



2023

BIG GAME RECOMMENDATIONS

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



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PRONGHORN

INTRODUCTION

Based upon past landowner surveys, pronghorn populations have been above desired levels in most units in recent years. However, we saw reduced hunter success in 2021 and confirmed EHD losses in collared pronghorn. Minor general permit decreases are recommended in about half of our doe/fawn units. Either-Sex permits were decreased in two units due to poor success and yearling buck harvest being above threshold. Depredation complaints have declined significantly since 2019. Since 2020, all limited landowner permits have had an additional bonus D/F tag. In 2022, only 26 of the 447 (6%) landowner permits issued registered the harvest of 2 pronghorn. In 2022, 19% of the Limited Landowner October Firearm permits went unsold and 82% of the Limited Landowner Late D/F permits went unsold.

We restructured our aerial pronghorn survey methods in 2021 to cover more area within our management units which will result in better pronghorn population estimates. Due to this change in survey methods, results between the surveys done prior to 2020 and the 2021 survey may not be comparable for all units. We were unable to run our aerial survey in 2022 due to a paperwork and staff issue. We do plan on running the survey in 2023. Staff did collect herd composition data from roadside observations last summer. However, sample size was not high enough in many units to provide good comparisons to previous years data. See the graph on page 7 for historic statewide buck:doe:fawn ratios. 2022 fawn production was just above historic averages but has been low the last few years. The buck ratio was low in 2022 compared to historic averages and has been below average for several years in a row.

Total pronghorn harvest was 1,054 in 2022, with 771 bucks and 283 does and fawns taken. Populations had been stable and increasing from 2010-20 and allowed hunters to harvest between 700-900 bucks. While buck harvest has remained around 800 each of the past 2 years, pronghorn populations have declined over the last 2 years. Due to both increased harvest and a major EHD even in 2021.

Compared to 2020 harvest (highest in recent history) levels, buck harvest has declined 15% and doe harvest declined 26%, despite having 7% more October Firearm permits for bucks and 9% more D/F permits in 2022 than in 2020. Of the 3,113 permits were issued in 2022, 41% of the buyers were archers, 54% were rifle hunters and 5% were muzzleloaders. Harvest by weapon type was 72% firearm, 12% bow, 11% muzzleloader, and 5% crossbow.

Permit demand remains high, and all general FA/MZ permits took a minimum of 2-5 points to draw. All applicants in the landowner drawing drew permits, there were leftover permits in each unit following the drawing. Archery permits are unlimited for residents and permit sales continue to be high but have declined slightly each of the last 2 years. The nonresident limit of 250 successfully limited and mitigated NR archery harvest and pressure on the Oglala grasslands and elsewhere. An archery success rate of 15-25% minimizes impact on herds. Archery season is primarily considered a recreational hunt, however archery accounts for 40-50% of our pronghorn hunters and about 20% of pronghorn buck harvest statewide, so the impact of pressure and harvest is not insignificant.

Management goals are to:

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

Recommendations for 2023 include:

- Banner North – Remove 20 General (Gen) Either Sex (ES) and 20 Gen Doe/Fawn (D/F)
- Banner South – Remove 20 Gen D/F
 - Banner South East Late – Remove this additional zone entirely (20 Gen D/F)
- Box Butt East – Remove 10 Gen ES and 20 Gen D/F
- Box Butte West – Remove 45 Gen D/F
- Cherry – Remove 10 Gen ES
- Garden – Remove 30 Gen D/F
- Prairie Muzzleloader – Remove 10 ES permits according to protocol
- Corresponding Landowner permit changes with each change above.

Summary: Remove 40 Gen ES permits and 155 Gen D/F permits.

Overall, 2023 Recommendations result in 70 fewer ES permits and 272 fewer D/F permits available statewide.

PRONGHORN SEASON MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

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 populations.

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

Harvest Goals:

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

Management strategies:

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

RECOMMENDED PRONGHORN SEASONS AND HARVEST

Season Dates: Archery: August 20 through December 31, 2023
 Muzzleloader: September 16 through October 1, 2023
 October Firearm: October 14 through October 29, 2023
 Late Doe/Fawn: November 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024

2023 Season Recommendations				2022 Season Results								
Permit Type	Gen ¹	LO ¹	Type ²	Auth		Sold		Type ²	Harvest		%	%
				Gen	LO ¹	Gen	LO ¹		B	D/F	Success	Age 1.5
Banner North	70	52	ES	90	67	90	64	ES	85	5	58%	13%
Banner South	90	67	ES	90	67	90	31	ES	83	6	74%	12%
Box Butte East	20	15	ES	30	22	30	22	ES	18	1	37%	17%
Box Butte West	60	45	ES	60	45	60	45	ES	64	5	66%	8%
Cherry	70	52	ES	80	60	80	45	ES	46	13	47%	7%
Cheyenne	40	30	ES	40	30	40	30	ES	39	5	63%	8%
Dismal	40	30	ES	40	30	40	30	ES	30	1	44%	3%
Eastern Sandhills	20	15	ES	20	15	20	15	ES	11	2	37%	13%
Garden	50	37	ES	50	37	50	37	ES	46	5	59%	7%
North Sioux	100	75	ES	100	75	100	43	ES	83	16	69%	25%
All Oct Firearm	560	418		600	448	600	362		505	59	59%	12%
Banner North Late	30	22	D/F	50	37	50	14	D/F	0	10	16%	-
Banner South Late	80	60	D/F	100	75	100	6	D/F	1	28	27%	-
Banner South East Late	-	-	-	20	15	20	0	D/F	0	5	25%	-
Box Butte East Late	30	22	D/F	50	37	50	3	D/F	0	10	19%	-
Box Butte West Late	75	56	D/F	120	90	120	13	D/F	1	51	39%	-
Cherry Late	30	22	D/F	30	22	30	6	D/F	0	6	17%	-
Cheyenne Late	60	45	D/F	60	45	60	20	D/F	0	18	23%	-
Dismal Late	10	7	D/F	10	7	10	7	D/F	0	1	6%	-
Garden Late	70	52	D/F	100	75	100	12	D/F	1	44	40%	-
North Sioux Late	80	60	D/F	80	60	80	4	D/F	0	25	30%	-
Total Late D/F	465	346		620	463	620	85		3	198	29%	
North Sioux MZ	25	18	ES	25	18	25	0	ES	16	1	68%	25%
Prairie MZ	115	86	ES	125	93	125	15	ES	85	2	62%	11%
MZ Total	140	104		150	111	150	15		101	3	63%	13%
Firearm and MZ Total	1165	868		1370	1022	1370	462		609	260		
	2033			2392		1832						
Multi-Species	3			3		3		ES	3	0	-	-
Archery (SW, LO, Y)	UNL/ 250 NR	UNL	ES	UNL (1278)		1278		ES	159	23	14%	19%
TOTALS	-	-		3670		3113			771	283	33%	14%

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

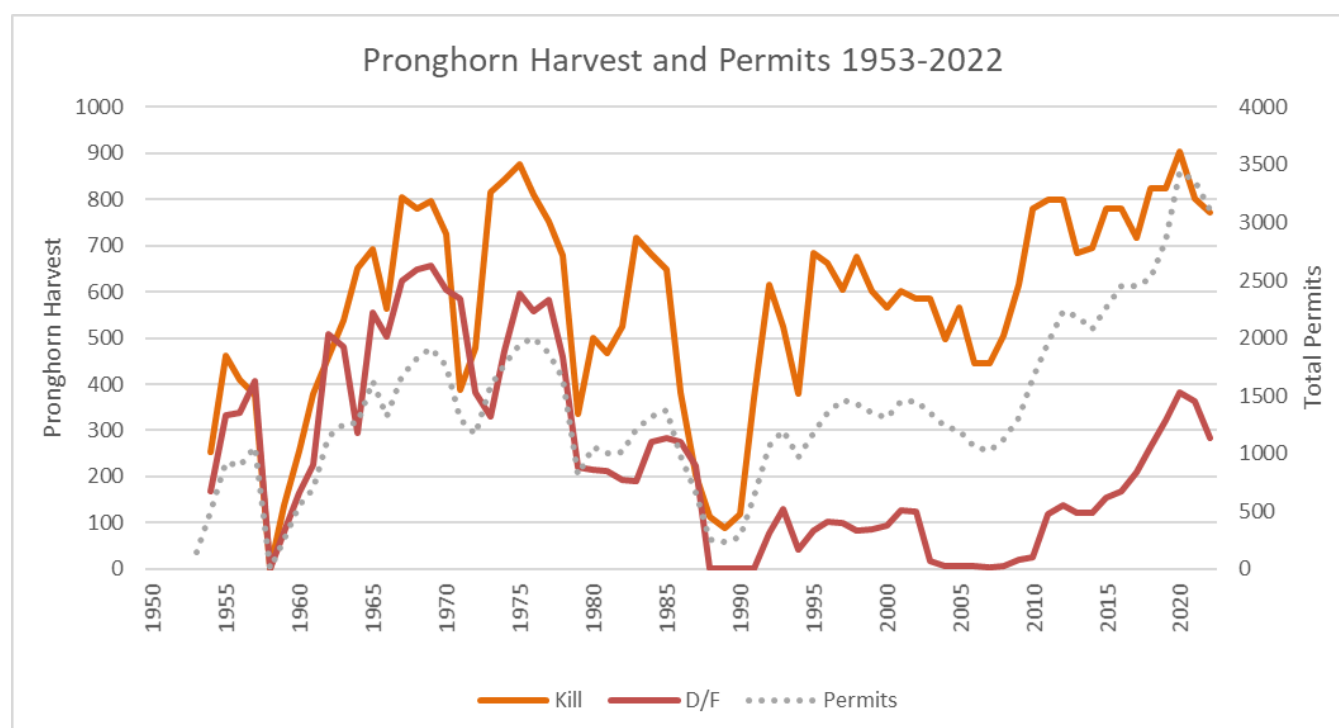
²Permit Type: ES --- Either Sex D/F --- Doe Fawn

HISTORIC PRONGHORN HARVEST

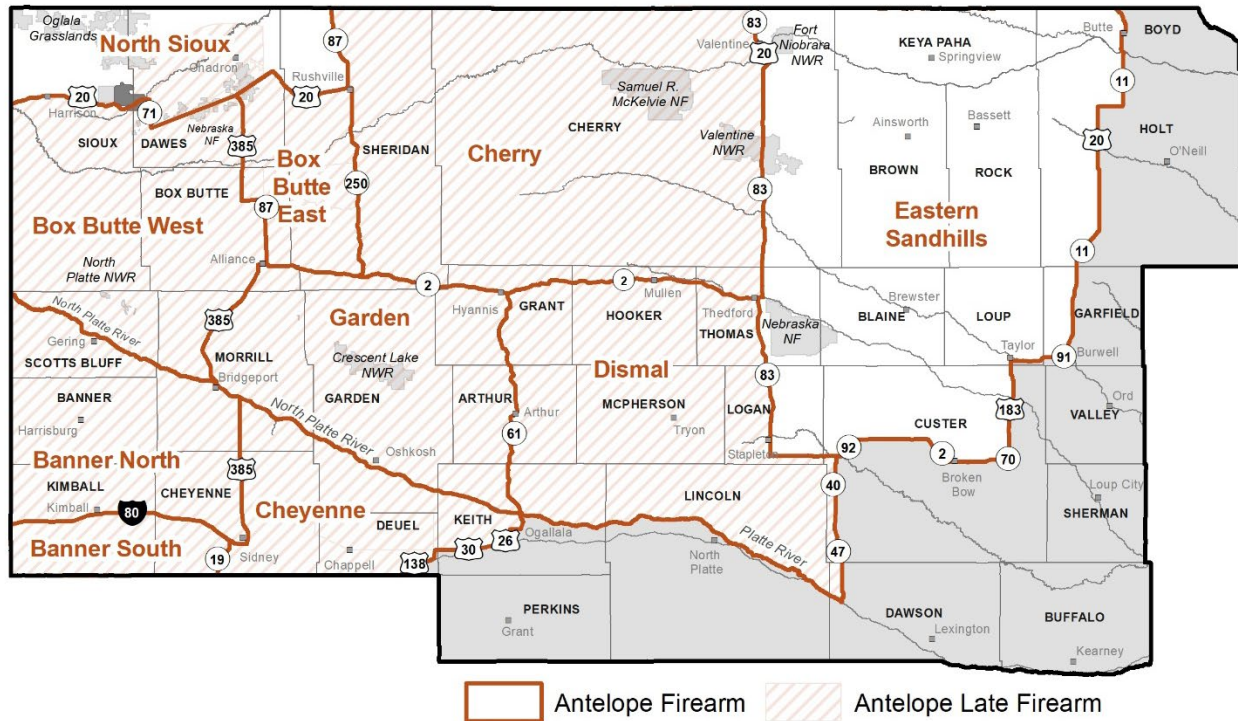
Pronghorn Permits and Harvest 2001-2022

YEAR	PERMITS				HARVEST		
	Firearm	MZ	Total Archery	Nonresident Archery	Bucks	D/F	% Bucks Age 1
2001	883	154	414		601	127	
2002	882	168	400		585	123	
2003	822	162	368		586	17	
2004	706	165	359		497	5	
2005	657	171	372		565	5	26%
2006	456	116	480	61	444	5	18%
2007	419	106	501	69	444	4	15%
2008	417	113	590	80	505	7	10%
2009*	492	120	697	83	615	20	12%
2010	678	141	831	133	779	26	10%
2011	834	153	972	194	799	118	6%
2012	931	152	1140	244	798	137	15%
2013	951	145	1086	286	683	122	12%
2014	882	138	1053	237	696	121	15%
2015	898	164	1197	275	779	155	10%
2016	968	158	1316	329	781	168	8%
2017	1065	161	1257	300	718	210	13%
2018	1161	160	1164	264	823	263	10%
2019	1361	161	1318	356	825	321	10%
2020	1546	176	1710	543	904	383	9%
2021	1798	181	1380	250	799	362	12%
2022	1667	165	1278	250	771	283	14%

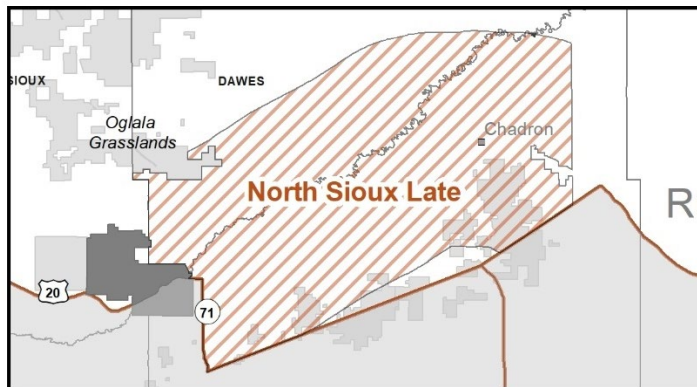
* Approximately, 30 harvest records lost in 2009 at Scottsbluff checkstation.



2023 PRONGHORN MANAGEMENT UNITS



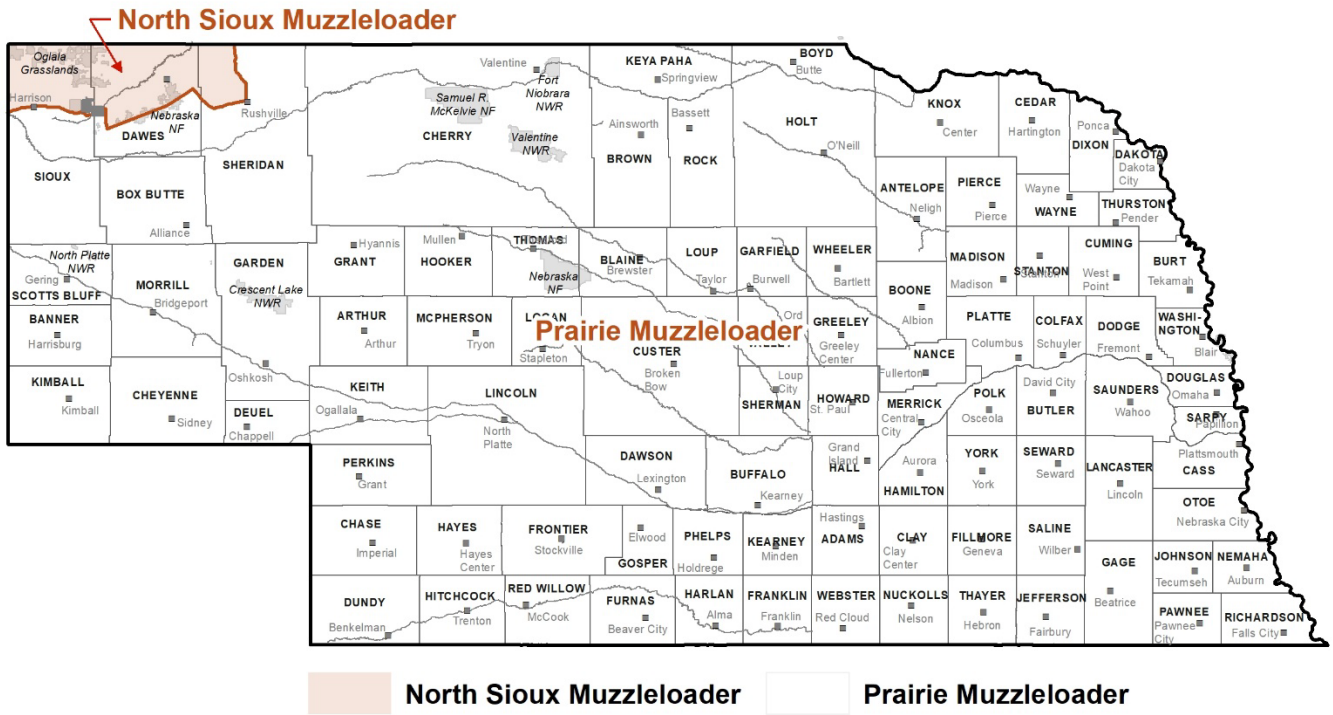
North Sioux Late D/F Detail



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

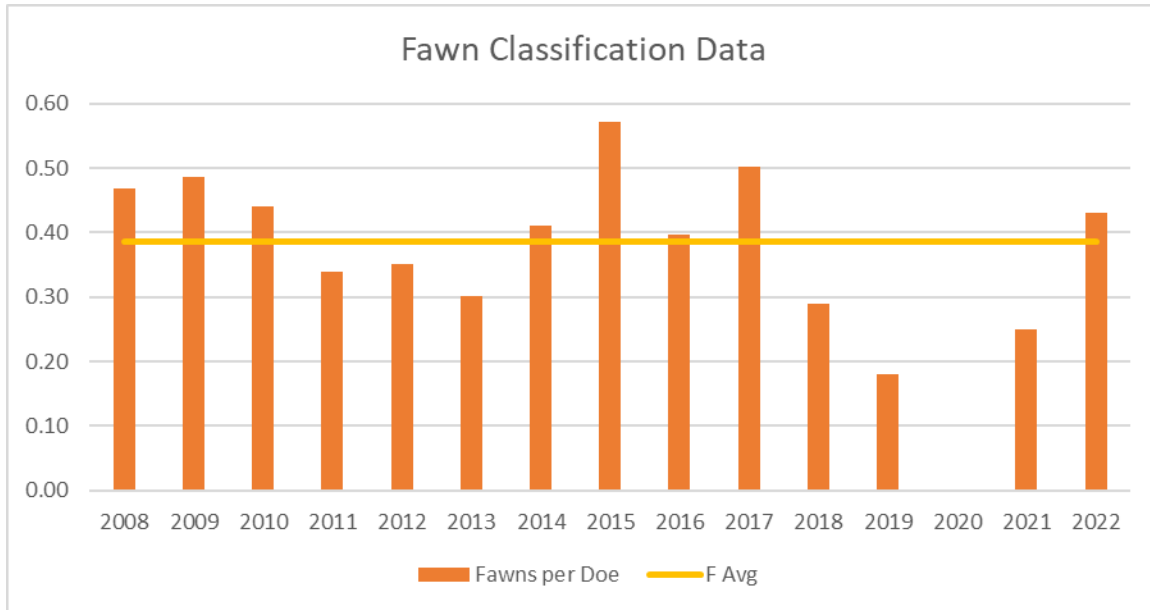
Antelope Late Doe/Fawn

2023 PRONGHORN MUZZLELOADER

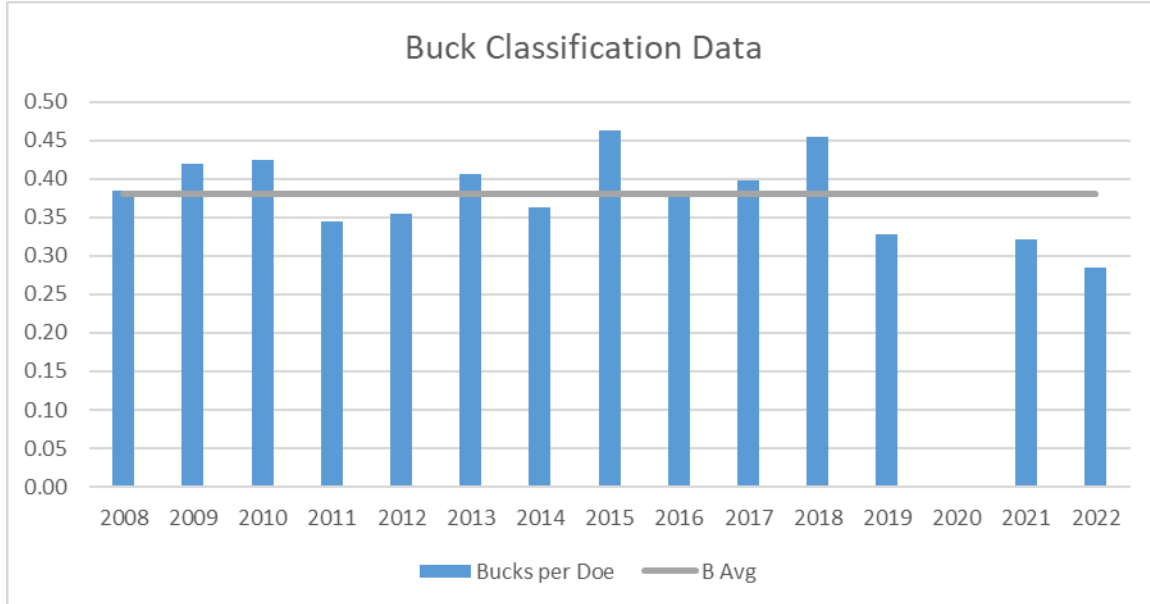


STATEWIDE PRONGHORN SURVEY RESULTS

The pronghorn fawn ratio has been below average 3 of the last 4 survey years. Fawn production is highly variable and low production would indicate that D/F harvest can have a much greater population impact when production levels are low.



The buck ratio has been trending down and has been below the long-term average since 2018. This would indicate that we're harvesting proportionally more bucks than in years past or that there are fewer bucks available on the landscape.



The aerial survey was not run in 2022 and the methodology was changed in 2021. More work needs to be done to evaluate comparability between the methods and those statewide results are not included this year.

BANNER NORTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 70 Either Sex and 52 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 35 permits from 2022 quota.

Banner North Late: 30 Doe/Fawn only and 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Reduction of 35 permits from 2022 quota.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 58% in 2022 compared to 60% in 2021. Success on late season doe/fawn was 16% compared to 17% in 2021. Both were significantly higher in 2020. Two bonus does were taken on landowner permits in 2022. Depredation complaints: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The population appears to have declined slightly.

The objectives are to: 1) continue to alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) Increase hunter success and buck quality. Reducing October firearm tags is recommended to meet objective 2. Recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to meet objective 1.

2022 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	90	62	2	64	71%	-	15%	97%
LO Oct Firearm	64	23	3	26	38%	3%	9%	89%
Total Oct Firearm	154	85	5	90	57%	-	13%	93%
Gen Late D/F	50	0	10	10	20%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	14	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	64	0	10	10	16%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	7	1	8	-	-	14%	88%
Muzzleloader	-	6	0	6	-	-	0%	100%
Auction/Lottery	-	2	0	2			-	-
Total Harvest	-	100	16	116	-	-	14%	86%

BANNER NORTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	110	15	125	10%	88%	12%	15%	8%	77%
2019	107	24	131	5%	82%	18%	14%	7%	79%
2020	118	37	155	11%	76%	24%	16%	6%	78%
2021	102	27	130	12%	79%	21%	15%	11%	75%
2022	100	16	116	14%	86%	14%	7%	6%	87%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 84 ES LO 42 ES	Gen 30 1D/F LO 15 1D/F	0	438	29	36
2019	Gen 84 ES LO 42 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 15 1D/F	1	456	26	49
2020	Gen 90 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F	Gen 50 1D/F LO 25 2D/F	0	Not completed		
2021	Gen 90 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F	Gen 70 1D/F LO 35 2D/F (9)	0	758	17	15
2022	Gen 90 ES LO 67 ES, 1D/F (3)	Gen 50 1D/F LO 37 2D/F (23)	2	Not completed		
2023*	Gen 70 ES LO 52 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.
ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 90 bucks and 10 doe/fawn.

BANNER SOUTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 90 Either Sex and 67 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2022.

Banner South Late: 80 Doe/Fawn Only and 60 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. Reduction of 35 permits from 2022.

Banner South East Late: Recommendation to remove this subunit. Reduction of 35 permits for this area. No longer needed, LO haven't bought a permit in 2 years.

General Information: Hunter success for the firearm season was 73% compared to 72% in 2021. Late season success was 24%, compared to 33% in 2021.
Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Population appears to have declined some.

The objectives are to: 1) alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, and 2) maintain buck quality and success. Maintaining October firearm permits is recommended to meet objective 2. Recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to meet objective 1.

2022 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	90	71	3	74	82%	-	11%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	31	12	3	15	45%	3%	18%	80%
Total Oct Firearm	121	83	6	89	73%	-	12%	93%
Gen Late D/F	100	1	28	29	20%	-	-	3%
LO Late D/F	6	-	0	0	0%	0%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	106	1	28	29	27%	-	-	1%
SE Gen Late D/F	20	-	5	5	25%	-	-	0%
SE LO Late D/F	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total SE Late D/F	20	-	5	5	25%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	29	4	33	-	-	24%	88%
Muzzleloader	-	24	0	24	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	137	43	180	-	-	13%	76%

BANNER SOUTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	101	43	144	10%	70%	30%	20%	15%	65%
2019	119	68	187	5%	64%	36%	27%	10%	63%
2020	129	74	203	7%	64%	36%	35%	4%	61%
2021	146	72	218	14%	67%	33%	27%	9%	64%
2022	137	43	180	13%	76%	24%	21%	18%	61%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 84 ES LO 42 ES	Gen 50 1D/F LO 25 1D/F (16)	1	732	37	84
2019	Gen 70 ES LO 35 ES, 1D/F	Gen 80 1D/F LO 40 1D/F (33)	2 (1 DCP)	612	16	47
2020	Gen 80 ES LO 40 ES, 1D/F	Gen 90 1D/F LO 45 2D/F (32)	6	Not Completed		
2021	Gen 90 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F	BS Gen 150 1D/F BS LO 75 1D/F (71) BSE Gen 20 1D/F BSE LO 10 2D/F (10)	0	704	10	29
2022	Gen 90 ES LO 67 ES, 1D/F (36)	BS Gen 150 1D/F BS LO 75 2D/F (69) BSE Gen 20 1D/F BSE LO 15 2D/F (15)	2	Not Completed		
2023*	Gen 90 ES LO 67 ES, 1D/F	BS Gen 80 1D/F BS LO 60 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; methodology changed in 2021, fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does.
ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 140 Bucks and 40 Does and Fawns

BOX BUTTE EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 20 Either Sex and 15 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 17 permits from 2022.

Box Butte East Late: 30 Doe/Fawn only and 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Reduction of 35 permits from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 37% compared to 47% in 2021, despite the reduction in permits last year. Late season success was 15%, compared to 19% in 2021. Yearling buck harvest has increased beyond our 20% threshold in recent years. The terrain features and lack of complete road access in the eastern part of this unit creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn and as a result, success can be variable from year to year if winter migrations haven't concentrated pronghorn on agriculture fields. Depredation complaints: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The objectives are to: 1) Increase current populations levels, and 2) Increase hunter success, 3) increase buck quality, and 4) address depredation issues with late doe/fawn permits. Winter migrations into the area continue but numbers of pronghorn are much lower than historic highs. Percent of adult bucks harvested on either sex permits did return to levels consistent with surrounding units. Percentage of yearling bucks did return to desired levels but remained the second highest in the state. Reducing October firearm permits is recommended to meet Objectives 1,2, and 3. Recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to meet objective 4 but allow for an increase in population to meet objective 1.

2022 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	15	0	15	50%	-	13%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	22	3	1	4	18%	0%	18%	75%
Total Oct Firearm	52	18	1	19	37%	-	29%	82%
Gen Late D/F	50	0	10	10	20%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	3	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	53	0	10	10	19%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	7	1	8	-	-	29%	88%
Muzzleloader	-	4	0	4	-	-	11%	100%
Total Harvest	-	29	12	41	-	-	28%	71%

BOX BUTTE EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2017	48	41	89	7%	54%	46%	4%	25%	71%
2018	46	41	87	2%	53%	47%	22%	11%	67%
2019	43	33	76	14%	57%	43%	19%	12%	70%
2020	46	41	87	2%	53%	47%	22%	11%	67%
2021	31	21	52	24%	60%	40%	13%	10%	77%
2022	29	12	41	28%	71%	29%	24%	14%	62%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 30 ES LO 15 ES	Gen 46 1D/F LO 23 1D/F	0	109	16	16
2019	Gen 30 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F	Gen 46 1D/F LO 23 1D/F (5)	0	114	9	14
2020	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES, 1D/F	Gen 50 1D/F LO 25 2D/F (7)	1	Not Completed		
2021	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES, 1D/F	Gen 70 1D/F LO 35 2D/F (21)	1	98	25	18
2022	Gen 30 ES LO 22 ES, 1D/F	Gen 50 1D/F LO 37 2D/F (34)	1	Not Completed		
2023*	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 25 Bucks and 10 Does and Fawns

BOX BUTTE WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 60 firearm Either Sex and 45 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2022.

Box Butte West Late: 75 Doe/Fawn Only and 56 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. Reduction of 69 permits from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 66% compared to 70% in 2021. Late season success was 40%, compared to 47% last year. Terrain features and lack of complete road access in the unit creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn and as a result, success can be variable from year to year. This unit also receives high use from archers and muzzleloader hunters.

Depredation complaints: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The objectives are to: 1) increase current populations levels, 2) address depredation issues, and 3) maintain buck quality and success. Percent adult bucks harvested on the either sex permit remains high while percent yearling buck in the harvest continues to meet objectives. Maintaining October firearm tags is recommended to meet objective 1 and 3. Adjustments to late doe/fawn permits is recommended to meet objectives 1 and 2.

2022 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold (Quota)	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	60	47	2	49	82%	-	9%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	45	17	3	20	40%	4%	6%	85%
Total Oct Firearm	105	64	5	69	64%	-	8%	93%
Gen Late D/F	120	0	45	45	38%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	13 (90)	1	6	7	31%	23%	-	14%
Total Late D/F	133	1	51	52	37%	-	-	2%
Archery	-	30	4	3	-	-	0%	88%
Muzzleloader	-	18	1	19	-	-	11%	95%
Auction/Lottery	-	1	-	1			-	-
Total Harvest	-	114	61	175	-	-	7%	65%

BOX BUTTE WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	96	25	121	2%	79%	21%	30%	18%	52%
2019	127	33	160	10%	79%	21%	40%	17%	44%
2020	154	45	199	7%	77%	23%	47%	16%	37%
2021	115	69	184	6%	63%	37%	31%	15%	54%
2022	114	61	175	7%	65%	35%	26%	16%	58%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 50 ES LO 25 ES	BBW Gen 20 1D/F BBW LO 10 1D/F BBWRiver Gen 10 1D/F BBWRiver LO 5 1D/F	1	1077	18	33
2019	Gen 50 ES LO 25 ES, 1D/F	BBW Gen 30 1D/F BBW LO 15 1D/F BBWRiver Gen 10 1D/F BBWRiver LO 5 1D/F (3)	1	1104	9	20
2020	Gen 60 ES LO 30 ES, 1D/F	Gen 60 1D/F LO 30 2D/F	1	Not completed		
2021	Gen 60 ES LO 30 ES, 1D/F	Gen 120 1D/F LO 60 2D/F (45)	1	2243	19	20
2022	Gen 70 ES LO 35 ES, 1D/F	Gen 120 1D/F LO 80 2D/F (77)	1	Not completed		
2023*	Gen 70 ES LO 35 ES, 1D/F	Gen 75 1D/F LO 56 2D/F				

¹ 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 120 Bucks and 50 Does and Fawns

CHERRY MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 70 firearm Either Sex permits with 52 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) Either Sex permits. Reduction of 18 permits from 2022.

Cherry Late: 30 Doe/Fawn permits with 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. No change from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 47% compared to 45% last year. Late season success was 11%, compared to 35% last year. The terrain features and lack of complete road access in the Cherry Unit creates visual limitations to hunters pursuing pronghorn and, as a result, success can be highly variable from year to year.

Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The objectives are to: 1) Increase current populations levels, 2) address depredation issues in problem areas through late season doe/fawn permits, and 3) increase buck quality/success. Reducing October firearm permits is recommended to meet objectives 1 and 3. Maintaining late doe/fawn permit quotas is recommended to meet objectives 1, and 2.

2022 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	80	37	6	43	54%	-	8%	86%
LO Oct Firearm	45	9	7	16	29%	7%	0%	56%
Total Oct Firearm	125	46	13	59	45%	-	7%	78%
Gen Late D/F	30	0	5	5	17%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	6	0	1	1	17%	0%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	36	0	6	6	17%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	8	0	8	-	-	38%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	8	1	9	-	-	13%	89%
Total Harvest	-	62	20	82	-	-	11%	76%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	77	11	88	2%	88%	12%	19%	8%	73%
2019	77	25	102	18%	75%	25%	17%	9%	74%
2020	71	16	87	9%	82%	18%	15%	10%	75%
2021	65	25	90	14%	72%	28%	15%	9%	75%
2022	62	20	82	11%	76%	24%	13%	13%	74%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 76 ES LO 38 ES	Gen 14 1D/F LO 7 1D/F (1)	1	1624	18	34
2019	Gen 76 ES LO 38 ES, 1D/F	Gen 20 1D/F LO 10 1D/F	0	1704	18	42
2020	Gen 80 ES LO 40 ES, 1D/F	Gen 20 1D/F LO 10 2D/F (3)	0	Not completed		
2021	Gen 80 ES LO 40 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 15 2D/F (8)	0	928	14	40
2022	Gen 80 ES LO 60 ES, 1D/F (15)	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F (16)	0	Not completed		
2023*	Gen 70 ES LO 52 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 50 Bucks and 15 Does and Fawns

CHEYENNE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 30 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2022.

Cheyenne Late: 60 Doe/Fawn and 45 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. No change from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 63% compared to 6% last year. Late success was 23% compared to 34% last year.
Depredation complaints: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The objectives are to: 1) maintain or slightly reduce the population, 2) maintain hunter success and buck quality, and 3) address depredation issues through late season doe/fawn permits. It is recommended to maintain the current October firearm permit quota to meet objective 3. Maintaining late doe/fawn permit quotas is recommended to meet objectives 1 and 3.

2022 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	29	2	31	78%	-	7%	94%
LO Oct Firearm	30	10	3	13	37%	7%	10%	77%
Total Oct Firearm	70	39	5	44	60%	-	8%	89%
Gen Late D/F	60	0	14	14	23%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	20	0	4	4	15%	5%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	80	0	18	18	21%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	7	1	8	-	-	43%	88%
Muzzleloader	-	8	0	8	-	-	13%	100%
Total Harvest	-	54	24	78	-	-	13%	69%

CHEYENNE MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	74	29	103	18%	72%	28%	20%	20%	60%
2019	58	20	78	15%	74%	26%	21%	17%	62%
2020	67	25	92	14%	73%	27%	24%	18%	58%
2021	61	32	93	13%	66%	34%	13%	28%	59%
2022	54	24	78	13%	69%	31%	13%	15%	72%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 38 ES LO 19 ES	Gen 40 1D/F LO 20 1D/F	0			
2019	Gen 38 ES LO 19 ES, 1D/F	Gen 40 1D/F LO 20 1D/F	0	151	26	17
2020	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES, 1D/F	Gen 40 1D/F LO 20 1D/F, 1D/F	0	Not completed		
2021	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES, 1D/F	Gen 60 1D/F LO 30 1D/F, 1D/F (5)	2	433	15	32
2022	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1D/F	Gen 60 1D/F LO 45 1D/F, 1D/F (25)	2	Not completed		
2023*	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1D/F	Gen 60 1D/F LO 45 1D/F, 1D/F				

¹The 2019 allocation was all LO October Firearm had a bonus doe/fawn tag. Bonus tag added to LO Late Season in 2020.

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 55 Bucks and 30 Does and Fawns

DISMAL MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 40 firearm Either Sex and 30 Landowner permits (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn). No change from 2022.

Dismal Late: 10 Doe/Fawn only permits and 7 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. No change from 2022

General Information: Hunter success for the Either Sex firearm season was 44%, compared to 58% last year. Late season success was 6% compared to 17% last year. Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Hunter harvest success may seldom reach 75% due to the fact that this unit is 100% private land with limited access. The topographic landscape creates visual limitations requiring hunters to commonly spend a considerable amount of time trying to locate a quality pronghorn buck. Based on general observations, pronghorn numbers appear to be stable in the Dismal Unit. Due to drought conditions in 2022, success decreased likely to landowner fire concerns.

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 maintain or slightly increase this herd. The Late D/F will continue providing a tool for landowners to deal with any depredation issues.

2022 Harvest by Permit

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 st Tag Success	2 nd Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	19	1	20	50%	-	5%	95%
LO Oct Firearm	30	11	0	11	37%	0%	0%	100%
Total Oct Firearm	70	30	1	31	44%	-	3%	97%
Gen Late D/F	10	0	1	1	10%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	7	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	30	1	4	5	17%	-	-	20%
Archery	-	8	0	8	-	-	17%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	7	0	7	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	45	2	47	-	-	4%	96%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	51	1	52	14%	98%	2%	25%	14%	61%
2019	53	10	63	6%	84%	16%	26%	15%	58%
2020	64	18	82	8%	78%	22%	28%	14%	58%
2021	55	5	60	9%	92%	8%	20%	15%	65%
2022	45	2	47	4%	96%	4%	18%	16%	67%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 24 ES LO 12 ES	-	2	Unit not surveyed		
2019	Gen 36 ES /F LO 18 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 20 1D/F LO 10 1D/F (8)	0			
2020	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 20 1D/F LO 10 2D/F (4)	0			
2021	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 20 1D/F LO 10 2D/F	0			
2022	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 10 1D/F LO 7 2D/F	0			
2023*	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 10 1D/F LO 7 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 50 Bucks and 5 Does and Fawns

EAST SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 20 firearm Either Sex permits and 15 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2022.

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 37%, compared to 63% last year. Firearm permits are not valid on the Halsey Nebraska National Forest Service lands.

Depredation complaints: 0

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

2022 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	9	2	11	55%	-	17%	92%
LO Oct Firearm	15	2	0	2	13%	0%	0%	100%
Total Oct Firearm	35	11	2	13	37%	-	13%	85%
Archery	-	5	1	6	-	-	25%	83%
Muzzleloader	-	2	0	2	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	18	3	21	-	-	13%	86%

EAST SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	32	5	37	19%	86%	14%	53%	6%	41%
2019	30	3	33	3%	91%	9%	40%	20%	40%
2020	19	3	23	21%	76%	24%	43%	7%	50%
2021	23	3	26	9%	88%	12%	22%	4%	74%
2022	18	3	21	13%	86%	14%	28%	11%	61%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys ^{**}		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 16 ES LO 8 ES		0	Unit not surveyed		
2019	Gen 20 ES LO 10 ES, 1D/F		0			
2020	Gen 20 ES LO 10 ES, 1D/F		0			
2021	Gen 20 ES LO 10 ES, 1D/F		0			
2022	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F		0			
2023*	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F					

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

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 20 Bucks and 5 Does and Fawns

GARDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 50 firearm Either Sex and 37 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2022.

Garden Late: 70 Doe/Fawn and 52 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. This is a decrease of 53 general permits from 2022.

General Information: Firearm hunter success was 60%, compared to 53% last year. Garden Late success was 31% compared to 36% last year.
Depredation complaints: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The objectives are to: 1) continue to alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits, 2) Increase population slightly, and 3) maintain buck quality and success. Maintaining October firearm permits is recommended to meet objective 3. The recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will help meet objectives 1 and 3.

2022 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	37	0	37	74%	-	5%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	37	9	5	14	35%	3%	11%	64%
Total Oct Firearm	87	46	5	51	57%	-	7%	90%
Gen Late D/F	100	1	38	39	39%	-	-	3%
LO Late D/F	12	0	6	6	33%	17%	-	0%
Total Late D/F	112	1	44	45	38%	-	-	2%
Archery	-	12	3	15	-	-	17%	80%
Muzzleloader	-	5	0	5	-	-	0%	100%
Total Harvest	-	64	52	116	-	-	9%	55%

GARDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	58	28	86	5%	67%	33%	36%	12%	52%
2019	62	50	112	8%	55%	45%	42%	10%	47%
2020	67	59	126	6%	53%	47%	37%	16%	47%
2021	60	60	120	3%	50%	50%	20%	13%	67%
2022	64	52	116	9%	55%	45%	19%	8%	73%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 30 ES LO 15 ES	Gen 34 1D/F LO 17 1D/F (2)	5			
2019	Gen 30 ES LO 15 ES 1D/F	Gen 76 1D/F LO 38 1D/F (21)	2	589	30	59
2020	Gen 40 ES LO 20 ES 1D/F	Gen 90 1D/F LO 45 2D/F (22)	3	Not Completed		
2021	Gen 50 ES LO 25 ES 1D/F	Gen 140 1D/F LO 70 2D/F (53)	0	953	29	38
2022	Gen 50 ES LO 37 ES 1D/F	Gen 100 1D/F LO 75 2D/F (63)	0	Not Completed		
2023*	Gen 50 ES LO 37 ES 1D/F	Gen 70 1D/F LO 52 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

**Aerial survey results; fawns seen per 100 does, and bucks seen per 100 does. Aerial survey methodology was different from 2019 to 2021, so estimates may not be comparable.

ES – Either Sex

D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 75 Bucks and 100 Does and Fawns

NORTH SIOUX MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations: 100 firearm Either Sex and 75 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2022.

North Sioux Late: 80 Doe/Fawn only and 60 Landowner Doe/Fawn only permits. No change from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for firearm season was 68% compared to 55% last year. Late doe/fawn success was 23% compared to 29% last year. Historically, approximately 1/3 of the harvest for all seasons is in the Oglala National Grasslands. Continued monitoring of Oglala grasslands use by hunters is recommended. With a high percentage of public ground compared to other units this unit is viewed as more of an opportunity unit. Great bucks can be found but some hunters are less selective. Percent yearling male is high and will be monitored. Depredation complaints: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The August aerial survey was not completed in 2022. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. The objectives are to: 1) maintain the current levels in the population, 2) increase buck quality and hunter success, 3) keep opportunity to hunt a buck high, and 4) alleviate depredation complaints through late season doe/fawn permits. Maintaining October firearm tags is recommended to meet objective 3. Monitoring and potential changes may need to occur to help meet objective 2. The recommendation to maintain doe/fawn tags will help meet objectives 1 and 4. Migration into this unit occurs annually. Doe/fawn tags are primarily a depredation tool.

2022 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	63	6	69	69%	-	27%	91%
LO Oct Firearm	43	20	10	30	49%	21%	20%	67%
Total Oct Firearm	143	83	16	99	63%	-	25%	84%
Gen Late D/F	80	0	25	25	31%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	4	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
Total Late D/F	84	0	25	25	30%	-	-	0%
Archery	-	46	8	54	-	-	25%	85%
Muzzleloader	-	16	1	17	-	-	25%	100%
Total Harvest	-	145	50	195	-	-	19%	74%

Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
2018	169	63	232	14%	73%	27%	37%	14%	50%
2019	142	62	204	15%	70%	30%	32%	14%	54%
2020	159	63	222	13%	72%	28%	42%	14%	44%
2021	134	47	181	19%	74%	26%	34%	13%	53%
2022	145	50	195	25%	74%	26%	32%	11%	57%

Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA ¹ (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2018	Gen 100 ES LO 50 ES	Gen 80 1D/F LO 40 1D/F (28)	1	1687	53	61
2019	Gen 100 ES LO 50 ES, 1D/F (10)	Gen 80 1D/F LO 40 1D/F (34)	2	1389	28	31
2020	Gen 110 ES LO 55 ES, 1D/F (3)	Gen 80 1D/F LO 40 2D/F (33)	3	Not completed		
2021	Gen 110 ES LO 55 ES, 1D/F (12)	Gen 80 1D/F LO 40 2D/F (38)	1	2026	48	54
2022	Gen 100 ES LO 75 ES, 1D/F (32)	Gen 80 1D/F LO 60 2D/F (56)	1	Not completed		
2023*	Gen 100 ES LO 75 ES, 1D/F	Gen 80 1D/F LO 60 2D/F				

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

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex

D/F – Doe/Fawn

Expected Harvest: 140 Bucks and 50 Does and Fawns

NORTH SIOUX MUZZLELOADER

2023 Recommendations: 25 General Either Sex and 18 Limited Landowner. No change from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 68% compared to 66% last year. There is very little landowner interest in this permit.

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

2022 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen NS MZ	25	16	1	17	68%	25%	94%
LO NS MZ	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Total NS MZ	25	16	1	17	68%	25%	94%

Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
2018	26	13 (12)	ES	85%	23	0	23	23%	100%
2019	26	13 (11)	ES	71%	20	0	20	25%	100%
2020	28	14 (12)	ES	67%	18	0	18	6%	100%
2021	28	14 (13)	ES	66%	17	2	19	35%	90%
2022	25	18 (18)	ES	68%	16	1	17	25%	94%
2023*	25	18	ES						

* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest in the muzzleloader season is 18 bucks and 2 does.

PRAIRIE MUZZLELOADER

2023 Recommendations: 115 Either Sex and 86 Landowner Either Sex permits. This is a decrease of 17 permits from 2022.

General Information: Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 62% compared to 59% last year. There is little interest in the landowner permit.

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.

2022 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen Prairie MZ	125	81	2	83	66%	10%	98%
LO Prairie MZ	15	4	0	4	27%	10%	100%
Total Prairie MZ	140	85	2	87	62%	11%	98%

Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
2018	100	50 (15)	ES	65%	87	1	88	13%	99%
2019	100	50 (22)	ES	66%	82	3	85	7%	97%
2020	122	61 (37)	ES	61%	85	3	88	7%	97%
2021	128	64 (40)	ES	59%	87	2	89	5%	98%
2022	125	93 (78)	ES	62%	85	2	87	11%	98%
2023*	115	86	ES						

* Recommended permits

Harvest Distribution:

Unit	Harvest
Banner North	6
Banner South	24
Box Butte East	4
Box Butte West	20
Cherry	9
Cheyenne	8
Dismal	7
Eastern Sandhills	2
Garden	5
South West	2

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

ARCHERY PRONGHORN

2023 Recommendations:

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

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

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

General Information: Permit sales declined from the highest on record in 2020, and archery success was 14% compared to 16% last year, with 182 pronghorn taken by 1278 permit holders. Drought conditions likely limited cover and resulted in reduced success in 2022. The use of crossbows has been slowly increasing in past years, but declined significantly this year, down to 29% of the archery harvest.

Harvest Strategy: This is a recreational hunt that provides the only opportunity for non-residents to hunt pronghorn in Nebraska. Success is low and allows hunters to pursue pronghorn in areas with low herd numbers without concern for herd reductions.

Expected Harvest: 250 pronghorn.

Archery permits, harvest and success

Year	Permits Issued	# Non Residents	Harvest			% Success	% Age 1.5	% Xbow
			Buck	Doe/Fawn	Total			
2018	1164	264	219	32	251	22%	11%	32%
2019	1318	356	231	22	253	19%	17%	30%
2020	1710	543	295	43	338	20%	12%	33%
2021	1380	250	192	34	226	16%	19%	39%
2022	1278	250	159	23	182	14%	19%	29%

Harvest Distribution

Unit	Harvest	Unit	Harvest
Banner North	8	Dismal	8
Banner South	33	Eastern Sandhills	6
Box Butte East	8	Garden	15
Box Butte West	34	North Sioux	54
Cherry	8	Southwest	0
Cheyenne	8		

DEER

INTRODUCTION

Recommendations for the 2023 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, the public and staff, and may include data from landowner (LO) surveys, crop damage reports, deer vehicle collisions, deer harvest data, hunter opinion and disease concerns.

Overall, 2022 was another down year for deer harvest, down 11% statewide from 2021 and down 22% from 2020. Mule Deer buck harvest in 2022 was the lowest since 1981 and whitetail buck the lowest since 1994. Buck success (bucks harvested per buck permit) has declined from 0.37 in 2019 to 0.28 in 2022. Like 2021, we did have a significant EHD event that appeared to impact whitetails in the northeast, however public reports were a fraction of the 2012 event so understanding the scope of the event is difficult at best.

Whitetail harvest statewide had largely remained stable in the years after the large EHD event in 2012. However, between increased harvest due to depredation complaints beginning in 2019 and minor to moderate EHD events in 2021 and 2022, whitetail numbers and harvest are down across much of the state. Our recommendations address a variety of issues across the state, from reduced whitetail populations to mule deer range overlap to remaining depredation issues. Depredation complaints along major river corridors continue the need for significant antlerless harvest in those areas. Staff encourage landowners to require their hunters to harvest antlerless deer along river corridors where crop damage is occurring. Our depredation program has helped us make large strides in this area.

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

Deer Management Goals:

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

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

Summary	Change from 2021	Historic Rank
Total Deer Harvest	Down 11.1% to 47,212	#26 (of 74)
Deer Permit Sales	Down 6.8% to 129,007	#12
Nonresident Permit Sales	Down 12.5% to 19,890	#3
Whitetail Buck Harvest	Down 11.3% to 23,045	#28
Whitetail Antlerless Harvest	Down 5.3 to 16,786	#23
Mule Deer Buck Harvest	Down 11.3% to 5,878	#42
Mule Deer Antlerless Harvest	Down 22.9% to 1,503	#60

2023 RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

MDCA

- Include archery season on all MDCA permits, this would make them full “Seasons Choice”.

Mule Deer Restriction

- Prohibit antlerless mule deer harvest on publicly accessible lands statewide, land enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters program is excepted from this restriction.

Nonresident

- Reduce NR either sex or buck only permit cap to 10,000 overall; 15,000 in 2022; sold 13,713.
 - LO and Youth permits are not included in this quota.
- NR Statewide Archery – Reduce to 3,000; 5,000 in 2022; sold 4,570.
 - Add to MDCA restriction: not valid for MD in the MDCA.
- NR Muzzleloader – Reduce to 1,000; 2000 in 2022, sold 1,611.

November Firearm Permits – 42,250 total Nov FA from 44,575 in 2022 (-5.2%)

- Buffalo WT – Reduce 300
- Calamus East – Reduce 300, remove bonus
- Calamus West – Split 85/15 R/NR
- Elkhorn – Reduce quota by 200
- Frenchman MDCA – Reduce by 200, bag change to restrict AOMD (AD2)
 - NR quota increased to 15% of total permit allocation
 - Frenchman WT – Reduce 200
- Loup East – Reduce by 300
- Loup West – bag limit change 1 AD2, drop bonus
 - Loup West WT – bag limit change 1 WT, drop bonus
- Missouri – Remove bonus
- Plains – Split 85/15 R/NR, decrease by 500, bag change to restrict AOMD (AD2)
 - **NEW** Plains WT – Add 300 1WT, 2AOWT, shift from AD permit
- Platte MDCA – Reduce by 100
 - Platte WT – Reduce by 100
- Republican MDCA – Reduce by 25
 - Republican WT – Reduce by 500
- Sandhills – Split 85/15 R/NR, bag change to restrict AOMD (AD2)
- Upper Platte – Split 85/15 R/NR, reduce by 200

Antlerless Only Season Choice Permits – 28,975 total AO/AOWT from 31,300 in 2022 (-7.4%)

- Buffalo North – Reduce by 50
- Calamus East – Reduce by 200, remove bonus
- Elkhorn West AOSC – Decrease by 400
- Frenchman AOSC – Decrease by 75
 - Frenchman West AOSC – Decrease by 250.
 - SW Reservoirs AOSC – Reduce by 100
- Missouri AOSC – Remove bonus
- Pine Ridge AOSC – Reduce by 100.
- Plains AOSC – Reduce by 100.
- Platte AOSC – Reduce by 100.
 - Platte North AOSC – Reduce by 100.
- Republican AOSC – Reduce by 300
 - Harlan Co Res AOSC – Reduce by 100
- Sandhills AOSC – Shift 200 to WT.
 - Sandhills WT AOSC – Add 200.
- Upper Platte AOSC – Reduce 150.
- Wahoo AOSC – Reduce 300.
- River Antlerless – Add Lodgepole Creek, remove a section of the Republican River.

2023 RECOMMENDED DEER SEASONS

Season Dates: **November Firearm:** November 11-19, 2023
Archery Season Dates: September 1 – December 31, 2023
Muzzleloader Season Dates: December 1-31, 2023
Late Antlerless Only Firearm: January 1-15, 2024, All AO, Youth and LO
October River Antlerless Firearm: October 1-15, 2023, River Antlerless Only
River Antlerless Late Firearm: January 1-31, 2024, River Antlerless Only

Unit Permit	Permits	Bag Limit	Unit Permit	Permits	Bag Limit
Blue Northwest	2400	1 AD	AO SC Blue NW	2200	1 AOWT
Blue Southeast	3700	1 AD	AO SC Blue SE	2400	1 AOWT
Buffalo WT	1800	1 WT	AO SC Buffalo	1000	2 AOWT
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Buffalo North	50	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Calamus East	1500	1 AD ²	AO SC Calamus East	200	1 AOWT
Calamus West	1600	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Calamus West	200	3 AOWT
Elkhorn	2700	1 AD	AO SC Elkhorn	250	1 AOWT
Frenchman MDCA	1400	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Elkhorn West	350	1 AOWT
Frenchman WT	1000	1 WT	AO SC Frenchman	150	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Keya Paha	2500	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Frenchman WT North	500	2 AOWT
Loup East	3000	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Frenchman WT South	200	1 AOWT
Loup West	1000	1 AD ²	AO SC Frenchman West	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Loup West WT	800	1 WT	AO SC Southwest Reservoirs	100	1 AOWT
Missouri	3200	1 AD	AO SC Keya Paha	500	2 AOWT
Pine Ridge MDCA	1200	1 AD ² *	AO SC Loup East	1500	3 AOWT
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1 WT	AO SC Loup West	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Plains	1000	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Loup West WT	300	2 AOWT
Plains WT	300	1 WT, 2 AOWT	AO SC Missouri	1000	1 AOWT
Platte MDCA	900	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	AO SC Pine Ridge	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Platte WT	900	1 WT	AO SC Pine Ridge WT	600	2 AOWT
Republican MDCA	50	1 MD Buck	AO SC Plains	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT
Republican WT	2500	1 WT	AO SC Plains WT	300	3 AOWT
Sandhills	1500	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	AO SC Platte	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Sandhills WT	500	1 WT, 2 AOWT	AO SC Platte WT	400	2 AOWT
Upper Platte	1000	1 AD ²	AO SC Platte North	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Wahoo	3800	1 AD	AO SC Republican	1200	2 AOWT
			AO SC Harlan County Reservoir	100	2 AOWT
			AO SC Sandhills	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT
			AO SC Sandhills WT	300	3 AOWT
			AO SC Upper Platte	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
			AO SC Upper Platte WT	200	2 AOWT
			AO SC Wahoo	1900	1 AOWT
			AO SC River Antlerless	12,000	2 AOWT
TOTALS	42,250		TOTALS	28,975	
OTHER PERMITS					
WT SW Buck	8,000	1 WT Buck	Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Restricted SW Buck	1,000	1 Any buck	November Firearm, Not valid in the MDCA		
SW Buck	100	1 Any buck	November Firearm, Valid statewide		
Archery Res/NR	Unl/3,000	1 AD*	NR Not valid for mule deer in MDCA units		
Muzzleloader Res/NR	Unl/1,000	1 AD*	Not valid for mule deer in MDCA units		
Resident Youth	Unlimited	1 AD*	Valid statewide for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
NR Restricted Youth	Unlimited	1 AD*	Not valid in draw units, valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Youth WT	Unlimited	1 WT	Valid statewide for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD, 1 AO	Valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon		
Special Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD	Valid for any legal weapon the Sat-Mon prior to the Nov FA		

AD – Any deer

AD² – Any deer except AO MD

AO – Antlerless Only

AOWT – Antlerless Only WT

B – Buck

NR – Non-Resident

WT – Whitetail

MD – Mule Deer

SW – Statewide

UNL – Unlimited

Buck – Deer with one antler six inches or more in length

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

* Antlerless MD restrictions on all publicly accessible land, OFW program excepted.

2022 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Total	Harvest				% Success	
					MD		WT			
					B	AO	B	AO	1 st	Bonus
Blue Northwest	2400	2400	1 AD	988	0	1	748	239	41	
Blue Southeast	3700	3700	1 AD	1540	0	1	1267	272	42	
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	473	148	2	213	110	42	6
Buffalo WT	2100	2100	1 WT	733	4	0	566	163	35	
Calamus East	1500	1244	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	551	46	0	336	169	38	6
Calamus West	1600	1600	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	801	196	6	365	234	41	7/2
Elkhorn	2900	2900	1 AD	868	0	0	659	209	30	
Frenchman MDCA	1600	1600	1 AD, 1 AOWT	818	614	37	73	94	48	3
Frenchman WT	1200	1200	1 WT	468	3	1	353	111	39	
Keya Paha	2500	2185	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	1341	62	0	849	430	48	10/3
Loup East	3300	3300	1 AD ² , 2 AOWT	1682	29	1	928	724	39	10/2
Loup West	1000	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	485	107	1	245	132	42	6
Loup West WT	800	489	1 WT. 1 AOWT	192	1	0	129	62	33	6
Missouri	3200	3200	1 AD, 1 AOWT	1616	6	1	1030	579	41	9
Pine Ridge	1200	1200	1 AD ²	454	270	4	141	39	38	
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1000	1 WT	465	1	1	385	78	46	
Plains	1500	1500	1 AD, 2 AOWT	884	475	89	180	140	52	6/1
Platte MDCA	1000	1000	1 AD ² , 1 AOWT	492	341	2	83	66	46	4
Platte WT	1000	1000	1 WT	345	0	1	306	38	34	
Republican WT	3000	3000	1 WT	1251	0	0	976	275	42	
Republican MD	75	75	1 MD Buck	14	13	0	1	0	19	
Sandhills	1500	1500	1 AD, 2 AOWT	877	416	21	302	138	52	5/1
Sandhills WT	500	500	1 WT, 2 AOWT	244	2	2	169	71	40	6/2
Upper Platte	1200	1200	1 AD	565	364	90	99	12	47	
Wahoo	3800	3800	1 AD	1486	1	0	1134	351	39	
Nov FA Total/Average	44575	43693		19633	3099	261	11537	4736	41	7/2
Landowner Deer	UNL	14396	1 AD, 1 AO	5533	832	304	2920	1477	33	5
Special LO	UNL	3146	1 AD	777	177	25	482	93	25	
Archery R/NR	UNL/5000	18054	1 AD*	3664	455	48	2655	506	20	
Muzzleloader R/NR	UNL/2000	5831	1 AD*	1333	255	58	714	306	23	
Statewide Youth	UNL	6068	1 AD*	2647	768	126	1300	453	44	
SW WT Youth	UNL	3430	1 WT	1230	7	2	919	302	36	
Rest NR Youth	UNL	586	1 AD*	241	79	18	115	29	41	
Rest SWB	1000	1000	1 Buck	350	153	0	197	0	35	
SW Buck Only	100	100	1 Buck	57	47	0	10	0	57	
WT SW Buck	8000	8000	1 WT Buck	2202	4	0	2173	25	27	
Auction/Supertag	8	8	Varies	2	2	0	0	0	25	
Other Total/Average	16108	60619		18036	2779	581	11485	3191	29	5

AD – Any deer

AD² – Any deer except AO MD

AO – Antlerless Only

AOWT – Antlerless Only WT

B – Buck

NR – Non-Resident

WT – Whitetail

MD – Mule Deer

SW – Statewide

UNL – Unlimited

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

* No Antlerless Mule Deer on public land in the Pine Ridge Unit or north of Hwy 88 in the Upper Platte

2022 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	MD		WT			
					B	AO	B	AO	1 st	Bonus
Blue Northwest AO SC	2200	2200	1 AOWT	604	0	0	27	577	27	
Blue Southeast AO SC	2400	2400	1 AOWT	684	0	3	27	654	28	
Buffalo AO SC	1000	694	2 AOWT	283	1	1	15	266	30	11
Buffalo North AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	54	0	38	0	16	46	8
Calamus East AO SC	400	115	2 AOWT	39	0	0	1	38	29	5
Calamus West AO SC	300	115	3 AOWT	46	0	3	6	37	29	10/2
Elkhorn AO SC	250	250	1 AOWT	62	0	0	0	62	25	
Elkhorn West AOSC	750	404	1 AOWT	72	0	0	2	70	18	
Frenchman AO SC	150	150	1 AO, 1 AOWT	90	1	57	1	31	47	13
Frenchman North WT AO SC	500	500	2 AOWT	152	1	0	4	147	23	7
Frenchman South WT AO SC	200	200	1 AOWT	57	0	0	1	56	29	
Frenchman West AO SC	500	500	1 AO, 1 AOWT	246	3	181	5	57	42	7
SW Reservoirs AO SC	200	136	1 AOWT	32	0	0	0	32	24	
Keya Paha AO SC	500	246	3 AOWT	153	0	0	6	147	38	17/8
Loup East AO SC	1500	654	3 AOWT	268	0	0	6	262	27	11/4
Loup West AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	30	2	8	1	19	25	5
Loup West WT AO SC	300	73	2 AOWT	35	0	0	1	34	32	16
Missouri AO SC	1000	865	2 AOWT	294	0	0	14	280	25	9
Pine Ridge AO SC	200	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT	124	0	39	5	80	44	18
Pine Ridge AO SC WT	600	569	2 AOWT	361	0	0	28	333	42	22
Plains AO SC	200	200	1 AO, 2 AOWT	86	3	50	3	30	36	7/1
Plains WT AOSC	300	90	3 AOWT	19	0	0	2	17	14	6/1
Platte AO SC	200	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT	101	1	53	2	45	39	12
Platte WT AO SC	400	400	2 AOWT	113	0	0	7	106	22	7
Platte North AO SC	300	300	1 AO, 1 AOWT	141	1	70	1	69	37	10
Republican AO SC	1500	1451	2 AOWT	636	0	0	18	618	33	11
Harlan County Res AO SC	200	200	2 AOWT	120	0	0	1	119	41	19
Sandhills AO SC	300	241	1 AO, 2 AOWT	161	1	75	6	79	46	15/6
Sandhills WT AOSC	100	27	3 AOWT	18	0	0	2	16	30	22/15
Upper Platte AO SC	250	250	1 AO, 1 AOWT	90	3	65	0	22	32	4
Upper Platte WT AO SC	200	171	2 AOWT	20	0	0	0	20	9	2
Wahoo AO SC	2200	2200	1 AOWT	535	0	1	19	515	24	
River Antlerless	12000	8494	2 AOWT	4282	0	7	168	4107	36	14
AO SC TOTAL	31300	24695		10008	17	651	379	8961	32	11/5
ALL SEASONS	UNL/ 91983	129007		47677	5895	1493	23401	16888	33	9/4

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

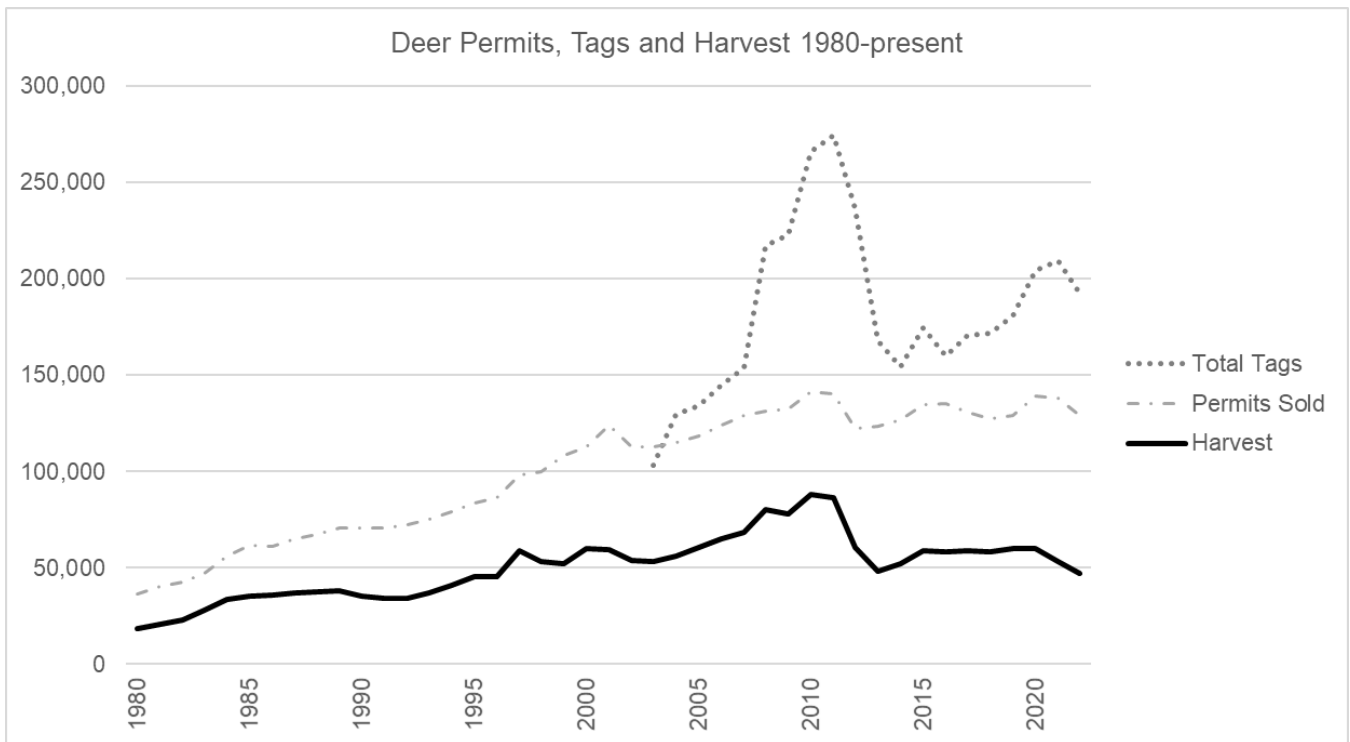
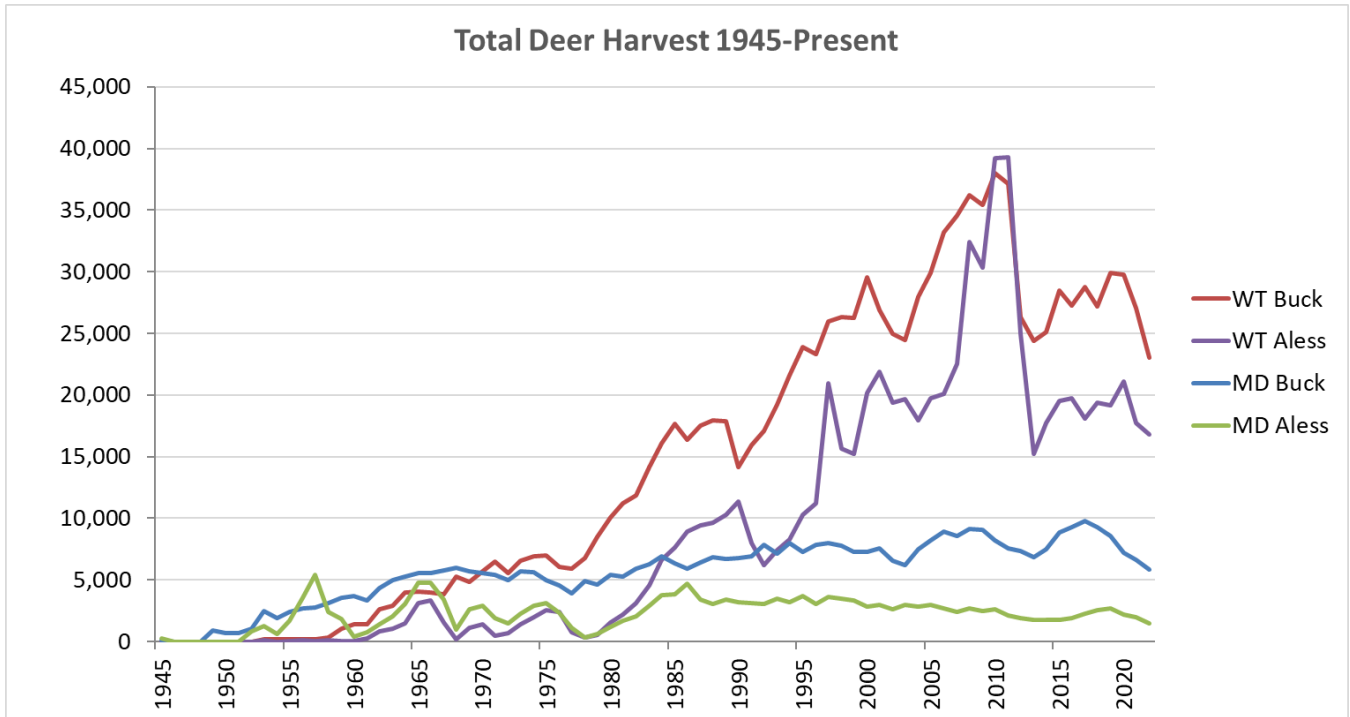
UNL – Unlimited

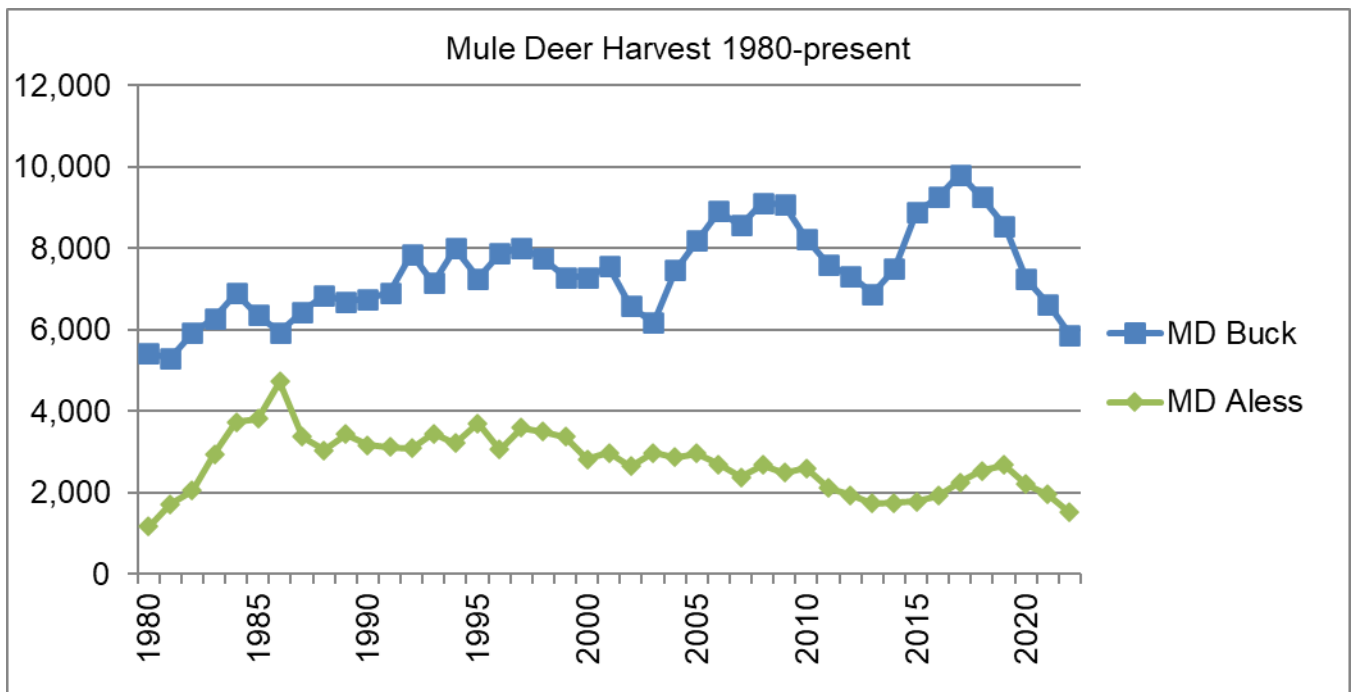
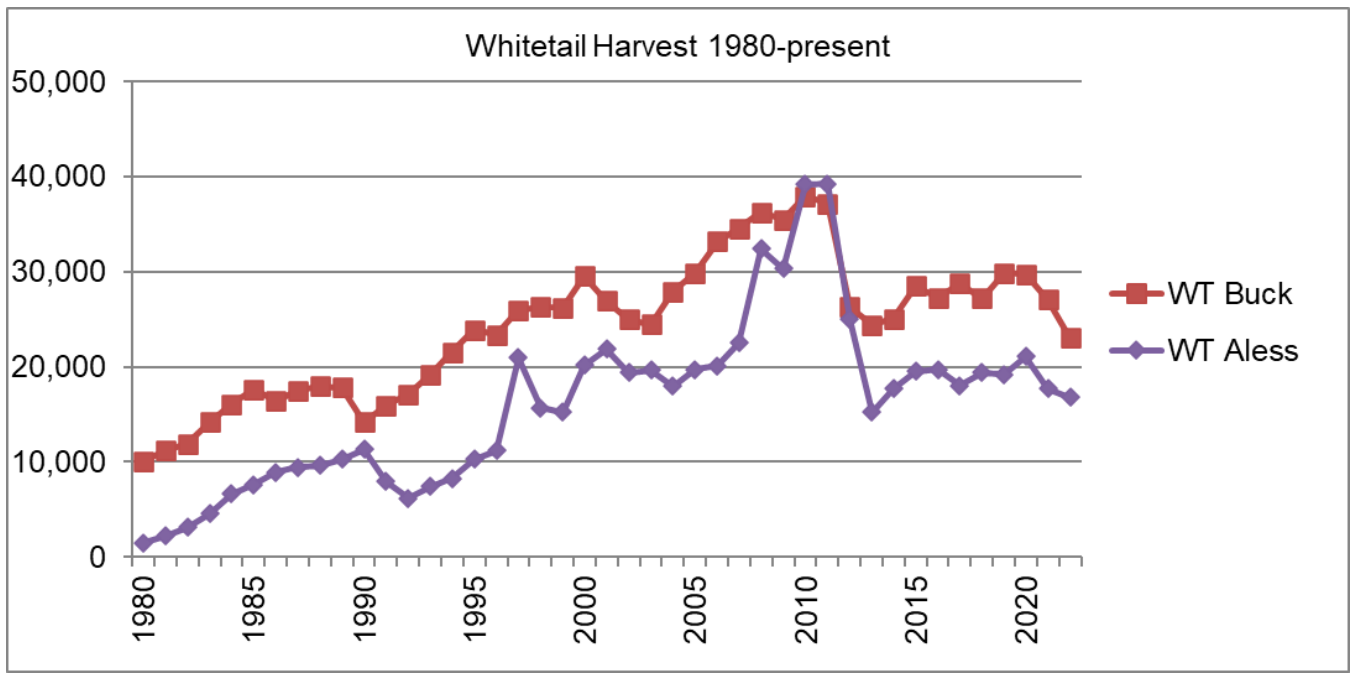
SC – Season Choice: valid for all open seasons with the legal weapon

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

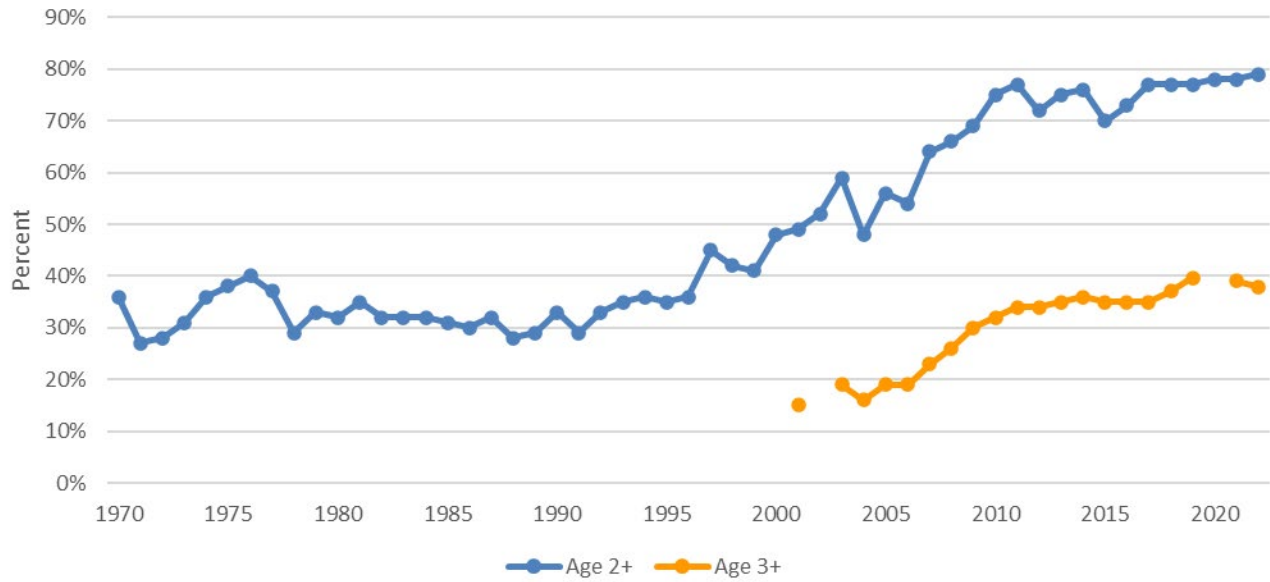
* No Antlerless Mule Deer on public land in the Pine Ridge Unit or north of Hwy 88 in the Upper Platte

HISTORIC DEER TRENDS

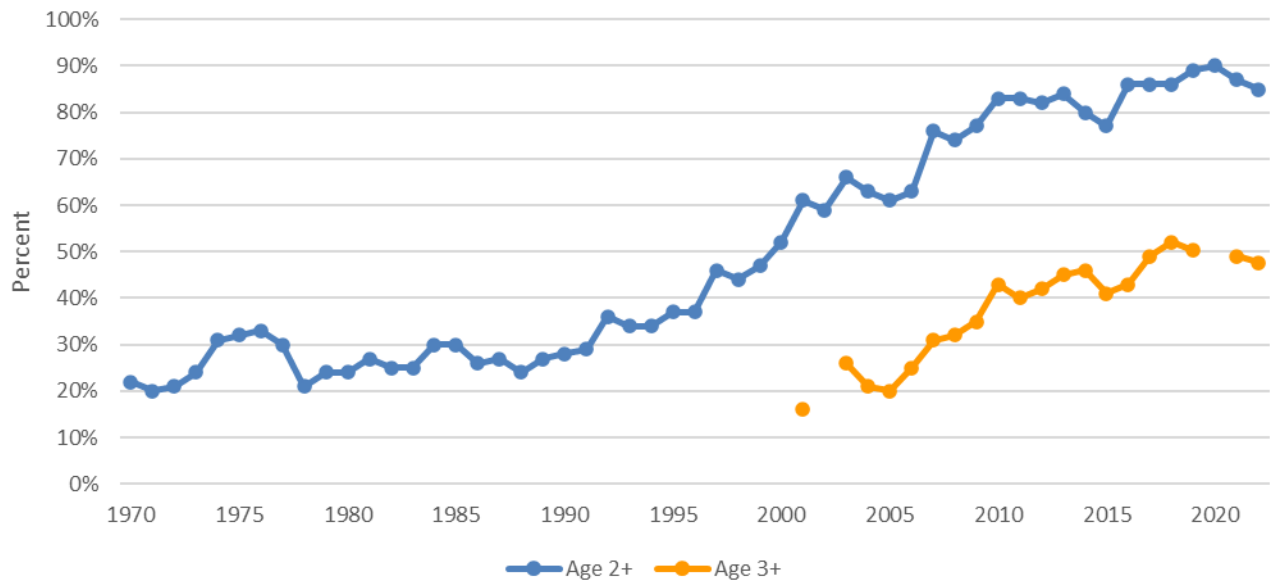




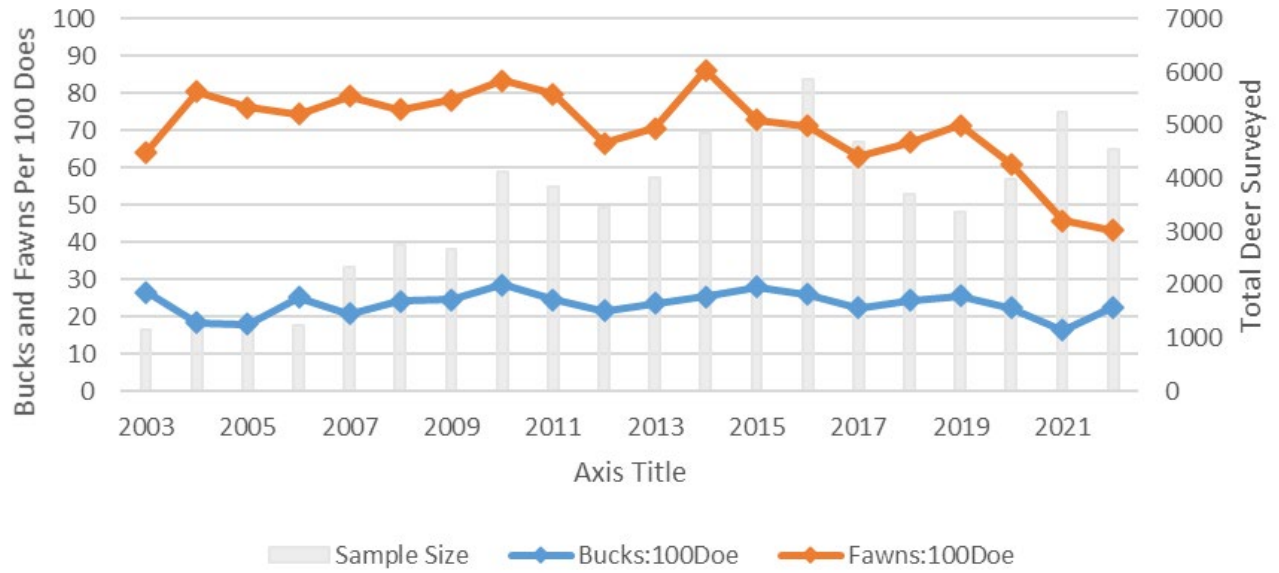
Statewide Age Structure of WT Buck Harvest



Statewide Age Structure of MD Buck Harvest

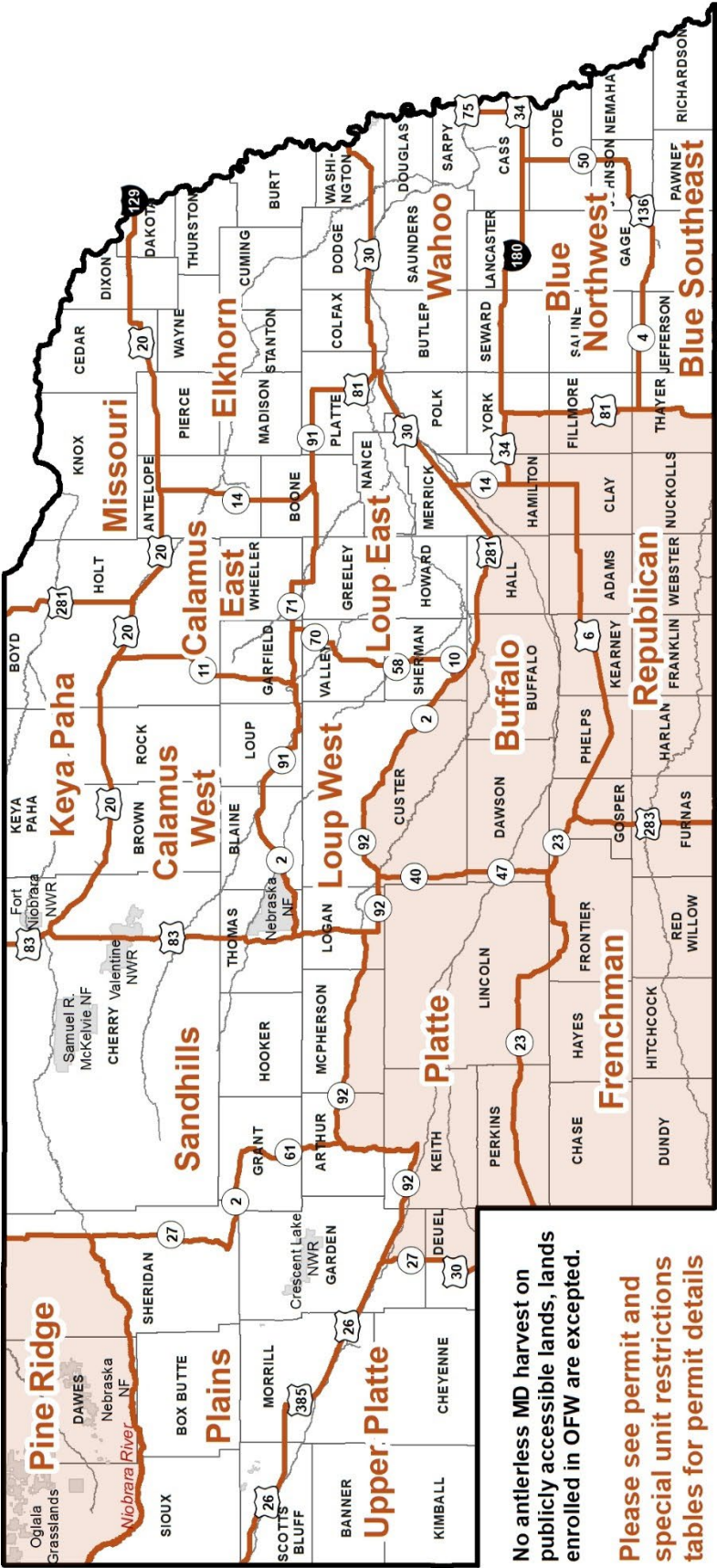


MD Composition Statewide

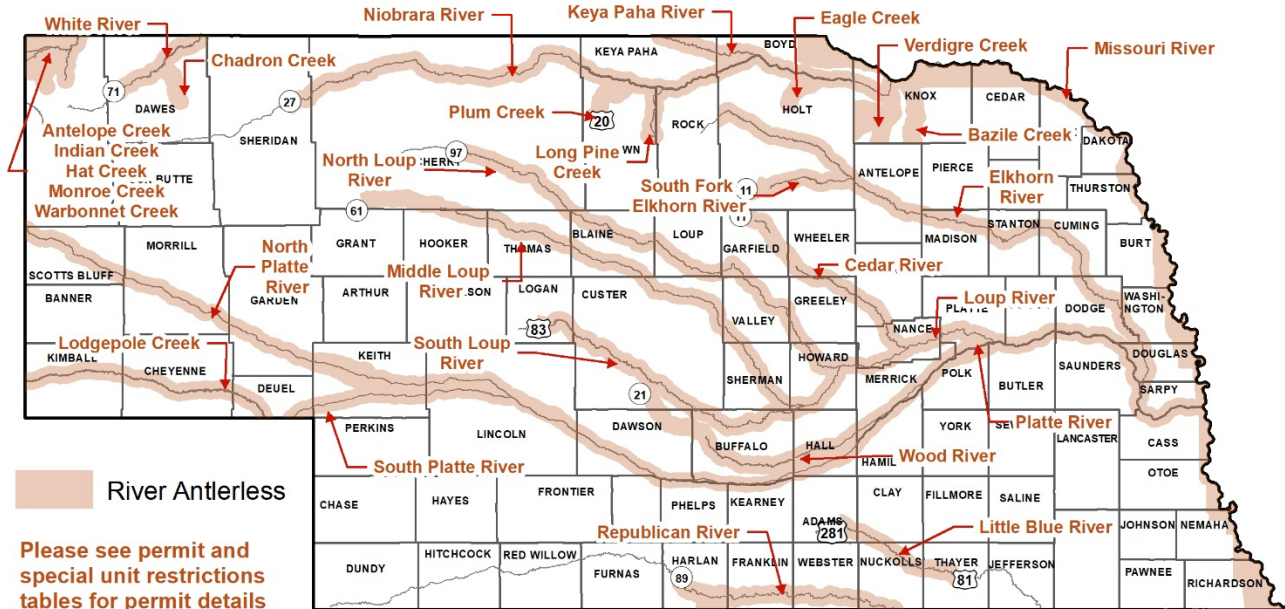


DEER MANAGEMENT UNITS

2022 NOVEMBER FIREARM AND ANTLERLESS ONLY
SEASON CHOICE UNITS

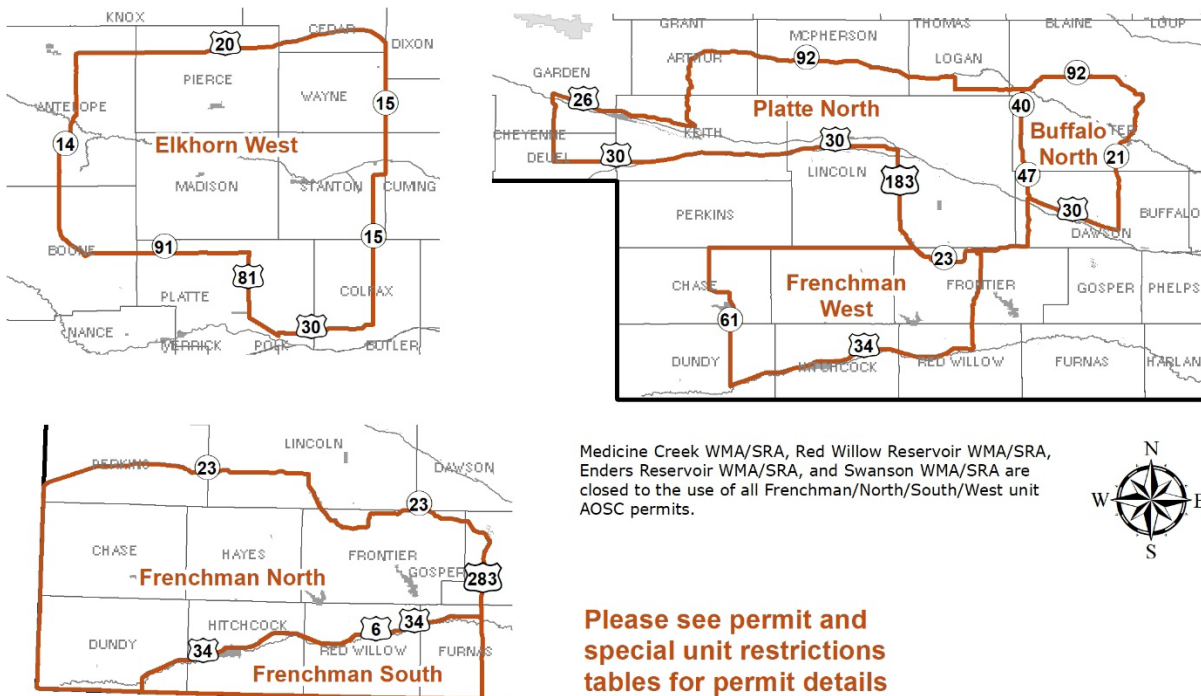


2023 RIVER ANTLERLESS PRIVATE LAND ONLY



ALL FEDERAL AND STATE PUBLIC LANDS CLOSED TO RIVER ANTLERLESS PERMITS

2023 ADDITIONAL ANTLERLESS ONLY SEASON CHOICE UNITS



BLUE NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Blue Northwest November Firearm: 2400 Any Deer permits. No change from 2022.

Blue Northwest Antlerless Only Season Choice: 2200 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. No change from 2022.

General Information: Harvest for all seasons was 1883 whitetail bucks and 1216 antlerless whitetails. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males decreased to 29% from 31% in 2022. The 29% of 3-year-old and older bucks in the harvest is a decrease. Unrestricted permits accounted for 41.2% of the whitetail buck harvest and 16.0% of the antlerless whitetail harvest in 2022. Landowner complaints were the same as last year.

Depredation complaints: 7 DCP: 5

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be stable and within landowner tolerances. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were more than last year. There were a two reports of EHD in the fall of 2022. Population impacts from EHD in 2022 appear to be insignificant. The population goal is to allow limited growth in Blue Northwest while increasing an older buck age structure. Permit strategies are to allow limited growth in some areas of the unit and increase buck age structure in the unit.

2022 Harvest Data - Blue Northwest

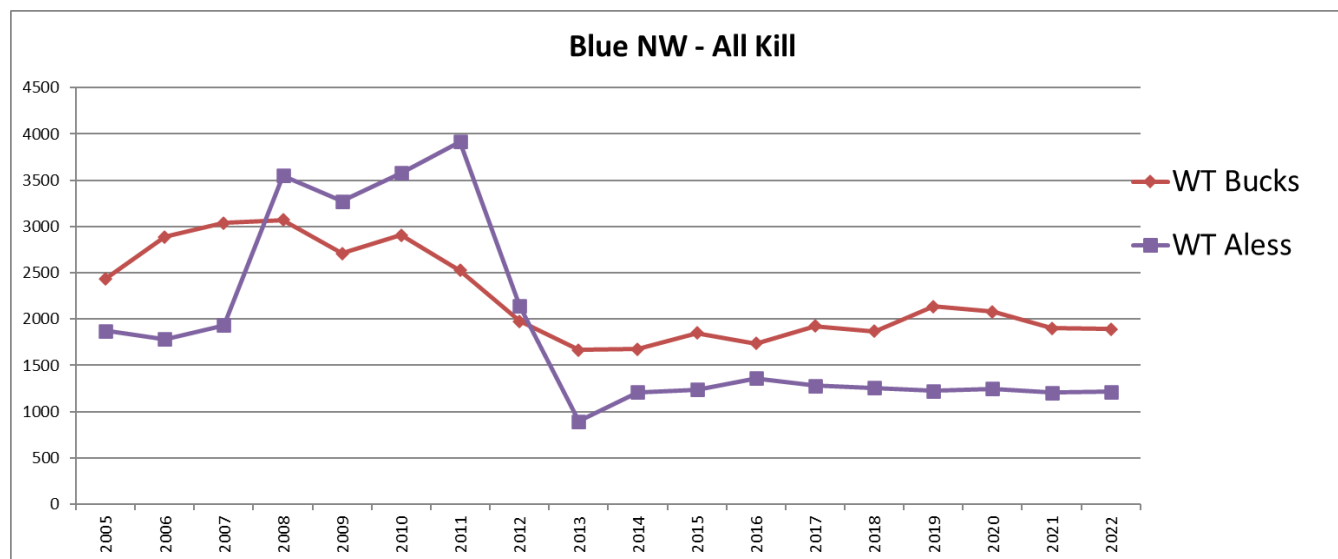
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Blue NW	2400	2400	11/2/22	0	1	1	748	239	987	41	-
Blue NW AO SC	2200	2200	12/31/22	0	0	0	27	577	604	27	-
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	1	2	3		
Landowner	-	-		0	0	0	285	184	469		
Special LO	-	-		0	0	0	60	17	77		
SW Archery	-	-		0	0	0	241	61	302		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	45	33	78		
SW Youth	-	-		1	0	1	95	62	157		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	101	35	136		
Rest NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	3	1	4		
SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	2	0	2		
Rest SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	12	0	12		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	273	3	276		
Total				1	1	2	1893	1214	3107		

BLUE NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(continued)

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Mule Deer							Whitetail Deer						
	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age			Buck	AO	Total	%AO	% Buck Age		
					1	2	3+					1	2	3+
2018	3	0	3					1864	1258	3122	40	32	40	28
2019	6	2	8					2136	1223	3359	36	34	37	29
2020	4	2	6					2081	1248	3329	38	26	74	
2021	2	3	5					1902	1205	3107	39	31	37	32
2022	1	1	2	50	-	-	-	1893	1214	3107	39	30	41	29



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	3	3
2019	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	3	2
2020	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	9	8
2021	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	7	6
2022	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	7	5
2023*	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)		

*Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

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

BLUE SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Blue Southeast November Firearm: 3700 Any Deer permits. No change from 2022.

Blue Southeast Antlerless Only Season Choice: 2400 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. No change from 2022.

General Information: Harvest for all seasons was 2842 adult whitetail males and 1572 antlerless whitetails. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males decreased from 25% to 23%. Age structure continues to improve. The 42% of 3-year-old and older bucks in the harvest is the best it has ever been. Unrestricted permits accounted for 38.9% of the whitetail buck harvest and 13.2% of the antlerless whitetail harvest in 2022. Landowner complaints remained the same as last year.

Depredation complaints: 4 DCP: 1

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be stable and within landowner tolerances. Hunter and landowner complaints about too few deer were the same as last year. Fawn production appeared normal. There were a two reports of possible EHD deer during the fall of 2022. Population impacts from EHD appear to be insignificant. The population goal is to maintain the current population while maintaining an older buck age structure. Harvest strategies are to maintain the current population levels while maintaining/improving the current age structure. River antlerless permits are necessary to keep pressure along the Missouri River where there have been depredation problems in the past.

2022 Harvest Data - Blue Southeast

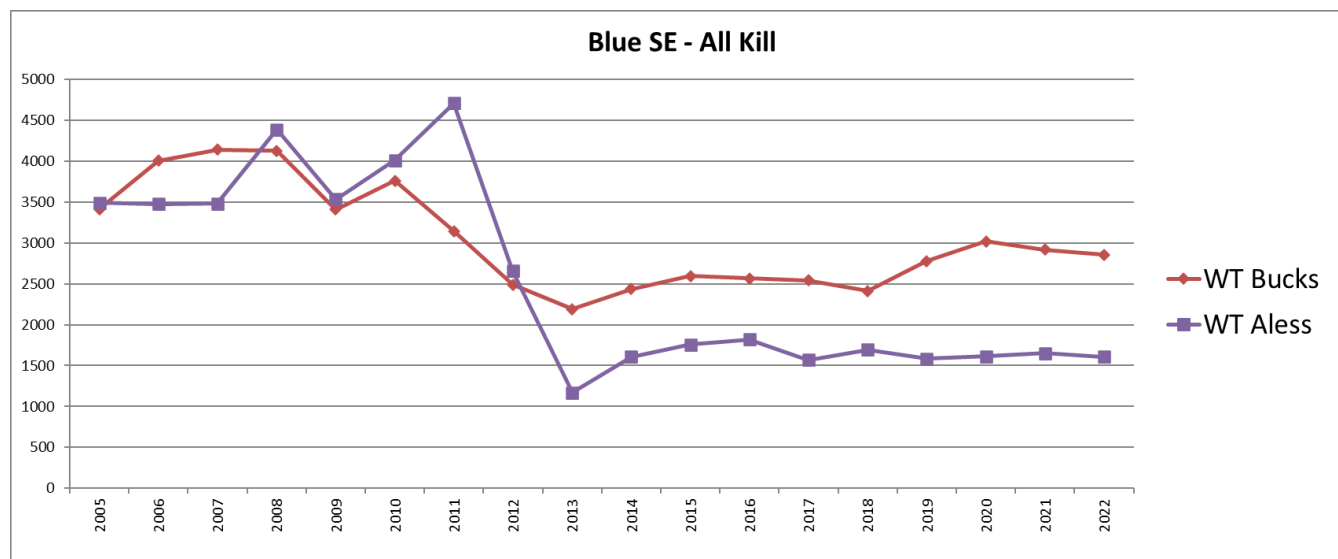
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Blue Southeast	3700	3700	11/7/22	0	1	1	1267	272	1539	42	-
Blue SE AO SC	2400	2400	12/12/22	0	3	3	27	654	681	28	-
River Antlerless	-	-		0	1	1	13	252	265		
Landowner	-	-		1	0	1	399	212	611		
Special LO	-	-		1	0	1	51	13	64		
SW Archery	-	-		1	0	1	431	70	501		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	70	54	124		
SW Youth	-	-		0	0	0	113	44	157		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	100	29	129		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	12	6	18		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	13	0	13		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	361	2	363		
Total				3	5	8	2857	1608	4465		

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+
2018	4	1	5					2414	1695	4109	41	29	36	35
2019	1	6	7					2778	1585	4363	36	29	32	39
2020	7	4	11					3021	1613	4634	35	22	78	
2021	7	7	14					2917	1653	4570	36	25	33	42
2022	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	2858	1610	4468	36	24	36	40



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	1	0
2019	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	3	2
2020	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	4	1
2021	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	4	1
2022	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	4	1
2023*	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (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	3	2700	2	1800

BUFFALO MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Buffalo MDCA: 1000 permits for Any Deer² and one bonus antlerless whitetail valid during Archery, Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. Only change from 2022 is inclusion of archery season.

Buffalo Whitetail November Firearm: 1800 permits for one whitetail. A decrease of 300 permits from 2022.

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

Buffalo North Antlerless Only Season Choice: 50 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. A decrease of 50 from 2022.

General Information: Deer harvest for all seasons was 294 adult male mule deer, 76 antlerless mule deer, 1599 adult male whitetail and 1270 antlerless whitetail. No cases of meningeal worm mortalities were reported in mule deer. A low number (3) of EHD reports were received, consisting of one whitetail and two mule deer. However, because of the decline in harvest, EHD is suspected to have caused more mortalities than reported.

Depredation complaints: 2 DCP: 2. All along Platte River

Population Status and Harvest Strategy:

Mule deer populations have declined in the southern portion of the unit and appear to be decreasing in traditionally strong areas in the northwest portion of the unit. Buck age structure decreased slightly this year with 21% 1.5-year-olds. The population objective is to increase the herd in the unit by maintaining current mule deer doe harvest. MD buck harvest decreased 10% compared to 2021. The MDCA permit was reduced in 2020 in response to reduced MD buck harvest.

HD appears to have decreased the whitetail population in the Buffalo Unit. However, whitetail populations have been known to rebound quickly after these events, especially along portions of the Platte River. Total buck harvest decreased 18% from last year, and age structure increased slightly with 21% 1.5-year-olds. The population objective is to allow for slow growth of the whitetail herds in all portions of the unit and while still providing permits to control rapid growth of the whitetail herds on the Platte and Wood Rivers. This will be accomplished by reducing the number of Buffalo WT permits, but still maintaining current bag limits and continuing the liberal use of River Antlerless permits.

2022 Harvest Data – Buffalo

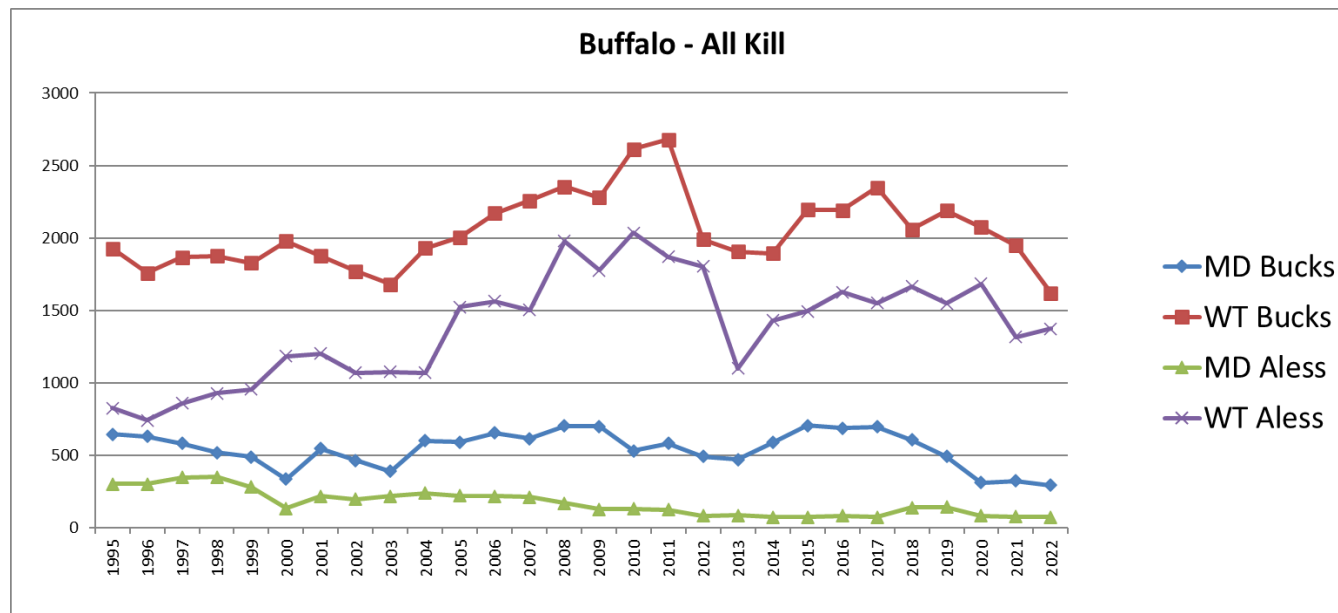
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1000	8/1/22	148	2	150	213	110	323	42	6
Buffalo WT	2100	2100	11/12/22	4	0	4	566	163	729	35	-
Buffalo North AO SC	100	100	11/19/22	0	38	38	0	16	16	46	8
Buffalo AO SC	1000	694		1	1	2	15	266	281	30	11
River Antlerless	-	-		0	1	1	20	604	624		
Landowner	-	-		69	16	85	191	90	281		
Special LO	-	-		4	3	7	32	5	37		
SW Archery	-	-		8	3	11	190	24	214		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	39	15	54		
SW Youth	-	-		53	11	64	121	53	174		
SW WT Youth	-	-		1	0	1	78	26	104		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		8	2	10	8	0	8		
SW Buck Only	-	-		1	0	1	1	0	1		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	11	0	11		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	136	2	138		
Total				297	77	374	1621	1374	2995		

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+
2018	608	142	750	19	9	41	50	2061	1666	3727	45	19	28	53
2019	494	143	637	22	10	49	42	2190	1549	3739	41	21	29	51
2020	314	83	397	21	14	86		2075	1683	3758	45	21	79	
2021	325	79	404	20	15	47	38	1949	1316	3265	40	15	35	50
2022	297	77	374	21	22	37	42	1621	1374	2995	46	21	31	48



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ²) WT 1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)	9	2
2019	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ²) WT 1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)	7	3
2020	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	6	4
2021	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	6	4
2022	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	2	2
2023	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ²) WT 1800 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 50 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	300	1600	75	1300

CALAMUS EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Calamus East November Firearm: 1200 Any Deer² permits. This is a reduction of 300 from 2022 with a reduction in bag limit of the bonus AOWT.

Calamus East Antlerless Only Season Choice: 200 Antlerless Only Whitetail This is a change from 2022 with a reduction of 200 permits and elimination of the bonus AOWT.

General Information: The whitetail adult buck kill was lower than expected harvest goals for the second consecutive year, but age structure continues to be desirable. Antlerless only harvest decreased as well for the second consecutive year. Indices show a decreasing population. Mule deer buck harvest was lower than expected and is annually variable based on environmental conditions, habitat, and hunter preference. This unit experienced EHD in 2021 and 2022 that may have had impacts on the whitetail deer herd and drought in 2022 may have affected deer distribution.

Depredation complaints: 0 DCP: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective in this unit is to allow the whitetail population to grow while maintaining River Antlerless and Season Choice permits for localized areas that have higher than desired populations. Whitetail buck harvest and age data trends indicate a decreasing population. The objective for the mule deer population is to allow the herd to grow as allowed by landowner tolerance, habitat conditions, and disease events.

2022 Harvest Data - Calamus East

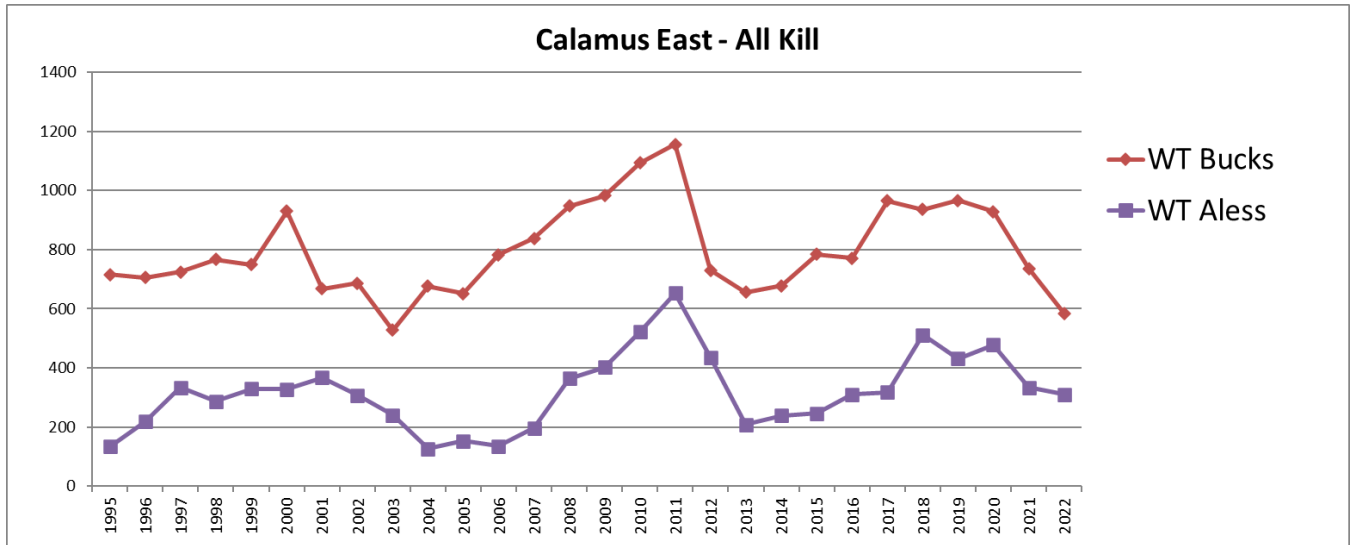
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Calamus East	1500	1244		46	0	46	336	169	505	38	6
Calamus East AO SC	400	115		0	0	0	1	38	39	30	3
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	1	48	49		
Landowner	-	-		9	1	10	75	30	105		
Special LO	-	-		4	1	5	17	2	19		
SW Archery	-	-		2	0	2	26	6	32		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		3	0	3	3	3	6		
SW Youth	-	-		10	3	13	44	5	49		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	1	1	26	7	33		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	1	3	4		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		1	0	1	4	0	4		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	51	0	51		
Total				75	6	81	585	311	896		

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+
2018	88	3	91	3	13	47	40	936	511	1447	35	20	50	30
2019	80	10	90	11	36	28	36	966	432	1398	31	20	45	35
2020	84	2	86	2	10	90		928	478	1406	34	20	80	
2021	88	2	90	2	12	31	57	737	334	1071	31	19	52	29
2022	75	6	81	7	17	37	47	585	311	896	35	18	49	33



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	1	0
2019	1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2020	1300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	1	1
2021	1500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2022	1500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2023*	1200 (1 AD ²)	Calamus East SCA – 200 (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	90	500	2	250

CALAMUS WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Calamus West November Firearm: 1600 Any Deer² permits with two bonus antlerless whitetail. No antlerless mule deer is allowed during the firearm season. No quota or bag limit change from 2022.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%, NEW for 2023

Calamus West Antlerless Only Season Choice: 200 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. This is a decrease of 100 from 2022.

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

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest increased 14%, ending a 4-year decline in harvest but age structure remains excellent. Mule deer antlerless harvest decreased 37% in response to the antlerless restriction on the firearm permit. Whitetail buck harvest decreased 17%, but age structure is still excellent. Whitetail antlerless harvest was the same as 2022. NR bought 24% of the Any Deer permit in 2022.

Depredation complaints: 1 DCP 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective for whitetails is to reduce the population from current levels. Hunter success, age structure, or both may be altered as a result of lower populations. The objective for mule deer is to maintain or grow the population.

2022 Harvest Data – Calamus West

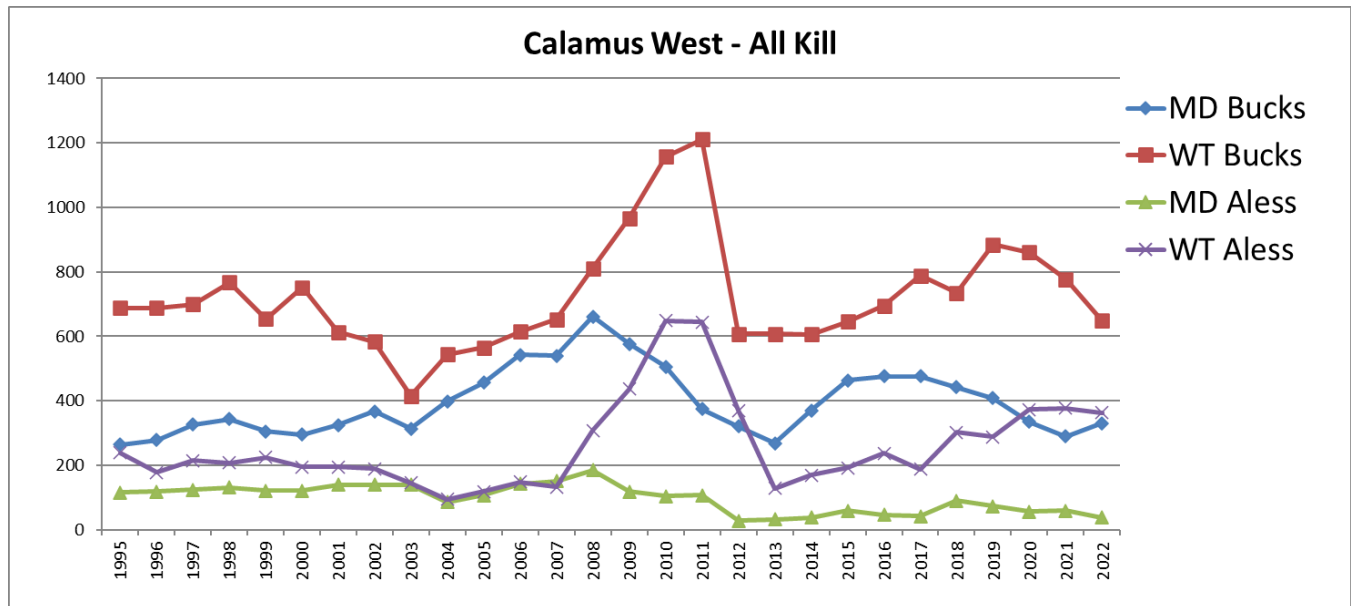
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Calamus West	1600	1600	11/11/22	196	6	202	365	234	599	41	7/2
Calamus West AO SC	300	115		0	3	3	6	37	43	29	10/2
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	2	31	33		
Landowner	-	-		32	9	41	62	27	89		
Special LO	-	-		4	0	4	13	0	13		
SW Archery	-	-		15	1	16	47	7	54		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		33	13	46	23	11	34		
SW Youth	-	-		37	6	43	53	12	65		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	23	3	26		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		5	0	5	1	0	1		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		8	0	8	16	0	16		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	37	1	38		
Total				330	38	368	648	363	1011		

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+
2018	442	90	532	17	12	43	45	734	303	1037	29	16	44	40
2019	408	73	481	15	7	37	56	885	289	1174	25	17	38	45
2020	335	57	392	15	11	89		861	373	1234	30	18	82	
2021	290	60	350	17	13	29	58	777	377	1154	33	14	33	53
2022	330	38	368	10	24	30	46	648	363	1011	36	14	39	47



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1450 (1 AD)	Calamus West SCA – 150 (AOWT)	1	0
2019	1600 (1 AD)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2020	1600 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1600 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	2	0
2022	1600 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	1	0
2023*	1600 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 200 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

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

ELKHORN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Elkhorn November Firearm: 2700 Any Deer permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is a reduction of 200 from 2022.

Elkhorn Antlerless Only Season Choice: 250 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. No change from 2022.

Elkhorn West Antlerless Only Season Choice: 350 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is a reduction of 400 permits from 2022.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest declined 22%, the second year of decline. The adult buck age structure showed a decrease in 1.5 year-old bucks in the harvest, and remains desirable. The trend indicates a decreasing population. Check station data, hunter and landowner observations, and staff observations indicate a continued lower than desired number of whitetails in the eastern 1/3 of the unit, thus less antlerless whitetail permits will be available east of highway 15 for a second year. Demand for permits in the Elkhorn West SCA was lower than expected and success was low at 18% indicating a lower-than-expected population. Historically, this unit had significant crop damage complaints from WT deer, mostly along the river corridors. If high deer concentrations develop in the future, most can be addressed along the rivers with the River Antlerless Permit. Mule deer harvest remains low due to lack of adequate habitat in the unit.

Depredation complaints: 4 DCP: 4

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The population objective is to allow the whitetail population to grow, while maintaining hunting opportunity with the November firearm any deer permits. Management of mule deer with harvest restrictions is ineffective due to low density and very limited mule deer habitat in the unit.

2022 Harvest Data – Elkhorn

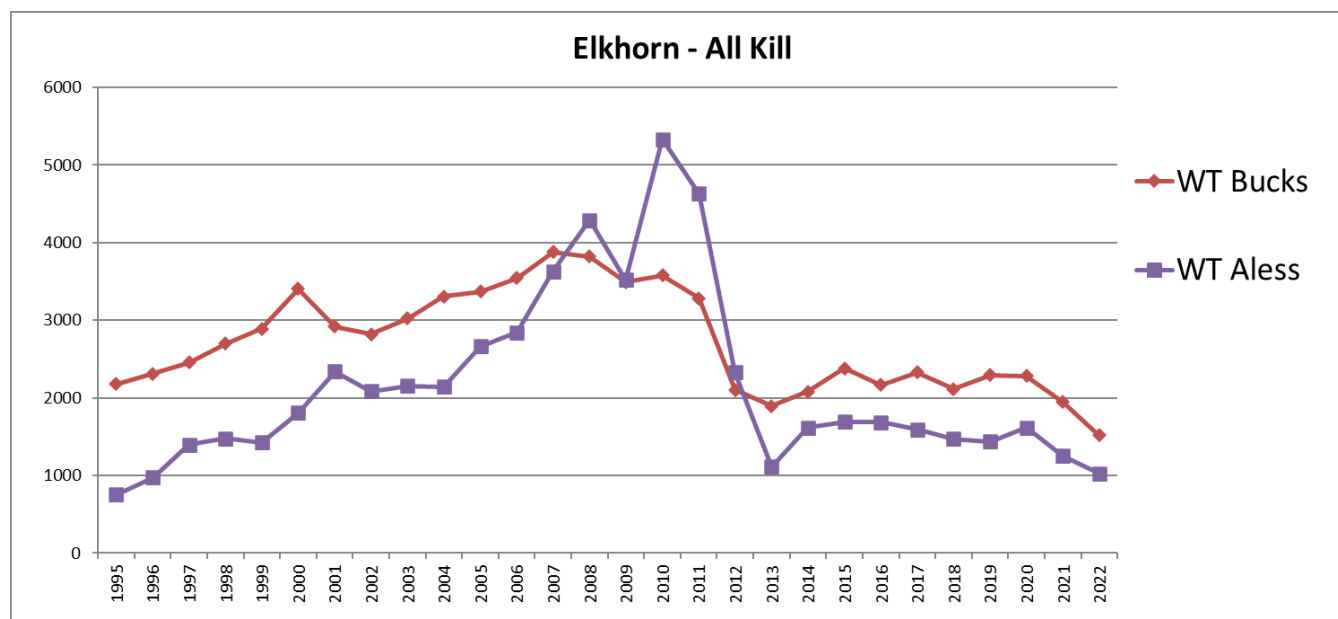
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Elkhorn	2900	2900	11/1/22	0	0	0	659	209	868	30	-
Elkhorn AO SC	250	250	8/11/22	0	0	0	0	62	62	25	-
Elkhorn West AO SC	750	404		0	0	0	2	70	72	18	-
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	21	425	446		
Landowner	-	-		0	0	0	249	113	362		
Special LO	-	-		0	0	0	51	6	57		
SW Archery	-	-		0	0	0	152	50	202		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	44	27	71		
SW Youth	-	-		0	0	0	82	39	121		
SW WT Youth	-	-		1	0	1	55	22	77		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	11	1	12		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	7	0	7		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	186	4	190		
Total				1	0	1	1519	1028	2547		

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+
2018	8	4	12	33				2117	1475	3592	41	33	47	20
2019	18	9	27	33				2295	1440	3735	39	32	43	25
2020	11	3	14	21				2283	1614	3897	41	29	71	
2021	9	5	14	36				1948	1250	3198	39	37	44	19
2022	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	1519	1028	2547	40	32	48	19



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	0	0
2019	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	0	0
2020	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	2	2
2021	2900 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	2	1
2022	2900 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 250 (AOWT) Elkhorn West SCA – 750 (AOWT)	4	4
2023*	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 250 (AOWT) Elkhorn West SCA – 350 (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	0	1400	0	1000

FRENCHMAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Frenchman MDCA: 1400 Any Deer² permits with one AOWT bonus tag valid during Archery, Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. This is a decrease of 200 permits and change to AD² from AD in 2022.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%. This is an increase from 8%.

Frenchman Whitetail November Firearm: 1000 permits for one whitetail. This is a decrease of 200 permits and a reduction in bag limit of the bonus AOWT from 2022.

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

Frenchman: 75 permits for one antlerless and one antlerless whitetail. Decrease of 75 permits.

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

Frenchman South WT: 200 permits for one AOWT. No change.

Frenchman West: 250 permits for one antlerless and one antlerless WT. Decrease of 250 permits.

Southwest Reservoirs Antlerless Only: 100 permits for one AOWT. Valid only on Red Willow WMA/SRA, Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Swanson WMA/SRA or Enders WMA/SRA. A decrease of 100 permits.

General Information: WT buck harvest is 54% below the record harvest set in 2011. MD Buck harvest declined 38% from a record harvest set in 2017. Buck age structure for MD is very good but has declined some in WT. 2380 residents applied for 1472 Frenchman MDCA permits (62% success), and 624 non-residents applied for 128 permits (21% success).

Depredation Complaints: 4, DCP: 4.

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

2022 Harvest Data – Frenchman

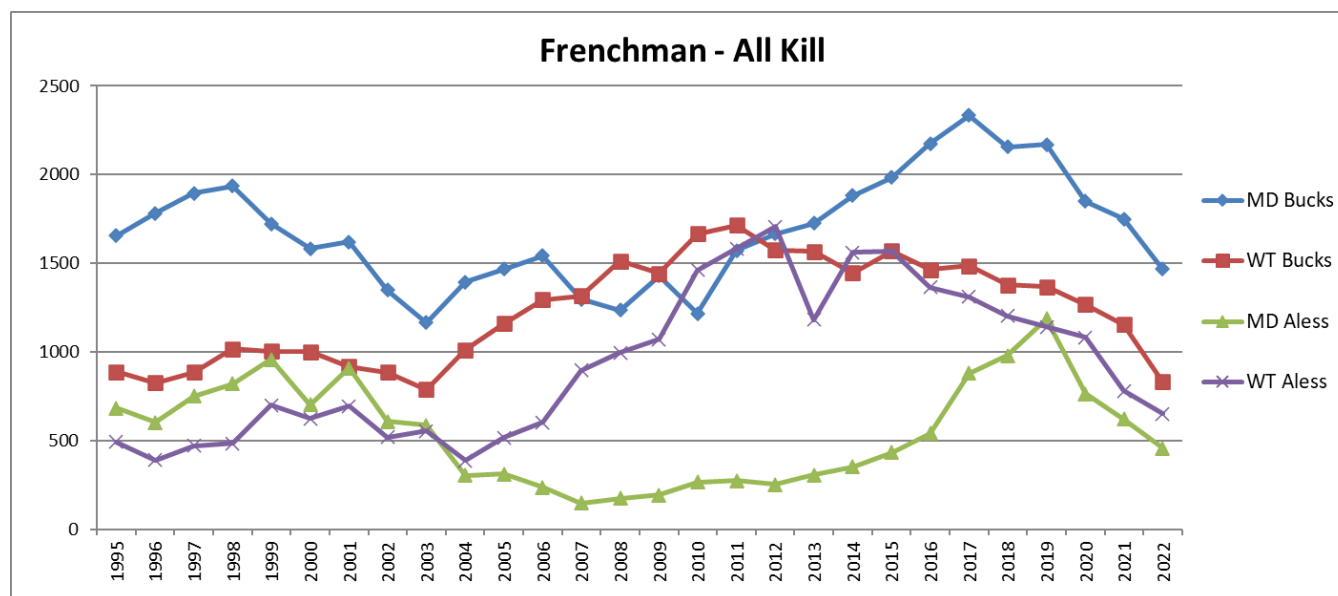
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Frenchman MDCA	1600	1600	2/14/45	614	37	651	73	94	167	48	3
Frenchman WT	1200	1200	10/26/22	3	1	4	353	111	464	39	-
Frenchman AO SC	150	150	7/13/22	1	57	58	1	31	32	47	13
FR North WT AOSC	500	500	12/12/22	1	0	1	4	147	151	23	7
FR South WT AO SC	200	200	11/9/22	0	0	0	1	56	57	29	-
FR West AO SC	500	500	9/8/22	3	181	184	5	57	62	42	7
Southwest Res AO SC	200	136		0	0	0	0	32	32	24	-
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	1	22	23		
Landowner	-	-		296	118	414	91	43	134		
Special LO	-	-		85	8	93	14	2	16		
SW Archery	-	-		196	21	217	93	24	117		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	30	9	39		
SW Youth	-	-		234	33	267	44	9	53		
SW WT Youth	-	-		1	1	2	29	13	42		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
SW Buck Only	-	-		31	0	31	1	0	1		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		1	0	1	6	0	6		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	85	1	86		
Total				1466	457	1923	831	651	1482		

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+
2018	2155	979	3134	31	9	32	59	1377	1202	2579	47	22	33	44
2019	2170	1187	3357	35	7	39	54	1367	1141	2508	45	15	39	46
2020	1848	764	2612	29	6	94		1266	1082	2348	46	18	82	
2021	1749	622	2371	26	7	38	55	1158	791	1949	41	21	40	39
2022	1466	457	1923	24	10	39	51	831	651	1482	44	23	38	39



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1400 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 1000 (2 AO)	10	3
2019	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 1250 (2 AO)	29	16
2020	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 300 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 650 (2 AO)	21	16
2021	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 300 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman North WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman South WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 650 (2 AO) SW Reservoir SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)	19	9
2022	MDCA 1600 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1200 (1 WT)	Frenchman SCA – 150 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman North WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman South WT SCA – 200 (1 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 500 (1AO, 1 AOWT) SW Reservoir SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)	4	4
2023*	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Frenchman SCA – 75 (1AO, 1AOWT) Frenchman North WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Frenchman South WT SCA – 200 (1 AOWT) Frenchman SCA West – 250 (1AO, 1 AOWT) SW Reservoir SCA – 100 (1 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	1350	725	250	450

KEYA PAHA MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Keya Paha November Firearm: 2500 Any Deer² permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited. No change from 2022.

Keya Paha Antlerless Only Season Choice: 500 Antlerless Only Whitetail with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2022.

General Information: Whitetail antlerless harvest still continues to be a difficult objective to achieve in this unit even as harvest and observations indicate a high whitetail population. WT adult buck harvest decreased 12%, while age structure still suggests a high WT population and high hunter selection for mature deer. Mule deer buck harvest increased, the first increase in 5 years.

Depredation complaints: 5 DCP: 3

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Harvest of mature WT bucks still remains high in this unit with 91% of bucks harvested aged at 2.5 years or older. The mule deer adult buck age structure was 88% for bucks 2.5 or older, and MD harvest increased. The objective for this unit is to maintain a high WT antlerless harvest to reduce the population. Bonus tags to the November Firearm permits did not achieve expected antlerless kill again this year but continue to be the best tool for antlerless harvest in this unit. The addition of the Eagle Creek watershed into the River Antlerless zone in 2020 addressed many of the depredation issues. The population objective for mule deer is to maintain buck age structure while providing opportunity for hunters and landowners.

2022 Harvest Data – Keya Paha

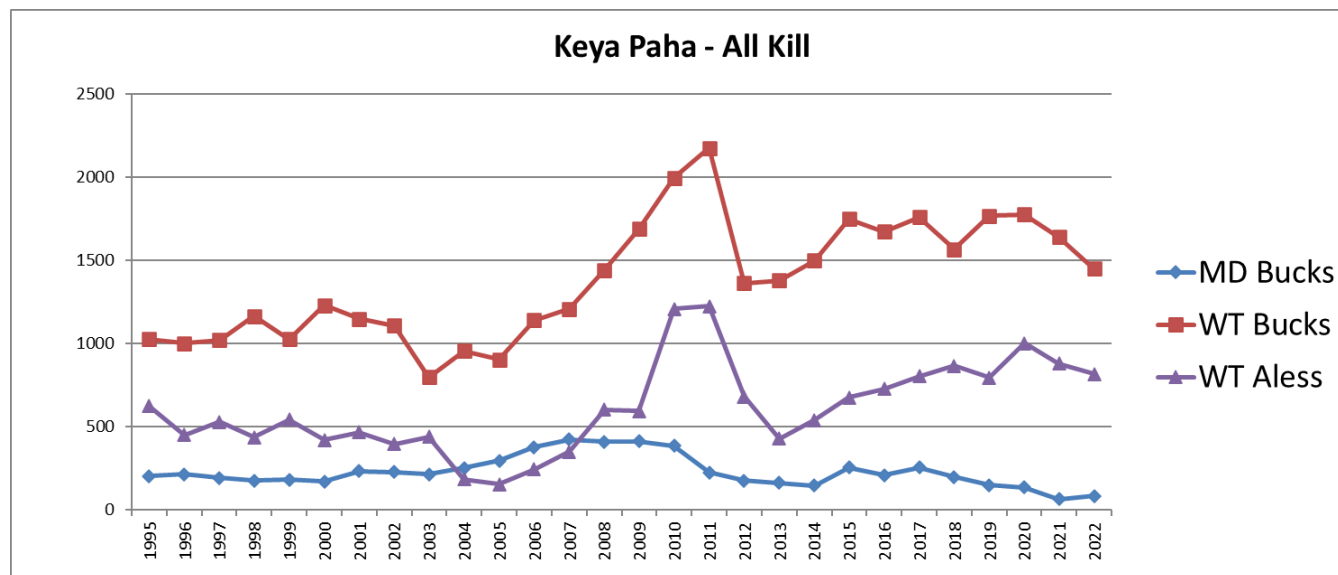
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Keya Paha	2500	2185		62	0	62	849	430	1279	48	10/3
Keya Paha AO SC	500	246		0	0	0	6	147	153	38	17/8
River Antlerless	-	-		0	1	1	8	152	160		
Landowner	-	-		6	2	8	132	49	181		
Special LO	-	-		1	0	1	35	3	38		
SW Archery	-	-		2	0	2	135	7	142		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		5	0	5	83	8	91		
SW Youth	-	-		2	0	2	65	9	74		
SW WT Youth	-	-		1	0	1	40	10	50		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		1	0	1	11	2	13		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		2	0	2	14	0	14		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	71	0	71		
Total				82	3	85	1449	817	2266		

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+	
2018	197	9	206	4	12	31	57		1567	872	2439	35	12	38	50	
2019	149	13	162	8	9	31	60		1767	794	2561	31	10	38	52	
2020	134	17	151	11	13	87			1776	1001	2777	36	15	85		
2021	65	4	69	6	14	29	57		1639	880	2519	35	9	31	60	
2022	82	3	85	4	12	24	64		1449	817	2266	36	9	47	44	



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	2300 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2019	2500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	6	0
2020	2500 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	10	5
2021	2500 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)	10	5
2022	2500 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)	5	3
2023*	2500 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	80	1400	5	800

LOUP EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Loup East November Firearm: 3000 Any Deer² permits with two (2) bonus Antlerless Only Whitetail tags. Antlerless mule deer are prohibited. A decrease of 300 from 2022.

Loup East Antlerless Only Season Choice: 1500 Antlerless Only Whitetail, with two (2) Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. No change from 2022.

General Information: Harvest of whitetail bucks decreased for the third consecutive year, after exceeding expected results the previous five of six years. Antlerless harvest has met, or nearly met the 50% goal every year since 2019. Indicators show a trend for WT population stabilization. The age of whitetail bucks remains high. Mule deer buck harvest increased slightly while age structure remains stable. EHD may have had localized impacts on WT deer in 2021 and 2022.

Depredation complaints: 6 DCP: 5

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: WT Buck harvest declined 12% from 2022 but age structure remains high. The objective for whitetails is to maintain high antlerless harvest to continue to address high WT numbers in a unit where the herd has historically been resilient. Deer damage complaints have been typically located along the Loup River system, in the Fullerton area specifically the last 3 years, but decreased this year. River Antlerless and Bonus tags on Firearm Permits have been the best choice for hunters to harvest antlerless deer. High permit numbers, extra antlerless bonus tags and a season extensions have boosted antlerless WT harvest and are helping to reduce the population.

2022 Harvest Data - Loup East

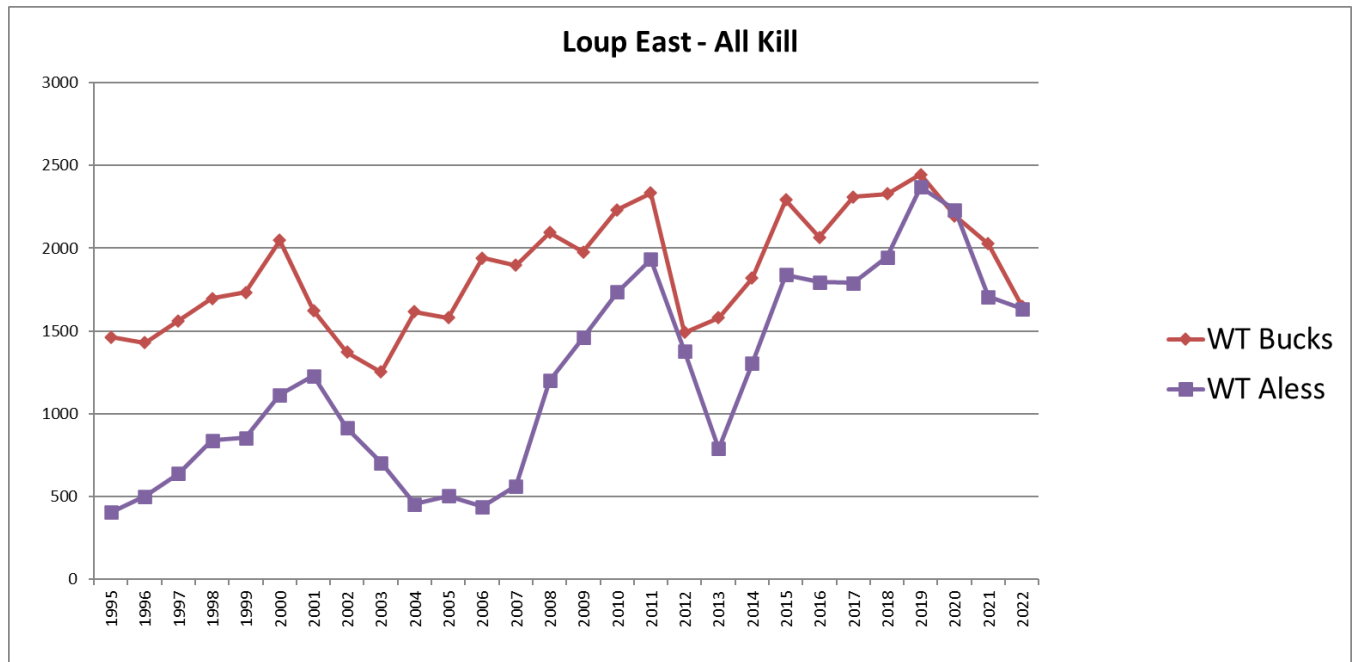
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Loup East	3300	3300	11/12/22	29	1	30	928	724	1652	39	10/2
Loup East AO SC	1500	654		0	0	0	6	262	268	27	11/4
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	11	432	443		
Landowner	-	-		3	1	4	216	121	337		
Special LO	-	-		3	0	3	36	10	46		
SW Archery	-	-		2	1	3	126	19	145		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		6	0	6	37	11	48		
SW Youth	-	-		4	0	4	102	33	135		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	74	20	94		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	6	1	7		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	4	0	4		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	105	1	106		
Total				47	3	50	1651	1634	3285		

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+
2018	67	10	77	14	30	40	30	2328	1947	4275	46	24	45	32
2019	66	11	77	14	32	48	20	2445	2370	4815	49	20	36	44
2020	60	10	70	14	25	75		2197	2232	4429	50	22	78	
2021	37	11	48	23	25	35	40	2027	1708	3735	46	20	45	35
2022	47	3	50	6	25	54	21	1651	1634	3285	50	20	44	37



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	2700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	12	5
2019	3000 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	14	10
2020	3300 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	16	11
2021	3300 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	13	6
2022	3300 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	6	5
2023*	3000 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

² – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	40	1500	5	1500

LOUP WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Loup West November Firearm: 1000 Any Deer² permits. Permits not valid for antlerless mule deer. This is a removal of one bonus tag from 2022.

Loup West Whitetail November Firearm: 800 Any Whitetail permits. This is a removal of one bonus tag from 2022.

Loup West Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 permits for 1 Antlerless Only and 1 Antlerless Only Whitetail. No change from 2022.

Loup West Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 permits for 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. No change from 2022.

General Information: MD buck harvest has declined by 4% last year. No cases of meningeal brain worm were confirmed this year. WT buck harvest has decreased 24% and antlerless harvest decreased 24%. The age structure for Whitetail buck is good within the unit.

Depredation complaints: 0 DCP: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The whitetail deer population appears to be decreasing. EHD in 2021 and poor habitat conditions due to severe drought this year has likely impacted the whitetail populations in this unit. However, the age structure for Whitetail bucks remains good. The population objective for whitetail is to allow for slow growth of the herd. River Antlerless permits, Loup West WT SCA and bonus tags will allow us to address any crop damage concerns in the unit. There appears to be little hunter interest in additional AOWT harvest in this unit.

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

2022 Harvest Data - Loup West

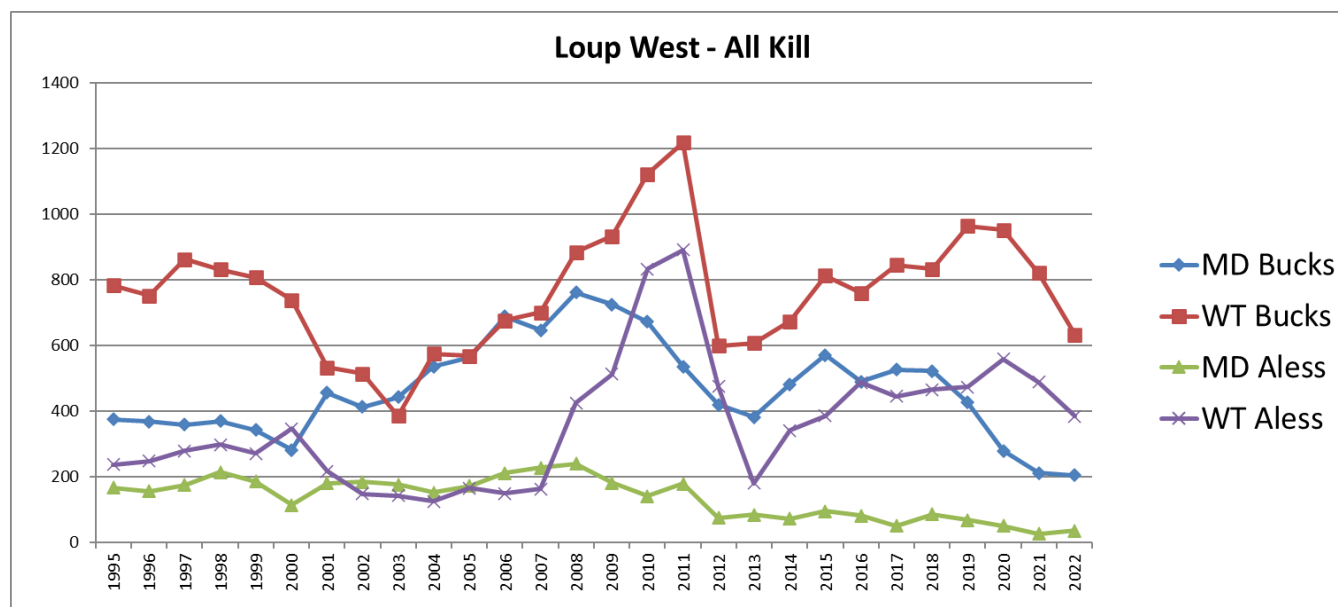
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Loup West	1000	1000	10/31/22	107	1	108	245	132	377	42	6
Loup West WT	800	489		1	0	1	129	62	191	33	6
Loup West AO SC	100	100	11/11/22	2	8	10	1	19	20	25	5
Loup West WT AO SC	300	73		0	0	0	1	34	35	32	16
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	2	77	79		
Landowner	-	-		34	10	44	92	28	120		
Special LO	-	-		5	1	6	13	3	16		
SW Archery	-	-		9	1	10	35	9	44		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		11	3	14	14	1	15		
SW Youth	-	-		23	9	32	38	12	50		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	23	6	29		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		2	2	4	1	1	2		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		11	0	11	9	0	9		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	30	0	30		
Total				205	35	240	633	384	1017		

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+
2018	522	85	607	14	10	38	52	832	465	1297	36	23	34	43
2019	426	68	494	14	10	55	35	963	473	1436	33	19	41	40
2020	279	51	330	16	13	87		952	558	1510	37	17	83	
2021	211	26	237	11	11	53	36	820	488	1308	37	15	35	50
2022	205	35	240	15	21	21	59	633	384	1017	38	13	31	56



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	0	0
2019	1700 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AO)	3	0
2020	1200 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT) 600 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1000 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT) 800 (1WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	1	0
2022	1000 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) 800 (1WT, 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2023*	1000 (1 AD ²) 800 (1WT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

WT – Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	200	600	25	350

MISSOURI MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Missouri November Firearm: 3200 Any Deer. This is a change from 2022 with the elimination of bonus tag.

Missouri Antlerless Only Season Choice: 1000 Antlerless Only Whitetail. This is a change from 2022 with the elimination of the bonus tag.

General Information: The whitetail buck decreased 18%, the third consecutive year of decline, as did whitetail antlerless harvest. Whitetail buck age structure remains desirable. Whitetail densities are highest in the western ½ of the unit. EHD likely had localized impacts on WT deer in 2021 and 2022.

Depredation complaints: 3 DCP: 2

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The objective is to reduce antlerless whitetail harvest to allow the herd to grow slowly. The age structure of the bucks in the harvest meet unit goals but hunter success has declined. The addition of the Verdigris and Bazile Creek watersheds in the River Antlerless zone helped increase antlerless harvest in the western ½ of the unit to address the growing herd in that portion of the unit. Mule deer harvest and populations continue to decline.

2022 Harvest Data – Missouri

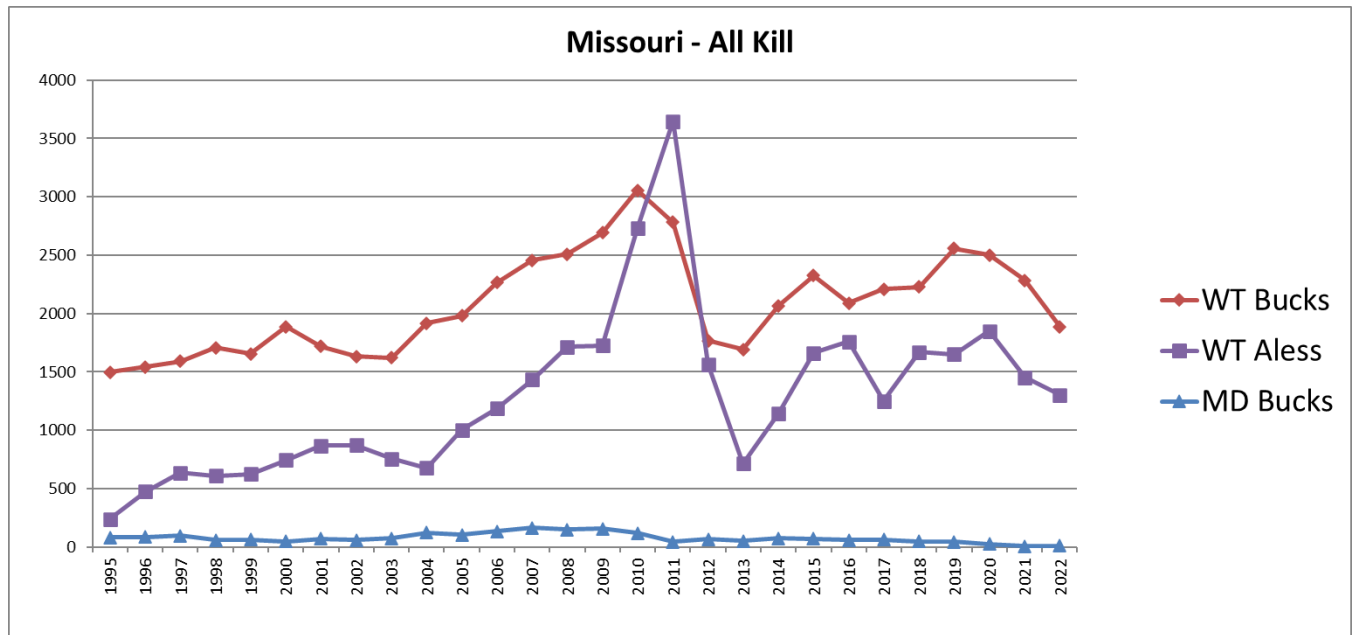
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Missouri	3200	3200	11/11/22	6	1	7	1030	579	1609	41	9
Missouri AO SC	1000	865		0	0	0	14	280	294	25	9
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	11	225	236		
Landowner	-	-		3	0	3	244	99	343		
Special LO	-	-		2	0	2	36	12	48		
SW Archery	-	-		0	0	0	183	27	210		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	37	16	53		
SW Youth	-	-		0	0	0	116	39	155		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	86	20	106		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	17	5	22		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	1	0	1		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	6	0	6		
WT SW Buck	-	-		1	0	1	107	1	108		
Total				12	1	13	1888	1303	3191		

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+
2018	49	11	60	18	20	30	50	2227	1670	3897	43	20	48	32
2019	43	3	46	7				2559	1651	4210	39	23	36	41
2020	25	6	31	19	20	80		2501	1848	4349	42	22	78	
2021	8	2	10	20				2283	1452	3735	39	23	42	35
2022	12	1	13	8	-	-	-	1888	1303	3191	41	24	45	31



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	2900 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	5	4
2019	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	10	5
2020	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	9	4
2021	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	5	2
2022	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2023*	3200 (1 AD)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (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 Seasons	10	1800	2	1000

PINE RIDGE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Pine Ridge MDCA: 1200 permits valid for one Any Deer² valid during Archery, Firearm and Muzzleloader season. No quota or bag change from 2022.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%

Pine Ridge Whitetail November Firearm: 1000 permits valid for one whitetail of either sex. No change from 2022.

Pine Ridge Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. This is a decrease of 100 from 2022.

Pine Ridge Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 600 permits for two antlerless only whitetails. No change from 2022.

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

General Information: Mule deer buck harvest was 24% below the 5-year average and 16% down from 2021. However, some of that decline represented in these averages is in response to the permit shift in 2019 as well as the shift to a MDCA. Whitetail buck harvest was 33% below the 5-year average and down 16% from 2021. Age structure continues to be good for both species in a unit that has good public land opportunity. Pine Ridge MDCA is set to be a draw in 2023.

Depredation complaints: 4

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Trend indicators and observations indicate lower numbers of both mule deer and whitetail. A low level of antlerless harvest on mule deer will still be acceptable. Objectives are to increase hunter satisfaction in this largely public land unit, increase mule deer populations and buck age, while providing some opportunity to harvest antlerless mule deer. Objectives for whitetails are to continue to reduce population in areas of high densities and reduce species interaction to benefit mule deer.

2022 Harvest Data - Pine Ridge

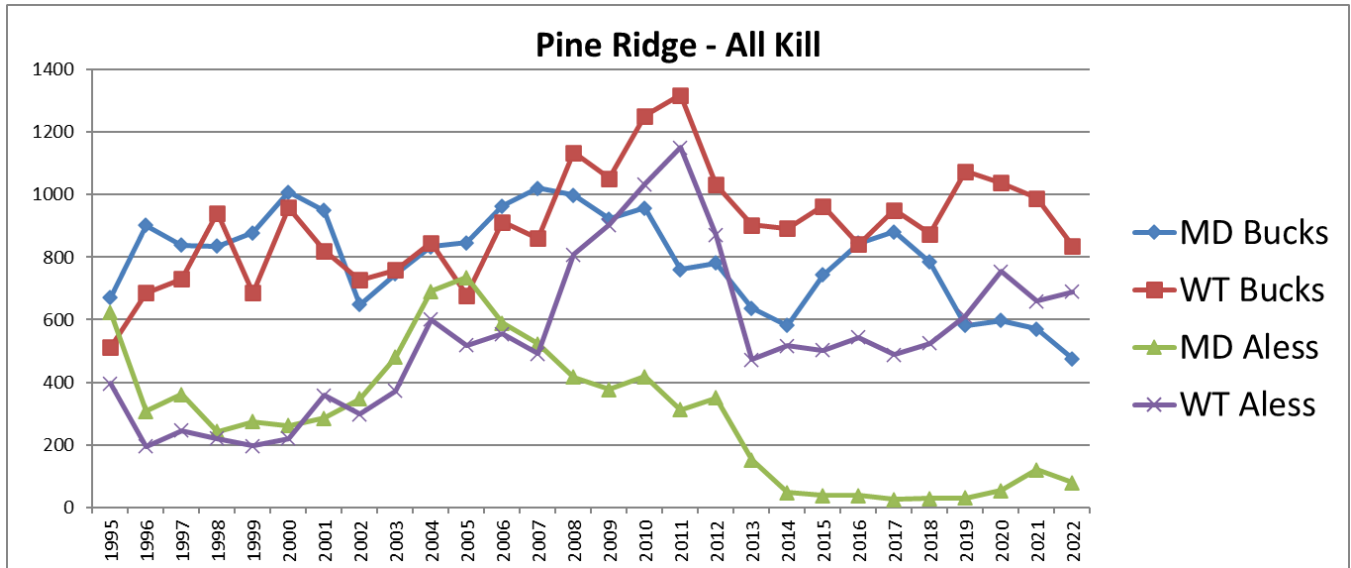
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Pine Ridge MDCA	1200	1200	R 10/24/22 NR 7/25/22	270	4	274	141	39	180	38	-
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1000	11/7/22	1	1	2	385	78	463	46	-
Pine Ridge AO SC	200	200	8/21/22	0	39	39	5	80	85	44	18
Pine Ridge WT AO SC	600	569		0	0	0	28	333	361	42	22
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	8	78	86		
Landowner	-	-		56	18	74	68	43	111		
Special LO	-	-		5	3	8	4	1	5		
SW Archery	-	-		61	4	65	58	10	68		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		5	0	5	45	7	52		
SW Youth	-	-		50	4	54	27	12	39		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	25	5	30		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		19	7	26	10	2	12		
SW Buck Only	-	-		2	0	2	1	0	1		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		5	0	5	5	0	5		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	26	1	27		
Total				475	80	555	836	689	1525		

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+
2018	784	29	813	4	23	33	44	874	525	1399	38	20	33	47
2019	582	31	613	5	11	39	50	1075	612	1687	36	19	39	42
2020	598	55	653	8	18	82		1038	754	1792	42	18	82	
2021	570	121	691	18	18	41	41	989	659	1648	40	14	45	41
2022	475	80	555	14	16	47	36	836	689	1525	45	15	38	47



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1650 (1 AD ²) WT 550 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 400 (AOWT)	2	0
2019	1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 500 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2020	1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	2	1
2021	1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 400 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2022	MDCA 1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	4	0
2023*	MDCA 1200 (1 AD ²) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 100 (1AO, 1AOWT) ⁺ Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)		

*Recommended permit numbers

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

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

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	450	850	60	700

PLAINS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Plains November Firearm: 1000 Any Deer² with two bonus antlerless whitetail permits. Decrease of 500 permits from 2022.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%, NEW for 2023.

Plains Whitetail November Firearm: 300 permits valid for one whitetail of either sex with two bonus antlerless whitetail permits. New tag for 2023.

Plains Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 Antlerless Only Season Choice permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Reduction of 100 permits from 2022.

Plains Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 permits for 3 AOWT. No change from 2022.

General Information: Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was down 26% from the 5-year average and down 7% from 2021. Whitetail buck harvest was down 32% from the 5-year average and down 15% from 2021. Age structure remains good for both species. NR bought 29% of the Any Deer permit in 2022.

Depredation Complaints: 2

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

2022 Harvest Data – Plains

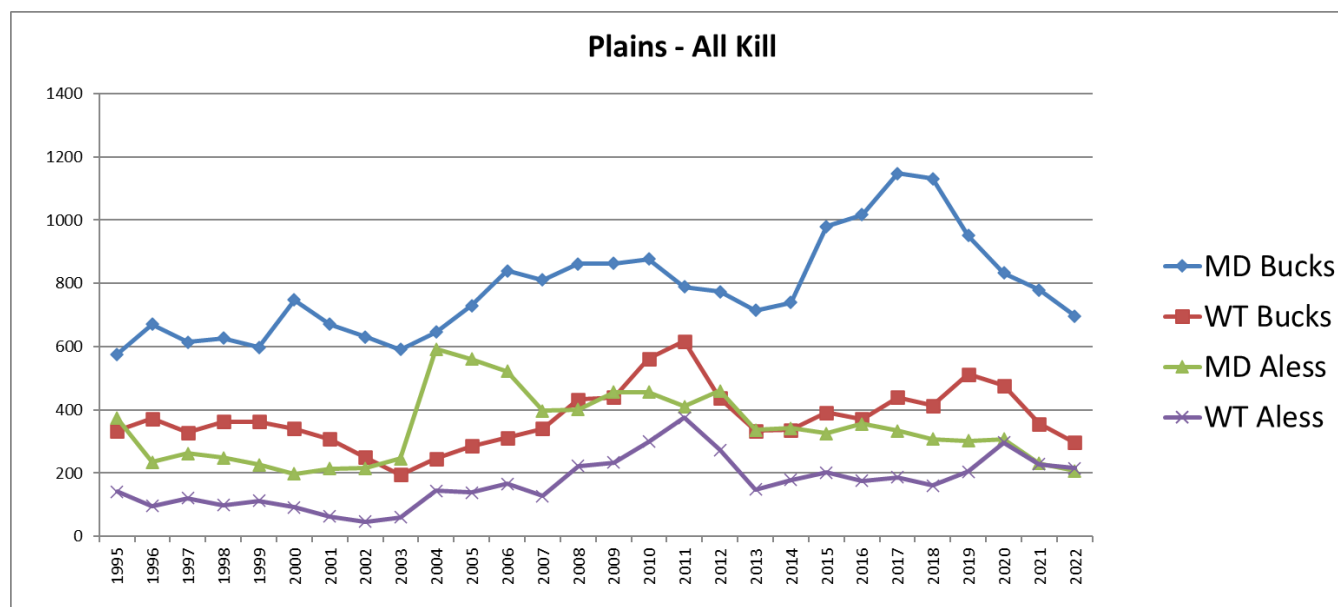
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Plains	1500	1500	11/12/22	475	89	564	180	140	320	52	6/1
Plains AO SC	200	200	11/7/22	3	50	53	3	30	33	36	7/1
Plains WT AO SC	300	90		0	0	0	2	17	19	14	6/1
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	0	9	9		
Landowner	-	-		41	31	72	20	8	28		
Special LO Season	-	-		7	2	9	2	0	2		
SW Deer Archery	-	-		33	4	37	20	1	21		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		33	12	45	15	5	20		
SW Youth	-	-		67	16	83	20	5	25		
SW WT Youth	-	-		1	0	1	9	1	10		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		11	3	14	5	0	5		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		26	0	26	6	0	6		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	15	0	15		
Total				697	207	904	297	216	513		

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+
2018	1131	308	1439	22	14	36	50	414	161	575	28	19	37	44
2019	951	302	1253	24	11	40	49	512	204	716	28	16	39	45
2020	832	307	1139	27	10	90		477	297	774	38	15	85	
2021	779	230	1009	23	12	36	52	356	228	584	39	22	30	49
2022	697	207	904	23	15	31	54	297	216	513	42	20	34	46



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1700 (1 AD)	Plains SCA – 500 (AO)	1	0
2019	1700 (1 AD)	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	2	0
2020	1700 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	2	0
2021	1700 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 500 (1 AO, 2 AOWT)	4	1
2022	1500 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 200 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Plains WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	2	0
2023*	1000 (1 AD ² , 2 AOWT) 300 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 100 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Plains WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

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

PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Platte MDCA: 900 Any Deer² and one antlerless whitetail valid during Archery, November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. This is a decrease of 100 permits from 2022.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%

Platte Whitetail November Firearm: 900 permits for one whitetail. Decrease of 100 from 2022.

Platte Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. Valid for entire Platte Unit. This is a decrease of 100 permits from 2022.

Platte Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 400 permits for two antlerless whitetails. Valid for the entire Platte Unit. No change.

Platte North Antlerless Only Season Choice: 200 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. This is a decrease of 100 permits from 2022.

General Information: Whitetail buck harvest is 27% below the 5-year average. Mule deer buck harvest is 32% below the 5-year average. Mule deer densities are decreasing across most of the unit. Whitetail numbers no longer exceed landowner tolerance on most portions of the Platte River where leasing is occurring. Reports from hunters indicate a substantial decrease in the deer population across the entire unit. 1156 residents applied for 850 MDCA permits (74% success) and 322 non-residents drew 150 MDCA permits (47% success).

Depredation Complaints: 1; DCP: 0

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to improve age structure and to maintain or increase whitetail herds in riparian corridors and to decrease herds in uplands to limit competition between species and slow brainworm transmission with mule deer. Mule deer populations are declining across the unit due to a combination of previous doe harvest, drought conditions, increased coyote numbers, and a hard winter. Mule Deer objectives are to increase age structure and increase the population. There were two confirmed reports of brainworm in 2022.

2022 Harvest Data – Platte

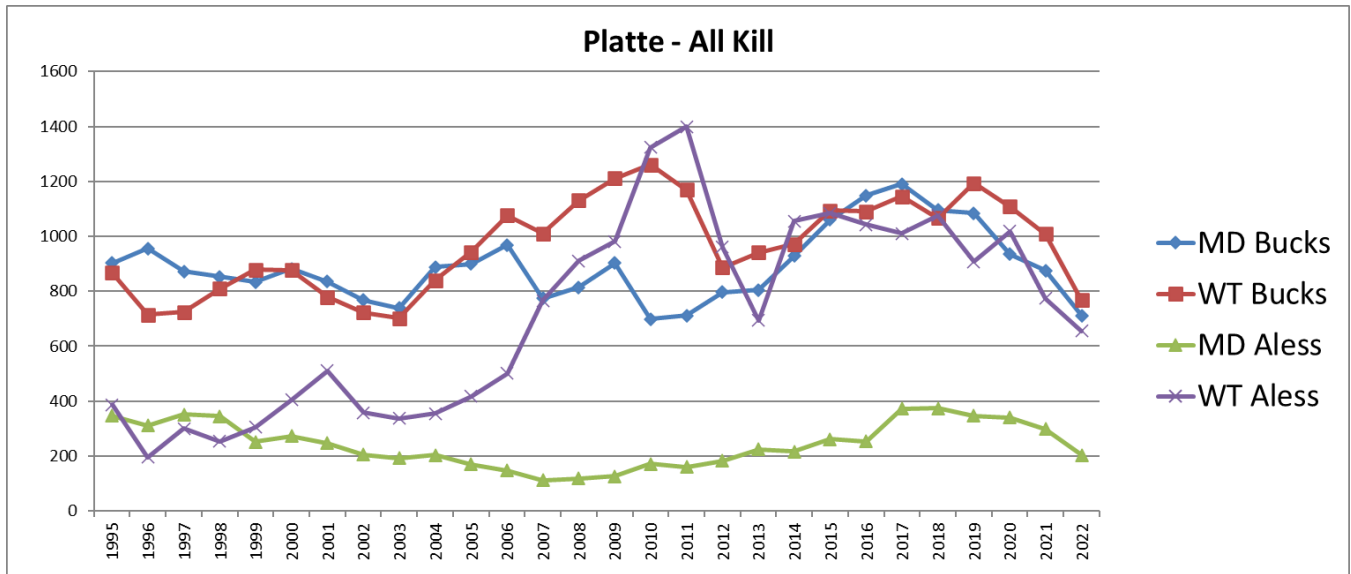
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Platte MDCA	1000	1000	2/15/45	341	2	343	83	66	149	46	4
Platte WT	1000	1000	11/11/22	0	1	1	306	38	344	34	-
Platte AO SC	200	200	8/12/22	1	53	54	2	45	47	39	12
Platte WT AO SC	400	400	12/7/22	0	0	0	7	106	113	22	7
Platte North AO SC	300	300	10/27/22	1	70	71	1	69	70	37	10
River Antlerless	-	-		0	2	2	8	256	264		
Landowner	-	-		130	46	176	87	35	122		
Special LO	-	-		22	2	24	8	2	10		
SW Archery	-	-		53	8	61	114	15	129		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		1	0	1	18	6	24		
SW Youth	-	-		152	19	171	40	10	50		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	35	5	40		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	3	1	4		
SW Buck Only	-	-		10	0	10	1	0	1		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	8	0	8		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	46	1	47		
Total				711	203	914	767	655	1422		

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+
2018	1096	375	1470	25	13	36	51	1067	1076	2136	50	20	34	46
2019	1085	346	1431	24	11	40	49	1193	907	2100	43	19	40	41
2020	935	340	1275	27	9	91		1108	1019	2127	48	18	82	
2021	875	299	1174	25	16	46	38	1009	774	1783	43	18	47	35
2022	711	203	914	22	13	47	40	767	655	1422	46	21	44	35



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 450 (2 AO)	3	1
2019	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 500 (2 AO)	3	1
2020	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)	3	2
2021	MDCA 1400 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 400 (2 AO)	4	4
2022	MDCA 1000 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 400 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 300 (1AO, 1 AOWT)	1	0
2023*	MDCA 900 (1 AD ² , 1 AOWT) WT 900 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 100 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 400 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 200 (1AO, 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

WT – Whitetail

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

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

REPUBLICAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Republican MDCA: 50 Mule Deer Buck permits valid during November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. A decrease of 25 from 2022.

Republican Whitetail November Firearm: 2500 permits for one whitetail valid during the November Firearm season. A decrease of 500 from 2022.

Republican Antlerless Only: 1200 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. Permits are not valid on Harlan County Lake USACE Property. A decrease of 300 from 2022.

Harlan County Reservoir Antlerless Only: 100 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. Permits are valid only on Harlan County Lake USACE Property. A decrease of 100 from 2022.

River Antlerless: Remove the area from Highway 89 to Highway 283 from River Antlerless.

General Information: The whitetail population appears to have slightly decreased in most of the unit and significantly decreased along the Republican River in the western portion of the unit. Harvest has been trending downward for the last 5 4 years. Buck age structure is still good but trending lower for whitetails. EHD did not appear to have much effect on the population in 2022. However, 17% of the tested deer were positive for CWD during the firearm season in 2021. Mule deer buck harvest has decreased about 55% the last five years, at least partially due to a decrease in the MDCA permit quota the last three years. The mule deer herd has been impacted severely by habitat loss and meningeal worm over the past 2 decades.

Depredation complaints: 3, DCP: 0.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: The mule deer herd is low and appears to be declining slightly. The whitetail herd appears to be declining throughout the unit with buck harvest and buck harvest success rate declining. Buck age structure is relatively good but declining. The population objective for whitetails is to allow limited growth of the herd throughout the unit by reducing the number of Republican Whitetail, Republican WT Season Choice, and Harlan County Reservoir Season Choice permits and removing a portion of the River Antlerless area on the Republican River. The population goal for mule deer is to allow the herd to grow by restricting the harvest of antlerless mule deer, however mule deer populations do not seem to be responding to past tactics.

2022 Harvest Data – Republican

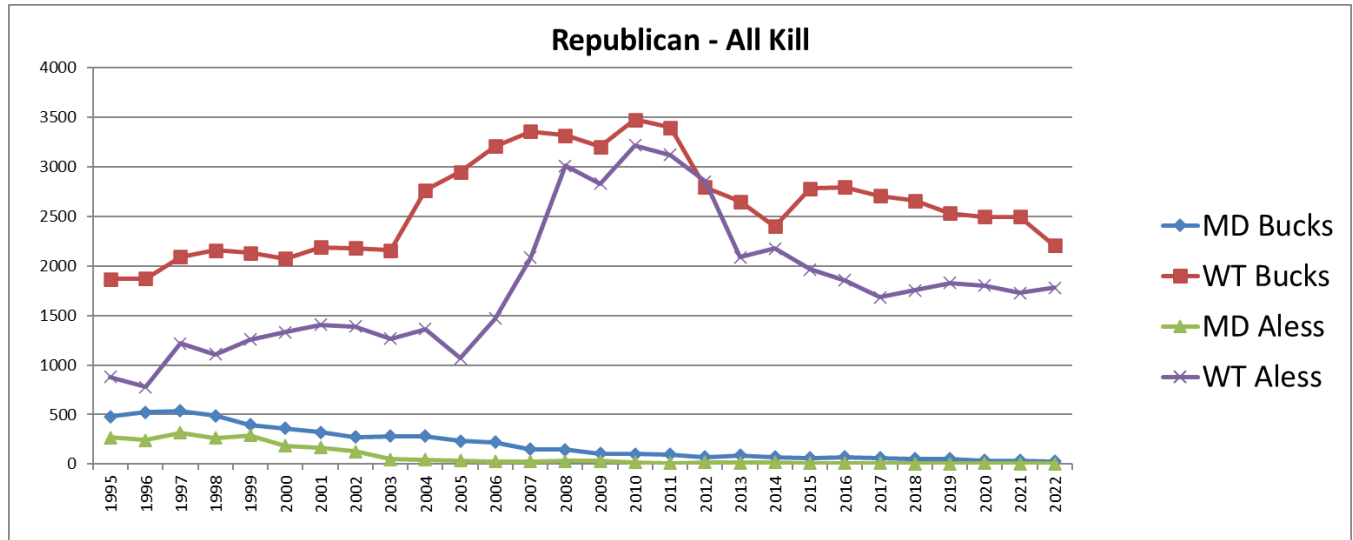
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Republican Mule	75	75	11/3/22	13	0	13	1	0	1	19	-
Republican WT	3000	3000	11/3/22	0	0	0	976	275	1251	42	-
Republican AO SC	1500	1451		0	0	0	18	618	636	33	11
Harlan CR AO SC	200	200	8/1/22	0	0	0	1	119	120	41	19
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	9	443	452		
Landowner	-	-		5	2	7	290	136	426		
Special LO	-	-		1	0	1	40	6	46		
SW Archery	-	-		0	0	0	244	51	295		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	72	36	108		
SW Youth	-	-		7	3	10	139	43	182		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	116	45	161		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	15	2	17		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	11	0	11		
WT SW Buck	-	-		1	0	1	277	5	282		
Total				27	5	32	2209	1779	3988		

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+
2018	55	6	61	10				2658	1752	4410	40	19	40	40
2019	52	5	57	9				2533	1830	4363	42	22	42	36
2020	34	11	45	24	11		89	2495	1803	4298	42	21		79
2021	36	4	40	10				2498	1728	4226	41	23	24	52
2022	27	5	32	16	-	-	-	2209	1779	3988	45	24	32	44



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	MDCA 100 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	0	0
2019	MDCA 100 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	3	0
2020	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2021	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	3	2
2022	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	3	0
2023*	MDCA 50 (1 MD Buck) WT 2500 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1200 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 100 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

AO – Antlerless Only

WT – Whitetail

AD – Any Deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

Expected Harvest:

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

SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Sandhills November Firearm: 1500 permits for Any Deer² and two antlerless whitetail bonus tags. No change of quota from 2022.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%, NEW for 2023.

Sandhills November Firearm: 500 Any Whitetail tags with two antlerless whitetail bonus tag. No change from 2022.

Sandhills Antlerless Only Season Choice: 100 Antlerless Only permits with 2 AOWT bonus tags. Reduction of 200 permits from 2022.

Sandhills Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice: 300 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with 2 AOWT bonus tags. Increase of 200 permits from 2022.

General Information: Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was 21% below the 5-year average and down 1% since 2021. Whitetail buck harvest was 7% below the 5-year average and down 12% since 2021. NR bought 60% of the Any Deer permit in 2022.

Depredation complaints: 2

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

2022 Harvest Data – Sandhills

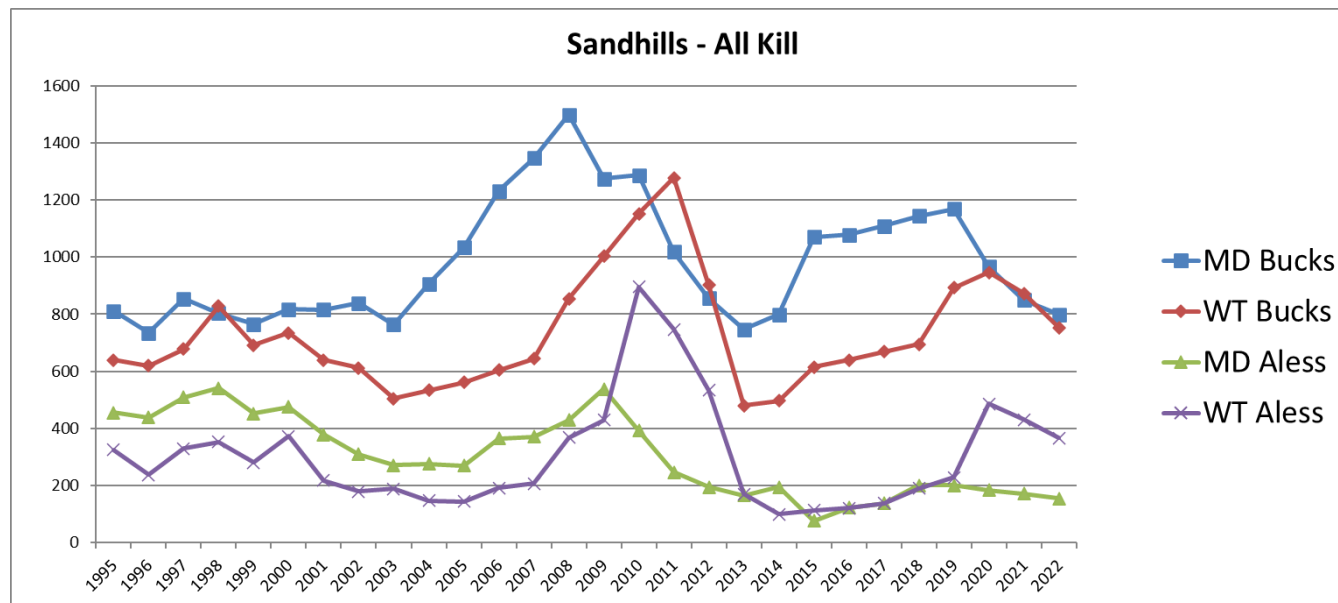
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Sandhills	1500	1500	9/10/22	416	21	437	302	138	440	52	5/1
Sandhills WT	500	500	11/16/22	2	2	4	169	71	240	40	6/2
Sandhills AO SC	300	241		1	75	76	6	79	85	46	15/6
Sandhills WT AO SC	100	27		0	0	0	2	16	18	30	22/15
River Antlerless	-	-		0	0	0	1	9	10		
Landowner	-	-		74	27	101	64	17	81		
Special LO	-	-		8	1	9	8	0	8		
SW Archery	-	-		34	2	36	36	7	43		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		96	21	117	65	17	82		
SW Youth	-	-		66	6	72	35	8	43		
SW WT Youth	-	-		2	0	2	9	1	10		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		16	0	16	3	3	6		
SW Buck Only	-	-		2	0	2	0	0	0		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		79	0	79	36	0	36		
WT SW Buck	-	-		2	0	2	17	0	17		
Total				798	155	953	753	366	1119		

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+
2018	1144	201	1345	15	7	22	71	694	190	884	21	6	36	58
2019	1169	201	1370	15	9	24	67	892	228	1120	20	12	31	57
2020	966	183	1149	16	5	95		946	486	1432	34	11	89	
2021	849	171	1020	17	10	30	60	892	431	1303	33	11	40	49
2022	799	155	954	16	9	32	59	753	366	1119	33	10	35	55



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1500 (AD)	Sandhills SCA – 350 (AO)	1	0
2019	2000 (AD)	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, AOWT)	4	0
2020	2000 (AD, 1 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, 2 AOWT)	5	0
2021	2000 (AD, 2 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 450 (AO, 2 AOWT)	0	0
2022	1500 (AD, 2 AOWT) WT 500 (WT, 2 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 300 (AO, 2 AOWT) Sandhills WT SCA – 100 (3 AOWT)	2	0
2023*	1500 (AD ² , 2 AOWT) WT 500 (WT, 2 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 100 (AO, 2 AOWT) Sandhills WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

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

UPPER PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Upper Platte November Firearm: 1000 Any Deer² permits. Reduction of 200 permits.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%, NEW for 2023.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte: 100 Antlerless Only permits and an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Reduction of 150 permits from 2022.

Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte Whitetail: 200 permits for 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. No change from 2022.

Upper Platte Special Area Restriction: Antlerless Mule Deer harvest prohibited on all federal and state-owned lands open to public hunting and The Nature Conservancy, Carter Canyon (PRBE), Montz Point (PRBE) and Bead Mountain (PRBE) areas open to public hunting within the Upper Platte Unit.

General Information: Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was 24% below the 5 year average and 9% down from 2021. Whitetail buck harvest was down 24% to the 5 year average and down 16% from 2021. NR bought 25% of the Any Deer permit in 2022.

Depredation complaints: 4

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

2022 Harvest Data – Upper Platte

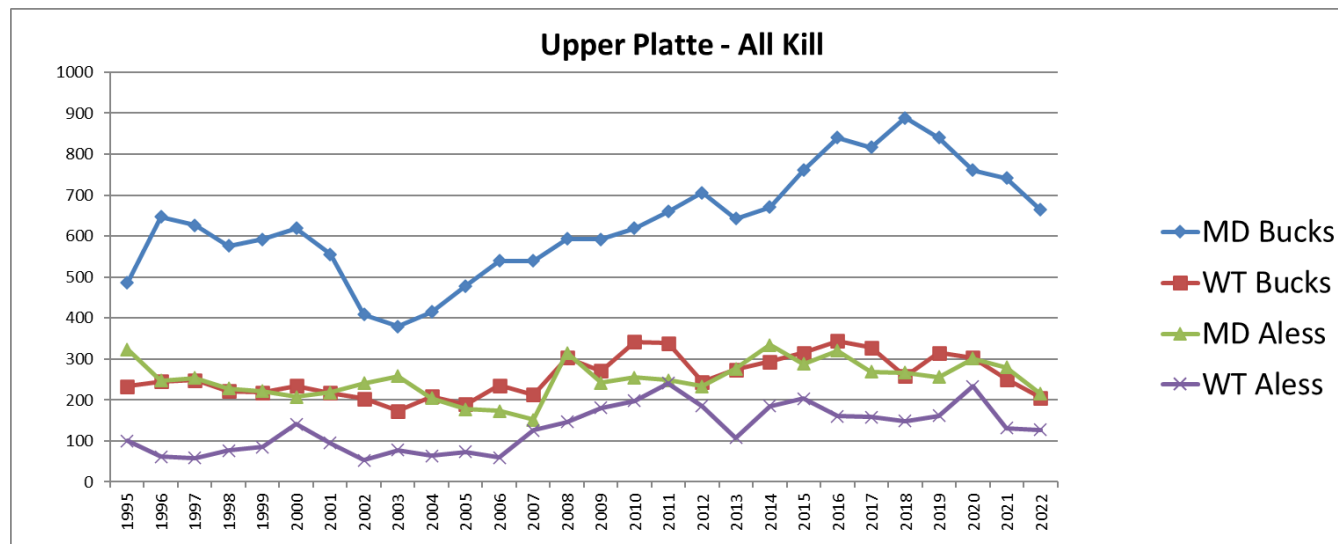
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Upper Platte	1200	1200	10/19/22	364	90	454	99	12	111	47	0/0
Upper Platte AO SC	250	250	9/2/22	3	65	68	0	22	22	32	4/0
Upper Platte WT AOSC	200	171		0	0	0	0	20	20	9	2/0
River Antlerless	-	-		0	1	1	0	55	55		
Landowner	-	-		73	23	96	25	11	36		
Special LO	-	-		25	4	29	3	0	3		
SW Archery	-	-		37	3	40	26	3	29		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		62	9	71	6	0	6		
SW Youth	-	-		62	16	78	18	3	21		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	4	1	5		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		17	4	21	3	0	3		
SW Buck Only	-	-		1	0	1	1	0	1		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		20	0	20	7	0	7		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	14	0	14		
Total				664	215	879	206	127	333		

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+
2018	888	265	1153	23	19	37	44	258	149	407	37	18	38	44
2019	840	256	1096	23	19	37	44	315	162	477	34	21	37	42
2020	761	301	1062	28	13	87		303	234	537	44	15	85	
2021	741	280	1021	27	15	37	48	251	132	383	34	13	35	52
2022	664	215	879	24	20	35	45	206	127	333	38	11	38	52



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO)	1	0
2019	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	0	0
2020	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	3	0
2022	1200 (AD)	Upper Platte SCA – 250 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	4	0
2023*	1000 (AD ²)	Upper Platte SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)		

* Recommended permit numbers

² – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only

WT – Whitetail

AD – Any Deer

Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	600	200	150	150

WAHOO MANAGEMENT UNIT

2023 Recommendations:

Wahoo November Firearm: 3800 Any Deer permits. This is no change in quota from 2022.

Wahoo Antlerless Only Season Choice: 1900 permits valid for one Antlerless Only Whitetail deer. A decrease of 300 tags from 2022.

General Information: Harvest for all seasons was 2733 adult whitetail males and 2234 antlerless whitetails. The adult male harvest was the lowest on record since prior to 1995 and the total whitetail harvest was the lowest on record since 1995. Percent success on the any deer firearm tag and the antlerless season choice tag have been trending down over the past five years. The percent of 1.5-year-old deer decreased to 30% from 38%. Unrestricted permits accounted for 42.4% of the whitetail buck harvest and 12.3% of the antlerless whitetail harvest in 2022. Hunter complaints about too few deer were more than last year. Landowner depredation complaints decreased in 2022. All the depredation complaints and all the damage control permits issued fall within the boundaries of the River Antlerless deer management unit.

Depredation Complaints: 9 DCP: 7

Population Status, Goals and Harvest Strategy: Population numbers appear to be decreasing in the upland portion of the unit and decreasing along the river systems. Population levels remain within landowner tolerance for most of the unit however we still have isolated areas of moderate crop damage along portions of the Platte River. There were few reports of possible EHD deer during the fall of 2022. EHD appears to have no impact on the population in 2022. The population goal for this unit is to allow limited but slow growth in upland areas of the Wahoo Unit off of the river systems while increasing an older buck age structure. Harvest strategies are to allow limited growth in upland areas of the unit while maintaining pressure along river systems with the use of the river antlerless deer unit.

2022 Harvest Data – Wahoo

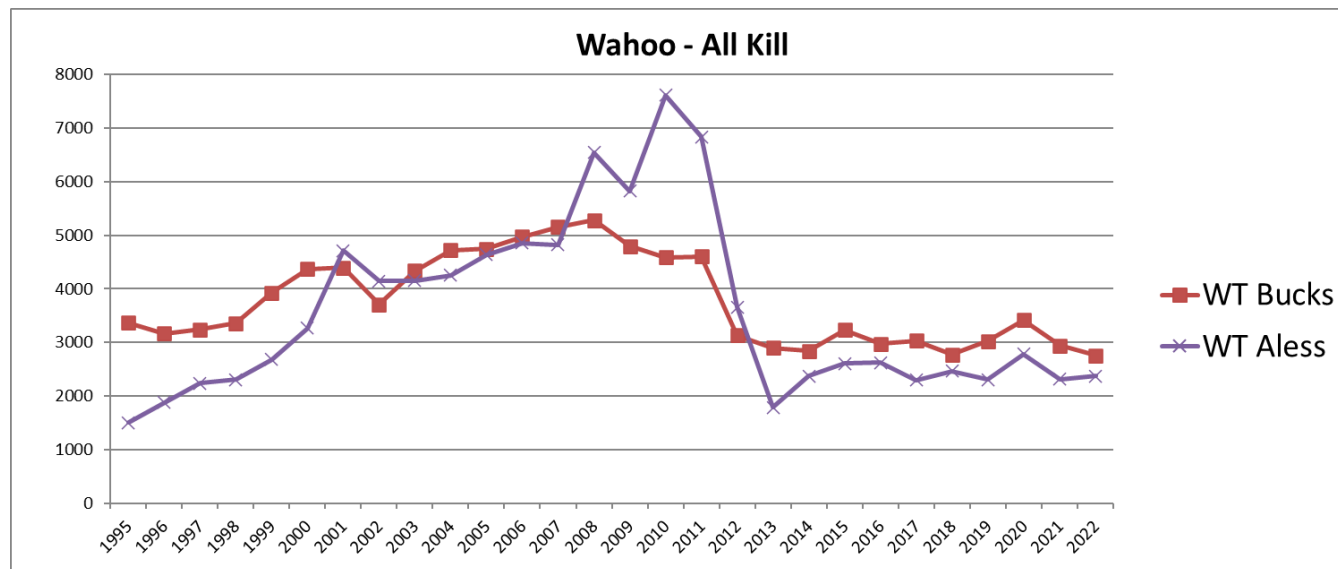
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Wahoo	3800	3800	11/6/22	1	0	1	1134	351	1485	39	-
Wahoo AO SC	2200	2200	11/16/22	0	1	1	19	515	534	24	-
River Antlerless	-	-		0	1	1	51	987	1038		
Landowner	-	-		0	0	0	330	231	561		
Special LO	-	-		0	0	0	59	11	70		
SW Archery	-	-		2	0	2	498	115	613		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-		0	0	0	68	47	115		
SW Youth	-	-		0	0	0	148	55	203		
SW WT Youth	-	-		0	0	0	86	53	139		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-		0	0	0	5	1	6		
SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	2	0	2		
Rest SW Buck Only	-	-		0	0	0	22	0	22		
WT SW Buck	-	-		0	0	0	336	3	339		
Total				3	2	5	2758	2369	5127		

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+
2018	10	9	19					2767	2444	5211	47	40	40	20
2019	8	6	14					3028	2301	5329	43	35	39	26
2020	8	6	14					3417	2779	6196	45	29	71	
2021	3	6	9					2942	2313	5255	44	38	42	20
2022	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	2758	2369	5127	46	29	46	25



Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2018	3650 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)	9	6
2019	3650 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)	13	11
2020	3650 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)	14	13
2021	3800 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	16	8
2022	3800 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	9	7
2023	3800 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (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	8	3000	5	2300

STATEWIDE BUCK

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 11-19, 2023 (Firearm)

Permits: Residents: 70 buck permits.
Nonresidents: 30 buck permits.

Area Open: Statewide.

General Information: This is a very limited, elevated price permit that was new in 2018. 84% of harvest was in the MDCA in 2022.

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

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>%Success</u>	<u># NR</u>
	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>		
2018	40	40	18	24	0	24	2	0	2	65	
2019	50	50	13	21	0	21	0	0	0	42	13
2020	100	59 ⁺	24	31	0	31	7	0	7	64	24
2021	100	100	33	51	0	51	7	0	7	58	33
2022	100	100	30	47	0	47	10	0	10	57	30
2023*	100										

*Recommended

⁺ Permit sales system crash inhibited sales, decision to not sell remaining permits was made.

2022 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	2	0		Loup West	0	0	0	0
Blue SE	0	0	0	0		Missouri	0	0	1	0
Buffalo	1	0	1	0		Pine Ridge	2	0	1	0
Calamus East	0	0	0	0		Plains	0	0	0	0
Calamus West	0	0	0	0		Platte	10	0	1	0
Elkhorn	0	0	0	0		Republican	0	0	0	0
Frenchman	31	0	1	0		Sandhills	2	0	0	0
Keya Paha	0	0	0	0		Upper Platte	1	0	1	0
Loup East	0	0	0	0		Wahoo	0	0	2	0

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

RESTRICTED STATEWIDE BUCK

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 11-19, 2023

Permits: 1,000 permits for Any Buck. No change.

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

General Information: 1000 permits issued in 2022. Nonresidents purchased 144 permits. Harvest was 153 mule deer bucks and 197 whitetail bucks. One third of harvest overall and half of the Mule Deer buck harvest on this permit occurs in the Sandhills DMU.

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

Harvest and permit comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>			<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2018	Unlimited	835	122	305	1	306	141	1	142	54
2019	Unlimited	846	108	242	0	242	182	1	183	50
2020	Unlimited	1,179	150	279	0	279	233	3	236	44
2021	Unlimited	1,243	245	268	0	268	242	3	245	41
2022	1,000	1,000	144	153	0	153	197	0	197	35
2023*	1,000									

*Recommended permit numbers

2022 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	12	0		Loup West	11	0	9	0
Blue SE	0	0	13	0		Missouri	0	0	6	0
Buffalo	0	0	11	0		Pine Ridge	5	0	5	0
Calamus East	1	0	4	0		Plains	26	0	6	0
Calamus West	8	0	16	0		Platte	0	0	8	0
Elkhorn	0	0	7	0		Republican	0	0	11	0
Frenchman	1	0	6	0		Sandhills	79	0	36	0
Keya Paha	2	0	14	0		Upper Platte	20	0	7	0
Loup East	0	0	4	0		Wahoo	0	0	22	0

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

STATEWIDE WHITETAIL BUCK

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates:

September 1 – December 31 (archery)

November 11-19, 2023 (firearm)

December 1 -31 (muzzleloader)

Permits: 8,000 permits, valid for one whitetail buck. No change.

Area Open: Statewide.

General Information: This is a “Season Choice” permit that can be used during archery, muzzleloader and November firearm seasons. 2173 whitetail bucks were harvested with this permit in 2022. 8,000 permits were issued. This permit is available to nonresidents, but there is little demand for it, only 137 were sold to nonresidents.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: This permit is preferred by resident hunters who wish to hunt in multiple seasons or units and was available if unit permits were sold out. In 2021, 45% of this permit's sales happened from the Wednesday before the November Firearm season opener to the close of the firearm season. 80% of the harvest is during the 9-day firearm season. This permit was accounting for more than 10% of the WT buck harvest in 7 of our 18 units. Managing WT buck harvest has become increasingly difficult in many units and this permit was a contributing factor that led to its limitation in 2022.

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>NR</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2018	Unlimited	9,181	178	10	0	10	2942	29	2971	32
2019	Unlimited	9,109	139	9	1	10	2915	28	2943	32
2020	Unlimited	10,626	182	8	0	8	3134	29	3163	30
2021	Unlimited	10,061	160	6	3	9	2878	24	2901	29
2022	8,000	8,000	137	4	0	4	2173	25	2198	27
2023*	8,000									

*Recommended

2022 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	273	3		Loup West	0	0	30	0
Blue SE	0	0	361	2		Missouri	1	0	107	1
Buffalo	0	0	136	2		Pine Ridge	0	0	26	1
Calamus East	0	0	51	0		Plains	0	0	15	0
Calamus West	0	0	37	1		Platte	0	0	46	1
Elkhorn	0	0	186	4		Republican	1	0	277	5
Frenchman	0	0	85	1		Sandhills	2	0	17	0
Keya Paha	0	0	71	0		Upper Platte	0	0	14	0
Loup East	0	0	105	1		Wahoo	0	0	336	3

Expected Harvest: 2200 whitetail bucks on 8,000 permits

STATEWIDE YOUTH

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
November 11-19, 2023 (Firearm)
December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)
January 1-15, 2024 – Late Antlerless Only (Firearm or Archery)

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

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

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

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

Area Open: Statewide, antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on publicly accessible land statewide, OFW program land is excepted.

General Information: Harvest on all Youth permits was 4118. 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. 45% of MD buck harvest on this permit occurs in the Frenchman and Platte DMU, where they make up 16% and 21%, respectively, of the total MD Buck harvest for the DMU.

Harvest comparisons by year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>			<u>Whitetail Deer</u>			<u>% Success</u>
		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	
2018 (all)	11,011	1311	179	1490	2817	1076	3893	49
2019 (all)	11,093	1235	156	1391	2986	971	3957	48
2020 (all)	11,854	1024	163	1187	3103	1021	4124	45
2021 (all)	11,085	909	126	1035	2731	829	3560	41
2022 (all)	10,084	854	146	1000	2334	784	3118	41
2022 Resident Youth	6068	768	126	894	1300	453	1753	44
2022 Youth Whitetail	3430	7	2	9	919	302	1221	36
2022 NR Rest. Youth	586	79	18	97	115	29	144	41

2022 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	1	0	199	98		Loup West	25	11	62	19
Blue SE	0	0	225	79		Missouri	0	0	219	64
Buffalo	62	13	207	79		Pine Ridge	69	11	62	19
Calamus East	10	4	71	15		Plains	79	19	34	6
Calamus West	42	6	77	15		Platte	152	19	78	16
Elkhorn	1	0	148	62		Republican	7	3	270	90
Frenchman	235	34	73	22		Sandhills	84	6	47	12
Keya Paha	4	0	116	21		Upper Platte	79	20	25	4
Loup East	4	0	182	54		Wahoo	0	0	239	109

Expected Harvest: 4350 deer on 10,000 permits

<u>MD Buck</u>	<u>WT Buck</u>	<u>MD Antlerless</u>	<u>WT Antlerless</u>
900	2500	150	800

STATEWIDE ARCHERY

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 - December 31

Permits: Residents: Unlimited Any Deer permits.

Nonresidents: 3,000 Any Deer permits, except that mule deer may NOT be harvested in the Mule Deer Conservation Area (Pine Ridge, Buffalo, Frenchman, Platte and Republican Units). This is a change from 5,000 permits valid statewide last year.

Area Open: Statewide, except antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on publicly accessible land statewide, OFW program land is excepted.

General Information: Overall, permit sales decreased 6% and overall harvest decreased 11%. 70% of all archery MD buck harvest occurred in the MDCA, which is up from 58% in 2020 and 67% in 2021. Nonresident permit quota of 5,000 did not sell out in 2022. NR harvested 57% of the MD bucks statewide on this permit and 60% in the MDCA, despite making up only 25% of the permits. This has gone from 31% of the archery MD buck harvest in the MDCA in 2016, to 44% in 2018 to 49% in 2020 to 60% in 2022. Resident MD Buck harvest has ebbed and flowed with the fluctuations of MD populations (126 in 2022 vs 255 in 2019, decrease of 51%) while NR MD buck harvest has stayed the same (193 in 2022 vs 194 in 2019) or increased (104 in 2016) over time. These changes coupled with declining MD populations has led to the proposed restrictions.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Archery deer season has little impact on statewide populations and provides a lot of opportunity throughout the season. NR permits have been increasing in recent years and a cap on this permit will prevent it from going any higher. The average number of NR statewide archery permit sales from 2014-18 was 3,070. Nonresident opportunity to archery hunt MD in MDCA units will be on unit MDCA permits with the proposed inclusion of the Archery season.

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			Total	% Success	% XBow
	Sold	NR	%NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total			
2017	16,998	3,060	18	605	44	649	2922	542	3464	4113	24	22
2018	16,797	3,354	20	615	53	668	2662	627	3289	3956	24	24
2019	17,668	3,761	22	699	55	754	3586	601	4187	4947	28	26
2020	20,341	4,900	24	652	76	728	3778	679	4457	5185	25	28
2021	19,095	5,032	26	499	69	568	3004	514	3518	4107	21	27
2022	18,054	4,566	25	455	48	503	2655	506	3161	3664	20	26
2023*	Res - Unl	3,000										

2022 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer			Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO			Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	241	61		Loup West	9	1	35	9
Blue SE	1	0	431	70		Missouri	0	0	183	27
Buffalo	8	3	190	24		Pine Ridge	61	4	58	10
Calamus East	2	0	26	6		Plains	33	4	20	1
Calamus West	15	1	47	7		Platte	53	8	114	15
Elkhorn	0	0	152	50		Republican	0	0	244	51
Frenchman	196	21	93	24		Sandhills	34	2	36	7
Keya Paha	2	0	135	7		Upper Platte	37	3	26	3
Loup East	2	1	126	19		Wahoo	2	0	498	115

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

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
350	2500	35	450

STATEWIDE MUZZLELOADER

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: December 1 through December 31

Permits: Residents: Unlimited Any Deer permits.

Nonresidents: 1,000 Any Deer permits. A reduction from 2,000 last year.

Area Open: Statewide, except not valid for mule deer in the Mule Deer Conservation Area and antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited on publicly accessible land statewide, OFW program land is excepted.

General Information: 6715 permits were issued. Harvest was 1085 adult males and 480 antlerless deer. 30% of permits were issued to nonresidents, up from 28% in 2020. Nonresidents account for 61% of MD Buck harvest on this permit. The MDCA restriction causes increased focus on non-MDCA units like the Sandhills, where NR harvest 80% of the MD bucks on this permit in that unit, which accounts for 10% of the total MD Buck harvest for the entire season. Similar to archery, NR MD buck harvest has stayed the same or increased (in total and proportionally) in recent years, while resident harvest has declined significantly

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Muzzleloader deer season is a recreational season that provides a lot of deer hunting opportunity. However, our deer populations and specifically mule deer cannot support the additional harvest that a permit quota at demand or near demand levels. The proposed NR permit quota will still allow significant opportunity for NR to hunt MD in Nebraska and they will likely still harvest about 50% of the MD bucks taken on this permit in the future.

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Sold	NR	% NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
2017	7500	1555	20	472	95	567	888	398	1286	25
2018	7167	1725	24	460	87	547	993	457	1450	28
2019	6741	1729	26	415	77	492	965	425	1390	28
2020	7746	2201	28	404	78	482	950	496	1446	25
2021	6715	2018	30	323	88	411	762	392	1154	23
2022	5829	1609	28	255	58	313	714	306	1020	23
2023*	Res – Unl	1000								

2022 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	45	33	Loup West	11	3	14	1
Blue SE	0	0	70	54	Missouri	0	0	37	16
Buffalo	0	0	39	15	Pine Ridge	5	0	45	7
Calamus East	3	0	3	3	Plains	33	12	15	5
Calamus West	33	13	23	11	Platte	1	0	18	6
Elkhorn	0	0	44	27	Republican	0	0	72	36
Frenchman	0	0	30	9	Sandhills	96	21	65	17
Keya Paha	5	0	83	8	Upper Platte	62	9	6	0
Loup East	6	0	37	11	Wahoo	0	0	68	47

Expected Harvest: 1600 deer on 7000 permits

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

LIMITED LANDOWNER DEER

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
 November 11-19, 2023 (Firearm)
 December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)
 January 1-15, 2024 – Late Antlerless Only (Firearm or Archery)

Permits: Unlimited Any Deer permits with one antlerless only bonus tag. No changes.

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

General Information: 14,396 Landowner permits were issued. Total harvest was 5,533 deer. The definition for immediate family was liberalized in 2019. This is the only statewide permit with a bonus antlerless tag. 4.1% were issued to nonresidents.

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

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits	Mule Deer				Whitetail Deer				% Success
		Buck	AO	Total	%AO	Buck	AO	Total	%AO	
2018	13,983	1345	448	1793	25	3490	1823	5313	34	43 / 8
2019	14,296	1242	398	1640	24	3763	1832	5595	33	43 / 8
2020	15,511	1084	401	1485	27	3859	2022	5881	34	40 / 7
2021	14,613	934	309	1243	25	3219	1509	4728	32	35 / 5
2022	14,396	832	304	1136	27	2920	1477	4397	34	33 / 5

2022 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	285	184	Loup West	34	10	92	28
Blue SE	1	0	399	212	Missouri	3	0	244	99
Buffalo	69	16	191	90	Pine Ridge	56	18	68	43
Calamus East	9	1	75	30	Plains	41	31	20	8
Calamus West	32	9	62	27	Platte	130	46	87	35
Elkhorn	0	0	249	113	Republican	5	2	290	136
Frenchman	296	118	91	43	Sandhills	74	27	64	17
Keya Paha	6	2	132	49	Upper Platte	73	23	25	11
Loup East	3	1	216	121	Wahoo	0	0	330	231

Expected Harvest: 5500 deer on 14,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
800	3000	300	1500

SPECIAL LANDOWNER DEER

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: November 4 – 6

Permits: Unlimited Any Deer permits. Up to 8 permits available per qualifying landowner, one per person. Up to six permits for hunters under 19, up to two permits for hunters 19 and over. No changes.

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

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

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

Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits	Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
		Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
2021	3,690	176	26	202	594	103	697	24
2022	3,146	177	25	202	482	93	575	25

2022 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer			Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO			Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	60	17		Loup West	5	1	13	3
Blue SE	1	0	51	13		Missouri	2	0	36	12
Buffalo	4	3	32	5		Pine Ridge	5	3	4	1
Calamus East	4	1	17	2		Plains	7	2	2	0
Calamus West	4	0	13	0		Platte	22	2	8	2
Elkhorn	0	0	51	6		Republican	1	0	40	6
Frenchman	85	8	14	2		Sandhills	8	1	8	0
Keya Paha	1	0	35	3		Upper Platte	25	4	3	0
Loup East	3	0	36	10		Wahoo	0	0	59	11

RIVER ANTLERLESS

2023 Recommendations:

Season Dates: September 1 – December 31 (Archery)
 October 1-15 (Firearm)
 November 11-19 (Firearm)
 December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)
 January 1-31, 2024 (Firearm)

Permits: 12,000 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. 8,494 permits were issued in 2022.

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

2022 Changes: Add Lodgepole Creek, remove western portion of Republican River.

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

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

Harvest comparisons:

Year	Permits		Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			% Success
	Quota	Sold	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
2018	12,000	9,038	1	12	13	200	5515	5715	44 / 20
2019	12,000	8,976	1	24	25	169	5129	5298	41 / 18
2020	12,000	10,652	2	18	20	168	6052	6220	40 / 18
2021	12,000	9,157	1	9	10	150	4304	4454	34 / 14
2022	12,000	8,494	0	7	7	168	4107	4275	36 / 14
2023*	12,000								

2022 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer			Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO			Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	1	2		Loup West	0	0	2	77
Blue SE	0	1	13	252		Missouri	0	0	11	225
Buffalo	0	1	20	604		Pine Ridge	0	0	8	78
Calamus East	0	0	1	48		Plains	0	0	0	9
Calamus West	0	0	2	31		Platte	0	2	8	256
Elkhorn	0	0	21	425		Republican	0	0	9	443
Frenchman	0	0	1	22		Sandhills	0	0	1	9
Keya Paha	0	1	8	152		Upper Platte	0	1	0	55
Loup East	0	0	11	432		Wahoo	0	1	51	987

Expected Harvest: 4,000 antlerless whitetail deer on 12,000 authorized permits

NONRESIDENT PERMIT QUOTA

2023 Recommendations: A limit of 10,000 total Either Sex or Buck only permits of all types combined (November Firearm, Archery, Muzzleloader, and all Statewide Buck permits), Landowner and Youth would be exempt from this limit.

General Information: Nonresident permits have increased over the past 20 years and are to the point that resident access to private land and public land use are potentially being impacted. Deer hunter survey data shows that nonresidents account for 37-70% of the public land use in the western half of the state and have accounted for 25-65% of permit sales in those units. The number of nonresident hunters is the most common critique from residents that we have received in recent years. The initial quota was 15,000 in 2022, however the quota was not reached. The average from 2014-18 was 10,869 and considering the declines in deer populations and cuts to other permits, a quota of 10,000 would get totals and proportions back in line with historic levels.

There have been 1,500-2,000 Nonresident Landowner and Youth permits sold each of the last 10 years. We do not want to limit landowner or youth opportunity and those permits are exempt from this quota and are not included in the permit totals below.

Either Sex and Buck Only Permit Sales:

Year	Either Sex and Buck Only Permit Sales			Total Individual Hunters		NR Quota
	NR	Resident	%NR	NR	Resident	
2002	6,158	78,917	7%			
2003	6,602	78,361	8%			
2004	6,387	77,676	8%			
2005	7,225	76,623	9%			
2006	8,067	79,387	9%			
2007	9,009	81,347	10%			
2008	9,633	81,453	11%	10,192	85,783	
2009	9,691	77,470	11%	10,902	85,790	
2010	10,410	74,219	12%	13,130	89,049	
2011	11,333	74,201	13%	14,249	90,416	
2012	10,868	69,399	14%	13,281	81,957	
2013	9,427	67,958	12%	12,028	82,248	
2014	9,468	68,919	12%	11,830	82,657	
2015	10,450	70,448	13%	13,068	85,600	
2016	11,309	69,443	14%	13,852	84,426	
2017	11,011	67,457	14%	13,707	81,955	
2018	12,108	65,565	16%	14,797	78,726	
2019	13,222	68,244	16%	15,436	78,797	
2020	15,093	69,908	18%	18,103	82,814	
2021	15,817	67,189	19%	18,700	80,457	
2022	13,712	62,915	18%	16,536	76,794	15,000
2023*						10,000

* Proposed

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ELK

INTRODUCTION

Statewide elk populations have reached cultural carrying capacity. We have been working with landowners closely over the last 4 years to understand their level of tolerance for elk in Nebraska and will continue doing so. We are using a deterministic model to help project elk populations to evaluate harvest structure and permit allocations.

General Information: Success for the 2022 season was 76% for bulls and 37% for antlerless permits. In 2022, 851 hunters harvested 175 antlered bulls and 260 antlerless elk. Success and harvest was lower in 2022 than expected.

Population Strategy: Continue to stabilize and/or reduce population in all units and provide sufficient antlerless permits to respond to depredation. We are recommending restructuring our management units to help distribute hunters and harvest appropriately across our expanding elk range. This restructuring would primarily separate historic elk ranges into their own units while creating units, and in turn, permit quotas, for peripheral areas where tolerance of elk varies greatly and we've had difficulty getting hunter effort and elk harvest where needed. This change would also include all of Nebraska in a unit so elk in eastern Nebraska would be eligible for harvest. Our recommendation would make permits for Units 1-14 (see map) also valid in Unit 15. This would eliminate the need for permit quotas and landowner zones in an area where elk use is very sporadic and there is little habitat to support elk in the long term. We are expecting hunter success for both bull and antlerless permits in Units 8-14 to be significantly lower than past rates and those rates in Units 1-7.

The recommendations reflect the following goal:

- Stabilizing and reducing elk populations in all units.
- Providing quality bulls in all historic elk units, quality in peripheral units may vary

2022 Season Highlights:

- Average bull was 5.0 years.
- Main beam length average was 46.4 inches and increase from 44.7 in 2021.
- Bull success decreased to 76% from 86% in 2021, the historic average is 77%.
- Antlerless success decreased from 45% to 37% in 2021, the historic average is 42%.
- Antlerless harvest was 260, down from 282 in 2021, 2022 is still the second highest ever.
- Antlered bull harvest of 175, down from 199 in 2021, 2022 is still the second highest ever.

Bull standards: Bull harvest is once-in-a-lifetime and most hunters hope to harvest a quality bull. Harvest standards for each unit are designed to maintain older age bulls. Metrics may be adjusted by unit depending on unit overall goals.

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

2023 Overall Changes

Restructure elk management units

Statewide, add 36 bull permits

Statewide, add 214 antlerless permits

Total permits recommended: 1226 permits (267 bull and 959 antlerless)

2023 RECOMMENDED ELK SEASONS

<u>Season Dates:</u>	Bull Season:	Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31
	Antlerless:	August 1 – January 31, 2024 Private Land Only: August 1 – Sept. 20
	Early General Antlerless:	August 1 – October 31 (Private Land Only 8/1-9/20)
	Late General Antlerless:	November 1 – January 31, 2024

<u>Elk Unit</u>	Bull		Antlerless		
	General	Limited Landowner	Early General	Late General	Limited Landowner
Unit 1	16	12	25	35	45
Unit 2	10	7	15	25	30
Unit 3	20	15	40	40	60
Unit 4	25	18	70	30	75
Unit 5	20	15	30	30	45
Unit 6	14	10	40	20	45
			No antlerless season split in Units 7-14		
			General		Limited Landowner
Unit 7	16	12	36		27
Unit 8	6	4	20		15
Unit 9	6	4	10		7
Unit 10	4	3	35		26
Unit 11	3	2	10		7
Unit 12	4	3	16		12
Unit 13	3	2	6		4
Unit 14	5	3	16		12
Total	152	110	594		410
Auction	3		-		-
Supertag	2		-		-
Total	267		959		

2022 ELK SEASON RESULTS

Permit Name	Total Harvest					Permit Details			Bull Metrics		
	Total	Bull	Cow	Calf	AO	Quota	Sold	Success	%6 pt	MBL	Avg age
Ash Creek Bull	10	10	0	0	0	10	10	100%	100%	48.7	5.3
LO Ash Creek Bull	1	1	0	0	0	7	7	14%	100%	50.0	NA
Ash Creek Early AO	5	0	5	0	5	15	15	33%	-	-	-
Ash Creek Late AO	10	0	8	2	10	25	25	40%	-	-	-
LO Ash Creek AO	6	0	5	1	6	30	19	32%	-	-	-
Bordeaux Bull	18	18	0	0	0	20	20	90%	89%	44.8	3.7
LO Bordeaux Bull	11	10	1	0	1	15	15	73%	100%	49.1	6
Bordeaux Early AO	21	0	20	1	21	25	25	84%	-	-	-
Bordeaux Late AO	23	0	18	5	23	35	35	66%	-	-	-
LO Bordeaux AO	21	0	21	0	21	45	45	47%	-	-	-
Box Elder Bull	17	17	0	0	0	20	20	85%	94%	47.1	5.8
LO Box Elder Bull	11	11	0	0	0	15	15	73%	100%	46.5	5.2
Box Elder Early AO	10	0	9	1	10	30	30	33%	-	-	-
Box Elder Late AO	8	0	6	2	8	30	30	27%	-	-	-
LO Box Elder AO	14	0	13	1	14	45	45	31%	-	-	-
Hat Creek Bull	16	16	0	0	0	16	16	100%	88%	45.9	5.2
LO Hat Creek Bull	8	8	0	0	0	12	12	67%	100%	49.9	5.5
Hat Creek Early AO	12	0	11	1	12	20	20	60%	-	-	-
Hat Creek Late AO	15	0	13	2	15	30	30	50%	-	-	-
LO Hat Creek AO	12	0	11	1	12	37	37	32%	-	-	-
Niobrara East Bull	14	14	0	0	0	16	16	88%	71%	44.4	4.6
LO Niobrara East Bull	5	5	0	0	0	12	12	42%	60%	45.6	4.4
Niobrara East AO	12	1	10	1	12	36	36	33%	-	-	-
LO Niobrara East AO	8	1	7	0	8	26	26	31%	-	-	-
Niobrara West Bull	9	9	0	0	0	16	16	56%	78%	44.7	4.8
LO Niobrara West Bull	11	11	0	0	0	12	12	92%	73%	44.4	4.9
Niobrara West Early AO	15	0	11	4	15	50	50	30%	-	-	-
Niobrara West Late AO	3	0	3	0	3	30	30	10%	-	-	-
LO Niobrara West AO	4	0	4	0	4	60	47	9%	-	-	-
NPR Bull	22	22	0	0	0	30	30	73%	73%	46.4	4.2
LO NPR Bull	17	17	0	0	0	22	22	77%	65%	43.6	4.2
NPR Early AO	41	0	34	7	41	70	70	59%	-	-	-
NPR Late AO	6	0	5	1	6	30	30	20%	-	-	-
LO NPR AO	13	0	12	1	13	75	50	26%	-	-	-
Auction	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	100%	100%	55.0	6.7
Super Tag MULTIPLE	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	100%	100%	50.0	8
Super Tag SINGLE	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	2	2	0	0	0	3	3	67%	100%	56.0	NA
Total Bull	176	175	1	0	1	231	231	76%	88%	46.4	5.0
Total Antlerless	259	2	226	31	260	745	695	37%			
Total	435	177	227	31	260	976	926	47%	88%	46.4	5.0

Permits, Harvest and Success 1995 to present

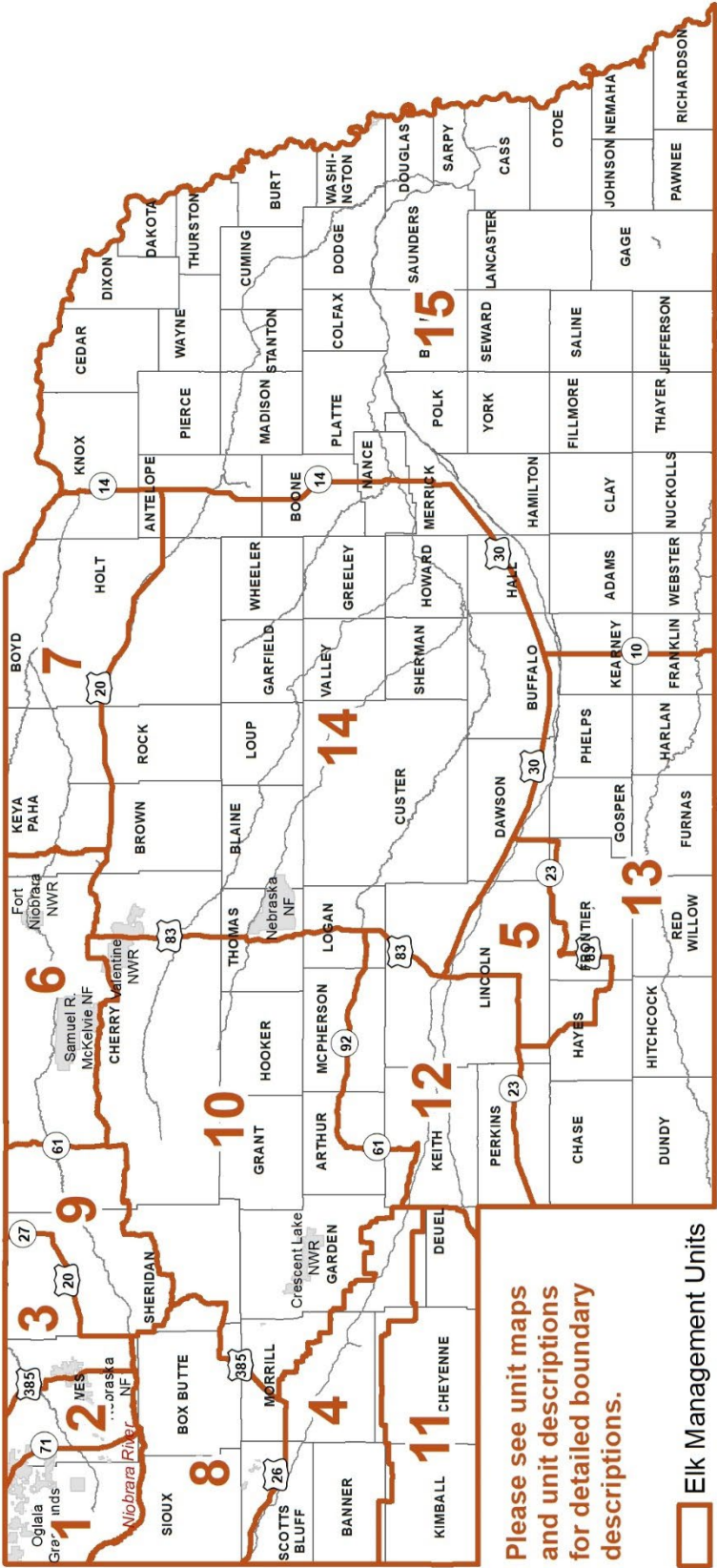
Permits Issued				Harvest				% Success		Bull Criteria		
Year	Bull	AO	Total	Bull	Cow	Calf	Total	Bull	AO	% 6 point	Avg. Main Beam Length	Mean Age
1995	12	26	38	5	7	2	14	42	35			
1996	8	22	30	7	7	1	15	88	36			
1997	17	37	54	14	16	2	32	82	49			
1998	22	62	84	16	23	0	39	73	37			
1999	11	48	59	6	15	1	22	55	33			
2000	11	48	59	6	18	0	24	55	38			
2001	11	50	61	6	18	3	27	55	42			
2002	17	65	82	15	18	1	34	88	29			
2003	21	58	79	16	16	1	33	76	29			
2004	27	76	103	23	25	3	51	85	37			
2005	39	110	149	30	27	2	59	77	26			
2006	42	125	167	32	39	2	73	76	33			
2007	53	113	166	36	32	9	77	68	36			
2008	70	117	187	57	45	2	104	81	40	91	46.2	
2009	82	124	206	66	65	7	138	80	58	89	46.8	
2010	98	174	272	77	81	8	166	79	51	90	47.0	
2011	114	180	294	90	79	2	171	79	45	90	46.7	5.4
2012	116	168	284	105	79	7	191	91	51	80	45.5	5.0
2013	129	195	324	90	61	4	155	70	33	88	44.0	4.8
2014	117	192	309	95	73	8	176	81	42	85	44.0	4.6
2015	122	198	320	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	94	46.9	5.2
2020	152	354	506	134	194	15	343	88	59	93	48.2	5.2
2021	230	621	851	201	251	28	480	86	45	88	44.7	5.2
2022	228	745	973	177	227	31	435	76	37	88	46.4	5.0
2023*	267	959	1226									

* - recommended

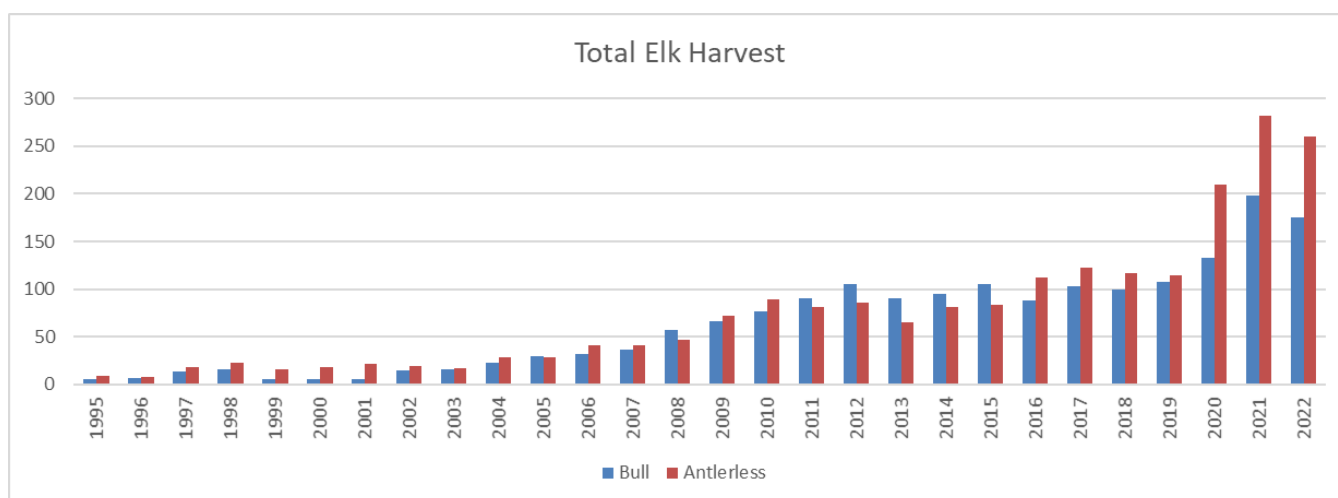
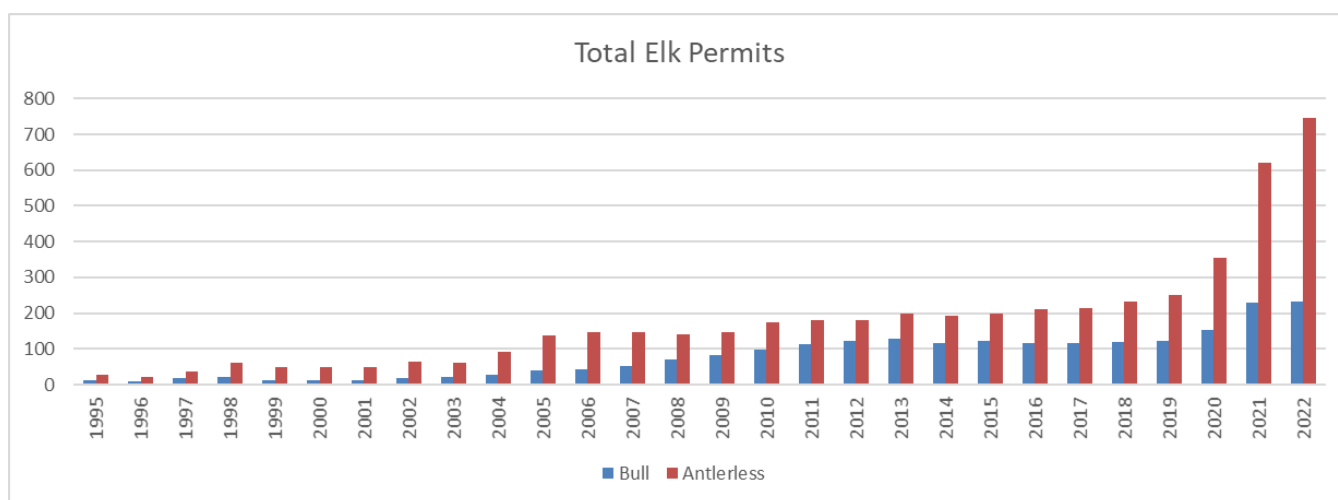
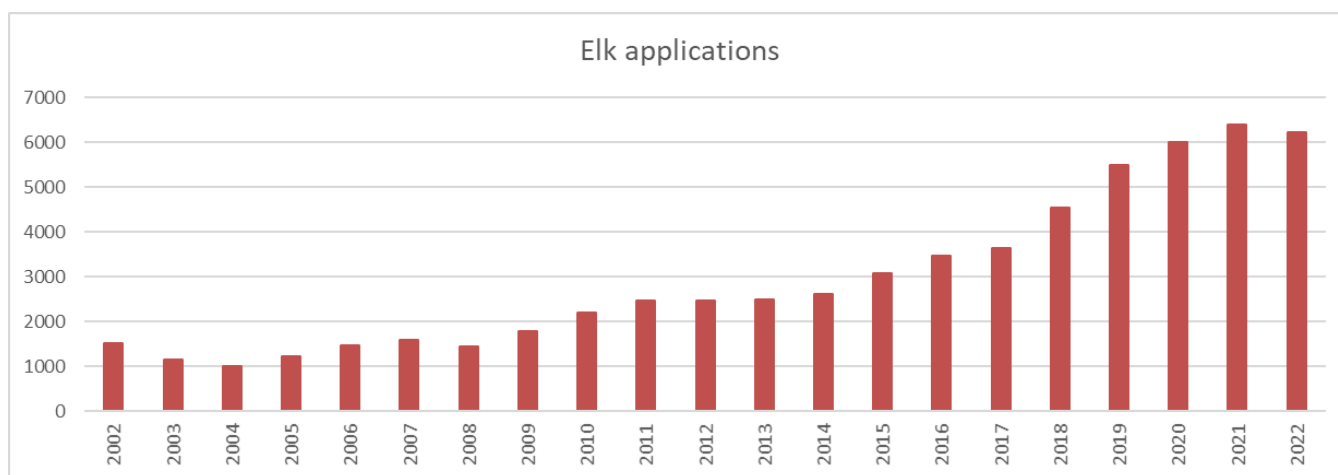
2023 ELK MANAGEMENT UNITS

This is a complete restructuring from 2022.

2023 ELK MANAGEMENT UNITS



ELK TRENDS



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UNIT 1

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 1 Bull Permits: 16 General Either Sex and 12 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 1 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 25

Late Antlerless: 35

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 45

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Hat Creek unit. Hunter success for bull permits was 86%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 47%. Elk populations have been above tolerance for landowners when in large groups.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations and harvest data would indicate a stable 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. Antlerless permits will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing hunter opportunity. Maintaining bull permits are recommended. Increasing antlerless permits slightly is also recommended. These recommendations should maintain bull quality and aid in reducing population slightly.

Depredation Complaints: 8

2022 Harvest Data

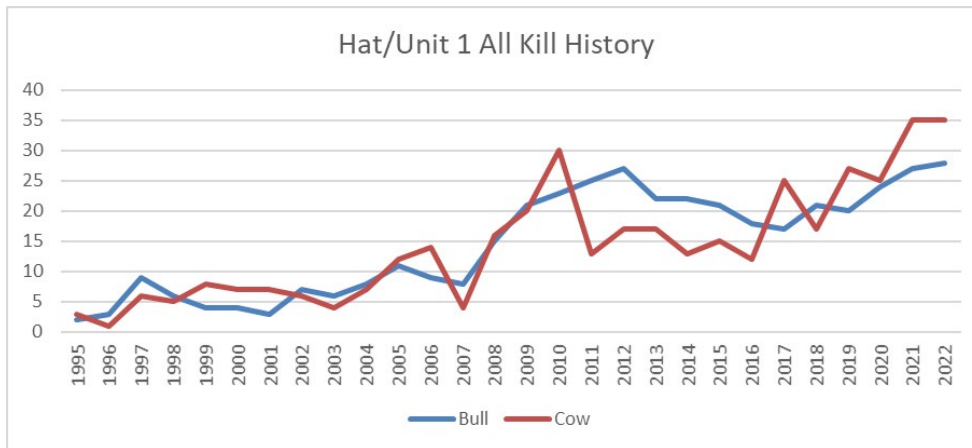
<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Hat Creek Bull	16	16	0	0	0	16	100%	88%	45.9	5.2
LO Hat Creek Bull	8	8	0	0	0	12	67%	100%	49.9	5.5
Hat Creek Early AO	12	0	11	1	12	20	60%	-	-	-
Hat Creek Late AO	15	0	13	2	15	30	50%	-	-	-
LO Hat Creek AO	12	0	11	1	12	37	32%	-	-	-
Auction	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	100%	55.0	6.7
Supertag	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	100%	50.0	8
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Harvest	67	28	35	4	39	-	-	96%	48.2	5.7

UNIT 1 (continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons By Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
2018	21	18	37	100	45.3	5.6
2019	22	27	49	82	48.1	5.6
2020	25	26	51	93	48.8	5.6
2021	27	36	62	93	46.0	5.2
2022*	28	39	67	96	48.2	5.7

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.



Unit History

Year	Permits Issued		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
2018	14 General 7 Landowner	26 General 13 Landowner	2
2019	14 General 7 Landowner	26 General 13 Landowner	5
2020	18 General 9 Landowner	13 Early 27 Late 20 Landowner	3 (1/0)
2021	20 General 10 Landowner	20 Early 30 Late 25 Landowner	5
2022	16 General 14 Landowner	20 Early 30 Late 37 Landowner	8
2023*	16 General 14 Landowner	25 Early 35 Late 45 Landowner	

* Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 26 bulls and 45 cows.

UNIT 2

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 2 Bull Permits: 10 General Either Sex and 7 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 2 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 15

Late Antlerless: 25

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 30

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Ash Creek unit. Hunter success for bull permits was 65%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 36%. Elk populations have slightly been above tolerance for landowners, but most elk use within this unit are on one landowner. Bull quality and tag availability for some landowners will continue to be an important factor in improving or maintaining landowner tolerance.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations and landowner contacts would indicate a stable elk population in this unit. Objectives are to maintain harvested bull age and quality through maintaining current similar permit quotas, while addressing depredation complaints and reducing the overall population with Antlerless Only permits. Bull quality measurements meet Management Approach minimum criteria, maintaining the same quota on bull permits is recommended. General hunters were 100% successful and only one LO was successful. The free earned tag was unfilled as well due the LO being unable to find a large enough bull. Maintaining the same cow permits is also recommended. 8 antlerless harvests were out of a “traditional” Bordeaux herd of elk that moved into Ash Creek the last week of season.

Depredation Complaints:2

2022 Harvest Data

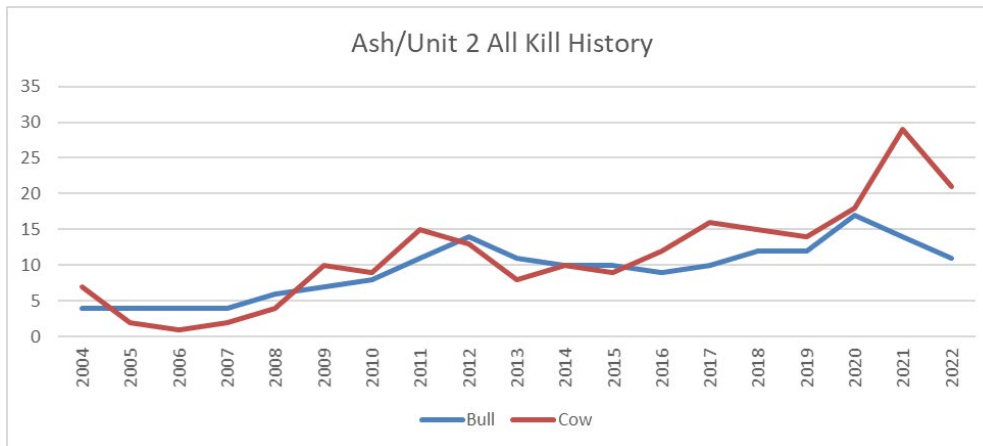
<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Ash Creek Bull	10	10	0	0	0	10	100%	100%	48.7	5.3
LO Ash Creek Bull	1	1	0	0	0	7	14%	100%	50.0	-
Ash Creek Early AO	5	0	5	0	5	15	33%	-	-	-
Ash Creek Late AO	10	0	8	2	10	25	40%	-	-	-
LO Ash Creek AO	6	0	5	1	6	19	32%	-	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	1	0%	-	-	-
Total Harvest	32	11	18	3	21	-	-	100	48.8	5.3

UNIT 2 (continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
2018	12	15	27	91	45.7	5.1
2019	12	14	26	92	45.8	5.0
2020	17	18	35	94	47.0	4.2
2021	14	29	43	100	47.2	5.1
2022	11	21	32	100	48.8	5.3

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.



Unit History

Year	Permits Issued		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
2018	8 General 4 Landowner	18 General 9 Landowner	0
2019	8 General 4 Landowner	18 General 9 Landowner	2
2020	12 General 6 Landowner	9 Early 17 Late 13 Landowner	1
2021	12 General 6 Landowner	15 Early 25 Late 20 Landowner	2
2022	10 General 7 Landowner	15 Early 25 Late 30 Landowner	2
2023*	10 General 7 Landowner	15 Early 25 Late 30 Landowner (11 LO)	

* Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 15 bulls and 30 cows.

UNIT 3

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 3 Bull Permits: 20 General Either Sex and 15 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 3 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 40

Late Antlerless: 40

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 60

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Bordeaux unit. Hunter success for bull permits was 83%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 56%. Elk populations have slightly been above tolerance for landowners. Although bull quality exceeds our minimum qualifications landowners are commenting on declines in quality. Some of this can be equated to an outfitter harvesting many bulls out of one area. Variable access for antlerless permits in this unit can affect success rates. The LO incentive program has proven to open access this season. Movement and harvest of elk between units 2,3,8, and 9 will need be monitored.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner contacts, and harvest data indicate a stable elk population in this unit. Objectives are to maintain bull age and quality while maintaining hunter opportunity. Bull quality measurements meet management approach minimum criteria. Staff will continue to evaluate Bull quality concerns in portions of the unit as well as evaluate quality after the unit reorganization. Antlerless permits will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing hunter opportunity. Maintaining bull permits is recommended. We recommend the adjusted antlerless permit quotas to increase harvest as access for general hunters has increased.

Depredation Complaints: 11

2022 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Bordeaux Bull	18	18	0	0	0	20	90%	89%	44.8	3.7*
LO Bordeaux Bull	11	10	1	0	1	15	73%	100%	49.1	6.0*
Bordeaux Early AO	21	0	20	1	21	25	84%	-	-	-
Bordeaux Late AO	23	0	18	5	23	35	66%	-	-	-
LO Bordeaux AO	21	0	21	0	21	45	47%	-	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	1	1	-	-	-	1	100%	100	57	8
Total Harvest	95	29	60	6	66	-	-	93	46.8	4.7*

* We got teeth from only 9 of 29 bulls (31%). Low confidence in these estimates.

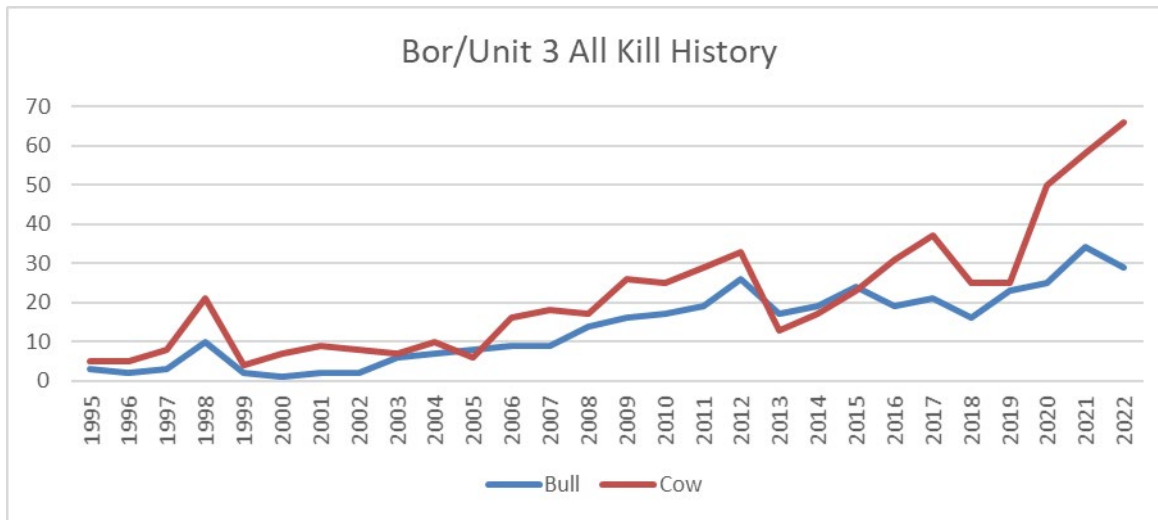
UNIT 3

(continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
2018	16	25	40	94%	48.2	6.2
2019	23	25	49	96%	48.0	5.5
2020	25	50	75	96%	49.5	5.6
2021	34	58	92	88%	46.7	5.5
2022	29	66	95	93%	46.8	4.7

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.



Unit History

Year	Permits Issued		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
2018	16 General 8 Landowner	34 General 17 Landowner	1
2019	16 General 8 Landowner	34 General 17 Landowner	2
2020	20 General 10 Landowner	20 Early 30 Late 25 Landowner	3
2021	20 General 10 Landowner	25 Early 35 Late 30 Landowner	10
2022	20 General 15 Landowner	25 Early 35 Late 45 Landowner	12
2023*	20 General 15 Landowner	40 Early 40 Late 60 Landowner	

* Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 32 bulls and 65 cows.

UNIT 4

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 4 Bull Permits: 25 General Either Sex and 18 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 4 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 70

Late Antlerless: 30

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 75

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the North Platte River unit. Hunter success for bull permits was 75%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 35%. Landowner tolerance is low for some landowners that experience high use from the Redington herd and Highway 88 herd. Success and harvest were increased dramatically on the Redington herd as access has opened to hunters with assistance from NGPC employees. Access should prove to help reduce issues overall in that area.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations, landowner reports, and harvest data would indicate a stabilized elk population in this unit. This unit contains several different elk herds throughout the area and landowner tolerance has decreased in some areas. Objectives are to address depredation complaints with antlerless permits to reduce the population and maintain bull quality. It is recommended to reduce bull tags slightly to maintain bull quality and success. We recommend to maintain antlerless permits to continue to reduce populations in areas where access and LO tolerance is lower. These changes should continue to reduce the population and improve landowner tolerance with the increased allocation of antlerless tags.

Depredation Complaints: 12

2022 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
NPR Bull	22	22	0	0	0	30	73%	73%	46.4	4.2*
LO NPR Bull	17	17	0	0	0	22	77%	65%	43.6	4.2*
NPR Early AO	41	0	34	7	41	70	59%	-	-	-
NPR Late AO	6	0	5	1	6	30	20%	-	-	-
LO NPR AO	13	0	12	1	13	50	26%	-	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	1	1	-	-	-	1	100%	100%	55	3
Total Harvest	100	40	51	9	60	-	-	88%	45.4	4.2*

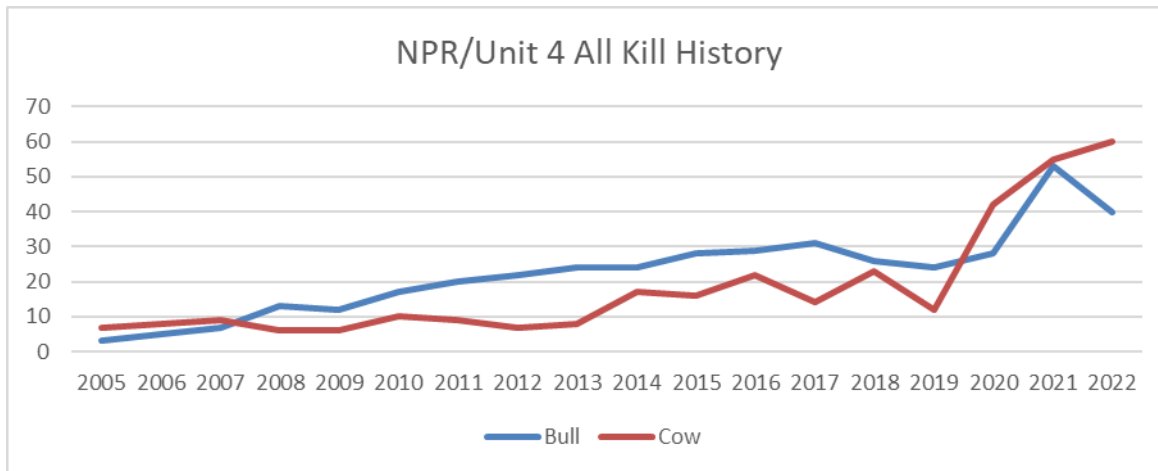
* We got teeth from only 19 of 40 bulls (48%). Moderate confidence in these estimates.

UNIT 4 (continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
2018	26	23	49	81%	49.5	4.2
2019	24	12	36	83%	47.4	4.8
2020	28	42	70	93%	48.1	5.0
2021	53	55	108	87%	42.7	4.5
2022	40	60	100	88%	45.4	4.2

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.



Unit History

Year	Permits Issued (unsold)		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
2018	20 General 10 Landowner	30 General 15 Landowner	0
2019	20 General 10 Landowner	30 General 15 Landowner	3 (2/9)
2020	20 General 10 Landowner	40 General 20 Landowner	3
2021	40 General 20 Landowner	70 Early 30 Late 50 Landowner	7 (3/2)
2022	30 General 22 Landowner	70 Early 30 Late 75 Landowner (25)	12 (5/2)
2023*	25 General 18 Landowner	70 Early 30 Late 75 Landowner	

* Recommended permit numbers

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

UNIT 5

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 5 Bull Permits: 20 General Either Sex and 15 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 5 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 30

Late Antlerless: 30

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 45

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Box Elder unit. In 2022, success was 80% for bull hunters and 30% for antlerless hunters. Landowner and sportsmen support for elk in most parts of this unit is high, however depredation issues have caused support to wane in some areas.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Landowner reports, staff observations and harvest data of elk indicate an increasing and expanding population. Staff have recommended additional Landowner zones outside the traditional zone. Antlerless elk harvest has increased 170% since 2019, bull harvest has almost doubled. Where elk and corn production overlap are primary sources of depredation issues. We will keep working with landowners in those areas to decrease elk populations and damage. A Special Depredation Season was implemented in the western part of the Box Elder unit (now unit 11) in July 2022, 208 permits were issued and 8 elk were harvested, 5 bulls and 3 cows.

2022 Harvest Data

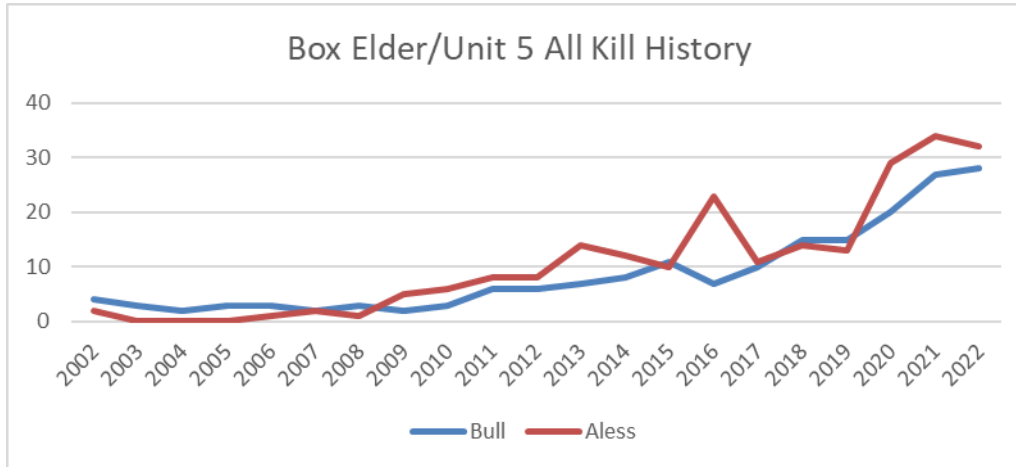
<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Succes s</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Box Elder Bull	17	17	0	0	0	20	85%	94%	47.1	5.8
LO Box Elder Bull	11	11	0	0	0	15	73%	100%	46.5	5.2
LO Box Elder AO	14	0	13	1	14	45	31%	-	-	-
Box Elder Early AO	10	0	9	1	10	30	33%	-	-	-
Box Elder Late AO	8	0	6	2	8	30	27%	-	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Harvest	60	28	28	4	32	-	-	96%	46.9	5.6

UNIT 5 (continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
2018	26	23	49	81%	49.5	4.2
2019	24	12	36	83%	47.4	4.8
2020	28	42	70	93%	48.1	5.0
2021	53	55	108	87%	42.7	4.5
2022	40	60	100	88%	45.4	4.2

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.



Unit History

Year	Permits Issued (unsold)		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
2018	10 General 5 Landowner	24 General 12 Landowner	4
2019	10 General 5 Landowner	12 Early 12 Late 12 Landowner	4
2020	14 General 7 Landowner	17 Early 17 Late 17 Landowner	14 (14/8)
2021	20 General 10 Landowner	25 Early 25 Late 25 Landowner	17 (9/2)
2022	20 General 15 Landowner	30 Early 30 Late 45 Landowner	12 (1/1)
2023*	20 General 15 Landowner	30 Early 30 Late 45 Landowner	

* Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 30 bulls and 50 cows.

UNIT 6

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 6 Bull Permits: 14 General Either Sex and 10 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 6 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 40

Late Antlerless: 20

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 45

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Niobrara West unit. Hunter success was at 71% on bull permits. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 16%. Elk depredation in recent years has been a problem. Damage was minimal in comparison to recent years. Increased antlerless harvest in 2021 appears to have helped. Collar data has also confirmed movements back and forth from South Dakota. Biologists are now fielding calls from some LO's asking to reduce harvest of elk. Access to the herd east of Valentine can be difficult outside of a few landowners resulting in poor success. Access to the Nenzel herd has increased dramatically and appears will continue in areas of crop damage. Landowners in this unit who are not supportive of large elk herds allow access to hunters resulting in a more manageable herd in some areas. A large land swap of core elk range has occurred.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: General observations and harvest data have indicated a stabilized elk population scattered along the Niobrara River in several different herds. Reducing bull permits slightly is recommended. Reducing antlerless permits is also recommended to improve hunter satisfaction, improve LO/hunter relations, and react to some landowners concerns of less elk. This recommendation also has sufficient tags to address depredation complaints. These changes should continue to reduce population in areas where access.

Depredation Complaints: 6

2022 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Niobrara West Bull	9	9	0	0	0	16	56%	78%	44.7	4.8
LO Nio West Bull	11	11	0	0	0	12	92%	73%	44.4	4.9
Nio West Early AO	15	0	11	4	15	50	30%	-	-	-
Nio West Late AO	3	0	3	0	3	30	10%	-	-	-
LO Nio West AO	4	0	4	0	4	47	9%	-	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Harvest	42	20	18	4	22	-	-	75%	44.5	4.8

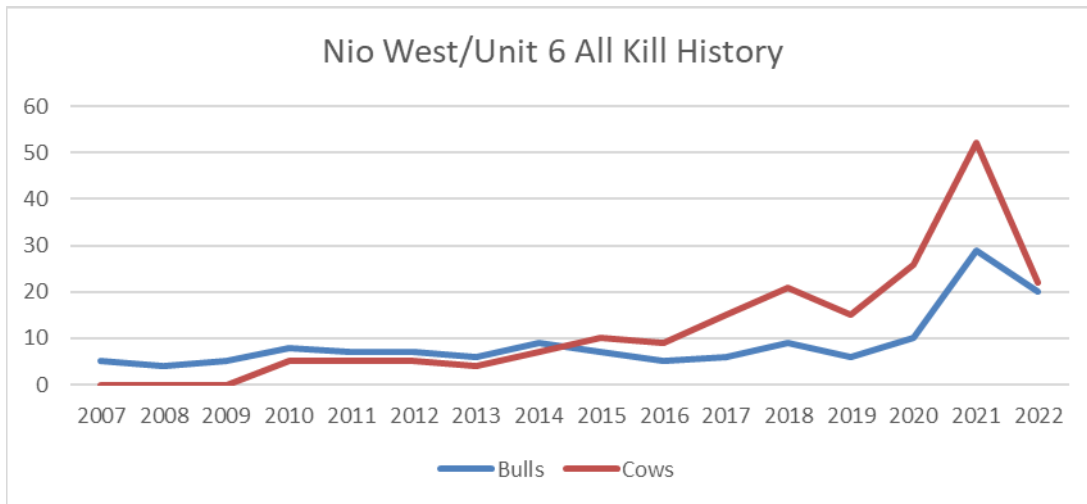
UNIT 6 (continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest+</u>			<u>Bull Quality Metrics+</u>		
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Total AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>
2018 ¹	9	21	30	78%	42.6	4.4
2019	6	15	21	100%	47.4	5.8
2020	10	26	36	100%	47.2	4.5
2021	29	52	81	93%	45.0	6.1
2022	20	22	42	75%	44.5	4.8

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Niobrara River Unit data, prior to E/W split



¹ This includes Niobrara River Unit data prior to E/W split in 2019.

Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2018	6 General 3 Landowner	20 General 10 Landowner	2
2019	6 General 3 Landowner	20 General 10 Landowner	2
2020	8 General 4 Landowner	26 General 13 Landowner	10
2021	20 General 10 Landowner	50 Early 30 Late 40 Landowner	7 (2/6)
2022	16 General 12 Landowner	50 Early 30 Late 60 Landowner	7 (2/7)
2023*	14 General 10 Landowner	40 Early 20 Late 45 Landowner (13 LO)	

* Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 18 bulls and 40 cows.

UNIT 7

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 7 Bull Permits: 14 General Either Sex and 10 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 7 Antlerless Permits:

Early Antlerless: 40

Late Antlerless: 20

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 45

General Information: This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Niobrara East unit. In 2022, success was 68% success for bulls and 30% for antlerless. Hunting pressure appears to have distributed herds as well as dispersed larger herds into several smaller ones.

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 a stable but expanding elk population in this unit. Objectives are to maintain bull hunter opportunity, while addressing depredation complaints and dispersing large herds through hunting. Bull quality measurements have been short of management approach minimum criteria despite reports of many large bulls in the unit. Maintaining bull permits will help us to stay ahead of row crop depredation issues as elk continue to expand eastward while increasing hunter opportunity. Maintaining antlerless permits will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing more hunter opportunity. We recommend maintaining both bull and antlerless permits to meet objectives.

Depredation complaints: 6

2022 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permit Numbers</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>Age</u>
Niobrara East Bull	14	14	0	0	0	16	88%	71%	44.4	4.6
LO Nio East Bull	5	5	0	0	0	12	42%	60%	45.6	4.4
Nio East AO	12	1	10	1	12	36	33%	-	-	-
LO Nio East AO	8	1	7	0	8	26	31%	-	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Harvest	39	21	17	1	20	-	-	68%	44.7	4.5

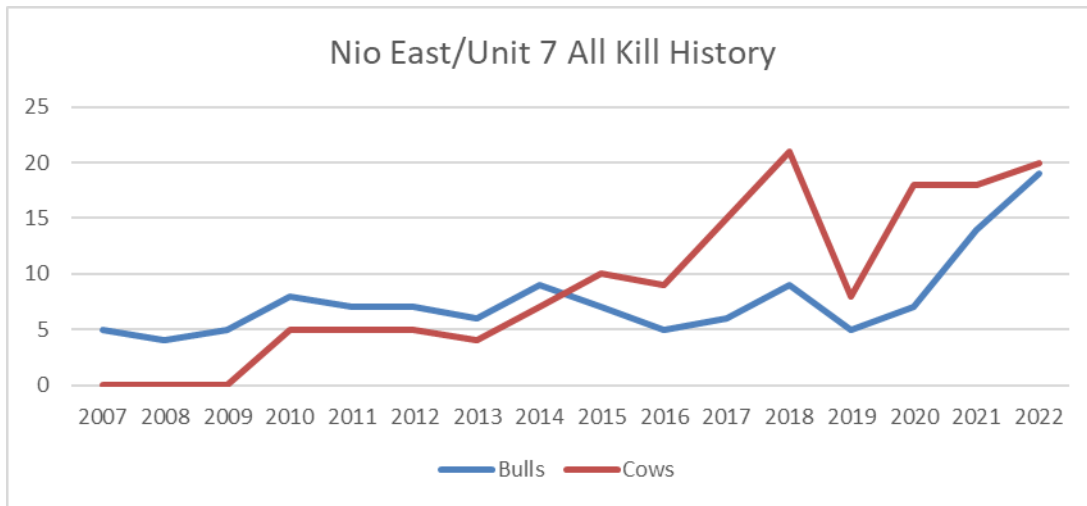
UNIT 7 (continued)

Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvest+</u>			<u>Bull Quality Metrics+</u>		
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Total AO</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% 6point</u>	<u>Avg. MBL</u>	<u>Avg Age</u>
2018 ¹	9	21	30	78%	42.6	4.4
2019	5	8	13	80%	39.8	4.5
2020	7	18	25	57%	40.0	3.3
2021	14	18	32	77%	43.4	4.9
2022	19	20	39	68%	44.7	4.5

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

¹ Niobrara River Unit data, prior to E/W split



Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2018 ¹	6 General 3 Landowner	20 General 10 Landowner	0
2019	4 General 2 Landowner	16 General 8 Landowner	2
2020	6 General 3 Landowner	20 General 10 Landowner	2
2021	12 General 6 Landowner	34 General 17 Landowner	2 (1/1)
2022	16 General 12 Landowner	36 General 27 Landowner	2 (1/0)
2023*	16 General 12 Landowner	36 General 27 Landowner	

¹ Niobrara River Unit data, prior to E/W split

* Recommended permit numbers

Expected Harvest: Expected harvest is 20 bulls and 30 cows.

UNIT 8

2023 Recommendations:

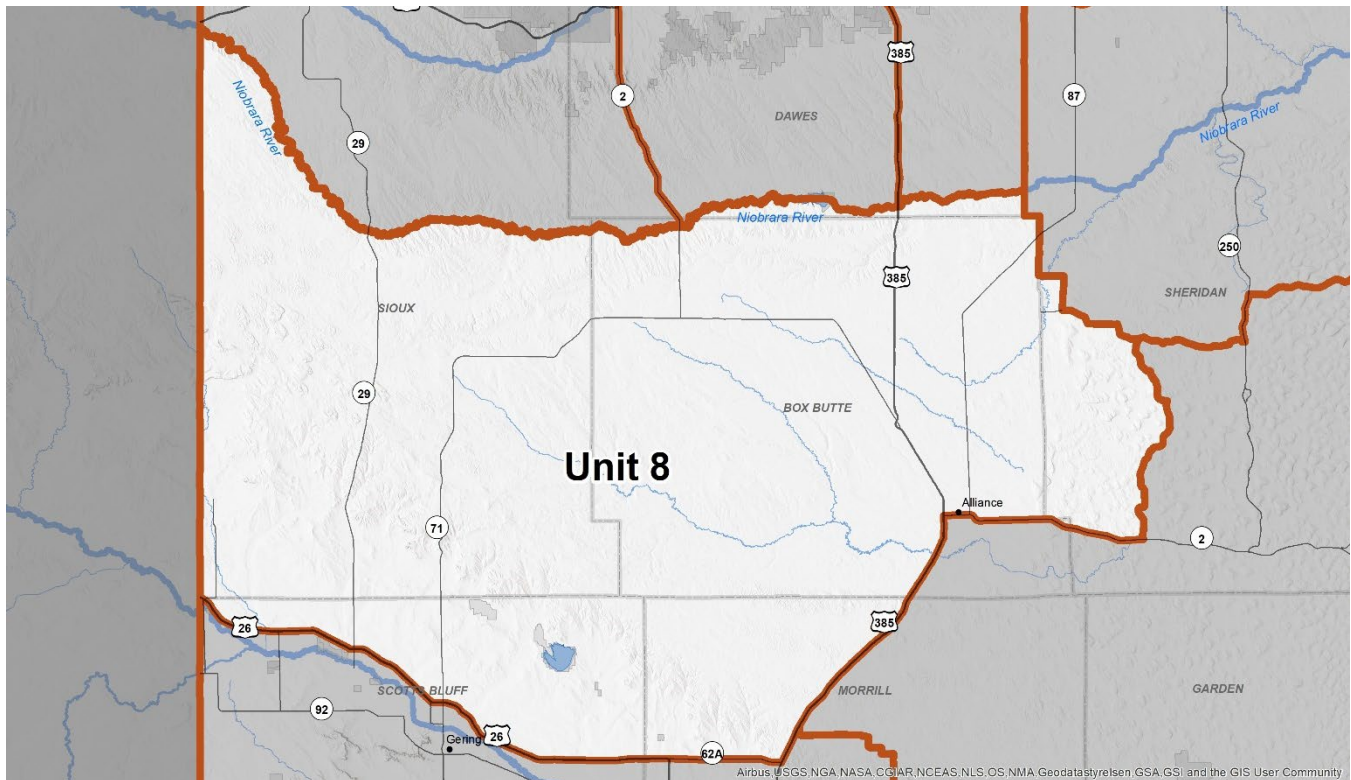
Unit 8 Bull Permits: 6 General Either Sex and 4 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 8 Antlerless Permits: 20 General Antlerless and 15 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. Some areas of this unit are getting consistent elk use throughout the year but seasonal elk use has increased over recent years. Seasonal use has been sporadic throughout the unit but primarily during the growing season. Movement and harvest will need to be evaluated between units 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9. Landowner tolerance is perceived to be low for areas of this unit composed primarily of row crop agriculture. Hunter success is expected to be low.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to address depredation complaints with antlerless permits, opportunity to hunt bulls with lower success rates and bull quality. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 9

2023 Recommendations:

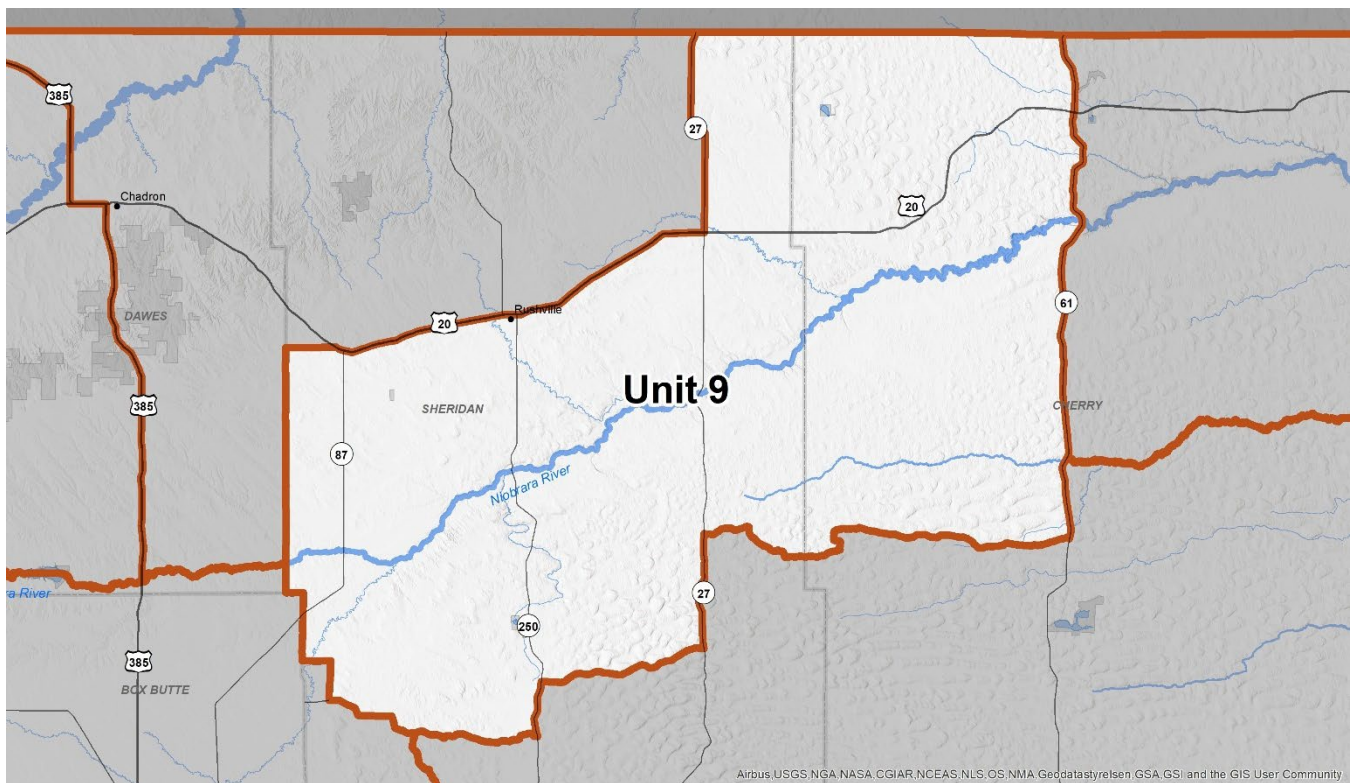
Unit 9 Bull Permits: 6 General Either Sex and 4 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 9 Antlerless Permits: 10 General Antlerless and 7 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. Some areas of this unit are getting consistent elk use throughout the year but seasonal elk use has increased over recent years. Seasonal use has been consistent in similar areas, but observations have been increasing in the mirage flats area. Harvest has been happening in areas of this unit fairly consistently in recent years. Movement and harvest will need to be evaluated between units 2,3,8, and 9. Landowner tolerance is perceived to be low in the mirage flats area if numbers increase rapidly but other areas of elk use are varied by landowner. Hunter success will vary depending on access and could be low.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to address depredation complaints with antlerless permits and have the opportunity to hunt quality bulls in areas of this unit. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 10

2023 Recommendations:

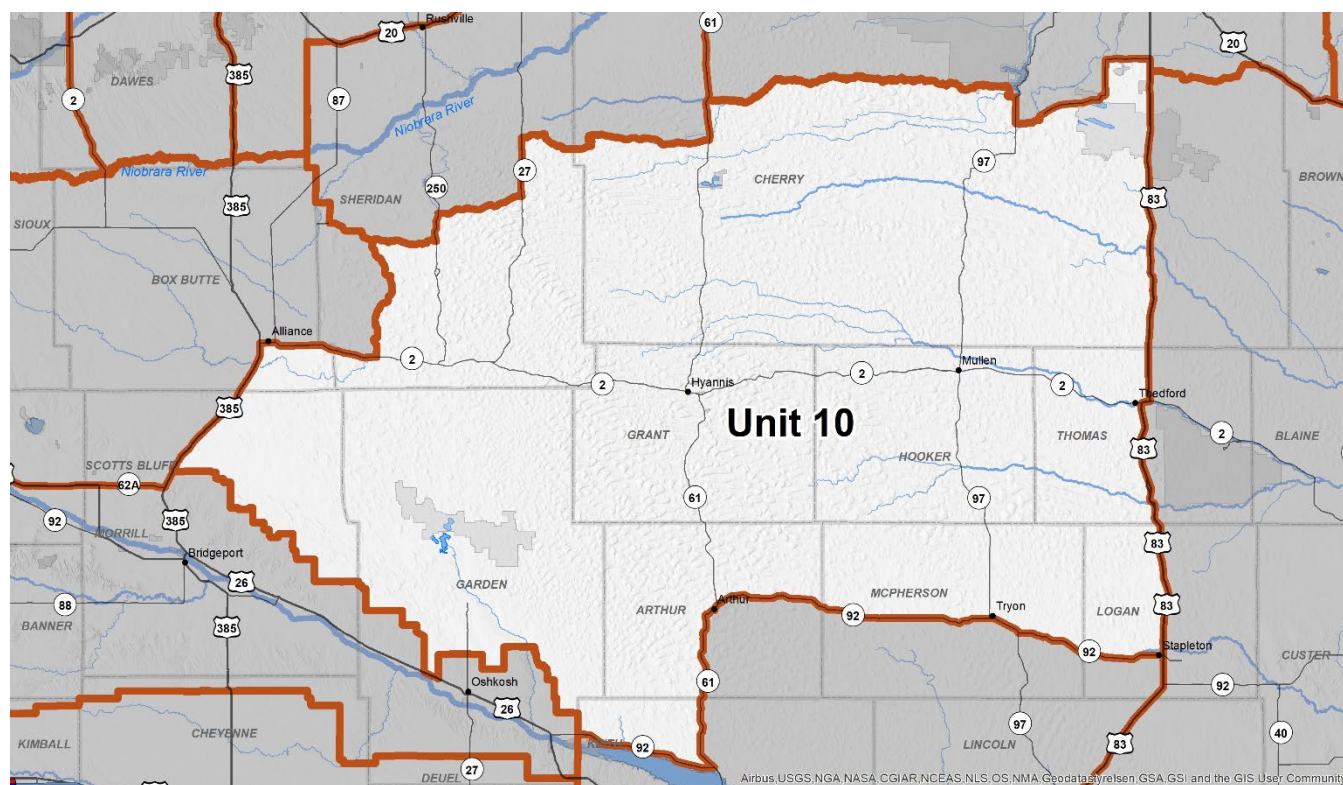
Unit 10 Bull Permits: 4 General Either Sex and 3 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 10 Antlerless Permits: 35 General Antlerless and 26 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. Observations of elk in the area where the only known herd is located date back to 2000. This herd is believed to have expanded to nearly 200 elk according to landowners in the area. No formal surveys have taken place. Harvest has been relatively limited. Hunter success will vary depending on access as a small number of landowners, owning large ranches control most of the access of areas with consistent elk use. Landowner tolerance in this area is good but population growth in this area will reduce that rapidly. Expansion of elk through the sandhills is possible and likely. Movement of elk does need to be monitored in-between units 4 and 9 in future years.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to reduce the population in the known herd and have the opportunity to hunt quality bulls. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 11

2023 Recommendations:

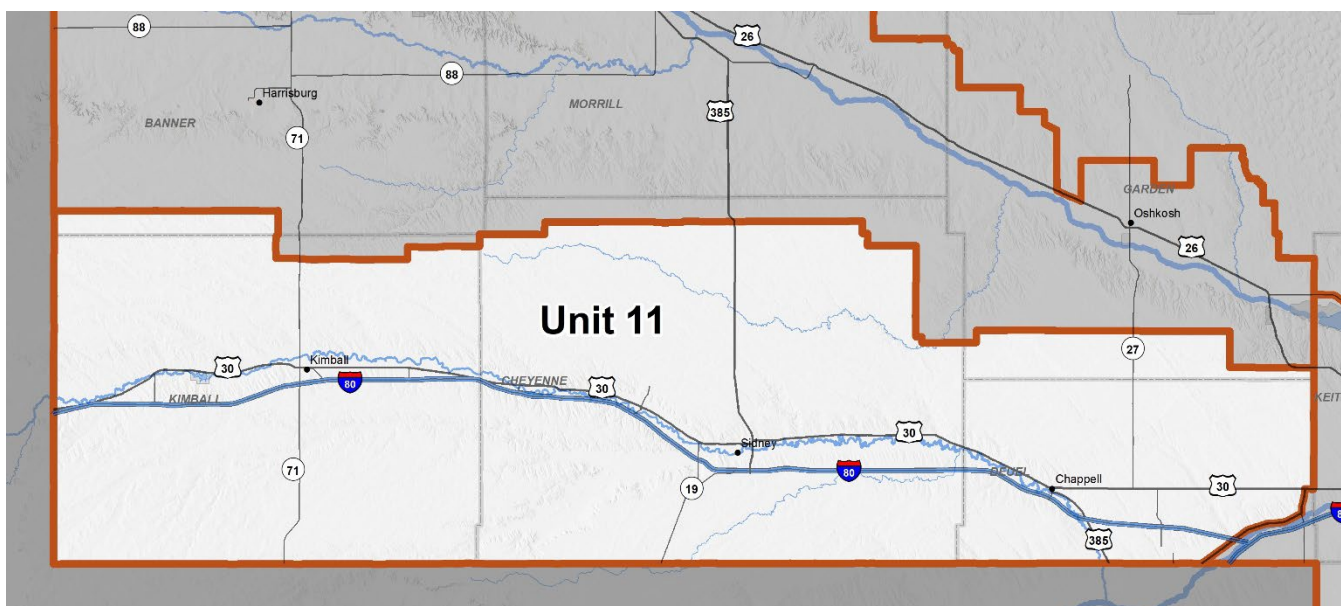
Unit 11 Bull Permits: 3 General Either Sex and 2 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 11 Antlerless Permits: 10 General Antlerless and 7 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. This unit consists of few elk and most use appears to be seasonal. Two areas of this unit do get observations through the year but very sporadically. Areas of this unit that are near traditional elk habitat in unit 4 are crop ground and landowner tolerance is low. Movement and bull harvest in units 4 and 11 will need to be monitored. Hunter success is expected to be low.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to address depredation complaints with antlerless permits and have the opportunity to hunt bulls in this unit. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 12

2023 Recommendations:

Unit 12 Bull Permits: 4 General Either Sex and 3 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 12 Antlerless Permits: 16 General Antlerless and 12 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. Population estimate of 15-25 elk. In 2022, hunters killed one bull and five cows during the regular season and four bulls and three cows during the Special Depredation Season. Landowner meetings were held in Paxton on December 14, 2021. Landowner support for elk in this unit is mixed but most wanted less elk. The habitat in most of this unit consists of crop fields and elk damage is inevitable. Hunter success is expected to be low.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Most landowners in this unit wanted less elk, so our strategy is to reduce this population. Our model would indicate a 50% reduction from 2021, but elk may be immigrating and emigrating in and out of this unit from other units. Depredation issues have decreased but continued pressure in this unit is the goal to lessen future depredation issues. We will keep working with landowners in this unit to decrease elk populations and damage. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 13

2023 Recommendations:

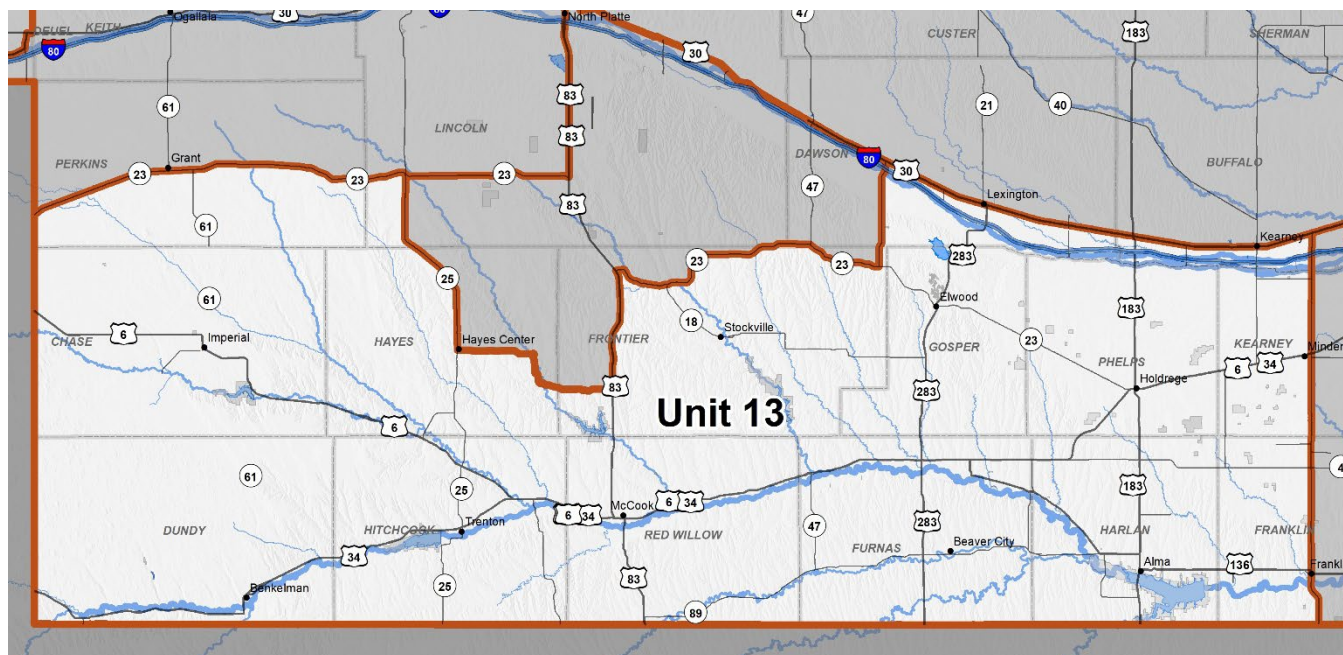
Unit 13 Bull Permits: 3 General Either Sex and 2 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 13 Antlerless Permits: 6 General Antlerless and 4 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. In 2022, three cows were harvested during the general season and one bull with a Depredation Control Permit. Landowner and sportsmen support for elk in most parts of this unit is high, however depredation issues have caused support to wane in some areas. Hunter success is expected to be low.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Population estimate of 80 elk. Dundy-30, Furnas-20, Hitchcock-5, Perkins-15, Harlan-15; Landowner reports, staff observations and harvest data of elk indicate an increasing and expanding population. Most landowners and sportsman in this unit support elk in this unit but staff want to focus hunters in areas that have depredation issues and maintain or allow slow growth. Where elk and corn production overlap are primary sources of depredation issues. We will keep working with landowners in those areas to decrease elk populations and damage. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 14

2023 Recommendations:

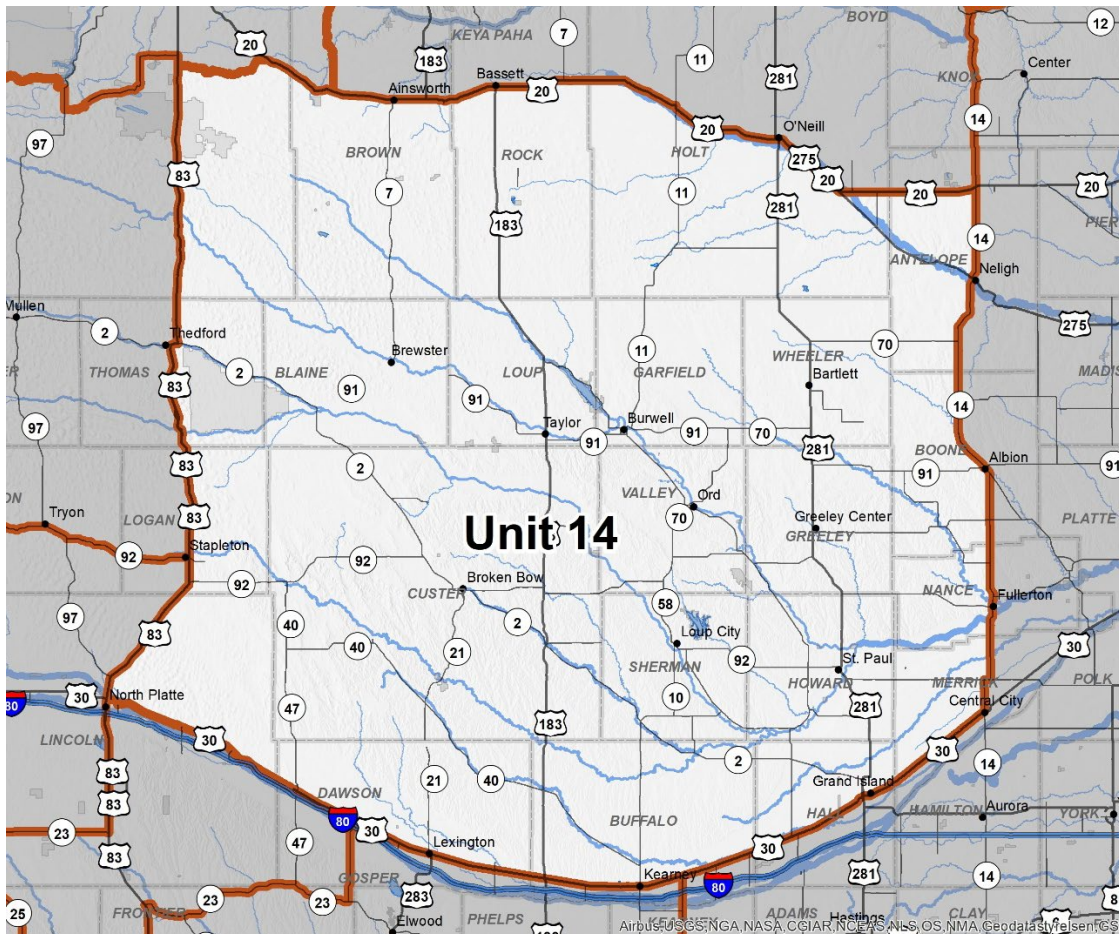
Unit 14 Bull Permits: 5 General Either Sex and 3 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits

Unit 14 Antlerless Permits: 16 General Antlerless and 12 Limited Landowner Antlerless

General Information: New unit for 2023. Some areas of this unit are getting consistent elk use throughout the year but seasonal elk use has increased over recent years. Harvest has been happening in areas of this unit fairly consistently in recent years. There have been bulls harvested near Taylor in each of the past 2 years. Landowner tolerance is variable but could be problematic in any areas with crops. Hunter success will vary depending on access and could be low.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Objectives are to address depredation complaints with antlerless permits and have the opportunity to hunt bulls in this unit. Depredation complaints will be summarized by the new unit boundaries in future years.

Unit Map:



UNIT 15

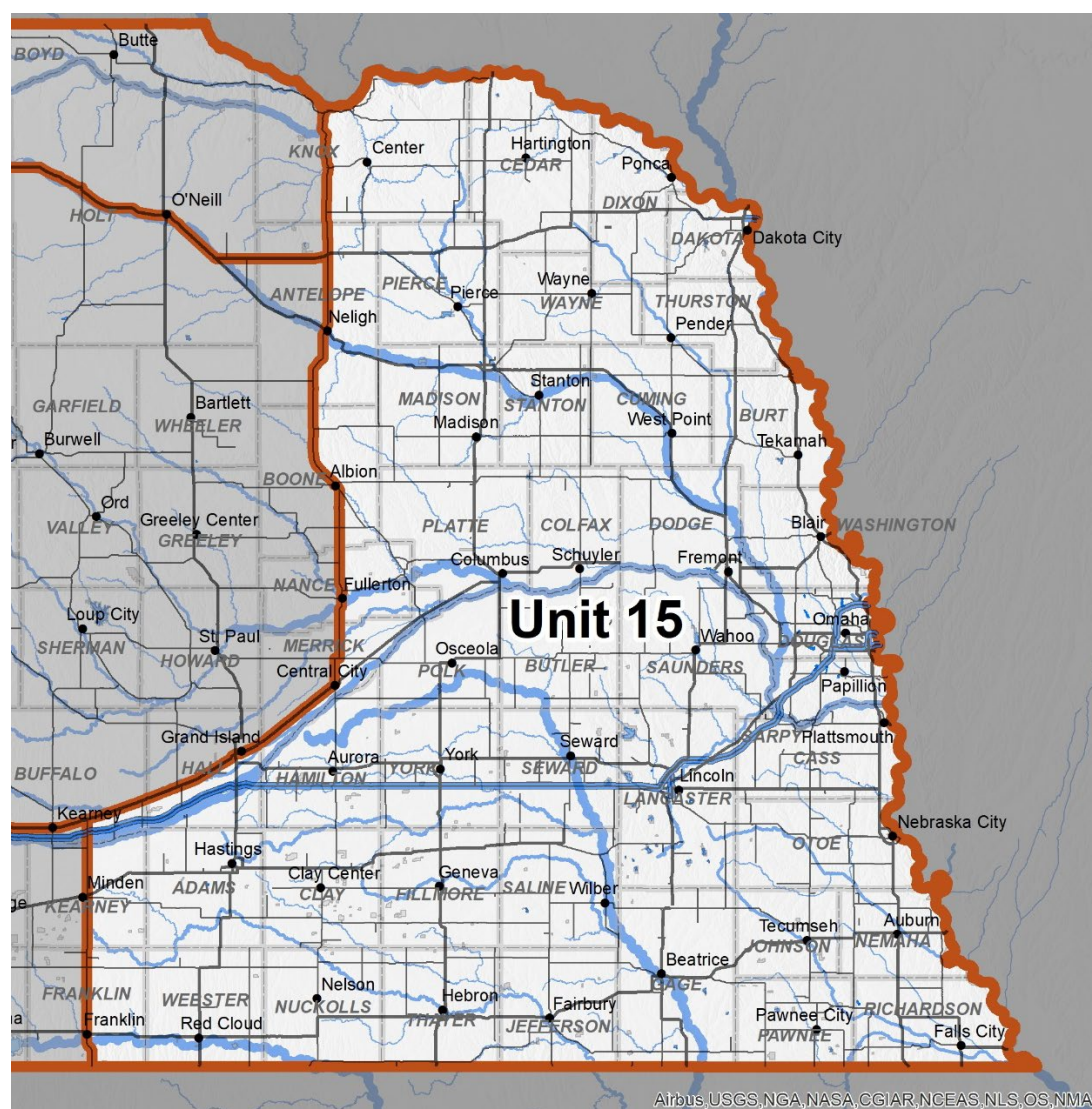
2023 Recommendations:

No permit quota for this unit

General Information: New unit for 2023. Elk use is sporadic in eastern Nebraska. However, we receive multiple reports of bulls in eastern Nebraska each year, with increasing reports of cows over the years. While there is public desire to see elk expand into eastern Nebraska, there is very little elk habitat where elk would be successful.

Population Status and Harvest Strategy: Due to the sporadic elk use in this unit, management unit boundaries have been described so that Unit 15 is included within the boundaries of Units 1-14. This will allow all permits from those units to also be valid in 15. The intent is to allow elk harvest in Unit 15 without setting permit quotas. This will provide opportunity to hunt elk in eastern Nebraska while reducing elk conflict issues.

Unit Map:



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