

# **CUSTER STATE PARK**

## **CSP ANTELOPE**

All hunters reported and hunted during the season. Two mature bucks and one yearling were killed during the any season. The doe/kid season was closed in 2011. Survey data from the previous spring and summer indicate a density of 204 pronghorn with fawn:doe ratios of 82%. The buck to doe ratio was 42% in 2011. We will continue to monitor the herd with spring and summer surveys.

Summary comparison of the 2009-2011 seasons

<i>Year</i>	<i>Apps/Licenses</i>	<i>Harvest</i>			<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>
		<i>Bucks</i>	<i>Does</i>	<i>Total</i>		
2009	1,139/13	2	10	12	92%	1.5
2010	1,201/13	3	8	11	100%	1.6
2011	1,170/3	3	0	3	100%	1.3

## **CSP DEER**

Forty-six of 47 hunters reported. \*For the white-tail doe season 6 of 34 reported hunters did not hunt; however, for the 28 hunters that hunted, 23 killed antlerless deer (82%). During the antlerless season, some hunters were not successful ( $n = 5$ , 18%). This year the antlerless doe season was a single tag. Overall, roughly half the number of antlerless deer were harvested compared with last year (44 antlerless deer in 2010). For the any deer seasons both mature mule deer and white-tailed bucks were killed.

Summary comparison of the 2001-2011 seasons

<i>Year</i>	<i>Apps/Licenses</i>	<i>WT Harvest</i>	<i>MD Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>
2001	606/4	2 bucks	2 bucks	100%	5.0
2002	651/6	4 bucks	2 bucks	100%	5.67
2003	708/42	11 bucks, 18 does	1 buck	100%	2.1
2004	757/52	9 bucks, 20 does	2 bucks	60%	1.1
2005	876/50	12 bucks, 17 does	2 bucks, 1 doe	64%	1.6
2006	1,016/37	9 bucks, 32 does	2 bucks	97%	2.68
2007	1,203/37	9 bucks, 31 does	2 bucks	95%	2.8
2008	1,088/47	8 bucks, 38 does	2 bucks	86%	3.0
2009	1,667/47	10 bucks, 42 does	2 bucks	87%	2.7
2010	1,336/47	8 bucks, 44 does	2 bucks	84%	6.3
2011	1,831/47	10 bucks, 23 does	2 bucks	88%	2.6

## **CSP SPRING TURKEY**

We collected information from 91 report cards. We had 7 hunters (8%) which did not hunt and participate in the CSP hunt. Therefore, 92% ( $n = 84$ ) of hunters that received a license visited the Park to hunt spring turkeys. Of the hunters that participated, we had a harvest success rate of 70% (59 of 84). We have seen a continual decrease in harvest success since 2008. Certainly, the cold wet springs over the past 3 seasons have contributed to fewer birds being recruited into the population. Age breakdowns provided some interesting results. The majority of birds harvested were mature gobblers (2+ years of age) at 99%, with a break down of ages including juveniles at 2%, 2-year olds at 23%, 3-year olds at 27%, and 4+-year olds at 48%. Again, the harvest included many more 4+-year olds and this may indicate fewer birds being recruited into the population the previous 3 years. Most comments indicated an excellent hunt and hunters enjoyed the experience.

### Summary comparison of the 2001-2011 seasons

<b>Year</b>	<b>Apps/Licenses</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Success</b>	<b>Avg. Days Hunted</b>
2001	451/100	34	34%*	3.10
2002	520/100	37	37%*	2.77
2003	540/100	47	47%*	2.57
2004	636/100	52	52%*	1.98
2005	663/100	47	47%*	1.73
2006	683/100	47	84%	2.20
2007	737/125	71	77%	2.50
2008	741/135	75	86%	1.80
2009	718/135	80	79%	2.20
2010	731/135	78	76%	2.10
2011	664/135	59	70%	3.00

\*Harvest and success for CSP Spring Turkey were estimated assuming all nonrespondents were unsuccessful. The 2006-11 estimates were based on the sample reporting.

## **CSP BIGHORN SHEEP**

Population surveys indicated a low population of approximately 25 bighorns in Custer State Park. Surveys indicate 3 lambs have survived through March 2012. We continue to monitor the population for disease and are testing adult females and males for *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia*. We hope to supplement the herd in the near future.

### Summary comparison of the 2001-2011 seasons

<b>Year</b>	<b>Apps/Licenses</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Success</b>	<b>Avg. Days Hunted</b>
2001	2,466/3	3 rams	100%	1.66
2002	2,424/2	2 rams	100%	2.50
2003	2,506/2	2 rams	100%	1.50
2004	2,725/3	3 rams	100%	4.00
2005-2011	CLOSED			

## **CSP ARCHERY ELK**

**Early:** All 3 hunters reported and one hunter harvested an elk for a success rate of 33%. Comments were primarily related to few elk being seen by hunters and that they thought the population was way down.

**Late:** All 15 hunters reported and 2 hunters that received a license did not hunt. Hunters were not successful for a harvest success rate of 0%. An estimated 84 days of recreation with an average of 6.5 days of recreation/hunter was lower than last year. Most comments focused on not seeing many elk and they indicated that made the hunt less enjoyable.

The 2011 season statistics were:

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Licenses Available</i>	<i>Licenses Sold</i>	<i>Response Rate</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Harvest</i>		
					<i>Bulls</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Total</i>
CU1-21	3	3	100%	33%	1	0	1
CU1-21	15	15	100%	0%	0	0	0
Total	18	18	100%	0%	1	0	1

Summary comparison of the 2001-2011 seasons

<i>Year</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Licenses</i>	<i>Bull Harvest</i>	<i>Cow Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>
2001	2,289	58	10	4	24%	8.63
2002	2,745	58	5	3	14%	9.69
2003	2,778	58	14	3	29%	7.76
2004	3,324	55	7	0	13%	9.12
2005	3,964	57	6	3	16%	8.63
2006	4,523	56	13	0	27%	7.81
2007	4,869	58	3	1	8%	9.30
2008	5,091	58	8	0	16%	8.74
2009	7,037	58	5	3	15%	10.4
2010	7,284	35	0	0	0%	11.2
2011	7,233	18	1	0	6%	7.8

## **CSP FIREARM ELK**

All hunters reported and 10 of 11 hunters harvested elk. The success rate increased over last year and was 91%. Comments mostly focused on very few elk were seen and that more elk would be nice while hunting.

The 2011 statistics were:

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Licenses Available</b>	<b>Licenses Sold</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Success</b>	<b>Harvest</b>		
					<b>Bulls</b>	<b>Cows</b>	<b>Total</b>
CU1-21	11	11	100%	91%	10	0	10
CU1-23	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0
CU2-23	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0
CU3-23	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

Summary comparison of the 2001-2011 seasons

<b>Year</b>	<b>Apps/Licenses</b>	<b>Bull Harvest</b>	<b>Cow Harvest</b>	<b>Success</b>	<b>Avg. Days Hunted</b>
2001	11,081/140	36	79	82%	3.01
2002	11,679/140	39	91	93%	3.57
2003	12,431/170	39	97	80%	2.91
2004	13,196/188	44	126	90%	2.27
2005	15,021/166	43	86	78%	3.21
2006	14,323/167	41	91	79%	3.11
2007	15,148/101	38	31	68%	3.70
2008	14,653/76	37	21	77%	3.33
2009	14,373/56	30	20	89%	4.10
2010	14,020/26	14	6	80%	3.80
2011	12,060/11	10	0	91%	5.50