

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report No. 2134
June 19, 1957

Summary of Deer Population Estimates from Pellet Group Counts

This report is a summary of the available information on deer populations based on pellet group counts. Details on methods, computations, and statistical analysis are given in Report 2133 and in the Game Division files.

Peninsula-wide estimates for the last two years are:

	<u>Northern Lower Peninsula</u>	<u>Upper Peninsula</u>
Spring, 1956	336,000	"
Spring, 1957	259,000	345,000

These figures have been adjusted for deer removed during the hunting seasons and for over-winter losses (based on 1956 dead deer surveys).

Comparisons with estimates for earlier years are hampered by two factors:

- (1) Starting in 1956 a sample of the survey plots were rechecked to compensate for errors in the first count. This often results in increasing the population estimates.
- (2) We do not have reliable estimates of deer herd losses prior to the first large scale dead deer survey in the spring of 1955.

Most of the estimates given on the maps on the back of this report have been adjusted for legal hunting removal only to facilitate comparisons between years. However, results of the rechecks have been applied to the 1956 and 1957 data. Confidence limits (two standard errors) are shown in parenthesis after each estimate.

Identity of some of the sub-areas on the map is as follows:

Mio and Tawas Ranger Districts - Ranger Districts of the Huron National Forest.

Houghton Lake Area - Houghton Lake State Forest and selected nearby areas.

Area 6-7-8 - Special season (1956) areas 6, 7, and 8. These areas include most of the Huron National Forest and additional area in Roscommon, Ogemaw, and Crawford counties.

Area 2 - Special season (1956) area. Includes much of Manistee National Forest. Most of Lake County is included in this area, but a separate estimate is also given for Lake County to facilitate comparisons with earlier years.

Subdivisions of the Upper Peninsula:

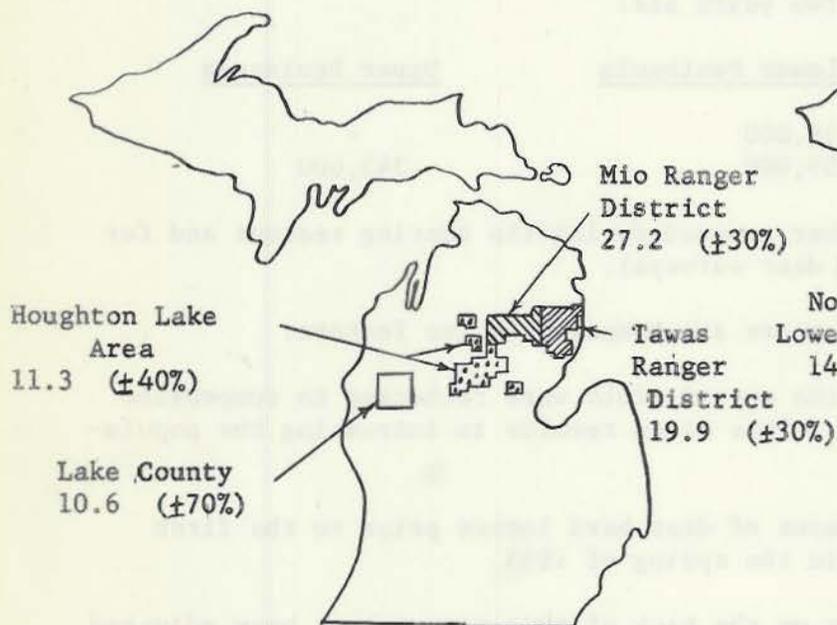
"East" - East of Highway 41 between Rapid River and Marquette.

"West" - West of Highways 141 and 41 between Florence (Wisconsin) and L'Anse.

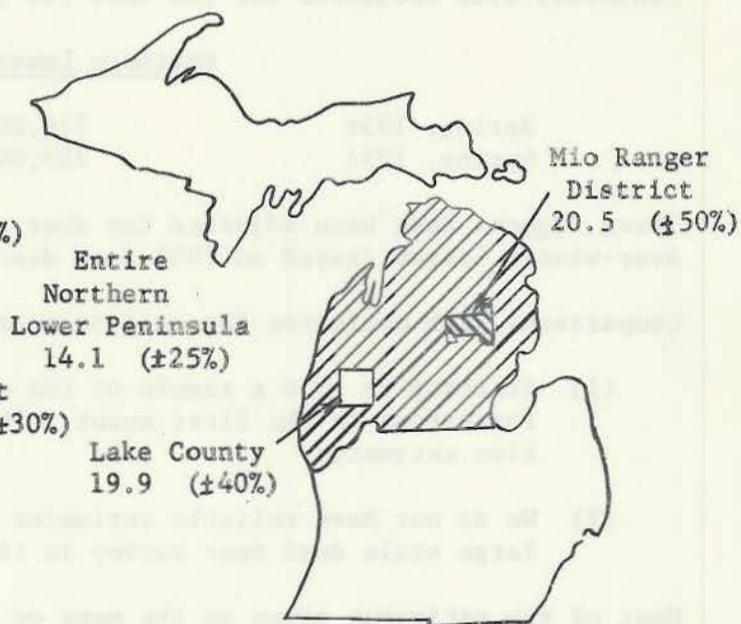
"Central" - Between the above two units.

AVAILABLE DEER POPULATION ESTIMATES -- PELLET GROUP COUNTS
(Expressed as deer per square mile)

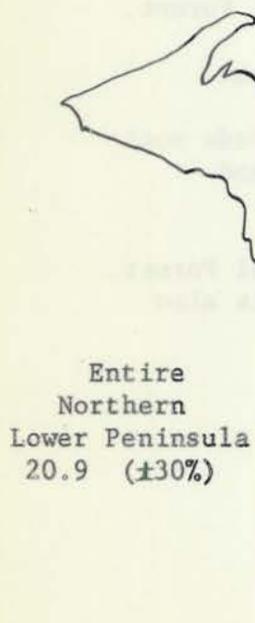
SPRING 1953



SPRING 1954



SPRING 1956



SPRING 1957

