



2016 Missouri Firearms Deer Hunting Survey Results



Compiled by: MDC Resource Science Division

The MDC Deer Program uses surveys such as this one to gauge public opinion regarding deer numbers and management strategies and as indicators of deer population trends in each county. We greatly appreciate the responses we receive which help make our surveys an effective management tool!

The Firearms Deer Hunting Survey asks questions about perceived changes in the deer population (number of big bucks and total deer compared to the past 5 years), opinions about deer population size and trends in the county most hunted, and specific days that are hunted and number of deer that were killed each day of the firearms season. Data on specific days hunted and number of deer killed are important both for a “trips-per-kill” estimate and to better understand when hunters are spending time afield. “Trips-per-kill” often influences hunter satisfaction and is also an important indicator of deer population trends.

The sampling pool for this survey is any hunter that receives a firearms deer hunting permit during a given deer season. Following the 2016 deer season, we sent 50,000 surveys to hunters (about 10% of our total deer hunters).

We have summarized the primary results of the 2016 survey and present these data in the figures that follow. For questions about this survey contact Barb Keller, Cervid Program Supervisor, at 573-815-7901, ext 2901.

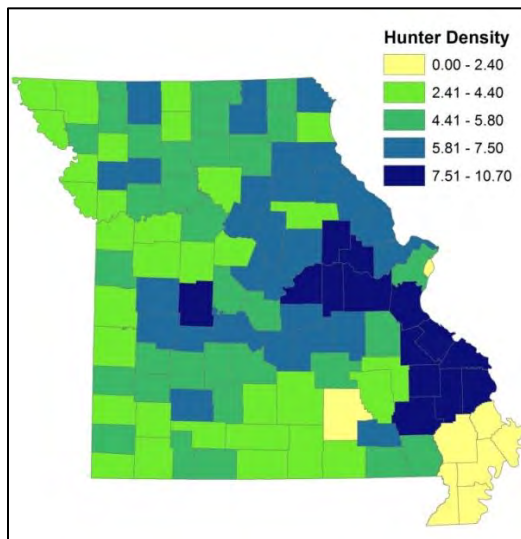


Figure 1. Estimated firearms deer hunter density (hunters / square mile) by county based on 2016 firearms deer survey respondents.

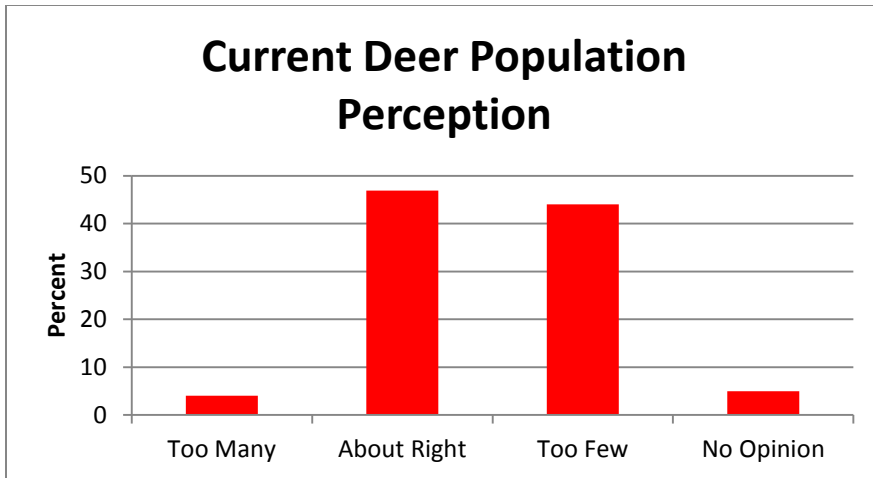


Figure 2. Percentage of 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most.

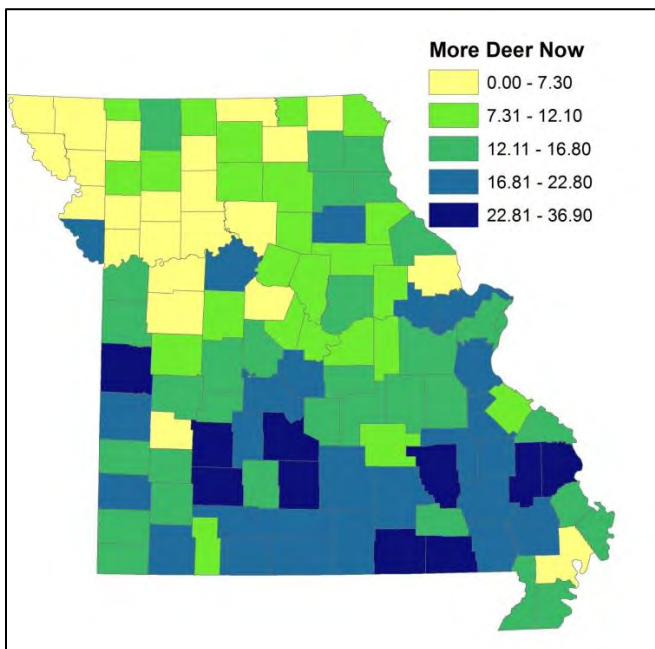


Figure 3. Percentage of 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents by county that responded there are more deer now compared to 5 years ago in the county they hunt the most.

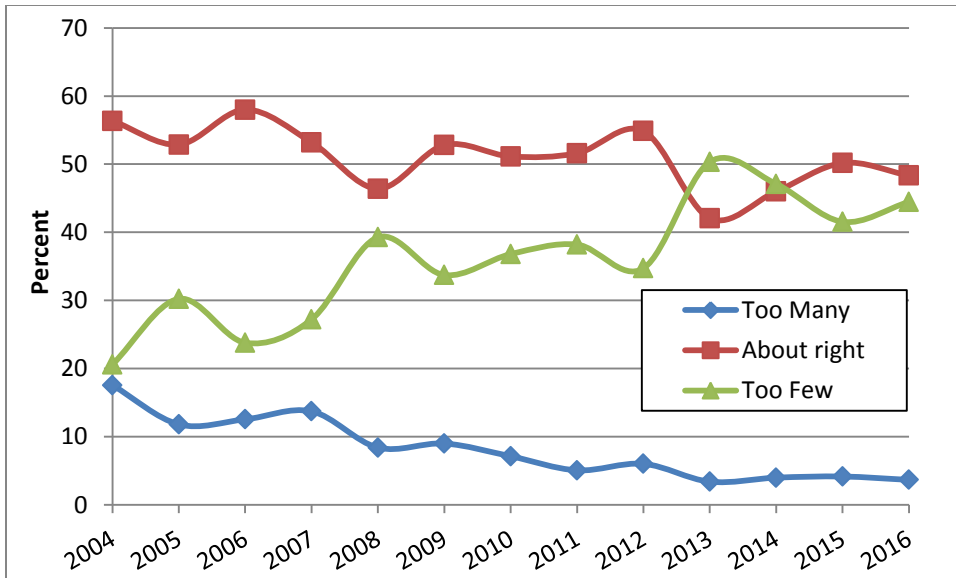


Figure 4. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Central Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

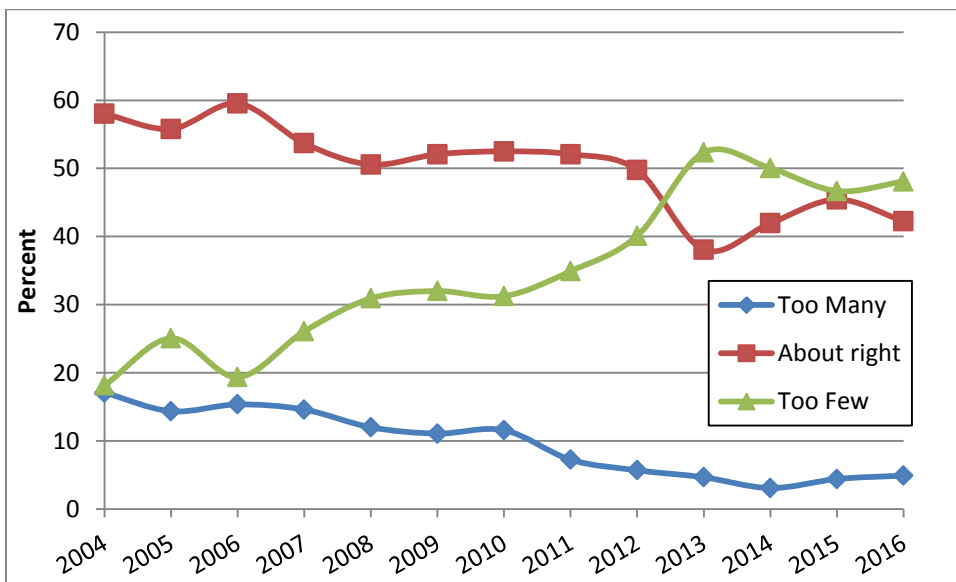


Figure 5. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Kansas City Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

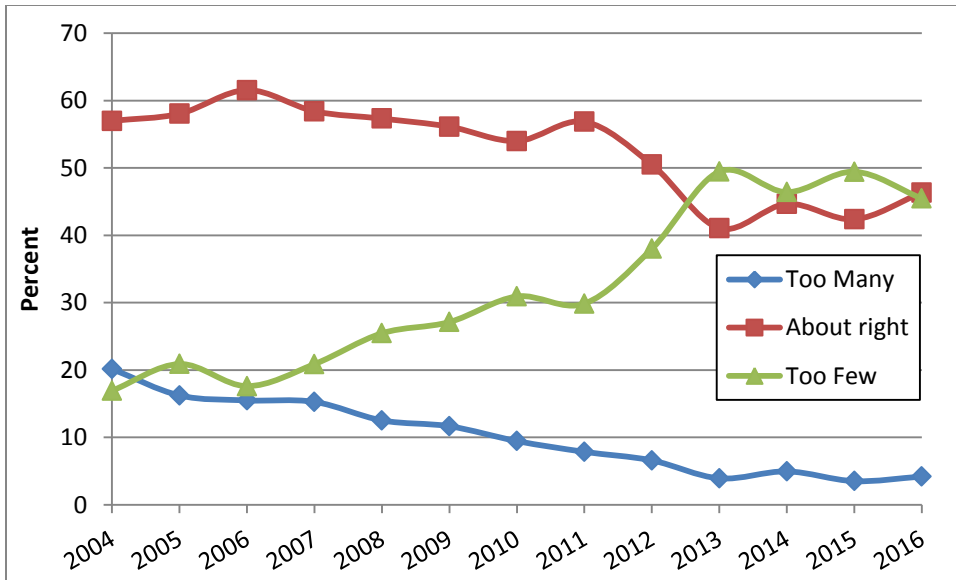


Figure 6. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Northeast Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

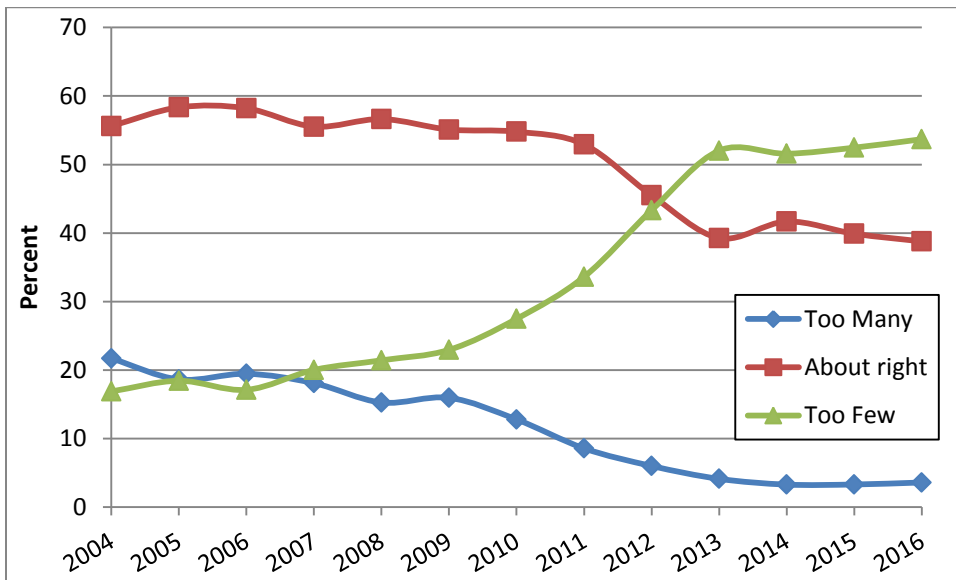


Figure 7. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Northwest Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

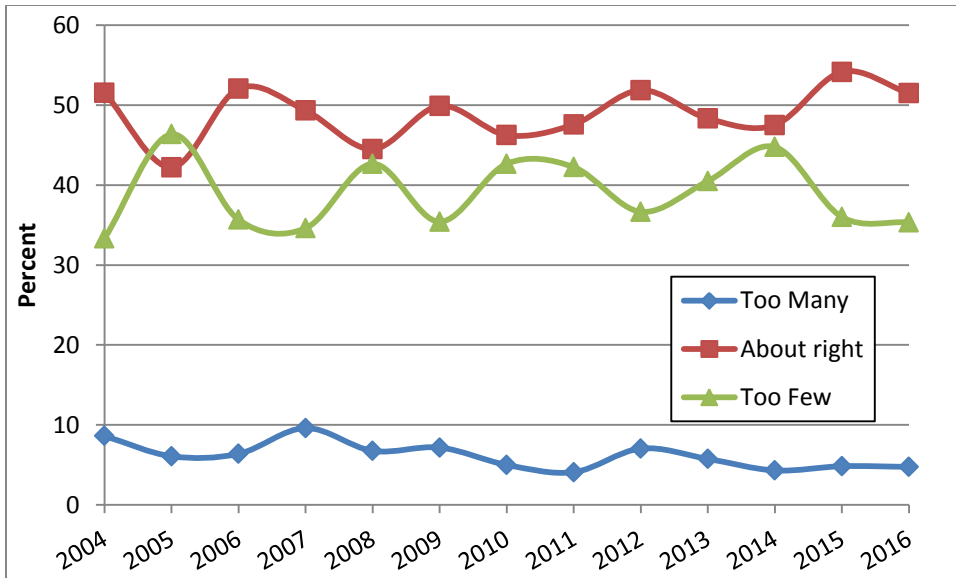


Figure 8. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Ozark Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

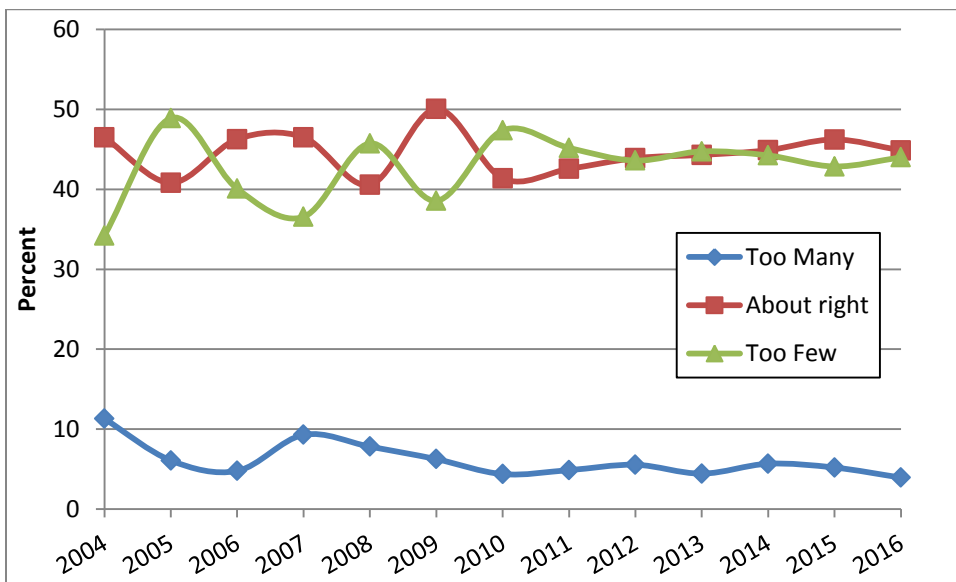


Figure 9. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Southeast Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

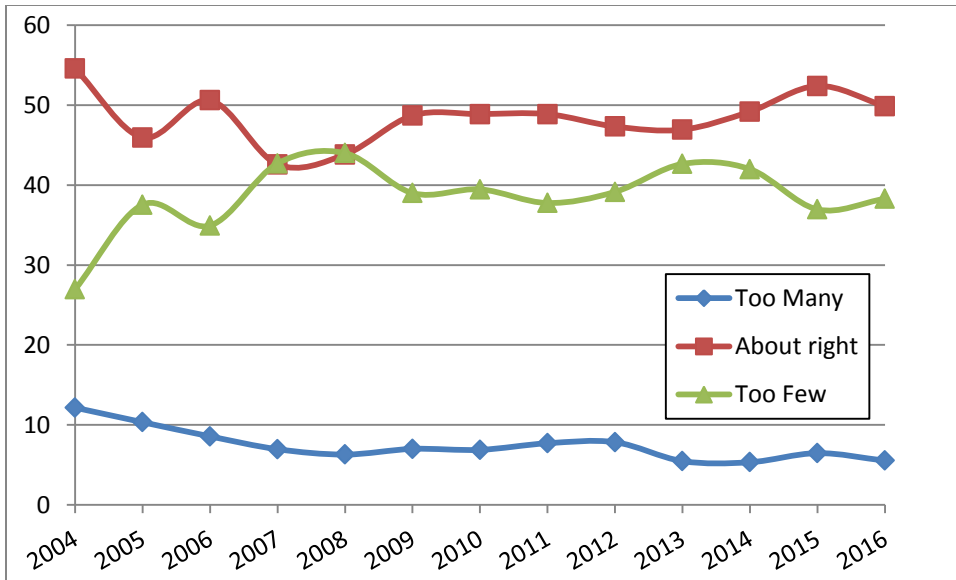


Figure 10. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the Southwest Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

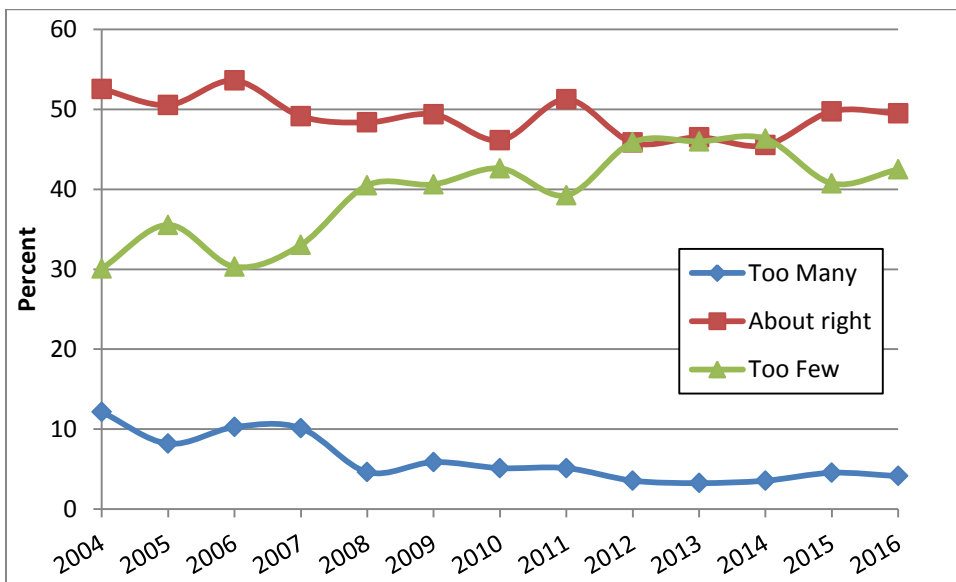


Figure 11. Percentage of firearms deer hunter survey respondents in the St Louis Region that responded there are “too many”, “about right”, “too few”, or “no opinion” when asked about the number of deer in the county they hunt the most, 2004–2016.

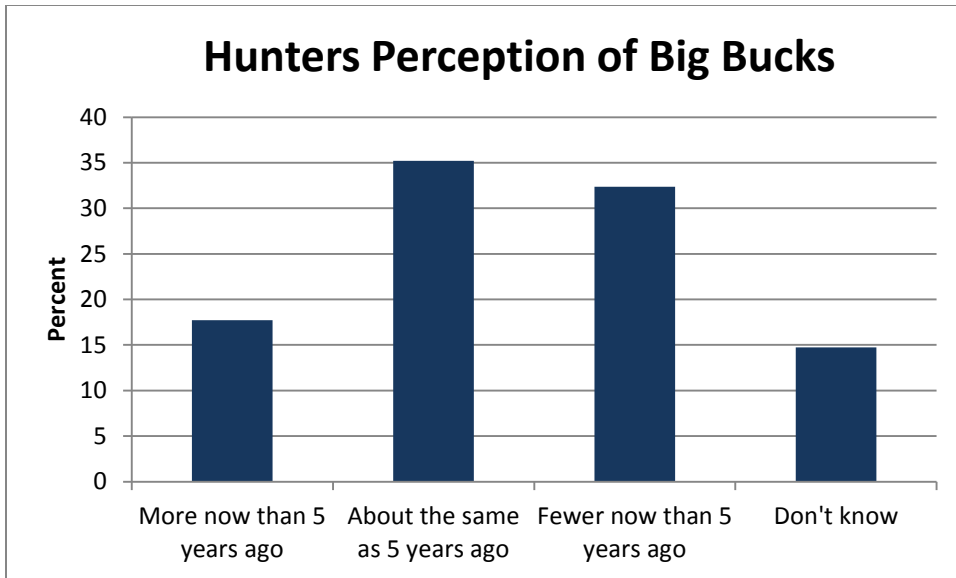


Figure 12. Perceptions of 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents' on the number of big bucks in the county they hunt most compared to 5 years ago.

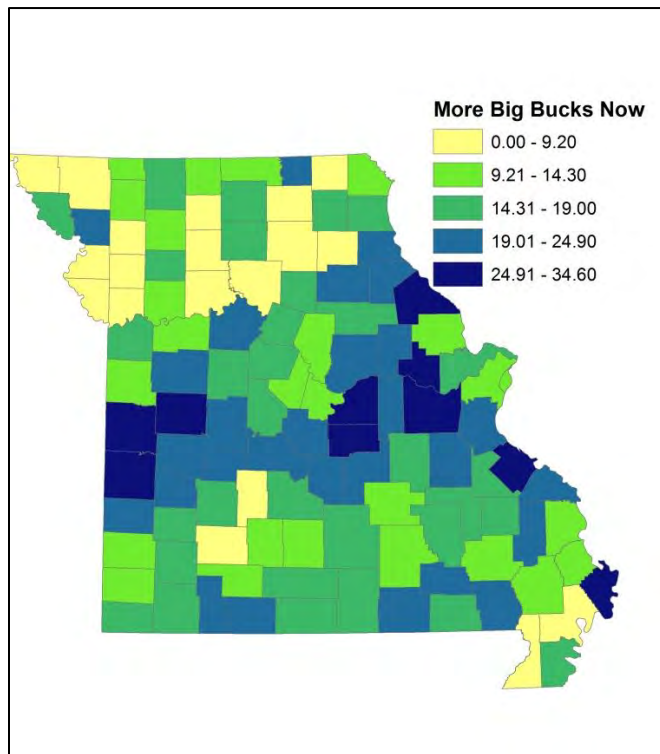


Figure 13. Percentage of 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents by county that responded there are more big bucks now compared to 5 years ago in the county they hunt most.

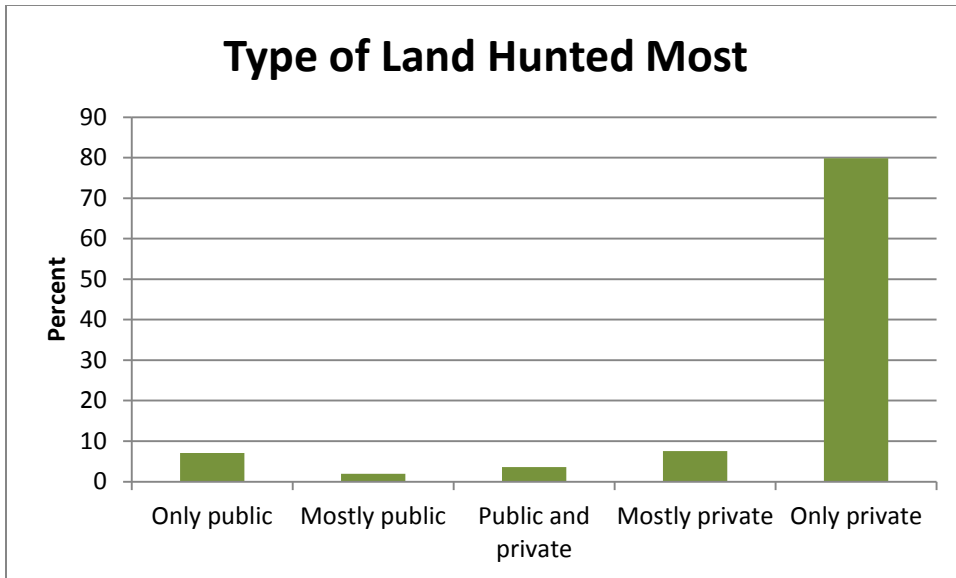


Figure 14. Type of land hunted most by 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents.

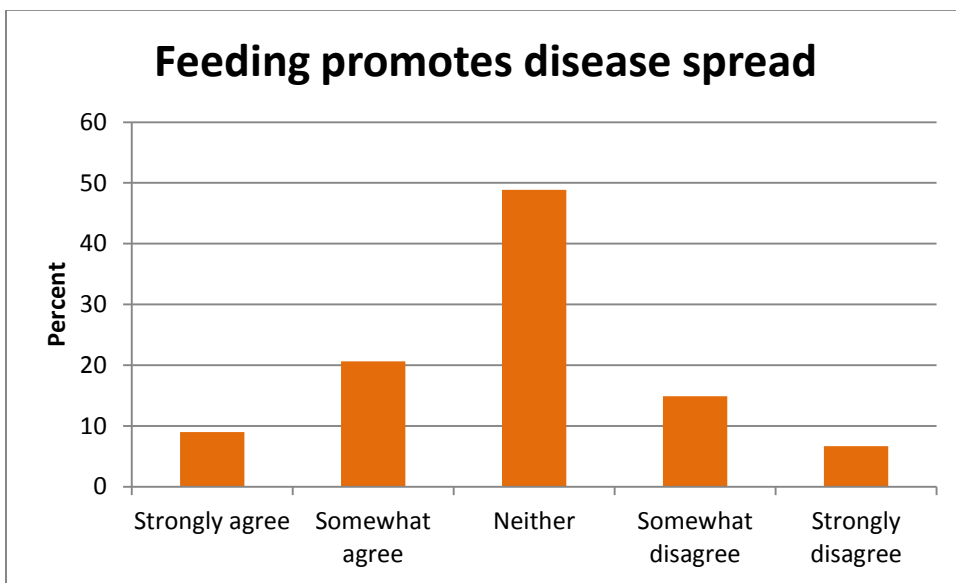


Figure 15. Opinions of 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents about supplemental feeding and disease spread.

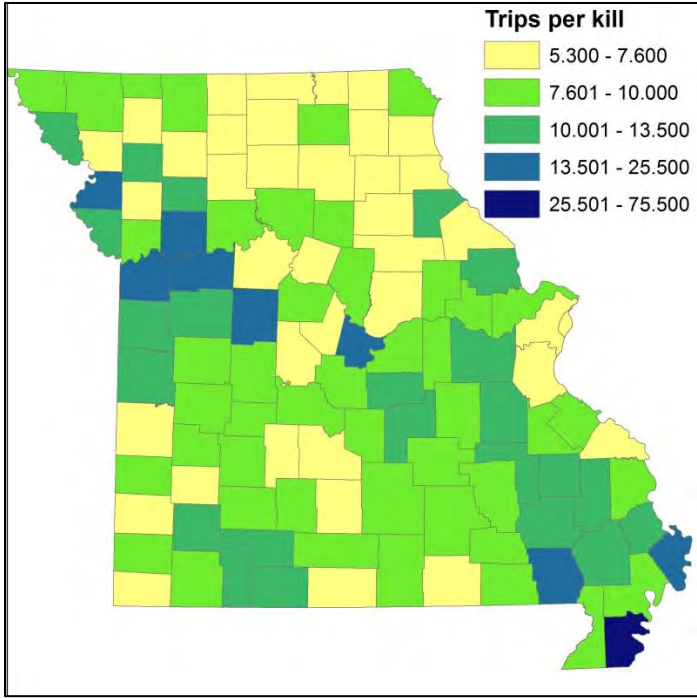


Figure 16. Average number of trips per deer harvested by county, based on 2016 firearms deer hunter survey respondents.

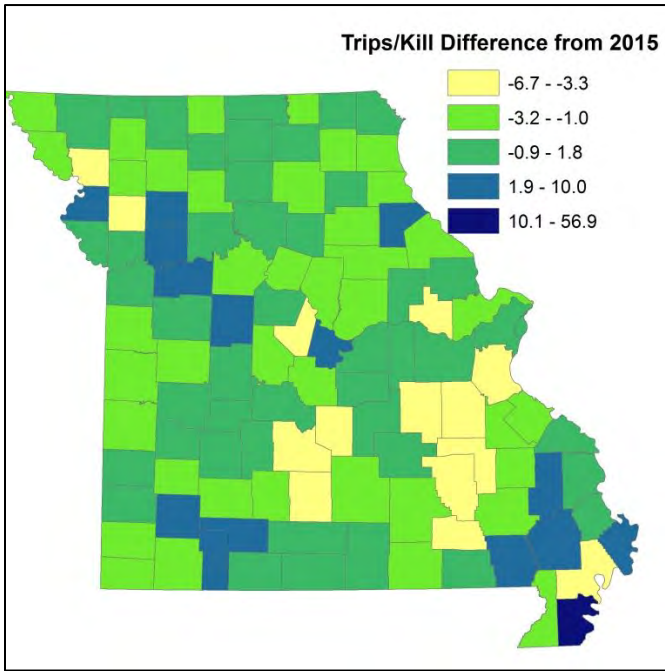


Figure 17. The difference in the average number of trips per deer harvested in each county in 2016 compared to 2015 (negative numbers mean less trips per kill in 2016 compared to 2015).