

# 2019 Big Game Tag Application Seminar



**Nevada Department of Wildlife**

# OVERVIEW

- Nevada Big Game
- Eligibility
- App Resources
  - What's New
  - Hunt Stats
  - Bonus Points
- How to Apply
- Mistakes to Avoid
- Where to Go!!!



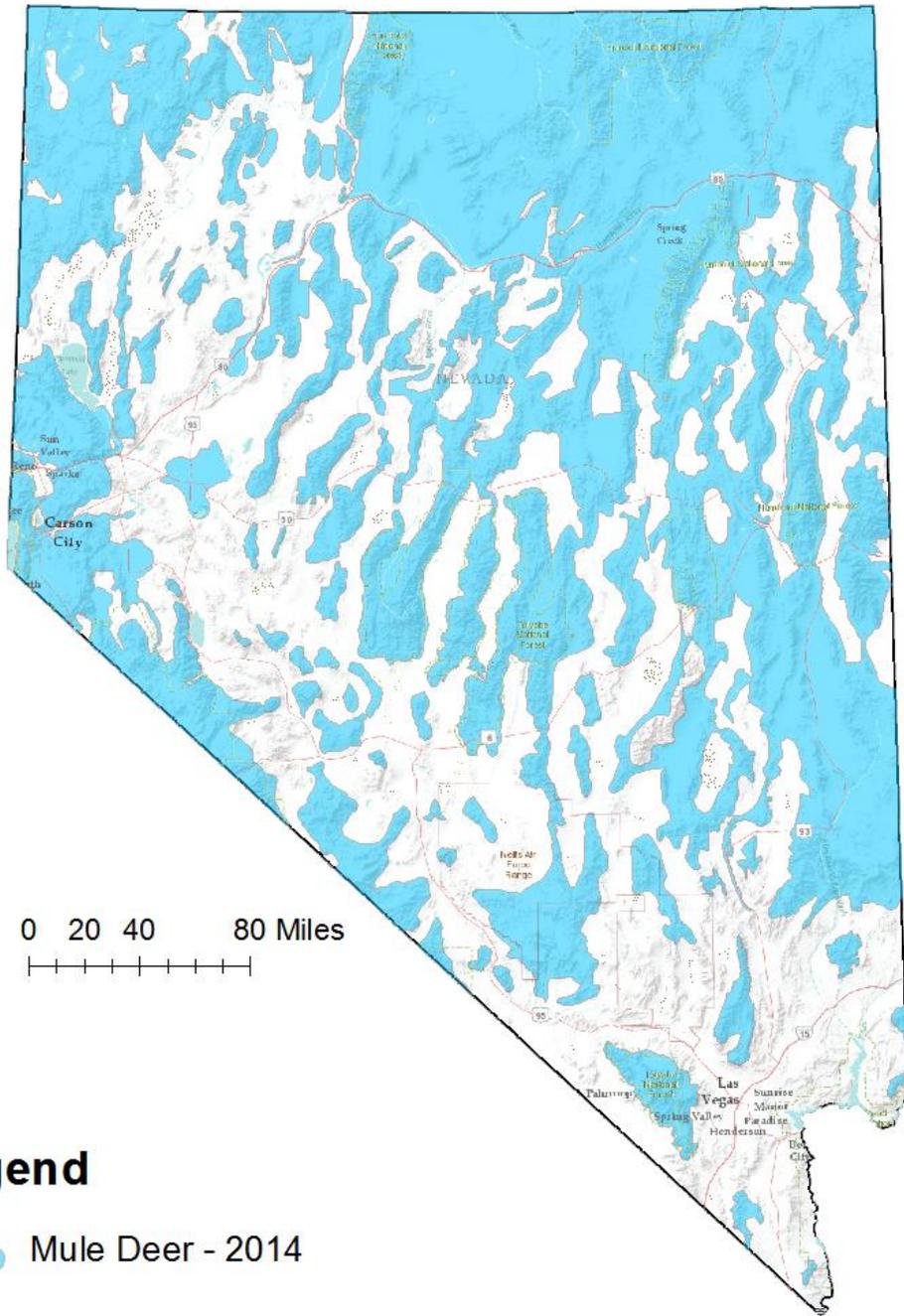
Bushnell

09-18-2016 08:13:50

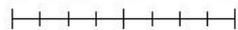
# MULE DEER



# Mule Deer Distribution in Nevada



0 20 40 80 Miles

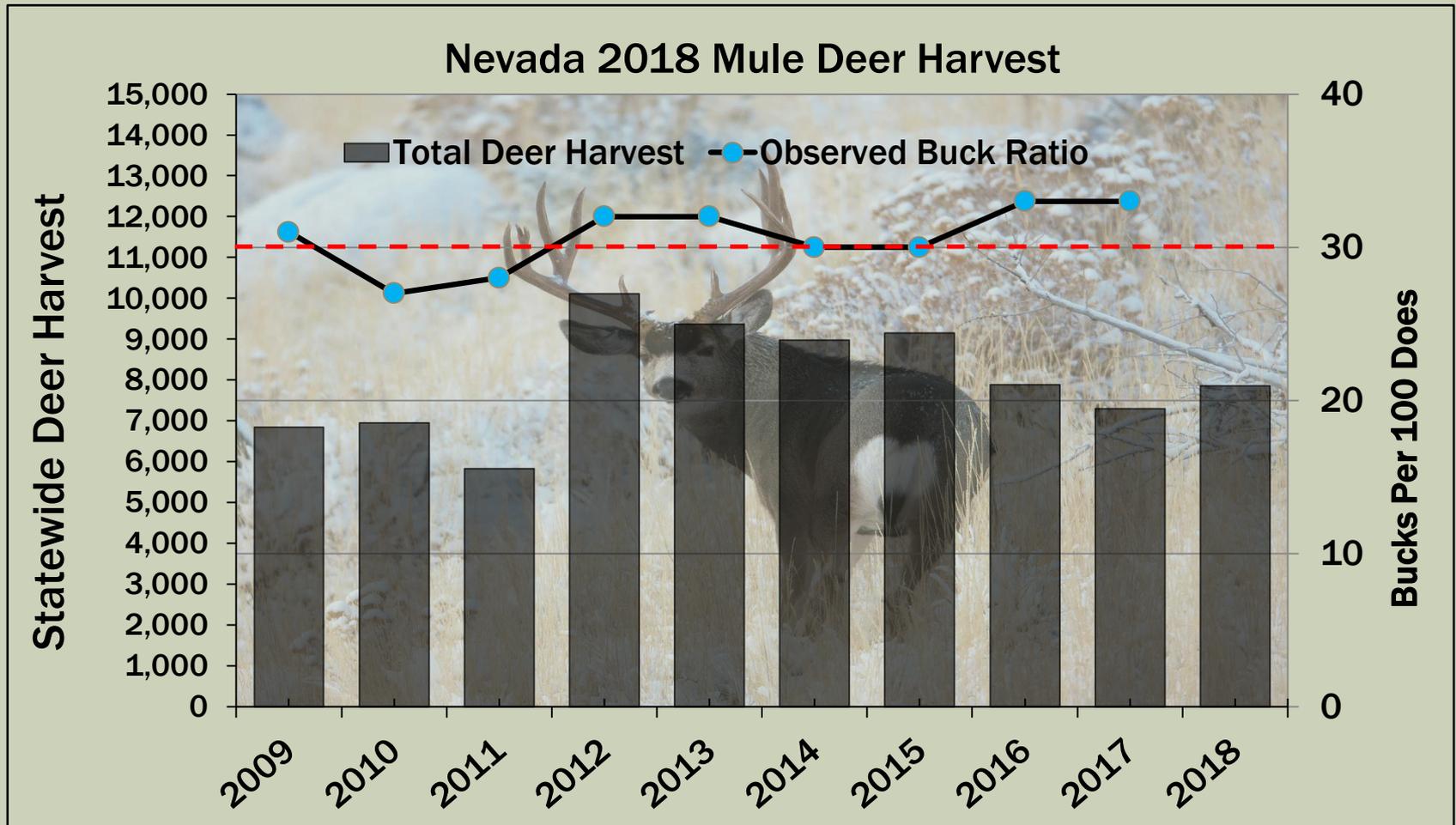


## Legend



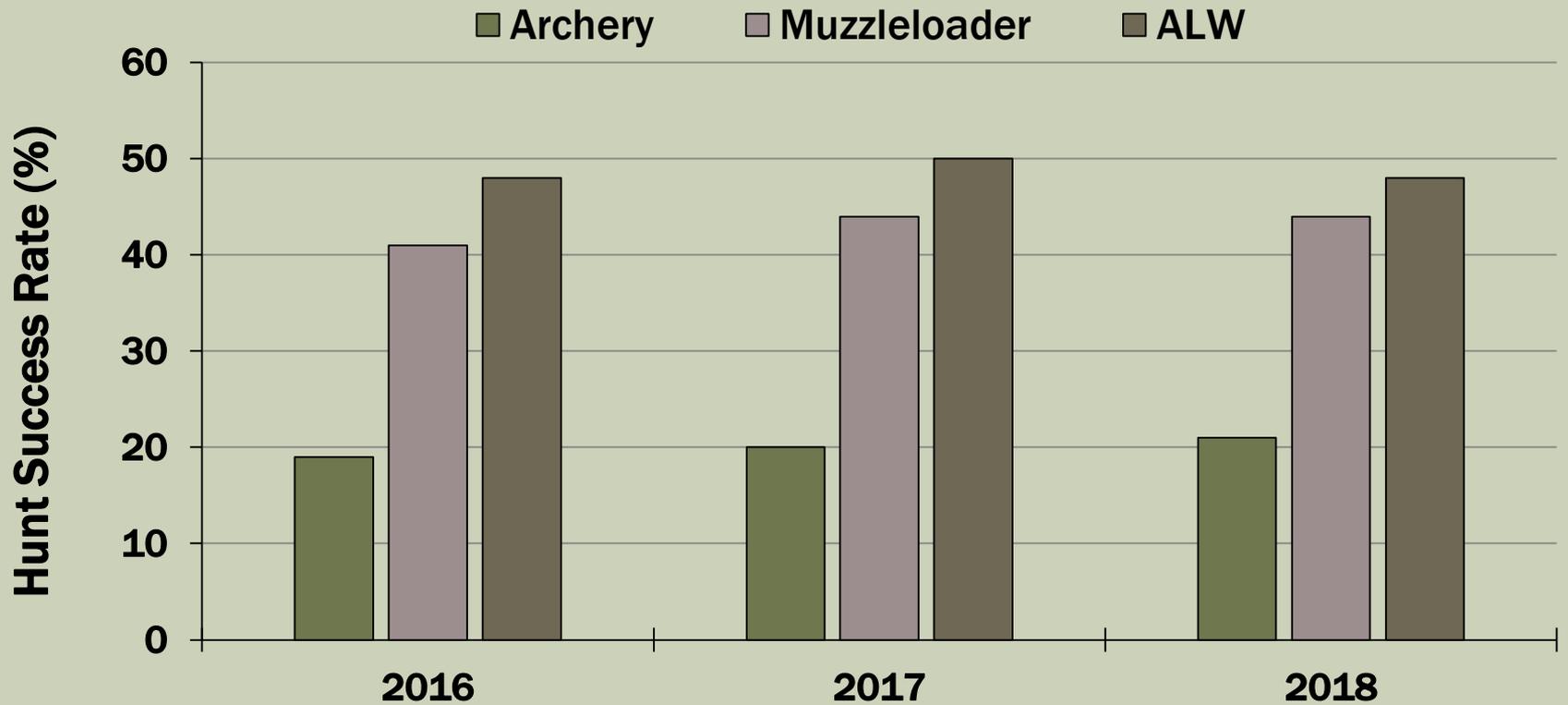
Mule Deer - 2014

# DEER STATUS: HERD TREND

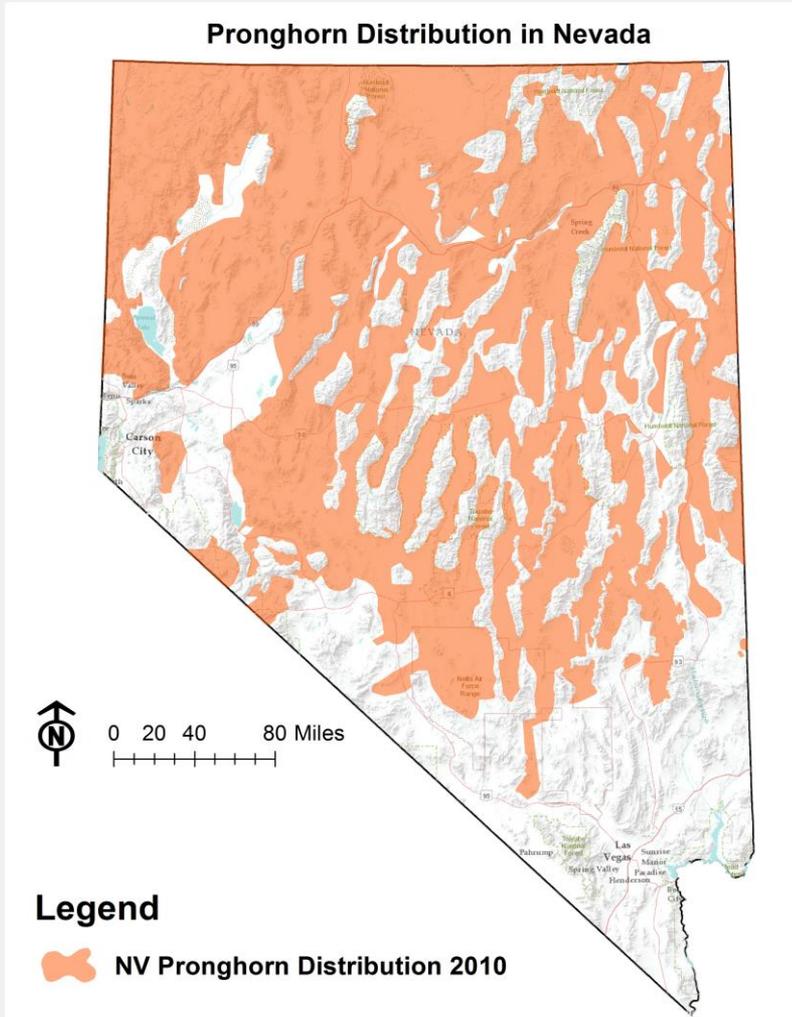


# DEER STATUS: HERD TREND

## Resident Antlered Mule Deer Hunt Success



# PRONGHORN



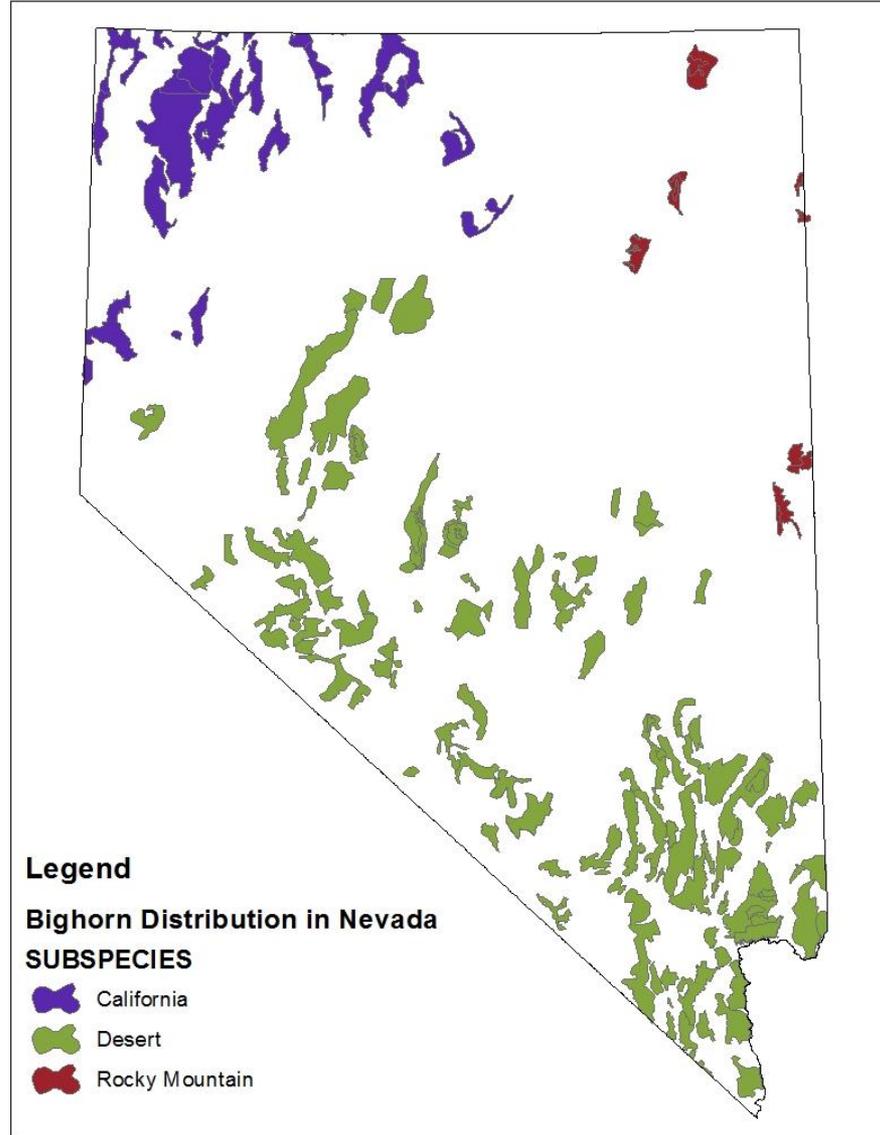
# BIGHORN



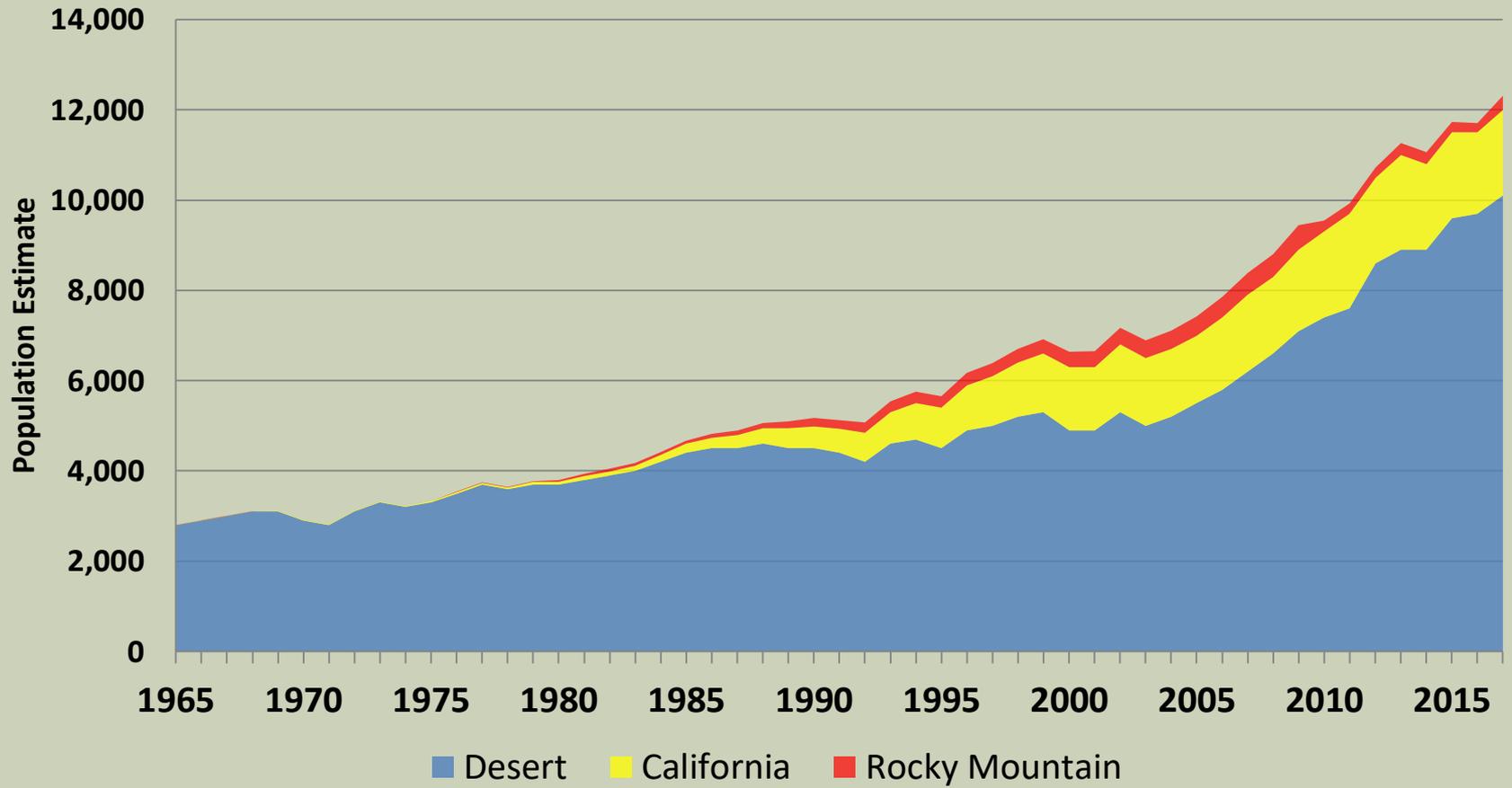
# Bighorn Distribution in Nevada



Bushnell



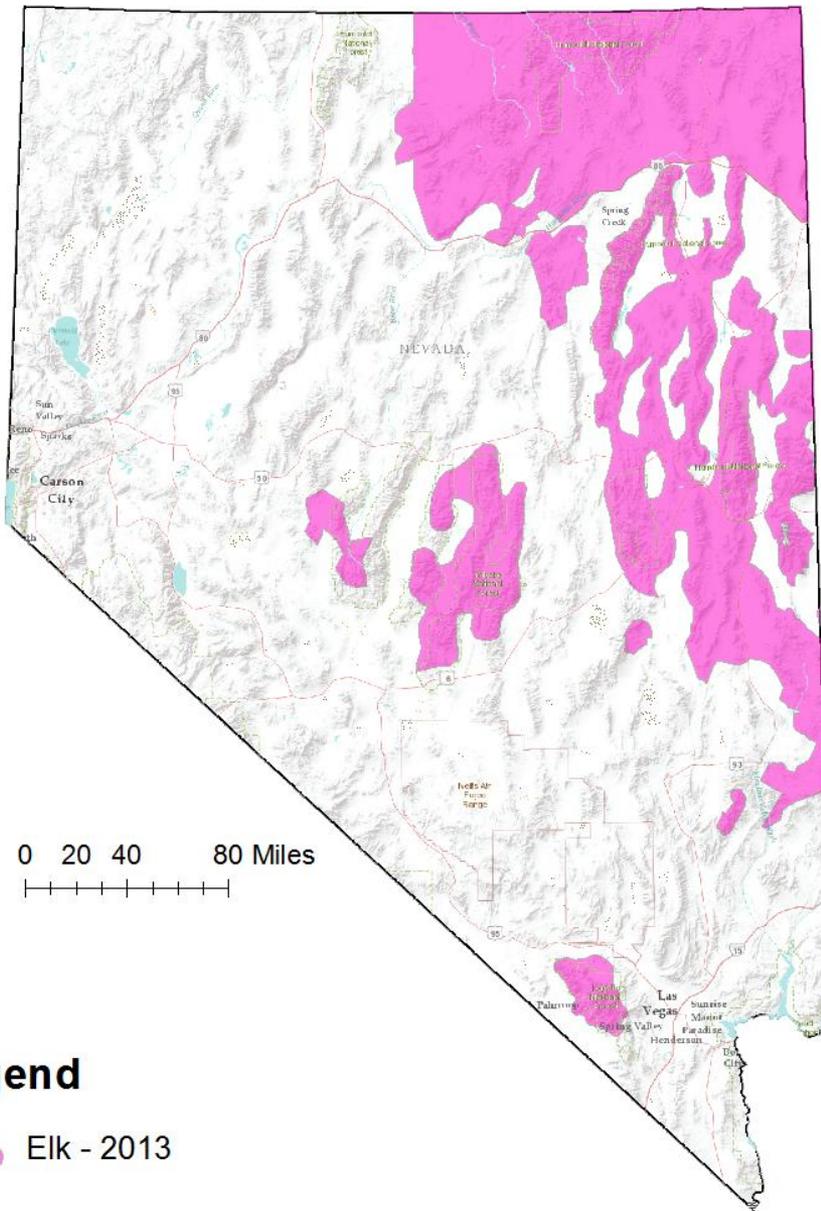
# BIGHORN STATUS HERD TREND



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK



# Elk Distribution in Nevada

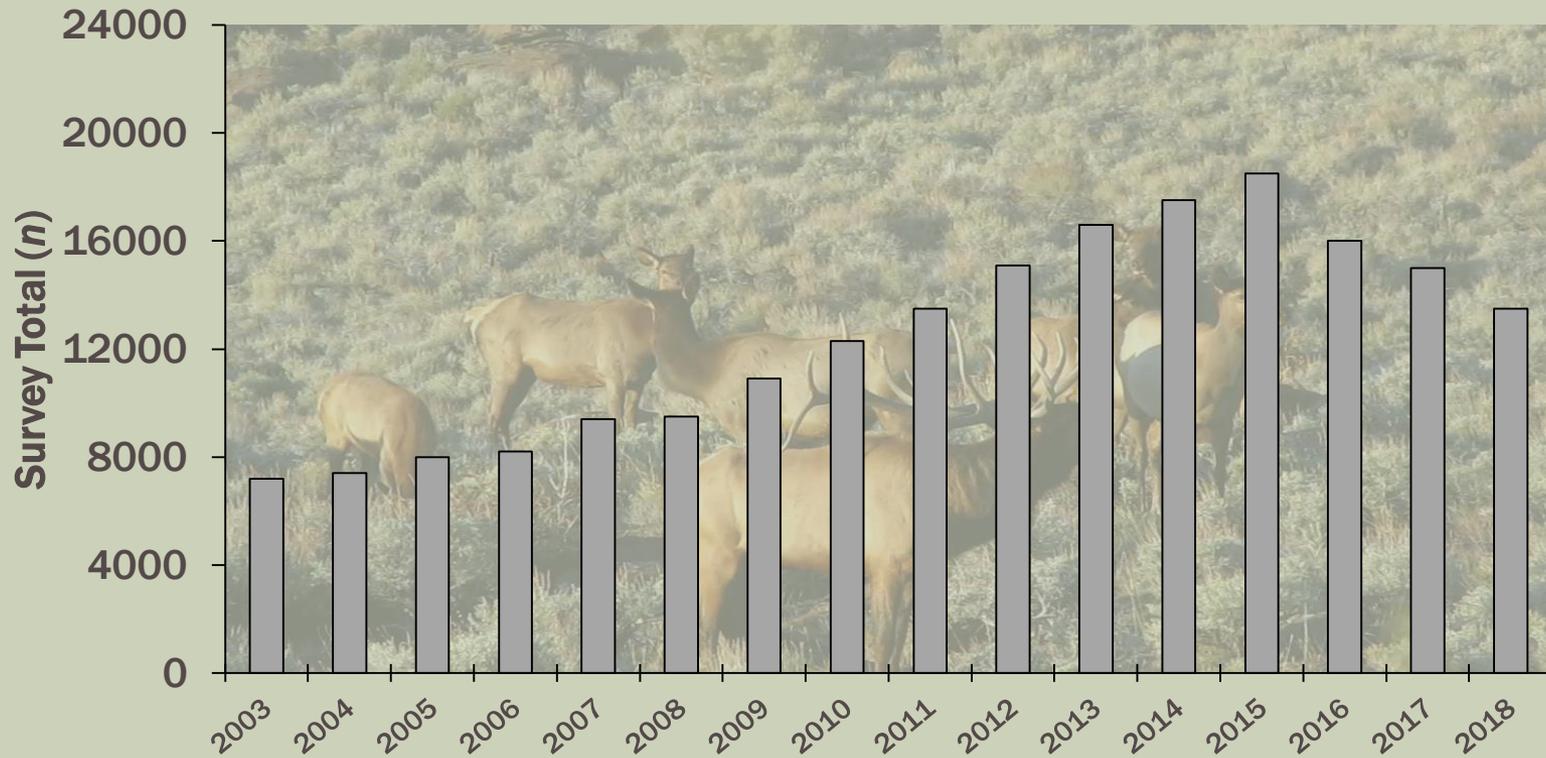


**Legend**  
Elk - 2013



# ELK STATUS: HERD TREND

Population Estimate: 2003-2018



# HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- All first time applicants for a Nevada big game tag must:
  - Take and pass Hunter Education in Nevada OR
  - Show proof of Hunter Education from another state
- If you are born after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960 you are required to show proof of hunter education
- Pre-Register Hunter Education at least 7 days prior to the application deadline (April 29<sup>th</sup>)

# WAITING PERIOD ELIGIBILITY

<b>If drawn for:</b>	<b>Waiting Period</b>
<b>Bighorn Sheep - Ram</b>	<b>10 years</b>
<b>Bighorn Sheep - Ewe</b>	<b>2 Years</b>
<b>Elk - Bull</b>	<b>7 Years</b>
<b>Antelope - Buck</b>	<b>3 Years</b>
<b>Mountain Goat</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
<b>Black Bear - Successful</b>	<b>5 Years</b>

# WHAT'S NEW IN 2019

- Application deadline extended (April 29, 11:00 pm).
- Applicants for mule deer and antelope hunts may apply for both sexes in same draw but may only receive one tag per species.
- Harvested bighorn sheep ewes are not required to be physically inspected at a Department office.
- Successful applicants for bighorn sheep ewe and mountain goat must complete a mandatory seminar before receiving their tag.

# APPLICATION RESOURCES

## ■ Detailed information about:

- Hunt statistics
- Draw Rates/Tag demand
- Bonus points
- And a whole lot more can all be found online!

[www.ndow.org/Hunt/Resources](http://www.ndow.org/Hunt/Resources)



Hunter Education Licenses Tag Applications

### TOP 10 BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION RESOURCES

So, you want to apply for Nevada Big Game tags but you aren't sure where to start. Well, check out this handy list of Top 10 resources you will need to do your homework and make your decisions about which tags you will apply for.

[Tutorial on how to use Bonus Points](#)  
[Tutorial on how to use Big Game Statistics](#)

1. **What's New and Notable Season Overlaps:** Changes to the big game seasons and important advisories for certain hunts and seasons.
2. **Bonus Points:** Current and previous years draw results by bonus point category.
3. **Hunt Information Sheets:** Valuable information for each unit group about the terrain, vegetation, recommended hunting spots, road access, gas stations, etc.
4. **Application Deadlines and Dates:** Important deadlines and dates for big game tag application deadline.
5. **Big Game Season Tables and Special Hunts:** List of Season Dates by Species, Weapon Class and Unit Group along with description of all the special hunts offered.
6. **Hunt Unit Maps:** Download, print or view interactive maps online.
7. **Application and Draw Eligibility:** Restrictions and guidelines for application and draw eligibility by species/subspecies, and animal class (i.e., bull vs cow elk).
8. **Hunts Stats and Tag Demand:** current and previous year's hunt results and basic tag demand statistics.
9. **Big Game Seasons and Application Regulations Brochure:** Everything you need to know about the current big game seasons, regulations, and application process.
10. **License Tags and Fees:** The cost of resident and nonresident licenses, tags, and application fees

# IMPORTANT DATES - 2019

	<b>MAIN DRAW</b>	<b>SECOND DRAW</b>	<b>FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE</b>
<b>Application Period Opens</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>June 7</b>	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Application Period Deadline</b>	<b>April 29</b>	<b>June 24</b>	<b>Hunt Dependent</b>
<b>Bonus Point Application</b>	<b>May 6</b>	<b>July 1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Results Release Date</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>July 12</b>	<b>N/A</b>

# HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

## [NDOWLICENSING.COM](http://NDOWLICENSING.COM)

The screenshot displays the Nevada Department of Wildlife website. At the top left is the Nevada Department of Wildlife logo. To its right is the text "Nevada Department of Wildlife". On the top right, there are "Sign Up" and "Login" buttons. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "Explore Licenses", "Vessel Registration", "Apply For Tags", "AIS Decal", and "Get Certified". The main content area features a large image of a pronghorn antelope. Overlaid on the left side of this image is the text "Get Online Get Outside. The 2019 Big Game Tag application period is now open! Please call 1-855-542-6369 if you need assistance." with a "Get Started" button. Below the main image is a section titled "The Nevada Department of Wildlife Online Licensing System" with a list of services: Purchase Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping licenses; Apply for Tags; Return Tags (with a link to download a form); Vessel Registration Renewals; AIS Decals; Big Game Bonus Points; Application History; Submit Harvest Questionnaires; and Coming soon: Check eligibilities and waiting periods. To the right of this list is a grid of four tiles: "TUTORIALS" (Learn how to submit your harvest return card and more! with a "Videos" button), "HUNT" (Resident, Non-Resident, and Specialty hunting licenses. with a "Purchase Now" button), "BOAT" (Vessel registration renewals with a "Renew Now" button), and "FISH" (Resident, Non-Resident, and Specialty fishing licenses. with a "Purchase Now" button). At the bottom right of the grid is a "Support" button with a question mark icon.

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Sign Up Login

Explore Licenses Vessel Registration Apply For Tags AIS Decal Get Certified

**Get Online**  
**Get Outside.**

The 2019 Big Game Tag application period is now open!  
Please call 1-855-542-6369 if you need assistance.

Get Started

**The Nevada Department of Wildlife Online Licensing System**

- Purchase Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping licenses
- Apply for Tags
- Return Tags ([click here to download form](#))
- Vessel Registration Renewals
- AIS Decals
- Big Game Bonus Points
- Application History
- Submit Harvest Questionnaires
- Coming soon:
  - Check eligibilities and waiting periods

**TUTORIALS**  
Learn how to submit your harvest return card and more!  
Videos

**HUNT**  
Resident, Non-Resident, and Specialty hunting licenses.  
Purchase Now

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Vessel registration renewals  
Renew Now

**FISH**  
Resident, Non-Resident, and Specialty fishing licenses.  
Purchase Now

Support

# APPLICATION STRATEGY: CHOICES

- Applicants may select up to 5 different hunt choices for each species and gender (in most cases).
- The order of your choices can influence whether or not you draw a tag (refer to bonus point tables).
- Applications are evaluated **1<sup>st</sup> Choice** first, **2<sup>nd</sup> Choice** second, and so on.
  - We recommend ordering choices from most difficult to draw (**1<sup>st</sup> Choice**) to least difficult to draw (**5<sup>th</sup> Choice**).

# APPLICATION STRATEGY: BONUS POINTS

- Applicant is awarded 1 bonus point for every unsuccessful application.
- Bonus points accumulate separately for each species and sex.
  - For example, bonus points accrue independently for bull elk vs. cow elk.
- Bonus points increase your chance of drawing but do not guarantee you will draw a tag.

# HOW DOES THE DRAW WORK?

An application receives **1** random number for the current year. The application receives additional numbers equal to the square of the bonus point total (if applicable). The lowest random number generated for the application is evaluated in the draw (aka, draw number).

- **Antlered Elk – Any Legal Weapon – 0 Bonus Points**

Application receives 1 random number

- **Antelope – Horns Longer – Any Legal Weapon – 4 Bonus Points**

Bonus points are squared:  $4 \times 4 = 16$

Add **1** number for current year app:  $16 + 1 = \underline{17}$  numbers

- **Mountain Goat – 23 Bonus Points**

Bonus point calculation:  $23 \times 23 = 529 + 1 = \underline{530}$  numbers

# HOW DOES THE DRAW WORK (CONT.)?

- Keep in mind, there is no order to the draw. All applications are evaluated iteratively beginning with the lowest draw number, then second lowest, then third lowest, etc. until all applications have been evaluated.
- Why is this important?
  - You could draw a spike elk tag over an antlered elk tag, a horns-shorter antelope tag over a horns-longer antelope tag, or an antlerless mule deer tag over an antlered mule deer tag.

# DRAW SIMULATION

Twelve applications submitted by 10 hunters with varying bonus point totals were evaluated during a simulation of the draw. Results would then be evaluated based on the order of the draw numbers regardless of species or sex. (hunter 10, then hunter 8, etc.)

```
# A tibble: 12 x 4
# Groups:   applicant [12]
  applicant          bonus_pts n_draw_numbers draw_number
  <fct>           <dbl>         <dbl>         <int>
1 hunter 10 - mountain goat      25           626             2
2 hunter 8 - antlered elk        11           122             14
3 hunter 9 - antlered deer         6            37             61
4 hunter 1 - spike elk            3            10            129
5 hunter 6 - hle antelope         7            50            158
6 hunter 2 - antlered deer         5            26            160
7 hunter 5 - bighorn             15           226            233
8 hunter 3 - antlered deer         0             1            302
9 hunter 7 - antlerless elk        2             5            352
10 hunter 1 - antlered elk          3            10            874
11 hunter 6 - hse antelope          3            10           1710
12 hunter 4 - antlerless deer       0             1           9407
> |
```

*Note: the Nevada Big Game Draw is conducted by an independent organization (Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc). The draw process was replicated using an open-source statistical software package to produce the results presented above.*

# PARTY HUNTS

- Only a single draw number is considered in the draw.
- To determine bonus points for a party application, add all bonus points in the party and divide by party size. Round value to the nearest whole number (i.e., point averaging):

$$\frac{5+3+1+2+7 \text{ (Points)}}{5 \text{ (Party Size)}} = 3.6 \rightarrow \underline{4 \text{ Points}}$$

- Mixed residency party applications are allowed but remaining quota must be greater than or equal to the party size by residency.
- If a party leader withdraws their application, applications for the remaining members will be converted from “party” status to “individual” status.



## MISTAKES TO AVOID



- Reversing choices: Least difficult to draw as 1<sup>st</sup> Choice, most difficult to draw as 5<sup>th</sup> Choice.
- Selecting only 1 Choice on your application.
- Returning an awarded tag (for any reason) within 2 weeks of the opening date of the season.
- Failing to review your tag before hunting.

# WHERE TO APPLY FOR BIGHORN?

## Top Units for Desert Bighorn ('16-'18):

Unit	Tags	Avg Score	Max Score
282	14	170 1/8	179 2/8
263	28	165 1/8	178 6/8
268	89	161 6/8	175 6/8
244	17	161 4/8	176 4/8
162, 163	26	153 4/8	173 5/8

## Top Units for Trophy Cali Bighorn ('16-'18):

Unit	Hunters	Avg Score	Max Score
051	13	158 2/8	177 4/8
031	16	160 1/8	169 4/8
041	3	156 4/8	172 3/8
035	16	150 5/8	163 1/8



Desert Hunts with best opportunity to draw a tag (draw rate is >10%):

- 213 Late
- 243
- 212 Late

# WHERE TO APPLY FOR ELK?

## Top Units for Trophy Elk:

Unit Group	Avg. Main Beam	6 Pt. Plus
078, 105 - 107, 109	50 in	75%
091	47 in	100%
111 - 115	46 in	74%

## Top Hunts for Opportunity:

Unit Group	Draw Rate	6 Pt. Plus
072, 073, 074 Late	51%	68%
075 Late	38%	72%
161 - 164 Late	23%	66%



Sleeper Hunt: ALW 108, 131-132 (18% Draw Rate)  
Super Sleeper: 104, 108, 121

# WHERE TO APPLY?

## Top Units for Quality:

Unit Group	% 4 pt or Greater	Hunt Success
081	87 %	78 %
221-223 Late	77 %	62 %
241-245	76 %	60 %

## Top Units for Opportunity:

Unit Group	Draw Rate	Hunt Success
171 - 173 Early*	69 %	31 %
101 - 109 Early*	70 %	42 %
101 - 109 Mid*	83 %	40 %

\* Any Legal Weapon Hunts

## Mule Deer



# WHERE TO APPLY?

## Top Archery Units for Mule Deer :

Unit Group	Draw Rate	Hunt Success
071-079, 091 Late	9%	57%
131 - 134	16%	62%
111-113	30%	44%
071-079, 091 Early	43%	33%
121 Early	60%	48%



# WHERE TO APPLY?

## Top Units for Quality:

Unit Group	15 Inch+ Horns	Hunt Success
076-179, 081, 091	64%	85%
251	48%	100%
033	46%	84%

## Top Hunts for Opportunity:

Unit Group	Draw Odds	Hunt Success
111-114	23%	75%
078, 105*, 121	25%	90%
041, 042 Late	27%	81%

## Pronghorn



# SPECIALTY TAGS

## ■ Silver State Tag

Recipient may hunt statewide with any weapon Aug 1<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> (same as Governor's Tag). Anyone can apply even if they are in a waiting period. If successful, all other applications for the same species are ineligible and bonus points are accrued.

## ■ Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Tag

You may apply for a PIW tag for a given species if you are eligible for that species. The recipient of the PIW tag may hunt any open unit and season but must use the identified weapon class. If successfully drawn, all bonus points are lost and the recipient will enter into a waiting period (if applicable).

## ■ Dream Tag

There are no eligibility restrictions in applying for Dream tags but the draw occurs in early July after all other draws. The recipient of the Dream tag may hunt any open unit and season but must use the identified weapon class. If successfully drawn, you must return any awarded tags from another draw for the same species in the same hunt year.

# QUESTIONS?

Top 10 Application Resources available at:  
[www.ndow.org/Hunt/Resources](http://www.ndow.org/Hunt/Resources)

Application Deadline:

**April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 11:00 pm**