

Statewide Combined Deer Harvest

There were 49,881 resident deer licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available in 2015 and 91,896 were issued. Nonresidents had 2,267 licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available and 7,440 were issued. Statewide, there were a total of 99,336 licenses sold that represented a total of 111,050 tags, an increase in 5,062 licenses and 6,586 tags from 2014. No triple-tag licenses were offered for either East or West River seasons in 2015. A total of 61,108 individual hunters were issued deer licenses in 2015, up from 58,383 in 2014.

Random samplings were taken for each unit within each season unless the numbers of hunters were low enough that all were sampled to satisfy the statistical analyses. Response rates ranged from 71% for Landowner West River to 92% for Custer State Park (online only).

The projected statewide deer harvest was 52,589, a 13% increase from 2014. This estimate included 30,687 whitetail bucks, 15,997 whitetail does, 4,888 mule bucks and 1,017 mule does. An increase in overall harvest of over 6,000 deer with a moderate increase in the number of tags issued resulted in a 2% increase in harvest success from 2014.

Increases in buck harvest accounted for most of the increase from 2014, however, doe harvest also increased. Both whitetail and mule doe harvest estimates increased from 2014 by 1,544 and 44 respectively. Whitetail and mule buck harvest increased from 2014 by 3,983 and 492 respectively. Mule deer made up approximately 11% of the total harvest.

The 2015 overall statewide harvest success increased slightly to 47% from 45% in 2014. Harvest success ranged from 24% for Waubay Refuge to 79% for West River Special Buck and Custer State Park.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 5.30 days per hunter, which projects to a statewide total of 526,636 recreation days in 2015. The average number of days hunted increased from 2014. That combined with an increase in license sales resulted in an increase of approximately 38,000 total days of recreation from 2014.

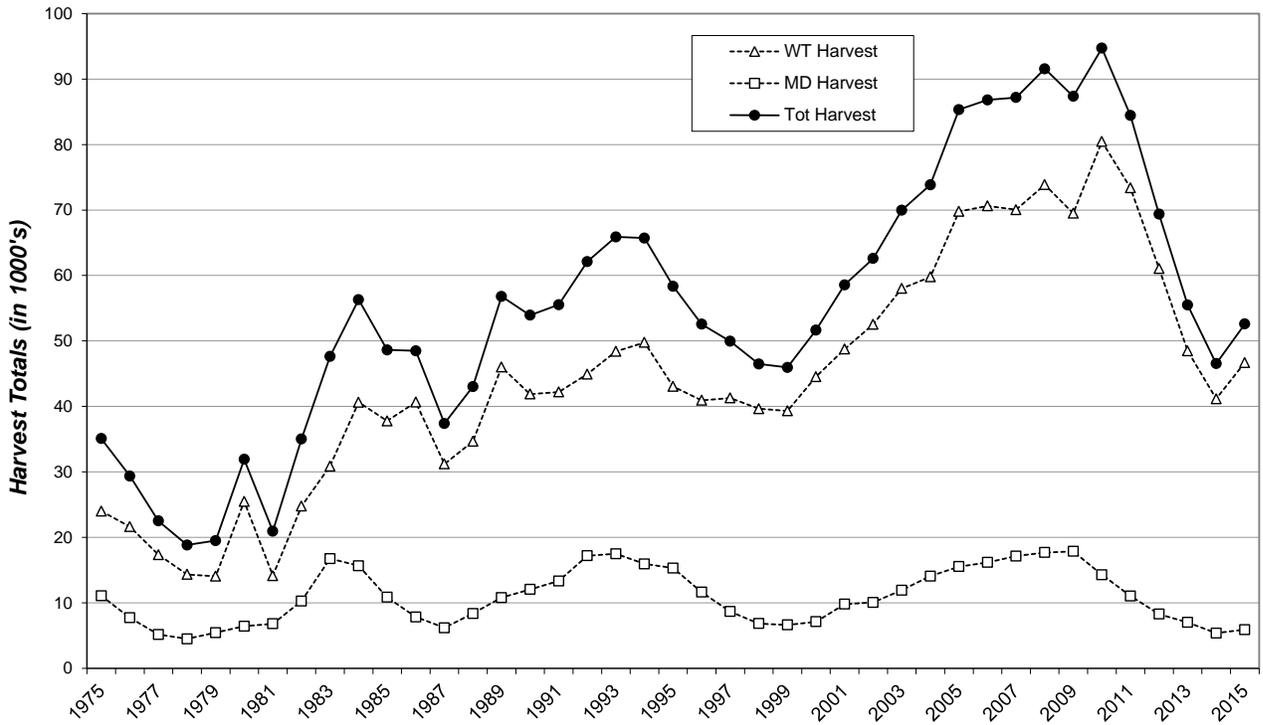
Average hunter satisfaction values (1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied) varied between seasons and ranged from 4.06 at Waubay Refuge to 6.33 for Custer State Park.

2015 Statewide Deer Harvest Projection Summary

last revised: 27 April 2016

SOUTH DAKOTA Harvest Statistic	Season	Archery	Youth Antlerless	Mentored Youth	Muzzleloader	Landowner Own Land Antlerless	West River	West River Landowner Own Land	West River Special Buck Unit	East River	East River Landowner Own Land	East River Special Buck Unit	Refuges			Black Hills	Custer State Park	Grand Totals
													Sand Lake NWR	Lacreek NWR	Waubay NWR			
Licenses/Tags																		
Resident Licenses																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	0	18,060	Unlimited	500	26,825	Unlimited	556	150	30	30	3,700	30	49,881	
Sold	23,507	4,754	3,646	3,303	0	17,671	2,248	498	25,916	5,816	555	152	30	30	3,741	29	91,896	
Resident Tags																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	0	19,680	Unlimited	500	31,925	Unlimited	556	150	30	30	3,700	30	56,601	
Sold	23,507	4,754	3,646	3,303	0	19,267	3,640	498	30,485	9,380	555	152	30	30	3,741	29	103,017	
Nonresident Licenses																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	1,449	N/A	500	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	15	4	3	296	N/A	2,267	
Sold	3,180	577	N/A	143	N/A	1,894	N/A	500	836	N/A	N/A	13	0	3	294	N/A	7,440	
Nonresident Tags																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	1,579	N/A	500	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	15	4	3	296	N/A	2,397	
Sold	3,180	577	N/A	143	N/A	2,047	N/A	500	1,276	N/A	N/A	13	0	3	294	N/A	8,033	
Total Licenses																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	0	19,509	Unlimited	1,000	26,825	Unlimited	556	165	34	33	3,996	30	52,148	
Sold	26,687	5,331	3,646	3,446	0	19,565	2,248	998	26,752	5,816	555	165	30	33	4,035	29	99,336	
Total Tags																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	0	21,259	Unlimited	1,000	31,925	Unlimited	556	165	34	33	3,996	30	58,998	
Sold	26,687	5,331	3,646	3,446	0	21,314	3,640	998	31,761	9,380	555	165	30	33	4,035	29	111,050	
Hunters																		
Available	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	0	18,515	Unlimited	500	25,975	Unlimited	556	165	30	33	4,035	29	61,108	
Sold	21,803	5,331	3,646	3,389	0	18,515	2,248	998	25,975	5,816	555	165	30	33	4,035	29	61,108	
Recreation																		
Average Days Hunted	11.24	4.54	3.96	4.03		3.12	3.76	3.38	4.15	4.55	4.95	2.89	2.71	2.10	4.61	2.88	5.30	
Total Days Hunted	245,077	24,201	14,449	13,661	0	57,754	8,457	3,374	111,125	26,490	2,748	477	81	69	18,589	83	526,636	
Mean Satisfaction Score	5.14	5.59	5.89	4.76		5.27	5.26	5.72	4.97	5.02	5.32	4.75	4.33	4.06	5.75	6.33		
Harvest																		
White-tailed Deer																		
Bucks	5,043	329	261	313		7,739	958	394	10,041	2,687	332	30	12	7	2,533	8	30,687	
Does	1,593	2,137	1,557	529		2,367	135	20	6,413	908	8	9	0	1	307	15	15,997	
Total	6,635	2,466	1,818	842	0	10,106	1,092	414	16,454	3,595	340	39	12	8	2,840	23	46,684	
Mule Deer																		
Bucks	632	33	25	77		2,804	504	365	245	103	21	5	0	0	74	0	4,888	
Does	73	333	243	16		181	58	5	59	43	2	1	0	0	2	0	1,017	
Total	704	365	268	93	0	2,985	562	370	305	146	24	6	0	0	76	0	5,905	
Total Deer Harvest																		
Bucks	5,674	362	287	390	0	10,543	1,462	759	10,287	2,790	353	35	12	7	2,607	8	35,575	
Does	1,665	2,469	1,799	545	0	2,548	193	24	6,472	951	11	10	0	1	309	15	17,014	
Total	7,340	2,831	2,086	935	0	13,091	1,654	783	16,759	3,741	364	45	12	8	2,917	23	52,589	
Success																		
	28%	53%	57%	27%		61%	45%	79%	53%	40%	66%	27%	40%	24%	72%	79%	47%	

South Dakota's Combined Deer Harvest 1975-2015



South Dakota Combined Deer Licensing 1975-2015

