

Statewide Combined Deer Harvest

There were 86,062 resident deer licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available in 2008 and 118,816 were issued. Nonresidents had 3,577 licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available and 9,897 were issued. Statewide, there were a total of 128,713 licenses sold that represented a total of 189,159 tags, an increase in 9,501 licenses and 8,356 tags from 2007.

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. In most cases, the response rates in the majority of units within seasons did not meet the 85% goals.

The projected statewide deer harvest was 91,562, a 5% increase over 2007. This projection included 33,413 whitetail bucks, 40,459 whitetail does, 9,143 mule bucks and 8,547 mule does. A combination of the increase in licenses/tags sold and a lack of change in harvest success from 2007 appears to account for the increase in overall harvest of over 4,000 deer.

Increases in harvest for Youth Deer, West River Deer and Muzzleloader Deer accounted for most of the increase, with a decline in Black Hills and East River Deer harvest offsetting the effect of those three. The buck harvest estimate remained similar to 2007 for both species, while doe harvest increased by nearly 4,000 and 500 for whitetails and mule deer respectively. Mule deer made up approximately 20% of the total harvest.

The 2008 overall statewide harvest success remained unchanged from last year at 48%. Harvest success ranged from 25% at Sand Lake Refuge to 73% for West River Special Buck.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 4.94 days per hunter, which projects to a statewide total of 635,859 recreation days in 2008. The average number of days hunted was nearly identical to 2007. That combined with the increase in license sales resulted in an increase of approximately 45,000 total days of recreation from 2007.

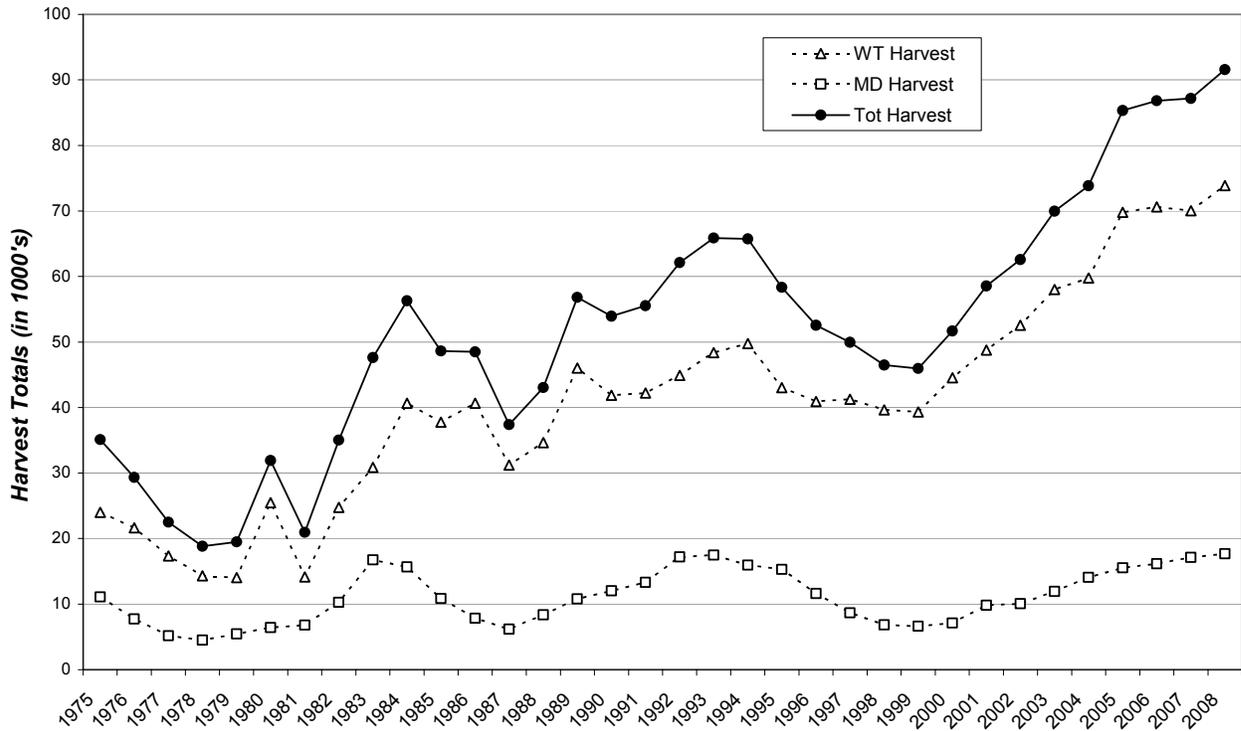
Average hunter satisfaction values (1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied) varied between seasons and ranged from 3.78 for Waubay Refuge and 4.23 for East River Special Buck to 6.02 for Mentored Youth and 5.45 for Youth Deer.

2008 Statewide Deer Harvest Projection Summary

last revised: 1 May 09

SOUTH DAKOTA Harvest Statistic	Season	Archery	Youth Antlerless	Mentored Youth	Muzzleloader	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	29,260	Unlimited	500	46,830	Unlimited	400	475	40	60	8,450	47	86,062
Sold		21,990	7,394	1,110	5,520	24,621	1,412	500	42,739	4,168	401	362	39	62	8,451	47	118,816
Resident Tags																	
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	55,010	Unlimited	500	74,465	Unlimited	400	950	40	60	8,450	92	139,967
Sold		25,672	7,394	1,110	8,127	46,030	2,240	500	66,613	6,578	401	724	39	62	8,451	92	174,033
Nonresident Licenses																	
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	2,344	N/A	500	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	45	6	6	676	N/A	3,577
Sold		2,649	406	N/A	336	3,568	N/A	499	1,672	N/A	N/A	37	4	4	722	N/A	9,897
Nonresident Tags																	
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	4,406	N/A	500	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	90	6	6	676	N/A	5,684
Sold		2,920	406	N/A	546	6,760	N/A	499	3,191	N/A	N/A	74	4	4	722	N/A	15,126
Total Licenses																	
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	31,604	Unlimited	1,000	46,830	Unlimited	400	520	46	66	9,126	47	89,639
Sold		24,639	7,800	1,110	5,856	28,189	1,412	999	44,411	4,168	401	399	43	66	9,173	47	128,713
Total Tags																	
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	59,416	Unlimited	1,000	74,465	Unlimited	400	1,040	46	66	9,126	92	145,651
Sold		28,592	7,800	1,110	8,673	52,790	2,240	999	69,804	6,578	401	798	43	66	9,173	92	189,159
Recreation																	
Average Days Hunted		12.36	6.36	4.09	5.38	3.42	3.98	3.39	4.79	4.85	5.72	3.39	2.43	2.29	4.08	3.00	4.94
Total Days Hunted		206,672	26,757	4,540	28,687	87,330	5,624	3,387	212,931	20,221	2,293	1,352	105	151	35,668	141	635,859
Mean Satisfaction Score		5.10	5.45	6.02	5.03	5.29	5.11	4.55	4.71	4.90	4.23	4.15	5.22	3.78	5.11	UNK	
Harvest																	
White-tailed Deer																	
Bucks		3,860	558	79	600	8,076	330	216	14,977	1,768	205	87	11	18	2,620	8	33,413
Does		4,146	3,081	489	2,436	7,832	243	7	19,081	1,147	11	112	6	6	1,824	38	40,459
Total		8,007	3,639	567	3,036	15,907	572	223	34,059	2,916	216	199	17	23	4,445	46	73,872
Mule Deer																	
Bucks		551	76	13	156	6,644	419	497	513	115	19	0	0	0	138	2	9,143
Does		427	558	106	502	6,009	238	9	592	50	0	0	0	0	56	0	8,547
Total		978	635	120	658	12,652	657	506	1,105	165	19	0	0	0	194	2	17,690
Total Deer Harvest																	
Bucks		4,412	635	92	756	14,719	749	712	15,490	1,883	224	87	11	18	2,758	10	42,556
Does		4,573	3,639	595	2,937	13,840	480	16	19,673	1,197	11	112	6	6	1,881	38	49,006
Total		8,985	4,274	687	3,693	28,560	1,229	729	35,164	3,080	235	199	17	23	4,639	48	91,562
Success																	
		31%	55%	62%	43%	54%	55%	73%	50%	47%	59%	25%	39%	35%	51%	52%	48%

South Dakota's Combined Deer Harvest 1975-2008



South Dakota Combined Deer Licensing 1975-2008

