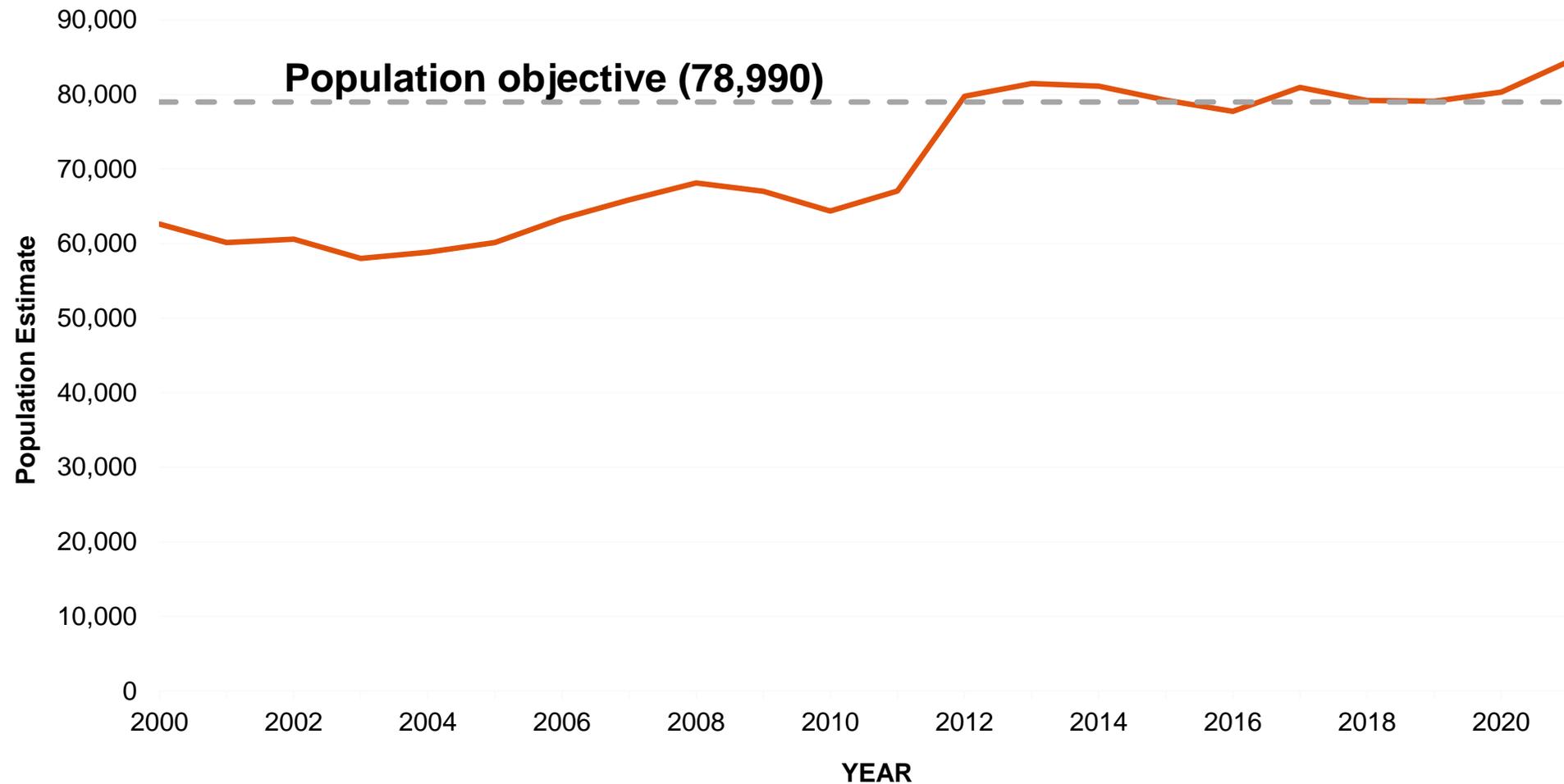


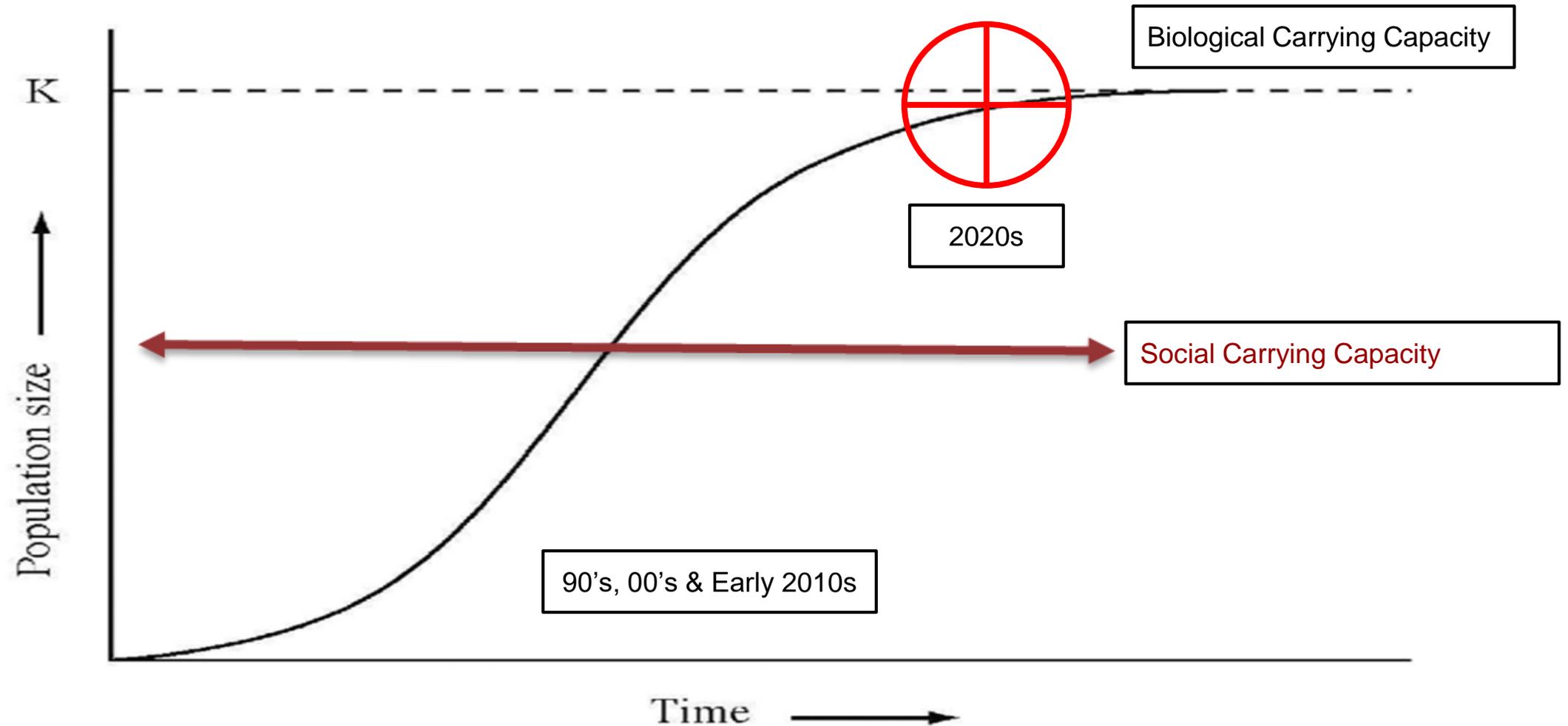


2022 STATE OF ELK

STATEWIDE ELK POPULATION TRENDS



Logistic Growth Curve of Elk In Utah



Elk Population Dynamics

- Elk pops doubled from 1980 to mid-90's
- We couldn't keep up with elk numbers, lots of conflicts
- Models started to get harder to reconcile with counts (some units, not all)
- Some elk units/pops weren't growing as before
- Prompted research, which showed low production & old cows
- Some of our elk populations are probably closer to K than we had previously thought
- Combine this with extreme increase in demand for GS, LE and antlerless elk hunting opportunity

GENERAL-SEASON BULL ELK

- History of general season elk throughout the last plan
 - Permits for GS spike and any bull were 15,000 each (2015)
 - Multi-Season permit introduced (met desire of previous committee to have a program similar to DH for elk)
 - Demand for general season bull hunting grew to be much higher than supply
 - Mid plan review and recommendation to make general-season any bull permits unlimited
 - 17,500 cap and unlimited youth permits was compromise
 - New any bull units were instead made into HAMS units
 - The following year DWR made a recommendation to go to a draw for general season any bull permits
 - rejected in public process
 - Board directed elk plan committee to address supply and demand issues

GS Permit Types
Spike bull
Any bull
Archery
Youth any bull

GENERAL-SEASON ANTLERLESS ELK

- History of antlerless elk permits throughout the last plan
 - Continued to issue public draw permits for 2022 recommending 7,948
 - Introduced private lands only permits (redistribute elk on the landscape)
 - Maintained the ability to harvest a cow with archery tackle
 - Recommended antlerless elk control on areas where needed
 - Maximum flexibility on ways to fill cow tags during multiple seasons if hunters had other big game permits

Permit Types
Public Draw
Private Lands Only
Archery (either sex)
Antlerless Elk Control

LIMITED ENTRY AND SPIKE BULL HUNTING

- Managed LE bulls to 4 age objectives throughout the course of the plan
- Recommended spike hunting on all units with very few exceptions
- Lots of demand for LE bull permits, point creep
- Spike permit demand has also increased, sold out in 8 hours in 2022

LE Elk Age Objectives
7.5 - 8.0
6.5 - 7.0
5.5 - 6.0
4.5 - 5.0

LIMITED ENTRY SEPTEMBER ARCHERY AND “HAMS” UNITS



- Sept. archery season
- Oct/Nov season for regulated handguns, archery, muzzle and shotguns
- Intent to increase opportunity and create Sept archery hunt
- Public process compromise had added some units
 - Some of the added units functioned, some didn't

Hunting Summary

- Lots of what we are doing is working really well
- Demand is growing, have to address it by increasing supply
- Challenges face managers
 - Finding new opportunities
 - Elk distribution/access
 - Elk numbers and productivity





PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

PROJECTS

- 415 Projects with acreage
- Over 542,000 total acres
- Over 3,000 miles of riparian restoration
- Invested over \$93,500,000



PROJECTS



- 185 Water Development Maintenance Fencing Projects
- Invested over \$17,000,000

RESEARCH

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Reducing the refuge effect: using private-land hunting to mitigate issues with hunter access

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Abstract

Hunting pressure alters the spatial ecology of many ungulate species. During hunting periods, game species often select areas that have reduced hunter accessibility by increasing use of forest cover, remaining farther from roads, or moving to private land as a means of refuge. Our objectives were to determine if elk (*Cervus canadensis*) in central Utah, USA, shifted distribution to-

- 22 Research projects
- Over \$2,000,000 Invested
- Lessons Learned
 - Private lands permits can redistribute elk on the landscape
 - Drought impacts on pregnancy
 - Age impacts on pregnancy rates
 - Neonate survival rates and causes of death
 - Migration patterns

2022 ELK PLAN COMMITTEE

- This committee has it's work cut out for it
- Find opportunity for GS and LE elk hunting
- Maintain quality elk hunting
- Outside the box ideas
 - Push outside comfort zones
 - Challenge of hunting
- Tradeoffs (survey = nobody wants to compromise anything anywhere)



2022 ELK PLAN COMMITTEE



- Address demand issues for General Season and Limited Entry elk hunting
 - Hunt type designations
 - New units/areas
 - Age class management
 - Weapons Splits
 - Season Dates

CONSIDERATIONS



THANK YOU



2022 LIMITED-ENTRY ELK (7.5-8 YEARS OLD)

Unit	2019	2020	2021	3-yr avg.	2021 permits	2022 rec.
Beaver, East	7.9	8.3	8.4	8.2	38	51
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	7.0	7.0	8.3	7.4	7	8
Fillmore, Pahvant	6.5	8.7	7.5	7.6	53	53
Plateau, Boulder	7.5	7.2	7.8	7.5	82	82
San Juan	7.6	7.8	7.7	7.7	72	72
Totals					252	266

This is approximately 5,800 elk currently offering 266 bull permits. Annual permits are about 4.5% of the total population

2022 LIMITED-ENTRY ELK (6.5-7 YEARS OLD)

Unit	2019	2020	2021	3-yr avg.	2021 permits	2022 rec.
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	6.0	5.9	5.2	5.7	100	75
Cache, Meadowville*	5.5	5.3	7.0	5.9	60	60
Cache, South	5.9	6.0	7.1	6.3	36	36
Monroe	7.3	7.1	7.7	7.4	42	51
Mt Dutton	5.8	6.8	7.5	6.7	54	56
Panguitch Lake	6.7	5.7	6.7	6.4	39	44
South Slope, Diamond Mtn	6.9	7.8	7.4	7.4	61	67
Southwest Desert, South	7.3	7.1	6.6	7.0	111	96
Totals					503	485

*Indicates a change in age objective from the 2020 mid-plan revision of the statewide elk plan.

This is approximately 12,000 elk currently offering 485 bull permits. Annual permits are about 4% of the total population

2022 LIMITED-ENTRY ELK (5.5-6 YEARS OLD)

Unit	2019	2020	2021	3-yr avg.	2021 permits	2022 rec.
Central Mtns, Manti	6.3	6.8	6.5	6.5	550	576
Central Mtns, Nebo*	5.7	6.7	7.2	6.5	53	61
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	-	-	-	-	5	5
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.0	133	133
North Slope, Three Corners	6.0	4.8	5.5	5.4	25	25
Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	6.0	7.2	6.9	6.7	233	256
Wasatch Mtns	6.2	6.3	5.9	6.1	948	948
Totals					1,947	2,004

*Indicates a change in age objective from the 2020 mid-plan revision of the statewide elk plan.

This is approximately 30,000 elk currently offering 2,004 bull permits. Annual permits are about 6.7% of the total population

2022 LIMITED-ENTRY ELK (4.5-5 YEARS OLD)

Unit	2019	2020	2021	3-yr avg.	2021 permits	2022 rec.
Box Elder, Grouse Creek	5.5	5.3	6.4	5.7	29	32
Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	7.7	7.2	5.7	6.9	16	16
Paunsaugunt	4.8	5.4	4.2	4.8	85	61
Totals					130	109

**This is approximately 900 elk currently offering 109 bull permits.
Annual permits are about 12% of the total population**

2022 LIMITED-ENTRY ELK: HAMS HUNTS

Unit	2021 HAMS permits.	2022 HAMS rec.
Box Elder, Sawtooth	3	3
Cache, North	18	20
Nine Mile, Anthro	20	30
Oquirrh-Stansbury	11	14
Plateau, Barney Top/Kaiparowits	8	8
Southwest Desert, North	8	8
West Desert, Deep Creek	11	13
Totals	79	96

This hunt was created after a change to the statewide elk plan during the 2020 mid-plan review. It is a new handgun, archery, muzzleloader, shotgun (HAMS) hunt that runs from Oct. 1–Nov. 15 on select units.

2022 LIMITED-ENTRY ELK: SEPTEMBER ARCHERY HUNTS

Unit	2021 Sept. archery	2022 Sept. archery rec.
Box Elder, Sawtooth	3	3
Cache, North	18	20
Nine Mile, Anthro	20	30
Oquirrh-Stansbury	11	14
Plateau, Barney Top/Kaiparowits	8	8
Southwest Desert, North	8	8
West Desert, Deep Creek	11	13
Totals	79	96

This hunt was created after a change to the statewide elk plan during the 2020 mid-plan review. It is a new archery hunt that runs from Sept. 1–30 on select units.