

2021-2022 DEER SEASON PROPOSALS



Photo: Dan Bergeron



2021-2022 DEER SEASON PROPOSALS

General Deer Season Framework:

No Proposed Changes

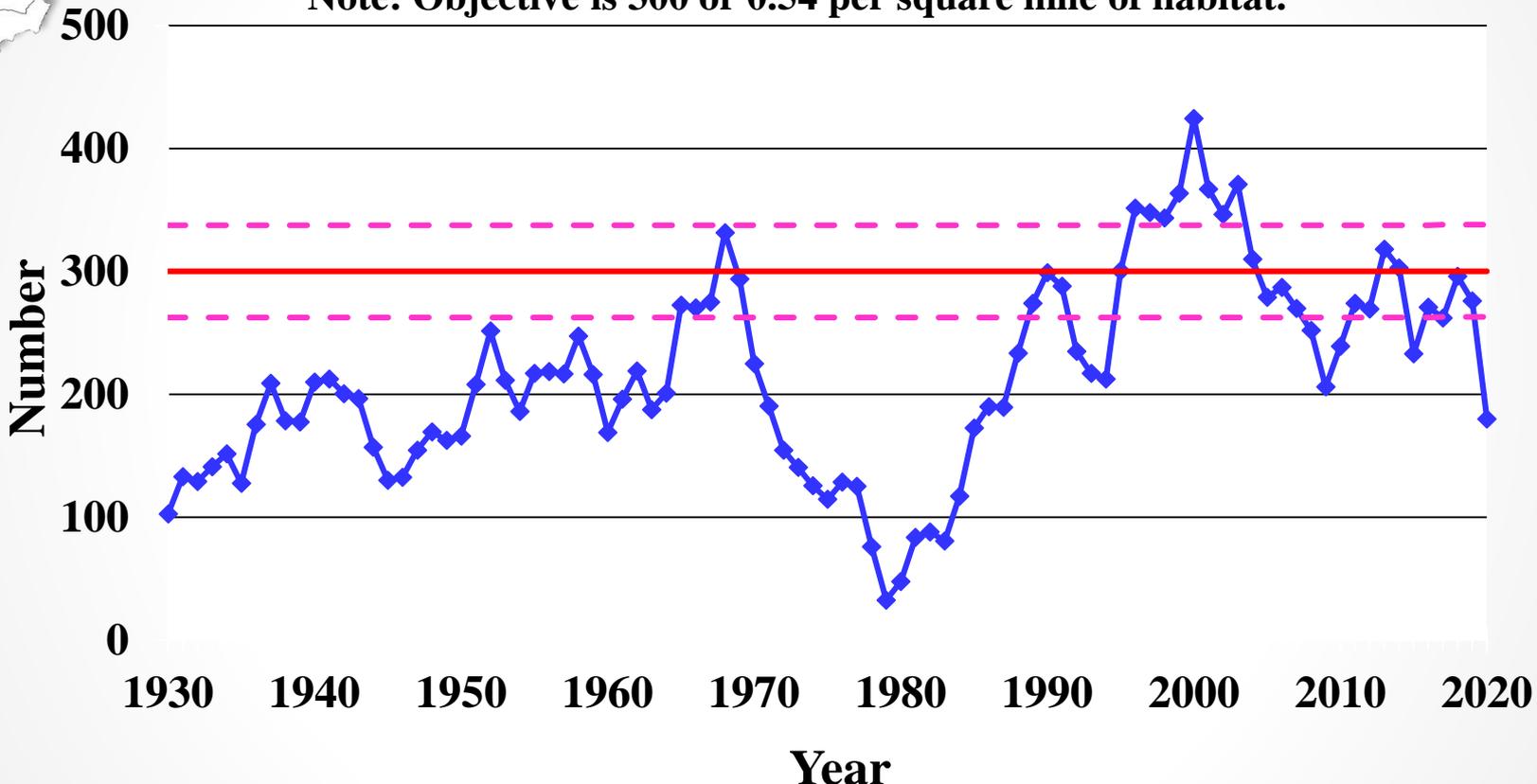
- Regular Firearm: 26 days beginning the 2nd Wednesday in Nov.
- Muzzleloader: 11 days immediately preceding regular firearm
- Youth: The weekend before muzzleloader opens
- Archery: Sept. 15 through Dec. 15 (92 days)
 - Either-sex throughout season and state
- Archery and Firearm closes 1 week early in WMU A





2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – A

Note: Objective is 300 or 0.54 per square mile of habitat.



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 1
Reg. Firearm - 1

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

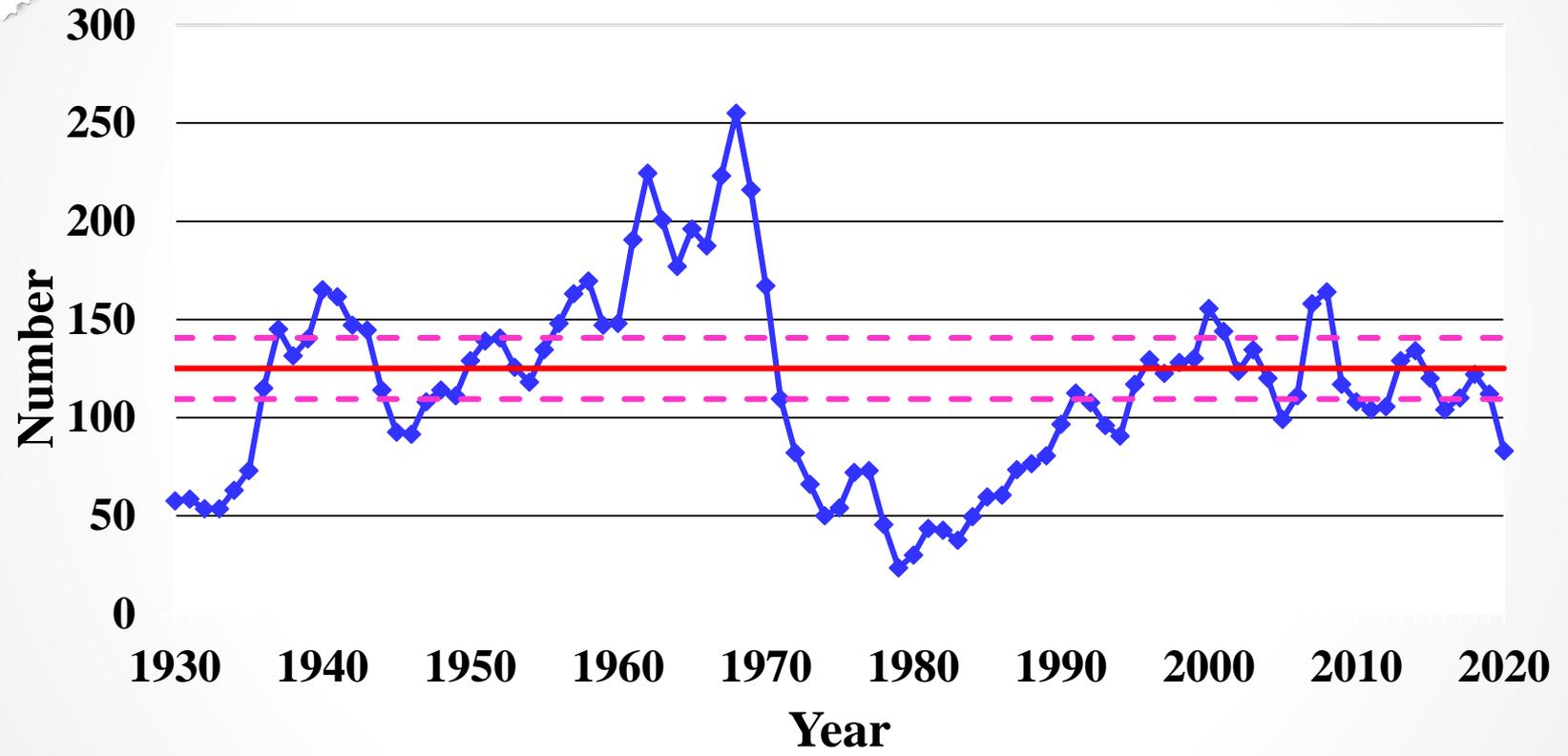
Desired Change = +67%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 0
Reg. Firearm - 0



2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – B

Note: Objective is 125 or 0.38 per square mile of habitat



—◆— Adult Bucks — Objective — — +/-12.5%

ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 1
Reg. Firearm - 1

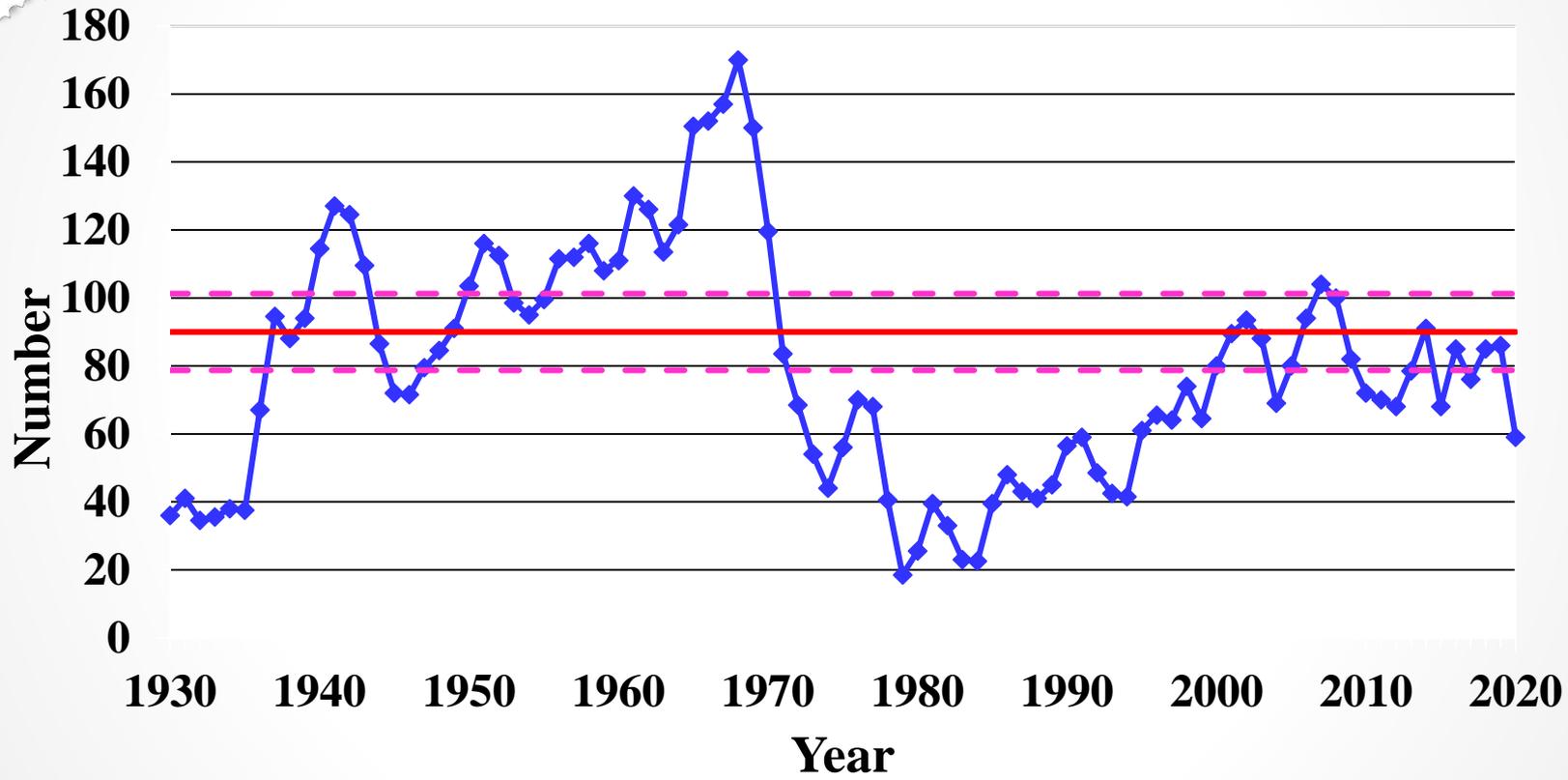
Desired Change = +51%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 0
Reg. Firearm - 0



2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU - C2

Note: Objective is 90 or 0.39 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 1
Reg. Firearm - 1

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

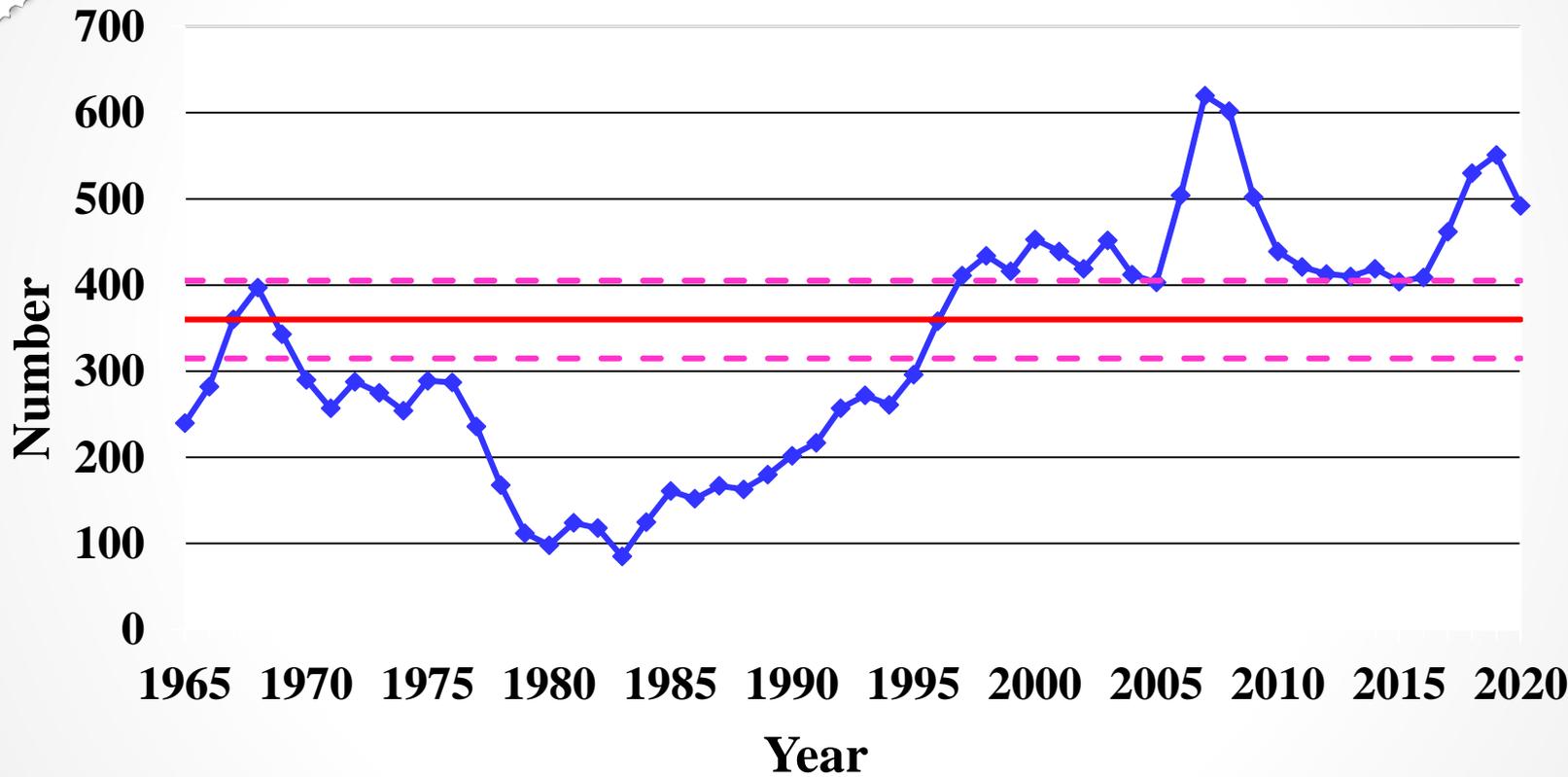
Desired Change = +53%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 0
Reg. Firearm - 0



2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1965-2020) With Objective WMU – D2W

Note: Objective is 360 or 1.06 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 3
Reg. Firearm - 4

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - +/- 12.5%

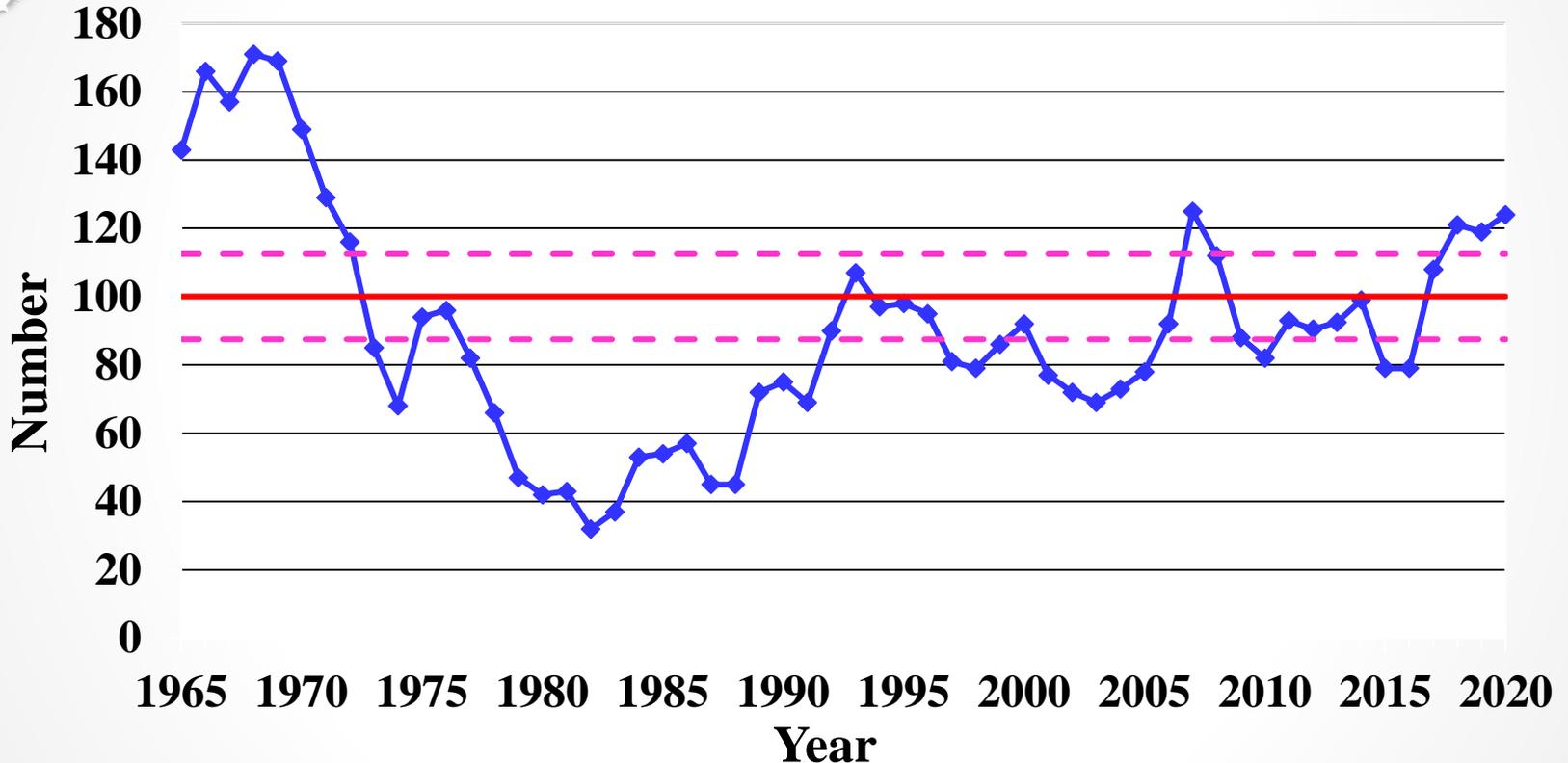
Desired Change = -27%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 4
Reg. Firearm - 4

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1965-2020) With Objective WMU – G2



Note: Objective is 100 or 0.46 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 0
Reg. Firearm - 1

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/- 12.5%

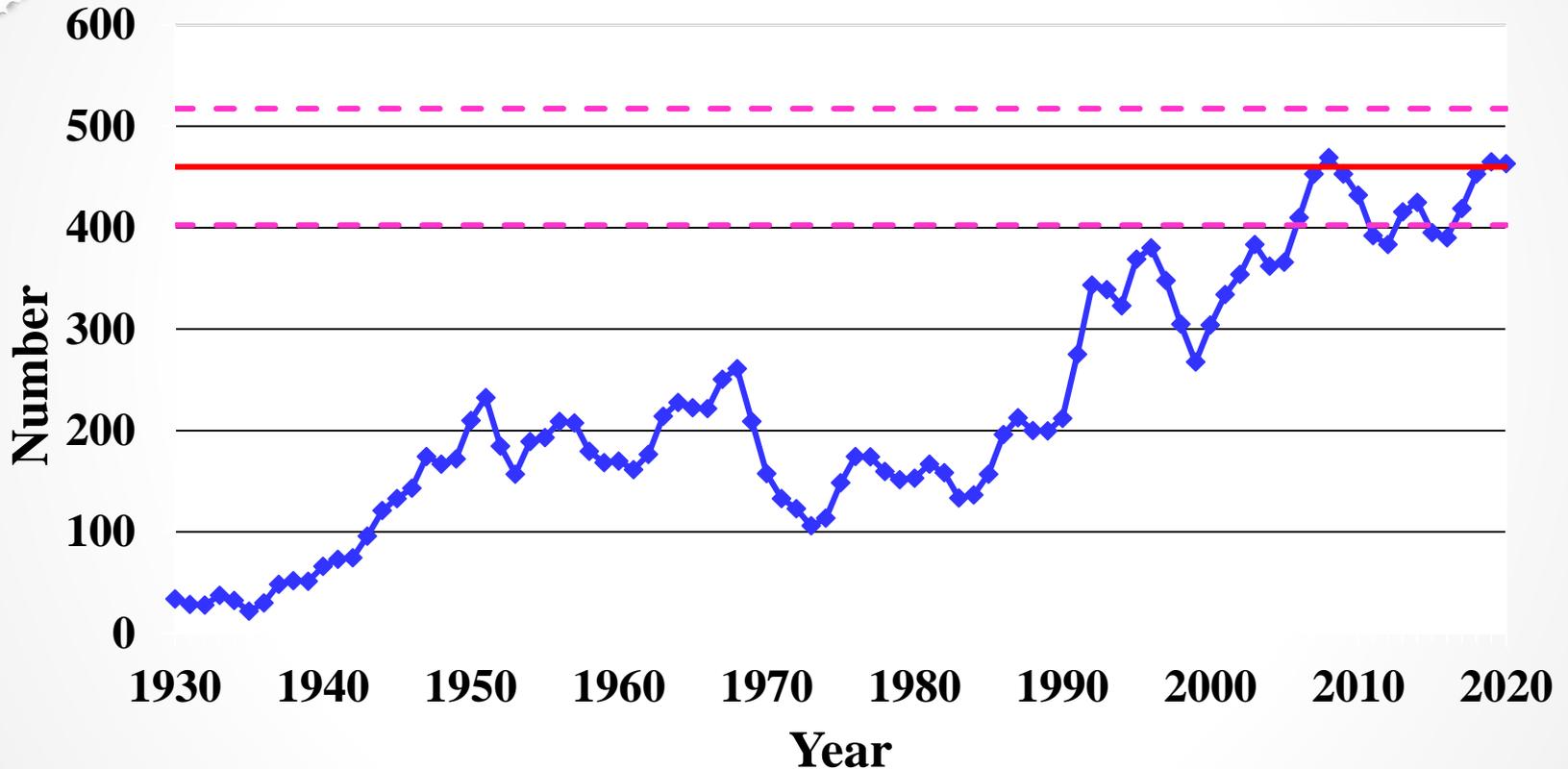
Desired Change = -19%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 1
Reg. Firearm - 1

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – H1



Note: Objective is 460 or 1.24 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 3
Reg. Firearm - 2

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

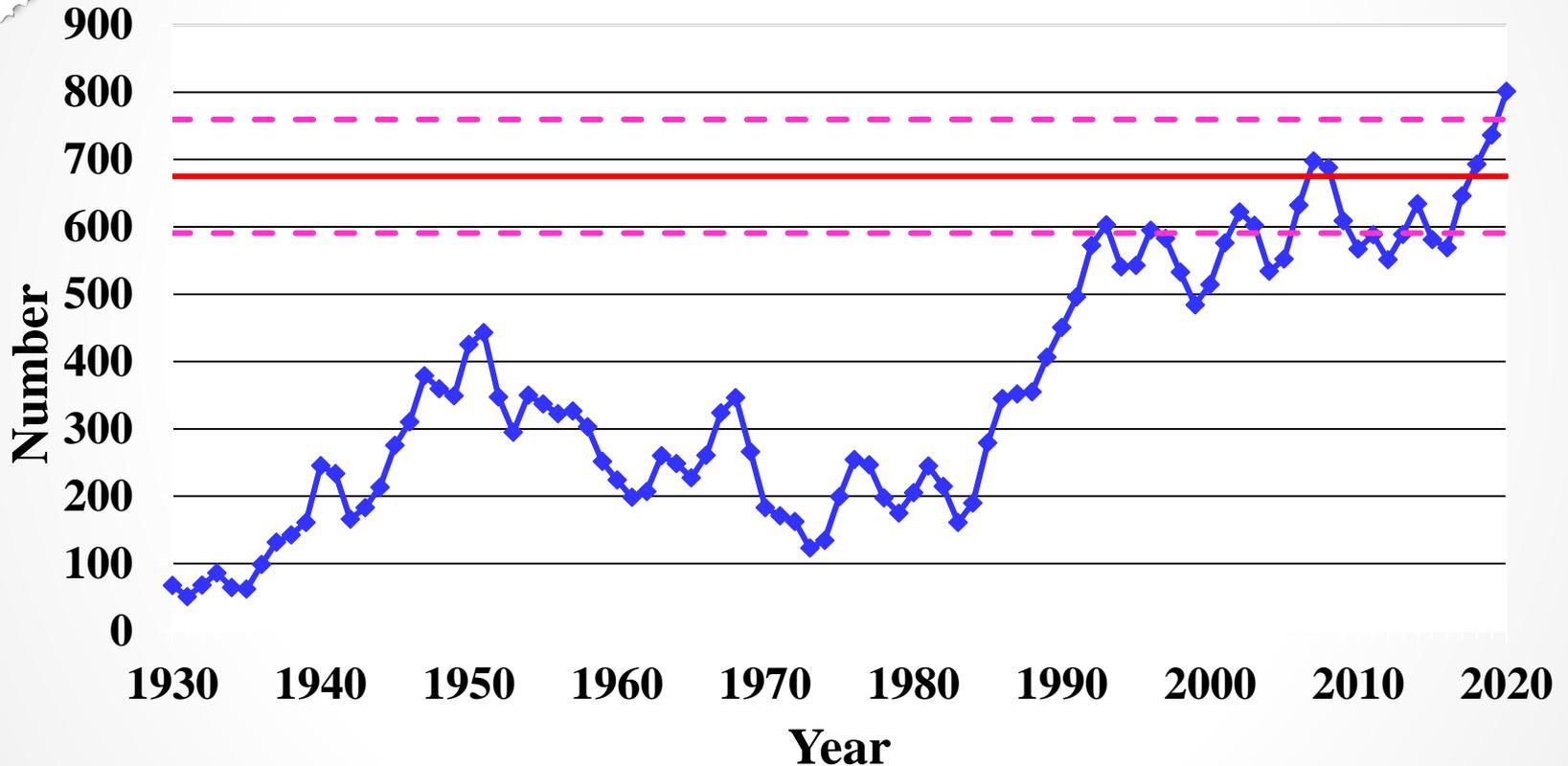
ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader -3
Reg. Firearm -3

Desired Change = -1%

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – H2



Note: Objective is 675 or 1.05 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 3
Reg. Firearm - 2

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

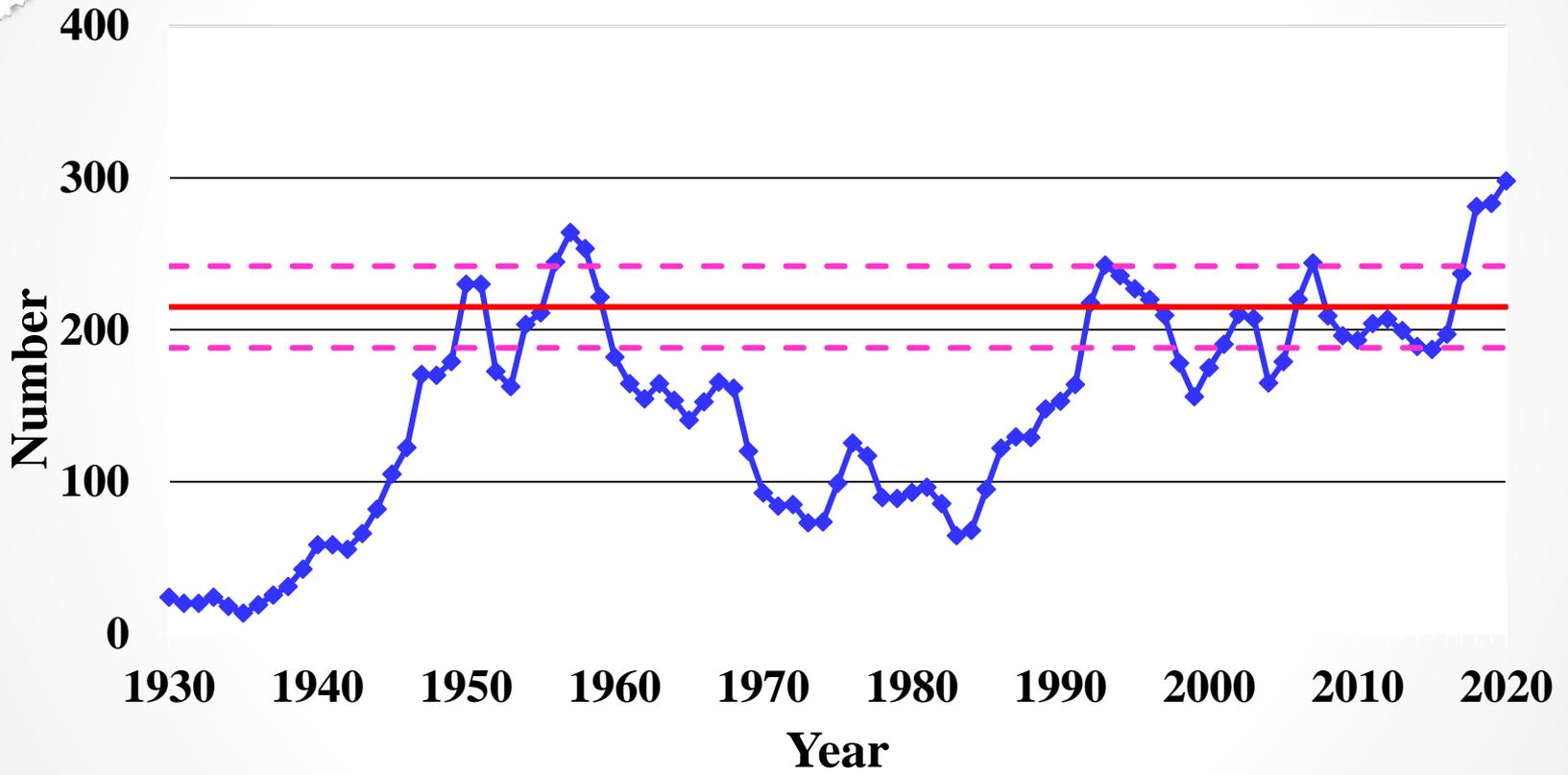
ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader -3
Reg. Firearm -3

Desired Change = -16%

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – I1



Note: Objective is 215 or 0.67 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 0
Reg. Firearm - 1

◆ Adult Bucks
 — Objective
 - - - +/-12.5%

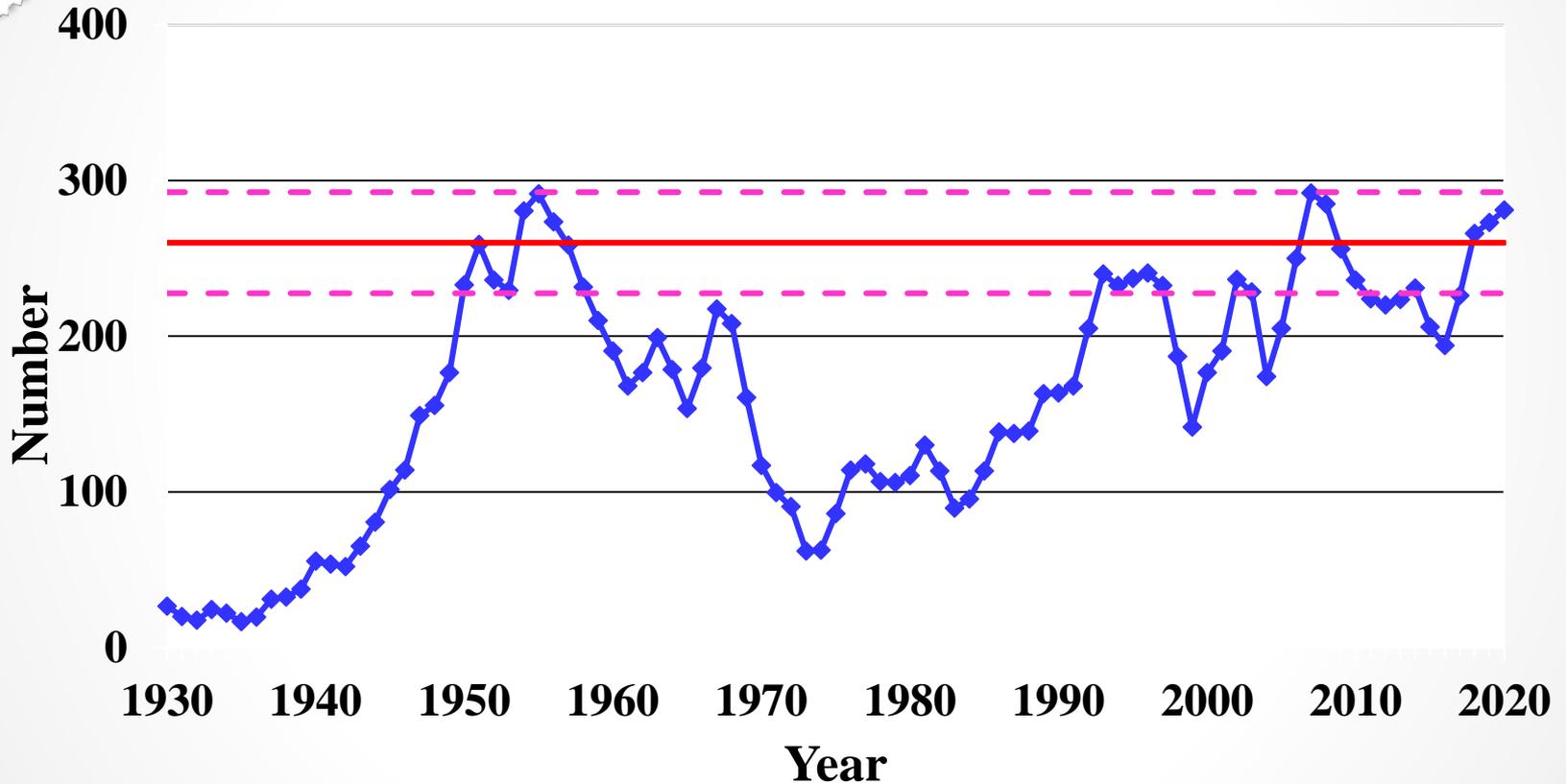
Desired Change = -28%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 1
Reg. Firearm - 1

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – I2



Note: Objective is 260 or 0.73 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 0
Reg. Firearm - 1

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

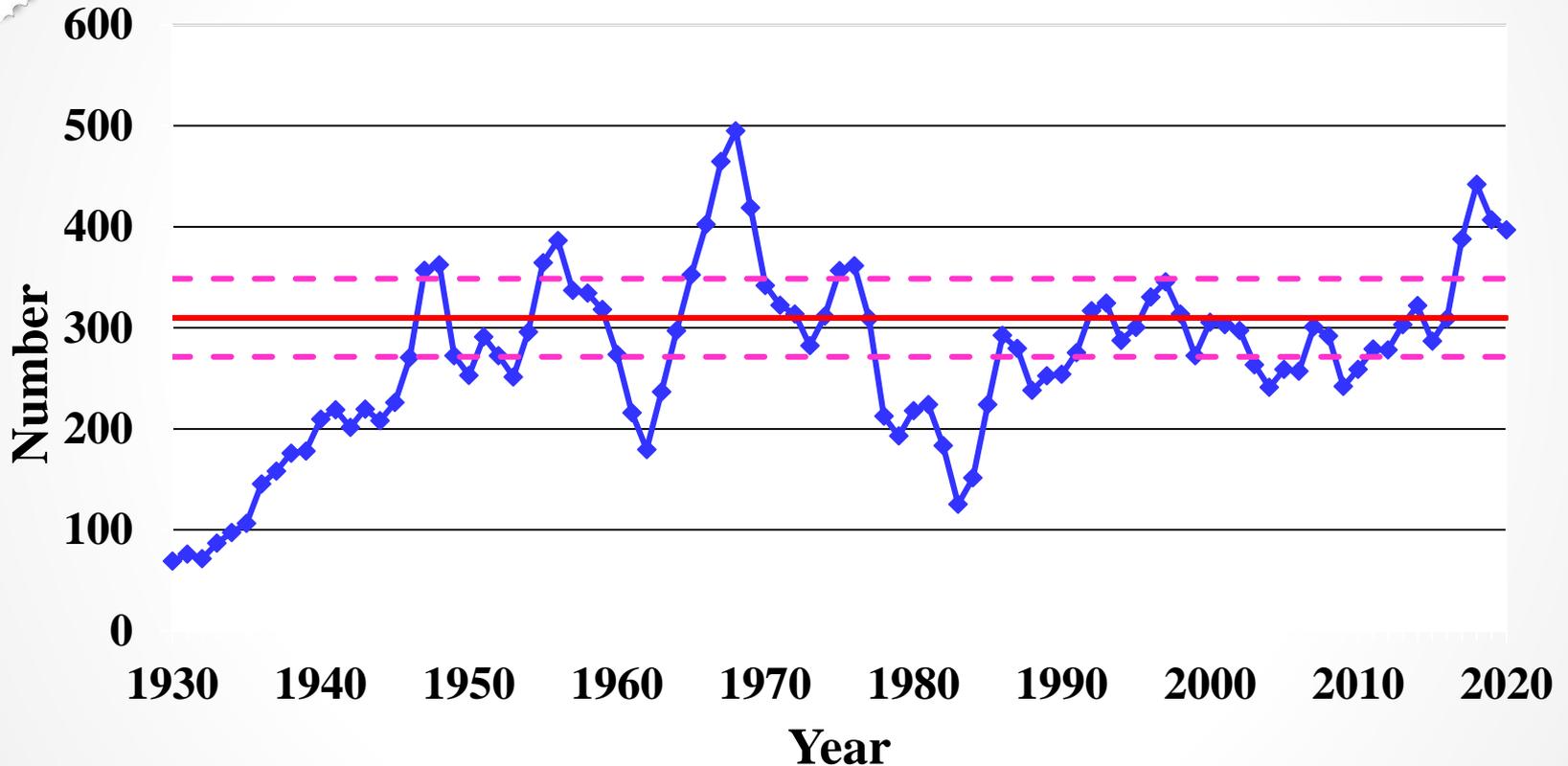
Desired Change = -7%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 1
Reg. Firearm - 1

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – J1



Note: Objective is 310 or 0.71 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader – 2
Reg. Firearm – 1

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

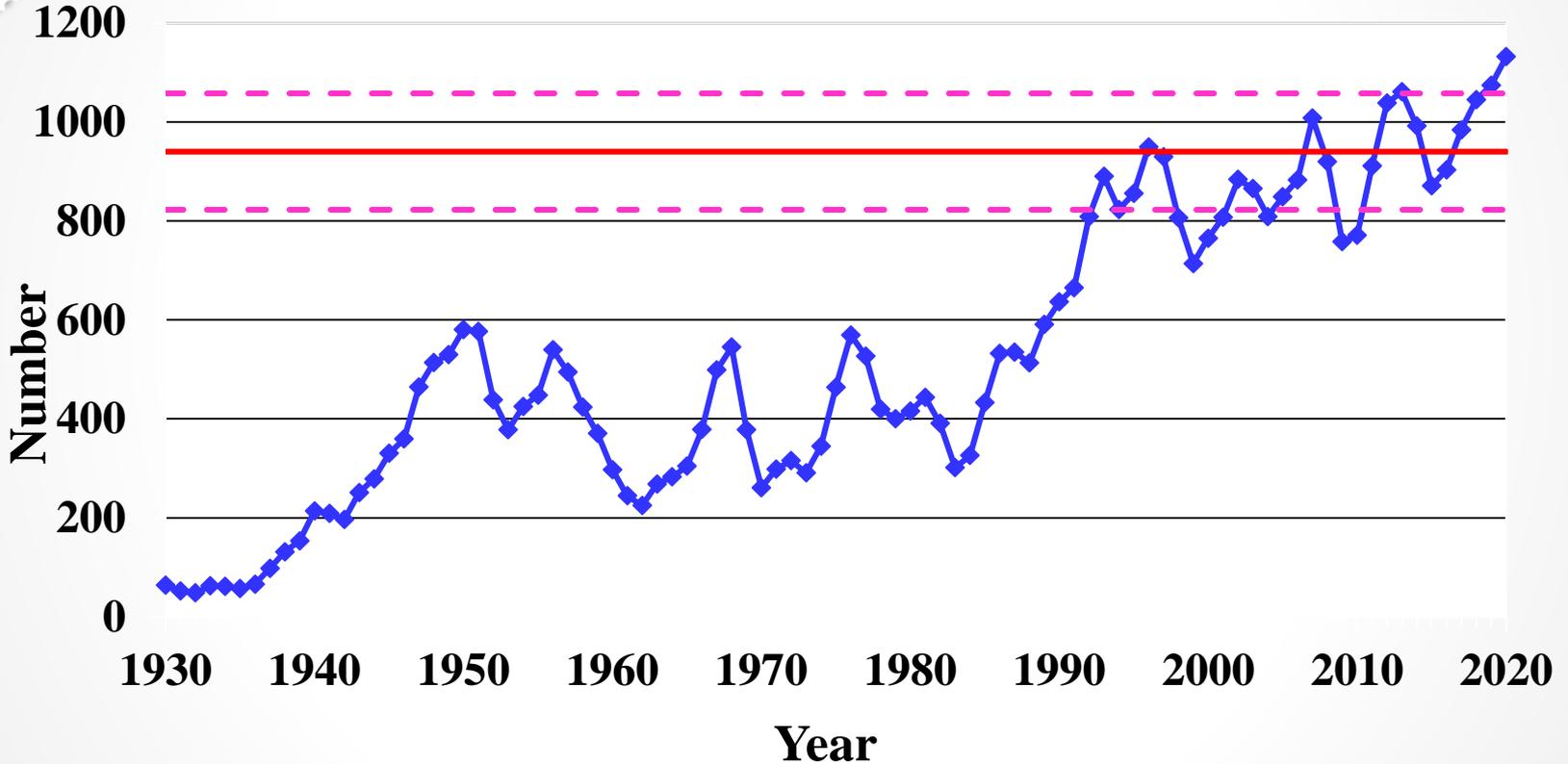
ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader – 2
Reg. Firearm – 2

Desired Change = -22%

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – J2



Note: Objective is 940 or 1.29 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 3
Reg. Firearm - 3

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

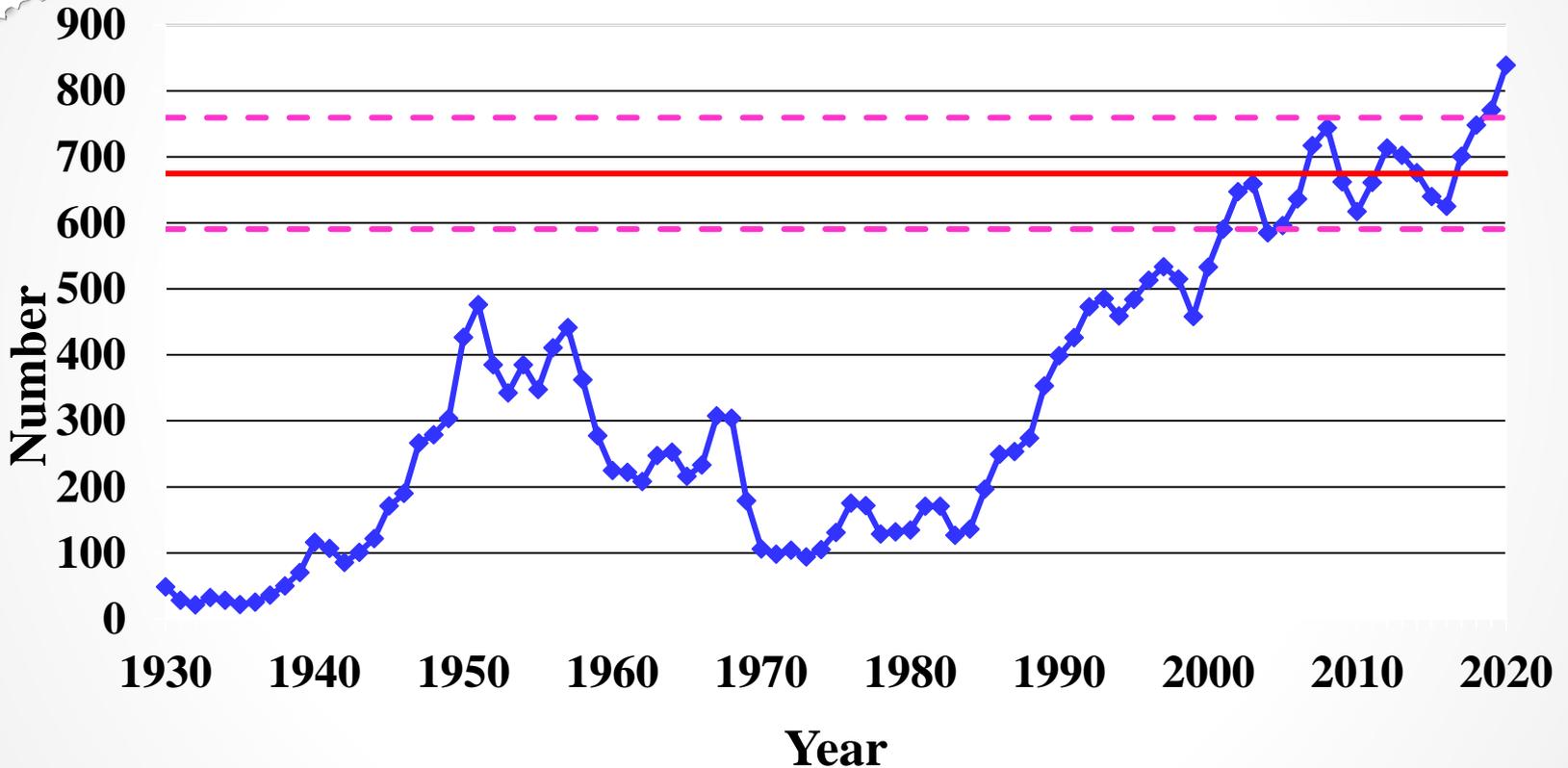
ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader - 4
Reg. Firearm - 3

Desired Change = -17%

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – K



Note: Objective is 675 or 1.18 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
Muzzleloader - 3
Reg. Firearm - 2

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

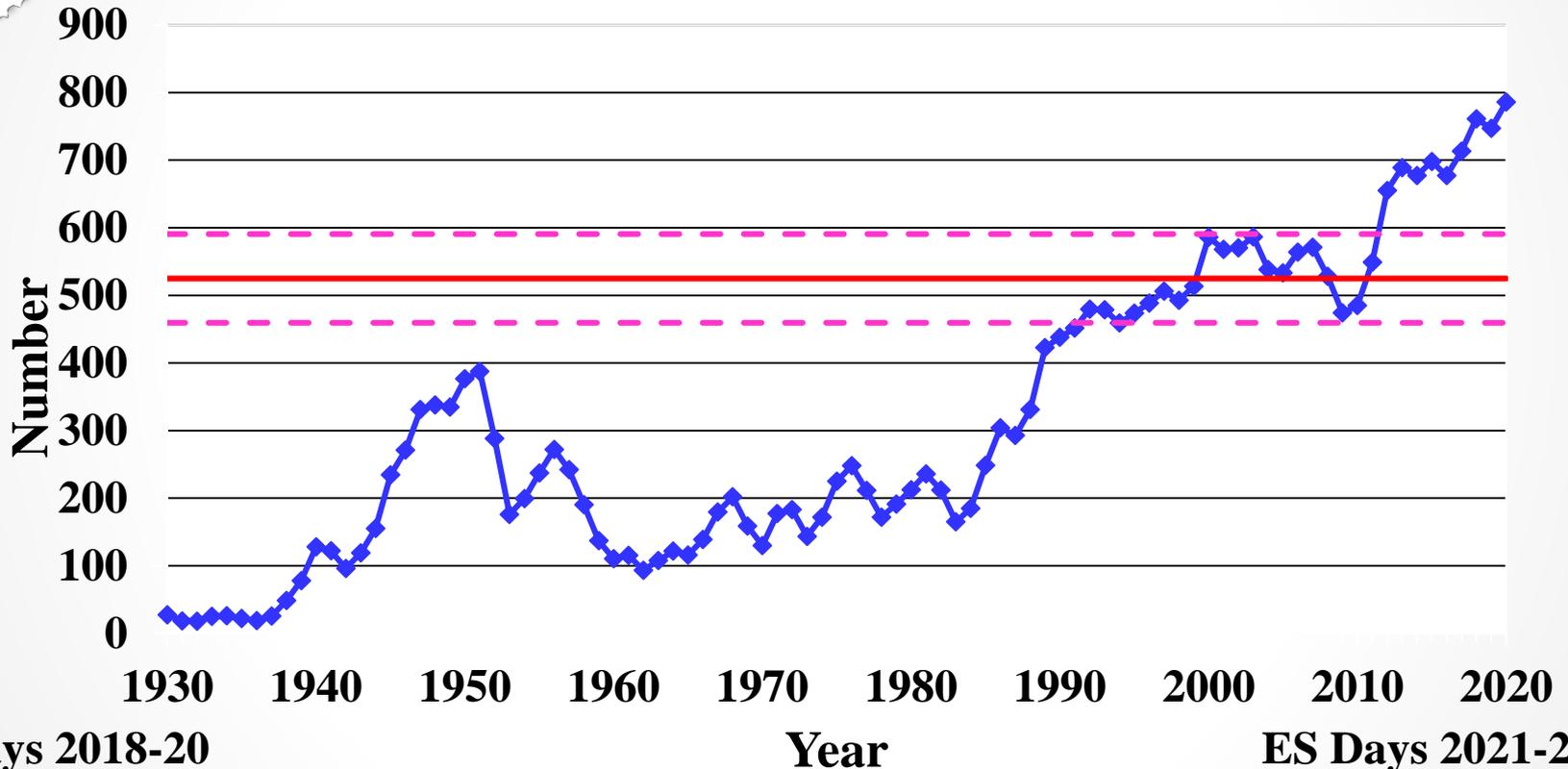
Desired Change = -20%

ES Days 2021-22
Muzzleloader -3
Reg. Firearm - 3

2-Year Running Average Adult Buck Harvest (1930-2020) With Objective WMU – L



Note: Objective is 525 or 1.37 per square mile of habitat



ES Days 2018-20
 Muzzleloader - 11
 Reg. Firearm - 10
 +2000 AO Permits
 w/ 1 tag

◆ Adult Bucks — Objective - - - +/-12.5%

Allow crossbow use during the archery season in WMU L

ES Days 2021-22
 Muzzleloader - 11
 Reg. Firearm - 10
 +2000 AO Permits
 w/ 1 tag



2021-2022 Housekeeping

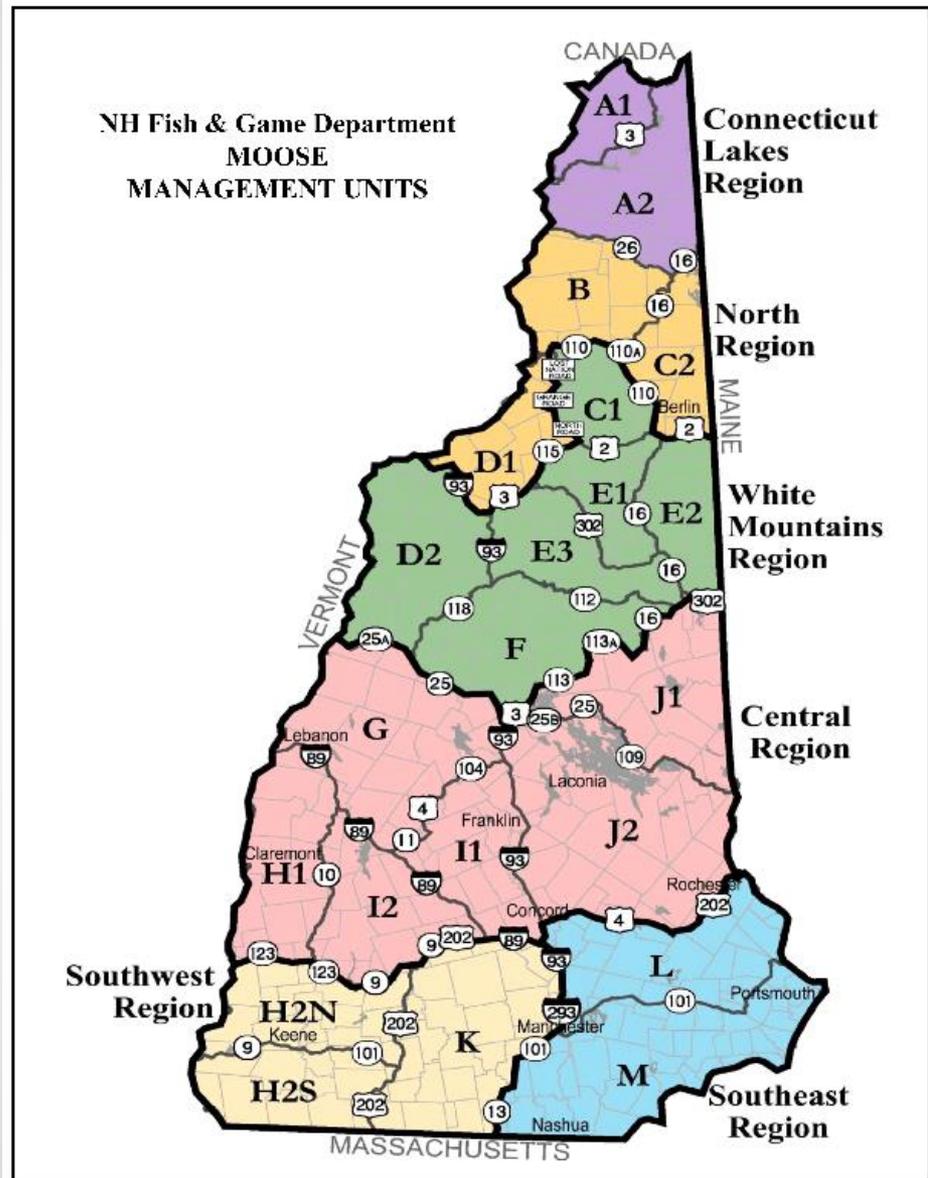
- Remove requirement that hunters purchase an “Annual Deer Crossbow Permit” to use a crossbow during the firearms deer season.
- Allow hunters who have filled their tag to accompany someone with an apprentice license.
 - **Similar to youth hunting**
- Allow for digital registration to be conducted from physical check stations.



2021 MOOSE SEASON PROPOSAL



Moose Management Regions



Moose are managed regionally in NH.

Major factors influencing moose abundance include:

1. winter ticks
2. brainworm

Moose Management Strategy

General approach: Conservative harvest consistent with harvest and survey data sets and research findings.

2016-2025 Game Management Plan Goals:



NEW HAMPSHIRE
GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN

2016-2025

Unanimously Adopted by the NH Fish and Game Commission
06/10/15

Goal 1: Regionally manage moose abundance using the best available science.

Goal 2: Maintain a balanced adult sex ratio and the **health** of yearling and adult cows by minimizing impacts of winter ticks.

Goal 3: Communicate and educate about the status of moose with our citizenry.

Goal 4: Conserve, protect, and enhance moose habitat.

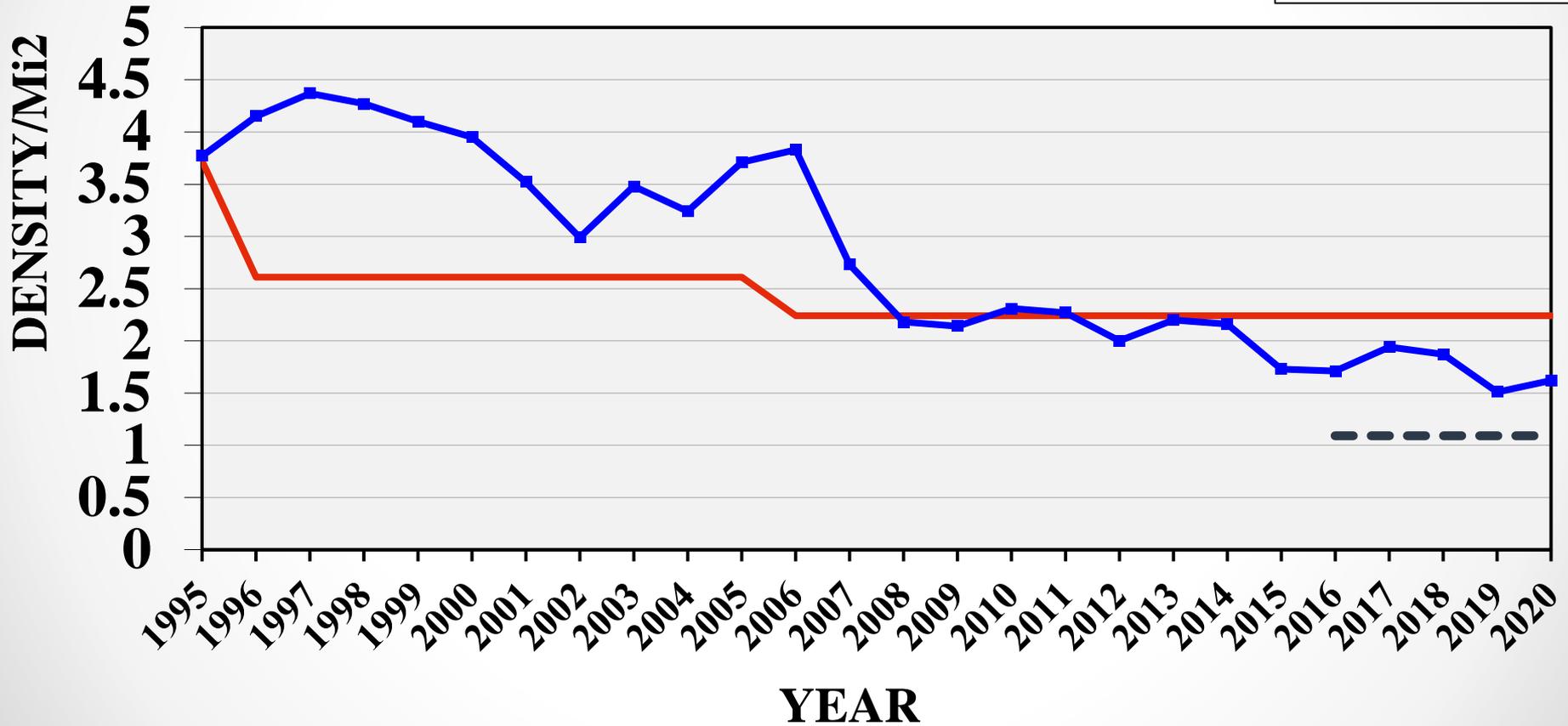
Ct. Lake Moose Density

(2 Yr Mean) and Objectives

ESTIMATED DENSITY – 1.62/MI²

FIVE YEAR TREND -0.06

Permits
2019 - 10
2020 - 10
2021 - 10



— Objective

— 2 Yr Mean

-- Cut Off

North Moose Density

(2 Yr Mean) and Objective

ESTIMATED DENSITY – 0.62/MI²

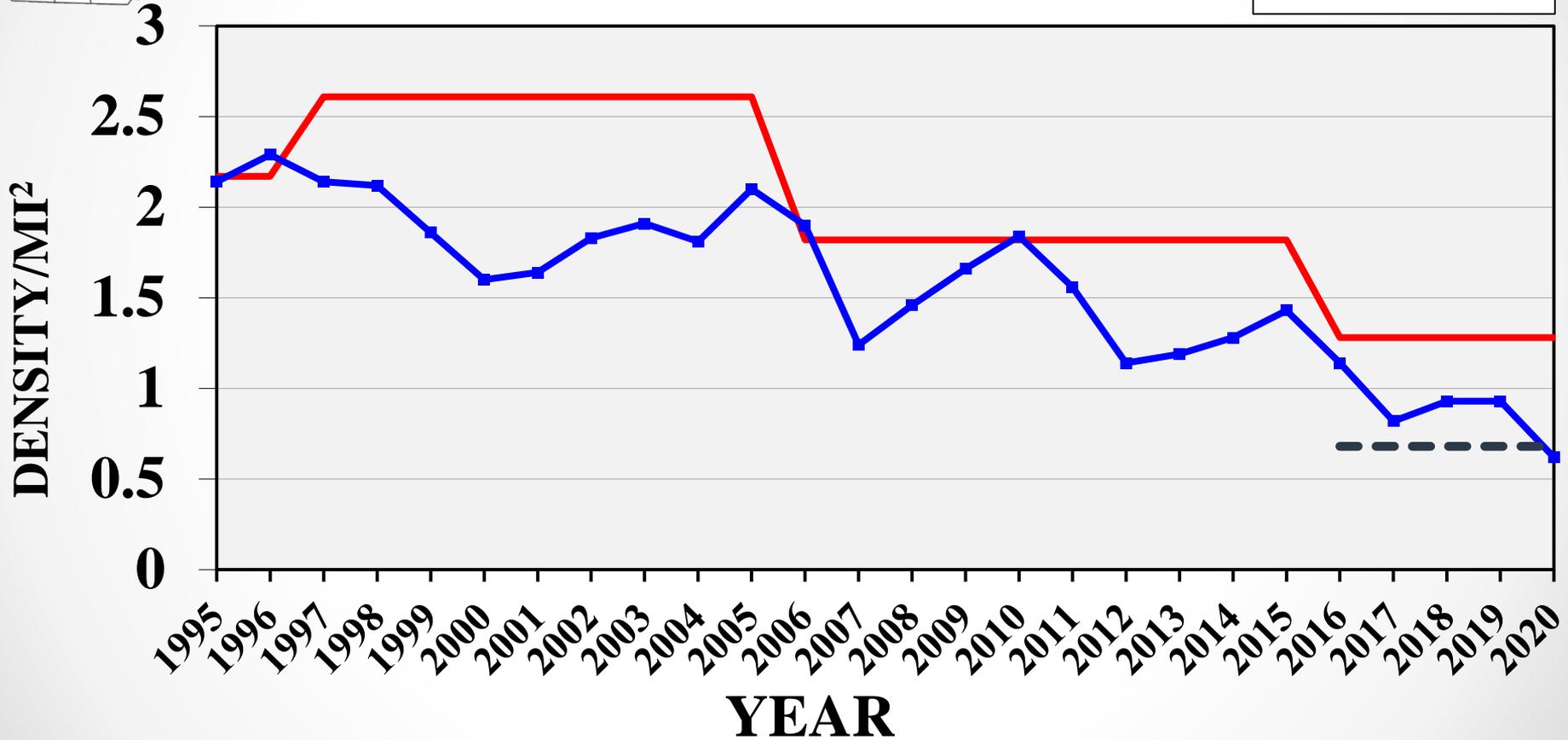
FIVE YEAR TREND – -0.09

Permits

2019 -15

2020 - 15

2021 - 15



— Objective

—■— 2-Yr Mean

-- Cut Off



Why continue permit issuance in the North when moose density is below the cut-off level?

1) 2014-2018 research in the North demonstrates winter ticks are limiting the moose population, not hunting.



2) Proposed harvest is conservative and does not measurably influence the long-term population trajectory.

Area	Permits/mi ² habitat
NH North	0.02 either sex
ME WMD 7&12	0.06 bulls
VT E1 & E2	0.09 either sex

3) Removing moose through hunting may result in lower winter tick abundance and healthier moose sooner than realized with no moose harvest.

Goal 2 of 2016-2025 Plan “Health”

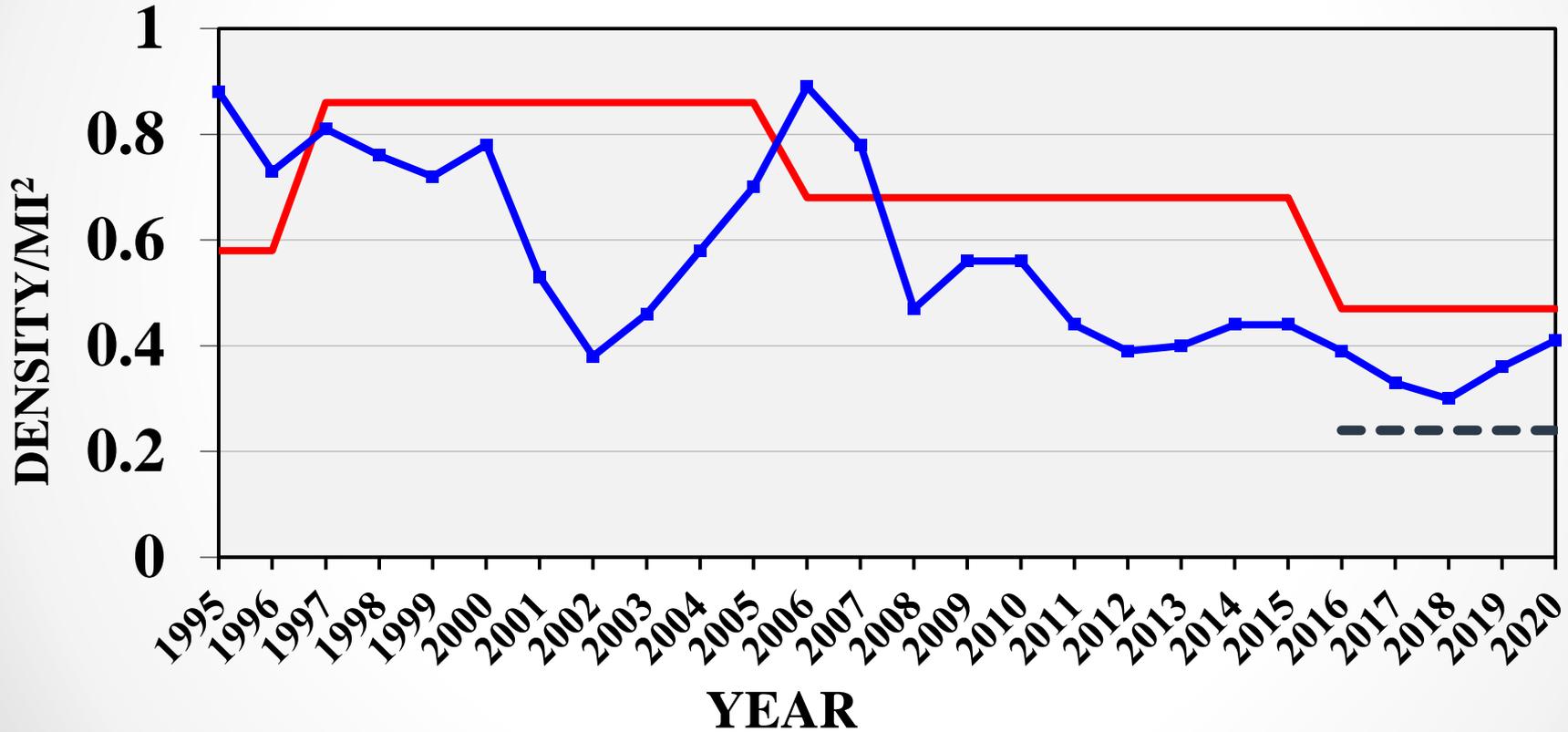


White Mtn. Moose Density (2 Yr Mean) and Objectives

ESTIMATED DENSITY – 0.41/MI²

FIVE YEAR TREND – 0.01

Permits
2019 - 10
2020 - 10
2021 - 10



— Objective **—■— 2-Yr Mean** **-- Cut Off**

Central Moose Density

(2 Yr Mean) and Objectives

ESTIMATED DENSITY – 0.20/MI²

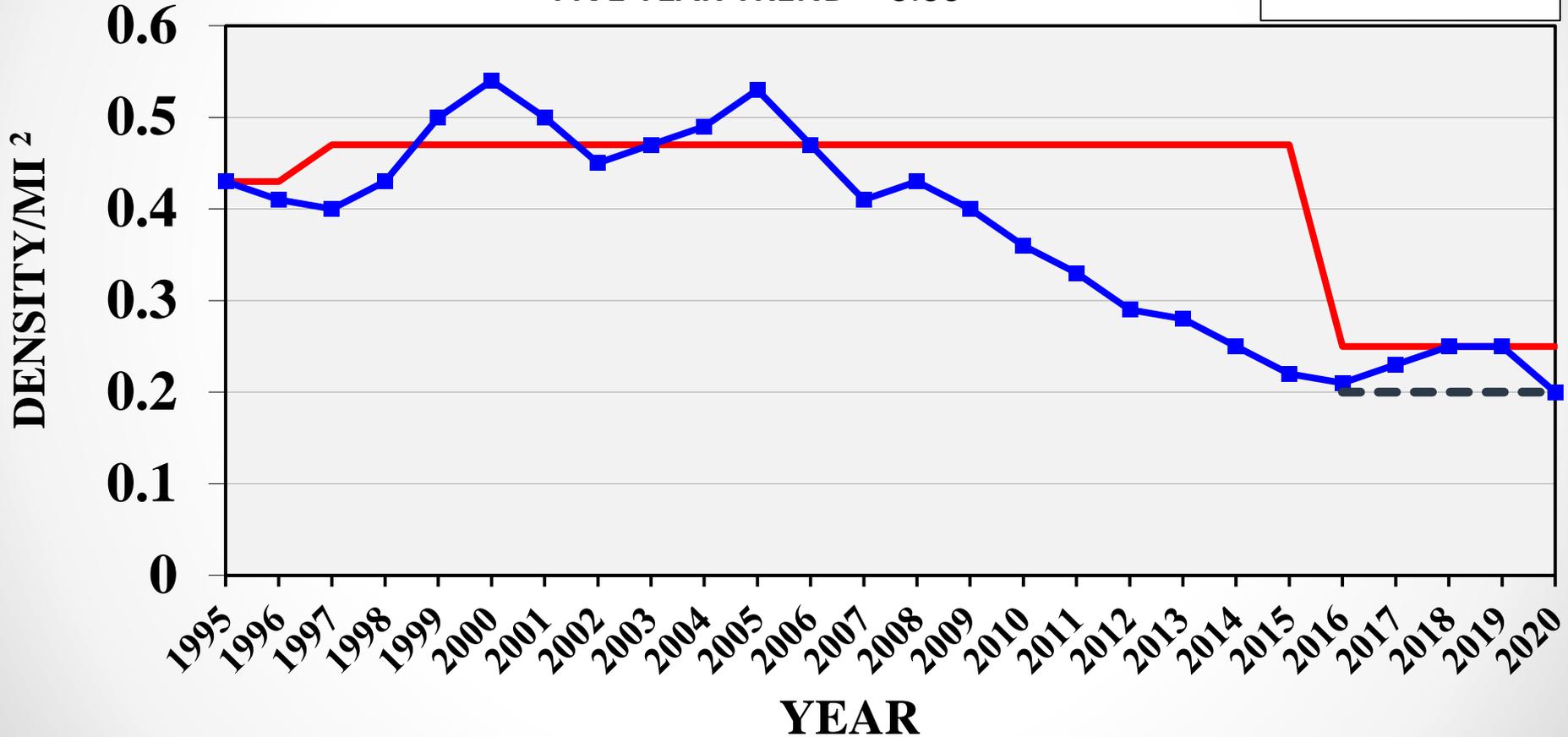
FIVE YEAR TREND - 0.00

Permits

2019 - 6

2020 - 6

2021 - 0



— Objective

—■— 2-Yr Mean

-- Cut Off

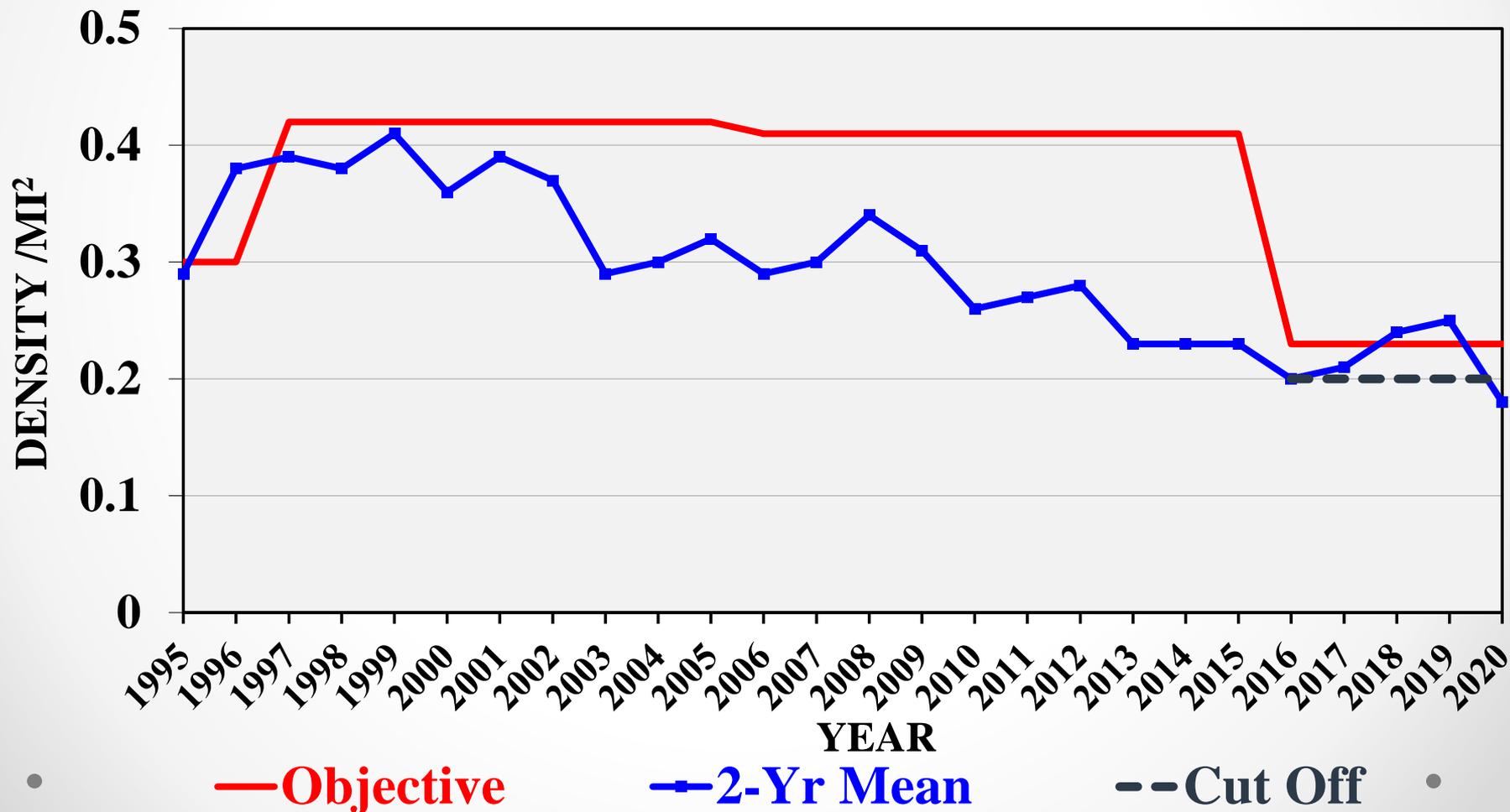
Southwest Moose Density

(2 Yr Mean) and Objectives



ESTIMATED DENSITY – 0.18/ MI²
FIVE YEAR TREND - 0.00

Permits
2019 - 3
2020 - 3
2021 - 0

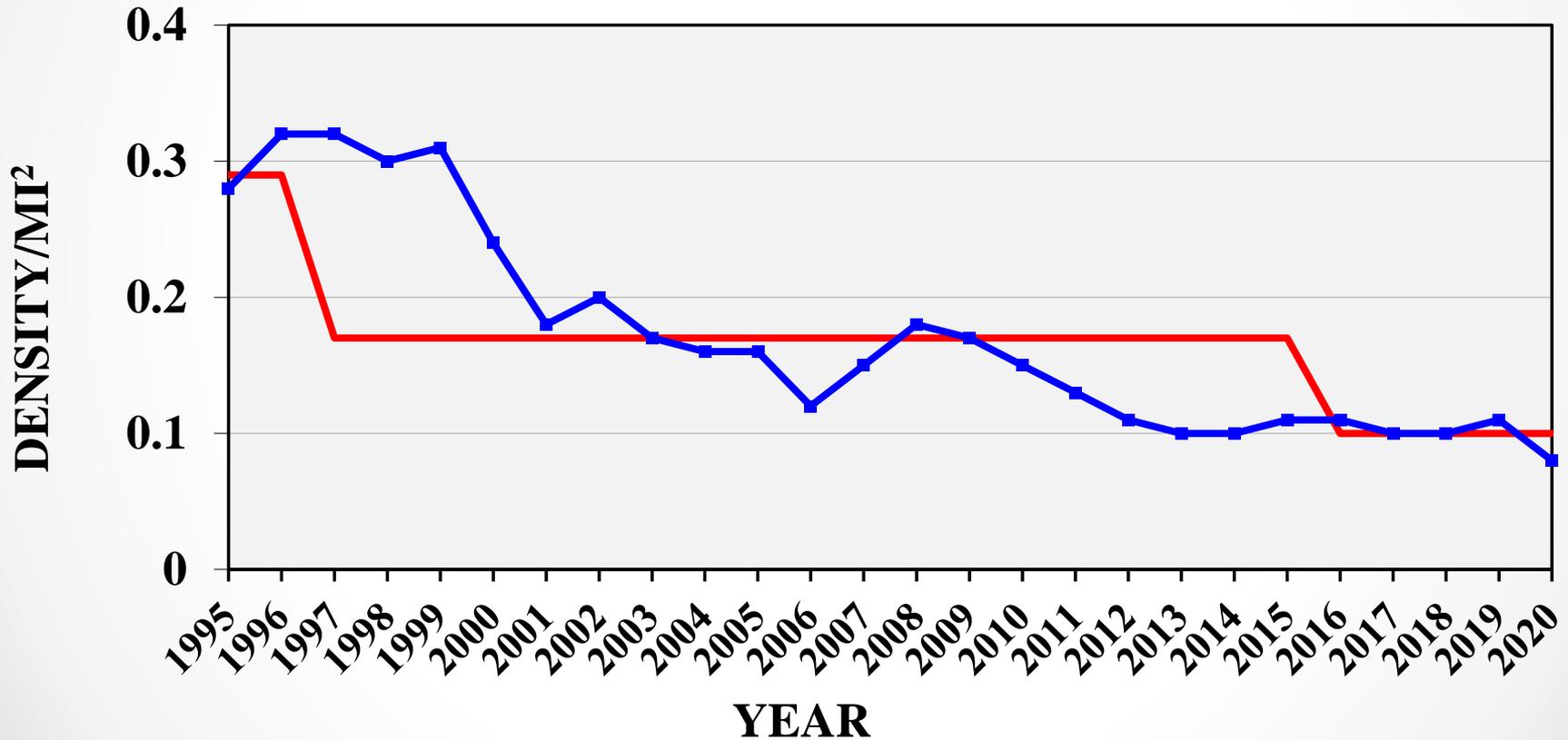


Southeast Moose Density (2 Yr Mean) and Objectives



Permits
2019 - 5
2020 - 5
2021 - 5

ESTIMATED DENSITY – 0.08/MI²
FIVE YEAR TREND - -0.01



— Objective **—■— 2-Yr Mean**

2021 MOOSE SEASON PROPOSAL

(Sat Oct 16- Sun Oct 24)

	2015 Issuance ES - AO	2016 Issuance ES	2017 Issuance ES	2018 Issuance ES	2019 Issuance ES	2020 Issuance ES	2021 Proposed ES
Ct. Lakes	20	10	10	10	10	10	10
North	25-10	25	15	15	15	15	15
W. Mtns.	20 -10	20	10	15	10	10	10
Central	10	6	6	6	6	6	0
S. West	5	5	0	0	3	3	0
S. East	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Total	85-20 (105)	71 (71)	51 (54)	51 (53)	49 (51)	49 (51)	40* (42)

*IN ADDITION - 1 HOL AND 1 WHF PERMIT = 42 PERMITS TOTAL

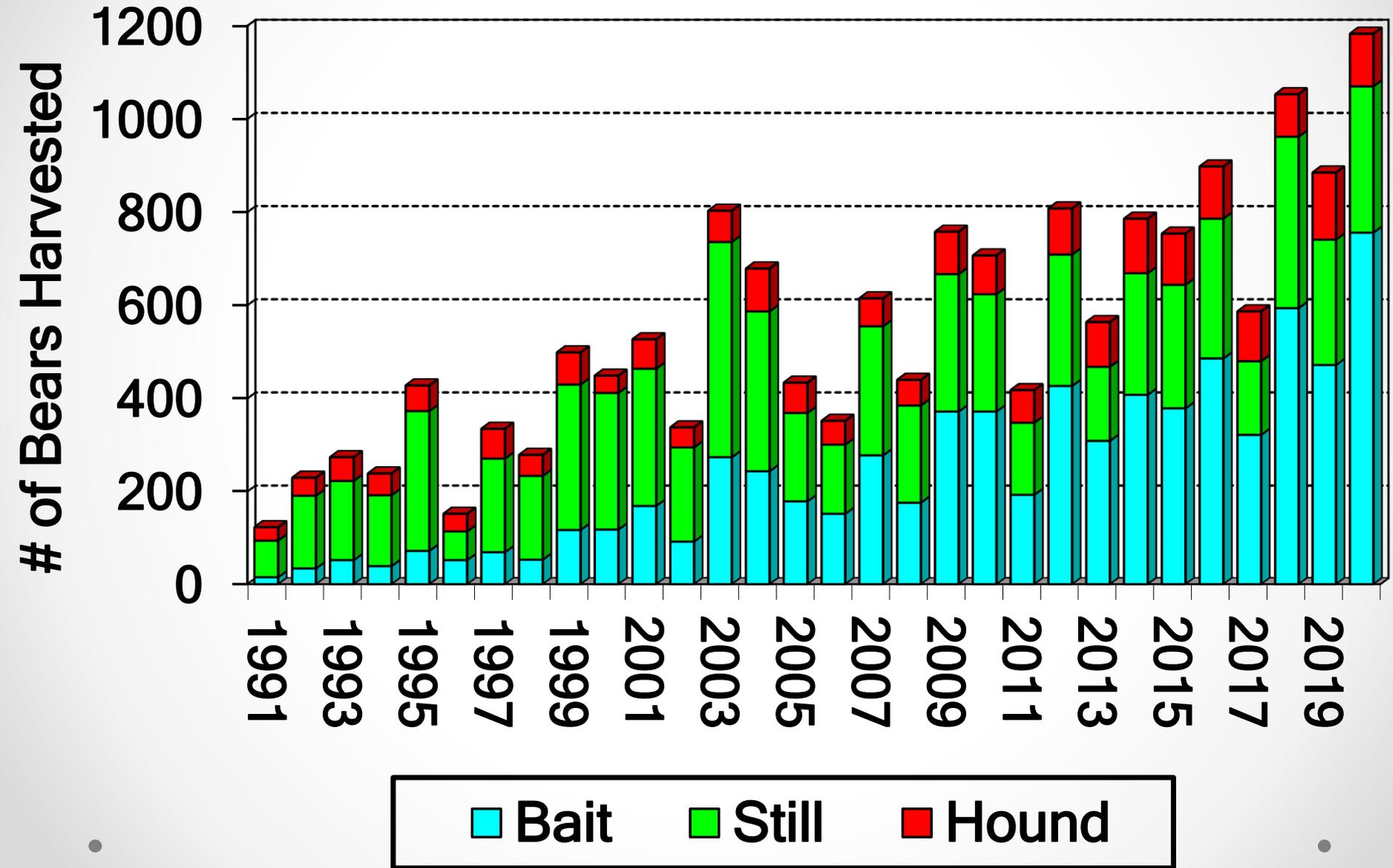
2021/2022 Bear Season Proposals



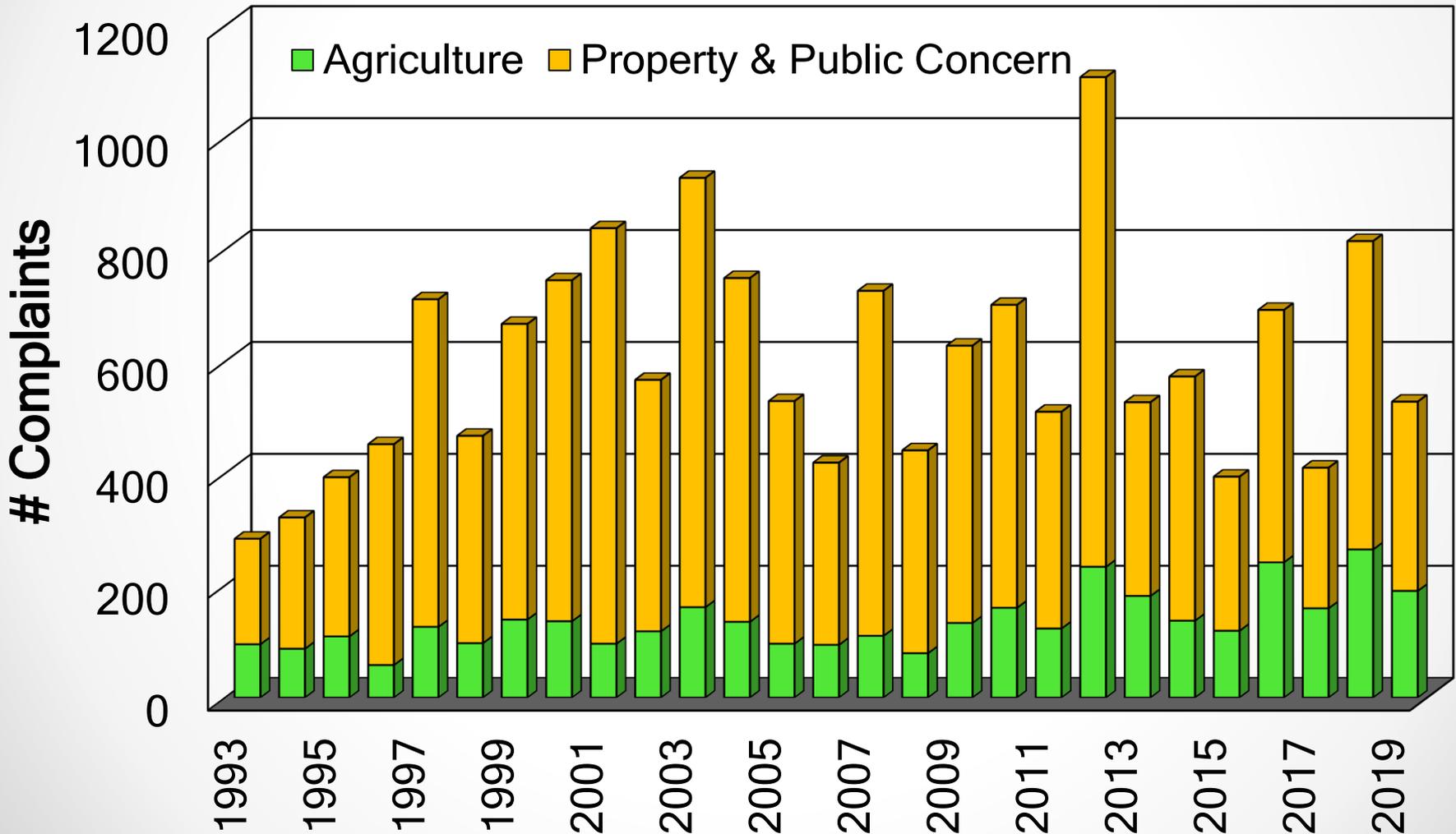
Photo by Duane Cross



Black Bear Harvest In NH, 1991-2020

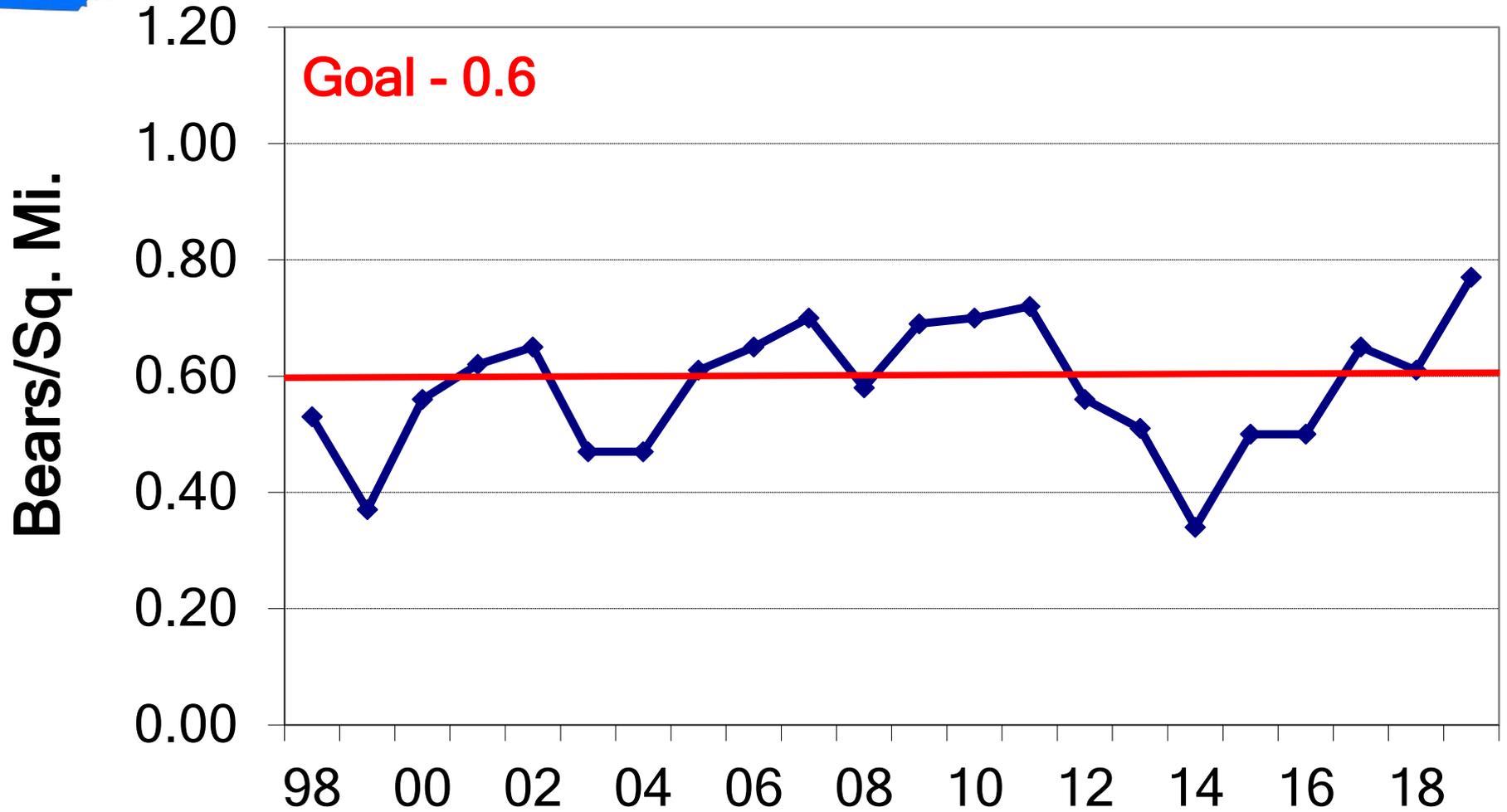
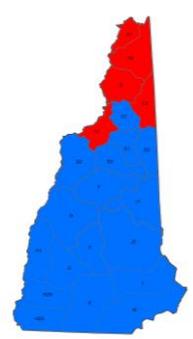


Documented Bear-Human Conflicts in New Hampshire, 1993-2019

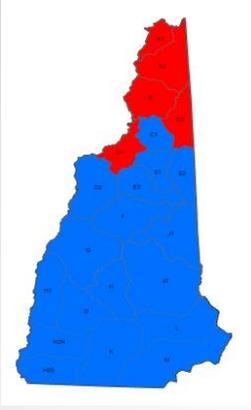


Bear Population Estimate, 1998-2019

North Region



Bear Season Proposal - North Region



(WMUs A, B, C2, D1)

Density Goal = 0.6 bears/mi²

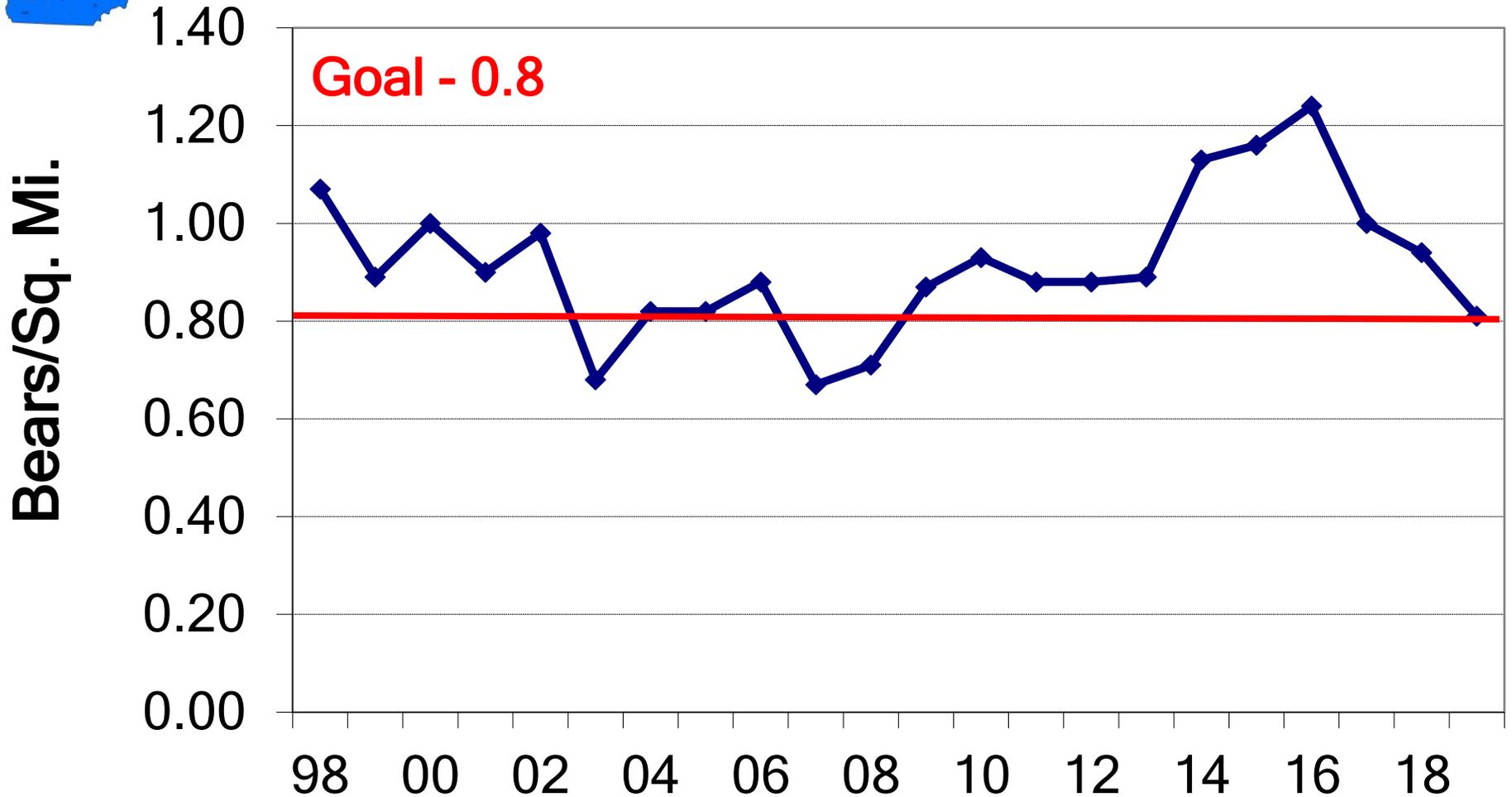
2019 Level = 0.77 bears/mi²

12.5% = 0.53-0.68

Method	2021 <i>2022</i>	Comments
Bait	9/1 - 9/28	Same as previous
Hound	9/20 - 11/9 <i>9/19-11/8</i>	Same as previous
Still	9/1 - 11/9 <i>9/1 - 11/8</i>	Same as previous

Bear Population Estimate, 1998-2019

White Mountains Region



Bear Season Proposal - Wt. Mts. Region

(WMUs C1, D2, E, F)

Density Goal = 0.8 bears/mi²

2019 Level = 0.81 bears/mi²

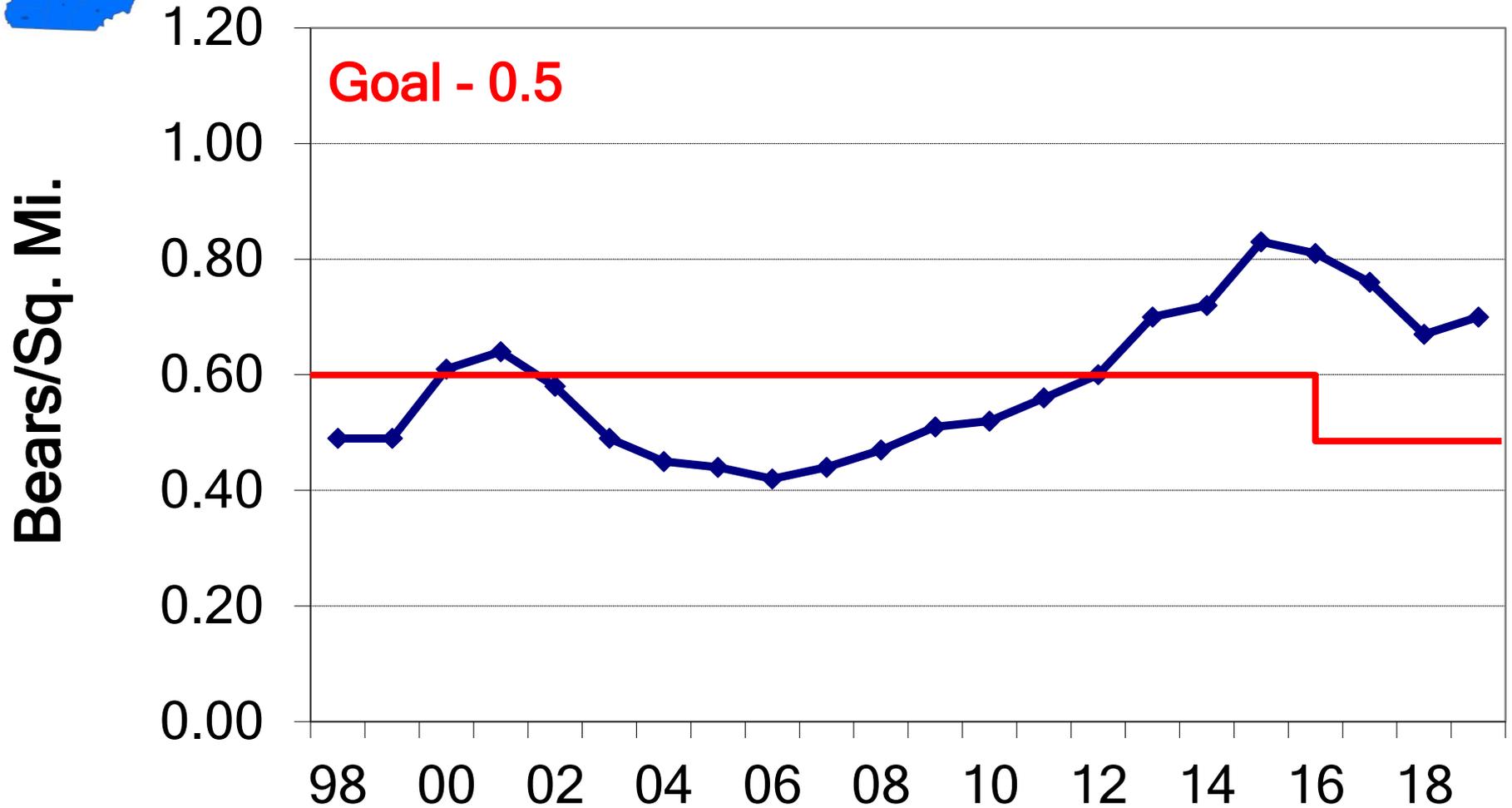
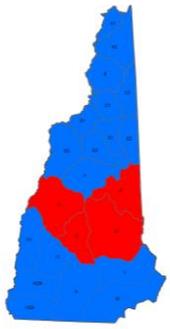
12.5% = 0.70-0.90



Method	2021 <i>2022</i>	Comments
Bait	9/1 - 10/5	Same as previous
Hound	9/20 - 11/9 <i>9/19-11/8</i>	Same as previous
Still	9/1 - 11/30	Same as previous

Bear Population Estimate, 1998-2019

Central Region



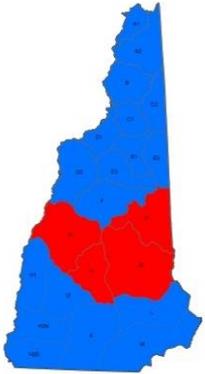
Bear Season Proposal - Central Region

(WMUs G, I1, J1, J2)

Density Goal = 0.5 bears/mi²

2019 Level = 0.70 bears/mi²

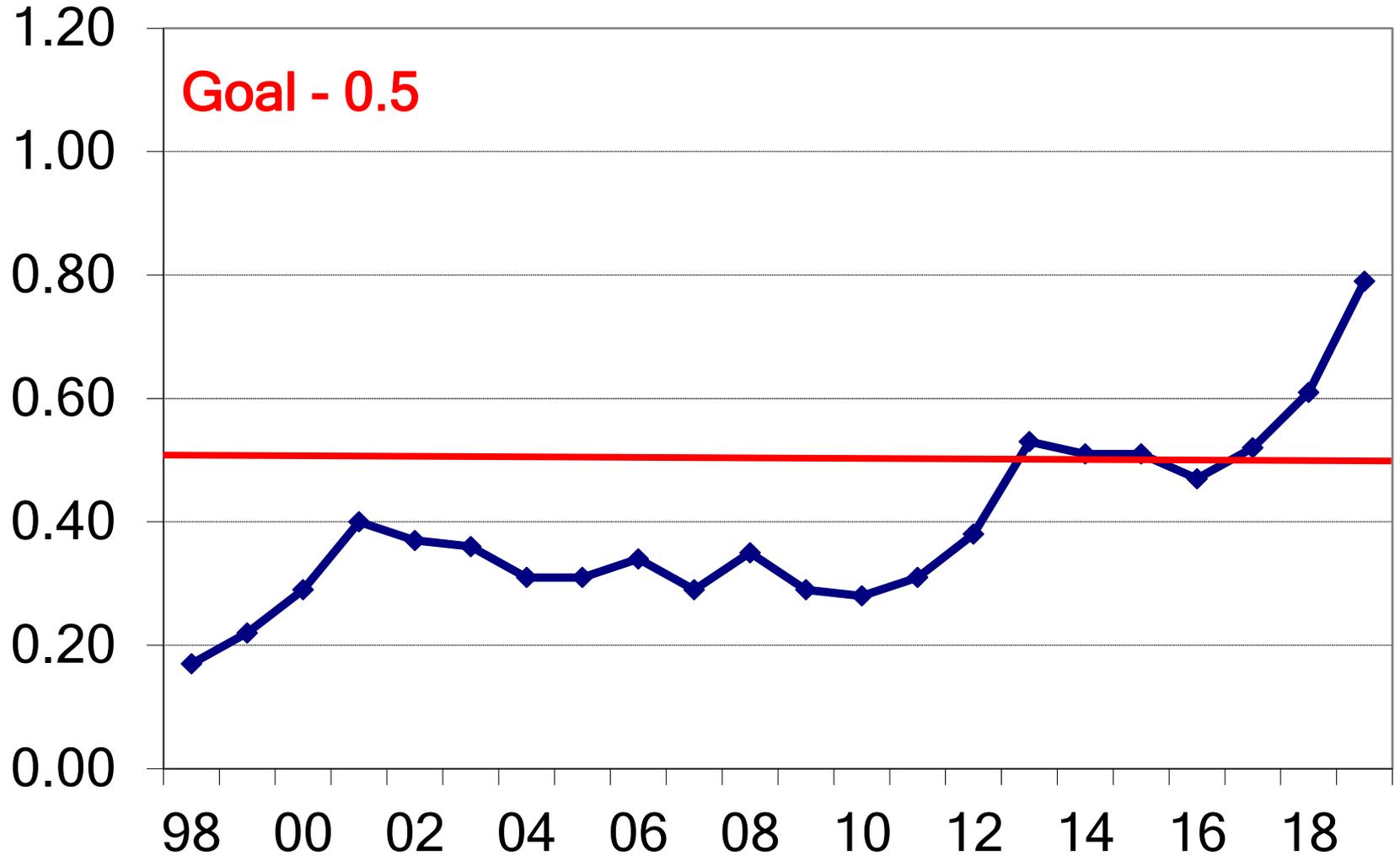
12.5% = 0.44-0.56



Method	2021 <i>2022</i>	Comments
Bait	9/1 - 9/28 10/5	Addition of 7 days
Hound	9/20 - 11/9 <i>9/19-11/8</i>	Same as previous
Still	9/1 - 11/30	Same as previous

Bear Population Estimate, 1998-2019

SW-2 Region



Bear Season Proposal - SW-2 Region



(WMUs H2, K)

Density Goal = 0.5 bears/mi²

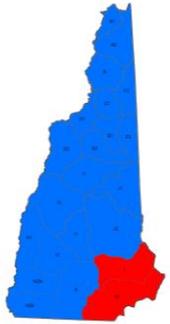
2019 Level = 0.79 bears/mi²

12.5% = 0.44-0.56

Method	2021 <i>2022</i>	Comments
Bait	9/1 - 9/21 28	Addition of 7 days
Hound	None	Same as previous
Still	9/1 - 10/12 9/1 - 11/9 <i>9/1 - 11/8</i>	Addition of 28 days including overlap with ML deer season

Bear Population Estimate, 1998-2019

SE Region



Bears/Sq. Mi.

1.20

1.00

0.80

0.60

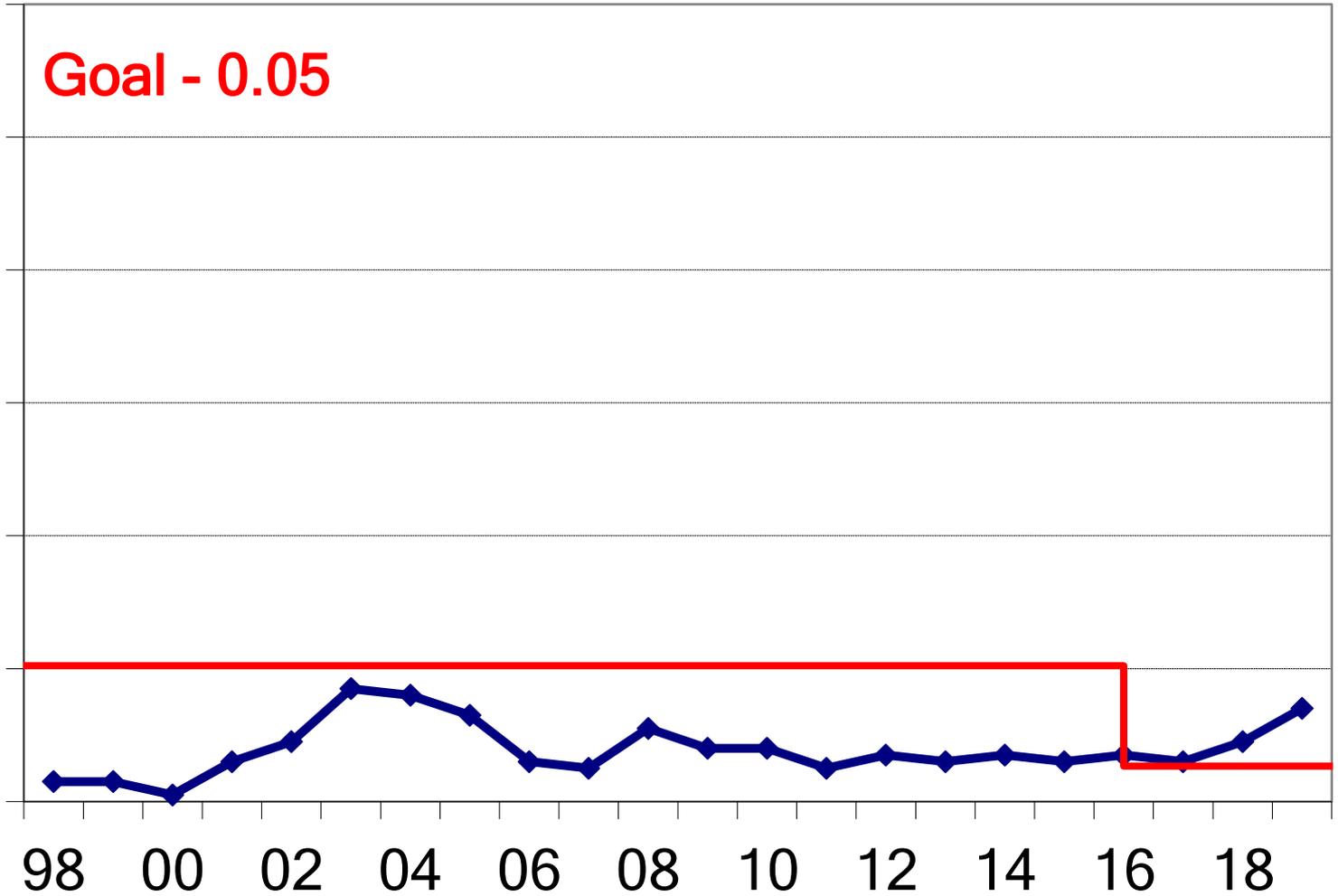
0.40

0.20

0.00

Goal - 0.05

98 00 02 04 06 08 10 12 14 16 18



Bear Season Proposal - SE Region

(WMUs L, M)

Density Goal = 0.05 bears/mi²

2019 Level = 0.14 bears/mi²

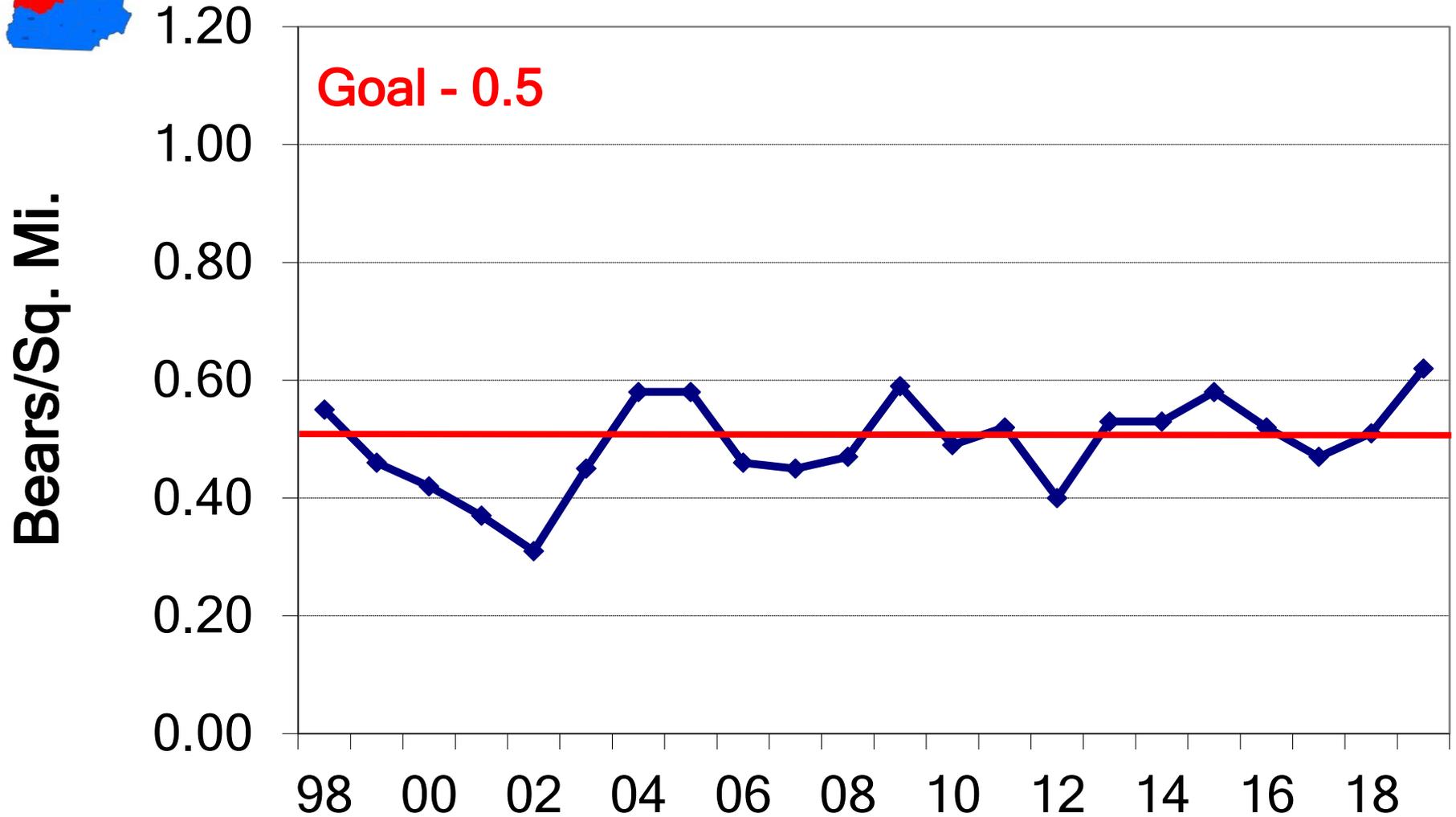
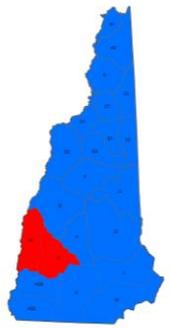
12.5% = 0.04-0.06



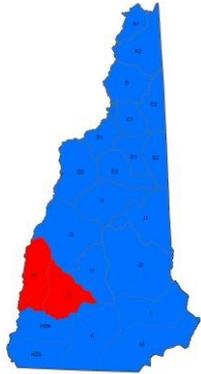
Method	2021 <i>2022</i>	Comments
Bait	9/1 - 9/ 21 28	Addition of 7 days
Hound	None	Same as previous
Still	9/1 - 10/12 9/1 - 11/9 <i>9/1 - 11/8</i>	Addition of 28 days including overlap with ML deer season

Bear Population Estimate, 1998-2019

SW-1 Region



Bear Season Proposal - SW-1 Region



(WMUs H1, I2)

Density Goal = 0.5 bears/mi²

2019 Level = 0.62 bears/mi²

12.5% = 0.44-0.56

Method	2021 <i>2022</i>	Comments
Bait	9/1 - 9/ 21 28	Addition of 7 days
Hound	9/20 - 11/9 <i>9/19-11/8</i>	Same as previous
Still	9/1 - 11/9 <i>9/1 - 11/8</i>	Same as previous

Additional Bear Proposals

From Wildlife Division

- ❑ Modify Fis 304.04 - Wildlife Depredation Permits - to allow bear to be handled in the same manner as deer - allow retention by agent or commercial grower

- ❑ Modify Fis 307.05 (k, 7) to require that lottery applications to bait wildlife on the CLHF be submitted to the Wildlife Division in Concord rather than NHFG Region 1 office in Lancaster



2021-22 Wild Turkey Proposals

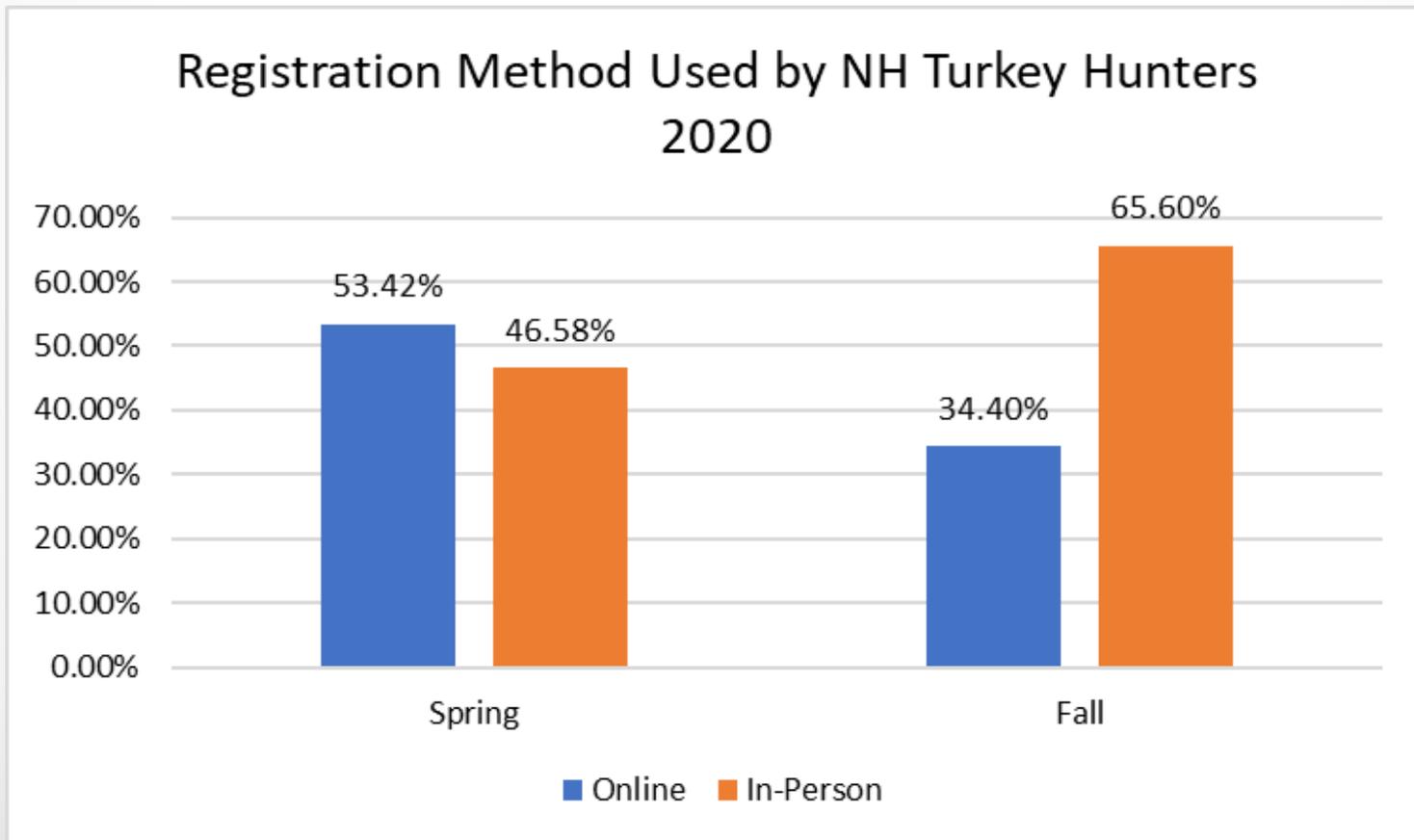


Photo: Carter Heath, NWTF



REVIEW OF RECENT YEARS CHANGES

- 2019 – Two birds in the spring option allowed for the first time. One turkey may be taken statewide, other turkey must be from WMU H1, H2, J2, K, L, or M.
- 2020 – Online registration option made available under emergency rule due to COVID-19 pandemic - Temporary



CURRENT TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

(No Proposed Changes)

- **Spring Gobbler Season**
 - May 1– May 31
 - Allowance for two spring birds, one of which must come from WMU H1, H2, J2, K, L, or M
- **Youth Turkey Hunt**
 - Weekend preceding start of spring season
- **Fall Archery Season**
 - September 15 - December 15
 - (closes Dec. 8 in WMU A, Concurrent with Deer Archery)
- **Fall Shotgun Season**
 - 5 days preceding the start of the moose hunt (runs 7-Days)
 - Units allowing Fall Shotgun: D2, G, H1, H2, I1, I2, J1, J2, K, L, and M.



PROPOSED 2021-22 TURKEY HUNTING

REGULATIONS CHANGES

- Allow for the use of .410 and 28 gauge shotguns as a legal method of take
 - .410 and 28 gauge guns must use shot sizes 7 through 9 with a minimum shot density of 18 grams per cubic centimeter (G/CC).
 - Change allowable shot sizes from #2 and smaller to #4 and smaller for all other gauges (recommendation from NWTF Safety Task Force).
- Allow the online registration method to continue to be used as an official option for registering hunter harvested wild turkeys.
- Modify Fis 304.04 - Wildlife Depredation Permits - to allow turkey to be handled in the same manner as deer – allow retention by agent or commercial grower



2021/2022 Furbearer Seasons

No Proposed Changes

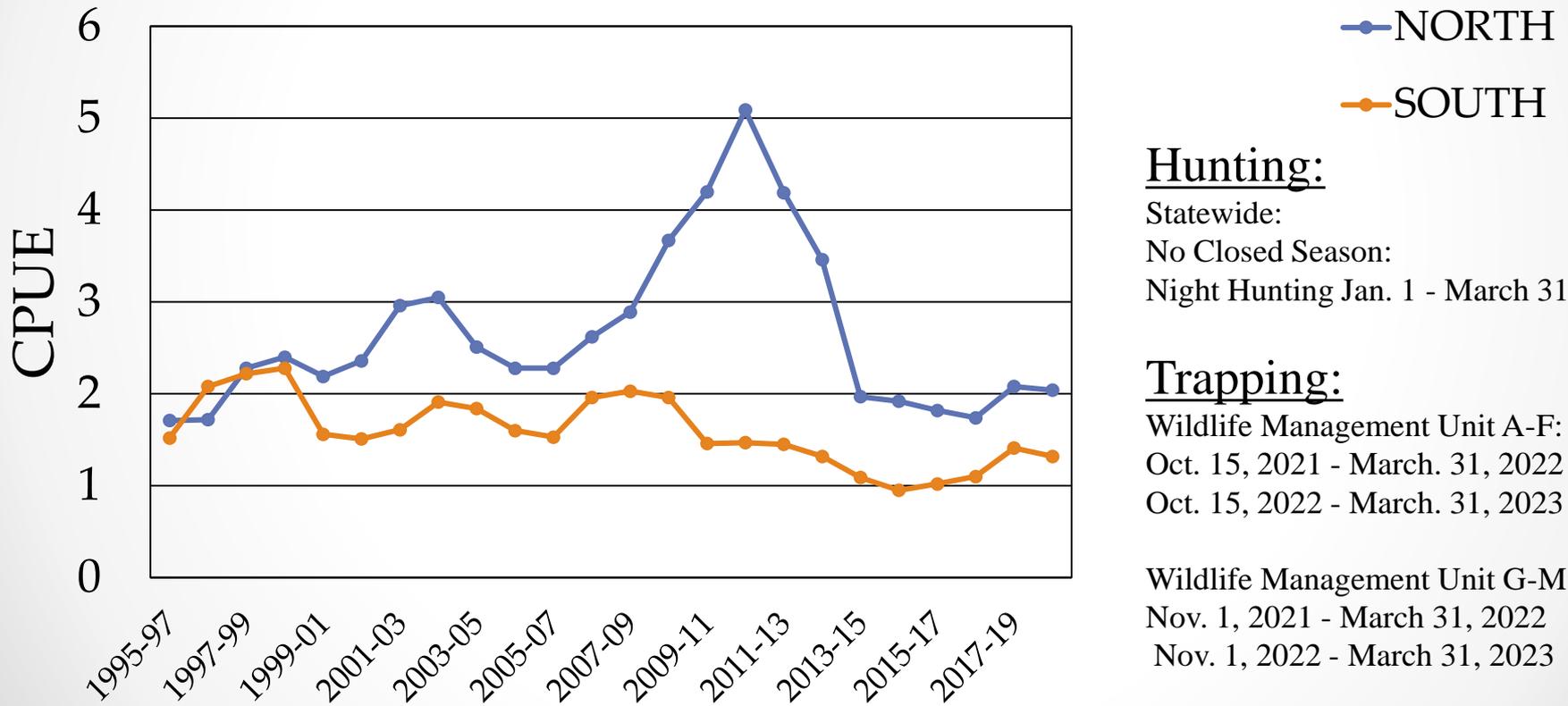


Photo: Dan Bergeron



Eastern Coyote

No Proposed Changes:



Hunting:

Statewide:

No Closed Season:

Night Hunting Jan. 1 - March 31.

Trapping:

Wildlife Management Unit A-F:

Oct. 15, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Oct. 15, 2022 - March 31, 2023

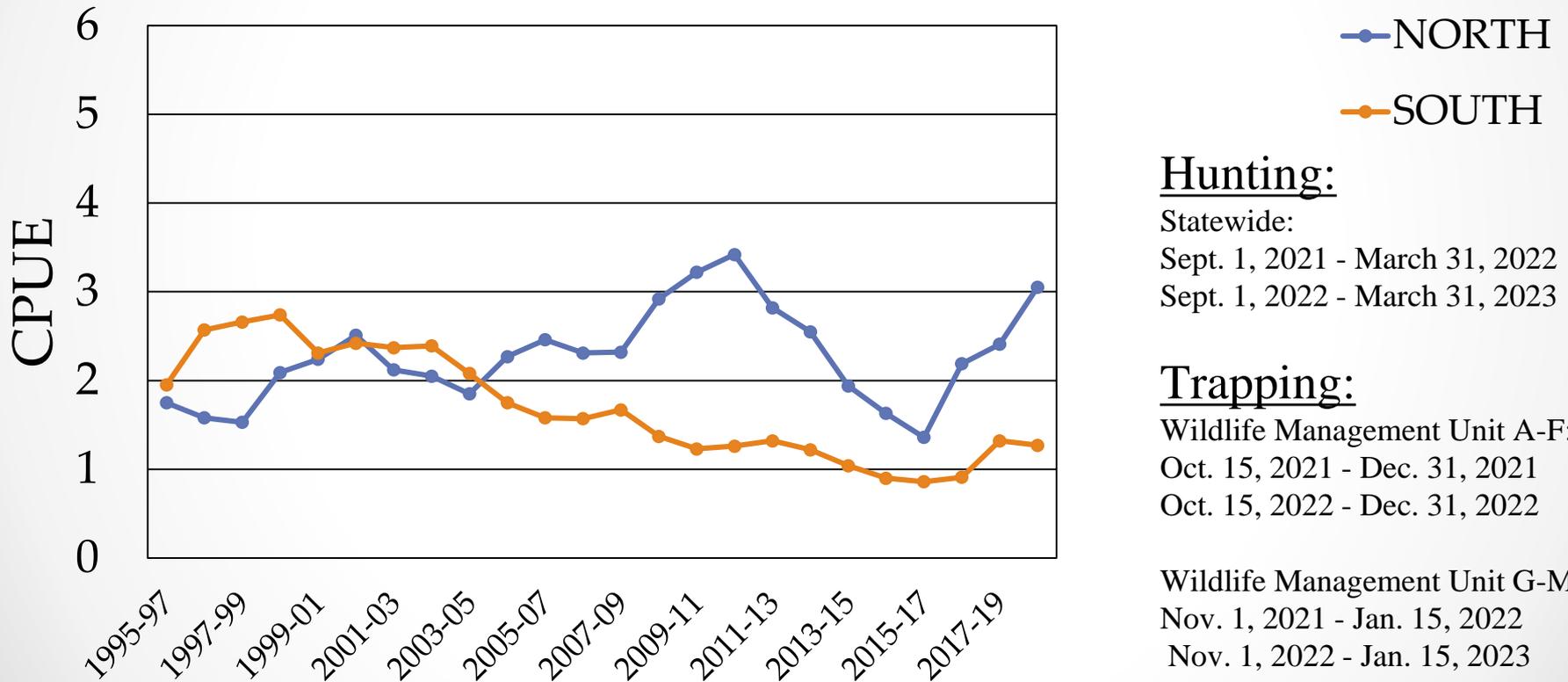
Wildlife Management Unit G-M:

Nov. 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Nov. 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Red Fox

No Proposed Changes:



Hunting:

Statewide:

Sept. 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Sept. 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Trapping:

Wildlife Management Unit A-F:

Oct. 15, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021

Oct. 15, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2022

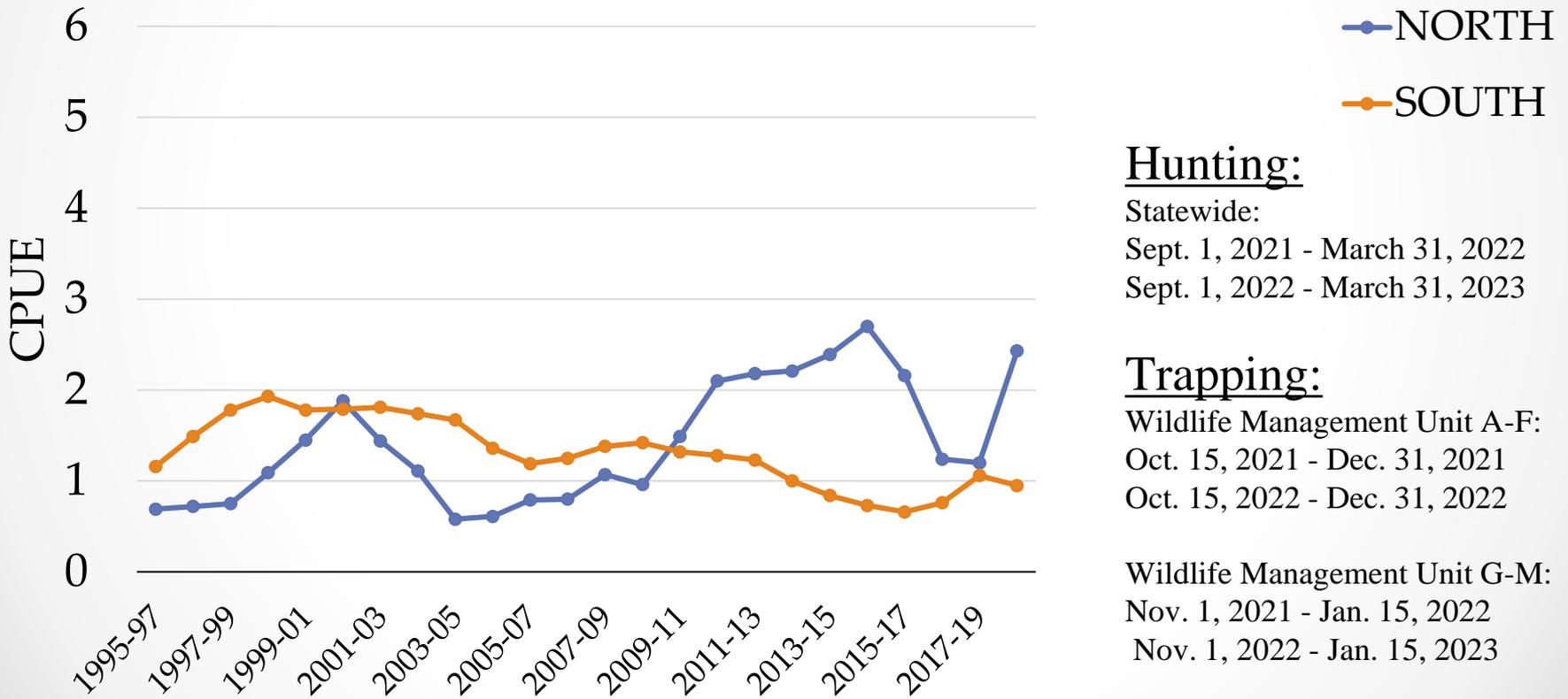
Wildlife Management Unit G-M:

Nov. 1, 2021 - Jan. 15, 2022

Nov. 1, 2022 - Jan. 15, 2023

Gray Fox

No Proposed Changes:



Hunting:

Statewide:

Sept. 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022

Sept. 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Trapping:

Wildlife Management Unit A-F:

Oct. 15, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021

Oct. 15, 2022 - Dec. 31, 2022

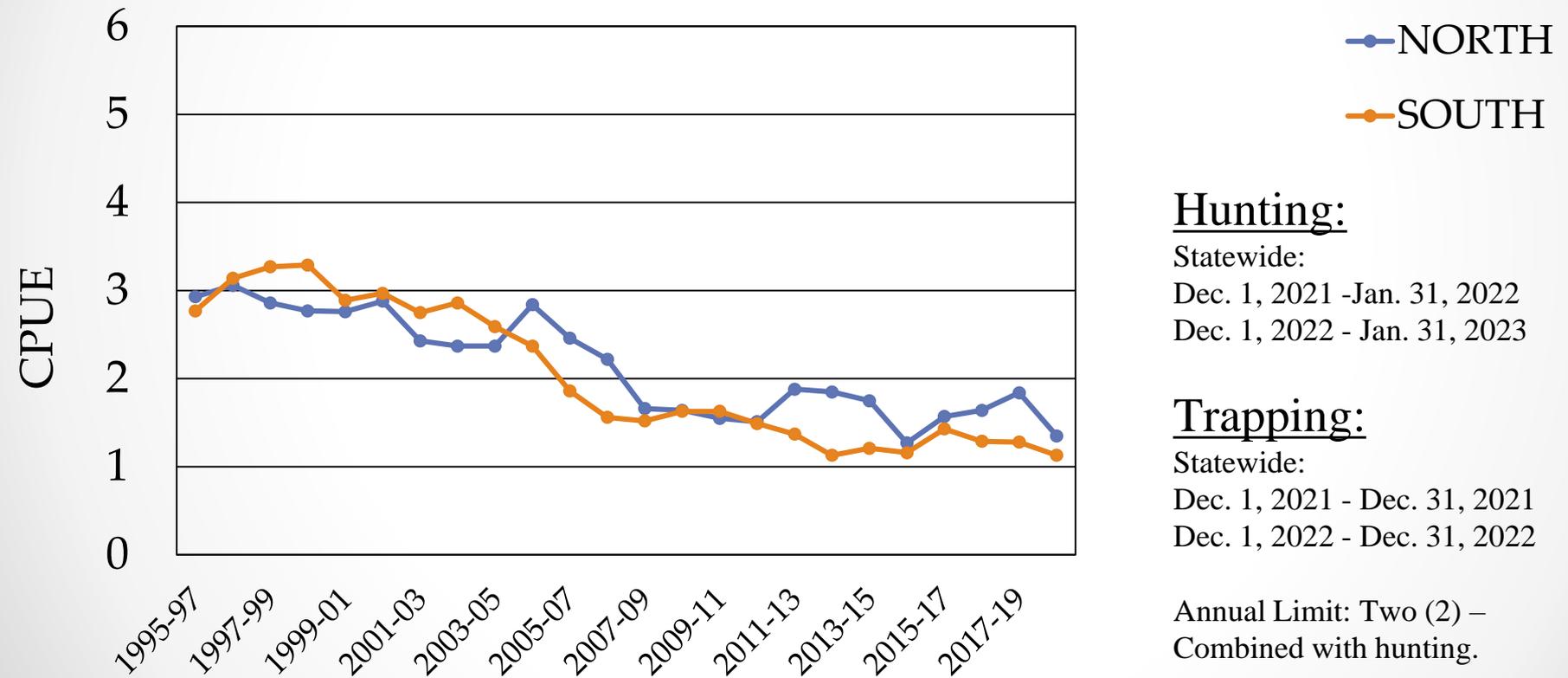
Wildlife Management Unit G-M:

Nov. 1, 2021 - Jan. 15, 2022

Nov. 1, 2022 - Jan. 15, 2023

Fisher

No Proposed Changes:



Fisher

- **Require hunters/trappers to submit lower jaw of fisher at the time of sealing.**

2021-2022 Pheasant and Small Game Proposals



Photo: Dan Bergeron



No Proposed Changes 2021-2022

Current Small Game Hunting Seasons

Species	Dates	Wildlife Management Units	Daily Bag Limit
Ruffed Grouse	Oct 1- Dec 31	All	4
Gray Squirrel	Sept 1-Jan 31	All	5
Snowshoe Hare	Oct 1--Mar 31	A, B, C1, C2, D1, D2, E, F, G, J1	3
		H1, H2, I1, I2, J2, K, L, M	2
Pheasant	Oct 1- Dec 31	All	2
Quail, Chukar, Hungarian/European Partridge	Oct 1 -Dec 31	All	4
Cottontail Rabbit	<u>Oct 1-Jan 31</u>	H2 K, L, M	2
	Falconry Season: (except for closed areas, see map) Oct 1-Mar 15		



Reduce NEC no-hunt zone based on current data

