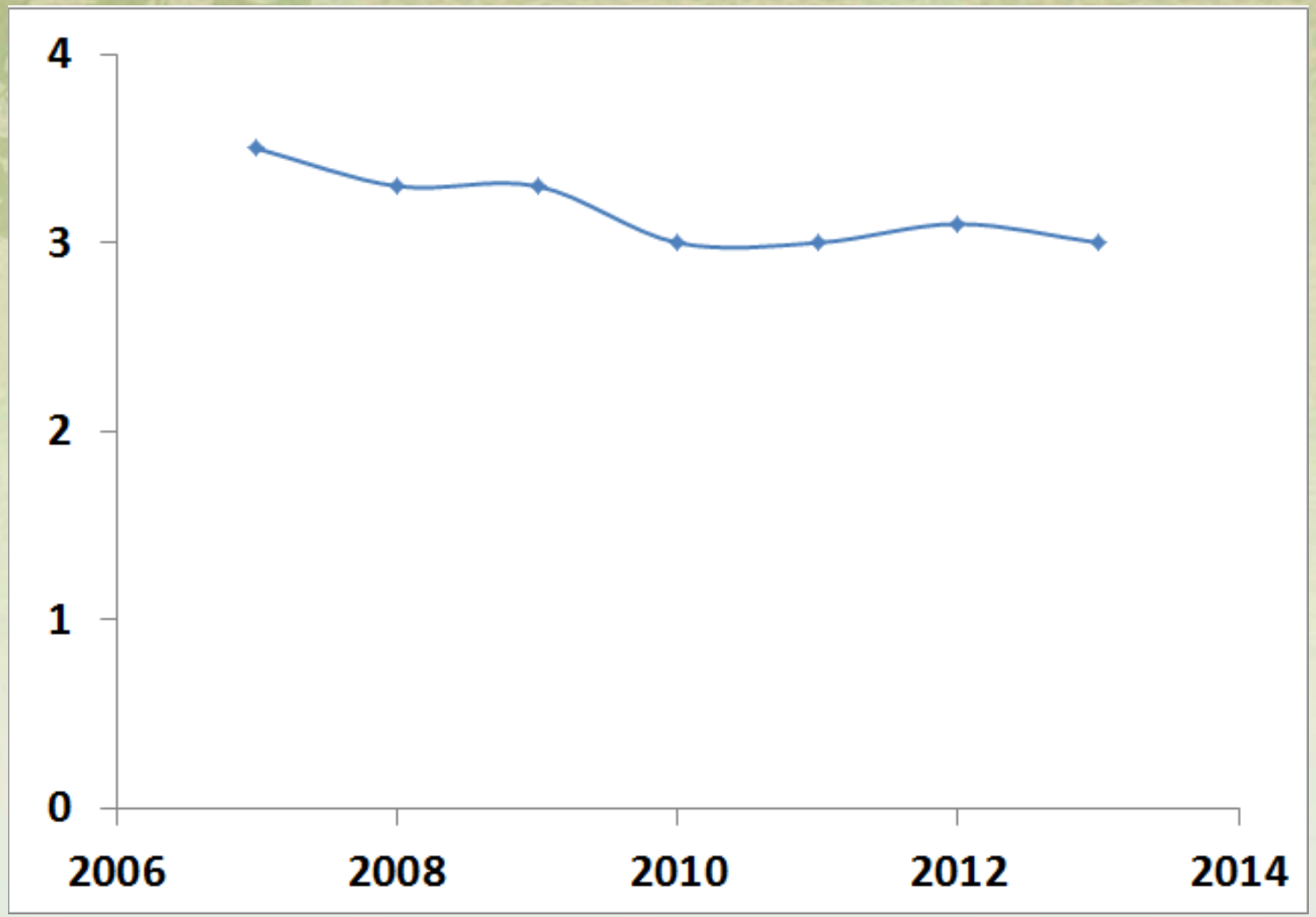
Hunter Success Rate



Statewide Hunter Satisfaction Rating



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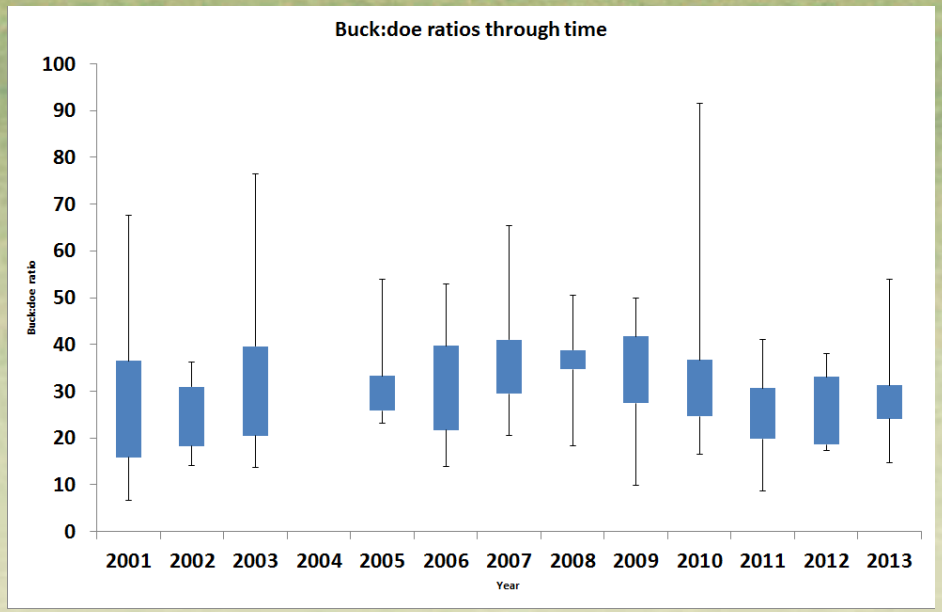

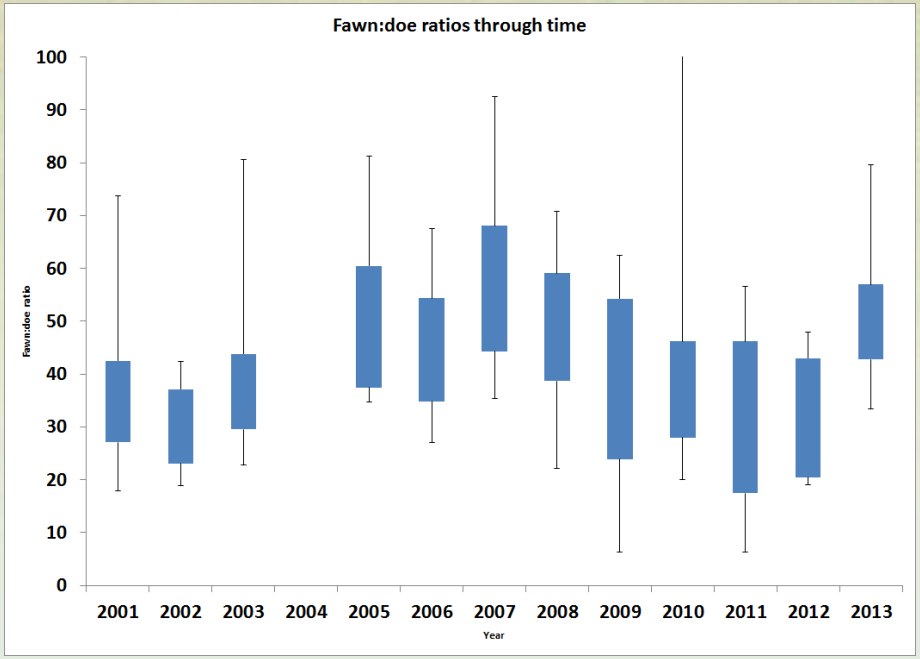

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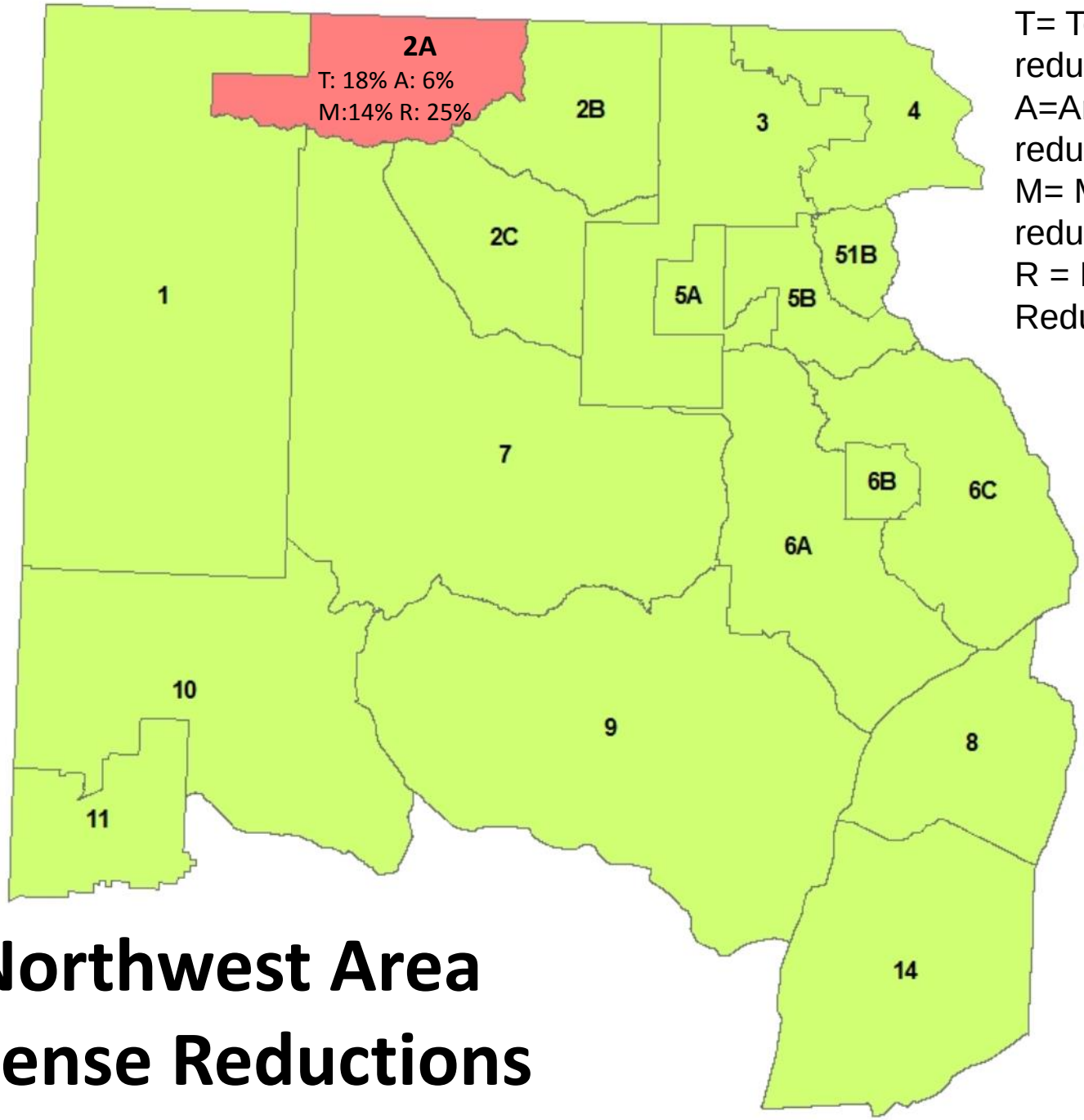
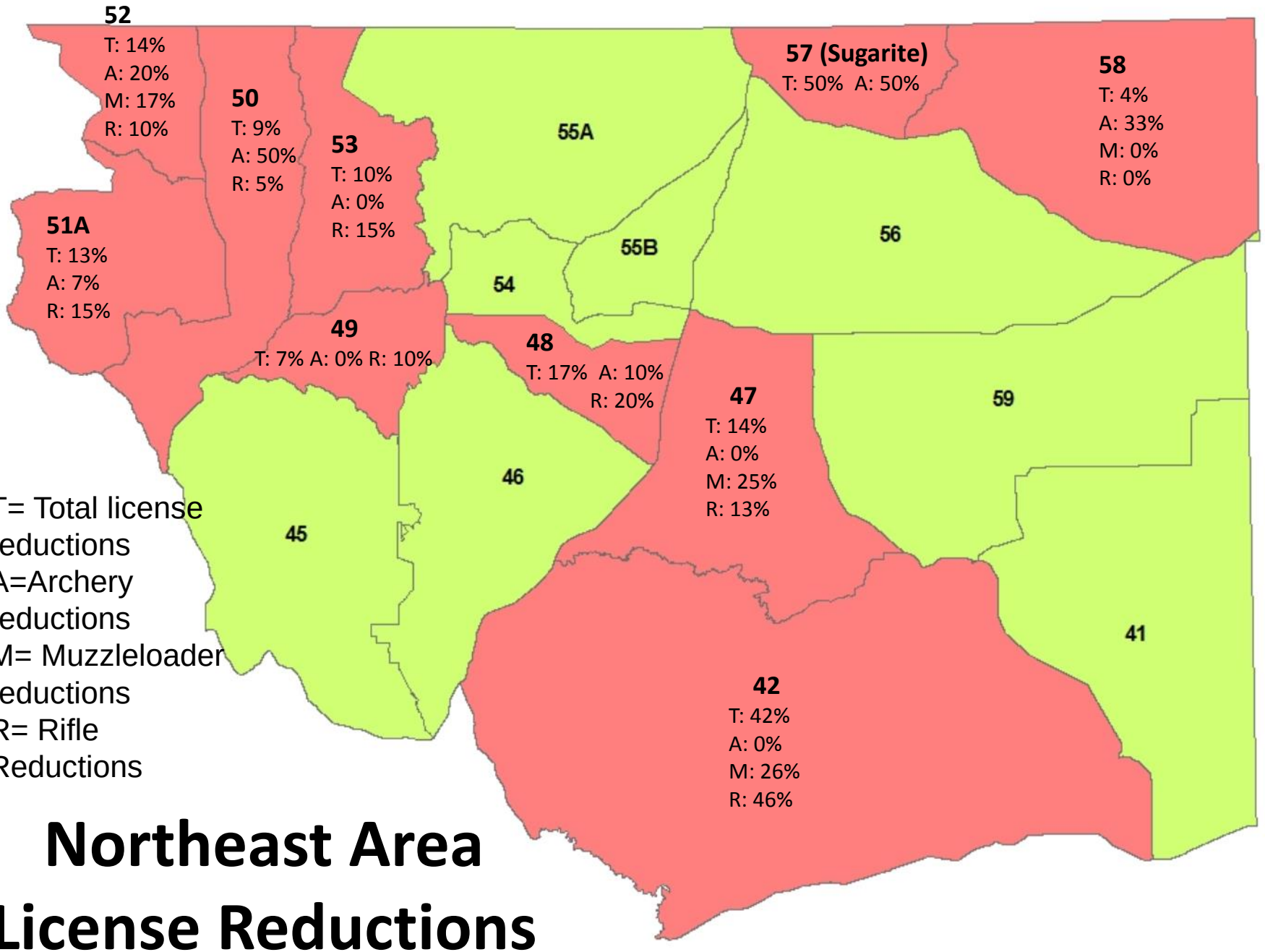


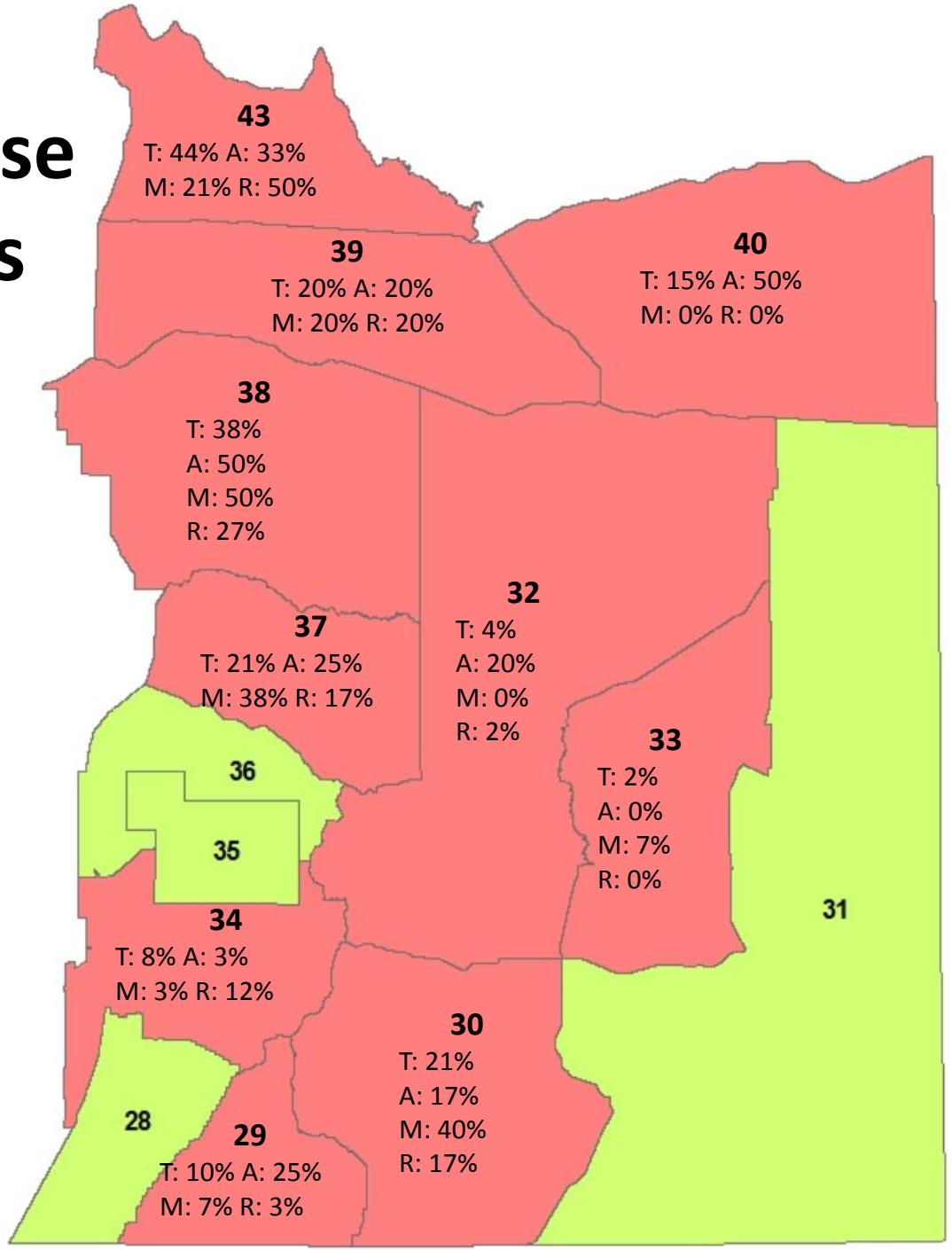
T= Total license reductions
A=Archery reductions
M= Muzzleloader reductions
R = Rifle Reductions

Northwest Area License Reductions



Northeast Area License Reductions

Southeast Area License Reductions



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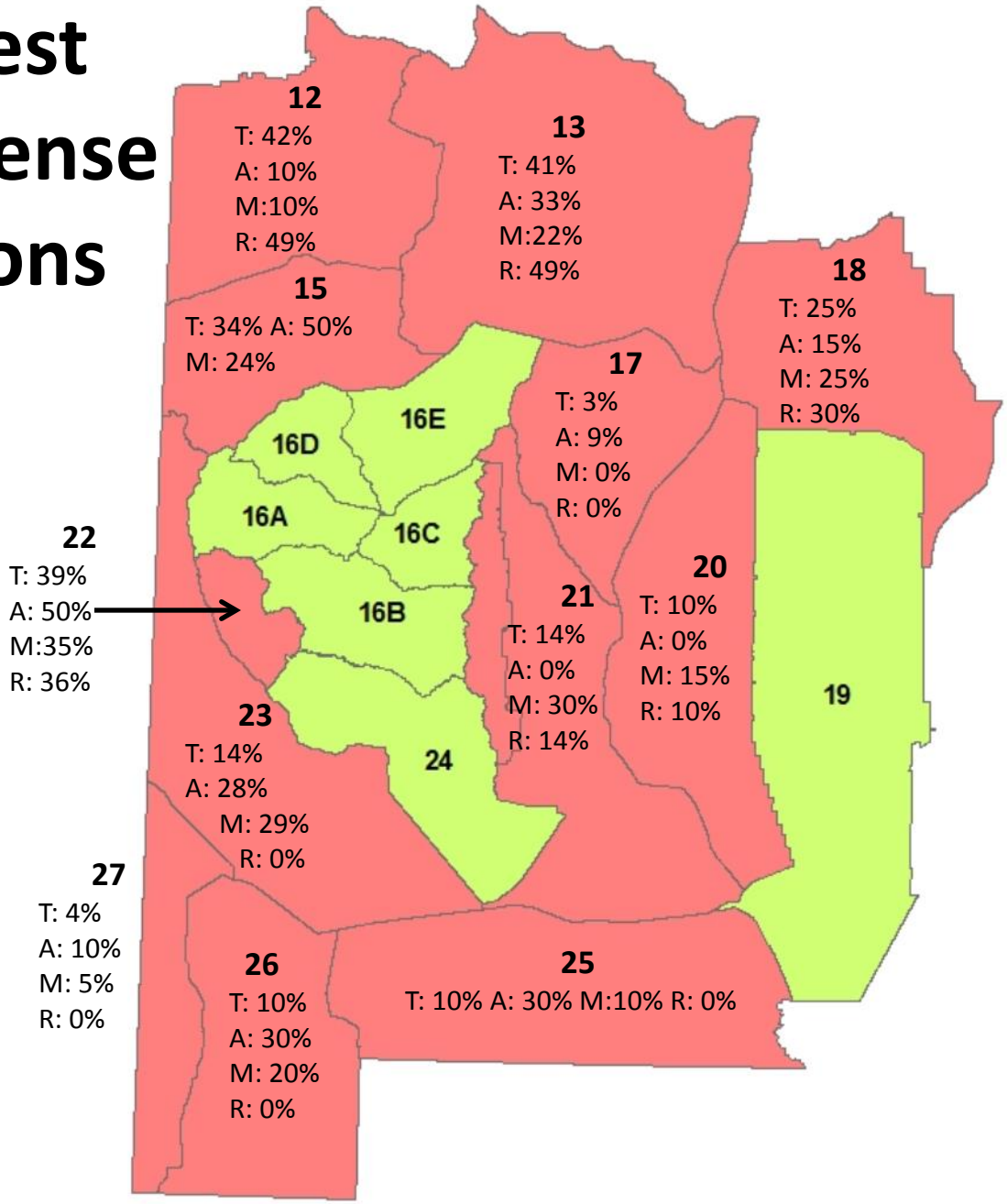

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