



Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Objective Review



What is an objective?

- **The herd unit objective is a population goal we manage towards. It is based on the species carrying capacity, along with landowner and sportsmen's input.**
- **One major factor in season structure proposals is based on where the population is in relation to the objective.**
- **Changes in the objective could mean increasing hunter opportunity to decrease the population or limiting hunter opportunity to increase the population.**
- **Objectives need to be biologically achievable within 5 years**

Alternative Objective Strategies

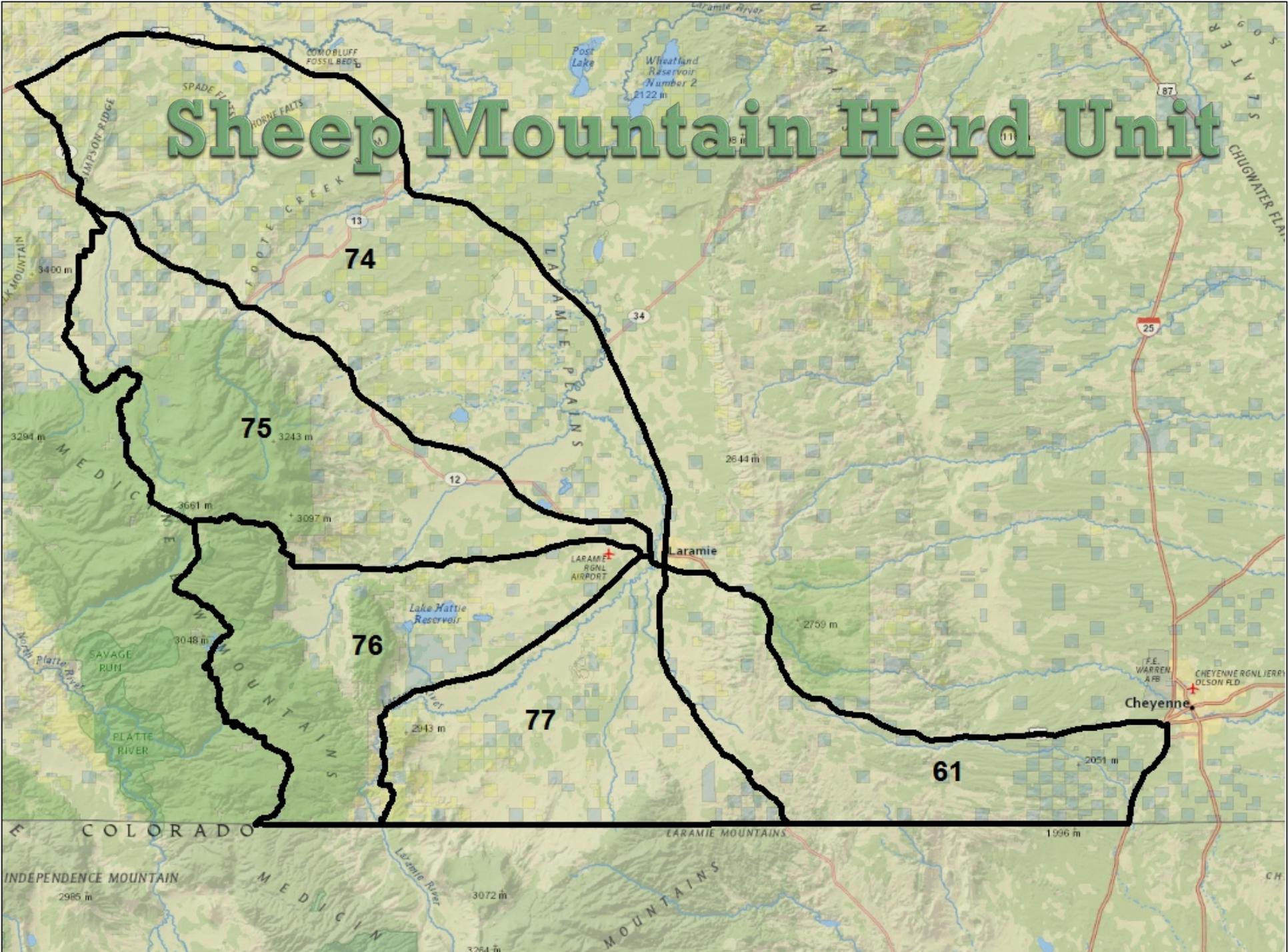
1. **Post season population objective with a herd estimate using spreadsheet models or density estimates (e.g. sightability study)-Preferred Method, Objective $\pm 20\%$**
2. **Mid-winter population objective with a herd estimate based on trend counts using key winter ranges as an index.**
3. **Landowner/sportsmen satisfaction objectives- e.g. Elk Area 3 and Pronghorn Area 111**

Secondary Objective

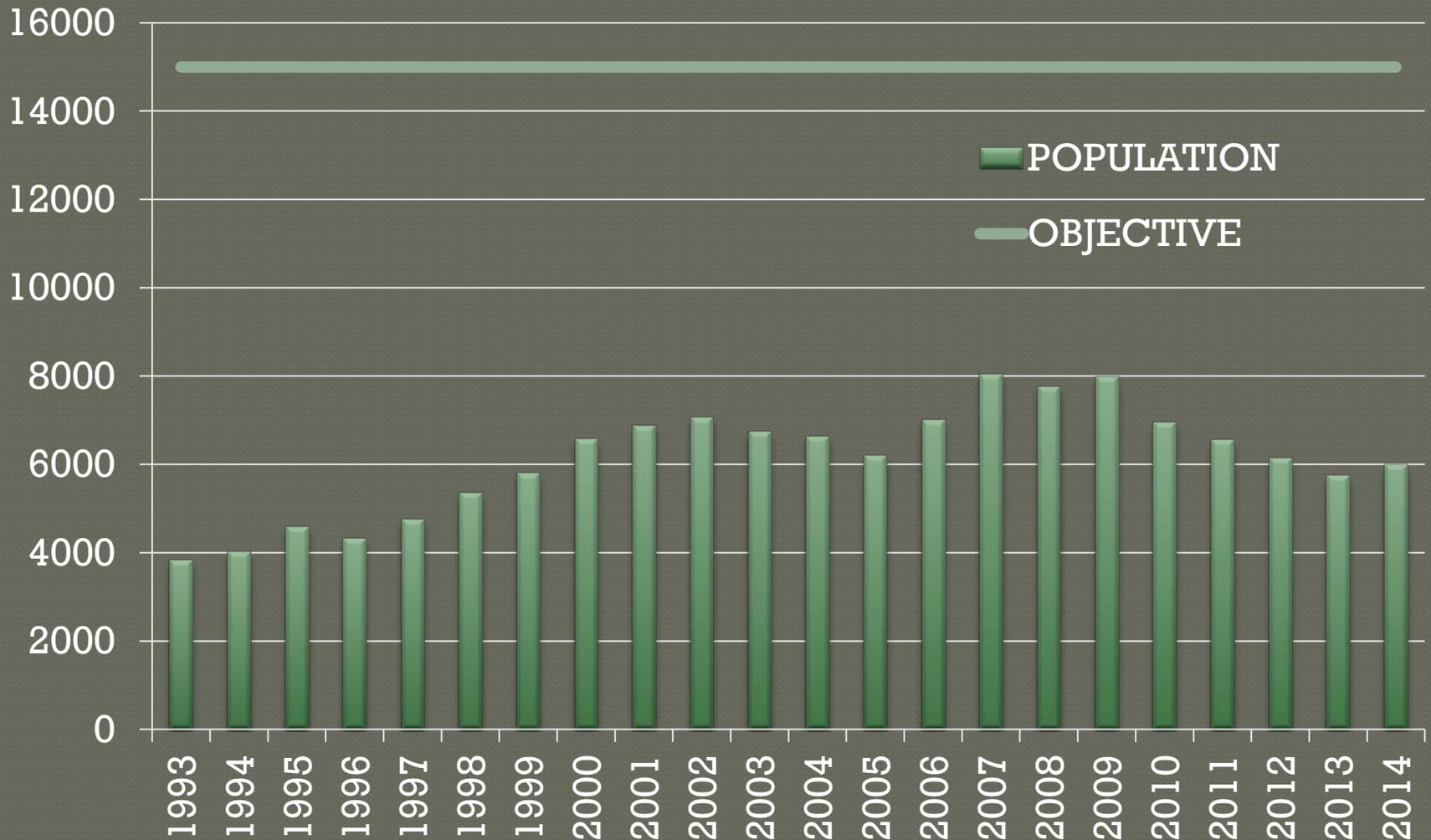
These would be in conjunction with one of the 3 alternatives

- 1) Habitat indices- include utilization standards- (hard to measure grass use in areas where wildlife and livestock mingle)**
- 2) Male “quality”- include buck:doe ratios, antler class data from harvest field checks or age class data from harvest field checks- (depends on the quality of data collected)**
- 3) Harvest Statistics- Hunter Success, Effort target ranges**

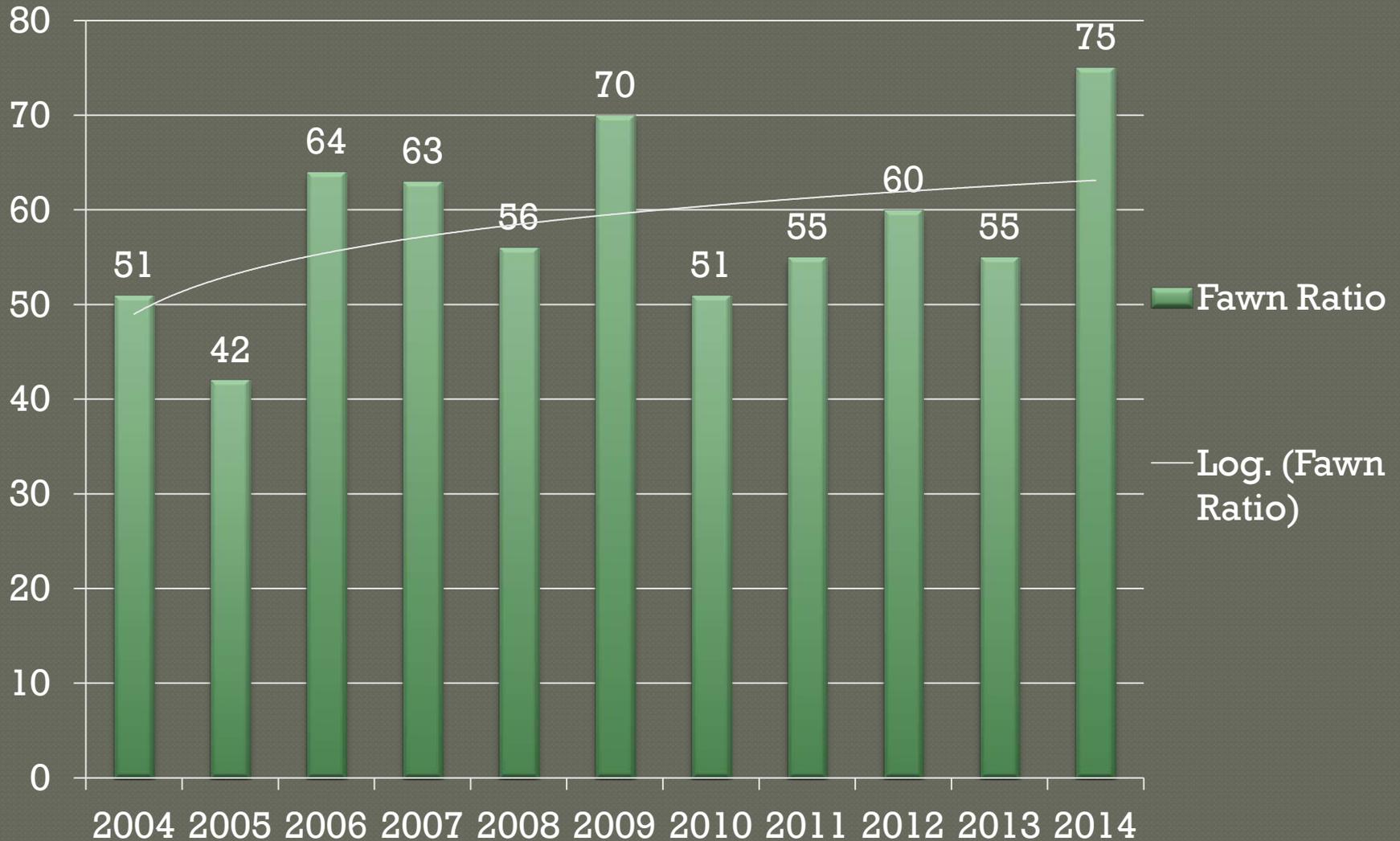
Sheep Mountain Herd Unit



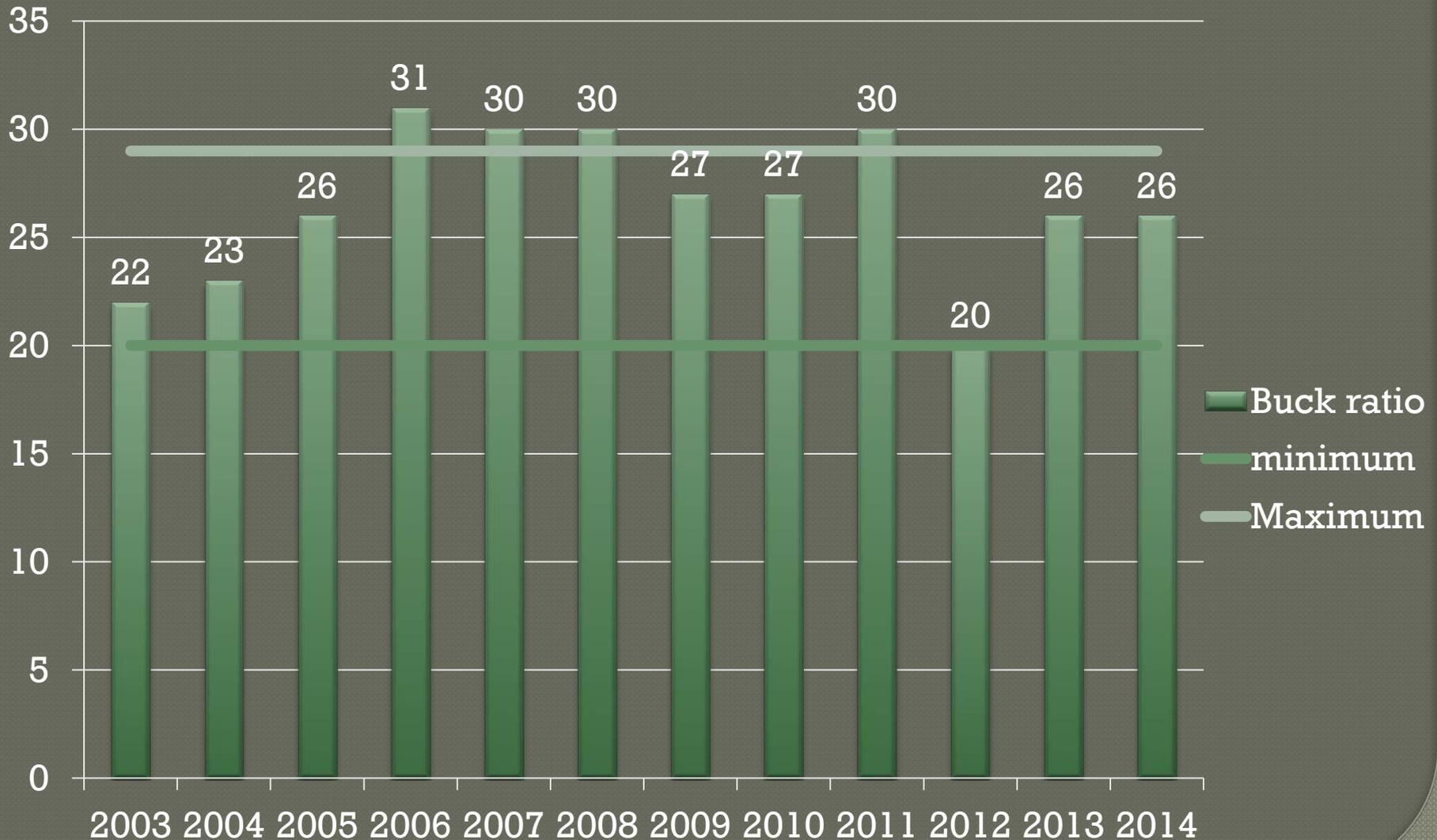
The current population objective for Sheep Mountain Mule Deer is (15,000) 12,000 – 18,000. We estimate the current population to be 6,000.



Fawns Per 100 Does In The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit (2004-2014)



Bucks per 100 Does In The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit (2003-2014)



Buck quality

2013

Class I- 69%

Class II- 22%

Class III- 9%

2014

Class I – 71%

Class II – 18%

Class III– 11%

Class I – outside main-frame maximum spread \leq 19 inches

Class II – outside main-frame maximum spread between 20 – 25 inches

Class III – outside main-frame maximum spread \geq 26 inches

Any Questions?





