

Wildlife on Private Lands Status Report 2010 Supplemental Report (HD-6a-11.AMS)

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Landowners' Opinions about White-tailed Deer Numbers on Their Land

Landowner's opinions about the numbers of white-tailed deer on their land (2010) were summarized by landowner's primary county where their land was located (Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2). The scale ranged from -2 (*Far Too Few*) to +2 (*Far Too Many*) and the mean data for each county ranged from -0.30 for Grant County to +1.10 for Mellette County, which covers about one-fifth the range of the full scale. The counties are color-coded into five categories and three levels: 1) too many deer, 2) just about right, and 3) too few deer (Figure 2). Level one (too many deer) has three categories of increasing evaluations of deer numbers. Overall there are more counties where the mean evaluation by landowners falls in the range of "too many deer" than there are counties in the "too few deer" range (Figure 1).

It is first important to recognize that this information is non-scientific and does not reflect actual deer populations for the counties. However, this information may be useful as a supplement to biological data collected for making deer management decisions. The map provides a visual picture of where landowners may need the greatest assistance from Game, Fish and Parks in reducing depredation damage from white-tailed deer and the table provides additional information to help judge the value of the information on the map. The data and map can also be used as baseline data to measure performance, with the goal of increasing the number of counties in the "just about right" range as measured by landowner opinion.



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Table 1. Landowner's opinions about white-tailed deer numbers on their land (2010).

County Code	County	Number in County	Mean Evaluation ¹
29	Grant	61	-0.30
46	McCook	65	-0.28
55	Roberts	94	-0.27
65	Shannon	8	-0.25
5	Codington	61	-0.18
25	Douglas	44	-0.16
35	Harding	9	-0.11
21	Custer	48	-0.10
37	Hutchinson	66	-0.08
43	Lake	68	-0.06
61	Turner	72	-0.04
52	Moody	55	-0.02
58	Stanley	11	=0.00
6	Brookings	129	+0.01
48	Marshall	65	+0.02
23	Deuel	56	+0.04
1	Minnehaha	111	+0.12
36	Hughes	30	+0.13
51	Miner	43	+0.14
8	Davison	47	+0.15
32	Hamlin	59	+0.15
7	Yankton	62	+0.18
57	Spink	68	+0.18
22	Day	84	+0.19
34	Hanson	37	+0.19
31	Haakon	14	+0.21
44	Lincoln	69	+0.23
38	Hyde	17	+0.24
64	Ziebach	4	+0.25
49	Meade	67	+0.27
53	Perkins	37	+0.27
12	Bon Homme	69	+0.28
33	Hand	58	+0.29
4	Beadle	77	+0.31
18	Clark	39	+0.31
3	Brown	98	+0.34
16	Campbell	29	+0.34
62	Union	54	+0.35
56	Sanborn	43	+0.37
9	Lawrence	52	+0.40
63	Walworth	27	+0.41
40	Jerauld	38	+0.42
17	Charles Mix	81	+0.42
13	Brule	48	+0.44
2	Pennington	44	+0.45

Table continued on next page.

Table 1 – Continued. Landowner’s opinions about white-tailed deer numbers on their land (2010).

County Code	County	Number in County	Mean Evaluation ¹
27	Fall River	29	+0.45
20	Corson	20	+0.45
19	Clay	30	+0.47
39	Jackson	15	+0.47
47	McPherson	41	+0.54
42	Kingsbury	65	+0.58
26	Edmunds	31	+0.61
45	Lyman	43	+0.65
54	Potter	33	+0.67
59	Sully	18	+0.67
15	Butte	53	+0.75
11	Bennett	31	+0.77
60	Tripp	55	+0.78
10	Aurora	45	+0.80
41	Jones	19	+0.84
28	Faulk	33	+0.85
30	Gregory	70	+0.87
24	Dewey	18	+0.94
67	Todd	13	+1.00
14	Buffalo	5	+1.00
50	Mellette	20	+1.10
Overall Average		3,278 ²	+0.26

¹Evaluation Scale: -2=Far Too Few, -1=Slightly Too Few, 0=Just About Right, +1=Slightly Too Many, +2=Far Too Many

²Includes 94 landowners that did not list their county on the survey (+0.28).

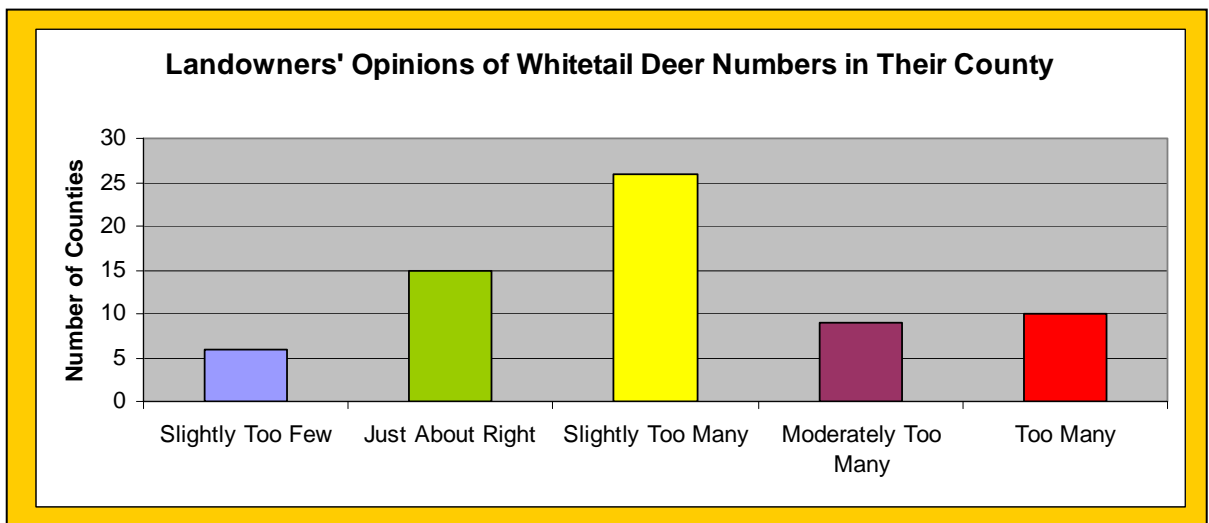


Figure 1. Average county ratings by landowners of their evaluations of whitetail deer numbers in their county.

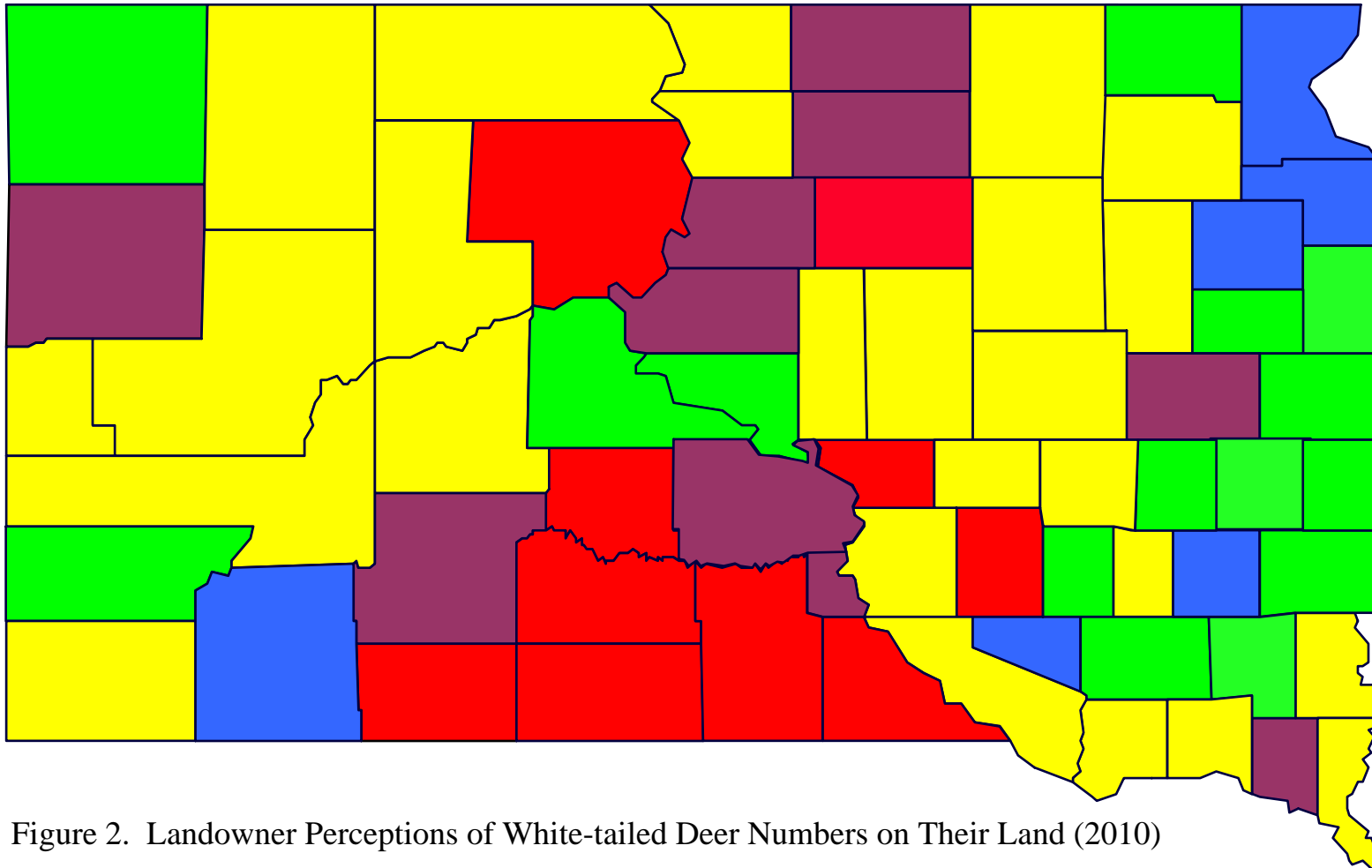


Figure 2. Landowner Perceptions of White-tailed Deer Numbers on Their Land (2010)

