



Grouse drummed at 85 of the 739 stations (11.5%). A total of 92 drumming males was detected. On average, each grouse drummed 1.3 times within the 4-minute listening period. As seen in Figure 2, the Cheoah ranger district had both the highest abundance (0.22 grouse per station) and station occupancy rate (21%). As in most years of the survey, relatively few grouse were encountered on the Grandfather ranger district. This is not surprising given that district's relatively low elevation and lack of suitable habitat.

After accounting for variations between ranger districts, significant drumming count fluctuations are sometimes seen between years (Fig 3). On average, 0.13 grouse were heard at each station during this year's survey. This is comparable to numbers of grouse heard in many previous years of the survey, though the overall trend is slightly declining and shows considerable annual variation. Trends for individual ranger districts are presented in Figures 4 – 9.

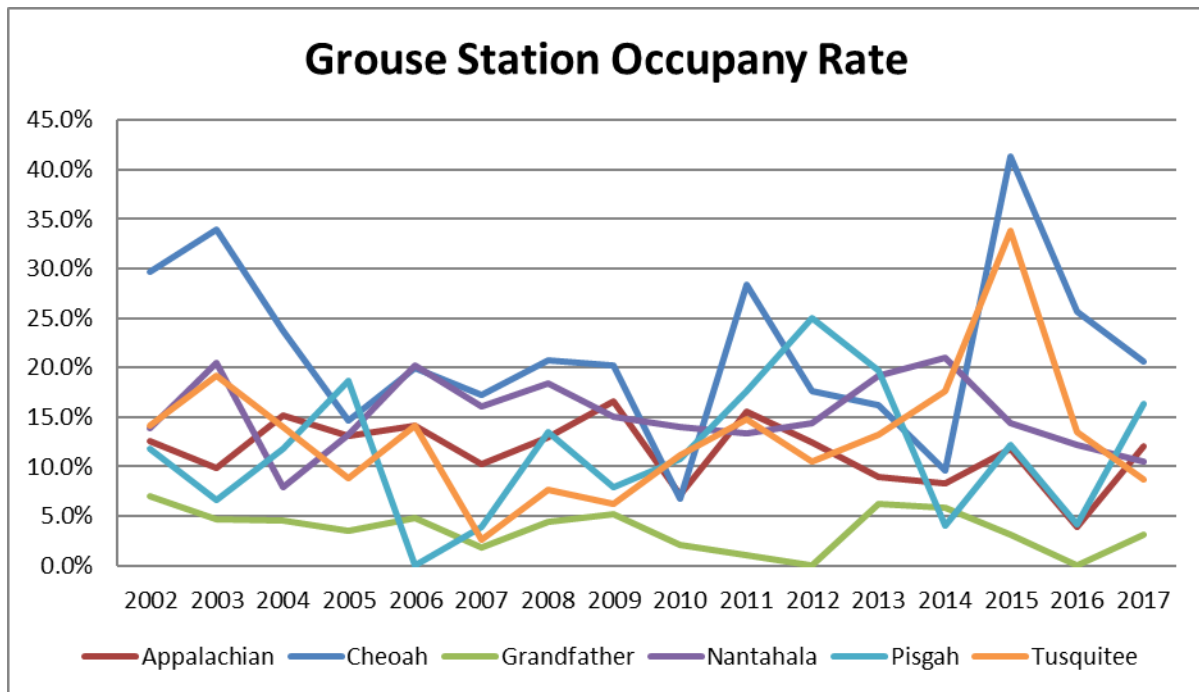


Figure 2. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station By USFS Ranger District, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

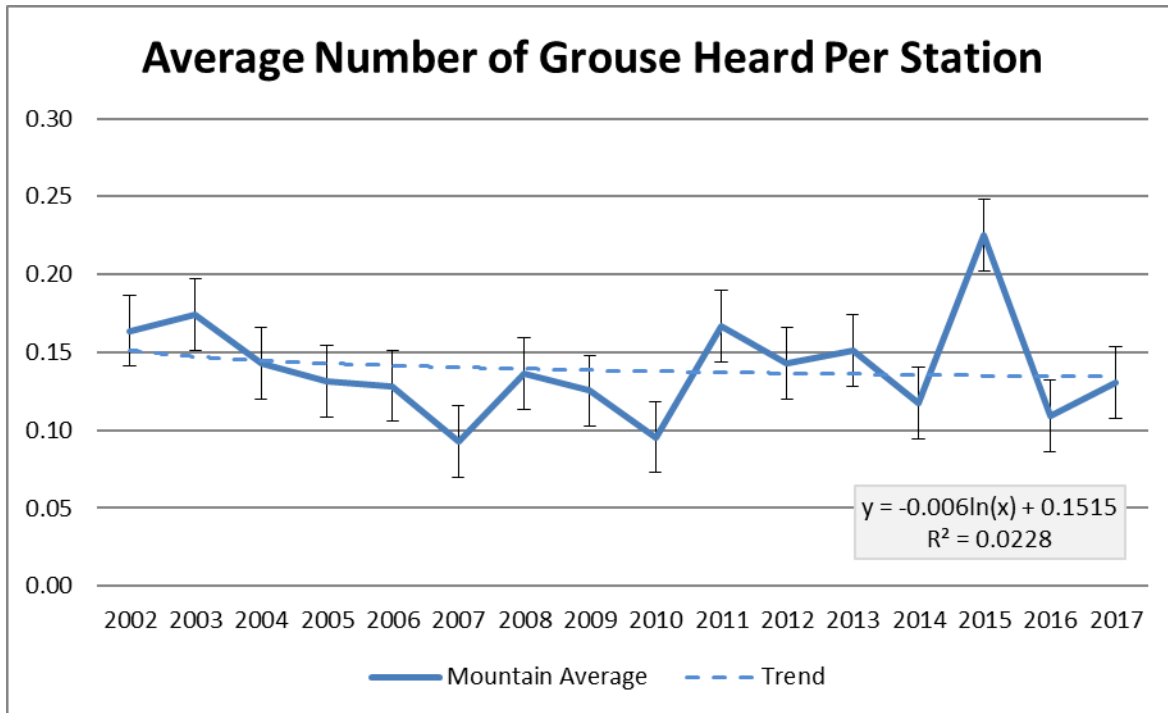


Figure 3. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

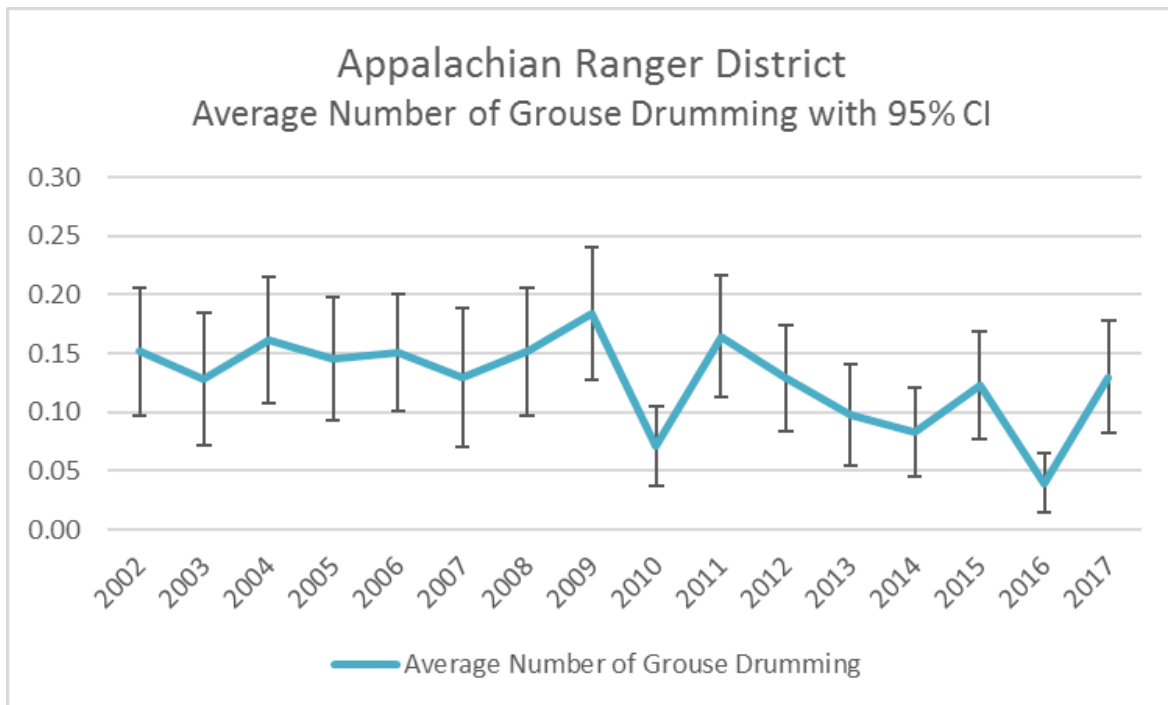


Figure 4. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station on Appalachian Ranger District of Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

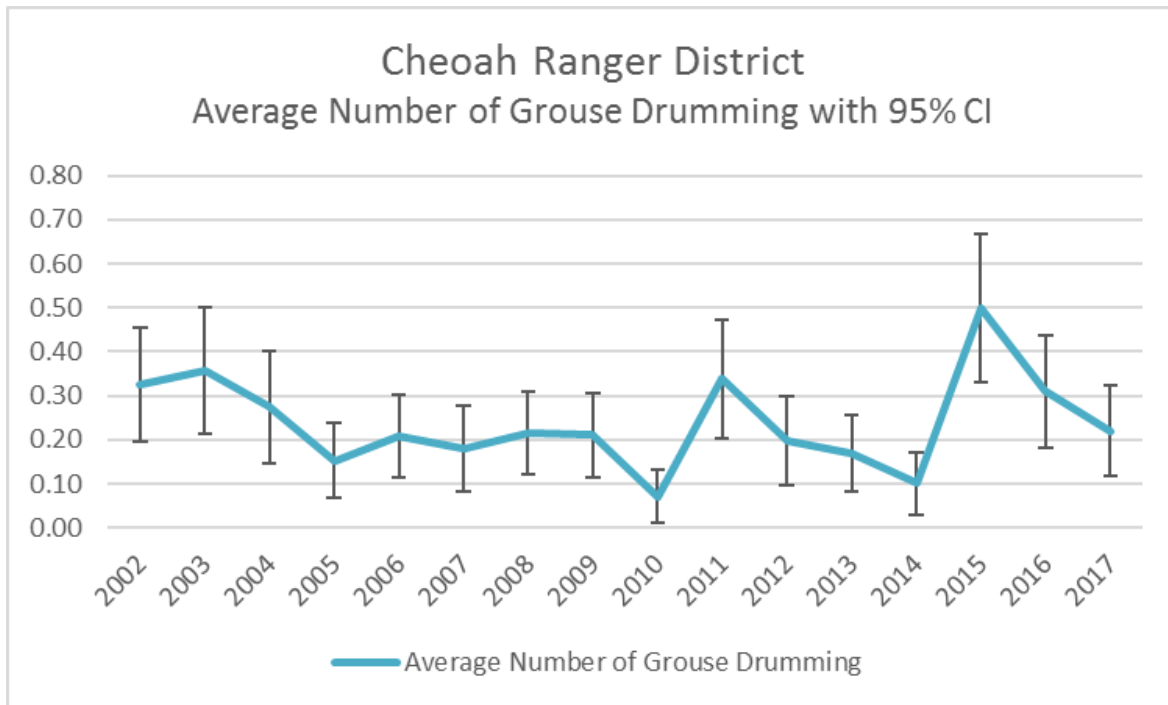


Figure 5. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station on Cheoah Ranger District of Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

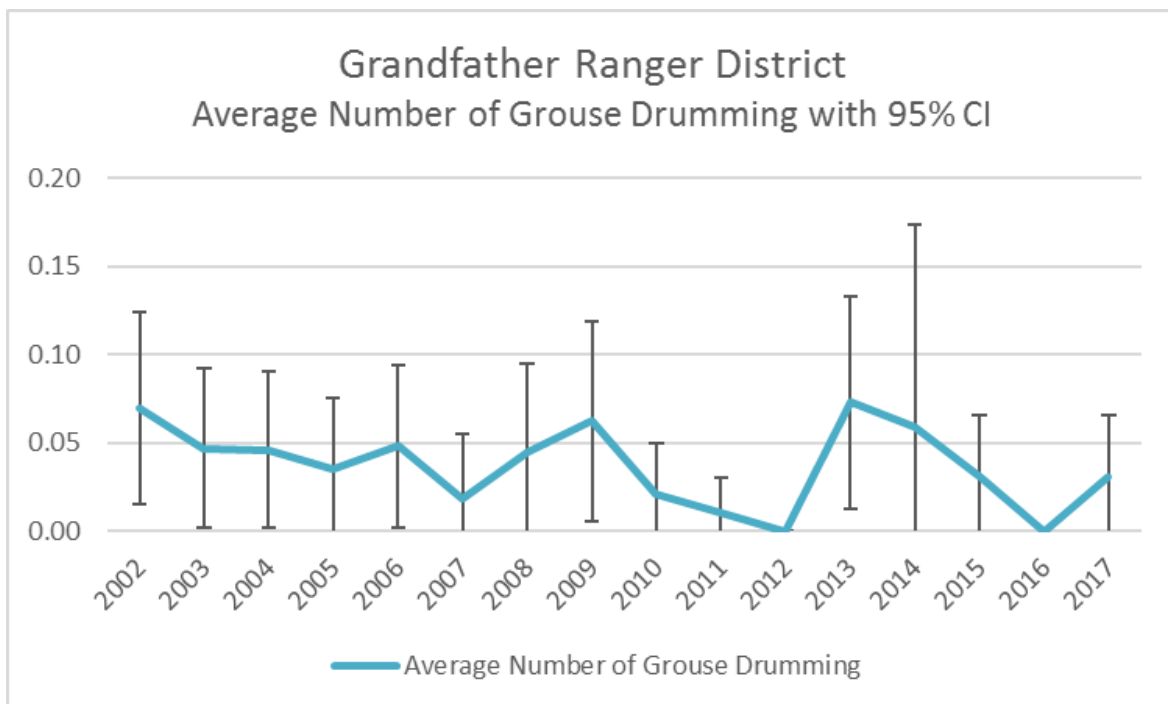


Figure 6. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station on Grandfather Ranger District of Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

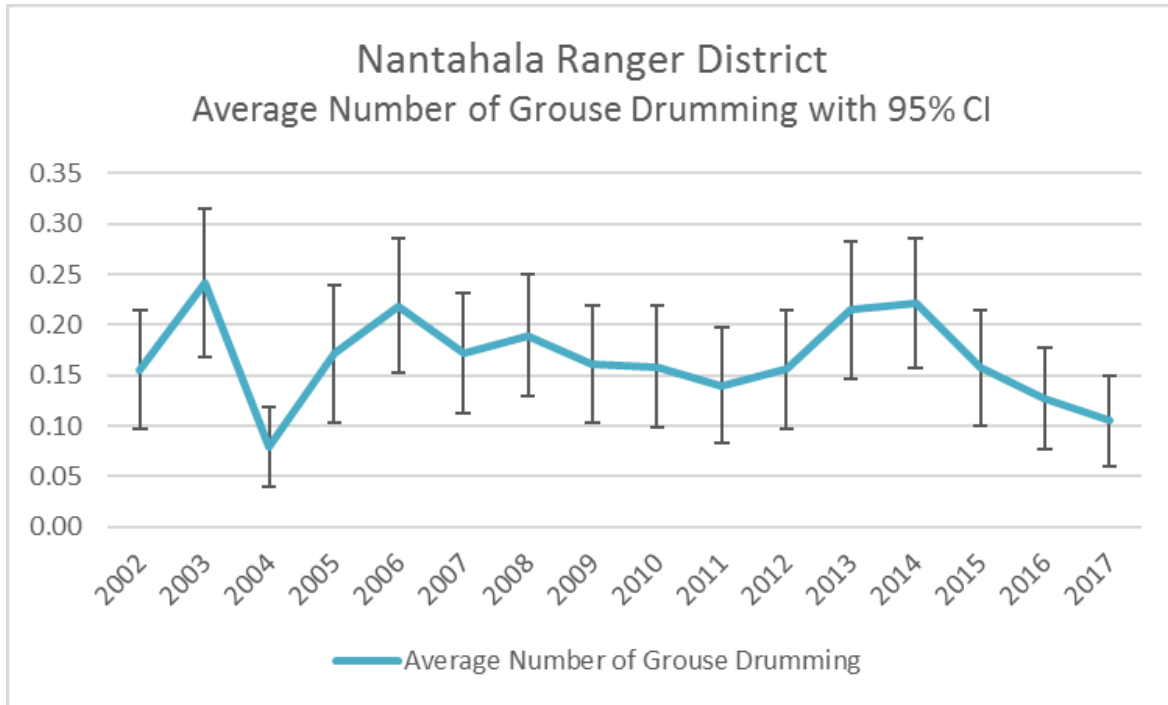


Figure 7. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station on Nantahala Ranger District of Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

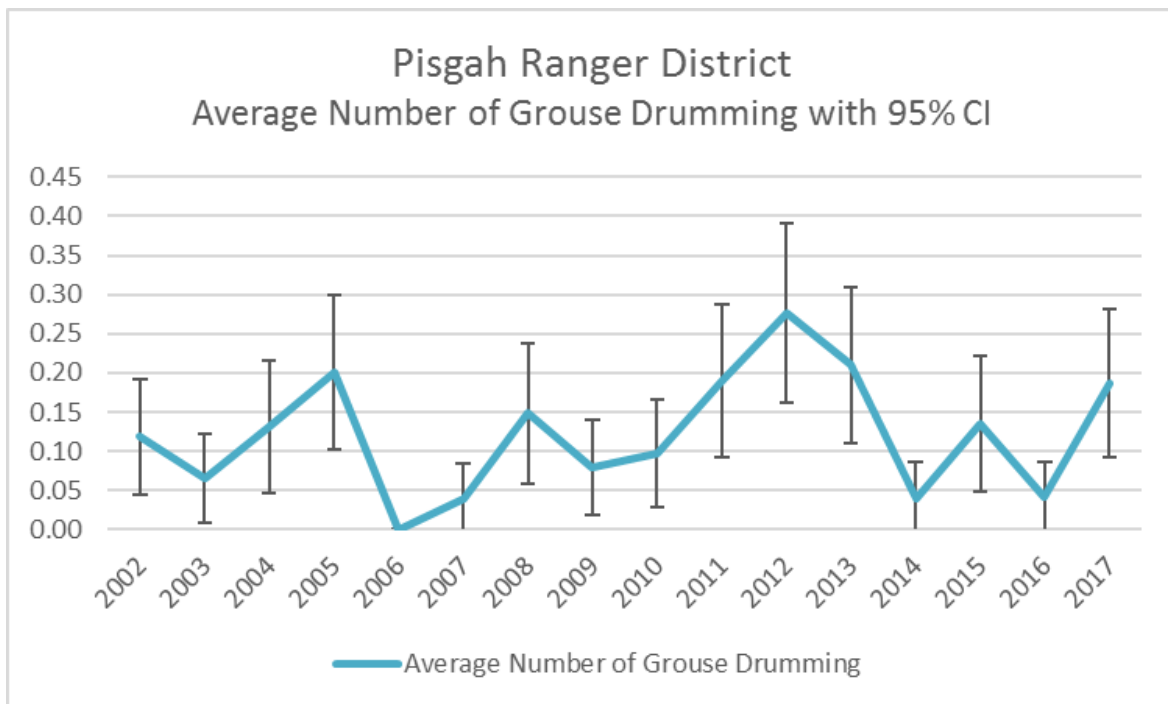


Figure 8. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station on Pisgah Ranger District of Pisgah National Forest, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.

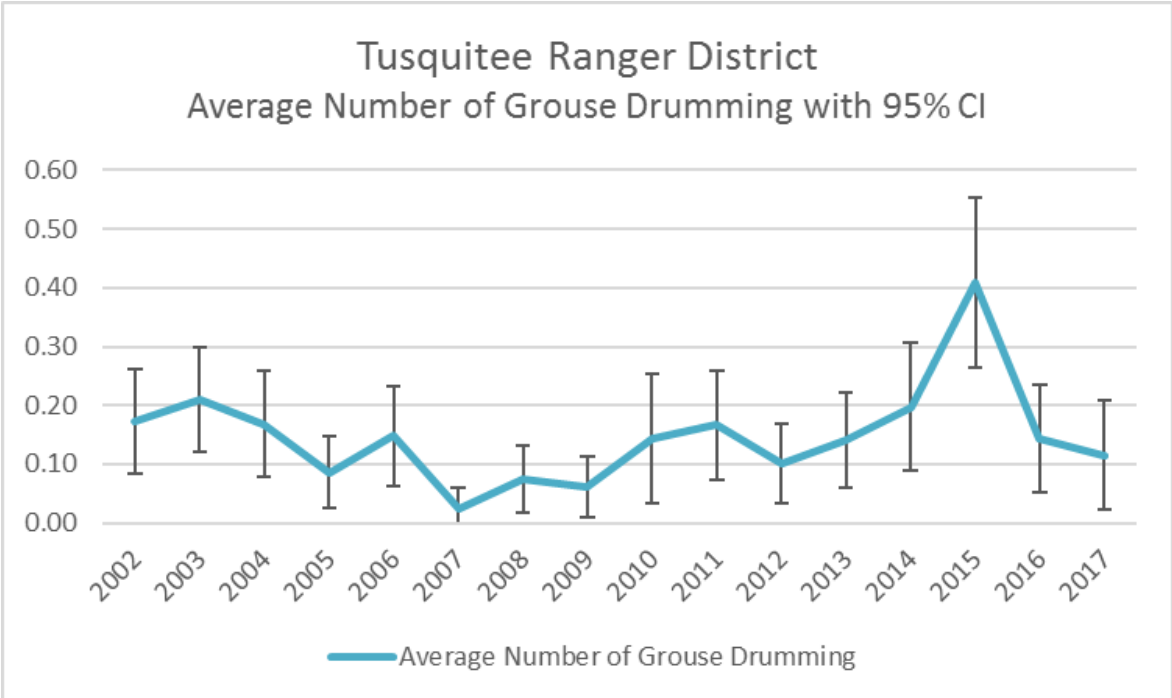


Figure 9. Average Number of Grouse Heard Drumming Per Station on Tusquitee Ranger District of Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina Grouse Drumming Survey, 2002-2017.