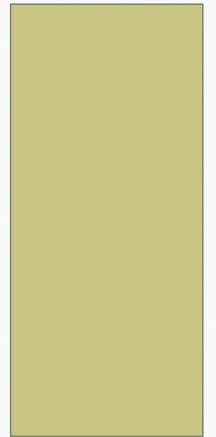


SHORT HISTORY OF AREA 6 DEER HERD

RATIONALE FOR ANTLERLESS HARVESTS



NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE



2012 FALL SURVEY RESULTS

- Statewide – 59 Fawns:100 Does
- Area 10 – 56 Fawns:100 Does
- Area 7 – 54 Fawns:100 Does
- **Area 6 – 74 Fawns:100 Does**

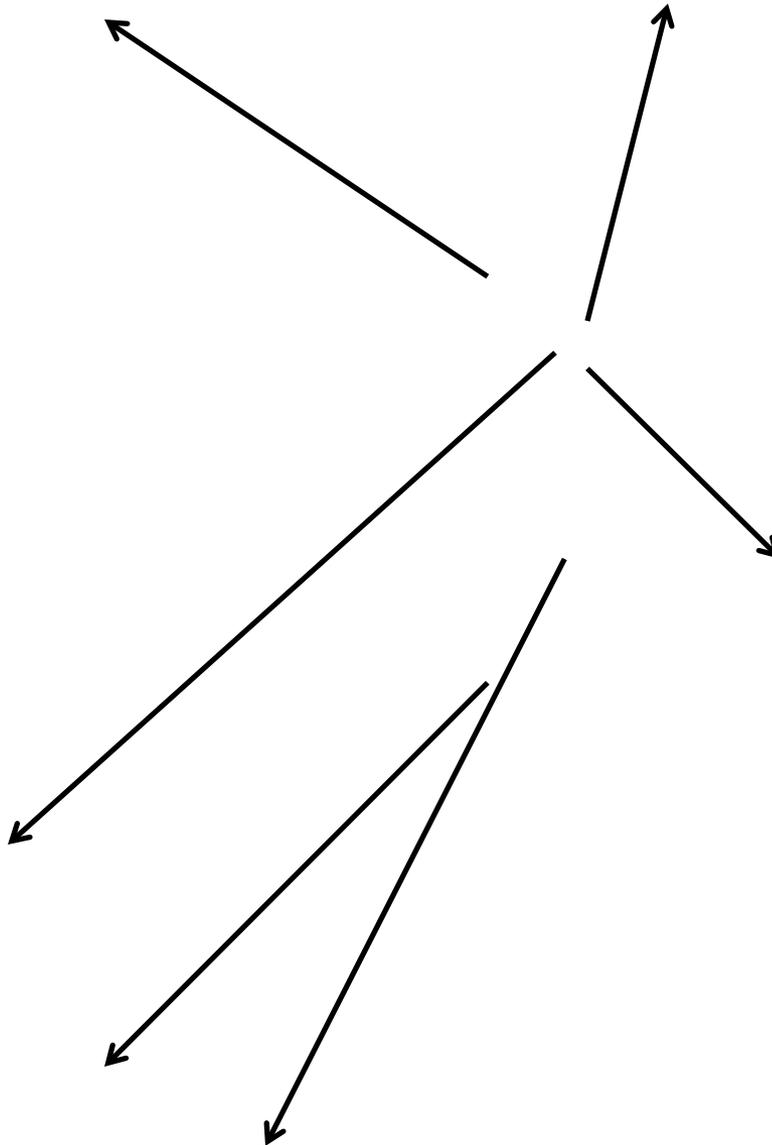
Fall Fawn:Doe Ratio Comparison

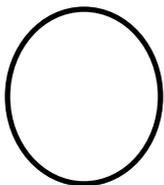
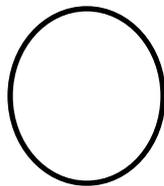
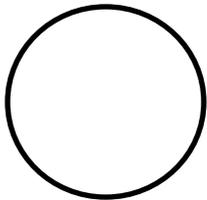
5 Year (2011–2015) Average

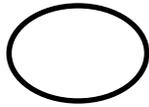
- Area 6 - 71 Fawns:100 Does
- Statewide - 54 Fawns:100 Does





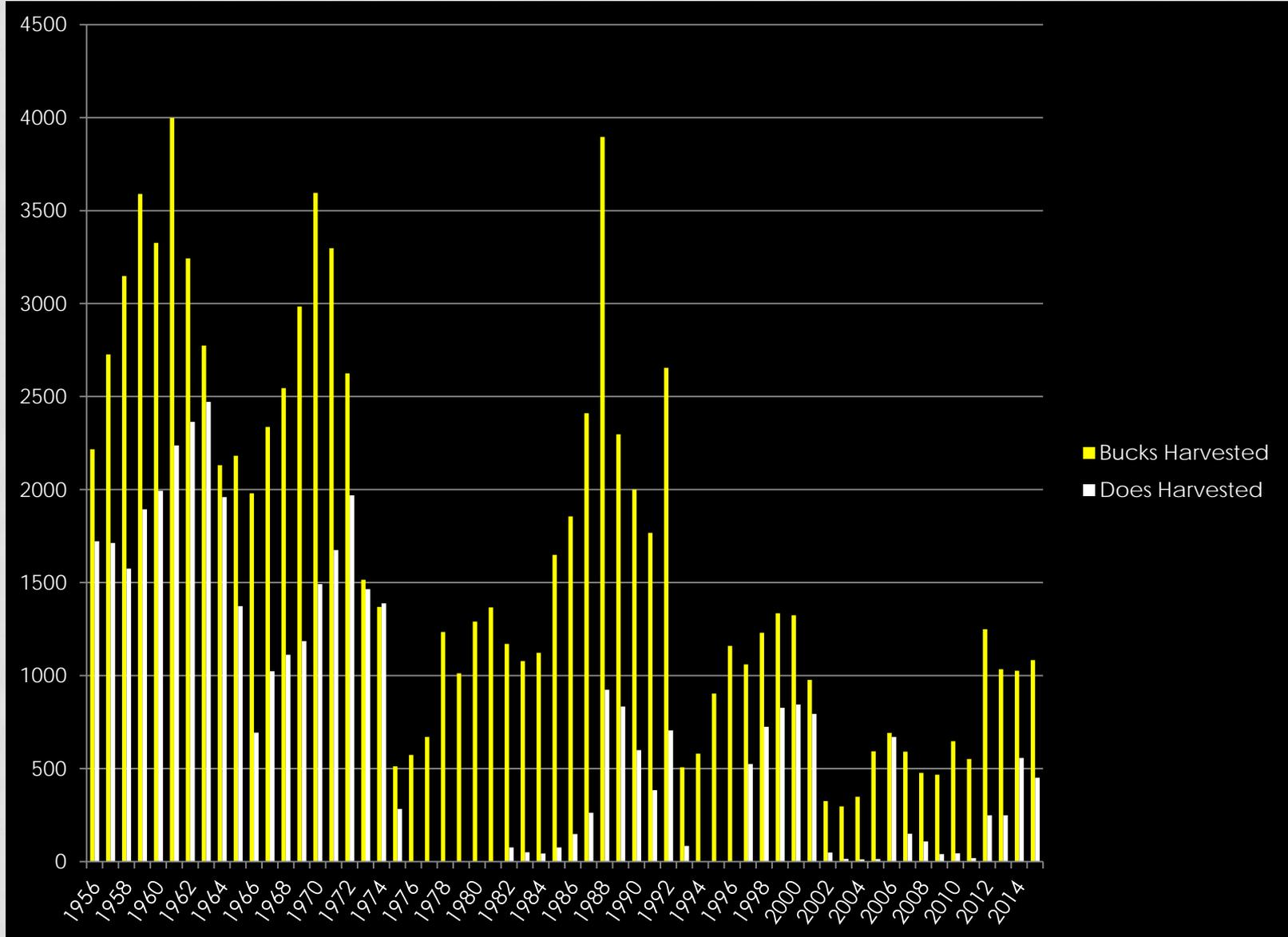








AREA 6 LONG-TERM BUCK HARVEST 1956-2015





**>45,000 acres of kochia seeded on
crucial deer winter range**



WHY KOCHIA??

Provides an immediate forage base

Success with sagebrush plantings and other natives is one in four years at best

The average sites contains at least 10 exotic annual weeds

Deer use on kochia averaged 25–30% on key deer winter ranges in 2003–2004









IMPACTS OF 2001–2002 WINTER ON SOUTHERN WINTER RANGES

Estimated 60–70% fawn loss

Estimated 25–30% adult loss

Estimated 30–40% decrease in the Area Six Deer Herd



2006 EMERGENCY ANTLERLESS MULE DEER HUNT

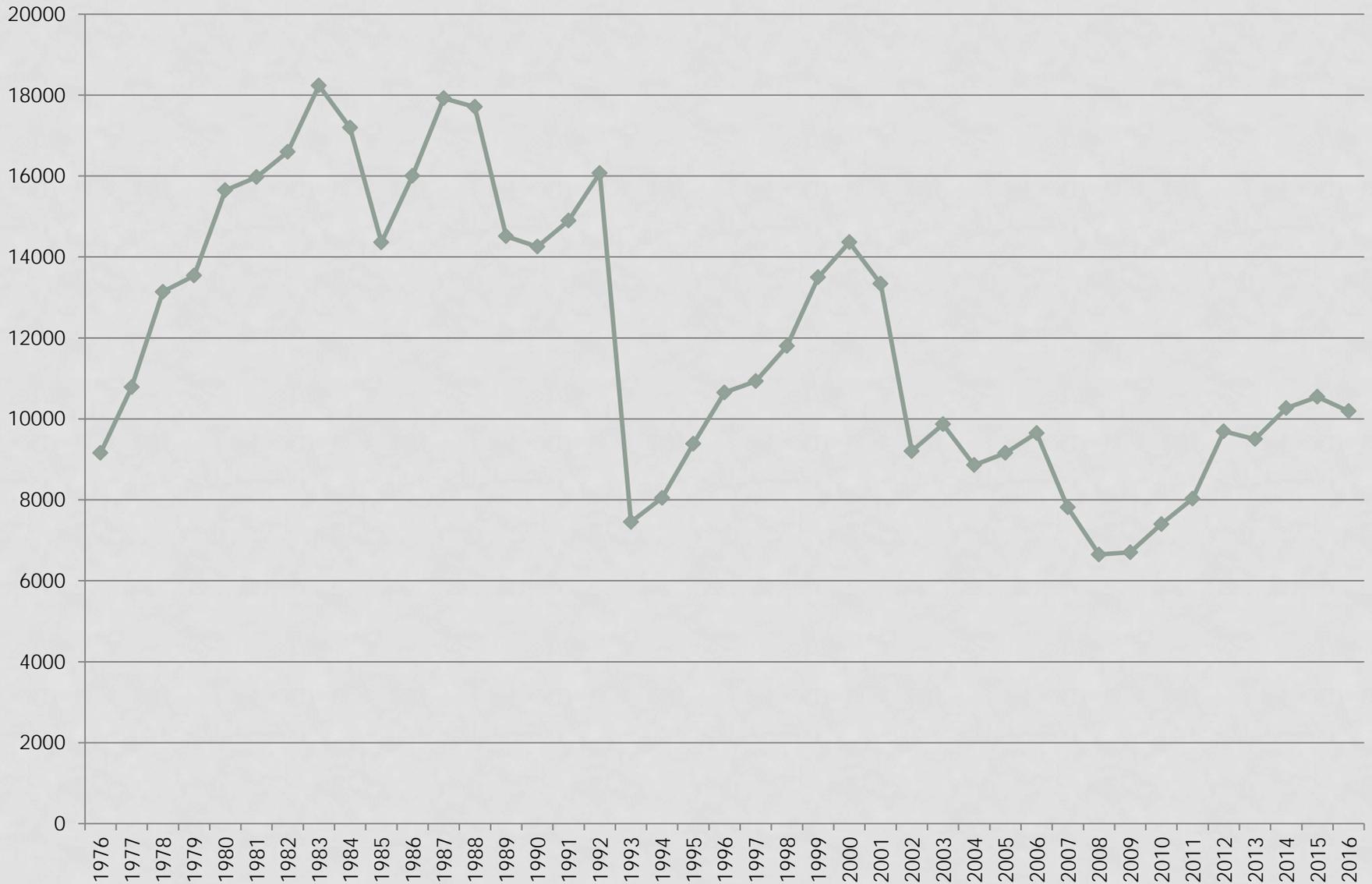
- Issued 1,116 antlerless mule deer tags
Harvested 646 Deer**
- Observed 50% fawn loss during the winter
but far less adult mortality than was
observed in 1992–1993 and 2001–2002**
- Reduction of deer in concert with fire rehab
and high fawn producing capabilities of
Area 6 allowed herd to recover to
population objective of 10,000 by 2015.**



AREA 6 DEER HERD OBJECTIVE 2011–PRESENT

- Maintain deer within confines of winter range carrying capacity through a combination of antlerless and buck harvest (30 bucks: 100 Does)
- Maintain percent of 4pt or better bucks harvested around 40%
- Continue aggressive rehab, promote fire suppression and encourage proper livestock grazing to maintain and enhance past investments

Area 6 Deer Herd Population Estimate



THE IZZENHOOD RANGE WINTERS NEARLY HALF OF THE AREA 6 DEER HERD

- **2016 Hot Pot Fire Consumed 122,000 acres of primarily mule deer winter range in the Izzenhoods**
- **The 2016 Izzenhood fire took out the second largest block of sagebrush on this critical winter ground**
- **Now Approximately 14 square miles remains around Roosters Comb as a mix of intact and rehabbed lands**
- **The area is far too small to support the estimated 4,000 deer that will winter in the area this year**

2016 EMERGENCY ANTLERLESS DEER HUNT RECOMMENDATIONS

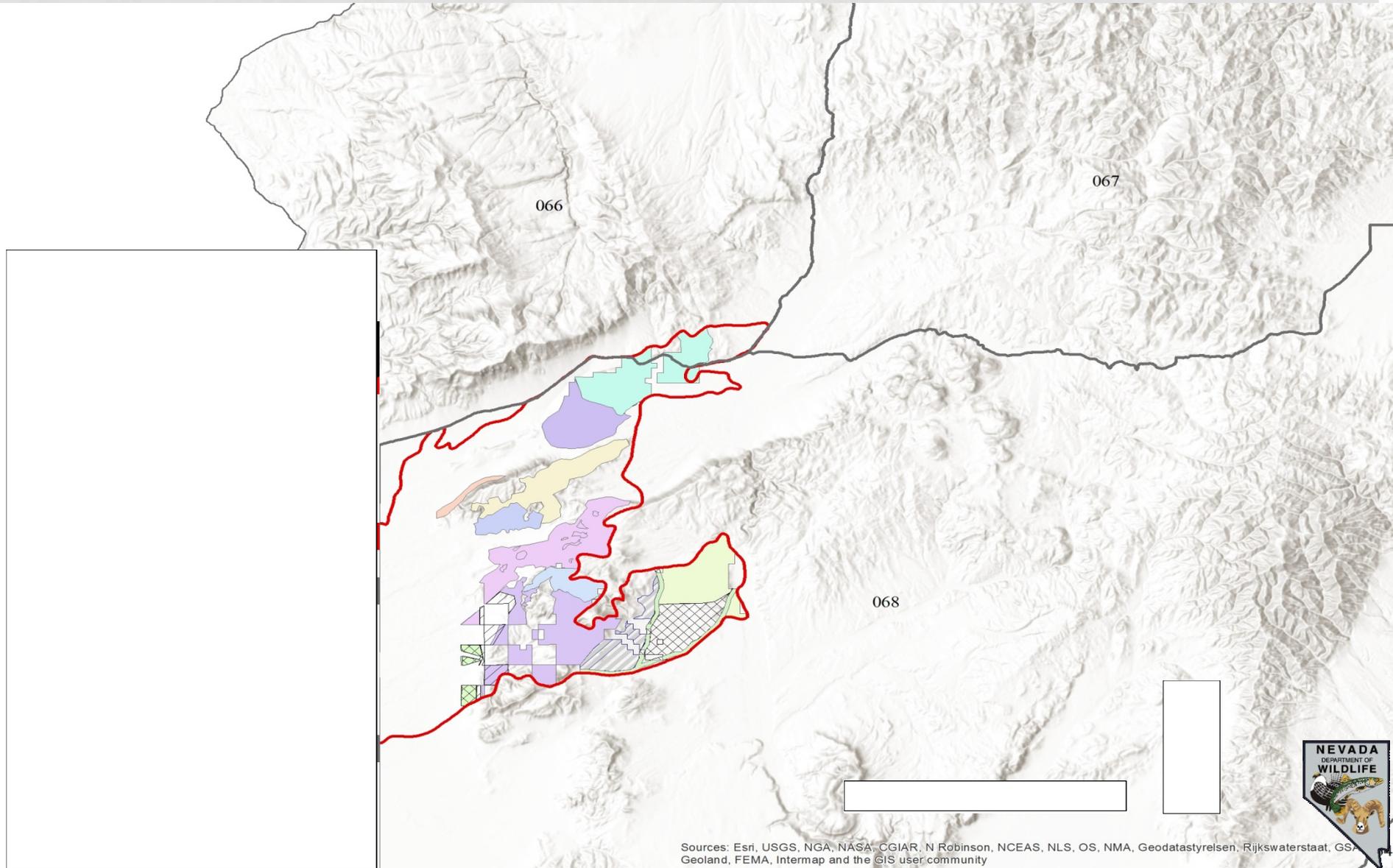
- **Two 14 day hunts with 500 antlerless tags each.**
- **Hunts will avoid conflicts with existing hunts (i.e. late rifle buck and rifle bull elk seasons).**



2016 EMERGENCY ANTLERLESS DEER HUNT AREA



2016 ELKO BLM ES&R FIRE REHAB PLAN FOR HOT POT FIRE



Sources: Esri, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodastatyreisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community



Snowstorm Forage Kochia



BOTTOM LINE

- Issuing 1000 antlerless tags for the emergency hunt will not eliminate the risk of deer starving on winter range, particularly fawns.
- Only eligible if you don't hold a deer tag.
- By harvesting 400–600 does, we will reduce competition on the limited amount of remaining winter range allowing adult deer that survive to be in better body condition.
- This is not a one and done approach. We will need to keep this segment of the Area 6 deer herd below capacity of the winter range as we wait for rehabilitated lands to recover.

RECOMMENDATION

- Request Commission vote to support Department's plan to issue 1,000 antlerless tags in two hunts (500 tags each) during late fall-early winter 2016 so as to reduce the number of mule deer wintering on habitat severely compromised by the Hot Pot and Izzenhood fires.

Questions?

