

2020 Nebraska Bowhunter Deer Observation Survey Results

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission started the Bowhunter Survey in 2020 to obtain information on deer and turkey populations across the state. Hunters were asked to record number of hours spent in the field and number of white-tailed deer, mule deer, and turkeys observed each day they were in the field. The intent is for this to be an annual survey in order to observe trends through time. Below is information coming out of the 2020 survey.

A total of 243 hunters responded to the 2020 Bowhunter Survey, reporting 1093 days of observations (Figure 1).

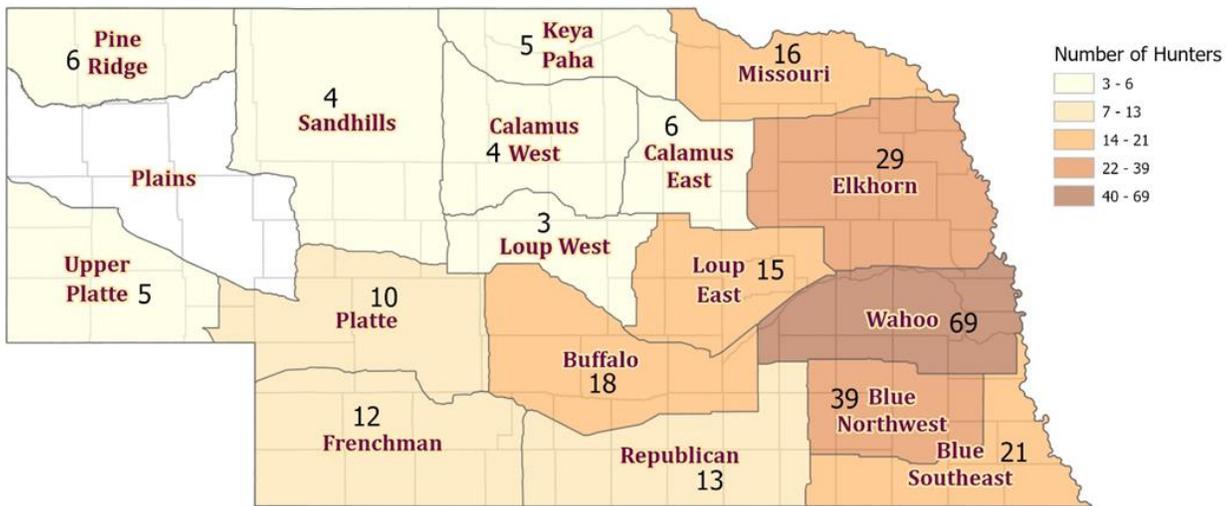


Figure 1. Number of participating hunters by hunt unit.

Hunters were asked to report the number of white-tailed deer they observed while in the field. CPUE (catch per unit effort) is calculated as the number of deer observed per hour in the field (Figure 2).

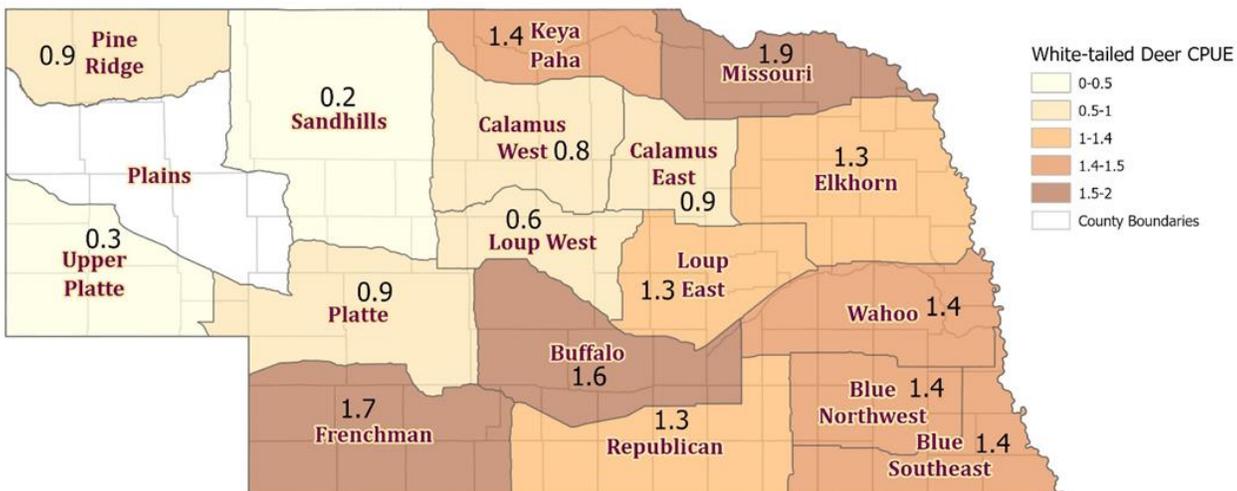


Figure 2. CPUE for white-tailed deer by hunt unit.

Hunters were also asked to report the number of mule deer observed while in the field. CPUE is calculated as the number of deer observed per hour in the field (Figure 3).

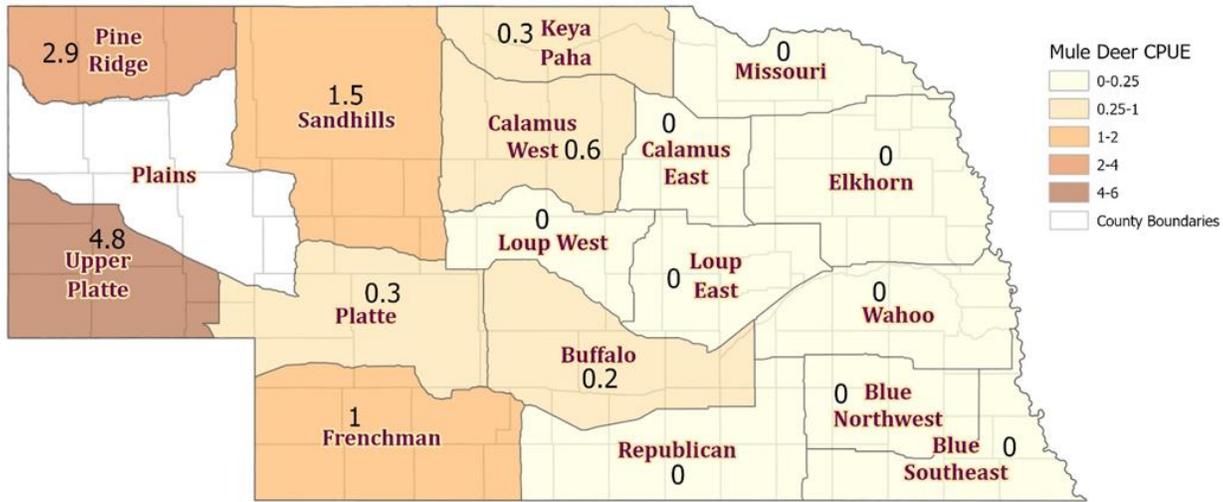


Figure 3. CPUE for mule deer by hunt unit.

Finally, hunters were asked to report the number of turkeys observed while in the field. CPUE is calculated as the number of turkeys observed per hour in the field (Figure 4).

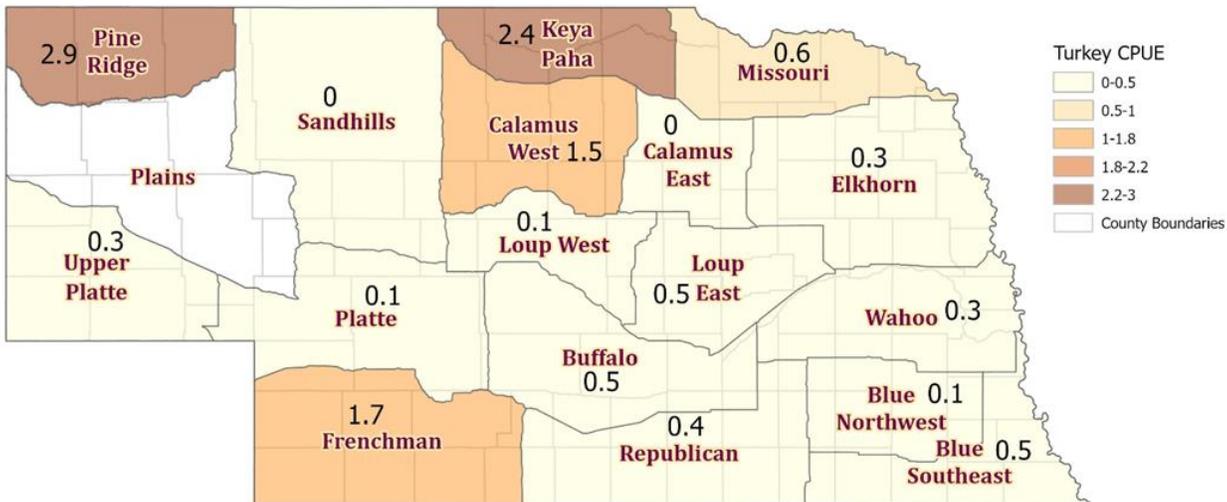


Figure 4. CPUE for turkeys by deer hunt unit.

Hunters were also asked to classify the number of bucks, does, and fawns by deer species. These were used to estimate ratios for bucks to 100 does and fawns to 100 does (white-tailed deer – Table 1; mule deer – Table 2).

Table 1. Number of observed white-tailed deer bucks, does, and fawns by unit. *Ratios were only calculated for units with at least 30 does observed.

DMU	WT Buck	WT Doe	WT Fawn	WT Unkn	B:100D:F*
Blue Northwest	160	418	182	29	38:100:44
Blue Southeast	52	136	80	6	38:100:59
Buffalo	90	266	40	27	34:100:53
Calamus East	9	10	6	0	
Calamus West	3	16	4	1	
Elkhorn	123	245	124	35	50:100:51
Frenchman	27	99	68	3	27:100:69
Keya Paha	16	22	11	1	
Loup East	123	178	100	30	69:100:56
Loup West	3	9	7	0	
Missouri	92	199	141	18	46:100:71
Pine Ridge	10	22	12	0	
<i>Plains</i>					
Platte	33	93	46	0	35:100:49
Republican	24	67	46	4	36:100:69
Sandhills	4	1	2	0	
Upper Platte	4	3	1	0	
Wahoo	296	621	401	82	48:100:65
Statewide	1069	2405	1271	236	44:100:53

Table 2. Number of observed mule deer bucks, does, and fawns by unit. *Ratios were only calculated for units with at least 30 does observed.

DMU	MD Buck	MD Doe	MD Fawn	MD Unkn	B:100D:F*
Blue Northwest	0	0	0	0	
Blue Southeast	0	0	0	0	
Buffalo	11	50	2	0	22:100:4
Calamus East	0	0	0	0	
Calamus West	8	8	4	0	
Elkhorn	0	0	0	0	
Frenchman	33	56	16	0	59:100:29
Keya Paha	2	5	0	0	
Loup East	0	0	0	0	
Loup West	0	0	0	0	
Missouri	2	3	1	0	
Pine Ridge	12	103	33	0	12:100:32
<i>Plains</i>					
Platte	11	46	4	0	24:100:9
Republican	0	0	0	0	
Sandhills	9	29	7	1	
Upper Platte	17	62	35	10	27:100:56
Wahoo	0	0	0	0	
Statewide	105	362	102	11	29:100:28