



# **BLOCK MANAGEMENT**

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**

**A LANDOWNER/HUNTER PARTNERSHIP**



# BLOCK MANAGEMENT – WHAT IS IT?

Block Management is a cooperative effort between Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), private landowners, and public land management agencies to help landowners manage hunting activities and provide free public hunting access to private and isolated public lands.



**Since 1985, Montana's Block Management Program has worked to reduce impacts for private landowners who allow public hunting access to their lands.**



**Participation in Block Management is entirely voluntary. Cooperators do not relinquish any rights by enrolling, and are covered by Montana's Recreational Liability statute, which extends legal protection to landowners who provide hunting access at no charge to hunters.**

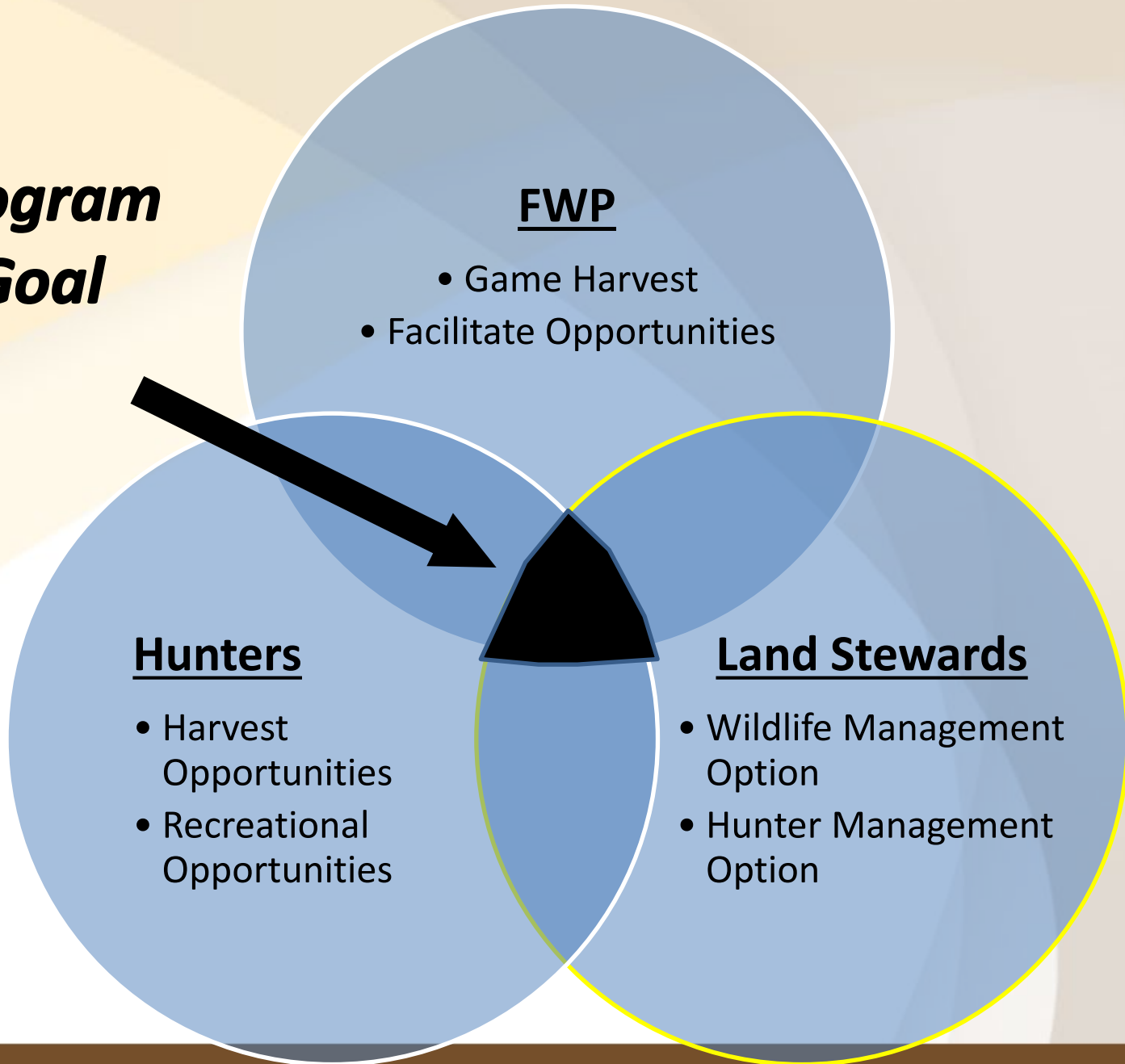


# BLOCK MANAGEMENT GOALS

- Help manage wildlife
- Help manage hunting activities
- Encourage landowners to provide public hunting opportunities
- Provide incentives to landowners to offset public hunting impacts
- Promote good relations between FWP, landowners, and hunters



# ***Program Goal***



# LANDOWNER INCENTIVES

- Complimentary Sportsman's License
- Limited Liability Protection
- Livestock Loss Reimbursement
- Compensation (up to \$50,000) to offset potential public hunting impacts
- FWP also provides signs, maps, permission books, and, on some BMAs, staff to patrol and assist hunters



# HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Landowners voluntarily come to FWP wishing to enroll in the program

OR

- Department staff identify properties and landowners that would be a good fit and approach them regarding enrollment





# HOW DOES IT WORK? – Cont'd

Landowners and properties are then evaluated and enrollment decisions are based on the following criteria:

- Total acreage
- Habitat type and quality
- Potential hunting opportunities
- Regional wildlife management needs
- History of public access



# HOW DOES IT WORK? – Cont'd

Once a property is enrolled, the Department works with the landowner to develop Block Management Area (BMA) rules and determine how permission will be issued.

The landowner retains all of their rights and determine the ranch rules for their particular BMA. Each BMA is unique in terms of ranch rules and hunter responsibilities.

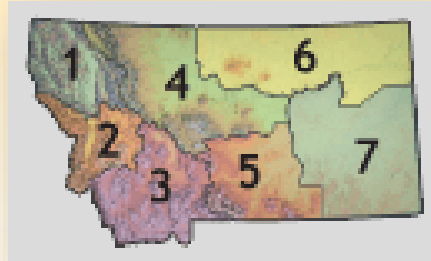


# LANDOWNER COMPENSATION

- Impact payments are often given to landowners to help offset any impacts to their property from allowing free public hunting
  - \$1000 enrollment payment
  - \$17/HD impact payment
  - 5% weed management payment
  
- Impact payments are calculated based on the number of Hunter Day's a property receives



# 2023 STATEWIDE STATISTICS



- 1,300 + COOPERATORS ENROLLED
- 900 + BLOCK MANAGEMENT AREA'S
- 7 MILLION + ACRES ENROLLED

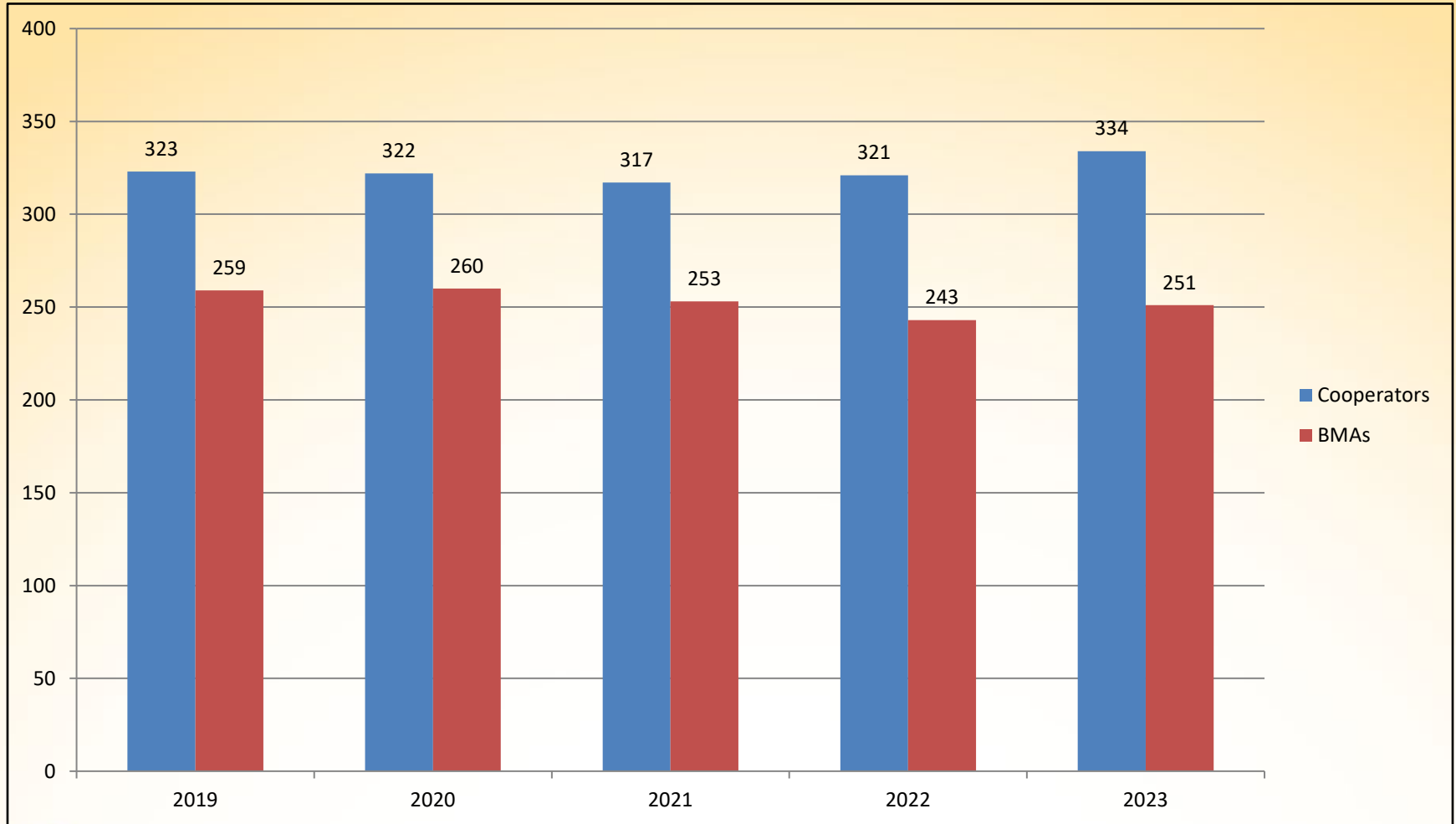


# ***2023 REGION 7 STATISTICS***

- 334 COOPERATORS ENROLLED
- 251 BLOCK MANAGEMENT AREA'S
- 2,072,698 MILLION ACRES ENROLLED
  - 1,526,160 Private Acres
  - 546,538 State and Federal Acres

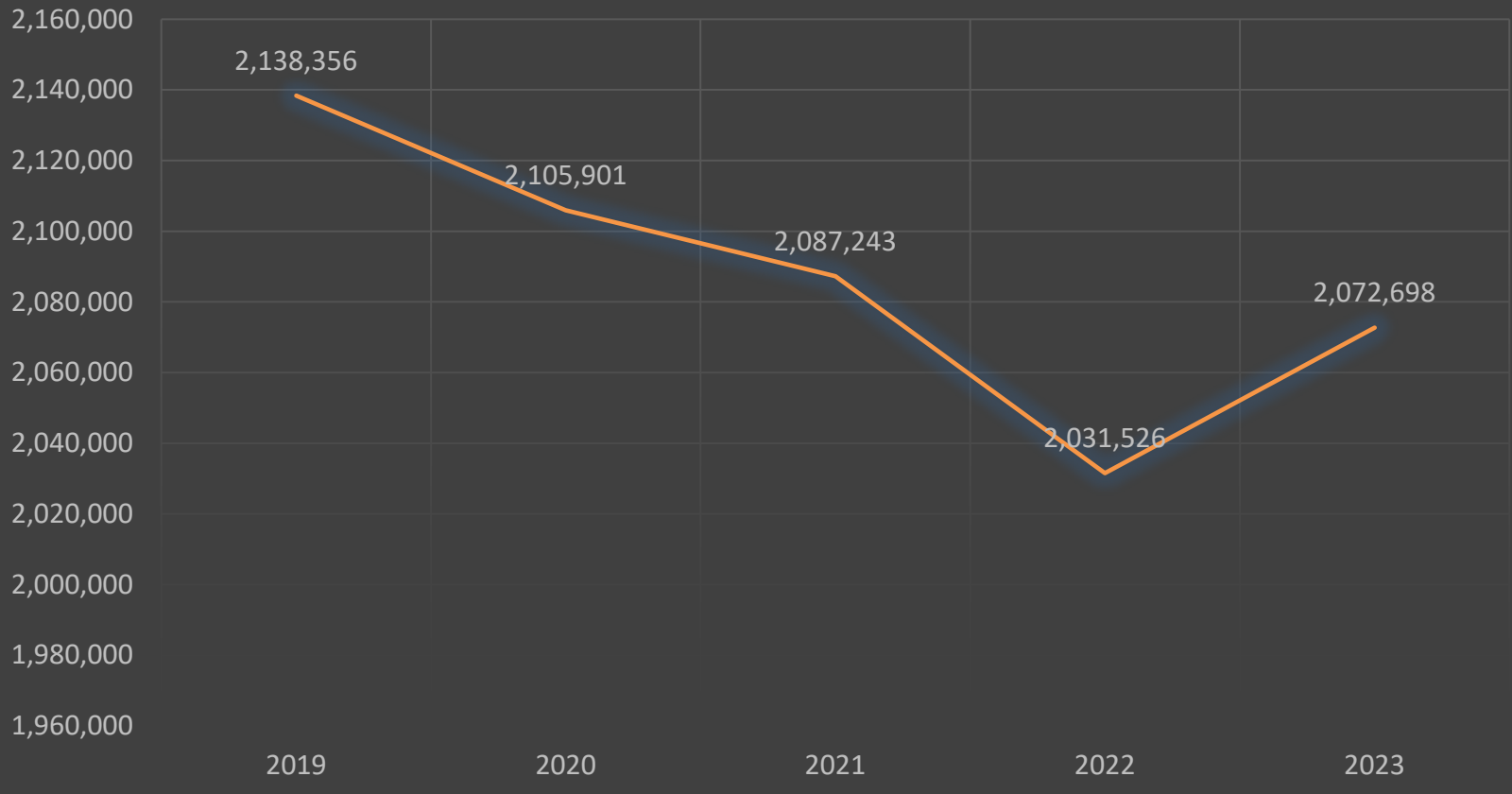


# Region 7 Cooperators/BMAs



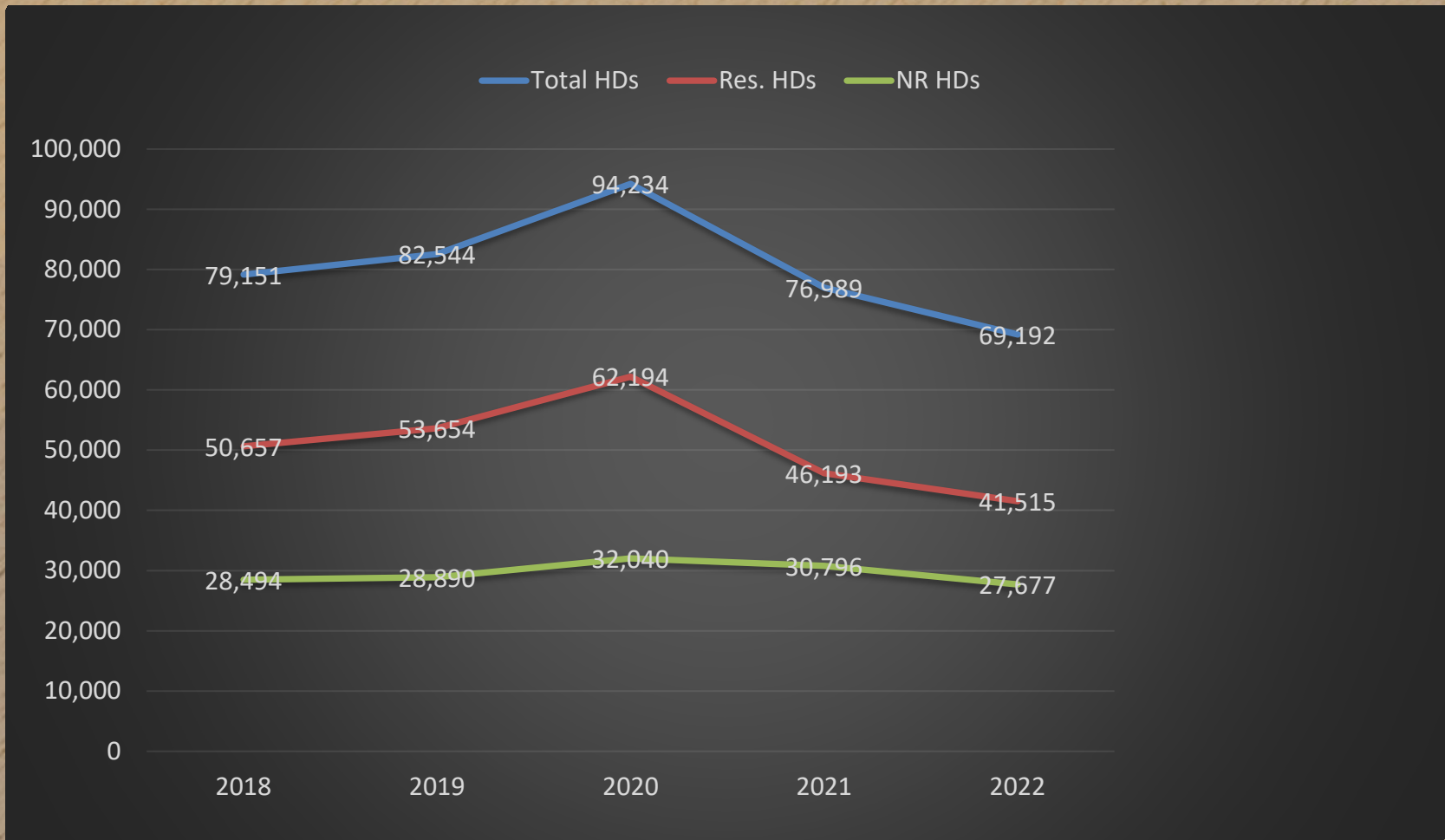
# Acres

— Acres



## ***ENROLLED ACREAGE***



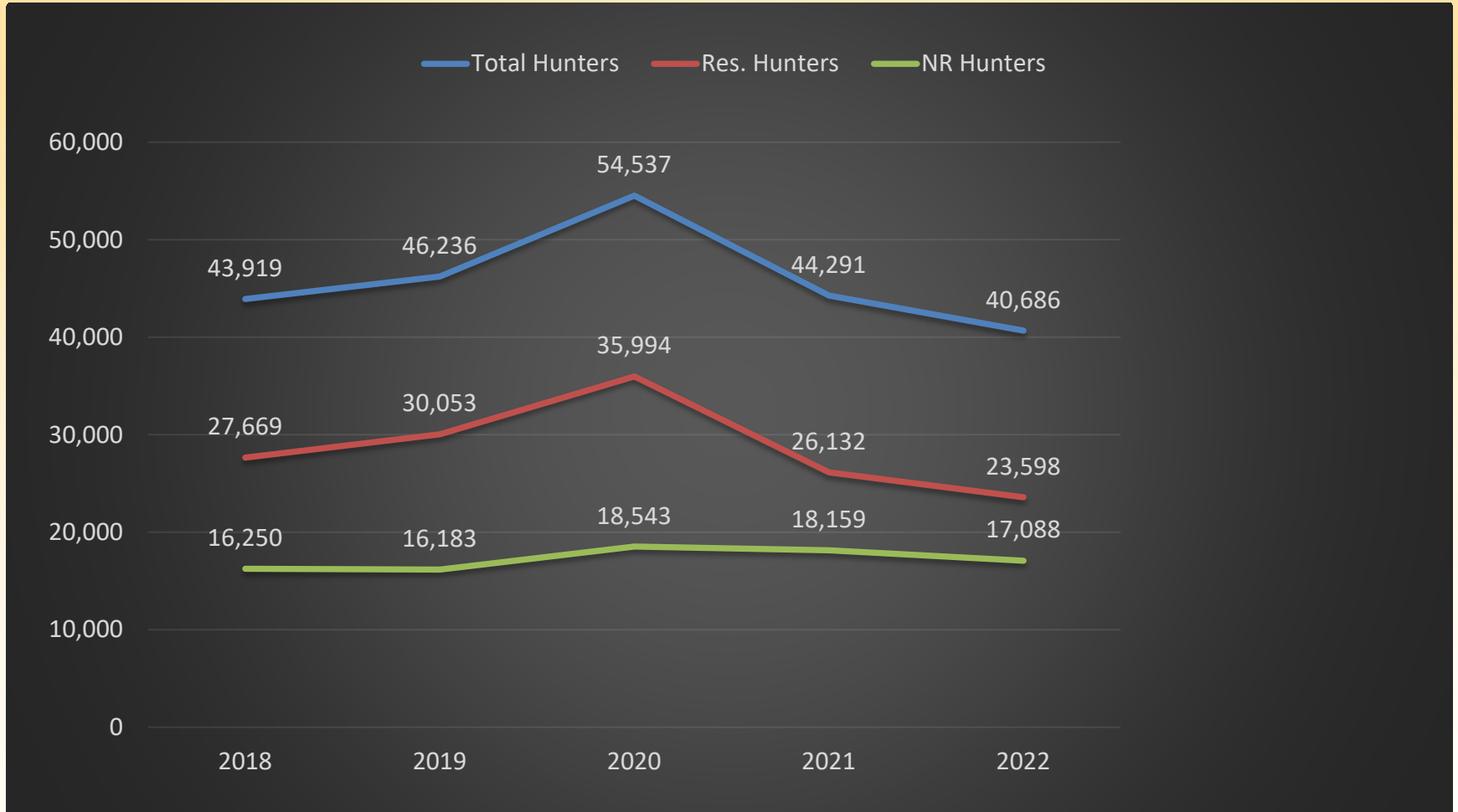


## ***5 YEAR HUNTER DAY TREND***

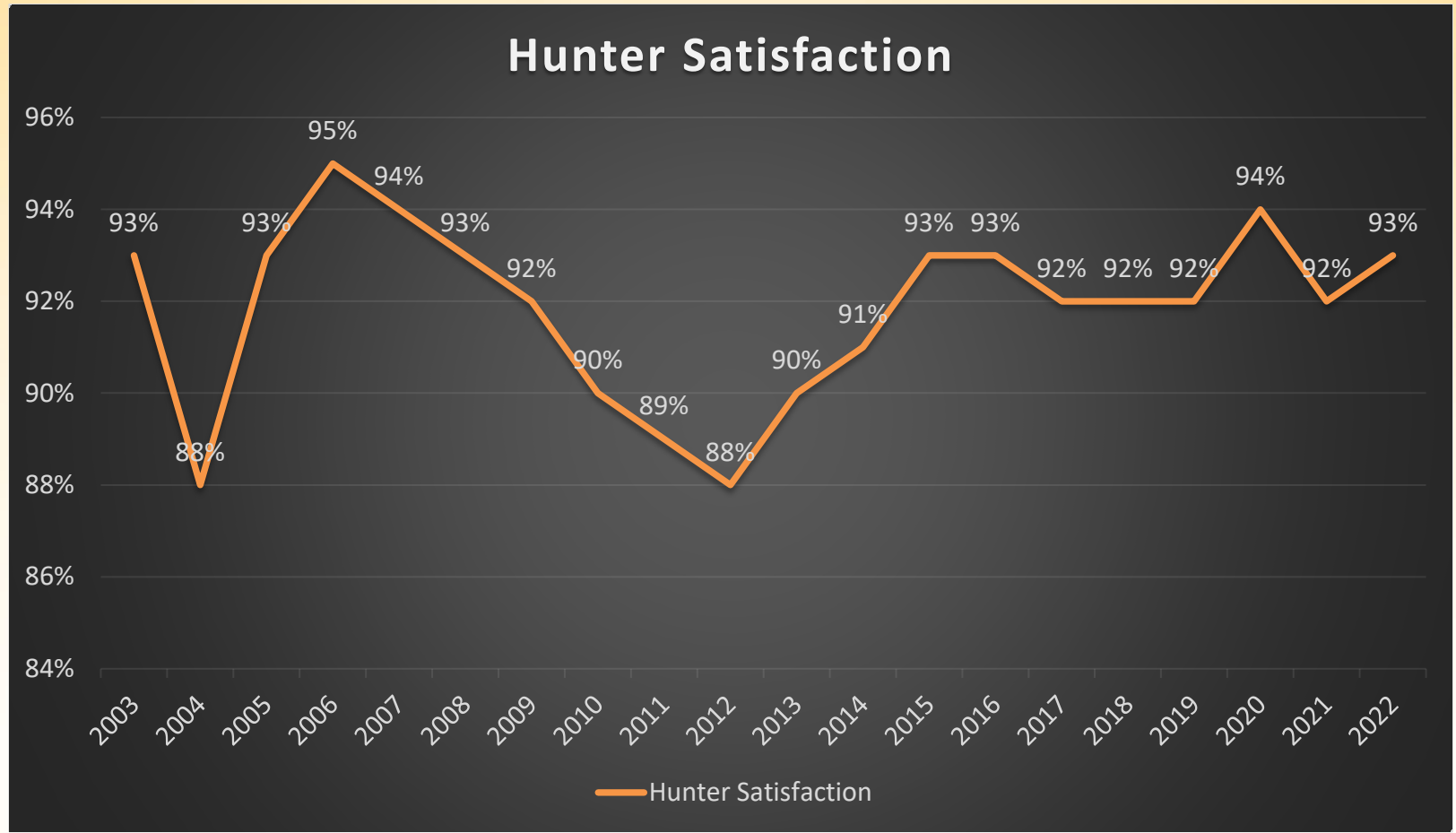




# 5 Year Hunter Trend



# Hunter Satisfaction Trend



# *Economic Impacts in 2022*

## Resident Expenditures/Day

- Elk - \$108.48
- Deer - \$90.37
- Antelope - \$129.91
- Upland Birds - \$105.77
- Waterfowl - \$87.43

## Non-Resident Expenditures/Day

- Elk - \$725.72
- Deer - \$602.89
- Antelope - \$831.30
- Upland Birds - \$455.89
- Waterfowl - \$585.61



Data obtained from the 2022 Statewide Estimates of Resident and Nonresident Hunter and Angler Trip Related Expenditures

# Questions and Discussion

*THANK YOU!*

