

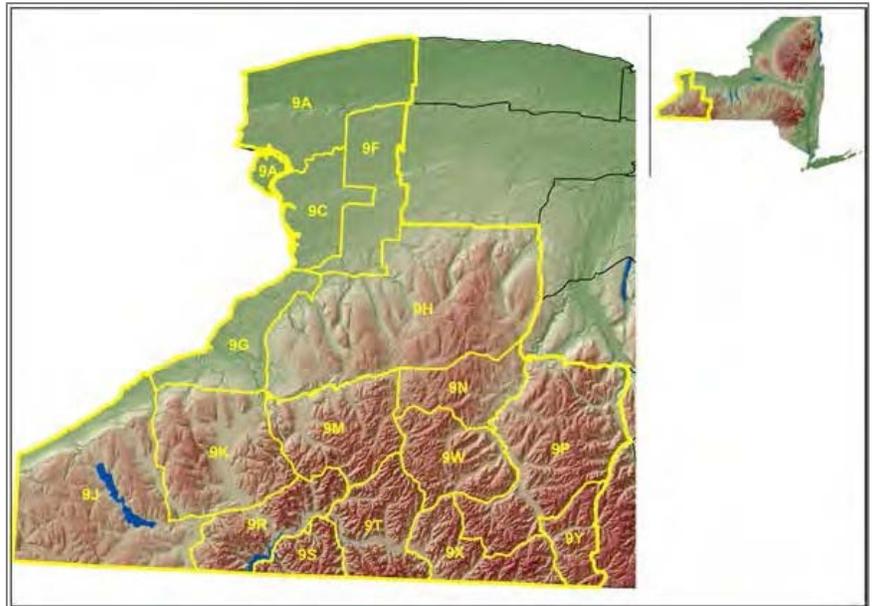
# 2019 DEER HUNTING FORECAST



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

## Region 9

Region 9 is the westernmost region in New York. Encompassing six counties and approximately 5,353 square miles, this region is composed primarily of two major ecozones: The Lake Plains of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and the Appalachian Plateau. The northern half of the region (the Lake Plains ecozone) is characterized by flat topography and human activity focused on agriculture and urban/suburban uses with small woodlots interspersed. Much of this area is considered excellent deer habitat, as it offers an abundance of natural and agriculturally derived foods, fertile soils and mild winters (excluding areas of lake-effect snow). The southern half of Region 9 (the Appalachian Plateau ecozone) is characterized by hilly terrain and vast expanses of forestland. Human habitation is less dense here and agriculture decreases as one progresses south due to steeper slopes and less fertile soils. Though not as productive as lands to the north, the southern half of Region 9 offers good deer hunting opportunities. In the extreme southern tier, large tracts of mature forest dominate the landscape. As these forests continue to mature, the need for habitat improvement will become more apparent. Landowners willing to put forth the effort and expense to improve their lands through active forest management and creation of young forest habitat will see better hunting.



Deer populations and objectives in Region 9 differ between the two ecozones. Generally, population objectives are lower in the north and higher in the south because human density and associated activities in the north result in different social tolerances for deer. This necessitates different population objectives. We urge hunters to help us meet management goals by taking antlerless deer wherever DMPs are available. Hunters are the biologist's "silver bullet" when it comes to managing the deer herd.

The total 2018 deer harvest in Region 9 was approximately 42,580—nearly a 16% increase from 2017. The buck harvest in Region 9 increased for a second year, this time by nearly 6%, with approximately 20,111 bucks taken in 2018. These increases are likely due to the mild winters of 2015 and 2016 which enhanced fawn production and survival.

The 2019 hunting season should continue to reap benefits from these mild winters with an increasing abundance of adult bucks—especially 2½ and 3½ year-olds. There should also be a healthy crop of yearlings, as last year's fawns will now sport their first set of antlers this fall. It's times like these when hunters can play a vital role in their future deer hunting experiences by [choosing to pass up these young bucks](#), allowing more to reach adulthood. It appears that these efforts are proving successful for Region 9 hunters since the age of harvested bucks continues to increase. Last year, less than half of all bucks harvested were yearlings, meaning that greater than half were 2½ years old or older. The stage is set for another spectacular year of adult buck harvest as many of the yearlings passed on last year will be sporting handsome headgear this fall.

Access for hunting continues to be a major concern for NYSDEC and hunters. We promote access for hunting on all DEC-owned lands wherever possible. There are many opportunities for public access and hunting throughout Region 9, with the best access occurring in the south. There are also several cooperative hunting areas in the region, giving hunters

additional lands on which to recreate. Finally, there are many landowners willing to allow hunting on private lands. We encourage you to ask permission from these landowners to gain access to private lands and to always be mindful that you are a guest. We also encourage landowners to seriously consider allowing responsible hunters access to their properties to help promote the sport of hunting and continue effective management of the deer herd through hunting.

## Unit Summaries for the 2019 Season

Included in the discussion of most WMUs is a term called the Buck Take Objective (BTO). A BTO for a WMU is the desired number of antlered bucks expected to be harvested per square mile when the WMU's deer population is at the desired level as determined by the [Citizen Task Force](#). The BTO is not the estimated take for the coming season but rather is the objective of our management efforts. The annual buck harvest is used as a gauge of population size and its relationship to the desired population level.

### WMU 9A

Area = 462 mile<sup>2</sup>

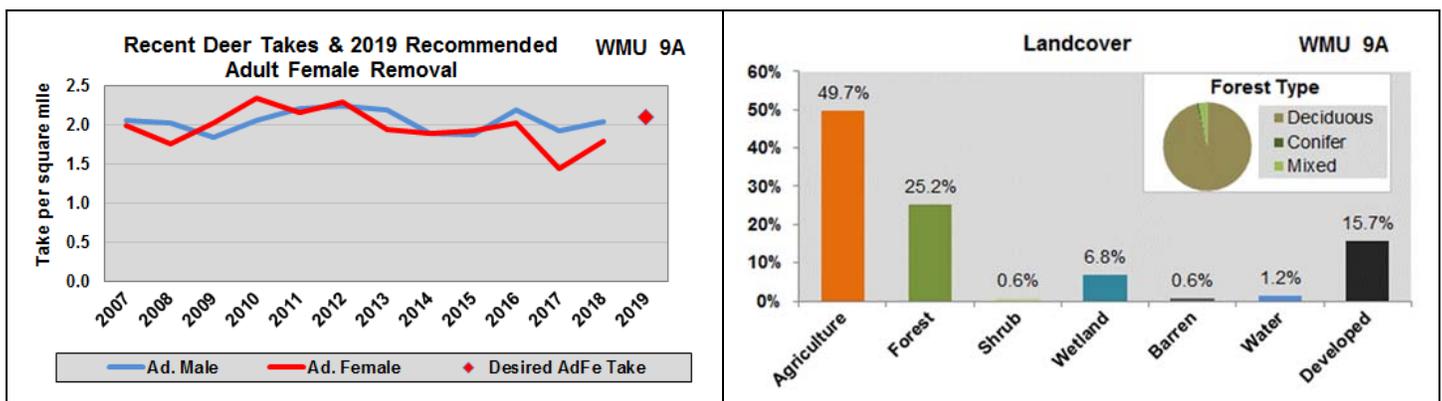
2018 Buck Take = 2.0 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 1.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 4.6 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Decrease

WMU 9A is situated primarily in Niagara County but also includes Erie County's Grand Island Township. This unit is characterized by relatively flat land sloping north toward Lake Ontario. Most of the landscape is comprised of small stands of mixed hardwood forest and expansive agricultural fields, orchards and vineyards, with several wetlands intermixed. There is very little public access for hunting in this unit, so most hunters will need to arrange access to private lands. The only public hunting land available in this unit is the [Hartland Swamp Wildlife Management Area](#). Hunters who can secure permission on land containing small woodlots and vegetated drainages that act as travel corridors should have good success. Lack of public land coupled with private land use patterns may have a greater role in determining deer harvest here than the number of deer available. Buck take in 9A has consistently remained high despite liberal antlerless permit allocations, further suggesting that hunter access is an issue in this unit. WMU 9A has been identified as one of several units in Region 9 where alternative measures are needed to increase antlerless harvest. Resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of obtaining first- and second-choice permits. As in past years, it is likely that the number of permits available will exceed the number of applicants.



## WMU 9F

Area = 277 mile<sup>2</sup>

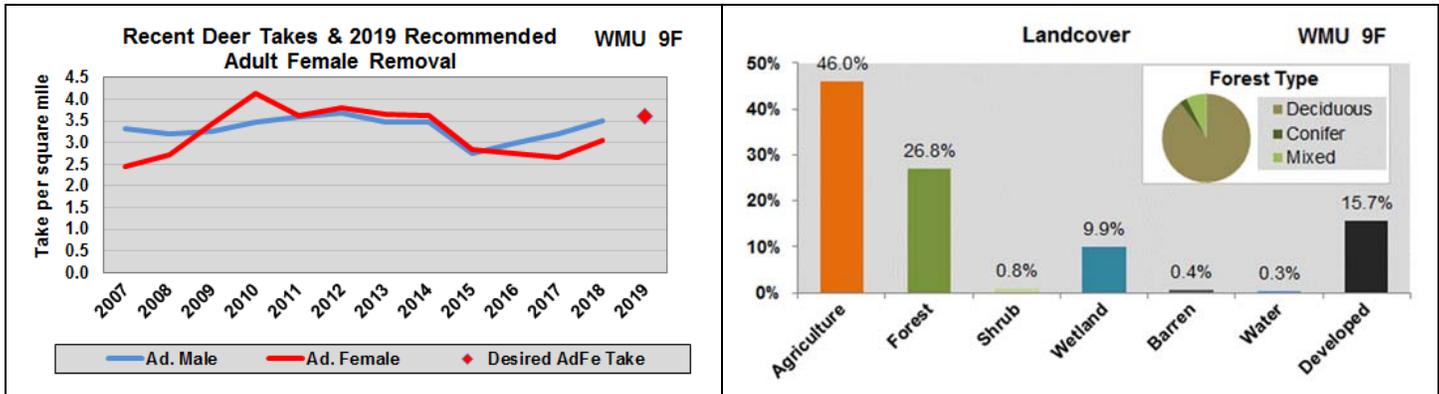
2018 Buck Take = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 2.5 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 7.9 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Decrease

WMU 9F is in Erie and Niagara Counties, primarily in the suburban areas east and northeast of metro Buffalo. This area is highly residential with numerous medium-sized family farms. Old abandoned farm fields make up much of the non-residential landscape with a few small parcels of hardwood forest interspersed. There is no public access for hunting in this unit. Archery and crossbow hunters should consider requesting access to private lands as this unit receives less hunting pressure and supports a robust deer population. These conditions, along with 9F hunters *choosing to voluntarily pass on younger bucks*, have helped this unit produce big deer with impressive antlers. Voluntary restraint from last season might produce big dividends, as the bumper crop of yearlings produced from the mild winter of 2016-17 have now matured into adult bucks. The buck take in this unit has been on the increase despite liberal antlerless harvest options. With a history of deer overabundance in this unit, antlerless harvest opportunities will be plentiful again this season with another increase in DMPs from 2018. Resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving first- and second-choice permits. Additional permits will likely be available on a first-come-first-served basis.



## WMU 9G

Area = 230 mile<sup>2</sup>

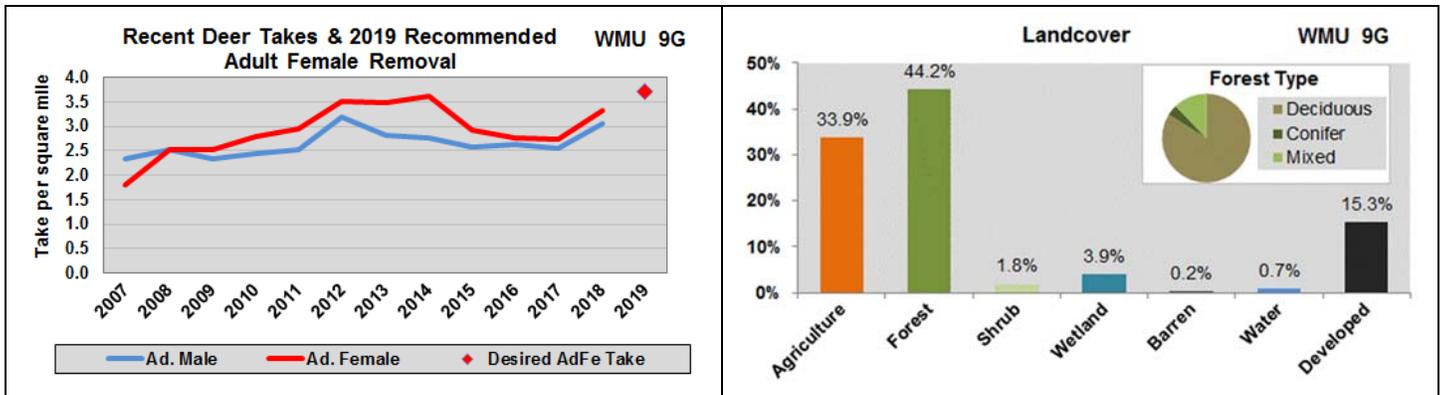
2018 Buck Take = 3.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 1.8 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 7.9 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Stabilize

WMU 9G includes portions of Erie and Chautauqua Counties sloping west toward Lake Erie. This unit includes a mix of suburban residential areas, large vineyards, and old farm fields mixed with hardwood and occasional conifer stands. The southern portion of 9G is primarily agricultural. Hunters in this unit will need to arrange access to private lands as there are no public hunting areas available. As with other units within the Lake Plains ecozone, hunters who can secure permission on land containing small woodlots and vegetated drainages that act as travel corridors should have good success. The annual buck harvest in this unit made a substantial jump last season, despite high antlerless harvests in past years. There will be roughly 25% more DMPs available this fall to reduce the population to a more stable level. By taking an adult doe in place of a yearling buck this season, hunters in this unit will be doing their part to bring the population closer to our objective, while also enhancing their future hunting endeavors by allowing more yearling bucks to make it into adulthood. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving first- and second-choice permits. Additional permits will likely be available on a first-come-first-served basis as well.



### WMU 9H

Area = 973 mile<sup>2</sup>

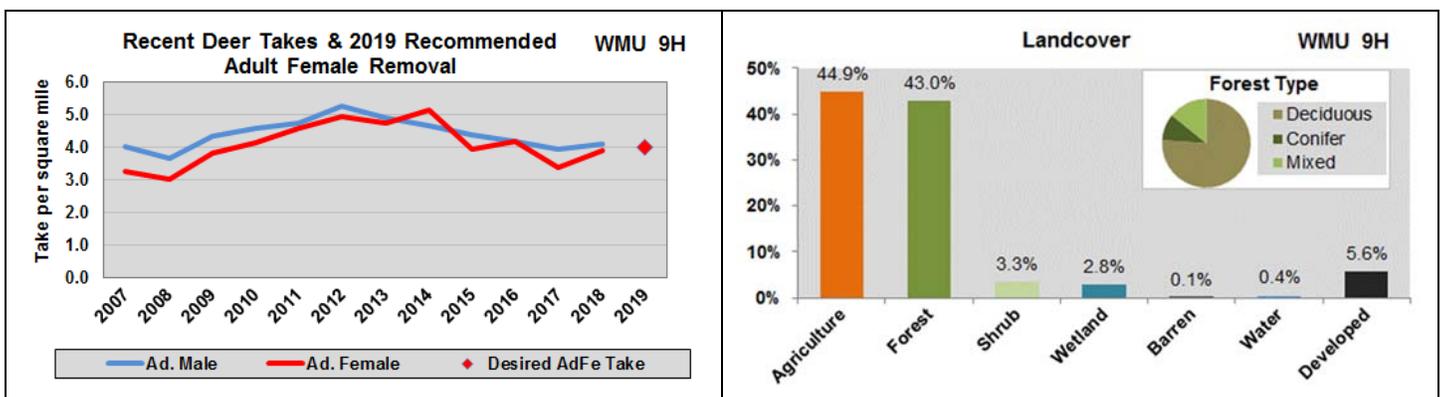
2018 Buck Take = 4.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 3.7 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 9.8 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Stabilize

This large WMU includes sizable portions of Erie and Wyoming Counties and a small portion of Genesee County. While there is limited public access in this unit, it is well known for producing some of the best quality bucks in Western New York. The unit includes some residential areas, but the clear majority of the landcover is either agriculture or mature forest. Transitioning out of the Lake Plains ecozone into the Appalachian Plateau, rolling hills are the common landscape theme, with many freshwater wetlands interspersed. Locating travel corridors between agricultural fields and along the edges of wetlands and drainages should put hunters in optimal locations to spot some handsome animals. This unit receives exceptionally heavy hunting pressure, so look for secluded areas off the beaten path where few hunters tend to travel. Think outside the box, but don't bust up a mature buck's bedding area or you'll likely never see him again. Visiting hunters should consider [Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area](#). After several years of exceptionally high buck harvests, recent harvests indicate the population is dipping back towards a more suitable level. With a management goal to maintain stability, resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first-choice permit. Residents will also have a high chance of receiving a second-choice permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



## WMU 9J

Area = 694 mile<sup>2</sup>

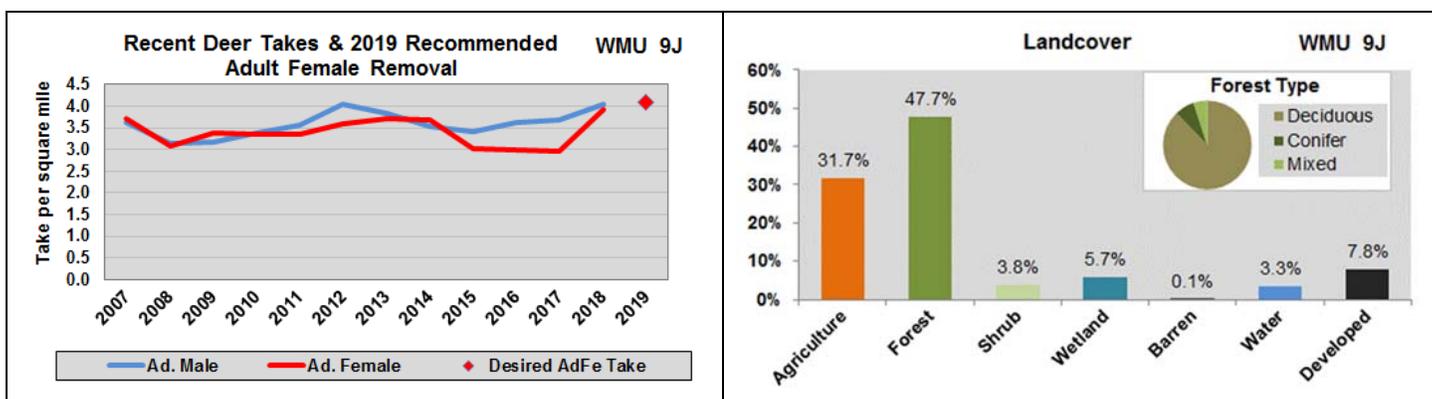
2018 Buck Take = 4.0 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 9.7 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Decrease

WMU 9J is situated entirely in Chautauqua County and is characterized by two distinct terrains: the rolling hills of the Cattaraugus highlands (part of the Appalachian Plateau ecozone) and the Lake Plains. These two areas are separated by a geographic feature known as the Chautauqua Ridge or the Portage Escarpment. Hunters should note that rifles are *not* a legal implement for big game hunting on lands north of Route 20. This unit is highly agricultural, with many large family farms and vineyards. The southwest corner of the unit contains some large freshwater wetlands. Visiting hunters should consider [Watts Flats Wildlife Management Area](#), [Whalen Memorial State Forest](#), and [North Harmony State Forest](#) (others can be found on the DEC website for [Region 9 State Lands](#)). WMU 9J has maintained a rather stable annual buck take over the past decade. Management efforts are geared toward a slight decrease from its current level. Therefore, there will be approximately 10% more DMPs available this fall. Resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving first- and second-choice permits. Non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first permit and a low probability of receiving a second permit.



## WMU 9K

Area = 446 mile<sup>2</sup>

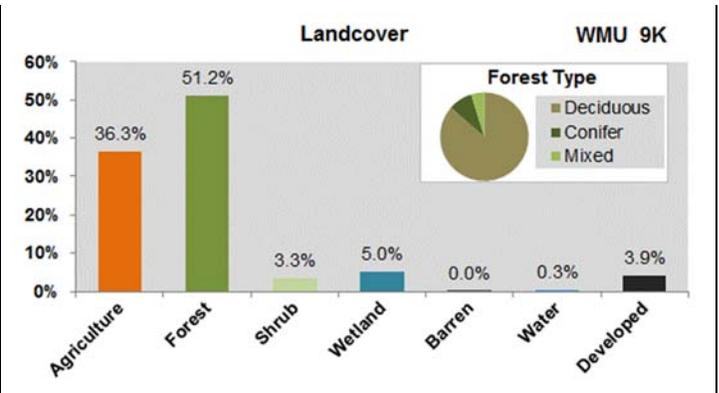
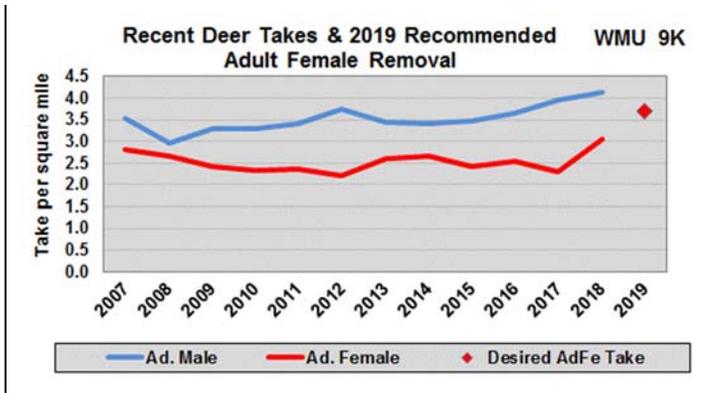
2018 Buck Take = 4.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 4.0 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 8.6 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Decrease

WMU 9K includes portions of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. Mostly rural bottomland, this unit is predominantly agricultural with some large stands of hardwood forest and an occasional conifer stand. Additionally, there are several large freshwater wetland complexes within the unit. These large tracts of wetland provide bucks with the necessary cover and sanctuary to grow old. With age being one of the most critical ingredients in the “big buck recipe”, hunters who *choose to pass on yearling bucks* in hopes of getting a chance at one of these large “swamp bucks” will be helping themselves out in future seasons by enabling these younger bucks to put on more weight and antler. There is moderate public access within WMU 9K. Visiting hunters should consider [Canadaway Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) or [Conewango Swamp Wildlife Management Area](#). There are also several state forests located within this unit listed on the DEC website for [Region 9 State Lands](#)). The 9K buck harvest has been on a slow, steady increase for the past four years, yet management efforts are now set towards a slight decrease in the population. There will be roughly 17% more DMPs available this fall to safeguard against rapid population increases after multiple years of good fawn production. Resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first-choice permit. Residents will have a low probability of receiving a second. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



### WMU 9M

Area = 330 mile<sup>2</sup>

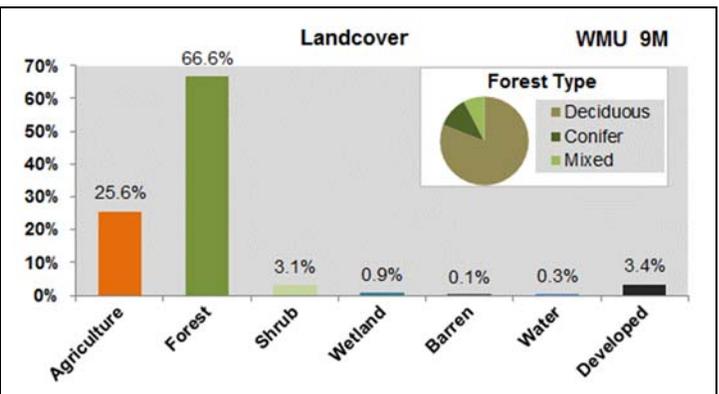
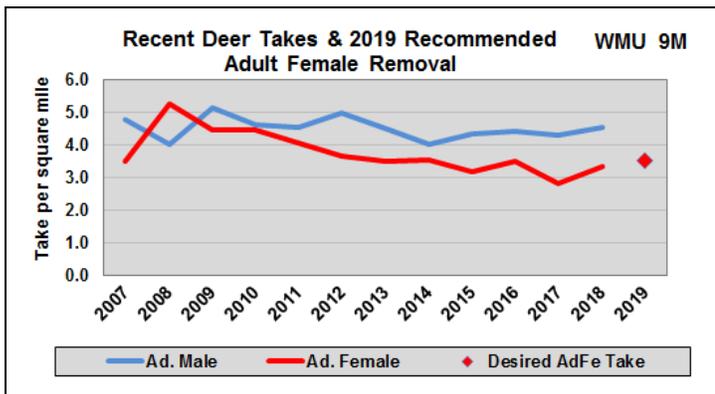
2018 Buck Take = 4.6 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 5.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 9.4 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Stabilize

WMU 9M is located entirely within Cattaraugus County and is typified by rolling hills and a mix of hardwood forest and agricultural lands. Some larger conifer forests exist on the southern end of this unit. WMU 9M has relatively little public access for hunting and visiting hunters should consider [Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area](#) or the few state forest tracts in the southern part of the unit (see the DEC website for [Region 9 State Lands](#)). With the South Branch of Cattaraugus Creek running through it, and bordered by Cattaraugus Creek to the north, this unit contains many streams and drainages. These bottomlands surrounded by tracts of mixed hardwood forest and agricultural land provide valuable travel routes and bedding areas that attract deer and other species, including black bears, bobcats, etc. Look to these areas to find superior hunting grounds. Deer are plentiful in this unit, and hunters who can access these private lands should be able to locate some nice animals. The buck take has remained relatively stable over the past decade. With management goals intended to maintain this stability, we will increase DMP availability this season to counter any uptick from robust fawning seasons stemming from several mild winters. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident and non-resident applicants will have a high probability of receiving a first-choice permit. Residents will have a low probability of receiving a second-choice permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



## WMU 9N

Area = 207 mile<sup>2</sup>

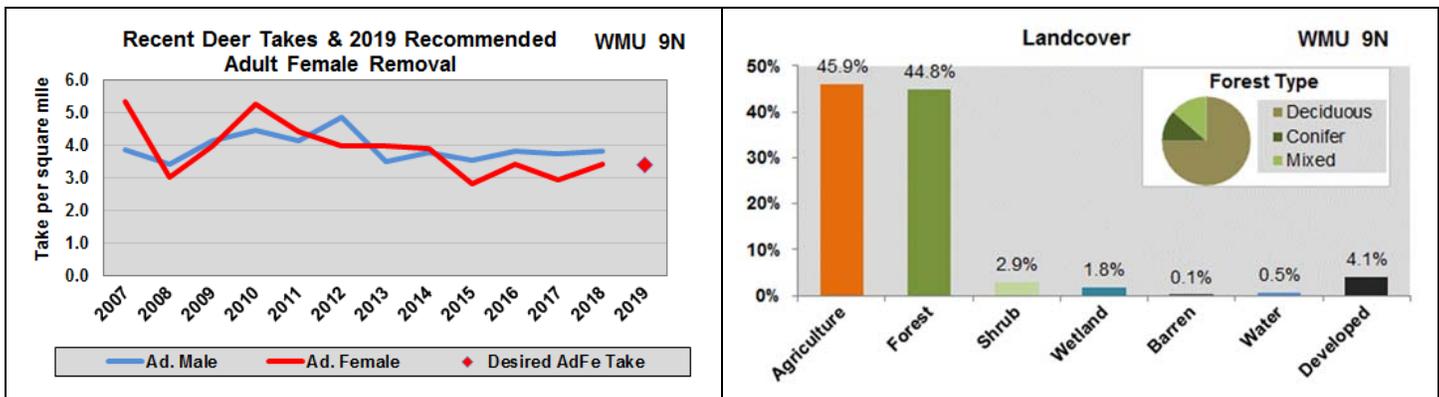
2018 Buck Take = 3.8 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 3.5 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 8.8 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Stabilize

WMU 9N includes portions of Allegany, Cattaraugus and Wyoming Counties, and contains rolling hills and large tracts of hardwood forest throughout, with the occasional wetland area. This unit is occupied by family farms and several larger agricultural operations. Numerous drainages originate within WMU 9N, including Cold Creek, Clear Creek, Elton Creek and the Wiscoy. These creek bottoms provide valuable cover and travel corridors for multiple species because they run along agricultural fields, often providing a vegetated travel route from hardwoods to feed. These areas may prove to be the best spots to locate a roaming whitetail during the peak of the rut. With limited public access, visiting hunters should consider either [Lost Nation State Forest](#) or [Swift Hill State Forest](#). 9N has maintained a relatively stable buck take over the past five years. To hold this trend, the antlerless permit quota will increase again this year like last season to counter any increased recruitment. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident and non-resident hunters will have a high probability of receiving a first-choice permit. Resident hunters will have a medium probability of receiving a second-choice permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



## WMU 9P

Area = 582 mile<sup>2</sup>

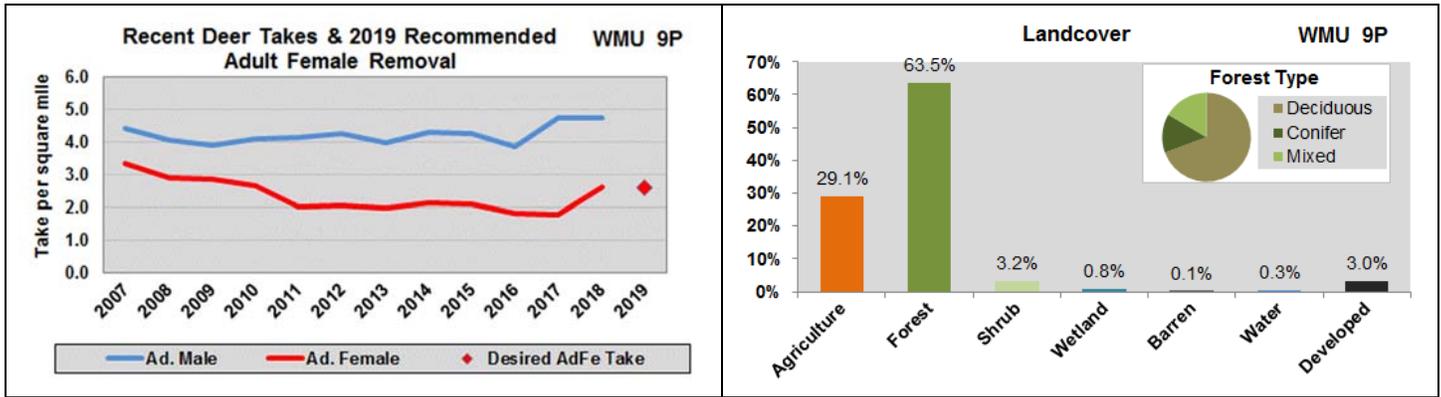
2018 Buck Take = 4.8 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 6.0 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 8.5 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Increase

WMU 9P is situated primarily in Allegany County but includes small portions of Livingston and Steuben Counties. This large unit is very diverse. The southern reaches of the unit consist of heavily forested hills and ridges within the higher elevations of the Appalachian Plateau. Agriculture in this portion of 9P is sparse to nonexistent. As one moves north, gradients become less steep and the soil becomes more fertile, with the northernmost reaches of 9P being prime farmland with several large agricultural operations. This diversity can present challenges to deer managers as they attempt to prescribe an antlerless quota. Hunters able to gain access to lands bordering farmlands should see plenty of game. With a bounty of public land, access is not an issue. Visiting hunters should consider [Keeney Swamp Wildlife Management Area](#), [Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area](#), or a host of state forest properties throughout the unit (see the DEC website for [Region 9 State Lands](#)). Public land is notorious for receiving a lot of hunting pressure, but with thousands of acres open to public hunting in this unit, the pressure is not as heavy as many might think. The smart hunter will look for quiet areas off the beaten path where few other hunters will, or dare to, travel. In addition, look for recent timber harvests as these areas tend to hold more deer and other game, especially as the pressure increases later in the season. We have maintained conservative DMP availability for over 5 years to stimulate modest growth. This year we intend to maintain a modest quota like past seasons to further encourage the trend upward. There will, however, be a few more permits available. Resident applicants will need preference points to be eligible for a first-choice permit. There will be no second-choice permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents.



**WMU 9R**

Area = 218 mile<sup>2</sup>

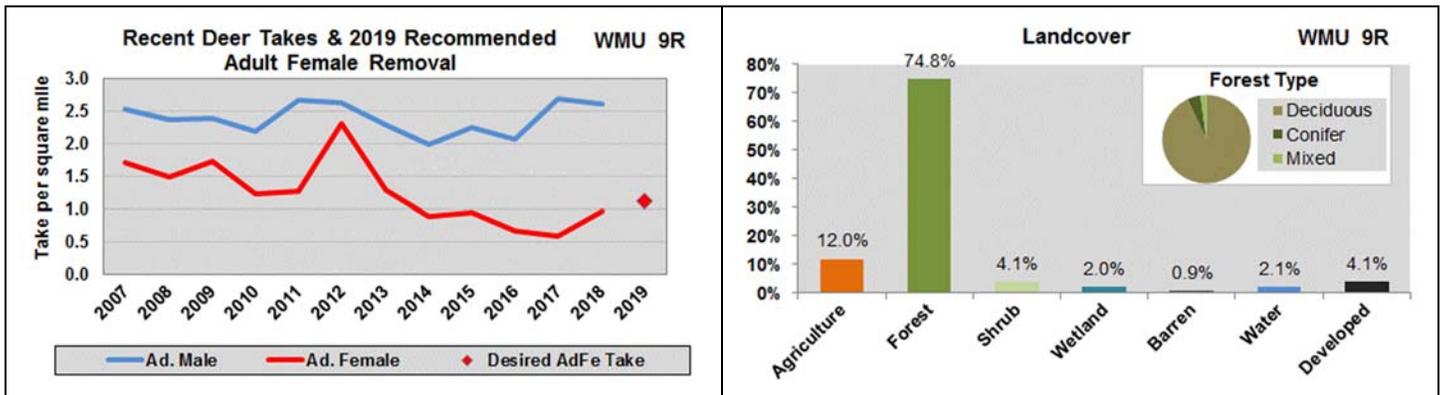
2018 Buck Take = 2.6 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 4.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 4.0 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Decrease

WMU 9R is situated primarily in Cattaraugus County on the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. The eastern boundary of this unit is made up of valleys and lowlands associated with the Allegheny Reservoir. The unit is more heavily forested than areas to the north. There are several parcels of state land in WMU 9R that provide opportunities for hunting. Hunters looking for public access should consider [South Valley State Forest](#) or [Bucktooth State Forest](#). The mature forests and lack of early successional habitat make for poor deer hunting relative to neighboring units to the north and west. Hunters that can access lands near recently logged parcels should experience the best success since lands opened from logging create an increase of browse and cover from thick undergrowth. Hunters pursuing black bears will have good opportunities in this unit. With last year's bump in buck harvest and a desire to slightly reduce the herd, we have increased the antlerless permit quota. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, residents will have a low probability of receiving a first-choice permit. There will be no second-choice permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents.



## WMU 9S

Area = 92 mile<sup>2</sup>

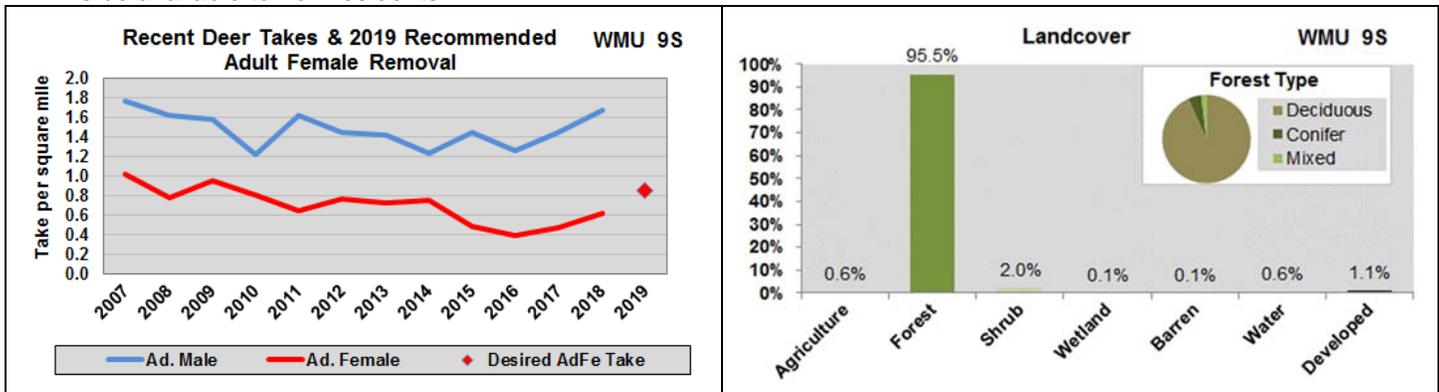
BTO = 3.1 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Increase

2018 Buck Take = 1.7 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 2.6 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Recreational hunting is a primary use for Allegany State Park, which constitutes most of WMU 9S. This unit has the most public land available in Western New York and is almost entirely forested with a combination of hardwood and mixed forests. A few large water bodies are found within this unit, including the Allegheny Reservoir. Ample opportunities for hunting exist, but separate hunting permits must be secured from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) for hunting within the Park. Though a separate permit is required, the process is relatively fast and easy, so do not be discouraged. The large wooded tracts and limited road access within WMU 9S are unusual for Western New York and attract hunters wanting to take a deer in a more wilderness-like environment. With adequate scouting, hunters can locate travel corridors through this heavily forested, mountainous terrain. Due to the low hunting pressure, bucks can grow older than in the surrounding areas. As a result, numerous exceptionally large, old bucks are harvested from this unit every year. Hunting near beaver flows or near an abandoned apple orchard (a hidden treasure) can be quite productive. Locating hard mast crops can also be very useful later in the season. While hunting these food sources, one is also very likely to encounter a bear. Unfortunately, bear hunting is not permitted within the Park. The buck take in this unit remains low, but harvests may be as affected by hunter effort within the Park as by overall population levels. To maintain interest from hunters and provide opportunity to harvest a deer while passing up younger bucks in anticipation of an old wilderness giant, the antlerless permit quota will remain modest. Resident applicants will have a medium chance of receiving a first-choice permit. There will be no second-choice permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents.



## WMU 9T

Area = 248 mile<sup>2</sup>

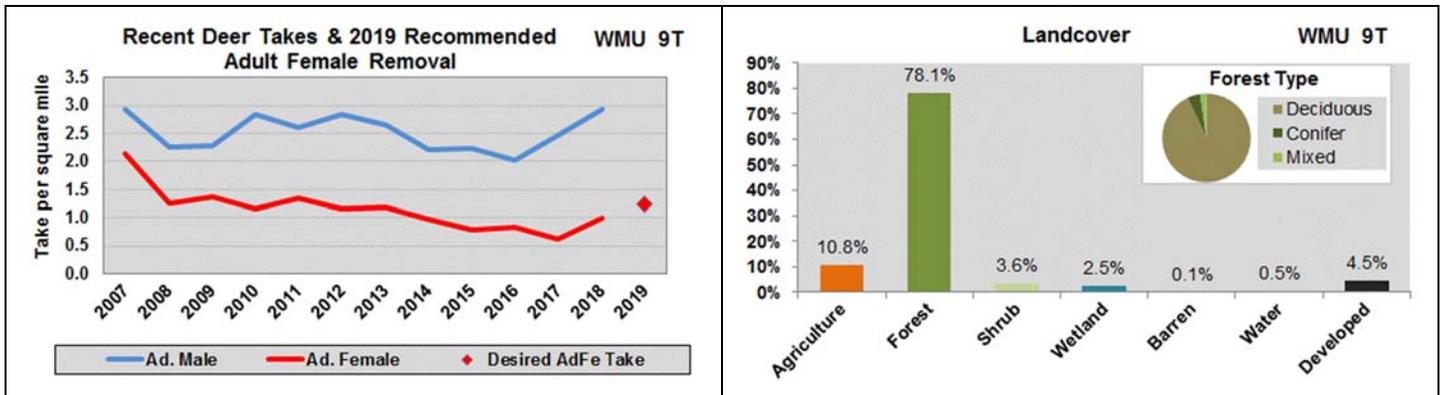
BTO = 4.4 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Increase

2018 Buck Take = 2.9 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 4.4 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

WMU 9T is in Cattaraugus County and contains public hunting access primarily in its northwestern portions. The unit is mainly forested, interspersed with a few small family farms. Hunters requiring public access should consider [Golden Hill State Forest](#) and [Windfall Creek State Forest](#). With the Allegheny River valley running through the middle, look to bottomlands for some of the better hunting. During years of heavy acorn crops, the oak ridges can also be great producers and might also provide the opportunistic hunter with a chance at a black bear. As in neighboring units in the extreme southern tier, 9T buck harvests have remained low for many years. Large reductions in antlerless permits in 2015 and 2016, along with increased fawn recruitment from milder winters, may have set this unit on an increasing trajectory. Last year we maintained a modest antlerless permit quota in hopes of strengthening this growth. After another marked jump in the buck take, things are headed in the right direction. Therefore, we will slightly increase the 2019 permit quota. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident applicants will need preference points to be eligible for a first-choice permit. There will be no second-choice permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents.



### WMU 9W

Area = 250 mile<sup>2</sup>

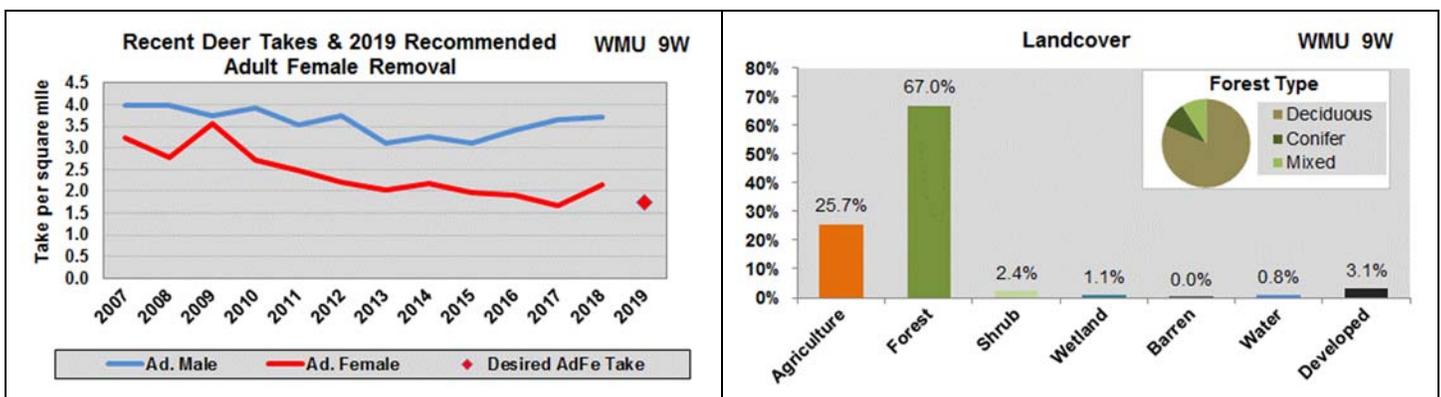
2018 Buck Take = 3.7 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 4.4 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 6.8 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Increase

WMU 9W includes portions of Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties and is similar in character to WMU 9N to the north. The unit is heavily forested, with several medium-sized farms in the northern portion. Agricultural activity decreases as one moves south through the unit, in conjunction with increasing slopes and decreasing soil fertility. WMU 9W contains several areas with public access for hunting and visiting hunters should consider the renowned [Hanging Bog Wildlife Management Area](#) or [Bush Hill State Forest](#). With the Genesee River valley to the east and the Ischua Creek to the west, bottomlands provide this southern tier unit with its better hunting grounds. Hunters accessing property where agriculture and bottomland coincide should have the best chance of locating the heavily pressured, elusive bucks. Hunters who have chosen to *pass up on younger bucks* in the past should see an increase in rutting activity and intensity as a result of more adult bucks competing for available does. The buck harvests have increased for three consecutive years now but showed signs of slowing last season. We will slightly decrease the number of permits issued for 2019 to maintain momentum upwards. Resident applicants will have a low probability of receiving a first-choice permit. There will be no second-choice permits available to residents, nor will permits be available to non-residents.



## WMU 9X

Area = 219 mile<sup>2</sup>

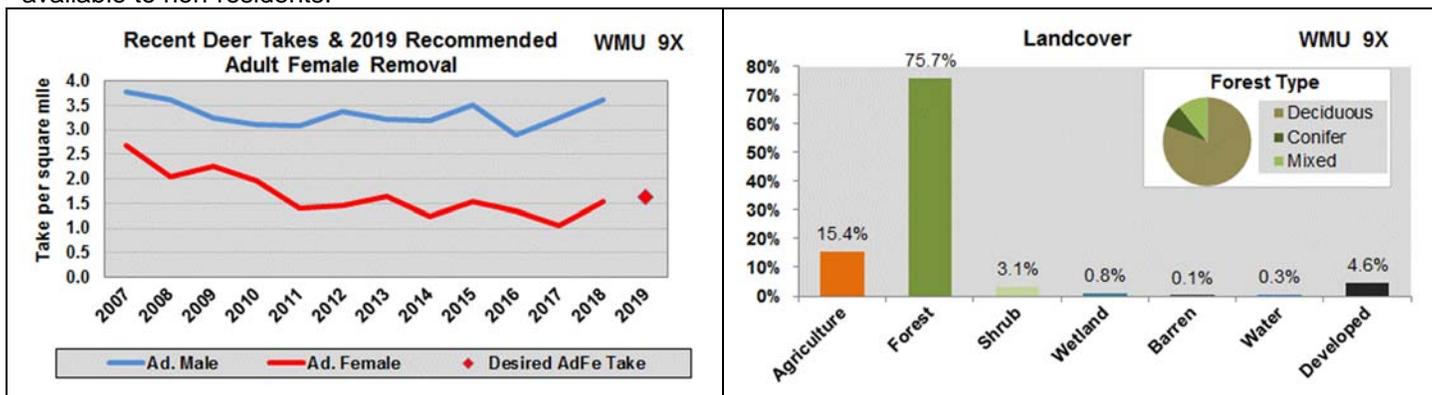
2018 Buck Take = 3.6 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 5.8 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 5.8 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Increase

WMU 9X is situated in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties and has no public lands accessible for hunting. This unit is characterized by large forested ridges running north-south as waters drain south into Pennsylvania. The unit does, however, include a spattering of small family farms. 9X is bordered by several rivers and large creek valleys, including the Genesee and Allegheny Rivers. These bottomlands surrounded by large tracts of mixed hardwood forests attract deer and other species, including black bears and bobcats, from miles around. Look to these areas to find the superior hunting grounds in this unit, especially late in the season when pressured animals head for thick cover and available forage. As in neighboring units, the buck harvests in 9X have been rather low and stable for many years. Consequently, the buck take is not expected to increase significantly during the 2019 season. Two consecutive years of increased buck take provides some hope, but this may reflect more hunter effort, availability, and desire to pass on younger bucks than the actual deer density. We have made a modest increase to the permit quota to coincide with the marked upswing in the buck take. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident applicants will again need preference points to be eligible for a first-choice permit. There will be no second-choice permits available to residents, nor will DMPs be available to non-residents.



## WMU 9Y

Area = 125 mile<sup>2</sup>

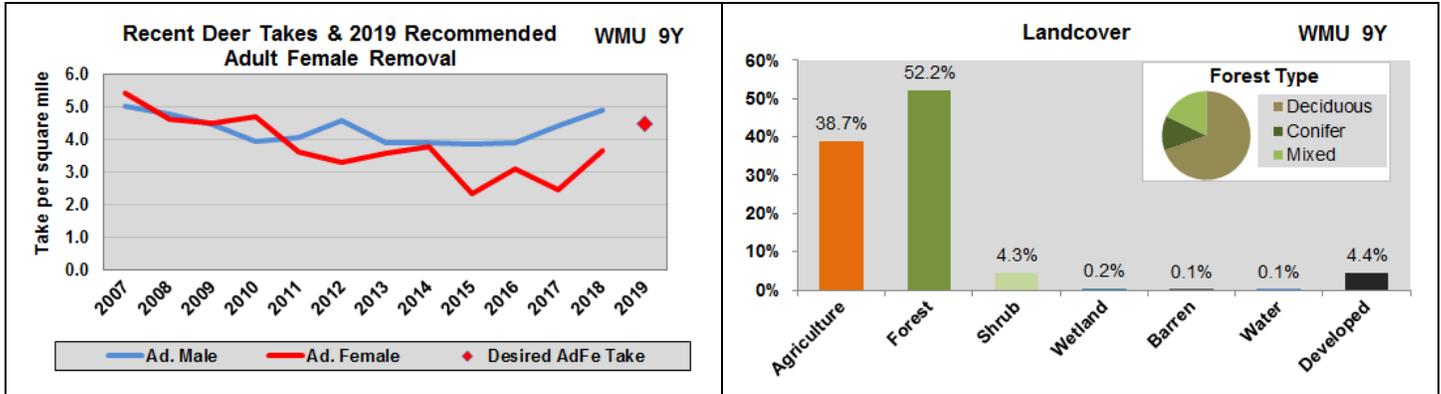
2018 Buck Take = 4.9 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

BTO = 5.0 bucks harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

2018 Total Deer Take = 10.2 deer harvested per mile<sup>2</sup>

Desired Population trajectory: Stabilize

WMU 9Y is a relatively small unit located in southeastern Allegany County. Mostly forested, this unit comprises round-topped hills and valley floors. Compared to its neighboring southern tier units, there is noticeably more agriculture found here, but farming is still relatively low compared to northern units within the region. There is little public access to hunting lands in this unit; hunters requiring public access should consider either [Phillips Creek State Forest](#) or [Vandermark State Forest](#). Be advised to heed [WMU boundary descriptions](#), as both state forest properties span the boundary between WMUs 9P and 9Y. Buck harvests in this unit had been relatively stable until two consecutive years of substantial increases in buck take. It is anticipated that the 2019 buck harvest will produce another increase. With management efforts geared toward stabilizing the population within this unit, we have increased the permit quota for this season to stem off any additional growth. Based on the anticipated number of applicants, resident and non-resident hunters will have a high probability of receiving a first-choice permit. Residents will have a low probability of receiving a second-choice permit. There will be no second permits available to non-residents.



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