

Hunting License Trends in Montana

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



Adjusting License & Permit Numbers



Population Management & FWP's Management Tools

Population Goals

- Population size
- Age structure
- Male to female ratios

Tools

- Number of hunters
- Method of harvest
- Season Length & Timing
- Bag limits
- Access



Population Management

A Licenses: Antlered or Either-Sex

- Used primarily to target antlered animals
- Manage population age structure and male to female ratios
- Does not significantly affect population trajectory unless the population is substantially under objective

B Licenses: Antlerless

- Manage population trends



Licensing Overview



Hunting License vs. Permit

License

- Provides an opportunity for a license holder to harvest and possess the carcass of an animal

Permit

- Used in conjunction with a license
- Expands or restricts a license opportunity



Resident & Nonresident Deer & Elk Licenses

Resident

- A Licenses
 - General Deer and Elk Licenses
- B Licenses
 - Some Deer B and Elk B Licenses are limited by a quota while others are available without a quota

Nonresident

- A Licenses
 - Limited by statutory quotas and allocated by drawing
- B Licenses
 - Limited to a maximum of 10% of a drawing-based license quota unless all resident applicants receive a license (MCA, 87-2-506)



Statutorily Limited Nonresident Deer & Elk Licenses

- Big Game & Elk Combination:
 - Combined Quota: 17,000 (MCA, 87-2-505)
- Deer Combination:
 - Quota: 4,600 (MCA, 87-2-501)
- Landowner Sponsor Deer Combination:
 - Quota: 2,000 (MCA, 87-2-511)
- Come Home to Hunt (MCA, 87-2-526)
 - Big Game Combination:
 - Quota: 500
 - Elk Combination:
 - Quota: 500
 - Deer Combination:
 - Quota: 500



Nonresident Deer Combination Licenses

- The base quota for Deer Combination Licenses is 4,600 (MCA, 87-2-510) During the drawing, deer licenses are added to the quota from the following sources: (MCA, 87-2-511)
 - Landowner Sponsored Deer Combination (LOS)
 - Unclaimed Landowner Sponsored Deer Licenses are added to the Deer Combination License quota
 - Elk Combination
 - For each Elk Combination License holder, an unclaimed General Deer License is separated from a Big Game Combination and added to the Deer Combination quota



2022 Nonresident Combination License Drawing

- 17,000 Big Game & Elk Combinations
 - 12,617 Big Game Combination Licenses issued
 - 4,383 Elk Combination Licenses issued
 - = 4,383 Orphaned Deer Licenses
 - 955 LOS Deer Combination Licenses issued
 - = 1,045 unclaimed LOS Deer Combination Licenses
- 4,600 Base quota + 1,045 LOS + 4,383 Orphaned Deer =
10,028 Deer Combination Quota



10% Nonresident Restriction: Example #1

- Quota of 100
- 150 applicants (120 residents and 30 nonresidents).

Applicant Type	# of Applicants	Quota Limit	Successful Applicants	Percentage of License Holders
Resident	120	100	90	90%
Nonresident	30	10	10	10%



License Example #2

- Quota of 50
- 50 applicants (30 residents and 20 nonresidents)

Applicant Type	# of Applicants	Quota Limit	Successful Applicants	Percentage of license holders
Resident	30	50	30	60%
Nonresident	20	5	20	40%



License Example #3

- Quota of 150: 100 applicants (80 residents and 20 nonresidents)

Applicant Type	# of Applicants	Quota Limit	Successful Applicants	Percentage of License Holders
Resident	80	150	80	80%
Nonresident	20	15	20	20%

Applicant Type	Licenses Available	Successful Purchasers	Percentage of Surplus License Holders
Resident	50	35	70%
Nonresident		15	30%



Other Nonresident Licenses

- Deer and Elk
 - Native Montanan Licenses (MCA, 87-2-514)
 - College Student Licenses (MCA, 87-2-525)
 - Youth Licenses (MCA, 87-2-522)
- Birds
 - Upland Game Bird (MCA, 87-2-402)
 - Migratory Bird (MCA, 87-2-411)
 - Turkey (MCA, 87-2-403)
- Bighorn Sheep
 - 5 Unlimited Hunting Districts
- Other
 - Black Bear (MCA, 87-2-701)
 - Mountain Lion (MCA, 87-2-507)
 - Wolf (MCA, 87-2-524)



Statutory Changes to Licensing

I-161 Outfitter Sponsored Licenses

- Passed in 2010
- Variable price license
- Restrictions on nonresident license holders

House Bill 140

- 2015 Legislative session
- Created a base hunting license
- Standardized license fees and discounts
- Reduced the number of free licenses

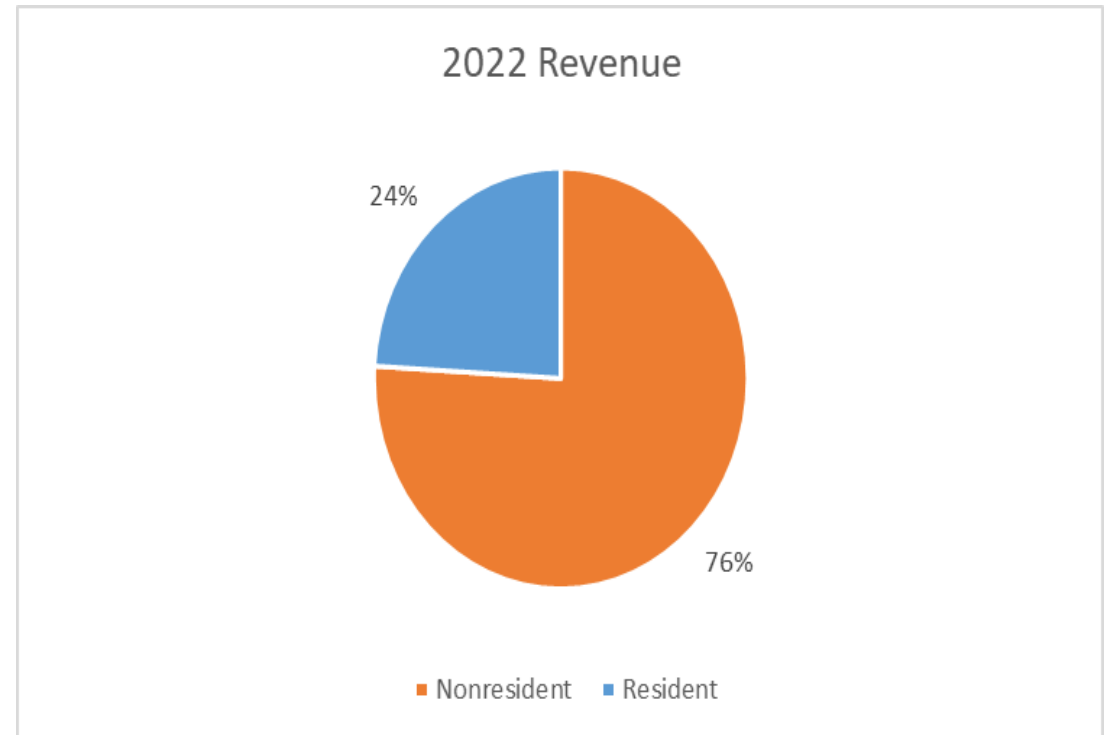
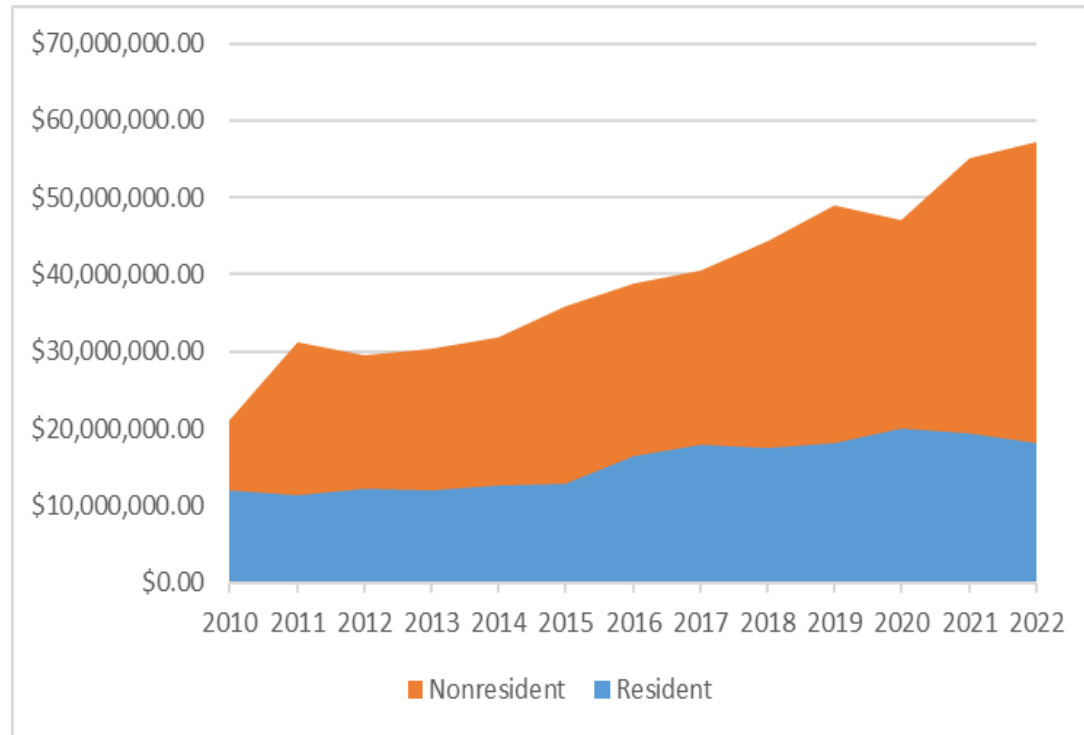


Resident vs. Nonresident Prices

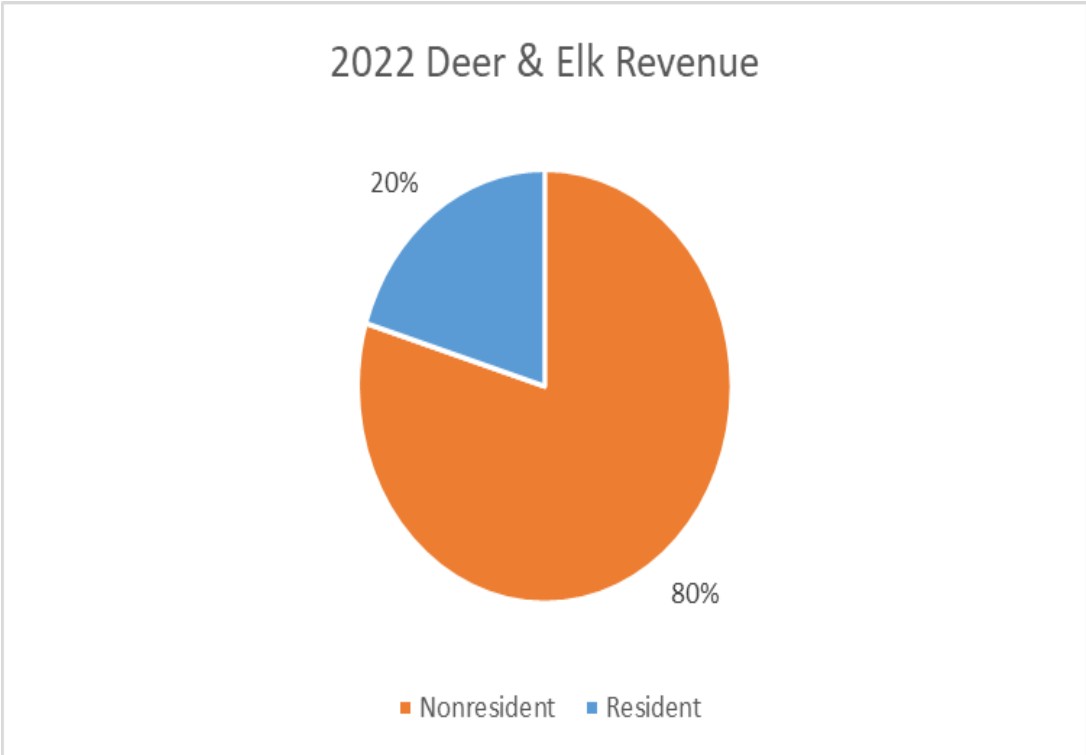
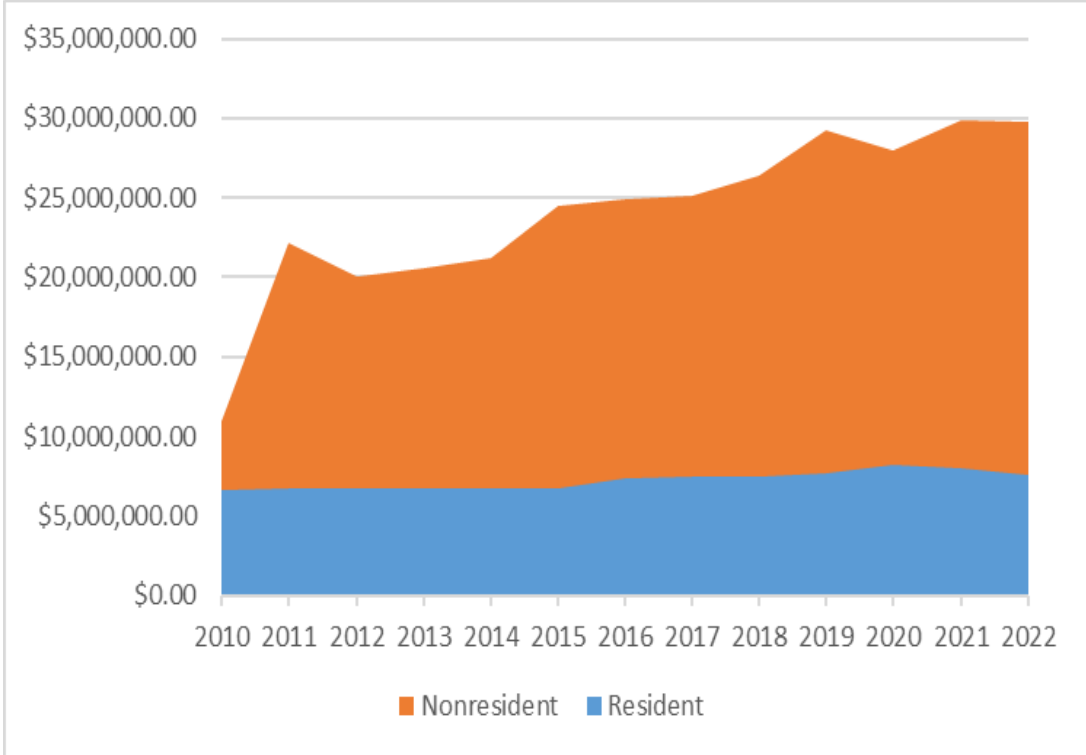
- License Packages
 - Resident: Sportsman's Combination without Bear \$62
 - Nonresident: Big Game Combination \$1,208
- Deer B License
 - Resident: \$10
 - Nonresident: \$75
- Elk B License
 - Resident: \$20
 - Nonresident: \$270



Resident & Nonresident License Revenue



Deer & Elk License Revenue

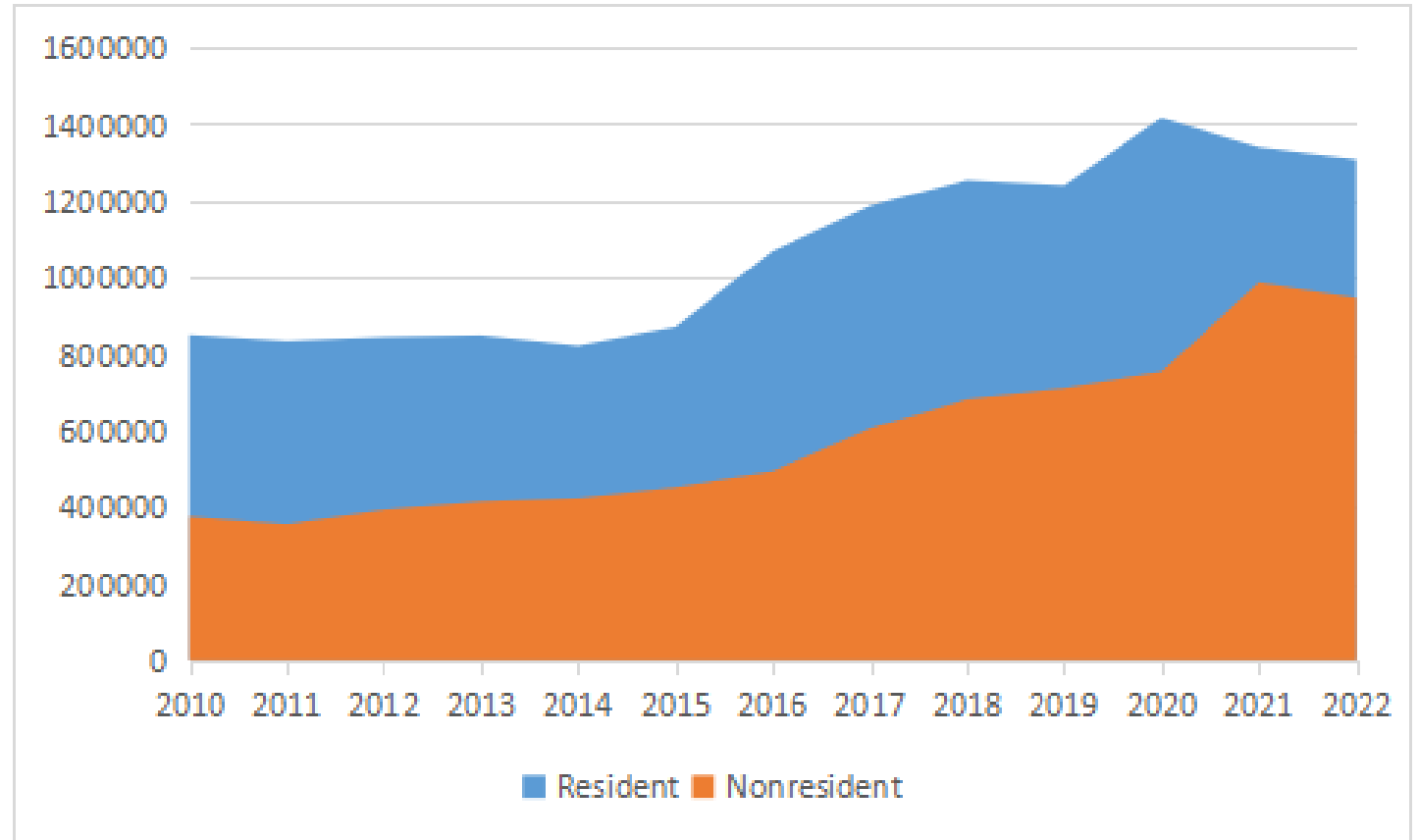


License Sales



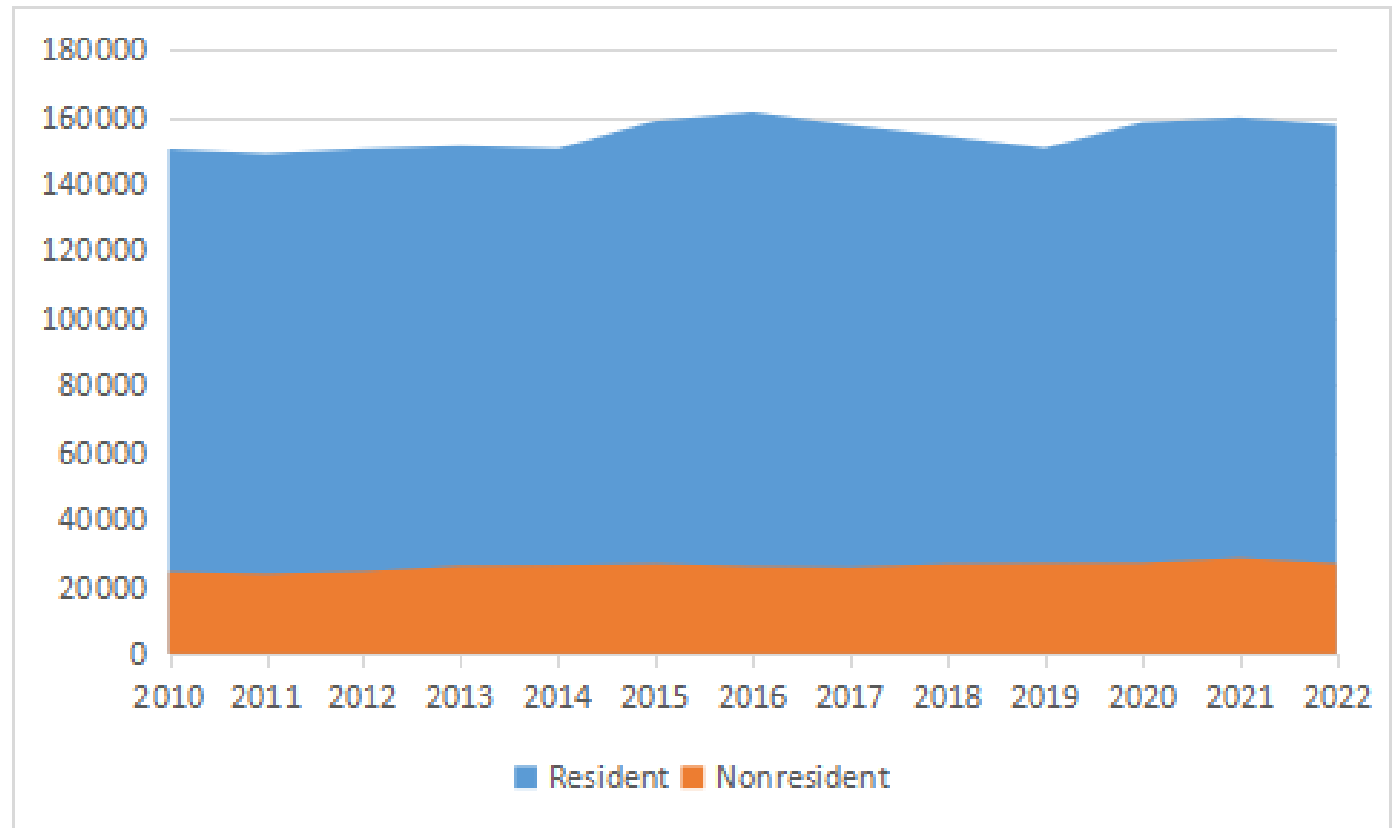
Total License Sales 2010-2022

- Resident: +457,647
- Nonresident: +571,366
- Overall: +1,029,013



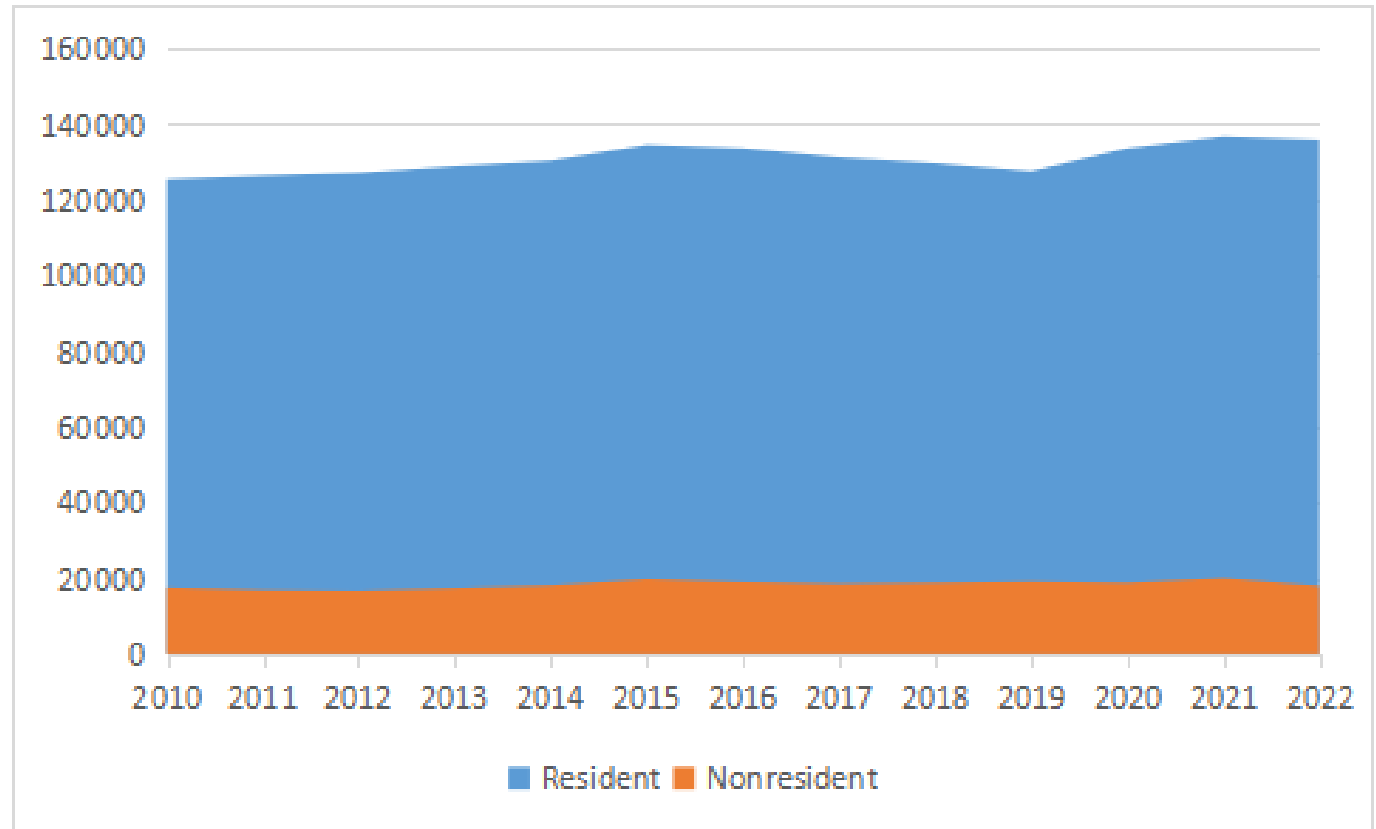
Deer A License Sales 2010-2022

- Resident: +7,203
- Nonresident: +2,667
- Overall: +9,870



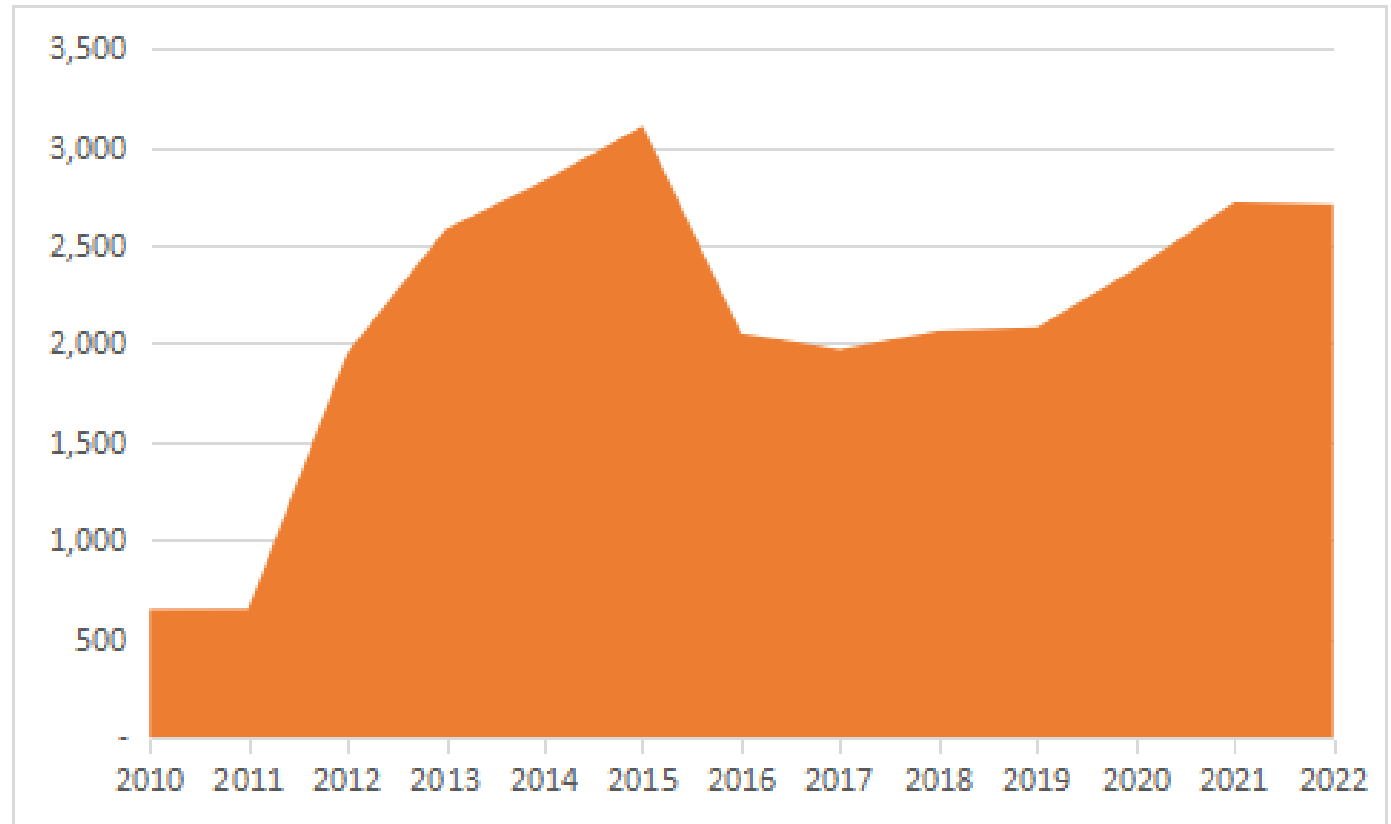
Elk A License Sales 2010-2022

- Resident: +10,446
- Nonresident: +401
- Overall: +10,847



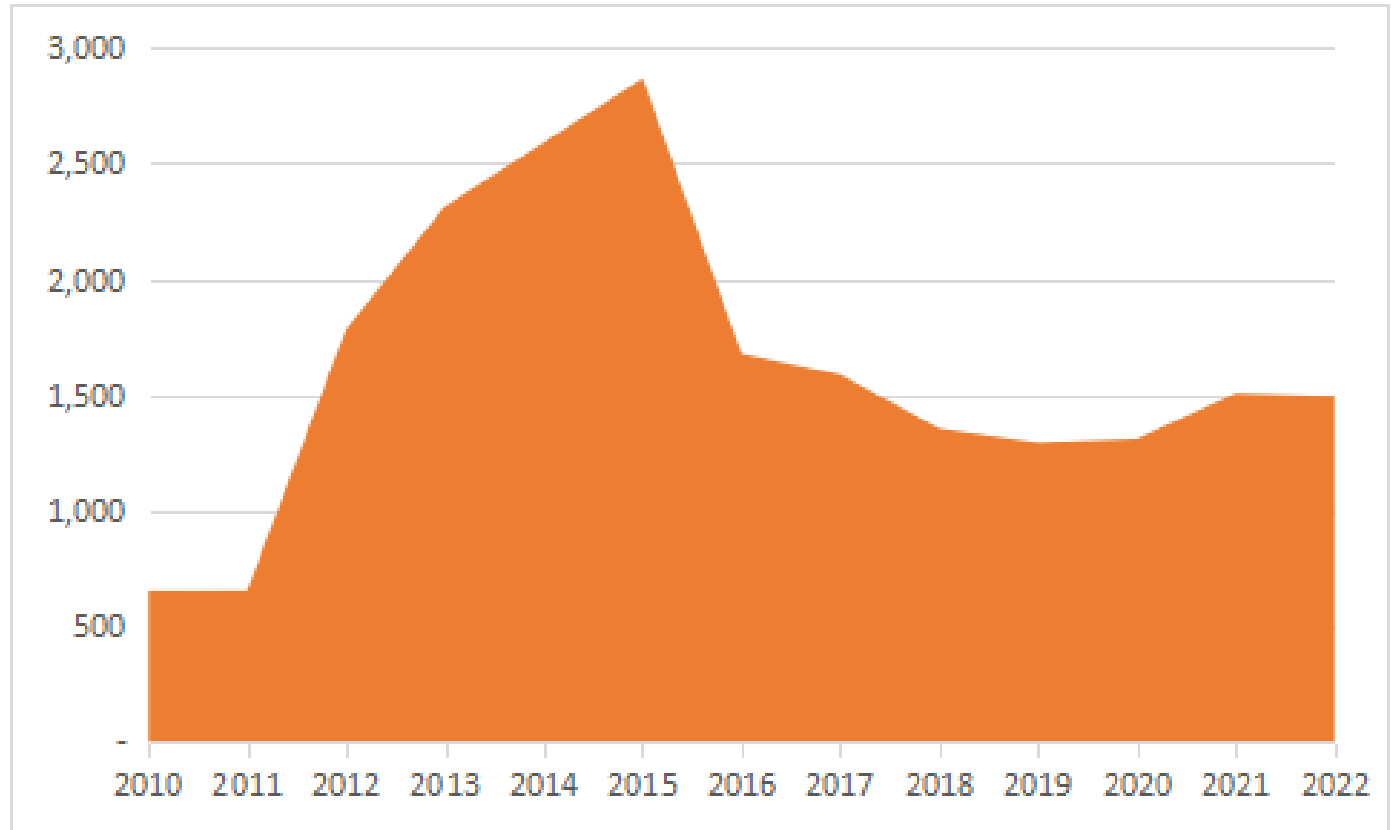
Other Nonresident Deer A 2010-2022

- 2010: 651
- 2022: 2,707
- Overall: +2,056



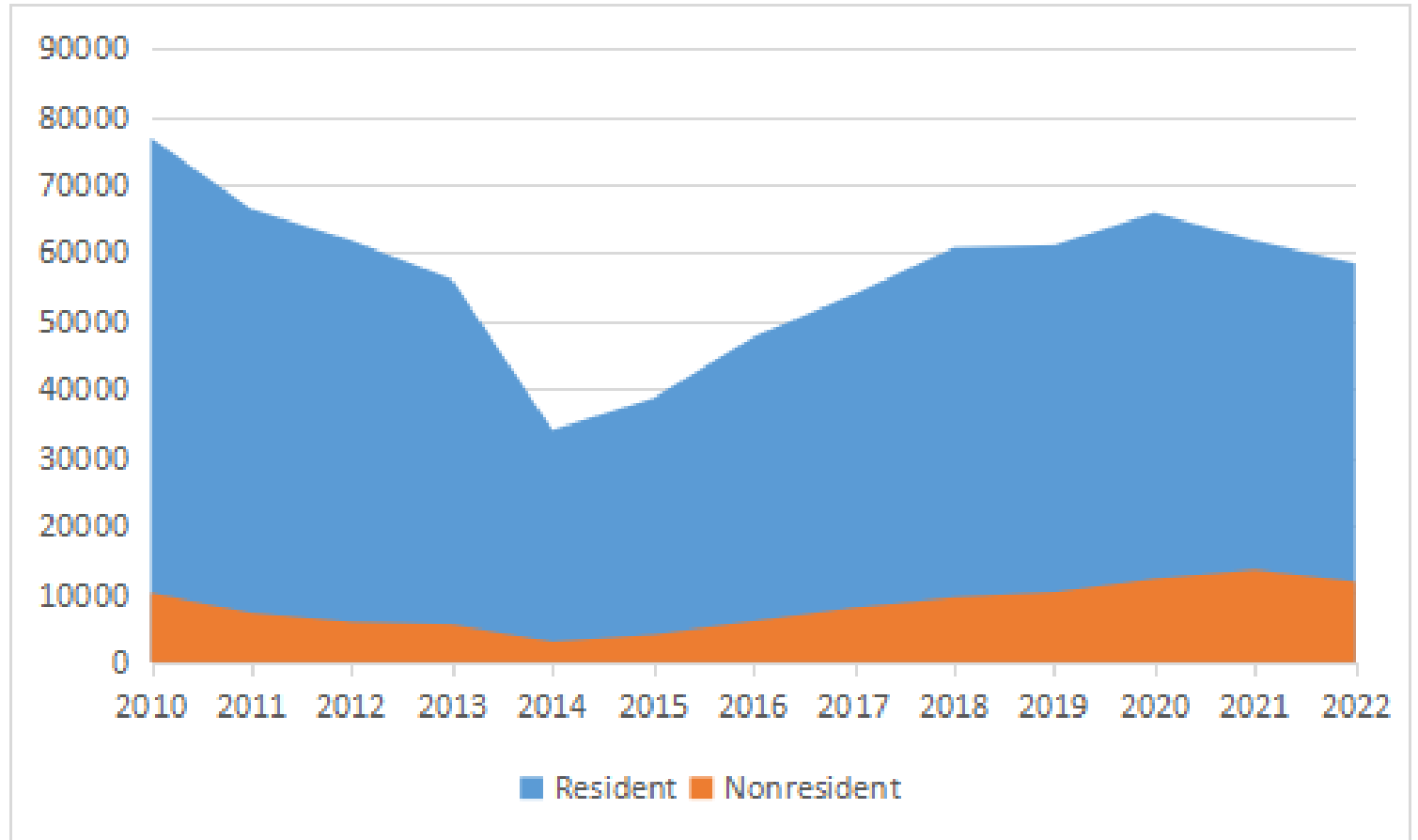
Other Nonresident Elk A 2010-2022

- 2010: 651
- 2022: 1,494
- Overall: +843



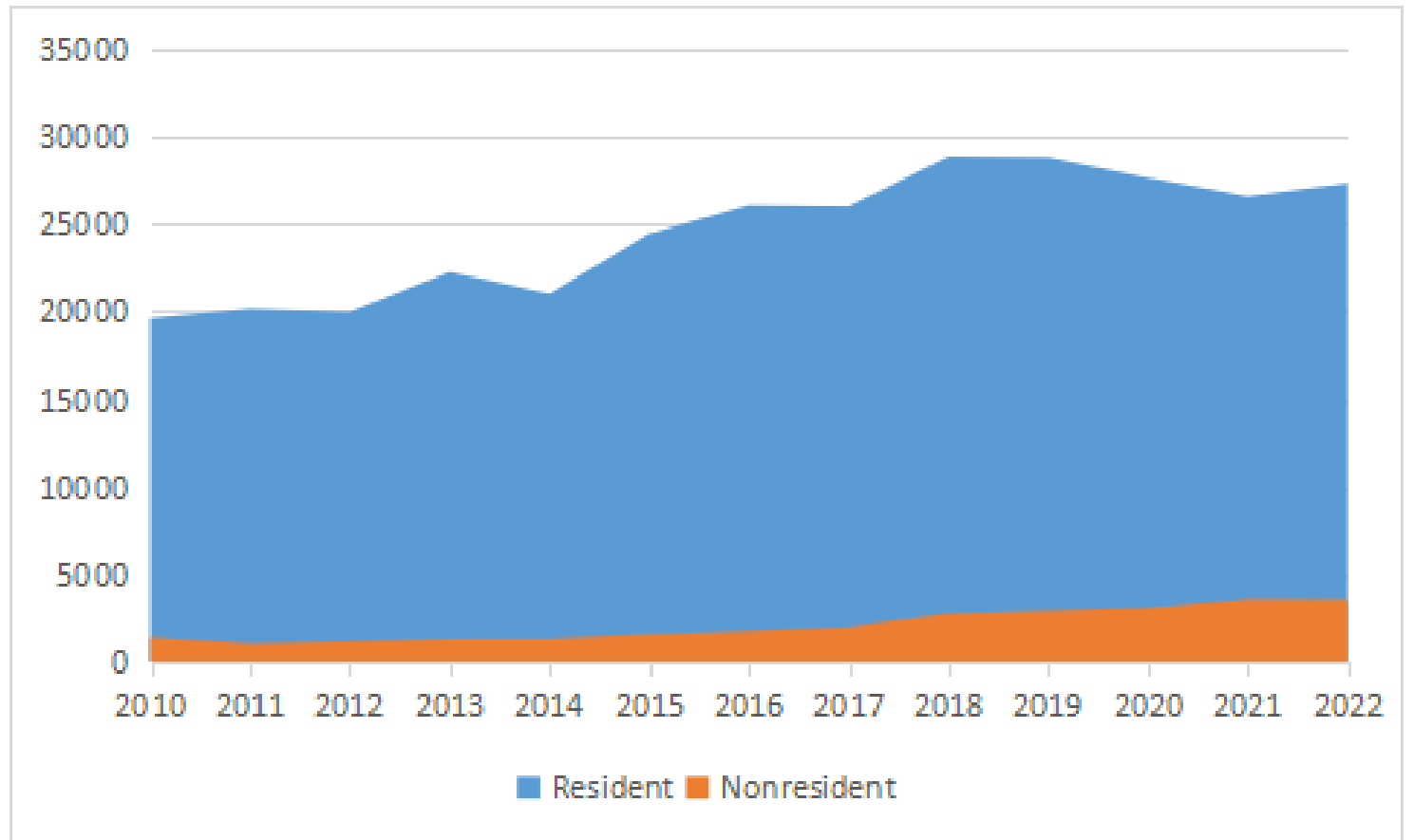
Deer B License Sales 2010-2022

- Resident: -18,491
- Nonresident: +1,708
- Overall: -16,713



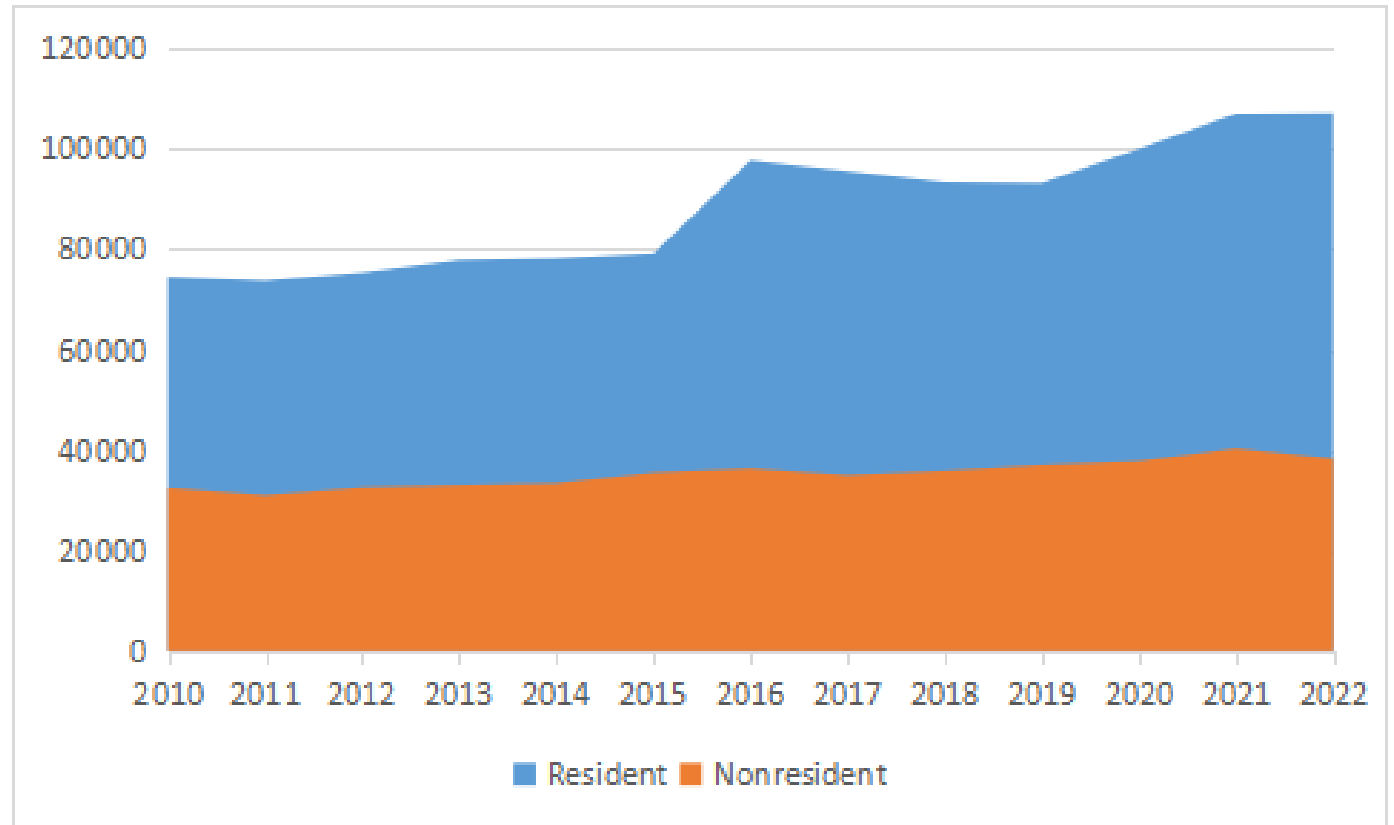
Elk B License Sales 2010-2022

- Resident: +7,724
- Nonresident: +2,141
- Overall: +9,865



Upland Bird Season License Sales 2010-2022

- Resident: +32,683
- Nonresident: +5,805
- Overall: +38,488

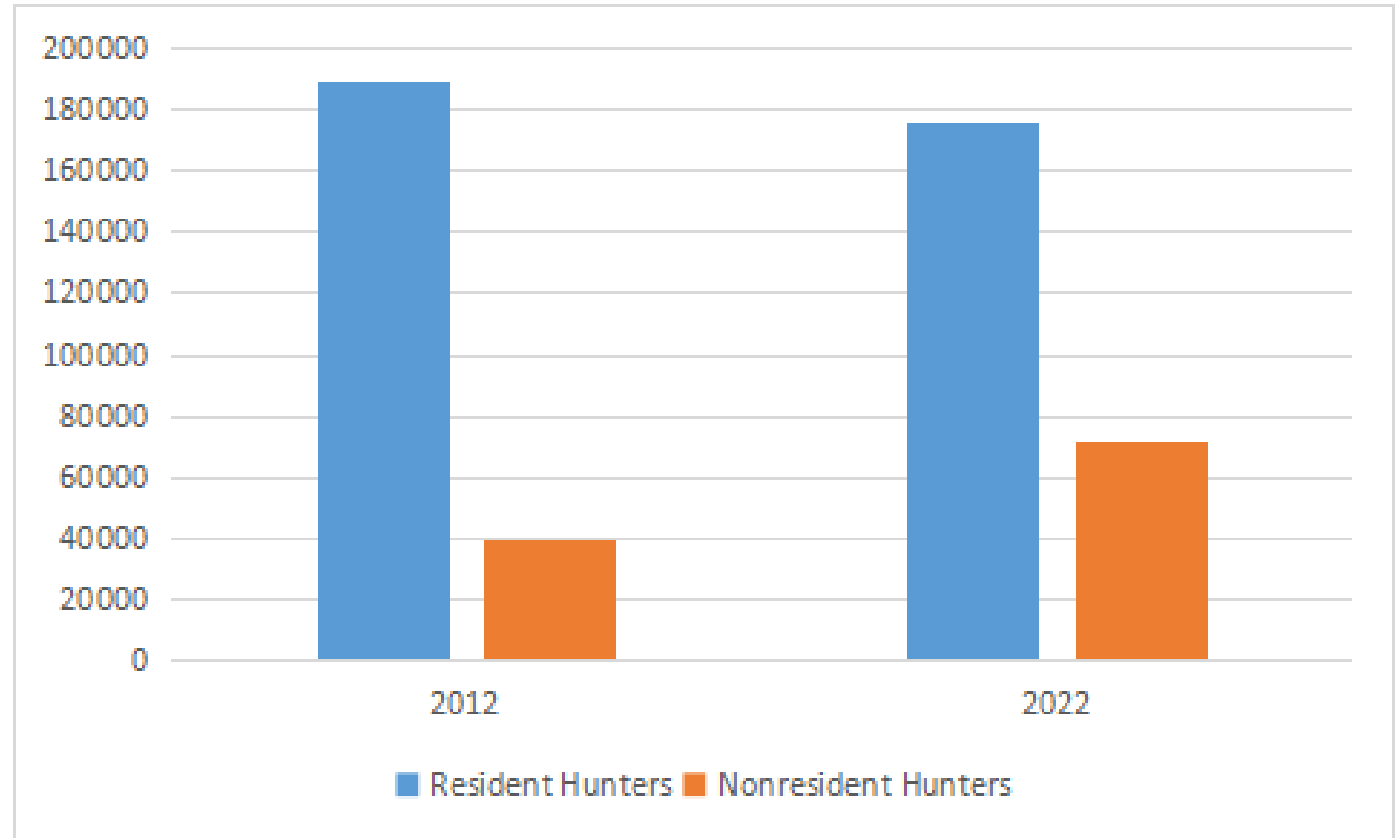


Hunter Numbers



Total Hunters 2012 vs. 2022

- Resident: -13,578
 - 2012: 189,696
 - 2022: 176,118
- Nonresident: +31,681
 - 2012: 39,621
 - 2022: 71,302



Deer and Elk Hunters 2012 vs. 2022

- Resident: +5,196
 - 2012: 158,299
 - 2022: 163,495
- Nonresident: +11,326
 - 2012: 47,687
 - 2022: 59,013



Other Species Targeted by Nonresident Hunters

- Black Bear
- Wolf
- Mountain Lion
- Migratory Bird
- Upland Game Bird
- Turkey
- Antelope
- Moose
- Sheep
- Goat
- Bison



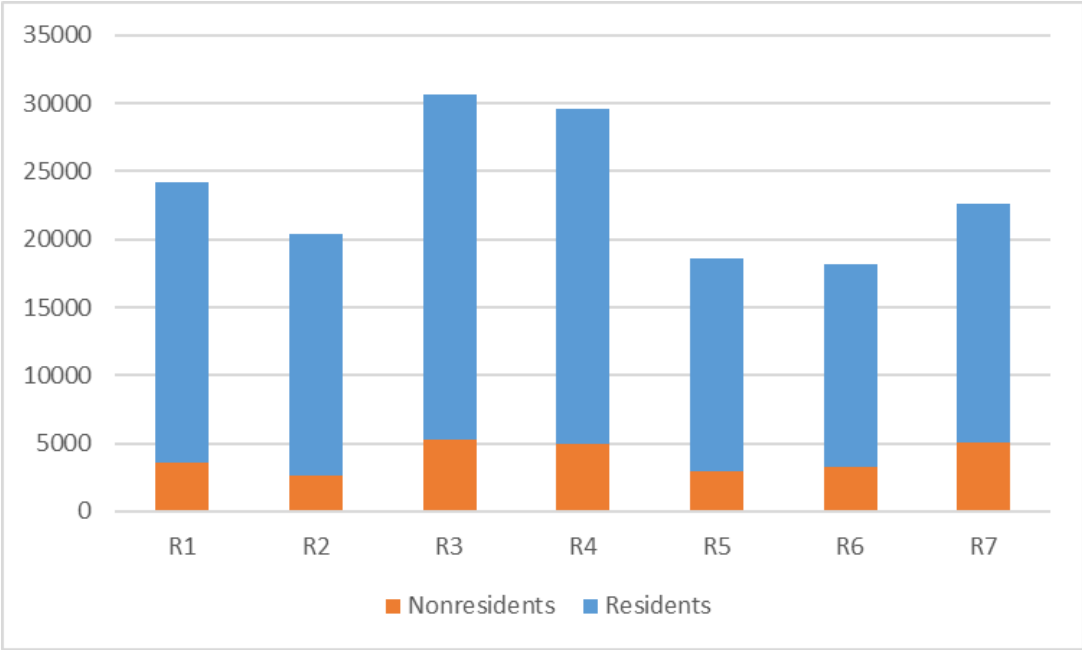
Hunter Locations and Days



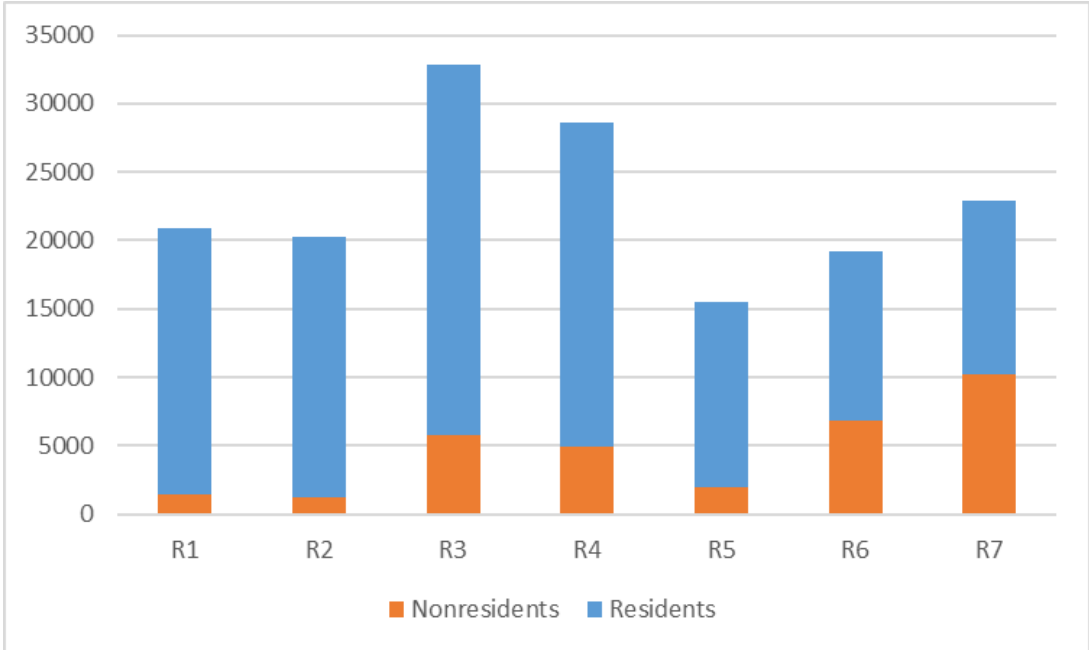


Deer Hunter Distribution by Region

2010

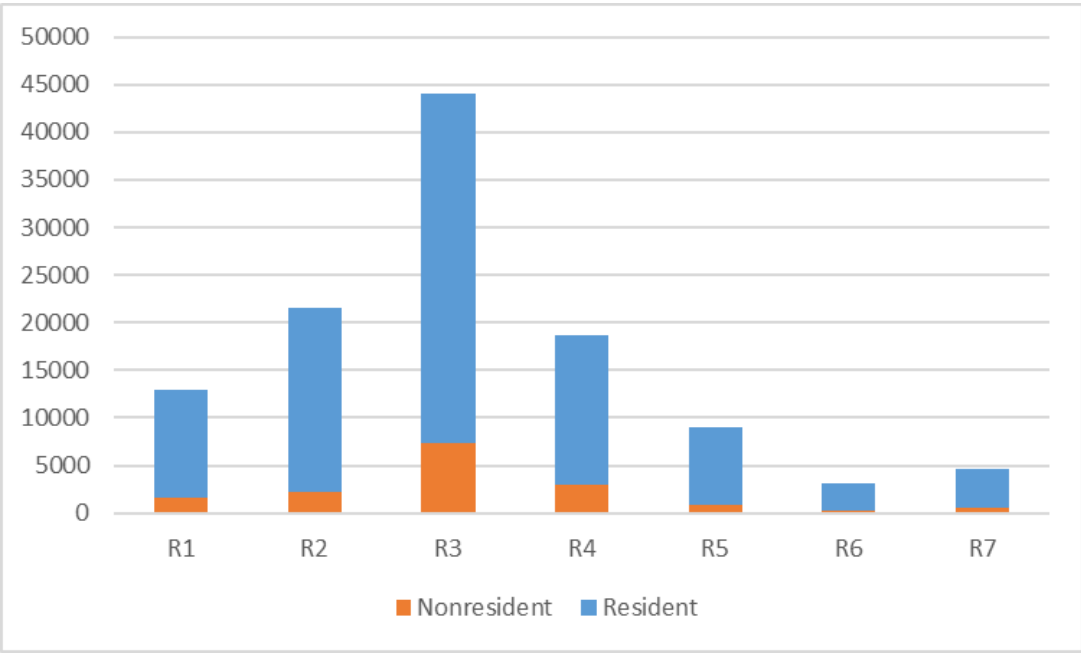


2021

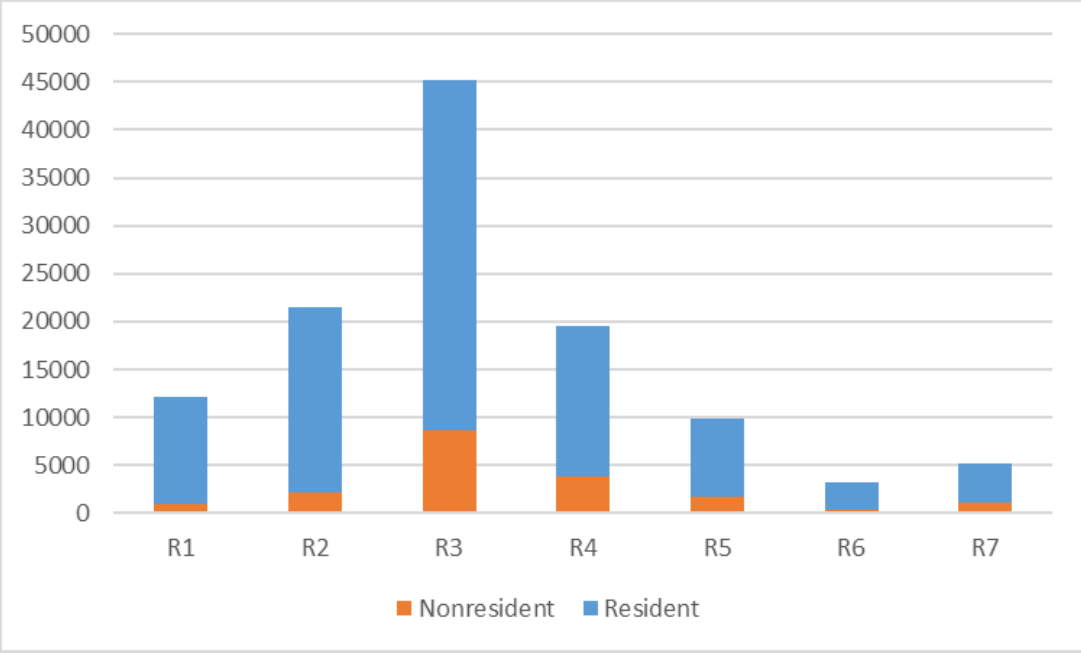


Elk Hunter Distribution by Region

2010



2020



Regional Changes in Hunter Distribution

Deer

- Greatest Increase
 - Region 3: +2,136
 - Region 6: +1,033
- Greatest Decrease
 - Region 1: -3,338
 - Region 5: -3,104

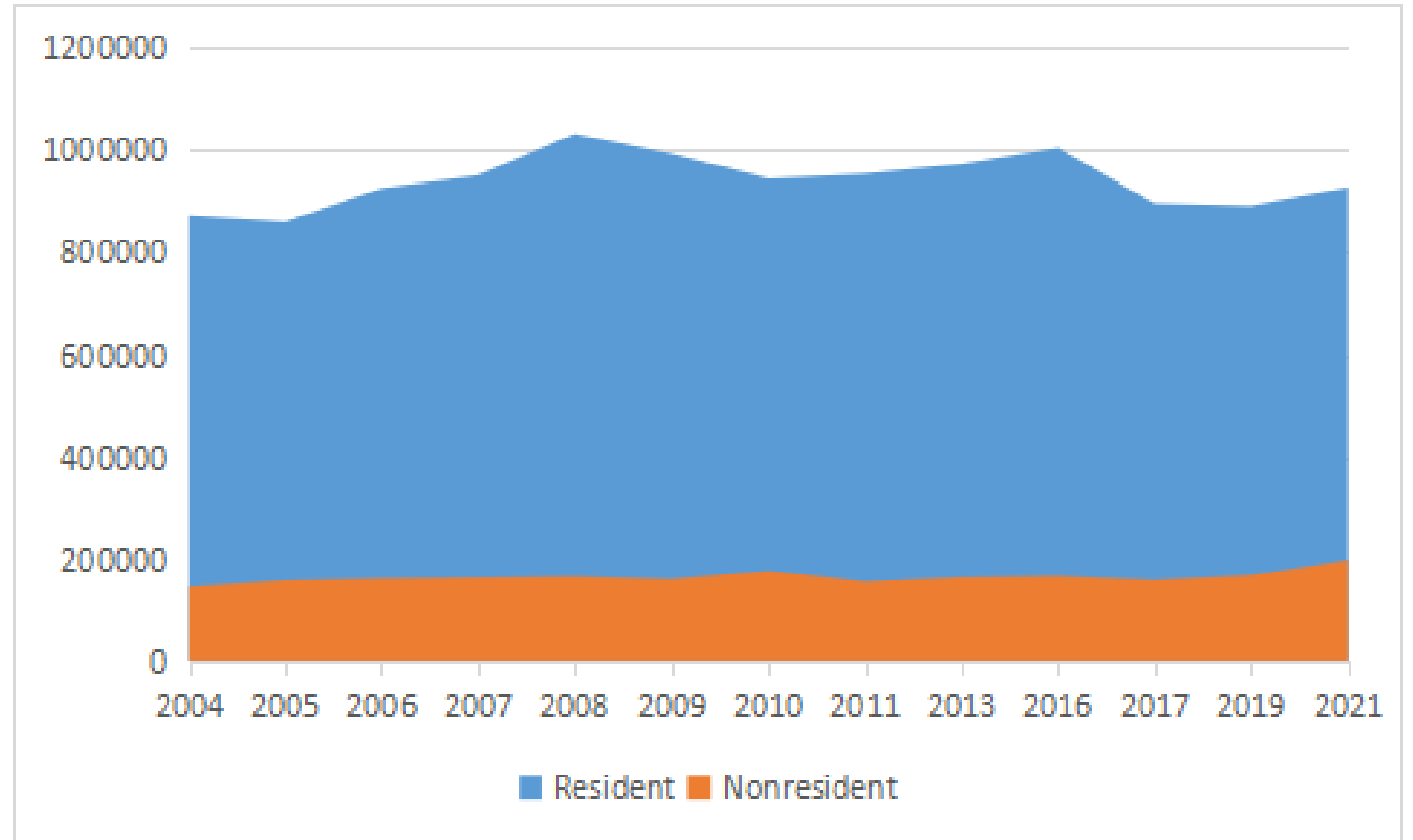
Elk

- Greatest Increase
 - Region 3: +3,244
 - Region 5: +3,124
- Greatest Decrease
 - Region 1: -3,779
 - Region 2: -1,434



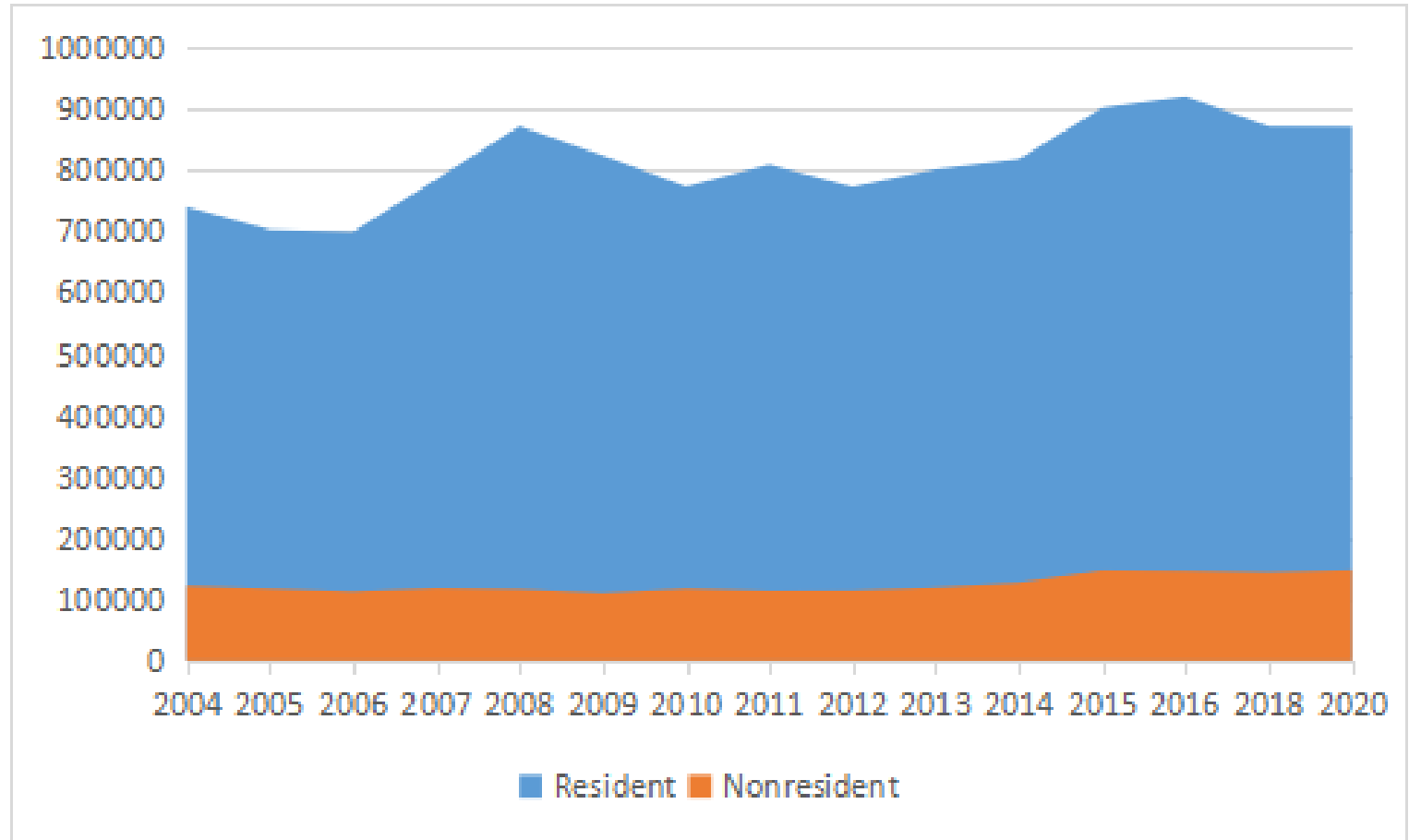
Statewide Deer Hunting Days

- Resident: +55,752
- Nonresident: +51,447
- Overall: +107,199



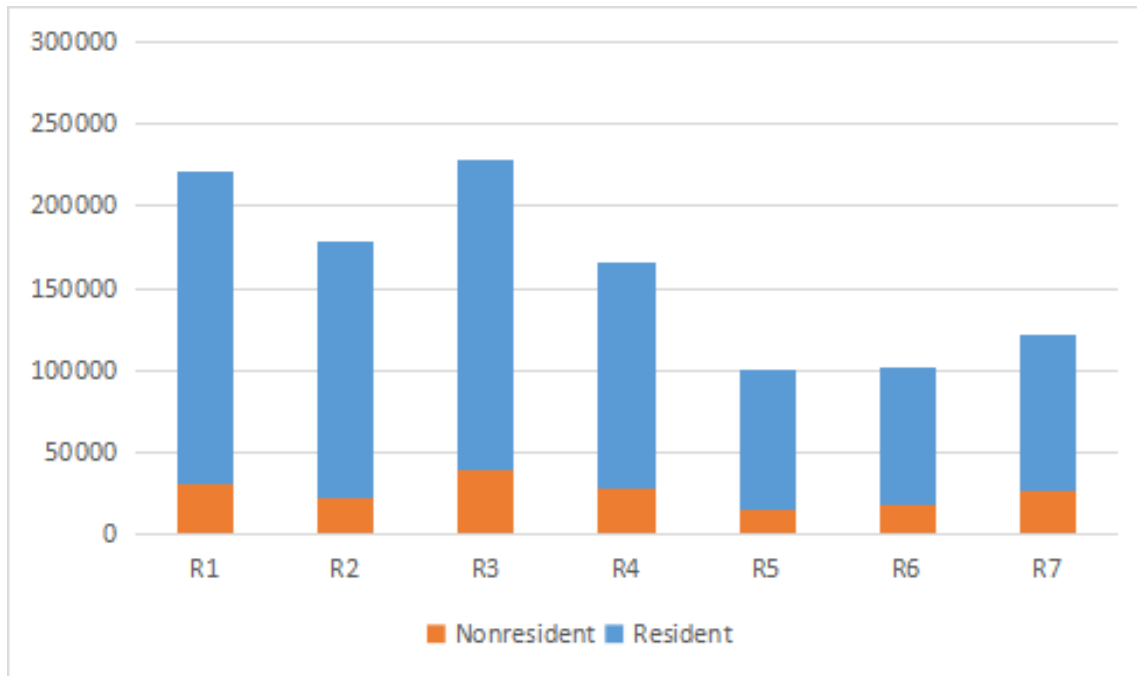
Statewide Elk Hunting Days

- Resident: +131,073
- Nonresident: +25,177
- Overall: +156,250

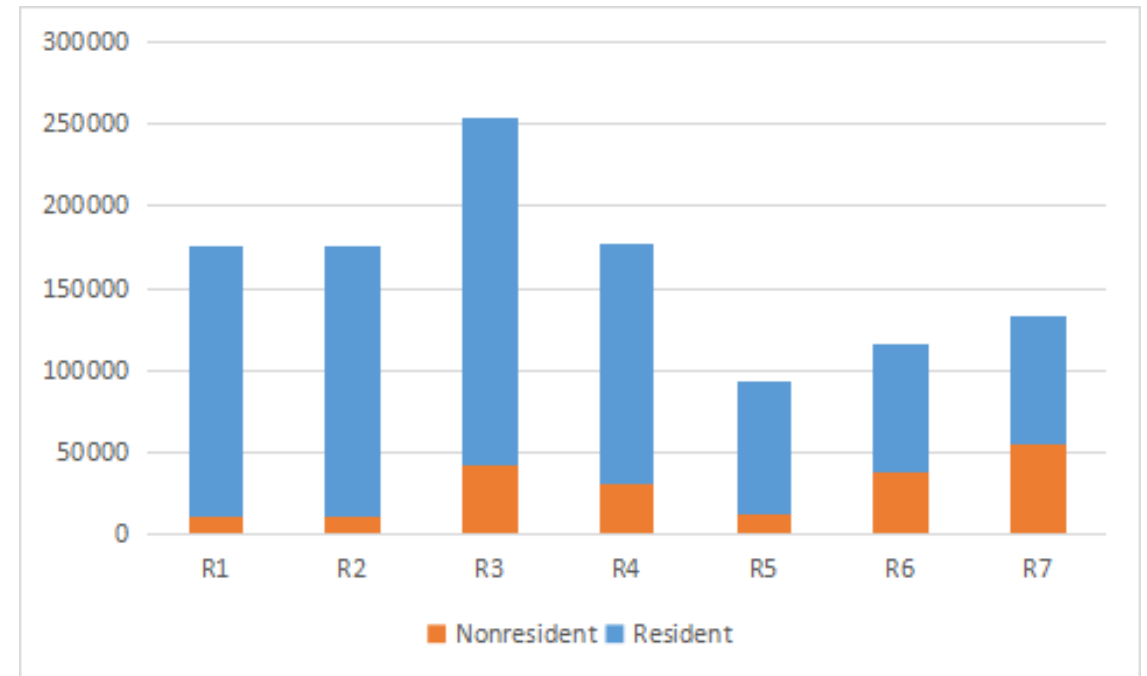


Deer Hunter Days by Region

2010

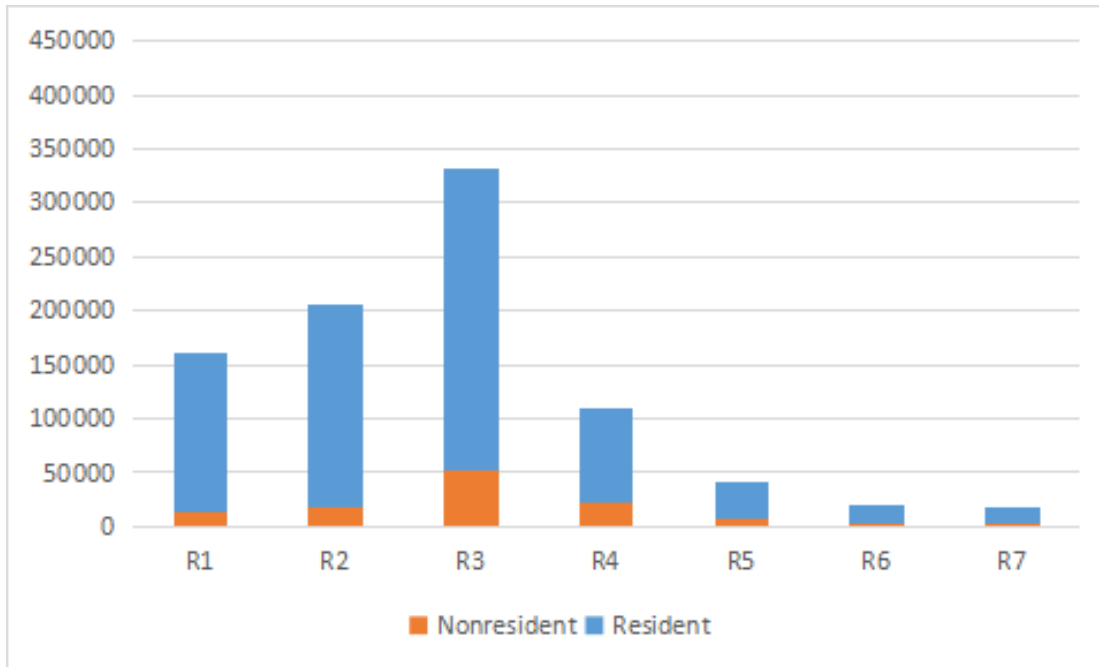


2021

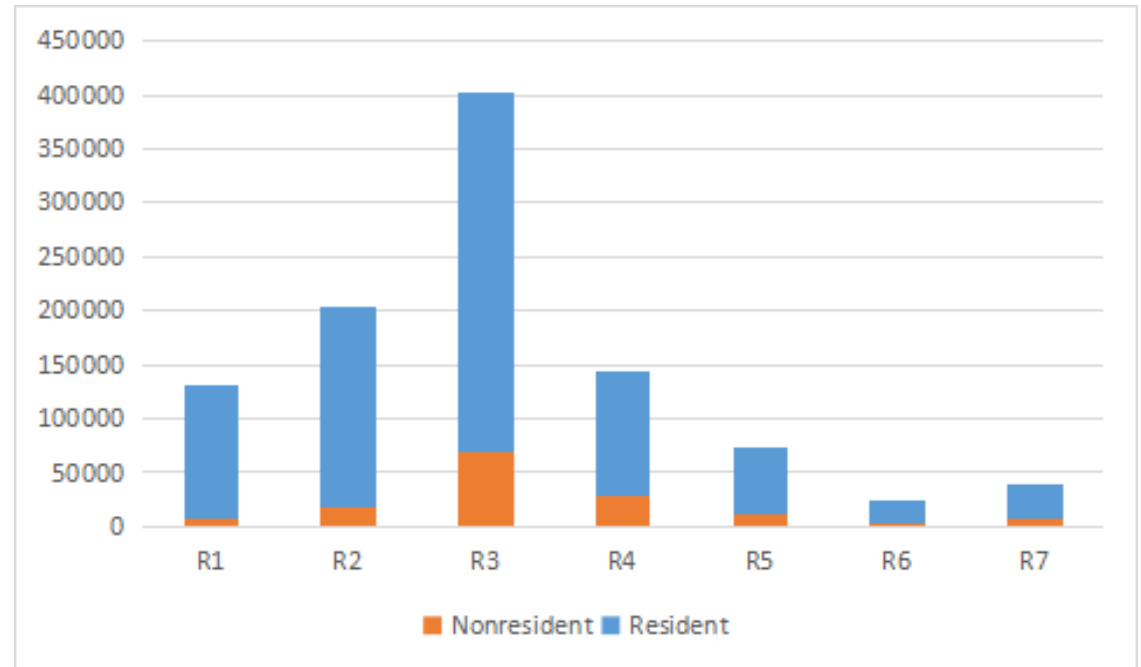


Elk Hunter Days by Region

2010



2020



Regional changes in Hunter Days

Deer

- Greatest Increase:
 - Region 6: +14,580
 - Region 7: +11,588
- Greatest Decrease:
 - Region 1: -45,288
 - Region 5: -7,437

Elk

- Greatest Increase
 - Region 3: +70,046
 - Region 4: +34,925
- Greatest Decrease:
 - Region 1: -29,597
 - Region 2: -3,512



Hunting Access



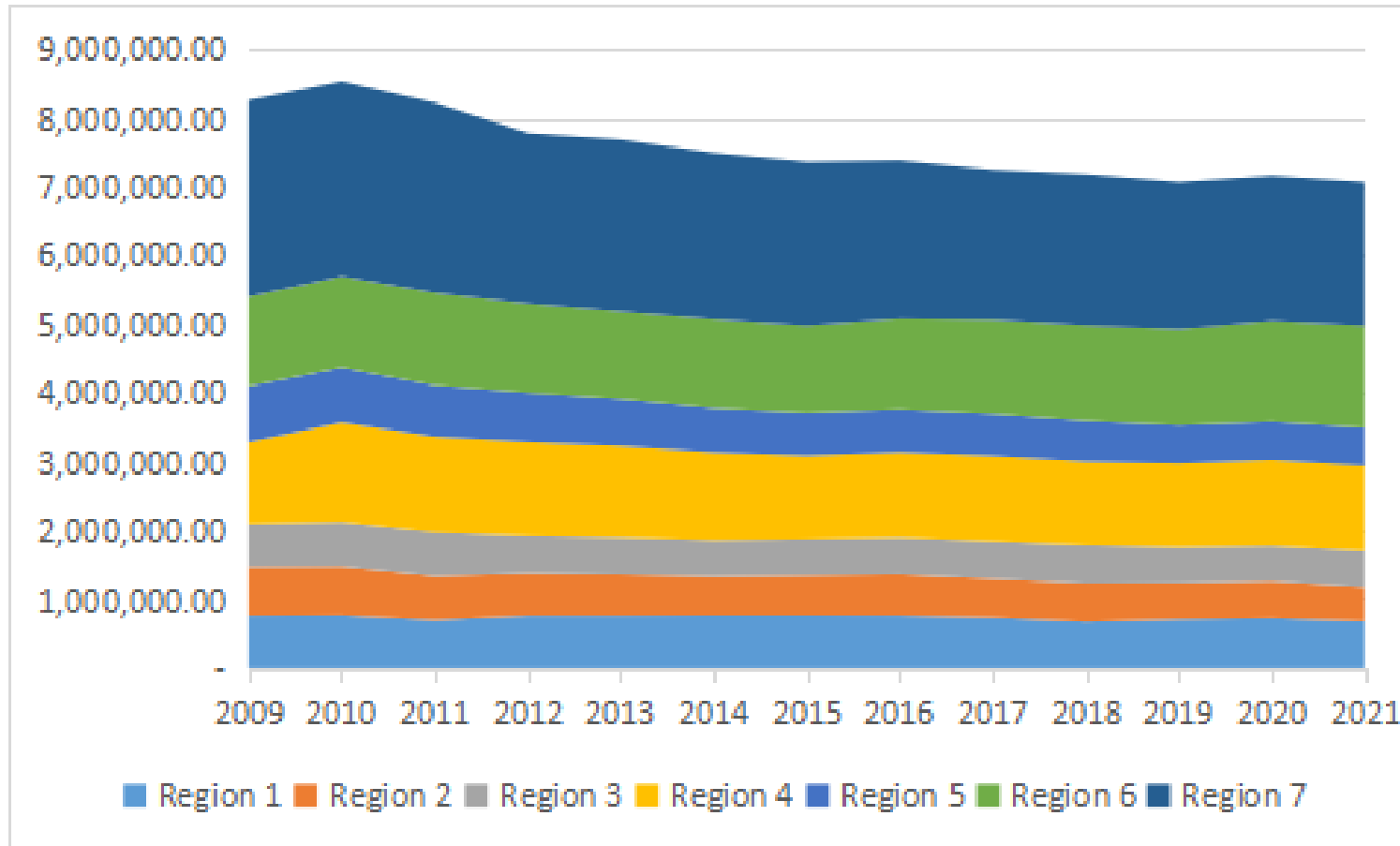
Block Management 2009-2021

- Enrollment has declined by 1,468,978 acres a decrease of 14%
- Hunter days have increased by 133,000 an increase of 28%

Region	Change in Acreage	Percent Change
1	-78,721	-11%
2	-216,752	-30%
3	-89,897	-17%
4	+47,611	+4%
5	-267,152	-33%
6	+183,314	+14%
7	-772,184	-27%

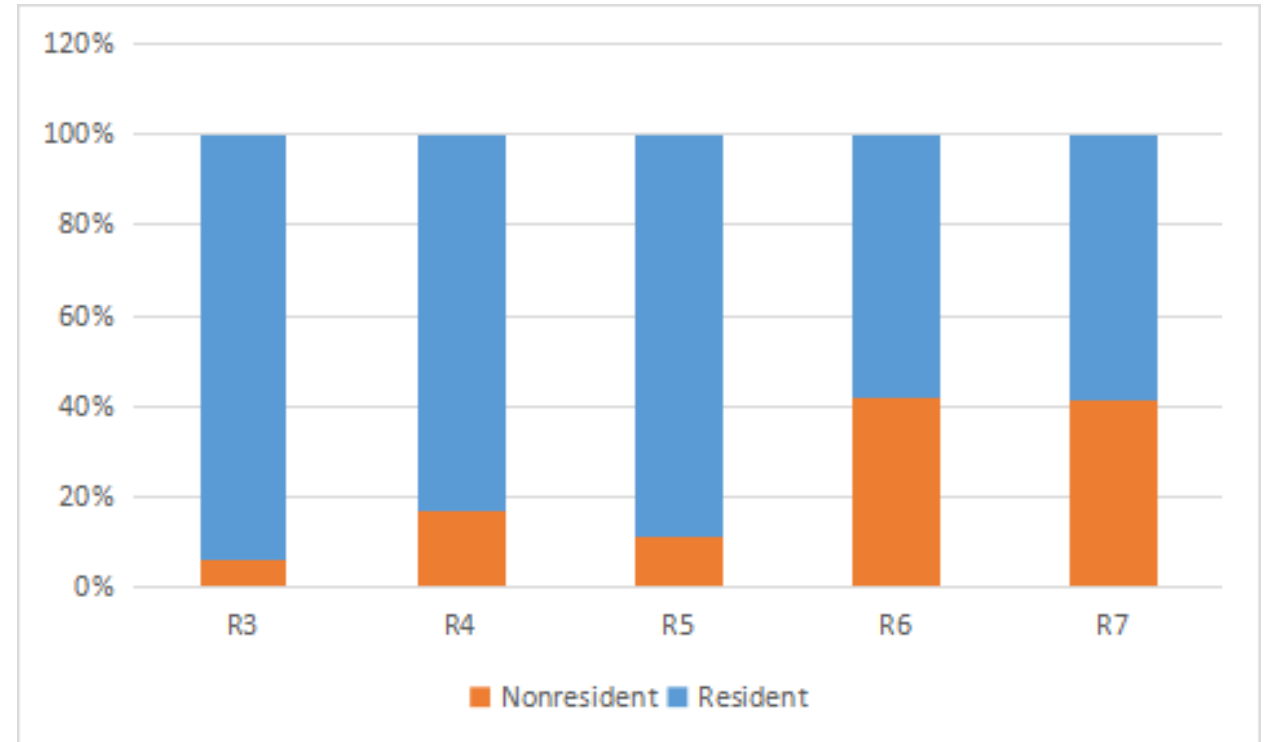


Block Management Acreage



Block Management use by residency for 2021

- Regions with the greatest percentage of nonresident hunters
 - Region 6: 42%
 - Region 7: 41%



Summary

1. Resident and Nonresident license sales have increased since 2010
2. Resident hunters have decreased, Nonresident hunters have increased since 2010
3. Hunter efforts have shifted from West to East
4. Hunters are spending more time in the field
5. Private land open to hunting has decreased over time



Questions

- Email: FWPLegislativeLiasons@mt.gov

