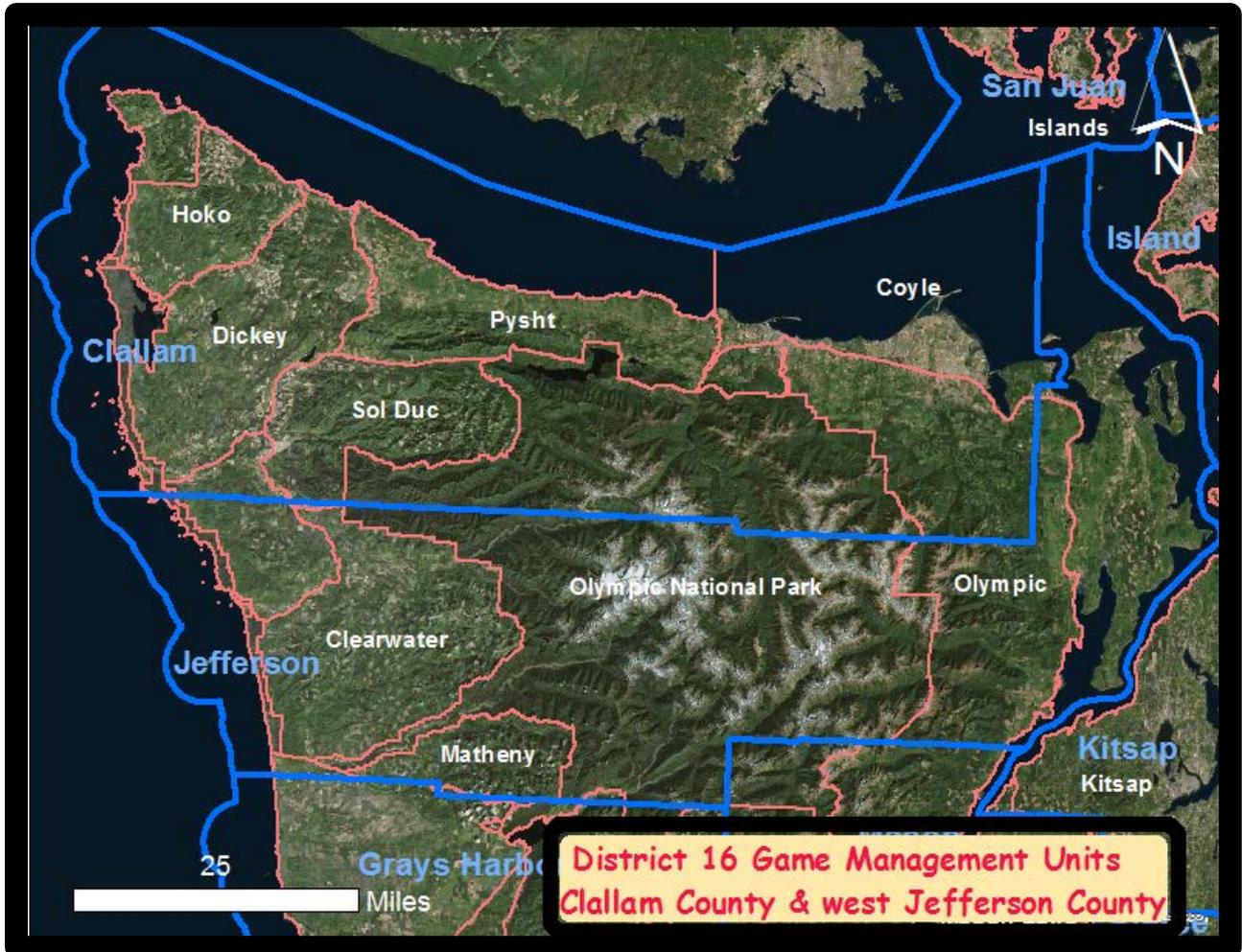


2015

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



DISTRICT 16 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Clallam and West Jefferson Counties

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DISTRICT 16 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 16 includes Clallam County and the western portion of Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula. There are eight game management units (GMUs) in District 16, all bordering Olympic National Park and/or a Tribal Reservation, except for GMU 624-Coyle (see maps below). Coyle GMU 624 and Olympic GMU 621 extend into District 15 (Mason, Kitsap, & East Jefferson County). Matheny GMU 618 is not included in District 16, although some maps may indicate otherwise. You can contact the District 17 Wildlife Biologist for information on Matheny GMU 618.

Each GMU in District 16 has its own unique mix of land ownerships: private residential, private agricultural, private forest industrial, state and federal forest, and park lands. Most higher-elevation forest lands are in public ownership (U.S. Forest Service and Olympic National Park (ONP)). Lower elevation foothills are generally private industrial forest lands and lands managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



The eastern quarter of the district is in the Dungeness Basin (western Coyle and northern Olympic GMUs). The Dungeness Basin offers a rich diversity of habitats, from high elevation, rain-shadow mountains to lower watershed with plentiful wetland habitats dispersed amidst a mix of riparian and bygone prairie/oak forest. The prairie is now a rural mix of small and large farms with scattered developments. In the lower basin there are some choice private duck hunting club ownerships and a few well enjoyed public waterfowl hunting areas. Waterfowl hunting opportunities have been expanded in the eastern portion of the district in recent years. The Dungeness Basin and the smaller watersheds east of the Elwha are areas where deer are in such high numbers there are frequent complaints by the rural and urban residents. The high visibility of deer in the Coyle and Olympic GMUs extends into the forestlands where there is an ideal ratio of forest openings. The availability of deer for harvest is enhanced within Deer Area 6020 where harvest of “any deer” during regular seasons is allowed. The main challenge with hunting in eastern District 16 is the high amount of private ownership, so time needs to be invested into arranging for hunting access on the target private lands.

The “West End” (Hoko, Dickey, Sol Duc, Goodman, and Clearwater) has the bulk of the elk in the district, while the deer are sparse in these same GMUs. Various sub-herds of elk are located within District 16. Many elk herds are year-round residents that remain in lower elevation habitats. There are some herds that make regular migrations into the higher elevations, most always being on Olympic National Park (ONP) habitat. There are opportunities to harvest elk as

they migrate out of ONP high country and follow river drainages to low elevations during the hunting season. The eastern portion of the Clearwater (GMU 615) is in DNR ownership and contains higher-elevation areas bordering ONP.

Varied hunting opportunities exist within District 16, from waterfowl hunting on designated shoreline and wetland areas along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to forest grouse, deer, elk, bear, and cougar hunting on private commercial and public forest land. Both state (DNR) and federal (U.S. Forest Service) lands provide hunting opportunities for a variety of species within the district.

With the mixed ownership come the complexities of access rules by various governmental and private entities. Make sure you have acquired the necessary permits to drive on public and private land in the area you have decided to explore.



Discover Pass: For State Parks, DNR, and WDFW lands



US Forest Service-Interagency Access Pass: For US Forest Service Lands

Keep in mind that many public lands on the Olympic Peninsula are not open to hunting, including Olympic National Park, most all Washington State Parks, and Clallam County Parks.

Private timberlands have various access and road closure procedures, so it is prudent to determine current ownership for a target location and the requirements to obtain permission to hunt. One company that has retained a consistent access program over the years is Merrill & Ring Pysht Tree Farm in the Pysht (GMU 603). Their permits provide access during most (but not all) hunting seasons. Several other forest industry ownerships have other access systems in place. See more in the [Private Industrial Forestland](#) section. Hunters are encouraged to scout the areas they are considering hunting and pay close attention to the signs on all roads. Signs are often the landowner's primary method of informing the public on which areas are open to hunting.

These diverse mixtures of ownerships and jurisdictions also present different combinations of firearm restriction regulations and ordinances. The three main firearm restriction regulations that are most relevant to hunters are the following:

- WDFW: The portion of the Coyle (GMU 624) in Clallam County (description can be found on page 90 of [Washington's 2015 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations](#) pamphlet).
- Clallam County Code: [Clallam County Firearms Discharge Restrictions](#)
- Jefferson County Code: [Jefferson County NO SHOOTING AREAS](#)

ELK

The elk within District 16 are Roosevelt elk. For ongoing monitoring and population trend studies there are many elk throughout the district with radio collars, ear tags, and transmitters. Some are VHF collars while others are GPS collars. It is very likely that you will observe one of the elk that have been captured to put some radio gear on. If you observe a collared elk in an unusual location, or possibly even find a collar, you are encouraged to share that information with the district biologist.

District 16 contains various sub-herds of the Olympic elk herd, one of 10 herds identified in the state. The elk are important resources that provide significant recreational, aesthetic, cultural, and economic benefits to the people of the state. Based on historical harvest information, elk numbers peaked in the late 1970s with a conservative estimate of about 12,000 elk outside of Olympic National Park. Current population estimates are based on a combination of harvest data, telemetry studies, and mark-resight surveys. These techniques yielded a fall population estimate of approximately 8,600 in the game management units (GMUs) surrounding Olympic National Park in the year 2000. The current estimated population of the Olympic elk herd is likely lower.

Much of the elk hunting for GMUs located within the district is restricted to a limited-entry 3-point minimum bull-only harvest. These successfully managed hunts have been producing quality bulls and high hunter success rates for some permit hunts. Some elk herds migrate down from high alpine meadows in Olympic National Park (ONP) to lowland winter range. Public lands and private commercial timberlands bordering the park are good prospects. Hunters are encouraged to scout for elk that may leave ONP and travel along major river drainages. Law Enforcement Officers convey that they are getting reports that elk groups in the Pysht (GMU 603) have increased slightly in the past few years.

Hunting seasons have been established to allow recreational use and serve as a tool for managing elk populations within the district. The eastern district rarely has a report of elk harvest from the general season in GMU 624. Harvest within Elk Area 6071 is limited to damage control, occasionally involving master hunters from the Region 6 permit list. Check the [WA Big Game Hunting Pamphlet](#) or the WDFW website for more information. The eastern district elk harvest in Olympic GMU 621 is limited to permit and tribal harvest.

The Clearwater (GMU 615), Dickey (GMU 602), and Sol Duc (GMU 607) have the highest elk harvest in District 16. These units contain the largest portion of public land without restricted access.

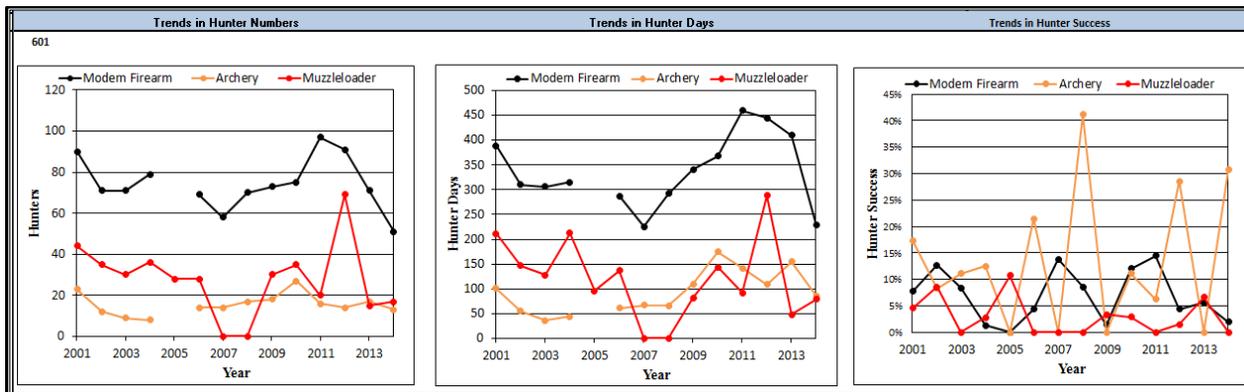
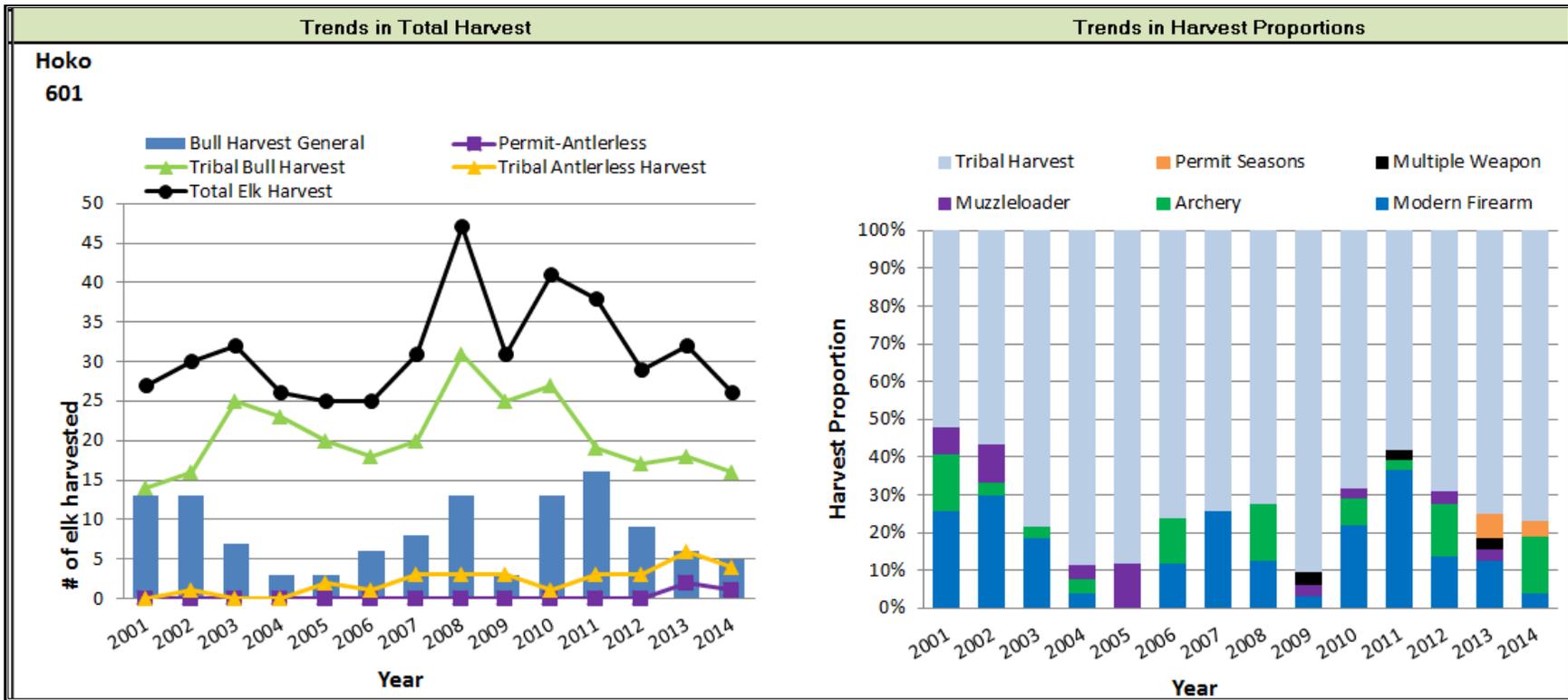
The Hoko (GMU 601), Pysht (GMU 603), and Coyle (GMU 624) have very limited opportunities for general season hunters. Most of these units contain private land and many of the roads on timber lands are gated. Hunting on DNR lands, U.S. Forest Service lands, and private timber lands in other GMUs within the district can yield good results. However, it is important to note that there are several areas where vehicular access is limited. Hunters would

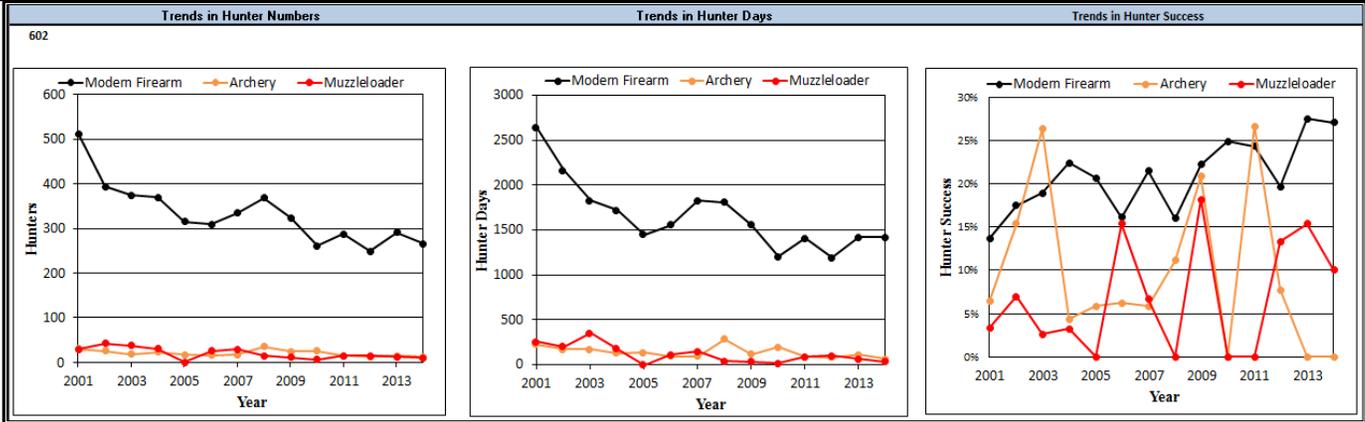
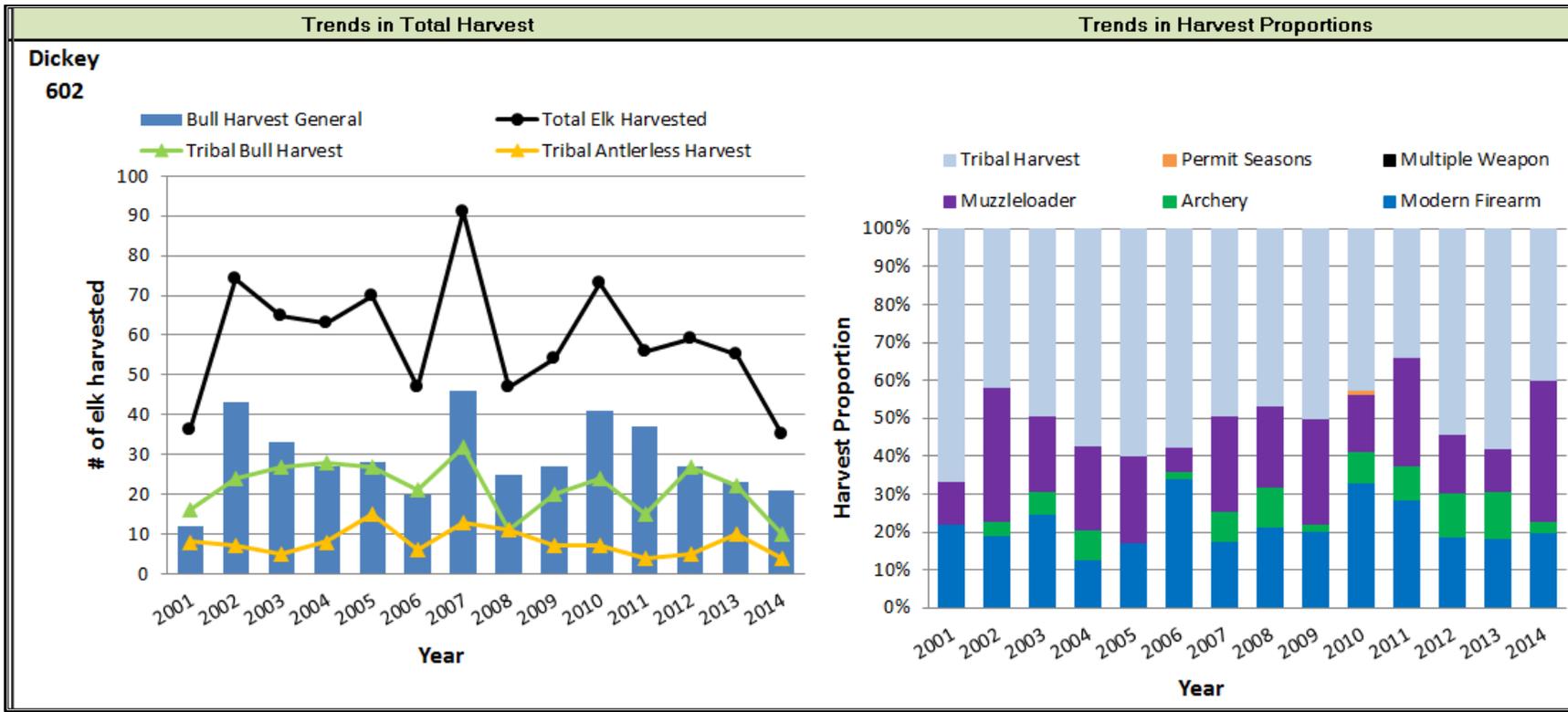
need to obtain permission to hunt on private lands and must obey all posted signs and regulations.

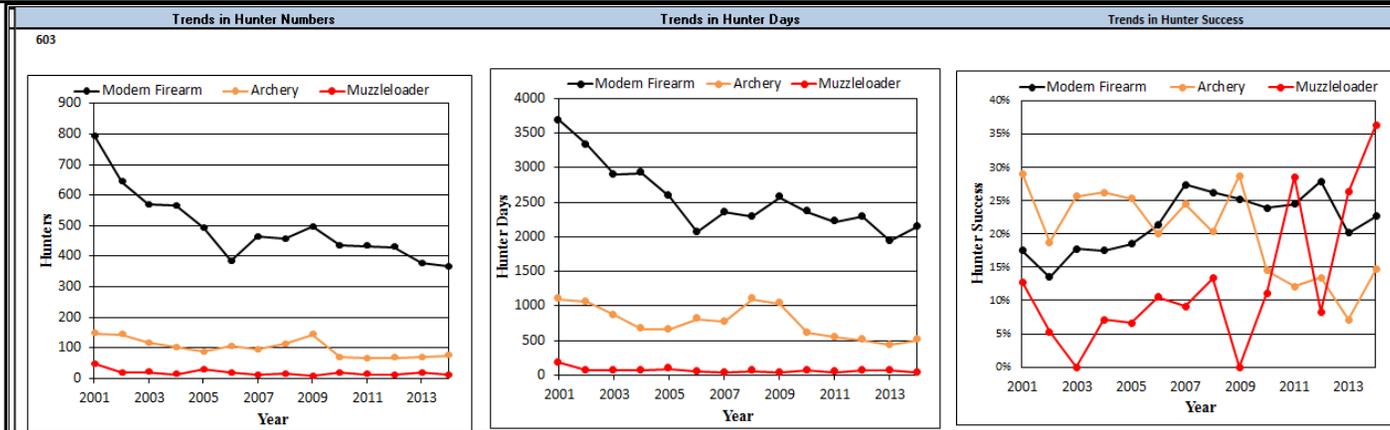
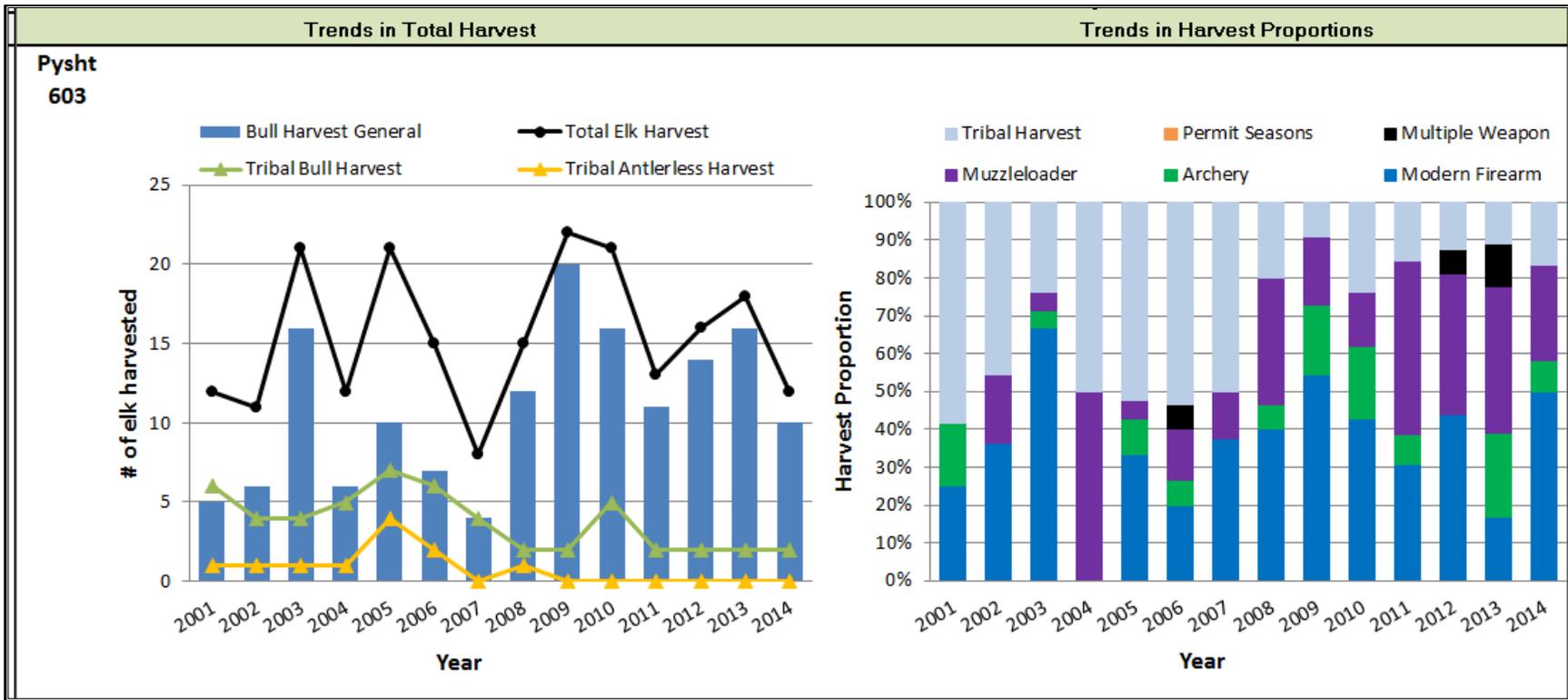
A thesis on elk with research conducted in the Hoko (GMU 601) and Dickey (GMU 602) is available here: [Movements and Habitat Use of Female Roosevelt Elk in Relation to Human Disturbance on the Hoko and Dickey Game Management Units, Washington](#) [Annual harvest reports](#) and harvest statistics for elk based on hunter reporting can be found on the WDFW website.

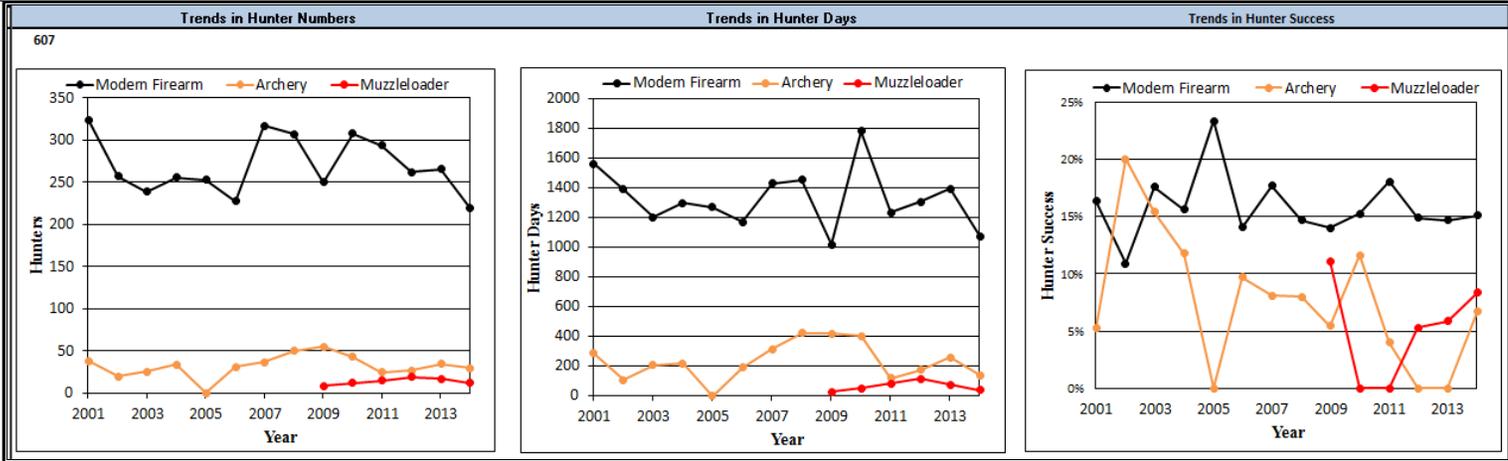
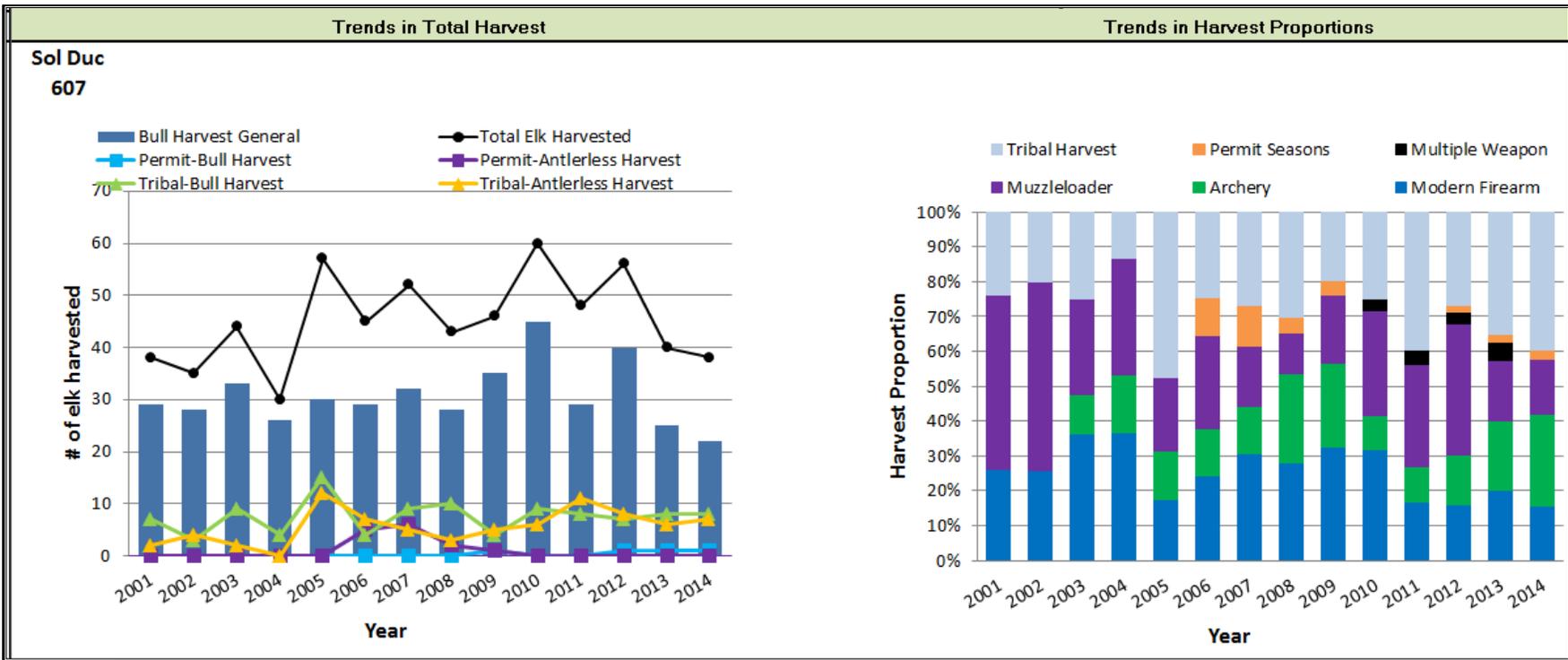
See District 15 Hunting Prospects- Elk to get information on GMU 621 (Olympic) and GMU 624 (Coyle).

The following are Harvest Records for GMUs in District 16:





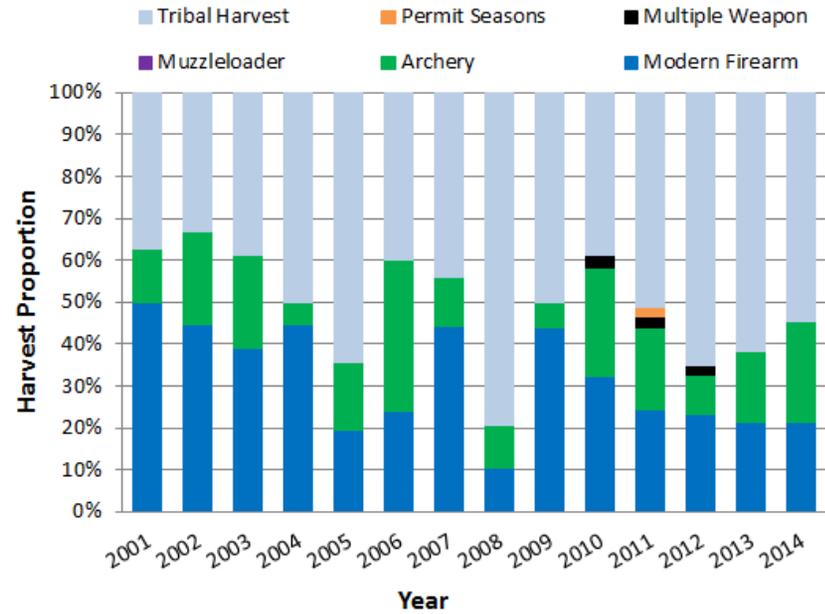
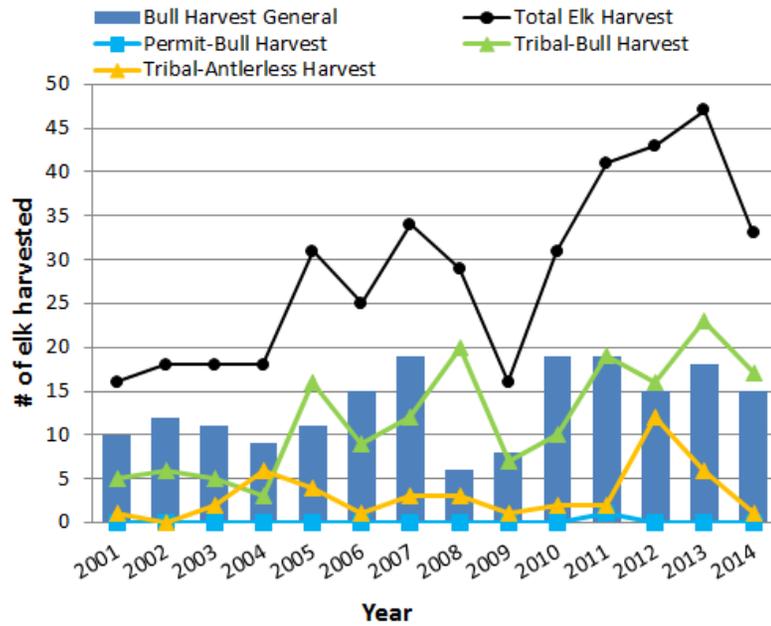




Trends in Total Harvest

Trends in Harvest Proportions

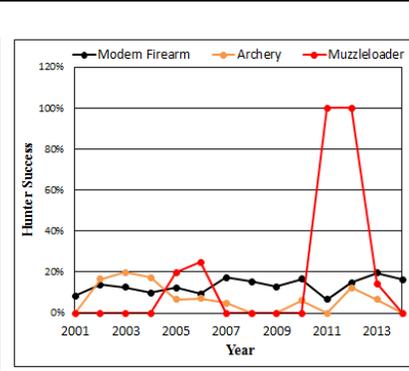
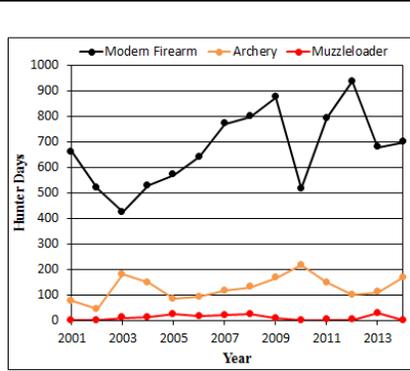
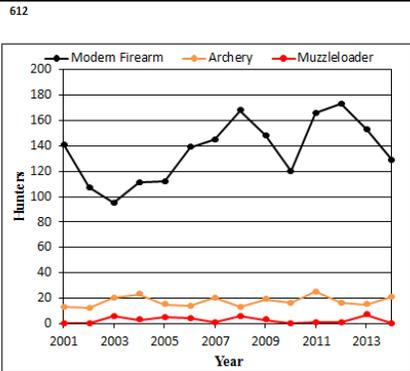
Goodman
612

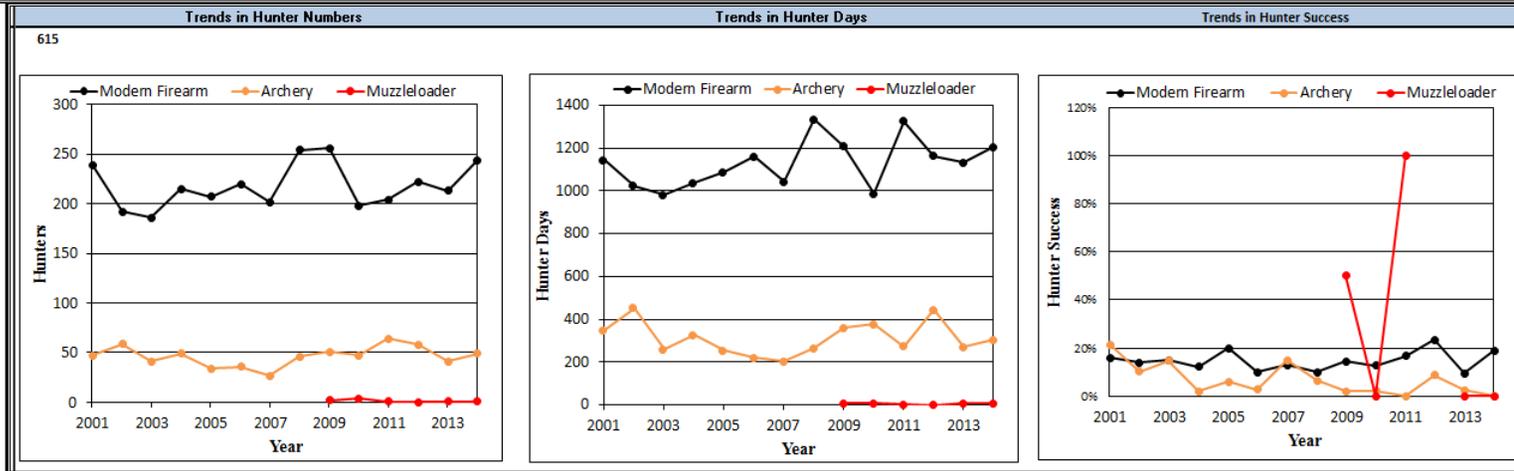
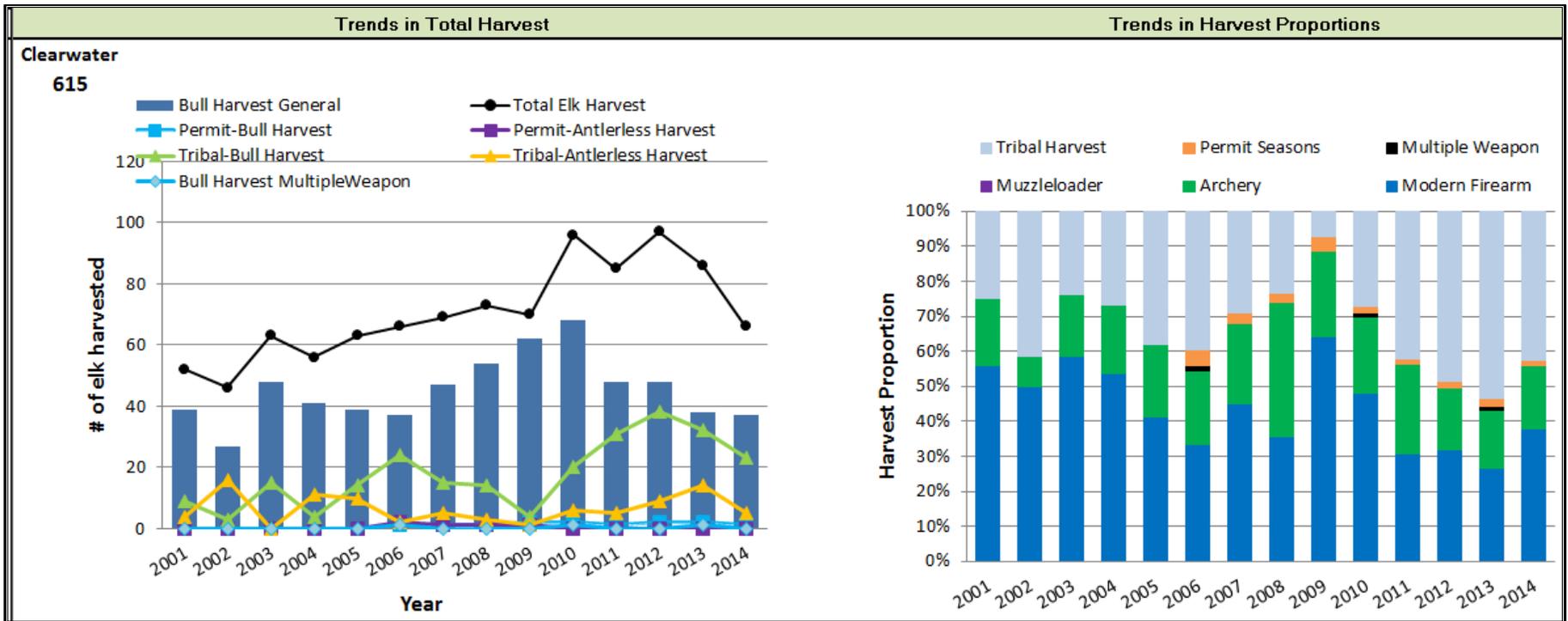


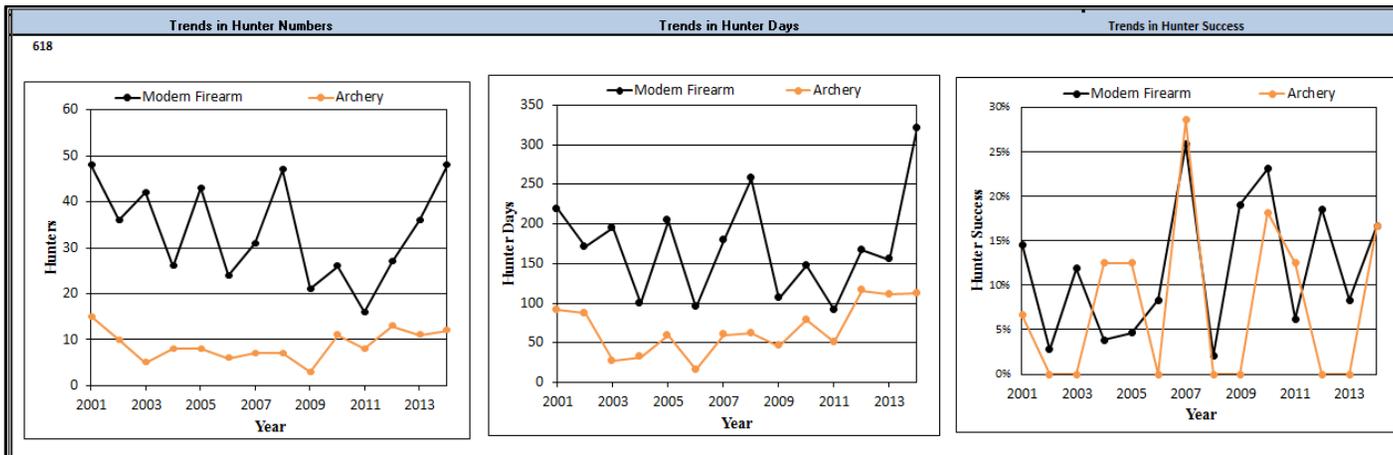
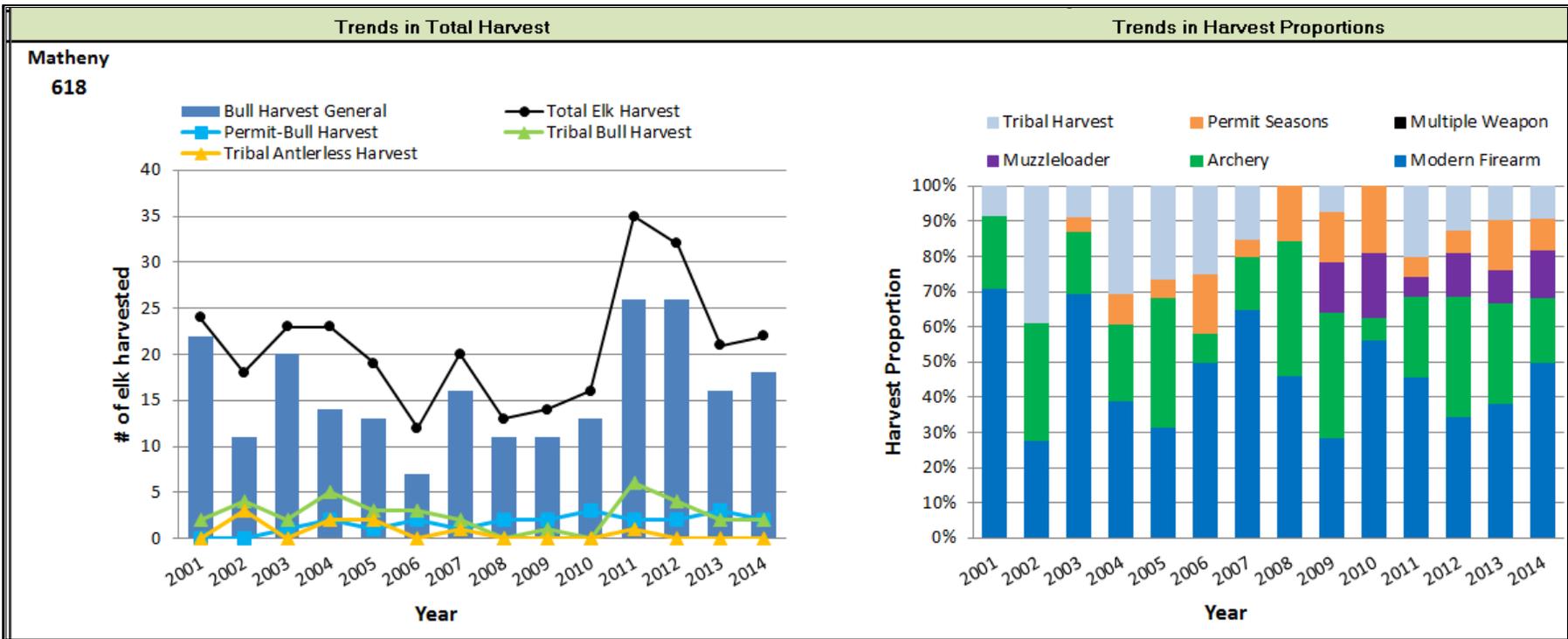
Trends in Hunter Numbers

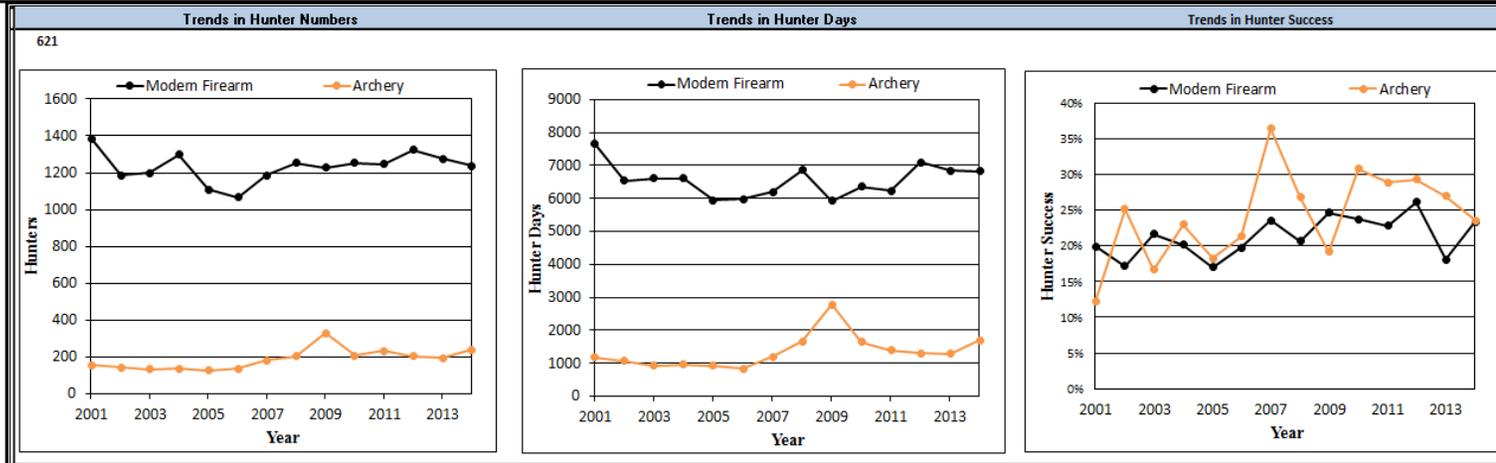
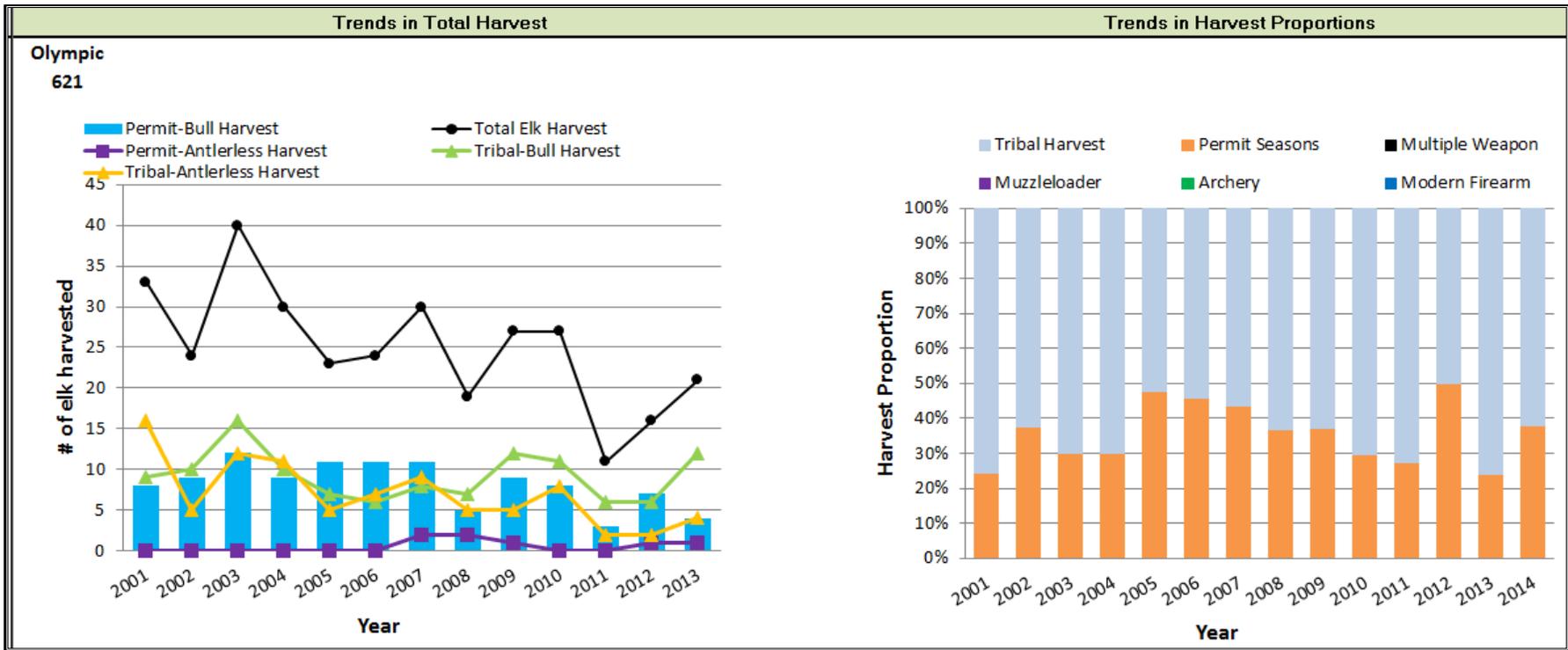
Trends in Hunter Days

Trends in Hunter Success









DEER

District 16 wildlife biologists are actively involved in black-tailed deer research. Assignments conducted by district staff for this research include collaring and tracking of the deer and locating collared deer mortalities to identify mortality causes. These links represent some of the collaring in Clallam County:

[Researcher Cliff Rice releasing collared doe](#)

[Black-tailed Deer - Western Washington Study using GPS collars](#)

During the capture portion of the study, the detectability of deer was noticeably much higher east of the Elwha. According to Dr. Cliff Rice, the lead researcher, some of the largest does captured in western Washington were captured west of the Dungeness on the lower foothills in a mix of DNR and private land. Black-tailed deer monitoring is continuing to be accomplished by tracking the harvest and hunting effort and gathering data on survivability, recruitment, and mortality rates using collared deer studies and aerial census methods.

Western District 16 is generally sparse of deer. This area includes GMUs 601 (Hoko), 602 (Dickey), 603 (Pysht), 607 (Sol Duc), 612 (Goodman), and 615 (Clearwater). Often, GMU 618 (Matheny) is associated with District 16. Biologist, Enforcement Officer observations, and published reports indicate that deer population numbers and density are generally down throughout the district west of the Elwha. The following link outlines the current black-tailed deer research in the Hoko GMU:

[Black-tailed Deer Research in Hoko GMU](#)

The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission reported that “The Makah and Quileute tribes agreed to curtail harvest of antlerless deer in the wake of a study that led biologists to believe that the Olympic Peninsula's black-tailed deer population is declining.”

Eastern District 16 includes the northwestern portion of GMU 621 (Olympic) and the northern portion of GMU 624 (Coyle), which extend east and south into District 15 (eastern Jefferson County). Because the data on harvest is recorded by GMU, the harvest figures presented here include all of GMU 621 and 624, extending into District 15. The portion of District 16 east of the Elwha River has black-tailed deer populations that are readily observed (presumably due to higher densities) and in many areas can be observed in groups, especially at low to mid-elevations. In these areas, the deer are often perceived to be a nuisance by some property owners and agricultural operations, especially in GMU 624 (Coyle). Deer Area 6020 was established years ago to allow the harvest of does to help curb the trend of too many deer encompassing the area north of Highway 101 between Port Angeles and eastern Miller Peninsula. Doe harvest is allowed within Deer Area 6020 during the general seasons. This area is primarily private land, but it is worth inquiring with landowners about hunting access. Note that much of the state land on Miller Peninsula, within this Deer Area 6020, is State Park land where hunting is not allowed. The key to a successful harvest is securing the appropriate permission to hunt on private land and scouting the area prior to the hunting season. Hunters who intend to target deer in developed

areas would be well advised to check with local jurisdictions regarding firearm restrictions.

The mid and lower elevations of GMU 621 (Olympic) have high densities of deer as well, with some scattered blocks of DNR ownership that offer hunting on public land. Private industrial timber lands and property managed by DNR are largely gated due to timber theft, dumping, vandalism, and other problems. However, many of these roads can be accessed on foot or with mountain bikes, giving those willing to do the work access to deer that don't get as much hunting pressure. Be sure to check with the appropriate land owner/manager and obey all posted rules and regulations.

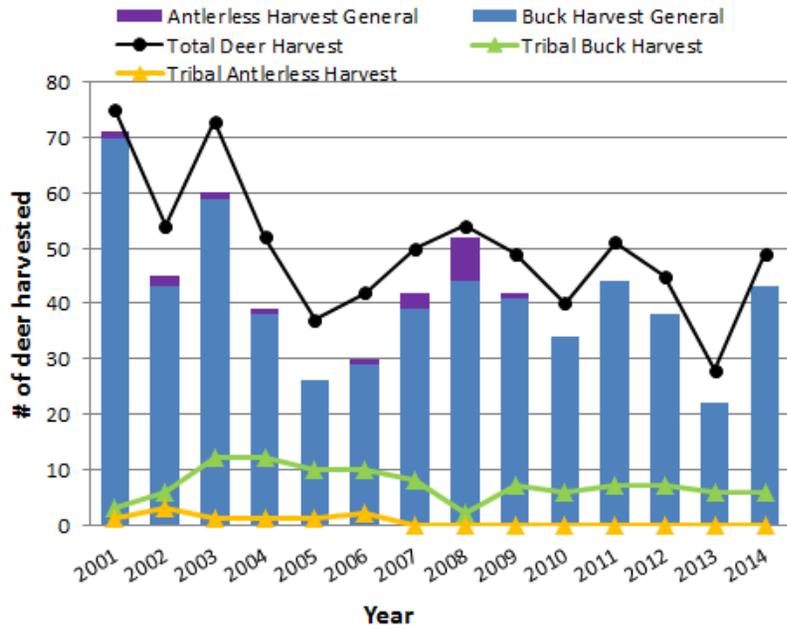
[Annual harvest reports](#) and harvest statistics for deer based on hunter reporting can be found on the WDFW website.

See District 15 Hunting Prospects for more information on GMU 621 (Olympic) and GMU 624 (Coyle).

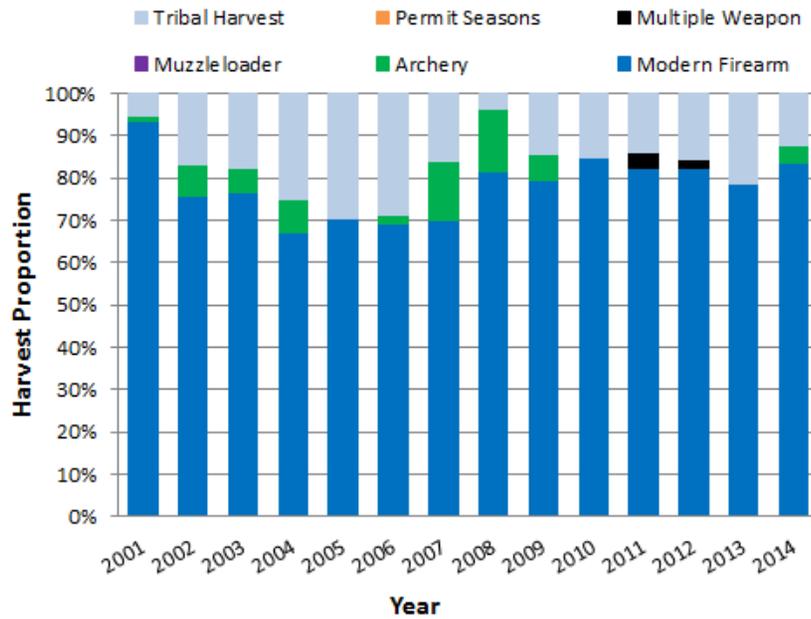
The following are Harvest Records for GMUs in District 16 (some GMUs cross boundaries into District 15 and District 17):

Trends in Total Harvest

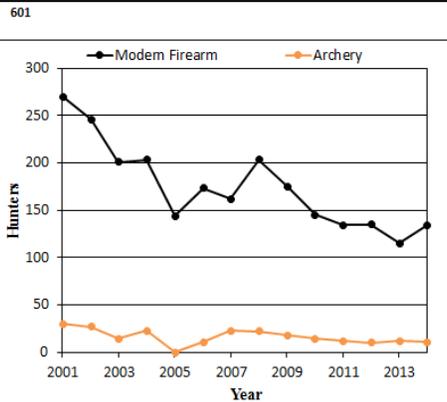
Hoko
601



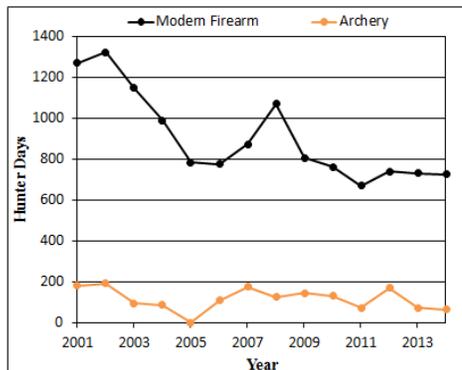
Trends in Harvest Proportions



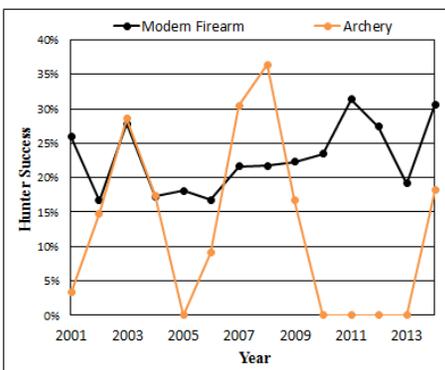
Trends in Hunter Numbers

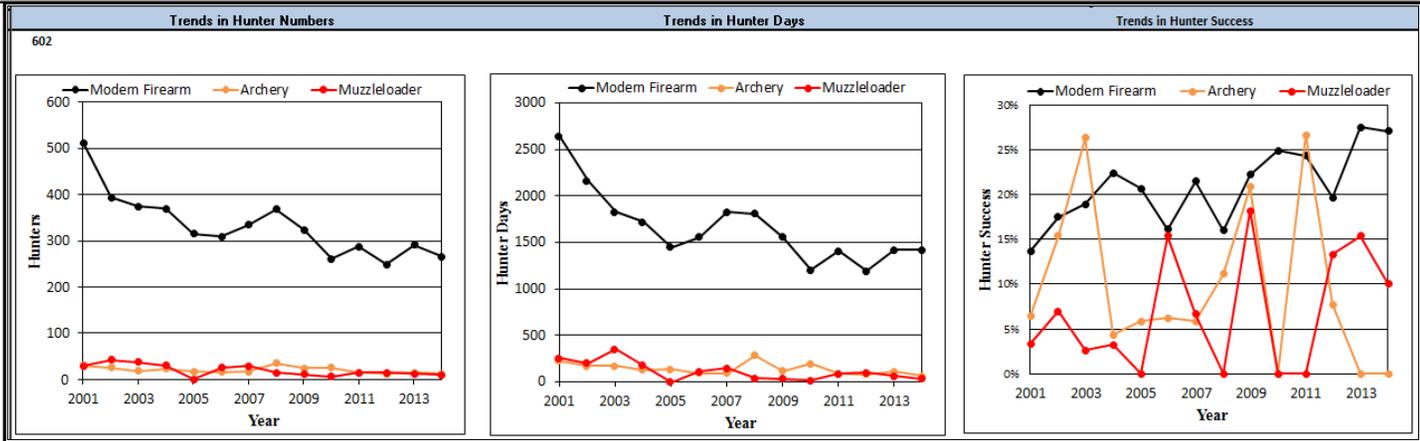
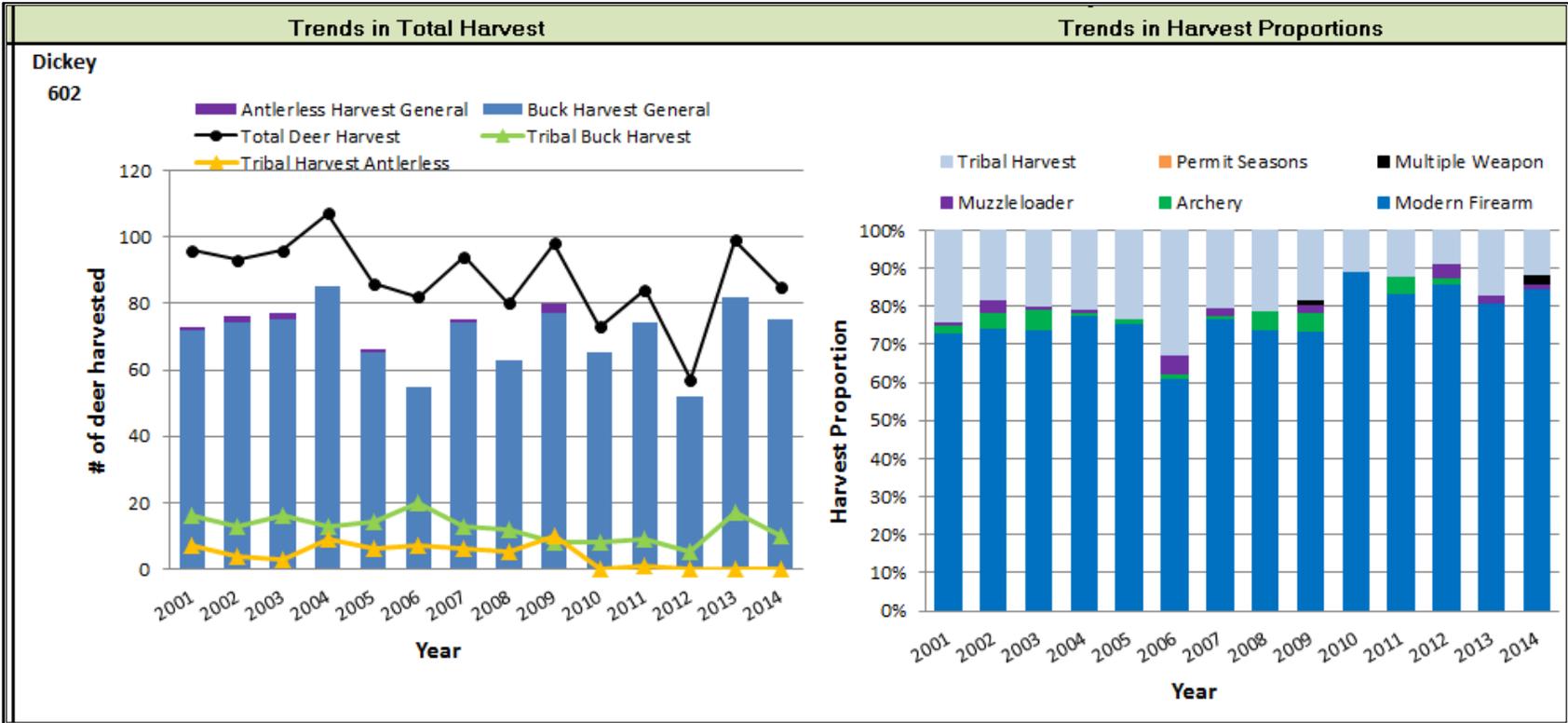


Trends in Hunter Days



Trends in Hunter Success

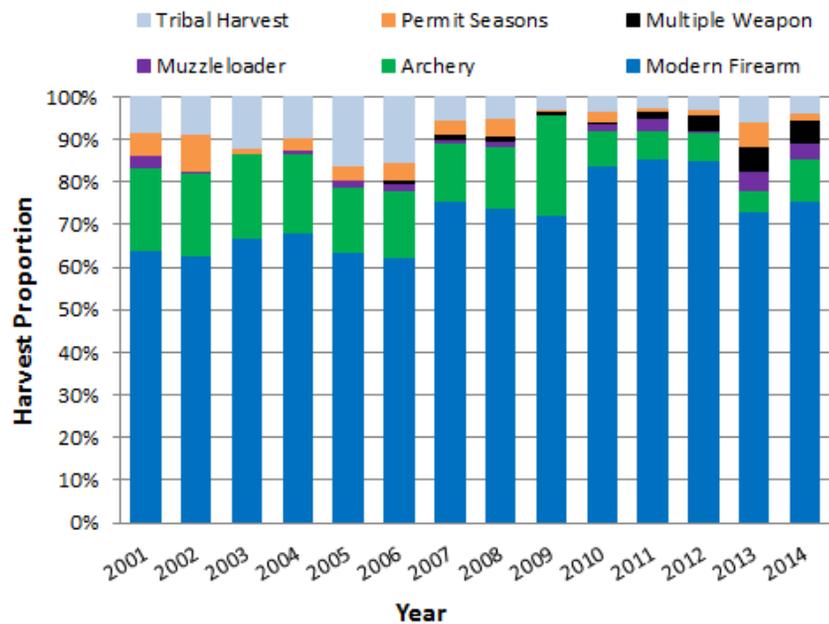
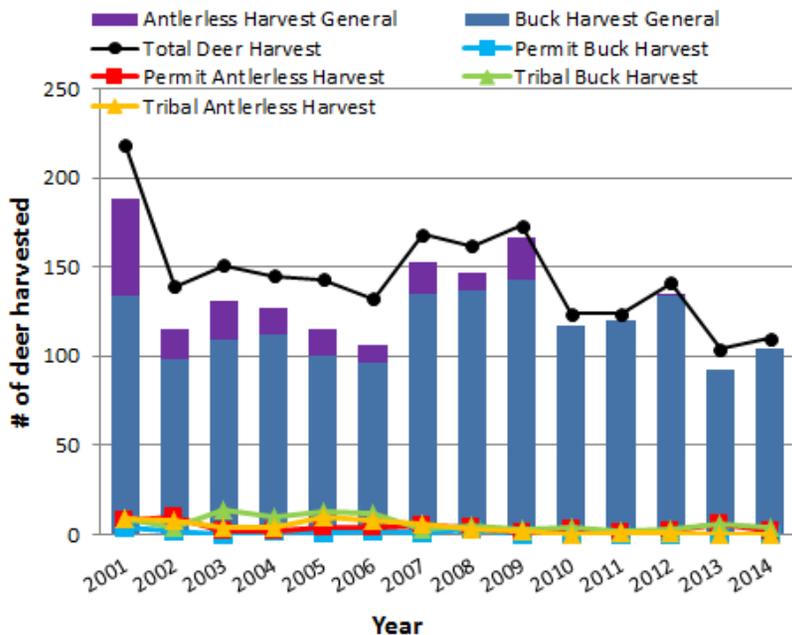




Trends in Total Harvest

Trends in Harvest Proportions

Pysht
603

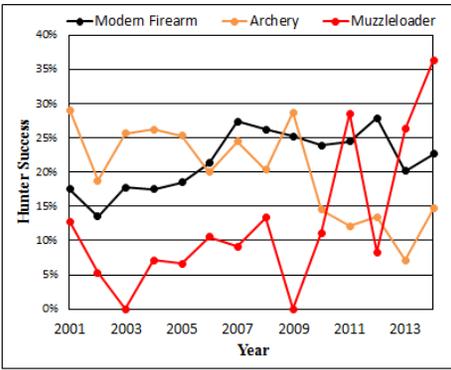
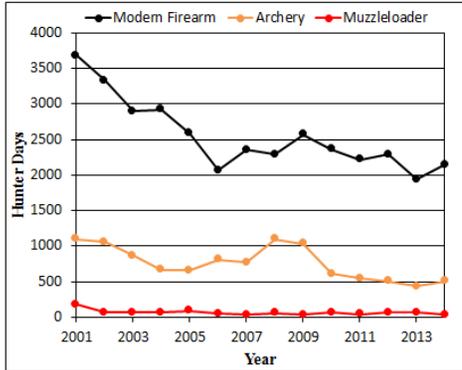
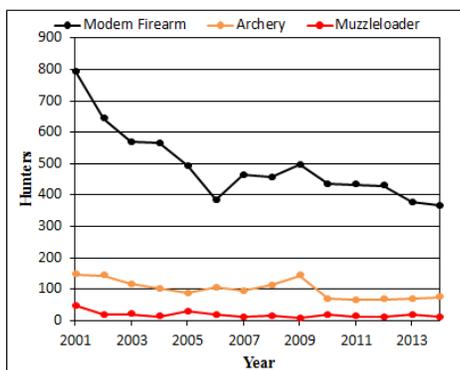


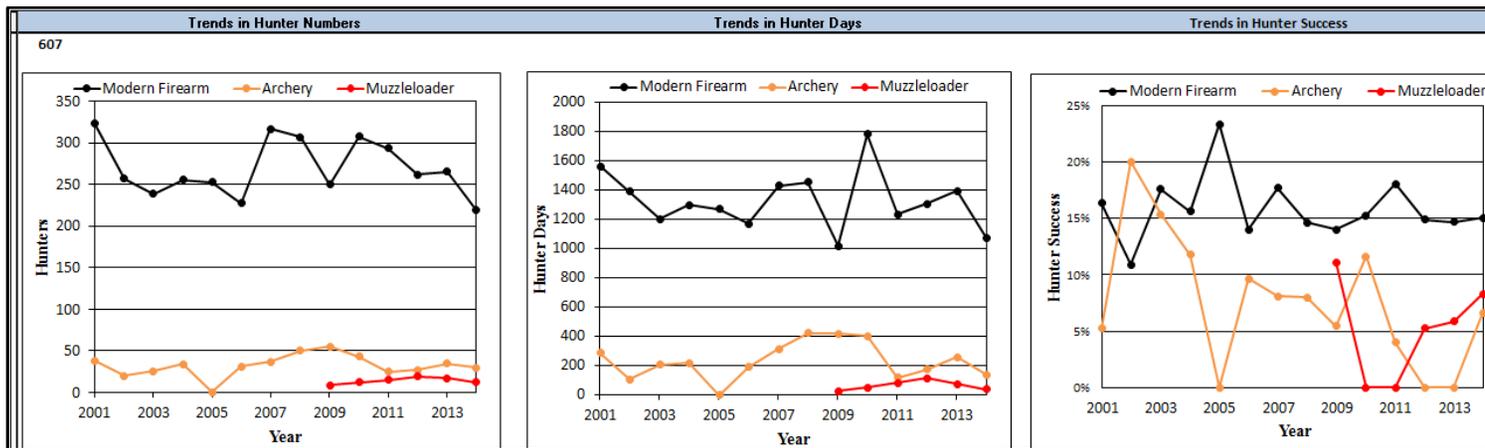
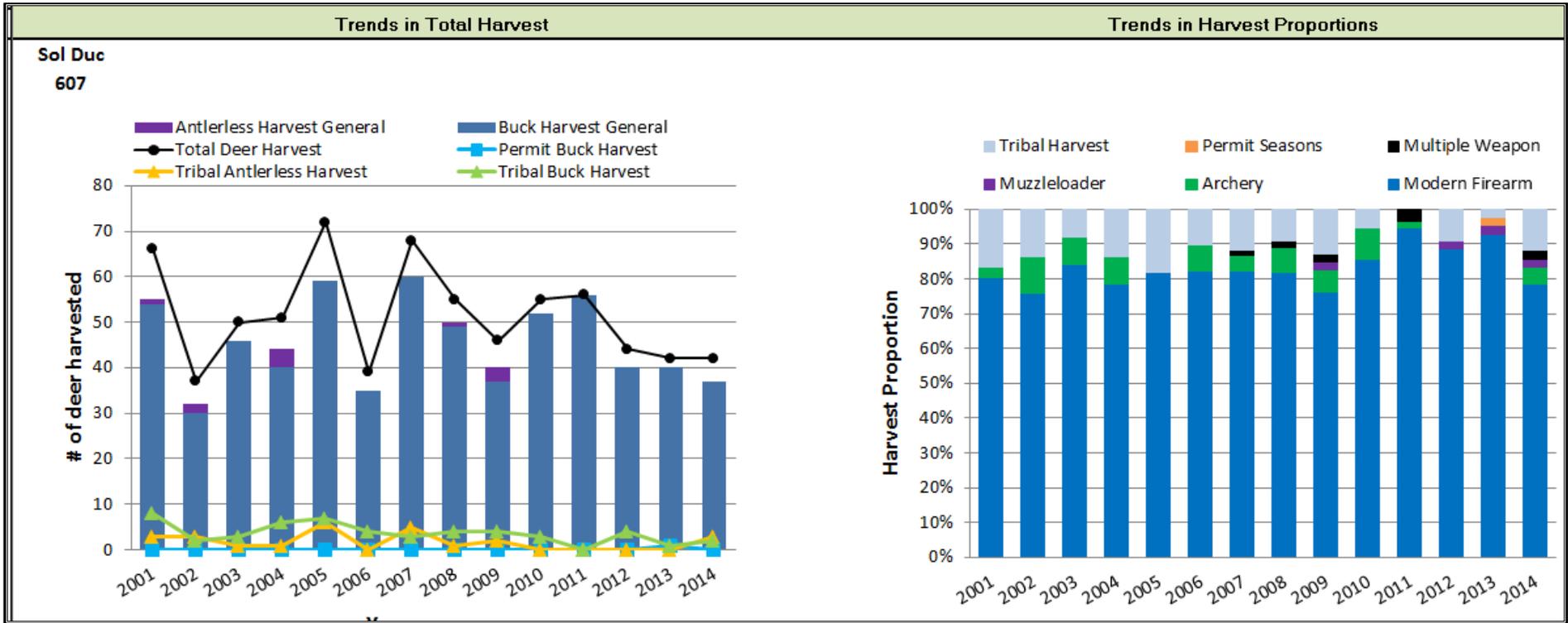
Trends in Hunter Numbers

Trends in Hunter Days

Trends in Hunter Success

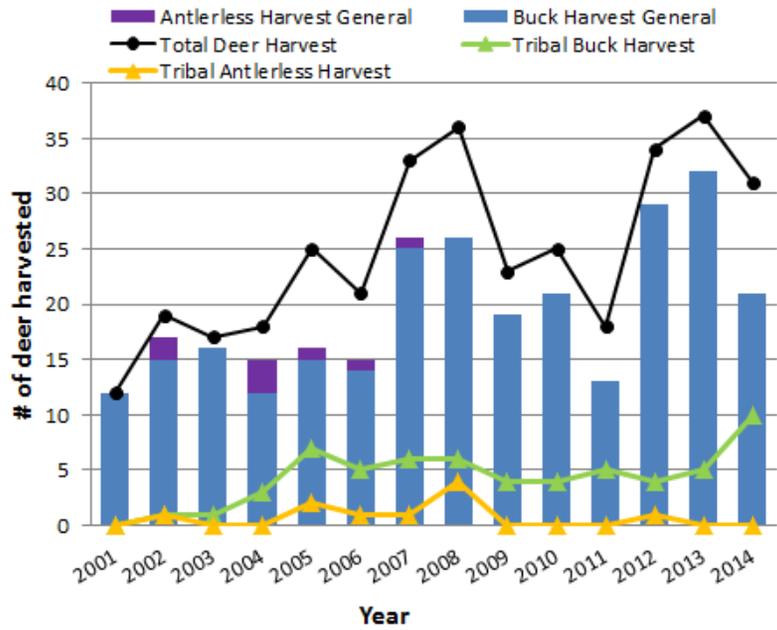
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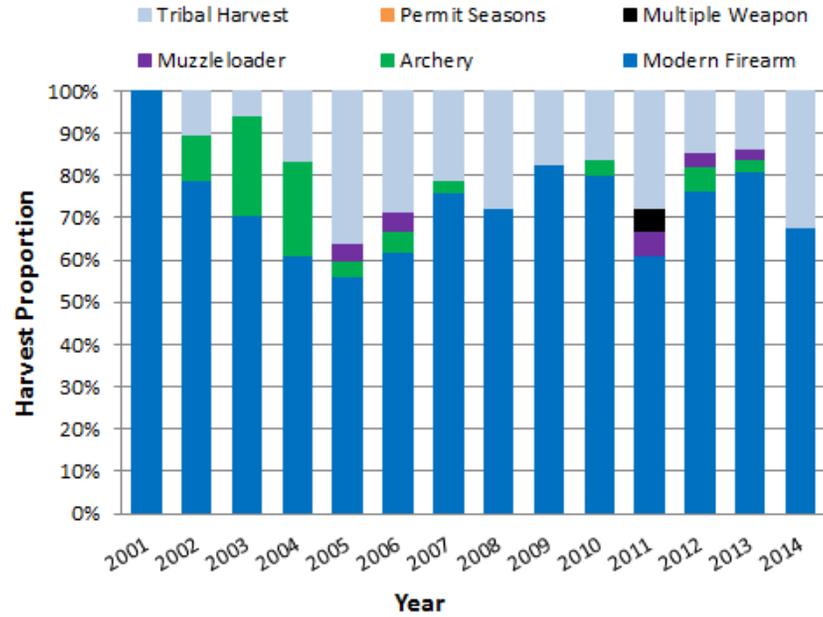


Trends in Total Harvest

Goodman
612

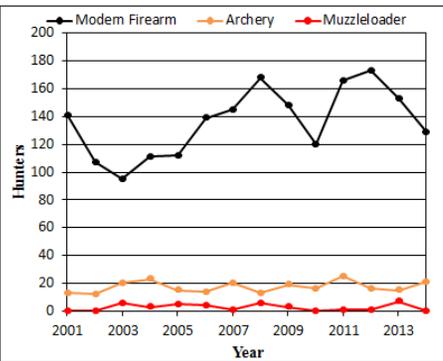


Trends in Harvest Proportions

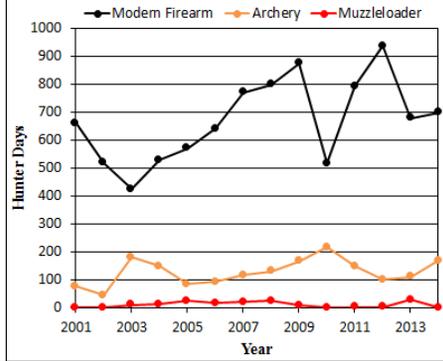


Trends in Hunter Numbers

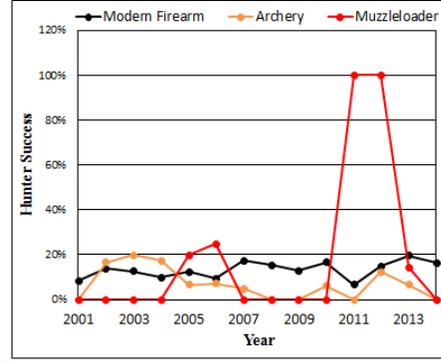
612

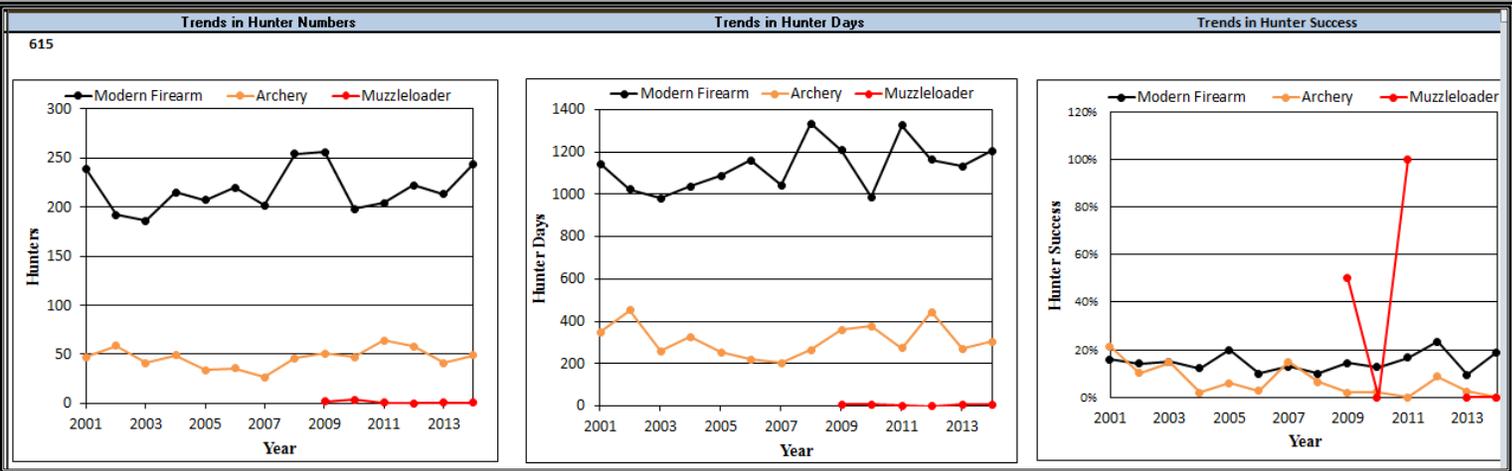
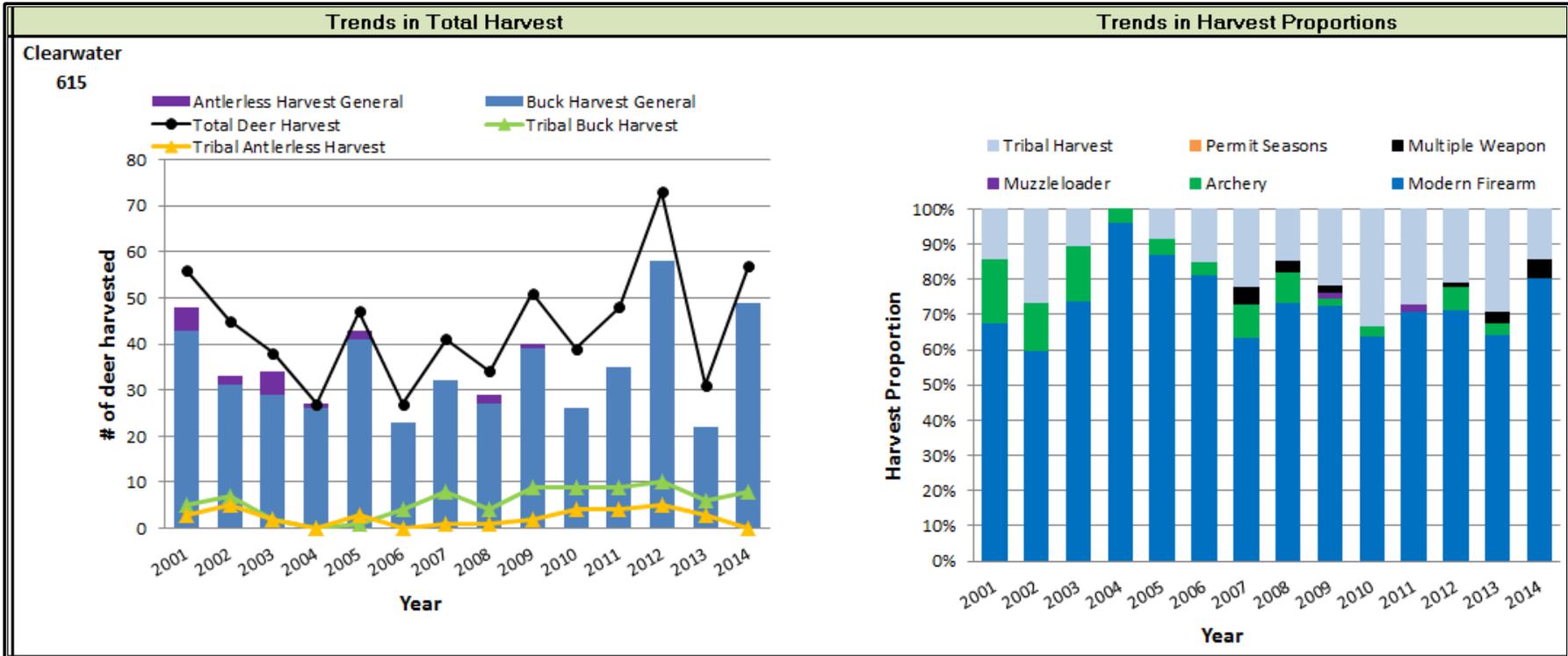


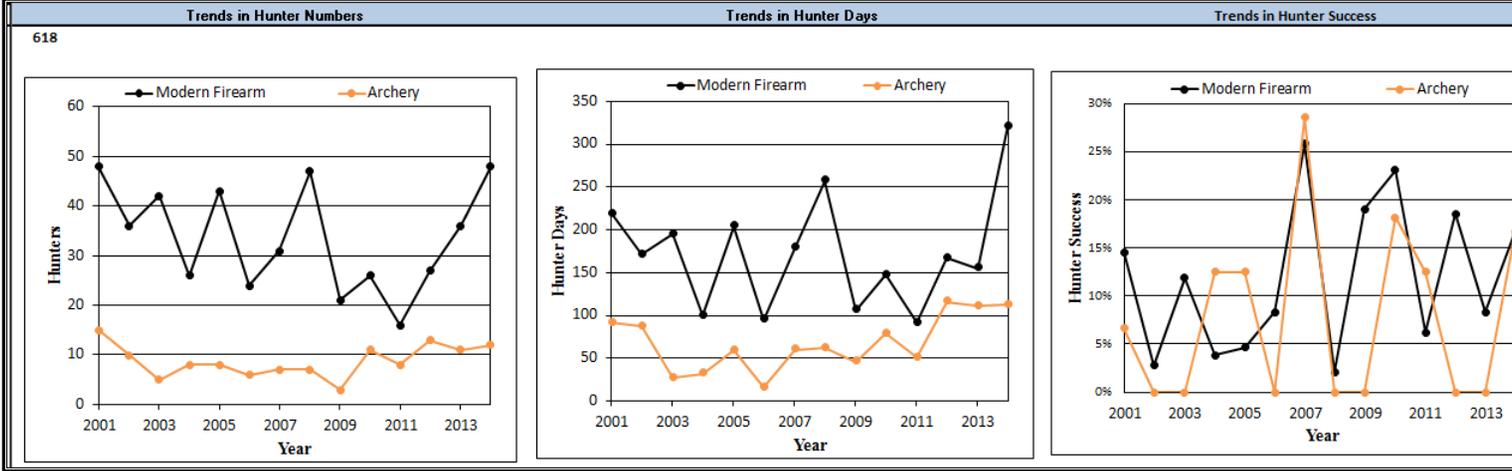
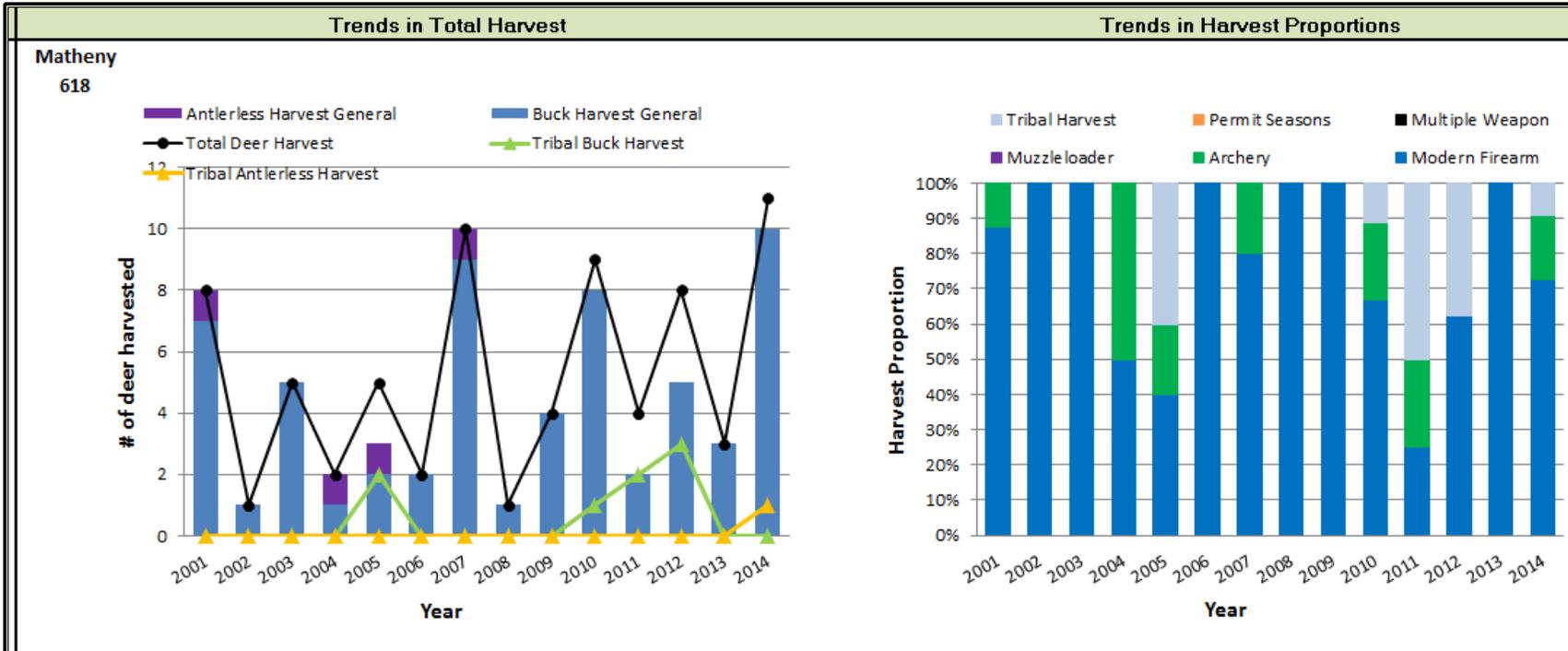
Trends in Hunter Days

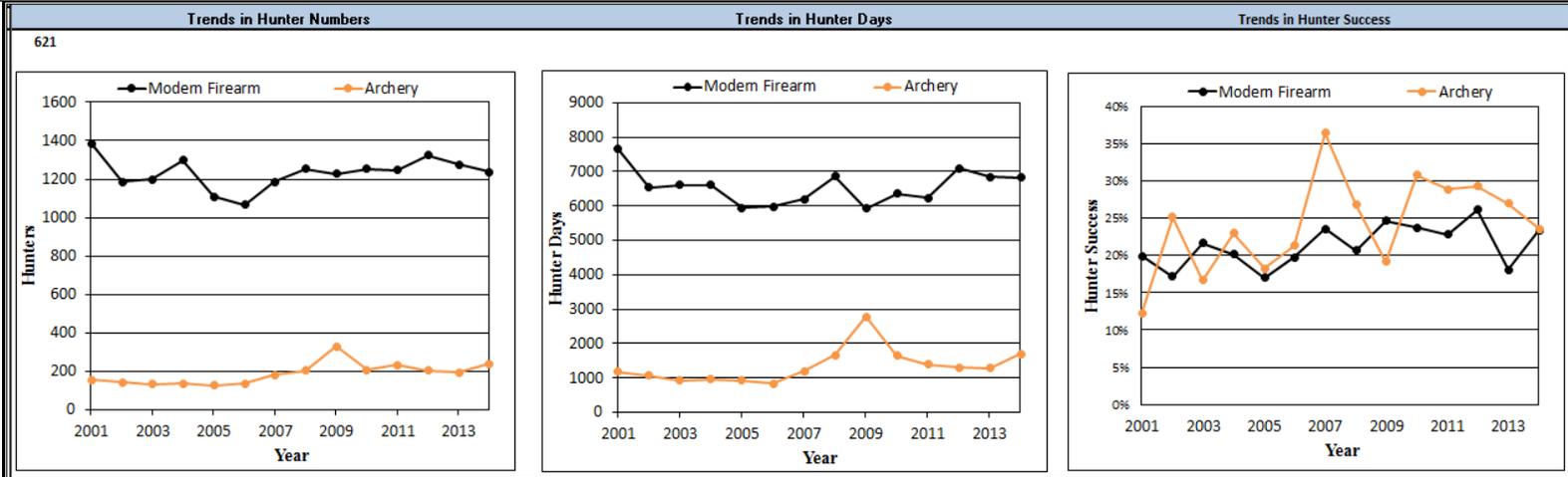
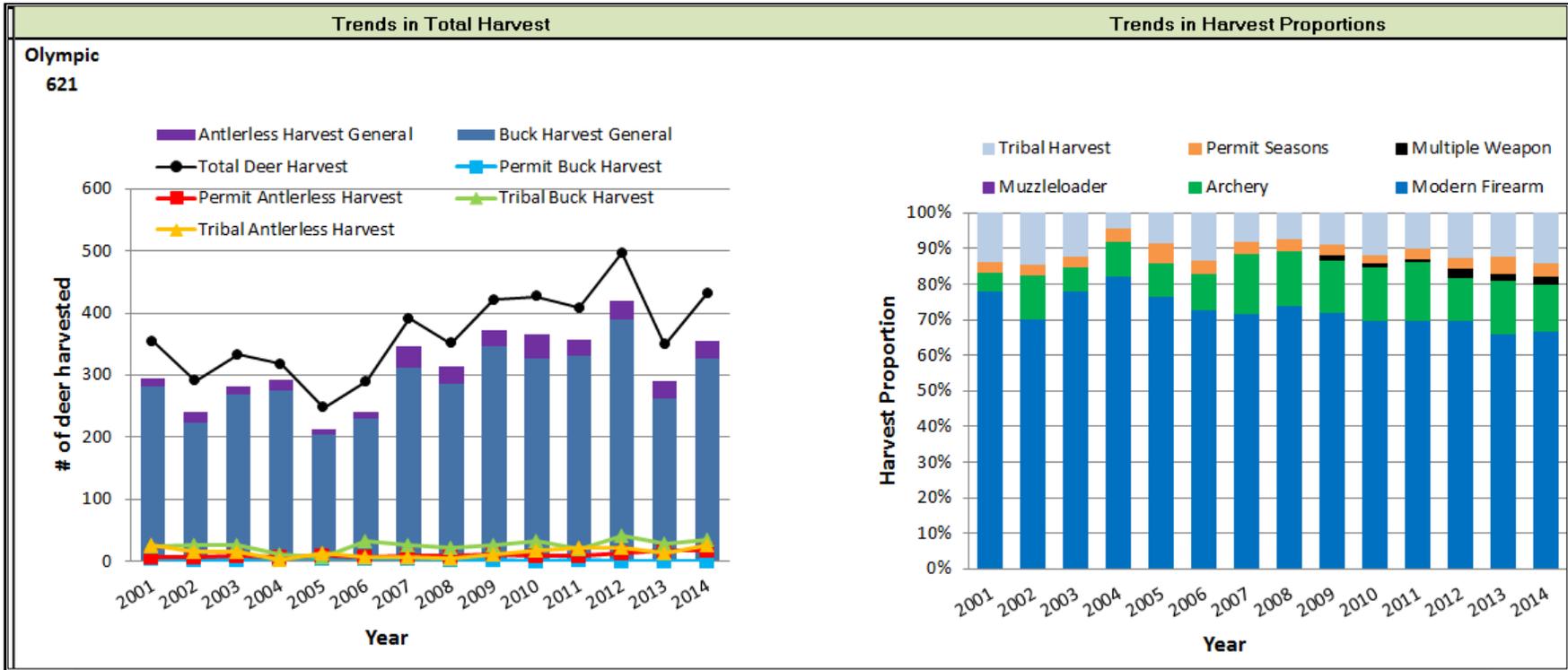


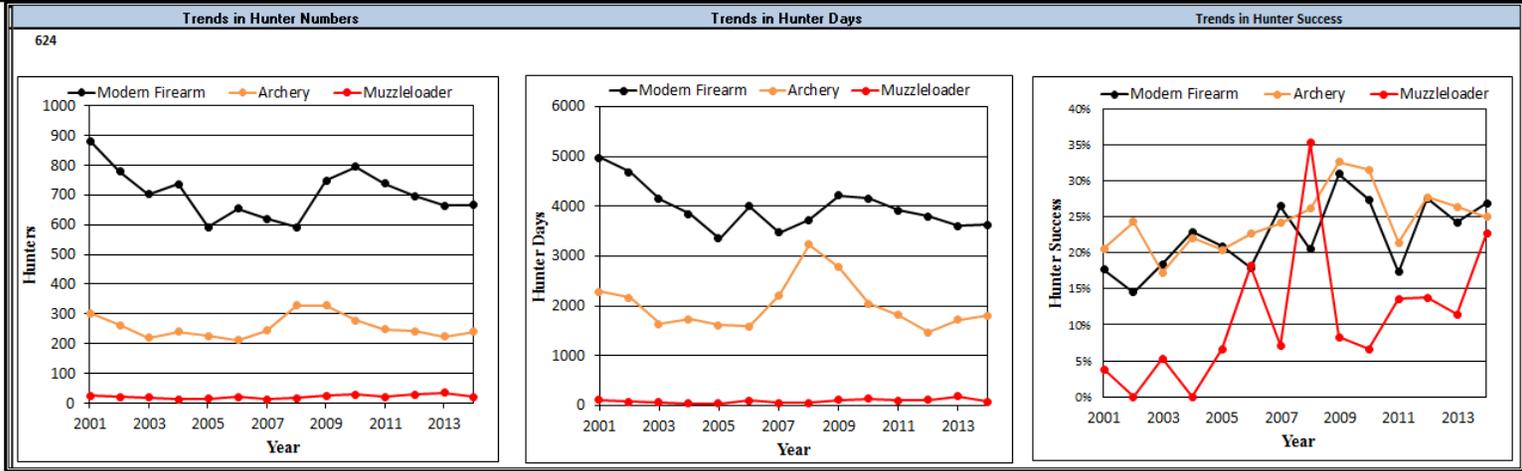
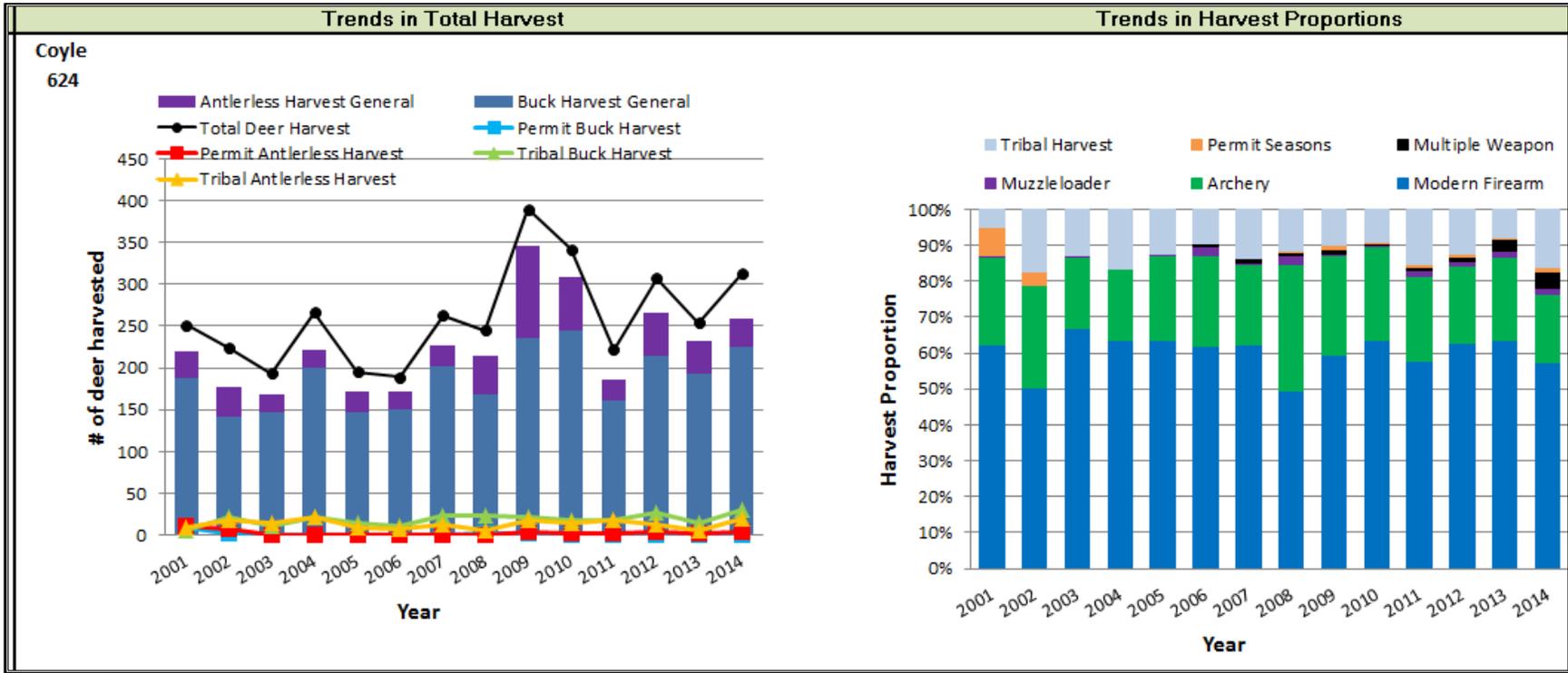
Trends in Hunter Success











BEAR

District 16 is located nearly entirely within the designated Coastal Black Bear Management Unit. There is, however, a small portion of the Coyle (GMU 624) that is within the Puget Sound Black Bear Management Unit. This area is mostly private land with firearm restrictions. There is no spring bear permit hunt season within the district. The fall black bear hunting is allowed in all GMUs within the district. The prospects for harvesting a black bear in District 16 remain good to excellent. The Forest Service has a website with Forest Health maps that identify areas where bear damage has been detected from aerial surveys.

[Aerial Forest Health Detection Maps](#): A check of these maps may provide a person with ideas on where to scout for bear.

State DNR and federal (U.S. Forest Service) lands continue to provide the best availability for bear hunting within the district. Hunters are encouraged to scout sign (scat and tree bark peeling) in regenerating timber stands. Similar to deer, access behind gated roads is largely available to those willing to walk or mountain bike, and there are ample numbers of clear cuts/younger age class regeneration units that will attract bears. At higher elevations, those willing to hike in-pack out can pursue bears in classic environments where spot-and-stalk opportunities await. The use of hounds and/or bait to hunt black bear is prohibited statewide.

COUGAR

In 2012 WDFW implemented a change in the cougar hunting season design, choosing a standard liberal season coupled with harvest guidelines. Cougar seasons will run from September 1 to December 31 for any weapon. After January 1, if the harvest guidelines have been exceeded, the season may close. Hunters should check to see if the season is still open after January 1. Check on Cougar Hunt Area Closures 1-866-364-4868 or go online at wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/cougar. See the [WA Big Game Hunting Pamphlet](#) or the WDFW website for more information regarding cougar hunting in specific GMUs within the district. Cougars are widespread in the forest lands of District 16. Areas supporting high numbers of deer and elk provide great opportunity for hunting cougar. Many of the cougars sealed in 2014 were from hunters who simply encountered the cougars while actually out deer hunting. Law Enforcement Officers in the district have reported low cougar hunting pressure in most GMUs in previous years.

PHEASANT

District 16 does not have viable populations of wild pheasant and there are no longer any pheasant release sites in the district. Due to changes in management direction from Clallam County Parks & Recreation, hunting pheasants at the Dungeness Recreation Area ended with the 2012 season. WDFW continues to seek a suitable release site within District 15 or 16. Please contact [District 15 & 16 Biologists](#) if you have any suggestions. For information on current

pheasant release sites check this link to the [Western Washington Pheasant Release Program | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

QUAIL

There is a fair abundance of California (Valley) quail in the eastern portion of District 16. They are quite common in the Dungeness Valley, but hunting opportunities can be challenging due to predominately private ownership. Quail, like the deer, thrive in the Dungeness habitats that include a mix of open grass, shrublands, and forest. Some quail hunting opportunities can be found on public lands located in the lower foothills in clearcuts or any early successional habitats. Reported harvest of quail is increasing in District 16, as the 2014 estimated harvest was 500 quail by 37 Clallam County hunters and 24 Jefferson County hunters.

FOREST GROUSE

Hunting within any of the forest lands throughout District 16 should offer good opportunities for harvesting grouse. Prime forest grouse hunting may be found on DNR and U.S. Forest Service lands within the district. The harvest of grouse in Clallam County rivals all other counties within Region 6. Participation in grouse hunting in District 16 had declined since 2009, when Clallam County harvest peaked at 6,350 by 1202 hunters and Jefferson County had 3,839 grouse by 1502 hunters. Annual harvest totals for Clallam County are climbing back to those 2009 levels, with 2014 harvest being 4605 grouse by 1107 hunters. Jefferson County harvest continues to drop, with 751 harvested by 458 hunters in 2014. Success is low for both Clallam and Jefferson counties with harvest per day between 0.11 and 0.15.

Ruffed and sooty (formerly classified as blue) grouse are present throughout the public and private forest lands in District 16. The prospects for harvesting sooty grouse go up with increasing elevation. Hunters can expect the greatest success along trails and ridgelines above 2,000-3,000 feet within timber stands with huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, and other forage plants. Hunters targeting ruffed grouse should focus on elevations below 2,500', particularly in riparian forest habitats, early seral forests (5-25 years old), and deciduous-conifer mixed forest types. Here is a WDFW publication on sooty grouse: [Regional Phenotypic Variation in the Sooty Grouse](#)

TURKEY

District 16 is not managed for wild turkeys and the species remains relatively rare to non-existent here. Some turkeys were transplanted in the Dungeness drainage 30 – 40 years ago, but there is no harvestable population present. WDFW receives occasional reports of individuals or small groups of turkeys within the Pysht (GMU 603). They are likely domestic turkeys that escaped from a farm that raised turkeys in the Joyce area. There are basically no prospects for hunting wild turkeys in the district.

DOVE

District 16 has not been a major dove hunting area, although eastern Clallam County has a lot of dove. In the last few years, participation has increased, with a report of 16 hunters harvesting 176 dove in 2013. The reported harvest for 2014 dropped to 11 dove harvested by 11 hunters in Clallam County. No participation in Jefferson County was reported in 2014.

The Dove Status Report can be found here: [2015 USFWS Mourning Dove Population Status](#)

The following is a link to a banding study WDFW is participating in: [Mourning Dove Banding Study](#)

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS

Band-tailed pigeons were abundant in District 16 in years past. Local hunters reported seeing “clouds of them” in drainages, such as McDonald Creek, on the east side of the district back in the 1950s.

Band-tailed pigeons are most prevalent in the district along marine estuaries, shorelines, and open forest roads where they are foraging on berries. Hunters are encouraged to search for areas with elderberry and cascara shrubs present. Band-tailed pigeons often congregate around food sources.

The reported harvest of band-tails in this district is relatively low, but the resource is available throughout the district in good numbers. WDFW Enforcement Officers remind hunters that they must have all required hunting licenses, along with the special migratory bird authorization with a band-tailed pigeon harvest card. It is mandatory to report all harvest to improve management of the species. You can find out more about the population monitoring and harvests at [2015 USFWS Band-tailed Pigeon Population Status](#)

WATERFOWL

The majority of the waterfowl hunting opportunity in District 16 is east of Port Angeles, centered in the Lower Dungeness Basin. The basin has a high density of wintering waterfowl and holds 7% of the Western Washington Breeding Waterfowl population. District biologists have focused on documenting areas with high waterfowl concentrations in Clallam County during the last several years, mapping high use areas during breeding and wintering periods. The Dungeness Basin has proven to be an area of consistently high waterfowl concentrations, even amidst the scattered developments.

Concentrations of waterfowl in freshwater habitats diminish drastically west of the Elwha and Lyre Rivers.

Midwinter waterfowl survey counts in District 16 showed an increase from 11,611 in 2013 to 18,379 in 2014, representing 2% of all waterfowl counted in the state. Midwinter populations include resident and migratory populations. The following link and map show the flyways:

[Four Flyways April 2012 Updated Map](#) :



FOUR NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATORY BIRD FLYWAYS

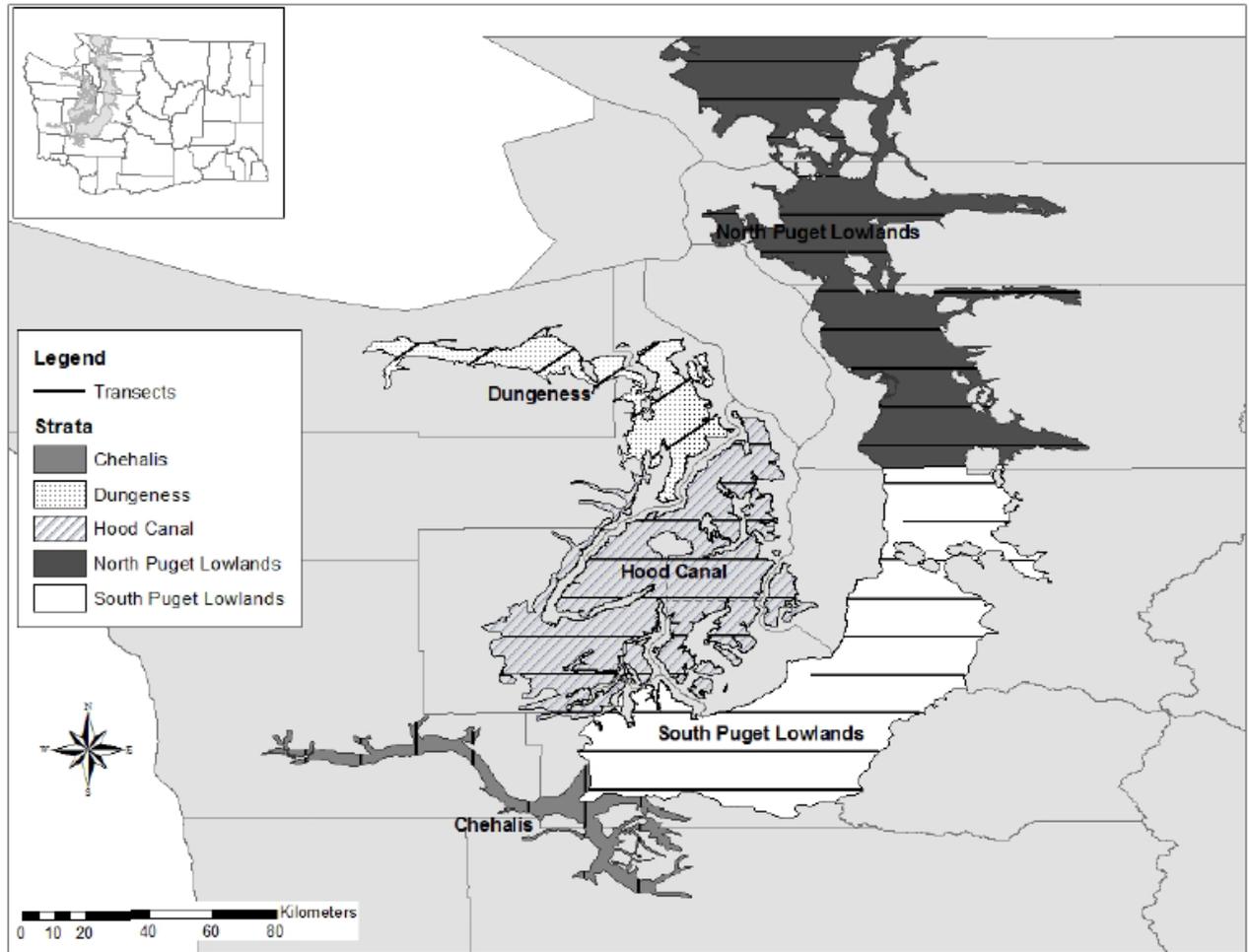
The local Olympic Mountain snowpack was extremely low during winter of 2014-2015, adding to ongoing drought conditions. Water levels this fall may be the lowest ever in many wetlands used for wintering habitat. The greatest factor influencing brood production in the district continues to be loss of habitat to development at water bodies and human presence. Waterfowl numbers are expected to remain moderate in District 16. Unfortunately, there is limited access to where you can hunt waterfowl in the district. Some locals in the western portion of the district conduct some “jump shooting” in pools and side channels of the “West End” rivers, along with other small ponds and flooded gravel pit areas. In 2014, there were 5,401 ducks harvested by 393 hunters in Clallam County and 1,852 ducks harvested by 159 hunters.

Breeding population trends in Dungeness show a continual increase in recent years. In 2011, new methods were adopted for Western Washington Breeding waterfowl surveys, shifting from ground counts to conducting aerial surveys. The Dungeness counts show an increasing total for surveys from 2010 (Total Ducks = 3974) until 2014, where the total amount of ducks equaled

7,518. Washington Breeding Waterfowl population estimates for 2014 are found in the [2014 Game Status and Trend Report](#) , page 235-252, with these figures demonstrating the transects and data results:

Waterfowl Status and Trend Report 2014 • Wilson

Figure 3. Western Washington aerial breeding waterfowl survey transects flown in 2014.



Waterfowl Status and Trend Report 2014• Wilson

Table 5. Summary of western Washington breeding waterfowl population survey, 2010-2014.

Region	Year	Species																		TOTAL DUCKS	American Coot	Canada Goose	
		Mallard	Gadwall	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal	Cinnamon Teal	Blue-winged Teal	Unclassified Teal	Northern Shoveler	Northern Pintail	Redhead	Canvasback	Scaup	Ring-necked Duck	Goldeneye	Bufflehead	Ruddy Duck	Common Merganser	Hooded Merganser				Wood Duck
Chehalis Valley	2010	1,670	0	835	0	0	0	1,035	67	0	0	0	200	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	3,875	0	3708
	±SE	511	0	777	0	0	0	776	62	0	0	0	99	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	1,217	0	3166
	2011	1,569	58	291	1,104	0	232	494	58	0	0	0	58	1,511	0	349	0	349	0	58	6,131	0	174
	±SE	705	59	294	372	0	231	318	59	0	0	0	59	1,040	0	170	0	346	0	45	1,455	0	148
	2012	2,156	485	1,967	2,263	0	0	0	701	216	0	0	54	1,455	0	701	0	162	0	189	10,347	0	458
	±SE	1,349	470	729	1,954	0	0	0	515	209	0	0	52	1,349	0	379	0	162	0	148	2,952	0	261
2013	1,652	103	0	1,678	52	155	52	155	0	0	0	0	52	0	361	0	0	0	310	4,569	129	929	
±SE	675	70	0	1,304	54	112	42	149	0	0	0	0	50	0	257	0	0	0	92	1,509	146	736	
2014	2,091	52	1,575	310	0	0	0	568	0	0	0	207	129	0	258	0	258	0	103	5,550	0	826	
±SE	473	50	1,400	182	0	0	0	476	0	0	0	234	98	0	125	0	89	0	65	1,593	0	382	
Hood Canal	2010	2,296	0	574	0	0	0	287	0	0	0	0	0	0	430	0	0	0	96	3,683	0	813	
	±SE	179	0	349	0	0	0	190	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	58	505	0	369	
	2011	2,779	0	0	0	0	0	192	0	0	0	0	511	0	447	0	0	0	128	4,057	0	511	
	±SE	629	0	0	0	0	0	114	0	0	0	0	189	0	171	0	0	0	127	700	0	287	
	2012	2,619	0	607	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	831	0	256	0	0	256	415	5,175	0	735
	±SE	694	0	564	176	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	477	0	119	0	0	112	142	1,051	0	280	
2013	2,080	63	0	63	0	0	126	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	851	0	126	126	126	3,624	0	851	
±SE	494	58	0	59	0	0	129	0	0	0	0	59	0	435	0	116	116	67	701	0	152		
2014	3,466	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	32	63	189	0	0	378	189	4,380	0	1008	
±SE	1,022	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	30	58	120	0	0	153	127	1,052	0	423	
Dungeness	2010	2,649	0	0	0	0	294	1,030	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,974	0	37	
	±SE	378	0	0	0	0	169	502	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	650	0	24	
	2011	1,661	181	60	1,963	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	453	0	453	0	60	0	0	4,832	30	272	
	±SE	527	185	62	1,859	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	318	0	426	0	65	0	0	2,014	31	192	
	2012	2,053	755	0	1,027	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	272	0	302	0	0	0	0	30	4,499	0	423
	±SE	885	737	0	840	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	252	0	99	0	0	0	0	33	1,452	0	300
2013	2,971	119	238	1,218	59	0	0	743	0	0	0	505	386	0	713	0	0	0	59	7,011	0	861	
±SE	1,241	121	162	843	64	0	0	759	0	0	0	471	205	0	292	0	0	0	57	1,796	0	893	
2014	3,162	716	0	1,581	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	627	0	1,074	0	0	239	60	7,518	149	1581	
±SE	908	611	0	1,541	0	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	381	0	527	0	0	230	64	2,014	110	1128	
South Puget Lowlands	2010	8,691	0	325	0	0	0	372	186	0	0	232	511	0	2,974	0	186	0	186	13,664	46	1859	
	±SE	1,549	0	215	0	0	0	175	148	0	0	163	282	0	424	0	131	0	121	1,678	40	390	
	2011	8,926	509	2,067	1,438	60	120	779	3,175	0	0	0	0	1,048	0	1,917	0	0	120	659	20,818	150	1647
	±SE	1,307	538	1,635	596	55	76	629	3,193	0	0	0	0	380	0	554	0	0	78	466	4,037	91	397
	2012	15,127	60	449	300	0	0	0	899	60	0	0	120	3,295	0	2,426	0	60	30	539	23,364	30	3684
	±SE	3,569	61	283	218	0	0	0	589	61	0	0	125	1,153	0	585	0	56	28	221	3,868	28	1163
2013	10,274	734	499	2,495	0	0	59	2,789	0	0	0	0	2,407	59	2,671	0	59	176	822	23,043	29	2436	
±SE	1,520	777	528	1,365	0	0	62	1,977	0	0	0	0	1,098	54	624	0	62	93	288	3,265	27	880	
2014	7,359	0	493	0	0	0	92	954	0	0	0	0	431	0	985	0	185	62	1,293	11,854	31	3664	
±SE	932	0	392	0	0	0	95	600	0	0	0	0	227	0	417	0	109	61	182	1,291	28	878	

Figure 6. Western Washington duck breeding population survey results by species, 2010-14.

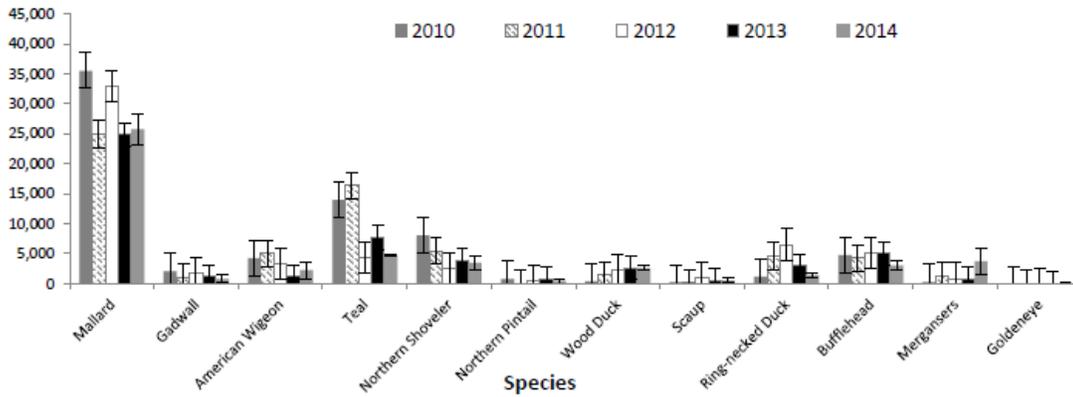
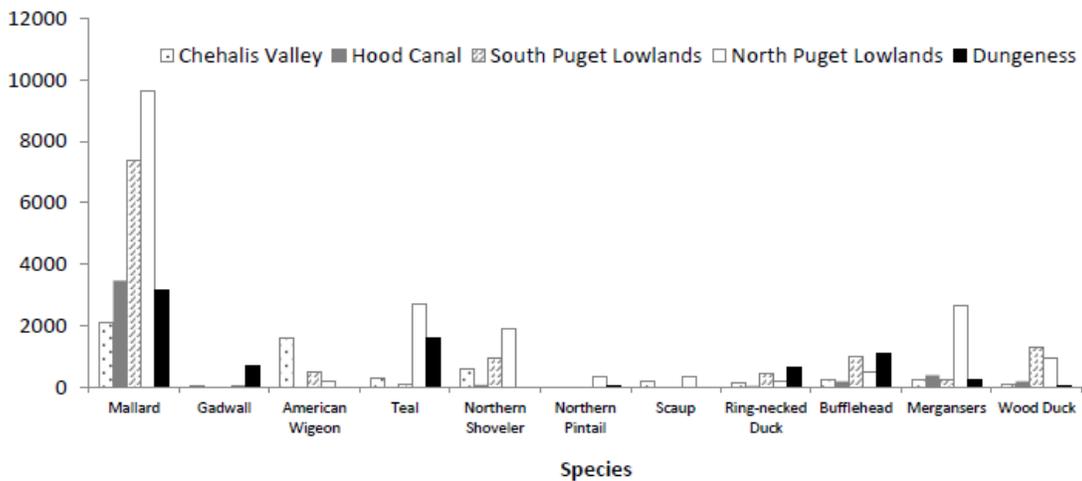


Figure 7. W. Washington duck breeding population survey results by species and strata, 2014.



Most all freshwater waterfowl hunting areas in the Dungeness Basin are on private lands. Public land hunting opportunities include the newly established Lower Dungeness Unit at the mouth of the Dungeness River. Some hunters find hunting opportunities in the near-shore areas of bays and along the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, both on foot and by boat.

Hunting violations remain a concern on small water bodies and along the saltwater shorelines in the district. Hunters are urged to obey all hunting regulations at sites near residential areas to avoid potential future closures. Be sure to check [the 2015 Migratory Waterfowl Regulation Pamphlet](#) for additional requirements before hunting sea ducks (long-tailed ducks, scoter, harlequin, and goldeneye) in western Washington. The local seaduck populations have been studied for many years and the Sea Duck Management Strategies publication has been made available here: [Washington Sea Duck Management Strategies](#).

more information on waterfowl populations can be found at the following links:

[Trends in Duck Breeding Populations 1955-2015](#)

[USFWS Waterfowl Population Status 2015](#)

The North Olympic Wildlife Area includes The Lower Dungeness Unit. This unit contains multiple disjunct parcels located about five miles north of Sequim within GMU 624 (Coyle). Seventy-five acres of this unit can be hunted north of East Anderson Road and west of the Dungeness River. Public access at this location is supported by a small parking area, information kiosk containing site rules, and a restroom. There are freshwater ponds located in the main field below the parking area. However, the main hunting area for this unit is located on the tidelands of Dungeness Bay, adjacent to the river's mouth. A variety of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and geese have been documented at the unit.

Hunters are required to "walk-in" to the main hunting area. Rivers End Road is a privately owned road and cannot be used to access the tidelands. It is approximately one half mile to reach the main hunting areas on this unit. Hunting is permitted only on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays throughout the regular waterfowl season. A 15 shotgun shell restriction is in affect for this unit. Designated blind locations for first-come, first-served use will be established for this season. Detailed information will be posted on the kiosk and on the Lower Dungeness Unit webpage at: [North Olympic - Lower Dungeness Unit](#). The hunting area along the tidelands is privately owned and is managed by WDFW through a temporary land use agreement. Misuse of this area may result in the loss of future public access.



Here is another useful link for the WDFW Waterfowl Hunting Area Report:
[Western Washington - Region 6 Waterfowl Hunting Areas](#)

The Lower Dungeness Unit can be found on page 12-13, but note the Safety Zone specified on map above, which is possibly not displayed on the website version.

The Dungeness Recreation Area County Park no longer allows hunting.

The 2015 Waterfowl Status Report from USFWS has some interesting reading that might come in useful to better understand the waterfowl resources throughout North America: [USFWS Waterfowl Population Status 2015](#)

Trumpeter swan numbers have increased in the Dungeness valley in the past five years, and they have been documented near the river mouth. All waterfowl hunters are encouraged to know all identification features for trumpeter swans and snow geese. It is illegal to shoot trumpeter swans.

Typical participation of hunting Canada geese occurred during 2014, with 95 hunters in Clallam County harvesting 232 Canada geese and 99 hunters in Jefferson County harvesting 59 Canada geese. The population of Canada geese on the east side of the district has been increasing in

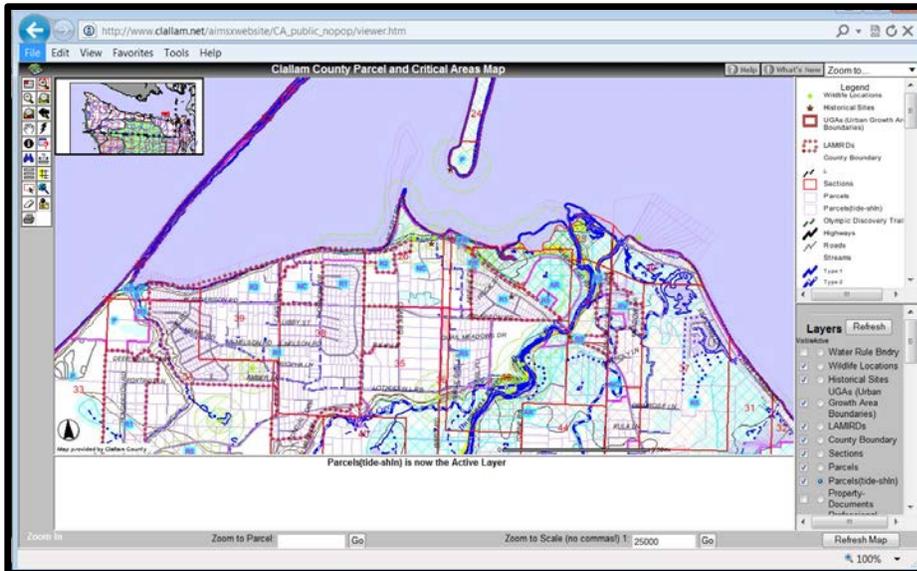
recent years. Most of the hunt opportunities are on private agricultural lands in GMU 624 that contain barley. No “pass shooting” is possible. Local hunters were quite successful in previous seasons using a decoy spread and blinds. Permission to hunt on private lands will need to be obtained and all firearm regulations must be followed. Many agricultural fields have residential properties in the vicinity, so hunters must be aware of all safety concerns.

Public saltwater hunting opportunities are more numerous than freshwater options in District 16, albeit more difficult in many ways. The regulations and landownerships, including tideland ownerships, make it necessary for hunters to have their plans well thought out. Another complication includes the US Fish & Wildlife Service Dungeness Wildlife Refuge. Hunting is not allowed on the refuge and some of the refuge boundaries are difficult to determine in the field.

When hunting from a boat, make sure you do not have your anchor down on private tidelands without permission. You must not go onto private land to retrieve any waterfowl you shoot without prior permission. So if a hunter on a boat shot a duck and it landed on private land or where they weren't able to retrieve it (because of where and how they were hunting or if they were without a suitable method of retrieval), the hunter would have violated the wastage law. The Local Enforcement Sergeant emphasizes that boat hunting is generally not feasible because of these complications and Enforcement staff will be enforcing these laws.

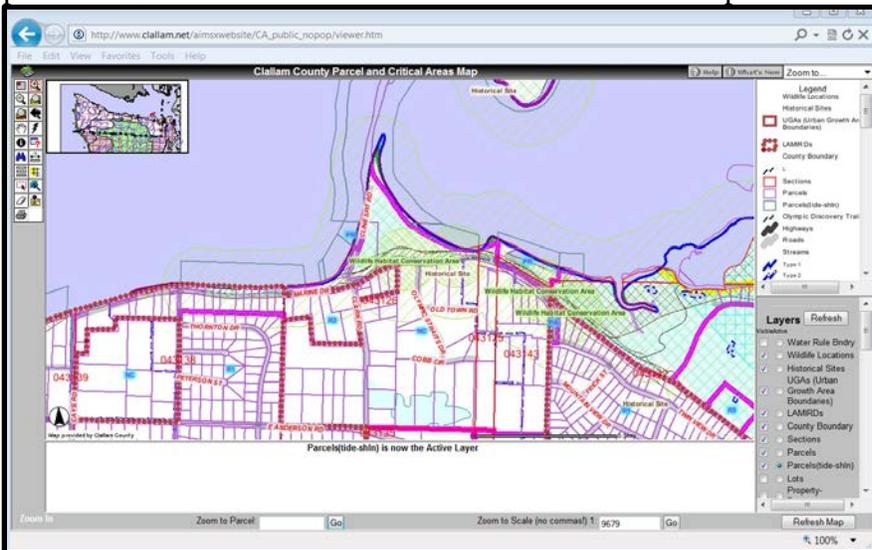
There are some private landowners that allow limited hunting access along the saltwater shoreline. Typically local signage refers to a phone number or contact information, and in some cases the signage spells out the conditions of access. Because these vary from year to year the hunter must make a tour of the area and find out the current arrangements. Tideland ownership (state or private) can be found on the DNR maps referred to later in this prospect report. Assessors maps can be retrieved on the internet using these websites for Clallam County tideland ownership. Jefferson County does not display tideland parcel ownership. Hunters will want to make sure they will have the ability to retrieve ducks, keeping in mind the ownerships where they set up and have permission to have their hunt and the adjacent ownership where they don't.

CLALLAM COUNTY: <http://www.clallam.net/maps/>
http://www.clallam.net/aimsxwebsite/CA_public_nopop/viewer.htm



Make sure you have the Parcels (tide-shln) layer checked and the Active circle dotted. You will want the scale set at 1:25,000 or less.

Use the icons on the top left to zoom in and choose the lightning bolt icon, then select tideland parcels and click on them. The information on ownership should come up.



With these records, along with the DNR maps referenced at the end of these prospects (example below, where state tidelands are highlighted), you could make sure you were aware of the land ownership whether on the shoreline or in a boat over tidelands.



Jefferson County has a version of this as well, found at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/idms/mapserver.shtml>. The maps show ownership of parcels, with the exception of tideland ownership. Again, you could use the DNR maps reference (shown above) to identify state tidelands.

SNOWSHOE HARE AND COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Snowshoe Hare & Cottontail Rabbit: Most all of the rabbits encountered on the Olympic Peninsula will be snowshoe hare (see range maps below). Snowshoe hare are readily observed along forested roads in the western half of District 16, and will be found throughout the district, usually along forested edges. Annual district harvest is erratic, ranging from zero (~450 hunt days, 2011 report) to over 300 (~800-1200 hunt days, 2005 & 2008 report). The opportunity is always there, with a harvest per unit effort expected to range between 0.25-0.70/day. More information on the snowshoe hare can be found at these websites:

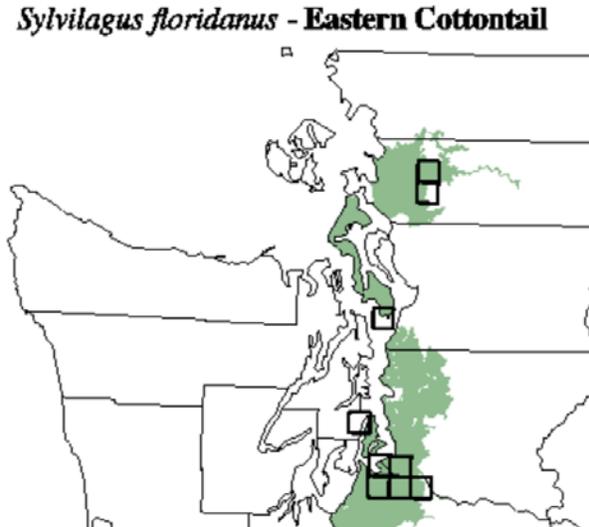
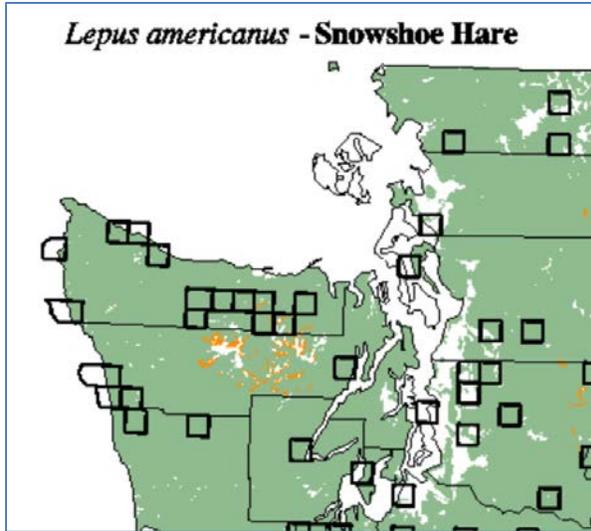
[Snowshoe Hare - Canadian Wildlife Federation](#)

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_snowshoe_hare.html

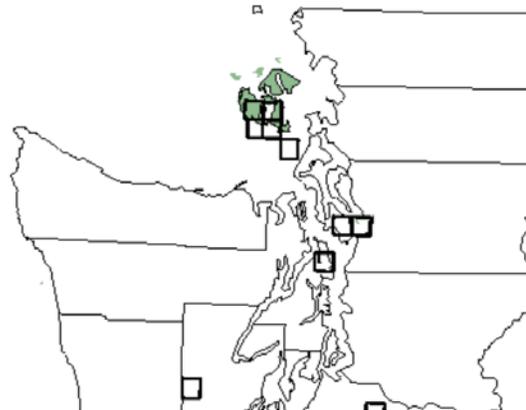
http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_eastern_cottontail.html

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_european_rabbit.html

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_nuttalls_cottontail.html



Oryctolagus cuniculus - European Rabbit



Legend

- Habitats in core zones
- Habitats in peripheral zones
- Township/Range with a record

TRIBAL HUNTING

Tribal Hunting: District 16 is within the ceded area of numerous treaty tribes on the Olympic Peninsula. WDFW and tribes are co-managers for wildlife populations. Tribal hunting often occurs concurrent with WDFW hunting seasons. Tribes set their own seasons and bag limits. Tribal enforcement personnel are responsible for ensuring that tribal hunting regulations, which may differ from state regulations, are followed. You can find more information about tribal hunting on the WDFW website at:

wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/tribal.

[Tribal big game harvest reports are available at Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Big Game Harvest Reports.](#)

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FOREST LANDS

Some Private Forest Industry Links

Rayonier Inc

<http://www.rayonier.com/>

IFP Office (360) 452-1351

Forks Office (360) 374-6565

Port Angeles (360) 457-2329

Western Washington Rayonier map:

Information on Access Permits:

<http://property.rayonierhunting.com/Permits/PermitsHome.aspx>

<http://property.rayonierhunting.com/AvailableAreas/FindProperties.aspx>

Previous season - 2014 online documents:

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_General%20Access_Map.pdf

Pysht GMU 603 – Rayonier ownership Deep

Creek: http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_DeepCreek_Map.pdf

Dickey GMU 602 – Rayonier ownership Dickey

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_DickeyPermitArea_Map.pdf

Clearwater GMU 615 – Rayonier ownership Kalaloch

Ridge: http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_KalalochRidge_Map.pdf

Green Crow

<http://www.greencrow.com/contact-us/locations/>

Port Angeles (360) 452-3325

Merrill & Ring

<http://www.merrillring.com/contacts/>

Port Angeles (360) 452-2367

Email: contact@merrillring.com

Cascade Timberlands

<http://www.cascadetimberlands.com/>

OTHER MAJOR LANDOWNERS

Other Landowner Links

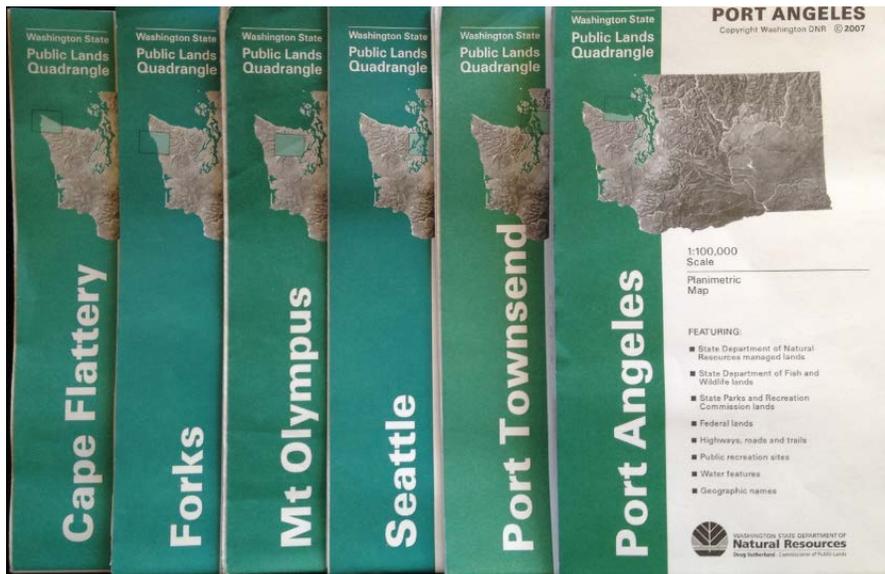
Hoh River Trust

<http://hohrivertrust.publishpath.com//Websites/hohrivertrust/Images/webmap.jpg>

ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS

Because the land ownership can be very confusing, District Biologist McMillan recommends a set of these DNR maps, which you can order online at:

[Buy Maps, Aerial Photos, or Survey Data | WA - DNR](#)



Often these DNR maps are available to buy at Swains & Browns in Port Angeles or at Thriftway in Forks.

These DNR maps have the best combination of land ownership and current roads. But keep in mind there have been several DNR & Private Forestland ownership exchanges in recent years that won't show up on these maps.

DNR's website has current DNR ownership displayed at this link: [DNR Ownership](#) . Other maps that can be helpful for select areas include:

Forest Service Quadrangle Maps can be obtained free online at http://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/states-regions/states_zoom.php?stateID=wa Forest Service also sells Forest District Maps that are very useful, as are the Custom Correct Maps shown on the same page. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/olympic/maps-pubs/?cid=stelprdb5195398>

The map for the east end of WDFW District 16 is the Hood Canal Ranger District/North End map.

The maps for the west end of WDFW District 16 are Pacific Ranger District/North End & South End maps.