

# Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)



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## Overview

- bTB is a bacterial infection capable of infecting most mammals
  - Once a relatively common disease in cattle
  - Historically very rare in deer
- Spread primarily through the exchange of respiratory secretions
- In 1994, a hunter in southwestern Alpena County shot a 4-year old male white-tailed deer infected with bTB
  - White-tailed deer in Michigan have since been tested year round
  - Most of the bTB positive animals located in a core area in the northeastern part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula



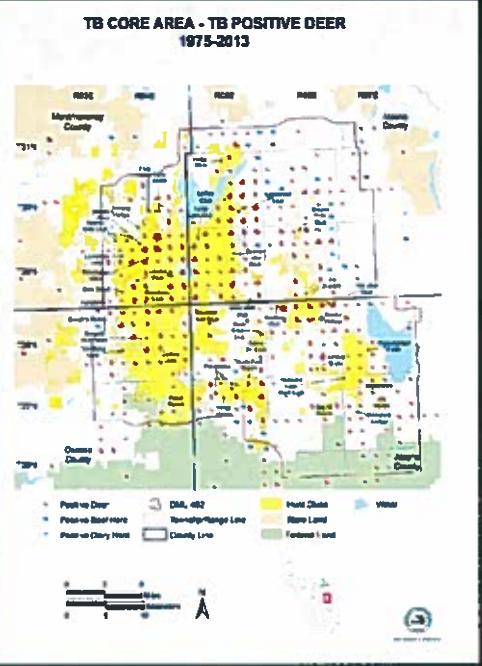
# Looking back

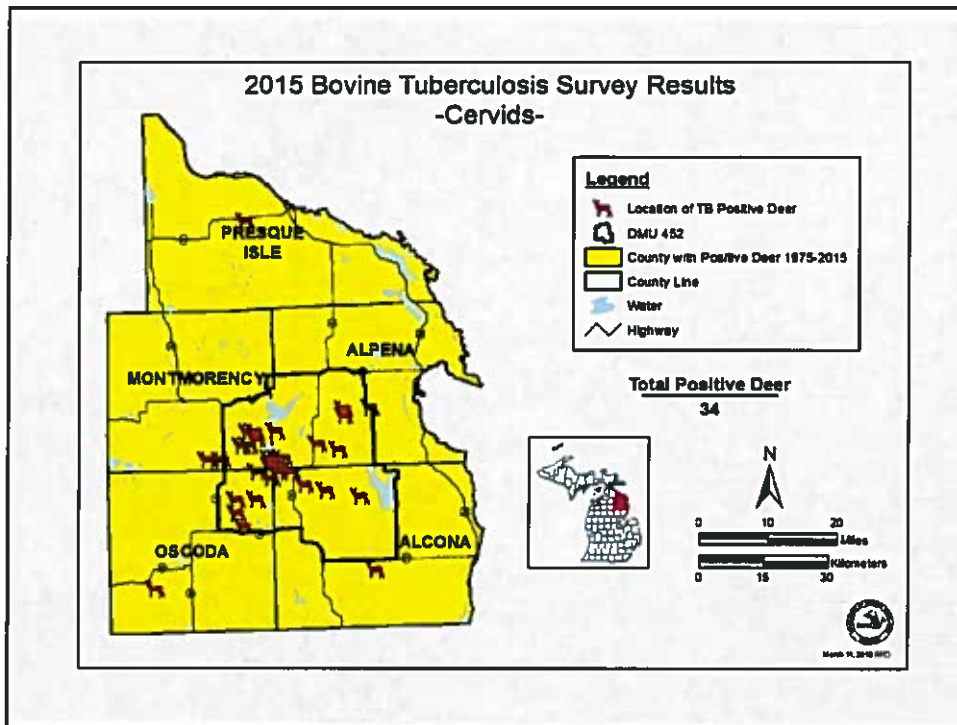
- 1880-1920: Cleared lands were sold for farms, wildlife conservation, and hunting
- Large land holdings were consolidated by private individuals, creating refuges



# Looking back

- > 90% of the TB Core Area (DMU 452) is privately-owned, much of it managed purposely for deer abundance and older age structure
- Very little of the area is State Land





## Current status

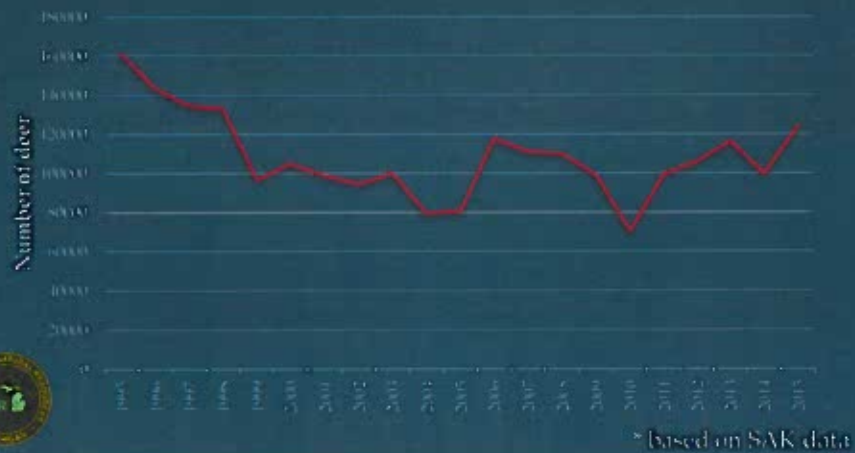
Apparent TB prevalence<sup>1</sup>, 5-county bTB area



<sup>1</sup> Apparent prevalence of bTB in free-ranging deer

## Current status

Estimated White-Tailed Deer population\*, 5-county bTB area



## Moving forward

- Maintain a 5-county population at approximately 70,000 to minimize the rate of new TB infections
- Maintain current proactive efforts
  - Disease control permits
  - Wildlife Risk Mitigation (MDARD)
- Improve when possible!
- Revised joint animal health plan with MDARD
- Pursue new initiatives with hunters and landowners
- Primary goal to increase antlerless harvest





[www.mi.gov/btb](http://www.mi.gov/btb)

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