

Welcome!!!

2024 CCWMA Fall Meetings

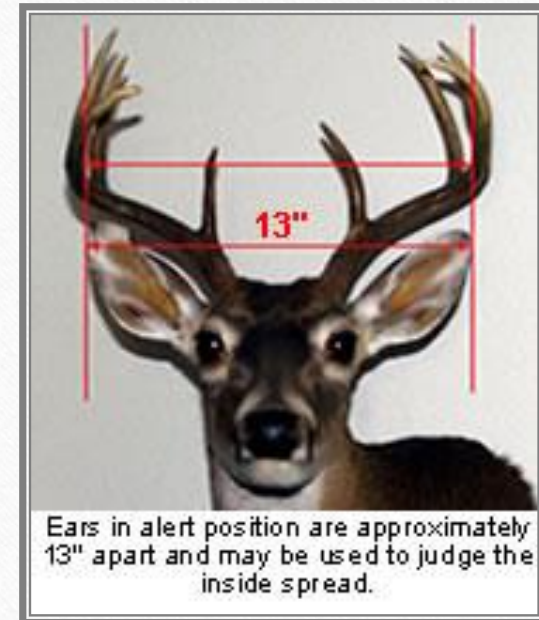
CCWMA 2024

Antler Restrictions and Hunter Selection

Mark Lange-Senior Biologist District 9 TPWD

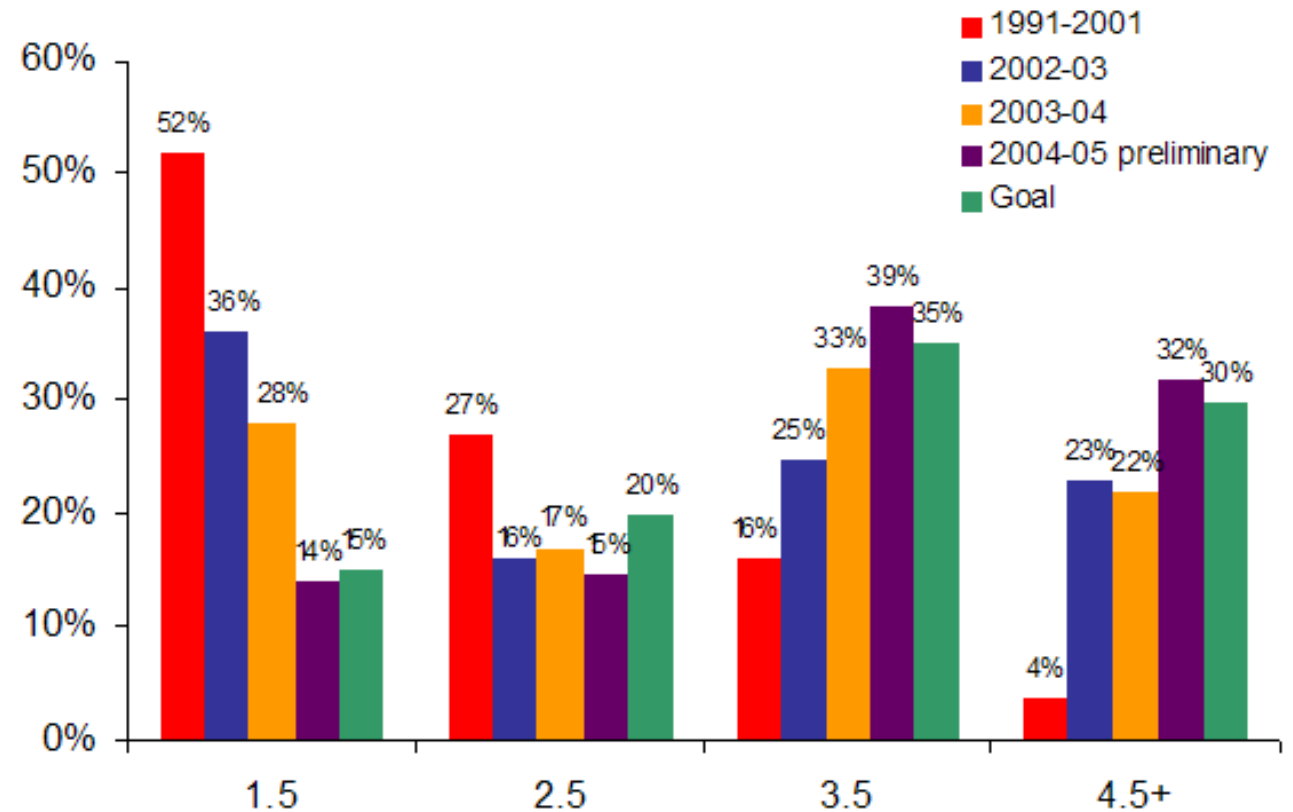
Original 6

- Austin, Colorado, Fayette, Lee, Washington, Lavaca Counties in 2002
- Purpose
 - Improve age structure
 - Increase hunter opportunity
 - Encourage landowners and hunters to be more active in management
- 13 inch inside spread of MAIN BEAMS if a buck has multiple points on both antlers



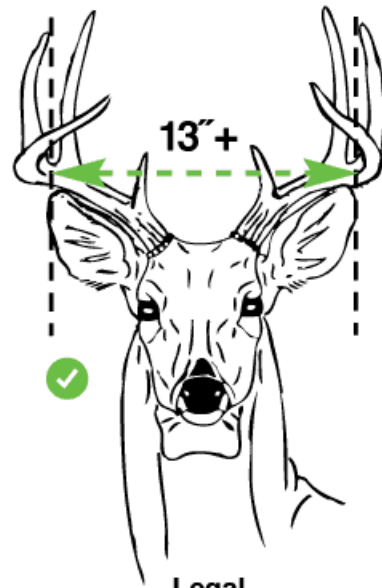
Antler Restrictions- History and Purpose

- Prior to restrictions
 - Doe by permit only
 - Heavy harvest on young bucks-most of bucks harvested were less than 3.5yo
 - Resulted in decreased hunter opportunity-if you SAW a buck you were expected to harvest it

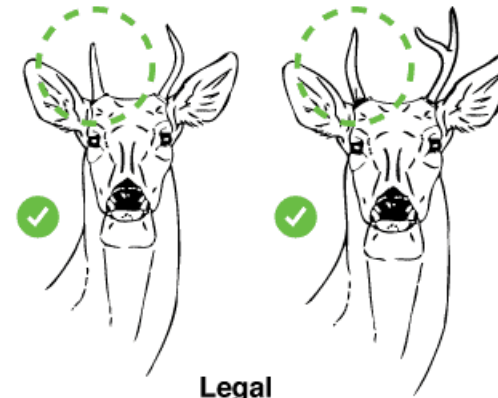


Things to be aware of

- Broken main beam bucks
 - If broke past the brow tine, still has to have 13 inch spread and it WON'T
- One antler bucks
 - If the one antler has multiple points
 - No unbranched antler
 - No 13 inch spread
 - ILLEGAL to harvest



Legal
At least 13 inch inside spread.



Legal
At least one unbranched antler.



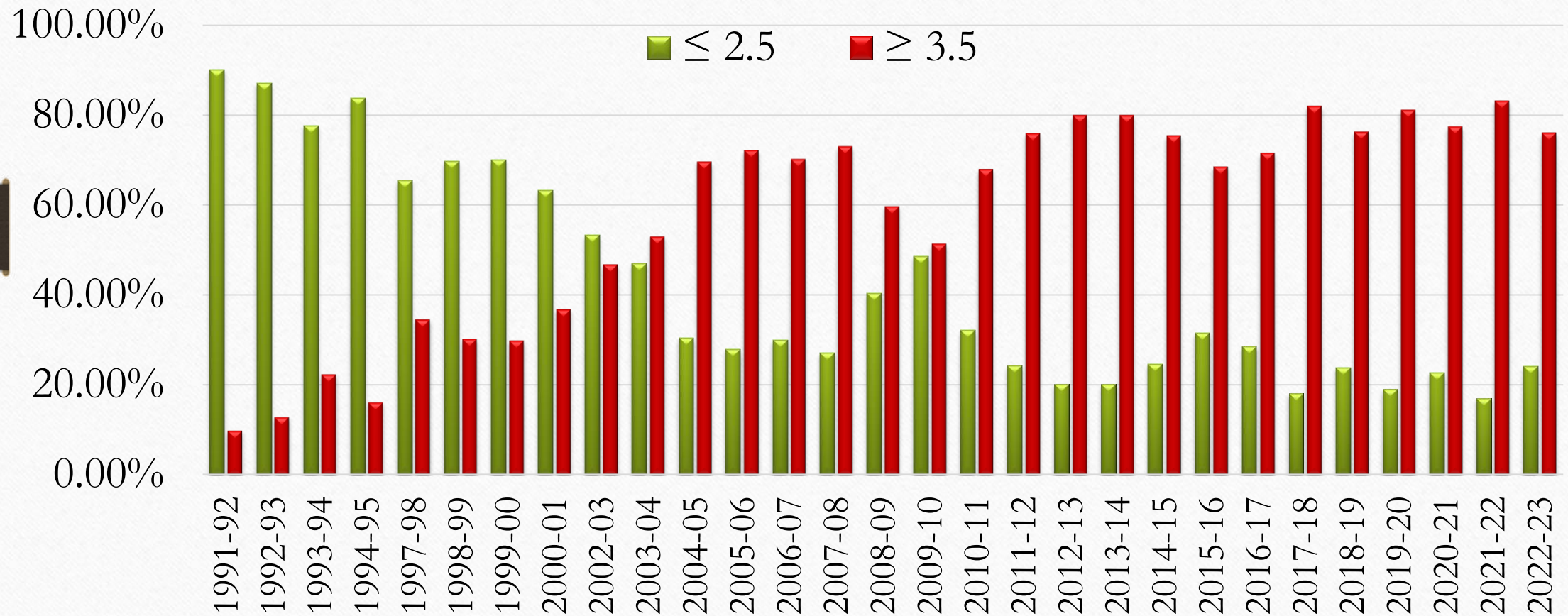
Illegal
Meets no criteria.

Where we are now..

- Hunter opportunity has improved
 - MLD program has grown
 - More bucks to harvest
 - Trophy bucks
 - Increased densities
- Ratios
 - Ratios have improved because more bucks on the landscape
 - Densities have increased-more harvest needed
 - Higher pressure on bucks
 - To have better ratios additional doe harvest needed and mindful buck harvest

Antler Restrictions Buck Age Structure

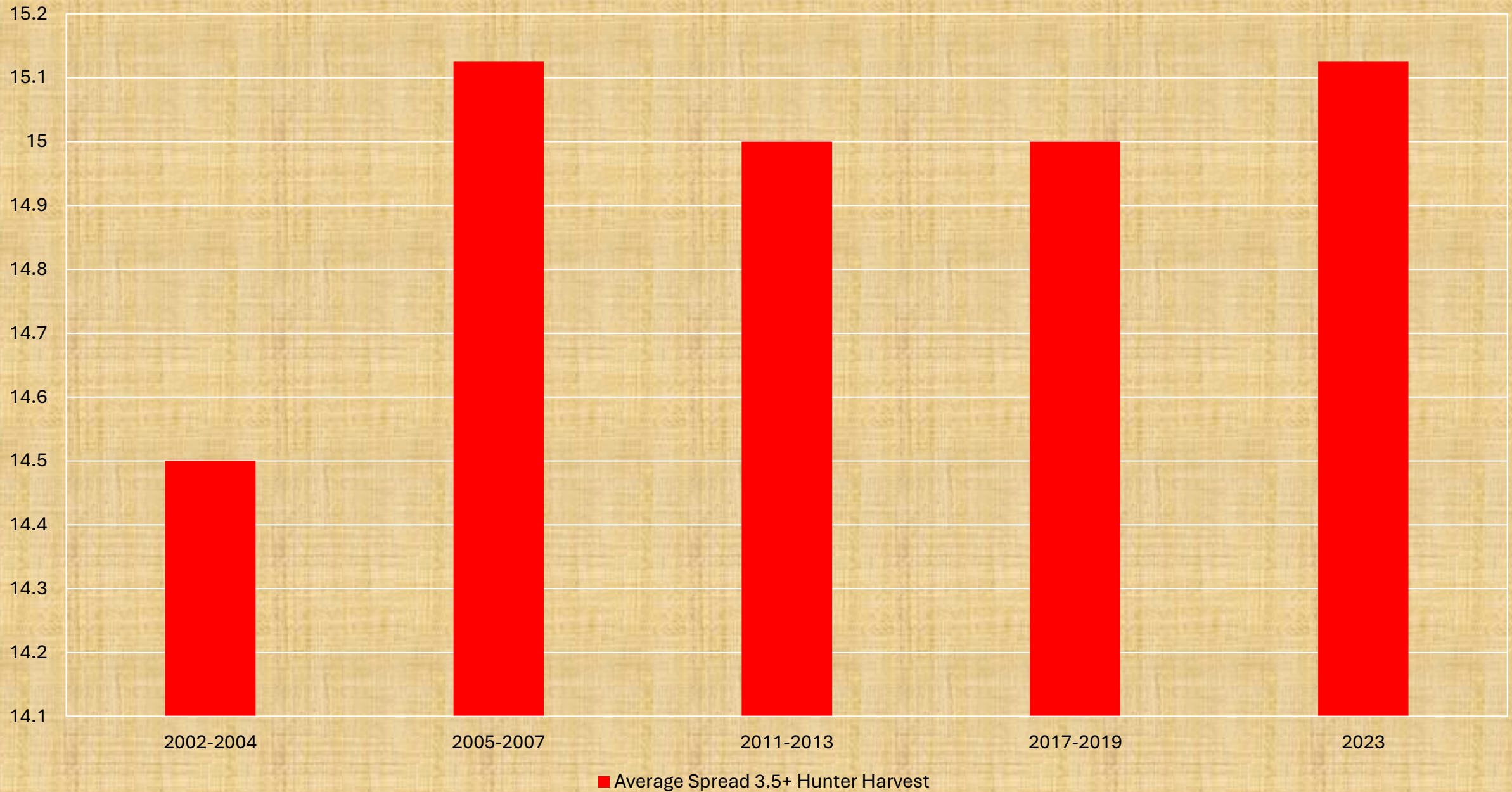
Original 6 Experimental Counties - Implemented 2002



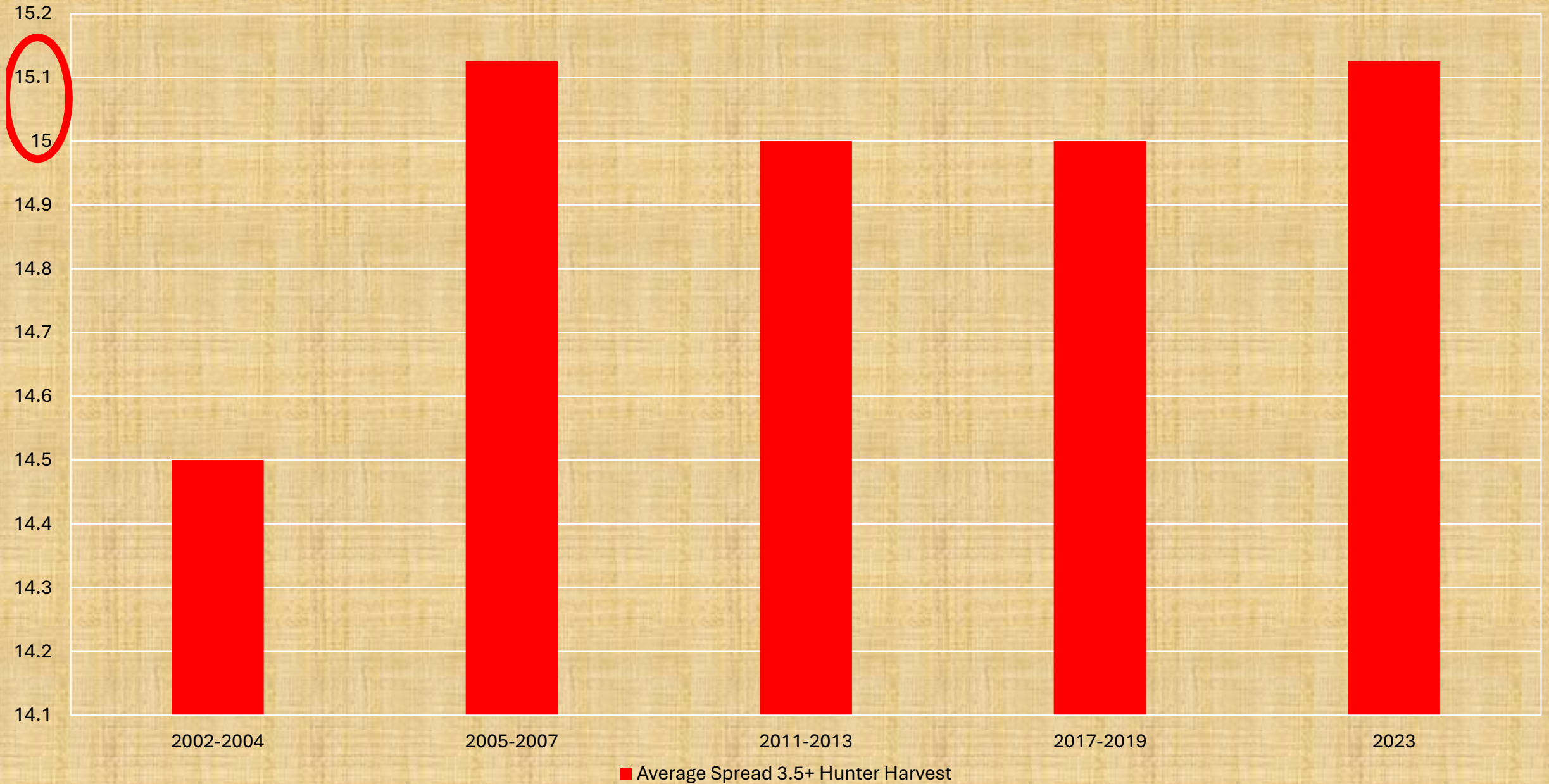
What do you think the average spread is on
bucks 3.5 years and older?



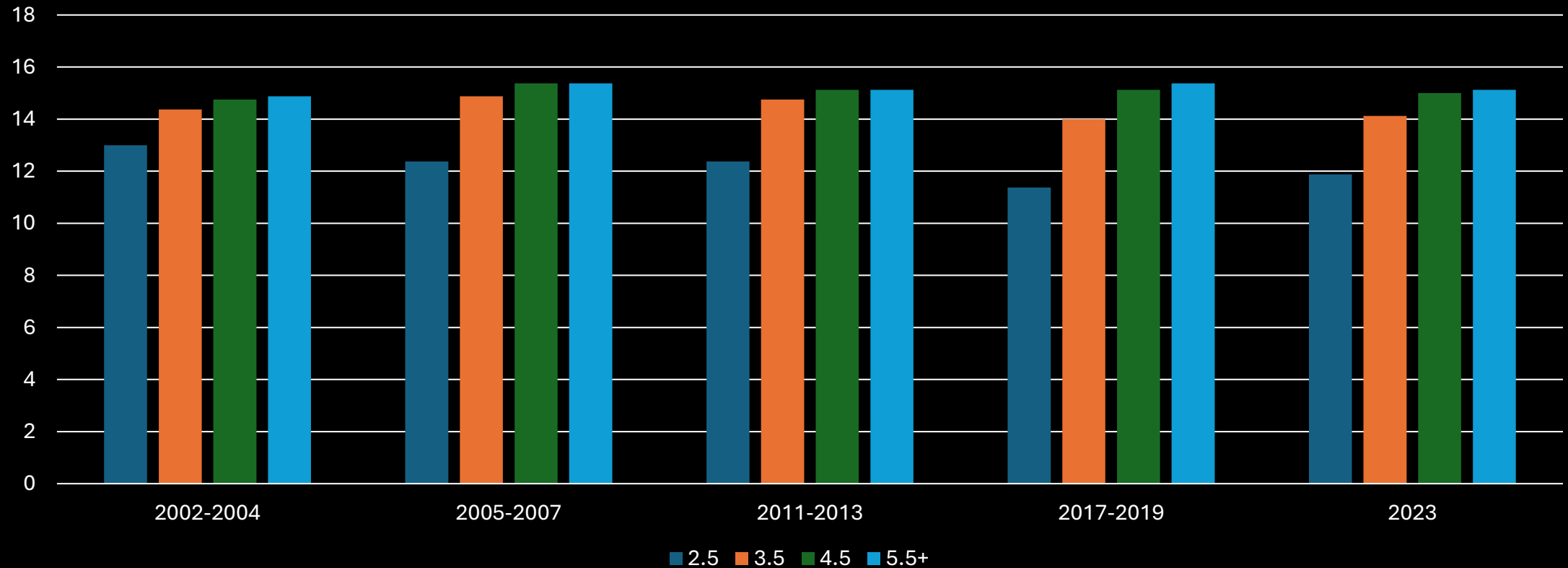
Average Inside Spread 3.5+ Hunter Harvest

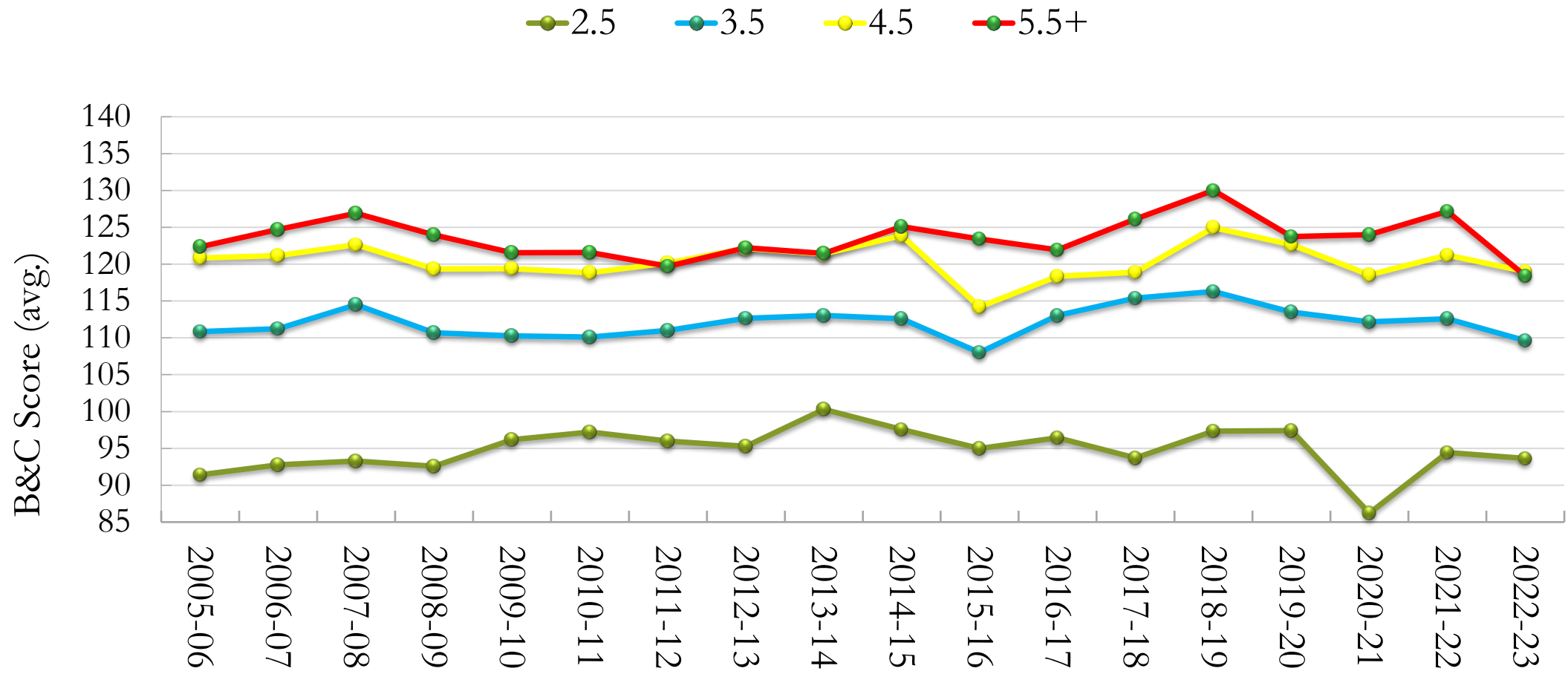


Average Spread 3.5+ Hunter Harvest

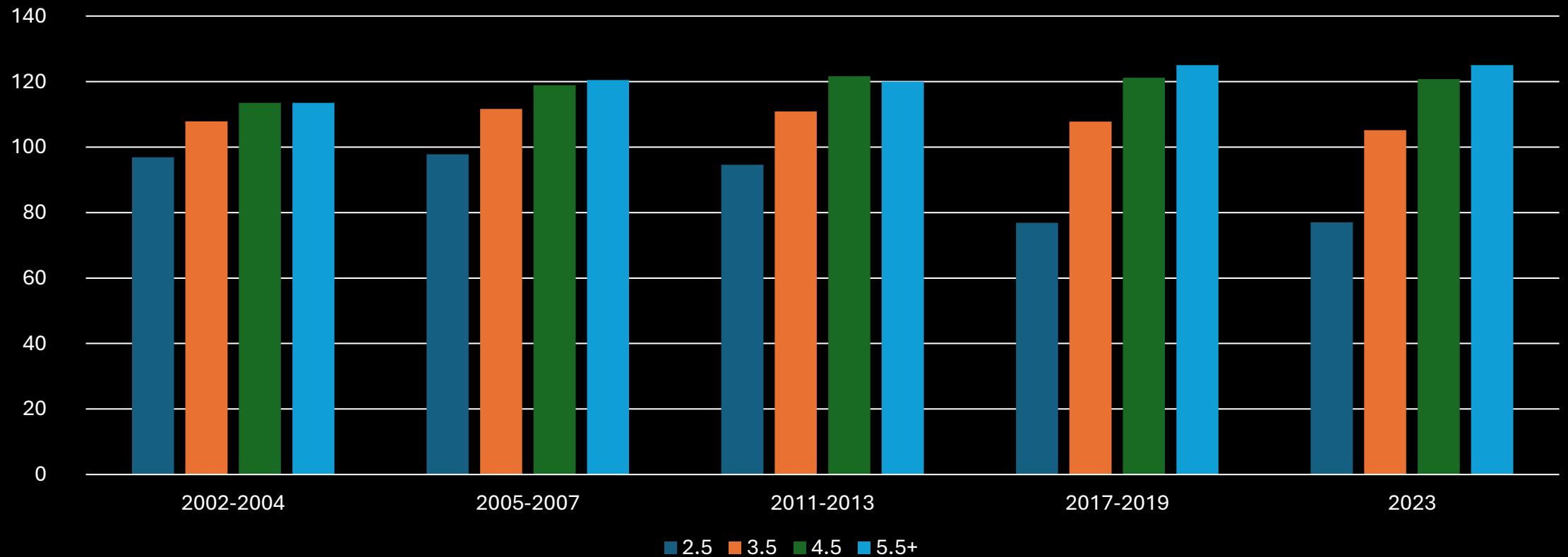


All bucks average inside spread (harvest and roadkill)





All bucks average B&C Score (harvest and roadkill)



Ecological Region	3.5 Age Group	4.5 Age Group	5.5+ Age Group
Cross Timbers	111 4/8	122 2/8	127 3/8
Eastern Rolling Plains	112 6/8	122 1/8	129 3/8
Edwards Plateau	101 7/8	112 3/8	118 6/8
Pineywoods	112 5/8	123 7/8	127 3/8
Post Oak Savannah	112 2/8	121 2/8	123 7/8
South Texas Plains	109 5/8	124 6/8	133 6/8
Western Rolling Plains	112 5/8	124 5/8	133 4/8
Statewide	110 1/8	120 2/8	126 0/8

What does that mean..

- Bucks are NOT getting narrower over time
- Free range genetics are what they are not amount of “culling” will change it
- Habitat conditions besides rainfall you can influence
- Nutrition is something you can control
- Age of harvested bucks is something you can control
- The number of bucks harvested is something you can control
- The number of doe harvested to decrease competition/balance ratios/offer more access to nutrition for younger bucks is something you can control



09.11.2016 20:54:05



10/7/2020 8:17 PM



10/5/2020 8:33 PM

WHAT ABOUT THE “NARROW” BUCK

- Antler heritability in the wild is weak
- Environmental and habitat conditions
- Breeding value and breeding success varies greatly
- Average buck only sires 1.5 fawns/year
- Breeding is spread out among a large number of bucks
 - **Unlike livestock or elk**
- Does contribute 50% of genetics

How to have an influence

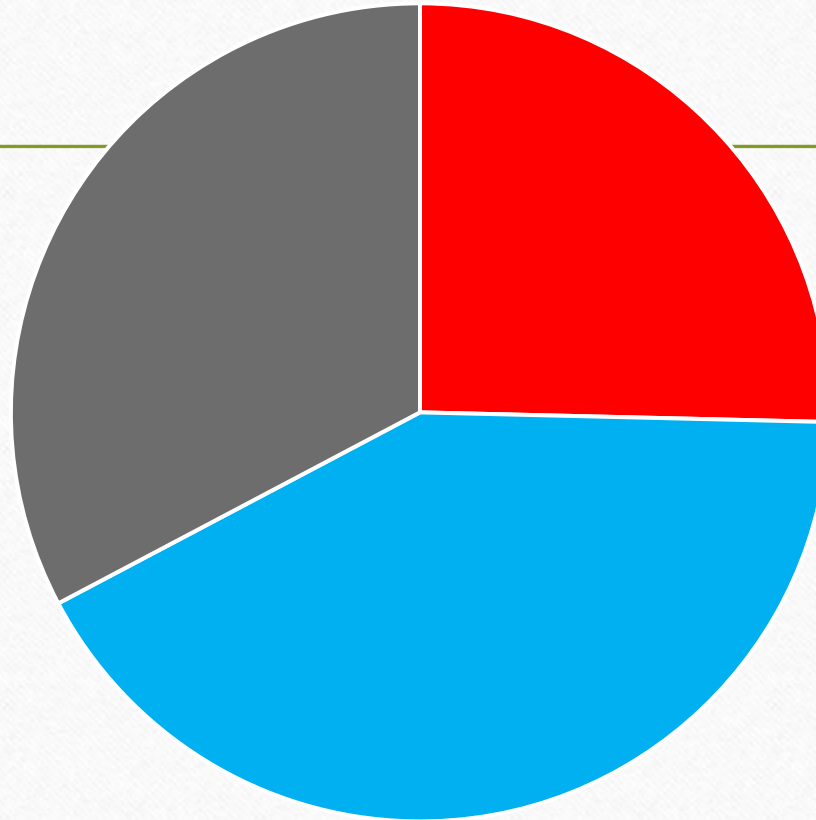
- Habitat
 - Brush management
 - Adjust grazing/shredding
 - Promote plant diversity-discing and stop spraying your weeds
- Harvest
 - Doe-use your tags.....don't overthink doe harvest
 - +-50% utilization in MLD
 - Do you have to shoot a buck every year?

Which Doe Do I Harvest?

The one that stands still!

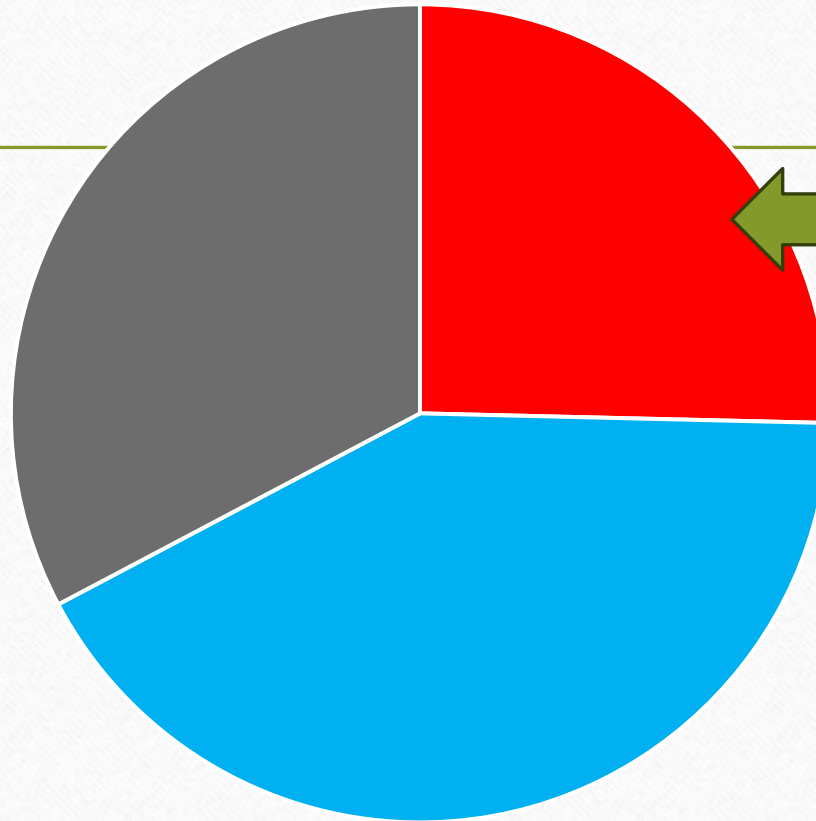


Harvest by Age Class-Original 6 Counties Branched Bucks



■ 3.5 ■ 4.5 ■ 5.5+

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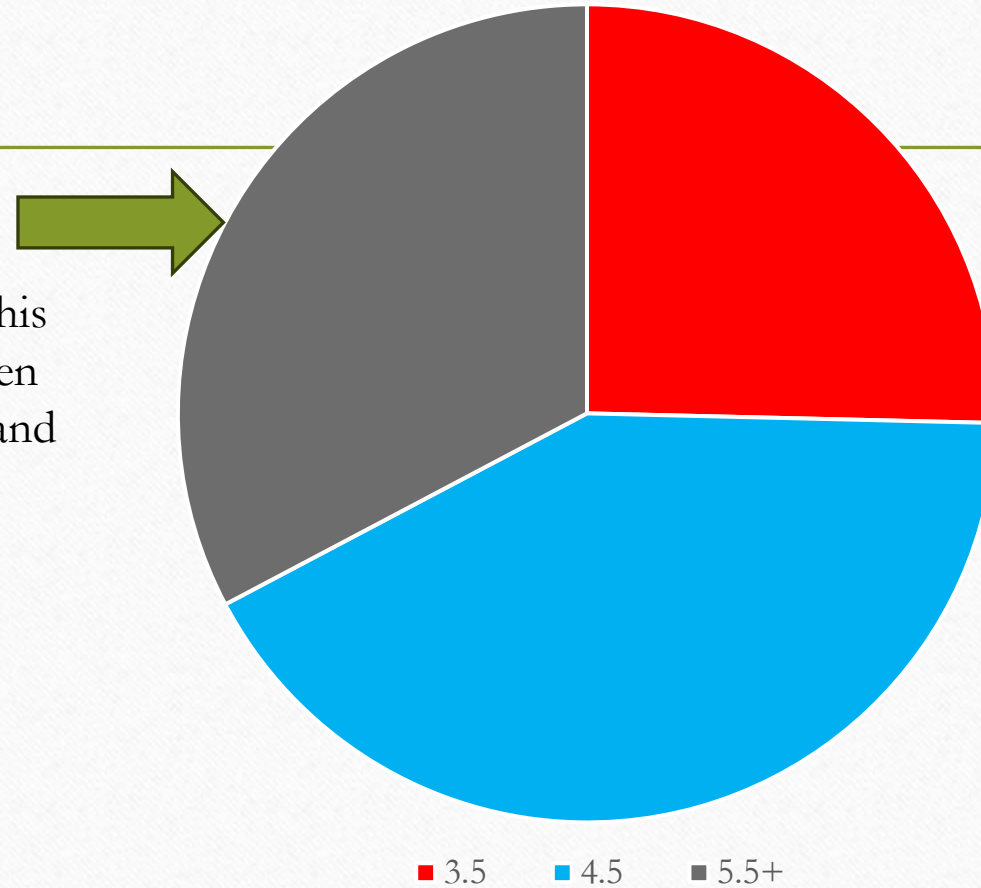


■ 3.5 ■ 4.5 ■ 5.5+

If you regularly contribute to this portion of the data set adjust your criteria for buck harvest

Harvest by Age Class-Original 6 Counties Branched Bucks

If you only contribute to this portion of the data set when you do.....stay the course and I applaud you!!



CCWMA 2023-2024 Harvest by WMA

				North East Colorado County WMA		Central Colorado County WMA	
	Harvey Creek WMA	Sandy Creek WMA	Colorado River WMA		Oakridge WMA		CCWMA
# of Sites Issued Permits	87	150	58	108	56	41	500
# of members returning data (%)	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.8%
Acreage represented by returned data	14,562	28,289	22,632	17,778	1420	10,200	94,881
Recommended Doe Harvest/acreage	55	62	70	47	11	64	51.5
Actual Doe Harvest/acreage	106	137	148	88	35	126	106.7
Doe Harvested	137	206	153	201	41	81	819
Doe Permit Utilization	52%	45%	47%	53%	31%	51%	47%
Actual Buck Harvest/acreage	291	367	328	329	129	378	303.6667
Bucks Harvested/total	50	77	69	54	11	27	288
Unbranched bucks	12	19	16	10	1	6	64
Does harvested per buck	2.7	2.7	2.2	3.7	3.7	3	3.0

224 branched bucks reported

85 reported to scorers

38%

10% more than our previous best

KEEP IT UP!!!

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Use your resources

- Get your bucks scored big or not so big!!!!!!
- Don't know how to age a deer
 - We will age it when we score it WIN WIN
 - Save lower jaws and photos
 - We can help put the puzzle together for on the hoof and post harvest age
 - Can help you better determine age on the hoof
 - HINT....the mature one is the one the others are typically scared of so that can take much of the guess work out of it







CWD Update

- More positive locations every year
- 0 positives in Colorado County
- Risk is always there don't relax
- TEST TEST TEST any deer except fawns



CWD Update

- New carcass disposal restrictions
- APPLIES TO ALL HARVESTS
- All remnants must be:
 - Discarded on the property of harvest
 - If discarded on a different property buried under 3 feet of soil
 - Disposed of in a dumpster/trash container going to a landfill



Any questions??



"Brilliant. Got another bag?"