LANDOWNER FREE ANTLERLESS DEER

Landowner Free Antlerless Whitetail Deer licenses (available for resident and nonresident landowners) were available in hunting units which offered a deer license with multiple tags for antlerless deer in the regular lottery drawing for the West River Deer and East River Deer seasons (14 units in 2023).

There were 748 free single-tag antlerless white-tailed deer licenses issued to landowners for the 2023 West River Deer, East River Deer, Archery Deer, Muzzleloader Deer, Youth Deer, and Apprentice Deer hunting seasons. All license holders that provided an email address were surveyed and 208 responses (29%) were received.

Free Landowner on Own Land Antlerless Deer licenses were valid for qualifying hunters from September 9, 2023, through January 1, 2024. Respondents reported hunting an average of 3.84 days each, which projected to 2,413 recreation days.

Projections for the season estimated that a total of 9 whitetail bucks and 224 whitetail does were harvested. The total harvest for the Free Antlerless Landowner licenses was 233, and the overall success rate was 31%. The average satisfaction rating for those responding (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied) was 4.83.

Summary of the 2013-2023 Free Landowner Antlerless Deer license statistics

			Harv	est				Avg	
	Licenses	Buc	ks	Do	es			Days	Average
YEAR	Sold	WT	Mule	WT	Mule	Total	Success	Hunted	Satisfctn
2013	1,390	35	3	359	32	430	31%	3.50	4.72
2014-15	Closed								
2016	628	36	0	264	3	303	48%	3.54	5.15
2017	349	9	0	159	6	173	49%	3.59	5.10
2018	377	14	2	153	5	173	46%	2.99	5.27
2019	313	4	0	126	0	130	41%	2.68	4.79
2020	393	9	0	212	0	221	56%	3.74	4.92
2021	585	3	0	250	0	253	43%	3.16	5.29
2022	2,152	36	0	684	0	720	33%	3.48	5.04
2023	748	9	0	224	0	233	31%	3.84	4.83

2023 Free Antlerless Landowner Own Land Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 17-Apr-24									Harvest Projections						
	Resident Nonresident								Whit	tetail		Total	Mean	Average	
	Licenses		Licen	ses	Tags	Response	Hunter	Tag	Bu	cks	Do	es	Deer	Satisfactn	Days
Unit	Avail.	Sold	Avail.	Sold	sold	Rate	Success	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvest	Rating	Hunted
Statewide	Unltd	721	Unltd	27	748	29%	32%	31%	0	9	212	12	233	4.83	3.84

2023 Statewide Antlerless LOL Harvest Distribution

Last Revised:			Projected Harve	st		
19-Apr-24		Whitetail				
_	Bucks	Do	es	Tot	Total	
Unit	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%	
07A (Yankton)	0	12	0	12	5.1%	
15A (Butte)	0	24	0	24	10.3%	
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	0	6	0	6	2.6%	
18A (Clark)	0	54	0	54	23.1%	
20A (Corson)	0	21	0	21	9.0%	
30A,B (Gregory)	9	15	3	27	11.5%	
31A (Haakon)	0	21	0	21	9.0%	
35A (W Harding)	0	9	0	9	3.8%	
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	15	3	18	7.7%	
53A (N Perkins)	0	9	3	12	5.1%	
53C (S Perkins)	0	27	3	30	12.8%	
TOTALS	9	212	12	233		