

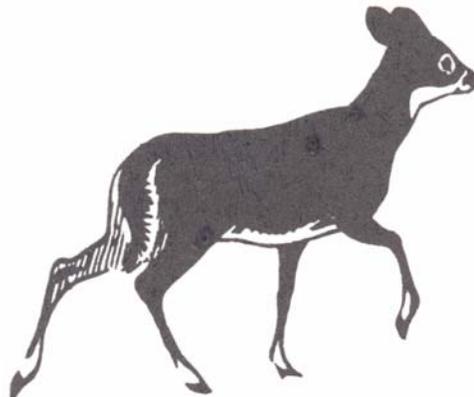
# **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey Report**

## **HD-5-11.AMS**

**Larry Gigliotti, Ph.D.**  
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#### **Suggested Citation**

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This report was produced for Game, Fish and Parks’ wildlife staff and administrators to evaluate the 2010 Black Hills deer season from the perspective of deer hunters and to improve their understanding of Black Hills deer hunters. Recommendations made in this report are solely my opinion and are intended as suggestions for future discussion and consideration by GFP wildlife staff. Recommendations in this report do not necessarily reflect any final decisions by wildlife staff or GFP policy.

*Larry M. Gigliotti*  
Planning Coordinator / Human Dimensions Specialist



# **Executive Summary**

## **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey Report**

### **HD-5-11.AMS**

*Larry M Gigliotti, Ph.D.*

This survey represents the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of studying Black Hills deer hunters, and the 15<sup>th</sup> year following the change in the management of the Black Hills deer herd. A major objective of these surveys are to track satisfaction and to identify other hunter-related parameters to evaluate the Black Hills deer season (i.e., provide an evaluation of each year's deer season from the hunters' perspective). A secondary purpose was to gain an overall better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters and Black Hills deer hunting.

The results of this study and previous years' surveys provides a very comprehensive description of Black Hills deer hunters and an evaluation of the 2010 Black Hills deer season from the hunters' perspective. This year's study also evaluated the use of the Internet as a tool for gathering scientific survey data. A total of 2,965 usable questionnaires were received and used in this year's study. An evaluation of nonresponse bias was conducted and determined to be very minimal and not considered a problem for this survey with such a high response rate.

#### **Summarized Results**

Satisfaction had risen to very high levels for the periods 2003 through 2005, but started to drop thereafter with a small dip in 2006 but sliding to a relatively low level by 2009 (Figures A and B). Corrective measures have been taken and the downward trend in hunter satisfaction has been reversed and satisfaction in 2010 has started to improve. Overall, about 68% of the deer hunters were satisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences and about 23% were dissatisfied. The numbers of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen by Black Hills deer hunters have dropped in recent years, but has rebounded slightly in 2010 (Table A). Also, hunters' subjective evaluations of the deer season based on three parameters (number of deer seen, number of bucks seen and quality of bucks seen) have also decreased in recent years, but has rebounded slightly in 2010 (Figure C). Antler size (measured by total number of points) has been measured over the past 15 years (Table B). Females comprised 9.2% of

the 2010 Black Hills deer hunters; this value has increased over the past dozen years (Table C).

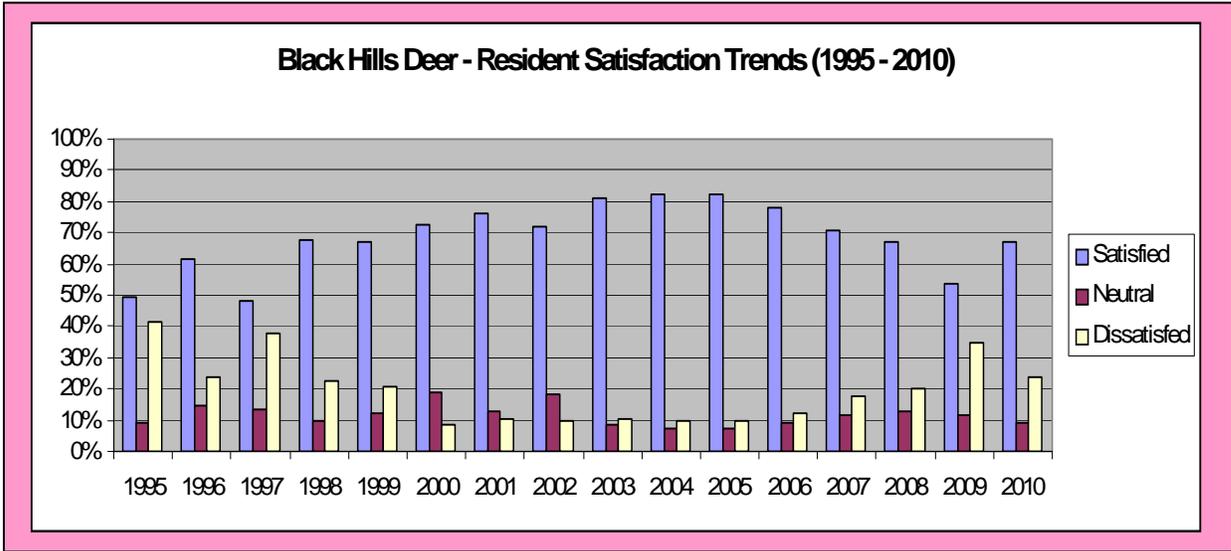


Figure A. Satisfaction trends for resident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2010).

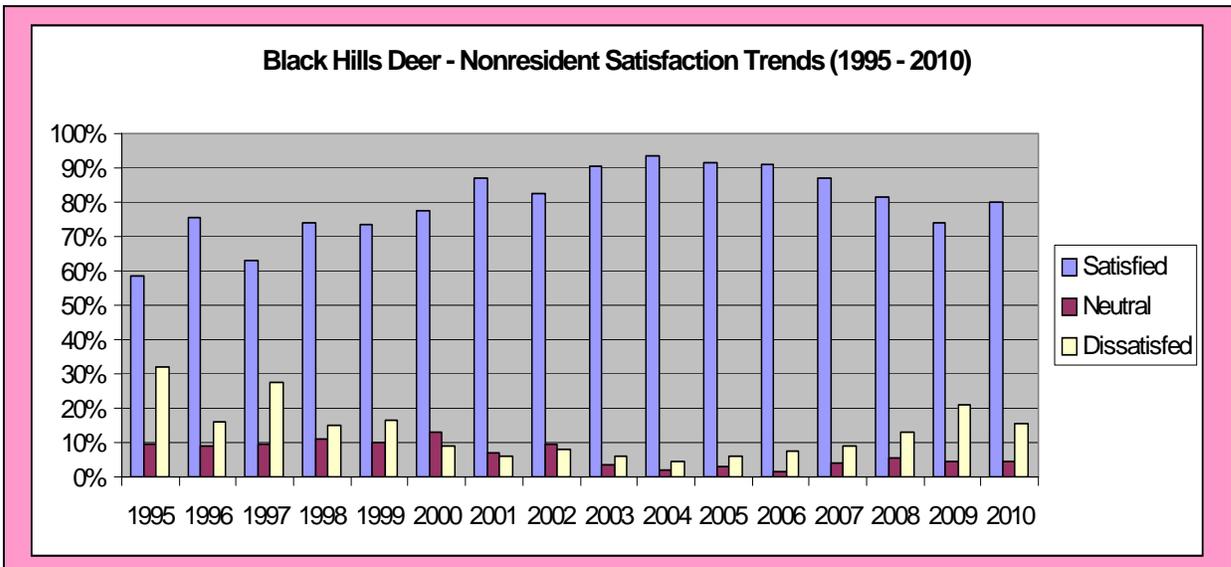


Figure B. Satisfaction trends for nonresident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2010).

Table A. About how many deer, bucks and quality bucks did you see during your total Black Hills deer hunt?

Hunter Reported Mean Total:	Year												
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Deer Seen	42.4	43.5	77.5	54.6	69.3	80.0	77.4	82.1	74.9	72.4	58.3	40.7	49.7
Bucks Seen	3.6	4.6	7.6	7.2	7.9	10.0	10.9	11.0	10.8	11.7	8.8	7.6	7.9
Quality Bucks Seen	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.0

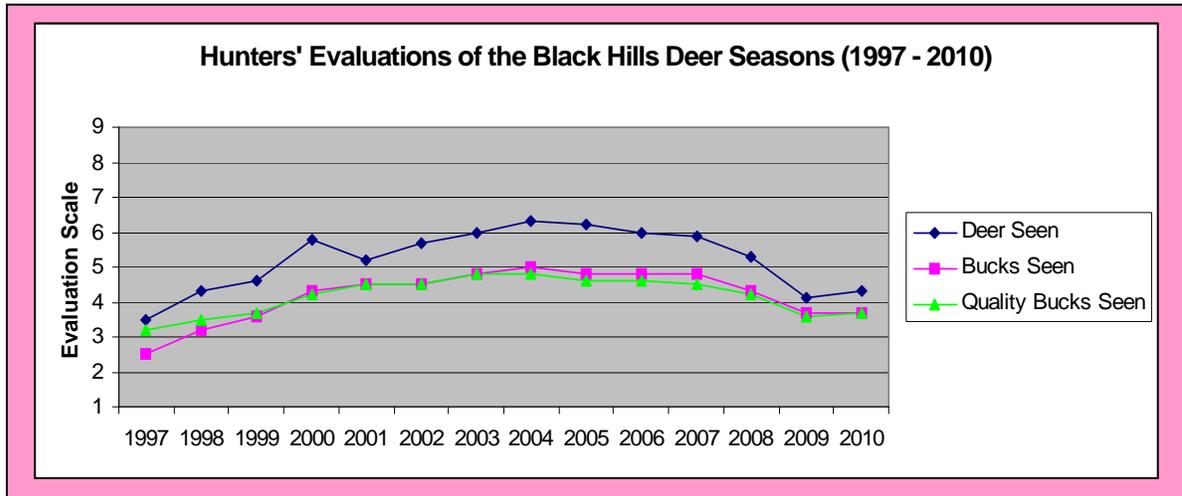


Figure C. Hunter evaluations of the Black Hills deer hunting seasons (1997 – 2010).

Table B. Antler size (Eastern count) trends for the Black Hills deer season (96–10).

Year	Whitetail Buck		Mule Deer Buck	
	Ave. Total Points	Sample Size	Ave. Total Points	Sample Size
1996	6.7	362	4.7	75
1997	6.7	318	5.1	100
1998	7.0	744	5.3	251
1999	7.0	464	5.5	188
2000	7.5	626	5.8	137
2001	7.8	646	5.9	218
2002	7.9	665	6.0	192
2003	8.1	757	5.9	212
2004	8.1	736	5.8	246
2005	8.2	598	5.7	168
2006	8.1	547	5.9	130
2007	8.2	590	6.9	30
2008	8.0	741	6.5	42
2009	7.9	797	7.0	45
2010	8.2	1,160	6.9	60

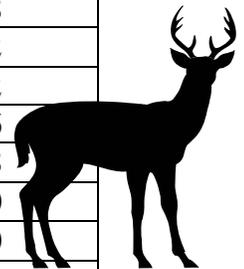


Table C. Percent of male and female Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Gender	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Male	96.3%	93.7%	93.9%	93.5%	93.5%	92.3%
Female	3.7%	6.3%	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%	7.7%
Sample size	355	1,701	1,813	1,746	1,734	1,907

Table C - Continued.

Gender	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Percent						
Male	92.5%	92.1%	92.2%	91.7%	90.9%	90.4%	80.8%
Female	7.5%	7.9%	7.8%	8.3%	9.1%	9.6%	9.2%
Sample size	1,993	1,858	1,684	1,724	2,701	2,622	2,840



### Mountain Lions in South Dakota

About 13.2% of the deer hunters reported that they observed a mountain lion while hunting during the 2010 Black Hills deer season. This parameter has been measured for the past seven years (Table D).

Table D. Reported observations of mountain lions by Black Hills deer hunters (2004–2010).

Percent of Black Hills deer hunters who observed a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting.	Year						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	6.3%	6.5%	7.7%	6.1%	6.0%	8.5%	13.2%
	N=1,841	N=1,711	N=1,330	N=1,550	N=2,370	N=2,559	N=2,433

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# **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey Report**

## **HD-5-11.AMS**

*Larry M Gigliotti, Ph.D.*

The purpose of this survey is to measure and track hunter satisfaction with and hunter evaluations of the Black Hills deer season. A change in the management of the Black Hills deer herd was implemented in 1996. The old management system emphasized maximum recreational opportunity by offering unlimited buck licenses sold over the counter and managing the herd via limited doe licenses sold by lottery for specific Black Hills deer units. The change emphasized management of the buck herd and hunter density by also limiting the number of buck licenses available that are sold via a lottery system. The change was very controversial but favored 2-to-1 by Black Hills deer hunters. The reason for the change was to improve overall satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting.

Division of Wildlife has tracked deer hunters' satisfaction with and evaluations of their deer hunting experience for fifteen years following this change (1996–2010). A secondary purpose of the surveys is to explore factors related to a “quality” Black Hills deer hunt and to gain an overall better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters. Each year a different element of “quality” was studied. This year’s study evaluated hunters’ opinions related to changing the deer application process to increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one preferred deer license. This year’s study also evaluated methodology issues (comparing e-mail and web-based surveys with regular mailed surveys and evaluating non-response bias). The 8-page survey instrument used this year measured some hunter evaluations of the 2010 Black Hills deer season (deer, bucks and quality bucks seen, hunters’ evaluations of these parameters, crowding, and satisfaction), days hunted, harvest, mountain lion interactions while deer hunting, years of Black Hills deer hunting experience, motivations and other attitudes related to deer hunting, deer hunting history and preferences, residence, age, and gender (Appendices A, B, and C). The survey also collected optional comments from respondents (Appendices D and E). The 2010 Black Hills Deer Season was the fourth year for the change in the types of buck licenses available (increased protection

for mule deer in the Black Hills)<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of this recent license change was to increase the age (and thus antler size) of mule deer bucks.

## **Methods**

Two survey methodologies were used in the 2010 study of Black Hills deer hunters: a traditional mail survey, and a mixed-mode survey (Tables 1–2 and Figure 1).

**Regular Mail Survey.** Randomly selected licensed Black Hills deer hunters that did not provide GFP with e-mail addresses (1/3 sample: N=222) were mailed the first questionnaire at the end of the Black Hills deer season (November 30, 2009) with a reminder postcard being sent on December 10<sup>th</sup> (Appendix A). A second mailing of the questionnaire was sent out on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mixed-Mode Survey.** The mixed-mode survey started with an e-mail invitation to respond via the Internet with non-respondents being contacted by mail (Appendix B). About 98% of the Black Hills deer hunters that had provided GFP with e-mail addresses were sent an e-mail invitation to complete their Black Hills deer hunter survey on-line.<sup>2</sup> A link to the questionnaire was provided in the body of the e-mail sent at the end of the Black Hills deer season (November 30, 2009). Hunters in this group were asked to complete the Internet questionnaire by December 10<sup>th</sup> and were sent two e-mail reminders on about December 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> before they would be sent a mailed survey. One-third of the non-respondents to the Internet survey were randomly selected and mailed the questionnaire on December 11<sup>th</sup> and a reminder postcard on December 17<sup>th</sup>. A second mailing of the questionnaire was sent out on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Non-Response Phone Survey.** All non-respondents to either survey methodology were included in a single list and called by telephone until two hundred non-respondents were contacted and completed a short survey (Appendix C).

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<sup>1</sup> Gigliotti, L.M. 2008. 2007 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey Report. Report ID# HD-3-08.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department. Pierre, SD.

<sup>2</sup> There were two reasons for why a few people were not sent the e-mail invitation to participate in the Internet survey. One reason is that once a person has opted out of any SurveyMonkey survey, they are removed from all future SurveyMonkey surveys (72 e-mails were eliminated by this method). A second reason is because Survey Monkey only allows one e-mail to be sent to the same address. Multiple hunters using the same e-mail requires that separate collectors be established and for this survey only three collectors were created, thus eliminating a small number of hunters in which four or more hunters used the same e-mail. For these cases 3 hunters were randomly selected and hunters not selected were dropped from the survey (34 hunters were eliminated by this method).

**Analyses.** Part 1 will analyze the data comparing the results by data collection method and analyze non-response bias. Part 2 will analyze the data collected by the two methods as a combined data set.

## **Results – Part 1**

**Returns.** The mail survey received 180 usable returns for an 81% return rate (Figure 1). The Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey received 2,218 usable returns (49% return rate) and the mail portion received 567 usable returns (71% return rate) (Figure 1). The mixed-mode survey received 2,785 usable returns for an estimated 86% return rate. The return rate was estimated because the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey used a one-third random sample of the non-respondents to the Internet portion of the survey.<sup>3</sup>

**Comparisons.** Four separate comparisons are made between survey methodologies:

### **1. Mail survey (n=180) with Mixed-mode survey (n=2,785)**

- This comparison will measure the difference between hunters that provide an e-mail address and those that did not provide an e-mail address. In this study the mixed-mode survey has better data than the mail survey for two reasons, 1) a larger sample size, and 2) a higher response rate (86% vs. 81%); however, if these two survey methods produce relatively similar results it suggests that the “coverage” issue (not having a complete list of e-mail addresses) may not be a big problem (given that this sample had e-mail addresses for 87% of the hunters).

### **2. Mail survey (n=180) with the Internet portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=2,218)**

- This comparison will measure how “good” the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey would be if only an Internet survey was conducted of Black Hills deer hunters. If the results are relatively similar, large cost savings can be gained by only collecting data using an e-mail invitation to respond via the Internet.

### **3. Internet portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=2,218) with the Mail portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=567)**

- This comparison will measure the differences (within the portion of the population of hunters providing an e-mail address) between hunters who respond via the Internet versus the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey. If the results are relatively similar, large cost savings can be gained by only collecting data using an e-mail invitation to respond via the Internet.

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<sup>3</sup> Formula:  $\text{Internet returns} + 3 \times \text{mail returns} / \text{total number in mixed-mode survey}$   
Calculations:  $2,218 + 3(567) / 4,553 = 86\%$

**4. Mail survey (n=180) with the Mail portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=567)**

- This comparison will measure the differences between hunters who did not provide an e-mail address and responded by mail versus hunters who did provide an e-mail address, but responded by mail. If the results are relatively similar it could suggest that either type of mail survey could be used in the mixed-mode survey design, which would simplify the overall survey design.

**First Comparison [Mail survey (n=180) with Mixed-mode survey (n=2,785)].**

Only six of 38 variables (16%) tested were significant and the effect size of the relationships of all six of the significant variables was weak (Table 3). A higher percent of hunters in the mail survey reported observing a mountain lion compared to hunters in the mixed-mode survey (20% vs. 13%). A higher percent of hunters in the mixed-mode survey preferred the West River deer season compared to hunters in the mail survey (22% vs. 14%) (Appendix F – Table 1). On a 5-point scale (ranging from -2 = strongly disagree to +2 = strongly agree) hunters in the mixed-mode survey had about 4% higher mean agreement with the statement ‘*A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer*’ compared to hunters in the mail survey (score: 1.22 vs. 1.07). Hunters in the mail survey were slightly older (48.1 years) and had more years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (18.1 years) compared to hunters in the mixed-mode survey (45.1 years and 15.9 years; respectively).<sup>4</sup> The largest difference between the two surveys was the number of days hunted by hunters that hunted during the 2010 season. Hunters in the mail survey reported hunting more days than did the hunters in the mixed-mode survey (6.2 days vs. 4.9 days).

**Second Comparison [Mail survey (n=180) with the Internet portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=2,218)].** Only six of 38 variables (16%) tested were significant and the effect size of the relationships of all six of the significant variables was weak (Table 4). These were the same six variables that were also significantly related in the first comparison. A higher percent of hunters in the mail survey reported observing a mountain lion compared to hunters responding via the Internet in the mixed-mode survey (20% vs. 13%). A higher percent of hunters who responded to the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey preferred the West River deer season compared to hunters in the mail

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<sup>4</sup> Age and years of Black Hills deer hunting experience were significantly related (Pearson correlation = .557).

survey (22% vs. 14%) (Appendix F – Table 2). On a 5-point scale (ranging from -2 = strongly disagree to +2 = strongly agree) hunters in the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey had about 4% higher mean agreement with the statement ‘*A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer*’ compared to hunters in the mail survey (score: 1.24 vs. 1.07). Hunters in the mail survey were slightly older (48.1 years) and had more years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (18.1 years) compared to hunters in the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey (45.0 years and 15.5 years; respectively). The largest difference between the two surveys was the number of days hunted by hunters that hunted during the 2010 season. Hunters in the mail survey reported hunting more days than did the hunters responding to the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey (6.2 days vs. 4.8 days).

**Third Comparison [Internet portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=2,218) with the Mail portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=567)].** Ten of 38 variables (26%) tested were significant and the effect size of the relationships for all ten of the significant variables was weak (Table 5). A higher percent of hunters responding to the Internet portion of the mixed mode survey reported observing mountain lion sign compared to hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey (51% vs. 46%). A higher percent of hunters responding to the Internet portion of the mixed mode survey harvested a deer compared to hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey (62% vs. 56%). Starting with a proportion of 7% nonresidents in each sample, a higher percent of nonresident hunters responded to the Internet portion of the mixed mode survey compared to nonresidents hunters responding to the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey (10% vs. 6%). A higher percent of hunters responding to the mail portion of the mixed mode survey were neutral or had no opinion regarding their satisfaction level compared to hunters in the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey (Appendix F – Table 3).

Hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey reported hunting more days than did the hunters responding to the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey (5.3 days vs. 4.8 days). On an 8-point scale (ranging from 0 = not important to 7 = very important) hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey rated the importance of three reasons for why they like to hunt deer in the Black Hills higher in importance than

did hunters in the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey: food (4.13 vs. 3.91), trophy (3.91 vs. 3.61) and solitude (4.90 vs. 4.64). Also, hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey had more years of Black Hills deer hunting experience compared to the hunters responding to the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey (17.3 years vs. 15.5 years).

**Fourth Comparison [Mail survey (n=180) with the Mail portion of the Mixed-mode survey (n=567)].** Only three of 38 variables (8%) tested were significant and the effect size of two of the significant relationships was weak and one was moderate (Table 6). A higher percent of hunters in the mail survey reported observing a mountain lion compared to hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey (20% vs. 11%); the effect size of this relationship is moderate. Hunters in the mail survey were slightly older compared to hunters in the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey (48.1 years and 45.2 years). Hunters in the mail survey reported hunting more days than did the hunters responding to the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey (6.2 days vs. 5.3 days).

**Evaluation of Non-response Bias.** The data from both surveys (mail and mixed-mode) were combined (referred to in this section as the 'regular' sample) and compared with 203 non-respondents contacted by telephone. Five of ten variables (50%) tested were significant; the effect size of four of the significant relationships was weak and effect size of the other variable was moderate (Table 7). Days hunted by Black Hills deer hunters that hunted in 2010 was not significant; however, telephone respondents reported hunting slightly more days than did the hunters in the regular sample (5.6 days vs. 5.0 days). While harvesting a deer was not significant, a higher percent of the hunters that harvested a deer in the telephone sample harvested a buck compared to hunters in the regular sample (85% vs. 76%). Hunters in the telephone survey reported being more satisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences compared to the hunters in the regular sample (Appendix F – Table 4). Hunters in the telephone survey rated the mean importance of Black Hills deer hunting slightly higher than did the hunters in the regular sample; however, the cross-tabs analysis was not so clear-cut (Appendix F – Table 5).

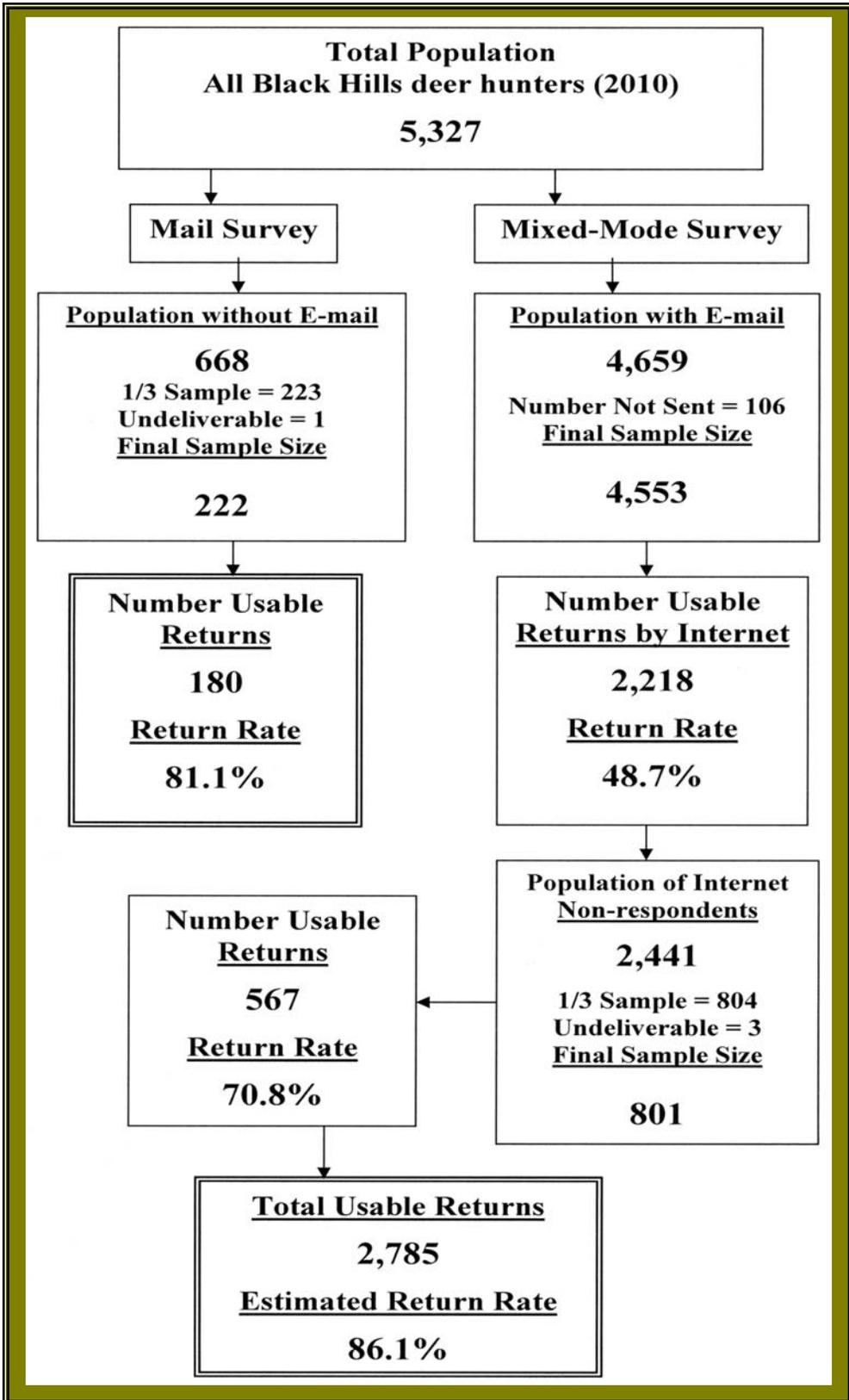


Figure 1. Sampling design for the two survey methodologies used in the 2010 Black Hills deer hunter survey.

## Results – Part 2

**Data.** Since there was very little difference in the data collected by the two survey methods, the data used in the analyses combines the data collected by both survey methods. A total of 2,965 usable questionnaires were returned by the two survey methods, which is about 56% of the total number of licensed Black Hills deer hunters in 2010 (Tables 8 and 9). The sample consists of 91% residents and 9% nonresidents, which is close to the actual distribution of licenses sold (Table 10). Overall, 8.6% of the 2010 licensed Black Hills deer hunters did not actually hunt during the season (Table 11).

**Demographics.** Females represented 9.2% of the sample of Black Hills deer hunters in 2010 (Table 12). Female deer hunters represented 9.7% of the resident hunter sample compared to 3.6% of the nonresident hunter sample (Table 13). Mean age of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters was 45.2 years, and mean age of Black Hills deer hunters has been increasing over the past dozen years (Table 14 and Figure 2). On average, resident hunters were younger than nonresident hunters (Table 15).

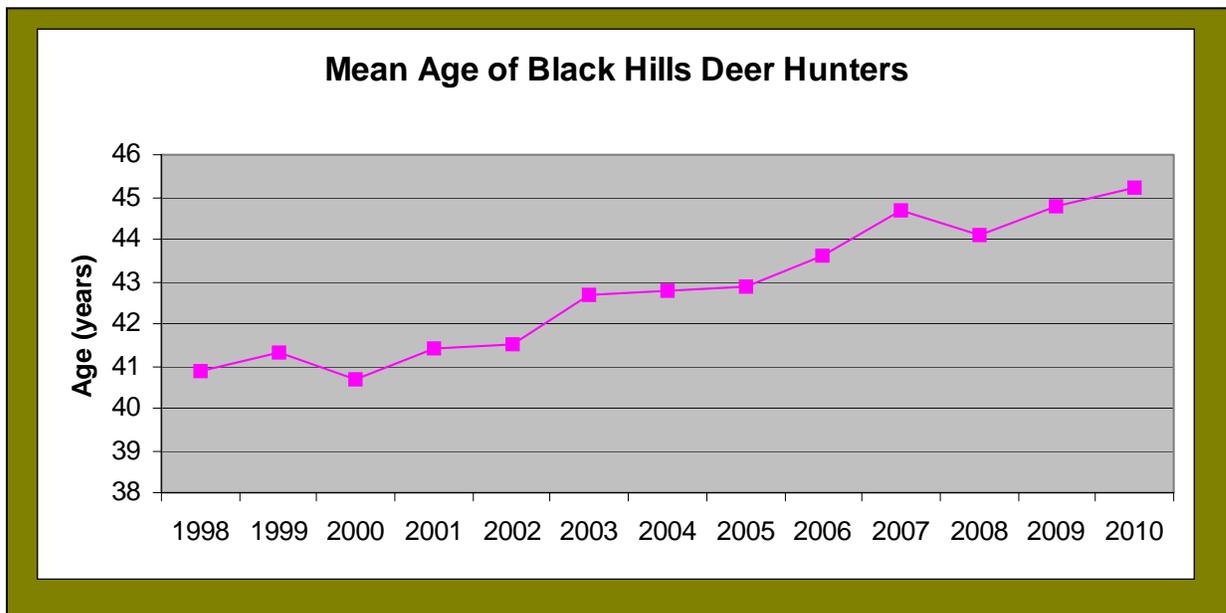


Figure 2. Mean age of Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

The top five resident counties were Pennington (33.2%), Lawrence (10.7%), Minnehaha (9.3%), Custer (8.5%), and Meade (8.2%) (Table 16). These were the same top five counties from 1997 through 2009. Black Hills counties (Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River and Meade) accounted for 62% of the total 2010 resident Black Hills deer hunters. West River counties, excluding the counties in the Black Hills accounted for only 3.5% and East River counties accounted for 35% of the total number of resident hunters (Tables 16 and 17).

Most 2010 Black Hills nonresident deer hunters came from Minnesota (28.5%), followed by Wisconsin (10.8%) and Michigan (7.5%) (Table 18).

**Hunting Statistics.** Resident hunters hunting with the any-deer or any-whitetail license types (Types 01 and 11) averaged 5.2 days of hunting and nonresidents averaged 4.5 days of hunting (Table 19). Resident hunters hunting with antlerless deer licenses (Type 03/13) averaged 3.9 days and nonresidents averaged 3.2 days. The 2010 Black Hills deer season provided an estimated 24,568 recreation days (Table 20). The frequencies of days hunted is provided in Table 21.

**Harvest Statistics for 2010 Black Hills Deer Season.** Hunters harvested an estimated 2,139 whitetail bucks, 107 mule deer bucks and 704 antlerless deer (Table 22). Harvest success was 57% (includes licensed hunters that did not hunt) or 62% if you exclude the licensed hunters that did not hunt (Table 23). Nonresidents had higher success than did residents. Success was a little higher than in the previous two years (Table 24).

Most whitetail bucks harvested in 2010 were 8-points (eastern count) or greater (79%) and 43% of the mule deer bucks were 8-points or greater (Table 25). Average number of points on harvested whitetail bucks increased from 6.7 in 1996 to 8.2 points in 2010, and average number of points on harvested mule deer bucks increased from 4.7 in 1996 to 6.9 points in 2010 (Table 26). However, in both cases most of the increase in point on harvested bucks occurred from 1996 through 2001.

**Satisfaction with the 2010 Black Hills Deer Season & Trends (1995–2010).**

About 68% of the Black Hills deer hunters were satisfied and about 23% were dissatisfied (Table 27). A greater percentage of nonresidents were satisfied compared to residents (80% vs. 67%). Appendices D, E and F contain general comments by the Black Hills deer hunters regarding the 2010 deer season.

Satisfaction levels have steadily risen between 1995 and 2006, with the exception of 1997 and a slight drop in 2002 but began to drop slightly in 2006 (in 2006 the slight dip in satisfaction level was for resident hunters only) and with more substantial drops in satisfaction levels for 2007 and 2008 and another substantial drop in satisfaction levels for the 2009 deer season, followed by a small increase in 2010 (Tables 28 and 29 and Figures 3 and 4).

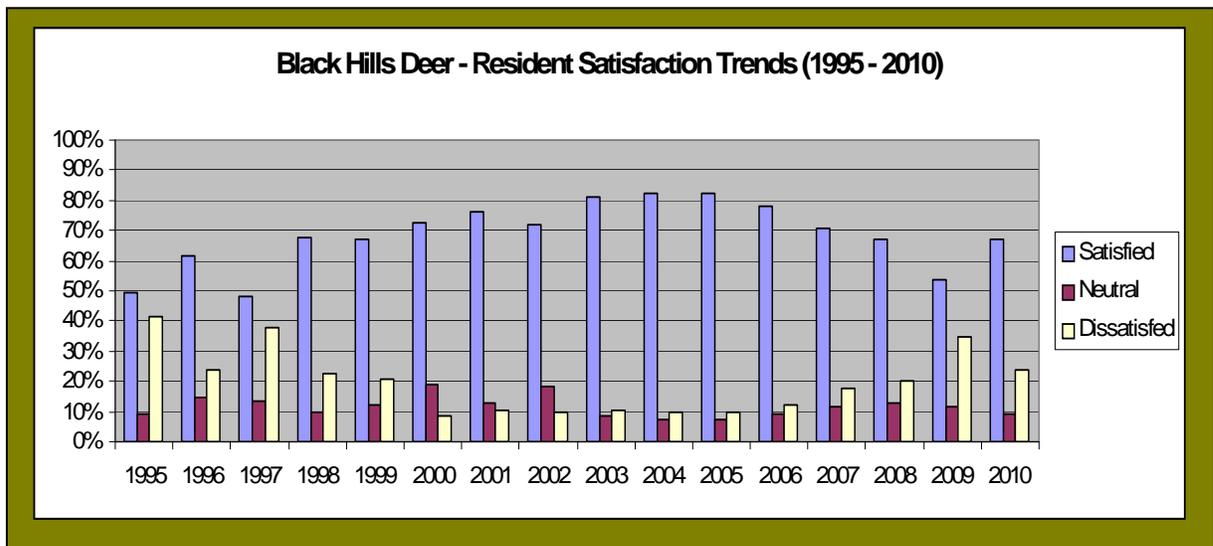
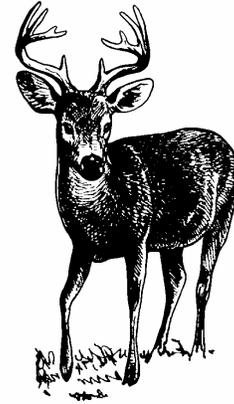


Figure 3. Satisfaction trends for resident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2010).

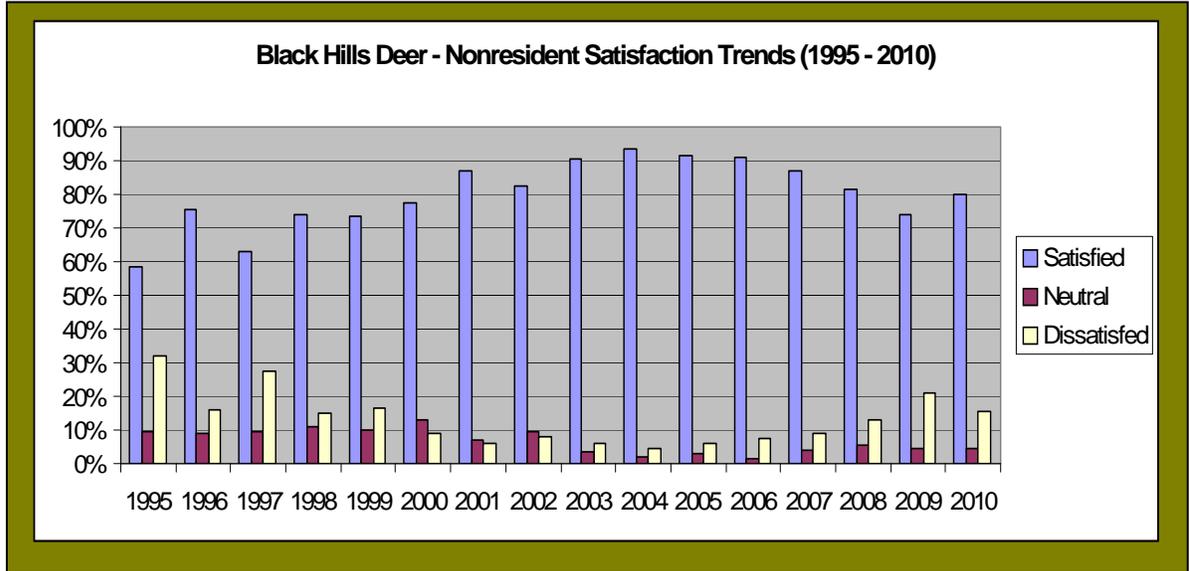


Figure 4. Satisfaction trends for nonresident Black Hills deer hunters (1995 – 2010).

**Hunters’ Evaluation of the 2010 Black Hills Deer Season.** In addition to satisfaction, nine additional variables, designed to measure hunters’ evaluations of the deer season, were measured in the 2010 survey of Black Hills deer hunters. These variables were the number of deer, bucks, and “quality” bucks seen and hunters’ subjective evaluations of the number of deer, bucks, and quality bucks seen, subjective evaluations of the populations of whitetail deer and mule deer, plus an evaluation of the degree of crowding.

On average, 2010 Black Hills deer hunters saw about 50 deer, 8 bucks and 2 “quality” bucks (Table 30). The 2010 values for these parameters are down from the recent, previous years, but a little higher than in 2009. Tables 31–33 include frequency distribution data for the number of deer, bucks and “quality” bucks observed while Black Hills deer hunting (1998 – 2010).

Hunters’ subjective evaluation, on a scale of 1 (very few) to 5 (average) to 9 (lots/exceptional), was 4.3 for the number of deer seen, 3.7 for the number of bucks seen and 3.7 for the “quality” of bucks seen (Tables 34–36). All three subjective evaluations improved significantly from 1997, however the values for 2009 and 2010 were

substantially lower than the previous few years (Tables 37 and 38 and Figure 5). About 54% of the Black Hills deer hunters felt the whitetail deer population was ‘slightly too few’ (36%) or ‘far too few’ (18%) while about 80% of the Black Hills deer hunters felt the mule deer population was ‘slightly too few’ (31%) or ‘far too few’ (49%) (Table 39). Nonresident hunters rated these deer population higher than did the resident hunters (Table 40).

About 64% of the Black Hills deer hunters rated the degree of crowding as “just right,” 5% rated it as “not enough” hunters and 2% felt “very crowded” (Table 41). On average, hunters felt less crowded in 2010 compared to the previous four years (Table 42).

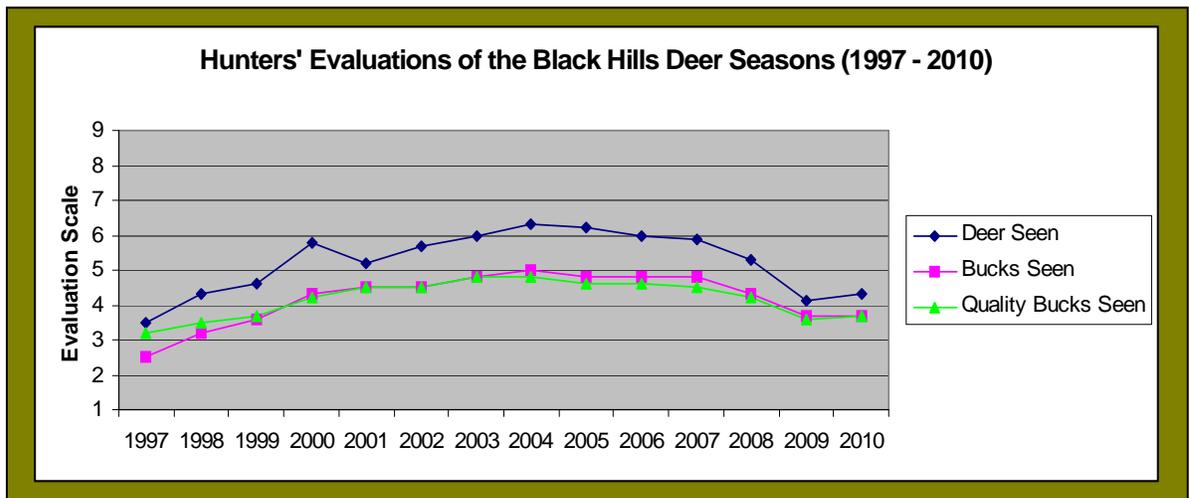


Figure 5. Hunter evaluations of the Black Hills deer hunting seasons (1997 – 2010).

**Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience.** About 7% of the 2010 resident hunters were first time Black Hills deer hunters compared to about 17% of the nonresidents (Table 43). Residents had an average of 16.5 years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and nonresidents had an average of 10.5 years of Black Hills deer hunting experience.

**Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting.** About 19% of the 2010 Black Hills deer hunters said that Black Hills deer hunting was their most important recreational activity and another 45% rated it as a very important activity and 28% as a moderately important activity (Table 44). Residents and nonresidents were statistically similar in their rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting. The importance rating in 2010 was very similar to previous years measured (2000 – 2009; data not collected in 2008) (Table 45).

**Motivations Related to Black Hills Deer Hunting.** Hunters were asked to rate the importance of eight possible reasons (meat, nature, excitement, social, trophy, solitude, challenge, and additional hunting opportunity) for liking Black Hills deer hunting (Tables 46-A –46-H). Residents and nonresidents had similar mean ratings for the food (Table 46-A), excitement (Table 46-C), trophy (Table 46-E), solitude (Table 46-F), challenge (Table 46-G), and more hunting opportunity (Table 46-H) reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting. Nonresidents had a slightly higher mean importance rating for nature (Table 46-A) and a somewhat higher mean importance rating for social reasons (Table 46-D) than did nonresidents. Overall, the rankings for residents and nonresidents were similar (Table 47).

Although a strict comparison can not be made to 1997–1999 results because of changes in the list of reasons that hunters were asked to rate, the ratings of the reasons for liking Black Hills deer hunting were relatively similar for all twelve years measured (1997–2010) (Table 48).

Hunters were also asked to pick their top reason for why they like Black Hills deer hunting. Most residents and nonresidents picked social reasons (28% and 35%, respectively) as their top reason (Table 49). Residents and nonresidents were not significantly different in their selection of their main reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting in 2010; a higher percentage of residents compared to nonresident hunters selected ‘food’ as their main reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting (11% vs. 5%) (Table 49). While a strict comparison can not be made to the 1997–1999 results because of the change in the list of reasons, the relative percentages of top reasons for liking

Black Hills deer hunting were relatively similar for the twelve years (1997–2010) measured (Table 50).

Hunters hunt for a number of reasons and these reasons or motivations are related to the benefits that hunters expect to receive from their hunting experience. One of the most important human dimensions concept for the management of hunters is that hunters are not all alike. Each hunter has a package of reasons or motivations for hunting and thus expects a unique package of benefits. While a manager cannot manage the resource for each individual hunter, a classification system that combines hunters into similar types would greatly help to understand their diverse needs. In the survey, hunters' main reason for liking Black Hills deer hunting will serve to segment or classify Black Hills deer hunters into eight types: nature, social, excitement, challenge, food, trophy, hunting opportunist, and solitude.

The two largest groups of 2010 deer hunters were social (31%) and nature (30%) (Table 51). While a hunter can be classified as a specific type of hunter, each hunter has a package of motivations. For example, for nature hunters, nature was their top reason, but other reasons had varying levels of importance. Some reasons, such as nature, social and excitement were relatively important for all groups, while the other reasons were more discriminating.

While relatively small in size, the two most distinct types of hunters are the food (10%) and the trophy (5%) hunters (Table 51). For all other groups, food and trophy reasons ranked low, but for the food hunters, food was ranked highest and trophy low, and vice versa for the trophy hunters. This would suggest that there are two distinct types of success variables, one being killing a deer and the other being killing a nice buck.

**“Harvest” Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters.** Most Black Hills deer hunters reported that “filling their deer tag” was moderately (42%) or slightly (31%) important and this attitude has been relatively consistent over the past decade (Tables 52 and 53). Most Black Hills deer hunters (82%) can be satisfied with their Black Hills deer hunting experience even if they do not harvest a deer (Table 54). About 32% of the Black Hills deer hunters are only interested in hunting for a buck and 48% are only interested in shooting a large buck, i.e., would pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to their standards (Table 54). Resident and nonresident Black Hills deer hunters have

relatively similar harvest attitudes and these attitudes have been relatively consistent over the past decade (Table 55).

**Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters towards Crowding.** Most Black Hills deer hunters reported that “having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip” was very (42%) or moderately (38%) important and this attitude has been relatively consistent over the past decade (Tables 56 and 57). Resident and nonresident Black Hills deer hunters have relatively similar attitudes towards crowding. For most Black Hills deer hunters, having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip is much more important than filling their deer tag (Figure 6).

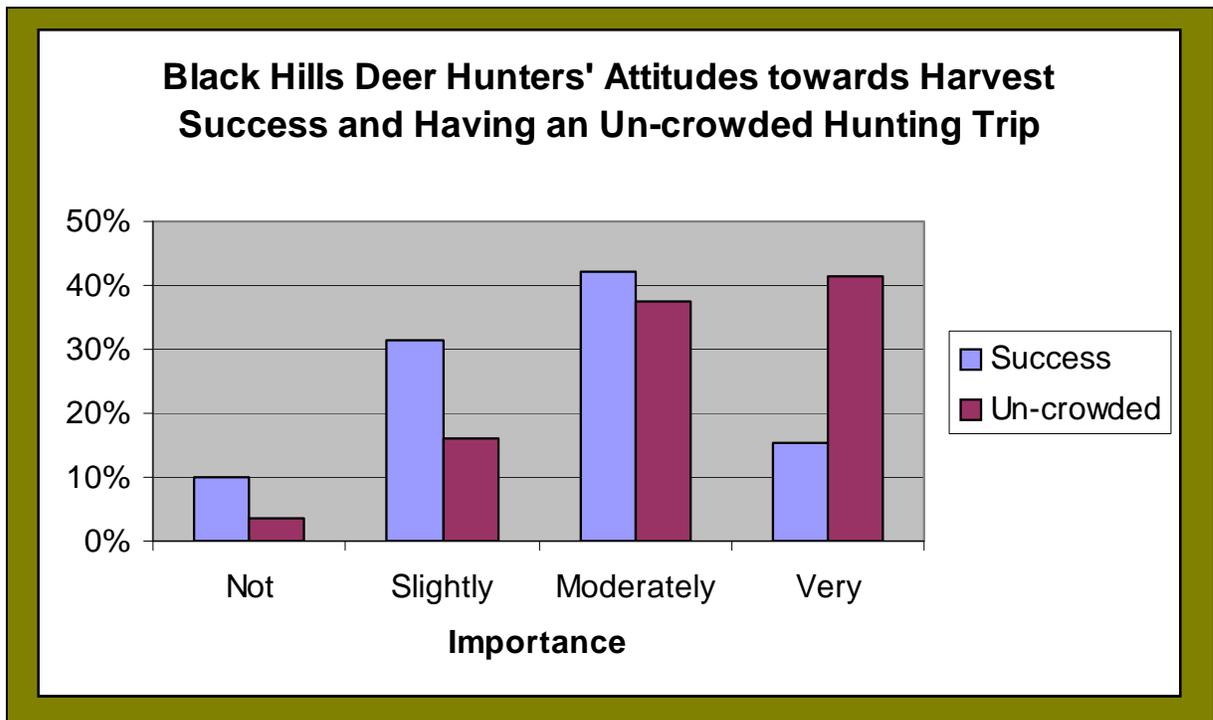


Figure 6. Black Hills deer hunters’ attitudes towards harvest success and having an undisturbed, un-crowded hunting experience (2010).

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**Mountain Lions in South Dakota.** Half of the Black Hills deer hunters that hunted in 2010 reported seeing mountain lion tracks or other sign of mountain lions and 13% percent reported seeing a mountain lion while deer hunting (Table 58). Most (56%) of the hunters observing a mountain lion during the 2010 Black Hills deer season reported seeing only one lion and 16 hunters reported seeing a mountain lion wearing a radio-collar (35% reported that that were not sure if the mountain lion(s) they observed had a collar). The percent of Black Hills deer hunters observing a mountain lion during the Black Hills deer season has been relatively stable over the previous six years (2004–2009); ranging from 6% in 2008 to 8.5% in 2009, but jumped to 13.2% in 2010 (Table 59).

**Deer Hunting & Preferences (South Dakota Residents).** Most of the resident hunters with a 2010 Black Hills deer license (73%) had additional types of deer licenses in 2010 (Table 60). About 59% of the 2010 licensed Black Hills deer hunters had a West River deer license, 34% had an East River deer license and many had one or more types of the archery deer licenses (Table 61). About 56% of the 2010 resident licensed Black Hills deer hunters selected the Black Hills deer season as their preferred deer season (62% when the list of deer season is limited to the three major rifle deer seasons) (Table 62).

Resident 2010 licensed Black Hills deer hunters who preferred the Black Hills deer season had significantly fewer types of additional deer licenses in 2010 (Table 63). The resident 2010 licensed Black Hills deer hunters who only had the Black Hills deer license were much more likely to prefer the Black Hills deer season compared to the hunters with additional deer licenses (86% vs. 45%; changes to 87% vs. 53% when only the three major rifle deer seasons are considered) (Table 64).

About 56% of the resident hunters with a 2010 Black Hills deer license would favor “a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one ‘preferred’ deer license per year” (Table 65). A higher percent of the Black Hills deer hunters that preferred the Black Hills deer season would favor “a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one ‘preferred’ deer license per year” compared to those

hunters that preferred one of the other deer seasons (61% vs. 49%). However, support for a system that would achieve this objective was relatively low (Table 66). Only 38% of the resident Black Hills deer hunters would support combining the application process for the three major rifle deer seasons (Black Hills, West River and East River); 46% were opposed (Table 66). A higher percent of the Black Hills deer hunters that preferred the Black Hills deer season would favor changing the application system (44% favor vs. 39% opposed) compared to those hunters that preferred one of the other deer seasons (30% favor vs. 54% opposed).

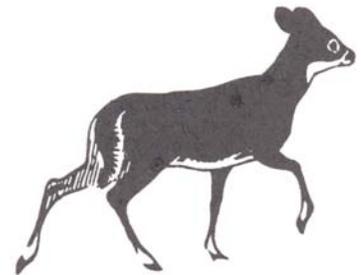
Resident Black Hills deer hunters that favored increasing hunters chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year and/or favored changing the application process to achieve this objective had significantly fewer types of deer license compared to those hunter opposed to such changes (Tables 67 and 68). There was a strong correlation between these two attitudes and a negative correlation between support for these changing the system and the number of types of deer licenses a hunter had (Table 69).

## **Understanding Black Hills Deer Hunting**

This section explores the interrelationship of some of the variables in this survey to gain a better understanding of Black Hills deer hunters.

### **Research Question #1**

What is the relationship between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters' subjective evaluation of these parameters?



While there is a correlation between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters' subjective evaluation of these parameters, hunters' subjective evaluation of the number of deer, bucks and quality of bucks seen is a better predictor of satisfaction than the actual number seen (Table 70). However, managers also want to know the meaning of a rating value in terms of the actual number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen. Unfortunately it is different for each hunter. One hunter can see 10

deer and give it a rating of 9 (lots of deer) on a 9-point scale and another hunter can see 10 deer and rate it as 1 (very few). However; on average, as the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen increases, hunters' evaluation of these parameters increases (Figure 7–9) (Tables 41 – 43). For example, on average in 2010, hunters seeing a total of 20 deer rated that as one (very few) while seeing 52 deer was rated as a five (average) and hunters seeing 93 deer rated the season as a nine (lots of deer) (Figure 7 and Table 71). Of course this scale changes for bucks with seeing 10 bucks being evaluated as a five (average) and seeing 26 bucks being evaluated as a nine (lots) (Figure 8 and Table 72). And, seeing about 2.5 quality bucks being rated as a five (average) and seeing about 6.4 quality bucks being rated as a nine (exceptional) (Figure 9 and Table 73). Thus for 2010, an average season would be seeing a total of 52 deer, 10 bucks and 2.5 quality bucks and an exceptional deer season would involve seeing 93 deer, 26 bucks and 6.4 quality bucks.

Of particular note is the change in these parameters needed to receive an average or higher evaluation over the 12 years measured (1999 – 2010). What this means is that as the actual "quality" of the Black Hills deer season changed (either increasing or decreasing), as measured by the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks observed by hunters during the season, so did the hunters' expectations.

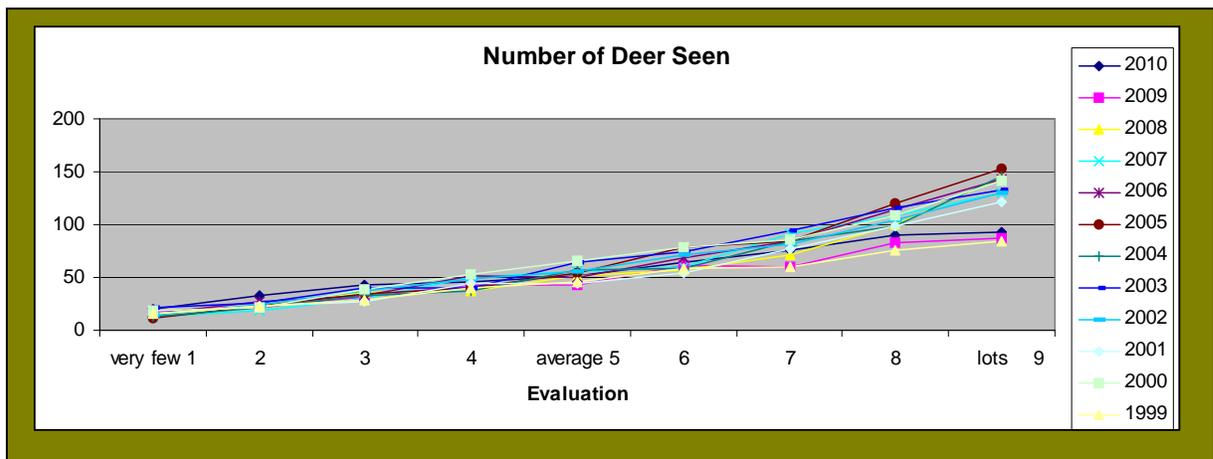


Figure 7. Relationship between the number of deer seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen (1999 – 2010).

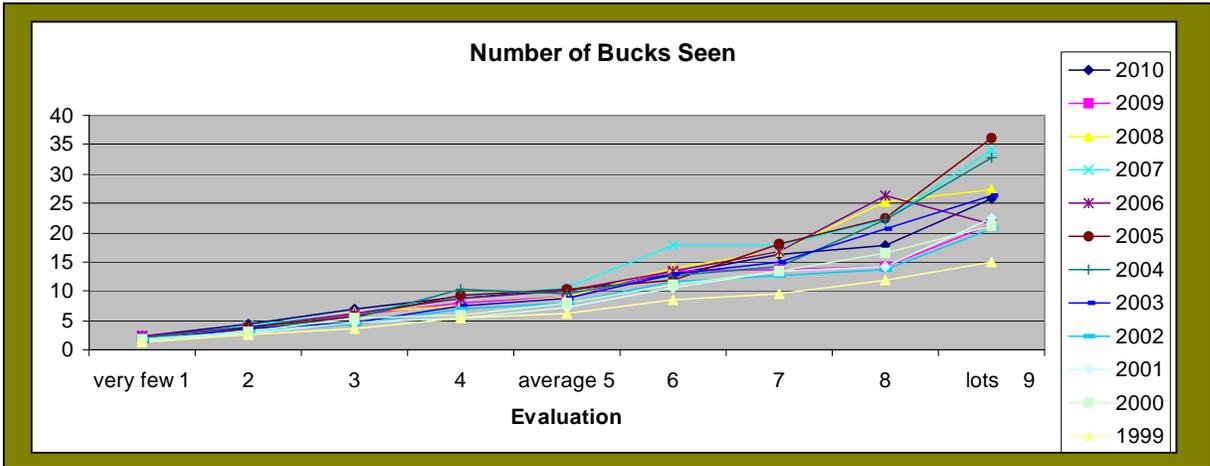


Figure 8. Relationship between the number of bucks seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen (1999 – 2010).

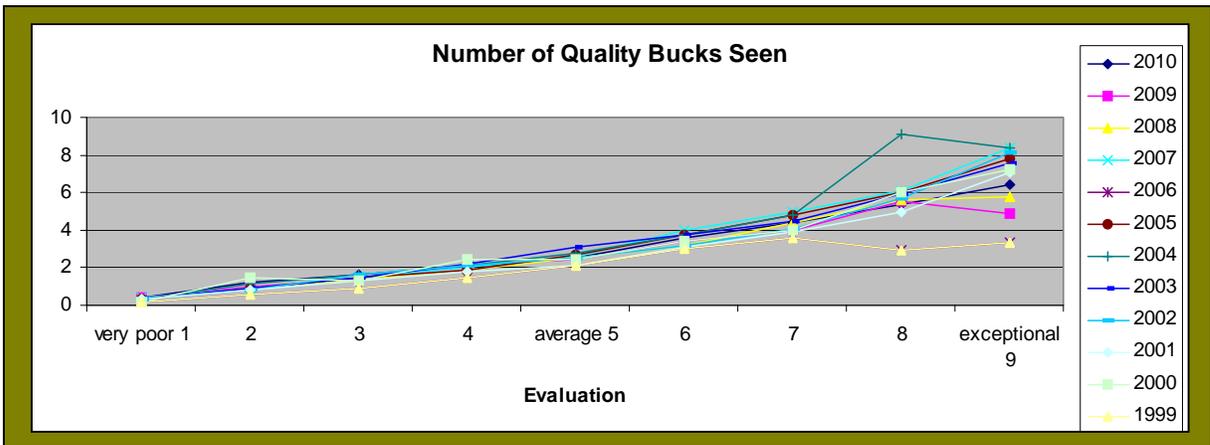


Figure 9. Relationship between the number of quality bucks seen by hunters and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks seen (1999 – 2010).

**Research Question #2**      What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters and various parameters measured in this survey, i.e., which variables are the best predictors of satisfaction?

Twenty-three variables were tested for significant correlation with satisfaction; 20 variables were significant (Table 74). Gender, age, and hunters' evaluation of the importance of not feeling crowded while deer hunting were not linearly related to satisfaction. Evaluation of the number of deer seen had the highest correlation with satisfaction (0.419) while the actual number of deer seen had a much lower correlation (0.114). Hunters' evaluation of the whitetail population had the second highest correlation, followed by evaluation of the number of bucks seen and the evaluation of the quality of bucks seen. Success was measured two different ways. Success1, coded as none=0, doe or buck=1 had the fifth highest and success2, coded as none=0, doe=1, buck=2, had the sixth highest correlation with satisfaction.

Crowding can significantly affect satisfaction. Hunters feeling crowded were less satisfied than hunters not feeling crowded (Table 75). Also, hunters feeling that there were not enough hunters in the woods were less satisfied than those reporting that hunter density was "just right."

The hunters' evaluations of deer population parameters were much better predictors of satisfaction than were the actual values of the same deer population parameters (actual number of deer seen, number of bucks seen and the number of "quality" bucks seen) (Tables 76 – 79).

Nonresidents were more satisfied with their Black Hills deer hunting than were residents; however residence within South Dakota (Black Hills, West River, East River) was not related to satisfaction (Table 80).

Successful deer hunters (i.e., they harvested a deer) were much more satisfied than were unsuccessful deer hunters and hunters harvesting a buck were a little more satisfied than hunters harvesting a doe, although that difference was not significant (Tables 81 and 82). Overall, hunters who harvested a doe were about 14% more satisfied than were unsuccessful hunters and hunters who harvested a buck were about 18% more satisfied than were unsuccessful hunters. Overall, 74% of those harvesting a doe were

satisfied and 79% of those harvesting a buck were satisfied compared to only 52% of the unsuccessful hunters being satisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences. Harvest related attitudes were also related to hunters' satisfaction with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences (Table 83).

Hunters observing mountain lion sign and/or mountain lions were less satisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences than were hunters not seeing mountain lion sign and/or mountain lions (Table 84).

The higher hunters' importance (of Black Hills deer hunting) rating the stronger their level of both dissatisfaction and satisfaction, i.e., the less importance that Black Hills deer hunting was the more likely that hunters rated their deer hunting experience as neutral or did not have an opinion (Tables 85 and 86).

Satisfied hunters tended to have few types of deer licenses and to hunt fewer days (Tables 87 and 88). Satisfied hunters had fewer mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience compared to hunters dissatisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences (Table 89). Hunters that reported that filling their deer tag was not an important component of their hunting experience were more satisfied (Table 90).

**Research Question #2A**      What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested?

The number of points on harvested deer was not significantly correlated with satisfaction (Table 91). This suggests that hunters tend to only shoot a buck with a rack that would meet their expectations for producing a satisfying experience.

**Research Question #3**      What is the relationship between type of Black Hills deer hunter (based on their most important reason for Black Hills deer hunting) and the various parameters measured in this survey?

To be useful, a classification scheme should be able to predict various characteristics and behaviors, i.e., hunters should exhibit important differences on certain characteristics and behaviors.

In 2010 the nature hunters had the highest mean satisfaction levels and the trophy hunters had the lowest mean satisfaction (Table 92). Some types of hunters are more easily satisfied than are others. For example, some types of hunters are more focused on non-harvest benefits, which are easier to achieve during the hunting experience, while other types seem to be more dependent on deer population factors (e.g., meat and trophy hunters). In spite of the differences in satisfaction level among the hunter types in 2010 most of the hunter types were satisfied with their 2008 Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 93). The percent of satisfied hunters ranged from 49% of the trophy hunters to 72% of the nature hunters.

On average, the trophy hunters reported seeing the most deer and the meat hunters saw the least; however, hunters' evaluation of the numbers of deer seen was not related to hunter type (Table 94). On average, trophy hunters reported seeing the most bucks (10) and solitude hunters saw the least (6); however, hunters' evaluation of the numbers of bucks seen was relatively similar among the hunter types (Table 95). The number of quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks seen was not related to hunter type (Table 96). The trophy and challenge hunters tended to have the lowest evaluation of the Black Hills deer populations (Table 97).

In 2010, food/meat hunters were the most successful (71%) and trophy hunters the least (55%) (Table 98). Meat hunters harvested about 59 bucks per 100 deer while challenge and trophy hunters had the highest ratio of bucks to does harvested (88 and 87 bucks per 100 deer; respectively) (Table 99). Meat hunters had the smallest percentage of having a "buck" license (type 01/11) (75%) and trophy hunters had the highest proportion of "buck" licensees (97%) (Table 100). Challenge and trophy hunters (with a

“buck” license) reported the most days of hunting in 2010 and social and nature hunters hunted the least number of days (Table 101).

Filling their deer tag was most important to the food/meat and trophy hunters and least important to the solitude hunters (Tables 102-A, 102-B and 103-A). Buck hunting was most important to the trophy hunters and least important to the food/meet hunters (Tables 103-B and 103-C).

In terms of degree of crowding, social hunters had the highest percent rating the 2010 Black Hills deer season as “just right” (69%) while the food/meat hunters had the lowest percent rating the 2010 Black Hills deer season as “just right” (52%) (Table 104). Having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip was least important to the social hunters and most important to the solitude hunters (Tables 105-A and 105-B).

The trophy and challenge hunters had the highest importance ratings for Black Hills deer hunters and solitude and social deer hunters had the lowest importance ratings (Tables 106-A and 106-B). The food/meat and social hunters had the fewest number of additional types of deer licenses and the hunting opportunist and trophy hunters had the highest number of additional types of deer licenses (Table 107). The hunting opportunist hunter type had the lowest preference for the Black Hills deer season (48%) and the food/meat hunter type had the highest preference for the Black Hills deer season (73%) (Table 108).

The solitude deer hunters were the least likely to see mountain lion sign (45%) and/or a mountain lion (6%) while Black Hills deer hunting and the trophy hunters had the highest percent seeing mountain lion sign (68%) and/or a mountain lion (23%) (Table 109).

The food/meat hunters had the highest interest in increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year (Table 110). Hunters’ attitudes towards changing the application process for deer hunting was not related to hunter type (Table 111).

Solitude and challenge hunters had the highest mean number of years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (21.9 years and 20.9 years; respectively) and food/meat hunters the least number of years experience (12.9 years) (Table 112). Solitude and challenge hunters had the highest mean age (49.6 years) and trophy hunters the lowest

mean age (40.0 years) (Table 113). Meat hunters had the highest percentage of female hunters (18.4%) and solitude hunters had the lowest percentage of females (2.7%) (Table 114). Trophy hunters had the highest number of points on harvested bucks (8.7 points) and nature hunters the lowest number of points (7.8) (Table 115).

**Research Question #4**      What is the relationship between years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and various selected parameters measured in this survey (2010)?

One variable that may impact hunter opinions and attitudes would be their amount of past Black Hills deer hunting experiences. Hunters with different levels of past Black Hills deer hunting experience may evaluate conditions differently. For this reason, a number of parameters measured in this survey were analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience.

The number of deer seen tended to increase with hunting experience, however, the hunters' evaluations of the number of deer they saw was inversely correlated with years of hunting experience (Table 116). In other words, the more experienced deer hunters actually saw more deer but their evaluation of that number decreased with experience. The number of bucks slightly increased with years of experience, but hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks, the number of quality bucks and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks was not correlated with years of experience (Tables 117 and 118). Hunters' evaluation of the Black Hills deer population decreased with years of experience (Table 119).

More experienced Black Hills deer hunters tended to hunt more days during the 2010 Black Hills deer season (Table 120). However, years of Black Hills deer hunting experience was not related to whether or not a Black Hills deer license holder actually hunted during the 2010 Black Hills Deer season (Table 121).

Unsuccessful Black Hills deer hunters in the 2010 deer season had slightly more years of Black Hills deer hunting experience than successful deer hunters (Success1); however, hunters harvesting a doe were less experienced than both unsuccessful hunters and hunters harvesting a buck (Table 122). This suggests that hunters with more years of experience are more likely to be targeting bucks.

Hunters that reported feeling crowded during their 2010 Black Hills deer hunt tended to have fewer years of Black Hills deer hunting experience; however, hunters that felt there were ‘not enough hunters’ had significantly more years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 123). As would be expected, importance of Black Hills deer hunting was strongly related to years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 124). Hunters dissatisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experience had more years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 125).

Black Hills deer hunters who observed mountain lion sign and/or a mountain lion had more years of experience than did hunters not seeing mountain lion sign and/or a mountain lion (Table 126).

Harvesting a deer became less important to overall satisfaction with increasing years of experience, but buck hunting importance increased with years of experience (Tables 127-A–C and 128). The importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed deer hunting trip decreased with increasing years of experience (Table 129).

The number of additional types of deer licenses was not linearly related to years of deer hunting experience (Table 130). Hunters selecting the Black Hills deer season as their most preferred deer season had a higher number of years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 131). Years of Black Hills deer hunting experience was not related to hunters’ attitude towards increasing the chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year and/or changing the application system to achieve this objective (Tables 132 and 133).

Antler size (total number of points) of bucks harvested was not significantly related to years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Table 134). Age, gender and residence were significantly related to years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (Tables 135 – 137). As expected, more experienced hunters were older; females had less Black Hills deer hunting experience than males; South Dakota residents had more Black Hills deer hunting experience than nonresidents; and Black Hills residents had more Black Hills deer hunting experience than West River and East River residents.

**Research Question #5**      What is the relationship between resident hunters' rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting with their deer hunting preferences and attitudes towards changing the license application process (2010)?

The number of additional deer licenses held by 2010 resident Black Hills deer hunters slightly increased with hunters' rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting (Table 138). Hunters' rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting was strongly related to preference for one of the major rifle deer seasons (Table 139). Black Hills deer hunters' attitude towards increasing hunters' chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year and their attitude towards combining the application process to achieve this objective increased with their rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting (Tables 140 and 141).

Black Hills deer hunters who selected the Black Hills as their preferred deer season had higher support for increasing hunters' chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year and their support for combining the application process to achieve this objective compared to hunters selecting a different preferred deer season (Tables 142 and 143).

**Research Question #6**      What is the relationship between hunters' rating of the importance of filling their Black Hills deer tag with success and days hunted (2010)?

It appears that hunters who rate harvest success higher in importance make a greater effort to harvest a deer. Successful hunters rated the importance of harvest success higher than did the unsuccessful deer hunters (Tables 144-A and 144-B). And, hunters saying that harvest success was very important tended to hunt more days during the season (Table 145).

## **Discussion**

**Survey Methodology.** This part of the study was designed to evaluate how best to utilize the Internet in collecting data from big game hunters. There are two sources of possible error in using the Internet: 1) lack of complete coverage (not having an e-mail address for all hunters), and 2) non-response problems (the Internet by itself does not get a very high response rate). A mixed-mode survey design, utilizing a combination of Internet and mail surveys, was used to adjust for these possible sources of error.

Since the cost per Internet response is not related to sample size this survey design maximized the number of responses received via the Internet by sending the Internet survey to everyone with an e-mail address in the database. Because the cost of mail surveys is related to sample size, sampling (1/3 random sampling) was applied to the two mail components in this study design. This study design provided a high number of responses for a minimal cost and reduced the cost of correcting for possible sources of error by sampling.

This study found very few differences between data collected by a traditional mail survey and a mixed-mode survey (utilizing the Internet and a mail survey of non-respondents) and very few differences between the data collected by a traditional mail survey and the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey. However, a higher number of significant differences were found between the Internet and mail components of the mixed-mode survey design. The highest amount of similarity was found between the traditional mail survey (conducted of hunters that did not have an e-mail address in the database) and the mail survey of non-respondents to the Internet survey.

The relative similarity between data collected by the Internet versus the mail surveys in this one study should not be justification to only collect data via the Internet in the future because there were some significant differences and only by conducting valid surveys that account for all possible sources of error can a study be scientifically valid. This study demonstrates how the Internet can be incorporated into the survey design to increase survey responses while decreasing overall survey costs. The increased responses improved data analyses by allowing more detailed descriptions of smaller sub-groups and an overall better understanding of relationships among variables.

Even with the high number of responses and high response rates, non-response to the overall survey design is another possible source of error. A telephone survey of non-respondents to the overall survey with some key variables was used in this study to evaluate possible non-response bias. Since some significant differences were found it is recommended that this possible source of error be considered in future survey designs when highly accurate information is needed.

**Satisfaction.** Hunter satisfaction with their deer hunting experience is the most valuable human dimensions information collected by these annual surveys. Hunter satisfaction measures the Black Hills deer management performance from the hunters' perspective and has been measured by an annual scientific survey since 1995. A target goal is 80% satisfied and/or less than 10% dissatisfied hunters, which was achieved by 2003 through 2005. A small drop in satisfaction occurred in 2006 and 2007, which could have been initially interpreted as normal fluctuations due to random events, but satisfaction continued to drop in 2008 and again by a relatively large drop in 2009. This trend of decreasing satisfaction suggested that conditions important to most hunters had deteriorated to a level requiring management intervention. An improvement in hunter satisfaction was the overall goal for the management action taken in 1996. Balancing the goals of providing a quality deer hunt while providing a maximum amount of recreational opportunity is a difficult process. To accomplish this managers need a better understanding of all the factors that contribute to a satisfying hunting experience for Black Hills deer hunters.

Harvest success is important for the satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters (overall, harvesting a doe increased satisfaction by 15% and harvesting a buck by 18%), but the relationship is partly dependent upon hunter type. However, harvest success was not the best predictor of satisfaction. Other success-related variables were stronger predictors of satisfaction; namely hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen, number of bucks seen, "quality" of bucks seen, and hunters' evaluation of the deer population in the Black Hills. In other words, not all hunters need to actually harvest a deer to be satisfied as evidenced by the fact that about 52% of the unsuccessful hunters were satisfied (although overall satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters increased to about 74% when harvesting a doe and 79% when harvesting a buck).

Just feeling that they saw an adequate number of deer, bucks or large bucks and/or feeling that the overall Black Hills deer population is “good” is more important to the satisfaction of Black Hills deer hunters than actually getting a deer every year. However, each hunter has a different evaluation of what is an adequate number of deer, bucks and large bucks. The important finding is that hunters’ evaluations of these parameters had been improving since the change in Black Hills deer management in 1996. However, 2008 marked a reverse in the trend of increasing evaluations of these parameters with 2009 showing a marked decline in hunters’ evaluations of the deer populations. Because hunters perceived a decline in factors important in contributing to a quality or enjoyable hunting experience they were especially dissatisfied because they had recent memories of better times.

The good news is that the 2010 data shows that the downward trend has been reversed and hunters’ evaluation of deer number parameters and satisfaction has improved. It will likely take a few more years of corrective action (mainly achieved by reducing deer mortality, both hunter and predator) to return to the previous highs seen in 2005, but this goal is achievable.

Another assumption about satisfaction is that the bigger the buck the more satisfied the hunter. Unfortunately, this is a difficult hypothesis to test using empirical data because apparently many hunters will not shoot a buck that they would not at least be partly satisfied with getting. The same can be said for harvesting a doe. In this and previous studies a number of hunters reported that they would pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to their standards.<sup>5</sup> These results strongly suggest that the key to increasing satisfaction will be in improving the Black Hills deer population.

Another frequent variable often reported as important to a quality hunting experience is crowding. Crowding was significantly related to satisfaction in this study. Hunters reporting that the degree of crowding was “just right” were the most satisfied and as hunters’ degree of perceived crowding increased their satisfaction level decreased. However, the relationship was not as strong as success-related variables in this study largely because the deer management change in 1996 produced a large improvement by

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<sup>5</sup> Gigliotti, L. M. 2005. 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey. Report ID# HD-3-05.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD

reducing crowding conditions. Before the change in Black Hills deer management in 1996 that limited the numbers of deer hunters, crowding seemed to be a common complaint. It is likely that had this study been conducted in 1995, crowding may have played a more significant role in predicting satisfaction. The salience of a problem will likely have a major role in overall satisfaction.

**Mountain Lions in the Black Hills.** In the 2003 survey some hunters provided comments about mountain lions and expressed concern that mountain lions may be impacting the deer population or expressed a desire for a hunting season. As a result, the topic of mountain lions was added as the special focus area on the 2004 Black Hills deer hunter survey. South Dakota's first mountain lion season was implemented in 2005 to run from October 1 through December 15 or when a harvest quota was reached (25 mountain lions or 5 breeding-aged females). The plan for the 2005 Black Hills deer hunter survey was to include an evaluation of the impact of the mountain lion season on the Black Hills deer hunting experience. However, plans changed when the season ended on October 24 after the fifth breeding-age female was harvested. Instead the 2005 Black Hills deer hunter survey contained three pages of general questions related to attitudes towards mountain lions and the 2005 mountain lion season. For a number of reasons, the 2006 and 2007 Mountain Lion seasons were changed to start on November 1, the same day as the start of the Black Hills Deer Season, thus the 2006 and 2007 Black Hills deer hunter surveys included an evaluation of the impact of the mountain lion season on the Black Hills deer hunting experience as well as a few other parameters related to mountain lions.

Most important was the finding that very few deer hunters perceived any negative impact from the Black Hills mountain lion season occurring with the deer season. While most felt neutral about the mountain lion season there were a significant number of deer hunters that felt the mountain lion season had a positive impact on the Black Hills deer season. The positive attitude towards the mountain lion season is probably the result of a high interest in hunting mountain lions. About 24% of the 2006 resident Black Hills deer hunters and 23% of the 2007 resident Black Hills deer hunters had purchased a mountain lion license. However, in 2008 the mountain lion season was changed to a later start-date

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(January 1<sup>st</sup>) and thus no longer over-lapped with the Black Hills deer season. This may have a small negative impact on satisfaction with the deer season.

Black Hills deer hunter surveys have tracked the percent of deer hunters observing a mountain lion while hunting deer during the Black Hills deer season since 2004. The percent of Black Hills deer hunters observing a mountain lion has been fairly consistent over the previous six years (2004 – 2009), ranging from 6.0% to 8.5%, but increased to 13.2% in 2010. In 2010, hunters observing mountain lion sign and/or a mountain lion were less satisfied overall with their Black Hills deer hunting experience. It appears that many hunters have blamed the entire reduction in Black Hills deer populations on mountain lion predation.

The problem is more likely a combination of increasing hunter harvest and mountain lion predation in recent years. Note that from 2004 through 2008 the number of deer tags available and subsequently the Black Hills deer harvest increased significantly (Figure 10). The increased deer harvest held for a few years before it began to decrease along with success rate and hunter satisfaction. The solution for increasing satisfaction will require a large reduction in hunter harvest for a few years followed by close monitoring of deer numbers (and associated parameters), hunter harvest and satisfaction and other mortality factors, such as mountain lion predation.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Licenses Sold</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Success</b>	<b>% Residents Satisfied</b>
2000	7,921	3,969	50%	73%
2001	6,707	3,662	55%	76%
2002	6,454	3,369	52%	72%
2003	6,438	3,576	56%	81%
2004	7,346	4,589	62%	83%
2005	7,814	4,247	54%	83%
2006	8,939	5,405	60%	78%
2007	8,949	5,397	60%	71%
2008	8,523	4,638	51%	67%
2009	7,831	3,856	49%	54%
2010	5,327	3,017	57%	67%

Figure 10. Black Hills deer season harvest statistics and resident hunter satisfaction.

The increased number of mountain lions killed during the 2010 and 2011 mountain lion seasons may lead to more deer for the next Black Hills deer season, but returning the deer herd to the level that achieved very high hunter satisfaction (>80% resident satisfaction) will require some reduction in hunter harvest for a few years. Managing the Black Hills deer herd and hunting season must take an ecosystem approach because of the dynamic interaction of deer, mountain lions and hunters as well as other species. The hunter component will be the most difficult aspect. How many deer are needed to provide a quality hunting experience for most hunters? What is the most acceptable number of mountain lions from both the hunters' perspective as well as non-hunters? Fortunately, the long-term monitoring of hunter satisfaction has proved to be a rather diagnostic tool for measuring hunting quality and for matching deer populations with hunting pressure (number of licenses/tags allotted).

**Fair and Equitable Distribution of Hunting Opportunity.** There is a large variety of deer hunting opportunity in South Dakota based on geographic location, hunting equipment utilized and age of participant. Also each deer season is a distinct opportunity (i.e., hunters can apply for the opportunity to hunt deer in a multitude of different seasons). Currently the demand for buck hunting opportunities in most of South Dakota's deer seasons is much greater than the supply. Hunters willing and able to apply for a number of deer seasons have not only a better chance of getting at least one deer license, they have the opportunity to get more than one deer license. On the other hand, hunters not willing or able to apply for a number of deer seasons face the possibility of not getting a deer license some years.

One of the main distribution problems of allocating deer licenses is with the three major rifle deer seasons (East River, West River and Black Hills). Many of the Black Hills deer hunters also have a West River (59%) and/or an East River (34%) deer license. Also, only 62% of the Black Hills deer hunters selected the Black Hills as their preferred rifle deer season (22% preferred the West River deer season, 11% the East River deer season, and 5% had no preference). Although not providing every hunter with at least one of their preferred deer license, a system that combined the application process of the three major rifle deer seasons and first distributed deer licenses to hunters' first choice would increase the number of hunters getting at least one preferred deer license per year.

Most of the Black Hills deer hunters said that they would like a system that would increase their chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year. However, only 38% of the Black Hills deer hunters would favor combining the application process for the three major rifle deer seasons compared to 46% opposed. Apparently, many hunters want a remedy to increase their chances of getting a deer license without accepting any trade-off or compromise.

The hunters favorable to the solution of combining the application process for the three major rifle deer seasons are hunters that tend to only hunt in one of the deer seasons and/or have a strong preference for one of the three major rifle deer seasons. These are the hunters that would benefit from changing the application system. Hunters that normally hunt in more than one deer season are much more likely to be opposed to the solution of combining the application process for the three major rifle deer seasons because they are not likely to benefit much from such a change. The majority of Black Hills deer hunters are in this group. The decision should be made according to which management option is overall the most fair and equitable allocation of opportunity. Unfortunately, making a decision using this criterion will be difficult because majority opinion would be unfavorable.

Combining the three major rifle deer seasons would provide the most benefit to hunters who most prefer to hunt in the Black Hills. In recent years demand for buck hunting opportunities has become much greater than supply (Appendix G). Combining the three major rifle deer seasons would help to reduce “first choice” demand for Black Hills deer licenses. However, the reasons for the reduction in the Black Hills deer herd are more complex than simply increased mortality due to the rifle Black Hills deer season and mountain lions. In recent years increased hunter harvest of Black Hills deer has also come from archery, muzzleloader and youth deer seasons. Efforts to reduce hunter harvest from these sources will also need to be implemented in order to increase the Black Hills deer population and hunting quality to the level it was about five years ago. It would be unfair to reduce deer mortality by the rifle deer hunters (i.e., hunting opportunity) without also considering Black Hills deer mortality from the other deer hunting seasons.

**A Holistic or Ecosystem Approach to Managing the Black Hills.** When an area is managed by multiple seasons the current approach of collecting, analyzing data and making decisions as separate seasons may no longer work. The Black Hills has in recent years experienced a significant decline in deer numbers and subsequent reductions in deer hunting opportunity. While deer hunting pressure and harvest has been rigorously monitored for the rifle deer season, deer mortality from other deer hunting seasons (e.g. archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer seasons) and factors (predators) were left out of the equations for managing the Black Hills rifle deer season. A new management approach needs to be developed by answering the question, “What is a fair and equitable distribution of deer hunting opportunities among all the current users including an allocation of deer numbers to predators?” This approach would try to balance supply (deer) proportionally to the demands of all users groups. Such a process would need a system that permits limiting access for all the different user groups.

## **TABLES – Part 1**

### **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey Report**

Table 1. Proportion of Black Hills deer hunters with an e-mail address in the database (2010).

<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	4,659	87.5%
<b>No</b>	668	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	5,327	100%

Table 2. Sampling for the Black Hills deer hunter survey (2010)

<b>Mail Sample</b>	
<b>Initial Population Size</b>	668
<b>1/3 Sample</b>	223
<b>Undeliverable</b>	1
<b>Final Sample Size</b>	222
<b>Number Usable Returns</b>	180
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>81.1%</b>
<b>E-Mail Sample</b>	
<b>Initial Population Size</b>	4,659
<b>Number Not Sent</b>	106
<b>Number Sent</b>	4,553
<b>Number Usable Returns by Internet</b>	2,218
<b>Return Rate by Internet</b>	<b>48.7%</b>
<b>Sample of E-Mail Non-respondents → Mail Survey</b>	
<b>Initial Population Size</b>	2,441
<b>1/3 sample (about)</b>	804
<b>Undeliverable</b>	3
<b>Final Sample Size</b>	801
<b>Number Usable Returns</b>	567
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>70.8%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Reasons why a small number of e-mails were not sent: (1) 17 were excluded because they were listed on more than three similar e-mail addresses (a different ‘collector’ needs to be established because SurveyMonkey can not send multiple e-mails to the same address, and we only set up a total of three collectors) (2) 89 had bad addresses.

Table 3. Comparing data collected by the mixed-mode survey design with the data collected by the mail survey [6 of 38 (16%) variables were significant].

<b>Non-significant Variables</b>	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Cramer's V</b>
Residence	.617	.009
Harvest a deer	.360	.017
Satisfaction	.677	.017
Percent not hunting	.325	.018
Observing mountain lion sign	.182	.026
Hunters' evaluation of crowding	.598	.032
Gender	.077	.033
	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Eta-squared</b>
Mean satisfaction	.512	<.001
Evaluation of the whitetail deer population	.609	<.001
Evaluation of the mule deer population	.679	<.001
Number of bucks seen	.524	<.001
Number of "quality" bucks seen	.752	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen	.459	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen	.940	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the "quality" of bucks seen	.648	<.001
Importance of Black Hills deer hunting	.654	<.001
I am only interested in hunting for a buck	.562	<.001
I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck	.292	<.001
Importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip	.538	<.001
Importance of harvesting a deer to overall satisfaction	.957	<.001
Number of additional types of deer licenses	.309	<.001
Motivation: Food	.255	<.001
Motivation: Excitement	.475	<.001
Motivation: Social	.430	<.001
Motivation: Trophy	.271	<.001
Motivation: Challenges	.274	<.001
Motivation: Additional deer hunting opportunities	.744	<.001
Attitude towards a system to increase chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year	.813	<.001
Attitude towards combining the application for the 3 major deer seasons	.277	<.001
Motivation: Solitude	.225	.001
Motivation: Nature	.138	.001
Number of deer seen	.171	.001
	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Cramer's V</b>
<b>Significant Variables</b>		
Observed a mountain lion while deer hunting	.013	.050
Preference for one of the three major deer seasons	.025	.060
	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Eta-squared</b>
I can be satisfied even if I don't kill a deer	.047	.001
Age	.012	.002
Years of Black Hills deer hunting experience	.035	.002
Days of hunting Black Hills deer (Days≠0)	<.001	.006

Table 4. Comparing data collected by the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey design with the data collected by the mail survey [6 of 38 (16%) variables were significant].

<b><u>Non-significant Variables</u></b>	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Cramer's V</u></b>
Residence	.432	.016
Percent not hunting	.295	.021
Observing mountain lion sign	.287	.023
Satisfaction	.533	.024
Harvest a deer	.222	.026
Hunters' evaluation of crowding	.653	.034
Gender	.066	.038
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Eta-squared</u></b>
Mean satisfaction	.519	<.001
Evaluation of the whitetail deer population	.559	<.001
Evaluation of the mule deer population	.589	<.001
Number of bucks seen	.597	<.001
Number of "quality" bucks seen	.363	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen	.957	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen	.620	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the "quality" of bucks seen	.664	<.001
Importance of Black Hills deer hunting	.557	<.001
I am only interested in hunting for a buck	.670	<.001
Importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip	.424	<.001
Importance of harvesting a deer to overall satisfaction	.924	<.001
Motivation: Excitement	.473	<.001
Motivation: Social	.511	<.001
Motivation: Additional deer hunting opportunities	.785	<.001
Attitude towards a system to increase chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year	.807	<.001
Attitude towards combining the application for the 3 major deer seasons	.330	<.001
Number of deer seen	.216	.001
I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck	.275	.001
Number of additional types of deer licenses	.230	.001
Motivation: Food	.171	.001
Motivation: Nature	.108	.001
Motivation: Trophy	.156	.001
Motivation: Solitude	.127	.001
Motivation: Challenges	.199	.001
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Cramer's V</u></b>
<b><u>Significant Variables</u></b>		
Observed a mountain lion while deer hunting	.023	.051
Preference for one of the three major deer seasons	.020	.069
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Eta-squared</u></b>
I can be satisfied even if I don't kill a deer	.036	.002
Years of Black Hills deer hunting experience	.013	.003
Age	.010	.003
Days of hunting Black Hills deer (Days≠0)	<.001	.009

Table 5. Comparing data collected by the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey design with the data collected by the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey [10 of 38 (26%) variables were significant].

<b><u>Non-significant Variables</u></b>	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Cramer's V</u></b>
Percent not hunting	.593	.010
Gender	.570	.011
Observed a mountain lion while deer hunting	.243	.024
Preference for one of the three major deer seasons	.650	.026
Hunters' evaluation of crowding	.242	.047
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Eta-squared</u></b>
Mean satisfaction	.965	<.001
Evaluation of the whitetail deer population	.512	<.001
Number of deer seen	.403	<.001
Number of bucks seen	.533	<.001
Number of "quality" bucks seen	.848	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen	.869	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the "quality" of bucks seen	.688	<.001
Importance of Black Hills deer hunting	.255	<.001
I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck	.706	<.001
Motivation: Excitement	.927	<.001
Motivation: Social	.352	<.001
Motivation: Additional deer hunting opportunities	.699	<.001
Attitude towards a system to increase chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year	.918	<.001
Attitude towards combining the application for the 3 major deer seasons	.448	<.001
Age	.804	<.001
Evaluation of the mule deer population	.292	.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen	.121	.001
I can be satisfied even if I don't kill a deer	.241	.001
I am only interested in hunting for a buck	.235	.001
Importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip	.139	.001
Importance of harvesting a deer to overall satisfaction	.235	.001
Motivation: Nature	.165	.001
Motivation: Challenges	.087	.001
Number of additional types of deer licenses	.096	.001
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Cramer's V</u></b>
<b><u>Significant Variables</u></b>		
Observing mountain lion sign	.036	.043
Harvest a deer	.020	.046
Residence	.011	.048
Satisfaction	<.001	.079
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Eta-squared</u></b>
Days of hunting Black Hills deer (Days≠0)	.020	.002
Motivation: Food	.037	.002
Motivation: Trophy	.007	.003
Motivation: Solitude	.007	.003
Years of Black Hills deer hunting experience	.005	.003

Table 6. Comparing data collected by the mail portion of the mixed-mode survey design with the data collected by the mail survey [3 of 38 (8%) variables were significant].

<b>Non-significant Variables</b>	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Cramer's V</b>
Harvest a deer	.853	.007
Hunters' evaluation of crowding	.531	.023
Residence	.449	.028
Gender	.202	.047
Satisfaction	.343	.056
Percent not hunting	.368	.080
Observing mountain lion sign	.035	.083
Preference for one of the three major deer seasons	.056	.105
	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Eta-squared</b>
Evaluation of the whitetail deer population	.859	<.001
Evaluation of the mule deer population	.960	<.001
Number of "quality" bucks seen	.826	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen	.994	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen	.884	<.001
Hunters' evaluation of the "quality" of bucks seen	.810	<.001
Importance of Black Hills deer hunting	.929	<.001
Importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip	.818	<.001
Importance of harvesting a deer to overall satisfaction	.644	<.001
Number of additional types of deer licenses	.836	<.001
Motivation: Food	.904	<.001
Motivation: Excitement	.555	<.001
Motivation: Trophy	.835	<.001
Motivation: Solitude	.922	<.001
Motivation: Challenges	.810	<.001
Motivation: Additional deer hunting opportunities	.639	<.001
Attitude towards a system to increase chances of getting at least one preferred deer license per year	.860	<.001
I am only interested in hunting for a buck	.303	.001
I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck	.433	.001
Motivation: Nature	.426	.001
Mean satisfaction	.535	.001
Years of Black Hills deer hunting experience	.535	.001
I can be satisfied even if I don't kill a deer	.219	.002
Motivation: Social	.265	.002
Number of bucks seen	.315	.002
Attitude towards combining the application for the 3 major deer seasons	.179	.003
Number of deer seen	.117	.004
	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Cramer's V</b>
<b>Significant Variables</b>		
Observed a mountain lion while deer hunting	.007	.111
	<b><i>p</i>-value</b>	<b>Eta-squared</b>
Age	.050	.005
Days of hunting Black Hills deer (Days≠0)	.028	.007

Table 7. Evaluation of non-response bias: Comparing data collected by both survey methods (combined) with a phone survey of non-respondents [5 of 10 (50%) variables were significant].

<b><u>Non-significant Variables</u></b>	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Cramer's V</u></b>
Harvest a deer	.421	.015
Percent not hunting	.347	.017
License type	.180	.053
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Eta-squared</u></b>
Mean number of Points on harvested bucks	.802	<.001
Days of hunting Black Hills deer (Days≠0)	.052	.001
<b><u>Significant Variables</u></b>	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Cramer's V</u></b>
Type of deer harvested (buck vs. doe)	.032	.051
Satisfaction	.001	.072
Importance of Black Hills deer hunting	<.001	.108
	<b><u>p-value</u></b>	<b><u>Eta-squared</u></b>
Mean importance of Black Hills deer hunting	.045	.001
Mean satisfaction	.028	.002

## TABLES – Part 2

### 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey Report

**Licenses:**

Table 8. Black Hills deer licenses sold and percent who did not hunt, 2010.

License Type <sup>1</sup>	Number Available		Number Sold		
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident	Total
<b>BHD-BH1-01</b>	400	32	439	31	470
<b>BHD-BH1-11</b>	4,000	320	4,000	318	4,318
<b>BHD-BD1-03</b>	100	8	99	8	107
<b>BHD-BD1-13</b>	100	8	100	8	108
<b>BHD-BD2-13</b>	100	8	100	8	108
<b>BHD-BD3-13</b>	100	8	100	8	108
<b>BHD-BD4-13</b>	100	8	100	8	108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>5,327</b>

<sup>1</sup>Type: BH1-01=any-deer; BH1-11=any whitetail deer; BD(1-4)-13=antlerless whitetail deer; BD1-3=any antlerless deer

Table 9. Percent return distribution by unit and license types (2010).

License Type	Value	Total Sold		Returned	
	License type	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>BHD-BH1-01</b>	1	470	8.8%	260	8.8%
<b>BHD-BH1-11</b>	2	4,318	81.1%	2,409	81.3%
<b>BHD-BD1-03</b>	3	107	2.0%	54	1.8%
<b>BHD-BD1-13</b>	4	108	2.0%	63	2.1%
<b>BHD-BD2-13</b>	5	108	2.0%	54	1.8%
<b>BHD-BD3-13</b>	6	108	2.0%	58	2.0%
<b>BHD-BD4-13</b>	7	108	2.0%	66	2.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	--	<b>5,327</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,964<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup>1 missing

Table 10. Percent of residents and nonresidents in the sample (2010).

RESIDENCE	Usable Return		Actual Distribution of Licenses Sold	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>S.D. Residents</b>	2,704	91.2%	4,938	92.7%
<b>Nonresidents</b>	261	8.8%	389	7.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,965	100%	5,327	100%

Table 11. Black Hills deer hunters: percent not hunting (2010).

License Type	% Not Hunting	Unit	% Not Hunting	Deer	% Not Hunting
<b>BHD-BH1-01</b>	9.2%	<b>0</b>	7.7%	<b>Buck</b>	7.7%
<b>BHD-BH1-11</b>	7.5%	<b>1</b>	16.2%	<b>Doe</b>	16.6%
<b>BHD-BD1-03</b>	11.1%	<b>2</b>	14.8%		
<b>BHD-BD1-13</b>	20.6%	<b>3</b>	17.2%		
<b>BHD-BD2-13</b>	14.8%	<b>4</b>	18.25%		
<b>BHD-BD3-13</b>	17.2%				
<b>BHD-BD4-13</b>	18.2%				
		Type	% Not Hunting		
		<b>01</b>	9.2%		
<b>Residence</b>	<b>% Not Hunting</b>	<b>11</b>	7.5%		
<b>Resident</b>	8.8%	<b>03</b>	11.1%		
<b>Non-resident</b>	6.5%	<b>13</b>	17.8%		
<b>Total Percent Not Hunting: 8.6% (overall N = 2,965)</b>					

**Demographic Description of 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunters:**

Table 12. Percent of male and female hunters in the 1998 – 2010 Black Hills deer season.

SEX	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Male	96.3%	93.7%	93.9%	93.5%	93.5%	92.3%
Female	3.7%	6.3%	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%	7.7%
Sample size	355	1,701	1,813	1,746	1,734	1,907

Table 12 - Continued.

SEX	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Male	92.5%	92.1%	92.2%	91.7%	90.9%	90.4%
Female	7.5%	7.9%	7.8%	8.3%	9.1%	9.6%
Sample size	1,993	1,858	1,684	1,724	2,701	2,622

Table 12 - Continued.

SEX	2010
	Percent
Male	90.8%
Female	9.2%
Sample size	2,840

Table 13. Percent of male and female 2010 Black Hills deer hunters comparing residents and nonresidents.

SEX	Residents <sup>1</sup>		Nonresidents <sup>1</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	2,340	90.3%	240	96.4%
Female	251	9.7%	9	3.6%
TOTAL	2,591	100%	249	100%

<sup>1</sup>Chi-square=10.074; df=1; p=0.002

Table 14. Age distribution of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters.

AGE CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT	AGE CATEGORY	NUMBER	PERCENT
12 – 14 <sup>1</sup>	53	1.9%	11 – 19	173	6.1%
15 – 17	80	2.8%	20 – 29	342	12.1%
18 – 20	56	2.0%	30 – 39	506	17.9%
21 – 24	104	3.7%	40 – 49	599	21.2%
25 – 29	222	7.8%	50 – 59	648	22.9%
30 – 34	252	8.9%	60 – 69	431	15.2%
35 – 39	254	9.0%	70 – 79	115	4.1%
40 – 44	280	9.9%	80 – 89	13	0.5%
45 – 49	319	11.3%	90 – 99	2	0.1%
50 – 54	322	11.4%			
55 – 59	326	11.5%			
60 – 64	284	10.0%			
65 – 69	147	5.2%			
70 – 74	86	3.0%			
75 – 79	29	1.0%			
80 – 84	11	0.4%			
85 – 89	2	0.1%			
90 – 94	2	0.1%			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Summarized Age Data Comparing 1998 – 2010</b>					
<b>1998</b>	Mean age = 40.9 years; median age = 41; range = 12 – 77.				
<b>1999</b>	Mean age = 41.3 years; median age = 41; range = 12 – 83.				
<b>2000</b>	Mean age = 40.7 years; median age = 40; range = 11 – 88.				
<b>2001</b>	Mean age = 41.4 years; median age = 42; range = 12 – 86.				
<b>2002</b>	Mean age = 41.5 years; median age = 42; range = 12 – 88.				
<b>2003</b>	Mean age = 42.7; median age = 43; range = 12 – 89; 95% C.I. = 42.0 – 43.4				
<b>2004</b>	Mean age = 42.8; median age = 43; range = 12 – 84; 95% C.I. = 41.8 – 43.2				
<b>2005</b>	Mean age = 42.9; median age = 44; range = 12 – 89; 95% C.I. = 42.1 – 43.6				
<b>2006</b>	Mean age = 43.6; median age = 45; range = 12 – 88; 95% C.I. = 42.8 – 44.4				
<b>2007</b>	Mean age = 44.7; median age = 46; range = 12 – 89; 95% C.I. = 43.9 – 45.5				
<b>2008</b>	Mean age = 44.1; median age = 45; range = 9 – 92; 95% C.I. = 43.5 – 44.7				
<b>2009</b>	Mean age = 44.8; median age = 46; range = 12 – 93; 95% C.I. = 44.2 – 45.4				
<b>2010</b>	Mean age = 45.2; median age = 47; range = 11 – 94; 95% C.I. = 44.7 – 45.8				

<sup>1</sup>One individual reported their age as 11.

Table 15. Age distribution of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters comparing residents and nonresidents.

Age Category	Residents <sup>1</sup>		Nonresidents <sup>1</sup>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
12 – 19	167	6.5%	6	2.4%
20 – 29	320	12.4%	22	8.9%
30 – 39	460	17.8%	46	18.6%
40 – 49	553	21.4%	46	18.6%
50 – 59	574	22.2%	74	30.0%
60 – 69	390	15.1%	41	16.6%
70 – 79	105	4.1%	10	4.0%
80 – 89	11	0.4%	2	0.8%
90 – 93	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	2,582	100%	247	100%
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup>/95% CI</b>	45.0	44.37 – 45.57	48.1	46.30 – 49.80
<b>Median</b>	46.0		50.0	
<b>Range</b>	11 – 94		13 – 83	

<sup>1</sup>Chi-square=16.316; df=8; p=0.038

<sup>2</sup>Oneway ANOVA F=8.995; df=1/2,827; p=0.003



Table 16. Resident Black Hills deer hunters' home county (2010).

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>2010 Black Hills Deer Hunters</b>	
	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
<b>1. Minnehaha</b>	243	9.3%
<b>2. Pennington</b>	865	33.2%
<b>3. Brown</b>	13	0.5%
<b>4. Beadle</b>	26	1.0%
<b>5. Codington</b>	19	0.7%
<b>6. Brookings</b>	36	1.4%
<b>7. Yankton</b>	33	1.3%
<b>8. Davison</b>	66	2.5%
<b>9. Lawrence</b>	279	10.7%
<b>10. Aurora</b>	14	0.5%
<b>11. Bennett</b>	0	0.0%
<b>12. Bon Homme</b>	15	0.6%
<b>13. Brule</b>	15	0.6%
<b>14. Buffalo</b>	1	<0.1%
<b>15. Butte</b>	44	1.7%
<b>16. Campbell</b>	1	<0.1%
<b>17. Charles Mix</b>	28	1.1%
<b>18. Clark</b>	0	0.0%
<b>19. Clay</b>	10	0.4%
<b>20. Corson</b>	0	0.0%
<b>21. Custer</b>	222	8.5%
<b>22. Day</b>	8	0.3%
<b>23. Deuel</b>	11	0.4%
<b>24. Dewey</b>	2	0.1%
<b>25. Douglas</b>	24	0.9%
<b>26. Edmunds</b>	0	0.0%
<b>27. Fall River</b>	29	1.1%
<b>28. Faulk</b>	1	<0.1%
<b>29. Grant</b>	11	0.4%
<b>30. Gregory</b>	2	0.1%
<b>31. Haakon</b>	9	0.3%
<b>32. Hamlin</b>	10	0.4%
<b>33. Hand</b>	3	0.1%
<b>34. Hanson</b>	11	0.4%
<b>35. Harding</b>	2	0.1%
<b>36. Hughes</b>	60	2.3%
<b>37. Hutchinson</b>	7	0.3%
<b>38. Hyde</b>	2	0.1%
<b>39. Jackson</b>	1	<0.1%
<b>40. Jerauld</b>	2	0.1%

Table continued on next page.

Table 16 – Continued. Resident Black Hills deer hunters’ home county (2010).

COUNTY	2010 Black Hills Deer Hunters	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
41. Jones	3	0.1%
42. Kingsbury	5	0.2%
43. Lake	43	1.7%
44. Lincoln	79	3.0%
45. Lyman	2	0.1%
46. McCook	22	0.8%
47. McPherson	0	0.0%
48. Marshall	3	0.1%
49. Meade	213	8.2%
50. Mellette	1	<0.1%
51. Miner	9	0.3%
52. Moody	15	0.6%
53. Perkins	3	0.1%
54. Potter	3	0.1%
55. Roberts	4	0.2%
56. Sanborn	5	0.2%
57. Spink	0	0.0%
58. Stanley	8	0.3%
59. Sully	1	<0.1%
60. Tripp	9	0.3%
61. Turner	20	0.8%
62. Union	23	0.9%
63. Walworth	2	0.1%
64. Ziebach	2	0.1%
65. Shannon	1	<0.1%
67. Todd	1	<0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>		
<b>Black Hills Counties<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>61.8%</b>
<b>West River Counties, excluding Black Hills</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>East River Counties</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>34.8%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

Table 17. Trends in resident Black Hills deer hunters' home county (1995-2010).

<b>RESIDENCE</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Black Hills<sup>1</sup></b>	68%	64%	62%	56.5%	56.8%	59.6%	60.9%	59.2%
<b>West River, excluding Black Hill</b>	3%	3%	3%	5.0%	2.7%	3.7%	3.0%	3.2%
<b>East River</b>	29%	33%	35%	38.5%	40.5%	36.7%	36.1%	37.6%

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

Table 17 – Continued.

<b>RESIDENCE</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Black Hills<sup>1</sup></b>	62.2%	59.8%	60.1%	58.5%	58.9%	60.4%	62.1%	61.8%
<b>West River, excluding Black Hill</b>	4.0%	4.2%	3.3%	4.3%	3.6%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%
<b>East River</b>	33.8%	36.0%	36.6%	37.2%	37.5%	35.7%	34.2%	34.8%

<sup>1</sup>Pennington, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, and Meade

Table 18. Nonresident Black Hills deer hunters' home state, based on the total license database (2010).

<b>STATE</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	111	28.5%
<b>Wisconsin</b>	42	10.8%
<b>Michigan</b>	29	7.5%
<b>Wyoming</b>	22	5.7%
<b>Colorado</b>	20	5.1%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	17	4.4%
<b>Iowa</b>	14	3.6%
<b>Nebraska</b>	13	3.3%
<b>North Dakota</b>	12	3.1%
<b>Utah, New York</b>	10 ( <i>each</i> )	2.6% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>California, Illinois</b>	8 ( <i>each</i> )	2.1% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>Florida, Texas</b>	7 ( <i>each</i> )	1.8% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>Indiana</b>	6	1.5%
<b>Kansas, Montana</b>	5 ( <i>each</i> )	1.3% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>New Jersey, Mississippi</b>	4 ( <i>each</i> )	1.0% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>Arizona, Virginia, Washington, Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon</b>	3 ( <i>each</i> )	0.8% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>Ohio, West Virginia, South Dakota</b>	2 ( <i>each</i> )	0.5% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>South Carolina, Tennessee, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii, Georgia, Alabama, Missouri</b>	1 ( <i>each</i> )	0.3% ( <i>each</i> )
<b>TOTAL</b>	389	100%

**Hunting Statistics:**

Table 19. Average days hunted by resident and nonresident Black Hills deer hunters by unit (2010).<sup>1</sup>

<b>Unit</b>	<b>2010 Residents</b>	<b>2010 Nonresidents</b>	<b>2010 Combined</b>
<b>BHD-BH1-01</b>	5.3	4.4	5.3
<b>BHD-BH1-11</b>	5.2	4.5	5.3
<b>BHD-BD1-03</b>	5.3	2.2	4.9
<b>BHD-BD1-13</b>	3.5	5.6	3.7
<b>BHD-BD2-13</b>	3.9	2.4	3.8
<b>BHD-BD3-13</b>	3.4	3.0	3.4
<b>BHD-BD4-13</b>	3.6	3.2	3.6
<b>Type – 01/11</b>	5.2	4.5	5.1
<b>Type – 03/13</b>	3.9	3.2	3.9
<b>Combined</b>	5.1	4.4	5.0

<sup>1</sup>Calculations do not include hunters that had a license but did not hunt.

Table 20. Total estimated recreational days of hunting during the 2010 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Residents</b>	22,968	93.5%
<b>Nonresidents</b>	1,600	6.5%
<b>Total</b>	24,568	100%

Table 21. Frequency of days hunted by 2010 Black Hills deer hunters comparing residents and nonresidents.

Days Hunted in 2010	Black Hills Deer Hunting Days – 2010		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	8.8%	6.5%	8.6%
1	8.5%	6.1%	8.3%
2	16.0%	10.7%	15.5%
3	17.2%	13.4%	16.9%
4	12.6%	25.7%	13.8%
5	9.1%	18.0%	9.8%
6	6.8%	11.1%	7.2%
7	4.1%	3.1%	4.0%
8	3.3%	1.1%	3.1%
9	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%
10	4.5%	0.8%	4.2%
11	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%
12	1.6%	0.0%	1.5%
13	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
14	0.9%	0.4%	0.9%
15	1.7%	0.4%	1.6%
16 – 20	1.6%	0.8%	1.6%
21 – 25	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
26 – 30	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	2,704	261	2,965
<b>Mean<sup>1,2</sup></b>	4.61	4.10	4.57
<b>95% CI</b>	4.45 – 4.77	3.78 – 4.42	4.42 – 4.71
<b>Median</b>	3.00	4.00	4.00
<b>Range</b>	0 – 30	0 – 20	0 – 30

<sup>1</sup>Calculations include hunters that did not hunt.

<sup>2</sup>Oneway ANOVA F=3.730; df=1/2,963; p=0.054

**Harvest Statistics for 2010 Black Hills Deer Season:**

Table 22. Estimated Black Hills deer harvest for the 2010 season.

<b>Harvest Type</b>	<b>Harvest</b>
<b>Whitetail Buck</b>	2,139
<b>Mule Deer Buck</b>	107
<b>Whitetail Buck – fawn (button buck)</b>	95
<b>Mule Deer Buck – fawn (button buck)</b>	5
<b>Whitetail Doe (adult)</b>	549
<b>Whitetail Doe (fawn)</b>	41
<b>Mule Deer Doe (adult)</b>	16
<b>Mule Deer Doe (fawn)</b>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,954</b>

Table 23. Harvest success by Black Hills deer hunters – 2010.

<b>Success Measure</b>	<b>Harvest Success Rate</b>	
	<b>Includes Hunters that did not hunt</b>	<b>Excludes Hunters that did not hunt</b>
<b>Overall</b>	56.7%	62.0%
<b>License Type 01/11</b>	56.8%	61.5%
<b>License Type 03/13</b>	55.9%	67.1%
<b>Resident</b>	55.4%	60.8%
<b>Nonresident</b>	69.7%	74.6%

Table 24. Overall harvest success by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

<b>Season</b>	<b>Harvest Success Rate<sup>1</sup></b>						
	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>30-Day / Type-05</b>	43.7%	43.8%	48.9%	57.9%	56.2%	60.9%	65.1%
<b>10-Day / Unit Lic.</b>	55.3%	55.7%	66.0%	69.0%	71.7%	80.2%	77.2%

Table 24 – Continued.

<b>Season<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Harvest Success Rate<sup>1</sup></b>						
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Season<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>30-Day / Type-05</b>	60.4%	64.1%	<b>Type 01 &amp; 11</b>	64.6%	57.1%	55.9%	61.5%
<b>30-Day / Unit Lic.</b>	71.9%	75.9%	<b>Type 03 &amp; 13</b>	66.5%	62.4%	51.8%	67.1%

<sup>1</sup>Success rate does not include hunters that did not hunt

<sup>2</sup>In 2005-06 this season changed from a 10-day season to a 30-day season. In 2007 – 2010 the type-05 license was changed to type 01&11 (any-deer and any whitetail) and the unit licenses were type 03 & 13 (any antlerless and whitetail antlerless).

Table 25. Antler size (Eastern count) for the 2010 Black Hills deer season.

Total Points	Whitetail		Mule Deer Bucks	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
2	13	1.1%	2	3.3%
3	16	1.4%	2	3.3%
4	28	2.4%	6	10.0%
5	35	3.0%	6	10.0%
6	83	7.2%	12	20.0%
7	67	5.8%	7	11.7%
8	502	43.3%	8	13.3%
9	129	11.1%	8	13.3%
10	204	17.6%	8	13.3%
11	38	3.3%	1	1.7%
12	26	2.2%	0	0.0%
13	8	0.7%	0	0.0%
14	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
15+ <sup>1</sup>	8	0.7%	0	0.0%
<b>Number</b>	1,160	100%	60	100%
<b>Average</b>	8.22		6.87	

<sup>1</sup> Two 16-point and two 18-point bucks were reported.

Table 26. Antler size (Eastern count) trends (1996–2010) for the Black Hills deer season.

Year	Whitetail Buck		Mule Deer Buck	
	Ave. Total Points	Sample Size	Ave. Total Points	Sample Size
1996	6.7	362	4.7	75
1997	6.7	318	5.1	100
1998	7.0	744	5.3	251
1999	7.0	464	5.5	188
2000	7.5	626	5.8	137
2001	7.8	646	5.9	218
2002	7.9	665	6.0	192
2003	8.1	757	5.9	212
2004	8.1	736	5.8	246
2005	8.2	598	5.7	168
2006	8.1	547	5.9	130
2007	8.2	590	6.9	30
2008	8.0	741	6.5	42
2009	7.9	797	7.0	45
2010	8.2	1,160	6.9	60

**Satisfaction with the 2010 Black Hills Deer Season:**

Table 27. Satisfaction with the 2010 Black Hills deer hunting—*Considering your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you?*

SATISFACTION (Scale)	2010 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING <sup>1</sup>		
	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>Very Satisfied (+3)</b>	23.7%	38.3%	25.1%
<b>Moderately Satisfied (+2)</b>	29.4%	31.3%	29.6%
<b>Slightly Satisfied (+1)</b>	13.9%	10.3%	13.6%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	9.2%	4.5%	8.8%
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)</b>	10.4%	4.9%	9.9%
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)</b>	7.8%	4.1%	7.5%
<b>Very Dissatisfied (-3)</b>	5.4%	6.6%	5.5%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,434	234	2,677
<b>MEAN<sup>2</sup></b>	1.02	1.55	1.06
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.94 – 1.09	1.32 – 1.77	1.00 – 1.13
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>SATISFIED</b>	67.1%	79.8%	68.2%
<b>NEUTRAL/No Opinion</b>	9.2%	4.5%	8.8%
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	23.7%	15.6%	22.9%

<sup>1</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=67.092$ ;  $df=6$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>2</sup>ANOVA:  $F=34.237$ ;  $df=1/2,396$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>3</sup>Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=31.296$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p<0.001$



**Trends–Satisfaction (1995-2010):**

Table 28. Trends in satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting from 1995-2010 for resident hunters. The change in management strategy was implemented in 1996.

Satisfaction	RESIDENTS								
	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Satisfied</b>	48.0%	60.4%	47.0%	67.4%	67.0%	72.7%	76.4%	71.8%	81.4%
<b>Neutral</b>	8.9%	14.8%	13.9%	9.8%	12.4%	18.8%	13.0%	18.2%	8.6%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	43.0%	24.9%	39.1%	22.8%	20.6%	8.5%	10.6%	10.0%	10.1%
<b>Total</b>	941	1,294	1,397	325	1,436	1,661	1,531	1,632	1,647
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	0.1	0.8	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.7

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

Table 28 – Continued.

Satisfaction	RESIDENTS						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Satisfied</b>	82.6%	82.6%	78.2%	70.6%	67.0%	53.5%	67.1%
<b>Neutral</b>	7.5%	7.5%	9.3%	11.6%	13.0%	11.7%	9.2%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	9.9%	9.8%	12.5%	17.8%	20.0%	34.8%	23.7%
<b>Total</b>	1,723	1,595	1,466	1,458	2,180	2,205	2,434
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.1	0.5	1.0

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

Table 29. Trends in satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting from 1995-2010 for **nonresident** hunters. The change in management strategy was implemented in 1996.

Satisfaction	NONRESIDENTS								
	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Satisfied</b>	58.5%	75.4%	62.8%	74.1%	73.3%	77.7%	86.9%	82.5%	90.6%
<b>Neutral</b>	9.4%	8.8%	9.5%	11.1%	10.1%	13.1%	6.9%	9.5%	3.6%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	32.1%	15.8%	27.7%	14.8%	16.7%	9.2%	6.2%	8.0%	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	159	114	137	27	258	128	145	137	139
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	0.7	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.1

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

Table 29 – Continued.

Satisfaction	NONRESIDENTS						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Satisfied</b>	93.3%	91.4%	91.0%	87.0%	81.6%	74.1%	79.8%
<b>Neutral</b>	2.0%	2.9%	1.5%	4.1%	5.4%	4.7%	4.5%
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	4.7%	5.8%	7.5%	8.9%	13.0%	21.2%	15.6%
<b>Total</b>	150	139	133	123	185	193	243
<b>Mean<sup>2</sup></b>	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.6

<sup>1</sup>Last year of the old deer management system

<sup>2</sup>Scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

**Hunters’ Evaluations of the 2010 Black Hills Deer Season:**

Table 30. About how many deer, bucks and quality bucks did you see during your total Black Hills deer hunt (1998 – 2010)?

Statistics	Total Deer Seen						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Mean</b>	42.4	43.5	77.5	54.6	69.3	80.0	77.4
<b>Median</b>	30.0	25.0	45.0	30.0	40.0	50.0	50.0
<b>Mode</b>	30	20	50	50	50	50	50
<b>% seeing zero</b>	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Statistics	Total Bucks Seen						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Mean</b>	3.6	4.6	7.6	7.2	7.9	10.0	10.9
<b>Median</b>	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.0
<b>Mode</b>	0	1	3	2	3	3	2
<b>% seeing zero</b>	19.1%	16.0%	8.4%	6.9%	6.4%	5.3%	4.1%
Statistics	Total Quality Bucks Seen						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Mean</b>	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.9	3.1
<b>Median</b>	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Mode</b>	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
<b>% seeing zero</b>	42.5%	39.9%	30.0%	25.1%	24.3%	21.3%	19.6%

Table continued on next page.

Table 30-Continued. About how many deer, bucks and quality bucks did you see during your total Black Hills deer hunt (1998 – 2010)?

Statistics	Total Deer Seen						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>Mean</b>	82.1	74.9	72.4	58.3	40.7	49.7	
<b>Median</b>	45.0	40.0	40.0	30.0	23.0	30.0	
<b>Mode</b>	100	100	100	20	20	50	
<b>% seeing zero</b>	0.2%	0.1%	0.7%	0.6%	1.4%	0.4%	
Statistics	Total Bucks Seen						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>Mean</b>	11.0	10.8	11.7	8.8	7.6	7.9	
<b>Median</b>	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	
<b>Mode</b>	4	3	3	2	2	2	
<b>% seeing zero</b>	5.8%	5.0%	5.8%	8.5%	10.0%	7.4%	
Statistics	Total Quality Bucks Seen						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>Mean</b>	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.0	
<b>Median</b>	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	
<b>Mode</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<b>% seeing zero</b>	23.1%	23.5%	24.8%	30.9%	32.6%	26.3%	

Table 31. Frequency of the number of deer seen by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Frequency Range	Deer Seen – 1998 – 2010						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
0 – 5	7.5%	8.5%	3.9%	5.8%	3.9%	3.2%	3.2%
6 – 10	12.7%	12.9%	6.4%	9.9%	6.2%	6.0%	7.3%
11 – 20	21.9%	22.9%	14.8%	20.0%	17.9%	14.8%	13.9%
21 – 30	16.4%	16.4%	15.2%	17.4%	14.7%	14.8%	15.6%
31 – 40	9.5%	7.0%	9.3%	10.0%	8.6%	7.1%	8.2%
41 – 50	10.4%	9.2%	12.1%	10.7%	11.7%	11.3%	11.7%
51 – 75	7.5%	7.2%	9.4%	8.0%	9.4%	10.1%	9.9%
76 – 100	7.5%	8.7%	12.3%	8.3%	11.8%	13.5%	13.0%
101 – 200	5.8%	5.9%	11.4%	6.9%	10.6%	12.6%	11.5%
> 200	1.2%	1.4%	5.1%	3.0%	5.1%	6.4%	5.8%
<b>Number</b>	347	1,687	1,662	1,659	1,655	1,765	1,861

Table continued

Table 31 – Continued. Frequency of the number of deer seen by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Frequency Range	Deer Seen – 1998 – 2010						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
0 – 5	2.8%	4.0%	4.5%	7.2%	12.0%	5.8%	
6 – 10	6.6%	7.3%	8.0%	12.2%	15.3%	10.9%	
11 – 20	16.5%	16.1%	16.6%	19.1%	22.0%	19.7%	
21 – 30	14.4%	14.8%	14.8%	15.1%	15.9%	17.5%	
31 – 40	8.7%	8.1%	7.8%	8.0%	6.6%	8.3%	
41 – 50	11.1%	10.3%	11.5%	9.9%	9.4%	12.5%	
51 – 75	9.7%	8.8%	8.0%	7.-%	4.8%	7.0%	
76 – 100	12.3%	13.4%	13.6%	10.7%	7.7%	9.7%	
101 – 200	11.3%	10.9%	9.8%	7.2%	4.7%	6.5%	
> 200	6.6%	6.3%	5.3%	3.5%	1.4%	2.0%	
<b>Number</b>	1,720	1,590	1,555	2,345	2,319	2,599	

Table 32. Frequency of the number of bucks seen by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Frequency Range	Bucks Seen – 1998 – 2010						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>0</b>	19.1%	16.0%	8.4%	6.9%	6.4%	5.3%	4.1%
<b>1</b>	18.3%	17.4%	11.5%	10.8%	8.5%	7.8%	6.8%
<b>2</b>	14.0%	14.1%	11.1%	12.6%	10.9%	9.8%	10.1%
<b>3</b>	11.4%	10.3%	12.2%	12.1%	11.5%	10.8%	9.9%
<b>4</b>	8.6%	9.0%	9.0%	10.0%	10.5%	8.3%	8.2%
<b>5</b>	6.9%	7.8%	8.9%	8.9%	8.9%	8.1%	8.3%
<b>6 – 10</b>	16.3%	15.9%	20.8%	21.5%	22.4%	24.7%	23.7%
<b>11 – 20</b>	4.6%	7.5%	12.5%	11.8%	14.0%	14.8%	18.9%
<b>&gt; 20</b>	0.9%	2.0%	5.6%	5.4%	6.8%	10.5%	10.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	350	1,697	1,655	1,659	1,654	1,779	1,876

Table continued

Table 32 – Continued. Frequency of the number of bucks seen by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Frequency Range	Bucks Seen – 1998 - 2010						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>0</b>	5.8%	5.0%	5.8%	8.5%	10.0%	7.4%	
<b>1</b>	6.1%	7.0%	6.7%	8.7%	11.1%	9.2%	
<b>2</b>	9.7%	8.6%	9.3%	13.0%	12.2%	11.9%	
<b>3</b>	9.5%	9.3%	10.5%	10.4%	11.4%	11.1%	
<b>4</b>	9.9%	8.4%	7.9%	9.3%	10.2%	9.1%	
<b>5</b>	8.6%	8.8%	9.4%	8.4%	9.4%	9.3%	
<b>6 – 10</b>	22.5%	23.5%	22.8%	21.1%	18.5%	23.2%	
<b>11 – 20</b>	16.2%	17.2%	15.0%	12.9%	10.9%	12.3%	
<b>&gt; 20</b>	11.7%	12.2%	12.5%	7.8%	6.3%	6.5%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,739	1,530	1,503	2,378	2,324	2,631	

Table 33. Frequency of the number of “quality” bucks deer seen by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Frequency Range	Quality Bucks Seen – 1998 – 2010						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>0</b>	42.5%	39.9%	30.0%	25.1%	24.3%	21.3%	19.6%
<b>1</b>	25.9%	26.8%	24.8%	26.5%	23.6%	22.9%	23.3%
<b>2</b>	17.5%	14.5%	16.4%	20.1%	20.4%	18.8%	19.2%
<b>3</b>	9.2%	8.4%	10.7%	11.7%	11.5%	11.9%	12.4%
<b>4</b>	3.4%	4.3%	6.3%	5.7%	6.2%	6.9%	7.2%
<b>5</b>	0.9%	2.4%	3.9%	3.0%	5.4%	7.7%	6.9%
<b>6 – 8</b>	0.0%	2.3%	3.9%	3.5%	4.5%	4.8%	4.7%
<b>9 – 10</b>	0.6%	1.0%	2.1%	2.6%	2.1%	3.3%	3.0%
<b>&gt; 10</b>	0.0%	0.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%	2.4%	3.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	348	1,680	1,624	1,644	1,645	1,716	1,838

Table continued

Table 33 – Continued. Frequency of the number of “quality” bucks deer seen by Black Hills deer hunters (1998 – 2010).

Frequency Range	Quality Bucks Seen – 1998 – 2010						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>0</b>	23.1%	23.5%	24.8%	30.9%	32.6%	26.3%	
<b>1</b>	22.6%	23.0%	23.0%	23.9%	27.6%	27.9%	
<b>2</b>	19.9%	19.0%	20.4%	18.7%	17.1%	20.2%	
<b>3</b>	12.0%	10.4%	10.2%	10.3%	9.4%	10.0%	
<b>4</b>	6.4%	7.3%	6.3%	5.0%	3.9%	4.9%	
<b>5</b>	6.0%	5.4%	5.3%	4.6%	4.3%	4.7%	
<b>6 – 8</b>	5.0%	5.1%	4.3%	3.0%	2.2%	3.4%	
<b>9 – 10</b>	2.9%	2.8%	3.1%	2.0%	1.4%	1.5%	
<b>&gt; 10</b>	2.2%	3.4%	2.7%	1.8%	1.4%	1.1%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,676	1,513	1,494	2,327	2,330	2,625	

Table 34. Rating of the number of deer seen during the 2010 Black Hills deer season –How would you rate the total number of deer you saw this year while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of deer. Leave blank if you have no opinion.

Rating – Total Number Deer Seen	2010 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING		
	RESIDENT <sup>1</sup>	NONRESIDENT <sup>1</sup>	COMBINED
<b>1 VERY FEW</b>	9.1%	6.9%	8.9%
<b>2</b>	10.2%	3.9%	9.6%
<b>3</b>	16.8%	8.6%	16.0%
<b>4</b>	16.4%	17.2%	16.5%
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	26.3%	26.6%	26.3%
<b>6</b>	7.9%	12.4%	8.3%
<b>7</b>	7.3%	9.9%	7.5%
<b>8</b>	2.5%	7.3%	2.9%
<b>9 LOTS OF DEER</b>	3.5%	7.3%	3.8%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,392	233	2,625
<b>MEAN<sup>2</sup></b>	4.27	5.10	4.34
<b>95% C.I.</b>	4.19 – 4.35	4.83 – 5.37	4.27 – 4.42
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>1-3 LOW</b>	36.0%	19.3%	34.6%
<b>4-6 MEDIUM</b>	50.7%	56.2%	51.2%
<b>7-9 HIGH</b>	13.3%	24.5%	14.3%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=50.914$ ;  $df=8$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>2</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – ANOVA:  $F=37.496$ ;  $df=1/2,623$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>3</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=37.007$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p<0.001$

Table 35. Rating of the number of bucks seen during the 2010 Black Hills deer season –How would you rate the number of BUCKS you saw this year while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of bucks. Leave blank if you have no opinion.

Rating – Total Number Bucks Seen	2010 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING		
	RESIDENT <sup>1</sup>	NONRESIDENT <sup>1</sup>	COMBINED
<b>1 VERY FEW</b>	19.3%	16.2%	19.1%
<b>2</b>	14.4%	4.8%	13.5%
<b>3</b>	15.3%	15.3%	15.35
<b>4</b>	14.2%	13.5%	14.1%
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	22.5%	27.1%	22.9%
<b>6</b>	6.6%	9.6%	6.9%
<b>7</b>	4.9%	6.6%	5.0%
<b>8</b>	1.7%	3.1%	1.8%
<b>9 LOTS OF BUCKS</b>	1.0%	3.9%	1.3%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,367	229	2,596
<b>MEAN<sup>2</sup></b>	3.60	4.24	3.66
<b>95% C.I.</b>	3.52 – 3.68	3.97 – 4.52	3.58 – 3.74
SUMMARIZED RESULTS <sup>3</sup>			
<b>1-3 LOW</b>	49.0%	36.2%	47.9%
<b>4-6 MEDIUM</b>	43.3%	50.2%	43.9%
<b>7-9 HIGH</b>	7.6%	13.5%	8.2%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=37.034$ ;  $df=8$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>2</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – ANOVA:  $F=22.415$ ;  $df=1/2,594$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>3</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=18.289$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p<0.001$

Table 36. Rating of the QUALITY of bucks seen during the 2010 Black Hills deer season –How would you rate the QUALITY of bucks you saw this year while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very poor, 5 about average, and 9 being exceptional. Leave blank if you have no opinion.

Rating – QUALITY of Bucks Seen	2010 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING		
	RESIDENT <sup>1</sup>	NONRESIDENT <sup>1</sup>	COMBINED
<b>1 VERY POOR</b>	20.8%	15.2%	20.3%
<b>2</b>	15.0%	7.1%	14.3%
<b>3</b>	13.9%	12.9%	13.8%
<b>4</b>	11.6%	14.7%	11.9%
<b>5 AVERAGE</b>	19.8%	25.9%	20.3%
<b>6</b>	8.8%	11.6%	9.1%
<b>7</b>	6.7%	9.4%	6.9%
<b>8</b>	2.1%	1.3%	2.0%
<b>9 EXCEPTIONAL</b>	1.4%	1.8%	1.4%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,332	224	2,556
<b>MEAN<sup>2</sup></b>	3.67	4.19	3.71
<b>95% C.I.</b>	3.58 – 3.75	3.92 – 4.45	3.63 – 3.79
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>1-3 POOR</b>	49.6%	35.3%	48.3%
<b>4-6 MEDIUM</b>	40.3%	52.2%	41.3%
<b>7-9 EXCEPTIONAL</b>	10.2%	12.5%	10.4%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=22.085$ ;  $df=8$ ;  $p=0.005$

<sup>2</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – ANOVA:  $F=12.844$ ;  $df=1/2,554$ ;  $p<0.001$

<sup>3</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=16.813$ ;  $df=2$ ;  $p<0.001$



Table 37. Comparison of the hunters' evaluation (on a scale of 1 to 9) of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2010.

Mean Evaluation	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Deer Seen</b>	3.5	4.3	4.6	5.8	5.2	5.7	6.0	6.3
<b>Bucks Seen</b>	2.5	3.2	3.6	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.8	5.0
<b>Quality Bucks Seen</b>	3.2	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.8

Table 37 – Continued.

Mean Evaluation	Year						% Change 97–10
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>Deer Seen</b>	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.3	4.1	<b>4.3</b>	+10.0%
<b>Bucks Seen</b>	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.3	3.7	<b>3.7</b>	+15.0%
<b>Quality Bucks Seen</b>	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.6	<b>3.7</b>	+6.3%

Table 38. Comparison of the hunters' evaluation (on a scale of 1 to 9) of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2010.

Evaluation of Number Deer Seen	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>LOW</b>	56.5%	37.8%	32.3%	11.6%	19.5%	13.1%	9.9%	7.2%
<b>MEDIUM</b>	32.2%	46.2%	47.7%	48.8%	52.3%	48.3%	45.9%	44.0%
<b>HIGH</b>	11.3%	16.0%	19.9%	39.6%	28.3%	38.7%	44.2%	48.8%
Evaluation of Number Bucks Seen	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>LOW</b>	74.1%	57.7%	51.0%	36.2%	33.2%	32.1%	27.2%	24.5%
<b>MEDIUM</b>	20.5%	33.9%	39.2%	45.1%	47.1%	47.7%	49.0%	48.9%
<b>HIGH</b>	5.4%	8.4%	9.8%	18.7%	19.7%	20.2%	23.8%	26.6%
Evaluation of Quality of Bucks Seen	Year							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>LOW</b>	58.5%	52.7%	47.9%	39.5%	33.4%	32.4%	27.7%	26.8%
<b>MEDIUM</b>	33.3%	37.5%	39.3%	41.0%	43.7%	45.5%	46.1%	48.8%
<b>HIGH</b>	8.2%	9.8%	12.7%	19.5%	22.7%	22.1%	26.2%	24.4%

Table continued on next page.

Table 38 – Continued. Comparison of the hunters’ evaluation (on a scale of 1 to 9) of the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2010.

Evaluation of Number Deer Seen	Year						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>LOW</b>	7.1%	12.0%	12.7%	19.7%	42.2%	34.6%	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	45.2%	45.4%	46.5%	51.1%	40.2%	51.2%	
<b>HIGH</b>	46.8%	42.6%	40.8%	29.2%	17.6%	14.3%	
Evaluation of Number Bucks Seen	Year						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>LOW</b>	25.7%	26.8%	26.8%	35.5%	47.3%	47.9%	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	52.3%	49.8%	52.0%	49.2%	41.3%	43.9%	
<b>HIGH</b>	22.0%	23.4%	21.2%	15.2%	11.3%	8.2%	
Evaluation of Quality of Bucks Seen	Year						
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
<b>POOR</b>	30.7%	31.4%	32.7%	38.2%	50.0%	48.3%	
<b>MEDIUM</b>	48.2%	46.0%	46.2%	45.5%	37.7%	41.3%	
<b>HIGH</b>	21.1%	22.6%	21.1%	16.4%	12.3%	10.4%	

Table 39. Hunters’ evaluation of the deer population in the Black Hills (2010).

Hunters’ Evaluation (scale)	Whitetail Deer Population		Mule Deer Population	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Far Too Few (-2)</b>	471	17.7%	957	49.2%
<b>Slightly Too Few (-1)</b>	946	35.5%	600	30.8%
<b>Just About Right (0)</b>	1,049	39.4%	336	17.3%
<b>Slightly Too Many (+1)</b>	145	5.4%	40	2.1%
<b>Far Too Many (+2)</b>	53	2.0%	13	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	2,664	100%	1,946	100%
<b>Mean / 95% C.I.</b>	-0.61	-0.65 – -0.58	-1.26	-1.30 – -1.22
<b>Population Difference Chi-Square: <math>X^2=551.434</math>; <math>df=16</math>; <math>p&lt;0.001</math></b>				
<b>Population Difference ANOVA: <math>t=27.810</math>; <math>df=1,921</math>; <math>p&lt;0.001</math></b>				

Table 40. Hunters’ evaluation of the deer population in the Black Hills (2010) analyzed by residence.

Hunters’ Evaluation (scale)	Whitetail Deer Population		Mule Deer Population	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
<b>Far Too Few (-2)</b>	18.6%	8.7%	50.1%	39.8%
<b>Slightly Too Few (-1)</b>	36.2%	28.6%	30.8%	31.6%
<b>Just About Right (0)</b>	37.9%	53.9%	16.7%	22.8%
<b>Slightly Too Many (+1)</b>	5.4%	6.2%	1.9%	4.1%
<b>Far Too Many (+2)</b>	1.9%	2.5%	0.6%	1.8%
<b>Number</b>	2,423	241	1,775	171
<b>Chi-Square</b>	$X^2=30.486$ ; $df=4$ ; $p<0.001$		$X^2=13.845$ ; $df=4$ ; $p<0.001$	
<b>Mean</b>	-0.64	-0.35	-1.28	-1.04
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-0.68 – -0.60	-0.45 – -0.24	-1.32 – -1.24	-1.18 – -0.89
<b>ANOVA</b>	$F=23.070$ ; $df=1/2,2662$ ; $p<0.001$		$F=12.649$ ; $df=1/1,944$ ; $p<0.001$	

Table 41. Degree of crowding for the 2010 Black Hills deer season –*How would you rate the hunting conditions in terms of number of other hunters?*

HUNTING CONDITIONS	2010 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTING					
	RESIDENT <sup>1</sup>		NONRESIDENT <sup>1</sup>		COMBINED	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	118	4.8%	12	5.0%	130	4.8%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	1,530	62.7%	184	76.3%	1,714	63.9%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	546	22.4%	38	15.8%	584	21.8%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	199	8.2%	5	2.1%	204	7.6%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	47	1.9%	2	0.8%	49	1.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,440	100%	241	100%	2,681	100%

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=22.896$ ;  $df=4$ ;  $p<0.001$

Table 42. Comparison of the hunters' evaluation of crowding during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2010.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	7.0%	7.3%	10.0%	6.2%	9.8%	9.2%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	51.2%	58.8%	66.3%	60.4%	64.8%	66.1%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	23.4%	21.5%	15.4%	21.8%	17.7%	17.5%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	11.4%	9.9%	6.5%	9.0%	6.0%	5.3%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	7.0%	2.5%	1.9%	2.6%	1.7%	1.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,557	354	1,699	1,634	1,641	1,643
<b>Total License Sales</b>	12,362	8,262	7,830	7,921	6,707	6,449

Table 42-Continued. Comparison of the hunters' evaluation of crowding during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2010.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	7.5%	6.7%	6.3%	6.3%	5.2%	5.0%
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	64.9%	67.1%	66.0%	61.2%	59.1%	50.6%
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	18.8%	18.4%	19.6%	21.1%	20.7%	26.6%
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	7.0%	5.6%	6.2%	8.0%	10.1%	12.9%
<b>Very Crowded</b>	1.8%	2.1%	1.9%	3.4%	4.8%	5.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,710	1,841	1,679	1,519	1,494	2,349
<b>Total License Sales</b>	6,438	7,346	7,814	8,932	8,949	9,173

Table 42-Continued. Comparison of the hunters' evaluation of crowding during their Black Hills deer hunting in 1997 through 2010.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>				
<b>Not Enough Hunters</b>	5.6%	4.8%				
<b>Just Right – Not Crowded</b>	58.9%	63.9%				
<b>Slightly Crowded</b>	23.0%	21.8%				
<b>Moderately Crowded</b>	10.2%	7.6%				
<b>Very Crowded</b>	2.2%	1.8%				
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,287	2,681				
<b>Total License Sales</b>	7,831	5,327				

**Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience:**

Table 43. Years of experience hunting deer by residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills, 1998 – 2010.

Years of Experience	RESIDENT							
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>1 Year</b>	6.1%	11.0%	10.0%	10.5%	9.6%	9.6%	13.2%	11.1%
<b>2 – 3 Years</b>	14.0%	15.0%	13.9%	13.3%	14.0%	13.4%	14.4%	15.3%
<b>4 – 5 Years</b>	13.7%	11.5%	11.3%	9.6%	11.0%	10.0%	10.1%	10.6%
<b>6 – 10 Years</b>	18.0%	14.6%	16.1%	18.9%	17.8%	18.2%	18.3%	16.1%
<b>11 – 20 Years</b>	21.0%	20.7%	20.2%	19.6%	21.8%	21.3%	19.1%	20.8%
<b>21 – 30 Years</b>	16.2%	13.3%	14.8%	14.0%	13.3%	14.7%	12.0%	12.2%
<b>31 or more</b>	11.0%	13.9%	13.7%	14.1%	12.4%	12.8%	12.9%	13.9%
<b>Number</b>	328	1,443	1,684	1,589	1,581	1,663	1,755	1,599
<b>Mean Years</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.0	14.3	14.9	13.9	14.6
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.2 – 15.5	13.3 – 14.5	13.9 – 15.3

Table 43 – Continued. Years of experience hunting deer by residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills, 1998 – 2010.

Years of Experience	RESIDENT							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010			
<b>1 Year</b>	10.6%	11.7%	10.9%	9.8%	7.3%			
<b>2 – 3 Years</b>	17.1%	15.9%	16.2%	15.2%	12.5%			
<b>4 – 5 Years</b>	10.0%	10.4%	10.9%	10.8%	10.8%			
<b>6 – 10 Years</b>	16.3%	13.4%	14.9%	16.0%	16.1%			
<b>11 – 20 Years</b>	20.8%	21.2%	19.8%	19.2%	21.5%			
<b>21 – 30 Years</b>	11.4%	14.1%	13.3%	13.9%	15.7%			
<b>31 or more</b>	13.7%	13.3%	14.1%	15.1%	16.2%			
<b>Number</b>	1,530	1,543	2,460	2,386	2,575			
<b>Mean Years</b>	14.5	14.9	14.9	15.5	16.5			
<b>95% C.I.</b>	13.8 – 15.2	14.2 – 15.6	14.3 – 15.4	15.0 – 16.1	16.0 – 17.1			

Table continued on next page.

Table 43 – Continued. Years of experience hunting deer by residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills, 1998 – 2010.

Years of Experience	NONRESIDENT							
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>1 Year</b>	25.9%	25.7%	27.5%	23.3%	30.1%	21.1%	21.3%	23.5%
<b>2 – 3 Years</b>	7.4%	17.5%	9.1%	20.5%	19.9%	24.8%	16.8%	15.4%
<b>4 – 5 Years</b>	11.1%	14.0%	13.7%	8.9%	10.3%	3.8%	14.8%	9.6%
<b>6 – 10 Years</b>	25.9%	8.9%	16.8%	19.9%	15.4%	12.8%	20.0%	15.4%
<b>11 – 20 Years</b>	3.7%	17.9%	14.5%	16.4%	12.5%	23.3%	12.9%	19.1%
<b>21 – 30 Years</b>	7.4%	10.9%	13.7%	7.5%	3.7%	11.3%	10.3%	11.0%
<b>31 or more</b>	18.5%	5.1%	4.6%	3.4%	8.1%	3.0%	3.9%	5.9%
<b>Number</b>	27	257	131	146	136	133	155	136
<b>Mean Years</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.4	8.7	10.1	9.1	10.3
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3 – 11.9	7.5 – 10.6	8.5 – 12.1

Table 43 – Continued. Years of experience hunting deer by residents and nonresidents in the Black Hills, 1998 – 2010.

Years of Experience	NONRESIDENT							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010			
<b>1 Year</b>	24.0%	19.7%	23.9%	22.7%	17.1%			
<b>2 – 3 Years</b>	17.8%	19.7%	22.4%	19.7%	23.3%			
<b>4 – 5 Years</b>	10.9%	15.0%	11.9%	10.8%	13.1%			
<b>6 – 10 Years</b>	14.0%	13.4%	15.4%	19.2%	14.7%			
<b>11 – 20 Years</b>	16.3%	14.2%	13.9%	13.3%	14.3%			
<b>21 – 30 Years</b>	8.5%	11.0%	9.5%	8.4%	10.2%			
<b>31 or more</b>	8.5%	7.1%	3.0%	5.9%	7.3%			
<b>Number</b>	129	127	201	203	245			
<b>Mean Years</b>	10.2	10.0	8.5	9.4	10.6			
<b>95% C.I.</b>	8.2 – 12.1	8.1 – 11.9	7.1 – 9.9	7.9 – 10.9	9.1 – 12.1			

**Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting:**

Table 44. Importance of 2010 Black Hills deer hunting– *How important is Black Hills deer hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation, including other types of hunting?*

IMPORTANCE (SCALE)	RESIDENTS	NONRESIDENTS	COMBINED
<b>Most Important (4)</b>	18.5%	20.8%	18.7%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	45.1%	46.0%	45.2%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	27.9%	28.4%	27.9%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	6.3%	2.4%	6.0%
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	1.5%	2.0%	1.6%
<b>No Opinion (missing)</b>	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,607	250	2,857
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=7.207$ ; $df=5$ ; $p=0.206$			
<b>Mean</b>	2.73	2.82	2.74
<b>95% C.I.</b>	2.70 – 2.77	2.71 – 2.92	2.71 – 2.77
ANOVA: $F=2.017$ ; $df=1/2,835$ ; $p=0.156$			

Table 45. Comparison of hunters’ rating of their importance of Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2010).

IMPORTANCE	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Most Important</b>	*	*	*	18.6%	22.9%	23.4%	22.2%
<b>Very Important</b>	58.8%	62.5%	62.3%	45.7%	45.3%	43.8%	42.5%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	30.1%	30.7%	29.7%	25.7%	21.9%	22.4%	23.0%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	8.5%	6.2%	6.8%	6.7%	6.5%	6.1%	6.7%
<b>Not Important</b>	2.6%	0.6%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%	2.0%	1.2%
<b>No Opinion</b>	*	*	*	1.9%	2.0%	2.2%	4.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,596	355	1,709	1,822	1,775	1,776	1,938

Table 45-Continued.

IMPORTANCE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Most Important</b>	24.3%	23.2%	23.3%	21.7%	<b>Data not collected in 2008</b>	22.1%	18.7%
<b>Very Important</b>	41.2%	43.5%	43.4%	43.1%		44.2%	45.2%
<b>Moderately Important</b>	25.3%	24.4%	23.7%	26.0%		23.0%	27.9%
<b>Slightly Important</b>	6.6%	6.4%	7.3%	6.9%		8.1%	6.0%
<b>Not Important</b>	1.8%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%		1.4%	1.6%
<b>No Opinion</b>	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%		1.2%	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,996	1,838	1,695	1,692			2,398

**Motivations Related to Black Hills Deer Hunting:**

**Tables 46A–46H. Reasons for 2010 Black Hills deer hunting– *People like to hunt for many different reasons, please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt deer in the Black Hills.***

Table 46-A. Importance of reason: To bring meat home for food (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Food		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	9.0%	8.4%	9.0%
<b>1</b>	8.0%	8.8%	8.1%
<b>2</b>	10.8%	7.6%	10.5%
<b>3</b>	13.1%	14.7%	13.5%
<b>4</b>	14.4%	15.5%	14.5%
<b>5</b>	16.2%	15.5%	16.1%
<b>6</b>	10.2%	11.6%	10.35
<b>7 Very Important</b>	18.2%	17.9%	18.2%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,624	251	2,875
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	3.96	4.03	3.97
<b>95% C. I.</b>	3.88 – 4.05	3.75 – 4.30	3.89 – 4.05

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=1.985; df=1/2,873; p=0.657

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square: X<sup>2</sup>=3.714; df=7; p=0.812

Table 46-B. Importance of reason: To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Nature		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
<b>1</b>	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%
<b>2</b>	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
<b>3</b>	2.2%	1.2%	2.15
<b>4</b>	5.5%	3.6%	5.4%
<b>5</b>	14.0%	13.5%	14.0%
<b>6</b>	22.8%	17.5%	22.3%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	55.0%	63.9%	55.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,626	252	2,878
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	6.21	6.38	6.22
<b>95% C. I.</b>	6.16 – 6.25	6.25 – 6.50	6.18 – 6.26

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=5.655; df=1/2,876; p=0.017

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square: X<sup>2</sup>=14.545; df=7; p=0.042

Table 46-C. Importance of reason: For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Excitement		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%
<b>1</b>	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
<b>2</b>	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%
<b>3</b>	3.1%	1.6%	3.0%
<b>4</b>	7.8%	7.1%	7.7%
<b>5</b>	17.0%	15.9%	16.9%
<b>6</b>	26.5%	23.0%	26.2%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	43.4%	50.8%	44.0%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,625	252	2,877
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.90	6.07	5.92
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.85 – 5.95	5.92 – 6.23	5.87 – 5.97

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=3.783; df=1/2,875; p=0.052

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=8.291$ ; df=7; p=0.308

Table 46-D. Importance of reason: Enjoying the time spent with friends/family (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Social		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	1.7%	0.8%	1.6%
<b>1</b>	0.9%	0.4%	0.8%
<b>2</b>	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%
<b>3</b>	3.4%	2.0%	3.3%
<b>4</b>	5.6%	3.6%	5.5%
<b>5</b>	12.2%	5.6%	11.6%
<b>6</b>	20.2%	20.3%	20.2%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	54.5%	66.1%	55.6%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,622	251	2,873
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	6.00	6.36	6.03
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.95 – 6.06	6.21 – 6.51	5.98 – 6.09

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=13.135; df=1/2,871; p<0.001

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=19.188$ ; df=7; p=0.008

Table 46-E. Importance of reason: To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Trophy		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	10.8%	9.5%	10.7%
<b>1</b>	8.5%	8.3%	8.5%
<b>2</b>	10.6%	9.1%	10.5%
<b>3</b>	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%
<b>4</b>	16.7%	17.9%	16.8%
<b>5</b>	16.7%	16.3%	16.6%
<b>6</b>	11.0%	11.1%	11.0%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	11.4%	13.5%	11.6%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,623	252	2,875
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	3.69	3.83	3.70
<b>95% C. I.</b>	3.61 – 3.77	3.57 – 4.10	3.62 – 3.78

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=1.060; df=1/2,873; p=0.303

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=1.893$ ; df=7; p=0.966

Table 46-F. Importance of reason: To spend time alone in the woods (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Solitude		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	5.9%	5.2%	5.8%
<b>1</b>	4.0%	1.6%	3.8%
<b>2</b>	6.0%	5.2%	6.0%
<b>3</b>	10.4%	12.3%	10.5%
<b>4</b>	13.3%	12.7%	13.2%
<b>5</b>	17.9%	14.7%	17.6%
<b>6</b>	19.0%	19.4%	19.0%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	23.5%	29.0%	24.0%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,615	252	2,867
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	4.69	4.92	4.71
<b>95% C. I.</b>	4.61 – 4.76	4.68 – 5.17	4.63 – 4.78

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=3.108; df=1/2,865; p=0.078

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=9.177$ ; df=7; p=0.240

Table 46-G. Importance of reason: For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer and dealing with the elements (2010).

IMPORTANCE	Challenge		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	2.8%	2.4%	2.8%
<b>1</b>	2.6%	2.0%	2.6%
<b>2</b>	4.9%	3.2%	4.7%
<b>3</b>	9.1%	11.2%	9.2%
<b>4</b>	13.0%	13.2%	13.0%
<b>5</b>	20.9%	20.8%	20.9%
<b>6</b>	23.9%	20.4%	23.6%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	22.9%	26.8%	23.3%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,616	250	2,866
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.00	5.09	5.00
<b>95% C. I.</b>	4.93 – 5.06	4.87 – 5.31	4.94 – 5.07

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=0.607; df=1/2,864; p=0.436

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=5.574$ ; df=7; p=0.590

Table 46-H. Importance of reason: To have additional deer hunting opportunities (2010).

IMPORTANCE	More Hunting Opportunity		
	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	COMBINED
<b>0 Not At All Important</b>	3.9%	1.6%	3.7%
<b>1</b>	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%
<b>2</b>	2.9%	3.6%	2.9%
<b>3</b>	7.3%	6.0%	7.2%
<b>4</b>	11.6%	9.6%	11.4%
<b>5</b>	16.1%	16.5%	16.15
<b>6</b>	22.8%	21.3%	22.7%
<b>7 Very Important</b>	33.2%	39.0%	33.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,607	249	2,856
<b>MEAN<sup>1</sup></b>	5.26	5.49	5.28
<b>95% C. I.</b>	5.19 – 5.33	5.27 – 5.71	5.21 – 5.35

<sup>1</sup>ANOVA: F=3.574; df=1/2,854; p=0.059

Resident vs. Nonresident: Chi-square:  $X^2=7.398$ ; df=7; p=0.389

Table 47. Average rating of importance of reasons for 2010 Black Hills deer hunting.

RESIDENTS			NONRESIDENTS		
Rank	Reason	Mean	Rank	Reason	Mean
1	Nature	6.21	1	Nature	6.38
2	Social	6.00	2	Social	6.36
3	Excitement	5.90	3	Excitement	6.07
4	Hunting Opportunity	5.26	4	Hunting Opportunity	5.49
5	Challenge	5.00	5	Challenge	5.09
6	Solitude	4.69	6	Solitude	4.92
7	Food	3.96	7	Food	4.03
8	Trophy	3.69	8	Trophy	3.83

Table 48. Comparison of hunters' ratings of the reasons for Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2007, 2010).

RESIDENTS							
Reasons	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Nature	6.12	6.01	6.10	6.24	6.20	6.25	6.18
Excitement	5.75	5.90	6.02	5.93	5.93	5.92	5.93
Social	5.69	5.85	5.95	5.88	5.87	5.97	5.93
Challenge	*	5.36	5.36	5.09	5.26	5.24	5.13
Hunting	**	**	**	5.07	5.23	5.16	5.09
Solitude	4.79	5.05	4.98	4.77	4.90	4.96	4.89
Food	3.86	3.84	3.80	3.81	3.65	3.58	3.57
Trophy	3.29	3.68	3.69	3.70	3.84	3.90	3.90
Exercise	4.52	***	***	***	***	***	***

RESIDENTS							
Reasons	2004	2005	2006	2007	2010		
Nature	6.19	6.20	6.15	6.19	6.21		
Excitement	5.94	5.86	5.81	5.82	5.90		
Social	5.91	5.94	5.97	5.99	6.00		
Challenge	5.14	5.03	5.01	5.04	5.00		
Hunting	5.18	5.21	5.10	5.19	5.26		
Solitude	4.82	4.79	4.81	4.82	4.69		
Food	3.77	3.98	3.73	3.83	3.96		
Trophy	3.76	3.73	3.72	3.72	3.69		
Exercise	***	***	***	***	***		

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 – 2007, 2010

Table continued on next page.

Table 48-Continued. Comparison of hunters’ ratings of the reasons for Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2007, 2010).

<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>							
<b>Reasons</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Nature</b>	6.30	6.11	6.29	6.41	6.31	6.43	6.41
<b>Social</b>	6.27	6.48	6.36	6.25	6.30	6.19	6.34
<b>Excitement</b>	5.83	6.00	6.23	6.05	5.96	5.96	6.19
<b>Challenge</b>	*	4.59	5.56	5.02	5.09	5.29	5.36
<b>Hunting</b>	**	**	**	4.94	5.30	5.39	5.45
<b>Solitude</b>	5.25	4.89	5.15	4.85	5.12	5.30	5.13
<b>Food</b>	3.34	3.85	3.87	3.40	4.01	3.82	3.90
<b>Trophy</b>	3.13	2.81	3.14	3.06	3.33	3.08	3.05
<b>Exercise</b>	4.60	***	***	***	***	***	***
<b>NONRESIDENTS</b>							
<b>Reasons</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2010</b>		
<b>Nature</b>	6.33	6.30	6.29	6.20	6.38		
<b>Social</b>	6.45	6.32	6.42	6.24	6.36		
<b>Excitement</b>	6.09	5.88	5.91	5.78	6.07		
<b>Challenge</b>	5.31	5.25	5.30	5.24	5.09		
<b>Hunting</b>	5.44	5.42	5.39	5.31	5.49		
<b>Solitude</b>	4.91	4.91	4.98	5.13	4.92		
<b>Food</b>	3.40	3.28	3.09	3.11	4.03		
<b>Trophy</b>	3.84	4.00	3.86	3.64	3.83		
<b>Exercise</b>	***	***	***	***	***		

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 – 2007, 2010.

Table 49. Main reason for 2010 Black Hills deer hunting– Overall, which statement above best describes your top reason for why you like Black Hills deer hunting?

<b>TOP REASON</b>	<b>RESIDENTS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>NONRESIDENTS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>COMBINED</b>
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family. <b>(Social)</b>	28.4%	35.3%	29.0%
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area. <b>(Nature)</b>	23.7%	24.6%	23.8%
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc. <b>(Excitement)</b>	19.8%	19.0%	19.7%
To bring meat home for food. <b>(Food)</b>	11.0%	4.8%	10.4%
For the challenges associated with “out smarting” a deer & dealing with the elements <b>(Challenge)</b>	6.0%	4.0%	5.8%
To bring home a nice buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment. <b>(Trophy)</b>	4.9%	6.0%	5.0%
To have <u>additional</u> deer hunting opportunities <b>(Hunting Opportunity)</b>	3.5%	4.0%	3.6%
To spend time alone in the woods. <b>(Solitude)</b>	2.7%	2.4%	2.7%
<b>NUMBER</b>	2,616	252	2,868

<sup>1</sup>Resident vs. Nonresident – Pearson Chi-square:  $X^2=14.845$ ;  $df=7$ ;  $p=0.038$

Table 50. Comparison of main reasons for Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2007, 2010).

TOP REASON <sup>1</sup>	RESIDENTS							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Social</b>	21.7%	27.9%	26.1%	23.6%	24.3%	28.8%	27.5%	27.2%
<b>Nature</b>	32.1%	24.5%	25.0%	29.6%	30.2%	28.8%	29.0%	28.9%
<b>Excitement</b>	21.7%	15.0%	20.9%	18.8%	20.1%	15.7%	18.7%	18.7%
<b>Food</b>	12.9%	11.0%	10.4%	10.6%	7.8%	7.4%	7.6%	7.7%
<b>Challenge</b>	*	10.1%	9.6%	6.2%	5.8%	6.4%	6.7%	6.7%
<b>Trophy</b>	6.3%	6.7%	5.0%	5.2%	5.5%	6.2%	5.1%	5.0%
<b>Hunting</b>	**	**	**	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%
<b>Solitude</b>	4.6%	4.6%	3.0%	2.9%	3.2%	3.6%	2.4%	2.8%
<b>Exercise<sup>2</sup></b>	0.9%	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,485	326	1,429	1,681	1,606	1,603	1,740	1,833
TOP REASON <sup>1</sup>	RESIDENTS							
	2005	2006	2007	2010				
<b>Social</b>	28.3%	31.7%	30.8%	28.4%				
<b>Nature</b>	29.1%	27.5%	29.7%	23.7%				
<b>Excitement</b>	16.7%	16.4%	14.3%	19.8%				
<b>Food</b>	8.0%	9.0%	8.2%	11.0%				
<b>Challenge</b>	5.7%	4.9%	5.2%	6.0%				
<b>Trophy</b>	5.4%	5.1%	5.5%	4.9%				
<b>Hunting</b>	2.8%	2.6%	3.0%	3.5%				
<b>Solitude</b>	4.0%	2.8%	3.3%	2.7%				
<b>Exercise<sup>2</sup></b>	***	***	***	***				
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,692	1,563	1,548	2,616				

<sup>1</sup>See Table 42 for definitions.

<sup>2</sup>For the physical exercise that hunting provides.

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 – 2007, 2010.

Table continued on next page.

Table 50 - Continued. Comparison of main reasons for Black Hills deer hunting (1997–2007, 2010).

TOP REASON <sup>1</sup>	NONRESIDENTS							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Social</b>	42.3%	37.0%	31.3%	28.3%	36.3%	31.1%	37.3%	35.6%
<b>Nature</b>	33.1%	25.9%	25.8%	38.6%	28.8%	34.1%	27.5%	34.4%
<b>Excitement</b>	12.0%	14.8%	23.4%	16.5%	22.6%	14.1%	19.0%	10.0%
<b>Food</b>	0.7%	0.0%	2.0%	0.8%	1.4%	3.7%	2.1%	2.5%
<b>Challenge</b>	*	11.1%	7.8%	3.1%	2.1%	5.2%	2.1%	4.4%
<b>Trophy</b>	6.3%	7.4%	7.0%	7.1%	4.8%	8.9%	4.9%	6.9%
<b>Hunting</b>	**	**	**	5.5%	3.4%	2.2%	6.3%	4.4%
<b>Solitude</b>	4.9%	3.7%	2.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	1.9%
<b>Exercise<sup>2</sup></b>	0.7%	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
<b>NUMBER</b>	142	27	256	127	146	135	142	160

TOP REASON <sup>1</sup>	NONRESIDENTS							
	2005	2006	2007	2010				
<b>Social</b>	34.5%	40.6%	35.7%	35.3%				
<b>Nature</b>	34.5%	29.7%	29.4%	24.6%				
<b>Excitement</b>	10.8%	9.4%	15.1%	19.0%				
<b>Food</b>	1.4%	3.9%	5.6%	4.8%				
<b>Challenge</b>	2.0%	4.7%	0.8%	4.0%				
<b>Trophy</b>	8.8%	3.9%	7.1%	6.0%				
<b>Hunting</b>	5.4%	6.3%	4.0%	4.0%				
<b>Solitude</b>	2.7%	1.6%	2.4%	2.4%				
<b>Exercise<sup>2</sup></b>	***	***	***	***				
<b>NUMBER</b>	148	128	126	252				

<sup>1</sup>See Table 42 for definitions.

<sup>2</sup>For the physical exercise that hunting provides.

\*Not measured in 1997.

\*\*Not measured in 1997, 1998 or 1999.

\*\*\*Not measured in 1998 – 2007, 2010.

Table 51. Summary of mean ratings of eight possible reasons for hunting deer in the Black Hills for each of the **types** of Black Hills deer hunters (2010).

Ratings of Reasons	Types of Black Hills Deer Hunters							
	Social	Nature	Excitement	Food	Challenge	Trophy	Hunting <sup>1</sup>	Solitude
<b>Social</b>	<b>6.67</b>	6.03	6.07	5.44	5.11	5.39	5.71	5.01
<b>Nature</b>	6.12	<b>6.62</b>	6.26	5.97	6.11	5.70	5.96	6.24
<b>Excitement</b>	5.70	5.90	<b>6.54</b>	5.42	6.15	5.82	5.74	5.92
<b>Food</b>	3.37	3.81	3.89	<b>6.55</b>	3.92	3.58	3.55	3.78
<b>Challenge</b>	4.60	4.99	5.31	4.34	<b>6.30</b>	5.76	5.28	5.40
<b>Trophy</b>	3.35	3.40	4.25	2.61	4.46	<b>6.46</b>	3.98	3.29
<b>Hunting<sup>1</sup></b>	4.97	5.14	5.58	5.10	5.67	5.77	<b>6.36</b>	5.17
<b>Solitude</b>	4.09	5.12	4.66	4.48	5.51	4.94	4.87	<b>6.58</b>
<b>% Sample</b>	29.0%	23.8%	19.7%	10.4%	5.8%	5.0%	3.6%	2.7%

<sup>1</sup>Opportunity

**“Harvest” Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters:**

Table 52. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2010)? *Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_ to me.*

Attitude Response (scale)	2010		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	10.4%	6.0%	10.1%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	31.7%	28.7%	31.4%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	41.5%	51.0%	42.3%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	15.6%	13.5%	15.4%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
<b>Number</b>	2,613	251	2,864
<b>Mean</b>	1.62	1.71	1.62
<b>95% C. I.</b>	1.58 – 1.65	1.62 – 1.81	1.59 – 1.66
Chi-sq=14.744; df=4, p=0.030 (comparing residents and nonresidents)			
ANOVA: F=2.904; df=1/2,862; p=0.088 (comparing residents and nonresidents)			

Table 53. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2001–07, 2010)? *Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_ to me.*

Attitude Response (scale)	Residents and Nonresidents Combined				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	9.4%	9.4%	10.3%	9.4%	9.2%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	27.5%	28.3%	27.3%	26.4%	25.8%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	41.6%	41.2%	41.6%	43.6%	45.0%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	19.2%	16.0%	16.7%	19.1%	18.9%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	2.3%	4.3%	4.1%	1.4%	1.2%
<b>Number</b>	1,775	1,776	1,938	2,014	1,883
<b>Mean</b>	1.68	1.60	1.61	1.71	1.72
<b>95% C. I.</b>	N/A	1.56 – 1.64	1.56 – 1.65	1.67 – 1.75	1.68 – 1.76

Table 53-Continued. – *Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_ to me.*

Attitude Response (scale)	Residents and Nonresidents Combined				
	2006	2007	2010		
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	9.3%	9.5%	10.1%		
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	25.7%	27.5%	31.4%		
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	45.7%	43.5%	42.3%		
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	17.9%	17.7%	15.4%		
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	1.4%	1.8%	0.8%		
<b>Number</b>	1,750	1,742	2,864		
<b>Mean</b>	1.71	1.68	1.62		
<b>95% C. I.</b>	1.67 – 1.75	1.63 – 1.72	1.59 – 1.66		

Table 54. Black Hills deer hunter attitudes toward “harvest” (2010).

<b>Attitude (scale)</b>	<b>Residents</b>	<b>Nonresidents</b>	<b>Combined</b>
A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	50.7%	52.2%	50.9%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	31.3%	32.7%	31.4%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	8.8%	6.0%	8.6%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	6.7%	6.8%	6.8%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%
<b>Total Number</b>	2,608	251	2,859
<b>Mean</b>	1.21	1.25	1.21
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.17 – 1.25	1.13 – 1.38	1.18 – 1.25
Chi-sq=2.407; df=4; p=0.661			
ANOVA: F=0.436; df=1 / 2,857; p=0.509			
I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	17.1%	22.6%	18.0%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	13.6%	14.5%	13.7%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	18.0%	15.7%	17.8%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	21.0%	20.6%	21.0%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	29.8%	26.65	29.5%
<b>Total Number</b>	2,600	248	2,848
<b>Mean</b>	-0.32	-0.14	-0.30
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-0.38 – -0.26	-0.33 – 0.05	-0.33 – -0.25
Chi-sq=4.775; df=4; p=0.311			
ANOVA: F=3.318; df=1 / 2,846; p=0.069			
I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.			
<b>Strongly Agree (+2)</b>	21.7%	17.7%	21.4%
<b>Slightly Agree (+1)</b>	26.0%	32.3%	26.5%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion (0)</b>	17.8%	13.7%	17.4%
<b>Slightly Disagree (-1)</b>	14.8%	17.3%	15.0%
<b>Strongly Disagree (-2)</b>	19.8%	19.0%	19.7%
<b>Total Number</b>	2,601	248	2,849
<b>Mean</b>	0.15	0.13	0.15
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.10 – 0.21	-0.05 – 0.30	0.10 – 0.20
Chi-sq=8.257; df=4; p=0.083			
ANOVA: F=0.073; df=1 / 2,847; p=0.786			

Table 55. Black Hills deer hunters’ mean attitudes toward “harvest” (2001 – 2010).

Attitude	Years (Residents and Nonresidents Combined)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2007	2010
A Black Hills deer-hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.						
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	1.19	1.24	1.23	1.27	1.18	1.21
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	1.18 – 1.27	1.22 – 1.31	1.13 – 1.23	1.18 – 1.25
I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license.						
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	0.08	-0.08	-0.12	-0.34	-0.50	-0.30
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	-0.19 – -0.05	-0.40 – -0.27	-0.57 – -0.43	-0.33 – -0.25
I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.						
<b>Mean<sup>1</sup></b>	0.00	0.06	0.15	0.02	-0.10	0.15
<b>95% C.I.</b>	N/A	N/A	0.08 – 0.21	-0.04 – 0.08	-0.17 – -0.03	0.10 – 0.20

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree = 2, Slightly Agree = 1, Neutral/No Opinion = 0, Slightly Disagree = -1, Strong Disagree = -2

### Attitudes of Black Hills Deer Hunters towards Crowding:

Table 56. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2010)?

Attitude Response (scale)	2010		
	Residents	Nonresidents	Combined
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	3.7%	1.6%	3.5%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	16.6%	12.4%	16.2%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	36.9%	45.2%	37.6%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	41.7%	40.0%	41.5%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	1.1%	0.8%	1.1%
<b>Number</b>	2,612	250	2,862
<b>Mean</b>	2.16	2.23	2.16
<b>95% C. I.</b>	2.12 – 2.19	2.13 – 2.32	2.13 – 2.19
Chi-sq=9.838; df=4, p=0.043 (comparing residents and nonresidents)			
ANOVA: F=1.652; df=1/2,860; p=0.199 (comparing residents and nonresidents)			

Table 57. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season (2001 – 2007, 2010)?

Attitude Response (scale)	Residents and Nonresidents Combined				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%	2.9%	2.5%
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	12.1%	12.9%	11.2%	11.4%	11.3%
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	35.2%	35.4%	36.0%	38.8%	36.4%
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	46.5%	44.2%	46.2%	45.5%	48.5%
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	2.7%	3.9%	3.1%	1.4%	1.3%
<b>Number</b>	1,775	1,776	1,938	2,014	1,886
<b>Mean</b>	2.22	2.16	2.22	2.25	2.30
<b>95% C. I.</b>	N/A	2.12 – 2.21	2.18 – 2.26	2.22 – 2.29	2.26 – 2.33

Table 57-Continued.

Attitude Response (scale)	Residents and Nonresidents Combined				
	2006	2007	2010		
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	2.4%	2.6%	3.5%		
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	11.7%	7.5%	16.2%		
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	37.0%	37.0%	37.6%		
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	47.5%	51.7%	41.5%		
<b>No Opinion (0)</b>	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%		
<b>Number</b>	1,761	1,745	2,862		
<b>Mean</b>	2.28	2.37	2.16		
<b>95% C. I.</b>	2.24 – 2.32	2.33 – 2.40	2.13 – 2.19		

## Mountain Lions in South Dakota



Table 58. What type of interactions with mountain lions did you experience during this year's Black Hills deer season (2010)?

Response	Observed tracks or signs	
	2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey	
	Number	Percent
NO	1,274	49.6%
YES	1,292	50.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,566</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Observed a Mountain Lion</b>		
Response	2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey	
	Number	Percent
	NO	2,113
YES	320	13.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>If Yes → Observed a Mountain Lion: How many?</b>		
Response	Number Hunters	Percent
1	176	56.2%
2	78	24.9%
3	35	11.2%
4	16	5.1%
5 or more	8	2.6%
<b>Total (missing = 7)</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Sum – Lions Seen</b>	<b>558</b>	
<b>→ Were any of the lions you observed wearing a radio-collar?</b>		
Response <sup>1</sup>	Number Lions	Percent
No	348	62.4%
Not Sure	194	34.8%
Yes	16	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup>The response means that “one or more” of the sightings were in that category, e.g., 11 people reported that one or more of the lions they saw were wearing a collar.

Table 59. **Mountain Lions interactions** – Reported observations of mountain lions by Black Hills deer hunters (2004–2010).

<b>Mountain Lion Interactions</b>	<b>Years – Percent YES</b>				
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Observed a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting	6.3% N=1,841	6.5% N=1,711	7.7% N=1,330	6.1% N=1,550	6.0% N=2,370

Table 59 – Continued. **Mountain Lions interactions.**

<b>Mountain Lion Interactions</b>	<b>Years – Percent YES</b>				
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>			
Observed a mountain lion while Black Hills deer hunting	8.5% N=2,559	13.2% N=2,433			

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**Deer Hunting & Preferences (South Dakota Residents):**

Table 60. Number of additional deer license held by resident hunters licensed to hunt Black Hills deer in 2010.

<b>Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>0 (only has a Black Hills Deer License)</b>	702	27.0%
<b>1</b>	983	37.8%
<b>2</b>	488	18.8%
<b>3</b>	239	9.2%
<b>4</b>	101	3.9%
<b>5</b>	59	2.3%
<b>6</b>	14	0.5%
<b>7</b>	6	0.2%
<b>8</b>	6	0.2%
<b>9</b>	1	<0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Mean / 95% C.I.</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.32 – 1.42</b>
<b>Median</b>	<b>1.00</b>	

Table 61. Types of additional deer license held by resident hunters licensed to hunt Black Hills deer in 2010.

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent of Cases</b>
<b>None (Black Hills Deer only)</b>	702	--	27.0%
<b>West River Deer</b>	1,115	31.3%	58.8%
<b>East River Deer</b>	636	17.9%	33.5%
<b>Archery Deer (statewide)</b>	477	13.4%	25.1%
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	333	9.4%	17.6%
<b>Archery Deer (West River)</b>	260	7.3%	13.7%
<b>Antlerless Archery Deer</b>	215	6.0%	11.3%
<b>Archery Deer (East River)</b>	176	4.9%	9.3%
<b>Youth Deer</b>	95	2.7%	5.0%
<b>a deer license in another state</b>	90	2.5%	4.7%
<b>West River Special Buck</b>	43	1.2%	2.3%
<b>Landowner/Operator Special Deer</b>	32	0.9%	1.7%
<b>Custer State Park Deer</b>	28	0.8%	1.5%
<b>Refuge Deer</b>	24	0.7%	1.3%
<b>East River Special Buck</b>	18	0.5%	0.9%
<b>S.D. tribal deer license</b>	16	0.4%	0.8%
<b>Total (Number of Cases = 2,599)</b>	<b>3,558</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>187.6%</b>

Table 62. Black Hills deer hunters' most preferred deer season.

<b>Most Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	1,453	55.9%
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	507	19.5%
<b>Archery Deer</b>	263	10.1%
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	233	9.0%
<b>No Opinion</b>	101	3.9%
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	33	1.3%
<b>Refuge Deer</b>	9	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	2,599	100%
<b>Most Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	1,609	61.9%
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	562	21.6%
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	290	11.1%
<b>No Opinion</b>	144	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	2,605	100%

Table 63. Relationship between the number of additional deer licenses held by Black Hills deer hunters (2010) and their most preferred deer season.

<b>Black Hills Deer Hunters’ Most Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	0.97	0.91 – 1.02	1,453
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	1.58	1.43 – 1.73	233
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	1.71	1.61 – 1.82	507
<b>Refuge Deer</b>	4.44	2.01 – 6.88	9
<b>Archery Deer</b>	2.57	2.39 – 2.74	263
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	2.06	1.39 – 2.74	33
<b>No Opinion</b>	1.34	1.10 – 1.58	101
<b>Mean/Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,599
ANOVA: F=89.659; df=6/2,592; $p<0.001$			
<b>Black Hills Deer Hunters’ Most Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	1.09	1.03 – 1.15	1,609
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	1.89	1.73 – 2.04	290
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	1.88	1.77 – 2.00	562
<b>No Opinion</b>	1.50	1.28 – 1.72	144
<b>Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,605
ANOVA: F=73.446; df=3/2,601; $p<0.001$			
<b>Black Hills Deer Hunters’ Most Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	0.97	0.91 – 1.02	1,453
<b>Other</b>	1.88	1.80 – 1.96	1,146
<b>Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,599
ANOVA: F=345.313; df=1/2,597; $p<0.001$			

Table 64. Black Hills deer hunters’ most preferred deer season analyzed by whether or not they have additional deer licenses (2010).

<b>Most Preferred Deer Season by Hunters with only a Black Hills Deer License</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	602	85.8%
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	24	3.4%
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	36	5.1%
<b>Refuge Deer</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Archery Deer</b>	8	1.1%
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	4	0.6%
<b>No Opinion</b>	28	4.0%
<b>Total</b>	702	100%
<b>Most Preferred Deer Season by Hunters with only a Black Hills Deer License</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	609	86.6%
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	22	3.1%
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	39	5.5%
<b>No Opinion</b>	33	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	703	100%
<b>Most Preferred Deer Season by Hunters with one or more additional deer licenses</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	851	44.9%
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	209	11.0%
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	471	24.8%
<b>Refuge Deer</b>	9	0.5%
<b>Archery Deer</b>	255	13.4%
<b>Muzzleloader Deer</b>	29	1.5%
<b>No Opinion</b>	73	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	1,897	100%
<b>Most Preferred Deer Season by Hunters with one or more additional deer licenses</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills Rifle Deer</b>	1,000	52.6%
<b>East River Rifle Deer</b>	268	14.1%
<b>West River Rifle Deer</b>	523	27.5%
<b>No Opinion</b>	111	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	1,902	100%

Table 65. Resident 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunters' Attitude: *How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?*

Attitude (scale)	2010 RESIDENT BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTERS' LICENSE PREFERENCE		
	Black Hills	other	Combined
<b>Strongly Oppose (-3)</b>	8.2%	15.4%	11.3%
<b>Moderately Oppose (-2)</b>	3.9%	5.6%	4.6%
<b>Slightly Oppose (-1)</b>	5.0%	5.4%	5.2%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	21.8%	24.8%	23.1%
<b>Slightly Favor (+1)</b>	11.2%	12.6%	11.8%
<b>Moderately Favor (+2)</b>	19.0%	16.3%	17.8%
<b>Strongly Favor (+3)</b>	30.9%	19.8%	26.0%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,446	1,139	2,585
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=69.678$ ; $df=6$ ; $p<0.001$			
<b>MEAN</b>	1.05	0.42	0.77
<b>95% C.I.</b>	0.95 – 1.14	0.30 – 0.54	0.70 – 0.85
ANOVA: $F=66.779$ ; $df=1/2,583$ ; $p<0.001$			
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>OPPOSE</b>	17.1%	26.4%	21.2%
<b>NEUTRAL/NO OPINION</b>	21.8%	24.8%	23.1%
<b>FAVOR</b>	61.1%	48.8%	55.7%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=46.046$ ; $df=2$ ; $p<0.001$			

Table 66. Resident 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunters' Attitude: *How strongly would you favor or oppose combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer?*

Attitude (scale)	2010 RESIDENT BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTERS' LICENSE PREFERENCE		
	Black Hills	other	Combined
<b>Strongly Oppose (-3)</b>	22.2%	35.5%	28.1%
<b>Moderately Oppose (-2)</b>	8.5%	10.0%	9.2%
<b>Slightly Oppose (-1)</b>	7.9%	8.8%	8.3%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	27.1%	16.2%	16.7%
<b>Slightly Favor (+1)</b>	9.5%	8.9%	9.2%
<b>Moderately Favor (+2)</b>	15.4%	10.8%	13.4%
<b>Strongly Favor (+3)</b>	19.4%	9.8%	15.1%
<b>NUMBER</b>	1,444	1,137	2,581
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=92.396$ ; $df=6$ ; $p<0.001$			
<b>MEAN</b>	0.07	-0.76	-0.29
<b>95% C.I.</b>	-0.04 – 0.19	-0.88 – -0.63	-0.38 – -0.21
ANOVA: $F=92.420$ ; $df=1/2,579$ ; $p<0.001$			
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS<sup>3</sup></b>			
<b>OPPOSE</b>	38.6%	54.4%	45.5%
<b>NEUTRAL/NO OPINION</b>	17.1%	16.2%	16.7%
<b>FAVOR</b>	44.3%	29.5%	37.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=72.292$ ; $df=2$ ; $p<0.001$			

Table 67. Relationship between the number of additional deer licenses held by Black Hills deer hunters (2010) and their general attitude towards increasing hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?

<b>Attitude towards increasing hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	1.95	1.77 – 2.13	296
<b>Moderately Oppose</b>	1.77	1.53 – 2.01	121
<b>Slightly Oppose</b>	1.57	1.33 – 1.81	135
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	1.34	1.24 – 1.45	601
<b>Slightly Favor</b>	1.40	1.25 – 1.55	307
<b>Moderately Favor</b>	1.24	1.13 – 1.35	464
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	1.11	1.02 – 1.20	679
<b>Mean/Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,603
ANOVA: F=17.469; df=6/2,596; p<0.001			
<b>SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>OPPOSE</b>	1.82	1.69 – 1.94	552
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	1.34	1.24 – 1.45	601
<b>FAVOR</b>	1.21	1.15 – 1.28	1,450
<b>Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,603
ANOVA: F=42.717; df=2/2,600; p<0.001			

Table 68. Relationship between the number of additional deer licenses held by Black Hills deer hunters (2010) and their attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer?

<b>Attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer?</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	1.70	1.60 – 1.81	730
<b>Moderately Oppose</b>	1.54	1.39 – 1.69	237
<b>Slightly Oppose</b>	1.43	1.26 – 1.61	214
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	1.17	1.05 – 1.28	435
<b>Slightly Favor</b>	1.28	1.10 – 1.45	240
<b>Moderately Favor</b>	1.14	1.02 – 1.26	349
<b>Strongly Favor</b>	1.11	0.98 – 1.24	394
<b>Mean/Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,599
ANOVA: F=15.091; df=6/2,592; $p<0.001$			
<b>SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>OPPOSE</b>	1.62	1.54 – 1.70	1,181
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	1.17	1.05 – 1.28	435
<b>FAVOR</b>	1.16	1.08 – 1.24	983
<b>Total</b>	1.37	1.32 – 1.42	2,599
ANOVA: F=39.737; df=2/2,596; $p<0.001$			

Table 69. Correlation between Black Hills deer hunters (2010) and their general attitude towards increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year and their attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer with the number of additional deer licenses held by Black Hills deer hunters (2010).

<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	<b>Attitude towards increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?</b>	<b>Attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer?</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>
<b>Attitude towards increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?</b>		<b>Corr = .596</b> <b>P&lt;0.001</b> <b>N=2,596</b>	<b>Corr = -.189</b> <b>P&lt;0.001</b> <b>N=2,603</b>
<b>Attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer?</b>	<b>Corr = .596</b> <b>P&lt;0.001</b> <b>N=2,596</b>		<b>Corr = -.173</b> <b>P&lt;0.001</b> <b>N=2,599</b>
<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>Corr = -.189</b> <b>P&lt;0.001</b> <b>N=2,603</b>	<b>Corr = -.173</b> <b>P&lt;0.001</b> <b>N=2,599</b>	

**Understanding Black Hills Deer Hunters:**

**Research Question #1:** What is the relationship between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters’ evaluation of these parameters?

Table 70. Pearson correlation and linear r-square statistics for the relationships between the number of deer, bucks and quality bucks seen and hunters’ evaluation of these parameters (2010).

<b>Reported number of:</b>	<b>Evaluations of (Pearson correlation / r-square)</b>		
	<b>Deer Seen</b>	<b>Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Quality Bucks Seen</b>
<b>Deer seen</b>	0.289 / (0.084)		
<b>Bucks seen</b>		0.339 / (0.115)	
<b>Quality bucks seen</b>			0.492 / (0.242)

All correlations are significant (p<0.001).

Table 71. Mean number of deer seen analyzed by hunters' evaluations of the number of deer seen during their 1999 – 2010 Black Hills deer hunt.

Hunters' Evaluation of the Total # of Deer Seen	Mean # Deer Seen									
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>1 Very Few</b>	16.0	18.4	15.6	14.2	21.6	12.4	11.3	15.1	13.0	14.6
<b>2</b>	22.7	22.0	23.2	24.8	26.2	21.2	23.5	26.8	19.2	22.2
<b>3</b>	28.0	38.8	26.9	36.9	39.5	32.6	33.6	33.4	29.8	36.2
<b>4</b>	39.9	52.4	44.6	48.7	39.3	37.3	40.1	51.6	49.3	37.7
<b>5 Average</b>	46.0	66.0	44.8	55.8	63.8	57.5	54.6	50.3	55.9	51.7
<b>6</b>	58.3	78.5	54.3	71.7	74.3	59.1	78.1	69.2	59.8	57.2
<b>7</b>	60.1	86.0	77.3	81.0	94.5	84.1	85.0	83.8	90.8	71.4
<b>8</b>	76.1	109.2	98.1	103.6	116.4	99.1	120.3	113.9	108.9	99.3
<b>9 Lots of Deer</b>	84.4	140.8	121.6	130.2	133.0	145.2	153.2	142.8	130.6	143.6

Table 71 – Continued.

Hunters' Evaluation of the Total # of Deer Seen	Mean # Deer Seen									
	2009	2010								
<b>1 Very Few</b>	17.3	20.2								
<b>2</b>	22.5	32.8								
<b>3</b>	32.0	42.4								
<b>4</b>	43.0	46.3								
<b>5 Average</b>	42.4	51.5								
<b>6</b>	60.8	64.2								
<b>7</b>	60.5	76.1								
<b>8</b>	83.2	89.7								
<b>9 Lots of Deer</b>	87.1	93.2								

Table 72. Mean number of bucks seen analyzed by hunters' evaluations of the number of bucks seen during their 1999 – 2010 Black Hills deer hunt.

Hunters' Evaluation of the Total # of Bucks Seen	Mean # Bucks Seen									
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>1 Very Few</b>	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.6	2.4	1.9	1.8
<b>2</b>	2.7	3.1	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.4
<b>3</b>	3.7	5.5	4.7	4.4	4.7	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.5
<b>4</b>	5.5	6.0	5.4	7.0	7.4	10.3	9.2	8.9	9.0	7.4
<b>5 Average</b>	6.2	8.1	7.1	8.1	8.9	9.5	10.2	10.0	10.7	9.0
<b>6</b>	8.5	11.2	10.5	11.5	13.0	12.6	11.8	13.4	17.8	13.9
<b>7</b>	9.6	13.4	13.3	12.7	15.0	14.1	18.0	16.7	17.9	16.9
<b>8</b>	11.9	16.5	14.1	13.7	20.7	22.1	22.5	26.2	22.3	25.4
<b>9 Lots of Bucks</b>	15.0	21.2	22.5	20.7	26.3	32.7	36.2	21.3	34.0	27.3

Table 72 – Continued.

Hunters' Evaluation of the Total # of Bucks Seen	Mean # Bucks Seen									
	2009	2010								
<b>1 Very Few</b>	2.2	2.3								
<b>2</b>	3.7	4.4								
<b>3</b>	6.0	7.0								
<b>4</b>	7.9	9.1								
<b>5 Average</b>	9.1	10.1								
<b>6</b>	13.5	12.9								
<b>7</b>	13.7	16.2								
<b>8</b>	14.3	17.9								
<b>9 Lots of Bucks</b>	21.4	25.9								

Table 73. Mean number of “QUALITY” bucks seen analyzed by hunters’ evaluations of the “QUALITY” of bucks seen during their 1999 – 2010 Black Hills deer hunt.

Hunters’ Evaluation of the “quality” of Bucks Seen	Mean # “QUALITY” Bucks Seen									
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>1 Very Poor</b>	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
<b>2</b>	0.6	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
<b>3</b>	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4
<b>4</b>	1.5	2.4	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.0	1.9
<b>5 Average</b>	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.5	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.5
<b>6</b>	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.2
<b>7</b>	3.6	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.4
<b>8</b>	2.9	6.0	5.0	5.7	5.9	9.1	6.0	7.3	6.1	5.6
<b>9 Exceptional</b>	3.3	7.2	7.1	8.1	7.6	8.4	7.8	6.8	8.4	5.8

Table 73 – Continued.

Hunters’ Evaluation of the “quality” of Bucks Seen	Mean # “QUALITY” Bucks Seen									
	2009	2010								
<b>1 Very Poor</b>	0.4	0.4								
<b>2</b>	1.0	1.2								
<b>3</b>	1.4	1.6								
<b>4</b>	2.1	2.0								
<b>5 Average</b>	2.4	2.5								
<b>6</b>	3.4	3.6								
<b>7</b>	4.0	4.4								
<b>8</b>	5.5	5.4								
<b>9 Exceptional</b>	4.9	6.4								

**Research Question #2:** What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters and the various parameters measured in this survey, i.e., which variables are the best predictors of satisfaction?

Table 74. Pearson correlation between satisfaction<sup>1</sup> with 2010 Black Hills deer season and 23 variables measured in this survey.

<b>Question Number<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation<sup>6</sup></b>
<b>7</b>	Evaluation of the number of deer seen (scale: 1 – 9)	.419 <sup>5</sup>
<b>4a</b>	Hunters' evaluation of the whitetail deer population	.408 <sup>5</sup>
<b>9</b>	Evaluation of the number of bucks seen (scale: 1 – 9)	.387 <sup>5</sup>
<b>11</b>	Evaluation of the quality of bucks seen (scale: 1 – 9)	.378 <sup>5</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success1 (0=none, 1=doe or buck harvest)	.279 <sup>5</sup>
<b>2</b>	Success2 (0=none, 1=doe, 2=buck harvest)	.274 <sup>5</sup>
<b>10</b>	Number of quality bucks seen	.201 <sup>5</sup>
<b>4b</b>	Hunters' evaluation of the mule deer population	.191 <sup>5</sup>
<b>16a</b>	Attitude towards harvesting a deer	.174 <sup>5</sup>
<b>12b</b>	Observed a mountain lion	-.130 <sup>5</sup>
<b>6</b>	Number of deer seen	.114 <sup>5</sup>
<b>5</b>	Evaluation of crowding conditions <sup>3</sup>	-.105 <sup>5</sup>
<b>12a</b>	Observed mountain lion sign	-.101 <sup>5</sup>
<b>8</b>	Number of bucks seen	.097 <sup>5</sup>
<b>20</b>	Number of deer licenses	-.090 <sup>5</sup>
<b>19</b>	Residence (SD=1, Non-resident=2)	.083 <sup>5</sup>
<b>15</b>	Importance of Black Hills deer hunting <sup>4</sup>	.082 <sup>5</sup>
<b>1</b>	Days of Black Hills deer hunting (2010 season)	-.071 <sup>5</sup>
<b>18</b>	Importance of filling the deer tag	-.044 <sup>6</sup>
<b>26</b>	Years of Black Hills deer hunting	-.041 <sup>6</sup>
<b>27</b>	Gender (male=1, female=2)	.031
<b>27</b>	Age	-.019
<b>17</b>	Importance of not feeling crowded while deer hunting	.006

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix A

<sup>3</sup>Crowding was re-coded as: 1 = Just Right/Not Crowded; 2 = Slightly Crowded / Not Enough Hunters; 3 = Moderately Crowded; 4 = Very Crowded

<sup>4</sup>Importance was re-coded as: 0=Not, 1=Slightly, 2=Moderately, 3=Very, and 4=Most Important

<sup>5</sup>Significant @ 0.001 level (2-tailed)

<sup>6</sup>Significant @ 0.05 level (2-tailed)

Shaded variables in Table do not have a significant correlation with satisfaction

Table 75. Hunter satisfaction analyzed by their evaluation of crowding (2010).

Satisfaction	Hunters' Evaluation of Crowding Conditions				
	Not Enough Hunters	Just Right – Not Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Very Crowded
Dissatisfied	31.3%	20.8%	24.2%	28.6%	36.7%
Neutral	10.2%	8.3%	10.1%	8.9%	6.1%
Satisfied	58.6%	70.9%	65.6%	62.6%	57.1%
<b>Number</b>	128	1,706	582	203	49
Pearson Chi-Square: $X^2=22.988$ ; $df=8$ ; $p<0.003$					
<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	0.69 <sub>ab</sub>	1.21 <sub>b</sub>	0.91 <sub>ab</sub>	0.73 <sub>ab</sub>	0.41 <sub>a</sub>
ANOVA: $F=8.511$ ; $df=4/2,663$ ; $p<0.001$ Note <sup>2</sup>					

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>Note: Means in the same row that do not share subscripts differ at  $p<0.05$  in the Turkey HSD comparison.

Table 76. Hunter satisfaction analyzed by hunters' evaluation of the deer population (2010).

Hunter Evaluation	Whitetail Deer Population		
	Mean Satisfaction	95% C.I.	Number
Far Too Few	-0.61	-0.78 – -0.44	467
Slightly Too Few	0.96	0.86 – 1.06	942
Just About Right	1.82	1.73 – 1.91	1,045
Slightly Too Many	1.42	1.10 – 1.73	143
Far Too Many	1.77	1.32 – 2.22	53
<b>Average</b>	1.06	0.99 – 1.13	2,650
ANOVA: $F=187.757$ ; $df=4/2,645$ ; $p<0.001$			
Hunter Evaluation	Mule Deer Population		
	Mean Satisfaction	95% C.I.	Number
Far Too Few	0.71	0.59 – 0.83	951
Slightly Too Few	1.22	1.09 – 1.35	597
Just About Right	1.59	1.41 – 1.77	334
Slightly Too Many	1.48	0.96 – 1.99	40
Far Too Many	2.00	0.95 – 3.05	13
<b>Average</b>	1.04	0.96 – 1.12	1,935
ANOVA: $F=19.553$ ; $df=4/1,930$ ; $p<0.001$			

Table 77. Mean number of deer seen and mean evaluation of the number of deer seen analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Number of Deer Seen</b>	<b>Mean Evaluation of the Number of Deer Seen</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	47.6	3.43
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	36.1	2.58
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	34.8	3.19
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	39.1	3.84
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	57.3	4.07
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	50.3	4.73
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	59.2	5.40
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=9.689; df=6/2,582; $p<0.001$	F=105.793; df=6/2,606; $p<0.001$

Table 78. Mean number of bucks seen and mean evaluation of the number of bucks seen analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Number of Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Mean Evaluation of the Number of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	9.0	2.99
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	4.9	2.21
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	5.1	2.41
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	6.1	3.08
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	7.7	3.35
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	8.4	4.06
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	9.9	4.67
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=7.740; df=6/2,613; $p=0.003$	F=91.291; df=6/2,579; $p<0.001$

Table 79. Mean number of quality bucks seen and mean evaluation of the quality of bucks seen analyzed by hunter's satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Number of Quality Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Mean Evaluation of the Quality of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	1.8	3.02
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	1.0	2.42
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	1.2	2.47
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	1.4	3.06
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	1.6	3.19
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	2.1	3.98
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	2.9	4.94
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=27.057; df=6/2,606; $p<0.001$	F=92.289; df=6/2,539; $p<0.001$

Table 80. Relationship between state residence and residence within South Dakota with hunters' satisfactions with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>State Residence</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	1.02	0.94 – 1.09
<b>other state</b>	1.55	1.32 – 1.77
<b>Average</b>	1.06	1.00 – 1.13
ANOVA: F=18.750; df=1/2,675; p<0.001		
<b>Residence in South Dakota (zone)</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Black Hills</b>	1.05	0.96 – 1.14
<b>West River</b>	1.06	0.66 – 1.46
<b>East River</b>	0.97	0.84 – 1.10
<b>Average</b>	1.02	0.95 – 1.10
ANOVA: F=0.546; df=2/2,369; p=0.579		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 81. Relationship between success (Success 1 & Success2) and hunters' satisfactions with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>Success1</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	0.41	0.30 – 0.52
<b>Successful (doe or buck harvest)</b>	1.46	1.38 – 1.55
<b>Average</b>	1.06	1.00 – 1.13
ANOVA: F=225.871; df=1/2,675; p<0.001		
<b>Success2</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	0.41 <sub>a</sub>	0.30 – 0.53
<b>Doe Harvest</b>	1.28 <sub>b</sub>	1.11 – 1.46
<b>Buck Harvest</b>	1.51 <sub>b</sub>	1.42 – 1.61
<b>Average</b>	1.06	1.00 – 1.13
ANOVA: F=114.319; df=2/2,674;; p<0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at p<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

Table 82. Percent satisfied based on success (harvesting a doe or buck) for 2010 Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>Doe Harvested</b>	<b>Buck Harvested</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	7.2%	5.1%	4.3%	5.5%
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	11.6%	5.1%	5.0%	7.5%
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	14.4%	9.1%	6.6%	9.9%
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	14.3%	6.8%	5.0%	8.8%
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	15.4%	12.9%	12.4%	13.6%
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	25.7%	33.2%	31.5%	29.6%
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	11.3%	27.8%	35.2%	25.1%
<b>Number</b>	1,011	395	1,271	2,677
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=280.004$ ; $df=12$ ; $p<0.001$				
<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>Doe Harvested</b>	<b>Buck Harvested</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	33.6%	19.2%	15.9%	22.9%
<b>Neutral</b>	14.3%	6.8%	5.0%	8.8%
<b>Satisfied</b>	52.4%	73.9%	79.1%	68.2%
<b>Number</b>	1,011	395	1,271	2,677
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=194.753$ ; $df=4$ ; $p<0.001$				

Table 83. Relationship between hunters’ attitude towards harvesting deer and hunters’ satisfactions with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>Attitude: A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.</b>	<b>Combined</b>	
	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	0.66	0.15 – 1.16
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	0.51	0.21 – 0.80
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	0.39	0.15 – 0.63
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	0.91	0.78 – 1.03
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	1.38	1.29 – 1.48
<b>Average</b>	1.07	1.00 – 1.14
ANOVA: F=25.226; df=4/2,613; <i>p</i> <0.001		
<b>Attitude: A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.</b>	<b>Unsuccessful Deer Hunters</b>	
	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	-0.41	-1.50 – 0.68
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	-1.06	-1.49 – -0.64
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	-0.80	-1.12 – -0.48
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	0.00	-0.19 – 0.20
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	0.95	0.81 – 1.10
<b>Average</b>	0.42	0.31 – 0.53
ANOVA: F=39.168; df=4/913; <i>p</i> <0.001		
<b>Attitude: A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer.</b>	<b>Successful Deer Hunters</b>	
	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	1.04	0.49 – 1.59
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	1.07	0.75 – 1.40
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	1.04	0.76 – 1.32
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	1.36	1.22 – 1.50
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	1.71	1.59 – 1.83
<b>Average</b>	1.46	1.37 – 1.54
ANOVA: F=9.094; df=4/1,624; <i>p</i> <0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 84. Relationship between mountain lion interactions and hunters' satisfactions with their 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experience.

<b>Observed Mountain Lion Sign</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>NO</b>	1.26	1.16 – 1.35
<b>YES</b>	0.89	0.78 – 0.99
<b>Average</b>	1.07	1.00 – 1.14
ANOVA: F=26.451; df=1/2,551; p<0.001		
<b>Observed a Mountain Lion</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>NO</b>	1.15	1.07 – 1.23
<b>YES</b>	0.45	0.22 – 0.67
<b>Average</b>	1.06	0.99 – 1.13
ANOVA: F=41.587; df=1/2,419; p<0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied; 2 = Moderately Satisfied; 1 = Slightly Satisfied; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied; -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied; -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 85. Mean importance of Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunters' satisfaction with 2010 Black Hills deer hunting.

<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Mean Importance<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	2.81	2.66 – 2.95	145
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	2.79	2.65 – 2.92	190
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	2.66	2.55 – 2.77	263
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	2.39	2.27 – 2.52	226
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	2.78	2.69 – 2.87	353
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	2.78	2.72 – 2.83	774
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	2.94	2.88 – 3.00	650
<b>Average</b>	2.78	2.74 – 2.81	2,601
ANOVA: F=12.384; df=6/2,594; p<0.001			

<sup>1</sup>Importance scale: 4=Most; 3 = Very; 2 = Moderately; 1 = Slightly; 0 =Not Important

Table 86. Importance of Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Importance</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Not Important</b>	33.3%	21.2%	45.5%	33
<b>Slightly Important</b>	27.7%	18.9%	53.4%	148
<b>Moderately Important</b>	22.9%	12.8%	64.3%	698
<b>Very Important</b>	22.2%	6.0%	71.8%	1,214
<b>Most Important</b>	23.0%	5.7%	71.3%	508
<b>Average</b>	23.0%	8.7%	68.3%	2,601
Pearson Chi-square: X <sup>2</sup> =67.385; df=8; p<0.001				

Table 87. Mean number of additional types of deer licenses analyzed by Black Hills deer hunters' satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	1.36	1.14 – 1.58
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	1.58	1.38 – 1.79
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	1.37	1.21 – 1.53
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	1.28	1.11 – 1.46
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	1.44	1.30 – 1.58
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	1.34	1.24 – 1.44
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	1.12	1.02 – 1.21
<b>Total</b>	1.32	1.27 – 1.37
ANOVA: F=4.396; df=6/2,427; $p<0.001$		
<b>SUMMARIZED DATA</b>		
<b>SATISFACTION LEVEL</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	1.44	1.33 – 1.55
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	1.28	1.11 – 1.46
<b>SATISFIED</b>	1.28	1.22 – 1.34
<b>Total</b>	1.32	1.27 – 1.37
ANOVA: F=3.262; df=2/2,431; $p=0.038$		

Table 88. Mean days of hunting by Black Hills deer hunters' satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Days of Hunting</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	5.20	4.56 – 5.85
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	5.96	5.32 – 6.59
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	5.58	5.07 – 6.09
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	4.08	3.58 – 4.57
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	5.41	4.99 – 5.82
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	4.91	4.64 – 5.17
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	4.60	4.31 – 4.88
<b>Total</b>	4.99	4.83 – 5.14
ANOVA: F=6.936; df=6/2,670; $p<0.001$		
<b>SUMMARIZED DATA</b>		
<b>SATISFACTION LEVEL</b>	<b>Mean Days of Hunting</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	5.61	5.27 – 5.95
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	4.08	3.58 – 4.57
<b>SATISFIED</b>	4.89	4.72 – 5.07
<b>Total</b>	4.99	4.83 – 5.14
ANOVA: F=14.282; df=2/2,674; $p<0.001$		

Table 89. Mean number of years hunting in the Black Hills analyzed by hunters' satisfaction level (2010).

<b>Satisfaction level</b>	<b>Mean Years of Hunting In the Black Hills</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	16.2	13.69 – 18.68
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied</b>	19.4	17.32 – 21.57
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied</b>	16.2	14.49 – 17.95
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	14.9	13.23 – 16.54
<b>Slightly Satisfied</b>	15.8	14.36 – 17.23
<b>Moderately Satisfied</b>	16.4	15.41 – 17.37
<b>Very Satisfied</b>	15.2	14.13 – 16.21
<b>Total</b>	16.1	15.53 – 16.60
ANOVA: F=2.718; df=6/2,575; p=0.012		
<b>SUMMARIZED DATA</b>		
<b>SATISFACTION LEVEL</b>	<b>Mean Years of Hunting In the Black Hills</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	17.3	16.06 – 18.43
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	14.9	13.23 – 16.54
<b>SATISFIED</b>	15.8	15.19 – 16.46
<b>Total</b>	16.1	15.53 – 16.60
ANOVA: F=3.241; df=2/2,579; p=0.039		

Table 90. Mean satisfaction analyzed by Black Hills deer hunters' rating of the importance of filling their deer tag (2010).

<b>Importance of Filling Deer Tag</b>	<b>Mean Satisfaction</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>		
<b>Not Important</b>	1.35	1.14 – 1.56		
<b>Slightly Important</b>	1.09	0.97 – 1.21		
<b>Moderately Important</b>	1.01	0.90 – 1.12		
<b>Very Important</b>	1.01	0.82 – 1.20		
<b>Total</b>	1.07	1.00 – 1.14		
ANOVA: F=2.524; df=3/2,600; p=0.056				
<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Importance of Filling Deer Tag</b>			
	<b>Not</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>Very</b>
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	15.4%	21.6%	25.0%	25.5%
<b>Neutral</b>	10.9%	9.1%	7.3%	8.7%
<b>Satisfied</b>	73.7%	69.2%	67.7%	65.9%
<b>Total</b>	247	813	1,128	416
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=15.541$ ; df=6; p=0.016				

**Research Question #2A**      What is the relationship between satisfaction of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested?

Table 91. Pearson correlation between satisfaction<sup>1</sup> with 2010 Black Hills deer season and size (based on total number of points) of antlered buck harvested.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	<b>p-value (2-tailed)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Number of points on whitetail buck harvested	0.042	0.156	1,157
Number of points on mule deer buck harvested	0.078	0.558	59
Number of points on buck (whitetail and mule deer combined) harvested	0.037	0.201	1,225

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 =Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

**Research Question #3:**      What is the relationship between type of Black Hills deer hunter (based on their most important reason for Black Hills deer hunting) and the various parameters measured in this survey?

Table 92. Satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type. (1999 – 2007, 2010).

<b>1999</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b>2001</b>	
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>
Nature	1.40	Nature	1.63	Challenge	1.78
Social	1.13	Excitement	1.62	Nature	1.71
Challenge	1.12	Social	1.59	Excitement	1.70
Meat	1.08	Challenge	1.49	Solitude	1.69
Excitement	1.07	Meat	1.38	Social	1.51
Solitude	1.00	Hunting	1.26	Hunting	1.49
Trophy	0.70	Trophy	1.21	Meat	1.47
		Solitude	1.21	Trophy	1.40
F=2.51; df=6/1,674; p=0.020		F=2.14; df=7/1,764; p=0.037		F=1.35; df=7/1,652; p=0.225	

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 =Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 92 – Continued. Satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type. (1999 – 2007, 2010).

2002			2003		
Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	95% C. I.	Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	95% C. I.
Challenge	1.98	1.72 – 2.24	Excitement	1.87	1.73 – 2.02
Excitement	1.74	1.57 – 1.91	Challenge	1.83	1.57 – 2.08
Nature	1.64	1.52 – 1.77	Nature	1.77	1.64 – 1.90
Social	1.52	1.39 – 1.65	Social	1.74	1.61 – 1.87
Solitude	1.41	0.98 – 1.83	Hunting	1.71	1.35 – 2.07
Trophy	1.23	0.93 – 1.52	Meat	1.52	1.23 – 1.82
Hunting	1.22	0.80 – 1.63	Solitude	1.45	0.91 – 2.00
Meat	1.10	0.77 – 1.44	Trophy	1.38	1.07 – 1.70
			<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>1.67 – 1.81</b>
F=4.88; df=7/1,637; p<0.001			F=1.89; df=7/1,729; p=0.067		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0 =Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 92 – Continued. Satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type. (1999 – 2007, 2010).

2004			2005		
Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	95% C. I.	Hunter Type	Satisfaction <sup>1</sup>	95% C. I.
Solitude	1.90	1.54 – 2.26	Social	1.88	1.76 – 2.00
Nature	1.86	1.74 – 1.98	Nature	1.87	1.75 – 1.99
Social	1.84	1.73 – 1.96	Excitement	1.79	1.62 – 1.96
Excitement	1.81	1.66 – 1.96	Solitude	1.74	1.39 – 2.08
Challenge	1.71	1.43 – 1.99	Hunting	1.49	1.06 – 1.92
Hunting	1.55	1.14 – 1.95	Challenge	1.44	1.09 – 1.80
Meat	1.40	1.09 – 1.70	Meat	1.44	1.14 – 1.74
Trophy	0.93	0.59 – 1.27	Trophy	1.39	1.05 – 1.72
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>1.68 – 1.81</b>	<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>1.69 – 1.83</b>
F=6.75; df=7/1,834; p<0.001			F=3.60; df=7/1,669; p=0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 92 – Continued. Satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type. (1999 – 2007, 2010).

<b>2006</b>			<b>2007</b>		
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C. I.</b>	<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C. I.</b>
<b>Hunting</b>	1.74	1.31 – 2.18	<b>Solitude</b>	1.76	1.26 – 2.26
<b>Nature</b>	1.73	1.58 – 1.88	<b>Excitement</b>	1.47	1.27 – 1.67
<b>Social</b>	1.69	1.57 – 1.82	<b>Nature</b>	1.45	1.30 – 1.61
<b>Excitement</b>	1.66	1.47 – 1.85	<b>Meat</b>	1.26	0.95 – 1.58
<b>Meat</b>	1.46	1.17 – 1.74	<b>Social</b>	1.23	1.08 – 1.38
<b>Challenge</b>	1.31	0.95 – 1.67	<b>Trophy</b>	0.95	0.56 – 1.58
<b>Solitude</b>	1.03	0.43 – 1.62	<b>Hunting</b>	0.81	0.26 – 1.36
<b>Trophy</b>	0.85	0.45 – 1.26	<b>Challenge</b>	0.72	0.24 – 1.21
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1.51 – 1.66</b>	<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.21 – 1.38</b>
F=4.64; df=7/1,518; p<0.001			F=3.777; df=7/1,491; p<0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 92 – Continued. Satisfaction with Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type. (1999 – 2007, 2010).

<b>2010</b>		
<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Satisfaction<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% C. I.</b>
<b>Nature</b>	1.25	1.12 – 1.39
<b>Food/Meat</b>	1.16	0.94 – 1.39
<b>Solitude</b>	1.16	0.73 – 1.60
<b>Excitement</b>	1.08	0.92 – 1.23
<b>Challenge</b>	1.07	0.77 – 1.37
<b>Social</b>	1.04	0.91 – 1.17
<b>Hunting</b>	0.61	0.19 – 1.04
<b>Trophy</b>	0.28	-0.06 – 0.63
<b>Overall Mean</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>0.99 – 1.13</b>
F=5.532; df=7/1,615; p<0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Satisfaction was re-coded as: 3 = Very Satisfied, 2 = Moderately Satisfied, 1 = Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion, -1 = Slightly Dissatisfied, -2 = Moderately Dissatisfied, -3 = Very Dissatisfied

Table 93. Percent satisfied with their 2010 Black Hills deer-hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Percent of the 2010 Black Hills Hunters			
	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Number
Challenge	72.3%	3.8%	23.9%	159
Nature	71.8%	9.3%	18.8%	611
Solitude	71.6%	6.0%	22.4%	67
Food/Meat	69.2%	7.2%	23.6%	276
Excitement	68.8%	8.7%	22.5%	519
Social	68.2%	10.1%	21.7%	765
Hunting	54.5%	9.1%	36.4%	88
Trophy	49.3%	9.4%	41.3%	138
<b>Average</b>	68.2%	8.8%	23.1%	2,623

Chi-sq=51.243; df=14;  $p<0.001$

Table 94. Number of deer seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen during the 2010 Black Hills deer hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

Hunter Type	Number of Deer Seen	Evaluation of the Number of Deer Seen
Food/Meat	39.8	4.54
Solitude	44.7	4.01
Excitement	47.3	4.28
Nature	48.3	4.37
Hunting	49.5	4.75
Social	52.8	4.31
Challenge	56.3	4.45
Trophy	57.1	4.06
ANOVA	F=2.329; df=7/2,558; $p=0.023$	F=1.748; df=7/2,587; $p=0.094$

Table 95. Number of bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen during the 2010 Black Hills deer hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Number of Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Number of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	6.1	3.57
<b>Food/Meat</b>	6.5	3.67
<b>Nature</b>	6.9	3.67
<b>Excitement</b>	7.8	3.61
<b>Hunting</b>	8.1	3.71
<b>Social</b>	8.3	3.62
<b>Challenge</b>	9.7	4.03
<b>Trophy</b>	10.1	3.54
ANOVA	F=3.116; df=7/2,590; p=0.003	F=0.974; df=7/2,557; p=0.448

Table 96. Number of quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of quality bucks seen during the 2010 Black Hills deer hunting season analyzed by hunter type.

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Number of Quality Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of the "Quality" of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	1.36	3.60
<b>Nature</b>	1.85	3.81
<b>Challenge</b>	1.96	3.87
<b>Hunting</b>	1.99	3.64
<b>Social</b>	2.01	3.64
<b>Trophy</b>	2.01	3.43
<b>Food/Meat</b>	2.05	3.82
<b>Excitement</b>	2.11	3.71
ANOVA	F=0.963; df=7/2,584; p=0.457	F=0.910; df=7/2,516; p=0.498

Table 97. Hunters' evaluation of the Black Hills deer population analyzed by hunter type.

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Whitetail Deer Population<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mule Deer Population<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Food/Meat</b>	-0.45	-1.22
<b>Nature</b>	-0.60	-1.22
<b>Challenge</b>	-0.61	-1.41
<b>Hunting</b>	-0.61	-1.45
<b>Social</b>	-0.62	-1.20
<b>Excitement</b>	-0.67	-1.23
<b>Trophy</b>	-0.75	-1.50
<b>Solitude</b>	-0.75	-1.62
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=2.336; df=7/2,601; p=0.022	F=4.040; df=7/1,908; p<0.001

<sup>1</sup>Scale: -2=Far Too Few; -1=Slightly Too Few; 0=Just About Right; +1=Slightly Too Many; +2=Far Too Many

Table 98. Success in harvesting a deer analyzed by hunter type (2010).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>% Unsuccessful</b>	<b>% Successful</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Food/Meat</b>	28.9%	71.1%	284
<b>Hunting</b>	34.4%	65.6%	93
<b>Challenge</b>	35.5%	64.5%	166
<b>Excitement</b>	39.0%	61.0%	531
<b>Social</b>	39.3%	60.7%	781
<b>Solitude</b>	42.9%	57.1%	70
<b>Nature</b>	44.4%	55.6%	635
<b>Trophy</b>	45.0%	55.0%	140
<b>Overall Average</b>	39.3%	60.7%	2,700
Chi-sq.=24.100; df=7; p=0.001			

Table 99. Success (doe vs. buck) analyzed by hunter type (2010).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>% Does</b>	<b>% Bucks</b>	<b>% Bucks to Does<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Food/Meat</b>	28.5%	29.2%	42.3%	59.1%
<b>Solitude</b>	42.9%	14.3%	42.9%	75.0%
<b>Social</b>	39.3%	15.1%	45.6%	75.1%
<b>Nature</b>	44.4%	12.9%	42.7%	76.8%
<b>Excitement</b>	38.6%	11.9%	49.5%	80.7%
<b>Hunting</b>	34.4%	11.8%	53.8%	82.0%
<b>Trophy</b>	45.0%	7.1%	47.9%	87.0%
<b>Challenge</b>	35.5%	7.8%	56.6%	87.9%
<b>Average</b>	39.2%	14.4%	46.3%	76.2%
Chi-sq.=81.832; df=14; p<0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Of those successful, percent harvesting bucks → arranged by increasing buck-to-doe harvest

Table 100. License type analyzed by hunter type (2010).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Type-01/11</b>	<b>Type-03/13</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Food/Meat</b>	74.9%	25.1%	299
<b>Solitude</b>	89.6%	10.4%	77
<b>Social</b>	90.6%	9.4%	832
<b>Nature</b>	91.1%	8.9%	683
<b>Excitement</b>	92.4%	7.6%	566
<b>Challenge</b>	94.6%	5.4%	167
<b>Hunting</b>	95.1%	4.9%	102
<b>Trophy</b>	97.2%	2.8%	142
<b>Overall Average</b>	90.15	9.9%	2,868
Chi-sq.=96.572; df=7; p<0.001			

Table 101. Mean number of days hunting during the 2010 Black Hills deer season analyzed for each license type by hunter type (includes hunters that did not hunt).

Hunter Type	Mean Number Days Hunting (95% C.I.)	
	License Type-01/11 30 Day Season	License Type-03/13 30 Day Season
<b>Social</b>	4.3	2.6
<b>Nature</b>	4.3	3.5
<b>Hunting</b>	4.6	2.8
<b>Excitement</b>	4.8	3.4
<b>Solitude</b>	4.9	1.6
<b>Food/Meat</b>	5.2	4.0
<b>Trophy</b>	6.1	3.5
<b>Challenge</b>	6.3	3.6
<b>Average</b>	4.7	3.3
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=8.214; df=7/2,577; p<0.001	F=0.869; df=7/275; p=0.531

Table 102-A. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (mean score) by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Solitude</b>	1.39	1.21 – 1.58
<b>Nature</b>	1.42	1.36 – 1.48
<b>Social</b>	1.43	1.37 – 1.48
<b>Hunting</b>	1.71	1.54 – 1.87
<b>Challenge</b>	1.72	1.60 – 1.85
<b>Excitement</b>	1.78	1.71 – 1.85
<b>Trophy</b>	2.15	2.02 – 2.28
<b>Food/Meat</b>	2.21	2.12 – 2.31
<b>Average</b>	1.64	1.61 – 1.67
F=46.491; df=7/2,816; p<0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not Important=0.

Table 102-B. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (percent) by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Importance of Filling Black Hills Deer Tag			
	Not Important	Slightly	Moderately	Very
<b>Solitude</b>	14.5%	36.8%	43.45	5.3%
<b>Nature</b>	13.9%	38.9%	38.4%	8.8%
<b>Social</b>	13.2%	38.7%	40.45	7.7%
<b>Hunting</b>	8.8%	27.5%	48.0%	15.7%
<b>Excitement</b>	6.1%	28.15	47.7%	18.1%
<b>Challenge</b>	6.0%	31.1%	47.3%	15.6%
<b>Trophy</b>	4.3%	11.4%	49.3%	35.0%
<b>Food/Meat</b>	4.1%	12.8%	41.0%	42.1%
<b>Average</b>	10.1%	31.7%	42.6%	15.6%

Chi-sq.=358.805; df=21;  $p < 0.001$

Table 103-A. Harvest Attitudes: “A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer” analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Solitude</b>	1.55	1.37 – 1.72
<b>Nature</b>	1.48	1.42 – 1.54
<b>Social</b>	1.30	1.24 – 1.37
<b>Challenge</b>	1.13	0.95 – 1.31
<b>Excitement</b>	1.12	1.04 – 1.21
<b>Hunting</b>	0.98	0.75 – 1.21
<b>Food/Meat</b>	0.86	0.73 – 0.99
<b>Trophy</b>	0.65	0.44 – 0.85
<b>Average</b>	1.22	1.18 – 1.25

F=23.010; df=7/2,839; p<0.001

Hunter Type	Combined Attitude <sup>2</sup>			Number
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
<b>Solitude</b>	3.9%	2.6%	93.5%	77
<b>Nature</b>	4.4%	6.2%	89.4%	680
<b>Social</b>	7.0%	7.4%	85.5%	823
<b>Excitement</b>	10.1%	8.2%	81.7%	562
<b>Challenge</b>	13.3%	8.4%	78.3%	166
<b>Hunting</b>	13.7%	13.7%	72.5%	102
<b>Food/Meat</b>	15.2%	15.9%	68.9%	296
<b>Trophy</b>	22.7%	12.1%	65.2%	141
<b>Overall Average</b>	9.2%	8.5%	82.3%	2,847

Chi-sq.=121.200; df=14; p<0.001

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree = +2; Slightly Agree = +1; Neutral / No Opinion = 0; Slightly Disagree = -1; Strongly Disagree = -2.

<sup>2</sup> Agree = Strongly & Slightly; Neutral = Neutral & No Opinion; Disagree = Strongly & Slightly

Table 103-B. Harvest Attitudes: “I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license” analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
Food/Meat	-1.28	-1.40 – -1.15
Nature	-0.32	-0.43 – -0.22
Excitement	-0.25	-0.37 – -0.13
Social	-0.20	-0.30 – -0.10
Solitude	-0.19	-0.54 – 0.15
Hunting	-0.09	-0.35 – 0.18
Challenge	-0.07	-0.30 – 0.17
Trophy	0.50	0.25 – 0.75
Average	-0.30	-0.36 – -0.25

F=27.860; df=7/2,829; p<0.001

Hunter Type	Combined Attitude <sup>2</sup>			Number
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Food/Meat	78.5%	12.6%	8.9%	293
Nature	50.7%	19.3%	29.9%	678
Excitement	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	562
Solitude	49.4%	13.0%	37.7%	77
Social	47.1%	18.8%	34.1%	820
Challenge	43.3%	18.9%	36.8%	164
Hunting	38.2%	27.5%	34.3%	102
Trophy	31.2%	15.6%	53.1%	141
Overall Average	50.5%	17.9%	31.6%	2,837

Chi-sq.=149.967; df=14; p<0.001

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree = +2; Slightly Agree = +1; Neutral / No Opinion = 0; Slightly Disagree = -1; Strongly Disagree = -2.

<sup>2</sup> Agree = Strongly & Slightly; Neutral = Neutral & No Opinion; Disagree = Strongly & Slightly

Table 103-C. Harvest Attitudes: “I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards” analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval		
Food/Meat	-0.83	-0.98 – -0.67		
Solitude	-0.03	-0.36 – 0.31		
Social	0.09	0.00 – 0.19		
Nature	0.10	0.00 – 0.21		
Excitement	0.27	0.16 – 0.39		
Hunting	0.53	0.25 – 0.80		
Challenge	0.80	0.61 – 1.00		
Trophy	1.27	1.10 – 1.44		
Average	0.15	0.10 – 0.20		
F=42.879; df=7/2,829; p<0.001				
Hunter Type	Combined Attitude <sup>2</sup>			Number
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	
Food/Meat	63.0%	16.4%	20.5%	292
Solitude	44.2%	10.4%	45.5%	77
Social	35.2%	19.7%	45.1%	822
Nature	35.1%	19.4%	45.6%	676
Excitement	30.8%	17.4%	51.8%	562
Hunting	25.5%	16.7%	57.8%	102
Challenge	17.5%	10.2%	72.3%	166
Trophy	8.6%	9.3%	82.1%	140
Overall Average	34.7%	17.4%	47.9%	2,837
Chi-sq.=239.407; df=14; p<0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Strongly Agree = +2; Slightly Agree = +1; Neutral / No Opinion = 0; Slightly Disagree = -1; Strongly Disagree = -2.

<sup>2</sup> Agree = Strongly & Slightly; Neutral = Neutral & No Opinion; Disagree = Strongly & Slightly

Table 104. Hunter evaluation of the hunting conditions in terms of numbers of other hunters analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Crowding conditions were				
	Not Enough	Just Right	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Very Crowded
<b>Food/Meat</b>	7.2%	52.2%	29.7%	8.3%	2.5%
<b>Trophy</b>	2.9%	54.0%	27.0%	12.4%	3.6%
<b>Solitude</b>	4.3%	56.5%	27.5%	10.1%	1.4%
<b>Challenge</b>	3.1%	59.4%	26.3%	10.0%	1.3%
<b>Hunting</b>	3.3%	62.2%	18.9%	11.1%	4.4%
<b>Excitement</b>	3.6%	64.5%	22.6%	8.1%	1.2%
<b>Nature</b>	3.4%	66.1%	21.6%	7.0%	1.8%
<b>Social</b>	7.1%	69.2%	16.6%	5.6%	1.4%
<b>Average</b>	4.9%	63.8%	21.9%	7.7%	1.8%
Chi-sq.=73.135; df=28; $p<0.001$					

Table 105-A. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (mean score) by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Social</b>	2.02	1.96 – 2.08
<b>Food/Meat</b>	2.20	2.10 – 2.30
<b>Excitement</b>	2.21	2.14 – 2.27
<b>Nature</b>	2.24	2.18 – 2.30
<b>Hunting</b>	2.24	2.08 – 2.40
<b>Challenge</b>	2.31	2.19 – 2.43
<b>Trophy</b>	2.42	2.29 – 2.55
<b>Solitude</b>	2.51	2.34 – 2.67
<b>Average</b>	2.18	2.15 – 2.22
F=9.313; df=7/2,811; $p<0.001$		

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not Important=0.

Table 105-B. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season analyzed (percent) by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Importance of Having an Un-Crowded, Undisturbed Hunting Trip			
	Not or No Opinion	Slightly	Moderately	Very
<b>Social</b>	5.7%	19.3%	42.8%	32.2%
<b>Excitement</b>	2.9%	16.0%	38.8%	42.4%
<b>Nature</b>	1.6%	17.2%	36.9%	44.3%
<b>Hunting</b>	3.0%	16.0%	35.0%	46.0%
<b>Food/Meat</b>	5.1%	15.8%	32.9%	46.2%
<b>Challenge</b>	2.4%	11.5%	38.8%	47.3%
<b>Trophy</b>	2.1%	10.0%	31.4%	56.4%
<b>Solitude</b>	1.3%	9.1%	27.3%	62.3%
<b>Average</b>	3.5%	16.5%	38.1%	42.0%

Chi-sq.=83.776; df=21;  $p > 0.001$

Table 106-A. Mean rating of importance of Black Hills deer hunting in relation to all other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean Importance Rating <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Solitude</b>	2.56	2.35 – 2.77
<b>Social</b>	2.62	2.56 – 2.68
<b>Hunting</b>	2.71	2.53 – 2.89
<b>Nature</b>	2.71	2.64 – 2.77
<b>Excitement</b>	2.81	2.74 – 2.88
<b>Food/Meat</b>	2.87	2.76 – 2.98
<b>Challenge</b>	2.95	2.81 – 3.09
<b>Trophy</b>	2.96	2.81 – 3.10
<b>Average</b>	2.74	2.71 – 2.77

F=6.704; df=7/2,815;  $p < 0.001$

<sup>1</sup>Importance Scale: Most Important=4, Very Importance=3, Moderately Importance=2, Slightly Important=1, Not Important=0

Table 106-B. Importance of Black Hills deer hunting in relation to all other types of recreation, including other types of hunting analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting				
	Not Important	Slightly	Moderately	Very	Most
<b>Challenge</b>	1.2%	4.9%	19.1%	46.9%	27.8%
<b>Trophy</b>	0.7%	5.0%	19.9%	46.8%	27.7%
<b>Food/Meat</b>	2.4%	5.5%	22.1%	43.1%	26.9%
<b>Excitement</b>	1.1%	5.0%	24.9%	49.9%	19.1%
<b>Nature</b>	2.2%	5.5%	27.7%	48.4%	16.2%
<b>Hunting</b>	3.0%	6.0%	24.0%	51.0%	16.0%
<b>Social</b>	1.0%	7.3%	36.0%	40.1%	15.6%
<b>Solitude</b>	2.7%	8.0%	33.3%	42.7%	13.3%
<b>Average</b>	1.6%	6.0%	28.1%	45.5%	18.8%
Chi-sq.=88.455; df=28; $p<0.001$					

Table 107. Number of additional deer license types analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean Number of Additional Deer License Types	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Food/Meat</b>	1.02	0.90 – 1.15
<b>Social</b>	1.09	1.01 – 1.17
<b>Nature</b>	1.19	1.09 – 1.29
<b>Excitement</b>	1.37	1.26 – 1.48
<b>Challenge</b>	1.48	1.28 – 1.67
<b>Solitude</b>	1.52	1.12 – 1.92
<b>Trophy</b>	1.62	1.37 – 1.86
<b>Hunting</b>	1.64	1.35 – 1.92
<b>Average</b>	1.24	1.19 – 1.29
F=7.991; df=7/2,860; $p<0.001$		

Table 108. Preference for one of the three major rifle deer seasons analyzed (percent) by hunter type (2010).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Preference for...</b>			
	<b>Black Hills</b>	<b>East River</b>	<b>West River</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
<b>Hunting</b>	47.8%	15.6%	32.2%	4.45
<b>Trophy</b>	52.4%	11.9%	27.8%	7.9%
<b>Excitement</b>	56.5%	11.3%	27.9%	4.3%
<b>Solitude</b>	58.6%	7.1%	28.6%	5.7%
<b>Social</b>	61.3%	13.1%	19.8%	5.7%
<b>Nature</b>	65.4%	11.5%	18.4%	4.7%
<b>Challenge</b>	66.5%	10.8%	16.5%	6.3%
<b>Food/Meat</b>	72.8%	4.2%	15.5%	7.4%
<b>Average</b>	61.9%	11.1%	21.5%	5.5%
Chi-sq.=66.471; df=21; p<0.001				

Table 109. Mountain lion interactions while Black Hills deer hunting analyzed by hunter type (2010).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Percent observing...</b>	
	<b>Tracks or Sign</b>	<b>A Mountain Lion</b>
<b>Solitude</b>	44.9%	6.2%
<b>Nature</b>	45.7%	9.5%
<b>Food/Meat</b>	46.0%	12.6%
<b>Hunting</b>	48.9%	13.3%
<b>Excitement</b>	52.3%	11.6%
<b>Social</b>	51.8%	14.9%
<b>Challenge</b>	51.9%	18.3%
<b>Trophy</b>	67.7%	23.0%
<b>Average</b>	50.4%	13.1%
<b>Chi-Square</b>	$X^2=25.420$ ; df=7; p=0.001	$X^2=26.497$ ; df=7; p<0.001

Table 110. Black Hills deer hunters’ general attitude towards increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval		
<b>Solitude</b>	0.37	-0.16 – 0.91		
<b>Trophy</b>	0.50	0.13 – 0.88		
<b>Hunting</b>	0.52	0.07 – 0.96		
<b>Social</b>	0.73	0.59 – 0.87		
<b>Excitement</b>	0.75	0.58 – 0.92		
<b>Nature</b>	0.79	0.63 – 0.95		
<b>Challenge</b>	0.87	0.55 – 1.19		
<b>Food/Meat</b>	1.10	0.88 – 1.32		
<b>Average</b>	0.77	0.69 – 0.84		
F=2.230; df=7/2,579; p=0.029				
Hunter Type	Combined Attitude			Number
	Oppose	Neutral	Favor	
<b>Solitude</b>	35.7%	15.7%	48.6%	70
<b>Trophy</b>	27.6%	19.7%	52.8%	127
<b>Hunting</b>	27.5%	24.2%	48.4%	91
<b>Nature</b>	22.3%	22.3%	55.3%	613
<b>Challenge</b>	21.7%	17.8%	60.5%	157
<b>Excitement</b>	20.8%	23.0%	56.2%	514
<b>Social</b>	19.1%	26.3%	54.6%	734
<b>Food/Meat</b>	16.4%	22.8%	60.9%	281
<b>Overall Average</b>	21.2%	23.1%	55.7%	2,587
Chi-sq.=27.674; df=14; p=0.016				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude scale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

Table 111. Black Hills deer hunters’ attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Mean <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval		
<b>Solitude</b>	-0.53	-1.06 – 0.01		
<b>Hunting</b>	-0.52	-1.00 – -0.04		
<b>Social</b>	-0.44	-0.60 – -0.29		
<b>Trophy</b>	-0.40	-0.81 – 0.01		
<b>Excitement</b>	-0.30	-0.50 – -0.11		
<b>Nature</b>	-0.18	-0.36 – -0.01		
<b>Food/Meat</b>	-0.16	-0.42 – 0.09		
<b>Challenge</b>	0.04	-0.32 – 0.41		
<b>Average</b>	-0.30	-0.38 – -0.21		
F=1.667; df=7/2,576; p=0.113				
Hunter Type	Combined Attitude			Number
	Oppose	Neutral	Favor	
<b>Hunting</b>	51.1%	13.3%	35.6%	90
<b>Trophy</b>	48.8%	15.7%	35.4%	127
<b>Solitude</b>	48.6%	14.3%	37.1%	70
<b>Social</b>	47.5%	18.0%	34.5%	733
<b>Excitement</b>	46.9%	13.9%	39.3%	512
<b>Nature</b>	44.4%	16.2%	39.5%	613
<b>Challenge</b>	41.1%	12.7%	46.2%	158
<b>Food/Meat</b>	39.9%	23.5%	36.7%	281
<b>Overall Average</b>	45.6%	16.6%	37.7%	2,584
Chi-sq.=24.489; df=14; p=0.040				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude scale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

Table 112. Years of experience hunting deer in the Black Hills analyzed by hunter type (2010).

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Mean Years of Black Hills Deer Hunting Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Food/Meat</b>	12.9	11.4 – 14.3
<b>Hunting</b>	14.6	12.2 – 17.0
<b>Excitement</b>	14.9	13.8 – 16.1
<b>Nature</b>	15.1	14.1 – 16.1
<b>Trophy</b>	15.4	13.1 – 17.7
<b>Social</b>	17.3	16.3 – 18.3
<b>Challenge</b>	20.9	18.6 – 23.3
<b>Solitude</b>	21.9	18.3 – 25.5
<b>Average</b>	16.0	15.5 – 16.5
F=9.170; df=7/2,786; p<0.001		

Table 113. Age of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by hunter type.

<b>Hunter Type</b>	<b>Age (years)</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Trophy</b>	40.0	37.9 – 42.9
<b>Excitement</b>	43.2	41.9 – 44.6
<b>Food/Meat</b>	44.8	43.1 – 46.5
<b>Social</b>	45.0	43.9 – 46.1
<b>Hunting</b>	45.1	42.3 – 47.9
<b>Nature</b>	46.6	45.5 – 47.7
<b>Challenge</b>	49.6	47.3 – 51.8
<b>Solitude</b>	49.6	46.3 – 52.8
<b>Average</b>	45.2	44.6 – 45.8
F=6.991; df=7/2,796; p<0.001		

Table 114. Gender of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by hunter type.

Types of Black Hills Deer Hunters	GENDER	
	Male (N=2,552)	Female (N=259)
<b>Food/Meat</b>	81.6%	18.4%
<b>Social</b>	90.4%	9.6%
<b>Excitement</b>	91.6%	8.4%
<b>Nature</b>	91.9%	8.1%
<b>Hunting</b>	92.0%	8.0%
<b>Trophy</b>	94.3%	5.7%
<b>Challenge</b>	95.2%	4.8%
<b>Solitude</b>	97.3%	2.7%
<b>Overall Average</b>	90.8%	9.2%
Chi-sq.=41.261; df=7; p<0.001		

Table 115. Antler size (total number of points) of buck harvested analyzed by hunter type (2010).

Hunter Type	Buck Harvested <sup>1</sup>	
	Points	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Nature</b>	7.8	7.59 – 8.10
<b>Social</b>	7.9	7.66 – 8.08
<b>Hunting</b>	8.0	7.36 – 8.68
<b>Food/Meat</b>	8.0	7.66 – 8.34
<b>Challenge</b>	8.4	7.95 – 8.86
<b>Solitude</b>	8.5	7.60 – 9.44
<b>Excitement</b>	8.6	8.34 – 8.80
<b>Trophy</b>	8.7	8.11 – 9.22
<b>Average</b>	8.1	8.01 – 8.25
ANOVA: F=4.408; df=7/1,196; p<0.001		

<sup>1</sup>Whitetail and mule deer combined because of the small number of mule deer harvested.



**Research Question #4**      What is the relationship between years of Black Hills deer hunting experience and various selected parameters measured in this survey (2010)?

Table 116. Number of deer seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of deer seen analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Number of Deer Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of Number of Deer Seen</b>
<b>1</b>	44.4	4.79
<b>2–3</b>	41.8	4.57
<b>4–5</b>	42.3	4.65
<b>6–10</b>	47.3	4.53
<b>11–20</b>	54.5	4.36
<b>21–30</b>	58.4	4.17
<b>31+</b>	52.9	3.77
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	0.063 ( $p=0.002$ )	-0.160 ( $p<0.001$ )
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=4.524; df=6/2,524; $p<0.001$	F=10.344; df=6/2,545; $p<0.001$

Note: The Pearson correlation uses the actual number of years hunted, not the 7-goup value (1–7).

Table 117. Number of bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the number of bucks seen analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Number of Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of Number of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>1</b>	6.4	3.52
<b>2–3</b>	6.9	3.50
<b>4–5</b>	6.5	3.53
<b>6–10</b>	7.8	3.71
<b>11–20</b>	8.7	3.86
<b>21–30</b>	8.7	3.77
<b>31+</b>	8.2	3.60
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	0.042 ( $p=0.034$ )	0.005 ( $p=0.801$ )
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=2.822; df=6/2,553; $p=0.010$	F=1.889; df=6/2,519; $p=0.079$

Note: The Pearson correlation uses the actual number of years hunted, not the 7-goup value (1–7).

Table 118. Number of quality bucks seen and hunters' evaluation of the quality of bucks seen analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Number of Quality Bucks Seen</b>	<b>Evaluation of Quality of Bucks Seen</b>
<b>1</b>	1.6	3.46
<b>2–3</b>	2.1	3.71
<b>4–5</b>	1.7	3.55
<b>6–10</b>	2.1	3.72
<b>11–20</b>	2.0	3.89
<b>21–30</b>	2.1	3.71
<b>31+</b>	2.0	3.71
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	0.000 ( <i>p</i> =0.989)	0.007 ( <i>p</i> =0.709)
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=1.430; df=6/2,547; <i>p</i> =0.199	F=1.363; df=6/2,482; <i>p</i> =0.226

Note: The Pearson correlation uses the actual number of years hunted, not the 7-goup value (1–7).

Table 119. Hunters' evaluation of the Black Hills deer population analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Whitetail Deer Population<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mule Deer Population<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>1</b>	-0.37	-1.20
<b>2–3</b>	-0.47	-1.23
<b>4–5</b>	-0.46	-1.15
<b>6–10</b>	-0.53	-1.18
<b>11–20</b>	-0.61	-1.29
<b>21–30</b>	-0.79	-1.35
<b>31+</b>	-0.88	-1.33
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	-0.071 ( <i>p</i> <0.001)	-0.071 ( <i>p</i> =0.002)
<b>ANOVA</b>	F=14.447; df=6/2,560; <i>p</i> <0.001	F=2.085; df=6/1,875; <i>p</i> =0.052

<sup>1</sup>Scale: -2=Far Too Few; -1=Slightly Too Few; 0=Just About Right; +1=Slightly Too Many; +2=Far Too Many

Note: The Pearson correlation uses the actual number of years hunted, not the 7-goup value (1–7).

Table 120. Number of days hunting in the Black Hills deer season analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Days Deer Hunting (Excludes Days=0)</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>1</b>	4.2	3.76 – 4.65
<b>2–3</b>	4.7	4.29 – 5.09
<b>4–5</b>	4.3	3.92 – 4.71
<b>6–10</b>	4.8	4.44 – 5.22
<b>11–20</b>	5.2	4.88 – 5.60
<b>21–30</b>	5.6	5.18 – 5.99
<b>31+</b>	5.4	4.96 – 5.79
<b>Pearson Correlation: 0.091 (<math>p &lt; 0.001</math>)</b>		
<b>ANOVA: <math>F=5.690</math>; <math>df=6/2,574</math>; <math>p &lt; 0.001</math></b>		

Note: The Pearson correlation uses the actual number of years hunted, not the 7-group value (1–7).

Table 121. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience comparing licensed hunters that did not hunt Black Hills deer in 2010 with hunters that did hunt in 2010.

<b>Hunting Black Hills Deer in 2010</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Did Not Hunt in 2010</b>	14.9	12.99 – 16.85
<b>Hunted in 2010</b>	16.1	15.58 – 16.65
<b>ANOVA: <math>F=1.528</math>; <math>df=1/2,818</math>; <math>p=0.217</math></b>		

Table 122. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by harvest success of the 2010 Black Hills deer hunters.

<b>Harvest Success</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Success1</b>		
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	17.0	16.09 – 17.88
<b>Harvested a doe or buck</b>	15.5	14.88 – 16.18
<b>Success1 ANOVA: <math>F=6.970</math>; <math>df=1/2,655</math>; <math>p=0.008</math></b>		
<b>Success2</b>		
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	17.0	16.13 – 17.93
<b>Harvested a doe</b>	13.1	11.73 – 14.39
<b>Harvested a buck</b>	16.3	15.54 – 17.01
<b>Success2 ANOVA: <math>F=11.800</math>; <math>df=2 / 2,654</math>; <math>p &lt; 0.001</math></b>		

Table 123. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' evaluation of crowding during the 2010 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Evaluation of Crowding (scale score)</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Not enough hunters (1)</b>	20.7	18.01 – 23.30
<b>Just right – not crowded (2)</b>	16.7	16.00 – 17.37
<b>Slightly crowded (3)</b>	14.3	13.26 – 15.41
<b>Moderately crowded (4)</b>	14.6	12.82 – 16.39
<b>Very Crowded (5)</b>	11.9	8.29 – 15.41
ANOVA: F=8.118; df=4 /2,580; $p<0.001$		

Table 124. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting.

<b>Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting (scale score)</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	10.3	6.36 – 14.28
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	11.3	9.44 – 13.22
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	13.8	12.90 – 14.68
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	16.8	16.06 – 17.62
<b>Most Important (4)</b>	19.5	18.21 – 20.70
ANOVA: F=21.231; df=4 /2,772; $p<0.001$		
Pearson Correlation: 0.171; $p<0.001$ (N=2,777)		

Table 125. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' satisfaction with the 2010 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Satisfaction with 2010 Black Hills Deer Season (scale)</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Very Dissatisfied (-3)</b>	16.2	13.69 – 18.68
<b>Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)</b>	19.4	17.32 – 21.57
<b>Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)</b>	16.2	14.49 – 17.95
<b>Neutral / No Opinion (0)</b>	14.9	13.23 – 16.54
<b>Slightly Satisfied (+1)</b>	15.8	14.36 – 17.23
<b>Moderately Satisfied (+2)</b>	16.4	15.41 – 17.37
<b>Very Satisfied (+3)</b>	15.2	14.13 – 16.21
ANOVA: F=2.718; df=6 /2,575; p=0.012		
Pearson Correlation: -0.041; N=2,581; p=0.035		
<b>SUMMARIZED RESULTS</b>		
<b>DISSATISFIED</b>	17.3	16.06 – 18.43
<b>NEUTRAL / NO OPINION</b>	14.9	13.23 – 16.54
<b>SATISFIED</b>	15.8	15.19 – 16.46
ANOVA: F=3.241; df=2 /2,579; p=0.039		

Table 126. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' interaction with mountain lions during their 2010 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Observed Mountain Lion Tracks or Sign</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>NO</b>	15.1	14.12 – 15.81
<b>YES</b>	17.2	16.44 – 18.02
ANOVA: F=15.256; df=1 /2,501; p<0.001		
<b>Observed a Mountain Lion while Hunting</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>NO</b>	15.7	15.12 – 16.31
<b>YES</b>	17.5	15.91 – 18.99
ANOVA: F=4.259; df=1 /2,368; p=0.039		

Table 127-A. Harvest Attitudes: “A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don’t kill a deer” analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>		<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>	
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	18.8		14.85 – 22.75	
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	12.3		10.51 – 14.11	
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	12.8		11.18 – 14.47	
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	14.9		14.01 – 15.77	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	17.6		16.83 – 18.31	
<b>Average</b>	16.0		14.49 – 16.52	
F=13.155; df=4/2,793; $p<0.001$				
Pearson Correlation: .095 ( $p<0.001$ ); N=2,798				
<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Attitude<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Number</b>
	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	
<b>1</b>	12.9%	12.4%	74.7%	225
<b>2–3</b>	9.3%	11.9%	78.8%	377
<b>4–5</b>	11.4%	10.1%	78.6%	308
<b>6–10</b>	9.1%	9.1%	81.8%	450
<b>11–20</b>	8.9%	6.5%	84.6%	584
<b>21–30</b>	7.3%	7.3%	85.4%	424
<b>31+</b>	7.2%	5.6%	87.2%	430
<b>Overall Average</b>	9.1%	8.5%	82.4%	2,798
Chi-sq.=31.496; df=12; $p=0.002$				

<sup>1</sup> Agree = Strongly & Slightly; Neutral = Neutral & No Opinion; Disagree = Strongly & Slightly

Table 127-B. Harvest Attitudes: “I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe even if I had an any-deer license” analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>		
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	14.5	13.63 – 15.43		
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	13.2	12.15 – 14.15		
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	15.8	14.61 – 17.03		
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	17.7	16.29 – 19.03		
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	20.6	19.24 – 22.04		
<b>Average</b>	16.0	15.47 – 16.51		
F=24.373; df=4/2,782; <i>p</i> <0.001				
Pearson Correlation: .164 ( <i>p</i> <0.001); N=2,787				
<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Attitude<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Number</b>
	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	
<b>1</b>	56.4%	19.6%	24.0%	225
<b>2–3</b>	58.0%	17.6%	24.5%	376
<b>4–5</b>	57.8%	18.0%	24.2%	306
<b>6–10</b>	53.8%	19.0%	27.2%	448
<b>11–20</b>	52.7%	16.1%	31.2%	584
<b>21–30</b>	41.3%	19.0%	39.7%	421
<b>31+</b>	38.2%	17.6%	44.3%	427
<b>Overall Average</b>	50.5%	17.9%	31.6%	2,787
Chi-sq.=81.033; df=12; <i>p</i> <0.001				

<sup>1</sup> Agree = Strongly & Slightly; Neutral = Neutral & No Opinion; Disagree = Strongly & Slightly

Table 127-C. Harvest Attitudes: “I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards” analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>		
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	14.8	13.61 – 15.98		
<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	14.4	13.11 – 15.64		
<b>Neutral / No Opinion</b>	15.2	13.97 – 16.36		
<b>Slightly Agree</b>	16.4	15.37 – 17.39		
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	18.4	17.24 – 19.55		
<b>Average</b>	16.0	15.47 – 16.51		
F=7.487; df=4/2,783; <i>p</i> <0.001				
Pearson Correlation: .093 ( <i>p</i> <0.001); N=2,788				
<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Attitude<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Number</b>
	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	
<b>1</b>	38.1%	19.5%	42.5%	226
<b>2–3</b>	42.7%	19.7%	37.6%	375
<b>4–5</b>	38.6%	16.0%	45.4%	306
<b>6–10</b>	34.9%	16.9%	48.2%	450
<b>11–20</b>	33.1%	17.7%	49.2%	583
<b>21–30</b>	27.9%	16.0%	56.1%	419
<b>31+</b>	31.5%	15.9%	52.7%	429
<b>Overall Average</b>	34.6%	17.3%	48.1%	2,788
Chi-sq.=37.537; df=12; <i>p</i> <0.001				

<sup>1</sup> Agree = Strongly & Slightly; Neutral = Neutral & No Opinion; Disagree = Strongly & Slightly

Table 128. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' rating of the importance of filling their Black Hills deer tag (2010).

<b>Importance Rating</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>		<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>		
<b>Not Important</b>	20.7		18.83 – 22.60		
<b>Slightly Important</b>	16.6		15.68 – 17.57		
<b>Moderately Important</b>	15.0		14.74 – 16.26		
<b>Very Important</b>	13.2		12.00 – 14.35		
<b>Average</b>	16.0		15.51 – 16.54		
F=18.164; df=3/2,781; $p<0.001$					
Pearson Correlation: -.132 ( $p<0.001$ ); N=2,785					
<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Importance of filling Black Hills deer tag</b>				<b>Number</b>
	<b>Not</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>Very</b>	
<b>1</b>	6.8%	29.7%	45.5%	18.0%	222
<b>2–3</b>	8.6%	31.4%	38.9%	21.2%	373
<b>4–5</b>	6.5%	28.7%	48.5%	16.3%	307
<b>6–10</b>	8.7%	32.1%	41.7%	17.4%	448
<b>11–20</b>	9.6%	31.9%	43.7%	14.8%	583
<b>21–30</b>	12.0%	31.6%	43.2%	13.2%	424
<b>31+</b>	16.6%	34.1%	39.3%	10.0%	426
<b>Overall Average</b>	10.25	31.6%	42.7%	15.5%	2,785
Chi-sq.=54.622; df=18; $p<0.001$					

Table 129. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by hunters' rating of the importance of having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip (2010).

<b>Importance Rating</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>		<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>		
<b>Not Important</b>	20.6		17.82 – 23.40		
<b>Slightly Important</b>	16.2		15.01 – 17.42		
<b>Moderately Important</b>	15.9		15.03 – 16.72		
<b>Very Important</b>	15.7		14.88 – 16.52		
<b>Average</b>	16.0		15.51 – 16.54		
F=3.826; df=3/2,766; p=0.009					
Pearson Correlation: -.042 (p=0.026); N=2,770					
<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Importance of filling Black Hills deer tag</b>				<b>Number</b>
	<b>Not</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>Very</b>	
<b>1</b>	1.3%	13.9%	38.6%	46.2%	223
<b>2–3</b>	3.5%	14.0%	42.6%	39.9%	371
<b>4–5</b>	2.3%	13.8%	35.1%	48.9%	305
<b>6–10</b>	1.8%	18.4%	39.1%	40.7%	445
<b>11–20</b>	4.0%	18.5%	36.7%	40.8%	578
<b>21–30</b>	4.7%	19.4%	40.5%	35.3%	422
<b>31+</b>	5.6%	13.6%	35.9%	44.8%	426
<b>Overall Average</b>	3.5%	16.4%	38.3%	41.8%	2,770
Chi-sq.=40.696; df=18; p=0.002					

Table 130. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by number of additional types of deer licenses held by resident Black Hills deer hunters (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Types of Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>1</b>	1.3	1.13 – 1.52
<b>2–3</b>	1.1	0.98 – 1.23
<b>4–5</b>	1.3	1.19 – 1.50
<b>6–10</b>	1.4	1.24 – 1.51
<b>11–20</b>	1.6	1.47 – 1.71
<b>21–30</b>	1.5	1.34 – 1.60
<b>31+</b>	1.2	1.09 – 1.33
<b>Average</b>	1.4	1.32 – 1.42
F=6.186; df=6/2,568; p<0.001		
Pearson Correlation: -.013 (p=0.499); N=2,575		

Table 131. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by resident hunters' preference for one of the three major deer seasons (2010).

Preference	Mean Years of Experience	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Black Hills</b>	18.2	17.43 – 18.87
<b>East River</b>	10.6	9.34 – 11.91
<b>West River</b>	16.0	14.87 – 17.04
<b>No Opinion</b>	13.1	10.87 – 15.30
<b>Average</b>	16.6	16.02 – 17.11
F=27.785; df=3/2,549; p<0.001		

Table 132. Black Hills deer hunters' general attitude towards increasing hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year analyzed by hunters' years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

Years of Experience	Mean Attitude <sup>1</sup>	95% Confidence Interval		
<b>1</b>	0.94	0.68 – 1.20		
<b>2–3</b>	0.70	0.50 – 0.91		
<b>4–5</b>	0.89	0.68 – 1.11		
<b>6–10</b>	0.65	0.45 – 0.84		
<b>11–20</b>	0.73	0.56 – 0.94		
<b>21–30</b>	0.71	0.52 – 0.91		
<b>31+</b>	0.89	0.69 – 1.08		
<b>Average</b>	0.77	0.69 – 0.84		
F=1.088; df=6/2,552; p=0.367				
Pearson Correlation: .013 (p=0.517); N=2,559				
Years of Experience	Attitude			Number
	Oppose	Neutral	Favor	
<b>1</b>	15.8%	28.3%	56.0%	184
<b>2–3</b>	17.6%	30.4%	52.0%	319
<b>4–5</b>	18.8%	22.8%	58.3%	276
<b>6–10</b>	22.9%	23.7%	53.4%	414
<b>11–20</b>	24.2%	19.5%	56.3%	549
<b>21–30</b>	23.3%	21.6%	55.1%	403
<b>31+</b>	20.0%	21.0%	58.9%	414
<b>Overall Average</b>	21.2%	23.1%	55.7%	2,559
Chi-sq.=25.579; df=12; p=0.012				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude scale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 = Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

Table 133 Black Hills deer hunters' attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer analyzed by hunters' years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Mean Attitude<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>		
<b>1</b>	0.01	-0.30 – 0.32		
<b>2–3</b>	-0.22	-0.45 – 0.01		
<b>4–5</b>	-0.29	-0.54 – -0.05		
<b>6–10</b>	-0.43	-0.64 – -0.22		
<b>11–20</b>	-0.29	-0.48 – -0.10		
<b>21–30</b>	-0.34	-0.56 – -0.12		
<b>31+</b>	-0.37	-0.59 – -0.14		
<b>Average</b>	-0.30	-0.39 – -0.22		
F=0.996; df=6/2,548; p=0.426				
Pearson Correlation: -.024 (p=0.217); N=2,555				
<b>Years of Experience</b>	<b>Attitude</b>			<b>Number</b>
	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Favor</b>	
<b>1</b>	35.3%	24.5%	40.2%	184
<b>2–3</b>	40.1%	22.7%	37.2%	317
<b>4–5</b>	44.2%	21.7%	34.1%	276
<b>6–10</b>	49.2%	13.8%	37.0%	413
<b>11–20</b>	47.4%	12.7%	39.9%	551
<b>21–30</b>	47.4%	14.5%	38.2%	401
<b>31+</b>	48.2%	15.7%	36.1%	413
<b>Overall Average</b>	45.7%	16.7%	37.6%	2,555
Chi-sq.=37.721; df=12; p<0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude scale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

Table 134. Antler size (total number of points) of buck harvested analyzed by hunters' years of Black Hills deer hunting experience (2010).

Years of Experience	Buck Harvested <sup>1</sup>	
	Points	95% Confidence Interval
<b>1</b>	8.0	7.59 – 8.41
<b>2–3</b>	7.7	7.34 – 8.11
<b>4–5</b>	7.9	7.52 – 8.19
<b>6–10</b>	8.1	7.78 – 8.33
<b>11–20</b>	8.3	8.08 – 8.56
<b>21–30</b>	8.3	7.98 – 8.55
<b>31+</b>	8.2	7.90 – 8.53
<b>Average</b>	8.1	8.00 – 8.23
ANOVA: F=1.966; df=6/1,184; p=0.068		
Pearson Correlation: .056 (p=0.055); N=1,191		

<sup>1</sup>Whitetail and mule deer combined because of the small number of mule deer harvested.

Table 135. Mean age of 2010 Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by years of Black Hills deer hunting experience.

Years of Experience	Mean Age (years)	95% Confidence Interval
<b>1</b>	36.4	34.56 – 38.29
<b>2–3</b>	36.6	34.97 – 38.30
<b>4–5</b>	38.4	36.65 – 40.19
<b>6–10</b>	40.8	39.51 – 42.17
<b>11–20</b>	45.3	44.28 – 46.29
<b>21–30</b>	51.3	50.34 – 52.24
<b>31+</b>	60.5	59.68 – 61.37
<b>Average</b>	45.2	44.63 – 45.77
ANOVA: F=178.458; df=6 /2,798; p<0.001		
Pearson Correlation: 0.557; N=2,805; p<0.001		

Table 136. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by gender (2010).

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Male</b>	16.7	16.15 – 17.24
<b>Female</b>	9.5	8.21 – 10.81
ANOVA: F=63.769; df=1 /2,807; $p<0.001$		

Table 137. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by residence (2010).

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>South Dakota Resident</b>	16.5	16.00 – 17.08
<b>Nonresident</b>	10.6	9.06 – 12.06
ANOVA: F=41.676; df=1 /2,818; $p<0.001$		
<b>Residence</b>	<b>Mean Years of Experience</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
<b>Black Hills</b>	17.8	17.08 – 18.49
<b>West River</b>	16.6	13.61 – 19.63
<b>East River</b>	14.2	13.33 – 15.04
ANOVA: F=19.191; df=1 /2,551; $p<0.001$		

**Research Question #5**      What is the relationship between resident hunters’ rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting with their deer hunting preferences and attitudes towards changing the license application process (2010)?

Table 138. Mean number of additional types of deer licenses held by resident Black Hills deer hunters analyzed by hunters’ rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting.

<b>Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting (scale score)</b>	<b>Mean Number of Additional Types of Deer Licenses</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Not Important (0)</b>	1.3	0.90 – 1.75	40
<b>Slightly Important (1)</b>	1.1	0.93 – 1.26	164
<b>Moderately Important (2)</b>	1.3	1.20 – 1.40	727
<b>Very Important (3)</b>	1.4	1.30 – 1.45	1,176
<b>Most Important (4)</b>	1.5	1.40 – 1.63	481
<b>Average</b>	1.4	1.31 – 1.41	2,588
ANOVA: F=3.632; df=4 /2,583; p=0.006			
Pearson Correlation: 0.069; p<0.001 (N=2,588)			

Table 139. Mean years of Black Hills deer hunting experience analyzed by resident hunters’ preference for one of the three major deer seasons (2010).

<b>Preference for Deer Season</b>	<b>Mean Importance<sup>1,2</sup></b>		<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>	
<b>Black Hills</b>	2.92 <sub>a</sub>		2.87 – 2.96	1,587	
<b>East River</b>	2.27 <sub>b</sub>		2.16 – 2.37	285	
<b>West River</b>	2.50 <sub>c</sub>		2.43 – 2.57	552	
<b>No Opinion</b>	2.51 <sub>c</sub>		2.37 – 2.65	140	
<b>Average</b>	2.73		2.70 – 2.77	2,564	
ANOVA: F=69.708; df=3 /2,560; p<0.001					
<b>Preference for Deer Season</b>	<b>Importance of Black Hills Deer Hunting</b>				
	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Most</b>
<b>Black Hills</b>	32.5%	47.2%	48.3%	63.8%	85.2%
<b>East River</b>	27.5%	23.0%	16.2%	9.0%	3.1%
<b>West River</b>	35.0%	22.4%	28.5%	21.8%	9.0%
<b>No Opinion</b>	5.0%	7.5%	7.1%	5.3%	2.7%
<b>Number</b>	40	161	723	1,161	479
Chi-sq.=220.228; df=12; p<0.001					

<sup>1</sup>Importance Scale: Most Important=4, Very Importance=3, Moderately Importance=2, Slightly Important=1, Not Important=0

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at p<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

Table 140. Black Hills deer hunters’ general attitude towards increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year analyzed by resident hunters’ rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting (2010).

<b>Importance Rating</b>	<b>Mean Attitude<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>	
<b>Not Important</b>	-0.13 <sub>a</sub>	-0.82 – 0.56	39	
<b>Slightly Important</b>	0.78 <sub>b</sub>	0.51 – 1.06	162	
<b>Moderately Important</b>	0.77 <sub>b</sub>	0.63 – 0.90	721	
<b>Very Important</b>	0.72 <sub>b</sub>	0.60 – 0.83	1,166	
<b>Most Important</b>	0.98 <sub>b</sub>	0.80 – 1.17	478	
<b>Average</b>	0.77	0.70 – 0.85	2,566	
F=3.677; df=4/2,561; p=0.005				
Pearson Correlation: 0.046; N=2,566; p=0.020				
<b>Importance Rating</b>	<b>Attitude</b>			<b>Number</b>
	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Favor</b>	
<b>Not Important</b>	33.3%	35.9%	30.8%	39
<b>Slightly Important</b>	16.7%	27.8%	55.6%	162
<b>Moderately Important</b>	18.9%	26.9%	54.2%	721
<b>Very Important</b>	23.3%	20.7%	56.0%	1,166
<b>Most Important</b>	20.5%	19.2%	60.3%	478
<b>Average</b>	21.3%	22.8%	55.9%	2,566
Chi-sq.=30.061; df=8; p<0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude scale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at p<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

Table 141. Black Hills deer hunters' attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer analyzed by resident hunters' preference for one of the three major deer seasons (2010).

<b>Importance Rating</b>	<b>Mean Attitude<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>	
<b>Not Important</b>	-0.67 <sub>a</sub>	-1.38 – 0.04	39	
<b>Slightly Important</b>	-0.11 <sub>a</sub>	-0.43 – 0.21	162	
<b>Moderately Important</b>	-0.34 <sub>a</sub>	-0.49 – -0.18	718	
<b>Very Important</b>	-0.37 <sub>a</sub>	-0.50 – -0.24	1,164	
<b>Most Important</b>	-0.03 <sub>a</sub>	-0.24 – 0.18	478	
<b>Average</b>	-0.29	-0.37 – -0.20	2,561	
F=2.700; df=4/2,556; p=0.029				
Pearson Correlation: 0.029; N=2,561; p=0.136				
<b>Importance Rating</b>	<b>Attitude</b>			<b>Number</b>
	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Favor</b>	
<b>Not Important</b>	46.2%	23.1%	30.8%	39
<b>Slightly Important</b>	38.3%	20.4%	41.4%	162
<b>Moderately Important</b>	46.1%	18.25	35.7%	718
<b>Very Important</b>	47.8%	15.5%	36.8%	1,164
<b>Most Important</b>	41.2%	14.6%	44.1%	478
<b>Average</b>	45.5%	16.5%	38.0%	2,561
Chi-sq.=17.996; df=8; p=0.021				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude scale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at p<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

Table 142. Black Hills deer hunters’ general attitude towards increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year analyzed by resident hunters’ preference for one of the three major deer seasons (2010).

Preference for Deer Season	Mean Attitude <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.	Number	
<b>Black Hills</b>	1.05 <sub>a</sub>	0.96 – 1.14	1,601	
<b>East River</b>	0.44 <sub>b</sub>	0.21 – 0.66	289	
<b>West River</b>	0.28 <sub>b</sub>	0.10 – 0.45	558	
<b>No Opinion</b>	0.23 <sub>b</sub>	-0.10 – 0.55	142	
<b>Average</b>	0.77	0.70 – 0.85	2,590	
F=30.290; df=3/2,586; p<0.001				
Attitude	Preference for Deer Season			
	Black Hills	East River	West River	No Opinion
<b>Oppose</b>	17.1%	24.9%	29.2%	28.2%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	21.25	28.4%	24.9%	27.5%
<b>Favor</b>	61.7%	46.7%	45.9%	44.4%
<b>Number</b>	1,601	289	558	142
Chi-sq.=70.169; df=6; p<0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude sale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at p<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

Table 143. Black Hills deer hunters’ attitude towards combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer analyzed by resident hunters’ preference for one of the three major deer seasons (2010).

Preference for Deer Season	Mean Attitude <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.	Number	
<b>Black Hills</b>	0.07 <sub>a</sub>	-0.04 – 0.18	1,599	
<b>East River</b>	-1.06 <sub>b</sub>	-1.30 – -0.83	289	
<b>West River</b>	-0.79 <sub>b</sub>	-0.97 – -0.61	556	
<b>No Opinion</b>	-0.89 <sub>b</sub>	-1.20 – -0.57	142	
<b>Average</b>	-0.29	-0.38 – -0.21	2,586	
F=40.882; df=3/2,582; p<0.001				
Attitude	Preference for Deer Season			
	Black Hills	East River	West River	No Opinion
<b>Oppose</b>	38.5%	60.25	55.8%	54.9%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	16.8%	17.0%	14.7%	22.5%
<b>Favor</b>	44.8%	22.8%	29.5%	22.5%
<b>Number</b>	1,599	289	556	142
Chi-sq.=107.527; df=6; p<0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Attitude sale: 3 = Strongly Favor; 2 = Moderately Favor; 1 = Slightly Favor; 0 =Neutral or No Opinion; -1 = Slightly Oppose; -2 = Moderately Oppose; -3 = Strongly Oppose

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at p<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

**Research Question #6**      What is the relationship between hunters’ rating of the importance of filling their Black Hills deer tag with success and days hunted (2010)?

Table 144-A. Black Hills deer hunters’ rating of the importance of filling their Black Hills deer tag analyzed by resident success (harvesting a deer) (2010).

Success	Mean Importance <sup>1</sup>	95% C.I.	Number	
No Harvest	1.43	1.38 – 1.49	1,049	
Harvested a Deer	1.80	1.76 – 1.84	1,630	
Average	1.66	1.62 – 1.69	2,679	
F=119.653; df=1/2,677; <i>p</i> <0.001				
Success	Importance of Filling Black Hills Deer Tag			
	Not	Slightly	Moderately	Very
No Harvest	56.3%	48.7%	34.0%	24.1%
Harvested a Deer	43.8%	51.3%	66.0%	75.9%
Number	256	837	1,159	427
Chi-sq.=117.176; df=3; <i>p</i> <0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not Important=0.

Table 144-B. Black Hills deer hunters’ rating of the importance of filling their Black Hills deer tag analyzed by resident success (harvesting a doe vs. buck) (2010).

Success	Mean Importance <sup>1,2</sup>	95% C.I.	Number	
No Harvest	1.43 <sub>a</sub>	1.38 – 1.48	1,046	
Harvested a Doe	1.83 <sub>b</sub>	1.75 – 1.91	392	
Harvested a Buck	1.79 <sub>b</sub>	1.74 – 1.83	1,241	
Average	1.66	1.62 – 1.69	2,679	
F=60.846; df=2/2,676; <i>p</i> <0.001				
Success	Importance of Filling Black Hills Deer Tag			
	Not	Slightly	Moderately	Very
No Harvest	56.3%	48.7%	33.7%	24.1%
Harvested a Doe	9.8%	11.4%	16.7%	18.5%
Harvested a Buck	34.0%	39.9%	49.6%	57.4%
Number	256	837	1,159	427
Chi-sq.=120.036; df=6; <i>p</i> <0.001				

<sup>1</sup>Scale: Very Important=3; Moderately Important=2; Slightly Important=1; and Not Important=0.

<sup>2</sup>Means in the same column that do not share subscripts differ at *p*<0.05 with the Dunnett C comparison.

Table 145. Days hunted analyzed by hunters' rating of the importance of filling their Black Hills deer tag (2010).

<b>Importance of Filling Black Hills Deer Tag</b>	<b>Mean Days Hunted (excludes Days=0)</b>	<b>95% C.I.</b>	<b>Number</b>	
<b>Not Important</b>	5.1 <sub>ac</sub>	4.55 – 5.59	247	
<b>Slightly Important</b>	4.6 <sub>ab</sub>	4.37 – 4.84	816	
<b>Moderately Important</b>	5.0 <sub>ab</sub>	4.76 – 5.23	1,135	
<b>Very Important</b>	5.7 <sub>c</sub>	5.23 – 6.13	417	
<b>Average</b>	5.0	4.84 – 5.14	2,615	
F=6.788; df=3/2,611; <i>p</i> <0.001				
Pearson Correlation: 0.086; N=2,842; <i>p</i> <0.001 (includes Days=0)				
<b>Hunted Black Hills Deer in 2010</b>	<b>Importance of Filling Black Hills Deer Tag</b>			
	<b>Not</b>	<b>Slightly</b>	<b>Moderately</b>	<b>Very</b>
<b>Not Hunt</b>	14.2%	9.3%	6.4%	5.7%
<b>Hunted</b>	85.8%	90.7%	93.6%	94.3%
<b>Number</b>	288	900	1,212	442
Chi-sq.=25.193; df=3; <i>p</i> <0.001				

# **Appendix A**

## **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

**Questionnaire and other mailings used in the mail survey.**

# 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

December 2010

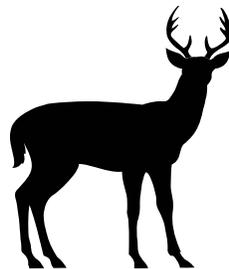
Dear Black Hills Rifle Deer Hunter,

Your assistance in completing your survey is greatly appreciated. The information you provide helps in the evaluation of the Black Hills deer population and in understanding the needs and desires of Black Hills deer hunters. A space is provided at the end of this questionnaire for any special comments you may want to make. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you.

*Larry M. Gigliotti*



- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire had an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls. Your name will never be associated with your responses.
- Your response is important even if you did not hunt Black Hills deer this year, because some of the questions are opinions about Black Hills deer hunting issues.
- If you have any questions about the **survey** contact Larry Gigliotti @ 605-773-4231 (e-mail address: [Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us](mailto:Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us) ).
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate please check this box  and return your blank questionnaire.



**Game, Fish & Parks**  
523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501

# 2010 BLACK HILLS DEER HUNTER SURVEY

**Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501**

Please note that this survey only pertains to the 2010 Black Hills **Rifle** Deer Season.

1. Number of days hunted \_\_\_\_\_. If you did not hunt this year write zero and skip ahead to question #13 (middle of page 4).

2. Did you harvest a deer in the 2010 Black Hills rifle deer season?  No  Yes

→ If yes, please indicate the type of deer you harvested by checking () the appropriate box below:

- a. Whitetail Buck (antlered) → total number of points: \_\_\_\_ (left + right antlers)
- b. Mule Deer Buck → total number of points: \_\_\_\_ (left + right antlers)
- c. Antlerless Whitetail Buck (button buck)       f. Antlerless Mule Deer Buck (button buck )
- d. Adult Whitetail Doe                                       g. Adult Mule Deer Doe
- e. Fawn Whitetail Doe                                       h. Fawn Mule Deer Doe

3. Considering your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? *Please circle only one response.*

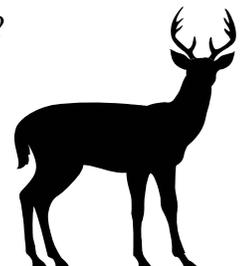
<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

4. How would you describe the deer population in the areas in the Black Hills where you hunted? *Please circle your response for both types of deer.*

	<u>Far Too Few</u>	<u>Slightly Too Few</u>	<u>Just About Right</u>	<u>Slightly Too Many</u>	<u>Far Too Many</u>
Whitetail Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Mule Deer	1	2	3	4	5

5. How would you rate the hunting conditions in terms of numbers of other hunters? *Please circle only one response.*

<u>Not Enough Hunters</u>	<u>Just Right – Not Crowded</u>	<u>Slightly Crowded</u>	<u>Moderately Crowded</u>	<u>Very Crowded</u>
1	2	3	4	5



6. About how many **DEER** did you see during your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunt?

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] **Total deer seen**

7. How would you rate the total number of **DEER** you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of deer. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

<b>VERY FEW</b>				<b>AVERAGE</b>				<b>LOTS OF DEER</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

8. About how many **BUCKS** did you see during your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunt?

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] **Total bucks seen**

9. How would you rate the total number of **BUCKS** you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 about average, and 9 being lots of bucks. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

<b>VERY FEW</b>				<b>AVERAGE</b>				<b>LOTS OF BUCKS</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

10. About how many **QUALITY BUCKS** did you see during your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunt?

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] **Total "QUALITY" bucks seen**

11. How would you rate the QUALITY of **BUCKS** you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very poor, 5 about average, and 9 being exceptional. Leave blank if you have no opinion. *Please circle only one number.*

<b>VERY POOR</b>				<b>AVERAGE</b>				<b>EXCEPTIONAL</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

12. Please indicate which, if any, of the following types of interactions with mountain lions you have experienced during this year's Black Hills deer hunting season. Please answer each item by checking either no or yes.

- |  | <u>NO</u>                | <u>YES</u>                                 |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| a. Observed tracks or signs (e.g., buried deer carcass) of mountain lions while deer hunting this year (2010). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |
| b. Observed a mountain lion while deer hunting this year.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> → _____<br>number |

If Yes, based on the number of mountain lions you observed, how many were:

- \_\_\_\_\_ NOT wearing a radio-collar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uable for you to determine if they were wearing a collar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wearing a radio-collar

**Motivations for Black Hills Deer Hunting**

13. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt **deer in the Black Hills**. Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).

	<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>					<b>VERY IMPORTANT</b>		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a) To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c) For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d) Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e) To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f) To spend time alone in the woods.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g) For the challenges associated with “outsmarting” a deer and dealing with the elements.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h) To have <u>additional</u> deer hunting opportunities.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

14. Overall, which statement on the previous page best describes the most important reason for why you like **Black Hills deer hunting**? Please circle only one response.

**a      b      c      d      e      f      g      h**

15. How important is **Black Hills deer hunting** to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of deer hunting or other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)?

- 1. My **MOST** Important recreation activity
- 2. **VERY** Important, but NOT the most important
- 3. **MODERATELY** Important
- 4. **SLIGHTLY** Important
- 5. **NOT** Important
- 6. **NO OPINION**

16. Here are three statements that deal with your feelings/preferences related to **Black Hills deer hunting**. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Please circle one number for each item.

	STRONGLY AGREE	SLIGHTLY AGREE	NEUTRAL/ NO OPINION	SLIGHTLY DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
a) A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I would not shoot a doe.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards...	1	2	3	4	5

17. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season? Please check () only one response.

- 1. **NOT IMPORTANT**
- 2. **SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT**
- 3. **MODERATELY IMPORTANT**
- 4. **VERY IMPORTANT**
- 5. **NO OPINION**

18. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season? **Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_ to me.** Please check (  ) only one response.

- 1. NOT IMPORTANT** – other aspects of the hunting trip and experience account for my level of satisfaction
- 2. SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT** – however, other aspects of the hunting trip and experience account for most of my satisfaction
- 3. MODERATELY IMPORTANT** – getting my deer accounts for about half of my satisfaction with the overall Black Hills deer season
- 4. VERY IMPORTANT** – getting my deer accounts for most of my satisfaction with the overall Black Hills deer season
- 5. NO OPINION**

19. Are you a South Dakota resident?  **1. NO → Please skip ahead to Question # 26**  
 **2. YES → Please continue...**

**DEER HUNTING HISTORY & PREFERENCES**

20. What other types of deer hunting did you do or plan to do this year (2010)? Please check (  ) all the types of deer licenses that you received in 2010.

- 1. East River Deer
- 2. East River Special Buck
- 3. West River Deer
- 4. West River Special Buck
- 5. Archery Deer (statewide)
- 6. Archery Deer (East River)
- 7. Archery Deer (West River)
- 8. Antlerless Archery Deer
- 9. Refuge Deer
- 10. Muzzleloader Deer
- 11. Landowner/Operator Special Deer
- 12. Youth Deer
- 13. Custer State Park Deer
- 14. S.D tribal deer license
- 15. a deer license in another state

<p>21. Which of the seasons listed below would be your <u>most</u> preferred deer hunt?</p>	<p>22. Of the 3 major rifle deer seasons, which <u>one</u> is your most preferred?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Black Hills Rifle Deer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2. East River Rifle Deer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3. West River Rifle Deer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Refuge Deer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 5. Archery Deer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 6. Muzzleloader Deer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 7. No Opinion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Black Hills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2. East River</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3. West River</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 4. No Opinion</li> </ul>

**DEER HUNTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

There are 3 major rifle deer hunting seasons in South Dakota (East River, West River & Black Hills). Demand for licenses that allow harvest of a buck is greater than that available. Currently hunters can apply separately for each of the deer seasons; therefore some hunters can receive “preferred” deer licenses in all 3 seasons while other hunters may not get any “preferred” deer license for a particular year. This occurs because the drawings for the 3 deer seasons are separate and independent of each other.

23. How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?

Strongly <u>Favor</u>	Moderately <u>Favor</u>	Slightly <u>Favor</u>	Neutral or <u>No Opinion</u>	Slightly <u>Oppose</u>	Moderately <u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>Oppose</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

24. One method of increasing hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year could be accomplished by combining the application for Black Hills Deer with West River Deer and East River Deer (this would not change any season dates, only the application process). A hunter may apply for up to one license in each season, but would have to pick their most preferred deer season. The application process would first attempt to fill everyone’s first choice before filling any hunter’s second and third choices. This would increase everyone’s chances of getting their most preferred deer license regardless of what season they most prefer and many hunters would still get their second and third choices some of the times. **How strongly would you favor or oppose combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer as described above?**

Strongly <u>Favor</u>	Moderately <u>Favor</u>	Slightly <u>Favor</u>	Neutral or <u>No Opinion</u>	Slightly <u>Oppose</u>	Moderately <u>Oppose</u>	Strongly <u>Oppose</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**Information About Yourself:**

25. In which South Dakota county do you live? \_\_\_\_\_ **county**

26. How many years have you hunted deer in the Black Hills (including this year)?

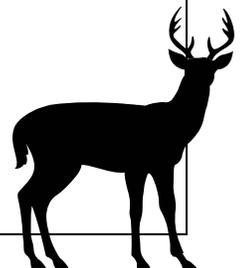
[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] total years of Black Hills deer hunting

27. What is your age and gender? \_\_\_\_\_ years       **MALE**     **FEMALE**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.** Results from this survey will be posted on GFP’s web-page.

**You may use this space for optional comments.**

Comments received are included in the report given to GFP game managers, biologists, administrators and Commission members.



*Please return your questionnaire using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.*

## Postcard Reminders:

December 10, 2010

Last week I mailed you a Black Hills deer hunter survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided or by the Internet. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt Black Hills deer this year. The information from this survey is very valuable in making decisions related to Black Hills deer hunting.

**Please try to respond to the first mailing of the survey by December 21.** If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

Larry Gigliotti  
Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

January 11, 2011

A couple of weeks ago I mailed you a Black Hills deer hunter survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided or by the Internet. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt Black Hills deer this year. The information from this survey is very valuable in making decisions related to Black Hills deer hunting.

**Please try to respond to the first mailing of the survey by January 21.** If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

Larry Gigliotti  
Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

## Reminder Letter (sent with second mailings):



Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

January 21, 2011

RE: Last Reminder for the 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

Dear Black Hills deer hunter:

You have been randomly selected to participate in this year's survey of Black Hills deer hunters. As of January 20<sup>th</sup> we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

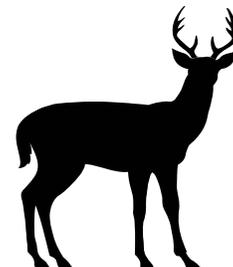
This year's survey is longer than usual because we are also asking a number of general attitude and preference questions that will help Game, Fish and Parks biologists develop a deer management plan. Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt deer in the Black Hills this year.

For the past 16 years we have conducted a special survey of Black Hills deer hunters, with a different focus each year. This information is valuable in providing a thorough understanding of the needs and desires of Black Hills deer hunters. Such information is important when considering management action or changes. Also, asking hunters about their hunt is one way to evaluate the Black Hills deer season. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire, as your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid. Deadline for returning your questionnaire has been extended to February 15, 2011.

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in this survey you can return your blank survey or discard it as this is the last reminder. However, the information is very useful in evaluating the Black Hills deer season and we do appreciate your input.

Sincerely,  
Larry M. Gigliotti



# **Appendix B**

## **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

**Questionnaire used in the e-mail / Internet survey.**

## 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

### 1. Black Hills Deer Hunting

\* 1. How many days did you hunt during the 2010 Black Hills rifle deer season?

If you did not hunt, enter a zero.

### 2. Harvest

\* 1. Did you harvest a deer in the 2010 Black Hills rifle deer season?

No

Yes

### 3. Harvest Type

\* 1. Please indicate the type of deer you harvested.

Whitetail Buck (antlered)

Mule Deer Buck (antlered)

Antlerless Whitetail Buck (button buck)

Adult Whitetail Doe

Fawn Whitetail Doe

Antlerless Mule Deer Buck (button buck)

Adult Mule Deer Doe

Fawn Mule Deer Doe

2. If you harvested an antlered buck, how many total points (left + right) did the buck you harvested have?

### 4. Evaluation (1)

1. Considering your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you?

	Very Dissatisfied	Moderately Dissatisfied	Slightly Dissatisfied	Neutral or No Opinion	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Satisfaction?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

**2. How would you describe the deer populations in the areas in the Black Hills where you hunted?**

	Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too many
Whitetail Deer:	<input type="radio"/>				
Mule Deer	<input type="radio"/>				

**3. How would you rate hunting conditions in terms of numbers of other hunters?**

	Not Enough Hunters	Just Right - Not Crowded	Slightly Crowded	Moderately Crowded	Very Crowded
Degree of Crowding?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**5. Evaluation (2)**

**1. About how many DEER did you see during your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunt?**

Total Deer Seen

**2. How would you rate the total number of DEER you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 being average, and 9 being lots of deer?**

	1 (Very Few)	2	3	4	5 (Average)	6	7	8	9 (Lots of Deer)	No Opinion
Deer	<input type="radio"/>									

**3. About how many BUCKS did you see during your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunt?**

Total Bucks Seen

**4. How would you rate the total number of BUCKS you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very few, 5 being average, and 9 being lots of bucks?**

	1 (Very Few)	2	3	4	5 (Average)	6	7	8	9 (Lots of Bucks)	No Opinion
Bucks	<input type="radio"/>									

**5. About how many QUALITY BUCKS did you see during your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunt?**

Total Quality Bucks Seen

### 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

6. How would you rate the QUALITY of BUCKS you saw this season while Black Hills deer hunting, based on your expectations, on a scale of 1 being very poor, 5 being average, and 9 being exceptional?

	1 (Very Poor)	2	3	4	5 (Average)	6	7	8	9 (Exceptional)	No Opinion
Quality	<input type="radio"/>									

### 6. Mountain Lion Interactions

1. Please indicate which, if any, of the following types of interactions with mountain lions you have experienced during this year's Black Hills deer hunting season (2010).

	No	Yes
Observed tracks or signs (e.g.m, buried deer carcass) of mountain lions while deer hunting this year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed a mountain lion while deer hunting this year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. If you observed any mountain lions during the 2010 Black Hills rifle deer season (November 1 - 30), how many did you see (leave blank if you did not see any mountain lions and skip to next section - Motivations)?

Number of Mountain Lions Observed

3. Based on the number of mountain lions you observed, how many were:

NOT wearing a collar?	<input type="text"/>
Unable for you to determine if they were wearing a collar?	<input type="text"/>
Wearing a collar?	<input type="text"/>

### 7. Motivations

[Empty section for Motivations]

**2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

1. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt deer in the Black Hills on the scale of zero (not at all important) to 7 (very important).

	0 (Not Important)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 (Very Important)
To bring meat home for food	<input type="radio"/>							
To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area	<input type="radio"/>							
For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.	<input type="radio"/>							
Enjoying the time spent with friends/family	<input type="radio"/>							
To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment	<input type="radio"/>							
To spend time alone in the woods	<input type="radio"/>							
For the challenges associated with "outsmarting" a deer and dealing with the elements	<input type="radio"/>							
To have additional deer hunting opportunities	<input type="radio"/>							

2. Overall, which statement best describes the most important reason for why you like Black Hills deer hunting?

- To bring meat home for food
- To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area
- For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.
- Enjoying the time spent with friends/family
- To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills & accomplishment
- To spend time alone in the woods
- For the challenges associated with "outsmarting" a deer and dealing with the elements
- To have additional deer hunting opportunities

**8. What's Important to Deer Hunters**

## 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

**1. How important is Black Hills deer hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of deer hunting or other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)?**

- My MOST Important recreational activity
- VERY Important, but not the most important
- MODERATELY Important
- SLIGHTLY Important
- NOT Important
- No Opinion

**2. Here are three statements that deal with your feelings/preferences related to Black Hills deer hunting. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.**

	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Neutral / No Opinion	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
A Black Hills deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.	<input type="radio"/>				
I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I will not shoot a doe.	<input type="radio"/>				
I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck, i.e., I will pass up legal bucks that do not measure up to my standards.	<input type="radio"/>				

**3. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season?**

- NOT Important
- SLIGHTLY Important
- MODERATELY Important
- VERY Important
- No Opinion

## 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

**4. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the Black Hills deer season?**

Filling my Black Hills deer tag is \_\_\_\_ to me.

- NOT Important - other aspects of the hunting trip and experience account for my level of satisfaction.
- SLIGHTLY Important - however, other aspects of the hunting trip and experience account for most of my satisfaction.
- MODERATELY Important - getting my deer accounts for about half of my satisfaction with the overall Black Hill deer season.
- VERY Important - getting my deer accounts for most of my satisfaction with the overall Black Hill deer season.
- No Opinion

## 9. Residence

**1. Some of the remaining questions are only relevant for South Dakota residents. Please check your resident status and this survey will direct you to your proper set of questions.**

- South Dakota resident
- Non-resident

## 10. Deer Hunting History & Preferences

[Empty survey area for section 10]

**2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

**1. What other types of deer hunting did you do or plan to do this year (2010)?**

Please indicate all the types of deer licenses that you received in 2010.

- East River Deer
- East River Special Buck
- West River Deer
- West River Special Buck
- Archery Deer (statewide)
- Archery Deer (East River)
- Archery Deer (West River)
- Antlerless Archery Deer
- Refuge Deer
- Muzzleloader Deer
- Landowner/Operator Special Deer
- Youth Deer
- Custer State Park Deer
- S.D. tribal deer license
- a deer license in another state

**2. Which of the seasons listed below would be your MOST preferred deer hunt?**

- Black Hills Rifle Deer
- East River Rifle Deer
- West River Rifle Deer
- Refuge Deer
- Archery Deer
- Muzzleloader Deer
- No Opinion

**3. Of the 3 major deer seasons, which one is your most preferred?**

- Black Hills
- East River
- West River
- No Opinion

**11. Attitudes**

## **2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey**

**1. There are 3 major rifle deer hunting seasons in South Dakota (East River, West River, & Black Hills). Demand for licenses that allow harvest of a buck is greater than that available. Currently hunters can apply separately for each of the deer seasons; therefore some hunters can receive "preferred" deer licenses in all 3 seasons while other hunters may not get any "preferred" deer licenses for a particular year. This occurs because the drawing for the 3 seasons are separate and independent of each other.**

**How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?**

- Strongly Favor
- Moderately Favor
- Slightly Favor
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Oppose
- Moderately Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

## 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

2. One method of increasing hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year could be accomplished by combining the application for Black Hills Deer with West River Deer and East River Deer (this would not change any season dates, only the application process). A hunter may apply for up to one license in each season, but would have to pick their most preferred deer season. The application process would first attempt to fill everyone's first choice before filling any hunter's second and third choices. This would increase everyone's chances of getting their most preferred deer license regardless of what season they most prefer and many hunters would still get their second and third choices some of the times.

How strongly would you favor or oppose combining the application process for Black Hills Deer, West River Deer and East River Deer as described above?

- Strongly Favor
- Moderately Favor
- Slightly Favor
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Oppose
- Moderately Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

## 12. South Dakota County Residence

1. South Dakota County Residence?

## 13. Information About Yourself

1. How many years have you hunted deer in the Black Hills (including this year)?

Total Years of Black Hills Deer Hunting

2. What is your age?

Years

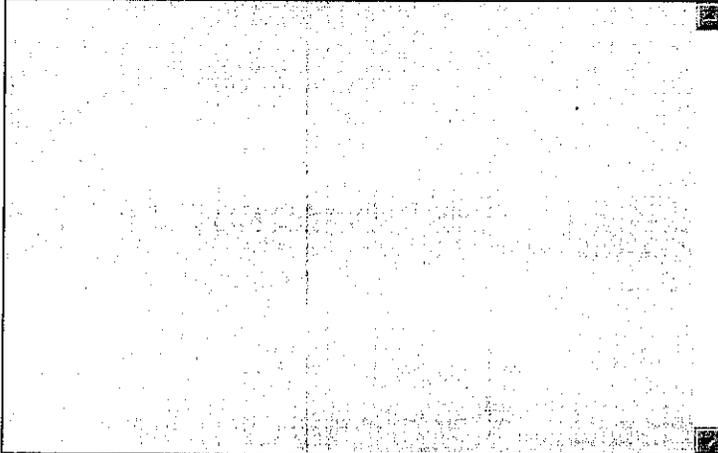
3. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

## 2010 Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

**4. You can use this space for optional comments for the Game, Fish & Parks Department.**

**Comments received are included in a report given to GFP game managers, biologists, administrators and Commission members.**



**Appendix C.** Telephone survey of non-respondents to the Black Hills deer hunter survey.

This survey only pertains the to 2010 Black Hills Rifle Deer Season (November 1–30, 2010).

1. Did you do any rifle deer hunting in the Black Hills during the 2010 Black Hills Rifle Deer Season (November 1–30, 2010)?

- No → Skip ahead to Question # 5.  
 Yes → continue with question # 2.

2. How many days did you hunt in the 2010 Black Hills Rifle Deer Season (November 1–30, 2010)?

[\_\_\_\_\_] Days

3. Did you harvest a deer in the 2010 Black Hills Rifle Deer Season (November 1–30, 2010)?

- No     Yes → If yes, skip ahead to Question # 5

3A. If Yes, what did you harvest? (value for encoding in parentheses)

**Did you harvest an antlered or antlerless deer:**

**Antlered (Buck) Deer:**

- [\_\_\_\_\_] a) Whitetail Buck (1) → Total number of Points [\_\_\_\_\_]   
[\_\_\_\_\_] b) Mule Deer Buck (2)

**Antlerless Deer: Was it a Whitetail Deer or Mule Deer**

**Whitetail Deer → Which type?**

- [\_\_\_\_\_] c) Antlerless Whitetail Buck (button buck) (3)  
[\_\_\_\_\_] e) Adult Whitetail Doe (4)  
[\_\_\_\_\_] f) Fawn Whitetail Doe (5)

**Mule Deer → Which type?**

- [\_\_\_\_\_] d) Antlerless Mule Deer Buck (button buck) (6)  
[\_\_\_\_\_] g) Adult Mule Deer Doe (7)  
[\_\_\_\_\_] h) Fawn Mule Deer Doe (8)

4. Considering your total 2010 Black Hills deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? Please circle only one response.

<u>Very</u> <u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or</u> <u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately</u> <u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Very</u> <u>Satisfied</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

5. How important is Black Hills deer hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of deer hunting or other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)?

- 1. MY MOST IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY
- 2. VERY IMPORTANT, BUT NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT
- 3. MODERATELY IMPORTANT
- 4. SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT
- 5. NOT IMPORTANT
- 6. NO OPINION

6. How many years have you hunted deer in the Black Hills (including this year)?

[ \_\_\_\_\_ ] years

**Appendix D.** Optional comments received via the mailed survey questionnaire.

**ID: 1**

Leave the deer hunting alone! No preference tags! Why fix what's not broke! You folks have already killed off the hunting with a group hunt with family and friends. What is next?

**ID: 4**

Combining the three major deer seasons in the same application with a preferred season is a great idea. I know of several family members and friends who did not receive a tag of any kid this year. This is just not right! The only addition I would suggest to combining the three main seasons would be to add a 4<sup>th</sup>. Archery deer – these licenses are unlimited and the archery hunters have not had to experience the pain of limited licenses and lost years of the outdoor experience.

**ID: 5**

Road closures are going to have a large effect on the future of Black Hills Deer. I don't have a problem with the way the licenses are distributed; now why change? No need for any double licenses, the reason we didn't see too many deer was the warm weather early on. Talked to a game warden and he said the numbers are down. Most problems, that everybody says the same thing. The pine beetle is wrecking havoc with the forest and so is logging. All in all the state does a fair job of managing the population. Don't Change!

**ID: 6**

I would like to see less doe licenses!

**ID: 11**

I only had 2 days to hunt this year because of work. We spend a lot of time in the woods we see more and more mountain lions every year and less deer and elk.

**ID: 13**

I would like to see a lottery draw for out of state archery hunters and have a earned a buck for the resident hunters. (Meaning after harvesting a buck you must shoot a doe to be able to purchase another buck tag). We had enough resident hunters that love to hunt. We need to get rid of the January doe season. These deer are stressed out enough do to the rut and hunting season. Let them go to their winter spots to rest and fatten up for the winter. Plus there are some counties where deer numbers are down.

**ID: 17**

I live in the Johnson Siding area of the Black Hills and one thing I see a lot of is deer in the sub divisions. Homeowners are feeding the deer and therefore the deer are not in a place for a hunter to take them safely. Along Highway 44 from Rapid City to Highway 385 the deer stay so close to the housing that, it would be near impossible to harvest one in that area. The cars in this area harvest more deer than

the hunters. I do not think that there is much that can be done but it is a concern. I appreciate the work you all do, and hope that in the future I can be more of a help.

**ID: 20**

Need to stop shooting so many does in the Black Hills. Need to stop giving all this antlerless tags out. Maybe one per person but some guys are getting doe tags just go out and kill. Then take them to the food bank. Drop them off and go kill some more. I don't think its right to just go out and kill.

**ID: 22**

The deer population seems to be substantially less in the Black Hills. In past years I would see 15 – 20 bucks a day. This year there were days I wouldn't even see a buck. A lot less does as well.

**ID: 24**

I didn't have time to hunt this year and was wondering if you have ever thought of opening the season back up like you do West River just for a doe season?

**ID: 25**

I really love the way the hunting seasons are right now. I do miss the 2 point or better on the Black Hills buck tag. Did we do away with that because of CWD or where other hunters asking for it to be the way it is now in the surveys? Is it possible to get info on this question? I do think the SDGFP has done a great job with the Black Hills hunting over the past 10 years. Keep up the good work. I am glad that we have the opportunity to do these surveys and that you want to hear what we the hunters think.

**ID: 26**

There still is farm too much road hunting going on. Never saw another hunter or hunter's tracks in the forest during my six days alone and 10 days with my wife on her hunt. There are too many hunters tossing deer remains including gut piles, for public view along roads and parking areas. Slobs don't help our sport and it gets worse every year! Our deer hunters are terrible about opening and never closing, forest service gates and fences. Need to inform these people to leave things the way they find them. It's not illegal, but it's very poor form, to be shooting directly next to housing developments, but we had a lot of people doing it this year compared to the past. Road hunting, shooting next to homes, dumping innards and scraps next to the roads and public parking areas, are most of my fellow "hunters" becoming forest phonics? Our public relations are going downhill fast! We're out "hoofing" it a lot throughout the year; we do believe deer numbers are down some. Elk numbers are lousy! It's policy, not lions I think.

**ID: 28**

Too many people get tags and do not make an effort to harvest their game. I believe that the cat numbers are decreasing, decreasing our elk and deer populations. I do enjoy seeing the cats, but would rather see the elk and deer

population increase then see the cats. Would love to keep the hunting tradition going so my son can enjoy hunting and fishing in South Dakota like I have. I have made lots of memories over the years.

**ID: 30**

I think there are too few of deer in the Hills. Some areas have none. I don't understand why you want so many cats in the hills. They kill way to many deer and take away from all hunters opportunity to harvest a deer. That was not the case 40 years ago. There were deer everywhere. Hunters rely on deer to supplement there food bill for the winter. You have taken the sportsmen's rights away to do so by allowing too many cats.

**ID: 31**

Too many cats and coyotes! In state hunters must have first chance to draw a tag in any South Dakota season. Stop shooting all the does! The deer and elk populations have dropped dramatically recently! I would like a written response on above as I feel no one listens!

**ID: 32**

While "running and gunning" allows hunters to cover a lot of country and see more deer and maybe score on a desired buck of either species if enough gas and miles have been expended. I personally have never cared for this type of hunting, much preferring to hunt or stalk a big buck on his own terms once has been seen or found. A lot of things can go wrong with this type of hunting and many times over the years I have failed to kill a big buck because of it. This though is my method and all I want is to secure a license each year just to find a big buck and go to work on him. Scoring or filling a license is not that important an aspect of hunting.

**ID: 34**

I hunted in the area around Deerfield Lake; the deer population appeared to be way down from previous years. Possible causes are logging (way less cover), and large mountain lion population. The males don't object as to how many female cats are in their area.

**ID: 36**

I only had time to hunt a couple of days but the weather was nice and I really enjoyed my time out there. I'm sure if I would have been out there opening weekend I probably would have had better luck, but had fun anyways!

**ID: 42**

Open the lions for hunting like it is for coyotes and kill wolves on sight.

**ID: 63**

I would prefer to see no any tags that don't specify sender they should read any buck or any whitetail buck or any doe.

**ID: 65**

A lot of guys I hunt with are 60 years or older with health problems. Anyway when they have drawings for tags and they get their money back, it hurts because they don't know if they will be healthy enough to go the next year.

**ID: 69**

I saw no mule deer this season. I am really concerned about needing a permit to travel tails with my pickup while I am unable to walk the area and limited to being able to afford all the fees involved. I have hunted all my life and my dad always said hunting will become a rich man's sport. How did he know back in the 1950's it would be all about the money?

**ID: 75**

I did not hunt this year because you changed the quote to include all the little whitetail bucks.

**ID: 76**

Where the hell have all the dam elk gone? Better not have become cat shit. A good dozen trips in the Gillete Canyon area and I didn't see a single group. I have lived in this area my whole life and I know when deer numbers are dropping and dropped hard. I remember when there were no elk. WTF! Kill some cats you spineless GF&P. It sure was nice while we had them.

**ID: 79**

Way, way too many mountain lions. Too many town turkeys in Johnson Siding, where I live; Road Hazards! Please include these pests with your Rapid City deer calls in the winter. Good Job in starting a lion hunt in Custer Park! You need to publish a "name/tag" list in the local paper (they do this in other states) so people realize that the tag process is fair and not all politics.

**ID: 81**

There are still too many lions.

**ID: 82**

Please make your website more user friendly. I need more hills deer to hunt. The numbers are too low.

**ID: 85**

GF&P does a great job managing our game resources. Let's not keep tweaking it until it gets messed up again – our ATV trail system is perfect example; if it's not broke then don't let a few loud voices ruin another of our best of the best recreations!

**ID: 91**

Why not issue one deer tag and one only per year per resident. I know some people receive five or six tags a year. I also know people that don't get to hunt. Many

states only allow one tag per season. I find it very unfair, and then after all applicants get tags open it up to multiple tags. If you don't control your cat population you may need those extra deer. The wolves will soon be coming too.

**ID: 98**

Clearer maps, better marked signs, possible landowners that allow a certain amount of hunters or private land on even to access the Hills. You have a situation where say elk season ends then deer starts. They have scattered deer on to private land where there is no pressure, whitetails are about as smart as they come and don't take to pressure either from people or mountain lions well. I seen more deer in Spearfish crossing roads and dodging cars because they I am sure found a reliable and safe food source. They need the same things I do going down I-90 gas (water), food and lodging (cover) and most of it seems to be in the city limits.

**ID: 101**

With the country being overrun with deer, I don't understand how a person can miss being drawn any season!

**ID: 110**

Too many mountain lions I've observed 5 lions since August, all within 8 miles of my home.

**ID: 116**

Thank you so much for stopping the off road destruction of the Black Hills by four wheelers and 4x4 the owners of these things have ruined so many water holes and the land also. The noise is also very bad having ruined many good hunts by a walker hunter. I hope you fine the hell out of them if you fined law breakers.

**ID: 119**

The hills season was excellent. I do have a comment on elk hunting in the Fairburn Hwy 79 area through. The land is private and we had terrible experience with people trespassing shooting too many elk and asking constantly about hunting. You guys need to make sure before license are given out they have an area to hunt instead of just driving off of the highway to hunt. They think since they have an elk tag they are free to hunt like it was the national forest. Most of the landowners in this area are not going to let elk hunter hunt I have learned. Ever since the elk slaughter happened off LH Road. I would be interested to know what is happing in reference to this. The last time I saw the herd of elk which was 18 and I heard they killed 11 of them.

**ID: 125**

Stop shooting does, when you kill a doe, she can't have kids. A good doe will have 2 fawns, so killing a doe is like killing 3 deer.

**ID: 133**

See more mule deer than whitetail deer. So why not give out mule deer tags?

**ID: 138**

I don't like the idea of combining the East River/West River draw with the Black Hills draws in order to increase a SD residents chances of drawing a buck specific license or have more tags that are buck only, not an any deer or any whitetail.

**ID: 142**

Make muzzleloaders hunt regular season, they take too many big bucks that have already lost their antlers. We do not shoot our prime bull for beef!

**ID: 153**

I would like to be able to get any deer tags. I love Black Hills Deer hunting season.

**ID: 154**

I didn't shoot a whitetail doe. I was only thinking about my West River hunting and accidentally combined the two.

**ID: 156**

Leave West/East River and Black Hills deer seasons maybe shorten East river in counties such as moody where deer numbers are way down. Bring back mountain lions season during Black Hills deer season and I would have made the trip for sure. Also season order, Youth deer, archery season, muzzleloader buck season before rifle season, Black Hills season as is, rifle season. No deer hunting after January 1 unless landowners have complaints, too many bucks that have shed antlers get shot. I've put this comment in my survey for years and I presume they don't get read or you just get disregarded it. In SD hunting for deer from September to the end of January is too much stress on deer.

**ID: 158**

The mountain lion people is out of control this is bad for deer and elk hunting. Have a mountain lion season with no limits 1 lion per person.

**ID: 161**

I hunted deer in the Black Hills beginning in 1965 and during that time I have seen the disappearance of deer and the emergence of elk, turkey, and cougar, and you had better start reducing the number of cougar before the number of game animals is wiped out completely.

**ID: 169**

I don't think does should be taken from the Black Hills for a few years. Numbers are way down but bucks seem to be getting bigger however we need the does to increase herd numbers. If does are taken I think it should be with tags for black hills does not youth, mentor, and muzzleloader tags, too many people use the hills as a last resort place to fill tags. I go to the hills at least 10 times a year and we spend a lot of time hiking, fishing, hunting etc. I have seen mountain lions or tracks every trip for the last 5 years that far to many in my opinion. I know it's not good for tourism to say you have a problem with cats but the Black Hills does and the

only way to deal with it is to take more cats that in itself would help all of Gods fuzzy little critters.

**ID: 192**

3 of us hunt north of the Black Hills South of I 90 on private land. We stumbled on this spot a few years ago. We have hunted twice as we cannot draw every year. We are nonresidents from Michigan. This was my 2<sup>nd</sup> hunt and my 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 point. My best bucks ever. Is you can see we are thrilled. We have also become very good friends with the landowner and his family. It is more than the hunt. We see lots of deer and wish we could draw a doe tag. We believe the answer is no but we are not sure. I will try to contact Larry. I enjoy coming out because I can still hunt the old way, Michigan is a baiting state and it is a mess. Please never go to baiting!

**ID: 193**

ATV's and motorcycles are out of control on trails near Trout Haven. Clearly has chased the elk out of the area. I have not seen an elk in area for three years. Idiots on motorcycles running wherever they want destroying ridgelines. We had a group of 7 ATV's come through a saddle in the middle of our hunt, if possible could we establish a (hunting season) on ATV & motorcycle riders in the month of November.

**ID: 198**

Started hunting in the Black Hills for a chance to take either whitetail or mule deer. As a non-resident, I would like the chance to harvest a mule deer if the opportunity arises instead of only whitetail.

**ID: 200**

I would strongly recommend and limit in non-residents and archery deer tags for the Black Hills. I find 4 -5 dead bucks each season on my ranch killed and lost by archery hunters, most are non-residents hunting neighboring properties.

**ID: 201**

I would like to see the problem between West River landowners and the Game Department cleared up. Maybe the West River Landowners would be more receptive in allowing more hunter access.

**ID: 203**

Thanks for a great hunt!

**ID: 214**

I live in Whitewood, my dad got a huge 5 point (on one side) whitetail! Grandpa got a 4 point. His and mine were almost identical! The only thing that means something stupid is the mountain lions I really don't think that a hunter will look for a collar! They will either kill it or be attacked!

**ID: 216**

I have always loved to just walk through the timber, now with the lions so prevalent I'm afraid to walk alone.

**ID: 219**

Kill off the lions; they are killing the deer, like lots of them.

**ID: 253**

Thanks for all that you do.

**ID: 255**

I live in the Black Hills and work in the Hills too, and as a resident I should get a tag every year. I don't hunt West River or East River, I don't even apply for any other deer tag except the Black Hills so yes, you should have to pick your deer unit and you should not be able to get all three. You should get some rifle deer tags that way all SD residents should be able to get a tag.

**ID: 286**

We've never seen so many mountain lions in such a small area and the tracks were mind boggling. We saw many cats with young ones, single ones etc. The deer population is a joke. My wife didn't fill her Black Hills Tag. We ride the trails all summer long all over the hills and saw very few deer even then when there is any hunting pressure on them. The West River deer are also dwindling down to nothing, we have 9 tags we couldn't fill and we hunted our asses off. Everyone I talked to Black Hills deer or West River deer said the same thing. Also is it legal for the Rapid City Sharpshooters to bait deer so that they can harvest them? The hunters in SD can't bait deer so they can fill tags so where is the fairness in that? I know the RC Sharpshooters do so because I work for their department and see it myself.

**ID: 296**

The deer population in the hills looked good, for the hunters only willing to shoot bucks that's too bad! I have received my fair share of buck tags under this system and yet still shoot 75% of my deer as a doe! For the hunter that thinks I should be the only one to shoot does that is great because I draw tags every year and enjoy the hell out of my time with family and friends. They should try it! one more item, I have yet to see the hunters in Farmingdal or Canada Basin destroy the land by traveling on the grasslands, very upset about new NFS park laws.

**ID: 309**

I understand it is very hard to manage the wildlife program each year and understand all the impact it has, but something has to be done with the mountain lion problem in the state mainly in the Hills. A longer season more cats harvested. I also understand with people thinking mountain lions have more rights than people do it makes it hard to do.

**ID: 322**

Most of the bucks I saw were on private lands. We only saw 3 or 4 mule deer during the season, one of which was hit by a truck near Pactola.

**ID: 326**

Changing to the preferred hunting license would do nothing but take away opportunities from hunters who hunt more than one season. Like limiting how much they can hunt. It would do nothing but lower the number of animals harvested and piss people off. Throw more just antlerless tags out for the hills all the tags sell out anyways.

**ID: 291**

Don't mess with the seasons.

**ID: 417**

Too many god damn cats! If you don't get a hold of the cat population (manage them) you won't have any game left to manage. Then you'll all be out of a job. No disrespect intended, but this is a big problem and the next big problem looming is wolves. I've seen two in Western SD this year. They are both predators and should be treated as such and shot. Probably with a bounty of \$100 till they are both controlled.

**ID: 420**

Part of the experience in deer hunting includes being able to keep traditions, friendships, family relationships and part of SD culture. Being able to hunt in different parts of the state supports those relationships as well as financial support to the various communities. Limiting the license application process will inhibit that.

**ID: 444**

Seeing less deer and turkeys every years, so I think you should at least double the mountain lion tags at a minimum.

**ID: 458**

Very few fawn/elk calves due to too many mountain lions. Deer kills every where! They kill and bury and most of the time leave (don't eat all) them kill more. If the GF&P's believe the numbers of lions they think are in SD, then they need to get out more.

**ID: 513**

I love hunting the Black Hills. I would along with my friends only put in for either Black Hills deer or West River deer if they were drawn at separate times. We put in for both because we don't know if we will get drawn for one or the other. We also would like to see a separate tag for West River archery. It would be nice to get a whitetail and a mule deer with a bow. We never understood why there is two separate seasons for rifle but not for archery.

**ID: 521**

I live on Redwater Road north of Spearfish, can view about 5 miles of the Redwater Bluffs over the years in the evening with snow I can see 100 – 150 deer. This year it was 15 – 20 deer. In the Black Hills maybe 1/3 as many deer as usual. My first year hunting the Black Hills was 1952.

**ID: 533**

I saw more young deer this year than last year. There was either more deer or better survival rate for fawns.

**ID: 554**

I was looking forward to hunting in the Black Hills Elk Wilderness Area as there is no vehicle travel allowed there. However, I found the habitat to be very unsuitable for many deer. There is so much overgrowth on the forest floor that I don't believe good travel routes exist for deer or hunters. I enjoyed my hunt down near Pringle.

**ID: 573**

I would like to see more management on the lion population. Saw a lot of kills in the Hills. I think they are over populated, compared to the prey. I personally saw more kill sites than live deer. I think this could be an issue in years to come, not only on the deer/elk population but on the human population. With the diminishing deer herd they need to hunt something or someone. We have a lot of tourist that come through the Hills and they don't have a clue that they are at risk walking through the Hills. We need more education for the residence as well as guests coming into the area.

**ID: 606**

Lots of lions this year saw 4 lions in less than 24 hours. I like being able to get more than one tag here a year.

**ID: 623**

I am not in favor of any season allowing deer to be taken after January 1<sup>st</sup>. We work hard on letting smaller bucks live in hopes of raising more quality bucks in the future. Every year I begin to find shed antlers in late December and am concerned that some of the bucks that we let live are going to be harvested as a "doe" in January. I myself have done this in the past.

**ID: 641**

I would like some things done about this road hunting. They kill deer 200 feet behind my house. I don't mind people hunting behind my house but be 660 feet away from my back door. They should close this road during hunting one hunter was going to turn me in for harassing him when he was hunting, because he shot 200 feet behind my house. This road hunting isn't hunting. We have a lot of housing here, but they still road hunt. I call the warden and they say they can't do anything because it is a forest service road.

**ID: 647**

I am a landowner in Custer County, the land is in the West River Deer unit 21B hunting on my place is a good as it gets but hunting in the Black Hills is my vacation when I get a license. How would this affect my getting to hunt Black Hills deer hunt with landowner preference in West River unit. I feel I should not be restricted to hunt one or the other. The number of deer are down in all units, over hunting illegal hunting and cats are to blame.

**ID: 649**

If numbers of tags vs. numbers of applicants is a big problem, stop issuing out of state tags. I would gladly pay more for a tag to offset the few tourism dollars that out of state deer hunters produce. I found 6 lion killed deer this year during the 2 week period that I hunted, including two mature bucks. If the lion issue is not dealt with a little more aggressively these deer surveys won't be needed in future years.

**ID: 653**

Not enough deer too many lions! November 14<sup>th</sup> 5 of us were in the woods for 8 hours 3 miles NE of Moon sunrise to sunset and we didn't hear a single shot!

**ID: 658**

I would be in favor of combining the application process only if the number of tags were dropped. In my opinion there are way to many deer tags that have been issued, especially any deer tags as well as elk tags. What happened to our Vanocker unit elk herd? This is a very unfortunate situation for a sportsman that is sitting on 10 plus years of preference puts to hope to have a chance to shoot a rag horn bull if he/she is lucky. Let's not let this happen to our deer heard, we need to manage number of tags and the mountain lions that are eating all the fawns and calves.

**ID: 678**

I feel that there is too much access for vehicles in the Black Hills. There are numerous times between my wife's elk hunt and my deer hunt that it was ruined because of road hunters. I would like to see more roads closed to vehicles. It is frustrating to work hard and have thins messed up because people are too lazy to hunt properly. I wish that a large number of roads in prime hunting areas were closed so those of use that are true hunters could hunt the way it was meant to be.

**ID: 698**

I would strongly recommend you change it back to the way it was when you filled out your hills deer application first and found out if you got your hills deer tag before applying for West or East River tags. This would prevent getting more tags than you can use. What is wrong with the way it way? Apply for Hills in early July and deer in August.

**ID: 722**

Worried your shooting too many small bucks and does. The population is down. I know there are too many deer by towns then shoot them by towns not out in the Hills where we all can hunt.

**ID: 741**

Too many mountain lions all over the state, a longer season on mountain lions, I have too many around me were I bow hunt.

**ID: 743**

My son and I are hunters, not road hunters we walk! We hunted the west and east side of Crow Peak, no deer the cattle were still grazing on the west side making there way down trying to find a sprig of grass (it was very badly overgrazed). My major in college was animal husbandry and 20 years in livestock feeding business I know over grazing when I see it too bad GF&P cannot acquire that talent? It was disgusting! I am sure I am not the only one with this complaint and am quite confident nothing will be done to change it. GF&P needs new direction should be elected get new people!

**ID: 748**

I hunt private land so there is no real competition with other hunters. If I "lose" this spot and get forced to hunt with all the other hunters, I most likely will no longer apply. Very good chance of killing quality bucks here. If you put in your time, lots of small bucks.

**ID: 812**

There was a noticeable decrease in deer population where I normally hunt Black Hills Deer. There were also more hunters than I had ever seen before. I didn't see any bucks on my outings, and several outings were all day hunts. On average, I draw a Black Hills Deer tag every other year. It is convenient for me since I live in Rapid City, and gives me an extra tag when I draw it. I would not like to have to choose between my West River tag and my Black Hills tag. I think the system is fine the way it is.

**ID: 858**

Please we've got to control the number of mountain lions, if we don't control them the number of deer will continue to go down while the number of lions goes up. The number of deer in the hills has been going down for some time. It's time to get control of this now. The rancher's loose livestock, we loose deer also, were seeing lions in the towns.

**ID: 974**

This is the first year (2010) that I hunted areas in the Black Hills since the early 1990's. I walked into areas that allow no vehicle traffic in the Crow Peak area West of Spearfish. I found that the deer population in the higher elevations were way down compared to 20 plus years ago. However, the deer were plentiful in the areas

on the “bench roads” or fields on the edge of the Hills. Deer hunting aside, the closed roads in the Hills make this a pleasurable walking experience.

**ID: 983**

I may have to move to Nebraska for work, I would enjoy still being able to hunt deer on my families’ farm in East River SD. Please try to find away for out of state hunters to accomplish this. Nebraska has done so all ready.

**ID: 1022**

Areas that I’ve normally seen hundreds of deer are almost void of deer now; I strongly believe this is a combination of too many hunting tags issued along with an increase in mountain lions.

**ID: 1044**

I’m assuming you’re talking about rifle season. My preferred tag would be archery but if rifle it would be East River because that’s where I live and would have more access to hunting land. Currently I only draw this season every other year just like Black Hills tag. If you switch to this system it sounds like I’d be lucky to ever get another Black Hills or West River tag, so are we just locking ourselves into either East or West River tags. If you really want to level the playing field I think 1<sup>st</sup> you need to double check those people that draw East River deer or whatever tag every year, and I’m not talking about the landowners. I know people that get an East River tag every year, isn’t there away to monitor this? Those same people don’t own land or operate it. Maybe they say they do on the application? Maybe they are just really, really lucky? Maybe we also need stiffer penalties for hunters that have to run down their deer with a pickup and shoot them outside a season or without a license.

**ID: 1100**

Open more doe tags in the Black Hills. Have some mule deer tags in the Black Hills Area.

**ID: 1134**

Referring to Questions 23 and 24 (bad idea) I strongly oppose the GF&P ideas. Archery hunters should have to draw tags just like the gun hunters. Archery hunters should have a limited number of tags per county just like rifle tags. Why do archery hunters get to hunt state wide or East or West? Archery hunters should be treated just like rifle hunters. Get my point?

**ID: 1152**

I am very concerned about the mountain lion population in the Black Hills. We are seeing less deer and elk. It really saddens me to think one day we will not have the privilege of enjoying Black Hills deer hunting if the mountain lions continue to grow in population. Please consider a more aggressive management strategy such as moving the season back to be open during rifle elk and deer seasons. This will offer more opportunity and it is much easier to navigate the Hills before most of the

trails are closed for the winter. Also please consider offering more harvesting of lions, maybe 100/year. Thank you for offering me a chance to comment! Enjoying the Hills is a big deal in my family!

**ID: 1158**

Get rid of the big number of mountain lions in the Hills!

**ID: 1161**

I love going to the Hills to hunt deer (17 years in a row at one point before the lottery system). Because of the mountain lions, deer populations (and elk) will never be the same. Most hunters' I know don't really care if they get a deer or not. It's the going that we look forward to. I don't care if there is a restriction of 4 points or better, I just enjoy going, and wish we could still buy a license over the counter like in the past. Now we are hearing rumors wolves will be reintroduced in the Hills. If that is true, deer and elk populations will only get worse.

**ID: 1171**

Black Hills hunting is getting too confined with all the development. I grew up in Lawrence County you do not know where private land and forest service land is. You have too many people driving around on ATV's, we had are hunt interrupted several times by people out joy riding on ATV's. They even stopped to have a party at the end of our deer drive fully knowing we were trying to push deer to the setters. I do not ever want to hunt in the Black Hills again. The hunt was awful, drives we have made for years are now being developed by cabins who only own a few acres and are surrounded by forest service land. You can put your Black Hills deer license where the sun doesn't shine. I will never apply again unless you change things and I will tell everyone I know in state and out of state how bad it is.

**ID: 1272**

It appears there is a concern on the amount of the deer population. I feel the number of mountain lion has more to do with the deer population decreasing.

**ID: 1298**

Overall deer population seemed down when compared to previous years. The overall buck population and quality of the bucks were up however. We saw a lot more bucks compared to previous hunts. Happy with hunting experience overall!

**ID: 1341**

SD resident tag prices are way too high in price compared to other surrounding states resident tags.

**ID: 1381**

Didn't see as many this year since we hunted after/during snow storm usually on our trips we see many more.

**ID: 1423**

If there aren't enough tags you should decrease the number of non-resident tags available in the Black Hills and West River. The concept of combining all 3 units in the application is positive to residents who have family or land in both West and East River units. We need more does harvested both West and East River; antlerless tags are way too expensive compared to neighboring states. In fact, all SD resident tags are over priced compared to our neighbors. We need to decrease these and change more for non-residents pheasant and deer tags we give these away compared to what non-residents pay in other states.

**ID: 1456**

Thank you very much for the excellent deer hunting in the Black Hills. I think you do a great job!

**ID: 1544**

Keep up the great work on wildlife in South Dakota!

**ID: 1581**

I prefer archery because there is less pressure from other hunters.

**ID: 1654**

I used to send in for muzzleloader tags every year, the amount I could get, I filled all my tags in the Black Hills because the area is over populated with does. GF&P shut down the hills for muzzleloader; I think this is a big mistake. That was my best hunt of the year, I don't even send in for muzzleloader tags anymore because there is not enough deer east river to make the hunt worth my time. I wish you would take a good look at the over all population of the does in the hills and reopen the muzzleloader season out in the hills.

**ID: 1660**

Kill more mountain lions and allow the use of dogs in hunting them. Also get a plan in place for dealing with wolves! They are in the state and well soon be a major factor in the elk and deer population!

**ID: 1664**

Deer herds have been declining the last couple of years! The enjoyment of hunting must never supersede a healthy deer population. I thoroughly enjoy hunting, through hunting, city slaughter, and road kill the deer population has been devastated in the Custer Area. Mountain lions will prey on many deer creating more eco system imbalance. Deer recovery is the most important element in reviving the wildlife ecosystem. Furthermore, a healthy ecosystem keeps the money coming into the state. Keep in mind this is for the Custer (Black Hills area).

**ID: 1684**

I would like to see a 4 point minimum harvest in the Black Hills, every hunter that wanted a license could get one and the locals could be guaranteed a tag. I saw some

nice bucks this year but didn't have a tag to fill. I got to watch the deer eat all my new trees I planted though.

**ID: 1689**

First two weeks in November were warm and dry not good hunting weather. The Central Hills area didn't see deer migration from higher regions yet. I have not hunted the Jasper Burn Area in several years.

**ID: 1708**

Please look into other states earn a buck program.

**ID: 1748**

There's a huge mountain lion problem. It's taking a huge toll on the deer and elk herd, when you can go out and see 15 to 20 cow elk and there is only 3 or 4 calves that means the cats are getting way to many calves. They can't keep up with what the lions are taking.

**ID: 1778**

I am 79 years of age now and I don't get around as good as I used to. I do a lot of driving both in season and out of season looking at deer and have noticed in the last two years especially that the deer have really decreased in numbers. I realize we lost some to winter kill, but I think that the predators are killing off our herds fawns are heavily killed off in the spring by both coyotes and mountain lions and so are young elk. The fields on our ranch usually had 50 to 100 head of deer feeding on them in spring and summer, this year we only had 6 to 10.

**ID: 1780**

I believe in my opinion that if you want to improve the deer herd in the Black Hills you must first get a very extreme grip on the mountain lion population. I believe opening a season on them in Custer State Park would be another excellent idea. I believe that in itself is the only reason for the decline in the deer and elk herd in the park and outside. As far as combining the seasons into priorities I think that would be a bad idea because then you would have to make a choice. I believe the lottery system is fair enough. I hunt all three seasons. I have gone a lot of years without drawing a buck tag in the Black Hills and finally drew one this year and shot a doe my second day of hunting because of the situation. I would strongly disagree with making the general public have to choose East, West, or Black Hills Deer.

**ID: 1807**

If this survey is confidential, why is there a number on the front? This number is also located on the front of the envelope that it came in, located above the addressee's name. I find it hard to believe that this survey is completely confidential. Don't insult my intelligence!

**ID: 1808**

I strongly believe there are too many non-resident tags available and not enough resident tags. I live in the Black Hills and have horses and I feed hay to with large numbers of deer in the hay every night. I've been applying for Black Hills deer and it took 5 years to get it. I do logging for work where I am in the Hills every day, during hunting season I see more out of state license plates than South Dakota plates. I've talked to non-residents where this was their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row for hunting in the Hills. To me it's not fair to residents. I have a 8 year old boy who loves hunting and everything about it. The outdoors, the adventure and want him to have the memories of it like I have with my dad. But if it takes as long as it did this year to get a tag, he'll be 13 years old and then 18 years old to hunt in the Black Hills. That is 2 more time while he's a minor. To me that doesn't seem fair for the residents.

**ID: 1819**

Get more mountain lion tags available! There are a lot of cats in the Hills!! The deer numbers are down.

**ID: 1902**

Lets get serious about the number of lions in the Hills that is what is causing the drop in deer population and the decrease in the Hills deer tags. Lets get real and open the season on lions and not bow down to political interest groups (grow a pair).

**ID: 1907**

Please keep the drawing the same way it is.

**ID: 1922**

So I have begun to realize South Dakota Residents and hunters have no say in controlling the mountain lion population. I have noticed the deer population, especially mule deer, dropping significantly in the past 7 years. Funny thing is that I have seen an increase in mountain lion tracks and kills in my hunting area. Mountain lions should be in the same category as coyotes. If you see one you should shoot it. There is no gain for any of South Dakota's wildlife except for the mountain lions themselves by letting them run rampant. Control them. Put the mountain lions on the back of big game tags like coyotes with all the money hunters invest into our big game hunting it is sickening to know these cats are ruining our wildlife. The hunters of South Dakota should make this decision not politicians and animal rights groups. Does someone have to die before this problem is realized?

**ID: 1925**

Black Hills deer hunting is at an all time low for me. Low deer numbers and high lion numbers. I know you think that the youth deer hunters are shooting a lot of the does in the hills. I have gone with friend's lion hunting and have found lots of lion killed deer. If game and fish want to help out the sportsman they will try harder to get rid of more lions. The biologist need to get off of there ego trip and admit there

are more lions in the hills. 2010 forty lions in forty days, 2011 they are well on the way to reach the 1 lion per day. That is with no dogs. The lions are making the elk hunting hard also. I would think you would want to get rid of lions so the deer, elk, big horn sheep and mountain goat numbers up. GF&P spends lots of money on mountain goats and big horn sheep and we can only hunt big horns. Any ways get rid of some lions and when I say some I mean all but 15. That would be about right. You would not have to send out surveys so hunters can tell you how poor the hunting is in the Black Hills.

**ID: 1951**

Victoria Lake road vicinity more larger bucks than previous years but fewer does and fawns. NO mountain lion tracks observed in snow. Horse Creek Burn up Horse Creek Road only a single spike buck observed but more than normal number of does and fawn. Many fawn twins as well. Mountain lion tracks observed in snow. Bear Gulch Road, average deer number and mountain lion buried gut ball and tracks observed on each of two days of hunting.

**ID: 1973**

Keep up the good work, our state's wildlife, fish and natural resources depend on solid scientific information and professional management. The mountain lion population is still too high for the available habitat. They have had a decided impact on the deer herd in the Black Hills. Too few buck licenses are sold in the Black Hills. Killing bucks does not affect the overall population.

**ID: 1982**

This season, I saw fewer deer and more hunters than usual.

**ID: 1997**

It seemed to me that deer numbers were down this year.

**ID: 2034**

Mountain lion population is killing off our deer. What good are any lions in the Hills? Just another predator, we don't want!

**ID: 2074**

Close more roads so there is not much road hunting.

**ID: 2098**

I have hunted Black Hills deer for 60 plus years and my biggest concern is the low population in Limestone Area. Areas close to town seem to have an abundance of deer and outlying areas are low. I feel harvesting does in those outlying areas be discontinued!

**ID: 2120**

I don't understand why seasons change to any antlerless deer after the main season or basically after the rut. Technically you are killing two deer if you kill a pregnant doe. How are you going to get the deer numbers up if you do that?

**ID: 2202**

I am disappointed with the current tag draw. Some people draw every year; I received tags every other year.

**ID: 2225**

Landowners in the Black Hills should not get a bull tag every year. If they have an elk problem they should get cow only tags, for 9 years and then a bull tag for the 10<sup>th</sup> year. They should have to hunt the elk on their land or area. I think there are too many lions, because I think the Black Hills deer population is way down. You people have a difficult job trying to please everyone, and I think you do a very good job!

**ID: 2229**

Until the opportunity to draw a license is equalized the system (and this survey) is a JOKE! South Dakota is rapidly developing hunting on the European model. If you can afford pay hunting, you hunt otherwise you can watch the high rollers take all the game. Hunting skills that once were passed down through generations in families and hunting crews are being lost "mentoring" to the contrary. Unless the application process is changed and soon, South Dakota may as well start catering to the non-resident hunter who can afford to pay more than the locals or is it really just about more money for the GF&P?

**ID: 2236**

I had a deer license this year but due to a health problem could not hunt the whole season (rupture of the aorta). I called GF&P about this and was advised by Shon Eide to send my complete license along with a statement by my doctor about my operation and health condition. I did this and was advised by Mr. Eide that I would not lose my preference on the deer drawing this year. I appreciate this and will be applying again!

**ID: 2265**

I haven't seen GF&P wardens in this county for the whole nine years I have hunted here. I have witnessed a lot of road hunting in the Nemo, SD area which leads me to believe there is probably illegal shooting of deer in the area. It would be nice to see wardens patrolling the area better.

**ID: 2279**

Too many deer in cities need more licenses!

**ID: 2282**

I have hunted the same area all six times that I came to SD's Black Hills. This is the first time I was surprised by how the population had grown. The problem I did see was the majority were small deer. At one point I had 25 deer walk past me in a row not one was a buck. Years ago we did not see many deer but the ones we did get were larger and had bigger racks. I am curious if the way you managed the herd has changed.

**ID: 2310**

I think the limited license quota thing works well, but the average age class of bucks is still only 3 ½ years, which is better than the early years when there were an unlimited number of licenses given out. People still have to let the 3 ½ years go to get 4 ½ to 5 ½ trophy class 140 – 150 inch bucks but Black Hills hunting improved since I started in 1982.

**ID: 2370**

Normally hunt Thanksgiving week, but we encountered Christmas tree hunters every place we went.

**ID: 2374**

Please don't ever let wolves get established here or ever a foothold. I live in the center of the Black Hills, a very rural area, almost remote area and have seen what the mountain lion population has done to the elk, deer and turkey populations in my area! I have not seen a porcupine or skunk in the area for 17 – 20 years, you know why. I have close friends in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana and I know for sure what wolves have done there. Some areas elk herds are down over 80 percent and recoupment rates are at an unsustainable level! Try to find a moose in some of their original and best habitat areas, they are practically whipped out! I don't think the SD GF&P ever wants to go through what the game departments in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana are going through now! Kill more god damned mountain lions in the Black Hills; let's bring the deer and elk back! The wolves are already here. I have friends and neighbors who have seen and heard them. These people are not stupid; they know what a wolf looks and sound like. Thank you for letting me vent and offers my opinions.

**ID: 2383**

The Black Hills are one of the most satisfying things I allow myself. The people are great. Nicest game wardens I've ever met.

**ID: 2387**

Make it harder for out of state hunters to get buck tags.

**ID: 2512**

I still believe that there should be a size limit to the bucks harvested. There seemed to be more deer and larger bucks when a two points or larger size was enforced. I also believe mountain lions are taking a larger number of deer and elk than the

department projects. There were also fewer elk in the area I hunt in. I don't mind not getting a license every year if there are more and larger animals to hunt. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

**ID: 2519**

It takes forever to get an elk tag in the Black Hills. I understand mountain lions are eating elk calves, therefore the number of licenses have gone down. We don't need even one mountain lion in the Hills, they serve no purpose. Stop lying about them and let's get rid of them. My son couldn't even shoot a mule deer in the Hills for his youth tag because some game warden advised against it because the number of mule deer is down in the Black Hills. Mountain lion problem? I think so, get rid of mountain lions before we have the same problem Montana/Wyoming people have with wolves. They really suck!

**ID: 2541**

Issue more mountain lion tags.

**ID: 2587**

I applied for and received a whitetail any deer license for the Black Hills because there were more tags available. Most deer that I saw while hunting were mule deer with some nice bucks in the area.

**ID: 2658**

Designate "walk in" or wilderness areas maybe the Jasper fire area for example. Close some roads during hunting seasons. These animals are even stressed which minimizes their chance for survival in the winter. Road closures have worked well in areas such as Montana's long pines units.

**ID: 2696**

I still am not seeing very many deer. Too many lions? I think so. What a beautiful area we get to hunt in and not have to kiss any landowners butts! Can't put a dollar value on that now, can you?

**ID: 2726**

Need to reduce number of antlerless tags. Need to allow more mule deer buck tags. Increase number of whitetail buck only tags.

**ID: 2773**

Question 2, number of points, 4 points on one side, other side was gone, probably broke off in velvet.

**ID: 2788**

Black Hills is now producing some excellent sized bucks. Almost daily, I see a large whitetail buck. I also prefer to walk while hunting. I like difficult terrain. I rarely run a crossed another hunter or even their tracks in the snow. From my many

years of hunting the Black Hills, the recent years are the best for overall experience. Keep up the good work!

**ID: 2797**

Most of the deer stay close to populated areas because of lions. Very few deer further away from civilization.

**ID: 2798**

I prefer the application process the way it is without combining it with East and West River deer.

**ID: 3140**

Saw lion tracks almost every time I hunted in the snow and jumped 2 different lions alive. Found 8 to 10 lion kills of deer and 2 elk. I grew up in the Hills only saw 2 quality (140+) whitetails, way too many lions. I would like to see buck only three point or better or some other rules to get more trophy bucks. I did circle and was twice tracked in my tracks by a lion. Did see 1 160+ buck couldn't get a shot. Snow up north is too much after first week of season, the last two years. I would like to see two archery tags for statewide West River.

**ID: 3173**

Need to shoot more mountain lions.

**ID: 3214**

There were a lot of road hunters. Even on roads that are closed by the forest service there was a lot of vehicle traffic.

**ID: 3248**

Question 4, Most of the deer I saw were within city limits of Spearfish. Question 5, have you guys ever considered developing walk in game farms located at higher altitudes in the Hills. I feel that the lower game farms get flooded with foot and vehicle traffic during season and this pushes the deer into town or on to private land. By developing game farms higher in the Hills and not close to home it could spread the hunters out and spread the deer out. It seems every time I go hunting on one of the farms close to Spearfish my set up gets ruined by other hunters. Overall hunting in the Hills is great. Thanks for making it possible.

**ID: 3300**

The areas I hunted were close to Rapid City and Sturgis so I don't expect to see many mule deer in this area, which is why I answered too few mule deer.

**ID: 3322**

We are seeing less does and fawns each year we hunt. Is it due to the any deer tags or are we feeding the coyotes and mountain lions?

**ID: 3345**

Although my tag was for the Black Hills, the hunting was done primarily on private land.

**ID: 3368**

My friend and I have always filled out and sent in our applications together. It would be nice if we both got a license. There were times when only 1 license was issued.

**ID: 3443**

I felt the deer numbers are way down. I saw 3 bucks all season, all were level animals, but they were not mature deer. Overall, I was disappointed! I waited 3 years for a license and the deer numbers are not there.

**ID: 3508**

This does not apply to my Black Hills hunt, but my father talked to some landowners in Sully county during his hunt there and it sounds like hunters are not respecting posted signs and are doing some poaching over there. Public lands are awful in Sully. So if hunters ruin hunting for us with private landowners, we don't have much reason to keep hunting out there. I hope this spurs you to start talk to landowners out there, and get this fixed.

**ID: 3539**

I go Black Hills hunting with my father in law and uncle in laws. I think it would be nice if there would be some kind of program that if four guys want tags even if doe tags. That they could give up one year so that in a later year that all four could get their tags. It is just a thought. We don't hunt for horns, just the excuses to go to the hills and see one another.

**ID: 3616**

Most of the deer are around the towns. Hunting in several places is limited. Most ranchers and property owners will allow any type of hunters especially around Spearfish.

**ID: 3621**

I think there are too many lions in the Black Hills thinning the deer population. Let the houndsmen take care of the lion population. I did not see any big bucks.

**ID: 3637**

The mountain lions are killing all of the deer we use to see ten times as many deer. This year was bad!

**ID: 3653**

Keep up the good work!

**ID: 3664**

I along with three others in my hunting group are out of state Black Hills deer hunters. The hunting opportunity is more important to us than harvesting a deer. Out of state whitetail, Black Hills licenses for bucks is about every other year. We have been lucky to get antlerless licenses on the off years. We just enjoy the time, and harvesting of does is not a priority. We would like to continue with a group hunting trip every year.

**ID: 3687**

I live in Minnesota, and have hunted deer for the last twenty years, and there's nothing in Minnesota like the Hills. I enjoyed every minute. I hunted with an old high school buddy and his cousin which are both residents. They really knew their way around and had some nice spots. I definitely would apply for Black Hills deer or whitetail again. Thanks for the experience!

**ID: 3766**

I would like to see more mule deer in the Hills; although the two bucks we did see were mule deer, first time that happened. GF&P does a great job!

**ID: 3849**

For the first time in years, I didn't see many large antlered bucks. I am a meat hunter, so it doesn't bother my hunt, but it was noticeable. I live and hunt the lower Nemo Road area, and there were more does than I could count, so I wrote 30 great years!

**ID: 3882**

Strongly opposed to combining the three deer seasons application process!

**ID: 3957**

Mountain lions are everywhere. Over the past ten years over population has been dropping to the point of very few quality bucks. I see more mountain lion signs than deer. Not sure I will hunt in the Hills next year take my vacation and put 17 to use West River. The mountain lions have ruined the best hunting grounds in the country.

**ID: 3986**

How come there is thousands of elk in the Black Hills, but drawing one is like winning the Mega Millions? I would like to see more tags for Residents and for deer as well.

**ID: 4029**

Mountain lions are really getting too populated in the Hills. Deer, elk, goats, and sheep, are all on the decline. The numbers are not near what they used to be in the Southern Hills. I would like to see the use of dogs for hunting lions and also more tags. I would also like to see the season open during the big game seasons. This

would also generate more tags sold, more money for the state, to spend on conservation.

**ID: 4043**

Question 17, I don't mind other hunters on foot. It's the people who drive around and shoot from the trucks that piss me off.

**ID: 4050**

Not in favor of changing the application process.

**ID: 4074**

Youth season runs until the end of January. It would be nice if you could still get up into the hills until the end of January as well.

**ID: 4084**

Get rid of all the lions in SD.

**ID: 4085**

Hunting in the Black Hills has been very fun and exciting for my family for years! I think GF&P has done an awesome job in managing the wild game in the entire state!

**ID: 4132**

Overall I think the deer management here in SD is very well. You could use a few extra doe tags for larger families to stock the freezers. I have four kids and the first one will be able to hunt next year. Doe tags are too expensive for stocking freezers.

**ID: 4151**

This is the first year that I had seen so many signs of mountain lions, including dead carcasses of deer. This indicates to me that there is getting to be too many lions in the hills.

**ID: 4212**

I hunt private ground 300 acres 3 miles West of Spearfish with a paved highway on one side and gravel road on the other. During the deer season people scout deer on the land daily with the hopes of something crossing the fence so they can shoot. I view this as un-sportsmanship. What challenge is this? They go as far as sitting in the ditches with their bows hoping the deer will leave our bean fields such a sad sight.

**ID: 4360**

Love to hunt the Hills. Hope to get my tag every year. You are doing a very good job.

**ID: 4422**

How about having the West Rive and East River seasons start the same weekend so it isn't so crowded with East River hunters out West.

**ID: 4429**

There were a lot of deer back in the 70's, 80's, 90's and early 2000. I shot quite a few (trophy bucks). Today there are very few deer around. There just aren't as many as there should be. I hunted this year (a little) in Elk Creek and Custer Crossing areas; there were more deer here where they were logging.

**ID: 4485**

Place mountain lions in furbearer category with unlimited quota. There are way too many. Plenty of bobcat's around the way they are managed.

**ID: 4499**

Wish it was easier to get mule deer license for non-residents.

**ID: 4504**

Thank you all for your efforts in conservations for the future use of our recreational hunting and fishing opportunities! I think you could have given more clarification on questions 23 and 24 to receive more info back (what is the plan, do other states do things similar, and when would this be implemented). That said I am sure you though it through, I simply wanted to add my suggestion. Thanks again.

**ID: 4585**

Enjoyed ourselves in your state and plan on coming back!

**ID: 4627**

The only thing I would improve would be signs to differentiate between private and public grounds. Some places are marked very well and others not so much. Perhaps larger or brighter signs may work as I did not see some of the others. The ones used to mark walk in areas for West River deer hunting are a good example.

**ID: 4642**

Otherwise love Black Hills deer trip when I get drawn for a tag.

**ID: 4656**

I think all South Dakota hunters should get a tag before non-residents receive theirs.

**ID: 4733**

This was the most disappointing deer season I have ever hunted! I had West River and Black Hills licenses and saw a total of 8 (and probably the same ones more than once).

**ID: 4753**

There were many days we never even saw any deer in the woods we were just lucky to get our black tail doe.

**ID: 4755**

Too many questions/ wasting tax dollars

**ID: 4759**

I hunted in the Black Hills in the 1970's. Quality of bucks is much better now than then, I believe there too be an over abundance of does. In my observation buck to doe ration was 1 to 7 ½.

**ID: 4763**

For a guy like me who hunts to provide meat for his family, I am in strong favor of reviewing the system so that people get at least one tag. Last year I applied for 3 tags and received none. This made it quite difficult for our family. We rely on that meat. I would also be in favor of a system where when receiving preference points would draw first, on exclusive drawing, and then non-preference point applicants would then draw ensuring that a person does not miss a tag for years. Thanks you for reading my comments.

**ID: 4767**

I noticed that there were many mountain lion tracks in the area where I was hunting and I think that the deer population in this area is decreasing.

**ID: 4784**

On page 5 question 13 you can't answer with just one. You can't go to the Black Hills and have fun with friends or family without enjoying the beauty of the Hills. On the last question is hard to answer because (my opinion) not everyone will fill their tags were they hunt. I've had antlerless tags and never even seen a doe or yearling. Just bucks or a buck only, didn't see them either. If you put in for East, West and Black Hills you still might not get one at all. I live in my county my whole life and when I put in for the first time, I should have gotten any deer or antlerless. It took 5 years to get any deer tag. I think that was wrong. If you put in for a county for the first time ever you should get it before a person who had it a lot before. Back in the 70's West river you had to wait 2 years to put in to get a tag, same with antelope. Understand it's going to take a long time to get it right.

**ID: 4786**

I would favor a 3 point or better rule to promote bigger bucks in the Black Hills. I would like to see lower number of mountain lions in the Black Hills since they hurt the deer population. There seems to be too many homes being build any more out there. Everywhere you go now there is a house. This make a guy want to pre-scout the area well before even going out to hunt it, adding to the cost of the hunt. I was very upset when Officer J. Keaton lied to our face, about what we had or hadn't done, when questioning a friend about shooting a deer near a road. Everything we

did was legal; if it hadn't been legal he would have written up a citation. This event was enough to ruined our last hunt in the Black Hills. I also lost my respect for Game Wardens after being lied to like that.

**ID: 4840**

I feel hunters should have more chances to get a license specially elk and big game. I would like to see something that pin points were you can hunt prairie dogs. I can never can find a place to hunt prairie dogs.

**ID: 9999**

Cut down on tags. 3 point minimum shoot more lions. GF&P should help out the outdoorsmen and shoot off some lions so we can have a good Black Hills deer season. Run lions with dogs if you mad a draw for 10 tom lions that you can run with dogs and sell the tags for \$200, I think you will have lots of applications. Run that season in December so you won't have people with lion tags going with and shooting females. Then run the same hunt in January and February. Lions are a large reason for our poor Black Hills deer and elk populations. Cut the tags down and shoot the lions!

**Appendix E.** Black Hills deer hunter's optional comments to the Internet survey (2010).

ID	Comments
226	We have too many CATS in the hills! Numbers for elk have to be down as I didn't even see any this year. I'm to the point of going out of state to hunt because I can't seem to draw tags and when I do and spend quality time hunting there's nothing worth shooting. If I have to pay for a hunt, it won't be in the state I live in and support already! Give all the tags to land owners so they can sell them to out of state hunters, because you know that I and other people who don't own a or can afford to purchase a 160 acres on the average pay for this state need a tag, but we way out number them in the voting booth. Don't bother replying as I know you don't really care about my opinion anyway.
232	I believe the wildlife in South Dakota are for residents of our state first, non-resident to apply for leftovers only. Increase tag prices if you must, but give South Dakotans first chance.
233	Suggest an 'early doe only' season.
234	Too few deer, need to do something with the growing mountain lion and wolf populations. Prairie hunting is limited by land owners, too much paid hunting taking precedence over resident hunting. Close BLM lands or grass lands to ranchers who do not allow other than paid hunters in. Can not get permission unless you are rancher's family members or paid hunter.
235	We didn't see very many deer in Lake county while hunting. I have heard reports from other counties that include: Lake, Miner, Kingsbury, and so on that have had problems finding deer during the hunting season. We believe that the deer numbers are down and GFP game wardens should consider cutting the number of tags issued for East river deer rifle season for the next year.
238	The past two years there has been a very noticeable decrease in the deer population in the area that I hunt in the northern Black Hills.
239	Since changing to the lottery system for Black Hills buck tags (any tag now), I have only drawn two tags for any deer. I have only missed one application year. I have lost preference points by applying w/ others w/ fewer or no preference points. Even with the loss of preference points, I think it is ridiculous I cannot get an any tag. I know some hunters from Minnesota, a group of 10 guys, that draw every-other year to every third year. Yet over the years since the lottery process started for Black Hills deer, I should've been able to draw a license once in a while. It appears that the SD GFP would rather collect the higher fee from non-resident tags than the local tags. I have been hunting since I was 12 years old and would often go out hunting w/ my father prior to that. I am highly disappointed I cannot get an any tag. I am almost to the point of not even hunting anymore in SD and going to other states. The main reason is my children who are 7 and 9 love to go out hunting with me. They both express their desire to hunt once they are of age. Maybe I will take them to WY, CO or MT. I would have a better chance of drawing a license in those states than I do here. I have relatives in the three states and know numerous hunters that frequently apply to their deer and elk seasons. They are amazed I cannot draw a tag here and are encouraging me to apply with them. If I cannot get a tag here, I may just join them and stop hunting locally all together.
256	Spent days walking, driving, and sitting in tree stands; no method provide lots of deer sightings. Saw more deer in city limits after I finished hunting then saw in the hills. Deer numbers are down even from last year and are considerably down from five years ago (last time I drew a tag). I have better luck archery hunting the edge of city limits. I put in for five years to draw an any deer tag (knowing there wouldn't be many mule deer) but I could not believe how few whitetails I saw. We own land in west river, and this year I had to buy two doe tags just to get a buck tag. Although killing does is great for herd management, I feel that

	<p>it should be the landowners responsibility to decide if he needs to buy extra doe tags or not. I guess if you keep having to decrease the number of black hills deer tags each year then you have to make up the monetary loss somewhere. You might as well make black hills deer tags be over the counter again. I don't see how it could hurt the deer population any more as it is already in a horrible state.</p>
257	<p>I don't mind only drawing a BH deer tag every 4 or 5 years. However, 5 years ago when I hunted BH, I saw 40-50 deer every day. This year, I only saw 2 deer on one day and 13 another. One day I walked approx 4 miles of Centennial Trail and only saw two tracks!!!. The second day drove over 130 miles of forest road just scouting to see if any area had better populations. Plenty of deer in city limits. Saw 50 deer in Hill City (in town) right before daylight. Saw 50 deer on edge of Deadwood one night. The mountain lions have ruined the BH hunt. It has also ruined the Wyoming side from the stories I've heard around Buelah. They at least got to kill 40 in one unit and 24 in another (they did this w/ the help of dogs in only a few days!!!). With the only deer left hiding in the city limits, it's no wonder every one living on the edge witnesses several lion sightings. What will happen when these deer are gone? I guess maybe there will be some elk before they start on people. In Jones County we are also seeing lions every year that are being pushed out of the BH. Guess we can look forward to our deer populations decreasing also. GET SMART, if 40 mt lions in the BH are being called in w/ rabbit squeels, maybe it is telling you that there are far more than you think! I'm interested in your comments.</p>
263	<p>I waited 4 years for my Black Hills deer tag and drew it this year but was unable to go due to unforeseen circumstances. It seems in the years past that a BH deer tag was a given so I am unsure why I havent been able to draw a tag for 4 years. I assume it is due to an increase of hunters applying for the tags? I hunt turkeys in the spring and fall in the Hills and it seems to me that the deer numbers are relatively high (I usually hunt in the Pleasant Valley area south of Custer) with more does than bucks being seen in the spring and fall. I am not exactly sure if I answered the question pertaining to the combining of the WR, ER and BH deer seasons as it didnt seem the questions were clear to me. I do not like the idea of combining the seasons if it is going to decrease my odds of getting a tag for each season, but if it will increase my odds of getting a tag for each season, I am all for it. Hope this is beneficial. Thanks~ Mark Larson Castlewood, SD</p>
281	<p>i strongly disagree with the combined hunting licenses, i think sd is one of few states that allows you to have several different buck tags in the same year i think it should stay that way!!</p>
282	<p>To be honest, I've been very happy with the way things are set up. Some years, I don't get the tag I want, but I almost always get a tag, and I'm happy with whatever I get. If I don't get the buck tag, then I know next year I'll have a better shot at it. It makes things more exciting, and it always helps me to look to the future of hunting in this great state.</p>
284	<p>The deer license application process should be left the way it is now. By allowing applicants to purchase preference points if they only want to hunt for bucks it allows that individual a better chance to get a buck tag every other year in each area. (Roughly) So if you don't want to shoot a doe at all, buy a preference point and skip that season, get a buck tag for west river one year and buy points for east river and black hills, the next year get a buck tag east river and buy points for west river and black hills the 3rd year get a black hills buck tag and buy points for west river and east river. By doing this you are almost sure to get one buck tag a year, almost. Or, buy the Special Buck License every year and be able to hunt state wide. We are blessed by having 3 opportunities every year to hunt deer, alot of states have one rifle season and one tag per hunter. No one should feel that they have to shoot 3 bucks every year to be successful. Being a hunter means you enjoy the hunting more than the killing and that is why you are out there in the first place, to hunt. If hunting only means killing the biggest or the most then there are places you can go and pay to shoot the biggest and as many of whatever</p>

	you want. Do that, and leave the wild deer hunting to those that love being out hunting.
294	hit wrong number on 1 ? I did kill 4+4 I hunted only 5 days
298	You don't need to harvest does in the black hills - please stop. I saw the deer numbers in the mid and late 60's. You have a lot of room to increase numbers. Increase mountain lion tags. Quit building roads into the mountains. Increase water management along streams, leave beaver alone, let them do what they do best, provide water habitat. Increase controlled burns and encourage the feds to increase timber sales. East river deer hunting could be enjoyable if you could stop the chasing and shooting of game from vehicles. Stop road hunting completely. I would never favor a state wide deer tag combining Black Hills with anything else. Very bad idea. Thanks for your hard work in helping manage game in South Dakota
300	Even though I had a doe tag just so I could carry a rifle while hunting with a friend, I chose not to shoot a doe due to the few we saw outside of city limits where we hunted. Even though we saw few bucks, we saw better ones than years past. Thank you for the opportunity, my friend got a nice one.
313	Not in favor of combining applications for deer seasons, think the present system is far enough. Would like to see the Black Hills season go to shooting Bucks with 3 points or more to allow the younger deer to mature.
316	Has there been any thought to providing a life time hunting/fishing license? I grew up in SD and really enjoy all the hunting opportunities and outdoor opportunities that the state has to offer. Unfortunately due to jobs I pretty much had to leave the state. The out of state license fees are intimidating for a once resident who wants to come back and hunt with family and friends especially if he would like to hunt much more than does. Regards, Benjamin Good benjamin.good@emerson.com
318	i black hills hunt because its mostly public the public on the prairie is very crowded and not many deer. 90 percent of the deer are found on private land and is hard to get permission i think if its no hunting it should be for all north dakota is that way it works their
320	My time in the forest during the B. Hills season was limited due to the fact I harvested a deer early the first morning i was able to hunt. Of our regular group, only 2 of us drew a license this year, virtually eliminating our "traditional" B. Hills hunt. As a consequence, my survey included several "no opinion" selections, due to a lack of in field experience. I will add as a personal observation based upon 4 days W. River season, another 5 elk hunting, 1 day hunting antelope and 3 days of pheasant season that i believe the deer numbers are down across the board. I know it is not due to mountain lions, because they are not common to the areas I participate in W. River, antelope and pheasant hunts. In my opinion, the wet, cold springs with late winter storms in '08, '09 and '10 have impacted herd numbers. The same weather conditions had an impact on domestic livestock under the supervision of the ranchers, herders and farmers, and certainly impacted wildlife that had no protection from the elements, cold and exposure.
332	I really enjoyed the Black Hills hunt this year, I noticed a lot less people hunting from their pick-up trucks then in the past seasons! much safer and quieter.....Looking forward to the next season.....Steve
338	if its not broke don't fix it.
341	The GFP made a mistake and gave me a license on landowner pref and then called 2 days before the season and had me send it back!! This was a computer error but more notice would have been appreciated!! I did not apply for landowner pref on a BH deer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
343	Lowest deer numbers I remember. I'm to the point now that I would feel guilty harvesting a deer or elk in the black hills for the sake of their population. Is it better for me or the lions to harvest the game in the Black Hills? This is a question you as managers of our game should ask yourselves. Are you for the cure of our deer and elk herds or are you for the disease? As a

	cattle rancher/livestock manager I was raised to always be for the cure of my stock. It looks like I'm starting to fight a new disease that will start preying on my stock or already has. That disease has been plaguing our deer and elk herds lately and is starting to spread fast. I'm ready to fight for the cure of my stock! Looks like you guys let the the disease work you over to much for to long.
344	Keep it up with the deer decoys maybe the roadhunters will eventually get it! Thanks to GFP. You guys do a great job I just wish there ere more of you in problem counties like Marshall
346	East river rifle deer should not open until December. Let them rut before getting tipped over by the masses of rifle hunters. West River Deer should somehow avoid the peak of the rut - maybe a split season? 1st season= last week in October, 2nd season Late November.
350	Cut the tags back and go back to a 2 point or better rule.
352	I really miss being able to pick up a Black Hills deer tag each year. it was a nice tradition that was broken with the need to apply. I realize that it was done to limit the number of licenses which is a good thing however it really ended a tradition we had carried on for many years and cut into a lot of income coming into the Black Hills when our group of about 12 guys could no longer make an annual trek to the BHills together. I started hunting when I was 19 in teh Black Hills which was 32 years ago. I'm not sure how many tags I have actually had? I missed being draw two years in a row a while back. I would like you to consider increasing the number of in state BHills tags and reduce the number of out of state tags. I realize this cuts into GF&P income but it is starting to become more like the elk tags and becoming a treasure when you draw a tag. I didn't see as many quality bucks as I did the last time I had a BHills tag two years ago.
353	Lot of deer in the hills, many people complain that they cannot find them because they aren't stupid, you put in your time and you'll see good bucks and not every hunt ends with a nice one, but its all about the experience
362	I was not able to hunt west river this year but helped family and friends in unit 27a the quality and numbers have been so low its almost rediculous the amount of tags issued in this unit, a point restriction could be used in both 27a and the black hills to help quality and fewer tags to rebuild the population. This is my home stomping grounds and the good days of hunting here are surely over unless somthing is done very few opportunites to harvest mule deer and over hunting public land has had adverse impact on herd quality in the edgemont area especially. Just some thoughts a point restriction would deff. be beneficial as a serious cut in tags!
364	Block off more roads to cut down on the number of people that just drive the roads to hunt.
368	The deer population is much healthier than portrayed. I was a resource manager in the BH for 20 years and have a good handle on population dynamics. The buck doe ratio is as good as I have seen it since 1980.
370	The thing I like most about the drawing process for licenses right now is that I have a chance to get a large amount of west river bucks, a very large amount of does, and about every other year I get a Black Hills deer. What I am saying is, I like the large amount of licenses all together that I can get. It allows me to shoot more deer. If I get more than one buck tag, I can be a little bit more slack and won't necessarily try for a trophy buck. I will shoot a smaller buck because there is a chance that my next one will be bigger. Thanks
372	We rotate west river and black hills deer each year by purchasing pref points. This year we hunted hills then next we should get our prairie tags with pref points. This system works well for us. We always get hills or prairie but never both. and hunt every year.
373	I think you guys are doing a great job of managing the deer in the Black Hills, keep up the good work.
374	South Dakota needs to mangage for Quality deer. Not just trying to receive the most money

	from hunters that is possible. Separating Any Deer and Whitetail deer tags in the Black Hills is the smartest move EVER.
375	Too many Lions!
379	I like be able to hunt the Black Hills during thanks giving time and hunt west river the weeks before that I then hunt muzzleloader deer. All hunts are important to me and do not like thought of only being able to choose one of those.
383	Although I had limited time in the woods during the Black Hills hunting season, I have a strong opinion that the mountain lion population is affecting the deer and elk population in a dramatic way. I have come to this conclusion by spending a lot of my time, other than hunting seasons, in the woods of the Black Hills. I have found lion kills and evidence of previous lion kills. These areas definitely show a decline in the elk and deer population. I appreciate the fact that you have increased the number of lions allowed to be harvested. When was the last time you observed a porcupine in the Black Hills? My opinion is that their population has been significantly impacted by mountain lions.
400	Glad to see GF&P looking at alternatives to the current deer drawing system! I've been preaching a one season preference for years...where have you guys been? Each person should have to decide which unit they really want to hunt and apply for that unit.Way too many people have deer tags in East River,West River and the Black Hills while others get none.This has been very unfair! I live in the Hills,I dont want an East River tag and I'll gladly forgo a West River tag IF I can have my Black Hills tag.I've talked to alot of people who agree with me.My friends and I hunt where we live,in the years we dont draw Hills rifle tags...we dont rifle hunt. On a related topic,why cant we draw earlier in the year like other states? When I dont draw the tags I want here I would like to be able to try for some out of state tags...SO I CAN HUNT SOMEWHERE! Results of this survey will be very interesting.
401	I think that the point restriction in the Black Hills helped the bucks to grow larger and see at least 1 to 2 years more growth before harvest. My opinion is that the Black Hills deer population should be regulated with point restrictions and limited licenses, also larger blocks of land with restricted vehicle travel should be set up to create more refuge areas to relieve some of the hunting pressure on the deer.
405	The Black Hills offers excellent hunting opportunities for trophy deer. I get discusted with hunters that shoot smaller 2 year olds and throw away the horns and give away the meat( to the dogs) just so they can say they shot a buck. Manage the herds for the true sportsman.Though I shot my deer the first day I spent 3 months scouting, trail cams, hiking and planning before the kill. It was not out the window of a vehicle and we butcher and eat everything we hunt- unlike so many. People who cannot give the animal the respect they deserve should not get tags and deprive those who care. Somehow the GFP must differentiate between the hunter and the slob. Make area's 4 point or better or buy a doe tag "cheaper" for the meat hunter or youth hunter. We need stricter enforcement of road hunting in the hills.
408	You need to go back to a buck only tag with a point restrictions and get rid of the all the any deer tags for the Black Hills area. The number of quality busk has gone way down sinse the tags were changed a few years back. Now days if you one or two quality busk that is a good season. Before you almost always see a quality buck every few days. There needes to be a buck only tag and doe only tag!
409	I do not know if the deer herds are down to mountain lions or disease, but it is very visible. I do not road hunt. I am very aggressive and do a lot of walking. I found 3 mountain lion kills 2 cow elks west of hill city and on small bull near pactolla. track indicated a mountain lion. There was no bone damage from a rifle or an arrow head. I would love to see the Game and Fish do an email that asked hunters hunters to pay \$10.00 and supplement block will be provided by the amount of donations will determine how many block will be handed out. You

	can bid this out, or I will have my company Biofusion make these blocks at cost plus labor cost only. I believe we can increase deer herd making them more resistant to disease, increase herd health and antler growth. Hunters that donated will pick up how many blocks are at that are available and place blocks that hunters that could not place. So the Game and Fish would have almost zero labor and this would also bring family members to walk in Dad or Mom favorite hunting area. There will be some areas that have overlapping spots, but the nutrients that will be provided will help insure hunting for years to come. Plus it's a great campaign to increase the economy from non-resident hunters and total awareness of South Dakota as a great state. This would be something never done by any other state. I know the game and fish department has a limited staff, but it is so sad that if you live in Rapid City you have to drive over an hour or two just to hunt pheasants. Reintroduce birds even if the birds are not to be hunted.
410	Need better control on the number of deer living in the cities and not only harvest the does but control the number of bucks. I feel that the GF&P does not tell the truth on the Mt. Lion population and the true impacts on all the animals in the outdoors. The number of Mt. Goats are slim to none and you can not find a porcupine in the Hills. Just tell all the facts.
413	I really appreciate the GF&P in this state. You actually want to know what the hunter wants! I used to live in MN and the DNR is anti-hunter there. I have only been checked three times in SD by game wardens, and each time the officer was very polite and easy to talk to. You guys are doing a great job!
414	I had a good year, I really like that a buck is 2 points or better. The problem is that I am handicapped and with the new road restrictions I am unable to get to the area I want to hunt. This includes school land, grasslands National and State. I feel that I am losing my hunting privileges due to being handicapped and not being able to walk over 50 yards. Please contact me about a way I can still do the one thing that I really love to do either alone and with young hunters.
415	We rotate West River and Black Hills every other year. We then usually get a tag each year for one or the other. We put in for preference point for the next year. This system works out well for us.
422	I think you should consider overlapping the Lion and Deer seasons in the Black Hills, so that deer hunters have a better opportunity to harvest a lion.
429	I have long believed in and trusted the recommendations by the wildlife staff of the SD Game Fish and Parks. These men and women, many of whom are hunters, are outdoorsmen and conservationists. Their recommendations to the commission are sound and rooted in field experience and science. I am proud to be a tool to help in the management of deer here in South Dakota. While I like a big set of antlers as much as the next hunter I have never hesitated to fill my doe tags, I often take home, or donate to the Sportsman Against Hunger program, 3-5 does each year for every set of antlers I harvest. It is an important part of good management, and my family and friends love them on the dinner table.
439	Opening weekends (Black Hills- West River- and if you can imagine archery) GFP needs to be out in full force to stop and punish all the road hunters. More checkpoints more stops. It's out of control in this state, a good hunter can get in the woods an hour before prime time. Then here they come for hours circling never getting out of their vehicles. I hunt a ton and never once saw a GFP officer this year??? Also it's time to start a system that works for private land. Post your gates and the corners of your property, too many ranchers and special interest groups are abusing the school land and BLM land. How can it be that its land locked and worthless to any type of hunting. Look to our neighbors to the north, CRP works and so does their posting system. Lastly while you cut back Black Hills tags this year, I guess that was fine. How did you miss the West River population being so low (Mule Deer and Whitetail)? After many storms, hail, and snow storms the last couple years the numbers are way down. Stop the double doe tags and stop anyone from getting more than one set of West River tags.

445	<p>This had to be the worst year for observing numbers of deer, either whitetail or muley, buck or does. I have hunted the same areas for a number of years and am seeing a reduction in numbers for the last 3 years. I hunted new areas late in the season and even though I saw a few more deer, I was still disappointed in the numbers. Although I did not see any lions this year, I did observe 2 while hunting last year, one being collared and tracking me while I walked out of the timber to a road. While I realize that it is extremely difficult to satisfy all hunting wants and needs, I believe something has to be done to increase the numbers to a point where they were a few years back. I have been blessed with a Hills tag for years and years and entirely enjoy the opportunity to hunt the Hills. It would be really fulfilling to once again observe the number of deer I used to see while doing my walks through the forest. My own personal opinion is that mountain lions are taking the deer population down. While I know there is a lot of controversy on this subject, I speak as a very serious and dedicated hunter who has spent the last 45 years hunting in the Hills and I believe that I have a little bit on knowledge on the ups and downs of the deer population. Thanks for letting me have the opportunity to "voice" my opinions, and thanks for your continued effort to improve the hunting opportunities in the Hills. Cliff Dahl Rapid City</p>
457	<p>I would strongly encourage the SD GFP department to consider a couple points. Number 1. Because the State Revenue and the numbers of those applying for hunting season continues to decline, it seems clear to me that you need to get more people interested in this wonderful sport by opening up more licenses. For example: Rather than issuing 400 double tags at 45.00 per Double License, It would make better sense to have a single tag Any Deer license available to 600 applicants. There are several reasons for adopting this strategy.. A. More applicants would received deer tags, B... More Hunters means more State Revenue through the means, of license fees, gas, hotels, clothing, ammuniton, etc...C Less animals are suspect to waste in Freezer, D. More hunters favors the likelihood of seeing more deer as well as encouraging more families to apply together thereby increasing a favorable attitude towards hunting. E. Game numbers are likely to be better managed unit by unit. Number 2. These surveys are suspect to personal interest and interpretation of what a quality buck or hunting experience looks like. I would strongly encourage the SD GFP, Biology Managers, and the state department of Revenue to consider the approach of having a County by County "Deer Check-In" Stations. (similar to the Ohio Department of Wildlife's approach to measuring the deer herd and hunter impact) Several reasons for including this strategy are: A. A true quantitative measurement can be taken county by county, number of points, etc. B. Areas/units of concern can be quickly identified as having a declining population of deer or increasing disease presence. C All deer checked in would receive a ID band for those that would be taxidermied in SD. D. Any participating Gas Stations and C-Stores who are registered as a State Game Check In Station could recieve a Tax Benefit or some small revenue credit. I've seen it work and I know the process literally take less that two minutes to check in a deer. To me, this would create a much better source of information for the State of SD. No one wants to go back to the practice of removing teeth with a \$150.00 knife in 20 degree weather.</p>
460	<p>There are still too many Whitetail does in the Black Hills. The restrictions for the archery and muzzloader seasons limiting the number of tags which can be filled in the Black Hills unit are unnecessary. Living in the Hills now means I have to drive 30-40 miles to harvest additional antlerless deer outside the Black Hills after filling the one (1) allocated antlerless tag for archery and muzzleloader seasons. Please reconsider the restrictions put in place in 2009 limiting the number of antlerless tags that can be filled in the Black Hills.</p>
469	<p>The Black Hills is a large area. It would be nice to see the same harvest data that we see for each unit in ER and WR deer. This data could be by BH unit. (perhaps this is already done and I have not happened upon it)</p>

478	Over the past three years, I have noticed a significant increase in the amount of mountain lion sign I am observing in the woods. I am also observing a decrease in the number of deer. I understand that GFP is trying to manage the lion population effectively through hunting, however I feel that the number of cats is still rapidly increasing. I think that the GFP should consider raising the amount of lions harvested considerably.
481	The only question that I have is why are there so few Mule tags for the Black Hills? I had hunted South of Jewel Cave and viewed 10 times the number of Mule deer verses Whitetail Deer. The only thing I can assume is because of the Mule deer behavior, that they are not the brightest when hunting. Had I had a license for Mule deer I could have shot at 20. Anyway, I am curious. Thanks, Eric
486	would like to see point restriction back to many small ones killed.
487	I think it is really unfortunate that the people residing in the Black Hills aren't able to hunt the hills every year. I grew up in the hills and got to hunt every year, now I am lucky to get a tag every other year and same goes for my sons who I love to share the experience with.
493	If you combine the black hills deer, west river deer, and east river deer for the preferred licenses what would stop east river hunters from saying that the black hills deer license is their most preferred knowing that they can easily get their east river license as a second or third choice? I believe they would be able to do this because there is little to no public land for "outsiders" (black hills/west river residents) to hunt east river so black hills/west river residents wouldn't apply for east river tags. You should consider where a person lives in the system because the east river season does not offer the same opportunities as black hills and west river seasons do.
497	I am a 32 year veteran and love the outdoor hiking that I receive each time I go out to hunt on foot for my game, actually I oppose road or vehicle hunters, they scare the game into a frenzy. I prefer venison and elk over beef or pork, every year I put in for my tags, most years I receive both my West River and Black Hills tag and usually always get my deer if time allows from my work. I am still waiting on my first Black Hills or Custer Park Elk tags, just racking up preference points and already I know of people already getting their second tags. I feel that long time applicants over ten years, should get their first tag before another can receive their second tag after ten years. I use to help other hunters find their elk for many years but had quit doing so a few years back just because of the time and energy I put in to help others (mostly total strangers) fill their tags and I can't even receive my first. I have know of so many people that put their wife or kids in for an elk tag and they get one most every time the first year. That great if you are a large family, but I am single. The question is.. it seems that the only way I am going to be able to receive an elk tag is to either get married and have many kids to apply or become a politician. I have always obeyed the rules and regulations, I have past up some monster bucks that were just standing on the other side of a fence out in the middle of nowhere only to shoot it with a camera so I can show others that there are still some monsters out there yet. Again next year I will apply for my three elk tags, seems like I am only donating each year. As many years that I have applied, I could have already purchased a big-game hunt in another state. Its sad that I can obtain a tag in another state and yet can not get one in my own that I reside in. I will continue to apply for as long as my legs and health will allow me, I would like to see some kind of special preference for those that serve in the military, I do believe that our country at least owes us that much for our time and dedication. Thank you, a US Veteran and Proud of it.
498	I am not interested in shootin a trophy Buck in the Black Hills, however I do favor harvesting a mature buck 4 points or better. I would like to see a season that would support a buck that had a Brow tine in sted of s fork horn of better. I believe due to the late spring snows and mountain loins our deer population is stressed. I miss hunting with groups of friends too. It's challenging to get everyone to draw a tag.

500	Thanks for your hard work
503	I think the cat's are taking fons & elk caves !!
507	I live in an area where I drive by mule deer every morning on my way trying to find a white tail deer. But it has been impossible to draw a mule deer license. I live up on O'Neal Pass, and three or four years ago we would have a yard full of deer in the mornings and the evenings...now we are seeing very few! And there is lion sign all around us. And many of our neighbors have seen lion in this area.
508	Don't try to fix something that isn't broke. Don't change things for the simple sake of changing things. More deer are killed by autos than hunters by far. More deer are killed by lions than hunters in the Black Hills. Try not penalize hunters for something none of us have any control over.
514	Recommendations for BH hunt.. 1. Do not issue any deer licenses, if does in an area need to be managed then issue specific no. of doe licenses. I saw too may does being taken this year because hunters got discouraged by not seeing a buck within a couple of days. 2. Return to the two points or better rule for bucks, it worked great in the past. Makes the hunter hesitate while making a positive ID. Saves a lot of immature deer. 3. Observation: Hunted elk for two weeks (helped a friend) in Deerfield area, very few whitetail sightings. Hunted South of Deerfield during deer season, also observed fewer whitetail. Again, do not shoot the does!!!!
515	1. Need to mangage the deer hurds to make sure we continue to have large bucks. 2. Bucks should be allowed to increase in size. I saw too many small two point bucks being processed.
516	Please do not change the drawing process to make it "more fair" for people to draw preferred licences.The drawing system works just fine as it is, I see no reason whatsoever to change it, there are plenty of oportunities for everyone to hunt without complicating things.
526	black hill deer have good quality bucks now,,, most people i talk to say they believe too many lions in the hills,,, i have never even seen one but believe this to be a problem,,,,deer number on for sure down in some areas,,, we need to allow more lion hunters,,, they are worthless to me and wish the were not in our great state, thank you
530	Just noticed this year more than ever the amount of mountain lion tracks. Spent the majority of my time hunting Gillette Canyon, Mud Springs, Antelope ridge area. It seemed anywhere I went there was lion tracks along trails, roads, and actually had a set cross my path just a hundred yards from my truck. That happened where mud springs and custer limestone roads meet on one of those mornings with fresh snow. Still seen a fair amount of deer and dont bother me seeing the lion tracks but just so many tracks and different locations miles apart. I like the opportunity to hunt the lions, but it looks like to me there are way too many around. I never did see a lion all season but I wasnt to far behind nor where they to far behind me. Thanks.
534	I strongly believe that resident hunters should recieve a tag before non-resident hunters do . I am always very upset when I do not draw a tag and someone from out of state does. It's very upsetting to me to watch those folks hunt in my home state when I can't. I cannot always afford to go out of state to hunt when I do not get a tag at home. I'm not totally against out of state hunters. I just believe that all the differrent tags ( deer and antelope) should be handed out to residents first , and if there are any tags left over after the first draw then those could go to non-residents. I also believe that the preference point system in some drawings needs to be looked at real close. When a person has over 35 years worth of preference points(CSP elk/rifle) and cannot draw a tag , something is wrong with the system. It's not right when a first time hunter draws a tag and the person with 35 years worth of points does not. I also know folks who have never had an elk tag ( out of the park ) with over 10 years preference and can't even draw a left over cow tag while others have had several tags. I consider myself lucky as I have had 2 black hills elk tags and 1 reservation elk tag in my 45 years of hunting. Don't get

	me wrong ! I believe you folks are doing a great job. I enjoy hunting in this state alot ! Keep up the great work!
535	I would favor giving landowner preference to individuals that own property in a specific county, not based upon the number of acres they own but based on the amount of property taxes they pay. This preference would be valid for only the county wherein they own property and reside. I know of specific individuals that own 160 acres or more, but pay less than \$1,000 in real property taxes and receive additional government subsidies from the USDA and several other government agencies. Other residents within the same county pay 5 or 10 times more than this in property taxes, receive nothing from the federal government, but have no preference. In additional very few ag producers pay little if any federal income taxes, and many receive up to 50% of their total gross revenue from government payments thru USDA. Many of the city residents who like to hunt, pay more in real estate taxes and pay substantially more in income taxes, but receive no preference even if they hunt on public land. Meanwhile, the holders of government grazing permits pay substantially less for the economic opportunity to graze public land than if they were to lease the same amount of private land. This appears to be a very inequitable situation, which deserves some attention.
540	Missed a few years due to Military Service. The current system of draw is pretty good. But when someone starts to accumulate more than 3 years preference for a certain deer tag. That starts to wear a persons patients.
545	I hunt the black hills because of access to hunting land. Unfortunately the best west river areas to hunt have become pay hunting situations, and the public land available very, very crowded.
548	Although there have been years I didn't draw any tags, I'm content with the fairness of South Dakota's draw system. The years I failed to draw any tag have been rare. Other years I have enjoyed several tags, which offsets the "dry" periods. I would be opposed to changing to a new preference format for assigning tags. As a side comment, although I favor youth hunting opportunities, I do wonder about the issuance of youth and mentor tags without regard to deer management quotas. It was obvious during some of my hunting experiences this year that deer have been "hunted hard" by youth hunters and archery hunters in advance of the regular firearms seasons. I also question the policy of not allowing scopes on muzzleloaders considering the timing of this season. I support going primitive if the season was set earlier. Thanks.
549	This is the first year I've hunted the hills deer since it became a draw season....it used to be my favorite hunt. Through th eyears I've developed great friends in the West River hunting area and much more prefer to hunt there.....The hills have become too populated with homes and cabins....almost afraid to shoot...might be in someones back yard. I didn't have the time to hunt the hills this year like I wanted to.....couldn't really give the best answers.
550	Your missing Lawrence County on the survey. In general the bucks are getting bigger and if a person knows the area and timing of the rut they can harvest a mature buck. Let the little ones go and wait until the tags expire to go and harvest a doe in the "left over" season for meat purposes. Good ideas. Keep it up and keep it local.
556	Spend considerable time in the Hills and it is alarming the reduction of both deer & Elk in the past 3 years
561	We saw alot fewer deer this year, not sure whats going on but the total number of deer are down. I know you can not control the number that are hit by cars, but we are seeing alot more lions. i think maybe we need to close the season or severly limit the number of license for a few years. This is true in the west river unit south of Custer also.
564	Don't combine seasons. We live in SD for reasons just like these. Were able to hunt several deer and live on wild meat and beef all year long.
567	I like the fact that you are limiting the amount of mule deer tags in the black hills. i would like

	to see alot more mule deer in other areas of the hills. i think there needs to be more mountain lion tags available. as i have talked to some hunters and they are saying some areas are hard to find deer because of the big cats in the area.. i would like to see the black powder hunting return to the black hills area not just ont he prairie units. i lived in the black hills area for years and i believe the mule deer in the black hills are still at a very low number. thanks for your efforts to establish a good hunting experience for all of us hunters.
569	I believe that there should be a better way for a parent to be able to obtain a license when a youth gets a license. There are only a few years that they can enjoy this experience together. And it is not the same when the youth receives a license and not a parent or gardian. My children are grown up now and away from home, so my opinion on this is not bias.
571	I didn't see nearly the number of deer that I normally see southwest of Spearfish. I hunted the day before Thanksgiving, and chose not to hunt the rest of the weekend because of the low number. At first I attributed it to the snow, thinking that the deer had moved down to the flats. However, I saw only two deer where I would normally expect to see dozens. I think the mountain lions have had a severe impact on the deer. Biologists and politicians can say whatever they want, but it is very clear to me that deer numbers are way down. Once the wolves get established, which they will, the elk will disappear, too. Hunting, especially on public land, will become but a fond memory. I think we need to reduce the cat population significantly, and I think we need to allow hounds to be used. I also think South Dakota needs to be very concerned about the re-introduction of wolves. Our Black Hills ecosystem cannot accomodate large numbers of large predators, and still offer quality hunting opportunities for big game.
578	Every year I see more Mountain Lions and more sign of them in the Black Hills and in areas out on the praire along the Belle Fouch River, Red Water River, and the Cheyenne River.
581	Like many things in our society, hunting has become quite complex and more and more regulated each passing year. I like to think I am supportive of managing our wildlife, including deer, for the healthiest populations and for sound, sustainable environmental resources with the practices utilized. Hopefully, all of our management decisions do not further contribute to the degradation of our natural resources, lessen the opportunity to hunt, and ultimately promote the welfare and health of all of us. Sad to say, there are way too many politicians and their political decisions, based on power and greed of the few, dictating how the remainder of us are allowed to play or not play the game, and like it or leave it, that is what it is. Upwards and onwards Monsanto and the like! Best wishes as you push forth with the tax slice allowed for management of our dwindling wildlife resources and their cycles.
586	Hunted southern Hills, was a resident to a couple months ago, seems like lots of deer in southern hills, esp. doe. Thought hunting pressure was ok, I went over Vet., day weekend. noticed a big cut in tag #'s this year, Saw lots of nice bucks couple years ago while elk hunting, and saw a few this year.
587	looking forward to mountain lion hunting trip
588	Get a handle on loggin the black hills. The way the forest service is loggin is destroying inportand deer habitat in the black hills. The forest service is clear cutting importand wintering ground in the northern hills. I have seen the deer population in the northern hills deteriorate significantly in the last 5 years, part because of habitat issue tied to logging and the other reason because of harsh winters. I feel that if logging practices do not change we will see an ireverasable deer population drop off that will take decades to reverse. The #1 most important deer managment fundamental is habitat, without habitat the deer will not be therir, bucks cannot get big because they have no diversity in the forest. GET A HANDLE ON LOGGING
590	I would like to see a separate Black Hills archery license. I seldom hunt west river prairie

	archery, because I want to save the tag for the Black Hills.
591	Black hills deer hunting has been a family tradition for more than 20 years. We have 10 to 12 family and friends who used to go black hills deer hunting every weekend in november. Now only about half of draw a tag, so everybody else just stays home. Now the woods are full a people who just want to kill something, and they shoot the first 2 or 3 point that they see, because they only have one weekend to hunt because they are going to be prairie hunting the rest of the month. I think that changing the application process is an excellent idea, and will help the quality of the black hills deer herd.
592	I think the gfp is doing a great Job
597	I love all types of deer hunting and the challange that it brings. Having said that, hunting in the Black Hills is one of my most favorite types of hunting. It is the only time that my family gets together to hunt. The comradery that this brings is so special. It also presents challenges that we don't have here in eastern SD or even out west. There is something special about the hills and I look forward to going hunting there every year that I can. I would not want to do anything that would limit or hinder the chances of going to the hills nor would I want to limit deer hunting here in eastern SD or even out west. Those deer hunts are also very special to me in there own way and I would not want to have to choose between any of them. I look forward to hunting deer in eastern SD all year long, and I start preparing in spring for the coming years hunt. I would not want to have to choose one that is better than any other, I like them all for different reasons, but most I like being out with family and friends in the great outdoors of SD and that one chance of getting a monster buck!
604	No comment. It doesn't do any good. I've filled out these surveys for years and it never matters. Black Hills hunting, wether it be deer, elk, sheep, goat, or whatever is the worst I've ever seen. But the lion hunting is good I'll give you that.
610	I am an avid hunter. I spend literally hundreds of hours in the field. Our deer and elk population has suffered immensely in the last 4-5 years due to mountain lions. There is hardly a day that goes by when I am in the field in the Black Hills area of Fall River County that you cannot find cat tracks or cat signs in fresh snow. I have talked to numerous biologists and game wardens in many western states that i hunt and they cannot understand what SD GF&P are doing with their cat seasons and the population control. I hope that the GF&P can find a happy medium on this subject. I don't know what you think your numbers are but it wouldn't surprise me that if in Fall River County alone that there are not 30-40 cats alone. I guess if you figure that half of those are adult that is one deer a week per cat. This is my opinion but like I said, I am not your average person that out and about.I spend all of my spare time in the field looking for next years prospects.
611	Southwest corner 27B for WR Deer and 27 for antelope has too many licences (hunters per game) issued. I have hunted this area for 40 years. First day of antelope season saw several antelope but the number of hunters was greater. 2nd trip/first week saw 1 antelope. Second week-2 trips- saw 0 antelope.These were daylight to dusk hunts. WR deer season saw less than 15 deer in 2 daylong hunts; also more hunters than deer.I hunted whitetail does in CSP muzzle season for the third year. I found the deer numbers to be way down in the same areas this year as to the past two years. The BH areas I hunt and hike in have drastically reduced numbers this year continuing a downhill trend for at least the last three years. I am of the opinion there are too many multiple tags issued for all of the seasons. I also believe the mountain lions are taking a tremendous toll.
612	The mountain lion population has unquestionably harmed the game populations in the Black Hills. We also saw a mountain lion while hunting west river in eastern pennington county. Something must be done to counter the negative effects of the mountain lions.
616	The large number of mountain lions is affecting the number of deer and elk. The mountain

	lion population need to decreased.
622	It seems the Black Hills deer have become educated in locating private ground and urban settings where they know they will not be hunted. We have noticed declining observations of elk and deer in the last 4 years. This year was the first year we hunted in early November, if we had waited to hunt later in November we may have seen more deer. We could not hunt later this year because we had West River and East River tags and committed the end of November for these hunts. Would you ever consider changing the hunt dates in the Black Hills from November 15 to December 15?
627	Too Many Mountain lions, need to treat them same as coyotes. GFP sells to many tags to support their budget regardless of the gamepopulations. 3rd draw leftovers draw east river hunters to west river seasons causing over crowding on public lands. Start and run east river same time as west river so those east river sob's stay home.
634	I would like to see a more managed buck herd in the hills. I think that only deer with atleast 4 points on one side should be shot. I think that there are too many does in the hills. Shot more cats, i have seen too many of them in the hills in the past two years. Put scopes on the muzzleloaders like other states. Many make people shot a doe before they get a buck tag or something.
643	EAST RIVER DEER DEADLINE SHOULD BE AT SAME TIME AS BLACK HILLS AND WEST RIVER DEER SO U DONT GET RESAULTS BEFORE U APPLY FOR EAST RIVER
644	Harvest more lions!!!! They are a factor in all wildlife populations that are down in the black hills. I know gf&p people that agree with that but you are still having to play the political game. Leave the politics behind on this issue!!!! Go back to 2pt or better.
646	Kill more lions; they are slowly, but steadily ruining a great hunting area - the Black Hills.
650	As far as I can tell, the BH deer population has been overharvested and the abundance of mountain lions in conjunction with heavy harvest, has severely depleted deer numbers and negated the presence of "quality" males. Additionally, mule deer are nearly absent from their former ranges. The Black Hills hunt offers a unique experience to resident and nonresident hunters, but I believe all would find favor in a relaxation of hunting pressure in the BH by lowering the harvest pressure in the BH while maintaining sufficient lion harvest. Additionally, combining all state seasons into a single application period will not accomplish desired outcomes. Obviously with increased applicants, hunters may go a year or two before drawing a particular tag, but allowing the applicants to apply for multiple seasons increases opportunity that may be spread among a number of years and likely, increases license revenue generated by the state through multiple hunter applications. Indeed, proceeding with a single application for all seasons, may simply lead to the inability for hunters to ever hunt in the Black Hills or western SD again, if they continue to apply for their "favorite" season in eastern SD--a situation that would obviously lead to decreased revenue generated by SDGFP and SD as a whole.
654	I believe there are to many mountain lions in the state, they eat deer that a sportsman would have a chance to harvest. I would rather hunt deer than let the lions eat them. Hunters pay to hunt deer, lions do not.
655	Classify mountain lions as varments with a shoot on sight rule, like coyotes, every time a lion kills a deer it takes an oppertunity away from a hunter and it is the hunter who pays for the "lion" share of the deer.
668	Much prefer the previous BH Deer season structure, i.e., antlerless harvest restricted to middle of season.
671	kill all the mountain lions we can before some little kid delivering the rapid city journal at 6 in the moring gets ate, and there are no more deer in the hills.

673	Lions are hurting the number of deer in the hills!
674	I would like to see the number of Mountain Lions in the Black Hills at a way smaller number than what we have. You can tell that the deer and elk populations are down from a few years ago. I also know that it's not just the lions that are the cause for this but I saw more lion kills this year than in all the years I have hunted combined. I have talked to employees of gfp and when they give you a number of what they feel the lion kill should be and we don't harvest that many that tells me we are getting farther behind every year.
685	I would not support the idea of pooling the license draws. I think the system is just fine as it is now.
692	I agree with the licensing process as it stands now. It took me four years to get a hills tag, that's just the luck of the draw. You can always send in for leftovers just to get to go along on the hunt. We saw several very small bucks in the hills and one "good" buck, that we harvested. "good" in the hills though is most likely a non shooter in other counties of west river.
694	The Black Hills is a neat place but my opinion would be to limit the buck tags for a couple of years and give out more doe tags to get the herd more balanced.
699	I really DONT LIKE your system that requires application for Hills Deer and West River Deer on the same deadline. I liked the way it used to be with Hills Deer in early July and West River later after we knew if we got our Hills tag. This year me and my two boys ended up getting both, which is cool, but we ended up with 12 tags, which we can't eat so we didn't shoot 3 of them. We also gave 5 of them away. This also cost us more than it should because we ended up getting both and had to pay for extra rooms and travel expenses. We like to be able to know if we got our Hills tag before applying for West River tags. Please change it back to the way it was!
701	I like the idea of a preferred license.
704	I am very much in favor of a preferred deer license application process!!!!
705	Love the idea of a preferred license!
706	A special handgun season would be appreciated.
709	enjoy hunting whether it is East river west, or the hills, Two years in a row been unsuccessful for east river tags, was planning to hunt public in Charles Mix along the river, can't tell me there isn't at least doe tags available, everytime we fish there there is deer everywhere!! Bad experience this year blk hills hunting, a fellow "sportsman" stole my toolbox from the back of my truck with tools and chainsaw, first aid kit, etc. I know what truck it was, # 2 plates but couldn't find him to get the full license #. Why do people have to steal? Didn't let it wreck our enjoyment of the hills though. Hunted out of Hill City, Saw two trophy bucks in city limits!!! they are not dumb!! Dissapointed in all the logging being done, the forest there will never be the same as long as I'm alive. And for Pete's sake!! Why don't they clean up all the tops and branches they leave scattered all over the forest floor and piled up. They just stack them up and they rot. WASTEFULL!!!! All they harvest is the main trunk and the rest is wasted. I'm not a tree hugger, actually a carpenter so I understand / need the logging but "they" need to do a better job in preserving the forest. Also all the branches and smaller logs they leave all over the floor means one thing Kinling/fuel for another giant forest fire!!! We learned this in simple ecology and forest classes at SDSU how can these people not know this??? With all the fuel on the floor a fire will burn "hotter" killing the roots of all plants, trees rather than quickly passing through or extinguishing itself. Who's in charge of this operation???
710	Mountain Lions are taking way to many big game animals in the hills. It is only a matter of time before the deer herd is completely decimated in the hills.
715	Growing up in the Black Hills, I have seen the deer populations fluctuate with my own eyes. I believe going to a draw system greatly increased the quality of deer in the hills, and is a great

	idea even with the downside of not getting a tag every year. In my mind, not being able to shoot a "spike" buck was also an excellent plan that allowed a greater population of bucks to mature, and would be a good rule to re-enstate.
718	I think you should go back to the 2 point or better and cut the doe tags down. When I started hunting you would see 10 to 15 deer when you did a deer drive, now you are luck if you see 5 to 8 deer on a deer drive.
721	i would like to see the two point or more minimum put back on the bucks in the black hills to increase the " quality" deer in the hills
725	I love hunting deer in the Black Hills, but I wouldn't be opposed to reducing the amount of tags given to hunters allowing deer populations to increase.
733	Please do not alter the application process. The system is fine how it is and does not require fixing.
734	We would go out to the Hills to hunt every year until you changed from over-the-counter licenses to a draw license. It wasn't about getting a deer every year, it was about going out with other people and getting to hunt. A deer,(buck) was a bonus. Now if your lucky, it's every other year. What a joke! The other thing that I've noticed in 25+ years of going out there is that homeowners are reaching out farther and farther into the hills. It's going to get to the point where either you are going to have to know somebody to get to the National Forest Land, or there is going to be a little chunk of land available for everyone to hunt. You people are going to have to start doing something about this because it certainly is NOT going to get better. I go out elk and deer hunting to Colorado every other year and the experience is 20 times that of hunting in the Hills. And I spend a helluva lot more money in Colorado than I do in this state. Gee, do I wait every other year so I can hunt a disappearing National Forest in South Dakota, or go to Colorado and hunt National Forest land where they don't let people build houses anywhere they want. NO BRAINER!!!
754	I strongly feel the deer population is way down due to the number of mountain lions in the Black Hills.
760	The biggest problem that we had in the black hills deer season was that almost all of the deer that we saw were on private land, mostly peoples back yards. Not only will 95% of people not let you hunt but alot of them had places where they were either feeding the deer, or there neighbors were. The vast majority of public ground that we hunted were overpopulated with hunters, and with that many people hunting those areas everyday it pushes the deer out and they head for the areas that we are not allowed to or not permitted to hunt. I along with several people i hunt with were really dissatisfied with the black hills hunting season and may not apply again for this tag.
775	I was born and raised in Minnesota where hunter interference and overcrowding are the norm. I thought I had died and gone to heaven when I moved to South Dakota thirty years ago. Recently, however, East River Deer hunts have become very competitive and dangerous-- Some people do not obey no trespassing laws and I have had bullets fly over my head, twice, from people who were shooting from a road while I was in the middle of the field hunting. This years Black Hills hunt was disappointing because of the lack of deer numbers--You asked a question in your survey about "quality" bucks--I do not know what that is exactly, but I have never had a chance to shoot a large bodied buck or one with heavy antlers in my 5 years in the Black Hills. In past years, in the Hills, 4 wheeler traffic was a problem in the area where I hunt and people hunting in the same area cause problems--some of which is unavoidable. My West River experience has been nothing short of fantastic--Unlike the Hills (public ground) our West River hunt has been on private land--We have had nothing but high quality experiences West River. All in all, I feel that the deer hunting is managed effectively by you--You cannot be expected to be out in the field trying to manage the behavior of the bad hunters. I enjoy

	living and hunting in South Dakota--keep up the good work and thanks for all you do. Bruce Porisch Flandreau, SD
783	Deer hunting would be better if you had a "trophy" only license say 4 or more points and if you would reduce the mt lion population you are not even reducing the numbers at all with the current lion hunting seasons I see more and more each year
784	I feel that the deer numbers are at the lowest level I've experienced in the Black Hills over the past thirteen years. In addition, I feel that deer numbers over all in Western SD are at extremely low levels (especially in Harding/Perkins county). I feel that predation from large predators has something to do with this; however, I feel the state has done an extremely poor job in limiting harvests, especially doe harvests. The past two winters have been rough on the deer/antelope herds and the state has done very little to limit the harvest in subsequent seasons. It's as if there was a herd census taken five years ago and you guys are still issuing tags under the assumption that the herd numbers have remained static. They emphatically have not. Through observation I would say the deer herd in the Black Hills is at probably 60% of what it was just four years ago. The deer and antelope herd in Harding county I would put at approximately 5-10% of what it was just four years ago. Why hasn't the state taken the necessary steps to protect the herds? Why extend anterless tags through January when it is apparent that the herd is NO WHERE near carrying capacity? My two "preferred" seasons are archery and muzzleloader deer. Even though these are my preferred seasons, and I consider myself a "meat" hunter, I was grateful and relieved to see that the state eliminated the use of these anterless tags in the Black Hills Fire Protection district. I am greatly disturbed however by the apparent disregard for all ungulate species of wildlife in Harding county. I know this survey is for Black Hills deer, and I do apologize for regressing back to a "West River" issue, but this is the first chance I've had to voice my concern regarding the absolute descimation of the deer and antelope herd in Harding county. Please do something about it. It is one of our states greatest natural resources and up until this point I would give you all failing grades for the management of these herds. I don't want to see the Black Hills deer herd virtually wiped out as it has been in other areas of the state. If any one actually reads this and would like to have an intelligent conversation about these issues, my name is Aron Martz, and I can be reached at (605) 431-7943.
786	The large majority of the deer population in the Black Hills (90%) resides within the metropolis' of the area.,ie in the city limits, on outskirting property not available for hunting, on private ground, and on posted land! The deer in these locations are born and raised to be nothing but large mice. They eat out of gardens, off apple trees, and in friut bushes. Their feces are like that of a cow. They are not wild game! They walk the streets of the cities in early morning. You drive for 45 minutes to get to schoolhouse gulch in pristine forested country, take 45 minutes to sneek in to immaculate deer country,de scent yourself, and stalk the area perfectly, only to spook a whitetail doe and her fawn,or observe six large muley bucks that are almost impossible to draw a tag for. At the end of the day you drive 45 minutes back to spearfish and in your back yard is 9 does and fawns , a three point buck, and a wall hanger 5 point. Wildlife?
788	I had not drawn a Black Hills tag for 3 years so it has been 4 years since I was last able to hunt there. I could not believe how few deer I saw. The deer population in the Black Hills is down dramatically and it is NOT due to hunter pressure. It is absolutely because of the mountain lion population and you know it. Previously, I had seen cats and signs of cats on occassion. This year in three days I saw fresh signs everywhere I was. Including one time when I was walking during falling snow and saw fresh tracks on top of mine less than 10 minutes after I had passed. It is quite obvious that with mountain lions in abundance and the deer population noticeably down, the cause is NOT hunter pressure, it is the mismanagement of the mountain lion population. That is also the reason the lions are all over the state and have migrated to

	<p>other states from the Black Hills. During my east river hunt, I crossed very fresh mountain lion tracks as well. This is not a cat passing through, they have been seen in the area for a few years now and this was 30 miles from Sioux Falls. The Black Hills hunting experience is not nearly as entertaining or enjoyable as it had been previously. I spent more time watching my back than I did looking for deer this year. The current situation encourages hunting from a vehicle not just to cover more ground trying to locate the smaller deer population but for safety concerns as well. I always talk with several locals in the Black Hills, not Rapid City residents, actual ranchers who live in the forest. They all told the same story, the mountain lions are everywhere and are killing off the deer. I also heard from different sources that not only are Black Bears moving into the area but there is a growing population of wolves. How long will it be before GFP acknowledges both of these to the public? Will it be like it was with mountain lions and you deny it for 20 years until that becomes impossible? There are predators in the Black Hills and the public has a right to know and GFP has a DUTY to inform the public. In summary, increase the number of mountain lions that may be taken annually by a significant margin in order to make the Black Hills hunting experience more pleasurable due to it being safer and a larger deer population. Secondly, be straightforward and honest with the public about what is going on in the Black Hills. I know that is against GFP's nature but being honest is better than having to falsely deny knowledge after someone is hurt.</p>
792	<p>We're seeing fewer deer and elk every year in the Black Hills. I don't know if this is because of the lions, the past 2 harsh winters, or a combination of both. I can only hope that the biologists for GF&amp;P can figure out a solution to this problem.</p>
794	<p>Dear Sirs, I think there should be a cross bow season, or at least allow cross bow during regular archery season. Many of us are getting older and can not pull a conventional bow any longer.</p>
795	<p>Deer hunting is a very special occasion for me. Not only does it give the opportunity for venison, but also for a wonderful time in the out-of-doors. Your game management procedures are much appreciated. Thank you.</p>
797	<p>I got a picture of a mountain lion on my game camera (no collar). I only hunted the gun season for 2 hours so it is hard to judge much based on that, however I have been hunting the archery season for the entire time. I personally feel that the number of gun buck tags is way too high, a deer living past 2 to 3 years of age is rare- therefore a truly big buck is extremely rare. Especially when most SD gun hunters hunt from their truck rather than on foot. In seven years of hunting on an average of 3 days a week, I have yet to run into another hunter on foot, yet every road, closed or not, looks like a convoy went through. I don't get it.</p>
801	<p>I really wish the tags for west river and east river were good for the entire west river or east river region. I do not like having to pick the specific area within the region I intend to hunt. That severely limits my flexibility and thus the potential enjoyment of the hunt.</p>
803	<p>Over logging ruining habitat, with new rules for use of SD Logging trails is very confusing even with mapps when loggers and ranchers and travel any where, create roads at will.</p>
805	<p>Several of the areas I have hunted in the past which always had a reasonable deer population did not have any deer this year. These areas also had little to no deer sign. Also, the deer seem a lot more skiddish (nervous) than they have been in the past.</p>
808	<p>We need to kill more lions.</p>
810	<p>I would like to say what a GREAT!! state and resource you have in the Black Hills. I have introduced my entire family to the experiences that this state has to offer and we love it everytime we visit. I have been able to hunt in your state now going on seven years. I have been able to harvest a deer every year. Not that that aspect is a game breaker but when you get the chance to introduce a child to hunting and are able to see the numbers of animals you have, It sure makes it easy to get a child hooked on a great tradition. Thanks for a great time and a</p>

	job well done... PS... any chance us out-of-staters can start applying for Elk?
814	There seemed to be more 4 and 4+ point bucks this year in the area I hunted. I strongly believe the 2 point restriction is working. I support a minimum point restriction.
819	I think the present drawing system works well. I do not think it should be complicated with more drawing options. If you choose to change the system maybe the person with the most preferences should draw the tag. Most western states use this system so you will know the year you will draw.
823	The only time I have not hunted deer in the hills is because I did not draw a tag... I would love to see the "weighted/preffered" tag system implemented... I just moved to the hills this year because of my families love for the area.... Having moved from eastern SD... I knew of many people that would send in for the tag "just in case they could go" and I sat without a tag while they never did make it out hunting... but yet they loved the chance to east/west river hunt which is fine... that is why I like the idea of the preffered tag system... I like the idea of increasing the odds for "your" favorite tag to hunt with.. which for me is the black hills tag... not sure about the number of deer... seems to be down somewhat in areas and around the same in others... I am a hunter who in the 15 afternoons I hunted I walked over 75 miles according to my GPS and like I said... Northwest of Custer the numbers are definately lower than in years past while south of town they seem to be about the same maybe a little less... having talked with many hunters from the Custer area that have been hunting and scouting the area for years it seems like most people are saying the same that overall the deer numbers are down.... I think the mule deer numbers are trending upward..from a few years back... I did see around 15 different 4pt mulie bucks that were decent shootable bucks.. I had two buddies draw the any deer tag and both filled with respectable 4 and 5 point bucks and they were happy overall with the hunting... thanks
842	I THINK GF&P IS DOING A GOOD JOB OF MANAGING THE DEER HERDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA. I WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAW FOR EITHER BLACK HILLS OR WEST RIVER LICENSES FOR ONE "ANY DEER".
846	My biggest concern is the use of atvs, I saw wheeler tracks in the woods everywhere, not on fire trails or logging trails.
850	Deer numbers appear to be way down in the central part of the Hills where we usually hunt.
852	The idea of combining the applications has some merit, but I would have to see the details before I would support it. I can see problems with declaring the one season I want to get a tag for, and then hoping for the rest. The way it is now, if you study the tag success rate put out by GF&P, you can organize your trips with some security that you will get a tag, even if it may be for a doe. We need to manage does and hunters that are truly in favor of overall management of the heard understand that. If you want to hunt in the hills, your second choice should be a doe tag for an area with a lot of tags. Same with East and West River tags. I know of few hunters that can't get tags to join a hunting party if they manage their choices wisely. If I can only pick one season for my preference, how will that translate to the other seasons? Next year I would have to pick a different season? The way it is now you can get a tag at least every other year for a buck in most units, and if you choose well, you can get a doe tag in the years you don't get the buck tag.
853	Let the biologists manage the herd and get the politics out of it! The politicians (aka the game commission and special interests) have decimated the deer and elk herds in the Black Hills. Let the biologists do their job or get rid of them and use the money for more public access or something productive.
854	It seams that sence we have leat the cat's multiply we have seen less deer fawns & also less Elk calves !!!
855	Lions are taking the majority of the deer in our area. Some are road kill which eases the

	<p>pressure on the heard but the population is declining each winter. This year had a good population of mature bucks. But in our area the doe and fawn count is dropping. The buck to doe ratio is near the 1 to1 point. We had 12 mature bucks visit our hay stacks and 13 does and fawns, Only six fawns survived the lion and coyote depredation. This seems like it is higher than the past years. We had an eartagged whitetail buck, 2 1/2 year old, tag 123, killed by a lion in July 2010 in our pasture. He was 4X4 basket rack. This was 125 yards from our house. Politics seem to play a role in Lion tags and method of hunting. The decline of deer only hastens the moment that there will be an incident involving a human. It would seem to me that the time is past to make an educated decision and reduce the number of cats in the hills. Every CO I talk with agrees that there are far more cats here than the HQ types are admitting to. My grandson and I ride the logging roads in our area several times each week and see no Elk sign and much less deer sign and very much lion sign. Five years ago we had 43 Elk that ranged within 15 miles of our place and now there are none left. On a 10 mile ride we usually see the sign of 4 or 5 different lions. This does not jive with the published data from GFP. Our area is not real prime lion country, lack of year round water, but they are there in spades and the deer are declining in numbers. Honest is the best policy. Knowing the truth and hiding it makes one guilty when the unspeakable happens.</p>
871	I seen very good muledeer numbers in the hills. I did not see a whitetale buck over a yearling.
884	Would not prefer to only be able to apply for one license per year, want to keep it the way it is at present time where we can apply for any license for any season.
887	I feel that the deer population is down from all of the other years that I have hunted in the Hills and also the prairie. I feel that the lions are a big problem of this but that is only my opinion. I believe that lion season should be increased to see if the deer population increases back to where it was years ago. Thanks for all your hard work as I'm sure game management is a difficult thing to do, as to predict what might happen in the future.
889	Kill more MT. lions
895	Where are the Deer and Elk?????
897	Too many mountain lions, not enough deer left for trophies. Why not have unlimited mountain lion licenses.
898	You need to go back to the two point or better system for the black hills season. When it was in place some years back we began to see more quality deer. Another idea would be for hunters to be required to shoot a doe deer first than be presented a buck tag.
902	We need to put mountain lions in the same category as coyotes and fox, with year round season and unlimited harvest. There would always be a few living in the hills. We would never get them all.
903	Cant seem to get away from the road hunters! They are everywhere.
906	Get rid of the lions if you want to save hunting.
907	Deer numbers way down, mountain lions have been hard on deer and elk populations.
908	I have also been trying to get elk tags for a couple years but due to drop in numbers fewer tags have been issued and tags are harder to get, and there are fewer deer in the hills this year from last year. I was wondering if the GFP has considered that mountain lions might have something to do with lower populations of two different game animals occuring at the same time.
913	The licensing system for deer is fine with me. In the areas that I hunt I can usually get at least one perferred license each year. If hunting on private land the landowner usually would like every hunter to harvest at least one doe every year to control the herd. If there is a change to the licensing system, I would like to see the elk licensing system changed to give those with more preference points a better chance tyo get a license. Example, I currently have 22

	preferecne points for a "bull elk permit in Custer State Park". At this rate by the time I get a license I will bee too old to physically enjoy or may nor even be able to go on a hunt of that nature. The same is true for an "any elk permit" in the rest of the elk units. Thanks Wayne Nelson
915	My friends and hunt turkey spring and fall. This year we saw three mountain lions in one day while turkey hunting. First time all of us have seen seen lions, but have encountered deer carcasses buried in rubble while deer hunting other years.
933	open mountain lion season year around before it ruins the deer and elk population!
938	The numbers of deer is down considerably from what we seen this year. The deer we seen were of better quality this year then most other. Does were fatter and healthier looking, the fawns were filling out nicely and the bucks we seen were of nice quality body wise and more mature with larger horns. We seen very few immature bucks, which might be a scary for the future. Hopefully with a mild winter and the steps the GF & P are taking to rein in the mountain lions, better years are to come for the deer in the black hills.
939	You all do a great job of managing the wildlife in our state. Keep up the good work.
947	While there are pockets of deer in certain areas and around the towns, many areas of the Black Hills seem to have low deer populations. I would like to see the number of Black Hills deer tags reduced and the number of the lion quota increased. The Black Hills deer area has become important for hunters because of land access issues elsewhere. I believe land access is the #1 issue facings hunters and the GF&P in South Dakota. In my opinion, tax rates should be increased on any land that is used for commercial hunting and the extra revenues should be applied to purchase walk-in areas and other like plans.
948	When you decided to do the drawing for BH deer tags, the quality of deer has been better ever year. Hunting is better. Keep up your control of the mountain lion population and everthing will fall into place.
954	1. Keep the any deer tags in the hills. Idiots shooting fork horn mule deer only ensured we will never have any good mulie bucks in the hills. The small number of any deer tags will help to have some quality mule deer in the hills. 2. It is not hard to get a perfered deer tag every year. Example i had a point in the hills so i got a tag. I bought a point for east river this year. Next year i will get that east river tag and will apply for a point in the hills. How difficult is that? It is easy now, don't make it more difficult. 3. Focus on more land access out of the hills. Our hunting areas are full of people we need more public land.
956	I feel point restriction would bennift the quality of bucks in the Black Hills. I would rather see a hunter harvest a doe not a immature buck.
961	Get rid of the lions....they are decimating the Mule Deer, Elk, and Whitetail populations
962	Need to thin out more Mt. Lions, and stop giving out non-resident liscences for the black hills!
964	If I get another Black Hills tag, I, and my hunting buddy will have to pick up stakes, and move. The area we have hunted for as long as we have hunted the Hills, is being lumbered. The area will no longer hold Whitetails, or perhaps not even Mule Deer, as there is no low cover left. It looks like the only purpose is to make it better for grazing cattle. I know that removing some trees is good for fire protection, and to let sunlight get to the forest floor is also good, but removing such a large number of trees in such a large area ( several miles, by several miles ) is going to really change how that section of the hills can hold deer. Whitetails need cover!!! There is no cover left!!! Everything but a few trees are left. We, at ages 56, and 60 will have to learn a new Black Hills. Just a thought, would it work to lumber the Hills, but not such LARGE areas? I'll step off my soap box now, and hope to hear a reply. Thanks for your time; a fellow SD hunter.
967	I know this is'nt a east river survey but I waited 4 yrs to get a buck tag east river in my own

	county. I feel that the county residents should have preference over larger city hunter who get tags at least every other year in our county. If they want to hunt I feel they should only be allowed doe tags, and leave the county residents with the buck tags. Also if the GFP wants to and needs to get rid of the over-population of doe, here is your answer, Issue an antlered and antlerless tag together, but the antlerless tag must be filled and go to a check in station in your county and then get issued your buck tag.
969	I am very disappointed with the extensive logging operations in the area that I have hunted for 25 years. Also there appears to be no or minimal replanting of trees in burned out and logged areas. At this point in time, I do not feel that the Forest Service is a friend of the Black Hills deer. In some areas the logging not only included the large trees, but almost all of the standing trees were harvested.
972	Dear gfp i hope your revenue from your mountain lion herd, brings in as much revenue as your elk and deer licenses. I feel your interests should be in your Elk and Deer herds instead of your mountain lions. You continue to cut Elk and Deer license numbers. Due to the fact the numbers are down. What do you think the mountain lion is eating pinecones. I believe the last time I checked a Elk and Deer license costs substantially more than a mountain lion tag. I feel your best interests would be served to increase mountain Lion tags and permit your state licensed trappers a chance to harvest a lion also. I believe most trappers would be willing to call a warden if they did not capture a targeted animal, therefore being able to release the non target animal.
985	I feel the Black Hills deer population has declined in the last several years. Many hunters hunt the Black Hills because it's easy and you don't have to ask permission to hunt. Too many hunters hunting with all the youth, archery, muzzleloader and rifle. Mt. Lions are taking their share as well.
988	Deer numbers are down this year. I saw 8 deer this year as compared to well over 100 last year. I hunted the same areas and time of year. Less sign and deer.
990	I started hunting the Black Hills when you could purchase a tag over the counter and there were no antler point restrictions. There were no wide spread reports of mountain lions in the hills back then. There is no doubt the quality/quantity of deer is far better now then it was then. Now my wife and I are averaging a successful draw for the hills every 3-4 years and I feel it is worth the wait!!! I hunt every year for mule deer in Utah as a resident and there is now "Public Land" hunt that compares to the experience of a Black Hills hunt in regards to number of deer and low hunter numbers. Thanks and keep up the good work. (maybe you could give some pointers to the Utah DWR)
992	I like the licensing system. I draw a non-resident any whitetail tag about every other year and take an antlerless tag when I don't. I'm hunting private property, so crowding is not too much of an issue, but there's getting to be lots of development around my property, so that makes it feel some what crowded. My biggest concern is the mountain lion situation. Neighbors found several bucks we'd been watching for several seasons (hunting, scouting, trail cameras) lion-killed. We are definitely seeing overall fewer deer and turkeys than we did when we bought the property 10 years ago. I can't attribute it to anything but cats. We see tracks and scat almost every time we visit the property now. We are located in the northern Hills not far from Whitewood. If more aggressive hunting techniques were permitted (hounds) with more hunters eligible (non-residents) I'd allow cats to be hunted on/across my property.
1001	We haven't seen near as many deer as we have in the past, especially in the northern hills.
1007	We must get a better handle on lion population! It is rapidly destroying our deer, elk, mt. goat, and bighorn populations!!! I liked it alot better when the cat population was similar to twenty years ago!
1008	deer number are down. I live in Larwence county as there is not that choice in the counties

1011	game and fish cant even get the black hills rifle or archery tags lottery draw right. For example there are people with eighteen years preferance points not getting drawn but there are people with one or two years that are drawing a tag. I would like to see game and fish follow up on the wifes that put in for a tag. There are soo many men that are applying for tags through thier spouses and then hunting the animal themselves. Ranchers/Farmers seem to get away with applying for a normal tag and then turn around and get a landowners tag as well. Are they dictating how many tribal tags are going out? I hunt in Corson County and have to deal with all the out of state hunters, hunting with tribal tags. This year I have noticed that the deer population (mule and whitetail) numbers have been way down. Why are state tags decreasing when tribal tags are staying the same? In my personal opinion it has already gotten hard enough in this state to draw rifle tags (prairie or hills) that i only look forward to bow hunting and if i get a rifle tag its just a bonus.I have already started hunting out of state and with your solutions you have showed will only make that more certain that i will have keep seeking more out of state solutions. Maybe before the quota of tags are set there is actually some effort to find out the numbers of deer or antelope are out there.North Dakota canceled there antelope season because the numbers were hit so hard.Buffalo to Isabel i bowhunted for deer and all i saw were rifle antelope hunters driving all over looking for antelope that were not there.I bet ill see the number of tags change in 2011.The problem is game and fish is worried about one thing only, their bottom line.
1016	reduce the number of lions in the hills unit so the number of deer and elk will increase a little.
1017	Leave the system the way it is now.
1018	FYI: I hunted 4 different areas in the Northern Hills. Saw 1 cat and tracks in all locations. Most were following deer. Deer numbers were down from last year in all these areas. Hate to draw conclusions but do question the increased number of cats in the N.Hills.....
1019	Reduce doe tags. Need to help build-up herd. Have Mountain lion season again during deer season,too many lions are taken new born of elk & deer. Very few calf elk seen during outings in hills throughtout the summer, due to lions getting to new born!!
1020	my west river deer was extreamly dissatifying way to many hunters
1025	Adding all of the licenses together for one draw is a terrible idea! If those people are unhappy becasue they dont ever draw a license they should look at applying some where else. Also the lions in the Black Hills need to be hunted harder. Between deer and elk hunting I see less and less game every time I go. Ryan Erickson
1027	I really like the idea of a preferred buck license in the draw process. The area hunt East River is very difficult to draw an any deer tag in. There are many years where I have no opportunity to harvest a buck because I was unable to draw a tag. Allowing the "preferred option" would most likely allow me to draw a buck tag in the Black Hills or give me a better opportunity elsewhere!
1031	I had never hunted Black Hills before but have frequently hunted West River. I applied for Black Hills primarily with the intent to hunt with some friends who had preference points -- I had no preference points. My application was selected, my friends' were not.
1036	Badly need to tier the deer tags around the periphery of the Black Hills - within the BHFPD. The county commissioners have long been out of control with their anti-hunting fervor. They allow counties, parks, housing developments, etc., to bar all hunting - which only creates deer refuges, which further attract mountain lions. GFP needs to allow a far, far higher kill of antlerless within a 3 to 10 mile fringe inside the BHFPD. Interior Black Hills GFP probably needs to suspend harvest of antlerless mule deer to support population recovery.
1041	Too few deer both Hills and Praire. Can definatley tell the reduction in numbers from previous years, would have to guess the cat population is having an effect.
1042	I did noy observe any mountain lions while hunting, but I do believe they are a major factor in

	the reduced number of elk and deer that are available in the Black Hills. Also I noticed the amount of trees infested by pine beetles. I believe we need to be much more aggressive in finding a solution to counteract the killing of the trees.
1054	do not i repeat do not let the indian creek area be turned into wilderness you should also bann horses in that area they are being used illegally
1062	I put more effort into my West River deer hunting this year, as I wanted to harvest a Muley,
1067	I like how the system works now. You may not always get the liscene that you want , but with preference points you are more than likely to recieve it the following year. I did not recieve a charles mix county lic. this year, so more than likely I will next year. It is the luck of the draw. It is fair
1068	I think South Dakota has a good application and license draw system. I apply in many states and think that we have as fair of a system as any other western state. I apply for many of the big game seasons and don't expect to draw my first choice on many of them without some preference points. I am aware that it may take a couple years to draw the more "preferred" tags but feel they are worth the wait. I think combining the seasons would cut down many chances for people to get out in the woods and enjoy our great hunting options. Thanks, Eric Reiser
1073	I have hunted in the Black Hills every year since 1955 with family & friends and it is the hunting trip I look forward to the most. I have not been drawn several years, so my son & I come to the Hills archery hunting if we can't hunt rifle deer.
1081	I talked to many local residence of the Black Hills during this season and asked why we were not seeing the number and quality of deer and elk this year. the response was a resounding to many mountain lions. 2 local Hills City residence told us they only shot 1 quality buck for the 15 residents they knew and hunted with. They were very upset with the GF & P department. although we did not see any mountain lions we saw many tracks and found 2 carcasses. We are considering hunting West River season instead of Hills.
1083	Keep Up The Good Work of managing the licenses. The two BIG bucks i saw this year were very nice and ones that could hang on anyone's wall. Even though hunting big bucks is not my thing, it was nice to see them big boys out there! Thanks Again!
1084	It would be nice to get a licenses at lest every other year my son inlaw went for 4 years , that isnt right but that can happen with a drawing . just a thought. thanks
1086	Any thought for double tags in the Black Hills? If you issuing these for East and West River, why not Hills? Seems to be lots of does in the Hills, and a lot of inbreeding that makes the deer smaller. Wouldn't harvesting a few more does help with this?
1088	The deer population seemed to be way down this year. I visit the Hills frequently and usually try to get a license. In my opinion the deer AND the elk populations are way down from other years I have been out there.I have talked to a lot of people that live out there and the biggest blame is placed on the mountain lion and predator populations being too high. More lions need to be eliminated so the deer and elk can thrive again. Just one opinion.....
1097	Overall, I think the deer population in the Hills has improved dramatically in the last 8-10 years. I can recall a time when tags were unlimited and a "good" buck was anything 4 point or better and buck/doe ratios were around 1/25. However, these were poor quality bucks (basket bucks). I've had the fortune of seeing a number of bucks most would consider to be good prairie bucks. I also think the buck/doe ratio is much improved as well, probably about right. However, the deer numbers seem to be declining in the last 3 years or so. I feel this is due to lion populations remaining stable or increasing (even with hunting them) and a better realization that they kill a lot of deer/elk. I'm thankful that we can now hunt lions to help reduce their numbers, but we need to take more out. It is not in balance, and don't get me started with elk numbers (calf numbers are way down last year and this year). We need lions in the Hills, but not as many as we currently have (regardless of estimates of how many GFPs

	<p>thinks we have). In addition, we now have wolves. I've seen one and I know taxidermists are seeing more and more come through their doors from hunters that think they've just shot a really big coyote. The main complaint I have about Hills deer hunting is lack of access to "good" hunting ground. The Boles canyon/6-mile road area get snowed out making access dangerous and, in some cases impossible. The best bucks I've seen are in these areas (or on private land), whereas areas with better access (close to towns/residential areas) have lesser quality bucks. I think this is simply a factor of more hunting pressure due to lack of access to more remote areas. Where else can you hunt? I settled for an average/small 4 point (8 point eastern) with better road access simply because I knew I was not able to get out to my favorite spots. I know it likely won't happen, but plowing a few of those main roads during the season would open up a lot more Hills for hunting/recreation. Roads I could suggest include all of Boles Canyon, South Rapid Creek, West Deerfield (open now due to logging), 6 Mile, and South Rapid Creek. We got lucky this year since the big snow didn't show up until late in the season, but years past brought snow in October that never went away (but the deer were still there). Thanks for what you do and for the opportunity to comment. Cheers, Greg Delzer</p>
<p>1101</p>	<p>The people that complain that they did not draw their buck tags are the same people that dont own ground and pack into public grounds like rats to a carcass. Farmers and land owner are the people that produce the food, grasses, crops, and habitat the make South Dakota game as good as it is. I am not saying this because I farm I say this as the truth. These people are the ones that should be gauranteed to hunt. What is upsetting to me is people coming from who knows where and driving around on roads they have no business to be on, but i guess have the right, ruining hunting for the people that do live there and can hunt there. Some of these people will walk a damn ditch for five miles that has not cover in it hoping a pheasant or a deer will jump, and by an act of God, fly or run down the right of way. Mean while im in my tree stand and Dr. Joe Blow and his retarded dog from Mithcell or Souix Falls is scaring my game away by walking my ditch. Nothing i can do about it. Stick to the public grounds set aside to you by our nation, state, and private donors and get off my 8ft wide ditch that i allready put up for hay, that has no cover. No different than me going west river to try hunting. I tried it once in Harding Co. and came home with a nice deer hunting public ground, but there were more damn hunters than deer, i didnt even feel safe. If a person does not have private ground to hunt it is hard. But west river is different than east river, the ground, the crop, the terain. The only thing i ruined for other hunters what the same thing they ruined for me by it being so crowded, but atleast we both had the right to be there. Just too many people in the same small area. It might not bother some but it did bother me and i will not be back to Harding Co, but again, atleast we all had the right to be there. The Black Hills is a whole nother story. A huge dense forest covering thousands of acres. You may hunt for a week and see only a handfull of people. A place that is beautiful and should be seen by all, land owner or not. There is room for high numbers and there is numerous game. I will not go back west river hunting unless i get an invite to private ground by a friend. As should Dr Blow stay in his office till he gets an inviteor keep his ass where it belongs on set aside ground. As for the Hills, the fact that it is set aside as a national forest is great and getting the chance to hunt the area is a privilage. One that everyone should take part in. So as far as combing the applications it is insane. I get my buck tag here east river every year as i should and get a tag in the hills every so often and I no longer apply west river for I do not belong. Dr Joe Blow that is compaining about the buck tag he never draws does not belong here east river or there west river unless invited. The way i see it he can apply for the Hills and wait his turn like every other person in the state. !!PS!! If YOU the GFP would get a better handle on the damn mountain lion situation and let us hunters come and actually kill the damn things at a time of year when there isnt 8ft of snow on the ground and nobody can get out there, there would maybe actually be elk calves, fawn, big horn sheep, and mt goat in the future UNLIKE THERE WAS THIS YEAR! Common sence goes a long</p>

	ways in life felas. Lets do a little math. EARLIER AND LONGER SEASON + HIGHER NUMBER IN CATS HARVESTED = LESS CATS!! That one was easy. EXTRA MONEY MADE FROM LONGER CAT SEASON + THE LESS CATS = LESS BITHCIN EVERYONE. There would be more game to hunt, you could raise tag numbers, Dr Blow would draw quicker!!
1105	I would just like to comment about the muzzleloader deer season. I like the fact that you increased the any deer tags to 1000, but would like to see 1000 for both east and west river? Also have heard that mountain lions are doing a number to the elk and deer herds in the hills. i have drawn a elk tag thee and loved the hunt, would hate to not have the chace to hunt quality elk out there again someday.
1109	I think that the predetor problem in the black hills has gotten out of control. There is no reason that the mountain lion population has gotten this large. There are also too many cats outside of the blackhills region.
1111	Preferred draw idea sounds like it is a solution that only caters to hunters that dont have good draw success. I personally had too successful of a year and didnt manage to make it West River deer hunting because of it. Oh well! You have good years and bad years, it adds to the excitement of hunting season. I kind of believe that some people dont get drawn because maybe some of them dont hunt morally or dont appreciate the privelage to hunt as much as some of us. Just a belief! I love hunting our state. Report of actual wolf and mountain lion populations in our state? Just curious:-)
1113	It is getting very difficult to get a east river buck license due to preference given to landowners, their relatives and employees which is fine, but I believe a non-landowner county resident should have preference over non-landowners from outside the county.
1131	Changing the application process to include all three rifle seasons in one appliation sounds interesting. Let's hear more on this.
1137	Is it possible to return to the "Over the counter " process for aquiring tags. I am not sure why that process stopped. I know of multiple out -of-state hunters that are willing to come and pay the out of state fee to hunt, but not for does. For the price of the tag they want to hunt for Bucks. My next question/statement is, I went to turn in my buck for hunters for the huagary and the processor wanted to charge me, stating that does qualified because does are the breeders. It is my understanding that one buck can breed up to 100 does, so why not decrease the bucks vs the does?
1143	My hunting was limited due to other obligations. If I could of hunted more day's, I would of had better results.My feelings are that the deer are being forced into residential areas by preditor pressure. Thank you.
1144	Regarding the number of deer, the area we hunted NW of Custer, now has far more mule deer than whitetail. In prior years this was about half and half . We only saw 2 whitetail bucks in the three days we hunted and 3 mule deer bucks. It appears the mule deer are over running the area.
1156	I think you have way to many mountain lions thatis killing off the elk and deer population. You need to get rid of all of them! They are wayout of hand!
1174	I have been hunting deer and elk in the Black Hills since 1990. I have seen really bad years during the over the counter issuing of tags to the really good years of the point restriction years. Now I see a very rapid return to the worse. It may be hard to understand how I can consider it a bad year when my hunting partner and I both harvested very good bucks, mine 4x5 his 6x7 but we have hunted there for a long time now and know what we are doing. The buck numbers I saw favored mule deer 3 to 1. I have seen where mule deer were very isolated to now be the dominant species in the areas I hunt, Flag Mtn to 6 mile road. The whitetails we found were scarce with none seen like you would typically expect on our travels to and from

	<p>camp. Overall quality of whitetail bucks was poor and hunting pressure was very high at the time of month we hunt usually the last week in November which to me looks like very low hunter success. We need to get back to the successes of the 90's and early 2000's that used point restriction and limited doe harvest. Mtn lions may have some impact but doe hunting is the single most to low deer populations. I have witnessed mule populations rise every year since the early 90's which is alright with me but getting a tag is very tough. I have had one and the way I see it would take at least 4 years with preference to get another, so I may no longer apply. I don't mind waiting a year and archery hunting in an off year. But waiting any longer than that to hunt for a buck is too long. I think that the quality of the hunt far outshines any other and people like to see numbers and quality deer, if they don't we lose hunters and intusiast. Thankyou for the opportunity to give my opinion. Scott</p>
1182	<p>We have hunted the same area around our cabin for years. The past few years the deer population has steadily dropped. We used to see 12-15 nightly out in the meadow. This year we saw none. We are used to watching deer while we hunt, without concern whether we could fill a tag. This year I hunted in October with my bow and in November with my rifle. We could not find deer. We could see 1 or 2 at at time when we did see deer. However, we saw plenty of lion tracks. I had a lion at 10 yards and should have shot him, but did not. [I had friends tell me later that this should have been a shoot, shovel, and shut-up situation, but I don't play the game that way.] I don't think low deer numbers and the increased lion encounters is a coincidence. I know I am not a big game biologist, so my comments probably do not mean much.</p>
1191	<p>There needs to be a better effort to control the Mountain Lion population in the black hills. The lions are cutting deer populations and thinning the elk herd. The lion season was originally during the deer hunting season in the black hills, which allowed people that are not from the hills to have a chance to hunt them. Just from the amount of lions I saw this year, i know the population is growing. If you have hunters that are willing to pay money to hunt them during the deer season (every hunter in our group that hunts the deer season also bought a lion tag - you cant say you dont sell more lion tags during deer season), you should probably take advantage of that. There are also hunters willing to pay for deer tags. Cut down on the lion population, which will raise the deer population, and you wont have to cut tags on the deer every year. We have a large group that hunts every year and we would appreciate more tags...its the one time of year that I get to see some of those people and then there isn't enough tags and then we see lions running around everywhere, it just doesn't add up, and to make it worse, you spend all this time and money chasing around lions and putting collars on them like its some big experiment that benefits who exactly? I understand management and preservations are a big part of what you do, and I am just suggesting that you allow the hunters to manage more deer vs letting the lion population grow and grow and continually thin deer and kill young elk. I saw a lot of young elk carcasses in the hills and i have never seen that before. If you wait too long its going to get out of hand, especially the elk population. I know I don't understand the reasons for everything that you do, but everyone in my group feels the same way. So just consider this and if nothing else release some sort of study to us on what is actually happening with the lion population. That way we at least might think that your not completely wasting your time and our money by chasing them around and collaring them and who knows what else. ;)</p>
1194	<p>At first, I thought the 2 points or better on one side was a joke. Since then, I've seen more quality bucks in the Hills than I ever did before. My grandson got 5 shots at nice bucks this year before he finally "scored". Hunting with him was more fun than I could ever imagine. Tom</p>
1195	<p>The number of quality bucks in the Black Hills was exceptional around the time of the "two point" or better inception. However, I spend a lot of time in the B.H and have noticed a gradual decline since the population of mountain lions has increased.</p>

1197	<p>As I get older it becomes harder for me to retrieve a deer from the woods, heavy snow has been a consideration in the past and I have passed up some nice deer because getting them out of the woods would have been too difficult. I have always figured the time would come when I would have to resort to an ORV to retrieve my deer. Now with the new Forest Service rules a person not able to drag a deer is faced with the possibility of being ticketed for using an ORV or wanton waste of a big game animal. This will probably cause a lot of people my age to give up public land (Black Hills) hunting, or to become road hunters (also against the law). The majority of the Deer I see are living within a few hundred yards of housing developements, I have five acres and have had two nice and at least one lesser buck sleeping in my yard this summer and fall along with several does and fawns. Twin fawns were raised within 25 yards of my neighbors house this year. I believe these Deer are taking advantage of the security from lions provided by people and dogs. Once you get into the woods there are very few live Deer since the large die off of two and three winters ago. Until the lion population is reduced through hunting or lack of a food source, Deer, dogs,cats, Elk etc, the deer population will probably continue to decline except in urban areas. I could have shot a nice buck from my deck several times this fall but I don't consider that hunting and would get no enjoyment from it. Man lives by harvesting food and material from the earth, always has and always will. Lion hunting is just another necessary harvest to keep things in balance. Those that don't believe it should try living for a week or two without using anything that was harvested!!!</p> <p>That's my comments</p>
1198	<p>It was alot nicer when I could buy my license over the counter. You should have the lottery system for the non resident. I have hunted northern hills to southern hill and always enjoyed just being in the Blackhills. The only other thing you need to look into is all the ATV s running around. Driving on the trails to I would like to hunt I would run into wheelers.</p>
1211	<p>If you give everybody a preffered tag there will be less nice bucks, because it seems thats what everybody wants to hunt for. Some people I know won't hunt deer unless they get a buck tag. Some started hunting bow so that they were gaurenteed a buck tag. The less buck tags the more there will be around. Give more doe tags.</p>
1217	<p>We need to get rid of more mountain lions so the deer can come back and keep 2 points or bigger on the deer.</p>
1224	<p>worried about deer numbers being down due to the mountain lions.</p>
1228	<p>need to educate hunters that shooting a little buck is not worth it. Shoot a doe and let the little bucks live for another year. It can really improve hunting for everyone</p>
1231	<p>The amount of deer seen in some areas(private/resident locations) was definetly higher than the more remote areas. This may be due to the limited access of the private areas. My overall experience was awesome with the privelage of being able to hunt the hills and enjoy the scenery.</p>
1232	<p>Get aggresive with lowering the mountain lion numbers.</p>
1242	<p>why dont u leave the system alone it works fine I have always recieved atleast 6 deer tags does or otherwise between bow, east,west river and muzzle loader and for the hills area why dont u stop letting the lions eat all are deer and elk dont u make money on the tags. Doesnt make since to spend it on colaring lions so we can see where the eat are revinew. let us hunt them</p>
1247	<p>I saw alot of deer in nonhunting areas (along roads &amp; in towns) the weekend of Nov. 5. Temperature was 70+ degrees &amp; way to warm to hunt deer (act of God). Did not see many deer in the areas we walked and sat. Residents there claim the mountain lions are thinning the deer &amp; elk population. I have only filled my tag one of three years I have hunted there but enjoy it very much. Thanks!</p>
1248	<p>I was very satisfied with my hunt. I saw lots of deer and i would say it was very comparible to</p>

	<p>my last few hunts there. I did not like seeing the lions and tracks in several areas that i hunted.I hunted mainly south of custer down towards pringle area and just south of custer. I talked to a few home owners down towards pringle and heard stories of lions coming into there yards and they have lived there for years and have never seen them but have encountered them on several occasions this year. I wish i could come there every year but understand why you do it the way you do.. Its always makes a hunt better when you see more deer. Thanks for the great hunt. Kingsley Richter</p>
1249	<p>My only question is if the Mule deer and Elk have produced large antlers why aren't the white tails.</p>
1250	<p>When you began giving out a certain about of tags to both residents and non-residents, our group has been seeing more deer, better bucks especially. The first few years I went out there, we could buy our tags over the counter, and it was tough to find a fork. Even though we get drawn every other year, it is worth it, and everyone in my group feels that was a good idea. Each year I have been out there since you went to that format, we have been seeing bigger, quality, trophy bucks.</p>
1252	<p>It is already a lottery system. We get tags about every other year and that is just fine.</p>
1253	<p>I think the Black Hills deer herd needs some attention, it appears to be in a decline. Several years ago I spent time as a task force member to help develop the currently used system. It seemed to be working quite well until a year or so ago.Lion predation was not much of a consideration when the plan was implemented.Since then we've had some tough winters, a few minor seasons added,and the mountian lion population has increased. Not much can be done about the weather,harvest quotas can be decreased,and the lion population can be decreased. Manage the game with sound professional expertise,and scientific data, not public outcry. Hunters put real dollars into their sport, game management, conservation,and data collection. Getting the Black Hills deer herd back to where it should be would give more hunters the opportunity to get the license they prefer. The last 2 years have been disheartning to see so few deer in the Hills.</p>
1262	<p>I would favor combining the deer hunting seasons to a certain degree. This year I was fortunate enough to draw and East River any whitetail deer as well as a Black Hills any whitetail tag. Due to the East River Season dates and archery hunting in combination with my military obligations I was unable to get to the Black Hills in the allotted time. In my particular case, I was forced to choose between two different rifle seasons.</p>
1275	<p>Cats have destroyed what was left of the hunting in the Hills. There is no point of applying anymore. When all you see is cat tracks, and no deer or elk, it tells me there is TOO MANY cats,.....you dont need to be a biologist to figure that out. Quit lying to the public, 250 cats in the Hills, take that times 3 and your alot closer.</p>
1282	<p>I did not have the opportunity to hunt during the best times of the season in the Black Hills. That will affect my judgemnet of the season. I am in fovor of restoring the point limits on the bucks and the separate Black Hills units instead of the entire Black Hills as one unit.</p>
1285	<p>I was quite surprised how few deer there were around Hill City compared to prior years. Normally the road heading toward Deer Lake is a obstacle course in the early morning. We had oppourtunities for deer, but fewer than normal.</p>
1288	<p>Although I had a whitetail only license, I saw more mule deer than ever this year.</p>
1296	<p>Deer population seems down dramatically in the Black Hills. I over heard many people talking about 2 reasons for this. #1 shooting deer in city limits because of their over population. #2 Mountain Lions. I understand both, but it seems that Mountain Lions are extremely over populating the hills and I realize the quota goes up every year, but how many Mountain Lions are we actually looking at in The Hills, vs. the food source the Hills can handle for them. I think more time needs to be spent finding out how to equal these out to get The Hills deer</p>

	population up. (not to mention Elk).
1299	leave the draw alone. It takes a preference point to receive west river deer and black hills deer so we are on a rotation of every other year receiving a tag. We still get to do some hunting and we know when we should be able to draw a tag. If you change it, some people would prefer to hunt west river each year and receive a tag every year. That would screw up our chance to hunt different areas each year. The preference point system works great for me.
1301	well i have two points One. about combining the seasons would not be good for a lot of people some people like to do both east river and west river or the hills and the same number of people are going to send in for the better unints or counties so its still a draw your not getting anywhere this way but thats my opinion. Second why cant we have a state wide or whatever point restriction on deer the quality of bucks would increase so much i realize you are worried about population but it would sure help the quality of bucks and in moody county i know for example it would make people actually look at the deer not just see horns so start shooting its kinda a joke here thats about all people do so i think a point restriction would make people get out of the truck look at the deer and actually hunt a little bit and also drastically increase the size of our bucks people get tired of looking at the basket racks all day long unless you live on a prime piece of land its no good for anybody.
1302	Seen more elk and mule deer in the hills than white tail. Did not want to kill a doe and weed out the white tail population anymore than already happening. Atv's and motor cycles should be restricted or limited during BHDHunting very annoying and will probably lead to someone getting hurt. Forest needs to be cleaned out better it's getting thick. Thanks! It's still an enjoyable hunt.
1311	Saw, many deer (very few bucks). Hunted different sections of the hills from the burn to the Nothern hills Did lots of walking, was only able to hunt one long weekend (fri thru Mon) before the rut. Also my compliments to all the conservation officers that I happened to meet in the field. They were all very professiosonal but also freindly and made me feel at ease while they were asking questions and checking liscenses.
1319	There is too much lockout land in the west river area and the dept of game fish and parks need to work with land owners with this problem
1321	In the 15 years of hunting Blackhills this is least deer seen! Even though I didn` t see any mounition lion there must be a very large #! I am a bow hunter that feels the bow season has changed alot because of the east river opening earlier. Thus causing less success for the bowhunters.
1322	I would like to be able to purchase left-over deer tags over the counter. I understand that only select license agencies (those with computer generated licenses) would be available. This way a hunter could plan a weekend/day trip to an area with excess licenses at the last minute. This way a land-owner with depravation or excess deer could open their land to hunters. Perhaps, those hunters would be more open to donating their deer to Sportsmen Against Hunger program. I enjoy the thrill of the hunt be it a trophy or doe. I donate most all my deer to SAH. Over the counter left over tags could be sold in January as an economic boost to those area communities and counties.
1325	Would prefer to go back to the old system of over the counter licenses.
1333	I would like to see a buck license for the hills that is only for large mature bucks 135 class deer or larger not sure how you would do that but I only go out to hunt large bucks and will take a small doe if unable to shoot a mature buck.
1340	I hunted with a group of 10 in our cabin this year. Three of them did not have a license but came because it is an annual event for them. Instead they chose to take pictures. Three members from our group saw a mother mountain lion and two cubs playing next to a well traveled trail. I too have come to the Black Hills without a tag just to be part of the group. The

	members of my group have stated many times that we would like unlimited licenses with a point restriction that is not removed for the "any deer" or "any whitetail" hunters. If you want quality bucks them don't allow the harvesting of the young ones. It was working a number of years ago with the point restrictions and we were seeing a much better number of quality bucks. Then you changed it and we saw a rapid reduction in good bucks again. Please put the point restrictions back on and enforce them for any tag given.
1344	The closing of many forest service roads may deter me from applying in the hills as at my age I really don't want to drag them very far.
1349	I feel that preferred license should be decided by ones geographic location. For example, I live in the Black Hills (Penn co) therefore, I should be a preferred applicant for black hills deer, just as someone from Mitchell should be preferred for east river deer. I also really enjoy hunting west river. That being said, I don't want to have to pick the Black Hills as my preferred option thereby reducing my chance to draw my west river tag. However, I do feel that I should be able to hunt in my backyard (Black Hills) nearly every year even though that may mean a decreased chance of drawing east river deer. Also, seemed to me that deer numbers were way down this year! Not any surprise really when you consider the tough winters and the exploding mt. lion population. Hard to deal with the tough winters but we can deal with the cats. I could have knocked the population down by one on opening day of deer season this year (this cat was only 300 yds from Deadwood) does one have to kill a kid before we get serious. Why don't we treat them as we do coyotes? Shoot on sight; we will never kill them all. Figure a way to put all the political bull.... aside and deal with the PROBLEM at hand!! I was fortunate enough to hunt in three days of fresh snow this year. Every day I cut more than one set of lion tracks in three totally different areas.
1357	1. I would prefer fewer any deer tags and have better opportunities for a quality buck if I get a tag. 2. I think GFP is a little slow in responding to changes in the deer population. ie- reduce the tag numbers more when the population starts to decline 3. I didn't see any lions this year but there are many who believe they are the cause for the declining deer and elk populations.
1363	I hunt in a lot of counties in SD and I believe the State of South Dakota needs to harvest less buck. The doe harvest, in my opinion, is about right. It has really improved in the last 3-5 years. One thing that I have noticed during ALL of my hunts is that hunters still hunt from the road and chase deer with vehicles. I would love to see SD cut back on the rifle tags and issue more muzzleloader only tags. I believe this would cut back on road hunting and chasing deer because you only get one shot, but you can still shoot a long distance with a scoped muzzleloader. Illegal road hunting for deer is still out of control and the people that do it right, like sit or stalk deer, get penalized for doing it because a person hunting from a vehicle can just drive right by and shoot the deer. Thanks! A passionate SD deer hunter.
1373	to many mountainlions. had one kill a deer in front of a relative while hunting. had another on camera less than 500 yards from our cabin.
1376	Although I eventually harvested a whitetail buck in the Black Hills this year, I was extremely disappointed in the number of deer that we saw while hunting. In the area we normally hunt near Hill City, we failed to see a single deer in two days of hunting and my group does all of our hunting on foot. On the third day we were directed to a new area for our group after speaking with a local Conservation Officer and our group ended up with two bucks out of five hunters hunting. I have been hunting in the Black Hills since I was a 16 year old high school student and this is the worst year I have ever experienced for number of deer seen in the hills. It is part of the experience to see large numbers of animals in their natural habitat. I see this as a two-fold problem, we have promoted the almost unlimited harvest of does through multiple youth tags, muzzle loader licenses, and buck tag conversions to doe tags and we have a mountain lion population that has been allowed to grow past the Black Hills ability to support. We need to stop the promotion of doe harvest and further the harvest of mountain lions in the

	Black Hills.
1380	I was sick most of nov and couldn't hunt--being handicap is a big factor in my hunting ...I was concerned about your letter concerning cronic wasting die..... in the deer. I probably wouldn't have applied for a lic in the black hills if you would have attached the letter when I applied.... my deer was going to the feed the hungry program ....but all I heard from the hunters I know that had a hills lic was being angry about your letter.....I hope in the future I can still enjoy a hunt in my black hills before my diabetes takes my life...I was born and raised in the hills and only moved to mobridge a short while ago. I just enjoy sitting on a rock ledge up at custer peak and breathing in fresh air and enjoying the beauty of the hills. I know you need hunters to help you with your many projects and I will try to do my best to help you in any way ....thank you---Rich Geary Mobridge SD
1387	Open the mountain lion season all year. There is way to many. If you are seeing lions in town or near people at all there is way to many. They would never go near people if they didn't have to unless they were sick and looking for easy pray like a family pet or a young child. They way the game and fish is handling the situation is dangerous. Is it going to take a young child dying for something to be done. The Black Hills are just not the right environment for that type of animal. They are too small and there is way to many people.
1390	deer numbers are definitely down in the areas we hunt in the hills. Am starting to become concerned over the number of cats.
1398	This was the first time back to the hills for deer hunting in over 3 years, I have hunted the hills a total of 5 times and each time it is at least 5 days, and we always hunt the same area. This year was the first time we had seen any signs of mountain lions, and in fact, there were some areas we saw more signs of mountain lion than deer. In past hunts, I would see 10 to 20 deer per day and there would be 5-7 bucks a day in that count; this past year, over 5 days, I only saw 10 deer and I didn't see a buck until our drive out after packing up. The cat signs that were observed were a tracks, scat with deer hair and bone chips (the size of dimes), and I even observed a cat. As stated before, there was almost more cat signs then deer in some areas. The deer that we saw were not in the typical areas, they all seemed to be very high on ridges and stayed out of all low ground areas. The most interesting thing was we hunted the 11th through the 16th and I only noticed 2 rubs and only 3 scrapes. In the past we would hunt aspen groves and the rubs would be all along the sides of the groves, This year there were NO new rubs on the aspens; I was even questioning if there was a rut going on. Maybe the rut was late this year, but there should still be some signs. Overall, it was one of the most disappointing hills hunts I have been on. In addition to the deer hunt, I also had a turkey tag, that went unused. In the past trips out to the hill the birds have been all over, but in 5 days time, we saw ZERO birds.
1403	I LOVE bh deer hunting. I had a somewhat poor experience last year hunting the northern unit. Pretty much ZERO deer, which I found unusual for the Hills. We usually hunt the unit around Deerfield/Ditch creek and have had a pile of fun and good luck around there, as was the case again this year. Jewell Cave area is also fantastic (right around the burn). In order to guarantee myself a tag NOT in the northern unit, I purposely put antlerless deer as my first choice and any whitetail as my second. Figured I would be the only person to put a doe in my first choice! This worked and I got to hunt the area I wanted. I would like to have an any whitetail tag, but the hunt is more important than the horns. I would like to see what you have proposed with combining the three seasons application process to help people like me get a preferred tag for the Hills. Thanks, Chad Madsen
1406	We just haven't seen as many quality bucks over the past 2-3 years. Overall deer seen has also been down about 50% the past 2-3 years. We planned our hunting trip during the week this season because of the number of weekend hunters, which is expected.

1407	i say drop the # down to 1000 and let all of the deer catch up. also change mt lion into varmint category and get the population down again.
1410	Saw some nice "quality" bucks after shooting hours! I think that mountain lions account for many more deer and elk that GF&P recently quoted when it placed that number somewhere around 1200. Just a looki at the numbers of elk and deer indicate that that numnber is way too low. Fawn and calf mortality is quite high. I've heard that the numvber probably is equal to or greater than the hunter harvest. Just tell it like it is so you can better manage the lion harvest, and don't worry about the political fallout.
1413	I drive 500 miles one way to stay in my parents cabin. My brother and I have put this time aside every year for brother bonding and hunting. He is a resident, I am not. It is a great place to get together and a blast to do.... THANK YOU for your efforts!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Jason
1414	The black hills is a great asset to our state for enjoying and hunting the wildlife it provides. But-- There are way to many gates open on old or current logging paths that don't need to be. It really sucks to hike into your favorite spot only to have some lazy so called hunter drive by in his truck or 4-wheeler and scare everything off. I have seen it before. Out of the blue all the deer spook and shortly there after you see a vehicle driving around road hunting wich last i checked wasn't legal anyway. I know the gfp do all they can to enforce the rules. I just think that closing off some of the roads would force people to hunt a little more ethical .Or let those of us that are willing to put some work into it enjoy the black hills and what it provides us.
1421	saw a lot less deer this year.Lots of deer in Hill City and close to town but the farther from town the less deer we saw. Even less deer at moon. The mountain lions are taking a toll and move the season back to when deer season is on. The lions are pushing the deer into town an I also saw 2 dogs chasing deer in the Redfern area. 1 was black about the size of a lab but longer hair and the other a gray with light brown spots about the size of a blue healer. I couldn't get a shot at either one they were running to fast. Are dogs also a deer problem? Between the 4 of us, we were lucky to see 10 deer a day.
1425	I THINK THAT WE HAVE WAY TO MANY LIONS IN THE HILLS THAT AFFECT THE DEER AND ELK HERDS IN THE BLACK HILLS,WHEN I FIRST STARTED TO HUNT IN THE BLACK HILLS WE NEVER EVER SEEN A LION OR ANY TRACKS FOR THAT MATTER. NOW YOU CAN WALK THE SAME AREAS AND SEE MORE LOIN TRACKS THAN YOU DO DEER .THE GF&P NEEDS TO DO MORE IN KEEPING THE LIONS IN CHECK OR ALL WE WILL SEE IS THE LIONS. ON ONE OTHER NOTE I WOULD APPLY FOR A LION TAG IF WE COULD HUNT BOTH DEER & LIONS AT THE SAME TIME AS WE DID EARLY ON.
1426	Next year will be my 40th in a row of hunting in the Hills, some of those years I did not have a rifle tag, so I hunted archery and turkeys. I wish that you had not changed the mounatation lion season, because everyone in my hunting camp is from Eastern SD and we all use to buy a tag. Now we do not, I think you could sell a lot more tags, if it was changed back during hills deer season for whatever quota is called for. In my opinion there are to many of them and that is why the deer and elk population is down. I also feel that there should be a limit on how many antlerless tags for both archery and muselloader for state wide are issued.
1430	My BH deer hunt was very disappointing. I only saw one buck in three days of hard hunting (I was out walking downed timber and heavily wood forest). The buck I did see was marginal at best, a small four point whitetail. I believe they ought to go back to antler point restriction in the Hills as well as for the rest of the state. Most guys go out and have a buck tag and just want to shoot any buck and end up shooting small spikes or fork bucks. This greatly reduces the quality of deer in the hills. There is no reason except for maybe a youth or mentored hunt to be able to shoot those small of bucks any where in the state. This year there were a lot more quality deer East and West river, especially East river because the corn was left in so late last

	year that many decent bucks didn't get shot and were able to be harvested this year. They use to have antler point restrictions in the hills and went away with it a number of years ago. I think that should come back state wide. There shouldn't be a deer shot with less than four points on each side but could see the argument for three points on each side. Also, there are a lot more cats in the hills than estimated. Let us shoot the suckers when we see them during hunting season. They are elusive enough that the average hunters aren't even going to see them but if you do you should be able to kill it. If we continue on this path it will be wolves next and there won't be any deer to hunt and you can kiss any revenue from the sport to the black hills good bye.
1432	We live in Pierre but have had a cabin in the northern hills area for the past 6 years. There is no doubt in my mind that mountain lions have had a negative impact on the deer and elk population. There are less deer and elk than in the past. This past year I observed several elk and deer with less very few calves at their side. If anything increase the number of mountain lion tags.
1435	I hunt with my father in law and brother in law, both non residents. The beauty of the Hills and the hospitality of the region are very special to us. Thanks.
1439	Please reduce the "Any Whitetail" tags and go back to the "Buck Only" tag with a possible antler size restriction. 2 points or better really worked when we were under that system.
1440	The buck quality and numbers are so much better than years before the drawing process. Great job
1445	I believe your biggest problem is the number of cats! Even though I have not encountered one this year the amount of sign and kills we have seen proves there is a population much larger than your biologists think.
1448	Don't change the application process. Works fine now. People who have land lined up to hunt on will not be able to get tags. That's what's great about SD is our multiple tag system.
1454	I like many people, including the locals that I talked to, think there are too many mountain lions thus being the cause for the low number of deer sighted on this trip in comparison to the past. On every trail we went down we cut lion tracks. We hunted from Flag Mountain to the Jasper Burn area on Gillette Canyon Road.
1461	I believe the lottery system instituted a number of years ago and restricted number of licenses has dramatically increased the number of "quality bucks" seen as opposed to 15 years ago. The changes made have made the Black Hills experience much better.
1462	I do believe deer numbers in the hills are starting to be impacted by mountain lions, but not as bad as many hunters complain. This year I found 2 dead deer in the woods from gun shots and witnessed road hunters on a closed road that shot 2 separate times at 2 different deer and never looked for a blood trail. These issues concern me more than mountain lion numbers. I would like to see more action taken to keep motorized vehicles off of closed roads and stricter regulations enforced on road hunting.
1463	My main problem with combining applications is as a west river land owner who tries to manage deer quality I would not like to be penalized out of my chance to hunt my home area in order to hunt in the Hills. I would much rather have to choose between east and west river tags. Thank you
1470	Please go back to at least a 2 point rule and let the young deer mature
1472	I feel the lion population has had an effect on elk and deer in the northern hills
1473	We sure don't see the deer or elk we used to in the area we hunt just outside of Sturgis and now we see more lion tracks and understand they kill several lions in the part of the hills we hunt. Nemo to Sturgis to 385 has lost a ton of deer and elk.
1474	I strongly recommend eliminating the COUNTY BY COUNTY deer license/game

	management policies in EAST river. The counties are too small and many if not most Farmers have land in more than one county. why not have 4-5 larger zones? My success rate EAST River is pretty poor, as we only have access to half of the land we would otherwise be allowed to hunt. And i'm a really bad shooter. My other comment is that commissioner Jeff Olson is quite handsome, but not nearly as handsome as he thinks. thanks!! Paul Thorstenson
1475	I love to hunt deer, but the mountain lion season should be continued during deer rifle season like it started a couple of years ago. It makes sense for people like us who have to drive 8 hours to do both at the same time.
1476	Thank you for the great hunt...I enjoyed every bit of the experience other than the bit cold wind chills.
1477	I think combining the hunting application process is a great idea. Our household can get by with one deer per year to satisfy both my hunting needs and to get adequate meat for the family. If the application process is combined, I would be able to list the Black Hills as my primary area, and since I live in this area, it would allow me to travel less. Currently with the current application process, I rotate between the East River and Black Hills hunting areas since it usually takes one year of preference points to obtain a license in either region. I'm also concerned about the smaller deer population within the Black Hills, especially in the remote areas. I've been hunting since the early 80's and after a spike in deer population in the 90's and early 2000's, it appears that numbers are down and below the point when there were unlimited licenses. Since licenses are still limited, and there are no other explanations such as disease or hard winters, it appears that predators such as Mt Lion are the main reason. Another thing I've noticed is the drop in smaller animals within the Black Hills, such as the porcupine and bobcat, two species I use to see on a regular basis but have not seen for 5 years.
1480	The only quality buck I saw while hunting, was shot and left or not found by the hunter that shot it.
1491	The GFP does a great job.....
1497	I was unable to go on the Black Hills Deer Hunting trip this year but I did have a tag.
1501	System should be set up so all preference hunters should be drawn before any non preference. If I have two years preference I should not have to hear that people with no preference recieved a tag and I did not. If you have two preference you should be in a group drawn before those with one preference. The gambling system should be thrown out in all big game licensing Elk, Deer, Etc. You hear of it with Elk Tags some people have 4 or more years of preference and they do not get a tag where a first time applicant or 2 preference applicant gets a tag. Just my opinion after 34 years of hunting in South Dakota we have a great state and one of the best GF&P departments with just a few things that could make it better.
1509	I have hunted east river deer for over 30 years but this was my first time in the hills -- I really enjoyed it -- I tried for a licence last year but didn't get one -- our group did very well this year - hope to have good luck in the drawing next year -- unlike east river (where you go home every night), staying in the hills and hunting with your group is a great time --
1511	Far too many roads open. The ones that are closed are great for hunters like myself who prefer to get away from the lazy pickup hunters, but they just drive in anyway around gates and on fourwheelers. I would suggest more strict penalties and more people out actually patrolling for such violators. Its very frustrating when you hike in a couple miles to sit before daylight on closed roads only to have a pickup drive by and wave at first light.
1514	After my Dad returned from Black Hills deer hunting and I learned that you have changed the tags to "Any Whitetail", I chose not to go Black Hills deer hunting this year. The "Any Whitetail tag is reducing the deer numbers to an extreme low with people filling their tags on does. I will be interested in returning to Black Hills hunting if you go back to the "Buck Only" to increase the deer numbers

1518	need to thin out more mountain lions... saw plenty of tracks during my hiking around for deer.. cut the number of doe tags.. deer populations are down..
1519	Felt that numbers overall ( both doe and buck) were well below numbers in the past. Area hunted was the Hill City area.
1522	I am in favor of getting rid of the 500 or so mountain lions in the Black Hills area. It seems the only place you see large numbers of deer is in residential areas or close to town. If we are not going to manage the lion population properly I guess GF&P needs to issue less deer tags to hunters. How much do those lions pay the state for each deer they eat? I guess hunters pay whether there is deer or not so I can be assured what is going to continue....How about the deer population in Harding County? We've known the weather has been hard on the deer population up there but hasn't seemed to limit the number of hunters.
1524	I thought the buck population was very good this year compared to the past, but it happened that I hit the rut this year, usually I am West River hunting when the rut hits in the Hills. I do notice lots of mountain lion sign (too much) . It's time to increase the quota even more and get these things under control! I hunt on 700 private acres and have seen numerous cats over the years and have numerous cats on my trail cameras. I have jumped many of them on fresh kills too. I have watched them harrass the deer and elk time and time again.
1530	you are doing a great job. But should be able to use scope on mulleloader.
1534	I think there are too many mountain lions in the Black Hills and the harvest should be increased.
1538	Black Hills Deer - our party saw 2 lions. Two after dark on the spearfish canyon road. Son in-law saw three after a buck was shot. West River deer - north of Bison SD saw a fresh lion kill in a draw. One of the rear quarters was licked clean and was up in a tree. We have to many lions!
1539	many young doe. did not see more than 4 mature doe.
1547	Please do NOT change the application process. There are many opportunities for hunters to get tags throughout the state. Note all the leftover licenses that were available in many areas again this year. I have worked a lifetime to build relationships to aquire places to hunt. If now I am forced to choose which season I want to hunt I might not be able to do the same hunts as I have worked to secure.
1555	As far as Black Hills deer, it seems like we saw nicer bucks when the size limit was in place. It seems like we saw smaller bucks every year since the limit was lifted. I don't ususally hunt East River mainly because in my area people drive around so much and won't sit and wait for the deer. The roads get so busy and people don't have respect for other peoples land. I like the fact that in order to get a buck tag they have to have a doe tag as well. The people in my area just go for bucks though. Maybe a "earn a buck tag" program would work, they have to shoot a doe before being able to shoot a buck. I feel this would result in bigger bucks in the area as well as controlling the deer population.
1557	I enjoy hunting with my friends, and family. There has only been a few years when I have not recieved a tag to be out hunting with them.
1562	Our hunting party had several encounters with Mt. Lions. One hunter in our group shot a buck and a Mt. Lion got to it before he did, we returned the next day and recovered the rack and tagged it as it was a nice buck.
1567	I am very disappointed in the conditions of our Black Hills deer hunt. The conditions that the Hills are in are awful (dead trees from the beetle), this problem should be addressed immediatly! I could not believe the state in which our National Forest is. This needs to be addressed!! I feel that the people that our in charge of overseeing the Hills are simply not doing the job, we need to get rid of whomever is running the National Forest and get people who

	know how in these Positions. The conditions will affect Tourism to our State as well as destroy our States most attractive area. Please concentrate all of your efforts and resources on this problem first, the system we have set in place for hunting licensing is adequate for now, we can consider different ways after we preserve what is left of our most valuable resource The Black Hills.
1569	you should eliminate the land owner preference but allow land owners to hunt there own land. if they want to hunt off of there own land there chances should be the same as the rest of us to draw a tag. also you should seperate the application for black hills whitetail deer and muel deer. Every year my father and brothers an I apply for black hills and if we draw tags(wich is about every other year} we treat it as a family trip we would love to muel deer hunt but the chances of drawing that tag are much worse than whitetail and no chance for second choice my father is getting up there in years and in a few more he may not be able to hunt and the chance to hunt with him is more important than the type of deer but it would be nice to have a chance to hunt muel deer with him.
1579	alot of mountain lion track was seen and in those areas we saw no deer
1585	I think the number of deer in the black hills is way down from the past years. I preferred the buck only season with point restrictions,to many does taken as last option. We saw more mule deer then we did whitetail deer in places we never saw mules before.Just would like to see more deer. We used to drive around during afternoon and see hundreds of deer,this year we drove around three afternoons we saw a total of about 20 to 25 deer.
1592	Go back to 2 point or better for bucks in Black Hills
1593	I got to hunt with Jon Mattson on private ground by Deadwood and had a fantastic time. I maybe wouldn't have seen as many deer on public ground. First time I have drawn a tag and will be applying every year now.
1594	We saw some very nice mule deer bucks in the "Moon" campground area during the last full week of November. A total of 7 mule bucks. I think we only saw 4 last year. This is the area we hunt every year. Good idea on this survey being on line. Much easier.
1600	Did not see as many deer this year, hunt in the Nemo area, but did not get to hunt as long this year. Did not shoot the little bucks we saw, would like them to get bigger, it's more about the seeing old friends and enjoying the hunt. Would have taken a doe if more time but also did not see as many of them as in the past so decided against it
1602	where we hunt our deer numbers are way down and when we spoke to the local ranchers they said the numbers are down because of lion. is the game fish and parks trying to fix this or look the other way. you always ask about seeing lion so i believe we have a real problem that is only get worse..
1612	When hunting any deer season in SD there are factors such as weather that make a difference on a hunting experience. I usually don't expect to get a large buck in the Hills compared to East River. I'm okay with that, mostly I just enjoy being in the Hills. As long as I/my friends get a license every year I'm happy. When I don't get a license, it's a stupid system. There really is no perfect system, Mostly people just don't like change, so if your considering a new way of determining who get's a license, make the change carefully and slowly. Too often it seems if a new system doesn't work, there is a " we'll make it work attitude" , rather than backtracking.
1618	I don't think an hour went by sitting that I didn't see a handful of does.
1622	Make it available to use a scope on a muzzleloader.
1626	The Black Hills hunting experience is fantastic. The ability to hunt that much public land is next to none, and the number of deer is fantastic as well. I'm primarily a trophy deer hunter, although I modify my standards to the hills deer, as a 4x4 I might see there would be

	considered an above-average buck there and a small buck East River. However, the area and experience outweigh the need for trophy deer out there. I think it would be excellent to improve the quantity of larger deer (antlers) if possible however. The trails are great and I'm not looking forward to the closures I have heard discussed. They are nice to be able to use as indicators and start/stop points for walks out there, as it is too easy to get lost otherwise. Also, being able to travel the trails and explore the beauty of the Hills easily is fantastic.
1629	From talking to residents and other hunters in the hills it seems as though there are entirely too many deer taken by Lions. A game warden stated that the lion take was greater than that taken by hunters. If this is true I believe the mountain lion season needs to be further liberalized. I would like to see a split season. Allow the taking of some lions during the elk and deer seasons. Most people cannot make extra trips to the Hills just for cat hunting. Allowing us to buy tags in case we run across a lion would increase license sales and therefore game dept. revenue. While at the same time increasing opportunities for those of us who live outside the Black Hills.
1639	This was by far the best year we have had in the Black Hills. We did not fill every tag, but the amount of deer and the total number of bucks was amazing. I have not seen this many deer in a long time.
1644	A lot of Black Hills landowners are very lazy and irresponsible when it comes to posting their land properly. This year I have been charged with trespass on private land in the Black Hills. Using a GPS, and the latest downloadable map set from SD GFP, the line in question had no fence and only ONE "no trespassing" sign in a continuous 3/4 mile of the property boundary and that sign and post was face down under the grass. Please set a standard of minimum distance between markers of not less than every 200' and at every turn of the property line make it law! Since I was old enough to hunt, I was taught that the Black Hills of SD are considered public unless otherwise posted. The prairie is considered private unless otherwise posted. PUT IT IN THE HUNTING HANDBOOK. I believe any private land over 10 acres should be fenced if it is to be posted, then posted properly. Dennes Barrett Deadwood SD
1663	Only hunted one day because I was to busy at work and things didnt come together.
1672	I have always hunted Harding County east of Highway 85 but I will not hunt there any longer. This is due to the Forest SeVICES stringent ban on driving off road. There has been a century or more of off-road hunting in that area with little of no damage to the habitat. Also, I will not hunt any deer anywhere if I have to drag it a mile or more to the nearest road.
1685	Mountain Lions and 2 bad winters have decimated the northern hills deer herd . we can better manage the lions so lets kill more.
1704	I enjoy black hills season the most, but rely on west river season for meat in the freezer, the opportunity for mule deer hunting, and the satisfaction of helping the ranchers keep the deer population under control. What I don't like about west river hunting is that a lot of hunters, especially the landowners relatives only want to take a big buck, and won't take a doe. I take two or three does for every buck, and still have to hunt the lesser quality habitat for the first two weeks. By that time I'm filled out anyway. I know that's a gripe you can;t do anything about, and I'm still very happy to have private land to hunt, as the walk in areas are very crowded. I know that you never sell out all the doe tags, especially the w.t. doe tags. I would like to see a change in the regulations that would require every hunter to take a doe first, before a buck. It would not have to be mandatory, but you could encourage it by giving every hunter who shoots two does, probably w.t. one year an extra preferance point for the next year. Some hunters don't want that much deer meat, so you could give them an extra incentive to donate to sportsman against hunger, like public recognition or something like that. How about a special banquet, not to expensive, with door prizes donated by sportsmans groups? More hunters need to be made aware of the fact that shooting does, and not just bucks, makes them a better partner

	in proper deer management. P.S. Thanks for increasing the lion harvest this year, and for decreasing the doe tags in the black hills the last two years, especially for archery and muzzleloader seasons. AND THANKS FOR TAKING MY IDEAS INTO CONSIDERATION. Richard Duwenhoegger
1711	When i was hunting around Hill City and Deefield, i seen a lot of does but no bucks. There was a lot of hunting pressure around this area. Last Saturday of the season i tried a CHAP area, but still did not see any "wall hangers". I would still like to fill this tag with a doe in a later season, but it's not clear if that is a option. I am a big believer on managing bucks, thats why i don't like taking a younger buck that is not mature.
1718	YOU DID,NT SPECIFY WETHER THE HUNTERS ARE IN STATE OUT OF STATE QUIT TRYING TO MAKE MONEY AND TAKE CARE OF OUR RESIDENTS THATS WHY WE LIVE HERE..
1721	We have to many mountain lions. Deer and elk numbers/sightings are down. With the change in the mountain lion hunting season, if lion kill quotas are not met go to using hunting dogs. And up the number of mountain lion tags until a balance of lion, deer, elk are met. Thank You.
1727	I wish the antler point system (2 point or better) would be reinstated. I did see more mature deer when the restriction was in place and I prefer to hunt more mature deer. I do think that there are to many deer tags being put out. I do not mind drawing a deer tag every other year in trade for a better quality hunt.
1737	would like to see buck only licence for black hills even if it cost more
1745	would like to see 2pt. or better rule back in the hills
1746	would like to see that 2pt or better put back in the hills
1747	would like to see that 2pt. or better rule put back in the hills, keep shooting the cougers
1758	Over all I was pleased with my black hills deer hunting experience this year. I did not see a lot of big bucks but I did see a lot of average 4 point (80 - 100 inch) class deer. I was not satisfied with my west river deer experience. I had a whitetail tag in harding county (slim buttes unit 35C? I think). Since the new road changes have been made to custer national forest, it has greatly decreased the amount of accessible hunting ground. I do not think we should have South Dakota land that is owned and operated by the State of Montana.
1760	I beleive that the deer numbers are down due to the amount of mountain lions in the Black Hills... I feel that there are more lions than the biologist think there are, I also beleive that there are more lions east of the Missouri River than some would like to admit???
1762	Very surprised to see over a dozen nymph and adult woodticks attached to the neckline cut from the deer I harvested out by Custer.
1766	The present drawing system allows for preference points and eventually you get your preference anyway. There is no reason to contunue pushing for the big buck program and managing for big bucks as you cannot eat the horns and they only give you bragging rights. Preference rights should be issued on the hunters willingness to harvest the deer regardless of horns. Deer hunting in the BlackHills is nothing like it was before the big push to build up the Elk herd numbers. The present BlackHills game management needs to be revised and the Elk herd numbers lowered. The economic and hunting dollars spent in the BlackHills have declined with the present program. Who is doing the math anyway at best one Elk License once every 10 years or a Deer Licenses every year or two. My suggestion is that Game Fish and Parks come up with a system of charging the trophy hunters for antlers and get back to game management with the rest of the hunters. It is ironic that the mountain lions are being blamed for the lack of deer when it is the Elk that have impacted the deer.
1769	I think the GFP could do some more changing on the Deer seasons, but it's pretty good. I didn't see very many deer at all, but wasn't out alot. I enjoy hunting and the outdoors.

1799	I truly believe in my interactions with other hunters that from my early days that Hills hunting has actually gotten better - doubt it is my skills. People always talk about the "old" days. I remember those too when guys over hunted the hell out of deer. To get a basket rack four point was an accomplishment. You guys are on to something here with the 2 point limit thing. My only suggestion is that you have too many mountain lions who are getting to the populations and affecting them not in numbers of bucks, but in the doe population which will eventually get to numbers of bucks. Get the cat population under control and with some continued good management should have a real diamond in the rough - but please keep it a secret. I love seeing SD plates, but get a little miffed when seeing MN and WY plates hunting our deer.
1800	I think the useasonable warm weather was a big factor in the poor hunt this year, but I also think the Mountain Lion population is hurting the Black Hills deer herd a lot. I would like to see increased hunting of cats, to knock down their numbers and minimize their effect on the deer and Elk. - I also think the overall number of tags available in the Hills is too small, and the resulting lack of hunters decreased the success chances for all...i.e. the deer were NOT moving because there were few hunters pushing them. I look forward to final stats. to see if success rates dropped a lot...I'll bet they did.
1802	Let them hunt lions with dogs like they do in wyoming. look at how many days it took in area 1 on the border of SD to close the lion season. There are way to many lions up there and if you wait much longer and we have anouger hard winter, there will not be any deer or elk.
1814	we have got to stop the road hunting for big game in the hills. Although effective, it ruins more than it could ever help. I personally watched a car stop and shoot from within the car and horribly wound a doe that I was actually stocking up on with my bow. I was furious and approached the vehicle just as a 10-12 year old stepped out of the car. The doe was still screaming and the kid was getting yelled at as dad had to fire 2 more rounds at point blank and the doe still was not dead when I walked away.
1815	current system is working well!
1826	In some of the areas I hunted this year which had healthy populations of both mule deer and white tailed deer, the mule deer have been virtually wiped out and white tails populations have been dramatically reduced by mountain lion predation. I've seen way too many cached carcasses to believe otherwise. Unless and until GF&P gets serious about getting the lion population under control, I don't hold out much hope for the future of Black Hills deer hunting.
1829	Reduce the lion population in the hills, reduce the statewide doe tags available in the hills and please resurrect the deer population in the Black Hills. Thank you.
1841	I think the Game,Fish is doing a great job.
1845	I think we need to eliminate the any-whitetail tag and have a seperate draw for doe tags with a reduced number of doe tags given. go back to the 2 pt min.on whitetails. go to a 4 pt or better on mule deer bucks and limit or delete the mule doe tags for a few years. Not enough whitetail does. I saw several good quality whitetail bucks in the peak (20th-25th of nov.) without does- yet obviously surfing for them. Mule deer does are way down but the bucks are starting to come back.
1853	DO not combine the application for the deer seasons.
1854	I THINK THE 3 DEER SEASONS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPERATELY AS SOME PEOPLE ONLY HUNT ONE OF THE SEASONS AND A DILUTING OF THE CHANCES OF THERE ONE TYPE SEASON WOULD PROBABLY BE EFFECTED BY COMBINEING THEM. I WOULDN'T WANT TO LOOSE MY ODDS OF A WEST RIVER TAG BECAUSE IT WAS COMBINED WITH A BH OR EAST RIVER TAG.
1880	Kill the cats Force landowners to allow access to public land Eliminate out of state tags for all big game except Turkeys Bucks should have three points or better on at least one side Forest

	service new travel management plan is stupid
1883	The region 1 wildlife manager does an outstanding job!! I mean his guy really knows his stuff. What a great opportunity that his management provides....
1884	I am very pleased with the uncrowded Black Hills hunting. Keep up the good work!
1892	The buck to doe ratio I observed was horrible. 50 doe/buck. This is quite a bit worse than say 7-8 years ago. I hunted central hills from hill city to wyoming border and saw very few deer for the number of hours I was in the field. Quite disappointing.
1893	Deer numbers and doe/buck numbers were very poor.
1897	Appears deer numbers down this year. Did not see near as many deer as have in the past. Don't know if due to mountain lion population, but I agree with GF&P to have more lions harvested. Did not see any elk this year while hunting deer, which is unusual.
1901	I feel mountain lions are affecting the numbers of both deer and elk in the Black Hills.
1904	Need to close more roads! Im tired of atv's! They can ruin a guys hunt in a matter of seconds. Maybe when I shoot a atv'er you will pay attention. Please remind people that they can NOT hunt off of there atv's. Road closed means ROAD CLOSED. thank you Jamie McVay 605-490-2249
1914	deer and elk herds have definitely declined
1915	i believe that we should be able to use optics on muzzleloaders. I think that it would be more humane and accurate hunting with optics. Therefore less wounded deer, and better recognition of what the deer are. I dont agree that we should combine the deer application process. There are hunters like me that apply for more types of hunting seasons. i dont think that because they only want a black hills deer tag, that i shouldnt be able to get a BH tag as well along with my west river and/or east river tags. thank you for opportunity to comment about my feelings.
1923	I saw many mountain lion tracks everywhere I hunted from deer field to deadwood. I would want to see more info on the deer tag preference first before I vote or register on a survey my opinion.
1927	Lions seem to be taking a lot of deer. I think the doe licenses should be severely limited.
1931	Please don't combine the Black Hills, West River, East River application process. A number of West River units have 2 and 3 deer tags for the one application/license. If people want to be "guaranteed" a hunting opportunity, then make them all 1-tag licences and issue more licenses.
1932	Did not see other small animals except for a couple of cottontails.
1937	I think that if you would have left the deer tags as they were for twenty plus years to be able to buy right over the counter, was the best. Hunted it that way for years and can say that I saw more deer then than I do now, it wasn't uncommon to see 50-60 deer a day, now it's hard to see 8 or 10. The only reason I saw 10 bucks this time second time out was because the rut was on. Now you have people send in for the draw even if they don't know for sure if they are going, but have to send in, just to have if it works out so you have a lot of tags not being used. I have not seen a mountain lion, but strongly believe that is why I'm not seeing the numbers of deer is because of the damage the lions are doing, thought the years have seen the numbers climb on mule deer now see more whitetail, but not near the numbers of old. I have to say that I'm losing my interest in hunting the hills seen the draw, we have only been able to draw about every other year and that's just not going to cut it. My son's have also been trying to get hills tags and are not having any different luck and don't think that the hills hunting will be in the cards for them if they can't count on the tags. I don't know the answer but I do know your losing hunters.
1938	Sir/Ma'am, Been hunting the hills and WR deer since 1994 and never before have I seen so few mule deer.....what's going on? I hunt WR on Alkalai creek north of New Underwood and

	we normally see several shooter mulies (5x5 or bigger); however, this year I saw one 4x3 buck and a few forks. I wouldn't have shot that 4x3 buck on the last day of the season; however, he was the biggest mulie buck I saw and I hunted 10 days on the prarie. There is something seriously wrong here..... Also, the number of cat tags MUST be dramatically increased. Season needs to go back to the way it was when we could shoot them during deer season and dogs should also be used. There are practically no calf elk around anymore and this will cost you \$\$ in the future. I called elk for a friend that drew a tag in H2 and we saw several cows and bulls but practically NO calves! What is it going to take to increase the cat tags? I understand it's political; however, this problem is out of control. Lastly, I'm not happy that the number of elk tags has been reduced by nearly 40% since 2005 (every year). I have 11 preference points for archery and I can't draw a tag? That is garbage! Get a handle on the cat situation or it'll cost you \$\$\$. Feed the people or feed the cats.....what's it going to be? Thank you for hearing my concerns, Jim Winkels
1939	the quality in the hills has gone down over my life time .i see alot of small bucks ,as a kid we would see bigger deer. i dont hunt as much because of that i would go a couple of years with out a tag for better hunting. is it lions thats doing this i dont know. i see more lion tracks than i ever did 30 years ago.
1940	I see more deer in residential areas than ever before. Are lions running the deer into these areas? Thanks
1941	I think you better get a handle on the mountain lions in the hills or there will not be any deer to hunt in the near future. I saw many lion tracks and fewer deer than I have ever seen while hunting in the Black Hills. I walked many miles on the weekends and only saw about 35 deer. Five years ago I would have seen 150 or more. The lion tracks were everywhere I went this year, so please try to focus on thinning out the lion population. I am not real sure I will put in for deer next year because of the lack of them. I am not a road hunter, I get out and walk whenever I go hunting. Several of my friends have said the same thing. Thank You.
1945	Had a great time returning to where I grew up. I was impressed with some of the deer I saw compared to when I hunted every year as a resident in the mid 80's and early 90's. I took a decent buck, but time constraints and a West River tag limited my time. Love getting back to the Hills every other year. I have been told deer numbers are down quite a bit and many are blaming it on predation. Not sure if this is true or not, but I got off the road and was happy with the numbers I saw. My buck came out on my back. Both mornings I hunted were during the middle of the week. I saw no other hunters in the woods. Good times.
1948	I beleive that the best thing to do for all of the wildlife in the Black Hills would be to make the mountain lions the same as a coyote. Make a special permit of stamp to go with a general liscence and only allow 1 per year per hunter. The cat population is getting out of control, I am seeing more kill sites scattered all over the hills and the other wildlife is way more skidish. Thanks Darin
1949	I believe that changing the application process (combining the 3 major seasons) would give those who own or have access to hunt on private land an additional advantage in drawing a license. There will always be a higher number of applicants for areas with large tracts of public lands available, such as the Black Hills, than there are for the areas that are primarily privately held. This would give those hunters who have access to hunt on private land the option of choosing the Black Hills season as their 1st preference knowing that they would always be able to fall back on the other seasons for a license due to less applicants for those areas.
1962	I still think it was a mistake to stop selling buck licenses over the counter. Could have put a 4 point restriction on the license.
1963	I hunt the Northern BHs. The deer population in this area continues to dramatically be reduced via the heavy winters and increased lions. We can't copntrol mother nature, but we can surely

	control the lions.
1965	Great hunt again this year, look forward to next year.
1966	Please start using my money to manage deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. Quit spending so much money on mountain lions. Your claim to fame is mountain lions, you should work on getting deer and elk up to trophy potential again. That is why I buy hundreds of dollars worth of licenses.
1971	We saw a tremendous amount of deer in the Hills this year, the most ever. My family group had 3 individuals that shot 5X6s, myself and another family member shot 5X5s, and one nephew shot a doe. This was the most success we experienced in a long time and I believe that the lottery draw for the Hills is directly responsible. Potentially we might be to a point where we could have more licenses issued as it appears the herd numbers are up. I definitely feel the need for a more aggressive Mountain Lion season. I saw 2 mountain lions on the road at 11 am on November 20 south of Hills City. They separated and ran when the vehicle approached. We also saw tracks in the Black Forest Inn (on 385) vicinity while hiking the trails. Their presence seems to be more and more common! I also had a mountain lion stand right next to the road as entered Custer State Park this spring for turkey hunting. I drove within 12 feet from him with headlights shining at 4:35 am and he never moved, never ran, just watched me drive by. That made me nervous for his lack of fear of me and/or the vehicle!
1974	alot of people saying why shot the poor lions they did not do anything hunters are crule as for living most of my life in the black hills the deer & elk numbers have gone down really bad over the last 5 years do not see not near the number of deer now driving in the hills my vote is 75 lions a year i would like to draw an elk tag before I pass a way thanks for your time Bill F
1976	Two years ago I seen 9 shootable bucks This year 1 . I don't Know why if is the mountain lion or weither or if they moved out of the aera that I hunt . But there is not the deer there was two year ago. Black Hill deer hunting is one of my most favert hunts I hope the deer will come back Giles Sweeter
1979	Did not make it to the Black Hills this year.
1980	I live in Fall River county and hunt mostly close to home. We have about an even number of Mule Deer and Whitetails. My problem with the system is that unless you are a land owner, you can not draw a Mule Deer tag for the Black Hills unit. So we have to hunt Whitetails. While we are on the land owner subject. "Elk tags" Land owner tags were originally for depredation on private land.....Land owners can shoot a bull every year, we may only get an Elk tag every 15-years. I think land owners should get a tag every year, "but" it should be a cow, and let them draw the bull tag like everyone else.....thanks
1983	The deer population seems to be dropping, but the number of hunters seen is increasing. I think the number of mountain lions harvested during their season should be increased, because it appears that they are taking a significant toll on the deer population. I have seen fewer deer in the ditches as I drive back to Rapid at night. All in all, I have been very disappointed with the overall quality of hunting in the hills this year. When you can spend all day in the hills without seeing any bucks, it makes a person feel like they have wasted both their time and their money. I don't think I will be sending in for a Black Hills deer tag next year.
1986	I live in Lower Valley, on the outskirts of Spearfish. We have a lot more deer in our yard than I ever saw in the Hills. We've never had deer in our yard before the last three years. Now they live here. But I think we have overestimated the total number of deer that we have in the Black Hills as well as many sections of the prairie. I think we have two many mountain lions in the area.
1990	I would like to see a combined application with Black deer, West river deer and East river Deer.

1992	i think it would nice if there were more time between the drawings for atleast westriver and blackhills tags. that way you would be aware if you got one for instance if you got a two dear tag for westriver you maynot have to apply for a blackhills tag. as it is they are due on the same day
2016	Given the apparent declination of whitetail deer in the Black Hills, I would like to see fewer non-resident licenses in the future IF there are any reduction in the number of licenses issued. This would also help to ensure that the overall quality of the hunt would increase. In my experience, non-resident hunters are the biggest problem when it comes to overcrowding, harvesting of immature quality deer, and road hunting.
2017	I will likely quit going Black Hills because of waiting two years to get a tag, is losing my desire to hunting there. I have hunting there since 1974 and have seen no real results, from the changes the GFP game managers have made.
2022	Need to kill more mountain lions per year need less black hills tags
2023	We need significantly more tags available in the Black Hills. I saw almost no hunters but still lots of deer. The people I talked to in town and around the area stated the lack of opportunity was a major detractor. I am no longer a SD resident but I still return every year as a non-res hunter to spend time with friends and family. As I flew into Rapid this year, I was one of 16 hunters on the aircraft. I was the only one hunting in SD, the other 15 were going across the border to hunt in WY. When questioned about their selection the lack of tags and lack of marketing regarding the hunting opportunities in SD were highlighted as primary factors.
2027	I disagree with the "purchasing" of preference points to gain an advantage in getting drawn for a tag. What is the point of earning preference points when you do not draw a tag if somebody can just buy a preference point even if they were drawn the previous year. Why not just auction off all the tags to the highest bidders?(sarcasm) Hunting is something that people from all different socioeconomic statuses can enjoy, and many residents of south dakota have for their entire lives. By allowing the purchase of preference points, you are catering to the middle and uppermiddle classes. I understand it is an extra income for the gf&p, but personally I would rather get drawn when I've rightfully earned my turn and pay an extra \$5 for the tag. This is an opinion that I know my hunting friends, as well as many other hunters I've spoken with, and obviously myself share. Please reconsider offering preference for a price, and let the hunters of south dakota earn their turn doing what they love. Here's an idea, let the out of stater's make up your over head. It sure seems like they can afford it.
2038	get rid of mountain lions! hunters are yours biggest finacial supporters and you are reducing the deer herd down .moutain lions are eating the deer so bad some areas of the black hills you can,t find deer tracks two days after a snow fall.
2044	I was very happy with the number of nice 3x3, 4x4 bucks in the area I hunted. I have hunted many years in the Hills and have seen larger deer than this year, but not as many whitetail bucks as were available as this year. I had a any deer license but don't shoot does or small bucks. I enjoy hunting and visiting the Black Hills every year wether I have a tag or not I will still continue to come out as this is my only real vacation and return to sanity I can enjoy. Thank you for the great hunting oppurtunities in this state I only wish I had more time to enjoy hunting other areas of the state for other species. Sincerely, Keith.
2053	Gentlemen, I would like to thank you for a wonderful time spent with my sons and nephew. I like to "hunt" in the hills for the simple enjoyment of going out with my family. Although I did not harvest a deer this year in the hills, the fun of being able to enjoy the outdoors with the boys and make memories like my father did with me. This treasure is truly greater than anything I can hang on a wall. Thank you for this opportunity. Al Johnson
2063	I have only been hunting deer for 3 years, but the deer numbers were very down. I was very disappointed with the hunting experience this year. Please do something with the Mountain

	Lions.
2075	My experience was very positive this year due to my ability to hunt private land. I believe the overall deer population is down due to the lion kills. Lion hunting must be increased to bring a better balance between deer, elk, and lions. I live adjacent to the national forest and have deer on our property regularly. Their numbers are down from past years. When there are as many lion sightings close to towns and developments that have been in existence for many years, that indicates that the lion population is being forced to live closer to people than they normally would. There are too many lions for the habitate available so they are living in "sub-standard" habitate close to people.
2078	I really enjoy hunting in the Black Hills and really do not understand why there are not more any deer tags allowed. There are many hunters that would get an Any Deer license and be happy with shooting a Doe, even though they could shoot a Buck. I have been happy with my prior experiences hunting in the Black Hills, but have been disappointed in the past when I did not draw a license and it seems like a Preference Point is needed to get a license.
2079	I believe it is very difficult when you get either a antlerless or buck license. It promotes shooting the wrong animal because of difficulty of sighting the antlers.
2089	The Park Service started ticketing hunters that were not on numbered roads in the Badlands. Some of us older hunters to include females who has a blood disease but is still able to do some walking is hard to travel a large area to walk. There are alot of trails in the park and need to be numbered or marked to stay off of. This is a burdan if the hunters are not allowed in certain areas and all land need to be marked BLM or private.
2090	I hope GFP continues to make every attempt to purchase land, especially in the west river area. There is far too little land for those that do not have an "in" with a land owner.
2091	The Park Service started ticketing hunters that were not on numbered roads in the Badlands. Some of us older hunters to include females like my wife who has a blood disease but is still able to do some walking is hard to travel a large area to walk that she enjoys. There are alot of trails in the park and need to be numbered or marked to stay off of. This is a burdan if the hunters are not allowed in certain areas and all land need to be marked BLM or private.
2095	There are to many lions in the area that we hunt. Deer population is way down compared to prior years. Lots of deer skeletons in the area.
2097	Had a great time hunting with my son. Thanks for the opportunity!
2110	Black hills is the only deer hunt for me.
2118	Raise the limit on moutain lions and no hounds used for hunting
2122	To Whom It May Concern: I would like to voice a concern of mine. My father has been hunting in the Black Hills for 60 years. The last few years there have been several instances that have occurred that have made it trying to enjoy hunting and fishing in this region. One is that it took 15 years of preface before my father was able to obtain an elk bull tag in 2005. Another instance occurred when my parents were fishing. My father was assisting my mother by taking the fish that she had just caught off the hook and was approached by a game warden indicating that he was going to issue a ticket to my father for party fishing. My father indicated go ahead and issue the ticket and I will fight it in court. At this time the game warden only issued a warning ticket for this instance. My father keeps this warning ticket in his tackle box just as a reminder. The third instance occurred just this year on Thanksgiving Day. My father and son were deer hunting in the Black Hills. They were on a one lane road with the trees right next to the road. From what we were told, you have to be 2 feet from the tree line to legally shoot deer in the trees. They spotted a deer and so my son got out of the truck, shut the door and took a few steps away from the truck. He then shot and killed the deer. Upon the kill, the game warden quickly appeared. He indicated that my son was 2 feet from being legal when he fired his shot. As a result of this, my son received a \$195 fine and lost his hunting

	<p>privileges for one year. The game warden also indicated that he could have lost his gun, deer and the truck that they were in. My feeling is that this punishment was a little harsh as they were on a road that is maintained two times a year and then close the road after hunting season. In this case the trees are right next to the road so it is difficult to be able to judge where it is legal to shoot and where it is not legal. Upon being issued the ticket, my son was visiting with the game warden in regards to whether he enjoyed his job and the game warden indicated yes. My son was curious because this is something that he may potentially pursue as a career in the future. The game warden then indicated that he felt bad issuing the ticket and informed my husband that he believed my son had learned his lesson. In conclusion, my opinion is that this punishment for hunting was rather harsh for a youth hunter considering the fact that it is difficult to judge where the tree line separates from the road. Thank you for your time in this manner. The Dede Family</p>
2123	<p>To Whom It May Concern: I would like to voice a concern of mine. My father has been hunting in the Black Hills for 60 years. The last few years there have been several instances that have occurred that have made it trying to enjoy hunting and fishing in this region. One is that it took 15 years of preface before my father was able to obtain an elk bull tag in 2005. Another instance occurred when my parents were fishing. My father was assisting my mother by taking the fish that she had just caught off the hook and was approached by a game warden indicating that he was going to issue a ticket to my father for party fishing. My father indicated go ahead and issue the ticket and I will fight it in court. At this time the game warden only issued a warning ticket for this instance. My father keeps this warning ticket in his tackle box just as a reminder. The third instance occurred just this year on Thanksgiving Day. My father and son were deer hunting in the Black Hills. They were on a one lane road with the trees right next to the road. From what we were told, you have to be 2 feet from the tree line to legally shoot deer in the trees. They spotted a deer and so my son got out of the truck, shut the door and took a few steps away from the truck. He then shot and killed the deer. Upon the kill, the game warden quickly appeared. He indicated that my son was 2 feet from being legal when he fired his shot. As a result of this, my son received a \$195 fine and lost his hunting privileges for one year. The game warden also indicated that he could have lost his gun, deer and the truck that they were in. My feeling is that this punishment was a little harsh as they were on a road that is maintained two times a year and then close the road after hunting season. In this case the trees are right next to the road so it is difficult to be able to judge where it is legal to shoot and where it is not legal. Upon being issued the ticket, my son was visiting with the game warden in regards to whether he enjoyed his job and the game warden indicated yes. My son was curious because this is something that he may potentially pursue as a career in the future. The game warden then indicated that he felt bad issuing the ticket and informed my husband that he believed my son had learned his lesson. In conclusion, my opinion is that this punishment for hunting was rather harsh for a youth hunter considering the fact that it is difficult to judge where the tree line separates from the road. Thank you for your time in this manner. The Dede Family</p>
2124	<p>I was a little upset with all the logging going on during the season. I still observed a large amount of deer but it put more concern about how many people were really out there with me and were they were in relation to me. I was very pleased with my taking of the biggest buck that I have ever taken in the hills.</p>
2125	<p>i hear so much talk about ALL the lions out there and all the deer getting killed by them has me a bit confused.im out in the hills all the time spring summer fall winter and not only driving but tons of walking and in my 23 years of hunting the hills, i still have never seen a lion or found a kill.i am a still hunter i dont road hunt so i put on many miles by foot in all areas from rocky hill tops to the thickest jachpine filled areas, anywhere from medicine mt to deerfield area to moon to joe dollar sheridan lake area china gulch from 16385 to silvercity and no lions ive</p>

	spent some time in the pleasant valley area and jasper country so i guess what im saying is if there are so many why havnt i seen them or evidence the deer population is decreasing but not from lions.
2132	I lived outside Custer from 1999-2001, and killed a nice buck whitetail every year. Several years before that I came up from Colorado, and never killed anything -- in fact, saw very few. The last few years, after retiring in Alaska, I've come down and hunted in either the Black Hills or West River unit my friends own a ranch in. Nowadays, there are lots and lots of bucks in both places -- far more than when I lived there. This certainly makes my hunting trips joyous, and successful. I do think you have improved your management of deer in the past six or eight years, and really like the "any sex" approach to whitetails in the Black Hills. If I don't find a "suitable" buck, I am more than happy to feed a doe to myself and my family. In general, you all are doing a very good job. Keep it up! Dennis Neill
2135	First off, thanks for the opportunity. I just really wish people would quit hunting from their vehicle. When I hike 4 miles and have a pickup and/or ATV pass me on a trail it becomes very discouraging.
2143	mountain lion problem and sounds like the wolf will be right behind it. I KNOW SOME PEOPLE THAT saw one up by RED bank SPRINGS AREA .
2150	I am very concerned about the mountain lions and the decreased populations of the big game populations.
2152	I think that a buck tag should be changed to a any antlerless after the last weekend in the season so you dont need to shoot a smaller buck just to fill your tag. I would rather shoot a doe than a small buck
2154	I Quit hills hunting when you went to the lottery system. My son and I started re-applying 3 or 4 years ago for an any deer tag, and this year we decided to just put whitetail as our first choice so we would more or less be guaranteed a tag. I will probably not apply for an any deer tag again, as they are just too hard to draw.
2160	The last two yrs. I have noticed a devastating decrease in deer numbers. I saw a number of mountain lion tracks between Moon and Ditch Creek this year. This is the first time that I have ever seen them there, obviously they are much more prevelent than we are led to believe. The # of lions needs to be reduced drastically or the Black Hills Deer will become a thing of the past. The other thing I believe is changing deer populations is the Elk! They are also in such large numbers that they are chasing the deer out of the hills. The number of licenses needs to be increased. If you don't believe this you don't go into the woods much. I witness deer running for no apparent reason often, only to see Elk grazing and moving them from the area due to the noise they make. But then, all we need to do is wait and the wolves that are now in SD will take care of the Elk also! It is too bad that special interest groups have more to do with managing game numbers than the hunters who are the real conservationists! Greg Zerfas
2162	I think you should beable to use a 4 wheeler or vehicle to retrieve your game without a rifle in walk- in areas.
2165	I would suggest a over the counter trophy season with a 4 point or better limit on one side. The price could be set at \$100 or more and would weed out the road hunters that are opportunity hunters that are not that serious about hunting. This would allow serious hunters the chance to buy a tag instead of drawing for it.
2171	The lack of proper mountain lion control will eliminate deer and elk hunting if not changed, and the rumor of wolf siteings in the hills should be a great concern of the public and the G F& P. It is time for the G F & P to consider the over all effect of the management of the lions and wolves for the people who actually pay for the management of the wildlife rather than a few greenies who are concerened about a lion but not about the 30 to 50 deer that the lion will kill. Stand up and do a better job.

2183	I personally think that the current drawing system works, But I much preferred the three application deadline dates due to the fact that i could apply for hills and if unsuccessful i would then apply for west river. As it is now I must apply all at once or run the chance of getting no tags at all if I dont apply for them both.
2192	I always apply for black hills and west river, because I do not know if I will get either one, maybe if we could get drawing results back before the the other one closes, then everybody may not double up, I prefer west river tags myself over black hills. but then which season do you have close first, I think your idea of combined east,west and black hills would be a good idea that way everybody can chose which season they want most. I do wish we could get more than one anydeer archery tag for the same unit, for us die hard archery hunters that would be great, I do not know the success of archery hunters, BUT i AM SURE IT WOULD NOT IMPACT THE DEER POPULATION, but it would generate more revenue if you offered A DOUBLE ANYDEER ARCHERY TAG. PLEASE KEEP INCREASING LION TAGS, IN THE LAST 6 YEARS I HAVE SEEN 4 LIONS DURING THE DAY WHILE HUNTING, I KNOW THEY HAVE IMPACTED THE DEER HERD DRASTICALLY IN THE BLACK HILLS, MAYBE FOR A YEAR OR TWO OPEN THE LION SEASON UNDER THE PREDATOR RULES LIKE COYOTE HUNTING. RUSTY
2196	i think the GFP should only issue antlerless tags for the Black Hills for a couple years. i saw one buck with horns in three days. he was running along the highway.
2203	I would like to see gf&p go back to managing the wildlife and not how many people they can put in the field.. The wildlife should come first and then people involvement.
2204	My wife and I both very much enjoy the Black Hills deer hunting experience. A highlight of our year, whether it be buck or doe.
2207	The idea of trying to get everyone at least one license is great as long as the number of tags is still based on the number of deer.
2216	Too many lions, I saw more lion tracks than elk tracks. Given that nobody sees these lions why would we carry so many?
2217	The area I used to hunt, did not have any deer on it this year. The deer herds seem to be urbanizing to avoid the pressures of hunter, recreationalist and predators. My # 2 spot had some deer numbers, but not near as many as the late 90's. When I started hunting the area in the late 90's it received very little hunting pressure, because of the thick timber. After several different timber sales, this area is wide open and receives a moderate amount of hunting pressure. I did not see any lion track, but significant amount of coyote tracks.
2218	This would be a much fairer system, and most would still receive the tags they would want. I think that it would also make it much easier to plan and restore the "traditions" that are being lost with the current tags system. Hopefully this proposed system would keep our youth involved and help establish a future group of hunters.
2220	the things you need to do to increase the number of big bucks in the hills and the deer population in general is kill more mountain lions and have a dog season for cats. reduce the number of deer tags in the hills by at least 75% if not more and make it a 3point or better for the bucks. You got to give the deer a chance to grow up. It also woldn't hurt to close about half of the gravel roads in the hills as well make people walk to hunt instead of driving around in pickups and on atvs.
2223	I have many happy memories of hunting in the Black Hills with my family and friends and that is why I keep going back to hunt. Nebraska has a lot of deer but the hunting in South Dakota is still very precious to me and my wife. My father took me hunting when I was real small and I am going to start taking my Grandchildren when they want to go.
2230	Do not issue any mule deer tags for five years. Let the two points mature into something better.

2233	I feel that the area seasons should remain seperate and we should be allowed to apply for all of them individually.
2234	Uncertain about total years hunting because didn't get a licence every year.
2235	I don't believe you should have the late doe seasons you are killing off the bred does No need for Jan. doe seasons their were areas this year with no or very little deer sign in them. the deer seem to be in pockets. Its the same way with the elk you can't kill of your breeding stock and expect to have a decent heard. also what happend to the two points or better deer system you had for a while Now they can kill the spike bucks again before they get a chance to grow up. If you don't do something different you won't have a herd to worry about.Its just not a lion problem totaly but a lot of mismanagement also. thankyou
2240	I believe the best way to control deer population is through issuing licences to hunters. There seems to be an abundance of deer in both the black hills, and east river, but tags continue to be cut back. I am not sure why that is. Hunting is becoming a commercial enterprise for many land owners, and hunting is turning into a sport for the wealthy. I am not wealthy, and I hope that you will make more licenses available where their is great public land hunting opportunities (like the Black Hills National Forest). Also, the mountain lion population has increased significantly. I did not see any lions, but my hunting party saw several. I would suggest moving the mountain lion season back to November so that Black Hills deer hunters can also pursue mountain lions. I think that the mountain lion population has had a noticeable impact on the elk population, and I think it will also effect the deer population. With all due respect, I am losing confidence in the Game, Fish and Parks management strategy. I think that it would be wise to better communicate with the public what is happening, and why it is happening. I think honest and open communication is key to successful game management. Lastly, I grew up in Charles Mix County. In both Charles Mix and Douglas counties there have been major problems in the past few years with poaching. High School kids this past year had a contest to see who could poach the most deer. (Supposedly over 200 deer this year) I cant believe that this is happening, and it has to be stopped. This kind of thing robs ethical hunters of great opportunities, and is appalling to me. The conservation officer (Nye, I think) in the area does not seem overly motivated to stop these practices. It seems that if you have the right last name, you can get away with anything. The rules should be applied fairly to everyone, and you are not doing a young person a favor by looking the other way because their family is powerful and owns a bunch of land.
2248	In the past couple of years, Custer National Forest has "closed". The number of available roads is now very limited. While I am able to hike and walk long distances, my father and friends of my father are now limited to areas they can access. I understand the many reasons why forests are "closed" and I agree there needs to be management for access into such areas. Some additional privlidges must be made for those with limited abilities to traverse the land without vehicle assistance. Either speical "senior citizen" tags to allow retrieval or access into otherwise foot traffic only areas. My father and I have been hunting since I was 8 years of age. I cannot remember a Fall that we did not go hunting. As my children grow, they will accompany me into the field and I will pass down the knowledge my father and our hunting seasons have taught me. I respect the land and the wildlife that live within these areas. My position is one of management of the wildlife and resources is necessary. I would like to see some accommodations made for those with limited abilities and the ability to review and propose access to otherwise areas that have been closed. Additionally, to close those areas that show too much access. In closing, I would like to provide my own feedback on a particular area that in my opinion appears to be very limited. In the North Cave Hills within the Custer National Forest, an area known as Ice Box Canyon is now very limited to access. The remaining open roads are far from the area. Over the years, my father and I have taken many deer from this particular canyon. It is remote and vast. With the new approved roads, to

	access this canyon, a hunter will have to walk over 2 miles to reach where my father and once sat. I would like to see access to the canyon and not necessarily access into the canyon. With the pressures of the hunters closer to the roads, over time, I can only imagine more and more deer will retreat to this vast canyon and will eventually increase in population. Thank you for you ear and if you would like further information or would like to me to answer more questions, my email is cecil.lagrande@yahoo.com Thank you again. Cecil LaGrande
2252	I would like to see a return to getting a Black Hills rifle tag every year but restricting hunters to a fork horn or larger. That seemed to be working pretty well when we tried it. I saw more quality deer and had more fun being in the woods. The hunt is the most important aspect, I don't much care about getting a buck but it does help. Also, too many mountain lions thinning our deer populations....
2258	I feel the lion population has taken a toll on the elk and deer population. A balance needs to be looked at soon before its to late. If a disease hits next the hunting seasons will be over for a very long time...
2267	Although age and physical limitations hamper my deer hunting activity, i hope to continue doiong it with my SD friends as long as I am able. For this reason, I hope the SD Fish Game and Parks people will take intop consideration the fact that my hunting years are very limited -- I don't have many left -- and will make this a factor in determioning whether oer not I get a tag each year I apply. If I were 50 Or 60 uears old, I wouldn't mind not getting a tag -- but when each year may be my last, it's nice to have the privilege one ore time of takinga deer. Thank you.
2268	I would like to see the area-wide, buck-only, either species option returned.
2270	I think it may relate to the excellent moisture and food supply this year, but the number of "very nice bucks" I saw during this season was exceptional. Thanks for the opportunity to hunt SD.
2274	I was surprised at the lack of hunters I observed in the areas I hunted during the first half of November up to the day I took my buck. It made for a very pleasant series of outings with the deer not as spooked as in years past. I observed many new pine beetle hits in my areas, causing me concern about the future of hunting and of the environment in general. I fear this will make some areas too dangerous to hunt due to blowdowns but should enhance cover for big game.
2275	We were going to turn in our deer heads for study for CWD but some animal took them in the night from the deer carrier on our truck in front of the Hotel in Hill City! We had a wonderful time as usual, wish we could have seen more deer, tho...
2276	I saw less deer this year than ever before but I still had fun.
2280	The deer hunt this year was the best I've experienced. However, from what I can see there is no reason to cut the number of tags for the Black Hills. I saw more deer and better buck this year than any in the past. If the tag cuts are to increase quality, it is working but is certainly cannot be because of quantity. I encourage you to increase tag levels to what they were a few years ago. It pains me to think I may not hunt the Black Hills but once every 3 years. Also, I believe the tag should revert back to an "any buck" tag. The amount of mule deer (any deer) tags doesn't not justify forgoing applying for the any whitetail tag. I don't believe it is fair for someone to have to forgo the option of hunting in the Black Hills at all for a slim chance at a miniscule amount of NR any deer tag. The other option would be to all persons to apply for both any deer and any whitetail tags each year but only allow them to draw one or the other but be eligible for each. I would really like the opportunity to hunt mule deer in SD but I cannot wait 5 years to draw the tag and pass on opportunities to draw the whitetail tag. Lastly, the drawing for Black Hills tags in flawed in my opinion. Persons with no preference points should at least be eligible to draw.

2285	Hunting deer in the Black Hills is VERY important to me, as my Great Grandfather Homesteaded in the Black Hills in the early 1900's, and moved into the Hills around 1890. I have hunted in the Hills (when I have the opportunity to) my entire life, hunting with my father and grandfather, and a LOT of other relatives.....it's a family tradition that I hope to continue throughout the remaining years of my life. I try hunting near my Great Grandfather's original homestead/ranch, the Harvey Ranch near Rockford.
2287	I would like Black Hills residents who apply to be able to have a BH license every year!
2291	There are way too many mountain lions out there!! We need more lions killed!!!
2293	First off I would like to say that there are too many hunters in the hills. Also they need to allow more mountain lion tags or at least let them to use dogs to track them. Lastly, a personal preference would be that i would like to see some more archery only areas opened up either in the hills or somewhere else. Thank you for listening.
2296	i think you should put the 2-point or better back on in the black hills and leave it on and give out more doe license
2298	Didnt get out as much as usuall because I hurt my knee. Days I hunted we didnt see many deer but the conditions we not very good. Very warm the first day and extremely windy the second trip.
2299	WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE ANY DEER OR ANY BUCK TAG, OR A BUCK AND DOE COMBINATION TAG LIKE IT IS FOR WEST RIVER BUCK TAG, ONE BUCK AND TWO DOES.
2306	If you increase hunters, like to see buck license go to 2 points or beter on one side.
2311	I didn't get the chance to hunt as much this year as I would have liked so some of the answers are not really a fair indication of how many deer/quality of the deer exist in the area. Limited access to hunting lands is one of the reasons I am opposed to combining application areas to a first, second or third choice. Sometimes the only choice is for the hills due to access, and I hate to further hinder any chance I have at drawing a hills license-(whether or not this proposal would do that I am unsure.) I also wish you would do more to limit the harvest of mule deer in the northern hills. Thankyou for your efforts.
2315	The Black Hills is the highest priority because of the large amount of public hunting. This year I hunt both the Black Hills and West River. Our Black Hills hunt was very exciting and much the same as previous years. However, the West River hunt very disappointing. We actually named one walkin area West River the Walmart section ( extremely over populated with hunters) and I am very suprised someone didn't get shot.
2327	Mountain Lions were every were deer were.Seems you are using the lion to delete the deer in theBlack Hills.Y SO MANY LIONS ? I had one follow me three times in the head of Lost Gulch .Let the lions go and you will not have any deer to worry about .
2332	41years - some year with on license some years was servicing usarmy
2336	My lack of seeing deer was mainly due to the fact that I could not be out hunting at the start of the season. Living in Sioux Falls puts me at a disadvantage to the local hunters - by the time I was able to start hunting - most of the deer had been well spooked. -- But I still just enjoyed the hunt. Also I had an encounter with a Mountain Lion - I believe he was stalking me - when I saw him he was about 20 yards away - I puled my gun up and aimed - he then just walked off to the south and didn't bother me. This is not my first encounter with one . I was hunting just off property that I own in the Hills - there have been many sightings before - tracks and live animals -- there seems to be a lot of cats in the area of Johnson Siding-Hill City-Rochford.
2341	After last years black hills deer hunt i was very dissatisfied with the deer population. I know the winters the past couple years have been rough on the deer/elk population, (along with the cats), But you all did a great thing by lowering the number of tags this year. I saw a fair

	number of deer this year, however it is nothing like i have seen in the past. The other plus was not having a pile of other hunters around. I realize it is all public land, and we need to co-exist, but it is hard when i try to hunt the right way and the mojority will drive around and make a mess. One issue i have with the deer population is the number of "mature deer". it has been a long time since ive seen a 4 or 5 yr old dear in the hills. Hope this helps, good luck.
2346	too many montain lions its taking a toll on the deer population you see less and less deer and elk and more signs of cats
2356	I would not accept an East River license for deer hunting. I don't know the terrain, where to hunt and would have to travel too far. I prefer Black Hills and West River hunting for the uncrowded conditions away from houses and roads and other hunters.
2373	I think that once you have hunted for over 50 years you should be able to get a license every year.
2376	I am concerned that the youth deer season is disruptive to the general hunting season in the Black Hills. If it is so important why not put that on the preferred list as well, or let it be a part of the regular season. This year I found two bucks (small) that died with gun shots in them. It was after the snow and I am concerned that some hunters are just shooting and not making the effort to find the deer unless it falls down immediately. I left both for the coyotes.
2392	I would be in favor of a preferred license but if I am unable to obtain land to hunt on west river or east river then why would I want them as my second and third preference? I would gladly not hunt west or east river to obtain a Black Hills deer license every year. When will we start programs like CO where ranchers and farmers are not allowed to double dip when they charge for hunting and collect funds for crop damage? Maybe more ranching and farming for wildlife where youth are allowed to hunt bucks on private land in special seasons.
2393	Too many lions!!
2397	Would like to get a deer license every year cause i love to deer hunt its my favorite time of year
2404	Of all the years I have been hunting the Black Hills, this is the lowest number of deer that I have seen and the fewest bucks I have seen as well.
2411	The deer herd is down, more mountain lions need to be hunted.
2422	Since SD went to a drawing on Black Hills deer I have seen a increase in larger bucks and doe. So with that said I think the drawing is a success. I am not sure if Black hills applications can be increased but I do think you should consider a any deer and any anterless application like east river has for the hills. I am seeing way more doe than in the past and I am seeing way more bucks just not as many this year. Thanks
2431	We love coming to the Black Hills to hunt whitetails. Our main deer hunting experience is hunting mule deer. We usually come as a group, and enjoy the experience together. It seemed as this year there were less deer than the other years we have been to the black hills. All of us thought the same, we saw less deer this year than ever before. Why, I dont know, but it was pretty evident.
2434	Living in Harding County I see first hand what goes on during West River deer season. I would strongly suggest the GF&P drastically reduce the number of doe tags given out for both deer and antelope. I have lived and hunted Harding county since 2001 and my annual hunting journal shows that deer and antelope numbers are down over 70% from 2007 . Not sure what the goals are for the game populations in this area, but if things don't change there will not be much left. Also try to create some units that would allow for trophy hunting areas on public land.
2438	The number of deer seen I listed only included the number of deer seen in areas where shooting is permitted. I probably saw over 100 deer in the Spearfish area, but most of them were in

	areas where hunting is not allowed (i.e. in town, on the golf course). I understand that hunting in town can be dangerous and much of the land is private, but some measures should be taken to keep the deer in the hills. You may be able to accomplish this with an archery season in the less populated and more open areas of town, similar to what is done in Rapid City.
2446	Deer seemed to be few and far between this year in the Black Hills unit...
2447	KEEP THE NUMBER OF BUCK TAGS LOW IN RELATION TO DOE SO THAT THE BUCKS ARE ABLE TO BECOME A GOOD SIZE INSTEAD OF HAVING ALL BUCKS REGARDLESS OF SIZE HARVESTED. WE USED TO HUNT THE BLACK HILLS WHEN YOU COULD PURCHASE A LICENSE IN A CONVENIENCE STORE DURING THE SEASON. THIS HUNT WAS ONE OF THE BEST I HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THE BLACK HILLS. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
2449	would like to see the 3 point or bigger brought back
2450	Deer, turkey, elk counts way down from last year. You people sure are not doing your jobs right. Need to give out more mountain lion tags and run season with deer again. Now there is wolves being spotted out there. Not good for the Blackhills not good for any one. The person that came up with the idea to give out so many elk tags in years passed, and made the 2 point plus deer tags into any tags and gave out to many doe tags in years passed. Should not have a job with GFP. If you only care what the ranchers want why am I doing this survey. GFP needs to not try to fix whats no broken. Leave the drawing East, West, and Blackhills along.
2451	i would like to see more elk,mule deer, and less loins in the hills. the chaps program is great i hope more land owners sign up for the program in the future.
2453	There is way too many mountain lions!!! I seen numerous tracks and talked to the ranchers. It is time we get off our rocker and take care of the problem!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
2455	The deer numbers in the Northern Hills were way down. In normal areas where I see 20+ deer a day we were only seeing two. It seems as if the last two winters have had a large affect on the the deer and the mountain lions are not allowing the deer to repopulate. I ran into 4 lion tracks while hunting for 7 days.
2462	I still miss the days when you could just walk into a K mart and buy your Black Hills Deer tag. You always new you were going to be able to go hills deer hunting. I never complained about too many hunters. There was and still is plenty of room for everyone. If you wanted to get off your butt and work a little you could always find the deer. Whitetail deer are smart and that is that is the fun part of the hunt is to try and out fox them. If hunters want an easy hunt then they should stick to prairie hunting. It's too bad devoted and long time hills deer hunters don't draw a tag because too many hunters think they have to kill a monster buck in the hills and they don't have drive to work for them. Big bucks are there. They are just not easy to find. That is part of the challenge. If I don't find one I'm not going to cry about it. I enjoyed the trip and the memories. Increase the licenses and let us hunt. Thanks
2468	I feel you need a better retrieval program, a lot of older people can walk in to hunt, but can't drag a deer a half a mile to a mile. You need to work on a program for older hunters on this. I have talked to some ranchers who have found dead deer that were shot and left there. We need common sense to be more important than money. I feel we are all losing our freedom at a fast pace, and that goes for the Black Hills to. I'm sure I will never hear back on this subject from anyone.
2471	Had a wonderful experience with son's and grandson's ages 10-17. camping in cabin etc,for 4 days.no power or water. Even asked what a out-house was.Ho-Ho Thanks again for a great job you people do. Later ...Don Skinner
2476	there are plenty of deer in the hills if you dont just road hunt get off road 200 yards and there are plenty of deer.there could be more license for the people who go for the love of hunting and not worry about getting a deer.the quality of hunting is fine need more licenses for the sport.

	thanks!
2477	Our group of 15+ has hunted together for 26 years now in the Black Hills. this year we only had 5 buck licenses, but all came anyway. It was a lot more fun when we could all stop and buy a license on the way out.
2492	Just want to explain that I grew up in Rapid City and still have family living there. I view the opportunity to come back and hunt deer in the Black Hills as a way to spend time with family and friends. As I mentioned in the survey, I have no intentions of shooting a doe. I certainly had the opportunity to do so. I also want to complement the SD Department of Fish and Game for giving me this opportunity. Dohn Larson
2493	I was concerned with the low numbers of deer. Also seen a very low number of elk.
2494	Have hunted in the black hills since I was eleven years old (turned twelve during the season). I have not missed a year since I started even when I didn't get a tag. There is a group that goes out hunting from Trinity Lutheran Church in Mitchell SD which is my hometown. There has been a group from there every year since 1986. This hunt is very important to me and that group. Thank you for providing the oppurtunity.
2499	Raise the minimum point limit to four points on each side for two years. Limit hunters to one rifle season in the state. Possibly have a trophy season which would be a four point or better, and run the season from 11/15 - 12/15.
2506	from the question u asked early in the survey, are we going to adopt the texas way of counting points? I filled my tag with a 5x5 whitetail, not a ten pointer. lol...
2523	As a former resident that has to return home to hunt with family, it is gratifying to finally see some mountain lions being harvested. As a teen and thru my 20's, I had never seen but 1 set of tracks but now it is almost every year. I have to wait every other year or two to be able to hunt just for the sake of cougars. Please don't bring any wolves to the area .... I'll be pissed and you will have another predator to deal with and another slew of animal lovers/haters. Check with WY on those fun and games. If you need a reduction in elk and deer, issue more tags and I'll help every year. I have the ability to "hunt" in MS and shoot 5 deer and I use the term hunt loosely. Dwight Schipke
2538	One frustrating game law that, in my opinion makes hunting much less enjoyable is the banning of shooting from or across a numbered forest service road no matter how small or insignificant. As you know the hills are criss-crossed with small two track roads and what better way to hunt than to walk down one of these roads because you can do it quietly. You spot a shooter buck that you have a chance at until you try to get yourself off the road to shoot and he sees you and is gone because of your movement. I was hunting along the side of a ridge this year and was looking across the draw below me to the opposing hillside looking for deer when I realized there was a small numbered forest service road below me in the draw. I found myself hoping that I wouldn't see the buck of a lifetime because I wouldn't be able to shoot across the draw due to the road below. These situations in my opinion take a lot of the enjoyment out of hunting, they just shouldn't be factors at all. Why can't we just say it is illegal to shoot from a vehicle or a paved road and call that good? Small roads are just too much a part of the Black Hills for the Game, Fish and Parks to want to punish us by telling us we can't use them for hunting purposes. Please pass this opinion on to someone that has the authority to do something about it. One thing I think is a tremendous idea however, is putting the three major deer seasons together in one application and you can pick your preference. Bravo! I hope this goes through. Black Hills deer hunting is normally the only hunting I do and it is frustrating to lose out on getting a license because someone else ended up with four or five licenses including a Black Hills license which he may never even use. So please push this one through for people like myself. Thank you.
2545	I ran into John Kanta in the field. He is a very knowledgeable and professional representative

	of Game, Fish and Parks!
2549	I don't necessarily agree with combining the East River, West River and Black Hills tags as I only hunt the Hills. However, I do strongly agree that a system is needed where a person has the best chance of drawing their #1 choice i.e., stopping those people who apply for and additional tags just in case they may want to fill them--more of a recreational thing, than those who are hunting for the meat. It's not fair that a person doesn't get a tag he wants and and would definitely use versus someone else gets it but doesn't even really want to hunt that tag. I do agree with making it a #1 preference first draw and giving everyone who has each area listed as their #1 preference a chance at the tags before going to #2, etc. applications! I've heard of far too many people who actually only want to hunt West River but also apply for Black Hills just in case they don't get what they want or have extra time to kill--those of us who depend on those tags for meat should get first chance over "sportsman" just out for a trophy.
2550	I wish the number of any deer tags for non-residents was increased. We previously enjoyed the mule deer hunting. I also wish that the number of preference points gave a clear priority over those who possess less points, so that one can better anticipate when a tag is likely to be received.
2551	The only complaint I could possibly have is the reduced number of Any Buck tags given to Non-residents. I have harvested both beautiful Mule and Whitetail Bucks on public land and just am afraid of seeing a once in a lifetime buck come around that I am unable to harvest. Otherwise, best hunting ever.
2552	We enjoy this hunt very much. Recently, though we are dissapointed in the limit of non-resident tags issued and the new system. We hope a revision is made to allow non-residents a better opportunity to draw on a bi-annual basis as well as the opportunity to have a any buck tag instead of being limited to whitetail. This limits the areas we can hunt as well as making it difficult to make a quick decision on a buck. I encountered a situation in which a wonderful size buck ran through but I was unable to tell whether it was a mule deer or whitetail because of lack of clear evidence.
2557	<b>I THINK YOUR DEPT'S. ARE DOING THE VERY BEST THAT YOU CAN TO MANAGE THE DEER POULATION AND ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE HUNTING PUBLIC SATISFIED. GOOD JOB!!!!!!!!!!!!!! YOUR OFFICERS SEEM TO BE MORE TOLERANT OF MINOR MISTAKE BY US HUNTERS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OLDER THAT OLDER RESIDANTS MIGHT HAVE A BETTER CHANGE FOR A LICENSE BECAUSE OF THE MINIMAL YEARS LEFT TO HUNT. THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</b>
2560	There seemed to be fewer deer this year compared to past seasons. One concern that I have deals with the increased motor vehicle use in the Black Hills especially with ATVs and side by sides. I typically hunt in areas that are closed to motor vehicles that are administered by the Forest Service. When I hunt these areas I still finds ATV tracks and fences cut down in order for the ATVers to access these areas. I know that the land is administered by the Forest Service and not the GF&P but it would be beneficial to partner with them to control this issue. A hunting license is not a right to go and do what you want.
2561	I saw many mountain lion tracks and mountain lion kills. We need to reduce the number of lions in the hills. I would much rather increase the deer and elk herds than promote the lion population
2569	I've been deer hunting in the Black Hills with my family for 45 years. I've seen a lot of changes in the way GFP allocates licenses. When I first started in 1965, you could buy a Black Hills buck license over the counter, and your chances of seeing a buck (much less does) was slim. Over time, the doe licenses where all but eliminated and along with came an explosion of deer. We started to see bucks. This period of time probably ran from the mid 70's to about 2006

	when we noticed a decline in the number of deer. This year was probably the worst for seeing deer, although we did see bucks. The deer population now is not nearly as low as it was in 1965. I saw my first elk in about 1972. I saw tracks in the snow and thought a rancher had missed one of his cattle until I crested the hill, there stood a bull elk. I do not know how elk might affect a deer herd, but this year, I saw three to four times as many elk as I did deer. All of our family goes weather each individual has a deer license or not. It's not about killing a deer, its about your family and the out of doors. NATURE is what its all about.
2575	If there is a change in the way people get buck licenses (I don't know if I support that or not), I would like to see archery and muzzleloader still considered separate. For example, maybe only 1 buck rifle license, but people are allowed to have multiple buck tags if they are for a separate type of arm as they are a different type of hunt as well.
2593	Do not have an interest in hunting East or West river seasons. Would not like to compete with them for a Hills license. Hunt only public land.
2595	I prefer if main deer license would go back buck-only with two-points or bigger. So hunters don't shoot at everything that moves. I feel it makes a safer hunting experience.
2597	I saw more this deer this year than last and it seems they are back on track in population from 2009. A lot of small bucks and a lot of breeding going on. At least in the northern foothills area of the zone.
2600	Unless the Forest Service is dissuaded through your comments and action, I see large blocks of public forest land (where we have traditionally hunted for generations, and in which we are now bringing up a 3rd generation of family hunters) where we will be effectively locked out of large portions of the Black Hills. It won't matter whether we are able to get licenses, or whether the deer population is well managed, how many mountain lions there may be, the Forest Service will deny reasonable access. In my opinion, the greatest threat to future generations of hunters who enjoy quality time with friends and family in the Black Hills is "our own" Forest Service. These federal "public servants" do more to damage a great hunting opportunity with family and friends than any other event. My "wish list" is very simple. Give me access to our traditional hunting grounds, and licenses for friends and family. Make the licenses all "trophy" licenses if you wish. Shooting a great buck should be a most challenging and rare experience, and most of those licenses will never be filled. The last really great buck I took was in 2003, but I love the challenge whether I ever shoot or not. Most importantly, allow me, my sons and nephews and brothers and long time friends to at least be able to plan a few long weekends in the Hills, in areas we are familiar with, knowing we have licenses with whatever restrictions on size etc the circumstances require. We love hunting together. The kills is not required. Richard Pluimer Spearfish, SD
2602	I belong to a group of hunters that would get together in the Black Hills for about a week every year to hunt in a mountain type setting and enjoy one another's company. That is the ONLY deer hunting I would do all year. I would buy a buck tag before the lottery and hunt for the biggest buck I could find but never felt bad if I didn't get one. Now we have the lottery and I have become an out-of-stater. It's darned tough getting a rifle tag for a buck anymore. It means a long distance to come to be a stick man (man without a gun) on our drives (I live in north Texas). It has gotten so that we don't even have enough rifle tags to even do drives anymore. Most of the younger hunters hunt with a bow and I guess if I am to continue, I'll have to join them. I really hate what has happened to our group as far as the way we used to be able to hunt goes. I believe entirely in what a SD Game Warden from East River told me many years ago. He believed that the habitat and the food sources in the Black Hills NEVER would produce Trophy bucks. I have seen a few good ones but normally speaking, horn wise they aren't anything spectacular. For me, that didn't matter as much as the other reasons I hunt the Hills. By doing drives, we got around the Hills and hunted many areas and saw much wildlife. Coyotes, mountain lions, elk, turkeys etc. You don't see much variety sitting in a tree. I don't

	know where this is headed but I for one would like to see more licenses issued and more hunters in the Hills. This is so negative that Father's aren't working at getting their kids interested in hunting the Hills. To me, that is mostly what it is about, passing on the hunting tradition rather than trying to make a few Trophy deer available to a relatively small group of people willing to apply year after year. Thanks for listening. Gary Hansen, Frisco, Texas, 75034
2604	too many mule deer for the small number of non res lic
2608	I believe the deer and elk numbers have declined considerably in the Black Hills the last few years, even with the mild winters weve had. This decline may be slightly due to mountain lions but the majority of the decline is attributed to the large number of doe and cow licenses issued. I disagree with any hunting in the Black Hills after November except for mt. lion, predator, extreme depredation control, and Spring turkey. Lower the number of doe and cow licenses and don't extend the season into December and January.
2613	I love hunting in the Black Hills and have for 48 years. I don't like having only 500 any deer tags, but I have to admit it may be working for the Mule's. I saw more quality Mule deer Bucks this year than I ever have. I would love to see extra _preference point_ for us senior's, we are not going to get any younger you know, and every year I don't get a licence is pure (----) I mean pure torture. The Hills hunting trip is the highlight of my year. Keep up the good work.
2615	I saw moutian lion tracks almost every day and they were fresh. I hunted in 5 different areas and results were the same. We must get a hold on our moutian lion population problem.
2618	I believe that changing the application process (combining the 3 major seasons) would give those who own or have access to hunt on private land an additional advantage in drawing a license. There will always be a higher number of applicants for areas with large tracts of public lands available, such as the Black Hills, than there are for the areas that are primarily privately held. This would give those hunters who have access to hunt on private land the option of choosing the Black Hills season as their 1st preference knowing that they would always be able to fall back on the other seasons for a license due to less applicants for those areas.
2619	We hunt the Thompson, Kinney, Sherwood Springs, Sled areas alot. The hunting was about as poor as we've ever seen it. One thing that really bothered me was that road access tio the Thompson and Kinney canyons is being shut off. Why? We've hunted those areas since the early 80's and now suddenly we can't any more? It's pretty sad. In general white tail numbers in the area we hunted were pathetically low, mule deer much more commonly seen. We had whitetail tags.
2620	The Black Hills deer season is a very fun and appreciative time for us, a couple things I think the game and fish dept needs to address, are #1 Predator Control, from talking with relatives who live in Custer area, there are far too many lions, in the 1980's there were virtually no lions, to control lions SD needs to allow the use of hounds to hunt lions, they are killing far too many elk and deer. We saw way fewer elk than we normally do, and alot less whitetail deer. #2 is increase the number of any deer tags, or create antlered mule deer tags also, we saw many, many mule deer and several really nice bucks, increasing the any buck/deer tags would give more opportunity to hunters attempting to draw a tag. Personally I liked it much better when the tags were broke down into any antlered, and antlered whitetail, I would also keep a point restriction on of at least 2 points per antler, then you could give out more antlerless tags, thus creating more opportunity to draw a tag every year, I would not mind applying for antlerless tags, the way it is now, you cannot draw a doe tag. There are lots of folks that would love to hunt every year, and would do so with a doe tag and never fill the tag, but at least they would be out there legally hunting and would still be able to take a doe if they wanted to. Saw no lions but saw lots of tracks, I am convinced they need to be severely thinned out if we are to save our big game populations. I know many sportsmen in the hills and SD that are really

	fearful of wolves getting placed in the hills, rumor according to some folks is that wolves were let loose near Deerfield Lake. Hopefully that did not happen.
2626	I don't believe in managing for "Trophy" bucks. Nature will handle that just fine. Studies have shown that managing for large bucks generally means a decline in "Trophy" size animals over time. Habitat, nutrition and genetics have more to do with individual growth than departmental intervention. Too much television concentration on monster bucks has led to the convention that "if it's not a B&C, it's not worth the trouble". Most of the deer "hunted" (?) on the TV shows aren't taken by average hunters. They are taken by people interested in marketing their sponsor's products. The vast majority of TV animals are taken from private hunting preserves, not public hunting lands. I was raised in western SD and I remember seeing large numbers of bucks when I hunted in my youth. Even after returning here, 20 years ago, I remember seeing quality bucks in the hills and plains. Not so much anymore. Seems the studies may be right. Sending 500 to 1000 hunters into the environment to harvest 2 dozen "trophy" bucks means the gene pool gets depleted. What's left?
2632	Still way to many lion tracks found 11 different tracks in one day. You need to reduce the lions more.
2633	How about allowing scopes on muzzle loaders? If not for everyone, just allowing it for 60+ yrs hunters would help me a lot.
2641	I enjoy my self, each time I come to hunt The Black Hills. The oppertunity to hunt is more important than the chance to harvest a deer. I just wish I could hunt each year. I hunt trophy bucks only, and haven't harvested a deer in my last 4 licenses. Bruce Krousey
2642	Iam unhappy with draw system. When I first starting hunting the hills you could buy your license at court house or regeisterd license sales facillity. It was my understanding at that time if there were 6000 license issued for the hills it didn't matter if 4000 were sold to outsate hunters but when total number issued were out that was it even if was early Nov. Now there are only aproximately 400 out of state license. I was born in S.D. and the trip to the hills was a small family reunion with friends. Grandfather, uncles, then if someone was having health issues or job interference they didn't go out no cash. Now I would like take my son, however he works form contract to contract. He might be able to go or under contract thru nov. never now. If I send in for a license for him, he is drawn but can't go he is out the money and someone else deprived a chance to hunt. Comment about license before I still believe it is called The Black Hills National Forest. Although my hunt was short this year the total # of deer defenitely seemed to be down. It had been 4 years since I was there. However I would say even though I thought #s were down considerably the # of good bucks was up proportionately to # of does
2649	We have a old cabin in the hills and this spring when the does came in to the alfalfa fields we saw very few fawns with them. We spend a lot of time at the cabin and as we drove around we saw very few does with fawns. We have seen lots of cat tracks and have seen several cats. It seems like there isn't as many deer around as there has been in past years. Is there some way to issue cat licenses for diferent sections like the deer tags so some cats will be removed in each area.
2650	We didn't see as many deer as we have in past years. We hunted before the rut and seen a lot of whitetail does with no fawns.
2653	I am in favor of managing the deer population to increase the health of the herd and also to increase the size of the antlers on adult deer. I agree smaller than a 2x2 is not ethical to shoot. My concern is the fact that I am not able to hunt for a buck each year due to the lottery system. I suggest selling an unlimited number of buck tags, with a 4x4 or larger requirement. As for West River Prairie, I would love a bit longer season. I do like the carry over to hunt again for an antlerless deer later in the season. I live in Rapid City and prefer to hunt around Hill City and west to the Deerfield area.

2655	My entire family (2 children and my wife and I) all enjoy hunting deer in the Black Hills. I believe the deer management has been good and the number of quality bucks and overall number of deer has improved drastically over the last 10 years. I have noticed an increase in the number of coyotes and mountain lions in areas where previous deer herds were much larger. I believe more mountain lions need to be killed and the season needs to coincide with the deer season or at least be early enough to allow access into the winter closure areas of the Forst Service. After December 15th, many of the areas populated by mountain lions can only be accessed by foot after a very long hike. Keep up the good work.
2660	In the list of counties in survey Davison co. not listed.
2670	would like to see less bighorn sheep tags .....I think there is a decline in the sheep...and not to hunt them in the rut. because it takes the trophy hunt out of it.....its to easy to shoot one. it makes the tag a shoot and not a hunt .....thanks
2674	I feel that there is a great shortage of does compared to bucks this season. I would like to see you take away the tags that have any deer and make them strictly buck tags. Between the lion kills that i have seen and the automobile kills we are slowly getting rid of our deer population.
2679	I saw less deer this year in the Black Hills than the 60-65 previous years I have spent time in the Black Hills.. My Aunt and Uncle had a ranch in the Hills when they were alive, we used to go visit them every year for a week before school started, and then I started hunting.. Again, I am 69 years old.. Now that I am older, and I have had a hip replacement, I cannot walk very far, and not in fallen timber or rough country. I may not apply for any licenses in the Black Hills in the future again because of the "laws" recently made to restrict motorized vehicles on many roads, Forest Service Gates are locked from Dec 15th to May 15th. for the Winter Grazing season.. I cannot walk far enough away from the popular traveled highways and graveled roads to hunt Lions or Turkeys. There are thousands of acres of timberland that I cannot walk to and hunt the lions or turkeys.. And those acres are a Game Preserve for undisturbed lions to feed on the Deer and Elk. Lion season starts Jan 1st. ; and Turkey season is just about over on May 15th. I do know that there are people who ride ATVs on the back trails to just be wild riding and they do disturb the wildlife,, but I think that a RULE should be made that "You Can go Behind Those Gates , Only If You Have A Hunting License, That You Should Be Able To Ride On Those Back Roads To A Hunting Area Of Your Choice, And Then Park Your Motorized Vehicle." If I walked 1, 2, or 3 miles behind those gates, and shot a lion or turkey, I could never physically drag or carry it to my parked vehicle that far away. Why punish a dedicated, elderly hunter ?? I have worked all my life to enjoy my retirement doing what I love, hunting,, and now it looks like I have been told , if you cannot walk all day long, to stay at home. Signed: an elderly, life long SD resident , taxpayer, who no longer has any privileges.
2683	I would love to see all of SD deer hunts joined and then preference would let most all have there faviriotarea. thank you
2686	Although I had consistently heard reports of there being less deer in the hills this year, and even felt that way while driving around this summer, hunting this fall seemed to prove otherwise. The amount of deer seemed at least on par with previous years of hunting, and the two bucks my father and I shot were of good size. It might be helpful to note that we hunt mainly the area south of Deerfield Lake- Williams Draw, Six Mile Road, etc. The deer seemed to be doing well in this area.
2687	I didn't see a mountain lion while hunting but I saw signs of them in every area that I hunted. I hope you keep a real close count on their numbers as I believe they could get out of hand and severely damage the deer population. The Elk herd is huge. Will you ever allow a non - resident to hunt them? seems it would be a good source of revenue.

2693	mountain lions dont belong in the hills. I saw less deer this year than other years. I'm sure alot more money is made on deer and elk lic than mountain lion lic. I have seen alot of lion tracks other years when theres snow on the ground but i have never seen a lion. We didnt see any tracks this year due to the nice weather. all the localls say if you see a lion shoot it they have no time for them.
2694	I feel that the Mountain Lion population in the Black Hills is much higher then you folks are assuming and this is why the deer population is so low. In my early years of hunting the Hills it was hot uncommon to see 50 to 100 deer a day. Now we see 40 to 50 in a 4 day hunt.
2698	I think there is a great need to increase the number of mountain lions that are to be harvested. Each year my friends and I are seeing fewer deer--especially this year! Also saw very few calves with cow elk.
2707	As a non-resident, would love the opportunity to hunt the Black Hills yearly, but with the lottery this has become an every other year event. Would like to see outstate tags increase, and I feel we strongly support the local economy with the money we spend. Did see fewer does and fawns this year, but overall saw more bucks (spikes, forks, 3x3). In my years of hunting, I would usually see 8-10 deer per day, mostly fawns/does, but this year saw 3-6 deer per day, mostly bucks. Seems like the weakest of the deer herd (does/fawns) are being culled.
2713	AS FAR AS EVERYONE HAVING A BETTER CHANCE TO DRAW A BUCK TAG I'M IN FAVOR. BUT I GET A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED WHEN ALOT OF THE HUNTERS DON'T EVEN EAT THEIR DEER. I HAD 2 SMALL, 1 AND 2 YEAR OLD BUCKS GIVEN TO ME THIS YEAR. THE HUNTERS DIDN'T WANT, THEY DIDN'T EVEN TAKE THE HORNS. THEY JUST WANTED TO KILL SOMETHING. THIS MAKES IT RATHER HARD ON QUALITY BUCKS.
2720	Declining deer herd is a major concern. Obviously the mountain lion issue is probably a bigger factor than reported. It needs to be controlled with more tags available and seasons concurrent with the rifle deer season. The fact that lions are observed and shot in some east river areas is a good indication that the population is out of hand. Our family and friends have hunted in the Hills for 35+ years and it's the one hunting trip that gets talked about all year. It's also our only deer application, it's the Hills or nothing. Buck only tags are best and a statewide draw as listed in the survery with the Hills, east river, and west river preference might be a good option to insure all hunters get a better chance to enjoy their preferred hunting experience each year. ***I understand the balance between lion proponets and deer/elk hunters but I think the thing to remember is where the majority of fees are generated and weigh the decision making using that scale.
2722	I WOOD LIKE TO GET A PERMIT EVERY YEAR. I'M 62 THINK ABOUT IT FELLOWS . MERRY CHRISTMAS ....
2727	VERY FEW HUNT ANYMORE, IT IS ALL ROAD HUNTING. WE NEED MORE VEHICLE CLOSED AREAS DURING THE SEASONS. MOST OF MY RELATIVES HAVE MOVED OUT OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT. A LARGER QUOTA FOR NON RESIDENT HUNTERS WOULD HELP KEEP THE FAMILY TRADITIONS ALIVE.
2731	The number of Whitetail deer were down alot this last two years. In areas where I use to see alot of deer I am not seeing any. Did see lots of sign of lions in alot of the areas I hunted this year. Did happen to see a large male lion in one of the areas I hunted. I believe im not seeing the large number of deer due to either lions or diseases. Years past I would see an average of 15 to 20 bucks a day. The last two years I was only seeing around 15 to 20 bucks a season. Whitetail numbers have dropped.
2732	First off I would like to say that I was very pleased with drawing a tag this year to hunt Hills Deer. I believe the lottery system that the GF&P is using is not up to par though. I have family members that have not drawn a deer tag for 5 Years now. I believe that something is wrong w

	the system even if you have preference points. Secondly I think that the GF&P needs to up the cost of OUT OF STATE HUNTERS LICENSE FEES. I have been looking into hunting within other states..., South Dakota is by far one of the cheapest states to get a tag and offers to many compared to SD residents. While Hunting in the Custer Limestone area, 90% of all the hunters we came into contact with were out of state hunters. These Hunters, mainly road hunting and shooting at anything that moves is very upsetting. Something needs to change. I grew up in the Black Hills and have been hunting with my family since I was able to walk. The hunting season is very important to me and my family. I don't want to see it ruined by some idiots that cannot respect the laws and abide by them. Thank you for your time and this survey.
2733	I live in the black hills and we have deer all around us. Mostly we hunt on the forest service right behind our house. We do have lions in our area. I seems like this year there was a noticable difference in the number and quality of bucks. Nothing like before the quota system, but not nearly as good as it has been over the last 10 years. We did see one or two large bucks come out after the season and a fair number of basket racks during the season. Also a sharp decline in the elk sightings. Several of us are applying for lion tags this year and plan to start hunting them a little harder. Hope that helps. Rich Quinn, 9901 Canyon Place, Rapid City
2734	No unlimited youth licenses, limit their numbers Revert to "Buck Only" tags Allow "Buck Only" tags to include either Whitetail or Mule Deer Revert to "2 points or better" restrictions Increase Mountain Lion tags Change the Mountain Lion season to coincide with deer hunting season Limit doe tags to increase deer population
2736	Overall deer population appears to be down in the areas I hunted this year. Off-road vehicle travel in restricted areas was observed and upsetting. While not observing mountain lion sign in the area I hunted this year, I did observe mountain lion sign in these areas during the mountain lion seasons in the past.
2737	need to cut number of cats in the hills
2746	too many road hunters
2751	Deer numbers are obviously down, I contribute alot of it to high cat numbers since I saw fresh cat tracks about every other hunting trip this year. Mule deer numbers seem to be devastated as I saw very few compared to years past. As a deer hunter and not really a cat hunter I would like to see cat tag numbers increased.
2754	Get rid of the any tag and go back to the 2 point plus tag killing to many doe deer. You people did a great job of messing up all wildlife counts in the blackhills deer, turkey, and elk. Need to kill more mountain loins and let season run with deer again.
2756	Don't like the fact that the West River and Black Hills Draw are the same deadline. Would like to hunt one or the other, but with a deadline on the same date, one needs to apply for both. With the relatively low numbers of deer (at least my experience), something needs to be looked at whether it's fewer licenses for deer, more mountain lion licenses or something else.
2757	Gentlemen, I am becoming very displeased with our current situation concerning the opportunity to hunt deer in our own state with a firearm. I have been hunting in the Black Hills for the last thirty-three years. I have seen significant changes over the years in how hunting has taken place and with the deer population and quality of mature bucks. I can remember many years during the 70's and 80's that I never even had an opportunity to lay eyes on a mature buck let alone get a shot at one. Then the system changed to a minimum point requirement and that started to change the quality of the deer that were being seen during the hunting season. The system changed to a limited draw and the deer hunting experience dramatically changed for the good. I began seeing and harvesting larger bucks than I had ever had an opportunity at in the first twenty years of having hunted in the Black Hills. Then five years ago things began to change again, the deer population began to noticeably decrease. The quality of the mature buck deer seems to have increased slightly, but the quantity of shootable deer has steadily decreased.

	<p>With the steady decrease in the number of licenses available to the resident deer hunters in the Black Hills, I along with many other hunters started applying for and hunting West River Units. This opened my eyes to some very obvious and alarming shortcomings in the way the deer hunting opportunities on Public Lands are being managed by our Game Department and Commissioners. The number of available licenses is being wildly over used to generate revenue at the expense of real game management. I have now hunted on large tracks of Public Land in both Harding County and Penington County in the last two years and the experience has been very frustrating. Not only is there way to many hunters for the available deer populations accessible by the average resident hunter, but the hunting experience is causing friction between hunters, between hunters and land owners adjacent to these publicly accessible lands, and the trust and perceived abilities of our Game Department is being seriously eroded because of the unlimited number of hunters trying to fulfill there desire to experience a quality hunting opportunity on Public Lands. Something has to be done to limit the number of hunters that can be hunting on these tracks of land at the same time otherwise there cannot be a satisfying hunting experience. I have talked to Ranchers in both of these counties and received essentially the same view point even though they were many many miles away from each other. All four of the ranchers that I had an opportunity to talk with were sincerely concerned about the number of hunters and number of licenses issued for the area they lived in. None of these folks participated in paid hunting. Remarkably they were all frustrated with there efforts to even have someone from the Game Department return there calls so they could discuss there concern with the number of hunters gathered on a to small of area. I don't have an agenda or specific axe to grind with any one in the management of our hunting resources, but I know as a lifelong resident and avid hunter that we need to change direction if the hunting satisfaction of our Sportsmen is going to be realized. If the huntable populations of wildlife on the accessible Public Lands is going to provide memorable hunting experiences, new and innovative solutions must be sought out. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in any way, or to clarify my comments so we can improve our hunting opportunities and satisfaction. Sincerely David Thill 605-996-0285 or email me at ravenofg@valyousat.net.</p>
2765	<p>I, among others, am concerned about the road closures in the Jasper Fire area. Many of the roads are being closed in our hunting areas that were not even affected by the fire, while other areas with no trees have open roads. There seems to be no rhyme or reason how the roads were picked. I do not see much harm in leaving these roads open and I think it will be an enforcement nightmare.</p>
2774	<p>Overall satisfied, starting to get worried about where I Black Hills Deer Hunt though and overall people pressure. I hunt mt. roosevelt outside deadwood, i love to hunt there but it seems like its beginning to be overtaken by individuals moving up there. I feel that in 5 years i will not even be able to hunt up there.It's sad that not only am I feeling like i am getting booted out of my favorite hunting spot but also the deer with the city limits spreading so far. I also west river deer hunt, enjoy that as well but was hoping for more walk in areas for people like me that don't know anyone with land to hunt on. Seems that much of the walk in areas up in butte county are hunted super hard and is quite crowded. Thank you</p>
2776	<p>I believe the overall deer population is lower now than the past 4-6 years. I realize the very liberal number of tags available in the past 3-4 years has contributed to the decline in the deer population, however, in my opinion there are far too many mountain lions in the Black Hills. I can remember as a youth in the early 80's we would have 80 to 120 deer on our hay meadows pretty much year 'round and the tags were over-the-counter. Now, on the same property, we see maybe 40 deer total. In my opinion, 75 to 100 lions should be the target population. If they are as reclusive and independent as we are told by the biologists... they should be RARELY seen....not COMMONPLACE. I have personally seen over 20 lions over the past 5 years and</p>

	have been directly involved in the death of three lions. I enjoy hunting them and hope we can reduce the population to a sustainable number. The hunting public will be much happier with fewer lions and more deer and elk tags available.
2781	There seemed to be far fewer deer (especially bucks) in the area where we normally hunt north of Horse Creek Road compared to previous years. We harvested the only two bucks we saw during the two days we hunted.
2785	There seemed to be good numbers of deer this year, but the weather was so warm during the first part of the month that very few deer were seen. The number of hunters was also down, so the deer had very little reason to move unless we got close. The end of the month was colder and had snow, but it did not seem that the rut ever started in the Nemo area. We never saw a single buck running with the does. Very unusual. Overall, the hunting experience was still a good one. I spent more quality time with my son and his wife than years gone by. That is the biggest reason that i go back to the Hills every year.
2786	Enjoyed the hunt, wish I could get home to hunt more often...grew up in Sturgis.
2789	I like the preferred liscence concept. As a Pennington County resident, I prefer to hunt the Black Hills. The descibed change of application process would increase my chances of drawing a tag every year.
2791	The rule book says you can't shoot from a county maintained road. Now I see there is an additional rule that says you can't shoot from a forest service system road. I have 2 issues with this: 1. A vast majority of people are still road hunting. Why have rules and add additional rules if they aren't enforced. I live on Elk Creek road in Lawrence County and the road hawkers drive up and down Elk Creek road all day long. 2. I like to still hunt roads (open and closed) to vehicle travel. Does the no shooting from a system road include still hunting on foot? I would like to see a minimum point restriction put back in place. I believe the quality of bucks increased when this was in place. Rob Mattox 605-578-1556
2792	there are too many out-of-state hunters - South Dakota hunters should get preference before them - I like it better when we could buy a license over the counter instead of the draws - they don't seem to work very well - I live and work in the Black Hills, I should be able to hunt in the Black Hills.
2794	I understand the logic behind removing the 2 point or better rule for hills bucks to protect the Mule deer population. However, I still think you should consider it for the whitetails. I worry that we will see a decline in the quality of whitetail bucks over time. As an avid hunter, I do not think most hunters will not have too much problem with identification, especially now that you have seperate Mule deer tags. Also, during my time in the woods this year, although I did not see any cats, I do think certain areas have very low deer numbers compared to previous years, although it appeared that there was lots of forage??? Thank you.
2796	I really enjoying hunting and enjoying nature in a hunt. Shooting an animal of any kind is not the main purpose of the hunt for me. If I get a chance of a good looking deer or antelope for meat and my freezer has the room, yes I will harvest an animal but only do it in a very humane way like a neck shot. Hunting with my children and grandkids is the ultimate joy of a hunt. Teaching, showing, and being with are more important than anything. Large bucks to me, should be left for breeding stock so the herd stays strong. Sorry, I have never been one to hunt for horns.
2811	Although I saw a fair amount of deer and some bucks, I didn't see a good buck. I hunted 3 days during the peak of the rut so I thought I should have seen at least a couple good bucks, even if I couldn't get a shot. Seems to me that increasing the quality of bucks within the Black Hills should be a priority while at the same time maitaining or increasing the current deer populations and opportunity level. I would potentially support a trophy restriction being placed on all or some portions of the black hills if that were needed. Deer hunting now is extremely

	better than in the 1990's and early 2000's though. In those years you were lucky to see 15 deer a day and you NEVER saw a decent buck.
2817	I think you should increase the number of mountain lion tags you give out, because I think the deer and elk are decreasing because of the mountain lions.
2822	I and 7to 9 other relatives and friends have hunted together for most of 43 + years and this year was a bummer to us as only 3 of the crew received our license. Not as much fun as previous years. I also have hunted the first part of the season with some other friends the past 10 years and as with the previous, less than half did not receive license. I also receive reports of too many mountain lions eating high on hog as we old people call {good eating} I am not an expert, but would like more control on the lions. Thanks for your efforts, I can imagine how tough to please everyone.
2832	South Dakota hunting is not managed well for many reasons. 1.) You need to limit road access to remote areas doing the hunting seasons. The rules say that we can only drive on numbered roads but it seems like every road, trail, etc has a number on it. 2.) Way to many mountain lions. And 3.) To many doe tags going unfilled. Thank you
2833	You guys do a great job. Keep up the good work in managing our wildlife. It wouldn't hurt my feelings to get rid of some more mt. lions though.
2845	Having lived my entire life in the rural Black Hills, I have been closely associated with deer on a year round basis, and more recently with elk. I strongly believe that mountain lions have had a detrimental effect on both the deer and elk populations. I have thought for years that hunters should have only 1 preferred statewide rifle license per year unless there are leftover unfilled licenses, thus giving more hunters a chance to have a tag. I am pleased with your proposal.
2849	Very good experience in the Black Hills. I beleive the SD GF&P personnel do a fantastic job.
2850	I was very disappointed in the quality of the Mule Deer bucks that I saw. I hunted from the very southern end of the Hills to Spearfish Canyon. I was not able to find a 24 inch buck in the areas I hunted. Were my expectations to high? What is an average mule deer buck for the Hills?
2858	I feel it is HIGHLY unfair, when we only have a limited number of tags available, to allow tags to be available to out of state residents. Given that the residents are the ones living here, paying taxes, and supporting the economy on an ongoing day to day basis, I feel residents should have prioity over out of staters. It's not fair when one of us gets turned down on a tag, and then we see lisenice plates from other states parked in the woods. The other states have their own hunting opportunities, and they are taking opportunities away from the hunters that live here. If there are left over tags, then those can be made available to out of staters, or if the hunt is not part of a drawing, then maybe that would be ok too. I realize the out of staters pay more for their tags and maybe even helps fill a few motel rooms and purchase a few meals, but I have a hard time believing that it creates such an influx of revenue to justify denying our own residents hunting opportunities. I would even be willing to pay slightly higher fees to provide more opportunities for residents, if that's what the out of state sale of hunting opportunities is all about. From my perspective, I feel a tax payer supported State agency such as the GFP should be here to serve the residents of the State and not to provide opportunities to residents of other states while at the same time denying opportunities to the residents. That's like me buying a bicycle for the kid next door, and then telling my own kid he can't have one. That's what I think!!!
2859	saw mountain lion tracks every area we hunted appears to be more animals then being told there really are
2861	The three deer seasons and elk should be combined into a single draw and then the leftovers drawn. I believe the present system is fatally flawed when one hunter can potentially draw four

	tags and another hunter has to stay home. It does not take a rocket scientist to recognize the inequality in the present system and I would hope the commission members would step up to the plate and level the playing field for all residents of South Dakota. Thank you, Todd Anderson.
2868	i treasure the time i get to spend with my son hunting in the black hills. now that we have a draw system i have less chances of going hunting with my son. i think every one would like to shoot a trophy buck but my biggest thrill is just getting to go.
2874	Dont like draw system for the black hills. Not a Land owner for east or west river.
2876	I don't understand how private property owners in the Black Hills can prevent the general public from accessing portions of the BHNF that are only accessible by crossing a private property. An easement should be required across private property to access those areas of the BHNF that are not accessible by traversing public land only. It's like some private owners have their own little hunting preserve on land owned by the public. What can SDGF&P do to remedy this problem? Who is keeping tabs on what these owners are doing on BHNF land since no one else can get there?
2877	If someone thinks there are a lot of deer in the Black Hills they were not here in the old days. Numbers of deer are realative. My fear is that people will start to think this population is normal. Please manage ALL our big game populations to provide us with the quality hunting we used to experience. Through many years of experience many of us know that mountain lions are a big part of the problem. While they are not the total problem they contribute to it in a big way. We see that evidence when we are out hunting. Lions SEEM to work one area over and, then move to the next area, leaving the one behind devoid of deer. I know this isn't science but, it is an observation many of us share. Thank you for your concern
2888	I strongly oppose the number of youth tags that can be issued to each youth. Having an early season for them is ok but should only be allowed one tag.
2890	There is large talk of mountain lion population getting to large in the hills. I do believe i have seen more deer in one year and wonder if this could be part of the reason. Possibly raise the limit on the lions.
2895	It seems to me the people that live in a particular area should have more of a chance to get licenses in that area then outsiders. I also think you should watch the mountain lion and count how many deer a year they eat. Then look at how many licenses you could let humans have. This was the least amount of deer I have seen in many years and I have hunter for over 50 years.
2897	Current system is fine. Leave it alone.
2901	I don't like the new road access rules that started in Dec. The maps appear to be to complicated, access should be motorized or non-motorized, It is a increased expense to have to purchase a ATV to access several areas. I enjoy walking into a lot of areas, so I agree in closing off a lot of the areas to motorized travel. I see too many "hunters" who hardly ever get out of their vehicles.
2908	It appears to me that your managers have greatly underestimated the effectiveness of the antlerless deer hunters in the Black Hills. For years, youth, archery, muzzleloaders hunters etc. have been allowed to harvest deer and apparently, their effect has not been considered or at least underestimated. You need more knowledgable staff. Perhaps more credit should be given to the game wardens who are out in the field and see what is going on with the deer population on a daily basis.
2917	I stronly support our GF&P, you are on the right track, keep up the good work
2930	It seem that the whitetail and muledeer group sizes are really down and there wasn,t many larger bucks of either groups.

2934	This was a successful year of hunting but it still seemed to be overcrowded with other hunters. It would be nice if the number of licenses issued were slightly decreased to benefit overall hunting conditions and improve the number and quality of bucks in the Black Hills. It seems that there are a high number of average bucks and a small number of quality, mature bucks in the Black Hills.
2936	I've seen less deer the past couple of years. Buck size doesn't seem to be the same quality as the previous 2 or 3 years. I definitely see more mt. lion sign. Especially the last 3-5 years.
2939	As I only saw 1 live lion this year. The amount of lion sign I saw was incredible. Multiple sets of fresh tracks, fresh tracks walking right down the middle of a drag trail, I saw on 2 occasions a pair of tracks following game trails with multiple deer tracks on the trail. It sure seemed to me that the deer population was significantly damaged by the amount of lion sign available for evidence. I will be applying for a lion tag for the upcoming season without any doubt. One nice thing to report was a very large number of ruft grouse were seen by myself and most others I spoke with.
2940	Based upon the number of deer I encountered on this trip, it would seem that the number of licenses issued needs to be increased. There were deer everywhere. Having a good and managed herd is important, but it certainly appears that the overall numbers are getting a bit too high. As it stands now, I'm only able to draw a non-resident rifle license once every two or three years. Many of my friends and family that live in South Dakota (I'm originally from the Mitchell area) were unable to draw a tag this year at all. Every hunter I encountered while in the Black Hills (Custer area) this year was successful and saw many other deer as well.
2952	I really enjoy being able to hunt with my grandchildren during the youth season.
2957	There were fewer deer on this trip than the previous hunting trip I was on.
2960	Lots of deer in town and residential areas. Didn't see many deer up in the hills. Seen lots of mountain lion tracks. I feel the mountain lions are killing too many deer and are forcing them to the residential area. Also I didn't see much elk sign and think the mountain lions are affecting the elk herd too.
2971	Seen a lot fewer deer this year while hunting in the hills. Did not see near the amount of does this year as in the past. I think the deer population has gone down considerably.
2972	The youth season is a great opportunity for my daughter and other kids to hunt without a lot of pressure from other hunters.
2973	Don't issue so many out of state tags and increase the number of mountain lion tags for a few years to get the deer population up without taking away from the residents that pay to live here.
2974	Find a way to enforce the travel restrictions on National Grasslands.
2984	I had pleasant contact with not only with conservation officers but also biologist. I found both to be very friendly and helpful. I think the interactive website, unit mapping and mostly public land maps online could be a little better. I also hope the Chap program continues to expand. All in all though I'm very happy with our South Dakota hunting.
2989	I strongly disagree with combining east river, west river and black hills into one area. I believe this will only increase traffic and hunting pressure in certain areas. If the basis behind limiting hunting is to increase quality of the animals I think eliminating the availability of getting extra tags or giving out less tags per area is what should be done. I like how it is set up right now don't change anything.
2996	I believe the deer population in the hills has greatly decreased after listening to older hunters people talk now they say of number of deer the older hunters laugh and say did you see the deer here in the 50's and everybody always says I wasn't here then exactly maybe somebody should look into the number of also trophy deer taken in the black hills the idea of a trophy deer

	<p>in the hills these days is a joke need the 2 point on one side was a great start it should be 4 point on one side.I also believe the 2 point on one side needs to be inforced better I see people with spikes they have harvested or believed it was a doe and I understand some of the button bucks but it is a sportsmens duty to tell some of them that have ben harvested the shooter doesnt care just shoots a deer.I believe the number of hunters needs to be reduced the mountian lion population is greatly affecting the deer so the hunters should be adjusted to equalize the affects of a strong lion population.At my young age alone and being a land owner that gets tags threw the land owner option I can tell the number of deer has greatly decreased and the quality also.Thanks for your time</p>
2997	I would hunt black powder, if we could use scopes
3005	Should be allowed to take a lion along with a deer in the hills.
3007	<p>Once again this year I saw a number of 'hunters' driving up and down FS roads with the windows rolled down and guns out the window. I had hunters walking right through a meadow where I was sitting, even though they saw me there. The number of slob hunters seem to have only increased and have made it worse for the rest of us. I am 50 years old, female, hunt alone, have MS, yet I park, walk everywhere and try to the best of my ability to hunt ethically. This year many of my favorite hunting spots were over run by East River hunters in head to toe orange that charged everywhere and chased me out of my favorite spots. I finally had to go far out &amp; shimmy under some FS barbwire fences to find a place that wasn't over run and where I could have a quiet hunt. After this year I am seriously thinking of not hunting anymore, not because of my health but because of the deluge of other hunters ruining my experience in the woods.</p>
3008	Out of state hunting lic should be restricted to only a certain number of total lic provided giving resident hunters more chance to receive a tag and fill it.
3016	<p>I've hunted in the Black Hills since I was eight years old. This year has been the toughest as far as seeing deer numbers. We would go a half a day without seeing deer some days. I was fortunate enough to be able to get a couple weeks of hunting in this year. Places that have always had deer in the past were desolate. I covered alot of the Black Hills, alot on foot this year. I seen about an equal number of elk and deer this year. I did see 4 uncollared cats this season I had never seen a cat until this season. I walked a ridge that was littered with deer bones and cat sign. I think the cats are great to have in the Black Hills. They put the wild in wildlife. There are simply to many of them and they need to be managed more closely. The deer and the cats can both thrive together here. The four cats I did see were within a mile of homes. I know they have taken pets, mainly domesticated cats. The first time a hiker is attacked/killed there will be a very negative feeling towards G,F&amp;P. I would recommend to be proactive instead of reactive on this issue.</p>
3017	<p>I would be in favor of the "preferred" application method to improve license draw success because there are several of my family members and friends that have always received BH deer tags in the past on a regular basis and now have a very DIFFICULT time drawing a license. I think that if you prefer to hunt in the BH and you are a resident of SD, you should have a very GOOD chance at drawing a tag on a consistent basis from year to year. Part of this problem is the mountain lion population, I believe. While BH deer hunting I saw several sets of lion tracks, 2 half eaten deer carcasses and 1 juvenile lion myself in different areas throughout the hills. I know of 5 of my family members that spotted 3 other seperate lions as well. I know this may be coincidence but I have a hard time believing it's not more of an obvious sign and pattern that is strongly effecting our deer/elk population (and thus number of tags) in a negative way. I believe the mountain lion management should be ran similar to the other predator seasons which allow higher amounts of these animals to be harvested. Not sure if this would be a possibility but it seems like a logical solution to the over population of lions. Thanks for listening to my comments. Hopefully they will be beneficial and taken into consideration,</p>

	Keaton Cummings
3021	While a number of people are blaming mountain lions as the reason they don't see the deer numbers that they have in the past years there in the Hills many of the local residents feel coyotes are more to blame for the low numbers. I'd like to see a bounty put back on coyotes to help keep their numbers in check. In the areas where I hunt I have noticed more signs of coyotes and have seen more coyotes than I have in years past. I also like the Hills Deer "any whitetail deer" application as I only have a limited amount of time to hunt and I usually try to accompany one or both of my sons if they are also drawn for a license. With one son in college and the other working full-time their available time to hunt is also limited. Usually we hunt for "horns" for a couple of days and as it gets closer to the time that we need to leave and we haven't filled our tags the option to take a doe is available and we usually can take some meat back to enjoy.
3035	We live in the Black Hills and have numerous deer problems including deer eating our flowers and garden products and small trees that we have planted. Our area has an over-abundance of deer, yet my husband has not recieved a Black Hills license for the past Three years. Although we don't own 160 acres anywhere we should have some sort of preference because of where we live!
3052	the deer and elk population is way down i think because of moution lions
3056	Deer Population: Very good in some areas(i.e Deerfield area) while others had little. I would ask you to think about ways to manage the deer population that would increase the chances of seeing nicer/quality bucks(i.e 5 x5 or better) - if that is possible. I saw a fair amount of bucks but most were pretty scurbby. I would like to see the Mountain Lion season coincide with the Black Hills Deer season.
3057	GF&P needs to seriously thin out the mountain lion population in the hills, by issuing more permits & allowing dogs to be used on the hunt. The deer population around Nemo is significantly down from previous years & the elk population is basically non-existant, it has been at least 4 years since I have even seen an elk. These cats have zero fear of humans, which makes being up in the woods dangerous.
3061	Extremely disappointed in the way antelope rifle season was handled this year. Far too many hunters with far too many licenses for far too few animals. It is not difficult to observe the impact of the last few winters on the herd densities, but why has the state handled the devastation so poorly, seemingly rousting up as many licenses as they could, regardless of the densities or legitimate chances to fill the tags ? Sadly, I'm not sure I'll be applying for antelope again as the practices of the SDGFP remain highly suspect, in my mind.
3062	FIX THE MOUNTAIN LION PROBLEM, QUIT DOING THE MULTIPLE DOE TAGS, SEEMS LIKE FEWER AND FEWER DEER EVERY YEAR. IVE BEEN HUNTING THE HILLS FOR OVER 25 YEARS.
3072	I truly enjoy hunting in the Black Hills, be it archery or rifle. Having a son who lives in Montana and spending time there hunting I realize how blessed we are to have the kind of hunting we do in the hills. I can see more deer in 1 day here than he can in a season. The things that bothers me here the most are the number of roads that give access to so much of the area and how many people spend most of their time in their vehicle or atvs road hunting. I know during the rut it is probably more effective to drive miles in a vehicle to spot an oblivious mature buck to harvest , but I would rather shoot a buck or take a doe while "hunting" than shoot a trophy from my vehicle. It seems to me in all the years I have hunted, the percentage of people who shoot from their vehicles has increased each year. I know this is something that is very hard for you to police and regulate, but I feel we are losing true hunting to people who are more wrapped up in harvesting and antler scores than the experience. I also wish people would understand that filling their tag with an immature deer just so they can say they got their

	buck, instead of not filling their tag or shooting a doe is counterproductive to everyones wish to have more mature bucks in the woods.
3078	Open Mountain lion season up year round with unlimited tags, shoot them all I say. I have never seen one but I have seen so much sign that I know one has seen me. That thought really creeps me out.
3084	In the late 60 and early 70's there were all kinds of deer in the hills. Sometime maybe in the late 70's the bucks started being hard to find. In the past 10 years or so there seems to be only a fraction of the number of deer to be seen as there was in the 60's, either bucks or does.
3094	Pay your fisheries interns better.
3104	My deer hunting this year in South Dakota has been a good experience. I seen quite a few deer "maybe a little light in the hills" but over-all I think the management process is good. About the only thing I would change is the lion population. I think it is to high just by the amount of people that I talk to that have seen them this year and the deer elk numbers. The deer/elk population appears down but I also see you guys actively working to fix this. As far as the mountain lion hunting goes my recomendation would be to allow dogs for the main reason of being able to tell what sex the lion is your harvesting. This is for two reasons, one for the proper management of lions and it would add tremendous sportsmanship that would also increase revenue and attract more hunters to the sport. Thanks and keep up the good work. Tim
3105	Need more mature bucks and more bucks per does in the Black Hills, east river and west river.
3110	The only problem I have is that there are christmas tree hunters out during the season. And most of them are not wearing orange. So if they can stop giving out tags for Christmas trees before the season is over that would be alot safer for both parties. Thank you for listening.
3112	Certain roads are getting crowded to hunt off of, for example, Victoria Lake Road. Most of the hunters there are what I like to call "road scouters", because they just drive the roads looking for quality deer. Although I have never personally seen anyone kill an animal from their vehicle/road hunt, everyone knows that hunters do it. Possibly making it illegal to carry a firearm in the passenger compartment of a vehicle might make it harder for these road hunters to get their tags filled. Honest hunters like myself like to get out and walk/scout/locate deer the traditional way, but many times I just don't feel safe with all the road hunters. When you couple that fact with the new ATV/ORV laws, I would not only have to go a couple miles off road to hunt, I can't even use an ATV to retrieve my downed game. I would also like to see ATV use ANYWHERE to retrieve downed game. Custer state park has a very good system in place concerning retrieval, It would be nice to see the entire state adopt a policy like this.
3118	Less out of state deer hunters! I feel that more resident SD people are loosing out on the chance to harvest a deer in this state due to the huge number of out of state hunters. I do realize the income that is brought in by out of state hunters, but I feel in the long run it will only hurt the state's rich hunting tradition. I feel that out of state hunters do not appreciate the tradition of hunting in South Dakota and usually ruin it for resident hunters. Respect and attitude goes a long ways in my book. The only solution is to increase the number of licenses issued to residents and reduce the number issued elsewhere. I know this isn't a perfect solution but when numerous farmers and ranchers complain and file complaints about illegal hunting violations committed by out of state hunters something needs to be done or addressed.
3131	I think it is wrong that out of state people recieve tags when ther are residents that don't. I think out of state tags should only be issued if ther are not enough residents that apply for tags, then and ONLY then should out of state people recieve a tag.
3137	I really enjoy hunting in the Black Hills. It is by far my favorite type of deer hunting. But east river, I would really like to see the east river deer season changed back to a 9 day season for any deer and then extended another week for antlerless deer and then the season be concluded,

	with no season dates in January. Though I like east river deer hunting, I believe that 16 days of east river deer hunting is enough. I see to many road hunters and lazy hunters relying on my pheasant hunting to scare them a deer and it drives me crazy and really irritates me. I normally give up on pheasant hunting for the entire east river deer season just for this fact. I know I am not the only one who does not agree with the current season dates and hope that the GF&P would strongly consider changing the season dates back to 9 days. Not many people walk in January because of the cold, so you see much more road hunting, which just leads to illegal hunting acts. I believe the Black Hills deer quality has improved over the last few years, however the deer numbers seemed to have declined. I am hoping the deer and elk populations will start to show signs of improvement over the next few years. Maybe an increased mountain lion quota will help. We can only hope. The GF&P does an excellent job at maintaining the quality of hunting in South Dakota. Just hoping someday the east river deer season length is changed back to the good old days. Thanks!
3139	I would like to see the 2 points or better for the any tag.
3143	How would combining the Black Hills, East River and West River applications work? Because now you have so many tags per county, whereas if you combine them, is there going to be so many tags for East River, West River, Black Hills? And if you do that, how is it going to be controlled because you may have more people overhunting some areas and underhunting other areas? I am not sure what you are trying to do.
3144	Hunting in the Hills is always exciting & fun. My husband & I look forward to spending the time together. If we harvest a deer or 2 it's a bonus, because being in the Hills together is part of our vacation.
3147	I would like to see the whole state go to a point system on the male whitetail deer. Black Hills two point or better and the rest of the state four point or better. When the Black Hills had a point system on the bucks I would see more quality bucks then I have the last couple of seasons. This year I seen a total of 6 quality bucks in four days.
3150	This was my first Black Hills deer tag. I think I had 3 preference points going into the season. With no scouting in this area, but a general awareness of deer patterns based from mt lion hunting the past few years I was able to find several deer in the rut on Nov 21st. It was the only day I was going to have all season to hunt. I started hunting at 7:30. By 8:10 I had shot my deer, by 9:30 it was already hanging back up in town. Not sure what GF and P standards are for a trophy buck in this survey are. My deer was an average 4 by 5 and a general representation of a normal BH deer.
3151	I see far too many hunters simply driving the back roads looking for deer versus getting out of their vehicles and actually looking for sign, bedding areas. still hunting, etc.....this does not teach youth/mentored hunters any about the outdoors like learning deer sign and habitat/habits, bedding areas, how to find, etc....I thought this is what hunting was about....not riding around in a truck all day "looking" for deer.....I fully support any program allowing handicap hunters to shoot from their vehicle but completely oppose younger hunters able to walk through the woods being able to "road hunt". I also do not under stand why I can ride around in a vehicle all day with a loaded weapon but cannot carry a gun/bow on a rack on a 4-wheeler "uncased/unloaded".....
3155	I own 57 acres in the black hills and only hunt on my property. It would be nice if I could get a black hills licence each year because it is our main source of meat for a year.
3163	It's too bad that Black Hills deer tags can't just be for residents only especially with the numbers dropping from so many lions, I work in the woods and just this winter I've been crossing 1,2, or even three sets of lion tracks a day in the snow around the Deerfield area. I'm sure this would never happen due to the money issue, but it would be nice...
3167	I think the system that you have is the best I've seen I've hunted in Nevada,New york and

	Arizona by far you have the best drawing system that I've had a privilege to be part of. Thank You for all the effort the Game Fish and parks put into it.
3177	I get a license to support Fish and Game, I have not hunted in years. Thanks
3183	We are very concerned about lion numbers in the Hills. My friends and I believe that hunters should be the deer's primary predator. If an adult lion can kill a deer a week, that's a serious drain on the resource. I also think that lions are pushing deer into residential areas. We went out on 11 Nov, and only saw 5 deer, including the one I shot. From the town of Nemo in to Rapid City, we saw 30-50 all along the road to Rapid City during twilight. Every yard was full of deer, and the best buck we saw was on Kings RD in Rapid City. There was a very good reason that predators were eliminated in the late 1800s. Otherwise it would be much more difficult to sustain a ranching economy.
3189	I have owned 90ac for 9 years in that time the number of deer has dropped by 50% just in the last 4 years. I walk out into the national forest and can go hours with out seeing a deer or sings of any. The turkey numbers are down 75% in this same time frame. We are seeing more Lions and sings but we have had cold and wet springs the last 3 years also. Over all the numbers are dramatically down but I trust you know this.
3191	I am very concerned that the mountain lion population is an issue with the deer and elk populations. Deer and Elk hunting give far more enjoyment to more people than do lion hunting. I would like to see many, many more lions taken each year until we begin to see a rise in deer and elk populations. We almost got attacked by a mountain lion this last Saturday while deer hunting. The lion was just several yards away and it could have gone either way. Why can't we increase the lion tags 3 or 4 fold until deer and elk populations increase and therefore more licenses can be given out. I also have spoke to many hikers and campers that just don't go into the hills anymore because to the lions. I think it is a shame.
3215	Would like the mountain lion season open during the black hills deer season.
3217	We actually saw more bull elk than bucks. Now try and tell that to a person who hunted elk. We did see two mule bucks fighting and never had seen that before. We got within a hundred yards and got some awesome photos!!!
3222	I would cut the # of antlerless deer tags.
3224	Consider a antler point restriction system for antlered tags. No less than three on one side.
3232	I have to say that I like the concept of combining the applications. I wonder if it might be more acceptable to LIMIT the number of tags you can draw rather than combining all the apps.
3249	Please reduce the number of antlerless deer tags for the Black Hills Unit. The deer numbers have drastically been reduced and I feel we should go back to the "buck only" tags with a minimum of 2-3 points on one side
3254	I think the deer population has shrunk from previous years. Whether it is the mountain lions or some other reason, I don't know. I think the 2 point or better rule should be put back into effect and substantially reduce the number of doe tags until the answer can be found and the deer population is restored.
3257	I have been hunting the Hills since the early 1970's and at that time bucks were hard to find. I hunted nine years before I shot my first buck and it was only a spike. A lot of people would not have kept hunting that long before shooting thier first buck. (However for me just having the tag gives me the opportunity to get out into the forest and enjoy the scenery. I perfer to have a any whitetail tag as to the antlerless tag as it is nice to be able to at least have the opportunity for taking a buck.) From that time on the bucks have gotten better especially after the two points or bigger was put in effect. Since that time and now with the limited number of tags the bucks have greatly improved ( always have seen lot's of antlerless/does)now the avgerage buck we see has been 4x4's with some bigger. I have supported the changes over the years even

	though I have not received a tag a couple of times however I don't think grouping all three rifle drawings into one is a good idea as I think a lot of people put equal importance on at least two of the three. I normally only apply for a Hills tag.
3261	This year we saw less deer than all the years I have been hunting. There were two people in our party that saw lions and all of us saw lion sign. Even the locals are worried about the lion population. We hunt for the enjoyment of being with other people and out of 19 people and family only five of us drew tags this year. All of the people we hunt with say this season had less deer seen since they started hills hunting 21 years ago. I like to camp and hike in the hills and it worries me that there are so many lions and that they are not afraid of people.
3263	remove more lions before we have no deer or elk
3266	To Whom It May Concern: I would like to voice a concern of mine. My father has been hunting in the Black Hills for 60 years. The last few years there have been several instances that have occurred that have made it trying to enjoy hunting and fishing in this region. One is that it took 15 years of preface before my father was able to obtain an elk bull tag in 2005. Another instance occurred when my parents were fishing. My father was assisting my mother by taking the fish that she had just caught off the hook and was approached by a game warden indicating that he was going to issue a ticket to my father for party fishing. My father indicated go ahead and issue the ticket and I will fight it in court. At this time the game warden only issued a warning ticket for this instance. My father keeps this warning ticket in his tackle box just as a reminder. The third instance occurred just this year on Thanksgiving Day. My father and son were deer hunting in the Black Hills. They were on a one lane road with the trees right next to the road. From what we were told, you have to be 2 feet from the tree line to legally shoot deer in the trees. They spotted a deer and so my son got out of the truck, shut the door and took a few steps away from the truck. He then shot and killed the deer. Upon the kill, the game warden quickly appeared. He indicated that my son was 2 feet from being legal when he fired his shot. As a result of this, my son received a \$195 fine and lost his hunting privileges for one year. The game warden also indicated that he could have lost his gun, deer and the truck that they were in. My feeling is that this punishment was a little harsh as they were on a road that is maintained two times a year and then close the road after hunting season. In this case the trees are right next to the road so it is difficult to be able to judge where it is legal to shoot and where it is not legal. Upon being issued the ticket, my son was visiting with the game warden in regards to whether he enjoyed his job and the game warden indicated yes. My son was curious because this is something that he may potentially pursue as a career in the future. The game warden then indicated that he felt bad issuing the ticket and informed my husband that he believed my son had learned his lesson. In conclusion, my opinion is that this punishment for hunting was rather harsh for a youth hunter considering the fact that it is difficult to judge where the tree line separates from the road. Thank you for your time in this manner. The Dede Family
3267	95 % of all the deer we saw this year were too small to shoot even does we also hunted first weekend in the heat which did not help we are going to hunt later in november when it is colder
3271	I wish that Mule Deer were managed as a separate species. I am not in favor of the any deer or white-tailed deer management system. I know there are hunters that want to be able to hunt both species on one tag, but I believe this exploits mule deer, especially young muley bucks who tend to be less wary than white-tails, yet have antlers that seem to be larger than a comparable white-tail. With does the same problems exist. A muley is more "blocky" shaped than a white-tail, making them appear larger. And they do have a habit of looking just a little to long, which ends up being their demise. Splitting the species and offering a handful of any deer tags would reduce these issues and hopefully keep more mule deer around. In closing I would like to remind everyone concerned that mule deer numbers are declining across their

	range. These deer are truly the "Deer of the West" and they deserve to be managed that way. Thank you for the opportunity to give my opinion.
3272	there are less deer this year than I can ever remember, I would say it is because of the mountain lions,
3288	You might increase the mountain lion harvest. There are way too many.
3295	I am concerned about the closure of roads in the National Forests. In 2009 we hunted in Harding County and could not get access to approximately 15 sections of public ground because roads in the Slim Buttes were seasonally closed. I would like to see some access, even if it were foot access. I am also aware that road closures will begin to occur in the Black Hills National Forest in December, 2010. Access is a very serious concern. Thank you.
3298	Grass Lands travel closure. How is it that one person has the authority to close off 80,000 acres to off road travel and deprive thousands of people of the enjoyment of spending time enjoying the grass lands?
3304	I would strongly urge the SD Game, Fish & Parks to consider the preferred tag concept mentioned in this survey.
3313	I believe SD has the best hunting rules and regulations of any state I've hunt in. I'd like to see the drawing for the three major rifle season combined into one. The current system results in one person getting all their choices while another person may not get any of their choices. Also, I did not receive any harvest report cards this year and was curious how the GFP know how many deer are actually being harvested.
3314	My feeling is there are too many mt lions which is related to me seeing less deer, elk, and turkey. I am seeing more and more mt lion sign each year at our cabin.
3315	The deer we saw were healthy; the deer we harvested were very fat and very tender.
3327	The Mountain Lion population in my area is exploding. You don't go out when you don't see cat sign. The deer numbers are dropping drastically, due partly to the increased cat numbers. There needs to be increased management of the Mountain Lion population in South Dakota before we lose the privilege to hunt deer and elk due to too low of populations!
3331	although I did not see any mountain lions in deer season I saw tracks, but I did see 2 lions in elk season.
3336	I was unable to hunt this season due to having surgery on my ankle.
3343	I believe mountain lions may be responsible for the low deer population. I observed three separate sets of tracks. We also came across a couple guys that just saw three lions playing right in front of their vehicle about two minutes before we arrived. They showed us the pictures they took. It seems to me that the lion population must be fairly high and are destroying the deer population. It would be great if we were allowed to hunt the lions while out deer hunting like we used to be able to do. Or allow more lions to be harvested during the actual season.
3346	My father in law just passed away this year after finally getting his elk tag for the northern unit by Deadwood. At the time he got his license he was 75 years old and had 13 years of preference for the large unit. I would propose one season that any person over the age of 65 with 10 preference points automatically receive a tag for the upcoming elk season. It was nice to see him get to finally hunt but ultimately he was too old. Just a thought, keep the hunter first and understand the Hunters and Environmentalists have a heck of a lot in common. Thanks
3357	my overall satisfaction was very high I love coming to south dakota deer hunting its very beautiful and a lot of fun I also hunt in Perkins county west river and also enjoy that immensely.
3376	This year the Buck I shot was a 3 x 3 Whitetail taken SE of the town of Custer outside of the Park Fence. This buck had been previously shot with a shotgun using a light load of # 6 shot from the side and rear. I determined not to process the meat as the pellets were scattered

	throughout the back and rear.
3379	I would like this forwarded to the appropriate persons. Please check with the Sheriff department in Rapid City. 2/3 of my meet was eaten by two saint bernards in Hill City. We stayed at the Best Western Hotel and two dogs broke into my cooler and ate everything except the hind quarters. I would like to talk to a game, fish and parks agent. Jason Sturm 651-253-2002
3384	I would not be infavor of changing the current process for deer tag application. I like the current system based off of prefrance points for each area, and held separately. If they are combined it would create far too many options for tag selection for one drawing. In my case I apply for any whitetail in the black hills with an antlerless whitetail as my second choice, then an any deer as first choice and any white tail deer second choice for my west river hunting. With the current system I have the opportunity to receive a preferred license in both area's, and I have the opportunity to not receive any preferred licenses. Since it typically only takes 1 prefrance point to receive the preferred license I have mine staggered. Next year I will have 1 prefrance point for the west river deer, and none for black hills deer. This means that typically I will receive my preferred license for west river deer and I will likely not receive my preferred license for the Black Hills. This was done on purpose so that I can plan vacation and trips on the tags I believe I will receive. With them all combined I fear that you will never be able to plan on what areas or tags you will receive because you are only able to draw one at a time. This will also require multiple drawings and more and more confusion for the hunters. The current system is not broken in my opinion so I would not appreciate someone trying to fix it. I believe the current system to be fair based on the prefrance points earned by the individual hunter, this proposed change would not make things more fair or equal just more of a hassle to do what the current simple system accomplishes. Thank you.
3386	I do not in favor of the East River double tag license. I personally would not harvest a doe until the last day of the season if I had not gotten a buck. I think a better option would be to have any deer and any anterless deer tags sold separately, and allow those who want both to apply for and receive both.
3397	Possibly less buck liscences for a year or two (more if needed, I'm not a biologist yet I dont know)
3402	It seemed to me that ever areathat had good access was loaded with other hunters and being a non-resident my knowlege of the area was poor. Perhaps a better map of the hunting areas would be of benifit to hunjters and prevent over crowding. On my hunt i observed a whitetail buck killed and left in the woods for reasons unknown the buck was shot through the neck so i know it wasnt a tracking issue The doe population seemed to outnumber the buck at 20 to 1 ratio.
3414	Mountian Lions are pushing the deer out of their traditional areas. All of the old "honey holes" we used to hunt did not have any deer observed at all this hunting season. To be specific, I have observed mountian lions visually in these areas over the past several years. The areas I am concerned about are the Deerfield lake area, the slate creek/china gulch area, and the Mystic area. We had to move to areas closer to hill city in order to find any deer (doe or buck). Finally in the Battle Axe road area west of Hill City we found several pockets of Doe, but during the entire 3 day hunt did not view any bucks of any size. For the record, we did a substantial amount of walking. We did, however, view a 6x6 buck elk in the china gulch area about 2 miles before slate creek dam and 6 cow elk about 1.5 miles in on Battle Axe road---which was very cool.
3415	My hunting party greatly appreciates the opportunity to hunt in the beautiful outdoors that the Black Hills provides. It would be nice to hunt the Black Hills every year, but we do appreciate the opportunity of hunting at least every 2 years via the current lottery system. The whole

	experience is what we love and look forward too: the cabin, the vast, beautiful outdoors, the getting together for a few days to hunt, and the icing on the cake is shooting a nice whitetail buck. Thanks for all that you do!
3417	My hunting group and I plan our schedules well in advance to be able to deer hunt in the Black Hills every two years. We hunt in MN too, but the Black Hills puts our MN hunt to shame because the landscape is a lot more beautiful, we bump into a lot less hunters in the woods, and we see a lot more deer and quality bucks to shoot. This is definitely a great bonding experience for the men in my family - we talk about our stories of past hunts and strategies for future hunts in our two year wait period to get out there again. It is almost like a right of passage into manhood for me when I first got to go on the trip because I had to wait until I graduated from college and had a job so I could take the time off and fund my own way on the trip. It is something that my younger cousins who are in college right now are looking forward to doing as well once they get out of school.
3419	I think that the white tail population is not only affected by the mountain lion but also by disease. I would like the status of the drawings and the hunting stay the same. I have a hard time getting any place to hunt besides the black hills. I wish we would have more opportunities to hunt from ranches. They want anywhere from \$800.00 to \$1500. to hunt on their land. This used to be a free country. I think our hunting is getting like European countries. You have to be rich to hunt.
3421	I agree with the lower amount of hills deer licenses this year. I would like to see a doe season later for a few weeks rather than during the buck season. I think breaking them up totally would be a benefit to all. (crowding and chances of harvest)
3429	Shooting all the "big" bucks leaves only "scrub" bucks for breeding, therefore producing smaller deer.
3430	Last year.....on a hunt near Grerory SD. We were approcached by a Warden..... he asked for lic and info..... He did an excellant job of treating us as human beings.....VERY GOOD JOB.....Thanks for all you do
3436	Would it be possible to implement a "earn your buck program" for certain areas to where you have to shoot a doe before you shoot a buck?
3438	I have been hunting the Black Hills a few times now, the Wyoming side. Due to not drawing SD buck tag. I finally got a buck tag after many years... Did not even see any deer in the highlands and I mean no deer I repeat no deer. Down lower only a few doe. After talking to locals I was informed about all the loins. That have totally run and eaten the deer out. After a bit of research on the web I learned its a MAJOR problem. Now understanding things were this bad I never would have wasted my time and money. Why let the loins kill / drive off the deer??? Why not kill the loins??? To keep the dear and for safety sake? It appears who ever is "managing" this should find a job some where else. Put loins ahead of humans and deer then the SD economy. Air fare, fuel, food, tag fee etc...a lot of money and time wasted. I got back to Ohio and seen more deer bigger deer and many bucks. I already got a deer here. Bought another tag. One can only use a shot gun during our gun week, but since I also want to use my rife part of the reason to go to SD. I more than likely will not return, I may consider Wyoming side. But I am planning on going to WV to use my rife even though they have smaller deer but at st least they have deer. I am also so a bow hunter so I do know how to hunt. But one needs deer to hunt. I was way beyond disappointed and believe I was rip off now understanding the deer are gone loins are in there should have been a disclaimer of there are no deer in the black hills compared to what is normal and you all know it. If I was a lawyer I would sue for a refund. I do not plan again to go back. I'll spend my time and hunting budget in my own back yard back here in Ohio and in WV or Mich maybe. I really think you game management people out there are harming your own economy and should repent. If any hunters get attacked

	<p>by loins the blood is on on your irresponsible hands. Due to allowing the populations of the loins to grow out of control. After all this I visited the Badlands after the no deer hunt. I went to the visitors center wanting to learn more just to find a book "All the Lies your teacher taught you" or something like that front and center. An Anti American Book WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS DOING IN OUR US PARK VISITOR CENTER??? The movie seem like a whole political indoctrination when All I wanted to see is how the Bad Lands were formed??? What are you people up to out there??? If you want to know more please call or write I thought about writing to your elected leaders, but I just concluded why waste more time. So since you wanted my input, I request my out of state fee back because it was a rip off. no deer no bucks ALL BECAUSE OF MAN'S MISMANAGEMENT??? If SD cares about me visiting spending \$\$\$\$ I would reconsider to go back but maybe for birds. So send me a refund or give me bird tags as a good deed, and maybe I go back and spend some \$\$\$\$ there to help out your state. PLEASE DO NOT EDIT MY COMMENTS OUT FOR THE SAKE OF A NICE REPORT to tickle your bosses ears. Because in reality you all work for us the tax payers... I was as bummed out because I like going to SD my dad one lived there my uncle once lived there and I could have envisioned a trip ever year or 2 but the tags are too expensive, too hard to win and NO DEER. BUT EVEN MORE THAT THAT I DO NOT WANT TO BECOME THE HUNTED. Please reply to me that SD will take this to heart, because I really would like to go back. Have A Merry Christmas and may The Lord bless you.</p>
3442	<p>Wasn't able to fill my tag due to the financial cost of travel but I enjoy hunting in the Black Hills.</p>
3453	<p>keep up the good work, i think the hunting from youour veh. should be looked at, i see guys running out on private land and just blasting away...</p>
3454	<p>It seems like there are more and more mountain lions each time that I come out to the hills. Usually we see lots of cat sign, especially if there is fresh snow. This year we did not have snow so we did not see much for cat sign, but I saw a mountain lion for the first time. Based on the reports from locals in the Deadwood area, observations from fellow hunters, and my own observations - there are more mountain lions than estimated and the season for hunting them should be expanded and/or increased in number of cats harvested. My only concern is what they can do to elk and deer populations. Thanks - Bryan Barlage</p>
3457	<p>We only hunt Black Hills deer so combining licenses would hurt us, it has been 4 years since we last drew a license. I could be dead of old age before I get to hunt again. I find it hard to believe that some get a license every year but my family all drew licesnses four years ago and then we all drew again this year,with none drawing in between. Bob Mudlin 605-391-1627</p>
3459	<p>Saw many does and not many bucks. That may be just me. Seems to me there are not as many deer in the Hills. I used to see more deer when I just go for a ride or fishing in the Hills</p>
3460	<p>In the past few years much ado has been made of how fat and out of shape most Americans are. With that in mind why not shut down some of the little spur roads in the Black Hills district and make people actually walk a bit to hunt instead of driving around in a pickup all day? I enjoy hunting the Black Hills, but I cannot understand the need to keep so many roads open for the road hunters. Thanks</p>
3472	<p>It seems like I've been running into more "Saftey Zone" signs, more new houses, more "non hunters" and nervous homeowners that are walking, jogging, and riding ATV and snowmobiles during the month of November. I think I'm a very concious and safe hunter and I understand National Forest Service is for everyone to enjoy at all times but not all hunters are concious and smart people. I feel like it is a little brave of them to be out so much during peak deer season with no bright colors. Some may not even be aware of the deer season dates. Maybe a commercial or something to inform the public of this may be helpful. Overall I was surprised by the few numbers of hunters I ran into. The hills did not feel congested and</p>

	crowded with hunters. That was nice. Then again most hill hunters never get out of their pickups to walk.
3473	I am very concerned that the number of yearling and fawns were way down this year. I feel if we are going to feed the mountain lions we need to return too a Bucks only season and don't take does. In my opinion if we don't, in a few years the deer population will be gone. Just like the Elk population in my area there aren't any left we had at one time about 100 head "gone" do to poor management.....
3475	Fix the failing Black Hills Deer Management program and not the licencing methods. The licencing system works well. I am not in favor of using preference points from non-draws from the hills in either West or East River, selection process.
3481	My wife say's it needs to be a one weekend season!!! It was a very good Hills season. I saw more deer and less hunters in my area(maybe because of the weather), but it was nice not having hunters driving around me all day.
3487	I enjoy getting out in the woods and back to nature. While out I saw some nice big does early on but waited for a buck. I waited to long (not seeing any) and eventually no more does where I was hunting. I still enjoyed the experience. I saw big horn sheep, turkeys, rabbits and a red fox. Still a great experience and hope to instill that attitude into my son. I hate to say this but there are still a lot of "road hunters" out there! I enjoy going in the woods to sit, think about wind direction, setting-up and observing trails and moving about every hour to hour and a half.
3491	I personally think more nonresident tags should be given out. We waited 3 yrs for a any deer tag, Thats the only way we will hunt. We find it very hard to spend \$197.00 an travel that far just to shoot a doe, but we do love it out in the hills
3496	It would have been alot easier to harvest a nice whitetail buck in the city limits!
3519	I think that is a great idea, that you could send for the season you wanted to hunt. I hear of a lot of people who say they haven't drawn a tag in four or five years. That is crazy since some hunters have better luck, drawing hills, westriver, and east river tags every year.
3520	I think there should be a point restriction like you can only shot bucks that are 4x4's or bigger that way young bucks can become mature bucks instead of people shotting whatever they see
3526	I think it would be great to combine the drawing process so each hunter has a better chance of getting there preferred licence instead of some hunters getting them all and some hunters getting non at all.
3530	My friends never got a Tag so I never hunted.
3538	For health reasons I am not always able to hunt every year
3542	The buck to doe ratio in the Black hills seems off. I would see at least 10 does to 1 buck. Would consider more doe tags and less buck or have to fill a doe tag to qualify for a buck tag. Overall I think GFP is doing a great job!
3566	Deer numbers in the area where I hunt were down close by around 40%-50%. There were also very few fawns - only 2 compared to previous years with 7 or 8. I know there is at least one mountain lion in the area. I witnessed some sign and the landowner actually saw one. I am curious if many other areas were affected in the same way. Several other friends of mine observed similar things in the hills. Is a sign of things to come in the Black Hills deer populations? Is the mountain lion population accurate or out of control?
3568	Finding and receiving permission to hunt on private land for only a doe is difficult---yet, the landowner complains about the deer problems, Perhaps a solution for me is to hang up the rifles as I am approaching 78 years of age.
3569	More deer tags need to be issued not less. Total deer licences need to be restored to what they were even 5 years ago with leftover antlerless deer tags available to all hunters even those who have a tag already. i hunt for food and more antlerless tags would insure meat in my freezer.

	The deer population I have seen this year is great and more antlerless tags would have benn beneficial this year. The decrease in tags was a bad decision if we want to keep a healthy and viable deer population. I saw bigger, healthier deer this year and increasing the numbe of tags would help to keep the population in check and not have so many that they starve during the winter or have the deer become stunted and small again because of lack of feed and territory.
3576	It's clear to me that game, fish, and parks sells too many tags in all seasons! especially antelope, elk. and hills dear. Why do other states enjoy abundant amounts of game, while SD hunters leave the woods or field disgusted with the lack game. I believe that all tags should be cut back 50% or more next year, and harsher punishment for off roading.
3577	I had a wonderful hunt!!! I shot my first buck a 10 point whitetail
3583	Unfortunately I wasn'table to hunt this year. However, I look forward to hunting in the years to come.
3586	We got a map from the USFS, on what roads will be allowed to be driven on next year by motor vehicles. The roads that are being taken away make me think twice about hunting the Hills with my 14 year old daughter and 11 year old son next year. I introduced my daughter in 2009 to the Black Hills for hunting, as it was from my grand father to my father and on to me. I've been lost out there and a road was a welcome find. They are young and driving around an area before we hunt lets me teach them how walk in a safe direction if they were to get in trouble. This concern may be out of your control but it may limit our trips to the Hills to hunt. As for how the deer are being managed out there, in the last trips out to the Hills, 2007,2009 and 2010. I have seen deer in size (body and racks) that I would not pass up east river, GOOD JOB on what is being done. PS In 2011 I would like my Elk tag please, again this year we saw at least 2 350 class bulls and 1 300 class bull. Saw 1 herd of about 150 to 175.
3588	I have been hunting turkey in the black hills for a long time and decided to take my son out this year for deer season.He is 12 .we went the last week of November, we did not harvest a deer but had a great time in the woods. It was very busy with hunters late in the morning along Sheridan Lake rd. and Hwy 385. between Hill City and Nemo. I think the population is very strong we even seen 4 bucks this year from a distance,which is not that common in the Black Hills in the past. We will go again next year as long as I can get a tag.
3592	Almost every yard I saw on the way into the Hills had deer and turkeys eating, sleeping and looks like living in them. Once you actually "get in the Hills" the deer are gone. I saw no less then 10 deer dead along the road in a one week period. I beleive this is a Rapid City issue however and not sure what the state can do about these "town" deer but either A: the lions are driving them out or B: they know they are afe where people are feeding them and they are not shot at. Good luck either way
3597	Too many lions
3603	Decrease number of black hills tags and increase mountain lion tags.
3604	I realize you get more money for out of state licenses, but it is very frustrating for those of us who live in the Black Hills to see all the out of state trucks driving around, when people who live here don't draw tags. I think preference should be given to area of residence. Black Hills residents get preference in the Hills, East RIVER gets preference there, and West River gets preference there. Just a thought. It ruins my year in times where I don't get a tag. Thanks.
3611	If you want to give more hunter more choices for their preffered licences, simply increase the number of licences available. Between the mountian lions and increased hunting we have better quality deer in the Black Hills. We are finally getting a manageable, quality herd in sight. STOP increasing mountain lion KILL quotas and increase tags for Black Hills deer. This will help to keep the herd better balanced and we will see more quality deer as the years go by. There has been a great improvement in the herd in the last few years, it would be a shame for the poor GFP policies to ruin what has already been achived.

3614	One in our party of 6 probably shot the best white tail buck ever taken in the Black Hills by this group, who has been hunting off and on since the late 60's. One other buck was taken that was also very nice. That is the good news, the bad news seems to be that you have a few big ones and quite a few spikes, but nothing in the middle. The high water mark seemed to be 2007 when five of us harvested very nice 4 and 5 point deer. The number of Doe's seemed to be down. Previously we would see herds of 6 to 20, but this year we say a couple of does and fawns instead of the larger groups. We hunt in the burn area around Antelope Springs with any white tail tags, but have seen some very nice mule deer bucks. The mule deer population seems to be growing with some very nice bucks noticed. While scouting the Antelope Springs area on Oct 31st we observed a herd of Elk that probably number 250 animals. We didn't see a large herd bull, but the group had number smaller bulls.
3631	the hills are becoming to developed and too much private land. All the "nice" bucks that we seen were in people backwards, not anywhere you could hunt, very disappointing.
3645	Closing most of the black hills off roads is a big mistake. This will congest hunters and cut down on harvest.I strongly agree with limiting off road four wheeling, and damaging land but closing most of the roads was extreme. Harsh penaltys for driving off roads would have been better.
3654	I do not understand how non residents, east river hunters, and others from outside of our geographic area are allowed to get licenses before local residences do. I feel it is unfair for a local to not be able to hunt the black hills because they loose out in drawings to non resident hunters and hunters from other parts of state that have their own hunting season
3656	Was a good hunting season, spent much of my time hiking, saw lots of lion signs, there was a notic eably large decrease in deer this year weather may have been a factor, it was like summer for most of season
3658	I greatly enjoyed this year's hunt. Thanks!
3660	Since starting to hunt in 2006, I have noticed a significant decrease in the number of deer in the areas I hunt BD413 and 21B08. I believe this is due to the increase in mountain lions. This was the first year I seen tracks and one of my neighbors state that they had seen a mountain lion on their property. I believe the number of mountain lions licenses need to be increased.
3663	Being from Texas and having a limited amount of private land to hunt on, I think the opportunity to hunt on public land in the Black Hills is a great bargain - incredible scenery, lots of wildlife to observe, and very economical! I look forward to it every year.
3671	i had a very enjoyable hunt, choosing not to shoot a does or small buck til later in the season which i had to cut short. i saw plenty of deer but disliked having to differentiate between whitetal and mule deer, ratio was about 50/50.having last hunted in the black hills 25 years ago, i think the forest service has to many roads closed between tinton road and bear ridge,near spearfish. i will continue to apply for a hills deer tag, just being in the hills is what it's all about, thank you
3684	While in favor of the mountain lion season, I'm opposed to the high number of tags given for the season.
3690	Last year we only saw 2 deer in 2 days of hunting. This year we saw a lot more deer, but much less than other seasons that were prior to last year.
3701	There are way too many deer. My total hunt time was 1 1/2 minutes.
3706	Thanks for the survey. I myself would not travel across the state to take an East River Deer. Since I live in the Hills, I would prefer to take a deer in the Hills. Getting together with friends/family for the hunt, (and spending money locally) is very important. Therefore, may I suggest that a balance of deer tags be issued for the Black Hills. Here's an example: 4,500 Black Hills Buck tags 1,500 Black Hills Doe tags. If a person doesn't get a buck tag, he

	could still get an opportunity to shoot a doe and be a part of the hunt. Again, if the population of deer allows, this will increase the hunt and increase the number of people spending money in the hills. I applaud the GF&P for increasing the mountain lion tags. I feel they are too many fawns falling prey to an overabundance of lions. I would like to see the lion tags increased 5 or maybe 10 and leave it at that. Thanks for this box to let me have my say.....even if I don't get my way....
3711	to many lions around
3712	I was suprised to see as many deer and quality deer as i did due to the past few hard winters. This was my favorite deer season so far the amount of hunters and the hunting pressure was about perfect to slightly less than desired hunting pressure.
3718	I would like to say that you are doing a great job with Black Hills deer management. I will try to hunt again in the Black Hills and spend my out of state money in your local towns.
3725	I have hunted in the black hills for almost 50 years, and never seen as many lions and tracks AS I HAVE SEEN THIS YEAR. OUR DEER AND ELK CALF LOSS HAS GOT TO BE WELL OVER 30%. I didn't have a buck tag, but do have a cow elk tag and have spent over 100 days in the field the last 3 months. Some areas are doing fine with the cats. Other areas are in real trouble, as you know or should. Gerald Jordan, Rapid City
3728	You should ask the question "How important is it to you that you see deer while hunting". Of course I like to fill my tag, but it would be nice to see more deer. When I was younger, there were considerable more deer with frequent buck sightings. Where have they gone? If the deer herd continues to decline, why should I spend the money to go hunt them? I can enjoy time with my family and friends in the outdoors doing something other than hunting.
3730	I believe the deer herd appeared quite healty with most does seen with fawns. We saw many 6, 8, and 10 point bucks. It was a great hunt this year!!
3731	I HUNT THE BLACK HILLS DEER SEASON EVERY YEAR. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THAT I HAVE RECIEVED MY FIRST CHOICE. THERE ARE 11 HUNTERS THAT GO ON THIS TRIP EVERY YEAR THIS YEAR WE HAD THREE TAGS, WE ALL STILL WENT. IT WOULD BE NICE IF THIER WERE MORE TAGS AVAILABLE. WE STILL HAD A GOOD TIME, LOTS OF SITE SEEING.
3733	I feel that the population of deer in town is severely hindering the population of deer in the forest. Not sure there is a solution to this, but it sure would make hunting easier. We have 4 legal (2 very nice) deer in our neighborhood. I would much rather see them in the woods.
3735	I like the current system for drawing for licenses. Don't change it. I'm satisfied even if I don't draw a license in a given year.
3736	The state is doing a great job on the Black Hills deer hunt.....
3737	The only think I object to is having to apply for a Black Hills Deer license when we used to be able to buy over the counter...
3746	I feel the people living in the Black Hills should get first choice for Black Hills deer tags and the same for people living east river and west river out of the hills. Any leftover tags could be applied for by people living out of the area.
3770	Increase the number of non-resident licenses. I have family that lives in the Black Hills outside of Deadwood and we travel there every year for Thanksgiving. And some years it seems to be impossible to get a deer license.
3791	I am a farmer and landowner. deer have always been abundant around home and I enjoy Hunting them with Bow and Rifle both but ever since I was twelve my dad and uncles and cousins hunted the Black Hills. I have to admit that I miss the days of the "any buck over the counter black hills deer tag" not so I was guaranteed a chance at a deer but so We were assured of always being able to plan the trip. I have bigger, better tasting deer in my back yard but

	<p>their easy to kill with a rifle and killing isn't my objective but it is also hard to get the same conversation, experience, and memories from a 15 minute hunt in your home quarter and that is why I prefer the black hills and I rely on my landowner tag at home If my freezer is close to empty. And for the same reasons it is why I hunt elk in colorado with an over the counter tag to be assured I get to make the trip. However I realize things change. we lost our cabin that we hunted out of in the jasper fire and rebuilt it but things haven't quite been the same since. Some areas are starting to see some new regrowth white others have not started to regrow at all. I think the difference lies with the timing of the fire in relation to when a particular area was logged as to how many mature trees were producing seed before the fire. It will certainly take a while longer for any decent cover to develop in the areas we have hunted for years. Nonetheless We saw a lot more mule deer than whitetail and some nice bucks compared to what it was 20 years ago so your goal of trying to improve the quality of the deer herd in the hills was evident to me. Even the whitetail buck I shot this year was one of the nicest and healthiest I have harvested but that isn't why I hunt the hills. I also have enjoyed seeing the elk herd grow over the years and wish that tag was easier to come by I now have a son who is twelve and he was able to shoot a whitetail doe in the hills with his youth tag. his first of what I hope are many memorable trips west to the hills. thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts.</p>
3801	<p>Mountain Lions are killing too many deer! Deer numbers are low. Quit blaming it on harsh winters!</p>
3804	<p>Wish we could still have mountain lion liscense at the same time that we hunt black hills deer</p>
3807	<p>This years northern hills hunt was terrible,we had doe tags could not even see them.When I drive 350 miles to hunt it would be nice to have a chance to at least have a chance to get a deer.Hard to do when there is nothing there.My son and my self have a friend who lives in the hills,and knows the hills very well and has hunted these areas many times.He could not believe there were no deer around.I dont think the counts are what they appear to be.</p>
3814	<p>I was unable to fill my BH Deer tag this year due to a broken collar bone. I very much enjoy hunting the hills and really missed the opportunity to get out.</p>
3815	<p>Less tags in my area there isn't enough deer in Ziebach count don't think anyone that don't live in this county should be able to get a lieciens I'm tired of people from east river hunting and poaching here nothing we can do because no game warrdens in this area because of the rez and they can't come on our land wished I was one I could stop a bunch of poaching</p>
3829	<p>Allow scoped muzzleloaders for the Custer State Park Muzzleloading Deer Licenses. This will help CSP staff achieve their goals of a higher doe harvest without having to resort to using modern cartridge firearms for harvesting high number of does in the park. It is important to keep the late 6 week muzzleloading season (Dec-Jan) a primitive season by not allowing the use of scopes. Scopes would be fine for the early CSP season, but it is nice to have the six week late season for those traditionalists. In addition to the use of percussion and flintlock riffles, which are currently permitted, I would like to see the state allow the use of 15th and 16th Century matchlocks and wheelock long weapons. They have the same accuracy and killing power as a flintlock musket, just a different ignition system. I cannot use my matchlock in SD. In the State of Pennsylvania, they have two black powder seasons. The first is 5 days long in October to allow modern muzzleloading hunters the use of scoped inlines and all other types of muzzleloading long rifles. The second is 3 weeks long in December-January and is for primitive sight, flintlock rifles only, 1800 design or earlier. You may want to consider something like this to please both types of hunters, a short season for those that want the advantage of a modern scoped muzzleloader and a long season for those who prefer the challanges and hardships of using a more primitive weapon.</p>
3846	<p>Re-combine the white-tail and mule tag pools.</p>

3877	I hunted the 26th of november and could only hunt that day. It was a nice day and I saw about 25 deer in a half day of hunting. I didn't run across any other hunters where I was hunting. I only saw 2 bucks that qualified as "shooters" to me. 3.5 years old or older. I was able to harvest one of them that was a nice 4x4. If the tags didn't cost so much for non residents I wouldn't have a problem harvesting does. Most of the deer seem to be close to town or dwellings due to the predators pushing them from the woods. This does make access tough in some situations. All in all a beautiful hunt in a pretty forest.
3894	Having lived rurally for 25 years, the total number of young deer are way down this year. The number of 2 point deer and spikes are almost non existant. The deer population is older bucks, mature does and I saw a few yaerling does. I don't know whether the mountain lions or disease has raised havoc with the young deer. Only 2 or 3 nice bucks in the area and no young ones. Thank you
3896	I didn't spend much time hunting in the Black Hills this year because I had some better hunting lined up for my West River deer.
3900	Preserve!
3904	I have family in South Dakota and come to visit with them and hunt. I enjoy it very much and love seeing all of the animals and beautiful scenery. I hope that the number of hunters will not grow too rapidly in the Black Hills area.
3913	Was very happy with the Black Hills Deer Season. It just wasnt my year, Ive been shooting my bow to much and not real good with my rifle now. Could of had a decent 5x5 buck but couldnt hit anything this year. Hopefully all goes well next year!
3914	I am concerned about the number of lions in the hills--I think there are to many near homes and in communities in the area. I strongly approve of the huntin season for lions.
3917	I managed to get an any deer tag for the black hills and have been enjoying the Black Hills all year for the past 4 years. The amount of deer I have seen seems to be declining in all of the areas I frequent. Nemo area, Deerfield area, and between reptile gardens and Keystone are the 3 main areas I go to the most. I have seen a lot more Mt Lion signs in the deerfield and Nemo areas than I have previous years with carcasses and tracks.
3921	Great experience, hope I can continue to draw a tag..... very beautiful area....whitetails are unique as we have none in the area of Colorado we hunt.
3931	Gun season could be a little longer
3936	ALCON, I believe we need to adapt some regulations or deer management ideas from other Southern States. In particular, Oklahoma a few years back offered 2 doe tags with a buck tag. This has greatly helped the Buck to Doe ratio in those areas which increased the quality of hunting. The Blackhills are very over populated with Doe's and this process would possibly help. Also the age of the bucks being seen/shot are less than 4 years. Could we change the regulation on what is considered a legal antlered deer to be over 5 points total between left and right at least for one rifle season. This could help many deer in the Blackhills reach maturity and better the hunting experience for all. Thanks, Hunter
3937	west river deer unit 27a hunted unit for two years on public land very few deer suggest lowering permits greatly or closing till deer population increases very beautiful area gene stoklasa www. stoklasa@goldenwest.net thanks
3939	I lived in SD for most of my life and enjoyed the opportunities that I had and currently have (even as a non-resident currently). I've hunted in the hills with my father since I was first able to hunt and have enjoyed every minute of it. I currently own property just south of HWY 16, 5 miles from WY and see very quality Whitetail bucks near that area frequently. I like what the state has done to limit the Mule deer licenses and have seen an increase in quality bucks in the southern hills areas, this is something that is important to me and I believe the limited number

	<p>of "Any Deer" licenses should remain in effect for a few more years at least. I do have couple comments regarding the "Any Whitetail" licenses....although I am not a biologist, I am an engineer and avid believer in game conservation. There are several licensee holders that were hunting to shoot a doe only, if there was a way to determine the amount of these particular doe permit holders maybe there could be a separate tag for "Doe Only". It seems that the way the system is set up now, the folks that want doe tags are applying for the "Any Whitetail" and that is making it harder for the buck hunters to draw a tag. In the past few years I (and my resident family) have had to wait 2 or typically 3 years before drawing a tag so if there is a way to separate the licenses I think that would help the hunters (both doe and buck hunters). If the GF&amp;P would like any additional information on our hunts or if there is any additional insight we could provide we would gladly contribute. Thanks Mike Beach</p>
3950	<p>I hunted the Black Hills 3 yrs ago and thought the deer numbers have declined since then. I came across 4 different Mtn. lion tracks in a 5 to 10 mile area. I thought that to be to many. would enjoy hunting in your state again soon. Thank You, Tom Hain 2917 Zuck Rd. Erie, Pa. 16506</p>
3952	<p>As stated in the above survey I have hunted in the Black Hills for the last 10 years. Let me first say that the Black Hills are a beautiful resource for all of us to share, whether it be hiking, golfing, sight seeing, family vacations, hunting, etc. thousands of people visit the Black Hills every day. That being said, why in the world would the Game, Fish, and Parks Department increase the population of Mountain Lions and decrease the amount of deer tags in the Black Hills for hunters? The only reason I can think of is that the mountain lions must bring far more business to the state and region. Well with all the hotel rooms they rent, fuel they purchase, dining establishments they frequent, licenses they purchase, taxes they pay...oh wait..I'm thinking of the hundreds of hunters that were declined deer tags this year! Maybe I'm not seeing the bigger picture here, but how does anyone, humans and wildlife alike, benefit from this? I have read up on both sides of this on-going issue. Deer populations are becoming an issue in the Black Hills, i.e. Custer, Hill City and many others. The city of Sioux Falls is no different, however, the city did not feel that releasing 150 lb predators was an intelligent solution. Instead the city offered several Archery ONLY tags to residents in city limits, within weeks there was a noticable difference! Why wouldn't that work for other cities dealing with the same problem? In closing, I will continue to hunt in the Black Hills and hope the available tags are restored to the amount of 2009 tags. I pray no one falls victim to a protective female lion. Post Script: Mountain Lions are destroying the Elk heard in the Black Hills!</p>
3959	<p>I have seen alot of frustration with fellow hunters that put in for a Tag and have not drawn for three years now. GFP gives out of state licences and people from our own area cant even get a tag. I dont think this is right! I think locals should get first option at a tag by doing an earlier draw and sell the left over tags to out of state hunters.</p>
3966	<p>This was my first deer hunting season. My husband and I spend a lot of time in the hills riding trails and have seen the deer population decline over the last three years. Piedmont trail is very accessible to more people now and may be the reason there are so many other hunters in the areas we chose to hunt this year.</p>
3967	<p>I have hunted in Wyoming Black Hills all my life and enjoy getting a SD license which allows me to stay in the Hills longer. There are way to many mountain lions and coyotes in the Hills and I think both Wyo and SD need to work together to reduce them. I think the antler restrictions which were in place have been very beneficial to seeing more big bucks.</p>
3968	<p>preference points for black hills should be the same for elk... By that i mean, Everyone with four years of points should get a black hills any deer tag verses giving up tags to people with only one year preference point in the same drawing.</p>
3971	<p>The deer numbers seem to be down some from a few years past. There were definitely fewer</p>

	hunters in the area or a lot fewer trophy deer as I did not hear the number of shots fired as in years past. I live in the northeast corner of Lawrence County. The purpose of my hunting was to get rid of one of the does destroying the garden and then began waiting for a couple of good bucks, which I didn't get.
3989	Most my time spent hunting was in the southern hills but also a couple days around the vanocker/Nemo area. There was one one spot i went to where i didnt at least see Mountain Lion tracks no more than a day old, some were within the hour as i would circle back they crossed my tracks.
3997	Game, Fish, and Parks sells too many tags! Stop being the the worst enemy to the wildlife of SD.
3998	MY SON & I HUNT TOGETHER & THIS YEAR HE RAN ON TO 9 ELK. ONE WAS A 7X7. HE SEEN THESE ELK 2 TIMES. WE ARE GOING BACK TO SEE IF WE CAN GET A PICTURE OF THEM LATER THIS WEEK.
4008	We had a great time hunting together, my 2 grown son & myself. Thank you for a great time Lyle Lange
4009	Something needs to be done about the amount of predation in the Black hills. And the mule deer, sheep and goats need more funding and better management.
4017	I talk with a lot of people locally in the Black Hills and the general consensus is that there are too many cats and it is hurting the numbers of both deer and elk....
4026	The foothills near our home is crowded with whitetail deer. They destroy trees and gardens around our home. Please consider increasing the number of licenses/tags for specifically the areas adjacent to housing areas in the eastern Black Hills. I'd love to obtain about 3 doe tags each year to help reduce the herd near our home.
4028	My family firmly believes that the overpopulation of mountain lions and coyotes in the hills has negatively affected the deer population. We saw numerous mountain lion tracks and believe the reported population of mountain lions is grossly under estimated. In addition, as a non-resident it took me 5 years of applying before receiving a license. I understand that first priority should be given to resident hunters. However, my family members rarely draw deer tags anymore and they are residents (no tags received in the past 4 or 5 years). It is unfortunate that the residents have such limited opportunities to hunt.
4030	Nothing to do with Black Hills Deer but extend the goose season in pennington county. Some of the most opprotune times to kill and manage geese which GF&P and local landowners consider to be "overpopulated" and a "nusience" come in late December and Janurary. Mine and friends' goose season is just heating up in Pennington County and its going to be a real shame to have our season come to an end at a time which I believe is even before what could be the seasons peak potential. The main reasons I believe this season should be extended is because these geese are truly a pest in town and in local landowners fields. Rapid Citys residential geese as you probably know leave city limits to feed, providing waterfowl hunters like myself who put in the time and dedication into locating and gaining permission to hunt these birds an amazing opprotunity for incredible hunts, which in turn controls local populations. Look at it like this. If Pennington County was a part of unit 2 and the season went to Feb. 11th, that would add a near 7 weeks to the season. Say for example myself and 2 buddies go out only once a week for those 7 weeks and got our 3 man limit every week that would be 105 geese out of the picture alone. Extending the goose season in Pennington County would not only manage goose population but provide incredible hunting opprotunities for local hunters.
4031	I really have had a fortunate time to spend with my father, grandfather and family friend on this trip to the Black Hills. It's a beautiful area to sight see and hunt. I will have great memories from the time we arrived until we left. Thank you!

4032	I hunted late in the season (the last weekend). This could be why the area did not seem too crowded and also why I did not see many deer. The deer i did see appeared very spooked and moved along very fast. I never saw any relaxed or grazing deer. They were allways on the move.
4033	Seems like all the good size deer are in Rapid City. Can they be transplanted? Also are the trophy bucks being destroyed in Rapid City with the 300 taken every year?
4051	I am somewhat concerned about the deer #'s in certain parts of the hills. I do believe that Mountain Lions have a big effect on this. It is astounding to me that we can shoot 40 lions in 40 days in the Black Hills and that is without dogs. This is not normal. These animals have to eat at least one deer a week to keep happy. That erases tons of deer every year. I also believe there are more wolves in the Black Hills than people think. This is also going to have an effect on the deer population in the years to come. I am not paid to find a solution to these problems but whomever is, needs to figure it out before people start taking matters into their own hands and start shooting all of these predetors out of season.
4070	I'd probably be more in favor of a different draw system if I knew more info Reducing vehicle access on the BBNF is key to a quality experience. Just too many road hunters with too much access. I'm just not seeing big mature bucks in the Hills. I think it's a age and food issue...not enough quality food for large rack production. Not sure if there has been too much grazing or a land use change...perhaps not enough burning. Bucks don't get old (perhaps) due to too much road access. I have no problem with ATV and truck access...but nearly every road and two track is open. That's too much pressure and exposure for bucks to grow old. I prefer West River because the animal quality is far superior. Really trophy mule and whitetail deer abound in the units. Deer bed and hide in rugged steep prairie areas where most hunters won't go...yet these deer often travel to agricultural areas for food....ag land means big deer production. I say this on every survey...I'd pay any hunting tax to help the Walk-In and Game Production Area programs. They are vital to the health and future of hunting...lease hunting is killing the sport. Also hats off to the Mentor Program...my daughter and I had an incredible time this fall...THANKS!
4073	Would hope that as many deer that are beginning to populate the Hills that the G,F,P would increase tags. Appreciate the opportunity this past season for the hunt.
4079	Money was a isue for me this year. I could not afford to put in for west river and Blackhills deer. But since I was unsuccessfull in the rifle season I will try to archery hunt this December to get some meat, doe or buck but preferably a buck. I am a disabled hunter also and walking to far is a problem for me, that is why I chose black hills deer over west river this year. I also have a crosbow permit due to my disabilities.
4098	more does need to be harvested
4101	I am planning a hunt next year and would like information on the two deer license.
4111	I covered alot of the days i was out and did not see any mountain lions or even tracks. I hunted alot in the snow covered ground. Also shot my buck on the friday before the closing tuesday south-west of the Hillcity area. Approximately 15-20 miles.
4122	There is less road hunting now ,but we have the 4 wheelers to deal with now.I was hills hunting off hwy 44 and these 2 guys on a atv would ride down the rd looking fodeer every 20 mins or so,just plain lazy.They shot right at dusk,i heard what sounded like a deer fall,they did not appear to even get off and check.
4130	retired wildlife researcher. Would like to see better control on Buck harvest. Go to a program like Texas has. Improve buck to doe ratio.
4143	My husband takes me out and I have a great time with him. He is an accomplished hunter and I am still learning. I enjoy the opportunities I have to hunt with him. My son will be old enough soon and we will all hunt together. I believe for the most part GFP does a great job. P.S. Get

	rid of the Lions they a killing to many animals
4146	Most of the Black Hills deer seem to be in residential areas. Very few deer seen up in the hills this year.
4148	My biggest concern is the amount of Does I seen to no bucks the last 3 days of the season. I bet I seen 35-45 does with no bucks towards the end of the rut. This greatly concerns me not to atleast see smaller bucks around. This is also in 3 different areas of hunting.
4155	I believe the drawing process for black hills deer is ridiculous. I believe it should go back to the original process of buy over the counter. Or to possibly look at offering a tag that to residence only that would cover west river, east river, blackhills deer and turkey, as well as all archery, not to include elk even if the tag would be a 300.00 dollar tag. I have not hunted in the hills since 1999 and i could not believe the amount of atv's just driving all over the hills chasing deer and being completely stupid. I go to areas i grew up in and experienced growing up and love and I always walk and spend lots of time. Lots of time i give up bucks just so i can keep hunting and enjoying the hills but, this season i go so disgusted with walking and than having row after row of atv's flying through the woods and even riding in areas that are closed to motor vehicle traffic. After the first week of this experience i just quite. I know in my experience that if this kind of activity keeps going and going the hills hunting experience is going to get worse. I belive the gfp needs to look strongly at there process of handing out licenses and i think they need to band all hunting from motor vehicles on public lands period unless that person has a handicap that restricts there mobility. thanks, Lee rude Nisland, sd Butte County Land owner
4159	I truly hunting in the Black Hills and with the distance I travel coupled with the opportunity to help others I can donate my game to the Sportsmen Agains Hunger program which I do each year I get to (successfully) hunt. Morris
4189	we saw many more deer in the same area the last 2 years. The people we hunt with that live in Sturgis say there has been lions in the area. We did not see any elk or elk tracks either.
4195	The cost of the non-resident license for kids under 16 seems a little expensive (\$200)? Maybe that should be on a sliding scale. Too many kids or parents can't afford that- and we should encourage all kids to hunt, as early as we can, before they pick up other forms of recreation. Thanks
4200	Improve the description of hunting units and type of licenses. It's hard to understand now and requires much study to understand and I have 5 1/2 years of post secondary ed.
4203	Keep up the good work. I like the mentor program. If possible pay the people that put on the hunters saftey corse to put on a few more times in the same towns, but at different months of the year. We are lucky and blessed to be able to enjoy the hunting we have in this state.
4223	I would like to see fewer tags given away so that our hunts can be better (less people). I know this would reduce the chances of preferred tags, but I think it would make a hunt more enjoyable, even though the chances of drawing a tag is reduced
4226	I enjoy my time hunting in South Dakota, and have no major issues at this time.
4230	I was really dissapointed in the number of deer that we did not see. We saw about everything but a deer while on our trip: Fox, Cow Elk, Bull Elk, Coyote, Mountian Lion (2-near bridal veil falls), etc. Although it was a dissapointment in some aspects, it was a fun time to spend with family and to see new scenery!! I am concerned that the decrease in the deer population shortly after cows are moved out of pasture that the mountain lions are feeding on the deer to survive, and it is very frusterating....Many persons in our group (who had a permit) carried concealed weapon for thier safety.
4234	i think the deer numbers in the hills are higher than estimated by GFP
4238	I did not get to the hills to hunt because the season started on a school day and I couldn't miss

	school. It would be nice if Black Hills deer would start on a Saturday rather than the 1st of November.
4260	This years northern black hills hunt was very disapointing.We hunted for two days ,Did not see one deer.I had a doe tag only,did not even see that .I not sure how the counts are done but somebody is way off on counts .There are no deer in the northern black hills to be found, unless you drive in to town.
4271	Dear State of South Dakota, I am fairly new to deer hunting and I may not completely understand why so many tags are offered and sold in a low deer populated area, however would it not be better severed to have a statewide license so hunters can go where the deer are and help to keep large herds from being a danger to the public roadways, and then enjoy a great harvest of deer. Any response to this will be welcome, Sincerely, Don Chasse
4272	I would really like to see the GFP be more visible during the season. I saw only on GFP truck the entire season and plenty more people who were road hunting who may or may not be fully legal on their actions. If the presence was greater I believe people's behavior would be changed. Also for hunters safety courses in the future please consider more on ethical hunting as I constantly hear people who are more concerned with a trophy than ethical hunting.
4273	Hello. Though I did not see and mt lions, I am starting to see more and more signs of them. I also noticed that the deer and elk populations are down from the years past. I am glad that GFP decided to increase the mt lion harvest limit. I hope the higher limit will help balance the ecosystem. Thanks.
4276	i feel there are way to mt. lions in the black hills area. i think they need to be thinned out because over the last 4 years I've noticed certain areas being wiped clean of deer and an increase in lion sightings.
4290	I grew up in the Black Hills, and I can honestly say that the quality of the Hills' bucks has dramatically increased over the last ten years. I applaude GFP's efforts for improving the deer management in the Hills. I believe one more measure that could be taken is to establish a "Quality Buck" (minimum of four or more points on one side) standard for two or three years. While the number of quality bucks has risen over the last decade, I personally witness far too many young bucks being harvested. Perhaps an increase in the number of Doe tags in conjunction with a Quality Buck standard would be appropriate. Keep up the good work, and thanks for considering my feedback.
4297	I hunt because I enjoy the outdoors. A filled tag is rewarding but not my only concern. I did witness a lot of resident hunters road hunting. The four days I had to hunt I saw no other hunters in the woods,but saw many cars driveing the many dirt roads around Hill City where I stayed. I did not expect that and was disapointed to see it. There is no pride in taking an animal that way. South Dakota is a great place and I will be back. Roger K. Williams
4304	i seen more deer in town then we did on the mountain. private ranch land herds number above 30 or more. i wish there could be something done about that but know from past experience that the only thing that can be done is trespassing fee's. have a hard time with that, when god created them. just wish there was more up on the mountain ranges.
4307	I love to hunt deer in SD, but the way the Forest Service is changing things by closing roads etc. irritates me to no end. There is absolutely no reason for most of the road closures. The closures that irritate me most so far are 31503, 31503B, and 31504 in the southern Sim Buttes area. I am done hunting this area after 47 years unless things change!!! I always thought that public land was for the use of the general public, but if you can't get to it what good is it??? It is not fair!!! And next year I suppose a lot of our hunting trails will be closed in the Black Hill for no good reason. What is this world coming to??? As you can tell I am very irritated and I am not alone with these thoughts!! I can't even get to my favorite grassland ponds to fish anymore. Its a dirty shame!!! <p style="text-align: right;">Signed, Dwight Peters</p>

	2013 Coyote St.	Pierre, SD 57501
4315	<p>I was very dissappointed in the number of newly designated ORV trails in areas of the Hills where I believe that excessive ORV traffic has, and will, have a negative impact on deer &amp; elk numbers. These areas were, in previous years, relatively undisturbed for wildlife. I ride an ATV myself when necessary to get to, and retrieve, deer I have harvested. (When I was younger I dragged deer as far as a mile, without help.) With the new ORV trail system, these areas will, I believe, become devoid of much wildlife - especially elk. I believe that some of these new trails need a second look after this fall's hunts to see how much ORV traffic has impacted wildlife in the opinion of GFP personnel. A look needs to be taken at the number of these trails in relatively small areas as it appears to me that deer &amp; elk have no sanctuary left because there are simply too many trails, too close together. I realize that this will be the first year of the new rules, but this issue is very important to me and many others I have visited with. The Forest Service will need to patrol these trails vigorously to ensure that OTV users are sticking to the trails and NOT TEARING UP TERRAIN TO GAIN ACCESS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WOODS.</p>	
4321	possibly a 4 point or better rule on bucks to increase quality buck population	
4327	I would hunt muzzle loader if we could use scopes. Since the inline guns came out that ended the "tradition".	
4345	<p>Apparently you people want to do away with the preference point system. Why? Maybe I like to hunt east river and west river equally. Why do you want to make it so I have to choose one over the other? Leave things alone. I'll take my chances in the draws like we have been doing and build up my preference points if I don't draw my first choice. The current system works just fine. It would really tick me off if I had to choose one area over another, get my buck tag there, and then know that I have to shoot does everywhere else. I can assure you I'm not making any trip away from home spending money on motels, restaurants, and gas to shoot does.</p>	
4347	<p>Reducing the number of mountain lions and coyotes in the Black Hills area will improve the deer herd and hunter safety. Just knowing there is or could be a mountain lion in the woods that could kill me reduces my hunting pleasure quite a bit. Very few if any of our forefathers actually tried to increase the population of any animal that could and would kill them.</p>	
4352	<p>Please consider increasing of quality of deer/bucks. Restrict the type of bucks that can be taken. In conjunction please consider requirement of a doe harvest prior to harvest of a buck.</p>	
4353	<p>Compared to deer hunting in the 1960s and 70s, the deer hunting in the Black Hills is much improved. Back then it was hard to find 5 point or better bucks in the Hills. I saw a number of shooter bucks this year, and saw bucks every time I went out. Fewer hunters makes the experience better too.</p>	
4355	None at this time. thanks	
4362	<p>you should limit logging to weekdays during hunting season, we ran into a large number on logging trucks leaving and coming into areas of the black hills, for our saftey and the loggers.they are crazy!!!!</p>	
4370	<p>I did encounter a mountain lion during spring turkey season, in the same area that I deer hunt. It actually attacked my decoy, it wasn't aggressive to me I think we were both shocked!!</p>	
4371	Too many mountain lions. Had one steal my deer off my trailer in the black hills.	
4376	<p>I know it's tough to enforce, but I'd like to see less vehicles (quads, motorcycles, snowmobiles) getting off established roads. Also IF YOU PACK IT IN PACK IT OUT ! could be emphasized more. I can not understand why people litter.The above items hold true to the whole state not just the Black Hills</p>	
4388	i think you should make back to a 2-point or better system for white-tails and 3-points or better	

	for muleys. and keep having it so you have to have at least 1 preferece point to hunt in the black hills
4391	I had hunted for over fourty years in the Black Hills but had not hunted for the last 10. I had never seen signs of mountain lions until this year and my son and I saw signs of them everywhere(Northern Hills). We concluded with no concern of being wrong that the Hills have a major out of control Mountain Lion population. Now I understand why Black Hills lions have been found in IL, Wisc, Minn, IA, Nebr, OK, ND and there must be others that I have not heard of. We were fortunate to see as many deer as we did. Fortunately most of the "hunters" stayed on the roads leaving us to see deer as we moved into interior areas on foot. We did pass up shots when we were over a mile or more off the road as we had little hope of getting a large deer back (uphill) to the road with no snow on the ground. I like the areas closed to motor vehicles but would like to see a practical solution to access a down deer in these areas. Call a ranger and he opens a gate? The deer population will drop dramatically, the lions will follow the deer into town and a major catastrophe will occur and SD will make the neccessary changes. Why not do it sooner? The locals told me to use the 3 Ss which is just about as ridiculous as the 50 lion limit. A Ranger stopped us and checked to see if we were legal as we started into the Sink Hole area off Beaver Ridge Road. The first time I was ever checked in SD, a good experience and we saw rangers almost daily. Respectively, Sam Ruzick
4392	Youre on the rite track for mule deer management. If anything muley does should have no season at all. Non residents should have no chances of mule deer with any weapon. Nonresident archery hunters are becoming way to thick. Alottery system should be implemented for out of staters. ND has one at 10% of the resident licenses from the previous year. I have given up on pheasants. All I have left is archery deer and I dont want to lose that to nonresidents as well.
4393	While my dad and I were out hunting this year we saw Mountain Lion markings every location we went which is why we probably did not see many deer. Might want to decrease the mountain lions, in fact we are worried enough about the lack of deer seen that we might start hunting in a different state.
4397	get the mouintain lion population under control let people hunt them like other states and it may let some people get a lion with out all the hard work it takes now i was told by many local residents that the lions are killing deer in residential areas and over time that wont be the only thing the lions will kill and the game fish and parks will have to live with that i hope its not their kids or grandkids playing in the back yard of their cabin
4402	see more mule deer than whitetail
4416	There are too many lions in the area and we see absolutely no calves on the cows and very few on the does. Give out more lion tags to reduce their population so the deer and elk numbers will go up. finding a place to hunt has become extremely difficult. Not a lot of public areas and private owners won't let anyone hunt. The wildlife areas don't have nearly enough cover so deer end up on all private ground. The success rate has to be down because, unless you have friends or family with land to hunt on, hunters won't fill their tags.
4420	Relative to past years I saw fewer deer. I see fewer deer where I live on the edge of Spearfish. It is disappointing to have to apply for a tag for my son and I, then fail to get it, when I used to buy one over the counter. Also of great concern to me is the elk application process. I have applied for 17 yrs. (not consecutive) and have not drawn a tag. My brother, while hunting this yr, talked to a man who drew a tag after 27 yrs. applying. And how can there be "leftover" tags when some people don't get a tag? Now the elk population is declining and I'll be 59 yrs. old when I can apply next. This makes me greatly distrust the officials who manage this system. And if the deer population continues to decline then that application process will go the same way. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion. Tom Myers

4459	It was easier to see more deer and nicer bucks inside of the city limits.
4469	I have applied for for black hills deer tags two seasons in a row now and only got a doe tag each year.... I have to drive an hour half to hunt a buck in a different area while out of state hunters get to hunt in the blacks in which i live but don't get to hunt.... this is very disappointing
4471	With the current system we get to hunt one prefered season each year.
4474	I hunted the fist of November prior to bucks being in the rut and was told by relatives that live in the Custer area that bigger dear are usually seen more frequently later in the month. I shot a nice representative Black Hills buck. Hope to be drawn again next year to hunt with family and bring my oldest son from Arizona with me.
4475	Main reason for hunting in black hills is that I have a friend with private property in the black hills. Due to scheduling conflict I was not able to hunt more than 2 days this year.
4477	I feel GF&P needs to harvest more does. The buck to doe ratio is way out of proportion. I think most resident hunters would agree with this.
4484	Hello, Very good survey, and it's good to see that our state here takes this kind of interest in our deer population. I have hunted in many states over the last 25 years and I have to say that the deer population, especially whitetail, that I see here in the Black Hills is very strong and doing quite well compared to some other states that I have hunted. This was my first year as a resident here to hunt the Black Hills but I enjoyed it very much, especially living so close to the national forest boundry it makes it very easy to do an evening hunt without driving lots of miles. I do believe that the process of restricting ATV's to just designated trails is a must, we have to many folks that will not get off there machines and that makes it bad for all of us. To leave your machine trailered until an animal is harvested would be my recomendation, then and only then could the ATV be used. All in all, it was a great season here in the Black Hills, it was encouraging seeing the number of above avaeage bucks that I seen and a lot of nice young bucks for the near future. Thank you guys for what you do and keep up the good work. Dave Baker
4492	I work for the State of Utah, Dept. of Natural Resources, and I have hunted in many of the western states. You guys have a good program going in the Black Hills. The hunting was great; the weather was terrible. I'll be back.
4493	This was only my second white-tail hunt, and the first in the Black Hills. Plus, I was not afield until the third weekend of the hunt. With that disclaimer, the white-tail I saw were the most wild, spook prone animals I have ever tried to hunt. With my limited Black Hills experience I don't know rather to attribute that to being the third weekend, or a general trait of Black Hills white-tail deer. Conditions were not ideal; the temperature was below freezing the entire time (sometimes dipping 10 or 15 degrees below zero) and there was over a foot of snow on the ground. I do plan on hunting white-tail in the Black Hills again, but will hunt opening weekend. I feel there is an opportunity to get a quality white-tail buck in the Black Hills, though I was unsuccessful in my first attempt. Lastly, I'd like to thank the Game, Fish & Parks Department of South Dakota for making data compiled from this survey and past years survey's available online. Being able to read peoples comments, and gauge others overall experience in the Black Hills was the sole reason I decided to spend the money on a non-resident Black Hills tag. Almost every state requires or asks you to fill out a survey, but South Dakota in one of the few states I've found that makes the information gathered available to the general public. Please keep this information available.
4503	It's hard to beat the Black Hill for Deer hunting.
4506	I'll be back to hunt again.
4509	i was very pleased with the mule deer i seen this year!

4519	I do not agree with the black hills draw for rifle season. I live in Lead SD, and keep hearing talk of deer numbers being down. I had many opportunities to harvest large whitetail bucks this year. I don't understand why there is a draw for whitetail tags. I understand the mule deer draw, just not the whitetail. In my opinion at least Black Hills residents should be guaranteed a buck tag every year. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to South Dakota and its hunting heritage. Joe Bailey
4530	I am a landowner and feed the deer, I would expect to have some degree of preference in East River where I own the land. I am also a resident of the Black Hills, and have witnessed all the wasted meat of traffic accidents involving deer.
4533	very enjoyable hunt.
4541	My wife and I enjoyed our hunt even though we did not take a deer. It would be nice to see some of the campgrounds opened up during this November hunt.
4545	Saw a number of nice deer hanging from the meat poles in Hill City....the point restriction plan must be working.
4546	I stayed close to home so this comment is to that area only, but we have too many deer for the available forage.
4548	None
4564	I've been hunting deer for more than 30 years and have never seen a mountain lion much less 2 you should do something to control their population. I believe they are crippling your large buck population.
4570	I had the chance this year to see 2 big white tail bucks with my dad. He told me that those were the biggest white tail he has seen since living in custer the last 15 years. And the best part was that we seen them on public land and less than 2 miles from our house. My dad said he was very sure that those bucks would definitely go over 165. And the best part is they are still out there as we see them 2 days after season was over.
4575	Divide the hills for deer like elk. You would be able to manage the number of deer in a certain area and have a better idea of the true deer population in that specific area. I stated that I saw over a 100 deer in 15 days of hunting, but if you don't know the area I was hunting in, this survey isn't beneficial to you, since the Hills cover 4800 sq. miles. However, I have hunted in many different states and the Black Hills are by far the most enjoyable.
4578	I hunted during the thanksgiving weekend but it was really cold and the deer were not as active. I ran out of time because I took a contract in Oklahoma and had to be there by Nov. 29th. Too bad, because I was really hoping to get a deer as I love venison. Oh well, maybe next year. Thanks JP
4595	I like the method S.D. has for the application process, and the payment method as well as the E-mail correspondence. I feel that 190 dollars for a non resident buck tag is an excellent value,especially when compared to surrounding states. My two years of hunting in the Black Hills have been extremely enjoyable, and I will be applying again next year. Thank You. Sincerely, Greg Borst
4599	This was my first trip whitetail deer hunting in the S.D. Black Hills. I was invited by family friends that have hunted there in the past. I think S.D. has a good population and quality deer herd. I do plan on making a return trip. I really enjoyed the State of S.D.
4608	I live in Wyoming and have hunted the black hills in my state for numerous years. I haven't quite figured out the deer hunting in South Dakota which might explain the low numbers of deer I was seeing. I think your state is doing a great job with the elk herd due to the fact I saw hundreds of elk compared to only a dozen deer. I had a great experience and will be putting in again and again. Thanks.
4618	We did not see many quality bucks this year. Many of the bucks we saw were spikes or little 2

	x 2s.
4620	We didn't get drawn for tags last year, so it was really exciting to get tags this year even though I wasn't able to shoot a deer. Thanks!
4625	Make survey shorter!
4630	I understand the need to limit the number of hunters in the hills. I am a whitetail trophy hunter (as big a rack as I can get) who donates my meat to sportsmen against hunger. So I like the bucks to get nice and big. I had a hard time even spotting any shoot worthy deer. That's all part of the hunt but the bucks need the chance to get big. As long as I get to hunt every other year like I have been I will be happy. Hopefully that is still enough to keep the hunters from taking all the bucks out of the hills and making hunting for big bucks difficult.
4631	I am very impressed with the black hills whitetail hunt and south dakotas commitment and intrest in hunters veiws about there season. I am from michigan where all the state is intrested in is the revenue and not the quality of the hunting and fishing in the state keep up the good work
4635	It would be great to have the "Black Hills Any Whitetail Deer" tags extend to January as a "Any Whitetail Antlerless Tag" if the tag was not filled by November 31st. Similar to the West River Any Deer Tags. Also it would be nice to have the ability to use the license for a Varmit Permit during the season dates. The season seamed very short this year in my personal opinion. It would have been nice to have the oportunity to use the unfilled tag in January to harvest a Whitetail Doe. Atleast I could have then filled my freezer with meat. Thanks for Listening and I look forward to the next hunting season. _Ray Kaufman
4638	I would like to see a seperate season for Mule Deer. The number of mule deer are declining and because of their size they are generally the preferred deer when hunting on an any deer tag. They should be managed seperately from the white tail as they do not seem to be as wary as the white tail deer are. Thank you for allowing me so share my opinions
4649	You need to issue more lion tags the population is getting out of controle, they are killing alot of deer ect. Also we should have lion tags available during the rifle season even if you break the tags up half and half. I could of shot one this season but you can't get a tag till after December.Only west river people will have the most chance of harvesting a lion due to econmics. Not many hunters will come back to hunt just for lions. Just a thought. Reice Tiernan
4652	Put huntin how it used to be where we couldd buy tags over the counter. We didn't have mountain lion problems then. Man wants to control but you should let nature do it just like it used to be. I don't have a degree and can figure that out. How about you?
4670	I dont beleive in combining all of the tags. We as a family really reley on getting our west river tags, we would most prefer hills tags but at least we know there is a assured tag and meat in the freezer, which is a huge amount of the meat we consume. Thankyou!
4675	This year there was only 100 antlerless whitetail deer tags given out for my area in Custer. There are rumors out there saying we are in a deer shortage. Where I live there is no deer shortage by any means. I used to hunt deer in western Minnesota(where I'm originally from) and would hardly see any deer at all. I move out to the Black Hills and I see deer every day/night. I go to work in Wyoming and every night I come home from work I see tons of deer. I'm interested in knowing how wildlife biologists come up with their deer statistics. I understand this is why the SDGFP does these surveys but how else(i.e. radio collars, sightings, etc.) do biologists get their numbers? Also the general public has a misconception about predators causing a "deer shortage". I don't believe these predators are causing a shortage. I see lots and lots of deer every day. I can say the same for turkeys too. People that hunt in my area do more driving in their vehicles than get out and walk. There is public land all over for them to walk. If hunters actually got out and walked in the woods, they would see(and report)

	more deer in their surveys. I am a deer and turkey hunter and love to be in the great outdoors. There needs to be a balance in predator/prey. We need to let nature take its course and not mess around. I understand that the SDGFP needs to keep the public happy for money purposes and politics, but we need to swing the pendulum more in nature's direction. I thank you for giving the public an opportunity for a great Black Hills Firearms deer season and Fall Turkey season.
4683	Thanks for all you do.
4686	I was deployed to Afghanistan for all of the application timeframe. I really appreciate the fact that deployed military are granted their tag of choice when they are unable to apply during the regular time. This allowed me to spend valuable time in the woods this fall with my son. Thanks for supporting our military personnel!
4687	now that south dakota wants to shut down all buffalo gap grass lands to any off road travel, to make it wilderness, i will not want to get a tag east of hwy 79. there are too many tags sold anyway and no deer to speak of. what a shame, it used to be good hunting.
4699	Few mule deer in westriver 27A1
4704	This survey did not work the first time I attempted to take it.
4718	DIDN'T GET OUT TO HUNT IN THE 'HILLS UNTIL THIS PAST WEEKEND (FRIDAY THE 26TH OF NOV) WITH 4 OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FOR THE 1ST TIME IN MY LIFE; GOT 'TALKED INTO IT AS I'M REALLY A SHOTGUN HUNTER. HAD AN ABSOLUTE 'BALL; DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS MISSING. I REALIZED AFTER I SHOT MY DOE, I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN TAKEN IT AS MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S BOYFRIEND USED A LASER. IT WAS 441 YARDS ACCORDING TO THE TAG. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS NOT A 'CLEAN KILL (IT WAS RIGHT BELOW THE SHOULDER) AND WE HAD TO TRACK IT ALMOST 1/4 MILE TO RETRIEVE AND 'PUT IT DOWN FOR GOOD. I DOUBT IF I WOULD EVER GO OUT TO THE 'HILLS TO HUNT AGAIN BEFORE ABOUT THE 3RD WEEKEND AS WE DID THIS TIME. IT DRIVES ME NUTS TO HAVE TONS OF PEOPLE AROUND WHEN I'M HUNTING OR FISHING ANYTHING. THIS LAST WEEKEND WAS "PERFECT". WE SAW FEW OTHER HUNTERS (STAYED IN HILL CITY AND HUNTED WEST AND SLIGHTLY NORTH OF THERE). TOUGH TO IMAGINE ANY STATE HAVING BETTER QUALITY HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THAN SD ...EXCEPT FOR PHEASANT HUNTING (WHICH HAS PRETTY MUCH BEEN RUINED FOR US RESIDENTS WITHOUT LAND). PHEASANT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ARE REALLY SCREWED UP NOW! SORRY, BUT THAT'S THE OPINION OF ABOUT EVERYONE MY AGE WITH WHICH I ASSOCIATE.
4730	I FILLED THIS OUT FOR MY SON. MY NUMBER ONE GRIEF WAS THE FACT MY SON RECEIVED A BLACK HILLS TAG AND I DID NOT. I WOULD PREFER FOR BOTH OF US TO RECEIVE A TAG OR BOTH OF US TO BE DECLINED. THIS WAY WE BOTH HAVE THE CHANCE TO HUNT TOGETHER. IF YOU HAVE A PROGRAM AVAILABLE SO FATHER AND SONS CAN RECEIVE A TAG FOR THE SAME AREA, THE HUNTING EXPERIENCE WOULD BE MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE FOR ALL.
4732	deer numbers are way down in west river and black hills units in my opinion. I would recommend drastically cutting back on number of permits allotted.
4737	Hunting in general is one very important way our family does things together, and does them outside. We enjoy the outdoors and conservation and preservation are important to most of the hunters I know, so keep the public informed, especially about dangers like mountain lions, safety first.... Let the public understand why you do what you do when it comes to fishing, hunting and the outdoors we love.
4742	I am very worried about the drop in wild life in the black hills. I'm a taxidermist and I live in

	the black hills, west of rapid city. Our elk count is way down and the deer poulation is dropped to one fourth in my area. Why so many doe tags? the only deer I see in numbers live in houseing devepments. If you guys don't put them lions on a predatures we won't have any game left. For some thing to do go for a long ride in the hills a see if you can find a porcupine. the resat of the game will be next!!! I'm 65 years old and lived in the hills 50 years licened taxidermist 48 years. thanks for this oppertunity.
4761	first time to black hills, enjoyed entire time, would like chance for second doe tag.
4765	I am in the military and have hunted in 8 different states. The few complaint I have are as follows> 1. Seemed to be too many hunters in the Black Hills. I am one who likes to work and spend the day out walking the country. I could not believe the amount of "road hunters" that I came across while walking back to the truck. 2. I spend alot of time helping ranchers and scouting in the off season to allow me to hunt just to get away from people and see deer being deer and not running for thier lives. What was frustrating to me as a new resident was that some of the tags I recieved did not rest in some of the zones I had been scouting. I have been used to states in which you had the whole state to hunt or it was quatered up. I feel there are too many zones in such small area and can be frustrating. While I had a good season I was very dissappointed in some of the actions I came across by fellow "hunters" on public land. Overall, I would like to see a change in the zones and as far as the fellow hunters I hope to see better attitudes toward others and a greater respect of our wildlife.
4780	I grew up on venison. I now live in the Black Hills. We have large herds of deer on our property. I probably would qualify for deprivation tags. Put in for a doe. Shot a nice, fat, clover/hay fed doe and she is delicious! I'm hoping we'll have fewer deer after the season. I have enough poop-scooping to do with my labrador; I don't need to keep scooping deer poop out of my yard also!
4790	I LOVE RIDING MY ATV, AND DOING THIS IN THE HILLS IS ABSOLUTELY ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AREAS I HAVE RIDDEN IN. THE DEER HUNTING IS AN ADDED BONUS TO DRIVE 10 HOURS ONE WAY I JUSTIFY TO MY WIFE TO GO TO THE HILLS, SO I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE THE NON-RESIDENT LICENSE'S AND MAYBE ADD A FEW MORE. I HAVE NOT TAKEN A DOE IN 2 YEARS OF HUNTING, BUT I HOPE THAT WILL HAPPEN IN 2011, AS I AM GOING TO APPLY AGAIN. I FEEL IT WILL TAKE 2-3 YEARS TO FIND A GOOD PLACE TO HUNT. I AM SATISFIED WITH THE TWO YEARS, FIRST IN THE HILL CITY AREA, AND THIS YEAR IN THE NEMO AREA. MY INTENTION IS TO GO BACK TO THE NEMO AREA IN 2011. I FEEL THE GFP HAS DONE A GREAT JOB ON THEIR DEER MANAGEMENT, BUY I HAVE QUESTIONS ON THE QUALIFICATION OF ANTERLESS DEER.
4801	I feel really bad that I was not able to hunt(military commitment) because it may have robbed other hunters of the chance to utilize my tags. I wish there was a way that I could turn my tags back in so that they could be used by others. I am not aware of any such program.
4803	My biggest concern is that for the past 2 years I have seen very few young bucks. (spikes and 2 point)
4804	I did not spend a lot of time hunting this year. I was unable to later in the year do to knee surgery. Look forward to next season and being able to spend more days in the hills!
4807	I think something more must be done about the mountain lion population soon or the deer population will crash to dangerous levels
4813	I feel the mountain lion population is far too large inside the Black Hills and has definitely affected the deer herd size and hunting success. Over the last few years each year we see less deer and the hunt is harder. Meanwhile we see a lot of sign and even saw a large male lion in the middle of the day by Galena. I also don't feel we should deminish our opportunities to

	apply for east or west river deer by limiting the preference system already in place.
4846	A fantastic hunt, thank you

**Appendix F.** Tables comparing the two survey methodologies used in the 2010 Black Hills deer hunter survey.

Appendix F – Table 1. Black Hills deer hunters’ preference for one of the three major deer seasons comparing data collected by the mixed-mode survey design with the data collected by the mail survey.

<b>Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Mixed-Mode Survey</b>		<b>Mail Survey</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills</b>	1,506	61.6%	103	63.6%
<b>East River</b>	269	11.0%	21	13.0%
<b>West River</b>	539	22.1%	23	14.2%
<b>No Opinion</b>	129	5.3%	15	9.3%
<b>Total</b>	2,443	100%	162	100%

Appendix F – Table 2. Black Hills deer hunters’ preference for one of the three major deer seasons comparing data collected by the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey design with the data collected by the mail survey.

<b>Preferred Deer Season</b>	<b>Internet Portion of the Mixed-Mode Survey</b>		<b>Mail Survey</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Black Hills</b>	1,180	61.6%	103	63.6%
<b>East River</b>	217	11.3%	21	13.0%
<b>West River</b>	432	22.4%	23	14.2%
<b>No Opinion</b>	99	5.1%	15	9.3%
<b>Total</b>	1,928	100%	162	100%

Appendix F – Table 3. Black Hills deer hunters’ satisfaction with their 2010 hunting experiences comparing data collected by the Internet portion of the mixed-mode survey design with mail portion of the mixed-mode survey.

<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>Internet Portion of the Mixed-Mode Survey</b>		<b>Mail Portion of the Mixed-Mode Survey</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	479	23.9%	103	20.1%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	155	7.7%	67	13.1%
<b>Satisfied</b>	1,371	68.4%	343	66.9%
<b>Total</b>	2,005	100%	513	100%

Appendix F – Table 4. Black Hills deer hunters’ satisfaction with their 2010 hunting experiences comparing hunters in the non-response telephone survey with hunters in the regular survey.

Satisfaction	Regular Survey <sup>1</sup>		Non-response Telephone Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	614	22.9%	19	10.7%
<b>Neutral/No Opinion</b>	236	8.8%	16	9.0%
<b>Satisfied</b>	1,827	68.2%	142	80.2%
<b>Total</b>	2,677	100%	177	100%
<b>Mean Satisfaction<sup>2</sup></b>	1.06		1.37	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	1.00 – 1.13		1.16 – 1.58	

<sup>1</sup>Combined data from the Mail Survey and the Mixed-Mode Survey

<sup>2</sup>Satisfaction scale: -3=Very Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, 0=Neutral or No Opinion; 1=Slightly Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 3=Very Satisfied

Appendix F – Table 5. Black Hills deer hunters’ rating of the importance of Black Hills deer hunting comparing hunters in the non-response telephone survey with hunters in the regular survey.

Importance	Regular Survey <sup>1</sup>		Non-response Telephone Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Most</b>	533	18.7%	27	13.3%
<b>Very</b>	1,291	45.2%	122	60.1%
<b>Moderately</b>	798	27.9%	45	22.2%
<b>Slightly or Not<sup>2</sup></b>	215	7.5%	3	1.5%
<b>No Opinion</b>	20	0.7%	6	3.0%
<b>Total</b>	2,857	100%	203	100%
<b>Mean Importance<sup>3</sup></b>	2.74		2.87	
<b>95% C.I.</b>	2.71 – 2.77		2.77 – 2.96	

<sup>1</sup>Combined data from the Mail Survey and the Mixed-Mode Survey

<sup>2</sup>The categories of ‘slightly’ and ‘not’ important were combined due to the small cell sizes in the telephone survey sample.

<sup>3</sup>Importance scale: 0=Not Important, 1= Slightly Important, 2=Moderately Important, 3=Very Important, 4=Most Important

**Appendix G-1. Resident first drawing history for 2010 Black Hills deer season.**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total Available</b>	<b>Draw Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Available Licenses</b>	<b>Application Over Fill</b>	<b>Licenses Issued</b>	<b>Licenses Left Over</b>
<b>BH101</b>	400	Landowner	93	200	0	93	107
		Preference	2,307	307	2,000	307	0
		All First	3,522	0	3,522	0	0
		All Second	876	0	876	0	0
<b>BH111</b>	4,000	Landowner	54	2,000	0	54	1,946
		Preference	2,885	3,946	4	2,881	1,065
		All First	4,145	1,065	3,080	1,065	0
		All Second	2,263	0	2,263	0	0
<b>BD103</b>	100	Landowner	1	50	0	1	49
		Preference	13	99	0	13	86
		All First	50	86	0	50	36
		All Second	118	36	82	36	0
<b>BD113</b>	100	Landowner	0	50	0	0	50
		Preference	4	100	0	4	96
		All First	6	96	0	6	90
		All Second	57	90	1	56	34
<b>BD213</b>	100	Landowner	1	50	0	1	49
		Preference	17	99	2	17	82
		All First	72	82	233	70	12
		All Second	245	12	0	12	0
<b>BD313</b>	100	Landowner	2	50	0	2	48
		Preference	10	98	0	10	88
		All First	37	88	0	37	51
		All Second	155	51	104	51	0
<b>BD413</b>	100	Landowner	1	50	0	1	49
		Preference	5	99	0	5	94
		All First	52	94	0	52	42
		All Second	104	42	62	42	0

**Appendix G-2.** Nonresident first drawing history for 2010 Black Hills deer season.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total Available</b>	<b>Draw Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Available Licenses</b>	<b>Applications Over Fill</b>	<b>Licenses Issued</b>	<b>Licenses Left Over</b>
<b>BH101</b>	32	Preference	208	32	176	32	0
		All First	327	0	327	0	0
		All Second	187	0	187	0	0
<b>BH111</b>	320	Preference	439	320	119	320	0
		All First	478	0	478	0	0
		All Second	179	0	179	0	0
<b>BD103</b>	8	Preference	3	8	0	3	5
		All First	12	5	0	5	0
		All Second	16	0	14	0	0
<b>BD113</b>	8	Preference	2	8	9	2	6
		All First	4	6	27	4	2
		All Second	16	2	26	2	0
<b>BD213</b>	8	Preference	17	8	0	8	0
		All First	27	0	1	0	0
		All Second	26	0	19	0	0
<b>BD313</b>	8	Preference	0	8	0	0	8
		All First	9	8	11	8	0
		All Second	19	0	16	0	0
<b>BD413</b>	8	Preference	3	8	0	3	5
		All First	16	5	7	5	0
		All Second	16	0	16	0	0

**Appendix G-3. Resident second drawing history for 2010 Black Hills deer season.<sup>1</sup>**

RESIDENTS							
Unit	Total Available	Draw Type	Number of Applications	Available Licenses	Applications Over Fill	Licenses Issued	Licenses Left Over
BD113	34	All First	559	34	525	34	0
		All Second	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup>Only one resident unit had left-over licenses after the first draw.

**Appendix G-4. Resident and nonresident application for the ZZ199 Unit.<sup>1</sup>**

Unit	Draw Type	Number of Resident Applications	Number of Resident Applications
ZZ199	W1+	359	352
	W0+	548	587

<sup>1</sup>This unit is only available as a first choice in the first drawing and used if a hunter wants to apply for this season but NOT receive a license, but receive the a preference point for the following year (the \$5 nonrefundable fee is required).