

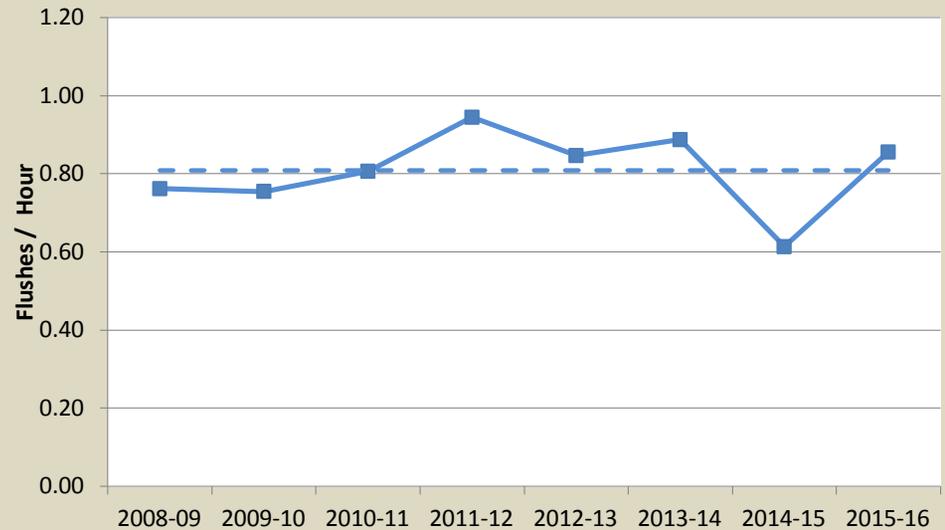
## Ruffed Grouse Cooperator Survey Results

A ruffed grouse cooperator survey has been conducted in Maryland since 2008. The primary purpose is to track population changes over time. The number of grouse flushed per hour is used as an index to population levels. Other states conduct similar surveys so results can be compared across a large area. Below are some highlights:

- **The 2015-16 grouse flush rate of 0.86 flushes per hour was 40% above the 2014-15 flush rate and slightly above the average of 0.81.**
- The Garrett county flush rate of 1.09 flushes per hour was above the county average of 0.91.
- Data from Allegany and Washington were combined due to the lower number of hunts. Flush rates in these counties increased slightly to 0.35 flushes per hour.
- Cooperators logged 408 hours hunting in 130 hunts (average of 3.14 hours per hunt).
- 82% of recorded hunts took place on public lands.
- 72% of hunters were hunting grouse using dogs.

The cooperator survey data suggest that the grouse population in Garrett County has remained relatively stable. However, grouse in the eastern part of the MD range may be declining. Other data show similar declines, particularly in areas with marginal habitat quality. Population declines have also been seen in other states throughout the Northeast region. **Habitat loss continues to be the greatest threat to grouse**, but other factors are being investigated as well.

### Flushes per Hour Hunted



### Flushes per Hour Hunted by Region

