2021 Nebraska Deer Hunter Survey

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Executive Summary

In March 2021, we sent an email invitation to 71,337 Nebraska deer hunters who participated in the 2020 deer season. At the end of a two-week survey period, we had received 9,577 responses to an online survey regarding deer and deer hunting in Nebraska. We summarized responses to most questions by residency and weapons (grouped by archery, firearm and muzzleloader based on a question that asked their preferred weapon for hunting deer). Some questions were summarized by other relevant criteria (e.g., residency). Not all questions were analyzed in this report for expediency.

Key Findings:

- 61% of survey respondents reported harvesting at least one deer in 2020, however, checkstation and permit data shows that only 45% of hunters overall harvested a deer. It's possible that there is some bias towards successful deer hunters in this survey and that they may be more likely to participate.
- Hunter satisfaction with their deer hunting experience in Nebraska is moderately high at 3.8 on a scale of 1-5 (1 = Very dissatisfied, 5 = Very satisfied). This was higher than the result of 3.5 for the 2019 season.
- Most hunters (87%) only hunted one deer management unit (DMU), 11% hunted two DMU, and only 2% hunted three or more DMUs. This is similar to the 2019 season results.
- When asked about their single weapon preference, 26% of hunters prefer archery methods, 66% prefer firearm and 7% prefer muzzleloader as their method to hunt deer in Nebraska.
- 27% of respondents reported hunting deer on publicly accessible land while 85% reported hunting deer on private land in Nebraska. Only 11% of hunters reported hunting on both Public and Private land.
- Statewide, 55% of hunters reported that mule deer populations were in the low abundance categories and 9% reported that they were in the high abundance categories. When looking at the primary mule deer range (western 60% of Nebraska) 49% reported that mule deer abundance was low, while 11% reported that abundance was high in the area where they hunted.
- Statewide, 23% of hunters reported that whitetail abundance was low, while 24% reported that they were high in the area they hunted.
- When presented with varying sizes and ages of whitetail bucks, hunters of all categories (residency, weapon preference and deer management unit) showed preference for harvesting older or larger bucks. Nonresidents showed greater willingness to pass deer than residents and averaged 3.9% less likely to answer yes in each of the 6 circumstances they were presented with.
- When asked if hunters would prefer if November Firearm permits were converted to a season choice format (available all season, open to the legal weapons of the open season) the most common answer was yes, but it was not a majority at 46%.

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Methods

On May, 21, 2021, an invitation to participate in a survey related to hunting participation and experiences was sent to 71,337 deer permit holders who had provided an email address in their customer profile. This was 70.7% of all deer permit holders for the 2020 deer season. For deer hunters who did not provide an email address, a link to the survey was included on the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission website. Promoted social media posts were used to make sure deer hunters were aware of the webpage option. A reminder email was sent to non-respondents on May 28, 2021, and the survey was closed to participants on June 7, 2021.

Reponses and Representativeness

At the closing of the survey, a total of 9,577 deer hunters had completed the survey. Of the 71,337 invitations sent out, 3,543 were unusable, resulting in an effective sample size of 67,794. Total response rate then is 14.1% Table 1 compares simple demographics among all permit buyers, the email sample, and all invited respondents (necessarily this excludes hunters who participated through the website link because they were anonymous). The demographic characters we examined were residency status (resident/non-resident), sex (male/female), and age (median/mean).

Demographic	Level	Permittees	Sample	Respondents
Residency Status	Resident	82.1%	79.7%	68.8%
	Non-resident	17.9%	20.3%	31.2%
Sex	Male	88.8%	89.4%	93.3%
	Female	11.2%	10.7%	6.7%
Age	Median	39	39	48
	Mean	41	40	47
	Max	96	95	91
	Min	10	10	10

As these data indicate, the email sample was well representative of the population of all permit buyers as a whole. However, there were some potential biases among the respondents. Non-residents are over represented among respondents compared to all permittees and the email sample. Likewise, more males completed the survey than expected. Neither of these differences appear too overwhelming. There still appears to be about a 90/10 percent split between men and women. However, the respondents were 6-7 years older than either the permit buyers or the email sample. The nonresident response rate of 20% was much greater than residents at 11%.

Question 3 asked if hunters were successful harvesting a deer during the 2019 season and overall 59.0% of hunters reported they had killed at least 1 deer. Harvest data indicate that 48.7% of hunters were successful at taking at least one deer, so there is potential for responses to biased towards successful hunters.

Many hunters "identify" with a particular weapon group and as managers we are interested in what those particular groups think about certain issues. To address this issue, we asked what weapons hunters preferred to use (Q13). We categorized hunters into the 3 main categories of "Archery", "Rifle" and "Muzzleloader" based on their answer of their preferred weapon.

Weapon type	n	percent	Category	Cumulative Percent
Compound bow	1833	20.3%	Archery	26.4% (2383)
Longbow or Recurve bow	121	1.3%		
Crossbow	426	4.7%		
Spear	3	0.0%		
Centerfire/Highpower long rifle	5800	64.3%	Firearm	66.2% (5973)
Pistol	21	0.2%		
Shotgun (slug)	42	0.5%		
Straightwall cartridge rifle	110	1.2%		
Flintlock muzzleloader	14	0.2%	Muzzleloader	7.4% (670)
Inline muzzleloader	549	6.1%		
Percussion cap muzzleloader	107	1.2%		

Appendices

The answers to questions that were listed under the "other" option are included in appendices to this document and can be acquired from the authors by request.

Results

Hunt and Harvest Results

Q1. Did you hunt deer during the 2020 season?

	Nonresident	**Resident**	**Total**
No	4.7% (138)	4.2% (271)	4.3% (409)
Yes	95.3% (2810)	95.8% (6244)	95.7% (9054)

Q2. How many days did you hunt deer in Nebraska during the 2020 season?

Reported harvesting a deer	Residency		Weapon Preference			**Overall**
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
No	8.7	5.8	12.6	5.4	8.1	7.8
Yes	9.9	5.3	17.0	5.4	9.8	8.6
Total Average	9.4	5.5	15.1	5.4	9.0	8.3

Q3. Which species of deer did you pursue? (Select all that apply.)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			**Overall**
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Whitetail Only	74.0%	57.9%	71.9%	68.9%	59.2%	69.0%
Mule Deer Only	6.8%	14.8%	6.7%	10.0%	12.3%	9.3%
Both Species	19.2%	27.3%	21.4%	21.1%	28.5%	21.7%

Q4. Did you harvest at least one deer during the 2020 season?

Response	Residency		**Overall**
	Resident	Nonresident	
Hunter Survey (% Success)	61.4%	60.2%	61.0%
Harvest Data (%Success)	44.2%	47.0%	44.7%

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Satisfaction

Satisfaction

Q9. What is your overall level of satisfaction with your deer hunting experience in Nebraska?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Very Unsatisfied (1)	6.9%	6.9%	6.5%	6.9%	8.4%	6.9%
Unsatisfied (2)	10.6%	8.4%	11.3%	9.3%	10.5%	9.9%
Neutral (3)	19.4%	15.3%	21.5%	16.3%	22.4%	18.1%
Satisfied (4)	27.2%	24.1%	27.5%	25.4%	**29.6%**	26.3%
Very Satisfied (5)	**35.8%**	**45.4%**	**33.2%**	**42.1%**	29.1%	**38.8%**
Total Responses (n)	**6,221**	**2,806**	**2,376**	**5,954**	**669**	**9,024**
Overall Category Score	3.75	3.93	3.70	3.87	3.61	3.80

Answers from Q12 were used to analyze satisfaction scores by unit:

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Blue Northwest	3.80	3.74	3.64	3.85	3.93	3.79
Blue Southeast	3.73	4.15	3.64	3.92	3.74	3.82
Buffalo	3.75	4.00	3.83	3.75	3.73	3.77
Calamus East	4.07	4.26	4.04	4.11	4.43	4.11
Calamus West	3.84	3.75	3.71	3.87	3.42	3.79
Elkhorn	3.67	3.96	3.55	3.85	3.03	3.70
Frenchman	3.84	3.93	3.68	4.01	3.24	3.88
Keya Paha	4.07	4.26	3.97	4.26	3.91	4.16
Loup East	3.81	3.98	3.80	3.84	3.85	3.84
Loup West	4.06	3.97	3.79	4.05	4.63	4.04
Missouri	3.98	4.13	3.76	4.11	4.06	4.02
Pine Ridge	3.46	3.66	3.68	3.58	3.46	3.58
Plains	3.73	4.06	3.54	4.01	3.83	3.89
Platte	3.60	4.07	3.71	3.83	3.96	3.81
Republican	3.72	4.01	3.74	3.86	3.60	3.81
Sandhills	3.87	3.78	3.86	3.87	3.53	3.82
Upper Platte	3.67	3.92	3.70	3.79	3.88	3.78
Wahoo	3.69	4.21	3.62	3.80	3.51	3.71
Range	**3.46-4.07**	**3.66-4.26**	**3.54-4.04**	**3.58-4.26**	**3.03-4.63**	**3.58-4.16**

Deer Management Units

Q11. How many deer management units did you hunt in during the 2020 season? (n=8,984)
How many units did you hunt?

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
1	85.0%	91.9%	75.01%	92.7%	80.9%	87.2% (7830)
2	12.4%	6.9%	20.0%	6.4%	15.9%	10.7% (961)
3	2.2%	0.9%	4.1%	0.9%	1.8%	1.8% (159)
4	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.8%	0.24% (22)
5	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%		0.5%	0.09% (8)
6	<0.1%	<0.1%	<0.1%		0.2%	0.02% (2)
7	<0.1%		<0.1%	0		0.01% (1)
8-17	0	0	0		0	0
18	<0.1%					0.01% (1)
Average	**1.13**	**1.03**	**1.31**	**1.08**	**1.23**	**1.10**

Q12. Which deer management unit did you hunt most often during the 2019 season? (Compare categories to the overall to see influences)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Blue Northwest	9.3%	2.3%	8.6%	6.6%	7.2%	7.2%
Blue Southeast	10.2%	6.7%	11.4%	8.6%	5.6%	9.1%
Buffalo	7.3%	3.2%	6.2%	6.1%	4.7%	6.0%
Calamus East	2.2%	1.5%	1.4%	2.4%	1.3%	2.0%
Calamus West	2.8%	3.4%	2.0%	3.2%	4.5%	3.0%
Elkhorn	8.3%	2.4%	6.9%	6.2%	7.2%	6.5%
Frenchman	7.4%	**15.2%**	9.5%	**10.2%**	6.6%	9.8%
Keya Paha	3.1%	6.8%	3.3%	4.4%	5.9%	4.2%
Loup East	6.4%	2.4%	4.0%	5.9%	3.6%	5.2%
Loup West	2.5%	1.5%	1.6%	2.5%	1.4%	2.2%
Missouri	5.9%	5.1%	5.2%	5.8%	5.7%	5.6%
Pine Ridge	3.2%	12.4%	4.6%	6.0%	**11.3%**	6.0%
Plains	1.9%	4.7%	2.3%	2.8%	4.1%	2.7%
Platte	4.8%	8.2%	5.1%	6.3%	4.1%	5.8%
Republican	6.6%	6.7%	7.8%	6.3%	5.4%	6.6%
Sandhills	2.4%	11.2%	4.0%	4.9%	10.2%	5.1%
Upper Platte	2.2%	4.9%	2.7%	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%
Wahoo	**13.5%**	1.6%	**13.2%**	8.7%	8.4%	**9.9%**

Weapon Preference

Q13. What is your preferred weapon to use to hunt deer?

Weapon type	n	Overall	Resident	Nonresident
Centerfire/Highpower long rifle	5798	64.3%	67.7%	56.7%
Compound bow	1833	20.3%	18.3%	24.8%
Crossbow	426	4.7%	4.6%	4.9%
Flintlock muzzleloader	14	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Inline muzzleloader	549	6.1%	4.5%	9.5%
Longbow or Recurve bow	121	1.3%	1.0%	2.0%
Percussion cap muzzleloader	107	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%
Pistol/handgun	21	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Shotgun (slug)	42	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%
Spear	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Straightwall cartridge rifle	110	1.2%	1.4%	0.7%

Access to Hunting Land and Use of Land Types

Q15. Percentage of time spent on…. (will equal 100%)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Land: Open Field & Waters	4.2%	8.8%	6.6%	5.0%	7.6%	5.6%
Public Land: State-owned Wildlife Management Area	7.2%	16.3%	15.4%	7.5%	14.1%	10.0%
Public Land: Federally owned area	2.6%	9.6%	5.5%	4.0%	8.9%	4.8%
Private Land: Free access	72.2%	36.5%	53.1%	65.7%	49.2%	61.2%
Private Land: Paid/traded access	13.8%	28.8%	19.4%	17.9%	20.1%	18.4%

Proportion that hunted on…. (will be greater than 100%)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Land: Open Field & Waters	9.2%	15.0%	14.6%	9.0%	16.4%	11.0%
Public Land: State-owned Wildlife Management Area	13.1%	25.0%	25.7%	12.2%	27.0%	16.9%
Public Land: Federally owned area	4.7%	13.8%	9.8%	6.0%	13.9%	7.6%
Private Land: Free access	77.6%	41.1%	60.4%	69.8%	56.6%	66.3%
Private Land: Paid/traded access	16.0%	30.5%	22.2%	19.4%	23.5%	20.4%

Grouped by type of access responses:

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Public Access	20.9%	40.0%	34.9%	20.7%	40.3%	26.8%
- Public Access Only	9.0%	29.8%	20.6%	12.5%	23.1%	15.4%
Private Access	91.0%	70.2%	79.4%	87.5%	76.9%	84.6%
- Private Only	79.1%	60.0%	65.1%	79.3%	59.7%	73.2%
Any Free Access (no fees paid for hunting access)	88.3%	72.9%	83.8%	83.4%	82.8%	83.5%
Any Paid Access (fees paid for hunting access)	16.0%	30.5%	22.3%	19.4%	23.5%	20.5%
Total Responses (n)	6,188	2,781	2,366	5,912	663	8,969

Q16. Of those reporting free private land access, how was free access acquired? (multiple responses allowed, can total more than 100%).

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Family's land	**52.0%**	27.6%	43.7%	**50.6%**	35.5%	**48.1%**
Friend's land	43.7%	**49.5%**	**47.7%**	44.2%	**50.9%**	45.4%
Acquaintance's land	17.4%	18.7%	21.6%	16.3%	19.8%	17.8%
Knock on landowner's door	6.3%	14.4%	12.8%	5.6%	15.1%	8.0%

Population Status Perspective

Q17. Below, for each species, please indicate your perception of population size where you hunt. If the species does not occur where you hunt, leave it blank.

Mule deer (Statewide, n = 7,643)

Mule Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	**34.7%**	25.2%	33.7%	30.3%	32.1%	31.3%
2) Low	22.4%	25.7%	25.1%	23.4%	21.5%	23.6%
3) About right	33.3%	**42.4%**	**35.9%**	**36.6%**	**38.3%**	**36.6%**
4) High	7.6%	5.3%	4.7%	7.5%	7.0%	6.8%
5) Much too high	2.0%	1.4%	0.6%	2.2%	1.1%	1.8%
Average Score	2.20	2.32	2.13	2.28	2.23	2.24

Mule Deer (only traditional mule deer units included: Buffalo, Calamus West, Frenchman, Keya Paha, Loup West, Pine Ridge, Plains, Platte, Republican, Sandhills and Upper Platte, n = 3,456)

Mule Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	24.6%	21.6%	26.3%	21.7%	28.3%	23.3%
2) Low	24.4%	27.3%	28.3%	25.3%	22.7%	25.7%
3) About right	**37.6%**	**44.2%**	**39.2%**	**40.8%**	**40.7%**	**40.5%**
4) High	10.6%	5.8%	5.4%	9.7%	7.0%	8.5%
5) Much too high	2.8%	1.1%	0.8%	2.5%	1.3%	2.0%
Average Score	2.42	2.38	2.26	2.46	2.30	2.40

Mule Deer, by Deer Management Unit:

Mule Deer By Unit	1) Much too low	2) Low	3) About right	4) High	5) Much too high	Average Score
Blue Northwest	**47.8%**	18.5%	28.0%	5.1%	0.6%	1.91
Blue Southeast	**49.2%**	14.9%	33.1%	2.8%	0.0%	1.89
Buffalo	**31.7%**	27.7%	31.4%	7.3%	2.0%	2.20
Calamus East	**35.6%**	29.7%	28.8%	5.9%	0.0%	2.05
Calamus West	18.8%	37.0%	**41.3%**	2.9%	0.0%	2.28
Elkhorn	**57.2%**	17.3%	23.7%	0.6%	1.2%	1.73
Frenchman	11.3%	18.6%	**51.1%**	14.6%	4.4%	2.81
Keya Paha	**38.2%**	34.6%	26.0%	0.8%	0.4%	1.91
Loup East	**50.7%**	23.4%	20.9%	4.0%	1.0%	1.79
Loup West	27.6%	28.2%	**34.6%**	8.3%	1.3%	2.27
Missouri	**54.1%**	21.2%	23.4%	1.4%	0.0%	1.71
Pine Ridge	26.6%	**33.6%**	32.2%	5.9%	1.8%	2.23
Plains	13.0%	20.0%	**53.0%**	12.5%	1.5%	2.69
Platte	13.6%	23.1%	**49.7%**	10.8%	2.8%	2.66
Republican	**63.7%**	16.9%	18.1%	1.3%	0.0%	1.57
Sandhills	21.6%	27.4%	**43.0%**	6.8%	1.1%	2.38
Upper Platte	10.5%	21.9%	**50.5%**	14.3%	2.9%	2.76
Wahoo	**53.7%**	15.4%	29.1%	1.8%	0.0%	1.80

Q18. Whitetail Deer

Whitetail Deer	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	7.2%	7.6%	6.2%	7.6%	8.3%	7.3%
2) Low	15.4%	15.8%	18.3%	14.2%	17.4%	15.5%
3) About right	**51.9%**	**56.5%**	**56.3%**	**52.2%**	**53.0%**	**53.3%**
4) High	20.2%	17.1%	16.7%	20.4%	17.3%	19.2%
5) Much too high	5.3%	3.0%	2.5%	5.5%	4.0%	4.6%
Average Score	2.93	3.03	2.93	3.04	3.01	3.01

Whitetail Deer, by DMU

Whitetail Deer By Unit	1) Much too low	2) Low	3) About right	4) High	5) Much too high	Average Score
Blue Northwest	6.3%	17.1%	**57.6%**	17.1%	1.8%	2.91
Blue Southeast	8.0%	17.7%	**60.0%**	11.9%	2.5%	2.83
Buffalo	4.2%	10.7%	**47.6%**	28.5%	9.0%	3.27
Calamus East	3.3%	7.2%	**57.9%**	27.0%	4.6%	3.22
Calamus West	4.5%	15.8%	**53.4%**	24.4%	1.8%	3.03
Elkhorn	8.7%	18.5%	**54.3%**	15.2%	3.3%	2.85
Frenchman	12.4%	21.0%	**46.6%**	15.0%	5.0%	2.79
Keya Paha	1.9%	7.8%	**58.4%**	25.3%	6.6%	3.27
Loup East	1.8%	8.9%	**49.6%**	30.6%	9.1%	3.35
Loup West	3.0%	11.2%	**56.8%**	25.4%	3.6%	3.16
Missouri	4.2%	8.4%	**60.3%**	22.2%	4.9%	3.15
Pine Ridge	10.8%	16.2%	**50.9%**	16.7%	5.4%	2.90
Plains	9.9%	18.8%	**47.9%**	16.7%	6.8%	2.92
Platte	7.3%	13.9%	**52.4%**	20.0%	6.4%	3.04
Republican	6.2%	14.3%	**57.1%**	19.7%	2.8%	2.99
Sandhills	8.9%	17.3%	**51.4%**	17.3%	5.1%	2.93
Upper Platte	12.8%	24.5%	**39.8%**	17.9%	5.1%	2.77
Wahoo	5.7%	17.3%	**56.3%**	18.1%	2.7%	2.94

Q19. Hunters

Hunters	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
1) Much too low	2.6%	3.5%	2.4%	2.8%	4.6%	2.9%
2) Low	7.1%	8.9%	7.3%	7.7%	8.5%	7.7%
3) About right	**46.6%**	**55.5%**	**48.2%**	**49.8%**	**49.7%**	**49.4%**
4) High	26.7%	19.8%	26.0%	24.2%	22.7%	24.5%
5) Much too high	17.0%	12.3%	16.1%	15.4%	14.6%	15.6%
Average Score	3.48	3.29	3.46	3.42	3.34	3.42

Hunters, by DMU

Whitetail Deer By Unit	1) Much too low	2) Low	3) About right	4) High	5) Much too high	Average Score
Blue Northwest	1.5%	8.4%	**49.8%**	25.7%	14.6%	3.42
Blue Southeast	2.2%	6.2%	**50.0%**	26.6%	15.0%	3.46
Buffalo	2.0%	8.0%	**53.6%**	26.2%	10.2%	3.36
Calamus East	2.2%	5.1%	**58.1%**	19.1%	15.4%	3.40
Calamus West	3.8%	7.2%	**50.2%**	22.5%	16.3%	3.41

Elkhorn	3.2%	9.5%	**41.5%**	27.9%	18.0%	3.48
Frenchman	3.1%	8.7%	**47.0%**	26.6%	14.7%	3.42
Keya Paha	3.2%	8.7%	**61.4%**	16.2%	10.5%	3.22
Loup East	2.0%	6.7%	**48.5%**	28.8%	14.0%	3.47
Loup West	0.6%	8.8%	**58.1%**	23.1%	9.4%	3.31
Missouri	1.9%	4.5%	**55.0%**	25.1%	13.5%	3.43
Pine Ridge	3.3%	7.3%	**50.4%**	20.6%	18.5%	3.44
Plains	5.8%	11.1%	**52.6%**	20.0%	10.5%	3.19
Platte	2.3%	6.5%	**54.9%**	20.9%	15.4%	3.40
Republican	2.5%	7.1%	**45.5%**	29.5%	15.3%	3.48
Sandhills	4.0%	7.5%	**51.4%**	21.3%	15.8%	3.38
Upper Platte	5.3%	10.0%	**51.2%**	19.1%	14.4%	3.29
Wahoo	3.4%	7.8%	**44.3%**	27.7%	16.7%	3.46

Hunter numbers and % public land hunted

Row Labels	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
Blue Northwest	3.3	3.5	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.4
Blue Southeast	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.5
Buffalo	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.4
Calamus East	3.4	3.0	2.0	3.0	3.6	3.4
Calamus West	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.6	3.7	3.4
Elkhorn	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.5
Frenchman	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.4
Keya Paha	3.2	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.2
Loup East	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.5
Loup West	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.0	2.8	3.3
Missouri	3.4	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.4
Pine Ridge	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4
Plains	3.0	3.8	3.0	3.8	3.7	3.2
Platte	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.4
Republican	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.5
Sandhills	3.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.4
Upper Platte	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.3
Wahoo	3.4	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.5
Grand Total	**3.3**	**3.5**	**3.6**	**3.8**	**3.7**	**3.4**

Residency and hunting questions

Q21. Have you ever been a resident of Nebraska? Only asked of Nonresidents.

Response	Overall
No	84%
Yes	16%

Q22. What factors contributed to your decision to hunt Nebraska? (Select all that apply.) Only asked of Nonresidents.

Response	Overall
Opportunity to hunt deer in another state	54.4%
Availability of permits	49.7%
Opportunity to hunt white-tailed deer	41.5%
Opportunity to hunt mule deer	34.4%
Permit Costs	34.3%
Opportunity to hunt deer with friends who live in Nebraska	25.2%
Opportunity to hunt deer with family who live in Nebraska	16.5%
Other	7.4%

Q24. Which species of Deer do you prefer to hunt?

	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
Mule deer	22%	38%	19%	29%	34%	27%
White-tailed deer	78%	62%	81%	71%	66%	73%

Q25. Do you hunt deer in any states other than Nebraska?

Residency	Answer	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
Resident	No	84%	94%	88%	91%
	Yes	16%	6%	12%	9%
Nonresident	No	7%	18%	8%	13%
	Yes	93%	82%	92%	87%

Residency	States Hunted	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Overall
Resident	1	58.0%	72.5%	46.5%	64.6%
	2	22.5%	18.6%	25.6%	20.8%
	3	13.0%	6.1%	14.0%	9.2%
	4	4.3%	1.1%	2.3%	2.6%
	5	0.4%	1.1%	7.0%	1.2%
	6	1.3%	0.7%	0.0%	1.0%
	7	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.2%
	9	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	11	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.2%
Nonresident	1	47.7%	61.9%	51.6%	55.8%
	2	25.6%	21.1%	24.9%	23.1%
	3	13.2%	9.1%	12.6%	11.1%

4	4.5%	4.1%	5.8%	4.3%
5	4.6%	1.8%	1.8%	2.8%
6	1.6%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%
7	0.9%	0.2%	1.1%	0.6%
8	1.34%	0.53%	0.72%	0.79%
9	0.1%	0.1%	0.7%	0.2%
10	0.12%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%
11	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
12	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%	0.04%
13	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%	0.04%
16	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%	0.04%

States hunted by Nebraska Residents, by percentage.
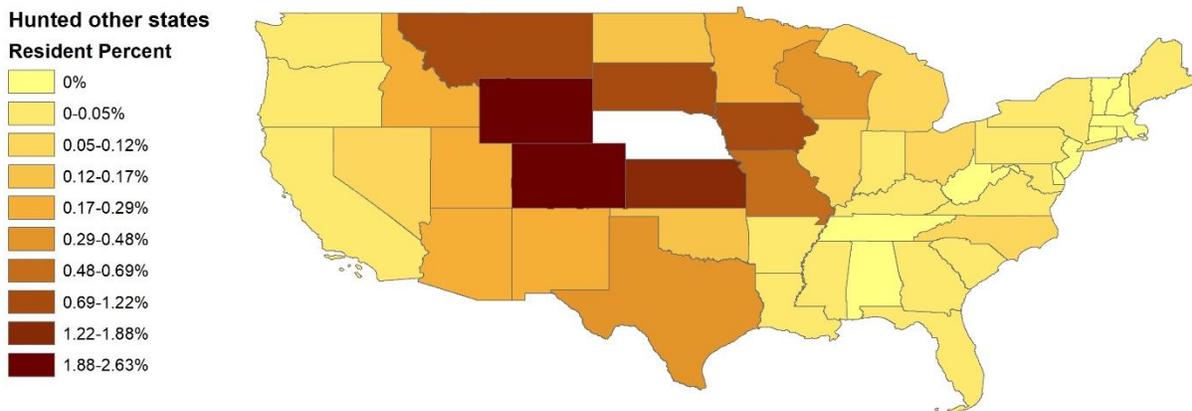
States hunted by Nonresidents, by percentage.

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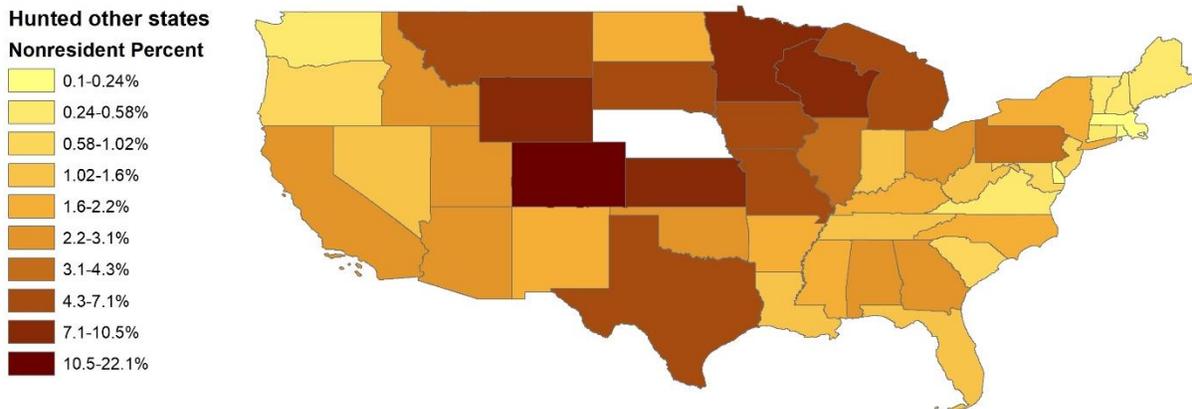
Q27. Do you hunt outside your home state? How often?

Residency	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Grand Total
Resident				
No	**84%**	**94%**	**88%**	**91%**
Yes	**16%**	**6%**	**12%**	**9%**
Annually	46%	34%	45%	41%
Every few years	37%	43%	43%	40%
Every five years	8%	7%	0%	7%
Every 10 years	1%	7%	5%	4%
Less than every ten years	2%	4%	5%	3%
(blank)	6%	5%	2%	5%
Nonresident				
No	**7%**	**18%**	**8%**	**13%**
Yes	**93%**	**82%**	**92%**	**87%**
Annually	75%	69%	64%	70%
Every few years	16%	20%	25%	19%
Every five years	1%	1%	1%	1%
Every 10 years	1%	1%	0%	1%
Less than every ten years	2%	4%	3%	3%
(blank)	5%	5%	6%	6%

Whitetail Buck Selection

Hunters were asked if they would consider shooting the following deer under normal, legal and ethical situations based upon the single photograph. The antler configuration and age information was not included in the question, but is here for discussion.

Q28-33 Would you shoot this deer? (1 year old, spike)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	5.9%	3.0%	4.3%	5.1%	5.5%	5.0%
Maybe	9.8%	6.7%	6.3%	9.7%	9.4%	8.8%
No	84.3%	90.4%	89.4%	85.3%	85.1%	86.2%

Would you shoot this deer? (1 year old, 4x3)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	10.6%	6.9%	6.7%	10.5%	9.3%	9.4%
Maybe	20.9%	15.3%	13.8%	21.7%	18.1%	19.3%
No	68.5%	77.8%	79.5%	67.9%	72.7%	71.3%

Would you shoot this deer? (2 year old, ~110")

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	33.9%	23.1%	21.5%	34.4%	28.2%	30.5%
Maybe	28.1%	26.1%	23.9%	29.4%	23.8%	27.5%
No	38.0%	50.8%	54.7%	36.2%	48.0%	42.0%

Would you shoot this deer? (3 year old, ~135")

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	57.0%	53.5%	50.6%	58.8%	53.6%	56.3%
Maybe	26.9%	28.5%	29.9%	26.3%	27.5%	27.3%
No	16.1%	18.1%	19.6%	14.9%	19.0%	16.4%

Would you shoot this deer? (4 year old, ~140")

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	76.9%	77.6%	78.6%	77.8%	74.0%	77.1%
Maybe	16.5%	16.2%	16.6%	15.6%	18.8%	16.4%
No	6.7%	6.2%	4.8%	6.5%	7.2%	6.5%

Would you shoot this deer? (6 year old, ~145", same buck as 3 year old picture, 3 years later)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
Yes	57.2%	54.4%	54.7%	58.0%	53.8%	56.3%
Maybe	28.7%	29.9%	30.3%	28.4%	29.5%	29.0%
No	14.1%	15.7%	15.1%	13.7%	16.6%	14.6%

Harvest Management and Permits Input

Q34. Would you like to provide input on deer harvest management?

Row Labels	Sample Size	Percent
No	5766	60.9%
Yes	3650	38.6%
(blank)	47	0.5%

Q35 Have you purchased a Statewide Whitetail Buck permit in the past?

Row Labels	Sample Size	Percent
No	2082	57.3%
Yes	1549	42.7%

Unit	Sample Size	No	Yes
Blue Northwest	218	46.8%	53.2%
Blue Southeast	295	49.8%	50.1%
Buffalo	180	51.7%	48.3%
Calamus East	55	45.5%	54.5%
Calamus West	79	68.4%	31.6%
Elkhorn	203	49.8%	50.2%
Frenchman	314	66.5%	33.4%
Keya Paha	114	57.8%	42.1%
Loup East	148	56.0%	43.9%
Loup West	73	60.2%	39.7%
Missouri	158	53.1%	46.8%
Pine Ridge	178	78.0%	21.9%
Plains	80	72.5%	27.5%
Platte	177	66.1%	33.9%
Republican	207	46.8%	53.1%
Sandhills	152	71.7%	28.2%
Upper Platte	81	72.8%	27.1%
Wahoo	293	44.3%	55.6%
Total	**3005**	**57.1%**	**42.8%**

Reason for buying a SWB

Response	Percent	Count
Allows hunting during multiple seasons	36%	556
Allows hunting in multiple units	41%	640
Only permit available for my preferred area	23%	351
Total	**100%**	**1547**

Q37. Do you agree with limiting Statewide Permits?
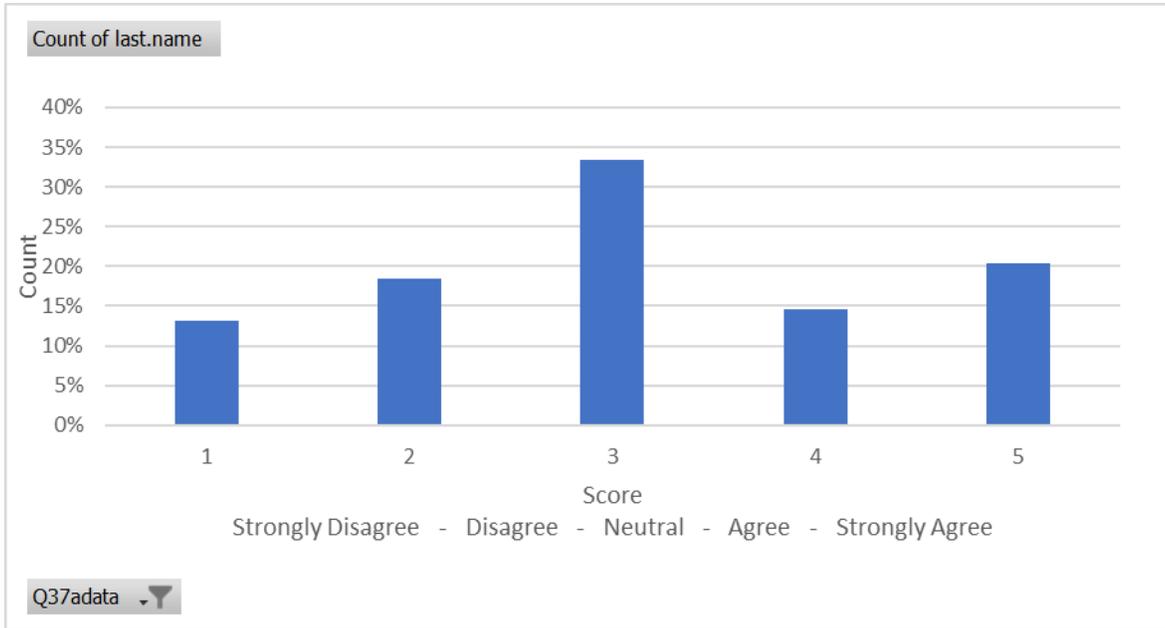
By unit and hunter type:

Unit	Average Score
Blue Northwest	2.9
Blue Southeast	3.2
Buffalo	3.1
Calamus East	3.2
Calamus West	3.0
Elkhorn	3.1
Frenchman	3.1
Keya Paha	2.9
Loup East	3.0
Loup West	3.1
Missouri	3.3
Pine Ridge	3.2
Plains	3.2
Platte	2.9
Republican	3.1
Sandhills	3.4
Upper Platte	3.2
Wahoo	3.0
Grand Total	**3.1**

Row Labels	Average Score
Resident	3.1
Nonresident	3.0
Archery	3.2
Firearm	3.1
Muzzleloader	3.1
Grand Total	**3.1**

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Q38. Should the NGPC manage the number of bucks harvested in each unit?

Score

Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
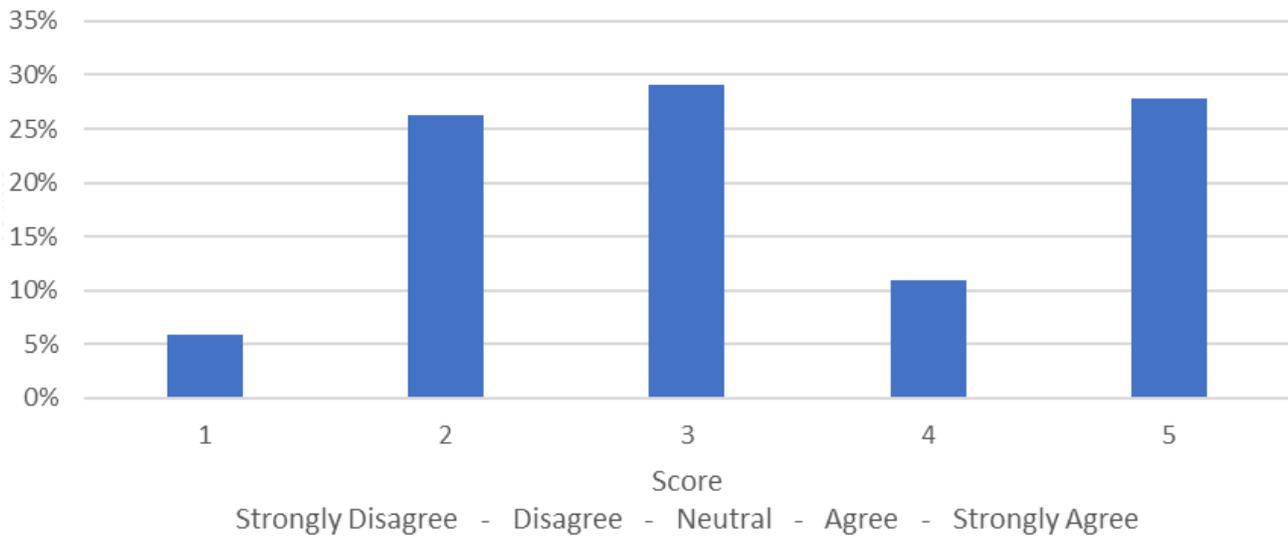
By Unit and Hunter Type:

Unit	Average Score
Blue Northwest	3.2
Blue Southeast	3.3
Buffalo	3.3
Calamus East	3.4
Calamus West	3.4
Elkhorn	3.2
Frenchman	3.3
Keya Paha	3.2
Loup East	3.2
Loup West	3.1
Missouri	3.5
Pine Ridge	3.3
Plains	3.2
Platte	3.0
Republican	3.3
Sandhills	3.5
Upper Platte	3.4
Wahoo	3.3
Grand Total	**3.3**

Row Labels	Average Score
Resident	3.3
Nonresident	3.3
Archery	3.4
Firearm	3.2
Muzzleloader	3.3
Grand Total	**3.3**

Q39. Should the NGPC manage the number of hunters in each unit during the firearm season?
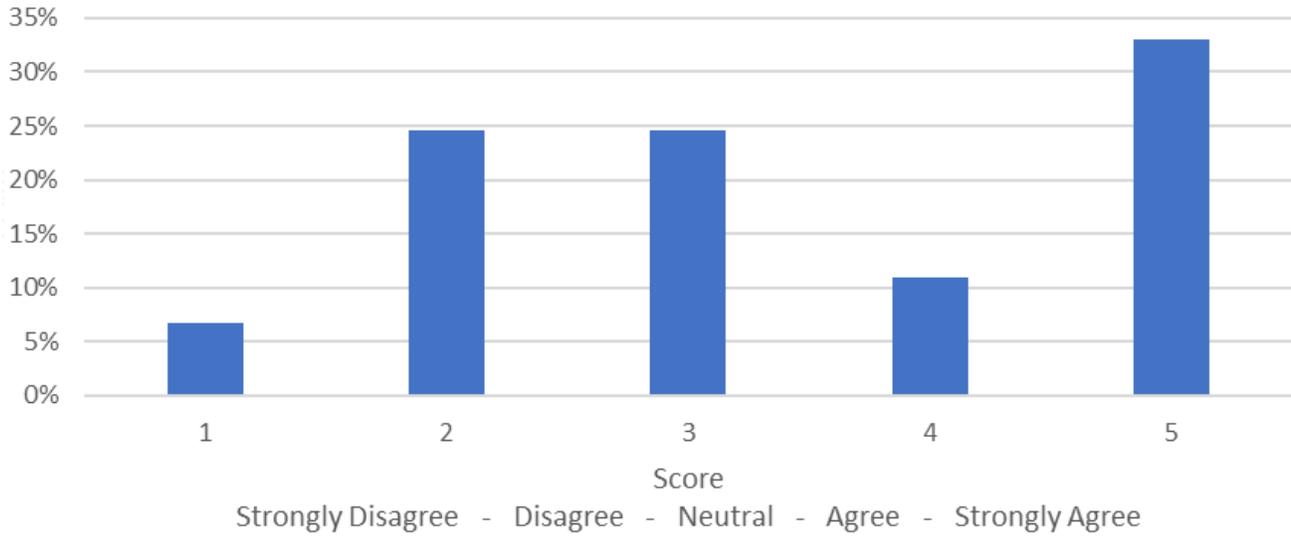
By Unit and Hunter Type:

Unit	Average Score
Blue Northwest	3.2
Blue Southeast	3.4
Buffalo	3.3
Calamus East	3.4
Calamus West	3.6
Elkhorn	3.3
Frenchman	3.5
Keya Paha	3.2
Loup East	3.3
Loup West	3.3
Missouri	3.4
Pine Ridge	3.5
Plains	3.5
Platte	3.0
Republican	3.5
Sandhills	3.8
Upper Platte	3.3
Wahoo	3.4
Grand Total	**3.4**

Row Labels	Average Score
Resident	3.4
Nonresident	3.3
Archery	3.6
Firearm	3.3
Muzzleloader	3.4
Grand Total	**3.4**

Q40 Would you prefer that unit-based, either-sex permits be valid during archery, firearm, and muzzleloader seasons, similar to the Mule Deer Conservation Area permit model and our antlerless permits, instead of the current November Firearm permits that are valid only during the 9-day Firearm season? (Note that this change would not change any of the season dates or impact statewide archery, muzzleloader, or youth permits, but would simply make November Firearm permits operate like Antlerless Only permits and make them either sex/any-deer "season choice" permits.)

Response	Residency		Weapon Preference			Overall
	Resident	Nonresident	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	
No	24.1%	22.5%	29.2%	20.9%	22.8%	23.6%
I don't know/ No opinion	26.8%	38.2%	29.0%	29.9%	32.5%	29.9%
Yes	49.1%	39.2%	41.6%	49.1%	44.5%	46.3%