

# Deer Management Units (DMUs) B-1 and C-1 through C-6 Public Outreach and Interaction Final Report

**DMUs B-1 and C-1 through C-6, Zones B and C, Central and  
North Florida**

6/26/2014

Prepared for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
by Normandeau Associates, Inc.



# **Deer Management Units (DMUs) B-1 and C-1 through C-6 Public Outreach and Interaction Final Report**

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Central and North Florida**

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
DMTAG	Deer Management Technical Advisory Group
DMU	Deer Management Unit
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
TAG	Technical Assistance Group
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

## Executive Summary

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) implemented a public outreach and input process from April through June 2014 in Zones B and C that focused on private and public lands in North and Central Florida. The goal of this process was to present the concept of Deer Management Units (DMUs) to hunters, farmers, and the general public and to receive comments about deer management preferences for these DMUs. Normandeau Associates, Inc. (Normandeau) assisted FWC by marketing, coordinating, and facilitating the meetings and coordinating collection of the comments.

As part of the project, four Technical Assistance Groups (TAGs) were formed. The TAGs were made up of stakeholders that represented a variety of hunting, farming, and public interests. Each TAG examined the public comments and data collected during the public input process and came up with a series of recommended goals and objectives for managing deer in their respective DMUs. The process resulted in the following goals and objectives:

### FWC DMU B-1 TAG FINAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Overarching goal:** To increase stakeholder satisfaction through public education and deer management practices designed to achieve a balanced and increased deer population in Zone B.

#### **Goal 1: Increase recruitment and retention of new hunters including youth, women, and urban hunters**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Create a special harvest consideration (exemption from any potential increased antler regulations) for youth age 15 or under.
- b. Maintain or increase youth and FWC-qualified mobility impaired hunting opportunities.
- c. Develop/improve an effective targeted marketing program to actively promote deer hunting in Florida.
  - Include information on the economic impacts of hunting.
  - Design an FWC commercial for recruitment.

#### **Goal 2: Increase the opportunity to see more mature bucks and harvest larger bucks**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Implement an antler restriction to protect 1.5 year old age class bucks while allowing the harvest of 2.5 year old and older bucks.
  - Address harvest and antler restrictions on a case by case basis on Wildlife Management Areas.
  - With further input from stakeholders, review antler restrictions for Richloam Wildlife Management Area, being sure to include all hunting types.
- b. Maintain current buck bag limits.

- The TAG feels that antler restrictions and limited doe harvest addresses the goals and objectives for Zone B.

**Goal 3: Increase the deer population in Zone B using science (FWC data) as a basis**

**Objectives:**

- a. Slightly reduce antlerless harvest throughout Zone B.
  - Maintain flexibility for qualifying land owners to use antlerless deer permits and depredation permits.
- b. Implement antler restrictions to protect 1.5 year old age class bucks while allowing the harvest of 2.5 year old and older bucks.
  - Consider the needs of dog hunters when addressing antler restrictions.

**Goal 4: Increase law enforcement presence in the field to enforce hunting regulations**

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop minimum standards for patrol and presence during hunting seasons and peak activities.
- b. Implement and promote law enforcement education and outreach events designed to increase public awareness.
- c. Improve public awareness of methods, tools, and information related to reporting wildlife violations.

**Goal 5: Develop a platform to advance public knowledge about the unique deer management and deer biology in Florida (such as genetics, age, and buck to doe ratios)**

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop print and online materials with cursory and in-depth information.
  - Create an online page at myfwc.com website that gives an interactive education experience for users to learn at their own pace.
  - Develop printed material in trifold form and in the hunter regulations handbook that give a cursory look at deer biology and directs users to the FWC web page.
- b. Incorporate deer management and biology information into existing and future education programs.
  - Design a portion of the hunter education curriculum to incorporate deer biology as part of the course.
  - Develop curriculum that can be used in a classroom setting for science/ biology educators.

**Goal 6: Promote hunting, hunter satisfaction, and deer hunting heritage in Zone B**

**Objectives:**

- a. Allow general gun hunting zonewide during Thanksgiving.
- b. Promote hunting as a tourism and economic development opportunity.
- c. Promote traditional uses of off-road vehicles and airboats for hunting.

**Goal 7: Revisit zonal boundaries and/or season dates in B-1 to capture the rut during the general gun hunting season**

**Objectives:**

- a. Continue collecting breeding chronology data via doe harvest and necropsy studies.
- b. Continue outreach and collect input from stakeholders in the area to better understand the issues related to these boundaries and season dates.
  - Consider the possibility of moving the northwest portion of Zone B back to Zone C OR subdividing Zone B into 2 DMUs.

**Goal 8: Obtain better estimates of hunter numbers including youth, senior, and other license exemptions**

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop a free-of-charge license exempt hunter ID card and registration that includes a hunter identification number.
  - Improve the ability of FWC to conduct hunter outreach.
  - Add exempt hunters over the age of 18 to the phone survey pool.

**FWC DMUs C-1 and C-2 TAG GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal 1: Maintain or increase the overall deer population**

**Objectives:**

- a. Determine the impact of predators on DMUs C-1 and C-2 deer populations.
- b. Implement an annual, seasonal, and/or daily limit to reduce antlerless harvest without reducing the number of antlerless days.
- c. Implement antler restrictions that protect the majority of 1.5 year old bucks and allows the harvest of 2.5 year old bucks.
- d. Apply any minimum restrictions on bucks to public and private lands in DMUs C-1 and C-2.
- e. Provide education about regulations proposed to achieve this goal.
- f. Encourage the implementation of land management activities that promote better habitat for deer and other wildlife.

## **Goal 2: Promote hunter recruitment and retain existing hunters**

### **Objectives:**

- a. Maintain or increase youth hunting opportunities.
- b. Maintain or increase hunting opportunities for non-traditional hunter groups (e.g., women).
- c. Develop/improve an effective targeted marketing program to actively promote deer hunting in Florida.
  - Include information on the economic impacts of hunting.
  - Create an FWC commercial for recruitment.

## **Goal 3: Promote public understanding of deer and habitat management throughout Florida**

### **Objectives:**

- a. Provide educational opportunities about managing habitat for deer and other wildlife.
  - Educate the public so they have an understanding of and realistic expectations for carrying capacity for various habitat types.
  - Promote funds for a habitat management course.
  - Educate about existing tools available for determining overall health of deer herds.
  - Modify hunter safety training for deer management.
  - Provide incentives for participating in training about deer and habitat management.
    - Consider an advanced class for reward (preference point).
- b. Disseminate information on existing educational opportunities for deer and habitat management.

## **Goal 4: Improve the age structure of the deer herd by protecting younger deer while allowing the harvesting of mature bucks**

### **Objectives:**

- a. Use antler restrictions to protect 1.5 year old age class bucks from harvest while allowing the harvest of 2.5 year old or older deer.
  - Provide flexibility to harvest mature bucks that don't meet a minimum point criterion.
  - Allow youth exemptions on antler point restrictions.
- b. Implement an annual buck bag limit.
  - Recommend a 3 to 5 buck bag limit.
- c. Apply any minimum restrictions on bucks to public and private lands in DMUs C-1 and C-2.

## **FWC DMUs C-3 and C-5 TAG GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Overarching Goal:** Maintain or increase stakeholder satisfaction with deer management in DMUs C-3 and C-5.

**Goal 1: Promote and increase hunter recruitment to continue the tradition of hunting for current and future generations.**

**Objectives:**

- a. Promote the recruitment of new hunters.
  - Promote opportunities for families, women, and youth.
  - Consider youth only days, license free days, education, and other opportunities to provide quality hunts.
- b. Consider antlerless deer harvest opportunities that promote youth involvement. Improve knowledge of deer management through hunter education.
- c. Partner with organizations to promote education and exposure to hunting and the outdoors.
- d. Promote hunting as a tourism and economic development opportunity.

**Goal 2: Establish a set of antlerless harvest regulations to increase the overall deer population in DMU C-3 while maintaining some antlerless take opportunity**

**Objectives:**

- a. Slightly reduce antlerless take while allowing more flexibility in antlerless harvest opportunities.
  - Disperse antlerless deer days over weekends and holidays during general gun and muzzleloading seasons.
  - Implement a reasonable annual bag limit for antlerless deer.
  - Implement a mechanism for enforcing limits (e.g., harvest log).
  - Consider reducing the archery daily bag limit.
- b. Set a harvest per hunter per day objective that results in increasing the deer population.

**Goal 3: Establish a set of antlerless harvest regulations to maintain the deer population in DMU C-5 at current levels while maintaining some antlerless take opportunity**

**Objectives:**

- a. Maintain antlerless take while allowing more flexibility in antlerless harvest opportunities.
  - Disperse antlerless deer days over weekends and holidays during general gun and muzzleloading seasons.
  - Implement a reasonable annual bag limit for antlerless deer.
  - Implement a mechanism for enforcing limits (e.g., harvest log).
  - Consider reducing the archery daily bag limit.

#### **Goal 4: Increase the number and age structure of bucks in the population**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Institute a reasonable annual statewide buck bag limit that increases buck population, more evenly distributes harvest among hunters, and helps to balance sex ratios.
- b. Implement an antler restriction that protects the majority of 1.5 year old bucks while allowing harvest of bucks at least 2.5 years old.
  - Review the statewide definition of antlerless deer to determine if changes are warranted. Consider the definition of antlerless deer as 1 inch or less.
  - Consider needs of dog hunters in DMU C-3 when making any antler restrictions.
- c. Promote habitat management that benefits deer and other wildlife.
- d. Educate hunters and the public on the benefits of new regulations and habitat management.
- e. Implement a mechanism for enforcing limits (e.g., stronger penalties for illegal harvest, harvest log).

#### **FWC DMUs C-4 and C-6 TAG GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Overarching goal:** Maintain or improve stakeholder satisfaction through implementation of deer management strategies that ensure a healthy and sustainable population.

#### **Goal 1: Increase recruitment of deer hunters**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Provide extra youth hunting opportunities without impacting deer populations.
- b. Implement targeted marketing efforts designed to increase participation among new hunters.
- c. Continue education efforts to improve awareness of hunting opportunities and programs.
  - Consider creating a mentor program.
- d. Consider allowing hunters that have successfully completed the FWC hunter education course the same exemptions related to antler point restrictions as youth for the first year following course completion.

#### **Goal 2: Preserve hunting heritage and traditions by increasing hunting opportunities and educational programs for youth and adults**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. FWC partner with local organizations (e.g., Trail Blazers, NWTf, Scouts, 4H, FFA, etc.) to increase exposure of youth and adults to hunting.
  - Offer incentives to private land owners to partner with FWC and nonprofits to host events.

- b. Develop a comprehensive plan to promote the most effective outreach program and communication methods to reach potential adult and youth hunters.
  - Reconstruct the incentive program for hunter safety instructors to make it more motivating for instructors to reach more youth.
- c. Improve hunter education about northeast Florida deer biology, hunting regulations, and habitat management.
  - Enhance the deer hunter safety course to include deer biology specific to Florida.
- d. Expand opportunities for family and youth hunts on public lands.

**Goal 3: Maintain or increase the deer population without substantially impacting hunter opportunities in DMUs C-4 and C-6**

**Objectives:**

- a. Slightly reduce the number of antlerless deer days.
- b. Leverage antlerless deer days to minimize impacts to hunter opportunity.
  - Maximize opportunities during holidays and/or weekends (especially Thanksgiving).
  - Eliminate two antlerless deer per day opportunities.
- c. Continue to allow qualifying private landowners to have flexibility in management (e.g., doe tags).
  - Consider predator management when making deer management decisions as they relate to hunter satisfaction (such as leg hold traps on private land).

**Goal 4: Increase the opportunity to see mature bucks**

**Objectives:**

- a. Implement antler restrictions that protect 1.5 year old bucks while considering the needs of all hunting types (i.e., dog hunters and still hunters) including point restrictions OR main beam length minimum, with exceptions for youth.
- b. Encourage FWC outreach to *private lands* hunters about deer management.
- c. Maintain the current buck bag limit to maintain hunter satisfaction in DMUs C-4 and C-6.
  - It is the opinion of this TAG that a combination of antler restrictions and buck bag limits would be damaging to hunter satisfaction.

These goals and objectives were formulated via consensus by the stakeholder TAG, the members of which were chosen based on an open and public application process. The TAG considered public comments and online and statewide survey results over the course of two in-person meetings and one web-based meeting. Public comment on deer management preferences for Zones B and C was collected during eight public meetings (Monticello, Chiefland, Sebring, Tampa, Lakeland, Vero Beach, Deland, and Lake City) where over 275 people attended as well as three webinars with eight participants. Public comment was also collected from an online

survey (550 responses) hosted on the FWC website. An online presentation was available for viewing if someone was unable to attend the public meetings or webinars. In addition, a statewide survey was conducted during the latter part of 2012, which measured public opinions on the Florida deer population, deer management, and hunting preferences.



**Chiefland Public Meeting**

## 1 Introduction and Project Purpose

*White-tailed deer management in Florida and throughout the U. S. is certainly an example of a “great American success story.” From near extinction in the 1930s deer populations and deer harvests have soared to record highs in Florida. 61% of Florida’s 226,000 hunters hunt deer (U.S. Department of the Interior, et al. 2001) making them the most popular game animal in the state. White-tailed deer are also one of a few species of wildlife whose over-abundance can seriously degrade its own habitat as well as the habitat of other wildlife, and inflict serious damage on agricultural crops and ornamental plantings. It should be recognized and celebrated, therefore, that deer harvest management will likely continue to be a necessary and desirable practice in Florida for many years to come.—from Strategic Plan for Deer Management in Florida 2008–2018*

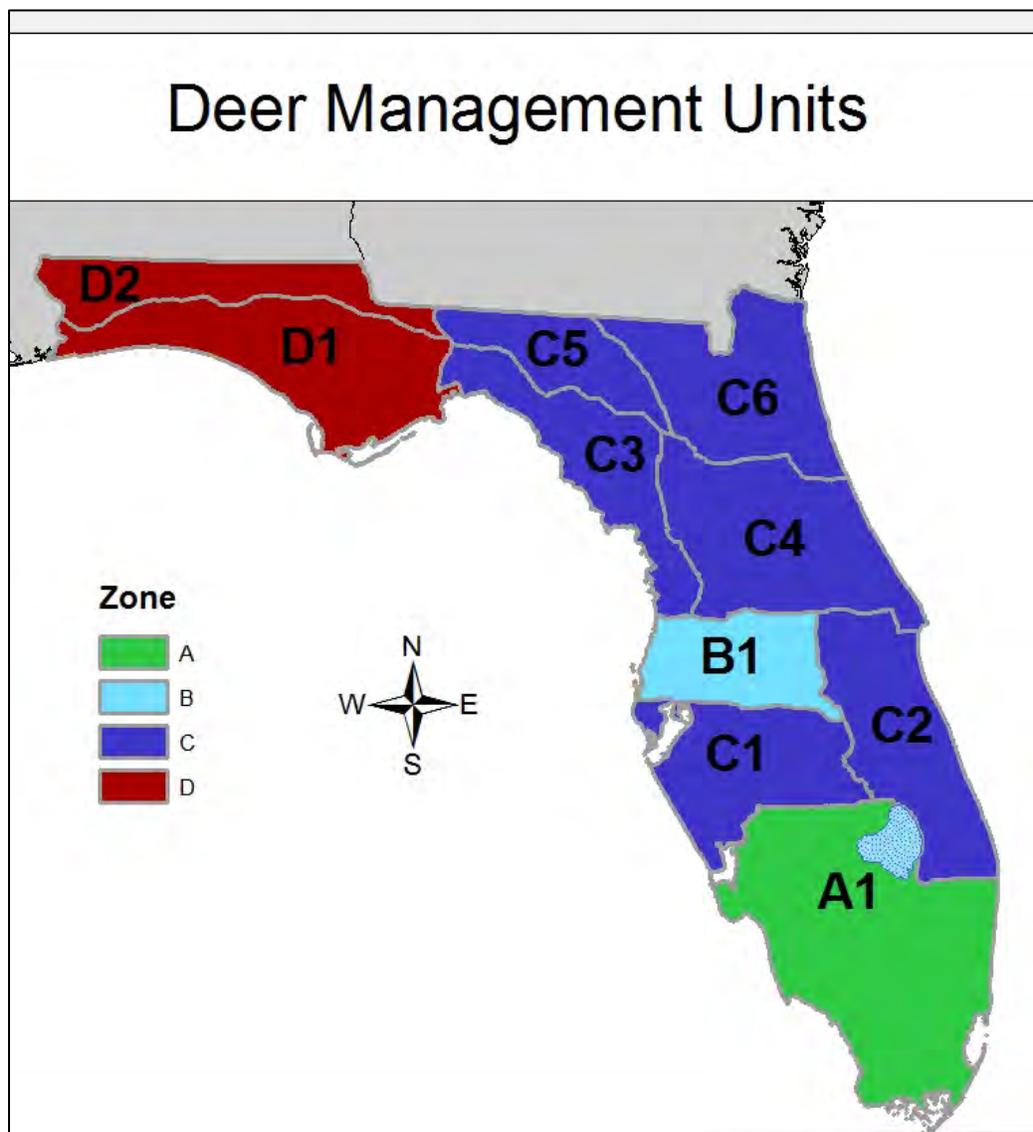
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) implemented a public outreach and input process from April through June 2014 in Zones B and C that focused on private and public lands in North and Central Florida—west and south of Lake Okeechobee. The goal of this process was to present the concept of Deer Management Units (DMUs) to hunters, farmers, and the general public and to receive comments about deer management preferences for these DMUs. Normandeau Associates, Inc. (Normandeau) assisted FWC by marketing, coordinating, and facilitating the meetings and coordinating collection of the comments.

Eight public meetings, three webinars, eight in-person stakeholder Technical Assistance Group (TAG) meetings, and four TAG conference calls were held to collect input from stakeholders on deer management and other deer related suggestions for Zones B and C. While the focus was on Zones B and C, some possible action items identified by the TAG could be applied statewide. Two surveys were included as part of the outreach: an online survey developed by Normandeau available through the FWC DMU website for collecting public comment and a statewide telephone survey conducted by Responsive Management in late 2012.

The purpose of these meetings and outreach was to collect input from stakeholders representing hunters, farmers, and the general public on deer management preferences for Zones B and C. Input was collected on the status of the deer population, bag limits, antlerless harvest, antler regulations, and negative deer interactions. Additionally, stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input on local issues of concern including hunting access, wildlife management area issues, predators and deer, etc.

## 2 Project Background

There are currently 10 DMUs in Florida as shown in Figure 2–1. The public input process discussed in this report focused on DMUs B-1 and C-1 through C-6.



**Figure 2–1. Deer Management Units (DMUs) for Florida.**

FWC would like to integrate more flexibility into its management of deer by dividing the existing management zones into smaller DMUs and managing deer within these units based on stakeholder preferences. This adaptive approach to deer management is intended to improve hunting opportunities and help to maintain a healthy and reasonably balanced deer herd. The rationale behind the proposed DMUs is that Florida’s deer population varies throughout the state. The productivity of deer in Florida is limited due to low quality habitat linked to poor quality soils, which in turn limits the population compared to neighboring states where soils are more fertile. Deer breeding chronology (commonly known as the rut) also varies widely statewide,

making the management of deer challenging and likely to be less effective if a one-size-fits-all set of regulations is applied.

The timing of the rut varies quite dramatically within Florida, ranging from August through November in Zones B and C from June through February statewide. In general, deer in Florida are smaller than in other states, and there is also a considerable difference in size within Florida with the larger deer in the north.

The Florida deer population has grown over the last half century resulting in an increased deer harvest over time (Figure 2–2). This increase is most likely due to a combination of harvest regulations, improved habitat and wildlife management practices, and effective law enforcement. Additionally the screw-worm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, which was considered responsible for limited deer herd growth in South Florida, was eradicated in 1958.

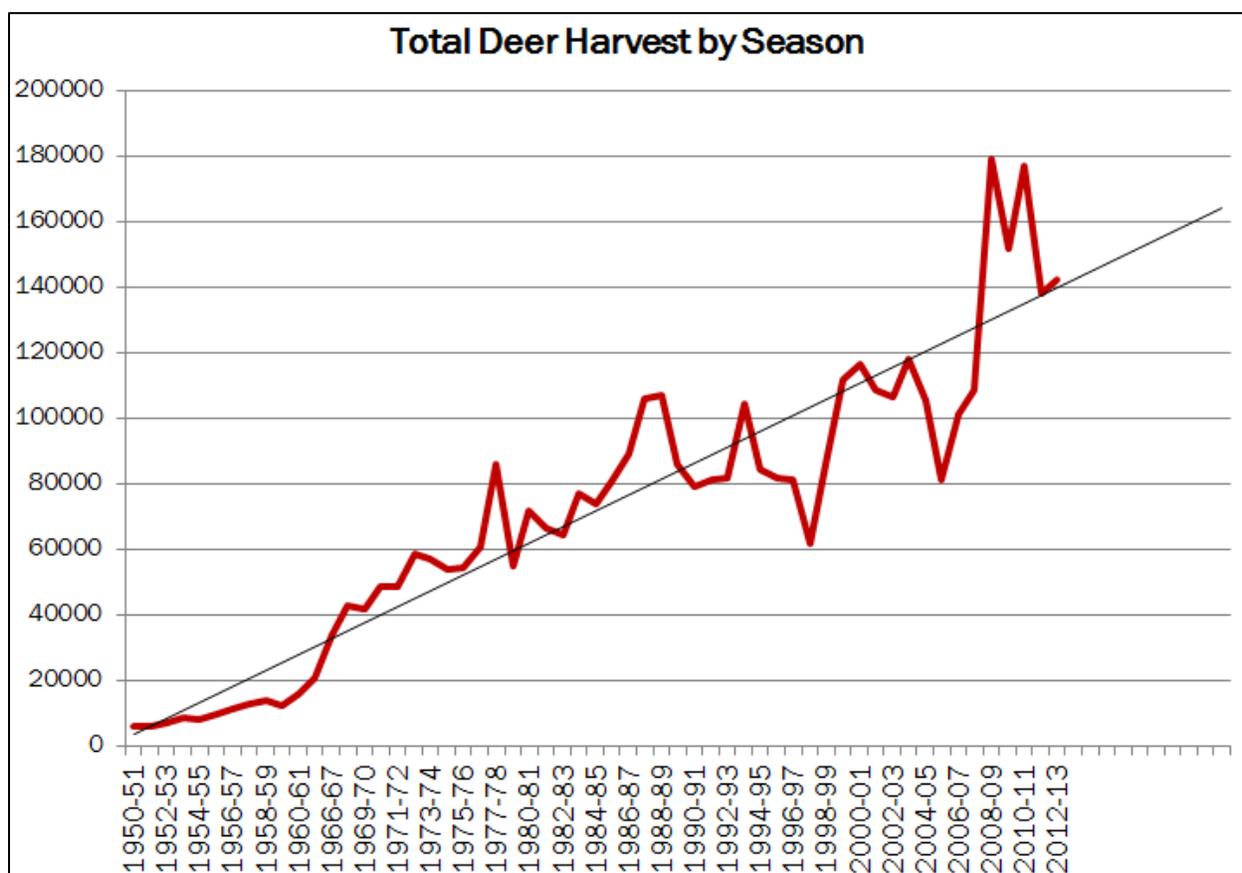


Figure 2–2. Estimated annual deer harvest in Florida since 1950.

### **3 Methods**

The DMU outreach project used a multipronged approach to collect public input and then synthesize the information into suggested goals and objectives related to Zones B and C deer management. The following section outlines the methods employed for project outreach.

#### **3.1 Website**

A web page was designed for the project and posted on the FWC website ([www.myfwc.com/deer/dmu](http://www.myfwc.com/deer/dmu)). The page has information on the program, links to a PowerPoint presentation, the online survey, and an opportunity to join an email list and receive future updates on deer management issues (Figure 3–1).

#### **3.2 Online Survey**

An online survey was developed by Normandeau using Survey Monkey software and made available on the FWC DMU website. The online survey was designed to collect feedback, ideas, and input from stakeholders. The survey can be found in Appendix 1. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. Over 550 people participated in the online survey during the six week period that the survey was open.

#### **3.3 Online PowerPoint**

A PowerPoint was created for online viewing on the FWC DMU webpage. The PowerPoint was a modified version of the one presented at the public meetings and included notes to provide further information/clarification as needed. The PowerPoint was designed for the public to view on their own and there was a link to the online survey at the end.

#### **3.4 Public Meetings**

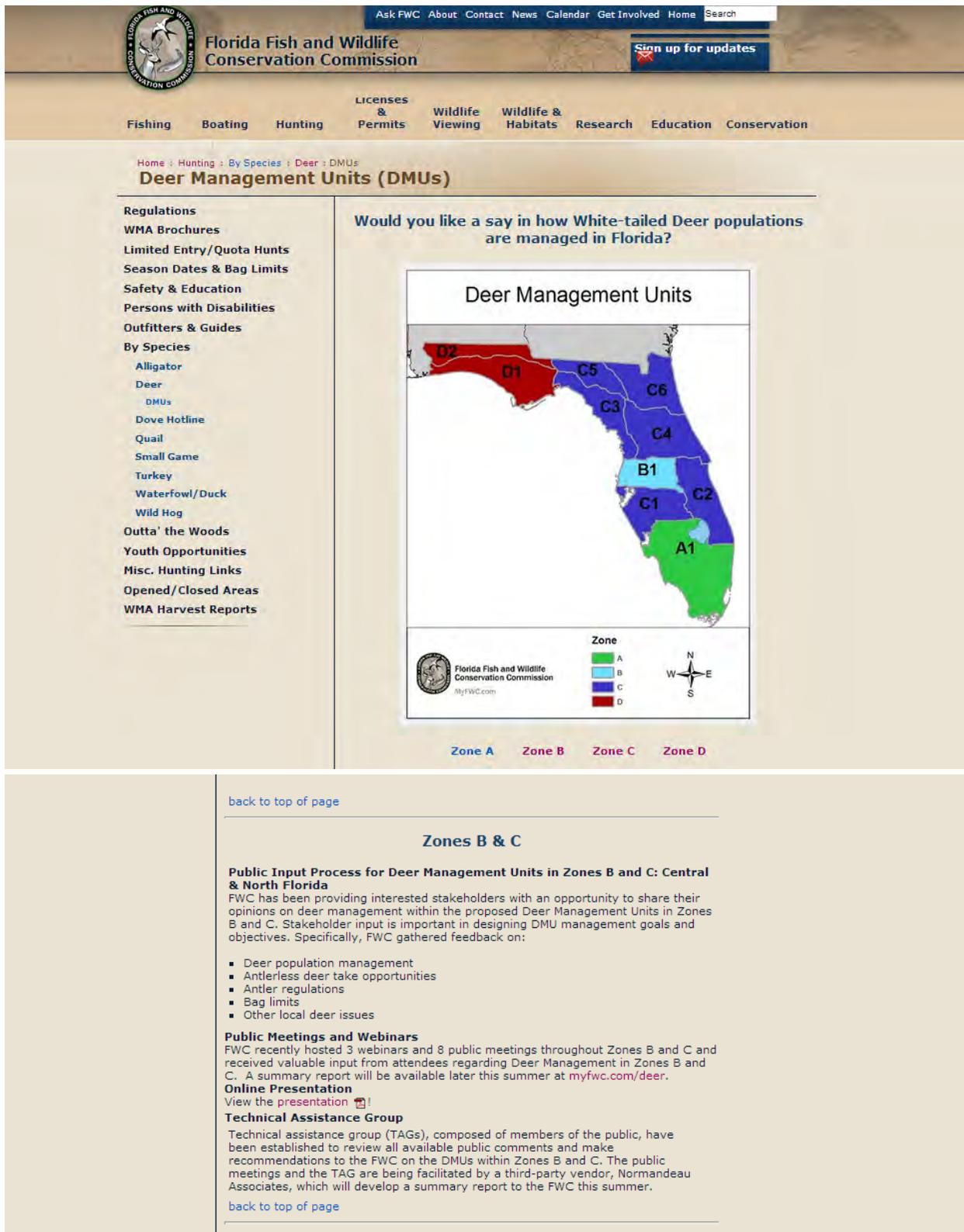
Eight public meetings were held in April 2014 throughout North and Central Florida. The meeting dates and locations were advertised for several weeks prior to the events. Over 375 people attended these meetings.

#### **3.5 Webinars**

Three webinars were held in April 2014. The purpose of the webinars was to allow additional opportunities for the public to learn about the proposed DMUs, ask questions, and provide comments. The webinars consisted of a PowerPoint presentation explaining the DMU process along with a method to submit questions and comments to the FWC.

#### **3.6 Technical Assistance Groups (TAGs)**

Four Technical Assistance Groups (TAGs) were assembled to consider all public comments and input collected from public meetings, webinars, and surveys, and then develop goals and objectives for Zones B and C. TAG participation in the process included two in-person meetings, one webinar, and review of documents between meetings. TAG member selection was based on subject knowledge, group represented, willingness to represent other stakeholders, willingness to have open discussion about the issues, and availability for meetings.



**Figure 3–1. Project web page on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) website.**

### 3.7 Marketing

Extensive marketing was conducted to garner the participation and input needed for the project. Marketing efforts were designed to increase participation at the public meetings and webinars, inform the public of the DMU stakeholder participation process, provide information on proposed DMU, solicit TAG membership applications, and promote the availability of the online public survey. Marketing included the following:

- Emails to the FWC deer management distribution list (approximately 47,000 email addresses primarily comprised of hunters)
- Postings on FWC’s Facebook and Twitter sites
- Press releases (Appendix 2) to multiple news outlets in South Florida
- Marketing to IFAS extension agents and their contacts in North and Central Florida
- Direct mail to all FWC Hunting & Fishing License Vendors in the FWC database (flyer in Appendix 3)
- Posting on the statewide Florida Land Steward weekly bulletin
- Direct calls to some potential participants.

### 3.8 Statewide Opinion and Harvest Surveys

In 2012, FWC contracted with Responsive Management, a professional survey company specializing in natural resource management issues, to conduct a statewide phone survey to determine the opinions of hunters, farmers, and residents about the deer population in Florida and their management. In addition, Responsive Management conducts an annual harvest survey for FWC. The survey collects information from hunters to estimate deer harvest at the statewide, zone, DMU, and county levels, this report includes results of the 2013–2014 hunting season. Hunter effort (days hunted) is also estimated.



**Technical Assistance Group (TAG) meeting**

## 4 Results

The public marketing component of the project had several elements including public meetings, webinars, stakeholder (TAG) meetings, and various opportunities to provide public comment.

### 4.1 Public Meetings

Eight public meetings were held in April and May 2014. Over 275 people attended these meetings, with the highest participation in Chiefland, Monticello, Deland, and Lake City (Table 4-1). The majority of attendees were hunters, and farmers and members of the general public attended the meetings as well. Most of the farmers were also hunters.

Each meeting began with introductions followed by a presentation from FWC Deer Management Program Coordinator Cory Morea or Assistant Coordinator James Kelly. The presentation gave an overview of the strategic plan for deer management in Florida, and the purpose of the proposed DMUs in helping the FWC to better manage deer at a more local level based on public preferences and guided by deer biology and ecology. Following this presentation, Christine Denny of Normandeau summarized the findings from Responsive Management's statewide phone survey of hunters, farmers, and residents and facilitated the collection of public comments. The agenda for the public meetings can be viewed in Appendix 4.

Each public meeting was organized to ensure maximum input from attendees through the use of rotational breakout groups (a methodology also known as World Café). Tables were placed around the room representing the following key topics

- antler restrictions
- bag limits
- antlerless deer harvest
- negative deer interactions
- local issues

An FWC staff member was stationed at each table to record stakeholder comments on note cards, which were collected for compilation and analysis by Normandeau staff.

All attendees had the opportunity to join at least four separate breakout groups and provide comments. After the breakout group portion of the meeting, all attendees had the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions at a microphone and to fill out a TAG application. Where attendance was low (Tampa, Vero Beach, and Sebring), the break out group method was not used, but all participants were brought together in one group to discuss the key topics listed above.

The rotational breakout group methodology used generated many comments. The full list of comments is included in Appendix 5. In general, participants were very positive about the meetings. Facilitators and FWC Deer Team staff were frequently approached by participants who gave favorable comments about the process and the opportunity to be heard by FWC regarding their thoughts on deer management.

**Table 4–1. Deer Management Unit Outreach Public Meeting Information**

<b>Date (2014)</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Tuesday, April 01	DMU C-3	Tommy Usher Center 506 SW 4th Ave Chiefland, FL 32626	55
Thursday, April 03	DMU C-5	Monticello Opera House 185 West Washington St. Monticello, FL 32345	45
Monday, April 07	DMU C-1	Chateau Elan Sebring 150 Midway Drive Sebring, FL 33870	10
Tuesday, April 08	DMU B-1	Ramada Lakeland Hotel and Conference Center 3260 US Highway 98 N. Lakeland, FL 33805	37
Wednesday, April 09	DMU B-1	SWFWMD TPA Governing Board Room 7601 US Hwy 301 N Tampa, FL 33637	8
Monday, April 21	DMU C-6	Holiday Inn Lake City 213 SW Commerce Drive Lake City, FL 32025	55
Wednesday, April 23	DMU C-4	First Baptist Church of DeLand 725 N Woodland Blvd DeLand, FL 32720	60
Thursday, April 24	DMU C-2	Bethel Creek House 4405 Highway A1A Vero Beach FL 32963	8
<b>Total Attendees</b>			<b>278</b>

## 4.2 Webinars

Webinars were held on April 14, 15, and 16 2014. A total of 8 people participated in all three webinars. More people registered, but several that registered did not actually participate in the webinar.

## 4.3 FWC Website

The FWC website proved to be a good location for interested members of the public to access information about the DMU public outreach process and information. The website was regularly updated and included project information, a PowerPoint presentation, a link to the online survey, an online TAG application, and links to results from the DMU outreach in Zones D and A as well as the Responsive Management public opinion report.

## 4.4 Online PowerPoint Presentation

The online PowerPoint was posted on the FWC website for over six weeks. In that time 598 people viewed the presentation. It provided a good opportunity for people that could not attend the public meetings to learn about the DMUs. A link to the online survey was provided at the end of the PowerPoint presentation.

## 4.5 Online Survey

The online survey was marketed at all public meetings and at the end of the online PowerPoint. The survey was completed by 550 respondents in Zones B and C. Results of the online survey are presented below by DMU.

## 4.6 DMU B-1

### 4.6.1 Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held in DMU B-1 in Lakeland and Tampa. A total of 45 people attended both meetings with heavier participation in Lakeland than in Tampa. All public meetings were held from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

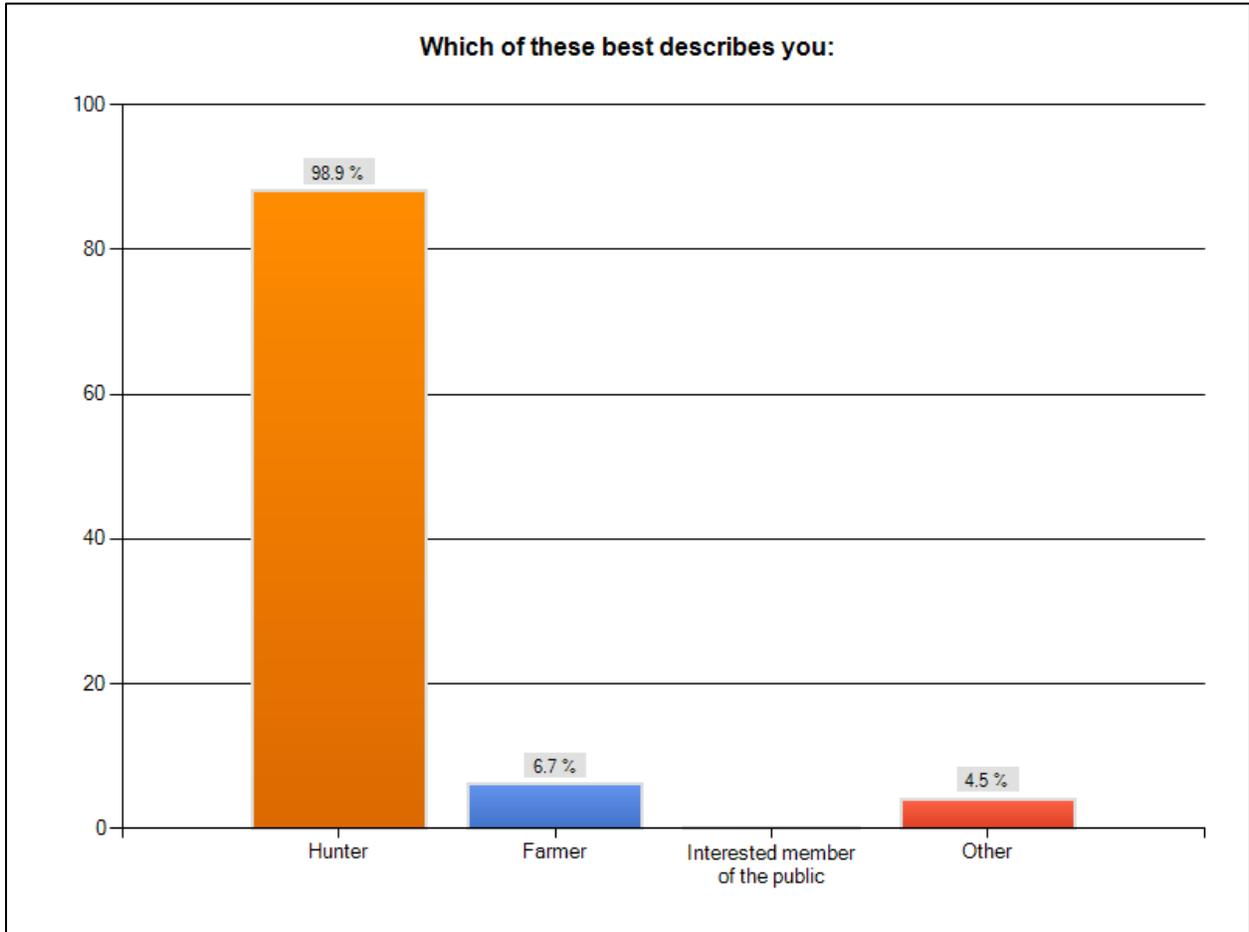
The most common issues discussed at the meetings included:

- **Population:** Deer populations are generally good; many people reported seeing more deer now than in years past.
- **Antler Restrictions:** Most supported some type of antler restriction with exemptions for youth hunters.
- **Local Issues:**
  - Several mentioned that Richloam should be addressed separately and dog hunters should be considered.
  - Splitting B-1 into two different DMUs should be considered due to the timing of the rut.
- **Bag Limits:** Buck bag limit discussion was mixed; some supported drastically changing the statewide limit while others felt it should be left alone. Some mentioned supporting the idea of a doe bag limit during antlerless season.
- **Antlerless Harvest:** There was a desire to see antlerless days spread out to allow more opportunity.
- **Negative Impacts:** Not too many reported.

### 4.6.2 Online Survey

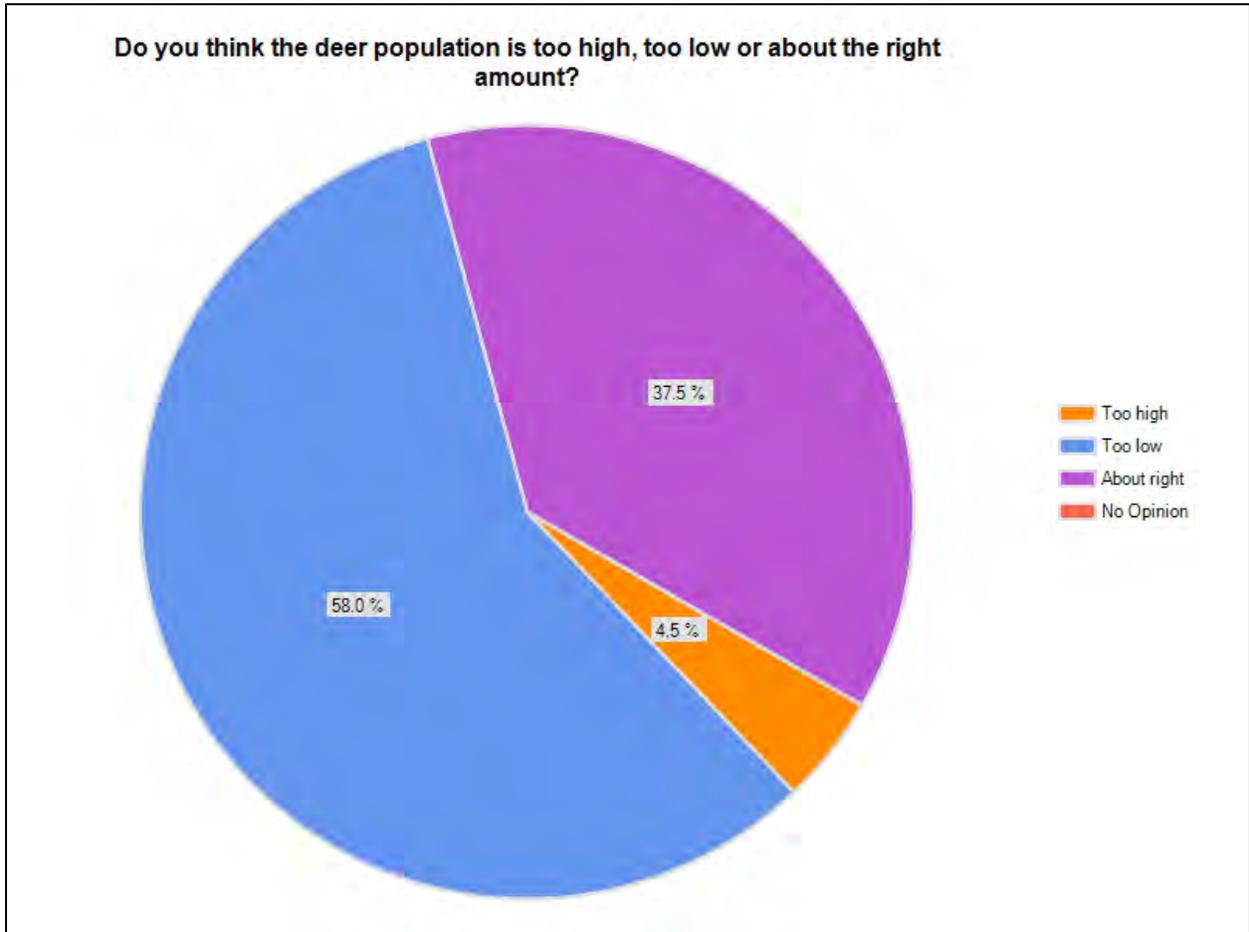
Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. Ninety-two people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. The majority of participants (98.9%) described themselves as hunters; 6.7% described themselves as farmers; and 4.5% identified as “Other” (Figure 4–1). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g.,

identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.



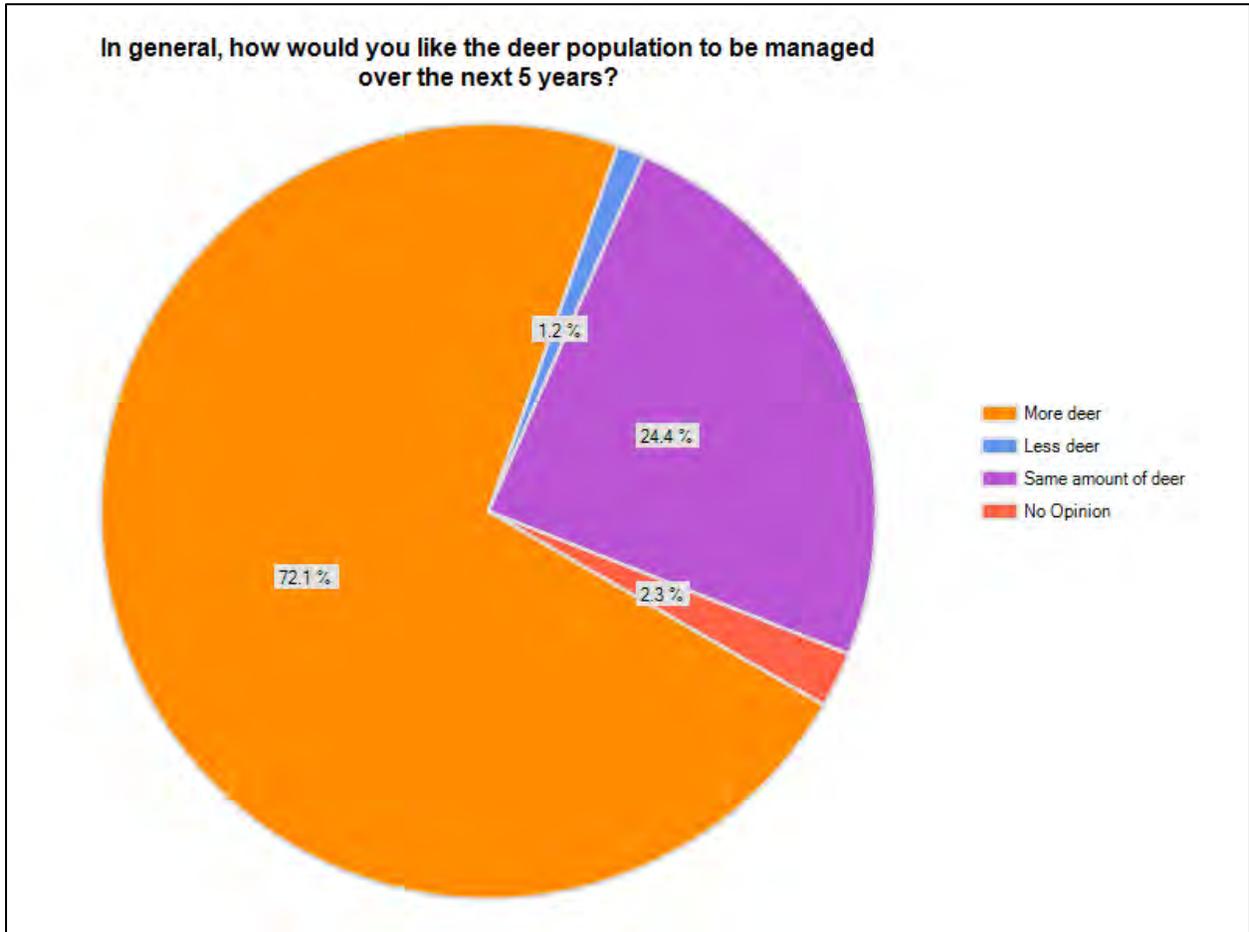
**Figure 4–1. Percentage of respondents in DMU B-1 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

Respondents were asked how they felt about the deer population in DMU B-1. Most (58%) felt that the deer population was too low; 4.5% felt it was too high; and 37.5% felt it was about right (Figure 4–2).



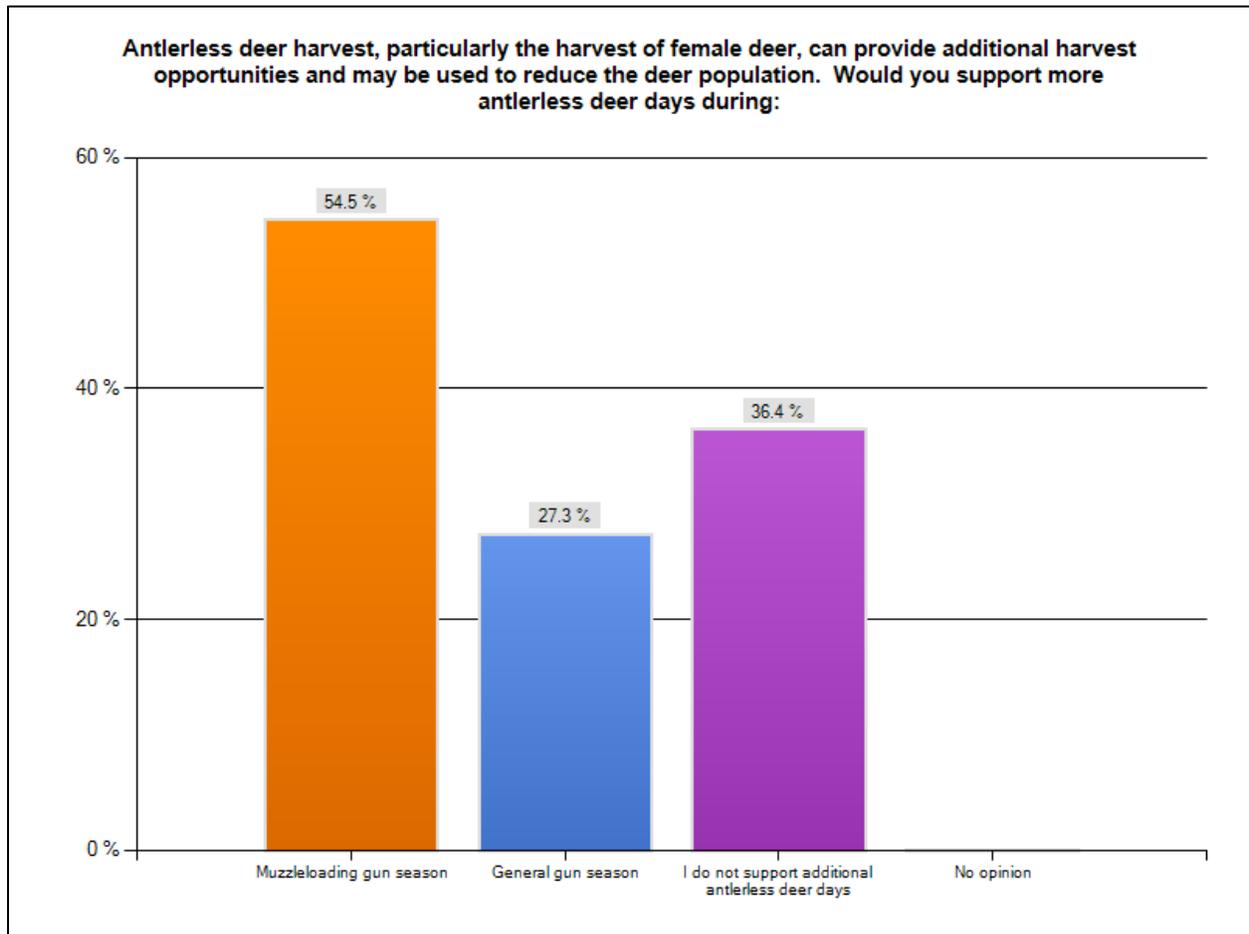
**Figure 4–2. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU B-1.**

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. The majority (72.1%) wanted to have more deer; 1.2% wanted a decrease in deer; and about 25% wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–3).



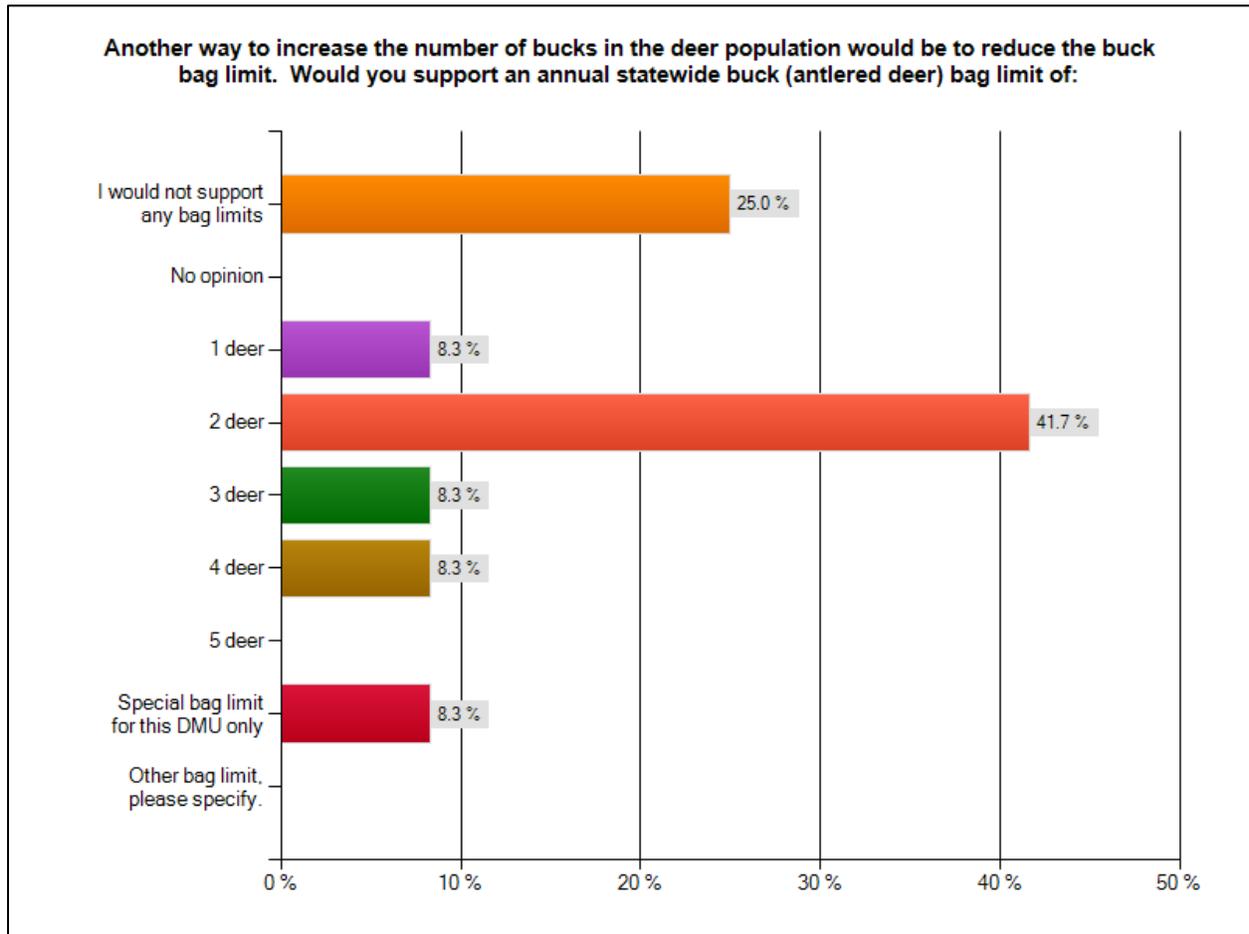
**Figure 4–3. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU B-1.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 54.5% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons. There was less support (27.3%) for antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 36.4% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days ( Figure 4-4).



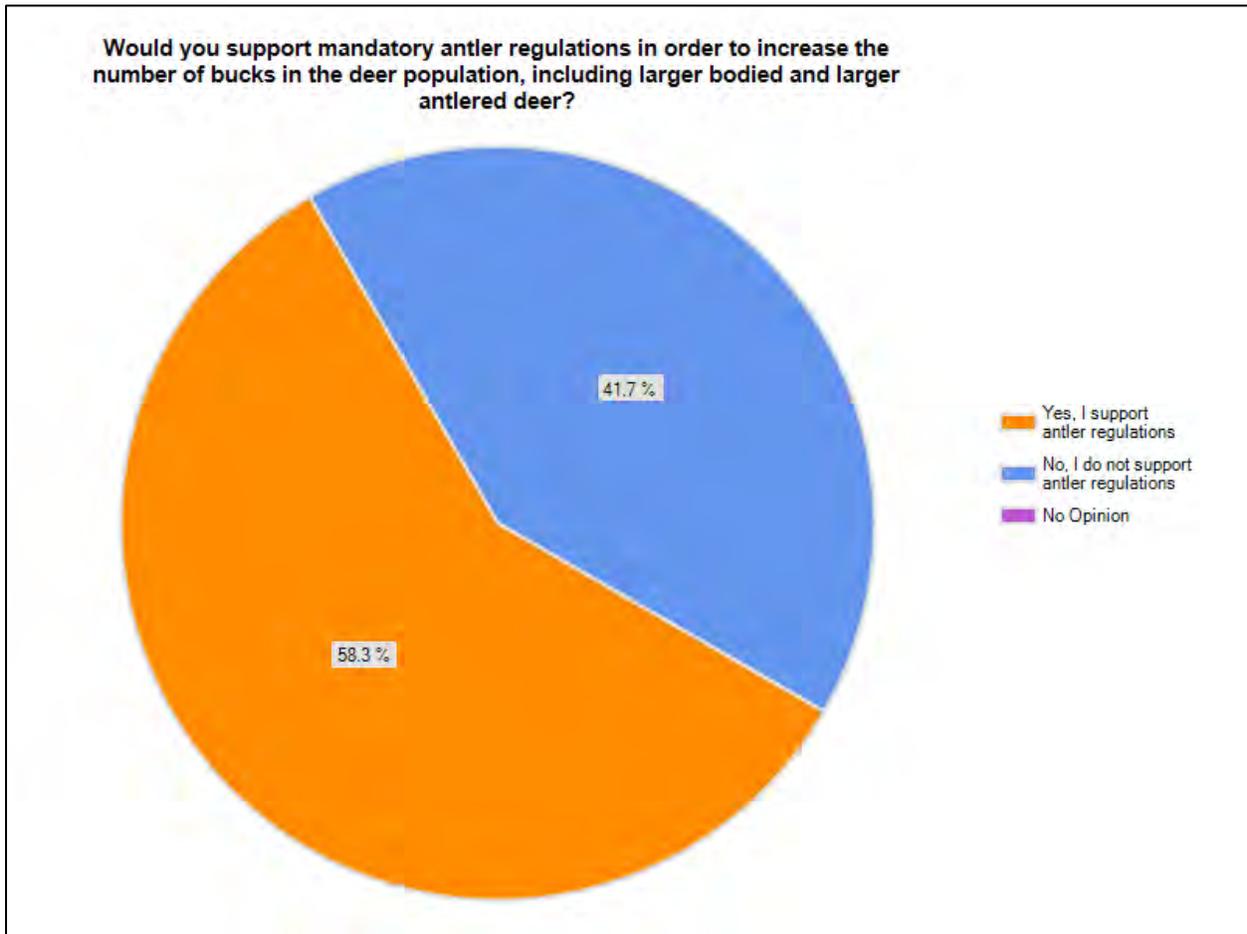
**Figure 4-4. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons in DMU B-1.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, 41.7% of respondents say they would support bag limits of two deer; and 25% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–5).



**Figure 4–5. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU B-1.**

When asked about mandatory antler regulations, 58.3% supported antler regulations and 41.7% did not (Figure 4–6).

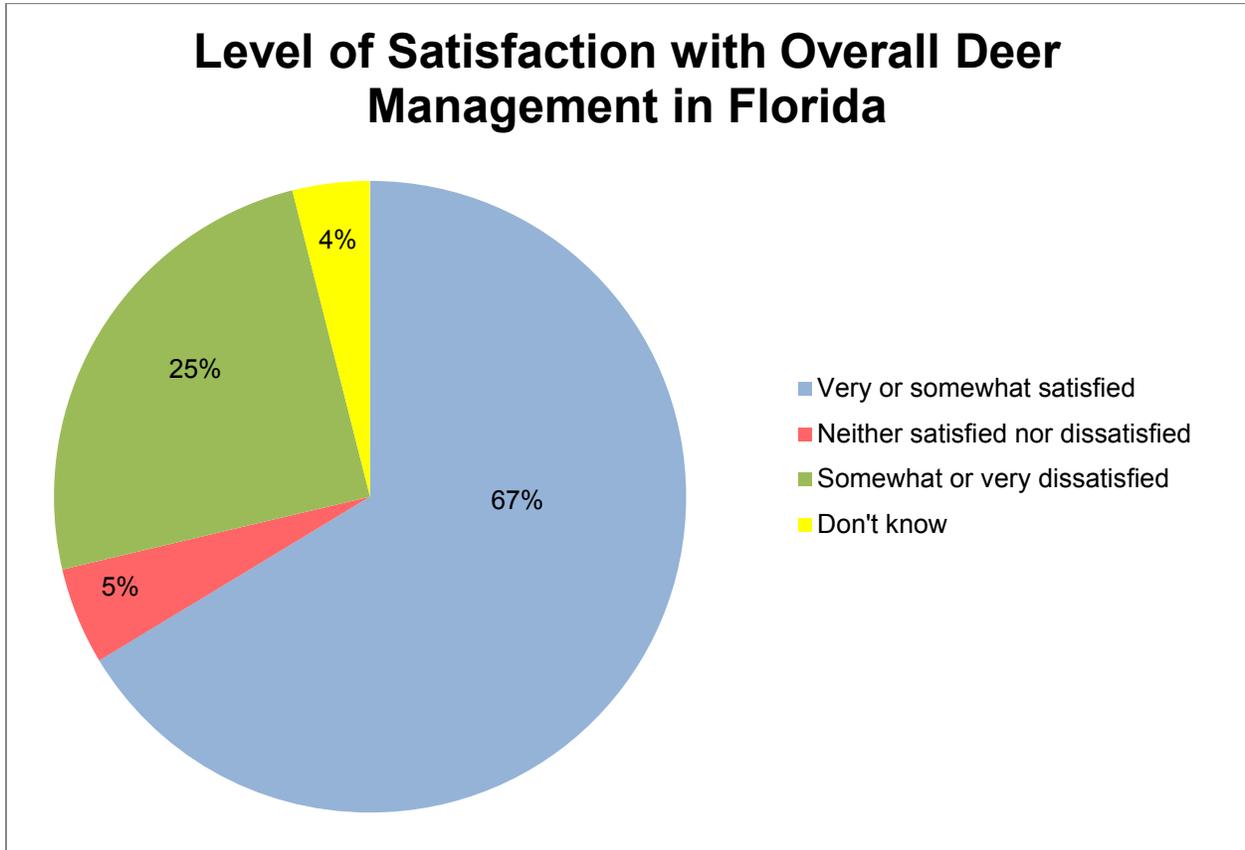


**Figure 4–6. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU B-1.**

### 4.6.3 Phone Surveys

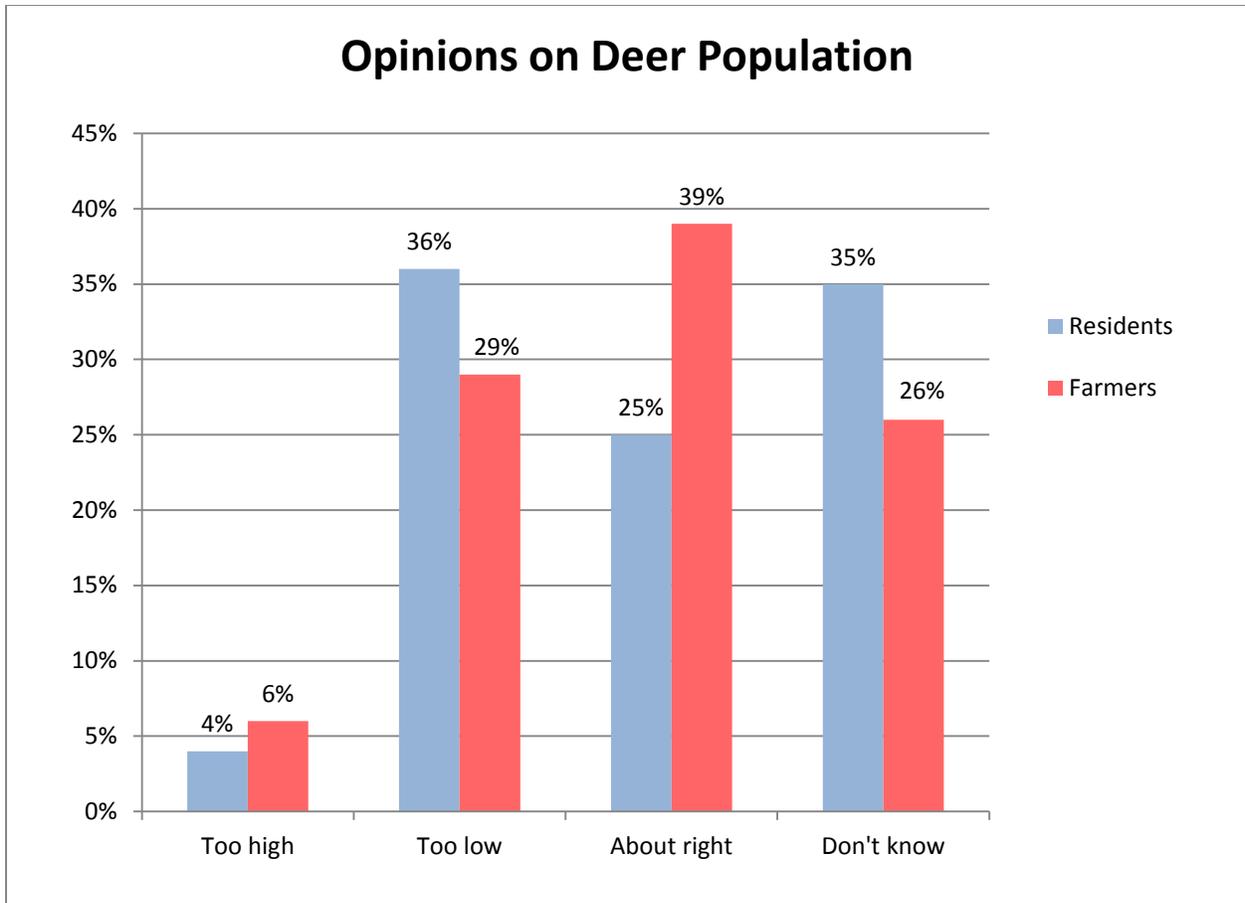
In 2012 FWC contracted with Responsive Management to conduct a statewide phone survey to determine the opinions of hunters, farmers, and residents about the deer population in Florida and their management. In addition, Responsive Management conducts an annual harvest survey for FWC. Some of the results of these studies are presented below.

In DMU B-1, 67% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with overall deer management in Florida (Figure 4–7).



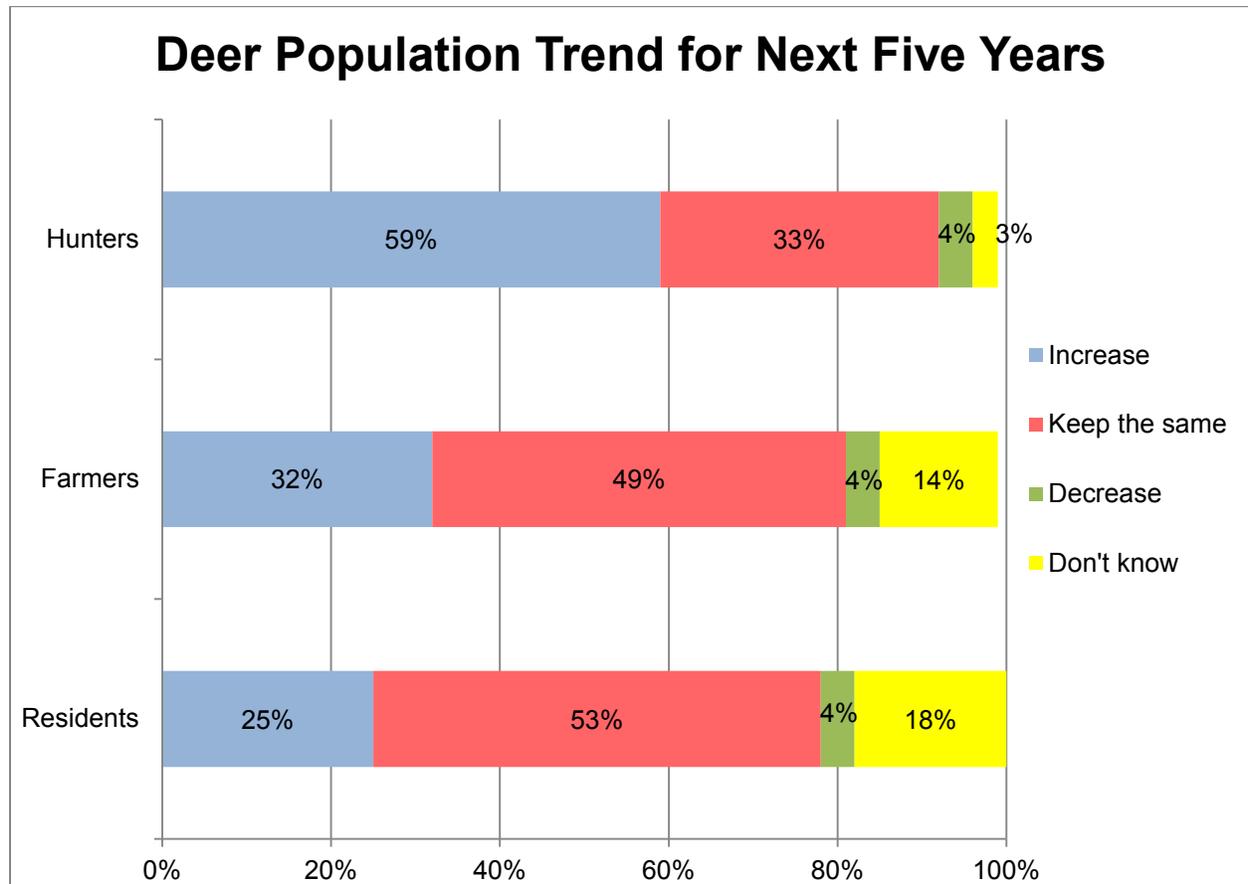
**Figure 4–7. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU B-1 hunters.**

According to the Responsive Management 2012 survey, 39% of farmers in DMU B-1 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 36% felt it was too low. For residents, 25% felt the population is about the right size; 36% felt was too low. These results are summarized in (Figure 4–8).



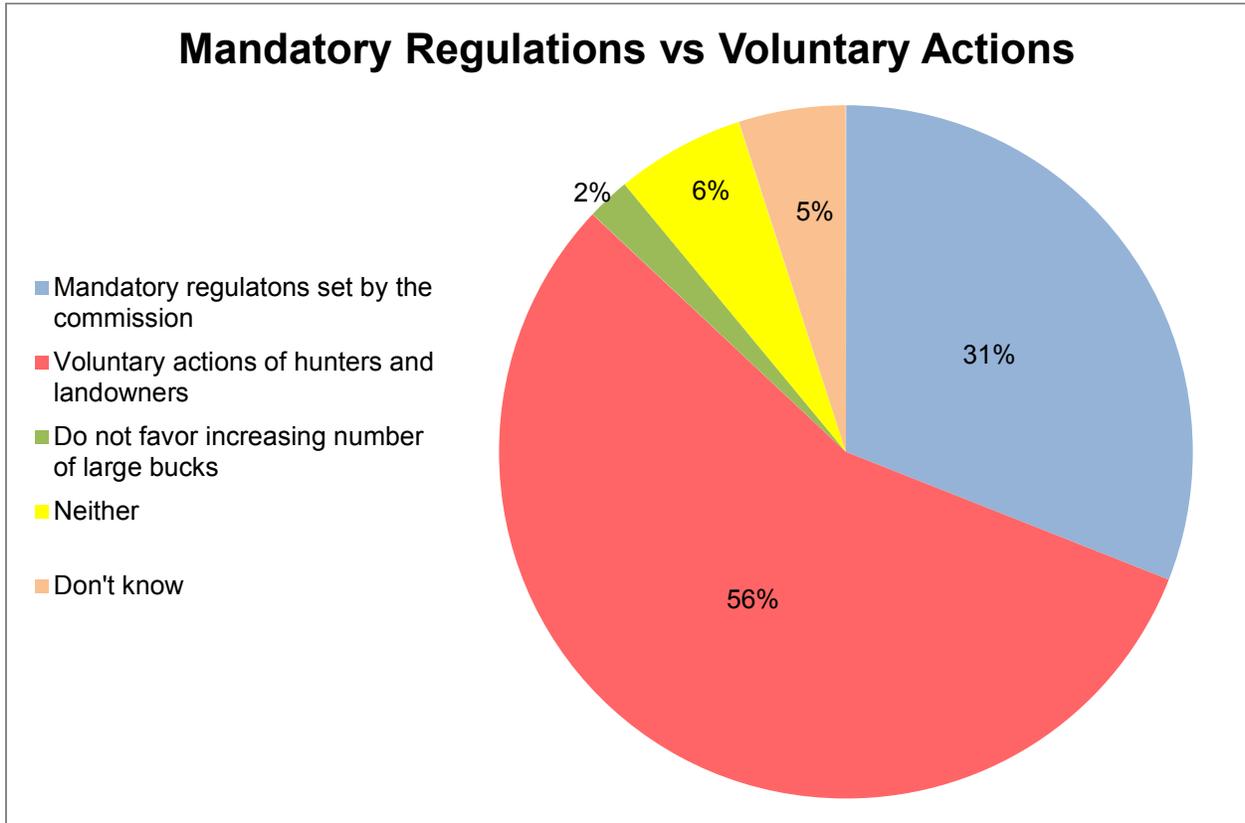
**Figure 4–8. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU B-1.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–9). The majority of hunters (59%) want to see the deer population increased, while 33% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and very few hunters (4%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 32% want to see the deer population increase, while 49% would like to see the population stay the same size, and very few (4%) want to see a decrease. For residents, 25% want to see the deer population increased, while the majority (53%) would like to see the population stay the same, and very few (4%) want to see a decrease in deer population.



**Figure 4–9. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU B-1 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks. The majority of hunters (76%) supported this idea, while 18% opposed the idea. To follow up on this question, hunters were asked if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (56%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (31%) (Figure 4–10).



**Figure 4–10. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU B-1.**

## 4.7 DMU C-1

### 4.7.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting was held on April 7th in Sebring. A total of 10 people attended. While attendance at this meeting was low, discussion was good and a lot of feedback was collected.

The most common issues discussed at the meeting included:

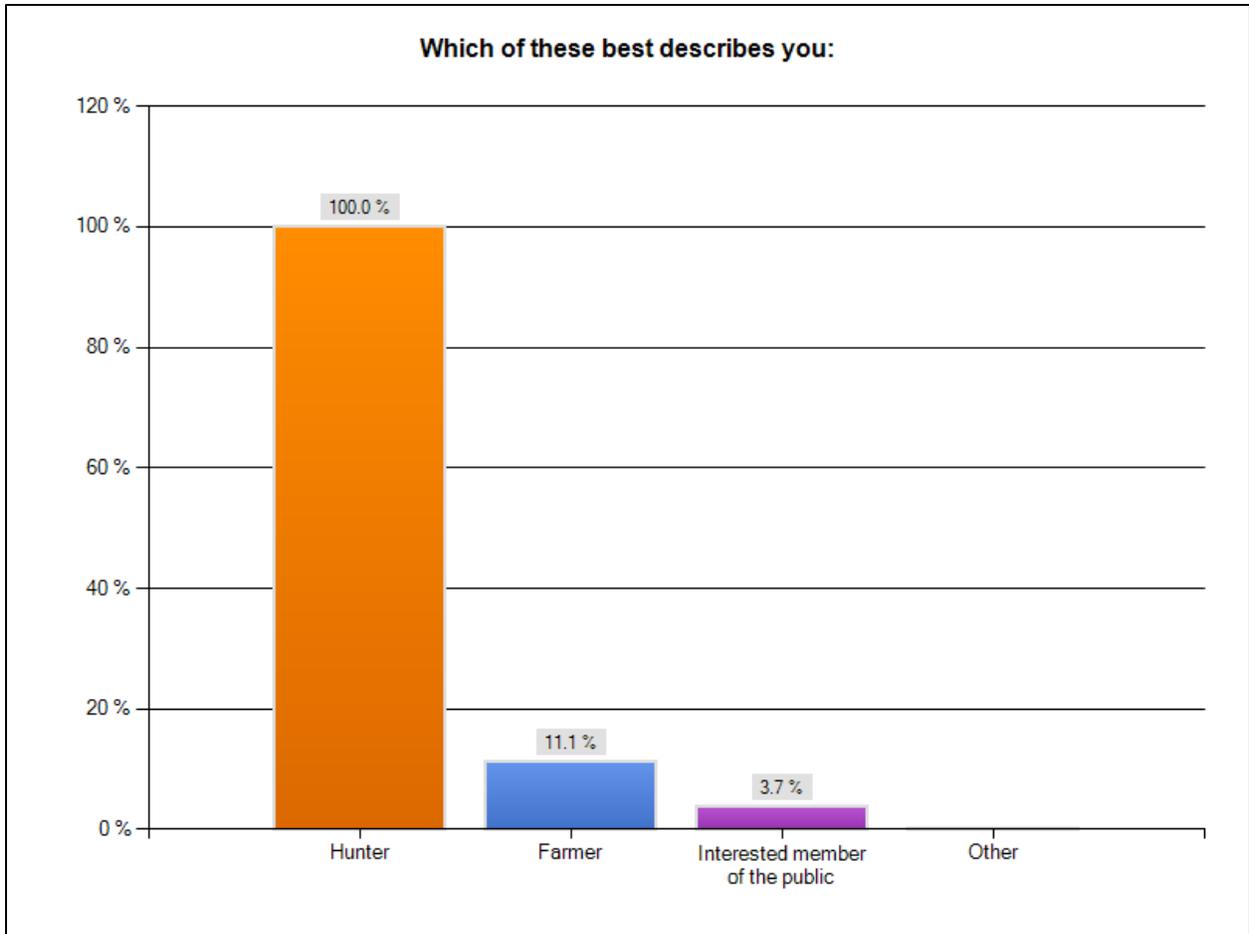
- **Population:** Deer populations are felt to be low due to pressure on public land, predators (coyotes), and other factors.
- **Antler Restrictions:** Most supported some type of antler restriction, several gave examples where implementing antler point restrictions (APR) caused an initial drop in harvest, but then an increase in larger bucks.
- **Local Issues:**
  - Concern was expressed over how habitats are managed—specifically scrub and oaks used for mast by deer.
  - Concern about loss of orange groves and deer diseases.
- **Bag Limits:** A bag limit of 4-6 bucks per year was supported.
- **Antlerless Harvest:** Most felt that the same or less does should be taken.
- **Negative Impacts:** Not too many reported.

### 4.7.2 Online Survey

Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. Twenty-eight people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. All of the participants (100%) described themselves as hunters. An additional 11.1% also described themselves as farmers; and 3.7% identified as interested members of the public (Figure 4–11). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g., identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.

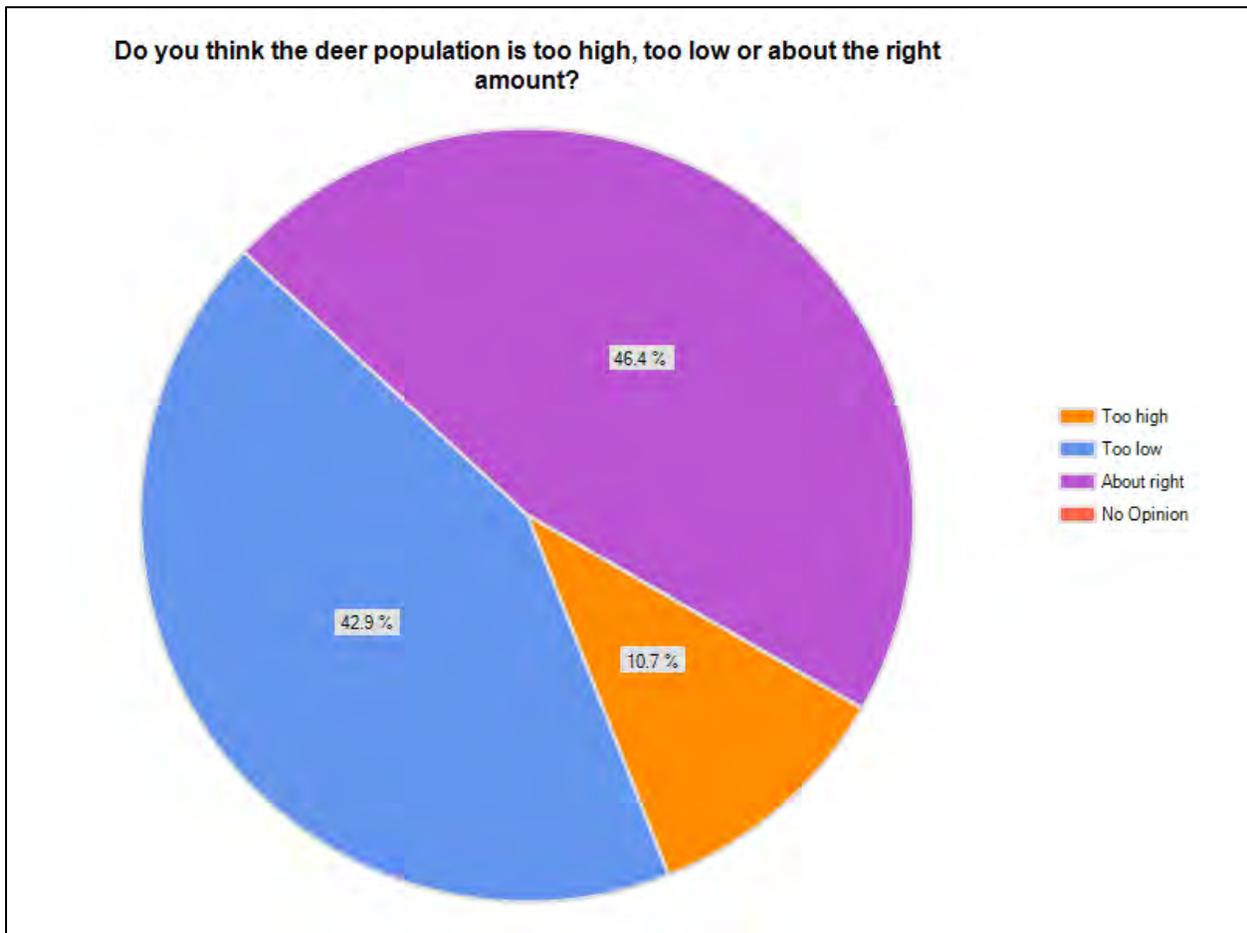


**FWC Deer Management Program Coordinator Cory Morea talking with participants at one of the public meetings**



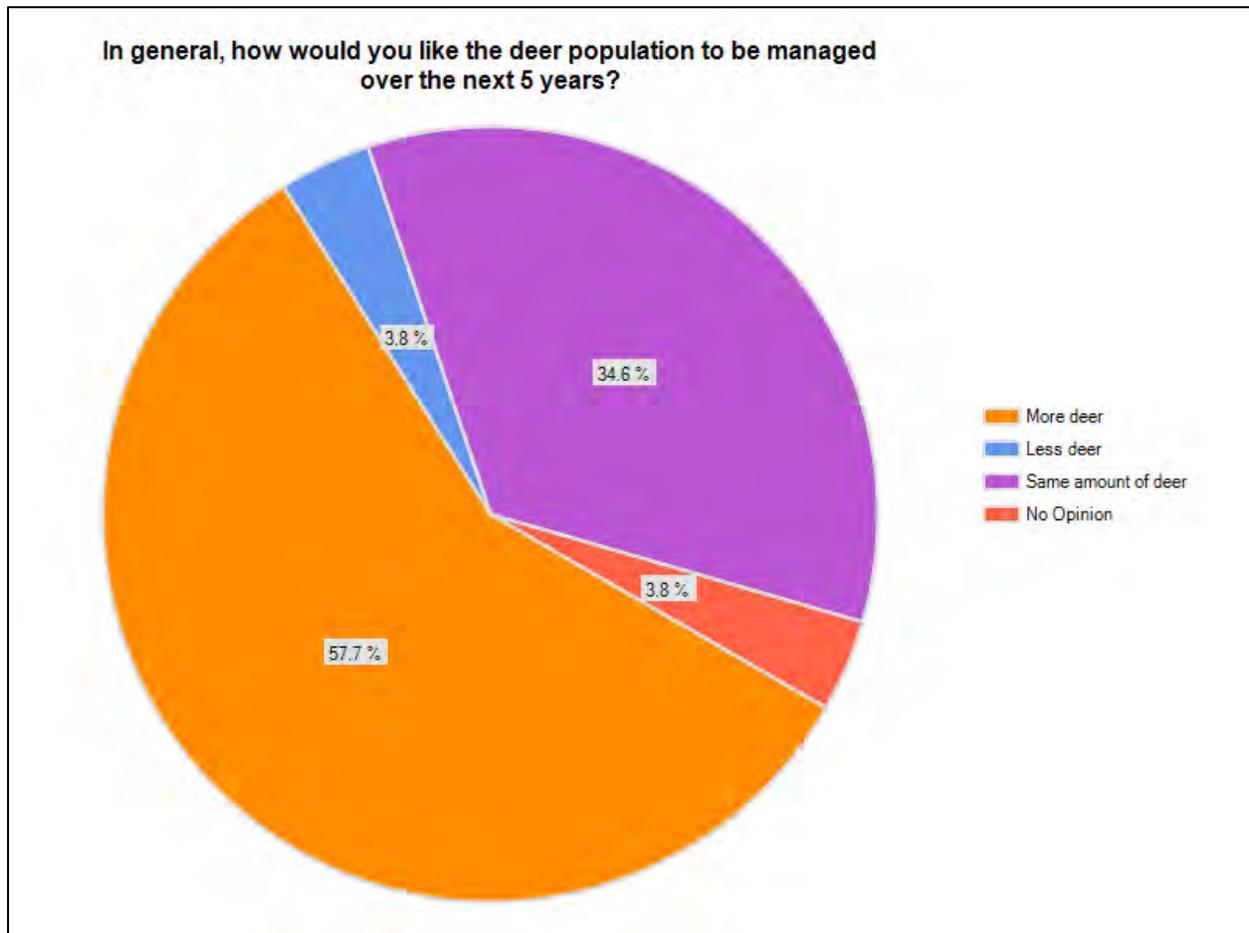
**Figure 4–11. Percentage of respondents in DMU C-1 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

When asked how respondents felt about the size of the deer population, 58% felt that the deer population was too low; 10.7% felt it was too high; and 46.4% felt it was about right (Figure 4-12).



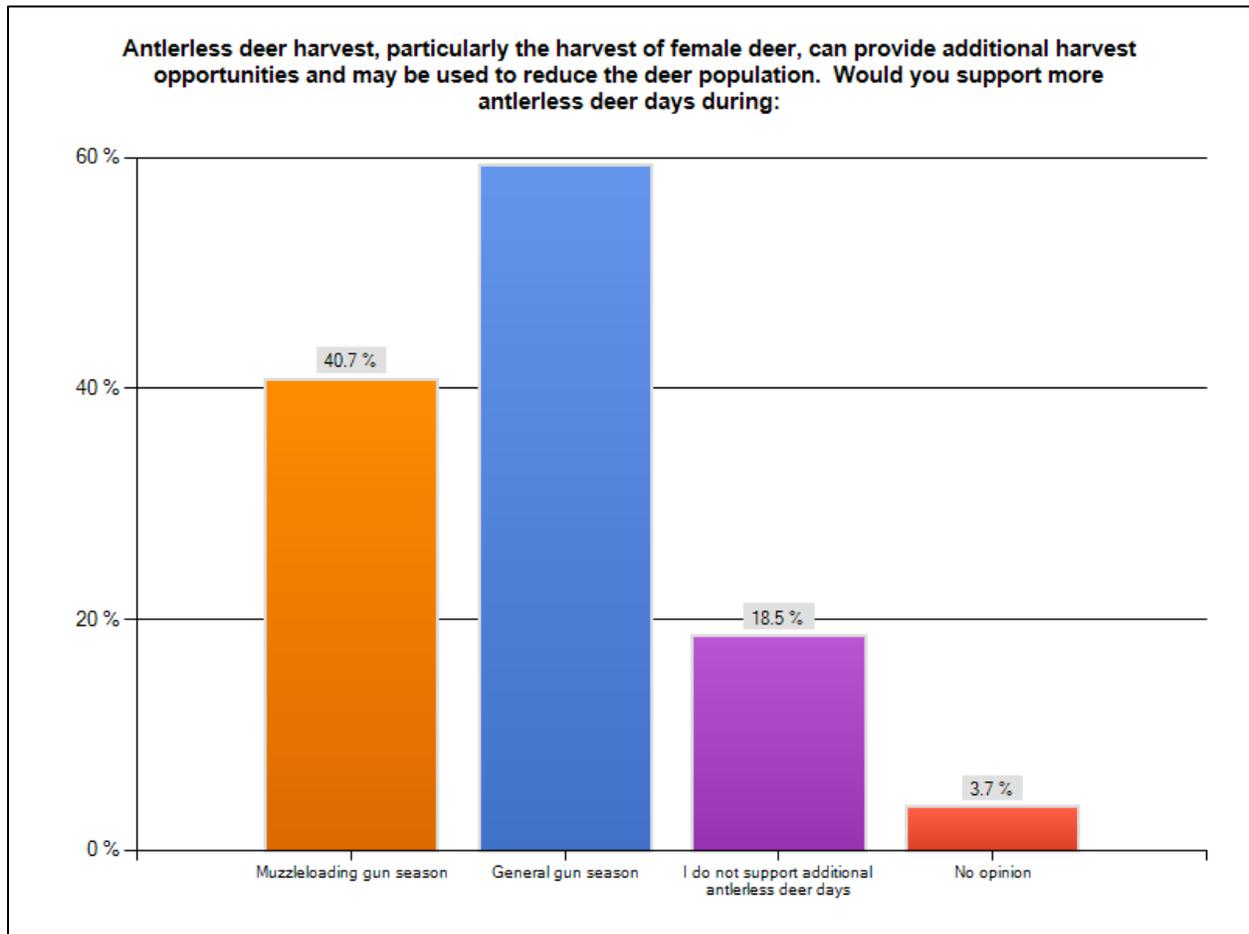
**Figure 4-12. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU C-1.**

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. Most (57.7%) wanted to have more deer; 3.8% wanted a decrease in deer; and 34.6% wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–13).



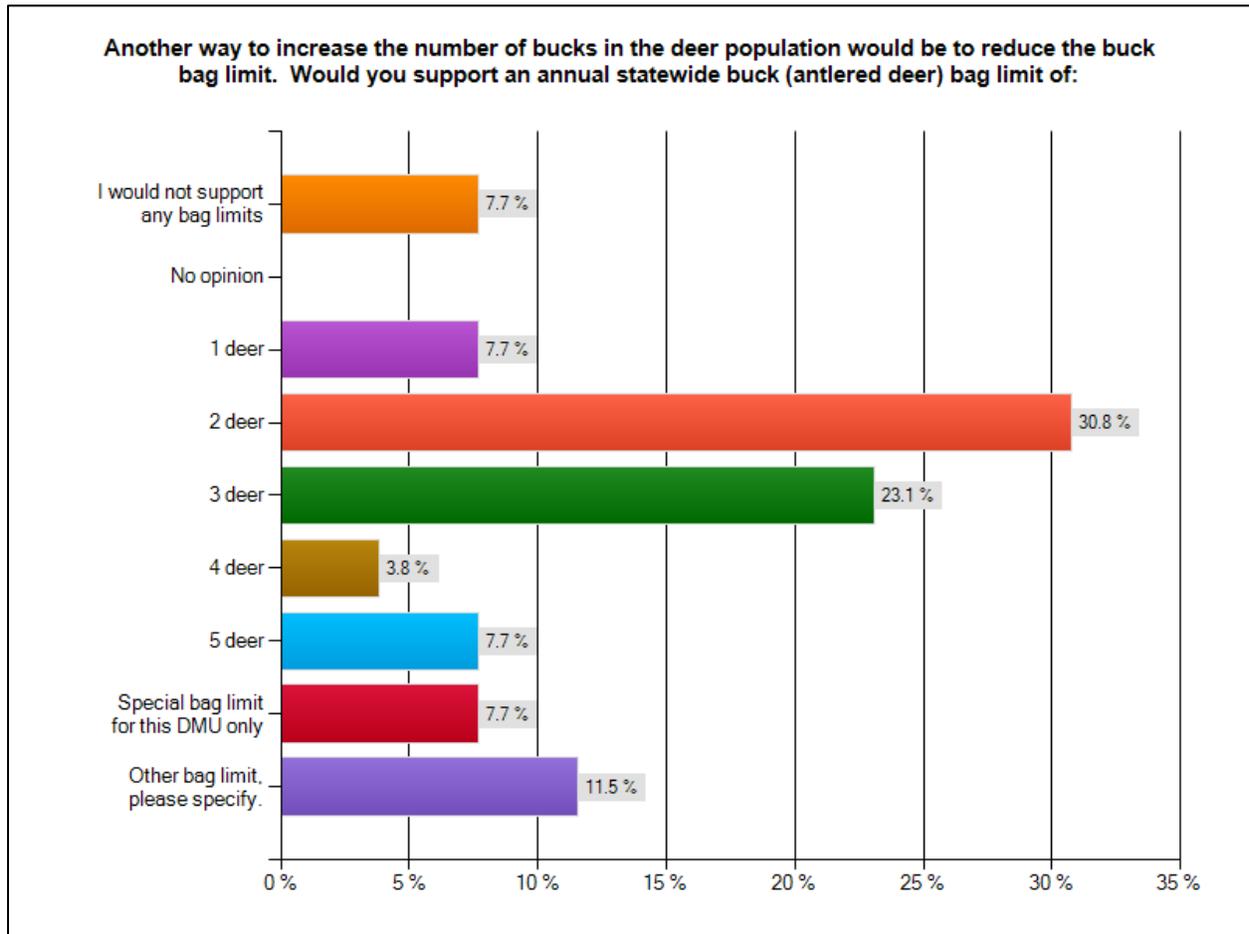
**Figure 4–13. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU C-1.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 40.7% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons. There was more support (59.3%) for antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 18.5% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days (Figure 4–14).



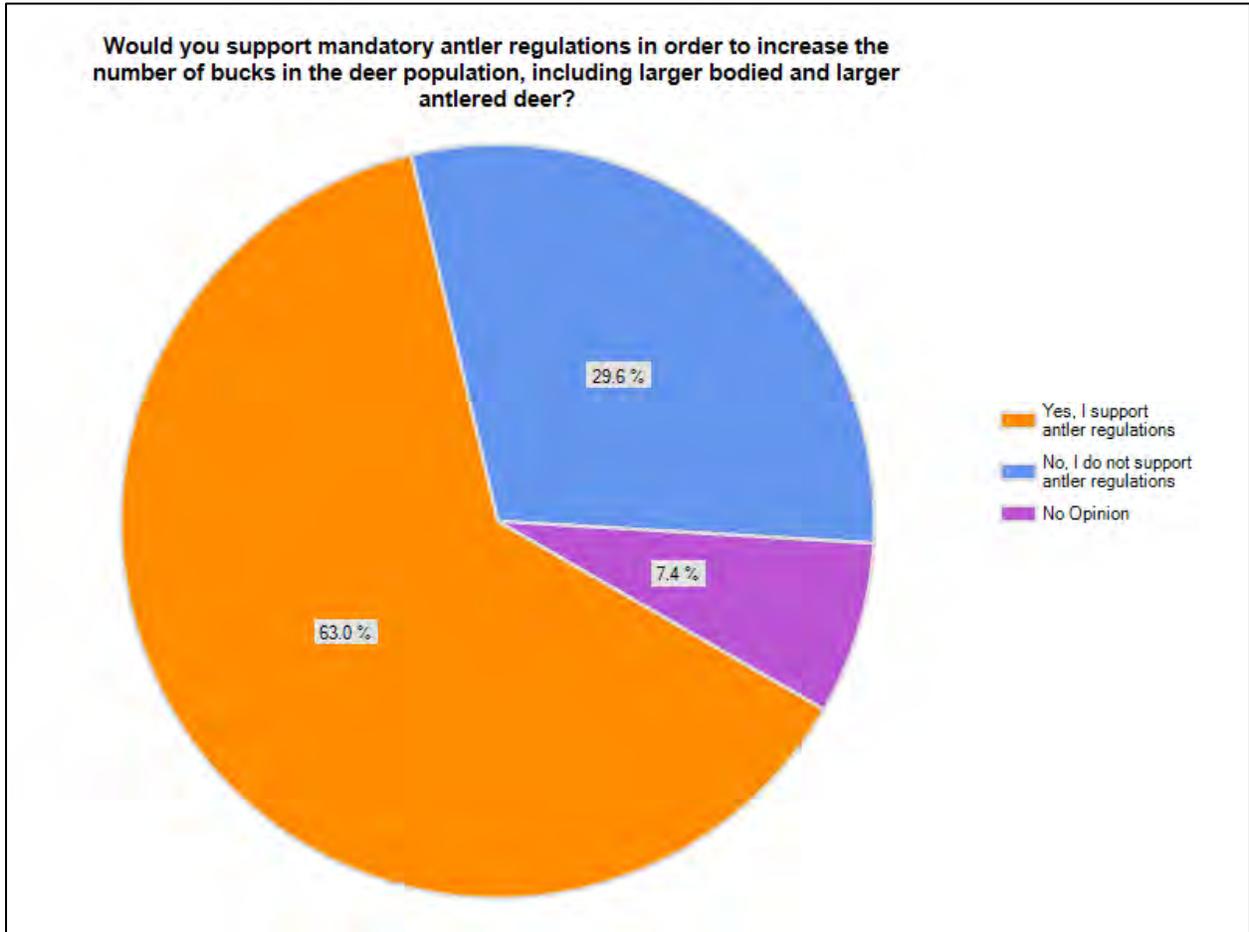
**Figure 4–14. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading seasons in DMU C-1.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, nearly 54% respondents say they would support bag limits of two or three deer; and 7.7% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–15).



**Figure 4–15. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU C-1.**

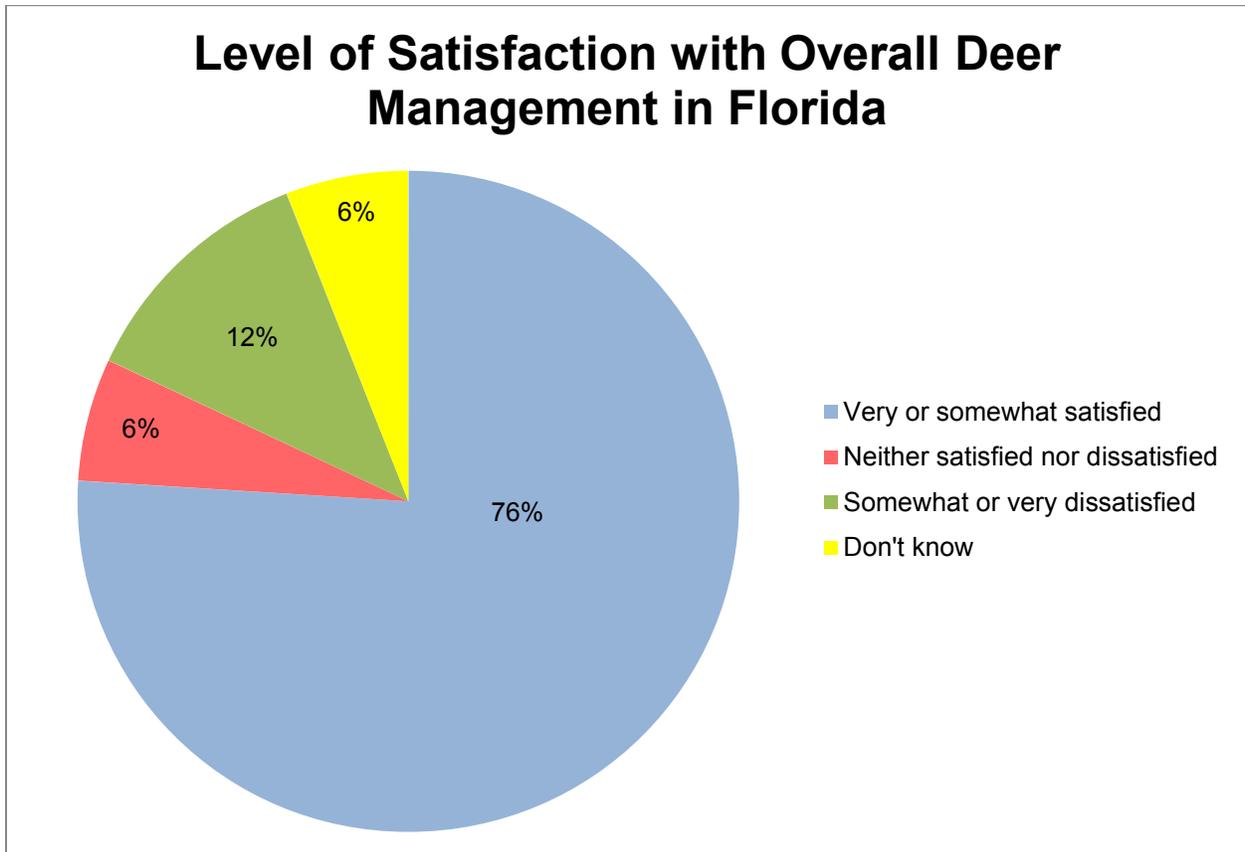
When asked about mandatory antler regulations, the majority of respondents (63%) supported antler regulations, while 29.6% did not (Figure 4–16).



**Figure 4–16. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU C-1.**

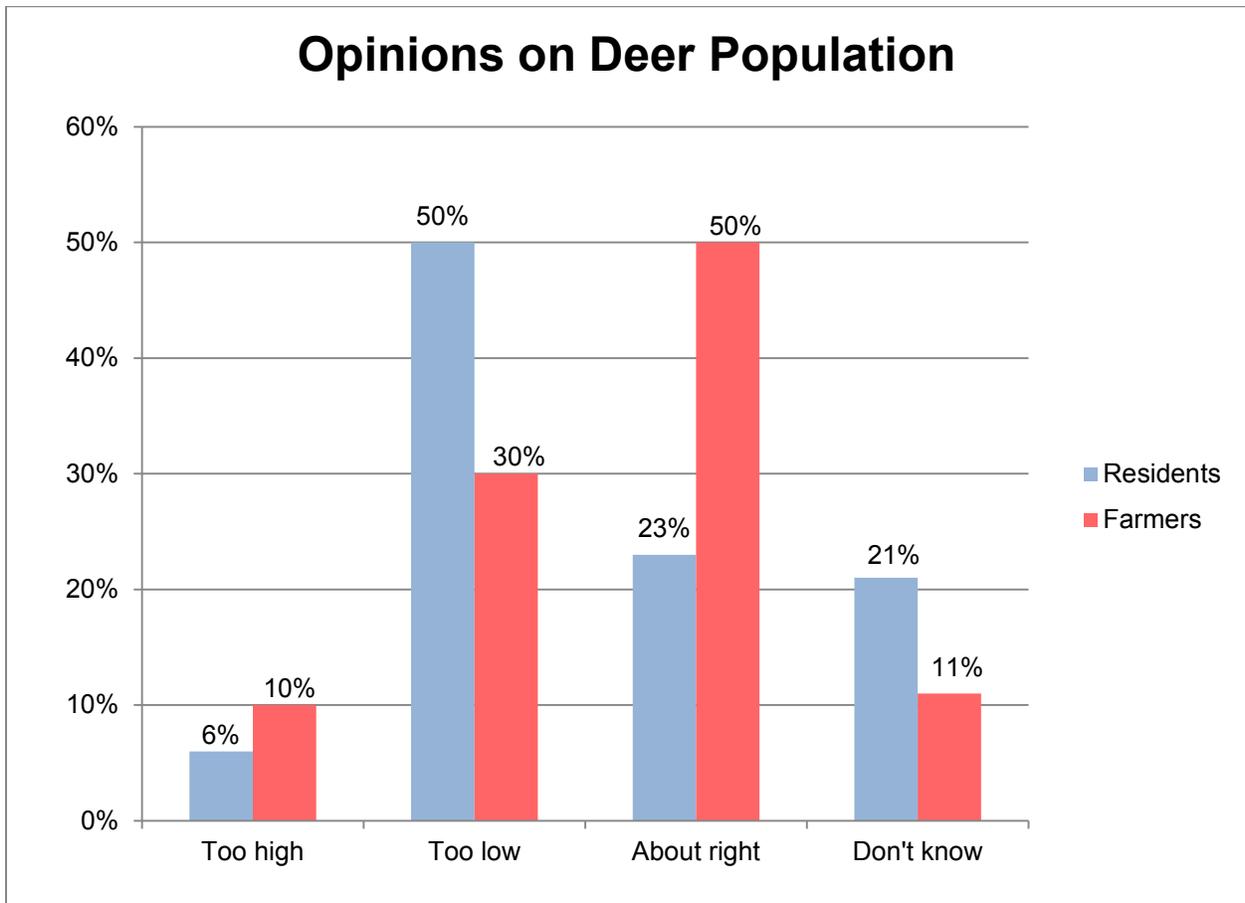
### 4.7.3 Phone Surveys

In DMU C-1, 75% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with deer management overall in the state of Florida (Figure 4–17).



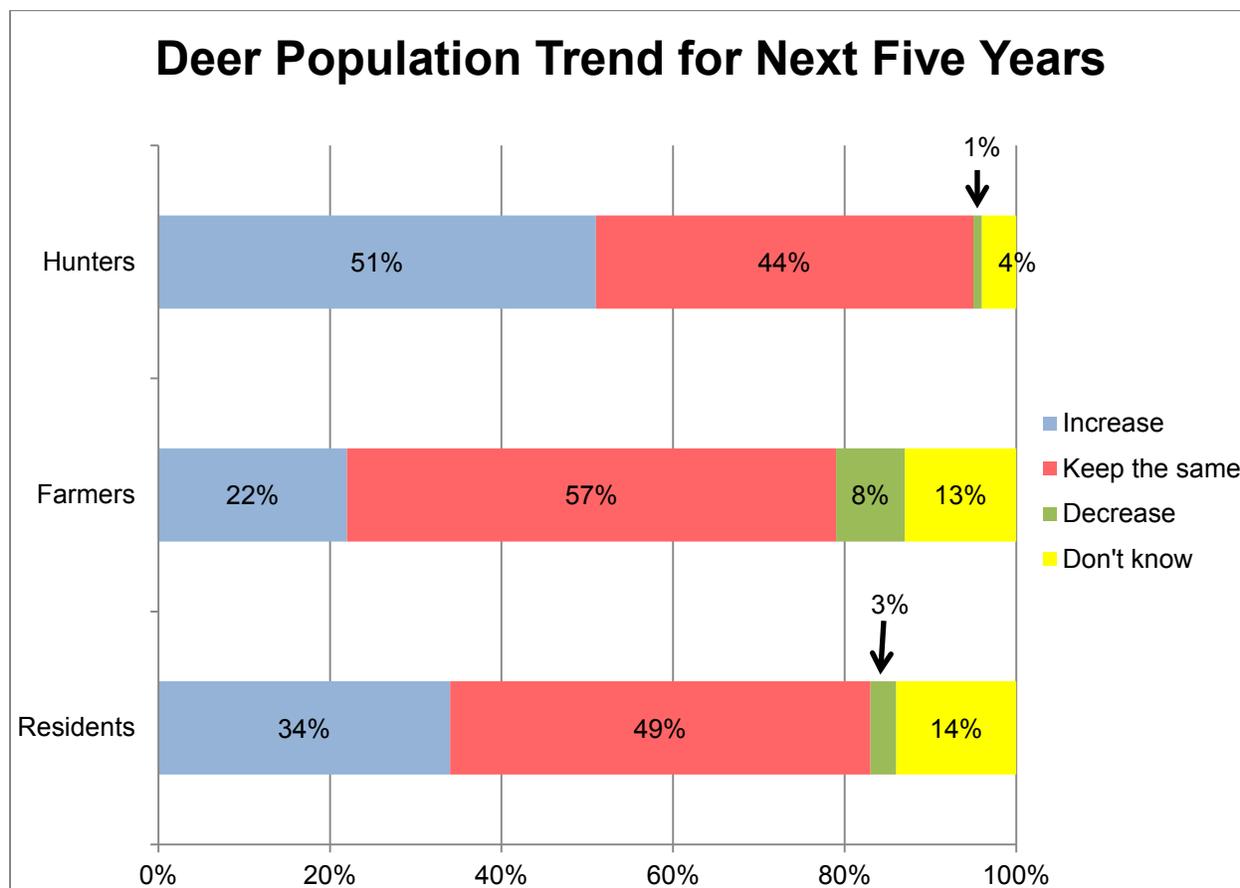
**Figure 4–17. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU C-1 hunters.**

According to the survey, 50% of farmers in DMU C-1 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 30% felt it was too low. For residents, 23% felt the population is about the right size; 50% felt was too low. These results are summarized in Figure 4–18.



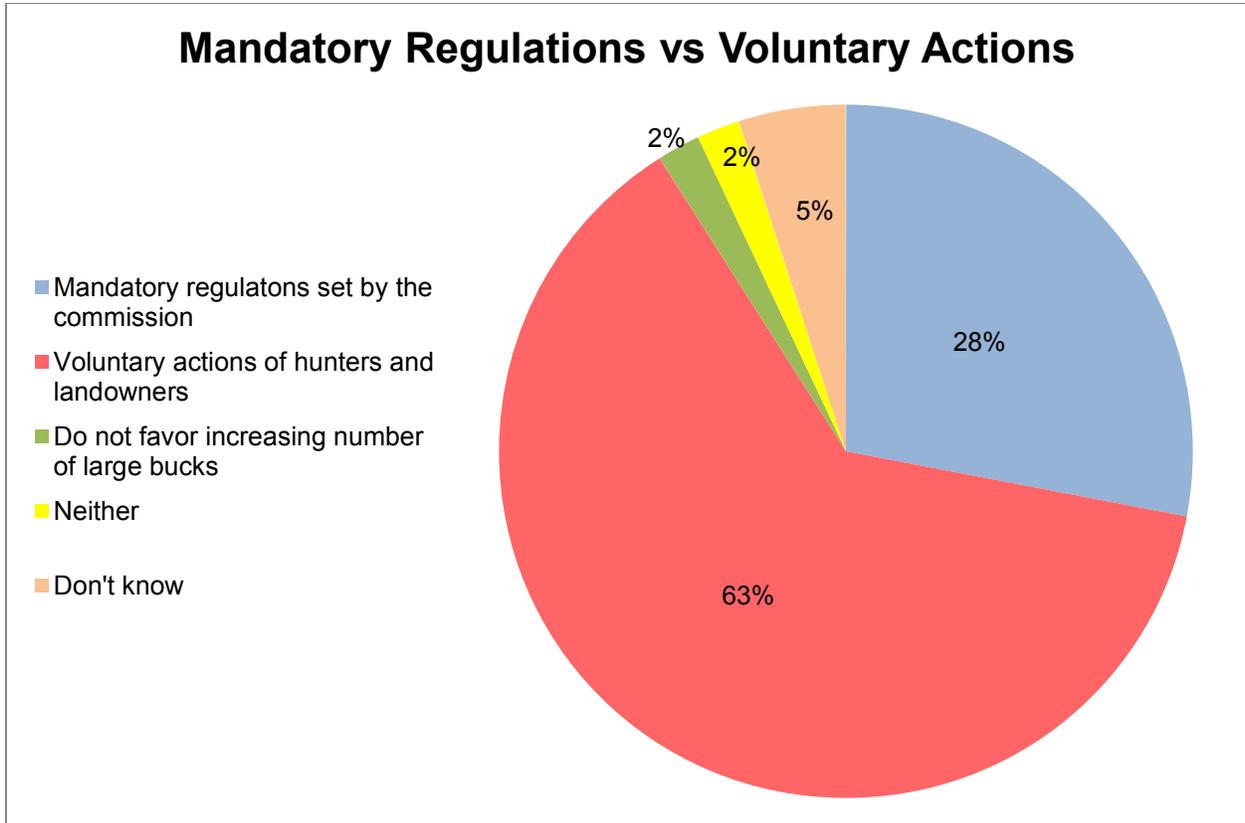
**Figure 4–18. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU C-1.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–19). Of the hunters, 51% want to see the deer population increased, while 44% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and very few (1%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 22% want to see the deer population increase, while 57% would like to see the population stay the same size, and few (8%) want to see a decrease. For residents, 34% want to see the deer population increased, while 49% would like to see the population stay the same, and very few (3%) want to see a decrease in deer population.



**Figure 4–19. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU C-1 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks and if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (63%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (28%) (Figure 4–20).



**Figure 4–20. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU C-1.**

## 4.8 DMU C-2

### 4.8.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting was held on Thursday, April 24th, in Vero Beach. A total of 8 people attended. While attendance at this meeting was low, discussion was good and a lot of feedback was collected.

The most common issues discussed at the meeting included:

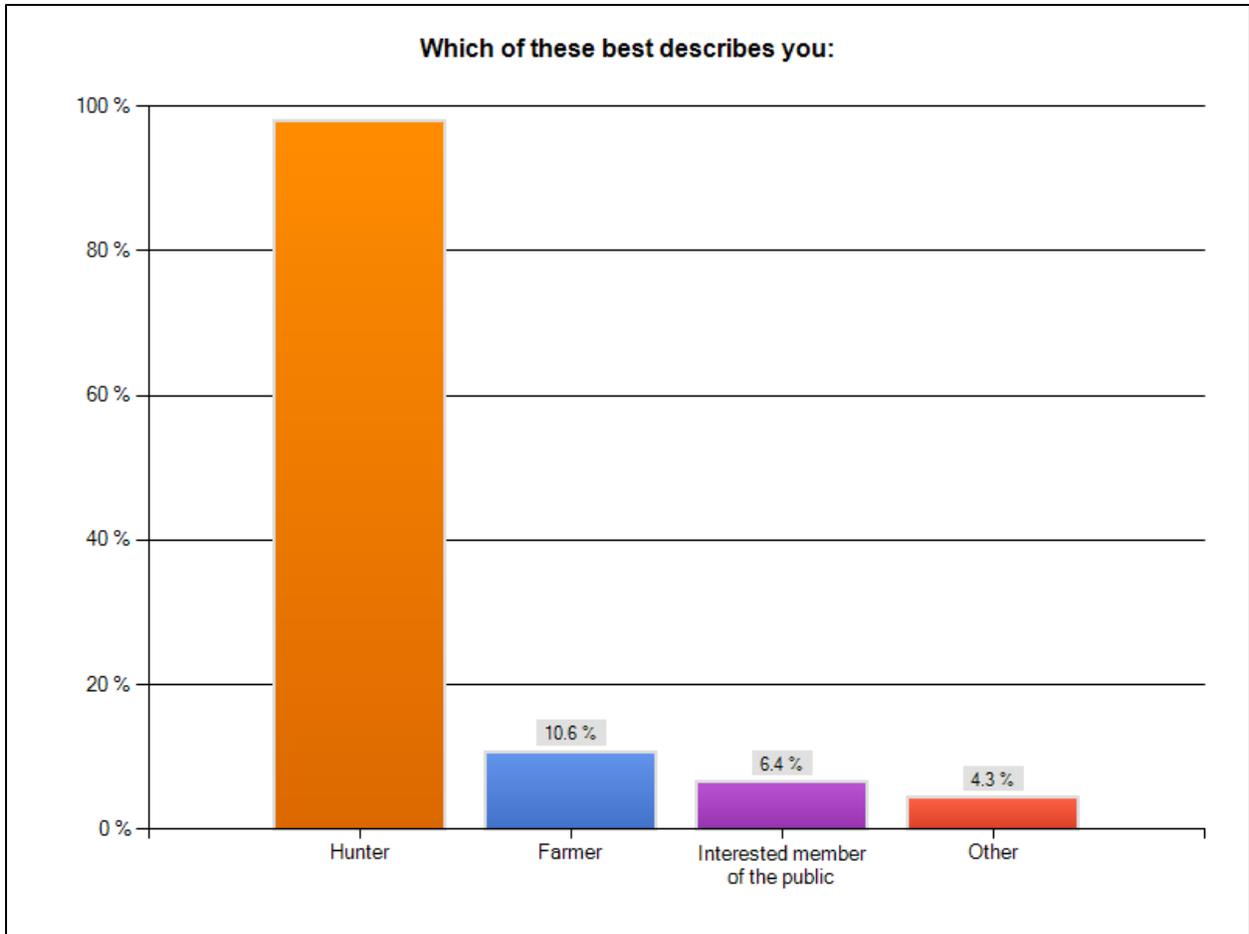
- **Population:** Most felt that the population was declining.
- **Antler Restrictions:** Some supported antler restrictions, and there was discussion over the benefits of a forked horn rule.
- **Local Issues:**
  - There are a lot of high fences around properties in the area.
  - Concern about coyotes and how to manage them.
- **Bag Limits:** Some did not support a bag limit while others felt this would be good to have.
- **Antlerless Harvest:** There was a desire to shift the antlerless harvest days to allow more opportunity while maintaining the same or less take of does.
- **Negative Impacts:** Not too many reported.

### 4.8.2 Online Survey

Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. Forty-nine people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. The majority of participants (97.9%) described themselves as hunters; 10.6% as farmers; 6.4% identified as interested members of the public; and 4.3% as “Other” (Figure 4–21). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g., identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.



**Vero Beach Public Meeting**



**Figure 4–21. Percentage of respondents in DMU C-2 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

When asked how respondents felt about the size of the deer population, 55.3% felt that the deer population was too low; 4.3% felt it was too high; and 38.3% felt it was about right (Figure 4–22).

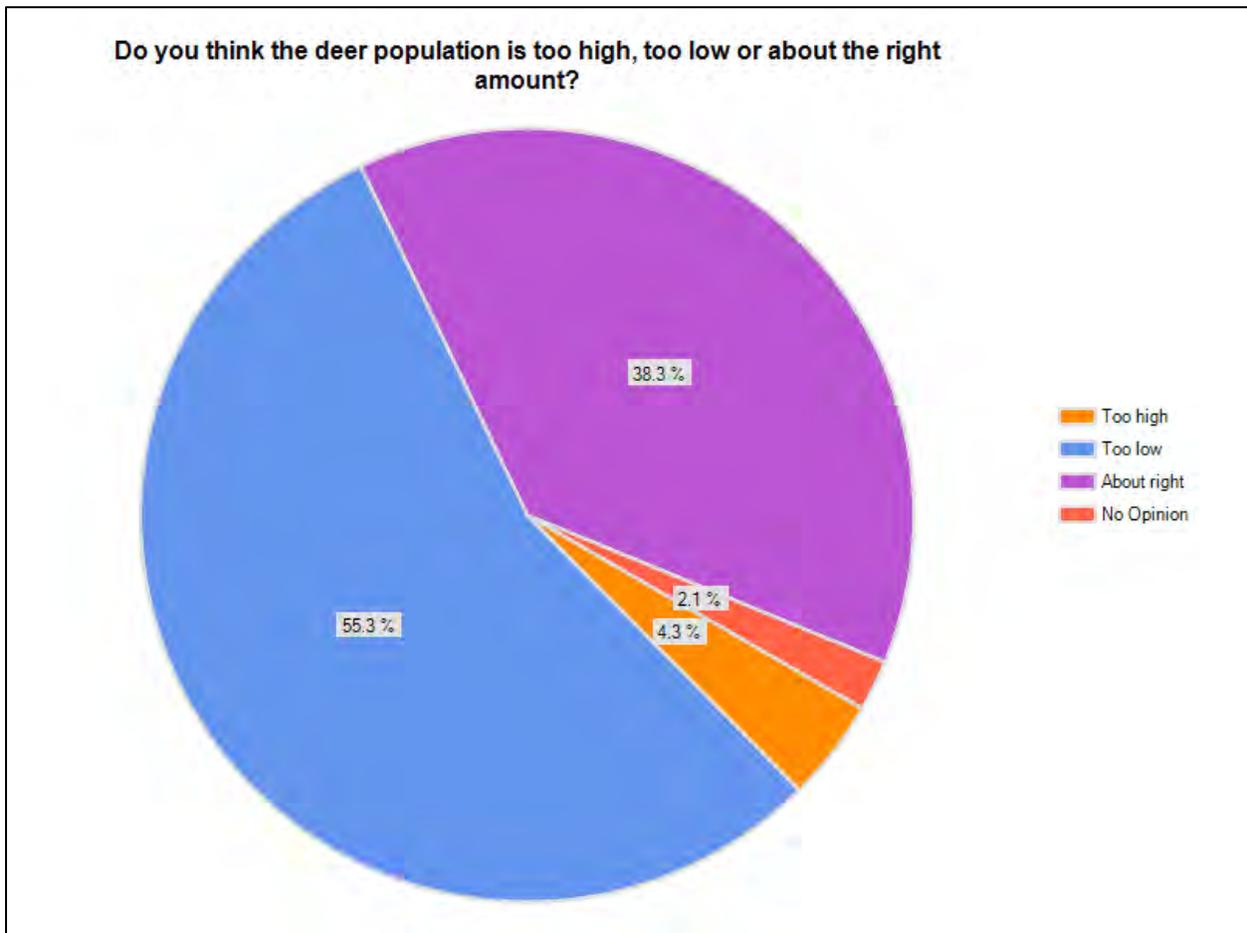
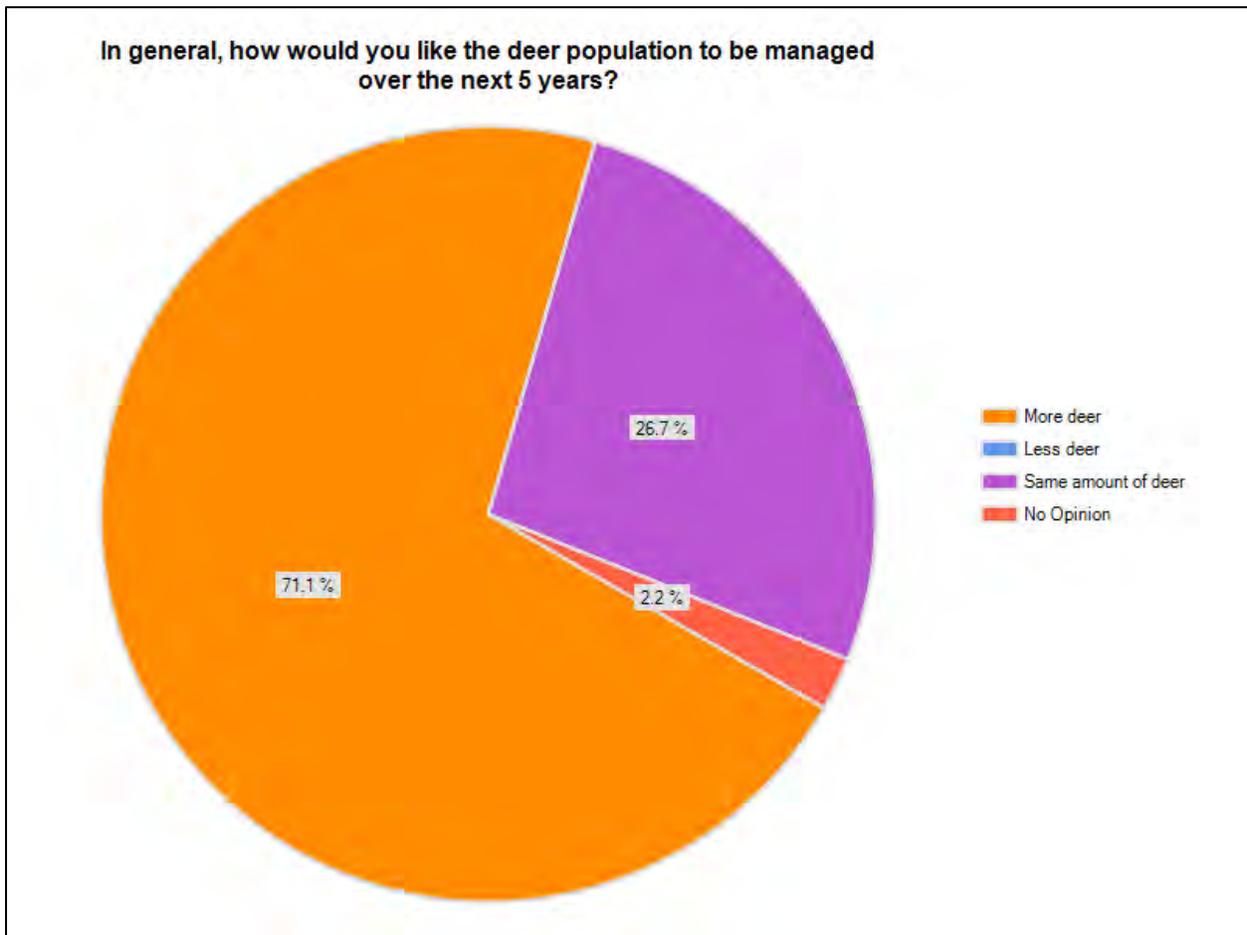


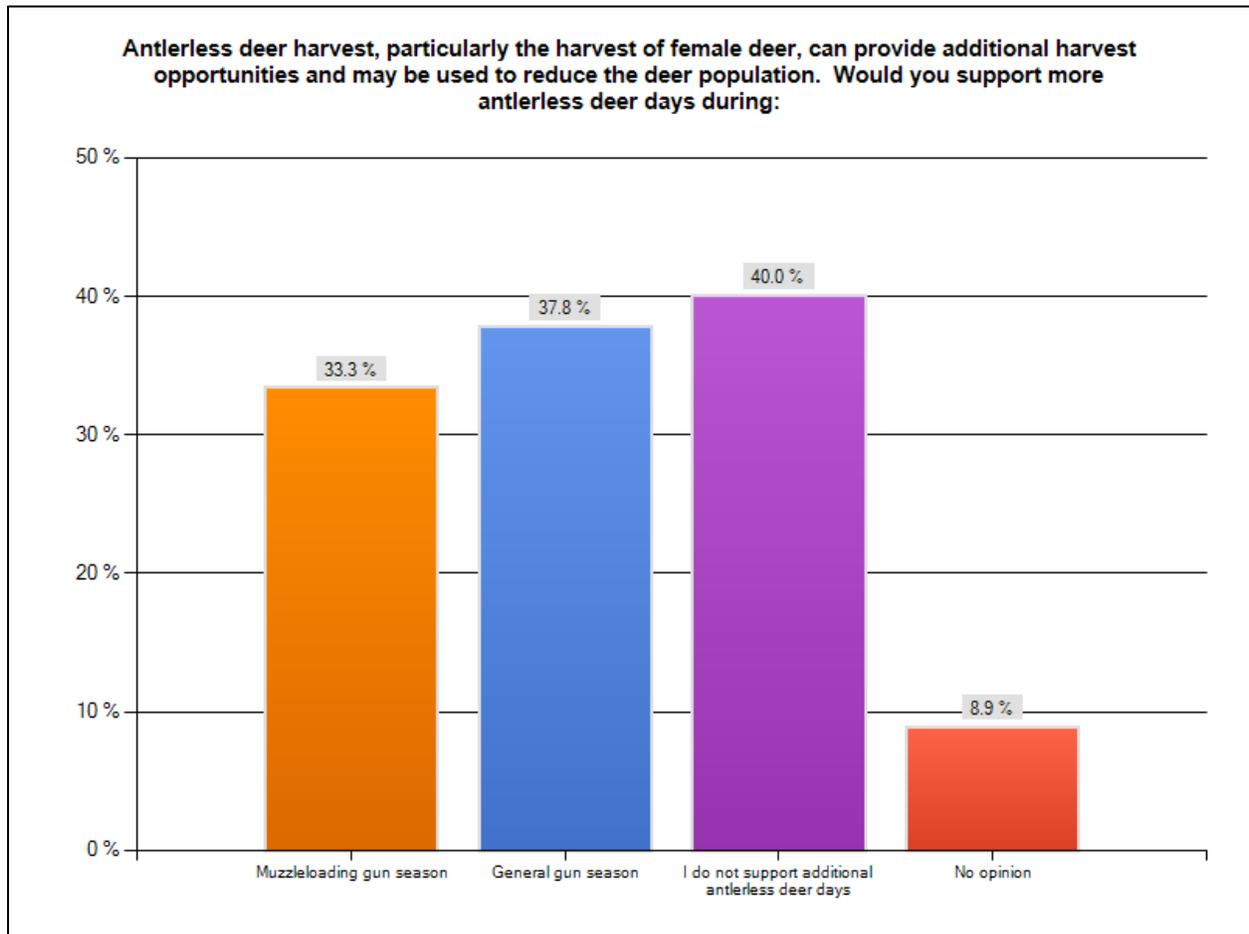
Figure 4–22. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU C-2.

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. The majority (71.1%) wanted to have more deer; none wanted a decrease in deer; and 26.7% wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–23).



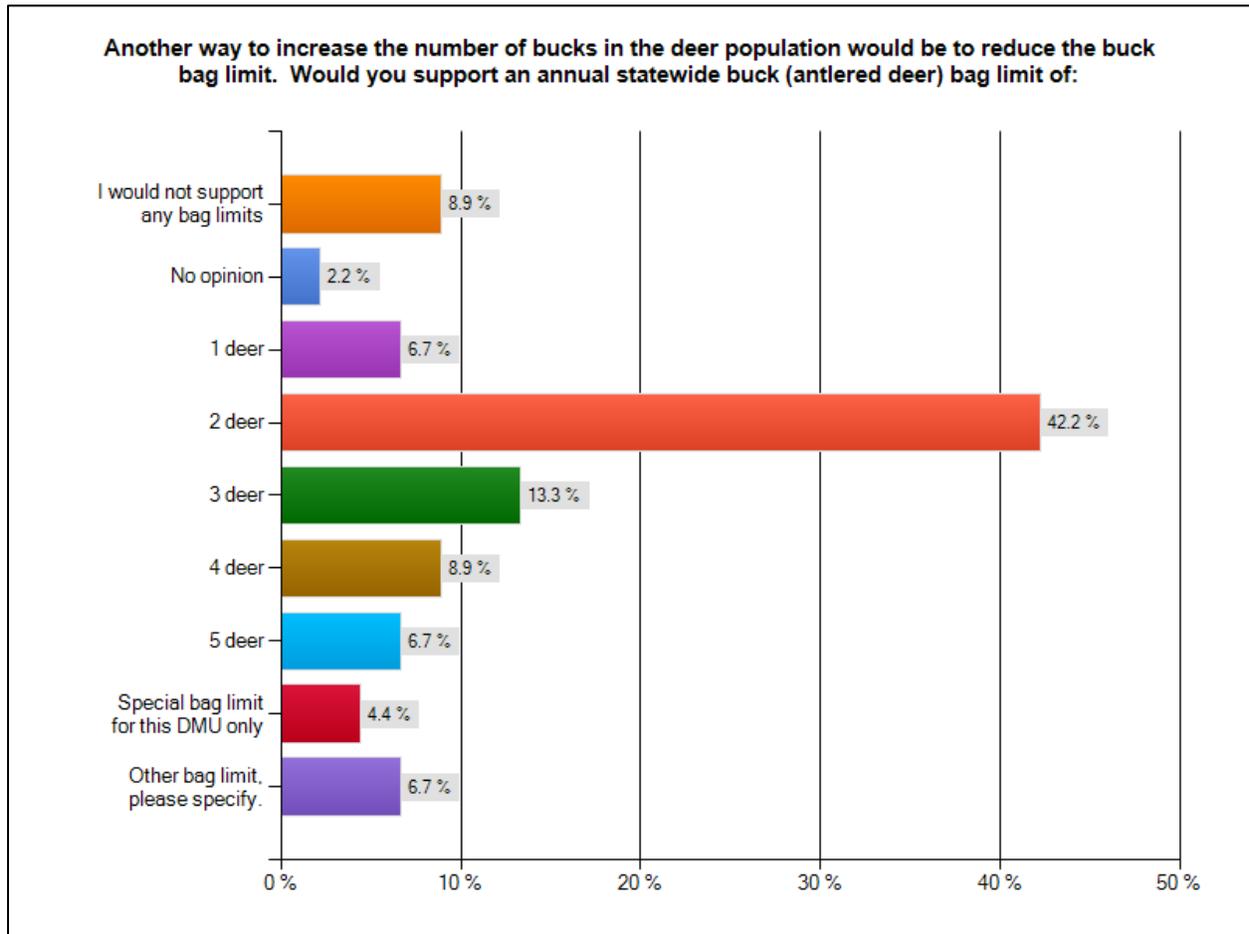
**Figure 4–23. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU C-2.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 33.3% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons; 37.8% supported antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 40% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days (Figure 4–24).



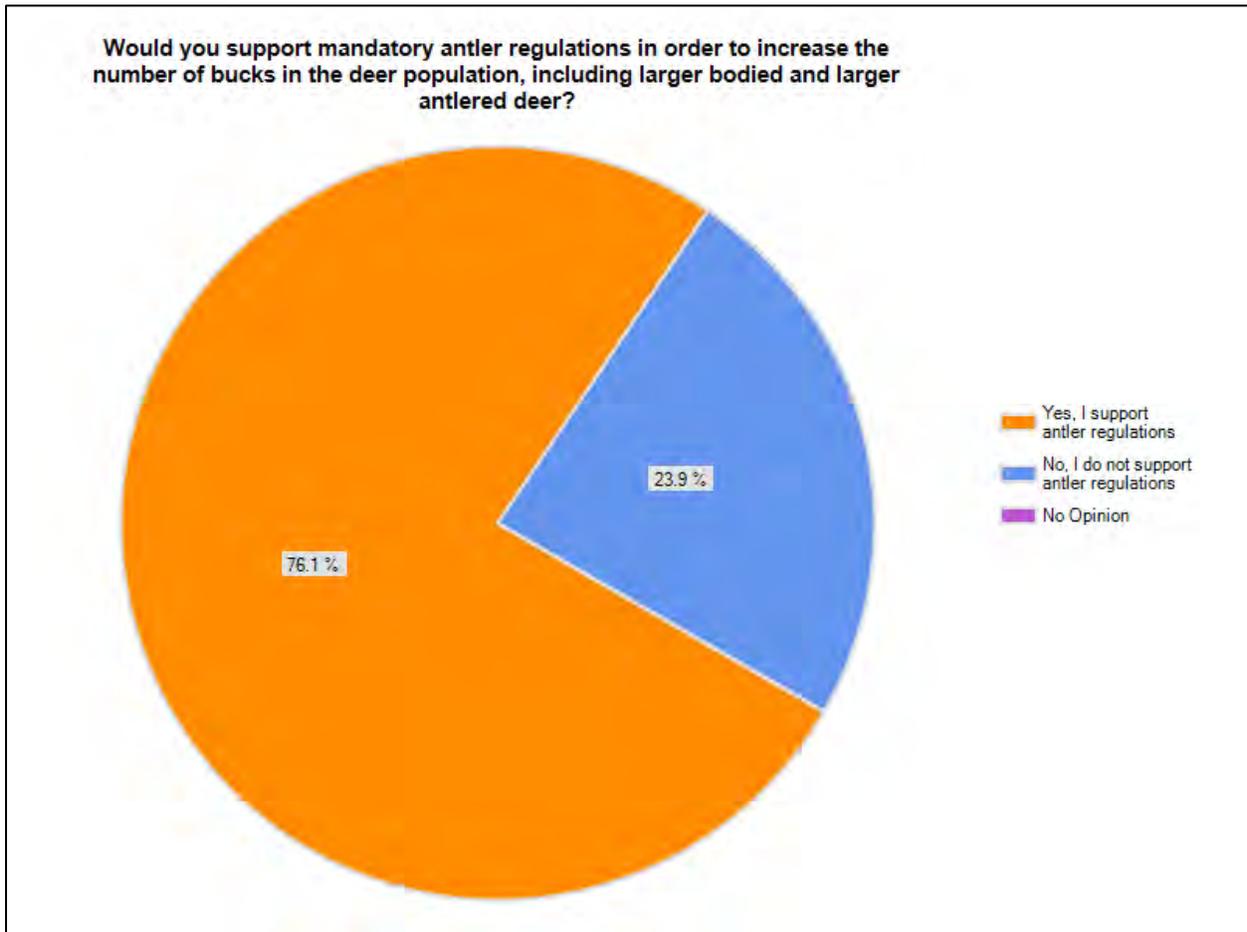
**Figure 4–24. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading seasons in DMU C-2.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, 42.2% of respondents say they would support bag limits of two deer; and 8.9% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–25).



**Figure 4–25. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU C-2.**

When asked about mandatory antler regulations, the majority of respondents (76.1%) supported antler regulations, while 23.9% did not (Figure 4–26).



**Figure 4–26. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU C-2.**

### 4.8.3 Phone Surveys

In DMU C-2, 65% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with overall deer management in Florida (Figure 4-27).

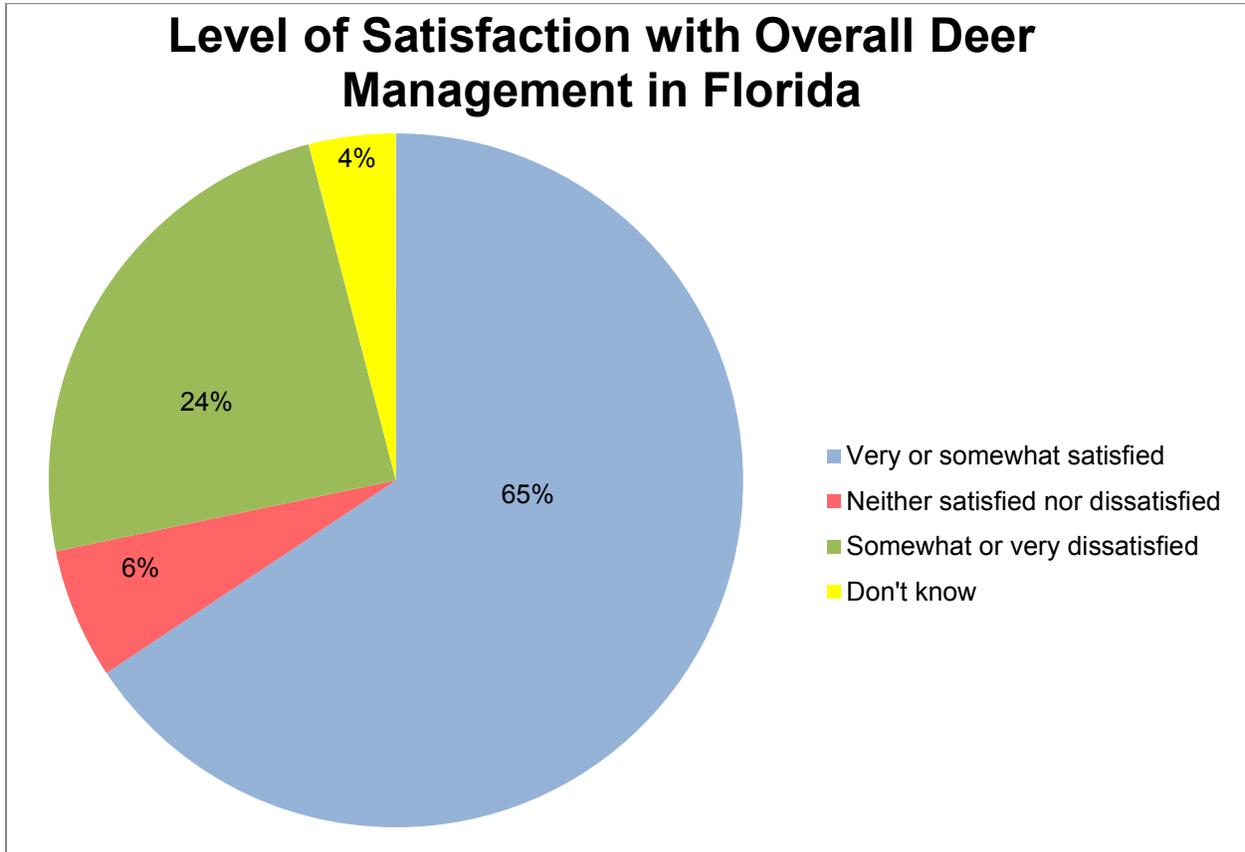
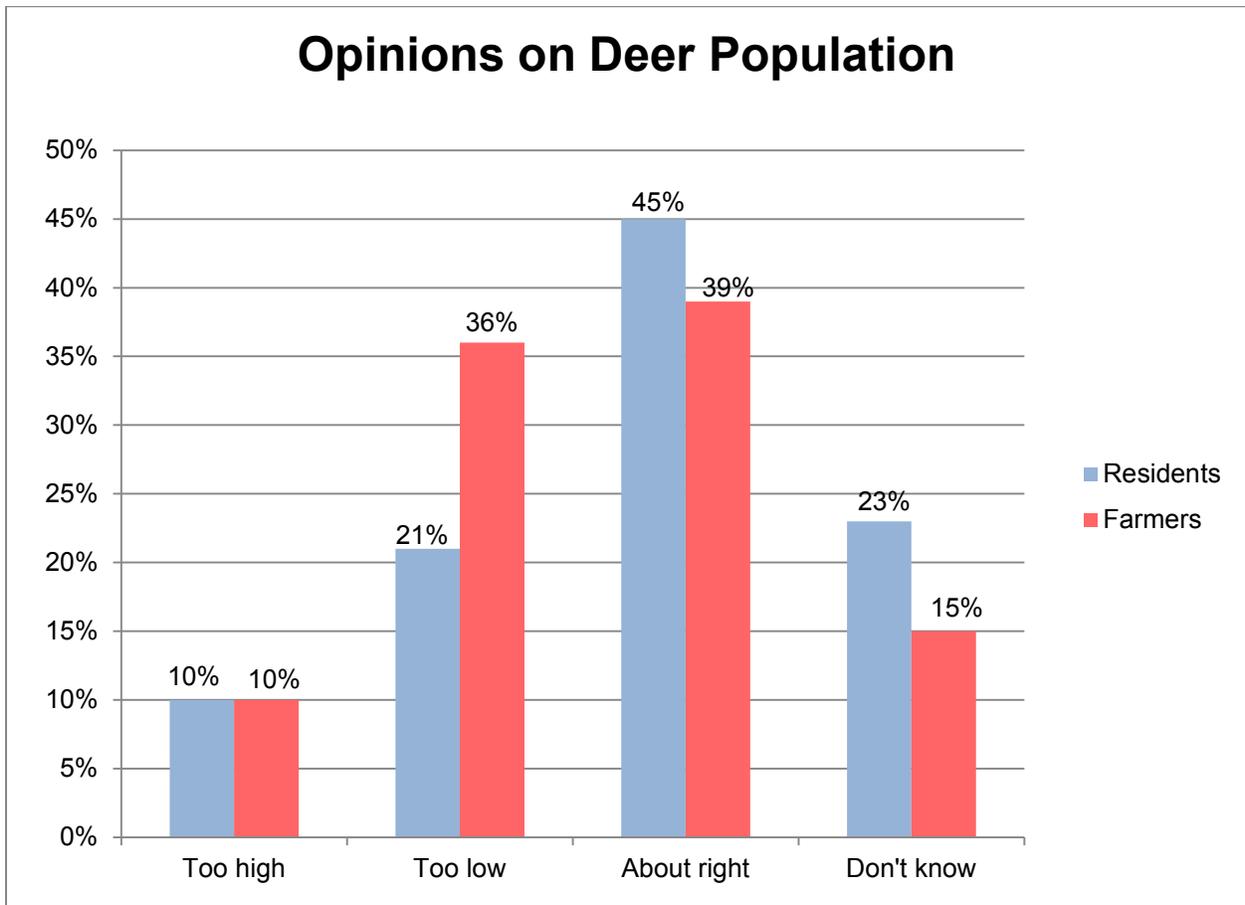


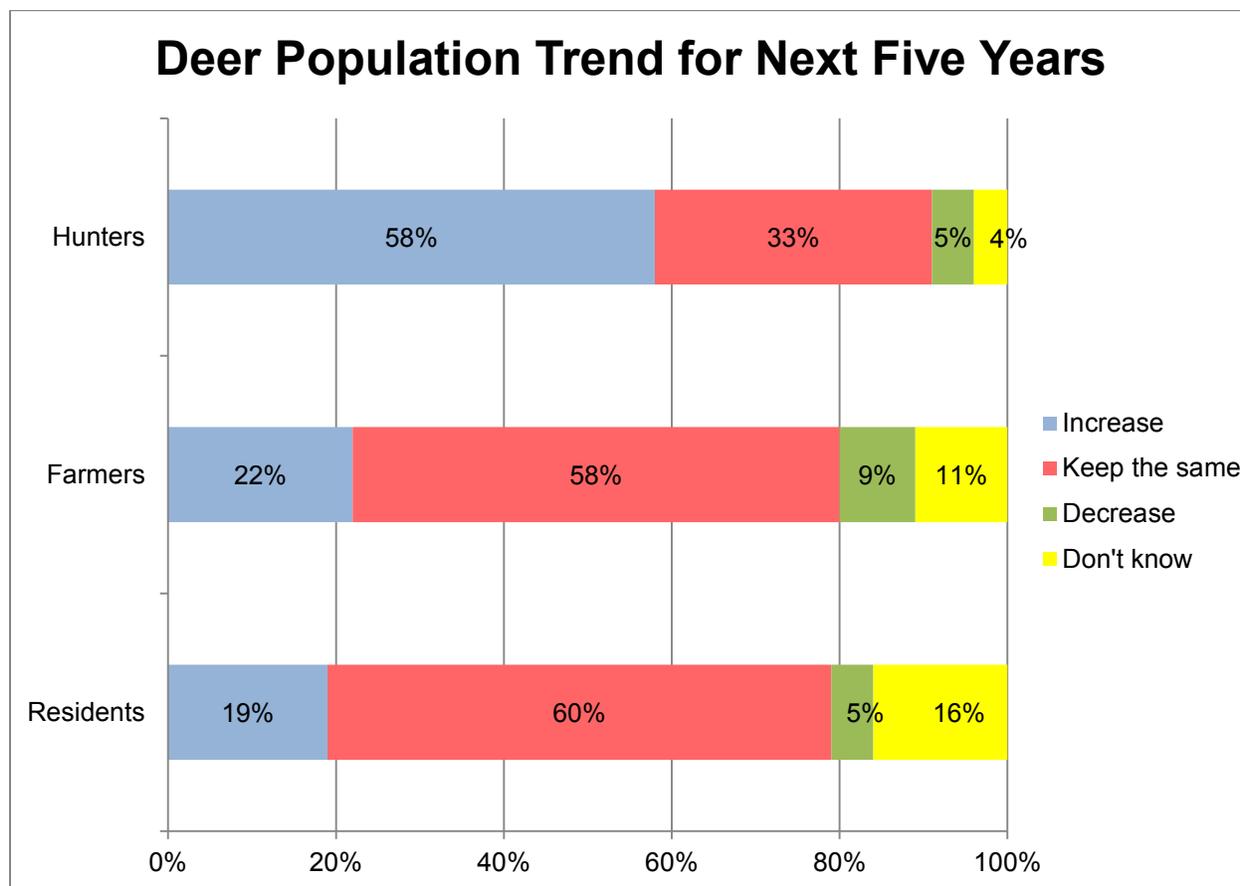
Figure 4-27. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU C-2 hunters.

According to the survey, 39% of farmers in DMU C-2 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 36% felt it was too low. For residents, 45% felt the population is about the right size; 21% felt was too low. These results are summarized in Figure 4–28.



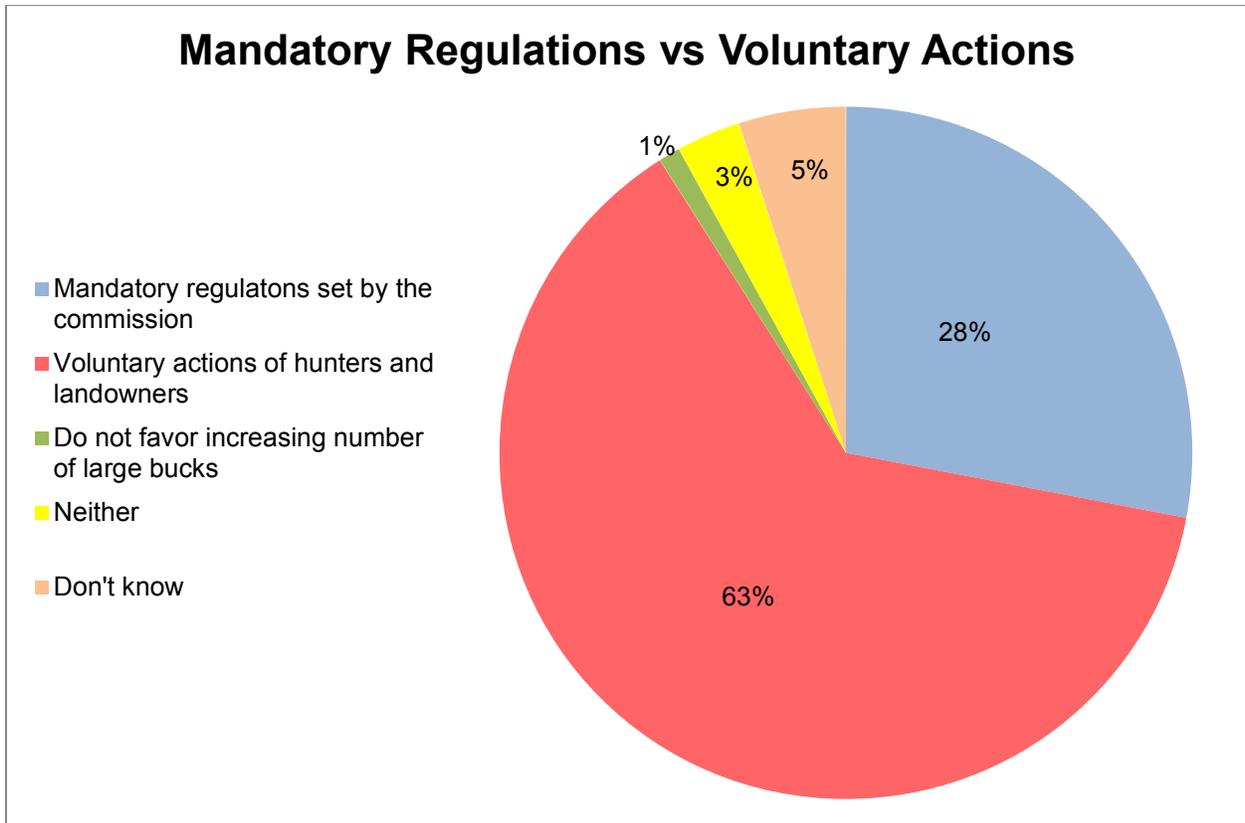
**Figure 4–28. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU C-2.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–29). Of the hunters, 58% want to see the deer population increased, while 33% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and very few (5%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 22% want to see the deer population increase, while 58% would like to see the population stay the same size, and few (9%) want to see a decrease. For residents, 19% want to see the deer population increased, while 60% would like to see the population stay the same, and very few (5%) want to see a decrease in deer population.



**Figure 4–29. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU C-2 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks and if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (63%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (28%) (Figure 4–30).



**Figure 4–30. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU C-2.**

## 4.9 DMU C-3

### 4.9.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting was held on Tuesday, April 1st, in Chiefland. A total of 55 people attended the meeting.

The most common issues discussed at the meeting included:

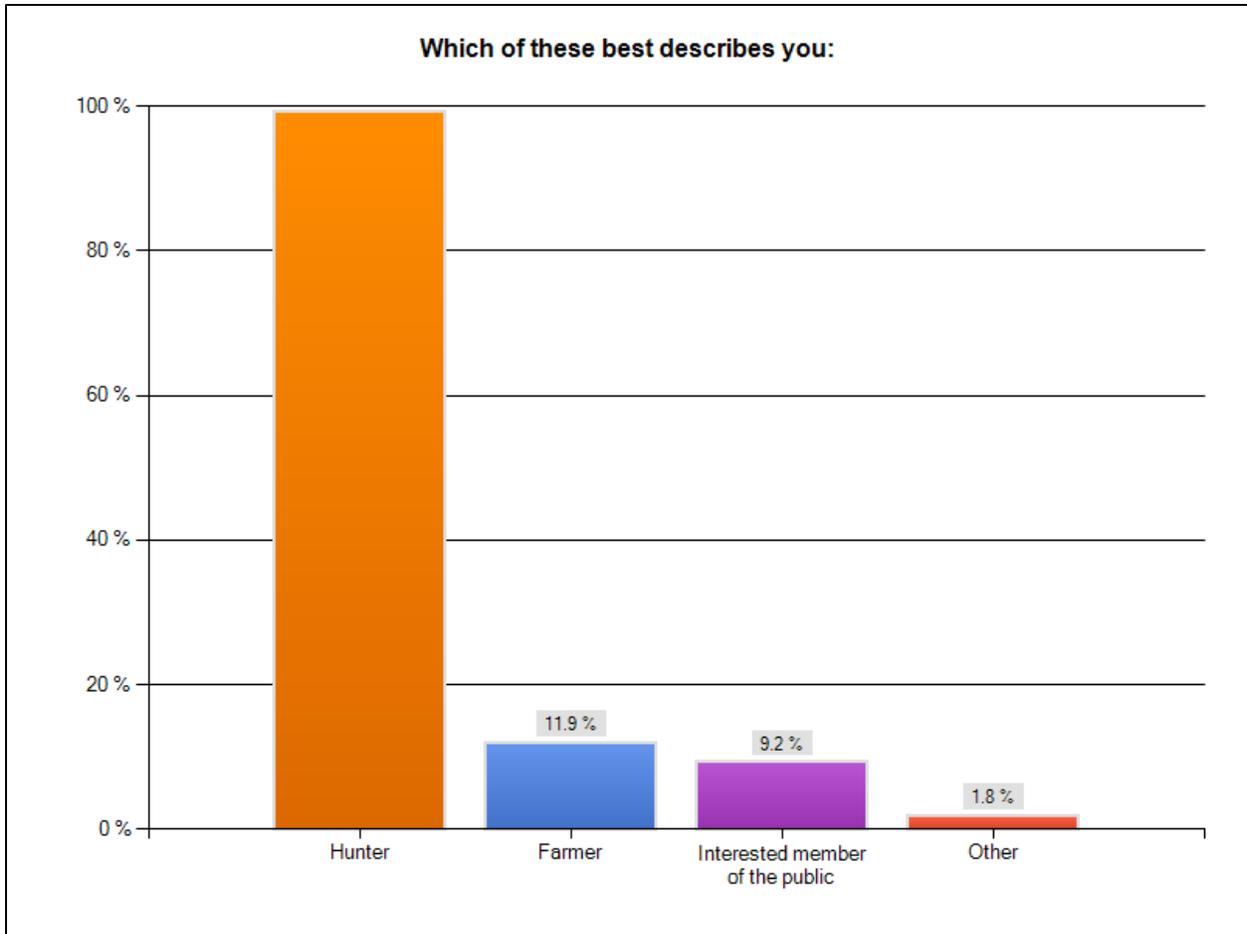
- **Population:** There were mixed feelings on the deer population.
- **Antler Restrictions:** Many reported that their hunt club had an existing forked horn or better rule, and many also said that private land owners should be left to decide on their own how to address antler restrictions.
- **Local Issues:**
  - Concern about coyotes and how to manage them.
  - Several felt that law enforcement needed to be increased on Wildlife Management Areas.
  - Some felt that there needs to be better timing of hunting seasons to the rut.
- **Bag Limits:** Most either did not want them or were fine with them as is.
- **Antlerless Harvest:**
  - Doe harvest was desired in the areas that do not currently have doe harvest.
  - There was a desire to shift the days of doe season to allow more harvest opportunity.
- **Negative Impacts:** Not too many reported.

### 4.9.2 Online Survey

Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. One hundred twelve people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. The majority of participants (99.7%) described themselves as hunters; 11.9% as farmers; 9.2% identified as interested members of the public; and 1.8% as “Other” (Figure 4–31). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g., identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.



**Chiefland Public Meeting**



**Figure 4–31. Percentage of respondents in DMU C-3 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

When asked how respondents felt about the size of the deer population, 48.1% felt that the deer population was too low; 13% felt it was too high; and 36.1% felt it was about right (Figure 4–32).

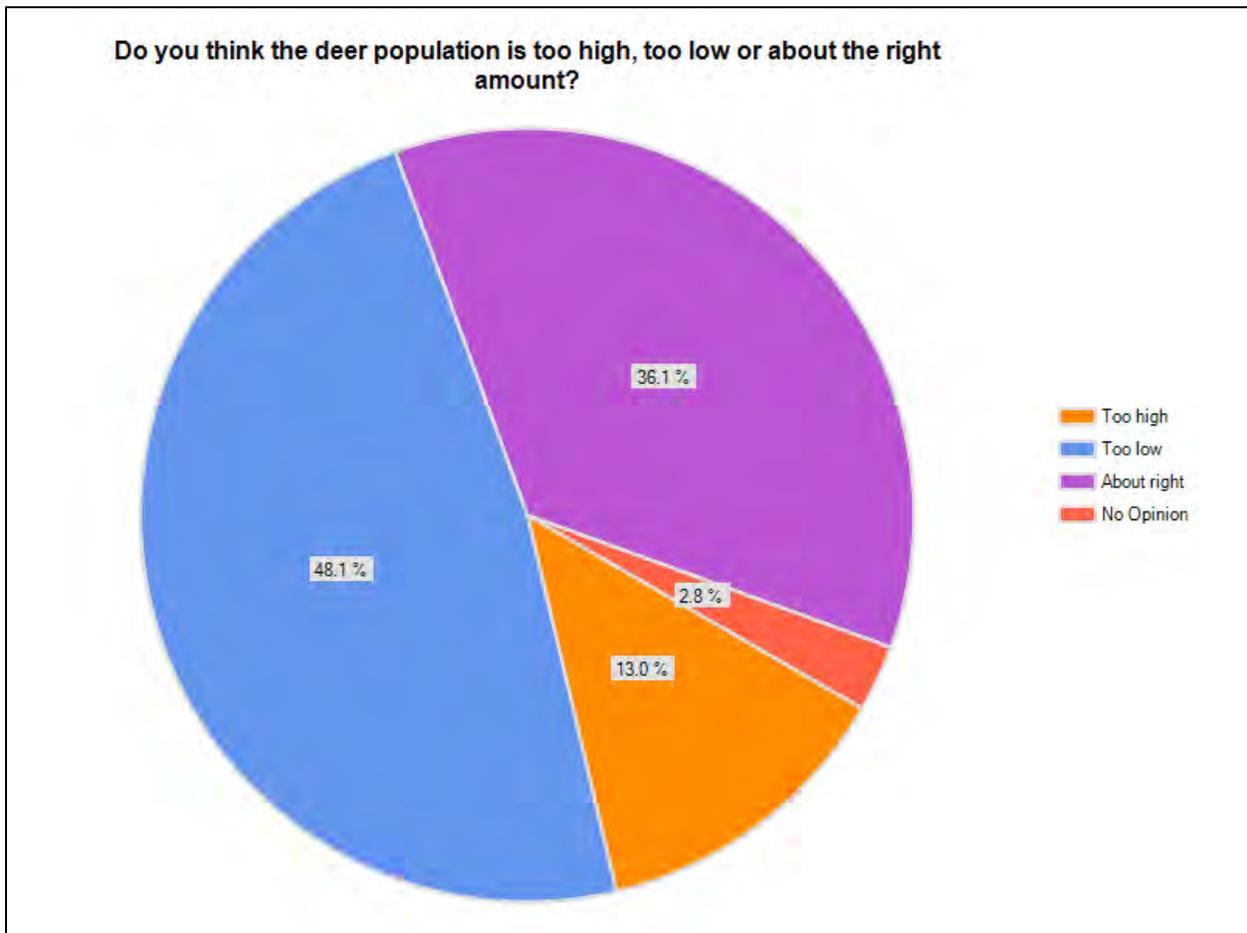
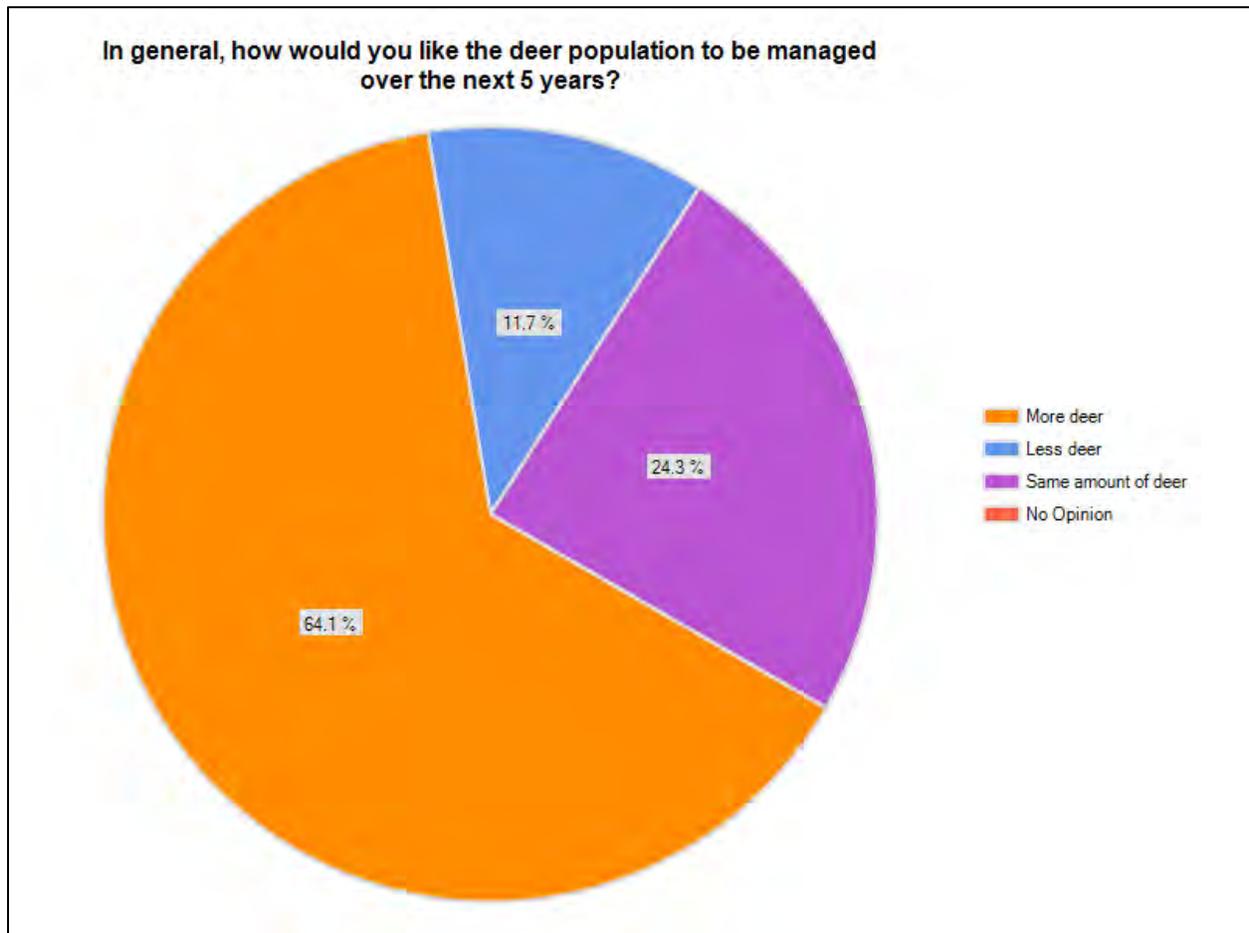


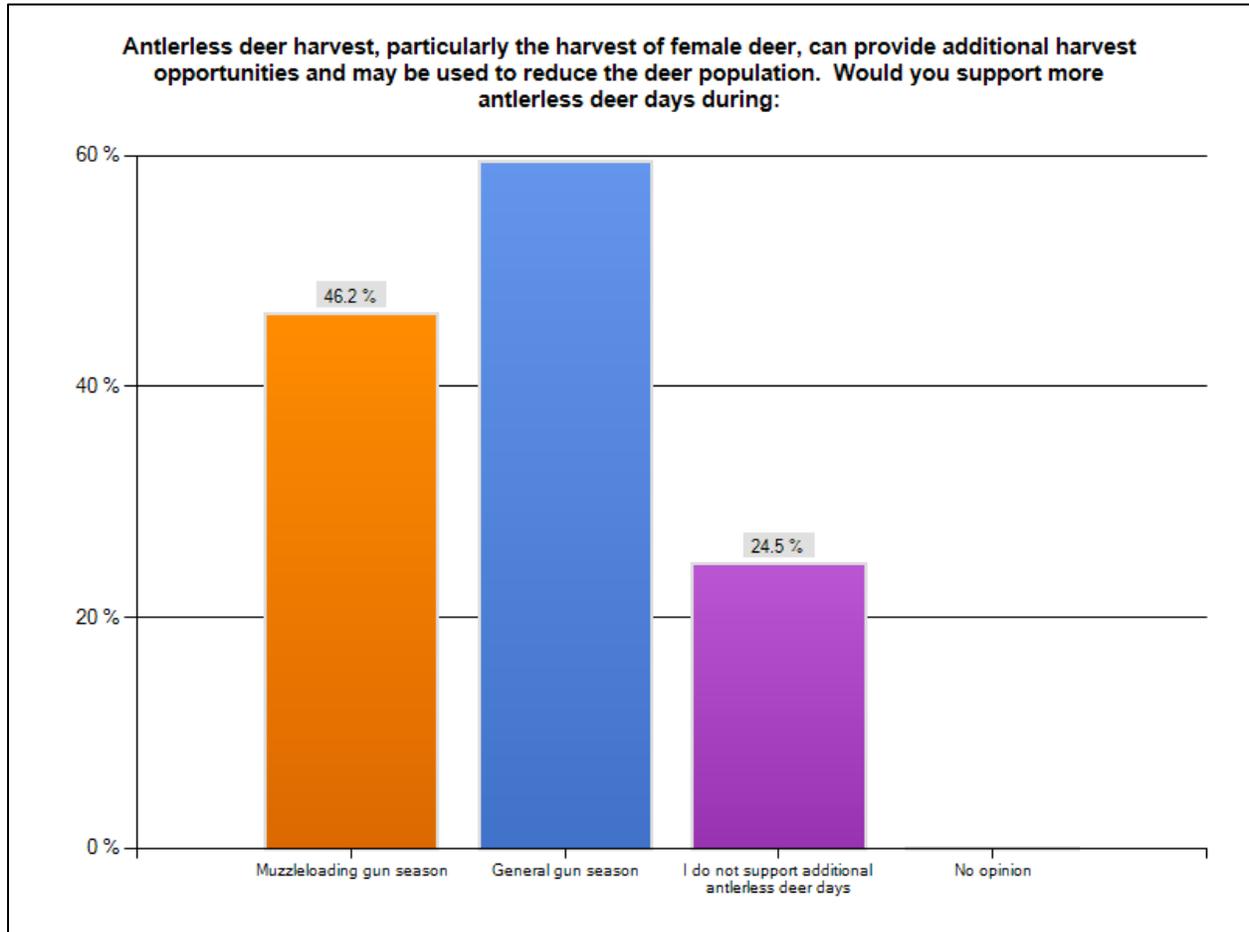
Figure 4–32. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU C-3.

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. The majority (64.1%) wanted to have more deer; 11.7% wanted a decrease in deer; and 24.3% wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–33).



**Figure 4–33. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU C-3.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 46.2% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons; 59.4% supported antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 24.5% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days (Figure 4–34).



**Figure 4–34. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading seasons in DMU C-3.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, 33.9% of respondents say they would support bag limits of two deer; and 12.8% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–35).

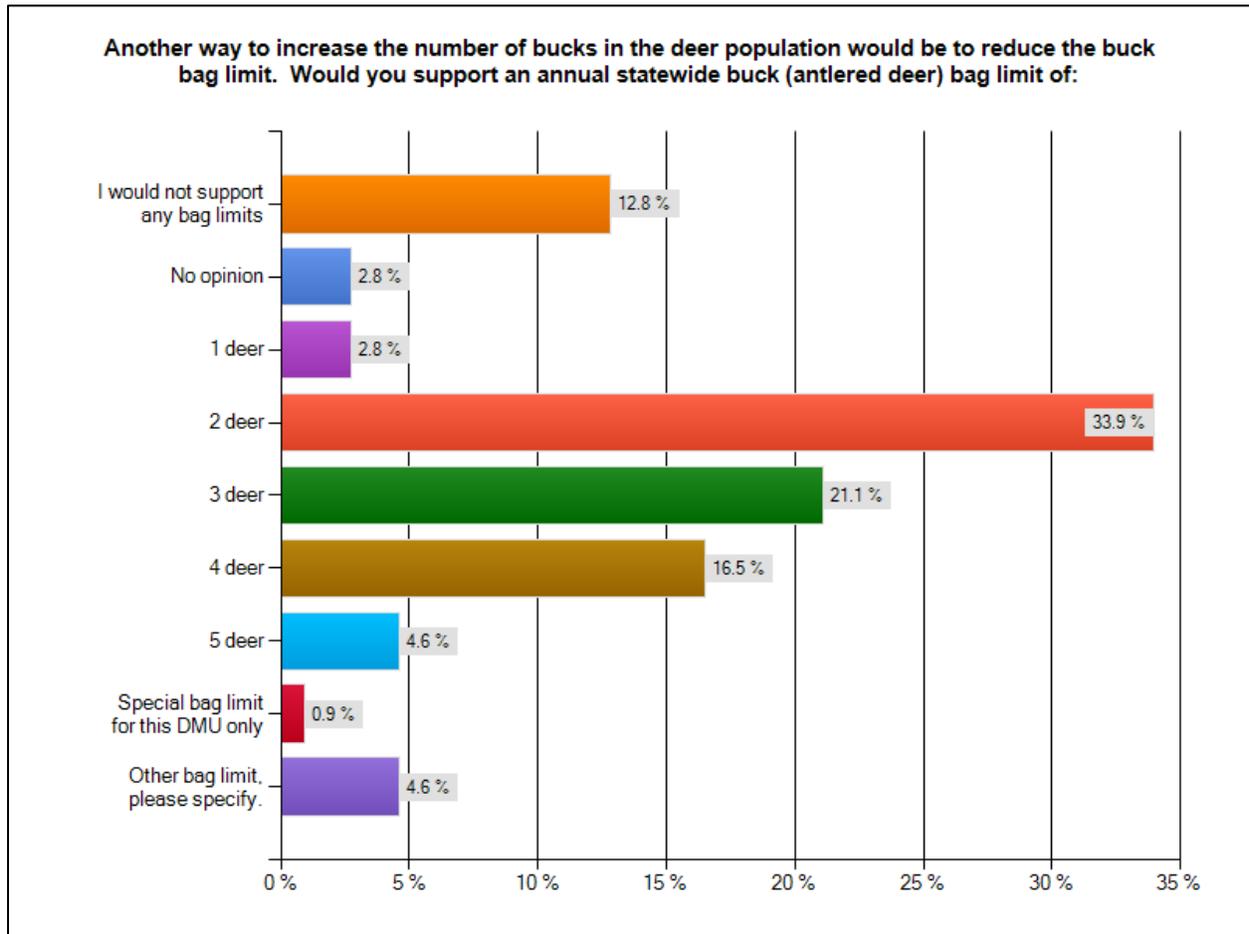
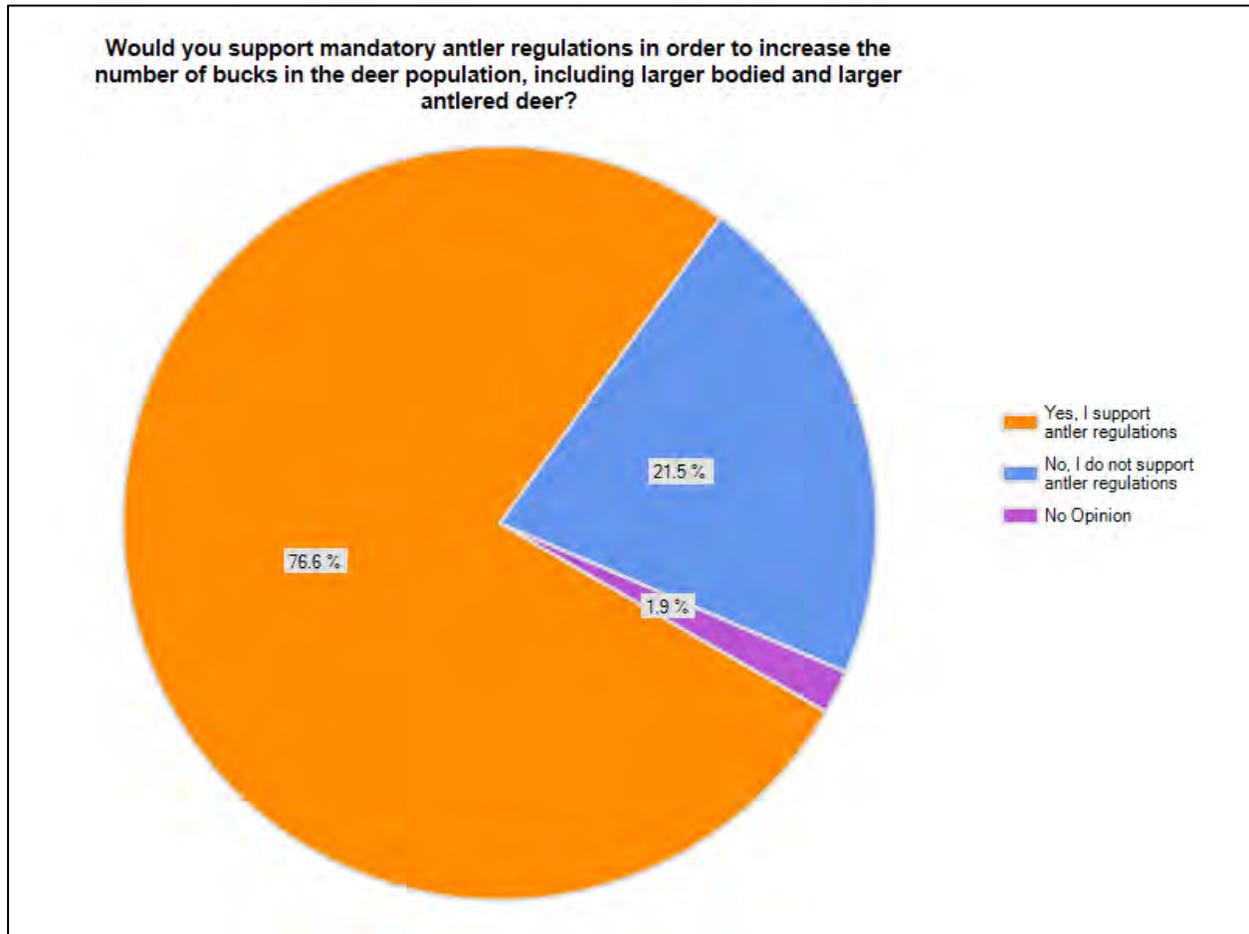


Figure 4–35. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU C-3.

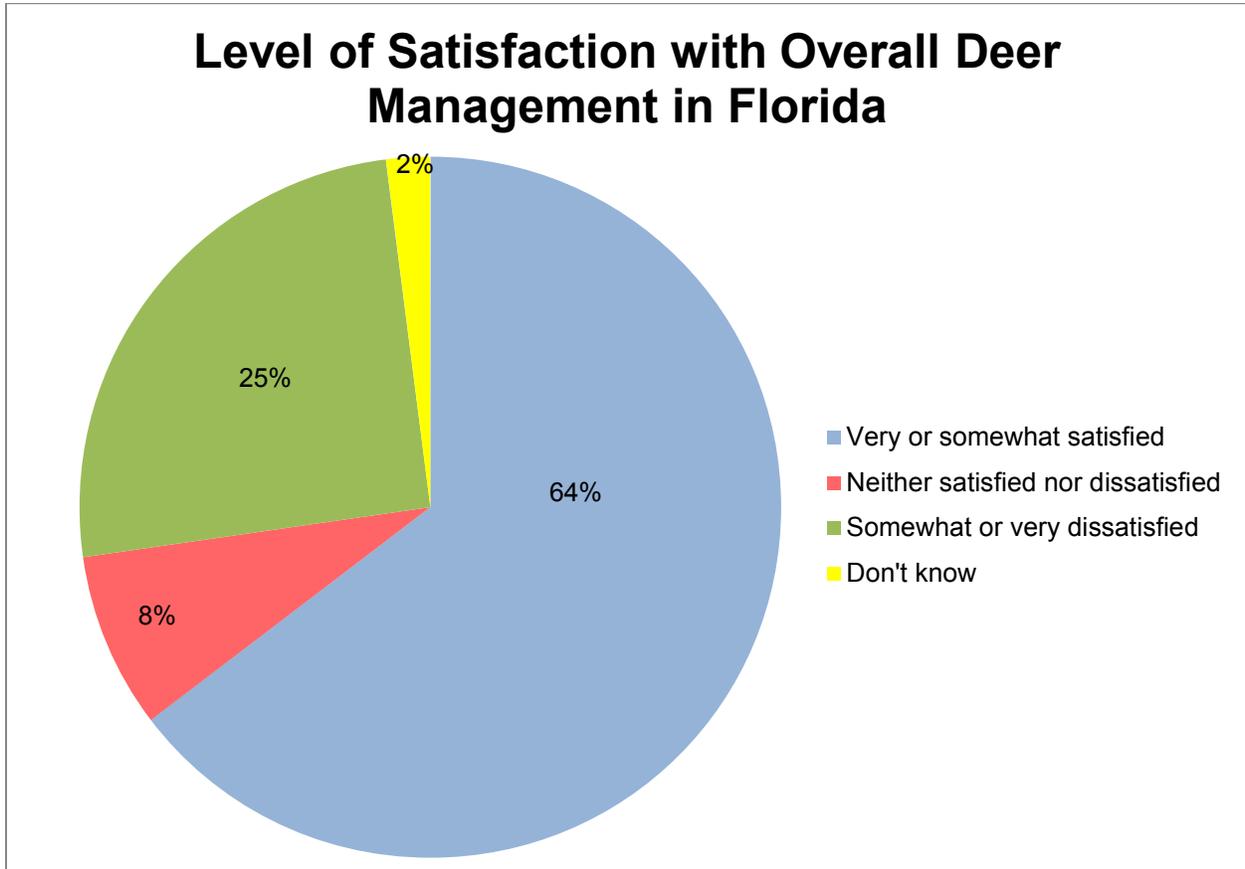
When asked about mandatory antler regulations, the majority of respondents (76.6%) supported antler regulations, while 21.5% did not (Figure 4–36).



**Figure 4–36. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU C-3.**

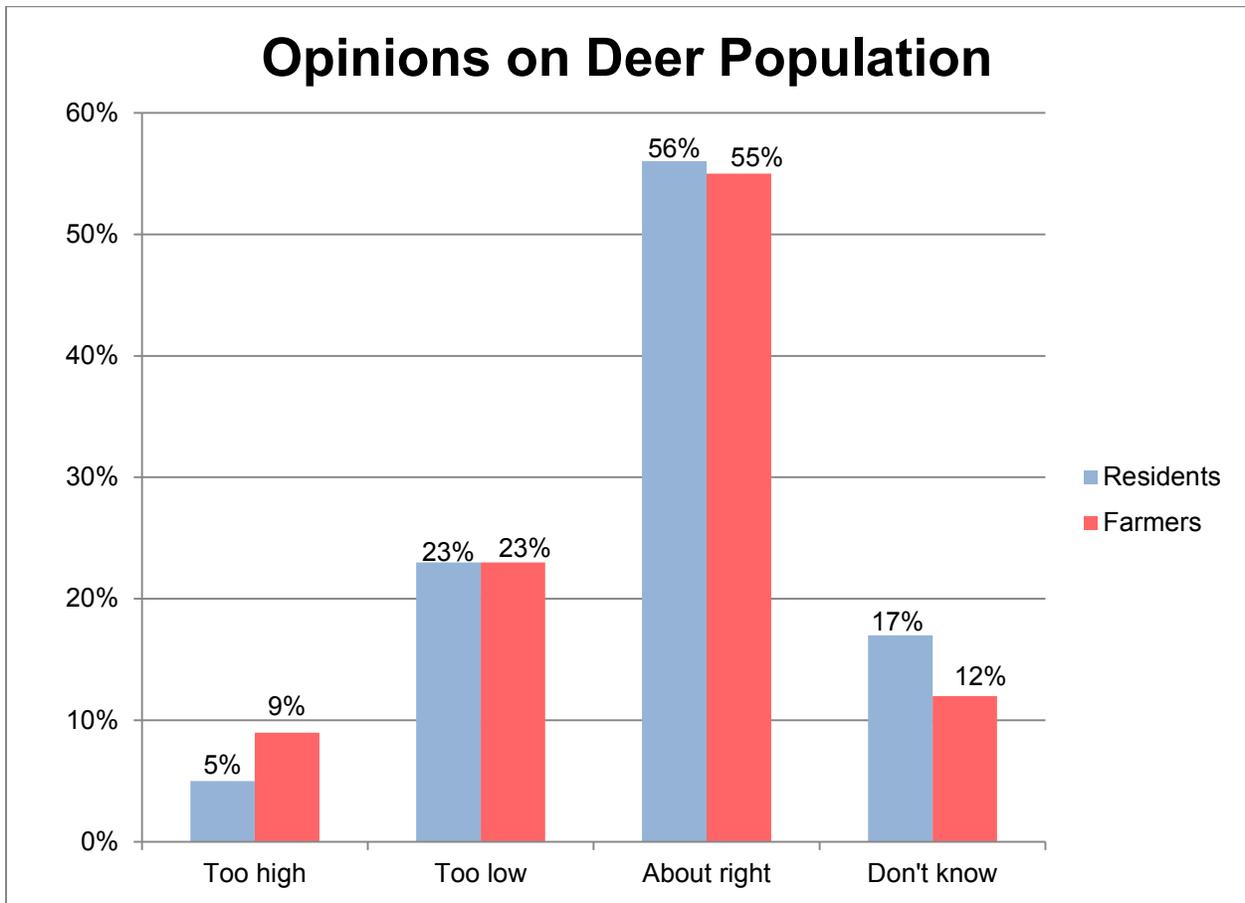
### 4.9.3 Phone Surveys

In DMU C-3, 64% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with overall deer management in Florida (Figure 4-37).



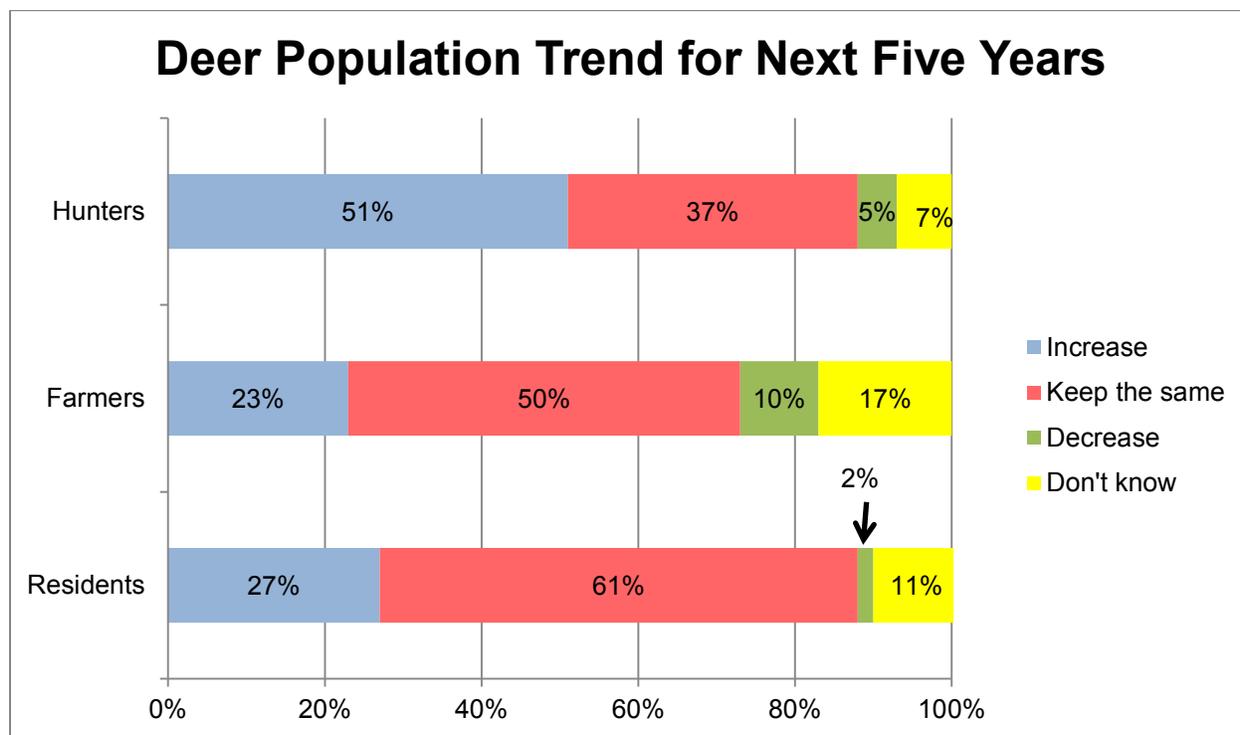
**Figure 4-37. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU C-3 hunters.**

According to the survey, 55% of farmers in DMU C-3 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 23% felt it was too low. For residents, 56% felt the population is about the right size; 23% felt it was too low. These results are summarized in Figure 4–38.



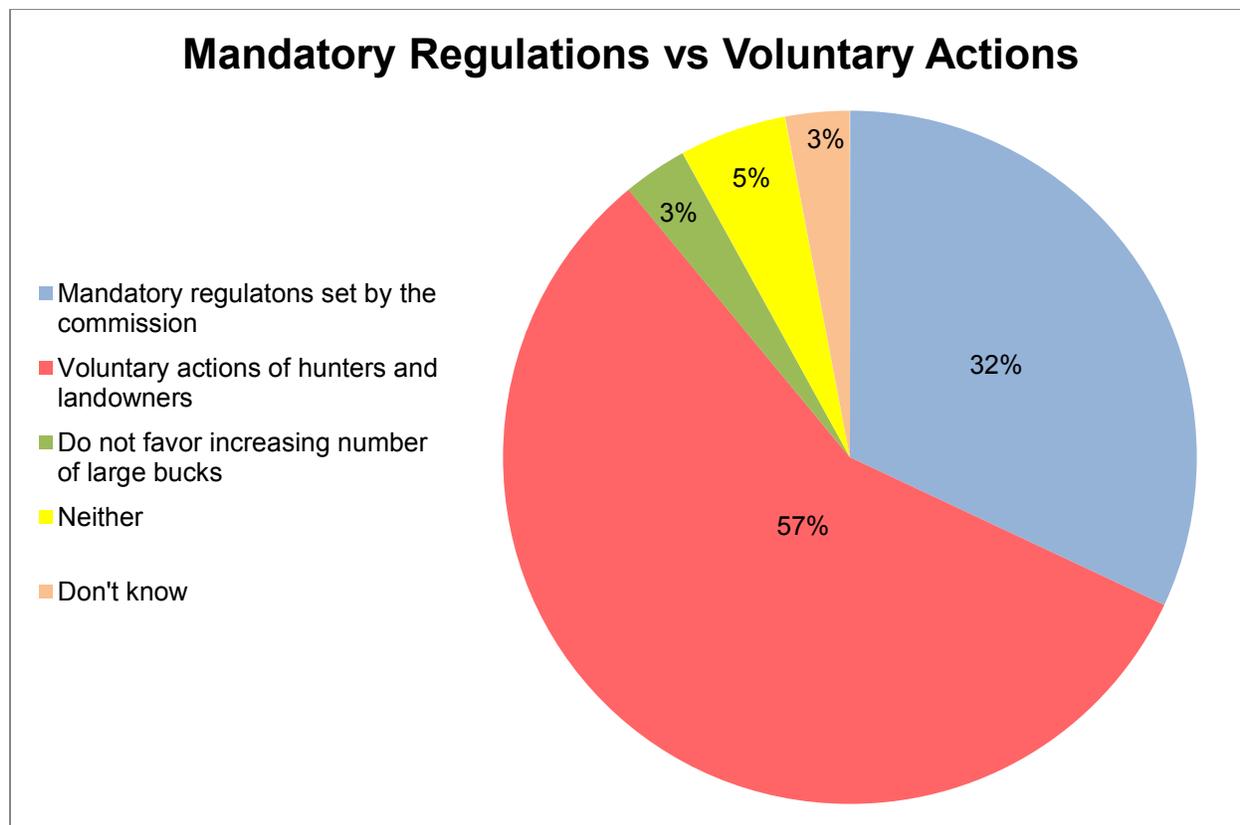
**Figure 4–38. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU C-3.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–39). Of the hunters, 51% want to see the deer population increased, while 37% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and very few (5%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 23% want to see the deer population increase, while 50% would like to see the population stay the same size, and 10% want to see a decrease. For residents, 27% want to see the deer population increased, while 61% would like to see the population stay the same, and very few (2%) want to see a decrease in deer population.



**Figure 4–39. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU C-3 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks and if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (57%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (32%) (Figure 4–40).



**Figure 4–40. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU C-3.**

## 4.10 DMU C-4

### 4.10.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting was held on Monday, April 23rd, in Deland. A total of 60 people attended the meeting.

The most common issues discussed at the meeting included:

- **Population:** Most would like to see the population increased on public lands.
- **Antler Restrictions:** There was support for antler restrictions of 2 or 3 on a side. There were also many people that wanted to leave things alone.
- **Local Issues:**
  - Concern about coyotes and how to manage them.

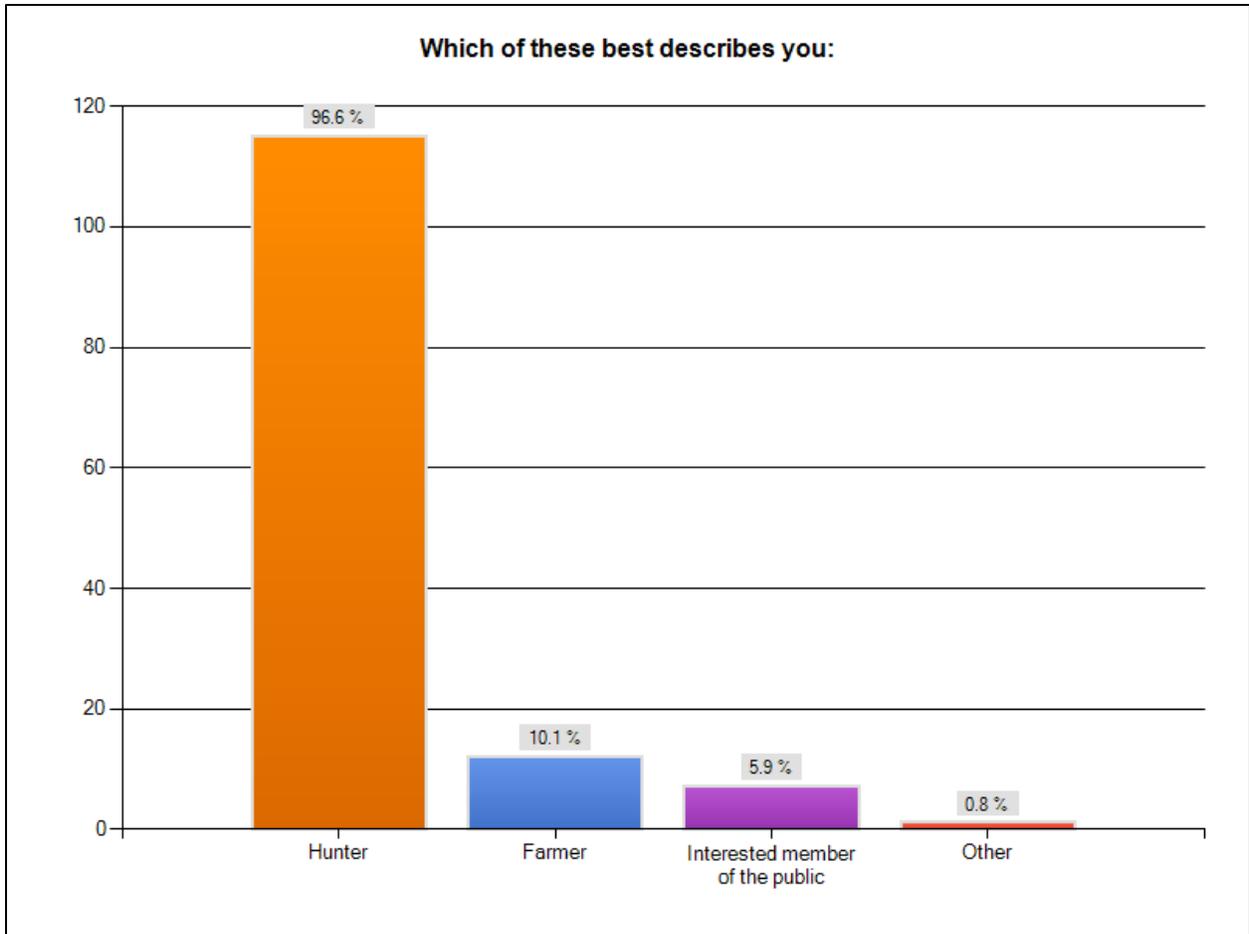
- Several had concerns about how public land was managed especially spraying of herbicides at Relay Wildlife Management Area.
- **Bag Limits:** Most wanted the bag limit left as is.
- **Antlerless Harvest:**
  - Youth should be allowed to hunt antlerless deer.
  - There should be some bag limit on antlerless deer.
  - There were mixed comments on doe populations, which varied by location, but overall support for balancing the buck to doe ratio.
- **Negative Impacts:** Not too many reported.

#### **4.10.2 Online Survey**

Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. One hundred twenty-seven people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. The majority of participants (96.6%) described themselves as hunters; 10.1% as farmers; 5.9% identified as interested members of the public; and 0.8% as “Other” (Figure 4–41). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g., identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.



**Deland Public Meeting**



**Figure 4–41. Percentage of respondents in DMU C-4 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

When asked how respondents felt about the size of the deer population, 49.6% felt that the deer population was too low; 4.8% felt it was too high; and 42.4% felt it was about right (Figure 4–42).

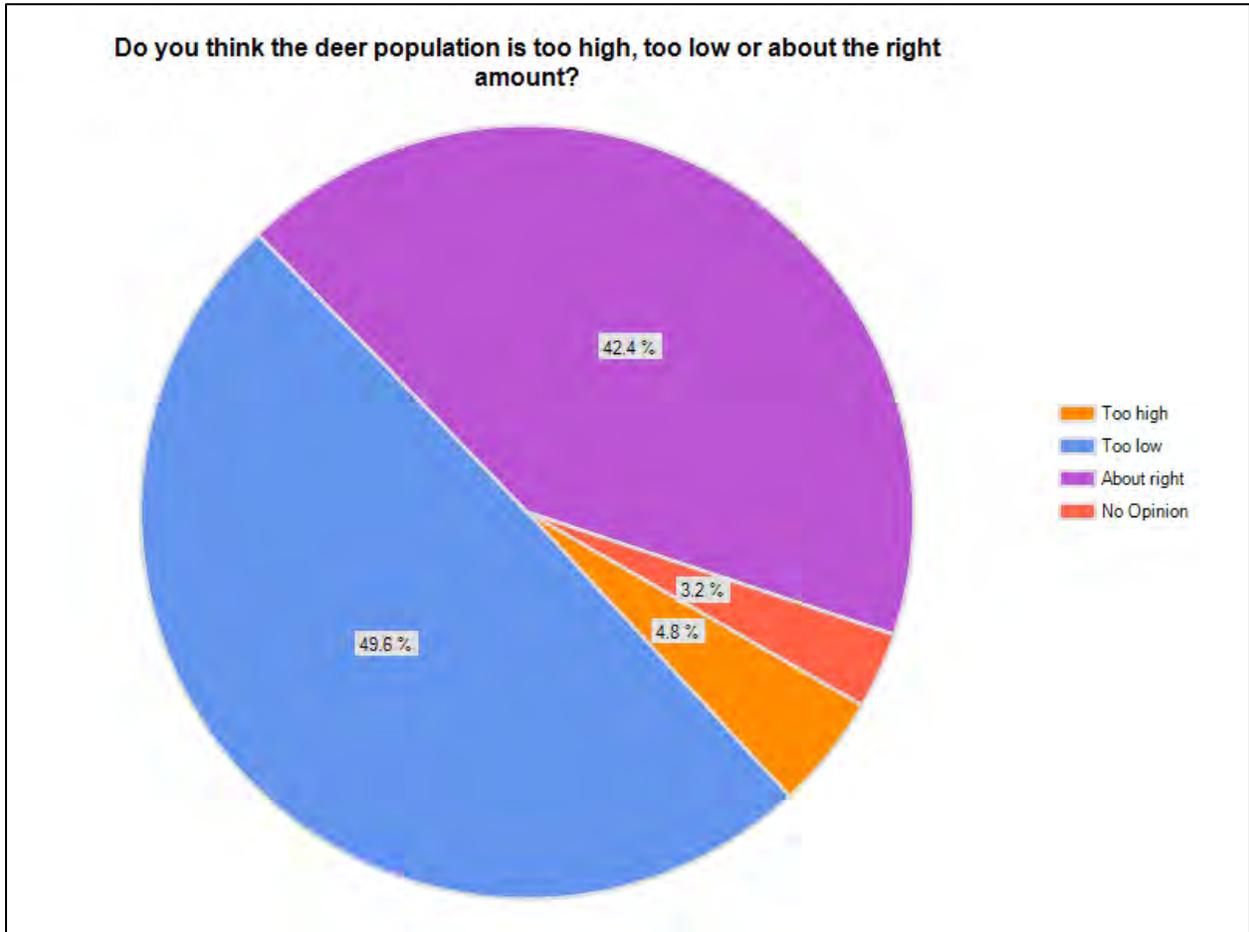
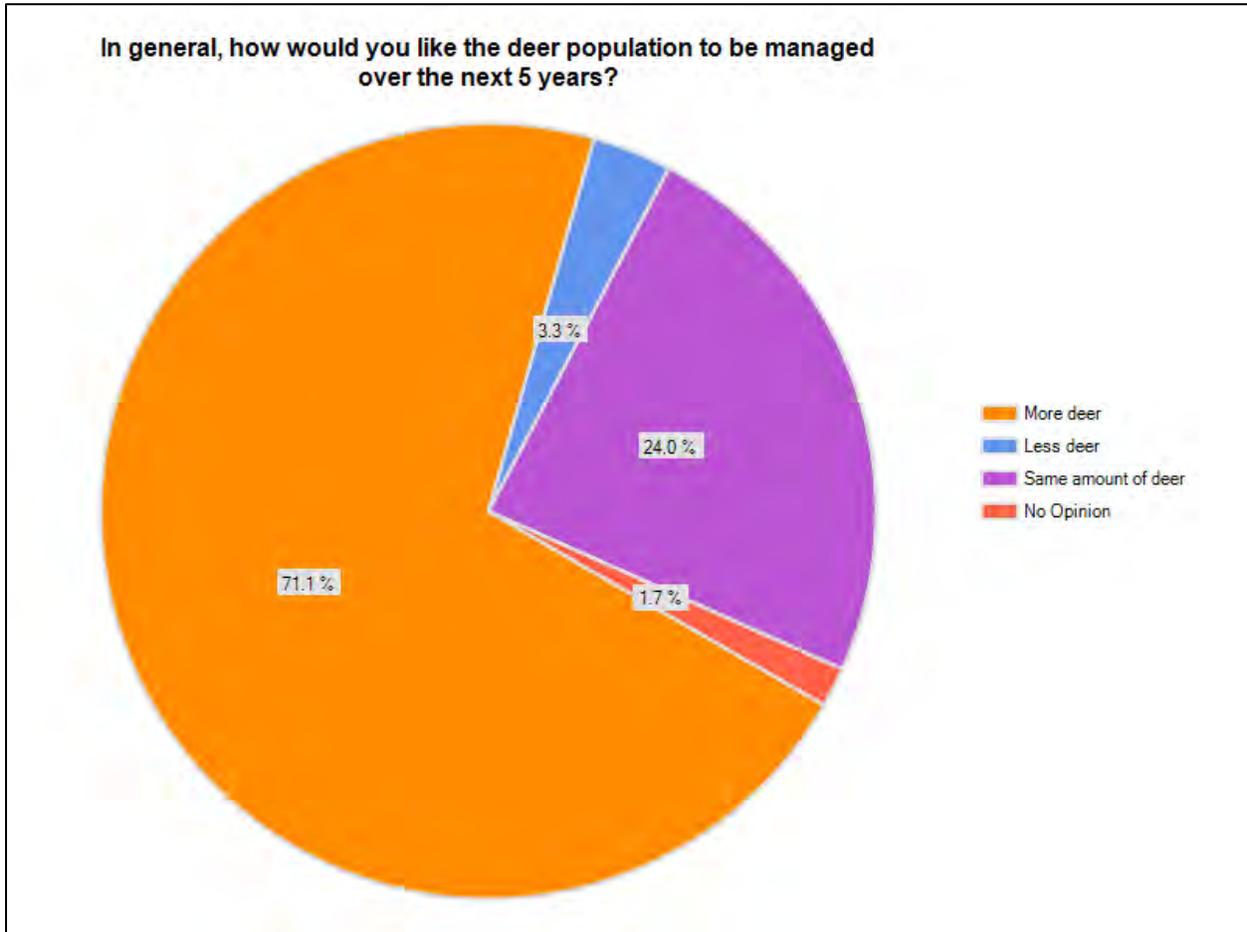


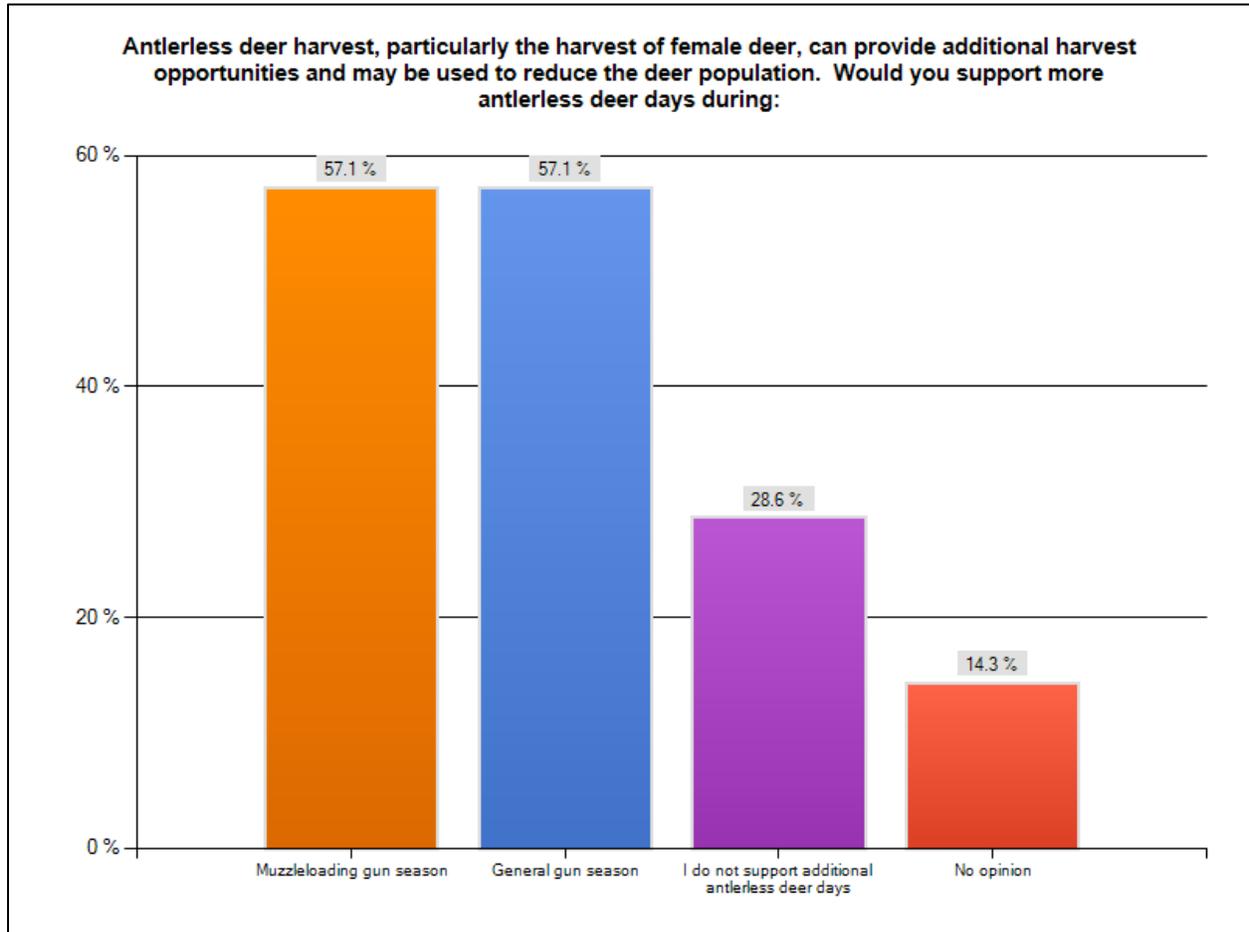
Figure 4–42. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU C-4.

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. The majority (71.1%) wanted to have more deer; 3.3% wanted a decrease in deer; and 24% wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–43).



**Figure 4–43. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU C-4.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 57.1% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons; 57.1% supported antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 28.6% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days (Figure 4–44).



**Figure 4–44. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading seasons in DMU C-4.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, most respondents (57.1%) say they would support bag limits of two deer; and 14.3% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–45).

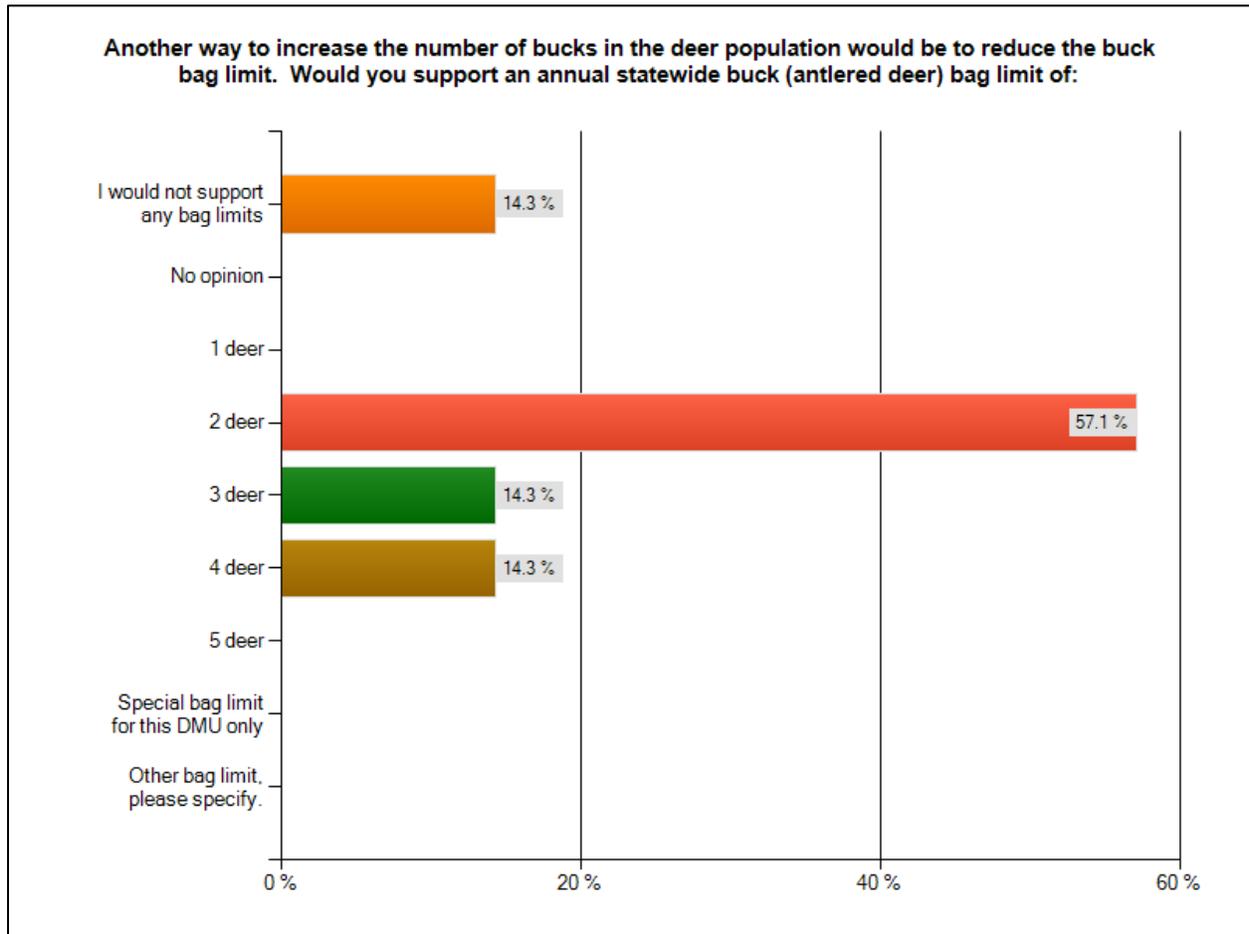
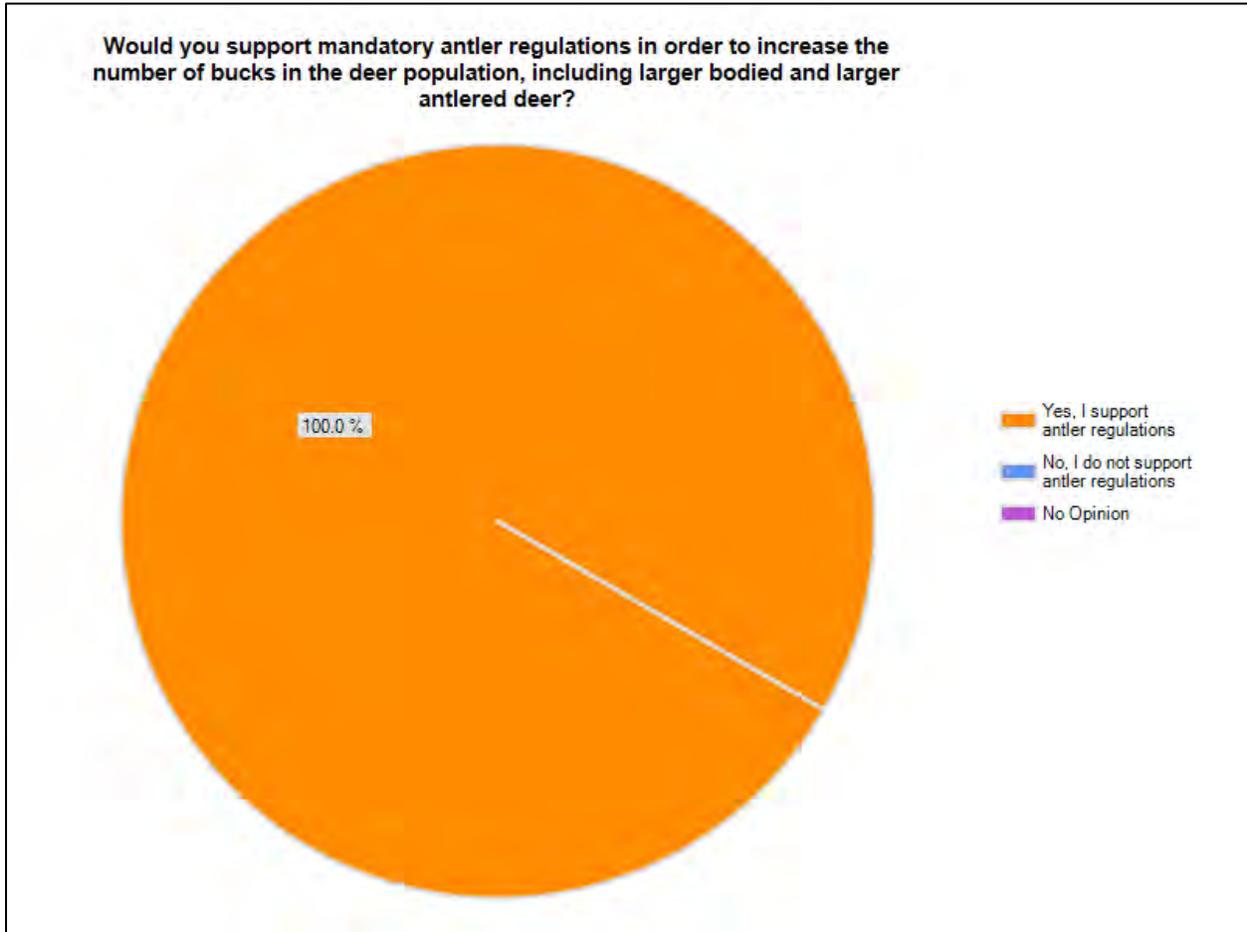


Figure 4–45. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU C-4.

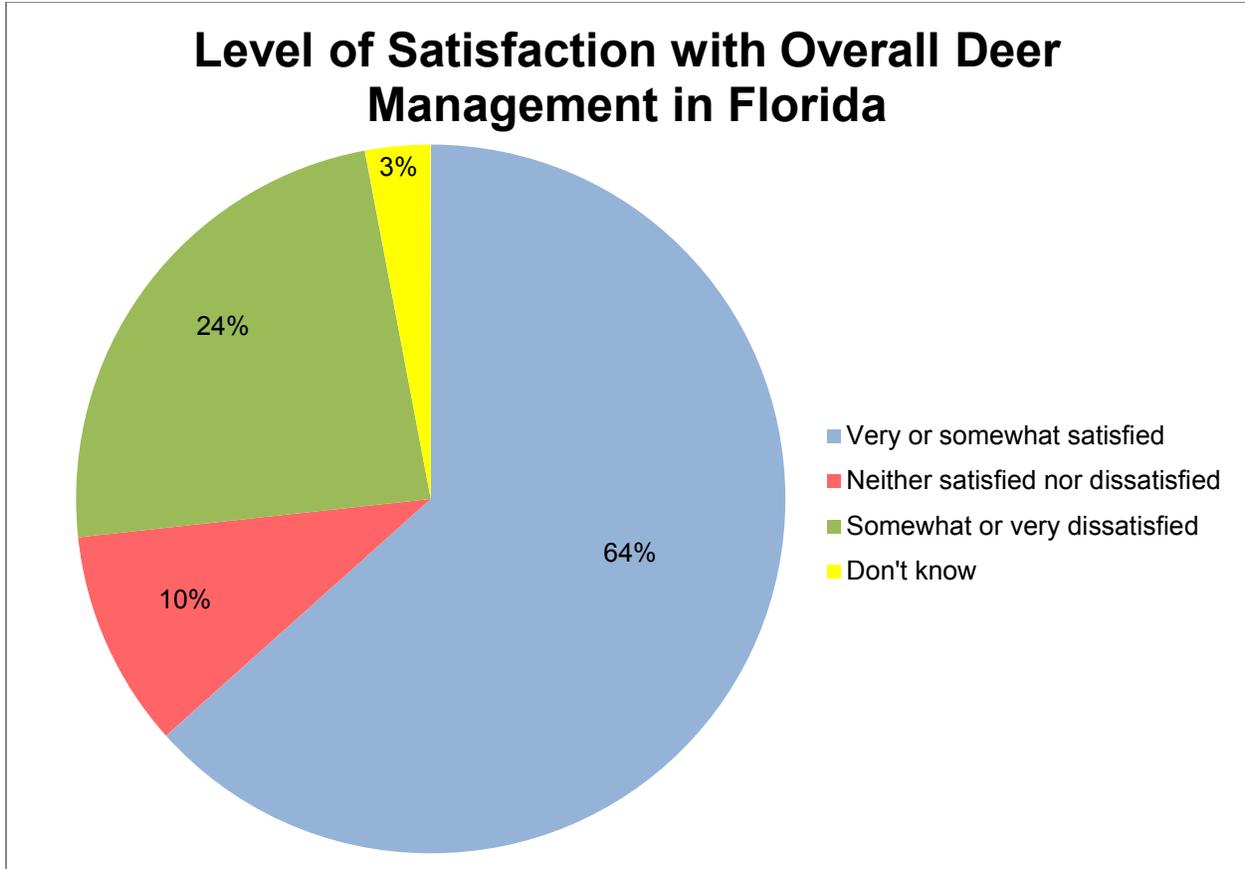
When asked about mandatory antler regulations, all respondents supported mandatory antler regulations (Figure 4–46).



**Figure 4–46. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU C-4.**

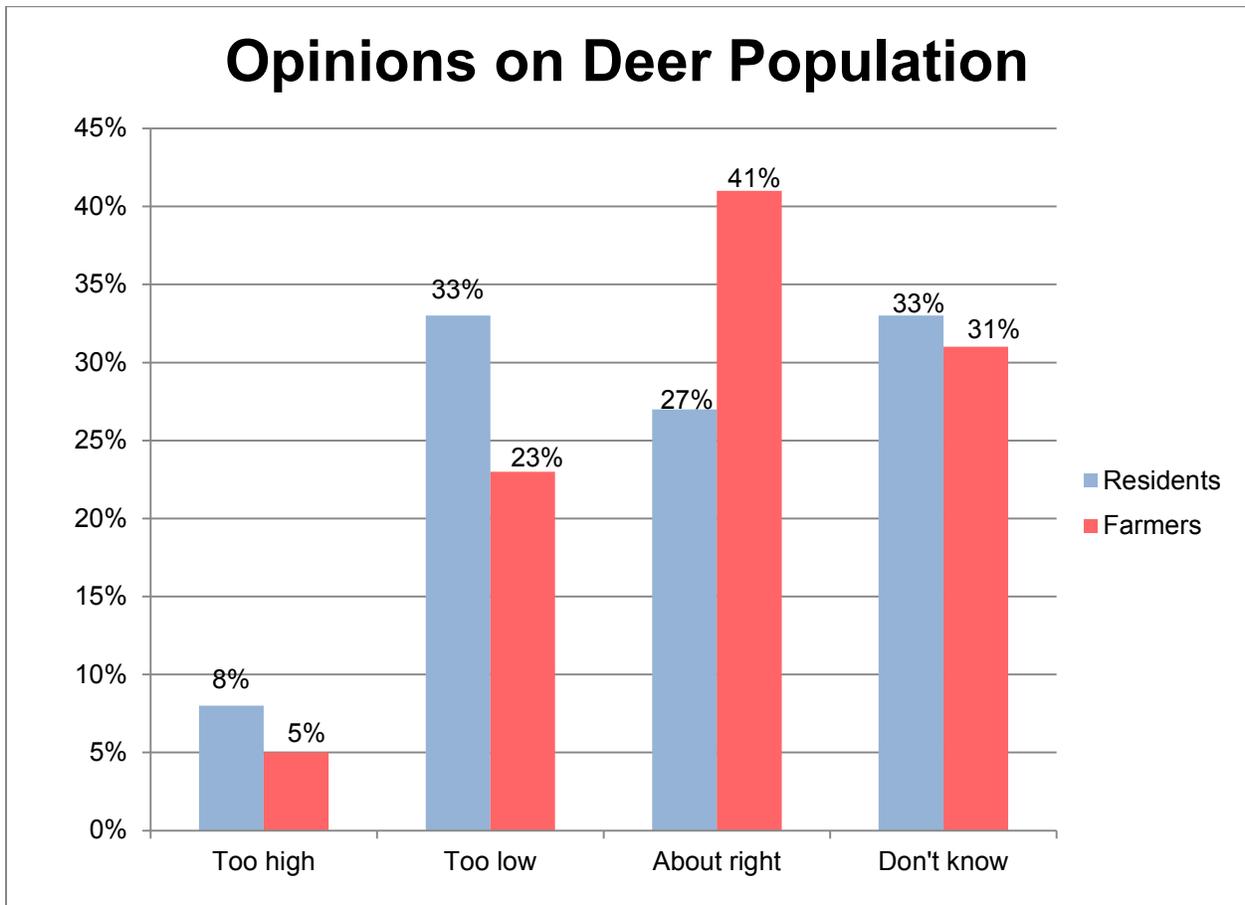
### 4.10.3 Phone Surveys

In DMU C-4, 64% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with overall deer management in Florida (Figure 4-47).



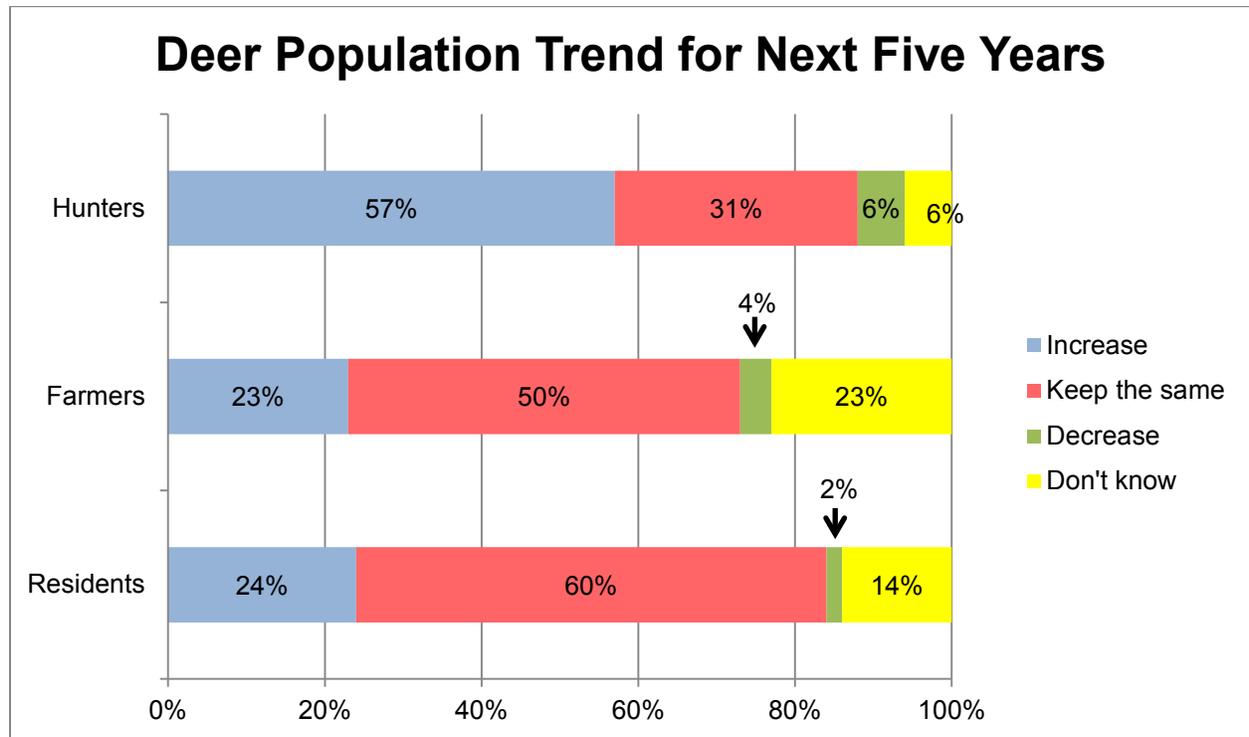
**Figure 4-47. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU C-4 hunters.**

According to the survey, 41% of farmers in DMU C-4 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 23% felt it was too low. For residents, 27% felt the population is about the right size; 33% felt the population is too low. These results are summarized in Figure 4-48.



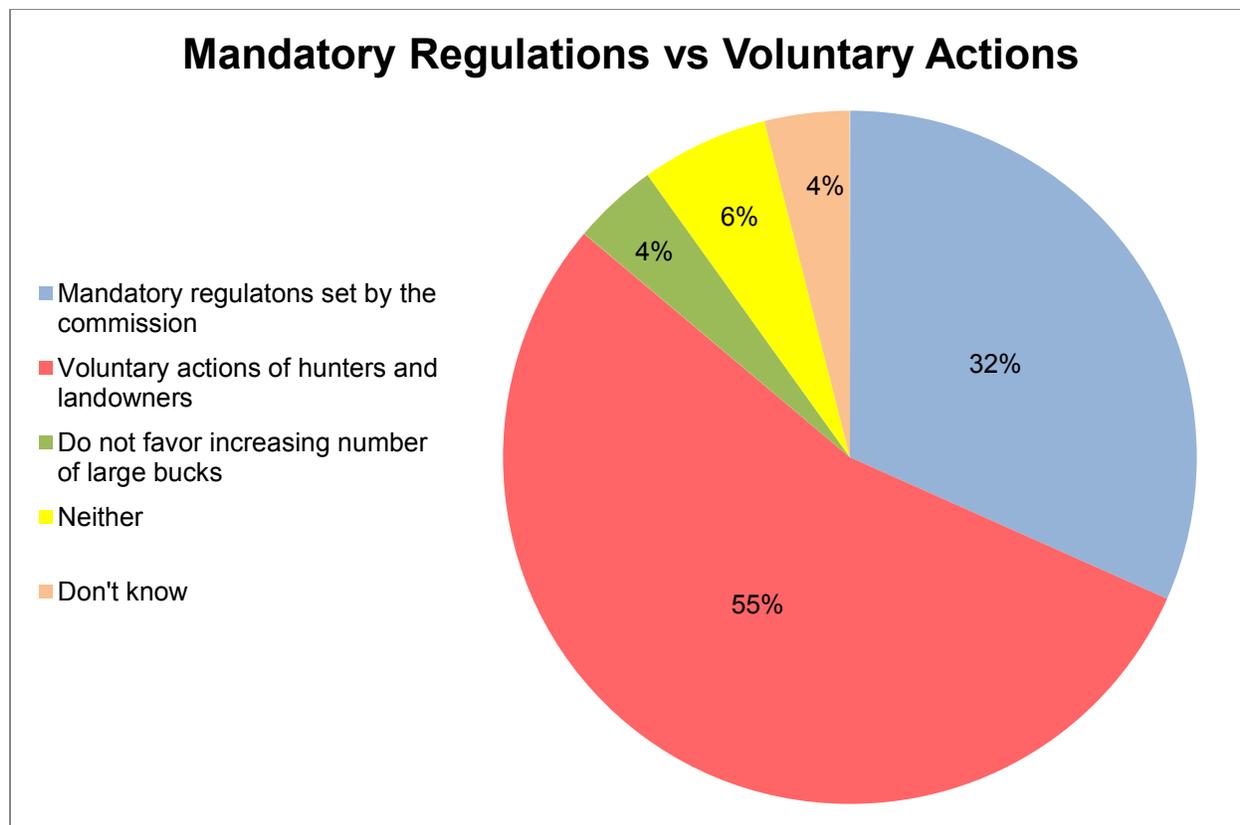
**Figure 4-48. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU C-4.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–49). Of the hunters, 57% want to see the deer population increased, while 31% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and few (6%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 23% want to see the deer population increase, while 50% would like to see the population stay the same size, and very few (4%) want to see a decrease. For residents, 24% want to see the deer population increased, while 60% would like to see the population stay the same, and very few (2%) want to see a decrease in deer population.



**Figure 4–49. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU C-4 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks and if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (55%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (32%) (Figure 4–50).



**Figure 4–50. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU C-4.**

## 4.11 DMU C-5

### 4.11.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting was held on Thursday, April 3rd, in Monticello. A total of 45 people attended the meeting.

The most common issues discussed at the meeting included:

- **Population:** Most would like to see the population stay the same or increase.
- **Antler Restrictions:** There was wide support for antler regulations.
- **Local Issues:**
  - Concern about coyotes and how to manage them.
  - Discussion over differences between management of private and public lands.

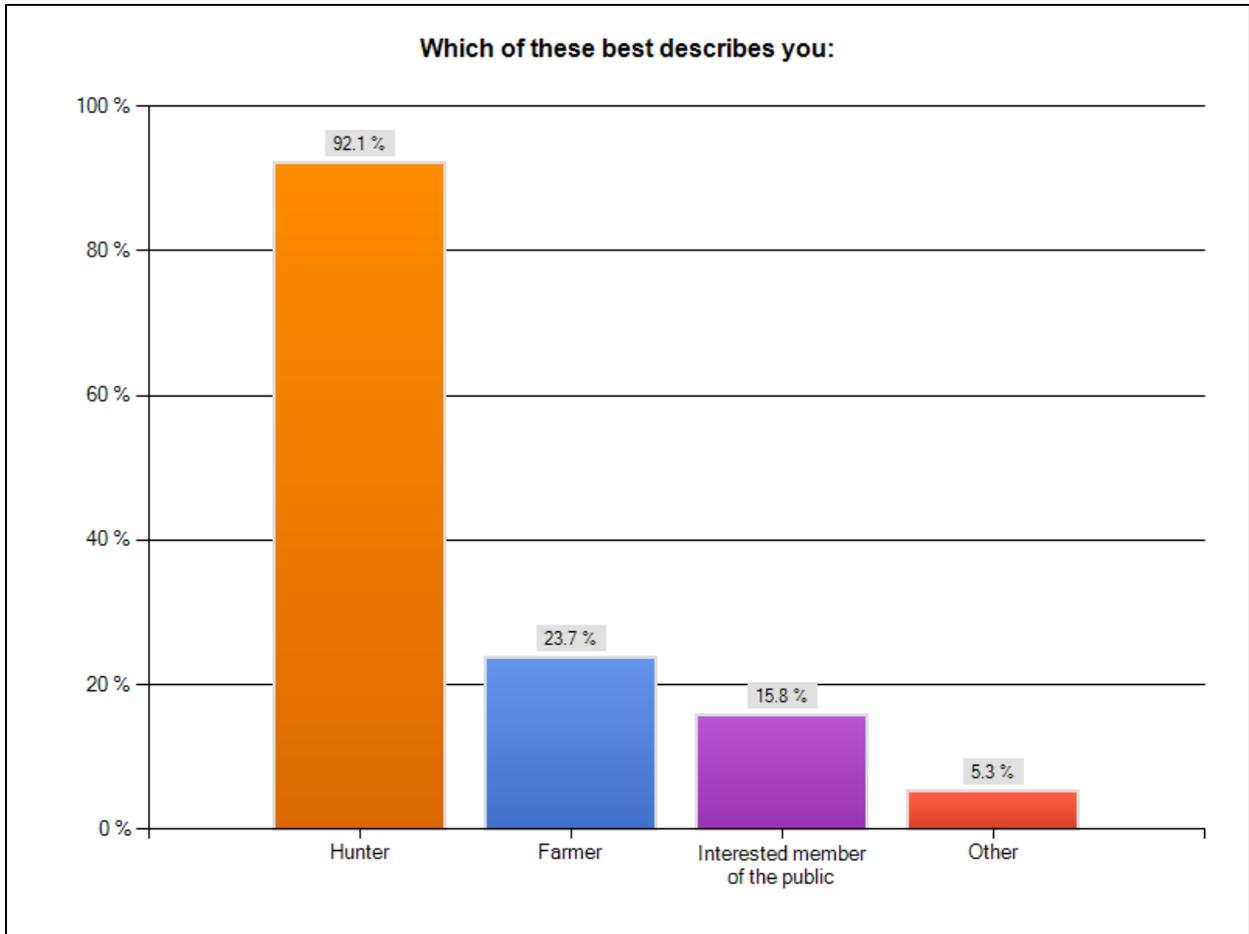
- **Bag Limits:**
  - There was general support for an annual buck bag limit.
  - Many participants brought up the desire for a tag and reporting system.
- **Antlerless Harvest:**
  - The desire for a tag and reporting system was discussed.
  - Some wanted increased doe take opportunities.
- **Negative Impacts:** Some participants expressed concern about deer depredation on crops.

#### **4.11.2 Online Survey**

Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. Forty-two people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. The majority of participants (92.1%) described themselves as hunters; 23.7% as farmers; 15.8% identified as interested members of the public; and 5.3% as “Other” (Figure 4–51). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g., identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.

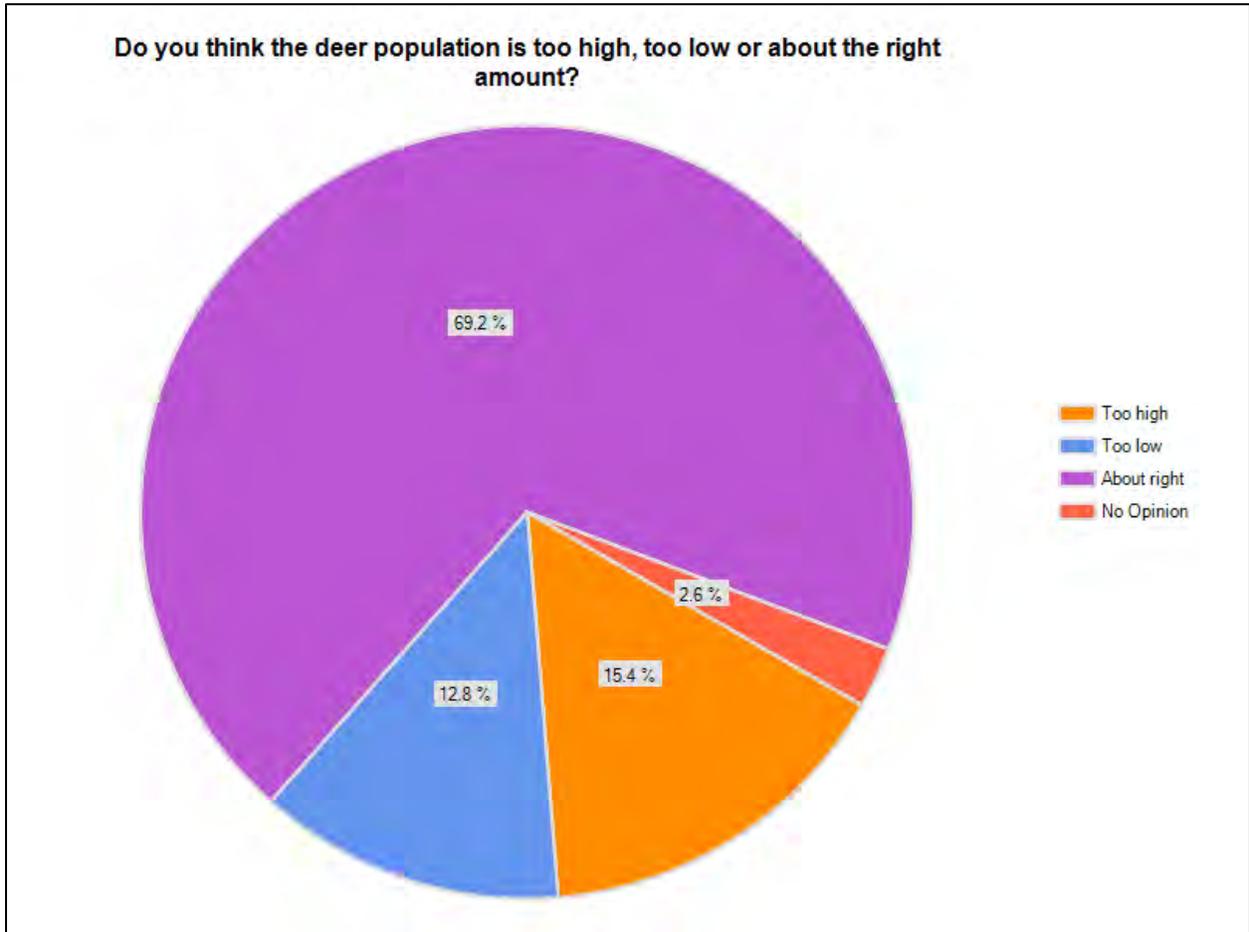


**Monticello Public Meeting**



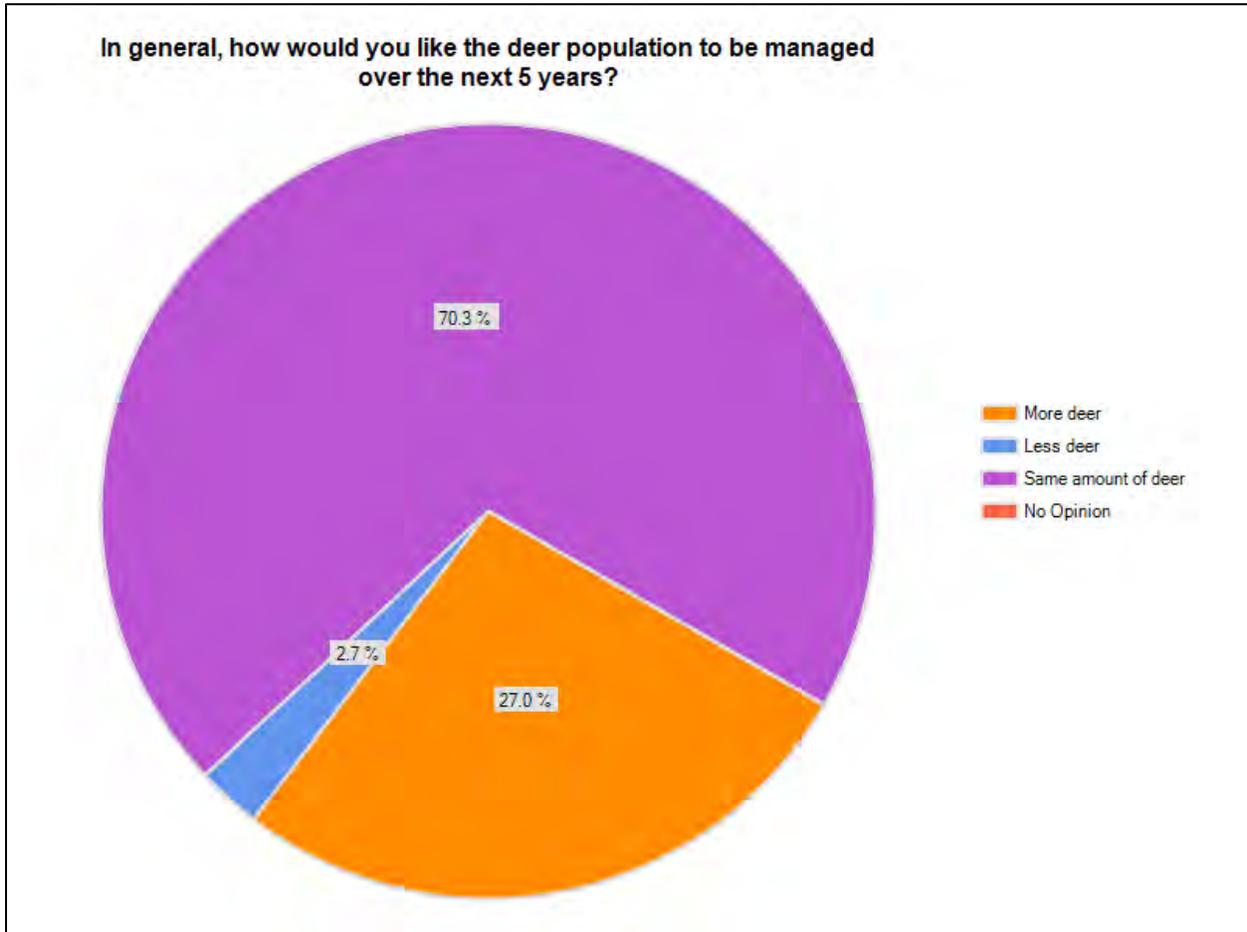
**Figure 4–51. Percentage of respondents in DMU C-5 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

When asked how respondents felt about the size of the deer population, 12.8% felt that the deer population was too low; 15.4% felt it was too high; and 69.2% felt it was about right (Figure 4-52).



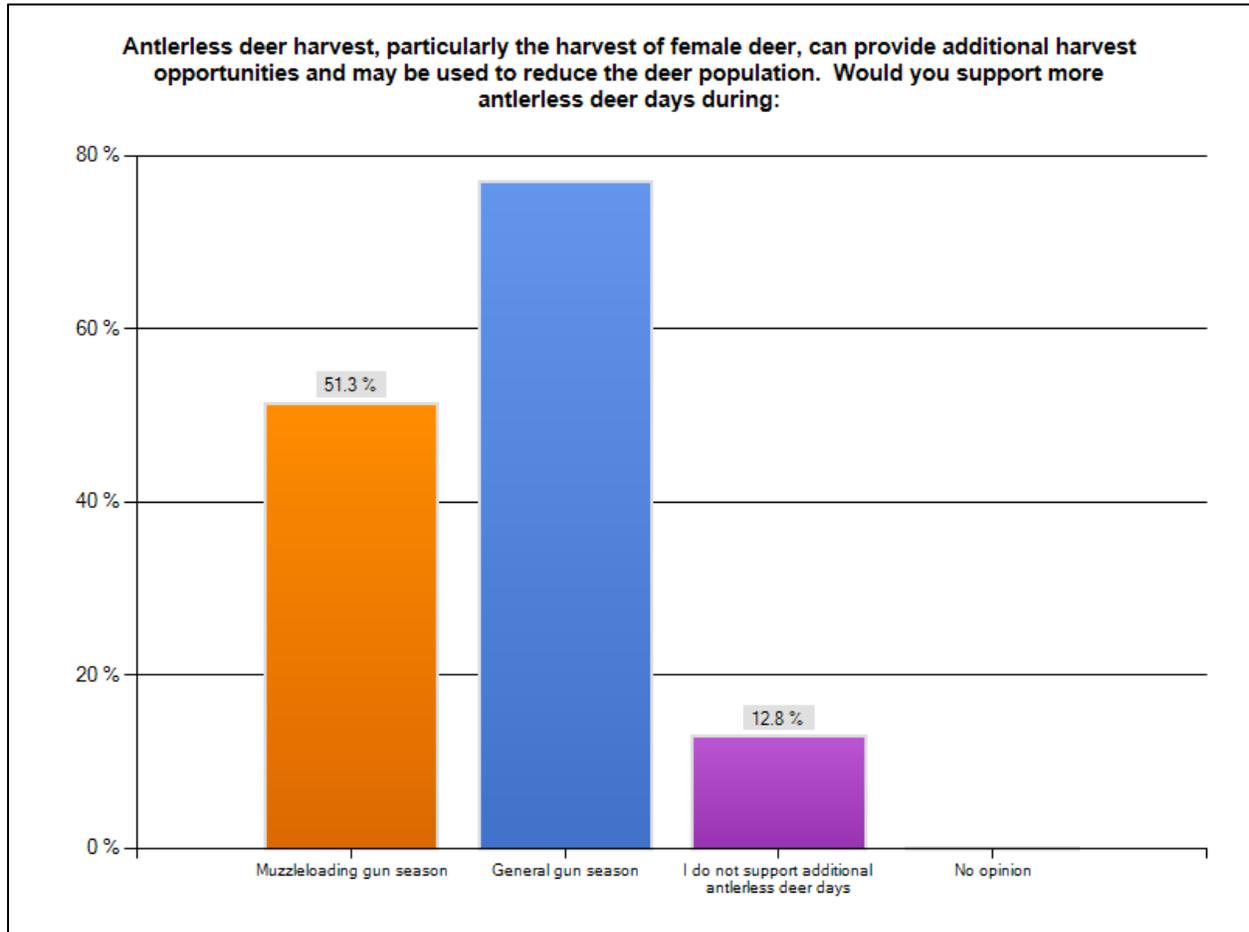
**Figure 4-52. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU C-5.**

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. Only 27% wanted to have more deer; 2.7% wanted a decrease in deer; and most (70.3%) wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–53).



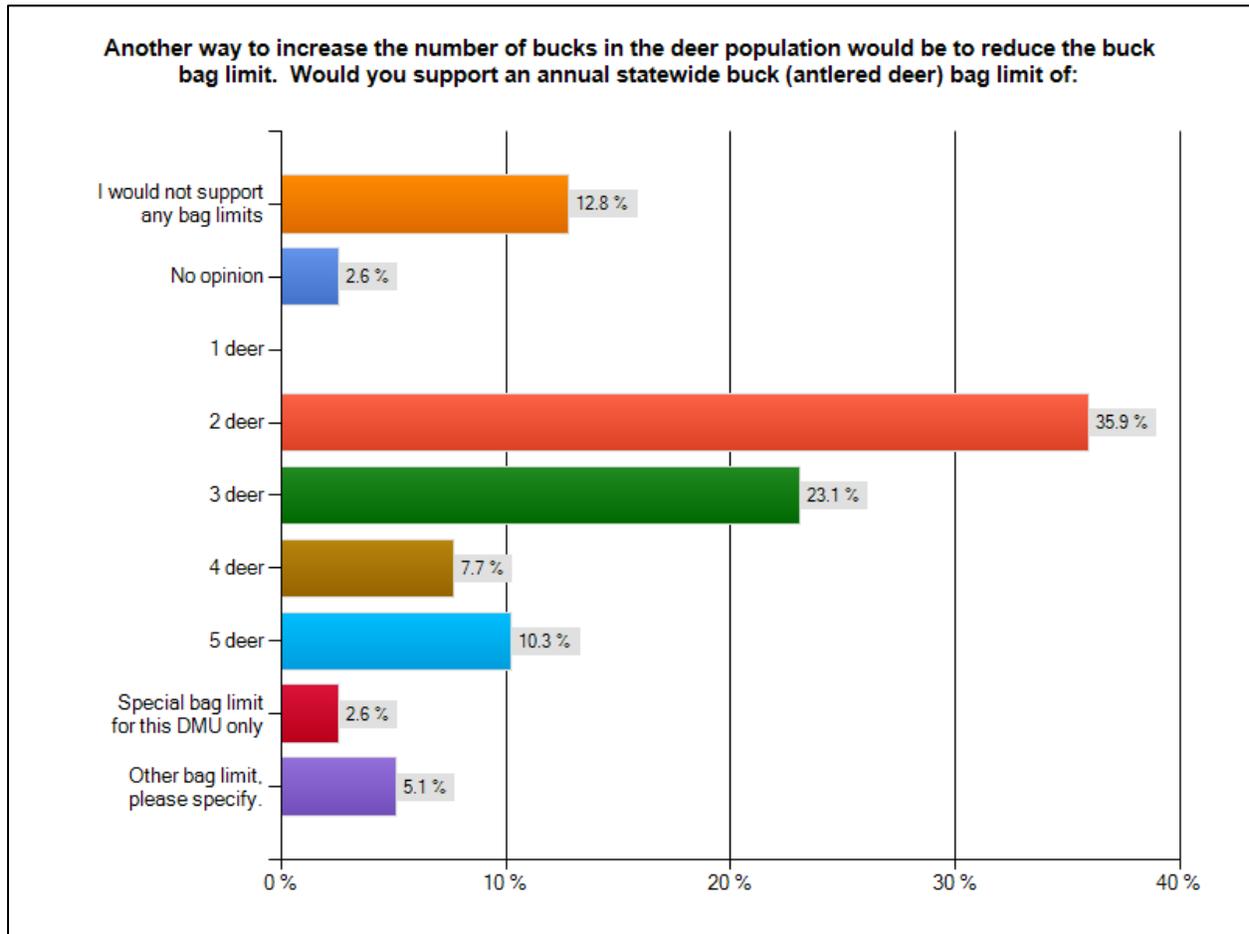
**Figure 4–53. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU C-5.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 51.3% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons; 76.9% supported antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 12.8% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days (Figure 4–54).



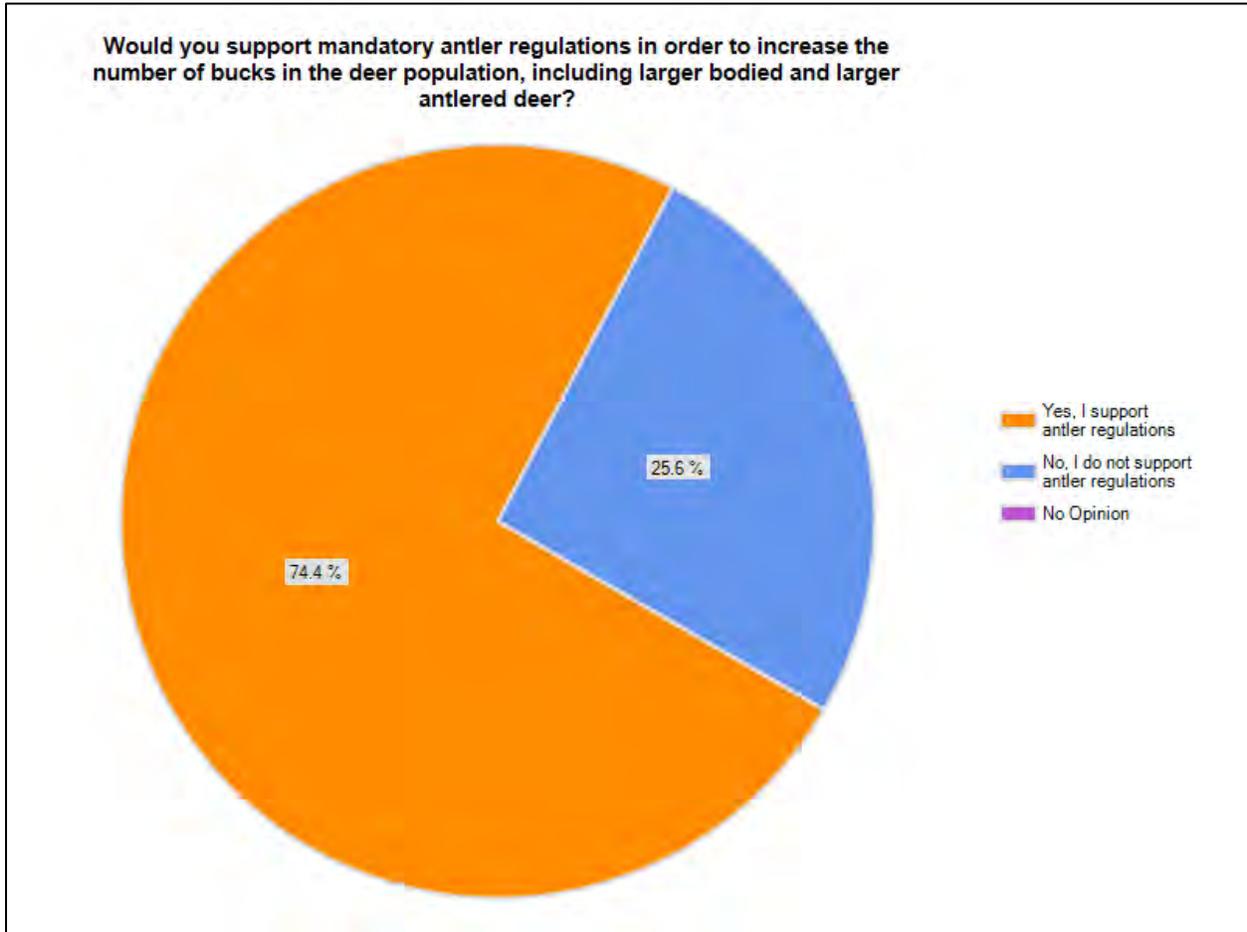
**Figure 4–54. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading seasons in DMU C-5.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, 59% of respondents say they would support bag limits of two or three deer; and 12.8% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–55).



**Figure 4–55. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU C-5.**

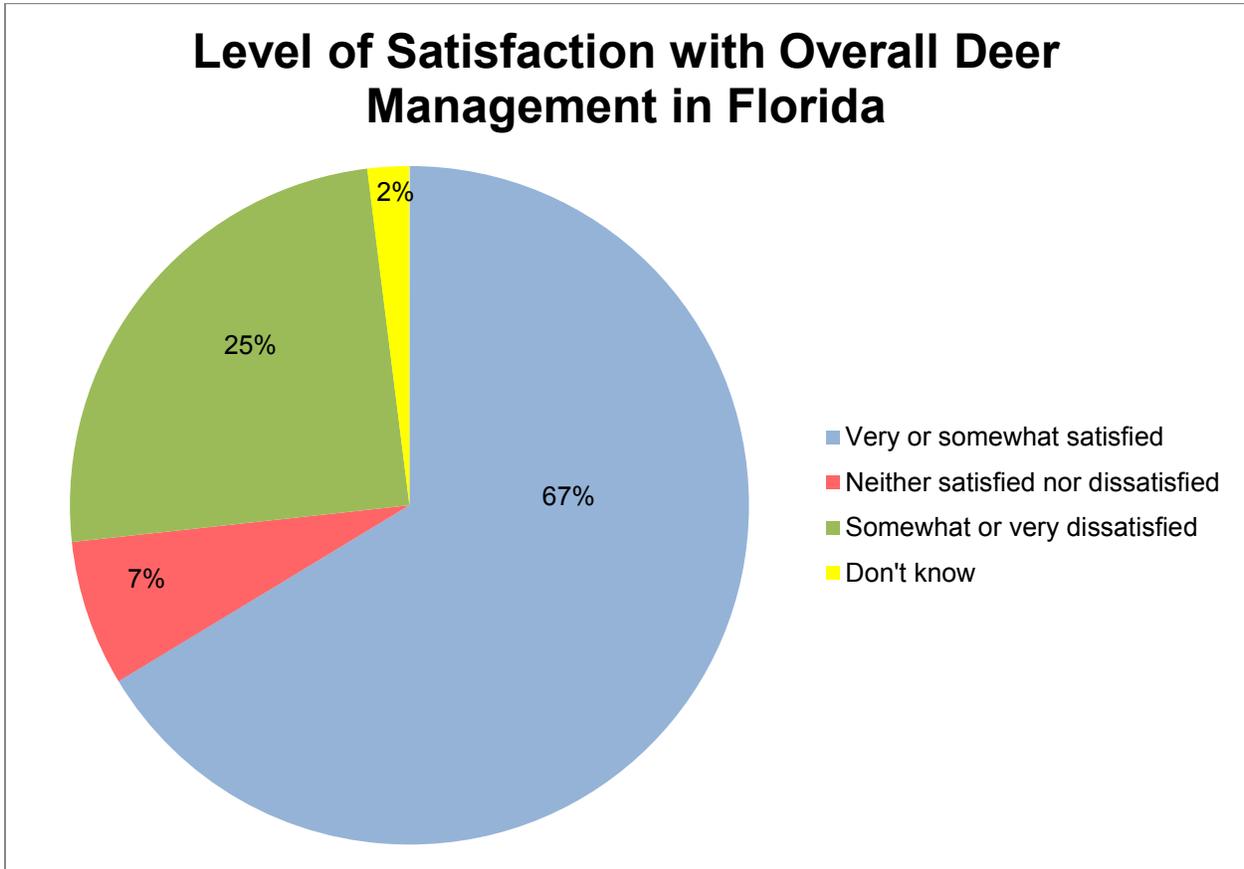
When asked about mandatory antler regulations, the majority of respondents (74.4%) supported antler regulations, while 25.6% did not (Figure 4–56).



**Figure 4–56. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU C-5.**

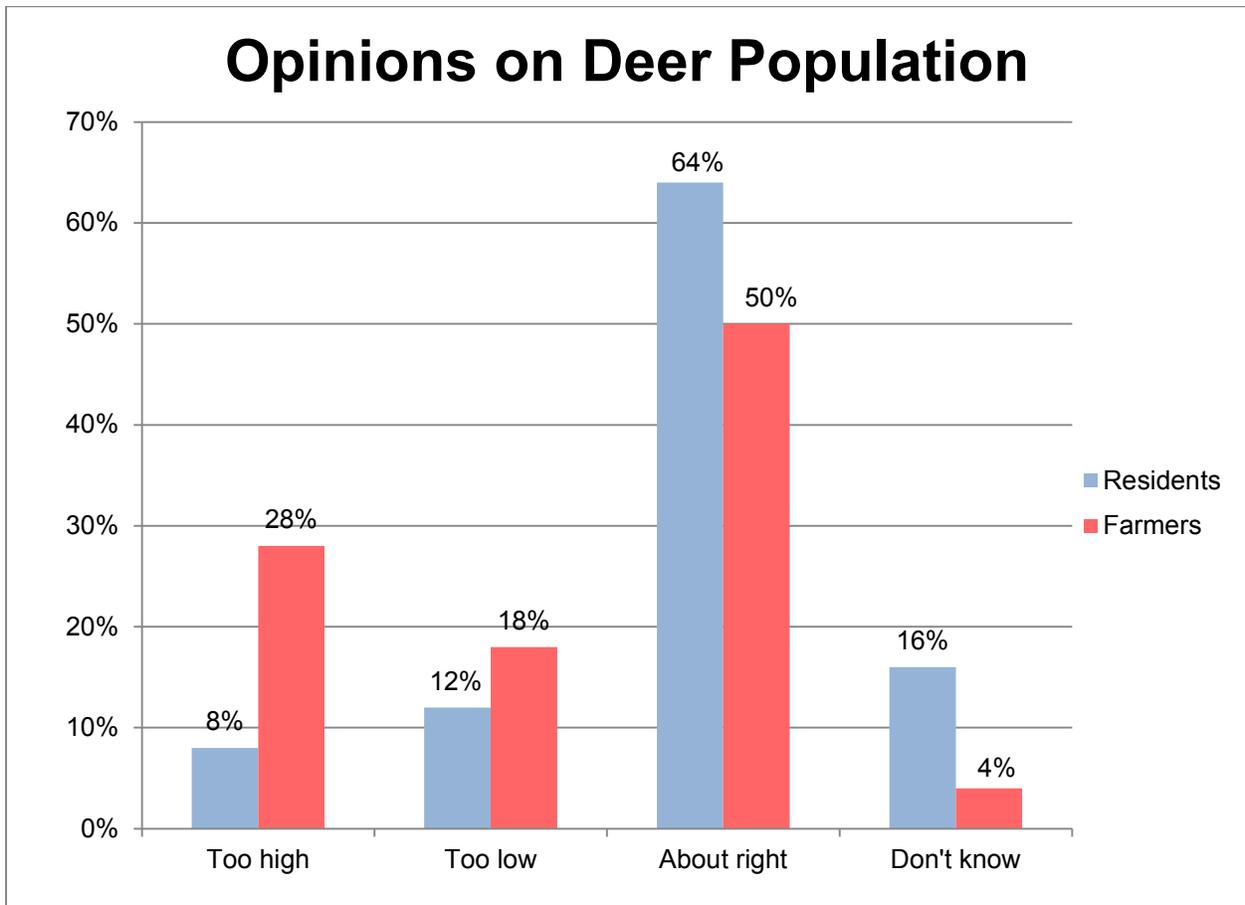
### 4.11.3 Phone Surveys

In DMU C-5, 67% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with overall deer management in Florida (Figure 4-57).



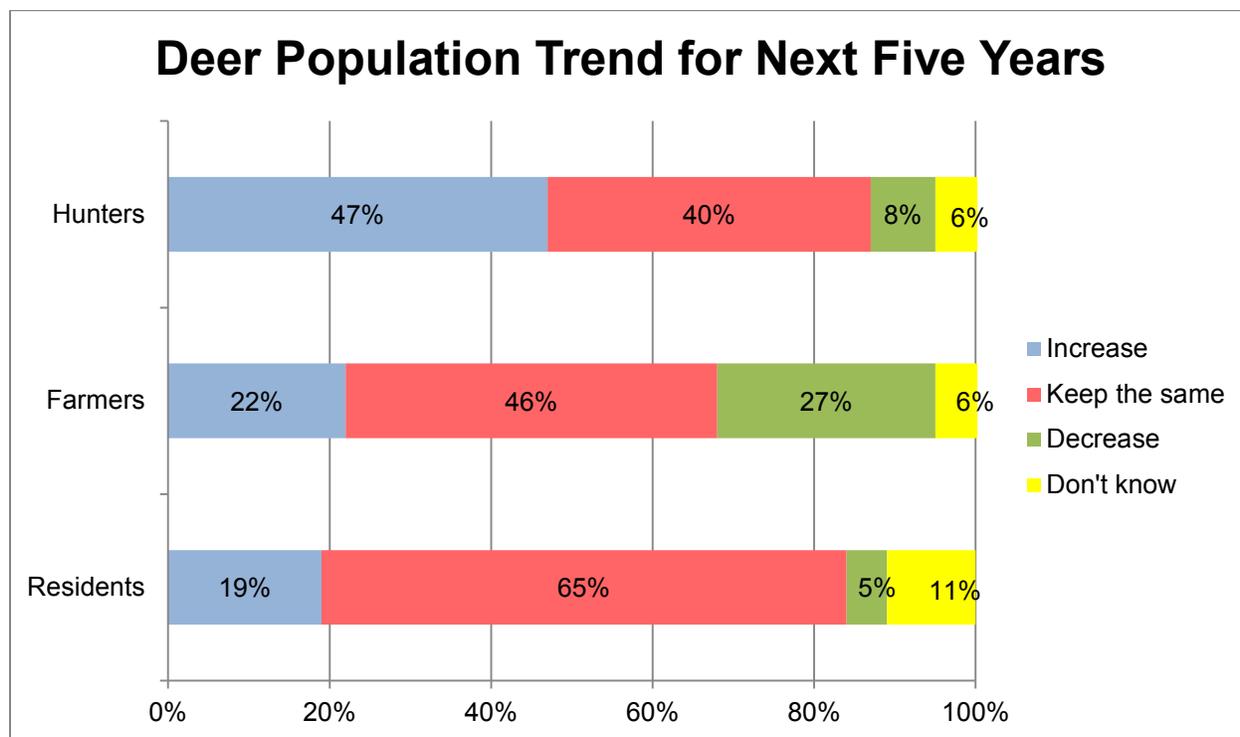
**Figure 4-57. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU C-5 hunters.**

According to the survey, 50% of farmers in DMU C-5 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 18% felt it was too low. For residents, 64% felt the population is about the right size; 12% felt was too low. These results are summarized in Figure 4–58.



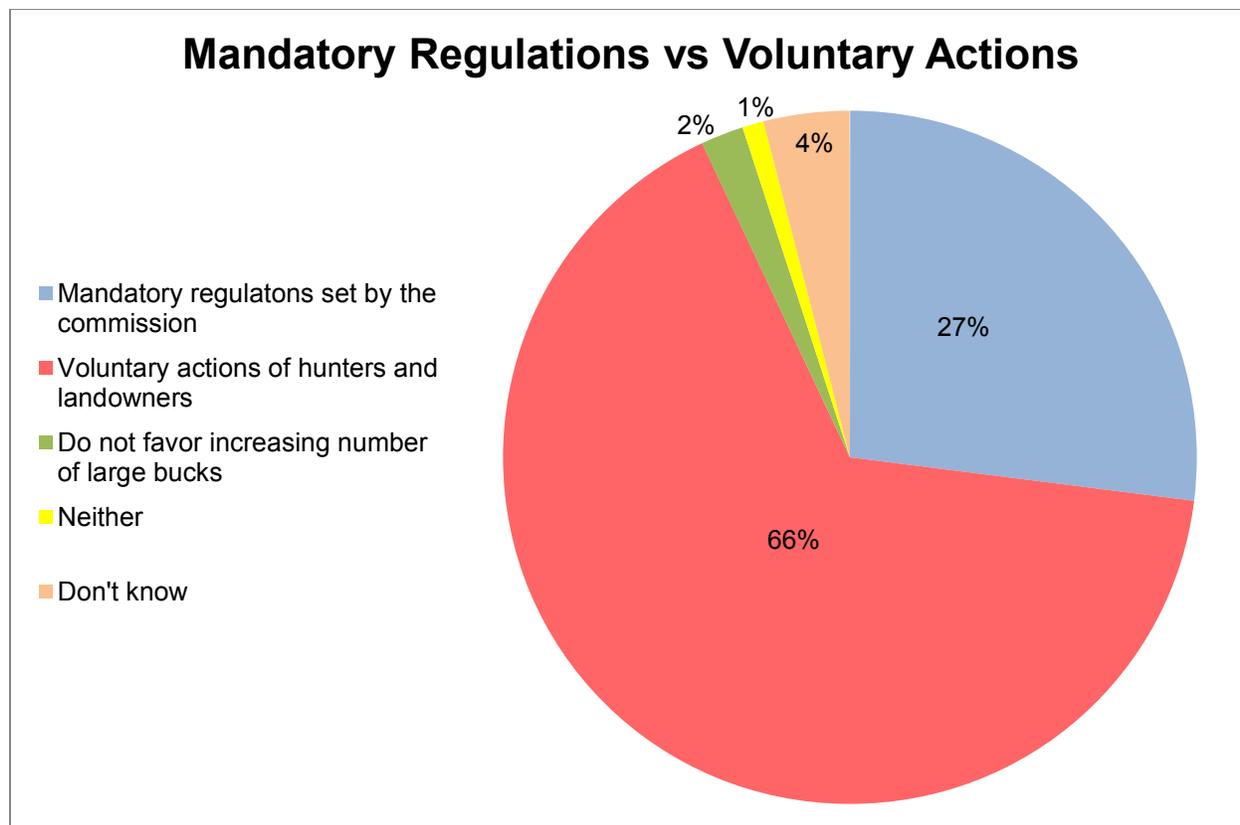
**Figure 4–58. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU C-5.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–59). Of the hunters, 47% want to see the deer population increased, while 40% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and few (8%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 22% want to see the deer population increase, while 46% would like to see the population stay the same size, and 27% want to see a decrease. For residents, 19% want to see the deer population increased, while 65% would like to see the population stay the same, and few (5%) want to see a decrease in deer population.



**Figure 4–59. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU C-5 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks and if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (66%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (27%) (Figure 4–60).



**Figure 4–60. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU C-5.**

## 4.12 DMU C-6

### 4.12.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting was held on Monday, April 21st, in Lake City. A total of 55 people attended the meeting.

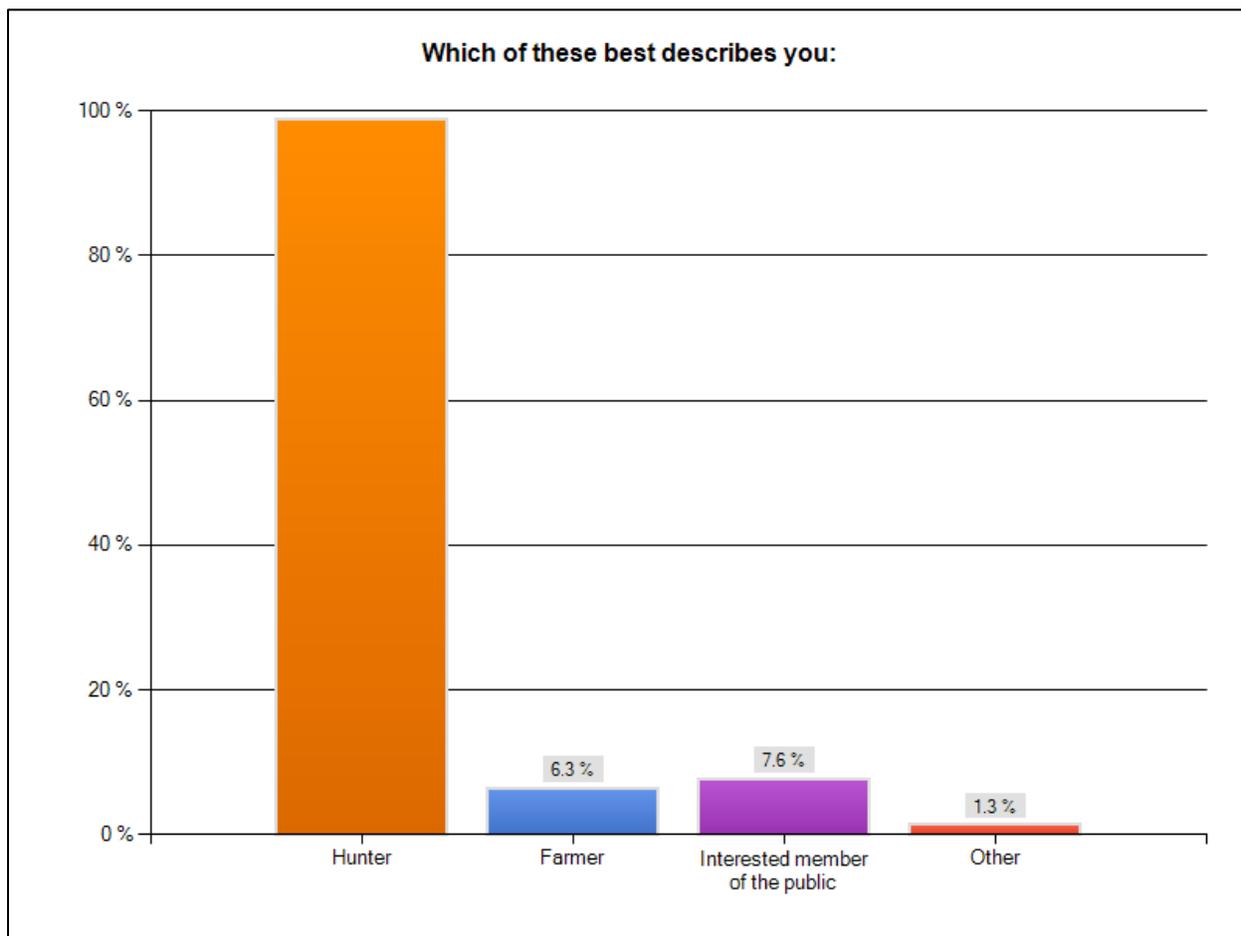
The most common issues discussed at the meeting included:

- **Population:** Most would like to see the population stay the same or increase.
- **Antler Restrictions:** There was wide support for antler regulations but also wide support for no restrictions.
- **Local Issues:**
  - Some concern about crop depredation.
  - Concern about coyotes and how to manage them.

- **Bag Limits:** Comments were divided between wanting a bag limit and not wanting one.
- **Antlerless Harvest:** Some wanted increased opportunities to hunt does while others cautioned against over harvest.
- **Negative Impacts:** Not many were reported.

#### 4.12.2 Online Survey

Normandeau designed an online survey to collect public input and located it on the FWC DMU website. References to the availability of the survey were made in all printed materials and during all meetings and webinars. Eighty-two people participated in the survey over the six-week period that the survey was open. The majority of participants (98.7%) described themselves as hunters; 6.3% as farmers; 7.6% identified as interested members of the public; and 1.3% as “Other” (Figure 4–61). This number is most likely misleading since many respondents only gave one answer to the question (e.g., identified themselves as hunters), and some gave more than one answer (e.g., identified themselves as hunters and farmers). Percentages add up to more than 100 because respondents could indicate more than one affiliation.



**Figure 4–61. Percentage of respondents in DMU C-6 who identified themselves as hunters, farmers, and other members of the public.**

When asked how respondents felt about the size of the deer population, 53.8% felt that the deer population was too low; 6.3% felt it was too high; and 33.8% felt it was about right (Figure 4–62).

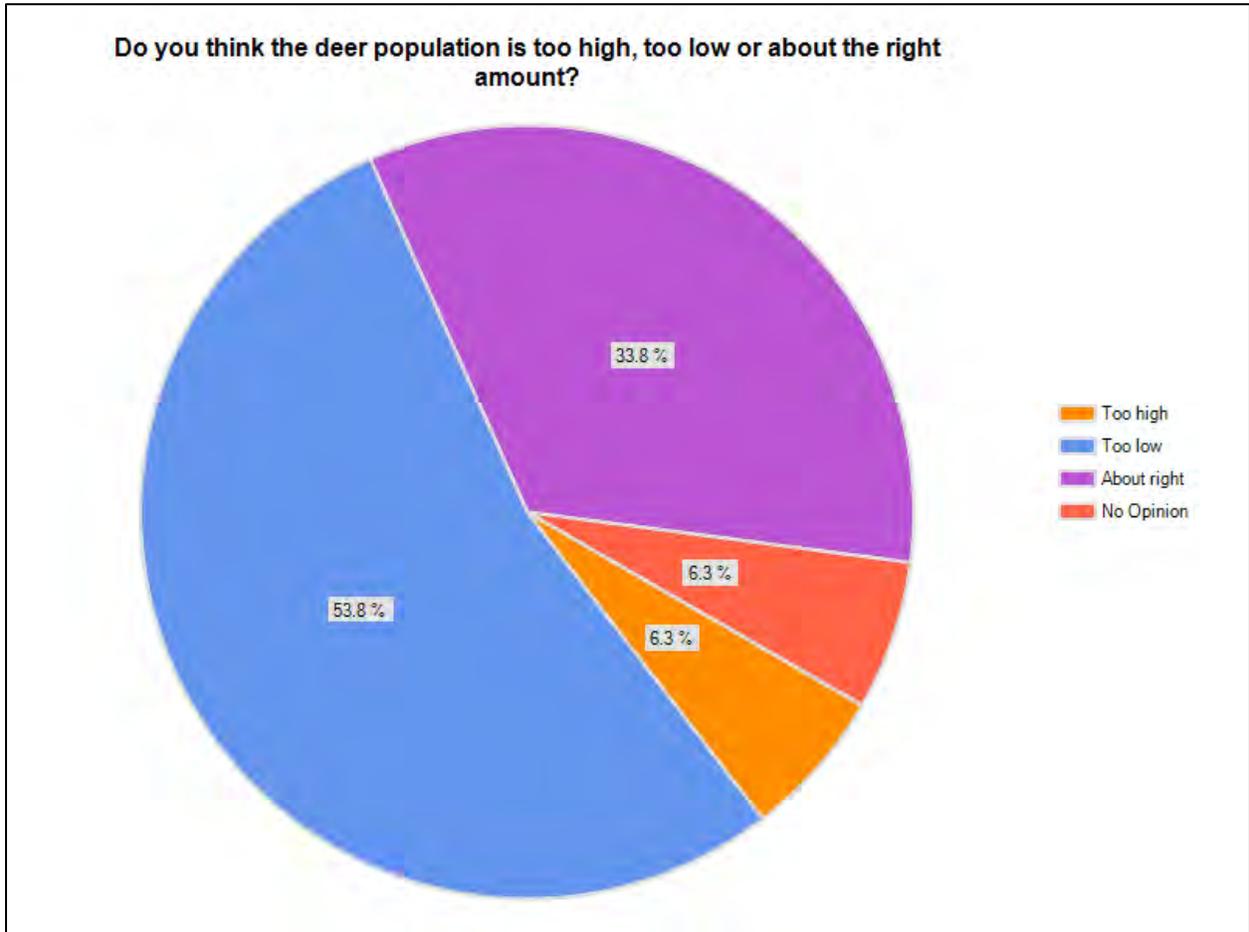
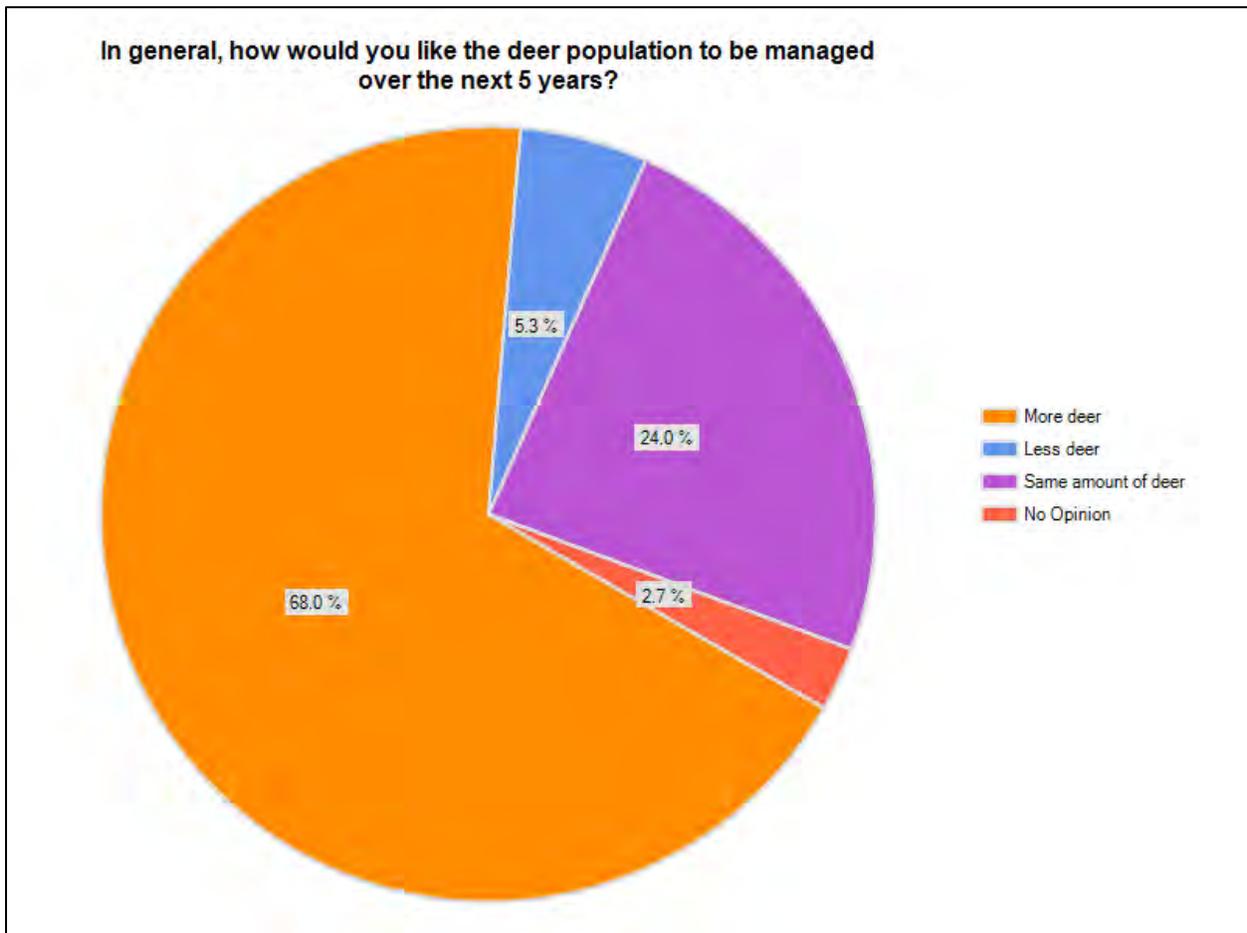


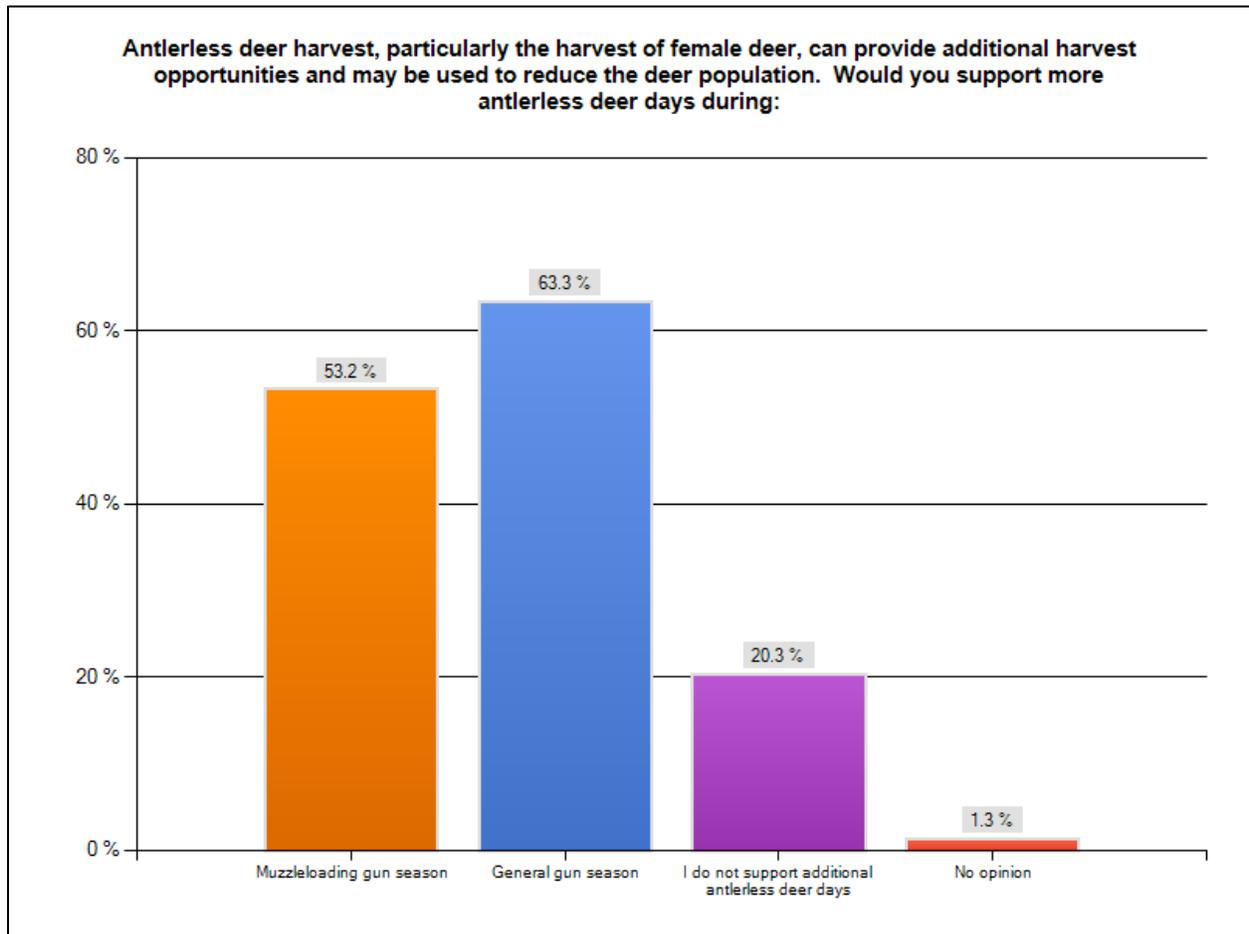
Figure 4–62. Online survey results about the deer population in DMU C-6.

Respondents were asked how they would like to see the deer population managed over the next five years. The majority (68%) wanted to have more deer; 5.3% wanted a decrease in deer; and 24% wanted no increase or decrease in deer population (Figure 4–63).



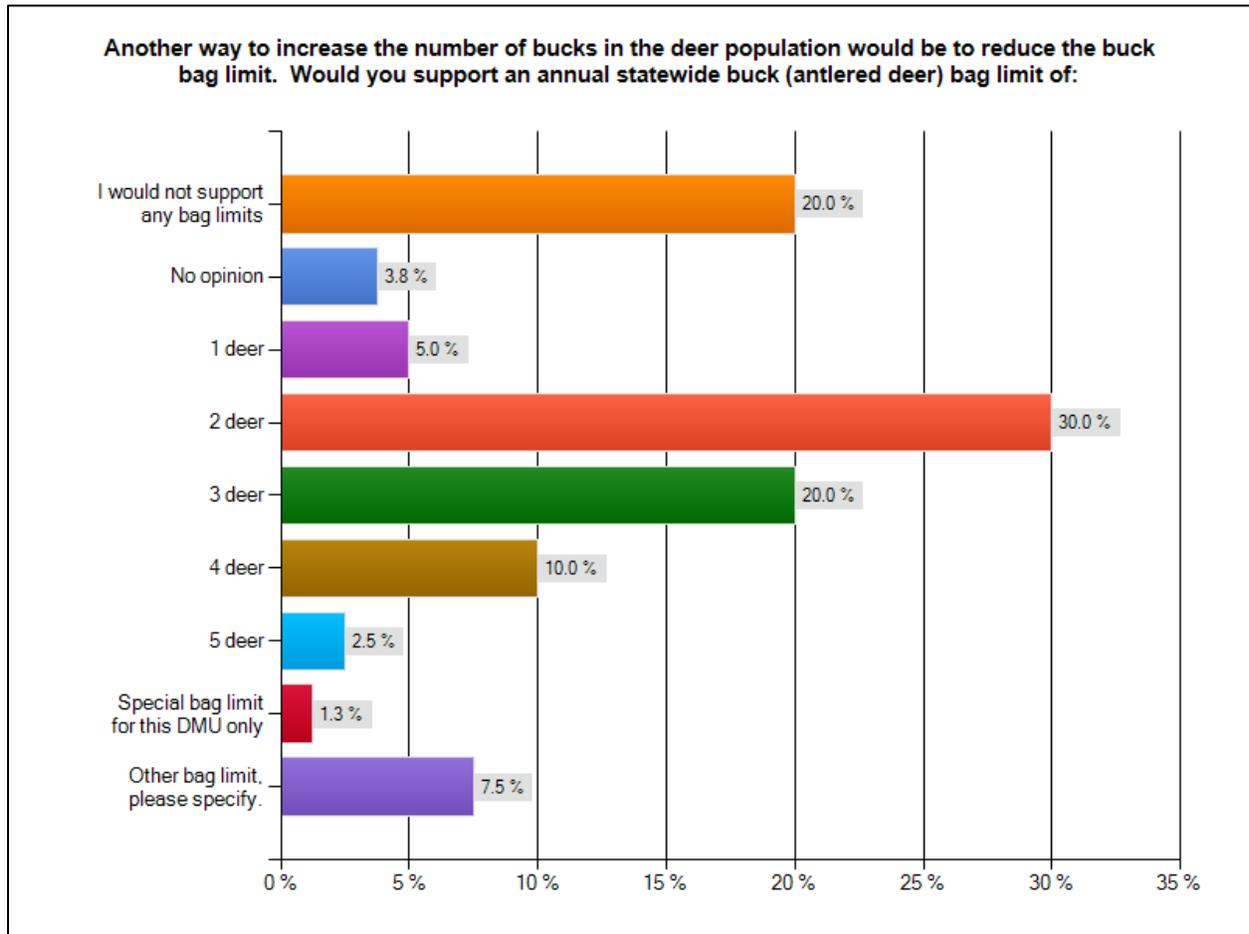
**Figure 4–63. Online survey results about deer population management over the next five years in DMU C-6.**

When asked if participants would support additional antlerless deer harvest days during the general gun or muzzleloading gun seasons, 53.2% would support additional antlerless harvest opportunities during muzzleloading gun seasons; 63.3% supported antlerless deer harvest days during general gun season; and 20.3% did not support additional antlerless deer harvest days (Figure 4–64).



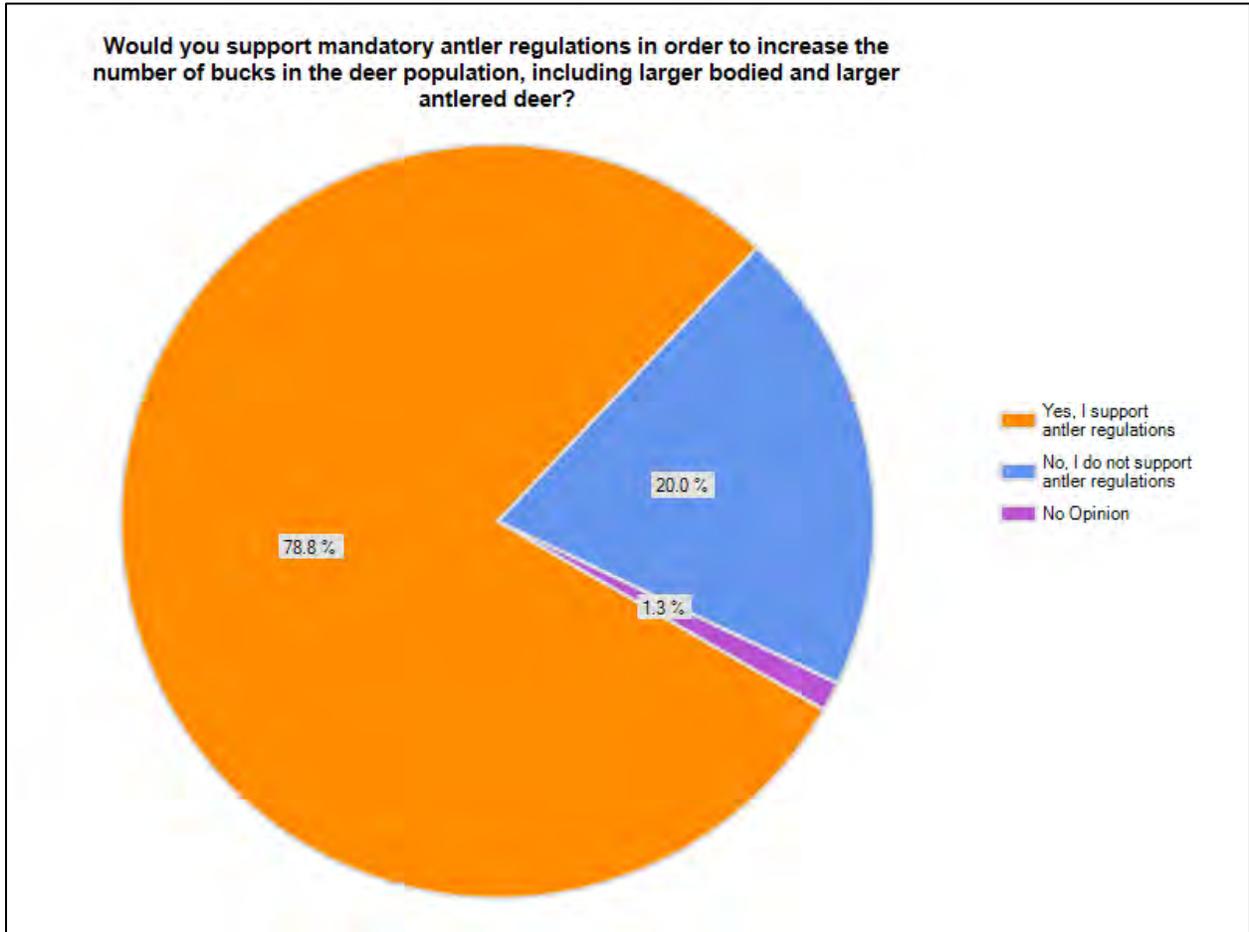
**Figure 4–64. Online survey results of participant support for additional antlerless deer harvest days during general gun or muzzleloading seasons in DMU C-6.**

When asked about support for buck bag limits, 50% of respondents say they would support bag limits of two or three deer; and 20% would not support any bag limits (Figure 4–65).



**Figure 4–65. Online survey results of support for buck bag limits in DMU C-6.**

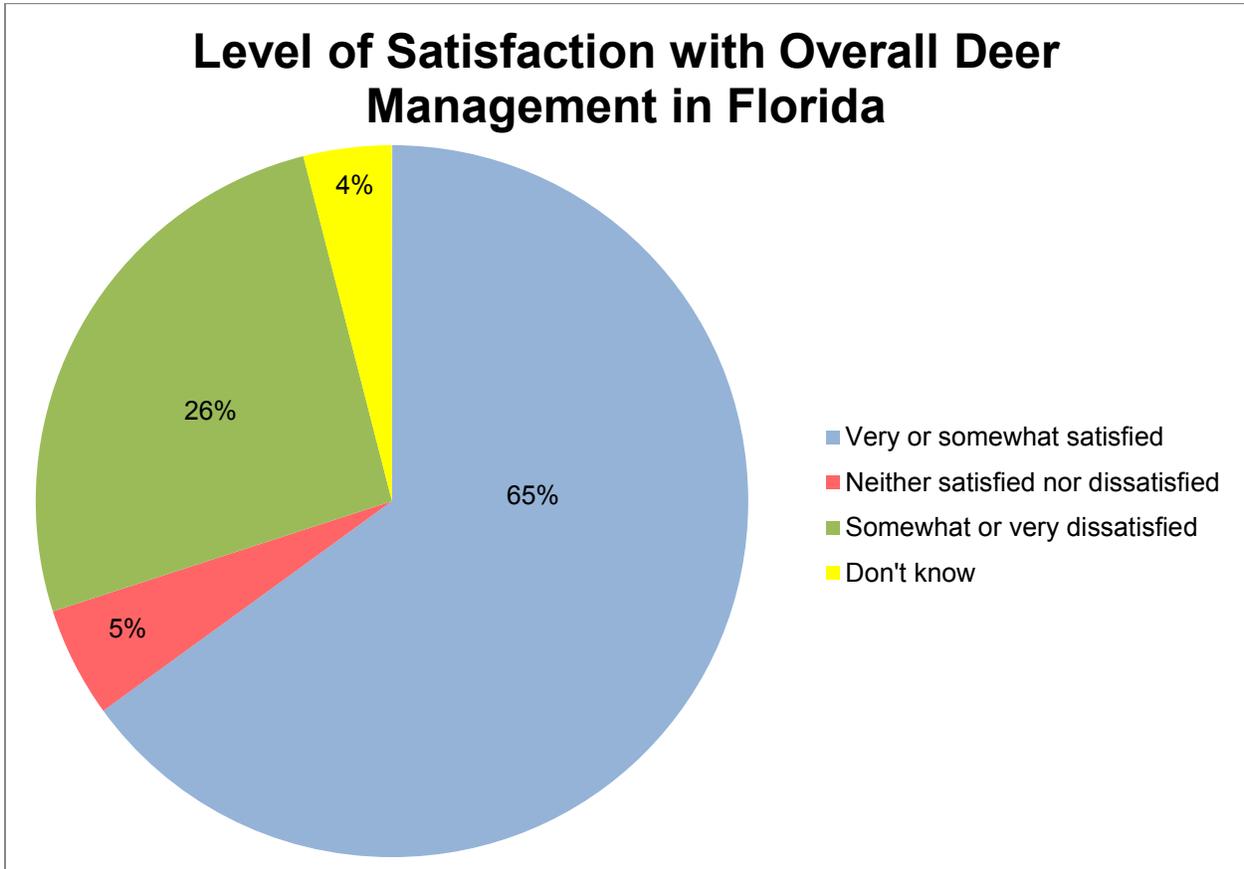
When asked about mandatory antler regulations, the majority of respondents (78.8%) supported antler regulations, while 20% did not (Figure 4–66).



**Figure 4–66. Online survey results of support for mandatory antler regulations that would increase the number of bucks in the deer population in DMU C-6.**

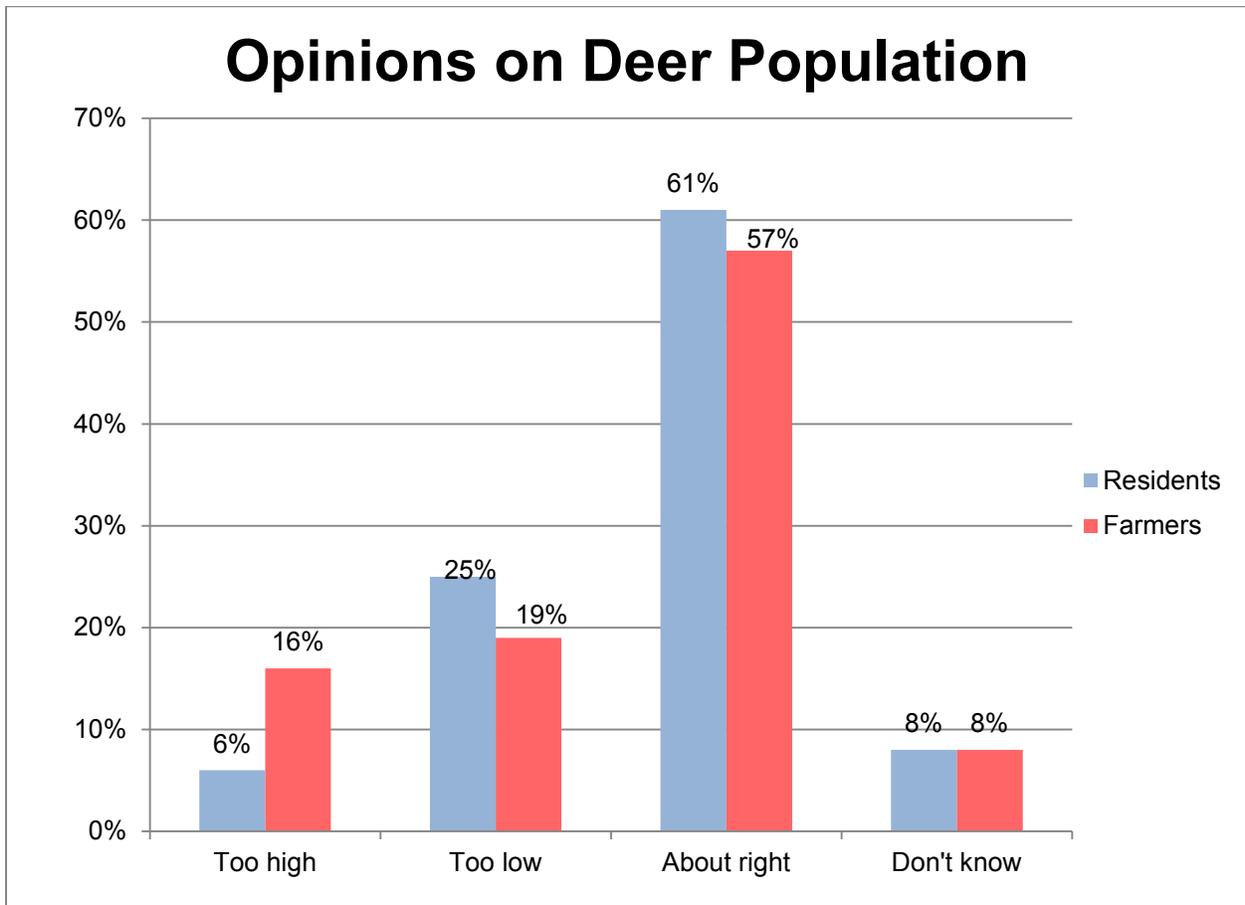
### 4.12.3 Phone Surveys

In DMU C-6, 65% of hunters were either somewhat or very satisfied with overall deer management in Florida (Figure 4-67).



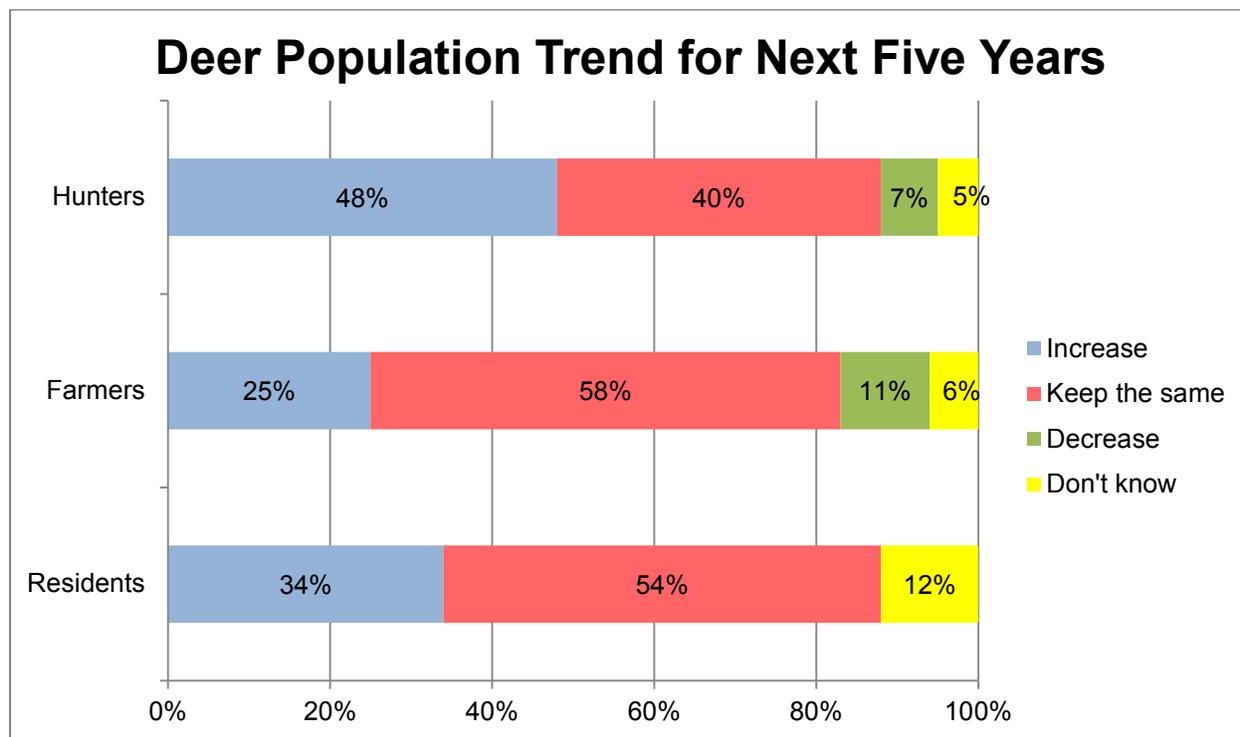
**Figure 4-67. Level of satisfaction with overall deer management in Florida by DMU C-6 hunters.**

According to the survey, 57% of farmers in DMU C-6 perceive that the deer population where they live is about the right size; 19% felt it was too low. For residents, 61% felt the population is about the right size; 25% felt the population is too low. These results are summarized in Figure 4–68.



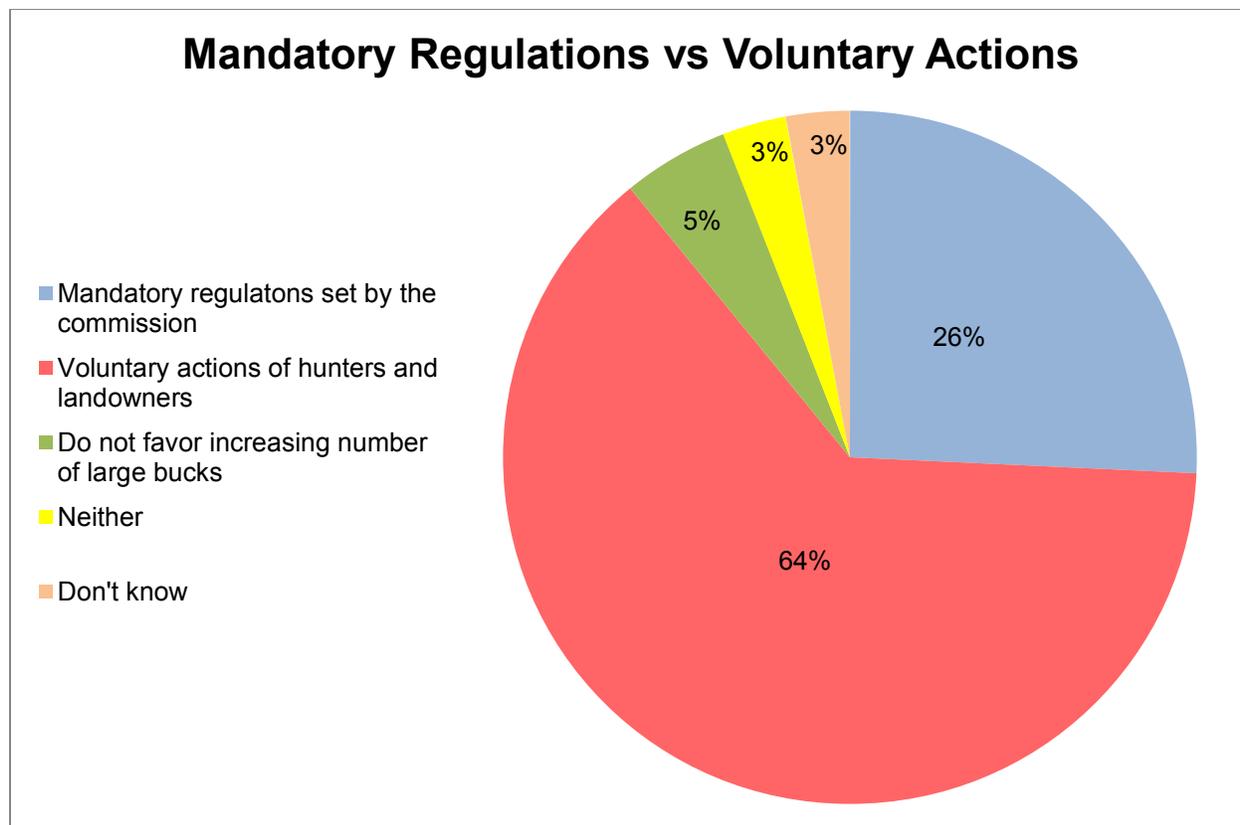
**Figure 4–68. Opinions on the deer population where participants live or farm in DMU C-6.**

Opinions differ among hunters, farmers, and residents on whether FWC should work to increase the deer population, keep it the same, or decrease it over the next five years (Figure 4–69). Of the hunters, 48% want to see the deer population increased, while 40% would like to see the herd stay the same size, and few (7%) want to see the deer population decreased. For farmers, 25% want to see the deer population increase, while 58% would like to see the population stay the same size, and 11% want to see a decrease. For residents, 34% want to see the deer population increased, while 54% would like to see the population stay the same.



**Figure 4–69. Opinions of hunters, residents, and farmers in DMU C-6 on how they would like to see the deer population trend in next five years.**

Hunters were asked if they would support antler point regulations designed to increase the number of large bodied, large antlered bucks and if they would prefer mandatory regulations or voluntary actions. There was more support (64%) for voluntary actions as opposed to mandatory regulations (26%) (Figure 4–70).



**Figure 4–70. Hunter preference for mandatory regulations (such as antler point regulations) versus voluntary actions to increase the numbers of large bodied, large antlered bucks in DMU C-6.**

### 4.13 Statewide Opinion and Harvest Survey

Responsive Management conducted phone surveys during November and December 2012 and collected 4,872 completed responses. Of this total, 2,519 were completed by hunters, 1,183 by farmers, and 1,170 by residents (non-hunting, non-farming members of the public). Some key statewide findings from the survey include:

- There was general satisfaction with deer management among all three groups—hunters 65% (25% dissatisfied), farmers 56% (14% dissatisfied), and residents 42% (8% dissatisfied).
- Among hunter motivations for hunting, time spent outdoors and with family and friends ranked highest. Seeing deer was also ranked as a higher motivation than harvesting deer.

- There was opposition to bag limits being imposed for the number of bucks that can be harvested—78% oppose a one-buck bag limit and 54% oppose a two-buck bag limit. As higher bag limits were suggested, the level of opposition and support began to even out.
- The vast majority of hunters practice still hunting with firearms (over 90%), while close to two-thirds hunt with archery equipment and muzzleloaders. About one-fifth of hunters use crossbows or dogs.
- Farmers and residents are generally supportive of legal, regulated hunting as an effective management tool for deer.

A large majority of hunters in Zone B (DMU B-1) and Zone C (DMUs C-1 through C-6) participate in still hunting, though about one-fifth to one-quarter of hunters also hunt with dogs. In both zones, hunters hunt on a mix of both public and private lands. Participation in hunting in Zones B and C (based on hunting methods and the ownership of lands being hunted) is shown in Table 4–2.

**Table 4–2. Hunting Participation in Zones B (DMU B-1; West Central Florida) and C (C-1 through C-6; Central and North Florida)\***

Participation		Zone	
		B	C
Hunting Method	Still Hunting	95%	95%
	Dog Hunting	19%	25%
Land Type	Mostly Private	33%	51%
	Mostly Public	46%	33%
	Both	21%	17%

\*Numbers do not add to 100% as hunters could select more than one option.

A large majority of hunters in Zone C (DMUs C-1 through C-6) are still hunters although anywhere from one-tenth to almost a third of hunters also hunt with dogs. A majority of hunters hunt mostly on private land in four DMUs, they hunt mostly public land in DMU C-4, while in C-2 DMUs hunters are more evenly divided between private and public lands. Participation in hunting in DMUs C-1 through C-6 (based on hunting methods and the ownership of lands being hunted) is shown in Table 4–3.

**Table 4-3. Hunting Participation in DMUs C-1 through C-6 (Central and North Florida)\***

Participation		DMU					
		C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5	C-6
Hunting Method	Still Hunting	97%	95%	95%	97%	97%	95%
	Dog Hunting	9%	20%	37%	23%	18%	21%
Land Type	Mostly Private	77%	38%	53%	29%	80%	69%
	Mostly Public	14%	40%	29%	55%	10%	18%
	Both	8%	22%	18%	15%	10%	12%

\*Numbers do not add to 100% as hunters could select more than one option.

Responsive Management also conducts annual harvest surveys to estimate deer take statewide. These annual surveys are conducted via phone. Table 4-4 shows the estimated deer harvest for all DMUs statewide. The data in Table 4-4 indicate that DMU B-1 has the lowest total harvest in the state. C-3, C-5, and C-6 have some of the highest total harvests per hunter in the state. Statewide the estimate was 0.58 bucks per hunter, 0.33 does per hunter, and an overall take of .90 deer per hunter.

**Table 4-4. Estimated Number of Deer Harvested per Hunter: 2013-2014 Responsive Management Statewide Deer Harvest Survey**

Number of Deer Harvested Per Hunter: 2013-2014			
DMU	Total Buck Per Hunter	Total Doe Per Hunter	Total Harvest Per Hunter
Hunted in DMU A1	0.35	0.20	0.54
Hunted in DMU B1	0.26	0.11	0.37
Hunted in DMU C1	0.45	0.21	0.65
Hunted in DMU C2	0.37	0.29	0.67
Hunted in DMU C3	0.56	0.22	0.79
Hunted in DMU C4	0.35	0.20	0.54
Hunted in DMU C5	0.69	0.28	0.98
Hunted in DMU C6	0.51	0.27	0.78
Hunted in DMU D1	0.69	0.44	1.13
Hunted in DMU D2	0.65	0.50	1.16
Not sure which DMU hunted in	0.23	0.17	0.40
Statewide	0.58	0.33	0.90

Table 4-5 shows the estimated number of bucks harvested per hunter statewide. The estimate column indicates that 113,000 bucks were likely harvested statewide during the 2013-2014

hunting season. Most hunters did not harvest any bucks. Of those that did harvest a buck, most only harvested one.

**Table 4–5. Number of Bucks Harvested Statewide by Hunters: 2013–2014 Responsive Management Statewide Deer Harvest Survey**

<b>Number of Bucks Harvested Statewide by Hunters: 2013-2014</b>			
Number of Bucks Harvested	Estimated Number of Deer Hunters		
	Estimate	Lower Bound (95% CI)	Upper Bound (95% CI)
Did not harvest any bucks	77,073	75,481	78,665
1 buck	20,536	19,224	21,848
2 bucks	9,722	8,768	10,676
3 bucks	3,135	2,576	3,693
4 bucks	1,472	1,086	1,857
5 bucks	826	536	1,115
6 bucks	392	192	592
7 bucks	99	0	199
8 bucks	186	48	324
9 bucks	28	0	82
10 or more bucks	102	0	204
Statewide	113,570	111,866	115,275

Table 4–6 shows the estimated number of bucks harvested in each DMU by hunters during the 2013–2014 hunting season. The data indicate that the vast majority of hunters either did not harvest a buck or harvested just one or two.

**Table 4–6. Number of bucks harvested in Deer Management Unit (DMU) hunters: 2013–2014 Responsive Management Statewide Deer Management Survey.**

Total Harvest Estimates by DMU				
Type of Deer	DMU Harvested Deer	Number of Deer Harvested		
		Estimate	Lower Bound (95% CI)	Upper Bound (95% CI)
Bucks	DMU A1	2,469	1,908	3,030
	DMU B1	3,152	2,450	3,854
	DMU C1	3,153	2,329	3,978
	DMU C2	3,546	2,783	4,309
	DMU C3	8,329	6,896	9,761
	DMU C4	5,920	4,972	6,868
	DMU C5	6,785	5,603	7,966
	DMU C6	8,856	7,334	10,378
	DMU D1	12,825	11,027	14,622
	DMU D2	9,709	8,409	11,010
	Not sure which DMU	613	321	905
	TOTAL	65,357	61,562	69,152
Does	DMU A1	1,400	896	1,903
	DMU B1	1,387	934	1,840
	DMU C1	1,452	927	1,977
	DMU C2	2,818	1,568	4,069
	DMU C3	3,317	2,473	4,161
	DMU C4	3,403	2,702	4,104
	DMU C5	2,792	2,149	3,434
	DMU C6	4,645	3,696	5,593
	DMU D1	8,120	6,968	9,271
	DMU D2	7,494	6,171	8,817
	Not sure which DMU	442	195	688
	TOTAL	37,269	34,427	40,111
Total Statewide		102,626	97,386	107,865



**Public meeting participant showing a four point buck he harvested**

#### **4.14 Technical Assistant Group (TAG)**

Four TAGs were formed with the purpose of creating goals and objectives for deer management in Zones B and C. Three of the TAGs were combinations of two DMUs: C-1 and C-2, C-3 and C-5, and C-4 and C-6. DMU B-1 had its own TAG. TAG members applied and were chosen based on subject knowledge, group represented, willingness to represent other stakeholders, willingness to have open discussion about the issues, and availability for meetings. Each TAG had at least one member of the statewide Deer Management Technical Assistance Group (DMTAG) to provide input and act as a liaison between the DMU TAG and the DMTAG. Most applications came from attendees at the public meetings and some were received from the FWC website. Each TAG had two in-person meetings and one web-based meeting.

The purpose of the first TAG meeting was to consider and discuss public comments received at the public meetings and the findings from the phone and online surveys. Based on the public comments, personal expertise, and feedback from any stakeholder group they represented they were asked to work together to create goals and objectives for deer management in their respective DMUs. The TAG members were enthusiastic and discussion was respectful and productive.

The first TAG meeting included the following:

- Presentation and review of public comments and public survey results
- Discussion of deer management topics that should be considered by the TAG
- Development of draft goals for their DMU(s)

The meeting resulted in a list of draft goals for deer management, which were sent to TAG members for review prior to the second TAG meeting.

The second TAG meeting was designed to finalize goals and draft objectives for deer management. The meeting included the following:

- Discussion and refining of draft goals from the first meeting
- Discussion and drafting of objectives to achieve goals

Meetings were conducted in a participatory format with TAG members working in small groups to discuss and consider goals and objectives for deer management in their TAG's respective DMU(s). Group discussion was used to come to consensus on all recommendations.

The following are the results of the TAG process—a series of goals and objectives for deer management in Zones B and C.

##### **4.14.1 Summary of Deer Management Unit (DMU) B-1 Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Meetings and Results**

**Meeting Dates:** May 8, 2014, and May 22, 2014, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; webinar meeting June 2, 2014

**In-person meeting location:** 1914 Historical Center, Plant City

**DMU B-1 TAG Members**

Name	Affiliation
Danny Crouch	President of the Richloam Sportsman’s Association, Dog hunter
Danny Brantley	Hunter (all types), air boater
Casey Chapman	Dog hunter
Ben Barthle	Ranch owner with hunting lease, bow hunter
Kyle Compton	Public and private lands hunter
Chuck Echenique	Hunter (all types), member of the DMTAG
Clay Mickler	Hunter, land owner, farmer
Byron Maharrey	Hunter, air boater
Cecil Stevens	Public lands hunter

**B1 TAG Goals and Objectives**

The DMU B-1 TAG developed a series of goals and objectives. These are the result of the in-person and phone meetings. All goals and objectives were developed via a collaborative consensus process.

**Overarching goal:** To increase stakeholder satisfaction through public education and deer management practices designed to achieve a balanced and increased deer population in Zone B.

**Goal 1: Increase recruitment and retention of new hunters including youth, women, and urban hunters**

**Objectives:**

- a. Create a special harvest consideration (exemption from any potential increased antler regulations) for youth age 15 or under.
- b. Maintain or increase youth and FWC-qualified mobility impaired hunting opportunities.
- c. Develop/improve an effective targeted marketing program to actively promote deer hunting in Florida.
  - Include information on the economic impacts of hunting.
  - Design an FWC commercial for recruitment.

**Goal 2: Increase the opportunity to see more mature bucks and harvest larger bucks**

**Objectives:**

- a. Implement an antler restriction to protect 1.5 year old age class bucks while allowing the harvest of 2.5 year old and older bucks.
  - Address harvest and antler restrictions on a case by case basis on Wildlife Management Areas.
  - With further input from stakeholders, review antler restrictions for Richloam Wildlife Management Area, being sure to include all hunting types.

- b. Maintain current buck bag limits.
  - The TAG feels that antler restrictions and limited doe harvest addresses the goals and objectives for Zone B.

**Goal 3: Increase the deer population in Zone B using science (FWC data) as a basis**

**Objectives:**

- a. Slightly reduce antlerless harvest throughout Zone B.
  - Maintain flexibility for qualifying land owners to use antlerless deer permits and depredation permits.
- b. Implement antler restrictions to protect 1.5 year old age class bucks while allowing the harvest of 2.5 year old and older bucks.
  - Consider the needs of dog hunters when addressing antler restrictions.

**Goal 4: Increase law enforcement presence in the field to enforce hunting regulations**

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop minimum standards for patrol and presence during hunting seasons and peak activities.
- b. Implement and promote law enforcement education and outreach events designed to increase public awareness.
- c. Improve public awareness of methods, tools, and information related to reporting wildlife violations.

**Goal 5: Develop a platform to advance public knowledge about the unique deer management and deer biology in Florida (such as genetics, age, and buck to doe ratios)**

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop print and online materials with cursory and in-depth information.
  - Create an online page at myfwc.com website that gives an interactive education experience for users to learn at their own pace.
  - Develop printed material in trifold form and in the hunter regulations handbook that give a cursory look at deer biology and directs users to the FWC web page.
- b. Incorporate deer management and biology information into existing and future education programs.
  - Design a portion of the hunter education curriculum to incorporate deer biology as part of the course.
  - Develop curriculum that can be used in a classroom setting for science/biology educators.

**Goal 6: Promote hunting, hunter satisfaction, and deer hunting heritage in Zone B**

**Objectives:**

- a. Allow general gun hunting zonewide during Thanksgiving.
- b. Promote hunting as a tourism and economic development opportunity.
- c. Promote traditional uses of off-road vehicles and airboats for hunting.

**Goal 7: Revisit zonal boundaries and/or season dates in B-1 to capture the rut (deer breeding chronology) during the general gun hunting season**

**Objectives:**

- a. Continue collecting breeding chronology data via doe harvest and necropsy studies.
- b. Continue outreach and collect input from stakeholders in the area to better understand the issues related to these boundaries and season dates.
  - Consider the possibility of moving the northwest portion of Zone B back to Zone C OR subdividing Zone B into 2 DMUs.

**Goal 8: Obtain better estimates of hunter numbers including youth, senior, and other license exemptions**

**Objectives:**

- a. Develop a free-of-charge license exempt hunter ID card and registration that includes a hunter identification number.
  - Improve the ability of FWC to conduct hunter outreach.
  - Add exempt hunters over the age of 18 to the phone survey pool.

**4.14.2 Summary of Deer Management Units (DMUs) C-1 and C-2 Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Meetings and Results**

**Meeting dates:** May 7, 2014, and May 21, 2014, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; webinar meeting June 4, 2014

**In-person meeting location:** Lake Wales Public Library, Lake Wales

**DMUs C-1 and C-2 TAG participants**

Name	Affiliation
Justin Field	Natural resource manager for Deseret Ranch
Cary Hitt	Public and private lands hunter, owner- C&S Outdoor Adventures
Ashley Kosak	Public lands hunter (all types)
Brigham Mason	Still hunter, wildlife biologist with Deseret Ranch
Tyler Mosteller	Wildlife biologist with Lykes Ranch
Jim Rosasco	Public lands hunter
Nick Russakis	Private and public lands hunter, rancher
Joe Tremblay	Public lands hunter
Wayne Zahn	Leasing manager, Lykes Ranch; DMTAG representative

### **DMUs C-1 and C-2 TAG Goals and Objectives**

The DMUs C-1 and C-2 TAG developed a series of goals and objectives. These are the result of the in-person and phone meetings. All goals and objectives were developed via a collaborative consensus process.

#### **Goal 1: Maintain or increase the overall deer population**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Determine the impact of predators on DMUs C-1 and C-2 deer populations.
- b. Implement an annual, seasonal, and/or daily limit to reduce antlerless harvest without reducing the number of antlerless days.
- c. Implement antler restrictions that protect the majority of 1.5 year old bucks and allows the harvest of 2.5 year old bucks.
- d. Apply any minimum restrictions on bucks to public and private lands in DMUs C-1 and C-2.
- e. Provide education about regulations proposed to achieve this goal.
- f. Encourage the implementation of land management activities that promote better habitat for deer and other wildlife.

#### **Goal 2: Promote hunter recruitment and retain existing hunters**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Maintain or increase youth hunting opportunities.
- b. Maintain or increase hunting opportunities for non-traditional hunter groups (e.g., women).
- c. Develop/improve an effective targeted marketing program to actively promote deer hunting in Florida.
  - Include information on the economic impacts of hunting.
  - Create an FWC commercial for recruitment.

#### **Goal 3: Promote public understanding of deer and habitat management throughout Florida**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Provide educational opportunities about managing habitat for deer and other wildlife.
  - Educate the public so they have an understanding of and realistic expectations for carrying capacity for various habitat types.
  - Promote funds for a habitat management course.
  - Educate about existing tools available for determining overall health of deer herds.
  - Modify hunter safety training for deer management.

- Provide incentives for participating in training about deer and habitat management.
      - Consider an advanced class for reward (preference point).
  - b. Disseminate information on existing educational opportunities for deer and habitat management.

**Goal 4: Improve the age structure of the deer herd by protecting younger deer while allowing the harvesting of mature bucks**

**Objectives:**

- a. Use antler restrictions to protect 1.5 year old age class bucks from harvest while allowing the harvest of 2.5 year old or older deer.
  - Provide flexibility to harvest mature bucks that don't meet a minimum point criterion.
  - Allow youth exemptions on antler point restrictions.
- b. Implement an annual buck bag limit.
  - Recommend a 3 to 5 buck bag limit.
- c. Apply any minimum restrictions on bucks to public and private lands in DMUs C-1 and C-2.

**4.14.3 Summary of Deer Management Units (DMUs) C-3 and C-5 Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Meetings and Results**

**Meeting Dates:** April 22, 2014, and May 5, 2014, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; webinar meeting May 20, 2014

**In-person meeting location:** Taylor County Extension Office, Perry

**DMU C-3 and C-5 TAG Members**

Name	Affiliation
Dixie Hollins	dog and still hunter
Glenn Koenig	Still hunter
Randy Floyd	Still hunter
H. Eric Sorensen	Still hunter
Bo Raker	Hunter
Allan Tucker	Florida State dog hunters Association
R. Eric Dipple	manage private hunts, still hunter
Gene Saunders	Hunter
Norman Garbutt	Lee, FL Club in C3
Tim O'Meara	Still hunter
David Bailey	Still hunter and farmer
Phillip Grind	Florida Deer Hunters Assn
Ken Bennett	Still hunter

### **DMUs C-3 and C-5 TAG Goals and Objectives**

The C-3 and C-5 TAG developed a series of goals and objectives. These are the result of the in-person and phone meetings. All goals and objectives were developed via a collaborative consensus process.

**Overarching Goal:** Maintain or increase stakeholder satisfaction with deer management in DMUs C-3 and C-5.

#### **Goal 1: Promote and increase hunter recruitment to continue the tradition of hunting for current and future generations.**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Promote the recruitment of new hunters.
  - Promote opportunities for families, women, and youth.
  - Consider youth only days, license free days, education, and other opportunities to provide quality hunts.
- b. Consider antlerless deer harvest opportunities that promote youth involvement. Improve knowledge of deer management through hunter education.
- c. Partner with organizations to promote education and exposure to hunting and the outdoors.
- d. Promote hunting as a tourism and economic development opportunity.

#### **Goal 2: Establish a set of antlerless harvest regulations to increase the overall deer population in DMU C-3 while maintaining some antlerless take opportunity**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Slightly reduce antlerless take while allowing more flexibility in antlerless harvest opportunities.
  - Disperse antlerless deer days over weekends and holidays during general gun and muzzleloading seasons.
  - Implement a reasonable annual bag limit for antlerless deer.
  - Implement a mechanism for enforcing limits (e.g., harvest log).
  - Consider reducing the archery daily bag limit.
- b. Set a harvest per hunter per day objective that results in increasing the deer population.

#### **Goal 3: Establish a set of antlerless harvest regulations to maintain the deer population in DMU C-5 at current levels while maintaining some antlerless take opportunity**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Maintain antlerless take while allowing more flexibility in antlerless harvest opportunities.

- Disperse antlerless deer days over weekends and holidays during general gun and muzzleloading seasons.
- Implement a reasonable annual bag limit for antlerless deer.
- Implement a mechanism for enforcing limits (e.g., harvest log).
- Consider reducing the archery daily bag limit.

**Goal 4: Increase the number and age structure of bucks in the population**

**Objectives:**

- a. Institute a reasonable annual statewide buck bag limit that increases buck population, more evenly distributes harvest among hunters, and helps to balance sex ratios.
- b. Implement an antler restriction that protects the majority of 1.5 year old bucks while allowing harvest of bucks at least 2.5 years old.
  - Review the statewide definition of antlerless deer to determine if changes are warranted. Consider the definition of antlerless deer as 1 inch or less.
  - Consider needs of dog hunters in DMU C-3 when making any antler restrictions.
- c. Promote habitat management that benefits deer and other wildlife.
- d. Educate hunters and the public on the benefits of new regulations and habitat management.
- e. Implement a mechanism for enforcing limits (e.g., stronger penalties for illegal harvest, harvest log).

**4.14.4 Summary of Deer Management Units (DMUs) C-4 and C-6 Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Meetings and Results**

**Meeting dates:** April 29, 2014, and May 15, 2014, from 10 am to 3 pm; webinar meeting on June 2, 2014

**In-person meeting location:** FWC Caravelle Ranch Office, Palatka

**DMU C4 and C6 TAG Members**

Name	Affiliation
Steve Jolley	Dog Hunter
David O’Keefe	Hunter, Florida Wildlife Federation member
Cecil Stevens	Hunter
Doug Moore	Hunter, landowner with hunt lease, farmer
Troy Register	Hunter, landowner
Paul Nolan	Hunter, hunt camp owner, vice president of New Smyrna Beach Gun Club
Kevin Thomas	Hunter, owner of hunt club, board member of the Florida Deer Association
David Tetzlaff	DMTAG member, hunter

Name	Affiliation
Allen Bates	Board of directors for Central Florida Dog Hunters
James Evans	Volusia County Cattle Association President, hunter safety instructor, hunter
Luke Kelleher	DMTAG member, hunting lease manager for Rayonier, hunter

### **DMUs C-4 and C-6 Goals and Objectives**

The DMUs C-4 and C-6 TAG developed a series of goals and objectives. These are the result of the in-person and phone meetings. All goals and objectives were developed via a collaborative consensus process.

**Overarching goal:** Maintain or improve stakeholder satisfaction through implementation of deer management strategies that ensure a healthy and sustainable population.

#### **Goal 1: Increase recruitment of deer hunters**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. Provide extra youth hunting opportunities without impacting deer populations.
- b. Implement targeted marketing efforts designed to increase participation among new hunters.
- c. Continue education efforts to improve awareness of hunting opportunities and programs.
  - Consider creating a mentor program.
- d. Consider allowing hunters that have successfully completed the FWC hunter education course the same exemptions related to antler point restrictions as youth for the first year following course completion.

#### **Goal 2: Preserve hunting heritage and traditions by increasing hunting opportunities and educational programs for youth and adults**

##### **Objectives:**

- a. FWC partner with local organizations (e.g., Trail Blazers, NWTf, Scouts, 4H, FFA, etc.) to increase exposure of youth and adults to hunting.
  - Offer incentives to private land owners to partner with FWC and nonprofits to host events.
- b. Develop a comprehensive plan to promote the most effective outreach program and communication methods to reach potential adult and youth hunters.
  - Reconstruct the incentive program for hunter safety instructors to make it more motivating for instructors to reach more youth.

- c. Improve hunter education about northeast Florida deer biology, hunting regulations, and habitat management.
  - Enhance the deer hunter safety course to include deer biology specific to Florida.
- d. Expand opportunities for family and youth hunts on public lands.

**Goal 3: Maintain or increase the deer population without substantially impacting hunter opportunities in DMUs C-4 and C-6**

**Objectives:**

- a. Slightly reduce the number of antlerless deer days.
- b. Leverage antlerless deer days to minimize impacts to hunter opportunity.
  - Maximize opportunities during holidays and/or weekends (especially Thanksgiving).
  - Eliminate two antlerless deer per day opportunities.
- c. Continue to allow qualifying private landowners to have flexibility in management (e.g., doe tags).
  - Consider predator management when making deer management decisions as they relate to hunter satisfaction (such as leg hold traps on private land).

**Goal 4: Increase the opportunity to see mature bucks**

**Objectives:**

- a. Implement antler restrictions that protect 1.5 year old bucks while considering the needs of all hunting types (i.e., dog hunters and still hunters) including point restrictions OR main beam length minimum, with exceptions for youth.
- b. Encourage FWC outreach to *private lands* hunters about deer management.
- c. Maintain the current buck bag limit to maintain hunter satisfaction in DMUs C-4 and C-6.
  - It is the opinion of this TAG that a combination of antler restrictions and buck bag limits would be damaging to hunter satisfaction.



**C3-C5 TAG Meeting**

## 5 Conclusions

The process for providing outreach and generating stakeholder input about deer management preferences for Zones B and C was successful. It built on the Zone D and Zone A outreach efforts for gathering public input for deer management at the DMU level. Comments were received from over 375 people who attended public meetings, and over 550 people participated in the online survey. The public meetings were generally well-attended, although the webinars had low attendance—6 people total.

TAG applications were lower than in Zone D, but similar to Zone A. Some of the TAGs were small in size. We received some feedback that holding the TAG meetings during the day posed a challenge for people to attend, which may have contributed to the lower number of applications. Even though some of the TAGs were smaller, the participants were highly qualified and contributed great expertise and input to the process. The TAGs were composed of an enthusiastic group who willingly volunteered two full days of their time and engaged in lively discussion about deer management.

Overall, the process designed to collect public input on deer management went very well throughout the state. The project team repeatedly heard from stakeholders that they liked and appreciated the process and felt that their input was heard. The things that made the project a success included:

- Holding public meetings in each DMU throughout the state offered multiple opportunities for stakeholders to attend.
- The “discussion table format” used at the public meetings gave attendees the opportunity to talk in small groups about their thoughts on deer management without the need to stand up in front of the entire group and speak in a microphone during public comment period. For those that did wish to speak in front of the entire group, they could speak in the microphone during public comment period.
- The presence of multiple FWC staff during each public and TAG meeting was very important to project success. FWC staff provided subject matter expertise and also showed stakeholders that FWC is interested in hearing what the public has to say and that they take this process seriously.
- Creating and implementing TAGs statewide. These smaller groups of key stakeholders representing diverse interests provided the ability for the public to collaborate to provide clear guidance to FWC on how deer should be managed at the DMU level. The TAGs were key to project success.
- Providing multiple methods for the public to engage and provide input. Using a multi-modal approach to public input (public meetings, online survey, TAG, phone survey, webinar, written comments, website, etc.) gave the public numerous ways to express their thoughts on deer management.
- Providing an online survey and presentation for people who could not attend in-person meetings allowed many more people to learn about the project and provide their input.
- Using an outside facilitator to coordinate and run the meetings. Using Normandeau as an outside facilitator allowed FWC to provide their expertise, but not be perceived as controlling the process or influencing the outcome.

Things that could be changed/ improved include:

- Eliminate or decrease the number of webinars offered. There was very low attendance at the webinars so they were not one of the more effective methods for garnering public input.
- Use lessons learned from the public meetings to choose locations. Some of the locations for public meetings were great; others did not receive as good attendance. Some meeting participants said that holding meetings in a different city/ location could have improved attendance (Vero Beach was a good example of this).
- Provide enough time between the public meetings and TAG meetings to recruit a sufficient number of qualified applicants. The timeline on this final phase of the project was short, so the TAG meetings were held quickly after the public meetings. Allowing at least 3 weeks between them would likely have produced more candidates.

The project was successful and achieved its intended purpose of creating DMU-specific goals and objectives for deer management in Florida. FWC received many compliments from the public about how the process was run. This model can be repeated in five years when goals and objectives will be revisited.



**Monticello Public Meeting**

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Online Survey
- Appendix 2: Press Release
- Appendix 3: Flier for Public Meetings
- Appendix 4: Agenda for Public Meetings
- Appendix 5: Public Comments
- Appendix 6: Agendas for Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Meetings

## Appendix 1: Online Survey

### FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Zone B and C Deer

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is providing interested stakeholders with an opportunity to share their opinions on deer management within the proposed Deer Management Units (DMU) in Zones B and C of North and Central Florida. Stakeholder input is important in developing DMU management goals and objectives and your input is needed. Specifically, FWC is looking for feedback on:

- § Deer population management
- § Antlerless deer take opportunities
- § Antler regulations
- § Bag limits
- § Negative interactions with deer
- § Other local deer issues

Your opinion is important! Thank you for taking the time to provide your input.

If you have questions, please contact Cory Morea, FWC Deer Management Program Coordinator, at (850) 617-9487.

**Name**

  
**Email**  
**Phone**  
**Which of these best describes you:**

Hunter

Farmer

Interested member of the public

Other

**What county do you live in?**

  
**If the county you hunt in or farm in is different from where you live, please list it here.**

## FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Zone B and C Deer

The following questions ask about your opinion about deer populations and management in Zones B and C- North and Central Florida.

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT ONE DMU PER SURVEY RESPONSE.

It is important that we collect information on each DMU individually so we can best understand deer management needs in each area. If you want to provide information for other DMUs, you will have the opportunity to complete the survey again.

### Zone B and C Deer Management Units



**FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Zone B and C Deer**

**\*Please indicate the DMU you are providing information for.**

- B1
- C1
- C2
- C3
- C4
- C5
- C6

**Do you think the deer population is too high, too low or about the right amount?**

- Too high
- Too low
- About right
- No Opinion

**Please indicate any negative interactions you have experienced with deer over the past 5 years.**

- Damage to commercial farm crops
- Damage to personal garden or landscaping
- Car collision with a deer
- None

Please list any other negative interactions and any comments you have.

**FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Zone B and C Deer**

**Antlerless deer harvest, particularly the harvest of female deer, can provide additional harvest opportunities and may be used to reduce the deer population. Would you support more antlerless deer days during:**

Muzzleloading gun season

General gun season

I do not support additional antlerless deer days

No opinion

Please provide any comments you have.

**Would you support mandatory antler regulations in order to increase the number of bucks in the deer population, including larger bodied and larger antlered deer?**

Yes, I support antler regulations

No, I do not support antler regulations

No Opinion

Please add any comments you have.

**Another way to increase the number of bucks in the deer population would be to reduce the buck bag limit. Would you support an annual statewide buck (antlered deer) bag limit of:**

I would not support any bag limits

No opinion

1 deer

2 deer

3 deer

4 deer

5 deer

Special bag limit for this DMU only

Other bag limit, please specify.

**FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Zone B and C Deer**

**Please provide any comments you have about buck bag limits.**

**In general, how would you like the deer population to be managed over the next 5 years?**

More deer

Less deer

Same amount of deer

No Opinion

Please provide any comments you have.

**Are there any specific recommendations you have for the FWC to manage deer populations in the next 5 years?**

**If you have any other comments you would like to make regarding deer and deer management please provide them here.**

**\*Are you done providing feedback? Selecting "no" will allow you to provide information on another DMU.**

Yes

No

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## Appendix 2: Press Release

### PRESS RELEASE

#### FWC Seeks Public Input on Deer Management

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) invite public input at a series of meetings on deer management.

Times and Locations:

*\*All meetings are held from 6:30 to 8:30 PM*

Tuesday, April 1	DMU C3	Chiefland	Tommy Usher Community Center	506 SW 4th Ave, Chiefland, FL 32626
Thursday, April 3	DMU C5	Monticello	Monticello Opera House	185 West Washington Street Monticello, FL 32345
Monday, April 7	DMU C1	Sebring	Chateau Elan Sebring	150 Midway Drive Sebring, FL 33870
Tuesday, April 8	DMU B1	Lakeland	Ramada Lakeland Hotel and Conference Center	3260 US Highway 98 N. Lakeland, FL 33805
Wednesday, April 9	DMU B1	Tampa	Southwest Florida Water Management District - Tampa Governing Board Room.	7601 US Hwy 301 N, Tampa, FL 33637
Monday, April 21	DMU C6	Lake City	Holiday Inn Lake City	213 SW Commerce Drive Lake City, FL 32025
Wednesday, April 23	DMU C4	Deland	First Baptist Church of Deland	725 N Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32720
Thursday, April 24	DMU C2	Vero Beach	Bethel Creek House	4405 Highway A1A, Vero Beach FL 32963

FWC is in the process of making hunting guidelines for Deer Management Units (DMUs) throughout the state. DMUs are intended to allow FWC more flexibility with deer management based upon the deer population, habitat conditions, and public preference within each of the units. At the meeting, the plans for DMUs will be explained and all participants will have an opportunity to provide input. FWC seeks public comment on deer management options such as the size of the population, antler restrictions, buck bag limits, antlerless deer days, or other deer-related issues. For people who cannot attend any of the meetings, there will be follow-up opportunities to join a conference call to make comments on the plans. In addition, a public comment survey will be available on the FWC website [www.myfwc.com/deer](http://www.myfwc.com/deer).

Following the public meetings, four Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) made up of public applicants will be established. The TAGs will meet and will work to create recommended goals and objectives for deer management in their DMUs. All persons interested will be able to apply to become a TAG member at the public meetings, or on the FWC website.

More information about the proposed DMUs, the TAG and a meeting agenda may be obtained at [www.myfwc.com/deer](http://www.myfwc.com/deer). Public meetings have already been held in the Panhandle and in South Florida. Results and the final report can be found on the FWC website.

The public meetings will be coordinated by Normandeau Associates. FWC staff members will be present at all meetings to provide detailed information and to answer questions.

For more information, you may contact: Cory Morea, FWC Deer Management Program Coordinator, at (850) 617-9487 or Christine Denny of Normandeau Associates at (352) 327-3269.

## Appendix 3: Flyer



Find more information at [www.myfwc.com/deer/dmu](http://www.myfwc.com/deer/dmu)

# Public Input Needed for Deer Management

### MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

**CHIEFLAND:** Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Tommy Usher Community Center, 506 SW 4th Ave, Chiefland, FL 32626

**MONTICELLO:** Thursday, April 3, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Monticello Opera House, 185 West Washington St, Monticello, FL 32345

**SEBRING:** Monday, April 7, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Chateau Elan Sebring, 150 Midway Dr, Sebring, FL 33870

**LAKELAND:** Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Ramada Lakeland Hotel and Conference Center, 3260 US Hwy 98 N, Lakeland, FL 33805

**TAMPA:** Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Southwest Florida Water Management District - TPA Governing Board Room, 7601 US Hwy 301 N, Tampa, FL 33637

**LAKE CITY:** Monday, April 21, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Lake City, 213 SW Commerce Dr, Lake City, FL 32025

**DELAND:** Wednesday, April 23, 2104, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Deland, 725 N Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32720

**VERO BEACH:** Thursday, April 24, 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Bethel Creek House, 4405 Hwy A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32963



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is hosting a series of public meetings to help shape the future of deer management in north and central Florida. Meetings will include:

- Information on proposed Deer Management Units (DMUs)
- Results of a recent 4,500 person survey
- Public comment opportunities
- FWC staff to answer questions

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Hunters
- Farmers
- Landowners
- Public with an interest in deer management

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cory Morea  
FWC Deer Program Coordinator  
850-617-9487

Additional opportunities are available to provide input. Go to [www.myfwc.com/deer/dmu](http://www.myfwc.com/deer/dmu) for details.

Meetings are coordinated by Normandeau Associates of Gainesville, FL



## Appendix 4: Agenda for Public Meetings

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# Deer Management in North and Central Florida Public Meetings Agenda

*Presented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

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- 6:30 pm Welcome and introductions
- 6:40 pm PowerPoint presentation on proposed Deer Management Units and results from the statewide Deer Management Survey
- 7:00 pm Public comments and discussion
- 8:00 pm Public Q and A with FWC
- 8:30 pm Adjourn



Meetings are coordinated by Normandeau Associates of Gainesville, Florida



## Appendix 5: Public Comments

Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings				
Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
		farmer with 2 hunt clubs		
		deer eat peas		
Monticello	Antler Regs	hunters don't like that he shoots small deer		
Monticello	Antler Regs	3 or 6 pts.		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Forked antler minimum		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Enforcement on harvest		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Yes		12
Monticello	Antler Regs	Youth exemption		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Not 3pt	C5	
Monticello	Antler Regs	Shot mature deer with 5pts; basically 4 pts.	C5	
Monticello	Antler Regs	Support 4 pts.	C5	
Monticello	Antler Regs	Dog hunters get a lot of does		
Monticello	Antler Regs	C3 & C5 should be same		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Public & private should be same		
Monticello	Antler Regs	All DMUs should be same	Three Rivers	
Monticello	Antler Regs	Three Rivers; practice forked antler		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Want Aucilla to be forked	Aucilla	
Monticello	Antler Regs	Support forked antler rule		2
Monticello	Antler Regs	South of 59 should be boundary, where the soil changes, not 27		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Plenty of does	C3	
Monticello	Antler Regs	Already have them on our farm		
Monticello	Antler Regs	10 pts, O&C or better		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Don't want to tell private land owners what to do		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Wouldn't have meat with this restriction		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Practice my own wouldn't want to regulate it		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Either antler regulations, bag limit, or combination of both		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Have age restrictions on buck harvest		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Family wants many deer		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Prefer bag limit vs AR		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Shouldn't be denied right to shoot deer on property		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Love it		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Support it with youth exemption		
Monticello	Antler Regs	3 pts, APR		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Support beam length criteria also		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Move doe season earlier		
Monticello	Antler Regs	No, not a trophy hunter		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Should be based on data on what should work		
Monticello	Antler Regs	3 pts, APR		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Like idea of bigger bucks and balanced sex ratio		
Monticello	Antler Regs	Disparity between WMA regs and private lands		
Monticello	Local Issues	How to enforce?		
Monticello	Local Issues	Bucks have gone nocturnal possibly due to coyote pressure and dog hunters		
Monticello	Local Issues	Deer are more dog savvy- possibly due to coyotes		
		Aucilla WMA:		
		Still hunt boundary on east side of Aucilla		
		is impractical to dog hunters		
		Could it be changed to allow dog hunting		
		Impossible to keep the current boundary free of problems and potential disputes		
Monticello	Local Issues	Private land hunter		
Monticello	Population	Deer population is about right		
		Hunt's half public and half private lands		
		Happy with population		
Monticello	Population	Like to see more balanced ratio of bucks to does		
Monticello	Local Issues	Vegetable farmer with depredation permit	Madison County	
Monticello	Population	Population too high	Madison County	
Monticello	Population	Need to increase harvest	Madison County	
Monticello	Population	Seeing high depredation issues	Madison County	

**Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings**

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Monticello	Population	Satisfied with current population levels		
Monticello	Population	Low buck numbers		
Monticello	Population	Twin Rivers State Forest - Favors increased doe harvest on WMA	Lee resident	
Monticello	Population	Increased doe harvest		
Monticello	Population	Lower acreage requirements		
Monticello	Population	Population about right	C5	
Monticello	Population	Population high	C3	
Monticello	Population	Population about right		
Monticello	Population	Population about right		
Monticello	Population	Unit's population as a whole increased		
Monticello	Population	bag limits		
Monticello	Bag Limits	3 bucks per person		
Monticello	Antlerless	Farmer wants to increase doe harvest		
Monticello	Antlerless	Increased doe harvest		
Monticello	Antlerless	No does seen during doe week		
Monticello	Antlerless	Doe harvest on public land		
Monticello	Antlerless	No increase in antlerless harvest		
Monticello	Antlerless	Doe tags for public land		
Monticello	Antlerless	Equal opportunity to harvest does		
Monticello	Bag Limits	Tagging system		
Monticello	Population	Increased penalties for poaching		
Monticello	Population	Love to see increased population		
Monticello	Population	Needs higher population	C5	
Monticello	Bag Limits	Reduce buck limit		2
Monticello	Bag Limits	Need bag limit, not sure what, 2 per day is too much		4
Monticello	Bag Limits	License that provides a certain number of tags for does and bucks		11
Monticello	Bag Limits	Private land already restricts number of bucks to 2-4 per season		3
Monticello	Bag Limits	2 bucks/day is too high leads to killing little bucks		3
Monticello	Bag Limits	Big landowners killed the bill to institute a system to monitor harvest		3
Monticello	Bag Limits	Can't discuss bag limits until there is a system in place to monitor harvest		7
Monticello	Bag Limits	Management areas being permit only is a problem because so few are being used, should receive tags for number of bucks/does when you buy license		
Monticello	Bag Limits	Quota is not a good system		1
Monticello	Bag Limits	Too many deer being shot for numbers not for food or quality		1
Monticello	Bag Limits	2 buck/year		4
Monticello	Bag Limits	Buck bag limit of 3 or 4, given that you can shoot does		
Monticello	Bag Limits	3 or 4 bucks per season		5
Monticello	Bag Limits	How much will a bag limit change the deer population given that so few hunters kill more than a few bucks per season?		4
Monticello	Bag Limits	Specific rules for specific DMUs		5
Monticello	Bag Limits	Need enforceable buck bag limit, dependent of public to police itself		3
Monticello	Bag Limits	Tag system to include multiple points, each hunter can kill so many 6 pts., 3 pts. and does then you're done unless you can buy more tags		1
Monticello	Bag Limits	2 or 3 per season is fine - 5 is too high		3
Monticello	Bag Limits	Tag system to keep track of number of deer killed to create a harvest report that is more accurate	Aucilla, Finloo	14
Monticello	Bag Limits	Earn A Buck Program - can earn the chance to shoot more bucks by killing does		2
Monticello	Bag Limits	Doe tags		1
Monticello	Antlerless	Allow people with depredation permits to allow others to hunt on his property	C5	1
Monticello	Antlerless	Trouble with doe week is people shoot whatever they see a tag system would increase success rate and protect button bucks	C5	2
Monticello	Antlerless	Be careful of harvesting too many does with a tag system don't issue so many tags as to hurt population	C5	3
Monticello	Antlerless	Antlerless season to cover more weekends	C5, C3, C6	7
Monticello	Antlerless	Deer tag system		23

Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings				
Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
		Issue a doe tag to each person who purchases deer permit		
		Take pressure off spike bucks		
		Opportunity for people who hunt public land to take doe		
		Use telecheck to report doe harvest		
		Don't change doe tag rules for large private lands or hunt clubs		
Monticello	Antlerless	Number of tags issued for does and kill them at will		3
Monticello	Antlerless	Take does on public land during any season		
Monticello	Antlerless	Take does on acreage properties allow doe harvest outside doe week		
Monticello	Antlerless	Issue more doe permits per acre on productive lands		
Monticello	Antlerless	Don't change anything	C5	
Monticello	Antlerless	More doe permits for large acreage properties where tags are issued	C3	
Monticello	Antlerless	Increased antlerless harvest	C5	
Monticello	Antlerless	Tagging system instead of doe week	C5	
Monticello	Antlerless	How will harvest be monitored		
		Will a tagging system work without over harvest if no good way to monitor harvest		
Monticello	Antlerless	Don't drive too fast on dirt roads at night (not an FWC issue though)		
Monticello	Negative Impacts	Too many does eat winter grass		
Tampa	Population	Split B1 in 2 - East and West due to rut times	B1	2
Tampa	Local Issues	Getting Green Swamp East in line with the zone	B1	
Tampa	Antler Restrictions	Support antler restrictions 3 on side	B1	
Tampa	Antler Restrictions	Yes - antler restrictions 8 point on better	C5	
Tampa	Antler Restrictions	Yes - 3 on a side	C5	
Tampa	Antler Restrictions	Youth exemption allow shooting of spikes, regs for other ok	B1	2
Tampa	Bag limits	Bag limit, but would prefer it to be on the higher end	B1	
		Bag limit not needed if antler restriction put in place, if do have bag limit support 3-5		
Tampa	Bag limits	November antlerless season conflicts with buck/general season shift date out of rut		3
Tampa	Antlerless	Buck to doe ratio is off bucks aren't chasing does	C	
Tampa	Antlerless	Not longer antlerless harvest	B1, C4	
Tampa	Antlerless	Open during archery is good	B1, C4	
Tampa	Antlerless	Would like to see dates shifted, preferable earlier	B1	
Tampa	Antlerless	Do something similar to what was done in D2, disperse over different seasons. Harvest should be regulated according to habitat type due to carrying capacity of habitat	C5	
Tampa	Antlerless	Low population	Green Swamp	
Tampa	Population	Population is good	Silver Spring/Ocala	
Tampa	Population	Population is great, deer population is high manage to keep the same	C5, Madison County	
Tampa	Population	Population about right	B1	
Tampa	Population	Could harvest more does in upper Hillsborough	Upper Hillsborough	
Tampa	Population	Population low	B1	
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	3 points on side restriction		
		Prefer something more restrictive than current but need to review the data to determine appropriate restriction		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	The take of deer as antlerless needs to be reduced from 5 inches - statewide		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Kids should be able to kill any buck - statewide		
		No matter what the antler restriction kids should be allowed to take a 5 inch buck - statewide		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Richloam is different than all other areas due to dog hunt WMAs need to be treated as their own DMU		9
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Forked horn on both sides		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Kids should be able to kill any deer for their first deer - statewide		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Prefer 3pt restriction for most of the state		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Forked horn on one side		4
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Keep 5 inch antler restriction		3
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Concern about cow horn spikes		2

Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	3 pt. "up" rule for the special opportunity areas basically assume the brow line is there. Brow line does not count as one of the three points		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	8 points or better - total number of points counting both sides		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Can have antler restrictions on WMAs, but keep general rule at 5 inches		
Lakeland	Antler Regulations	Antlers points should total 4 (any combination) count all points on both side to reach a total of 4		
Lakeland	Antlerless harvest	Stop harvest for 5 years on public land		
Lakeland	Antlerless harvest	Split antlerless week into two weekend throughout season		
Lakeland	Antlerless harvest	Change to shoulder height -1 doe only if possible	C6	2
Lakeland	Antlerless harvest	No change on private	B1	2
Lakeland	Antlerless harvest	Less on public (GSW)	B1	2
Lakeland	Deer population	Population is not bad		
Lakeland	Deer population	Varies from area to area		
Lakeland	Deer population	Harvest seems to be doing better		
Lakeland	Deer population	Population is greater even seeing them on personal property, has come a long way for the better, deer all over		
Lakeland	Deer population	Population would explode if we did away with dog hunting or at least limiting		
Lakeland	Deer population	More LE needed		
Lakeland	Deer population	Population is high in Hillsborough County, GSE population is low, but GSW population is good	B, Hillsborough County	
Lakeland	Deer population	Populated areas (Tampa) deal with deer human conflicts, but no hunting - no way to address this	B, Hillsborough County	
Lakeland	Deer population	Population varies greatly within zone	B, Hillsborough County	
Lakeland	Deer population	GSE - Green Swamp East WMA	B, Hillsborough County, Green Swamp East WMA	
Lakeland	Deer population	GSW - Green Swamp West WMA	B, Hillsborough County, Green Swamp West WMA	
Lakeland	Deer population	Population isn't as good as it would be in Richloam, but it seems to be going back up very slowly	Richloam	
Lakeland	Deer population	Biggest problem is poaching in Richloam	Richloam	
Lakeland	Deer population	Lot of sickly (poor) deer last year on Richloam - need check station open to keep tabs on deer coming out	Richloam	
Lakeland	Deer population	Lack of harvest reporting on Richloam	Richloam	
Lakeland	Deer population	How do you determine harvest on private property?		
Lakeland	Deer population	Population isn't there like it used to be especially public land		
Lakeland	Deer population	Deer season needs to move to later to coincide with rut - zone seasons correct, but WMA needs to follow with zone season	Richloam	
Lakeland	Local Issues	West of 301 is too late for the rut - miss rut	B1	2
Lakeland	Local Issues	Miss Thanksgiving hunt for general gun season *muzzle is not appropriate for children most buck killed between Thanksgiving and Christmas, data coincides with this suggestion	West 301	
Lakeland	Local Issues	Hard to predict rut in B1 in year to year from same property	Lake Marion Creek, B1	
Lakeland	Local Issues	Importance of rut is that there is more deer activity		
Lakeland	Local Issues	Law enforcement from one WMA to another is very different. Deer stands are up all year long or early, Enforcement not uniform in WMA's	WMA	
Lakeland	Local Issues	Lack of law enforcement major issue - killing deer year round, too many entrances	Richloam	
Lakeland	Negative Impacts	Collisions - one comment is that a person hit 1 deer with his truck but he didn't mind so much		
Lakeland	Negative Impacts	No issues		
Lakeland	Bag limits	Support 2 bucks max for season		

Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings			
Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Number of people making comment
Lakeland	Bag limits	Not comfortable with "4 in possession" More comfortable with season limit and your done	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Fine	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Increase doe limits	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Leave bucks at 4	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Wouldn't go less than 3 on bucks	2
Lakeland	Bag limits	Would like to take 2 doe (not more than 2)	2
Lakeland	Bag limits	Restrict buck harvest similar to other states (GA, MO, etc.)	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Too lenient	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Support them drastically	
Lakeland	Bag limits	Institute a reporting method that ensures limits are adhered too	
Sebring	Deer population	WMAs lots of public pressure and hunters not as careful = less preferable hunts multiuse nature of property	
Sebring	Deer population	Buck population down - lowest in years	
Sebring	Deer population	Harvest will increase with APR and restricted doe harvest	
Sebring	Deer population	Keep doe population increased	
Sebring	Deer population	Too low it has recently dropped coyotes, disease, drought	1
Sebring	Deer population	Habitat management - too much single species management concern over burn and management and removal of oaks.	
Sebring	Deer population	Concern that FWC management of habitat has impacted deer	
Sebring	Deer population	Putting in 8pt restriction on antlerless caused drop in bucks 1 year and then saw increase not reducing genetic potential by killing younger deer index increased B in last 2 years	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	More antler regulation	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	QDM ex: 6pt rule on public	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Only youth shoot spikes	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Save big bucks to be breeders - older deer protected	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Save deer with best antlers	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Keep 5 inch antler regs	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	3 points on side in Avon Park dropped harvest for a few years and now harvest is back up	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	APR is good support regs	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	If need meat go get doe on antlerless day	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Land management is important - need good habitat for deer. Changing to pines has excluded scrub habitat. Private land management is better than public land. Something needs to be done about the APR. Want to increase antler size regulations in order to increase deer heater or taking the loss over a couple of years to get this	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Has not heard complaints over restrictions	
Sebring	Antler Restrictions	Like idea of 3pt on a side, like Avon and Arbuckle	
Sebring	Bag limits	Tag and reporting system could help track and assist with setting bag limits	
Sebring	Bag limits	Yes	
Sebring	Bag limits	Support limit of 6	
Sebring	Bag limits	Support but should be responsible so people will still hunt in the woods might support 4-5	
Sebring	Antlerless	Taking more does will drop population. Be very careful with harvesting more does	
Sebring	Antlerless	Less does harvest, only youth and archery	4
Sebring	Antlerless	Doe harvest = same	2
Sebring	Antlerless	Same or less doe taken. Consider predator (coyote) take when calculating available harvest	
Sebring	Local Issues	Citrus greening will young groves that may attract more deer create concern about deer population	
Sebring	Local Issues	Do deer carry canker from tree to tree (re: citrus canker)	
Sebring	Local Issues	Depredation permits are impacting populations	
Sebring	Local Issues	Concerns with Kissimmee River - enforcing regs if there are different doe start days	

**Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings**

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Sebring	Local Issues	Boundary Issues- How can it be clear and enforceable?		
Lake City	Local issues	Quality deer - good with gravy!		
Lake City	Local issues	No new deer regulations - no changes!		3
Lake City	Local issues	Increase LE patrol at Osceola WMA	Osceola WMA	2
Lake City	Local issues	Need antlerless harvest to reduce do density at Alligator Lake PSGHA - perhaps archery only hunt	Alligator Lake PSGHA	1
Lake City	Negative Impacts	Concerns that there are too many crop depredation permits being issued to farmers and that hunt lease holders are losing opportunity		
Lake City	Antler Regs	Protect the 1.5 year old forked horn or 3pt/side	C6	
Lake City	Antler Regs	3pts/side no exceptions	C6	3
Lake City	Antler Regs	3pts/side exceptions for youth	C6	3
Lake City	Antler Regs	3pts with youth exemption 10" major bear	C6	
Lake City	Antler Regs	Keep it simple	C6	
Lake City	Antler Regs	3pts/side youth exemption	C6	
Lake City	Antler Regs	Tie antler point restrictions to bag limit - statewide 10" major bear	C6	
Lake City	Antler Regs	Fork horn antler restrictions	C6	
Lake City	Antler Regs	No changes, no restrictions	C6	8
Lake City	Bag limits	Bag limit not enforceable without tagging or checking system		
Lake City	Bag limits	Computer generated tagging system		
Lake City	Bag limits	Phone call would generate a number you would write it on your permit like GA or AL		
Lake City	Bag limits	Should be a bag limit on deer to enforce antlerless restrictions		
Lake City	Bag limits	More conservative bag limits		
Lake City	Bag limits	We don't shoot anything under 8pt and we can't seem to get our age class up		
Lake City	Bag limits	Possession limit - 1 per day per season		
Lake City	Bag limits	Possession limit - 2 per day per season		
Lake City	Bag limits	Keep it the same - allow for self regulation		
Lake City	Bag limits	Possession limit vs season limit want the freedom to choose		
Lake City	Bag limits	Would be happier killing more bucks - 3 of each (bucks/does) would be fine		
Lake City	Bag limits	Need to be changed		4
Lake City	Bag limits	Do not need to be changed		4
Lake City	Bag limits	Self regulation		
Lake City	Bag limits	Tag system, check in telephone system with control number		
Lake City	Bag limits	Do not need bag limit		1
Lake City	Bag limits	Divide harvest (private vs public)		
Lake City	Bag limits	Don't want government to tell how to hunt deer		
Lake City	Bag limits	Limit is not enforceable		
Lake City	Bag limits	5 would be too little		
Lake City	Bag limits	Negative issue - divides harvest		
Lake City	Bag limits	on public lands where it is over hunted it works, only way to regulate harvest on public land - needed		
Lake City	Bag limits	Opposed on private lands		
Lake City	Bag limits	Favor bag limits		17
Lake City	Bag limits	Do not favor bag limits		4
Lake City	Bag limits	Should have limit on private land		2
Lake City	Bag limits	Limits should be across the board so not to confuse people and complicate regulations		
Lake City	Bag limits	Possession limit? Antler, age restrictions		
Lake City	Bag limits	Why limit bag limit?		
Lake City	Bag limits	Season limits 5 + or -		
Lake City	Bag limits	Lease management (FWC involvement)		
Lake City	Bag limits	Population is already increasing - why mess with it		
Lake City	Bag limits	Timber companies have destroyed deer habitat		
Lake City	Bag limits	How are you going to enforce it? Just like antlerless restrictions		
Lake City	Bag limits	Very few places over populated with deer 2 bucks/day way too much should be changed to decreased number		

Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings				
Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Lake City	Bag limits	Per season? 10 per season?		
Lake City	Bag limits	FWC & private land are low on funds and is that extra worth it?		
Lake City	Bag limits	How many people with kill that many deer?		
Lake City	Bag limits	2 a day and 4 possession		
Lake City	Bag limits	Want to keep everything possible because of the variation in private land management - I spend a lot of money in the club can manage (increase or decrease) based on need		
Lake City	Bag limits	Blanket rule won't work		
Lake City	Bag limits	Public land can make different rules		
Lake City	Bag limits	Would like the hardworking land mangers to have to ability to use all their tools		
Lake City	Bag limits	I am a farmer and see all the variation		
Lake City	Bag limits	Do not want to put a burden on LE, want money to go elsewhere		
Lake City	Bag limits	Too many bucks shot		
Lake City	Deer population	About right depending on where hunting. Good population around farms. Fewer deer in timber areas more farming in area leads to more does. Manage does		
Lake City	Deer population	Doe tags vs doe week		
Lake City	Deer population	About right depends on property, farm vs timber		
Lake City	Deer population	About right feel like their population is about right, ok		
Lake City	Deer population	Doe population may be a little on the high side		
Lake City	Deer population	About right deer population good on his lease.		
Lake City	Deer population	Coyote problems		
Lake City	Deer population	Low need less doe hunting to increase overall population		
Lake City	Deer population	Must control coyotes to help population		
Lake City	Deer population	About right rules in place are fine - stay out of messing up private leases		
Lake City	Deer population	More control on hogs and coyotes to help deer population		
Lake City	Deer population	About right seem deer population are under stress from predation need to consider this		
Lake City	Deer population	Low - population dropped on lease for no apparent reason		
Lake City	Deer population	Enjoys seeing lots of deer		
Lake City	Deer population	Population good 3 years ago		
Lake City	Deer population	Increase population		
Lake City	Deer population	Deer healthy no disease noted on harvested deer		2
Lake City	Deer population	Many coyotes and more bears in area		
Lake City	Deer population	Need to increase population to make up for predation		
Lake City	Antlerless	One doe per hunter during doe week - afraid of over harvest		
Lake City	Antlerless	More doe days, more opportunities no tags		
Lake City	Antlerless	Restrict buck harvest hunt more does		
Lake City	Antlerless	Buy 1,2,3 doe permits reasonable cost		
Lake City	Antlerless	Antlerless bag limit each hunter electronic reporting system		
Lake City	Antlerless	Increase antlerless to crossbow and muzzleloader seasons		2
Lake City	Antlerless	Tag season eliminated		
Lake City	Antlerless	Bag limit on doe		
Lake City	Antlerless	Acreage decrease for antlerless		2
Lake City	Antlerless	Spread antlerless over 3 or 4 weekends		
Lake City	Antlerless	Permits are enough on private and is well run		
Lake City	Antlerless	Old timers mentality, educate club to harvest does		
Lake City	Antlerless	Coyote impacting population numbers		
Lake City	Antlerless	Sex ratio better balanced increase doe harvest		
Lake City	Antlerless	Kill younger does, leave mature does alone		
Lake City	Antlerless	Increase tags per acre on private land		
Lake City	Local issues	Increase law enforcement		
Lake City	Antlerless	Allow doe harvest to be increased in areas where habitat allows for it		
Vero Beach	Negative Impacts	Eating citrus		
Vero Beach	Public Comment	Need to hold a meeting in Okeechobee next time would have gotten a lot more attendees		

Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Vero Beach	Population	Low hunt 3 lakes seeing steady decline in population over the past 8 years		
Vero Beach	Population	Orange groves used to help support deer populations 75% of groves are gone. This makes deer move to nearby lands and causes some lands to have few deer.		
Vero Beach	Population	Alapatta area is very low on deer. Land is decreasing in availability.	Allapatta	
Vero Beach	Population	When state buys property the supplementing stops and nutrition drops and populations drop.		
Vero Beach	Population	WMAs Kissimmee Chain and Corbett WMAs population dropping - maybe citrus? Losing land to development?	Kissimmee Chain and Corbett WMAs	
Vero Beach	Population	Alapatta Flats - there was good hunting would like to see forked horn rules APR ok rather than bag limits.		
Vero Beach	Population	Population declining Kissimmee and Corbett	Kissimmee and Corbett	
Vero Beach	Population	Population right but could be increased on private lands		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Concern about private lands because they manage the population by taking out "inferior" bucks/cull bucks		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Ok with APR, prefer 3 or 4 point		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Forked horn will bring population up more than 5 inch rule		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Forked horn ok, but concerned that this will go toward focusing on spread. We don't have the food sources to support big deer. Too much focus on antlers. We need to focus on enjoyment of hunting and not so much on antler size.		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Several areas in C2 do not have ability to support deer to 6 years due to liver flukes They impact and kill deer.	C2	
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Recruitment is less		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Differences in rules between public and private property WMAs are all different		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	APR ok consider restriction on number of people hunting.		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Seasons - change on private vs. public lands		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Alapatta Flats, Hungry Ind - WMAs good to have APRs. Genetics and bucks are there, but need restrictions.	Allapatta Flats	
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	APR at private lakes		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Law enforcement is needed. If not available there will be a free for all.		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Fractured land is an issue.		
Vero Beach	Antler Regulations	Seeing a lot of high fences.		
Vero Beach	Local Issues	Coyotes are a big issue. Hear packs of coyotes. Suggest hunting the month after deer season.		
Vero Beach	Local Issues	Coyotes - would like to see youth hunting program allow coyote hunt season.		
Vero Beach	Local Issues	Any SFWMD property.		
Vero Beach	Local Issues	More youth hunting.		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	drop in does.		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	Many private land owners/hunters are ok not shooting does even if allowed because like to see them on the land.		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	Does days are good youth recruiting tool		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	Ok changing the days to weekends		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	Limit the number of days - go to 2 days. Don't like 7 days.		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	Ex: Kissimmee River - Kissimmee chain of lakes heavy pressure on does Management areas - doe tags allow less pressure on antlerless bucks. Because hunting other times		
Vero Beach	Antlerless harvest	Some WMAs have good mgmt. ex: have on last weekend of season instead of first.		
Vero Beach	Bag limits	No bag limit		
Vero Beach	Bag limits	This is already being managed by private land leases. They manage this well.		
Vero Beach	Bag limits	Bag limit good - 3/year		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	How are restrictions going to apply to deer farmers?		

**Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings**

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Wild heard needs to be tested like farmed deer do.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Significant increases of predators on property.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Include all types of trapping mechanisms to aid in a control.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Explore and implement predator (coyote) hunting on WMAs during off season.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	implement a cull deer system on areas that do have antler restrictions.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Cull deer on private land if an antler restriction is passed.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Habitat management is crucial for deer hunting opportunity.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	More involvement from the agency on private lands. Specifically food plots and management practices! Biologists' opinions and knowledge on private land practices.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Manage different WMAs for what they have in them.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Tiger Bay and Lake George no population control	Tiger Bay and Lake George	
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Better legal enforcement		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Create check stations		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Importance of hunters/hunting industry to the economy - publicize.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Look into doe harvest for Ocala.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Better enforcement of closed roads. Lose quality of hunting.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Fees for all recreational users on WMAs. Safety precautions for all.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Increased users on WMAs (campers) reduce quality of hunt.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Clearer rules on WMA brochures. More user friendly format of brochures.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Tag system put in place like other states. No need for one person to take 8 bucks by himself when others don't kill any.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Stiffer penalties for people breaking the law.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Buffer zone between WMAs and residential properties for safety.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Too many bears predating on deer in Ocala.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	Open areas to those handicapped to use ATVs or golf carts.		
DeLand	Antler Restrictions	3 pts	CA	
DeLand	Antler Regulations	Leave it alone. No change.		6
DeLand	Antler Regulations	3 pt with 10" MB	CA	2
DeLand	Antler Regulations	3 pt on side		7
DeLand	Antler Regulations	2 pt/side 10"		
DeLand	Antler Regulations	2 pts on a side		6
DeLand	Deer population	Private lands should manage their deer with assistance from FWC (Don't restrict them?)		
DeLand	Deer population	Need a tagging system		
DeLand	Deer population	Deer are stable on private land.		
DeLand	Deer population	Doe numbers too high on WMAs ( Ocala pipeline)	Ocala	
DeLand	Deer population	Coyotes and Bears in Ocala WMA - killing deer?	Ocala	
DeLand	Deer population	Fewer deer overall		
DeLand	Deer population	Too many deer (esp. dog hunt area) not being checked in on Ocala WMA		
DeLand	Deer population	Predators problems on deer population		
DeLand	Deer population	See more doe c/o dog running on WMAs		
DeLand	Deer population	More predator hunts		
DeLand	Deer population	Young deer found with bite marks c/o coyotes		
DeLand	Deer population	Want to see increase in deer population		
DeLand	Deer population	Coyotes = major issue		
DeLand	Deer population	Not seeing doe with 2 fawns?		
DeLand	Deer population	Lake George WMA; people doing deer drives and relay	Lake George	
DeLand	Deer population	Decrease in deer population on private and public lands.		
DeLand	Deer population	Better check station method		3
DeLand	Deer population	Too few deer on public land (relay)	Relay	
DeLand	Deer population	Lack of ability to do anything on public land.		
DeLand	Deer population	Dexter Mary is managed - not others.	Dexter Mary	

**Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings**

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
DeLand	Deer population	Spraying on WMA (stop) c/o Relay WMA (destroying deer habitat) and Lake George WMA	Relay	6
DeLand	Deer population	Doe deer lag system/ not doe weekend		
DeLand	Deer population	Do doe weekend earlier		
DeLand	Deer population	Quota system management - not working.		
DeLand	Deer population	Citrus 1973 was great! Now nothing c/o GFC killed deer.		
DeLand	Deer population	Put more food plots on public lands WMAs		
DeLand	Deer population	Better deer surveys		
DeLand	Negative Impacts	Possible liberalization of depredation program for local farmers to allow more take.		
DeLand	Negative Impacts	Population may be fine overall, but they are in different (urban) areas.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Divide up general gun season to more seasons		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Youth hunt for antlerless deer.		5
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Need to be better educated on food plots. Need to do a better job our land company won't let us burn we have a cattle lease.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Like Thanksgiving week.		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Like to keep it how it is we shoot more bucks that week too.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	In our club we try to kill 20, many members don't want to shoot them, we use it for food best opportunity to get meat.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	I think the season is good.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Private lands make their own rules, public lands need more harvest.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Why is it so hard to make it uniform? Makes seasons and harvests so different.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Many people don't hunt archery and we need to make it more available to families.		4
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	You get 9 days on private land - we should have similar opportunities.		4
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Bag limit - 1 a day? 2 for the season? Something!		4
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Make the seasons for doe harvest the same for public and private lands.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Clubs manage doe tags in different ways. We let kids shoot whatever they want to shoot (kids not in high school) Could you incorporate that into a legal area (under 18? Under 16?) to let kids be successful on private or public lands?		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Juvenile harvest of any legal deer without season restrictions.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Extend archery season on WMAs as long as private lands.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Extended season for antlerless deer outside of archery on WMAs at least offer the same as private land.		4
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Population is good, sex ratio is out of whack.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Ratio of deer on Lake George not bad.	Lake George	
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Wish they would let you have a doe tag for Rima Ridge, there are plenty of them in there even on muzzle loader hunt.	Rima Ridge	
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	I manage game on a large out parcel, we haven't needed depredation permits in the last 10 years.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Can we reduce harvest in some areas? Seems like it correlates to coyote population. Increased coyotes (sightings and game cameras) and decreased deer population.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Some areas need it and some don't ONF needs it, you see 20-30 does/day.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Need more game cameras to assess doe harvest.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	If you don't take them early enough you may take them after the rut so you might want to have an earlier harvest.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Focus on getting the population ratio more even.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Think it is about right.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Most people vacation Thanksgiving week and they harvest those deer that week (mainly give it to women and youth)		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	I think there is value in seeing deer, even does.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	In our club if we find a wounded doe we take that into account. We think many get injured and don't get accounted for.		

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DeLand	Antlerless harvest	If you did maintain doe level you would have less outlawism. People get frustrated and they start breaking the law, stop hunting.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	We hunt public land mainly, we saw mainly small bucks.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	I think antlerless should be longer, I think there are too many does. Better buck to doe ratio, especially on state lands. It feels like 100 does to 1 buck.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Fewer and fewer opportunities to take does off public land.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Management area doe tags.		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Purchase doe permits on WMAs and private land.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Black powder (muzzle loading) season should be able to harvest does.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Longer season for antlerless harvest on public and private lands.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Antlerless take would help eliminate poachers and illegal harvest.		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Back to doe harvest ratio is low		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Mature doe harvest.		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	More doe tags on specific WMAs willing to sacrifice a buck for a doe.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Public land is lacking proper doe harvest.		2
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Some areas need more harvest. Some areas need less harvest.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Local population based antlerless regulation.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Two a day antlerless harvest during archery is to excessive.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	Earlier harvest for antlerless deer.		
DeLand	Antlerless harvest	If we have antler restrictions, then we should have bag limits.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Leave bag limit alone or increase it.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Bag limit difficult to enforce.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Leave current bag limit alone.		6
DeLand	Bag limits	Get rid of coyotes - bounty.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favors zone bag limit of one/day		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favors bag limit for each type of season - total 5 bucks/year statewide.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favors statewide bag limit with tag season.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Private lands should manage their own deer heard via bag limits.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favor tagging system then set bag limits based on data.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favor season bag limit so we have deer for future generations.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Bag limit per zone with tagging system 1 deer/day		
DeLand	Bag limits	If deer population spikes, increase doe bag limit.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Keep buck bag limit same.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Increase doe bag limit - level out sex ratios.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favor tagging system. Bag limit based on local populations.		
DeLand	Bag limits	5 bucks per year bag limit.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Keep bag limit the same.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favor bag limit of 3/year.		
DeLand	Bag limits	Favor lighter bag limit on Ocala WMA.	Ocala WMA	
DeLand	Bag limits	Education of hunt clubs in regard to taking does (QDM); some clubs do not allow the taking of does		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Add or shift doe days to muzzle loading		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Add more days to antlerless time or increase the bag limits		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Have one doe take per license		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Let the clubs set doe and antlerless limits during archery or doe week		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Concern about # of points on a side and age of deer - negative impacts on deer quality and genetics		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Question as to whether established but times do not coincide with when does are pregnant		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Reduce the herd in this areas by adding to doe days		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Establish a doe season in Citrus County - hunter did not believe doe hunting is allowed in Citrus Co.		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Outlaw killing does in front of dogs		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Antlerless when harvested instead of specific week limit # must be limited		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Increase doe days		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Spread out the doe day hunts maybe 2 days each month		

**Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings**

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Chiefland	Antlerless	Leave Thanksgiving week intact for antlerless		
Chiefland	Antlerless	1 doe tag with each license		
Chiefland	Antlerless	More does should be harvested- extend whole season		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Public land 2 does per season bag during archery make that statewide, not just public		
Chiefland	Antlerless	Spread antlerless over 3 or 4 weekends		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Content with status quo bag limits		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Strongly opposed to any restrictions on numbers of deer killed or tags		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	In favor of 4 or 5 bucks per year Zone C3		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Hunt clubs are more restrictive		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Keep bag limits the same		5
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Coyote control - guy is very concerned about coyote control		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Private lands are more restrictive than state anyway		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Not in favor of buck bag limits		2
Chiefland	Bag Limits	In favor of harvesting more (some does) in Citrus WMA		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Let clubs control bag limits - not FWC on private lands		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	Bag limits are a joke - not in favor of bag limits		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	(Two hunters) in favor of buck bag limit (two per person per season)		
Chiefland	Bag Limits	In favor of a reasonable bag limit - probably 4 bucks per year		
Chiefland	Local Issues	WMAs - no additional deer regulations/restrictions.		
Chiefland	Local Issues	WMAs - don't need more doe days. Enough females kills with legal and illegal harvest already		
Chiefland	Local Issues	WMAs - more LE patrol of WMAs		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Protect young bucks (antler restrictions)		
Chiefland	Local Issues	WMAs - more opportunity, more days		
Chiefland	Local Issues	No changes		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Concern for "fox" hunting with dogs - hurting doe population		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Quit dumping bears - it hurts deer population		
Chiefland	Local Issues	No antler restrictions during dog hunts		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Lots of does - we need to allow antlerless harvest. Big old does, few shooter bucks.		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Add forked antler restriction		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Reduce quota		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Coyotes - people safety issue on WMAs?		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Consider coyote hunting to give incentive for hunting that species.		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Increase LE patrol - enforce closed roads on WMAs		
Chiefland	Local Issues	Expand GG season; other hunts. It's state land, why can't we hunt more?		
Chiefland	Local Issues	No antler restrictions. We can police ourselves on private land.		
Chiefland	Local Issues	More LE patrols of WMAs		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Increase in deer collisions this year 2013, 2014		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Hunter wanted to know if insurance lobbied for increased harvest for deer		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Herbicides used to kill vegetation what is it doing to deer and other animals and humans		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	FWC needs to monitor for carcinogens		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Rut is inconsistent with what hunters are seeing on the ground		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Even though Perry and Chiefland are in the same Zone C3, there are at least 2 ruts if not more		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Some hunters have seen fawns drop practically year round		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	FWC should re-address rut dates, etc.		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Get coyotes and hogs under control - that will be the biggest help to hunters.		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Look into hunting and or sterilization ASAP		
Chiefland	Negative Impacts	Do coyote bounty program kind of like pythons - \$25 per head		
Chiefland	Antler Regs	Depends on type - not for dog hunters		
Chiefland	Antler Regs	Change from APR to does to stop killing spikes (does only)		
Chiefland	Antler Regs	Gulf Hammock Association protected bucks by policing poachers		
Chiefland	Antler Regs	COHA - just fine a lot of bucks		

**Public Comments Recorded at Comment Tables During Public Meetings**

Meeting Location	Topic	Comment	Note if specific location such as a WMA	Number of people making comment
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Some wanted to see larger		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	APRs for still hunts		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Left to landowners		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Regs in place; let clubs decide		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Majority should rule		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Never would shoot less than 8		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Support for APR		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Board of directors at local club; balance between still and dog		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Board of directors at local club; most clubs are forked; would support forked		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	antler rule		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Pres of 10,000 torped since 2000		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	New 3 pt rule		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Saw positive results		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Support for forked antler		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	No 3 pt for OH		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Clubs have forked rule		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Leave it up to private landowner		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Support current		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Outlaw killing does in front of dogs		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Let landowner decide		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Leave them be		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Support for still hunt		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Private landowners in club; AVPs; support APR		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	No change		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	SH; would like forked antler		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Forked antler rule		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	5 acres		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	Would support APR during archery and muzzle loader but not during gun season		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	(maybe forked)		
Chieffland	Antler Regs	I like it like it is		
Chieffland	Population	Wants more deer		
Chieffland	Population	Just about right		
Chieffland	Population	No antler restrictions		
Chieffland	Population	Leave it alone		
Chieffland	Population	Too many does		
Chieffland	Population	Wants doe hunters to be able to take more does		
Chieffland	Population	Too many poachers		
Chieffland	Population	Need to take more does on private land		
Chieffland	Population	Need a few more deer		
Chieffland	Misc	Have an 8 point limit (still hunter) - but dog hunter disagrees		
Chieffland	Misc	Do away with specialized hunt seasons (muzzle-loading and archery)		
Chieffland	Misc	Coyote control		

<b>Written comments from the public meetings</b>			
<b>Status</b>			
1= hunter, 2= farmer, 3= forest land owner, 4= resident			
<b>County</b>		<b>DMU</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Pasco	1,3	C5, B1	Better antler regulations
Hillsborough (dur Ranch is in Pasco County)	1,2,3	B1	Would like to see B1 split into and East half and West half. The majority of the West half seems to have rut in November I already enforce a 3 pt rule on the property I own and the property I lease a total of 1250 acres.
Pinellas	1,3	C5	Need more tags to harvest does Need buck harvest limit (2 to 3/year) If antler restrictions are adopted need to look at spread width not points Since crossbows are now legal in regular archery season would suggest eliminating crossbow season, need a break between archery and black powder
Jefferson	1	C5	Antler restrictions have been working on our lease for many years and has proven to increase buck size and antler size Doe harvest should be modified possibly allowing each hunter to harvest 2 does for each buck harvested - in other words, when a hunter purchases a deer stamp, he or she receives 1 buck tag and 2 doe tags and if the DMU deer population is adequate, the hunter can purchase another 1 buck 2 doe permit Tagging system for deer Limit number of bucks harvested per hunter Opinion: If a hunter is told to send in jawbones at the end of a season, he kills 6 deer, what's to keep him committed to sending in all information?
Leon	1,4	C3, C5	Antlerless deer take opportunities - tag system for the whole season (4 tags)
Jefferson	1,2,3	C5	Antler regulations - 3pts or more per side Bag limits 2-3 bucks per season Buck harvest limits should be reduced to a more reasonable 3 or 4 per year Antler restriction of 3 on one side with a cull buck opportunity Doe tags should be provided with deer permit How many deer does one person need?
Jefferson	1,2,3,4	C5	

Written comments from the public meetings			
Status 1= hunter, 2= farmer, 3= forest land owner, 4= resident			
County		DMU	Comment
Jefferson	1,3,4	C5	Bag limits on bucks is better than antler size restrictions. I live and hunt on my 10 acres and would hate to not be able to harvest a mature buck because I wasn't sure how many points it had on each side.
Madison	1,2,3	C5	Antlerless deer permits should be more than one per 150 acres in this more productive area of the state. Perhaps one per 75 or 100 acres Rather than imposing antler point restrictions for individual deer limit the number of bucks any one hunter can harvest As a landowner/hunter in both C3 and C5 I feel this meeting was very productive C5 - My property of 320 acres in North Jefferson County is mostly wooded. The current regulations and population for this property is adequate C3 - My property of 640 acres has way too many does on it. It is common to see as many as 30 does per half day hunt. I applied for 12 doe permits and was only awarded 4. Those were filled and 3 more during the doe days but even with 7 taken, we continue to have issues growing any feed crops with does mowing it down before it hardly gets 2" tall. We need to thin the deer herd, but we want to do it in a healthy way.
Jefferson	1,3	C3, C5	C3 Forked horn rule only on private and management areas, open up management area along Aucilla River back to dog hunting on East side of river and on lower section on West side of river C5 - Leave bag limit as is should be up to property owner if they want restrictions Coyotes are a big reason we have less deer. Also dogs running the does while they are with young before and after birth. I believe more law enforcement would help. I have not seen a WFC officer in the woods for 15 years. Kill the coyotes, stop the dogs in early spring, put the FWC back in the woods.
Dixie	1	C3	
Polk	1,3,4	C1,B1	
Hernando	1	B1	
Polk	1	C1,C2	Something needs to be done to assure long range population sustainability for future generations
Polk	1	B1	

<b>Written comments from the public meetings</b>			
<b>Status</b>			
	1= hunter,		
	2= farmer,		
	3= forest		
	land		
	owner, 4=		
	resident		
<b>County</b>		<b>DMU</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Polk	4	B1	Alternate dog hunting areas in Richloam WMA we must increase law enforcement in the Richloam area
Volusia	1,2,4	C4	
Volusia	1	C4	Allowed to take does again at least during archery season in Lake Delancy area of Ocala National Forest.
Volusia	1	C4	Hunt club president 52,000 acres. The Miami Tract Hunt Club (located in Volusia County 42,000 acres and Brevard County 10,000 acres) went to 3 point on one side in 2004, since then the harvesting quality bucks went up tremendously and reached a 65% rate of harvesting a quality buck during the 2011-2012 season.
Volusia	1,4	C4	Bag limits - Decrease bag limits so more hunters have opportunities to harvest animals. Law enforcement on WMAs - Provide more law enforcement on WMAs so that the population can be tracked more efficiently and current laws can be better enforced.
Brevard	1,4	C4	
Brevard	1	C2,C4	I support some type of tag and report system, antler restrictions to assist deer maturity, and exploring predator issues.
Volusia	1,4	C4	Bag limits should stay the same. No antler restrictions. Seasons on WMAs should match private land. Antlerless deer week on public land. Population seems good on WMAs in C4 area. Hunt a lot of different public land in the area. I always see good numbers of does throughout. We don't need more WMA's that have quotas that limit the areas to access. Open up public land to coyote season out of regular deer season. Coyotes are hurting deer population drastically. Need incentive to hunt on public land all year.
Volusia	1,2,3	C4	More doe days like Georgia.
Volusia	1,3,4	C4	Make all hunting areas with the same rules, it gets confusing. Also need to make it easier for handicapped. New to putting in food plots in management areas.
Volusia	1	C4	

Written comments from the public meetings			
Status			
	1= hunter,		
	2= farmer,		
	3= forest		
	land		
	owner, 4=		
County	resident	DMU	Comment
Volusia	1	C4	Have concerns about the liberal issuance of doe tags. It is better to kill more does? Why? If food sources are better preserved by less deer, (does) why not shoot spikes. What makes better biological sense? Like all hunters I would like to see more big bucks. Possibly issue doe tags to kids not yet graduated from high school. Grants for private clubs to grow food plots. Bounty on coyotes (how about one)
Volusia	1	C4	Antlerless deer should be based on a per tag basis not a 1 week time slot. The revenue to put food plots in would be generated by selling the tags up to maybe 2 tags per person at \$30 each or whatever the number of doe vs. number of hunters.
Brevard	1	C1,C2	Would support a 3 on one side antler restriction and a reduction of doe harvest to 1 per day during bow season.
Nassau	1,4	C6	Antlerless deer populations. 1) Too many does -bucks do not have to move during rut. 2) Increased probability of in breed-genetic defect possibilities increased in bucks and does - overall reduction in quality of deer. 3) Larger numbers of does being killed in traffic accidents not hunting. Have antlerless deer season also in crossbow week, as well as bow season and also during black powder.
Columbia	1	C6	Based on the data presented there is no huge outcry for change. People who lease land can already choose to manage it how they see fit. What we're doing works!
Nassau	1	C6	Less doe hunting during archery and gun. 3 points on a side antler regs. 3 buck bag limit. Less quota hunts : i.e. more hunting on WMAs.
Indian River	1	C2	I think the population has decreased over the last 8 years I've hunted Three Lakes Canoe Creek and Prairie Lakes units. I would support antler restrictions to try and increase the herd population.
Osceola	1,3,4	C2	Population is good would like to see stable to increasing densities. More protection of young age class bucks would help improve age structure, adult sex ratios and reduce the length of the breeding season. A bag limit on bucks of no more than 3 would be good. 2 would be better! Spreading out the antlerless harvest opportunity would be good for youth hunter recruitment.

## Appendix 6: Agendas for Technical Assistance Group Meetings

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### Deer Management in DMU (insert DMU)

#### Technical Assistance Group Agenda: 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

Date

Address

Presented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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- 10:00 Welcome and introductions
- 10:15 Introduction to the Technical Assistance Group (TAG) – Purposes and outcomes, procedures and ground-rules, overview of agenda
- 10:25 Introduction to the summary report format that will result from the work of the TAG
- 10:35 Brief review of public survey results
- 10:45 Review of public meeting results and comments
- 11:15 Discussion of survey results, public meeting results, and online comments  
Discuss topics/ issues that need to be considered by the TAG in order to develop goals and objectives for deer management.
- 12:00 Lunch (Provided)- possibly working lunch if needed
- 12:30 Open discussion to develop goals
- 1:30 Break
- 1:45 Continue Open Discussion
- 2:45 Closing remarks
- 3:00 Adjourn

Homework: Participants will receive a compiled list of the draft goals to read and reflect upon prior to the next meeting where the focus will be on developing objectives to achieve each goal. TAG members are encouraged to continue their discussions with each other prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Meetings are facilitated and coordinated by Normandeau Associates of Gainesville, FL



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## Deer Management in DMU \_\_\_\_

### Technical Assistance Group Agenda: 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

**Date**

**Location**

Presented by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



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- 10:00 Welcome and re-introductions
  - 10:10 Summary of the first meeting
  - 10:20 Purposes and desired outcomes for meeting 2, overview of agenda
  - 10:30 Further develop and clarify goals  
Group discussion with clarification as needed by FWC staff
  - 11:15 Develop objectives  
Breakout Groups work on objectives to accomplish goals
  - 12:00 Lunch
  - 12:30 Open discussion of the objectives
  - 1:30 Break
  - 1:45 Continue objectives discussion
  - 2:45 Closing remarks
  - 3:00 Adjourn

**Homework:** You will receive a compiled list of the goals and objectives/strategies to review prior to a conference call for final discussion.

Meetings are coordinated by Normandeau Associates of Gainesville, Florida

