

# 2024 BIG GAME RECOMMENDATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Big Game Recommendations is to summarize the staff recommendations for antelope, deer and elk permit quotas, bag limits and unit boundaries. Inputs such as harvest data, biological data and stakeholder desires that are primarily used in those decisions are included, where applicable. For the sake of space and useability, it is not a comprehensive document and other details may be referenced but not included.

Recommendations for big game seasons are developed under the following objective:

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

This Big Game Recommendations is not a rulebook, the rules guiding our seasons are set in Statutes, Regulations and Orders. Commission Order C03 Antelope, Deer and Elk is the set of orders that contains the unit descriptions, permit quotas and bag limits that these staff recommendations are focused on.

**Decision making process:** The Management Section of the NGPC's Wildlife Division is charged with creating staff recommendations for big game each year. Many sources of input are considered during this long process. The sources of input and process in which staff recommendations are developed are outlined below.

**Sources of Input:** Each of the following are sources of input that are considered in this process. These are listed in no particular order and may be prioritized situationally.

1. Harvest Data
  - a. This data is facilitated by our mandatory harvest reporting requirement.
  - b. Other hunter survey data.
2. Biological Data
  - a. Herd composition data (age and sex ratios)
  - b. Population trends, estimates or models
  - c. Survival data (when available)
  - d. Disease data (when applicable)
  - e. Other data as needed.
3. Agency Staff
  - a. Staff from all divisions are welcome to provide input, typically coordinated by Management Section District Managers.
4. Stakeholders: Stakeholder input is considered at each step of the process below.
  - a. Hunters
  - b. Landowners
  - c. General public
5. Public Meetings
  - a. Winter big game meetings (December or January)
  - b. Landowner meetings (as scheduled or necessary)
  - c. Commission meetings
6. Other pertinent information.

**Staff Recommendation Development Process:** Sources of Input are considered at each step below and recommendations may be adjusted at any point in this process. The process flows down the outline.

1. Management Section District Managers (DM) work with local staff to compile and complete staff recommendations for each permit within their district.
  - a. DM's often work closely with District Biologists and Program Managers in this step.
  - b. DM's consolidate recommendations to present to Management Council
2. Management Council Meeting
  - a. Staff recommendations are discussed over the course of a several day meeting, typically in late January or early February. However, many subjects are discussed at other meetings throughout the year.
  - b. Management Council is made up of:
    - i. Wildlife Division Administration
    - ii. Program Managers
    - iii. Management Section District Managers
      1. One Management Section Biologist from each District
    - iv. One Partners Section District Manager
    - v. Law Enforcement Representative(s)
    - vi. Permits Section Representative
    - vii. Additional staff as needed.
  - c. Staff Recommendations that result from Management Council are advanced to the next step.
3. Wildlife Administration and Big Game Program Manager (BGPM) Review
  - a. Staff Recommendations that were advanced from Management Council are reviewed for advancement to NGPC Administration
4. NGPC Administration Review
  - a. Wildlife Administration and BGPM meet with NGPC Administration to discuss staff recommendations for approval to advance to the Commission.
5. Commission Review
  - a. Commissioners are briefed on staff recommendations.
6. Commission Approval
  - a. Commission Order C03 Antelope, Deer and Elk with staff recommendations included is made public in accordance with The Administrative Procedures Act ahead of the April Commission meeting.
  - b. The Recommendations Book is given to each Commissioner and is publicly available.
  - c. Public input on recommended changes is sought through this process.
  - d. Staff recommendations to C03 are considered and voted on by the Commission.
  - e. Orders are effective 15 days after posting on the agency website following passage by the Commission.

# PRONGHORN

## INTRODUCTION

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. Of the available landowner permits only 53% of the October Firearm and 25% of the Late Doe/Fawn permits sold.

Total pronghorn harvest was 850 in 2023, with 625 bucks and 225 does and fawns taken. Populations had been stable and increasing from 2010-20 and allowed hunters to harvest between 700-900 bucks. Pronghorn populations have declined significantly over the last 3 years, due to increased harvest, drought and a major EHD event in 2021.

Compared to 2020 harvest (highest in recent history) levels, buck harvest has declined 31% and doe harvest has been reduced 45%. Success rates have declined over the past 3 years as populations have declined.

Of the 2,697 permits issued in 2023, 45% of the buyers were archers, 50% were rifle hunters and 5% were muzzleloaders. Harvest by weapon type was 73% firearm, 10% bow, 11% muzzleloader, and 6% crossbow.

Archery permits are unlimited for residents and permit sales continue to be high but have declined almost 20% since the peak in 2020. The nonresident limit of 250 successfully limited and mitigated the spike in NR archery harvest and pressure, which had increased until the quota was limited in 2021. In 2023, NR archers made up 21% of the archery permit sales and 9% of overall pronghorn permit sales. The relatively low success rate of archers at 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 or increase populations in all units.
2. Provide adequate doe permits in all units (except Eastern Sandhills) to handle depredation complaints.

## Recommendations for 2024 include:

- Banner North – Remove 20 General (Gen) Either Sex (ES)
- Banner South – Remove 30 Gen ES and 20 Gen Doe/Fawn (D/F)
- Box Butte West – Remove 10 Gen ES and 25 Gen D/F
- Cherry – Remove 10 Gen ES
- Cheyenne – Remove 10 Gen ES and 30 Gen D/F
- Dismal – Remove 10 Gen ES
- Garden – Remove 10 Gen ES and 30 Gen D/F
- Prairie Muzzleloader – Remove 25 ES permits according to protocol (25% of FA)
- Corresponding Landowner permit changes with each change above.

Summary: Remove 125 Gen ES permits and 105 Gen D/F permits.

Overall, 2024 Recommendations result in 219 fewer ES permits and 184 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, 2024  
 Muzzleloader: September 21 through October 5, 2024  
 October Firearm: October 12 through October 27, 2024  
 Late Doe/Fawn: November 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025

<u>2024 Season Recommendations</u>				<u>2023 Season Results</u>									
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Gen<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>LO<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Type<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Auth</u>		<u>Sold</u>		<u>Type<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Harvest</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
				<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO<sup>1</sup></u>		<u>B</u>	<u>D/F</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Age 1.5</u>	
Banner North	50	37	ES	70	52	70	31	ES	44	4	48%	16%	
Banner South	60	45	ES	90	67	90	26	ES	59	6	56%	7%	
Box Butte East	20	15	ES	20	15	20	13	ES	21	1	67%	10%	
Box Butte West	50	37	ES	60	45	60	26	ES	49	5	63%	8%	
Cherry	60	45	ES	70	52	70	26	ES	50	9	61%	16%	
Cheyenne	30	22	ES	40	30	40	16	ES	31	2	59%	23%	
Dismal	30	22	ES	40	30	40	22	ES	34	4	61%	0%	
Eastern Sandhills	20	15	ES	20	15	20	9	ES	6	1	24%	33%	
Garden	40	30	ES	50	37	50	21	ES	48	5	75%	2%	
North Sioux	100	75	ES	100	75	100	33	ES	75	9	63%	15%	
<b>All Oct Firearm</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>343</b>		<b>560</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>223</b>		<b>417</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>11%</b>	
Banner North Late	30	22	D/F	30	22	30	12	D/F	0	9	21%	-	
Banner South Late	60	45	D/F	80	60	80	14	D/F	1	29	32%	-	
Box Butte East Late	30	22	D/F	30	22	31	8	D/F	0	14	36%	-	
Box Butte West Late	50	37	D/F	75	56	76	9	D/F	1	29	35%	-	
Cherry Late	30	22	D/F	30	22	30	10	D/F	0	14	35%	-	
Cheyenne Late	30	22	D/F	60	45	60	12	D/F	1	14	21%	-	
Dismal Late	10	7	D/F	10	7	10	3	D/F	1	3	31%	-	
Garden Late	40	30	D/F	70	52	70	15	D/F	1	27	33%	-	
North Sioux Late	80	60	D/F	80	60	81	5	D/F	0	19	22%	-	
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>267</b>		<b>465</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>88</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>29%</b>		
North Sioux MZ	25	18	ES	25	18	25	0	ES	14	2	64%	36%	
Prairie MZ	90	67	ES	115	86	115	7	ES	71	1	59%	15%	
<b>MZ Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>85</b>		<b>140</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>19%</b>	
<b>Firearm and MZ Total</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>695</b>		<b>1165</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>1168</b>	<b>318</b>		<b>506</b>	<b>181</b>			
	<b>1630</b>			<b>2033</b>		<b>1486</b>							
Multi-Species	3			3		3		ES	0	0	-	-	
Archery (SW, LO, Y)	UNL/ 250 NR	UNL	ES	UNL/250NR		961/250NR 1212 Total		ES	118	18	11%	20%	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>3245</b>		<b>2698</b>			<b>625</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>16%</b>	

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

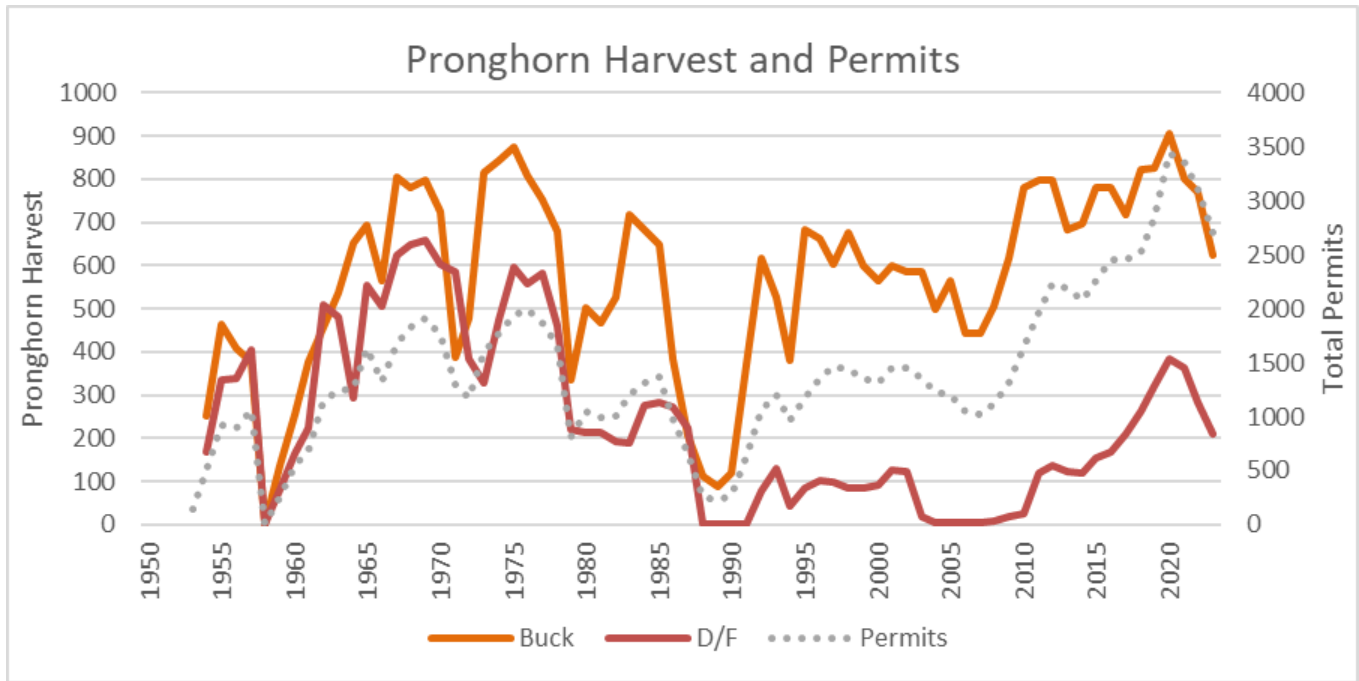
<sup>2</sup>Permit Type: ES --- Either Sex    D/F --- Doe Fawn

# HISTORIC PRONGHORN HARVEST

## Pronghorn Permits and Harvest 2004-2023

YEAR	PERMITS				HARVEST		
	Firearm	MZ	Total Archery	Nonresident Archery	Bucks	D/F	% Bucks Age 1
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%
2023	1338	147	1212	250	625	209	16%

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



# 2024 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

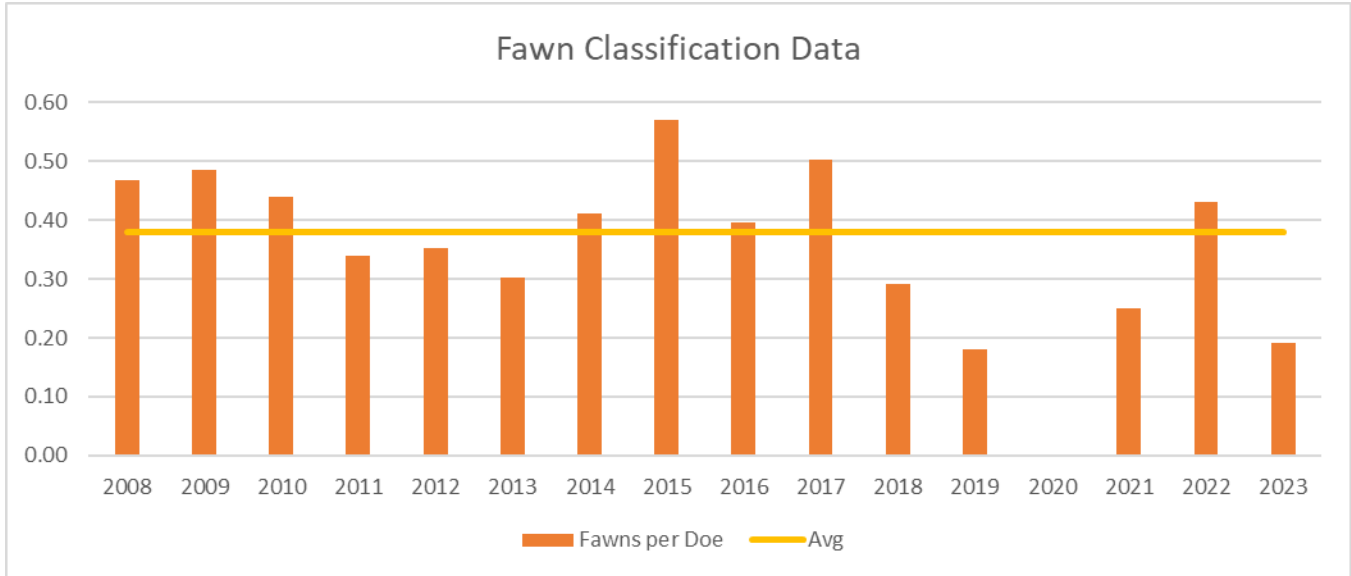
# 2024 PRONGHORN MUZZLELOADER



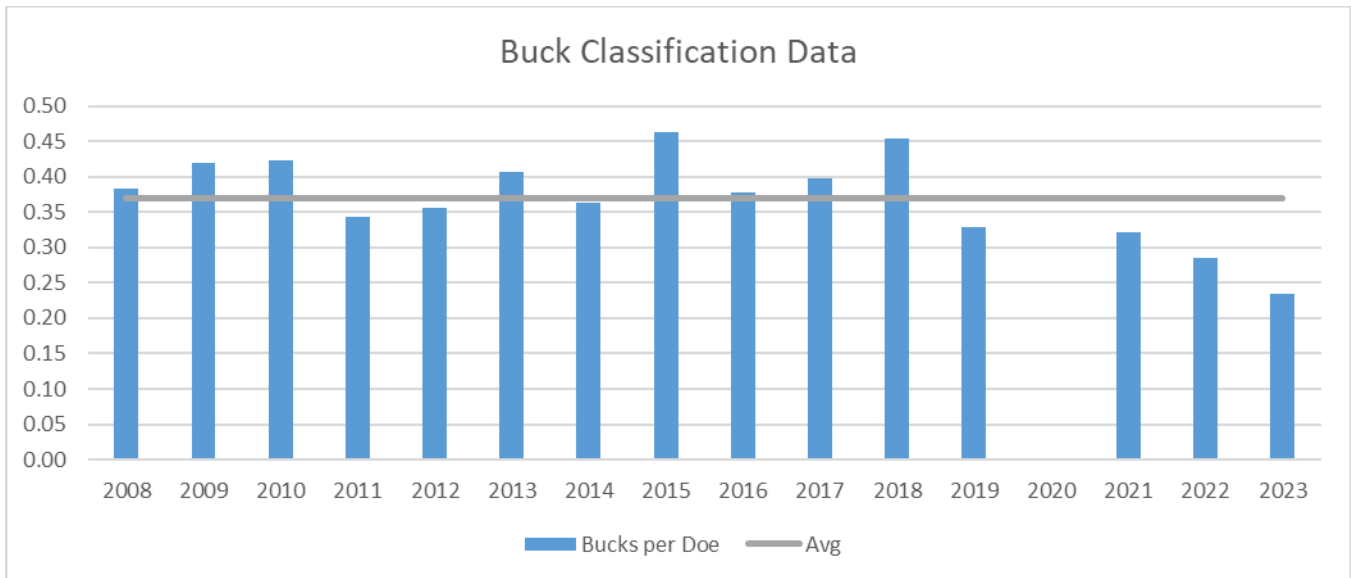


# STATEWIDE PRONGHORN SURVEY RESULTS

The pronghorn fawn ratio has been below average 4 of the last 5 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. Annual buck survival of 0.53 from the UNL research project corroborates this.



## **BANNER NORTH MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**2024 Recommendations:** 50 Either Sex and 37 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 35 permits from 2023.

**Banner North Late:** 30 Doe/Fawn only and 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for firearm season was 47% in 2023 compared to 58% in 2022. Success on late season doe/fawn was 14%, same as in 2022.

Depredation complaints: 1

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The August aerial survey was not completed in 2023. 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, 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.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	70	39	1	40	57%	-	15%	98%
LO Oct Firearm	31	5	3	8	23%	3%	20%	63%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>92%</b>
Gen Late D/F	30	0	9	9	30%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	12	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
Archery	-	3	0	3	-	-	0%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	5	0	5	-	-	20%	100%
Auction/Lottery	-	0	0	0			-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>80%</b>

## 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
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%
2023	52	13	65	15%	80%	20%	6%	10%	85%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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 (21)	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F (10)	1		23	16
2024*	Gen 50 ES LO 37 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F				

\* 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 45 bucks and 15 doe/fawn.

## **BANNER SOUTH MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**2024 Recommendations:** 60 Either Sex and 45 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 52 permits from 2023.

**Banner South Late:** 60 Doe/Fawn Only and 45 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. Reduction of 35 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for the firearm season was 53% compared to 73% in 2022. Late season success was 31%, compared to 24% in 2022.

Depredation complaints: 0

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The August aerial survey was not completed in 2023. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021.

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

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	90	53	2	55	61%	-	4%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	26	6	4	10	27%	12%	33%	60%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>91%</b>
Gen Late D/F	80	1	28	29	36%	-	-	3%
LO Late D/F	13	-	1	1	8%	0%	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3%</b>
Archery	-	10	1	11	-	-	10%	91%
Muzzleloader	-	16	0	16	-	-	19%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>70%</b>

## 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
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%
2023	86	36	122	10%	70%	30%	19%	13%	68%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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 (41)	BS Gen 80 1D/F BS LO 60 2D/F (47)	0		8	20
2024*	Gen 60 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F	BS Gen 60 1D/F BS LO 45 2D/F				

\* 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:** 75 Bucks and 30 Does and Fawns

## **BOX BUTTE EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**2024 Recommendations:** 20 Either Sex and 15 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2023.

**Box Butte East Late:** 30 Doe/Fawn only and 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for firearm season was 67% compared to 37% in 2022. Late season success was 33%, compared to 15% in 2022. 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 completed in 2023 and indicates an increased population. Survey methodology has recently changed. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021.

The objectives are to: 1) Increase current population levels, 2) maintain hunter success, 3) maintain 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 reached desirable levels and percentage of yearling bucks did is also at desired levels. Maintaining October firearm permits is recommended to meet Objectives 1,2, and 3. Recommendation to maintain doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to meet objective 4 but allow for an increase in population to meet objective 1.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	20	18	0	18	90%	-	6%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	13	3	1	4	31%	0%	33%	75%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Gen Late D/F	31	0	14	14	45%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	8	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
Archery	-	3	1	4	-	-	67%	75%
Muzzleloader	-	3	0	3	-	-	67%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>63%</b>

## 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
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%
2023	27	16	43	22%	63%	37%	11%	11%	78%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (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 (2)	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F (14)	1	-	23	30
2024*	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F				

\* 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 15 Does and Fawns

## **BOX BUTTE WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**2024 Recommendations:** 50 firearm Either Sex and 37 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 18 permits from 2023.

**Box Butte West Late:** 50 Doe/Fawn Only and 37 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn Only. Reduction of 44 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for firearm season was 59% compared to 66% in 2022. Late season success was 24%, compared to 40% in 2022. 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: 3

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The August aerial survey was completed in 2023. It shows a sharp decline in population from our 2021 estimate. Survey methodology has recently changed and 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 good while percent yearling buck in the harvest continues to meet objectives. Reducing October firearm tags is recommended to meet objective 1 and 3. Recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will still allow ample permits to meet objective 2 but allow for an increase in population to meet objective 1.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	60	40	2	42	70%	-	9%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	26	9	3	12	35%	12%	0%	75%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>91%</b>
Gen Late D/F	76	1	29	30	39%	-	-	3%
LO Late D/F	9	0	0	0	0%	0%	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3%</b>
Archery	-	15	4	19	-	-	40%	79%
Muzzleloader	-	16	0	16	-	-	13%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>68%</b>



## 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
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%
2023	81	38	119	16%	68%	32%	19%	20%	62%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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 60 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F	Gen 120 1D/F LO 90 2D/F (77)	1	Not completed		
2023	Gen 60 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F (19)	Gen 75 1D/F LO 56 2D/F (47)	3	1125	9	18
2024*	Gen 50 ES LO 37 ES, 1D/F	Gen 50 1D/F LO 37 2D/F				

\* Recommended permits

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

ES – Either Sex                      D/F – Doe/Fawn

**Expected Harvest:** 70 Bucks and 30 Does and Fawns

## CHERRY MANAGEMENT UNIT

**2024 Recommendations:** 60 firearm Either Sex permits with 45 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) Either Sex permits. Reduction of 17 permits from 2023.

**Cherry Late:** 30 Doe/Fawn permits with 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for firearm season was 57% compared to 47% in 2022. Late season success was 28%, compared to 11% in 2022. 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: 4, DCP: 3

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** August aerial survey was completed in 2023 and shows a slight increase in population from 2021 but continues to trend down since 2010. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021. Depredation complaints were due to the severe winter.

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.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	70	41	3	44	63%	-	10%	93%
LO Oct Firearm	26	9	6	15	42%	15%	33%	60%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>85%</b>
Gen Late D/F	30	0	11	11	37%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	10	0	3	3	20%	10%	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
Archery	-	11	0	11	-	-	18%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	3	0	3	-	-	0%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>74%</b>

**Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:**

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
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%
2023	64	23	87	16%	74%	26%	17%	5%	78%

**Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:**

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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 (26)	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F (12)	4 (3)	997	17	29
2024*	Gen 60 ES LO 45 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 2D/F				

\* 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 20 Does and Fawns

## CHEYENNE MANAGEMENT UNIT

**2024 Recommendations:** 30 firearm Either Sex and 22 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 18 permits from 2023.

**Cheyenne Late:** 30 Doe/Fawn and 22 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Reduction of 53 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for firearm season was 57% compared to 63% last year. Late success was 19% compared to 23% last year.

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 or slightly increase the population, 2) maintain hunter success and buck quality, and 3) address depredation issues through late season doe/fawn permits. It is recommended to reduce the current October firearm permit quota to meet objective 3. Reducing late doe/fawn permit quotas is recommended to meet objectives 1 and 3.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	25	1	26	65%	-	28%	96%
LO Oct Firearm	16	6	1	7	38%	6%	0%	86%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>94%</b>
Gen Late D/F	60	1	13	14	23%	-	-	7%
LO Late D/F	12	0	1	1	8%	0%	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
Archery	-	8	1	9	-	-	38%	89%
Muzzleloader	-	9	1	10	-	-	0%	90%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>73%</b>

## 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
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%
2023	49	18	67	22%	73%	27%	16%	18%	65%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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)	0	Not completed		
2023	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1D/F (14)	Gen 60 1D/F LO 45 1D/F, 1D/F (33)	1		13	10
2024*	Gen 30 ES LO 22 ES, 1D/F	Gen 30 1D/F LO 22 1D/F, 1D/F				

\* 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:** 40 Bucks and 15 Does and Fawns

## **DISMAL MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**2024 Recommendations:** 30 firearm Either Sex and 22 Landowner permits (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn). Reduction of 18 permits from 2023.

**Dismal Late:** 10 Doe/Fawn only permits and 7 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn permits. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for the Either Sex firearm season was 58%, compared to 44% last year. Late season success was 15% compared to 17% last year. Depredation complaints: 1

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Hunter harvest success may seldom reach 75% since 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 decreasing in the Dismal Unit. Buck harvest has declined 36% in the last three years using this same permit structure.

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 slightly increase this herd. The Late D/F will continue providing a tool for landowners to deal with any depredation issues, which has been minimal.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	40	26	2	28	70%	-	0%	93%
LO Oct Firearm	22	8	2	10	36%	9%	0%	80%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>90%</b>
Gen Late D/F	10	1	1	2	20%	-	-	50%
LO Late D/F	3	0	2	2	33%	33%	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25%</b>
Archery	-	9	1	10	-	-	22%	90%
Muzzleloader	-	6	0	6	-	-	17%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>86%</b>

**Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:**

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
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%
2023	50	8	58	8%	86%	14%	18%	12%	70%

**Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:**

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2019	Gen 36 ES /F LO 18 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 20 1D/F LO 10 1D/F (8)	0	Unit not surveyed.		
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	1			
2022	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 10 1D/F LO 7 2D/F	1			
2023	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES, 1 D/F (8)	Gen 10 1D/F LO 7 2D/F (4)	1			
2024*	Gen 30 ES LO 22 ES, 1 D/F	Gen 10 1D/F LO 7 2D/F				

\* 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:** 35 Bucks and 5 Does and Fawns

## EAST SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

**2024 Recommendations:** 20 firearm Either Sex permits and 15 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2023.

**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 20%, compared to 37% 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.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	20	4	0	4	20%	-	25%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	9	2	1	3	33%	0%	0%	67%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>86%</b>
Archery	-	6	0	6	-	-	17%	100%
Muzzleloader	-	4	0	4	-	-	0%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>94%</b>



## 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
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%
2023	16	1	17	19%	94%	6%	38%	25%	38%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
2019	Gen 20 ES LO 10 ES, 1D/F		0	Unit not surveyed		
2020	Gen 20 ES LO 10 ES, 1D/F		0			
2021	Gen 20 ES LO 10 ES, 1D/F		1			
2022	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F		0			
2023	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F (6)		0			
2024*	Gen 20 ES LO 15 ES, 1D/F					

\* 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:** 15 Bucks and 5 Does and Fawns

## GARDEN MANAGEMENT UNIT

**2024 Recommendations:** 40 firearm Either Sex and 30 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. Reduction of 17 permits from 2023..

**Garden Late:** 40 Doe/Fawn and 30 Landowner 2 Doe/Fawn only. Reduction of 52 general permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Firearm hunter success was 72%, compared to 60% in 2022. Garden Late success was 19% compared to 31% in 2022.

Depredation complaints: 0

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The August aerial survey was not completed in 2023. 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. Reducing October firearm permits is recommended to meet objective 3. The recommendation to reduce doe/fawn tags will help meet objectives 1 and 3.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	50	40	0	40	80%	-	3%	100%
LO Oct Firearm	21	8	4	12	57%	5%	0%	62%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>91%</b>
Gen Late D/F	70	1	20	21	30%	-	-	5%
LO Late D/F	14	0	7	7	36%	14%	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4%</b>
Archery	-	9	1	10	-	-	17%	80%
Muzzleloader	-	3	0	3	-	-	0%	100%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>65%</b>

## 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
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%
2023	61	33	94	5%	65%	35%	15%	5%	80%

### Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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)	1	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 (16)	Gen 70 1D/F LO 52 2D/F (38)	0		20	34
2024*	Gen 40 ES LO 30 ES 1D/F	Gen 40 1D/F LO 30 2D/F				

<sup>1</sup>Total 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:** 50 Bucks and 20 Does and Fawns

## **NORTH SIOUX MANAGEMENT UNIT**

**2024 Recommendations:** 100 firearm Either Sex and 75 Landowner (1 Either Sex, 1 Doe/Fawn) permits. No change from 2023.

**North Sioux Late:** 80 Doe/Fawn only and 60 Landowner Doe/Fawn only permits. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for firearm season was 62% compared to 68% in 2022. Late doe/fawn success was 17% compared to 23% in 2022. 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 harvest is within desirable levels this year.

Depredation complaints: 1

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The August aerial survey was completed in 2023. Survey indicates a rebounding population. An EHD outbreak occurred in the fall of 2021.

The objectives are to: 1) maintain the current population, 2) maintain 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.

### **2023 Harvest by Permit**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			1 <sup>st</sup> Tag Success	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tag Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total				
Gen Oct Firearm	100	63	7	70	70%	-	16%	90%
LO Oct Firearm	33	12	2	14	36%	6%	8%	86%
<b>Total Oct Firearm</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>89%</b>
Gen Late D/F	81	0	19	19	23%	-	-	0%
LO Late D/F	6	0	0	0	0%	-	-	0%
<b>Total Late D/F</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>
Archery	-	44	9	53	-	-	34%	83%
Muzzleloader	-	14	2	16	-	-	36%	88%
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>77%</b>

**Management Unit Harvest Comparisons:**

Year	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck	% D/F	% Buck Harvest		
	Bucks	D/F	Total				Archery	MZ	Rifle
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%
2023	134	39	173	23%	77%	23%	33%	10%	57%

**Total Permits Authorized and Survey Data:**

Year	Oct FA <sup>1</sup> (unsold)	Late Doe/Fawn (unsold)	Depredation Complaints	Surveys**		
				Pop Est	F:100D	B:100D
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)	2	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 (42)	Gen 80 1D/F LO 60 2D/F (54)	1		32	34
2024*	Gen 100 ES LO 75 ES, 1D/F	Gen 80 1D/F LO 60 2D/F				

<sup>1</sup>Total 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**

**2024 Recommendations:** 25 General Either Sex and 18 Limited Landowner. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 64% compared to 68% 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.

**2023 Harvest:**

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen NS MZ	25	14	1	15	64%	36%	88%
LO NS MZ	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
<b>Total NS MZ</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>88%</b>

**Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:**

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
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 (18)	ES	64%	14	1	15	36%	88%
2024*	25	18	ES						

\* Recommended permits  
ES – Either Sex

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest in the muzzleloader season is 15 bucks and 2 does.

## PRAIRIE MUZZLELOADER

**2024 Recommendations:** 90 Either Sex and 67 Landowner Either Sex permits. This is a decrease of 44 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Hunter success for muzzleloader season was 58% compared to 62% 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.

### 2023 Harvest:

Permit	Permits Sold	Harvest			Success	% Age 1.5	% Ad Buck
		Bucks	D/F	Total			
Gen Prairie MZ	115	66	1	67	64%	14%	98%
LO Prairie MZ	7	5	0	5	71%	40%	100%
<b>Total Prairie MZ</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>99%</b>

### Harvest comparisons for Muzzleloader seasons:

Year	Permits Authorized (unsold)		Type	Success	Harvest			% Age 1.5	% AD Buck
	Gen	Landowner			Bucks	D/F	Total		
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 (79)	ES	59%	71	1	72	15%	99%
2024*	90	67	ES						

\* Recommended permits

### Harvest Distribution:

Unit	Harvest
Banner North	5
Banner South	16
Box Butte East	3
Box Butte West	16
Cherry	3
Cheyenne	10
Dismal	6
Eastern Sandhills	4
Garden	3
Southwest	5

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 60 adult bucks and 2 doe/fawn.

## ARCHERY PRONGHORN

### 2024 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 11% compared to 16% in 2022, with 182 pronghorn taken by 1212 permit holders. The use of crossbows has been slowly increasing in past years but has stabilized at 30-35% of archery harvest.

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

Expected Harvest: 250 pronghorn.

### Archery permits, harvest and success

Year	Permits Issued	# Non Residents	Harvest			% Success	% Age 1.5	% Xbow
			Buck	Doe/Fawn	Total			
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%
2023	1212	250	118	18	136	11%	28%	35%

### Harvest Distribution

Unit	Harvest	Unit	Harvest
Banner North	3	Dismal	10
Banner South	11	Eastern Sandhills	6
Box Butte East	4	Garden	10
Box Butte West	19	North Sioux	53
Cherry	11	Southwest	0
Cheyenne	9		



# DEER

## INTRODUCTION

Overall, 2023 was another down year for deer harvest, down 17% statewide from last year and down 34% from 2020. Mule Deer buck harvest in 2023 was the lowest since 1977 and whitetail buck harvest the lowest since 1994. Buck success (bucks harvested per buck permit) has declined from 0.37 in 2019 to 0.27 in 2023. The overall permit success rate of 32.8% is the lowest success rate in our history. 2021 and 2022 rank 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to last respectively. Declines in deer populations can largely be attributed to drought (EHD and other mortality factors) and increased antlerless harvest since 2019.

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 nearly the entire state. Our recommendations address these population declines and changes in social desires for deer numbers. Depredation complaints along major river corridors continue the need for moderate levels of antlerless harvest in those areas. However, the need for an excess of antlerless permits on the landscape has significantly diminished. 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. This decline in buck harvest and populations has been much faster than anticipated and further than planned. 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, correlating with drought. Recent research showed poorer than expected adult doe and fawn survival for mule deer in the southwest and northwest. Adult doe survival was about 0.67 for both areas and fawn survival was 0.11 in the southwest and 0.26 in the northwest. Expected ranges were around 85% for adult does and 0.40-0.50 for fawns. We recommend decreasing many MD permit quotas and limiting hunters to one unit permit that allows the harvest of a MD buck in all 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:* Increase populations in most units while allowing moderate permit levels to address any depredation. Stabilize populations in Keya Paha, Loup East, Plains, and Sandhills.

<u>Summary</u>	<u>Change from 2023</u>	<u>Historic Rank</u>
Total Deer Harvest	Down 16.6% to 39,779	#30 (of 75)
Deer Permit Sales	Down 6.1% to 121,157	#19
Nonresident Permit Sales	Down 18.8% to 16,148	#9
Whitetail Buck Harvest	Down 5.8% to 22,055	#29
Whitetail Antlerless Harvest	Down 27.0% to 12,324	#27
Mule Deer Buck Harvest	Down 21.4% to 4,635	#59
Mule Deer Antlerless Harvest	Down 71.4% to 765	#68

## 2024 RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

**November Firearm Permits** – Reduce 5,250, 36,700 total Nov FA from 41,950 in 2023 (-13%)

- Blue NW – Reduce 200
- Blue SE – Reduce 200
- Buffalo MDCA – Reduce 200, NR quota to 15%.
- Buffalo WT – Reduce 600
- Calamus East – Reduce 200
- Calamus West – Reduce 200, remove both bonus tags, limit one permit per person.
- Frenchman MDCA – Reduce by 200, remove bonus tag.
- Frenchman WT – Reduce 200
- Keya Paha – Reduce 500, remove one bonus.
- Loup East – Reduce 300, remove one bonus.
- Loup West – Reduce 300, NR quota to 15%.
- Loup West WT – Reduce 200
- Missouri – Reduce 300
- Pine Ridge MDCA – Reduce 300
- **NEW** Private Land Only Pine Ridge – Add 150. Partial shift from Pine Ridge MDCA.
- Plains – Remove one bonus.
- Plains WT – Reduce 100, remove one bonus.
- Platte MDCA – Reduce 200, remove bonus.
- Platte WT – Reduce by 200
- Republican MDCA – Bag Limit change to AD<sup>2</sup>, NR quota to 15%.
- Republican WT – Reduce 300
- Sandhills – Reduce 300
- Sandhills WT – Reduce 200, remove one bonus.
- **NEW** Private Land Only Sandhills – Add 200. Partial shift from Sandhills.
- Upper Platte – Reduce 200
- Wahoo – Reduce 200
- **Individuals are allowed only one unit permit that allows the harvest of a MD buck in each of the following units: Buffalo, Calamus West, Frenchman, Loup West, Pine Ridge, Plains, Platte, Republican, Sandhills, Upper Platte, they may have unit permits in different units, but not the same unit.**

**Antlerless Only Season Choice Permits** – Reduce 10,675, 18,200 total AO/AOWT from 28,875 in 2023 (-37%)

- Blue NW AO – Reduce 400
- Blue SE AO – Reduce 400
- Buffalo AO – Reduce 500
- Calamus East AO – Reduce by 100
- Calamus West AO – Remove one bonus tag.
- Elkhorn AO – Reduce 50
- Elkhorn West AO – Reduce 150
- Frenchman AO – Remove permit, reduce 75.
- Frenchman WT AO – Add 400
  - Combine/Remove North/South – Remove 700
- Frenchman West AO – Remove 150
- SW Reservoirs AO – Reduce 50
- Keya Paha AO – Remove one bonus tag.
- Loup East – Reduce 500, remove one bonus tag.
- Loup West AO – Remove bonus tag.
- Loup West WT AO – Reduce 150, remove bonus.
- Missouri AO – Split unit, reduce 900.
- Missouri West AO – Shift from Missouri AO, add 300.
- Pine Ridge WT AO – Reduce by 200.
- Plains AOSC – Remove one bonus tag.

- Plains WT AO – Reduce 100, remove one bonus tag.
- Platte AO – Combine w/ and remove Platte North AOSC – Reduce 200.
- Platte WT AO – Reduce 200, remove bonus tag.
- Republican AOSC – Reduce 400
  - Remove Harlan Co Res AO – Reduce by 100
- Sandhills AO – Remove one bonus.
- Sandhills WT AO – Remove one bonus.
- Upper Platte AO – Reduce 50.
- River Antlerless – Reduce 6,000.
  - Remove North and South Platte Rivers, Lodgepole Creek, Niobrara River west of Hwy 83, North and Middle Loup Rivers west of Hwy 83, Chadron Creek in Dawes County, Antelope, Indian, Hat, Monroe and Warbonnet Creeks in Sioux County.

#### **Statewide Permits**

- Statewide Buck – Convert to Season Choice format.
- Restricted Statewide Buck – Convert to Season Choice format.
- Nonresident Restricted Youth – Change unit restriction reference from Regulations 003.02A1 to specific list of Frenchman, Platte and Pine Ridge management units.

#### **Statewide Restrictions**

- Continue statewide antlerless mule deer harvest prohibition on all lands open to public access, Open Fields and Waters properties excepted.
- Continue nonresident statewide archery restriction: not valid for mule deer in the MDCA.

#### **Nonresident Quotas**

- No change to NR quota of 10,000 ES/BO permits.
- No change to NR Archery or Muzzleloader.
- Buffalo MDCA, Republican MDCA and Loup West AD<sup>2</sup> will have a NR quota of 15%.
- Other NR unit permits set at 15% will adjust accordingly with permit quotas.

## 2024 RECOMMENDED DEER SEASONS

**Season Dates:** **November Firearm:** November 16-24, 2024  
**Archery Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31, 2024  
**Muzzleloader Season Dates:** December 1-31, 2024  
**Late Antlerless Only Firearm:** January 1-15, 2025, All AO, Youth and LO  
**October River Antlerless Firearm:** October 1-15, 2024, River Antlerless Only

Unit Permit	Permits	Bag Limit	Antlerless Only Permit	Permits	Bag Limit
Blue Northwest	2200	1 AD	AO SC Blue NW	1800	1 AOWT
Blue Southeast	3500	1 AD	AO SC Blue SE	2000	1 AOWT
Buffalo WT	1200	1 WT	AO SC Buffalo	500	2 AOWT
Buffalo MDCA	800	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Buffalo North	50	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Calamus East	1000	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Calamus East	100	1 AOWT
Calamus West	1400	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Calamus West	200	2 AOWT
Elkhorn	2700	1 AD	AO SC Elkhorn	200	1 AOWT
Frenchman MDCA	1200	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Elkhorn West	200	1 AOWT
Frenchman WT	800	1 WT	AO SC Frenchman WT	400	1 AOWT
Keya Paha	2000	1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT	AO SC Frenchman West	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Loup East	2700	1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT	AO SC Southwest Reservoirs	50	1 AOWT
Loup West	700	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Keya Paha	500	2 AOWT
Loup West WT	600	1 WT	AO SC Loup East	1000	2 AOWT
Missouri	2900	1 AD	AO SC Loup West	100	1 AO
Pine Ridge MDCA	900	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Loup West WT	150	1 AOWT
PLO Pine Ridge MDCA	150	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Missouri	100	1 AOWT
Pine Ridge WT	1000	1 WT	AO SC Missouri West	300	1 AOWT
Plains	1000	1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT	AO SC Pine Ridge	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Plains WT	200	1 WT, 1 AOWT	AO SC Pine Ridge WT	400	2 AOWT
Platte MDCA	700	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Plains	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Platte WT	700	1 WT	AO SC Plains WT	200	2 AOWT
Republican MDCA	50	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Platte	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Republican WT	2200	1 WT	AO SC Platte WT	200	1 AOWT
Sandhills	1200	1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT	AO SC Republican	800	1 AOWT
PLO Sandhills	200	1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT	AO SC Sandhills	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Sandhills WT	300	1 WT, 1 AOWT	AO SC Sandhills WT	300	2 AOWT
Upper Platte	800	1 AD <sup>2</sup>	AO SC Upper Platte	50	1 AO, 1 AOWT
Wahoo	3600	1 AD	AO SC Upper Platte WT	200	2 AOWT
			AO SC Wahoo	1900	1 AOWT
			AO SC River Antlerless	6,000	2 AOWT
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>36,700</b>		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18,200</b>	
<b>OTHER PERMITS</b>					
WT SW Buck	8,000	1 WT Buck	Season Choice.		
Restricted SW Buck	1,000	1 Any buck	Season Choice, not valid for MD in the MDCA		
SW Buck	70/30	1 Any buck	Season Choice, valid statewide		
Archery Res/NR	Unl/3,000	1 AD	NR not valid for mule deer in MDCA units, archery only.		
Muzzleloader Res/NR	Unl/1,000	1 AD	Not valid for mule deer in MDCA units, muzzleloader only.		
Resident Youth	Unlimited	1 AD	Season Choice.		
NR Restricted Youth	Unlimited	1 AD	Season Choice, not valid in Frenchman, Platte or Pine Ridge Units.		
Youth WT	Unlimited	1 WT	Season Choice.		
Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD, 1 AO	Season Choice.		
Special Landowner	Unlimited	1 AD	Valid for any legal weapon the Sat-Mon prior to the Nov FA		

AD – Any deer                      AD<sup>2</sup> – 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      PLO – Private Land Only  
MDCA – Mule Deer Conservation Area

\* ALL PERMITS: Antlerless MD restrictions on all publicly accessible land statewide, OFW program excepted.

## 2023 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	MD		WT		1 <sup>st</sup>	Bonus
					B	AO	B	AO		
Blue Northwest	2400	2400	1 AD	930	0	0	746	184	39	
Blue Southeast	3700	3700	1 AD	1523	1	0	1314	208	41	
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1000	1 AD2, 1 AOWT	493	164	1	218	110	43	6
Buffalo WT	1800	1800	1 WT	622	3	1	532	86	35	
Calamus East	1200	1102	1 AD2	345	46	0	237	62	31	
Calamus West	1600	1591	1 AD2, 2 AOWT	618	151	1	324	142	35	3/1
Elkhorn	2700	2699	1 AD	874	0	0	708	166	32	
Frenchman MDCA	1400	1400	1 AD2, 1 AOWT	652	511	6	78	57	44	2
Frenchman WT	1000	1000	1 WT	310	5	1	264	40	31	
Keya Paha	2500	1943	1 AD2, 2 AOWT	1031	43	0	738	250	45	7/1
Loup East	3000	3000	1 AD2, 2 AOWT	1467	31	1	899	536	39	8/2
Loup West	1000	1000	1 AD2	362	95	2	221	44	36	
Loup West WT	800	466	1 WT	144	4	0	116	24	31	
Missouri	3200	3200	1 AD	1129	7	0	956	166	35	
Pine Ridge	1200	1058	1 AD2	365	227	2	124	12	34	
Pine Ridge WT	1000	999	1 WT	411	6	1	347	57	41	
Plains	1000	999	1 AD2, 2 AOWT	510	313	6	111	80	46	5/1
Plains WT	300	169	1 WT, 2 AOWT	65	0	0	50	15	32	5/1
Platte MDCA	900	900	1 AD2, 1 AOWT	424	286	1	80	57	44	3
Platte WT	900	899	1 WT	279	4	0	237	38	31	
Republican WT	2500	2499	1 WT	992	1	0	848	143	40	
Republican MD	50	50	1 MD Buck	10	10	0	0	0	20	
Sandhills	1500	1338	1 AD2, 2 AOWT	683	357	5	234	87	47	4/1
Sandhills WT	500	351	1 WT, 2 AOWT	180	2	0	146	32	46	4/1
Upper Platte	1000	1001	1 AD2	357	278	10	58	11	36	
Wahoo	3800	3800	1 AD	1490	0	0	1220	270	39	
<b>Nov FA Total/Average</b>	<b>41,950</b>	<b>40,364</b>		<b>16,266</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10,806</b>	<b>2877</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3/1</b>
Landowner Deer	UNL	12882	1 AD, 1 AO	4509	634	220	2608	1047	31	4
Special LO	UNL	3476	1 AD	802	147	16	531	108	23	
Archery	UNL	16372	1 AD	3295	231	27	2550	487	20	
Muzzleloader	UNL	5630	1 AD	1130	183	30	628	289	20	
Statewide Youth	UNL	5460	1 AD	2179	624	103	1162	290	40	
Statewide WT Youth	UNL	3879	1 WT	1369	6	1	1056	306	35	
Restricted NR Youth	UNL	395	1 AD	132	50	7	61	14	33	
Rest SWB	1000	999	1 Buck	324	163	0	160	1	32	
Statewide Buck Only	100	102	1 Buck	54	41	0	13	0	53	
WT Statewide Buck	8000	7999	1 WT Buck	2179	2	0	2163	14	27	
Auction/Supertag	6	6	Varies	1	1	0	0	0	18	
<b>Statewide Total/Average</b>	<b>57,200</b>	<b>57,200</b>		<b>15,974</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>10,932</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>

WT – Whitetail      MD – Mule Deer      AD – Any deer      AD<sup>2</sup> – Any deer except AO MD AO –  
 Antlerless Only      AOWT – Antlerless Only WT      B – Buck      NR – Non-Resident  
 SW – Statewide      UNL – Unlimited      Buck – Male deer with antlers greater than six inches in length

\* ALL PERMITS: Antlerless MD restrictions on all publicly accessible land statewide, OFW program excepted.

## 2023 DEER SEASON HARVEST

Permit	Quota	Sold	Bag Limit	Harvest					% Success	
				Total	MD		WT		1 <sup>st</sup>	Bonus
					B	AO	B	AO		
Blue Northwest AO SC	2200	2200	1 AOWT	533	0	0	23	510	24	
Blue Southeast AO SC	2400	2400	1 AOWT	610	0	0	30	580	25	
Buffalo AO SC	1000	957	2 AOWT	267	0	0	7	260	22	6
Buffalo North AO SC	50	50	1 AO, 1 AOWT	25	0	21	0	4	46	4
Calamus East AO SC	200	200	1 AOWT	39	0	1	4	34	20	
Calamus West AO SC	200	200	3 AOWT	34	0	0	0	34	14	4/0
Elkhorn AO SC	250	250	1 AOWT	54	0	0	3	51	22	
Elkhorn West AOSC	350	330	1 AOWT	51	0	0	2	49	15	
Frenchman AO SC	75	85	1 AO, 1 AOWT	32	1	24	1	6	36	1
Frenchman North WT AO SC	500	500	2 AOWT	88	0	0	1	87	14	3
Frenchman South WT AO SC	200	199	1 AOWT	38	0	0	5	33	19	
Frenchman West AO SC	250	249	1 AO, 1 AOWT	115	0	94	1	20	43	4
SW Reservoirs AO SC	100	100	1 AOWT	21	0	0	1	20	21	
Keya Paha AO SC	500	347	3 AOWT	123	0	0	4	119	26	8/2
Loup East AO SC	1500	782	3 AOWT	243	0	0	9	234	22	7/2
Loup West AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	42	0	3	0	39	33	8
Loup West WT AO SC	300	124	2 AOWT	35	0	0	3	32	24	4
Missouri AO SC	1000	954	1 AOWT	203	0	0	11	192	21	
Pine Ridge AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	44	0	16	1	27	33	10
Pine Ridge WT AO SC	600	589	2 AOWT	206	0	0	10	196	25	10
Plains AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT	37	1	28	0	8	34	3/0
Plains WT AO SC	300	113	3 AOWT	18	1	0	0	17	11	4/1
Platte AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	38	0	21	2	15	32	6
Platte WT AO SC	400	400	2 AOWT	94	0	0	5	89	18	6
Platte North AO SC	200	200	1 AO, 1 AOWT	71	1	45	1	24	31	5
Republican AO SC	1200	1200	2 AOWT	382	0	1	15	366	27	5
Harlan County Res AO SC	100	101	2 AOWT	48	0	0	1	47	37	11
Sandhills AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 2 AOWT	39	2	22	1	14	30	7/2
Sandhills WT AO SC	300	111	3 AOWT	30	1	2	0	27	19	7/1
Upper Platte AO SC	100	100	1 AO, 1 AOWT	56	1	44	0	11	47	9
Upper Platte WT AO SC	200	195	2 AOWT	17	0	0	0	17	8	1
Wahoo AO SC	1900	1900	1 AOWT	417	0	0	17	400	22	
River Antlerless	12000	8263	2 AOWT	3489	0	1	159	3329	31	11
<b>AO SC TOTAL</b>	<b>28,875</b>	<b>23,599</b>		<b>7,539</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>6,891</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6/1</b>
<b>ALL SEASONS</b>	<b>128,025</b>	<b>121,163</b>		<b>39,779</b>	<b>4,635</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>22,055</b>	<b>12,324</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5/1</b>

AD – Any deer

AD<sup>2</sup> – Any deer except AO MD

AO – Antlerless Only

AOWT – Antlerless Only WT

B – Buck

NR – Non-Resident

WT – Whitetail

MD – Mule Deer

SW – Statewide

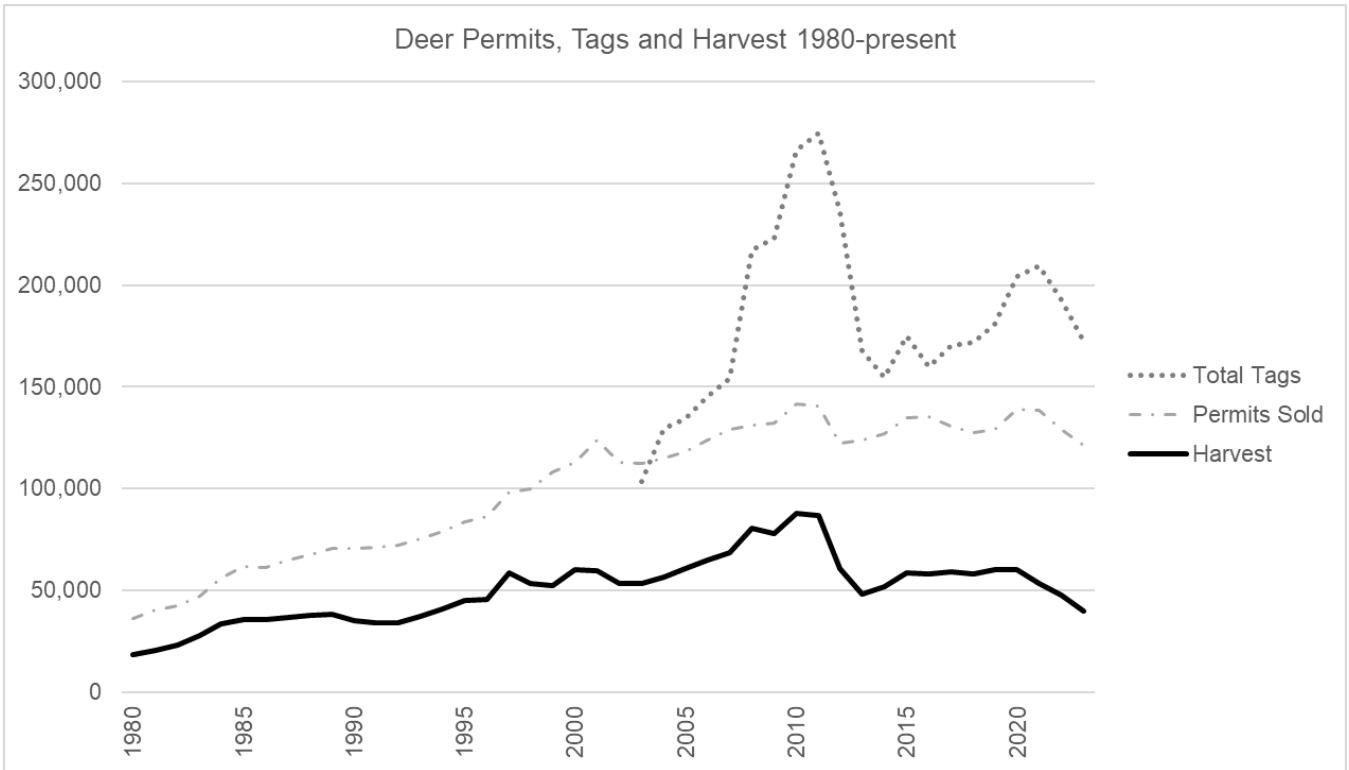
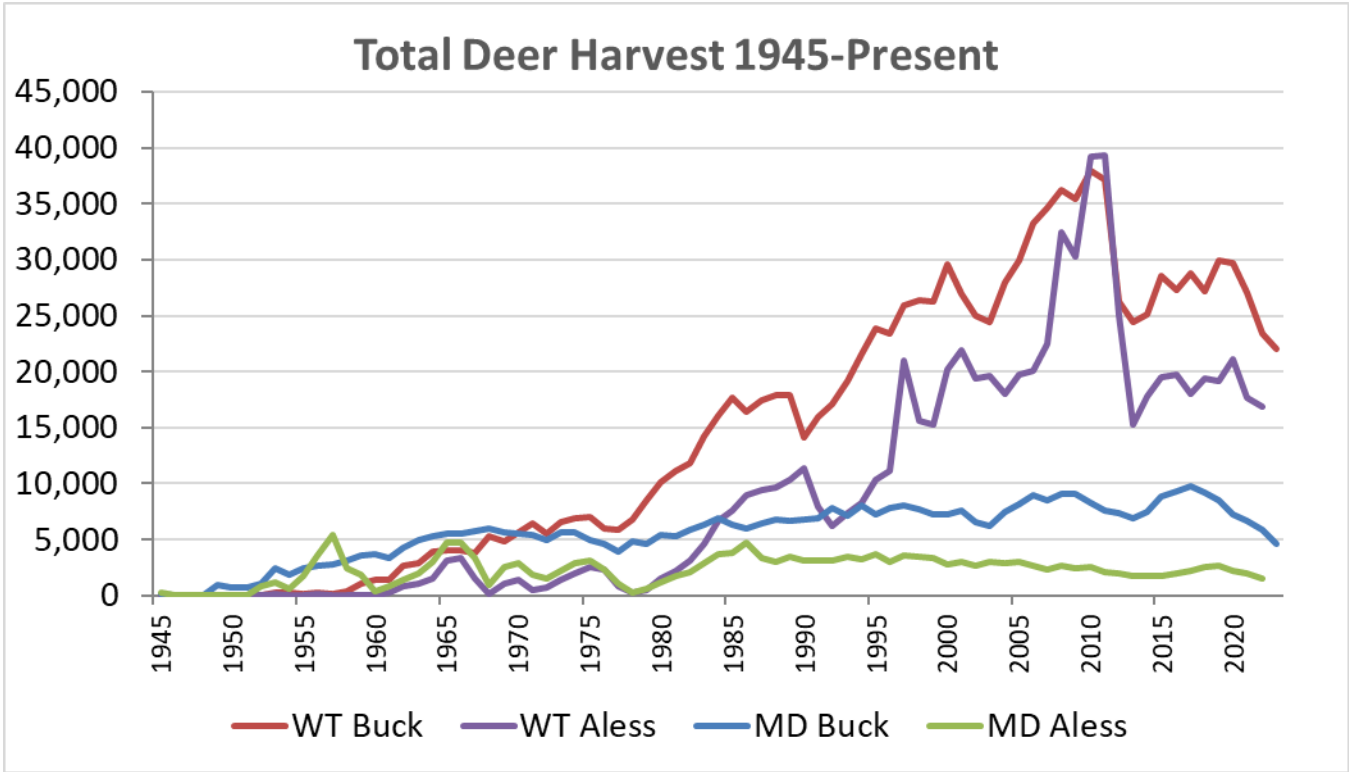
UNL – Unlimited

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

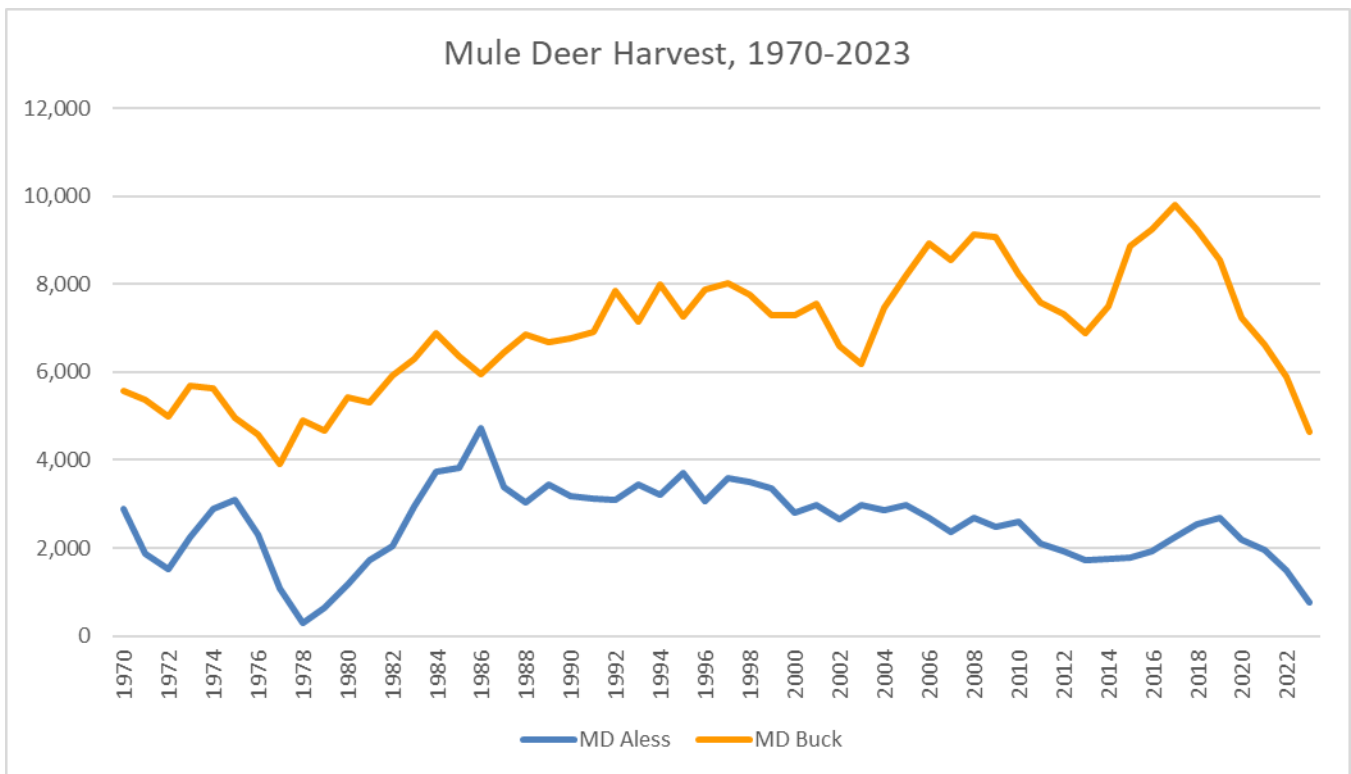
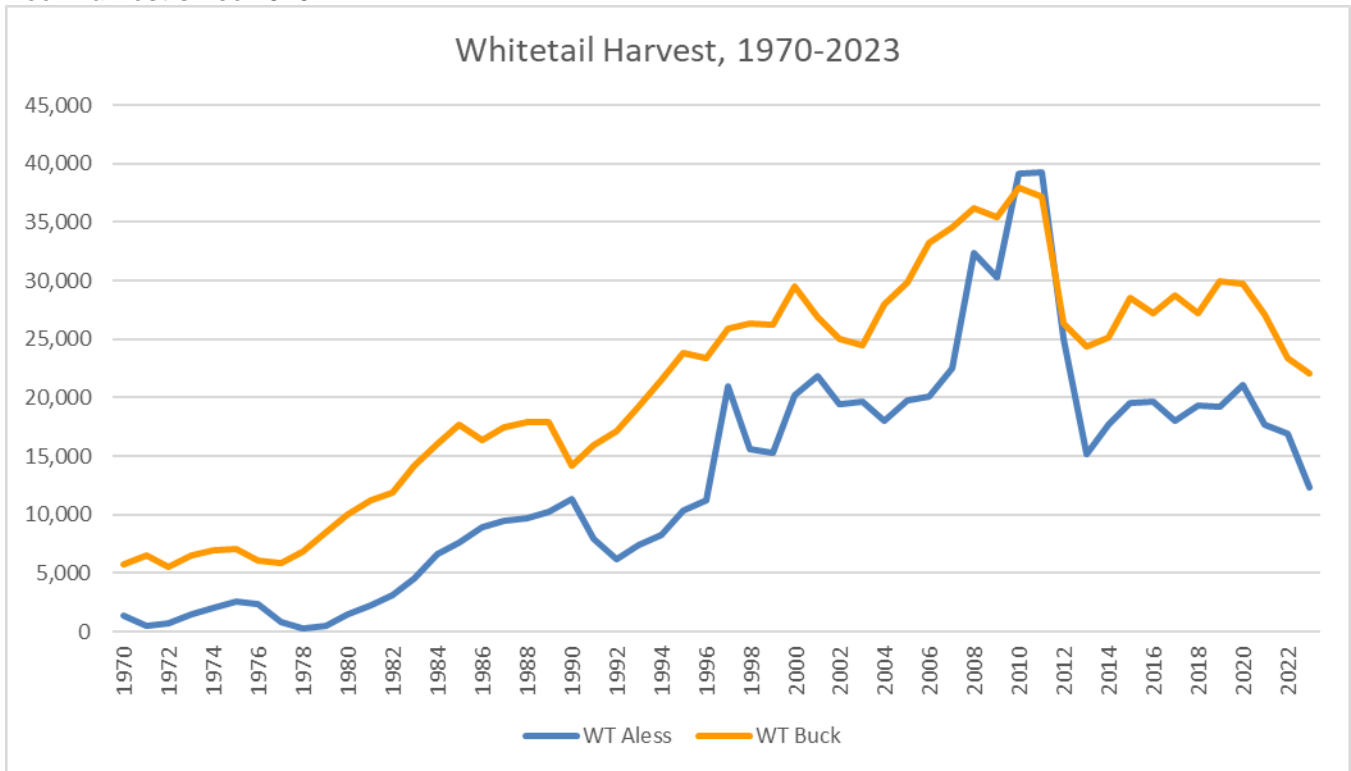
Buck – Male deer with antlers greater than six inches in length

**\* ALL PERMITS: Antlerless MD restrictions on all publicly accessible land statewide, OFW program excepted.**

## HISTORIC DEER TRENDS

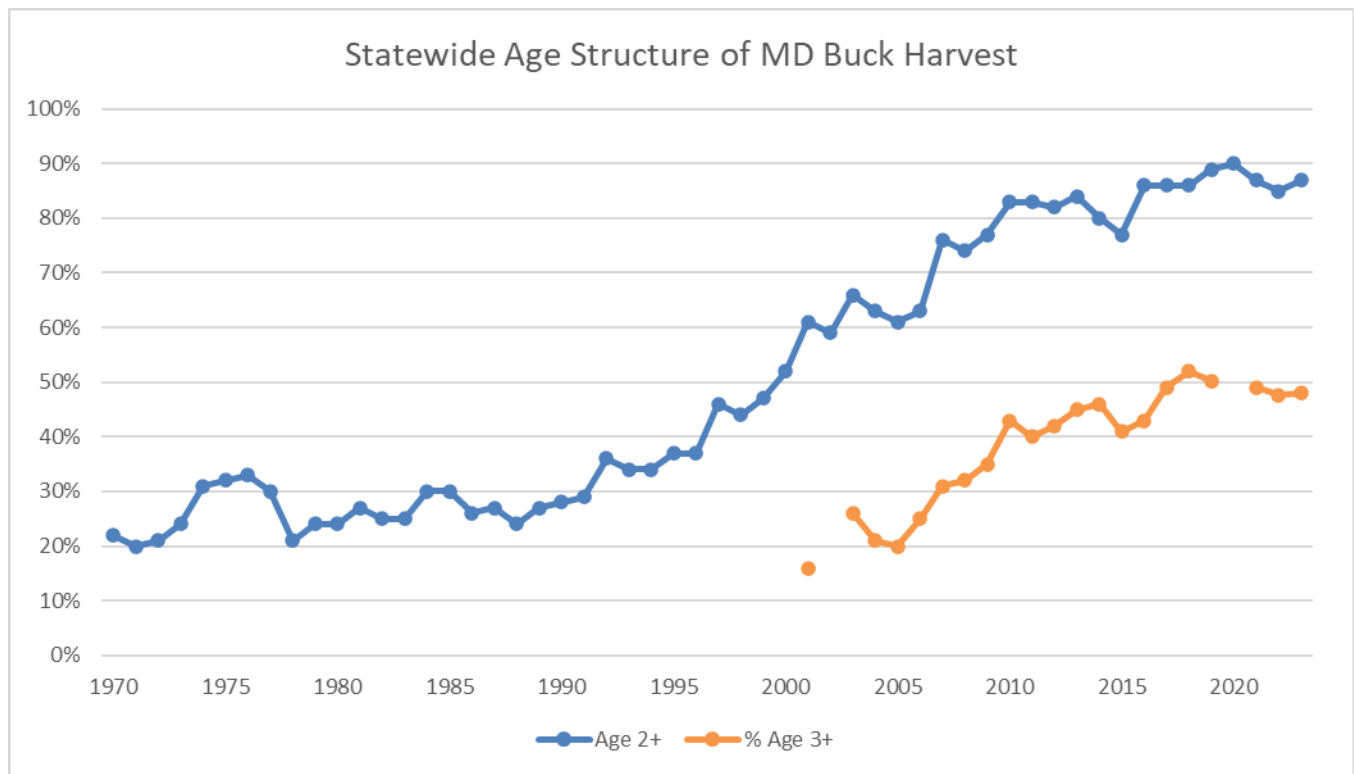
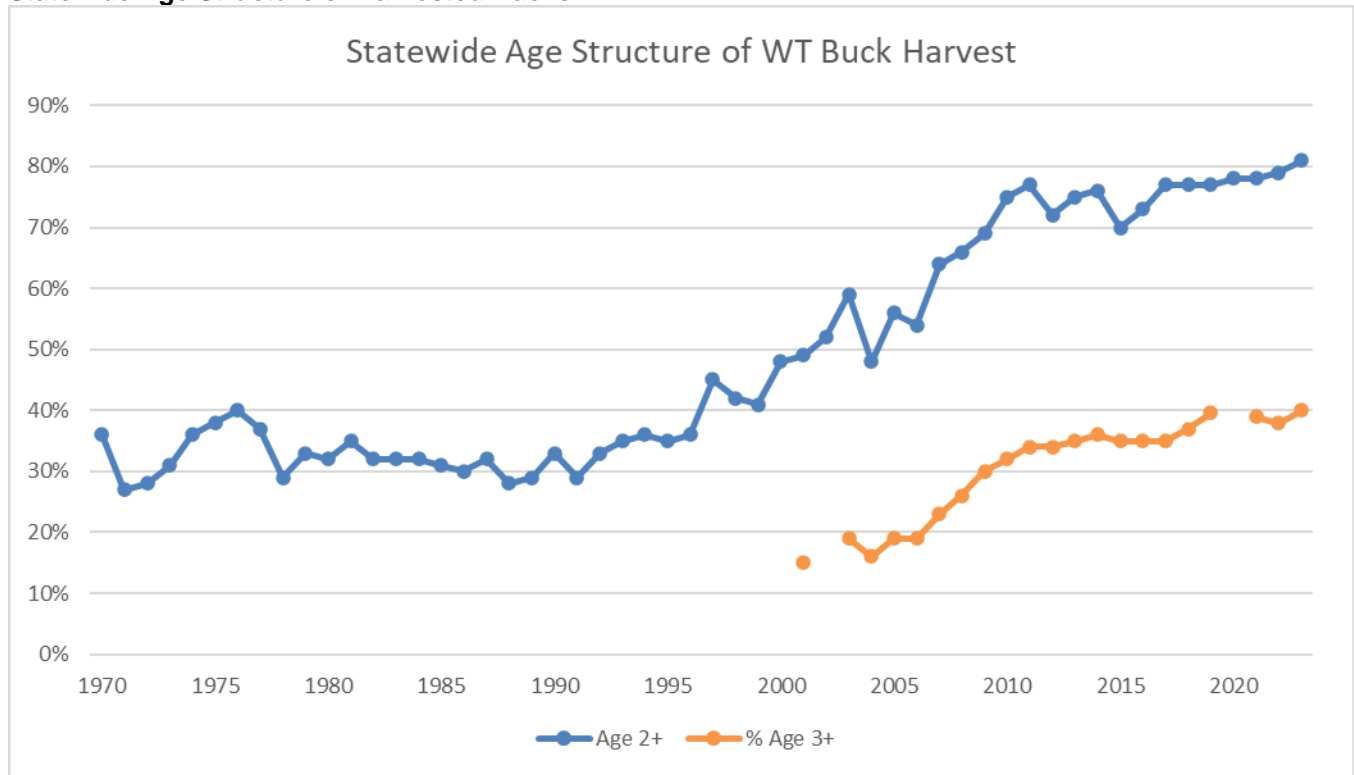


**Deer Harvest since 1970:**

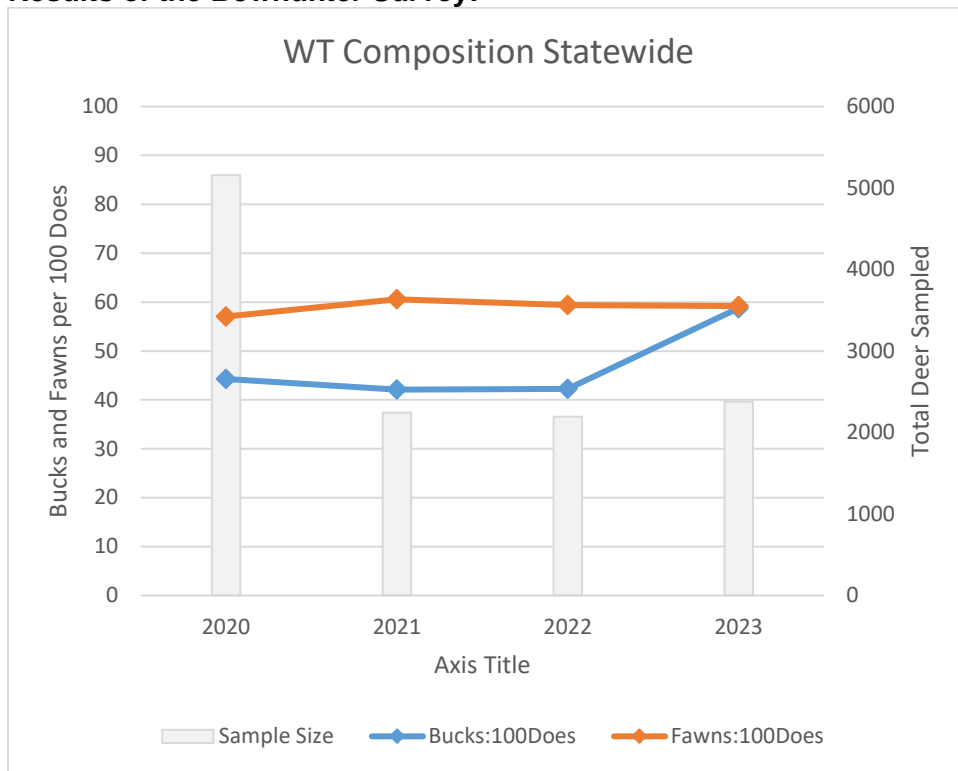




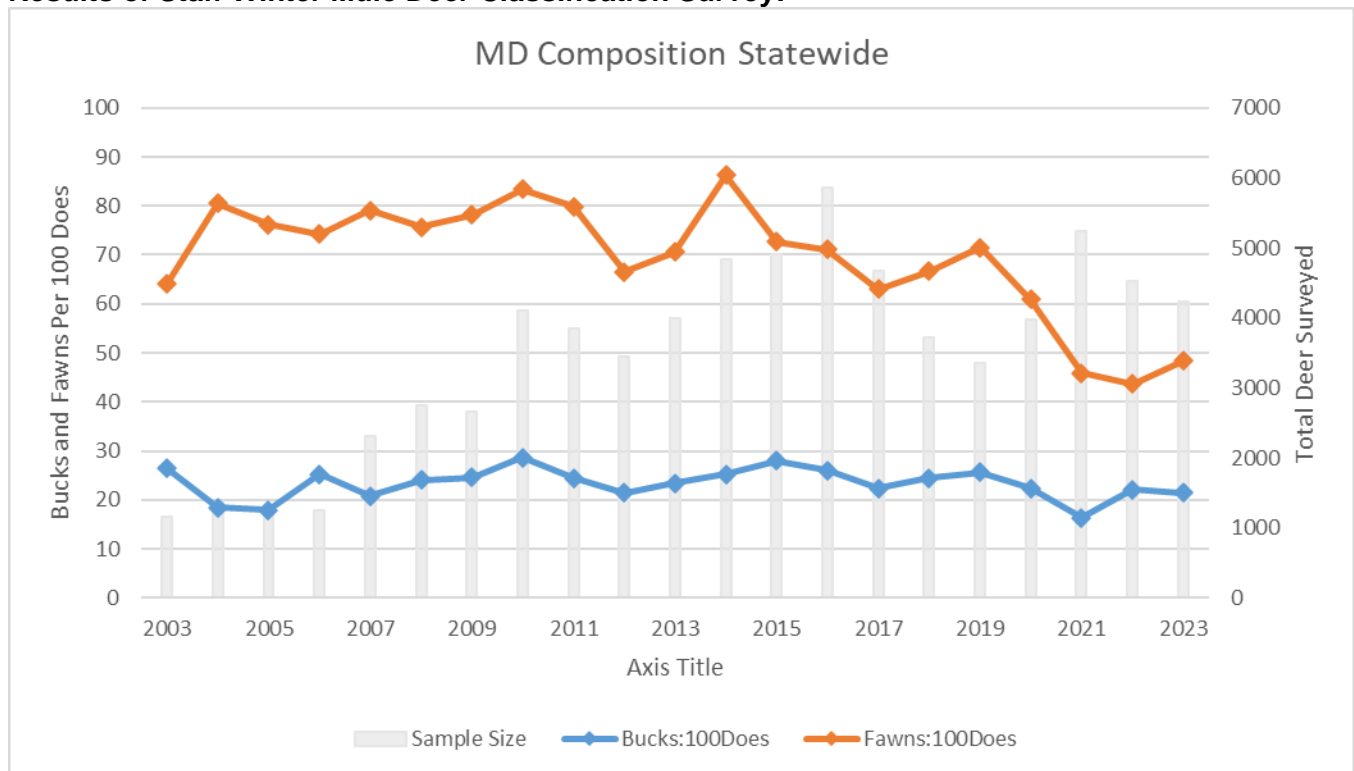
**Statewide Age Structure of Harvested Bucks:**



**Results of the Bowhunter Survey:**

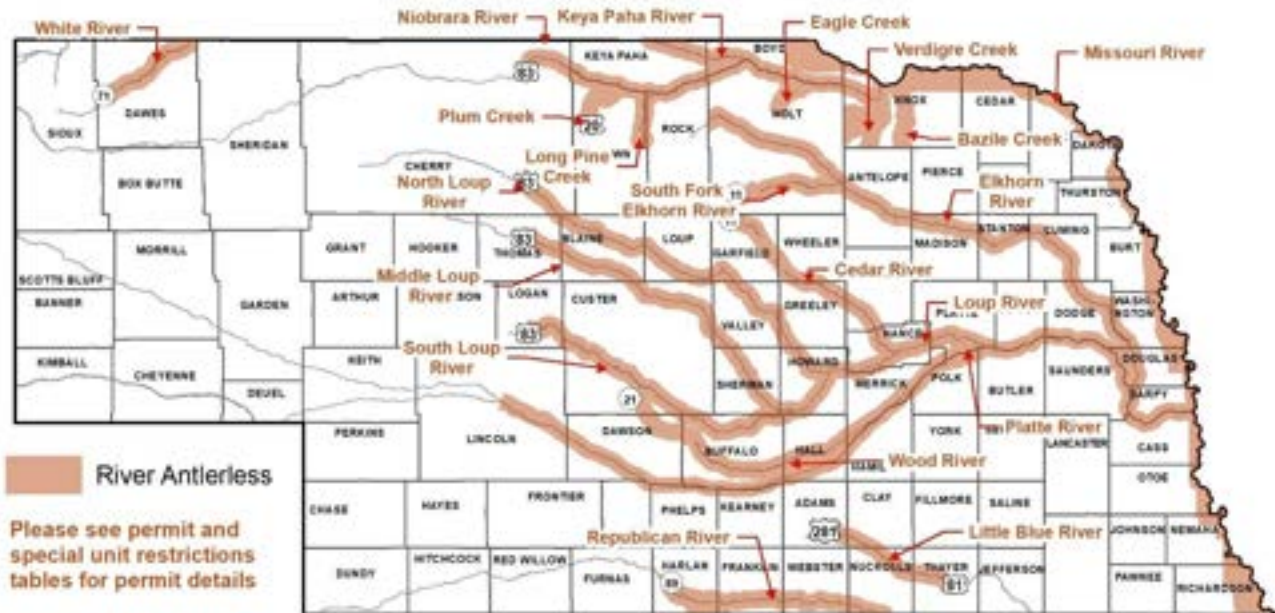


**Results of Staff Winter Mule Deer Classification Survey:**



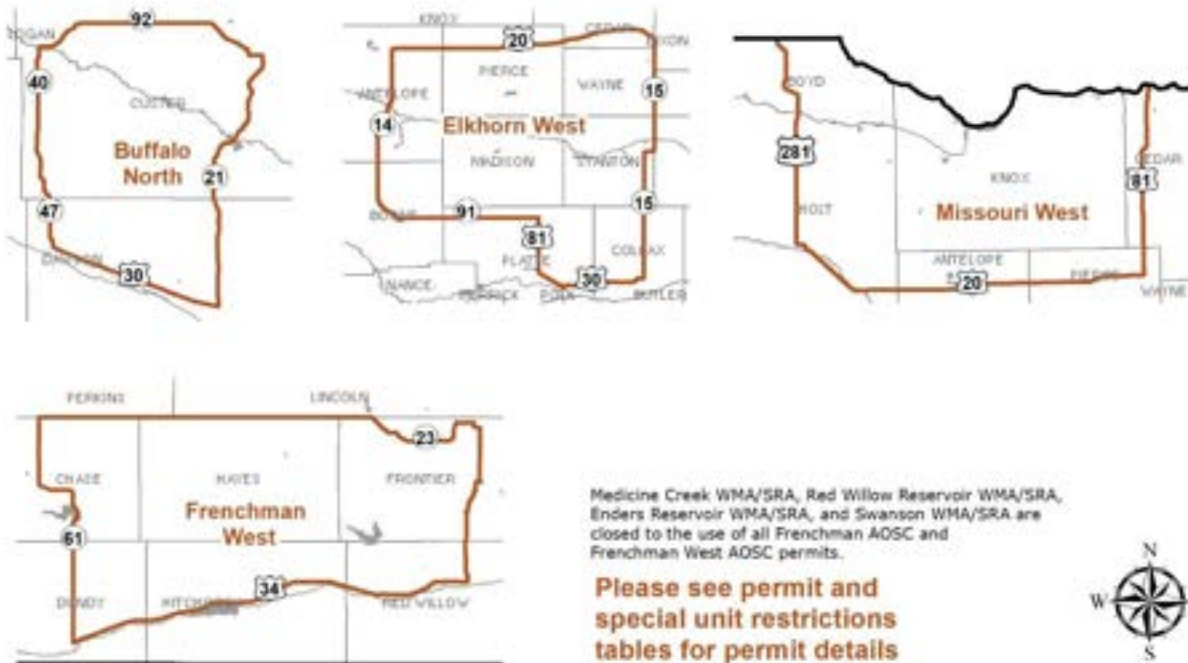


## 2024 RIVER ANTLERLESS PRIVATE LAND ONLY



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

## 2024 ADDITIONAL ANTLERLESS ONLY PERMITS



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## BLUE NORTHWEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Blue Northwest November Firearm:** 2200 Any Deer permits. A reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

**Blue Northwest Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 1800 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. A reduction of 400 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Harvest for all seasons was 1796 whitetail bucks and 1034 antlerless whitetail. Total harvest decreased by 10% from 2022, with buck harvest decreasing by 5% and antlerless harvest decreasing by 16%. The percent of 1.5-year-old adult males decreased to 26% from 30% in 2022. Landowner complaints decreased from last year.

Depredation complaints: 6 DCP: 5

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Population numbers appear to be within landowner tolerances; Hunter and landowner complaints about fewer deer have increased. There was one report of EHD in the fall of 2023; population impacts from EHD in 2023 appear to be insignificant. The population goal and permit strategy are to allow growth in Blue Northwest while increasing an older buck age structure. The recommended changes are reverting back to 2020 numbers.

Harvest objective is 2200 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 35-40% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data - Blue Northwest

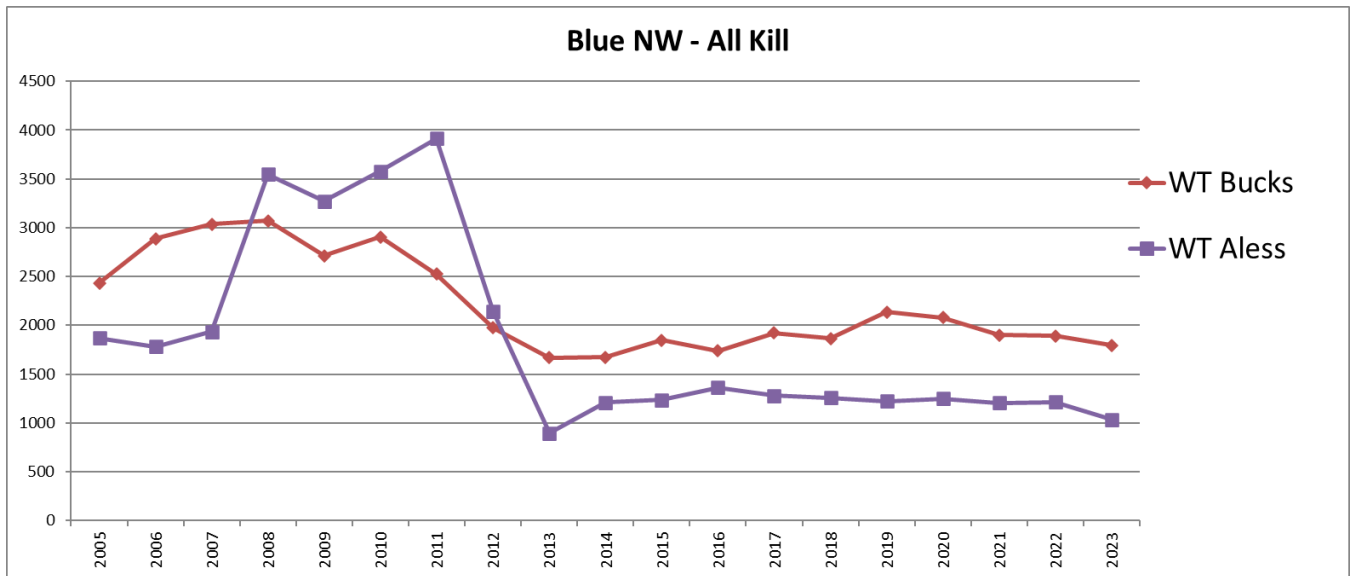
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Blue Northwest	2400	2400	11/8/23	0	0	0	746	184	930	39	
Blue Northwest AO SC	2200	2200	11/17/23	0	0	0	23	510	533	24	
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	5	5		
Landowner	-	-	-	0	0	0	227	133	360		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	0	0	0	60	14	74		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	0	0	0	260	76	336		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	0	0	0	30	38	68		
SW Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	85	35	120		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	102	38	140		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	2	0	2		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	12	0	12		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	249	1	250		
<b>Total</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1796</b>	<b>1034</b>	<b>2830</b>		

# 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+
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	-	-	-	-	1893	1214	3107	39	30	41	29
2023	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	1796	1034	2830	37	26	40	34



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	4	3
2020	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)	9	8 (16)
2021	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	7	6 (22)
2022	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	8	6 (24)
2023	2400 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	6	5 (11)
2024*	2200 (1 AD)	Blue NW SCA – 1800 (1 AOWT)		

\*Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only

AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	-	1724	-	918

## BLUE SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Blue Southeast November Firearm:** 3500 Any Deer permits. A reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

**Blue Southeast Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 2000 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. A reduction of 400 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Harvest for all seasons was 2949 bucks and 1414 antlerless whitetails. Harvest of 1.5-year-old adult males decreased from 25% in 2022 to 18% in 2023. While age structure has remained consistent over the last several years, harvest of 2.5-year-old bucks, at 42%, overtook harvest of 3.5 and older for the first time since 2018. Harvest of 3.5-year-old bucks remains high at 40% of total harvest with a slight increase from 39% in 2022. Landowner complaints decreased from 2022.

Depredation complaints: 3 DCP: 0

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Population numbers are acceptable within landowner tolerance; hunters would like an increased population. The population goal is to increase the current population while continuing the trend of older buck age structure. River antlerless permits remain a useful tool for decreasing depredation complaints along the Missouri River. There were no reports of EHD in 2023. The recommended changes are reverting back to 2020 numbers.

Harvest objective is 3000 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 35-40% for WT in this unit.

### 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	11/15/23	1	0	1	1314	208	1522	41	-
Blue Southeast AO SC	2400	2400	11/12/23	0	0	0	30	580	610	25	-
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	16	235	251		
Landowner	-	-	-	0	0	0	395	163	558		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	0	0	0	64	14	78		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	1	0	1	461	94	555		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	0	0	0	68	39	107		
SW Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	102	32	134		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	127	43	170		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	10	3	13		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	9	1	10		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	353	2	355		
<b>Total</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2949</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>4363</b>		

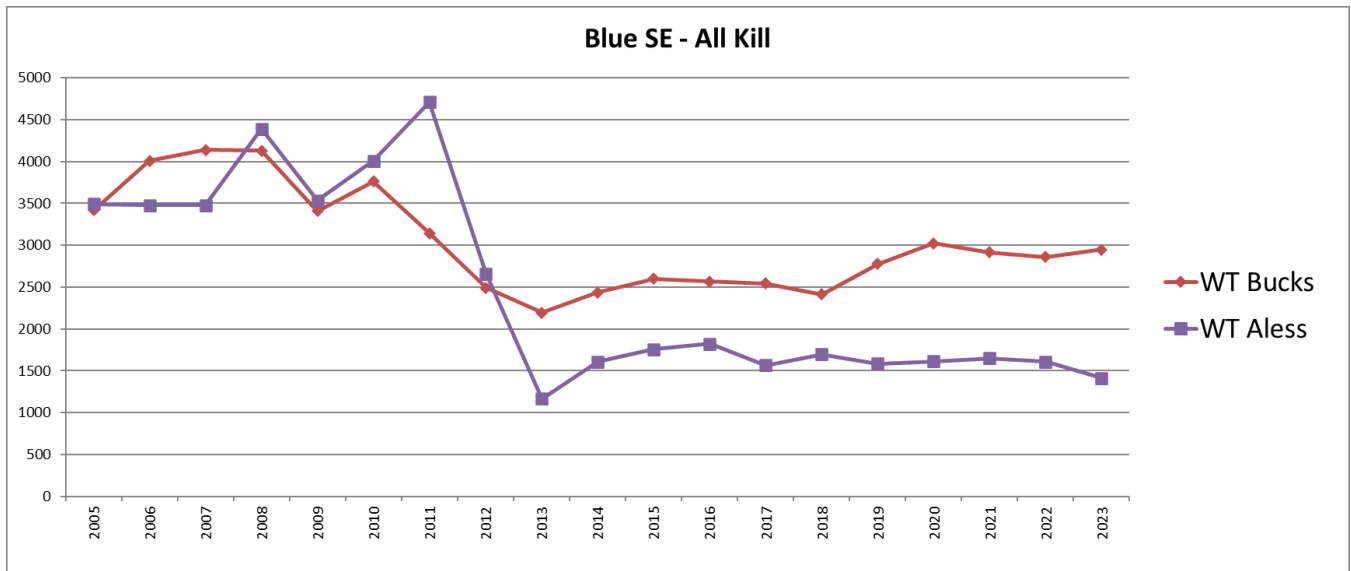


## BLUE SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(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+
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
2023	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	2949	1414	4363	32	18	42	40



### Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	3	2 (4)
2020	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)	4	1 (0)
2021	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	4	1 (0)
2022	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	4	1 (0)
2023	3700 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2400 (1 AOWT)	3	1 (0)
2024*	3500 (1 AD)	Blue SE SCA – 2000 (1 AOWT)		

\*Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

### Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	-	2857	-	1235

## **BUFFALO MANAGEMENT UNIT**

### **2024 Recommendations:**

**Buffalo MDCA:** 800 permits for Any Deer<sup>2</sup> valid during Archery, Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. A reduction of 200 permits and removal of the bonus tag from 2023. **One MDCA permit per person.**

Nonresident Allocation: 15%, NEW for 2024

**Buffalo Whitetail November Firearm:** 1200 permits for one whitetail. A decrease of 600 permits from 2023.

**Buffalo Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 500 permits for two antlerless whitetails. A reduction of 500 permits from 2023.

**Buffalo North Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 50 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Deer harvest for all seasons was 301 adult male mule deer, 47 antlerless mule deer, 1460 adult male whitetail and 937 antlerless whitetail. No cases of meningeal worm mortalities were reported in mule deer. A low number (3) of EHD reports were received, consisting of three whitetail. However, EHD is suspected to have caused more mortalities than reported.

Depredation complaints: 12, DCP: 0. 8 winter, 4 growing season.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Mule deer populations have declined in the unit, including traditionally strong areas in the northwest portion of the unit. Buck age structure improved slightly this year with 19% 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.

Whitetail populations have decline throughout the Buffalo Unit. However, whitetail populations have been known to rebound quickly, especially along portions of the Platte River. Total buck harvest decreased 10% from last year, and age structure improved slightly with 19% 1.5-year-olds. The population objective is to allow for slow growth of the whitetail herds in all portions of the unit while still providing permits to control rapid growth of the whitetail herds on the Platte, South Loup, and Wood Rivers. This will be accomplished by reducing the number of Buffalo Any Deer, WT only, AOSC permits, and all unit bonus permits, but still maintaining the liberal use of River Antlerless permits.

Harvest objectives are 500 MD bucks and 2000 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 10-12% for MD and 42% for WT in this unit.

### **2023 Harvest Data – Buffalo**

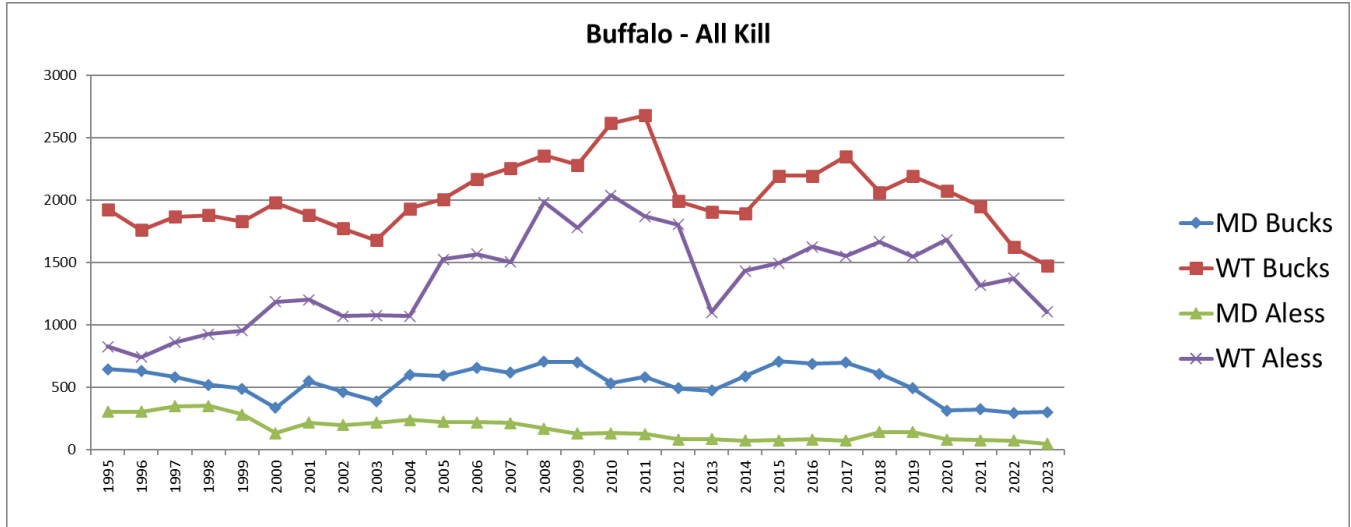
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Buffalo MDCA	1000	1000	8/21/23	164	1	165	218	110	328	43	6
Buffalo WT	1800	1800	11/10/23	3	1	4	532	86	618	35	
Buffalo North AO SC	50	50	8/12/23	0	21	21	0	4	4	46	4
Buffalo AO SC	1000	957	-	0	0	0	7	260	267	22	6
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	23	498	521		
Landowner	-	-	-	52	17	69	149	54	203		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	8	2	10	25	4	29		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	6	0	6	168	27	195		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	3	0	3	37	20	57		
SW Youth	-	-	-	58	6	64	101	21	122		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	2	0	2	78	19	97		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	5	2	7	5	0	5		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	1	0	1	2	0	2		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	6	0	6		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	124	0	124		
<b>Total</b>				<b>302</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>1475</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>2578</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	302	50	352	14	19	53	28	1475	1103	2578	43	18	33	49



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	MDCA 1600 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1550 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (2 AO)	7	3
2020	MDCA 1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	6	4
2021	MDCA 1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	5	2 (16)
2022	MDCA 1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 2100 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	2	3 (27)
2023	MDCA 1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 1800 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 50 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)	12 (winter)	0 (0)
2024	MDCA 800 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1200 (1 WT)	Buffalo SCA – 500 (2 AOWT) Buffalo SCA North – 50 (1 AO, 1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – 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	268	1238	50	730

## CALAMUS EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Calamus East November Firearm:** 1000 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits. This is a reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

**Calamus East Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 Antlerless Only Whitetail This is a reduction of 100 permit from 2023.

**General Information:** The whitetail adult buck kill was lower than expected for the third consecutive year, but age structure continues to be desirable. Antlerless only harvest decreased as well for the third consecutive year. Indices show a decreasing population. Mule deer buck harvest was slightly 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 combined with a severe winter 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.

Harvest objectives are 100 MD bucks and 800 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 10-12% for MD and 28-30% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data - Calamus East

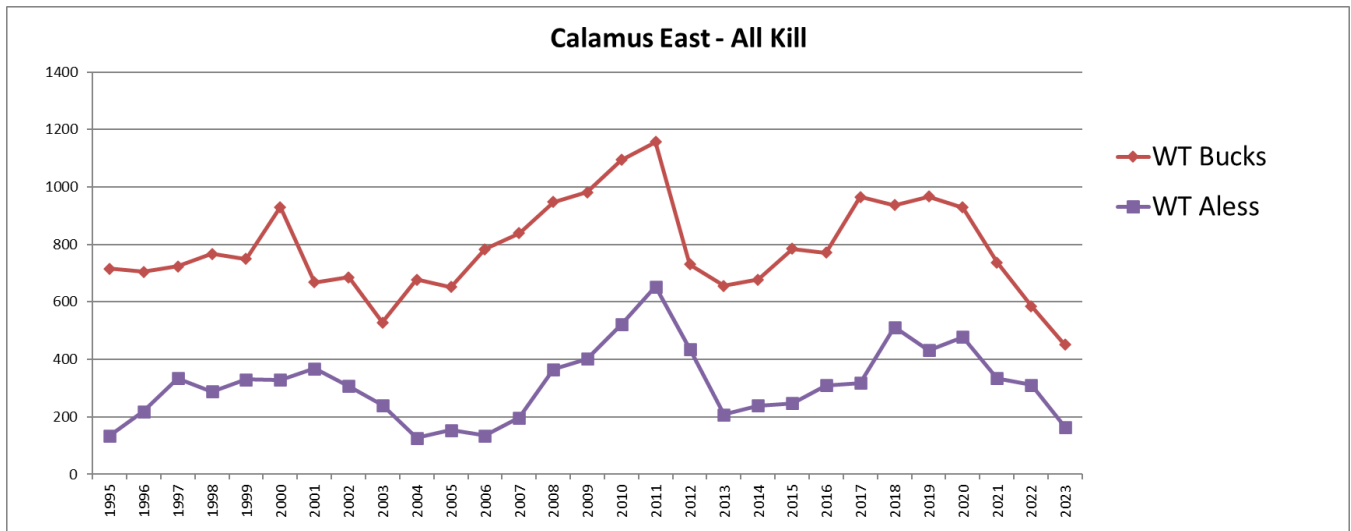
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Calamus East	1200	1102	-	46	0	46	237	62	299	31	
Calamus East AO SC	200	200	11/13/23	0	1	1	4	34	38	20	
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	34	34		
Landowner	-	-	-	12	1	13	53	21	74		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	2	0	2	12	0	12		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	1	0	1	34	2	36		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	6	0	6	5	1	6		
SW Youth	-	-	-	7	1	8	46	5	51		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	19	5	24		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	1	0	1	0	0	0		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	0	1		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	4	0	4	1	0	1		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	39	0	39		
<b>Total</b>				<b>79</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>615</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	79	3	82	4	18	21	61	451	164	615	27	11	47	43



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	1300 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	0	0 (0)
2020	1300 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	1	1 (0)
2021	1500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	3	2 (0)
2022	1500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Calamus East SCA – 400 (2 AOWT)	0	0 (0)
2023	1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> )	Calamus East SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)	0	0 (0)
2024*	1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> )	Calamus East SCA – 100 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only    AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	74	426	2	132

## CALAMUS WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**NEW – No person may obtain more than one Calamus West permit that allows the take of a mule deer buck.**

**Calamus West November Firearm:** 1400 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits. Reduction of 200 permits and removal of two bonus tags from 2023. **Nonresident Allocation:** 15%

**Calamus West Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 200 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with one Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

Use of all bonus tags and antlerless permits prohibited on Nebraska National Forest and Valentine NWR.

**General Information:** Mule deer buck harvest decreased 25%, but age structure remains excellent. Mule deer antlerless harvest remains at a desirable proportion of the harvest. Whitetail buck harvest decreased 15%, but age structure is still excellent. Whitetail antlerless harvest was lower than 2022, likely in response to lower permits and weather conditions. NR permits were restricted to 15% in 2023.

Depredation complaints: 2 DCP 1

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The harvest strategy will for whitetails should maintain the population at current levels or allow slight growth. The harvest strategy for mule deer should grow the population.

Harvest objectives are 400 MD bucks and 600 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 10% for MD and 25% for WT in this unit.

### **2023 Harvest Data – Calamus West**

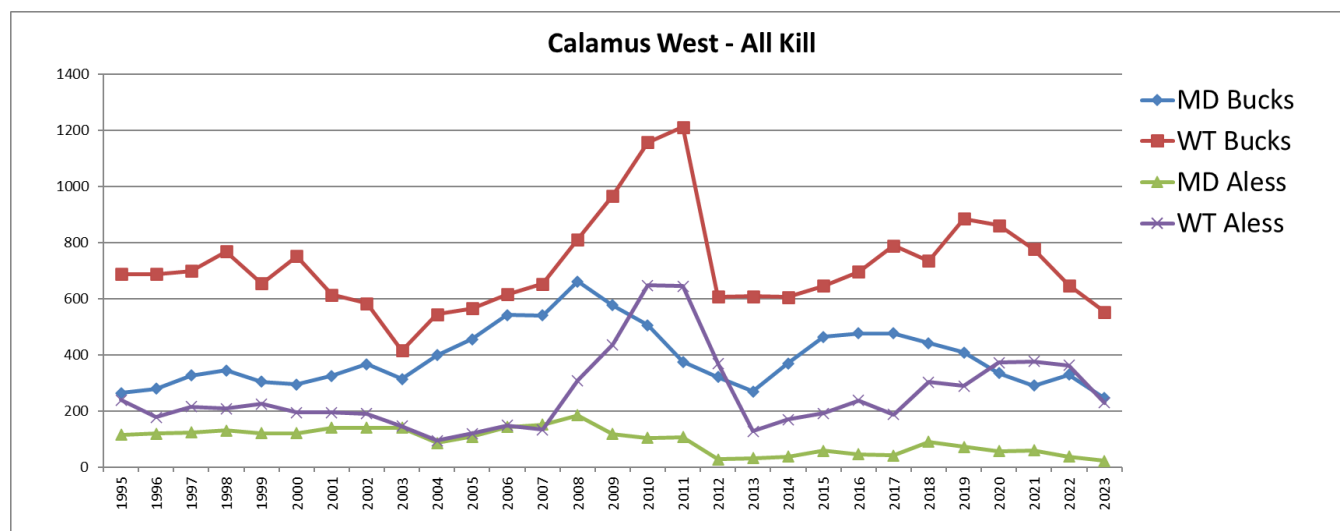
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Calamus West	1600	1591	-	151	1	152	324	142	466	35	3/1
Calamus West AO SC	200	200	11/9/23	0	0	0	0	34	34	14	4/0
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	13	13		
Landowner	-	-	-	21	12	33	61	14	75		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	7	1	8	7	1	8		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	18	0	18	33	6	39		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	16	1	17	22	10	32		
SW Youth	-	-	-	19	6	25	41	7	48		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	1	0	1	22	3	25		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	0	2		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	2	0	2	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	9	0	9	16	0	16		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	25	0	25		
<b>Total</b>				<b>246</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>783</b>		

## 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+
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
2023	246	22	268	8	13	30	57	553	230	783	29	11	41	47



### Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
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 (0)
2022	1600 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	1	0 (0)
2023	1600 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Calamus West SCA – 200 (3 AOWT)	2 (Winter)	1 (11)
2024*	1400 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> )	Calamus West SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

### Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
Calamus West	225	510	22	130

## ELKHORN MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Elkhorn November Firearm:** 2700 Any Deer permits with no antlerless bonus tags. No change from 2023.

**Elkhorn Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 200 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is a reduction of 50 permits from 2023.

**Elkhorn West Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 200 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with no antlerless bonus tags. This is a reduction of 150 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** Whitetail buck harvest was stable after 2 years of decline. The adult buck age structure remains desirable. The trend indicates a lower than desired but stable population. Demand for permits in the Elkhorn West SCA was lower than expected and success was low at 15% 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.

Depredation complaints: 3 DCP: 3

**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. Harvest objective is 2400 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 42% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data – Elkhorn

Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Elkhorn	2700	2699	11/5/23	0	0	0	708	166	874	32	
Elkhorn AO SC	250	250	7/27/23	0	0	0	3	51	54	22	
Elkhorn West AO SC	350	330	11/10/23	0	0	0	2	49	51	15	
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	11	351	362		
Landowner	-	-	-	0	1	1	206	94	300		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	0	0	0	40	11	51		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	0	0	0	175	40	215		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	1	1	2	43	24	67		
SW Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	70	23	93		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	82	25	107		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	4	5		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	8	0	8		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	158	4	162		
<b>Total</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1507</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>2349</b>		

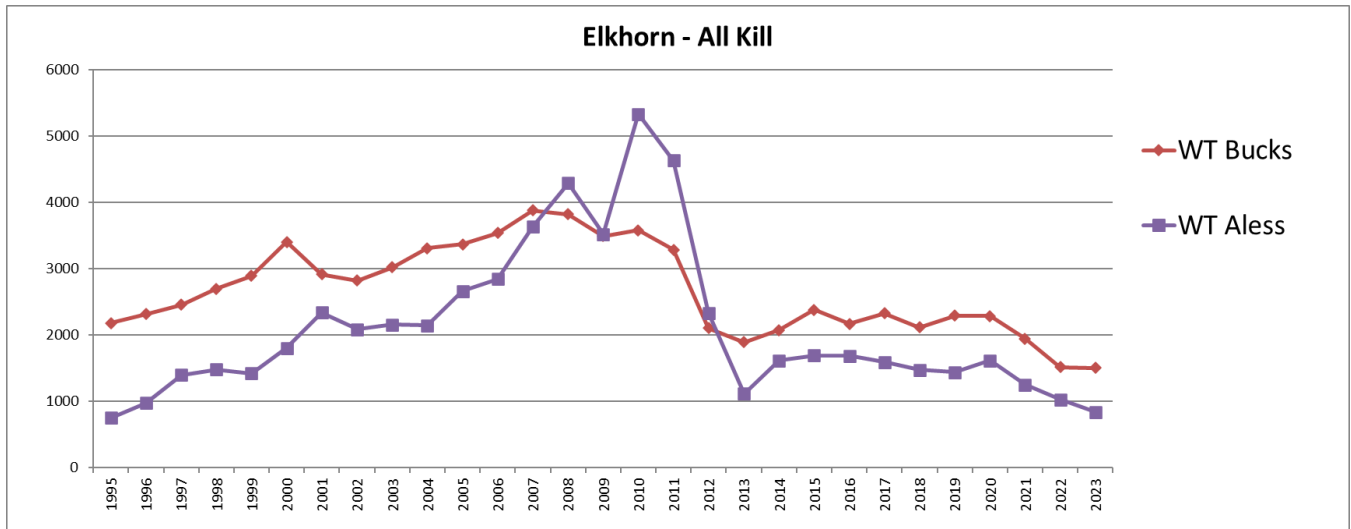


# ELKHORN MANAGEMENT UNIT

(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+
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
2023	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	1507	842	2349	36	33	48	19



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	0	0 (0)
2020	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	2	2
2021	2900 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 1000 (AOWT)	2	1 (2)
2022	2900 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 250 (AOWT) Elkhorn West SCA – 750 (AOWT)	4	4 (0)
2023	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 250 (AOWT) Elkhorn West SCA – 350 (AOWT)	3	3 (2)
2024*	2700 (1 AD)	Elkhorn SCA – 200 (AOWT) Elkhorn West SCA – 200 (AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers  
<sup>2</sup> – 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	-	1494	-	682

# FRENCHMAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

## 2024 Recommendations:

**Frenchman MDCA:** 1200 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits valid during Archery, Muzzleloader and November Firearm seasons. This is a decrease of 200 permits and removal of the bonus tag from 2023. **One MDCA permit per person.**  
Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Frenchman Whitetail November Firearm:** 800 permits for one whitetail. This is a decrease of 200 permits from 2023.

**Frenchman WT:** 400 permits for one antlerless whitetail, not valid on Red Willow WMA/SRA, Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Swanson WMA/SRA or Enders WMA/SRA.. Consolidation of Frenchman N/S WT AO, Decrease of 300 permits from 2023.

**Frenchman West:** 100 permits for one antlerless and one antlerless WT, not valid on Red Willow WMA/SRA, Medicine Creek WMA/SRA, Swanson WMA/SRA or Enders WMA/SRA.. Consolidation with Frenchman AO, decrease of 225 permits from 2023.

**Southwest Reservoirs Antlerless Only:** 50 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 50 permits from 2023.

**General Information:** MD Buck harvest declined 54% from a record harvest set in 2017. WT buck harvest declined 61% from a record harvest set in 2011. MD and WT buck age structure has declined appreciably over the last 3 years. 2,101 residents applied for 1,190 Frenchman MDCA permits (57% success), and 657 non-residents applied for 210 permits (32% success).

Depredation Complaints: 12; DCP: 4.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Aggressive antlerless MD harvest has reduced MD populations across the unit. Staff has received several complaints from landowners and hunters of low MD populations. A reduction in antlerless MD harvest will help to stop the downward trend. Population objectives are to allow for controlled growth in MD numbers unit wide while allowing for enough doe permits to address depredation complaints. The WT deer herd has decreased substantially and staff has received numerous complaints from landowners and hunters of low WT populations along the Republican River. The population objective is to reduce WT doe harvest to allow for moderate growth in WT numbers while allowing for enough doe permits to address depredation complaints.

Harvest objectives are 1750 MD bucks and 1200 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 20-25% for MD and 35-40% for WT in this unit.

## 2023 Harvest Data – Frenchman

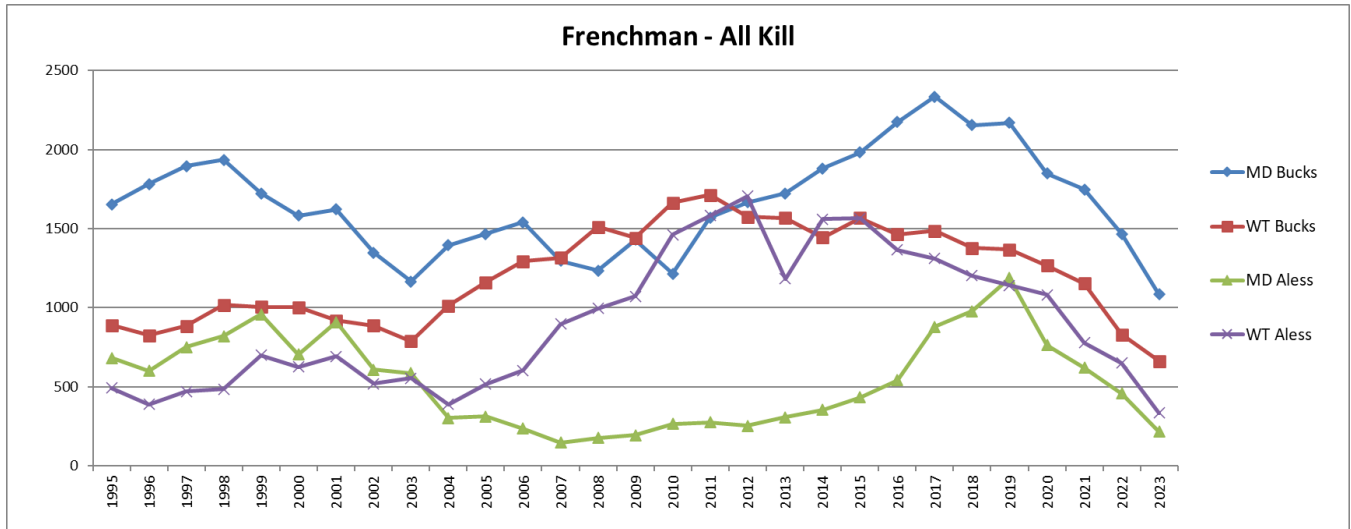
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Frenchman MDCA	1400	1400	DRAW	511	6	517	78	57	135	44	2
Frenchman WT	1000	1000	11/10/23	5	1	6	264	40	304	31	
Frenchman AO SC	75	85	7/11/23	1	24	25	1	6	7	36	1
FR North WT AO SC	500	500	11/15/23	0	0	0	1	87	88	14	3
FR South WT AO SC	200	199	11/5/23	0	0	0	5	33	38	19	
FR West AO SC	250	249	7/24/23	0	94	94	1	20	21	43	4
SW Reservoirs AO SC	100	100	8/7/23	0	0	0	1	20	21	21	
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	7	7		
Landowner	-	-	-	216	60	276	61	25	86		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	63	3	66	11	2	13		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	42	6	48	62	13	75		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	3	0	3	17	5	22		
SW Youth	-	-	-	214	22	236	45	7	52		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	30	12	42		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	2	0	2	0	0	0		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	26	0	26	1	0	1		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	1	0	1	5	0	5		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	78	0	78		
<b>Total</b>				<b>1084</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>995</b>		

## 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+
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
2023	1085	216	1301	17	7	44	49	661	334	995	34	12	46	42



### **Total Permits Authorized**

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	MDCA 2000 (1 AD, 1 AOWT) WT 1600 (1 WT/1 AOWT)	Frenchman SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT) Frenchman West SCA– 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 West SCA– 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 West SCA– 650 (2 AO) SW Reservoir SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)	19	9 (15)
2022	MDCA 1600 (1 AD, 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 West SCA– 500 (1AO, 1 AOWT) SW Reservoir SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)	6	5 (8)
2023	MDCA 1400 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 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 West SCA– 250 (1AO, 1 AOWT) SW Reservoir SCA – 100 (1 AOWT)	12	4 (1)
2024*	MDCA 1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 800 (1 WT)	Frenchman WT SCA – 400 (1 AOWT) Frenchman West SCA– 100 (1AO, 1 AOWT) SW Reservoir SCA – 50 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – 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	1008	135	250	200

## KEYA PAHA MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Keya Paha November Firearm:** 2000 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits with one Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Reduction of 500 permits and removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**Keya Paha Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 500 Antlerless Only Whitetail with one Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**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, particularly in river and stream corridors. WT adult buck harvest decreased 14%, while age structure still remains very desirable. Mule deer buck harvest decreased 21% and habitat conditions have likely reduced mule deer range in the unit. Extreme winter conditions in 2023 likely negatively affected deer populations in this unit.

Depredation complaints: 12 DCP: 5

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Harvest of mature WT bucks 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, though mule deer harvest remains low compared to historical harvest. The objective for this unit is to maintain a WT antlerless harvest to provide for a stable 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 population objective for mule deer is to maintain buck age structure while providing opportunity for hunters and landowners.

Harvest objectives are 200 MD bucks and 1400 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 8% for MD and 34% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data – Keya Paha

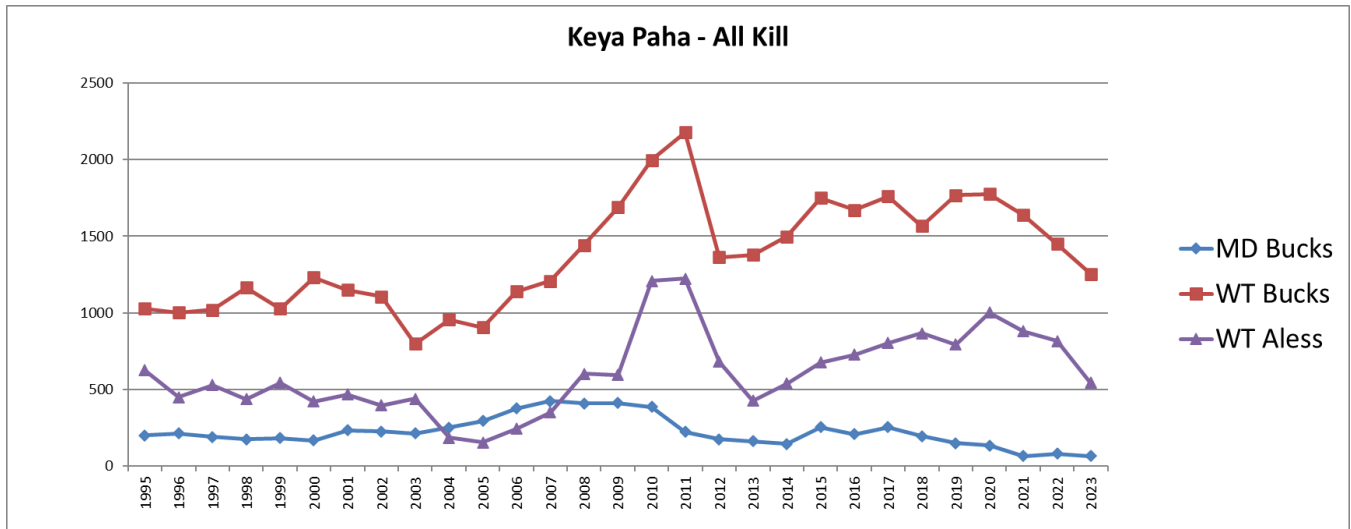
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Keya Paha	2500	1943	-	43	0	43	738	250	988	45	7/1
Keya Paha AO SC	500	347	-	0	0	0	4	119	123	26	8/2
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	3	105	108		
Landowner	-	-	-	3	4	7	155	47	202		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	1	0	1	26	4	30		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	2	2	4	90	2	92		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	2	0	2	49	4	53		
SW Youth	-	-	-	9	0	9	54	6	60		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	1	0	1	55	5	60		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	9	1	10		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	4	0	4	8	0	8		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	62	0	62		
<b>Total</b>				<b>65</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1253</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>1796</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	65	6	71	8	11	21	68	1253	543	1796	30	10	37	54



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	2500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	6	0
2020	2500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)	10	5
2021	2500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)	10	5 (15)
2022	2500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)	5	3 (26)
2023	2500 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (3 AOWT)	12 (winter)	5 (36)
2024*	2000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Keya Paha SCA – 500 (2 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only    AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	66	1267	6	535

## LOUP EAST MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Loup East November Firearm:** 2700 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits with one bonus Antlerless Only Whitetail tag. Reduction of 300 and removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**Loup East Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 1000 Antlerless Only Whitetail, with one Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Reduction of 500 permits and removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

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

Depredation complaints: 3 DCP: 1

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** WT Buck harvest declined 33% from 2019 but age structure remains high. The objective for whitetails is to stabilize antlerless harvest to stabilize the population at current levels. Deer damage complaints have been typically located along the Loup River system but decreased substantially the last 2 years. River Antlerless and Bonus tags on Firearm Permits have been the best choice for hunters to harvest antlerless deer. High permit numbers, extra antlerless bonus tags and a season extensions boosted antlerless WT harvest and were effective at reducing the population.

Harvest objective is 1650 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 45% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data - Loup East

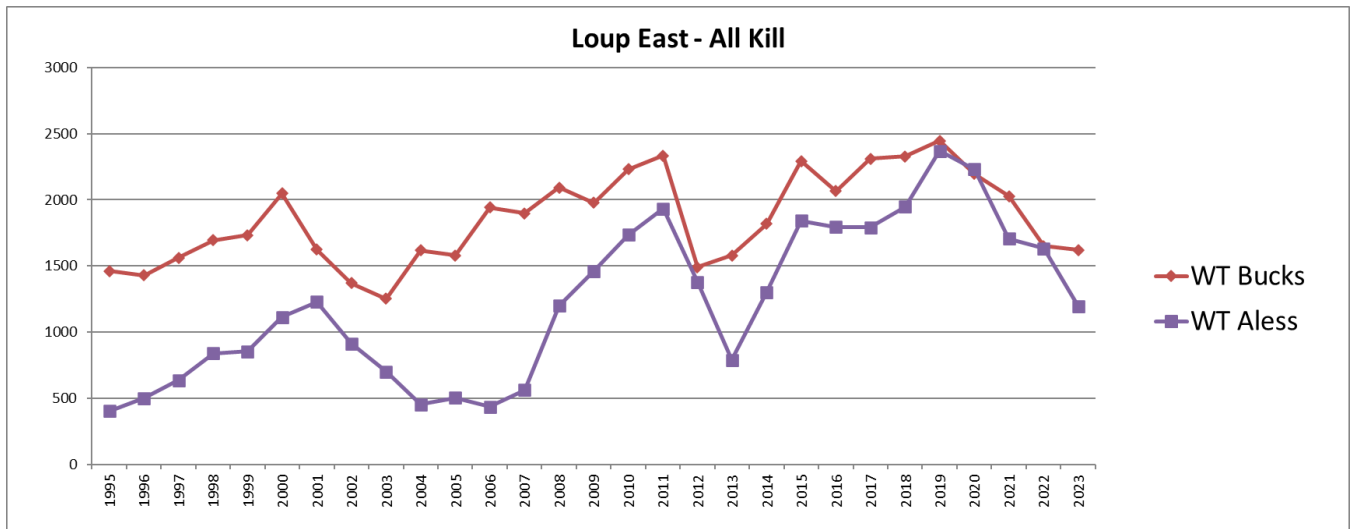
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Loup East	3000	3000	11/10/23	31	1	32	899	536	1435	39	8/2
Loup East AO SC	1500	782	-	0	0	0	9	234	243	22	7/2
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	13	305	318		
Landowner	-	-	-	0	0	0	186	47	233		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	3	0	3	38	7	45		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	2	0	2	139	18	157		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	3	1	4	55	16	71		
SW Youth	-	-	-	8	4	12	92	19	111		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	77	14	91		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	1	2		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	4	0	4		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	109	0	109		
<b>Total</b>				<b>47</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1622</b>	<b>1197</b>	<b>2819</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	47	6	53	11	26	56	19	1622	1197	2819	42	16	41	44



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	3000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	14	10
2020	3300 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	16	11
2021	3300 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	13	6 (0)
2022	3300 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	6	5 (23)
2023	3000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1500 (3 AOWT)	3	1 (0)
2024*	2700 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Loup East SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only    AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	43	1521	6	1050

## LOUP WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**NEW – No person may obtain more than one Loup West permit that allows for the take of a mule deer buck.**

**Loup West November Firearm:** 700 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits. Reduction of 300 permits from 2023.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%, NEW for 2024

**Loup West Whitetail November Firearm:** 600 Any Whitetail permits. Reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

**Loup West Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 permits for One Antlerless Only. Removal of the bonus tag from 2023.

**Loup West Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 150 permits for One Antlerless Only Whitetail. Reduction of 150 permits and removal of the bonus tag from 2023.

**General Information:** MD buck harvest has declined by 6% last year. No cases of meningeal brain worm were confirmed this year. WT buck harvest has decreased 9% and antlerless harvest decreased 49%. The age structure for Whitetail buck is good within the unit. This unit was sampled in 2023 for CWD with 2 positives detected.

Depredation complaints: 1, DCP: 1. Winter conditions.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The whitetail deer population has decreased significantly. EHD and poor habitat conditions due to severe drought the past couple of years 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 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.

The mule deer population is decreasing. Some of the decrease in buck harvest was due to the change in permit strategy implemented in 2020 and poor habitat conditions. 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.

Harvest objectives are 400 MD bucks and 800 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 17% for MD and 35% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 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	11/5/23	95	2	97	221	44	265	36	
Loup West WT	800	466	-	4	0	4	116	24	140	31	
Loup West AO SC	100	100	11/1/23	0	3	3	0	39	39	33	8
Loup West WT AO SC	300	124	-	0	0	0	3	32	35	24	4
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	56	56		
Landowner	-	-	-	26	9	35	75	28	103		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	6	0	6	17	2	19		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	9	0	9	31	3	34		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	19	0	19	11	4	15		
SW Youth	-	-	-	24	5	29	48	9	57		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	19	2	21		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	1	0	1	2	0	2		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	9	0	9	4	0	4		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	32	1	33		
<b>Total</b>				<b>193</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>823</b>		

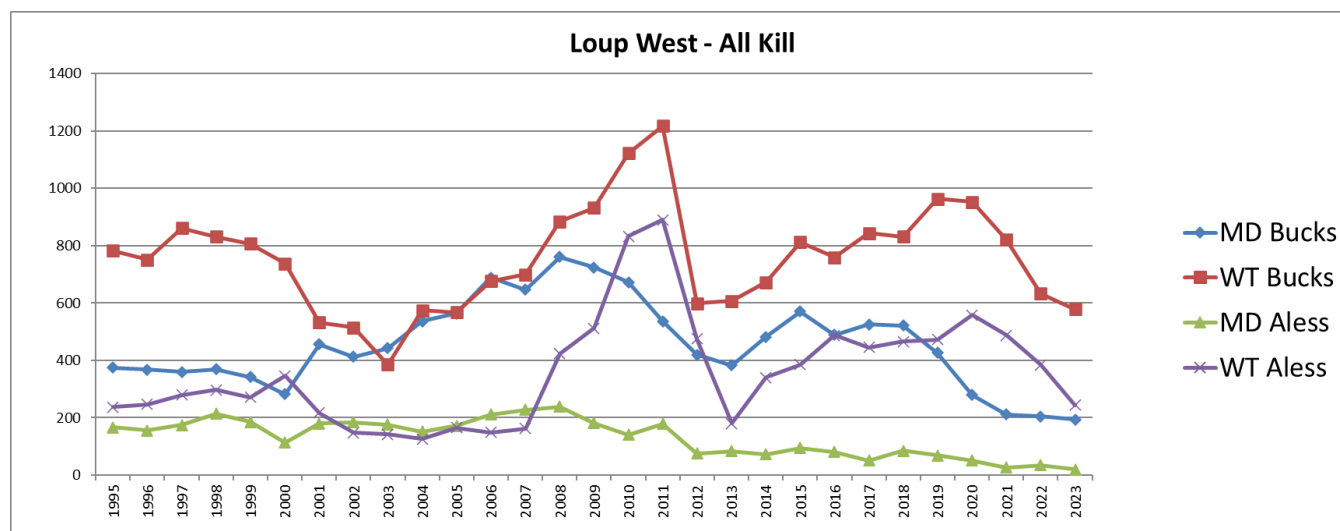


# LOUP WEST MANAGEMENT UNIT

(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+
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
2023	193	19	212	9	19	34	47	579	244	823	30	18	30	52



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	1700 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (2 AO)	3	0
2020	1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT) 600 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 400 (1 AO, 2 AOWT)	0	0
2021	1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT) 800 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	1	0
2022	1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) 800 (1 WT, 1 AOWT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	0	0
2023*	1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) 800 (1 WT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Loup West WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)	1 (Winter)	1 (0)
2024*	700 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) 600 (1 WT)	Loup West SCA – 100 (1 AO) Loup West WT SCA – 150 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

WT – Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	162	545	18	210

## MISSOURI MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Missouri November Firearm:** 2900 Any Deer. Reduction of 300 permits from 2023.

**Missouri Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 Antlerless Only Whitetail. Reduction of 900 permits, shift 300 permits to new Missouri West AO.

**NEW Missouri West Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 300 Antlerless Only Whitetail. New permit for 2024.

**General Information:** The whitetail buck decreased 7%, the fourth consecutive year of decline. Antlerless harvest decreased significantly, in large part to the elimination of bonus tags. 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, as did extreme winter conditions in 2023.

Depredation complaints: 7 DCP: 3

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** The objective is to further reduce antlerless whitetail harvest to allow the herd to grow. The age structure of the bucks in the harvest meet unit goals but hunter success has declined. The split of the Antlerless Only Season Choice units is in response to the population discrepancy between the eastern and western portions of the unit. Harvest objective is 2200 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 40% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data – Missouri

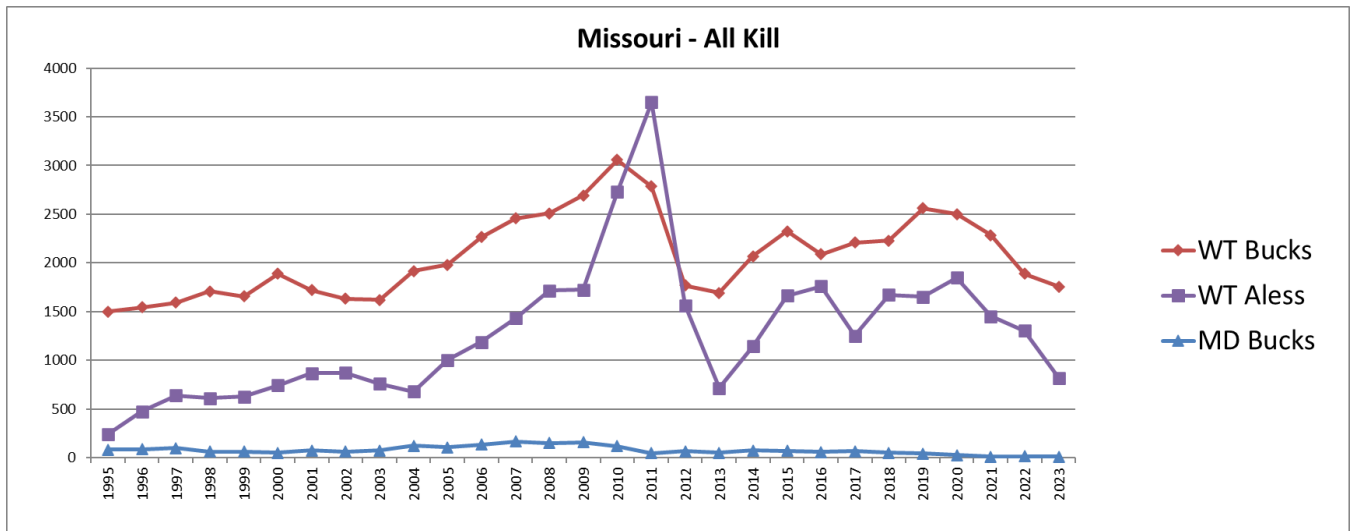
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Missouri	3200	3200	11/14/23	7	0	7	956	166	1122	35	
Missouri AO SC	1000	954	-	0	0	0	11	192	203	21	
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	12	273	285		
Landowner	-	-	-	1	0	1	224	90	314		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	0	0	0	50	5	55		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	2	0	2	138	22	160		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	0	0	0	35	16	51		
SW Youth	-	-	-	1	0	1	113	29	142		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	79	23	102		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	10	4	14		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	2	0	2		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	0	1		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	126	0	126		
<b>Total</b>				<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1757</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>2577</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	11	0	11	-	-	-	-	1757	820	2577	32	17	52	31



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
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 (8)
2022	3200 (1 AD, 1 AOWT)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (2 AOWT)	3	2 (23)
2023	3200 (1 AD)	Missouri SCA – 1000 (1 AOWT)	7 (winter)	3 (3)
2024*	2900 (1 AD)	Missouri SCA – 100 (1 AOWT) Missouri West SCA – 300 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only    AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Seasons	10	1651	0	615

## PINE RIDGE MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

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

**Pine Ridge MDCA:** 900 permits valid for one Any Deer<sup>2</sup> valid during Archery, Firearm and Muzzleloader season. Reduction of 300 permits from 2023, partial shift to PLO permit. Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Private Land Only Pine Ridge MDCA:** 150 permits valid for one Any Deer<sup>2</sup> valid during Archery, Firearm and Muzzleloader season. NEW for 2024. Not valid on land open to public hunting access.

**Pine Ridge Whitetail November Firearm:** 1000 permits valid for one whitetail of either sex. No change from 2023.

**Pine Ridge Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. No change from 2023.

**Pine Ridge Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 400 permits for two antlerless only whitetails. Reduction of 200 from 2023.

**General Information:** Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was 39% below the 5-year average and 25% down from 2022. Whitetail buck harvest was 27% below the 5-year average and down 14% from 2022. Harvest fell below expectations indicating the winter of 2022/2023 may have reduced populations further. Age structure continues to be acceptable for both species in a unit that has good public land opportunity.

Depredation complaints: 10, DCP: 4

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Trend indicators and observations indicate low 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 allow for a slight increase in population. Whitetail harvest will be monitored closely. Removal of all portions of the River Antlerless permit except the White River.

Harvest objectives are 700 MD bucks and 900 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 15% for MD and 36% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data - Pine Ridge

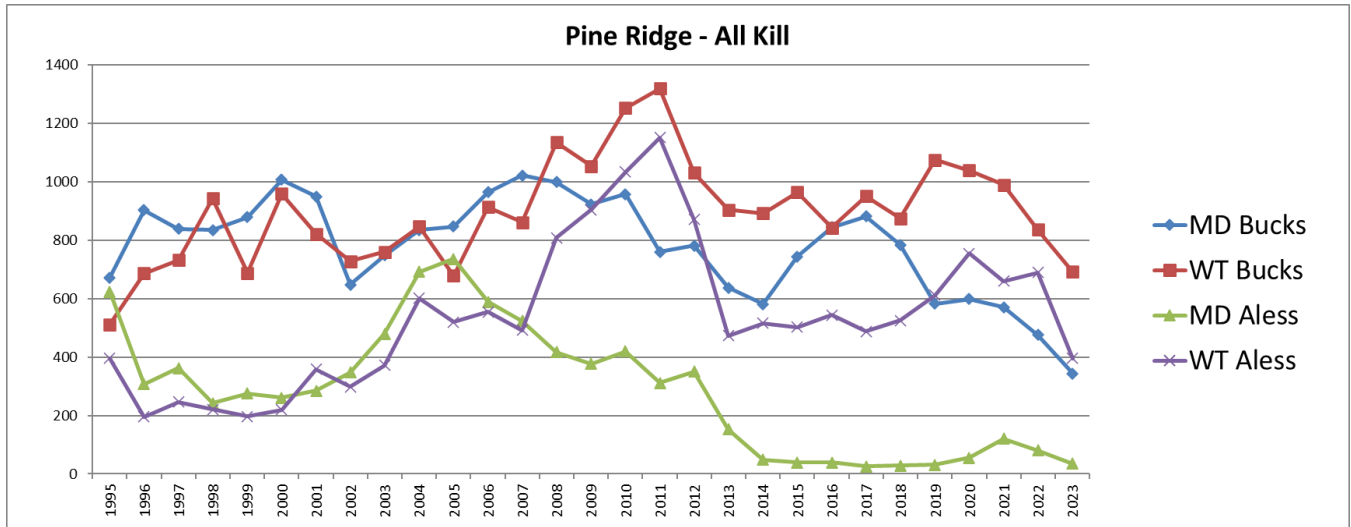
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Pine Ridge MDCA	1200	1058	-	227	2	229	124	12	136	34	
Pine Ridge WT	1000	999	11/3/23	6	1	7	347	57	404	41	
Pine Ridge AO SC	100	100	7/24/23	0	16	16	1	27	28	33	10
Pine Ridge WT AO SC	600	589	-	0	0	0	10	196	206	25	10
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	2	44	46		
Landowner	-	-	-	47	9	56	47	19	66		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	11	0	11	8	4	12		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	14	1	15	36	9	45		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	3	0	3	39	10	49		
SW Youth	-	-	-	27	5	32	25	7	32		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	2	1	3	21	10	31		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	2	0	2	3	0	3		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	4	0	4	1	0	1		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	1	0	1	5	0	5		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	23	0	23		
<b>Total</b>				<b>344</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1087</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	344	35	379	9	13	44	42	692	395	1087	36	13	43	44



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA WT – 500 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2020	1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	2	1
2021	1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 400 (1AO, 1AOWT) Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	2	0
2022	MDCA 1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 200 (1AO, 1AOWT) Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	4	0
2023	MDCA 1200 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 100 (1AO, 1AOWT) Pine Ridge SCA WT – 600 (2 AOWT)	10 (winter)	4 (15)
2024*	MDCA 900 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) PLO MDCA 150 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 1000 (1 WT)	Pine Ridge SCA – 100 (1AO, 1AOWT) Pine Ridge SCA WT – 400 (2 AOWT)		

\*Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> No antlerless mule deer

WT – Whitetail

AO – Antlerless Only

AD – Any Deer

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	342	681	35	310

## PLAINS MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**NEW – No person may obtain more than one Plains permit that allows for the take of a mule deer buck.**

**Plains November Firearm:** 1000 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> with one bonus antlerless whitetail permit. Removal of one bonus tag from 2023. Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Plains Whitetail November Firearm:** 200 permits valid for one whitetail of either sex with one bonus antlerless whitetail permit. Reduction of 100 permits and removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**Plains Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 Antlerless Only Season Choice permits with two Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tags. Removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**Plains Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 200 permits for 2 AOWT. Reduction of 100 permits and removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**River Antlerless:** Remove all areas in the Plains from River Antlerless.

**General Information:** Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was down 45% from the 5-year average and down 32% from 2022. Whitetail buck harvest was down 37% from the 5-year average and down 13% from 2022. Age structure remains good for both species. Sampling for MBW happened during the 2022 firearm season. Results are pending.

Depredation Complaints: 6

**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 and the winter of 2022/2023 appears to have had an impact as well. Population objectives are to increase mule deer populations by reduced overall harvest and stabilize whitetail populations. This recommendation will continue the effort to increase Mule deer populations and address depredation problems areas with Season Choice Antlerless Only permits. Removal of all portions of the River Antlerless permit.

Harvest objectives are 800 MD bucks and 300 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 15-20% for MD and 30% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data – Plains

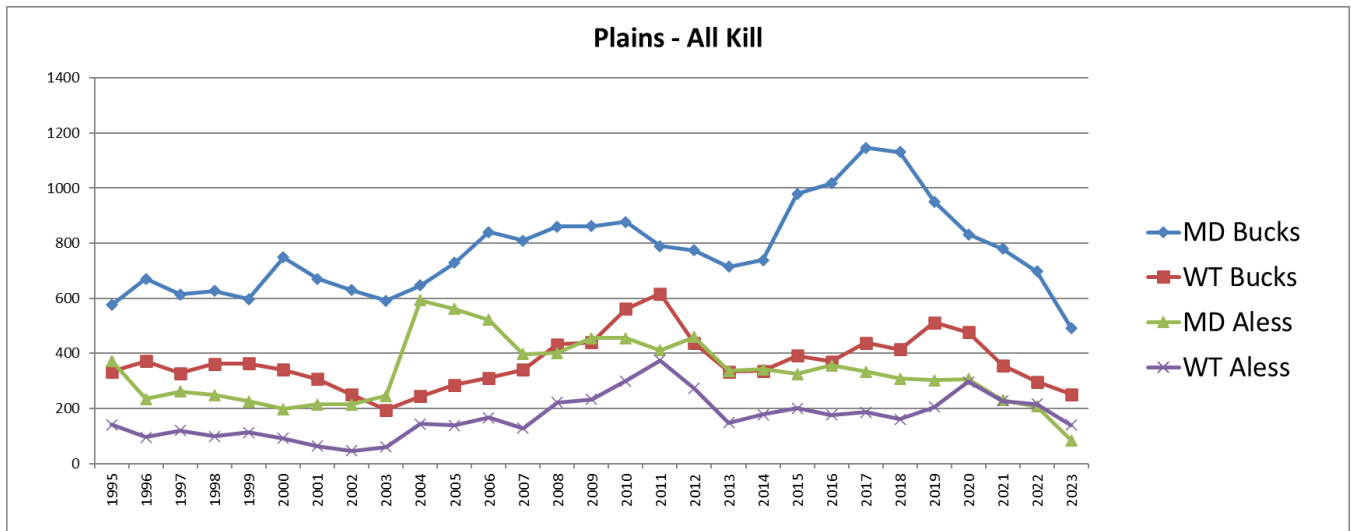
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Plains	1000	999	11/8/23	313	6	319	111	80	191	46	5/1
Plains WT	300	169	-	0	0	0	50	14	64	32	5/1
Plains AO SC	100	100	8/14/23	1	28	29	0	8	8	34	3/0
Plains WT AO SC	300	113	-	1	0	1	0	17	17	11	4/1
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	5	5		
Landowner	-	-	-	27	21	48	17	5	22		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	8	0	8	0	1	1		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	25	2	27	12	1	13		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	30	14	44	18	3	21		
SW Youth	-	-	-	53	12	65	15	3	18		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	8	3	11		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	10	1	11	2	0	2		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	1	0	1	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	23	0	23	10	0	10		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	8	0	8		
<b>Total</b>				<b>492</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>391</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	492	84	576	15	16	38	46	251	140	391	36	14	33	52



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
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 (1)
2022	1500 (1 AD, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 200 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Plains WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	3	0 (0)
2023	1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT) 300 (1 WT, 2 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 100 (1 AO, 2 AOWT) Plains WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	5 (winter)	1 (1)
2024*	1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) 200 (1 WT, 1 AOWT)	Plains SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Plains WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – 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	488	198	82	100

## PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Platte MDCA:** 700 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> valid during Archery, November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. Reduction of 200 permits and removal of the bonus tag from 2023. **One MDCA permit per person.**  
Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Platte Whitetail November Firearm:** 700 permits for one whitetail. Decrease of 200 from 2023.

**Platte Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 permits for one antlerless deer and one antlerless whitetail. Valid for entire Platte Unit. Consolidate with **Platte North AOSC**, overall reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

**Platte Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 200 permits for one antlerless whitetail. Reduction of 200 permits and removal of the bonus tag from 2023.

**River Antlerless:** Remove the area west of the Platte confluence from River Antlerless.

**General Information:** Whitetail buck harvest is 31% below the 5-year average. Mule deer buck harvest is 34% 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. 1132 residents applied for 765 MDCA permits (66% success) and 375 non-residents drew for 135 MDCA permits (33% success).

Depredation Complaints: 6, DCP: 0

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Objectives are to improve age structure and to increase whitetail herds in riparian corridors and to maintain a low density in the 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, and a hard winter in 2022-23. Mule Deer objectives are to increase age structure and increase the population. There was one confirmed report of brainworm in 2023.

Harvest objectives are 800 MD bucks and 900 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 20-22% for MD and 42% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data – Platte

Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Platte MDCA	900	900	DRAW	286	1	287	80	57	137	44	3
Platte WT	900	899	11/10/23	4	0	4	237	38	275	31	
Platte AO SC	100	100	7/24/23	0	21	21	2	15	17	32	6
Platte WT AO SC	400	400	11/10/23	0	0	0	5	89	94	18	6
Platte North AO SC	200	200	8/12/23	1	45	46	1	24	25	31	5
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	9	220	229		
Landowner	-	-	-	107	41	148	69	32	101		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	16	4	20	15	5	20		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	38	6	44	99	20	119		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	2	0	2	18	6	24		
SW Youth	-	-	-	90	17	107	34	12	46		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	39	4	43		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	2	0	2	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	2	0	2	5	0	5		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	36	0	36		
<b>Total</b>				<b>548</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>1171</b>		

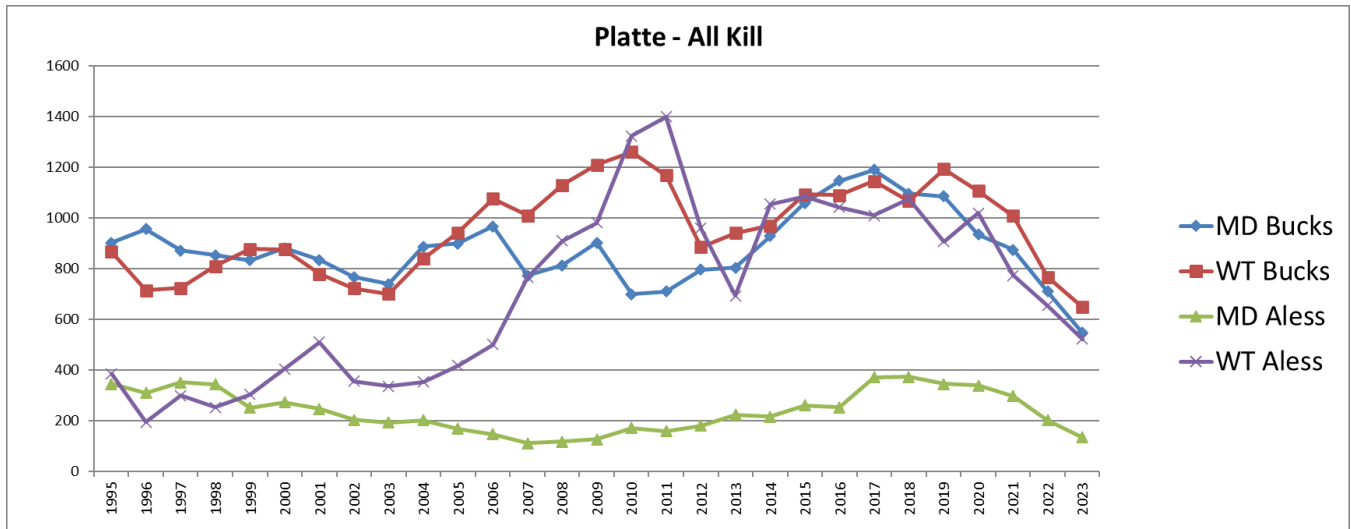


# PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

(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+
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
2023	548	135	683	20	10	54	36	649	523	1172	45	19	49	32



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	MDCA 1400 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 1300 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 800 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 500 (2 AO)	3	1 (10)
2020	MDCA 1400 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 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 <sup>2</sup> , 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 (23)
2022	MDCA 1000 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 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 (0)
2023	MDCA 900 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 900 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 100 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 400 (2 AOWT) Platte SCA North – 200 (1AO, 1 AOWT)	6 (winter)	0 (0)
2024*	MDCA 700 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 700 (1 WT)	Platte SCA – 100 (1AO, 1AOWT) Platte WT SCA – 200 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – 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	482	570	90	210

## REPUBLICAN MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Republican MDCA:** 50 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits valid during Archery, November Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons. A bag limit change from MD Buck Only in 2023. **One MDCA permit per person.** Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Republican Whitetail November Firearm:** 2200 permits for one whitetail valid during the November Firearm season. A decrease of 300 from 2023.

**Republican Antlerless Only:** 800 permits for one antlerless whitetail deer. Permits are not valid on Harlan County Lake USACE Property. A decrease of 400 from 2023 and removal of the bonus tag.

**Harlan County Reservoir Antlerless Only:** Remove permit. No longer needed.

**General Information:** The whitetail population has decreased significantly along the Republican River in the western portion of the unit. The eastern portion of the unit still appears to be stable, especially along the Little Blue and Republican Rivers. However, unit-wide harvest and buck age structure has been trending downward for the last 4-5 years. CWD continues to be a concern in the western half of the unit. The mule deer herd has been impacted severely by habitat loss and meningeal worm over the past 2 decades.

Depredation complaints: 2, DCP: 0. Both along the Republican River east of HCR.

**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 declining. Buck age structure is relatively good but declining. The population objective for whitetails is to allow slow growth of the herd throughout the unit by reducing the number of Republican Whitetail, Republican AOSC, and eliminating all bonus unit permits and Harlan County Reservoir Season Choice permits, but still maintaining the liberal use of River Antlerless permits. 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.

Harvest objective is 2500 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 40% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 Harvest Data – Republican

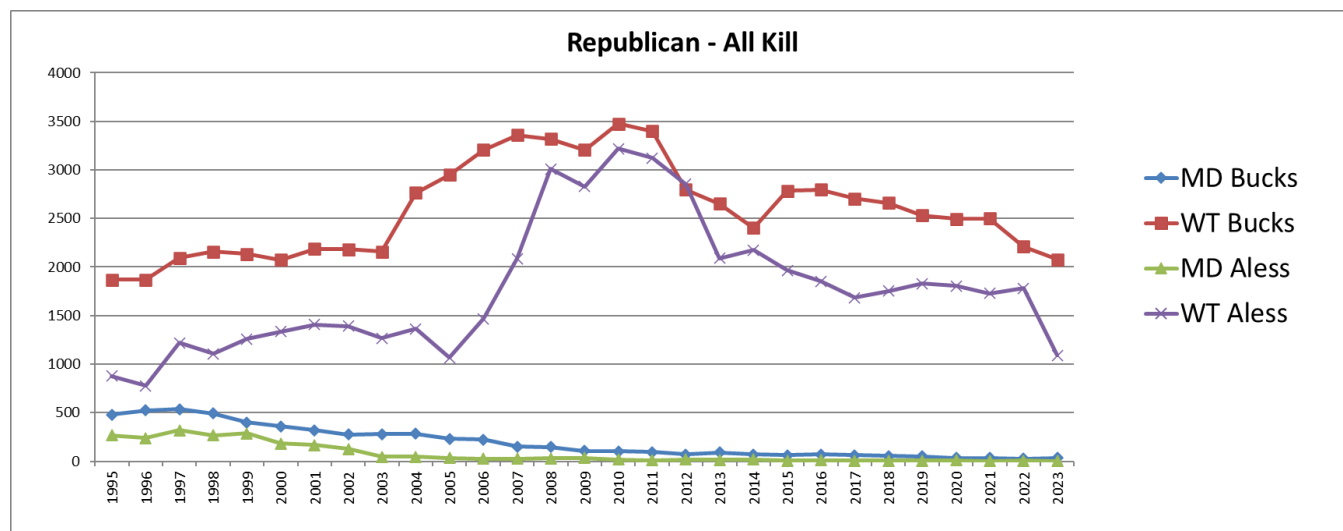
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Republican Mule	50	50	8/12/23	10	0	10	0	0	0	20	
Republican WT	2500	2499	10/21/23	1	0	1	848	143	991	40	
Harlan County Res AO SC	100	101	8/14/23	0	0	0	1	47	48	37	11
Republican AO SC	1200	1200	11/12/23	0	1	1	15	366	381	27	5
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	10	304	314		
Landowner	-	-	-	13	2	15	276	93	369		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	1	0	1	51	10	61		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	1	0	1	218	32	250		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	0	0	0	70	26	96		
SW Youth	-	-	-	7	0	7	122	26	148		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	132	45	177		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	1	1	3	0	3		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	0	1		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	17	0	17		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	315	0	315		
<b>Total</b>				<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2079</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>3171</b>		

# REPUBLICAN 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+
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
2023	33	4	37	11	-	-	-	2079	1092	3171	34	25	31	44



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
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 (2)
2022	MDCA 75 (1 MD Buck) WT 3000 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1500 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	2	0 (0)
2023	MDCA 50 (1 MD Buck) WT 2500 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 1200 (2 AOWT) HCR SCA – 100 (2 AOWT)	2	0 (0)
2024*	MDCA 50 (1 AD <sup>2</sup> ) WT 2200 (1 WT)	Republican SCA – 800 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – 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	33	1956	4	760

## SANDHILLS MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**NEW – No person may obtain more than one Sandhills permit that allows for the take of a mule deer buck.**

**Sandhills November Firearm:** 1200 permits for Any Deer<sup>2</sup> and two antlerless whitetail bonus tags. Reduction of 300 and removal of one bonus tag from 2023. Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Private Land Only Sandhills November Firearm:** 200 permits for Any Deer<sup>2</sup> and one antlerless whitetail bonus tags. NEW permit for 2024, partial shift from Sandhills November FA. Not valid on land open to public hunting access.

**Sandhills Whitetail November Firearm:** 300 Any Whitetail tags with one antlerless whitetail bonus tag. Reduction of 200 permits and removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**Sandhills Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 100 Antlerless Only permits with 2 AOWT bonus tags. Removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**Sandhills Whitetail Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 300 Antlerless Only Whitetail permits with one AOWT bonus tag. Removal of one bonus tag from 2023.

**River Antlerless:** Removal of all sections from River Antlerless.

**General Information:** Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was 35% below the 5-year average and down 20% since 2022. Whitetail buck harvest was 43% below the 5-year average and down 25% since 2022.

Depredation complaints: 7

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Trend indicators show a lower population of both whitetail and mule deer. EHD reduced whitetail populations throughout the unit in 2021, affects appear varied throughout. The winter of 2022/2023 appears to have reduced deer populations as well. 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 stabilize the population. This recommendation provides the basis for reduced Mule deer harvest to aid in a population growth unit wide. Recommendations should stabilize a reduced whitetail population and maintain reduced species interaction to benefit mule deer. Removal of all portions of the RivA permit.

Harvest objectives are 1000 MD bucks and 750 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 12% for MD and 25-30% for WT in this unit.

### **2023 Harvest Data – Sandhills**

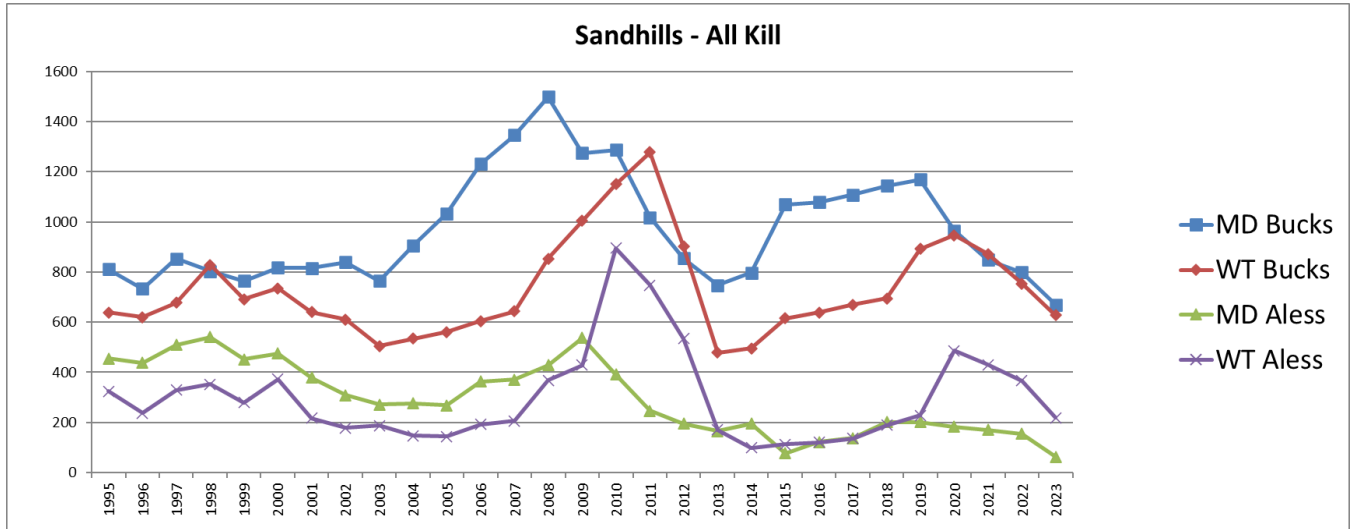
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Sandhills	1500	1338	-	357	5	362	234	87	321	47	4/1
Sandhills WT	500	351	-	2	0	2	146	32	178	46	4/1
Sandhills AO SC	100	100	9/5/23	2	22	24	1	14	15	30	7/2
Sandhills WT AO SC	300	111	-	1	2	3	0	27	27	19	7/1
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	1	1	1	20	21		
Landowner	-	-	-	51	16	67	55	15	70		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	6	1	7	15	0	15		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	36	2	38	35	3	38		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	63	5	68	38	17	55		
SW Youth	-	-	-	54	9	63	25	3	28		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	15	1	16		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	14	1	15	8	0	8		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	5	0	5	2	0	2		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	78	0	78	22	0	22		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	1	0	1	31	0	31		
<b>Total</b>				<b>670</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>847</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	670	64	734	9	8	26	66	628	219	847	26	8	34	59



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
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 <sup>2</sup> , 2 AOWT) WT 500 (WT, 2 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 100 (AO, 2 AOWT) Sandhills WT SCA – 300 (3 AOWT)	3 (winter)	1 (7)
2024*	1200 (AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) PLO 200 (AD <sup>2</sup> , 1 AOWT) WT 300 (WT, 1 AOWT)	Sandhills SCA – 100 (AO, 1 AOWT) Sandhills WT SCA – 300 (2 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

AOWT – Antlerless Only Whitetail

<sup>2</sup> – No antlerless mule deer

AO – Antlerless Only    AD – Any Deer

## Expected Harvest:

Unit	MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
All Season	703	628	67	220

## UPPER PLATTE MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**NEW – No person may obtain more than one Upper Platte permit that allows for the take of a mule deer buck.**

**Upper Platte November Firearm:** 800 Any Deer<sup>2</sup> permits. Reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

Nonresident Allocation: 15%

**Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte:** 50 Antlerless Only permits and an Antlerless Only Whitetail bonus tag. Reduction of 50 permits from 2023.

**Antlerless Only Season Choice Upper Platte Whitetail:** 200 permits for 2 Antlerless Only Whitetail. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Firearm Mule deer buck harvest was 35% below the 5-year average and 20% down from 2022. Whitetail buck harvest was down 43% to the 5-year average and down 25% from 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 unit wide and increase whitetail populations on the North Platte River. This recommendation will allow for an increase in deer populations in a historically stable deer unit and address depredation problems with Antlerless Only permits and the AOSC Whitetail permit. Removal of all portions of the River Antlerless permits will allow growth of Whitetail populations on the North Platte River.

Harvest objectives are 700 MD bucks and 250 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 23-25% for MD and 35% for WT in this unit.

### **2023 Harvest Data – Upper Platte**

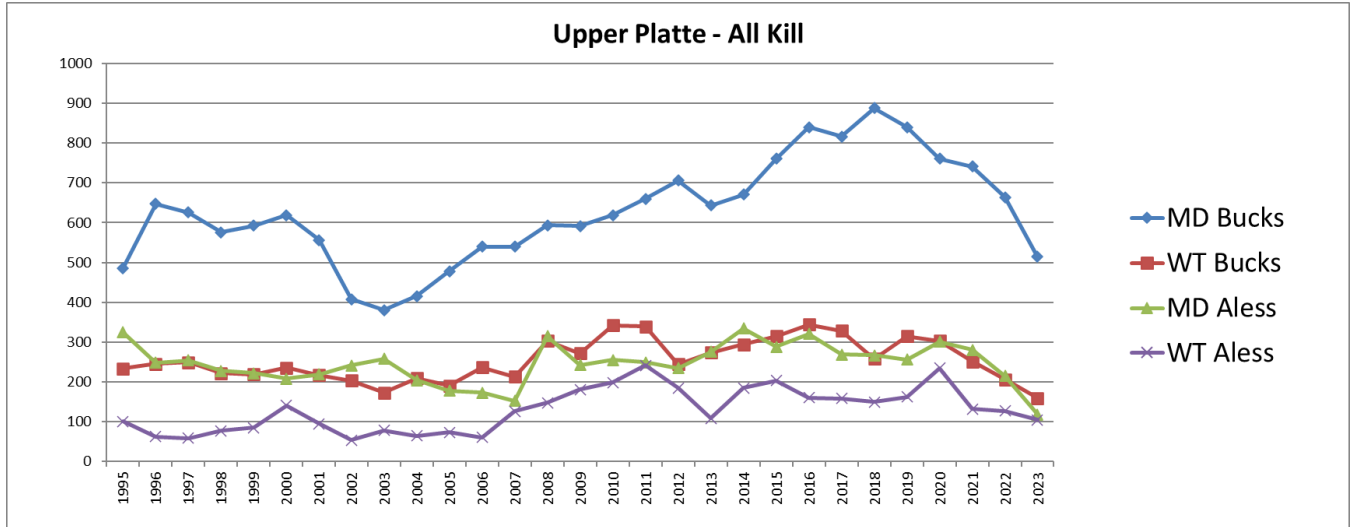
Permit Name	Permit numbers			Mule Deer			Whitetail			%Success	
	Quota	Sold	Sellout	Bucks	AO	Total	Bucks	AO	Total	1st	Bonus
Upper Platte	1000	1001	10/10/23	278	10	288	58	11	69	36	0/0
Upper Platte AO SC	100	100	7/24/23	1	44	45	0	11	11	47	9/0
Upper Platte WT AO SC	200	195	-	0	0	0	0	17	17	8	1/0
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	42	42		
Landowner	-	-	-	57	27	84	23	7	30		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	15	5	20	4	5	9		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	34	7	41	24	3	27		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	31	8	39	8	3	11		
SW Youth	-	-	-	53	16	69	14	1	15		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	6	4	10		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	13	1	14	1	0	1		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	32	0	32	9	0	9		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	0	0	0	12	0	12		
<b>Total</b>				<b>514</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>263</b>		

# 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+
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
2023	514	118	632	19	17	30	53	159	104	263	40	11	16	73



## Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
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)	3	0
2023	1000 (AD <sup>2</sup> )	Upper Platte SCA – 100 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)	4 (winter)	1 (9)
2024*	800 (AD <sup>2</sup> )	Upper Platte SCA – 50 (1 AO, 1 AOWT) Upper Platte WT SCA – 200 (2 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers  
<sup>2</sup> – 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	452	146	93	45

## WAHOO MANAGEMENT UNIT

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Wahoo November Firearm:** 3600 Any Deer permits. Reduction of 200 permits from 2023.

**Wahoo Antlerless Only Season Choice:** 1900 permits valid for one Antlerless Only Whitetail deer. No change from 2023.

**General Information:** Harvest for all seasons was 2994 bucks and 1926 antlerless whitetail deer. Buck harvest increased from 2022, nearly reaching the expected unit harvest of 3000. 1.5-year-old bucks comprised 29% of total harvest, decreasing from 30% in 2022. 2.5-year-old buck harvest decreased from 46% to 43%. 3.5-year-old and greater buck harvest increased to 28% from 25%. Hunter complaints about fewer deer increased. Depredation issues in the Wahoo management unit fall within the boundaries of the River Antlerless permit.

Depredation Complaints: 11 DCP: 7

**Population Status, Goals and Harvest Strategy:** Population numbers appear to be decreasing in the unit. Population levels remain within landowner tolerance for most of the unit; however, there remains isolated areas of moderate crop damage along portions of the Platte River. There were four reports of EHD in 2023; population impacts appear insignificant. Harvest strategies are to allow growth in upland areas of the unit, increasing age structure, and maintaining pressure along the river systems with the use of the river antlerless deer permit. The recommended changes are reverting to 2020 numbers.

Harvest objective is 3400 WT bucks. Maintenance AO harvest occurs at about 44% for WT in this unit.

### 2023 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	11/10/23	0	0	0	1220	270	1490	39	
Wahoo AO SC	1900	1900	11/13/23	0	0	0	17	400	417	22	
River Antlerless	-	-	-	0	0	0	59	812	871		
Landowner	-	-	-	1	0	1	329	160	489		
Special LO Season	-	-	-	0	0	0	88	19	107		
SW Deer Archery	-	-	-	0	1	1	535	116	651		
SW Muzzleloader	-	-	-	1	0	1	65	47	112		
SW Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	130	45	175		
SW WT Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	145	50	195		
Restricted NR Youth	-	-	-	0	0	0	2	1	3		
SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	3	0	3		
Restricted SW Buck Only	-	-	-	0	0	0	18	0	18		
WT SW Buck	-	-	-	1	0	1	383	6	389		
<b>Total</b>				<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2994</b>	<b>1926</b>	<b>4920</b>		

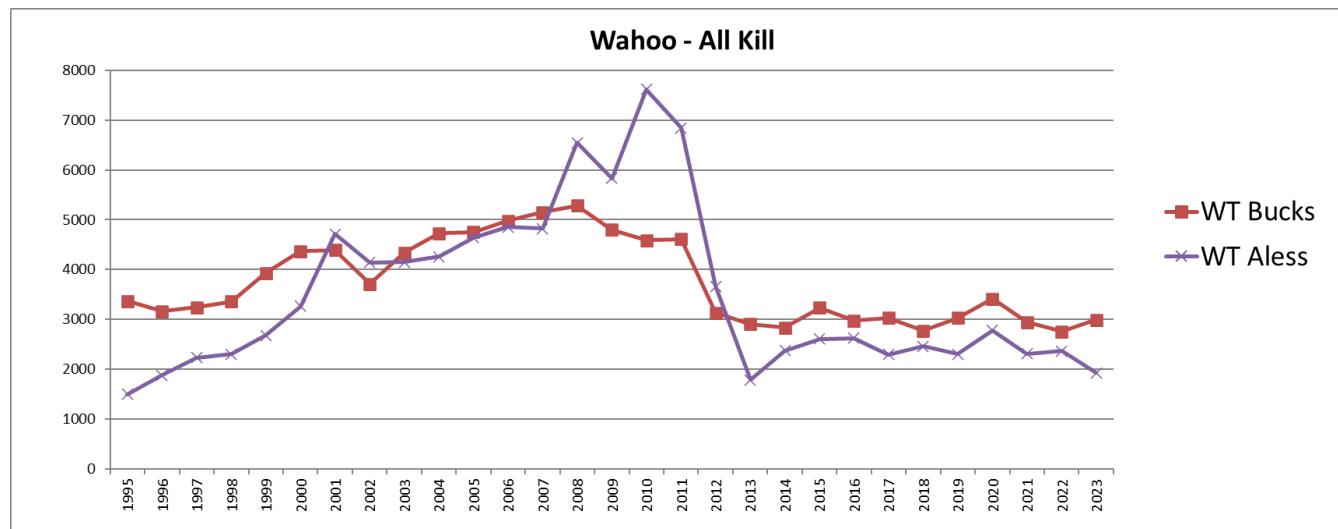


## WAHOO MANAGEMENT UNIT

(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+
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
2023	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	2994	1926	4920	39	29	43	28



### Total Permits Authorized

Year	Nov. Firearm	Special Seasons	Depredation	
			Complaints	DCP
2019	3650 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)	13	11 (102)
2020	3650 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)	14	13 (133)
2021	3800 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	16	8 (87)
2022	3800 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 2200 (1 AOWT)	9	7 (80)
2023	3800 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)	11	7 (43)
2024*	3600 (1 AD)	Wahoo SCA – 1900 (1 AOWT)		

\* Recommended permit numbers

<sup>2</sup> – 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	-	2902	-	1900

# STATEWIDE BUCK

**2024 Recommendations:**

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31 (Archery)  
 November 16-24, 2024 (Firearm)  
 December 1 -31 (Muzzleloader)

**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. 70% of harvest was in the MDCA in 2023. In the past, this permit has been firearm season only, proposing to expand to all open seasons (Season Choice format) in 2024.

**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>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>	
2019	50	50	13	21	0	21	0	0	0	42
2020	100	59 <sup>+</sup>	24	31	0	31	7	0	7	64
2021	100	100	33	51	0	51	7	0	7	58
2022	100	100	30	47	0	47	10	0	10	57
2023	70/30	102	32	41	0	41	13	0	13	53
2024*	70/30									

\*Recommended

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

**2023 Unit Breakdown**

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>		<u>Whitetail Deer</u>		<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mule Deer</u>		<u>Whitetail Deer</u>	
	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>		<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>AO</u>
Blue NW	0	0	0	0	Loup West	0	0	0	0
Blue SE	0	0	0	0	Missouri	0	0	2	0
Buffalo	1	0	2	0	Pine Ridge	4	0	1	0
Calamus East	0	0	1	0	Plains	1	0	0	0
Calamus West	2	0	0	0	Platte	2	0	0	0
Elkhorn	0	0	0	0	Republican	0	0	1	0
Frenchman	26	0	1	0	Sandhills	5	0	2	0
Keya Paha	0	0	0	0	Upper Platte	0	0	0	0
Loup East	0	0	0	0	Wahoo	0	0	3	0

**Expected Harvest:** 45 mule deer bucks and 10 whitetail bucks on 100 permits

## RESTRICTED STATEWIDE BUCK

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31 (Archery)  
 November 16-24, 2024 (Firearm)  
 December 1 -31 (Muzzleloader)

**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:** 1,000 permits issued in 2023. Nonresidents purchased 236 permits. Harvest was 163 mule deer bucks and 160 whitetail bucks. About one third of harvest overall and half of the Mule Deer buck harvest on this permit occurs in the Sandhills DMU. In the past, this permit has been firearm season only, proposing to expand to all open seasons (Season Choice format) in 2024.

**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.

### 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>	
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	1,000	236	163	0	163	160	1	161	32
2024*	1,000									

\*Recommended permit numbers

### 2023 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	9	0	4	0
Blue SE	0	0	9	1	Missouri	0	0	1	0
Buffalo	0	0	6	0	Pine Ridge	1	0	5	0
Calamus East	4	0	1	0	Plains	23	0	10	0
Calamus West	9	0	16	0	Platte	2	0	5	0
Elkhorn	0	0	8	0	Republican	0	0	17	0
Frenchman	1	0	5	0	Sandhills	78	0	22	0
Keya Paha	4	0	8	0	Upper Platte	32	0	9	0
Loup East	0	0	4	0	Wahoo	0	0	18	0

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

# STATEWIDE WHITETAIL BUCK

## 2024 Recommendations:

### Season Dates:

September 1 – December 31 (Archery)

November 16-24, 2024 (Firearm)

December 1 -31 (Muzzleloader)

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

**Area Open:** Statewide.

**General Information:** This permit that can be used during archery, muzzleloader and November firearm seasons. 2,163 whitetail bucks were harvested with this permit in 2023. 8,000 permits were issued. This permit is available to nonresidents, but there is little demand for it, only 296 were sold to nonresidents. It did sell out on 11/10/2023.

**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. This permit accounts for more than 10% of the WT buck harvest in 6 of our 18 units (BNW, BSE, ELK, FR, RP and WH). 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

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			%Success
	Quota	Sold	NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total	
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	8,000	296	2	0	2	2163	14	2177	27
2024*	8,000									

\*Recommended

### 2023 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	249	1	Loup West	0	0	32	1
Blue SE	0	0	353	2	Missouri	0	0	126	0
Buffalo	0	0	124	0	Pine Ridge	0	0	23	0
Calamus East	0	0	39	0	Plains	0	0	8	0
Calamus West	0	0	25	0	Platte	0	0	36	0
Elkhorn	0	0	158	4	Republican	0	0	315	0
Frenchman	0	0	78	0	Sandhills	1	0	31	0
Keya Paha	0	0	62	0	Upper Platte	0	0	12	0
Loup East	0	0	109	0	Wahoo	1	0	383	6

**Expected Harvest:** 2200 whitetail bucks on 8,000 permits

## STATEWIDE YOUTH

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31 (Archery)  
 November 16-24, 2024 (Firearm)  
 December 1 -31 (Muzzleloader)  
 January 1-15, 2025 – 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 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 3,680. 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 DMUs, where they make up 20% and 16%, 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>	
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
2023 (all)	9,734	680	111	791	2297	610	2889	38
2023 Resident Youth	5460	624	103	727	1162	290	1452	40
2023 Youth Whitetail	3879	6	1	7	1056	306	1362	35
2023 NR Rest. Youth	395	50	7	57	61	14	75	33

### 2023 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	189	73	Loup West	25	5	69	11
Blue SE	0	0	239	78	Missouri	1	0	202	56
Buffalo	65	8	184	40	Pine Ridge	31	6	49	17
Calamus East	8	1	65	10	Plains	63	13	25	6
Calamus West	22	7	65	10	Platte	90	17	73	16
Elkhorn	0	0	153	52	Republican	7	1	257	71
Frenchman	216	22	75	19	Sandhills	68	10	48	4
Keya Paha	10	0	118	12	Upper Platte	66	17	21	5
Loup East	8	4	170	34	Wahoo	0	0	277	96

**Expected Harvest:** 3700 deer on 10,000 permits.

<u>MD Buck</u>	<u>WT Buck</u>	<u>MD Antlerless</u>	<u>WT Antlerless</u>
700	2300	100	600

# STATEWIDE ARCHERY

## 2024 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).

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

**General Information:** Permit sales decreased 9% and harvest decreased 10% from 2022 levels. 44% of all archery MD buck harvest occurred in the MDCA, which was down from 70% in 2022 and 67% in 2021. This reduction in MD buck harvest was largely due to the NR restrictions put in place in 2023. In 2023, NR harvested 30% of the MD bucks statewide on this permit, compared to 57% in 2022. NR made up 18% and 25% of permit holders for those years, respectively. Resident MD Buck harvest has ebbed and flowed with the fluctuations of MD populations while NR MD buck harvest has increased over time. This disproportionate use coupled with declining MD populations has led to those restrictions on NR. The current restrictions, while they do restrict NR archers in certain areas, do still allow for ample and proportional opportunity for NR to hunt MD in Nebraska. The current quota is equal to the average NR permit sales for 2014-18. The quota also ensures that the types of permits (archery/firearm/muzzleloader/SWB) stay proportional to historic trends.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Archery deer seasons, for the most part, have little impact on statewide populations and provides a lot of hunting opportunity throughout the season. However, when permit use is disproportionate to the resource some restrictions may be necessary.

## Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			Total	% Success	% XBow
	Sold	NR	%NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total			
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	16,372	2,997	18	231	27	258	2550	487	3037	3295	20	24
2024*	Res - Unl	3,000										

## 2023 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	260	76	Loup West	9	0	31	3
Blue SE	1	0	461	94	Missouri	2	0	138	22
Buffalo	6	0	168	27	Pine Ridge	14	1	36	9
Calamus East	1	0	34	2	Plains	25	2	12	1
Calamus West	18	0	33	6	Platte	38	6	99	20
Elkhorn	0	0	175	40	Republican	1	0	218	32
Frenchman	42	6	62	13	Sandhills	36	2	35	3
Keya Paha	2	2	90	2	Upper Platte	34	7	24	3
Loup East	2	0	139	18	Wahoo	0	1	535	116

**Expected Harvest:** 3,300 deer on 17,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
270	2500	30	500

## STATEWIDE MUZZLELOADER

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Season Dates:** December 1 through December 31

**Permits:** Residents: Unlimited Any Deer permits.

Nonresidents: 1,000 Any Deer permits.

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

**General Information:** 5630 permits were issued. Harvest was 811 adult males and 319 antlerless deer. 18% of permits were issued to nonresidents, down from 28% in 2022 due to the NR quota. Nonresidents account for 30% of MD Buck harvest on this permit, compared to 61% in 2022. The MDCA restriction causes increased focus on non-MDCA units like the Sandhills, where NR harvest 60% of the MD bucks on this permit in that unit. Similar to archery, NR MD buck harvest has increased (in total and proportionally) in recent years, while resident harvest has declined significantly. The current quota is equal to the average NR permit sales for 2014-18. The quota also ensures that the types of permits (archery/firearm/muzzleloader/SWB) stay proportional to historic trends.

**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.

### Harvest comparisons by year

Year	Permits			Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			Total	% Success
	Sold	NR	% NR	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total		
2019	6741	1729	26	415	77	492	965	425	1390	1882	28
2020	7746	2201	28	404	78	482	950	496	1446	1928	25
2021	6715	2018	30	323	88	411	762	392	1154	1565	23
2022	5829	1609	28	255	58	313	714	306	1020	1333	23
2023	5630	996	18	183	30	213	628	289	917	1130	20
2024*	Res – Unl	1000									

### 2023 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	30	38	Loup West	19	0	11	4
Blue SE	0	0	68	39	Missouri	0	0	35	16
Buffalo	3	0	37	20	Pine Ridge	3	0	39	10
Calamus East	6	0	5	1	Plains	30	14	18	3
Calamus West	16	1	22	10	Platte	2	0	18	6
Elkhorn	1	1	43	24	Republican	0	0	70	26
Frenchman	3	0	17	5	Sandhills	63	5	38	17
Keya Paha	2	0	49	4	Upper Platte	31	8	8	3
Loup East	3	1	55	16	Wahoo	1	0	65	47

**Expected Harvest:** 1130 deer on 6,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
200	600	30	300

## LIMITED LANDOWNER DEER

### 2024 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:** 12,882 Landowner permits were issued, down 11% from 2022. Total harvest was 4,509 deer, down 19% from 2022. The definition for immediate family was liberalized in 2019. This is the only statewide permit with a bonus antlerless tag. 4.7% 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	
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
2023	12,882	634	220	854	26	2608	1047	3655	29	31 / 4

### 2023 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	227	133	Loup West	26	9	75	28
Blue SE	0	0	395	163	Missouri	1	0	224	90
Buffalo	52	17	149	54	Pine Ridge	47	9	47	19
Calamus East	12	1	53	21	Plains	27	21	17	5
Calamus West	21	12	61	14	Platte	107	41	69	32
Elkhorn	0	1	206	94	Republican	13	2	276	93
Frenchman	216	60	61	25	Sandhills	51	16	55	15
Keya Paha	3	4	155	47	Upper Platte	57	27	23	7
Loup East	0	0	186	47	Wahoo	1	0	329	160

**Expected Harvest:** 4300 deer on 12,000 permits

MD Buck	WT Buck	MD Antlerless	WT Antlerless
600	2500	200	1000



## SPECIAL LANDOWNER DEER

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Season Dates:** November 9 – 11

**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:** 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
2023	3,467	147	16	163	531	108	639	23

### 2023 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	14	Loup West	6	0	17	2
Blue SE	0	0	64	14	Missouri	0	0	50	5
Buffalo	8	2	25	4	Pine Ridge	11	0	8	4
Calamus East	2	0	12	0	Plains	8	0	0	1
Calamus West	7	1	7	1	Platte	16	4	15	5
Elkhorn	0	0	40	11	Republican	1	0	51	10
Frenchman	63	3	11	2	Sandhills	6	1	15	0
Keya Paha	1	0	26	4	Upper Platte	15	5	4	5
Loup East	3	0	38	7	Wahoo	0	0	88	19

## RIVER ANTLERLESS

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Season Dates:** September 1 – December 31 (Archery)  
 October 1-15 (Firearm)  
 November 16-24 (Firearm)  
 December 1-31 (Muzzleloader)  
 January 1-15, 2025 (Firearm)

**Permits:** 6,000 permits for two antlerless whitetail deer. Reduction of 6,000 permits from 2023. 8,263 permits were sold in 2023.

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

**2023 Changes:** Remove all areas in Upper Platte, Plains and Sandhills, remove all but White River in Pine Ridge, remove North and South Platte Rivers in Platte DMU.

**General Information:** This \$14 multi-season permit targets river corridors 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. Harvest on this permit has declined by 44% since 2020.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Whitetail populations and crop damage are higher in river corridors than in any other area of the state. While it is desirable to allow for this additional harvest of antlerless whitetails in these areas on private land, whitetail populations have declined across most of the state and a modest reduction in this permit is needed. It has functioned as an unlimited antlerless permit for these areas and that approach is no longer desired at the current population levels. This permit will change as future conditions change.

### Harvest comparisons:

Year	Permits		Mule Deer			Whitetail Deer			Total	% Success
	Quota	Sold	Buck	AO	Total	Buck	AO	Total		
2019	12,000	8,976	1	24	25	169	5129	5298	5323	41 / 18
2020	12,000	10,652	2	18	20	168	6052	6220	6240	40 / 18
2021	12,000	9,157	1	9	10	150	4304	4454	5564	34 / 14
2022	12,000	8,494	0	7	7	168	4107	4275	4282	36 / 14
2023	12,000	8,263	0	1	1	159	3329	3488	3489	31 / 11
2024*	6,000									

### 2023 Unit Breakdown

Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer		Unit	Mule Deer		Whitetail Deer	
	Buck	AO	Buck	AO		Buck	AO	Buck	AO
Blue NW	0	0	0	5	Loup West	0	0	0	56
Blue SE	0	0	16	235	Missouri	0	0	12	273
Buffalo	0	0	23	498	Pine Ridge	0	0	2	44
Calamus East	0	0	0	34	Plains	0	0	0	5
Calamus West	0	0	0	13	Platte	0	0	9	220
Elkhorn	0	0	11	351	Republican	0	0	10	304
Frenchman	0	0	0	7	Sandhills	0	1	1	20
Keya Paha	0	0	3	105	Upper Platte	0	0	0	42
Loup East	0	0	13	305	Wahoo	0	0	59	812

**Expected Harvest:** 2,400 antlerless whitetail deer on 6,000 authorized permits.

## NONRESIDENT PERMIT QUOTA

**2024 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 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, that quota level was set to ensure that numbers did not increase while we worked to evaluate what an appropriate level would be. That 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 is appropriate.

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 <sup>1</sup>			Total Individual Hunters <sup>2</sup>		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	10,120	61,653	14%	13,280	72,622	10,000
2024*						10,000

\* Proposed

<sup>1</sup> Excludes LO and Youth permits.

<sup>2</sup> All hunters statewide, includes ES/BO, Youth, LO and AOSC.

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# ELK

## INTRODUCTION

Statewide elk populations have reached cultural carrying capacity in recent years. We have been working with landowners closely over the last 5 years to understand their level of tolerance for elk in Nebraska and will continue doing so. We have used a deterministic model to help project elk populations to evaluate harvest structure and permit allocations.

**General Information:** Success for the 2023 season was 75% for bulls and 31% for antlerless permits. In 2023, 1151 hunters harvested 203 antlered bulls and 274 antlerless elk. Success and harvest close to expected numbers. Harvest reporting was completely Telecheck in 2023. Due to the unit expansion it was not feasible to have mandatory in person check. Elk annual survival estimates from collared elk are 0.70 for bulls and 0.79 for cows. The mortality rate from hunting was 0.20 for bulls and 0.14 for cows. Natural mortality made up the remainder and matched results from recent research in South Dakota at 0.10 for bulls and 0.07 for cows.

**Population Strategy:** Continue to stabilize and/or reduce population in all units and provide sufficient antlerless permits to respond to depredation. We restructured our management units in 2023 to help distribute hunters and harvest appropriately across elk range. This separated historic elk ranges into their own units and created units and permit quotas for peripheral areas where tolerance of elk varies greatly where we've had difficulty getting hunter effort and elk harvest when needed. This change also included all of Nebraska in a unit so elk in eastern Nebraska would be eligible for harvest. Tolerance for elk is lower in Units 8-14 and we will manage those units with different considerations and hunter expectations than Units 1-7. We expect hunter success for both bull and antlerless permits and bull quality to be lower Units 8-14. Units 1-7 will be managed for higher trophy and hunt quality.

Individual unit management plans will be reviewed prior to 2025 recommendations.

The recommendations reflect the following goal:

- Stabilizing and reducing elk populations in all units.
- Providing quality bulls in elk units 1-7.

## **2023 Season Highlights:**

- Average bull was 5.4 years (sample size down considerably).
- Main beam length average was 45.7 inches, a decrease from 46.4 in 2022.
  - Units 1-7: 46.2
- Bull success was 76% compared to 76% in 2022, the historic average is 77%.
  - Units 1-7: 79%
- 85% of bulls were 6 point or greater, slightly down from 88% from the last couple years.
  - Units 1-7: 85%
- Antlerless success decreased to 31% from 37% in 2022, the historic average is 42%.
- Antlered bull harvest of 203, up from 175 in 2021, 2023 is the highest ever.
- Antlerless harvest was 274, up from 260 in 2021, 2023 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**

Statewide, remove 11 bull permits.

Statewide, remove 38 antlerless permits.

Total permits recommended: 1,172 permits (256 bull and 921 antlerless)

## RECOMMENDED ELK SEASONS AND HARVEST

<b><u>Season Dates:</u></b>	Bull Season:	Archery: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 Firearm: Sept. 21 – Oct. 31
	Antlerless:	August 1 – January 31, 2025 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, 2025

<u>2024 Season Recommendations</u>					<u>2023 Season Results</u>										
<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO</u>	<u>Tot</u>	<u>Quota</u>			<u>Sold</u>			<u>Harvest</u>		<u>% Succ</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>		
				<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO</u>	<u>Tot</u>	<u>Gen</u>	<u>LO</u>	<u>Tot</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>AO</u>		<u>MBL</u>	<u>%6pt</u>	
<b>Bull Permits</b>	Unit 1	16	12	28	16	12	28	16	12	28	24	0	86%	48.5	100%
	Unit 2	10	7	17	10	7	17	10	7	17	16	0	94%	47.9	100%
	Unit 3	16	12	28	20	15	35	20	15	35	30	1	89%	46.9	85%
	Unit 4	22	16	38	25	18	43	25	18	43	33	0	77%	42.3	79%
	Unit 5	20	15	35	20	15	35	20	15	35	31	0	89%	48.0	78%
	Unit 6	10	7	17	14	10	24	14	10	24	14	0	58%	45.0	82%
	Unit 7	16	12	28	16	12	28	16	12	28	17	0	61%	44.5	77%
	Unit 8	6	4	10	6	4	10	6	4	10	4	0	40%	36.5	50%
	Unit 9	6	4	10	6	4	10	6	4	10	8	0	80%	46.9	83%
	Unit 10	6	4	10	4	3	7	4	3	7	5	0	71%	47.0	100%
	Unit 11	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	0	60%	45.0	100%
	Unit 12	7	5	12	4	3	7	4	3	7	6	0	86%	41.2	60%
	Unit 13	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	2	5	1	0	20%	30.0	0%
	Unit 14	5	3	8	5	3	8	5	3	8	5	0	63%	43.2	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>85%</b>	
<b>Antlerless Permits</b>	Unit 1	25/35+	45	105	25/35	45	105	25/35	45	105	0	44	42%		
	Unit 2	15/25	30	70	15/25	30	70	15/25	15	55	0	21	38%		
	Unit 3	40/40	60	140	40/40	60	140	40/40	60	140	0	61	44%		
	Unit 4	70/30	75	175	70/30	75	175	70/30	62	162	0	51	31%		
	Unit 5	30/20	37	87	30/30	45	105	30/30	45	105	0	32	30%		
	Unit 6	25/15	30	70	40/20	45	105	40/20	35	95	0	18	19%		
	Unit 7	36	27	63	36	27	63	36	26	62	0	7	11%		
	Unit 8	30	10	40	20	15	35	20	6	26	0	0	0%		
	Unit 9	10	7	17	10	7	17	10	6	16	0	7	44%		
	Unit 10	35	26	61	35	26	61	35	20	55	0	22	40%		
	Unit 11	13	7	20	10	7	17	10	1	11	0	2	18%		
	Unit 12	16	12	28	16	12	28	16	4	20	0	4	20%		
	Unit 13	6	4	17	6	4	10	6	4	10	0	1	10%		
	Unit 14	16	12	28	16	12	28	16	4	20	0	3	15%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>31%</b>			
<b>Other</b>	Auction		3				3				3	0	100%	54.0	100%
	Super Tag		2				2				2	0	100%	48.0	100%
	Earned LO		3*				6				1	0	17%	-	-
	<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>				<b>11</b>				<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>100%</b>

+ Early and Late split season quotas (E/L)

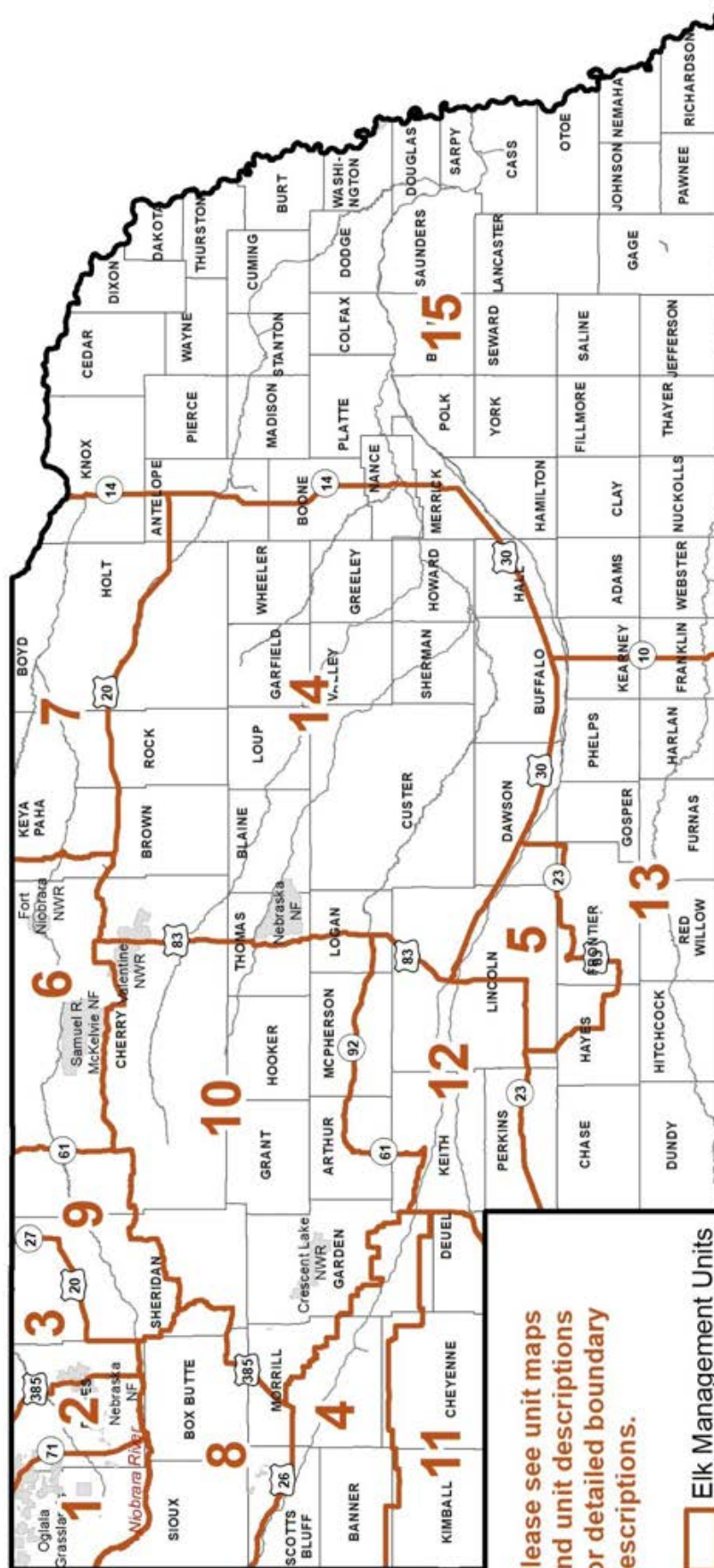
\* 3 LO had qualified and applied for the ELO permit for the 2024 season. 15 LO reported from 2023 season, 65 currently have points towards their free permit.

### Statewide Elk Permits, Harvest and Success since 1995

Permits Allocated				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	205	245	27	477	76	31	84	45.7	5.4
2024*	256	961	1172									

\* - recommended

# 2024 ELK MANAGEMENT UNITS

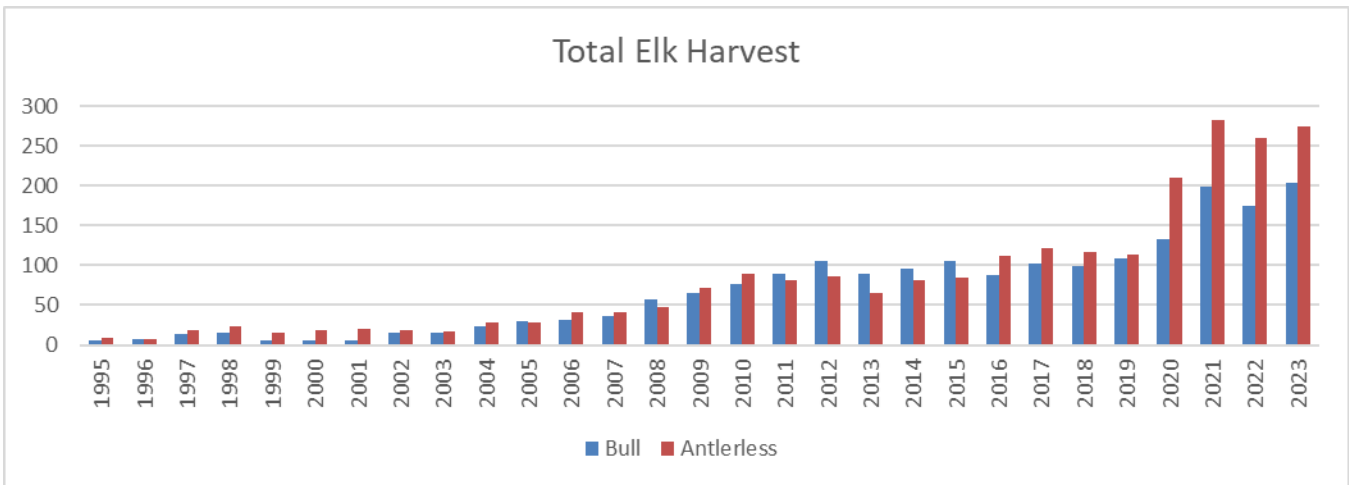
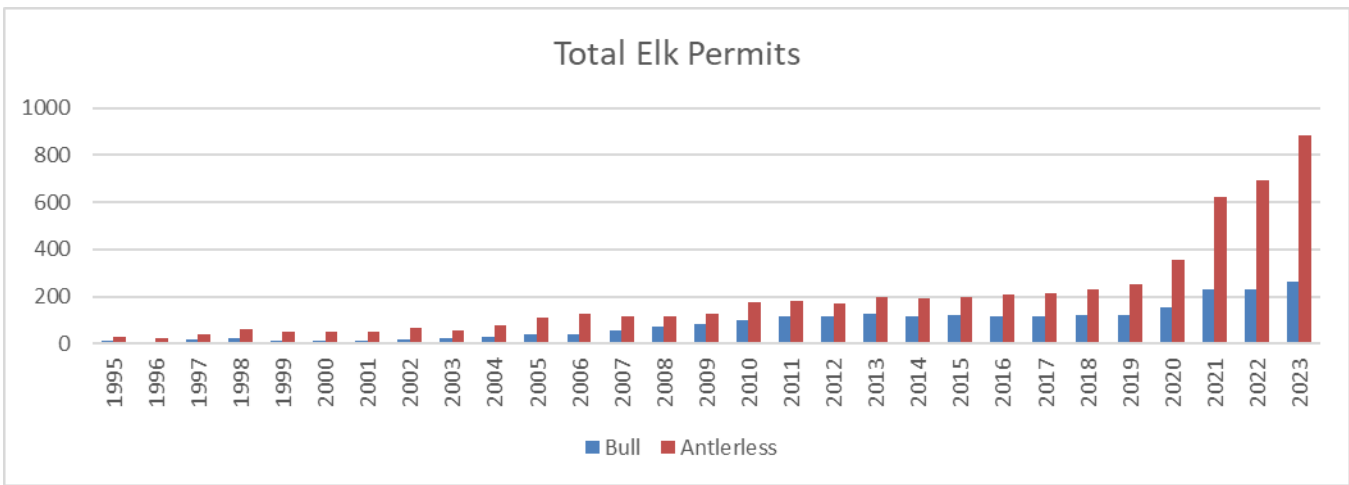
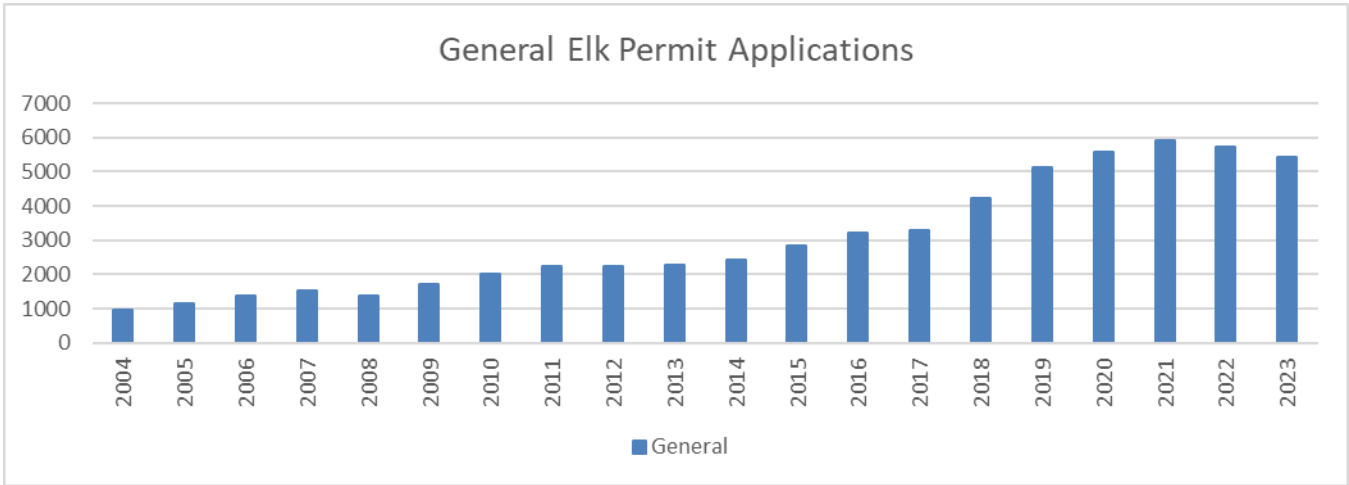


Please see unit maps and unit descriptions for detailed boundary descriptions.

 Elk Management Units



# ELK TRENDS



## UNIT 1

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 1 Bull Permits:** 16 General Either Sex and 12 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No change.

**Unit 1 Antlerless Permits:** No changes.

Early Antlerless: 25

Late Antlerless: 35

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 45

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 86%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 42%. 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 quality, while addressing depredation complaints with antlerless only permits. Bull quality measurements meet the current management approach minimum criteria. Antlerless permit quota will address depredation issues while improving landowner/hunter/agency relations and providing hunter opportunity.

Depredation Complaints: 6

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Gen Unit 1 Bull	14	14	-	-	-	14	88%	100%	47.6
LO Unit 1 Bull	10	10	-	-	-	12	83%	100%	47.3
Gen Unit 1 Early AO	12	-	11	1	12	25	48%	-	-
Gen Unit 1 Late AO	16	-	13	1	16	35	46%	-	-
LO Unit 1 AO	16	-	14	2	16	45	36%	-	-
Auction	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	100%	54.0
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>44</b>	-	-	<b>100%</b>	<b>48.5</b>

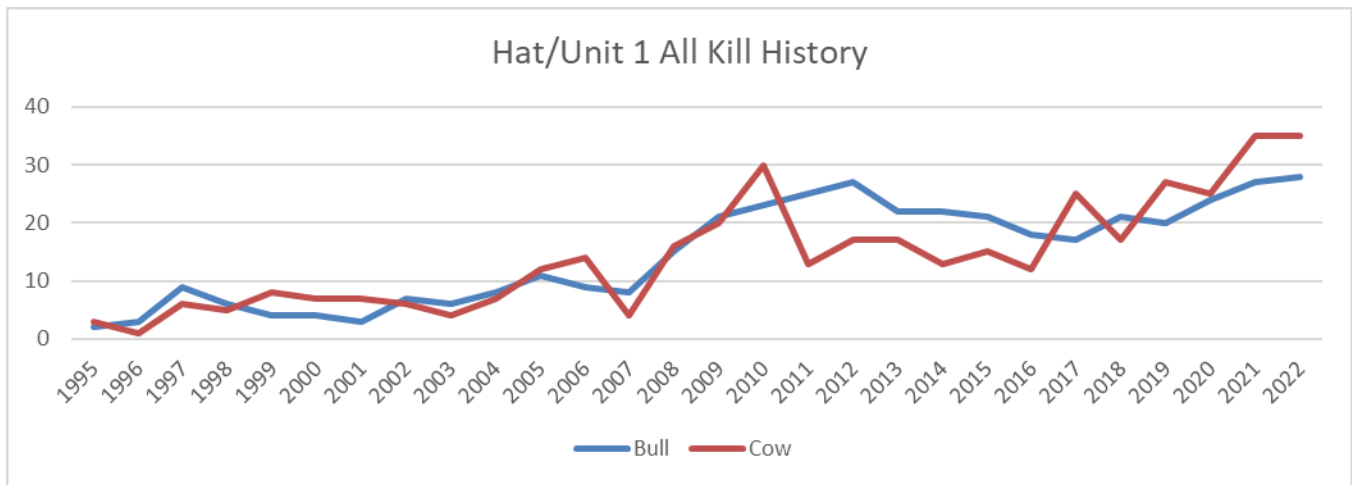
## UNIT 1 (continued)

### Unit Harvest Comparisons By Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	27	44	71	100	48.5	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



### Unit History

Year	Permits Issued		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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 12 Landowner	20 Early 30 Late 37 Landowner	8
2023	16 General 12 Landowner	25 Early 35 Late 45 Landowner	6
2024*	16 General 12 Landowner	25 Early 35 Late 45 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 26 bulls and 45 antlerless elk.

## UNIT 2

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 2 Bull Permits:** 10 General Either Sex and 7 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No changes.

**Unit 2 Antlerless Permits:** No changes.

Early Antlerless: 15

Late Antlerless: 25

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 30

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 94%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 38%. 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 quality through maintaining current permit quotas, while addressing depredation complaints and reducing the overall population with Antlerless Only permits. Bull quality measurements meet current management approach minimum criteria. Maintaining the same cow permits is also recommended. 18 of the 21 antlerless elk were harvested on one property.

Depredation Complaints:1

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 2 Bull	10	10	-	-	-	10	100%	100%	47.1
LO Unit 2 Bull	6	6	-	-	-	7	86%	-	-
Unit 2 Early AO	8	-	7	1	8	15	53%	-	-
Unit 2 Late AO	11	-	9	2	11	25	44%	-	-
LO Unit 2 AO	2	-	2	-	2	15	13%	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	100%	48.0
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47.9</b>

## UNIT 2

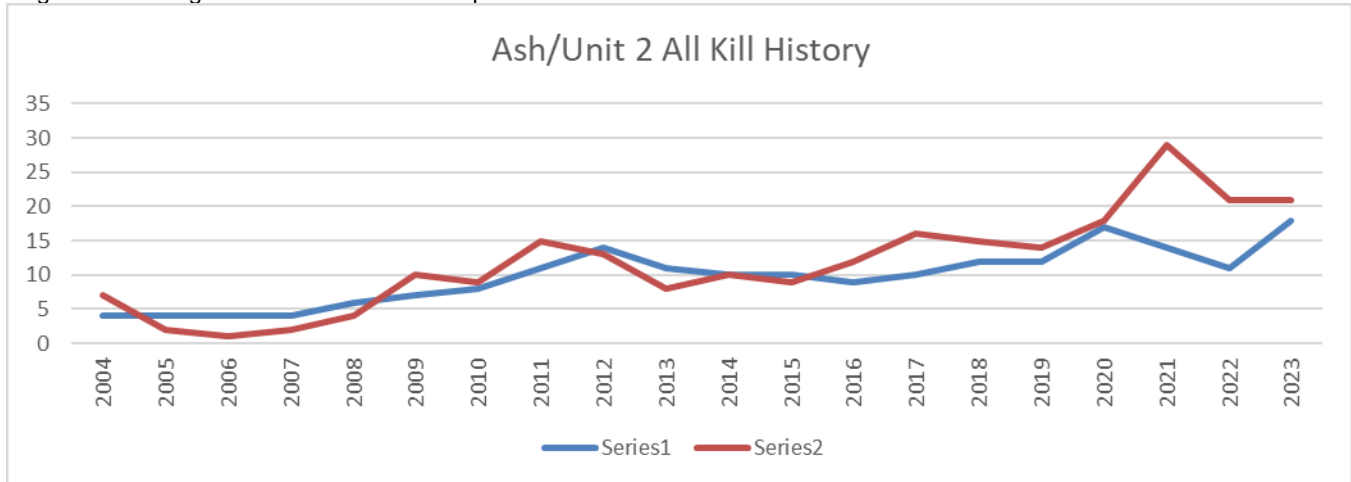
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### Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	18	21	39	100	47.9	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



### Unit History

Year	Permits Issued		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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 (11 LO)	2
2023	10 General 7 Landowner	15 Early 25 Late 30 Landowner (15 LO)	1
2024*	10 General 7 Landowner	15 Early 25 Late 30 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 15 bulls and 25 cows.

## UNIT 3

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 3 Bull Permits:** 16 General Either Sex and 12 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. A reduction of 7 bull permits from 2023.

**Unit 3 Antlerless Permits:** No changes.

Early Antlerless: 40

Late Antlerless: 40

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 60

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 89%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 44%. Elk populations have slightly been above tolerance for landowners. Although bull quality exceeds our minimum qualifications landowners continue to comment on declines in quality. 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 increase bull quality while maintaining hunter opportunity. Staff will continue to evaluate/address 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.

Depredation Complaints: 3, DCP: 1

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 3 Bull	18	18	-	-	-	20	90%	81%	48.4
LO Unit 3 Bull	13	12	1	-	-	15	87%	80%	43.9
Unit 3 Early AO	23	1	22	-	23	40	58%	-	-
Unit 3 Late AO	14	-	12	2	14	40	35%	-	-
LO Unit 3 AO	24	-	24	-	24	60	40%	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>46.9</b>

## UNIT 3

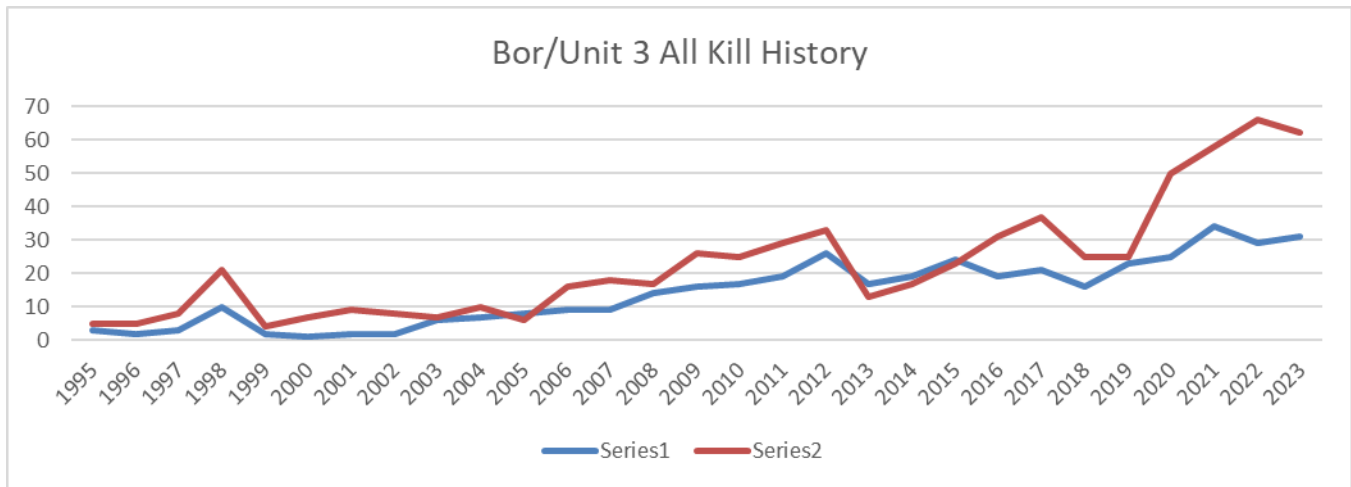
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### Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	31	63	93	85%	46.9	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



### Unit History

Year	Permits Issued		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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	3 (1/0)
2024*	16 General 12 Landowner	40 Early 40 Late 60 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 24 bulls and 65 cows.

## UNIT 4

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 4 Bull Permits:** 22 General Either Sex and 16 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits, a reduction of 5 bull permits.

**Unit 4 Antlerless Permits:** No changes.

Early Antlerless: 70

Late Antlerless: 30

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 75

**Boundary Adjustment:** One minor adjustment to the boundary with Unit 11 south of Harrisburg is proposed to address a Landowner issue.

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 77%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 31%. 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 and increased harvest has resulted in less damage. Elk are still using the same general areas but some have redistributed themselves during hunting season and expanded through the pumpkin creek drainage east. Wintering areas for elk remain the same for the Redington herd.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** General observations, landowner reports, and harvest data would indicate a decreased elk population in this unit. This unit contains several different elk herds throughout the area and landowner tolerance is variable 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 maintaining antlerless permits to continue to reduce populations in areas where access is allowed and landowner tolerance is lower.

Depredation Complaints: 5, DCP: 3 (4)

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 4 Bull	20	20	-	-	-	25	80%	82%	41.8
LO Unit 4 Bull	12	13*	-	-	-	18	72%	71%	43.7
Unit 4 Early AO	34	-	28	6	35	70	49%	-	-
Unit 4 Late AO	4	-	4	-	4	30	13%	-	-
LO Unit 4 AO	13	-	10	3	13	62	21%	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	1	-	-	-	-	1	0%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>42.3</b>

\* One bull was legally harvested in unit 15 on a Unit 4 permit. It is counted here, but not in the unit totals.

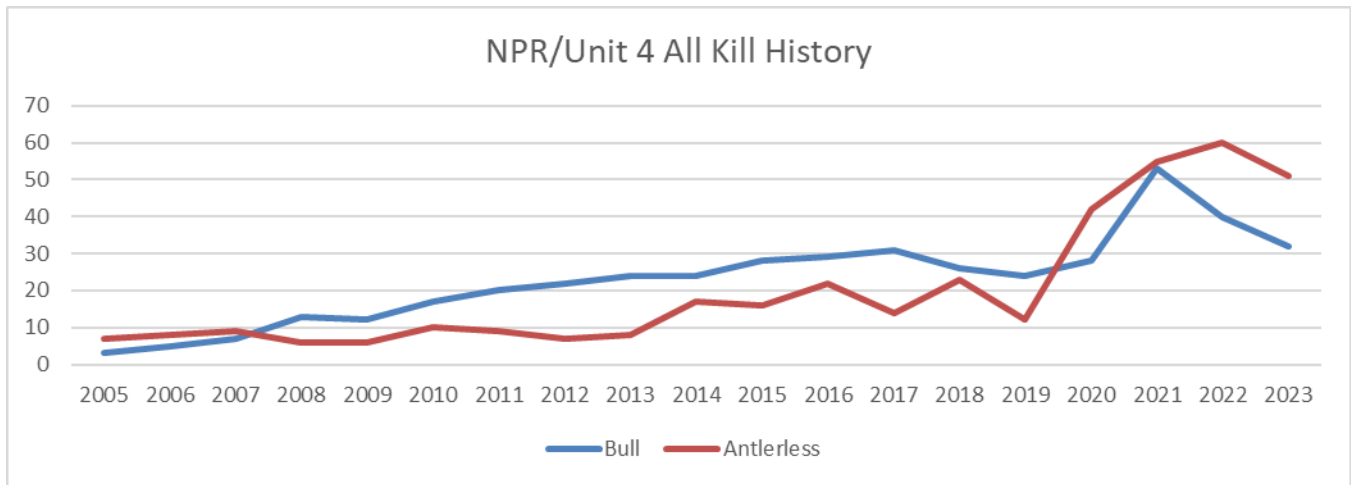


**UNIT 4**  
(continued)

**Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year**

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	32	51	83	79%	42.3	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.  
- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



**Unit History**

Year	Permits Issued (unsold)		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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 (13)	5 (3/4)
2024*	22 General 16 Landowner	70 Early 30 Late 75 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 30 bulls and 60 cows.

## UNIT 5

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 5 Bull Permits:** 20 General Either Sex and 15 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No changes.

**Unit 5 Antlerless Permits:** Reduction of 18 permits.

Early Antlerless: 30

Late Antlerless: 20

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 37

**General Information:** In 2023, success was 89% for bull hunters and 28% 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. Antlerless elk harvest has increased 142% since 2019, bull harvest has more than 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.

Depredation Complaints: 8, DCP: 1 (0)

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 5 Bull	19	19	-	-	-	20	95%	82%	47.5
LO Unit 5 Bull	12	12	-	-	-	15	80%	67%	44.2
Unit 5 Early AO	17	-	16	1	17	30	57%	-	-
Unit 5 Late AO	3	-	3	-	3	30	10%	-	-
LO Unit 5 AO	12	-	12	-	12	45	27%	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	-	-	<b>78%</b>	<b>46.7</b>

## UNIT 5

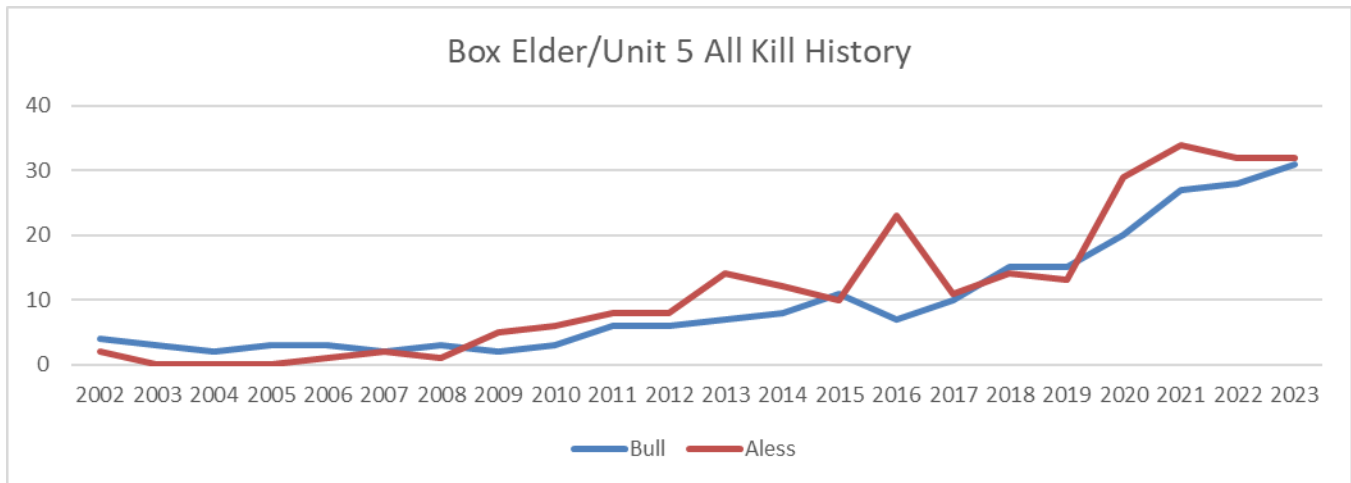
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### Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	31	32	63	78%	46.7	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.

- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



### Unit History

Year	Permits Issued (unsold)		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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	8 (1/0)
2024*	20 General 15 Landowner	30 Early 20 Late 37 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

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

## UNIT 6

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 6 Bull Permits:** 10 General Either Sex and 7 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits, a reduction of 7 bull permits.

**Unit 6 Antlerless Permits:** A reduction of 35 antlerless permits.

Early Antlerless: 25

Late Antlerless: 15

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 30

**General Information:** Hunter success was 58% on bull permits. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 19%. Elk depredation in recent years has been a problem. Damage was minimal in comparison to recent years. Increased antlerless harvest starting in 2021 has helped to reduce damage. Collar data has also confirmed movements back and forth from South Dakota as well as individuals from the Whitman herd connecting with the Nenzel herd. Biologists are now fielding calls from some landowners 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. This landowner will have the ability to control access to this herd at times. Landowner is interested in elk hunting/management.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** General observations and harvest data have indicated a reduced 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 landowner/hunter relations, and react to some landowners concerns of less elk. This recommendation also maintains early season tags to address depredation complaints. These changes should continue to reduce population in areas where access.

Depredation Complaints: 2, DCP: 1 (6)

### 2023 Harvest Data

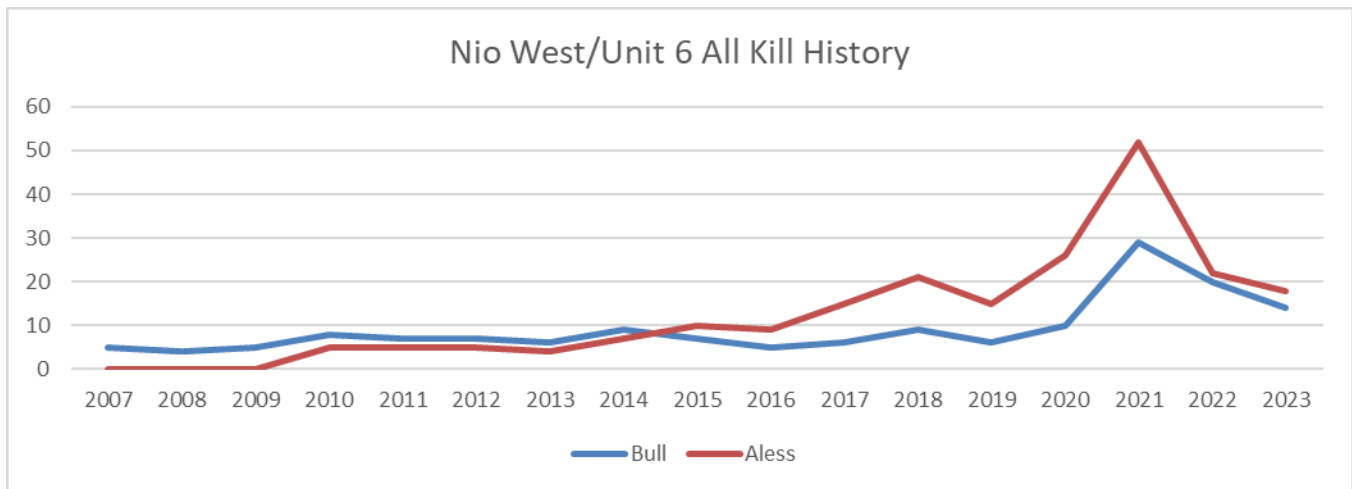
<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>
Unit 6 Bull	10	10	-	-	-	14	71%	100%	46.9
LO Unit 6 Bull	4	4	-	-	-	10	40%	0%	37.5
Unit 6 Early AO	10	-	8	2	10	40	25%	-	-
Unit 6 Late AO	2	-	2	-	2	20	10%	-	-
LO Unit 6 AO	6	-	4	2	6	35	17%	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>45.0</b>

**UNIT 6**  
(continued)

**Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year**

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	14	18	32	82%	45.0	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.  
- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



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

**Unit History**

Year	Permits Issued (unsold)		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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)	2 (1/6)
2024*	10 General 7 Landowner	25 Early 15 Late 30 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 12 bulls and 30 cows.

## UNIT 7

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 7 Bull Permits:** 16 General Either Sex and 12 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No changes.

**Unit 7 Antlerless Permits:** No changes.

General Antlerless: 36

Limited Landowner Antlerless: 27

**General Information:** This unit was formerly the primary portion of the Niobrara East unit. In 2023, success was 61% success for bulls and 11% for antlerless. Hunting pressure appears to have distributed herds as well as dispersed larger herds into several smaller ones, which likely accounts for reduced antlerless harvest.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** In 2019, the Niobrara River Unit was split into two units, Niobrara East and Niobrara West. General observations and reports would indicate 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: 1

### **2023 Harvest Data**

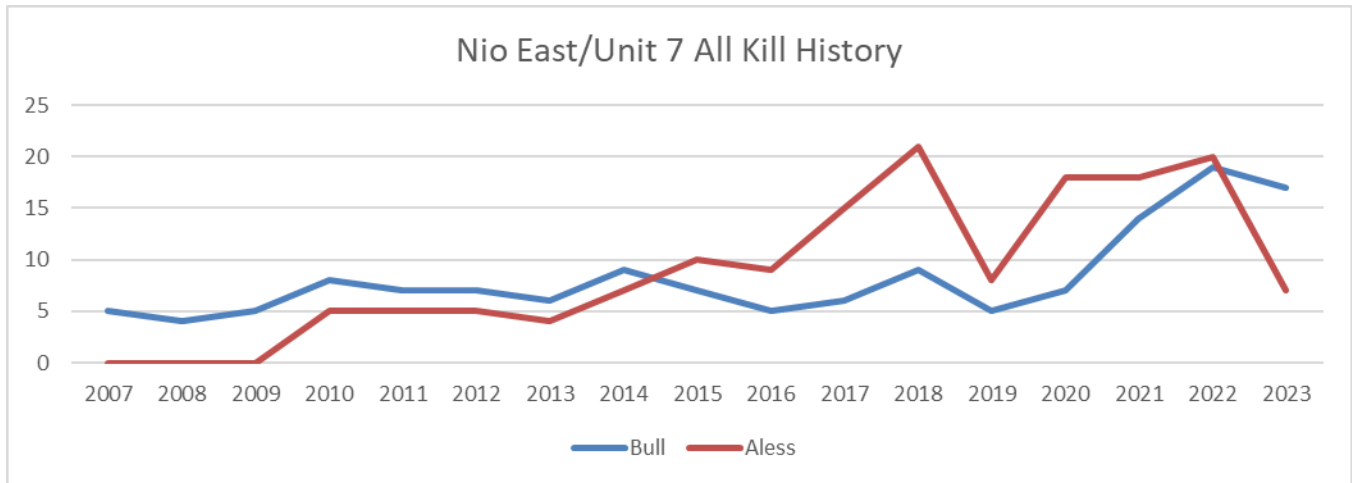
<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</u>	<u>Success</u>	<u>Bull Metrics</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Bulls</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total AO</u>			<u>% 6 pt</u>	<u>MBL</u>
Unit 7 Bull	11	11	-	-	-	16	69%	78%	44.6
LO Unit 7 Bull	6	6	-	-	-	12	50%	75%	44.3
Unit 7 AO	3	-	3	-	3	36	8%	-	-
LO Unit 7 AO	4	-	4	-	4	26	15%	-	-
Auction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supertag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned LO-Elk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>44.5</b>

**UNIT 7**  
(continued)

**Unit Harvest Comparisons by Year**

Year	Harvest+			Bull Quality Metrics+		
	Bull	Total AO	Total	% 6point	Avg. MBL	Avg Age
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
2023	17	7	24	77%	44.5	-

+ Includes statewide auction and lottery permits.  
- Age data no longer collected at a rate that provides unit estimates.



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

**Unit History**

Year	Permits Issued (unsold)		Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)
	Bull	Antlerless	
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)	1 (0/0)
2024*	16 General 12 Landowner	36 General 27 Landowner	

\* Recommended permit numbers

**Expected Harvest:** Expected harvest is 20 bulls and 25 cows.

## UNIT 8

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 8 Bull Permits:** 6 General Either Sex and 4 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No changes

**Unit 8 Antlerless Permits:** 30 General Antlerless and 10 Limited Landowner Antlerless, an increase of 5 permits overall. This distribution does not follow the 75% allocation for LO since there are not enough LO enrolled in the LO zone to purchase all the antlerless permits. If LO zone enrollees increase, the LO quota will increase.

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 40%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 0%. Some areas of this unit are getting consistent elk use throughout the year but seasonal elk use throughout has increased in 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 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 will likely continue to be low. Most elk use is early in the season.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Objectives are to maintain a low elk population and address depredation complaints with antlerless permits. Maintain the opportunity to hunt bulls with lower success rates and bull quality due to maintaining lower elk populations.

Depredation Complaints: 6, DCP: 2 (2)

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 8 Bull	3	3	-	-	-	6	50%	-	-
LO Unit 8 Bull	1	1	-	-	-	4	25%	-	-
Unit 8 AO	-	-	-	-	-	20	0%	-	-
LO Unit 8 AO	-	-	-	-	-	6	0%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>36.5</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	6 General 4 Landowner	20 General 15 Landowner (9)	6 (2/2)
2024*	6 General 4 Landowner	30 General 10 Landowner	



## UNIT 9

### 2024 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:** Hunter success for bull permits was 80%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 44%. 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 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.

**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:0

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 9 Bull	6	6	-	-	-	6	100%	-	-
LO Unit 9 Bull	2	2	-	-	-	4	50%	-	-
Unit 9 AO	7	-	7	-	7	10	70%	-	-
LO Unit 9 AO	0	-	-	-	-	6	0%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>46.9</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	6 General 4 Landowner	10 General 7 Landowner (1)	0
2024*	6 General 4 Landowner	10 General 7 Landowner	

## UNIT 10

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 10 Bull Permits:** 6 General Either Sex and 4 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits, an increase of 3 bull permits.

**Unit 10 Antlerless Permits:** 35 General Antlerless and 26 Limited Landowner Antlerless, no change.

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 71%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 40%. 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. Hunter success was expected to be lower 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. This is based off of landowner desire in the unit.

Depredation Complaints: 1

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 10 Bull	3	3	-	-	-	4	75%	-	-
LO Unit 10 Bull	2	2	-	-	-	3	67%	-	-
Unit 10 AO	17	-	16	1	17	35	49%	-	-
LO Unit 10 AO	5	-	5	-	5	20	25%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47.0</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	4 General 3 Landowner	35 General 26 Landowner (6)	0
2024*	6 General 4 Landowner	35 General 26 Landowner	

## UNIT 11

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 11 Bull Permits:** 3 General Either Sex and 2 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No changes.

**Unit 11 Antlerless Permits:** 13 General Antlerless and 7 Limited Landowner Antlerless, an increase of 3 permits overall. This distribution does not follow the 75% allocation for LO since there are not enough LO enrolled in the LO zone to purchase all the antlerless permits. If LO zone enrollees increase, the LO quota will increase.

**Boundary Adjustment:** One minor adjustment to the boundary with Unit 4 south of Harrisburg is proposed to address a Landowner issue.

**General Information:** Hunter success for bull permits was 60%. Hunter success on antlerless only permits was 18%. This unit consists of few elk and most use appears to be seasonal. Two areas of this unit do get observations through the year. Near Potter south of Interstate 80 observations are getting consistent. 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 will likely remain 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: 1

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 11 Bull	1	1	-	-	-	3	33%	-	-
LO Unit 11 Bull	2	2	-	-	-	2	100%	-	-
Unit 11 AO	2	1	1	-	2	10	20%	-	-
LO Unit 11 AO	0	-	-	-	-	1	0%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>100%</b>	<b>45.0</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	3 General 2 Landowner	10 General 7 Landowner (6)	0
2024*	3 General 2 Landowner	13 General 7 Landowner	

## UNIT 12

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 12 Bull Permits:** 7 General Either Sex and 5 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits, an increase of 5 bull permits.

**Unit 12 Antlerless Permits:** 16 General Antlerless and 12 Limited Landowner Antlerless. No changes.

**General Information:** In 2023, hunters killed six bulls and four cows during the regular season. 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. This unit was the location of the Special Depredation Season in 2022.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Most landowners in this unit wanted less elk, so our strategy is to reduce this population. Elk may be immigrating and emigrating in and out of this unit from other units. Depredation issues have decreased significantly 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: 1

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 12 Bull	4	4	-	-	-	4	100%	-	-
LO Unit 12 Bull	2	2	-	-	-	3	67%	-	-
Unit 12 AO	4	-	4	-	4	16	25%	-	-
LO Unit 12 AO	0	-	-	-	-	4	0%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-	<b>60%</b>	<b>41.2</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	4 General 3 Landowner	16 General 12 Landowner (8)	1 (1/0)
2024*	7 General 5 Landowner	16 General 12 Landowner	

## UNIT 13

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 13 Bull Permits:** 3 General Either Sex and 2 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits, no change.

**Unit 13 Antlerless Permits:** 10 General Antlerless and 7 Limited Landowner Antlerless, an increase of 7 permits.

**General Information:** In 2023, one cow and one bull were harvested during the general season. 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, it will be a tough hunt in this unit.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** 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: 1

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 13 Bull	1	1	-	-	-	3	33%	-	-
LO Unit 13 Bull	-	-	-	-	-	2	0%	-	-
Unit 13 AO	1	-	1	-	1	6	17%	-	-
LO Unit 13 AO	-	-	-	-	-	4	0%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>30.0</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	3 General 2 Landowner	6 General 4 Landowner	1 (1/0)
2024*	3 General 2 Landowner	10 General 7 Landowner	

## UNIT 14

### 2024 Recommendations:

**Unit 14 Bull Permits:** 5 General Either Sex and 3 Limited Landowner Either Sex permits. No changes.

**Unit 14 Antlerless Permits:** 16 General Antlerless and 12 Limited Landowner Antlerless. No changes.

**General Information:** 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. In 2023, bull success was 63% and antlerless success was 15%. 5 bulls and 3 antlerless elk were harvested in this unit.

**Population Status and Harvest Strategy:** Objectives are to address any depredation complaints with antlerless permits and have the opportunity to hunt bulls in this unit.

Depredation complaints: 0

### 2023 Harvest Data

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>					<u>Permits Issued</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>
Unit 13 Bull	3	3	-	-	-	5	60%	-	-
LO Unit 13 Bull	2	2	-	-	-	3	67%	-	-
Unit 13 AO	2	-	2	-	2	16	13%	-	-
LO Unit 13 AO	1	-	1	-	1	4	25%	-	-
<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43.2</b>

### Unit History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits Issued (unsold)</u>		<u>Depredation Complaints (DCP/Take)</u>
	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	
2023	5 General 3 Landowner	16 General 12 Landowner (8)	0
2024*	5 General 3 Landowner	16 General 12 Landowner	

## UNIT 15

### 2024 Recommendations:

#### No permit quota for this unit

**General Information:** One bull was taken in Stanton County by a Unit 4 permit holder. 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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