

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division
Rifle River Area Deer Season 1959

Report No. 2259
December 7, 1959

Thirty-six bucks with antlers 3 inches or more in length were taken in 2,209 hunter days during the 1959 gun season. In addition there were 35 does, 9 buck fawns, one 1½-year old buck with 1" antlers, and 9 doe fawns taken by holders of special permits. The total legal kill of deer was 90. Hunters who used the area came from 32 counties. Out-of-state hunters came from Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. It required an average of 118.4 hours of hunting effort per deer taken. This represents the second highest take of deer from the area in the 15 years the station has been in operation.

In the archery season 4 deer were taken in 638 hunter days.

Fourteen deer were left unclaimed on the area during the gun season. All but 3 were examined. The 3 were removed from the area by unknown persons before the carcasses could be located. It is reasonably certain that the deer had been there. The site of the kills were located and the entrails found. Two of these deer were taken off the area illegally. The other one probably was tagged by a hunter and taken off legally. Seven deer were salvaged and turned over to the conservation officer.

Forty-six per cent of the total adult buck kill was in the 1½-year age group. The oldest buck taken was 4½-years old. During the gun season the harvest of bucks (3 inch antlers or better) was at the rate of 6 deer per square mile. If deer taken with special permits are also included the harvest was at the rate of 15 deer per square mile. This was the second highest total kill in the 15 years records have been kept at the checking station. The heaviest deer taken was a 145 pound buck. The smallest deer was a 33 pound doe fawn.

The entire gun season was characterized by more cold weather and more snow than has been the case during previous years. There was snow on the ground all during the season, varying in depth from 3 inches up to about 6 inches. This made tracking conditions excellent and may have accounted for a larger deer kill because deer could be located more easily after they were down. It was definitely easier to locate unclaimed deer on the area this year. The first half of the season was much colder than the respective period in 1958. On opening day a -4° was recorded. This cold weather and snow did not cut down on the number of permits issued.

The deer were lighter in weight this year. Adult bucks averaged 5 pounds lighter and adult does 2 pounds lighter than in 1958.

Hunting pressure stayed about the same.

The following tables provide a statistical record:

Table I	Deer Hunting Record by Years
II	Age of Deer Killed
III	Daily Record of Hunting Season
IV	County of Residence of Hunters
V	Data on Each Deer Taken
VI	Deer Hunting Record Archery Season
VII	Deer Killed and Left Unclaimed
VIII	Number of Permittees by Hours Hunted
IX	Comparison of Number of Special Permit Holders to Total Number of Hunters Using Area Daily

TABLE
DEER HUNTING RECORD BY YEARS
RIFLE RIVER AREA
1959

Years	K I L L				Hunter days	Hours hunted	Bucks seen	Other deer seen	Hours hunted per deer killed	Average Weight of Deer Killed				Illegal kill
	B u c k s		D o e s							B u c k s		D o e s		
	Adults	Fawns	Adults	Fawns						Adults	Fawns	Adults	Fawns	
1945	54	-	-	-	1,923	9,346	364	4,363	173	128	-	-	-	16
1946	51	-	-	-	2,159	10,262	256	4,947	201	121	-	-	-	9
1947	48	-	-	-	1,921	8,806	238	5,489	184	115	-	-	-	8
1948	32	-	-	-	1,784	7,915	169	3,861	247	112	-	-	-	-
1949	36	-	-	-	1,535	6,985	228	4,405	194	107	-	-	-	8
1950	40	-	-	-	1,519	7,098	187	4,893	177	109	-	-	-	8
1951	22	-	-	-	1,226	5,020	131	3,426	228	105	-	-	-	12
1952	28	8 ⁽¹⁾	30	10	1,527	6,127	102	2,801	81	110 ⁽³⁾	56 ⁽²⁾	105	55	2
1953	66	23	35	17	4,445	21,879	347	9,797	155	109.5	51.4	90.6	47.6	38
1954	37	9	19	8	2,708	12,539	155	4,753	171.7	111.1	49.6	86.5	51.8	9
1955	27	(4)	(4)	(4)	2,001	8,955	152	3,512	331.6	107.0	-	-	-	10
1956	38	4	13	7	2,350	10,371	(5)	5,008	167	101.4	50.2	89.3	41.7	10
1957	26	5	6	1	1,845	8,403	(5)	3,388	221	105.5	54.4	94.8	68	13
1958	38	4	8	8	2,265	10,354	254	5,157	178.5	110.5	53.5	92.8	48.1	11 ⁽⁶⁾
1959	36	10 ⁽⁷⁾	35	9	2,209	10,658	192	4,022	118.4	105.5	51.3 ⁽⁸⁾	90.5	48	14
15 Yr. Average	38.6	9	20.9	8.6	2,094	9,648	213.4	4,655	170.6	107.7	51.9	93.2	49.2	11.2

(1) Two of these were adult bucks with less than 3" spikes.

(2) Weight of 2 bucks with less than 3" spikes not included in average. They averaged 83 pounds.

(3) Two adult bucks with less than 3" spikes killed December 1 included in this total.

(4) There was no special any-deer season in 1955.

(5) No record kept.

(6) Two other deer reported, but not located by Department personnel.

(7) One buck with 1" antlers taken on a special permit included in this total.

(8) One buck with 1" antlers taken on special permit not included in this weight because it was 1½-year old.

TABLE II
AGE OF DEER KILLED
RIFLE RIVER AREA
1959

Year	6 Months				1½ Years				2½ Years				3½ to 4½ Years				5½ Years and over			
	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(1) 1945					28	57			10	21			9	18			2	4		
1946					29	56			12	24			8	16			2	4		
1947					30	63			14	29			4	8						
1948					19	59			12	38			1	3						
1949					33	91			2	6			1	3						
1950					24	60			13	33			3	7						
(2) 1951					16	80			2	10			2	10						
1952	6	8	10	13	(3) 19	25	4	5	8	11	12	16	3	4	11	14			3	4
1953	23	16	17	12	47	33	10	7	12	9	4	3	7	5	9	6			12	9
1954	9	13	8	11	25	35	2	3	10	14	4	5	2	3	4	5			8	11
1955					10	37			14	52			3	11						
1956	4	6.5	7	11	23	37.1	4	6.5	10	16.1	1	1.6	5	8.1	5	8.1			3	5
1957	5	13	1	3	19	50	1	3	4	10			3	8	2	5			3	8
(4) 1958	4	7	8	13.9	22	38	2	3.4	10	17.2	1	1.7	6	10.3	3	5.1			2	3.4
1959	10	11.1	9	10	17	18.9	5	5.6	8	8.9	7	7.8	11	12.2	15	16.6			8	8.9

(1) No measurements available for 5 bucks killed in 1945.

(2) No measurements available for 2 bucks killed in 1951.

(3) Included 2 bucks killed during any-deer season with spikes less than 3" long.

(4) Illegal kill included 2 bucks with 2" spikes - both 1½-year olds. These two deer are not included in above total, but appear under illegal kill figures.

NOTE: Age of bucks determined by antler measurements from 1945 through 1950.

Age of deer determined by tooth development from 1951 through 1959.

One adult doe does not appear in the above figures for 1954 - jaw was shot away, making aging impossible.

TABLE III
DAILY RECORD OF HUNTING SEASON
RIFLE RIVER AREA - 1959

Date Nov.	Hunter days	Hours hunted	Deer Killed					(2) Other deer seen	* Total wgt. deer	Temperature		Weather conditions Remarks
			Bucks	Does	Fawns	Illeg	Total			Max.	Min.	
15	496	3,075	18	7	9	5	39	1,756	3,105	32	- 4	No wind, visibility good. 5" snow on ground
16	432	2,205	7	4	2	3	16	885	1,152	No record		Cloudy, quiet. Light mist at times.
17	230	909	2	7	0	1	10	297	875	34	3	Clear, visibility good, windy. 6" snowfall. Snow with crust. Temp. 8 a.m. 10°
18	79	304	2	3	0	2	7	69	453	25	6	Light wind. Trace of snow. Temp. 8 a.m. 10°
19	106	530	3	3	1	1	8	116	607	32	20	Light snow flurries, light wind, visibility good. Snow depth 3". Temp. 8 a.m. 25°
20	77	392	0	0	1	1	2	147	46	32	6	Cloudy, quiet. Trace of snow. Temp. 9 a.m. 15°
21	165	677	0	0	2	0	2	152	105	35	27	Light snow until 8 a.m. Fog until noon, poor visibility in a.m. 3.7" new snow. Snow depth 5". Temp. 6:30 a.m. 30°
22	146	693	0	4	1(1)	0	5	239	420	41	22	Visibility good, sunny, no wind.
23	22	48	1	0	0	0	1	1	103	42	29	Visibility poor. Fog and rain (0.22"). Snow depth 2". Temp. at 8 a.m. 33°.
24	17	64	1	0	0	0	1	40	76	38	32	Snowed all day. 4.9" fell. Snow depth on ground 6". Temp. at 8:30 a.m. 32°
25	17	94	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	32	20	Partly cloudy, windy in a.m. Clear in p.m. 6" snow on ground. Temp. 9 a.m. 22°
26	44	177	0	0	0	0	0	93	0	30	3	Cloudy, visibility good, light snow in p.m. 6" snow on ground. Temp. 8 a.m. 12°
27	82	332	1	3	0	0	4	129	380	31	13	Visibility good, cloudy. 6" snow on ground.
28	161	708	1	3	1	1	6	165	416	31	1	Visibility good. No wind. 6" snow on ground.
29	116	398	0	1	2	0	3	208	203	28	7	Clear, windy in late p.m. 5" snow on ground
30	19	52	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	32	22	Cloudy, clear. No wind. 5" snow on ground.
TOTAL	2,209	10,658	36	35	19	14	104	4,349	7,941			

*Does not include weights of illegal deer.

(1) 1½-year old buck with short horns taken legally on a special permit.

(2) This column includes bucks, does, and fawns.

TABLE IV

Deer Season 1959
Rifle River Area

County of Residence of Hunters

	Nov. 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total
Arenac		1												1			2
Bay	9	11	20	3	2	2	8	5	3	1			5	14	14	1	98
Berrien	1																1
Calhoun	6	2		3			3	3									17
Clinton	2	2						1						1	2		8
Eaton	1												2	1			4
Genesee	101	80	56	24	27	12	32	21		3	3	2	8	23	27		419
Gratiot	6	4	5										2	2			19
Hillsdale							2		1	1							4
Huron	7	9	8	1	2									1			28
Ingham	7	4	3	2	2	2		3	2	1		2	3	2	4		37
Ionia	9	7			2	4		1									23
Iosco												1		1			2
Jackson	2	1					1	1	1								6
Kalamazoo														2	2		4
Kent					1								4				5
Lapeer	6	8	2	1	3	1			2								23
Lenawee	7	6	3		3			3						4	6		32
Livingston	3	2	1		1	1	2	2			2	1					15
Macomb	35	22	8	3	4	5	11	8	7	3	4	7	7	7	7	2	140
Mi and	3													3			6
Monroe	2	3			4								2	1	1		13
Oakland	69	49	25	11	15	10	27	19				7	18	26	9		285
Ogemaw	14	14	3	3	5	1	5	4	1	5		1	4	4	5	11	80
Ottawa	4	4	4														12
Saginaw	60	60	17	11	17	16	21	21	2	1		1	3	12	11	2	255
Sanilac	6	6															12
Shiawassee	9	5	6			2		1	1		1	5		2	1		33
St. Clair	6	6	9	1	3								2	1	2		30
Tuscola	12	12	6			2	6	7			2	2	2	5	3		59
Washtenaw	4	7	3		1		1				3	3	4	2			28
Wayne	102	101	44	15	13	19	45	46	2	2	2	12	15	46	22	3	489
TOTAL (Res.)	493	426	223	78	105	77	164	146	22	17	17	44	81	161	116	19	2,189
Indiana																	0
Ohio	1		2				1										4
Illinois	1	1	1		1												4
Pennsylvania	1	1	1	1													4
County not listed on permit		4	3										1				8
GRAND TOTAL	496	432	230	79	106	77	165	146	22	17	17	44	82	161	116	19	2,209

TABLE V
DATA ON EACH DEER TAKEN
RIFLE RIVER - 1959

Date	Age	Sex	A N T L E R S					Weight hog dressed	Remarks
			Beam Dia. mm.		No. of Pts.	Ave. Length spikes (in.)			
			L	R		L	R		
Nov. 15	3½	M	16	17	3			111	
15	4½	M	23	23	8			115	
15	1½+	M	17	17	2	6	4½	115	
15	7½+	F						116	
15	1½-	M	19	17	3			100	
15	3½	M	23	23	3			125	
15	1½-	M	16	16	2	6	5	105	
15	3½	M	20	18	6			100	
15	6 Mo.	F						63	
15	2½	F						83	
15	6 Mo.	F						44	
15	1½+	M	17	17	2			102	
15	6 Mo.	M						49	
15	1½+	M	16		1			75	
15	3½	M	27	26	8			145	
15	6 Mo.	F						55	
15	5½	F						102	
15	4½	F						87	
15	6 Mo.	F						47	
15	3½	M	18		2			91	Both antlers in velvet. 1 Spike shot off
15	3½	M	21	21	4			116	
15	2½	M	20	19	3			112	
15	2½	M	18	19	3			118	
15	3½	F						107	
15	1½+	F						92	
15	1½-	M	16	18	2	6	6	100	
15	2½	M	21	22	8			134	
15	1½-	M	18	17	2	6	7	98	
15	6 Mo.	F						45	
15	5 Mo.	M						49	
15	1½+	M	18	17	4			118	
15	6 Mo.	F						42	
15	5 Mo.	F						55	
15	2½	F						89	
16	2½	M	19	19	4			115	
16	1½+	M	15	16	2	5	4½	98	
16	1½-	M	14	13	2	3	3	79	
16	2½	M	21	21	6			108	
16	2½	F						89	
16	6 Mo.	M						56	
16	5½	F						89	
16	4½	M	22	22	7			122	
16	1½-	F						70	
16	1½+	M	13	14	2	4	4½	95	
16	1½-	F						92	
16	1½-	M	20	19	4			92	
16	5 Mo.	M						47	

DATA ON EACH DEER TAKEN
RIFLE RIVER 1959

Date	Age	Sex	A N T L E R S					Weight hog dressed	Remarks
			Beam Dia. mm.		No. of Pts.	Ave. Length spikes (in)			
			L	R		L	R		
Nov. 17	2½	M	21	23	6			111	
17	4½	F						110	
17	5½	F						89	
17	2½	F						91	
17	4½	F						99	
17	2½	F						80	
17	4½	F						90	
17	3½	F						95	
17	3½	M	21	22	8			110	
18	2½	M	20	20	2	4½	4½	104	
18	4½+	F						85	
18	3½	F						103	
18	2½	F						85	
18	1½-	M	15	15	2	3½	5	76	
19	7½+	F						68	
19	7½+	F						81	
19	1½+	M	15	14½	2	7	5 3/4	90	
19	6 Mo.	M						54	
19	1½+	M	19	20	3			95	
19	3½	F						86	
19	2½	M	23	22	7			133	
20	6 Mo.	M						46	
21	6 Mo.	F						48	
21	5 Mo.	M						57	
22	1½-	M				1" antlers		80	Short horns
22	4½	F						84	
22	1½+	F						82	
22	1½-	F						75	
22	3½	F						99	
23	3½	M	24	23	6			103	
24	1½+	M	14	12½		4½	3½	76	
27	3½	F						87	
27	7½+	F						79	
27	4½	M	30	32	6			111	
27	3½	F						103	
28	5½	F						83½	
28	6 Mo.	M						49½	
28	3½	F						87	
28	3½	F						96	
28	1½+	M	19	18	2	4½	4½	100	
29	5 Mo.	F						33	
29	2½	F						116	
29	6 Mo.	M						54	

TABLE VI
DEER HUNTING RECORD
ARCHERY SEASON
RIFLE RIVER-1959

Date	Number of bow hunters	Number of bow hours	Deer killed	Age	Weight
Oct. 1	18	94.5			
2	36	218.5			
3	100	441.5			
4	89	356			
5	12	36.5			
6	9	61.5	1 Doe	6 Mo.	48
7	6	29			
8	9	38.5			
9	6	14.5			
10	39	204.5			
11	39	141			
12	7	35			
13	10	58			
14	14	72			
15	8	46			
16	12	69.5			
17	30	101.5			
18	29	105			
19	8	42			
20	5	29			
21	8	35.5	1 Doe	3½	96
22	12	68	1 Doe	2½	110
23	9	39			
24	27	120.5			
25	27	85			
26	7	27.5			
27	5	25.5			
28	7	43			
29	6	26	1 Fawn-buck	6 Mo.	45
30	5	14			
31	15	59			
Nov. 1	13	70.5			
2	5	8.5			
3	2	9			
4	1	2			
5	3	11			
TOTAL	638	2,838			

TABLE VII
DEER KILLED AND LEFT UNCLAIMED
GUN SEASON
RIFLE RIVER - 1959

Date	Age if known	DEER LOCATED				
		Adult		Fawn		Sex
		Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Unknown
Nov. 15	2½		1			
15	2½		1			
15	5 Mo.				1	
15	1½*	1				
15	6 Mo.				1	
16				1*		
16						1*
17				1*		
18					1	
18	2½		1			
19	5 Mo.				1	
20	4½		1			
28	5 Mo.			1		
TOTAL		1	5	3	4	1

*No ages available because these deer were removed by unknown persons before we were able to locate them.

LCR:vm

TABLE VIII
NUMBER OF PERMITTEES BY HOURS HUNTED*
RIFLE RIVER AREA
1959

Date	LENGTH OF HUNT - HOURS																				Total permits issued
	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	$2\frac{1}{2}$	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$	6	$6\frac{1}{2}$	7	$7\frac{1}{2}$	8	$8\frac{1}{2}$	9	$9\frac{1}{2}$	10	
Nov 15	-	11	12	35	13	38	13	33	22	40	2	39	12	29	1	71	8	23	4	90	496
16	1	13	17	33	21	68	23	39	8	21	11	29	10	22	8	26	7	44	-	31	432
17	4	15	6	44	16	36	5	24	3	26	5	4	2	13	1	8	-	17	-	1	230
18	-	9	-	12	8	4	2	10	1	14	5	3	-	3	2	-	-	6	-	-	79
19	-	3	4	11	3	16	5	8	7	15	-	3	-	3	1	4	3	15	1	4	106
20	-	4	1	5	6	4	-	10	4	14	-	5	-	-	-	16	-	2	-	6	77
21	-	6	5	35	5	25	5	24	4	16	1	11	-	9	-	8	-	11	-	-	165
22	2	3	8	18	6	14	10	18	4	17	3	10	-	19	-	7	-	4	-	3	146
23	-	11	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	22
24	1	1	-	4	-	1	-	4	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	17
25	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	17
26	-	1	1	17	1	9	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	3	-	2	-	2	-	3	44
27	-	14	2	14	3	4	-	8	2	10	5	7	-	2	-	3	-	8	-	-	82
28	3	5	-	18	9	34	6	23	7	8	-	12	-	17	-	4	-	15	-	-	161
29	-	12	7	18	4	23	8	13	6	9	1	8	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	116
30	-	2	3	2	-	8	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
TOTAL	11	110	68	271	95	287	77	228	69	195	33	133	26	120	18	151	18	156	5	138	2,209

*This table is designed to show a breakdown of the hours hunted by each permittee, e.g. on November 15 eleven hunters hunted 1 hour each, 12 hunters hunted $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours each, 35 hunters hunted 2 hours each, etc.

TABLE IX

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF SPECIAL PERMIT HOLDERS TO TOTAL NUMBER OF HUNTERS USING AREA DAILY
RIFLE RIVER - 1959

Date	Number of hunters with special permits	Total hunter days	Per cent of hunters with special permits	Per cent of hunters with special permits who were successful
Nov. 15	32	496	6.0	50.0
16	25	432	5.8	24.0
17	29	230	12.6	24.1
18	16	79	20.0	18.8
19	13	106	12.0	30.7
20	11	77	14.0	9.0
21	19	165	11.0	10.5
22	15	146	10.0	33.3
23	3	22	13.6	-
24	2	17	11.7	-
25	1	17	5.9	-
26	4	44	9.0	-
27	9	82	10.9	33.3
28	21	161	13.0	19.4
29	11	116	9.0	27.2
30	0	19	-	-
TOTALS	211	2,209	-	-

