

**Representative Policy Board
Consumer Affairs Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

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Phone Conference ID: 931 960 189#

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Monday, February 27, 2023 at 5:30 pm

1. Safety Moment
2. Public Comment: Residents and customers may address the CAC Committee regarding agenda items or other issues. Discussion is limited to the presentation of information for consideration and comment on agenda items.
3. Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2023 meeting
4. Deer Hunt Update: N. Smith
5. Discussion regarding OCA rate
6. Report of OCA – J. Donofrio
7. Approval of OCA Invoice for January 2023 for \$2,195.00
8. New Business
9. Next regular meeting – Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
10. Adjourn

****Members of the public may attend the meeting via remote access using the instructions at the top of the agenda. To view meeting documents, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yaesuzwe>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email jslubowski@rwater.com.**

SAFETY MOMENT

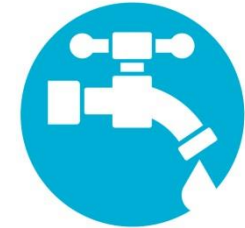
FEBRUARY – AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Did you know that cardiovascular diseases claim more lives each year than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined?

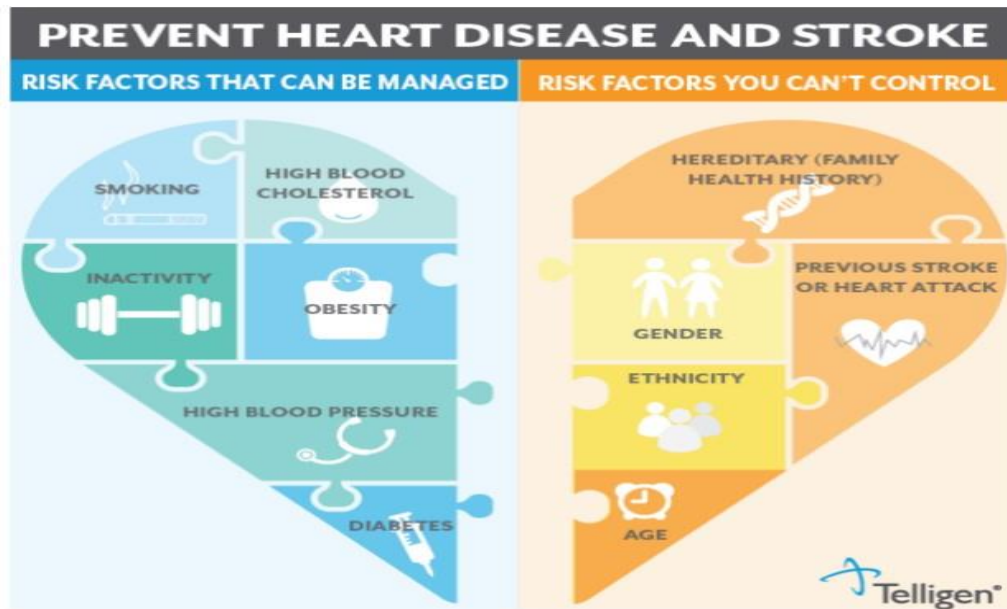
About 20.1 million adults age 20 and older have cardiovascular disease.

Approximately every 40 seconds, someone will have a heart attack or stroke.

Tap Into
Safety



Regional Water Authority



Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

Regional Water Authority

Representative Policy Board
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Consumer Affairs Committee

Minutes of the January 23, 2023 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RPB”) took place on Monday, January 23, 2023, via remote access.

Committee members present: S. Mongillo, N. Campbell, M. Levine, and A. Rescigno

Committee members absent: F. Pepe and R. Smith

RPB: R. Harvey, M. Horbal, J. Oslander, and J. Young

Authority: S. Sack

RWA: R. Kowalski, D. Bochan, D. Donovan, J. Hill, P. Ruggiero, S. Lakshminarayanan, and P. Singh

Office of Consumer Affairs: Attorney Donofrio (“OCA”)

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chairman Mongillo called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Mongillo offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Rescigno, and seconded by Ms. Campbell, the committee voted to approve the minutes of its December 19, 2022 meeting, as presented.

At 5:39 p.m., upon 2/3 vote, the committee moved into executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(C) to receive a briefing and discuss security strategies and implementation. Present in executive session were Committee members, Messrs. Donofrio, Harvey, Horbal, Hill, Lakshminarayanan, Oslander, Ruggiero, and Singh, and Mss. Bochan, Campbell, Kowalski, Sack, Slubowski and Young. 3-1-0.

At 6:05 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No votes were taken in, or as a result of, executive session.

Mr. Singh reviewed proposed changes to RWA’s Rules and Regulations for Water Service and Rules, Regulations and Rates Governing the Extension of Water Mains (“Rules and Regulations”), which was last revised in 2021. He reported that changes were minor and presented to the Committee for purposes of awareness and transparency. Updates to the Rules and Regulations will correspond with the Rate Application. If the Application is approved, the Rules and Regulations updates will correspond with the potential effective date of the proposed Rate Application. Updates and changes to the RWA Rules and Regulations were reviewed by the Consumer Affairs Committee and approved for recommendation to the RPB.

Attorney Donofrio reported that the OCA is currently under budget for FY 2023, but in anticipation of upcoming projects for the next fiscal year, he is proposing the same budget for FY 2024. After discussion, on motion made by Mr. Mongillo, seconded by Mr. Rescigno, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to approve the OCA’s FY 2024 proposed budget.

Attorney Donofrio stated that he would like to discuss the OCA's rate, which has been changed once in his 15 years of service. After discussion, it was determined that a review of the OCA's rate be added to the Committee agenda in February.

He also reported that he and members of the RWA were invited to attend the March 1, 2023 meeting of the New Haven Environmental Advisory Council, to discuss the Raftelis rate structure information, previously provided.

Attorney Donofrio reported on the status of an ongoing billing issue and is waiting for a response from the customer.

On motion made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Rescigno, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the OCA's December 2022 billing for \$1,252.50.

Chair Mongillo reported on the RPB Executive Committee meeting earlier in the month. The committee met to discuss logistics of future meetings. Committee members discussed remote and hybrid meetings and the status of COVID. The topic will be continued at the committee's February meeting.

He also reported on the 23rd Annual Lake Whitney Management Plan scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2023. The meeting is being held in person at the Whitney Water Center for anyone interested in attending.

The next regular meeting is on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:27 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Rescigno, seconded by Ms. Campbell, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Stephen Mongillo, Chairman

**Presentation to the Regional Water Authority
Consumer Affairs Committee**

**Review & Summary
of the
2022 Controlled Archery Hunt**



**Nicole Smith
Natural Resources Analyst**

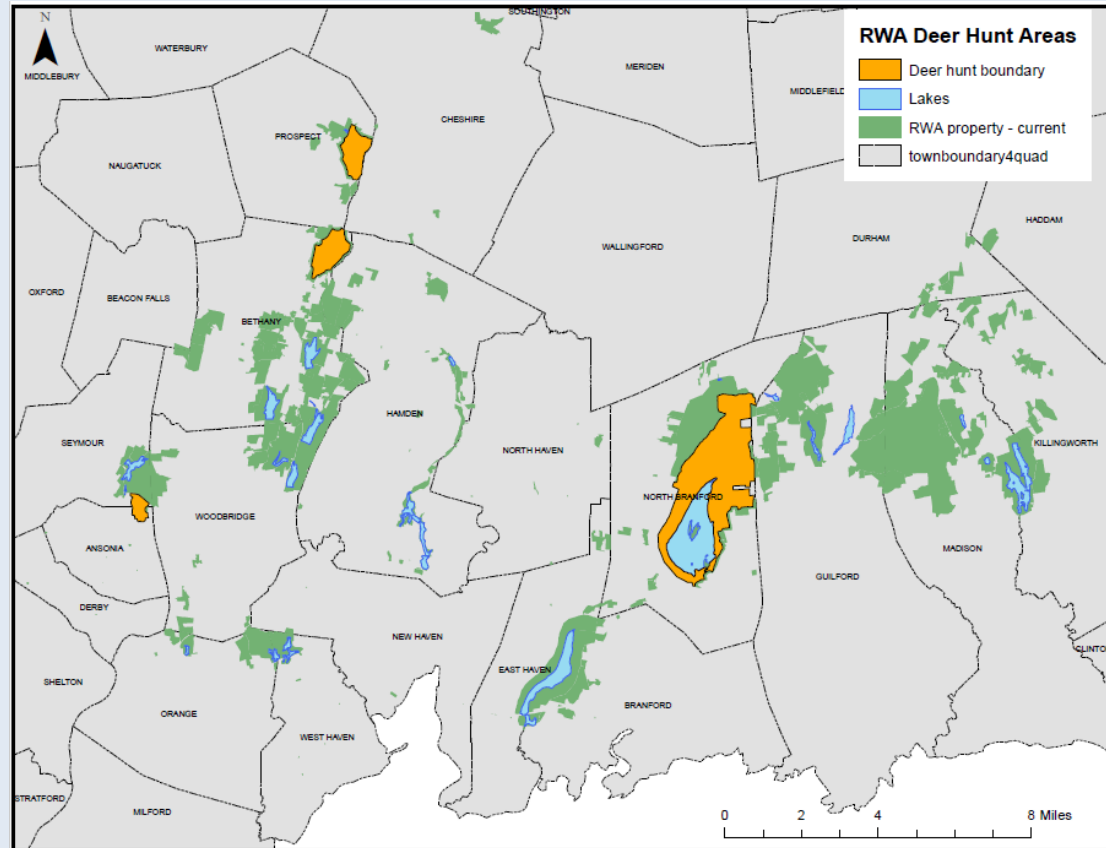
Review of 2022 Archery Deer Hunt -Year 14

- Hunt began in 2009 on one property – Lake Gaillard
- Desperate need to control deer browsing in service to forestry program goals
- Program expanded to 4 hunting areas starting in 2014



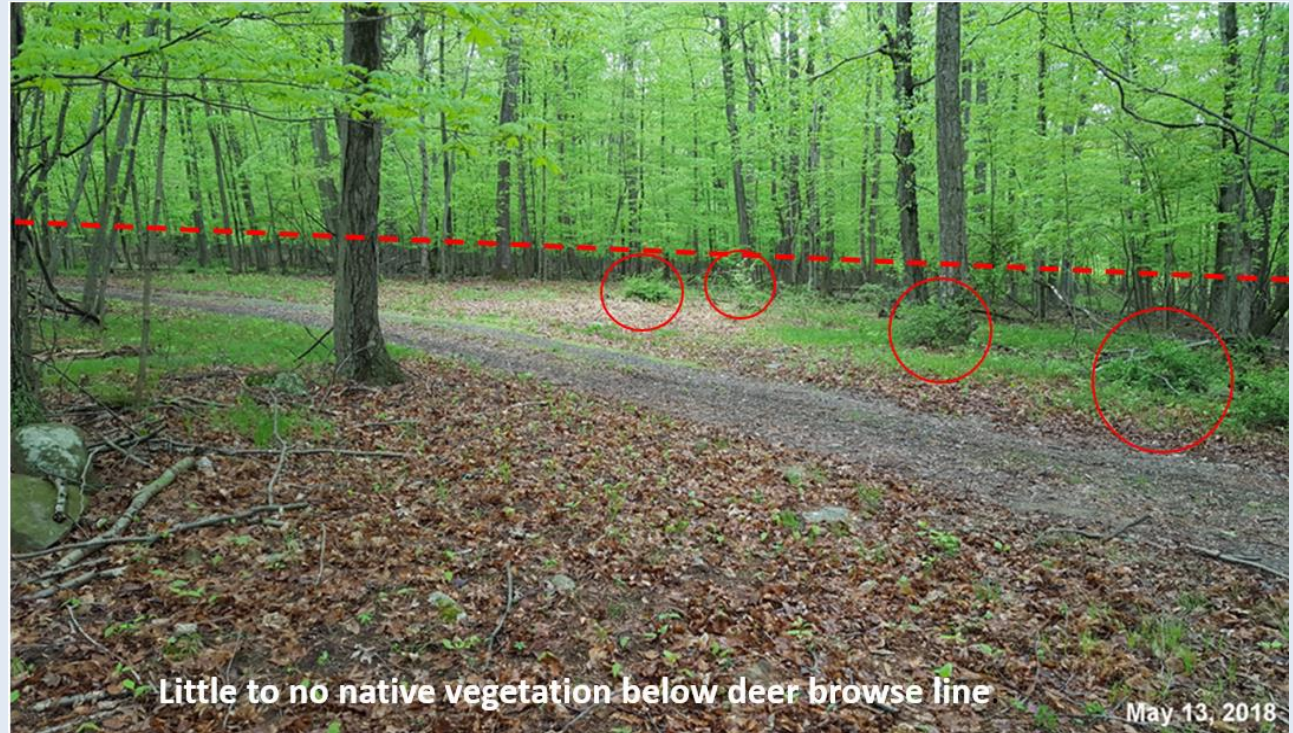
Deer Hunting on 4,327 Acres

Property	Acres	Start
Lake Gaillard (NB)	3233	2009
Ansonia/Seymour	154	2014
Bethany	520	2015
Prospect	420	2015



Reducing Deer Density

- Enhances forest regeneration
- Controls erosion and locks up nutrients that can fuel algal blooms in reservoirs



Hunting Season Brief Summary 2022

- 330 applications mailed
- 181 participants after returned applications, attending/passing proficiency test and safety meeting attendance
- 10 days of scouting 10/1/2022 to 10/10/2022
- 29 Days of Hunting During 10/28/2022 – 11/30/2022, no Sunday hunting
- **24 deer harvested, 20 bucks, 4 does**
- Surveys due Tuesday, January 31, 2023
- Two deer check stations (Lake Gaillard & Bethany) staffed by 53 volunteers.
- No accidents or injuries

Check Station Form - Bethany

Check Station Volunteer(s) [REDACTED] permit #3

.54° RAIN

Permit #	Time	Doe	Buck	Pts.	Notes (area harvested, etc)



Hunting Season Brief Summary 2022

Surveys due Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Results

Property	Hunters	Returned Surveys	Total Days Scouting	Avg. Days Scouting	Total Days Hunting	Avg. Days Hunting	Total Hours Hunting	Avg. hours hunting/day
North Bran	128	114	245	2.26	832	7.8	4675.5	5.62
Bethany	23	20	26	1.53	92	5.4	492	5.35
Prospect	20	19	36	2	97	5.4	461	4.75
Ansonia	8	7	16	2.29	30	4.3	156	5.20
Total	179	160	323	XXXX	1,051	XXXX	5,784.50	XXXX



Changes to the 2022 Hunt

- Changes made for safety in light of 2021 accident
 - ❖ Re-instated proficiency test
 - ❖ Re-instated mandatory safety meeting
 - ❖ Required automatic hands free descent device



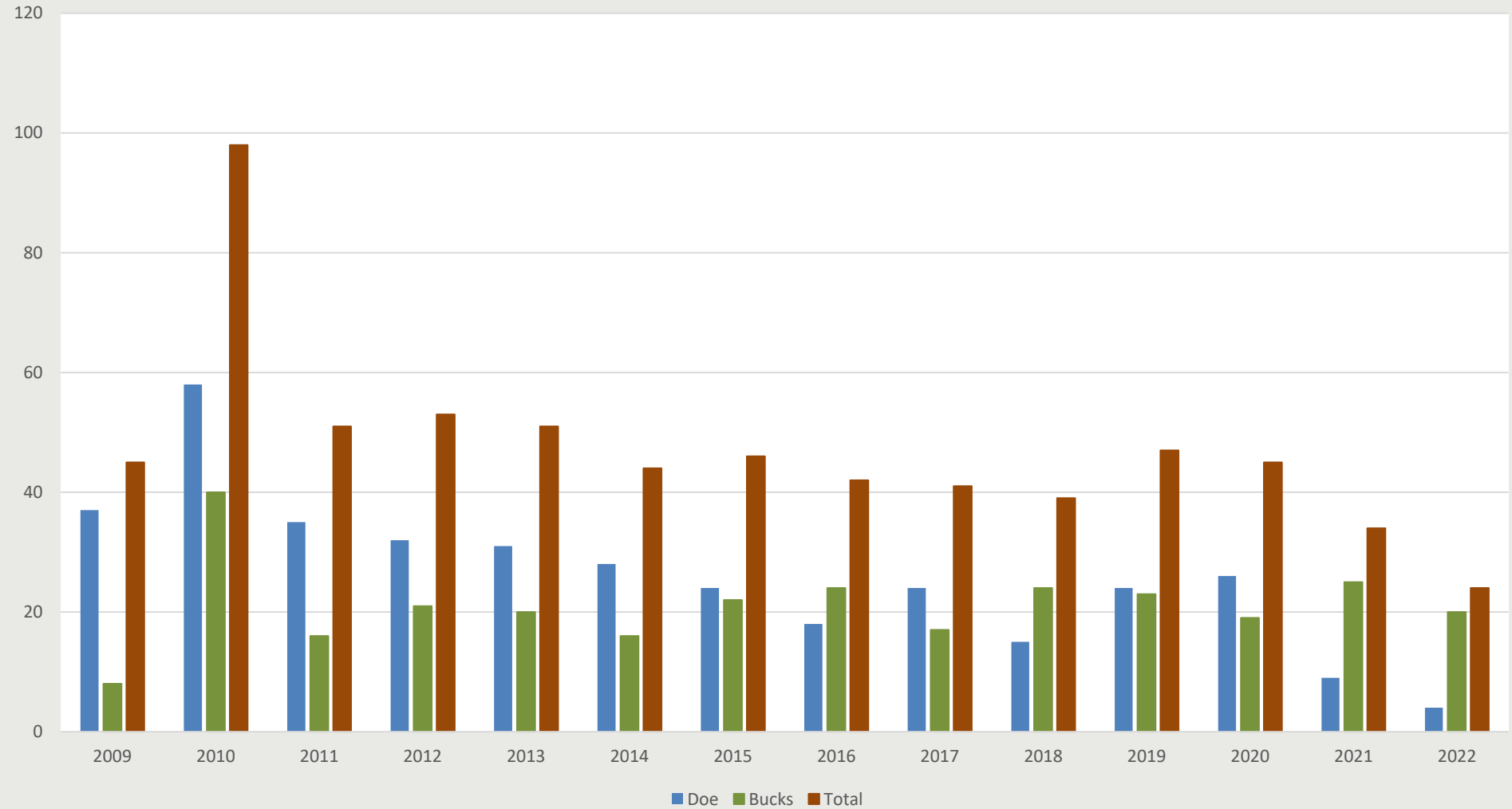
[Descender Demonstration](#)



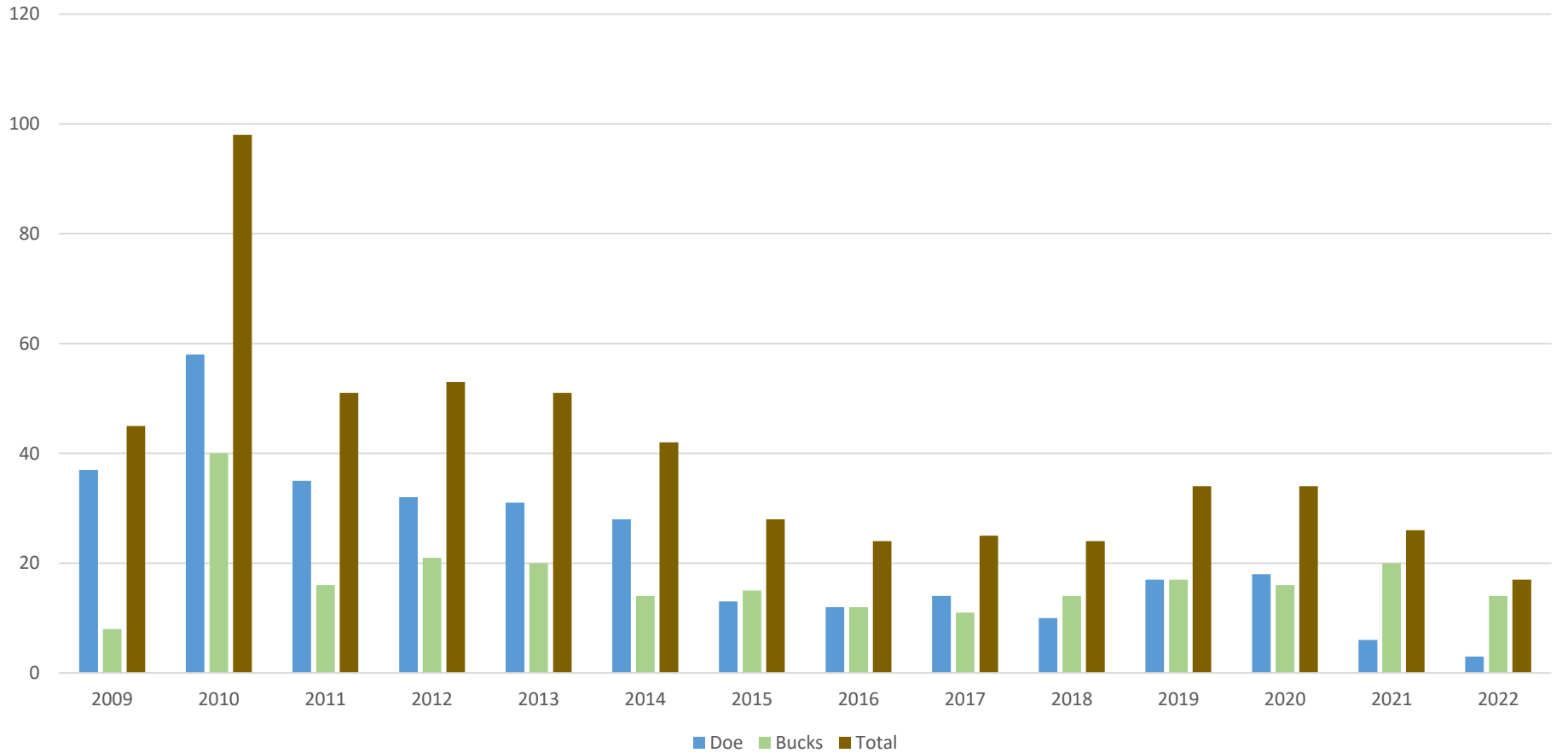
2022 Harvest Totals

2022 Deer Harvest by Area				
Location	Permits	Doe	Buck	Total
North Branford	129	3	14	17
Prospect	20	0	5	5
Bethany	24	1	1	2
Seymour/Ansonia	8	0	0	0
Total Deer by Sex Harvested Past 6 Hunts				
Year	Permits	Doe	Buck	Total
2022	182	4	20	24
2021	205	9	25	34
2020	180	26	19	45
2019	168	24	23	47
2018	172	15	24	39
2017	174	24	17	41

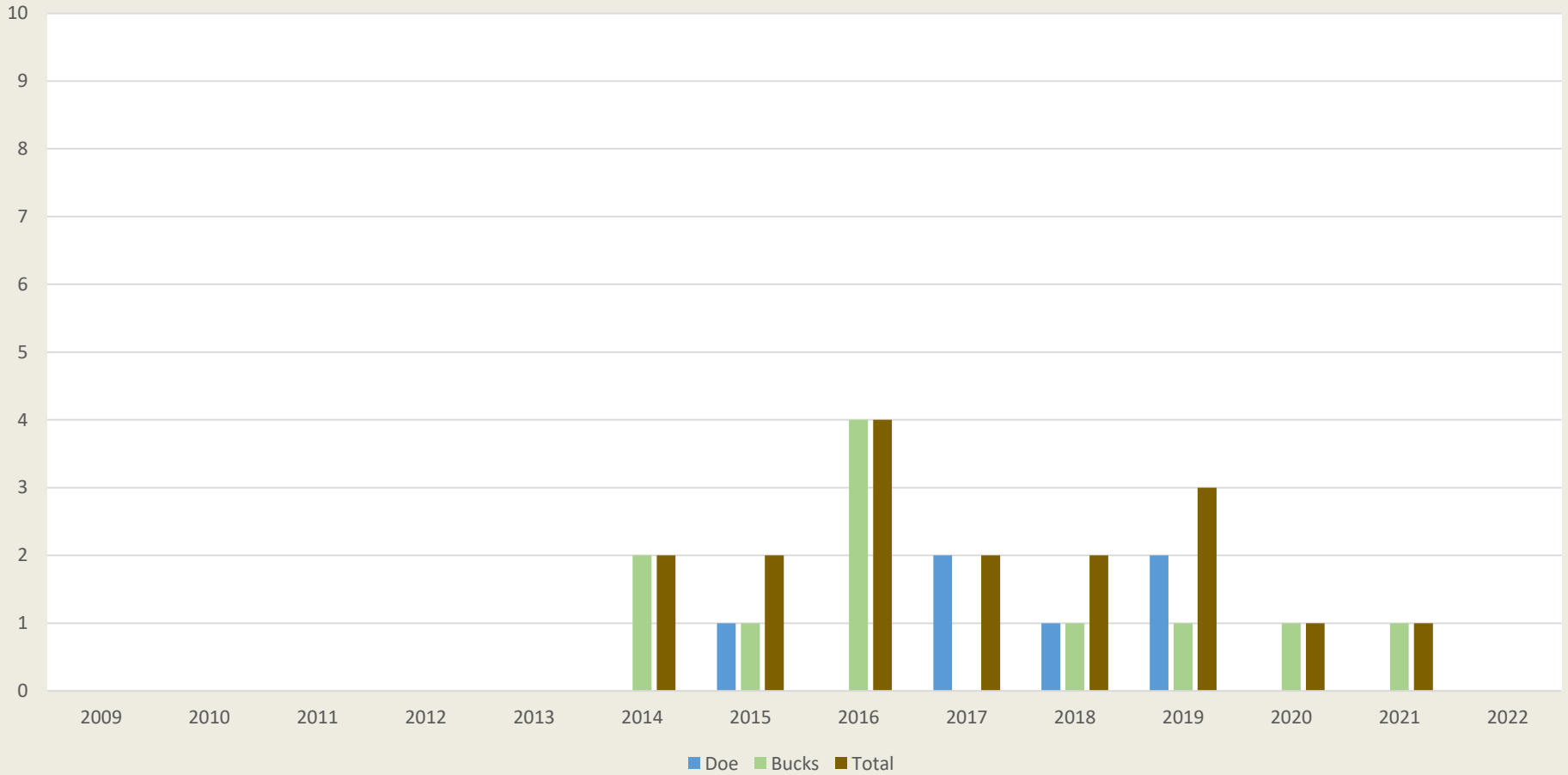
Total Deer Harvested Since 2009



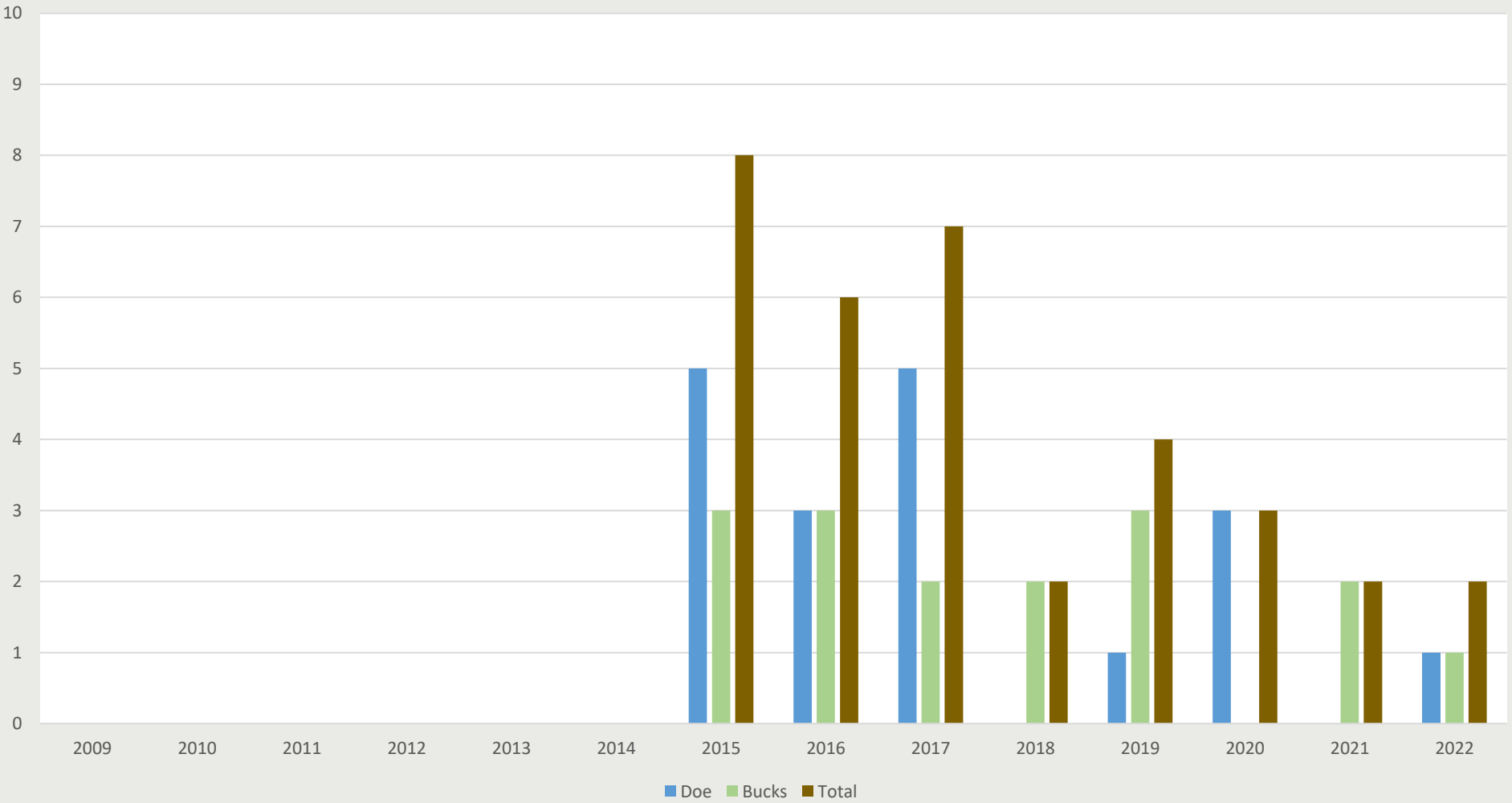
North Branford Deer Harvested Since 2009



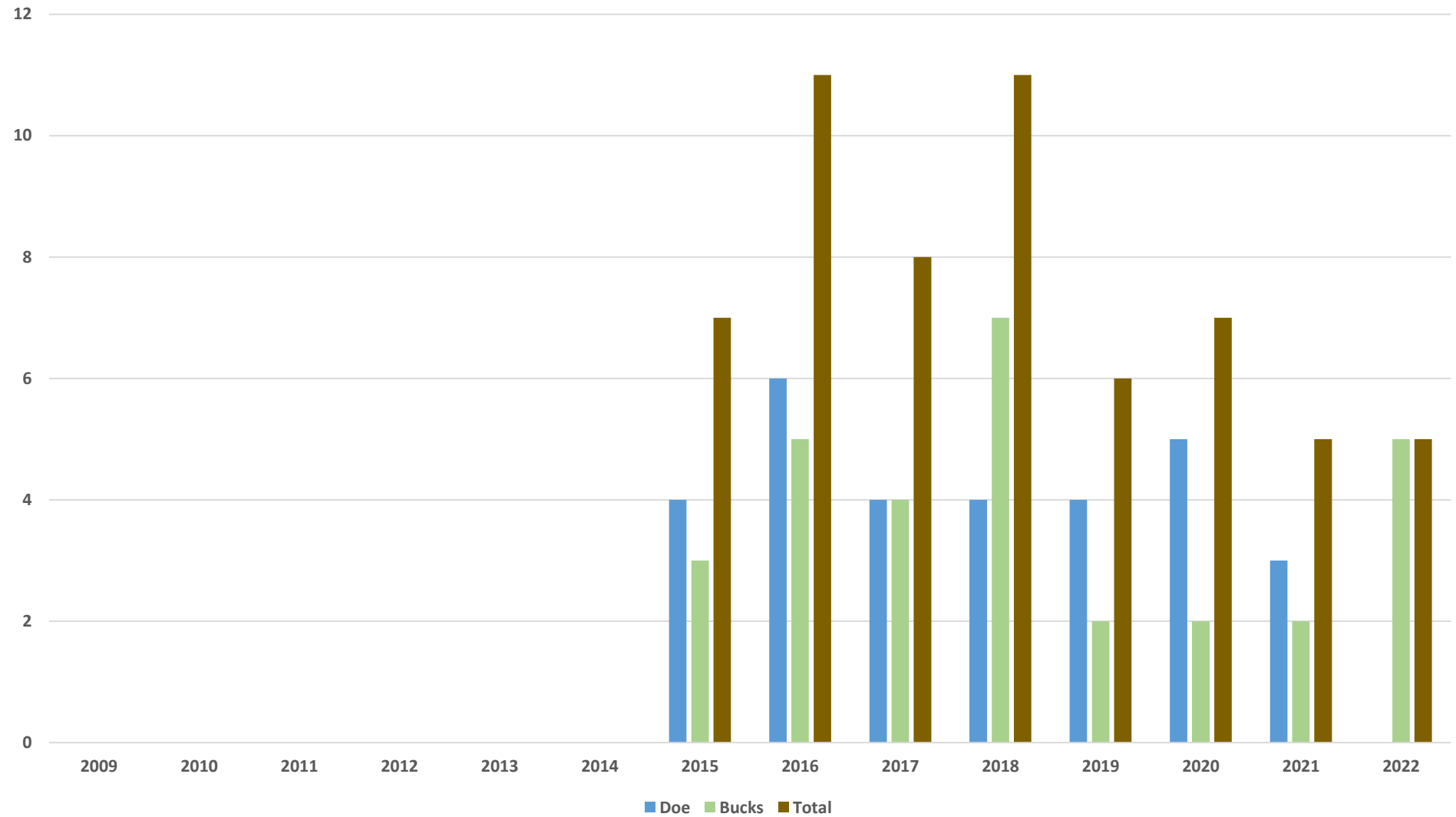
Ansonia/Seymour Deer Harvested Since 2014



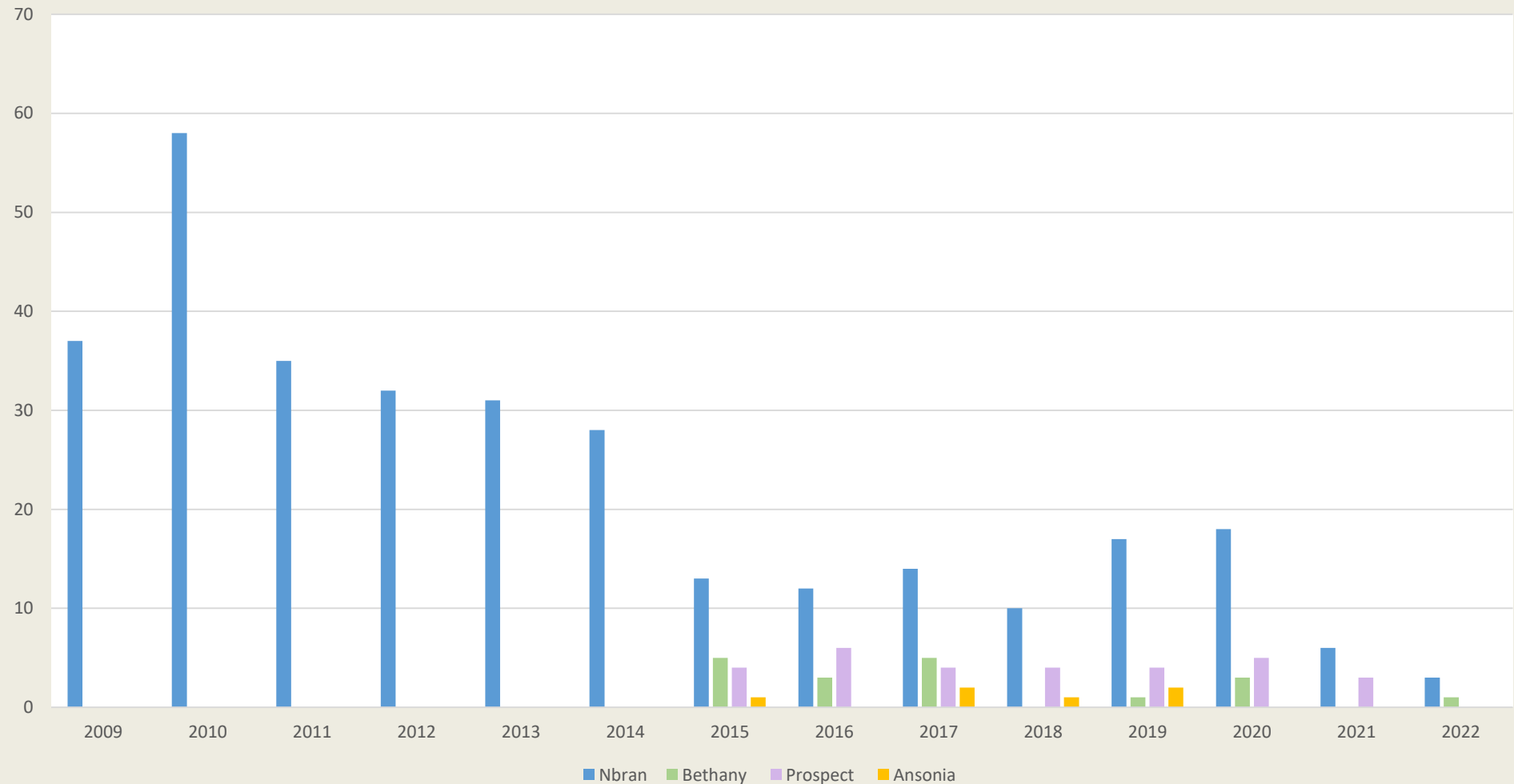
Bethany Deer Harvested Since 2015



Prospect Deer Harvested Since 2015

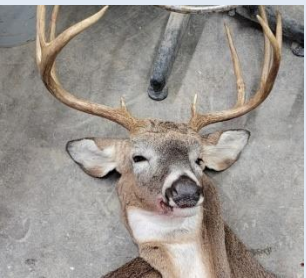


Doe Harvested by Site Since 2009



Final Thoughts

- We have reached the fourteenth year mark for collecting and analyzing data
- Hunt Impacts
 - Fewer deer sightings overall in Bethany, Prospect, and Ansonia/Seymour
 - Of deer observed, fewer deer in range of hunters for ethical, humane shot
 - Increased invasive species, (i.e. barberry and multiflora rose) make some areas inaccessible to hunters
 - Decreased annual harvest, especially harvest of does most evident in North Branford
- RWA Forestry and CT DEEP each have established research plots.
 - RWA Forester is comparing data collected. Analysis of results was done in March 2020.
- Annual DPH reporting requirement.
 - DPH Recreational Activity Permits has been renewed and expires Dec. 2, 2031.
- Hunters are grateful for the opportunity. Appreciate our efforts toward conservation and stewardship of the land. No negative publicity this season.



Questions?

