

# **MUZZLELOADER DEER**

There were 2,655 “antlerless whitetail” licenses (2,525 resident, 130 nonresident) and 1,004 “any deer” licenses issued for the 2023 Muzzleloader Deer season, which represented a total of 3,659 tags. All license holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed and 2,060 responded for a response rate of 59%.

The 2023 Muzzleloader season was open from December 1, 2023, through January 1, 2024. There were 4,279 resident applications for the 1,000 “any deer” licenses. Respondents averaged 5.75 days of hunting for a projected total of 20,376 recreation days for the season.

The estimated harvest for the Muzzleloader season was 945 deer (213 whitetail bucks, 600 whitetail does, 119 mule deer bucks, and 12 mule deer does). The overall success rate for the muzzleloader season was 26% and average satisfaction was 4.22 (1 = very dissatisfied, 7 = very satisfied).

The five deer management units with the highest reported harvest were the Black Hills (BH1), Minnehaha (01A), Brookings (06A), NE Pennington/SE Meade (02A), and E Custer/S Pennington (21A) accounting for approximately 22% of the total season harvest.

## Summary comparison of the 2014-2023 Muzzleloader Deer seasons

YEAR	Licenses Sold		Harvest				Total	Success	Avg Days Hunted	Average Satisfctn
			Bucks		Does					
	Res	Nonres	WT	Mule	WT	Mule				
2014	3,073	140	235	85	498	11	829	26%	3.79	4.58
2015	3,303	143	313	77	539	16	935	27%	4.03	4.76
2016	2,914	134	334	89	699	6	1,127	37%	4.06	5.03
2017	3,304	128	263	117	865	4	1,251	36%	4.39	5.10
2018	3,263	120	275	110	808	14	1,208	36%	4.44	5.01
2019	3,200	140	295	112	795	17	1,219	36%	4.95	5.10
2020	3,550	157	272	170	882	17	1,341	36%	4.36	5.14
2021	3,358	133	235	110	711	8	1,065	31%	4.87	5.01
2022	3,083	104	275	83	760	8	1,125	35%	5.03	4.73
2023	3,529	130	213	119	600	12	945	26%	5.75	4.22

## 2023 Muzzleloader Deer Harvest Projections

Unit-Type	License Holders	Licenses Available	Harvest Projections														Total Deer Harvest	Avg Days Hunted	Avg Satisf
			Licenses Sold			Response Rate	Tag Success	Whitetail				Mule Deer							
			Resident	Nonresident	Tags Sold			Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn				
			Resident	Nonresident	Tags Sold	Rate	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn				
ST1-01	1,004	1,000	1,004	0	1,004	65%	33.0%	154	2	43	2	119	0	12	0	332	-	-	
LM1-13	2,655	Unlimited	2,525	130	2,655	56%	23.1%	0	57	520	36	0	0	0	0	613	-	-	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,542</b>		<b>3,529</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>3,659</b>	<b>58.8%</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>5.75</b>	<b>4.22</b>	

## 2023 Muzzleloader Deer Harvest Distribution by Management Unit

Unit	Projected Harvest										Estimate	%
	Whitetail					Mule Deer						
	Bucks		Does			Bucks		Does				
	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn		
01A (Minnehaha)	6	9	32	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	5.1%
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	6	0	25	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	37	3.9%
02C (SE Pennington)	6	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	20	2.1%
03A (Brown)	5	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	2.5%
04A (Beadle)	0	2	21	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	26	2.8%
05A (Codington)	0	2	19	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	3.0%
06A (Brookings)	3	4	39	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	5.2%
07A (Yankton)	2	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.1%
08A (Davison)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
10A (Aurora)	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.9%
11A (N Bennett)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
11B (S Bennett)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
12A (Bon Homme)	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.7%
13A (Brule)	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.6%
13L (Brule GPA's/Corps)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
14A (Buffalo)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
15A (Butte)	0	0	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.1%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	2	2	16	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	21	2.2%
16A (Campbell)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
17A (Charles Mix)	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.7%
18A (Clark)	6	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1.8%
19A (Clay)	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
20A (Corson)	2	0	7	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	13	1.4%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	0	2	19	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	32	3.4%
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
22A (Day)	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.9%
23A (Deuel)	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.1%
24A (Dewey)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4%
24B (Little Moreau)	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.6%
25A (Douglas)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
26A (Edmunds)	2	2	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	1.7%
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	0	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.9%
27B (Fall River)	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.9%
27L (Hill Ranch Area)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3%
28A (Faulk)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4%
29A (Grant)	2	4	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	2.4%
30A,B (Gregory)	2	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.5%
31A (Haakon)	8	0	4	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	17	1.8%
32A (Hamlin)	6	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	2.9%
33A (Hand)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3%
34A (Hanson)	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4%
35A (W Harding)	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
35C (E Harding)	3	0	2	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.5%
35L (Custer Nat Forest)	5	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	20	2.1%
36A (Hughes)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
37A (Hutchinson)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
38A (Hyde)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
39A (N Jackson)	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
39B (S Jackson)	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4%
40A (Jerauld)	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.7%
41A (Jones)	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.8%
42A (Kingsbury)	3	5	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	2.9%
43A (Lake)	2	0	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	2.6%
44A (Lincoln)	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.9%
45A (W Lyman)	2	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.7%
45B (E Lyman)	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.3%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
45D (Ft Pr Nat Grslnd)	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	9	1.0%
46A (McCook)	2	2	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	2.2%
47A (McPherson)	2	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1.8%
48A (Marshall)	2	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.5%
49A (W Meade)	0	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.5%
49B (NE Meade)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
50A,B (Mellette)	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3%
51A (Miner)	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.9%
52A (Moody)	3	7	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	2.4%
53A (N Perkins)	2	0	2	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.4%
53C (S Perkins)	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
54A (Potter)	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
55A (Roberts)	0	0	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	2.4%
56A (Sanborn)	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.6%
57A (Spink)	2	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.5%
58A (Stanley)	0	0	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.4%
59A (W Sully)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3%
59B (E Sully)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
60A (Tripp)	0	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	7	0.7%
61A (Turner)	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.5%
62A (Union)	3	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.4%
63A (Walworth)	0	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.7%
64A (Ziebach)	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.2%
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
67A (Todd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
BH1 (Black Hills)	19	0	12	2	9	0	3	0	0	0	45	4.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>945</b>		

Use these figures for approximations only!

### Muzzleloader Deer 1991-2023

