

2022

BIG GAME RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pronghorn Antelope, Deer and Elk Seasons
- Permit Quotas, Bag Limits and Management Units



PRONGHORN

INTRODUCTION

Based upon past landowner surveys, pronghorn populations have been above desired levels in most units in recent years. However, we saw reduced hunter success in 2021 and confirmed EHD losses in collared pronghorn. Of our 80 collared pronghorn, 2 were confirmed to have died of EHD, with 9 others suspected to be from EHD during the August-October timeframe. Minor general permit decreases are recommended in about half of our doe/fawn units. Either-Sex permits were decreased in two units due to poor success and yearling buck harvest being above threshold. Very few depredation complaints were reported this past year.

We restructured our aerial pronghorn survey methods in 2021 to cover more area within our management units which will result in better pronghorn population estimates. Due to this change in survey methods, results between the surveys done prior to 2020 and the 2021 survey may not be comparable for all units.

Total pronghorn harvest was 1,161 in 2021, with 799 bucks and 362 does and fawns taken. Populations have been stable and allowed hunters to harvest 700-800 bucks each of the past 10 years. Of the bucks that were harvested, 88% were age 2 or older. Compared to 2020 harvest levels, buck harvest declined 11% and doe harvest declined 5%, despite increases for both permit types in 2021.

Of the 3,362 permits were issued in 2021, 41% of the buyers were archers, 53% were rifle hunters and 5% were muzzleloaders. Harvest by weapon type was 71% firearm, 12% bow, 10% muzzleloader, and 7% crossbow.

Permit demand remains high, and most firearm hunters wait 3-5 years to draw a permit. Archery permits are unlimited for residents and permit sales continue to be high. The nonresident limit of 250 successfully limited and mitigated NR archery harvest and pressure on the Oglala grasslands and elsewhere. An archery success rate of 15-25% minimizes impact on herds. Archery season is primarily considered a recreational hunt, however archery accounts for 40-50% of our pronghorn hunters and about 20% of pronghorn buck harvest statewide, so the impact is not insignificant.

Management goals are to:

1. Stabilize populations in all units.
2. Provide adequate doe permits in all units (except Eastern Sandhills) to handle any depredation complaints.

Recommendations for 2022 include:

- All pronghorn limited landowner (LO) permit quotas will be 75% of the general quota due to the statutory change from 50%. This results in changes to all LO Pronghorn permit quotas.
- Banner North – Remove 20 General (Gen) Doe/Fawn (D/F)
- Banner South – Remove 50 Gen D/F
- Box Butt East – Remove 10 Gen Either Sex (ES) and 20 Gen D/F
- Dismal – Remove 10 Gen D/F
- Garden – Remove 40 Gen D/F
- North Sioux – Remove 10 ES
- Prairie Muzzleloader – Remove 3 ES permits according to protocol
- North Sioux Muzzleloader – Remove 3 ES permits according to protocol
- Expand North Sioux Late zone to 8-mile buffer of Hwy 20 from 6 miles.

Summary: Remove 20 Gen ES permits and 140 Gen Doe/Fawn permits. Statutory change combined with General quota changes result in 171 additional ES LO and 73 additional D/F LO permits.

Overall, 2022 recommendations result in 151 additional ES permits and 67 fewer D/F permits available statewide.

PRONGHORN SEASON MANAGEMENT

Historically, Nebraska's pronghorn populations have had large fluctuations in response to population declines caused by winter storms, drought or other factors. Large permit reductions or season closures have been common, as staff has responded to significant changes in population estimates.

It is the intent of NGPC staff to incorporate specific harvest goals and management strategies that use biological data for making harvest recommendations. The specific goals and strategies may be adjusted in the future as we increase our understanding of our pronghorn herds.

Harvest Goals:

1. Maintain a minimum harvest success of 65% for Either Sex Firearm Permits.
2. Yearling buck (age 1.5) harvest should be less than 20% of total buck harvest.

Management strategies:

1. Consider a **permit increase** when harvest success is greater than 75% and harvest goals have been met and after evaluation of other population indicators.
2. Consider **issuing "either sex"** or doe/fawn permits and/or authorizing a depredation season when population objectives and/or cultural tolerance levels have been met or exceeded and after evaluation of all other population indicators.
3. Consider a **permit decrease** when harvest success is less than 65%, harvest goals are not met, and after evaluation of other population indicators.
4. Consider **closing the unit** to hunting when harvest success is less than 50% and/or buck/doe ratio is greater than 1:8, and/or the yearling buck harvest exceeds 50% of total buck harvest and after evaluation of other population indicators.
5. Consider **opening the unit** for pronghorn harvest after evaluation of population indicators.

RECOMMENDED PRONGHORN SEASONS AND HARVEST

Season Dates: Archery: August 20 through December 31, 2022
 Muzzleloader: September 17 through October 2, 2022
 October Firearm: October 8 through October 23, 2022
 Late Doe/Fawn: November 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023

<u>2022 Season Recommendations</u>				<u>2021 Season Results</u>								
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Gen¹</u>	<u>LO¹</u>	<u>Type²</u>	<u>Auth</u>		<u>Sold³</u>		<u>Type²</u>	<u>Harvest</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
				<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO¹</u>	<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO¹</u>		<u>B</u>	<u>D/F</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Age 1.5</u>
Banner North	90	67	ES	90	45	90	45	ES	76	9	63%	11%
Banner South	90	67	ES	90	45	90	45	ES	92	10	76%	13%
Box Butte East	30	22	ES	40	20	40	20	ES	23	5	47%	29%
Box Butte West	60	45	ES	60	30	60	30	ES	62	3	72%	2%
Cherry	80	60	ES	80	40	80	40	ES	49	11	50%	14%
Cheyenne	40	30	ES	40	20	40	20	ES	36	0	60%	14%
Dismal	40	30	ES	40	20	40	20	ES	35	1	60%	6%
Eastern Sandhills	20	15	ES	20	10	20	10	ES	17	3	67%	6%
Garden	50	37	ES	50	25	50	25	ES	40	1	55%	5%
North Sioux	100	75	ES	110	55	110	43	ES	71	12	54%	10%
All Oct Firearm	600	448		620	310	620	298		501	55	61%	-
Banner North Late	50	37	D/F	70	35	70	26	D/F	0	16	17%	-
Banner South Late	100	75	D/F	150	75	150	4	D/F	0	53	34%	-
Banner South East Late	20	15	D/F	20	10	20	0	D/F	0	3	15%	-
Box Butte East Late	50	37	D/F	70	35	70	14	D/F	1	15	19%	-
Box Butte West Late	120	80	D/F	120	60	120	15	D/F	0	54	40%	-
Cherry Late	30	22	D/F	30	15	30	7	D/F	0	14	38%	-
Cheyenne Late	60	45	D/F	60	30	60	25	D/F	0	29	34%	-
Dismal Late	10	7	D/F	20	10	20	10	D/F	1	4	17%	-
Garden Late	100	75	D/F	140	70	140	17	D/F	0	57	36%	-
North Sioux Late	80	60	D/F	80	40	80	2	D/F	0	24	29%	-
Total Late D/F	620	453		760	380	760	120		2	269	31%	
North Sioux MZ	25	18	ES	28	14	28	1	ES	17	2	66%	35%
Prairie MZ	125	93	ES	128	64	128	24	ES	87	2	59%	5%
MZ Total	150	111		156	78	156	25		104	4	60%	-
Firearm and MZ Total	1,370	1,012		1,536	768	1,536	443		607	328		
	2,382			2,304		1,979						
Multi-Species	3			3		3		ES	0	0	0%	0%
Archery (SW, LO, Y)	UNL	UNL	ES	UNL (1,380)		1,380		ES	192	34	16%	19%
TOTALS	-	-		3,687		3,362			799	362	35%	12%

¹Gen – Non-Landowner, LO – Landowner, All LO permits have a bonus D/F tag

²Permit Type: ES --- Either Sex D/F --- Doe Fawn

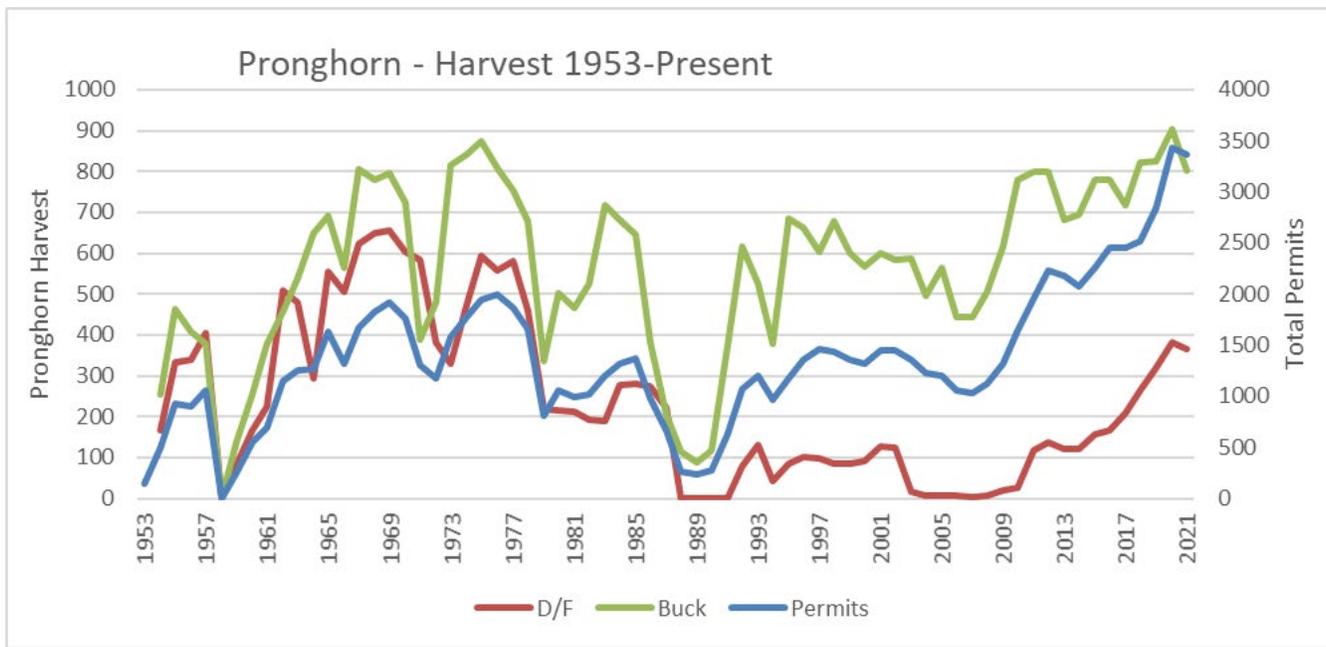
³Excesses of permits sold over number authorized are landowner permits

HISTORIC PRONGHORN HARVEST

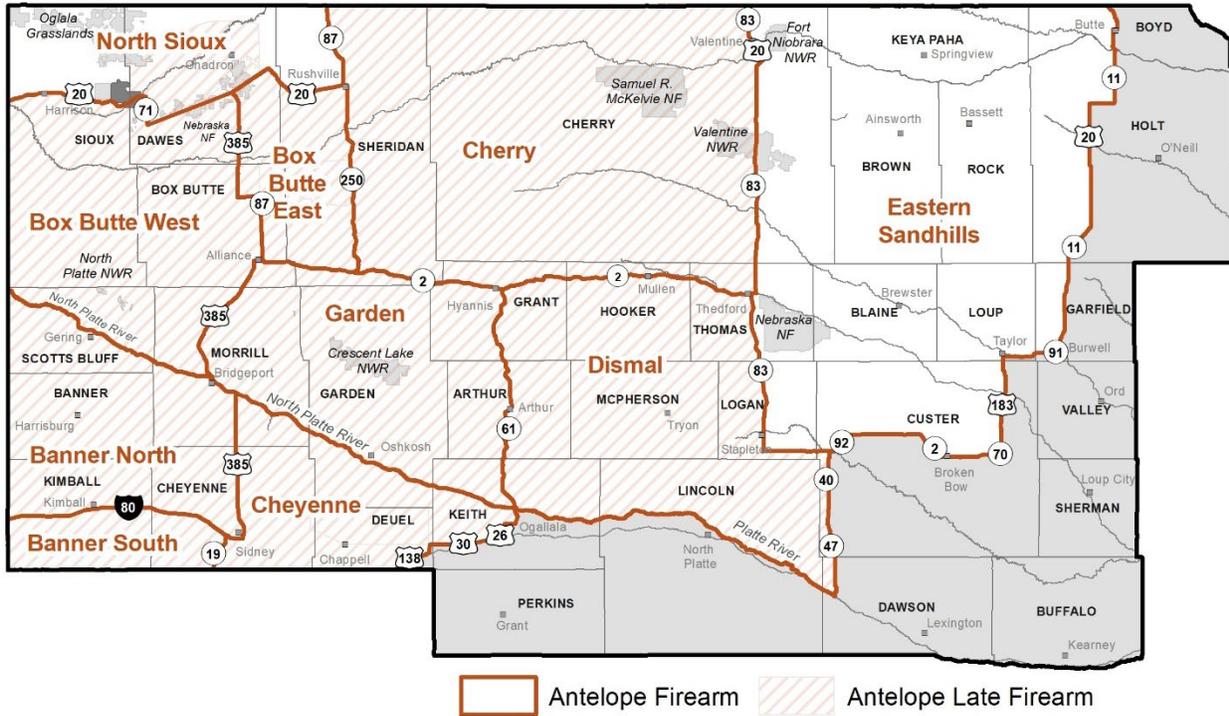
Pronghorn Permits and Harvest 2001-2021

YEAR	PERMITS				HARVEST		
	Firearm	MZ	Total Archery	Nonresident Archery	Bucks	D/F	% Bucks Age 1
2001	883	154	414		601	127	
2002	882	168	400		585	123	
2003	822	162	368		586	17	
2004	706	165	359		497	5	
2005	657	171	372		565	5	26%
2006	456	116	480	61	444	5	18%
2007	419	106	501	69	444	4	15%
2008	417	113	590	80	505	7	10%
2009*	492	120	697	83	615	20	12%
2010	678	141	831	133	779	26	10%
2011	834	153	972	194	799	118	6%
2012	931	152	1140	244	798	137	15%
2013	951	145	1086	286	683	122	12%
2014	882	138	1053	237	696	121	15%
2015	898	164	1197	275	779	155	10%
2016	968	158	1316	329	781	168	8%
2017	1065	161	1257	300	718	210	13%
2018	1161	160	1164	264	823	263	10%
2019	1361	161	1318	356	825	321	10%
2020	1546	176	1710	543	904	383	9%
2021	1798	181	1380	250	799	362	12%

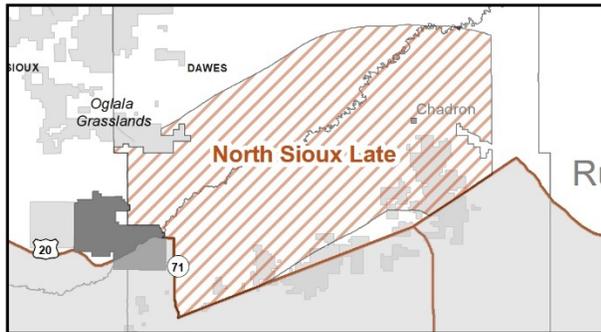
* Approximately, 30 harvest records lost in 2009 at Scottsbluff.



2022 PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT UNITS



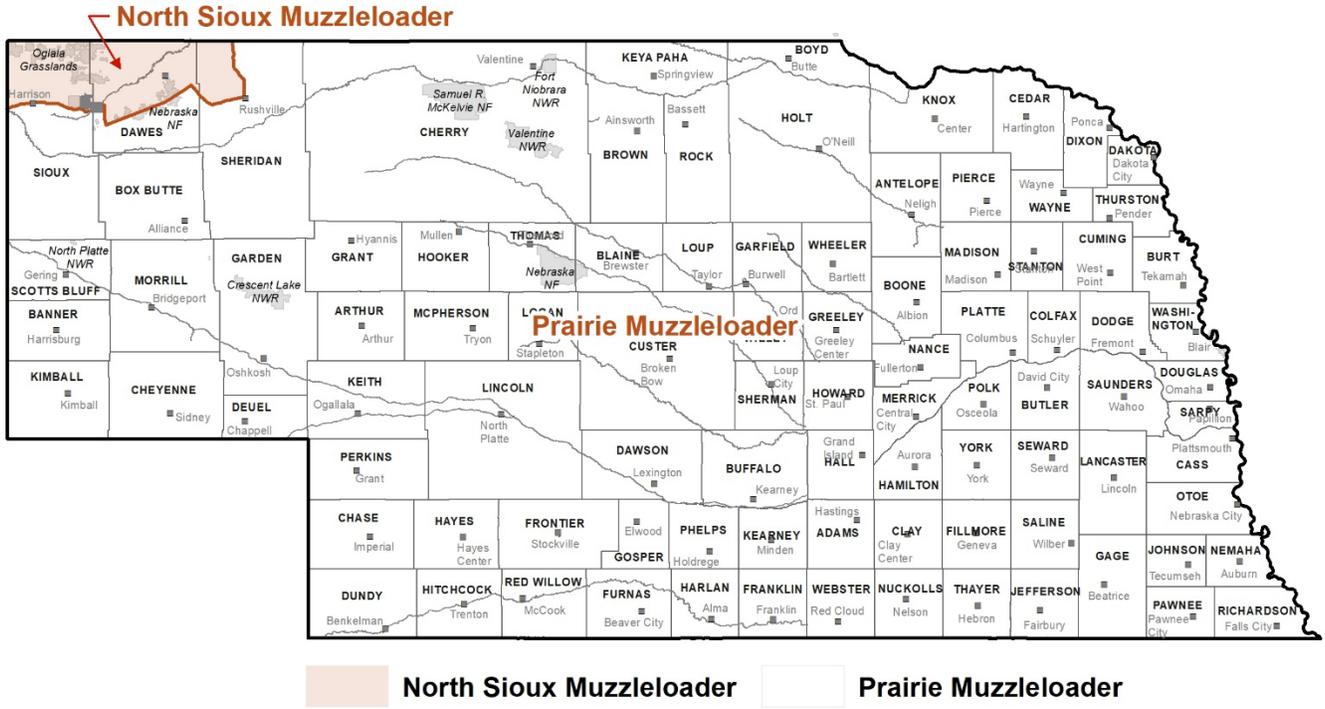
Additional Doe/Fawn Pronghorn Units



North Sioux Late Doe/Fawn permits are not valid on the Oglala National Grasslands (USFS), Fort Robinson State Park, Fort Robinson Wildlife Management Area, and Bordeaux Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Antelope Late Doe/Fawn

2022 PRONGHORN MUZZLELOADER



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BANNER NORTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 90 Either Sex and 67 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Banner North Late: 50 Doe/Fawn only and 37 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. This is a decrease of 20 general D/F permits from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 60% in 2021 compared to 73% in 2020. Success on late season doe/fawn was 17% compared to 31% in 2020. Four bonus does were taken on landowner permits in 2021. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from other units confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. No Pronghorn are collared in this unit, but this unit is believed to have been affected. Objective is to 1) continue to alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) maintain hunter success and buck quality. Maintaining October firearm tags is recommended with adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. The recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to respond to depredation complaints while accounting for loss to EHD.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	90	57	1	58	64%	-	12%	98%
LO Oct Firearm	45	19	8	27	51%	9%	7%	70%
Total Oct Firearm	135	76	9	85	60%	-	11%	89%
Gen Late D/F	70	0	15	15	21%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	26	0	1	1	4%	0%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	96	0	16	16	17%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	15	2	17	-	-	27%	88%
Muzzleloader	-	11	0	11	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	102	27	129	-	-	12%	79%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	99	4	103	14%	96%	4%	11%	3%	86%
2018	110	15	125	10%	88%	12%	15%	8%	77%
2019	107	24	131	5%	82%	18%	14%	7%	79%
2020	118	37	155	11%	76%	24%	16%	6%	78%
2021	102	27	130	12%	79%	21%	15%	11%	75%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	126 ES	-	2	562	27	40
2018	126 ES	45 Banner North Late D/F	0	438	29	36
2019	126 ES	45 Banner North Late D/F	1	456	26	49
2020	135 ES	75 Banner North Late D/F	0	Not completed		
2021	135 ES	105 Banner North Late D/F (9 LO)	0	758	17	15
2022*	158 ES	87 Banner North Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

^{**}Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 105 bucks and 30 doe/fawn.

BANNER SOUTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 90 Either Sex and 67 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Banner South Late: 100 Doe/Fawn Only and 75 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. This is an decrease of 50 permits from 2021.

Banner South East Late: 20 Doe/Fawn and 15 Landowner. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for the firearm season was 72% compared to 73% in 2020. Late season success was 33%, compared to 55% last year. Five bonus does were taken on Landowner permits in 2021. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from this unit and others confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. The objectives are to: 1) alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) Increase hunter opportunity with adjusted October firearm permits. Increasing October firearm permits is recommended with adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. The recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to respond to depredation complaints while accounting for loss to EHD.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	90	77	2	79	87%	-	15%	98%
LO Oct Firearm	45	15	8	23	42%	9%	7%	65%
Total Oct Firearm	135	92	10	102	72%	-	13%	90%
Gen Late D/F	150	-	51	51	34%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	4	-	2	2	50%	0%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	154	-	54	54	34%	-	-	0%
SE Gen Late D/F	20	-	3	3	15%	-	-	0%
SE LO Late D/F	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total SE Late D/F	20	-	3	3	15%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	41	6	46	-	-	18%	87%
Muzzleloader	-	13	0	13	-	-	8%	100%
Total Harvest	-	146	72	218	-	-	14%	67%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	96	41	137	15%	70%	30%	20%	11%	69%
2018	101	43	144	10%	70%	30%	20%	15%	65%
2019	119	68	187	5%	64%	36%	27%	10%	63%
2020	129	74	203	7%	64%	36%	35%	4%	61%
2021	146	72	218	14%	67%	33%	27%	9%	64%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2016	75 ES	-	7	1074	40	46
2017	84 ES	75 Banner South Late D/F	4	1264	43	29
2018	84 ES	75 Banner South Late D/F (16 LO)	1	732	37	84
2019	105 ES	120 Banner South Late D/F (33 LO)	2 (1 DCP)	612	16	47
2020	120 ES	135 Banner South Late D/F (32 LO)	6	Not Completed		
2021	135 ES	225 Banner South Late D/F (71 LO) 30 Banner South East Late D/F (10 LO)	0	704	10	29
2022*	157 ES	175 Banner South Late D/F 35 Banner South East Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

^{**}Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 140 Bucks and 70 Does and Fawns

BOX BUTTE EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 30 Either Sex and 22 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 10 general permits from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Box Butte East Late: 50 Doe/Fawn only and 37 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. This is a decrease of 20 permits from 2021.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 47% compared to 62% in 2020. Late season success was 19%, compared to 44% last year. No bonus does were taken on Landowner permits in 2021. The terrain features and lack of complete road access in the eastern part of this unit creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn and as a result, success can be variable from year to year if winter migrations haven't concentrated pronghorn on agriculture fields. Depredation complaints: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from this unit and others confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. The objectives are to: 1) maintain current population levels, and 2) Increase hunter success, and 3) increase buck quality 4) address depredation issues with late doe/fawn permits. Winter migrations into the area continue but numbers of pronghorn are much lower than historic highs. The winter of 2021/2022 has been unseasonably warm. Percent of adult bucks harvested on either sex permits is low while percent yearling buck in the harvest has been reduced below desired levels for the second year in a row. Decreasing October firearm permits is recommended as well as adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. The recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to respond to depredation complaints while accounting for loss to EHD.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	19	4	23	58%	-	24%	83%
LO Oct Firearm	20	4	1	5	25%	0%	50%	80%
Total Oct Firearm	60	23	5	28	47%	-	29%	82%
Gen Late D/F	70	1	15	16	23%	-	-	6%
LO Late D/F	14	0	0	0	0%	-	-	-
Total Late D/F	67	1	15	16	19%	-	-	6%
Archery	-	4	1	5	-	-	0%	75%
Muzzleloader	-	3	0	3	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	31	21	52	-	-	24%	60%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	48	41	89	7%	54%	46%	4%	25%	71%
2018	46	41	87	2%	53%	47%	22%	11%	67%
2019	43	33	76	14%	57%	43%	19%	12%	70%
2020	46	41	87	2%	53%	47%	22%	11%	67%
2021	31	21	52	24%	60%	40%	13%	10%	77%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	45 ES	69 Box Butte East Late D/F (7 LO)	0	46	40	70
2018	45 ES	69 Box Butte East Late D/F	0	109	16	16
2019	45 ES	69 Box Butte East Late D/F (5 LO)	0	114	9	14
2020	60 ES	75 Box Butte East Late D/F (7 LO)	1	Not Completed		
2021	60 ES	105 Box Butte East Late D/F (21 LO)	1	98	25	18
2022*	52 ES	87 Box Butte East Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

^{**}Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 25 Bucks and 20 Does and Fawns

BOX BUTTE WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 60 firearm Either Sex and 45 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Box Butte West Late: 120 Doe/Fawn Only and 80 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 70% compared to 75% last year. Late season success was 40%, compared to 47% last year. Two bonus does were taken by Landowners in 2021. The terrain features and lack of complete road access in the unit creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn and as a result, success can be variable from year to year. This unit also receives high use from archers and muzzleloader hunters. Depredation complaints: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from other units confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. No Pronghorn are collared in this unit, but this unit is believed to have been affected. The objectives are to: 1) maintain current ' levels, and 2) maintain hunter opportunity while addressing depredation issues due to winter migration. Percent adult bucks harvested on the either sex permit remains high while percent yearling buck in the harvest continues to meet objectives. Maintaining similar October firearm tags is recommended with adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. Adjustments to late doe/fawn permits for state statute change is recommended.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	60	50	1	51	85%	-	2%	98%
LO Oct Firearm	30	12	2	14	40%	7%	0%	86%
Total Oct Firearm	90	62	3	65	70%	-	2%	95%
Gen Late D/F	120	0	54	54	45%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	15	0	0	0	0%	0%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	135	0	54	54	40%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	36	10	46	-	-	14%	78%
Muzzleloader	-	17	2	19	-	-	6%	89%
Total Harvest	-	115	69	184	-	-	6%	63%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	89	21	110	2%	81%	19%	30%	18%	52%
2018	96	25	121	2%	79%	21%	30%	18%	52%
2019	127	33	160	10%	79%	21%	40%	17%	44%
2020	154	45	199	7%	77%	23%	47%	16%	37%
2021	115	69	184	6%	63%	37%	31%	15%	54%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	75 ES	30 Box Butte West Late D/F 15 Box Butte West River Late D/F	1	1019	53	37
2018	75 ES	30 Box Butte West Late D/F 15 Box Butte West River Late D/F	1	1077	18	33
2019	75 ES	45 Box Butte West Late D/F 15 Box Butte West River Late D/F (3 LO)	1	1104	9	20
2020	90 ES	90 Box Butte West Late D/F	1	Not completed		
2021	90 ES	180 Box Butte West Late D/F (45 LO)	1	2243	19	20
2022*	105 ES	200 Box Butte West Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

^{**}Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 120 Bucks and 75 Does and Fawns

CHERRY MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 80 firearm Either Sex permits with 60 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) Either Sex permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Cherry Late: 30 Doe/Fawn permits with 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 45% compared to 52% last year. Late season success was 35%, compared to 26% last year. Eight bonus does were taken by Landowners in 2021. The terrain features and lack of complete road access in the Cherry Unit creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn and, as a result, success can be highly variable from year to year. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from other units confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. No Pronghorn are collared in this unit, but this unit is believed to have been affected. The objectives are to: 1) maintain current population's levels, 2) address depredation issues in problem areas through late season doe/fawn permits, and 3) continue monitoring buck quality/success. Increasing October firearm permits is recommended with adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. Recommendations to adjust doe/fawn permits for state statute change is recommended.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	80	37	3	40	50%	-	15%	93%
LO Oct Firearm	40	12	8	20	35%	15%	11%	65%
Total Oct Firearm	120	49	11	60	45%	-	14%	82%
Gen Late D/F	30	0	12	12	40%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	7	0	2	2	14%	14%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	37	0	14	14	35%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	10	0	10	-	-	10%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	6	0	6	-	-	17%	100%
Total Harvest	-	65	25	90	-	-	14%	72%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	67	10	77	6%	87%	13%	13%	12%	75%
2018	77	11	88	2%	88%	12%	19%	8%	73%
2019	77	25	102	18%	75%	25%	17%	9%	74%
2020	71	16	87	9%	82%	18%	15%	10%	75%
2021	65	25	90	14%	72%	28%	15%	9%	75%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	113 ES	20 Cherry Late D/F	1	1383	65	67
2018	113 ES	20 Cherry Late D/F (1 LO)	1	1624	18	34
2019	114 ES	30 Cherry Late D/F	0	1704	18	42
2020	120 ES	30 Cherry Late D/F (3 LO)	0	Not completed		
2021	120 ES	45 Cherry Late D/F (8 LO)	0	928	14	40
2022*	140 ES	52 Cherry Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 70 Bucks and 30 Does and Fawns

CHEYENNE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 30 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2020. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Cheyenne Late: 60 Doe/Fawn and 45 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. This is an increase of 30 permits from 2020. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 60% compared to 67% last year. Late success was 34% compared to 30% last year. There were no bonus does taken by Landowners in 2021. Depredation complaints: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to decrease the population, maintain hunter success, buck quality and increase opportunity; while addressing depredation issues through late season doe/fawn permits. Buck age data and percent success did meet goals on the general permit. It is recommended to maintain the current permit ES quota and increase the D/F quota.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	30	0	30	75%	-	13%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	20	6	0	6	30%	0%	17%	100%
Total Oct Firearm	60	36	0	36	60%	-	14%	100%
Gen Late D/F	60	0	27	27	45%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	25	0	2	2	8%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	85	0	29	29	34%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	8	3	11	-	-	25%	73%
Muzzleloader	-	17	0	17	-	-	6%	100%
Total Harvest	-	61	32	93	-	-	13%	66%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	65	10	75	9%	87%	13%	25%	20%	55%
2018	74	29	103	18%	72%	28%	20%	20%	60%
2019	58	20	78	15%	74%	26%	21%	17%	62%
2020	67	25	92	14%	73%	27%	24%	18%	58%
2021	61	32	93	13%	66%	34%	13%	28%	59%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	57 ES	15 Cheyenne Central Late D/F	5			
2018	57 ES	60 Cheyenne Late D/F	0			
2019	57 ES	60 Cheyenne Late D/F	0	151	26	17
2020	60 ES	60 Cheyenne Late D/F	0	Not completed		
2021	60 ES	90 Cheyenne Late D/F (5 LO)	2	433	15	32
2022*	70 ES	105 Cheyenne Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 70 Bucks and 35 Does and Fawns

DISMAL MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 30 Landowner permits (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn). No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Dismal Late: 10 Doe/Fawn only permits and 7 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. Reduction in 10 general permits from 2020, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for the Either Sex firearm season was 58%, compared to 68% last year. Late season success was 17% compared to 46% last year. One bonus doe was taken by Landowners in 2021. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Hunter harvest success may seldom reach 75% due to the fact that this unit is 100% private land with limited access. The topographic landscape creates visual limitations requiring hunters to commonly spend a considerable amount of time trying to locate a quality pronghorn buck. Based on general observations, pronghorn numbers appear to be stable in the Dismal Unit.

Generally, landowners in the Dismal Unit have tolerance for pronghorn populations as there is limited agricultural cropland in this Sandhills pronghorn habitat. The population objective is to slow the growth of this herd. Staff recommends reducing the Late D/F while still providing a tool for landowners to deal with any depredation issues.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	27	0	27	68%	-	7%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	20	8	1	9	40%	5%	0%	89%
Total Oct Firearm	60	35	1	36	58%	-	6%	97%
Gen Late D/F	20	1	4	5	25%	-	-	20%
LO Late D/F	10	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	30	1	4	5	17%	-	-	20%
Archery	-	11	0	11	-	-	18%	95%
Muzzleloader	-	8	0	8	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	55	5	60	-	-	9%	92%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	41	1	42	14%	98%	2%	32%	15%	54%
2018	51	1	52	14%	98%	2%	25%	14%	61%
2019	53	10	63	6%	84%	16%	26%	15%	58%
2020	64	18	82	8%	78%	22%	28%	14%	58%
2021	55	5	60	9%	92%	8%	20%	15%	65%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	36 ES	-	0	Unit not surveyed		
2018	36 ES	-	2			
2019	54 ES	30 Dismal Late D/F (8 LO)	0			
2020	60 ES	30 Dismal Late D/F (4 LO)	0			
2021	60 ES	30 Dismal Late D/F	0			
2022*	70 ES	17 Dismal Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 55 Bucks and 10 Does and Fawns

EAST SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 20 firearm Either Sex permits and 15 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Regional variable densities of pronghorn combined with the lack of roads to locate pronghorn, make success highly variable in this unit. Firearm success was 63%, compared to 47% last year. One bonus doe was taken by Landowners in 2021. Firearm permits are not valid on the Halsey Nebraska National Forest Service lands. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Management objectives are to allow the population to increase. Pronghorn are scattered and sparse throughout most of the unit and depredation complaints have been minimal historically.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	20	11	1	12	60%	-	10%	92%
LO Oct Firearm	10	6	2	8	70%	10%	0%	100%
Total Oct Firearm	30	17	3	20	63%	-	6%	85%
Archery	-	5	0	5	-	-	20%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	1	0	1	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	23	3	26	-	-	9%	88%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	12	0	12	14%	100%	0%	25%	13%	67%
2018	32	5	37	19%	86%	14%	53%	6%	41%
2019	30	3	33	3%	91%	9%	40%	20%	40%
2020	19	3	23	21%	76%	24%	43%	7%	50%
2021	23	3	26	9%	88%	12%	22%	4%	74%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	15 ES		0	Unit not surveyed		
2018	24 ES		0			
2019	30 ES		0			
2020	30 ES		0			
2021	30 ES		0			
2022*	35 ES					

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 25 Bucks and 5 Does and Fawns

GARDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 50 firearm Either Sex and 37 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Garden Late: 100 Doe/Fawn and 75 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. This is a decrease of 40 general permits from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Firearm hunter success was 53%, compared to 59% last year. Garden Late success was 36% compared to 46% last year. There were two bonus does taken by landowners in 2021. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from this unit and others confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. The objectives are to: 1) continue to alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) Increase hunter opportunity with adjusted October firearm permits. Increasing October firearm permits is recommended with adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. The recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to respond to depredation complaints while accounting for loss to EHD.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	50	33	0	33	66%	-	6%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	25	7	1	8	28%	4%	0%	88%
Total Oct Firearm	75	40	1	41	53%	-	5%	98%
Gen Late D/F	140	0	54	54	39%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	17	0	3	3	12%	6%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	157	0	57	57	36%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	12	2	14	-	-	0%	86%
Muzzleloader	-	8	0	8	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	60	60	120	-	-	3%	50%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	50	34	84	0%	60%	40%	32%	10%	58%
2018	58	28	86	5%	67%	33%	36%	12%	52%
2019	62	50	112	8%	55%	45%	42%	10%	47%
2020	67	59	126	6%	53%	47%	37%	16%	47%
2021*	60	60	120	3%	50%	50%	20%	13%	67%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	45 ES	51 Garden Late D/F	3			
2018	45 ES	51 Garden Late D/F (2 LO)	5			
2019	45 ES	114 Garden Late D/F (21 LO)	2	589	30	59
2020	60 ES	135 Garden Late D/F (22 LO)	3	Not Completed		
2021	75 ES	210 Garden Late D/F (53 LO)	0	953	29	38
2022	87 ES	175 Garden Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex

D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 75 Bucks and 100 Does and Fawns

NORTH SIOUX MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations: 100 firearm Either Sex and 75 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

North Sioux Late: 80 Doe/Fawn only and 60 Landowner Doe/Fawn only permits. No general permit change from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

Area Boundary: That portion of the North Sioux Unit within 8 miles north of U.S. Hwy. 20 and south of U.S. Hwy. 20 to the Pine Ridge escarpment, between the Dawes-Sioux county line on the west and Davenport County Road on the east. Fort Robinson State Park, Fort Robinson WMA and Bordeaux Creek WMA are excluded from this unit. This is a change from a 6 mile buffer previously.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 55% compared to 47% last year. Late D/F success was 29% compared to 42% last year. Historically, approximately 1/3 of the harvest for all seasons is in the Oglala National Grasslands. Continued monitoring of Oglala grasslands use by hunters is recommended. Depredation complaints: 1, DCP: 1.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey methodology was changed and will continue to be developed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Pronghorn collar data and disease testing from other units confirmed two EHD cases with nine other suspected. Two additional cases were confirmed with four more suspected. The objectives are to: 1) maintain the current levels in the population, 2) increase buck quality and hunter success, and 3) alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits. Maintaining similar October firearm tags is recommended with adjustments for the state statute change that increases landowner tag allocation. Adjustments to late doe/fawn permits for state statute change is recommended.

2021 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	110	56	8	64	58%	-	11%	88%
LO Oct Firearm	43	15	4	19	44%	0%	7%	79%
Total Oct Firearm	153	71	12	83	54%	-	10%	86%
Gen Late D/F	80	0	24	24	30%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	2	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	82	0	24	24	29%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	46	9	55	-	-	29%	83%
Muzzleloader	-	17	2	19	-	-	35%	89%
Total Harvest	-	134	47	181	-	-	19%	74%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	148	48	196	19%	76%	24%	38%	9%	53%
2018	169	63	232	14%	73%	27%	37%	14%	50%
2019	142	62	204	15%	70%	30%	32%	14%	54%
2020	159	63	222	13%	72%	28%	42%	14%	44%
2021	134	47	181	19%	74%	26%	34%	13%	53%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2017	150 ES (13 LO)	90 North Sioux Late D/F (20 LO)	1	2667	68	48
2018	150 ES	120 North Sioux Late D/F (28 LO)	1	1687	53	61
2019	150 ES (10 LO)	120 North Sioux Late D/F (34 LO)	2	1389	28	31
2020	165 ES (3 LO)	120 North Sioux Late D/F (33 LO)	3	Not completed		
2021	165 ES (12 LO)	120 North Sioux Late D/F (38 LO)	1	2026	48	54
2022*	175 ES	140 North Sioux Late D/F				

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 43% of total quota. The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 130 Bucks and 50 Does and Fawns

NORTH SIOUX MUZZLELOADER

2022 Recommendations: 25 General Either Sex and 18 Limited Landowner. This is a decrease of 3 general permits from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 66% compared to 67% last year. There is very little landowner interest in this permit.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Consistent with the pronghorn season setting guidelines, muzzleloader permits are an additional 25% of regular Firearm permits. Firearm permits did not increase.

2020 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen NS MZ	28	17	2	19	68%	35%	90%
LO NS MZ	1	0	0	0	0%	-	-
Total NS MZ	29	17	2	19	66%	35%	90%

Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
2017	25	13 (10)	ES	50%	14	0	14	7%	100%
2018	26	13 (12)	ES	85%	23	0	23	23%	100%
2019	26	13 (11)	ES	71%	20	0	20	25%	100%
2020	28	14 (12)	ES	67%	18	0	18	6%	100%
2021	28	14 (13)	ES	66%	17	2	19	35%	90%
2022*	25	18	ES						

* Recommended permits

** Landowners permits are Either Sex and the quota is 50% of the General permit quota.

ES – Either Sex

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest in the muzzleloader season is 20 bucks and 2 does.

PRAIRIE MUZZLELOADER

2022 Recommendations: 125 Either Sex and 93 Landowner Either Sex permits. This is a decrease of 3 general permits from 2021, landowner permits adjusted to 75%.

General Information: Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 59% compared to 59% last year.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to allow limited opportunity to muzzleloaders throughout pronghorn range. According to the pronghorn season setting guidelines, Muzzleloader permits will be 25% of the total rifle unit allocation.

2020 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen Prairie MZ	128	79	1	80	63%	5%	99%
LO Prairie MZ	24	8	1	9	38%	0%	89%
Total Prairie MZ	152	87	2	89	59%	5%	98%

Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
2017	99	50 (16)	ES	60%	77	3	80	12%	96%
2018	100	50 (15)	ES	65%	87	1	88	13%	99%
2019	100	50 (22)	ES	66%	82	3	85	7%	97%
2020	122	61 (37)	ES	61%	85	3	88	7%	97%
2021	128	64 (40)	ES	59%	87	2	89	5%	98%
2022*	125	93	ES						

* Recommended permits

Harvest Distribution:

Unit	Harvest
Banner North	11
Banner South	13
Box Butte East	3
Box Butte West	19
Cherry	6
Cheyenne	17
Dismal	8
Eastern Sandhills	1
Garden	8
South West	3

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 85 adult bucks and 5 doe/fawn.

ARCHERY PRONGHORN

2022 Recommendations:

Residents: Unlimited permits for one pronghorn of either sex, except one pronghorn with horns longer than ears on the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest.

Nonresidents: 250 permits for one pronghorn of either sex, except one pronghorn with horns longer than ears on the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest.

Area Open: Statewide, except closed on state and federal refuges that prohibit pronghorn hunting.

General Information: Permit sales declined from the highest on record in 2020, and archery success was 16% compared to 20% last year, with 226 pronghorn taken by 1380 permit holders. Drought conditions likely limited cover and resulted in reduced success in 2021. Archery harvest in the North Sioux management unit decreased from 87 in 2020 to 55 this year. Nonresident harvest decreased from 121 and 36% of the harvest in 2021 to 50 and 22% of the harvest this year. The use of crossbows has been slowly increasing and now accounts for 39% of archery harvest.

Harvest Strategy: This is a recreational hunt that provides the only opportunity for non-residents to hunt pronghorn in Nebraska. Success is low and allows hunters to pursue pronghorn in areas with low herd numbers without concern for herd reductions. Complaints of hunter crowding, particularly on the Oglala Grasslands, were significantly decreased in 2021. We propose to keep the nonresident quota at 250.

Expected Harvest: 250 pronghorn.

Archery permits, harvest and success

Year	Permits Issued	# Non Residents	Harvest			% Success	% Age 1.5	% Xbow
			Buck	Doe/Fawn	Total			
2017	1289	300	173	14	187	15%	17%	34%
2018	1164	264	219	32	251	22%	11%	32%
2019	1318	356	231	22	253	19%	17%	30%
2020	1710	543	295	43	338	20%	12%	33%
2021	1380	250	192	34	226	16%	19%	39%

Harvest Distribution

Unit	Harvest	Unit	Harvest
Banner North	17	Dismal	11
Banner South	47	Eastern Sandhills	5
Box Butte East	5	Garden	14
Box Butte West	46	North Sioux	55
Cherry	10	Southwest	3
Cheyenne	11		

DEER

INTRODUCTION

Recommendations for the 2022 deer seasons are developed under the following objective:

Provide quality hunting and viewing opportunities within the limits of the deer resource while maintaining deer numbers at a level that most landowners will accept in terms of damage.

Deer season recommendations are derived from input from landowners, hunters, general public and staff, and include data from landowner (LO) surveys, crop damage reports, deer vehicle collisions, deer harvest data, hunter opinion and disease concerns.

Overall, 2021 was a down year for deer harvest, down 12% statewide from 2020. We did have a significant EHD event in the Northern half of the state and panhandle, however public reports were a fraction of the 2012 event.

Nonresident and statewide “unlimited” quota permits have continued to increase. Nonresident “buck” permits have increased from 10,939 in 2014 to 17,847 in 2021 and now make up 19% of the “buck” permits sold. More info on NR permit sales can be found on page Statewide or “Unlimited” quota permits account for permits account for 60% of the ES/BO permits sold statewide and 45-60% of the buck harvest in each deer management unit making managing buck harvest difficult. In 2021, there were 112,240 either sex and buck only permits issued, which is the highest number in our history, whereas MD buck harvest ranked 33rd and WT buck ranked 16th historically.

Whitetail harvest statewide has largely remained stable for the last 5-7 years. While populations are not at to pre-2012 levels or even mid-2000’s levels, most units have had depredation issues at least at some local levels. Our recommendations address a variety of issues across the state, from reduced whitetail populations to mule deer range overlap to depredation issues. Depredation complaints along major river corridors continue the need for significant antlerless harvest in those areas. Staff encourage landowners to require their hunters to harvest antlerless deer along river corridors where crop damage is occurring.

Mule deer harvest has declined from record and near record levels in many western deer management units in recent years, however this decline in buck harvest and populations has been faster than anticipated. Cases of meningeal brain worm have been reported in several central and southwest units the past few years. We recommend decreasing many MD permit quotas and shifting harvest towards WT in many western units. We recommend keeping antlerless permits at moderate levels to deal with any potential depredation issues, should they arise.

Deer Management Goals:

Mule Deer: Stabilize populations in all units that will support mule deer.

Whitetail: Stabilize populations in Blue Northwest, Blue Southeast, Elkhorn, Wahoo, Buffalo, Frenchman, Missouri, Platte, Republican, and Upper Platte. Decrease population in Calamus East, Calamus West, Keya Paha, Loup West, Loup East, Pine Ridge, Plains, and Sandhills.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Change from 2020</u>	<u>Historic Rank</u>
Total Deer Harvest	Down 7,328 (-12.2%) to 52,938	#22
Deer Permit Sales	Down 865 (-0.6%) to 138,349	#4
Nonresident Permit Sales	Up 772 (+3.5%) to 22,730	#1
Whitetail Buck Harvest	Down 2,651 (-8.9%) to 27,075	#16
Whitetail Antlerless Harvest	Down 3,375 (-16.0%) to 17,727	#22
Mule Deer Buck Harvest	Down 610 (-8.4%) to 6,626	#33
Mule Deer Antlerless Harvest	Down 253 (-11.5%) to 1,949	#49

2022 RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

MDCA

- Add Pine Ridge to the list of MDCA units (Split 85/15 R/NR).

Nonresident

- Limit NR either sex or buck only permits statewide to 15,000 overall.
 - LO and Youth permits are not included in this quota.

November Firearm Permits – 44,575 total Nov FA from 46,275 in 2021

- Calamus West – bag limit change 1 AD2, 2 AOWT
- Frenchman MDCA – Decrease by 400, bag limit change to 1 AD2, 1 AOWT
 - Frenchman WT – Decrease by 400, remove bonus
- Loup West – bag limit change 1 AD2, 1 AOWT, drop one bonus
 - Loup West WT – bag limit change 1 WT, 1 AOWT, drop one bonus
- Pine Ridge MDCA – Split 85/15 R/NR
- Plains – Decrease by 200, bag limit change 1 AD, 2 AOWT
- Platte MDCA – Decrease by 400
 - Platte WT – Decrease by 300
- Sandhills – Decrease by 500
 - Sandhills WT – **NEW** Permit, Add 500 1 WT, 2 AOWT

Antlerless Only Season Choice Permits – 31,300 total AO/AOWT from 32,100 in 2021

- Elkhorn AOSC– Decrease by 750
 - Elkhorn West AOSC – **NEW** Permit. Add 750. Split unit at HWY 15.
- Frenchman AOSC – Decrease by 150.
 - Frenchman West AOSC – Decrease by 150. Bag limit change from 2AO to 1AO, 1AOWT.
 - Frenchman South AOSC – Decrease by 50, remove bonus tag.
- Loup West AOSC – Bag limit change, remove one bonus. 1 AO, 1AOWT.
 - Loup West WT AOSC – Bag limit change, remove one bonus. 2AOWT.
- Pine Ridge AOSC – Decrease by 200.
- Plains AOSC – Decrease by 300.
 - Plains WT AOSC – **NEW** Permit. Add 300 3 AOWT.
- Platte WT AOSC – Decrease by 100.
 - Platte North AOSC – Decrease by 100. Bag limit change to 1AO, 1AOWT.
- Sandhills AOSC – Decrease by 150.
 - Sandhills WT AOSC – **NEW** Permit. Add 100 3 AOWT.
- Upper Platte AOSC – No antlerless MD harvest on public land north of Hwy 88.
- River Antlerless – One minor boundary change on the Elkhorn River system
- Late Firearm Season – Remove one day (January 1 – 15) to end on a Sunday.

Statewide Permits

- WT Statewide Buck – Limit at 8,000. Reduction of about 2,000 permits.
- Restricted Statewide Buck Only – Limit to 1,000. Reduction of about 250 permits.
- NR Statewide Archery – Limit to 5,000; 5,032 sold in 2021.
- NR Muzzleloader – Limit to 2,000; 2018 sold in 2021.

2022 RECOMMENDED DEER SEASONS

Season Dates: **November Firearm:** November 12-20, 2022
Archery Season Dates: September 1 – December 31, 2022
Muzzleloader Season Dates: December 1-31, 2022
Late Antlerless Only Firearm: January 1-15, 2023, All AO SCA, Youth and LO
October River Antlerless Firearm: October 1-15, 2022, River Antlerless Only
River Antlerless Late Firearm: January 1-31, 2023, River Antlerless Only

Unit Permit	Permits	Bag Limit	Unit Permit	Permits	Bag Limit
Blue Northwest	2400	1 AD	AO SC Blue NW	2200	1 AOWT
Blue Southeast	3700	1 AD	AO SC Blue SE	2400	1 AOWT
Buffalo WT	2100	1 WT	AO SC Buffalo	1000	2 AOWT
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Buffalo North	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Calamus East	1500	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Calamus East	400	2 AOWT
Calamus West	1600	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Calamus West	300	3 AOWT
Elkhorn	2900	1 AD	AO SC Elkhorn	250	1 AOWT
Frenchman MDCA	1600	1 AD, 1 AOWT	AO SC Elkhorn West	750	1 AOWT
Frenchman WT	1200	1 WT	AO SC Frenchman	150	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Keya Paha	2500	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Frenchman WT North	500	2 AOWT
Loup East	3300	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Frenchman WT South	200	1 AOWT
Loup West	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Frenchman West	500	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Loup West WT	800	1 WT, 1 AOWT	AO SC Southwest Reservoirs	200	1 AOWT
Missouri	3200	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Keya Paha	500	2 AOWT
Pine Ridge MDCA	1200	1 AD ² *	AO SC Loup East	1500	3 AOWT
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1 WT	AO SC Loup West	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Plains	1500	1 AD, 2 AOWT	AO SC Loup West WT	300	2 AOWT
Platte MDCA	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Missouri	1000	2 AOWT
Platte WT	1000	1 WT	AO SC Pine Ridge	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT*
Republican MD	75	1 MD Buck	AO SC Pine Ridge WT	600	2 AOWT
Republican WT	3000	1 WT	AO SC Plains	200	1 AO, 2 AOWT
Sandhills	1500	1 AD, 2 AOWT	AO SC Plains WT	300	3 AOWT
Sandhills WT	500	1 WT, 2 AOWT	AO SC Platte	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Upper Platte	1200	1 AD*	AO SC Platte WT	400	2 AOWT
Wahoo	3800	1 AD	AO SC Platte North	300	1 AO, 1 AOWT
			AO SC Republican	1500	2 AOWT
			AO SC Harlan County Reservoir	200	2 AOWT
			AO SC Sandhills	300	1 AO, 2 AOWT
			AO SC Sandhills WT	100	3 AOWT
			AO SC Upper Platte	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT*
			AO SC Upper Platte WT	200	2 AOWT
			AO SC Wahoo	2,200	1 AOWT
			AO SC River Antlerless	12,000	2 AOWT
TOTALS	44,575		TOTALS	31,300	
OTHER PERMITS					
WT SW Buck	8,000	1 WT Buck	Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Restricted SW Buck	1,000	1 Any buck	November Firearm, Not valid in the MDCA		
SW Buck	100	1 Any buck	November Firearm, Valid statewide		
Archery Res/NR	Unl/5,000	1 AD*	Valid statewide		
Muzzleloader Res/NR	Unl/2,000	1 AD*	Not valid for mule deer in MDCA units		
Resident Youth	Unlimited	1 AD*	Valid statewide for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
NR Restricted Youth	Unlimited	1 AD*	Not valid in draw units, valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Youth WT	Unlimited	1 WT	Valid statewide for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD, 1 AO	Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Special Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD	Valid for any legal weapon the Sat-Mon prior to the Nov FA		

AD – Any deer AD² – Any deer except AO MD AO – Antlerless Only AOWT – Antlerless Only WT
B – Buck NR – Non-Resident WT – Whitetail MD – Mule Deer
SW – Statewide UNL – Unlimited Buck – Male deer with antlers greater than six inches in length

SC – Season Choice: valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon
* Antlerless MD restrictions on public land in the Pine Ridge and Upper Platte.

2021 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	WT		MD		1 st	Bonus
					B	AO	B	AO		
Blue Northwest	2400	2399	1 AD	983	753	229	0	1	41	
Blue Southeast	3700	3696	1 AD	1577	1265	306	3	3	42	
Buffalo MDCA	1000	999	1 AD ²	527	241	108	175	3	46	6
Buffalo WT	2100	2100	1 WT	823	701	120	2	0	39	
Calamus East	1500	1375	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	654	427	179	48	0	41	6
Calamus West	1600	1596	1 AD, 1 AOWT	815	420	219	147	29	42	7/2
Elkhorn	2900	2895	1 AD	1040	816	220	3	1	36	
Frenchman MDCA	2000	1997	1 AD, 1 AOWT	1084	114	113	800	57	50	4
Frenchman WT	1600	1598	1 WT, 1 AOWT	781	510	262	6	3	42	7
Keya Paha	2500	2240	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1467	997	422	48	0	52	11/3
Loup East	3300	3298	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	1836	1088	727	18	3	43	10/2
Loup West	1000	995	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	591	312	179	98	2	47	10/2
Loup West WT	800	520	1 WT, 2 AOWT	260	171	89	0	0	41	7/2
Missouri	3200	3197	1 AD, 1 AOWT	1767	1195	565	6	1	45	10
Pine Ridge	1200	1194	1 AD ²	543	263	30	249	1	45	
Pine Ridge WT	1000	992	1 WT	424	375	48	1	0	43	
Plains	1700	1683	1 AD, 1 AOWT	964	215	150	506	93	51	6/1
Platte MDCA	1400	1398	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	712	160	96	451	5	47	4
Platte WT	1300	1128	1 WT	432	373	55	4	0	38	
Republican WT	3000	2996	1 MD Buck	1314	1073	241	0	0	44	
Republican MD	75	75	1 WT	14	1	0	13	0	19	
Sandhills	2000	1997	1 AD, 1 AOWT	1238	516	223	475	24	53	7/2
Upper Platte	1200	1199	1 AD	621	98	15	406	102	52	
Wahoo	3800	3798		1542	1217	323	1	1	40	
Nov. FA TOTAL/Avg	46,275	45,365		22,009	13,301	4,919	3,460	329	44	7/2
Landowner Deer	UNL	14613	1 AD*	5971	3219	1509	934	309	35	5
Special LO	UNL		1 AD*							-
Season		3690		899	594	103	176	26	24	
Archery	UNL	19095	1 Buck	4086	3004	514	499	69	21	-
Muzzleloader	UNL	6715	1 Buck	1565	762	392	323	88	23	-
Resident Youth	UNL	6535	1 WT Buck	2902	1530	428	831	113	44	-
Youth Whitetail	UNL	3850	1 AD, 1 AO	1417	1046	366	3	2	37	-
NR Rest. Youth	UNL	700	1 AD*	276	155	35	75	11	39	-
Rest SW Buck	UNL	1243	1 WT	513	242	3	268	0	41	-
SW Buck	100	100		58	7	0	51	0	58	
SW WT Buck	UNL	10061	1 AD*	2911	2878	24	6	3	29	-
Other TOTAL/Avg	UNL	66,602		20,598	13,437	3,374	3,166	621	35	5

AD – Any deer

AD² – Any deer except AO MD

AO – Antlerless Only

AOWT – Antlerless Only WT

B – Buck

NR – Non-Resident

WT – Whitetail

MD – Mule Deer

SW – Statewide

UNL – Unlimited

Buck – Male deer with antlers greater than six inches in length

* - No Antlerless Mule Deer in the Pine Ridge Unit

2021 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	WT		MD		1 st	Bonus
					B	AO	B	AO		
Blue Northwest AO SC	2200	2200	1 AOWT	551	20	531	0	0	25	
Blue Southeast AO SC	2400	2398	1 AOWT	660	26	632	0	2	27	
Buffalo AO SC	1000	763	2 AOWT	303	14	289	0	0	29	10
Buffalo North AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	39	0	9	2	28	35	4
Calamus East AO SC	400	140	1 AOWT	47	1	46	0	0	26	8
Calamus West AO SC	300	159	3 AOWT	74	3	71	0	0	28	13/6
Elkhorn AO SC	1000	1000	1 AOWT	216	5	211	0	0	22	
Frenchman AO SC	300	300	1 AO, 1 AOWT	153	1	71	0	81	40	11
Frenchman North WT AO SC	500	351	2 AOWT	88	5	83	0	0	19	7
Frenchman South WT AO SC	250	250	2 AOWT	82	2	80	0	0	26	7
Frenchman West AO SC	650	649	2 AO	375	2	59	6	308	39	18
SW Reservoirs AO SC	200	85	1 AOWT	10	0	10	0	0	12	
Keya Paha AO SC	500	259	3 AOWT	178	5	173	0	0	40	19/10
Loup East AO SC	1500	758	3 AOWT	312	9	303	0	0	27	11/4
Loup West AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT	41	1	33	0	7	30	8/3
Loup West WT AO SC	300	92	3 AOWT	53	1	51	0	1	35	16/7
Missouri AO SC	1000	895	2 AOWT	358	20	338	0	0	30	10
Pine Ridge AO SC	400	400	1 AO, 1 AOWT	248	6	172	1	69	46	16
Pine Ridge WT AO SC	600	493	2 AOWT	264	5	259	0	0	38	16
Plains AO SC	500	354	1 AO, 2 AOWT	156	1	50	2	103	36	6/2
Platte AO SC	200	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT	107	3	64	2	38	37	17
Platte WT AO SC	500	391	2 AOWT	150	5	145	0	0	28	10
Platte North AO SC	400	400	2 AO	243	3	70	3	167	40	20
Republican AO SC	1500	1352	2 AOWT	586	18	568	0	0	34	9
Harlan County Res AO SC	200	200	2 AOWT	151	3	148	0	0	49	27
Sandhills AO SC	450	333	1 AO, 2 AOWT	220	5	122	1	92	43	16/7
Upper Platte AO SC	250	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT	102	3	27	0	72	34	7
Upper Platte WT AO SC	200	150	2 AOWT	31	1	26	0	4	17	4
Wahoo AO SC	2200	2196	1 AOWT	510	20	490	0	0	23	
River Antlerless	12000	9157	2 AOWT	4,464	150	4,304	1	9	34	14
AO SC TOTAL	32,100	26,375		10,772	338	9,435	18	981	32	12 / 5
ALL SEASONS	78,375/ UNL	138,342		53,379	27,076	17,728	6,644	1,931	49	10/3

AD – Any deer

B – Buck

SW – Statewide

Buck – Male deer with antlers greater than six inches in length

* - No Antlerless Mule Deer in the Pine Ridge Unit

AD² – Any deer except AO MD

NR – Non-Resident

UNL – Unlimited

AO – Antlerless Only

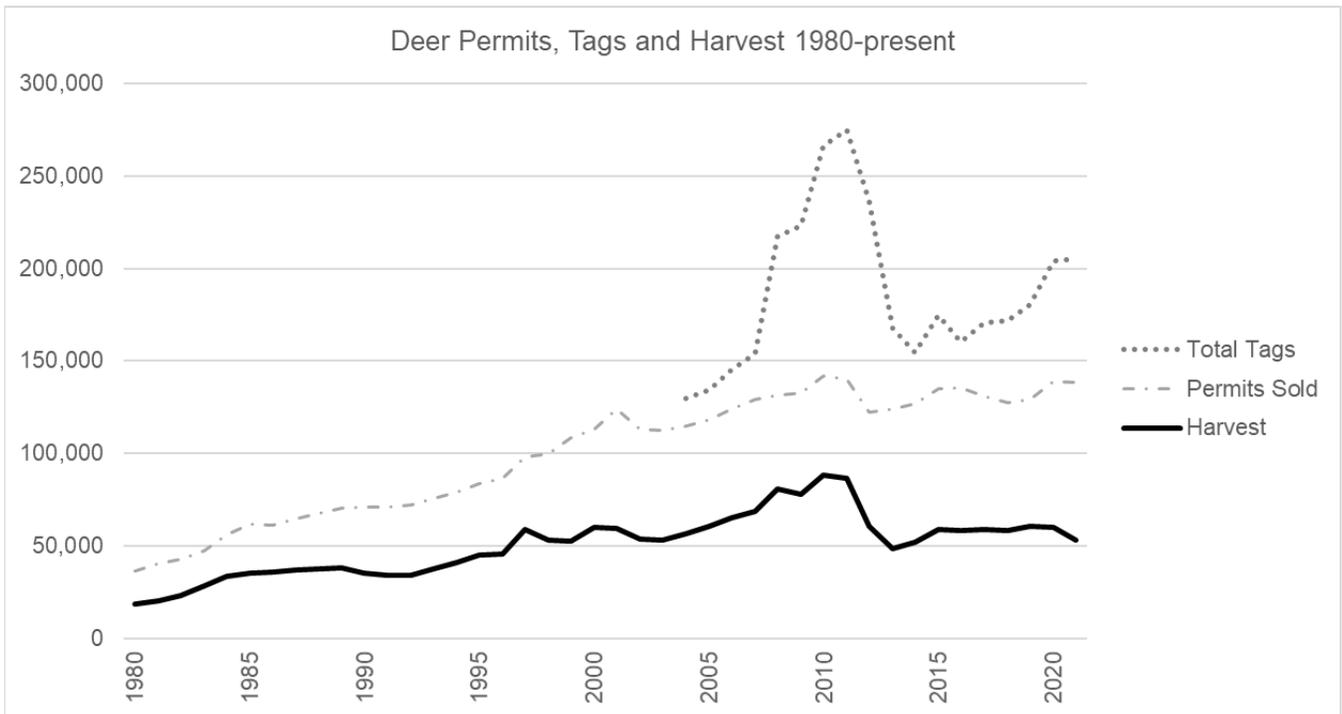
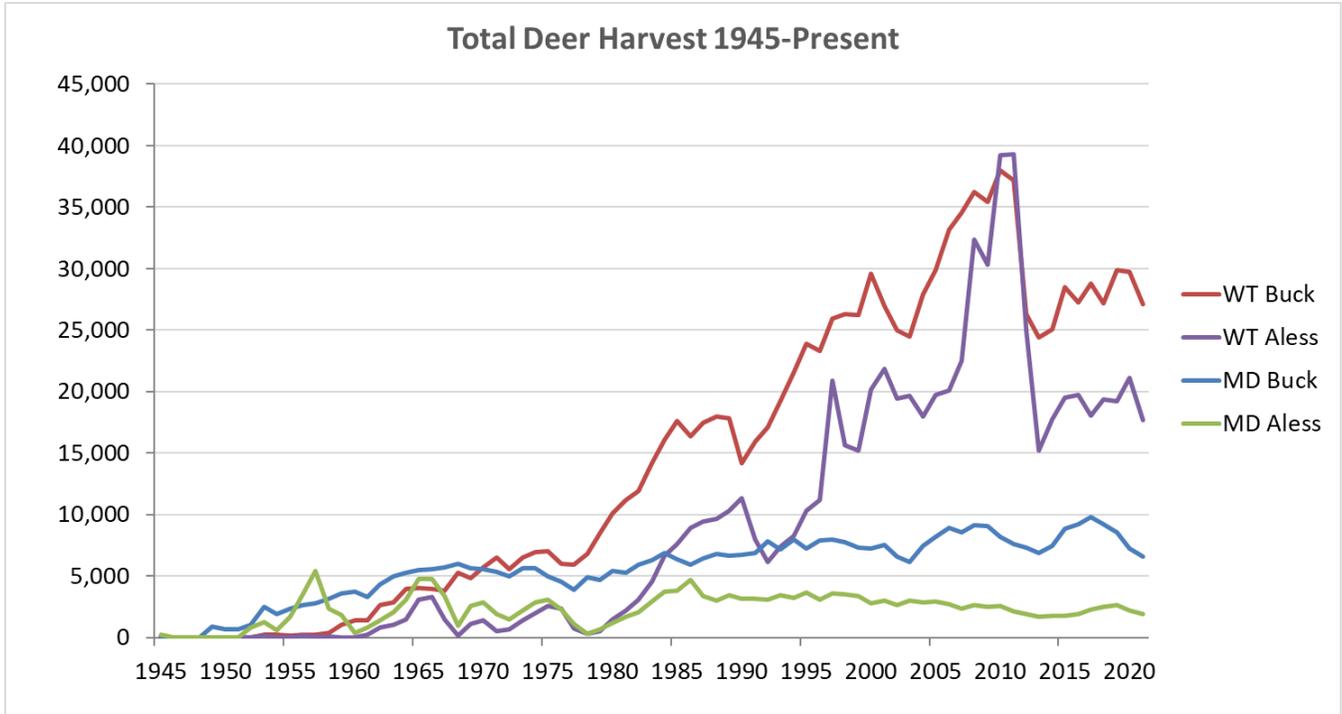
WT – Whitetail

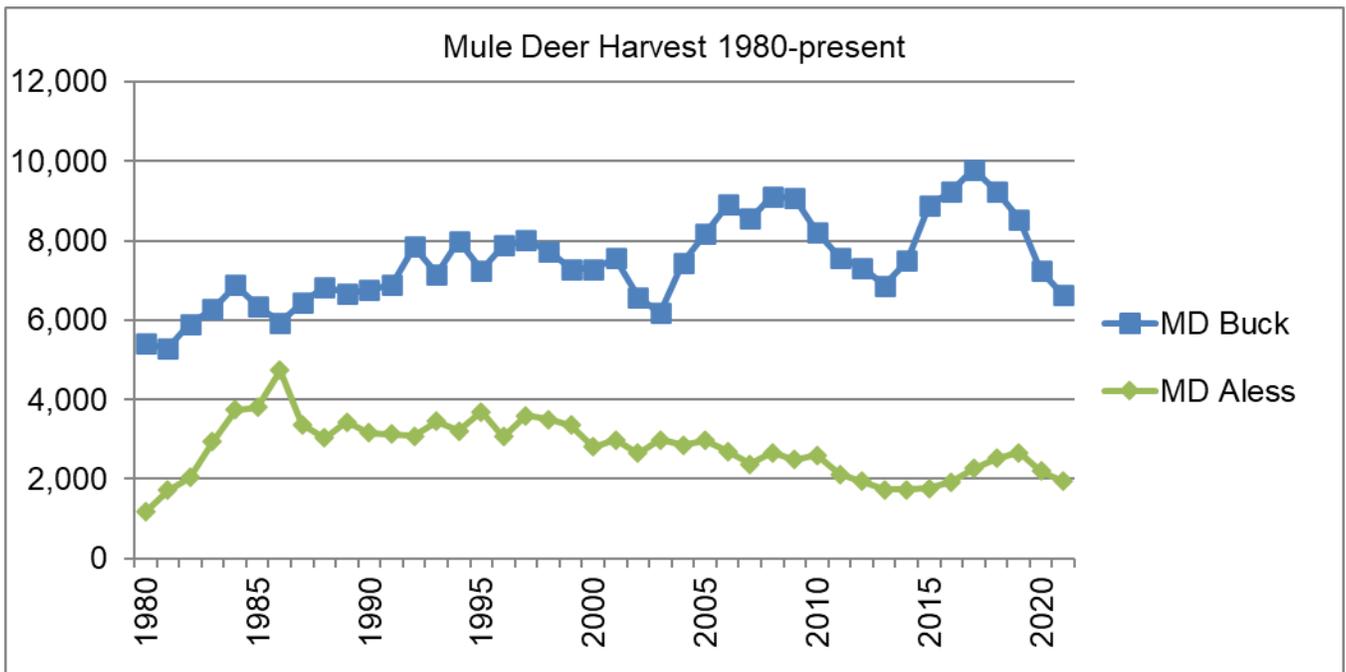
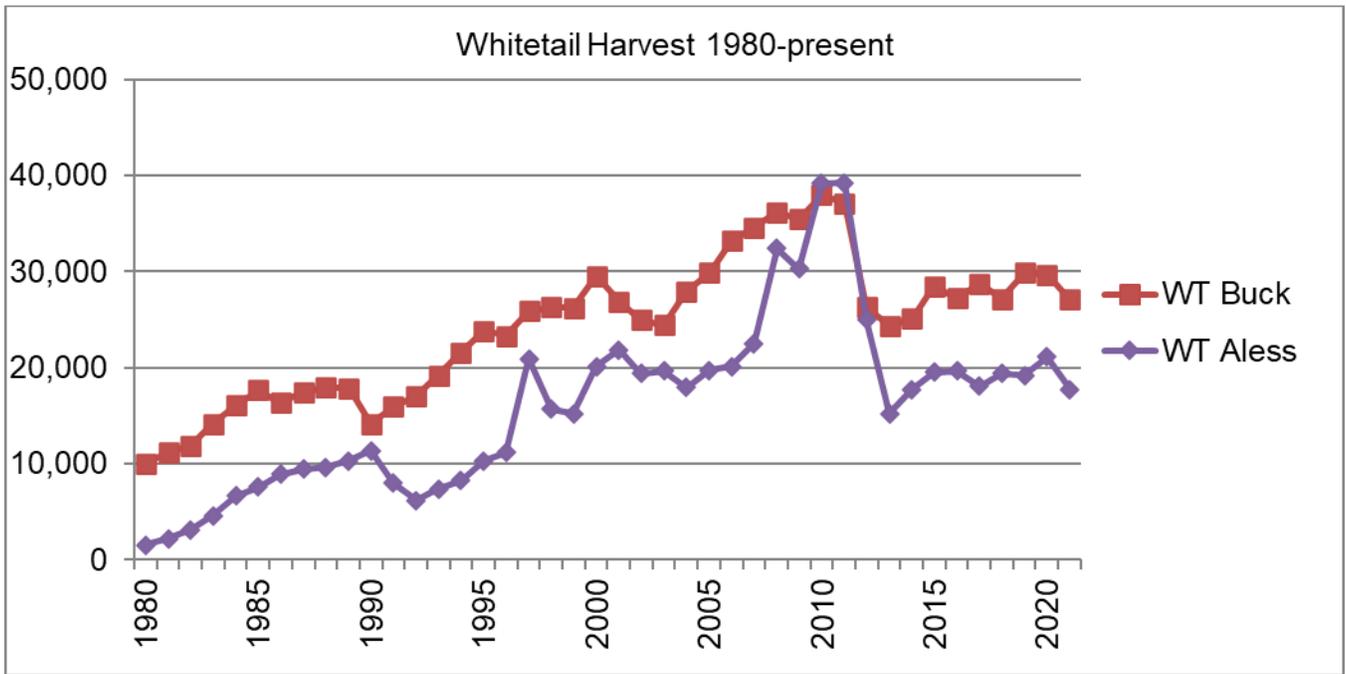
SC – Season Choice: valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon

AOWT – Antlerless Only WT

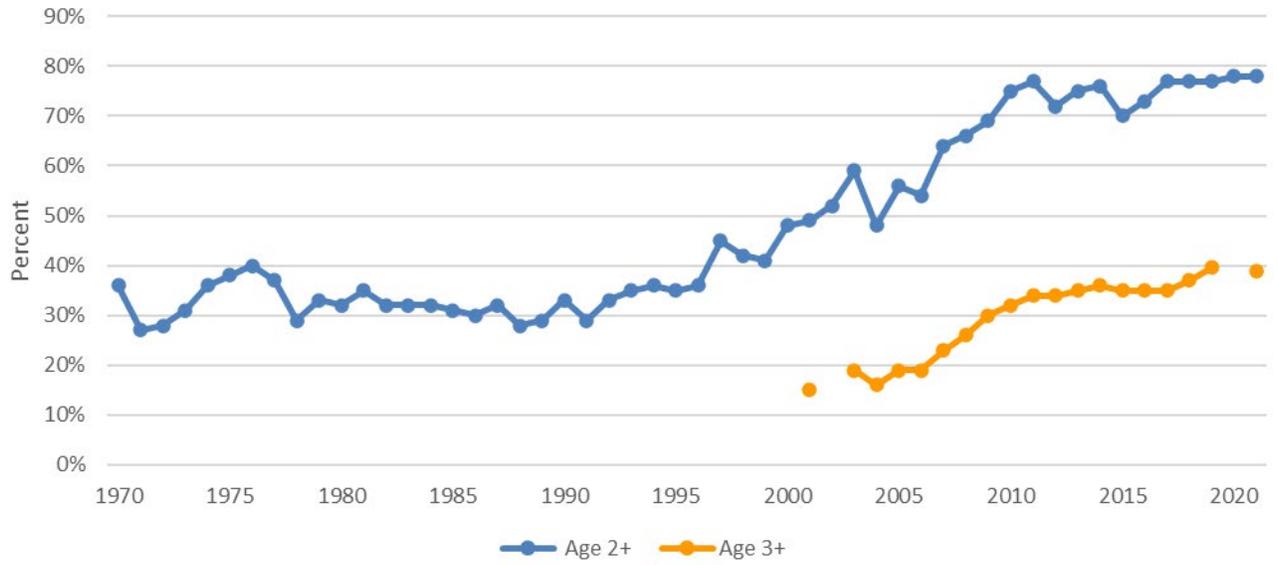
MD – Mule Deer

HISTORIC DEER HARVEST AND PERMITS

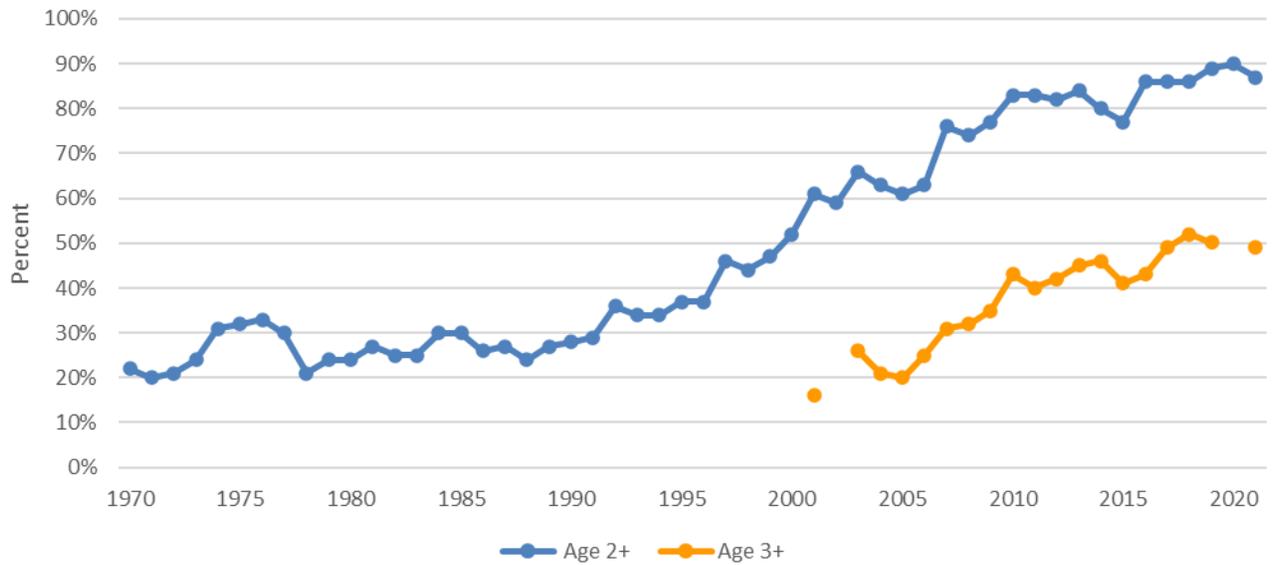




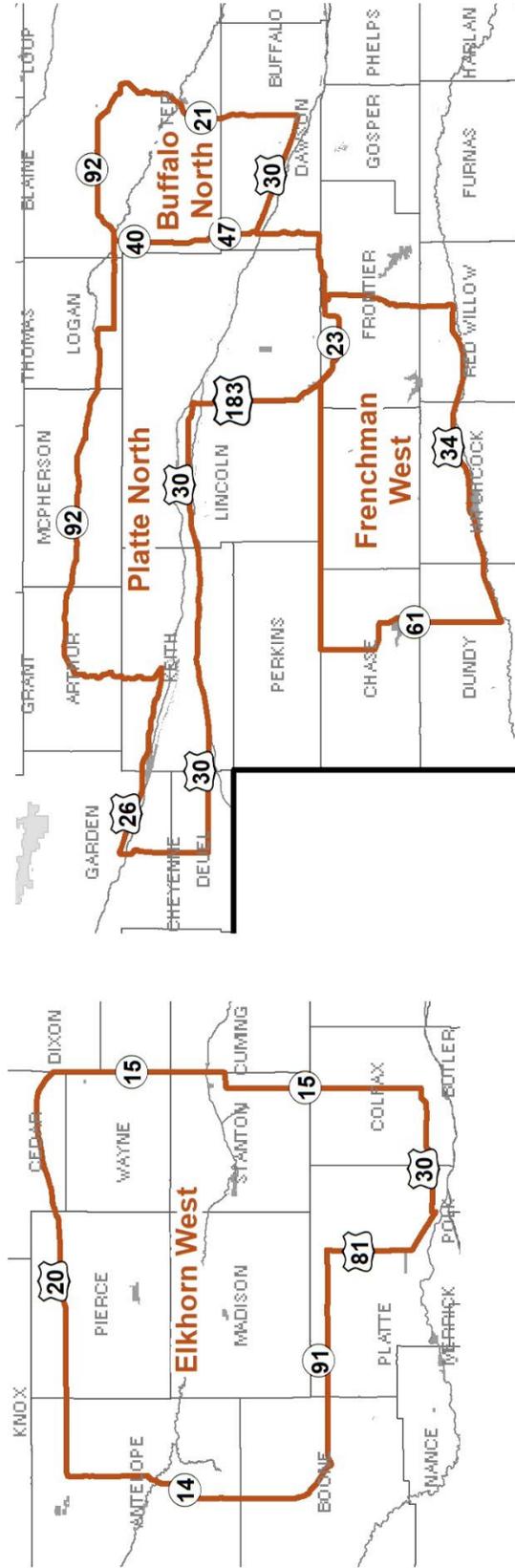
Statewide Age Structure of WT Buck Harvest



Statewide Age Structure of MD Buck Harvest



2022 ADDITIONAL ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON CHOICE UNITS



Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Red Willow Reservoir WMA/SRA, Enders Reservoir WMA/SRA, and Swanson WMA/SRA are closed to the use of all Frenchman unit AOSC permits.

BLUE NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Blue Northwest November Firearm: 2400 Any Deer permits. No change from 2021.

Blue Northwest Antlerless Only Season Choice: 2200 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. No change from 2021.

General Information: Harvest for all seasons was 1902 whitetail bucks and 1205 antlerless whitetails. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males increased to 31% from 26% in 2021. The 32% of 3-year-old and older bucks in the harvest is an improvement. Unrestricted permits accounted for 41.3% of the whitetail buck harvest and 17.3% of the antlerless whitetail harvest in 2021. Landowner complaints decreased from last year.

Depredation complaints: 7 DCP: 6

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be stable and within landowner tolerances. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were more than last year. There were a few reports of EHD in the fall of 2021. Population impacts from EHD in 2021 appear to be insignificant. The population goal is to allow limited growth in Blue Northwest while increasing an older buck age structure. Permit strategies are to allow limited growth in some areas of the unit and increase buck age structure in the unit. Quotas set on Statewide Whitetail buck tags should reduce buck harvest and give managers more control over this unit.

2021 Harvest Data - Blue Northwest

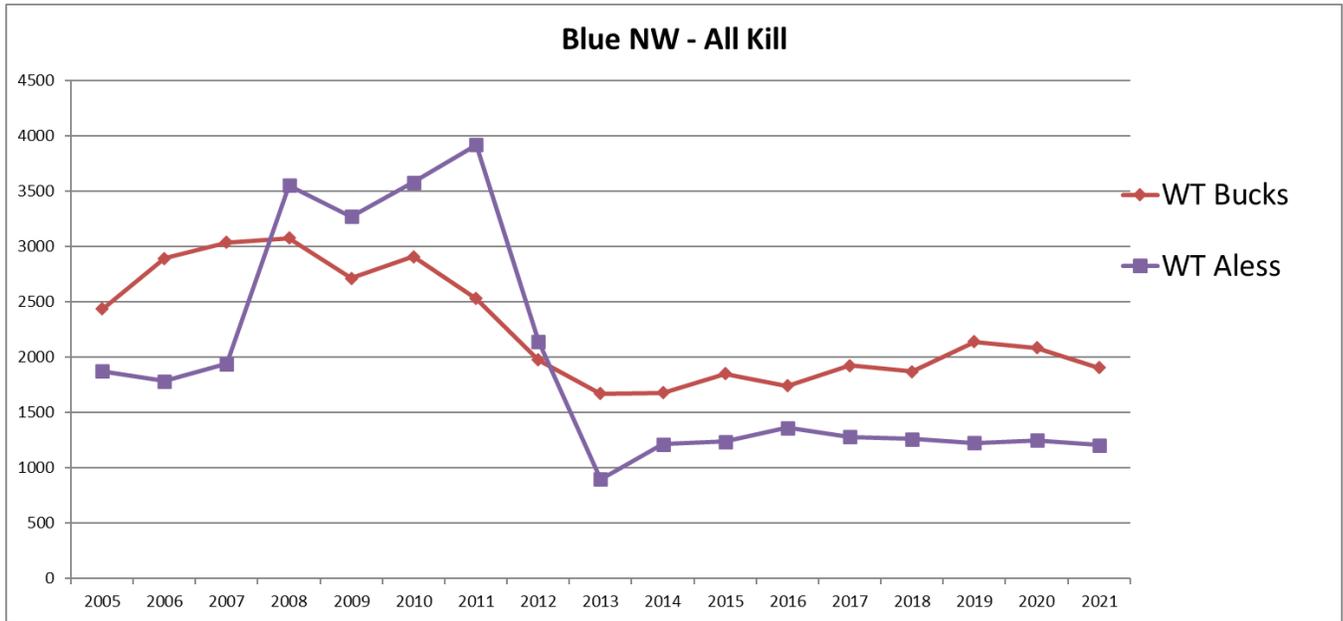
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Blue NW Firearm	2400	2400	10/30/21	0	1	1	753	229	982	41
Blue NW AO SC	1800	1800	12/18/21	0	0	0	20	531	551	25
River Antlerless				0	0	0	0	3	3	
Landowner Deer				0	0	0	282	213	495	
Special LO Season				1	0	1	62	20	82	
Archery Deer				1	1	2	266	66	332	
Muzzleloader Deer				0	1	1	41	48	89	
Resident Youth				0	0	0	111	43	154	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	79	47	126	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	4	1	5	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	8	0	8	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	276	4	280	
Totals				2	3	5	1902	1205	3107	

BLUE NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	6	2	8					1924	1275	3199	40	44	35	21
2018	3	0	3					1864	1258	3122	40	32	40	28
2019	6	2	8					2136	1223	3359	36	34	37	29
2020	4	2	6					2081	1248	3329	38	26		74
2021	2	3	5					1902	1205	3107	39	31	37	32



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	2450 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	4	3
2018	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	3	3
2019	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	3	2
2020	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	9	8
2021	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	7	6
2022*	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)		

*Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	5	2000	1	1400

BLUE SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Blue Southeast November Firearm: 3700 Any Deer permits. No change from 2021.

Blue Southeast Antlerless Only Season Choice: 2400 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. No change from 2021.

General Information: Harvest for all seasons was 2917 adult whitetail males and 1653 antlerless whitetails. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males increased from 22% to 25%. Age structure continues to improve. The 42% of 3-year-old and older bucks in the harvest is the best it has ever been. Unrestricted permits accounted for 39.8% of the whitetail buck harvest and 13.6% of the antlerless whitetail harvest in 2021. Landowner complaints remained the same as last year. Depredation complaints: 4 DCP: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be stable and within landowner tolerances. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were the same as last year. Fawn production appeared normal. There were a few reports of possible EHD deer during the fall of 2021. Population impacts from EHD appear to be insignificant. The population goal is to maintain the current population while maintaining an older buck age structure. Harvest strategies are to maintain the current population levels while maintaining/improving the current age structure. River antlerless permits are necessary to keep pressure along the Missouri River where there have been depredation problems in the past. Quotas set on Statewide Whitetail buck tags should reduce buck harvest and give managers more control over this unit.

2021 Harvest Data - Blue Southeast

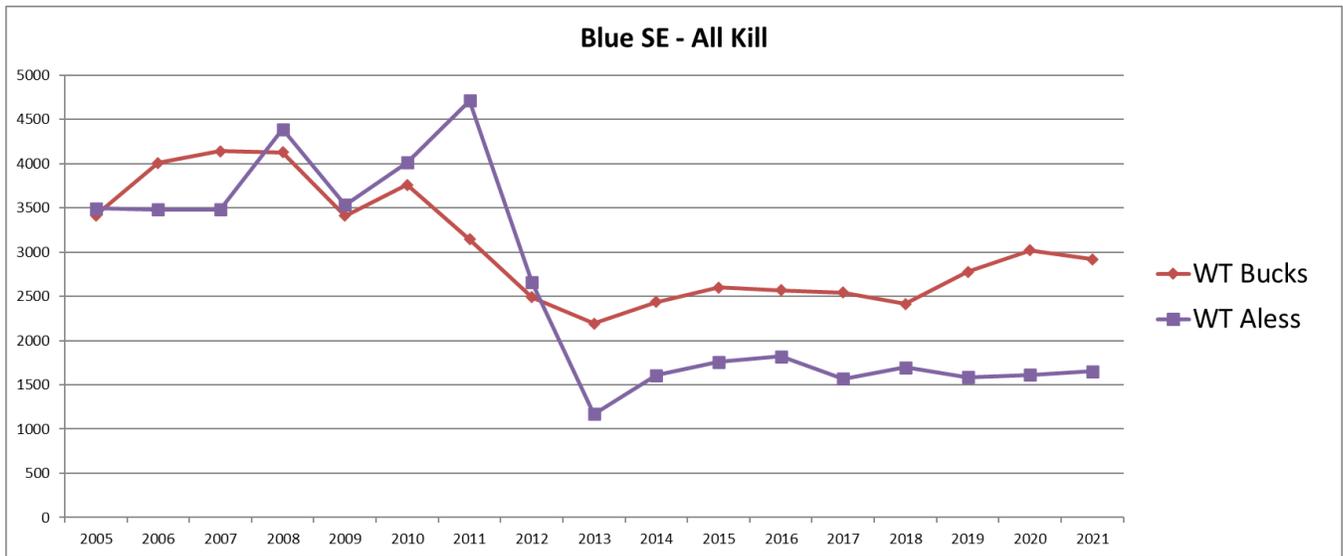
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Blue SE Firearm	3700	3700	11/8/21	3	3	6	1265	306	1571	43
Blue SE AO SC	2400	2400	12/20/21	0	2	2	26	632	658	28
River Antlerless				0	0	0	8	267	275	
Landowner Deer				0	0	0	394	217	611	
Special LO				0	0	0	63	7	70	
Archery Deer				4	1	5	439	77	516	
Muzzleloader Deer				0	0	0	81	63	144	
Resident Youth				0	0	0	113	46	159	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	114	33	147	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	14	1	15	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	11	0	11	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	1	1	389	4	393	
Totals				7	7	14	2917	1653	4570	

BLUE SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer						Whitetail Deer							
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	4	5	9				2542	1569	4111	38	35	34	31	
2018	4	1	5				2414	1695	4109	41	29	36	35	
2019	1	6	7				2778	1585	4363	36	29	32	39	
2020	7	4	11				3021	1613	4634	35	22	78		
2021	7	7	14				2917	1653	4570	36	25	33	42	



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	3	2
2018	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	1	0
2019	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	3	2
2020	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	4	1
2021	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	4	1
2022*	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)		

*Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	3	2700	2	1800

BUFFALO MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Buffalo MDCA: 1000 permits for Any Deer² and one bonus antlerless whitetail valid during Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. No change from 2021.

Buffalo Whitetail November Firearm: 2100 permits for one whitetail. No change.

Buffalo Antlerless Only Season Choice: 1000 permits for two antlerless whitetails. No change.

Buffalo North Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. No change.

General Information: Deer harvest for all seasons was 325 adult male mule deer, 79 antlerless mule deer, 1949 adult male whitetail and 1316 antlerless whitetail. Five cases of meningeal worm mortalities were reported in mule deer and continues to be an issue of concern. A low number (< 20) of EHD reports were received, with one whitetail confirmed for bluetongue virus in 2021. However, because of the decline in harvest, EHD is suspected to have caused more mortalities than reported. Sampling efforts confirmed 20 of 254 whitetail deer tested were positive for CWD (8%) in 2021.

Depredation complaints: 6 DCP: 4. All along Platte River

Population Status and Harvest Strategy:

Mule deer populations have declined in the southern portion of the unit and appear to be stable in traditionally strong areas in the north portion of the unit. Buck age structure has remained stable. The population objective is to increase the herd in southern portions of the unit by maintaining current mule deer doe harvest. MD buck harvest increased slightly (3%) compared to 2020. The MDCA permit was reduced in 2020 in response to reduced MD buck harvest.

HD appears to have decreased the whitetail population in the Buffalo Unit. However, whitetail populations have been known to rebound quickly after these events, especially along portions of the Platte River. Total buck harvest decreased 8% from last year, however age structure increased slightly. The population objective is to allow the growth of the whitetail herds in upland portions of the unit and maintain the whitetail herds on the Platte River. This will be accomplished by maintaining current bag limits and continuing the liberal use of River Antlerless permits.

2021 Harvest Data

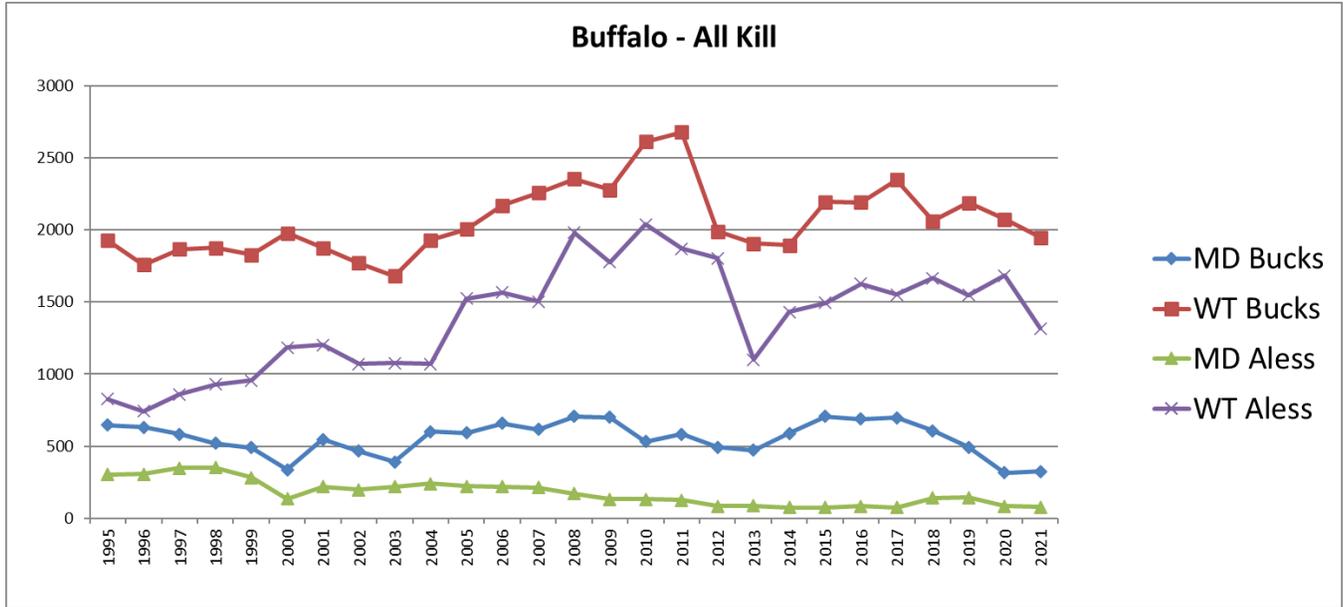
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1000	8/10/21	175	3	178	241	108	349	46 / 6
Buffalo WT Firearm	2100	2100	11/12/21	2	0	2	701	120	821	39
Buffalo AO SC	1000	763	-	0	0	0	14	289	303	29 / 10
Buffalo North AO SC	100	100	11/10/21	2	28	30	0	9	9	35 / 4
River Antlerless				0	0	0	19	573	592	
Landowner Deer				62	33	95	208	89	297	
Special LO				14	0	14	35	10	45	
Archery Deer				10	2	12	242	34	276	
Muzzleloader Deer				1	0	1	39	19	58	
Resident Youth				52	11	63	141	31	172	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	84	31	115	
NR Rest Youth				3	1	4	14	2	16	
Rest SW Buck				3	0	3	13	0	13	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				1	1	2	198	1	199	
Totals				325	79	404	1949	1316	3265	

BUFFALO MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	696	74	770	10	16	43	40	2327	1541	3868	40	22	30	47
2018	608	142	750	19	9	41	50	2061	1666	3727	45	19	28	53
2019	494	143	637	22	10	49	42	2190	1549	3739	41	21	29	51
2020	314	83	397	21	14	86		2075	1683	3758	45	21	79	
2021	325	79	404	20	15	47	38	1949	1316	3265	40	15	35	50



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ²) WT 1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	11	5
2018	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ²) WT 1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)	9	2
2019	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ²) WT 1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)	7	3
2020	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	6	4
2021	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	6	4
2022*	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)		

** Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	300	1900	75	1300

CALAMUS EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Calamus East November Firearm: 1500 Any Deer² permits with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. No change from 2021.

Calamus East Antlerless Only Season Choice: 400 Antlerless Only Whitetail with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. No change.

General Information: The whitetail adult buck kill was lower than expected harvest goals, but age structure continues to be desirable. Antlerless only harvest decreased. Indices show a stable population. Mule deer buck harvest was lower than expected and is annually variable based on environmental conditions, habitat, and hunter preference. This unit experienced EHD in 2021 that may have had localized impacts on the whitetail deer herd.

Depredation complaints: 3 DCP: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective in this unit is to continue to use bonus tags, antlerless only tags and the River Antlerless permit to maintain a stable whitetail population. Whitetail buck harvest and age data trends indicate a stable population. The objective for the mule deer population is to allow the herd to grow as allowed by landowner tolerance, habitat conditions, and disease events.

2021 Harvest Data - Calamus East

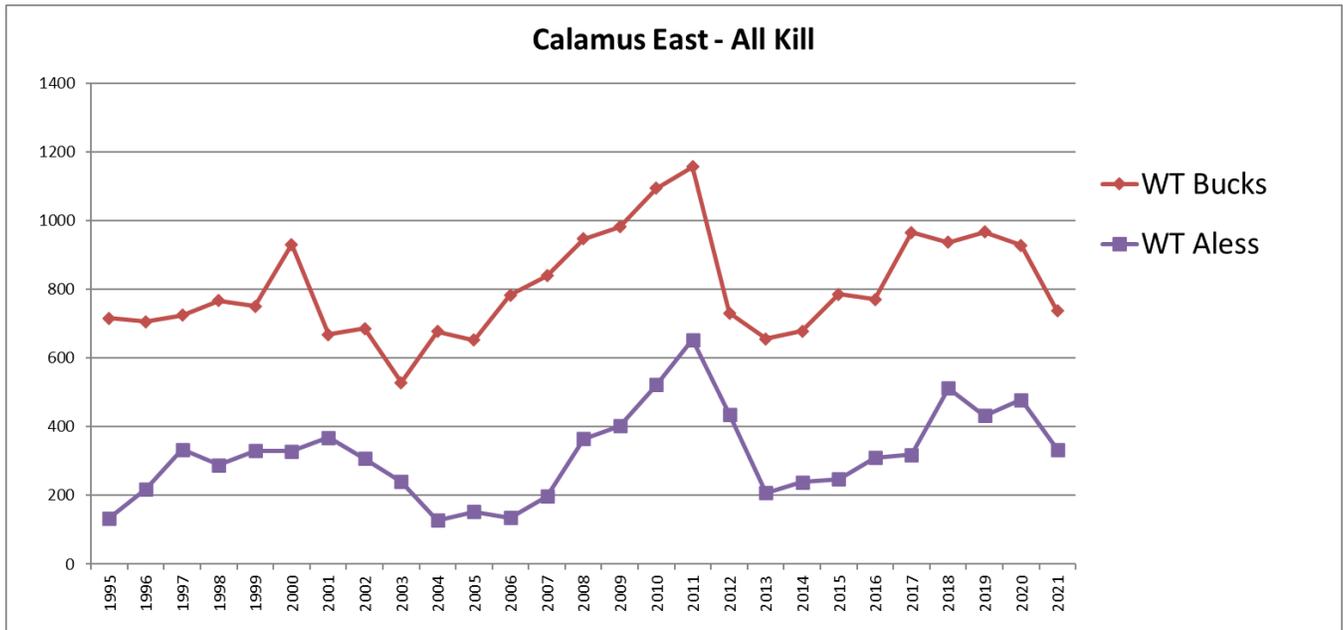
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			%Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Calamus East FA	1500	1377	-	48	0	48	427	179	606	41 / 6
Calamus East AO SC	400	140	-	0	0	0	1	46	47	26 / 8
River Antlerless				0	0	0	0	54	54	
Landowner Deer				17	0	17	88	29	117	
Special LO				1	1	2	15	0	15	
Archery Deer				5	0	5	35	5	40	
Muzzleloader Deer				8	0	8	12	3	15	
Resident Youth				4	1	5	49	11	60	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	30	5	35	
NR Rest Youth				1	0	1	3	1	4	
Rest SW Buck				4	0	4	9	0	9	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	68	1	69	
Totals				88	2	90	737	334	1071	

CALAMUS EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2016	67	17	84	20	23	54	23	765	306	1071	29	32	45	23
2017	112	15	127	12	12	51	37	961	318	1279	25	22	46	32
2018	88	3	91	3	13	47	40	936	511	1447	35	20	50	30
2019	80	10	90	11	36	28	36	966	432	1398	31	20	45	35
2020	84	2	86	2	10	90		928	478	1406	34	20	80	
2021	88	2	90	2	12	31	57	737	334	1071	31	19	52	29



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	1150 (1 AD ²)	Calamus East SCA – 200 (AOWT)	1	0
2018	1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	1	0
2019	1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2020	1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	1	1
2021	1500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2022*	1500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	90	750	2	350

CALAMUS WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Calamus West November Firearm: 1600 Any Deer² permits with two bonus antlerless whitetail. No antlerless mule deer is allowed during the firearm season. This permit was an “Any Deer” in 2021, adding antlerless MD restriction.

Calamus West Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2021

Use of bonus and antlerless permits and harvest of mule deer does on Calamus West FA prohibited on Nebraska NF and Valentine NWR.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest decreased 12%, the 3rd year in a row of decline, but age structure is excellent. Mule deer antlerless harvest decreased and is still below 20% of the harvest. Mule deer antlerless harvest will be restricted on firearm permits to maintain consistency with other units in the region in response to continued mule deer declines. Whitetail buck harvest decreased slightly, but age structure is still excellent. Whitetail antlerless harvest was the same as 2021.

Depredation complaints: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective for whitetails is to reduce the population from current levels and maintain age structure. The objective for mule deer is to maintain or grow the population.

2020 Harvest Data – Calamus West

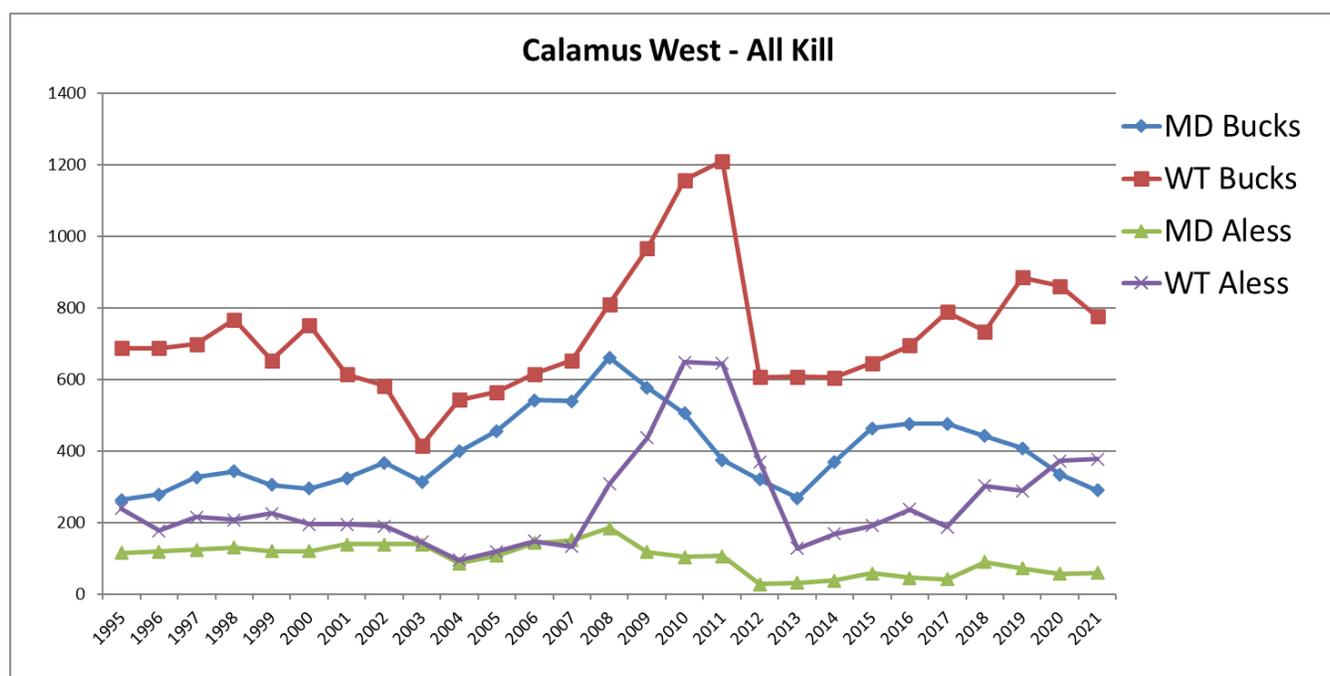
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Calamus West	1600	1600	11/6/21	147	29	176	420	219	639	42 / 8 / 2
Calamus West AOSC	300	159	-	0	0	0	3	71	74	28 / 13 / 6
River Antlerless				0	0	0	1	29	30	
Landowner Deer				44	3	47	81	19	100	
Special LO				4	0	4	21	5	26	
Archery Deer				15	4	19	48	5	53	
Muzzleloader				27	17	44	30	15	45	
Resident Youth				31	7	38	62	9	71	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	24	4	28	
NR Rest Youth				3	0	3	3	1	4	
Rest SW Buck				19	0	19	23	0	23	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	61	0	61	
Totals				290	60	350	777	377	1154	

CALAMUS WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	474	43	517	8	17	36	47	785	187	972	19	21	38	41
2018	442	90	532	17	12	43	45	734	303	1037	29	16	44	40
2019	408	73	481	15	7	37	56	885	289	1174	25	17	38	45
2020	335	57	392	15	11	89		861	373	1234	30	18	82	
2021	290	60	350	17	13	29	58	777	377	1154	33	14	33	53



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	1450 (1 AD ²)	Calamus West SCA – 150 (AOWT)	0	0
2018	1450 (1 AD)	Calamus West SCA – 150 (AOWT)	1	0
2019	1600 (1 AD)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2020	1600 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1600 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	2	0
2022*	1600 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)		

** Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
Calamus West	300	775	30	400

ELKHORN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Elkhorn November Firearm: 2900 Any Deer permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is no change from 2021.

Elkhorn Antlerless Only Season Choice: 250 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is a shift to the Elkhorn West.

Elkhorn West Antlerless Only Season Choice: 750 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is a new unit for 2022.

Unit boundary: That portion of the Elkhorn Unit that is west of highway 15.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest declined 14%. The adult buck age structure showed increase in 1.5 year-old bucks, but still remains desirable. The trend indicates a stable population. Check station data, hunter and landowner observations, and staff observations indicate a continued lower than desired number of whitetails in the eastern 1/3 of the unit, thus less antlerless whitetail permits will be available east of highway 15. Historically, this unit had significant crop damage complaints from WT deer, mostly along the river corridors. If high deer concentrations develop in the future, most can be addressed along the rivers with the River Antlerless Permit. Mule deer harvest remains low due to lack of adequate habitat in the unit. Depredation complaints: 2 DCP: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The population objective is to stabilize the whitetail population. Management of mule deer with harvest restrictions is ineffective due to low density and very limited mule deer habitat in the unit.

2021 Harvest Data – Elkhorn

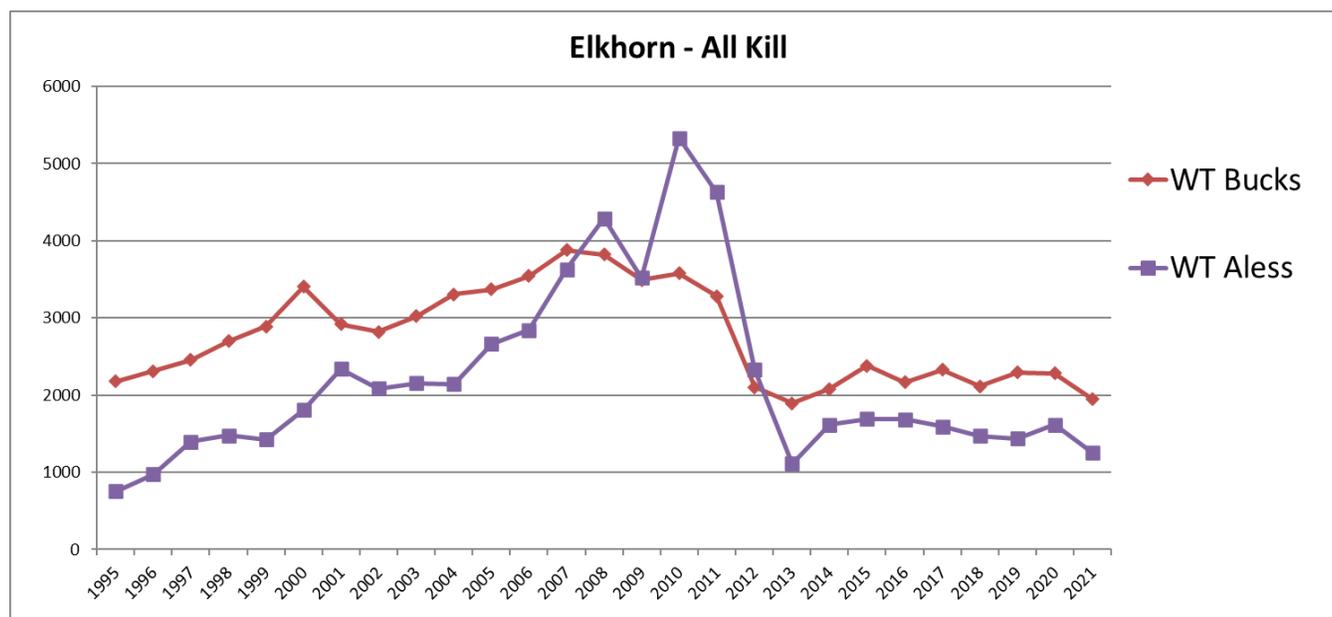
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Elkhorn Firearm	2700	2700	10/29/21	3	1	4	816	220	1036	36
Elkhorn AO SC	1000	1000	11/8/21	0	0	0	5	211	216	22
River Antlerless				0	1	1	30	497	527	
Landowner Deer				0	1	1	298	144	442	
Special LO				0	1	1	54	12	66	
Archery Deer				1	0	1	187	41	228	
Muzzleloader				1	1	2	35	30	65	
Resident Youth				4	0	4	115	51	166	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	88	40	128	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	9	2	11	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	9	1	10	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	302	1	303	
Totals				9	5	14	1948	1250	3198	

ELKHORN MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer						Whitetail Deer							
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2016	14	8	22	36				2169	1689	3858	43	44	41	15
2017	10	3	13					2285	1578	3863	41	38	45	17
2018	8	4	12	33				2117	1475	3592	41	33	47	20
2019	18	9	27	33				2295	1440	3735	39	32	43	25
2020	11	3	14	21				2283	1614	3897	41	29	71	
2021	9	5	14	36				1948	1250	3198	39	37	44	19



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	2700 (1 AD ²)	Elkhorn SCA – 1800 (AOWT)	2	0
2018	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	0	0
2019	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	0	0
2020	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	2	2
2021	2900 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	2	1
2022*	2900 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 250 (AOWT) Elkhorn West SCA – 750 (AOWT)		

** Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	10	2000	5	1250

FRENCHMAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Frenchman MDCA: 1600 Any Deer² permits with one AOWT bonus tag valid during Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. This is a decrease of 400 permits and change to AD² from AD in 2021.

Nonresident Allocation: 8%

Frenchman Whitetail November Firearm: 1200 permits for one whitetail. This is a decrease of 400 permits and a reduction in bag limit of the bonus AOWT from 2021.

Frenchman Antlerless Only: Permits are not valid on Red Willow WMA/SRA, Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Swanson WMA/SRA or Enders WMA/SRA. See Additional AOSC Map or unit description for details.

Frenchman: 150 permits for one antlerless and one antlerless whitetail. Decrease of 150 permits.

Frenchman North WT: 500 permits for two AOWT. No change.

Frenchman South WT: 200 permits for one AOWT. Decrease of 50 permits and removal of bonus.

Frenchman West: 500 permits for one antlerless and one antlerless whitetail. Decrease of 150 permits and one antlerless only bonus being changed to one antlerless whitetail bonus..

Southwest Reservoirs Antlerless Only: 200 permits for one AOWT. Valid only on Red Willow WMA/SRA, Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Swanson WMA/SRA or Enders WMA/SRA. No change.

General Information: WT buck harvest is 33% below the record harvest set in 2011. MD Buck harvest declined 25% from a record harvest set in 2017. Buck age structure for MD is very good but has declined some in WT. Depredation Complaints: 19 DCP Issued: 9.

2552 residents applied for 1840 Frenchman MDCA permits (70% success), and 758 non-residents applied for 160 permits (20% success).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Aggressive antlerless MD harvest, loss from meningeal brainworm and higher coyote numbers have reduced mule deer populations in the unit. Moderate harvest will continue in the core area of past high numbers and depredation issues. Population objectives are to maintain or slightly increase mule deer numbers the eastern third and periphery of the unit and maintain numbers in Hayes, Hitchcock and Frontier Counties. The whitetail deer herd appears to be decreasing and staff has received concerns with low whitetail populations in some areas along the Republican River. The population objective is to maintain overall whitetail numbers while allowing enough permits to handle depredation complaints.

2021 Harvest Data – Frenchman

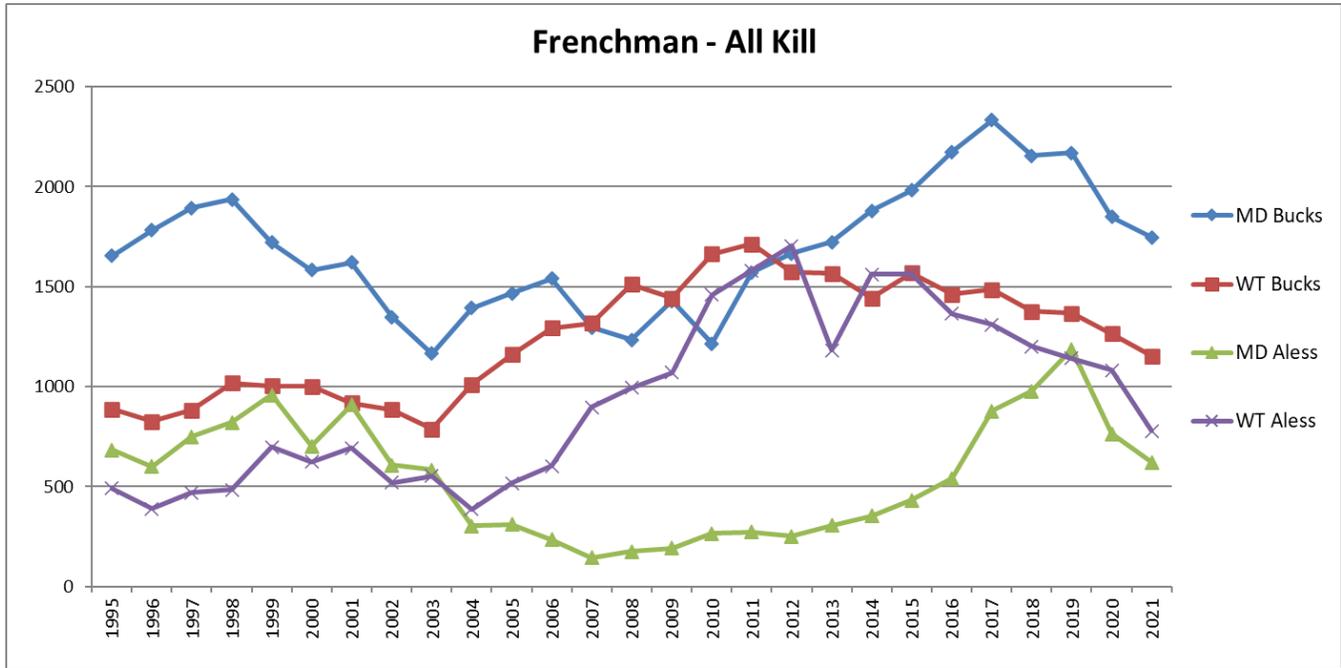
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Frenchman MDCA	2000	2000	Draw	800	57	857	114	113	227	50 / 4
Frenchman WT	1600	1600	11/8/21	5	3	8	510	262	772	42 / 7
Frenchman AO SC	300	300	8/14/21	0	81	81	1	71	72	40 / 11
FR North AO SC	500	351	-	0	0	0	5	81	86	19 / 7
FR South AO SC	250	250	1/3/21	0	0	0	2	80	82	26 / 7
FR West AO SC	650	650	11/3/21	6	308	314	2	59	61	39 / 18
River Antlerless				0	0	0	1	26	27	
Landowner Deer				328	113	441	103	33	136	
Special LO				59	9	68	11	3	14	
Archery Deer				211	21	232	133	11	144	
Muzzleloader				1	0	1	21	11	32	
Resident Youth				297	29	326	82	8	90	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	59	21	80	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	3	0	3	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	5	0	5	
Statewide Buck				41	0	41	1	0	1	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	100	0	100	
Totals				1848	764	2612	1266	1082	2348	

FRENCHMAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons for all seasons are show below:

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	2334	885	3219	27	8	37	55	1486	1310	2796	47	22	34	41
2018	2155	979	3134	31	9	32	59	1377	1202	2579	47	22	33	44
2019	2170	1187	3357	35	7	39	54	1367	1141	2508	45	15	39	46
2020	1848	764	2612	29	6	94		1266	1082	2348	46	18	82	
2021	1749	622	2371	26	7	38	55	1158	791	1949	41	21	40	39



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	MDCA 1900 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1400 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 875 (2 AO)	23	3
2018	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1400 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 1000 (2 AO)	10	3
2019	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 1250 (2 AO)	29	16
2020	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 300 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 650 (2 AO)	21	16
2021	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 300 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman North WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman South WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 650 (2 AO) SW Reservoir SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)	19	9
2022*	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1200 (1 WT)	Frenchman SCA – 150 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman North WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman South WT SCA – 200 (1 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 500 (1AO, 1 AOWT) SW Reservoir SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	1575	900	500	600

KEYA PAHA MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Keya Paha November Firearm: 2500 Any Deer² permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited. No change from 2021.

Keya Paha Antlerless Only Season Choice: 500 Antlerless Only Whitetail with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2021.

General Information: Whitetail antlerless harvest still continues to be a difficult objective to achieve in this unit even as harvest indicates a high whitetail population. WT adult buck harvest decreased 8%, while age structure still suggests a high WT population. Mule deer buck harvest decreased significantly, the 5th consecutive year of decline despite mule deer antlerless harvest restrictions. EHD may have had localized impacts on WT populations in the unit in 2021. Depredation complaints: 10 DCP: 5

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Harvest of mature WT bucks still remains high in this unit with 90% of bucks harvested aged at 2.5 years or older. The mule deer adult buck age structure was 84% for bucks 2.5 or older, but overall MD harvest continues to decline. The objective for this unit is to maintain a high WT antlerless harvest to reduce the population. Bonus tags to the November Firearm permits did not achieve expected antlerless kill again this year but continue to be the best tool for antlerless harvest in this unit. The addition of the Eagle Creek watershed into the River Antlerless zone in 2020 addressed many of the depredation issues. The population objective for mule deer is to maintain buck age structure while providing opportunity for hunters and landowners.

2021 Harvest Data – Keya Paha

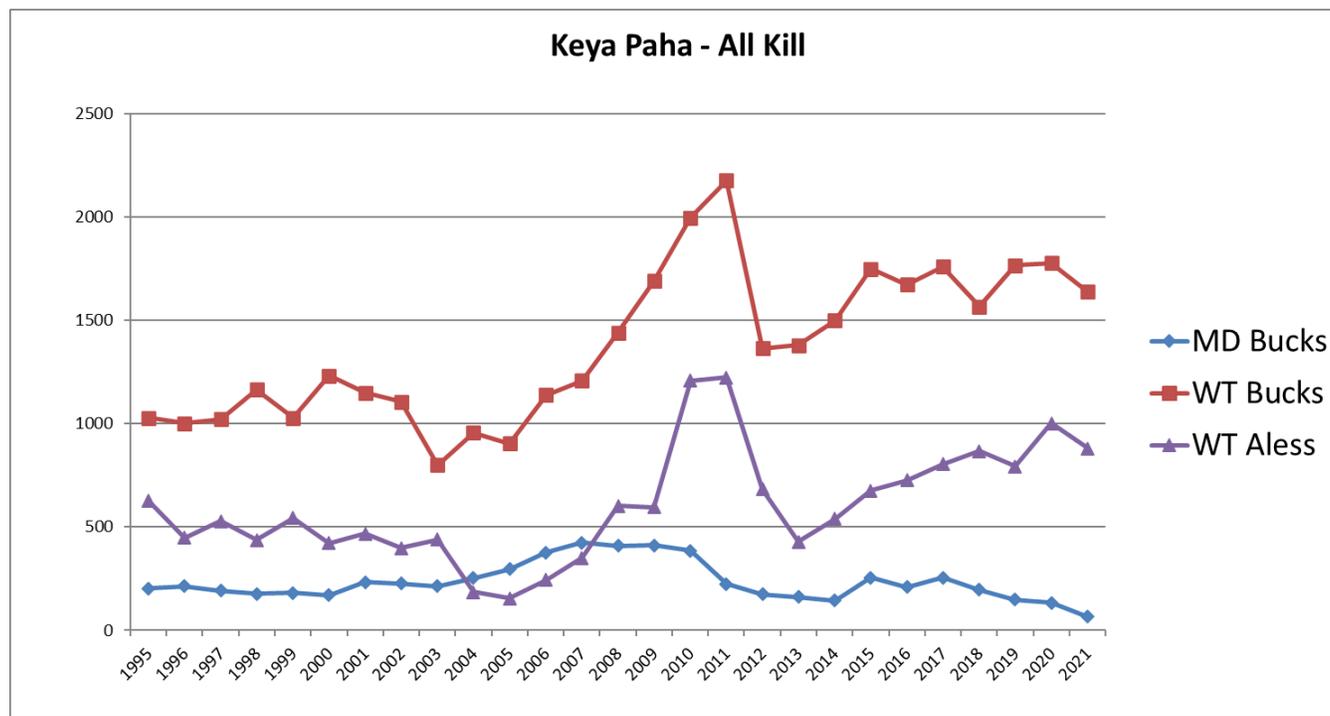
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Keya Paha Firearm	2500	2241	-	48	0	48	997	422	1419	52 / 11 / 3
Keya Paha AO SC	500	259	-	0	0	0	5	173	178	40 / 19 / 10
River Antlerless				0	0	0	5	185	190	
Landowner Deer				5	1	6	155	58	213	
Special LO				0	0	0	39	4	43	
Archery Deer				1	0	1	137	9	146	
Muzzleloader				4	2	6	75	17	92	
Resident Youth				5	1	6	81	7	88	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	58	3	61	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	15	2	17	
Rest SW Buck				1	0	1	9	0	9	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	1	0	1	
Statewide WT Buck				1	0	1	62	0	62	
Totals				65	4	69	1639	880	2519	

KEYA PAHA MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	252	14	266	6	13	37	50	1755	727	2482	31	15	31	54
2018	197	9	206	4	12	31	57	1567	872	2439	35	12	38	50
2019	149	13	162	8	9	31	60	1767	794	2561	31	10	38	52
2020	134	17	151	11	13	87		1776	1001	2777	36	15	85	
2021	65	4	69	6	14	29	57	1639	880	2519	35	9	31	60



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	2300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2018	2300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2019	2500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	6	0
2020	2500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	10	5
2021	2500 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)	10	5
2022*	2500 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)		

** Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	65	1650	5	900

LOUP EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Loup East November Firearm: 3300 Any Deer² permits with two (2) bonus Antlerless Only Whitetail tags. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited. No change from 2021.

Loup East Antlerless Only Season Choice: 1500 Antlerless Only Whitetail, with two (2) Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2021.

General Information: Harvest of whitetail bucks decreased for the second consecutive year, after exceeding expected results the previous five of six years. Antlerless harvest nearly met 50% goal in 2019 and did meet 50% in 2020. Indicators show a trend for WT population stabilization. The age of whitetail bucks remains high. Mule deer buck harvest decreased significantly while age structure remains stable. EHD may have had localized impacts on WT deer in 2021. Depredation complaints: 13 DCP: 6

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: WT Buck harvest declined 18% from 2019 but age structure remains high. The objective for whitetails is to maintain high antlerless harvest to continue to address high WT numbers. Deer damage complaints have been typically located along the Loup River system, in the Fullerton area specifically the last 3 years. River Antlerless and Bonus tags on Firearm Permits have been the best choice for hunters to harvest antlerless deer. High permit numbers, extra antlerless bonus tags and a season extensions have boosted antlerless WT harvest and are helping to reduce the population.

2021 Harvest Data - Loup East

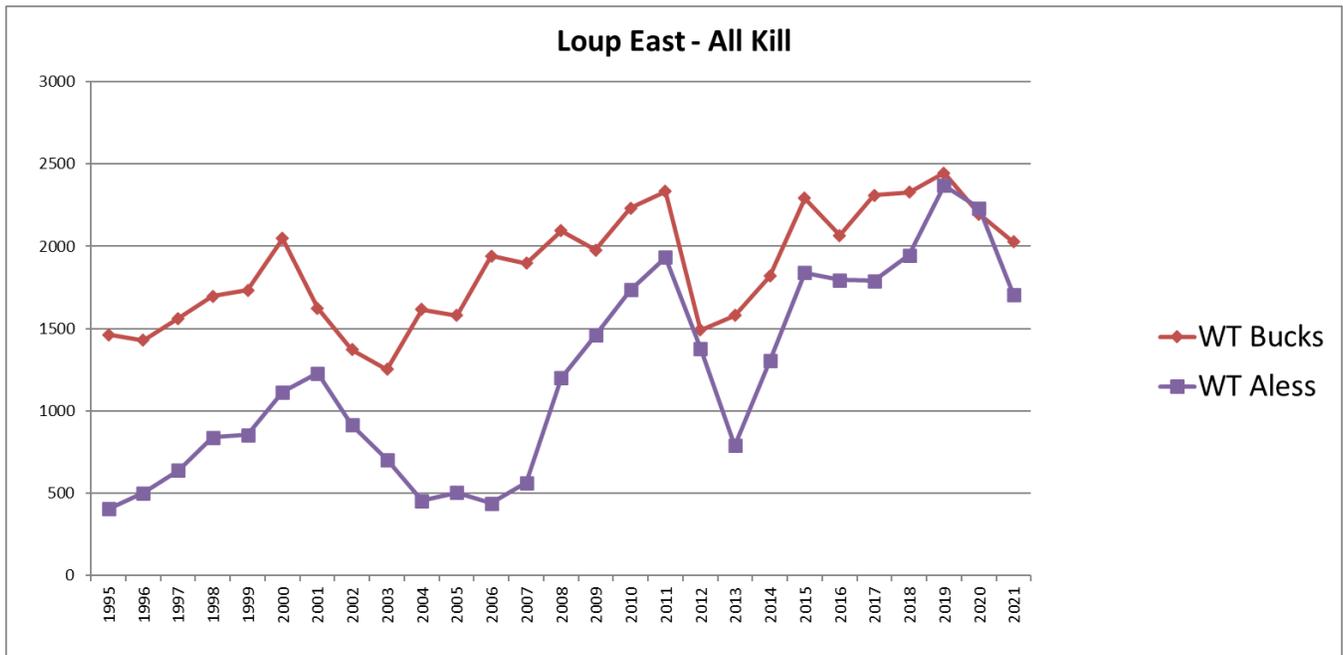
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Loup East Firearm	3300	3300	11/12/21	18	3	21	1084	723	1807	43 / 10 / 2
Loup East AO SC	1500	760	-	0	0	0	9	302	311	27 / 11 / 4
River Antlerless				0	1	1	17	460	477	
Landowner Deer				5	1	6	269	109	378	
Special LO				0	0	0	59	6	65	
Archery Deer				2	1	3	157	21	178	
Muzzleloader				1	1	2	51	18	69	
Resident Youth				6	3	9	123	33	156	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	76	29	105	
NR Rest Youth				0	1	1	12	3	15	
Rest SW Buck				3	0	3	5	2	7	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				2	0	2	165	2	167	
Totals				37	11	48	2027	1708	3735	

LOUP EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2016	69	8	77	10	35	33	31	2067	1769	3836	46	25	46	29
2017	95	12	105	11	31	35	33	2311	1791	4102	44	25	42	32
2018	67	10	77	14	30	40	30	2328	1947	4275	46	24	45	32
2019	66	11	77	14	32	48	20	2445	2370	4815	49	20	36	44
2020	60	10	70	14	25	75		2197	2232	4429	50	22	78	
2021	37	11	48	23	25	35	40	2027	1708	3735	46	20	45	35



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	2400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	17	3
2018	2700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	12	5
2019	3000 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	14	10
2020	3300 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	16	11
2021	3300 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	13	6
2022*	3300 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	40	2000	10	1700

LOUP WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Loup West November Firearm: 1000 Any Deer² permits, with one Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Permits not valid for antlerless mule deer. This is a removal of one bonus tag from 2021.

Loup West Whitetail November Firearm: 800 Any Whitetail permits, with one Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. This is a removal of one bonus tag from 2021.

Loup West Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 permits for 1 Antlerless Only and 1 Antlerless Only Whitetail. This is a removal of one bonus tag from 2021.

Loup West Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 permits for 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. This is a removal of one bonus tag from 2021.

General Information: MD buck harvest has declined by 25% last year. Two (2) cases of meningeal worm mortalities in mule deer were confirmed and many more symptomatic cases have been reported the last 2 years. WT buck harvest has decreased 14% and antlerless harvest decreased 16%. The age structure for Whitetail buck is good within the unit- Depredation complaints: 1 DCP: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The whitetail deer population appears to be decreasing. EHD likely impacted the whitetail populations in this unit. However, the age structure for Whitetail bucks still remains good. The population objective for whitetail is to maintain the herd at the current level. River Antlerless permits, Loup West WT SCA and bonus tags will allow us to meet this objective and address any crop damage concerns in the unit. There appears to be little hunter interest in additional AOWT harvest in this unit.

Mule deer populations appear to be decreasing. Some of the decrease in buck harvest was due to the change in permit strategy implemented in 2020. Age structure remains good. The mule deer population experienced substantial disease mortality due to meningeal brain worm in 2019 and 2020. The population objective is to allow the mule deer herd to grow, while maintaining the current age structure. Maintaining an elevated level of antlerless WT harvest is important to the management of mule deer in the unit.

2021 Harvest Data - Loup West

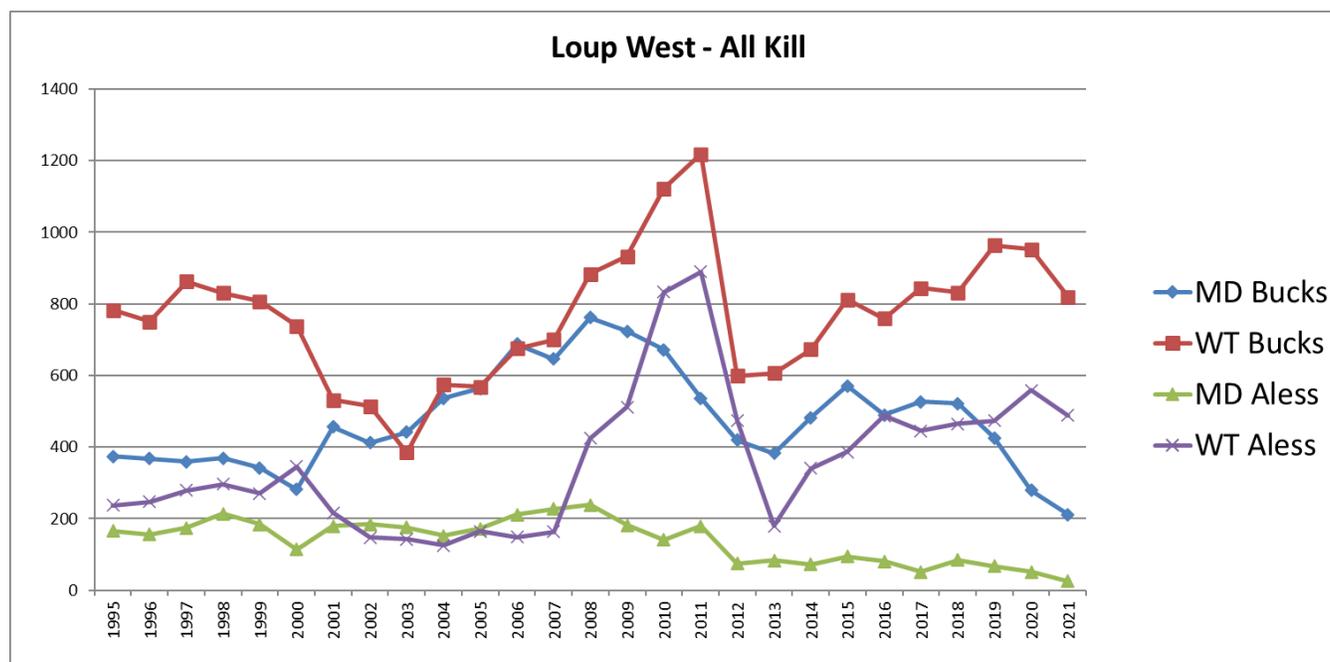
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Loup West Firearm	1000	1200	10/29/21	98	2	100	312	179	491	47 / 10 / 2
Loup West Whitetail	800	520	-	0	0	0	171	89	260	41 / 7 / 2
Loup West AO SC	100	100	11/8/21	0	7	7	1	33	34	30 / 8 / 3
Loup West WT AO SC	300	92	-	0	1	1	1	51	52	35 / 16 / 7
River Antlerless				0	1	1	1	66	67	
Landowner Deer				40	6	46	104	40	144	
Special LO				8	0	8	16	2	18	
Archery Deer				9	0	9	38	5	43	
Muzzleloader				10	3	13	14	8	22	
Resident Youth				21	5	26	54	11	65	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	28	3	31	
NR Rest Youth				1	0	1	3	1	4	
Rest SW Buck				24	0	24	21	0	21	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	1	1	56	0	56	
Totals				211	26	237	820	488	1308	

LOUP WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	525	51	576	9	17	33	50	843	444	1287	34	20	35	45
2018	522	85	607	14	10	38	52	832	465	1297	36	23	34	43
2019	426	68	494	14	10	55	35	963	473	1436	33	19	41	40
2020	279	51	330	16	13	87		952	558	1510	37	17	83	
2021	211	26	237	11	11	53	36	820	488	1308	37	15	35	50



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	1500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2018	1700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	0	0
2019	1700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AO)	3	0
2020	1200 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT) 600 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1000 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT) 800 (1WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	1	0
2022*	1000 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) 800 (1WT, 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	225	850	25	500

MISSOURI MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Missouri November Firearm: 3200 Any Deer permits with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. This is no change from 2021.

Missouri Antlerless Only Season Choice: 1000 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2020.

General Information: The whitetail buck decreased 14%, as did whitetail antlerless harvest. Whitetail buck age structure remains desirable. Whitetail densities are highest in the western ½ of the unit. EHD likely had localized impacts on WT deer in 2021.

Depredation complaints: 5 DCP: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to maintain antlerless whitetail harvest to stabilize herd growth. The age structure of the bucks in the harvest meet unit goals even with an increase in harvest from 2019. The addition of the Verdigris and Bazile Creek watersheds in the River Antlerless zone helped increase antlerless harvest in the western ½ of the unit to address the growing herd in that portion of the unit. Mule deer harvest and populations continue to decline.

2021 Harvest Data – Missouri

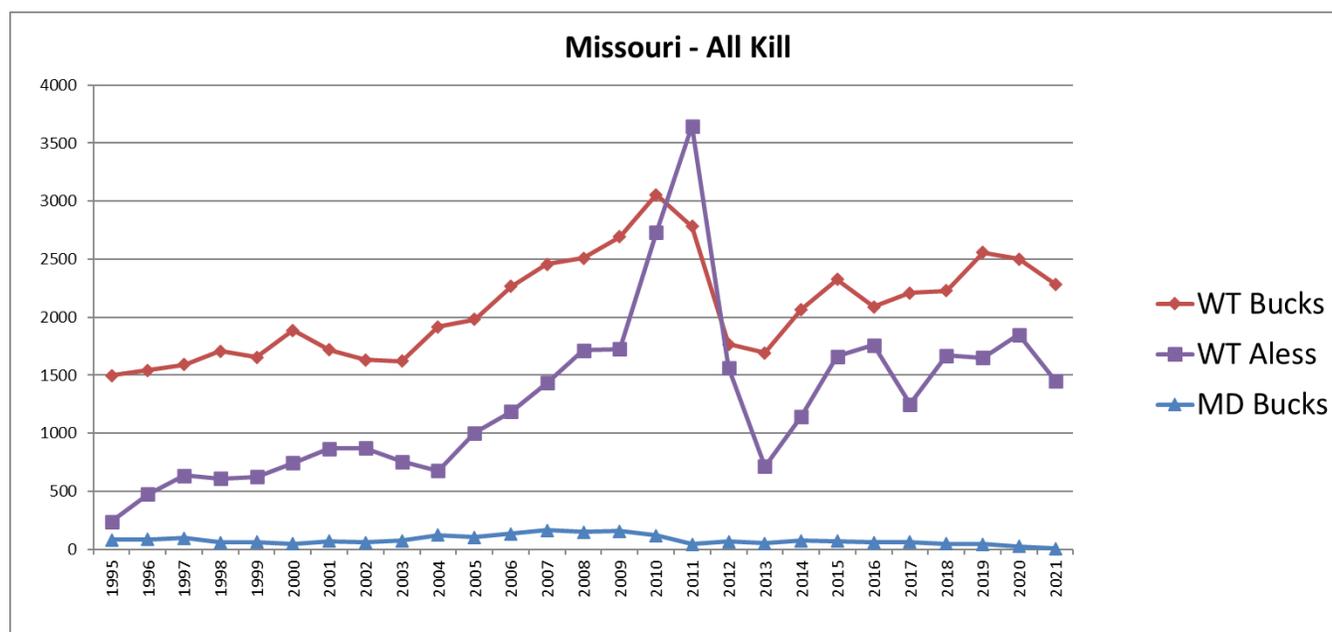
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Missouri Firearm	3200	3200	11/10/21	6	1	7	1195	565	1760	50 / 12
Missouri AO SC	1000	895	-	0	0	0	20	338	358	33 / 12
River Antlerless				0	1	1	11	305	316	
Landowner Deer				1	0	1	312	109	421	
Special LO				0	0	0	51	5	56	
Archery Deer				0	0	0	206	34	240	
Muzzleloader				0	0	0	43	16	59	
Resident Youth				0	0	0	129	44	173	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	95	26	121	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	23	7	30	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	5	0	5	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
SW WT Buck				1	0	1	193	3	196	
Totals				8	2	10	2283	1452	3735	

MISSOURI MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	65	4	69	6	17	39	44	2208	1249	3457	36	28	44	28
2018	49	11	60	18	20	30	50	2227	1670	3897	43	20	48	32
2019	43	3	46	7				2559	1651	4210	39	23	36	41
2020	25	6	31	19	20	80		2501	1848	4349	42	22	78	
2021	8	2	10	20				2283	1452	3735	39	23	42	35



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	2900 (1 AD ²)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	7	3
2018	2900 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	5	4
2019	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	10	5
2020	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	9	4
2021	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	5	2
2022*	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	10	2300	2	1500

PINE RIDGE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Pine Ridge will be added to the Mule Deer Conservation Area and restrictions to Restricted SWB and Muzzleloader will apply. No person may obtain more than one Pine Ridge MDCA permit that allows for the take of a mule deer buck.

Pine Ridge MDCA: 1200 permits valid for one Any Deer² valid during November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. No quota or bag change from 2021, but the change to a MDCA permit is new for 2022. Nonresident Allocation: 15%

Pine Ridge Whitetail November Firearm: 1000 permits valid for one whitetail of either sex. No change from 2021.

Pine Ridge Antlerless Only Season Choice: 200 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. This is a decrease of 200 from 2021.

Pine Ridge Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 600 permits for two antlerless only whitetails. No change from 2021.

Pine Ridge Special Area Restriction: Antlerless Mule Deer harvest prohibited on all federal and state-owned public land in the Pine Ridge Deer Management Unit.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 17% below the 5-year average and 5% down from 2020. However, some of that decline represented in the 5-year average is in response to the permit shift in 2019. Whitetail buck harvest was equal to the 5-year average and down 5% from 2020. Permits for MD bucks have declined in recent years and the percentage going to NR has increased. Permit sales were 65% NR last year and sold out in 3 hours and 5 minutes. We plan to recommend it to be a draw unit in 2023. Age structure continues to be good for both species. Depredation complaints: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators and observations indicate stable numbers of both mule deer and whitetail. A low level of antlerless harvest on mule deer will still be acceptable. Objectives are to increase hunter satisfaction in this largely public land unit, increase mule deer populations and buck age, while providing some opportunity to harvest antlerless mule deer. Objective is to reduce whitetail population in areas of high densities and reduce species interaction to benefit mule deer. Chadron city deer removal operation has helped reduce deer numbers around Chadron.

2021 Harvest Data - Pine Ridge

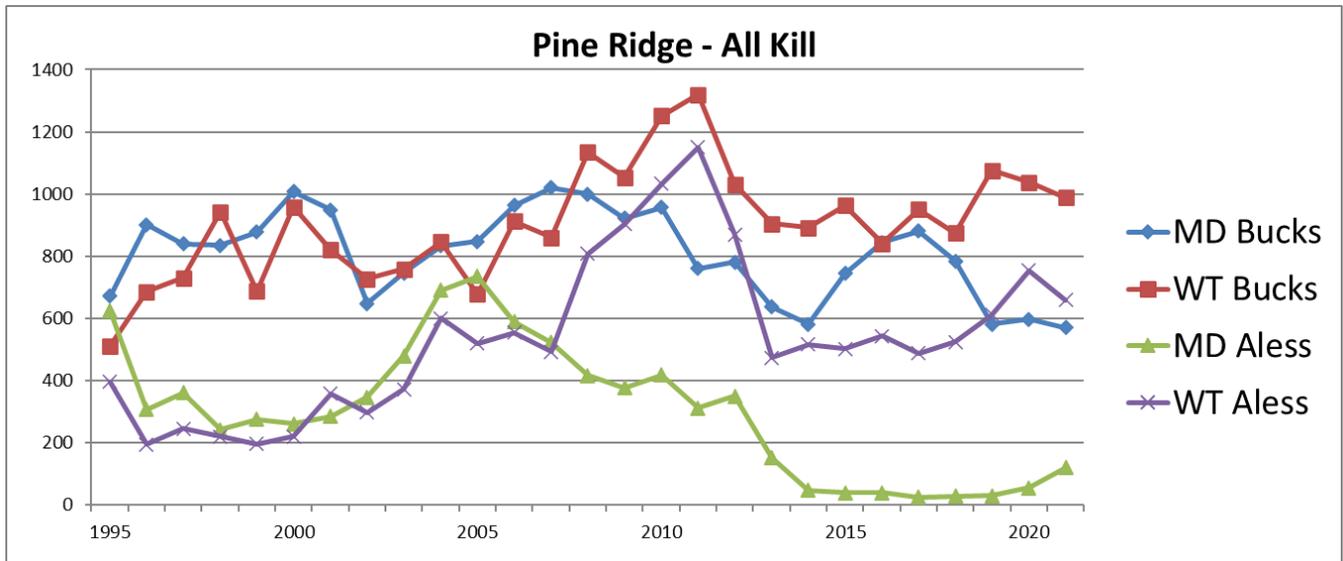
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Pine Ridge	1200	1200	8/2/21	249	1	250	263	30	293	45
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1000	11/8/21	1	0	1	375	48	423	43
Pine Ridge AO SC	400	400	11/9/21	1	69	70	6	172	178	46 / 16
Pine Ridge AO SC WT	600	493	-	0	0	0	5	259	264	38 / 16
River Antlerless				0	0	0	1	73	74	
Landowner Deer				61	27	88	75	26	101	
Special LO				11	1	12	12	1	13	
Archery Deer				51	6	57	46	12	58	
Muzzleloader				59	10	69	66	13	79	
Resident Youth				51	7	58	40	5	45	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	14	12	26	
NR Rest Youth				22	0	22	12	8	20	
Rest SW Buck				61	0	61	32	0	32	
Statewide Buck				3	0	3	2	0	2	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	40	0	40	
Totals				570	121	691	989	659	1648	

PINE RIDGE MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	880	26	906	3	19	42	39	948	487	1435	34	18	42	40
2018	784	29	813	4	23	33	44	874	525	1399	38	20	33	47
2019	582	31	613	5	11	39	50	1075	612	1687	36	19	39	42
2020	598	55	653	8	18	82		1038	754	1792	42	18	82	
2021	570	121	691	18	18	41	41	989	659	1648	40	14	45	41



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	2400 (1 AD ²)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 200 (AOWT)	1	0
2018	1650 (1 AD ²) WT 550 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 400 (AOWT)	2	0
2019	1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 500 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2020	1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	2	1
2021	1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 400 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2022*	MDCA 1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)		

*Recommended permit numbers

+ Antlerless MD harvest on public land prohibited
AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

² No antlerless mule deer WT – Whitetail
AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	450	1000	60	700

PLAINS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Plains November Firearm: 1500 Any Deer with two bonus antlerless whitetail permits. Antlerless mule deer restrictions are on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Decrease of 200 permits from 2021.

Plains Antlerless Only Season Choice: 200 Antlerless Only Season Choice permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Antlerless mule deer restrictions are on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Shift of 300 permits from 2021 to WT permit.

Plains Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 permits for 3 AOWT. New permit for 2022.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was down 20% from the 5 year average and down 8% from 2020. Whitetail buck harvest was down 25% from the 5 year average and down 24% from 2020. Age structure remains good for both species. Depredation Complaints: 4 DCP: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators, observations and landowner contacts indicate lower numbers of Mule deer. EHD reduced whitetail populations throughout the unit in 2021. Population objectives are to increase mule deer populations by reduced overall harvest and continue to reduce whitetail populations to reduce species interaction to benefit mule deer. This recommendation will continue the effort to maintain a relatively stable Mule deer population and address depredation problems areas through the use of Season Choice Antlerless Only permits.

2021 Harvest Data – Plains

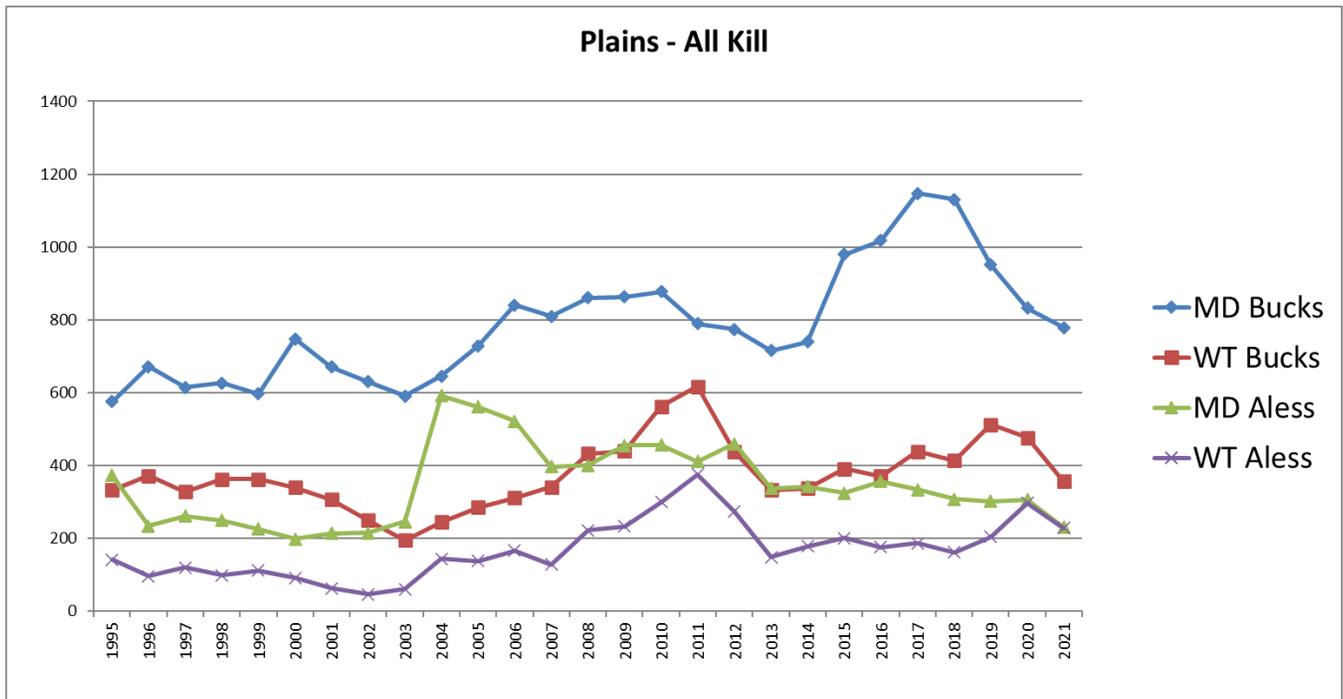
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Plains Firearm	1700	1684	-	506	93	599	215	150	365	51 / 6 / 1
Plains AO SC	500	354	-	2	103	105	1	50	51	36 / 6 / 2
River Antlerless				0	0	0	1	8	9	
Landowner Deer				54	14	68	26	8	34	
Special LO				12	1	13	5	1	6	
Archery Deer				33	3	36	30	0	30	
Muzzleloader				55	6	61	21	5	26	
Resident Youth				65	8	73	22	1	23	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	9	4	13	
NR Rest Youth				15	2	17	0	1	1	
Rest SW Buck				36	0	36	10	0	10	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				1	0	1	16	0	16	
Totals				779	230	1009	356	228	584	

PLAINS MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	1118	325	1443	23	12	32	56	433	168	601	28	16	37	47
2018	1131	308	1439	22	14	36	50	414	161	575	28	19	37	44
2019	951	302	1253	24	11	40	49	512	204	716	28	16	39	45
2020	832	307	1139	27	10	90		477	297	774	38	15	85	
2021	779	230	1009	23	12	36	52	356	228	584	39	22	30	49



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	1500 (1 AD)	Plains SCA – 480 (AO)	2	0
2018	1700 (1 AD)	Plains SCA – 500 (AO)	1	0
2019	1700 (1 AD)	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	2	0
2020	1700 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	2	0
2021	1700 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 2 AOWT)	4	1
2022*	1500 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 200 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Plains WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	700	350	250	250

PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Platte MDCA: 1000 Any Deer² and one antlerless whitetail valid during November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. This is a decrease of 400 permits from 2021.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%

Platte Whitetail November Firearm: 1000 permits for one whitetail. Decrease of 300 from 2021.

Platte Antlerless Only Season Choice: 200 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. Valid for entire Platte Unit. No change from 2021.

Platte Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 400 permits for two antlerless whitetails. Valid for the entire Platte Unit. Decrease of 100 permits from 2021.

Platte North Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. This is a decrease of 100 permits and a change in bag limit from 2021.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest is 14% below the 5-year average. Mule deer buck harvest is 18% below the 5-year average. Mule deer densities seem to be decreasing across most of the unit. Whitetail numbers exceed landowner tolerance on some portions of the Platte River where leasing is occurring. Reports from hunters indicate a considerable decrease in the deer population across the entire unit. Depredation Complaints: 4 DCP: 4

1135 residents applied for 1190 MDCA permits (100% success), and 345 non-residents drew 210 MDCA permits (55% success).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to improve age structure and to maintain or increase whitetail herds in riparian corridors and to decrease herds in uplands to limit competition between species and slow brainworm transmission with mule deer. Mule deer populations are declining across the unit due to a combination of drought conditions, MBW and increased hunting pressure. Mule Deer objectives are to stabilize age structure and stabilize the population. There were two confirmed reports of brainworm, two confirmed reports of EHD, and one confirmed report of CWD in 2021.

2021 Harvest Data – Platte

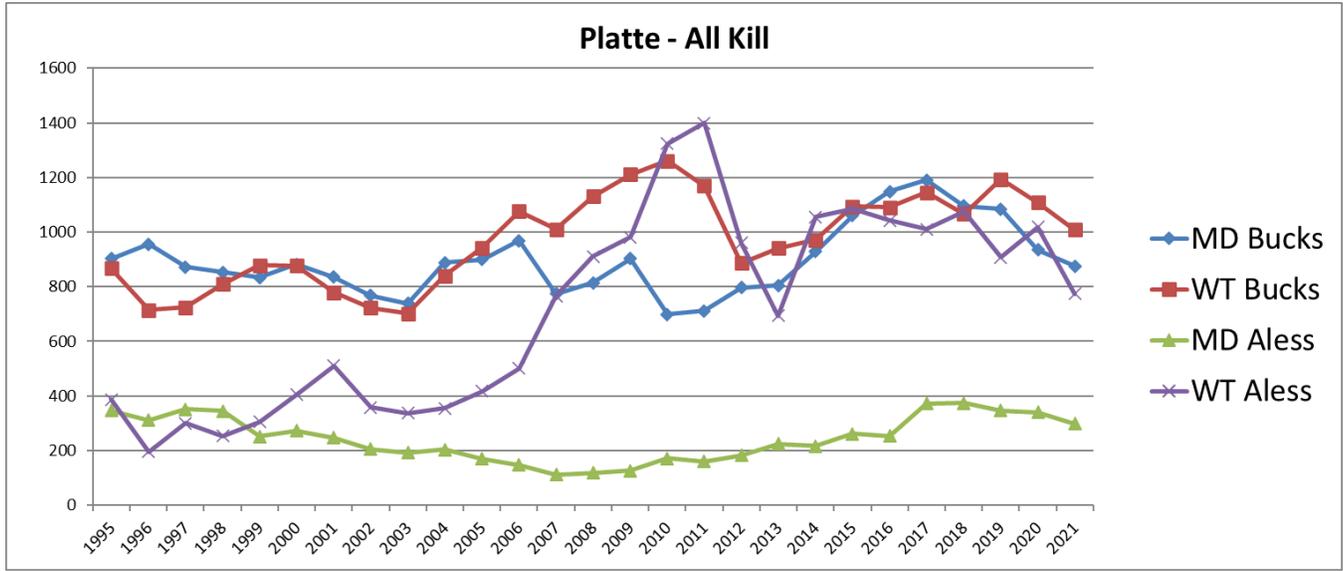
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Platte MDCA	1400	1400	8/2/21	451	5	456	160	96	256	47 / 4
Platte WT Firearm	1300	1128	-	4	0	4	371	55	426	38
Platte AO SC	200	200	9/20/21	2	38	40	3	64	67	37 / 17
Platte WT AO SC	500	391	-	0	0	0	5	143	148	28 / 10
Platte North AO SC	400	400	11/12/21	3	167	170	3	69	72	40 / 20
River Antlerless				0	0	0	6	257	263	
Landowner Deer				166	52	218	93	43	136	
Special LO				35	5	40	25	4	29	
Archery Deer				69	15	84	145	15	160	
Muzzleloader				3	0	3	36	3	39	
Resident Youth				130	16	146	55	16	71	
Youth Whitetail				1	1	2	50	9	59	
NR Rest Youth				1	0	1	1	0	1	
Rest SW Buck				3	0	3	4	0	4	
Statewide Buck				7	0	7	2	0	2	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	50	0	50	
Totals				875	299	1174	1009	774	1783	

PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	1184	363	1547	24	13	37	50	1142	1000	2142	47	21	32	47
2018	1096	375	1470	25	13	36	51	1067	1076	2136	50	20	34	46
2019	1085	346	1431	24	11	40	49	1193	907	2100	43	19	40	41
2020	935	340	1275	27	9	91		1108	1019	2127	48	18	82	
2021	875	299	1174	25	16	46	38	1009	774	1783	43	18	47	35



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	MDCA 1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1200 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)	4	0
2018	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 450 (2 AO)	3	1
2019	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 500 (2 AO)	3	1
2020	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)	3	2
2021	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)	4	4
2022*	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 400 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 300 (1AO, 1 AOWT)		

** Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only

WT – Whitetail

AD – Any Deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	700	800	200	600

REPUBLICAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Republican MDCA: 75 Mule Deer Buck permits valid during November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. No change from 2021.

Republican Whitetail November Firearm: 3000 permits for one whitetail valid during the November Firearm season. No change from 2021.

Republican Antlerless Only: 1500 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. Permits are not valid on Harlan County Lake USACE Property. No change from 2021.

Harlan County Reservoir Antlerless Only: 200 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. Permits are valid only on Harlan County Lake USACE Property. No change from 2021.

General Information: The whitetail population appears to have stabilized or slightly decreased in most of the unit and significantly decreased along the Republican River in the western portion of the unit. Harvest has remained consistent for the last 5 years. Buck age structure is good for whitetails. EHD did not appear to have much effect on the population in 2021. However, 17% deer tested positive for CWD during the firearm season tested. Two CWD cases were confirmed outside of the firearm season (one near Alma and one near Blue Hill). Mule deer buck harvest has decreased about 40% the last two years, at least partially due to a decrease in the MDCA permit quota the last two years. The mule deer herd has been impacted severely by habitat loss and meningeal worm over the past 2 decades. Depredation complaints: 3, DCP: 2.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The mule deer herd is low but appears to be stable. The whitetail herd is at acceptable levels along the Republican River other than in the Harlan County Reservoir area where a few depredation complaints still occur. Buck age structure is good. The population objective for whitetails is to maintain the herd numbers on the Republican River with Season Choice and River Antlerless permits and allow growth of the herd in upland habitats. Keeping the 200 AO permits valid only on Harlan County Reservoir will continue to help with crop depredation issues on private land adjacent to Corps property. The population goal for mule deer is to allow the herd to grow by restricting the harvest of antlerless mule deer, however mule deer populations do not seem to be responding to past tactics.

2021 Harvest Data – Republican

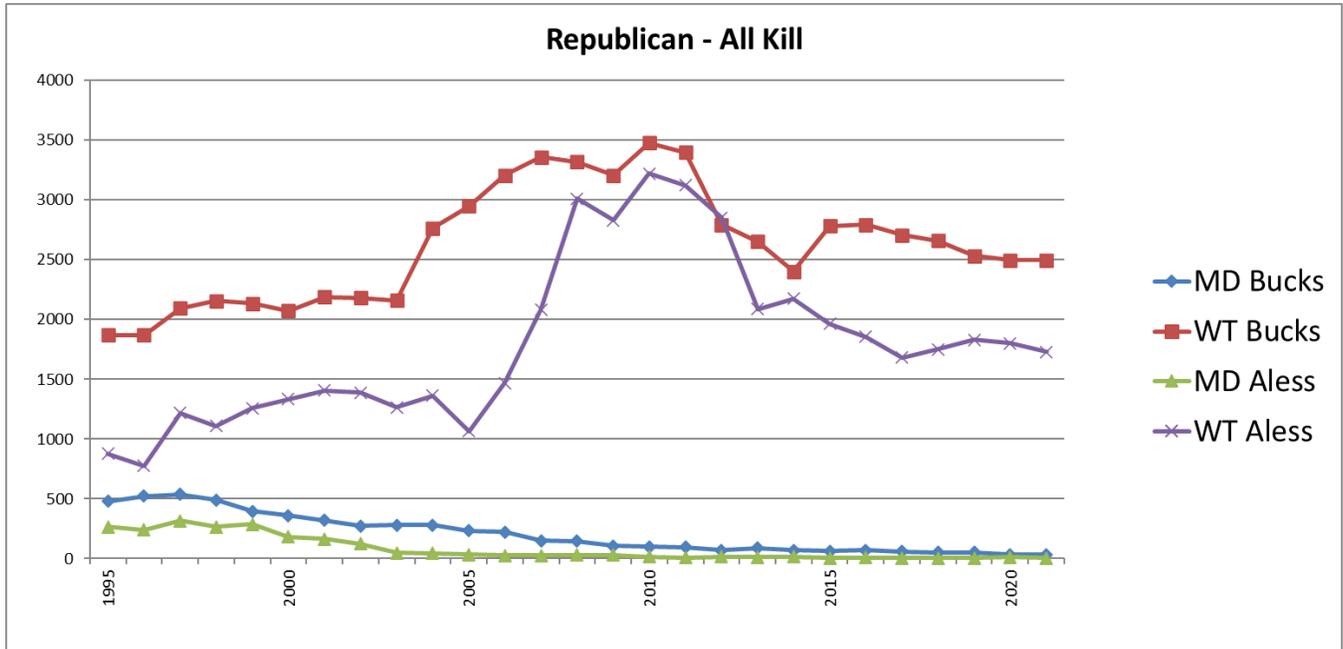
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Republican WT	3000	3000	11/3/21	0	0	0	1073	241	1314	44
Republican MD	75	75	10/28/21	13	0	13	1	0	1	19
Republican AO SC	1500	1352	-	0	0	0	18	568	586	34 / 9
Harlan Co Res AOSC	200	200	9/12/21	0	0	0	3	148	151	49 / 27
River Antlerless				0	1	1	8	453	461	
Landowner Deer				10	2	12	290	121	411	
Special LO				0	0	0	52	7	59	
Archery Deer				3	1	4	276	49	325	
Muzzleloader				1	0	1	58	48	106	
Resident Youth				9	0	9	151	43	194	
Youth Whitetail				0	0	0	123	43	166	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	13	3	16	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	11	0	11	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	1	0	1	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	420	4	424	
Totals				34	11	45	2495	1803	4298	

REPUBLICAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	MuleDeer					WhitetailDeer								
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	%BuckAge			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	%BuckAge		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	61	7	68	10				2695	1674	4369	38	27	34	39
2018	55	6	61	10				2658	1752	4410	40	19	40	40
2019	52	5	57	9				2533	1830	4363	42	22	42	36
2020	34	11	45	24	11	89		2495	1803	4298	42	21	79	
2021	36	4	40	10				2498	1728	4226	41	23	24	52



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	MDCA 100 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	5	0
2018	MDCA 100 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	0	0
2019	MDCA 100 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	3	0
2020	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2021	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2022*	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

2 – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only

AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	45	2500	5	1800

SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Sandhills November Firearm: 1500 permits for Any Deer and two antlerless whitetail bonus tags. This is a shift of 500 permits to a Whitetail permit. Antlerless mule deer restrictions on McKelvie National Forest Service Lands and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

Sandhills November Firearm: 500 Any Whitetail tags with two antlerless whitetail bonus tag. This is a new permit for 2022.

Sandhills Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 Antlerless Only permits with 2 AOWT bonus tags. Permits are not valid on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge or McKelvie National Forest lands. This is a shift to the Whitetail AOSC permit.

Sandhills Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with 2 AOWT bonus tags. Shift of permits from the Sandhills AOSC.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 19% below the 5-year average and down 12% since 2020. Whitetail buck harvest was 6% above the 5-year average and down 8% since 2020. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators show a decreasing population of both whitetail and mule deer. EHD reduced whitetail populations throughout the unit in 2021, affects appear varied throughout. Population Objectives for mule deer are to increase numbers while addressing depredation issues through antlerless harvest on Season Choice permits, and to maintain the current buck age structure. Objectives for whitetails are to continue to decrease the population through the bonus AOWT permits. This recommendation provides the basis for reduced Mule deer harvest to aid in a slight population growth unit-wide, reduced whitetail population in areas of high densities and reduced species interaction to benefit mule deer.

2021 Harvest Data – Sandhills

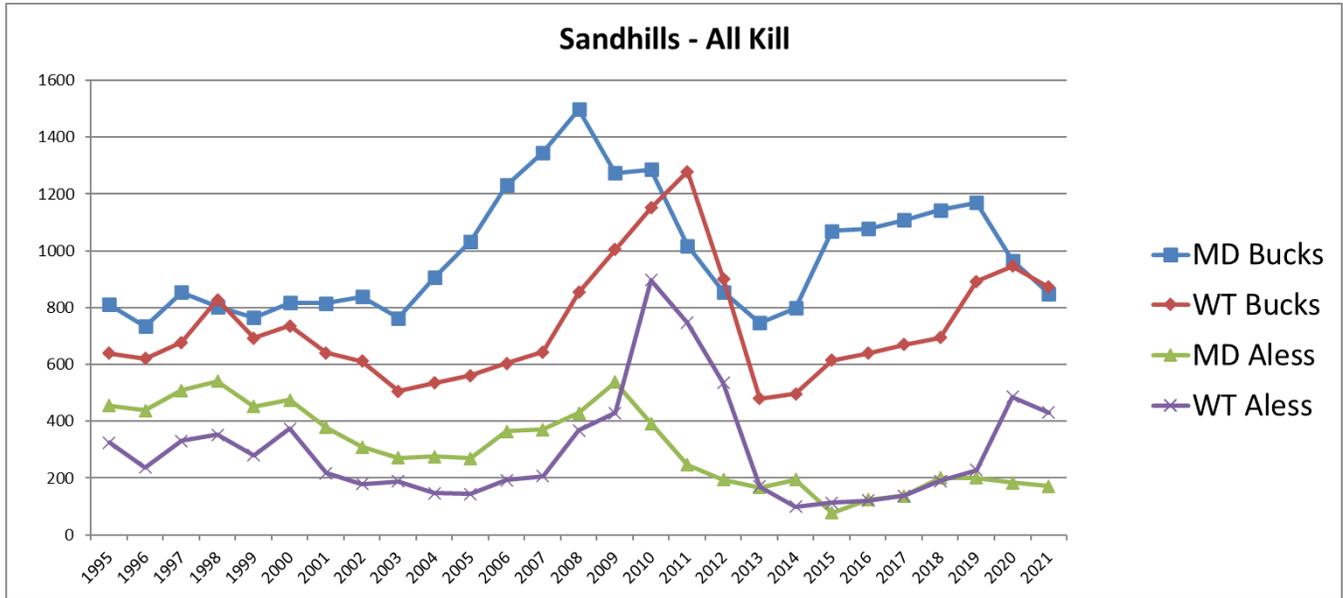
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Sandhills Firearm	2000	2000	10/14/21	475	24	499	516	223	739	53 / 7 / 2
Sandhills AO SC	450	334	-	1	92	93	5	122	127	43 / 16 / 7
River Antlerless				0	0	0	1	20	21	
Landowner Deer				66	19	85	57	24	81	
Special LO				15	1	16	4	0	4	
Archery Deer				46	4	50	59	12	71	
Muzzleloader				104	15	119	58	17	75	
Resident Youth				58	12	70	42	8	50	
Youth Whitetail				1	0	1	11	3	14	
NR Rest Youth				15	4	19	17	2	19	
Rest SW Buck				68	0	68	42	0	42	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	60	0	60	
Totals				849	171	1020	892	431	1303	

SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	1098	137	1235	11	6	24	70	670	133	803	17	9	36	55
2018	1144	201	1345	15	7	22	71	694	190	884	21	6	36	58
2019	1169	201	1370	15	9	24	67	892	228	1120	20	12	31	57
2020	966	183	1149	16	5	95		946	486	1432	34	11	89	
2021	849	171	1020	17	10	30	60	892	431	1303	33	11	40	49



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	1500 (AD ²)	Sandhills SCA – 250 (AO)	4	0
2018	1500 (AD)	Sandhills SCA – 350 (AO)	1	0
2019	2000 (AD)	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, AOWT)	4	0
2020	2000 (AD, 1 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, 2 AOWT)	5	0
2021	2000 (AD, 2 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, 2 AOWT)	0	0
2022	1500 (AD, 2 AOWT) WT 500 (WT, 2 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 300 (AO, 2 AOWT) Sandhills WT SCA – 100 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	700	850	150	450

UPPER PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Upper Platte November Firearm: 1200 Any Deer permits. No change from 2021.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte: 250 Antlerless Only permits and an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. No change from 2021.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte Whitetail: 200 permits for 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. No change from 2021.

NEW Upper Platte Special Area Restriction: Antlerless Mule Deer harvest prohibited on all federal and state-owned lands open to public hunting and The Nature Conservancy, Carter Canyon (PRBE), Montz Point (PRBE) and Bead Mountain (PRBE) areas open to public hunting north of Nebraska Highway 88 within the Upper Platte Unit. This is a new restriction for 2022.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 9% below the 5 year average and 3% down from 2020. Whitetail buck harvest was down 14% to the 5 year average and down 17% from 2020. Depredation complaints: 3

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators, observations and landowner contacts indicate stable to slightly decreasing mule deer numbers and lower whitetail populations due to the 2020 EHD outbreak. Population objectives are to maintain mule deer and whitetail populations. This recommendation will continue the effort to maintain a relatively stable deer population and address depredation problems through the use of Season Choice Antlerless Only permits and River Antlerless permits and the AOSC Whitetail permit.

2021 Harvest Data – Upper Platte

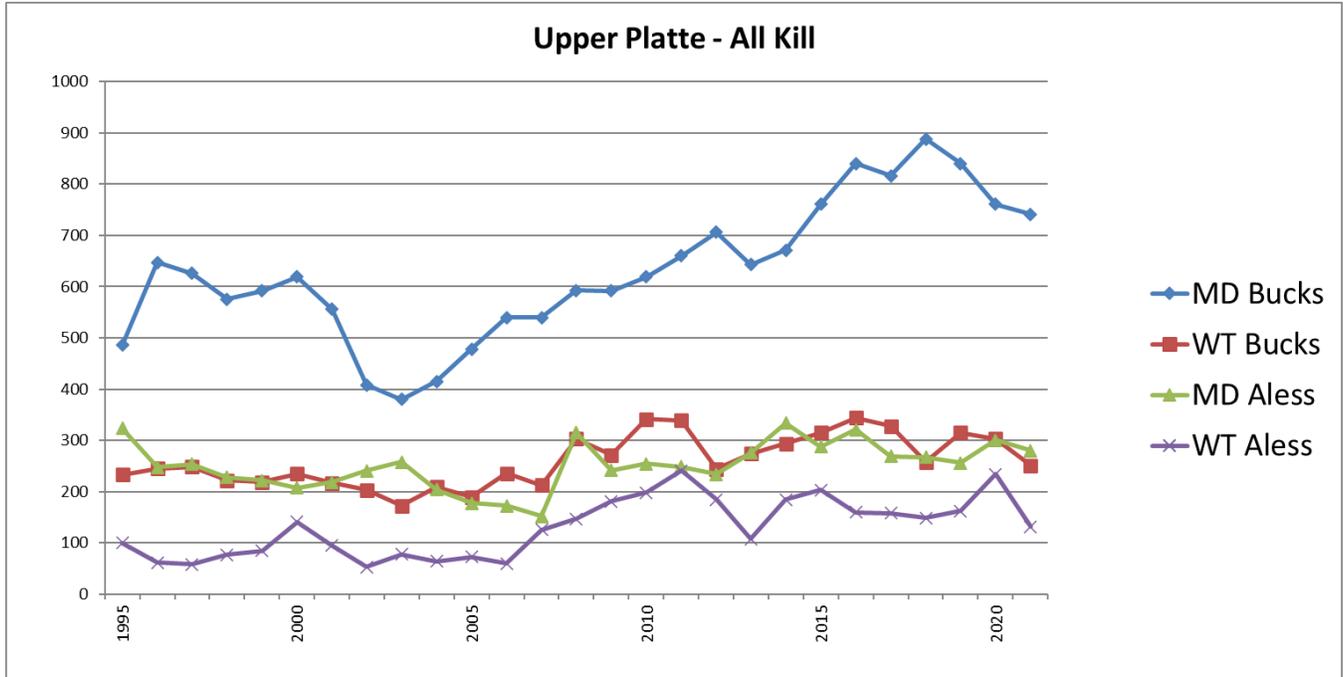
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			%Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Upper Platte	1200	1200	10/16/21	406	102	508	98	15	113	52
Upper Platte AO SC	250	250	8/30/21	0	72	72	3	27	30	34 / 7
Upper Platte WT AO SC	200	150	-	0	4	4	1	26	27	17 / 4
River Antlerless				1	1	2	0	45	45	
Landowner Deer				75	36	111	33	7	40	
Special LO				16	7	23	5	4	9	
Archery Deer				37	9	46	34	4	38	
Muzzleloader				47	32	79	13	1	14	
Resident Youth				98	13	111	19	3	22	
Youth Whitetail				1	1	2	8	0	8	
NR Rest Youth				14	3	17	3	0	3	
Rest SW Buck				46	0	46	6	0	6	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	28	0	28	
Totals				741	280	1021	251	132	383	

UPPER PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2017	814	269	1083	25	18	39	43	328	150	478	31	22	40	39
2018	888	265	1153	23	19	37	44	258	149	407	37	18	38	44
2019	840	256	1096	23	19	37	44	315	162	477	34	21	37	42
2020	761	301	1062	28	13	87		303	234	537	44	15	85	
2021	741	280	1021	27	15	37	48	251	132	383	34	13	35	52



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2017	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 240 (1 AO)	2	0
2018	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO)	1	0
2019	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	0	0
2020	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	3	0
2022*	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers
² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail
 AO – Antlerless Only

WT – Whitetail
 AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	750	250	280	150

WAHOO MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

Wahoo November Firearm: 3800 Any Deer permits. This is no change in quota from 2021, but a removal of the antlerless mule deer restriction.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Wahoo: 2200 permits valid for one Antlerless Only Whitetail deer. No change from 2021.

General Information: Harvest for all seasons was 2916 adult whitetail males and 2267 antlerless whitetails. Percent success on Wahoo AD permits Wahoo AO permits both dropped 5% from 2020 but are only slightly lower than the five-year average. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males in the harvest increased to 38% from 29% in 2020. This remains under the 40% threshold for permit reductions. Total harvest for 2021 was 15% less than our estimated harvest. While this may be cause for some concern it does not meet our 25% threshold for lowering permit numbers. Unrestricted permits accounted for 43.7% of the whitetail buck harvest and 13.7% of the antlerless whitetail harvest in 2021. Hunter complaints about too few deer were more than last year. Landowner depredation complaints increased in 2021. Most of the depredation complaints and all the damage control permits issued fall within the boundaries of the River Antlerless deer management unit. Depredation Complaints: 16. DCP: 8

Population Status, Goals and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be stable in the upland portion of the unit and slightly decreasing along the river systems. Population levels remain within landowner tolerance for most of the unit however we still have isolated areas of moderate crop damage along portions of the Platte River. There were reports of possible EHD deer during the fall of 2021. EHD may have had a minor population impact in 2021. The population goal for this unit is to allow limited but slow growth in upland areas of the Wahoo Unit while increasing an older buck age structure. Harvest strategies are to allow limited growth in upland areas of the unit. A Statewide Whitetail permit quota will allow managers more control over this unit and could potentially improve age structure. The continued use of River Antlerless permits is required to maintain pressure on problem areas along the major river systems.

2021 Harvest Data – Wahoo

<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Wahoo Firearm	3800	3800	11/5/21	1	1	2	1217	323	1540	40
Wahoo AO SC	2200	2200	11/16/21	0	0	0	20	490	510	23
River Antlerless				0	3	3	40	982	1022	
Landowner Deer				0	1	1	351	220	571	
Special LO				0	0	0	65	12	77	
Archery Deer				1	1	2	526	114	640	
Muzzleloader Deer				1	0	1	68	57	125	
Res Youth				0	0	0	141	58	199	
Youth WT Deer				0	0	0	96	53	149	
NR Rest Youth				0	0	0	6	0	6	
Rest SW Buck				0	0	0	19	0	19	
Statewide Buck				0	0	0	0	0	0	
Statewide WT Buck				0	0	0	393	4	397	
Totals				3	6	9	2942	2313	5255	

STATEWIDE BUCK

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 12-20, 2022 (firearm)

Permits: Residents: 70 buck permits.
 Nonresidents: 30 buck permits.
 This is a separation of resident and nonresidents, but the total remains the same.

Area Open: Statewide.

General Information: This is a very limited, elevated price permit that was new in 2018. 33% of permits went to nonresidents and 90% of harvest was in the MDCA in 2021.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Due to their limited number, statewide buck permits have little impact on populations but provide additional opportunity for high demand units.

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>%Success</u>	<u># NR</u>
	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>		
2018	40	40	18	24	0	24	2	0	2	65	
2019	50	50	13	21	0	21	0	0	0	42	13
2020	100	59	24	31	0	31	7	0	7	64	24
2021	100	100	33	51	0	51	7	0	7	58	33
2022*	100										

*Recommended

2021 Unit Breakdown

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>		<u>Whitetail Deer</u>		<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>		<u>Whitetail Deer</u>	
	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>
Blue NW	0	0	0	0	Loup West	0	0	0	0
Blue SE	0	0	0	0	Missouri	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	Pine Ridge	3	0	2	0
Calamus East	0	0	0	0	Plains	0	0	0	0
Calamus West	0	0	0	0	Platte	7	0	2	0
Elkhorn	0	0	0	0	Republican	0	0	1	0
Frenchman	41	0	1	0	Sandhills	0	0	0	0
Keya Paha	0	0	1	0	Upper Platte	0	0	0	0
Loup East	0	0	0	0	Wahoo	0	0	0	0

Expected Harvest: 55 mule deer bucks and 10 whitetail bucks on 100 permits

RESTRICTED STATEWIDE BUCK

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 12-20, 2022

Permits: 1,000 permits for Any Buck. This is a change from unlimited quota previously.

Area Open: Statewide except that mule deer bucks may NOT be harvested in the Mule Deer Conservation Area (Pine Ridge, Buffalo, Frenchman, Platte and Republican Units).

General Information: 1243 permits issued in 2021. Nonresidents purchased 245 permits. Harvest was 268 mule deer bucks and 242 whitetail bucks. This permit is available to nonresidents.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Statewide buck permits have little impact on populations, but harvest on these permits may impact buck age structure and provide additional access to sold out units. Permit sales have been increasing in past years, however with the Pine Ridge being included in the MDCA and about half of the MD range in NE being included in MDCA regulations, a limit to this permit is necessary.

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Quota	Sold	NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
2017	Unlimited	505	52	210	0	210	96	0	96	61
2018	Unlimited	835	122	305	1	306	141	1	142	54
2019	Unlimited	846	108	242	0	242	182	1	183	50
2020	Unlimited	1179	150	279	0	279	233	3	236	44
2021	Unlimited	1243	245	268	0	268	242	3	245	41
2022*	1,000									

*Recommended permit numbers

2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	8	0	Loup West	24	0	21	0
Blue SE	0	0	11	0	Missouri	0	0	5	0
Buffalo	3	0	13	0	Pine Ridge	61	0	32	0
Calamus East	4	0	9	0	Plains	36	0	10	0
Calamus West	19	0	23	0	Platte	3	0	4	0
Elkhorn	0	0	9	1	Republican	0	0	11	0
Frenchman	0	0	5	0	Sandhills	68	0	42	0
Keya Paha	1	0	9	0	Upper Platte	46	0	6	0
Loup East	3	0	5	2	Wahoo	0	0	19	0

Expected Harvest: 200 mule deer bucks and 200 whitetail bucks.

STATEWIDE WHITETAIL BUCK

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates:

September 1 – December 31 (archery)
 November 12-20, 2022 (firearm)
 December 1 -31 (muzzleloader)

Permits: 8,000 permits, valid for one whitetail buck. This is a change from an Unlimited quota in the past.

Area Open: Statewide.

General Information: This is a “Season Choice” permit that can be used during archery, muzzleloader and November firearm seasons. 2878 whitetail bucks were harvested with this permit in 2021. 10,061 permits were issued. This permit is available to nonresidents, but there is little demand for it, only 160 were sold to nonresidents.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: This permit is preferred by hunters who wish to hunt in multiple seasons or units and was available if unit permits were sold out. In 2021, 45% of this permit’s sales happened from the Wednesday before the November Firearm season opener to the close of the firearm season. 80% of the harvest is during the 9-day firearm season. This permit was accounting for more than 10% of the WT buck harvest in 7 of our 18 units. Managing WT buck harvest has become increasingly difficult in many units and this permit was contributing to that.

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			%Success
	Quota	Sold	NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
2017	Unlimited	10,998	144	9	0	9	3167	25	3192	29
2018	Unlimited	9,181	178	10	0	10	2942	29	2971	32
2019	Unlimited	9,109	139	9	1	10	2915	28	2943	32
2020	Unlimited	10,626	182	8	0	8	3134	29	3163	30
2021	Unlimited	10,061	160	6	3	9	2878	24	2901	29
2022	8,000									

*Recommended

2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	276	4	Loup West	0	1	56	0
Blue SE	0	1	389	4	Missouri	1	0	193	3
Buffalo	1	1	198	1	Pine Ridge	0	0	40	0
Calamus East	0	0	68	1	Plains	1	0	16	0
Calamus West	0	0	61	0	Platte	0	0	50	0
Elkhorn	0	0	302	1	Republican	0	0	420	4
Frenchman	0	0	100	0	Sandhills	0	0	60	0
Keya Paha	1	0	62	0	Upper Platte	0	0	28	0
Loup East	2	0	165	2	Wahoo	0	0	393	4

Expected Harvest: 2500 whitetail bucks on 8,000 permits

STATEWIDE YOUTH

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
 November 12 - November 20, 2022 (Firearm)
 December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)
 January 1-15, 2023 – Late Antlerless Only (Firearm or Archery)

Permits: Unlimited, except that no youth may obtain more than one Youth permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.

Resident Youth: Unlimited permits for Any Deer. One permit limit.

Nonresident Youth: Unlimited permits for Any Deer. One permit limit. Not valid in Draw Units of Frenchman or Platte.

Youth Whitetail (resident/nonresident): Unlimited permits for Any Whitetail.

Area Open: Statewide, antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge DMU, on public land north of Hwy 88 in the Upper Platte DMU and on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

General Information: Harvest on all Youth permits was 4595. Resident and Nonresident youth are allowed to purchase two \$8.00 Youth permits, but no more than one may allow the take of a mule deer.

Harvest comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2017 (all)	11,732	1502	162	1664	3217	986	4203	50
2018 (all)	11,011	1311	179	1490	2817	1076	3893	49
2019 (all)	11,093	1235	156	1391	2986	971	3957	48
2020 (all)	11,854	1024	163	1187	3103	1021	4124	45
2021 (all)	11,085	909	126	1035	2731	829	3560	41
2021 Resident Youth	6535	831	113	944	1530	428	1958	44
2021 Youth Whitetail	3850	3	2	5	1046	366	1412	37
2021 NR Rest. Youth	700	75	11	86	155	35	190	39

2021 Unit Breakdown

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>		<u>Whitetail Deer</u>		<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>		<u>Whitetail Deer</u>	
	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>
Blue NW	0	0	194	91	Loup West	22	5	85	15
Blue SE	0	0	241	80	Missouri	0	0	247	77
Buffalo	55	12	239	64	Pine Ridge	73	7	66	25
Calamus East	5	1	82	17	Plains	80	10	31	6
Calamus West	34	7	89	14	Platte	132	17	106	25
Elkhorn	4	0	212	93	Republican	9	0	287	89
Frenchman	297	29	144	29	Sandhills	74	16	70	13
Keya Paha	5	1	154	12	Upper Platte	113	17	30	3
Loup East	6	4	211	65	Wahoo	0	0	243	111

Expected Harvest: 4500 deer on 11,000 permits

<u>MD Buck</u>	<u>WT Buck</u>	<u>MD Antlerless</u>	<u>WT Antlerless</u>
900	3000	150	800

STATEWIDE ARCHERY

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 - December 31

Permits: Residents: Unlimited Any Deer permits.
Nonresidents: 5,000 Any Deer permits.

Area Open: Statewide, except antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge DMU, on public land north of Hwy 88 in the Upper Platte DMU and on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

General Information: Harvest was 3503 adult males and 583 antlerless deer taken on 19,095 permits. Nonresidents purchased 26% of statewide archery permits. Crossbow hunters harvested 27% of all deer on this permit. Permit sales decreased 6%, MD Buck harvest decreased 23% and WT Buck harvest decreased 20% from 2020. 67% of all archery MD buck harvest occurred in the MDCA, which is up from 58% in 2020.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Archery deer season has little impact on statewide populations and provides a lot of opportunity throughout the season. NR permits have been increasing in recent years and a cap on this permit will prevent it from going any higher.

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			Total	% Success	% XBow
	Sold	NR	%NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total			
2017	16,998	3,060	18	605	44	649	2922	542	3464	4113	24	22
2018	16,797	3,354	20	615	53	668	2662	627	3289	3956	24	24
2019	17,668	3,761	22	699	55	754	3586	601	4187	4947	28	26
2020	20,341	4,900	24	652	76	728	3778	679	4457	5185	25	28
2021	19,095	5,032	26	499	69	568	3004	514	3518	4107	21	27

2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	1	1	266	66	Loup West	9	0	38	5
Blue SE	4	1	439	77	Missouri	0	0	206	34
Buffalo	10	2	242	34	Pine Ridge	51	6	46	12
Calamus East	5	0	35	5	Plains	33	3	30	0
Calamus West	15	4	48	5	Platte	69	15	145	15
Elkhorn	1	0	187	41	Republican	3	1	276	49
Frenchman	211	21	133	11	Sandhills	46	4	59	12
Keya Paha	1	0	137	9	Upper Platte	37	9	34	4
Loup East	2	1	157	21	Wahoo	1	1	526	114

Expected Harvest: 4,700 deer on 19,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
500	3500	50	600

STATEWIDE MUZZLELOADER

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: December 1 through December 31

Permits: Residents: Unlimited Any Deer permits.
Nonresidents: 2,000 Any Deer permits.

Area Open: Statewide, except not valid for mule deer in the Mule Deer Conservation Area and antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge DMU, on public land north of Hwy 88 in the Upper Platte DMU and on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

General Information: 6715 permits were issued. Harvest was 1085 adult males and 480 antlerless deer. 30% of permits were issued to nonresidents, up from 28% in 2020.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Muzzleloader deer season is a recreational season that has little impact on statewide deer populations. NR permits have been increasing in recent years and a cap on this permit will prevent it from going any higher.

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Sold	NR	% NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
2017	7500	1555	20	472	95	567	888	398	1286	25
2018	7167	1725	24	460	87	547	993	457	1450	28
2019	6741	1729	26	415	77	492	965	425	1390	28
2020	7746	2201	28	404	78	482	950	496	1446	25
2021	6715	2018	30	323	88	411	762	392	1154	23

2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	1	41	48	Loup West	10	3	14	8
Blue SE	0	0	81	63	Missouri	0	0	43	16
Buffalo	1	0	39	19	Pine Ridge	59	10	66	13
Calamus East	8	0	12	3	Plains	55	6	21	5
Calamus West	27	17	30	15	Platte	3	0	36	3
Elkhorn	1	1	35	30	Republican	1	0	58	48
Frenchman	1	0	21	11	Sandhills	104	15	58	17
Keya Paha	4	2	75	17	Upper Platte	47	32	13	1
Loup East	1	1	51	18	Wahoo	1	0	68	57

Expected Harvest: 1600 deer on 7000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
350	800	100	400

LIMITED LANDOWNER DEER

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
 November 12 - November 20, 2022 (Firearm)
 December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)
 January 1-15, 2023 – Late Antlerless Only (Firearm or Archery)

Permits: Unlimited Any Deer permits with one antlerless only bonus tag.

Area Open: On property owned or leased for agricultural purposes by the qualifying landowner.

General Information: 14,613 Landowner permits were issued. Total harvest was 5,971 deer. The definition for immediate family was liberalized in 2019. This is the only statewide permit with a bonus antlerless tag. 4.2% were issued to nonresidents.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: This permit provides landowners with multiple seasons to harvest deer. This permit was first used in 2008 and was designed to increase antlerless kill and to give landowners more opportunity to harvest deer.

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits	Mule Deer				Whitetail Deer				% Success
		Buck	AO	Total	%AO	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	
2017	14,888	1589	458	2047	22	3731	1859	5590	33	45 / 8
2018	13,983	1345	448	1793	25	3490	1823	5313	34	43 / 8
2019	14,296	1242	398	1640	24	3763	1832	5595	33	43 / 8
2020	15,511	1084	401	1485	27	3859	2022	5881	34	40 / 7
2021	14,613	934	309	1243	25	3219	1509	4728	32	35 / 5

2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	282	213	Loup West	40	6	104	40
Blue SE	0	0	394	217	Missouri	1	0	312	109
Buffalo	62	33	208	89	Pine Ridge	61	27	75	26
Calamus East	17	0	88	29	Plains	54	14	26	8
Calamus West	44	3	81	19	Platte	166	52	93	43
Elkhorn	0	1	298	144	Republican	10	2	290	121
Frenchman	328	113	103	33	Sandhills	66	19	57	24
Keya Paha	5	1	155	58	Upper Platte	75	36	33	7
Loup East	5	1	269	109	Wahoo	0	1	351	220

Expected Harvest: 6000 deer on 15,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
1000	3500	300	1500

SPECIAL LANDOWNER DEER

2022 Recommendations:

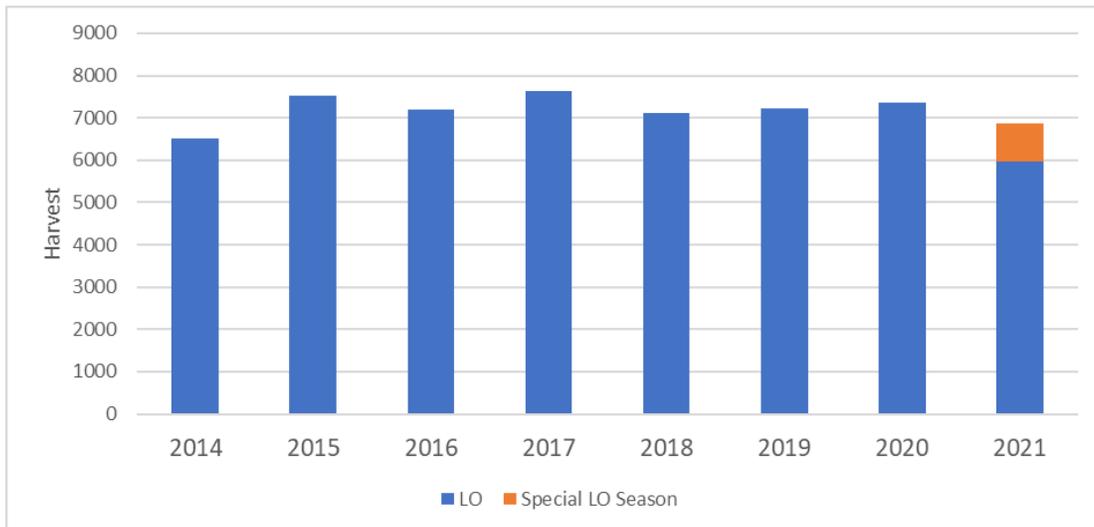
Season Dates: November 5 – 7 (firearm)

Permits: Unlimited Any Deer permits. Up to 4 permits available per qualifying landowner, one per person. Up to two permits for hunters under 19, up to two permits for hunters 19 and over.

Area Open: On property owned or leased for agricultural purposes by the qualifying landowner.

General Information: This permit was new in 2021. There were 899 total deer harvested, 86% were bucks. Use ranged from 1-4% of total unit harvest.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: This permit provides landowners special opportunity to hunt their land prior to the November firearm season. Permit use appeared to be moderately compensatory with the Limited Landowner permit as total landowner harvest did not increase with the additional permit and paralleled harvest trends statewide, see graph below.



2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	1	0	62	20	Loup West	8	0	16	2
Blue SE	0	0	63	7	Missouri	0	0	51	5
Buffalo	14	0	35	10	Pine Ridge	11	1	12	1
Calamus East	1	1	15	0	Plains	12	1	5	1
Calamus West	4	0	21	5	Platte	35	5	25	4
Elkhorn	0	1	54	12	Republican	0	0	52	7
Frenchman	59	9	11	3	Sandhills	15	1	4	0
Keya Paha	0	0	39	4	Upper Platte	16	7	5	4
Loup East	0	0	59	6	Wahoo	0	0	65	12

Expected Harvest: Unknown

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless

RIVER ANTLERLESS

2022 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
 October 1-15 (Firearm)
 November 12-20, 2022 (Firearm)
 December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)
 January 1-31, 2023 (Firearm)

Permits: 12,000 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. 9,157 permits were issued in 2021.

Area Open: See unit definition and map. All state and federal public lands are closed.

2022 Additions: Minor adjustment to the North Branch of the Elkhorn River.

General Information: This \$14 multi-season permit targets ~1900 miles of river corridors (1/6 of the state) which include some of the best whitetail deer habitat in Nebraska. This permit is the only permit which allows firearm hunting in October for antlerless deer.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Whitetail populations and crop damage are higher in river corridors than in any other area of the state. It is desirable to reduce whitetails in these areas. Access is limited, but a liberal season, an inexpensive permit and bonus tags make this a very popular permit.

Harvest comparisons:

Year	Permits		Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Quota	Sold	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2015	12,000	10,501	0	19	19	161	5545	5706	38 / 16
2016	12,000	9,065	1	22	23	169	4946	5117	40 / 17
2017	12,000	8,947	2	13	15	173	5038	5211	40 / 18
2018	12,000	9,038	1	12	13	200	5515	5715	44 / 20
2019	12,000	8,976	1	24	25	169	5129	5298	41 / 18
2020	12,000	10,652	2	18	20	168	6052	6220	40 / 18
2021	12,000	9,157	1	9	10	150	4304	4454	34 / 14
2022*	12,000								

2021 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>
Blue NW	0	0	0	3	Loup West	0	1	1	66
Blue SE	0	0	8	267	Missouri	0	1	11	305
Buffalo	0	0	19	573	Pine Ridge	0	0	1	73
Calamus East	0	0	0	54	Plains	0	0	1	8
Calamus West	0	0	1	29	Platte	0	0	6	257
Elkhorn	0	1	30	497	Republican	0	1	8	453
Frenchman	0	0	1	26	Sandhills	0	0	1	20
Keya Paha	0	0	5	185	Upper Platte	1	1	0	45
Loup East	0	1	17	460	Wahoo	0	3	40	982

Expected Harvest: 5,000 antlerless whitetail deer on 12,000 authorized permits

NONRESIDENT PERMIT QUOTA

2022 Recommendations: A limit of 15,000 total Either Sex or Buck only permits of all types combined (November Firearm, Archery, Muzzleloader, and all Statewide Buck permits), Landowner and Youth would be exempt from this limit.

General Information: Nonresident permits have increased over the past 20 years and to the point that resident access to private land and public land use are potentially being impacted. Deer hunter survey data shows that nonresidents account for 37-70% of the public land use in the western half of the state and have accounted for 25-65% of permit sales in those units. The number of nonresident hunters is one of the most common critiques from residents that we have received in recent years. There have been 1,500-2,000 Nonresident Landowner and Youth permits sold each of the last 10 years. We do not want to limit landowner or youth opportunity and those permits should remain exempt from this limit. Nonresident permit sales of the affected Either Sex and Buck Only permits have slightly exceeded 15,000 the past 2 years, however considering the reductions in other ES/BO permits (SW WTB, November FA), a cap of 15,000 keeps the proportion of permits available to nonresidents at 2021 levels.

Either Sex and Buck Only Permit Sales:

Year	Either Sex and Buck Only Permit Sales			Total Individual Hunters	
	NR	Resident	%NR	NR	Resident
2002	6,158	78,917	7%		
2003	6,602	78,361	8%		
2004	6,387	77,676	8%		
2005	7,225	76,623	9%		
2006	8,067	79,387	9%		
2007	9,009	81,347	10%		
2008	9,633	81,453	11%	10,192	85,783
2009	9,691	77,470	11%	10,902	85,790
2010	10,410	74,219	12%	13,130	89,049
2011	11,333	74,201	13%	14,249	90,416
2012	10,868	69,399	14%	13,281	81,957
2013	9,427	67,958	12%	12,028	82,248
2014	9,468	68,919	12%	11,830	82,657
2015	10,450	70,448	13%	13,068	85,600
2016	11,309	69,443	14%	13,852	84,426
2017	11,011	67,457	14%	13,707	81,955
2018	12,108	65,565	16%	14,797	78,726
2019	13,222	68,244	16%	15,436	78,797
2020	15,093	69,908	18%	18,103	82,814
2021	15,817	67,189	19%	18,700	80,457

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ELK

INTRODUCTION

Statewide elk populations have reached cultural carrying capacity. We have been working with landowners closely over the last 3 years to understand their level of tolerance for elk in Nebraska and will continue doing so. In 2020, we surveyed landowners where we have elk about their opinions on elk and overall 36% reported that they had too many elk, 46% reported moderate or severe damage and 50% said their level of damage was unacceptable. We increased antlerless permits by 40% and increased antlerless harvest by 84% in 2020, and by 75% and 34% again in 2021. We are using a deterministic model to help project elk populations to evaluate harvest structure and permit allocations.

The recommendations reflect the following goal:

- Stabilizing and reducing elk populations in all units.
- Providing quality bulls in all units.

2021 Season Highlights:

- Average bull was 5.21 years, an increase of 0.06 from 2020 and ranked #2 all time.
- Main beam length average was 44.7 inches – a decrease from 48.2 last year.
- Bull success only decreased from 88% to 86%, despite a 53% increase in permits - the record is 91% in 2012.
- Cow success decreased from 59% to 45%, the historic average was 46% for antlerless permits.
- Antlerless harvest was 282, 72 higher than last year and 160 higher than the previous high of 122 in 2017.
- Antlered bull harvest of 198 was the highest on record – 63 higher than the previous record last year.
- 6,386 people applied for 851 elk permits in 2021, both all-time highs.
- 60 cows were harvested in the early private land cow seasons (Aug. 1 – Sept. 20), compared to 23 in 2019 and 45 in 2020.
- 13 bulls were harvested in the early archery season (Sept. 1-20), compared to 10 and 5 the previous 2 years.

Bull standards: Bull harvest is once-in-a-lifetime and most hunters hope to harvest a quality bull. Harvest standards for each unit are designed to maintain older age bulls:

- 70% success on bull permits
- Six (6) or more antler points (on 1 antler) of 90% of bulls harvested
- Average main beam length of 45 inches
- Average bull age of 5 years

2022 Overall Changes

Statewide, remove 2 bull permits (-1%)

Statewide, add 124 antlerless permits (+20%)

Change bag limit on “Bull” permits to either sex.

Total permits recommended: 973 permits (228 bull and 745 antlerless)

ELK

Season Dates: Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
 Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31
 Antlerless: August 1 – January 31, 2023
 Private Land Only: August 1 – Sept. 20
 Early General Antlerless: August 1 – October 31 (PLO 8/1-9/20)
 Late General Antlerless: November 1 – January 31, 2023

General Information: Success for the 2021 season was 86% for bulls and 45% for antlerless permits. In 2021, 851 hunters harvested 198 antlered bulls and 282 antlerless elk.

Population Strategy: Continue to stabilize and/or reduce population in all units and provide sufficient antlerless permits to respond to depredation. Due to the change in the landowner quota percentage, some adjustments to the bull permits are necessary to keep bull harvest level. We also recommend that the bag limit for all “Bull” permits be changed to “either sex” to allow for antlerless harvest.

Expected Harvest: 190 bulls and 310 cows.

<u>2022 Season Recommendations</u>		<u>2021 Season</u>							
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Quota</u> ¹	<u>Sold</u> ¹	<u>Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>			<u>Bull Criteria</u>		
				<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>% 6 Pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Ash Creek Bull	17	18	72%	13	-	-	100%	47.2	5.5
Bordeaux Bull	35	39	85%	33	-	-	88%	46.7	5.4
Box Elder Bull	35	30	90%	27	-	-	85%	43.3	4.9
Hat Creek Bull	28	30	80%	24	-	-	93%	46.0	5.3
Niobrara East Bull	28	18	78%	14	-	-	77%	43.4	5.1
Niobrara West Bull	28	30	83%	29	-	-	93%	45.0	6.1
North Platte River Bull	52	60	93%	52	-	-	87%	42.7	4.5
Lottery/Auction	5	5	100%	6 ³	-	-	100%	50.7	6.3
Total Bull	228	230	86%	198	-	-	88%	44.7	5.2
Ash Creek Antlerless, E/L ²	70	60	52%	0	27	2	-	-	-
Bordeaux Antlerless, E/L ²	105	90	49%	0	52	6	-	-	-
Box Elder Antlerless, E/L ²	105	75	36%	1	24	10	-	-	-
Hat Creek Antlerless, E/L ²	87	75	69%	0	35	0	-	-	-
Niobrara East Antlerless	63	51	33%	1	17	0	-	-	-
Niobrara West Antlerless	140	120	50%	1	45	6	-	-	-
North Platte River Ales	175	150	27%	0	51	4	-	-	-
Total Antlerless	745	621	46%	3	251	28	-	-	-
TOTALS	973	851	57%	201	251	28	88%	44.7	5.2

¹ Includes LO allocation.

² See Units for Early/Late allocations

³ Lottery and auction permits are valid for 2 years.

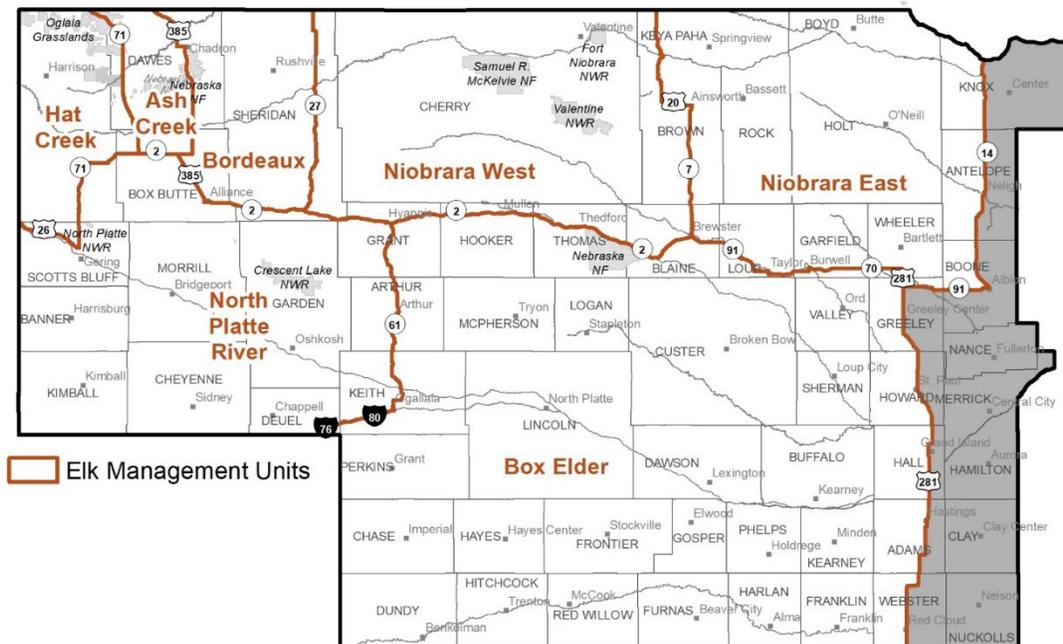
Permits, Harvest and Success 2012-2022

Permits Issued				Harvest				% Success		Bull Criteria		
Year	Bull	AO	Total	Bull	Cow	Calf	Total	Bull	AO	% 6 point	Avg. Main Beam Length	Mean Age
2012	116	168	284	105	79	7	191	91	51	80	45.5	5.02
2013	129	195	324	90	61	4	155	70	33	88	44.0	4.81
2014	117	192	309	95	73	8	176	81	42	85	44.0	4.57
2015	122	198	320	105	77	7	189	86	42	93	47.0	4.73
2016	116	210	326	88	104	8	200	76	53	91	46.4	4.9
2017	116	213	329	103	112	10	225	88	57	88	46.4	4.8
2018	119	231	350	99	111	6	216	83	48	91	46.7	5.14
2019	122	252	374	108	107	7	222	89	45	94	46.9	5.15
2020	152	354	506	134	194	15	343	88	59	93	48.2	5.15
2021	230	621	851	201	251	28	480	86	45	88	44.7	5.21
2022*	228	745	973									

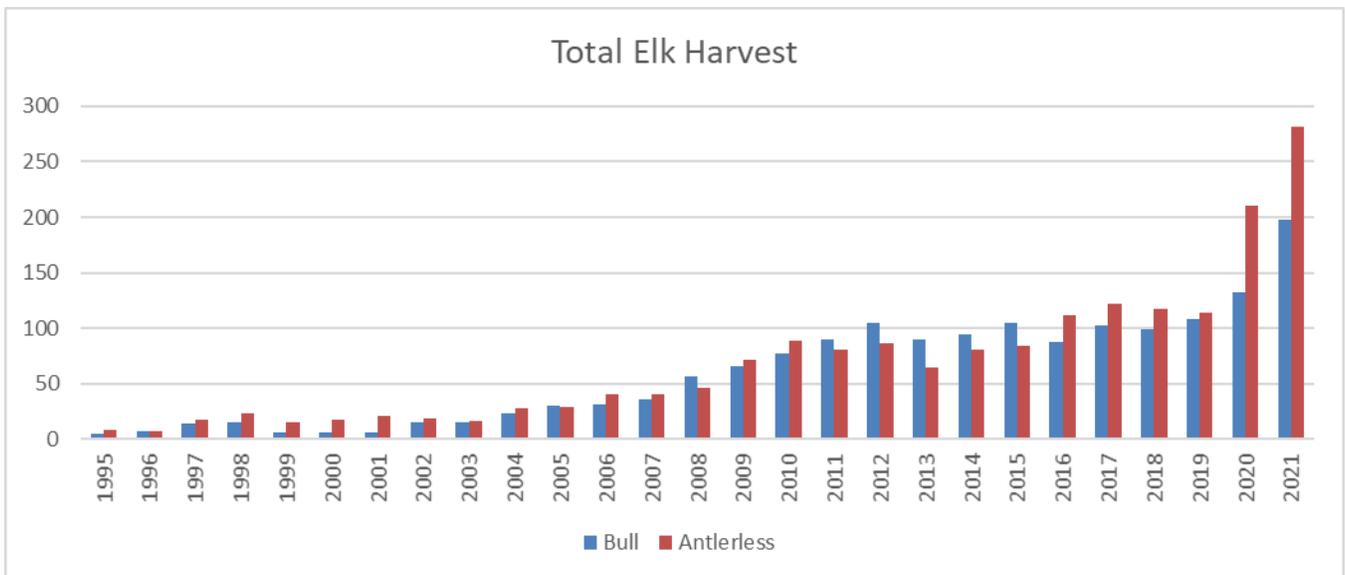
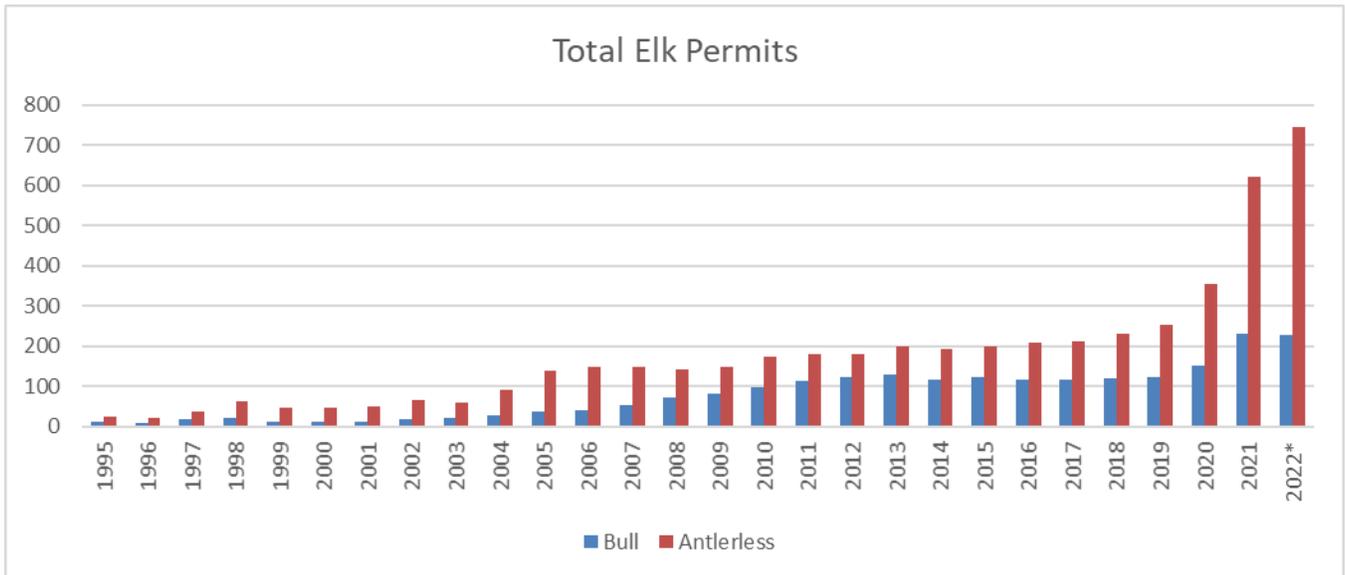
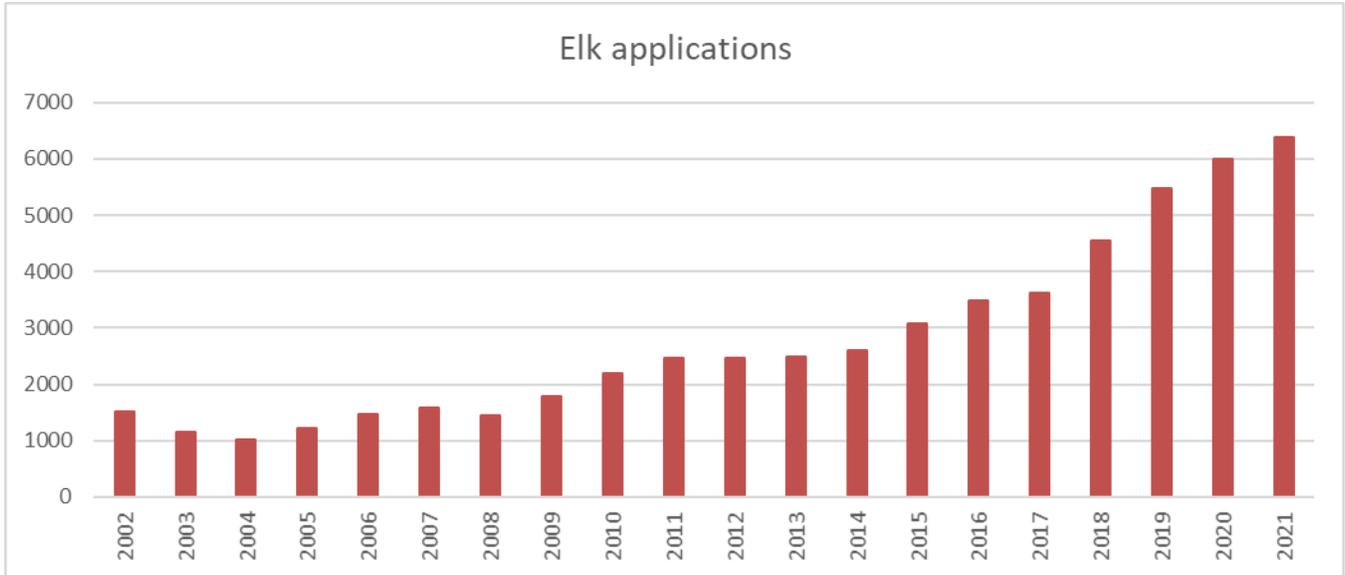
* - recommended

2022 Elk Management Units

No boundary changes for 2022.



ELK



ASH CREEK UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	10	Early: 20 Late: 20
Landowner:	7	30

General Information: Hunter success for bull permits was 72%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 52%. Elk populations have slightly been above tolerance for landowners, but most elk use within this unit are on one landowner. Bull quality and tag availability for some landowners will continue to be an important factor in improving or maintaining landowner tolerance. One additional bull was taken on a lottery permit.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations and landowner contacts would indicate a stable elk population in this unit, while harvest data and model would indicate a declining population, however there is some overlap with this population and the Hat Creek unit. Model indicated a 15% reduction in 2021, our projection was 15%. Objectives are to maintain harvested bull age and quality through maintaining current similar permit quotas, while addressing depredation complaints and reducing the overall population with Antlerless Only permits. Permit quotas have been adjusted to address the allocation of landowner tags to meet a recent statute change. Bull quality measurements meet Management Approach minimum criteria, maintaining similar bull permits with adjustments made for the state statute change are recommended. We recommend the adjusted antlerless permit quotas to meet objectives and state statute changes.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	
2017	12	27	39	11+	14	2	27	83	59	91	45.6	3.9	0
2018	12	27	39	12	13	1	26	100	52	91	45.7	5.1	0
2019	12	27	39	12	13	1	26	100	52	92	45.7	5.0	2
2020	18	39	57	17	16	2	35	94	67/41	94	47.0	4.2	1
2021	18	60	78	14+	27	2	43	72	47/60	100	47.2	5.5	2
2022*	17	70	87										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 15 bulls and 35 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 25%.

BORDEAUX UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	20	Early: 25 Late: 35
Landowner:	15	45

General Information: Hunter success for bull permits was 85%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 62%. Elk populations have slightly been above tolerance for landowners. Although bull quality exceeds our minimum qualifications landowners are commenting on declines in quality. Some of this can be equated to an outfitter harvesting many bulls out of one area. Variable access for antlerless permits in this unit can affect success rates. The LO incentive program has proven to open access this season. One additional bull was taken on a lottery permit.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner contacts, and harvest data indicate a stable elk population in this unit. Model indicated a 3% reduction in 2021, our projection was 5%. Objectives are to maintain bull age and quality while maintaining hunter opportunity. Bull quality measurements meet management approach minimum criteria. Staff will continue to evaluate Bull quality concerns in portions of the unit. Antlerless permits will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing hunter opportunity. Depredation complaints are in part due to the depredation biologist living within this unit. Maintaining similar bull permits with adjustments made for the state statute change are recommended. We recommend the adjusted antlerless permit quotas to meet objectives and state statute changes.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	<u>Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
2017	24	51	75	23	36	1	60 ⁺	88	73	100	51.3	5.7	3
2018	24	51	75	16 ⁺	24	1	41 ⁺	63	49	94	48.2	6.2	1
2019	24	51	75	24 ⁺	24	1	49	96	49	96	48.0	5.5	2
2020	30	75	105	26 ⁺	49	1	76	83	85/67	96	49.5	5.7	3
2021	39	90	129	34 ⁺	52	6	92	85	60/66	88	46.7	5.4	10
2022*	35	105	130										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 32 bulls and 65 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 6%.

BOX ELDER MANAGEMENT UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	20	Early: 30 Late: 30
Landowner:	15	45

General Information: In 2021, success was 90% for bull hunters and 59% for antlerless hunters. Landowner meetings were held in North Platte on July 13, 2021, and in Paxton on December 14, 2021. Landowner and sportsmen support for elk in most parts of this unit is high, however depredation issues have caused support to wane in some areas.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Landowner reports, staff observations and harvest data of elk indicate an increasing and expanding population. Model indicated a 2% reduction in 2021, our projection was 10%. Staff have recommended additional Landowner zones outside the traditional zone. Antlerless elk harvest has increased 170% since 2019, bull harvest has almost doubled. Where elk and corn production overlap are primary sources of depredation issues. We will keep working with landowners in those areas to decrease elk populations and damage.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	
2017	12	36	48	10	7	4	21	83	31	90	47.6	6.2	0
2018	15	36	51	15+	13	1	27+	87	36	100	45.5	5.4	4
2019	15	36	51	15	12	1	28	100	36	87	45.9	4.9	4
2020	21	51	72	20 ¹	26	3	49	90	59/47	95	49.6	5.9	14 (14/8)
2021	30	75	105	28 ¹	24	10	62	90	60/44	85	43.3	4.9	17 (9/2)
2022*	35	105	140										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Include one adult antlerless bull harvested on an antlerless permit

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 30 bulls and 50 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 7%.

HAT CREEK UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	16	Early: 20 Late: 30
Landowner:	12	37

General Information: Hunter success for bull permits was 80%. Success was 60% for early antlerless permits, and 33% for late antlerless permits. Elk populations have been above tolerance for landowners when in large groups. A mild winter and dispersed elk have kept depredation calls limited. 3 additional bulls were taken on auction permits.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations and harvest data would indicate a stable elk population in this unit. Model indicated a 3% reduction in 2021, our projection was 5-10%. Objectives are to maintain bull age and quality, while addressing depredation complaints with antlerless only permits. Bull quality measurements meet management approach minimum criteria. Antlerless permits will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing hunter opportunity. Maintaining similar bull permits with adjustments made for the state statute change are recommended. We recommend the adjusted antlerless permit quotas to meet objectives and adjust for state statute changes. These changes should maintain bull quality, reduce population slightly, and improve landowner tolerance with an increased allocation of antlerless tags.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	
2017	21	39	60	18+	25	1	44	81	67	82	45.4	4.7	1
2018	21	38	60	21+	17	1	37	90	46	100	45.3	5.6	2
2019	21	39	60	22+	27	0	49	95	69	82	48.1	5.6	5
2020	27	60	87	25+	25	1	51	89	46/41	93	48.8	5.6	3 (1/0)
2021	30	75	105	27+	35	0	62	80	60/33	93	46.0	5.3	5
2022*	28	87	115										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 26 bulls and 45 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 7%.

NIOBRARA EAST UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	16	36
Landowner:	12	27

General Information: In 2021, success was 78% success for bulls and 41% for antlerless. Warm late season conditions were a factor in lower antlerless harvest.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: In 2019, the Niobrara River Unit was split into two units, Niobrara East and Niobrara West. General observations and reports would indicate an increasing and expanding elk population in this unit. Model indicated a 1% reduction in 2021, our projection was 10%. Objectives are to increase bull hunter opportunity, while addressing depredation complaints. Bull quality measurements have been short of management approach minimum criteria despite reports of many large bulls in the unit. Increasing bull permits will help us to stay ahead of row crop depredation issues as elk continue to expand eastward while increasing hunter opportunity. Increased antlerless permits will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing more hunter opportunity. We recommend increasing both bull and antlerless permits to meet objectives. Model projects 10% decline in population in this unit with this permit allocation.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	<u>Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
2017 ²	6	24	30	7+	14	1	22+	100	63	88	41.2	4.3	-
2018 ²	9	30	39	9	20	1	30	100	70	78	42.6	4.4	-
2019	6	24	30	5	7	1	13	83	33	80	39.8	4.5	2
2020	9	30	39	7	16	2	25	78	60	57	40.0	3.0	2
2021	18	51	69	15 ²	17	0	32	78	35	77	43.4	5.1	2
2022*	28	63	91										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Includes one adult antlerless bull harvested on an antlerless permit

² Data from Niobrara River Management Unit

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 24 bulls and 30 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 13%.

NIOBRARA WEST UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	16	Early: 50 Late: 30
Landowner:	12	60

General Information: Hunter success was at 97% on bull permits and 62% on early antlerless permits, and 20% on late antlerless. Elk populations are above tolerance for the two main herds in this unit. Access to the herd east of Valentine can be difficult outside of a few landowners resulting in poor success. Access to the Nenzel herd has increased dramatically and harvest of elk did increase this year. Landowners in this unit who are not supportive of large elk herds allow access to hunters resulting in a more manageable herd in some areas.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The elk near Valentine and south of Nenzel have continued to expand in number, and crop depredation issues arise annually. General observations and harvest data have indicated a stabilized elk population scattered along the Niobrara River in several different herds. Model indicated a 6% reduction in 2021, our projection was 10%. Tags were increased dramatically in 2021 in attempts to reduce the elk population. Maintaining similar bull permits with adjustments made for the state statute change are recommended. We recommend the adjusted antlerless permit quotas to meet objectives and adjust for state statute changes. These changes should continue to reduce population and improve landowner tolerance with the increased allocation of antlerless tags.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	<u>Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
2017 ²	6	24	30	7+	14	1	22+	100	63	88	41.2	4.3	-
2018 ²	9	30	39	9	20	1	30	100	70	78	42.6	4.4	2
2019	9	30	39	6	12	3	21	67	50	100	45.7	5.8	2
2020	12	39	51	12	22	4	26	83	67	100	47.2	4.5	4
2021	30	120	150	30 ¹	45	6	81	97	62/20	93	45.0	6.1	7 (2/6)
2022*	28	140	168										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Includes one adult antlerless bull harvested on an antlerless permit

² Data from Niobrara River Management Unit

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 26 bulls and 70 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 11%.

NORTH PLATTE RIVER UNIT

2022 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	30	Early: 70 Late: 30
Landowner:	22	75

General Information: Hunter success for bull permits was 87%. Success on the early antlerless permits was 49%, and 20% on the late antlerless permit. Landowner tolerance is low for some landowners that experience high use from the Redington herd and Highway 88 herd. Success and harvest were increased dramatically on the Redington herd as access has opened to hunters with assistance from NGPC employees. Access should prove to help reduce issues overall in that area.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner reports, and harvest data would indicate a stabilized elk population in this unit. Model indicated a 13% reduction in 2021, our projection was 20-25%. This unit contains several different elk herds throughout the area and landowner tolerance has decreased in some areas. Objectives are to address depredation complaints with antlerless permits to reduce the population. It is recommended to reduce bull tags slightly while making adjustments made for the state statute change. We recommend the adjusted antlerless permit quotas to meet objectives and adjust for state statute changes. These changes should continue to reduce population and improve landowner tolerance with the increased allocation of antlerless tags.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>		<u>Antlers and Age+</u>			<u>Depredation</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Cow</u>	<u>Calf</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>	<u>Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
2017	33	33	63	32+	13	1	46	94	42	87	45.3	4.3	2
2018	30	45	75	26	21	2	49	87	51	81	49.5	4.2	0
2019	30	45	75	24	12	0	36	80	27	83	47.4	4.8	3 (2/10)
2020	30	60	90	29+	40	2	71	93	70	93	47.9	5.1	3
2021	60	150	210	53+	51	4	108	87	49/20	87	42.7	4.5	7 (3/2)
2022*	52	175	227										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 45 bulls and 90 cows. Modeling estimates this harvest lead a year-to-year population decrease of 22%.

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION ORDER

Order C03: Antelope, Deer, and Elk Hunting

Last Approved Date: April 20, 2021

C03 Antelope, Deer, Elk

The following Commission Order is prescribed by the Game and Parks Commission, State of Nebraska in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-301, 37-304, 37-314, 37-317, 37-404, 37-447, 37-449, 37-450, 37-453, 37-455, 37-455.01, 37-456, 37-701, 37-706, and 37-708. For purposes of this Order, unless context otherwise requires, the definitions found in Chapter 37, sSections 202 through 247 of the Game Law, are used. This Order is effective fifteen (15) days following enactment by the Commission and posting on the Commission's web site.

C03.01 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 after sunset.

C03.02 Antelope Firearm

C03.02A Open Season:

C03.02A1 October Season: Sixteen (16) consecutive days beginning the second Saturday in October in all units not specified in C03.02A2, and within unit boundaries described in C03.02D.

C03.02A2 November Late Season: Beginning November 1 through January 31 in Banner North Late, Banner South Late, Banner South East Late, Box Butte East Late, Box Butte West Late, Cherry Late, Cheyenne Late, Garden Late and North Sioux Late units as described in C03.02D.

C03.02B Area and Permits: Management Unit boundaries are described in C03.02D.

C03.02B1 Permits Authorized:

<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Landowner</u>
Banner North Either Sex	90	<u>45 67</u>
Banner North Late Doe/Fawn	<u>70 50</u>	<u>35 37</u>
Banner South Either Sex	90	<u>45 67</u>
Banner South Late Doe/Fawn	<u>150 100</u>	75
Banner South East Late Doe/Fawn	20	<u>10 15</u>
Box Butte East Either Sex	<u>40 30</u>	<u>20 22</u>
Box Butte East Late Doe/Fawn	<u>70 50</u>	<u>35 37</u>

Commission Order
C03

Box Butte West Either Sex	60	30 45
Box Butte West Late Doe/Fawn	120	60 90
Box Butte West River Late Doe/Fawn	0	0
Cherry Either Sex	80	40 60
Cherry Late Doe/Fawn	30	15 22
Cheyenne Either Sex	40	20 30
Cheyenne Late Doe/Fawn	60	30 45
Cheyenne Central Doe/Fawn	0	0
Dismal Either Sex	40	20 30
Dismal Late Doe/Fawn	20 10	10 7
Eastern Sandhills Either Sex	20	10 15
Garden Either Sex	50	25 37
Garden Late Doe/Fawn	140 100	70 75
North Sioux Either Sex	110 100	55 75
North Sioux Late Doe/Fawn	80	40 60

C03.02B2 Landowner Permits:

C03.02B2a Open Season: Persons with October Firearm Landowner Antelope permits may hunt during the dates open for archery (C03.03A) with weapons legally prescribed for archery hunting (Nebraska Rules and Regulations, Title 163, Chapter 4, Section 001, 001.01B2 and 001.01B3), or during the dates open for muzzleloader (C03.04A) with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) or during the October firearm (C03.02A1) or November late season (C03.02A2) with weapons legally prescribed for firearm hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3).

C03.02B2b Permit Bag Limit: One (1) antelope of either sex and one (1) doe/fawn antelope, provided that a buck may not be taken with a firearm in the November Late Season (C03.02A2) for the October season. Permits issued for units with a doe/fawn allocation shall be a doe/fawn permit with a doe/fawn bonus tag.

C03.02B2c Area Open: October Firearm Management Unit boundary (C03.02D).

C03.02B3 Permit Bag Limit: One antelope with horns longer than ears on permits designated as Buck Only; one antelope of either sex on permits so designated Either Sex; one antelope with no horns or with horns shorter than the ears on permits designated Doe/Fawn Only.

C03.02C Area Open: Entire State except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.02D Management Unit Boundaries

C03.02D1 Banner North and Banner North Late

Banner County and those parts of Cheyenne, Kimball, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff counties west of NE Hwy. 19 and U.S. Hwy. 385, south of the North Platte River, and north of I-80.

C03.02D2 Banner South and Banner South Late

Those parts of Cheyenne and Kimball counties south of I-80 and west of NE Hwy. 19.

C03.02D3 Box Butte East and Box Butte East Late

Those parts of Box Butte, Dawes and Sheridan counties enclosed by a line commencing at the junction of the Pine Ridge escarpments and U.S. Hwy. 20 (10 miles SE of Chadron), then west along the Pine Ridge escarpment to U.S. Hwy. 385, then south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to State Conn. Link L-7E, then east on State Conn. Link L-7E to NE Hwy. 87, then south on NE Hwy. 87 to NE Hwy. 2, then east on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 250, then north on NE Hwy. 250 to U.S. Hwy. 20, then west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to the junction of the Pine Ridge escarpment and U.S. Hwy. 20 (10 miles SE of Chadron).

C03.02D4 Box Butte East Central Late

Those parts of Box Butte and Sheridan counties enclosed by a line beginning at the junction of Dodge Road and NE Hwy. 87 (16 mile corner), then north to the Dawes county line, then due east on the Dawes/Box Butte county line to approximately 22 miles to NE Hwy. 250 at a trail junction 3.5 miles north of Smith Lake Wildlife Management Area, then south 11 miles on NE Hwy. 250 to a trail junction 7.5 miles south of Smith Lake Wildlife Management Area, then due west on a line to the junction of Dodge Road and NE Hwy. 87.

C03.02D5 Box Butte West and Box Butte West Late

Those parts of Box Butte, Dawes, Morrill, Scotts Bluff and Sioux counties included within the following boundaries: from the junction of U.S. Hwy. 20 with the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, then east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to U.S. Hwy. 385, then south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to State Conn. Link L-7E, then east on State Conn. Link L-7E to NE Hwy. 87, then south on NE Hwy. 87 to NE Hwy. 2, then west on NE Hwy. 2 to U.S. Hwy. 385, then south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to the North Platte River, then west along the North Platte River to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, except that part of Dawes County south of

U.S. Hwy. 20, east of NE Hwy. 2, west of U.S. Hwy. 385, and north of the Pine Ridge escarpment.

C03.02D6 Box Butte West River Late

Those parts of the Box Butte West Unit (C03.02D5) within five (5) miles of the banks of the Niobrara River from NE Hwy. 29 west to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line.

C03.02D7 Cherry and Cherry Late

Those parts of Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, and Sheridan counties included within a line from the Nebraska-South Dakota state line at NE Hwy. 87, thence south on NE Hwy. 87 to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 250, thence south on NE Hwy. 250 and its connecting road to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to U.S. Hwy. 83, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 83 to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line.

C03.02D8 Cheyenne and Cheyenne Late

Those parts of Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Morrill, and Keith counties east of U.S. Hwy. 385 and NE Hwy. 19, south of the North Platte River, and west of a line commencing at the junction of NE Hwy. 61 with the North Platte River, thence south on NE Hwy. 61 to U.S. Hwy. 30, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 30 to U.S. Hwy. 138, thence southwest on U.S. Hwy. 138 to the Nebraska-Colorado state line.

C03.02D9 Cheyenne Central Late

Those parts of Cheyenne and Deuel counties enclosed within the following boundaries: from the junction of RD 149 and NE Hwy. 30 at Lodgepole, then north on RD 149 to RD 32, then east on RD 32 to CR 207 (Day Road), then south nine miles to the junction of CR 207 and NE Hwy. 30, then west on NE Hwy. 30 to RD 149.

C03.02D10 Dismal and Dismal Late

McPherson County and those parts of Arthur, Custer, Dawson, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, and Thomas counties enclosed within the following boundaries: from the junction of NE Hwy. 2 and NE Hwy. 61, thence south on NE Hwy. 61 to the North Platte River, thence east along the North Platte River and Platte River to NE Hwy. 47, thence north along NE Hwy. 47 and NE Hwy. 40 to NE Hwy. 92, thence west on NE Hwy. 92 to U.S. Hwy. 83, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 83 to NE Hwy. 2, thence west on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 61.

C03.02D11 Garden and Garden Late

Those parts of Arthur, Box Butte, Garden, Grant, Keith, Morrill, and Sheridan counties south of NE Hwy. 2, west of NE Hwy. 61, north of Lake McConaughy and the North Platte River, and east of U.S. Hwy. 385.

C03.02D12 North Sioux

Those parts of Dawes, Sioux, and Sheridan counties north and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy. 20 and the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, then east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 2, then south on NE Hwy. 2 to the Pine Ridge escarpment, then east along the Pine Ridge escarpment to U.S. Hwy. 20 (10 miles SE of Chadron), then east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 87, then north to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line. Fort Robinson State Park and Fort Robinson Wildlife Management Area are excluded from this unit.

C03.02D13 North Sioux Late

That portion of the North Sioux Unit (C03.02D12) within ~~six (6)~~ eight (8) miles north and south of U.S. Hwy. 20 to the Pine Ridge escarpment, between the Dawes-Sioux county line on the west and the Davenport County Road on the east. The Oglala National Grasslands (USFS), Fort Robinson State Park, Fort Robinson Wildlife Management Area, and Bordeaux Creek Wildlife Management Area are excluded from this unit.

C03.02D14 Eastern Sandhills

Blaine, Brown, Keya Paha and Rock counties and those parts of Cherry, Thomas, Custer, Logan, Loup, Garfield and Holt counties enclosed within the following boundary: from the Nebraska-South Dakota state line at NE Hwy. 83, thence south on NE Hwy. 83 to NE Hwy. 92, thence east on NE Hwy. 92 to U.S. Hwy 2, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 70, thence east on NE Hwy. 70 to U.S. Hwy. 183, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 183 to NE Hwy. 91, thence east on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 11, thence north on NE Hwy. 11 to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line. The Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest in Blaine and Thomas counties shall be closed to hunting.

C03.02D15 Banner South East Late

That portion of the Banner South Unit (C03.02D2) in Cheyenne County east and south of a line beginning at the junction of the Nebraska-Colorado state line and Road 83, thence north on Road 83 to Road 8, thence east on Road 8 to Road 87, thence north on Road 87 to Road 20, thence east on Road 20 to I-80.

C03.03 Antelope Archery

C03.03A Open Season: August 20 through December 31.

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C03.03B Area Open: Entire State except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.03C Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Residents: Unlimited. Nonresidents: 250. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.03D Permit Bag Limit: One antelope of either sex, except, on the Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest, the limit shall be one antelope with horns longer than ears.

C03.04 Antelope Muzzleloader

C03.04A Open Season: Sixteen (16) consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in September.

C03.04B Area Open:

C03.04B1 North Sioux Muzzleloader

C03.04B1a Management Unit boundary: Those parts of Dawes, Sioux, and Sheridan counties north and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy. 20 and the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, then east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 2, then south on NE Hwy. 2 to the Pine Ridge escarpment, then east along the Pine Ridge escarpment to U.S. Hwy. 20 (10 miles SE of Chadron), then east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 87, then north to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.04B1b Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: ~~28~~ 25
Either Sex. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.04B2 Prairie Muzzleloader

C03.04B2a Entire State excluding area as described in C03.04B1a except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized. The Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest in Blaine and Thomas counties shall be closed to hunting.

C03.04B2b Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: ~~128~~ 125
Either Sex. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.04C Permit Bag Limit: One antelope with horns longer than ears, except that one antelope of either sex may be taken on permits so designated. Landowner permits shall be either sex.

C03.05 Deer Firearm

C03.05A Open Season: Nine (9) consecutive days beginning the Saturday closest to November 13.

C03.05B Areas and Permits: Management Unit and Season Choice Area boundaries are described in C03.05F. Statewide permits are valid for the entire state except Federal and State sanctuaries unless otherwise authorized. The abbreviations used in the permit table are defined as follows:

Abbreviation	Abbreviation Defined
Any Deer	Any mule deer or whitetail deer
Any Deer ²	Any deer except antlerless mule deer
AO	Antlerless Only
WT	Whitetail
MD	Mule Deer
Buck	See <u>C03.05D</u> for specific definition
SCA	Season Choice Area
NR	Nonresident
SW	Statewide

Permits Authorized:

<u>Management Unit</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>
Blue Northwest	2400	Any deer
Blue Southeast	3700	Any deer
Buffalo Whitetail	2100	1 WT
Calamus East	1500	Any deer ² , 1 AOWT
Calamus West	1600	Any deer ² , 2 AOWT
Elkhorn	2900	Any deer
Frenchman Whitetail	1600 1200	1 WT, 1 AOWT
Keya Paha	2500	Any deer ² , 2 AOWT
Loup East	3300	Any deer ² , 2 AOWT
Loup West	1000	Any deer ² , 2 1 AOWT
Loup West Whitetail	800	1 WT, 2 1 AOWT
Missouri	3200	Any deer, 1 AOWT
Pine Ridge	1200 0	Any deer²
Pine Ridge Whitetail	1000	1 WT

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Plains	1700 1500	Any deer, 2 AOWT
Platte Whitetail	1300 1000	1 WT
Republican Whitetail	3000	1 WT
Sandhills	2000 1500	Any deer, 2 AOWT
<u>Sandhills WT</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1 WT, 2 AOWT</u>
Upper Platte	1200	Any deer
Wahoo	3800	Any deer ²
Statewide Buck	100	1 Buck
Restricted SW Buck	<u>Unlimited</u> 1000	1 Buck (C03.05E)

C03.05C Season Choice Areas: These permits are for Antlerless Only deer. Persons with permits for the following areas may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for archery hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.06A, and with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.07A, and with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting season (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the November firearm deer season (C03.05A) and for ~~sixteen (16)~~ fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning January 1. Shooting hours and application procedures are the same as those prescribed for the regular firearm season. An antlerless deer is one which has no antlers or with antlers less than six (6) inches in length. Federal or state sanctuaries and refuges are closed unless otherwise authorized.

Permits Authorized:

<u>Season Choice Area</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>
AO SCA Blue Northwest	2200	1 AOWT
AO SCA Blue Southeast	2400	1 AOWT
AO SCA Buffalo	1000	2 AOWT
AO SCA Buffalo North	100	1AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA Calamus East	400	2 AOWT
AO SCA Calamus West	300	3 AOWT
AO SCA Elkhorn	1000 250	1 AOWT
<u>AO SCA Elkhorn West</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>1 AOWT</u>
AO SCA Frenchman	300 150	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Frenchman North	500	2 AOWT
AO SCA WT Frenchman South	250 200	2 1 AOWT
AO SCA Frenchman West	650 500	2 AO 1AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA Southwest Reservoirs	200	1 AOWT

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AO SCA Keya Paha	500	3 AOWT
AO SCA Loup East	1500	3 AOWT
AO SCA Loup West	100	1 AO, 2 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Loup West	300	3 2 AOWT
AO SCA Missouri	1000	2 AOWT
AO SCA Pine Ridge	400 200	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Pine Ridge	600	2 AOWT
AO SCA Plains	500 200	1 AO, 2 AOWT
<u>AO SCA WT Plains</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>3 AOWT</u>
AO SCA Platte	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Platte	500 400	2 AOWT
AO SCA Platte North	400 300	2 AO 1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA Republican	1500	2 AOWT
AO SCA Harlan County Res.	200	2 AOWT
AO SCA Sandhills	450 300	1 AO, 2 AOWT
AO SCA WT Sandhills	0 100	1 3 AOWT
AO SCA Upper Platte	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Upper Platte	200	2 AOWT
AO SCA Wahoo	2200	1 AOWT

C03.05D Permit Bag Limit: Any reference to "buck" is defined as a deer having at least one antler six (6) inches or more in length. Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.05E Restricted Statewide Buck

Persons who receive a Restricted Statewide Buck permit may take a buck statewide provided that a mule deer buck may not be taken in the Mule Deer Conservation Area (C03.11H).

C03.05F Management Unit Boundaries. Federal and state sanctuaries and refuges are closed, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.05F1 Blue Northwest and AO SCA Blue Northwest

Saline County and those portions of Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Otoe, Seward, Thayer and York counties which are enclosed by a line commencing at the junction of NE Hwy. 4 with U.S. Hwy. 81, thence eastward on NE Hwy. 4 to U.S. Hwy. 136, thence eastward on U.S. Hwy. 136 to NE Hwy. 50, thence north on NE Hwy. 50 to U.S. Hwy. 34, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 34 to U.S. Hwy. 81, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 81 to NE Hwy. 4.

C03.05F2 Blue Southeast and AO SCA Blue Southeast

Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson counties and those parts of Cass, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Otoe, and Thayer counties which are south and east of a line commencing at U.S. Hwy. 81 at the Kansas-Nebraska state line, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 81 to NE Hwy. 4, thence eastward on NE Hwy. 4 to U.S. Hwy. 136, thence eastward on U.S. Hwy. 136 to NE Hwy. 50, thence north on NE Hwy. 50 to U.S. Hwy. 34, then east and north on U.S. Hwy. 34 to the Platte River, then east on the Platte River to the Nebraska-Iowa state line.

C03.05F3 Buffalo and AO SCA Buffalo

Those parts of Adams, Buffalo, Clay, Custer, Dawson, Frontier, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick, Phelps, and Sherman counties enclosed by the following boundaries: from the junction of NE Hwy. 40 with NE Hwy. 92, thence south on NE Hwy. 40 to NE Hwy. 47, thence south on NE Hwy. 47 to NE Hwy. 23, thence east on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 6, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 6 to NE Hwy. 14, thence north on NE Hwy. 14 to U.S. Hwy. 30, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 30 to NE Hwy. 2, thence west on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 92, thence west on NE Hwy. 92 to NE Hwy. 40.

C03.05F4 Calamus East and AO SCA Calamus East

Those parts of Antelope, Boone, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, and Wheeler counties south of U.S. Hwy. 20, east of NE Hwy. 11, north of NE Hwy. 91, and west of NE Hwy. 14.

C03.05F5 Calamus West and AO SCA Calamus West

Those parts of Blaine, Brown, Cherry, Garfield, Holt, Loup, Rock, and Thomas counties enclosed by the following boundaries: from the junction of U.S. Hwy. 83 with U.S. Hwy. 20, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 83 to the Dismal River, thence east along the north side of the Dismal River to NE Hwy. 2, thence north on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 91, thence east on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 11, thence north on NE Hwy. 11 to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to U.S. Hwy. 83, except that Valentine National Wildlife Refuge and Bessey Division of the Nebraska National Forest shall be closed to the use of bonus antlerless tags or bonus antlerless whitetail tags and Season Choice antlerless only permits and the harvest of mule deer does on November Firearm Calamus West permits.

C03.05F6 Elkhorn and AO SCA Elkhorn

Burt, Cuming, Madison, Stanton, Thurston, and Wayne counties and those parts of Antelope, Boone, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Pierce, Platte, and Washington counties included within the following boundaries: from the junction of NE Hwy. 14 with U.S. Hwy. 20, thence south on NE Hwy. 14 to NE Hwy. 91, thence east on NE Hwy. 91 to U.S. Hwy. 81, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 81 to U.S. Hwy. 30, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 30 to the

Nebraska-Iowa state line, thence north along said state line to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 14.

C03.05F7 Frenchman and AO SCA Frenchman

Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, and Red Willow counties and those parts of Dawson, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Lincoln, and Perkins counties south of NE Hwy. 23 and west of U.S. Hwy. 283, provided that Medicine Creek SRA/WMA, Red Willow SRA/WMA, Enders SRA/WMA and Swanson SRA/WMA shall be closed to the use of bonus antlerless tags or bonus antlerless whitetail tags and Frenchman Antlerless Only Season Choice permits.

C03.05F8 Keya Paha and AO SCA Keya Paha

Keya Paha County and those parts of Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, and Rock counties east of U.S. Hwy. 83, north of U.S. Hwy. 20, and west of U.S. Hwy. 281.

C03.05F9 Loup East and AO SCA Loup East

Howard and Nance counties and those parts of Boone, Buffalo, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Merrick, Platte, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler counties included within the following boundaries: from the junction of NE Hwy. 70 with NE Hwy. 91 west of Ericson, thence south on NE Hwy. 70 to NE Hwy. 58, thence south on NE Hwy. 58 to NE Hwy. 10, thence south and west on NE Hwy. 10 to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to U.S. Hwy. 30, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 30 to U.S. Hwy. 81, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 81 to NE Hwy. 91, thence west on NE Hwy. 91 to its junction with NE Hwy. 70 west of Ericson.

C03.05F10 Loup West and AO SCA Loup West

Those parts of Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Logan, Loup, Sherman, Thomas, and Valley counties enclosed by the following boundaries: from the junction of U.S. Hwy. 83 with the Dismal River, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 83 to NE Hwy. 92, thence east on NE Hwy. 92 to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 10, thence east and north on NE Hwy. 10 to NE Hwy. 58, thence north on NE Hwy. 58 to NE Hwy. 70, thence north on NE Hwy. 70 to NE Hwy. 91, thence west on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 2, thence south on NE Hwy. 2 to the Dismal River, thence west along the south side of the Dismal River to U.S. Hwy. 83.

C03.05F11 Missouri and AO SCA Missouri

Knox County and those parts of Antelope, Boyd, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Holt, and Pierce counties north of U.S. Hwy. 20 and east of U.S. Hwy. 281.

C03.05F12 Pine Ridge and AO SCA Pine Ridge

Those parts of Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, and Sioux counties north of the Niobrara River and west of NE Hwy. 27.

C03.05F13 Plains and AO SCA Plains

Those parts of Arthur, Box Butte, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Keith, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux counties included within the following boundaries: from the junction of U.S. Hwy. 26 with Nebraska-Wyoming state line, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 26 to State Link 62A, thence east on State Link 62A to U.S. Hwy. 385, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to U.S. Hwy. 26, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 26 to NE Hwy. 92, thence east on NE Hwy. 92 to NE Hwy. 61, thence north on NE Hwy. 61 to NE Hwy. 2, thence west on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 27, thence north on NE Hwy. 27 to the Niobrara River, thence west along the south side of the Niobrara River to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line.

C03.05F14 Platte and AO SCA Platte

Those parts of Arthur, Custer, Dawson, Deuel, Frontier, Garden, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, and Perkins counties south of NE Hwy. 92, west of NE Hwys. 40 and 47, north of NE Hwy. 23, and east of a line commencing at the junction of NE Hwy. 27 and NE Hwy. 92, thence south on NE Hwy. 27 to U.S. Hwy. 30, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 30 to U.S. Hwy. 385, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to the Nebraska- Colorado state line.

C03.05F15 Republican and AO SCA Republican

Franklin, Harlan, Nuckolls, and Webster counties and those parts of Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Furnas, Gosper, Hamilton, Kearney, Phelps, Thayer, and York counties east of U.S. Hwy. 283, west of U.S. Hwy. 81, and south of a line commencing at the junction of U.S. Hwy. 81 with U.S. Hwy. 34, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 34 to NE Hwy. 14, thence south on NE Hwy. 14 to U.S. Hwy. 6, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 6 to NE Hwy. 23, thence west on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 283, provided that Harlan County Reservoir Corps of Engineers lands shall be closed to the use of Republican Season Choice antlerless permits.

C03.05F16 Sandhills and AO SCA Sandhills

Hooker County and those parts of Arthur, Cherry, Grant, Logan, McPherson, Sheridan, and Thomas counties included within the following boundaries: from the junction of NE Hwy. 27 with the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence south on NE Hwy. 27 to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 61, thence south on NE Hwy. 61 to NE Hwy. 92, thence east on NE Hwy. 92 to U.S. Hwy. 83, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 83 to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, except that Valentine National Wildlife Refuge and Samuel McKelvie National Forest shall be closed to the use of bonus antlerless tags or bonus antlerless whitetail tags and Season Choice antlerless only permits and to the harvest of mule deer does on November Firearm Sandhills permits.

C03.05F17 Upper Platte and AO SCA Upper Platte

Banner, Cheyenne, and Kimball counties and those parts of Deuel, Garden, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff counties south and west of a line commencing at the junction of U.S. Hwy. 26 with the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 26 to State Link 62A, thence east on State Link 62A to U.S. Hwy. 385, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to U.S. Hwy. 26, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 26 to NE Hwy. 27, thence south on NE Hwy. 27 to U.S. Hwy. 30, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 30 to U.S. Hwy. 385, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to the Nebraska-Colorado state line.

C03.05F18 Wahoo and AO SCA Wahoo

Butler, Douglas, Polk, Sarpy, and Saunders counties and those parts of Cass, Colfax, Dodge, Hamilton, Lancaster, Merrick, Platte, Seward, Washington, and York counties bounded by a line beginning at the junction of the Nebraska-Iowa state line and U.S. Hwy. 30, then west on U.S. Hwy. 30 to NE Hwy. 14, then south on NE Hwy. 14 to U.S. Hwy. 34, then east and north on U.S. Hwy. 34 to the Platte River, then east on the Platte River to the Nebraska-Iowa state line Missouri River.

C03.05F19 AO SCA Frenchman West: That portion of the Frenchman Unit (C03.05F7) those parts of Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Hitchcock and Red Willow Counties bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the Frontier-Lincoln county line and U.S. HWY 83, then south to NE Hwy 23, then east on NE Hwy 23 to Moorefield, NE, then south on the Moorefield-Stockville Rd., to Stockville, NE, then south on the Stockville-Indianola Rd to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 6/34, then west on U.S. Hwy 6/34 to the split of U.S. Hwy 6/34, then west along U.S. Hwy 34 to the intersection of NE Hwy 61, then north on NE Hwy 61 to the intersection of the Chase-Perkins County Line and east along county lines to the origin. Permits are not valid on the Medicine Creek SRA/WMA, Red Willow SRA/WMA, Swanson SRA/WMA or the Enders SRA/WMA.

C03.05F20 AO SCA Platte North: That portion of the Platte Unit (C03.05F14) north of U.S. Hwy. 30 or east of U.S. Hwy. 83.

C03.05F21 AO SCA Buffalo North: That portion of the Buffalo Unit (C03.05F3) north of U.S. Hwy. 30 and west of NE Hwy. 21.

C03.05F22 AO SCA Harlan County Reservoir; the entire area open to hunting within the USACE Harlan County Lake Recreation Area.

C03.05F23 AO SCA Southwest Reservoirs: entire areas open to hunting on Medicine Creek SRA/WMA, Red Willow SRA/WMA, Swanson SRA/WMA and the Enders SRA/WMA.

C03.5F24 AO SCA Frenchman North: That portion of the Frenchman Unit (C03.05F7) north of U.S. 34 starting at the eastern unit boundary west to the NE Hwy 61 and south to the Nebraska-Kansas state line. Permits are

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not valid on the Medicine Creek SRA/WMA, Red Willow SRA/WMA, Swanson SRA/WMA or the Enders SRA/WMA.

C03.5F25 AO SCA Frenchman South: That portion of the Frenchman Unit (C03.05F7) south of U.S. Hwy. 34 starting at the eastern unit boundary west to the NE Hwy. 61 and south to the Nebraska-Kansas state line. Permits are not valid on the Medicine Creek SRA/WMA, Red Willow SRA/WMA, Swanson SRA/WMA or the Enders SRA/WMA.

C03.5F26 AO SCA Elkhorn West: That portion of the Elkhorn Unit (C03.05F6) west of NE Hwy. 15.

C03.06 Deer Archery

C03.06A Open Season: September 1 through December 31 provided that special season dates apply to the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge (C03.11C).

C03.06B Area Open: Entire state except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized. Bonus antlerless permits are not valid on Bessey National Forest, McKelvie National Forest, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

C03.06C Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Resident: Unlimited. Nonresident: 5,000. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.06D Permit Bag Limit: One deer of either sex, provided that a buck may not be taken in January. Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.07 Deer Muzzleloader

C03.07A Open Season: December 1 through December 31, inclusive.

C03.07B Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Resident: Unlimited. Nonresident: 2,000. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.07C Permit Bag Limit: One deer of either sex provided that a mule deer may not be taken in the Mule Deer Conservation Area (C03.11H). Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.07D Area Open: Entire State except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges unless otherwise authorized. Bonus antlerless permits are not valid on Bessey National Forest, McKelvie National Forest, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

C03.08 Youth Deer Season

C03.08A Open Season: Persons with youth deer permits may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for archery hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.06A, and with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.07A, and with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the November firearm deer season (C03.05A) and for ~~sixteen (16)~~ fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning January 1.

C03.08A1 Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Unlimited. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1. No person may obtain more than one Youth permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.

C03.08A1a Youth Whitetail Permit Bag Limit: One whitetail deer provided that a buck may not be taken in January. Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.08A1b Resident Youth Deer Permit Bag Limit: One deer of either sex provided that a buck may not be taken in January. Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.08A1c Nonresident Restricted Youth Deer Permit Bag Limit: One deer of either sex provided that a buck may not be taken in January. Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.08B Area Open: Entire state except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized. Bonus antlerless permits are not valid on Bessey National Forest, McKelvie National Forest, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge. Nonresident Restricted Youth Deer permits are not valid in Draw Units listed in 003.02A1.

C03.09 Landowner Deer Seasons:

C03.09A Landowner Deer Season: No person may apply for or obtain more than one limited landowner permit per year for deer.

C03.09A1 Open Season: Persons with landowner deer permits may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for archery hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.06A, and with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.07A, and with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the November firearm deer season (C03.05A) and for ~~sixteen (16)~~ fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning January 1.

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C03.09A2 Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Unlimited. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.09A3 Permit Bag Limit: One deer of either sex and one antlerless deer, provided that a buck may not be taken in January.

C03.09A4 Area Open: Entire state. Persons who obtain a limited landowner permit may hunt on lands described on their application.

C03.09B Special Landowner Deer Season: No person may apply for or obtain more than one special landowner permit per year for deer.

C03.09B1 Open Season: Persons with special landowner deer permits may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the Saturday, Sunday and Monday preceding the November firearm deer season (C03.05A).

C03.09B2 Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Unlimited. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1 and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-455.

C03.09B3 Permit Bag Limit: One deer of either sex.

C03.09B4 Area Open: Entire state. Persons who obtain a special landowner permit may hunt on lands described on their application.

C03.10 Statewide Whitetail Buck

C03.10A Open Season: Persons with Statewide Whitetail Buck deer permits may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for archery hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.06A, and with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.07A, and with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting season (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the November firearm deer season (C03.05A).

C03.10B Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Unlimited 8,000. Personal limits apply, see 001.01B1.

C03.10C Permit Bag Limit: One whitetail buck. Any reference to antlerless is defined as a deer having no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.10D Area Open: Entire state except Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.11 Deer - Special Area Provisions

Restrictions pertaining to permit bag limits define a buck as a deer having at least one antler six (6) inches or more in length and an antlerless deer defined as a deer with no antlers or antlers no more than six (6) inches in length.

C03.11A The Dodge-Saunders County Game Refuge, described in section 37-706 and the North Platte River Refuge, described in section 37-706, shall be open to hunting deer during all established deer seasons.

C03.11B The Garden County Game Refuge. Archery hunting for deer shall be permitted on the Garden County Game Refuge, as described in section 37-706, from September 1 through October 31.

C03.11C DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge: Special deer hunting regulations shall be in effect on lands within and designated as open by the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Special Access permit through refuge office is required.

C03.11D Gifford Wildlife Management Area: Special deer hunting regulations shall be in effect on the Gifford Wildlife Management Area in Sarpy County, which includes all land owned by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Educational Service Unit Number Three on Sec. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 in T14N R14E of the 6th P.M.

C03.11D1 Archery: Hunting is permitted in accordance with all applicable state regulations except that season dates shall be September 1 through December 31.

C03.11D2 Muzzleloader: Hunting is permitted in accordance with all applicable state regulations for muzzleloader (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) hunting during the statewide muzzleloader season (C03.07A) and the January portion of AO SCA Wahoo (C03.05F18). Except that muzzleloaders are not allowed during the November Firearm Deer season.

C03.11E Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge: Special deer hunting regulations shall be in effect on lands within and designated as open by the Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge. Special Access permit through refuge office is required.

C03.11F Pine Ridge Special Mule Deer Areas

C03.11F1 Pine Ridge: Special deer hunting regulations shall be in effect for all federal and state-owned lands open to public hunting within the Pine Ridge Unit as described in {C03.05F12}.

C03.11F1a Harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited.

C03.11F2 No person may obtain more than one Pine Ridge permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.

C03.11F2 Upper Platte: Special deer hunting regulations shall be in effect for all federal and state-owned lands open to public hunting and The Nature Conservancy, Carter Canyon (PRBE), Montz Point (PRBE) and Bead Mountain (PRBE) areas open to public hunting north of NE Hwy. 88 within the Upper Platte Unit as described in (C03.05F17).

C03.11F2a Harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited.

C03.11G River Antlerless

C03.11G1 Open Season: Persons with River Antlerless permits may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for archery hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.06A, and with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in C03.07A, and with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the November firearm deer season (C03.05A) and for thirty one (31) consecutive days beginning January 1 and for fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning October 1.

C03.11G2 Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: 12,000.

C03.11G3 Permit Bag Limit: Two antlerless whitetail deer. Any reference to an antlerless deer is one which has no antlers or with antlers less than six (6) inches in length.

C03.11G4 Areas Open:

Those areas of Nebraska within:

That portion of Nebraska east of a boundary commencing with U.S. Hwy. 281 from the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 281 to NE Hwy. 12, thence east on NE Hwy. 12 to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to U.S. Hwy. 75, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 75 to NE Hwy. 133, thence south on NE Hwy. 133 to U.S. Hwy. 6, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 6 to Interstate 480, thence south on Interstate 480 to U.S. Hwy. 75, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 75 to NE Hwy. 67, thence east and south on NE Hwy. 67 to U.S. Hwy. 136, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 136 to NE Hwy. 67, thence south on NE Hwy. 67 to U.S. Hwy. 73, thence east and south on U.S. Hwy. 73 to the Nebraska-Kansas state line.

Three (3) miles of the landward banks of the Missouri River, Platte River, North Platte River, South Platte River, Loup and the Keya Paha Rivers.

Three (3) miles of the landward banks of the following portions of Nebraska rivers:

From the mouth of Long Pine Creek to a point five (5) miles south of U.S. Hwy. 20 where Long Pine Creek crosses the west side of Section 19, T29N R20W.

The Republican River from the Nebraska-Kansas line to U.S. Hwy. 283.

From the mouth of Plum Creek in Brown County to U.S. Hwy. 20.

The South Loup River from the mouth to U.S. Hwy. 83.

The Niobrara River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 27.

~~The Elkhorn River from the mouth to Stuart, Nebraska. The Elkhorn River from mouth to North Branch Elkhorn River in Holt County, North Branch Elkhorn River in Holt County from mouth to Holt/Rock County line.~~

The South Fork of the Elkhorn River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 11.

The North Loup River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 97.

The Cedar River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 11.

The Middle Loup River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 61.

The White River between the intersection of the White River and NE Hwy. 71 northeasterly to the intersection of the White River and the Nebraska-South Dakota state line.

The Wood River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 21.

The Little Blue River from US Hwy. 81 to US Hwy. 281.

Eagle Creek in Holt County from the mouth to 483rd Ave.

Bazile Creek in Knox County from the mouth to the Antelope county line.

In Knox County, the Main Branch Verdigrise Creek from the mouth to the Antelope county line, Middle Branch and North Branch Verdigrise Creek in to the Holt County line.

In Sioux County, Indian Creek to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, Antelope Creek to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, Monroe Creek to the Gilbert-Baker WMA boundary, Warbonnet Creek to the source, Chadron Creek to the Chadron Creek WMA boundary and Hat Creek to East Hat Creek Road.

All state and federal public lands are closed.

C03.11H Mule Deer Conservation Areas

Persons with permits for the following areas may hunt with weapons legally prescribed for muzzleloader hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in (C03.07A) and with weapons legally prescribed for archery and firearm hunting (001.01B2 and 001.01B3) during the dates shown in (C03.05A).

C03.11H1 Frenchman: Area as described for the Frenchman Unit (C03.05F7). Two thousand (2,000) One thousand six hundred (1,600) permits for one (1) Aany Ddeer and one (1) antlerless whitetail deer. No person may obtain more than one Frenchman permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck. The nonresident permit quota for Mule Deer Conservation Area permits is eight percent (8%) of the total permit allocation.

C03.11H2 Platte: Area as described for the Platte Unit (C03.05F14). One thousand four hundred (1,400) (1,000) permits for one (1) mule deer buck or one (1) whitetail deer and one (1) antlerless whitetail deer. No person may obtain more than one Platte permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck. The nonresident permit quota for Mule Deer Conservation Area permits is fifteen percent (15%) of the total permit allocation.

C03.11H3 Buffalo: Area as described for the Buffalo Unit (C03.05F3). One thousand (1,000) permits for one (1) mule deer buck or one (1) whitetail deer and one (1) antlerless whitetail deer. No person may obtain more than one Buffalo permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.

C03.11H4 Republican Mule Deer Buck: Area as described for the Republican Unit (C03.05F15). Seventy-five (75) permits for one (1) mule deer buck. No person may obtain more than one Republican permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.

C03.11H5 Pine Ridge: Area as described for the Pine Ridge Unit (C03.05F12). One thousand two hundred (1,200) permits for (1) mule deer buck or one (1) whitetail deer. No person may obtain more than one Pine Ridge permit that allows for the take of a mule deer buck. The nonresident permit quota for Mule Deer Conservation Area permits is fifteen percent (15%) of the total permit allocation.

C03.11I Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge shall be closed to the harvest of antlerless mule deer.

C03.12 Elk

C03.12A Open Season: Bull

C03.12A1 Firearm season, all units: September 21 – October 31.

C03.12A2 Archery season, all units: Beginning September 1 – October 31, closing on the last day of firearm season for bulls (C03.12A1). Persons hunting from September 1 until the opening of the firearm season (C03.12A1) must hunt with archery equipment as specified in 001.01B2.

C03.12B Open Season: Antlerless

All units, beginning August 1 through January 31, except that State and Federal public lands are closed to antlerless elk hunting until September 21.

C03.12B1 Early season units: Beginning August 1 and closing on October 31, except that State and Federal public lands are closed to antlerless elk hunting until September 21. Units included: Ash Creek Early, Box Elder Early, Bordeaux Early, Niobrara West Early, North Platte River Early and Hat Creek Early.

C03.12B2 Late season units: Beginning November 1 and closing on January 31. Units included: Ash Creek Late, Box Elder Late, Bordeaux Late, Niobrara West Late, North Platte River Late and Hat Creek Late.

C03.12C Permits for Units described in C03.12E:

Management Unit	General	Limited Landowner
Ash Creek Antlerless	0	<u>29 30</u>
Ash Creek Early Antlerless	15	0
Ash Creek Late Antlerless	25	0
Ash Creek Bull	<u>12 10</u>	<u>6 7</u>
Bordeaux Antlerless	0	<u>30 45</u>
Bordeaux Early Antlerless	25	0
Bordeaux Late Antlerless	35	0
Bordeaux Bull	<u>26 20</u>	<u>13 15</u>
Box Elder Antlerless	0	<u>25 45</u>
Box Elder Early Antlerless	<u>25 30</u>	0
Box Elder Late Antlerless	<u>25 30</u>	0
Box Elder Bull	20	<u>10 15</u>
Hat Creek Antlerless	0	<u>25 37</u>

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Hat Creek Early Antlerless	20	0
Hat Creek Late Antlerless	30	0
Hat Creek Bull	20 16	10 12
Niobrara East Antlerless	34 36	17 27
Niobrara East Bull	12 16	6 12
Niobrara West Antlerless	0	40 60
Niobrara West Early Antlerless	50	0
Niobrara West Late Antlerless	30	0
Niobrara West Bull	20 16	10 12
North Platte River Antlerless	0	50 75
North Platte River Early Antlerless	70	0
North Platte River Late Antlerless	30	0
North Platte River Bull	40 30	20 22

C03.12D Permit Bag Limit: One elk as specified on permit. Antlerless shall mean an elk with no antlers or with antlers less than six (6) inches in length. Bull permits shall be valid for an elk of either-sex. mean a male elk with antlers six (6) inches or more in length.

C03.12E Elk Management Unit Boundaries

C03.12E1 Ash Creek - Area included within a line commencing with NE Hwy. 2 from the Nebraska-South Dakota state line south and east to State Conn. Link L-7E Spur, thence east on State Conn. Link L-7E Spur to U.S. Hwy. 385, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 385 to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence west along the Nebraska-South Dakota state line to NE Hwy. 2. This area includes portions of Sioux, Dawes, and Box Butte counties.

C03.12E2 Bordeaux - Area included within a line commencing with U.S. Hwy. 385 from the Nebraska-South Dakota state line south to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 27, thence north on NE Hwy. 27 to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence west along the Nebraska-South Dakota state line to U.S. Hwy. 385. This area includes portions of Dawes, Box Butte, and Sheridan counties.

C03.12E3 Box Elder - That area included within a line commencing with U.S. Hwy. 281 on the Nebraska-Kansas state line, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 281 to NE Hwy. 91, thence west on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 2, thence west on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 61, thence south on NE Hwy. 61 to I-80, thence west on I-80 to I-76, thence west on I-76 to the Nebraska-Colorado state line, thence east and south along the Nebraska-Colorado state line to the Nebraska-Kansas state line.

C03.12E4 Hat Creek - Area included within a line commencing with U.S. Hwy. 26 from the Nebraska-Wyoming state line east to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 26 and NE Hwy. 71, thence north and east on NE Hwy. 71 to NE Hwy. 2, thence north on NE Hwy. 2 to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence west along the Nebraska-South Dakota line to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, thence south along the Nebraska-Wyoming state line to U.S. Hwy. 26. This area includes portions of Scotts Bluff, Sioux, Dawes, and Box Butte counties.

C03.12E5 North Platte River - Area included within a line commencing with U.S. Hwy. 26 from the Nebraska-Wyoming state line east to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 26 and NE Hwy. 71, thence north and east on NE Hwy. 71 to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to the junction of NE Hwy. 2 and State Conn. Link L-7E Spur, thence east on State Conn. Link L-7E Spur to U.S. Hwy. 385, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 385 to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 61, thence south on NE Hwy. 61 to U.S. Hwy. 26, progressing south on U.S. Hwy. 26 to the I-80 junction south of Ogallala, thence west on I-80 from Exit 126 to I-76, thence south on I-76 to the Nebraska-Colorado state line, thence west along the Nebraska-Colorado state line to the Nebraska-Wyoming state line, thence north along the Nebraska-Wyoming state line to U.S. Hwy. 26. This area includes all of Banner, Cheyenne, Garden, Kimball, and Morrill counties and portions of Scotts Bluff, Sioux, Box Butte, Sheridan, Grant, Arthur, Keith, and Deuel counties.

C03.12E6 Niobrara East Unit – Area included within a line commencing with the Norden Road on the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence south on Norden Road to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence east on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 7, thence south on NE Hwy. 7 to NE Hwy. 91, thence east on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 70, thence east on NE Hwy. 70 to U.S. Hwy. 281, thence south on U.S. Hwy. 281 to NE Hwy. 91, thence east on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 14, thence north on NE Hwy. 14 to NE Hwy. 12, thence west on NE Hwy. 12 to the Niobrara River, thence north along the Niobrara River to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line.

C03.12E7 Niobrara West Unit - Area included within a line commencing with NE Hwy. 27 on the Nebraska-South Dakota state line, thence south on NE Hwy. 27 to NE Hwy. 2, thence east on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 91, thence east on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 7, thence north on NE Hwy. 7 to U.S. Hwy. 20, thence west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to Norden Road, thence north on Norden Road to NE Hwy. 12, then west on NE Hwy. 12 to Norden Road, thence north on Norden Road to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line.

C03.12E8 Statewide Unit - Any portion of Nebraska open to elk hunting as described in C03.12E1 through C03.12E7.

C03.12F Elk Management Zones

C03.12F1 Ash Creek - The following lands in Dawes county, except any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone.

T29N R50W: Sec. 3-7, 14, 22

T29N R51W: Sec. 1-5, 8-12, 14-15, 17, 26-27, and those parts of Sec. 6 and 7 that lie east of NE Hwy. 2

T29N R52W: that part of Sec. 1 that lies east of NE Hwy. 2.

T30N R49W: Sec. 4-6

T30N R50W: Sec. 1-11, 14-22, 27-34

T30N R51W: Sec. 1-36

T30N R52W: Sec. 1, 12-13, 24 and those parts of Sec. 2, 11, 14, 23, 25-26 and 36 east of NE Hwy. 2.

T31N R48W: Sec. 18-20, and those parts of Sec. 6-8 and 17 west of U.S. Hwy. 385

T31N R49W: Sec. 1-24, 28-33, and those parts of Sec. 26 and 27 north of Table Road

T31N R50W: Sec. 11-36

T31N R51W: Sec. 13-17, 20-29, 32-36

T32N R49W: Sec. 9-16, 21-23, 26-28, 31-35, and those parts of Sec. 24, 25, and 36 west of U.S. Hwy. 385

C03.12F2 Bordeaux - The following lands in Dawes and Sheridan counties, except that any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone.

T30N R43W: Sec. 15, 16, 22

T30N R44W: N ½ Section 35

T30N R47W: Section 7, 8

T30N R48W: Section 11, 9-12, 15, 23

T31N R47W: Sec. 5-7; S1/2 of Sec. 18, 29

T31N R48W: Sec. 1-3, 10-12; N1/2 of the SW1/4 of Sec. 5, all of Sec. 6 east of U.S. Hwy. 385, N1/2 of Sec. 13, E1/2 of Sec. 15, W1/2 of Sec. 16, those parts of Sec. 17 that lie east of U.S. Hwy. 385

T32N R46W: Sec. 23-11, 17-20, 29, 30

T32N R47W: Sec. 1-32

T32N R48W: Sec. 1-3, 9-14, 22-26, 32, 33, 36; S1/2 of the SE1/4 of Sec. 31

T33N R44W: Sec. 1-3, 6-8, 11-12, 14, 16, 22; SE1/4 of Sec. 8, SW1/4 of Sec. 9, N1/2 of Sec. 17, NE1/4 of Sec. 18, W1/2 of Sec. 19, NE1/4 of Sec. 30

T33N R45W: Sec. 4-10, 14, 17-20, 23, 25-34, 26-33; south 1/2 of Sec. 3, N1/2 of Sec. 13, E1/2 of Sec. 15, NE1/4 of Sec. 22, E1/2 of Sec. 24

T33N R46W: Sec. 1, 2, 5-8-35; S1/2 of Sec. 4, W1/2 of the W1/2 of Sec. 7

T33N R47W: Sec. 1-4, 12, 13, 21-36

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T33N R48W: Sec. 35-36
T34N R43W: Sec. 3-8, 18, 30
T34N R44W: Sec. 1-4, 9-17, 19-~~3031~~, 34-36; NE1/4 and S1/2 of Sec. 5, NE1/4 and the S1/2 of Sec. 8, N1/2 of Sec. 15, W1/2 of Sec. 32, E1/2 of Sec. 33
T34N R45W: Sec. 2, 7-11, 14-23, ~~25~~, 28-33; N1/2 of Sec. 13, N1/2 of Sec. 11, S1/2 of Sec. 14, NW1/4 and the N1/2 of the NE1/4 of Sec. 27
T34N R46W: Sec. 1, 2, 5-~~79~~, 11-~~4416~~, 17-18, 20, W ½ 21, 23-26, W ½ 28, E ½ 29, ~~3133~~-36
T34N R47W: Sec. 1-3, 10-12, 21, 27, 28, 34, 35
T35N R43W: Sec. S1/2 27, S1/2 28, 29-33
T35N R44W: Sec. 25, 26, 35; E1/2 of Sec. 27, W1/2 of Sec. 32, E1/2 of Sec. 34
T35N R46W: Sec. ~~20, 21~~, 26, 28-33, 35; N1/2 of Sec. 27
T35N R47W: Sec. 25, 33-36

C03.12F3 Box Elder - The following lands in Dawson, Frontier, Hayes and Lincoln counties, except that any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone:

T7N R30W: Sec. 4-6, 8-~~16~~
T7N R31W: Sec. 1
T8N R30W: Sec. 5-8, 15-22, ~~25~~, 29-32, ~~36~~
T8N R31W: Sec. 1-3, 10-15, 22-26, 35, 36
T9N R25W: Sec. 9
T9N R26W: Sec. 1-3
T9N R27W: Sec. ~~3-4~~, 6-~~810~~, 17-20, 25, 26, 28-29, 35, 36
T9N R28W: Sec. 3-10, 15-22, 27-34
T9N R29W: Sec. 1-5, 8-17, 20-27, 34-36
T9N R30W: ~~Sec. 1~~
T9N R31W: Sec. ~~11~~, 13, 14, 21-28, 35, 36
T10N R25W: Sec. ~~16~~, 19, 20, 29-31
T10N R26W: Sec. 8, 16-17, 22-27, 34-36
T10N R27W: ~~Sec. 1-2, 32-33~~
T10N R28W: Sec. 1-36
T10N R29W: Sec. 1-~~56~~, 9-~~4617~~, 21-28, 32, 36
T11N R28W: Sec. 1-36
T11N R29W: Sec. 1-5, 8-36
T11N R30W: Sec. 1-2, 11-15, 24, 25, 36
T11N R36W: ~~Sec. 6~~
T12N R28W: Sec. 17-21, 26-36
T12N R29W: Sec. 9-16, 21-29, 32-36
T12N R30W: ~~Sec. 24, 25, 35, 36~~
T12N R35W: Sec ~~12~~-13

T12N R36W: Sec 1, 4, 15, **31**

T12N R37W: Sec. 1-4, 9-24

T12N R38W: **Sec. 11-12**

T13N R34W: Sec. **9, 16 2-4, 7-10, 15-18**

T13N R36W: Sec 23, 28-29, 30-33

T13N R37W: Sec **13**, 25, 36

T20N R17W: **Sec. 32**

C03.12F4 Hat Creek - The following lands in Dawes and Sioux counties, except that any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone.

T27N R51W: Sec. 6

T27N R52W: Sec. 1-2, 10-11

T28N R51W: Sec. 30-31

T28N R52W: Sec. 25-26, 35

T29N R52W: E1/2 of Sec. 14, and parts of Sec. 1 that are east of NE Hwy. 2/71

T29N R53W: **Sec. 12**

T30N R52W: Sec. 4, 5, 31, 32; NE1/2 of Sec. 27, NW1/4 of Sec. 26, portions of the S1/2 of Sec. 23 and the N1/2 of Sec. 26 that lies west of U.S. Hwy. 2/71, W1/2 of Sec. 33

T30N R53W: Sec. 1-4, 7-8, 10-12, 15, 17-23, 34; N1/2 of Sec. 9, S1/2 of Sec. 14, W1/2 of Sec. 24, E1/2 of Sec. 28

T30N R54W: Sec. 1-6, 8, 9, **N 1/2** 11, 16, **21, 22, 19-23**; E1/2 of Sec. 20, W1/2 and SE1/4 of Sec. 23, E1/2 of Sec. 26, N1/2 of Sec. 27, N1/2 of Sec. 28, **N1/2 of the N1/2 of Sec. 29**

T31N R52W: Sec. 32, 33

T31N R53W: Sec. 6, 7, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31; E1/2 of Sec. 19, and that part of Sec. 18 north of U.S. Hwy. 20

T31N R54W: Sec. 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 12, 16-19, 32-35; N1/2 of Sec. 10 and that portion of Sec. 13 north of U.S. Hwy. 20, N1/2 Sec. 20, N1/2 Sec. 21, N1/2 Sec. 22, NE1/4 of Sec. 25

T31N R55W: W1/2 of Sec. 1, N1/2 of Sec. 2, Sec. 24

T32N R52W: **Sec. 5-8**

T32N R53W: Sec. 1-24, 28-31

T32N R54W: Sec. 1-36

T32N R55W: Sec. 1-3, 7-36

T32N R56W: Sec. 5-18, 23-25, 36

T32N R57W: Sec. 1, 2, 11, 12, SE1/4 of Sec. 9, SW1/4 of Sec. 10, N1/2 of Sec. 14

T33N R53W: Sec. 18, 32; SW1/4 of Sec. 33

T33N R54W: Sec. 12-14, 24, 25, 36

T33N R56W: Sec. 19, W 1/2 28, 29, W 1/2 33

T33N R57W: Sec. 10-11, 14-16, 22-23, 25-26, 35-36

C03.12F5 North Platte River - The following lands in Banner, Cheyenne, Morrill and Scotts Bluff counties, except that any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone:

T15N R42W: Sec. 5, 6, 8; N1/2 of Sec. 7

T15N R43W: Sec. 1

T16N R42W: Sec. 29-32; SW1/4 of Sec. 28

T16N R43W: Sec. 15, 22-23, 25-27, 34-36, and Sec. 14 south of U.S. Hwy. 26

T16N R44W: Sec. 26

T17N R47W: Sec. 7-8

T17N R48W: Sec. 1, 11, 12; N1/2 of Sec. 13, N1/2 of Sec. 14

T17N R50W: Sec. 26

T17N R51W: Sec. 4-10

T17N R52W: Sec. 1-12, 14-18, 22; NE1/4 of Sec. 27

T17N R53W: Sec. 1-6, 8-17

T17N R57W: Sec. 10, S1/2 and NW1/4 of Sec. 3, N1/2 of Sec. 15

T18N R47W: Sec. 30, 31

T18N R48W: Sec. 10, 22, 26-27, NE1/4 and S1/2 of Sec. 9, N1/2 of Sec. 15, W1/2 of Sec. 23, 33

T18N R51W: Sec. 15-21, 28-33; S1/2 of Sec. 9

T18N R52W: Sec. 1, 10, 12-13-36

T18N R53W: Sec. 13-29, 32-36

T18N R54W: Sec. 13, 14, 23, 21-24

T18N R56W: Sec. 16, 19

T18N R57W: Sec. 17, W1/2 of Sec. 17, N1/2 and SE1/4 of Sec. 18, 20, 24

T19N R48W: Sec. 13, S1/2 of Sec. 11, S1/2 of Sec. 12, 35-36

T19N R56W: Sec. 4-6

T19N R57W: N1/2 Sec. 1, NE1/4 of Sec. 2

T20N R55W: Sec. 22; E1/2 of Sec. 21, W1/2 of Sec. 23, 30

T20N R56W: Sec. 9-10, 13-17, 20-29, 33-36, SE ¼ of Sec. 19

T20N R57W: Sec. 4, 5, 8, 9, 34, N1/2 of Sec. 35

T21N R57W: Sec. 33-35

T23N, R51W: Sec. 6-8, 17-18

T26N R51W: Sec. 6-7

T26N R52W: Sec. 1-4, 11-12

T27N R51W: Sec. 30-31

T27N R52W: Sec. 36

C03.12F6 Niobrara East - The following lands in Keya Paha, Brown and Boyd counties, except any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone.

T33N R23W: Sec. 13-14, 23-26, 35-36
T33N R22W: Sec. 18-19, 28-33
T33N R20W: Sec 26, 34, 35
T33N R19W: Sec. 14, 19, 23, 30-34
T32N R20W: Sec. 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 10-15, 22-24 North of the Niobrara River
T32N R19W: Sec. 1-18, 21, 22
T33N R18W: Sec. 28, 29, 32, 33
T32N R18W: Sec. 5-8
T32N R22W: Sec. 26-28, 34-35
T35N R12W: Sec. 22-27, 35-36
T35N R11W: Sec. 19-36
T34N R11W: Sec. 1-2, 12-13
T35N R10W: Sec. 19-21, 28-34
T34N R10W: Sec. 3-11, 14-18
T31N R23W: Sec. 12
T31N R22W: Sec. 3, 10

C03.12F7 Niobrara West - The following lands in Cherry and Keya Paha counties, except any lands owned by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, or the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission shall not be included in the zone.

T26N R36W: Sec. 4-6
T32N R30W: those portions of Sec. 6 north of Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest
T32N R31W: those portions of Sec. 1-6 north of Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest
T33N R24W: Sec. 3-4, 9-10, 15
T33N R30W: Sec. 2-11, 14-23, 26-35
T33N R31W: Sec. 1-36
T33N R32W: Sec. 1-36
T33N R33W: Sec. 19-21, 25-36
T33N R34W: Sec. 4-10, 13, 14, 15, 22-25
T33N R35W: Sec. 1, 2, 11, 12
T34N R24W: Sec. 33-34
T34N R25W: Sec. 2-11, 14-21, 23-26, 28, N1/2 & SE1/4 of Sec. 22, E1/2 of Sec. 27, 28, and Sec. 29 west of Sparks River Road and north of the Niobrara River
T34N R26W: Sec. 1-6, N1/2 7-8, 9-16, 21-24
T34N R30W: Sec. 26-35
T34N R31W: Sec. 14-23, 25-36
T34N R32W: Sec. 13-36
T34N R34W: Sec. 31, 32
T34N R35W: Sec. 35, 36

C03.13 Nonresident Deer Permit Quota

Commission Order
C03

C03.13A The sales of Nonresident Either Sex and Buck Only deer permits shall not exceed 15,000 total permits combined. Youth and Landowner deer permits are exempt from this quota.

