

# Nevada Reports to Western Association of Fish and Wildlife WAFWA and State Estimates

The table at right is from [Nevada Department of Wildlife](#)

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife (WAFWA)		
		Nevada
WAFWA		Mule Deer
<a href="#">2012</a>	2012	112,200
<a href="#">2013</a>	2013	106,000
<a href="#">2014</a>	2014	108,000
<a href="#">2015</a>	2015	99,000
<a href="#">2016</a>	2016	94,000
<a href="#">2017</a>	2017	92,000
<a href="#">2018</a>	2018	92,000
<a href="#">2019</a>	2019	93,000
<a href="#">2020</a>	2020	92,000
<a href="#">2021</a>	2021	84,000
<a href="#">2022</a>	2022	78,000
<a href="#">2023</a>	2023	68,000
<a href="#">2024</a>	2024	668,000

YEAR	MULE DEER
1987	220,000
1988	240,000
1989	212,000
1990	202,000
1991	180,000
1992	183,500
1993	148,500
1994	115,000
1995	118,000
1996	120,000
1997	125,000
1998	132,000
1999	134,000
2000	133,000
2001	129,000
2002	108,000
2003	109,000
2004	105,000
2005	107,000
2006	110,000
2007	114,000
2008	108,000
2009	106,000
2010	107,000
2011	109,000
2012	112,000
2013	109,000
2014	108,000
2015	99,000
2016	94,000
2017	92,000
2018	92,000
2019	93,000
2020	92,000
2021	84,000
10-YR AVG	98,000
%Diff to AVG	-14%

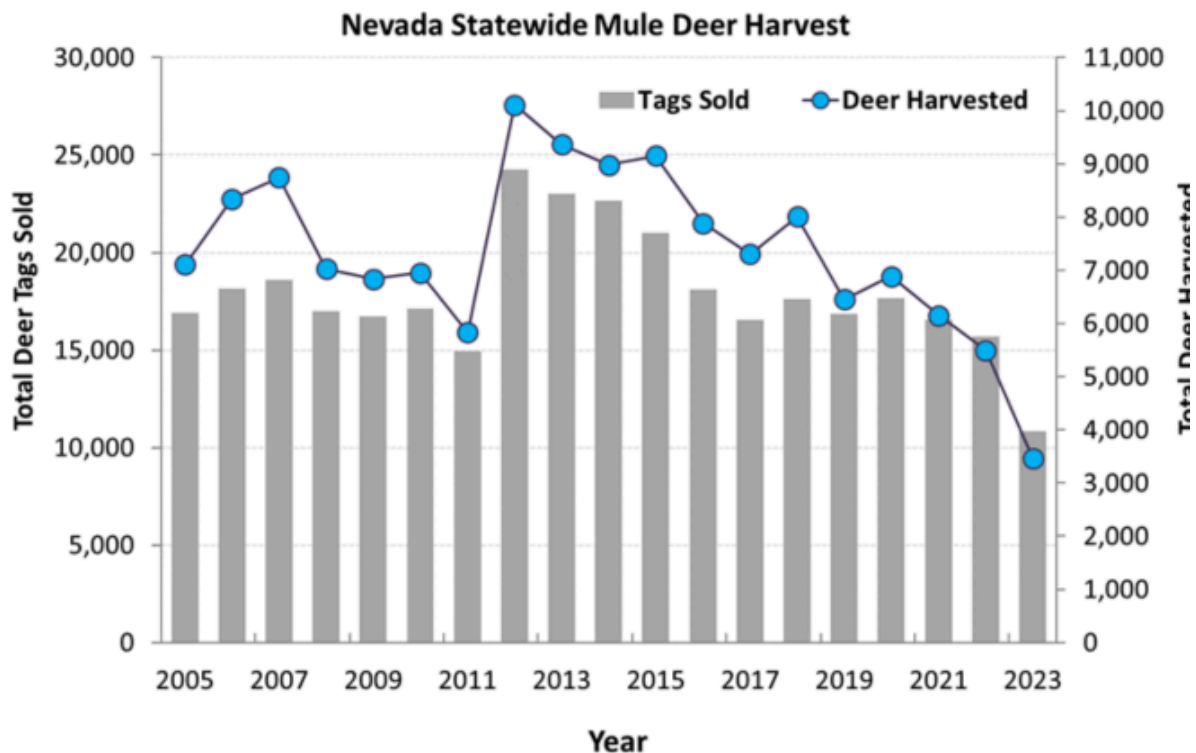
From [2024](#) WAFWA report

Population: 68,000 Harvest: 3,450 Hunters: 10,840

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) issued approximately 10,840 mule deer tags for the 2023 hunting season. This was a substantial drop compared to previous years and was the lowest number of tags issued for mule deer since 1974. The overall success rate for Any Legal Weapon seasons was 33% statewide, which is well below the previous 3-year average of 38%. Muzzleloader and archery hunt success rates were 30% and 13% respectively, which were both below the previous 3-year averages of 35% and 16% for those weapon categories.

Junior hunters realized a success rate of 47%, which was well below the previous 3-year average success rate of 56%. p. 24

The observed post-season buck ratio was 30 bucks per 100 does for 2023 which is equal to the previous 3-year average. The observed spring fawn ratio of 37 fawns per 100 adults was well above the 5-year average of 31 fawns per 100 adults. The moisture received during the previous winter and timely moisture throughout the year likely contributed to the above average fawn recruitment for 2024 and should yield a positive outlook for mule deer populations into the 2024-2025 hunting season. p. 24



From [2023](#) WAFWA report

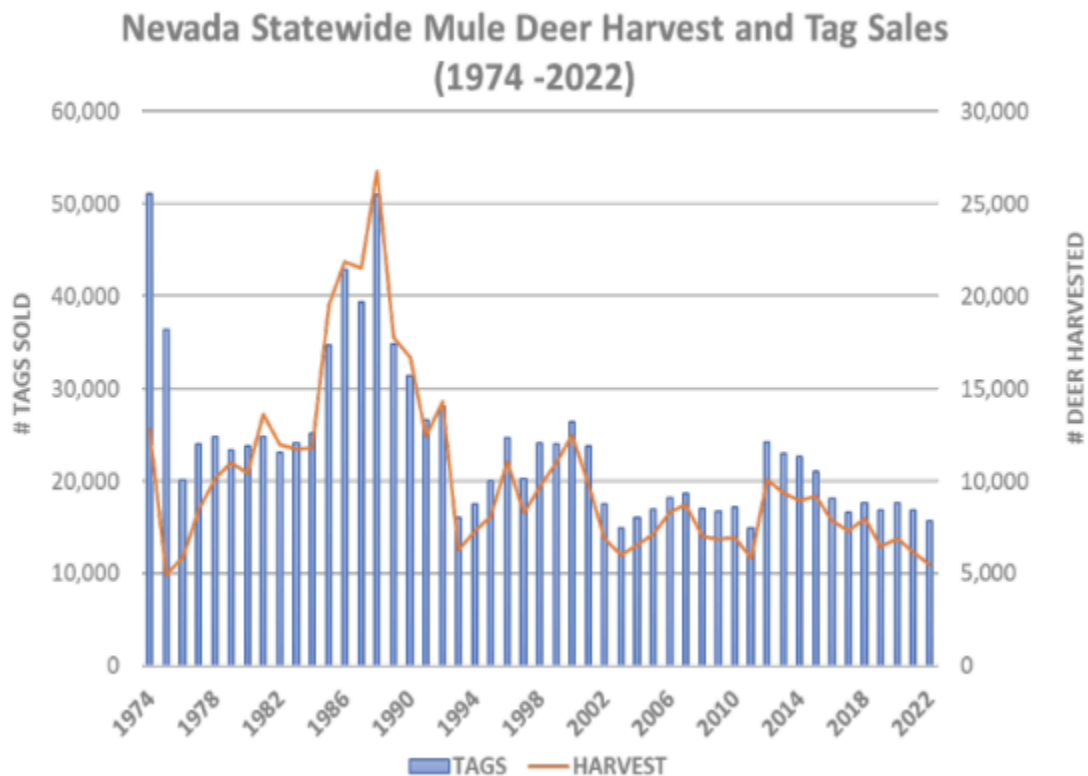
Population: 68,000 Harvest: 5,500 Hunters: 15,500

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) issued approximately 15,500 mule deer tags for the 2022 hunting season. The number of tags has steadily decreased over the past 20 years and represents the third lowest number of tags issued since 1974. The overall success rate for AnyLegal Weapon seasons was 35% statewide...

Statewide fawn production was 54 fawns per 100 females for post-season surveys, compared to 47 fawns per 100 females during the fall of 2021.

Nevada's mule deer populations have continued to decline over the past decade largely due

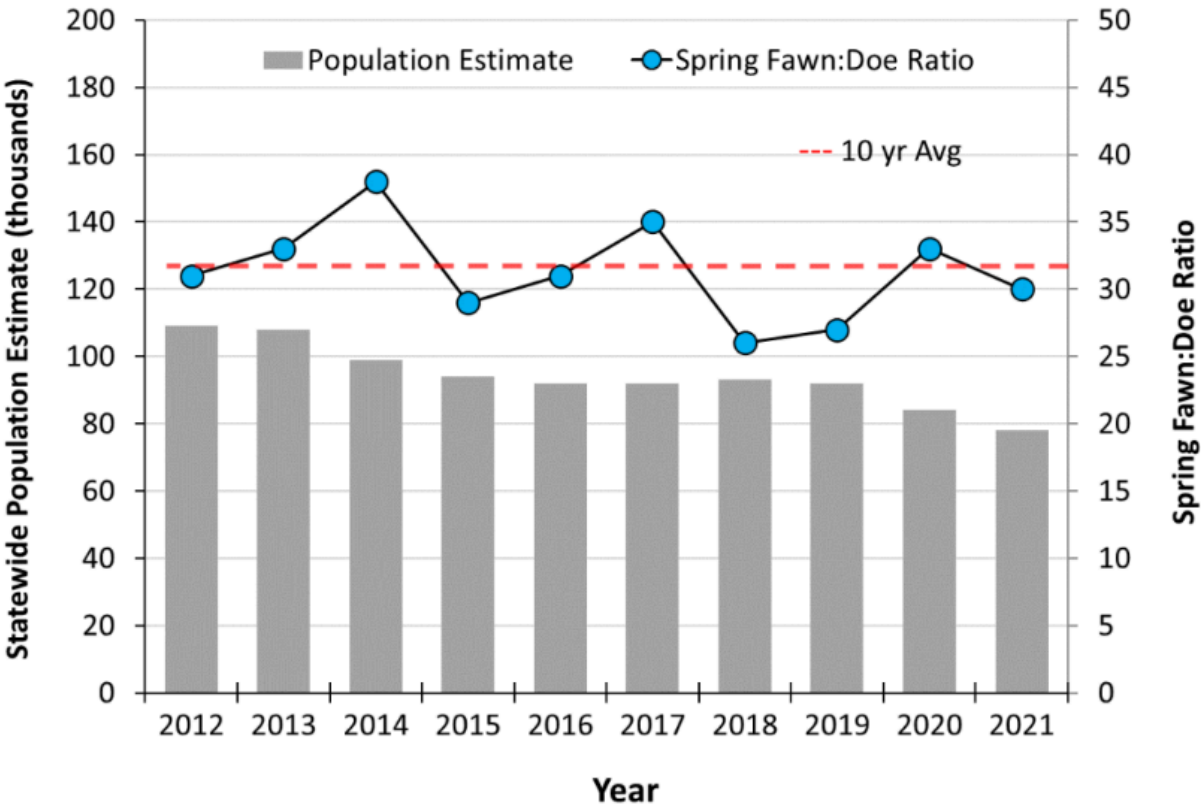
to lack of consistent precipitation, large-scale range fires, conversion of native shrubs to invasive grasses, and degraded range conditions from feral horses and burros. Nevada's statewide population estimate for 2023 is 68,000 which is the lowest estimate on record since 1974.

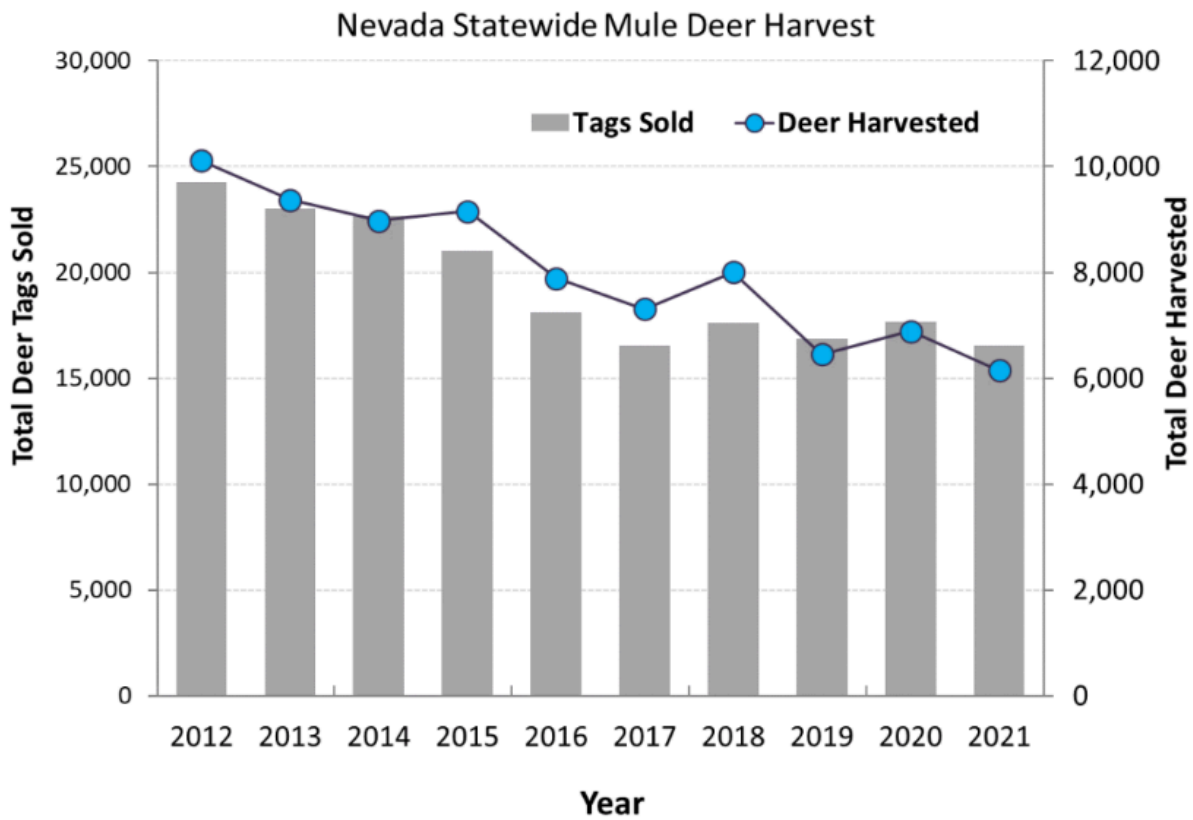


From [2022](#) WAFWA Report

The statewide population estimate for Nevada declined by approximately 20% compared to the 10-year average with an estimated 78,000 mule deer for 2021. Nevada's mule deer populations have continued to decline over the past decade largely due to lack of consistent precipitation, large-scale range fires, conversion of native shrubs to invasive grasses and degraded range conditions from feral horses and burros.

Nevada Statewide Population Estimate





Source: Nevada 2021 [WAFWA Report](#), Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

2020 Data: Population 84,000. Harvest: 6,928. Hunters: 17,659

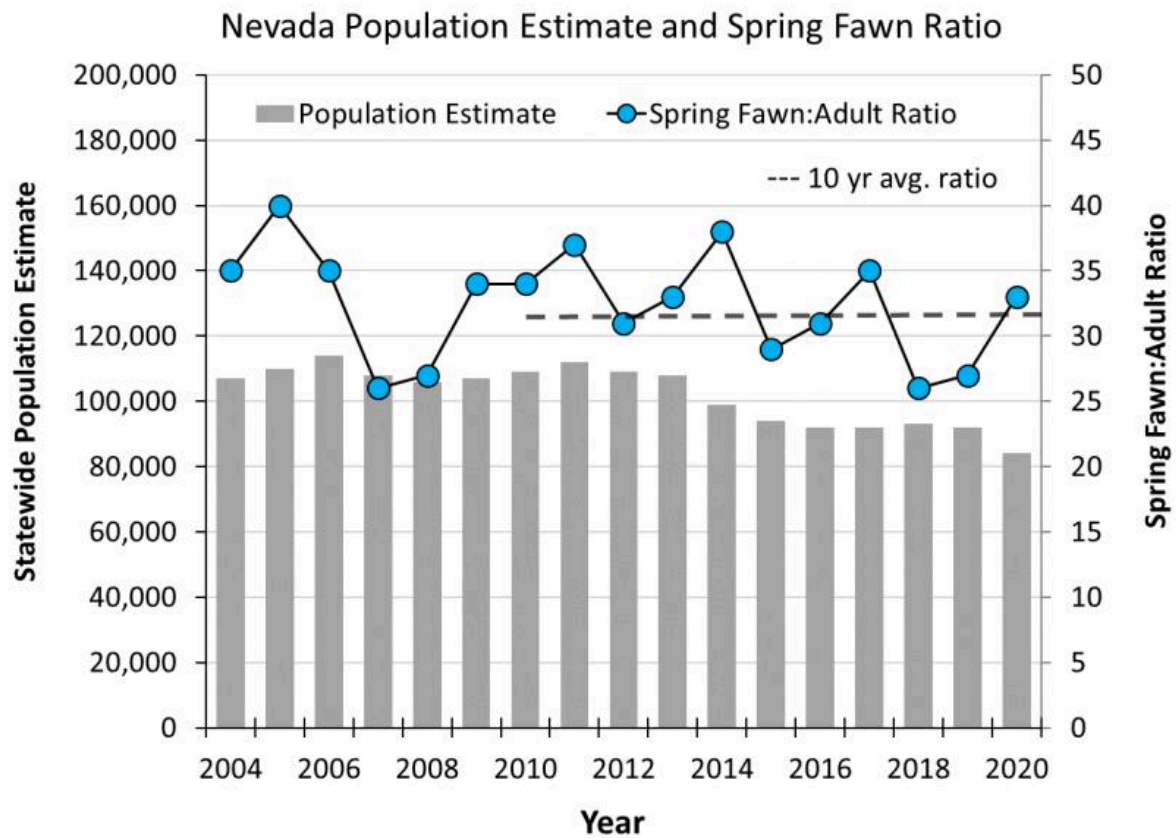
From page 28

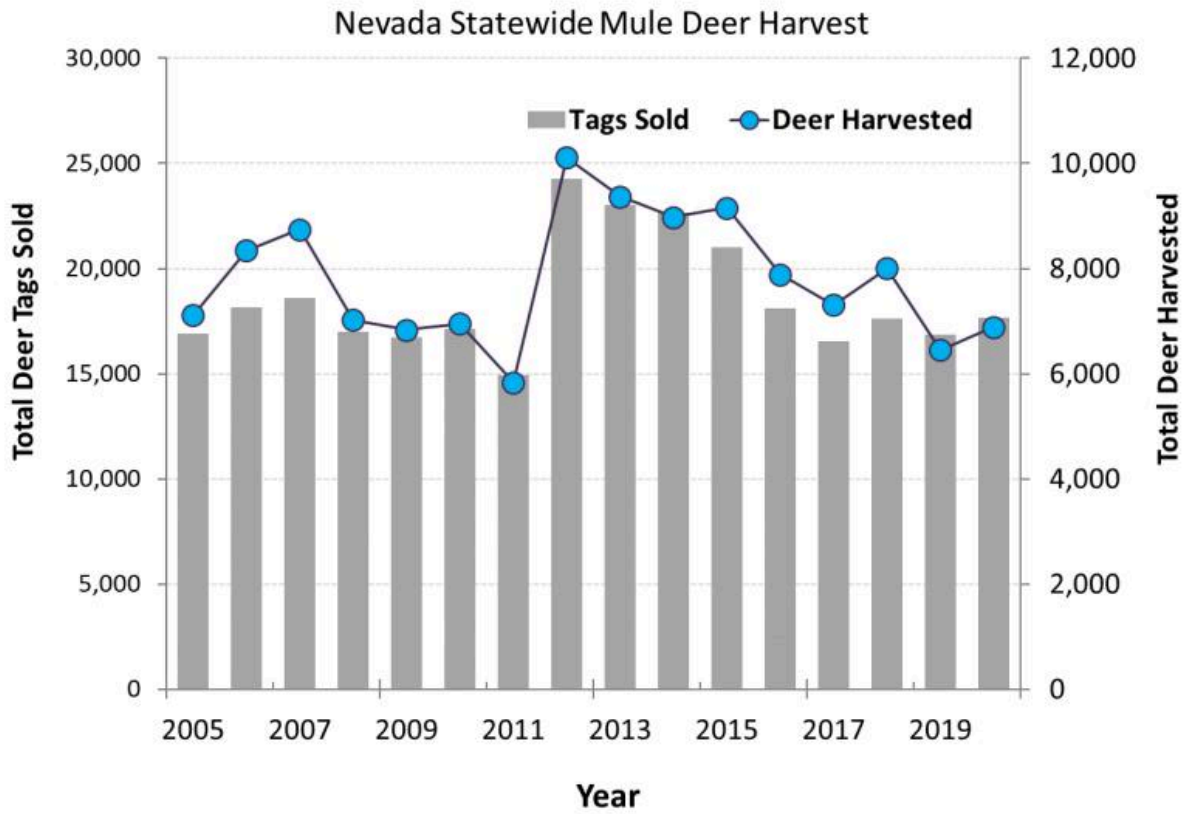
... Nevada's mule deer populations have been on a downward trend in recent decades largely due to lack of consistent precipitation, large-scale range fires, conversion of native shrubs to invasive grasses, and degraded range conditions from feral horses and burros. In response to these declines ...

During 2020, biologists classified approximately 12,360 mule deer during the fall survey. Statewide fawn production was higher during 2020 with 51 fawns per 100 does observed during post-season surveys, compared to 45 fawns per 100 does during the fall 2019.

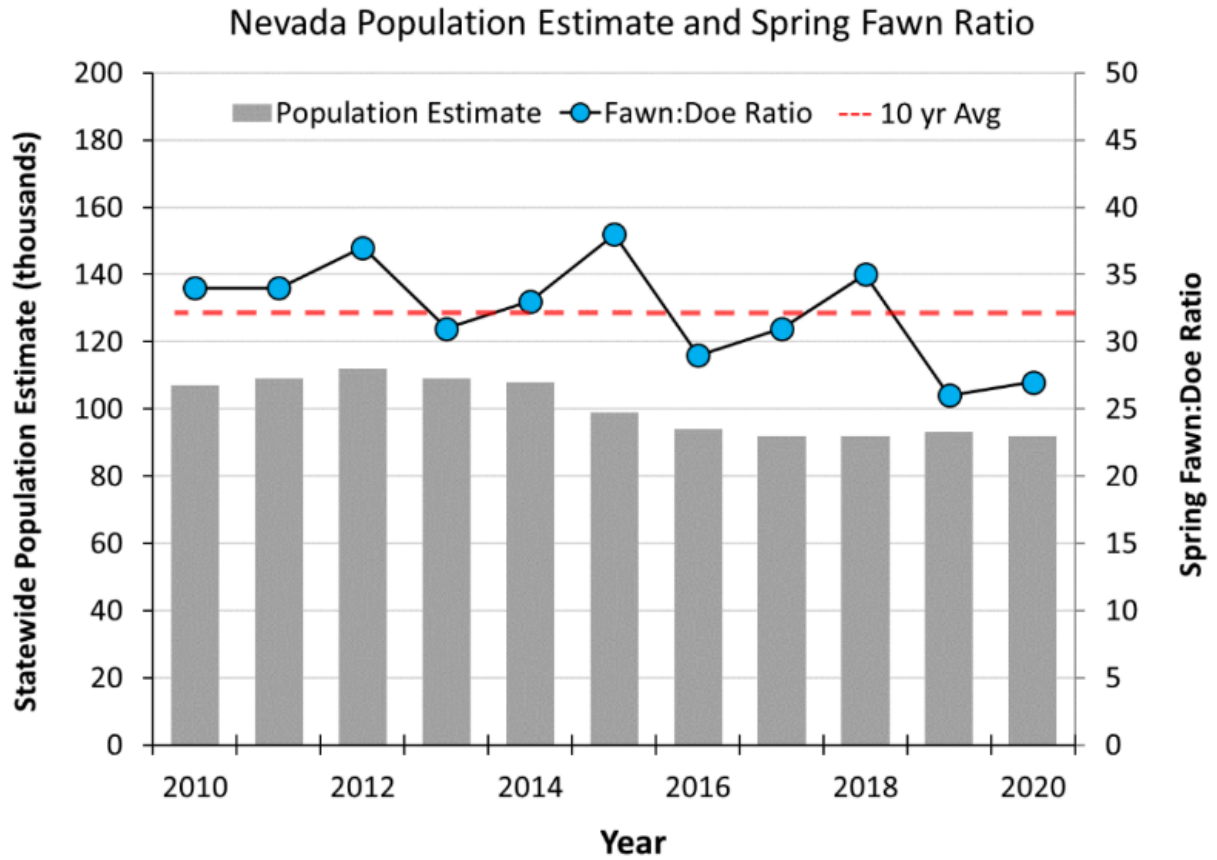
The observed post-season buck ratio was 29 bucks per 100 does for 2020 which is slightly below the 3-year average of 30 bucks per 100 does.

... issued approximately 17,660 mule deer tags for the 2020 hunting season... about 5,955 bucks and 900 does were harvested ...



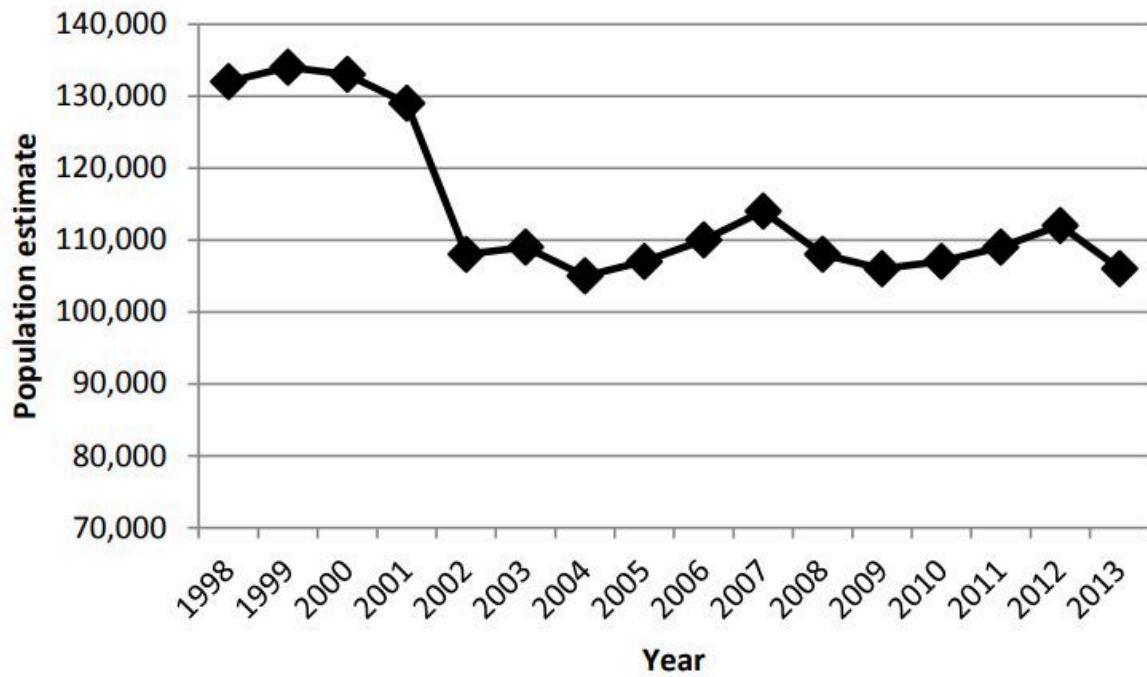


From [2020](#) report



Below from [2013 report](#), page 13

Figure 6. Nevada mule deer population estimate trends 1998 to 2013.



-Larry Gilbertson, Nevada Department of Wildlife