

# 2021 PCMS Hunting Report



February 2021

## Executive Summary

- Spring and summer moisture was above average in 2021 at PCMS. Beginning in late May, PCMS was blessed with several large storm systems that continued throughout late July and kept the property green and dirt tanks filled with water. Additionally, there was another large high intensity storm system in mid-September that tracked across the northern tier of the property and filled the dirt tanks in TA 1, TA 2 and TA 16. As a result, many of the elk were taken in these three training areas.
- Training in Lockwood Canyon resulted in the closure of all canyons during the Spring turkey season. As a result, Spring turkey season was closed for a second year in a row.
- Inconsistent communication regarding training schedules and the unnecessary closure of large areas of PCMS in September were met with many complaints by hunters. As a result, two very large Training Areas, 7 and 10, were subdivided into 3 parcels each (7A, 7B, 7C, 10A, 10B & 10C) which resulted in better hunter access beginning in mid-October.
- A new PCMS recreation map was developed as a result of the addition of new training areas (7A, 7B, 7C, 10A, 10B & 10C) and was available to recreationists in mid-October.
- Training was announced 3 days after the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> OTC Bull Elk season in early November. This resulted in many hunters cancelling their hunt and going home. While there were still areas of the property open to hunting, the best areas were closed. Had this information been communicated earlier and in a timelier manner, many hunters probably would have chosen to come during the 3<sup>rd</sup> OTC season. Poor communication regarding the training schedule continues to be an issue. Additionally, if a unit finishes training early and returns to Fort Carson, training areas continue to be closed even though it is obvious that no training is going on.
- The three elk seasons were moved by CO Parks & Wildlife to occur almost one week later in the year than previous years. As a result, November was the busiest month of the year based on number of downrange passes issued.
- The number of total downrange passes issued for calendar year (Jan – Dec) 2021 was similar to calendar years 2017, 2018 & 2019. Approximately 2000 downrange passes were issued during these years. Nearly 500 fewer downrange passes were issued in 2020 due to training conflicts.

- Harvest numbers were up for deer, elk & pronghorn over the previous year (2020). It is likely that closures due to training in 2020 resulted in lower harvest numbers. During the 2021 big game hunting season, there were fewer closures which likely resulted in more hunters afield and higher success rates.
- Harvest numbers remained steady for bighorn sheep with a 100% success rate among the 3 hunters. A fourth hunter didn't show. The Boone & Crockett (B&C) average for the 3 sheep was 7 points below the 10 year average BH sheep B&C score.
- The 10 year trend of elk and pronghorn B&C scores is downward. More pronghorn are being harvested now than 10 years ago when the muzzleloader season occurred after the rifle season. The pronghorn muzzleloader season is now before the rifle season and during the peak of the rut. As a result the success rate is much higher and the higher quality animals (trophy) are now taken during the muzzleloader season instead of the rifle season. Elk harvest is up for both bulls and cows. The increase in elk hunters the last 4-5 years has corresponded with an increase in elk harvest. With no antler point restriction in place and more hunters, the B&C score of bulls has gone down. Additionally, many elk hunters are from out-of-state and therefore shoot any elk they see so as not to go home with an expensive unfilled tag. The result is younger animals being harvested.

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### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- All Boone and Crockett (B&C) data were collected by the individual hunter, not PCMS biologists. Therefore, B&C scores are subject to variation. All B&C scores and calculations are reviewed by PCMS biologists and the calculations are corrected when necessary.
- All B&C numbers used in this report are derived from the gross scores and not the final (adjusted) scores. Final scores are usually lower than gross scores because points are deducted for asymmetry in the final score. The exception to this is when scoring an atypical animal. When considering management options, the PCMS biologists focus more on overall size rather than symmetry.
- The average was calculated using all the acceptable B&C scores. For elk, spike animals were not included. This year 100% of hunters turned in their B&C data.

- This report was prepared solely to share hunting data collected on PCMS and not to provide any statistical analysis. Statistical analysis was not performed because the sample sizes (n) were generally too small, and there was too great a degree of variation in the data collection method to provide accurate statistical analysis.

# PCMS 2020 Harvest Data Summary

## MULE DEER

### Rifle Data (142 only)

Total number of buck permits	20
Total number of hunters that showed	19
Percent of hunters that showed	95%
Rifle bucks harvested	15
Rifle buck success rate	79%
Average B&C	153 2/8

Total number of doe permits	20*
Total number that showed	12
Percent of hunters that showed	60%
Rifle does harvested *	11
Rifle doe success rate	92%

*\*Includes 1 youth tag. There were 20 adult tags.*

### Muzzleloader (142 only)

Total number of buck permits	15
Total number that showed	14
Percent of hunters that showed	93%
ML Bucks Harvested	7
ML buck success rate	50%
Average B&C	166

Total number of doe permits	15
Total number that showed	9
Percent of hunters that showed	60%
ML does harvested	5
ML doe success rate	55%

### Archery (142 only)

Total number of tags (either sex)	35
Total number that showed	30
Percent of hunters that showed	86%
Archery bucks harvested	8
Archery does harvested	0
Hunter success rate	27%
Average B&C	149 5/8

### All Seasons

Total # bucks harvested	30
Average size	151 3/8
% with B & C > 180	20%
Total # does	16

## ELK

### Rifle Data (2nd & 3rd season OTC multi-unit)

Total number of bull elk permits	OTC
Total number of bull hunters	62
Percent of hunters that showed	n/a
Rifle bulls harvested	15
Rifle bull elk success rate	24%
Average B & C	226 2/8

### Rifle Data (4<sup>th</sup> season multi-unit draw)

Total number of bull elk permits	30
Total number of hunters at PCMS	17
Percent of hunters at PCMS	57%
Rifle bulls harvested	7
Bull elk (4 <sup>th</sup> season) success rate	41%
Average rifle B & C	199 2/8

### Rifle Cow elk (142 only)

Total number of cow permits	25
Total number of cow hunters	21*
Percent of hunters that showed	76%
Cows harvested*	12
Cow elk success rate	63%

*\* Includes 2 youth hunters. There were 25 adult tags.*

### Muzzleloader (multi-unit)

Total number of permits	18
Total number that showed	4
Percent of hunters that showed	22%
ML bull elk harvested	0
ML cow elk harvested	0
ML success rate	0
Average B&C	NA

### Archery (multi-unit OTC)

Total number of permits	OTC
Total number of hunters that showed	26
Archery bulls harvested	2
Archery cows harvested	0
Archery success rate	8%
Average B&C	182

### All Seasons

Total # bulls harvested	24
Average size	167 7/8
% with B & C > 300	4%
Total # cows	12

## PRONGHORN

### Rifle (142 only)

Total number of buck permits	25
Total number that showed	21
Percent of hunters that showed	84%
Rifle bucks harvested	14
Rifle success rate	67%
Average B&C	65 4/8

Total number of doe permits	19
Total number that showed	10
Percent of hunters that showed	53%
Rifle does harvested	5
Rifle doe success rate	70%

### Muzzleloader

Total number of buck permits	24
Total number that showed	23
Percent of hunters that showed	96%
ML bucks Harvested	13
ML buck success rate	54%
Average B&C	65 3/8

Total number of doe permits	30
Total number that showed	16
Percent of hunters that showed	53%
ML does harvested*	9
ML doe success rate	56%

### Archery (multi-unit OTC)

Total number of tags (either sex)	OTC
Total number that showed	18
Percent of hunters that showed	n/a
Archery bucks harvested	3
Archery does harvested	0
Hunter success rate (bucks)	17%
Average B&C	63 4/8

### All Seasons

Total # bucks harvested	30
Average size	65 3/8
% with B & C > 75	14%
Total # does*	13

## BIG HORN SHEEP

### Rifle (Unit S-61)

Total number of ram permits	4
Total number of hunters that showed	3
Percent of hunters that showed	75%
Rams harvested	3
Ram success rate	100%
Average B&C	147
% with B&C > 160	0%

## OTHER GAME

As of 17 Feb 2022 other game harvested on PCMS includes:

coyotes - 12
bobcats - 8
gray fox - 0
rabbits - 7
turkey - 0
badger - 1
scaled quail - 0
mountain lion - 0
bear - 1
dove - 0

## PCMS Historical B&C Data and Harvest Numbers for Deer

	Archery Deer		Muzzleloader Deer		Rifle Deer		Total Deer	
	<i>n</i>	<i>Gross Avg</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Gross Avg</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Gross Avg</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Gross Avg</i>
<b>2011</b>	2	137 2/8	-	-	12	136 7/8	14	137 1/8
<b>2012</b>	7*	112 3/8	7	132 1/8	10*	137 1/8	24	127 2/8
<b>2013</b>	3	142 1/8	3	131 3/8	10	168 2/8	15	156 2/8
<b>2014</b>	7	141 7/8	4*	114 4/8	9	153 5/8	18	142 6/8
<b>2015</b>	9	159 2/8	2	140	14	167 1/8	25	162 1/8
<b>2016</b>	5	131 7/8	5	155 6/8	10	159 1/8	20	151 4/8
<b>2017</b>	7	150 4/8	11	148 4/8	17	164 2/8	35	156 5/8
<b>2018</b>	7	123 5/8	6	124	17	137 1/8	40	131 3/8
<b>2019</b>	6	128 2/8	6	154 3/8	19	166 7/8	31	149 7/8
<b>2020</b>	7	140 4/8	-	-	5	171 5/8	12	153 4/8
<b>2021</b>	8	149 5/8	7	166	15	153 2/8	30	151 3/8

\*Some scores were missing

## PCMS Historical B&C Data and Harvest Numbers for Elk

	Archery Elk		Muzzleloader Elk		OTC & Draw Rifle Elk		Total Elk	
	n	Gross Avg	n	Gross Avg	n	Gross Avg	n	Gross Avg
<b>2011</b>	1	*	1	*	2	*	4	-
<b>2012</b>	1	258	1	297 4/8	9	235	11	263 4/8
<b>2013</b>	0	0	2	272 6/8	5	241 2/8	8**	255 4/8
<b>2014</b>	1	281 6/8	0	0	12***	253 7/8	13	257
<b>2015</b>	0	0	1*	*	9	244 1/8	10	244 1/8
<b>2016</b>	1	172	1	205 2/8	13	238 5/8	15	232
<b>2017</b>	1	226 5/8	0	0	10	202 4/8	11	204 6/8
<b>2018</b>	2	261 2/8	****	****	20***	226	22	230 1/8
<b>2019</b>	2	278	1	205	20***	222 5/8	23	227 4/8
<b>2020</b>	2	212 4/8	0	0	8	224 2/8	10	222 7/8
<b>2021</b>	2	182	0	0	22	219 1/8	24	215 5/8

\*No B&C scores collected \*\*Some scores were missing

\*\*\* Includes spikes (no B&C) \*\*\*\*No hunt due to training

## PCMS Historical B&C Data and Harvest Numbers for Pronghorn

	Archery Pronghorn		Muzzleloader Pronghorn		Rifle Pronghorn		Total Pronghorn	
	n	Gross Avg	n	Gross Avg	n	Gross Avg	n	Gross Avg
<b>2011</b>	2	*	5	*	14	*	21	*
<b>2012</b>	2	72	2	60	13	70 7/8	17	67 5/8
<b>2013</b>	2	64	1	70 4/8	**	**	3	66 1/8
<b>2014</b>	3	65 3/8	5	65 6/8	11	70 6/8	19	68 2/8
<b>2015</b>	1	58 6/8	10	71	15	73 3/8	26	71 7/8
<b>2016</b>	4	54 1/8	14	63	***	***	18	58 4/8
<b>2017</b>	4	55 6/8	28	67 2/8	19	72 3/8	51	68 2/8
<b>2018</b>	***	***	32	69 5/8	14	67 5/8	46	68 6/8
<b>2019</b>	2	70 6/8	19	72 1/8	13	68 3/8	34	70 5/8
<b>2020</b>	3	75 4/8	16	65 7/8	3	70 5/8	22	67 6/8
<b>2021</b>	3	64	13	65 3/8	14	65 4/8	30	65 3/8

\* No B&C score collected \*\* No rifle hunt due to government shut down. \*\*\*No hunt due to training

<b>Rifle Pronghorn Horn Length 1989-1997</b>									
<b>Year</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
# Pronghorns Measured	27	38	33	41	36	37	36	n/a	28
<b>Avg. Horn Length</b>	<b>10 4/8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12 1/8</b>	<b>12 1/8</b>	<b>12 4/8</b>	<b>12 4/8</b>	<b>12 2/8</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>12 2/8</b>

<b>Rifle Pronghorn Horn Length 2012-2020</b>									
<b>Year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013*</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016**</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020***</b>
# Pronghorns Measured	13	n/a	11	15	n/a	19	14	13	3
<b>Avg. Horn Length</b>	<b>12 7/8</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>13 3/8</b>	<b>13 3/8</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>13 3/8</b>	<b>12 4/8</b>	<b>12 6/8</b>	<b>12 3/8</b>

<b>Rifle Pronghorn Horn Length 2021-2029</b>									
<b>Year</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
# Pronghorns Measured	14								
<b>Avg. Horn Length</b>	<b>11 7/8</b>								

NOTES:

From 1989 to 1997 the B&C scores were calculated by adding the horn lengths, basal circumferences and length of prongs.

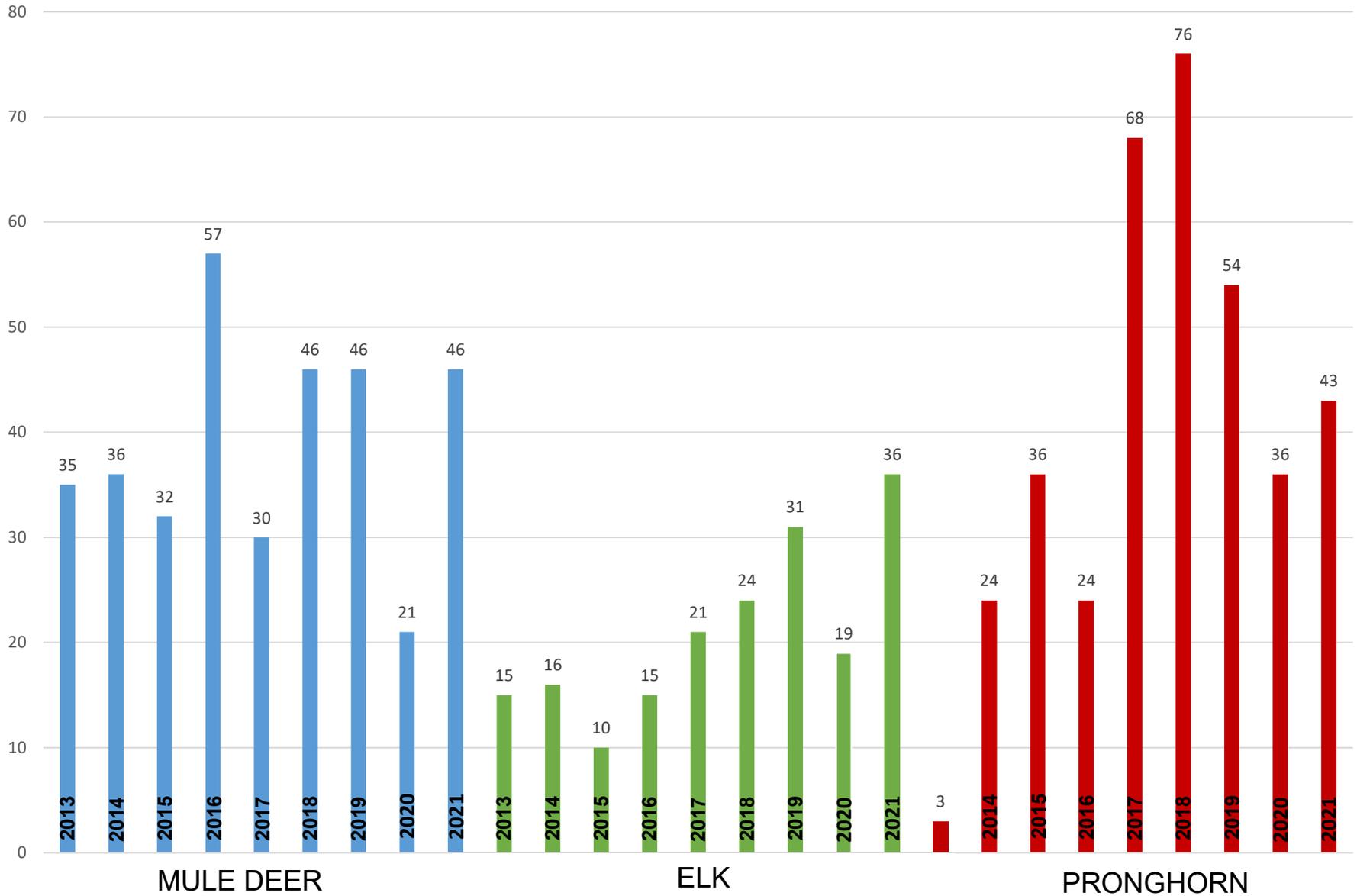
The B&C score method eventually changed to include the above, and also the circumferences at four points along each horn, tip to tip spread and the inside spread. In order to compare this historical data and the current data, only the horn lengths are used.

\* Rifle Season cancelled due to government shutdown.

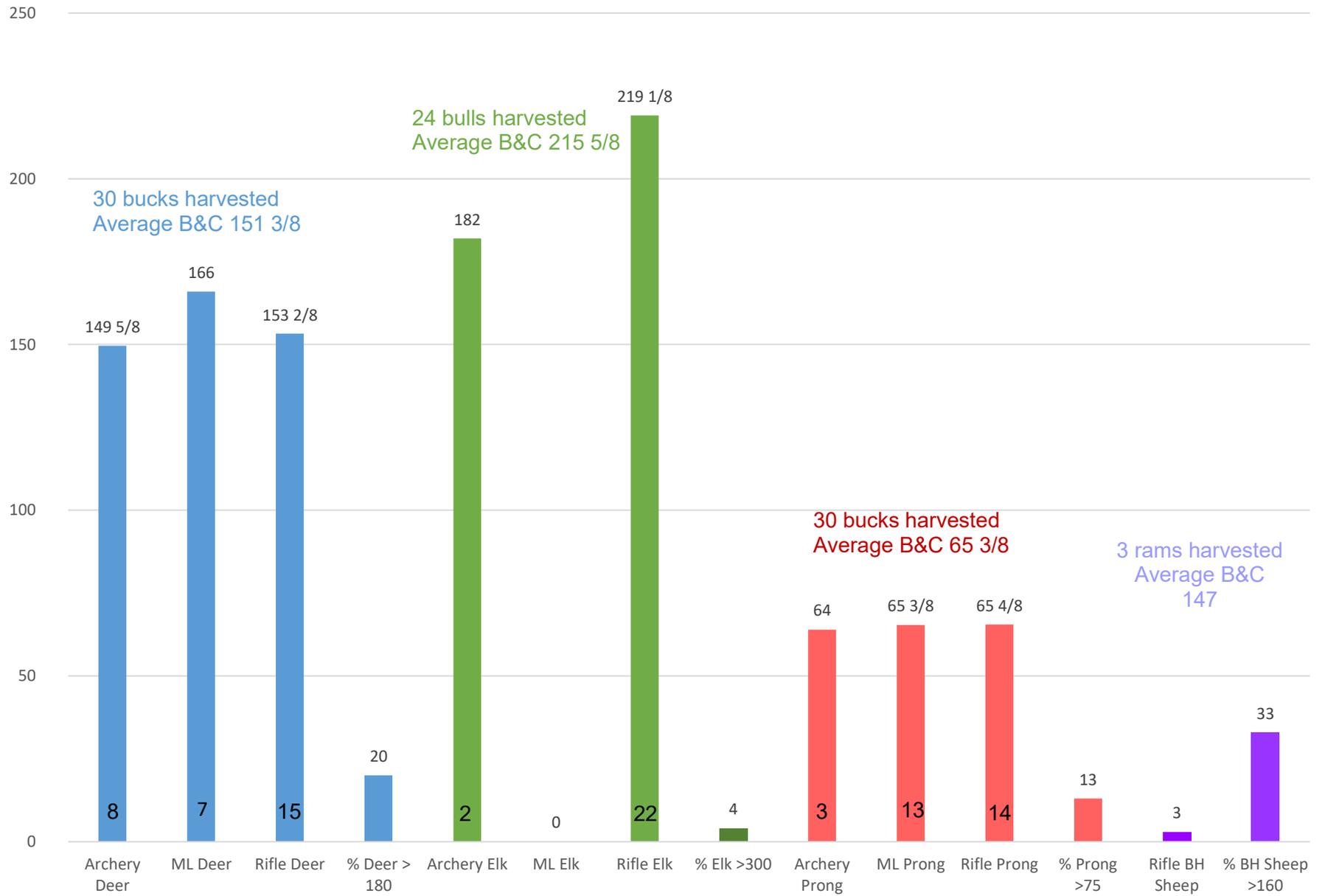
\*\* Rifle Season cancelled due to training.

\*\*\*Partial Season due to training

## All PCMS Mule Deer, Elk & Pronghorn Harvested 2013-2021 (Male & Female)

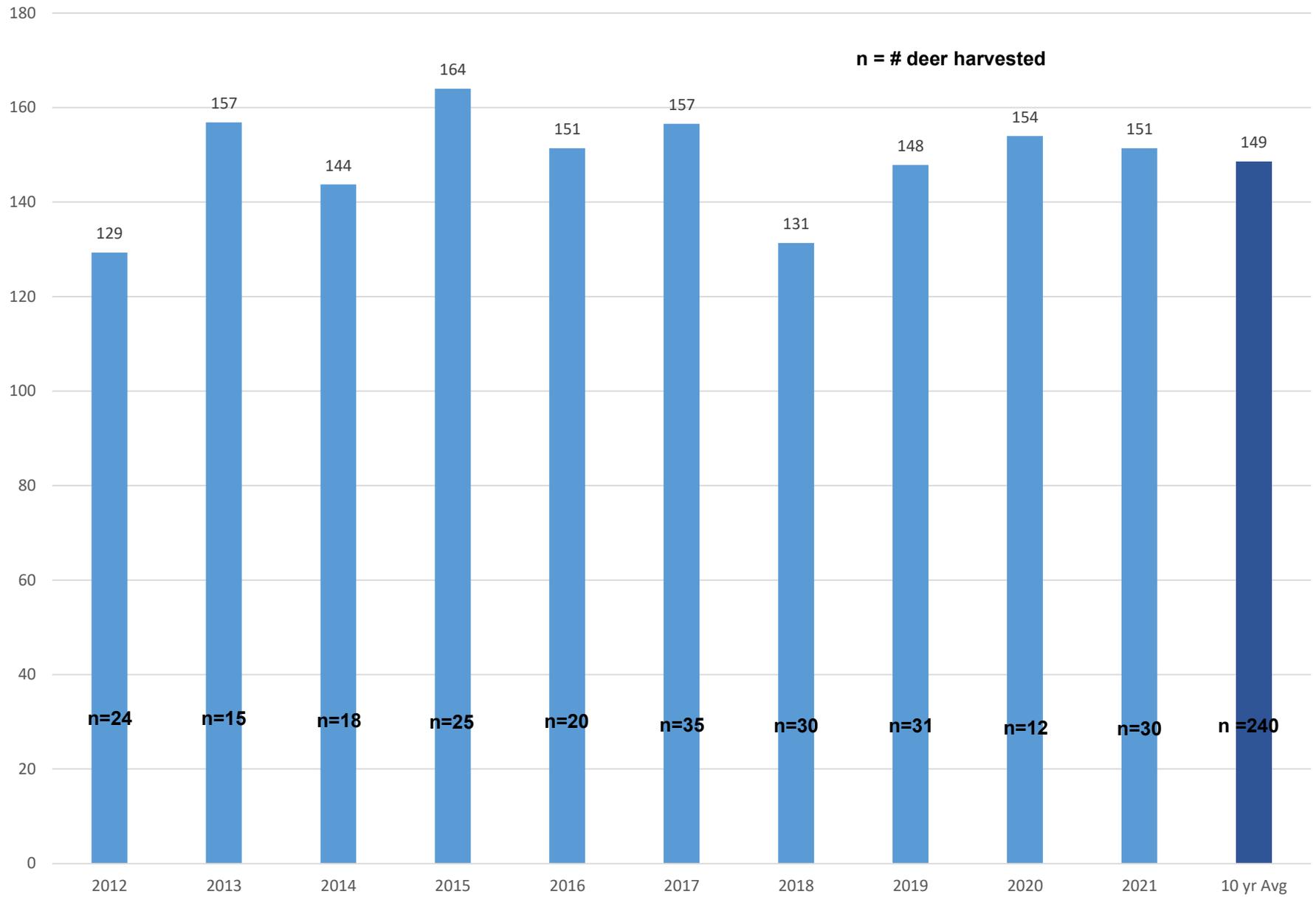


## 2021 Average B&C of PCMS Big Game Species by Season

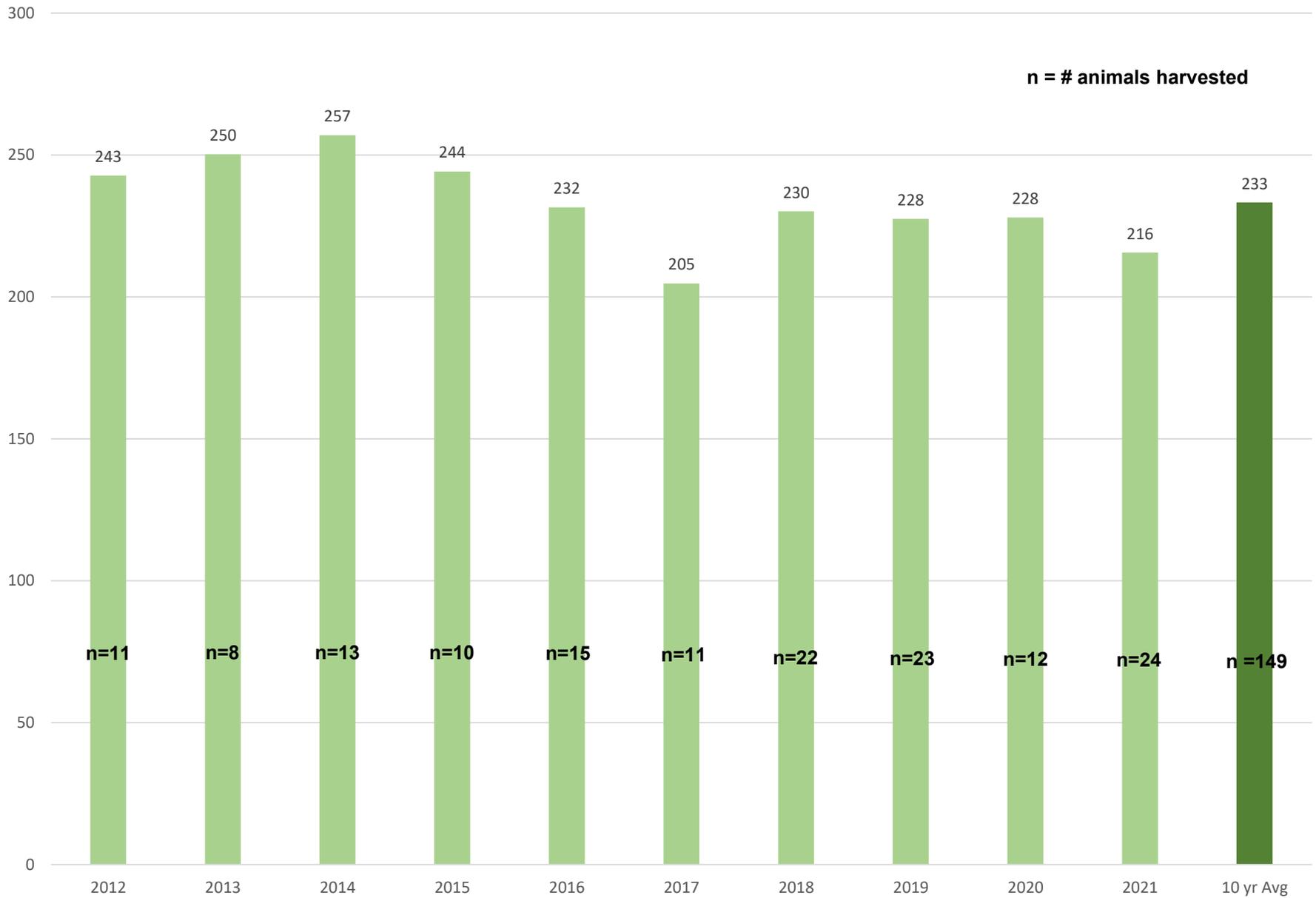


# Average B&C of All PCMS Mule Deer (2012-2021)

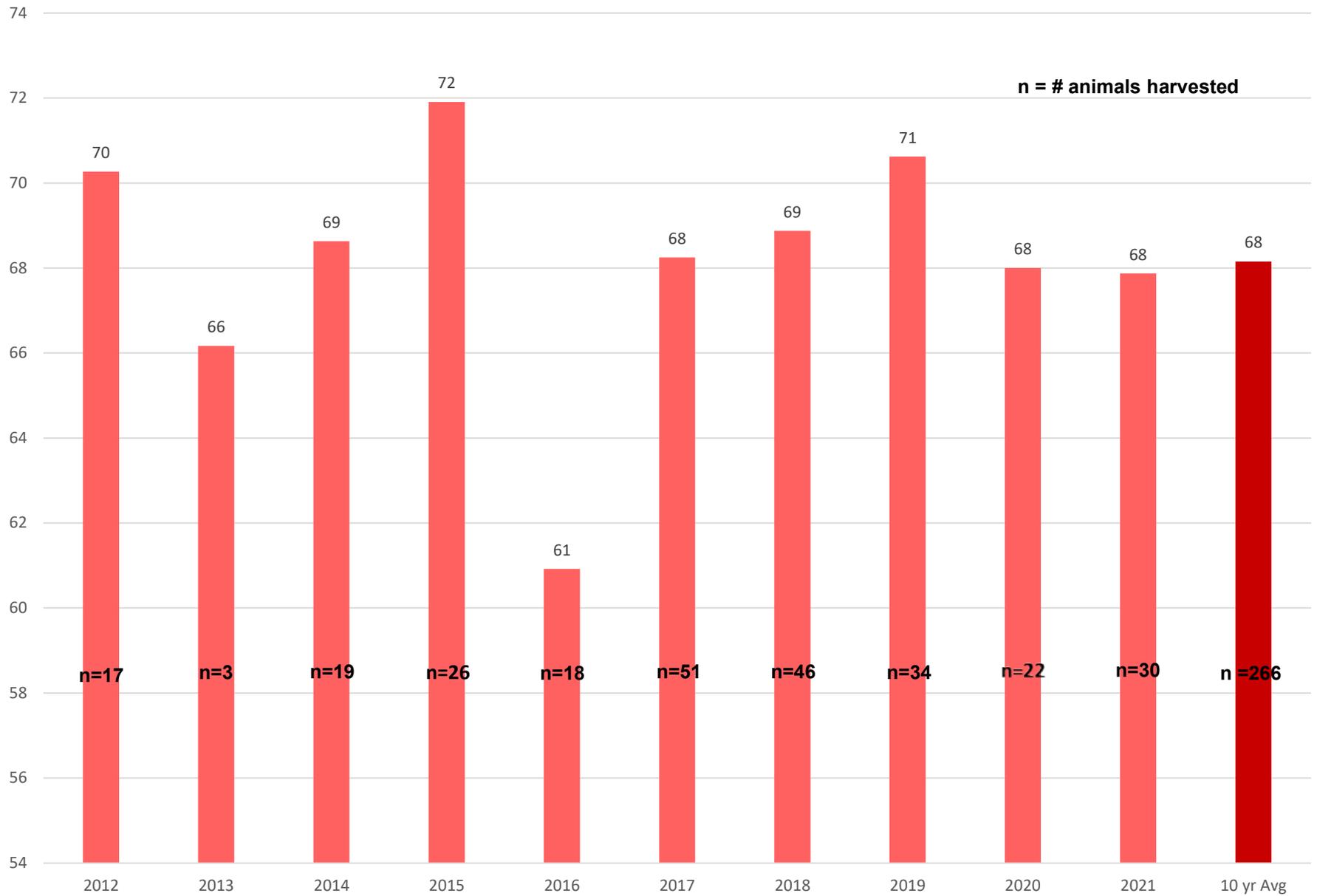
n = # deer harvested



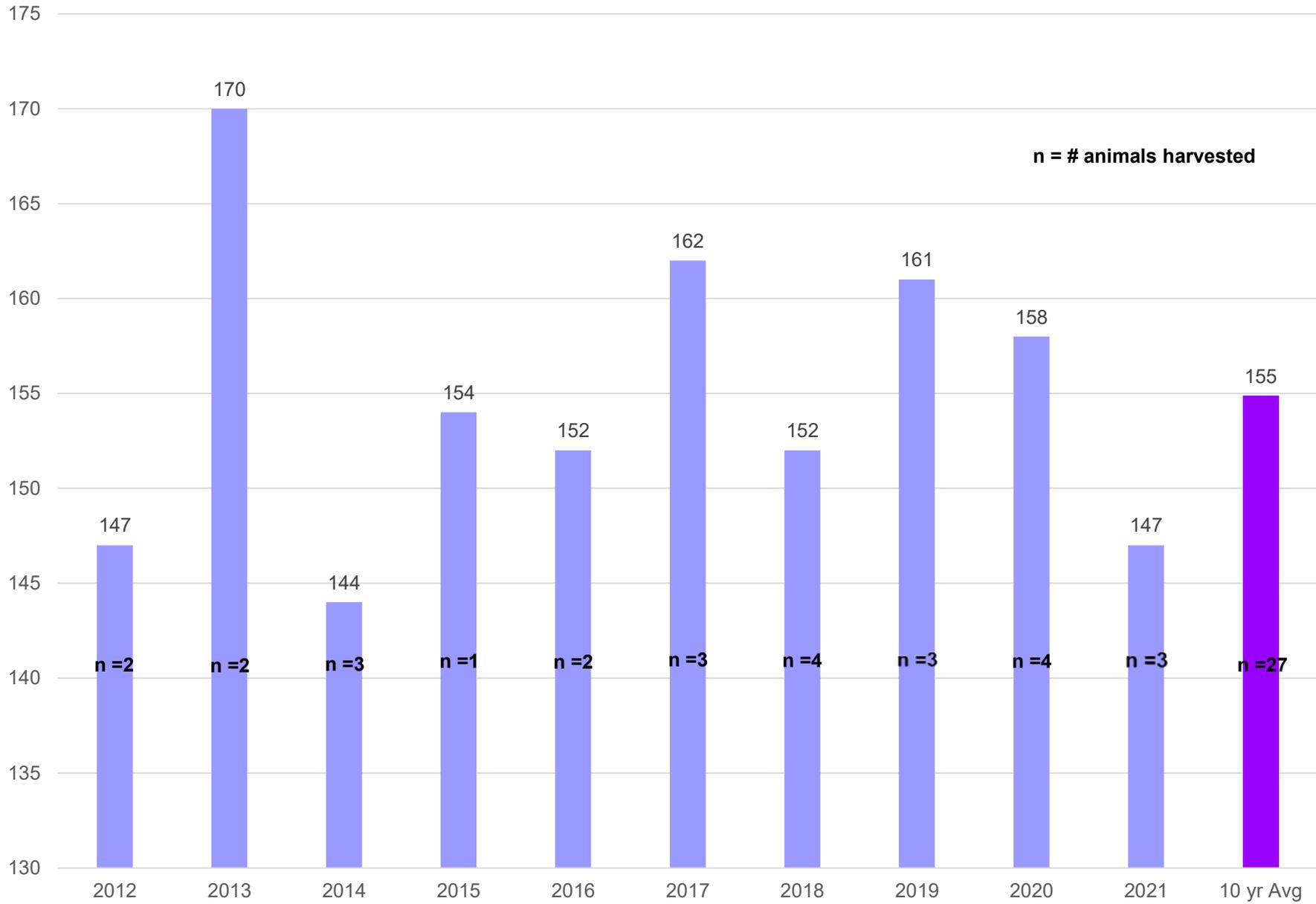
## Average B&C of All PCMS Elk (2012-2021)



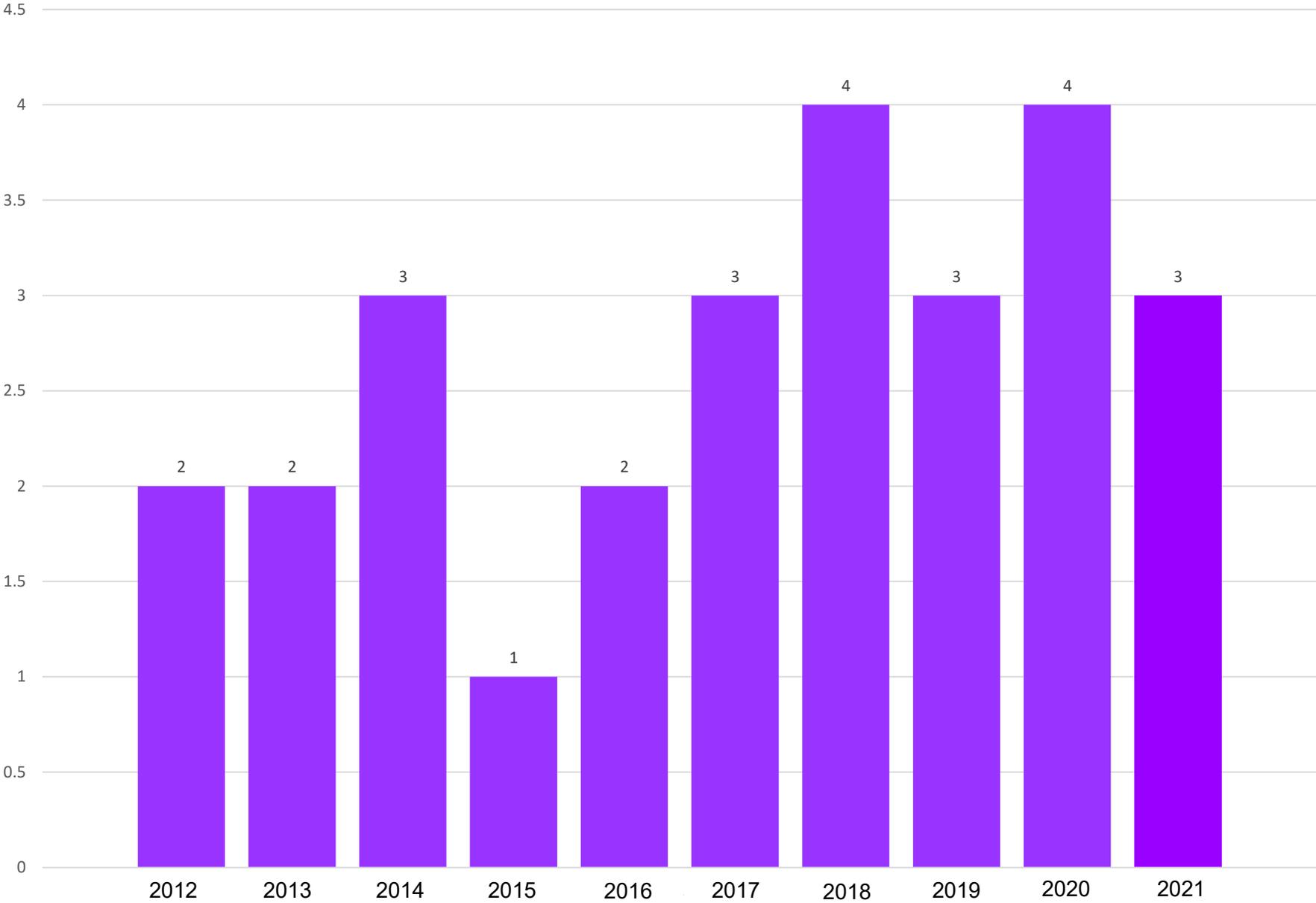
## Average B&C of All PCMS Pronghorn (2012-2021)



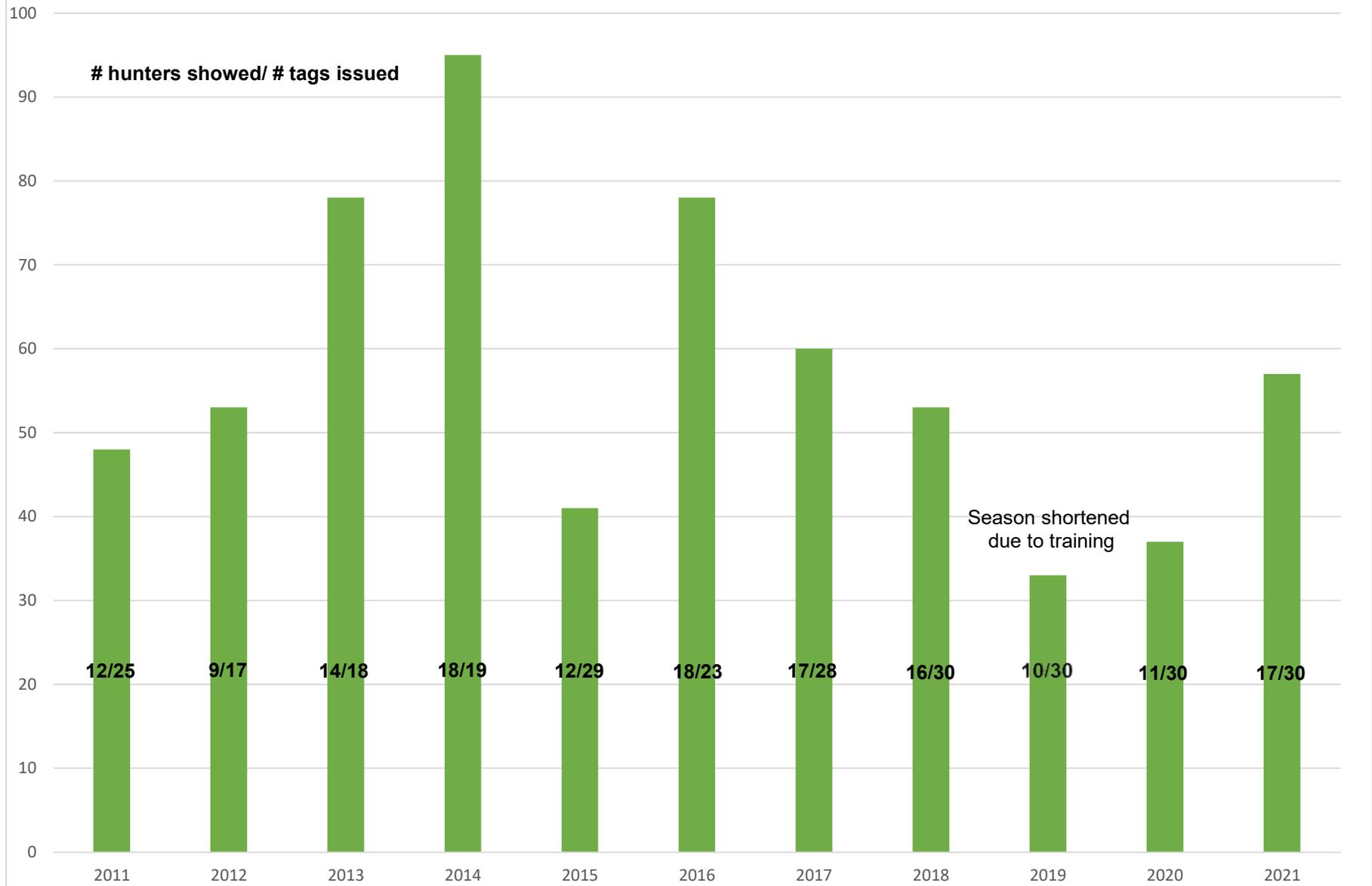
# Average B&C of All PCMS Bighorn Sheep (2012-2021)



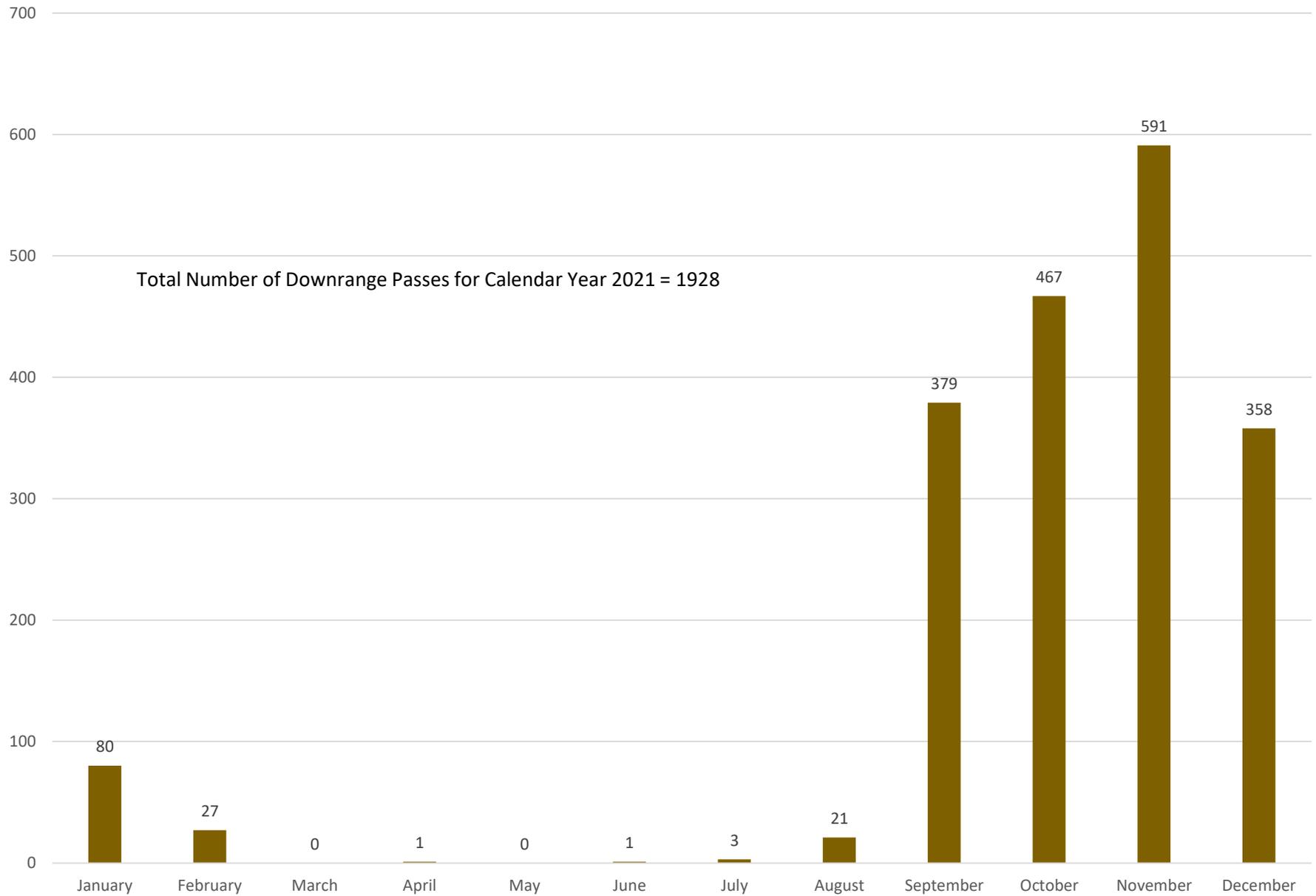
# Bighorn Sheep Rams Harvested 2012-2021



### Percent of 4th Season Multi-Unit Bull Elk Hunters at PCMS 2011-2021

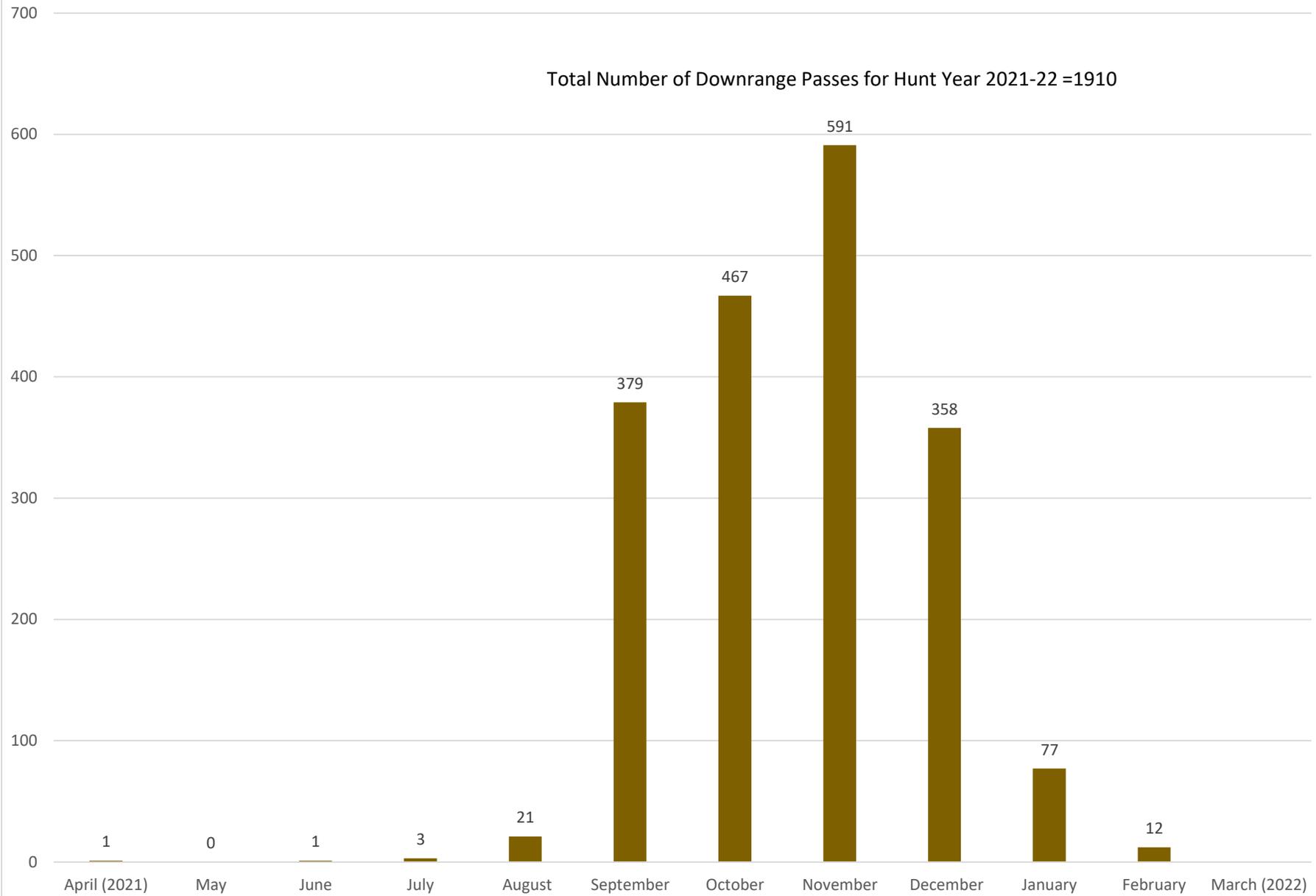


## Downrange Passes by Month (Calendar Year 2021)

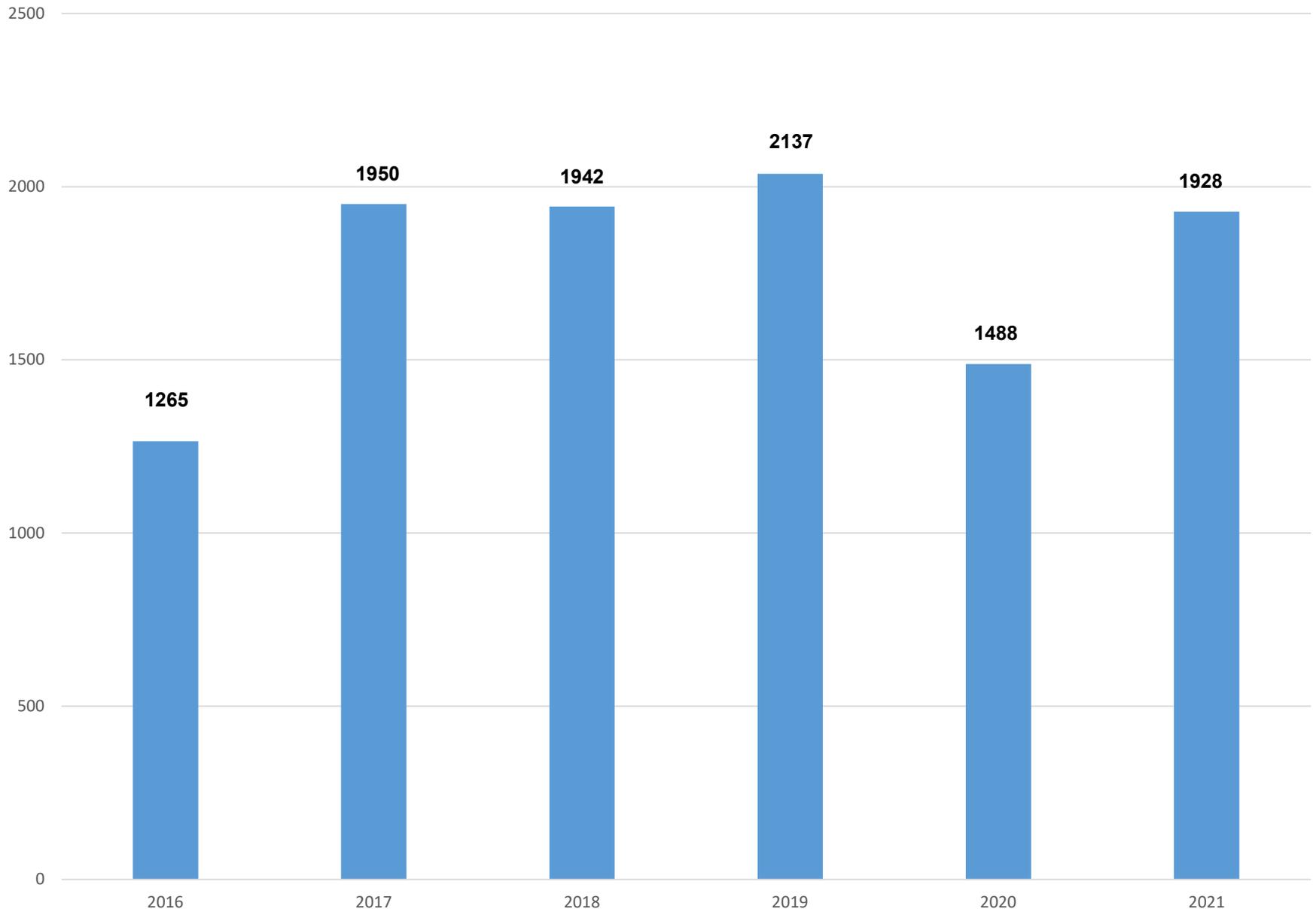


## Downrange Passes by Month (Hunt Year 2021 - 2022)

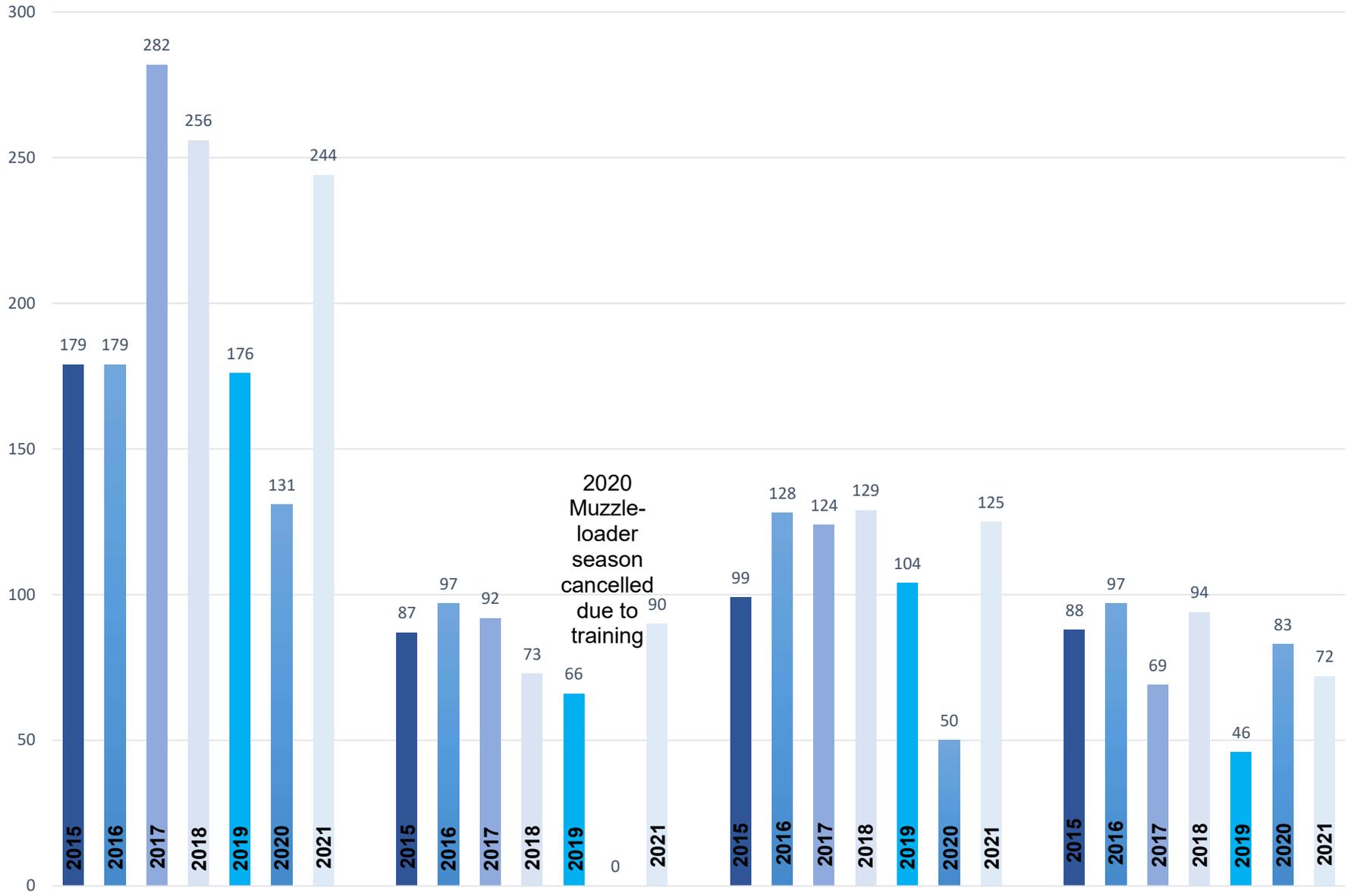
Total Number of Downrange Passes for Hunt Year 2021-22 =1910



## Total Downrange Passes by Calendar Year 2016-2021



# Downrange Passes for Deer by Season (2015-2021)



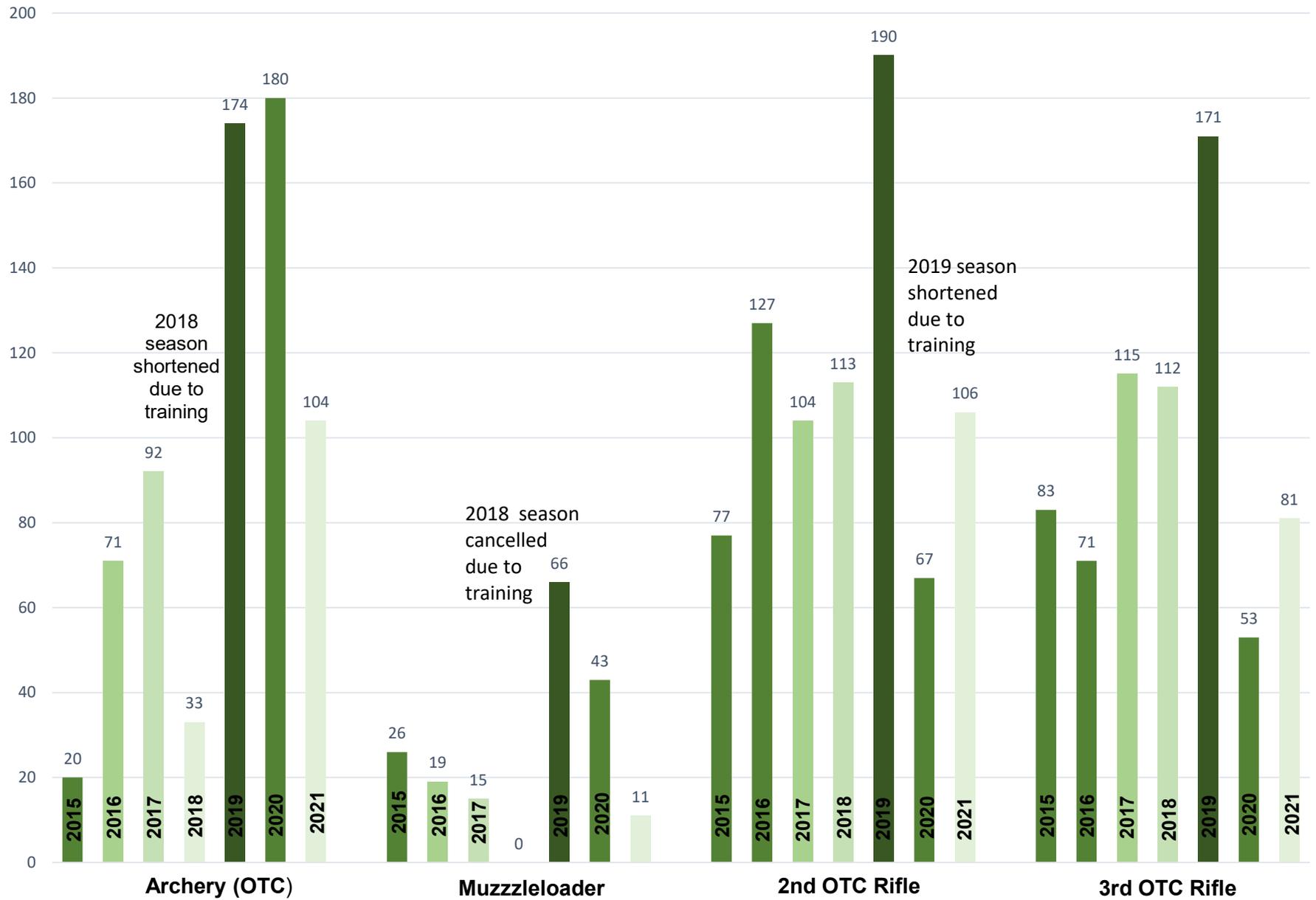
Archery

Muzzleloader

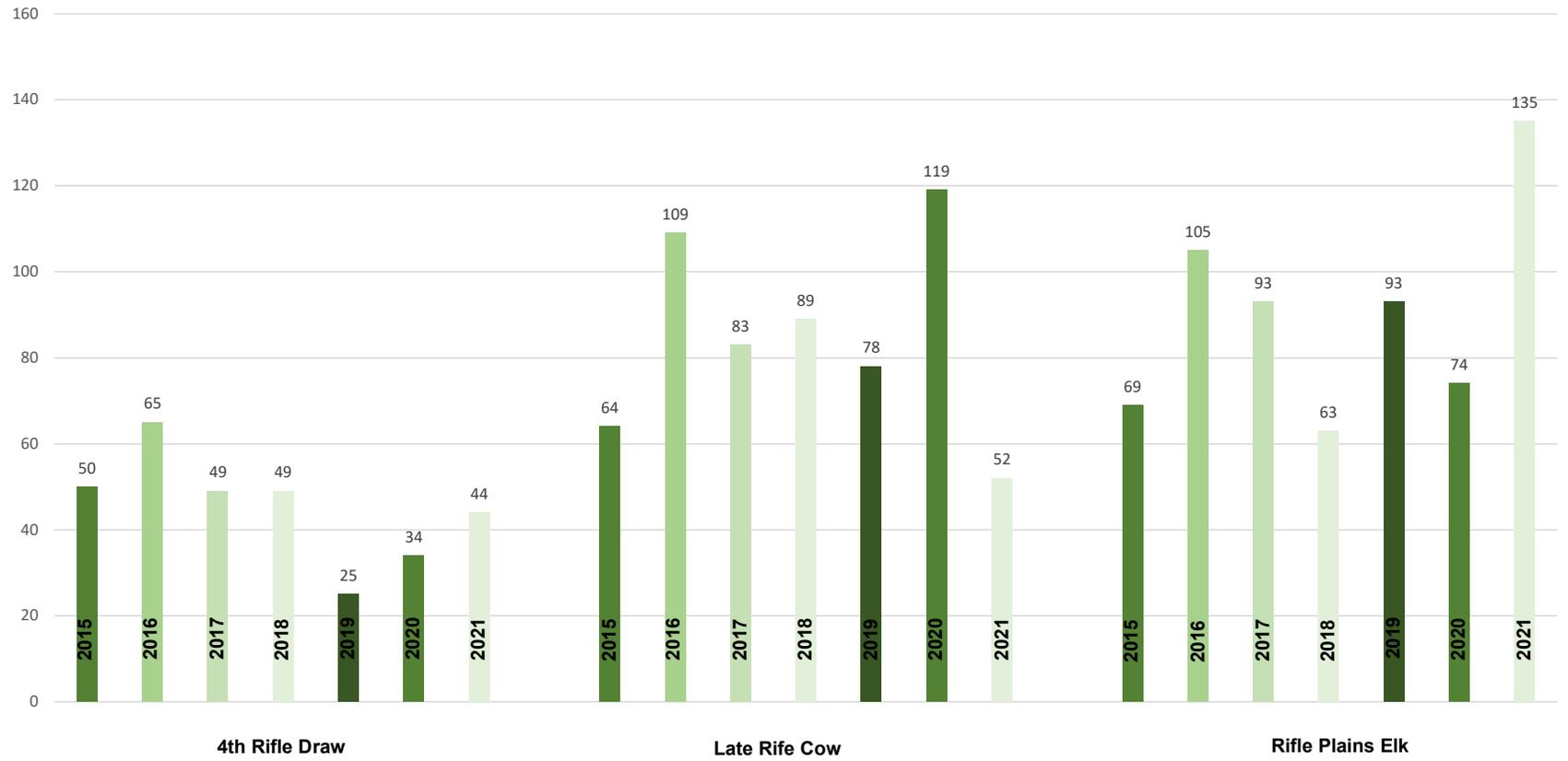
Rifle

Plains

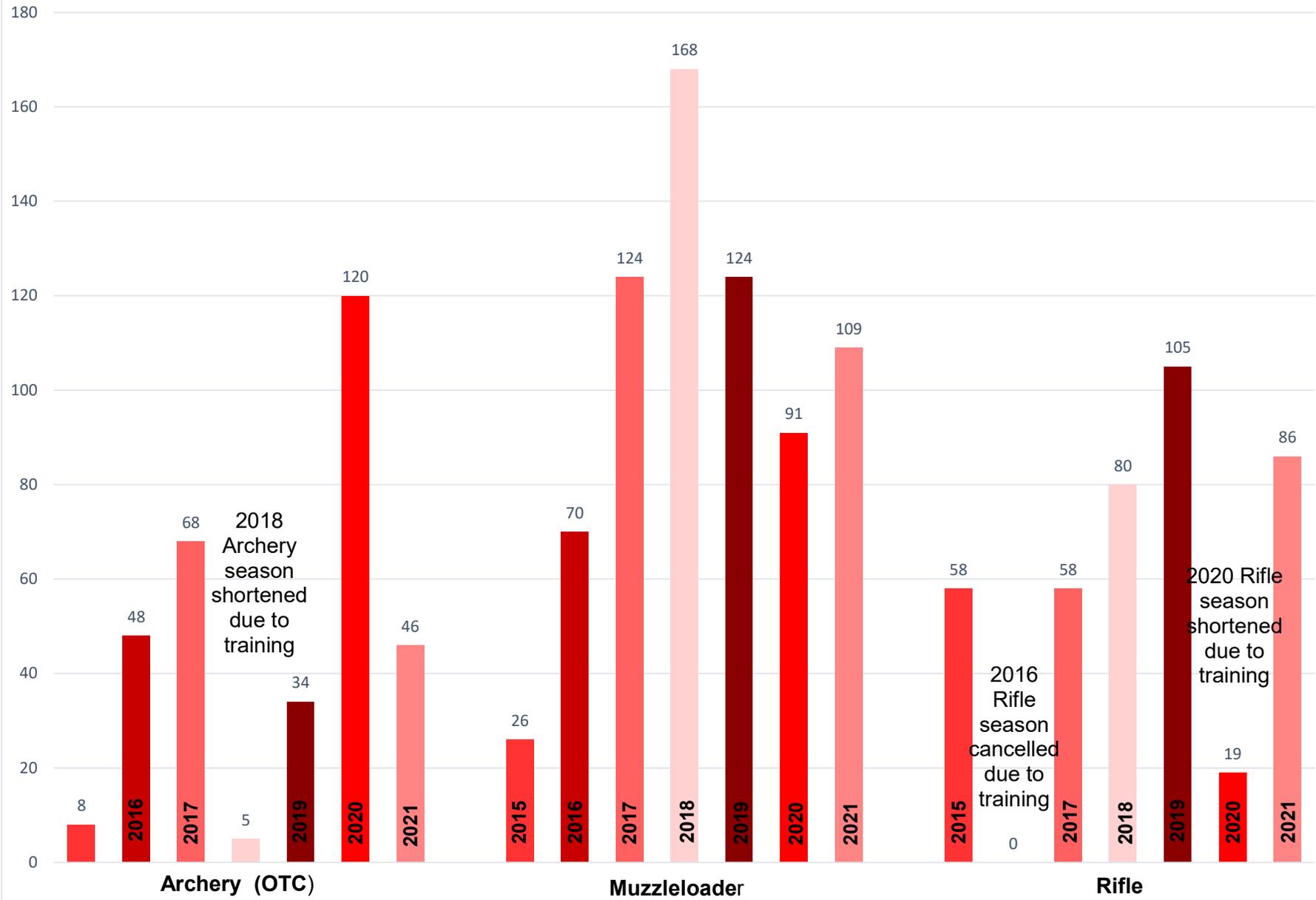
## Downrange Passes for Elk by Season (2015-2021)



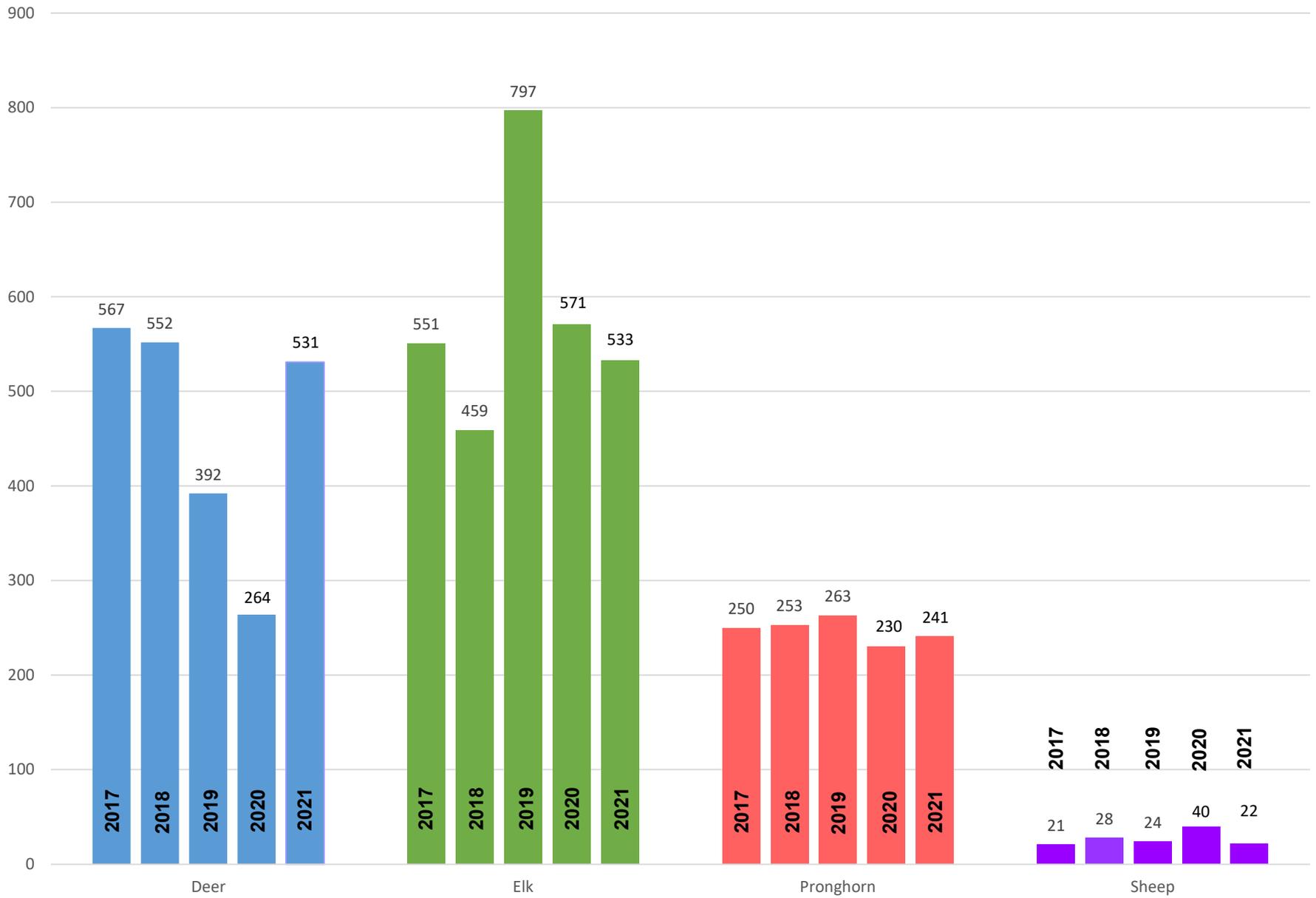
### Downrange Passes for Elk by Season (2015-2021)



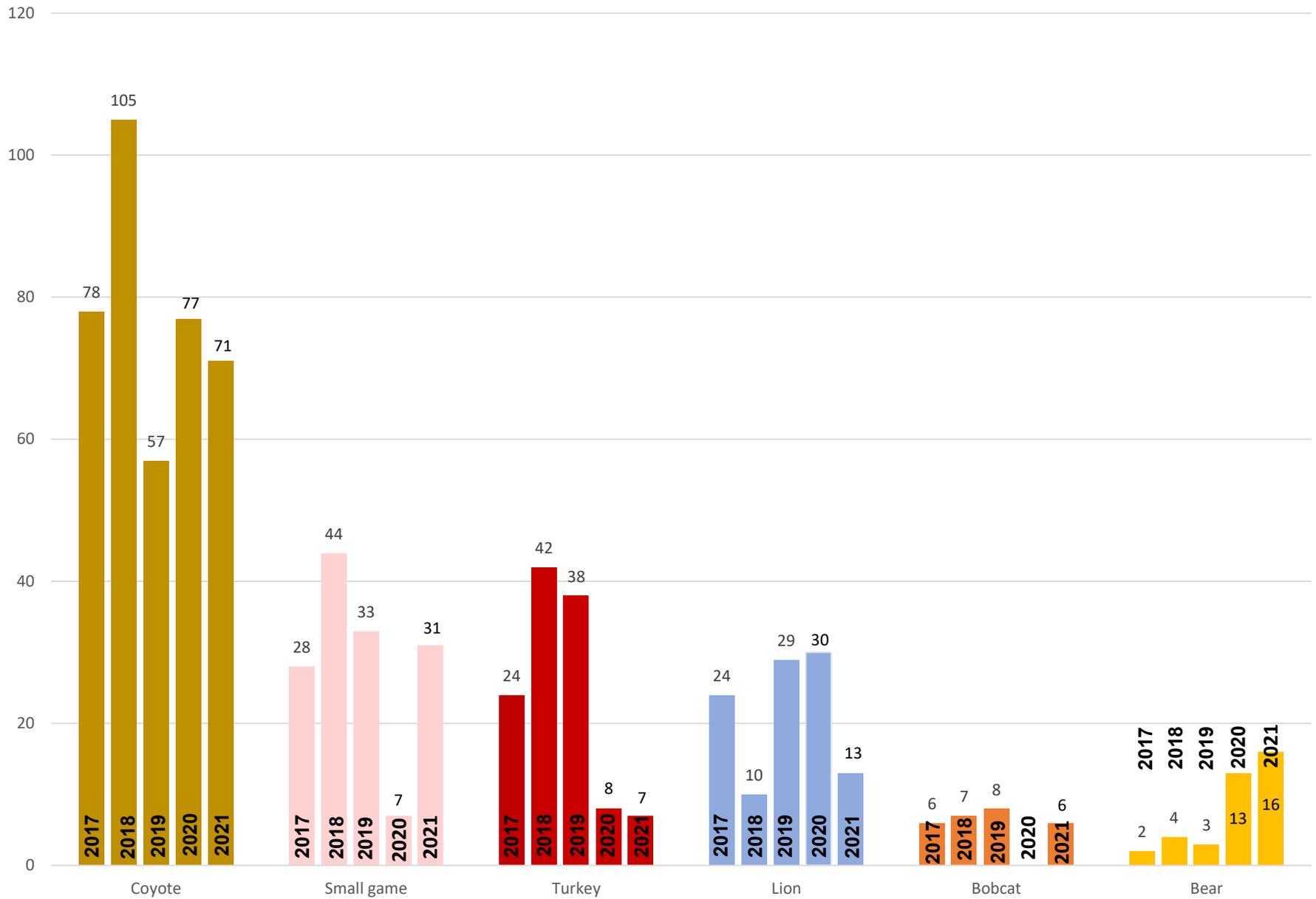
## Downrange Passes for Pronghorn by Season (2015-2021)



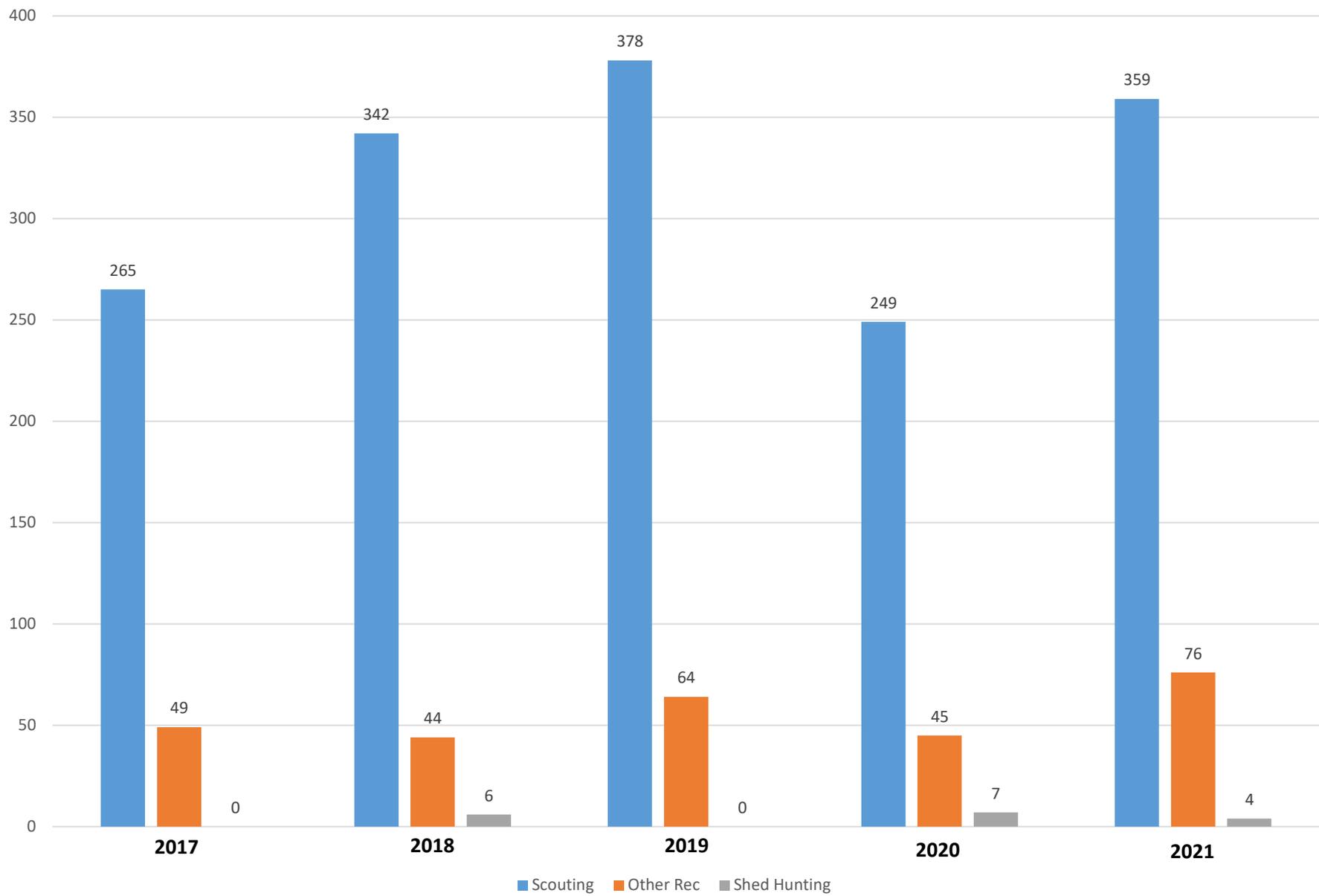
# Downrange Passes for Big Game (2017-2021)



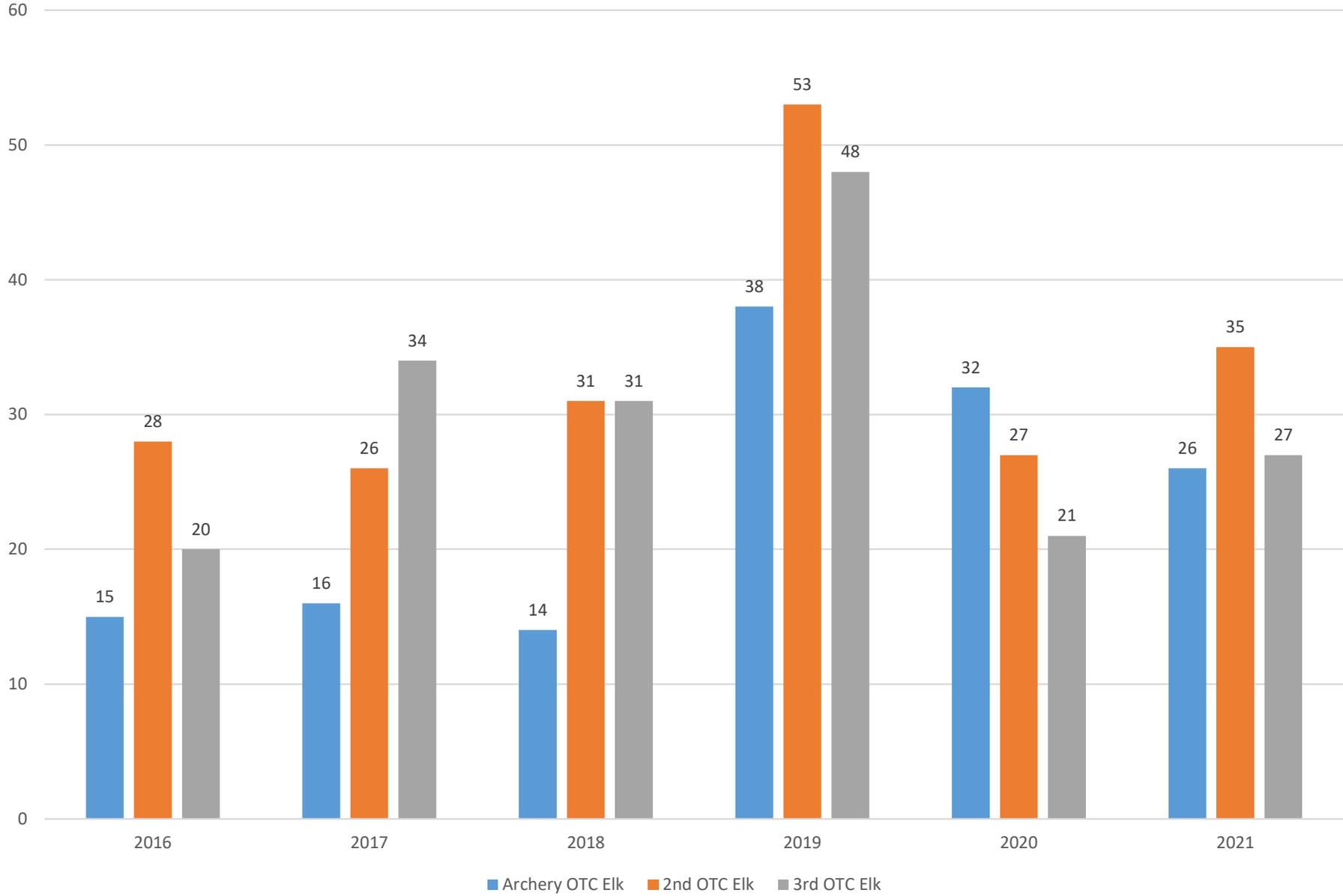
## Downrange Passes for Other Game Animals (2017-2021)



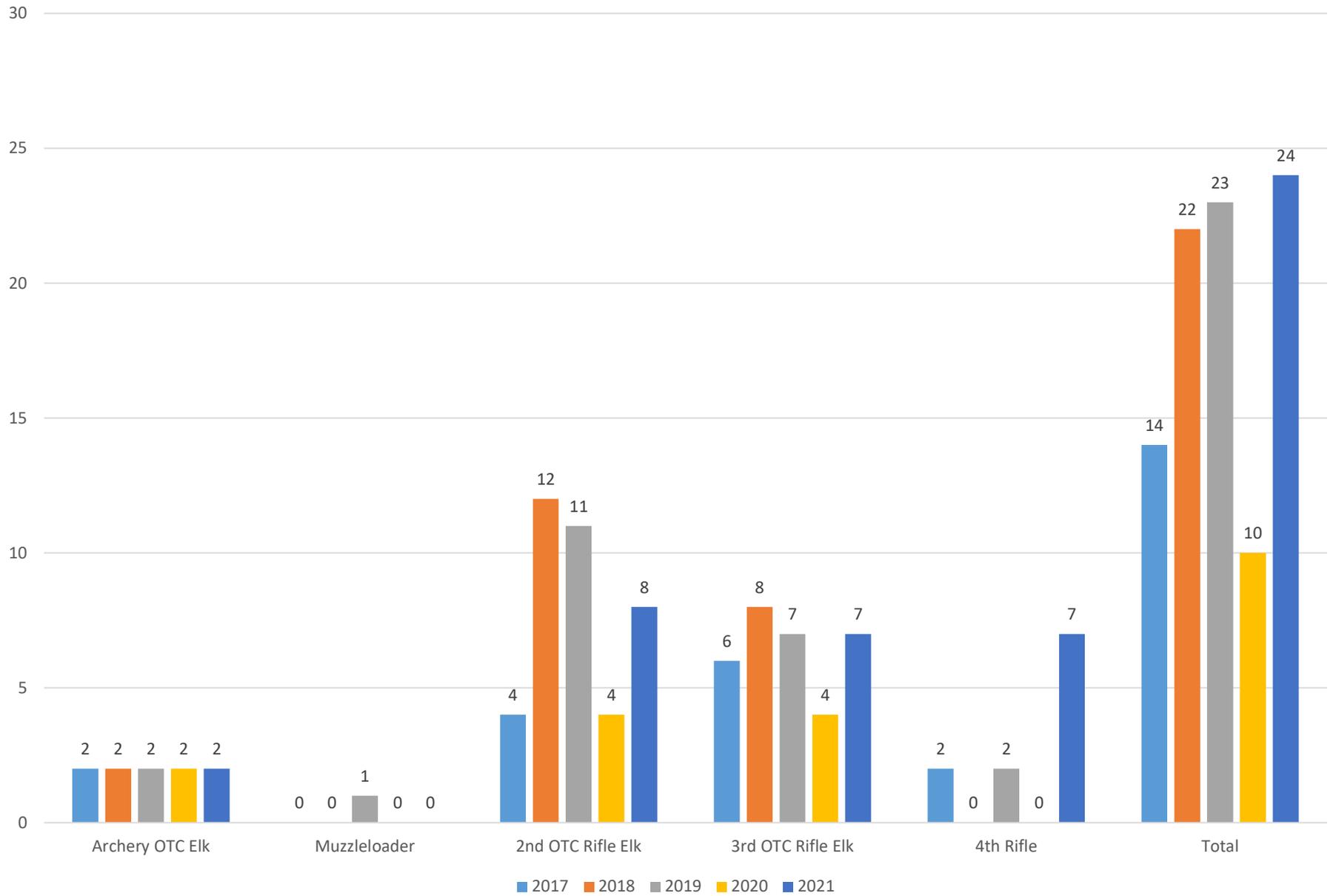
Downrange Passes for Scouting & Other Activities (2017-2021)



### Number of OTC Bull Elk Hunters by Season (2016-2020)



## Number PCMS Bulls Harvested x Season (2017-2021)



# 2021 Hunting Photos









