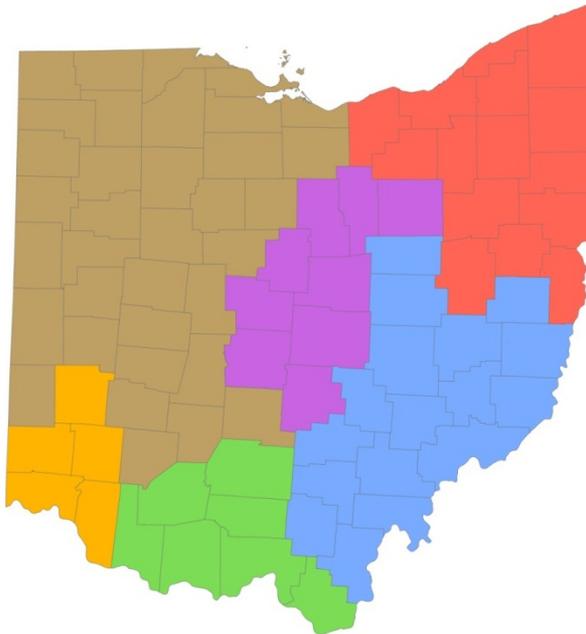
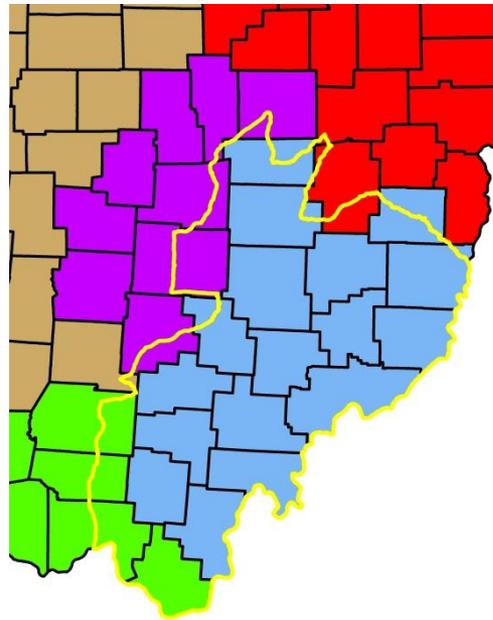


# Developing New Deer Management Units (DMUs): *Overview*

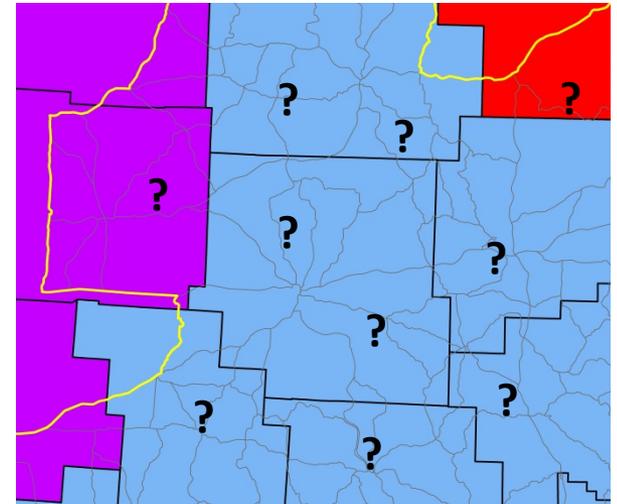
Step 1. Define Broad Management Regions using existing county harvest and landscape features. ✓



Step 2. Refine Broad Management Regions using MAJOR Roadways. ✓

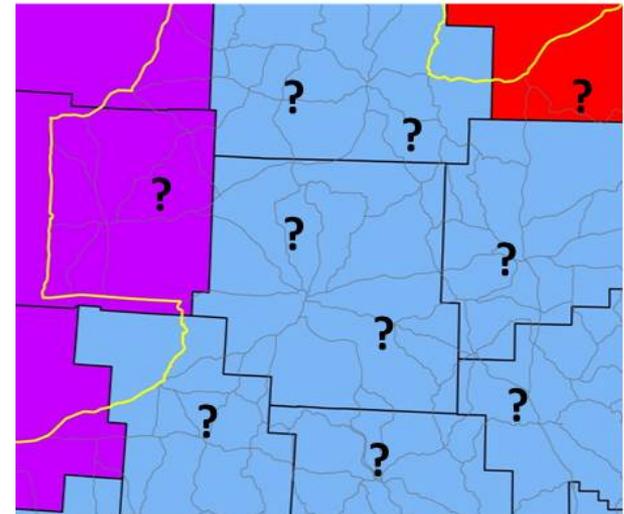


Step 3. Carve DMUs from Broad Management Regions by combining counties or portions of counties using hunter harvest locations.



# Developing New Deer Management Units (DMUs): *Creating DMUs using antlerless harvest locations*

- The Division of Wildlife is reaching out to Ohio's deer hunters who hunted ANTLERLESS deer from 2011-2013. The antlerless harvest and hunt locations will be used to partition each county's total harvest into appropriate subsections ( (Figure 1).
- The survey is open to all Ohio deer hunters, who hunted and/or harvested an antlerless deer during the 2011-2013 seasons.

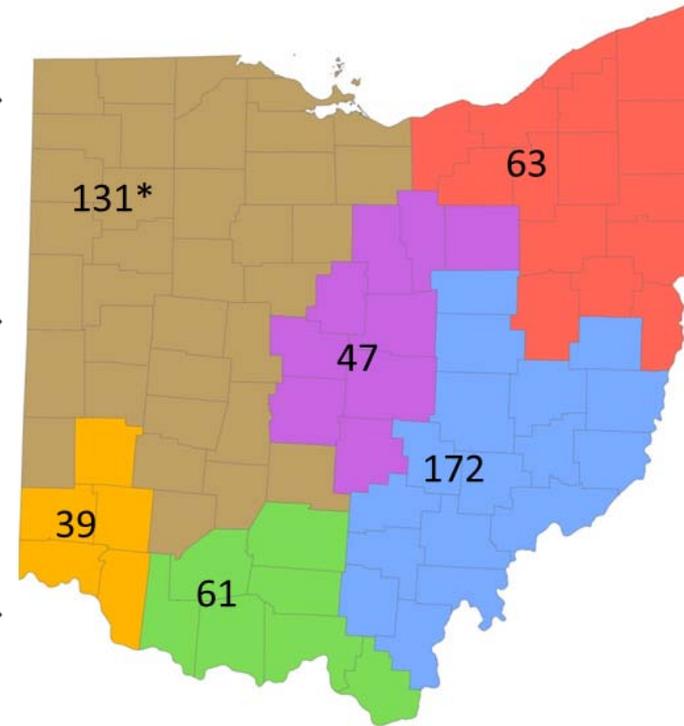
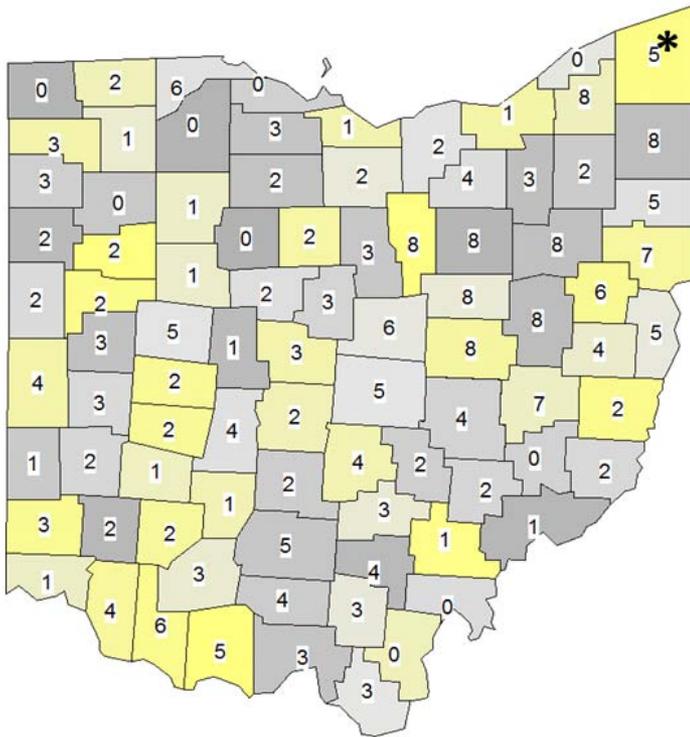


**Figure 1.** Major roadways traversing counties create a number of “subsections.” Antlerless harvest locations will be used to allocate the total county antlerless harvest into these subsections. The entire county or portions of the county will be combined with similar neighboring counties to form DMUs.

# Developing New Deer Management Units (DMUs): *Justification*

Ohio's current deer management unit is the county. County boundaries have LITTLE biological relevance. DMU boundaries will reflect REAL differences in the deer population.

By combining areas with similar deer populations, hunter access and habitat characteristics, more USEFUL data can be obtained with LESS effort.



\*Hypothetical values representing hunter surveys or biological samples. Presently, individual sample sizes within each management unit are typically too small to be of much value. When counties or parts of counties are combined as proposed, sample sizes increase, as does the value of the data.

# Developing New Deer Management Units (DMUs): *FAQs*

- **Why change?**
  - The move to DMUs from county based management is about using available resources to the fullest extent possible to do a better job managing Ohio's deer herd. Efficiency aside, county boundaries have little or no biological relevance. DMU boundaries on the other hand will reflect real differences in the deer population.
- **What will DMUs mean to the hunter?**
  - The change will be largely transparent. In addition to recording county of harvest, hunters will also need to report the DMU.
- **Will DMUs be synonymous with harvest regulation zones, much like our old bag limit zones?**
  - No. Many of the DMUs will have the same bag limit. Remember, DMUs will also have targets levels, just as counties did. The DMU's position relative to the target, in addition to regulation history, is what will dictate bag limits.
  - Deer Zones were collections of counties for convenience. DMUs are based on biological and sociological factors, that are linked to deer harvests and habitat characteristics.