



2020

BIG GAME RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pronghorn Antelope, Deer and Elk Seasons
- Bag Limits and Unit Areas



PRONGHORN

INTRODUCTION

Pronghorn populations are close to or slightly above desired levels in most units. Either Sex permit increases are recommended in all units according to our management strategies, to provide more hunting opportunity and to even out permit quotas. An increase in Doe/Fawn permits is recommended in Banner South, Box Butte East, Box Butte West and Garden units to provide more permits to assist with depredation issues and even out quotas.

Total pronghorn harvest was 1149 in 2019 (highest since 1977) with 825 bucks taken. Populations have been stable and allowed hunters to harvest 700-800 bucks each of the past 10 years. 90% of harvested bucks were age 2 or older. Doe harvest was a 40-year high with 321 taken. Overall, 28% of the harvest was doe/fawn, the highest since 1987.

2,843 permits were issued in 2019, the highest on record. 46% of the buyers were archers, 48% were rifle hunters and 6% were muzzleloaders. Harvest by weapon type was 67% firearm, 16% bow, 10% muzzleloader, and 7% crossbow.

Permit demand remains high and most gun hunters wait 3-5 years to draw a permit. Archery permits are unlimited and permit sales continue to be high. An archery success rate of 15-25% minimizes impact on herds. Archery season is primarily a recreational hunt.

Management goals are to:

1. Stabilize or decrease populations in all units.
2. Increase doe harvest in all units except in the Eastern Sandhills.
3. Provide adequate doe permits in all units, except Eastern Sandhills, to handle any depredation complaints.

Recommendations for 2020 include: (including Landowner permits)

- Add bonus Doe/Fawn tag to Late Season Firearm Landowner permits.
- Add 9 Either Sex permits in Banner North
- Add 15 Either Sex and 15 Doe/Fawn permits in Banner South and Banner South Late
- Add 15 Either Sex and 6 Doe/Fawn permits in Box Butte East and Box Butte East Late
- Add 15 Either Sex and 45 Doe/Fawn permits in Box Butte West and Box Butte West Late. Consolidate BBW River Late with BBW Late.
- Add 6 Either Sex permits in the Cherry Unit.
- Add 6 Either Sex permits in the Dismal Unit
- Add 15 Either Sex and 21 Doe/Fawn permits to Garden and Garden Late
- Add 15 Either Sex to North Sioux

Summary: add 99 Either Sex permits, add 102 Doe/Fawn permits and add bonus Doe/Fawn tags on 250 available Landowner Late Season Doe/Fawn permits, for 419 additional Doe/Fawn tags in 2020.

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%.
2. Yearling buck (age 1.5) harvest should be less than 20% of total buck harvest.
3. Maintain a maximum post-harvest buck/doe ratio of 1:4.

Management strategies:

1. Consider a **permit increase** when harvest success is greater than 75% and harvest goals 2 and 3 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 2 & 3 are 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.

ARCHERY PRONGHORN

2020 Recommendations: No changes.

Season Dates: August 20 through December 31, 2020.

Permits: 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.

Area Open: Statewide, except closed on Fort Robinson State Park, Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

General Information: Permit sales were the highest on record, and archery success decreased to 19%, with 254 pronghorn taken by 1318 permit holders, of which 278 were nonresidents, the highest on record. Seventeen percent (17%) of harvested bucks were age 1. Ninety three (93) pronghorn were taken in Dawes and Sioux counties, down from 109 in 2018. Crossbow harvest was 7% of total harvest. The use of crossbows has been slowly increasing but decreased slightly from 2018 and now accounts for 30% of archery harvest. Nonresident permit numbers likely increased due to public land access restrictions implemented in South Dakota.

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.

Expected Harvest: Two hundred fifty (250) pronghorn.

Archery permits, harvest and success 2015 – 2019

Year	Permits Issued	# Non Residents	Harvest			% Success	% Age 1.5	% Xbow
			Buck	Doe/Fawn	Total			
2015	1197	265	204	31	235	20%	20%	25%
2016	1316	289	202	21	223	17%	14%	28%
2017	1289	300	173	14	187	15%	17%	34%
2018	1164	264	219	32	251	21%	11%	32%
2019	1318	356	232	16	254	19%	17%	30%

2019 Harvest Distribution

Unit	Harvest
Banner North	16
Banner South	38
Box Butte East	9
Box Butte West	55
Cherry	16
Cheyenne	14
Dismal	14
Eastern Sandhills	13
Garden	26
North Sioux	48
Southwest	2

FIREARM AND MUZZLELOADER PRONGHORN

Season Dates: Firearm: October 10 through October 25, 2020 – October Firearm
November 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021 (Late Seasons)
Muzzleloader: September 19 through October 4, 2020

Permits: A total of 900 Either Sex, 225 Muzzleloader, and 720 Doe/Fawn permits are available to all firearm hunters, including landowners.

Area Open: See unit descriptions.

General Information: Success for the 2019 firearm season averaged 70%. 898 pronghorn (593 bucks and 305 doe/fawn) were harvested by 1525 firearm and muzzleloader hunters.

Population Strategy: Permit increases in most units where populations are increasing. Stabilize population growth in all units and provide sufficient late season permits to respond to winter depredation.

Expected Harvest: 630 bucks and 300 doe/fawn in all firearm seasons and muzzleloader.

<u>2020 Season Recommendations</u>				<u>2019 Season</u>						
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Gen¹</u>	<u>LO¹</u>	<u>Type²</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Sold³</u>	<u>Type²</u>	<u>Harvest</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
							<u>B</u>	<u>D/F</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Age 1.5</u>
Banner North	90	45	ES	84	126	ES	85	9	75	1
Banner South	80	40	ES	70	105	ES	75	17	88	1
Box Butte East	40	20	ES	30	45	ES	30	3	73	7
Box Butte West	60	30	ES	50	75	ES	56	2	77	5
Cherry	80	40	ES	76	114	ES	57	14	61	16
Cheyenne	40	20	ES	38	57	ES	36	2	67	12
Dismal	40	20	ES	36	54	ES	31	0	57	6
Eastern Sandhills	20	10	ES	20	30	ES	12	1	47	0
Garden	40	20	ES	30	45	ES	29	3	71	3
North Sioux	110	55	ES	100	140	ES	77	16	66	12
All Oct Firearm	600	300		534	791		488	67	70	10
Banner North Late	50	25	D/F	30	45	D/F	0	14	31	-
Banner South Late	90	45	D/F	80	105	D/F	0	45	56	-
Box Butte East Late	50	25	D/F	46	64	D/F	0	29	45	-
Box Butte West Late	60	30	D/F	30	45	D/F	0	19	47	-
Box Butte West River Late	0	0	D/F	10	12	D/F	0	5	42	-
Cherry Late	20	10	D/F	20	30	D/F	0	9	30	-
Cheyenne Late	40	20	D/F	40	60	D/F	0	16	27	-
Dismal Late	20	10	D/F	20	30	D/F	0	9	41	-
Garden Late	90	45	D/F	76	93	D/F	1	46	51	-
North Sioux Late	80	40	D/F	80	86	D/F	0	43	50	-
Total Late D/F	500	250		432	570		1	235	41	-
Multi-Species Lottery	3			3	3	ES	2	0	67	0
North Sioux MZ	28	14	ES	26	28	ES	20	0	71	25
Prairie MZ	122	61	ES	100	133	ES	82	3	66	7
TOTALS	1253	625		1095	1525		593	305	59	10

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

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

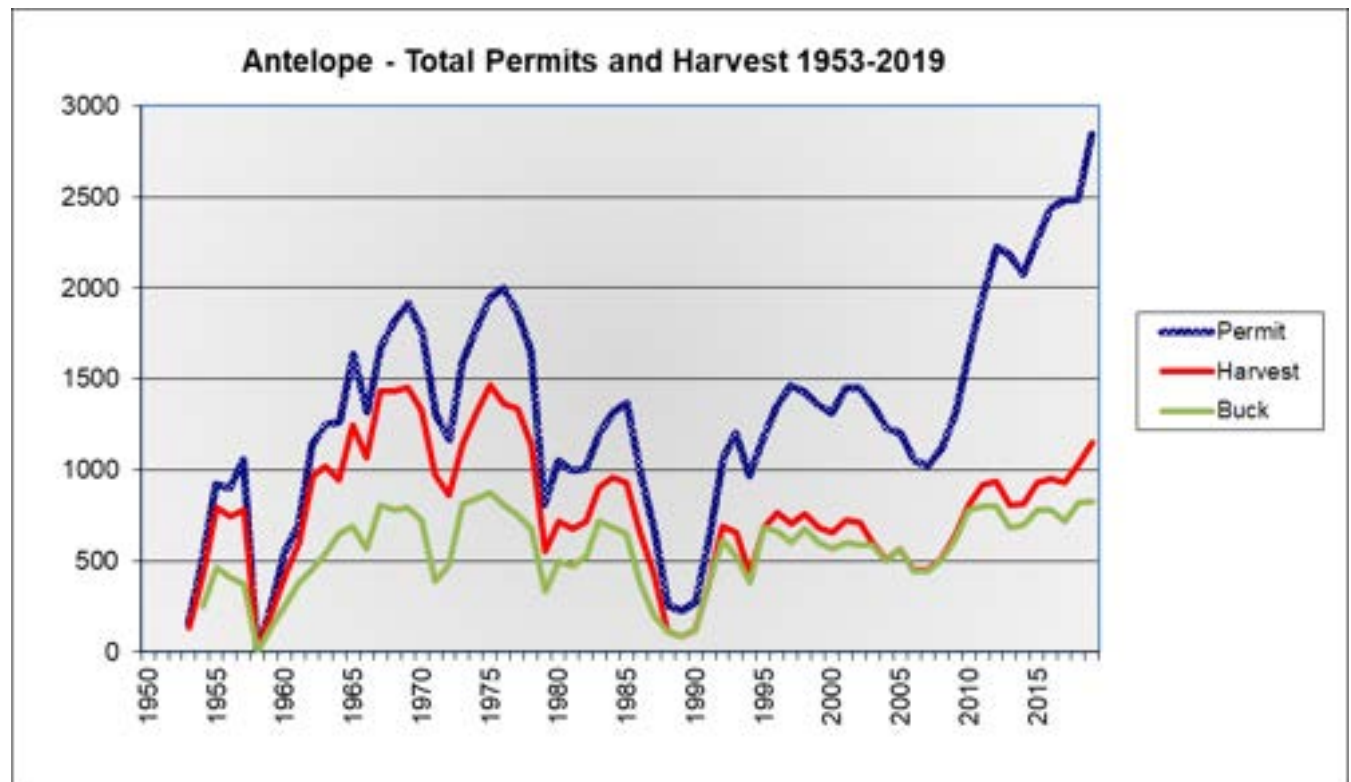
³Excesses of permits sold over number authorized are landowner permits

FIREARM AND MUZZLELOADER PRONGHORN

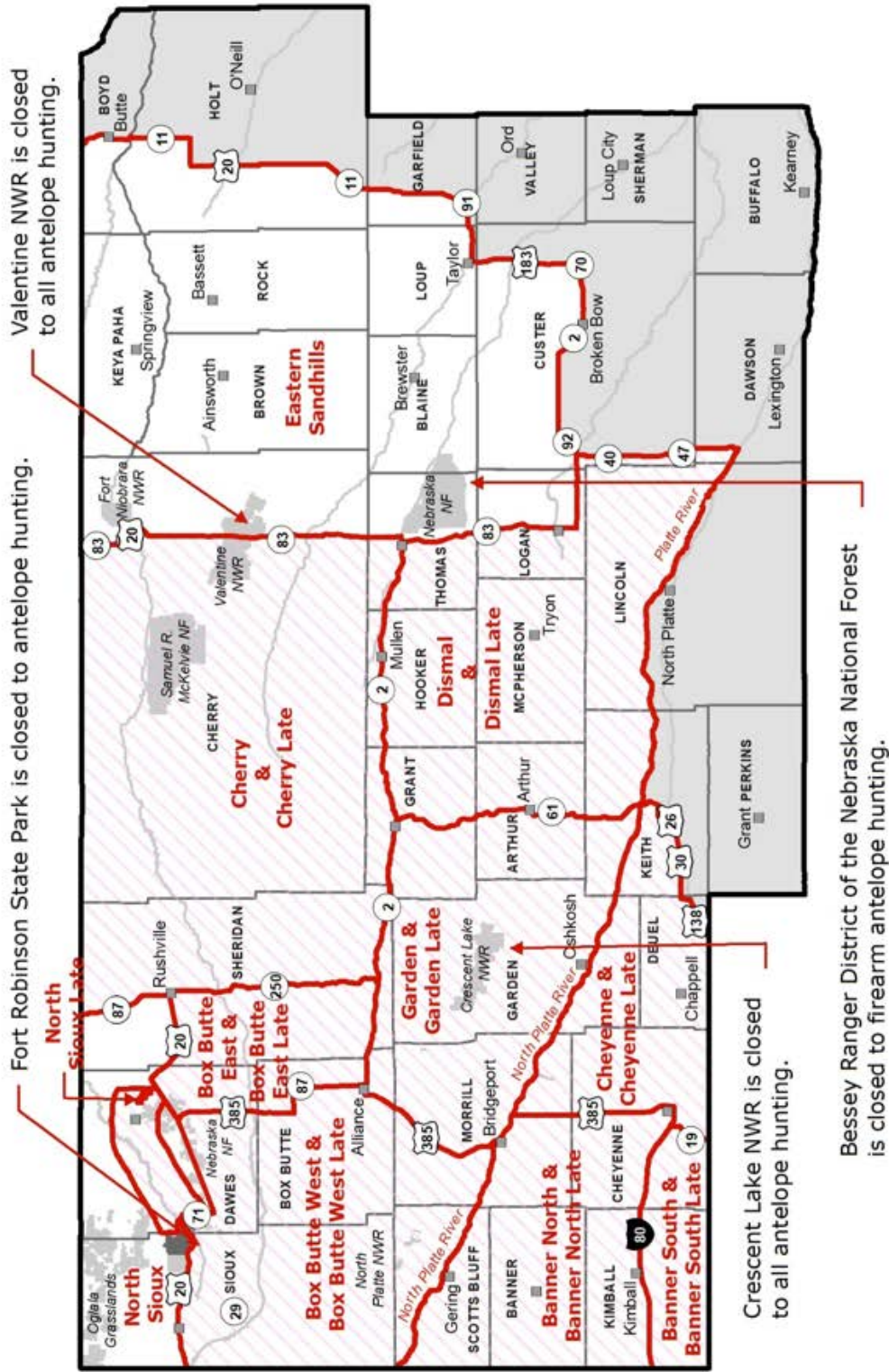
October and Late firearm permits, harvest and success 2002 – 2019

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued</u>	<u>Harvest</u>		<u>% Success</u>	<u>% Age 1.5</u>
		<u>Buck</u>	<u>Doe/Fawn</u>		
2003	822	427	4	55	
2004	706	399	0	57	
2005	657	419	0	64	26
2006	456	313	0	69	18
2007	419	306	0	73	15
2008	417	330	3	79	9
2009	492	410*	0	83*	11
2010	678	483	26	75	11
2011	834	474	89	68	6
2012	931	458	99	60	15
2013	951	431	102	56	9
2014	882	441	97	62	15
2015	898	479	96	64	8
2016	968	480	140	64	6
2017	1065	454	193	65	13
2018	1171	492	230	68	9
2019	1361	489	302	58	6

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



2020 ANTELOPE FIREARM UNITS



Regular Firearm Units Regular Firearm Units and Late Firearm

Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest is closed to muzzleloader antelope hunting.

Fort Robinson State Park is closed to antelope hunting.

Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest is closed to muzzleloader antelope hunting.



Crescent Lake NWR is closed to all antelope hunting.

North Sioux Muzzleloader
Prairie Muzzleloader

BANNER NORTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 90 Either Sex and 45 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. 2019 allocation was 84 general and 42 landowner permits.

Banner North Late: 50 Doe/Fawn only and 25 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 30 Doe/Fawn only and 15 Landowner Doe/Fawn only.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 71% in 2019 compared to 74% in 2018. Success on late season doe/fawn was 31% compared to 24% in 2018. Five bonus does were taken on landowner permits in 2019.
Depredation complaints: One (1).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial surveys indicate a relatively stable population, but tend to show annual and seasonal fluctuations. The objective is to 1) alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) maintain hunter success and buck quality through continuing with current either sex permit quotas. It is recommended to continue with the late doe/fawn season to help alleviate winter depredation events and to further assist with population stabilization goals.

2019 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	84	64	3	67	80%	-	2%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	42	21	6	27	52%	12%	0%	78%
Total Oct Firearm	126	85	9	94	71%	-	1%	90%
Gen Late D/F	30	0	14	14	47%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	15	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	45	0	14	14	31%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	15	1	16	-	-	27%	69%
Muzzleloader	-	7	0	7	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	107	24	131	-	-	5%	82%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	% Rifle
2015	94	2	80	8%	98%	2%	-	-	84%
2016	95	8	103	8%	92%	8%	7%	2%	91%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	114 ES	-	1	666	55	36
2016	114 ES	-	1	538	36	31
2017	126 ES	-	1	562	27	40
2018	126 ES	45 Banner North Late D/F	2	438	29	36
2019	126 ES	45 Banner North Late D/F	0	456	26	49
2020*	135 ES	45 Banner North Late D/F	1			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 88 bucks and 33 doe/fawn.

BANNER SOUTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 80 Either Sex and 40 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. The 2019 allocation was 70 general and 35 landowner permits.

Banner South Late: 90 Doe/Fawn Only and 45 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 80 doe/fawn and 40 landowner permits.

General Information: Hunter success for the firearm season was 77% in 2019 compared to 85% in 2018. Late season success was 51%, compared to 49% last year. Eleven bonus does were taken on Landowner permits in 2019.
Depredation complaints: One (1).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Population estimates in Banner South decreased dramatically in 2018, but these surveys tend to show annual fluctuations. The objectives are to: 1) stabilize population growth through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) maintain hunter success and buck quality through current either sex permit quotas. It is recommended to increase the late doe/fawn season to alleviate depredation complaints. Either Sex permits have increased in 2016 and 2017, but it is recommended to increase current quotas as success rate remains high and % age 1.5 remains below minimum standards. Through observation and landowner contacts, it appears we have an opportunity for our hunters that is currently being underutilized.

2019 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	70	54	1	55	79%	-	2%	98%
LO Oct Firearm	35	21	16	37	74%	31%	0%	57%
Total Oct Firearm	105	75	17	92	77%	-	1%	82%
Gen Late D/F	80	0	38	38	46%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	7	0	7	0	100%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	87	0	45	45	51%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	32	6	38	-	-	16%	84%
Muzzleloader	-	12	0	12	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	119	68	187	-	-	5%	64%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	% Rifle
2015	71	4	75	13%	95%	5%			75%
2016	82	4	86	11%	95%	5%	17%	13%	70%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	66 ES	-	0	1097	64	50
2016	75 ES	-	1	1074	40	46
2017	84 ES	75 Banner South Late D/F	7	1264	43	29
2018	84 ES	75 Banner South Late D/F (16 LO)	4	732	37	84
2019	105 ES	120 Banner South Late D/F (33 LO)	1	612	16	47
2020*	120 ES	135 Banner South Late D/F	1			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 125 Bucks and 75 Does and Fawns

BOX BUTTE EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 40 Either Sex and 20 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. The 2019 allocation was 30 general and 15 landowner permits.

Box Butte East Late: 50 Doe/Fawn only and 25 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 46 Doe/Fawn only and 23 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 69% in 2018 compared to 69% in 2018. Late season success was 44%, compared to 58% last year. Two bonus does were taken on Landowner permits in 2019.
Depredation complaints: Zero (0).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to stabilize the population, maintain hunter success, and buck quality while addressing depredation issues as a result of suspected winter migration from adjacent units. August aerial surveys indicate lower population numbers in 2018 compared to 2017, but a steady downward trend since 2010. Surveys in this unit tend to show annual fluctuations. Winter concentrations remain high on agricultural areas spread throughout the unit. Percent of adult bucks harvested on either sex permits remains high while percent yearling buck in the harvest continues to meet objectives. Continued success on high quality bucks should also cause consideration for a permit increase in this unit. The lack of road access on the east side of the unit can limit hunters pursuing pronghorn, as a result, success can be variable from year to year. It is recommended to maintain the current permit allocation for 2019.

2019 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	30	22	1	23	77%	-	5%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	15	8	2	10	53%	13%	13%	80%
Total Oct Firearm	45	30	3	33	69%	-	7%	91%
Gen Late D/F	46	0	25	25	54%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	18	0	4	4	17%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	64	0	29	29	44%		-	0%
Archery	-	8	1	9	-	-	25%	89%
Muzzleloader	-	5	0	5	-	-	40%	100%
Total Harvest	-	43	33	76	-	-	14%	57%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	46	38	84	11%	55%	45%	-	-	59%
2016	46	31	77	0%	60%	40%	20%	15%	65%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	45 ES	39 Box Butte East Late D/F 30 Box Butte E. Central Late D/F (9 LO)	6	250	37	85
2016	45 ES	69 Box Butte East Late D/F (7 LO)	8	125	50	28
2017	45 ES	69 Box Butte East Late D/F (7 LO)	2	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	0			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 50 Bucks and 40 Does and Fawns

BOX BUTTE WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 60 firearm Either Sex and 30 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. The 2019 allocation was 50 general and 25 landowner permits.

Box Butte West Late: 60 Doe/Fawn Only and 30 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 30 doe/fawn and 15 landowner doe/fawn permits.

Box Butte West River Late: Merge quota with Box Butte West Late. Abolish unit.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 75% in 2019 compared to 68% in 2018. Late season success was 47%, compared to 37% last year. Two bonus does were taken by Landowners in 2019.
Depredation complaints: One (1).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to allow for a slow increase in the population and increase hunter opportunity while addressing depredation issues as a result of winter migration. Aerial surveys indicate the population is stable. Percent adult bucks harvested on the either sex permit remains high while percent yearling buck in the harvest continues to meet objectives. Continued success on high quality bucks should also cause consideration for a permit increase in this unit. 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. High archery and muzzleloader numbers also suggest that there is an opportunity to increase permits. It is recommended to increase doe/fawn tags in the late season.

2019 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	45	0	45	90%	-	7%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	25	11	2	13	44%	8%	0%	85%
Total Oct Firearm	75	56	2	58	75%	-	5%	97%
Gen Late D/F	30	0	18	18	60%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	15	0	3	3	20%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	45	0	21	21	47%	-	-	0%
Gen BBW R. Late DF	10	0	5	5	50%	-	-	0%
LO BBW R. Late DF	2	0	0	0	0%	-	-	-
Total BBW R. Late DF	10	0	5	5	42%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	51	4	55	-	-	16%	93%
Muzzleloader	-	20	1	21	-	-	95%	95%
Total Harvest	-	127	33	160	-	-	10%	79%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	73	19	92	4%	79%	21%	-	-	67%
2016	92	19	111	5%	83%	17%	36%	17%	47%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	75 ES	30 Box Butte West Late D/F 15 Box Butte West River Late D/F (5 LO)	0	822	65	29
2016	75 ES	30 Box Butte West Late D/F 15 Box Butte West River Late D/F	2	889	47	35
2017	75 ES	30 Box Butte West Late D/F 15 Box Butte West River Late D/F	3	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			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 140 Bucks and 45 Does and Fawns

CHERRY MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 80 firearm Either Sex permits with 40 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner Either Sex permits. The 2019 allocation was 75 general and 38 landowner permits.

Cherry Late: 20 Doe/Fawn permits with 10 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 20 doe/fawn and 10 landowner permits.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 56% in 2019 compared to 56% in 2018. Late season success was 30%, compared to 16% last year. Six bonus does were taken by Landowners in 2019.
Depredation complaints: Zero (0).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Aerial surveys show a stable to slightly increasing population in the Sandhills. The management objectives are to allow for an increase in population yet address depredation issues in problem areas through late season doe/fawn permits. With depredation issues in the current late doe/fawn unit diminishing and low success, it is recommended to expand the late unit into the entire Cherry Unit. 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. Yearling buck harvest is below 20% of overall harvest and remains within objectives. With an expansion to the doe/fawn season, it is recommended to increase permits slightly.

2019 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	76	47	3	50	66%	-	15%	94%
LO Oct Firearm	38	10	10	20	37%	16%	20%	50%
Total Oct Firearm	114	57	13	70	56%	-	16%	81%
Gen Late D/F	20	0	9	9	45%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	10	0	0	0	0%	-	-	-
Total Late D/F	30	0	9	9	30%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	13	3	16	-	-	31%	81%
Muzzleloader	-	7	0	7	-	-	13%	100%
Total Harvest	-	77	25	102	-	-	18%	75%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	96	13	109	9%	88%	12%	-	-	68%
2016	89	8	97	9%	92%	8%	22%	4%	73%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	113 ES	20 Cherry Late D/F	1	1488	82	57
2016	113 ES	20 Cherry Late D/F	3	1279	41	38
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	1	1704	18	42
2020*	120 ES	30 Cherry Late D/F	0			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 80 Bucks and 25 Does and Fawns

CHEYENNE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 20 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 38 general and 19 landowner permits.

Cheyenne Late: 40 Doe/Fawn and 20 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 40 Doe/Fawn and 20 Landowner Doe/Fawn only.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 63% in 2019, compared to 77% in 2018. Late success was 27% compared to 43% last year. There were 2 bonus does taken by Landowners in 2019.
Depredation complaints: Zero (0).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators, landowner contracts, and observations in adjacent management units indicate an increasing population in the Cheyenne Unit and the southern Panhandle. The objective is to stabilize 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. It is recommended to maintain the current permit quota.

2019 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	38	28	0	28	74%	-	12%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	19	8	2	10	42%	11%	14%	80%
Total Oct Firearm	57	36	2	38	63%	-	12%	95%
Gen Late D/F	40	0	15	15	38%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	20	0	1	1	5%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	60	0	16	16	27%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	12	2	14	-	-	33%	86%
Muzzleloader	-	10	0	10	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	58	20	78	-	-	15%	74%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	72	10	82	3%	88%	12%	-	-	50%
2016	80	12	92	7%	87%	13%	28%	19%	54%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	51 ES	15 Cheyenne Central Late D/F	1			
2016	51 ES	15 Cheyenne Central Late D/F	0			
2017	57 ES	15 Cheyenne Central Late D/F	1			
2018	57 ES	60 Cheyenne Late D/F	5			
2019	57 ES	60 Cheyenne Late D/F	0	151	26	17
2020*	60 ES	60 Cheyenne Late D/F	0			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 60 Bucks and 30 Does and Fawns

DISMAL MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 20 Landowner permits. The 2019 allocation was 36 firearm Either Sex and 18 Landowner permits.

Dismal Late: 20 Doe/Fawn only permits and 10 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 20 Doe/Fawn only permits and 10 Landowner Doe/Fawn permits.

General Information: Hunter success for the Either Sex firearm season in 2018 was 57%, compared to 86% in 2018. Late season success was 41%. No bonus does were taken by Landowners in 2019.

Depredation complaints: Zero (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. Harvest success in units with low permit quota's often fluctuate erratically from year to year, therefore multiple year trend data should be emphasized over annual fluctuations in the harvest data. 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 a slight increase to the ES permit quota to allow more opportunity and maintain the Late season D/F to provide a tool for landowners to deal with any some depredation issues.

2019 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	36	24	0	24	67%	-	4%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	18	7	0	7	39%	0%	14%	100%
Total Oct Firearm	54	31	0	31	57%	-	6%	100%
Gen Late D/F	20	0	8	8	40%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	2	0	1	1	50%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	22	0	9	9	41%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	14	0	14	-	-	0%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	8	1	9	-	-	13%	89%
Total Harvest	-	53	10	63	-	-	6%	84%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	36	1	37	13%	97%	3%	-	-	44%
2016	55	3	58	0%	95%	5%	27%	27%	45%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	24 ES	-	0			
2016	36 ES	-	1			
2017	36 ES	-	0			
2018	36 ES	-	0			
2019	54 ES	30 Dismal Late D/F (8 LO)	2			
2020*	60 ES	30 Dismal Late D/F	0			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 55 Bucks and 20 Does and Fawns

EAST SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 20 firearm Either Sex permits and 10 Landowner, Either Sex permits. This is no change from last year.

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 47%, compared to 67% in 2018. A significant increase in archery harvested pronghorn suggest a higher than predicted population. Firearm permits are not valid on the Halsey Nebraska National Forest Service lands.

Depredation complaints: Zero (0).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Management objectives are to allow the population to increase, but to address the depredation complaints by allowing either sex on all permits. Observed pronghorns are widespread and scattered throughout the unit ranging from single animals to herds of up to 60 animals. No recent surveys have been conducted in this unit, but general observations indicate that this unit can sustain a higher success and harvest rate.

2019 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	10	2	12	60%	-	0%	83%
LO Oct Firearm	10	2	0	2	20%	0	0%	100%
Total Oct Firearm	30	12	2	14	47%	0	0%	86%
Archery	-	12	1	13	-	-	0%	92%
Muzzleloader	-	6	0	6	-	-	17%	100%
Total Harvest	-	30	3	33	-	-	3%	91%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	31	5	36	9%	86%	14%	-	-	31%
2016	15	1	16	0%	94%	6%	27%	27%	47%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	15 ES		0			
2016	15 ES		1			
2017	15 ES		0			
2018	24 ES		0			
2019	20 ES		0			
2020*	20 ES		0			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 30 Bucks and 5 Does and Fawns

GARDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 20 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. The 2019 allocation was 30 general and 15 landowner permits.

Garden Late: 90 Doe/Fawn and 45 Landowner Doe/Fawn only. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 76 doe/fawn and 38 landowner permits.

General Information: Firearm hunter success was 67% in 2019, compared to 67% in 2018. Garden Late success was 49% compared to 55% last year. Depredation complaints: Two (2).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to stabilize the population, while keeping hunter success and buck quality high. Recent severe winter conditions resulted in larger concentrations of pronghorn on agricultural fields within the Sandhill/Agriculture habitat interface throughout the unit as documented by five (5) depredation complaints and winter aerial counts. Percent adult bucks harvested on the either sex permit remains high while percent yearling buck in the harvest continues to meet objectives. The continued success on high quality bucks should also cause consideration for a permit increase in this unit. The terrain features and lack of complete road access creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn, as a result, success can be highly variable from year to year. It is recommended to increase late doe/fawn season permits to further alleviate depredation complaints that occur throughout the unit and increase hunter opportunity.

2019 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	30	23	1	24	80%	-	4%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	15	6	2	8	40%	13%	0%	75%
Total Oct Firearm	45	29	3	32	67%	-	3%	91%
Gen Late D/F	76	1	43	44	57%	-	-	2%
LO Late D/F	17	0	3	3	18%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	93	1	46	47	49%	-	-	2%
Archery	-	26	0	26	-	-	11%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	6	1	7	-	-	0%	86%
Total Harvest	-	62	50	112	-	-	8%	55%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	53	3	56	0%	95%	5%	-	-	57%
2016	59	27	86	3%	68%	32%	32%	14%	54%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	45 ES	-	1			
2016	45 ES	45 Garden Late D/F	10			
2017	45 ES	51 Garden Late D/F	0			
2018	45 ES	51 Garden Late D/F (2 LO)	3			
2019	45 ES	114 Garden Late D/F (21 LO)	5	589	30	59
2020*	60 ES	135 Garden Late D/F	2			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 70 Bucks and 70 Does and Fawns

NORTH SIOUX MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 110 firearm Either Sex and 55 (1 ES, 1 D/F) Landowner permits. The 2019 allocation was 100 general and 50 landowner permits.

North Sioux Late: 80 Doe/Fawn only and 40 Landowner Doe/Fawn only permits. Landowner permits will receive an additional bonus doe/fawn permit. The 2019 allocation was 80 Doe/Fawn only and 40 Landowner Doe/Fawn only permits

Area Boundary: That portion of the North Sioux Unit within 6 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.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 64% in 2019 compared to 62% in 2018. Severe winter conditions that have occurred in the last several years have resulted in larger concentrations of pronghorn on agricultural fields. It is recommended to continue with the doe/fawn late season and to increase late season permits to address depredation issues. Depredation complaints: Two (2).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to maintain the current levels in the population, while keeping buck quality and hunter success rates high. Hunter success and yearling buck harvest continue to meet objectives. Historically, approximately 1/3 of the harvest for all seasons is in the Oglala National Grasslands.

2019 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	100	62	12	74	73%	-	10%	84%
LO Oct Firearm	40	15	4	19	40%	8%	20%	79%
Total Oct Firearm	140	77	16	93	64%	-	12%	83%
Gen Late D/F	80	0	43	43	54%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	6	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	86	0	43	43	50%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	45	3	48	-	-	16%	94%
Muzzleloader	-	20	0	20	-		25%	100%
Total Harvest	-	142	62	204	-	-	15%	70%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2015	203	61	264	10%	77%	23%	38%	8%	53%
2016	165	54	219	2%	75%	25%	34%	11%	55%
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%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	October Firearm ¹ (unsold)	Special Seasons ¹ (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2015	150 ES (6 LO)	90 North Sioux Late D/F (19 LO)	1	2699	48	55
2016	150 ES (3 LO)	90 North Sioux Late D/F (24 LO)	0	1705	33	39
2017	150 ES (13 LO)	90 North Sioux Late D/F (20 LO)	2	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)	1	1389	28	31
2020*	165 ES	120 North Sioux Late D/F	2			

¹Total Permit Quota, Limited Landowner Quota is 33% 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

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: 150 Bucks and 60 Does and Fawns

NORTH SIOUX MUZZLELOADER MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 28 General Either Sex and 14 Limited Landowner. The allocation in 2019 was 26 Either Sex and 13 Landowner permits.

General Information: Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 71% in 2019 compared to 82% in 2018. 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 increased by 10; therefore, Muzzleloader permits will increase accordingly.

2019 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen NS MZ	26	18	0	18	69%	28%	100%
LO NS MZ	2	2	0	2	100%	0%	100%
Total NS MZ	28	20	0	20	71%	25%	100%

Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
2015	25	13 (11)	ES	74%	17	3	20	11%	85%
2016	25	13 (12)	ES	81%	18	3	21	14%	86%
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	ES						

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex

Unsold Permits: Eleven (11) Landowner permits.

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

PRAIRIE MUZZLELOADER MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations: 122 Either Sex and 61 Landowner Either Sex permits. The 2019 allocation was 100 Either Sex and 50 Landowner permits.

General Information: Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 66% in 2019, compared to 60% in 2017. Permits issued: 122.

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. An adjustment to this permit was missed in 2019 (8 permits) and is corrected for 2020.

2019 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen Prairie MZ	100	69	2	71	71%	6%	97%
LO Prairie MZ	28	13	1	14	50%	15%	93%
Total Prairie MZ	128	82	3	85	66%	7%	97%

Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
2015	91	46	ES	62%	84	1	85	4%	99%
2016	92	46 (6)	ES	65%	82	4	86	7%	95%
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	ES						

* Recommended permits

Unit Harvest Distribution:

Unit	Harvest
Banner North	7
Banner South	12
Box Butte East	5
Box Butte West	21
Cherry	7
Cheyenne	10
Dismal	9
Eastern Sandhills	6
Garden	7
Southwest	1

Unsold Permits: Twenty-two (22) Landowner permits.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 80 adult bucks and 5 doe/fawn.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

DEER

INTRODUCTION

Recommendations for the 2020 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 surveys, crop damage reports, deer vehicle collisions, deer harvest, hunter opinion and disease concerns.

Recovery from whitetail population declines that occurred in 2012 has been slower than expected in units adjacent to the Missouri River. Most deer units in central and western Nebraska are fully recovered. We recommend permit quota increases and additional bonus AOWT tags in several central and western management units to limit whitetail population growth. Depredation complaints are very high in the Loup East Unit and continued high harvest is necessary. Staff encourage landowners to require their hunters to harvest antlerless deer along river corridors where crop damage is occurring.

Mule deer harvest is declining from record and near record levels in many western deer management units in recent years. We recommend permit increases in several units to address crop depredation issues. Cases of meningeal brain worm have been reported in several central units this fall and winter. We recommend permit quota and bag limit adjustments in response in many central management units.

Deer Management Goals:

Mule Deer: Increase populations in Calamus West and Keya Paha; maintain populations at current levels in Buffalo, Loup West, Plains, Platte, Sandhills and Upper Platte; stabilize growth in the Pine Ridge; and decrease population in Frenchman.

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

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Change from 2018</u>	<u>Historic Rank</u>
Total Deer Harvest	Up 952 (+1.6%) to 59,300	#10
Deer Permit Sales	Up 1,688 (+1.3%) to 129,020	#9
Nonresident Permit Sales	Up 776 (+4.3%) to 18,918	#1
Whitetail Buck Harvest	Up 2,705 (+9.9%) to 29,899	#7
Whitetail Antlerless Harvest	Down 184 (-0.9%) to 19,191	#17
Mule Deer Buck Harvest	Down 702 (-7.6%) to 8,548	#9
Mule Deer Antlerless Harvest	Up 143 (5.7%) to 2,672	T#33
Age 3 and older WT Bucks	Up 3% to 40%	#1
Age 3 and older MD Bucks	Down 2% to 50%	#2

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission staff aged 16,642 whitetail deer and 4,250 mule deer. Which was 34% of all whitetails and 38% of all mule deer harvested.

2020 Recommendation Summary/Highlights

- Overall
 - 45,325 total Nov FA from 45,000 in 2019.
 - 30,150 total AOSC from 30,650 in 2019.
- Buffalo – Shift 600 MDCA to Buffalo WT to reduce harvest pressure on MD Bucks
 - Add bonus AOWT to MDCA permit
 - Change Bag limit on Buffalo North to 1AO/1AOWT
 - Add Wood River to River Antlerless
- Calamus West – add bonus AOWT to Nov FA
- Frenchman
 - Focus antlerless MD harvest in Hayes, Hitchcock and Frontier Counties
 - Change Frenchman West boundary
 - Allow lower level of antlerless MD harvest throughout remainder of unit (Frenchman AOSC) via bag limit change to 1AO/1AOWT
 - Allow AOWT harvest throughout unit (New Frenchman WT AOSC permit)
- Keya Paha – No Unit permit changes
 - Add Eagle Creek to River Antlerless
- Loup East – Add 300 to Nov FA
- Loup West – Shift 600 AD² permits to New Loup West WT permit
 - Increase AOWT harvest through additional bonus AOWT on all permits.
- Missouri – No unit permit changes
 - Add Verdigris drainage and Bazile Creek to River Antlerless
- Pine Ridge
 - Step antlerless MD restriction back to allow harvest on private land throughout the unit. State and Federal land prohibited.
 - Add 100 permits to Pine Ridge WT AOSC
 - Add 200 permits to Pine Ridge AOSC (previously 0)
 - Add Hat, Indian and Antelope Creeks to River Antlerless
- Plains – Add bonus AOWT to Nov AD permit
- Platte
 - Allow Antlerless MD harvest throughout unit with Platte AOSC
 - Allow AOWT harvest throughout unit with Platte WT AOSC
 - Continue increased antlerless MD harvest in Sandhills and Loess canyons with Platte North AOSC
- Republican
 - Add Little Blue to River Antlerless
- Sandhills
 - Add bonus AOWT to Nov FA
 - Add second bonus AOWT to AOSC
 - Extend North and Middle Loup River Antlerless boundaries
- Upper Platte – New WT AOSC permit (200 2 AOWT)
- River Antlerless – Additional boundaries
 - Extend October season to October 1-15 to include 2 weekends.
- Statewide Buck Only – increase to 100.

RECOMMENDED DEER SEASONS

Season Dates:

November Firearm: November 14-22, 2020

Archery Season Dates: September 1 – December 31, 2020

Muzzleloader Season Dates: December 1-31, 2020

River Antlerless Firearm: October 1-15, 2020, River Antlerless Only

Late Antlerless Only Firearm: January 1-15, 2021, All AO SCA, Youth and Landowner

Antlerless Only Season Choice Areas: Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon

<u>2020 Recommendations</u>					
<u>Unit Permit</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>	<u>AO SCA Unit Permit</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Bag Limit</u>
Blue Northwest	2200	1 AD	AO SCA Blue NW	1800	1 AO
Blue Southeast	3500	1 AD	AO SCA Blue SE	2000	1 AO
Buffalo WT	2100	1 WT	AO SCA Buffalo	1000	2 AOWT
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SCA Buffalo North	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Calamus East	1300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SCA Calamus East	400	2 AOWT
Calamus West	1600	1 AD, 1 AOWT	AO SCA Calamus West	300	2 AOWT
Elkhorn	2700	1 AD	AO SCA Elkhorn	1000	1 AOWT
Frenchman MDCA	2000	1 AD, 1 AOWT	AO SCA Frenchman	300	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Frenchman WT	1600	1 WT, 1 AOWT	AO SCA Frenchman WT	500	2 AOWT
Keya Paha	2500	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SCA Frenchman West	650	2 AO
Loup East	3300	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SCA Keya Paha	500	2 AOWT
Loup West	1200	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SCA Loup East	1500	3 AOWT
Loup West WT	600	1 WT, 2 AOWT	AO SCA Loup West	400	1 AO, 2 AOWT
Missouri	3200	1 AD ²	AO SCA Missouri	1000	2 AOWT
Pine Ridge	1200	1 AD ²	AO SCA Pine Ridge	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT*
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1 WT	AO SCA Pine Ridge WT	600	2 AOWT
Plains	1700	1 AD, 1 AOWT	AO SCA Plains	500	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Platte MDCA	1400	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SCA Platte	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Platte WT	1300	1 WT	AO SCA Platte WT	500	2 AOWT
Republican MD	75	1 MD Buck	AO SCA Platte North	400	2 AO
Republican WT	3000	1 WT	AO SCA Republican	1500	2 AOWT
Sandhills	2000	1 AD, 1 AOWT	AO SCA Sandhills	450	1 AO, 2 AOWT
Upper Platte	1200	1 AD	AO SCA Upper Platte	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Wahoo	3650	1 AD ²	AO SCA Upper Platte WT	200	2 AOWT
			AO SCA Wahoo	1900	1 AOWT
			AO SCA River Antlerless	12,000	2 AOWT
TOTALS	45,325		TOTALS	30,150	
OTHER PERMITS					
WT SW Buck	Unlimited	1 WT Buck	Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Restricted SW Buck	Unlimited	1 Any buck	November Firearm, Not valid in the MDCA		
SW Buck	100	1 Any buck	November Firearm, Valid statewide		
Archery	Unlimited	1 AD*	Valid statewide		
Muzzleloader	Unlimited	1 AD*	Not valid for mule deer in MDCA units		
Resident Youth	Unlimited	1 AD*	Valid statewide		
NR Restricted Youth	Unlimited	1 AD*	Not valid in draw units		
Youth WT	Unlimited	1 WT	Valid statewide		
Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD, 1 AO	Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		

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

* Antlerless Mule Deer harvest prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge Unit.

2019 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	WT		MD		1 st	Bonus
					B	AO	B	AO		
Blue Northwest	2200	2200	1 AD	994	769	223	2	0	45	-
Blue Southeast	3500	3500	1 AD	1560	1286	274	0	0	44	-
Buffalo MDCA	1600	1600	1 AD ²	753	413	56	279	5	47	-
Buffalo Whitetail	1550	1550	1 WT	737	639	98	0	0	48	-
Calamus East	1300	1300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	843	590	203	49	1	54	11
Calamus West	1600	1600	1 AD	828	487	73	243	25	52	-
Elkhorn	2700	2700	1 AD	1158	944	207	5	2	43	-
Frenchman MDCA	2000	2000	1 AD, 1 AOWT	1399	147	181	1011	60	63	7
Frenchman WT	1600	1600	1 WT, 1 AOWT	1053	663	380	8	2	52	13
Keya Paha	2500	2204	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1546	1087	342	114	3	60	10
Loup East	3000	3000	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	2337	1320	983	30	4	56	17 / 3
Loup West	1700	1700	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1080	580	249	248	3	54	9
Missouri	3200	3200	1 AD, 1 AOWT	2098	1417	654	27	0	53	12
Pine Ridge	1200	1200	1 AD ²	652	332	43	275	2	54	-
Pine Ridge WT	1000	872	1 WT	434	361	71	2	0	50	-
Plains	1700	1700	1 AD	1041	314	27	617	83	61	-
Platte MDCA	1400	1400	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	886	189	113	583	1	58	6
Platte WT	1300	1132	1 WT	539	481	53	4	1	48	-
Republican MD	100	100	1 MD Buck	23	0	0	23	0	23	-
Republican WT	3000	3000	1 WT	1464	1179	285	0	0	49	-
Sandhills	2000	2000	1 AD	1281	553	40	658	30	64	-
Upper Platte	1200	1200	1 AD	736	143	21	482	90	61	-
Wahoo	3650	3650	1 AD ²	1553	1241	312	0	0	42	-
Nov. FA TOTAL/Avg	45,000	44,408		24,995	15,135	4,888	4,660	312	51	10
Archery	UNL	17,668	1 AD*	4941	3586	601	699	55	28	-
Muzzleloader	UNL	6742	1 AD*	1882	965	425	415	77	28	-
Statewide Buck	50	50	1 Buck	21	0	0	21	0	42	-
Rest. SW Buck	UNL	846	1 Buck	425	182	1	242	0	50	-
WT SW Buck	UNL	9109	1 WT Buck	2953	2915	28	9	1	32	-
Landowner	UNL	14,296	1 AD, 1 AO	7235	3763	1832	1242	398	43	8
Youth Resident	UNL	6601	1 AD*	3465	1672	525	1128	140	52	-
Youth Whitetail	UNL	3874	1 WT	1608	1178	412	16	2	41	-
Youth NR Rest.	UNL	618	1 AD*	275	136	34	91	14	44	-
Other TOTAL/Avg		59,804		22,805	14,397	3,858	3,863	687	40	8

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

2019 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	WT		MD		1 st	Bonus
					B	AO	B	AO		
AO SCA Blue Northwest	1800	1800	1 AOWT	523	12	510	0	1	29	-
AO SCA Blue Southeast	2000	2000	1 AOWT	609	29	578	0	2	30	-
AO SCA Buffalo	1000	739	2 AOWT	384	8	372	0	4	37	14
AO SCA Buffalo North	100	100	2 AO	82	0	14	0	68	56	26
AO SCA Calamus East	400	122	1 AOWT	61	1	60	0	0	38	12
AO SCA Calamus West	300	225	1 AOWT	112	5	106	0	1	35	15
AO SCA Elkhorn	1000	1000	1 AOWT	285	8	277	0	0	29	-
AO SCA Frenchman	1000	509	2 AOWT	201	7	192	0	2	30	10
AO SCA Frenchman West	1250	1250	2 AO	1082	3	142	0	929	56	30
AO SCA Keya Paha	500	243	2 AOWT	150	8	141	0	1	44	17
AO SCA Loup East	1500	795	3 AOWT	448	12	436	0	0	33	16 / 7
AO SCA Loup West	400	169	2 AOWT	100	3	64	1	32	44	15
AO SCA Missouri	1000	954	2 AOWT	444	19	424	0	1	34	13
AO SCA Pine Ridge WT	500	500	2 AOWT	285	9	275	0	1	41	16
AO SCA Plains	500	470	1 AO, 1 AOWT	266	11	110	3	142	46	11
AO SCA Platte	800	542	2 AOWT	208	9	197	0	2	27	11
AO SCA Platte North	500	500	2 AO	358	5	94	5	254	47	25
AO SCA Republican	1500	1441	2 AOWT	681	20	660	0	1	36	11
AO SCA Sandhills	450	323	1 AO, 1 AOWT	240	4	116	5	115	56	18
AO SCA Upper Platte	250	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT	128	2	33	0	93	46	6
AO SCA Wahoo	1900	1900	1 AOWT	538	23	515	0	0	28	-
AO SCA River Antlerless	12,000	8976	2 AOWT	5323	169	5129	1	24	41	18
AO SCA TOTAL/AVG	30,650	24,808		12,508	367	10,445	15	1,673	39	16 / 7
ALL SEASONS	75,650/ UNL	129,020		60,308	29,899	19,190	8,538	2,672	45	14 / 6

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

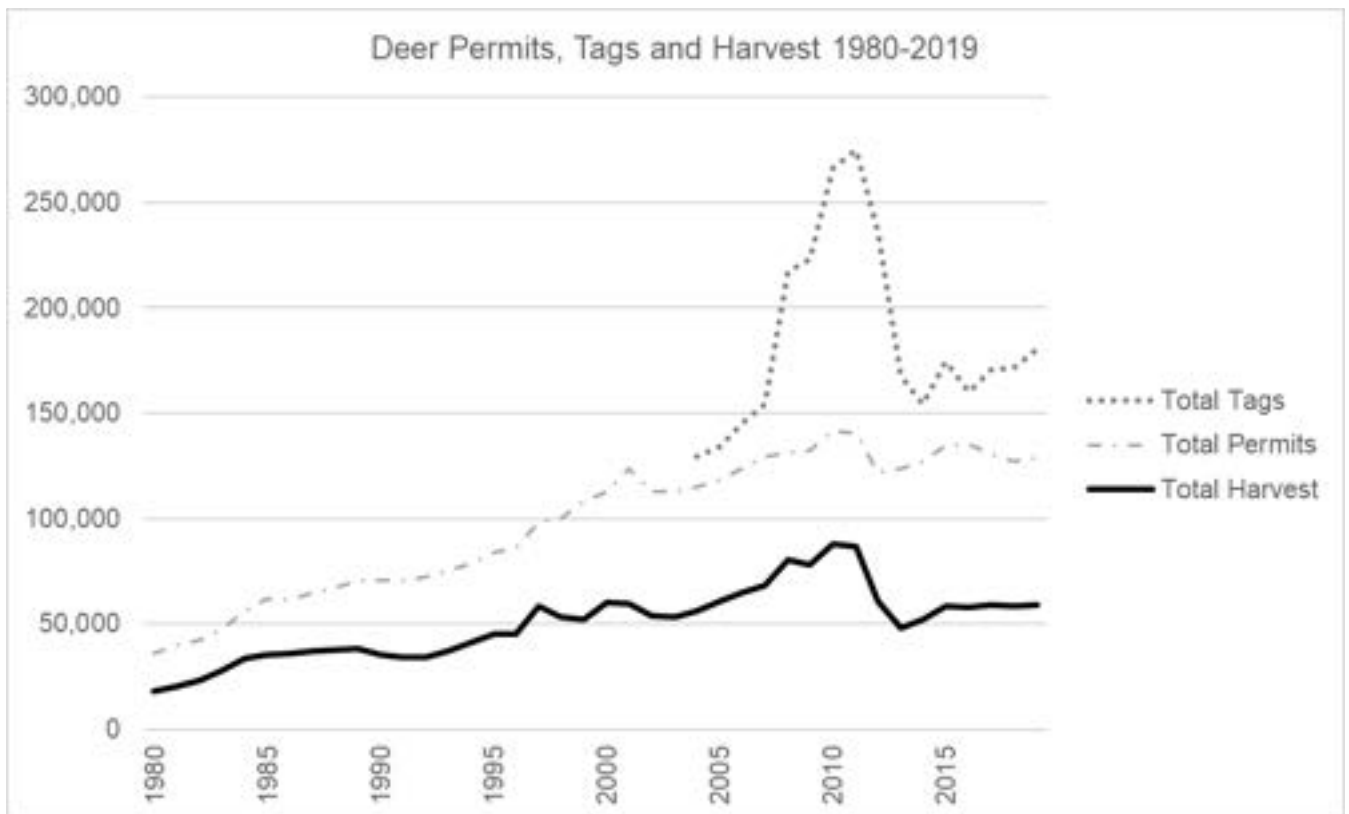
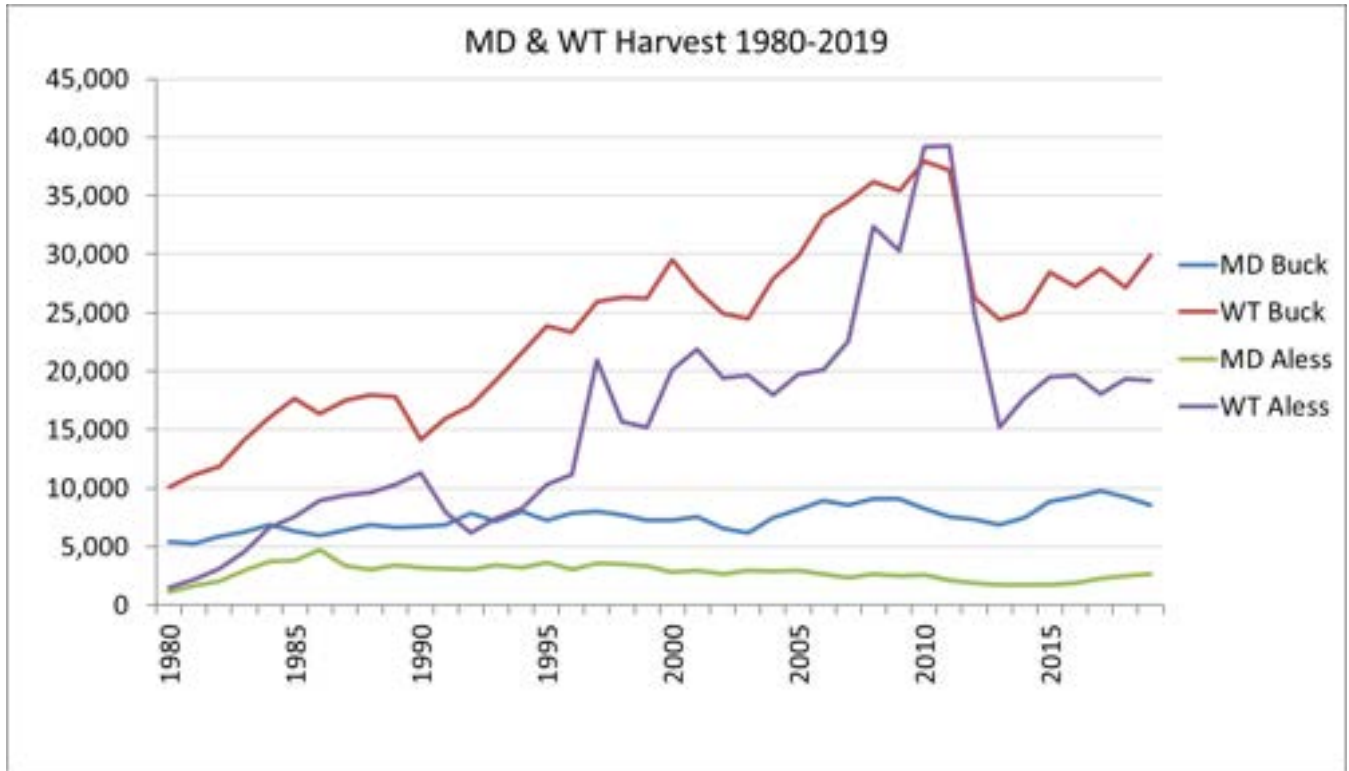
SW – Statewide

UNL – Unlimited

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

* - No Antlerless Mule Deer in the Pine Ridge Unit

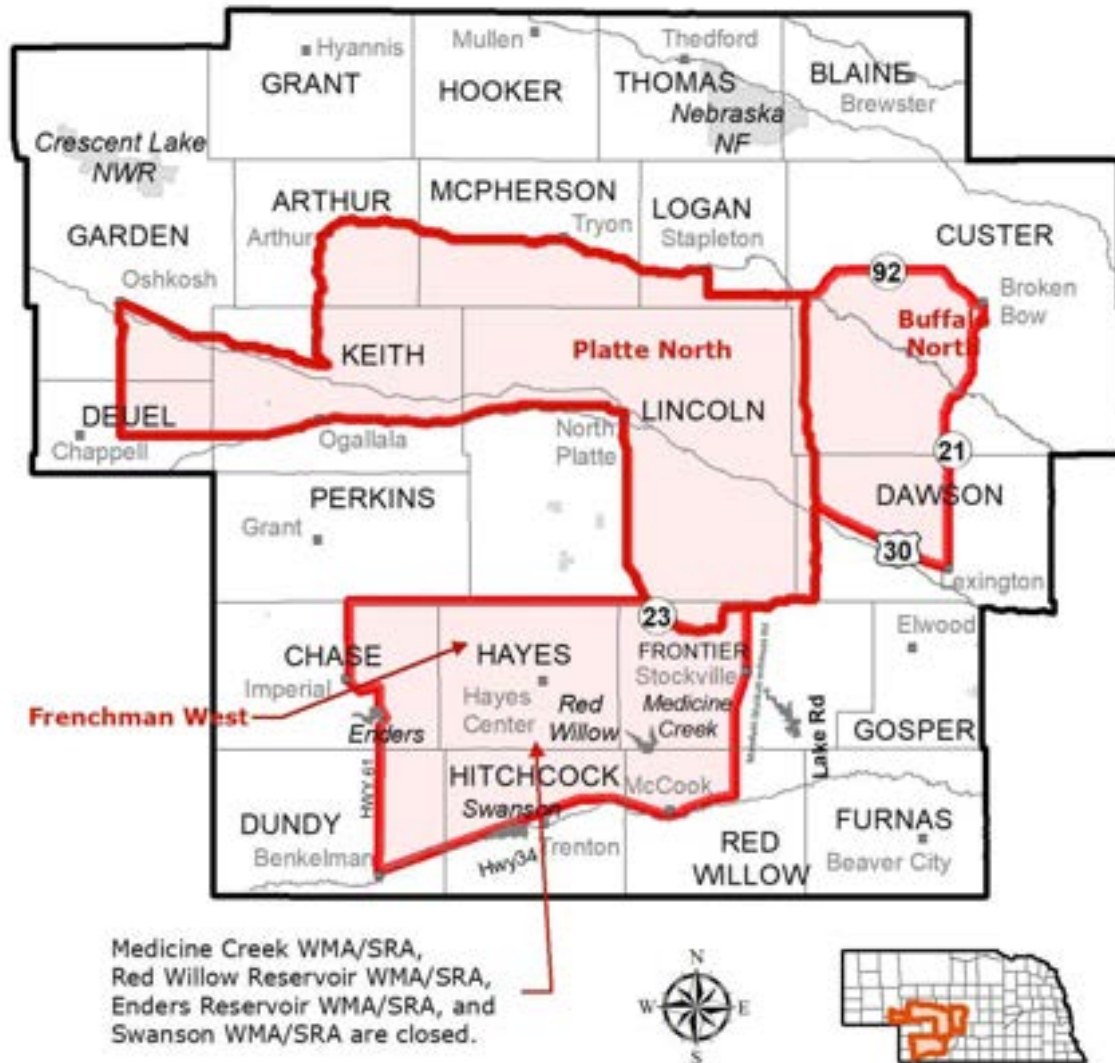
HISTORIC DEER HARVEST AND PERMITS



2020 NOVEMBER FIREARM UNITS & ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON CHOICE UNITS

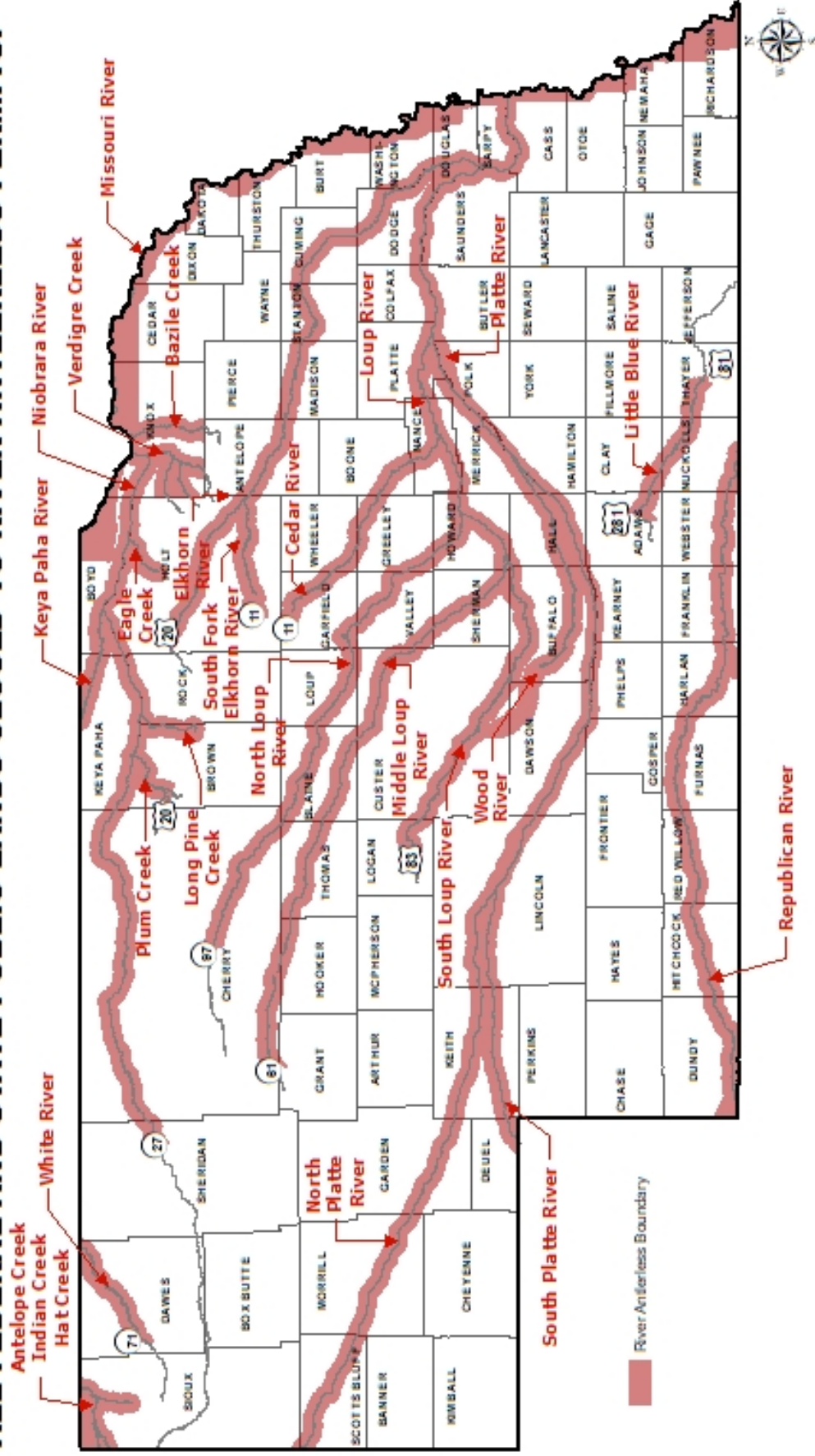


2020 ADDITIONAL ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON UNITS



2020 RIVER ANTLERLESS UNIT

ALL FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC LANDS CLOSED TO RIVER ANTLERLESS PERMITS.



BLUE NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Blue Northwest November Firearm: 2200 Any Deer permits. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Blue Northwest: 1800 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. No change from 2019.

General Information: The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males remained stable at 34%. Harvest for all seasons was 2236 adult whitetail males and 1223 antlerless whitetails. Landowner complaints decreased from last year. Landowner complaints increased from last year. Four (4) crop damage complaints were received in 2019. Three (3) damage control permits were issued for Blue Northwest in 2019.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Herd numbers appear to be within landowner tolerance. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were less than last year. 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.

2019 Harvest Data - Blue Northwest

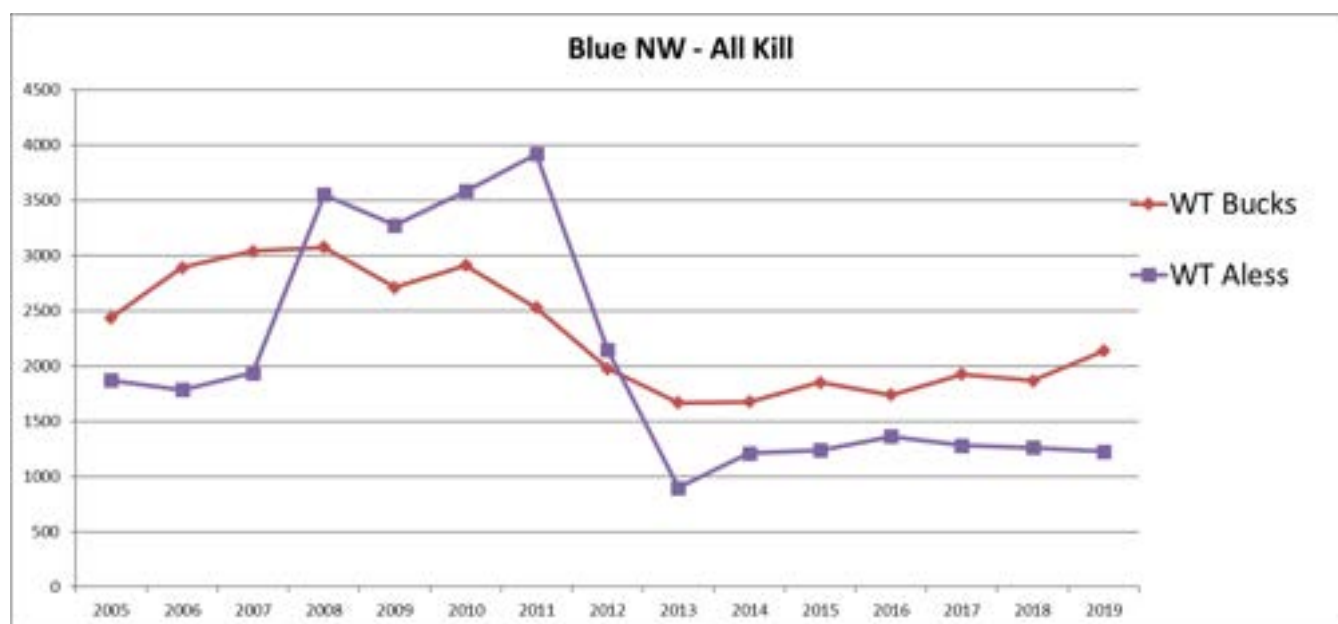
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Blue NW	2200	2200	11/2/19	2	0	2	769	223	992	45
AO SC Blue NW	1800	1800	11/17/19	0	1	1	12	510	522	29
Landowner				1	0	1	446	267	713	
Archery				2	0	2	347	78	429	
Muzzleloader				0	0	0	47	49	96	
Youth				0	0	0	92	45	137	
Youth WT				0	0	0	96	40	136	
Rest. NR Youth				0	1	1	4	2	6	
Rest. SWB				0	0	0	4	0	4	
WT SWB				3	0	3	319	1	323	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	0	8	8	
Totals				6	2	9	2136	1223	3359	

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+
2015	3	1	4					1849	1237	3086	40	44	34	21
2016	2	3	5					1738	1361	3099	44	39	38	23
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	9					2136	1223	3359	36	34	37	29



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	2450	1 AD	Blue Northwest SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2016	2450	1 AD	Blue Northwest SCA – 2300 (1 AOWT)
2017	2450	1 AD	Blue Northwest SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2018	2200	1 AD	Blue Northwest SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)
2019	2200	1 AD	Blue Northwest SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)
2020*	2200	1 AD	Blue Northwest SCA – 1800 (1 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	5	2000	1	1250

BLUE SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Blue Southeast November Firearm: 3500 Any Deer permits. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Blue Southeast: 2000 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. No change from 2019.

General Information: Habitat conditions were good in the majority of the unit with flooding along the Missouri River in 2019. Fawning appeared to be average. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males remained the same at 29%. Harvest for all seasons was 2779 adult whitetail males and 1598 antlerless whitetails. Landowner complaints increased from last year. Three (3) crop damage complaints were received in 2019. Two (2) depredation permits were issued for Blue Southeast in 2019.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Herd numbers appear to be within landowner tolerance. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were similar to last year. The population goal is to allow limited growth in some areas of Blue Southeast while maintaining an older buck age structure. Permit strategies are to allow limited growth in some areas of the unit.

2019 Harvest Data - Blue Southeast

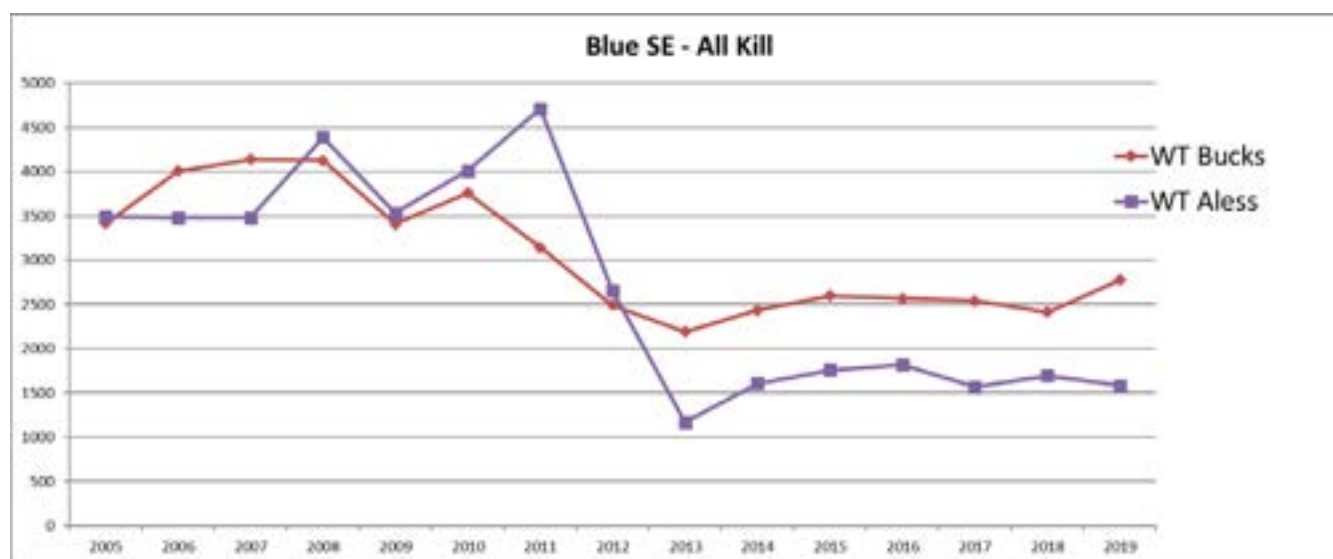
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Blue NW	3500	3500	11/11/19	0	0	0	1286	274	1560	44
AO SC Blue NW	2000	2000	11/27/19	0	2	2	29	578	607	30
Landowner				0	1	1	318	217	535	
Archery				1	0	1	490	86	576	
Muzzleloader				0	0	0	79	52	131	
Youth				0	0	0	121	45	166	
Youth WT				0	1	1	98	39	137	
Rest. NR Youth				0	0	0	12	3	15	
Restricted SWB				0	0	0	4	0	4	
WT SWB				0	0	0	335	2	337	
River Antlerless				0	2	2	6	289	295	
Totals				1	6	7	2778	1585	4363	

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+
2015	3	2	5					2598	1757	4355	40	37	30	33
2016	3	8	11					2567	1822	4389	41	32	36	32
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	3500	1 AD	Blue Southeast SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)
2016	3500	1 AD	Blue Southeast SCA – 2900 (1 AOWT)
2017	3500	1 AD	Blue Southeast SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)
2018	3500	1 AD	Blue Southeast SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)
2019	3500	1 AD	Blue Southeast SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2020*	3500	1 AD	Blue Southeast SCA – 2000 (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	2600	2	1600

BUFFALO MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Buffalo MDCA: 1000 permits for Any Deer² and one bonus antlerless whitetail valid during Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. There were 1600 permits for one AD² in 2019.

Buffalo Whitetail November Firearm: 2100 permits for one whitetail. There were 1550 permits in 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Buffalo: 1000 permits for two antlerless whitetails. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Buffalo North: 100 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. The 2019 allocation was 100 permits for two antlerless deer.

River Antlerless: Add Wood River from the mouth up to U.S. Hwy 21.

General Information: Deer harvest for all seasons was 494 adult male mule deer, 143 antlerless mule deer, 2190 adult male whitetail and 1549 antlerless whitetail. Four (4) cases of meningeal worm mortalities in mule deer were confirmed and approximately 20 more have been reported with clinical signs of meningeal worm. One whitetail tested positive for CWD in Phelps County. No EHD reports were received in 2019.

There were 4 depredation complaints and 3 kill permits along the Platte River and 3 depredation complaints along the Wood River in 2019.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy:

Mule deer populations have declined in the southern portion of the unit and remained stable to slightly increasing in some areas of 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 has declined over the last 5 years, despite little change in permit numbers.

The whitetail deer population is at desired levels in most areas except portions of the Platte, South Loup and Wood Rivers. Total buck harvest increased 6% from last year with 76% of harvested whitetail bucks age 2 or older. The population objective is to keep whitetail herds at current levels in upland portions of the unit and decrease the whitetail herds on the Platte and South Loup Rivers. This will be accomplished by maintaining current bag limits on Buffalo MDCA, Buffalo WT, Buffalo SCA permits, and continuing the liberal use of River Antlerless permits.

2019 Harvest Data

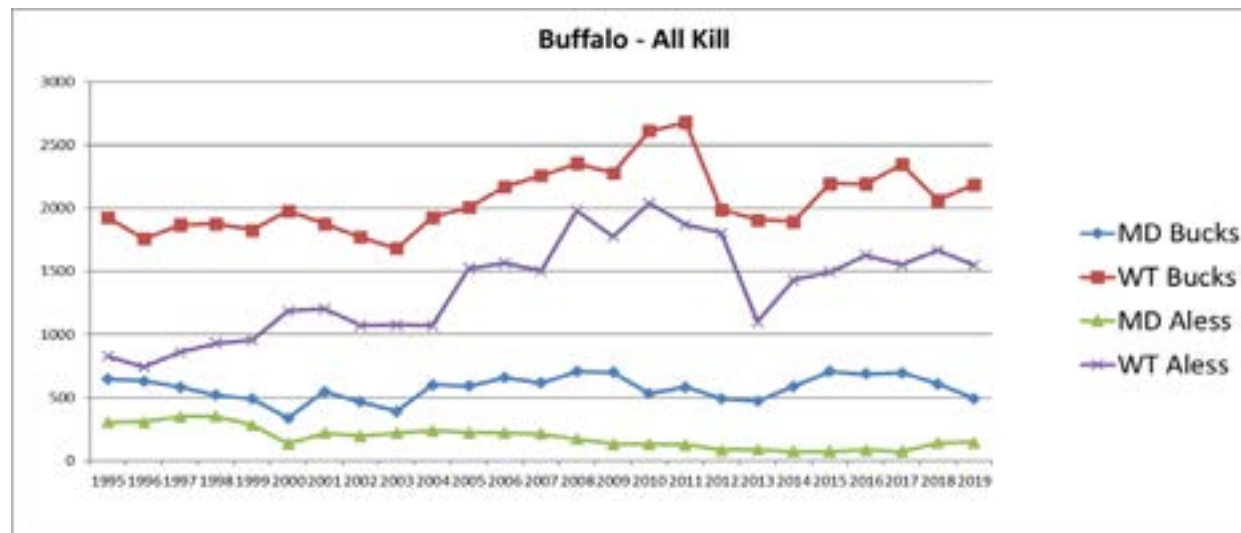
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Buffalo MDCA	1600	1600	10/19/19	279	5	284	413	56	469	47
Buffalo WT	1550	1550	11/15/19	0	0	0	639	98	737	48
AO SC Buffalo	1000	739	261	0	4	4	8	372	380	37 / 14
AO SC Buffalo North	100	100	1/4/20	0	68	68	0	14	14	56 / 26
Landowner				100	41	141	295	109	404	
Archery				25	1	26	263	40	303	
Muzzleloader				1	0	1	61	23	74	
Youth				73	18	91	159	46	205	
Youth WT				2	0	2	91	29	120	
Youth NR Rest.				13	1	14	10	1	11	
Statewide Buck				1	0	1	0	0	0	
Restricted SWB				0	0	0	14	0	14	
WT SWB				0	1	1	214	2	216	
River Antlerless				0	4	4	23	759	782	
Totals				494	143	637	2190	1549	3739	

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+
2015	707	76	783	10	24	44	32	2195	1495	3690	41	29	27	44
2016	688	84	772	11	21	45	34	2194	1612	3806	42	24	27	49
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Whitetail Only	Special Seasons
2014	1600 MDCA	1 AD ²	1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2015	1600 MDCA	1 AD ²	1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2016	1600 MDCA	1 AD ²	1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)
2017	1600 MDCA	1 AD ²	1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)
2018	1600 MDCA	1 AD ²	1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)
2019	1600 MDCA	1 AD ²	1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)
2020*	1000 MDCA	1 AD ² 1 AOWT	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

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	700	2300	150	1700

CALAMUS EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Calamus East November Firearm: 1300 Any Deer² permits with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited. This is no change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Calamus East: 400 Antlerless Only Whitetail with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. This is no change from 2019.

General Information: The whitetail adult buck kill was slightly lower than expected harvest goals, but age structure continues to be desirable. Antlerless only harvest decreased slightly but was near expected harvest. Indices show a stable population. Mule deer buck harvest decreased but is annually variable based on environmental conditions and hunter preference. CWD testing was completed in 2019 with no positive cases. No depredation complaints.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective in this unit is to continue to use bonus and antlerless only tags to stabilize the 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 and disease events.

2019 Harvest Data - Calamus East

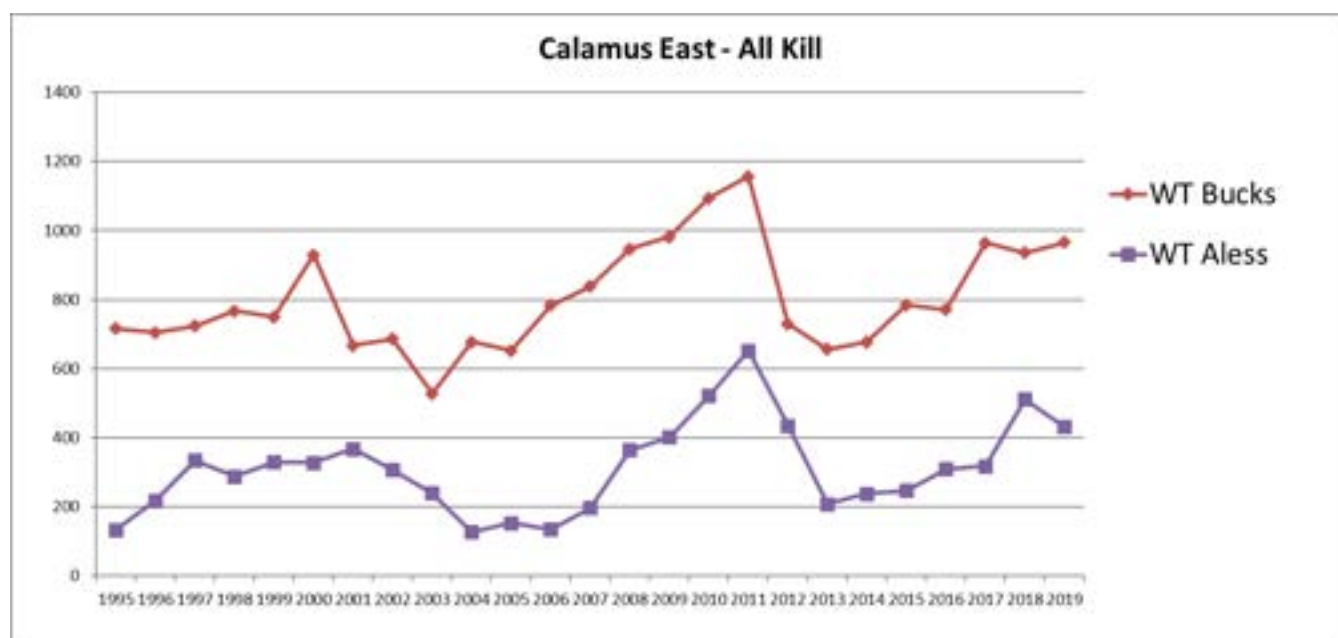
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>%Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Calamus East	1300	300	11/21/19	49	1	50	590	203	793	54 / 11
AO SC Calamus East	400	122	-	0	0	0	1	60	61	38 / 12
Landowner				17	6	23	151	45	196	
Archery				2	2	4	45	7	52	
Muzzleloader				1	0	1	14	10	24	
Youth				7	0	7	55	13	68	
Youth WT				0	0	0	34	12	36	
NR Youth Restricted				0	0	0	2	0	2	
WT SWB				0	0	0	68	0	68	
Restricted SWB				4	0	4	6	0	6	
River Antlerless				0	1	1	0	82	82	
Totals				80	10	90	966	432	1398	

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+
2015	92	11	103	11	20	51	29	784	249	1033	24	29	37	34
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	1150	1 AD ²	Calamus East SCA – 200 (AOWT)
2016	1150	1 AD ²	Calamus East SCA – 200 (AOWT)
2017	1150	1 AD ²	Calamus East SCA – 200 (AOWT)
2018	1300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)
2019	1300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)
2020*	1300	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	1000	10	500

CALAMUS WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Calamus West November Firearm: 1600 Any Deer permits with bonus antlerless whitetail. Antlerless mule deer is allowed during the firearm season. No antlerless mule deer allowed on Nebraska National Forest – Bessey. In 2019, there were 1600 Any Deer permits with no bonus.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Calamus West: 300 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. This is no change from last year.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest decreased slightly, but continues to be higher than the 5-year average, and age structure is excellent. Mule deer antlerless harvest decreased and is still below 20% of the harvest. Whitetail buck harvest increased and age structure is still excellent. Whitetail antlerless harvest was similar to 2019. No depredation complaints were received in 2019. Reports of meningeal brain worm in mule deer were received in 2019.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective for whitetails is to stabilize the population at current levels and age structure. The objective for mule deer is to maintain the population while providing opportunity to harvest mule deer does at sustainable rates (<20%).

2019 Harvest Data – Calamus West

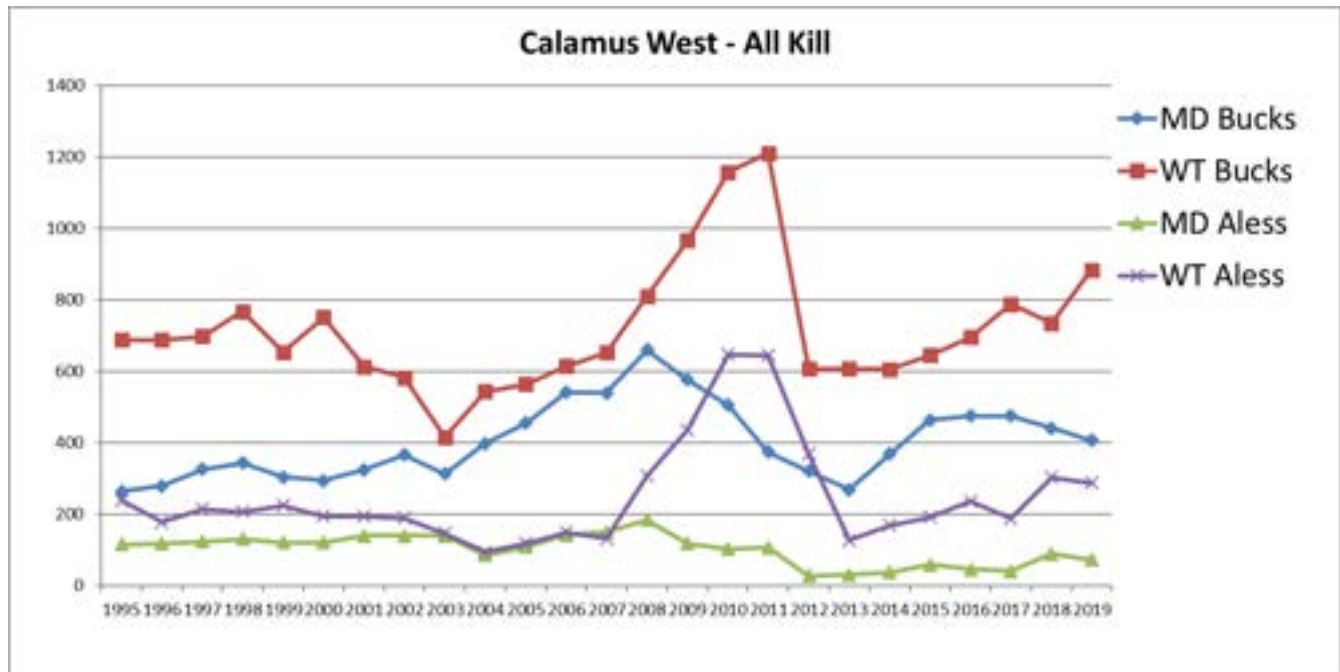
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Calamus West	1600	1600	11/12/19	243	25	268	487	73	560	52
AO SC Cal. West	300	225	-	0	1	1	5	106	111	35 / 15
Landowner				45	16	61	100	37	137	
Archery				28	6	34	65	10	75	
Muzzleloader				28	24	52	31	14	45	
Youth				35	1	36	80	7	87	
Youth WT				1	0	1	23	4	27	
NR Youth Rest.				0	0	0	4	2	6	
WT SWB				1	0	1	69	0	69	
Restricted SWB				26	0	26	19	0	19	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	2	36	38	
Totals				408	73	481	885	289	1174	

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+
2015	464	59	523	11	23	35	41	640	190	830	23	24	26	50
2016	476	46	522	9	13	38	49	696	231	927	25	24	28	48
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	1450	1 AD ²	Calamus West SCA – 150 (AOWT)
2016	1450	1 AD ²	Calamus West SCA – 150 (AOWT)
2017	1450	1 AD ²	Calamus West SCA – 150 (AOWT)
2018	1450	1 AD	Calamus West SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)
2019	1600	1 AD	Calamus West SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)
2020*	1600	1 AD, 1 AOWT	Calamus West SCA – 300 (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
Calamus West	500	850	90	400

ELKHORN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Elkhorn November Firearm: 2700 Any Deer permits with no antlerless bonus tags. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Elkhorn: 1000 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. No change from 2019.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest increased nearly 10%. The adult buck age structure improved and met unit goals for the third consecutive year. The trend indicates a stable to growing population. Mule deer harvest remains low due to lack of adequate habitat in the unit. 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. No deer damage complaints were received in this unit. CWD sampling was completed in the unit in 2019 with 1 positive sample in Boone County.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The population objective is to allow the whitetail herd to grow, particularly in non-riverine areas by maintaining a reduced number of antlerless permits. Also, it is the goal to maintain an older cohort of bucks in the harvest by maintaining a reduced number of either sex permits. Management of mule deer with harvest restrictions is ineffective due to low density and very limited mule deer habitat in the unit.

2019 Harvest Data – Elkhorn

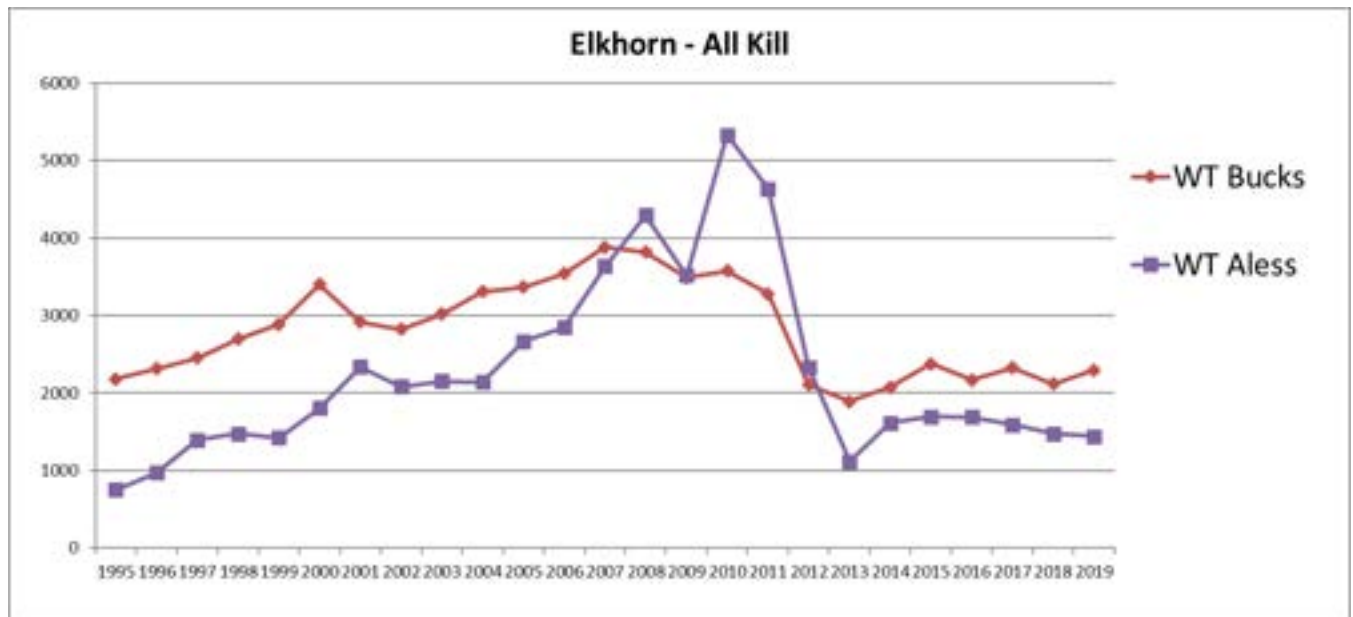
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Elkhorn	2700	2700	11/4/19	5	2	7	944	207	1151	43
AO SC Elkhorn	1000	1000	11/15/19	0	0	0	8	277	285	29
Landowner				6	2	8	411	188	599	
Archery				3	0	3	271	53	324	
Muzzleloader				0	1	1	67	48	115	
Youth				3	2	5	146	60	206	
Youth WT				0	0	0	86	25	111	
NR Youth Rest.				0	0	0	5	2	7	
WT SWB				1	0	1	323	2	325	
Rest. SWB				0	0	0	14	1	15	
River Antlerless				0	2	2	20	577	597	
Totals				18	9	27	2295	1440	3757	

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+
2015	12	8	20	40	75	13	13	2379	1694	4073	42	45	41	14
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	2900	1 AD ²	Elkhorn SCA – 1800 (AOWT)
2016	2900	1 AD ²	Elkhorn SCA – 2300 (AOWT)
2017	2700	1 AD ²	Elkhorn SCA – 1800 (AOWT)
2018	2700	1 AD	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)
2019	2700	1 AD	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)
2020*	2700	1 AD	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (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
Elkhorn	10	2300	1	1500

FRENCHMAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Frenchman MDCA: 2000 Any Deer permits with one Antlerless Whitetail Only bonus tag (via application and draw) valid during Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. No change from 2019.

Nonresident Allocation: 8% of Frenchman MDCA permits.

Frenchman Whitetail November Firearm: 1600 permits for one whitetail and one antlerless whitetail. An increase from 1400 in 2018.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Areas: Permits are not valid on Red Willow WMA/SRA, Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Swanson WMA/SRA or Enders WMA/SRA.

Frenchman Whitetail: Valid for entire Frenchman DMU, 500 permits for two antlerless whitetail. This is a new permit for 2020.

Frenchman: Valid for entire Frenchman DMU, 300 permits for one antlerless and one antlerless whitetail. This permit was altered from a 2 AOWT in 2019.

Frenchman West: 650 permits for two antlerless deer. A decrease and boundary change.

Frenchman West Boundary: Boundary changed to focus on core area of high mule deer populations. See Additional AOSC Map or unit description for details.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest is 13% below the record harvest set in 2011. Buck age structure for both WT and MD is very good. Mule deer populations have reached cultural carrying capacity in some areas in Hayes, Hitchcock and Frontier Counties leading to all time high antlerless MD harvest in 2019. The season was extended through January 31, 2020 to boost antlerless harvest.

Depredation Complaints: 9 WT, 20 MD. DCP Issued: 6 WT, 10 MD

2647 residents applied for 1840 Frenchman MDCA permits (70% success).

712 nonresidents applied for 160 Frenchman MDCA permits (22% success).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Aggressive antlerless MD harvest is helping to reduce mule deer populations to cultural carrying capacity in the western 2/3 of the unit. High harvest will continue in the core area of high numbers and depredation issues. Population objectives are to maintain mule deer numbers the eastern third and periphery of the unit and decrease numbers in Hayes, Hitchcock and Frontier Counties. This will be accomplished with the changes to antlerless mule deer permits and bonus tags.

The whitetail deer herd is stable or slightly decreasing, but staff has received concerns with low whitetail populations in some areas along the Republican River. The population objective is maintain overall numbers while allowing enough permits to handle all depredation complaints.

2019 Harvest Data – Frenchman

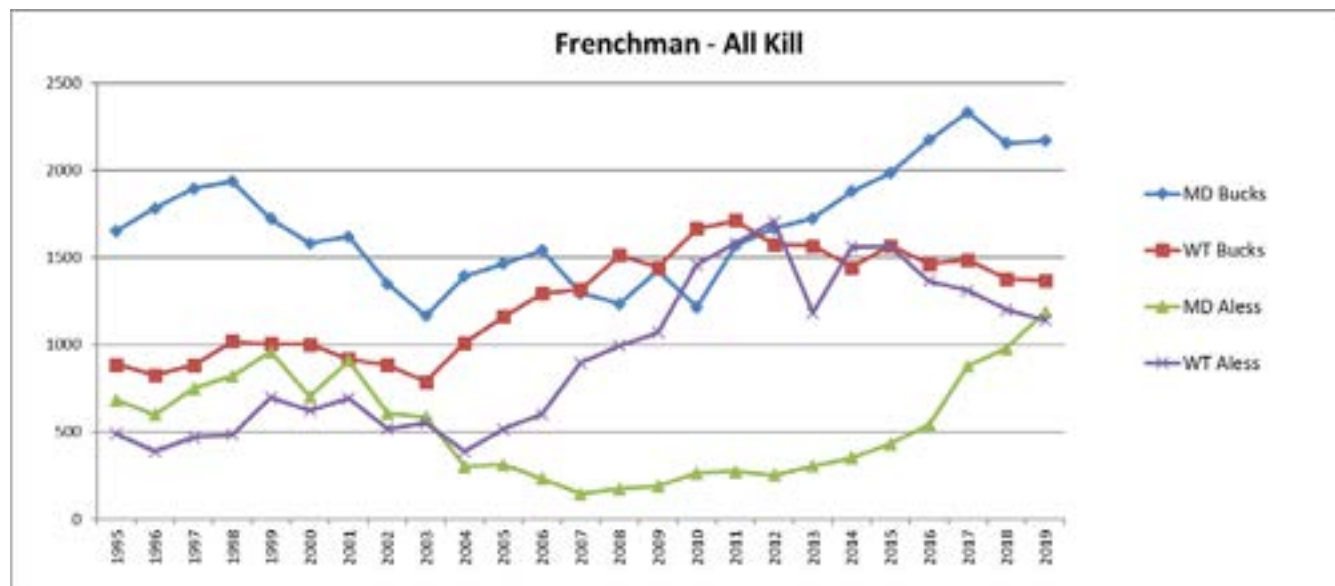
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Frenchman MDCA	2000	2000	8/5/19	1011	60	1071	147	181	328	63 / 7
Frenchman WT	1600	1600	11/11/19	8	2	10	663	380	1043	52 / 13
AO SC Frenchman	1000	510	-	0	2	2	7	192	199	30 / 10
AO SC FR West	1250	1250	1/8/20	8	929	937	3	142	145	56 / 30
Landowner				437	142	579	113	58	171	
Archery				285	14	299	162	14	176	
Muzzleloader				3	0	3	36	14	50	
Youth				399	34	433	69	14	83	
Youth WT				1	0	1	58	19	77	
NR Youth Rest.				1	0	1	0	0	0	
Statewide Buck				15	0	0	0	0	0	
WT SWB				2	0	2	99	1	100	
River Antlerless				0	4	4	4	126	130	
Totals				2170	1187	3357	1367	1141	2508	

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+
2015	1983	432	2415	18	13	36	51	1568	1565	3133	50	24	32	44
2016	2175	532	2707	19	12	39	50	1462	1365	2827	48	23	36	41
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	MDCA	Whitetail Only	Special Seasons
2015	1800 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 400 (1AO, 1AOWT)
2016	1900 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 800 (1AO, 1AOWT)
2017	1900 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	1400 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 875 (2 AO)
2018	2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	1400 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 1000 (2 AO)
2019	2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 1250 (2 AO)
2020*	2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 300 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 650 (2 AO)

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
Frenchman	2200	1450	1100	1300

KEYA PAHA MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Keya Paha November Firearm: 2500 Any Deer² permits with an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Keya Paha: 500 Antlerless Only Whitetail with an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. No change from 2019.

River Antlerless: Add Eagle Creek in Holt County from the mouth to 483rd Ave.

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 increased to a five year high, while age structure index still suggests a high WT population. Mule deer buck harvest decreased, but varies annually based on environmental conditions and hunter preference.

Six depredation complaints were received in 2019.

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 remained at 89% for bucks 2.5 or older. The objective for this unit is to increase the WT antlerless harvest to stabilize a growing 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 will address most of the depredation issues. The population objective for mule deer is to maintain buck age structure while providing opportunity for hunters and landowners.

2019 Harvest Data - Keya Paha

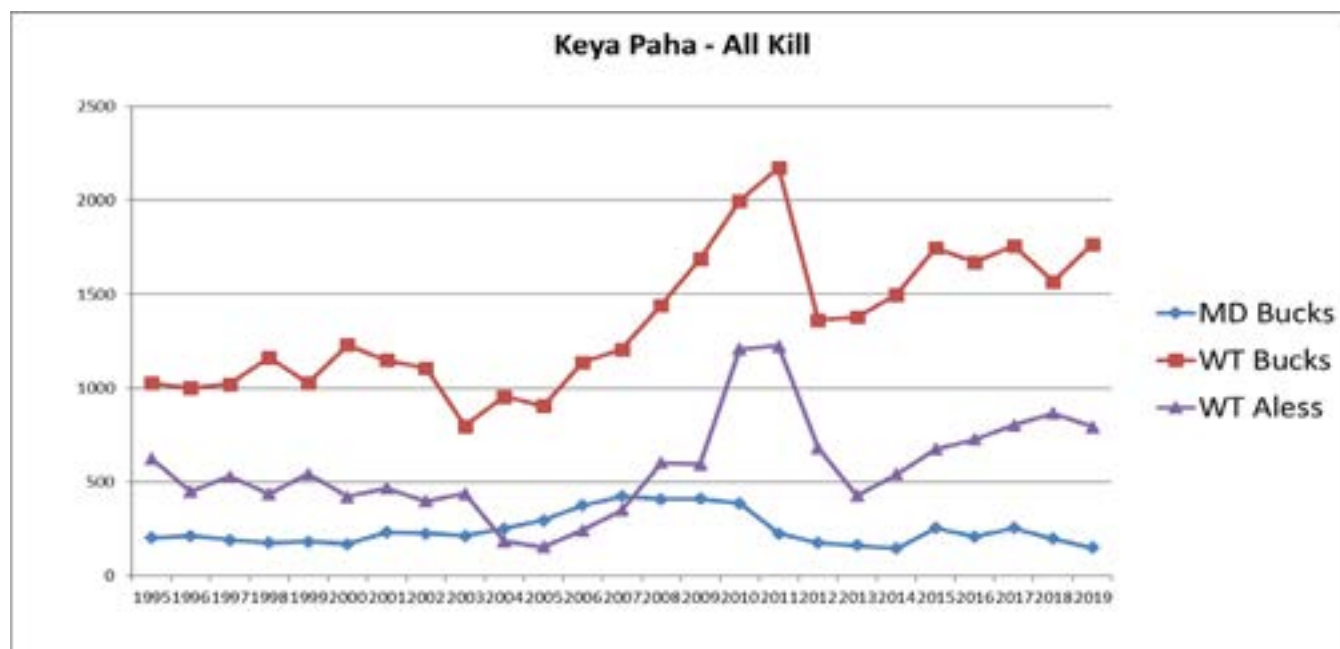
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Keya Paha	2500	2204	-	114	3	117	1087	342	1429	60 / 10
AO SC Keya Paha	500	243	-	0	1	1	8	141	149	44 / 17
Landowner				6	4	10	156	57	213	
Archery				9	1	10	134	11	145	
Muzzleloader				8	1	9	112	13	125	
Youth				11	2	13	88	12	100	
Youth WT				0	0	0	62	6	68	
NR Youth Rest.				1	1	2	11	3	14	
WT SWB				0	0	0	91	2	93	
Restricted SWB				0	0	0	8	0	8	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	10	207	217	
Totals				149	13	162	1767	794	2561	

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+
2015	254	16	270	6	21	33	46	1746	675	2421	28	13	25	61
2016	207	16	223	7	14	32	54	1667	781	2448	30	13	31	56
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	2300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2016	2300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2017	2300	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2018	2500	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2019	2500	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2020*	2500	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 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	200	1750	15	900

LOUP EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Loup East November Firearm: 3300 Any Deer² permits with two (2) bonus Antlerless Only Whitetail tags. In 2019, 3000 Any Deer² permits with 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags were issued. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Loup East: 1500 Antlerless Only Whitetail, with two (2) Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2019.

General Information: Harvest of whitetail bucks has exceeded expected results the previous five years but antlerless harvest has been below desired numbers. Antlerless harvest nearly met 50% goal in 2019. Indicators show a trend for a growing WT population. The age of whitetail bucks remains high. Mule deer buck harvest and age structure remains stable. Severe flooding in March altered riverine habitat and crop planting in this unit greatly in 2019. The season was extended through January 31, 2020. The season extension and additional AOWT tags helped increase AOWT harvest by 22% from 2018.

Depredation complaints: 14 and 10 DCP were issued.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: High deer populations will accommodate additional buck harvest while maintaining desired age structure. The objective for whitetails is to maintain antlerless deer to address the increasing deer herd. Deer damage complaints have been typically located along the Loup River system, in the Fullerton area specifically the last 2 years. River Antlerless and Bonus tags on Firearm Permits have been the best choice for hunters to harvest antlerless deer. Extra bonus tags in 2019 and a season extension boosted antlerless WT harvest to desirable levels.

2019 Harvest Data - Loup East

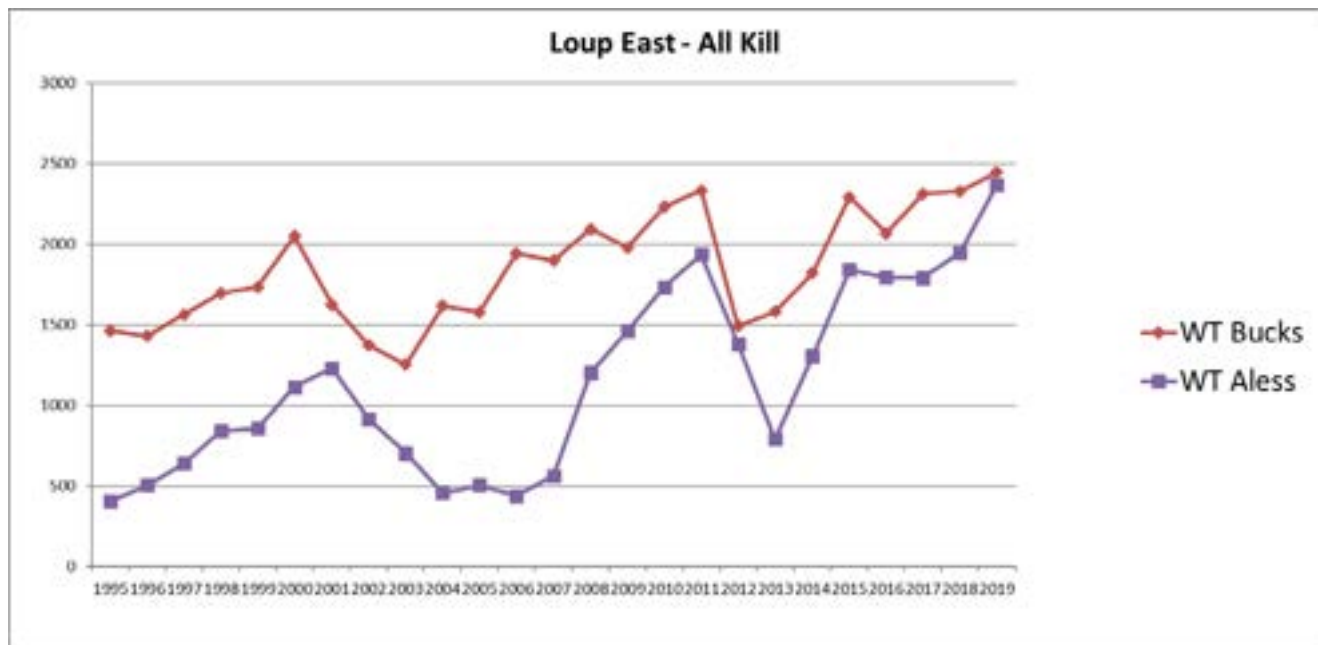
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Loup East	3000	3000	11/15/19	30	4	34	1320	983	2303	56 / 17 / 5
AO SC Loup East	1500	783	-	0	0	0	12	436	448	33 / 16 / 7
Landowner				12	1	13	362	160	522	
Archery				7	0	7	195	22	217	
Muzzleloader				0	1	1	57	21	78	
Youth				13	3	16	153	52	205	
Youth WT				1	0	1	102	35	137	
NR Youth Rest.				0	0	0	6	2	8	
WT SWB				1	0	1	207	2	209	
Restricted SWB				2	0	2	7	0	7	
River Antlerless				0	2	2	24	657	681	
Totals				66	11	77	2445	2370	4815	

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+
2015	67	13	80	16	40	37	23	2304	1844	4148	44	25	42	30
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	2150	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Loup East SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)
2016	2150	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Loup East SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)
2017	2400	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Loup East SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)
2018	2700	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Loup East SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)
2019	3000	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)
2020*	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	75	2300	10	2300

LOUP WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Loup West November Firearm: 1200 Any Deer² permits, with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Permits not valid for antlerless mule deer. In 2019, there were 1700 AD² permits with one AOWT bonus tag.

Loup West Whitetail November Firearm: 600 Any Whitetail permits, with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. This is a new permit for 2020

Antlerless Only Season Choice Loup West: 400 permits for 1 Antlerless Only and 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. In 2019, there were 400 permits for 2 antlerless only deer.

General Information: Mule deer harvest for all seasons was 522 adult mule deer bucks and 85 antlerless mule deer. Whitetail harvest for all seasons was 832 adult whitetail bucks and 465 antlerless whitetail deer. Hunter success was 63% for Loup West firearm permits and 59% for Loup West Season Choice Antlerless permits. Two (2) cases of meningeal worm mortalities in mule deer were confirmed and approximately 20 more have been reported exhibiting clinical signs of the disease. Depredation complaints: 3, 0 DCP.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The whitetail deer population has recovered from the EHD event of 2012 and appears to be increasing. The population objective for whitetail is to maintain the herd at the current level. River Antlerless permits, Loup West SCA and additional 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 in this unit. Mule deer buck harvest decreased 18% from 2018 and 44% from 2008. Age structure remains good. The mule deer population is experiencing a parasitic disease issue with meningeal brain worm and this unit has a history of meningeal worm "hot spots" and close surveillance will be required to monitor losses. Hunters and landowners have expressed interest in the mule deer population within this unit. The population objective is to allow the mule deer herd to grow, while maintaining the current age structure. This will be accomplished by the change in permit strategy and allowing the limited harvest of antlerless mule deer on Loup West Season Choice Antlerless permits to address any damage issues in this unit. Finding a way to increase antlerless whitetail harvest is important to the management of mule deer in the unit.

2019 Harvest Data - Loup West

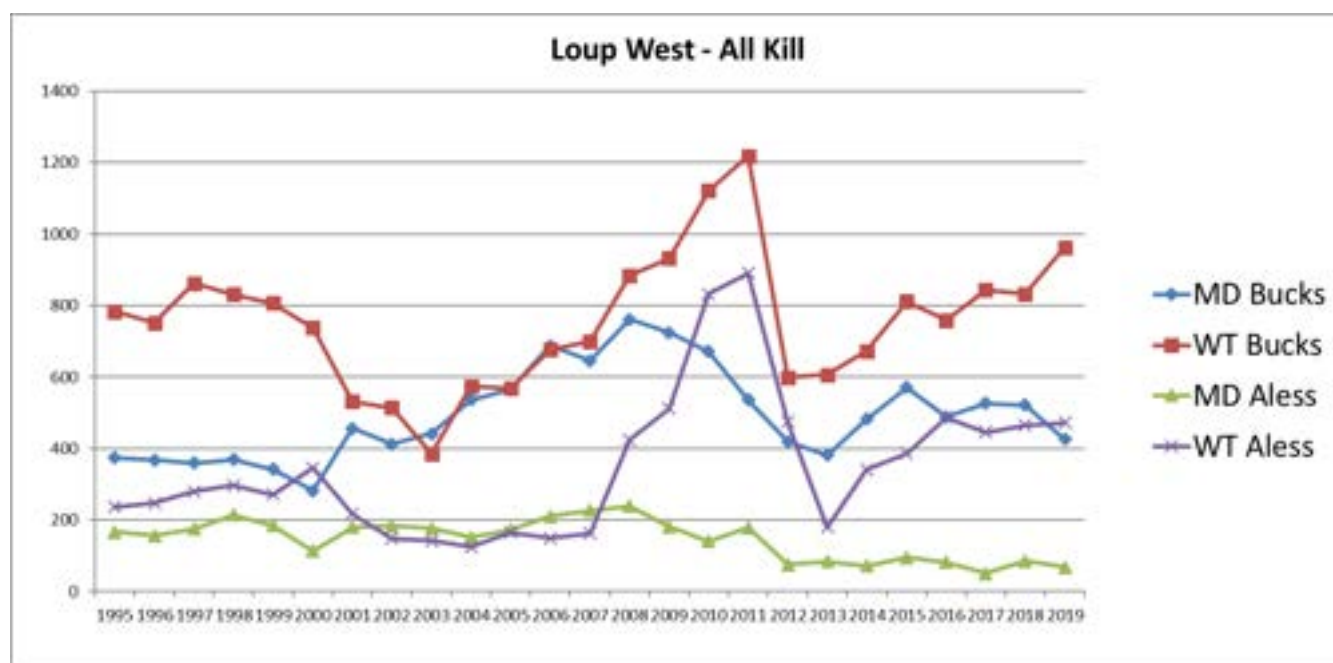
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Loup West	1700	1700	11/22/19	248	3	251	580	249	829	54 / 9
AO SC Loup West	400	169	-	1	32	33	3	64	67	44 / 15
Landowner				53	15	68	107	43	127	
Archery				20	1	21	55	3	58	
Muzzleloader				30	6	36	34	11	45	
Youth				56	11	67	87	18	105	
Youth WT				3	0	3	36	7	43	
NR Youth Rest.				3	0	3	6	0	6	
WT SWB				0	0	0	47	0	47	
Restricted SWB				11	0	11	8	0	8	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	0	78	78	
Totals				426	68	494	963	473	1436	

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+
2015	571	95	666	14	21	47	32	812	386	1198	32	27	36	36
2016	488	84	572	14	13	46	41	760	486	1246	39	22	34	44
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Whitetail Only	Special Seasons
2015	1350 (1 AD ²)		Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)
2016	1350 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)		Loup West SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)
2017	1500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)		Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)
2018	1700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)		Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)
2019	1700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)		Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AO)
2020*	1200 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	600 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 2 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	400	900	75	600

MISSOURI MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Missouri November Firearm: 3200 Any Deer permits with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. This is no change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Missouri: 1000 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2019.

River Antlerless: Add Bazile Creek and the Main Branch Verdigris Creek in Knox County from mouth to the Antelope County Line and the North and Middle Branches of Verdigris Creek from the mouth to the Holt County Line.

General Information: The whitetail buck increased and was more than expected, while whitetail antlerless harvest was stable. Whitetail buck age structure remains desirable. Whitetail densities are highest in the western ½ of the unit. 10 depredation complaints were received and 5 damage permits were issued in 2019.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to maintain or increase antlerless harvest to stabilize herd growth. The age structure of the bucks in the harvest meet unit goals even with an increase in harvest, indicating more buck harvest is sustainable. The addition of the Verdigris and Bazile Creek watersheds in the River Antlerless zone will help increase antlerless harvest in the western ½ of the unit. The objective for the mule deer population is to allow the herd to grow as allowed by landowner tolerance and disease events.

2019 Harvest Data – Missouri

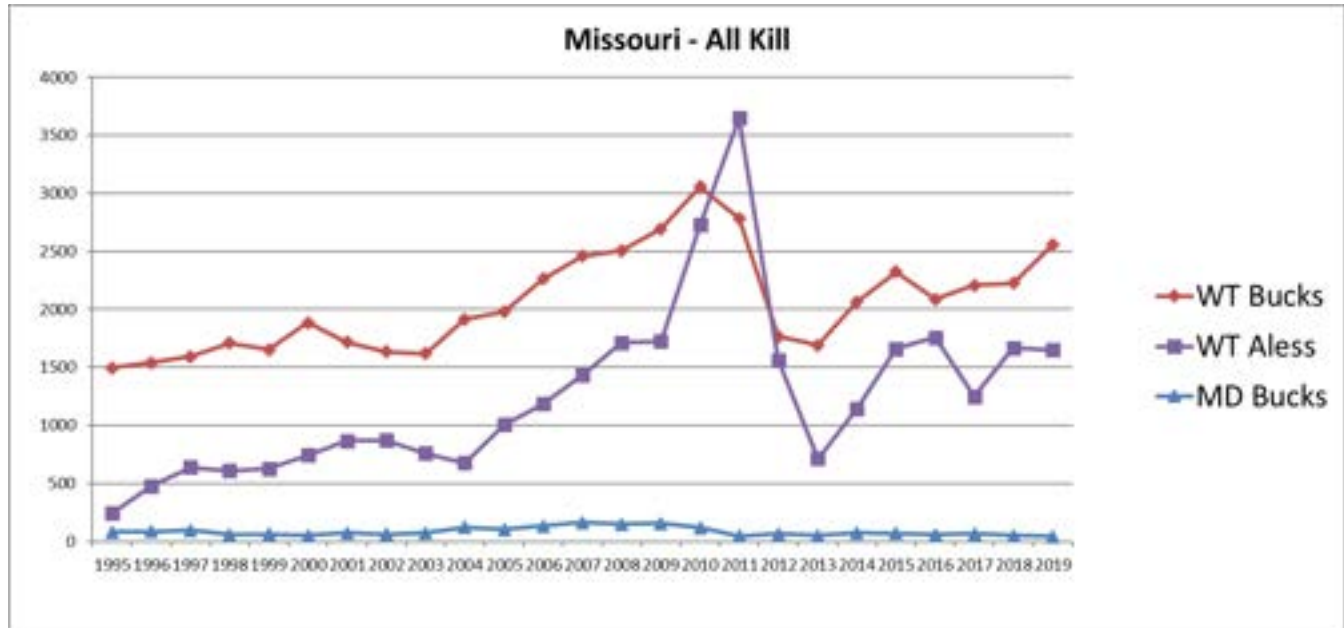
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Missouri	3200	3200	11/5/19	27	0	27	1417	654	2071	53 / 12
AO SC Missouri	1000	954	-	0	1	1	19	424	443	34 / 13
Landowner				6	2	8	346	135	481	
Archery				3	0	3	227	41	268	
Muzzleloader				1	0	1	56	21	77	
Youth				4	0	4	139	37	176	
Youth WT				0	0	0	109	30	139	
NR Youth Rest.				0	0	0	27	2	29	
WT SWB				0	0	0	201	1	202	
Restricted SWB				2	0	2	6	0	6	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	12	306	318	
Totals				43	3	46	2559	1651	4210	

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+
2015	71	9	80	11	30	55	15	2296	1647	3943	42	26	45	29
2016	59	12	71	16	17	58	25	2090	1738	3828	45	28	46	26
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	2900	1 AD ²	Missouri SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)
2016	2900	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	Missouri SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)
2017	2900	1 AD ²	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)
2018	2900	1 AD, 1 AOWT	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)
2019	3200	1 AD, 1 AOWT	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)
2020*	3200	1 AD, 1 AOWT	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 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	60	2200	10	1800

PINE RIDGE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Pine Ridge November Firearm: 1200 permits valid for one Any Deer². No change from 2019.

Pine Ridge Whitetail November Firearm: 1000 permits valid for one whitetail of either sex. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Pine Ridge: 200 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. Permit allocation had been 0 for many years.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Pine Ridge Whitetail: 600 permits for two antlerless only whitetails. There were 500 permits in 2019.

River Antlerless: Add Antelope and Indian Creeks from mouth to Wyoming state line and Hat Creek from mouth to E Hat Creek Road.

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. Antlerless mule deer harvest was allowed in the unit only on landowner permits in 2019.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 25% below the 5 year average and 26% down from 2018. However, some of that decline is in response to the permit shift in 2019. Whitetail buck harvest was up 13% compared to the 5 year average and up 19% from 2018. Age structure continues to be good for both species. Drought, wildfires, increased predation and disease have impacted deer populations in this unit in recent years. In 2019, 247 deer were sampled for CWD and 63 positives were detected.

Depredation complaints: Two

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators and observations indicate slightly increasing numbers of both mule deer and whitetail. Mule deer numbers have increased to a point where it's necessary to allow a low level of antlerless harvest. Objectives are to increase hunter satisfaction in this largely public land unit, increase mule deer populations and buck age, while providing opportunity to harvest antlerless mule deer. Objective is to reduce whitetail population in areas of high densities with the addition of Hat, Indian, and Antelope creek to the river antlerless tag and reduce species interaction to benefit mule deer.

2019 Harvest Data - Pine Ridge

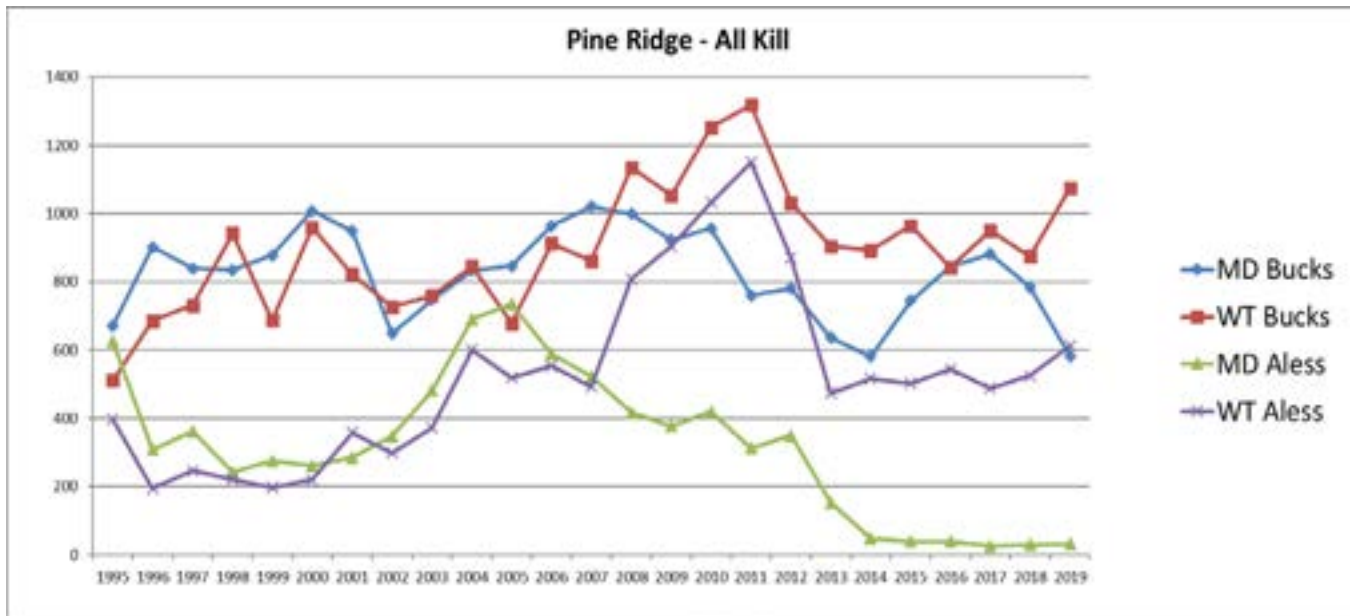
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Pine Ridge	1200	1200	8/26/19	275	2	277	332	43	375	54
Pine Ridge WT	1000	872	-	2	0	2	361	71	432	50
AO SC Pine Ridge WT	500	500	12/3/19	0	1	1	9	275	284	41 / 16
Landowner				73	28	101	86	51	137	
Archery				40	0	40	76	10	86	
Muzzleloader				46	0	46	61	11	72	
Youth				70	0	70	39	14	53	
Youth WT				2	0	2	30	9	39	
NR Youth Restricted				7	0	7	18	8	26	
WT SWB				0	0	0	34	0	34	
Restricted SWB				67	0	67	26	0	26	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	3	120	123	
Totals				582	31	613	1075	612	1687	

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+
2015	744	39	783	5	33	33	34	964	502	1466	34	25	31	44
2016	844	39	883	4	14	39	47	842	544	1386	39	22	41	37
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Whitetail Only	Special Seasons
2015	2400	1 AD ²		Pine Ridge SCA WT – 200 (AOWT)
2016	2400	1 AD ²		Pine Ridge SCA WT – 200 (AOWT)
2017	2400	1 AD ²		Pine Ridge SCA WT – 200 (AOWT)
2018	1650	1 AD ²	550 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 400 (AOWT)
2019	1200	1 AD ²	1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 500 (2 AOWT)
2020*	1200	1 AD ²	1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 500 (2 AOWT)

*Recommended permit numbers

+ Antlerless MD harvest on public land prohibited

AO – Antlerless Only

AD – Any Deer

² No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	600	1000	150	700

PLAINS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Plains November Firearm: 1700 Any Deer with bonus antlerless whitetail permits. Antlerless mule deer restrictions are on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Addition of bonus AOWT from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Plains: 500 Antlerless Only Season Choice permits with an additional Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Antlerless mule deer restrictions are on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. No change from 2019.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was down 9% from the 5 year average and down 17% from 2018. Whitetail buck harvest was up 17% from the 5 year average and 19% from 2018. Age structure remains good for both species. In 2019, 482 deer were tested for CWD and 101 positives were detected.

Depredation Complaints: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators, observations and landowner contacts indicate slightly increasing numbers in mule deer. Population objectives are to maintain mule deer and whitetail populations at their current levels. This recommendation will continue the effort to maintain a relatively stable deer population and address depredation problems areas through the use of Season Choice Antlerless Only permits.

2019 Harvest Data – Plains

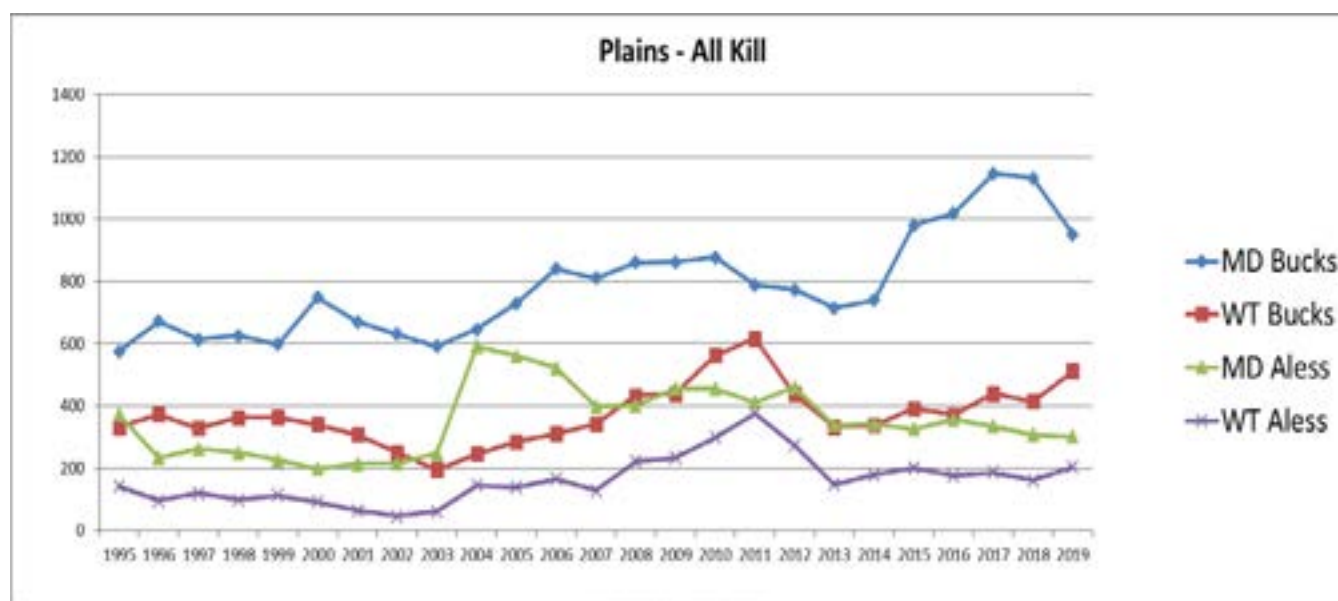
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Plains	1700	1700	11/18/19	617	83	700	314	27	341	61
AO SC Plains	500	376	-	3	142	145	11	110	121	46 / 11
Landowner				88	34	122	55	27	82	
Archery				56	7	63	29	3	32	
Muzzleloader				61	15	76	39	9	48	
Youth				85	15	100	27	5	32	
Youth WT				1	0	1	8	4	12	
NR Youth Rest.				18	6	24	7	3	10	
WT SWB				0	0	0	15	1	16	
Restricted SWB				21	0	21	6	0	6	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	1	15	16	
Totals				951	302	1253	512	204	716	

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+
2015	980	325	1305	25	23	30	47	391	201	592	34	31	31	38
2016	1017	356	1373	25	17	39	47	371	176	547	30	22	41	37
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	1500	1 AD	Plains SCA – 480 (AO)
2016	1500	1 AD	Plains SCA – 480 (AO)
2017	1500	1 AD	Plains SCA – 480 (AO)
2018	1700	1 AD	Plains SCA – 500 (AO)
2019	1700	1 AD	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)
2020*	1700	1 AD, 1 AOWT	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 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	1000	500	325	350

PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Platte MDCA: 1400 Any Deer² and one antlerless whitetail valid during November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. No change from 2019.

Nonresident Allocation: 15% of Platte MDCA permits (210 permits).

Platte Whitetail November Firearm: 1300 permits for one whitetail. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Platte: 200 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. Valid for entire Platte Unit. This is a conversion from a 2 AOWT permit previously.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Platte Whitetail: 500 permits for two antlerless whitetails. Valid for the entire Platte Unit. This is a new permit for 2020.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Platte North: 400 permits for two antlerless deer. A decrease from 500 in 2019 due to alteration of Platte AOSC permit bag limit. Valid in unit north of US 30 or east of US 83.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest is approaching records set in 2010. Mule deer buck harvest is just below a 20-year high. Age of bucks remains good. Mule deer densities seem to be stabilizing in some areas in the unit. No depredation complaints were taken for mule deer in 2018. Whitetail numbers exceed landowner tolerance on some portions of the Platte River where leasing is occurring.

Depredation Complaints: WT 2, MD 1; DCP: WT 1, MD 0

1242 residents applied for 1190 MDCA permits (96% success) and 342 nonresidents drew 210 MDCA permits (61% success).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to maintain whitetail herds at current levels in riparian corridors and decrease herds in uplands to limit competition and brainworm transmission with mule deer. Mule deer populations are stable to slightly increasing in the south of I-80, and remain stable in northern Sandhills habitats. Mule Deer objectives are to maintain the population at current levels. The permit structure change will allow some level of harvest throughout the unit and higher harvest in the Sandhills and Loess Canyons. There were six confirmed reports of brainworm in mule deer in 2019.

2019 Harvest Data – Platte

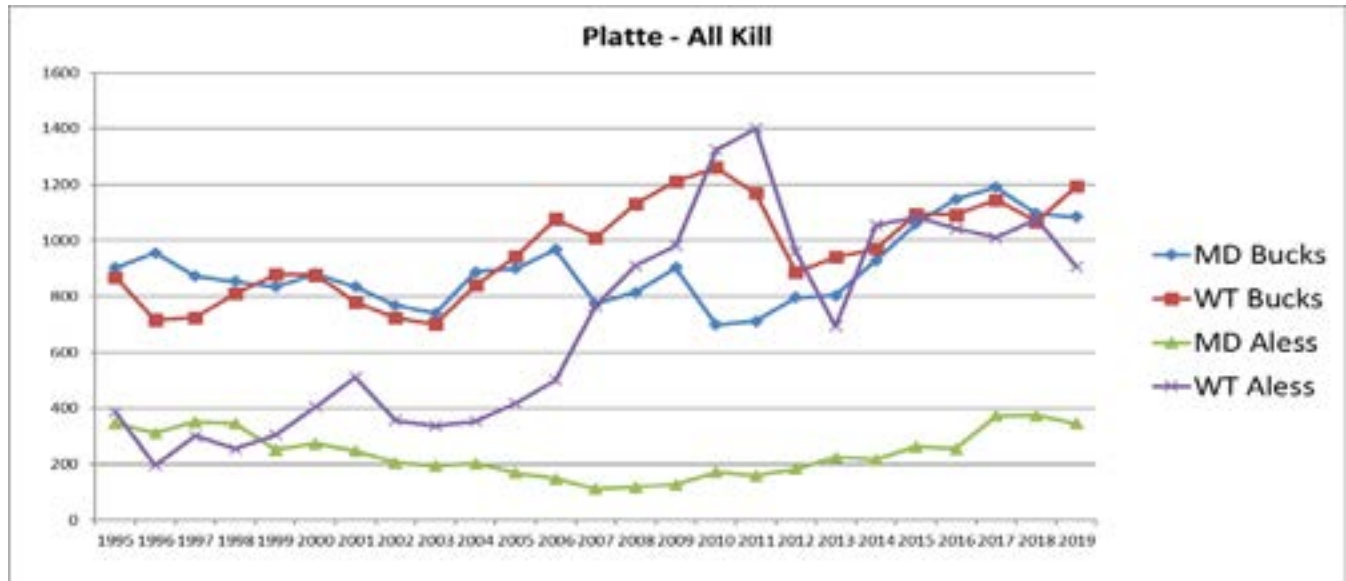
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Platte MDCA	1400	1400	8/5/19	583	1	584	189	113	302	58 / 6
Platte WT	1300	1132	-	4	1	5	481	53	534	48
AO SC Platte	800	542	-	0	2	2	9	197	206	27 / 11
AO SC Platte North	500	500	11/16/19	5	254	259	5	94	99	47 / 25
Landowner				198	52	250	114	47	161	
Archery				97	10	107	176	19	195	
Muzzleloader				5	1	6	33	5	38	
Youth				188	20	208	58	14	72	
Youth WT				1	1	2	58	24	82	
NR Youth Rest				1	0	1	1	1	2	
WT SWB				1	0	1	54	0	54	
Restricted SWB				0	0	0	2	0	2	
Statewide Buck				2	0	2	0	0	0	
River Antlerless				0	4	4	13	340	353	
Totals				1085	346	1431	1193	907	2100	

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+
2015	1060	262	1322	20	20	45	35	1094	1085	2179	50	25	39	36
2016	1148	254	1402	18	24	41	35	1091	1042	2133	49	23	35	43
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Whitetail Only	Special Seasons
2015	1200 (MDCA)	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1200 (1WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 200 (2 AO)
2016	1300 (MDCA)	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1200 (1WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 250 (2 AO)
2017	1300 (MDCA)	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1200 (1WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)
2018	1400 (MDCA)	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1300 (1WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 450 (2 AO)
2019	1400 (MDCA)	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1200 (1WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 500 (2 AO)
2020*	1400 (MDCA)	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	1200 (1WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)

** Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only

AD – Any Deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	1100	1100	400	1200

REPUBLICAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Republican MDCA: 75 antlered Mule Deer Buck permits (Republican MDCA) valid during November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. This is a decrease from 100 permits in 2019.

Republican Whitetail November Firearm: 3000 permits for one whitetail valid during the November Firearm season. No change from 2018.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Republican: 1500 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. Permits are not valid on Harlan County Lake USACE Property. No change from 2019.

River Antlerless: Add Little Blue River from US Hwy. 281 to US Hwy. 81.

General Information: The whitetail population continues to recover from the 2012 EHD event, particularly in the western half of the unit. Buck age structure is good for whitetails. Mule deer buck harvest has changed little in the past five years but did show a slight decrease in the past three years. The mule deer herd is compromised by extensive row crop agriculture and meningeal worm mortality although no meningeal worm mortalities were reported in the last 3 years. Depredation complaints: 3 (all near Harlan Co Res. Likely due to the historically high water levels.)

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The mule deer herd is low but appears to be stable. The whitetail herd is too high on the river corridors in the western portion of the unit but is much lower in the eastern portion. The number of age 2 and older whitetail bucks in the harvest has remained in the 70-80% range in the past years.

The population objective for whitetails is to reduce the herd on the Republican River in the western portion of the unit with Season Choice and River Antlerless permits and allow growth of the herd in upland habitats and in the eastern portion of the unit. The population goal for mule deer is to allow the herd to grow by restricting the harvest of antlerless mule deer.

2019 Harvest Data – Republican

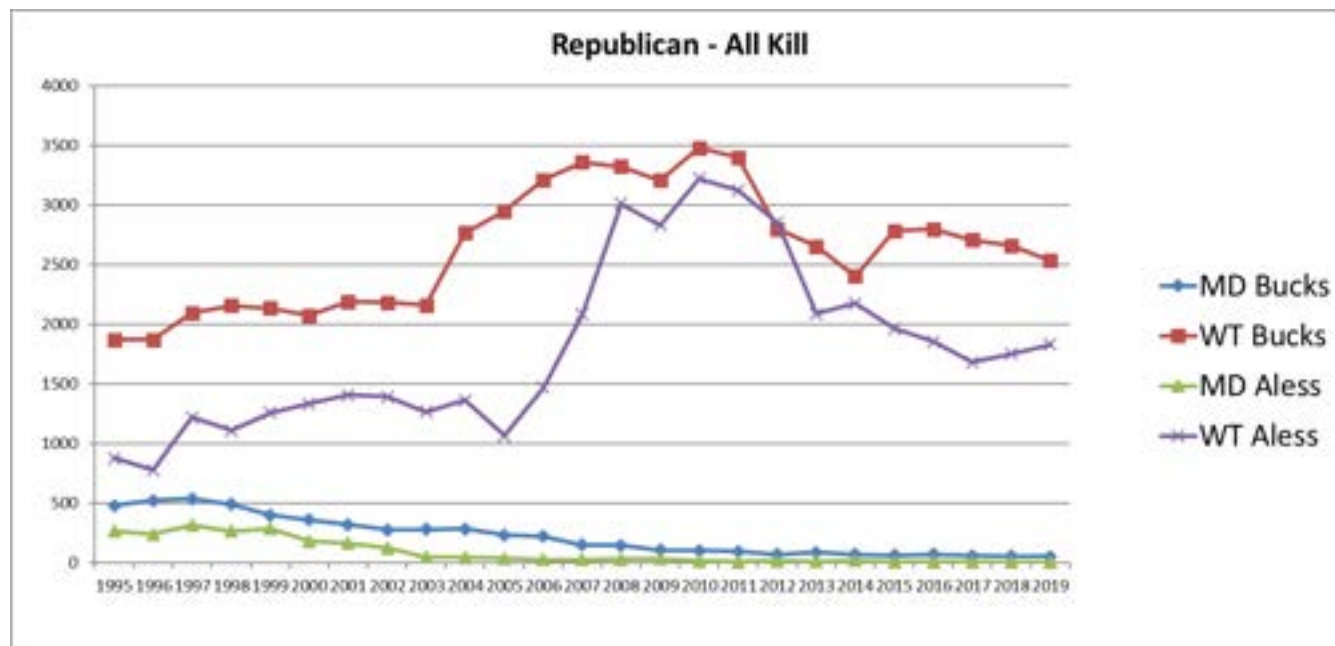
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Republican MD	100	100	9/27/19	23	0	23	0	0	0	23
Republican WT	3000	3000	11/7/19	0	0	0	1179	285	1464	49
AO SC Republican	1500	1441	-	0	1	1	20	660	680	36 / 11
Landowner				3	1	4	301	158	459	
Archery				3	1	4	308	71	379	
Muzzleloader				0	0	0	82	42	124	
Youth				10	1	11	129	66	195	
Youth WT				1	0	1	140	78	218	
NR Youth Rest				0	0	0	1	0	1	
WT SWB				0	0	0	354	9	363	
Restricted SWB				0	0	0	7	0	7	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	12	461	473	
Totals				52	5	57	2533	1830	4363	

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+
2015	64	7	71	10	18	36	45	2784	1965	4749	41	32	28	40
2016	70	10	80	12	26	37	37	2795	1852	4647	40	23	35	42
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Whitetail Only	Special Seasons
2015	100 MDCA (1 MD Buck)	3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2016	100 MDCA (1 MD Buck)	3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2017	100 MDCA (1 MD Buck)	3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2018	100 MDCA (1 MD Buck)	3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)
2019	100 MDCA (1 MD Buck)	3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)
2020*	75 MDCA (1 MD Buck)	3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)

* Recommended permit numbers

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only

AD – Any Deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	45	2700	5	1800

SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Sandhills November Firearm: 2000 permits for Any Deer and an antlerless whitetail bonus. Addition of bonus AOWT for 2020. Antlerless mule deer restrictions on McKelvie National Forest Service Lands and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Sandhills: 450 Antlerless Only permits with 2 additional Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Addition of second bonus AOWT for 2020. Permits are not valid on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge or McKelvie National Forest lands.

River Antlerless: Extend Middle Loup River to NE 61 and North Loup River to NE 97.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 10% above the 5 year average and up 4% since 2017. Whitetail buck harvest was 12% above the 5 year average and up 23% since 2018. 91% of mule deer buck harvest was 2.5 or older. 88% of whitetail buck harvest was 2.5 or older. In 2018 222 samples were tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD). Of those 222, 13 tested positive resulting in a 5.9% detection rate.
Depredation complaints: 4

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators show an increasing population of both whitetail and mule deer. Objectives for mule deer are to stabilize numbers while addressing depredation issues through antlerless harvest on Season Choice permits, and to maintain the current buck age structure. Objectives for whitetails are decrease the population through an additional bonus AOWT. This recommendation provides the basis for slight population growth unit-wide for mule deer while increasing hunting opportunities; and addressing deer depredation in problem areas through the use of Firearm, Season Choice Antlerless Only permits, and River Antlerless permits.

2019 Harvest Data – Sandhills

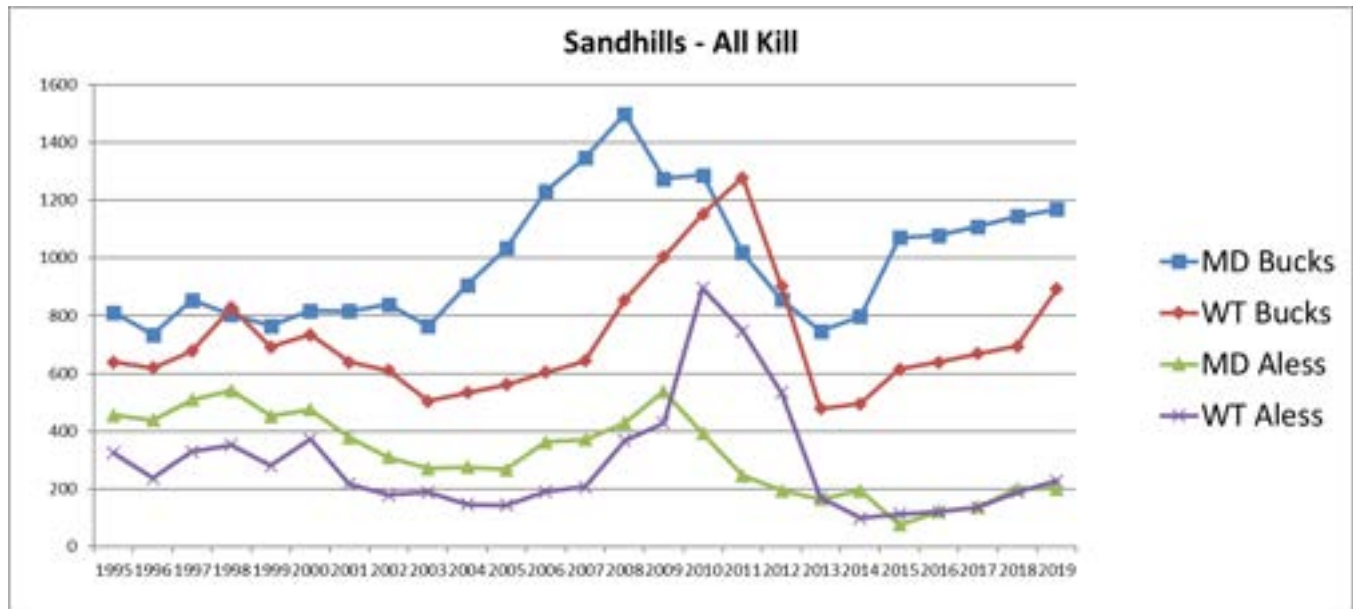
Permit Type	Permit Numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Auth	Sold	Sellout	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
Sandhills	2000	2000	11/3/19	658	30	688	553	40	593	64
AO SC Sandhills	450	272	-	5	115	120	4	116	120	56 / 18
Landowner				93	22	115	61	22	83	
Archery				69	2	71	49	6	55	
Muzzleloader				166	16	182	74	12	86	
Youth				83	12	95	55	6	61	
Youth WT				2	0	2	10	1	11	
NR Youth Rest.				25	3	28	11	1	12	
WT SWB				0	0	0	48	0	48	
Restricted SWB				67	0	67	25	0	25	
River Antlerless				0	1	1	2	24	26	
Totals				1169	201	1370	892	228	1120	

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+
2015	1070	77	1147	7	13	27	60	615	113	728	16	17	28	55
2016	1078	123	1201	9	9	39	52	639	121	760	15	16	36	48
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



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	1500	1 AD ²	Sandhills SCA WT – 100 (1 AOWT)
2016	1500	1 AD ²	Sandhills SCA – 150 (AO)
2017	1500	1 AD ²	Sandhills SCA – 250 (AO)
2018	1700	1 AD	Sandhills SCA – 350 (AO)
2019	2000	1 AD	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, AOWT)
2020*	2000	1 AD, 1 AOWT	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, 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	1250	800	250	300

UPPER PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Upper Platte November Firearm: 1200 Any Deer permits. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte: 250 Antlerless Only permits and an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte Whitetail: 200 permits for 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. This is a new permit for 2020.

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 2% above the 5 year average and 5% down from 2018. Whitetail buck harvest was equal to the 5 year average and up 18% from 2018. 81% of mule deer bucks harvested were age 2.5 or older. 80% of whitetail bucks harvested were 2.5 years or older.

Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators, observations and landowner contacts indicate increasing mule deer numbers and stable whitetail populations. 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 an additional AO SCA Whitetail permit.

2019 Harvest Data – Upper Platte

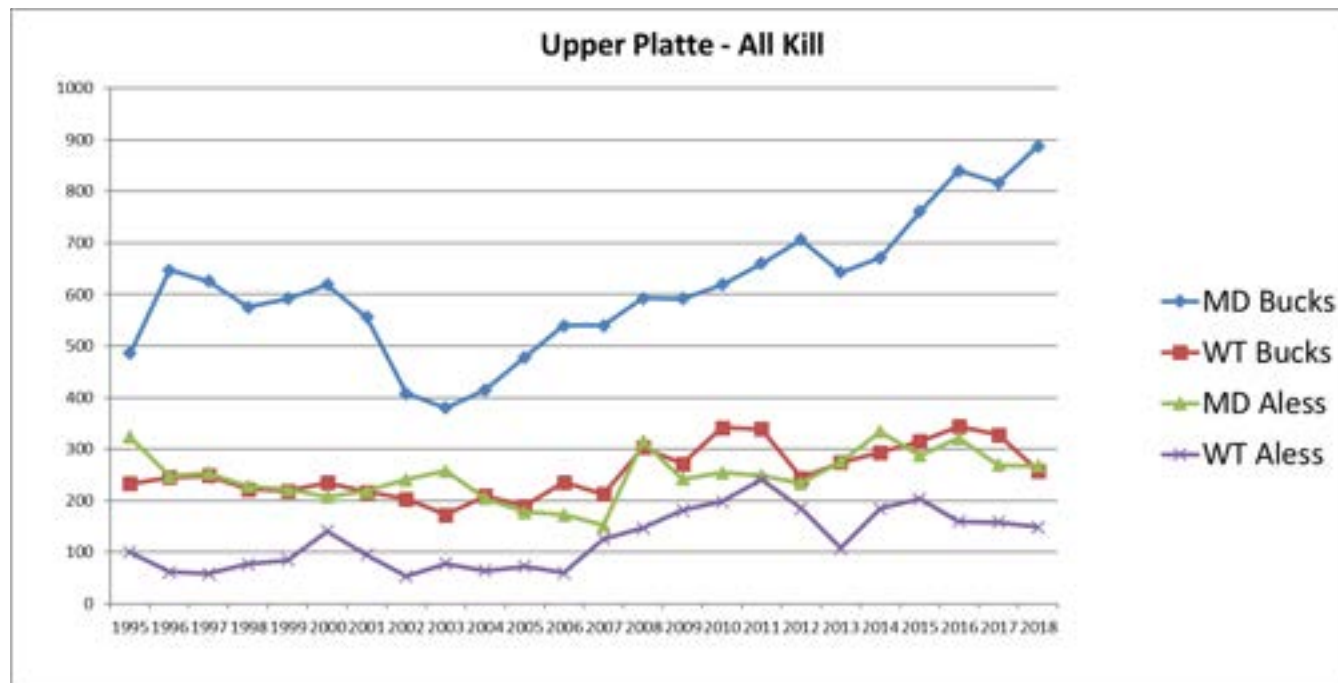
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Upper Platte	1200	1200	11/1/19	482	90	572	143	21	164	61
AO SC Upper Platte	250	250	10/14/19	0	93	93	2	33	35	46 / 6
Landowner				92	30	122	18	12	30	
Archery				46	9	55	39	2	41	
Muzzleloader				64	11	75	14	2	16	
Youth				90	21	111	32	7	39	
Youth WT				1	0	1	18	2	20	
NR Youth Rest.				22	2	24	8	3	11	
WT SWB				0	0	0	24	0	24	
Restricted SWB				42	0	42	15	0	15	
Statewide Buck				1	0	1	0	0	0	
River Antlerless				0	0	0	2	80	82	
Totals				840	256	1096	315	162	477	

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+
2015	761	288	1049	27	28	35	37	315	203	518	39	25	37	38
2016	840	321	1161	27	23	42	35	344	160	504	32	18	43	39
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



Total Permits Authorized*

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	1200	1 AD	Upper Platte SCA – 240 (1 AO)
2016	1200	1 AD	Upper Platte SCA – 240 (1 AO)
2017	1200	1 AD	Upper Platte SCA – 240 (1 AO)
2018	1200	1 AD	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO)
2019	1200	1 AD	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)
2020*	1200	1 AD	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (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	875	300	275	250

WAHOO MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

Wahoo November Firearm: 3650 Any Deer² permits. No change from 2019.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Wahoo: 1900 permits valid for one Antlerless Only Whitetail deer. No change from 2019.

General Information: The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males in the harvest decreased from 40% to 35%. Buck and doe harvest has remained steady for the last 6 years. Landowner complaints increased in 2019.

Depredation Complaints: 13, DCP: 11

Population Status, Goals and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be stable and within landowner tolerance. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were similar to last year.

The population goal for this unit is to allow limited but slow growth in some areas of the Wahoo Unit while increasing an older buck age structure. Permit strategies are to allow limited growth in some areas of the unit while maintaining high pressure along the Platte River corridor with River Antlerless permits and increase buck age structure. No changes are recommended.

2019 Harvest Data – Wahoo

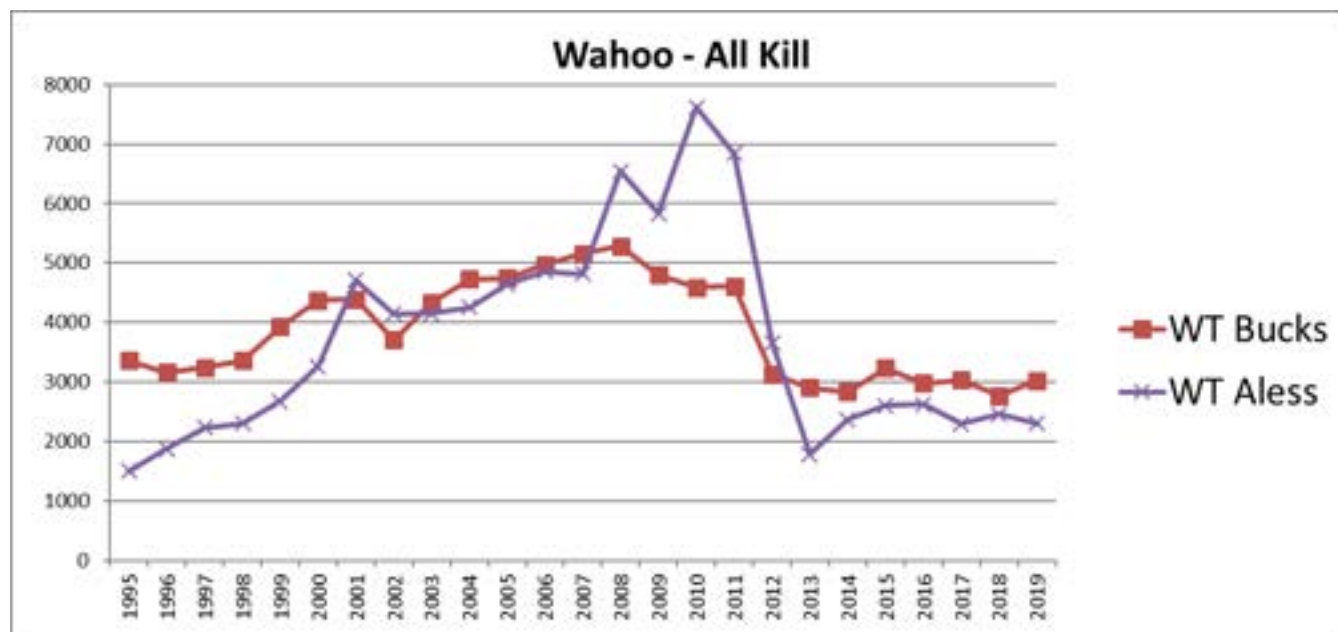
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Permit Numbers</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Sellout</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Wahoo	3650	3650	11/10/19	0	0	0	1241	312	1553	42
AO SC Wahoo	1900	1900	11/17/19	0	0	0	23	515	538	28
Landowner				1	0	1	323	199	522	
Archery				4	1	5	655	125	780	
Muzzleloader				1	1	2	68	68	136	
Youth				1	0	1	143	64	207	
Youth WT				0	0	0	119	48	167	
NR Youth Restricted				0	0	0	3	1	4	
WT SWB				0	0	0	413	5	418	
Restricted SWB				0	0	0	5	0	5	
River Antlerless				1	4	5	35	964	999	
Totals				8	6	14	3028	2301	5329	

WAHOO 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+
2015	7	6	13					3235	2566	5801	45	40	39	20
2016	9	5	14					2977	2626	5603	47	38	41	21
2017	9	6	15					3032	2290	5326	43	42	40	18
2018	10	9	19					2767	2444	5211	47	40	40	20
2019	8	6	14					3028	2301	5329	43	35	39	26



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Bag Limit	Special Seasons
2015	4050	1 AD ²	Wahoo SCA – 2100 (1 AOWT)
2016	4050	1 AD ²	Wahoo SCA – 2600 (1 AOWT)
2017	4050	1 AD ²	Wahoo SCA – 2100 (1 AOWT)
2018	3650	1 AD ²	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)
2019	3650	1 AD ²	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)
2020*	3650	1 AD ²	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 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	10	2800	5	2300

RESTRICTED STATEWIDE BUCK

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 14-22, 2020

Permits: Unlimited permits for Any Buck.

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

General Information: 846 permits issued in 2019. Harvest was 242 mule deer bucks and 182 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.

2019 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	4	0	Loup West	11	0	8	0
Blue SE	0	0	4	0	Missouri	2	0	6	0
Buffalo	0	0	14	0	Plains	21	0	6	0
Calamus East	4	0	6	0	Platte	0	0	2	0
Calamus West	26	0	19	0	Pine Ridge	67	0	26	0
Elkhorn	0	0	14	1	Republican	0	0	7	0
Frenchman	0	0	6	0	Sandhills	67	0	25	0
Keya Paha	0	0	8	0	Upper Platte	42	0	15	0
Loup East	2	0	7	0	Wahoo	0	0	5	0

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>		<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>%Success</u>
	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2015	Unlimited	2129	400	1	401	531	6	537	44
2016	Unlimited	2211	463	0	463	496	0	496	43
2017	Unlimited	505	210	0	210	96	0	96	61
2018	Unlimited	835	305	1	306	141	1	142	54
2019	Unlimited	846	242	0	242	182	1	183	50
2020*	Unlimited								

*Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: 350 mule deer bucks and 150 whitetail bucks.

STATEWIDE BUCK

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 14-22, 2020 (firearm)

Permits: 100 buck permits. In 2019, there were 50 permits.

Area Open: Statewide.

General Information: This is a very limited, elevated price permit that was new in 2018. 26% of permits went to nonresidents and 86% of harvest was in the MDCA.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Statewide buck permits have little impact on populations.

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>		<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>%Success</u>
	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2018	40	40	24	0	24	2	0	2	65
2019	50	50	21	0	21	0	0	0	42
2020*	100								

*Recommended

2019 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	1	0	0	0
Blue SE	0	0	0	0		Missouri	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	1	0	0	0		Plains	0	0	0	0
Calamus East	0	0	0	0		Platte	2	0	0	0
Calamus West	1	0	0	0		Pine Ridge	0	0	0	0
Elkhorn	0	0	0	0		Republican	0	0	0	0
Frenchman	15	0	0	0		Sandhills	0	0	0	0
Keya Paha	0	0	0	0		Upper Platte	1	0	0	0
Loup East	0	0	0	0		Wahoo	0	0	0	0

Expected Harvest: 50 mule deer bucks and 5 whitetail bucks on 100 permits

STATEWIDE WHITETAIL BUCK

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates:

September 1 – December 31 (archery)

November 14-22, 2020 (firearm)

December 1 -31 (muzzleloader)

Permits: Unlimited whitetail buck permits.

Area Open: Statewide.

General Information: This is a “Season Choice” permit that can be used during archery, muzzleloader and November firearm seasons. 2942 whitetail bucks were harvested with this permit in 2018. 9181 permits were issued.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: This permit is preferred by hunters who wish to hunt in multiple seasons or 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>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2015	Unlimited	10,497	30	1	31	3090	42	3132	30
2016	Unlimited	10,419	19	0	19	3061	39	3129	30
2017	Unlimited	10,998	9	0	9	3167	25	3192	29
2018	Unlimited	9,181	10	0	10	2942	29	2971	32
2019	Unlimited	9,109	9	1	10	2915	28	2943	32
2020*	Unlimited								

*Recommended

2019 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	3	0	214	1		Loup West	0	0	47	0
Blue SE	0	0	319	2		Missouri	0	0	201	1
Buffalo	0	1	335	2		Plains	0	0	15	1
Calamus East	0	0	68	0		Platte	1	0	54	0
Calamus West	1	0	69	0		Pine Ridge	0	0	34	0
Elkhorn	1	0	323	2		Republican	0	0	354	9
Frenchman	2	0	99	1		Sandhills	0	0	48	0
Keya Paha	0	0	91	2		Upper Platte	0	0	24	0
Loup East	1	0	207	2		Wahoo	0	0	413	5

Expected Harvest: 3000 whitetail bucks on 10,000 permits

STATEWIDE ARCHERY

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 - December 31

Permits: Unlimited Any Deer permits.

Area Open: Statewide, except antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge DMU or on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

General Information: Harvest was 4285 adult males and 656 antlerless deer taken on 17,668 permits. Nonresidents purchased 21% of all archery permits. Crossbow hunters harvested 26% of all deer on this permit. Permit sales increased 5%, MD Buck harvest increased 14% and WT Buck harvest increased 35% from 2018. 58% of all archery MD buck harvest occurred in the MDCA.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Archery deer season has little impact on statewide populations.

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits	Mule Deer				Whitetail Deer				% Success	% XBow
		Buck	AO	Total	%AO	Buck	AO	Total	%AO		
2015	17,477	467	57	524	11	3030	578	3608	16	24	16
2016	17,373	512	56	568	10	2834	625	3461	18	23	19
2017	16,998	605	44	649	7	2922	542	3464	19	24	22
2018	16,797	615	53	668	8	2662	627	3289	19	24	24
2019	17,668	699	55	754	7	3586	601	4187	14	28	26

2019 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	1	0	347	78	Loup West	20	1	55	3
Blue SE	1	0	490	86	Missouri	3	0	227	41
Buffalo	25	1	263	40	Plains	56	7	29	3
Calamus East	2	2	45	7	Platte	97	10	176	19
Calamus West	28	6	65	10	Pine Ridge	40	0	76	10
Elkhorn	3	0	271	53	Republican	3	1	308	71
Frenchman	285	14	162	14	Sandhills	69	2	49	6
Keya Paha	9	1	134	11	Upper Platte	46	9	39	2
Loup East	7	0	195	22	Wahoo	4	1	655	125

Expected Harvest: 4,200 deer on 17,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
600	3000	50	600

STATEWIDE MUZZLELOADER

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: December 1 through December 31

Permits: Unlimited Any Deer permits.

Area Open: Statewide, except antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge DMU or on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Muzzleloader hunters are not allowed to take mule deer in the Mule Deer Conservation Area on statewide muzzleloader permits.

General Information: 6741 permits were issued. Harvest was 1380 adult males and 502 antlerless deer. 26% of permits were issued to nonresidents.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Muzzleloader deer season is a recreational season that has little impact on statewide deer populations. A total of 73% of the harvest was adult bucks, and 74% of the harvest was whitetail deer.

Harvest comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>MuleDeer</u>				<u>WhitetailDeer</u>				<u>% Success</u>
		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%AO</u>	
2015	7541	405	110	515	21	855	520	1375	38	25
2016	7742	407	94	501	19	848	498	1346	37	24
2017	7500	472	95	567	17	888	398	1286	31	25
2018	7167	460	87	547	16	993	457	1450	32	28
2019	6741	415	77	492	16	965	425	1390	31	28

2019 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	47	49		Loup West	30	69	34	11
Blue SE	0	0	79	52		Missouri	1	0	56	21
Buffalo	1	0	61	23		Plains	61	15	39	9
Calamus East	1	0	14	10		Platte	5	1	33	5
Calamus West	28	24	31	14		Pine Ridge	46	0	61	11
Elkhorn	0	1	67	48		Republican	0	0	82	42
Frenchman	3	0	36	14		Sandhills	166	16	74	12
Keya Paha	8	1	112	13		Upper Platte	64	11	14	2
Loup East	0	1	57	21		Wahoo	1	1	68	68

Expected Harvest: 2000 deer on 7500 permits

<u>MD Buck</u>	<u>WT Buck</u>	<u>MD Antlerless</u>	<u>WT Antlerless</u>
500	1000	100	400

STATEWIDE YOUTH

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (archery)
 November 16 - November 24, 2019 (firearm)
 December 1-31 (muzzleloader)
 January 1-15, 2020 – Firearm or archery (antlerless only)

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, Platte, or Republican.

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

Area Open: Statewide, except antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on public land in the Pine Ridge Unit or on Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

General Information: Harvest on all Youth permits was 5348. 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>%AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%AO</u>	
2015 (all)	12,384	1301	205	1506	14	3100	1208	4308	28	47
2016 (all)	12,005	1439	210	1649	13	2967	1145	4112	28	48
2017 (all)	11,732	1502	162	1664	10	3217	986	4203	23	50
2018 (all)	11,011	1311	179	1490	12	2817	1076	3893	28	49
2019 (all)	11,093	1235	156	1391	11	2986	971	3957	25	48
2019 Resident Youth	6601	1128	140	1268	11	1672	525	2197	24	52
2019 Youth Whitetail	3874	16	2	18	11	1178	412	1590	26	41
2019 NR Rest. Youth	618	91	14	105	13	136	34	170	20	48

2019 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	1	192	87		Loup West	62	11	129	25
Blue SE	0	1	231	87		Missouri	4	0	275	69
Buffalo	88	19	260	76		Plains	104	21	42	12
Calamus East	7	0	91	25		Platte	190	21	117	39
Calamus West	36	1	107	13		Pine Ridge	79	0	87	31
Elkhorn	3	2	237	87		Republican	11	1	270	144
Frenchman	401	34	127	33		Sandhills	110	15	76	8
Keya Paha	12	3	161	21		Upper Platte	113	23	58	12
Loup East	14	3	261	89		Wahoo	1	0	265	113

Expected Harvest: 5500 deer on 11,000 permits

<u>MD Buck</u>	<u>WT Buck</u>	<u>MD Antlerless</u>	<u>WT Antlerless</u>
1250	3000	150	1000

LANDOWNER DEER

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (archery)
 November 16 - November 24 (firearm)
 December 1-31 (muzzleloader)
 January 1-15, 2021 – Firearm or archery (antlerless only)

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

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

General Information: 14,296 Landowner permits were issued. Total harvest was 7,235 deer. The definition for immediate family was liberalized in 2019. This is the only statewide permit with a bonus antlerless tag. 3.6% 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

<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>%AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%AO</u>	
2015	14,204	1346	518	1864	28	3757	1879	5636	33	53*
2016	14,079	1430	464	1899	24	3443	1849	5309	35	44 / 8
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

2019 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	446	267		Loup West	53	15	107	43
Blue SE	0	1	318	217		Missouri	6	2	346	135
Buffalo	100	41	295	109		Plains	88	34	55	27
Calamus East	17	6	151	45		Platte	198	52	114	47
Calamus West	45	16	100	37		Pine Ridge	73	28	86	51
Elkhorn	6	2	411	188		Republican	15	2	301	158
Frenchman	437	142	113	58		Sandhills	93	22	61	22
Keya Paha	6	4	156	57		Upper Platte	92	30	18	12
Loup East	12	1	362	160		Wahoo	1	0	323	199

Expected Harvest: 7600 deer on 15,000 permits

<u>MD Buck</u>	<u>WT Buck</u>	<u>MD Antlerless</u>	<u>WT Antlerless</u>
1600	3700	450	1900

RIVER ANTLERLESS

2020 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
 October 1 - 15 (Firearm)
 November 16 – 24, 2019 (Firearm)
 December 1 – 31 (Muzzleloader)
 January 1-15, 2020 (Firearm)

Permits: 12,000 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. 8,976 permits were issued.

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

2020 Additions: Verdigris and Bazile Creeks in Knox Co.; Eagle Creek in Holt Co.; Indian, Hat and Antelope Creeks in Sioux Co.; Little Blue River in the Republican DMU, Wood River in the Buffalo DMU; North and Middle Loup Rivers extended farther westward.

General Information: This \$11 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, inexpensive permit and bonus tags make this a very popular permit.

Harvest comparisons:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>		<u>MuleDeer</u>			<u>WhitetailDeer</u>			<u>%Success</u>
	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<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								

2019 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	4	23	759		Loup West	0	0	0	78
Blue SE	0	0	0	8		Missouri	0	0	12	306
Buffalo	0	2	6	289		Plains	0	0	1	15
Calamus East	0	1	0	82		Platte	0	4	13	340
Calamus West	0	0	2	36		Pine Ridge	0	0	3	120
Elkhorn	0	2	20	577		Republican	0	0	12	461
Frenchman	0	4	4	126		Sandhills	0	1	2	24
Keya Paha	0	0	10	207		Upper Platte	0	0	2	80
Loup East	0	2	24	657		Wahoo	1	4	35	964

Expected Harvest: 5000 antlerless whitetail deer on 12,000 authorized permits

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

ELK

INTRODUCTION

Statewide elk populations are stable to slightly increasing. Annual harvest variation occurs at the unit level due to herd movement, herd size and hunter access to private land. It is common for large elk herds to remain on a small number of landowners during significant portions of the season. This can reduce harvest opportunity for hunters.

These recommendations reflect the following goals:

- Increasing cow harvest in all units.
- Provide more bull hunting opportunity.

2019 Season Highlights:

- Average bull was 5.2 years, an increase of 0.1 from 2018 and ranked #2
- Main beam length average was 46.9 inches – an increase from 46.7 last year
 - (47.0 inches is #1)
- Bull success increased from 83% to 89% - the record is 91% in 2012
- Cow success decreased from 51% to 45%
- Cow/calf harvest was 114, the third highest on record
- Bull harvest of 108 was the highest on record – in 2012 there were 105 bulls
- 5,178 people applied for 374 elk permits
- 23 cows were harvested in the early private land cow seasons (Aug. 15 – Sept. 20), there were 18 harvested in 2018.
- 5 bulls were harvested in the early archery season (Sept. 1-20), compared to 6 in 2018.

Bull standards: Bull harvest is a 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
- Minimum average main beam length of 45 inches
- Minimum average bull age of 5 years

2020 Overall Changes

Statewide, add thirty (30) bull permits (25% increase)

Statewide, add one hundred two (102) antlerless permits (40% increase)

Split antlerless season in Ash Creek, Bordeaux and Hat Creek Elk Management Units.

Extend cow season to run from August 1, 2019 to January 31, 2021

Total permits recommended: 506 permits (152 bull and 354 antlerless)

ELK

<u>Season Dates:</u>	Bull Season:	Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31
	Antlerless:	August 1 – January 31, 2021 Private Land Only: August 1 – Sept. 20
	Early Antlerless:	August 1 – October 31
	Late Antlerless:	November 1 – January 31, 2021

Permits: We recommend a total of 152 Bull and 345 Antlerless permits for elk hunters, including landowners.

Area Open: See unit descriptions.

General Information: Success for the 2019 season was 89% for bulls and 45% for antlerless permits. In 2019, 374 hunters harvested 108 bulls and 114 cows/calves.

Population Strategy: Permit increases in most units. Stabilize and/or reduce population in all units and provide sufficient antlerless permits to respond to depredation. Due to early season depredation issues, we recommend a split in the antlerless season 3 additional units. Permits are split 60-70% late, this will force about 1/3 of hunters to hunt early while crop depredation is occurring, while maintaining a large number of permits late to ensure enough antlerless harvest during that time. This will also assist in lowering hunter crowding during the bull season and improve access

Expected Harvest: 120 bulls and 170 cows.

<u>2020 Season Recommendations</u>		<u>2019 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	18	12	100%	12	-	-	92%	45.8	5.0
Bordeaux Bull	30	24	96%	23	-	-	96%	48.0	5.2
Box Elder Bull	21	15	100%	15	-	-	87%	45.9	4.9
Hat Creek Bull	27	21	95%	20	-	-	80%	47.6	5.5
Niobrara East Bull	9	6	83%	5	-	-	80%	39.8	4.5
Niobrara West Bull	12	9	67%	6	-	-	100%	45.7	5.8
North Platte River Bull	30	30	80%	24	-	-	83%	47.4	4.8
Lottery/Auction	5	5	60%	3	-	-	100%	52.0	7.5
Total Bull	152	122	89%	108	-	-	88%	46.9	5.2
Ash Creek Antlerless, E/L ²	39	27	52%	-	13	1	-	-	-
Bordeaux Antlerless, E/L ²	75	51	49%	-	24	1	-	-	-
Box Elder Antlerless, E/L ²	51	36	36%	-	12	1	-	-	-
Hat Creek Antlerless, E/L ²	60	39	69%	-	27	0	-	-	-
Niobrara East Antlerless	30	24	33%	-	7	1	-	-	-
Niobrara West Antlerless	39	30	50%	-	12	3	-	-	-
North Platte River Aless	60	45	27%	-	12	0	-	-	-
Total Antlerless	354	252	45%	-	107	7	-	-	-
TOTALS	506	374	59%	108	107	7	88%	46.9	5.2

¹Includes LO allocation of 33%.

²See Units for Early/Late allocations

ELK

Permits, Harvest and Success 2015-2020

Permits Issued				Harvest				% Success		Bull Criteria		
Year	Bull	AO	Total	Bull	Cow	Calf	Total	Bull	AO	% 6 point	Avg. Main Beam Length	Mean Age
2015	122	198	319	105	77	7	189	86	42	93	47.0	4.7
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	5.1
2019	122	252	374	108	107	7	222	89	45	88	46.9	5.2
2020*	152	354	496									

* - recommended

2020 ELK MANAGEMENT UNITS



ASH CREEK UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	12	Early: 9 Late: 17
Landowner:	6	13

Season Dates: Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Early Antlerless: August 1 – October 31
Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20

Late Antlerless: November 1 – January 31, 2021

General Information: Overall hunter success was the same at 67% in 2019 and 2018. Hunter success for bull permits was 100%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 52%.
Depredation complaints: Two (2).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner contacts, and harvest data would indicate a stable to slightly increasing elk population in this unit. Objectives are to maintain harvested bull age and quality through maintaining current permit quotas, while addressing depredation complaints with Antlerless Only permits. Bull quality measurements meet Management Approach minimum criteria. We recommend increasing both bull and antlerless permits to meet objectives. Due to early season depredation issues, we recommend a split in the antlerless season to force hunters to hunt early, while maintaining a large number of permits late to ensure enough antlerless harvest during that time.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age+</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2015	15	24	39	12+	9	0	21+	67	38	49	100	47.9	4.6
2016	12	24	36	10+	11	1	22+	75	50	56	100	47.0	4.4
2017	12	27	39	11+	14	2	27+	83	59	67	91	45.6	3.9
2018	12	27	39	12	13	1	26	100	52	67	91	45.7	5.1
2019	12	27	39	12	13	1	26	100	52	67	92	45.7	5.0
2020*	18	39	57										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 15 bulls and 20 cows.

BORDEAUX UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	20	Early: 20 Late: 30
Landowner:	10	25

Season Dates:

Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Early Antlerless: August 1 – October 31
Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20
Late Antlerless: November 1 – January 31, 2021

General Information: Overall hunter success was 65% in 2019 compared to 53% in 2018. Hunter success for bull permits was 96%. One (1) additional bull was harvested by hunters with auction/lottery permits. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 49%. Two elk tested positive for CWD in Sheridan County. Depredation complaints: Two (2).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner contacts, and harvest data indicate a stable to slightly increasing elk population in this unit. Variable access in this unit can affect success rates. Objectives are to maintain bull age and quality while increasing hunter opportunity. Bull quality measurements meet management approach minimum criteria's. 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. Due to early season depredation issues, we recommend a split in the antlerless season to force hunters to hunt early, while maintaining a large number of permits late to ensure enough antlerless harvest during that time.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age+</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2015	24	51	75	24+	21	2	47+	92	45	60	92	47.9	5.1
2016	24	51	75	19+	30	1	50+	71	61	63	100	49.9	5.8
2017	24	51	75	23	36	1	60+	88	73	77	100	51.3	5.7
2018	24	51	75	16+	24	1	41+	63	49	53	94	48.2	6.2
2019	24	51	75	24+	24	1	49	96	49	65	96	48.0	5.5
2020*	30	75	105										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 25 bulls and 37 cows.

BOX ELDER MANAGEMENT UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	14	Early: 17 Late: 17
Landowner:	7	17

Season Dates:

Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Early Antlerless: August 1 – October 31

Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20

Late Antlerless: November 1 – January 31, 2021

General Information: In 2019, overall success was 55% compared to 51% in 2018. Success was 100% for bull hunters and 36% for antlerless hunters.

Depredation complaints: Four (4).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Landowner reports, staff observations and harvest data of elk indicate an increasing and expanding population. Staff have recommended additional Landowner zones outside the traditional zone.

Landowner and sportsmen support for elk in most parts of this unit is high. Antlerless elk harvest remains low despite increased antlerless permits in the last five years. The antlerless season was split last year and harvest remained the same.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age+</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2015	12	36	48	11	9	1	21	92	28	44	91	46.4	4.8
2016	12	36	48	7	21	2	23	58	64	63	100	52.0	5.9
2017	12	36	48	10	7	4	21	83	31	44	90	47.6	6.2
2018	15	36	51	15+	13	1	27+	87	36	51	100	45.5	5.4
2019	15	36	51	15	12	1	28	100	36	55	87	45.9	4.9
2020*	21	51	72										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 17 bulls and 25 cows.

HAT CREEK UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	18	Early: 13 Late: 27
Landowner:	9	20

Season Dates:

Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Early Antlerless: August 1 – October 31

Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20

Late Antlerless: November 1 – January 31, 2021

General Information: Overall hunter success was 78% in 2019 compared to 62% in 2018. Success for bull permits was 95% and 69% for antlerless permits. Two (2) additional bulls were harvested with lottery/auction permit.
Depredation complaints: Five (5).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations and harvest data would indicate an increasing elk population in this unit. Objectives are to maintain bull age and quality, while addressing depredation complaints with antlerless only permits. Bull quality measurements meet management approach minimum criteria's. 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. Due to early season depredation issues, we recommend a split in the antlerless season to force hunters to hunt early, while maintaining a large number of permits late to ensure enough antlerless harvest during that time.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age+</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2015	24	39	63	22+	15	1	37	88	41	59	86	46.1	4.0
2016	21	39	60	18+	12	1	31	81	33	50	94	46.0	4.9
2017	21	39	60	18+	25	1	44	81	67	72	82	45.4	4.7
2018	21	38	60	21+	17	1	37	90	46	62	100	45.3	5.6
2019	21	39	60	22+	27	0	49	95	69	78	82	48.1	5.6
2020*	27	60	87										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 22 bulls and 30 cows.

NIOBRARA EAST UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	6	20
Landowner:	3	10

Season Dates:

Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Antlerless: August 1 – January 31, 2021
Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20

General Information: In 2019, overall success was 43%, with 83% success for bulls and 33% for antlerless.

Depredation complaints: Two (2).

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. Objectives are to increase bull hunter opportunity, while addressing depredation complaints. Bull quality measurements have been short of management approach minimum criteria's 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.

<u>Permits Issued*</u>				<u>Harvest</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2014 ¹	9	18	27	7	10	0	17	78	56	63	100	43.4	4.8
2015 ¹	6	24	30	5	9	0	14	83	38	47	80	43.2	5.0
2016 ¹	6	24	30	7+	14	1	22+	100	63	70	88	41.2	4.3
2017 ¹	9	30	39	9	20	1	30	100	70	77	78	42.6	4.4
2019	6	24	30	5	7	1	13	83	33	43	80	39.8	4.5
2020*	9	30	39										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Data from Niobrara River Management Unit

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 8 bulls and 12 cows.

NIOBRARA WEST UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	8	26
Landowner:	4	13

Season Dates:

Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Antlerless: August 1 – January 31, 2021
Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20

General Information: In 2019, overall success was 54%. Success was at 67% on bull permits and 50% on antlerless permits.
Depredation complaints: Two (2).

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: In 2019, the Niobrara River Unit was split into two units, Niobrara East and Niobrara West. The elk near Valentine and west of Valentine have continued to expand in number, and crop depredation issues arise annually. General observations and harvest data indicate an increasing elk population scattered along the Niobrara River in several different herds. The Wilderness area north of the Niobrara River on Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge was opened to elk hunting with primitive weapons in 2016, and it is recommended to continue with the public land opportunity.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age+</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2014 ¹	9	12	21	9	4	3	16	100	58	79	67	41.0	4.9
2015 ¹	9	18	27	7	10	0	17	78	56	63	100	43.4	4.8
2016 ¹	6	24	30	5	9	0	14	83	38	47	80	43.2	5.0
2017 ¹	6	24	30	7+	14	1	22+	100	63	70	88	41.2	4.3
2018 ¹	9	30	39	9	20	1	30	100	70	77	78	42.6	4.4
2019	9	30	39	6	12	3	21	67	50	54	100	45.7	5.8
2020*	12	39	51										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Data from Niobrara River Management Unit

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 10 bulls and 20 cows.

NORTH PLATTE RIVER UNIT

2020 Recommendations:

	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General:	20	40
Landowner:	10	20

Season Dates:

Bull Season: Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31

Antlerless: August 1 – January 31, 2021
Private Land Only: August 1 – September 20

General Information: Overall hunter success was 48% in 2019 compared to 65% in 2018. Success for bull permits was 87%, compared to 94% in 2017. Success on antlerless permits was 27% compared to 51% in 2018. Late season antlerless was very poor for the 2019 season, elk were inaccessible to most hunters due to snow and few landowners knew where to find elk at that point.

Depredation complaints: Three (3).

Damage control permits: Two (2); 7 antlerless, 3 bulls taken.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner reports, and harvest data would indicate a stable to slightly increasing elk population in this unit. This unit contains several different elk herds throughout the area and landowner tolerance has decreased in some areas. Staff will continue analyzing past years' harvest data and herd sizes/locations to identify whether or not there is a potential need to divide the unit into smaller management units to better focus harvest on older age bulls. Objectives are to increase bull age and quality, while addressing depredation complaints with antlerless permits. We recommend an increase in antlerless permits and no increase in bull permits to accomplish objectives.

<u>Permits Issued</u>				<u>Harvest+</u>				<u>% Success</u>			<u>Antlers and Age+</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>Overall</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. Main Beam Length</u>	<u>Mean Bull Age</u>
2015	30	27	57	28	13	3	44	93	59	77	96	47.6	5.1
2016	33	33	63	29	20	2	51	88	67	77	75	43.4	4.0
2017	33	33	63	32+	13	1	46	94	42	68	87	45.3	4.3
2018	30	45	75	26	21	2	49	87	51	65	81	49.5	4.2
2019	30	45	75	24	12	0	36	80	27	48	83	47.4	4.8
2020*	30	60	90										

* Recommended permit numbers

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

Unsold Permits: None.

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 25 bulls and 30 cows.

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION ORDER

Order C03: Antelope, Deer, and Elk Hunting

Last Approved Date: April 24, 2019

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, sections 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, Box Butte East Late, Box Butte West Late, ~~Box Butte West River 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	<u>84 90</u>	<u>42 45</u>
Banner North Late Doe/Fawn	<u>30 50</u>	<u>15 25</u>
Banner South Either Sex	<u>70 80</u>	<u>35 40</u>
Banner South Late Doe/Fawn	<u>80 90</u>	<u>40 45</u>
Box Butte East Either Sex	<u>30 40</u>	<u>15 20</u>
Box Butte East Late Doe/Fawn	<u>46 50</u>	<u>23 25</u>
Box Butte West Either Sex	<u>50 60</u>	<u>25 30</u>

Commission Order
C03

Box Butte West Late Doe/Fawn	30 <u>60</u>	15 <u>30</u>
Box Butte West River Late Doe/Fawn	10 <u>0</u>	5 <u>0</u>
Cherry Either Sex	76 <u>80</u>	38 <u>40</u>
Cherry Late Doe/Fawn	20	10
Cheyenne Either Sex	38 <u>40</u>	19 <u>20</u>
Cheyenne Late Doe/Fawn	40	20
Cheyenne Central Doe/Fawn	0	0
Dismal Either Sex	36 <u>40</u>	18 <u>20</u>
Dismal Late Doe/Fawn	20	10
Eastern Sandhills Either Sex	20	10
Garden Either Sex	30 <u>40</u>	15 <u>20</u>
Garden Late Doe/Fawn	76 <u>90</u>	38 <u>45</u>
North Sioux Either Sex	100 <u>110</u>	50 <u>55</u>
North Sioux Late Doe/Fawn	80	40

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) 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. 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.

C03.03 Antelope Archery

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

C03.03B Area Open: Entire State except Fort Robinson State Park, Fort Robinson Wildlife Management Area, Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.03C Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: Unlimited. 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.

Commission Order
C03

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 as described in C03.02D12 for the North Sioux Unit except Fort Robinson State Park, Fort Robinson Wildlife Management Area, Federal or State sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

C03.04B1b Number of Permits Authorized for Issuance: ~~26~~ **28**
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: ~~100~~ **122**
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 C03.05E. 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

Commission Order
C03

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	2200	Any deer
Blue Southeast	3500	Any deer
Buffalo Whitetail	1550 2100	1 WT
Calamus East	1300	Any deer ² , 1 AOWT
Calamus West	1600	Any deer, 1 AOWT
Elkhorn	2700	Any deer
Frenchman Whitetail	1600	1 WT, 1 AOWT
Keya Paha	2500	Any deer ² , 1 AOWT
Loup East	3000 3300	Any deer ² , 2 AOWT
Loup West	1700 1200	Any deer ² , 1 2 AOWT
<u>Loup West Whitetail</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>1 WT, 2 AOWT</u>
Missouri	3200	Any deer, 1 AOWT
Pine Ridge	1200	Any deer ²
Pine Ridge Whitetail	1000	1 WT
Plains	1700	Any deer, 1 AOWT
Platte Whitetail	1300	1 WT
Republican Whitetail	3000	1 WT
Sandhills	2000	Any deer, 1 AOWT
Upper Platte	1200	Any deer
Wahoo	3650	Any deer ²
Statewide Buck	50 100	1 Buck
Restricted SW Buck	Unlimited	1 Buck (<u>C03.05E</u>)

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

Commission Order
C03

(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 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:

Season Choice Area	Number	Bag Limit
AO SCA Blue Northwest	1800	1 AOWT
AO SCA Blue Southeast	2000	1 AOWT
AO SCA Buffalo	1000	2 AOWT
AO SCA Buffalo North	100	2 AO 1AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA Calamus East	400	2 AOWT
AO SCA Calamus West	300	2 AOWT
AO SCA Elkhorn	1000	1 AOWT
AO SCA Frenchman	1000 300	2 AOWT 1AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Frenchman	500	2 AOWT
AO SCA Frenchman West	1250 650	2 AO
AO SCA Keya Paha	500	2 AOWT
AO SCA Loup East	1500	3 AOWT
AO SCA Loup West	300 400	2 AO 1AO, 2 AOWT
AO SCA Missouri	1000	2 AOWT
AO SCA Pine Ridge	0 200	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Pine Ridge	500 600	2 AOWT
AO SCA Plains	500	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA Platte	800 200	2 AOWT 1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Platte	500	2 AOWT
AO SCA Platte North	500 400	2 AO
AO SCA Republican	1500	2 AOWT
AO SCA Sandhills	450	1 AO, 4 2 AOWT
AO SCA WT Sandhills	0	1 AOWT
AO SCA Upper Platte	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT
AO SCA WT Upper Platte	200	2 AOWT
AO SCA Wahoo	1900	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 Season Choice Antlerless 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 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 US 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 US Hwy 6/34, then west on US Hwy 6/34 to the split of US Hwy 6/34, then west along US 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. north and west of a

line commencing at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 283 and NE Hwy. 18, west to Lake Road, south on Lake Road to U.S. Hwy. 6/34; then west on U.S. Hwy. 6/34 to U.S. Hwy. 83; then south on U.S. Hwy. 83 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.

C03.05F20 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.

C03.06 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: Unlimited. 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: Unlimited. 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 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 Season: No person may apply for or obtain more than one limited landowner permit per year for deer.

C03.09A 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 fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning January 1.

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

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

C03.09D Area Open: Entire state. Persons who obtain a limited 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. 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 Areas

C03.11F1 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).

C03.11F2 C03.11F1a Harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited, except that persons hunting under the authority of a Landowner's permit are exempted (C03.09).

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 ten (10) fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning January 1 and for ten (10) fifteen (15) consecutive days beginning the Saturday closest to 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, Republican 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.

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 south fork of the Elkhorn River from the mouth to NE Hwy. 11.

The North Loup River from the mouth to NE Hwy. ~~7~~ 97.

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

The Middle Loup River from the mouth to NE Hwy. ~~2~~ 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 Verdigris Creek from the mouth to the Antelope county line, Middle Branch and North Branch Verdigris 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 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) permits for one (1) Any Deer 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) 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 ~~six hundred~~ (~~1,600~~ 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). ~~One hundred (100)~~ 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.

C03.11I 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 15 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 15 and closing on October 31 and open December 1 through January 15 31, except that State and Federal public lands are closed to antlerless elk hunting until September 21.

C03.12B1 ~~Box Elder~~ Early season units: Beginning August 15 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, and Hat Creek Early.

C03.12B2 ~~Box Elder~~ Late season units: Beginning December November 1 and closing on January 15 31. Units included: Ash Creek Late, Box Elder Late, Bordeaux Late, and Hat Creek Late.

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

Management Unit	General	Limited Landowner
Ash Creek Antlerless	48 0	9 13
<u>Ash Creek Early Antlerless</u>	9	0
<u>Ash Creek Late Antlerless</u>	17	0
Ash Creek Bull	8 12	4 6
Bordeaux Antlerless	34 0	17 25
<u>Bordeaux Early Antlerless</u>	20	0
<u>Bordeaux Late Antlerless</u>	30	0
Bordeaux Bull	46 20	8 10
Box Elder Antlerless	0	12 17
Box Elder Early Antlerless	42 17	0
Box Elder Late Antlerless	42 17	0
Box Elder Bull	40 14	5 7

Commission Order
C03

Hat Creek Antlerless	26 0	13 20
<u>Hat Creek Early Antlerless</u>	13	0
<u>Hat Creek Late Antlerless</u>	27	0
Hat Creek Bull	44 18	7 9
Niobrara East Antlerless	46 20	8 10
Niobrara East Bull	4 6	2 3
Niobrara West Antlerless	20 26	40 13
Niobrara West Bull	6 8	3 4
North Platte River Antlerless	30 40	15 20
North Platte River Bull	20	10

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 shall 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 L7E Spur, thence east on L7E 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. 183 on the Nebraska-Kansas state line, thence north on U.S. Hwy. 183 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.

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 L7E Spur, thence east on L7E 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.

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.

Commission Order
C03

T29N R52W: that part of Sec. 1 that lies east of NE Hwy. 2.
T31N R51W: Sec. 13-17, 20-29, 32-36
T30N R51W: Sec. 1-36
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
T31N R50W: Sec. 11-36
T30N R50W: Sec. 1-11, 14-22, 27-34
T29N R50W: Sec. 3-7, 14, 22
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
T31N R49W: Sec. 1-24, 28-33, and those parts of Sec. 26 and 27 north of Table Road
T30N R49W: Sec. 4-6
T31N R48W: Sec. 18-20, and those parts of Sec. 6-8 and 17 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.

T33N R48W: Sec. 35-36
T32N R48W: Sec. 1-3, 9-14, 22-26, 32, 33, 36; S1/2 of the SE1/4 of Sec.31
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
T35N R47W: Sec. 25, 33-36
T34N R47W: Sec. 1-3, 10-12
T33N R47W: Sec. 1, 12, 13, 21-36
T32N R47W: Sec. 1-32
T31N R47W: Sec. 5-7; S1/2 of Sec. 18
T35N R46W: Sec. 26, 28-33, 35; N1/2 of Sec. 27
T34N R46W: Sec. 1, 2, 5-7, 11-14, 17-18, 20, W 1/2 21, 23-26, W 1/2 28, E 1/2 29, 33-36
T33N R46W: Sec. 1, 2, 8-35; S1/2 of Sec. 4, W1/2 of the W1/2 of Sec. 7
T32N R46W: Sec. 3-11, 17-20, 29, 30
T34N R45W: Sec. 2, 7-11, 14-23, 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
T33N R45W: Sec. 4-10, 14, 17-20, 23, 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
T35N R44W: Sec. 25, 26, 35; E1/2 of Sec. 27, W1/2 of Sec. 32, E1/2 of Sec. 34
T34N R44W: Sec. 1-4, 9-17, 19-30, 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
T33N R44W: Sec. 1-3, 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

Commission Order
C03

T35N R43W: Sec. S1/2 27, S1/2 28, 29-33

T34N R43W: Sec. 3-8, 18, 30

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:

T8N R31W: Sec. 1-3, 10-15, 22-26, 36

T7N R31W: Sec. 1

T9N R31W: Sec. 13, 14, 23-26, 35, 36

T8N R30W: Sec. 7-8, 15-22, 29-32

T7N R30W: Sec. 5-6

T12N R29W: Sec. 9-16, 21-29, 32-36

T11N R29W: Sec. 1-5, 8-36

T11N R30W: Sec. 13, 24, 25, 36

T10N R29W: Sec. 1-5, 9-16, 21-28, 32 33-36

T9N R29W: Sec. 1-5, 8-17, 20-27, 34-36

T12N R28W: Sec. 17-21, 26-36

T11N R28W: Sec. 1-36

T10N R28W: Sec. 1-36

T9N R28W: Sec. 3-10, 15-22, 27-34

T10N R26W: Sec. 22-27, 34-36

T9N R26W: Sec. 1 2-3

T9N R27W: Sec. 25, 26, 35, 36

T10N R25W: Sec. 19, 20, 29-31

T9N R25W: Sec. 1

T13N R34W: Sec. 9, 16

T12N R36W: Sec. 1

T13N R36W: Sec. 30-31

T12N R37W: Sec. 9-16, 21-24

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.

T33N R57W: Sec. 10-11, 14-16, 22-23, 25-26, 35-36, ~~E1/2 of Sec. 10, W1/2 of Sec. 11~~

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

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

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

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

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

T33N R54W: Sec. 13, 24, 25, 36

T32N R54W: Sec. 1-36

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

T30N R54W: Sec. 1-6, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, N ½ 11, 16, 21, 22; W1/2 of Sec. 3, 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

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

T32N R53W: Sec. 6-9, 12-13, S ½ 14, 16-21, 24, 28-31; SW1/4 of Sec. 1, W1/2 of W1/2 of Sec. 5, N1/2 of Sec. 12

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

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 R52W: Sec. 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

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

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:

T21N R57W: Sec. 33-35

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

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

T20N R56W: Sec. 14, 17, 20, 22-24, 29, 33, W1/2 of Sec. 15, SE1/4 of Sec. 19, W1/2 and NE1/4 of Sec. 21, N1/2 of Sec. 22, SE1/4 of Sec. 24, W1/2 and NE1/4 of Sec. 28

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

T19N R56W: Sec. 4-6

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

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

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

T18N R56W: Sec. 16, 19

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

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

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

T18N R52W: Sec. 10, 13-36

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

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

T17N R51W: Sec. 4-10

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

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

T18N R47W: Sec. 30, 31

T17N R47W: Sec. 7-8

T17N R45W: E1/2 of Sec. 8, those portions of Sec. 9 south of NE Hwy. 26, those portions of the N1/2 of Sec. 16 north of the North Platte River, N1/2 of Sec. 15

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

T15N R43W: Sec. 1

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

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

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. 31

T32N R20W: Sec. 1, 2, 3, 11, 12

T32N R19W: Sec. 1-18, 21, 22

T33N R18W: Sec. 28, 29, 32, 33

T32N R18W: Sec. 5-8

T32N R22W: Sec. 26, 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

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.

T34N R32W: Sec. 23-27, 35, 36

T33N R32W: Sec. 1, 2, 7, 11-14, 20-29, 17 32-36

T34N R31W: Sec. 32, 33

T33N R31W: Sec. 4-9, 16-21, 25-36

T32N R31W: those portions of Sec. 1-6 north of Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest

T33N R30W: Sec. 17-20, 29-32

T32N R30W: those portions of Sec. 6 north of Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest

T34N R26W: Sec. 5-6, N1/2 7-8, 9-16, 21-24

T34N R25W: Sec. 7-9, 16-21, 23-26, 28, N1/2 & SE1/4 of Sec. 22, E1/2 of Sec. 27, Sec. 29 west of Sparks River Road and north of the Niobrara River

Commission Order
C03

T34N R24W: Sec. 33-34
T33N R24W: Sec. 3-4, 9-10, 15