

HUNTING SEASONS



Can we influence deer populations???

How do populations grow?

- ▣ Fawn production/survival = population growth/decline!
- ▣ When all other factors remain stable
 - Post season fawn production/recruitment rates:
 - ▣ Greater than 66 fawns per 100 does = herd growth.
 - ▣ Less than 66 fawns per 100 does = herd decline.

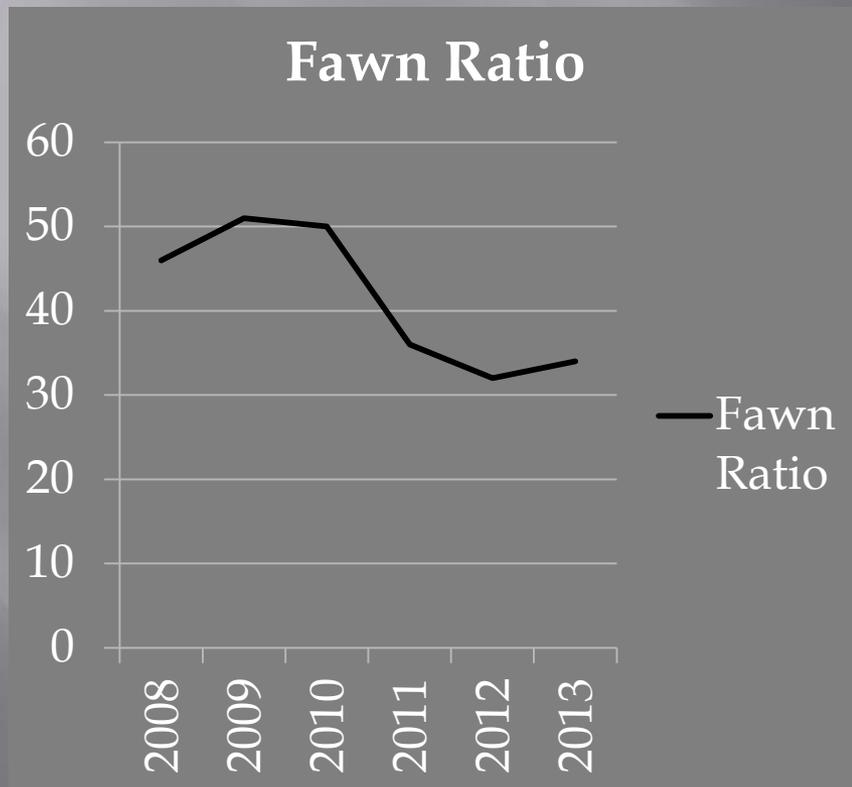
****It all comes down to fawns****

Fawn Production = The Answer!

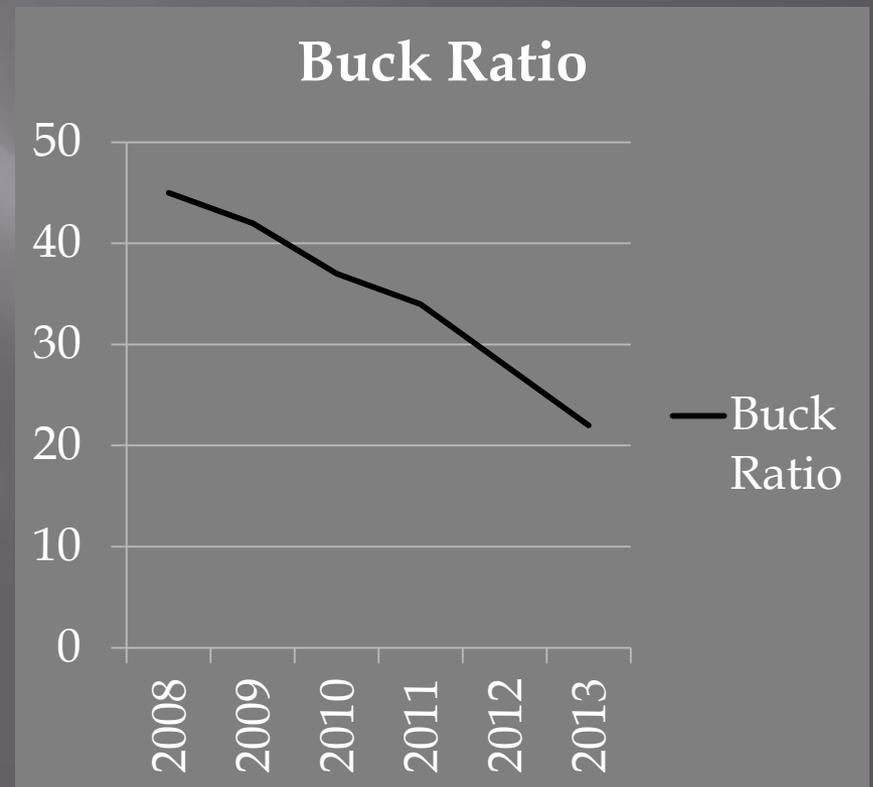
- ▣ We can do very little to influence fawn production/survival in the short-term.
- ▣ Ideas that will not improve fawn production:
 - Closing the deer season
 - Antler point restrictions
 - Limited quota license system

Limited Quota Example

AREA 90 FAWN RATIOS

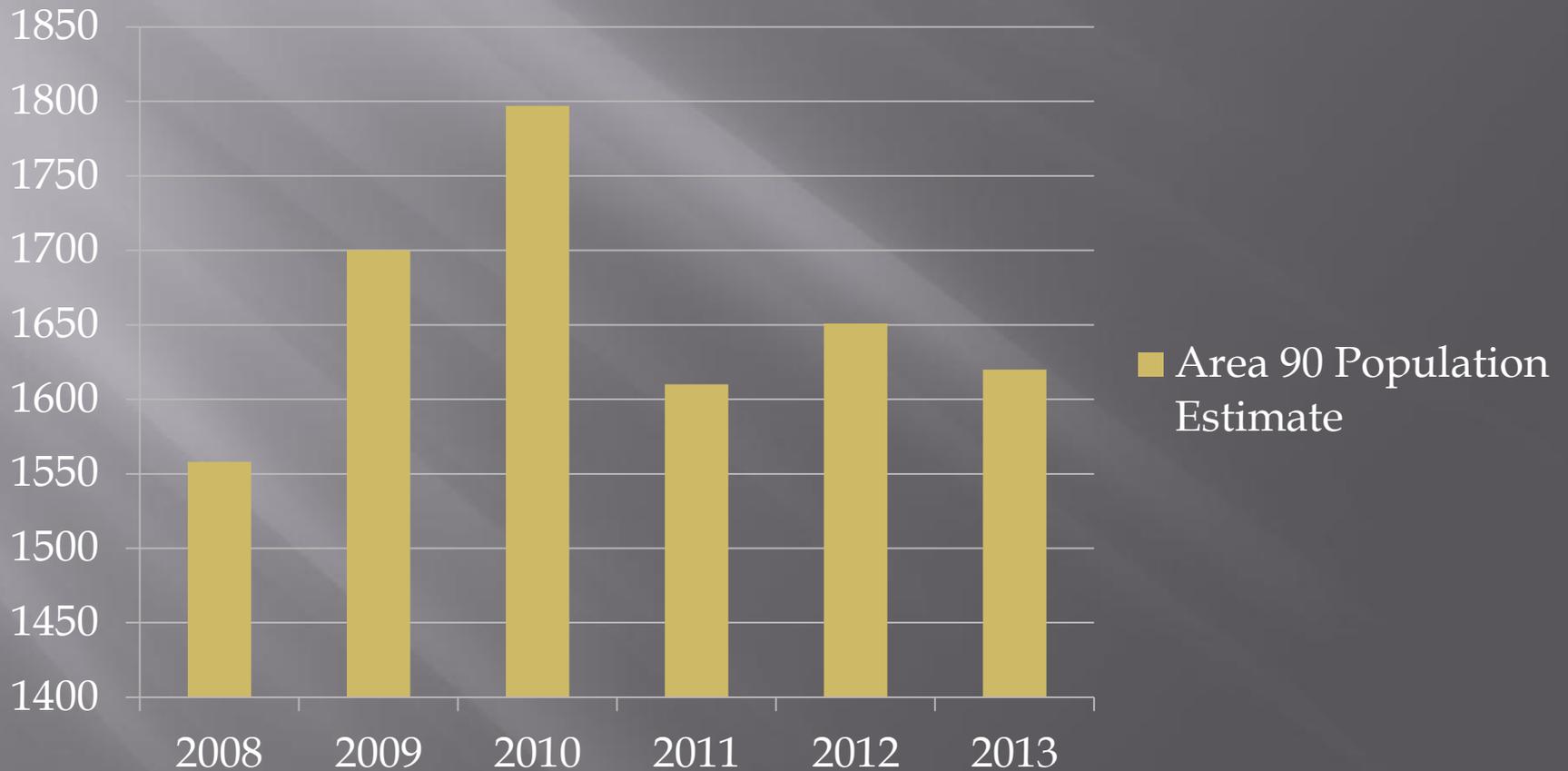


AREA 90 BUCK RATIOS



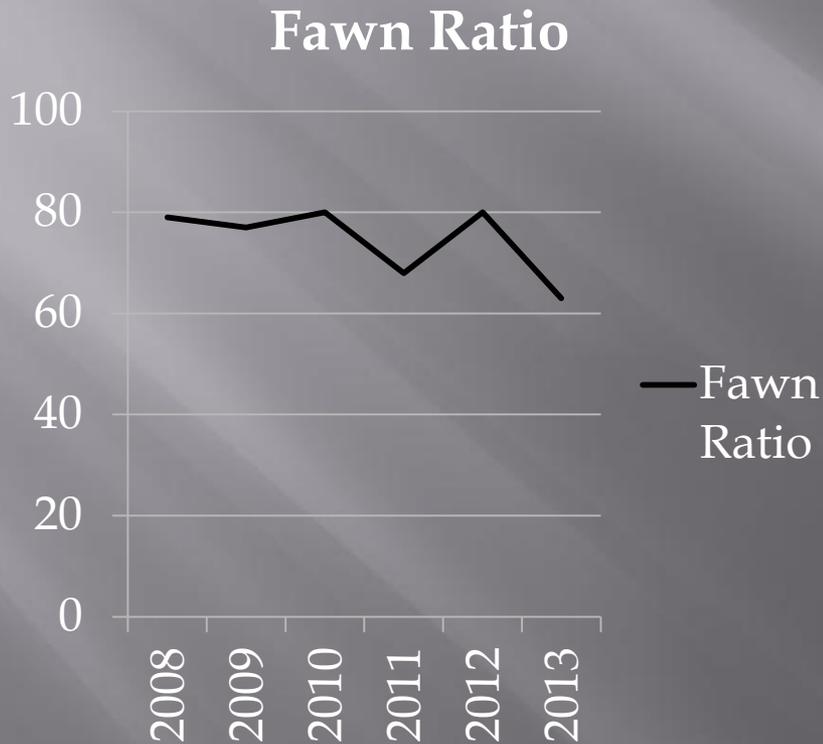
Limited Quota Example

Area 90 Population Estimate

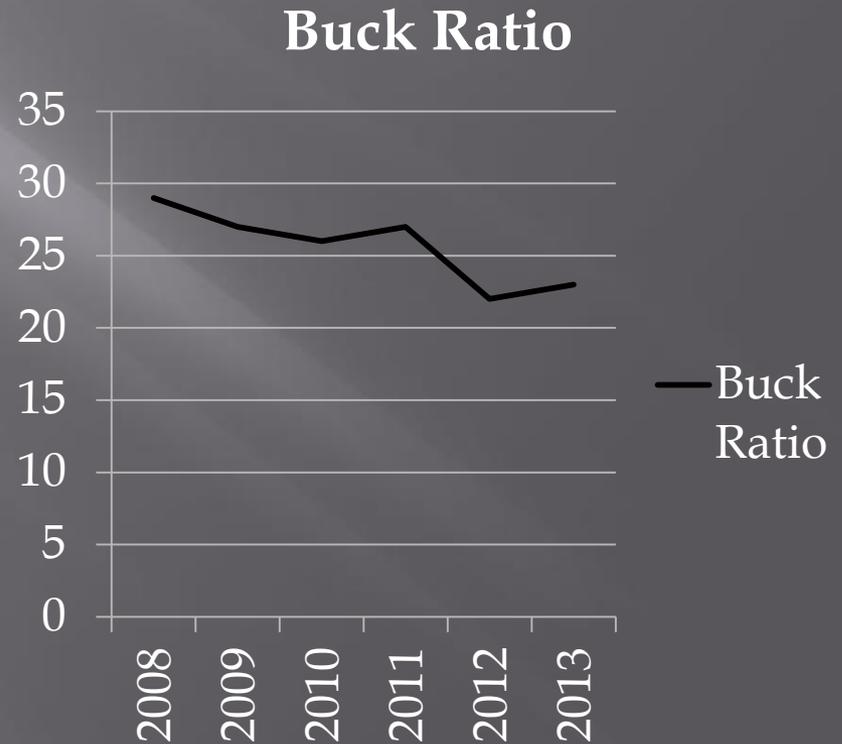


South Wind River (92,94,160)

SWR FAWN RATIOS

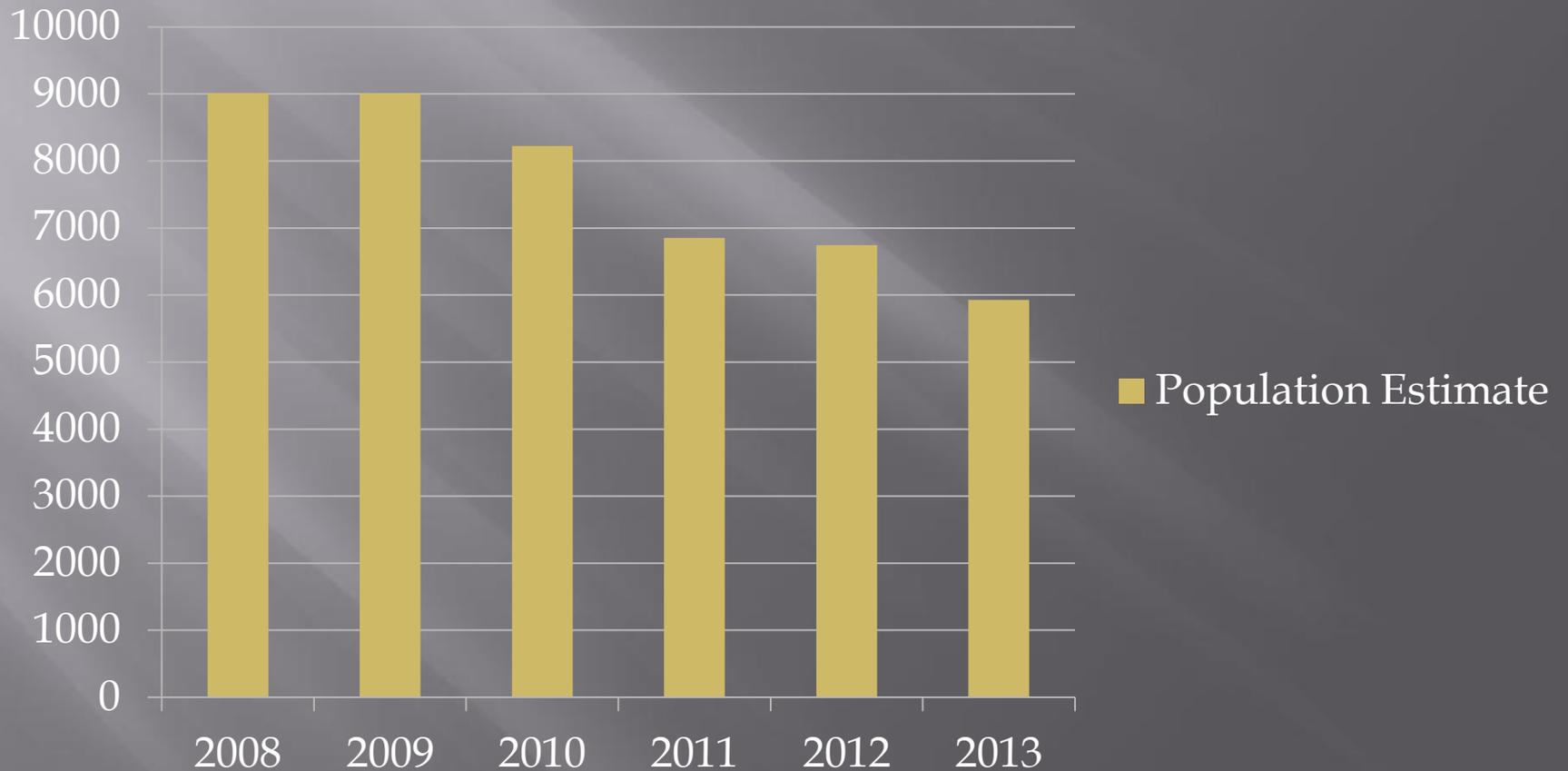


SWR BUCK RATIOS



South Wind River Population

Population Estimate



Important Points

- ▣ Season structure will not bring deer populations back.
- ▣ An increase in fawn production/survival is what will allow deer populations to increase.

So what can we do????

- ▣ Our influence rests with managing the quality of the hunting experience:
 - What do we enjoy about hunting deer?
 - What are our expectations for a deer hunt?
 - What can we influence to help us achieve these expectations?
 - What are we willing to give up?
 - What are the expectations of others?

The Big Question

Considering mule deer hunting opportunity,
what defines a good hunting experience for you
and others?