# South Dakota Deer Management: 2016 Public Opinion Survey Results

**HD-1-17.AMS**

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This report summarizes results from the 2016 South Dakota Deer Management Landowner and Hunter surveys. It is organized into three major sections: 1) results from the South Dakota Deer Hunter Survey; 2) results from the South Dakota Landowner Survey; and 3) comparisons across these surveys where applicable. A mix-mode survey using both online and mail surveys was administered to a sample of resident deer license applicants. A total of 2,499 responses were received. Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 3,886 hunters, resulting in a total survey response rate of 64 percent for the SD Deer Hunter Survey. A mail survey was sent to a sample of 6,373 SD landowners. A total of 3,674 responses were received. Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 5,779 landowners, resulting in an adjusted response rate of 64 percent. Respondents who were outside the frame of this study (i.e. own less than 100 acres or did not own land in the DAU identified) were removed from the analyses, resulting in a useable response rate of 57 percent (2,845 responses) for the SD Landowner Survey.

White-tailed Deer; Mule Deer; Big game; Hunters; Landowners; Habitat Management

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# Executive Summary

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*Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.*

## HUNTER SURVEY

- 69,887 unique applicants for resident deer licenses in 2015
- 2,499 survey responses received from applicants
- 64% total response rate ±2% sampling error

## ANTLERLESS MANAGEMENT

Level of support or opposition for deer population reduction strategies when the deer population in the area hunters hunt the most is too high.

**Antlerless Only Days**

Following Firearm Deer: 61% supported
Late Dec./Early Jan.: 71% supported
In October During Firearm Antelope: 40% opposed

**53%**

Supported lengthening the regular firearm season.

**50%**

Supported increasing the number of licenses/hunters

**49%**

Supported increasing the number of double and triple tag licenses

**38%**

Opposed having split seasons, resulting in two season openers

## SEASON DATES & LENGTHS

**East River**

Season Length: 59% About Right
Season Dates: 64% About Right

**West River**

Season Length: 40% About Right
Season Dates: 65% About Right

**Archery**

Season Length: 56% About Right
Season Dates: 58% About Right

**Black Hills**

Season Length: 49% About Right
Season Dates: 53% About Right

**Muzzle loader**

Season Length: 42% About Right
Season Dates: 39% About Right

# Executive Summary

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## LANDOWNER SURVEY

- 19,765 South Dakota resident landowners with 100 or more acres were identified
- 3,674 responses received; 2,845 useable responses
- 57% total response rate ±1.7% sampling error at statewide level

## ANTLERLESS MANAGEMENT

Level of support or opposition for deer population reduction strategies when the deer population is too high.

**Antlerless Only Days**

Following Firearm Deer: 51% supported
Late Dec./Early Jan.: 59% supported
In October During Firearm Antelope: 32% opposed

**51%**

Supported lengthening the regular firearm season.

**63%**

Supported increasing the number of licenses/hunters

**42%**

Supported increasing the number of double and triple tag licenses

**37%**

Opposed having split seasons, resulting in two season openers

## SEASON DATES & LENGTHS

**East River**

Season Length: 53% About Right
Season Dates: 60% About Right

**West River**

Season Length: 41% About Right
Season Dates: 50% About Right

**Archery**

Season Length: 45% About Right
Season Dates: 47% About Right

**Black Hills**

Season Length: 58% No Opinion
Season Dates: 61% No Opinion

**Muzzle loader**

Season Length: 49% No Opinon
Season Dates: 55% No Opinion

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# South Dakota Deer Management: 2016 Public Opinion Survey Results

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### Introduction

Effective decision-making by wildlife agencies necessitates the need to consider public perceptions and opinions, in addition to potential responses to management decisions. Along with hunter harvest and biological data collected, public input is an important component in developing and implementing a deer management plan in South Dakota. Public participation within the development of the deer management plan can help ensure decisions are made in consideration of public needs and preferences. In 2016, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) conducted a survey of applicants for a South Dakota deer hunting license, as well as landowners across the state. These surveys are a first step in identifying and understanding the interests and needs of South Dakota landowners and deer hunters. Additional public involvement opportunities are also used to help incorporate the social aspects of managing deer into GFP's development of a deer management plan. The purpose of these surveys was to collect information regarding individual's experiences with and opinions about deer populations and management.

This report summarizes results from the 2016 South Dakota Deer Management Landowner and Hunter surveys. It is organized into three major sections: 1) results from the South Dakota Deer Hunter Survey; 2) results from the South Dakota Landowner Survey; and 3) comparisons across these surveys where applicable.

**SD Deer Management – Hunter Survey**

Methods

There were 69,887 unique applicants for South Dakota resident deer licenses in 2015. A random sample of 4,000 applicants was drawn from this population. This sample includes hunters regardless of whether or not they received a license. All 4,000 hunters sampled were surveyed regarding their deer hunting experiences and management preferences (appendix A). Survey administration was done following the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al. 2014). Up to six contacts were made: three email and three mail contacts. Hunters with a valid email address in the 2015 GFP license database were sent up to three email invitations to complete the deer management survey via the internet using Qualtrics Insights Platform. The online survey non-respondents and hunters without an email address were mailed a questionnaire. Up to three contacts were made via mail: 1) a survey with cover letter; 2) follow-up reminder postcard; and 3) a final survey and cover letter. All survey data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software package.

Results

A total of 2,499 responses were received. Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 3,886 hunters, resulting in a total survey response rate of 64 percent and a margin of sampling error of ±2 percent.

*Hunter Profile* – Deer hunters indicated an average of 23 years hunting deer in South Dakota (table 1). Approximately two in five hunters (44%) have hunted deer in South Dakota for 25 years or more and 29 percent have hunted deer in South Dakota for 10 years or less. Hunters were asked to rank six deer seasons in order of their hunting preference, where 1 is their first choice, 2 is their second choice, and so on until all six seasons were ranked (figure 1). Overall, the East River Deer Season was the highest ranked deer season with 42 percent of

hunters ranking it as their first choice. The West River Deer season received the second most first choice rankings with 24 percent. In addition to hunters being asked to rank their preference of deer seasons, hunters were also asked their most preferred deer species to hunt in South Dakota (figure 2). The majority of hunters (78%) most prefer to hunt white-tailed deer in South Dakota.

**Table 1: Deer hunting longevity in South Dakota for hunters**

| Years | % | N | Mean (yrs) | Median (yrs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 to 10 | 28.8 | 709 | | |
| 11 to 24 | 27.5 | 676 | | |
| 25 to 39 | 23.4 | 576 | 22.9 | 20.0 |
| 40 to 49 | 14.4 | 354 | (22.3, 23.2) | |
| 50 or more | 5.9 | 144 | | |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **2,459** | | |

*Note: numbers in parentheses represent 95% confidence interval.

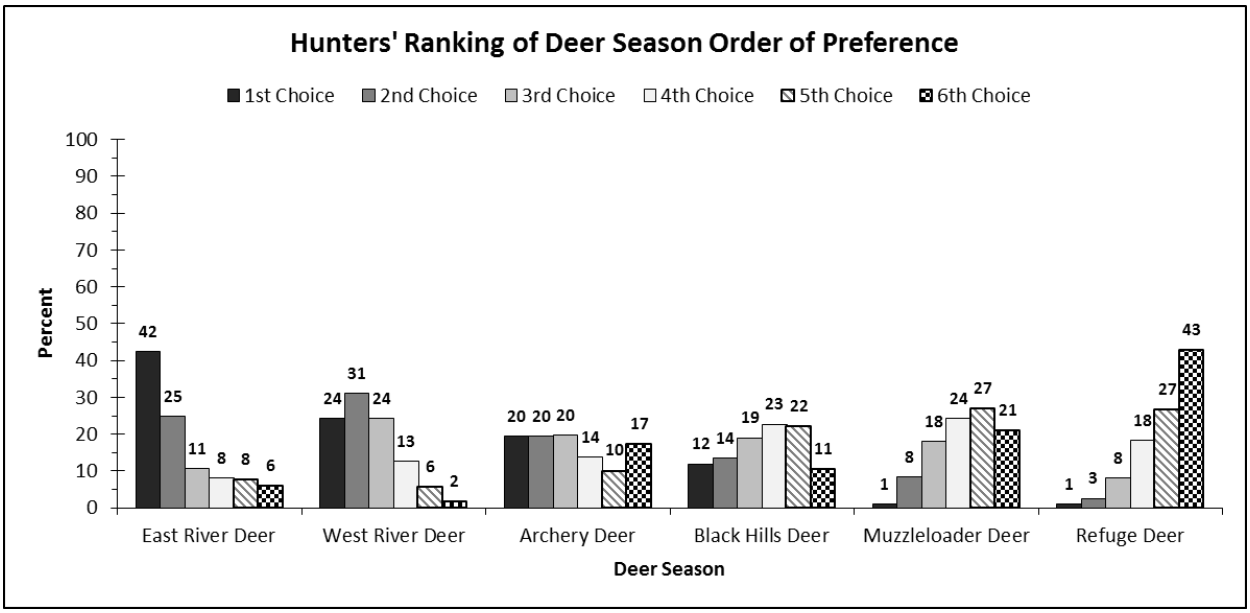


**Figure 1: Hunters' order of preference of deer seasons**

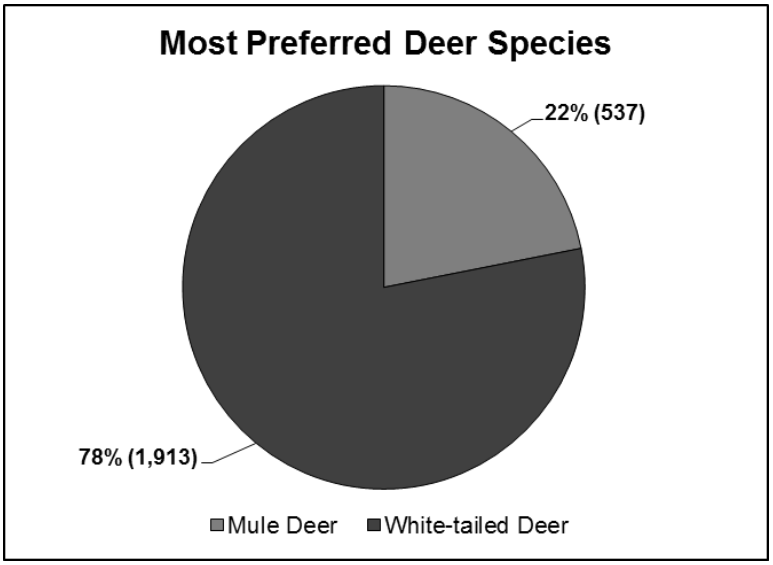

**Figure 2: Hunters' most preferred deer species**

Individuals who hunt do so with the intention their participation will meet certain expectations. These expectations are influenced by both individual and environmental factors; therefore the motivations for deer hunting may vary considerably among hunters. While some expectations may be associated with certain activities, a high degree of variation can be found among individuals doing the same activity, using the same environment, or even within a given individual at different times (Graefe et al. 1981). Knowledge of hunters' motivations and expectations allow managers to better understand the different experiences sought by individuals (Bryan 1979). South Dakota deer hunters' motivations have remained fairly consistent for the past 20 years (Gigliotti 2011a and 2011b; Gigliotti 2003a, 2003b, and 2003c). The top reasons indicated for why they hunt deer have historically been the enjoyment of the outdoors (nature), being with friends and family (social), and experiencing the challenge of the hunt (experience).

In 2016, hunters were asked to rate the importance of eight possible reasons for why they deer hunted. The vast majority of deer hunters placed a high degree of importance on enjoyment of the outdoors (91%), being with friends and family (82%), and the experience of the

hunt (83%). On average hunters indicated two of the reasons were neither unimportant nor important reasons why they deer hunted: 1) harvesting any antlered deer; and 2) harvesting a doe (figure 3). Five of the eight reasons were rated, on average, as being important reasons why hunters deer hunt: 1) harvesting large-antlered deer; 2) solitude; 3) bringing deer meat home to eat; 4) experiencing the challenge of the hunt; and 5) being with friends and family. On average, hunters indicated enjoying the outdoors was a very important reason why they deer hunted.

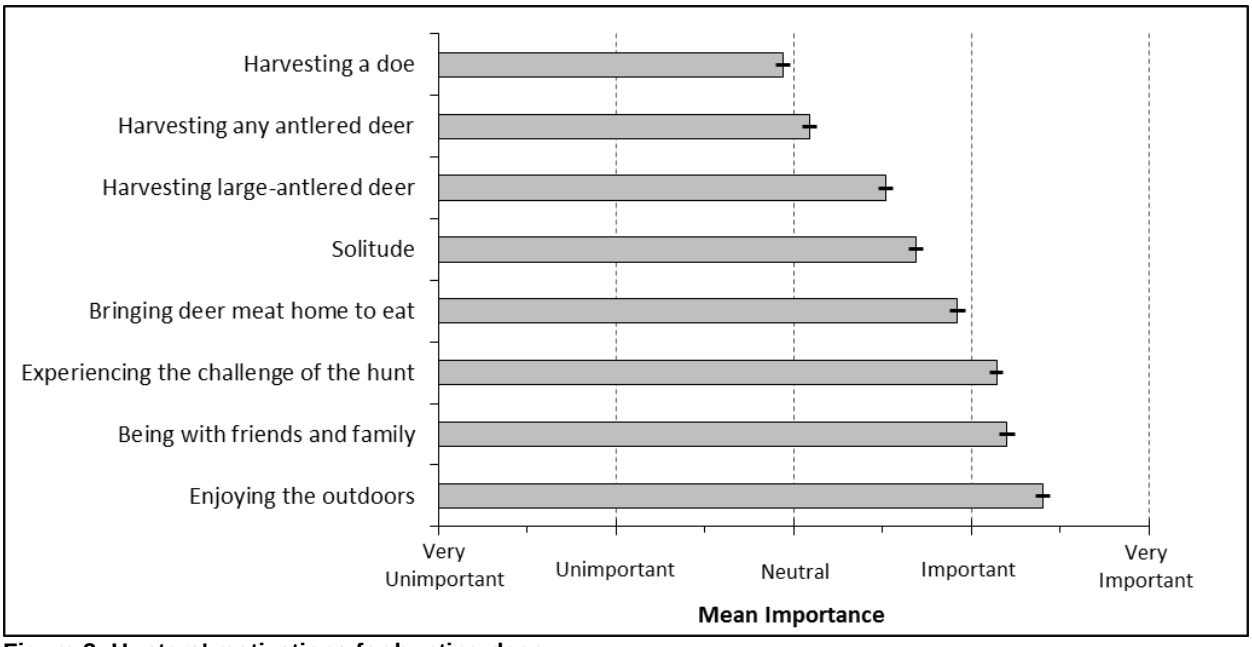


**Figure 3: Hunters' motivations for hunting deer**
*NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence interval

When hunters are grouped by importance of reasons for hunting deer, four distinct groups were found (table 2).[1] Three of the four groups (groups 1, 2 and 4) were similar in the importance hunters placed on the social aspects, the experience of the hunt, and enjoyment of nature; however approximately 23 percent of hunters (group 4) indicated bringing meat home was very important, but the reasons of solitude, harvesting a large-antlered deer, harvesting any

[1] A TwoStep Cluster Analysis was used to classify hunters according to the importance of 8 reasons for deer hunting.

antlered deer or harvesting a doe were neither important nor unimportant. Approximately 23 percent of hunters (group 2) placed a higher importance than all other groups on harvesting large-antlered deer. In addition, these hunters indicated harvesting a doe or any antlered deer were unimportant and bringing deer meat home to eat was neither important nor unimportant. Group 1 was the largest group with 48% of hunters. Hunters in this group rated half of the measured motivations as being very important: 1) enjoying the outdoors; 2) being with friends and family; 3) experiencing the challenge of the hunt; and 4) bringing deer meat home to eat. Solitude and harvesting a large-antlered deer were rated as important, while harvesting any antlered deer and harvesting a doe were neither important nor unimportant. The remaining 5 percent of deer hunters (group 3) indicated all the motivations, as measured by the survey instrument, were not important.

**Table 2: Hunter classification by deer hunting motivations**

| | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mean Importance | | | |
| N | 1125 | 543 | 121 | 541 |
| % of Hunters | 48.3% | 23. 3% | 5.2% | 23.2% |
| Enjoying the outdoors | 4.82 | 4.64 | 1.26 | 4.09 |
| Being with friends and family | 4.68 | 4.45 | 1.90 | 3.50 |
| Experiencing the challenge of the hunt | 4.52 | 4.23 | 1.89 | 3.79 |
| Bringing deer meat home to eat | 4.47 | 2.77 | 2.29 | 4.34 |
| Solitude | 4.10 | 3.68 | 2.32 | 3.19 |
| Harvesting large-antlered deer | 3.66 | 3.86 | 2.45 | 3.15 |
| Harvesting any antlered deer | 3.42 | 2.56 | 2.72 | 3.06 |
| Harvesting a doe | 3.34 | 1.94 | 2.73 | 3.14 |

*Hunting Conditions* – In 2016, deer hunters were asked to evaluate hunting conditions over the past 5 years based on their experiences. In order to evaluate these ratings at a scale finer than the statewide level, hunters were also asked to indicate the management unit, regardless of deer season, they hunted the most. These data were then combined according to

GFP's data analysis units (DAU) for deer management in South Dakota (figure 4; table 3).[2] On average, hunters rated the number of hunters in the field, the number of bucks seen, and the average size of antlers as about the same statewide from 2010 to 2015 (figure 5). During this same time period, hunters rated the number of white-tailed deer seen, the number of mule deer seen, and private land hunting access as having decreased a little statewide, on average.

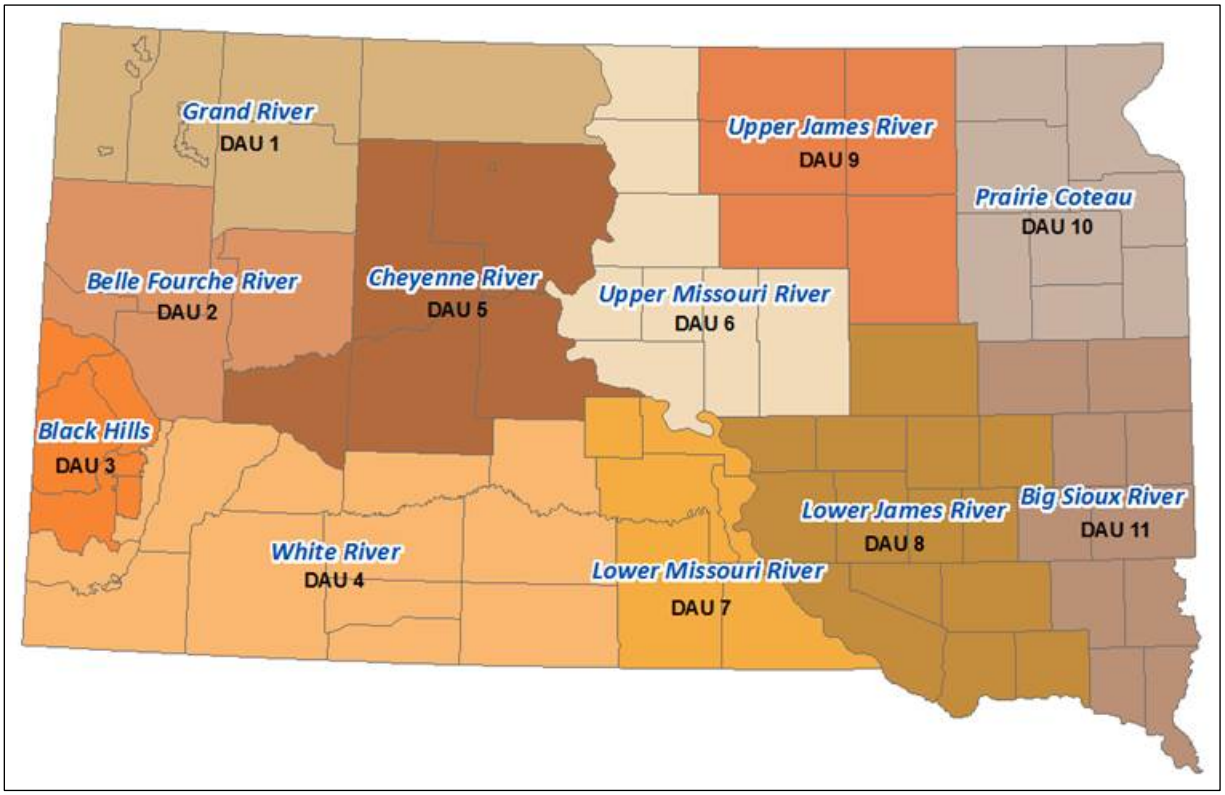


**Figure 4: Data Analysis Units (DAU) for deer management in South Dakota**

[2] Data Analysis Units (DAU) are groups of management units large enough to account for related biological and physical factors and processes that collectively influence deer populations. DAUs also function to delineate the geographic extent of a biological population. There are 11 deer management DAUs in South Dakota.

**Table 3: DAU where hunted the most**

| DAU NAME | NUMBER OF HUNTERS |
|---|---|
| Grand River | 39 |
| Belle Fourche River | 67 |
| Black Hills | 101 |
| White River | 107 |
| Cheyenne River | 61 |
| Upper Missouri River | 82 |
| Lower Missouri River | 107 |
| Lower James River | 168 |
| Upper James River | 114 |
| Prairie Coteau | 146 |
| Big Sioux River | 221 |

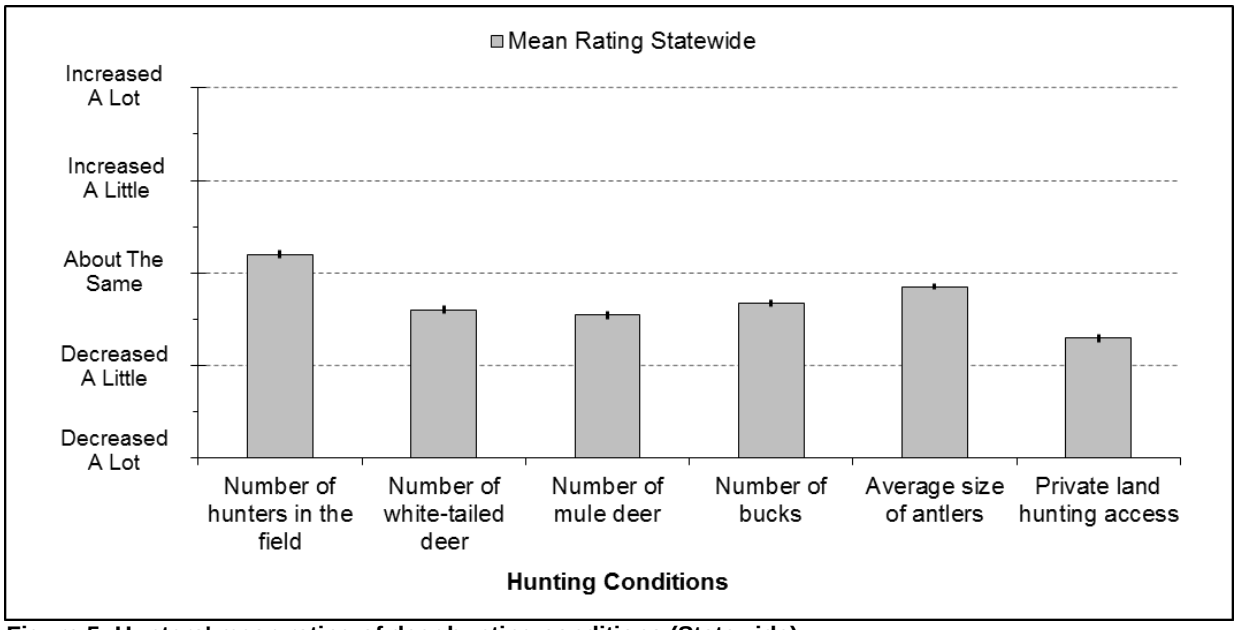


**Figure 5: Hunters' mean rating of deer hunting conditions (Statewide)**
*NOTE: error bars represent 95% confidence interval

The Upper Missouri River unit had the highest frequency of hunters (44%) who thought the number of hunters in the field from 2010 to 2015 had increased (figure 6). An equal percentage of hunters (44%) believed the number had stayed the same and 12 percent indicated the number had decreased ($\chi^2$=44.57 (20, N=1,213) p=0.001; Cramer's *V*=0.136).[3]

[3]Cramer's *V* is used to determine the strength of statistically significant relationship, as measured by the Chi-Square statistic (0 to 0.10 = negligible; 0.11 to 0.30 = weak; 0.31 to 0.50 moderate; >0.50 = strong).

The Lower Missouri River unit had the highest percentage of hunters (53%) who thought the number of hunters had stayed the same. The Prairie Coteau unit in the northeast corner of the state had the highest frequency of hunters (37%) who thought the number of hunters in the field over the past five years had decreased. Similarly, 38 percent of hunters felt the number had stayed the same, while one-quarter (25%) of hunters thought the number had increased.

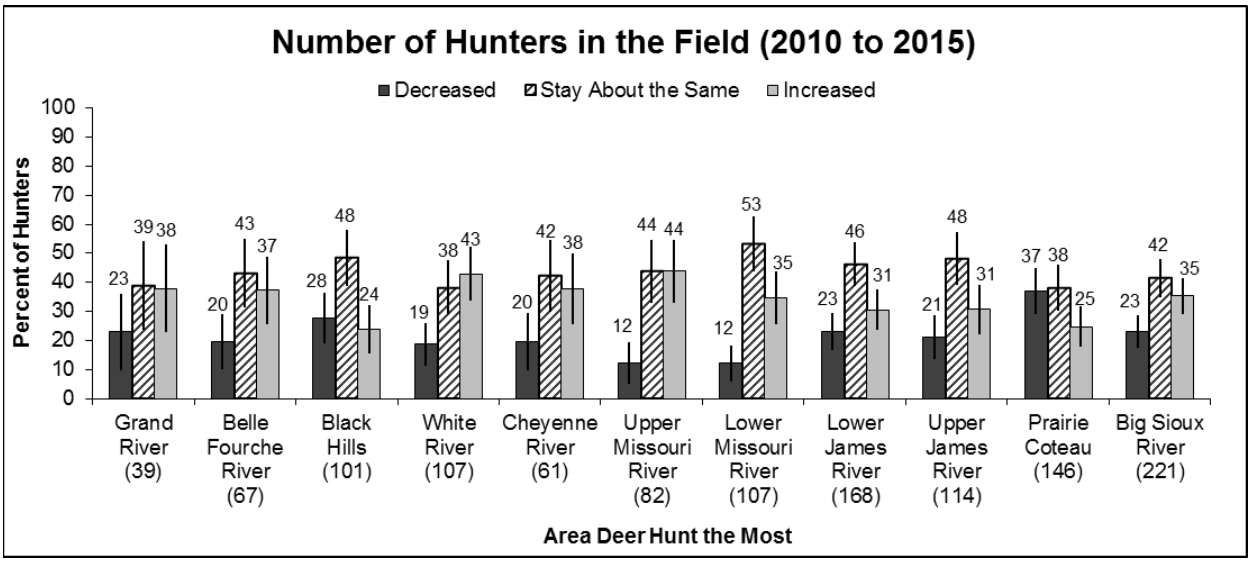


**Figure 6: Distribution of ratings for number of hunters in the field by DAU**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Hunters who deer hunt the most in the northwest corner of the state (Grand River unit) and east river (Upper and Lower James River, Prairie Coteau, and Big Sioux River units) primarily indicated the number of white-tailed deer had decreased over the past 5 years (figure 7). The majority of hunters in the Grand River unit (62%) indicated the number of white-tailed deer has decreased ($\chi^2$=51.86 (20, N=1,211) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.146). Nearly half of hunters in the Upper James River unit (49%) and the majority of hunters in the Lower James River unit (57%), Prairie Coteau unit (61%), and the Big Sioux River unit (55%) indicated the number of whitetails have decreased over the past five years. Hunters in the Black Hills unit had the highest average rating of white-tailed deer indicating they thought the number had stayed the same from 2010 to 2015 ($\bar{x}$=3.09, se=0.11; f=4.90 (10, 1,211 ) p<0.000). Over one-third

(36%) thought the number of whitetails had increased, while 35 percent felt the number had stayed the same and 29 percent thought the number had decreased.

Hunters who deer hunt the most West River or in the Black Hills primarily indicated the number of mule deer in the area they hunt the most had decreased over the past five years (figure 8). The White River unit had the highest percentage of hunters (59%) who indicated the number of mule deer had decreased ($\chi^2$=163.86 (20, N=1,098) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.273). The majority of hunters who hunt the most in units East River, where mule deer numbers are historically lower, primarily indicated numbers stayed about the same over the past five years.

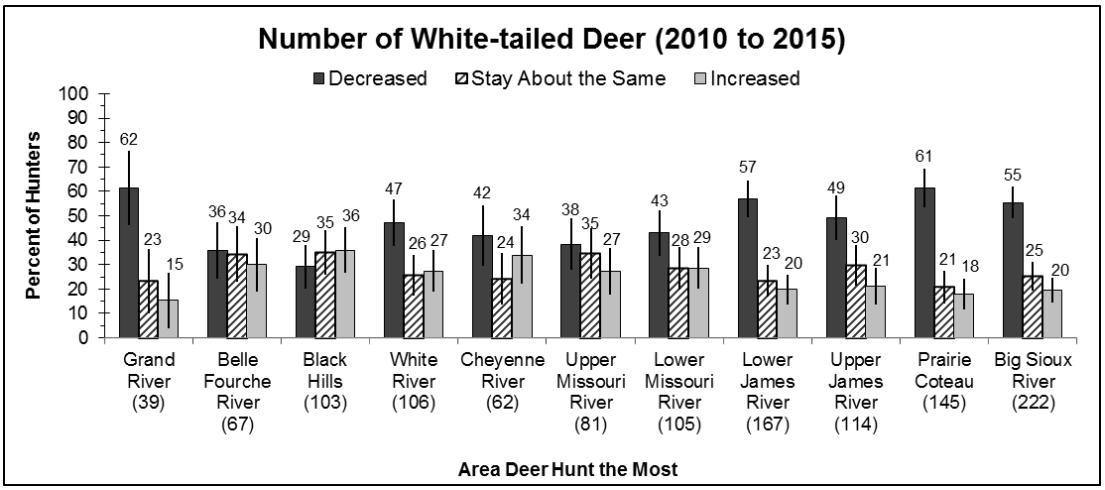


**Figure 7: Distribution of ratings for number of white-tailed deer by DAU**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses is number of responses

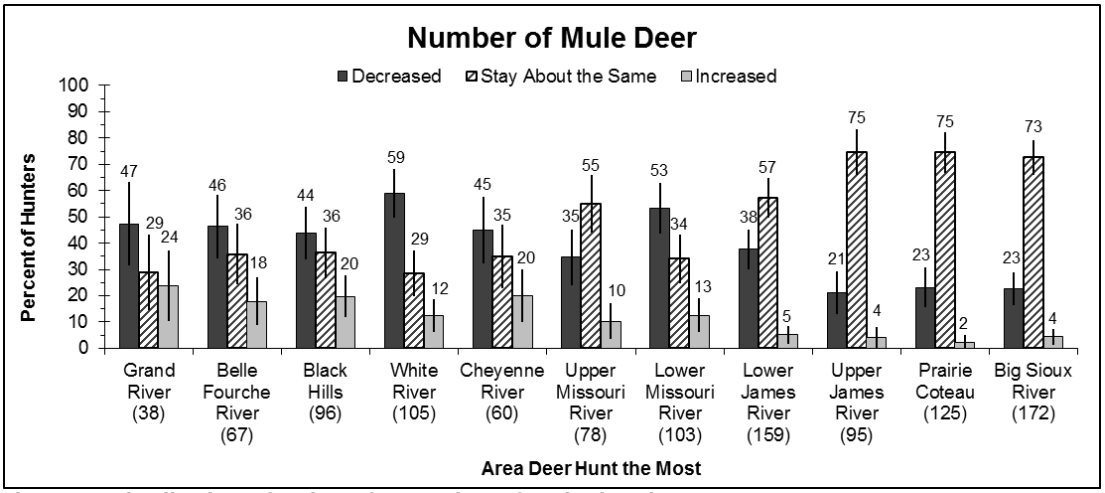


**Figure 8: Distribution of ratings for number of mule deer by DAU**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses is number of responses

The Black Hills unit had the highest percentage of hunters (38%) who indicated the number of bucks seen over the past five years had increased; however, 42 percent of hunters in this unit said the number had stayed the same (figure 9). The majority of hunters in the southeast corner of the state, Lower James River (56%) and Big Sioux River (52%), indicated the number had decreased ($\chi^2$=72.20 (20, N=1,204) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.173). In addition, almost half (48%) of hunters in the northeast corner of the state (Prairie Coteau Unit) indicated the number had decreased. Hunters who spent most of their time in the units along the Missouri River (Cheyenne River Unit, Upper Missouri River Unit, and Lower Missouri River Unit) mostly indicated the number of bucks seen had stayed the same (53%, 49% and 42% respectively).

The Black Hills unit also had the highest percentage of hunters (43%) who said the average size of antlers had increased over the past five years ($\chi^2$=81.18 (20, N=1,201) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.184); however, 45 percent of hunters in the unit indicated the size had remained about the same (figure 10). Hunters in the Grand River Unit and the Lower James River Unit were more likely to indicate the average size of antlers had decreased (38% and 43% respectively). The majority of hunters in the eight remaining DAUs indicated the size had remained the same.

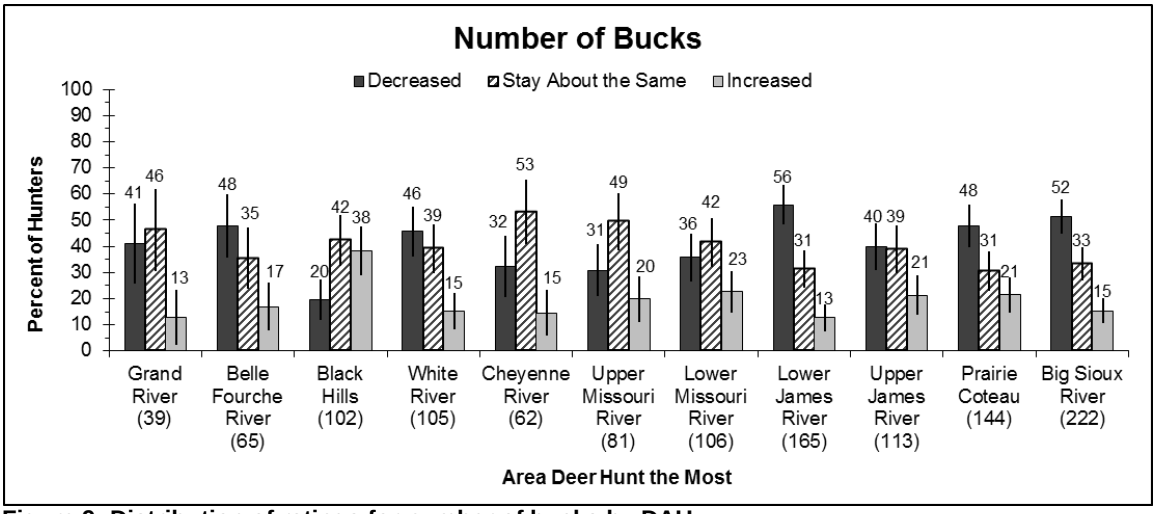


**Figure 9: Distribution of ratings for number of bucks by DAU**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

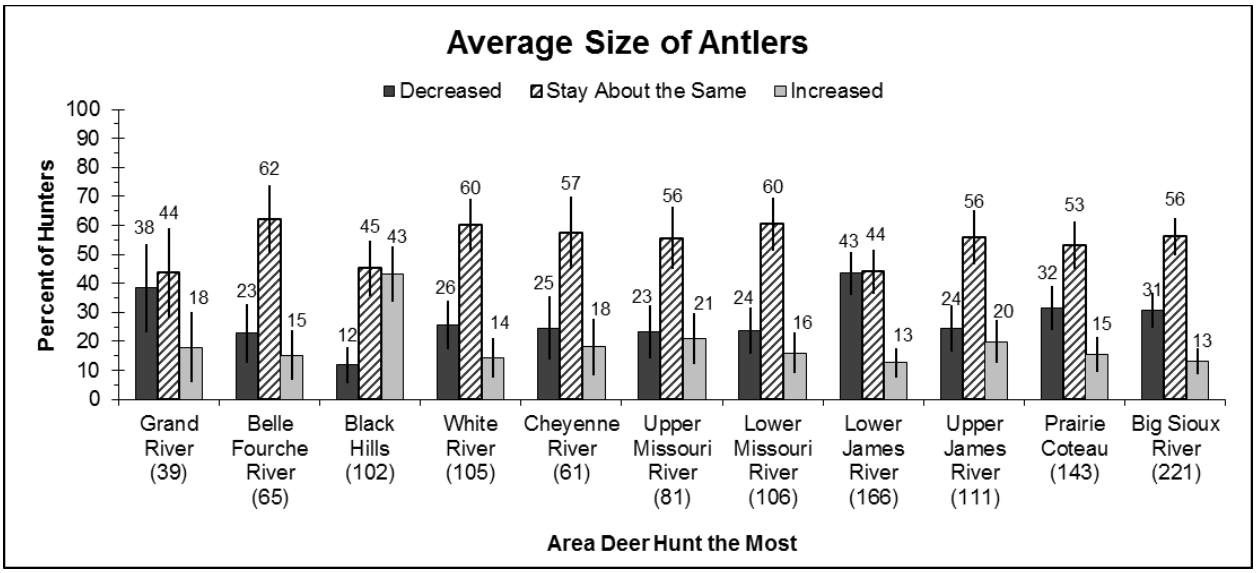


**Figure 10: Distribution of ratings for average size of antlers by DAU**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Overall, hunters indicated private land access decreased over the past five years. There were no significant differences between DAUs on hunters rating of private land hunting access (figure 11).

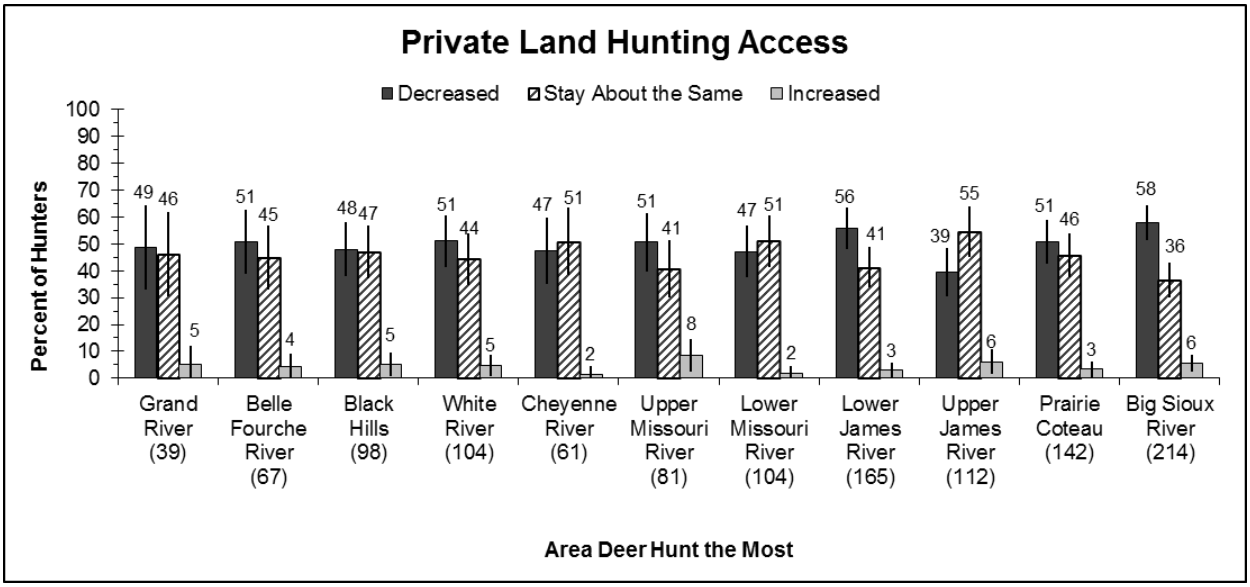


**Figure 11: Distribution of ratings for private land hunting access by DAU**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

In addition to rating these conditions in the area they hunted the most, hunters were also asked to evaluate the deer habitat on Game Production Areas (GPAs) and Walk-In Areas (WIAs) over the past five years. Forty-five percent of deer hunters indicated they had hunted on Game Production Areas (GPA) within the past five years (figure 12). Those who did were more likely than deer hunters who did not hunt GPAs to have an opinion about the deer habitat quality on GPAs ($\chi^2$=761.14 (10, N=2,321) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.405). Over half (53%) of hunters who did not hunt on GPAs said they had no opinion regarding deer habitat quality in these areas (figure 13). One-third (33%) of deer hunters on GPAs rated the deer habitat quality as fair, while another 36 percent rated it as good and 17 percent rated it as very good. Similarly, forty-five percent of hunters indicated they deer hunted on WIAs between 2010 and 2015 (figure 14). Those who did not hunt deer on WIAs were much more likely than those who did to have no opinion on the quality of deer habitat on WIAs ($\chi^2$=976.34 (10, N=2286) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.462). Nearly two-thirds (62%) of deer hunters who did not hunt WIAs indicated they had no opinion about the quality of deer habitat in these areas (figure 15). Thirty-six percent of hunters on WIAs rated the deer habitat as fair, while another one-third (33%) rated it as good and ten percent indicated the deer habitat was very good.

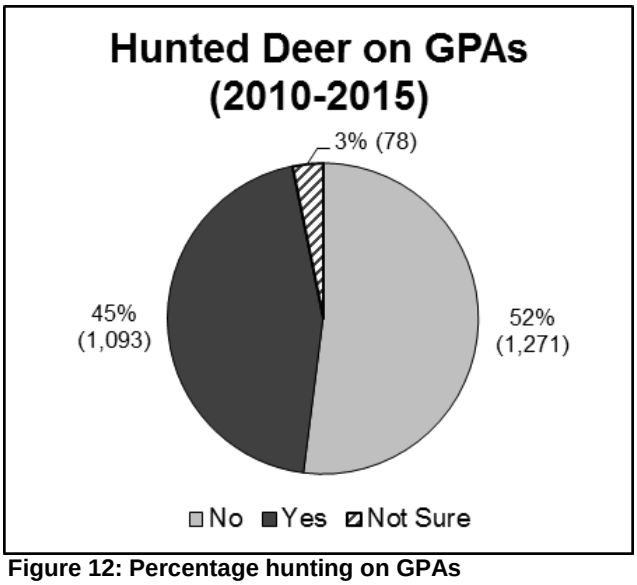


**Figure 12: Percentage hunting on GPAs**

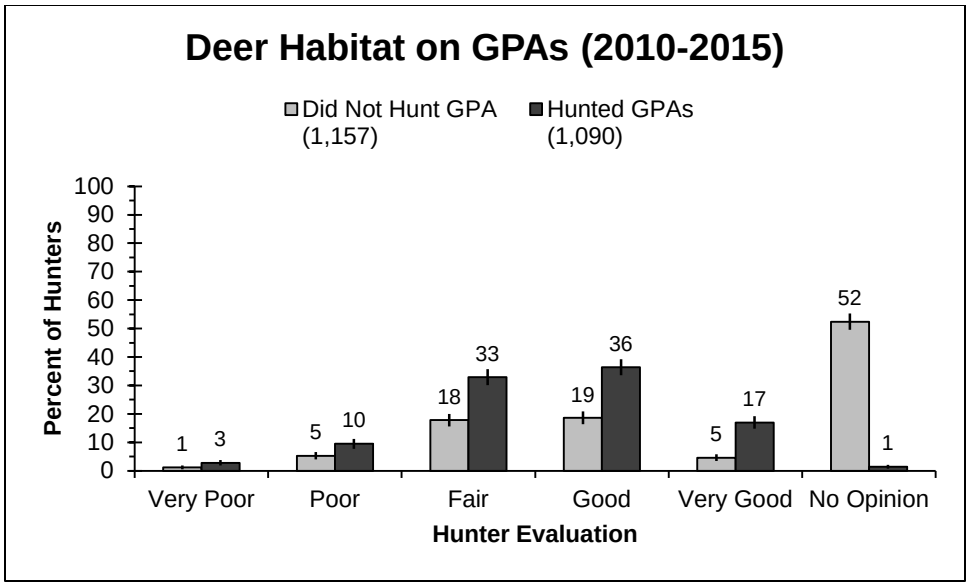


**Figure 13 Hunter evaluation of deer habitat on GPAs**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

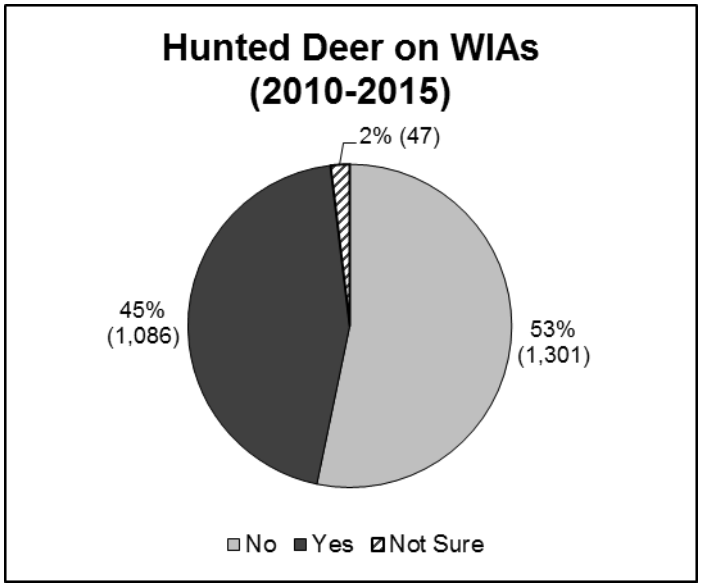


**Figure 14: Percentage hunting on WIAs**

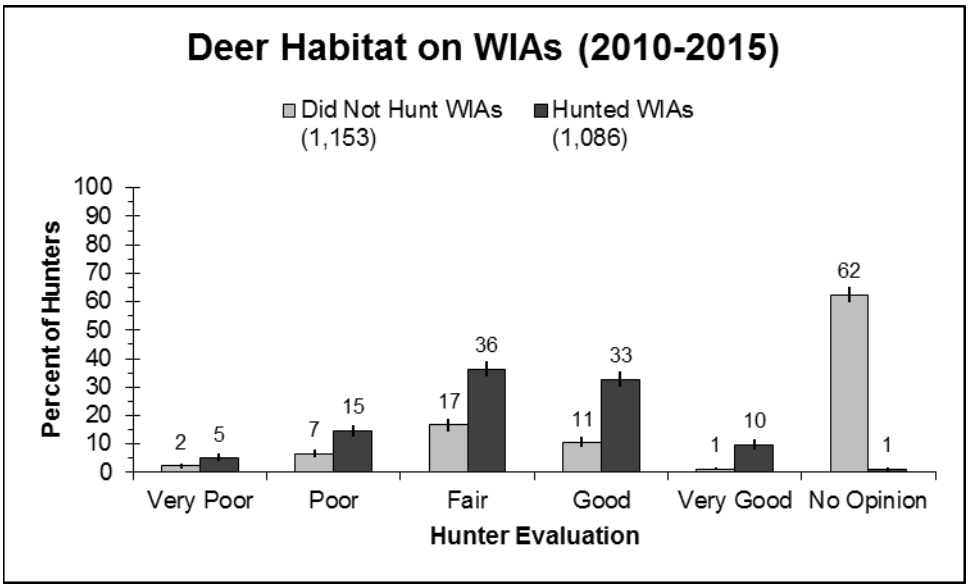


**Figure 15: Hunter evaluation of deer habitat on WIAs**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

In addition to their evaluations of hunting conditions, hunters indicated their opinions regarding antlerless deer management, buck management, deer season structure, and limited access units.

*Antlerless Deer Management* – Hunters were asked if the deer population in the area they hunt the most was too high, how strongly would they support or oppose the following reduction strategies: 1) lengthen the regular firearm deer season; 2) increase the number of licenses/hunters; 3) include antlerless-only days in late December/early January; 4) include antlerless-only days immediately following regular firearm deer season; 5) allow the use of antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope; 6) increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free); and 7) split seasons, resulting in two season openers. Overall, hunters were supportive of five of the seven strategies, expressing greater opposition for antlerless deer tags during firearm antelope season and split seasons.

Lengthen regular firearm season – The majority of hunters (53%) supported lengthening the regular firearm deer season when deer populations were too high (figure 16). Approximately one-quarter (27%) of hunters opposed this strategy, while 20 percent neither supported nor

opposed it. There was no statistically significant difference in hunters' level of support or opposition for lengthening the regular firearm deer season based on the area hunters hunted the most.

Increase the number of licenses/hunters – Half of hunters (50%) supported increasing the number of licenses/hunters when deer populations in the area they hunted the most was too high (figure 17). Over one-quarter (29%) of hunters were opposed to this and 21 percent indicated they were neutral. Similar to lengthening the firearm season, there were no statistically significant differences between areas hunters hunt most often.

Antlerless-only days in late December/early January – Nearly three-quarters (71%) of hunters supported including antlerless-only days in late December and early January as a way to reduce deer populations when too high (figure18). There was no statistically significant difference in hunters' level of support based on the area they deer hunted the most.

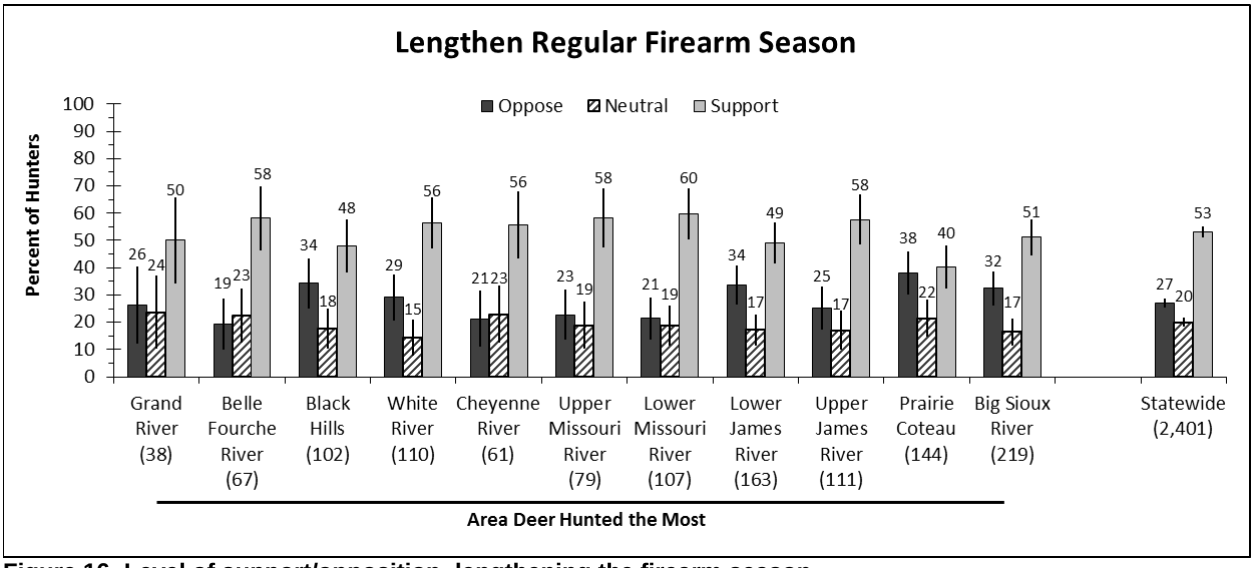


**Figure 16: Level of support/opposition: lengthening the firearm season**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

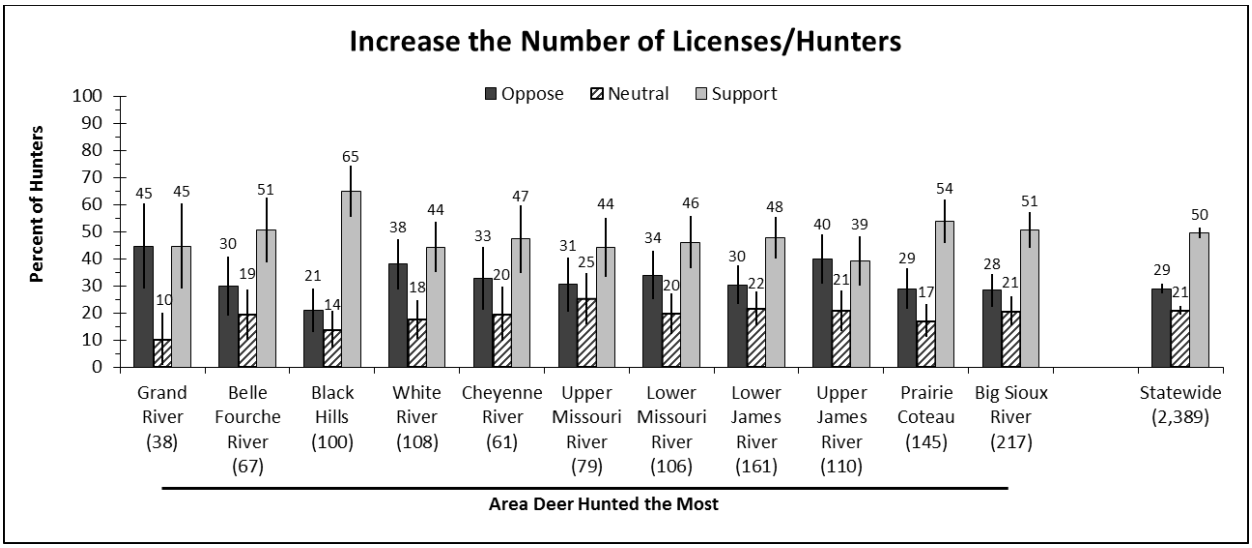


**Figure 17: Level of support/opposition: increasing number of licenses**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

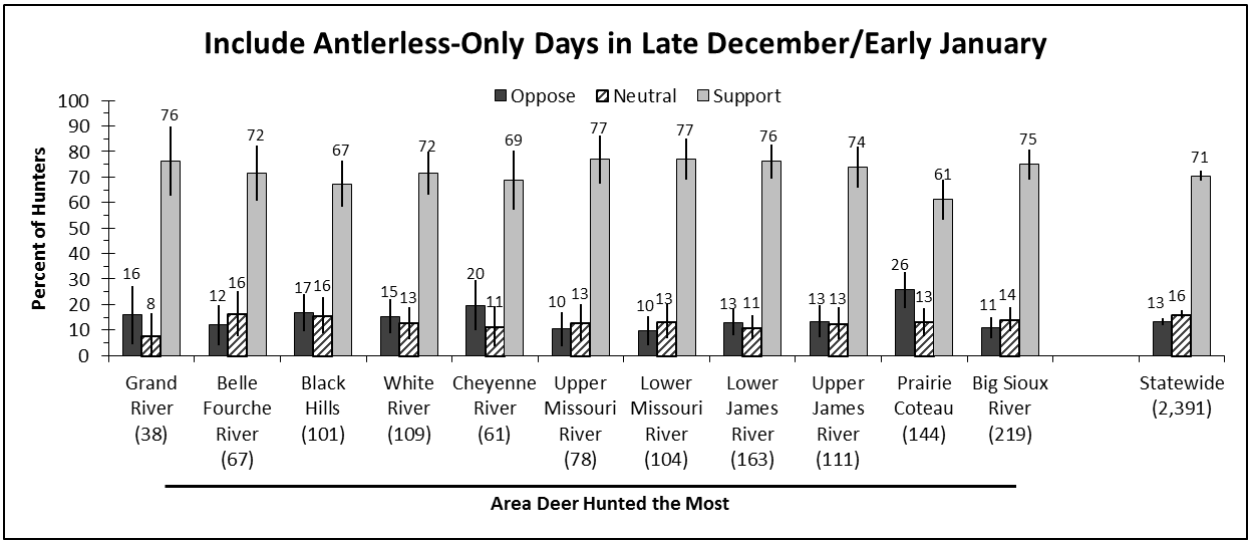


**Figure 18: Level of support/opposition: antlerless-only days in Dec/Jan**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Antlerless-only days following regular firearm deer season – Nearly two-thirds (61%) of hunters supported including antlerless-only days immediately following the firearm deer season as a reduction strategy when populations are too high (figure 19). Twenty-three percent of hunters were neutral toward this strategy, and 16 percent of hunters were opposed to it. There

were no statistically significant difference in level of support based on area hunters hunt the most.

Increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free) – Nearly half of hunters (49%) supported increasing the number of double and triple tag licenses where the third tag is free when deer populations are too high in the area they hunted most (figure 20). Just over a quarter of hunters (27%) were opposed to this reduction strategy and 24 percent were neutral to it. There was a statistically significant, but weak relationship between where hunters hunted the most and their support for increasing the number of double and triple tag licenses ($\chi^2$=38.44 (20, N=1,181) p<0.008; Cramer's *V*=0.104). The majority of hunters supported this strategy in 9 of the 11 DAUs. Those who deer hunted the most in the northeast (Prairie Coteau unit) and hunters in the Black Hills unit were less likely than hunters elsewhere to support increasing the number of double and triple tag licenses. About one-third (35%) of hunters in the Prairie Coteau unit supported this reduction strategy, while 43 percent of hunters in this area were opposed to it. Forty-three percent of hunters in the Black Hills were in support of increasing double and triple tag licenses, while 35 percent were opposed to it.

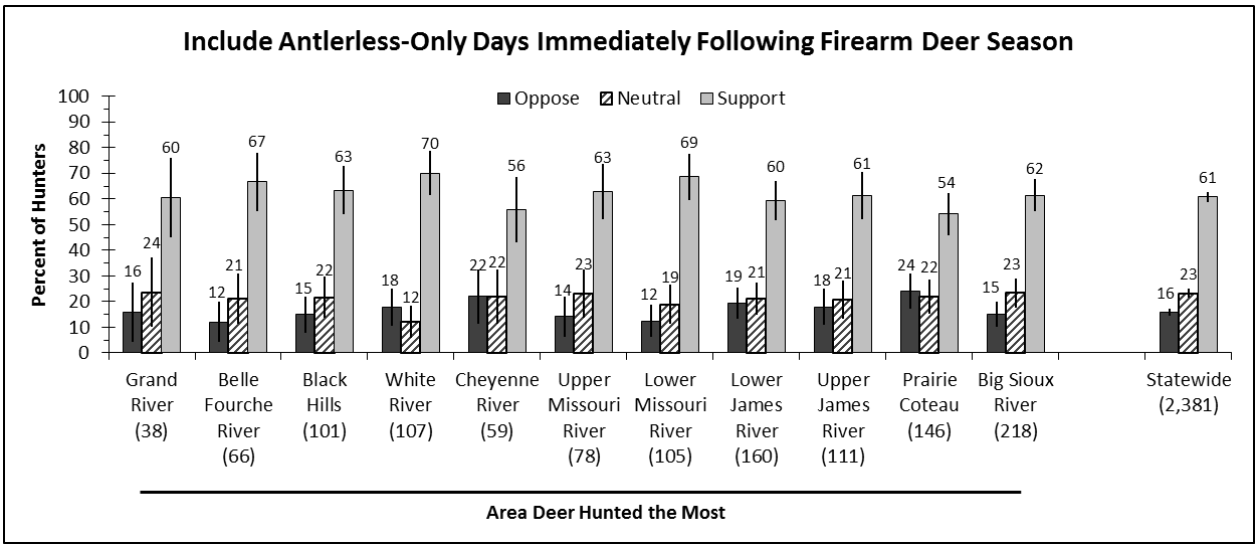


**Figure 19: Level of support/opposition: antlerless-only period after firearm season**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

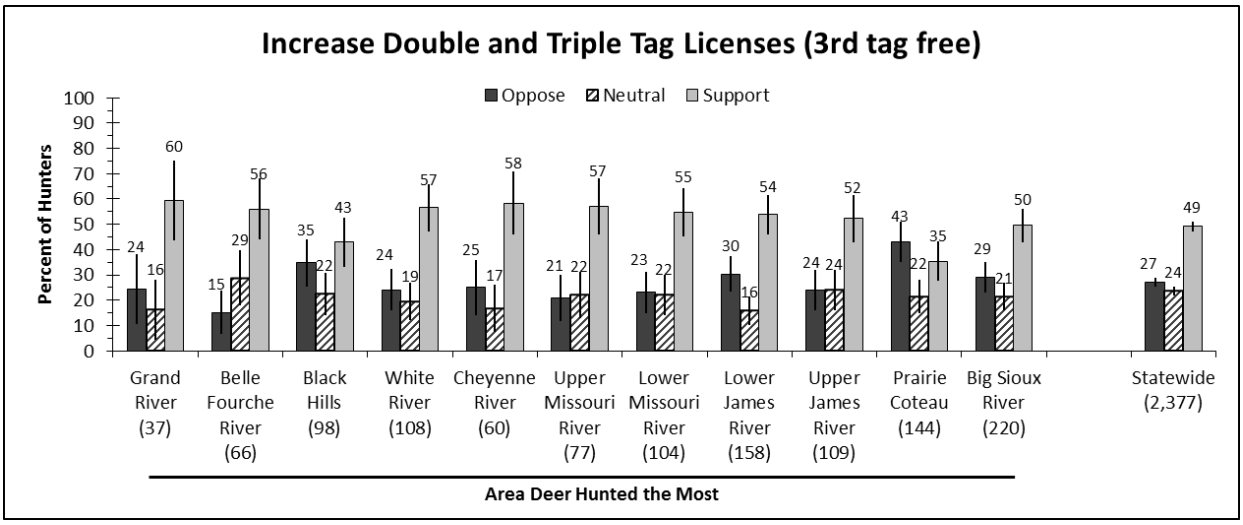


**Figure 20: Level of support/opposition: double and triple tag licenses**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope season – Compared to the previous reduction strategies, hunters were less supportive of allowing the use of antlerless deer tags in October during the firearm antelope season (figure 21). Forty percent of hunters were opposed to this reduction strategy and 29 percent were neutral; however, nearly one-third (31%) of hunters supported this strategy. Similar to the previously discussed reduction strategies, there was no statistically significant difference in level of support based on the area hunters hunted the most.

Split seasons – Over one-third (38%) of hunters were opposed to having split seasons, resulting in two season openers (figure 22). Another 35 percent were neutral to this strategy and about one-quarter (27%) supported having split seasons. There was no statistically significant difference in the level of support based on area hunted the most.

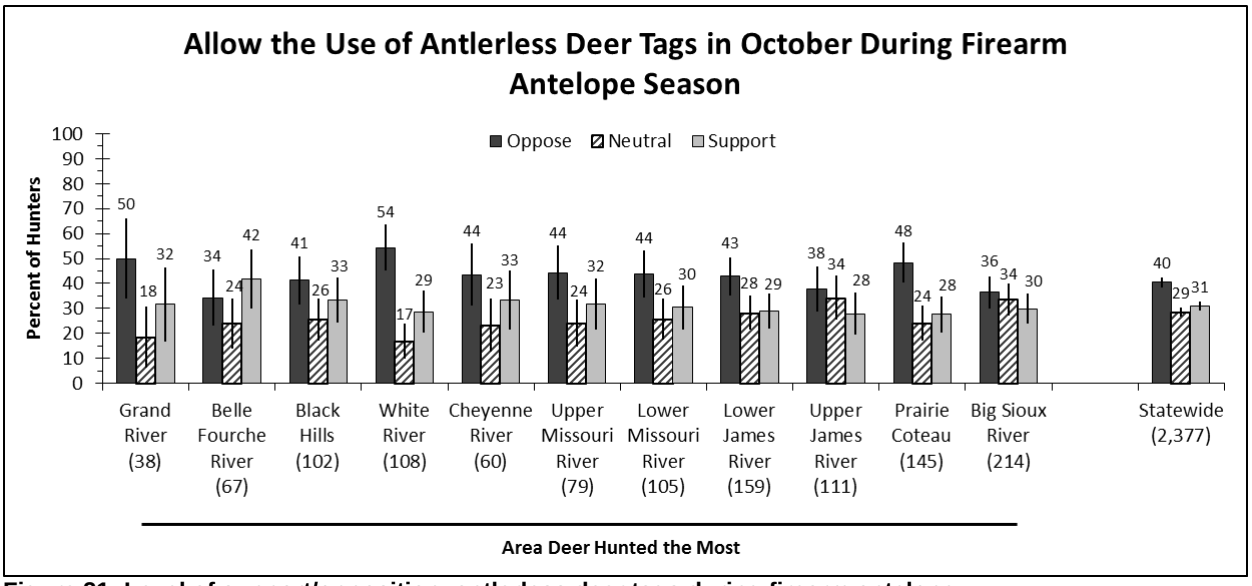


**Figure 21: Level of support/opposition: antlerless deer tags during firearm antelope**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

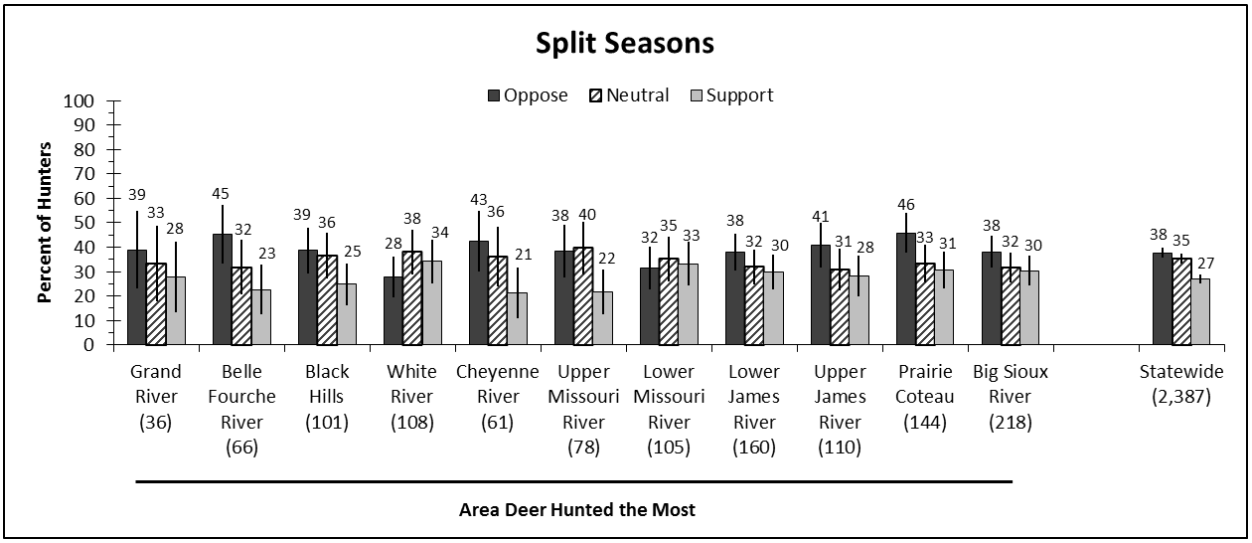


**Figure 22: Level of support/opposition: split seasons**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Buck Management* – Management of deer populations to produce large-antlered bucks requires conservative harvest strategies to allow more bucks to reach maturity. Hunters were asked if they would be willing to hunt less often if it increased their chances to harvest a large-antlered buck when they had a license. Over one-third (35%) of hunters indicated they would

not hunt less often under these conditions in any management unit (figure 23). One-quarter (25%) said they would be willing to hunt less often for increased chances of harvesting a large-antlered buck in some management units but not all, while 16 percent of hunters were willing to do this in all management units. Hunters who indicated harvesting a large-antlered deer was not important to why they deer hunt were more likely than those who said it was important to indicate they would not hunt less often for increased chances of harvesting a large-antlered deer (figure 24). Hunters who indicated harvesting a large-antlered deer was important were more likely to be willing to do this but not in all management units, while hunters who indicated harvesting a large-antlered deer was very important were more likely to indicate a willingness to support buck management under these circumstances in all units ($\chi^2$=112.17 (12, N=2,384) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.125).

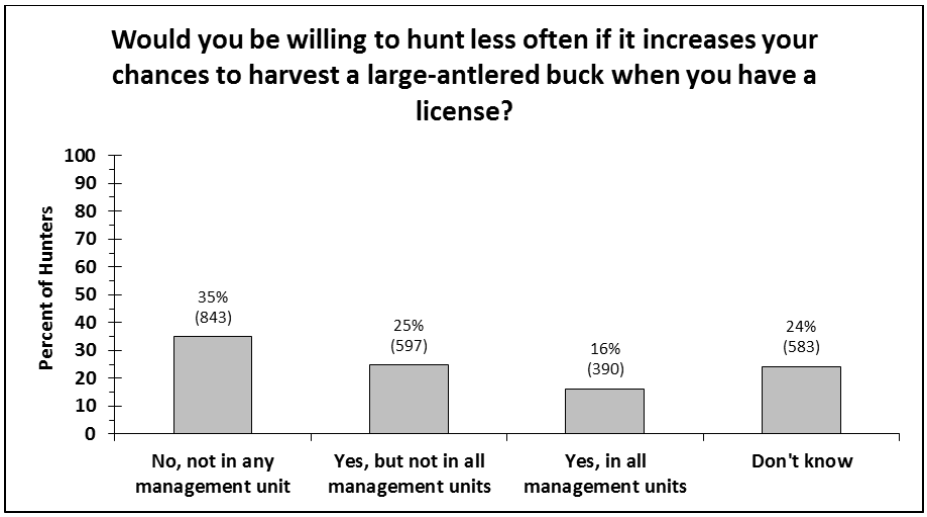


**Figure 23: Buck management preference**
NOTE: *Number in parentheses equal number of responses

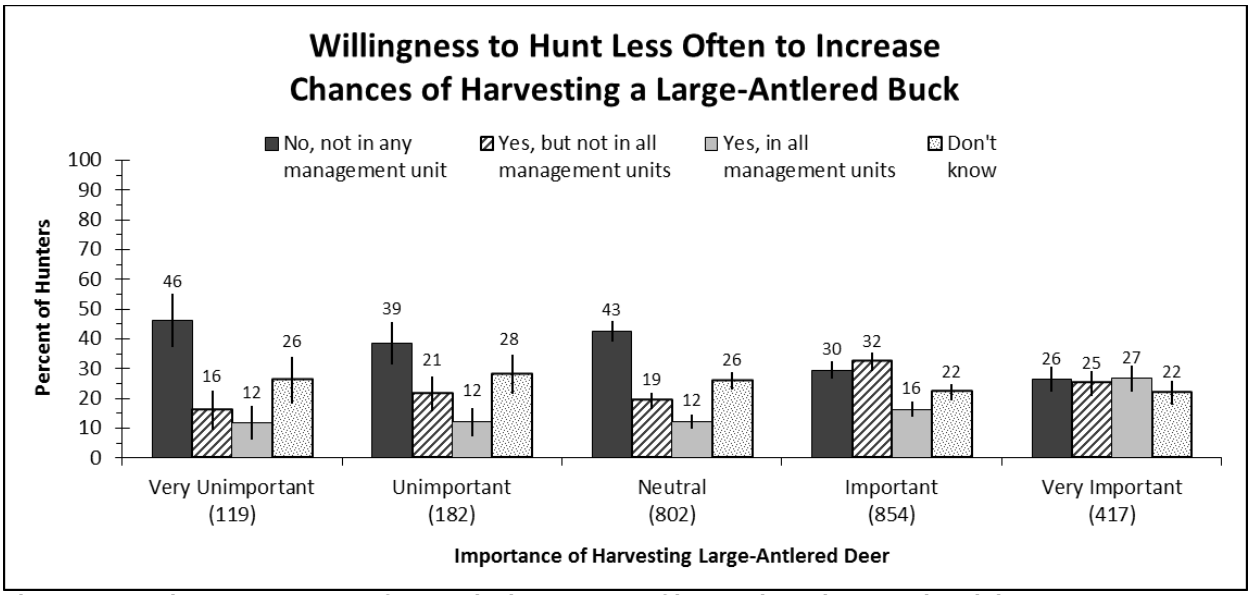


**Figure 24: Buck management preference by importance of harvesting a large-antlered deer**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Season Structure* – Hunters were asked to indicate their opinions on the length and dates of six deer seasons in South Dakota: 1) East River Deer; 2) West River Deer; 3) Archery Deer; 4) Muzzleloader Deer; 5) Black Hills Deer; and 6) Youth Deer. During the 2015 deer hunting seasons, the West River season was the shortest at 16 total days and Youth Deer was the longest with a total of 126 days. Overall, the majority of hunters believed the East River (59%), Archery (56%), and Youth (52%) deer seasons lengths were just about right (figure 25). Nearly half (49%) of hunters believed the Black Hills season length was about right, while 41 percent indicated they had no opinion. The muzzleloader season had the highest percentage of hunters (45%) who indicated they had no opinion, while the West River season had the highest percentage of hunters (33%) who felt the season was too short. The majority of hunters believed the season dates were just about right for the East River (64%), West River (65%), Archery (58%), Black Hills (53%), and Youth (51%) deer seasons (figure 26). Thirty-nine percent of hunters indicated the dates of the Muzzleloader Deer season were just right, while another 47 percent of hunters indicated they had no opinion about the dates.

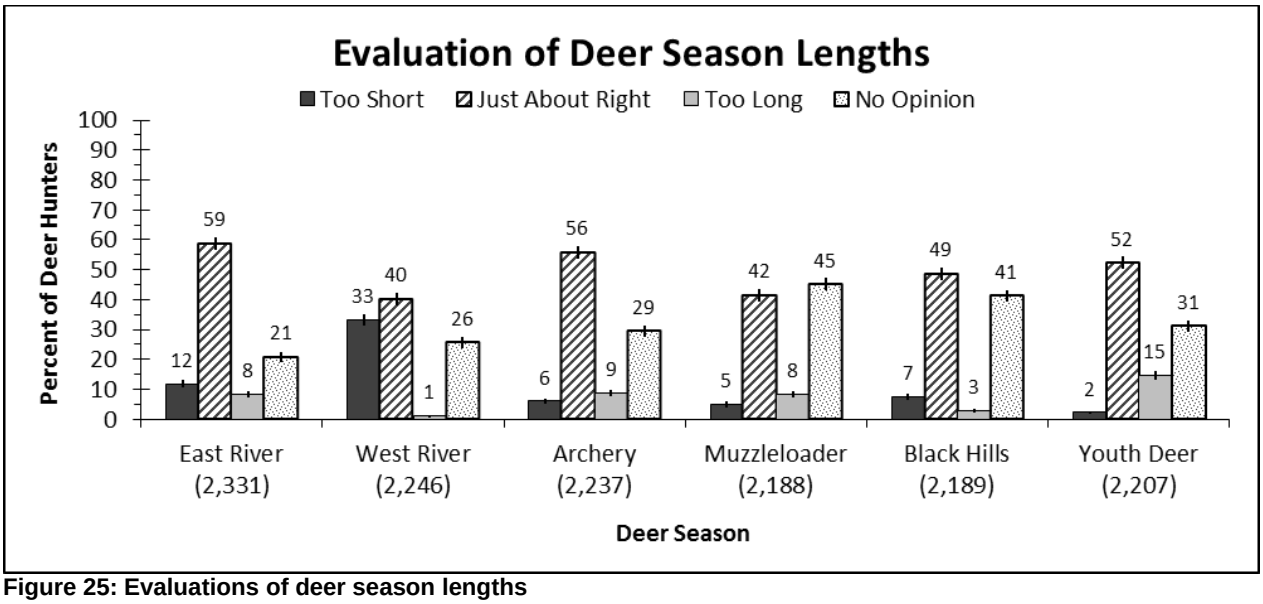


**Figure 25: Evaluations of deer season lengths**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

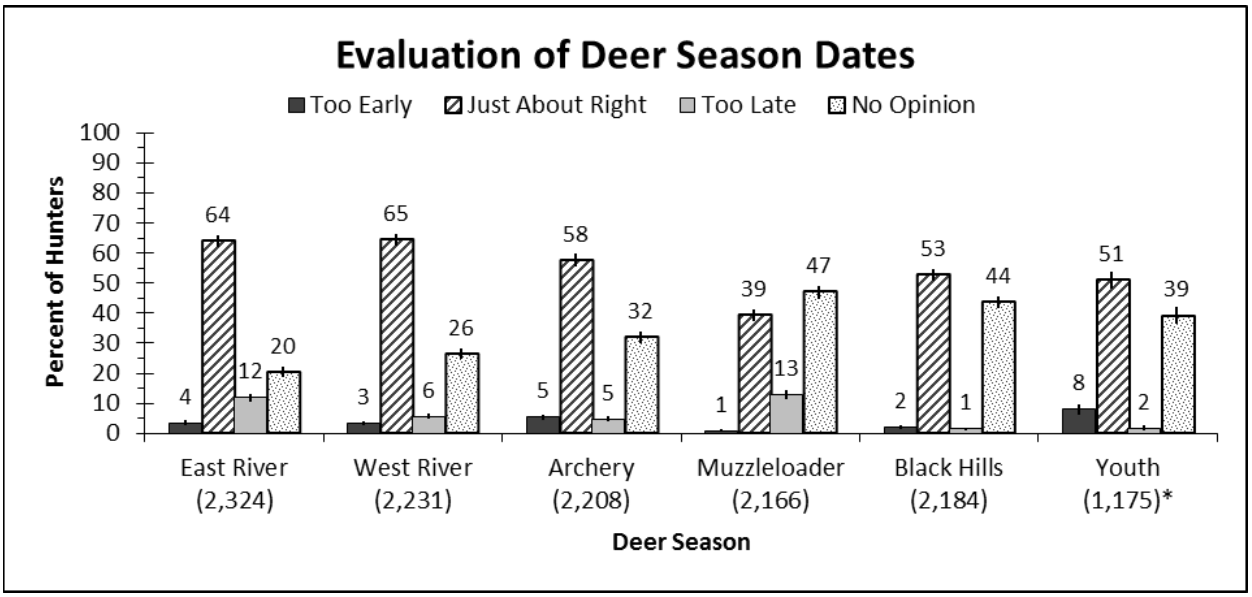


**Figure 26: Evaluation of deer season dates**
NOTE: *Youth season data based on 1,175 responses received via the mail survey; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

There were statistically significant differences in season evaluations and hunters' preference for hunting the various deer seasons. Hunters who indicated a higher preference for hunting the East River Deer season were more likely than those who did not prefer the season

to indicate the season length was about right ($\chi^2$=586.76 (15, N=2,189) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.299). Hunters who ranked the East River season as their fifth or sixth preferred season to hunt were more likely to indicate they had no opinion on the season's length (figure 27). The majority of hunters who ranked the East River season as their first, second, or third preference deer hunting were more likely to indicate the season dates were just about right (figure 28). Hunters who indicated a lower preference for hunting the East River season were more likely to indicate they had no opinion about the season dates ($\chi^2$=506.70 (15, N=2,188) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.278).

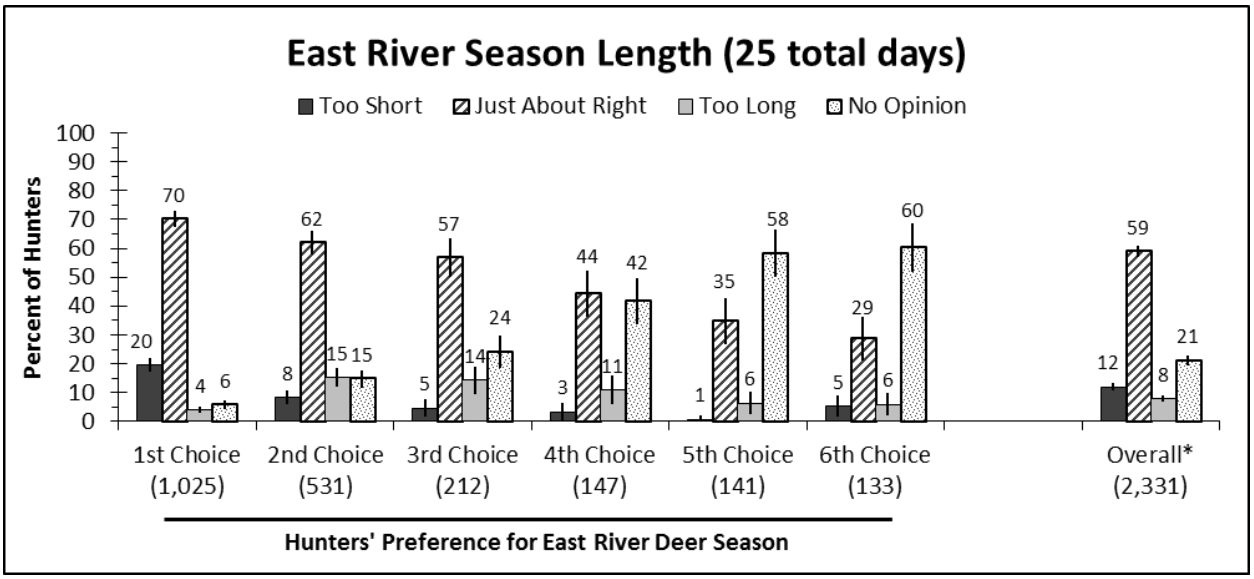


**Figure 27: Evaluation of season length by preference for East River Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

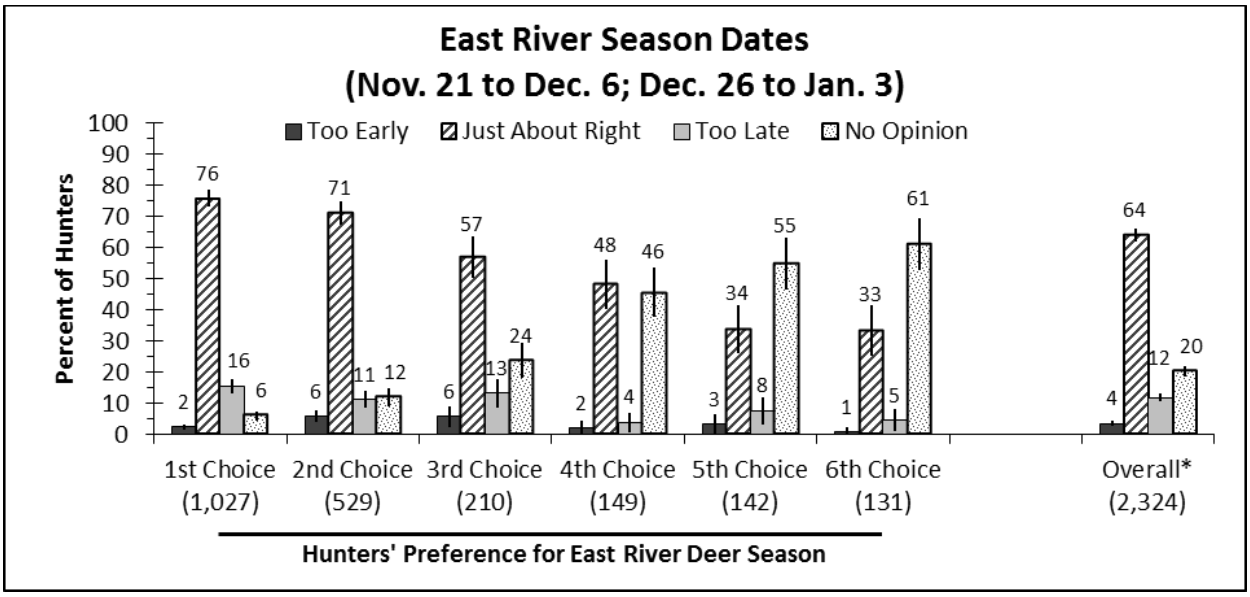


**Figure 28: Evaluation of season dates by preference for East River Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Similarly, hunters who had lower preference for hunting the West River Deer season were more likely than those who ranked the season first or second to have no opinion about the season length ($\chi^2$=255.95 (15, N=2,089) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.202). Hunters who idicated the West River season was their first choice for hunting deer were more likely to indicate the season length was about right; however, those who ranked the season as their first or second choice were also more likely than those who had a lower preference for hunting the season to indicate the West River Deer season was too short (figure 29). A similar trend can be seen in hunters' evaluations of the West River season dates (figure 30). Hunters with a lower preference for hunting the WestRiver season were more likely than those who indicated it was their first, second, or third choice to have no opinion about the season dates ($\chi^2$=248.56 (15, N=2,076) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.200).

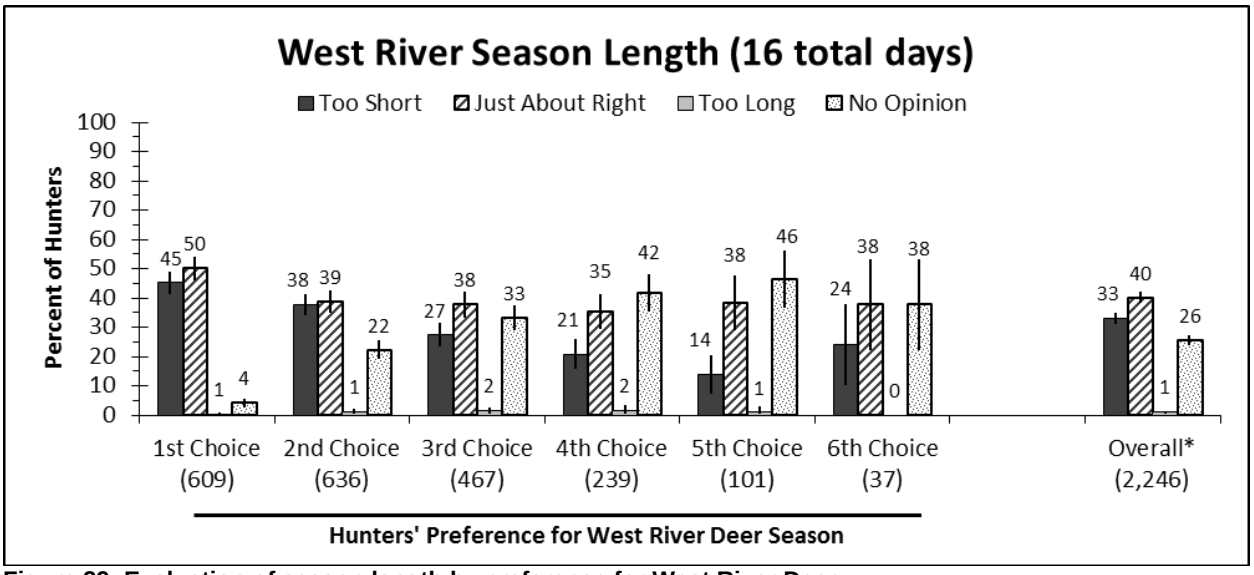


**Figure 29: Evaluation of season length by preference for West River Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

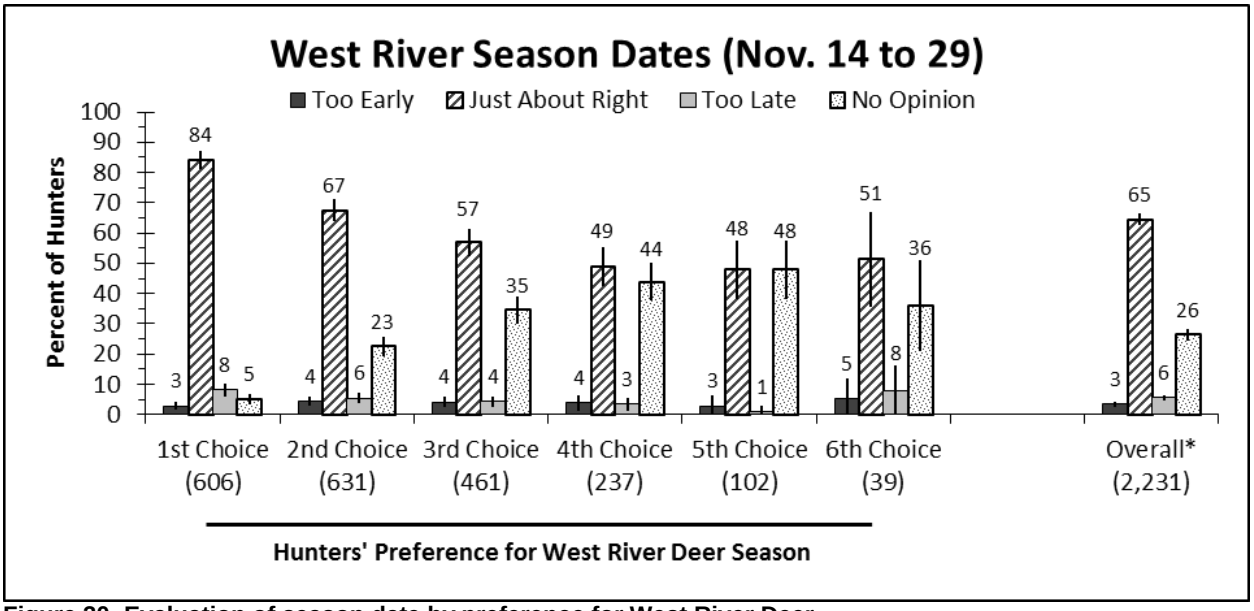


**Figure 30: Evaluation of season date by preference for West River Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Hunters who indicated the Archery Deer season was their first or second choice for deer hunting were much more likely than those who indicated a lower preference to have an opinion, with the majority indicating the season length was just about right ($\chi^2$=550.31 (15, N=1,983)

p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.304). Although over three-quarters (79%) of hunters indicating the season was their first choice believed the length was just about right, hunters who most preferred the Archery Deer season were more likely to think the season was not long enough, with 16 percent indicating it was too short (figure 31). Similar to their evaluation of the season length, hunters' who had a lower preference for hunting the Archery Deer season were more likely to have no opinion about the season dates ($\chi^2$=448.21 (15, N=1,958) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.276). Even though 79 percent of hunters indicating the season was their first choice believed the dates were just about right, hunters who most preferred to hunt the Archery Deer season were more likely to think the season started too late, with 13 percent indicating the season dates were too late (figure 32).

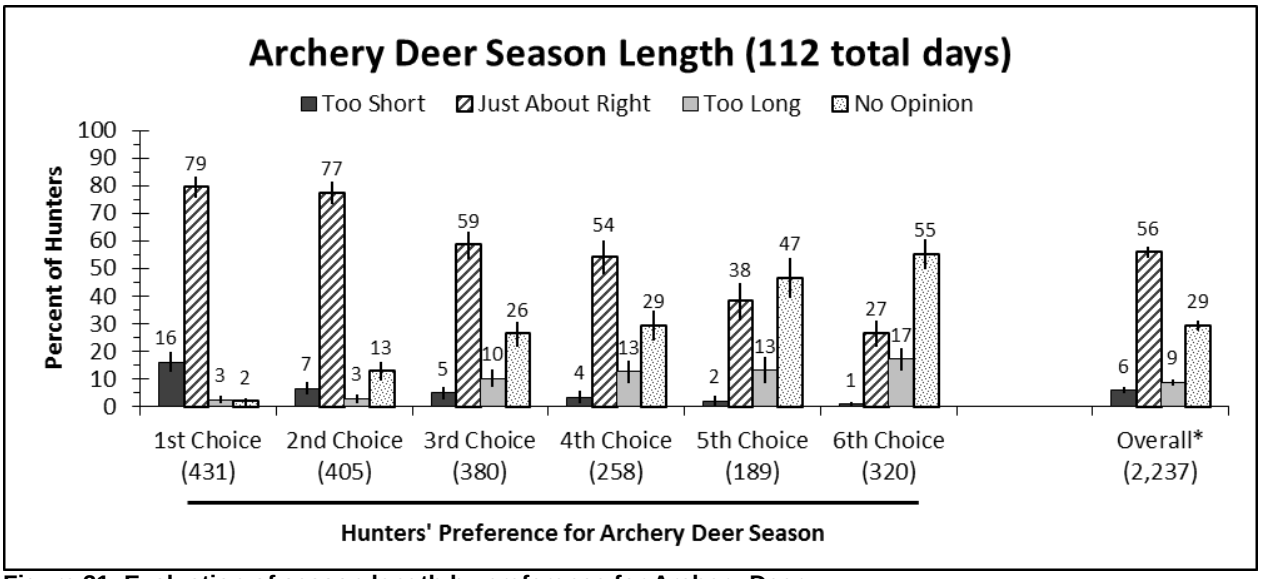


**Figure 31: Evaluation of season length by preference for Archery Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

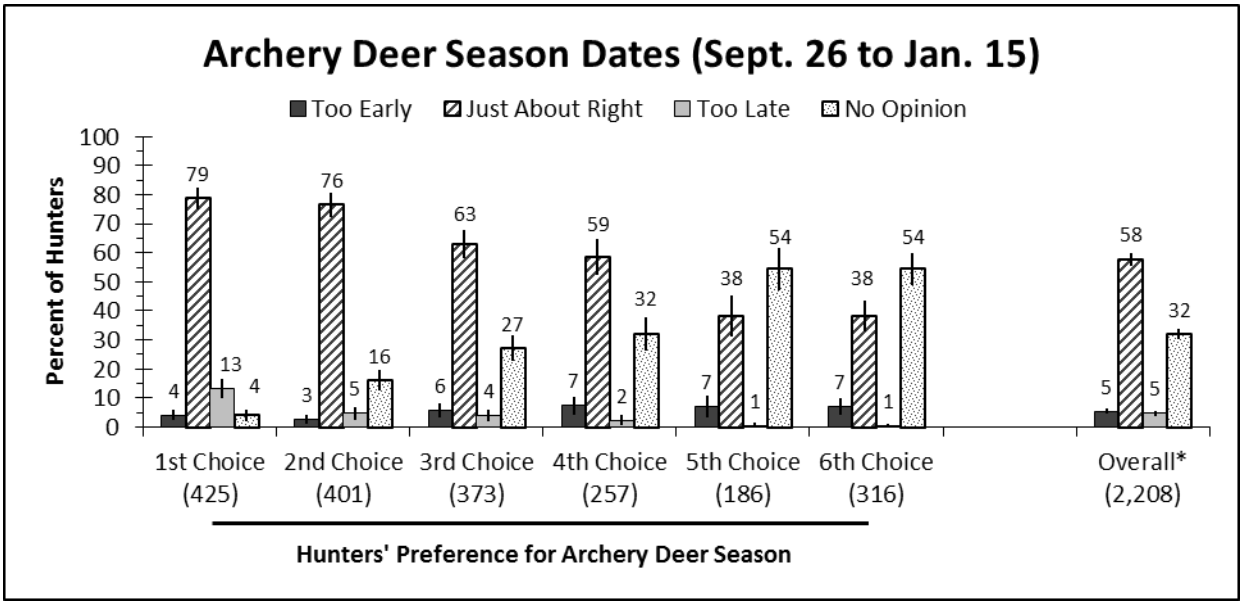


**Figure 32: Evaluation of season dates by preference for Archery Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The same trends can be seen in the evaluations of the Black Hills Deer season length and dates (figure 33 and figure 34). Hunters who indicated a lower preference for hunting the Black Hills Deer season were more likely to indicate have no opinion about the season length ($\chi^2$=244.65 (15, N=1,924) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.206) and dates ($\chi^2$=265.94 (15, N=1,924) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.215). Although the majority of hunters who indicated a higher preference for hunting the Black Hills Deer season indicated the season length was about right, hunters who indicated the season was their first or second choice were more likely to think the season was not long enough, with 17 percent and 13 percent, respectively, indicating the season was too short.

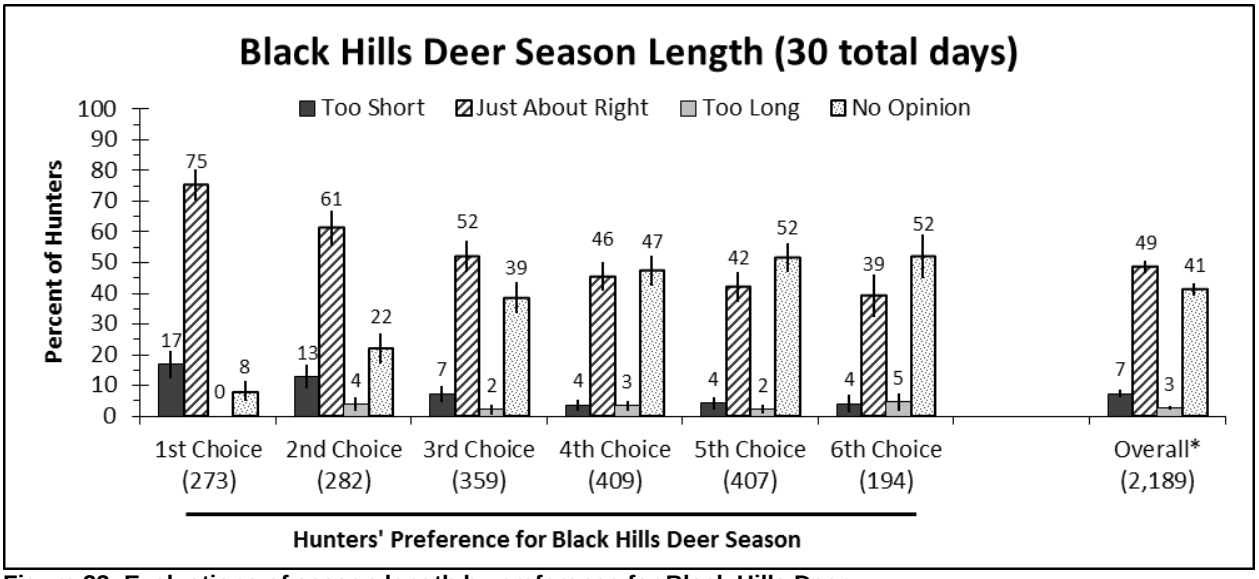


**Figure 33: Evaluations of season length by preference for Black Hills Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

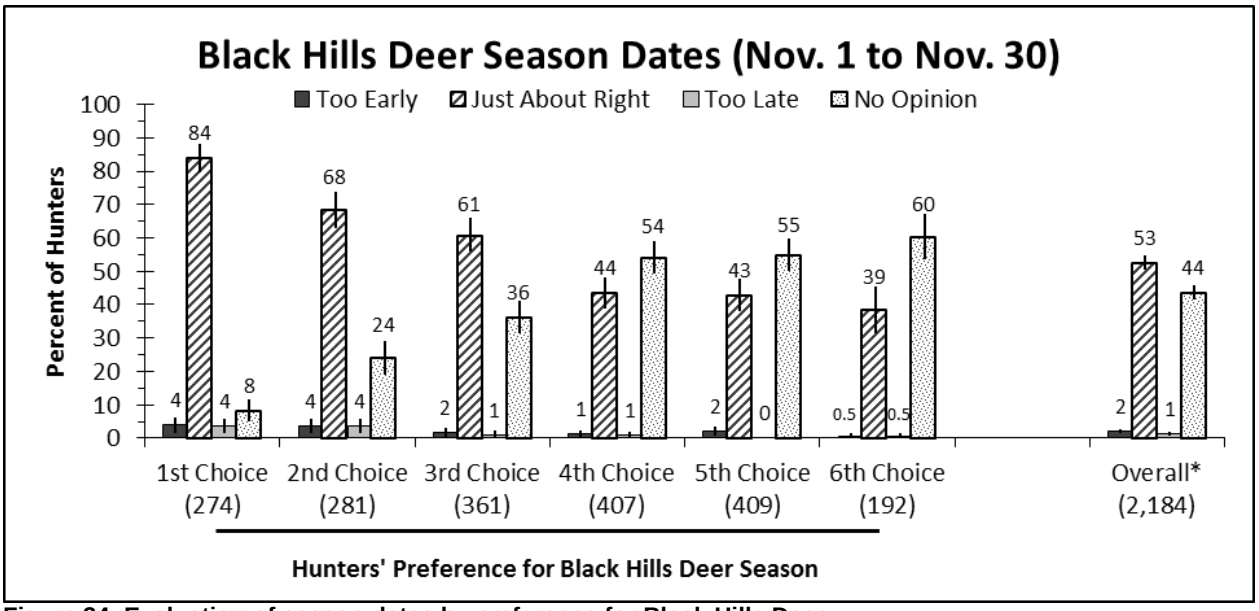


**Figure 34: Evaluation of season dates by preference for Black Hills Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Similarly, hunters who had a greater preference for hunting the Muzzleloader Deer season were more likely to have an opinion about the season length ($\chi^2$=196.91 (15, N=1,852) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.188) and dates ($\chi^2$=150.096 (15, N=1,839) p<0.000; Cramer's

*V*=0.165). Although the majority hunters who ranked the season as one of their top three choices indicated the season length was just about right, these hunters were also more likely to indicate the season was not long enough (figure 35). Twenty-three percent of those who ranked the season as their first choice, 16 percent who ranked it as their second choice, and 9 percent who ranked it as their third choice thought the Muzzleloader Deer season was too short. Hunters who placed a greater emphasis on hunting the season were more likely to think it started too late (figure 36). Over one-third of hunters (35%) who most preferred to hunt the Muzzleloader Deer season and 37 percent who indicated the season was their second choice indicated the season dates were too late.The majority of hunters (60%) who least preferred this season indicated they had no opinion regarding the season dates.

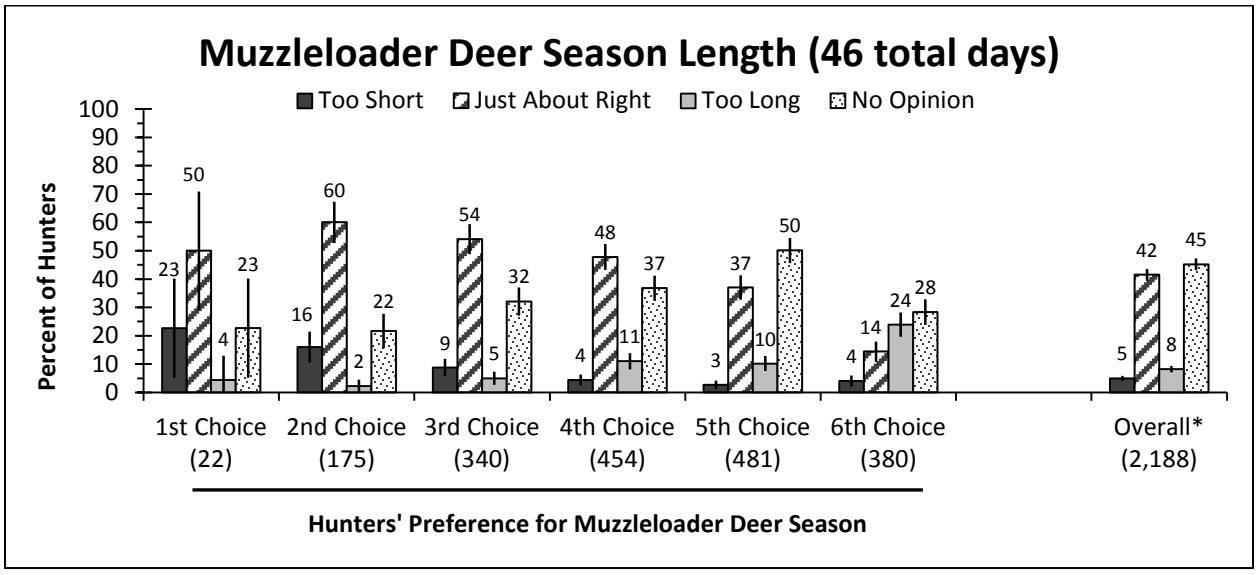


**Figure 35: Evaluation of season length by preference for Muzzleloader Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

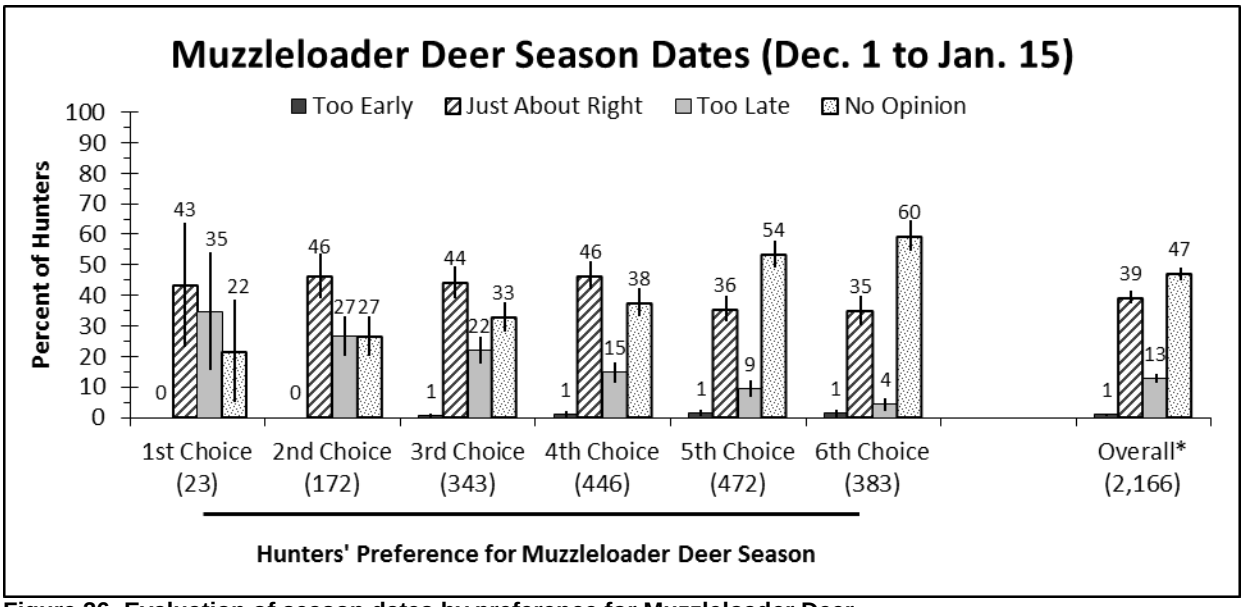


**Figure 36: Evaluation of season dates by preference for Muzzleloader Deer**
NOTE: *Overall percentages represent hunters' evaluation regardless of hunting season preference; **error bars represent 95% confidence interval; ***Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Limited Access Units* – GFP has established some Limited Access Units in areas with historically high hunter densities and predominantly public land, which further restrict the total number of valid firearm licenses in the unit (table 4). During archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer seasons, a free access permit to hunt these areas is required. The number of available access permits for archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer hunting in these areas is unlimited. Hunters were asked their level of support or opposition for limiting the number of licenses and permits in these areas and creating additional limited access units.

**Table 4: 2015 Licenses & Permits in Limited Access Units (Issued/Available)**

| Limited Access Unit | Firearm Licenses | Archery Permits | Muzzleloader Permits | Youth Permits |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Custer National Forest (35L) | 108/108 | 453/unlimited | 56/unlimited | 26/unlimited |
| Hill Ranch (27L) | 17/17 | 167/unlimited | 31/unlimited | 17/unlimited |
| LittleMoreau (24B) | 22/22 | 115/unlimited | 43/unlimited | 10/unlimited |

Overall, hunters indicated they neither supported nor opposed limiting the number of licenses and permits within the limited access units (figure 37). The majority of hunters (61%) were neutral on the topic of limited firearm licenses in these areas, and nearly one-third (32%) were in support and 7 percent opposed it. Almost one-quarter (22%) of hunters supported limiting the number of available archery permits in these areas, while 56 percent were neutral and 22 percent opposed doing this. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of hunters supported limiting the number of available muzzleloader permits within limited access units, and 62 percent were neutral and14 percent were opposed. The most opposition was toward limiting the number of available youth permits in these areas. One-quarter (25%) were opposed to this, 21 percent supported it, and 54 percent were neutral on the concept. When asked the creation of additional limited access units, over half (56%) of hunters neither supported nor opposed it, and 29 percent of hunters supported the creation of additional limited access units (figure 38).

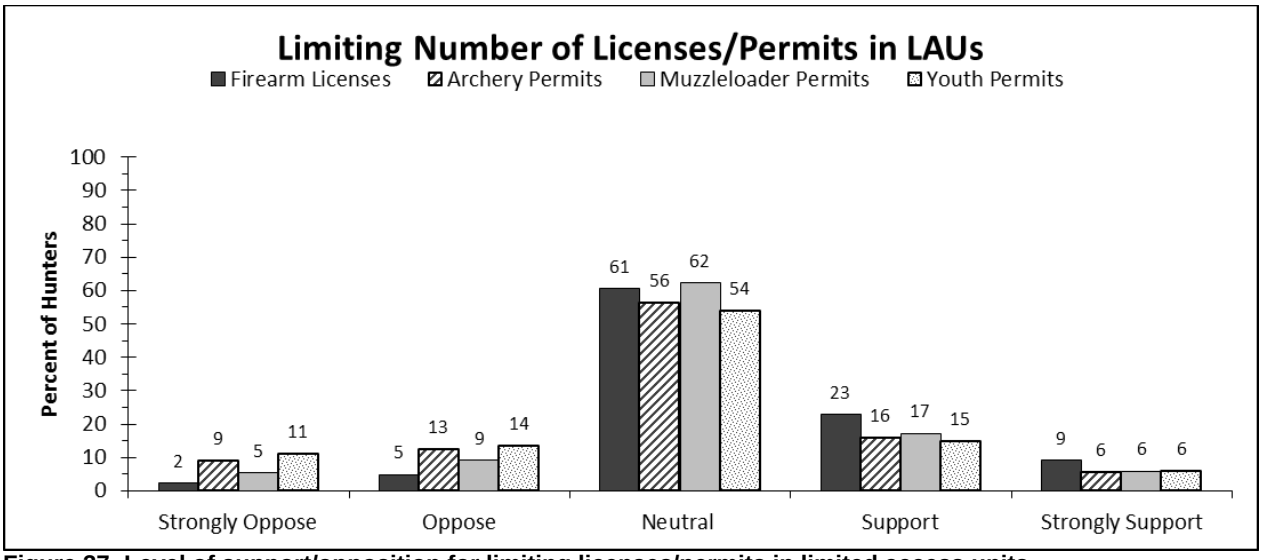


**Figure 37: Level of support/opposition for limiting licenses/permits in limited access units**

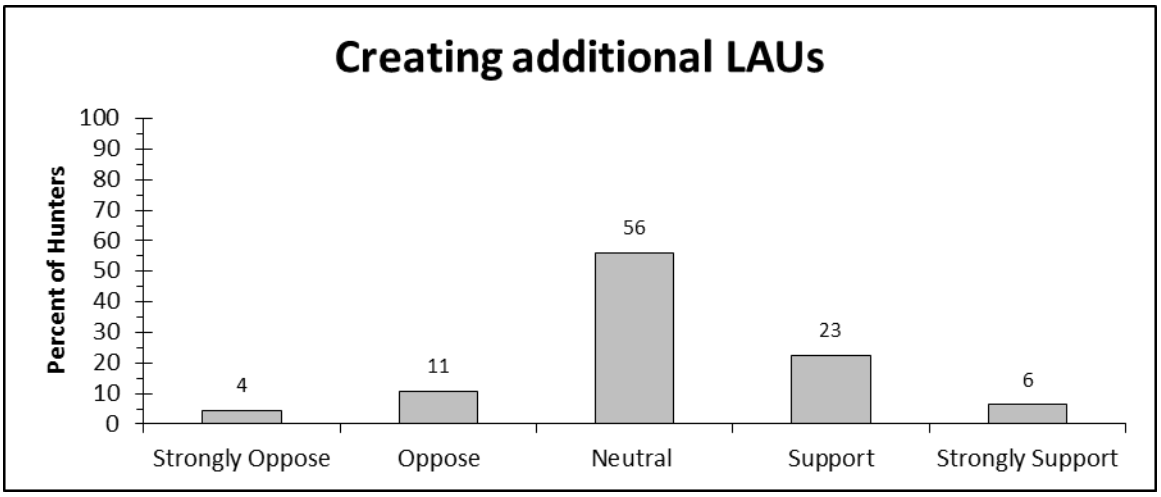


**Figure 38: Level of support/opposition for creating additional limited access units**

Finally, hunters were asked how strongly they would support or oppose further evaluation of alternative licensing concepts that regulate the number of deer hunters on specific public lands. Forty-three percent of hunters indicated support for GFP looking into alternative ways of regulating hunter density on specific public lands. An additional 43 percent were neutral to this idea; while14 percent of hunters opposed it.

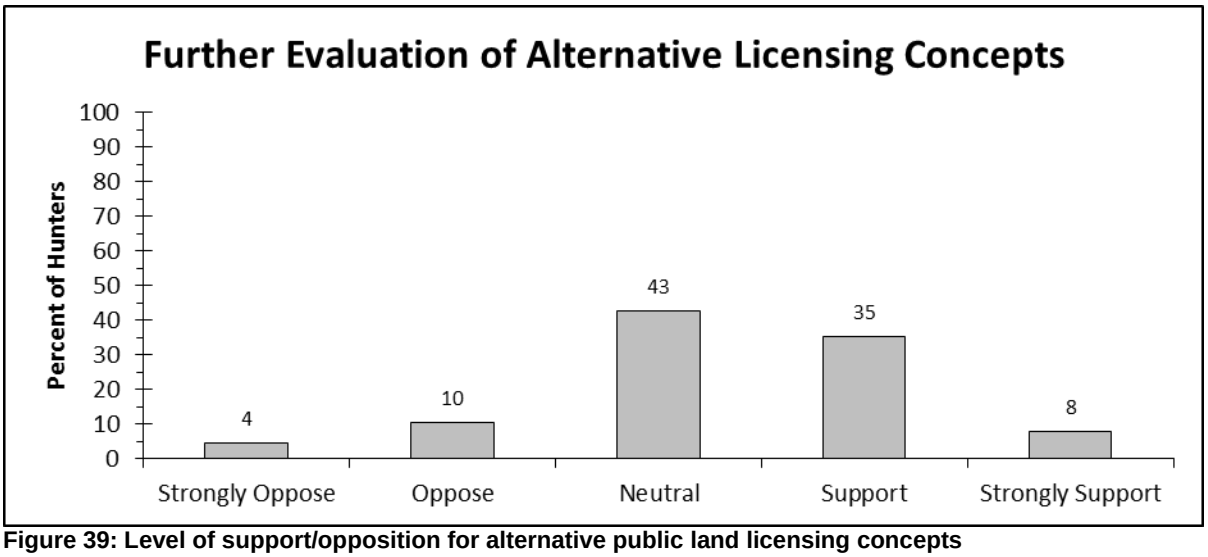


**Figure 39: Level of support/opposition for alternative public land licensing concepts**

**SD Deer Management – Landowner Survey**

Methods

The sample frame for the landowner survey consisted of 19,765 South Dakota resident landowners with 100 or more acres. A disproportionate stratified random sample survey design was used to provide representative data at both the statewide and data analysis unit (see figure 4 on page7) levels. In disproportionate stratified sampling the sizes of different subgroups (strata) may vary and not represent the percentage of the subgroup within the larger population. This type of sampling provides the advantage of being able to examine responses of subgroups, particularly in cases where some subgroups are small and a proportionate sample might include only a few individuals within a particular subgroup.

Prior to drawing the sample, all 19,765 landowners in the sample frame were classified into the appropriate data analysis unit (DAU) using their mailing address. The 11 DAUs were sampled disproportionately to ensure a sufficient number of landowners from each unit for analysis. Weighting was used for all combined analyses to ensure a proportional representation of DAUs at the regional[4] and statewide levels. A total of 6,373 landowners were surveyed regarding their experiences with deer hunting, depredation damage, and habitat management, as well as, their deer management preferences (appendix A). Since the sample frame did not include landowners' email addresses, a single-mode mail survey was conducted. No online option was provided on the landowner survey. Survey administration was done following the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al. 2014). Up to four mailings were sent to landowners: 1) cover letter and survey instrument; 2) postcard reminder; 3) follow-up cover letter and survey instrument; and 4) final cover letter and survey instrument. All survey data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software package.

[4] Regional analyses are done for East River (DAUs east of the Missouri River: Upper Missouri River, Lower James River, Upper James River, Prairie Coteau, and Big Sioux River), West River (DAUs west of the Missouri River: Grand River, Belle Fourche River, White River, Cheyenne River, and Lower Missouri River) and the Black Hills (DAU within the Black Hills Fire Protection District: Black Hills).

Results

A total of 3,674 responses were received. Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 5,779 landowners, resulting in an adjusted response rate of 64 percent. Respondents who were outside the frame of this study (i.e. own less than 100 acres or did not own land in the DAU identified) were removed from the analyses, resulting in a useable response rate of 57 percent (2,845 responses) and a margin of error of ±1.7 percent at the statewide level. The margin of sampling error at the DAU level ranged from ±4.7 percent to ±9.5 percent (table 5). Table 6 shows the weighting factors applied to each DAU in both the statewide and regional analyses.

**Table 5: Margin of Sampling Error by DAU**

| Strata | Population Size | Useable Responses | Marign of Sampling Error (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| DAU 1: Grand River | 561 | 182 | ± 6.0 |
| DAU 2: Belle Fourche River | 601 | 195 | ± 5.7 |
| DAU 3: Black Hills | 341 | 86 | ± 9.5 |
| DAU 4: White River | 1,183 | 318 | ± 4.7 |
| DAU 5: Cheyenne River | 1,152 | 261 | ± 5.3 |
| DAU 6: Upper Missouri River | 1,275 | 248 | ± 5.6 |
| DAU 7: Lower Missouri River | 1,073 | 289 | ± 4.9 |
| DAU 8: Lower James River | 4,518 | 324 | ± 5.2 |
| DAU 9: Upper James River | 1,945 | 300 | ± 5.2 |
| DAU 10: Prairie Coteau | 2,978 | 335 | ± 5.0 |
| DAU 11: Big Sioux River | 4,138 | 307 | ± 5.4 |
| **TOTAL** | **19,765** | **2,845** | **± 1.7** |

**Table 6: DAU weights for statewide and regional analyses**

| Strata | Statewide Weight[1] | Regional Weight[1] |
|---|---|---|
| DAU 1: Grand River | 0.44 | 0.84 |
| DAU 2: Belle Fourche River | 0.43 | 0.83 |
| DAU 3: Black Hills | 0.64 | 1.00 |
| DAU 4: White River | 0.52 | 1.00 |
| DAU 5: Cheyenne River | 0.63 | 1.21 |
| DAU 6: Upper Missouri Rive | 0.74 | 0.52 |
| DAU 7: Lower Missouri Rive | 0.53 | 1.02 |
| DAU 8: Lower James River | 1.99 | 1.42 |
| DAU 9: Upper James River | 0.93 | 0.66 |
| DAU 10: Prairie Coteau | 1.27 | 0.9 |
| DAU 11: Big Sioux River | 1.93 | 1.37 |

[1] Weight = Proportion of Population ÷ Proportion of Sample

*Demographics* – Landowners were asked whether they primarily identified themselves as a farmer, rancher, both or neither (figure 40). There were significant differences across regions in how landowners self-identified ($\chi^2$=778.429 (6, N=2,812) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.372). Across the state, nearly three-quarters of landowners identify as either a farmer (40%) of both a farmer and a rancher (34%). East River landowners (51%) were more likely to primarily consider themselves farmers, while West River landowners were more likely to see themselves as either a rancher (37%) or both a farmer and a rancher (41%). Black Hills landowners were the most likely of three groups of landowners to self-identify as ranchers (60%). A look at how landowners self-identify at the DAU level shows similar patterns with some exceptions ($\chi^2$=969.239 (30, N=2,812) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.339). The majority of landowners along the Missouri River, Lower unit (55%) and Upper unit (50%) identify as both a farmer and a rancher (figure 41). The majority of landowners along the James River, Lower (86%) and Upper (82%) units, and in the Prairie Coteau area (79%) identified as either a farmer or both a farmer and rancher. The vast majority of landowners in the Big Sioux River unit (70%) self-identified as a farmer.

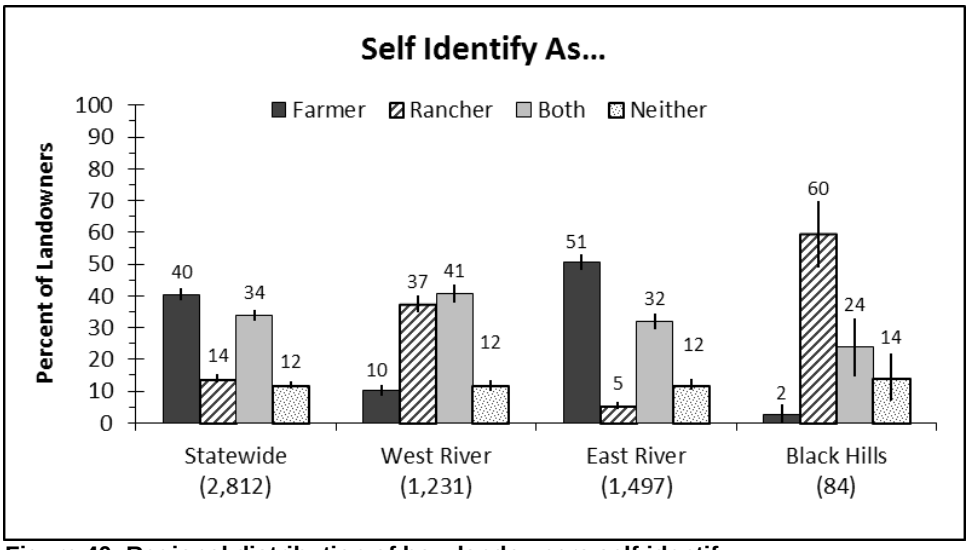


**Figure 40: Regional distribution of how landowners self-identify**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

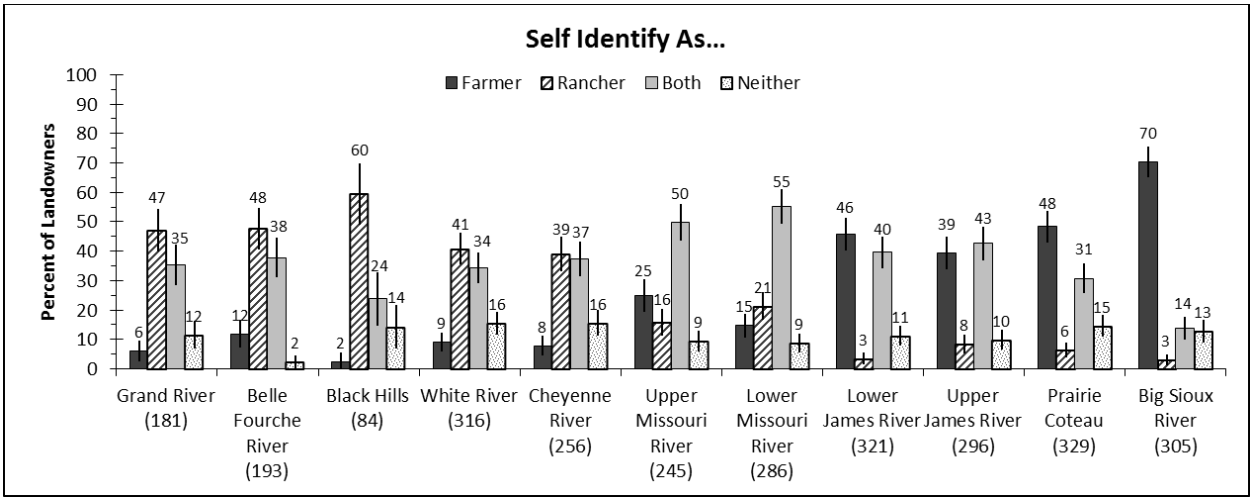


**Figure 41: Distribution by DAU of how landowners self-identify**
NOTE: *error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

On average, South Dakota landowners indicated owning/operating 1,546 acres in their respective counties (figure 42). Since the sample frame for this study did not include landowners with fewer than 100 acres, this average is expected to be higher than the statewide average of 1,352 acres.[5] The average amount of land owned/operated by West River landowners (3,023

[5] Based on data from the US Department of Agriculture's 2012 Census of Agriculture

acres) was nearly three times the amount of East River landowners (1,093 acres). The Grand River DAU had the largest average amount of acreage owned/operated with 4,268 acres, and the Big Sioux River DAU had the lowest average with 814 acres (figure 43).

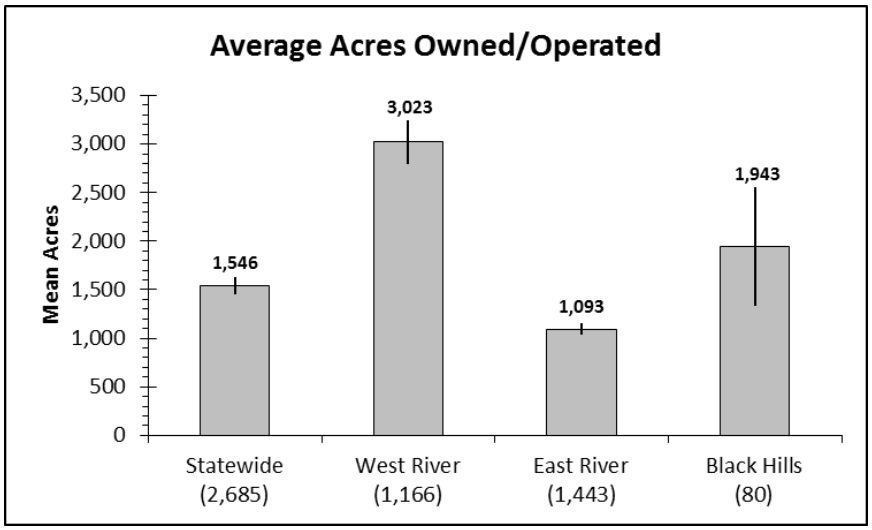


**Figure 42: Average acres owned/operated**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

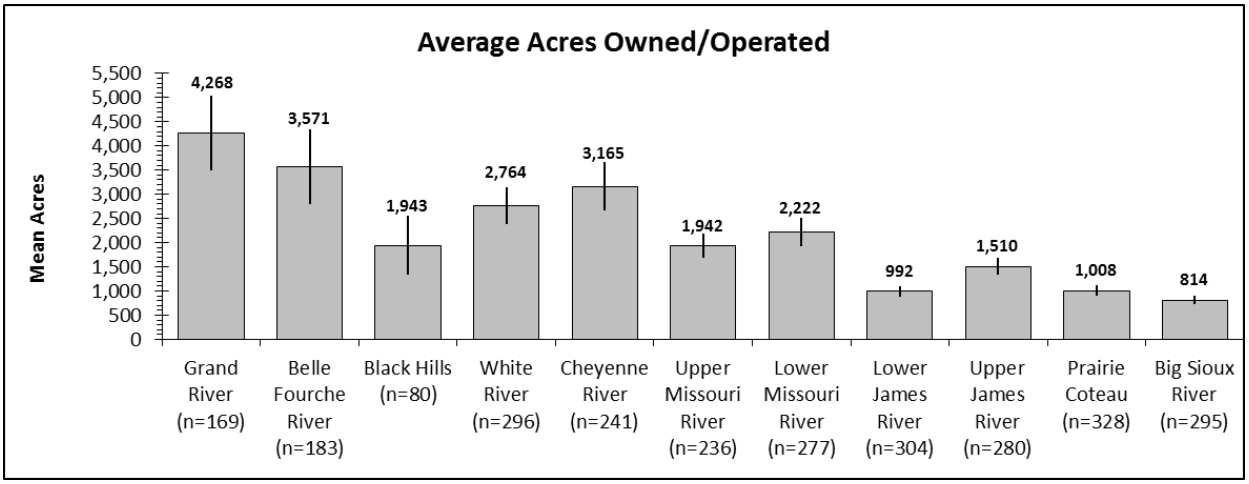


**Figure 43: Distribution of average acres owned/operated by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Roughly half of landowners (48%) indicated they had hunted deer in South Dakota within the past five years (figures 44 and 45). There were no statistically significant difference in proportion of landowners who deer hunted by geographic.

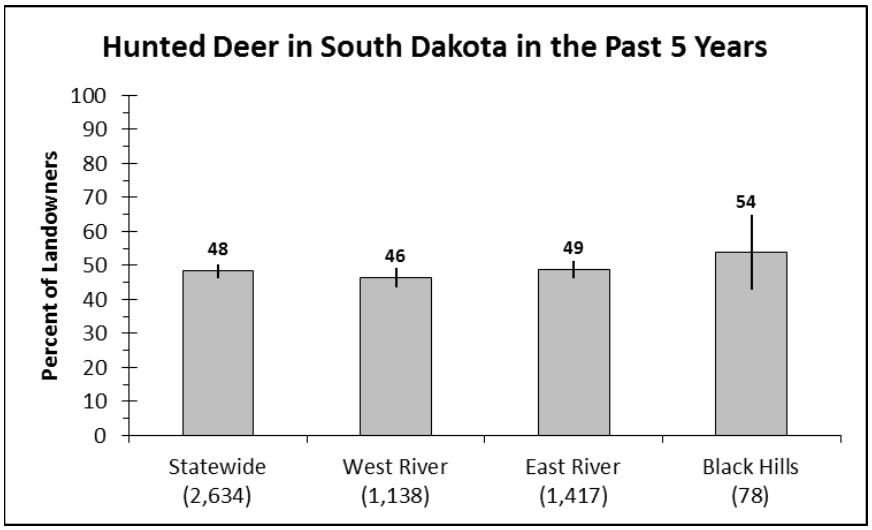


**Figure 44: Landowner participation in deer hunting**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

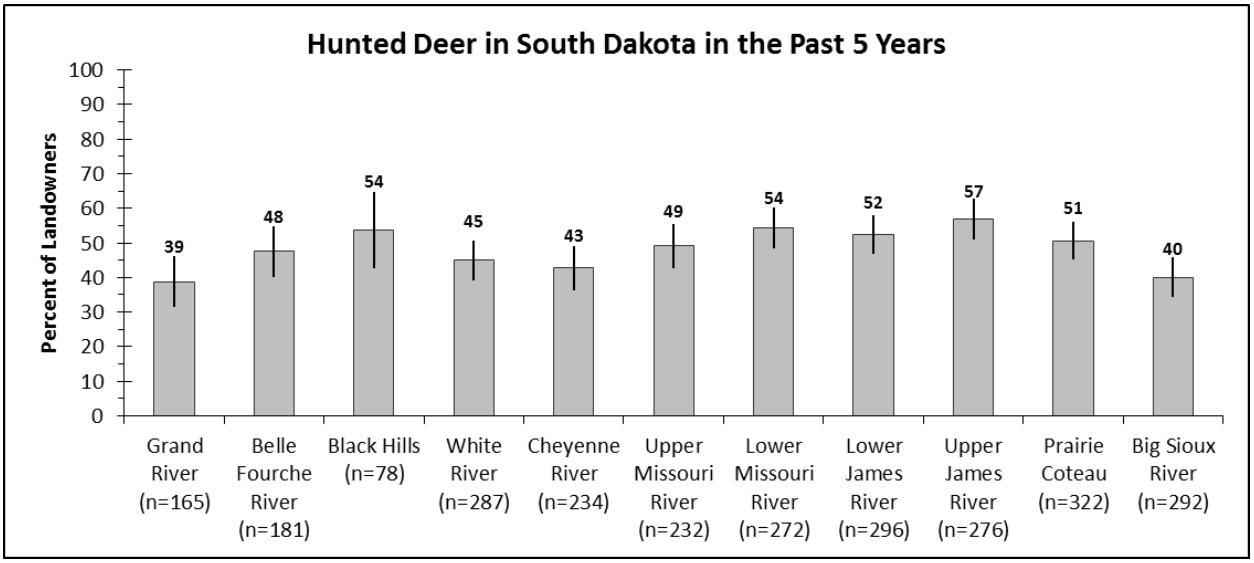


**Figure 45: Distribution of participation in deer hunting by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Social Tolerance* – Research on wildlife acceptance capacity indicates both objective and subjective factors contribute to people's beliefs about wildlife populations (Zinn et al. 2000; Decker and Purdy 1998). In addition to objectively measured population levels, risks, and benefits have been found to be important in determining stakeholder acceptance capacity of wildlife. Understanding attitudes is important since they can influence and predict behaviors, and the more specific the attitudes toward a certain behavior the stronger the relationship between attitude and behavior (Vaske 2008; Fishbein and Manfredo 2002; Ajzen and Fishbein 1980). Understanding how stakeholder groups perceive deer in South Dakota is an important step in developing and implementing a deer management plan responsive to public values.

In 2012, a statewide survey of South Dakota residents' wildlife and environmental attitudes reported most residents (77%) believed it was very important that South Dakota conserved as much fish and wildlife as possible where appropriate. In addition, most residents (77%) believed healthy wildlife populations are very important to the economy and well-being of South Dakota residents (Gigliotti 2012). In the 2016 deer management survey, landowners were asked to rate the number of deer seen on their property over the past 5 years, how strongly they agreed or disagreed with six statements about deer in South Dakota, and to evaluate seven potential causes of conflicts between landowners and deer hunters.

White-tailed deer are the most abundant deer species in South Dakota and are found in all habitats across the state. Forty percent of landowners at the statewide level indicated the number of white-tailed deer they saw on their property over the past five years was just about right (figure 46), and just over one-third of landowners (35%) thought there were too many white-tailed deer on their property. There were statistically significant differences in landowners' rating of white-tailed deer across regions (figure 47); however, these differences were negligible ($\chi^2$=33.26 (10, N=2,744) p<0.00; Cramer's *V*=0.078).[6]

[6] Cramer's *V* is used to determine the strength of statistically significant relationship, as measured by the Chi-Square statistic (0 to 0.10 = negligible; 0.11 to 0.30 = weak; 0.31 to 0.50 moderate; >0.50 = strong).

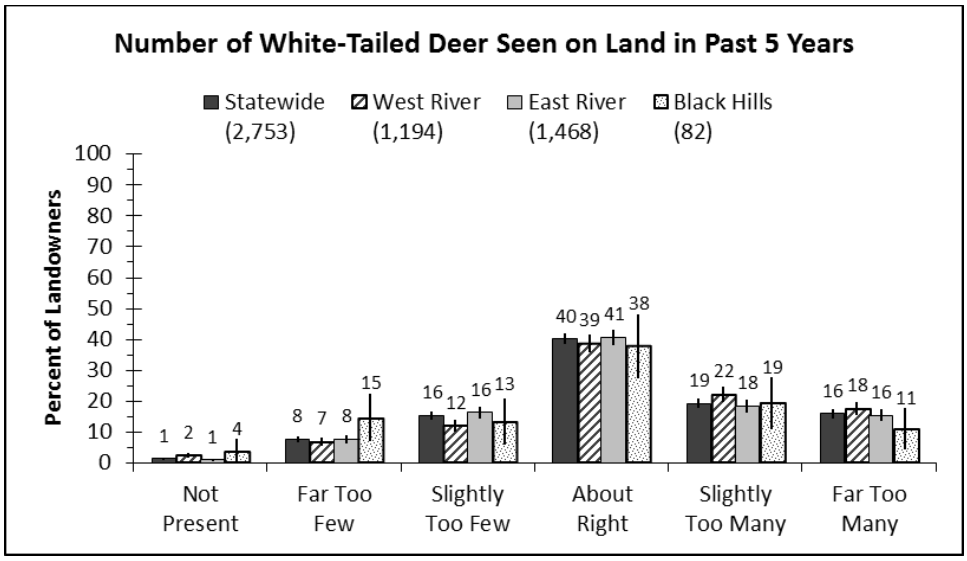


**Figure 46: Evaluation of white-tailed deer populations**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

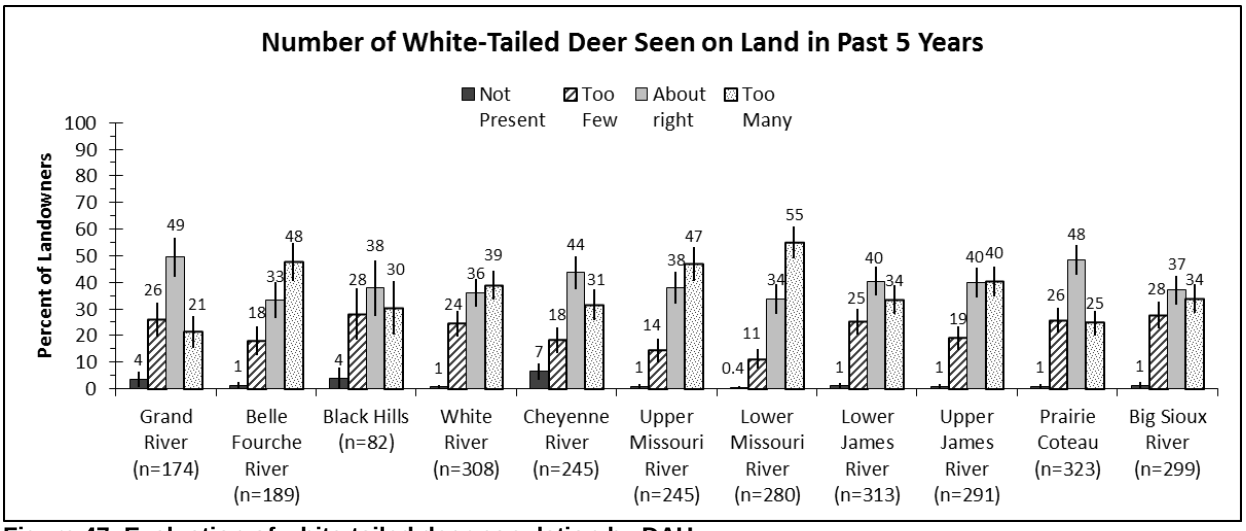


**Figure 47: Evaluation of white-tailed deer population by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Mule deer are less abundant in South Dakota than white-tailed deer, and are restricted primarily to habitats adjacent to and west of the Missouri River. As such, just over half (57%) of landowners across the state indicated mule deer were not present on their property over the past five years (figure 48), and the bulk of these landowners were located East River ($\chi^2$=906.61

(10, N=2,300) p<0.00; Cramer's *V*=0.444). Over one-third (36%) of West River landowners indicated the number of mule deer seen on their property was just about right, while 36 percent thought there were too few mule deer. Similarly, 47 percent of Black Hills landowners thought the number of mule deer on their property was too few and 27 percent thought the number was just about right. Landowners in the East River DAUs predominantly indicated there were no mule deer on their property, ranging from 92 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU to 44 percent in the Upper Missouri River DAU (figure 49). Landowners within the Cheyenne River and Grand River DAUs reported in higher proportions than other DAUs, 41 and 40 percent respectively, the number of mule deer seen was just about right. The Black Hills and Belle Fourche River DAUs had the highest proportion of landowners who reported the number of mule deer was too few (47 and 40 percent, respectively). The highest percentage of landowners (21%) reporting the number of mule deer seen as too many was in the White River DAU.

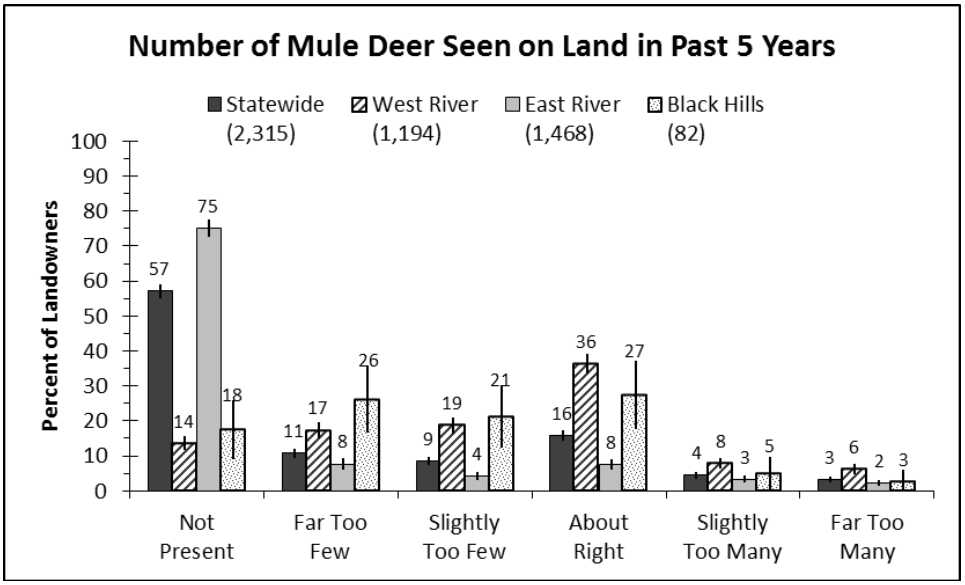


**Figure 48: Evaluation of mule deer populations**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

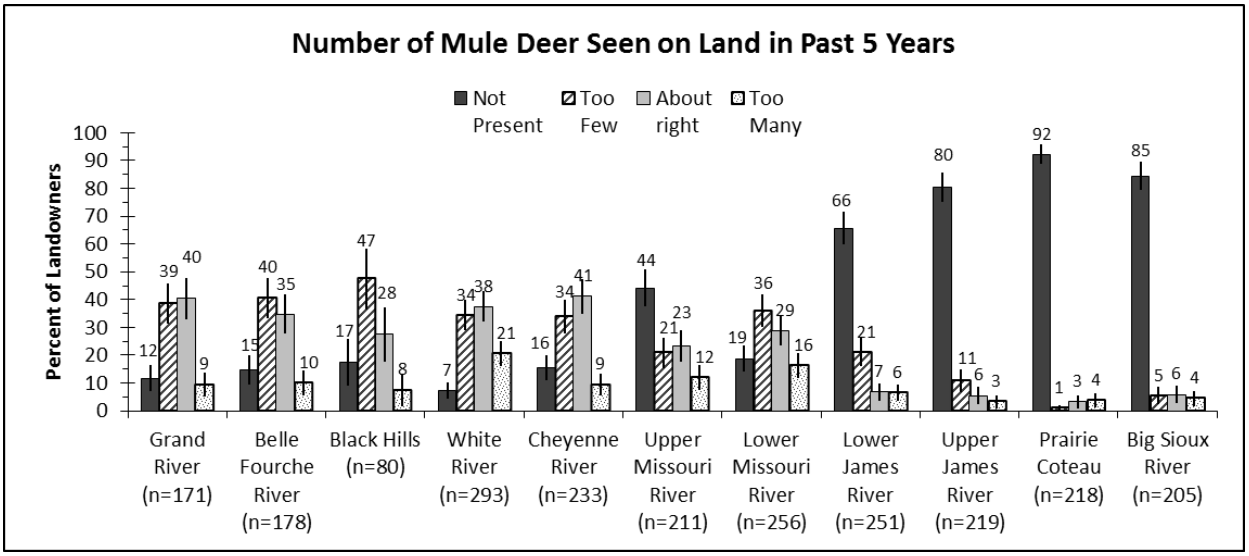


**Figure 49: Evaluation of mule deer population by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Landowners were asked their level of agreement with six attitudinal statements regarding deer in South Dakota. Three statements addressed perceived benefits of deer in South Dakota, and three statements pertained to perceived risks of deer. A large majority of landowners statewide (70%) agreed that having a healthy, self-sustaining population of deer in South Dakota was important to them (figure 50). There were no significant differences regionally among landowners (figure 51). When asked about the presence of deer near their home, however, 50 percent of landowners statewide agreed that deer increased their quality of life (figure 52). Nearly one-quarter of landowners (22%) did not believe the presence of deer near their home increased their quality of life. There were no significant differences regionally among landowners ($\chi^2$=5.27 (8, N=2,726) p=0.728; Cramer's *V*=0.031). At theDAU level the percentage of landowners who agree with this statement ranged from 44 percent in the Upper Missouri River DAU to 57 percent in the Black Hills and Cheyenne River DAUs (figure 53). Over half of landowners across the state (57%) aggree that deer benefit local ecnomies through hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities (figure 54). West River and Black Hills landowners were statistically more likely than East River landowners to agree with this statement ($\chi^2$=30.84 (8,

N=2,726) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.075); however, these differences were negligible. The proportion of landowners agreeing with this statement ranges from 70 percent in the Cheyenne River DAU to 51 percent in the Lower James River DAU (figure 55).

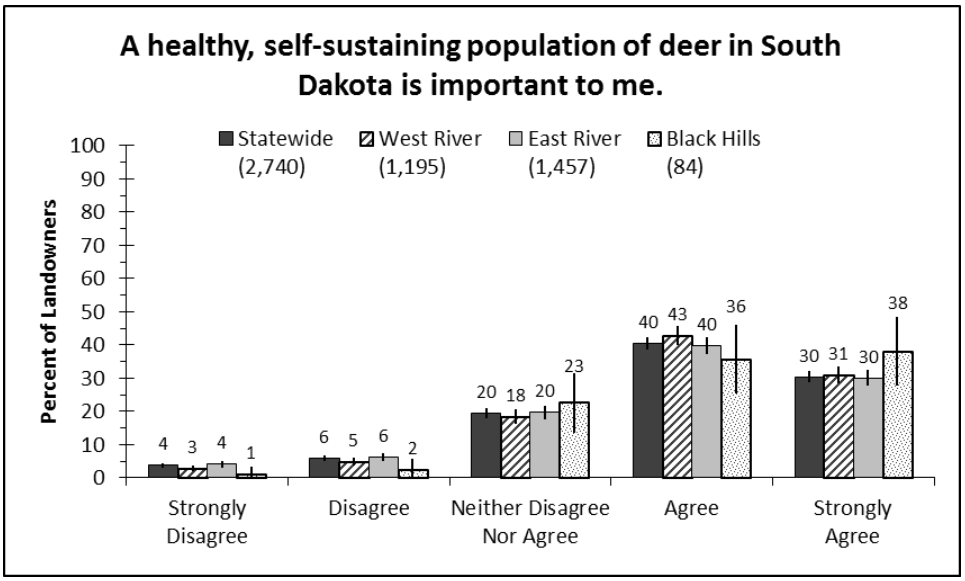


**Figure 50: Importance of having deer in South Dakota**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

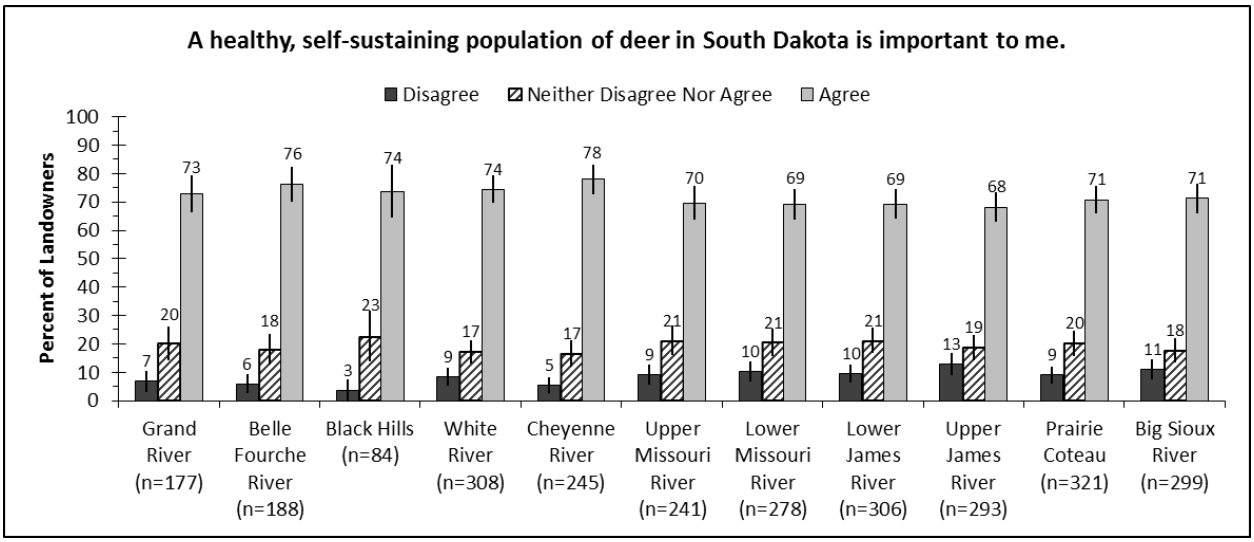


**Figure 51: Importance of deer in South Dakota by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

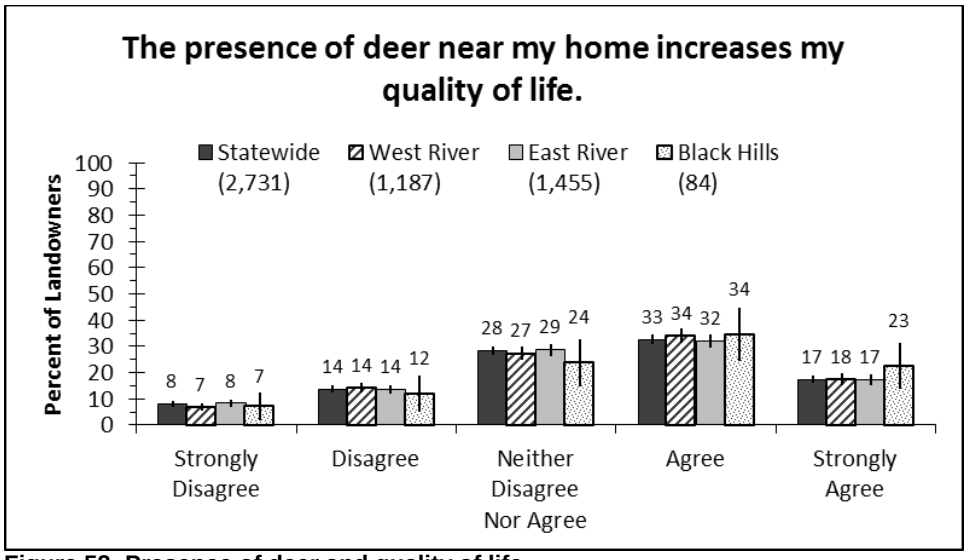


**Figure 52: Presence of deer and quality of life**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

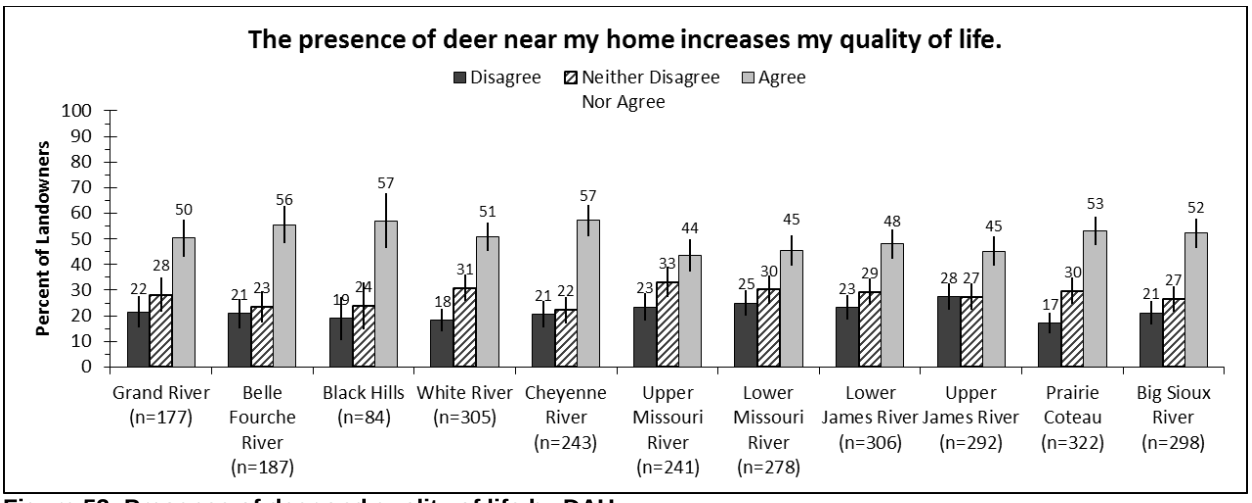


**Figure 53: Presence of deer and quality of life by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

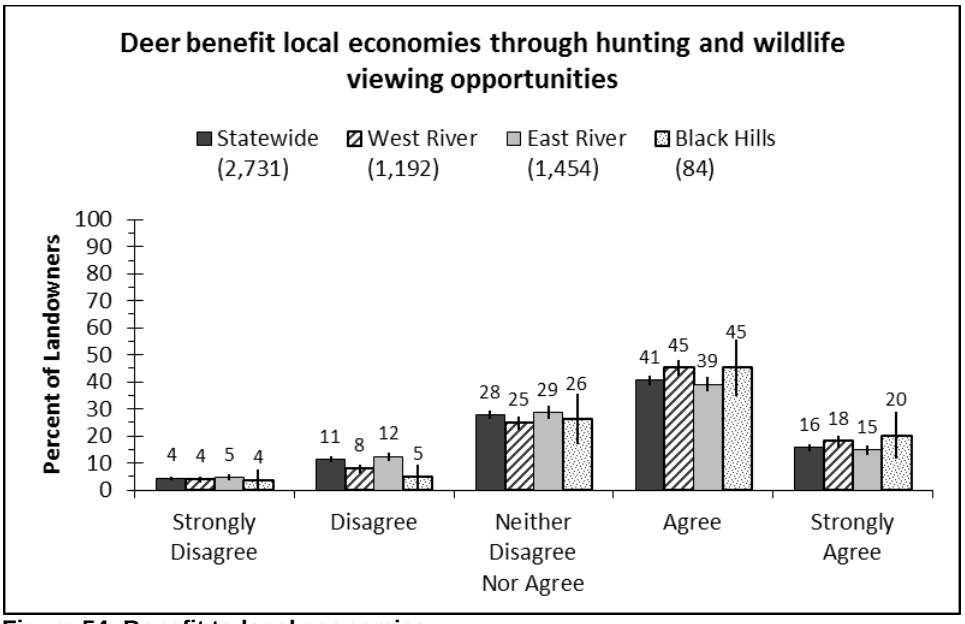


**Figure 54: Benefit to local economies**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

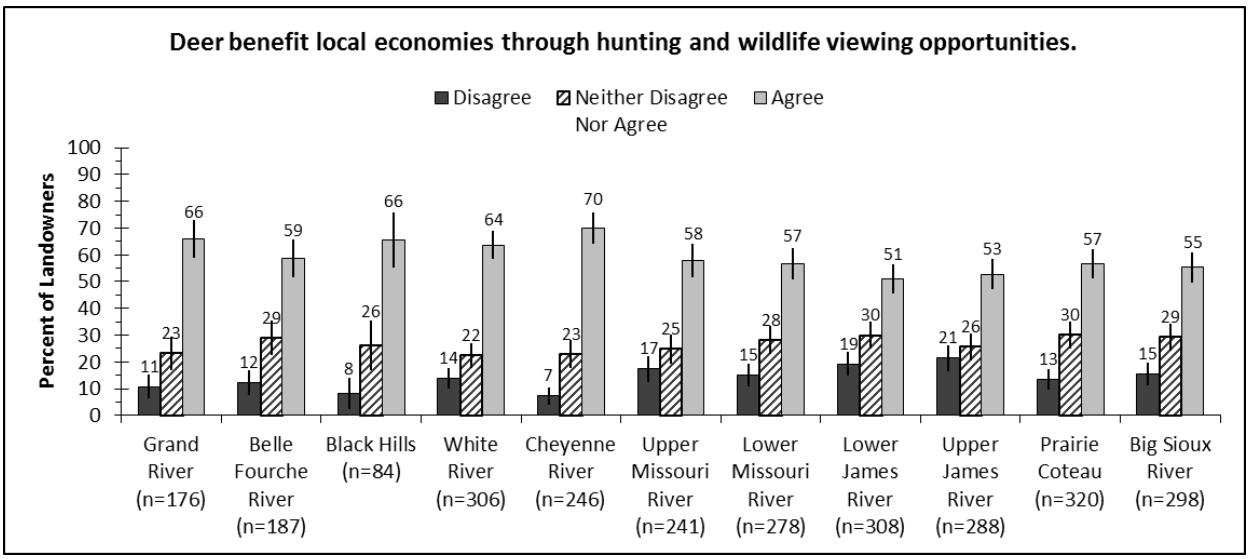


**Figure 55: Benefit to local economies by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Statewide, three-quarters of landowners (75%) agreed that they worried about deer-vehicle collisions (figure 56). There were statistically significant differences across regions (figure 57); however, these differences were negligible ($\chi^2$=23.40 (8, N=2,751) p=0.003;

Cramer's *V*=0.065). Just over half of landowners statewide (54%) agreed with the statement that *deer threaten people's livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies and agricultural crops* (figure 58). There was no statistically significant difference regionally among landowners' opinions regarding this statement (figure 59). Finally, landowners were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the statement: *I worry about diseases in deer that may be transmitted to livestock.* Less than half (43%) of landowners across the state agreed with this statement (figure 60). There was no statisitically significant difference regionally among landowners' opinions regarding this statement ($\chi^2$=12.82 (8, N=2,739) p=0.12; Cramer's *V*=0.048). The proportion of landowners who agreed with this statement ranged from 51 percent in Belle Fourche River DAU to 38 percent in the Black Hills DAU (figure 61).

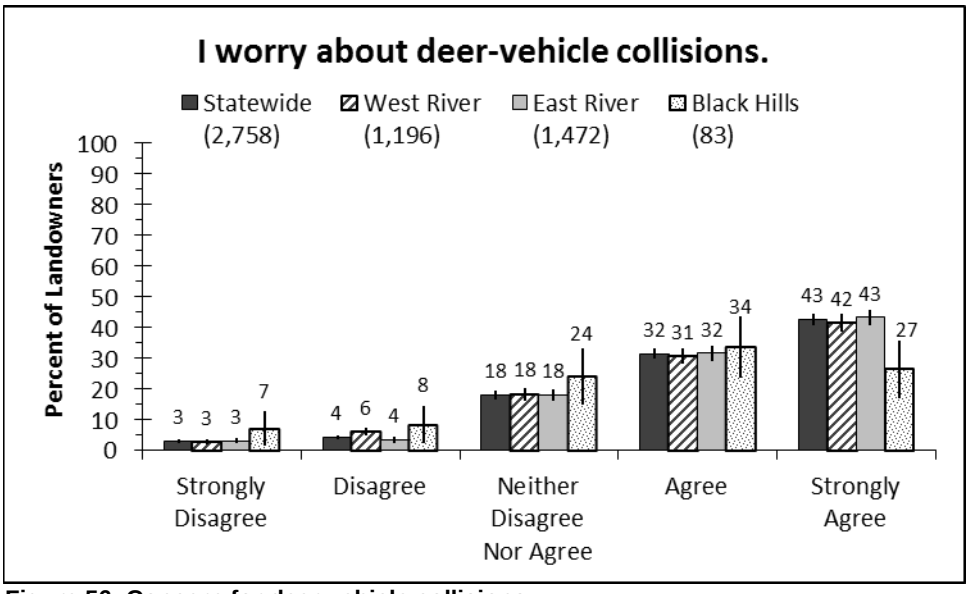


**Figure 56: Concern for deer-vehicle collisions**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

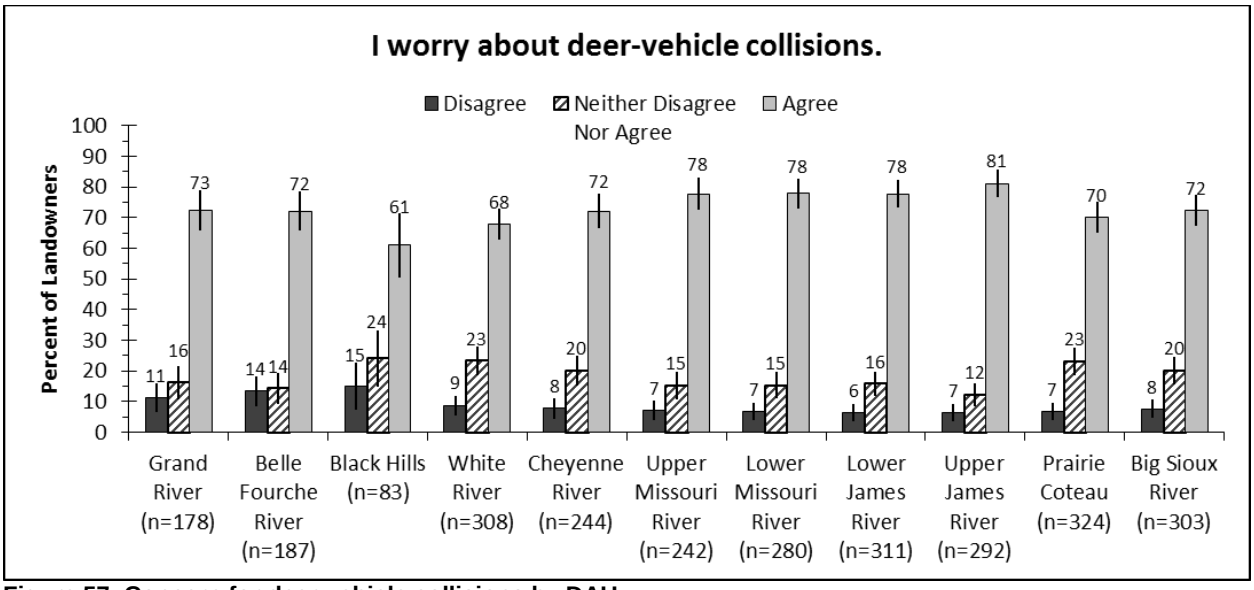


**Figure 57: Concern for deer-vehicle collisions by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

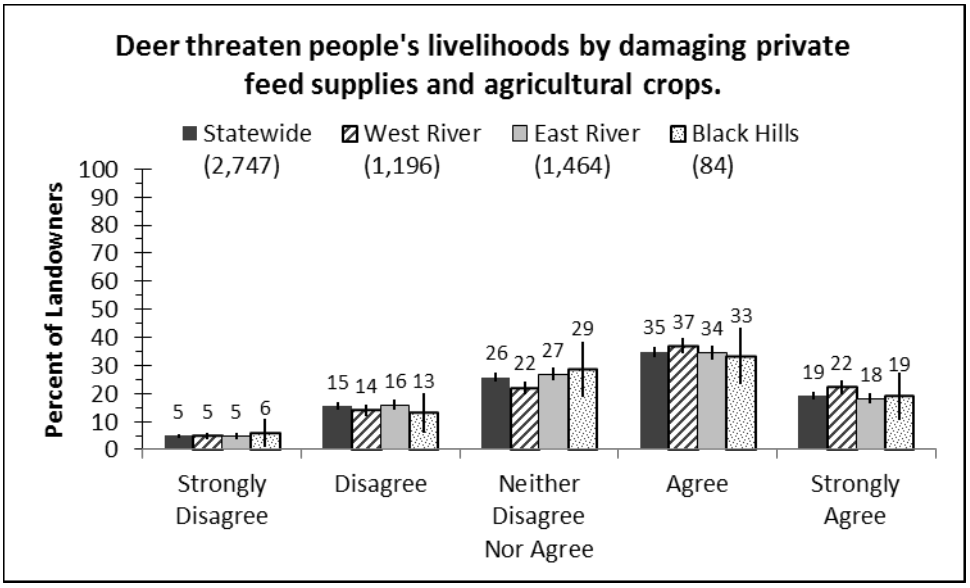


**Figure 58: Damage private feed supplies and agricultural crops**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

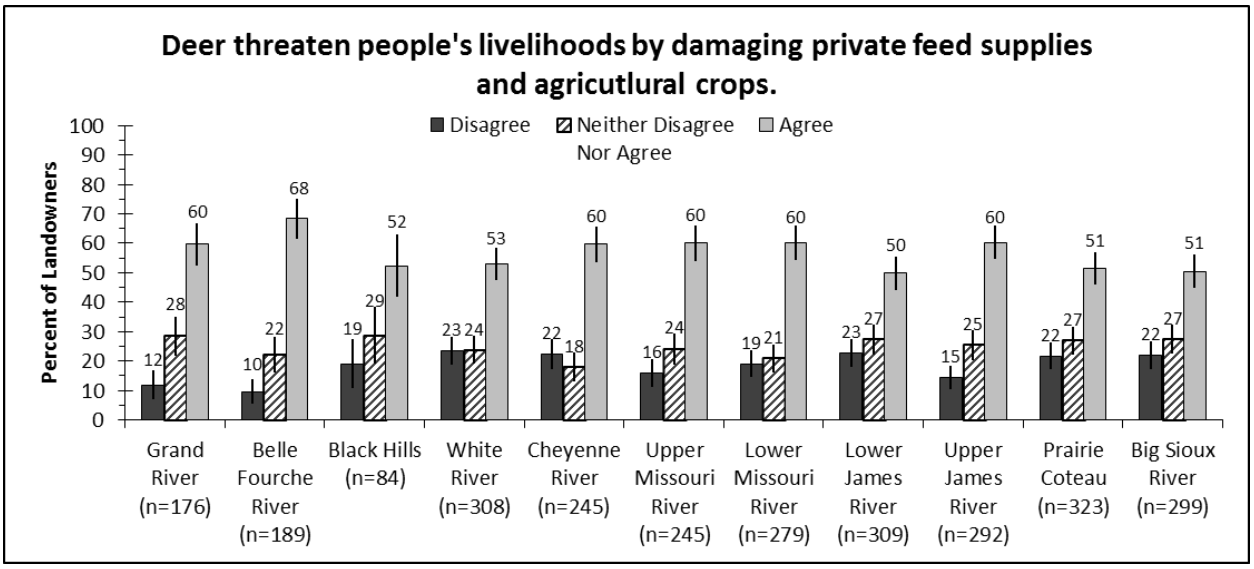


**Figure 59: Damage to private feed supplies and agricultural crops by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

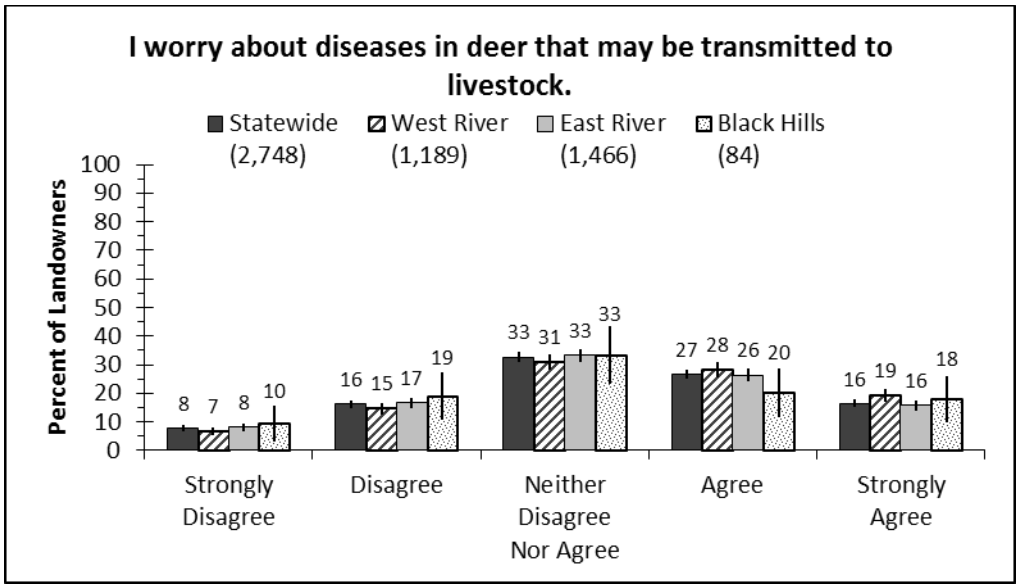


**Figure 60: Concern for diseases transmitted to livestock**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

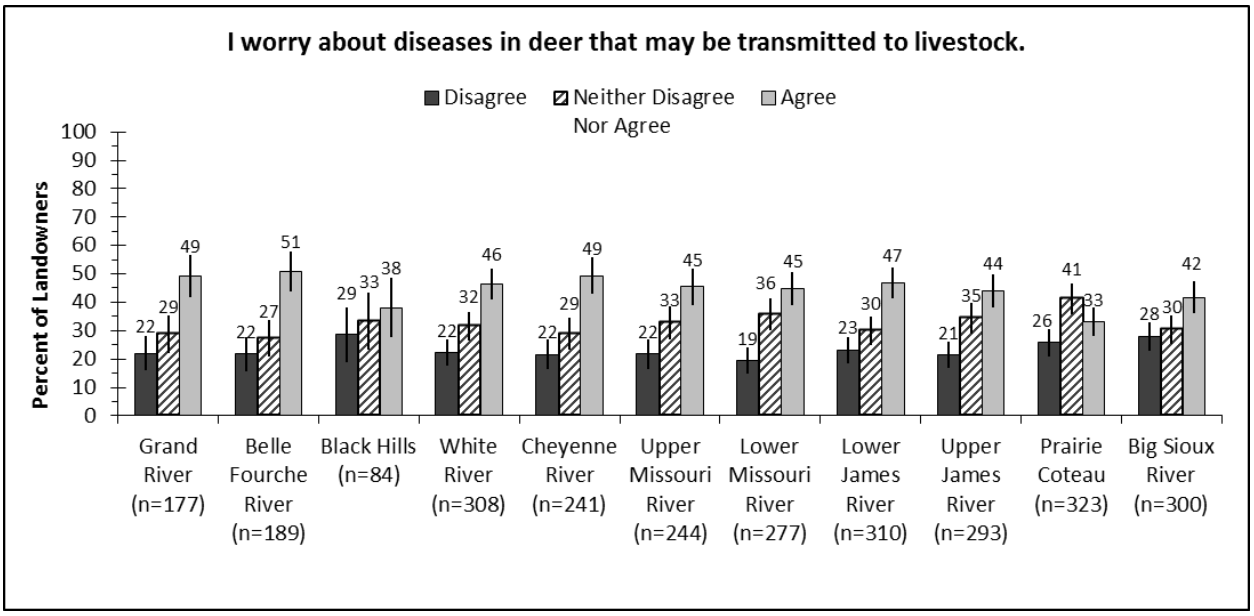


**Figure 61: Concern for diseases transmitted to livestock by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Landowners who agreed with statements regarding the benefits of deer on the landscape were more likely than those who disagreed to rate the number of deer on their property as being too few. Nearly one-third (30%) of landowners who agreed that having a healthy, self-sustaining population of deer in South Dakota was important to them rated the number of deer seen on their property in the past 5 years as too few (figure 62) compared to 6 percent of landowners who disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2$=398.21 (6, N=2,689) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.272). Similarly, about one-third (34%) of landowners who agreed that the presence of deer near their home increased their quality of life (figure 63) rated the number of deer seen on their property as too few compared with 8 percent of landowners who disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2$=571.22 (6, N=2,684) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.326). Approximately one-quarter (27%) of landowners who agreed that the presence of deer benefit local economies rated the number of deer seen on their property as too few (figure 64) compared with 14 percent of landowners who disagreed with the statement ($\chi^2$=138.47 (8, N=2,683) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.161).

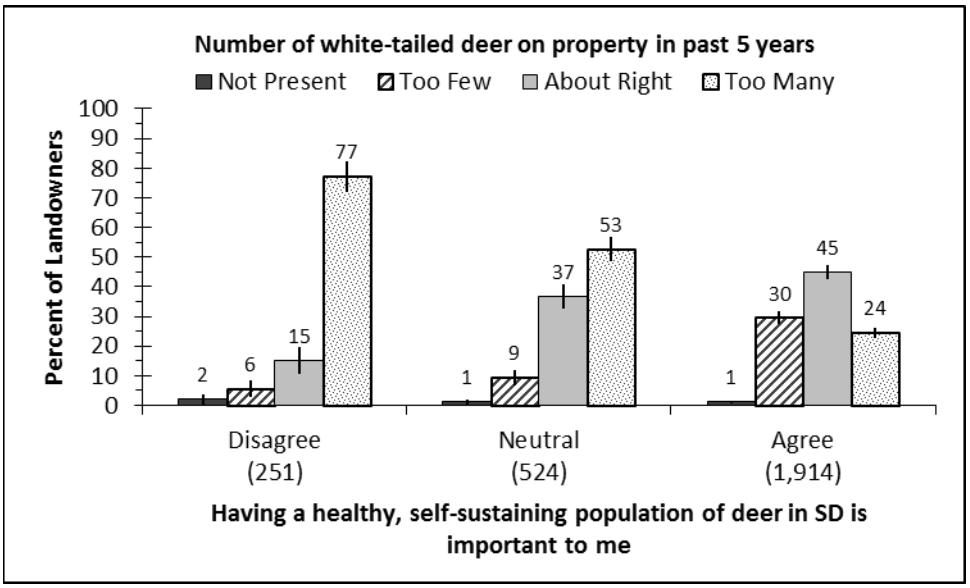


**Figure 62: Importance of deer population by evaluation of deer seen**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

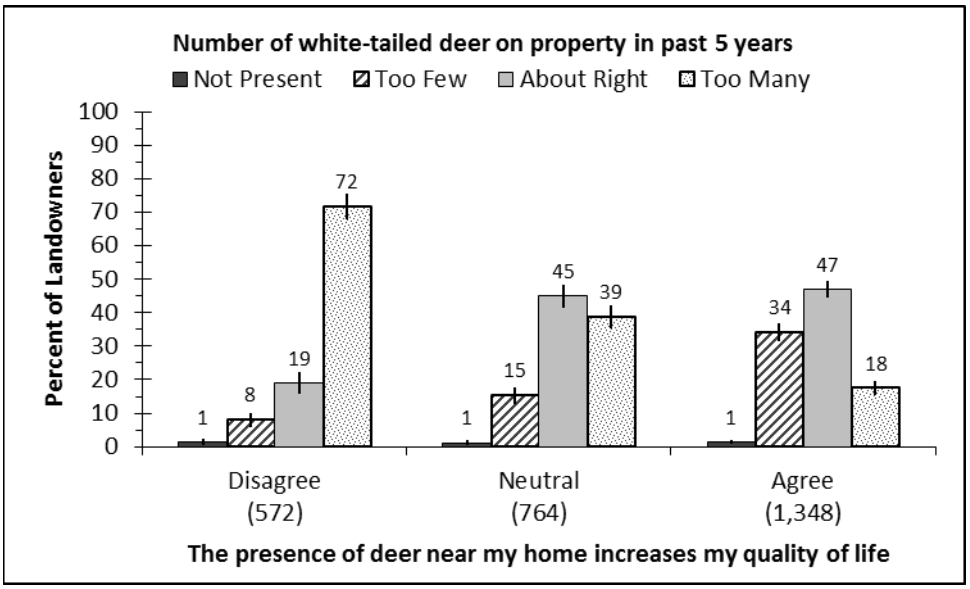


**Figure 63: Presence of deer and quality of life by evaluation of deer seen**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

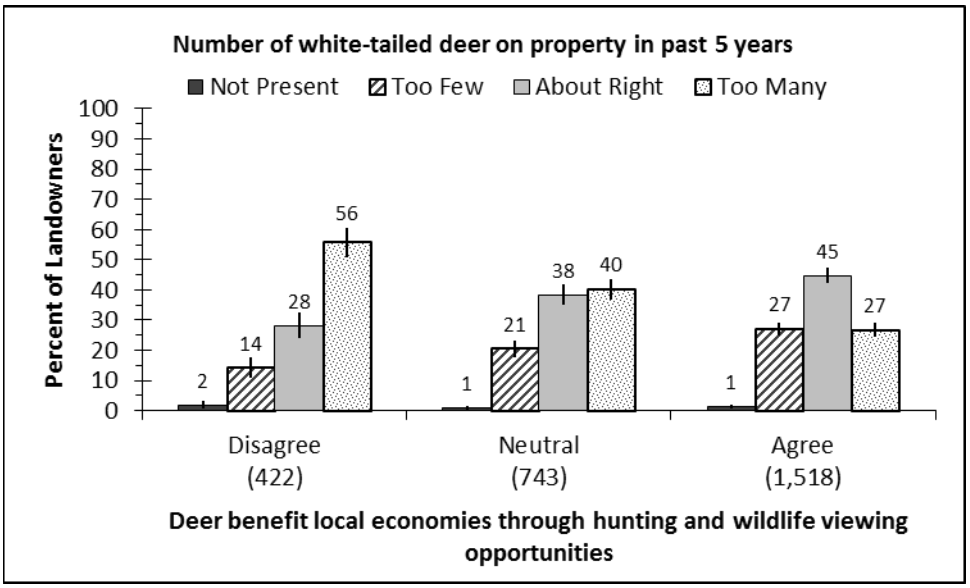


**Figure 64: Benefit to local economies by evaluation of deer seen**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Landowners who agreed with statements regarding the risks of deer on the landscape were more likely to than those who disagreed to rate the number of deer seen on their property over the past 5 years as too many. Forty-three percent of landowners who agreed they worried about deer-vehicle collisions rated the number of deer seen as too many (figure 65) compared with 17 percent of landowners who disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2$=298.65 (6, N=2,701) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.235). Over half (54%) of landowners who agreed that deer threaten people's livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies and agricultural crops rated the number of deer they saw as too many (figure 66) compared with 10 percent of landowners who disagreed with this statement ($\chi^2$=521.87 (6, N=2,695) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.311). Similarly, half (50%) of landowners who worry about diseases in deer that may be transmitted to livestock rated the number of deer seen as too many (figure 67) compared to 17 percent of landowners who do not worry about this ($\chi^2$=263.85 (6, N=2,698) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.221).

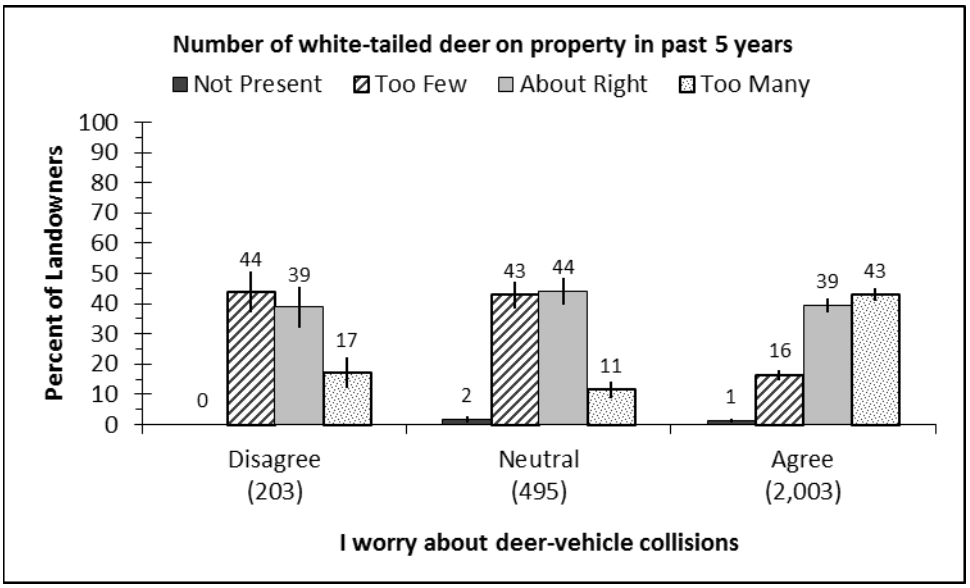


**Figure 65: Concern for deer-vehicle collisions by evaluation of deer seen**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

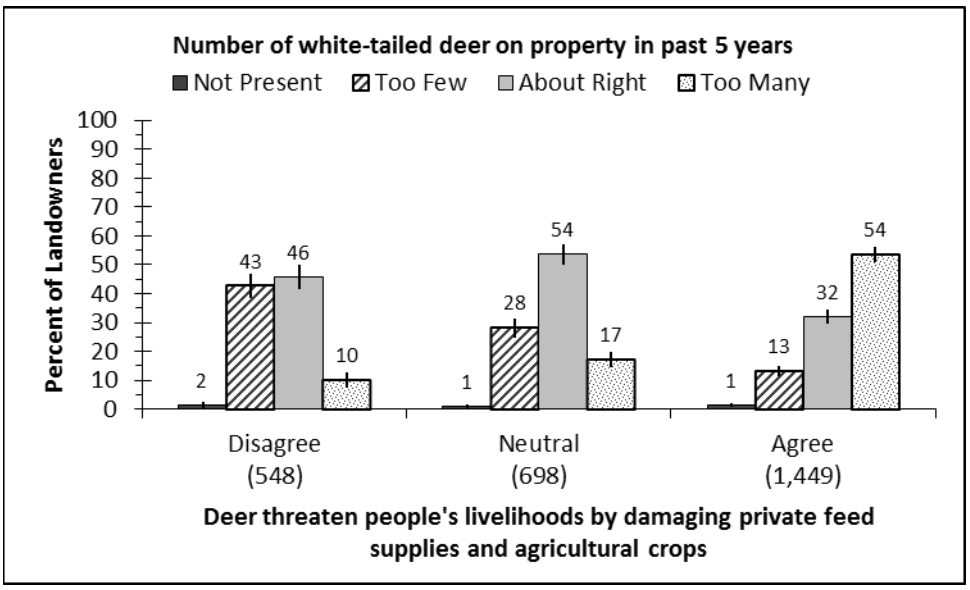


**Figure 66: Damage feed supplies and crops by evaluation of deer seen**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

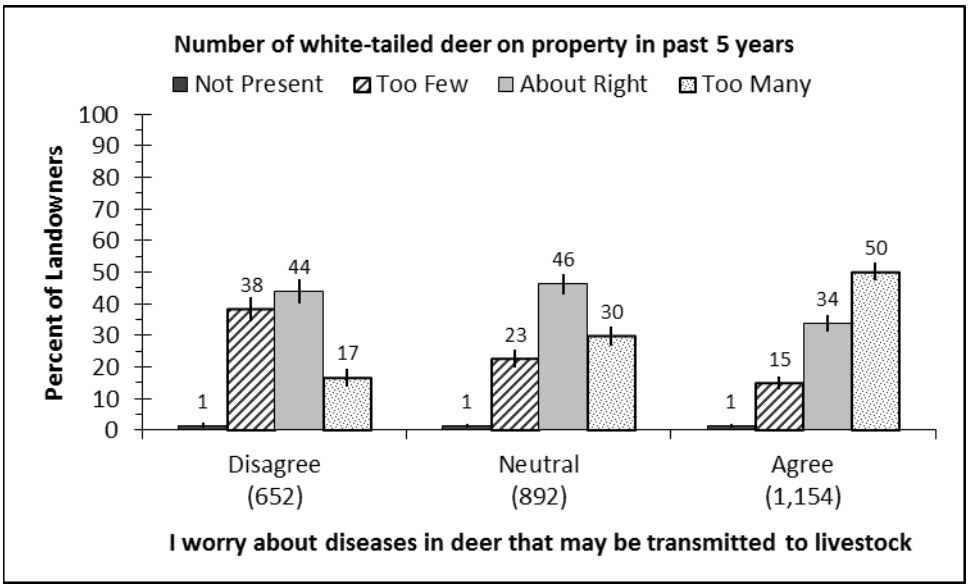


**Figure 67: Concern about disease transmission by evaluation of deer seen**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Respondents were asked if they had experienced on their land seven potential causes of conflicts between landowners and deer hunters, and if so, to rate the degree of the conflict on a four-point scale.[7] The majority of landowners across the state indicated they had experienced each of the conflicts on their property, ranging from 67 percent experiencing livestock harassment to 85 percent experiencing trespass (figure 68). On average, landowners statewide rated two of the seven conflicts (illegal road hunting and trespass) as being moderate problems and the remaining five conflicts (littering, unsafe behaviors, damage to property and harassing livestock) as minor problems (figure 69). There were some statistically significant differences between West River and East River landowners; however, these differences were mostly negligible. Results for specific potential causes of conflict follow.

[7] Conflict scale: 1 not a problem; 2 minor problem; 3 moderate problem; and 4 major problem

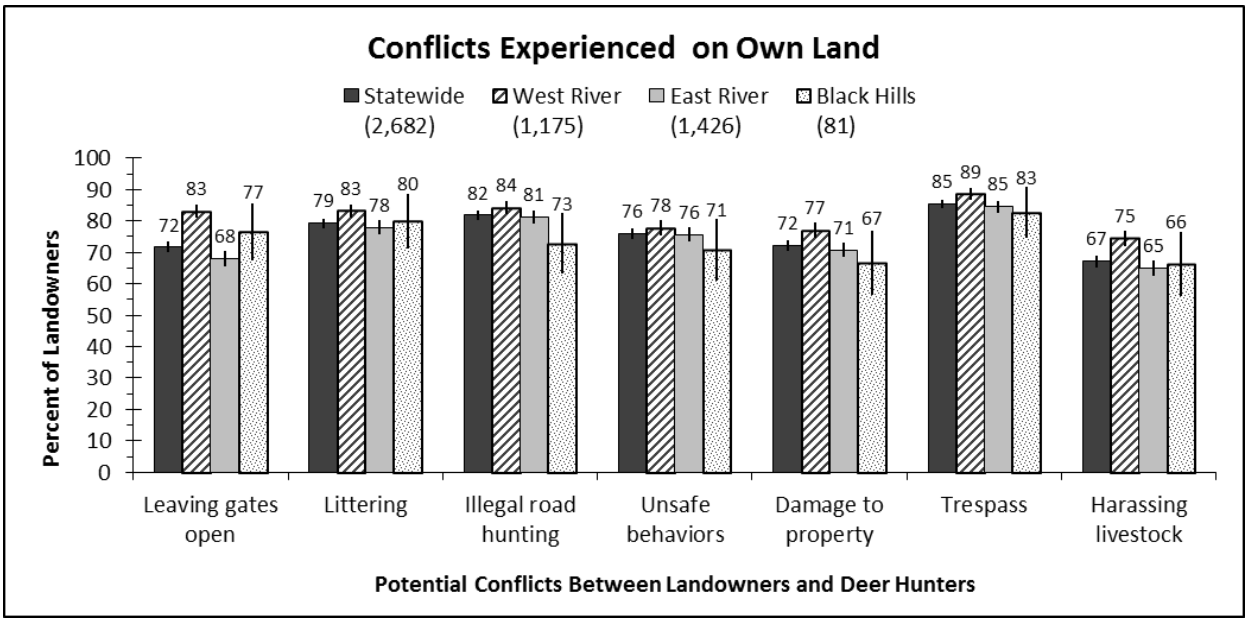


**Figure 68: Conflicts experienced between landowners and deer hunters**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

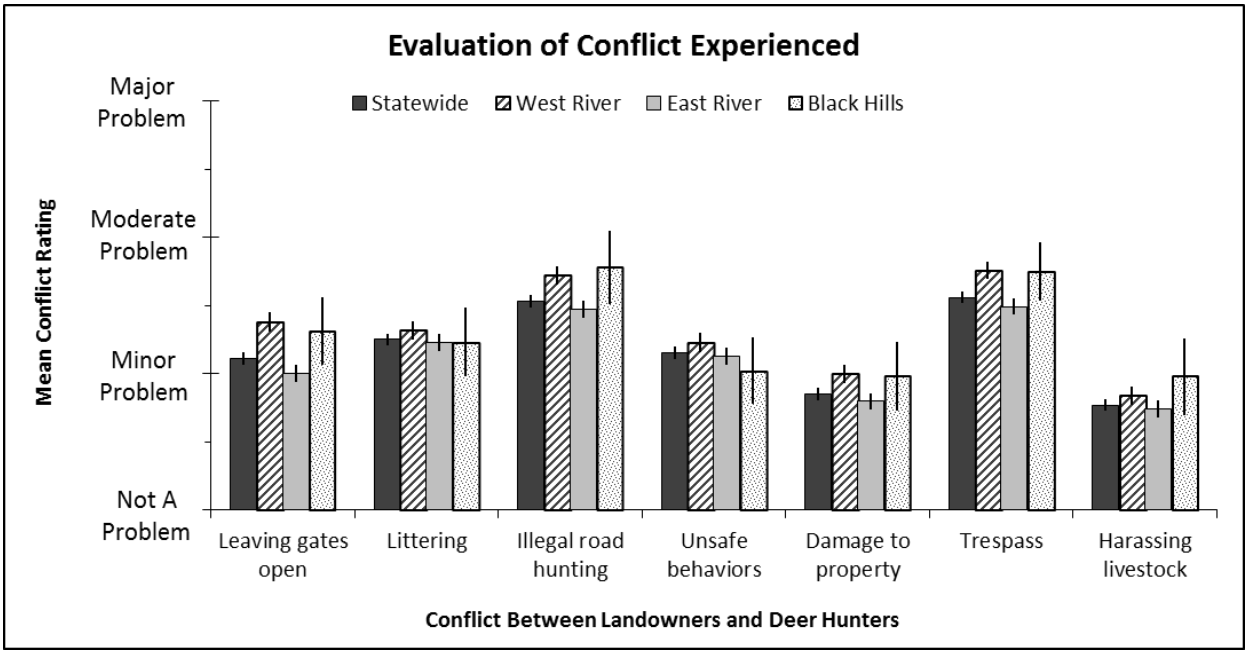


**Figure 69: Average evaluation of conflicts experienced**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Overall, of the seven potential conflicts, landowners experienced trespass the most. Eighty-five percent of landowners statewide experienced deer hunters trespassing on their land. On average, West River and Black Hills landowners rated trespass as a moderate problem (WR: $\bar{x}$=2.8 se=0.03; BH: $\bar{x}$=2.8 se=0.11), while East River landowners (ER: $\bar{x}$=2.5 se=0.03) rated it as a minor problem (see figure 69). Of the landowners across the state who indicated they experienced deer hunters trespassing on their land, half (51%) rated trespass as a moderate to major problem (figure 70). There were statistically significant, but negligible differences across the regions. West River landowners (32%) were more likely than East River landowners (22%) to rate trespass as a major problem. While East River landowners (32%) were more likely than West River landowners (24%) to rate trespass as a minor problem ($\chi^2$=46.90 (6, N=2,330) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.100). Over one-third (37%) of landowners in the Grand River DAU rated trespass as a major problem, while 37 percent of landowners in the Prairie Coteau DAU rated trespass as a minor problem (figure 71). Nearly one-quarter of landowners in the Big Sioux river DAU (22%), the Belle Fourche River DAU (23%) and the Lower James River DAU (25%) rated trespass as not a problem.

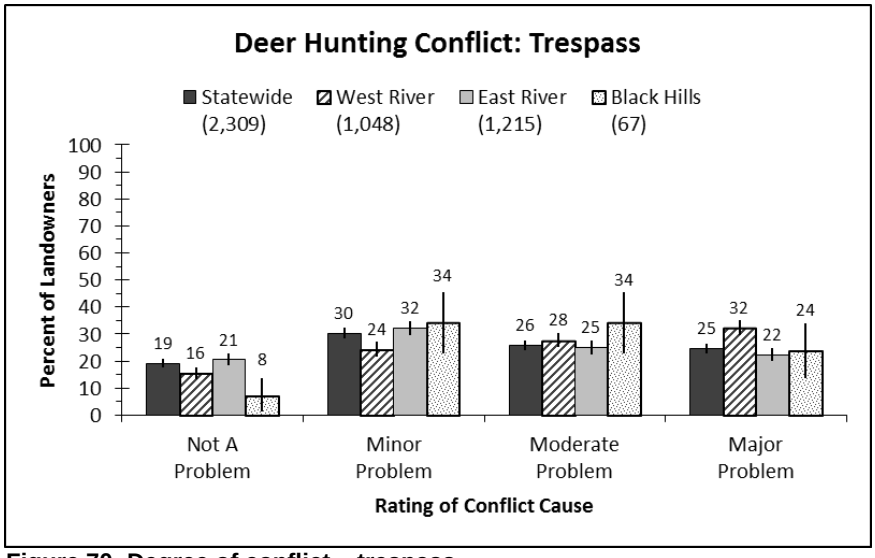


**Figure 70: Degree of conflict – trespass**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval; **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

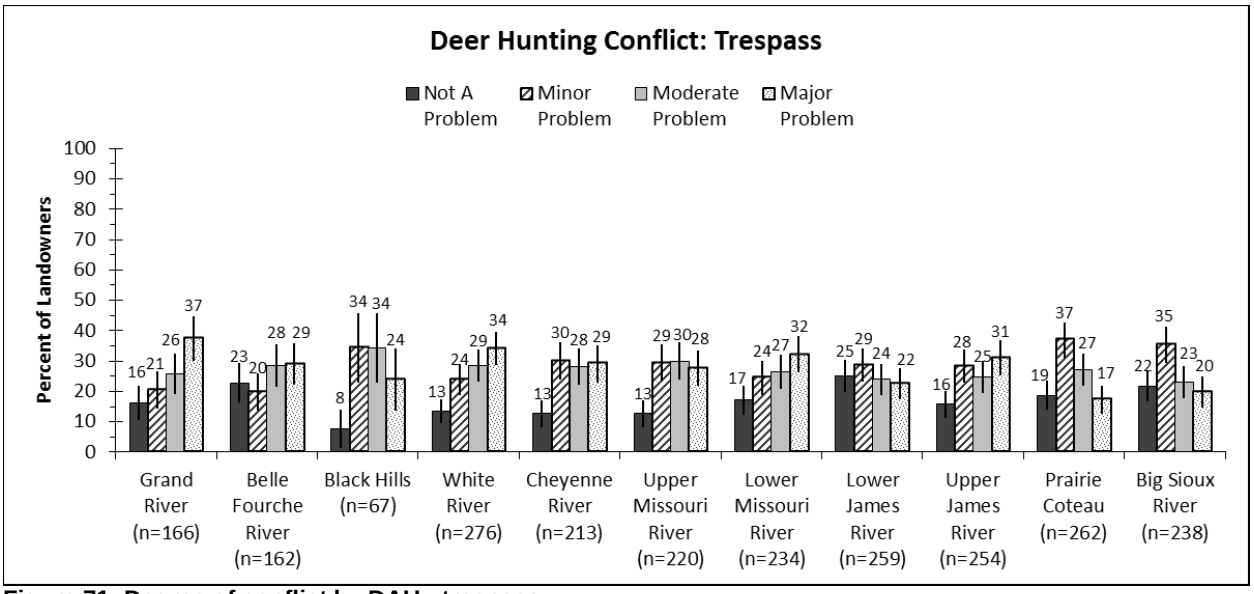


**Figure 71: Degree of conflict by DAU - trespass**
*NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The second most commonly experienced conflict was illegal road hunting. Eighty-two percent of landowners across the state said they experienced issues with deer hunters illegally road hunting. On average, West River landowners rated illegal road hunting as a moderate problem ($\bar{x}$=2.7 se=0.04), while East River landowners rated it as minor ($\bar{x}$=2.5 se=0.03; see figure 69). Half of the landowners across the state (51%) rated this conflict as a moderate to major problem (figure 72). There were statistically significant, but negligible differences across the regions. West River landowners (33%) were more likely than East River landowners (24%) to indicate illegal road hunting by deer hunters was a major problem, while East River landowners (25%) were more likely than West River landowners (18%) to consider it as not a problem ($\chi^2$=30.86 (6, N=2,195) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.084). Approximately one-third (34%) of landowers in the Belle Fourche River DAU, Grand River DAU (32%), Black Hills DAU (31%), White River DAU (34%) Cheyenne River DAU (31%), Lower Missouri DAU (33%), and the Upper James River (30%) rated illegal road hunting on their land as a major problem (figure 73). Over one-quarter of landowners in the Big Sioux River DAU (27%) and the Lower James River DAU (27%) rated it as not a problem.

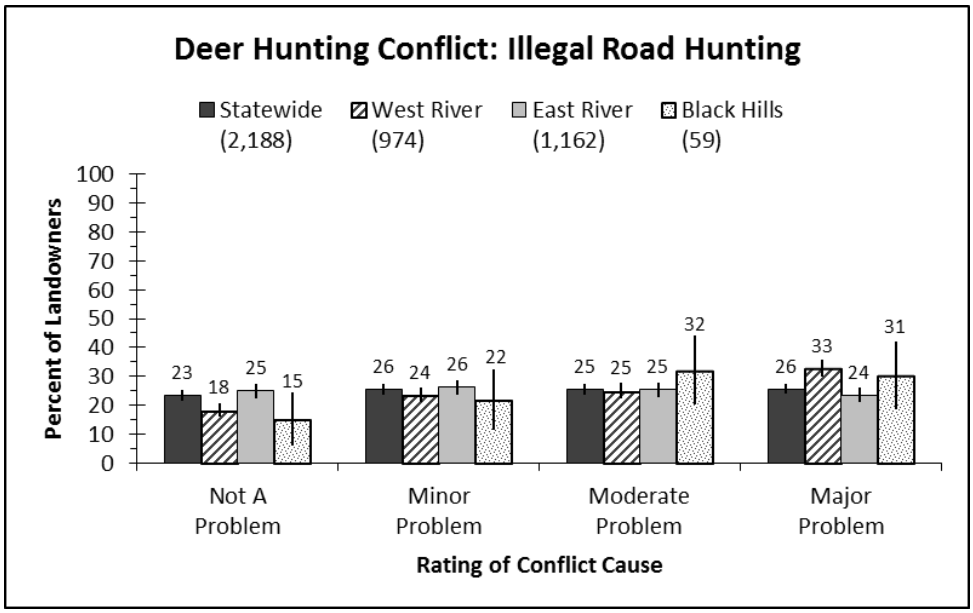


**Figure 72: Degree of conflict - illegal road hunting**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. ****Number in parentheses equal number of responses

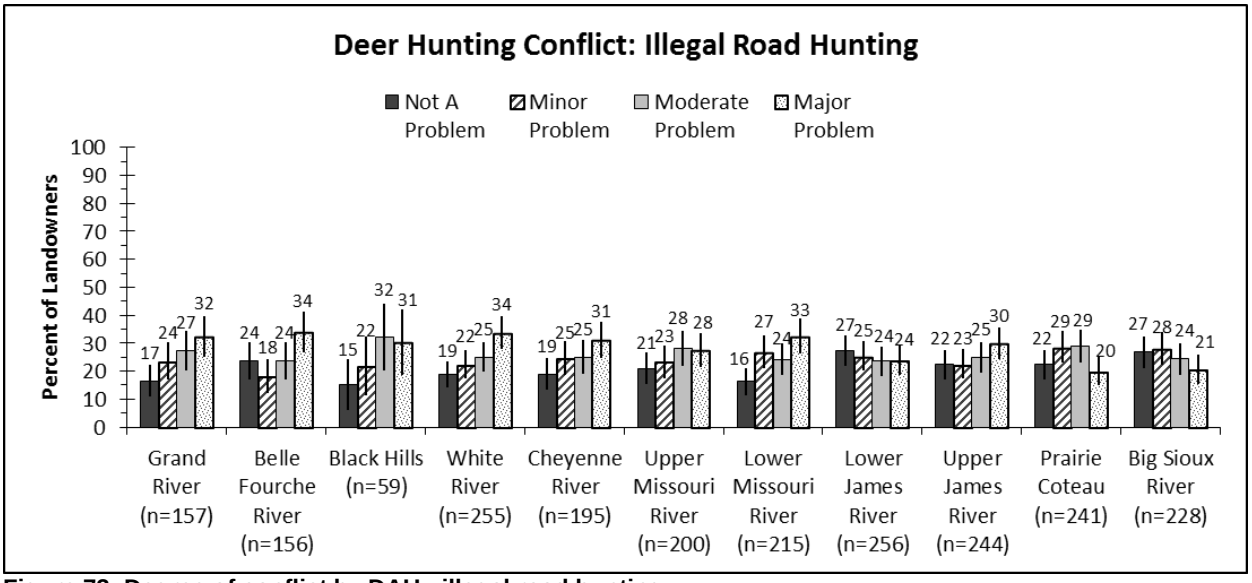


**Figure 73: Degree of conflict by DAU - illegal road hunting**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Statewide, 79 percent of landowners indicated experiencing problems with deer hunters littering on their land. On average, South Dakota landowners rated littering as a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=2.3 se=0.02). Over one third of landowners (39%) who experienced littering on their land rated it as a moderate or major problem (figure 74). Just under one-third (31%) rated it as a minor problem, and another 30 percent indicated it was not a problem. There were no statistically significant differences found regionally (figure 75).

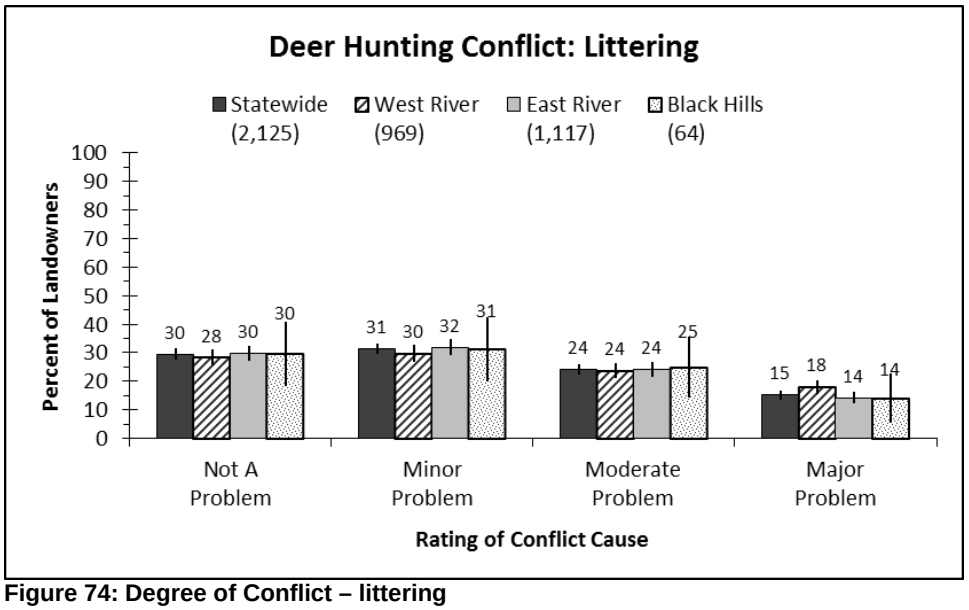


**Figure 74: Degree of Conflict – littering**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

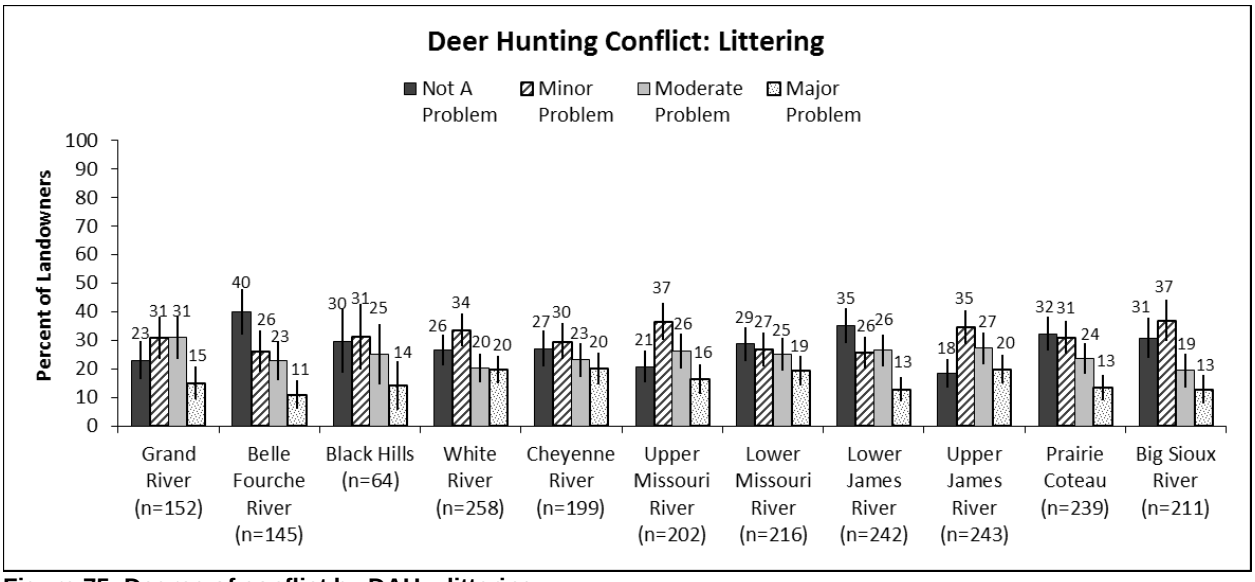


**Figure 75: Degree of conflict by DAU – littering**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Approximately three-quarters (76%) of landowners reported experiencing issues with unsafe behaviors by deer hunters on their property. On average, landowner rated issues with unsafe behaviors as a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=2.2 se=0.02). Over one-third (36%) of landowners rated this as not being a problem while another 26 percent rated it as being a minor problem (figure 76). Thirty-seven percent of landowners statewide rated issues with unsafe behaviors by deer hunters as being either a moderate or major problem. Regionally there were no statistically significant differences (figure 77).

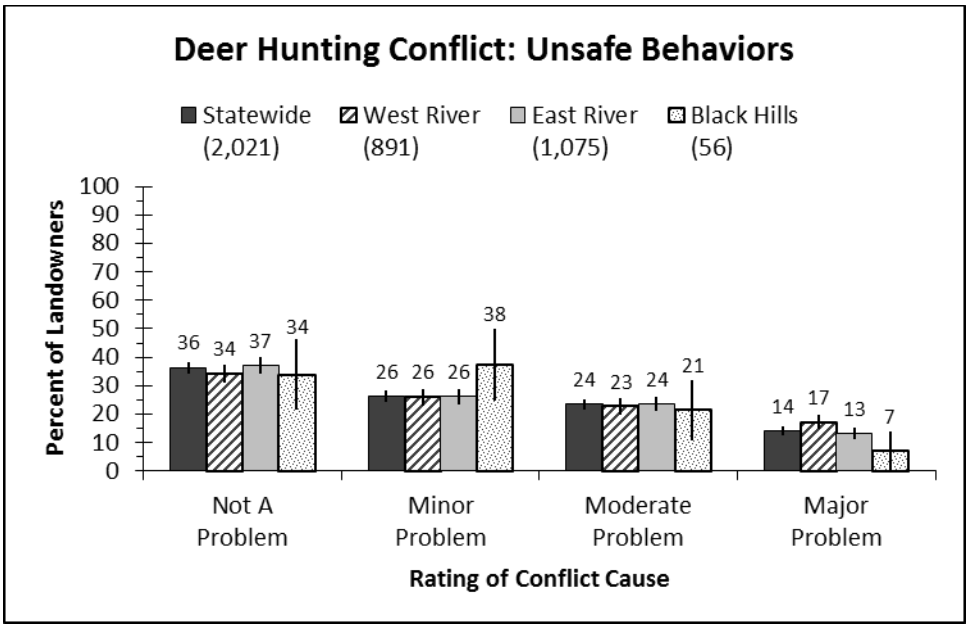


**Figure 76: Degree of conflict – unsafe behaviors**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

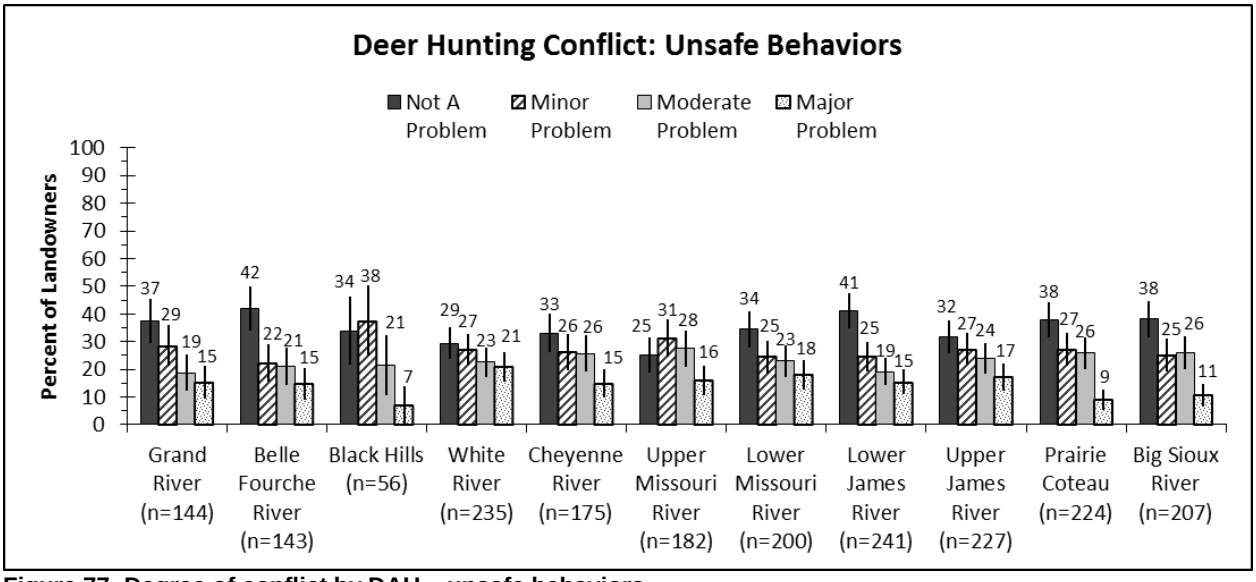


**Figure 77: Degree of conflict by DAU – unsafe behaviors**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Nearly three-quarters of landowners across the state (72%) experienced issues with deer hunters leaving gates open on their property, and on average, rated the issue as being a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=2.1 se=0.02). East River landowners were less likely than West River or Black Hills landowners to have experienced issues with deer hunters leaving gates open; however, those who did experience this were more likely than West River and Black Hills landowners to indicate it was not a problem (figure 78). West River and Black Hills landowners were both more likely to indicate hunters leaving gates open was a moderate or major problem ($\chi^2$=65.93 (6, N=2,007) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.128). Nearly half (49%) of the landowners in the Big Sioux River DAU indicated this was not a problem, followed by 46 percent of landowners in the Prairie Coteau DAU (figure 79). Nearly one-quarter (24%) of landowners in the White River DAU indicated this was a major problem and 27 percent indicated it was a moderate problem. Over one-third of landowners in the Upper Missouri River DAU (38%) and the Black Hills DAU (35%) indicted this was a minor problem.

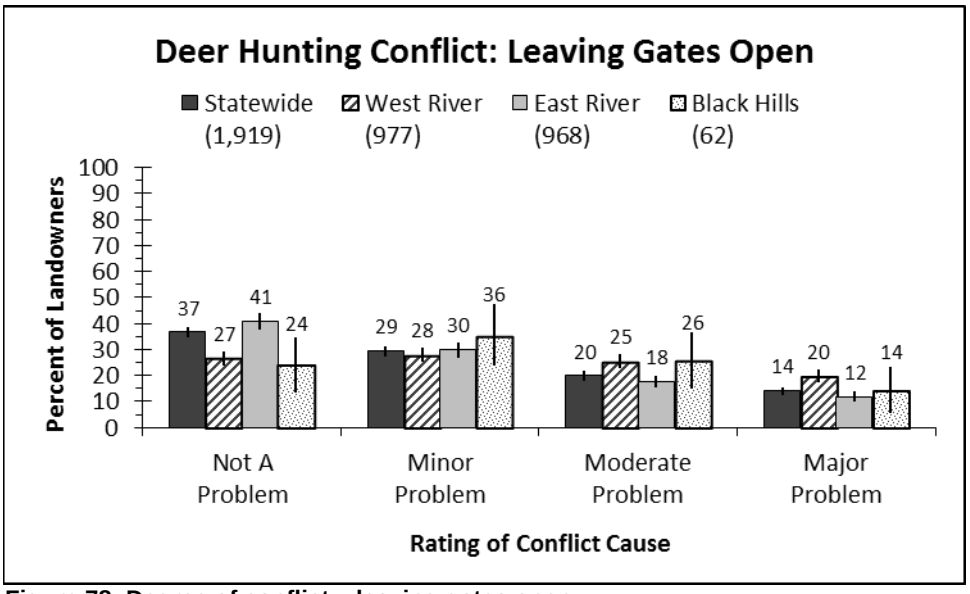


**Figure 78: Degree of conflict – leaving gates open**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

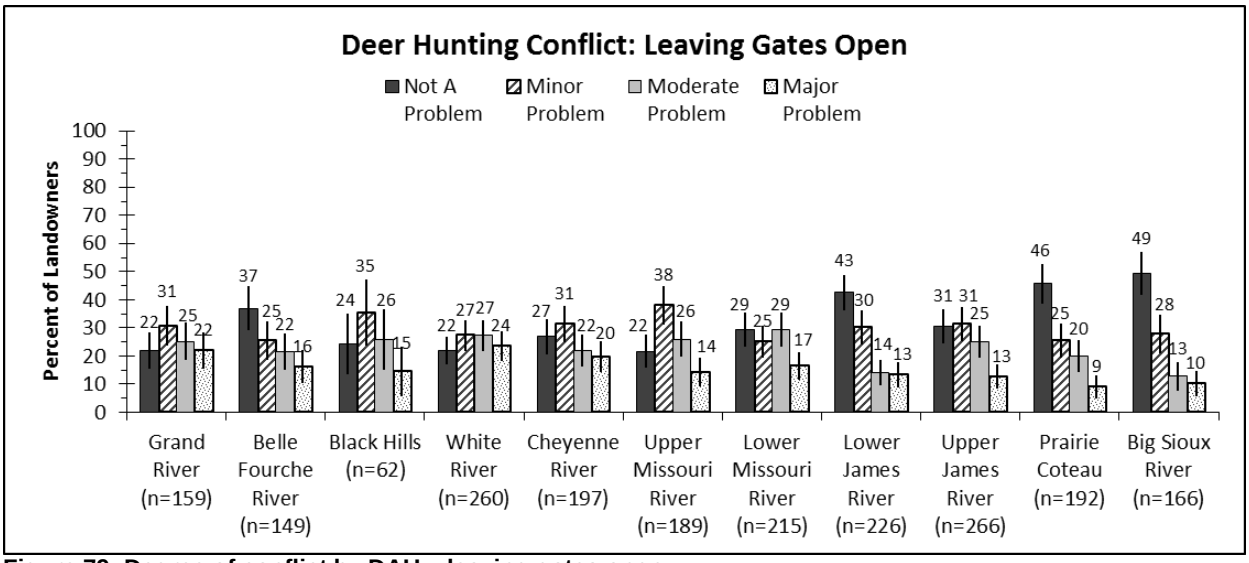


**Figure 79: Degree of conflict by DAU – leaving gates open**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Nearly three-quarters of landowners across the state (72%) indicated they experienced issues with deer hunters damaging their property while hunting. On average, landowners across the state rated issues with property damage as being a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=1.9 se=0.02). There were statistically significant but negligible differences across the regions. Nearly half (48%) of East River landowners rated this issue as not being a problem compared with 40 percent of West River landowners ($\chi^2$=26.69 (6, N=1,930) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.083). Over one-quarter (29%) of West River landowners and 19 percent of East River landowners rated the issue as being either a moderate or major problem (figure 80). Nearly half of landowners in the Belle Fourche River DAU (52%), the Lower James River DAU (50%), the Big Sioux River DAU (50%), and the Prairie Coteau DAU rated issues with property damage as not being a problem (figure 81). Forty-one percent of landowners in the Upper Missouri River DAU and 40 percent of landowners in the Black Hills DAU rated this as a minor problem, while nearly one-fifth of landowners in the White River DAU (19%), Belle Fourche River DAU (18%), and Cheyenne River DAU (18%) rated it as a moderate problem. The White River, Cheyenne River, and Upper

James River DAUs had the highest proportions of landowners who rated property damage as a major problem (14%, 13% and 13% respectively).

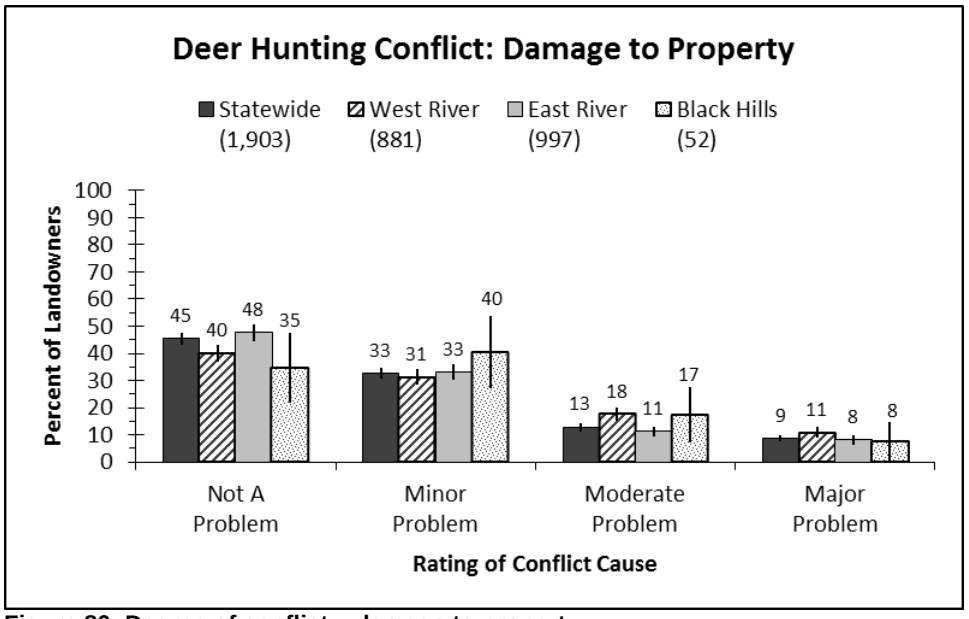


**Figure 80: Degree of conflict – damage to property**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

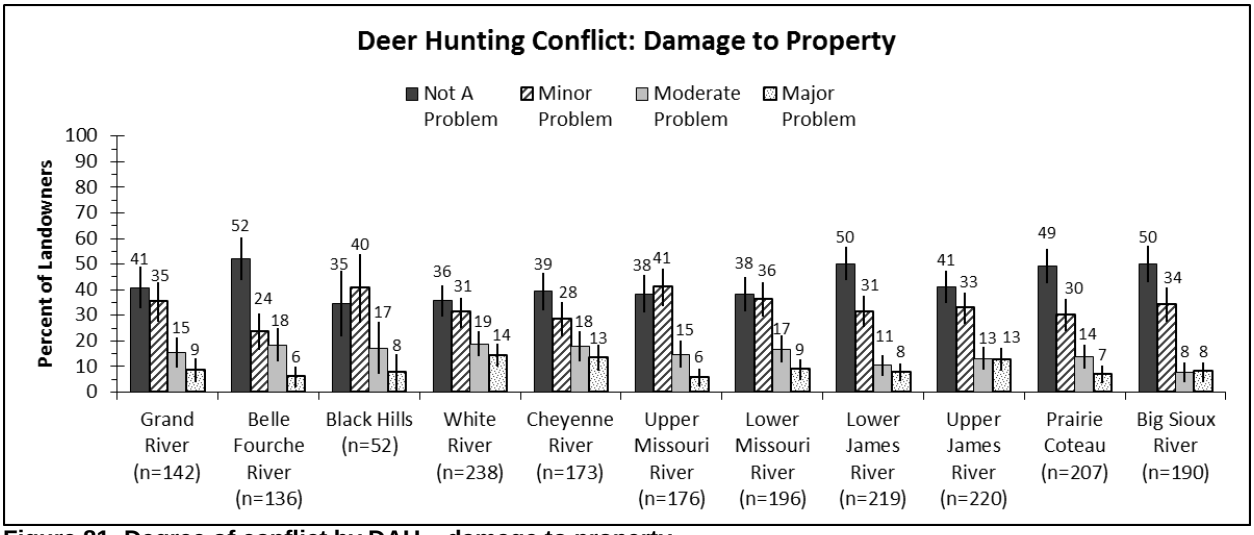


**Figure 81: Degree of conflict by DAU – damage to property**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Approximately two-thirds (67%) of landowners across the state indicated they had experienced issues with deer hunters harassing livestock on their land (see figure 68). On average landowners across the state rated problems with harassing livestock as being minor ($\bar{x}$=1.8 se=0.02). Nearly half of landowners (51%) rated this as not being a problem, 28 percent rated it as minor problem, and the remaining 21 percent rated it as either a moderate or major problem (figure 82). Regionally, there were no statistical differences in the degree of conflict (figure 83).

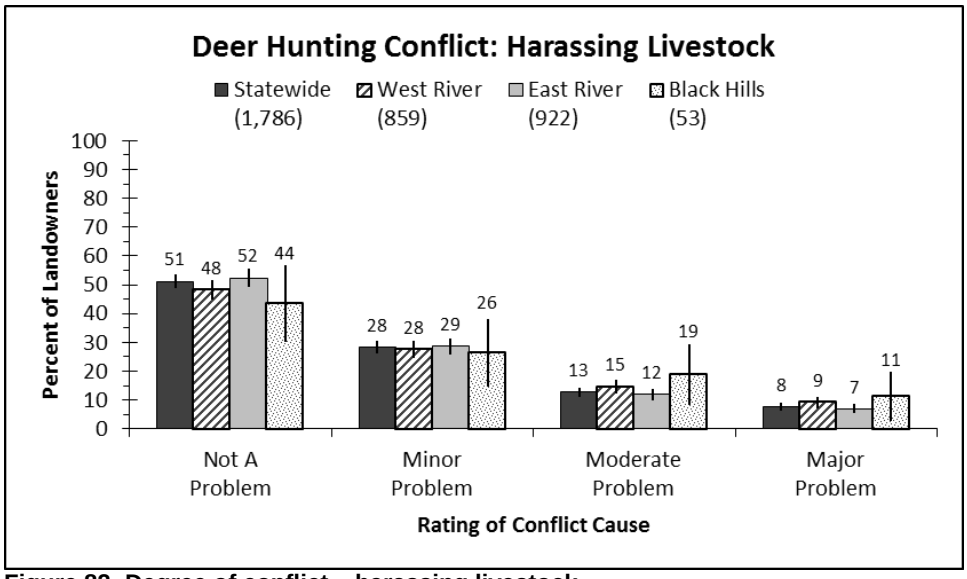


**Figure 82: Degree of conflict – harassing livestock**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

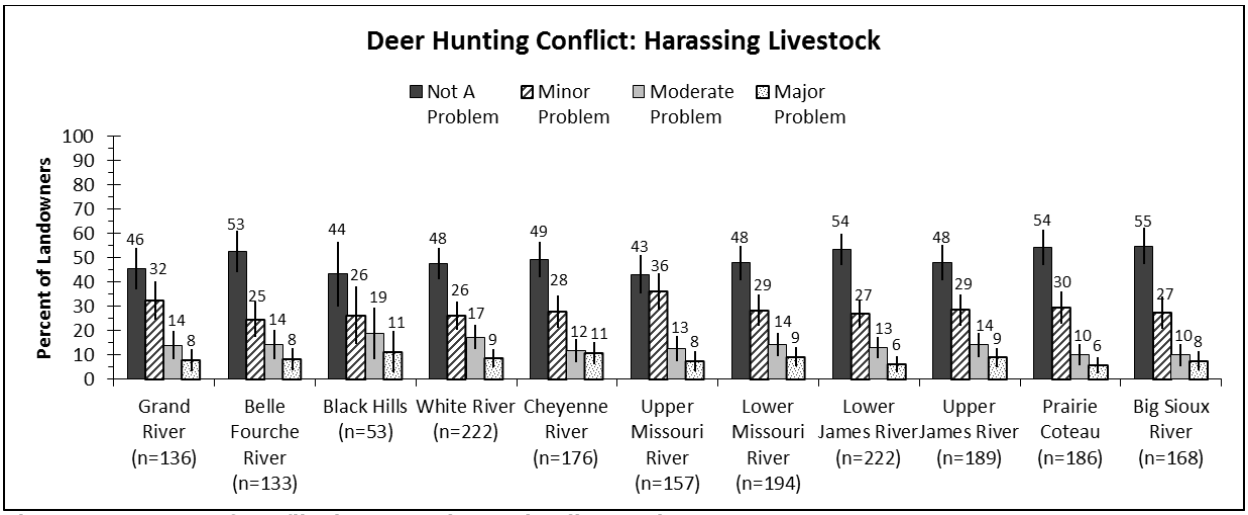


**Figure 83: Degree of conflict by DAU – harassing livestock**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Depredation Damage* – Deer can impact private property in many ways, and landowners who experience high intensities of damage often have lower tolerances for deer. GFP works cooperatively with many landowners each year to resolve deer depredation concerns. Nearly two-thirds of landowners (60%) indicated they had experienced crop or property damage caused by deer in the past five years (figure 84). There were no statistical differences across regions in the proportion of landowners who experienced deer damage. The proportion of landowners who experienced deer damages on their property over the past 5 years ranged from 74 percent in the Lower Missouri River DAU to 46 percent in the Grand River DAU (figure 85). Landowners who had experienced deer damage were more likely than those who had not to rate the number of deer seen on their property as too many ($\chi^2$=529.93 (3, N=2,714) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.442). Half of landowners who had experienced deer damage (51%) rated the number of deer seen as too many compared with only 11 percent of landowners who had no damage (figure 86). Over one-third of landowners who had no deer damage rated the number of deer seen as too few compared with 13 percent of landowners who had deer damage.

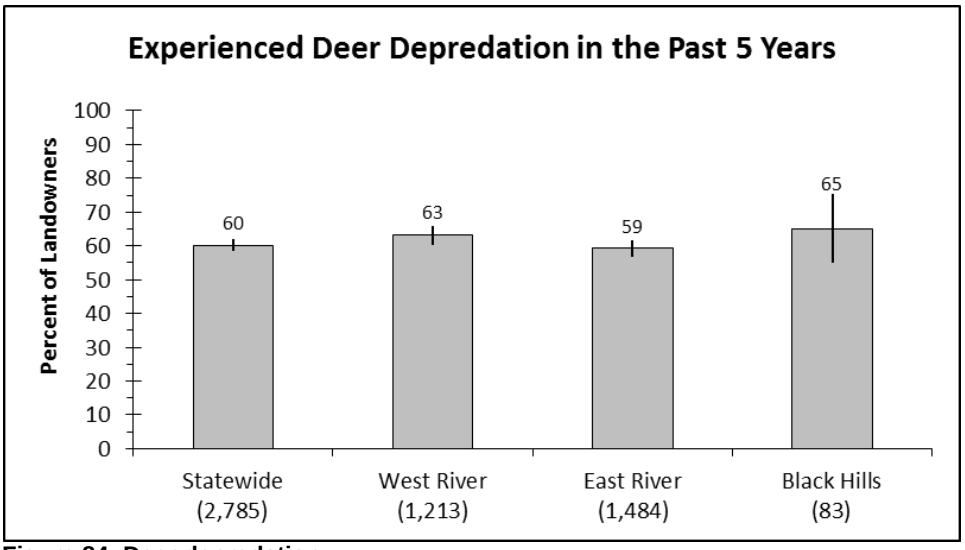


**Figure 84: Deer depredation**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

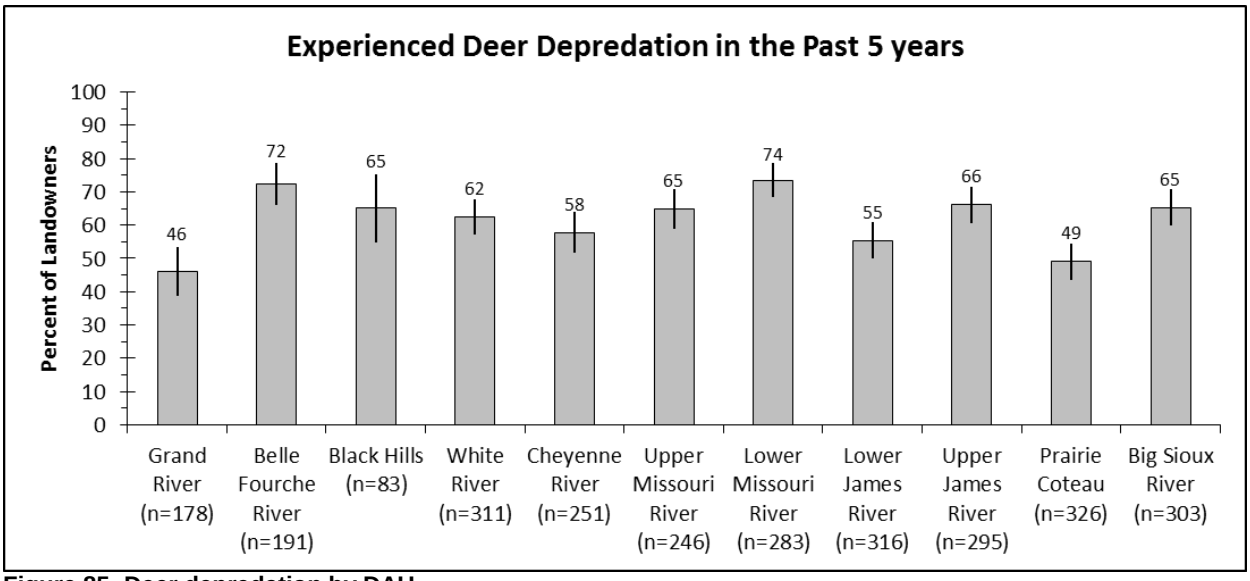


**Figure 85: Deer depredation by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

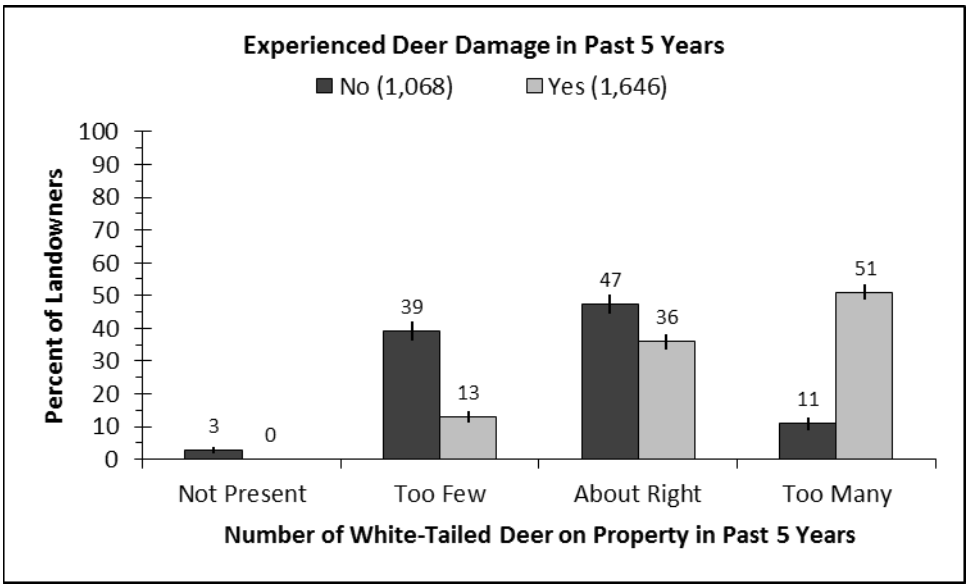


**Figure 86: Deer depredation by rating of white-tailed deer populations**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Landowners who reported experiencing deer damage over the past 5 years (n=1,676) were asked if they experienced 5 types of damage on their property, and if so, to rate this damage on a 4-point scale.[8] The majority of landowners across the state indicated they had experienced 4 of the 5 types of damage (livestock feed damage, crop damage, tree damage, and fence damage) on their property ranging from 95 percent experiencing crop damage to 79 percent experiencing livestock feed damage (figure 87). On average, landowners across the state rated three of the types of damage as minor problems, one as a moderate problem, and one as a major problem (figure 88). There were some regional differences between East River landowners and West River and Black Hills landowners.

[8] Damage scale: 1 not a problem; 2 minor problem; 3 moderate problem; and 4 major problem

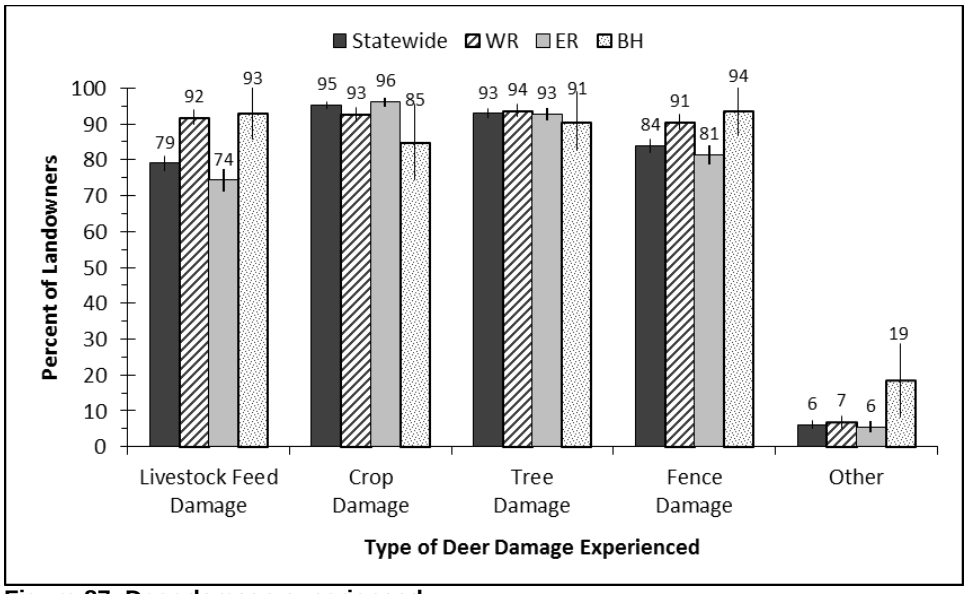


**Figure 87: Deer damage experienced**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

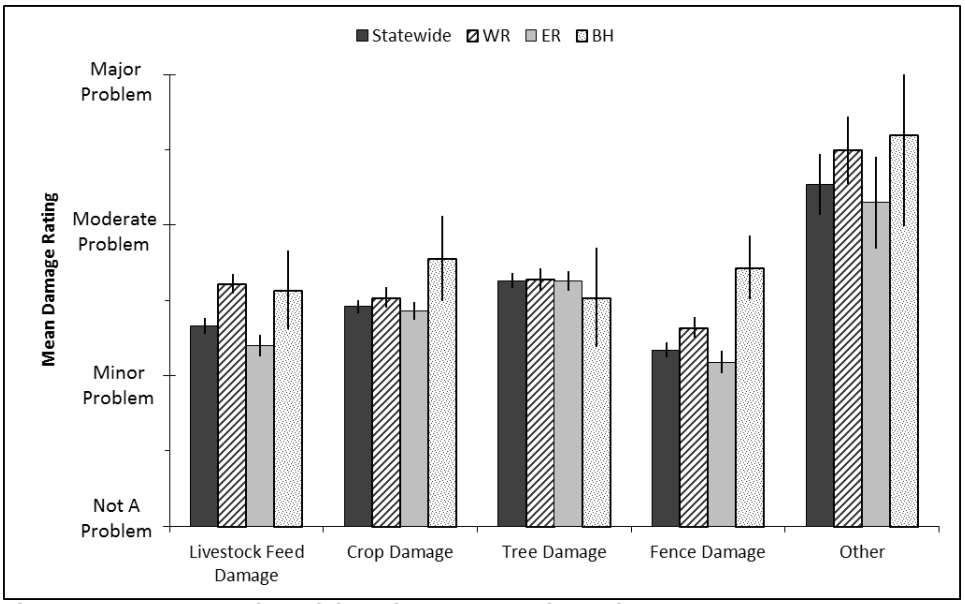


**Figure 88: Average rating of deer damage experienced**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

The vast majority of landowners experiencing deer depredation (95%) indicated they had experienced crop damage in the past 5 years. Landowners statewide rated this crop damage, on average, as a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=2.5 se=0.02). There were statistically significant but negligible differences across the regions many ($\chi^2$=15.07 (6, N=1,497) p<0.02; Cramer's *V*=0.071). Nearly half (45%) of East River landowners, 37 percent of West River landowners, and 25 percent of Black Hills landowners rated the crop damage as a minor problem (figure 89). The Black Hills DAU had the highest percentage of landowners (47%) who rated crop damage as a moderate problem (figure 90). The majority of landowners in the Grand River DAU (61%) rated the damage as a minor problem, and nearly one-quarter (24%) of landowners in the Belle Fourche River DAU rated crop damage as a major problem.

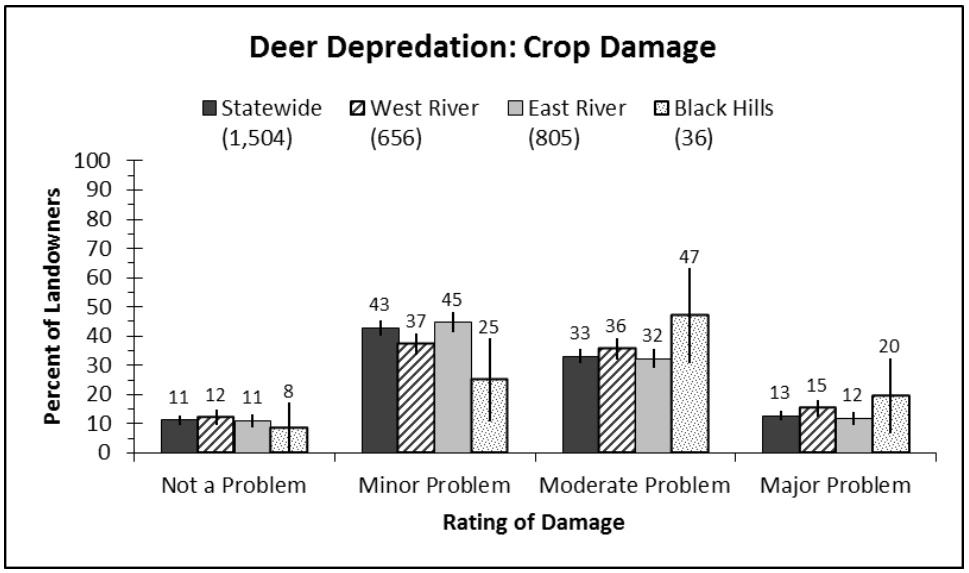


**Figure 89: Regional ratings of crop damage**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

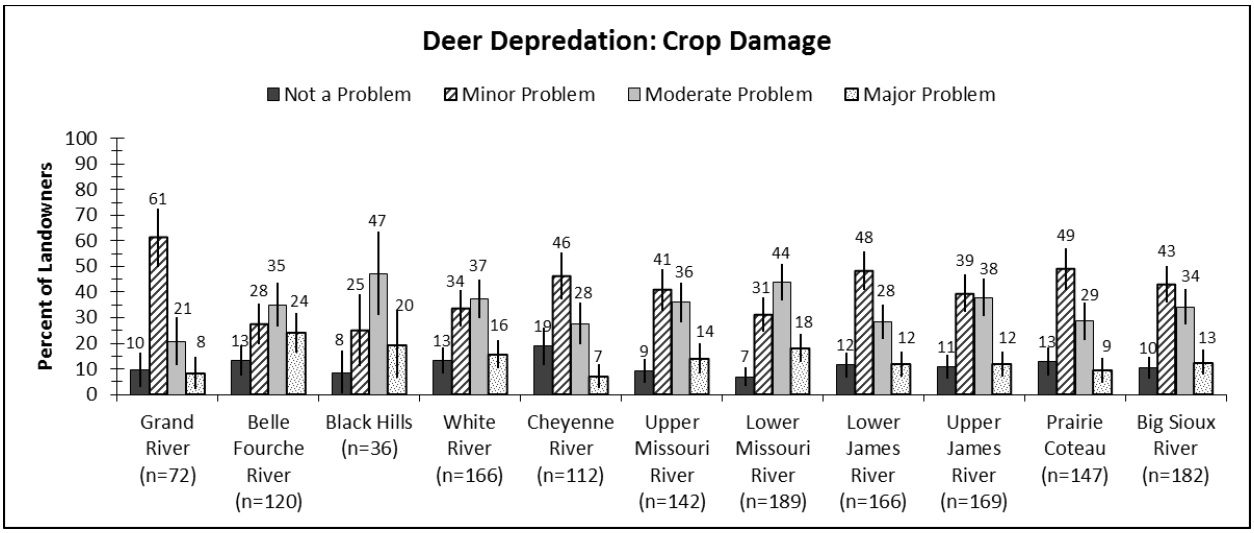


**Figure 90: Rating of crop damage by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Similarly, 93 percent of landowners indicated they had tree damage, which was rated as being a moderate problem ($\bar{x}$=2.6 se=0.03). The rating of tree damage severity was consistent across the state with no significant differences among regions (figure 91). Landowners within the Upper Missouri River DAU had the highest reports of tree damage being a major problem (33%), while the Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (23%) who indicated it was not a problem (figure 92). Eighty-four percent of landowners with deer depredation had fence damage, which landowners indicated was a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=2.2 se=0.03). East River landowners were more likely than West River and Black Hills landowners to indicate fence damage was not a problem ($\chi^2$=50.72 (6, N=1,342) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.137). While Black Hills landowners were more likely than both East and West River landowners to indicate it was a moderate problem (figure 93). The Big Sioux River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (43%) who indicated fence damage was not a problem, while the Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (52%) who rated it as a moderate problem (figure 94).

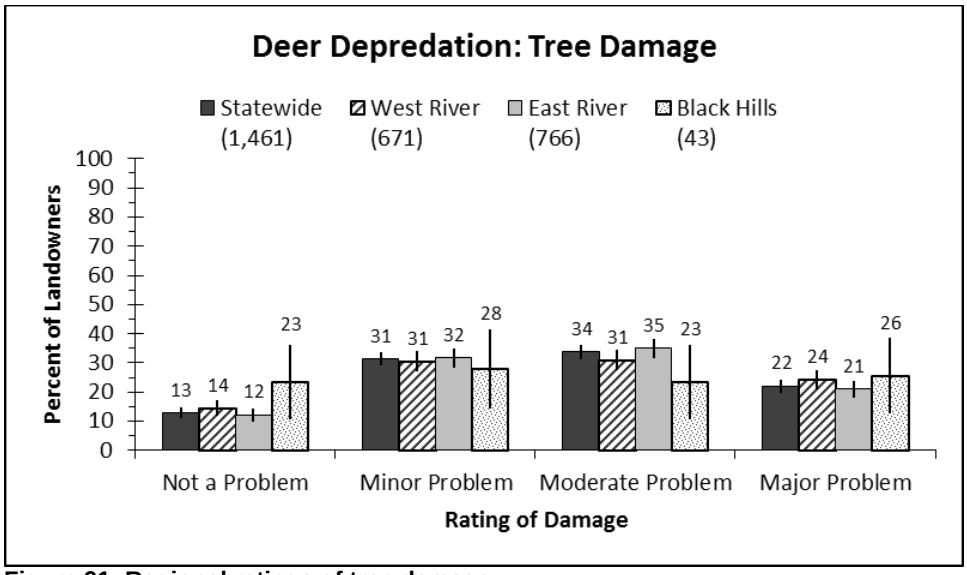


**Figure 91: Regional ratings of tree damage**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

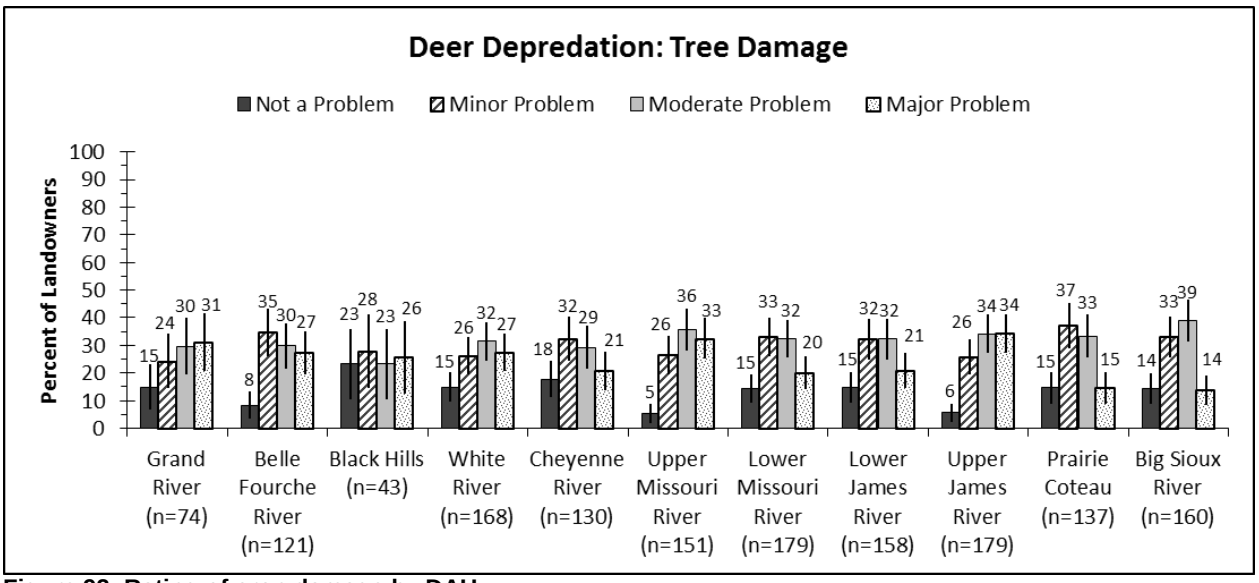


**Figure 92: Rating of crop damage by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

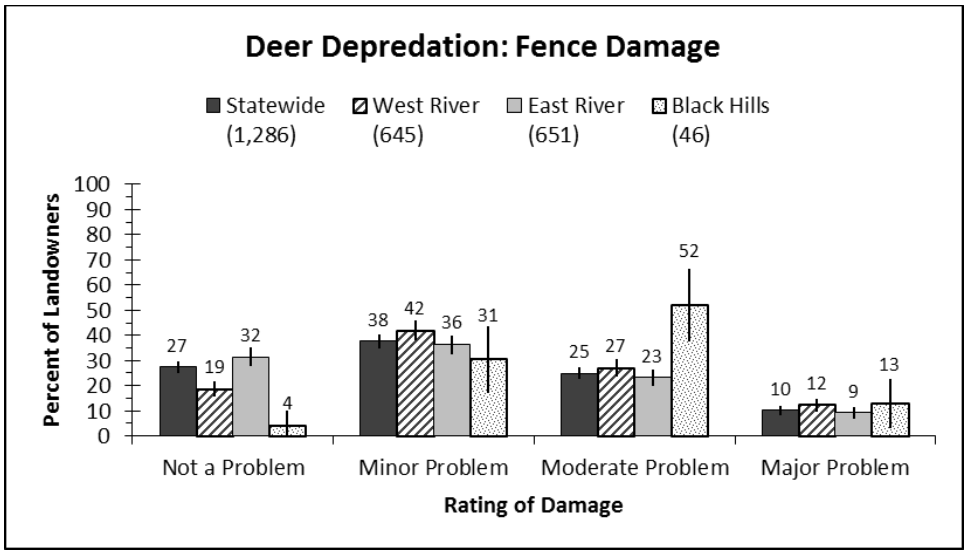


**Figure 93: Regional ratings of fence damage**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

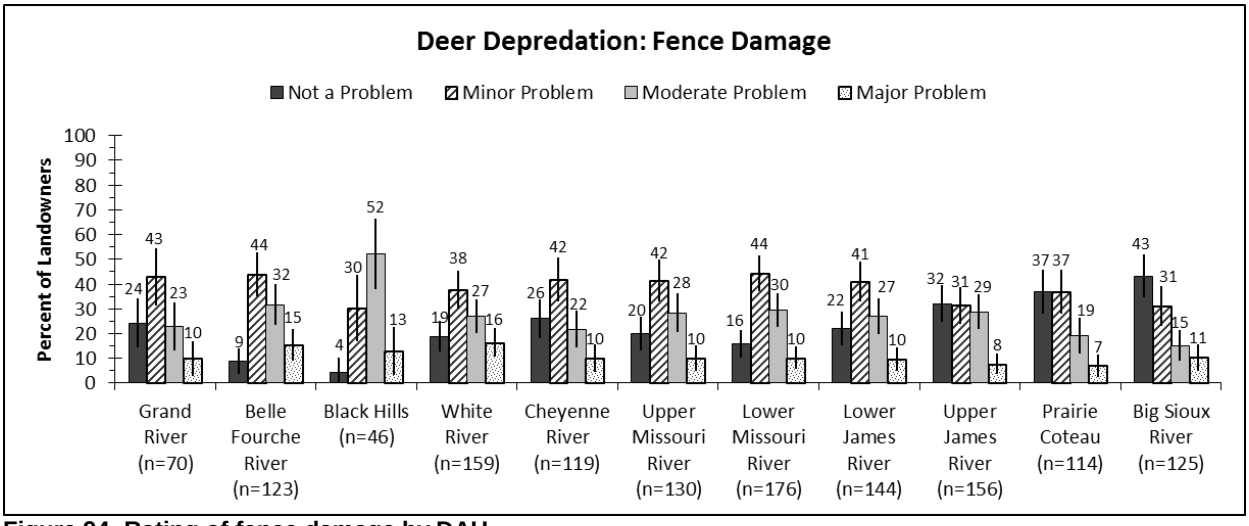


**Figure 94: Rating of fence damage by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Over three-quarters of landowners (79%) with deer depredation experienced damage to livestock feed. On average, landowners statewide rated this as a minor problem ($\bar{x}$=2.3 se=0.03). East River landowners, however, were more likely to rate this damage as less of a problem than West River landowners ($\chi^2$=75.18 (6, N=1,293) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.171). Over

half (57%) of West River landowners rated livestock feed damage as either a moderate or major problem, while 65 percent of East River landowners rated this as either not a problem or a minor problem (figure 95). Nearly one-third (31%) of landowners in the Big Sioux River DAU rated this as not a problem, while nearly half (46%) of landowners in the Black Hills rated livestock feed damage as a moderate problem (figure 96). Finally, a few landowners (6%) statewide indicated they experienced other deer damage on their property over the past five years. This type of damage received the most severe average rating of the five types of damage, with landowners statewide rating it is a major problem ($\bar{x}$=3.3 se=0.12). This type of damage was predominantly described as vehicle damage from collisions and damage to equipment from shed antlers. Black Hills landowners were more likely than East and West River Landowners to indicate they experienced this type of damage; however, there was no significant difference in how landowners rated the severity of the damage across regions. Over half of landowners statewide (56%) rated the damage as a major problem and 24 percent rated it as a moderate problem (figure 97).

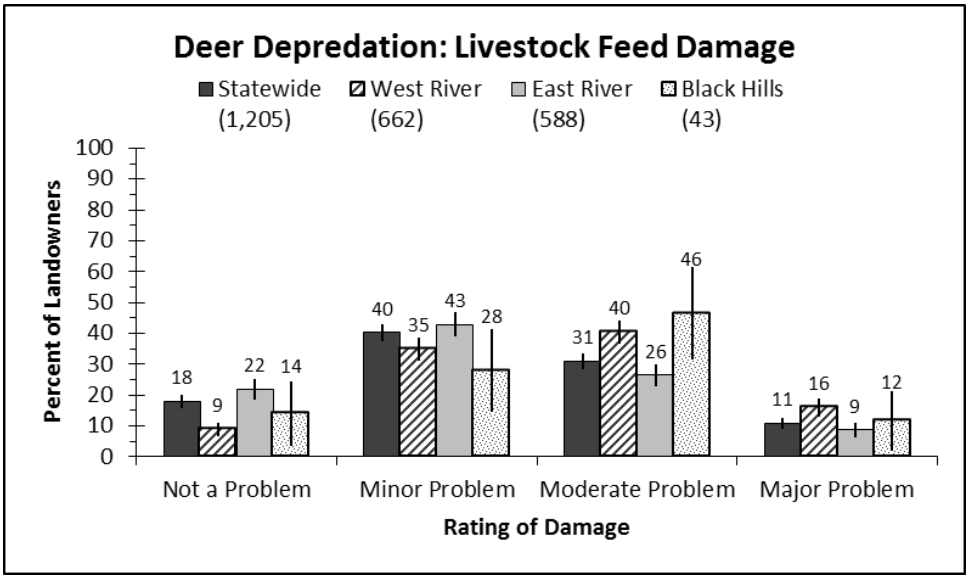


**Figure 95: Regional ratings of livestock feed damage**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

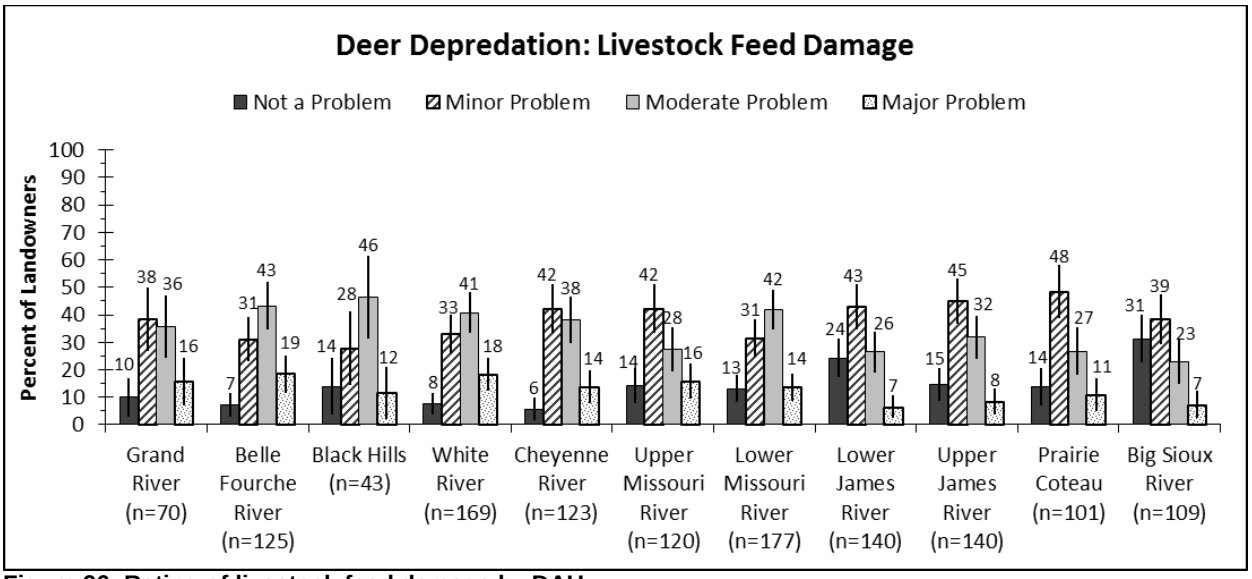


**Figure 96: Rating of livestock feed damage by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

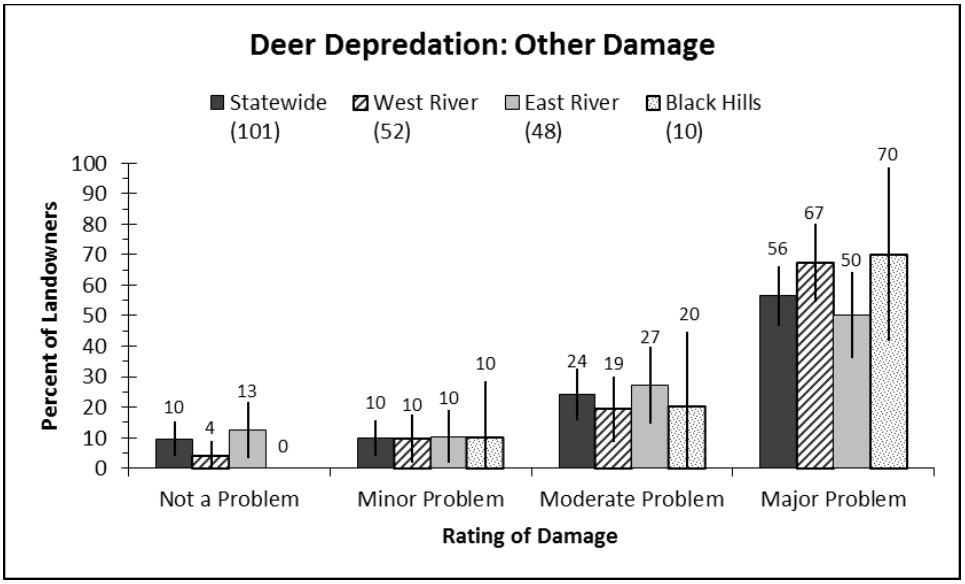


**Figure 97: Regional ratings of other damage**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The vast majority of landowners (90%) indicated they did not request any help from GFP for deer damage problems on their land (figure 98). West River and Black Hills landowners were more likely than East River landowners to indicate they asked for assistance from GFP

($\chi^2$=42.95 (2, N=1,684) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.160). The Black Hills DAU had the highest percentage of landowners (31%) who requested help, and the Lower James River and Big Sioux River DAUs had the lowest percentage of landowners (6%) requesting help (figure 99). In general, landowners who rated the deer damage done on their property as being more severe were more likely than landowners with less severe damage to have requested help from GFP (F(1, 1657)=.243, p<0.000). Landowners who requested assistance from GFP were more likely than landowners who did not request assistance to rate the damage as a major problem (figure 100). When asked how the services provided by GFP addressed their problems, approximately one-third of landowners seeking assistance indicated the services addressed their problems somewhat (figure 101). Over one-quarter (28%) indicated the services mostly or completely addressed their problems, while 25 percent said the services provided did not help at all with their problems.

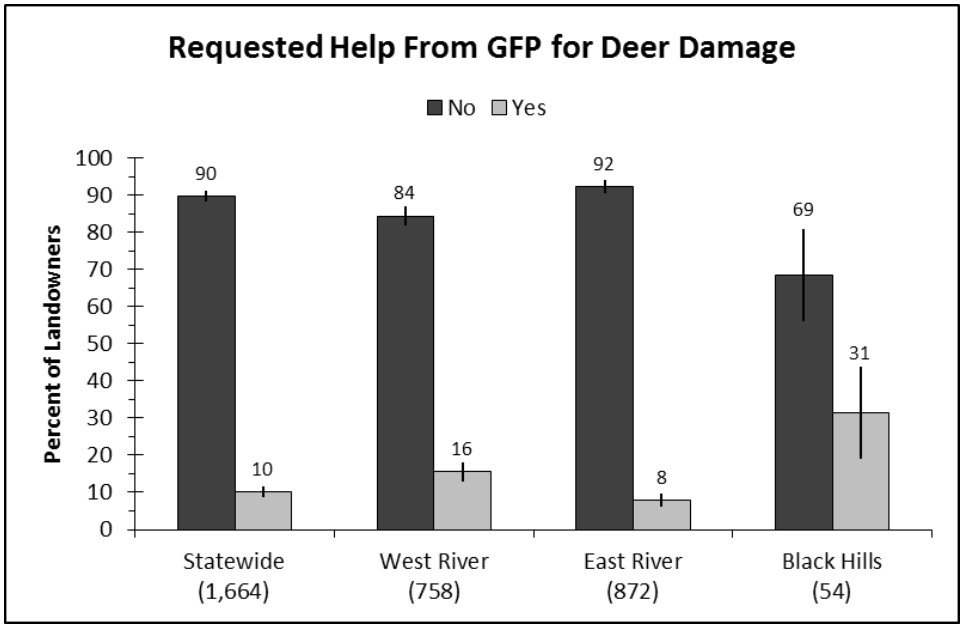


**Figure 98: Landowners' request for help**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

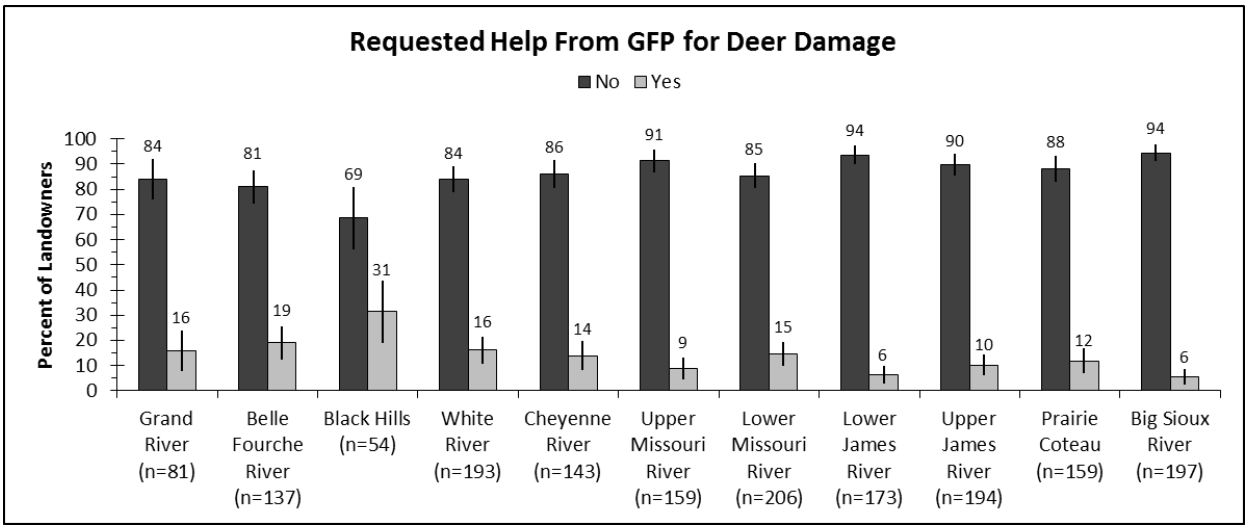


**Figure 99: Landowners' request for help by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

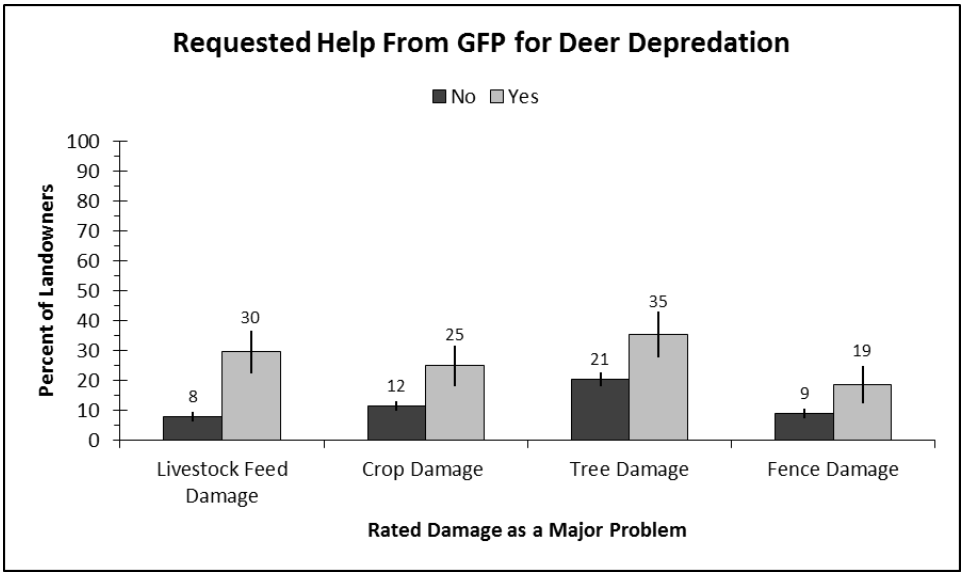


**Figure 100: Landowners' request for help by severity of damage**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

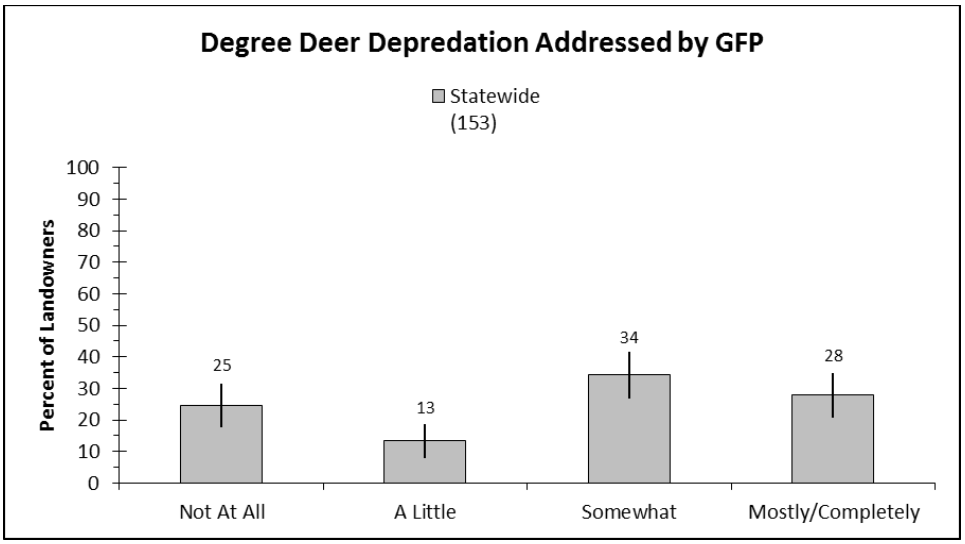


**Figure 101: Degree deer damage addressed by GFP**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

When asked whether or not more deer hunters would help reduce deer damage on their land, the majority of landowners (61%) did not think so (figure 102). There were statistically significant but negligible differences across the regions ($\chi^2$=9.701 (2, N=1,614) p=0.008; Cramer's *V*=0.078). The Grand River and Cheyenne River DAUs had the highest proportions of landowners (78% and 74%, respectively) who did not think more hunters would help (figure 103). Just under half of the landowners in the Big Sioux River and Lower Missouri River DAUs (46% and 45%, respectively) thought more landowners would be helpful in reducing deer damage on their property.

Across the state, the majority of landowners allowed some form of deer hunting on their land (figure 104). About half (51%) of landowners indicated that either themselves or their immediate family hunted deer on their property in the past year, and 58 percent indicated they provided free access to at least some non-family members. Approximately 11 percent of landowners statewide indicated there was no deer hunting on their land in the past year. Less than 5 percent of landowners statewide provided some form of paid hunting (charged an access fee, provided guide/service, and/or leased hunting rights) on their property (table 7). West River

landowners (10%) were more likely than East River landowners (2%) to have had paid hunting opportunities on their land; whereas, East River landowners were more likely to have hunted themselves or allowed hunting by immediate family members ($\chi^2$=99.91 (1, N=2,649) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.194).

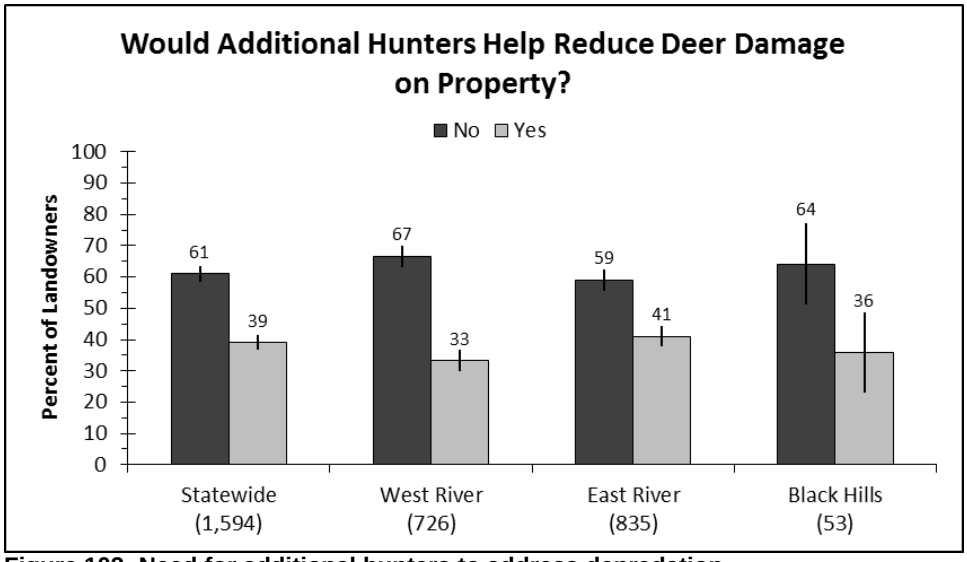


**Figure 102: Need for additional hunters to address depredation**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

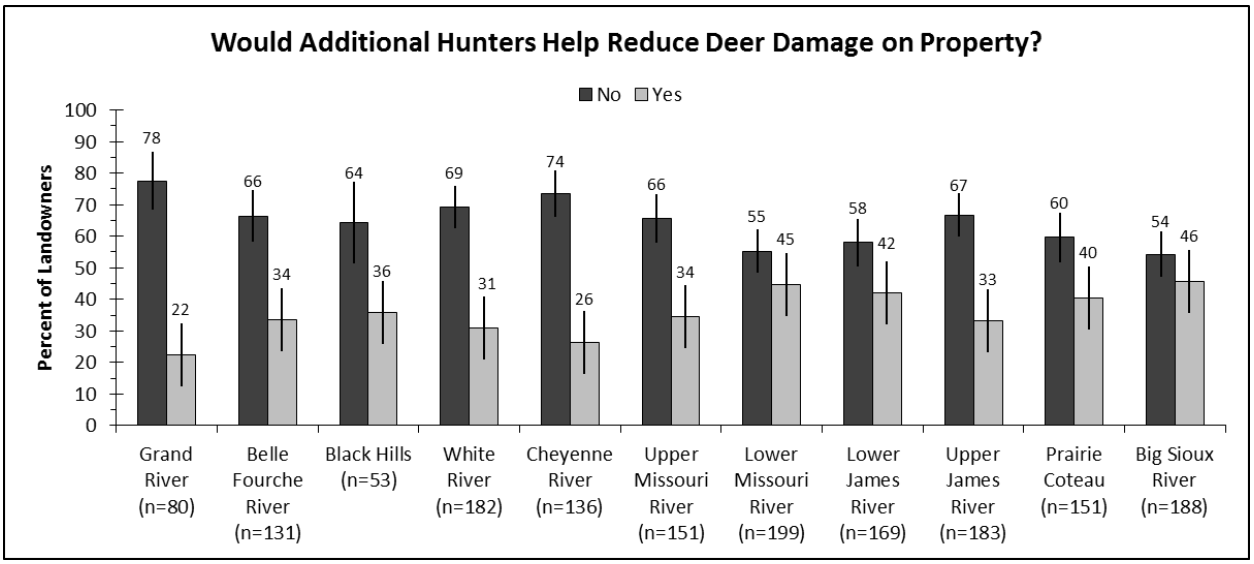


**Figure 103: Need for additional hunters to address depredation by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

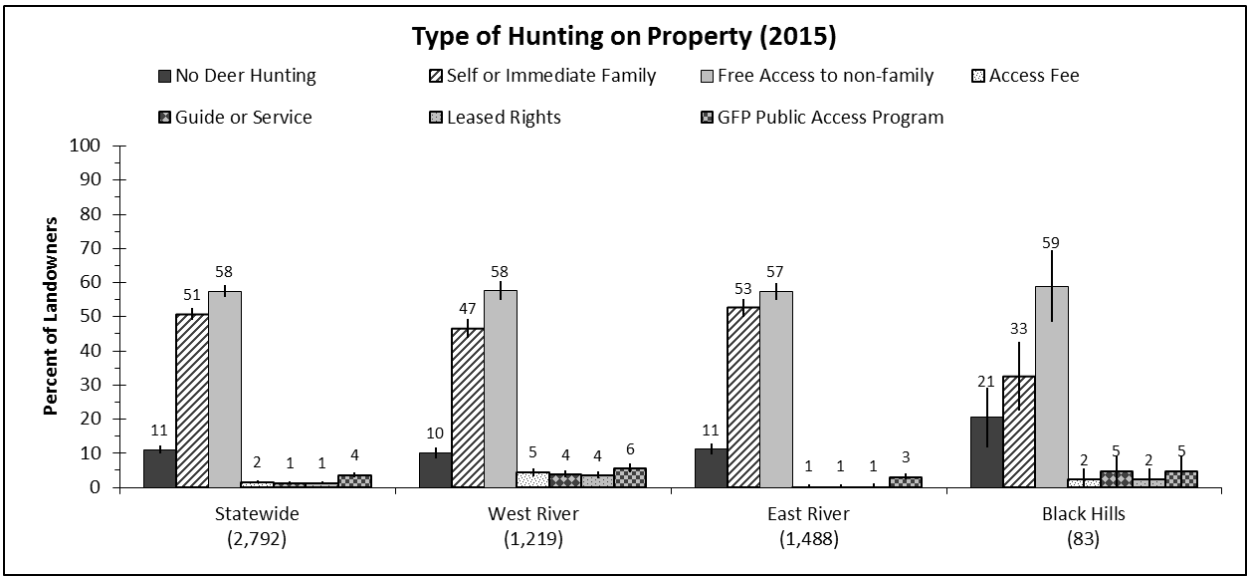


**Figure 104: Type of deer hunting on property in past year**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses ***Totals may not sum to 100% as more than 1 type of hunting may have occurred.

**Table 7: Type of deer hunting on property in past year**

| | No Deer Hunting | Self or Family | Free Access Non-Family | Access Fee | Guide or Service | Leased Rights | Pay to Hunt (combined)* | GFP Access Program |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ----------Percent---------- | | | | | | | |
| Statewide | 10.5 | 51.2 | 58.0 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| East River | 10.6 | 52.9 | 57.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 3.2 |
| West River/Black Hills | 10.1 | 45.7 | 58.7 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 10.4 | 5.4 |

NOTE: Pay to hunt combines access fee, guide or service, and leased rights. The sum of individual percentages may not match the total as some landowners may have offered multiple pay to hunt options.

*Antlerless Deer Management* – Similar to the question asked of hunters, landowners were asked to indicate their level of support for seven management strategies that could be used in the event deer populations were too high. The seven strategies proposed to landowners were: 1) lengthen the regular firearm deer season; 2) increase the number of licenses/hunters; 3) include antlerless-only days in late December/early January; 4) include antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season; 5) allow the use of antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope season; 6) increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free); and 7) split

seasons, resulting in two season openers. The majority of landowners supported four of the seven reduction strategies.

Increase number of licenses/hunters – Nearly two-thirds (63%) of landowners across the state supported increasing the number of licenses/hunters when deer populations were too high (figure 105). There were no statistically significant differences regionally in landowners'' level of support. Support for this strategy ranged from 53 percent of landowners in the Cheyenne River DAU to 66 percent of landowners in the Upper Missouri River DAU (figure 106).

Antlerless-only days in December/January – Fifty-nine percent of landowners in the state supported including antlerless-only days in late December and early January when populations were too high (figure 107). While there were significant differences regionally, effect size suggest these differences are likely not substantive ($\chi^2$=55.87 (8, N=2,639) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.103). Approximately two-thirds (65%) of West River landowners supported or strongly supported antlerless days in late December and early January compared with 58 percent of East River landowners. The Lower Missouri River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (71%) who supported this strategy; while the Black Hills DAU had the lowest proportion (37%) of supportive landowners (figure 108). Among East River DAUs, the Upper Missouri River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (65%) who supported this strategy; the Prairie Coteau DAU had the lowest proportion (50%).

Lengthen regular firearm deer season – Approximately half (51%) of landowners across the state supported lengthening the regular firearm deer season when populations were too high (figure 109). Regionally there was no statistically significant difference in landowners' level of support for this reduction strategy. The proportion of landowners who supported this strategy ranged from 41 percent in the Black Hills DAU to 56 percent in the Lower Missouri River and Big Sioux River DAUs (figure 110).

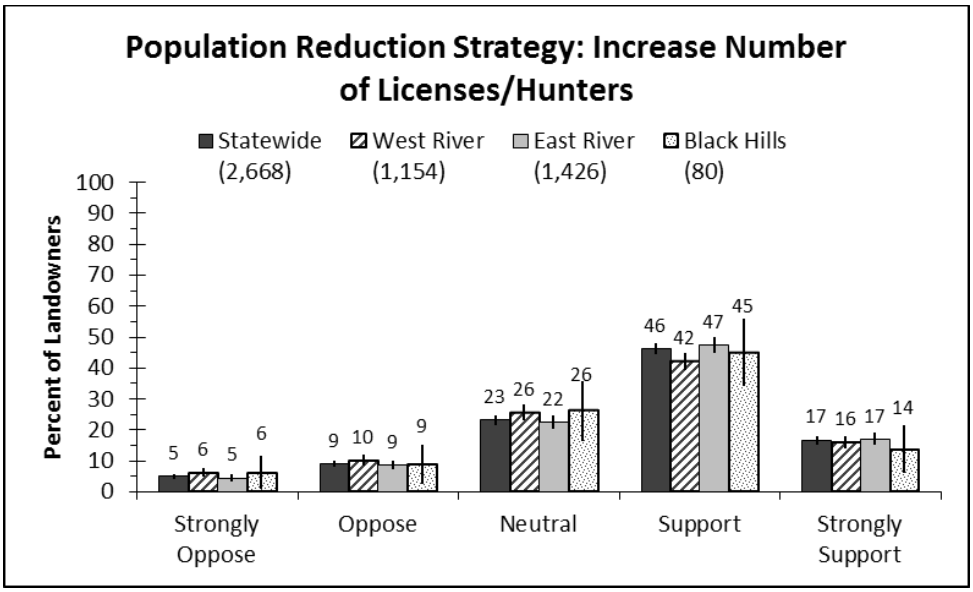


**Figure 105: Level of support for increasing number of licenses/hunters**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

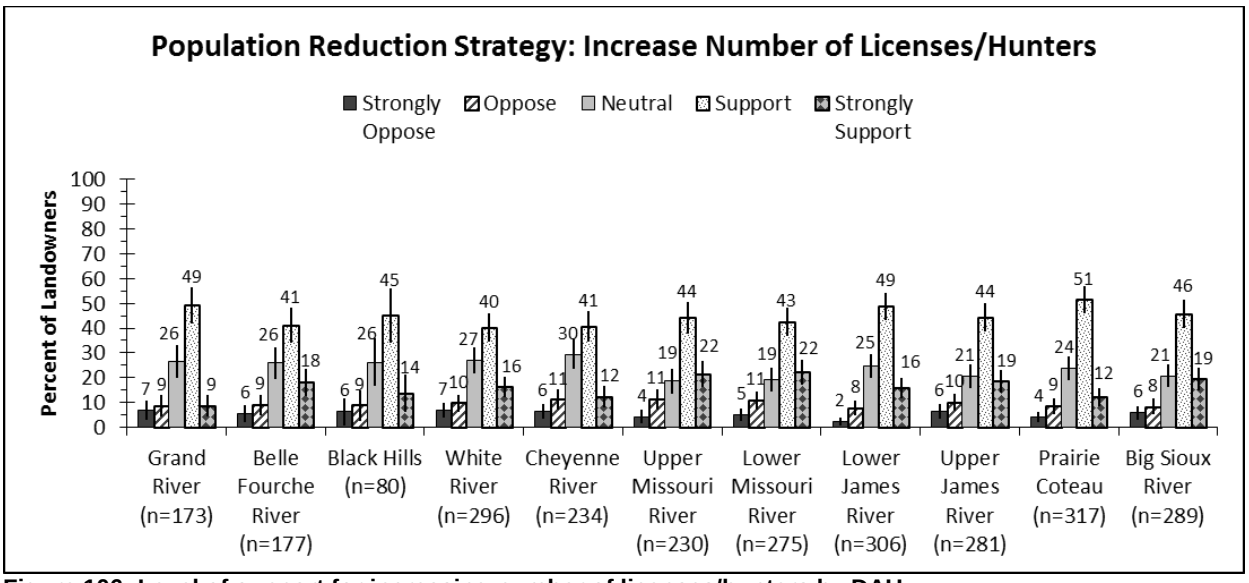


**Figure 106: Level of support for increasing number of licenses/hunters by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

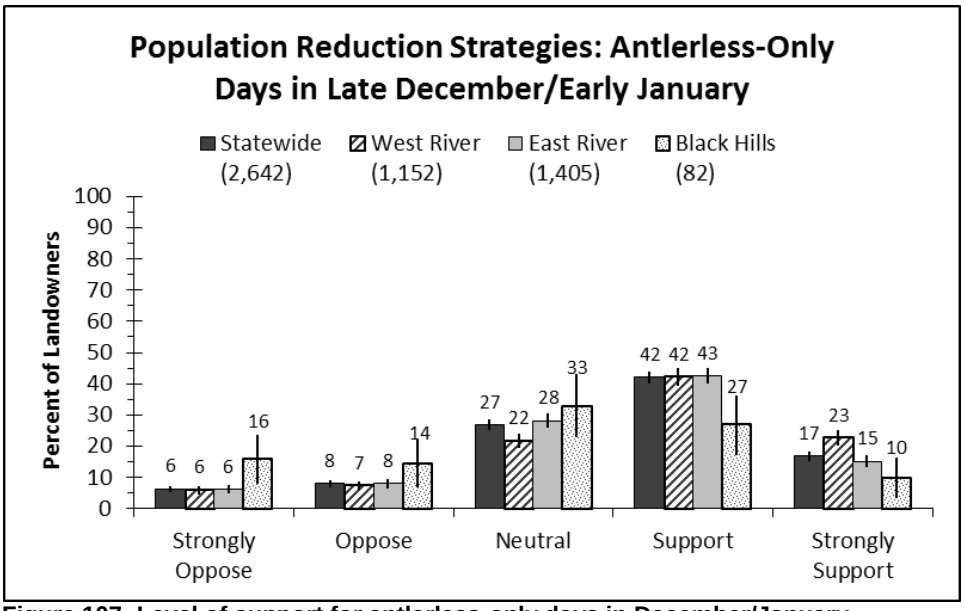


**Figure 107: Level of support for antlerless-only days in December/January**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

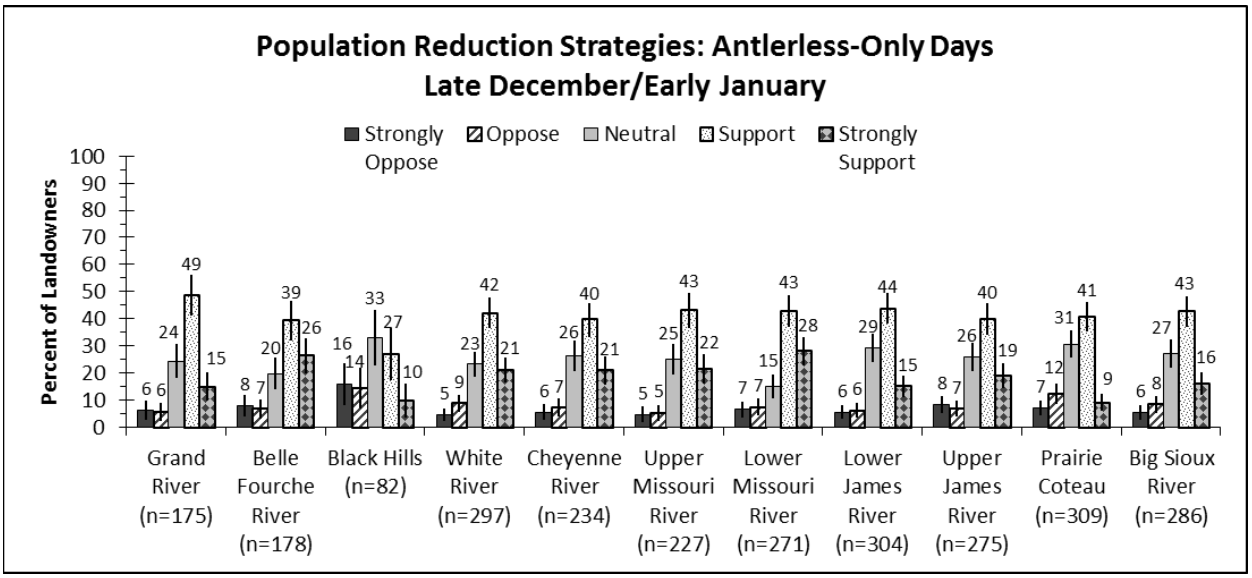


**Figure 108: Level of support for antlerless-only days in December/January by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

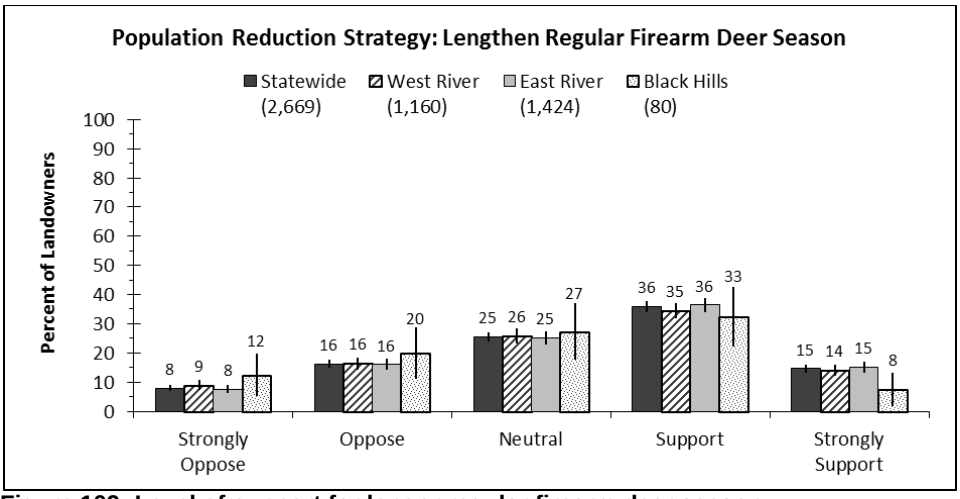


**Figure 109: Level of support for longer regular firearm deer season**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

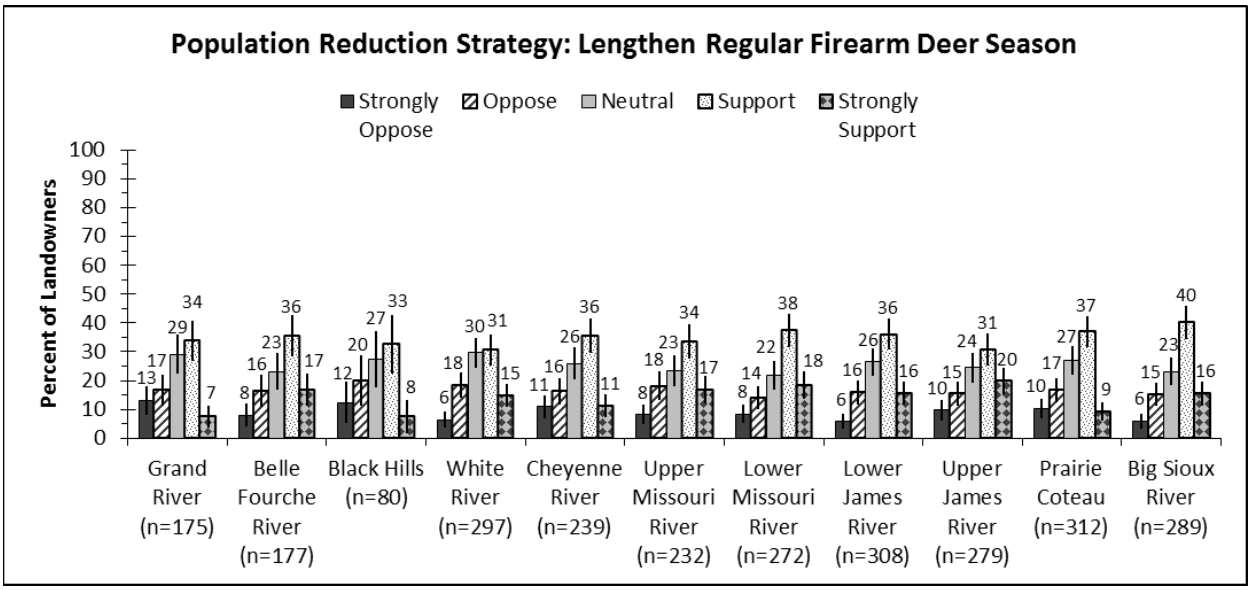


**Figure 110: Leve of support for longer regular firearm deer season by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer – Similarly, 51 percent of landowners in the state supported having antlerless-only days immediately after the firearm deer season (figure 111). Regionally there were statistically significant differences in landowners' level of support; however, the effect size indicates these differences are negligible ($\chi^2$=21.63 (8,

N=2,604) p=0.006; Cramer's *V*=0.064). Proportions of landowners who supported this strategy ranged from 44 percent in the Black Hills and Prairie Coteau DAUs to 59 percent in the Lower Missouri River DAU (figure 112).

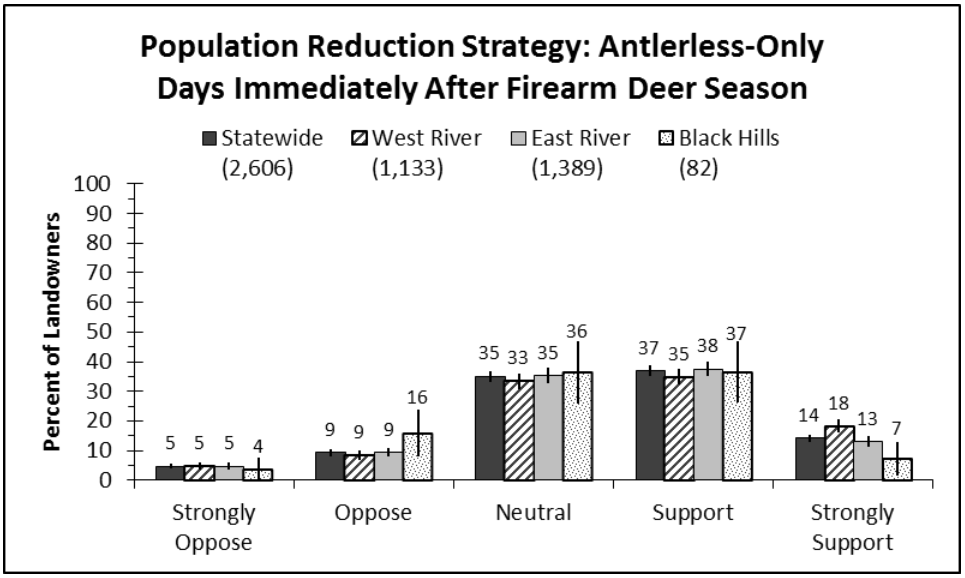


**Figure 111: Level of support for antlerless-only days immediately after firearm season**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

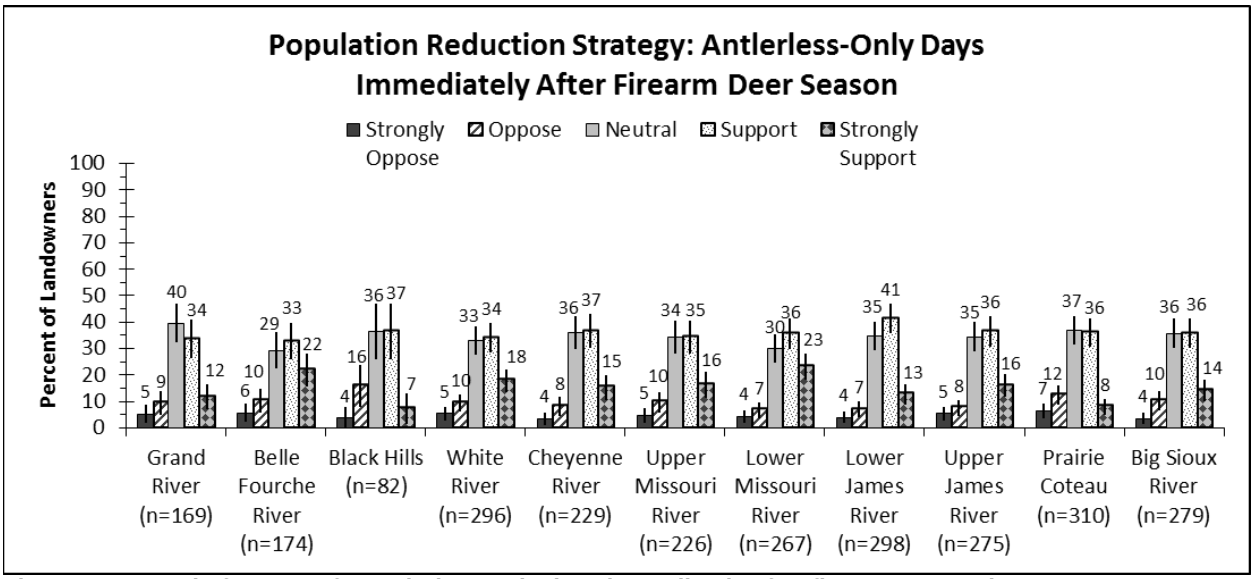


**Figure 112: Level of support for antlerless-only days immediately after firearm season by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Split seasons – The reduction strategy receiving the least amount of support was the use of split seasons, resulting in two season openers (figure 113). Less than one-quarter of landowners (21%) across the state supported this strategy, while over one-third (37%) opposed it and 42 percent were neutral toward it. Regionally there was no statistically significant difference in landowners' level of support for split seasons. The proportion of landowners opposed to split seasons ranged from 34 percent in the Lower Missouri River DAU to nearly half (49%) in the Black Hills DAU (figure 114).

Antlerless-only deer tags during firearm antelope – Approximately one-third (32%) of landowners across the state were opposed to allowing the use of antlerless-only deer tags during the October firearm antelope season compared to 27 percent who supported this strategy (figure 115). Regionally there were statistically significant differences; however, effect size indicates these differences are likely negligible ($\chi^2$=42.17 (8, N=2,596) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.090). West River landowners were more likely to support this strategy than East River ladnowners (34% compared to 25%). Support for this strategy ranged from 22 percent of landowners in the Lower James River and Prairie Coteau DAUs to 36 percent of landowners in the Bell Fourche Ruiver DAU (figure 116).

Increase double and triple tag licenses – The final deer reduction strategy of increasing the number of double and triple tag licenses was supported by 42 percent of landowners across the state (figure 117). There were statistically significant differences across regions, but effect size indicates these differences are negligible ($\chi^2$=25.52 (8, N=2,646) p=0.001; Cramer's *V*=0.069). Forty-six percent of West River landowners supported this strategy compared to 42 percent of East River landowners. Support for this ranged from 33 percent of landowners in the Prairie Coteau DAU to 54 percent of landowners in the Lower Missouri River DAU (figure 118).

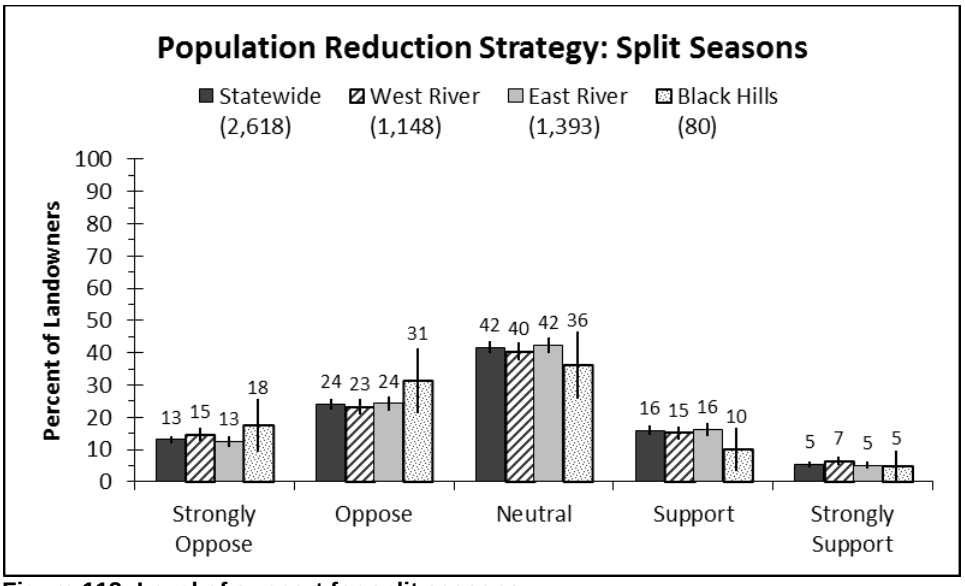


**Figure 113: Level of support for split seasons**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

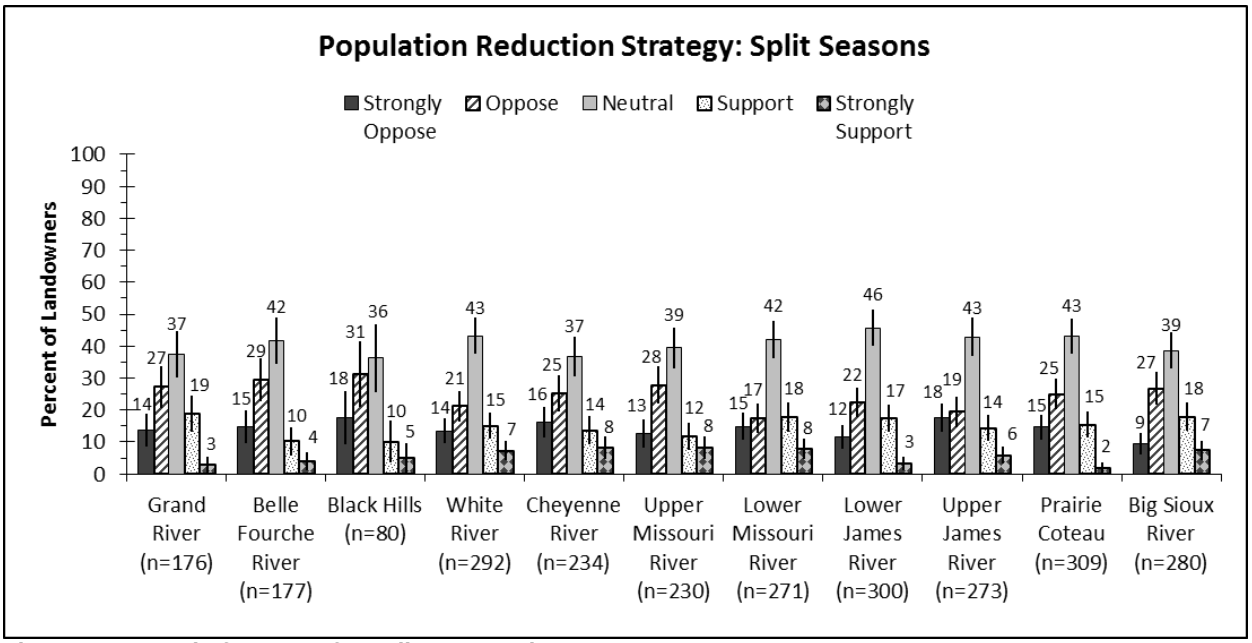


**Figure 114: Level of support for split seasons by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

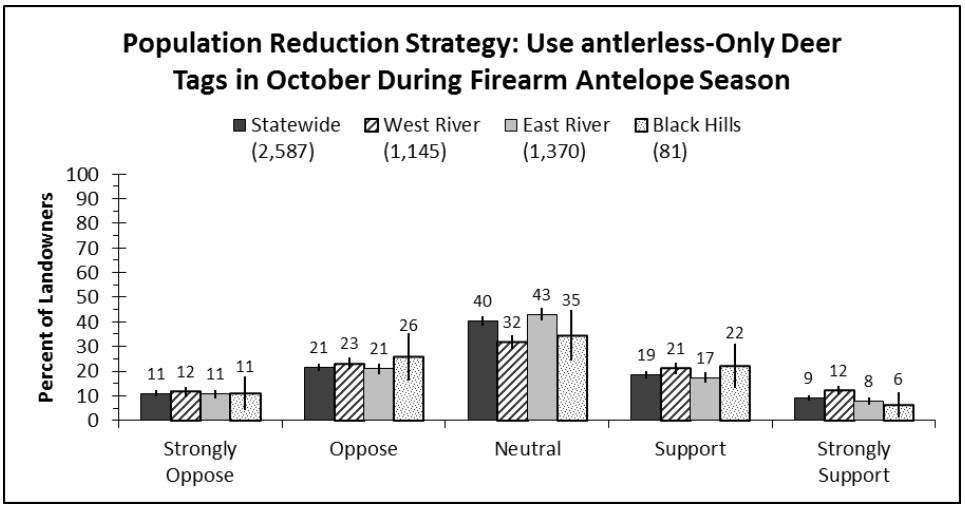


**Figure 115: Level of support for antlerless-only deer tags during firearm antelope**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

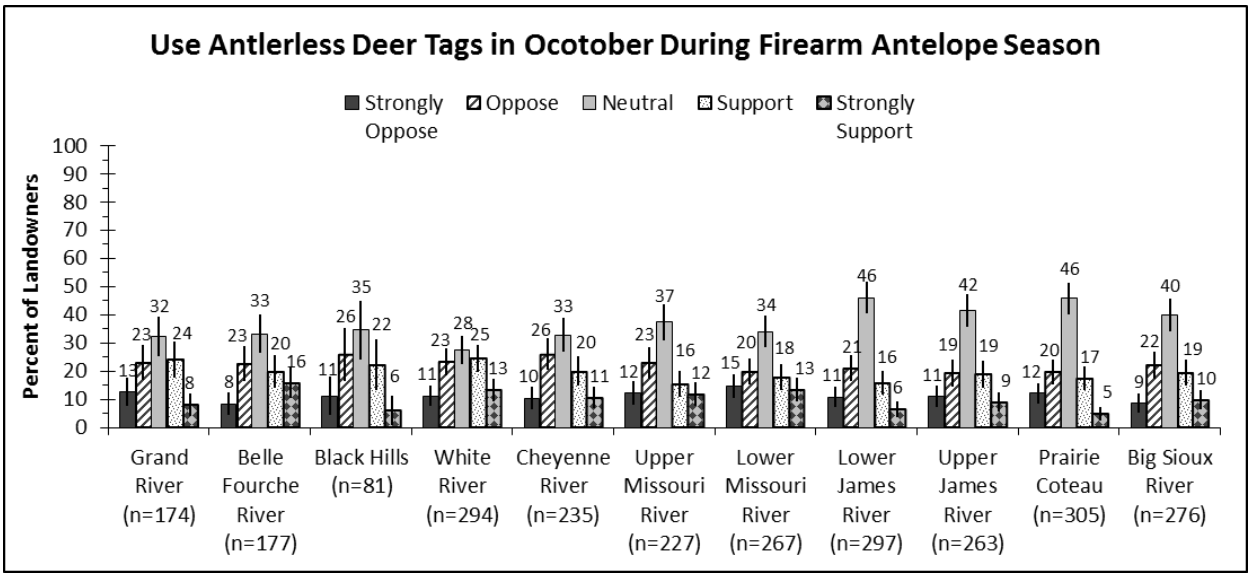


**Figure 116: Level of support for antlerless-only deer tags during firearm antelope by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

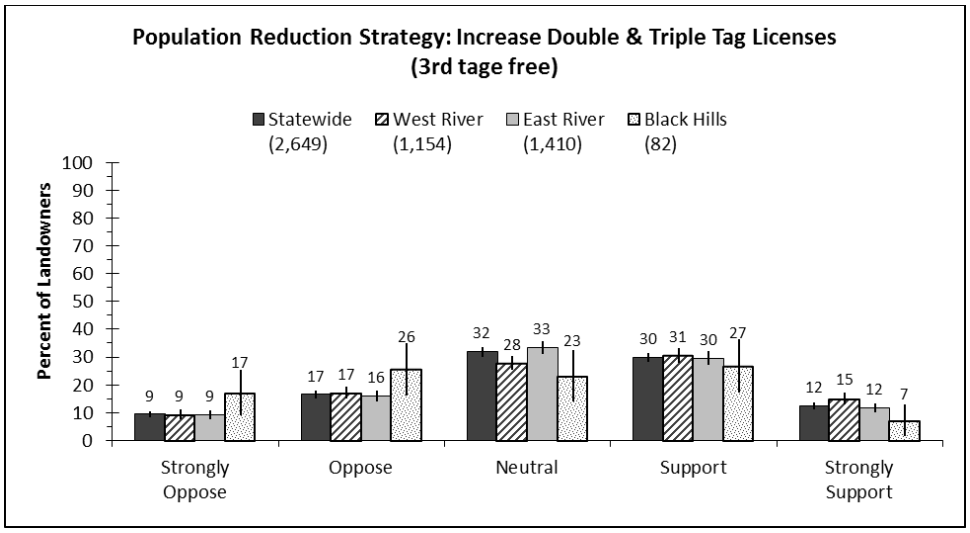


**Figure 117: Level of support for increasing double & triple tag licenses**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

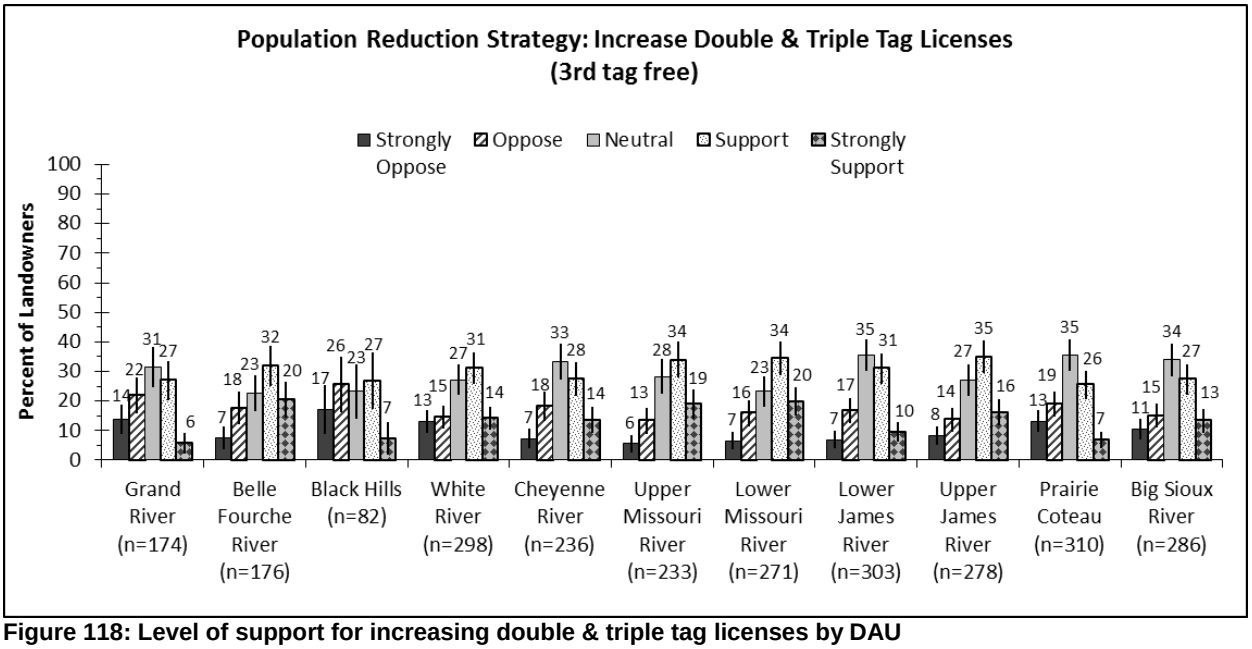


**Figure 118: Level of support for increasing double & triple tag licenses by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Deer Season Structure* – Similar to the questions asked of deer hunters, landowners were asked their opinions about the deer season lengths and dates. Landowner opinions on East River, West River, and Black Hills firearm deer season lengths and dates differed significantly across regions.

In 2015 the East River firearm deer season ran for a total of 25 days. The majority of landowners across the state (53%) believed the East River deer season length was about right (figure 119). East River landowners (60%) were more likely than West River landowners (26%) to believe this season length was about right; however, West River landowners (65%) were more likely than East River landowners (14%) to indicate they had no opinion ($\chi^2$=666.18 (6, N=2,395) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.373). The proportion of East River landowenrs who thought the season length was about right ranged from 53 percent in the Big Sioux River DAU to 64 percent in the Upper Missouri River DAU (figure 120). The dates for the East River season ran from November 21$^{st}$ through December 6$^{th}$ and antlerless-only from December 26$^{th}$ through January 3$^{rd}$. The majority of landowners across the state (60%) thought the season dates were about right (figure 121). West River landowners were more likely than East River landowners (67% compared to 18%) to indicate they had no opinion regarding the season dates ($\chi^2$=591.09 (6, N=2,387) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.352). The proportion of East River landowners who thought the season dates were about right ranged from 62 percent in the Lower James River DAU to 76 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU (figure 122).

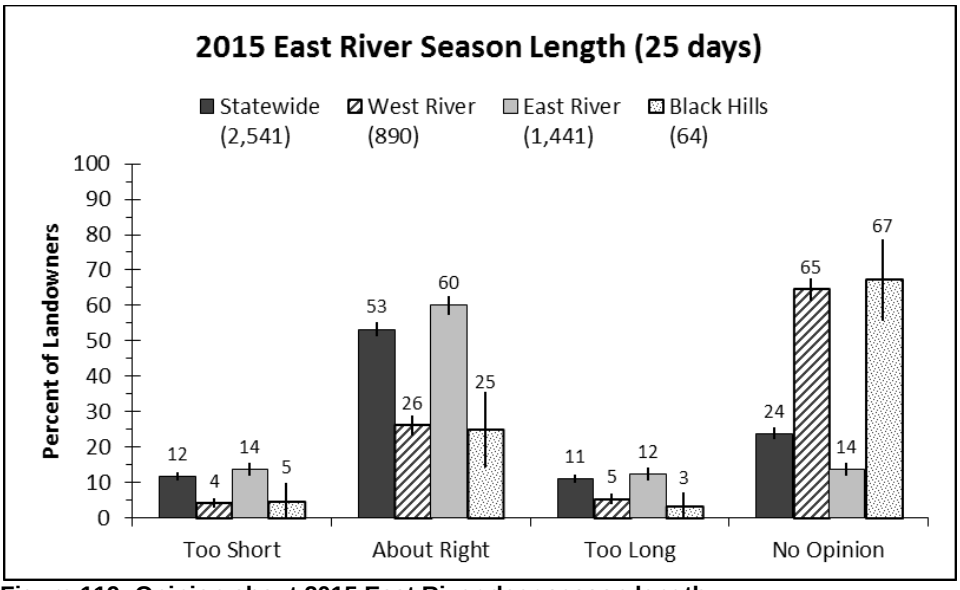


**Figure 119: Opinion about 2015 East River deer season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

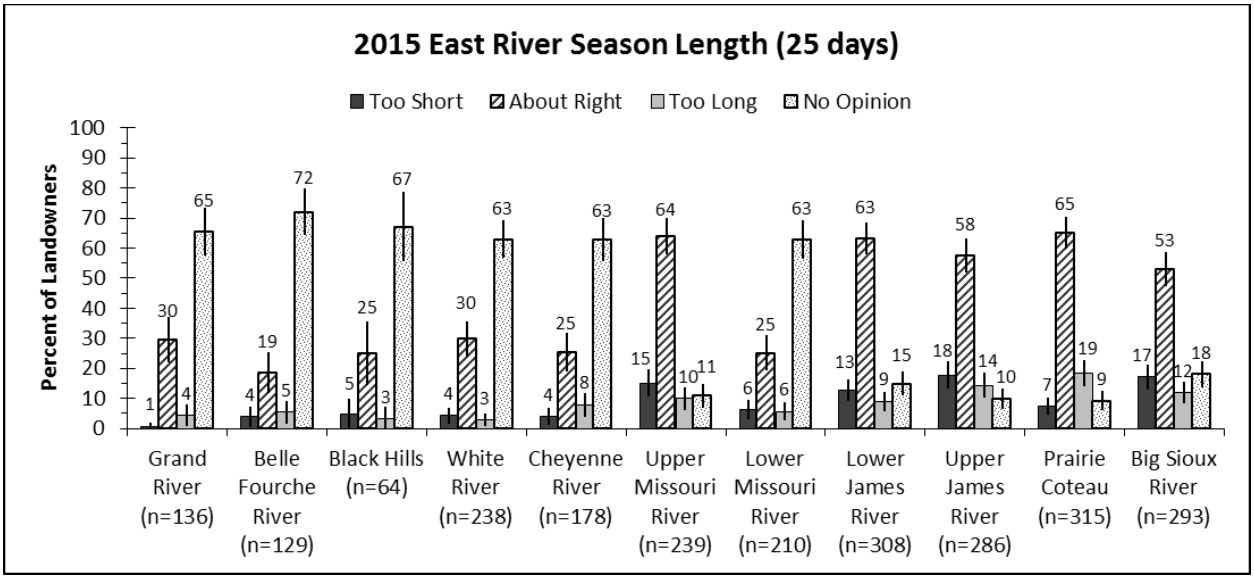


**Figure 120: Opinion about 2015 East River deer season length by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

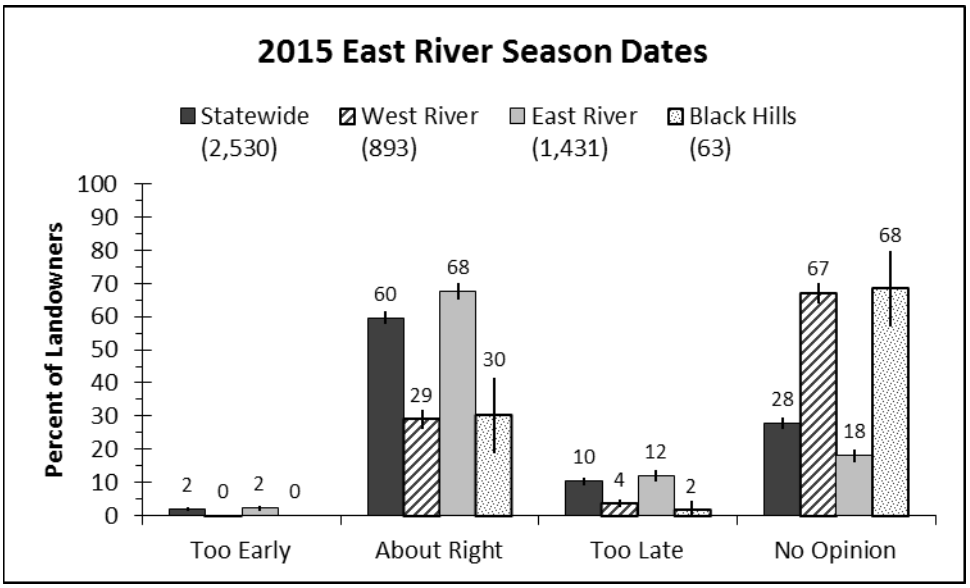


**Figure 121: Opinion about 2015 East River deer season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

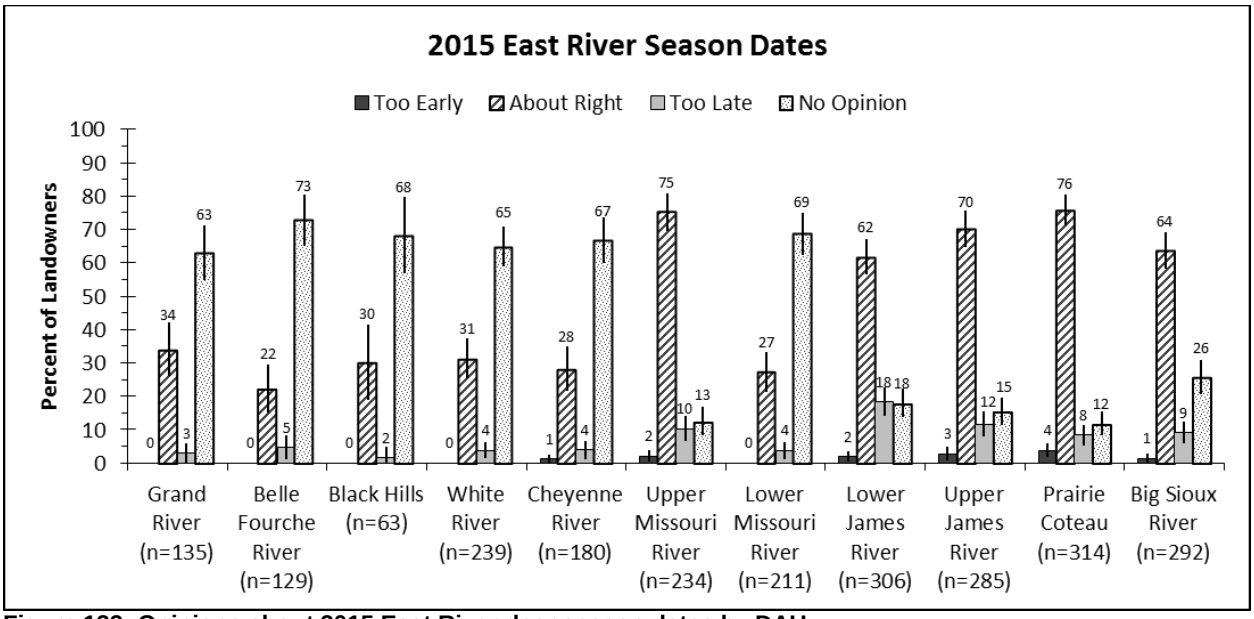


**Figure 122: Opinions about 2015 East River deer season dates by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

In 2016, the West River firearm deer season ran a total of 16 days. Across the state, 41 percent of landowners thought the West River firearm deer season length was about right and 15 percent felt it was too short (figure 123). West River landowners (53%) were more likely than East River landowners (35%) to believe the season length was about right; however, the majority of East River landowners (53%) indicated they had no opinion about the season length compared to 13 percent of West River landowners ($\chi^2$=460.24 (6, N=2,418) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.308). The proportion of West River landowners who thought the season length was about right ranged from 50 percent in the Lower Missouri River DAU to 65 percent in the Grand River DAU (figure 124). The Lower Missouri River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (38%) who thought the season was too short. The dates for the West River deer season were November 14th through 29th. There was no antlerless-only portion associated with the West River deer season in 2015. The majority of landowners across the state thought the dates were either about right or they had no opinion (figure 125). Half of landowners (50%) statewide felt the season dates were about right; however, West River landowners were more likely (71%) than East River landowners (42%) to think the dates were about right ($\chi^2$=421.48 (6, N=2,401) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.296). Additionally, East River landowners (56%) were more likely than West River landowners (17%) to indicate they had no opinion about the season dates. The proportion of West River landowners who thought the season dates were about right ranged from 67 percent in the Cheyenne River DAU to 74 percent in the Lower Missouri River DAU (figure 126).

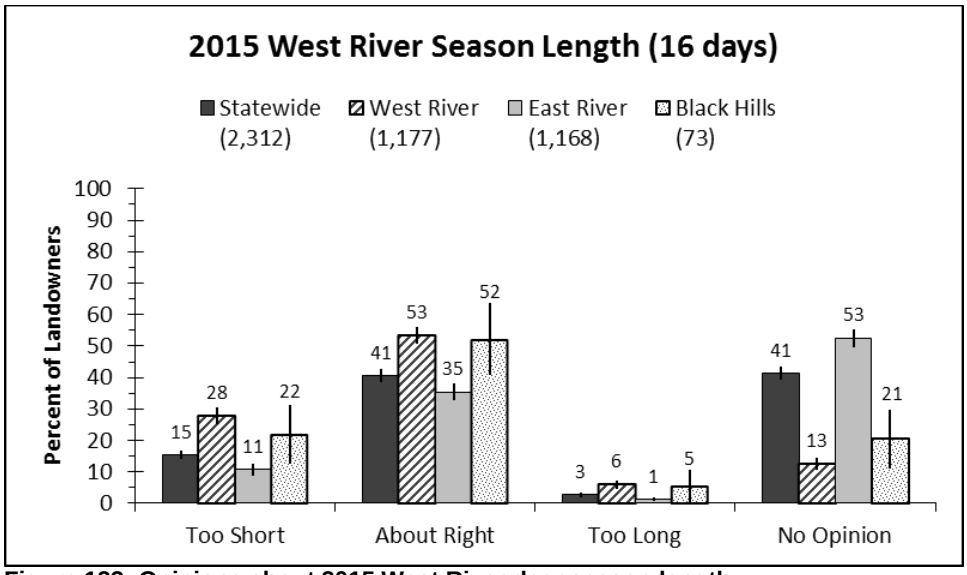


**Figure 123: Opinions about 2015 West River deer season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

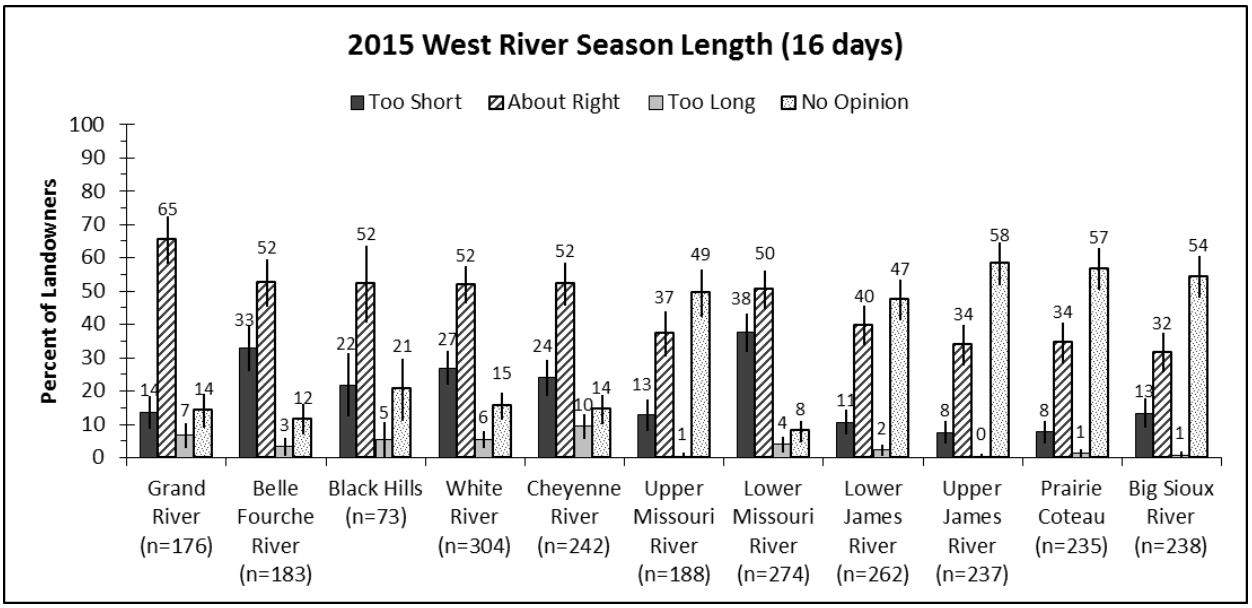


**Figure 124: Opinions about 2015 West River deer season length by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

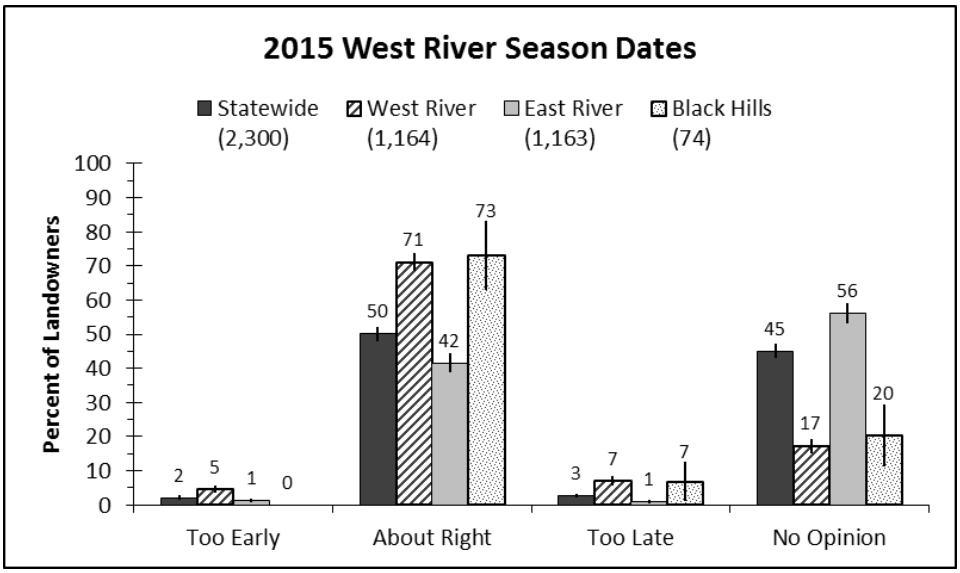


**Figure 125: Opinions about 2015 West River deer season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

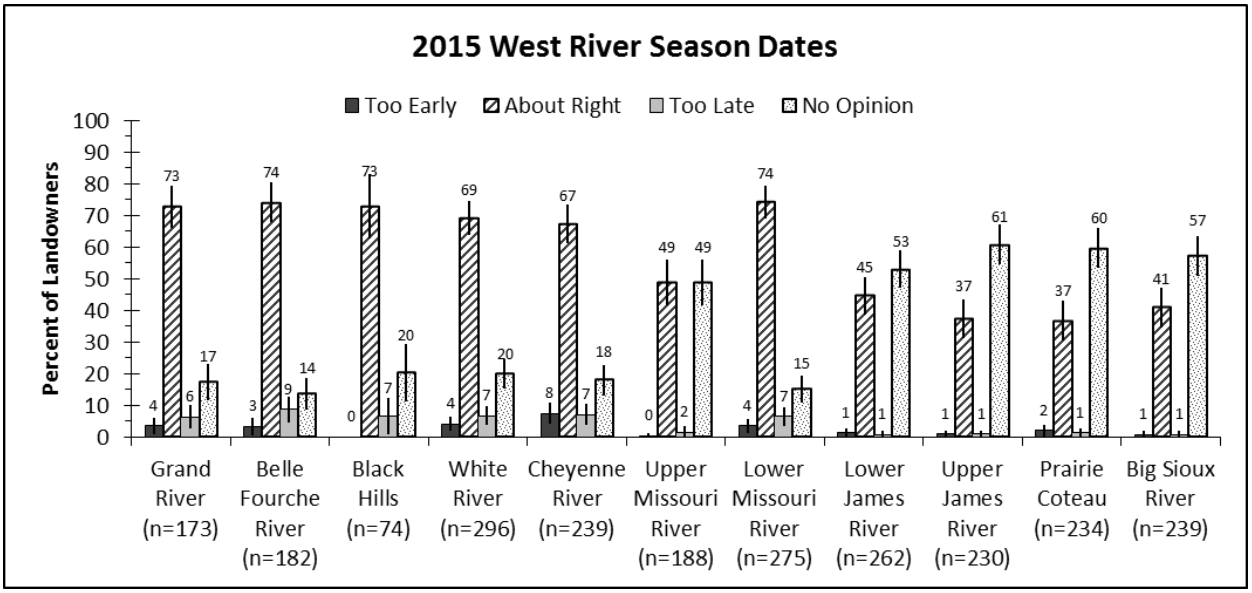


**Figure 126: Opinions about 2015 West River deer season dates by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The 2015 Black Hills firearm deer season ran a total of 30 days. The majority of landowners statewide (58%) indicated they had no opinion about the Black Hills deer season length and about one-third (35%) thought it was about right (figure 127). Black Hills landowners (64%) were more likely than East River or West River landowners (34%) to think the season was about right ($\chi^2$=43.51 (6, N=2,114) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.101). East River (60%) and West River (56%) landowners were more likely than Black Hills landowners (24%) to indicate they had no opinion. The proportion of landowners outside of the Black Hills who thought season length was about right ranged from 31 percent in the Upper James River DAU to 41 percent in the Belle Fourche River DAU (figure 128). The dates for the 2015 Black Hills deer season ran from November 1$^{st}$ to the 30$^{th}$. The majority of landowners across the state (61%) indicated they had no opinion about the Black Hills season dates (figure 129). Black Hills landowners, however, were much more likely than West River or East River landowners (77% compared to 36%) to think the dates were about right ($\chi^2$=50.02 (6, N=2,110) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.109). East River (62%) and West River (61%) landowners were more likely than Black Hills landowners (22%) to have no opinion about the season dates. The propotion of landowners who thought the dates were about right ranged from 33 percent in the Lower Missouri river and Upper James River DAUs to 76 percent in the Black Hills DAU (figure 130).

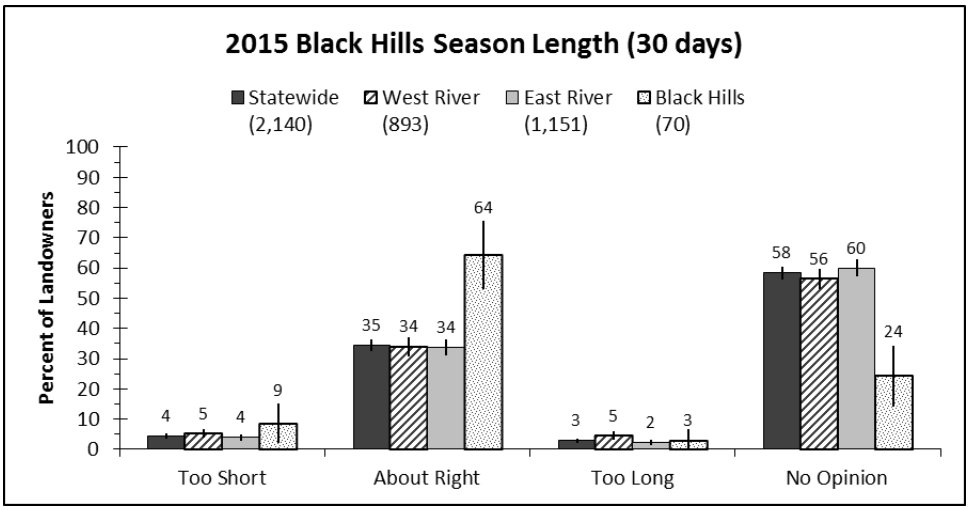


**Figure 127: Opinions about 2015 Black Hills deer season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

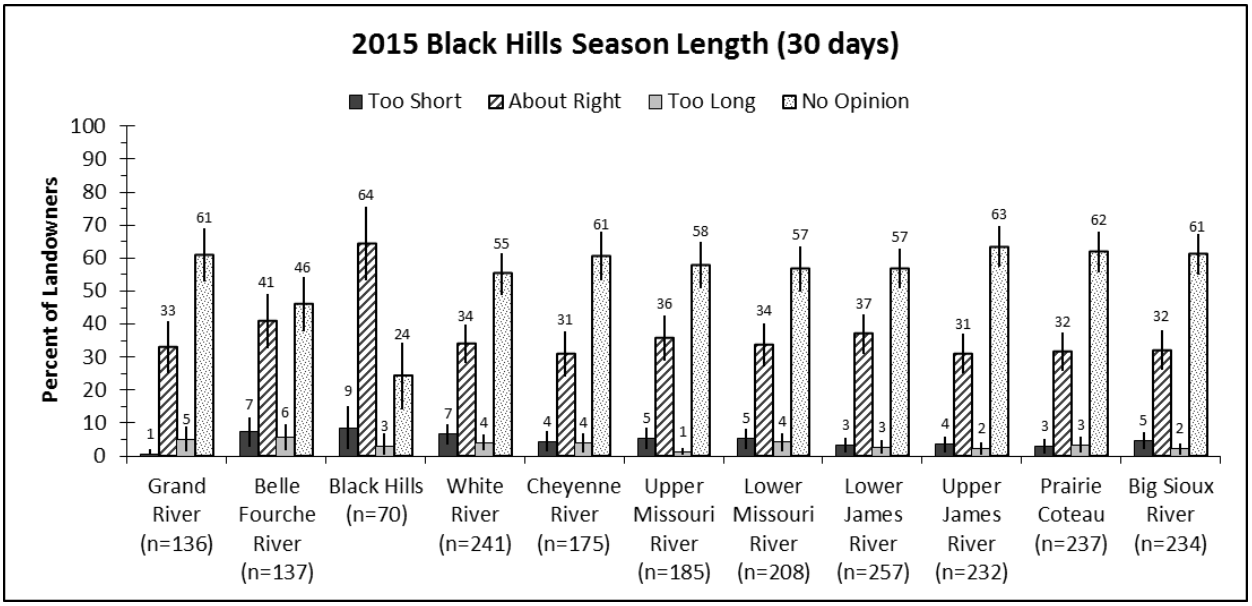


**Figure 128: Opinions about 2015 Black Hills deer season length by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

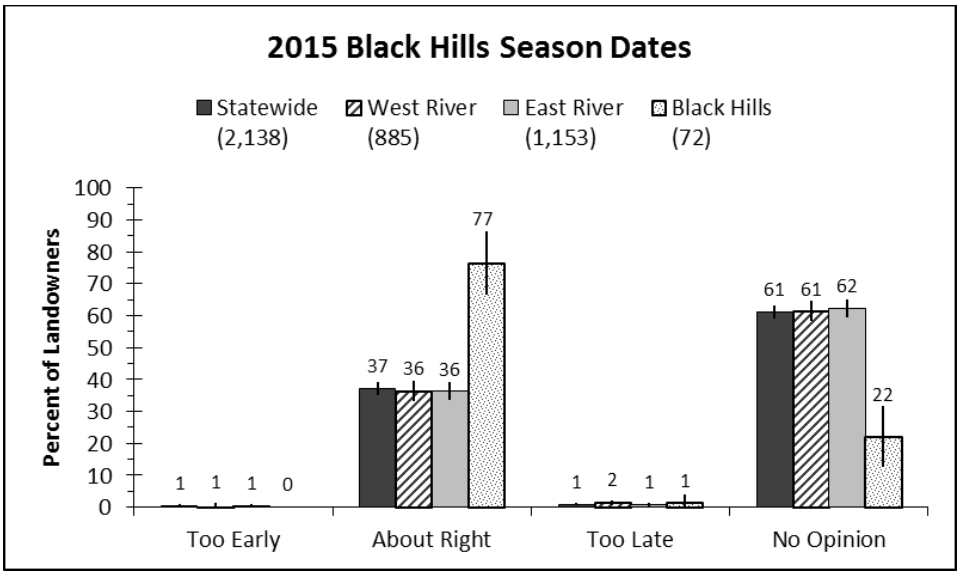


**Figure 129: Opinions about 2015 Black Hills deer season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

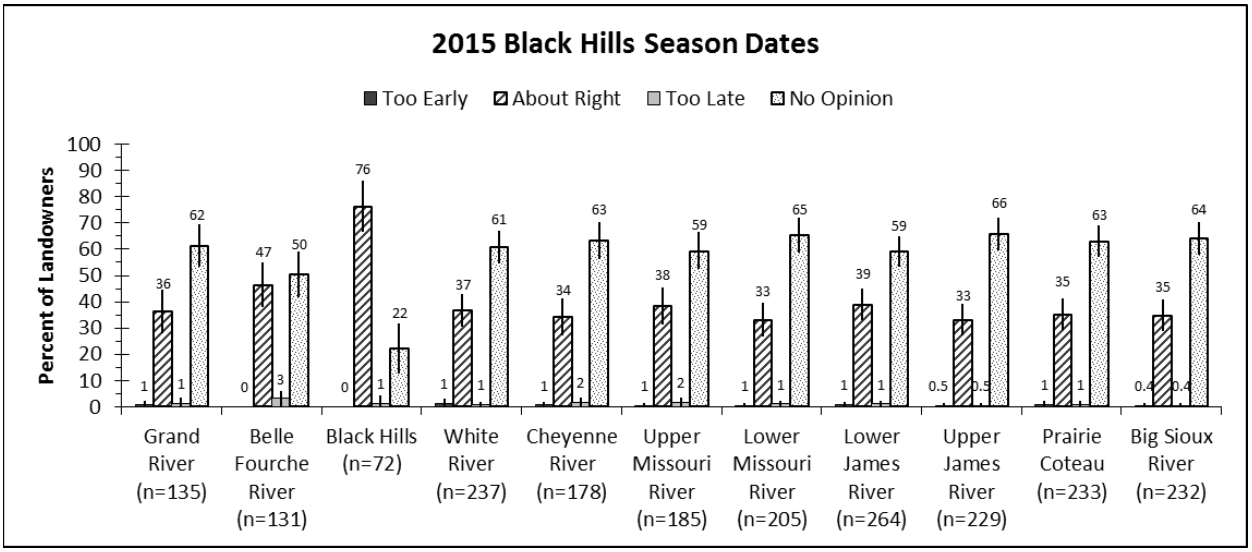


**Figure 130: Opinions about 2015 Black Hills season dates by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

While there were some statistical differences across regions in landowner opinions about the length and dates of the statewide deer seasons, effect sizes indicate these differences are negligible. The archery deer season in 2015 ran for a total of 112 days. Less than half (45%) of landowners statewide thought the archery season length was about right, and another one-third (35%) indicated they had no opinion about the season length (figure 131). East River landowners were slightly more likely than West River landowners (37% compared to 31%) to indicate they had no opinion ($\chi^2$=13.29 (6, N=2,240) p=0.039; Cramer's *V*=0.054). The proportion of landowners who believe the season length is about right ranges from 41 percent of landowners in the Black Hills and Lower James River DAUs to 49 percent in the White River and Cheyenne River DAUs (figure 132). The 2015 archery season dates ran from September 26th through January 15th. Nearly half of landowners across the state (47%) thought the dates were about right, while another 43 percent indicated they had no opinion (figure 133). Regionally, there were no significant differences in landowners' opinions about the archery deer season dates. The Belle Fourche River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners who thought the archery season dates were about right (55%), while the Big Sioux River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (49%) who had no opinion about the dates (figure 134).

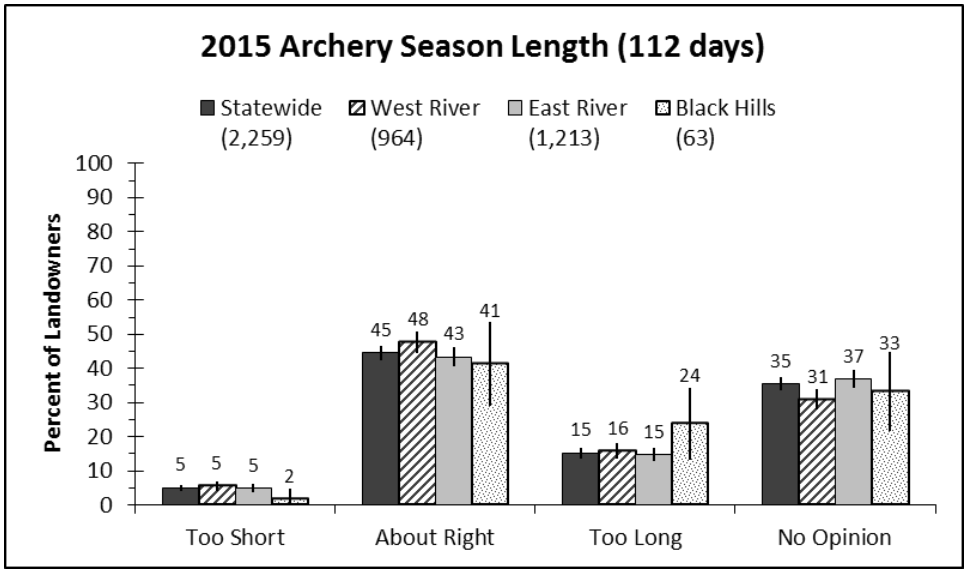


**Figure 131: Opinions about 2015 archery deer season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

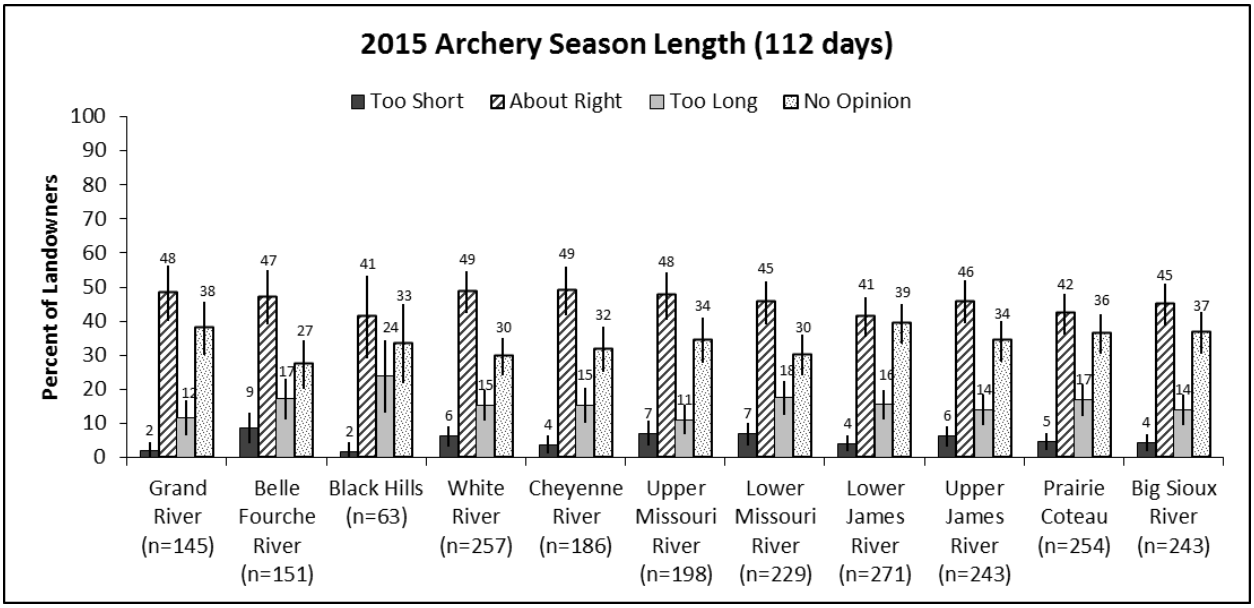


**Figure 132: Opinions about 2015 archery deer season length by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

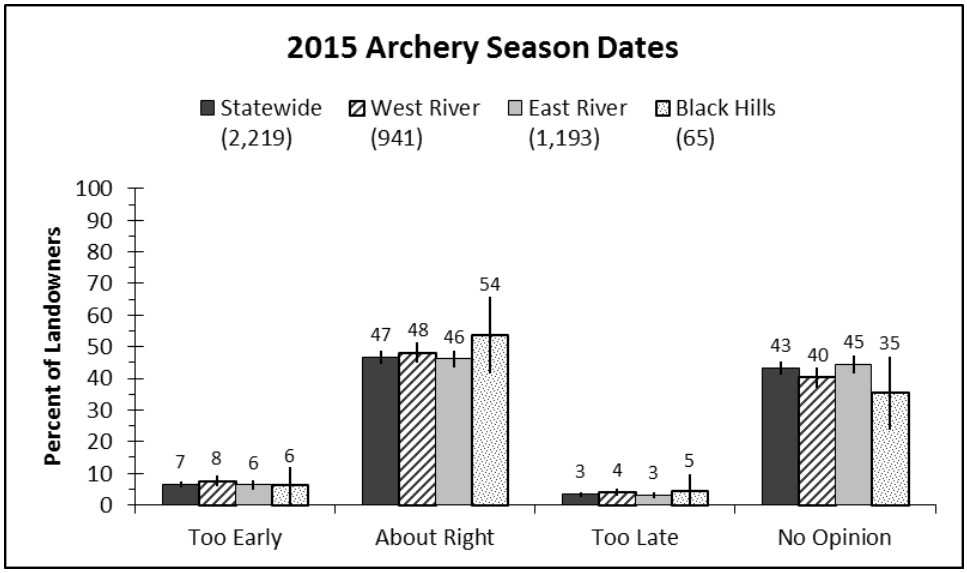


**Figure 133: Opinions about 2015 archery deer season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

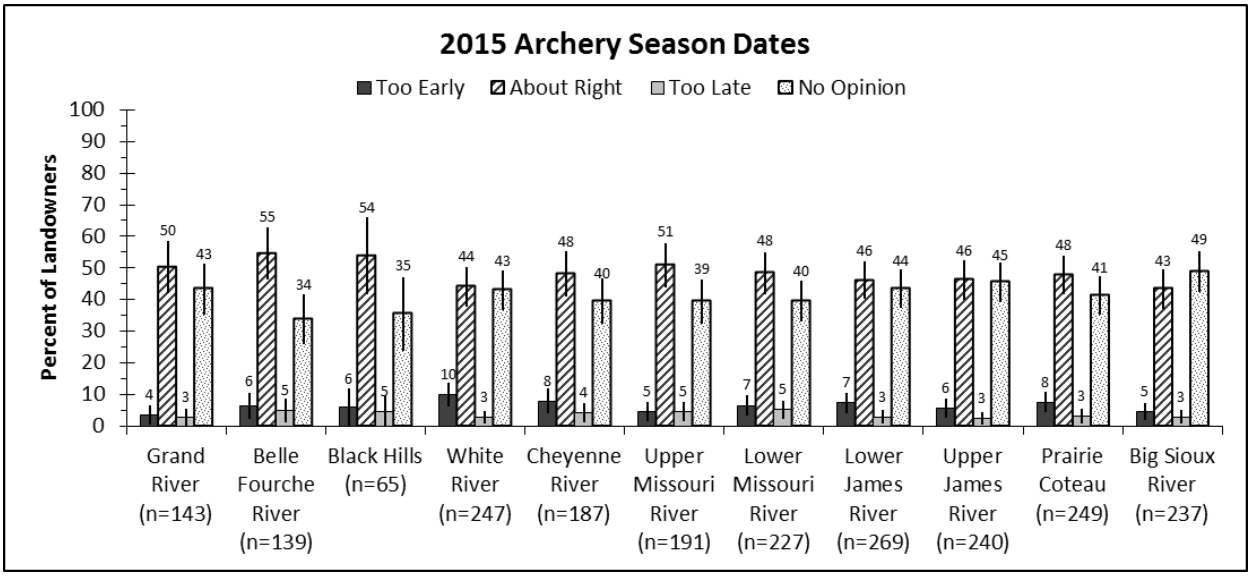


**Figure 134: Opinions about 2015 archery deer season dates by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Nearly half of the landowners across the state (49%) indicated they had no opinion about the muzzleloader deer season length, which ran for a total of 46 days (figure 135). Slightly more than one-third of landowners (35%) believed the season length was just about right. East River landowners were slightly more likely than West River landowners (50% compared to 44%) to indicate they had no opinion ($\chi^2$=29.85 (6, N=2,166) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.083). The Lower Missouri River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (41%) who thought the muzzleloader season length was about right (figure 136). Over one-quarter of landowners (28%) in the Black Hills DAU thought the season was too long. The muzzleloader deer season dates ran from December 1st through January 15th. The majority of landowners across the state (55%) indicated they had no opinion about these dates, and just over one-third (36%) though the dates were about right (figure 137). Regionally, there were no significant differences in landowners' opinion. The proportion of landowners who thought the dates were about right ranged from 35 percent in the Lower James River and Prairie Coteau DAUs to 44 percent in the Grand River DAU (figure 138).

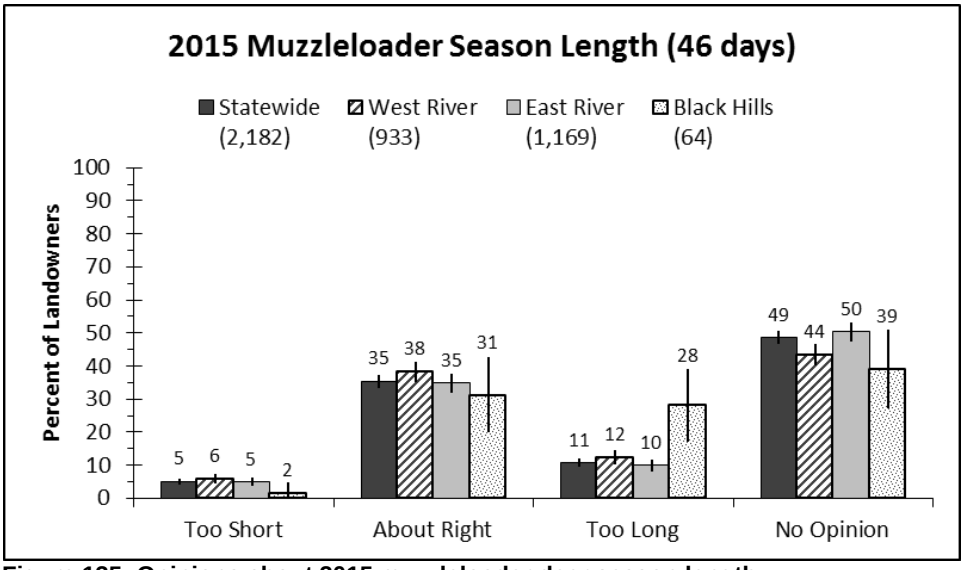


**Figure 135: Opinions about 2015 muzzleloader deer season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

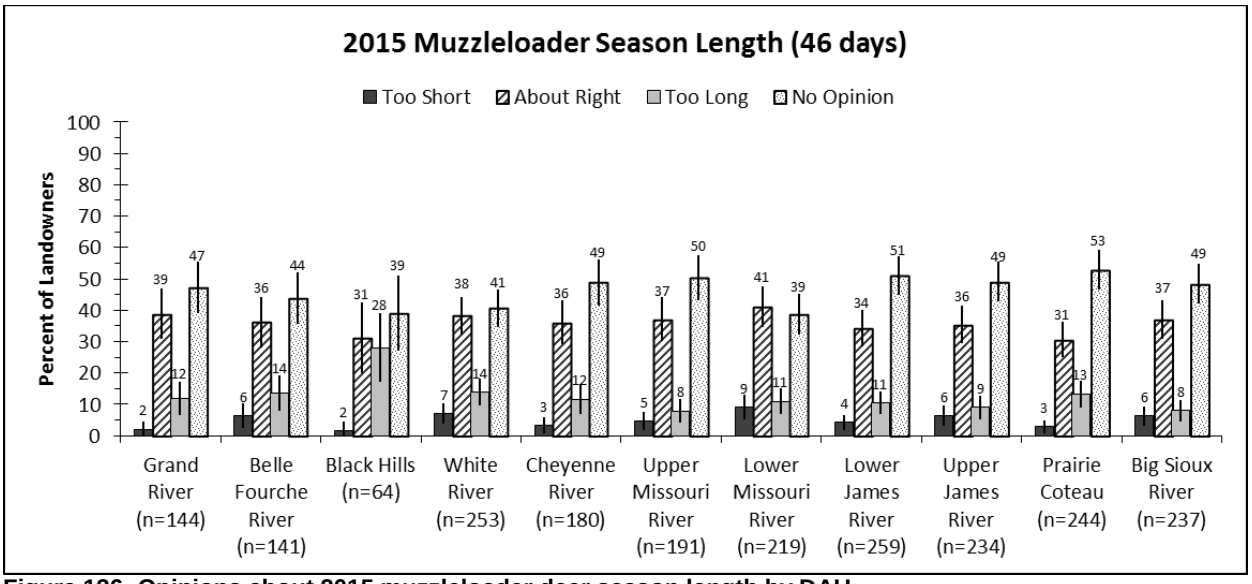


**Figure 136: Opinions about 2015 muzzleloader deer season length by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

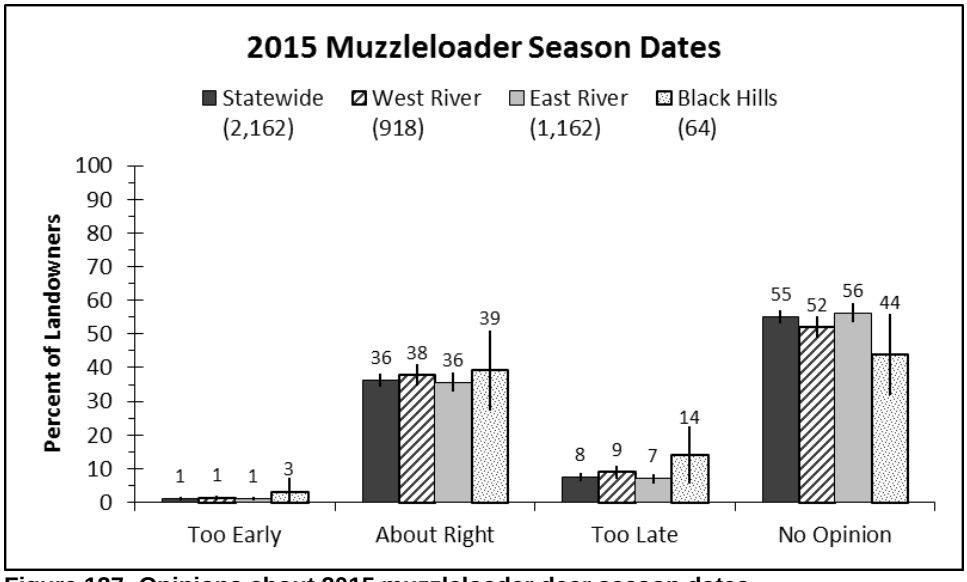


**Figure 137: Opinions about 2015 muzzleloader deer season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

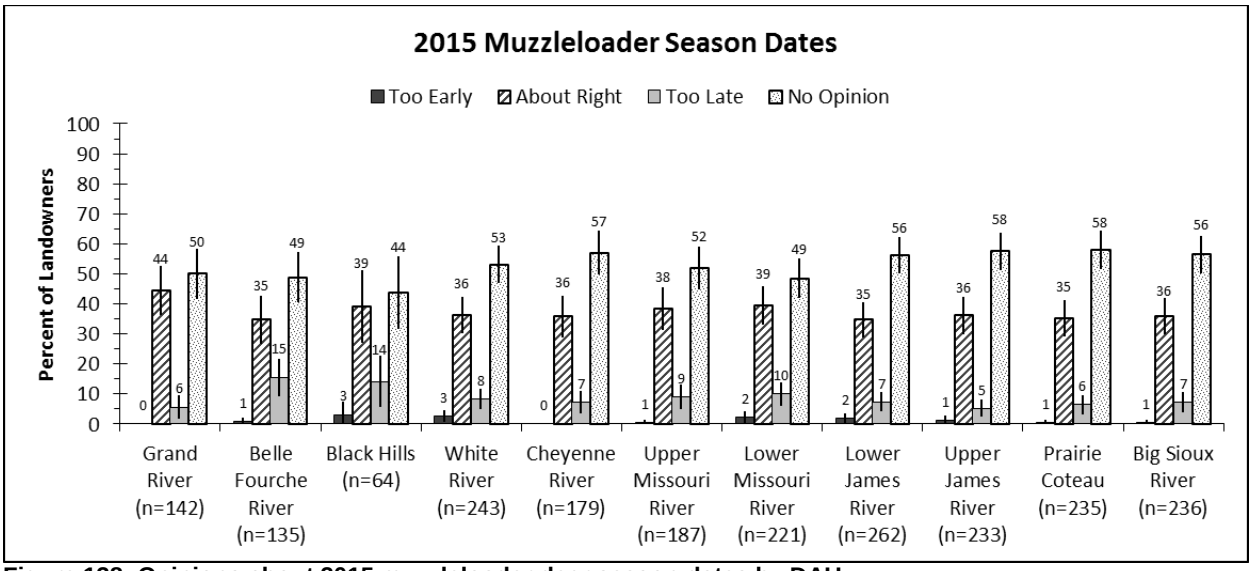


**Figure 138: Opinions about 2015 muzzleloader deer season dates by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Similarly, the majority of landowners either had no opinion about the length of the youth deer season, which ran a total of 126 days, or thought it was about right (figure 139).[9] Forty-two percent of landowners across the state indicated the season length was about right, and another 38 percent indicated they had no opinion about it. There were no significant differences regionally in landowner opinions about the season length. The proportion of landowners who thought the season length was about right ranged from 40 percent in the Lower James River DAU to 49% in the White River and Belle Fourche River DAUs (figure 140). The Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion (24%) of landowners who thought the season was too long.

[9] A survey printing error resulted in the incorrect season dates being listed for the 2015 youth deer season; therefore, no analyses were done on landowners' opinions on youth deer season dates.

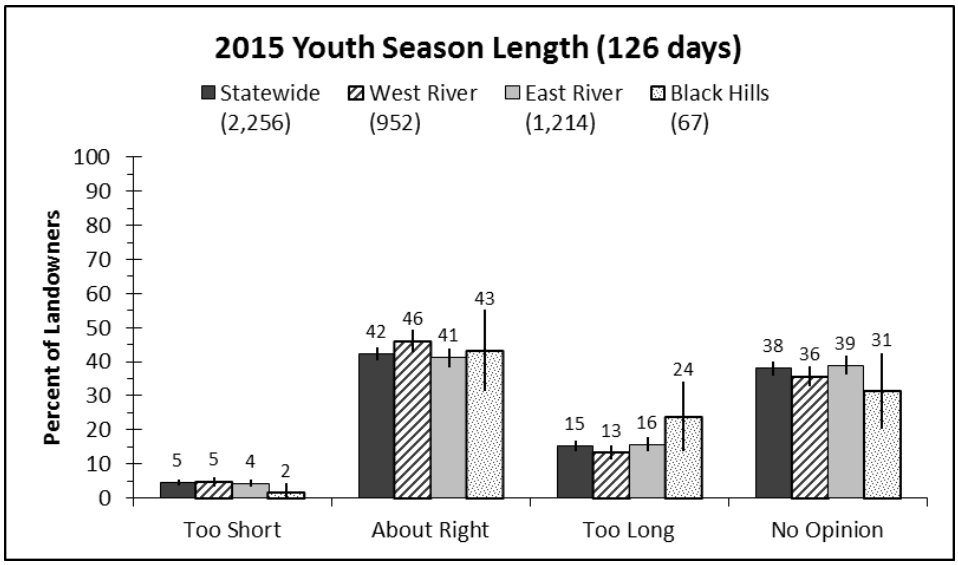


**Figure 139: Opinions about 2015 youth deer season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

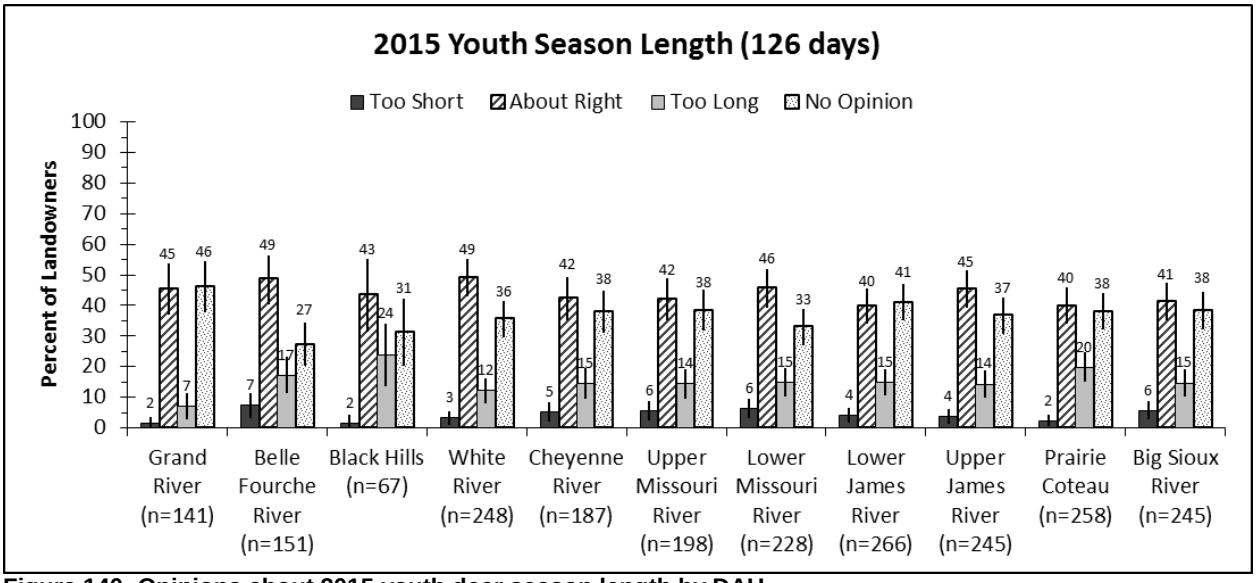


**Figure 140: Opinions about 2015 youth deer season length by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Habitat management* – Nearly one-third of landowners across the state (31%) indicated that they actively managed a portion of their land for white-tailed deer habitat (figure 141). The statewide average for number of acres managed for white-tailed deer by landowners was approximately 80 acres ($\bar{x}$=79.59 se=8.77). East River landowners (33%) were more likely than West River landowners (23%) to manage for white-tailed deer habitat ($\chi^2$=36.24 (2, N=2,784) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.114); however, West River landowners managed more acres on average for white-tailed deer than East River landowners. On average, East River landowners managed 54 acres ($\bar{x}$=53.8 se=5.35) compared with 199 acres managed by West River landowners ($\bar{x}$=199.15 se=31.67). The proportion of landowners who actively managed for white-tailed deer ranged from 14 percent in the Belle Fourche River DAU to 37 percent in the Upper Missouri River DAU (figure 142).

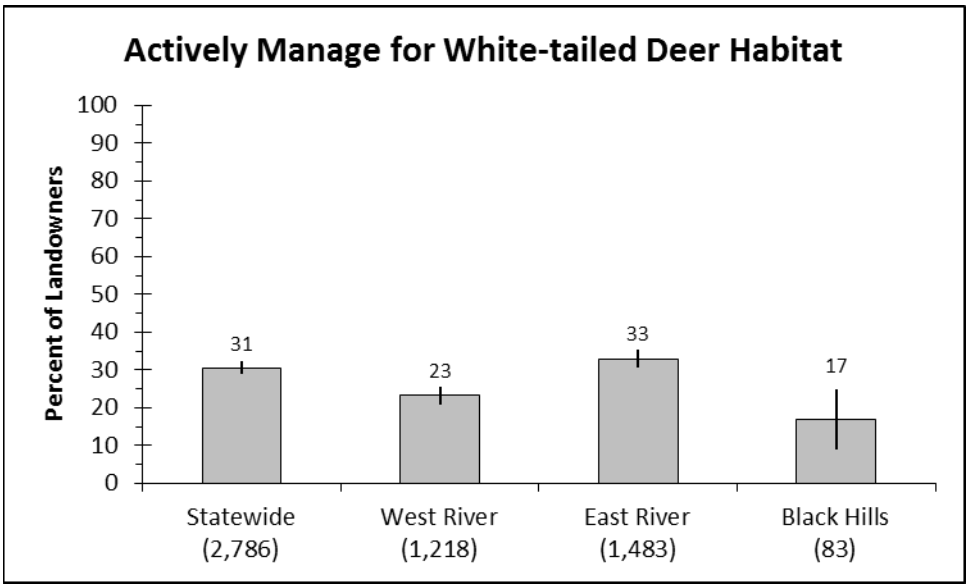


**Figure 141: Active white-tailed deer management on private property**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

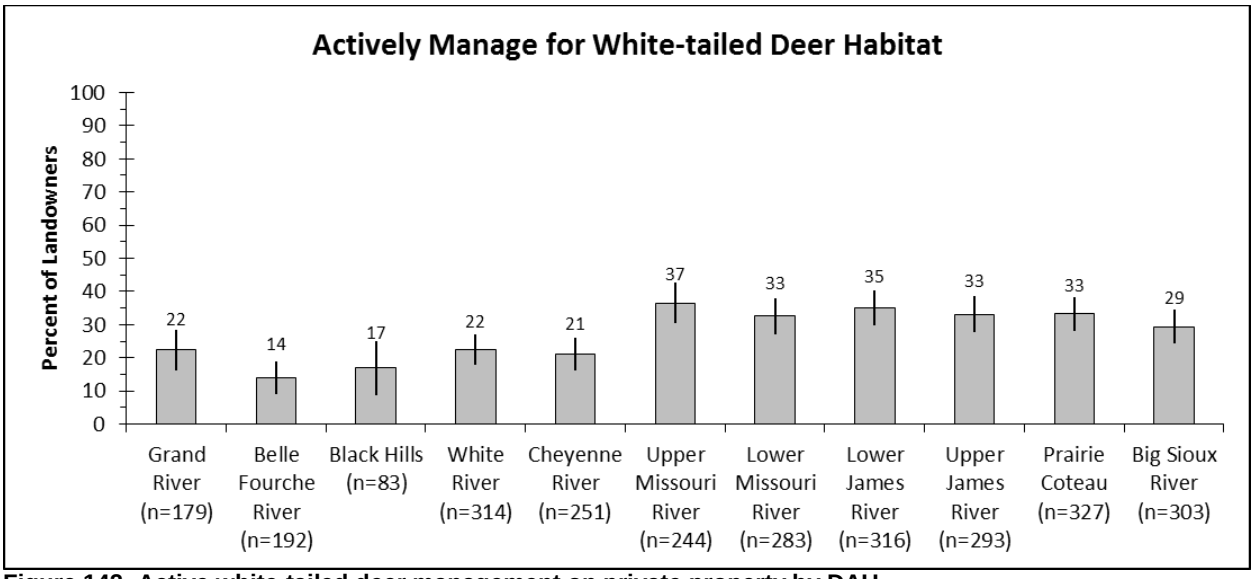


**Figure 142: Active white-tailed deer management on private property by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Given their lower abundance and restriction to habitats adjacent to and west of the Missouri River, it is not surprising that West River landowners are more likely than East River landowners to indicate they actively manage a portion of their land for mule deer habitat ($\chi^2$=175.30 (2, N=2,769) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.252). Statewide, only a small proportion of landowners (6%) actively manage for mule deer habitat (figure 143). Nearly one in five West River landowners (17%) manage 973 acres, on average, for mule deer habitat ($\bar{x}$=972.81 se=170.1). The proportion of managing landowners ranged from zero percent in the Big Sioux River DAU to 20 percent in the Cheyenne River DAU (figure 144).

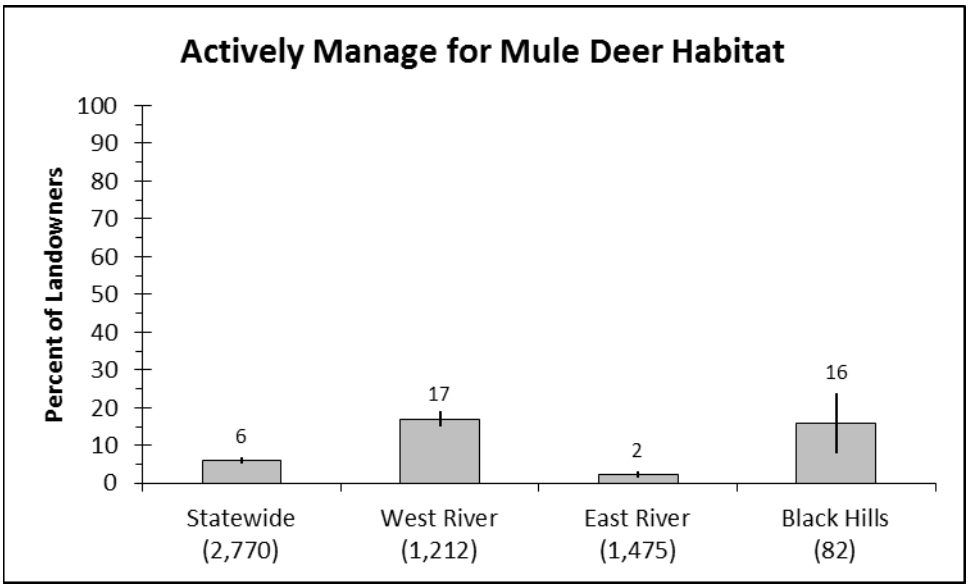


**Figure 143: Active mule deer management on private property**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

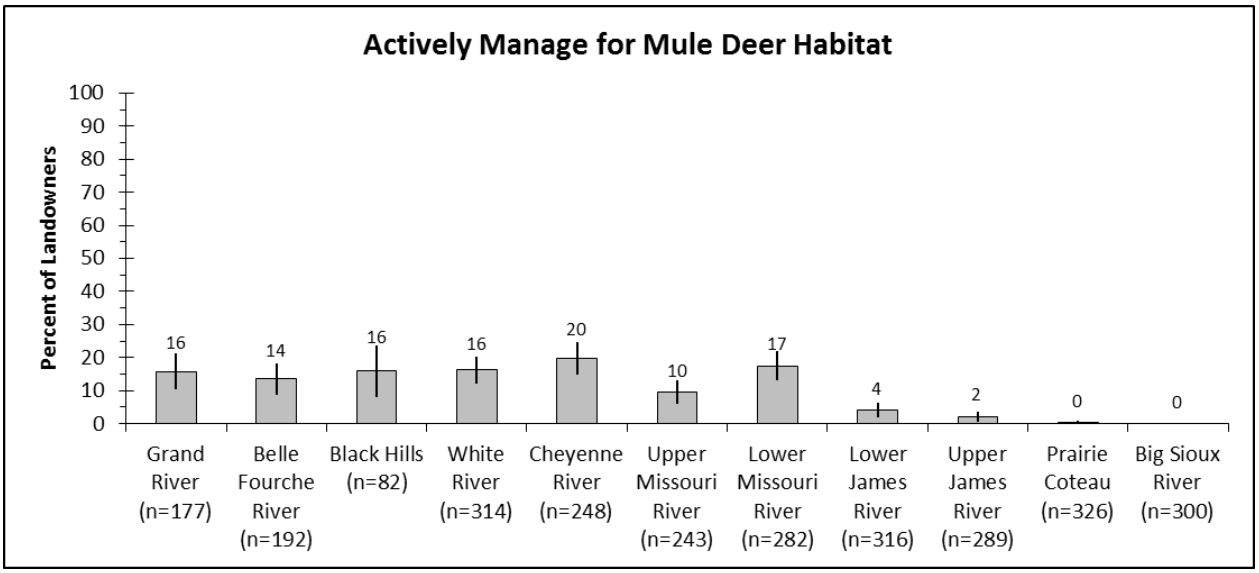


**Figure 144: Active mule deer management on private property by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Landowners were provided a list of activities associated with deer habitat management and asked to indicate how likely or unlikely they were to do any of them or if they already did the activities on their land. The eight activities listed were: 1) plant/manage trees and shrubs; 2) practice rotational grazing; 3) plant fall and winter wildlife food plots; 4) plant/manage undisturbed grass cover; 5) plant/manage forbs and grass cover; 6) wetland restoration/preservation; 7) fence/manage stream and river corridors; and 8) prescribed burns for habitat management. Overall, the majority of landowners do not currently do these activities associated with deer habitat management on their land. The activity with the highest proportion of landowners who already do it on their property, as well as the highest proportion of landowners likely to do it was planting and/or managing trees and shrubs. The activity with the lowest proportion of landowners who already do it, as well as the highest proportion of landowners unlikely to do it in the future was prescribed burns for habitat management.

One-quarter (25%) of landowners indicated they already plant/manage trees or shrubs on their land, and another 25 percent indicated they were likely to do so (figure 145). There were statistically significant but negligible regional differences among landowners ($\chi^2$=20.49 (6, N=2,620) p=0.002; Cramer's *V*=0.063). About one-third of West River landowners (33%) indicated they were unlikely or very unlikely to plant/manage trees or shrubs on their property, compared with 30 percent of East River landowners. The proportion of landowners who already plant/manage trees or shrubs ranged from 18 percent in the Big Sioux River DAU to 34 percent in the Upper Missouri River DAU (figure 146). The Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (30%) who indicated they were likely to do this activity, and the Big Sioux River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners who were unlikely to do this (38%).

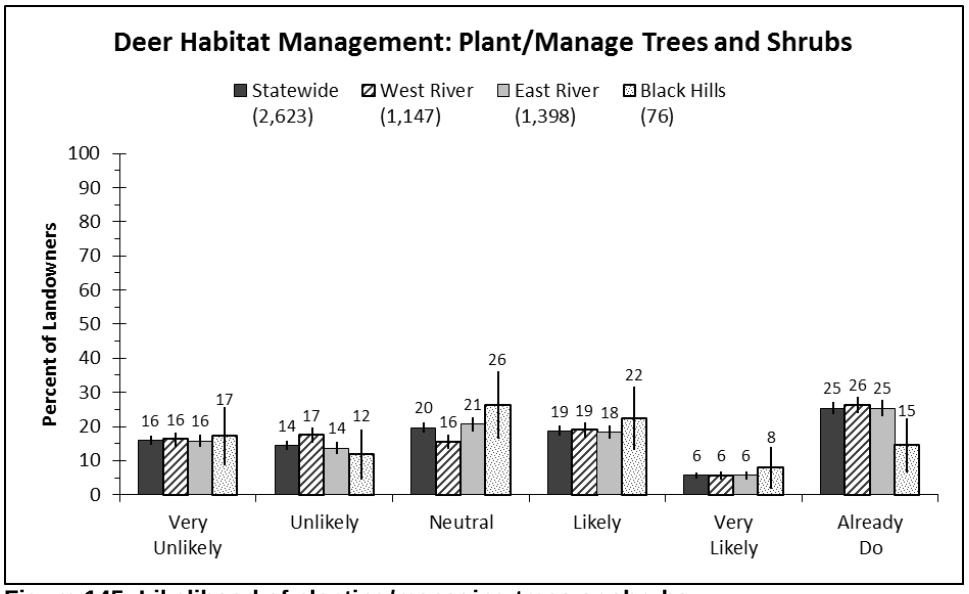


**Figure 145: Likelihood of planting/managing trees or shrubs**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

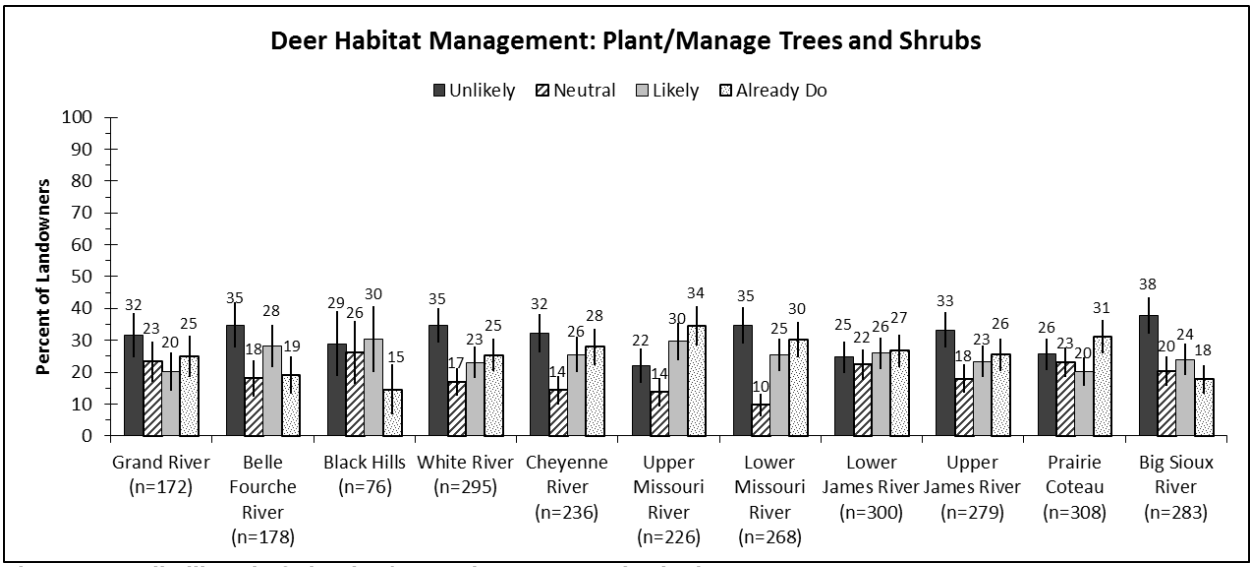


**Figure 146: Likelihood of planting/managing trees or shrubs by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Nearly one in five landowners in the state (17%) already applies rotational grazing practices on their property, and another 21 percent indicate they are likely to do so in the future (figure 147). Over one-third (37%) of landowners across the state indicated they are unlikely to practice rotational grazing on their property. West River landowners (27%) were more likely than East River landowners (14%) to already do this on their land ($\chi^2$=112.69 (6, N=2,576) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.148). In addition, a greater proportion of East River landowners (40%) indicated they would be unlikely to practice rotational grazing on their lands in the future, compared with 29 percent of West River landowners. The proportion of landowners who already practice rotational grazing ranged from 8 percent in the Big Sioux River DAU to 35 percent in the Grand River DAU (figure 148). The Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (34%) who indicated they were likely to do this in the future, and the Big Sioux River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (49%) who said they were unlikely to practice rotational grazing on their land in the future.

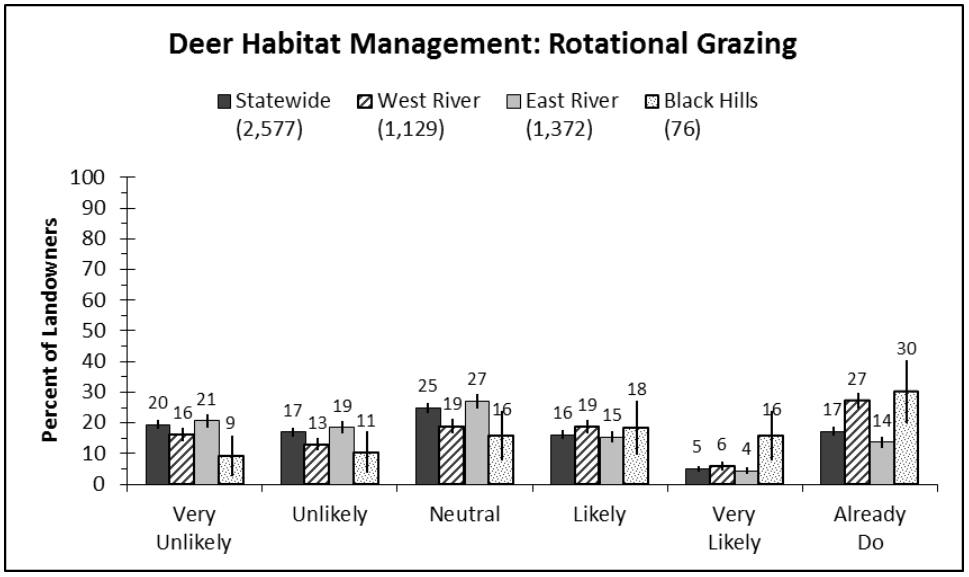


**Figure 147: Likelihood of practicing rotational grazing**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

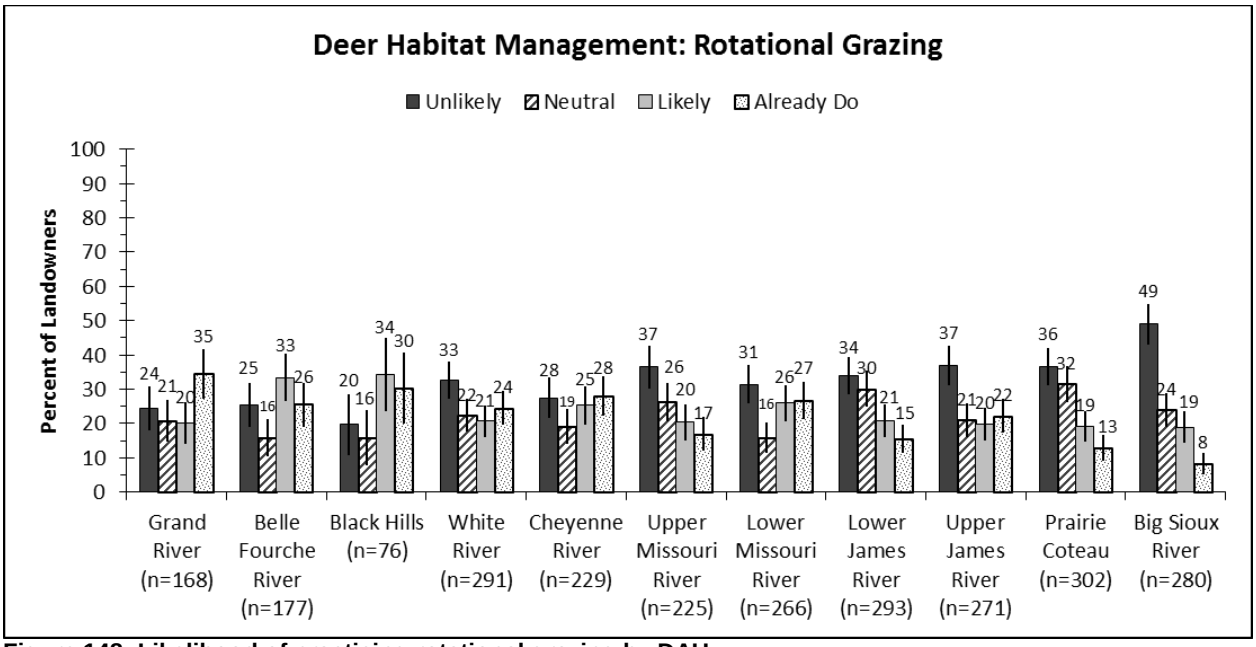


**Figure 148: Likelihood of practicing rotational grazing by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Approximately 1 in 7 landowners (15%) indicated they already plant fall/winter wildlife food plots on their property (e.g. winter rye, clover, alfalfa, purple top turnip, corn, and radish), and another 23 percent of landowners indicated they were likely to do this in the future (figure 149). Regionally, there were statistically significant but negligible differences in landowners' likelihood of planting food plots. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of East River landowners indicated they were likely to do this compared with 20 percent of West River landowners ($\chi^2$=15.92 (6, N=2,596) p=0.014; Cramer's *V*=0.055). The proportion of landowners who already plant fall/winter food plots ranged from 6 percent in the Grand River DAU to 20 percent in the Upper Missouri River DAU (figure 150). The proportion of landowners who were likely to plant food plots ranged from 15 percent in the Belle Fourche River DAU to 26 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU.

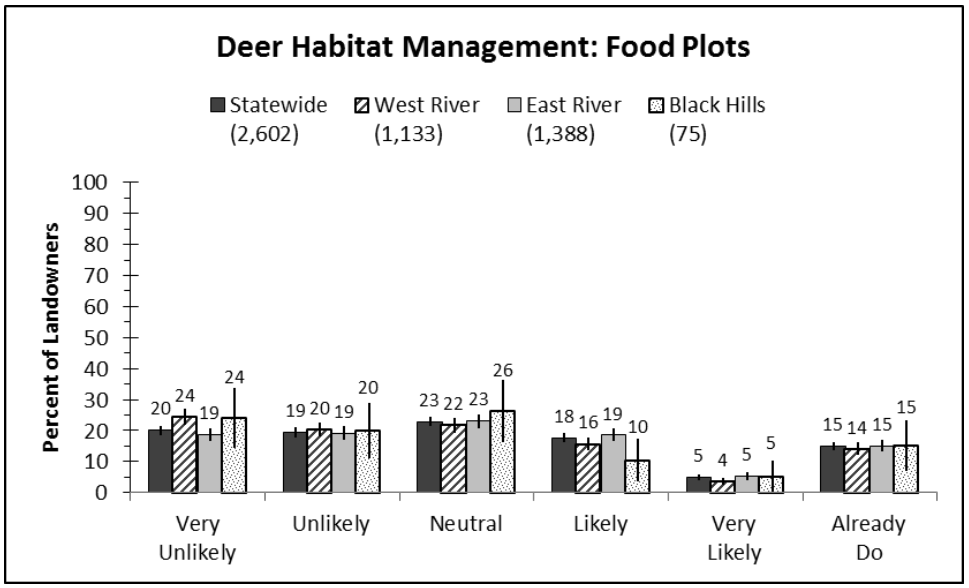


**Figure 149: Likelihood of planting fall/winter food plots**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

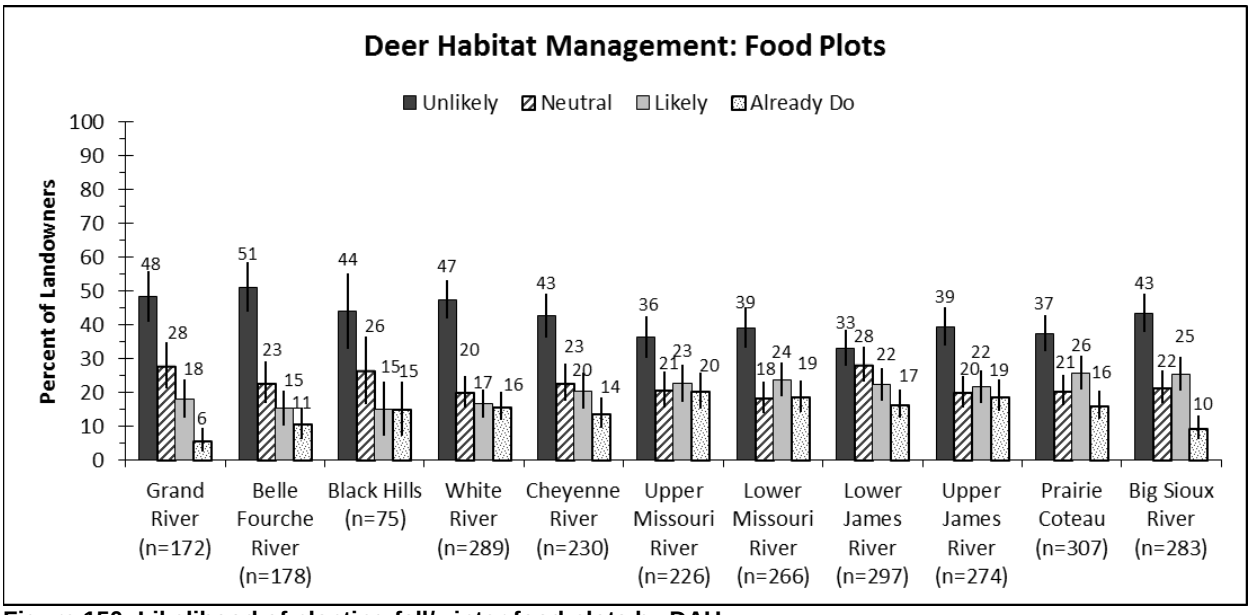


**Figure 150: Likelihood of planting fall/winter food plots by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Approximately 15 percent of landowners in South Dakota indicated they already plant and/or manage undisturbed grass cover on their property, and another 18 percent indicated they were likely to in the future (figure 151). Regionally, there were no statistically significant differences. The proportion of landowners who indicated they already do this ranged from 10 percent in the Belle Fourche River DAU to 18 percent in the Upper James River DAU (figure 152).

Approximately 13 percent of landowners already plant and/or manage forbs and grass cover on their land, and another 22 percent indicated they are likely to do so in the future (figure 153). Regionally, there were no statistically significant differences in landowners' likelihood of doing this activity. The Big Sioux River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (44%) who said they would be unlikely to do this on their land, and the Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion (30%) who said they were likely to manage forbs and grass cover (figure 154).

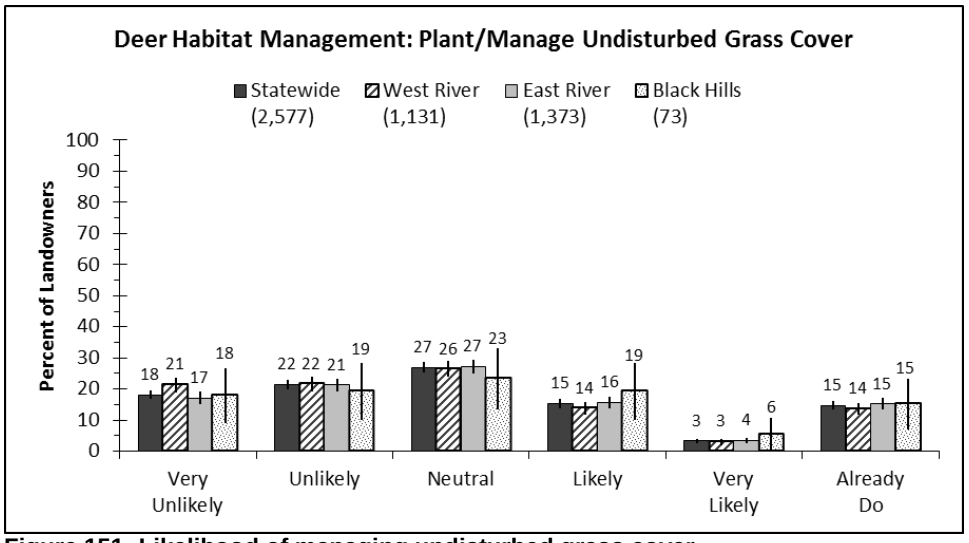


**Figure 151: Likelihood of managing undisturbed grass cover**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

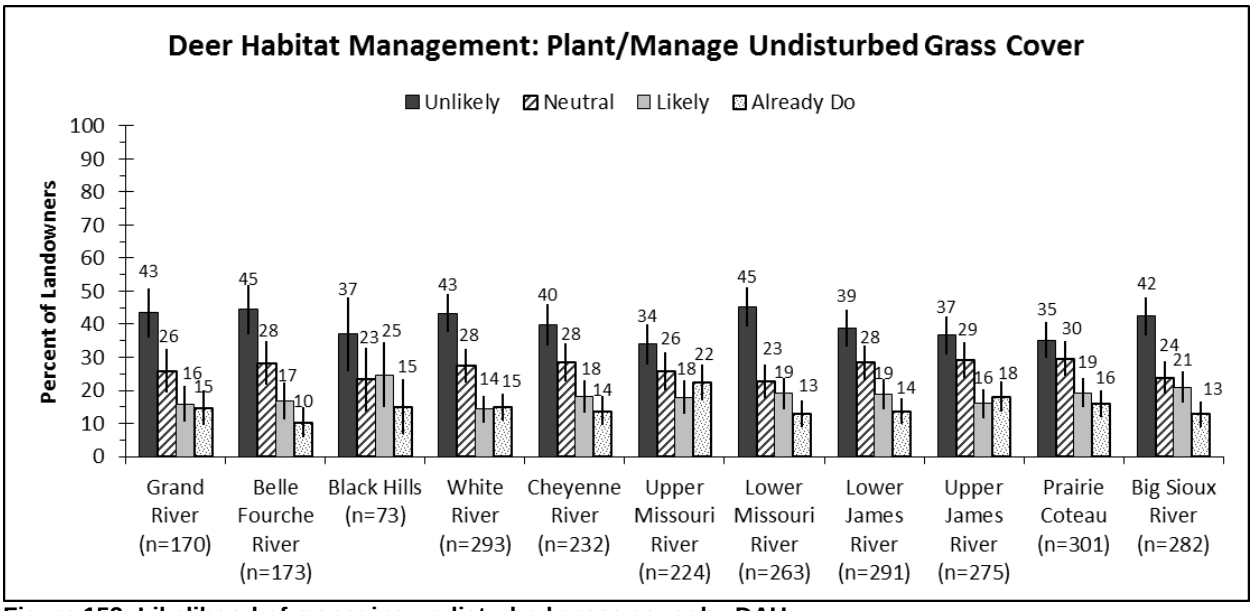


**Figure 152: Likelihood of managing undisturbed grass cover by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

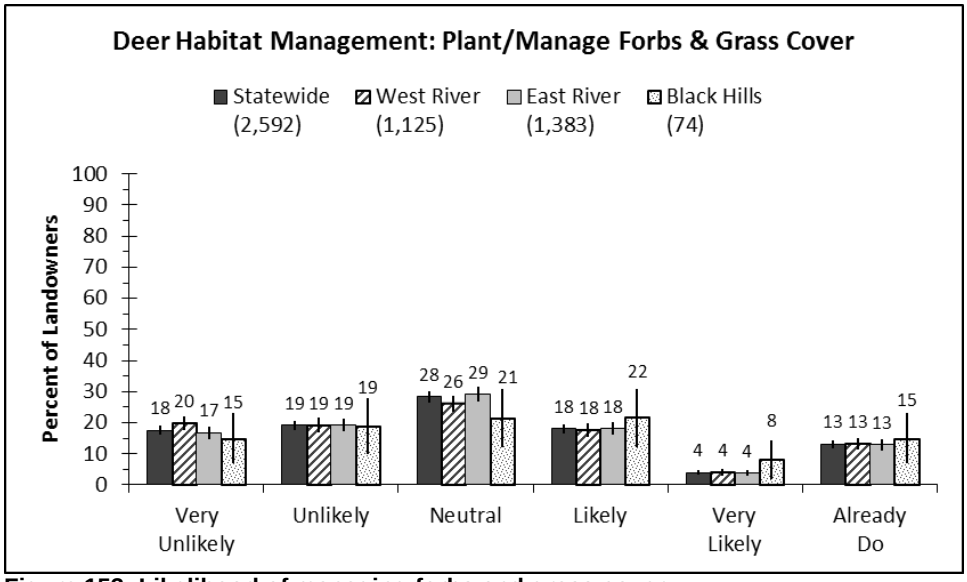


**Figure 153: Likelihood of managing forbs and grass cover**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

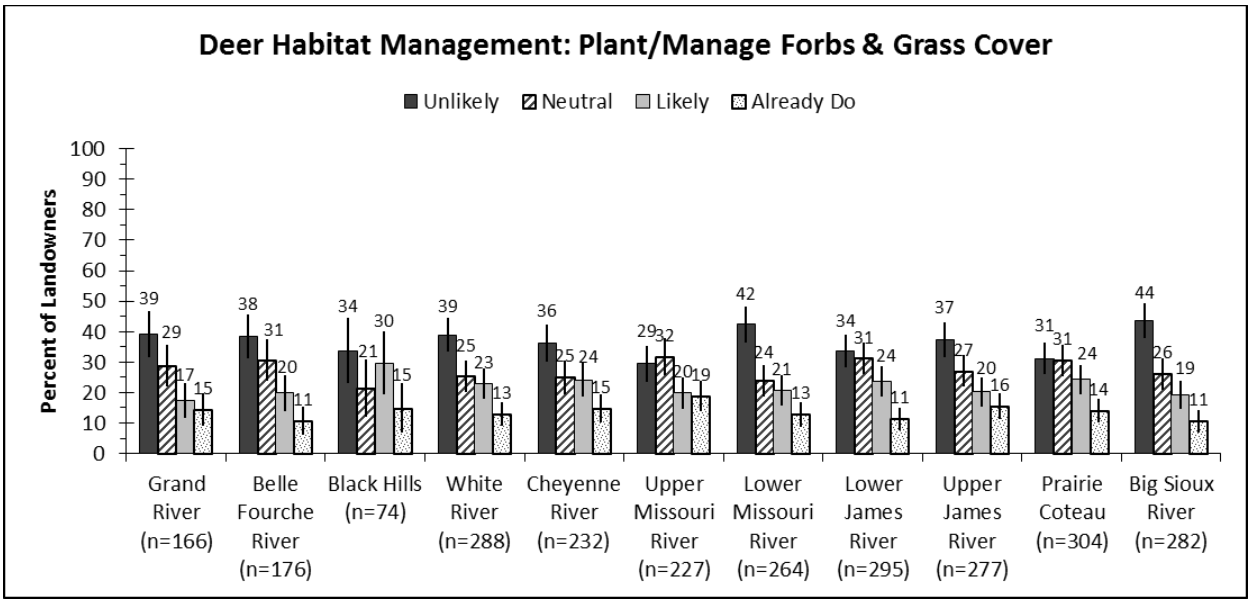


**Figure 154: Likelihood of managing forbs and grass cover by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Very few landowners (7%) indicated they did wetland restoration or preservation on their property, and only an additional 15 percent indicated they were likely to do so in the future (figure 155). There were statistically significant differences regionally; however, these differences were negligible ($\chi^2$=44.85 (6, N=2,576) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.093). The majority of West River landowners (56%) indicated they were unlikely to do this activity in the future compared to 43 percent of East River landowners. The proportion of landowners unlikely to practice wetland restoration or preservation on their land ranged from 38 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU to 58 percent in the White River DAU (figure 156). The Prairie Coteau DAU had the highest proportion of landowents (18%) who said they were likely to do this in the future.

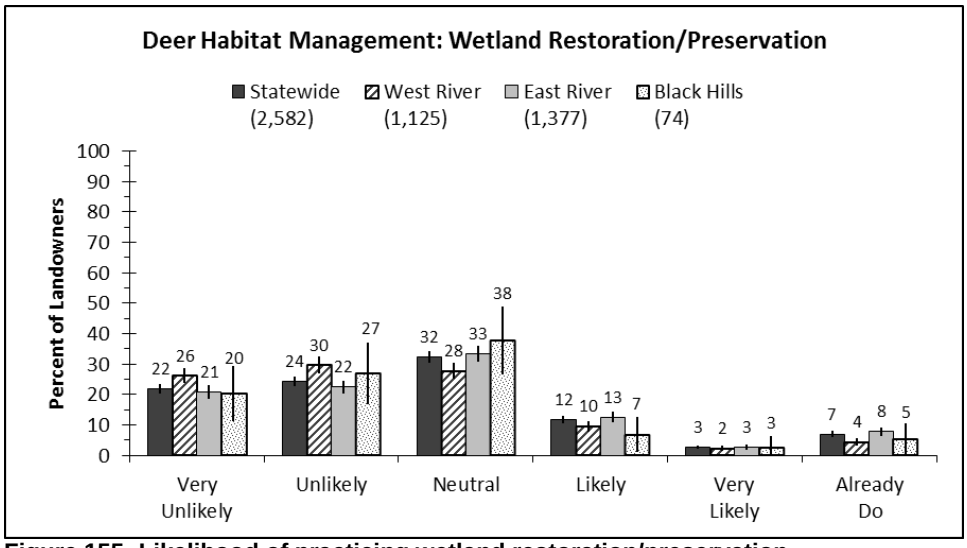


**Figure 155: Likelihood of practicing wetland restoration/preservation**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

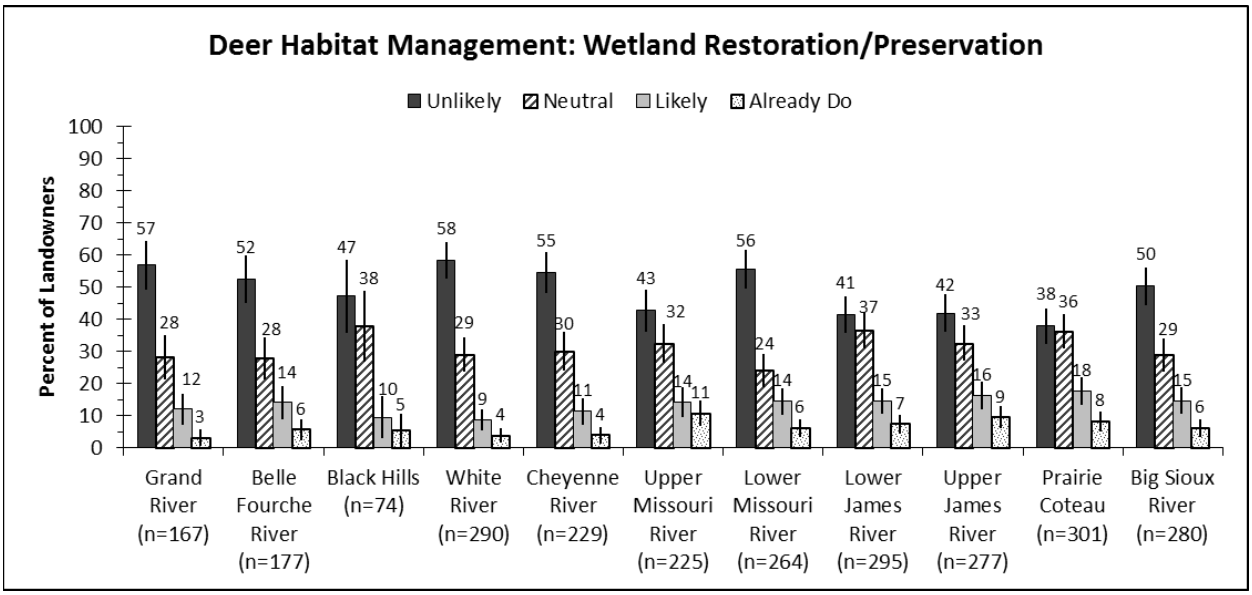


**Figure 156: Likelihood of practicing wetland restoration/preservation by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

A small percentage of landowners across the state (6%) already fence or manage stream and river corridors on their land (figure 157). The majority of landowners (53%) indicated they were unlikely to do this in the future, and only 10 percent said they were likely to do so. There were no statistically significant differences across regions in landowners' intentions. The proportion of landowners unlikely to fence or manage stream and river corridors ranged from 49 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU to 58 percent in the White River and Lower Missouri River DAUs (figure 158). The Black Hills DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (15%) who indicated they were likely to do this on their land.

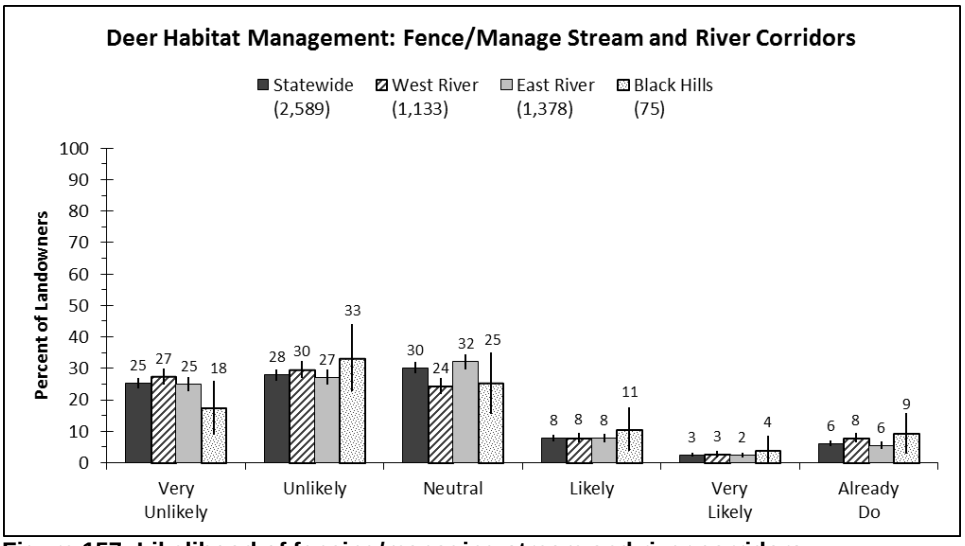


**Figure 157: Likelihood of fencing/managing stream and river corridors**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

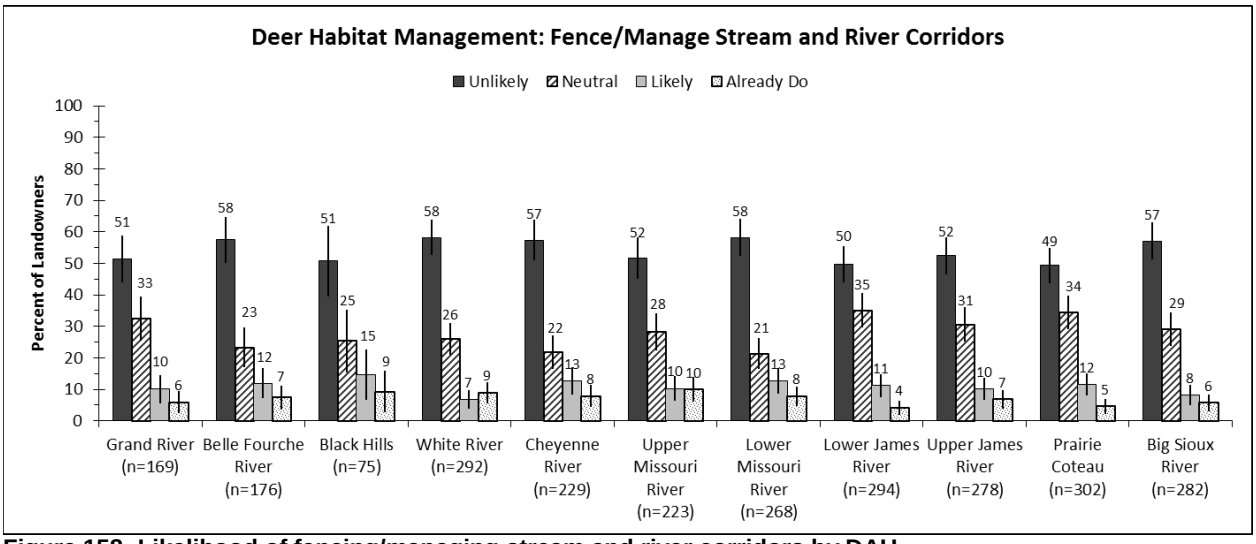


**Figure 158: Likelihood of fencing/managing stream and river corridors by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The vast majority of landowners (98%) do not currently use prescribed burns for habitat management on their land, and 60 percent of landowners indicate they are unlikely to do so in the future (figure 159). Nearly three-quarters of West River landowners (73%) indicated they were unlikely to use prescribed fire in the future compared to 55 percent of East River landowners ($\chi^2$=103.13 (6, N=2,583) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.141). A larger proportion of East River landowners (29%) than West River landowners (19%) indicated they were niether unlikely nor likely to use prescribed fire. The proportion of landowners likely to use prescribed fire ranged from 7 percent in the Grand River DAU to 15 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU (figure 160).

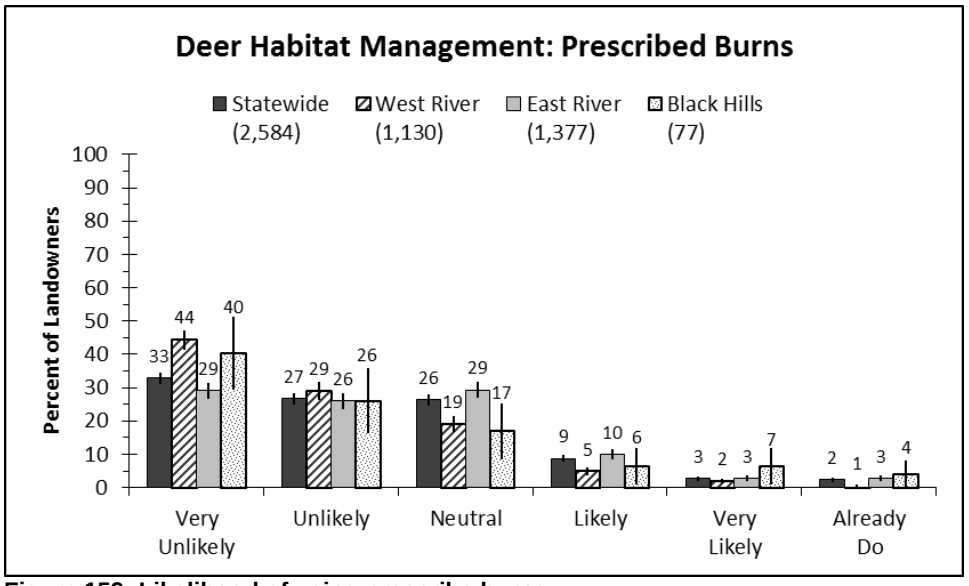


**Figure 159: Likelihood of using prescribe burns**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

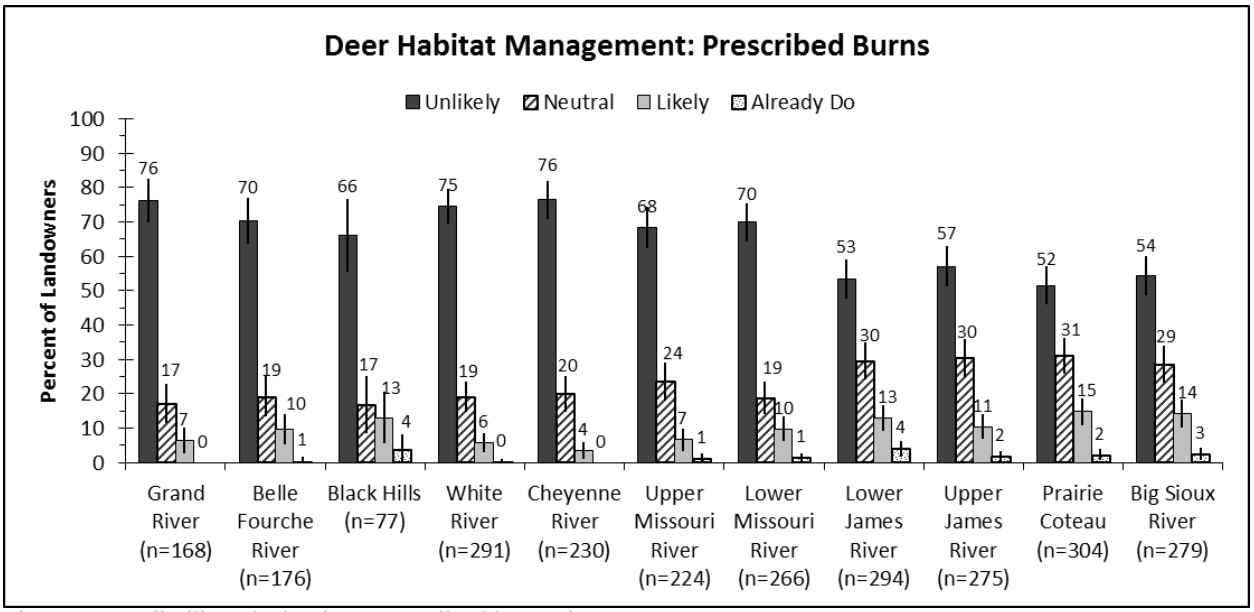


**Figure 160: Likelihood of using prescribed burns by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Cooperative Programs* – GFP offers landowners opportunities to receive technical and/or financial assistance through its Private Lands Habitat Program for a variety of habitat enhancements and working lands management practices. Landowners were asked if they were aware of the opportunities to receive assistance with 11 types of habitat enhancements and management practices: 1) food plots; 2) woody habitat (shelterbelt) establishment; 3) habitat exclusion fencing; 4) nesting cover establishment; 5) grass establishment for managed grazing; 6) cross fencing for grazing management; 7) stock water development for grazing management; 8) multi-purpose pond/wetland establishment; 9) wetland restoration; 10) riparian pasture management; and 11) wildlife friendly fence.

Food plots and woody habitat (shelterbelt) establishment were the two activities where landowners showed the most interest. In both cases, just over one-quarter (28%) of landowners indicated they were not interested in these practices. The practice most familiar to landowners was food plots, with 43 percent of landowners indicating they were aware of them (figure 161). There were statistically significant but negligible differences in awareness of food plots across the regions ($\chi^2$=51.11 (4, N=2,623) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.099). The Prairie Coteau DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (54%) who were aware of food plots, while the Belle Fourche River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (45%) who were unaware of food plots through GFP's Private Lands Habitat Program (figure 162). A little more than one-third of landowners (37%) indicated they were aware of the shelterbelt program through GFP, and another one-third (35%) were unaware of this program (figure 163). There were statistically significant but negligible differences across the regions in landowner awareness of the shelterbelt program ($\chi^2$=17.26 (4, N=2,592) p=0.002; Cramer's *V*=0.058). The Prairie Coteau DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (42%) who indicated they were aware of the shelterbelt program, while 50 percent of landowners in the Belle Fourche River DAU indicated they were unaware of it (figure 164).

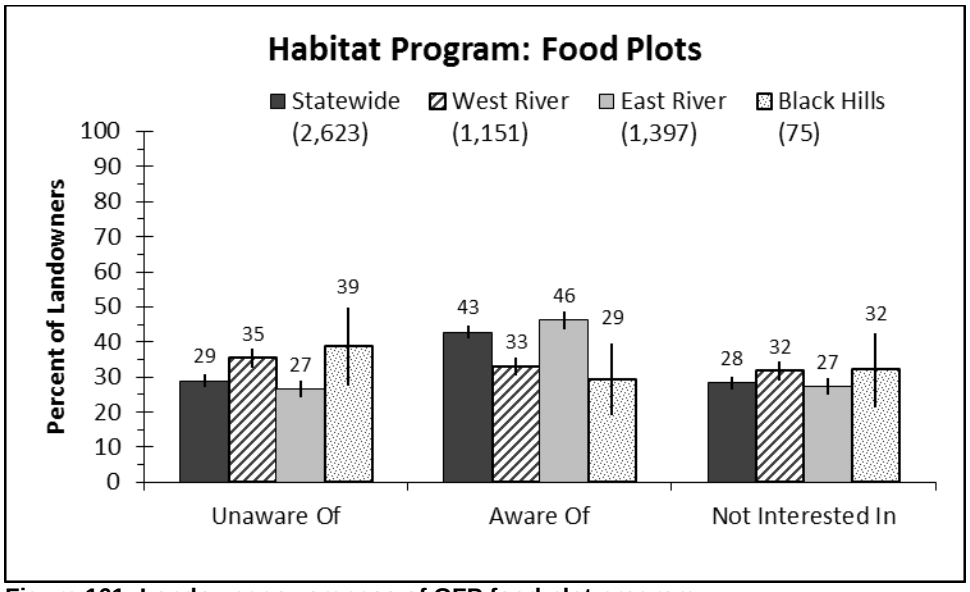


**Figure 161: Landowner awareness of GFP food plot program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

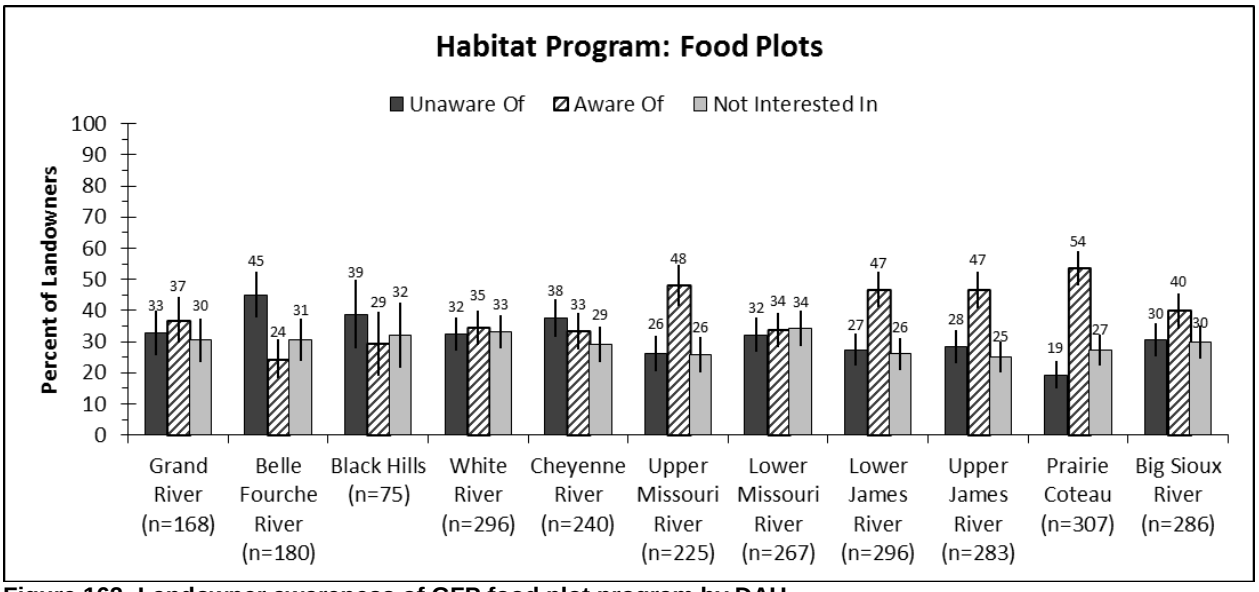


**Figure 162: Landowner awareness of GFP food plot program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

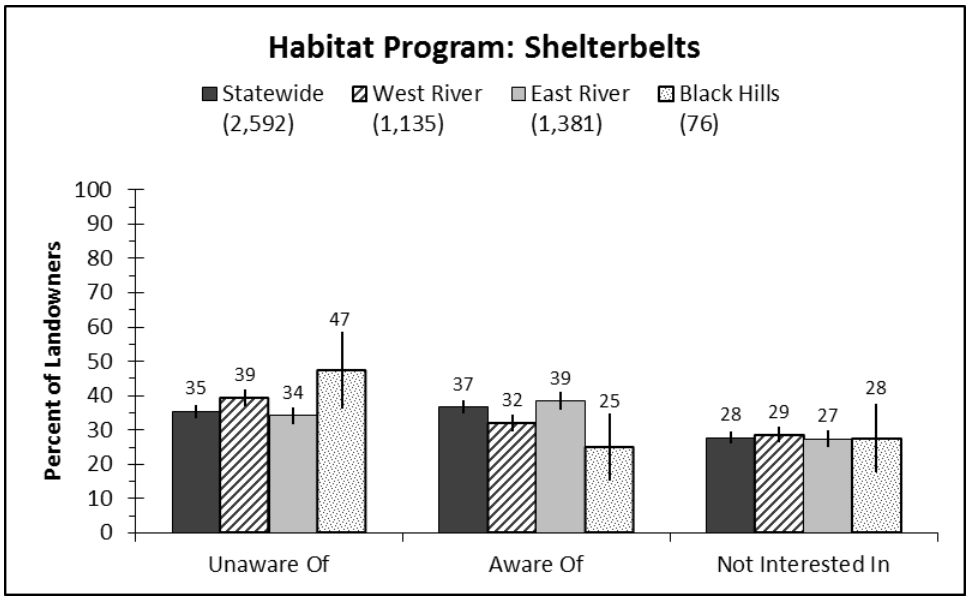


**Figure 163: Landowner awareness of GFP shelterbelt program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

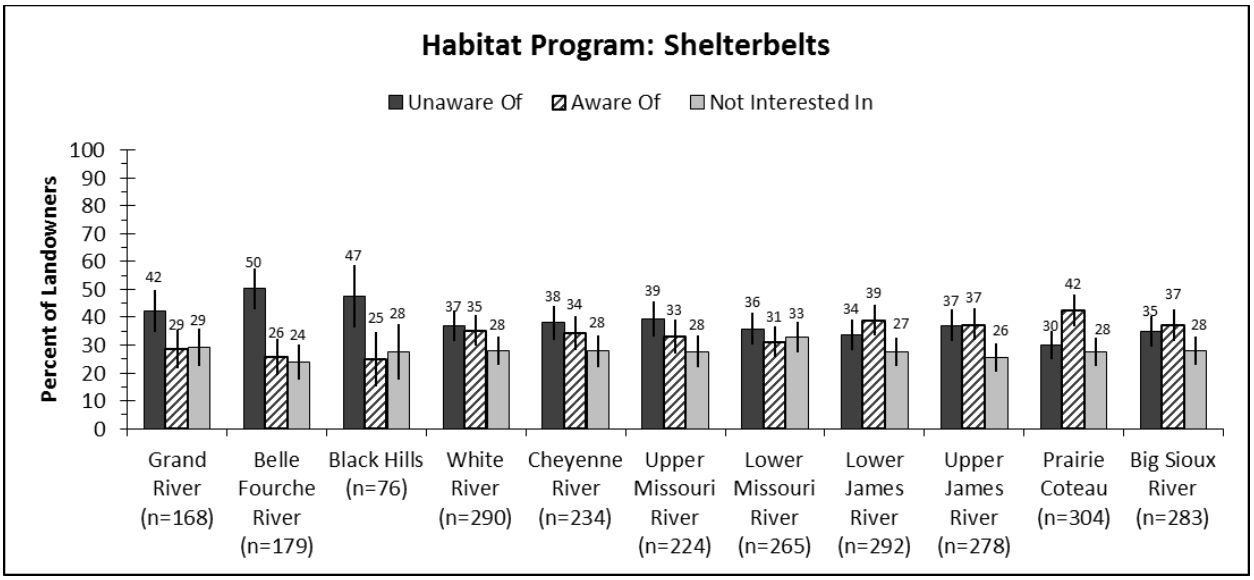


**Figure 164: Landowner awareness of GFP shelterbelt program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Nearly one-third of landowners (30%) indicated they were aware of GFP's habitat exclusion fencing program (figure 165). About 38 percent were unaware of this program and another 32 percent indicated they were not interested. There were no statistically significant differences in landowner awareness across the regions. The proportion of landowners who were aware of the exclusion fencing program ranged from 26 percent in the Grand River and Big Sioux River DAUs to 37 percent in the Cheyenne River DAU (figure 166).

Over one-third of landowners (35%) indicated they were aware of GFP's nesting cover establishment program, and another 35 percent were unaware of it (figure 167). Nearly one-third of the landowners (30%) said they were not interested in the program. There were statistically significant but negligible differences in landowners' awareness of the program across regions ($\chi^2$=14.27 (4, N=2,569) p=0.006; Cramer's *V*=0.053). The proportion of landowners who were unaware of the nesting cover establishment program ranged from a low of 28 percent in the Prairie Coteau DAU to 48 percent the Black Hills DAU (figure 168). The Prairie Coteau DAU had the highest proportion of landowners who were aware of the program (40%).

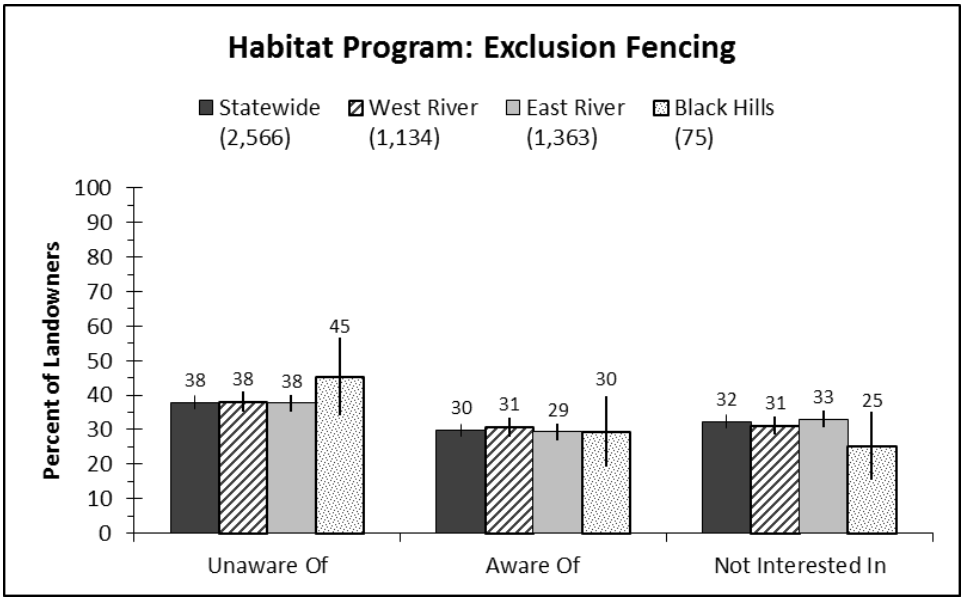


**Figure 165: Landowner awareness of GFP's exclusion fencing program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

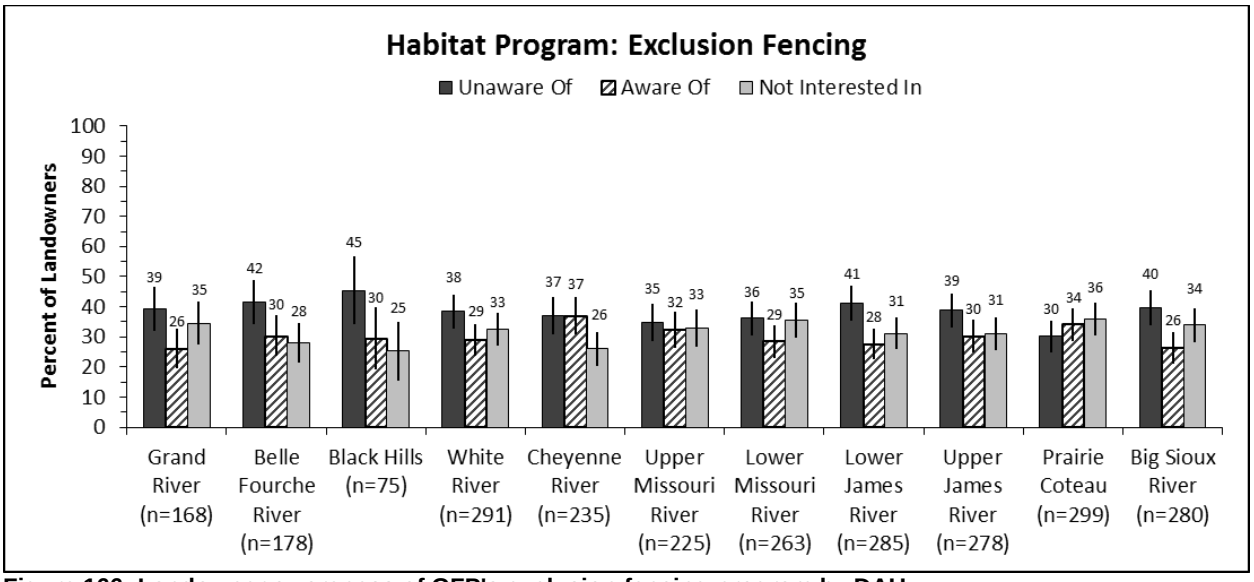


**Figure 166: Landowner awareness of GFP's exclusion fencing program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

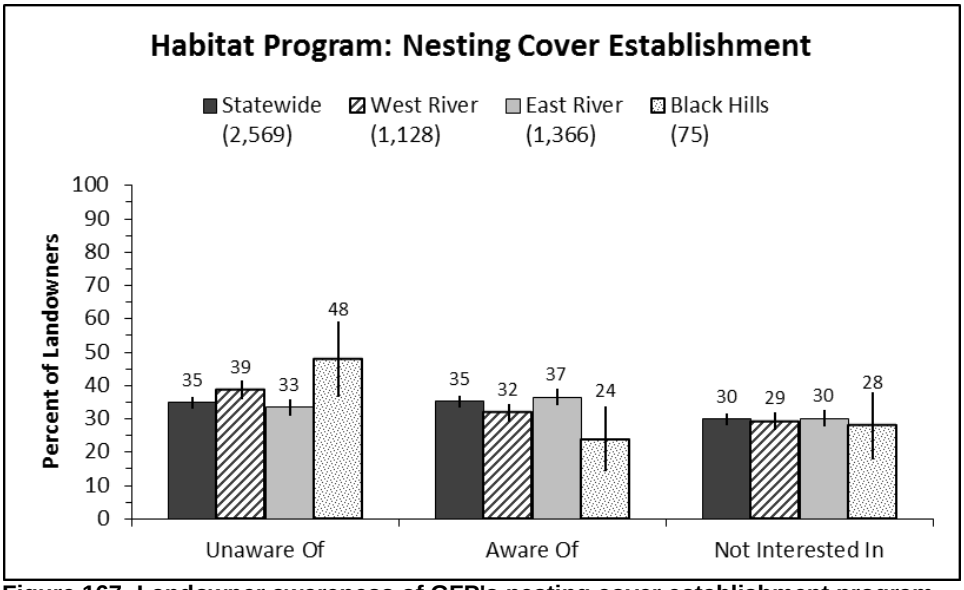


**Figure 167: Landowner awareness of GFP's nesting cover establishment program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

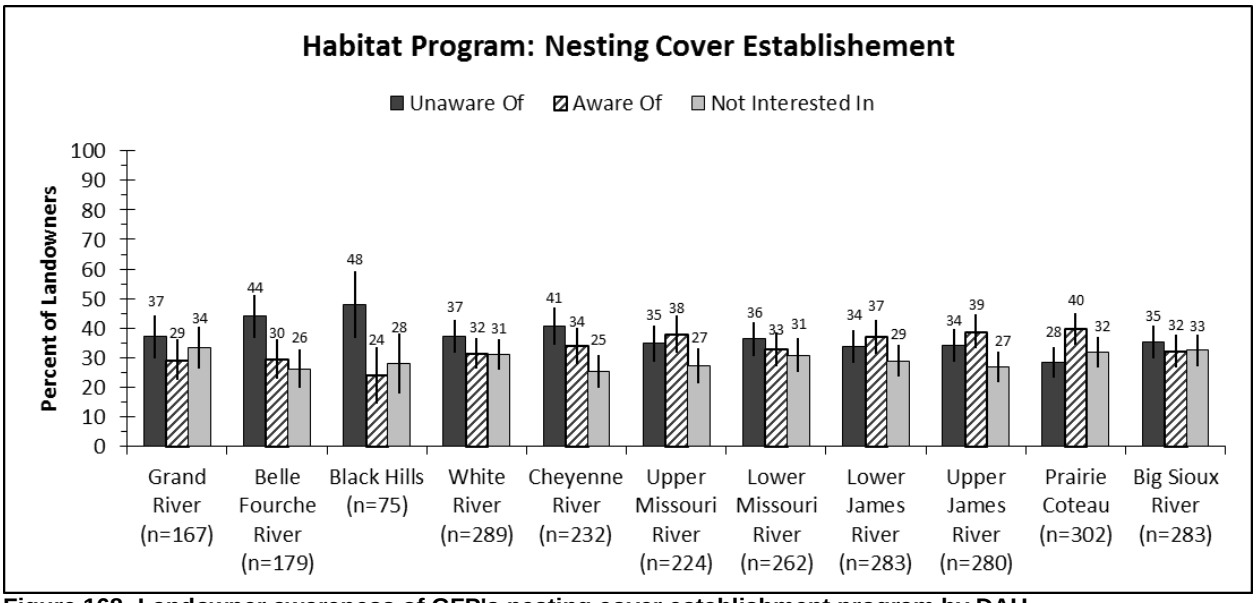


**Figure 168: Landowner awareness of GFP's nesting cover establishment program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

One-third of landowners (32%) indicated they were aware of GFP's program for grass establishment for managed grazing, and 37 percent indicated they were unaware of the program (figure 169). Similar to landowners' awareness of the previous habitat programs, there were statistically significant but negligible differences across the regions ($\chi^2$=23.48 (4, N=2,585) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.067). The areas with the highest proportion of landowners who were aware of this program (36%) were the Upper James River and Prairie Coteau DAUs (figure 170). Similarly, one-third (31%) of landowners were aware of GFP's cross fencing for grazing management program, and 37 percent were un aware of it (figure 171). Again there were statistically significant but negligible differences across the regions ($\chi^2$=10.21 (4, N=2,594) p=0.037; Cramer's *V*=0.044). The Belle Fourche River DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (49%) who were unaware of this program, and the Upper James River had the highest proportion of landowners (37%) who were aware of it (figure 172). Similar to the grass establishment and cross fencing programs for grazing management, one-third (33%) of landowners were aware of the stock water development program, and 38 percent were un aware of it (figure 173). Regional differences in awarenes, while statistically significant, were

also negligible ($\chi^2$=14.13 (4, N=2,593) p=0.007; Cramer's *V*=0.052). The highest proportion of landowners who were aware of this program were along the James River in eastern South Dakota (figure 174).

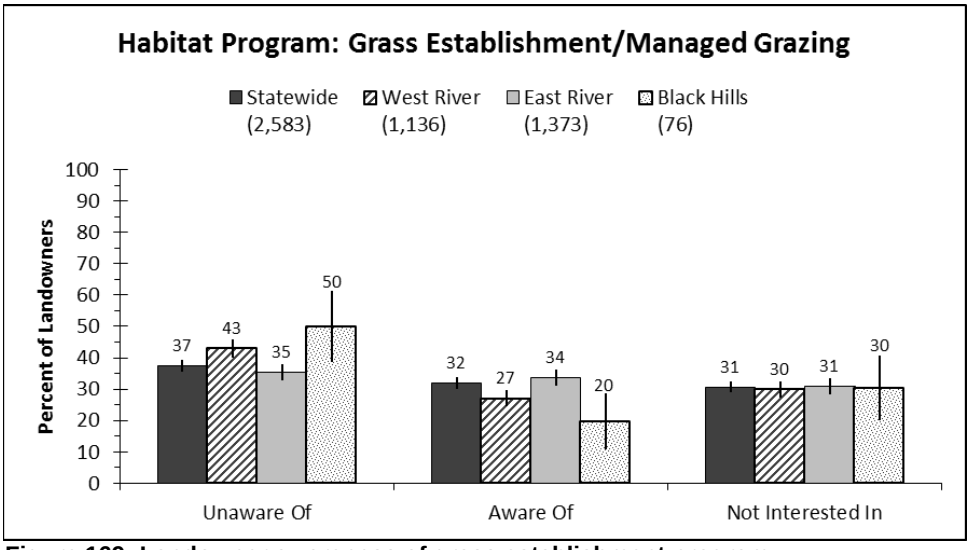


**Figure 169: Landowner awareness of grass establishment program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

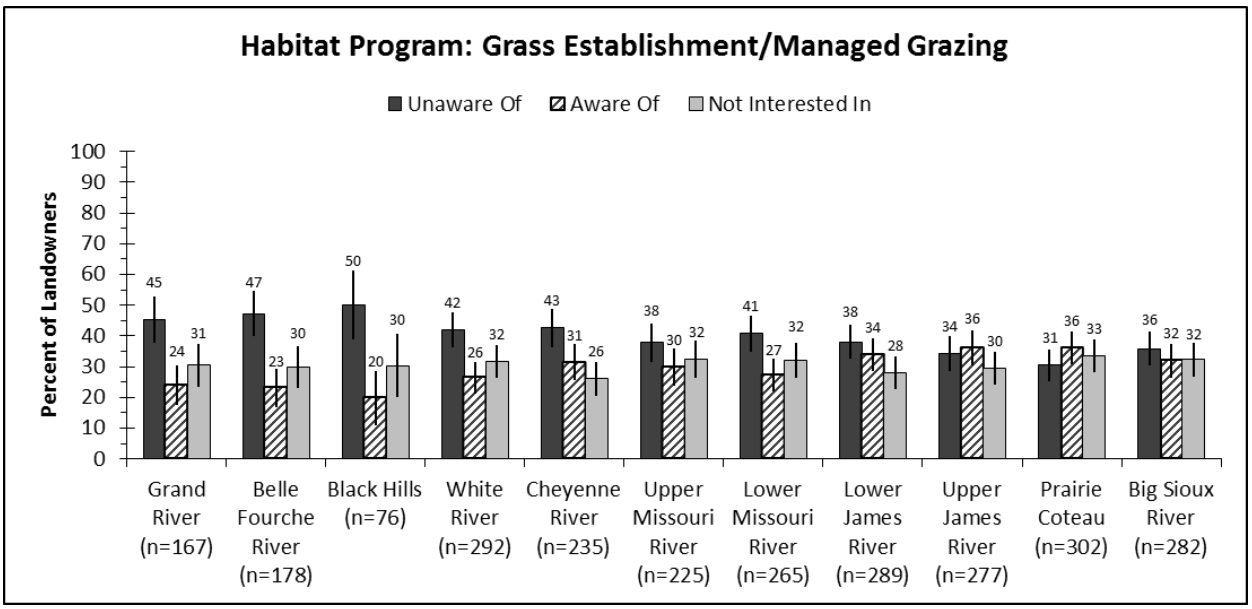


**Figure 170: Landowner awareness of grass establishment program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

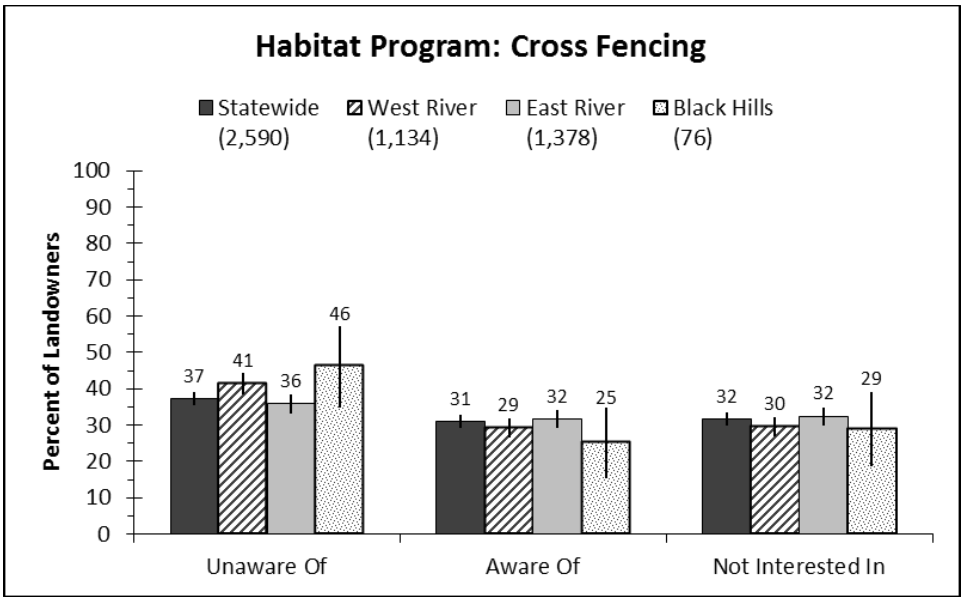


**Figure 171: Landowner awareness of cross fencing program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

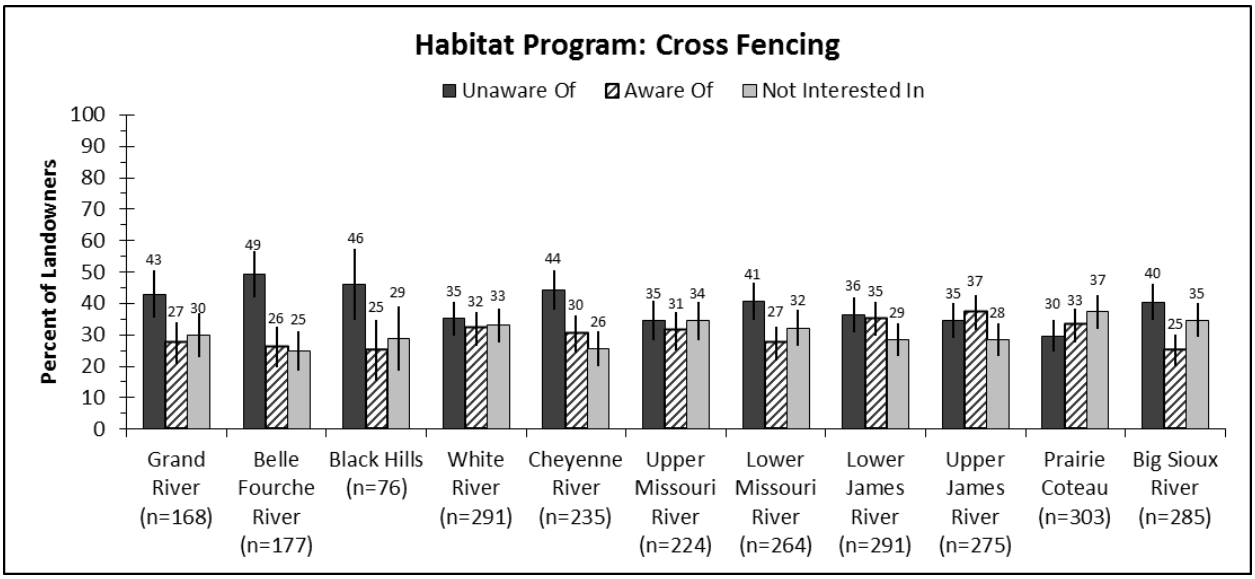


**Figure 172: Landowner awareness of cross fencing program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

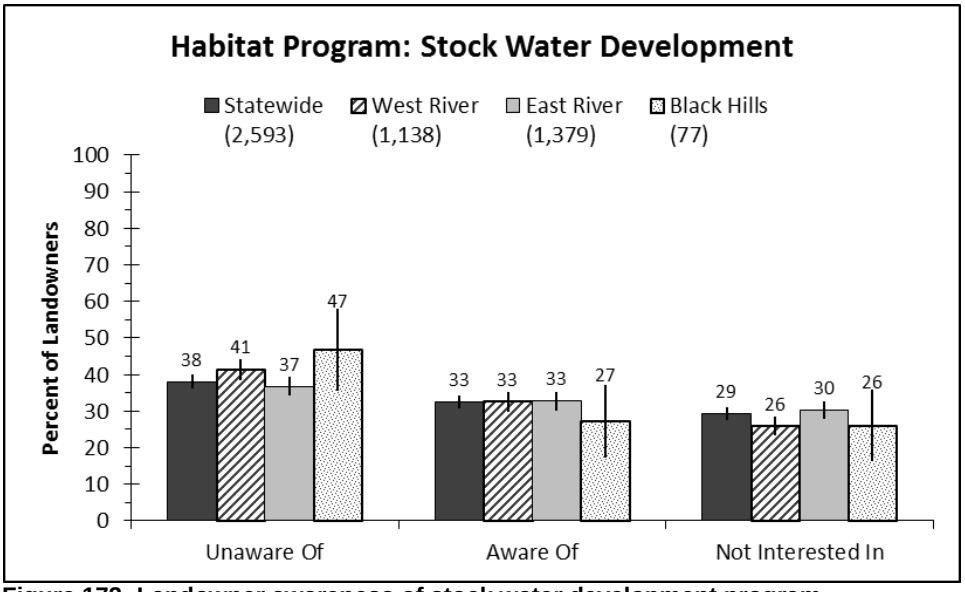


**Figure 173: Landowner awareness of stock water development program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

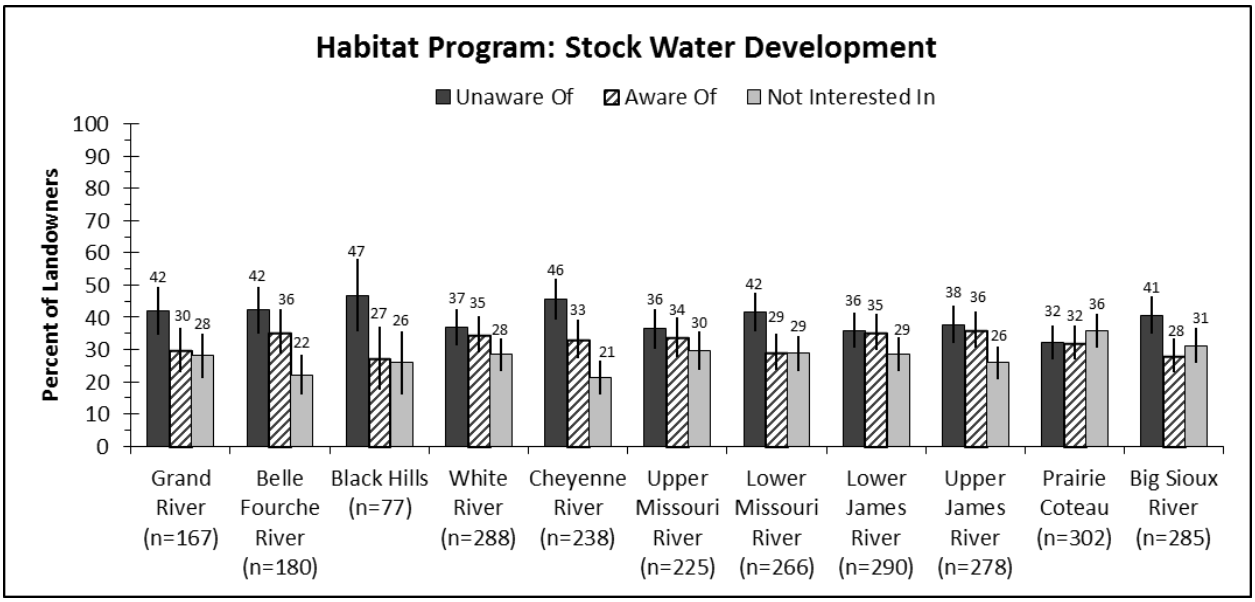


**Figure 174: Landowner awareness of stock water development program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Landowner awareness of GFP's pond or wetland habitat programs was similar to that of other habitat programs. Approximately one-third (32%) of landowners indicated they were aware of GFP's multi-purpose pond/wetland establishment program, and 36 percent were unaware of this program (figure 175). There were statistically significant but negligible difference across the regions ($\chi^2$=14.13 (4, N=2,593) p=0.007; Cramer's *V*=0.052). The area with the highest proportion of landowners who were aware of this program (36%) was the Lower James River DAU (figure 176). Similarly, 34 percent of landowners were aware of GFP's wetland restoration program (figure 177). There were statistically significant but negligible differences in landowners' awareness in the wetland restoration program across the regions ($\chi^2$=48.06 (4, N=2,584) p<0.000; Cramer's *V*=0.096). The Prairie Coteau DAU had the highest proportion of landowners (41%) who indicated they were aware of this program (figure 178).

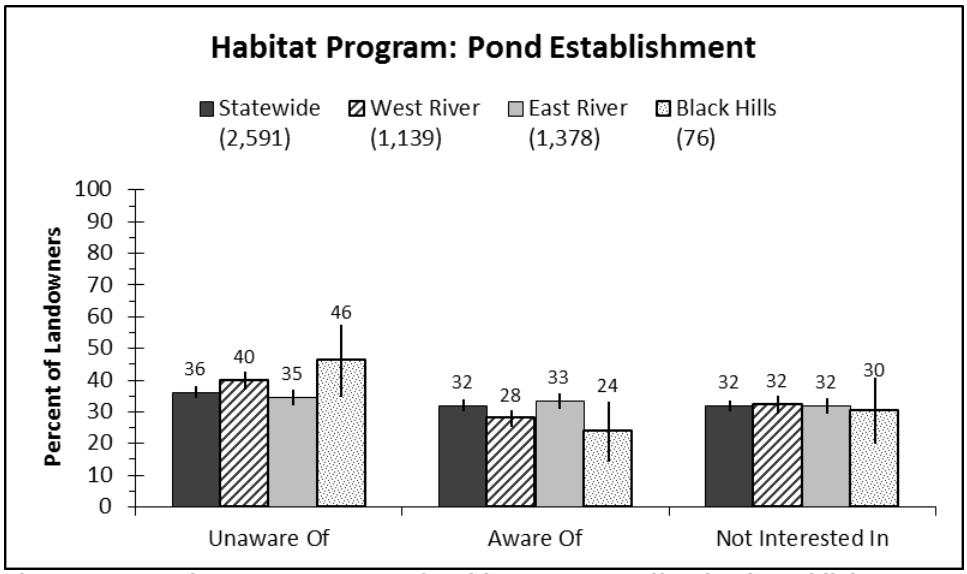


**Figure 175: Landowner awareness of multi-purpose pond/wetland establishment program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

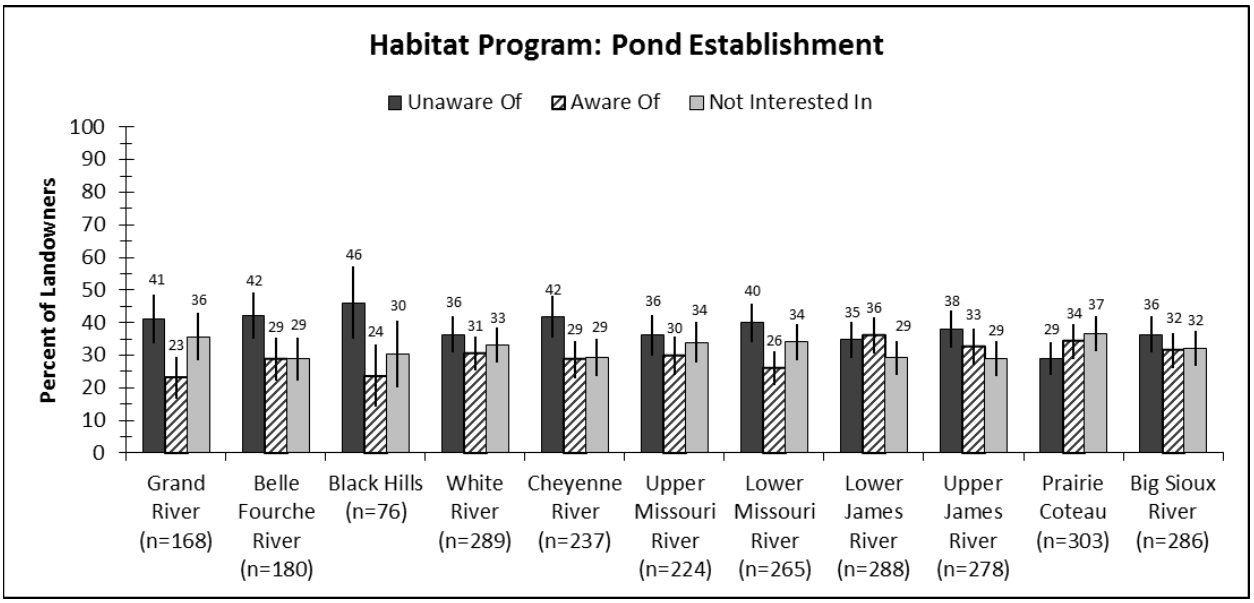


**Figure 176: Landowner awareness of multi-purpose pond/wetland establishment program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

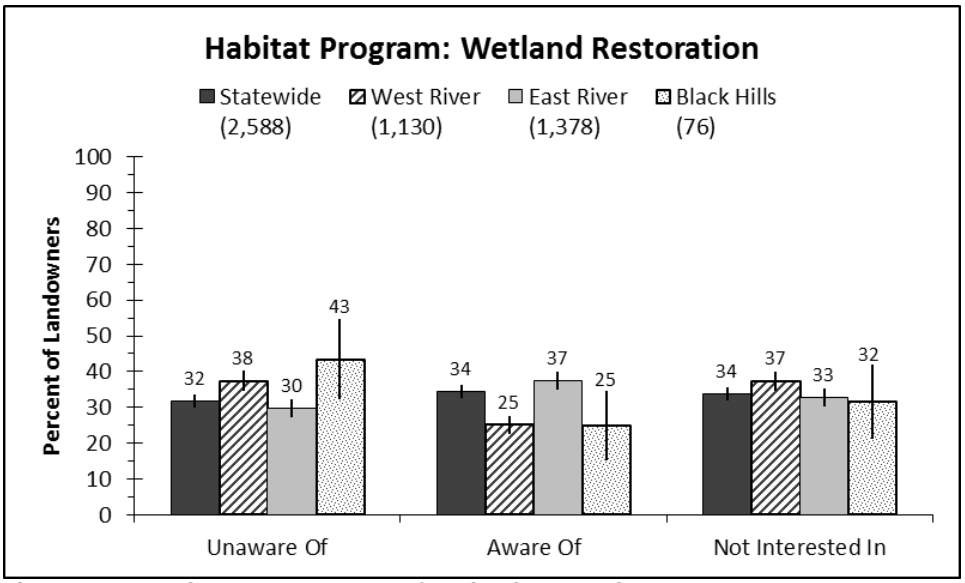


**Figure 177: Landowner awareness of wetland restoration program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

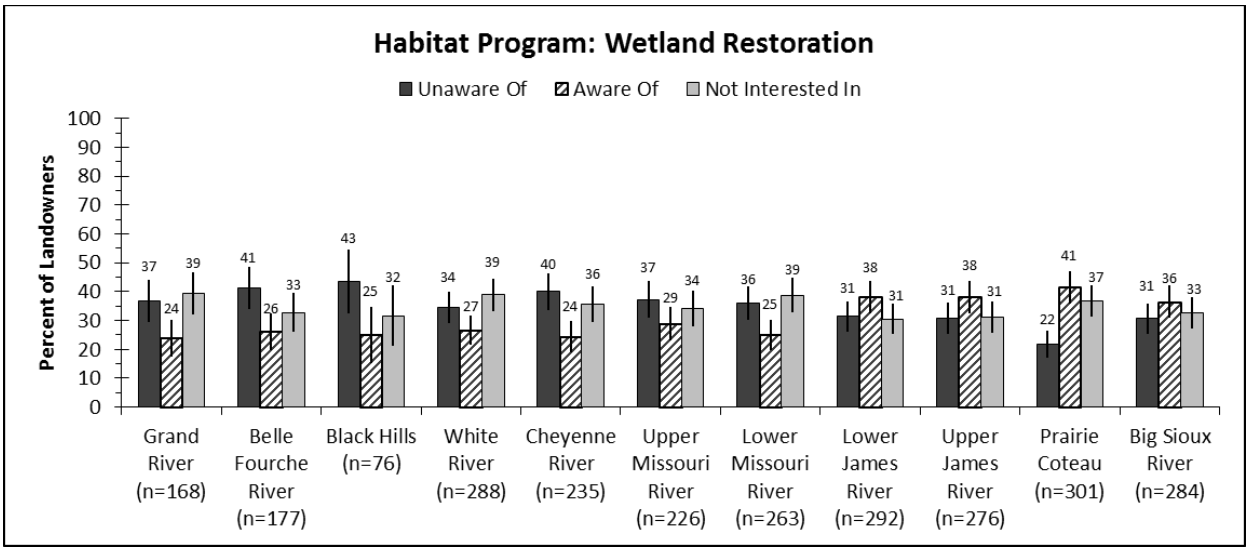


**Figure 178: Landowner awareness of wetland restoration program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Slightly more than one-quarter of landowners (27%) indicated they were aware of GFP's riparian pasture management program and 39 percent of landowners across the state were unaware of this program. There were no statistically significant differences in landowners awareness across the regions (figures 179 and 180). The program regarding wildlife friendly fence had the greatest proportion of landowners (43%) who were unaware of it. Similar to the riparian pasture management program, there were no statistically significant differences in landowners awareness across the regions (figures 181 and 182).

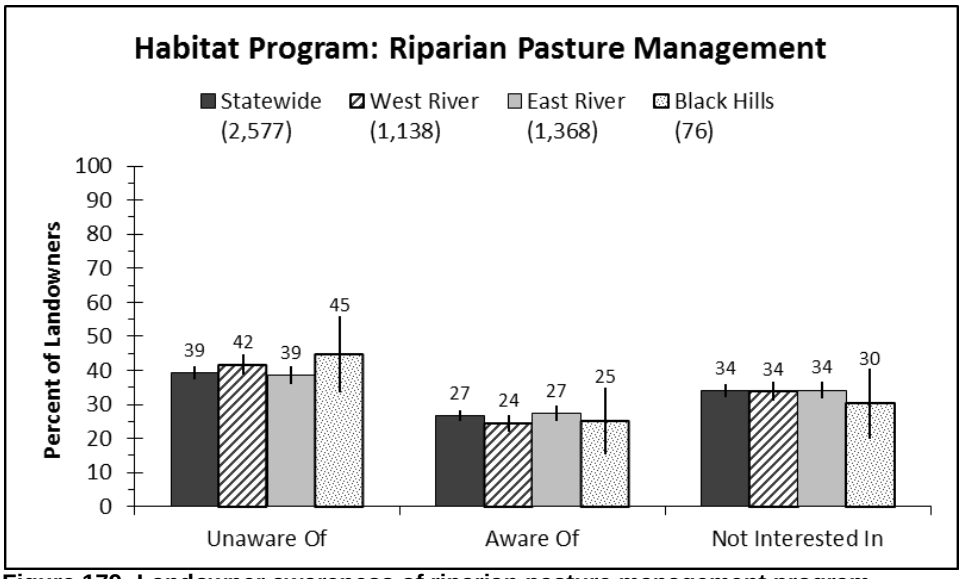


**Figure 179: Landowner awareness of riparian pasture management program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

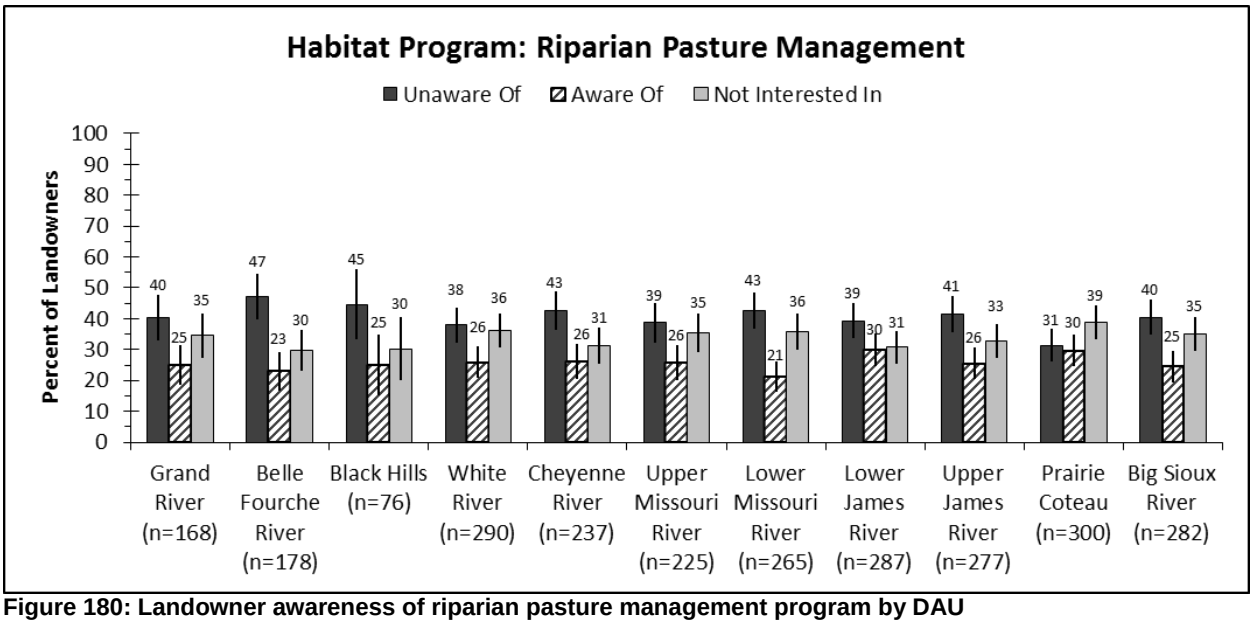


**Figure 180: Landowner awareness of riparian pasture management program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

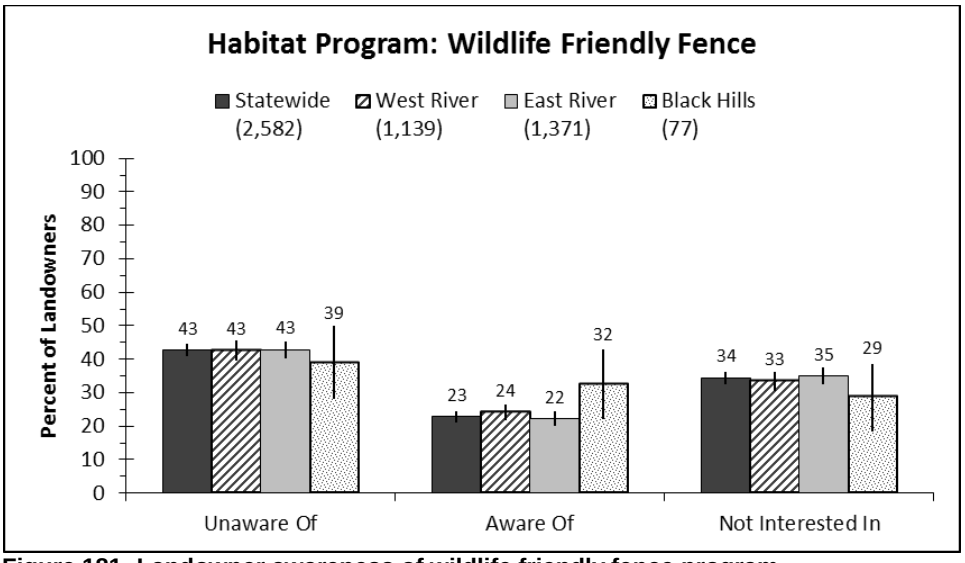


**Figure 181: Landowner awareness of wildlife friendly fence program**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

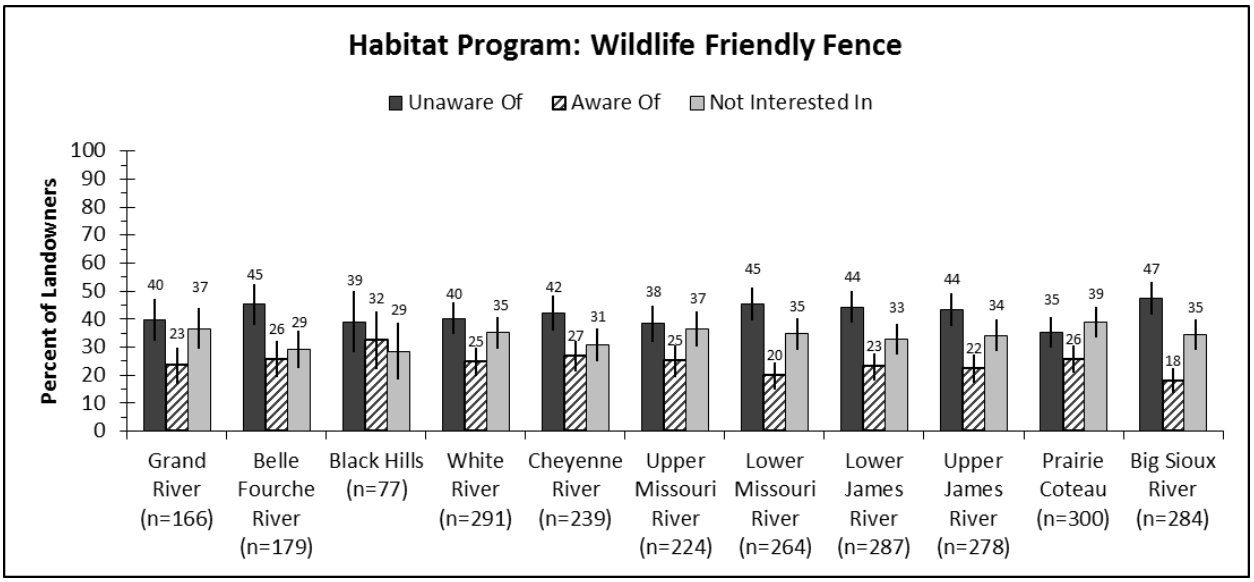


**Figure 182: Landowner awareness of wildlife friendly fence program by DAU**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Information Sources* – The choice of method for delivering information can have a significant impact on the effectiveness of GFP's habitat management programs and practices. Using only one information delivery method may alienate those who prefer another; therefore, it is important for GFP to use a diversity of outreach methods and to identify the preferred formats of target audiences. Respondents were presented with a list of 9 ways landowners may receive information about habitat management practices and programs, and asked to indicate how likely or unlikely they were to use each source or if they already use it to get their information. Written materials from GFP (5%) and other written materials (4%) along with word of mouth (3%) were the three sources of information that had the highest proportion of landowners who indicated they already used them for their habitat management information needs (figure 183). Word of mouth had the highest proportion of landowners (45%) who indicated they were likely/very likely to use it to get information about habitat management in the future, followed by written materials from both GFP and other sources (40%). Social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and non-GFP websites were the two sources with the highest proportion of landowners who said they were unlikely/very unlikely to use in the future (65% and 52%, respectively). There were no statistically significant differences in landowners' likelihood of using each source of information across the regions. When asked to indicate their most preferred source from the list, 42 percent of landowners most preferred written materials from GFP. Other written materials were most preferred by 14 percent of landowners, followed by word of mouth (12%), GFP websites (11%), and radio/TV programs (10%) for information on habitat management (figure 184).

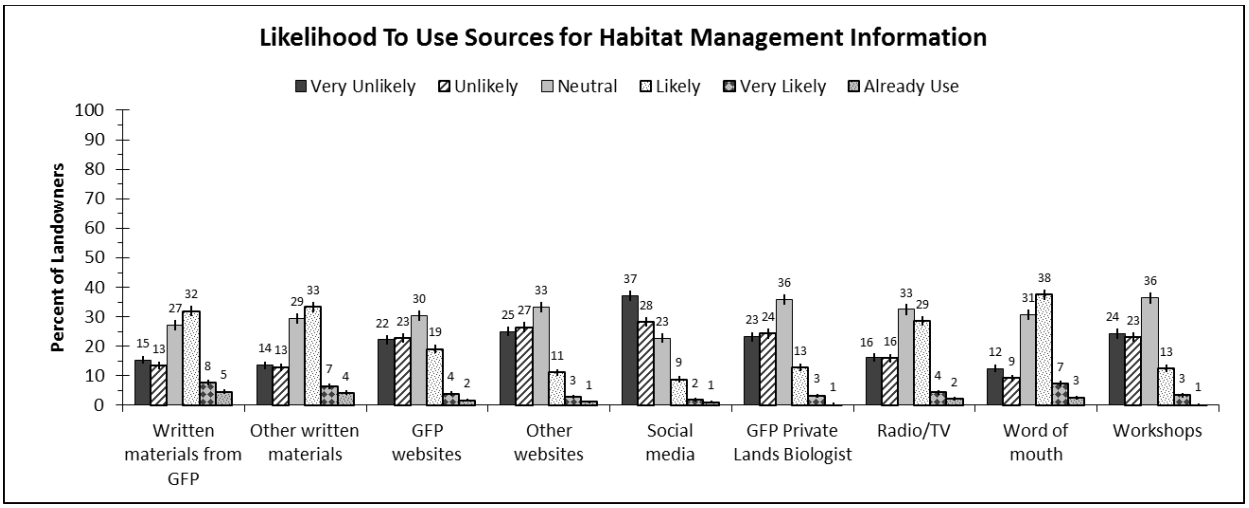


**Figure 183: Landowners' likelihood of using information sources**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

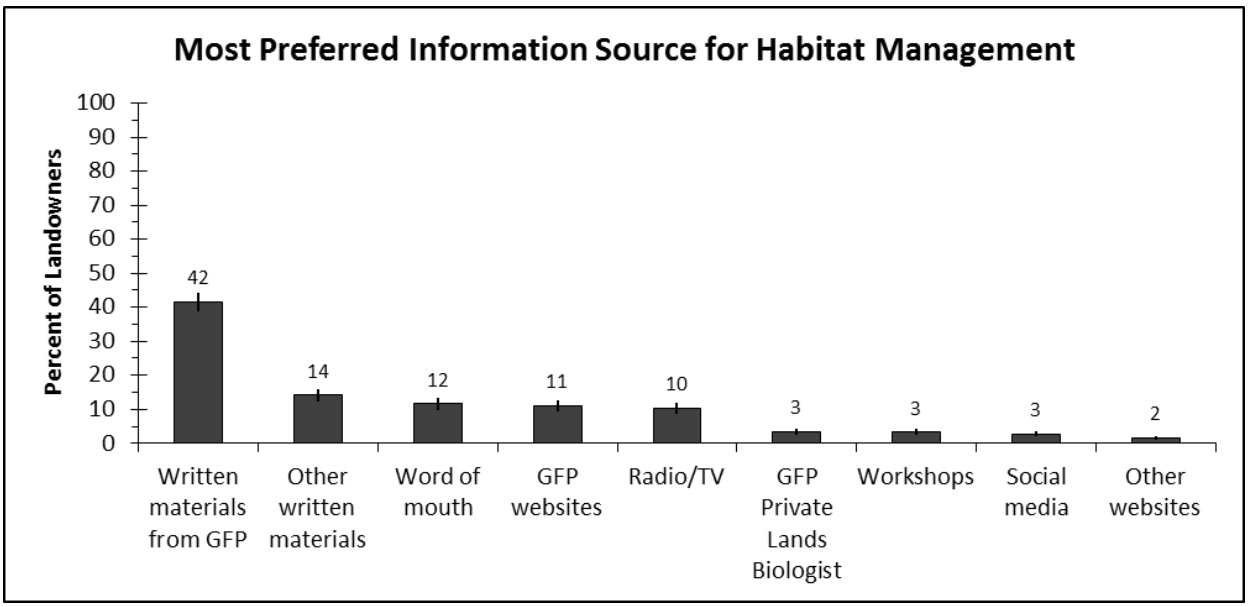


**Figure 184: Landowners' most preferred information source**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

**SD Deer Management – Survey Comparisons**

On both the hunter and landowner deer management surveys, respondents were asked to indicate their level of support or opposition for seven antlerless deer management strategies that could implemented when deer populations were too high: 1) lengthen the regular firearm deer season; 2) increase the number of licenses/hunters; 3) include antlerless-only days in late December/early January; 4) Include antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season; 5) allow the use of antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope season; 6) increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free); and 7) split seasons, resulting in two season openers. In addition to questions regarding antlerless deer management, hunters and landowners were asked their opinion about deer season lengths and dates. Below are the comparisons across the hunter and landowner survey for these items.

Antlerless Deer Management

The reduction strategy that had the most support from hunters was including antlerless-only days in late December/early January (figure 185). Nearly three-quarters (71%) of hunters supported using this reduction strategy when deer populations were too high, compared with 59 percent of landowners. Over one-quarter of landowners (27%) neither opposed nor supported this strategy compared with 16 percent of hunters. Similar levels of hunters and landowners were opposed to this (13% and 14%, respectively). The reduction strategy that had the most support from landowners was to increase the number of licenses/hunters (figure 186). Nearly two-thirds of landowners (63%) supported this reduction strategy when the deer population was too high, compared with 50 percent of hunters. Less than one-third of hunters (29%) were opposed to this strategy compared with 14 percent of landowners. Similar numbers of landowner and hunters (23% and 21%, respectively) neither supported nor opposed the strategy.

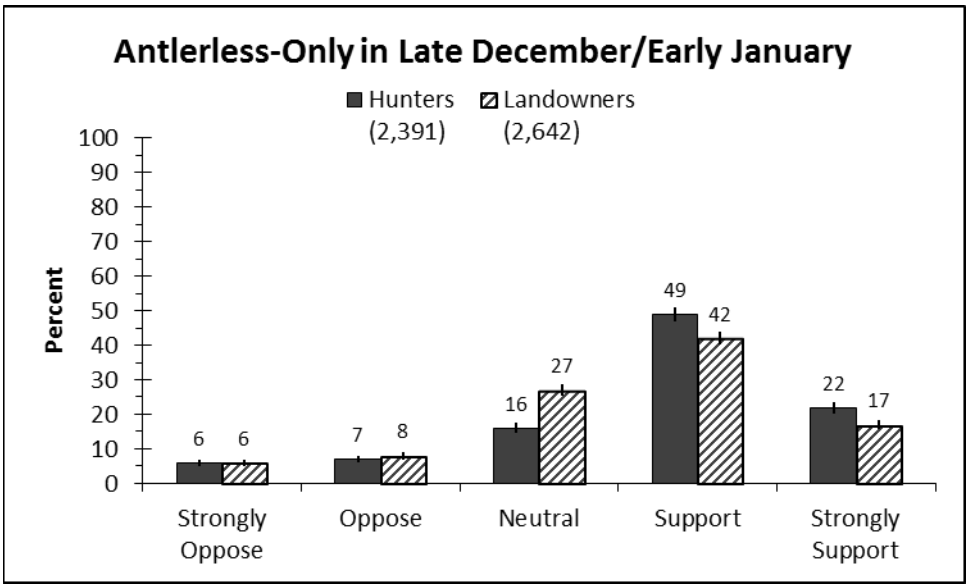


**Figure 185: Comparison of hunters' and landowners' level of support for December/January antlerless extension**

NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

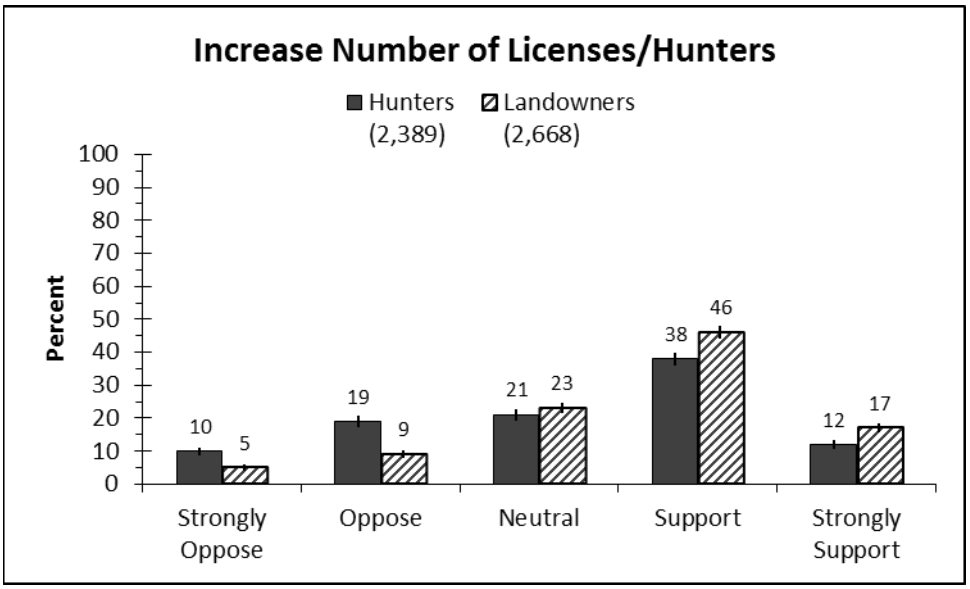


**Figure 186: Comparison of hunters' and landowners' level of support for increasing number of licenses/hunters**

NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The deer population reduction strategy with the second greatest level of support from hunters was including antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season (figure 187). Nearly two-thirds of hunters (61%) supported this reduction strategy when populations were too high, compared with 51 percent of landowners. Over one-third of landowners (35%) along with 23 percent of hunters neither supported nor opposed this strategy. A similar number of hunters (16%) and landowners (14%) were opposed to this reduction strategy. The last reduction strategy to have the support of a majority of both hunters (53%) and landowners (51%) was lengthening the regular firearm deer season (figure 188). One-quarter of landowners and 20 percent of hunters were neutral on the use of this strategy, while 27 percent of hunters and 24 percent of landowners were opposed to it.

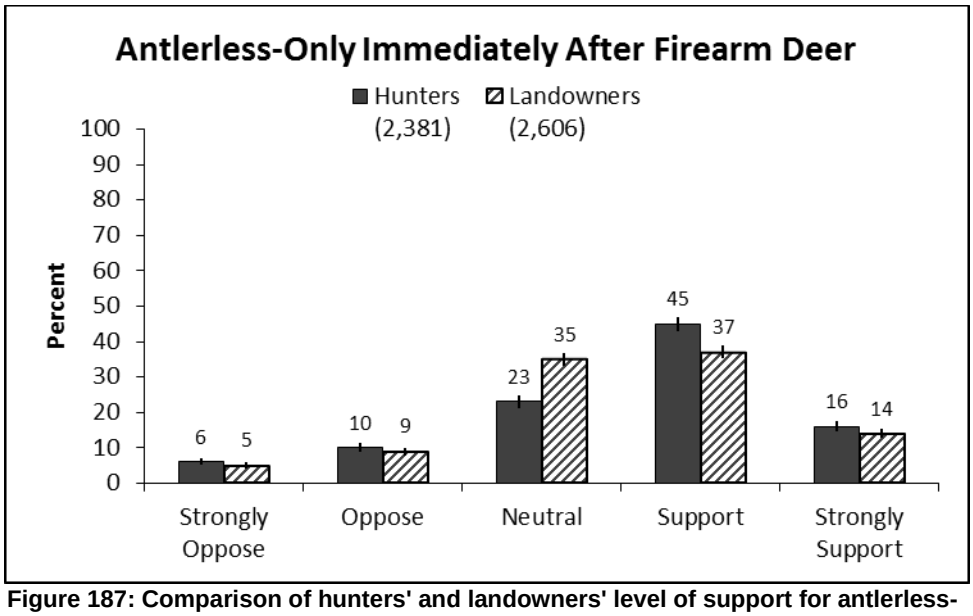


**Figure 187: Comparison of hunters' and landowners' level of support for antlerless-only extension immediately after firearm deer season**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

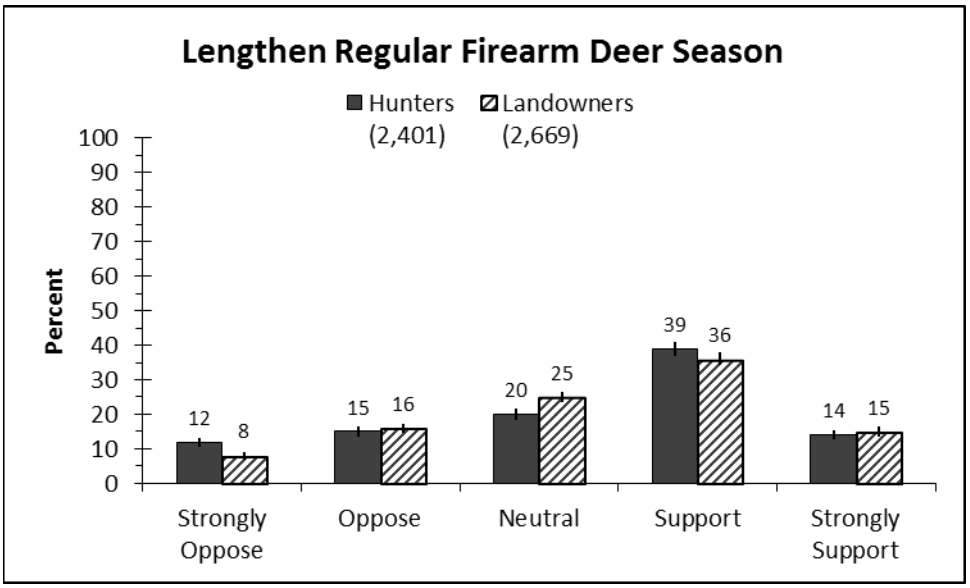


**Figure 188: Comparison of hunters' and landowners' level of support for a longer regular firearm deer season**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Just under half of hunters (49%) supported the deer population reduction strategy of increasing double and triple tag licenses where the third tag is free, compared with 42 percent of landowners (figure 189). Nearly one-third of landowners (32%) and one-quarter of hunters (24%) indicated they were neutral on the use of this strategy. Over one-quarter of hunters (27%) and landowners (26%) were opposed to increasing the number of double and triple tags to reduce deer population numbers.

The reduction strategy that had the highest level of opposition from hunters was the use of antlerless deer tags during the October firearm antelope season (figure 190). Forty percent of hunters, along with one-third of landowners (32%), were opposed to this reduction strategy, and another 29 percent of hunters and 40 percent of landowners indicated they were neutral toward its use. Nearly one-third of hunters (31%) and 28 percent of landowners, however, supported this strategy when population were too high.

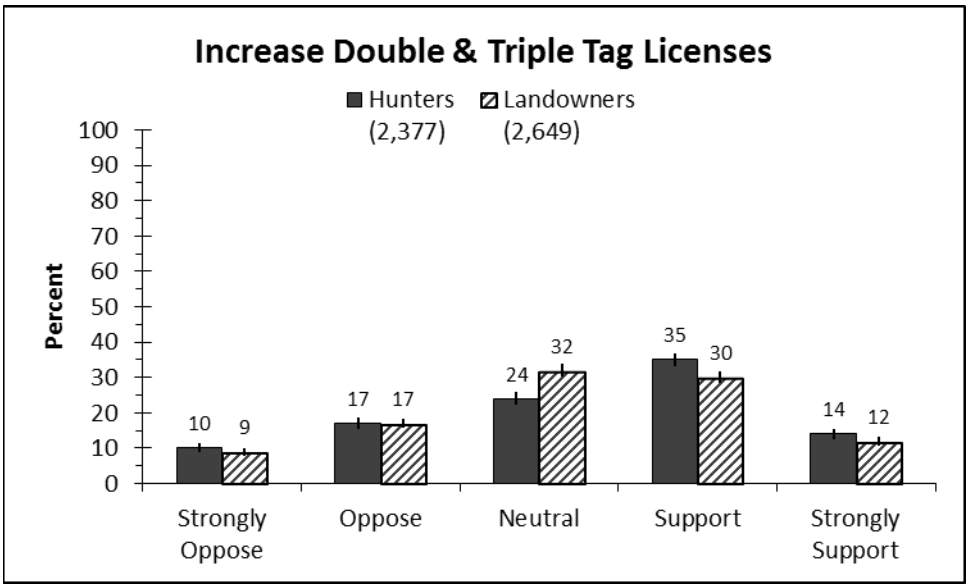


**Figure 189: Comparison of hunters' and landowners'' level of support for double & triple tag licenses**

NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

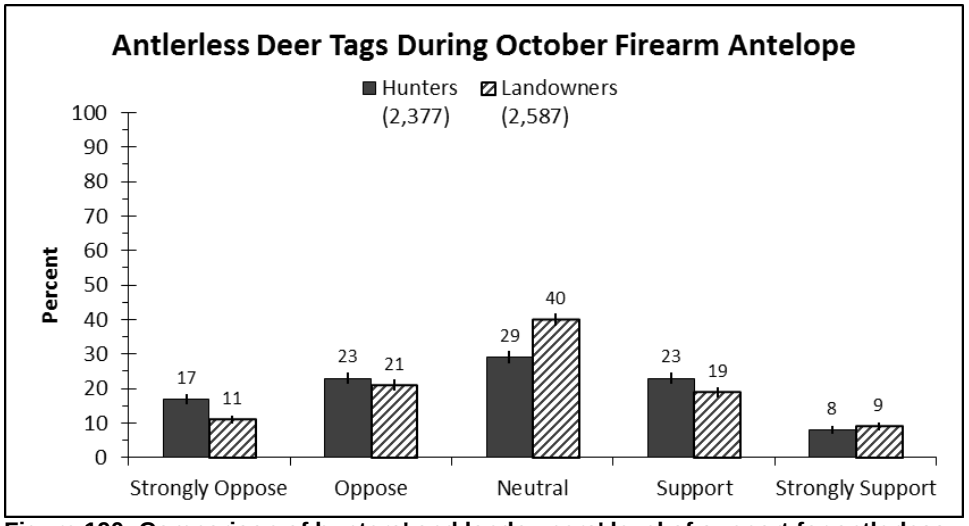


**Figure 190: Comparison of hunters' and landowners' level of support for antlerless deer tags in October firearm antelope season**

NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The deer population reduction strategy that had the lowest level of support from both hunters (27%) and landowners (21%) was the use of split seasons, resulting in two season openers (figure 191). Forty-two percent of landowners and 35 percent of hunters neither supported nor opposed the use of this reduction strategy. Hunters (38%) and landowners (37%) had similar level of opposition to the use of this deer population reduction strategy.

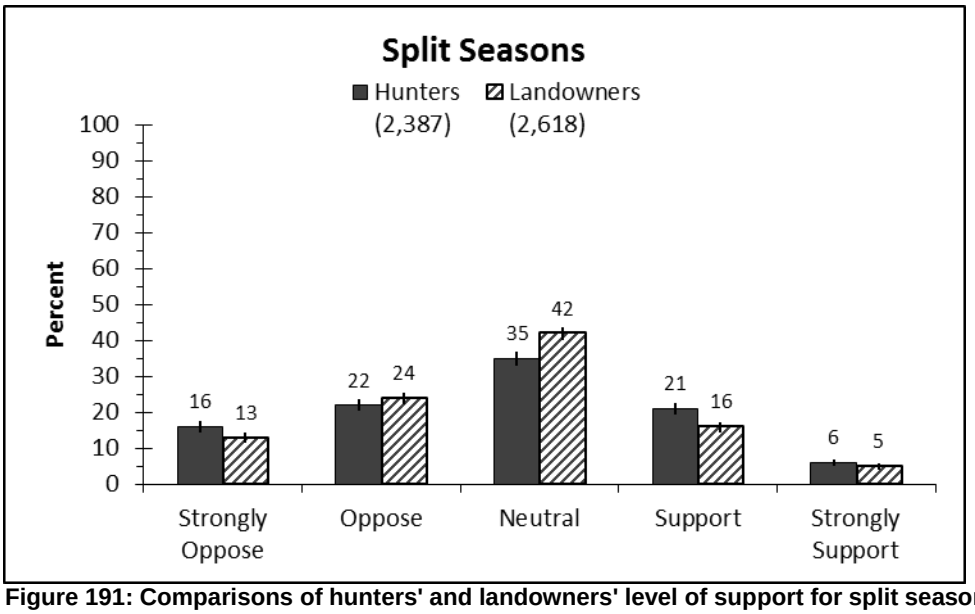


**Figure 191: Comparisons of hunters' and landowners' level of support for split seasons**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Season Structure

*Season Lengths* – The East River Deer Season in 2015 ran for a total of 25 days. The majority of hunters (59%) and landowners (53%) believed the season's length was just about right (figure 192). While nearly one-quarter of hunters (21%) and landowners (24%) indicated they had no opinion, 12 percent of hunters and landowners thought the season was too short. There were similar proportions of hunters (8%) and landowners (11%) who thought the East River season was too long. The Archery Deer Season had the next highest proportion of hunters (56%) and landowners (45%) who believed the season length was just about right

(figure 193). Similar proportions of hunters (6%) and landowners (5%) thought the season was too short; however, landowners were more likely than hunters to think the season was too long (15% and 9%, respectively). Similarly, landowners were more likely than hunters to indicate they had no opinion regarding the archery season length (35% and 29%, respectively).

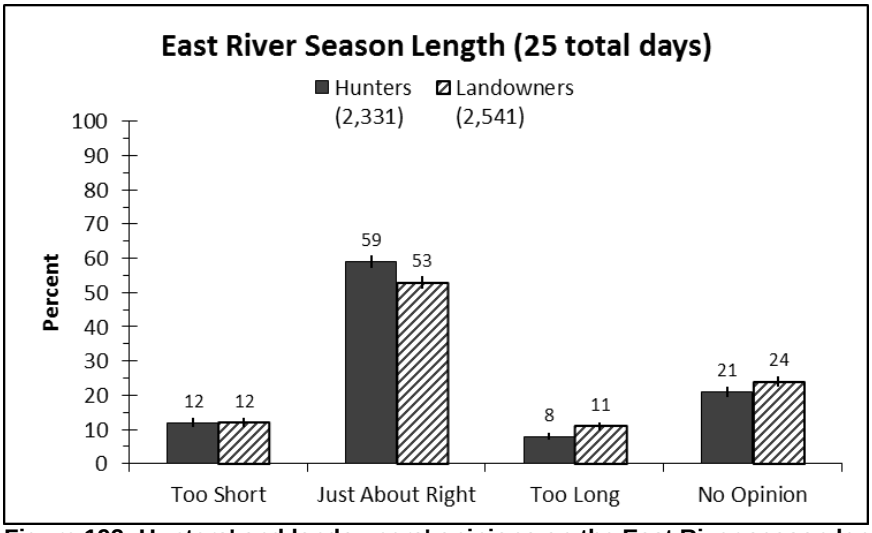


**Figure 192: Hunters' and landowners' opinions on the East River season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

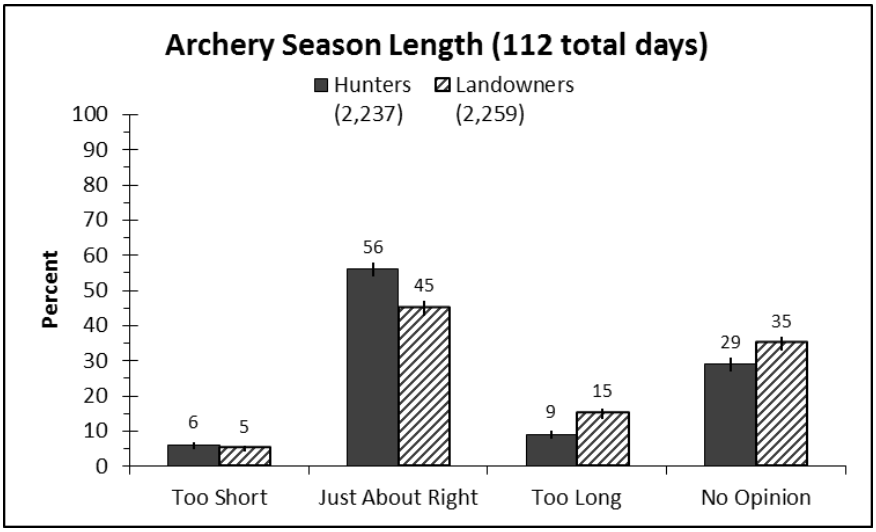


**Figure 193: Hunters' and landowners' opinions on the Archery season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Just over half of hunters (52%) believed the length of the Youth Deer Season was just about right, compared with 42 percent of landowners (figure 194). While hunters were more likely than landowners to think the length was just about right, landowners were more likely than hunters to indicate they had no opinion about the length (38% and 31%, respectively). Fifteen percent of hunters and landowners thought the season was too long, while a minority of landowners and hunters (5% and 2%, respectively) thought the season was too short.

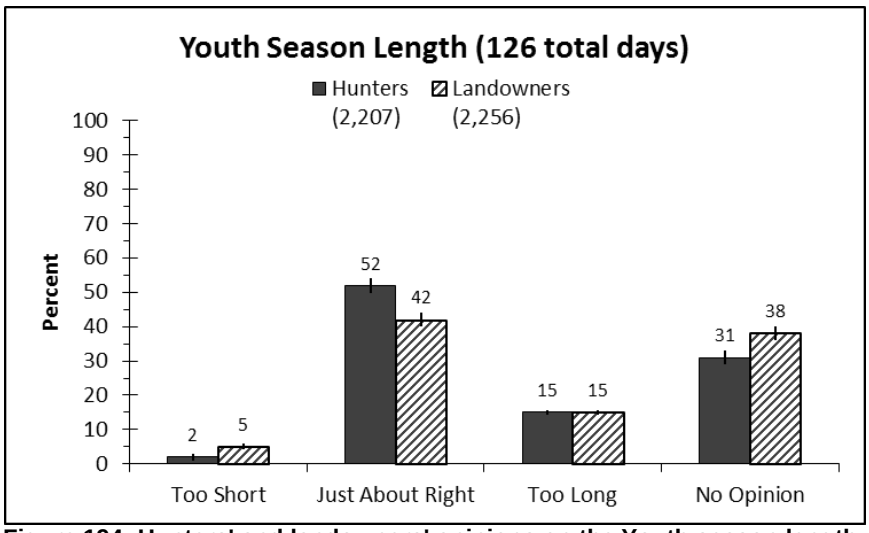


**Figure 194: Hunters' and landowners' opinions on the Youth season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The Black Hills Season and the Muzzleloader Season had highest proportions of landowners and hunters who indicated they had no opinion about the respective season lengths. The majority of landowners (58%) indicated they had no opinion about the length of the Black Hills season, compared with 41 percent of hunters (figure 195). Just under half of hunters (49%) and one-third of landowners (35%) thought the season length was just about right. Forty-nine percent of landowners and 45 percent of hunters indicated they had no opinion about the Muzzleloader season length (figure 196). A similar number of hunters (42%) thought the season length was just about right, compared with 35 percent of landowners.

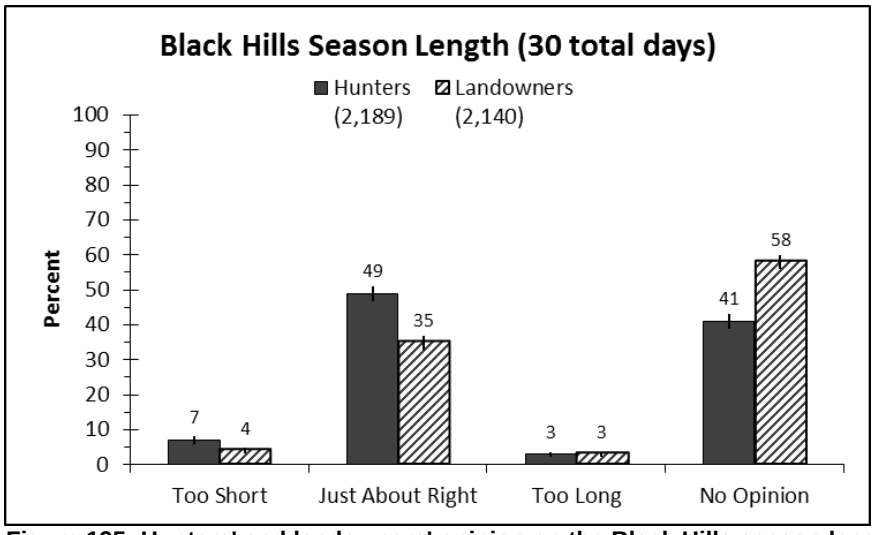


**Figure 195: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on the Black Hills season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

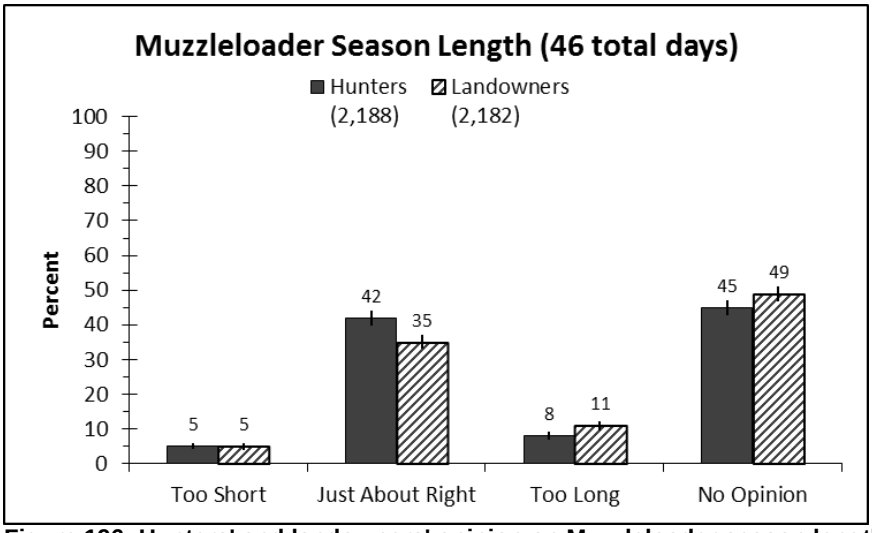


**Figure 196: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on Muzzleloader season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The West River Deer season had the highest proportion of hunters and landowners who believed the season was too short (figure 197). One-third of hunters (33%) and 15 percent of landowners indicated the season was too short. Similar proportions of hunters (40%) and landowners (41%) believed the season was just about right. Another 41 percent of landowners had no opinion about the season length, compared with 26 percent of hunters. A small proportion of hunters (1%) and landowners (3%) thought the season was too long.

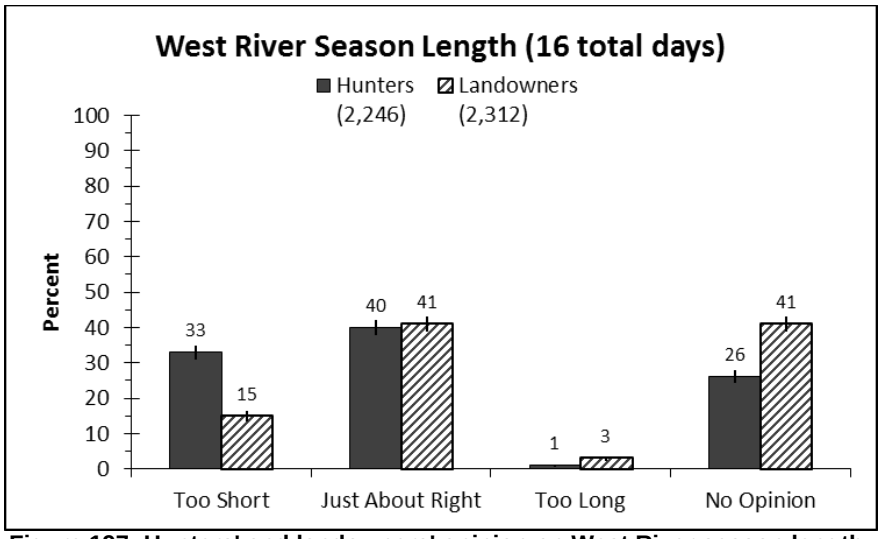


**Figure 197: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on West River season length**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

*Season Dates* – The majority of hunters felt the season dates were just about right for all of the seasons except for the Muzzleloader Deer Season; however, the East River and West River deer seasons were the only seasons where a majority of landowners felt the dates were just about right. For the Archery, Muzzleloader, and Black Hills seasons the majority of landowners were split between having no opinion and thinking they were about right. Nearly three-quarters of hunters (64%) and landowners (60%) indicated they believed the dates for the East River season were just about right (figure 198). Nearly one-quarter of hunters (20%) and landowners (28%) indicated they had no opinion about the East River Deer dates. A similar proportion of hunters (12%) and landowners (10%) thought the season was too late, while fewer hunters (4%) and landowners (2%) thought it started too early. Similarly, three-quarters of hunters (65%) thought the season dates for the West River Deer season were just about right, compared with 50 percent of landowners (figure 199). Forty-five percent of landowners indicated they had no opinion about the dates, whereas only 26 percent of hunters had no opinion.

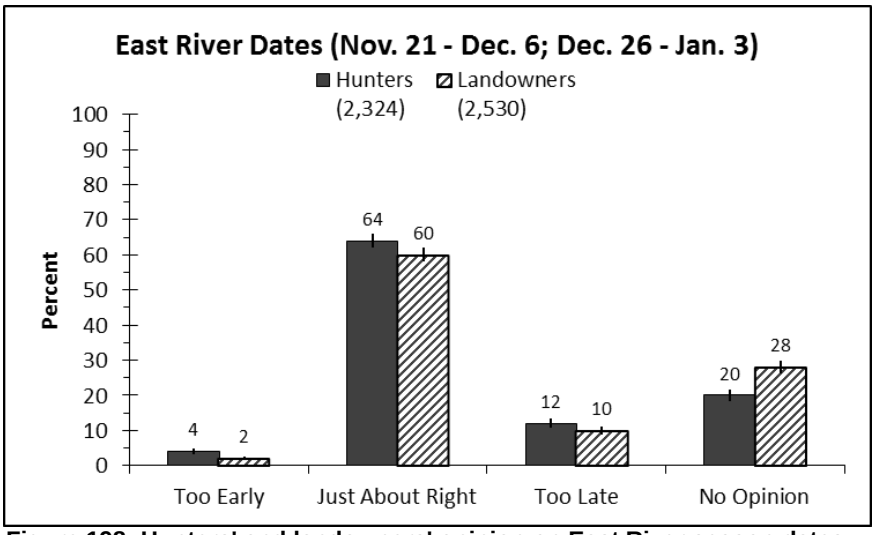


**Figure 198: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on East River season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

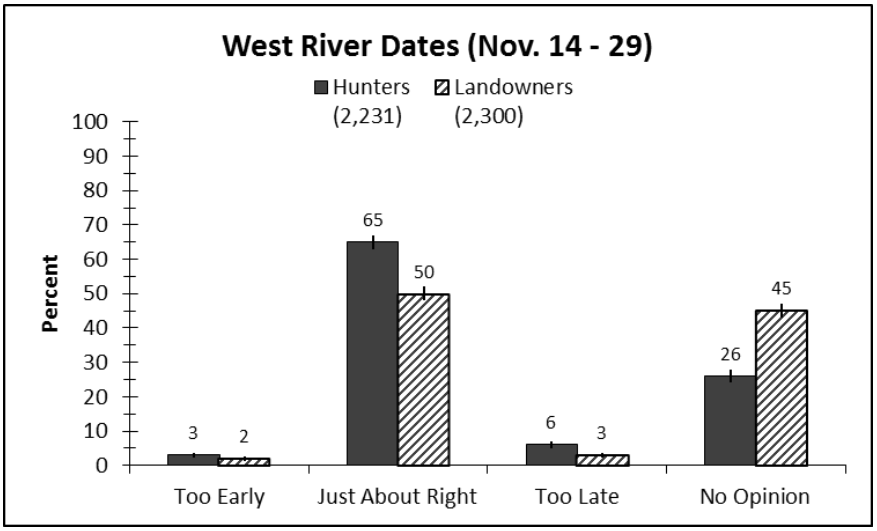


**Figure 199: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on West River season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

Over half of hunters (58%), along with 47 percent of landowners, thought the Archery Deer Season dates were just about right (figure 200). Forty-three percent of landowners and one-third of hunters (32%) indicated they had no opinion regarding the dates. Similar number of hunters (5%) and landowners (7%) thought the dates were too early, whereas 5 percent of

hunters and 3 percent of landowners thought they were too late. Just over half of hunters (53%) and one-third of landowners (37%) thought the Black Hills Deer Season dates were just about right (figure 201). The majority of landowners (61%), however, indicated they had no opinion about the dates, compared with 44 percent of hunters. Less than 5 percent of hunters or landowners thought the season dates were either too early or too late.

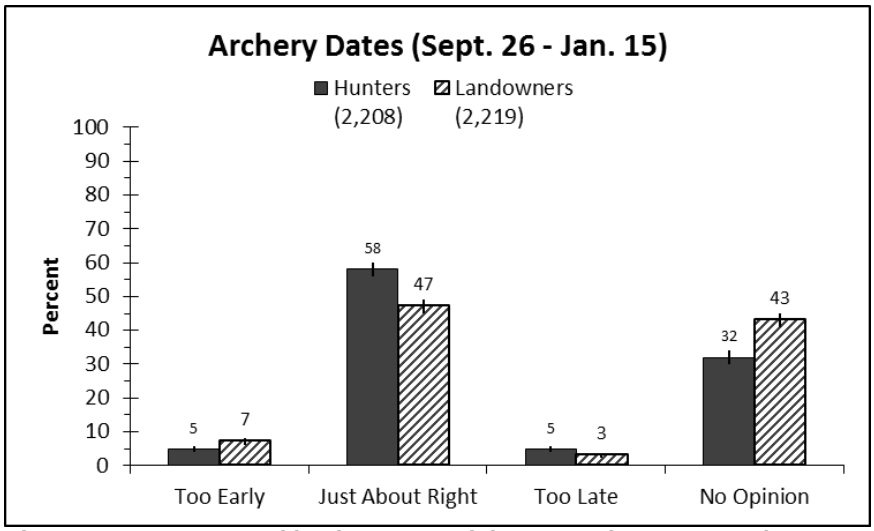


**Figure 200: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on Archery season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

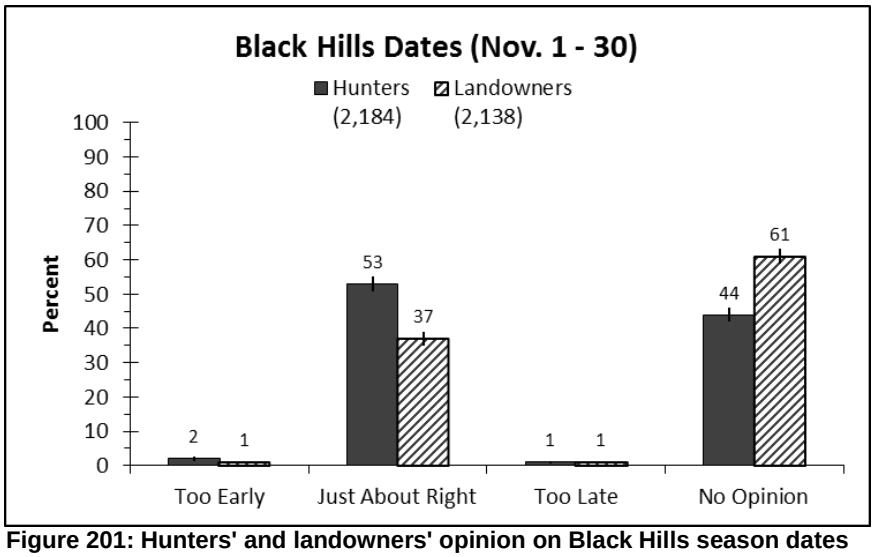


**Figure 201: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on Black Hills season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

The muzzleloader season dates had the lowest proportion of hunters (39%) and landowners (36%) who thought the dates were about right. More than half of landowners (55%) and just under half of the hunters (47%) indicated they had no opinion about the dates; however, 13 percent of hunters, along with 8 percent of landowners, believed the season dates were too late.

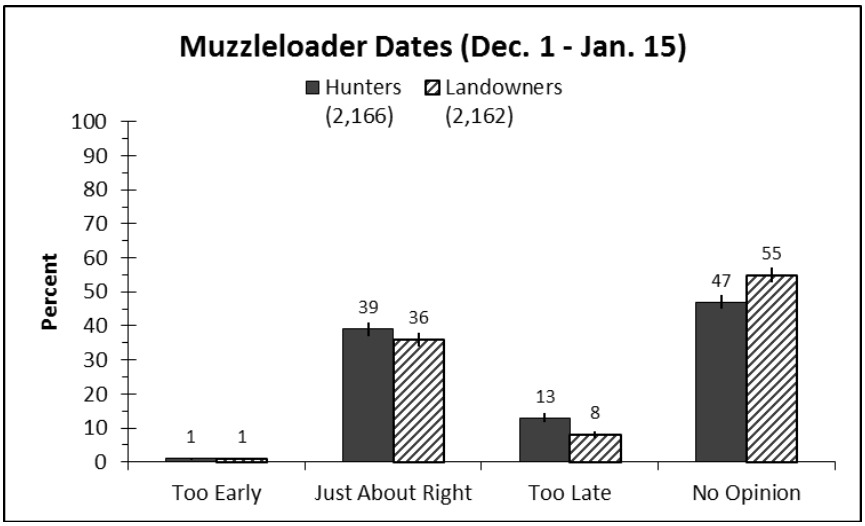


**Figure 202: Hunters' and landowners' opinion on Muzzleloader season dates**
NOTE: *Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. **Number in parentheses equal number of responses

## Comments

Many of the respondents to the hunter and landowner deer management surveys provided additional comments with their completed questionnaires. These comments provide a qualitative description of hunters' and landowners' opinions related to deer management and concerns. These comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the surveys, but rather hunters and landowners were free to provide additional comments at the end. Comments are included in appendix B.

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# APPENDICES

**Appendix A**
**Survey Instruments**
**(Format Adjusted)**

# South Dakota Deer Management: Hunter Survey

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

# South Dakota Deer Management: Hunter Survey
## South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks

*Please take a few minutes to tell us about your preferences for deer management in South Dakota. Your input is valuable and will help us better understand hunters' preferences for deer management in South Dakota. The information you provide will be used in GFP's development of a deer management plan and future decisions about deer management in South Dakota.* ***All information you provide will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to your name.***

**Q1.** About how long have you been hunting deer in South Dakota? _____ Years

**Q2.** Please rank the following deer seasons in order of your hunting preference from 1 to 6, where 1 is your first choice, 2 is your second choice, and so on until all six seasons are ranked.

_ East River Deer
_ West River Deer
_ Archery Deer
_ Muzzleloader Deer
_ Black Hills Deer
_ Refuge Deer

**Q3.** In what management unit, regardless of deer season, do you hunt the most?
*Please refer to the map at the back (page 8) for management unit numbers.*

_____ Unit

**Q4.** Which deer species do you most prefer to hunt in South Dakota?

*Please select one:*

□ Mule deer
□ White-tailed deer

**Q5a.** Do you currently own and/or operate land in South Dakota (land owned and/or leased) for farming and/or ranching purposes?

□ No
□ Yes

**Q5b.** If YES, approximately how many total acres do you own and/or operate?

_____ Acres

**Q6.** People go deer hunting for many reasons. How important or unimportant are each of the following reasons for why you deer hunt.

1 = Very Unimportant (VU)
2 = Unimportant (U)
3 = Neither Unimportant nor Important (N)
4 = Important (I)
5 = Very Important (VI)

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> statement:*

| | VU | U | N | I | VI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Being with friends and family | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Experiencing the challenge of the hunt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Harvesting a doe | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. Enjoying the outdoors | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. Harvesting large-antlered deer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. Solitude | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| G. Harvesting any antlered deer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| H. Bringing deer meat home to eat | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q7.** Over the past 5 years, based on your experiences, has each of the following conditions increased, stayed the same, or decreased in the *area you hunt the most*?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> statement:*

| | | Decreased A Lot | Decreased A Little | About The Same | Increased A Little | Increased A Lot |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Number of hunters in the field | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. | Number of white-tailed deer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. | Number of mule deer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. | Number of bucks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. | Average size of antlers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. | Private land hunting access | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q8.** Have you hunted deer on Game Production Areas (GPA) in the past 5 years? *GPAs are public lands owned by the State of South Dakota and managed by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks for the benefit of all wildlife species.*

□ No
□ Yes
□ Not Sure

**Q9.** How would you rate the deer habitat on the Game Production Areas over the past 5 years?

*Please circle a number:*

| Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Very Good | No Opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Q10.** Have you hunted deer on Walk-In Areas in the past 5 years? *Walk-In Areas are lands owned by private individuals as working farms and ranches leased for public hunting access by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.*

□ No
□ Yes
□ Not Sure

**Q11.** How would you rate the deer habitat on Walk-In Areas over the past 5 years?

*Please circle a number:*

| Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Very Good | No Opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Q12.** Management of deer populations to produce large-antlered bucks requires conservative harvest strategies in order to allow more bucks to reach maturity. Would you be willing to hunt less often if it increases your chances to harvest a large-antlered buck when you have a license?

□ No, not in any management unit
□ Yes, but <u>not</u> in all management units
□ Yes, in <u>all</u> management units
□ Don't know

**Q13.** If the deer population in the area you hunt the most was too high, how strongly would you support or oppose the following population reduction strategies?

1 = Strongly Oppose (SO)
2 = Oppose (O)
3 = Neither Oppose nor Support (N)
4 = Support (S)
5 = Strongly Support (SS)

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> item:*

| Reduction Strategies | SO | O | N | S | SS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Lengthen the regular firearm deer season | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. Increase the number of licenses/hunters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. Include antlerless-only days in late December/early January | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. Include antlerless-only days immediately following regular firearm deer season | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. Allow the use of antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope season | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. Increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| G. Split seasons, resulting in two season openers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q14.** In your opinion, were the following 2015 **season lengths** too short, too long, or just about right?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> deer season:*

| | Too Short | Just About Right | Too Long | No Opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **East River** (25 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **West River** (16 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Archery** (112 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Muzzleloader** (46 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Black Hills** (30 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Youth Deer** (126 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**Q15.** In your opinion, were the following 2015 **season dates** too early, too late, or just about right?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> deer season:*

| | Too Early | Just About Right | Too Late | No Opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **East River** (Nov. 21 – Dec. 6; Dec. 26-Jan. 3) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **West River** (Nov. 14 – 29) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Archery** (Sept. 26 – Jan. 15) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Muzzleloader** (Dec. 1 – Jan. 15) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Black Hills** (Nov. 1 – 30) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Youth Deer** (Sept. 12 – Jan. 15) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

*Finally, we would like to ask you some questions about limited access units.*

LIMITED ACCESS UNITS

Game, Fish and Parks has established some Limited Access Units in areas with historically high hunter densities and predominantly public land, which further restrict the total number of valid firearm deer licenses in the unit. During archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer seasons, a free access permit to hunt these areas is required. The number of available access permits for archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer hunting in Limited Access Units is unlimited. P*lease refer to map on page 8 for Limited Access Unit locations.*

2015 Licenses & Permits in Limited Access Units (Issued/Available)

| Limited Access Unit | Firearm Licenses | Archery Permits | Muzzleloader Permits | Youth Permits |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Custer National Forest (35L) | 108/108 | 453/unlimited | 56/unlimited | 26/unlimited |
| Hill Ranch (27L) | 17/17 | 167/unlimited | 31/unlimited | 17/unlimited |
| Little Moreau (24B) | 22/22 | 115/unlimited | 43/unlimited | 10/unlimited |

**Q16.** How strongly do you support or oppose limiting the number of firearm licenses in limited access units? P*lease refer to map on page 8 for limited access unit locations.*

*Please circle a number:*

| Strongly Oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q17.** Currently there are 3 Limited Access Units in the state. How strongly do you support or oppose the creation of additional Limited Access Units? P*lease refer to map on page 8 for Limited Access Unit locations.*

*Please circle a number:*

| Strongly Oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q18.** How strongly would you support or oppose limiting the number of available permits in Limited Access Units for archery, muzzleloader, and youth deer seasons? *Please refer to map on page 8 for Limited Access Unit locations.*

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> deer season:*

| | **Strongly Opposed** | **Opposed** | **Neutral** | **Support** | **Strongly Support** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Archery | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Muzzleloader | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Youth | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q19.** How strongly would you support or oppose further evaluation of alternative licensing concepts that regulate the number of deer hunters on specific public lands?

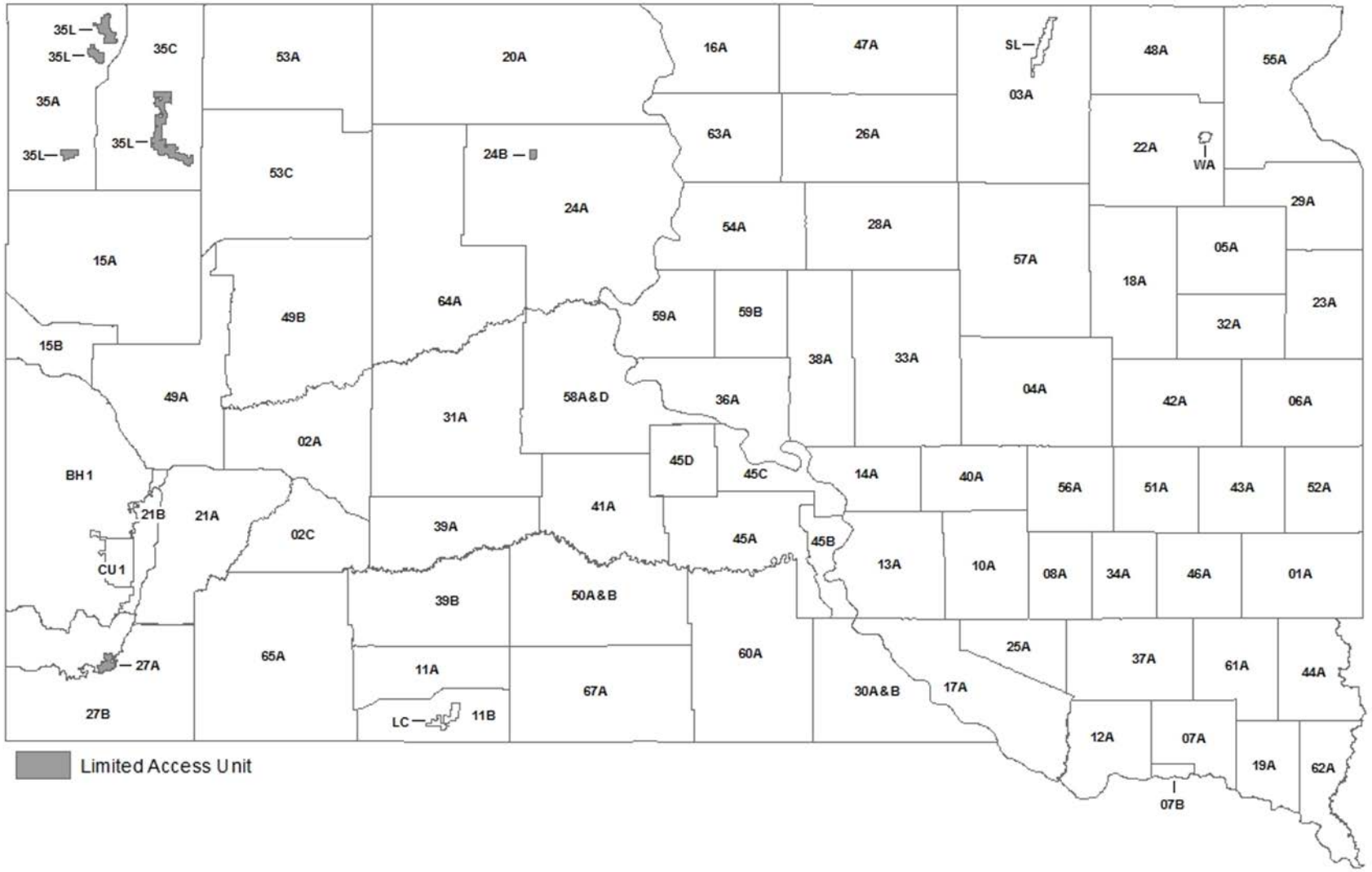
*Please circle a number:*

| Strongly Oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

# Thank You for your valuable time completing this survey!

**Those are all the questions we have for you. If you have additional comments about deer management in South Dakota, please use the space on the back to share your ideas.**
These comments will be compiled and given to the GFP Commissioners, staff biologists, administrators, and made available to the public.

# Deer Management Units



# South Dakota Deer Management: Landowner Survey

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

# South Dakota Deer Management: Landowner Survey
## South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks

*Please read each question and indicate your answer in the space provided. All information you provide will be treated confidentially and will not be linked to your name.*

**Q1.** Do you currently own and/or operate land in (land owned and/or leased)?

☐ No ⇨ **If NO, please STOP here and return this survey to us in the postage-paid envelope enclosed. Thank you!**

☐ Yes

***IF YES**, please reference the property in this county when answering questions about your land.*

**Q2.** Approximately, how many total acres do you own and/or operate in this county (listed above)?

_____ Acres

**Q3.** Is the majority of your land in this county located within the Black Hills Fire Protection District?

☐ No

☐ Yes

**Q4.** Do you consider yourself primarily a farmer, rancher, both, or neither?

☐ Farmer
☐ Rancher
☐ Both
☐ Neither

**Q5.** How would you rate the number of deer you observed on your land in the past 5 years?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> deer species:*

| | Not Present | Far Too Few | Slightly Too Few | Just About Right | Slightly Too Many | Far Too Many |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| White-tails | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Mule deer | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**Q6.** People in South Dakota have many different opinions and concerns regarding deer. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

1 = Strongly Disagree (SD)
2 = Disagree (D)
3 = Neither Disagree nor Agree (N)
4 = Agree (A)
5 = Strongly Agree (SA)

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> statement:*

| | | SD | D | N | A | SA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Having a healthy, self-sustaining population of deer in South Dakota is important to me. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. | The presence of deer near my home increases my quality of life. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. | I worry about deer-vehicle collisions. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. | Deer benefit local economies through hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. | Deer threaten people's livelihoods by damaging private feed supplies (e.g. hay or stored grain) and agricultural crops. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. | I worry about diseases in deer that may be transmitted to livestock. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

*Please remember: throughout this survey, we are only asking about the land you own and/or operate in the county identified on page 1.*

**Q7.** Did you experience any crop or property damage caused by deer on your land in the past 5 years?

☐ No ⇨ **If NO, please SKIP AHEAD to Q11 on page 3.**

☐ Yes

**Q8.** How would you rate the following types of deer damage on your land in the past 5 years?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> type of damage:*

| | Did Not Experience | Not A Problem | Minor Problem | Moderate Problem | Major Problem |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Livestock Feed Damage | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| B. Crop Damage | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| C. Tree Damage | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| D. Fence Damage | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| E. Other _____ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**Q9a.** Did you request any help from Game, Fish, and Parks for deer damage problems on your land?

☐ No

☐ Yes

**Q9b.** IF YES, how did the services provided address your problems?

☐ Not at all
☐ A little
☐ Somewhat
☐ Completely
☐ Mostly

**Q10.** Do you think having more deer hunters would help reduce the deer damage on your land?

☐ No

☐ Yes

**Q11.** What type of deer hunting opportunities occurred on your land in the past year?

*Please select all that apply:*

☐ No deer hunting occurred in the past year
☐ Self and/or immediate family members
☐ Provided free access to at least some people (other than self and family)
☐ Charged an access fee to at least some hunters
☐ Provided guide and/or service (e.g., room, meals, etc.) to hunters
☐ Leased some hunting rights to an individual/group/guide
☐ GFP public access program (e.g. Walk-In Area program)

*Next, we would like to ask you some questions about deer hunting in South Dakota.*

**Q12.** Over the past 5 years, have you hunted deer in South Dakota?

☐ No

☐ Yes

**Q13.** In your opinion, were the following 2015 **season lengths** too short, too long, or just about right?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> deer season:*

| | Too Short | Just About Right | Too Long | No Opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **East River** (25 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **West River** (16 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Archery** (112 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Muzzleloader** (46 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Black Hills** (30 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Youth Deer** (126 total days) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**Q14.** In your opinion, were the following 2015 **season dates** too early, too late, or just about right?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> deer season:*

| | Too Early | Just About Right | Too Late | No Opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **East River** (Nov. 21 – Dec. 6; Dec. 26-Jan. 3) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **West River** (Nov. 14 – 29) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Archery** (Sept. 26 – Jan. 15) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Muzzleloader** (Dec. 1 – Jan. 15) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Black Hills** (Nov. 1 – 30) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Youth Deer** (Sept. 12 – Jan. 15) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**Q15.** Below is a list of potential causes of conflict between landowners and deer hunters. How would you rate each cause of conflict experienced on your land?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u>:*

| | Have Not Experienced | Not A Problem | Minor Problem | Moderate Problem | Major Problem |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Leaving gates open | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| B. Littering | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| C. Illegal road hunting | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| D. Unsafe behaviors | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| E. Damage to property | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| F. Trespass | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| G. Harassing livestock | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**Q16.** If the deer population was too high, how strongly would you support or oppose the following population reduction strategies?

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> item:*

| | Reduction Strategies | Strongly Oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Lengthen the regular firearm deer season | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B. | Increase the number of licenses/hunters | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C. | Include antlerless-only days in late December/early January | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D. | Include antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E. | Allow the use of antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope season | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F. | Increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| G. | Split seasons, resulting in two season openers | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

*We only have a few more questions about deer habitat management and available private lands habitat management programs offered through Game, Fish, and Parks.*

**Q17a.** Do you actively manage any portion of your land for <u>white-tailed</u> deer habitat (e.g plant/maintain trees and shrubs, plant fall/winter food plots, etc.) ?

□ No

□ Yes

**Q17b.** If YES, about how many acres do you actively manage for <u>white-tailed</u> deer habitat (e.g. plant/maintain trees and shrubs, plant fall/winter food plots, etc.)?

_____ Acres

**Q18a.** Do you actively manage any portion of your land for <u>mule deer</u> habitat (e.g. managed grazing, managing for woody cover and shrubs, etc.)?

□ No

□ Yes

**Q18b.** If YES, about how many acres do you manage for <u>mule deer</u> habitat (e.g. managed grazing, managing for woody cover and shrubs, etc.)?

_____ Acres

**Q19.** Are you aware of the following opportunities to receive technical and/or financial assistance through Game, Fish and Parks Private Lands Habitat Program for a variety of habitat enhancements and working lands management practices?

*Please select one for <u>each</u> opportunity:*

| | | Unaware | Aware | Not Interested |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Food plots | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| B. | Woody habitat (shelterbelt) establishment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| C. | Habitat exclusion fencing | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| D. | Nesting cover establishment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| E. | Grass establishment for managed grazing | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| F. | Cross fencing for grazing management | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| G. | Stock water development for grazing management | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| H. | Multi-purpose pond/wetland establishment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| I. | Wetland restoration | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| J. | Riparian pasture management | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| K. | Wildlife friendly fence | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**Q20a.** The following are some ways private landowners may receive information about habitat management practices and programs. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to use each source in the future.

*Please circle a number for <u>each</u> source:*

| | SOURCES OF INFORMATION | Very Unlikely | Unlikely | Neutral | Likely | Very Likely | Already Use |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Written materials from GFP (e.g. Landowners Matter, Conservation Digest) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| B. | Other written materials (e.g. newspapers, magazines, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| C. | GFP websites (e.g. Habitat Pays) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| D. | Other websites | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| E. | Social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| F. | GFP Private Lands Biologist | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| G. | Radio/TV programs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| H. | Word of mouth | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| I. | Workshops | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Q20b.** Of the above, which is your <u>most</u> preferred source? _____ letter from above

**Q21.** The following are activities associated with deer habitat management. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do any of these OR if you already do these activities on your land.

*Please circle a number for each statement:*

| | DEER HABITAT MANAGEMENT | Very Unlikely | Unlikely | Neutral | Likely | Very Likely | Already Do This |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Plant and/or manage trees and shrubs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| B. | Fence and/or manage stream and river corridors. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| C. | Wetland restoration/preservation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| D. | Plant and/or manage forbs and grass cover | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| E. | Plant and/or manage undisturbed grass cover | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| F. | Practice rotational grazing | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| G. | Prescribed burns for habitat management | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| H. | Plant fall/winter wildlife food plots (e.g. winter rye, clover, alfalfa, purple top turnip, corn, and radish) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

*Thank you! Those are all the questions we have for you. If you have additional comments about deer management in South Dakota, please use the space on the back to share your ideas.*

# Thank You for your valuable time completing this survey!

**Those are all the questions we have for you. If you have additional comments about deer management in South Dakota, please use the space below to share your ideas.** These comments will be compiled and given to the GFP Commissioners, staff biologists, administrators, and made available to the public.

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks is asking for your help with a brief survey about your preferences for deer management in South Dakota. You were selected as part of a random sample of deer hunters from across the state. The purpose of this survey is to collect information about your experiences and opinions of deer populations and management in South Dakota. Your input is valuable and will help us understand the interests and needs of deer hunters across the state. The information you provide will assist in the development of a statewide deer management plan and future decisions to best manage deer in the state.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you may stop at anytime or skip any question you do not wish to answer. All your answers will be confidential – we will only report summaries of our findings. The identification number on your survey is there so we can check your name off the mailing list once you return your survey. On average, it should take about 10 minutes to complete this survey. Please return your survey using the postage-paid envelope provided.

Results from this survey will be available to the public and posted on GFP's website (http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/harvest/publicopinion.aspx). If interested, you can view the timeline and follow the development of the statewide deer management plan found at http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/deer/deer-management-plan.aspx.

We want to hear from you and look forward to your participation in this survey.

Thank you,

Cynthia L. Longmire
Human Dimensions Specialist
SD Game, Fish, and Parks

**DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH, AND PARKS**
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks is asking for your help with the development of a statewide deer management plan by providing landowners across the state the opportunity to complete a brief survey about deer management. The purpose of this survey is to collect information about your experiences and opinions of deer populations and management in South Dakota.

Your input is valuable and will help us understand the interests and needs of landowners across the state. The information you provide will assist in the development of a statewide deer management plan and future decisions to best manage deer in the state. This management plan will address a broad range of topics related to deer management in South Dakota.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you may stop at anytime or skip any question you do not wish to answer. All your answers will be confidential – we will only report summaries of our findings. The identification number on your survey is there so we can check your name off the mailing list once you return your survey. On average, it should take about 10 minutes to complete this survey. Please return your survey using the postage-paid envelope provided.

Results from this survey will be available to the public and posted on GFP's website (http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/harvest/publicopinion.aspx). If interested, you can view the timeline and follow the development of the statewide deer management plan found at http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/deer/deer-management-plan.aspx.

Thank you for your time and willingness to help in this survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Longmire
Human Dimensions Specialist
SD Game, Fish, and Parks

## Appendix B
## Additional Comments

*The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.*

* Note – Respondents' comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. Text which appears inside brackets [ ] has been added to clarify respondents' reference to specific survey questions, identify parts of comments which were illegible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information or expletives has been omitted.

**Hunters' Comments** – sorted by DAU where hunted most

DAU1

1040 Our party would like to see improved habitat on walk in areas. Many of the walk in acres are grazed heavily with little holding cover or habitat. Especially for big game. We like the walk in program and would like to see more acres in this program. Same can be said of the BLM ground. Usually grazed far too heavily.

1333 How can I answer the questions when I have not got a license in three years on the draw. My entire tradition has gone in the crapper with the draw system and the damned preference system. Straighten that out before worrying about some of these finer points Deer running all over around my backyard and I cannot even shoot a doe. Can't hunt with my friends in Harding County where I started 30 years ago.

1716 I wear tri-focal glasses and have a very hard time shooting a muzzleloader with open sights. Others have the same problem, resulting in wounded deer instead of clean kills. These guns are no longer primitive and are quite active. I can use a scope in many other states. Also, in refuges it would be great to allow driving in on established roads to retrieve game. I had a Waubay tag and gave up because the deer were over a mile from the parking place and with my bad heart (senior citizen/agent orange) there is no way I could have dragged a deer that far.

3007 I hunt in the middle of standing rock, have all my life. The state in that area will never be able to properly manage deer, if they are not allowed to manage the tribe and the number of licenses the tribe allows. I grew up there, great grandfather homested there, land still in the family, unbelievable amount of animals native Americans, locals, and out of staters are allowed to harvest from that area, through tribal tags. It's extremely sad, wish more could be done.

3011 I would love to see the archery deer season open earlier. Every state around us opens early why can't we? It would be a nice bonus to try and harvest a full velvet deer for any archery hunter in the state of South Dakota. Otherwise I appreciate all you o for our deer herds in South Dakota!

4105 Years ago a person applied for a mule deer tag or a whitetail deer tag. I strongly feel that we should go back to that system. Reason, I hunt in N. Perkins. When the tags were split between mule deer and whitetail deer the person would apply to hunt thir species of preference. When it went to Any deer or whitetail deer, everyone started to apply for the Any deer because on a normal year they would get a whitetail tag as their second choice. Example, the group of friends I hunt with (6 to 8) would priarily put in for whitetail. Now they all put in for Any deer and people like me who always put in for mule deer now competes with those who use to put in for whitetail as their first choice. Now I generally draw a mule deer tag every other year. I spen a good amount of time working to secure good land to hunt mule deer on and now only get that chance once in two years where as I use to get a mule deer tag most years I applied. Go back to managing mule deer and whitetail deer as two distinct species. f you need to harvest more whitetail have a second season or allow whitetail hunters to harvest more than one whitetail per season. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

4249 stop the land owners from hunting on other peoples land using their land owner permit. Stop the slob hunters from hunting deer from a truck (see above fact statement)

4381 I would like to see a little less luck involved, and have those with the most preference points get the tags. You made no mention of "Special Buck." I'd like to take money out of the equation.

4494 Let hunters take deer in the city limits. Not police. Iowa has done it for years with great success.

4561 I have hunted deer in South Dakota for 34 years, I appreciate the efforts of GFP to survey hunters and work towards managing the deer herds.

4772 Well I understand the need for out of state hunters economically, it is upsetting to live, work, raise a family, and pay taxes in this state and not even get to hunt deer some years.

6361 Q5b. 100 acres habitat, 40 acres lease, cash crop, 200 family for cash rent. Q9. Over hunted. Q12. But there is more to it, like habitat management/keep neighbors out that farm to scorched earth. Q13. Many problems here, people will drive around and shoot form the road as one of the big problems.

<u>DAU2</u>

1160 It has become very difficult to draw a tag for Black Hills deer, West River deer and antelope. Plus now with the preference fees you are charging it has become expensive to keep preference but the main complaint about the preference system is that it really does not give you preference over other hunters. There are other states that have much better preference systems than the one South Dakota has adopted. Ask [staff] how many times this issue is brought up to him on a yearly basis. With all the money you are collecting you can all do better.

1463 More restrictions for driving on public land, similar to Walk in areas. Driving pushes game out of the area.

1477 1) When you get large populations of deer. They need to be controlled before crop damage occurs not at the end of the year after the regular season. 2) If you want to increase hunter access work with the land owners and not compete against them by buying and and taking it out of production. If you got the money for a few long term investment you have the money to make more long term relations with short term investments.

1486 Reduce the number of doe permits, especially in the Black Hills, in order to increase the size of deer herds. I like having mountain lions in the Black Hills where I live and don't want their numbers greatly reduced, but we need more deer in order to suport the lions and hunters both.

1509 I hunted public ground in Meade County this year in 49B. I've never seen so many hunters in one area in my life! It was not a good experience. A friend and I spent a weekend during the summer scouting all of the publicly available land in this area andwhat a disappointment. While it may be good for other hunting almost all of it was not good for deer hunting which pushed all Mead Co. public hunters into one huge piece of property. There is good BLM property in this area but completely surrounded by pivate land so basically no access. I think you guys should take these BLM areas off the public hunting map since there is no access and there are a lot of acres here so very misleading. Thank you.

1647 There needs to be a way to limit antlerless harvest on areas such as GPA's and WIA's because if you do not that is where the majority of antlerless harvest occurs because it is the path of least resistants for hunters (they don't need to get permission et.) and the antlerless harvest is usually most needed on private lands. Your youth season dates in this survey are incorrect and will greatly affect the responses. The correct date is September 12 not December 1.

1856 Firearm seasons should all (black hills, east river and west River, special buck) be in the same draw. You should not be able to get numerous buck tags in the first drawing. You would be forced to choose your most important unit first, then if there are lftovers you could get additional tags.

2313 I move here in 1990. The hills around spearfish were full deer, you could get on tinton road an go to Cheyenne crossing or deadwood an see 20 to 40 deer, today if you make that drive your are lucky to see 2or 3 deer. What's up? Thanks Ron

2347 The number of licenses bought by nonhunters and not used at all or the nonhunters giving their tags to others to fill. It sure spoils it for those of us that do love to hunt and spend the time to harvest our own game.

2625 Instead of increasing licence numbers in areas of over population, when licenses are not even being sold, why are you not reducing tag prices? Better to reduce the deer numbers by hunters feeding their families than to let predators and disease decimate te population uncontrollably.

3484 I hunt on private land . The area I hunted in had a reduction in tags. But the landowner stated that he had more deer that were eating his hay stacks. I know there is a program to take care of this. Depredation...I think. But I am unable to sign up due tojob situation. If we knew the method of how you determine tag numbers it would help to understand . Maybe you have put that out. Anyway I know it is not any easy job. I just missed hunting this year.

3600 What about the possibility of allowing a handgun to be used during muzzleloader deer season?

4142 Instead of double and triple tags for one hunter, why not limit hunters to one tag, making more opportunity for others to have a tag. This is done in a lot of other states and the deer population in those states seems to be managed well with out the constnt changing of seasons, limits, or areas.

4144 increase mountain lion season and harvest we don't need so many this way maybe you could increase deer pop and allow more deer hunting ?

4200 I am hopeful that for West River deer season that we can go back to double tags - one antlered and one antlerless. We have hay fields, our lawn plus my garden that have seen increased utilization by deer - does/fawns. We have seen a significant increase i the number of deer the past year after the previous decrease due to blue tongue disease. I would still restrict on the number of antlered tags for West River since the size class of bucks is still relatively limited. The does have been very successful wih numerous sets of twin fawns after 2 mild winters. I would support going back to having double tags with an antlerless tag plus the antlered tag if your population census would finally support this!!

4728 Walk in areas should have better access for hunters, that way more deer would be taken in areas where the population is high. lot of these areas are so far and wide that a limited numbers of hunters can get there. we pay to hunt but hunters my age can,t o that far to hunt, and carry game for miles.

4817 With so much land locked up with pay hunting, the bucks on land where hunting is allowed are not allowed to mature because of the added hunting pressure.

4948 I believe that we need to encourage and promote the youth hunting programs. I would endorse and favor the use of cross bows during archery seasons and not firearms seasons. Wearing blaze orange articles does not make sense when your stalking or using a ntural blind. The upright bows are equally powerful (350-380 fps) as the cross bows. The effective range is the same as the upright bows. Our neighboring state of Wyoming recently allowed the cross bow use in regular archery seasons for all big game. Thankyou.

5921 I love to Muzzleload hunt but the number of licenses in the area Imust hunt has been closed. I'm not sure why. I have a brother that farms in Unit 19 and he had to call GFP to come out to his farm and look at his deer problems 100-150 head going to his sileage pit. The Officer said that the GFP would haul corn to feed the deer. That is my tax money at work? But the GFP would like to spend money on deer food and not let me have a deer tag is that good management?

<u>DAU 3</u>

1036 I mainly hunt for the meat, if I find a large buck I will take it. If prices keep going up on tags, I won't be able to afford them. Also, where I hunt in the west river unit (35L) most of my family can't walk around to get to their favorite spot, because he forest service has shut down all the roads and only during west river deer season. There needs to be more any deer tags in the black hills, most of the deer around my place are mule deer, and I haven't had a tag in 7 years.

1140 This is my issue with your survey. You selected me to give my opinion about what needs to be changed or not changed and if the deer population has changed in the areas that I hunt and whether or not we should have more or less licenses and so on and so foth. I can't honestly answers these questions even remotely accurately because I haven't had a license in quite a few years and it's not that I havent tried ! ! I mainly hunt the BH unit and I don't here of or talk to very many Lawrence, Meade and Butte cunty hunters that get there licenses in the BH unit any more it seems to be more East river people or out of state hunters. Now I can buy preference points but that doesn't help either in my book. The first question you should have asked is when did you gt your last deer license and what unit did you apply for ? I have more does and big bucks in my yard than ever get to hunt for ! !

1252 In the past years there have been a number of tags available in Mcphearson county that seemed way beyond reasonable. If you were to remove towns, roads, ponds and lakes, there were many more deer tags than square miles. I don't have any formal training tosupport my opinion that there were way too many tags. Just real experience, personal observation, and common sense. Thank you.

1340 Senior citizens should always get a preference point

1381 If there were to be a lesser amount of licenses available I think that should only affect non residents and not residents

1570 The muzzleloader season should be for primitive rifles only: all-lead bullets, open sights, loose black or synthetic black powder, an exposed pivoting hammer and ignition using only flint or percussion-type caps. Modern inline rifles with 1x scopes shoud be used during the rifle season.

1824 I would like to see it easier to get a Black hills tag. I live in the black hills , but don't have owner privileges. I have hunted deer in the hills all my life , but only get a tag every third year or more. I understand trying to increase buck size. Justwould like to hunt more often.

1931 I would support a concept in which the whole state was drawn on the first draw. This would eliminate people applying for east river, west river, and BH all in the same year and everyone should have a good chance at getting at least 1 tag on the first draw This would eliminate hunters not getting a tag for 3 years, then getting 3 tags in another

2275 Yes all surveys are set up to specifically meet your needs. Unfortunately you did not ask anywhere in this survey about what we feel about not being able to get a licence every year due to you continually making the available license lower and lower eachyear. Why are there so few tags being issued? The population has never been so high in the areas that I hunt. On the other side of the coin, I am seeing less and less interest in deer hunting in the younger generation because it is just no accessible s it was when I was a kid. This only can mean fewer and fewer hunters. Which means you will increasingly keep raising the tag prices to compensate for your losses and will in turn into even less hunters.

2414 The Archery season should start sooner so we can have a chance at harvesting a velvet deer. And also so we don't have to compete with the grouse hunters on public land right away.

2580 I believe in the youth hunting but I think the season should'nt start so early or last so long. Also, I have'nt muzzle hunted before,but to have the season after rifle hunting, that just doesn't seem fair especially with out the use of scopes.

2588 We need better access to public lands surrounded by private. For example Meade county. Lots of prime public hunting grounds are closed off by land owners with paid to hunt land. With no way to get to these hunting areas the hunting is extremely limited inthis unit.

2699 Need to increase deer numbers throughout West River. Public land has very low deer populations. Too many does shot! Don't have to manage for trophies just mature deer in good numbers. Youth hunting is important but season is too long. The deer need a brea after December!

2718 The Limited Access Areas are a good concept as long as the State doesn't "chew" up too much public land and create access problems to other public areas.

2777 The current practices in South Dakota should be changed so that more people can hunt every year. We propose that no multiple tags or licenses be allowed in one year. One license for one hunter every year wether it be Hills, prairie, muzzleloader, and archry ...if there are a number of tags left available then anyone can apply for those. We want to hunt every year, not every other year. Some hunters get three or four tags every while some hunters draw none.

3205 It is very difficult to win a draw for Black Hills Deer season. I am only able to hunt about only every five years or so...

3446 It's good someone is trying to change things. However, none of these questions address the real issues. First, is too much private land and none of the land owners want to allow hunters on thier land. Second, is too many road hunters in the black hills. Lstly, none of this changes all the poaching that happens. I can pick any place in the black hills and find you a dead deer some with just the heads removed and others not just dead nothing taken. Sad part is there is no seasons even open and even close an it is obvious that that animal was recently killed. Tell the Rangers to get out of there trucks and walk around and look a little. Or develop an option in your app to report a suspicious activity for them to report along with a photo and go location of i.

3502 I have been putting in for BH1 for 4 years and have not drawn 3 of those years were the whitetail only tags so I think there does need to be something in place like elk season if you draw you can't even apply for 2 years that way everyone has a chance if ou archery hunt like me that makes up for you not drawing your firearm but it is always nice to know you can get it I think the archery program is right where it needs to be I'm very happy with that season the youth needs to be able to keep their season oen and unlimited I do think when it comes to rifle though I know guys that draw east and west river plus black hills all in the same year then they never get to hunt black hills because they have too many tags so it's taking away from the guys and girls lke me that would give anything for that tag so I think maybe even limiting it to two rifle seasons a year of a rifle and archery that then gives everyone a chance every year. Thanks for your guys time

3805 I don't think that the drawings for BH deer is fair. I grew up hunting with my family along with several game wardens. I peddled behind my dad when I was very young. I now have a teenager who missed some of the most precious memories ever; hunting withdad in the hills, because for the last ten years we've only drawn twice. I grew up in the Black Hills and have raised my son there as well. He is missing out. If there were one weekend or day a year where it could be first come, first serve to obtain apermit it would be wonderful. We in the Black Hills could have a chance. The rest of the permits could be drawn for. Same amount of tags and everything.

3864 I am an avid hunter and it is very frustrating to draw my west river and black hills deer license only every 5 years. It also seems that public access is becoming more and more restricted. When you finally draw your license it's hard getting to places youwant to go.

3947 Deer management in the Northern Black Hills seems to be doing very well. Deer population and buck/doe ratios seem to be optimal, best in the areas I've hunted (50yrs). All friends and relatives hunting in these areas (all archery hunters) noted a sinificant increase in mature bucks sighted in 2015.

3966 The current points system needs to be fixed. I should not have to spend $5 to buy a point. If I apply for a license I should get a point. I applied for s license in 2014, did not get one bought the extra point and leading into 2015 I only had one point an did not get a license again BH1

4040 We stopped over the counter Black Hills Deer tags years ago and went to a lottery system in order to increase the of bucks. I guess that didn't pan out so well, huh? We have way less deer now than we had years ago. Between mountain lions, CWD, Blue tounge and deer killed in town, it would sure seem that we are losing the "management" of our entire herd. That greatly concerns me. I can only imagine what's next. Timber wolves would be my guess. Are we making preparations yet?

4070 I was primarily hunting a trophy buck. As I am 61 years old I figured it would be the last time before I die that I get a license to hunt deer in South Dakota. I previously had 5 preference points before receiving my white tail Black Hills deer tag. TVads say the typical draw time is every third year. Yet most of the people I know who are not land owners have been putting in for a lot longer than the three years that is advertised. I saw lots of shooter bucks but none that met my specifications of a rophy deer. My husband now has 5 preference points for deer without getting a tag. It would have been really nice to have been able to hunt together. It would be nice if senior citizens would be be able to get a deer tag every year. I drive 10 miles fom Hill City to my home up Deerfield Road every day and see lots of deer on a daily basis. I am not sure how the number of deer tags are figured out but someone really needs to take a look at the deer population in the Hills. Deer should be able to be hrvested instead of killed by vehicles.

4098 No comments as far as management, but I think that a South Daokta resident should be considered for a lisence before hunters dorm out of state.

4101 The deer licenses for BH deer are too limited. In the 1960's and 1970's we had hundreds of hunters with the unlimited licenses. So what if you didn't get a deer - you were able to get out there and go hunting! Now we can't draw a license, we don't takeour kids and family hunting and pretty soon GFP will not have to worry about deer hunting because the generations growing up now will not be interested because they never went hunting and they are not going to take their kids hunting! POOR MANAGEMENT! W should be able to buy a license and go hunting every year not once every 10 years.

4195 I understand that the GF&P needs to keep the licensing equal to all especially in area such as Black Hills with so much public land. However, it is not a fair draw in my opinion that hunters from across the state, and out of state, can draw tags when the ocal residents can not. Whom which pay the taxes all year. This would not be an issue in my mind if in fact some of these east and west river hunting units were not all private land, which in fact would cost someone money to be able to hunt in the form ofhaving to pay those land owners to access their property, if in fact they will grant access at all. Also it is very discouraging when you hear of people getting 2, 3, and even over 5 tags in a year for various seasons, and the next guy cant even draw one ag. I see this as a down fall to

the lottery system that I understand you have no control over. I agree that there is probably no easy solution to this but just wanted to voice my opinion.

4299 Why isn't there a general tag for deer hunting? So far south Dakota is one of the worst places to hunt. Not getting a deer tag every year is the worst, especially when all I see is deer in the black hills unit, and another gripe is everybody wants walleyein the lakes, here's a clue put them in there! Also why are the youth tags so restrictive they should be allowed a any deer for any unit, minus the limited area, that way it helps get them interested if they can bag a buck there first year instead of a do, good luck with your management plan changes

4332 I oppose giving out of state licenses when people who live here can't draw a tag. I also believe the muzzleloader Buck tags should be increased and have three units Black hills, west river and east river.

4440 I hunt the Black Hills and see a large amount of deer and this year, a lot more elk. I don't mind going hunting every other year or even every two years, but waiting three to four years to pull a Hills tag is not right. I understand herd management, butI also see a lot of deer in the Black Hills. I would like to talk to the hunters telling the state, there are no deer in the Hills. I would tell them to get out of the truck and do a little walking. Never had a problem finding deer.

4677 The more money you have the oppertunities to hunt for anything in South Dakota greatly increases!!!!!!!!!!!

4719 I could not answer any question with answer in circle. Would not respond. I would like to say myself and several other hunters have been unsuccessful for several years in drawing a tag. I have applied for 5 different tags/seasons and did not get a license In the past I have had as many as 5 or 6 tags. What has changed? I also would support a TRUE muzzleloader season in which traditional firearms are required. That is what that season was developed for in the first place. I live in the hills and have seen ots of deer so do not know why we cannot hunt. Pretty sad to see Rapid City killing 100 deer in town when other hunters cannot get a tag. Also in state hunters should take preference over non residents.

4782 Increase the number of deer tags in the eastern Black Hills...we're overrun with whitetails and they are destroying shrubs, gardens etc.

4813 The preference point system needs to be looked at. I had 3 points for Hills wide any deer tag,but, I didn't apply one year and lost them. I didn't know I had to apply every year. I now have 5 preference points (should have been 8). That's a total of 9 ears without drawing a tag. How many years does it take to get this tag? Too many!

4823 Priority for tags in the State should go to residents of the state, and with that, precedence for given locations should be based on a person's proximity to their area of choice. IE: If I live in South Dakota, I should get priority for a deer license ove someone from Florida, or Nebraska. And the same if I live West River, in the Black Hills, I should take precedence for a license in Black Hills and/or West River, over someone who lives East River. I have put in for licenses the last 3 years, and have yt to get a license. I know others who put in for licenses, and got multiples. That's ridiculous to me. Especially when they may be taking trophies, as opposed to putting food on the table, which I am trying to do. The whole system seems broken to me, lik paying for preference points. Why should I have to pay more money to the state, to get a better chance at being drawn?

4831 I have not drawn a BH deer tag in over 10 years. I quit getting preference when we had to start paying for it. You guys suck in managing our deer. I know some folks that had 4 licenses last year and I couldn't draw prairie or Hills deer. You guys suck. getting everyone get one license only for several years and see what happens. Change the Any Deer in the Black Hills Unit to Mule Deer only license and see what happens [contact information removed] I would like to meet with someone.

4865 I hunt the Black Hills unit typically. I walk the area where i hunt. there are few hunters and very nice (large) bucks. with my many years of hunting, the current situation is excellent for me. my only complaint is drawing a license every three years on average. i would like to see a trophy license, say 5 point (counted on one side of the rack) minimum and be able to draw this tag more frequently as i enjoy hunting, not actually taking the game for meat. i would like to get out more often as i get older. ithink this pool of hunters, which should be a walking tag (not road hunting), is a small group of applicants... or at least a small percentage of successful applicants... and would encourage more active use of the forest (maybe a Black Hills tag only). Jut a thought. Great Work All - the deer and the population is great in the Black Hills from my encounters. My uncle, who has hunted the Black Hills for 65 years (he is 86 now and too old to go out) seen the largest whitetail he has ever seen in the hills tis past year! he was excited for deer hunting prospects for all hunters!

DAU 4

1093 We need to bring back Archery doe tags in West River this could easily be controlled by area or specises. Currently the Whitetails are abundant in 327 A and B but I can't buy a doe tag as an archer.

1655 I am 64 years old. I can still walk and hunt but my ability to retrieve my harvested game has greatly diminished over the past 3 years. Because of my age, walk in areas will soon be out of my physical ability. The state has reduced the number trails for gme retrieval and increased the number of walk in areas. I believe the state has/is discriminated against older hunters. I love to hunt but will soon not be able to enjoy any hunting on State walk in areas.

1666 state and tribe need to start working together at some point

1819 I am older with limited mobility. Consider 4 wheeler access on walk-in areas midday for retrieval of deer.

1823 Make sure people live in the areas that they are applying for licesesce

2139 In the areas I have hunted, mountain line have terribly decreased deer, elk and Turkey hunting. In the past years....no turkey, very very few feet and elk. Mountain line control is huge to help in deer management.

2460 Seemed to be more deer available this year, but license numbers were reduced in Jones County 41A. Not sure why they were reduced. Not a big deal as I got a license.

2511 Hunting in Walk In Areas has become extremely difficult. Every year, the farmers fill this land with cattle during hunting season. If you are lucky enough to see a deer, you can't shoot it because there are cattle in the way. It is very frustrating. I am ot looking for horns, just meat to feed my family. I realize it is the farmer's land, but there should be some restrictions or guidelines on this.

2713 I want to hunt every year, it isn't always about harvesting deer, but the fellowship between friends and family and being outdoors is irreplaceable. I don't believe I have harvested a deer for 3 years now, and was lucky enough to draw a Blackhills tag als, whish I could go and enjoy the Hills every year, with my hunting party.

2727 Establish an account to have money readily available for disease control. Keep an eye on the bobcat & mountain lion population not only for the deer population but also for the Ranchers Live Stock Safety. Thank you folks for considering these comments. Will try to answer future surveys.

2829 All in all I feel Game Fish and Parks is doing a good job of deer ,management. Three areas I would like to see a change are : Limiting the number of Mule deer tags in western SD. making it mandatory to buy preference points and shortening the deer seson in January East River to lessen the stress on the deer herd.

2960 I like to hunt area 2C and have had trouble being drawn the past couple of years. I hope people not drawn would have preference without cost the following year Over those who had been drawn.

3005 My family and I hunt public land and walk in areas almost exclusively. I am interested in seeing a better quality of hunting opportunities on these public access areas. However, I would hate to see a multi-year wait for residents to secure a firearms deer license. The quality of the hunt is greatly reduced when all I see are people or, worse, people driving in circles in a public land area. SD is doing a great service to the hunting community by seeking additional walk in areas. [name removed] unit 9A needs to be clearly defined if it is a walk in area or a version of public access requiring [name removed] permission. Please contact me for further comments regarding the hunting seasons in SD. THANK YOU!

3315 The number of archery hunters receiving licenses needs to be limited. I live in an east river county and own some farmland, but not enough for landowner preference and I only rifle hunt deer. As a result of lower deer license numbers I have a chance to raw a permit only every third year or every other year at best. Why should archery deer hunters have the ability to hunt anywhere in the state for the entire fall while applying for rifle licenses (a bonus). A person should not have to start archery huning just to ensure a quality whitetail deer hunting experience. It is time for SDGFP to make archery hunters choose a preference license. If they decide to take the unlimited access archery tag then in fairness should regulate themselves to leftover drawng for rifle licenses for east river only as these counties have many more applicants than successful draws. With the advances in equipment and the season length, harvesting archery deer isn't what it was 20-30 years ago when having unlimited tags had noeffect on mature antlered whitetail in eastern SD. If the license decision application process was prioritized many more South Dakota residents, many who own some farmland (below the 160ac requirement) and residents of the county they actually live in cold enjoy a quality east river whitetail hunt. A hunt near home instead of settling for a county 200 miles away that happened to have leftover licenses where the applicant is unfamiliar and may have limited public access is far more valuable to this residnt. These are questions that I wish were addressed with the survey! Thank You for reading my comments.

3378 you can't manage deer populations when farmers and ranchers won't let hunters on the land where the deer are walk in areas have you looked at walk in areas at hunting season there is nothing to support any wild life most of walk in land is mowed to the irt

3505 As always for the hunter that doesn't have access to private hunting land it is tough. I understand there is a lot of work that goes into keeping everyone happy ( hunters an ranchers ). But when I talk with ranchers an farmers at local watering holes or oer hear them complaining they have deer, turkeys, antelope, geese, etc eating all their crops I wonder over an ask for permission. Well in the 20 plus years of hunting the yes's are few an far in between. So with that in mind I feel there will only be mor pressure on the public lands now an in future. Meaning we as sportsmen need more an better public land to hunt. I'd even be willing to pay a little for private if the land owner was willing . Just my 2 cents.

3512 MOST GOOD DEER HUNTING IS WEST RIVER. IT IS A LONG WAYS TO TRAVEL AND PEOPLE DO IT IN 1 WEEKEND MOSTLY. MORE PUBLIC LAND AND MORE TIME TO HARVEST WEST RIVER BE GREAT.

3553 i would rather get a tag every 5-10 years but have much fewer hunters to compete with. It seems that all negative aspects of my hunts in SD are related to dealing with other hunters. it can be very frustrating and turn kids off to hunting (I have taken myson now for 2 years).

4152 I would like longer firearm deer seasons but I think it would just make it harder to get access to private land.

4303 Change the way you issue licenses for deeded ground on Reservations. You are issuing tags for the same deer the Tribes are and results in over-harvest.

4538 Private landowners pushing deer off public lands before the season sucks. So do all the idiots who drive motor vehicles in restricted areas with no enforcement.

4791 The license is to expensive. You need to sell more tags at a cheaper cost.

5967 Q1. Off and on since 1980

DAU 5

1363 It would be nice to have better access to leased hunting land from private owners. The garbage you have to go through to access these lands are ridiculous. 90% of land owners give you grief when you ask about accessing the leased land, then the land is iles away, in the middle of nowhere and is generally flat non usual land. I feel if you going to lease land from private owners 1. you should go visually and physically approve the land. 2 Ensure there is access too it without the interference from the lnd owners. 3 Stop selling off land to raise funding.

1911 I am very opposed to limiting a hunter to applying for only either West River or East River. I strongly support the current system of allowing a hunter to apply for both.

2512 Make a three point or better rule for deer. That would help with size and age of animals.

2715 Locals should ALWAYS have priority picks. Deer season should be longer. If a tag is not filled in dates provided it would be nice to have it extended or guaranteed to be used the following season.

3230 Please bring back the "antlerless only" season for late december/early January for west river deer.

4024 I wonder if something like a 4pt or bigger license choice would result in bigger bucks? It wouldn't have to be for all any deer tags per unit. Just offer some to start with and it might catch on with the public. I bet all trophy hunters and all older huntrs would go for

them. It might increase odds if not many people applied for them...that would be an incentive to go for them. And if nothing else it might promote selective harvest. Maybe there could be a clause where if a smaller buck was shot the huntr could just report it or risk a fine. That could reduce risk of Wanton Waste. It works for fish, why not deer? ! Let em go - Let em grow! Needs promotion.

4471 I believe the deer numbers in the Black Hills are down drastically as a result of the mountain lion population. If we wish to see the Black Hills deer population return to its levels from a decade ago, something will need to be done to significantly incrase the lion harvest.

6292 I have deer that come in my yard and eat my trees off and destroy my garden and I haven't been able to get a deer tag in over 2 years. I think there's something you're doing wrong.

7009 The people who live in a unit should be able to have first draw or preference points because most of us are the ones who raise the crops so the animals can survive. I live in county and watch all these out of county people get a license and most don't care about deer management.

DAU 6

1383 archery tags should be limited to 1 any and 1 doe if reduction needed state wide, no east and west tag.

2051 Over the last few seasons I haven't been lucky enough to get a tag. but the last time I did receive a tag, it was for hyde county. we stopped in at least sixty farms. not a one would let you hunt. a person seen deer everywhere. but I never filled a tag. Ihad worked in the county with putting water in and there was walk in areas all over the place. not anymore. I know this isn't something you can fix, it's about the money. But that's why we need special areas for kids to be able to hunt.

2198 when I ask for Just 1 Tag Please only give me 1

2536 i think the draw sucks it took me 4yrs to draw a tag in potter county

2734 I am a strong supporter of antler point restrictions. In places that I have hunted that did this I saw more mature deer within 2-3 years. This was with firearms and archery.

3006 Potter County has a very large mule deer herd with few mule deer tags. I had an antlerless white tail tag and hunted hard to find an area that didn't have mule deer walking by. In years past there where antlerless tags for either. I have hunted this area or many years and the mule deer herd is taking over. If someone thinks there is a shortage of mulies in this unit they have not spent much time in that area.

3206 Don't like the special buck, it isn't special anymore, used to be for areas that had too many animals, not a way for you guys to raise the rates on tags.

3490 I hunt 20 miles east of Pierre on both private and Public land. The ranchers I hunt on have mostly mule deer and a couple openly say them have too many. GF&P quit offering any doe tags a couple years ago and have offered white tail doe tags only. I fee you should offer some mule deer doe tags in 36 unit and know a few ranchers would agree. Maybe not double tags, but allow some for people like me that want one deer to eat and aren't "horn hunters". It gets discouraging when you see nothing but mule dee doe and can get whitetail only doe tags the past couple years.

3540 Deer licenses should be managed as deer licenses in general. Only adjusting the number of firearm licenses isn't fair. Every type of deer license/tag should be impacted by the deer populations and the number of deer tags available.

3618 Thank you for taking care of our natural resources

3709 Separate deer season from pheasant season

3716 I don't understand why archery season and muzzleloader season can not run at the same time. It is unfair for jmuzzleloader's to have to hunt after firearm season

3981 IN LARGE AREAS THERE SHOULD BE A TIME LIMIT TO HAVE A PICK UP TO RETRIEVE YOUR DEER ON TRAILS BECAUSE IT IS A TOO HARD AND LONG DISTANCE TO DRAG. THE LAND ON HIWAY 212 AND 1804 IS A LONG PULL FOR THE HANDYCAPS

4007 during the rifle season in hyde there is very little good public land for the number of out of the area people hunting here so they go driving around were there not suppose to creating problems for everybody they don't have a clue or care were they go the need to go back to siouxfalls were they belong or have a place to hunt before they get here I do when I go west river

4189 Please consider opening up muzzleloader antlerless deer and antlerless archery deer in Minnehaha county east of I-229, south of Brandon and north on the Big Sioux River from Renner to Baltic. There are numerous deer in both regions of Minnehaha County andcould be harvested by hunters with permission from landowners. Thanks for all you do...

4302 It would be nice if IN-COUNTY residents were the only eligible applicants in the first drawing, thus increasing the chances of the locals getting a tag!!

4325 We hunt privet land that my sons fatherinlaw owns and have a good season every year. Wish I could have a any deer tag but will take what ever we get. We have gotten a speical buck tag but they increased in price so we just go for any deer or white tail seould choice . Thanks for good hunts in SD

4387 is there a way to restrict the number of small game hunter on public land during the rifle season. a deer hunter could be set up waiting for deer and someone could walk thru and end up getting shot by complete accident. I'm from the sioux falls area and isee first hand how this archery hunting has taken its toll on deer hunting. the constant pressure is intense. and i've heard stories about 40 plus trucks staged on the road to little bend in sully county. i think doing a lottery for archery tags is in ordr sooner than later. I believe that over hunting deer is hurting the overall deer population in our state. We as a state need to create a way for hunters to gain respect amongst land owners and land owners to stop chasing the dollar. i know there are landowners that are not chasing the dollar but the majority are and that is really discouraging to everyday hunters who do the right thing.

4511 How do we keep the deer off the highways?

4746 I would like to see more of the areas around Sioux Falls muzzleloader only. There's too many houses spread around for rifles I would actually like the whole state muzzleloader only but know that will never happen, to many lazy people

4833 I'm not sure how to do it but I would like to see more quality bucks. Most bucks don't reach maturity in the county's I hunt. I get tired of seeing all the 140 and 150 inch deer

get shot before maturity. Some are mature but most are not. I would liketo see the quality go up.

6510 I would like to try hunting black powder 2 weeks before the rifle season opens sometime. I know thi sprobably won't work but living on the county line in Osceola I wish I could hunt a couple of miles in the Beadle County in the rifle season. I know this is not your problem but I wish I could be the first to hunt my spoken for land in the first week of the season instead of always finding pickup tracks a long the creek and around the sloughs when we get there. Except for the first piece we hunt in the morning it would seem someone from Iroquois? Or some one gets there before we do. I talk to my brother in law and he says he has only given me permission to hunt it. I would be happy if I was first on opening day to get to hunt my land first!

6699 Don't overlay East and West River. If your going to increase wildlife. 1 tag per hunter no more of these people having 1 archery, 1 muzzleloader, 1 East River, 1 West River. Only 1 tag per year.

7208 Q4. Both

DAU 7

1030 Archery hunting is not like the early years. All the things they have done and developed has made it alot easier to take a deer. I strongly think that archery licenses should be a lottery draw. Don't think the firearm hunters should have to pay the price rom them taking the deer numbers down. I would like to see the percentages of harvesting to the numbers of licenses.

1412 I feel there should be 2 draws for west river Deer, 1st would be all west river resident have the 1st shot at rifle deer tags then 2nd draw include all residents. Too many west river residents do not get tags and I see us getting over run by east river pople.

1524 Encourage private landowners to offer more archery hunting late season when the deer winter on their property. There are lands where there are 400 -1000 whitetails wintering in late December, early January. A bow hunter would love to try and take some.

1839 there counties that may need to be divided so as to put deer hunters where the deer are, keeping away from an overhunting of deer in other parts. I know this requires a bit more micro managing but would ultimately increase opportunity for many. I wish thre was a better way to connect willing landowners with hunters to gain access to private lands. How about a place where only youth hunting is allowed. Has anyone thought about making some licenses good on private property only while others are valid on pblic lands only.

2038 for landowners, they get preference on any deer licenses, because of deer doing damage and competing with livestock. I see local families applying and getting numerous any deer tags and mostly filling them with antlered deer. this is direct competition wth non landowners who would like to hunt for an antlered deer and cannot, due to little land access and little or no antlered deer in their are. why not give or let the landowner get a preference for antlerless deer tag and if they want an antlered deer,apply with general draw. this will allow more bucks to mature past three of four years old. (mostly east river)

2238 Too many people shoot too many young bucks instead of opting for a big doe. So the people that are unsuccessful in the drawing should be issued an anterless only tag. A land owner with an overpopulation should be able to obtain permits for does.

2417 When I first started hunting west river deer, in the area I hunted you never saw a white tail. Now white tail are the deer I see now. The white tail have seemed to have pushed the mule deer out of the area.

2643 Overall I think South Dakota does a great job in managing its wildlife and getting access to public lands is also great.

2662 Limit the number of buck tags an individual can take. If someone bow hunts east/west river and buys a statewide tag then rifle hunts east/west river that could be 5 quality bucks all going to one individual. Rotate the east/west river draw. If you draw atag in the first draw (east river) you are out of the first draw west river. If there are leftovers that is fine but force them to shot does. A maximum of 2 bucks a year would be plenty

2767 I think some sort of limit of hunters on public land would be nice in Gregory county. Especially on the bigger tacts of river hill land. I don't even try to hunt it now, because I feel unsafe, I don't want to screw up someone else hunt an I don't want the to screw my hunt up either.

2860 I think you should limit the bucks to four points or less for 3years that way you would improve the quality of your bucks other states have done this with succes i know this would not go over very well with some people this would have to be implemented or all seasons I don't know what effect this would have on amount of hunters in the field

2988 I hate how county residents dont get first choice tag and non country residents get them with no place to hunt

3095 I think the GFP does a good job in game management. My frustration is with the caelessness of hunters and the lack of respect hunters have for private property and safety zones! Fines need to double and the length of no hunting privelages should increase lso. Maybe that would help.

3113 muzzlerloader season is always the last hunt,why isn't it possible to have the season as the same time as the regular deer hunting season or when archery season is on. With the muzzlerloader season being so late the hunter is always in the coldest and alo has limited chance of getting a buck

3160 We need to focus our problem on mature bucks, instead of large antler ed not ever buck develops a large rack. Also where I hunted for last few years during archery season getting over run with out of states epically Minnesota. They need to start drawing or archery tags. Like other states. Or start raising cost for outa state tags

3299 How about a small minimum to antlered buck size. You get these hunters that come out and shoot a spike or fork horn buck and then never get a chance to even reach potential size. I would rather harvest a doe then a tiny buck.

3349 Seems as if we have more deer than gfp thinks

3482 I hunt in unit 30B and in a area where there are still some mule deer. I would like to be able to get a any deer tag. Most of the any deer tags in our area are filled with white tail because there are few mule deer where most hunt. If something could be dne I would apprecate it, I'm getting older and won't be able to hunt them that many more years. Thanks

3758 I would like to see the application deadlines changed so that a person does not have to apply for West River Deer, and the Black hills deer at the same time.

I only want one of the tags per year. IN other words, if I draw a WRD tag, I would rather acuire preference for the Black HIlls and vice versa. With the current system, I am required to attempt to draw both of them and in the case that I draw both of them, I may not have the time to properly hunt both seasons.

3766 I think this survey was written to survey rifle hunters. Archery Hunters have a substantially lower success rate when compared to rifle hunters yet we have seen an increase in tags for rifle hunters and not archery. Part of this survey asks about produing large antlered deer. While I agree that there should be some management at the state level, this is best managed by the hunter themselves. That has always been the way I have done it. If I want to continue to see bucks mature to large antler size, he hunter has to be able to let the younger bucks walk.

4250 As mentioned earlier, I have been hunting in SD over 50 years with a number of friends and lately over the past several years it has become harder and harder to get licenses for both West and East River counties where we hunt. It used to be we could get license either West or East River a license every year. Than it became every other year. And now, we are lucky sometimes to get a license every third year. A couple of the guys don't even bother to hunt any more because of this. They just say it isn'teven worth it any more.

4639 We need easier maps and posting for public and walk in areas

4659 Moving the rifle seasons out of the heart of the rut would be a simple way to allow more people to have a deer tag.

6123 I am from WI moved here 3 years ago. Please don't do what Wi did by having such a long season and unlimited tags the hunting in WI is not worht the time anymore!

7467 Q19. Dentds on the concepts considered. Overall I think SD GF&P does a good job managing the Wildlife. The only two things I have concern over is, the increases in licenses makes the younger generation "less" interested and it's a bummer for the older generation. Two the continued loss of mature whitetail due to blue tongue. In the last 5 years I've seen many trophy bucks dead from that disease while out hunting. One other thing that would be nice is a source of what SD GF&p are doing with their funding in an interesting, east to understand format. Thanks for all you have done.

7525 In regards to private land: I would strongly support a transferable "private land only" deer permit so wildlife friendly property owners/managers could justify expense related to improving wildlife habitat. We have a successful commerical deer hunting program, but now struggle to secure licenses for both county and WR Special Buck permits. Since our program has matured, our neightbors are benefitting and would follow suit with survey, harvest goats, and a coordinated program. We cater to about a 50/50 ration of resident & non-resident hunters depending on draw success or failure. I woul dnot ask for any exclusive treative, but would like to see managed groups of property so improvement could be made on a scale to enhance overall circumstances for mule deer & whiteail. Awareness and appreciation for pronghorn is locking and could be improved upon as well.

DAU 8

1035 Not all of us that hunt deer are horn hunters. Some of us still hunt for the family bonding and bringing meat home for the family!

1108 I think if you incur a financial loss due to a vehicle accident involving a deer -preference points should be awarded ?

1208 Primarily hunt Sanborn County for archery deer. You can always tell when rifle season is open. There are far too many people who either have no land to hunt or choose to illegally drive around and hunt.

1215 We have excellent habitat on150 acres but can not apply for landowner preference. Some farmers have sections of worthless habitat but can apply for landowner preference in specific units.

1336 I do a lot of archery hunting and practice selective harvest on my own. Only try to harvest mature animals

1468 I would support the idea of cutting off rifle tags in certain counties so the population can get back up. The bluetongue disease affected some major counties in East River. And if we went a couple years without rifle tags it would probably help the populaion. Like Douglas County, and some of the surrounding counties got hit hard.

1497 I think we have come to an era where the land owners need to make a decision, let more people hunt their land or have disease kill dense populations of deer because they deem them "their" deer. In Bon Homme county we have those that openly let hunters ontheir land to get a deer and then there are those that have land adjacent and never let people on. That person then harvests one or two deer and then leaves the area. Deer are a creature of memory, if they feel pressure in one area and hardly any in anoher of course we know the answer to this, they will stay in the less pressured areas. There are far more deer then what people see, we just need to open up the fences to give people access to private land and educate more people on hunting etiquette whengiven that chance.

1521 I think one of the main issues in our state related to deer hunting are the areas of the state, and I know they exist all over the state, are the large groups of deer on private land during the regular season. These private land owners claim to either be protecting" the deer or they "save" that herd for them and their family members. While I understand this is a right they may have as a land owner, I think it is one of the larger issues the GF&P is up against. If you could develop a program that gave thee folks more incentive to allow those large herds they are "protecting" to be properly managed it would likely make more hunters happier and increase the overall health of the herd and more broadly, the health of the population of deer in our great state.Keep on doing good work and strive to always do better! Thanks for all you do!

1684 Hope to see more crp put in by farmers in years to come. You find all wildlife were there is habitat!

1758 Deer hunting is slowly heading in the same direction as pheasant hunting. West river, it seems, will be developed into commercial deer hunting parcels and the average South Dakota hunter will be expected to pay private land fees far and above the "gratuity" fees we voluntarily pay now. The number of "middle class" hunters will diminish and the "base" of young, beginning hunters will decrease also. On the plus side, I was able to harvest a decent East River archery white tail buck and had a successful Wet River trip

this year also. I passed a on many does during the East River muzzleloading season and, as a result, did not fill my 2015 tag. However, I saw many more East River deer than I have seen for several years and, in my own view, the deer are inceasing from the 2011/2012 seasons. I hunt deer because I enjoy being outdoors and because I enjoy venison as a welcome and healthy variation to my diet. I believe that any GF&P management of the state deer population for the purpose of increasing the "tophy" buck population would misdirected and should be left in the hands of the people who are developing their farming or ranching operations for the purpose of commercial deer hunting. I have always enjoyed my dealings with the SDGF&P employs and warden. Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

1908 This isn't a comment about deer management, but I can't believe that we still allow road hunting for pheasants. This type of hunting sure makes archery deer hunting very difficult. People jumping out of pickups blasting away spooking deer any driving up ad down the roads non stop. If the GFP thinks this is hunting, then it might be time to look for a new job. I hope someone reads this and takes the time to do some thinking about this. Thanks

1968 I wanna start by saying deer hunting is my life I've guided in south Texas Iowa Missouri and Illinois. I see a lot of uneducated people in this state when it comes to deer management. I'm all about big bucks and quality deer herds during rifle season justmakes me sick on how people hunt around here. I think South Dakota needs to take a look at other Midwest states that on top rankings with big bucks and see what there doin that we aren't. As far as habitat I think it's diminishing slow from when I firststarted hunting. I want my young kids to experience what I've got to all these years so I think we as a state need to keep goin and keep up with the times so we don't lose it. Thank you

2069 should not be able to buy points.That like buiing your liense.

2088 I am new to the state since retiring and as yet have not drawn a license. I have hunted deer in Nebraska for many years. Although I like the idea of the longer seasons in South Dakota I prefer the earlier season that they have in Nebraska. This is importat as I get older and the cold weather can be a huge factor. Also, I would like to see some lower license prices for Veterans. An example would be lower prices for the small game licenses for veterans over the age of 60 or 65. Nebraska has a low one timefee for small game licenses for veterans over the age of 60.

2428 I don't oppose evaluation of any kind when it comes to game management. I strongly oppose executive decisions made on the basis of revenue. I also strongly oppose the issuance of additional non-resident tags especially in the Black Hills.

2520 Deer depredation hunts should not happen unless it is really bad. I know in Davison county there was talk of having a depredation hunt. The numbers are way lower than what they were 5-10 years ago but and people didn't complain near as much back than. If here is some complaints Increase the tags or go our and scatter the deer. Since the disease that went through the area the numbers are still lower than they should be in my opinion.

2651 First of all, thank you for taking the time to get feedback from hunters. My only questions/concerns are in regard to the archery and muzzleloader tags. I'm wondering if the restrictions for Charles Mix or the Black Hills will ever be lifted for hunters from out of state to get doe tags, or for in-state hunters to start using their additional doe tags for these units again. I don't have any number to use, but just from my casual observations,

it seems that the doe numbers are back up and it might be time to let people start filling some doe tags again. Just a thought. Thank you again.

3468 Need to keep cattle grazing off of public ground. Habitat doesn't come back and that really limits where non landowners can hunt. Agriculture tiling needs to stop before lowlands disappear.

3566 I hunt Yankton county private lands and there are a large quantity of deer to be harvested (antlerless or any deer) but my family and I have to wait an average of 3 years for a single tag. I think the biologist count survey is way off considering how to anage the deer population. There are a lot more deer out there than your scientists think there is.

3576 I do not like the new system for getting a tag, it is much more complicated than 3 years ago. We hunt for the venison and not the trophy! I know that numbers of deer has been declining in the past few years in some areas, but why eliminate tags in all ares?

3593 I feel access permits should be needed to hunt big game on game production areas. I have seen these areas east river turn into a circus involving firearms that can kill at long distances. I will no longer hunt a game production area during the rifle seaso. It doesn't matter if I'm hunting deer, pheasants or rabbits. I also think too many does get killed on these public lands. The mentality for some is that it's better to go home with a doe/fawn than nothing. The number of hunters on public land east rive has gone up considerably in the last ten years in my opinion derived from observation. Hunters drive to an area, see 3 or 4 vehicles and end up driving around the public land and adjacent private lands. Access permits would help ensure a quality hunt andreduce burnout in these areas. This past east river deer season I counted 12 deer hunters with 5 trucks on one 640 acre game production area in miner county. The length of the East river deer season is too long. Nine days should suffice for any deer tags In years of high populations I don't see a problem keeping it 3 weekends for antlerless or have a separate antlerless season for 2 or 3 days in october. I get tired of seeing trucks push large herds of deer in the late antlerless season and being pushed rom the food and cover they need to survive into wide open areas. The archery deer season needs to start earlier statewide. As an archery hunter of both public and private land, I find that the season gets really tough once pheasant season starts. It woud be really nice to have a few extra weeks before pheasant hunters start pushing every square inch of cover.

3615 One simple change - for better quality bucks, especially East River simply follow closer to Iowa and Kansas firearm seasons - don't open the firearm season until after the peak of the rut. I'd be in favor of an east river rifle season that was December 1-0 every year. Don't ever goto a "buck only" license, that would seem to encourage hunters to shoot small bucks just to fill their tag. Educate/promote letting young bucks grow and harvest a doe for meat if desired. Thank you!

3753 This was the 1st year in 14 years I was unable to deer hunt with my family. I missed out on a week of great family memories. Hopefully it doesn't happen for another 14 years!

3756 Blue tongue hurt Beadle County 3 years ago.

3806 Why in the black hills with the large deer population, and with so many more does than bucks are all tags any whitetail? There are very few quality whitetails in these woods. I would like to see anterless only tags and fewer any tags. Thanks

3862 Just like fish and different bodies of water, there is no one size fits all solution to deer harvest and population management. The best solutions are those that are obtained through research and data of particular areas and surveys such as this one. Grat work

GFP! Now if you could only help the taxpayers in NE South Dakota regain public access to puplic water from public right-of-ways that would be something!

3939 It isn't the number of deer hunters on public land that is effecting the deer hunting. It's the pheasant hunters. Archery season should start on September 1 like North Dakota.

3991 I would like to see more trees in public land.

4037 I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MULE DEER POPULATION ALL OVER THE STATE. If we want more Mule Deer, why are we killing the mothers? Without more mothers, we could never increase the mule deer population. Plus, the shooting of antlerless deer during antelop season, is only an opportunity for game hogs. This does not increase the number of antelope hunters even in times of great numbers of antelope. It is only an opportunity to kill more doe deer. We don't have a problem with antelope hunters, as all the lcenses are all taken.

4049 I hunt way less deer then in the past the GFP complains about the deer numbers then keeps raising the tag fees so less residents hunt every year. It's all about the money anymore now GFP is mugging us on preference points now, like $5 was not enough for nt getting a tag for that year. The GFP has the highest resident fees than any of the surrounding States. In some States they pay less for a combo tag then we pay for just a few deer tags and they can get a Elk too. GFP has become a money grubbing outfit ad has gone crazy on their out of control fee increases over the last 10 years.

4153 There was a big snow in our hunting county on the Friday before opening Saturday, the deer moved out and bunched up never saw a deer in 4 days of hunting, Bad experience. Weather should be monitored in cases where a few extra hunting days would be nice

4190 being apart of the Sioux falls limited archery hunt I really enjoyed the hunt the format everything about it. I think this is a great way to limit access and manage population. verses everyone in the county driving around until they see the big one. I realy go for the enjoyment of it and I like venison. whether I get a big buck or not makes little difference would be nice. I feel the hunt is lost on chasing mature bucks.

4206 I think the drawing system needs to be changed. W

4352 I like to hunt the walk in areas but if they are close to the road they are not the safest place to be if people are driving by and don't see you out there. You can't get enough orange on some times to show you are out there. The other thing is in the han book it doesn't explain good enough on how to pack you deer out correctly. It may be good to one warden and not the other.

4582 I think in order to better manage deer for a better quality of buck that no one should be able to harvest a whitetail with less then 4pts and same for a mule deer on public land.

4667 Just want to take a moment to express my frustration with the Gregory County early rifle season opener. I believe there are only two or so counties in SD that have an early opener for rifle season. Gregory County has the split seasons. I can't express enogh how this negatively affects my archery hunting in that county.

4804 I am a muzzleloader hunter. Muzzle loading is definitely more difficult than regular rifle season. With the late muzzle loading season your chances of success are very slim. I would prefer an earlier muzzle loading season before the deer have been chase by rifle hunters. I also believe that any opportunity to improve the chances for a mentored deer hunter should be encouraged. If the young kids are unsuccessful, they become discouraged and are less likely to hunt in the future.

4886 Many fewer deer in the south Davison county and northern Hutchinson county area which is predominately where I hunt. Still suffering the ravages of the black tongue disease.

4978 The state need to be a lot harsher on people poaching. I quit hunting early this year because some individuals got caught poaching and they had taken some really big dear out of the area I hunt so I didn't hunt the rest of the season because of the numbr of deer they had taken

5553 Q5b. Hay. I am disappointed in having to buy preference points. I have no purchases so have not received a license in two years. Raise licenses prices and do an honest lottery draw.

6429 I don't think that there is anything wrong with the herd structure/season/dates/etc. Please don't try to fix what isn't broke.

DAU 9

1111 Just a few thoughts on East River Deer; At one time, I put much credence on getting anything w/a nice rack, (that was mostly for bragging not for eating). In the years from then to now, that has changed. I've been a doe hunter for approximately 10 year now & each time we have venison, like tonight, I'm thankful for the change in my attitude. We enjoy the flavor & the health benefits of eating healthy, clean & lean venison very much. Hopefully I'll be able to enjoy SD outdoors for years to come. Have a great day.

1135 The state land bordering the Missouri River is open for hunting. As I understand it, this area is for foot travel only, except on authorized roads. Each of the last 2 years that I hunted the area known as Bull Creek all the way to the Water Hole ramp, theentire area was covered with atv tracks and trails.
Did the laws get changed or isn't this an area that anyone checks. All of the deer and predators have been chased out and onto private lands. It is very hard to find public land to hunt that still offer a reasonable opportunity for harvesting game to fill a tag. Is anything being done to correct this, not only there but on all of the other land along the river?

1200 Need to issue more tags at less cost. Too many deer, need to reduce numbers. Deer causing way too much damage to livestock feed supplies along with deer/car collisions.

1674 Overall I'm pleased with deer hunting in South Dakota I've hunted since I was 12 which has been 20 years now I've deer hunted in codington duel brown Clark Faulk Tripp counties some years are better than other but overall pleased with the hunts

1745 muzzle loader season should not run that late due to the fact that alot of the horns have fallen off and alot of people shoot bucks because they think there shooting a big body doe which in fact its a buck that has lost its horns. That is my only commentkeep up the good work!!!

1781 I wish that biology rather and license fee income would determine the number of deer(doe licenses in particular) that are issued.

1877 You need to allow a limited number of non-resident buck tags for East River so the people that grew up here can come back and at least have a chance to someday hunt deer on their own land or family land.

2368 I'm not in favor of letting you hunt doe after regular season closes. When regular season done deer season done!

2373 Management of deer populations to support larger antlers is a nice concept but from my experiences in the field is likely not possible. The reason being that when an area, especially a less populated area, begins to gain a reputation for trophy animals th poachers and trespassers move in. By the time any law enforcement gets involved the party is over. I have run into non-residents with antlered deer in management areas that had no such tags available for non-residents. I have run into people hunting withmuzzle loaders admittedly hunting for bucks while holding doe tags.

2421 Stop selling multiple tags in East River Deer, Deer numbers are way down from what they used to be.

2895 There has been far to many dangerous illegal activities brought about by issuing TOO MANY tags to out of state hunters recently and this only encourages POACHING behavior.....there really needs to be a limit !! There are people that hunt illegally and tak a large number of deer and actually are selling packaged deer in their other states that have much more restrictive deer tags! I will be attending some Commission meetings to address these type of issues.

2916 It would be hard to regulate, however, If you issued the multiple tags that were any deer and an antlerless deer so that the antlerless tag had to be filled before you could fill the any deer tag, you probably would meet more of your management goals.

3195 Speaking as a Brown County resident, I know deer numbers are down in the last 4 years due to the bad winter we had, but the large amounts of habitat loss since then will prevent the return of deer as well as other wildlife to where we were 6-10 years ago. I guess this will make all the deer haters happy. Also, more and more farmers are fall plowing which does not do wildlife any good in the winter when they cant find food. I guess we need the "dirty thirties" to return to remind farmers why they shouldnt plow in the fall. there is a lot of soil loss in hilly areas due to this practice. I have been told by more than one farmer they are now doing fall plowing to "get a jump on the spring." poor reason in my mind since I keep hearing farm shows say thatfarmers are "stewards of the land."

3527 You are all doing a fair assessment of the hunt. Thank You

3798 It seems to me that with all the years of game management experience contained in GF&P, the management of the resource should be first and foremost. Licenses have already been adjusted when the numbers are down and fees have increased. Finding private lnd to hunt is also more difficult than in All types of hunting. I don't blame the farmers and ranchers for leasing their land since it helps pay the rising real estate taxes. If I didn't have a relative providing a place for me to hunt, I wouldn't bothe.

3990 Just remember one thing that most people either forget or don't know and that is you cannot have big deer if there are no deer. Meaning if you kill all the factory workers(the does) you will not have any deer to become big. For that reason I think the lat doe season is silly. If you cannot shoot a deer in the 25 day season I don't think that you should go out late season when they are all pregnant with future and basically take 2 or 3 out of the population

4044 Please try to uncomplicate all hunting regulations so that you do not need a law degree to keep from inadverdently running afoul of the law. Simplify the regs !

4157 I don't understand how non residents can come in West River and hunt deer when you will not give us permission to hunt!!! I and my hunting buddy are both disabled. All your

money for "walk in" does us ,, not what we pay you!!! We can't !!! Does anyone atthe . GF&P understand???

4341 SD GFP is doing a good job managing the deer herd. Commercialization of hunting is hurting the recruitment of hunters. The NEED for inches of antler is costing us land access, friendships and hunting tradition. I'd like the GFP to set forth a media eduation downplaying inches and encouraging tradition

4405 I think you could consider allowing crossbows during the archery season.

4504 The east river deer season should be later to allow breeding season to peak. This would allow the mature dominant bucks to breed. The current season dates are at the peak making the dominant bucks more vulnerable. I also believe the season is too long. Thnk you.

DAU 10

1056 Wish GFP would consider going back to Antlered and Antler-less instead of Any Deer, so we can still enjoy the hunt and bring home some meat with harvesting a doe - Most land owners and other locals seem to only hunt Antlered deer and will not bother with doe. While a person like myself looking forward to traveling out of Sioux Falls for a weekend and spend money in rural communities, and have zero preference points or even one point you are most likely not being drawn for a tag and will not travel with he friends/family that were drawn. Most of us non locals would be happy to harvest a doe. I think utilizing the 2nd preference point and 1st preference point drawings for the limited Antlered tags would make good sense.

1126 We need more tags issued in Codington county the farmers land I hunt have seen large growth in the deer populations

1178 It's to hard to get a lic and we keep getting more restrictions

1265 I agree with the end of doe hunting in January. I feel that the state should do away with all doe hunting in counties that the population isn't where it needs to be. Possibly issue more buck tags so that a person doesn't have to wait 4 years to get a tag. also the muzzle loader season should be before the rifle season Thanks

1500 In my archery season.. note: I use around 35 trail cams.. plus the number of days hunting with a weapon or simply observing/scouting.. i noticed a larger buck to doe ratio... The upside.. i noted a larger group of does 2015 season with twins then I have i past.. fawn drop last season appeared to be a touch later then norm.. Regions I noted a larger buck to doe ratio.. Blyth slough, W. long lake... majority of buck aging 1.5 - 3 yrs... Heaviest doe with twins area.. W.long lake.. almost every doe had twins.nice ! Health looked great on adult deer...yearling & fawns.. appeared a touch behind.. but it was a later green shoots spring then other years...

1512 I would like to see that people in their counties have first preference in getting a license in that county. We support the deer population in that county by taxes, feeding the deer and paying taxes in that county. Some of us chose to live here because f the hunting. We should have the first right to hunt this area and if there are left over tags, then people from outside the county should draw for those tags.

1611 East river numbers of deer are getting less. Quit selling double doe tags. Nobody needs to shoot two deer. Give more people the opportunity to hunt a single deer. Like to see more buck tags. More challenging in getting a buck and doesn't really effec the herds as

much. Someone with a double doe tag, is potentially reducing the population by 5 or 6 deer.(2 mothers and two sets of twins). Coyotes are becoming a problem in NE SD. Hardly see any young deer anymore. Coyotes are significantly impactingthe young deer population. Thank you!

1748 In Day county the county I have hunted my whole life, the areas we used to hunt are now all under water and it is getting harder and harder to find areas to hunt. I have always hunted public land. I would expect new roads, or new areas of land to hunt dueto the shortage of land. Farmers and land owners should not be getting paid for a game production area, walk in area, or public hunting area that is 95% covered in water or is unaccessible due to water.

1821 With the current limits on the counties that I have hunted in. I have not drawn a deer tag in 4 years. I think there needs to be a greater chance for me to draw a tag of it's been that long.

2058 I think the drawing for licences should be as follows...landowner, RESIDENTS OF THAT COUNTY,then leftovers for non county residents.....seems unfair that the people living in the area have no better chance of drawing a tag than someone from the other partof the state does.

2445 I strongly support management practices to increase the size of the east river white-tail deer population. As a bowhunter primarily of course I would like to have this come at the expense of rifle hunters as it is a challenge enough with a bow.

2504 We are in need of some east river antlerless tags for both rifle and muzzleloader in the counties there have not been. We don not need a huge # issued, but would be nice to be able to hunt closer to home. I think the population would be able to sustain iself. I especially would like to see some antlerless tags for muzzleloader in these counties.

2532 One of the biggest issues in eastern South Dakota are the number of hunters who actually get out and walk the land. Most of the hunting is now done from stands and blinds. I don't have a problem with the use of blinds and stands, but hunters miss a big oportunity if they don't leave their stand or pickup to hunt.

2613 WHEN RIFLE SEASON IS DONE EITHER EAST OR WEST RIVER THEN ALL SEASONS SHOULD END. Muzzleloeader and archery and youth seasons after the fact totally devastate any and all mature bucks because they have dropped their horns and get harvested because they ar the large deer in herds and shot as such. No hunting after the regular rifle seasons in any portion of South Dakota period. Archery should end when rifle ends and muzzleloader should end when rifle season ends period.

2732 I feel the youth deer season is being abused. There are too many adult people that don't know how to ethically hunt deer and use a firearm, resulting in wounded animals they don't even know they hit. Then you put kids in the field with a firearm they are fraid of and expect them to not wound deer. And of course there are the adult supervisors that do the shooting. The season is way to long. Five months of hunting pressure is way more than our deer deserve.

2834 You could limit the number of bucks one man can shoot , seems outlandish for one man to get buck tags on 4 or 5 diffrent openers and another man that only hunts 1 opener cant draw tags then cant get leftovers.

3146 Kind of ironic that I have hunted deer in SD for 25 yrs and the last 2 yrs cannot pull a rifle tag. Very frustrating.

3247 Some of your questions on the lengths of the seasons should be reworded. They are currently unclear if you are answering the question that you think the season is starting too early or if you want the season to start earlier. You could be answering the qustion and have your answer interpreted to be the complete opposite of the way you intended to answer. Possibly having the option of selecting a date to go along with your answer could help with this.

3273 having to buy preference points to get a tag really SUCKS. Bring back the old system where if you don't draw a tag you get a point for next year. Your pay for points system is only a way to charge more for a tag. As a land owner I have always used the "luk of the draw" to get a tag, I have never used or received a Land Owner tag. I will not pay for preference points to buy a deer tag!

3293 The doe only season after Jan 1 needs to end. I have herd of way to many bucks that have dropped there antlers being shot. the season is plenty long, if you haven't harvested your deer by the end of December, you don't need to. Archery could go to a anterless tag and a minimum of 4 pts on each side for your buck to provide trophy hunting, rifle could do the same. That way your not cutting tags but your improving quality, when the hills went to two pts it improved quality immediately

3302 I strongly believe that we have depredation problems that need to be addressed. I know we have made some progress on this issue. I don't believe that large numbers of coyotes have not effected our deer herds. I have noticed herd size getting smaller inour area since the coyote numbers have increased which has been over the last 25 years. I would entertain someone proving me wrong on depredation. Disease may have been a factor I am not sure, we have never run across large numbers of carcasses though. Maybe just over hunted, but I hunt in an area where locals limit hunting all around on private land and I have still seen numbers go down on deer.

3402 Try and be a bit more proactive in deer management. It was clear the numbers were declining greatly before there was any reduction in license numbers. then the deer herd crashed which required a drastic reduction on tags. earlier intervention would hav muted the severity of the tag fluctuation.

3416 MUZZLE LOADER TAGS SHOULD BE SAME TIME AS HIGH POWER RIFLE AS MOST ARE NOT TRUE MUZZLE LOADING.

3552 Think through and work with the farmers that tend to GFP owned land. It seems like common farming practices are used that increase profitability in crop production instead of the best interest of the wildlife being managed on these properties. For exampl, we should require farmers to leave sufficient food plots, use no-till, and leave grassland when in the best interest of the wildlife.

3871 Individual hunters should be limited to drawing only one any deer license a year per weapon type (archery, rifle, muzzleloader). Also, landowner preference in limited license drawings is not fair to non landowning applicants.

3918 Concerned about the decrease in deer populations in general. Concerned about the large depredation of fawns by coyotes.

4030 please address the issue of making multiple mentored hunter licenses available on line. Currently, a parent can only receive a single on-line mentored tag for any season, regardless of number of mentees. I understand the general reasoning of the single ag on-line limitation, but I've had up to three children that needed mentoring in the same season. Of course they must be mentored individually, but it would be much better to be

able to get all the tags on line during normal application sessions. I beleve that the mentored season is not being abused and we can trust parents to hold several tags for their mentored hunter children and follow the rules accordingly .

4139 I really like hunting and appreciate all the effort you people put into it thank you

4160 Good luck

4415 Instead of limiting the number of tags use an antler point requirement, much like other states which increase in short time the number of bigger deer in the state... let the little ones grow up.

4458 I live in day county and the deer numbers are way down. I only shoot mature bucks and have seen very few in the past few years. Another option on getting bigger bucks would be an antler size restriction! I believe this would do a great amount to keep pople from shooting the young bucks!

4602 In my opinion we should not limit the deer liscence numbers for adults and give every single child a liscence. I hunt only my parents land which is a 180 acre spot. I control who hunts it If you take away my liscence you will not save more than 1 deer wich will be a buck or injured deer which I take if someone has injured one. I spend alot of time with food plots and watching deer. But if you want to take away a liscence for a year I will just sit and watch them which is the real reason I go out not Jus to harvest.

4642 There needs to be more tags available in unit 29A ! land owner or not! plenty of deer if willing to hunt! and land access! getting less every year and more road kill every year!!

4787 I don't like that now anyone can buy preference points and money is forfeited when not successful.

4935 I'm answering on the basis of being an east river archery hunter only

4940 Please open archery sept 1st or first saturday in september like ND. would LOVE chance at early season/velvet buck! Please keep current bonus point system for all the seasons, i enjoy opportunity to harvest multiple bucks each year if i have enoug bonus points to draw. Also, would we consider opening muzzleloader season prior to rifle but still limiting to 1x sights? Thank you!

4946 Deer licenses are getting too expensive. They are WAY too few especially in Codington County's rifle season. 250 total? With half going to landowners? Really?? I archery hunted in the county and saw at least 15 deer dead in the ditches. These causevery expensive damage to vehicles and may cause injury or even death. Do you really prefer this to having them harvested by hunters? But the worst policy you have instituted is the Pay for Points bull! This has encouraged myself and others to initiate ossible laws making the board and president elected offices instead of having the director appointed by the Governor. You are making hunting in South Dakota a "rich man's sport". If you really need money that badly charge more for out of state licenses nd let those of us who live here have some sort of affordability concerning deer hunting. If you chase hunters off by constantly increasing the cost and reducing the licenses you will play Hell getting these hunters back. I personally know a couple of lng time hunters who have quit and say they will not return. I will probably do the same in a couple of years when my sons are grown. I hate what you have done to hunting in South Dakota....it makes me sad.

5601 Answers to question 2 will not give good information as I don't west river deer hunt, or refuge hunt & have only Black Hills deer hunted once in 48 years.

6058 Q15. It cuts into pheasant hunting (a week to early)

6634 Q16-Q19. I have no opinion

DAU 11

1062 I spend some time deer hunting in Tripp county, so this altered my answers regarding mule deer.

1218 Would be nice to try to put a limit on shooting small bucks. Most people would like to bag a nice buck, but I see a lot of young bucks get shot just because they have horns. Maybe try putting a limit that a buck has to be at least 4x4 or bigger to get sot. For those that want to hunt just for meat, they can shoot a doe.

1246 I do not support charging $5.00 for preference points.

1291 It would be nice to be able to get a antlerless archery tag in McCook county again along with the any deer tag.Thanks

1380 GFP should limit more of the out of state tags and give those who live in South Dakota a chance to get their own states wildlife.

1443 The numbers are way down where I hunt by Arlington. Bucks dont make it around here to full maturity too many horn hunters! Rifle season should be 2 weekends long end of November so rut is over

1517 More habitat is the greatest need for deer and other wildlife. Land can not be farmed from road ditch to road ditch, trees ripped out grove after grove, grass tilled under, low spots and waterways tiled so they can be farmed over and still have a healthywildlife population, not to mention clean water and air.

1585 It's hard enough getting tags and now you force us to buy preference points is wrong. If you go back the way it was before. If you get a tag your automatically given a preference point.

1622 I think the youth season was actually longer than the Dec 1st to Jan 15th that you had listed in the survey. So my answer is that I strongly agree with the current seasons length. Being that it is more difficult to harvest a deer with a Muzzle loader thn a rifle it seems like the muzzleloader season should precede the rifle season even if only for a week or 10 days. And due to the greater challenge of filling a muzzleloader tag I'm not sure that the Easternmost counties in the State need to be completel excluded from the season. Keep up the good work!

1645 I really like the 2 deer tags for West River.

1668 Should instill a point requirement, such as a minimum of three points on each side. That way little bucks can grow up.

1724 Our family is not composed of trophy hunters nor will we harvest an immature animal just to say we filled a tag. We enjoy the fair hunt and teaching our kids gun safety and responsible hunting with respect for fellow hunters and the animals. It's frustratng when out of state people enjoy tags that we forfeit. Our family hunts to put meat in the freezer. We enjoy hunting in the county we live in because it keeps us close to home so we are able to take all of our kids along to enjoy the hunt. Thanks for allyou do.

1795 I own 6-acres. landowner preference so unfair. With land going for $10,000/acre you are showing preference to the rich. Give me a licence to just hunt my land, 6-acres.

1866 Eliminate All Non-Resident Hunting and Fishing especially for Minnesota Residents !! They are nothing but Problems !!

1875 funny you sent this to me ,I have be turned down for a tag two years in a row and I have seen more deer then I have I a long time

1880 Increase archery and muzzle loader and greatly decrease high powers. The true sportsman are the the archery and primitive weapons user. High powers have no place in eastern south dakota

1887 During the flood of 2011 the corp destroyed thousands of trees along the missouri river I do not see a replanting plan or any interest of repairing the deers forest /home.

1900 A rule that should be put into place is the point restriction on antlers other than it should not apply to youth. No electronics on rifles to prevent long shots and reduce wounded deer. I wouldn't mind seeing an early and a late muzzleloader season. Als would like to see the archery season a little earlier to be given the chance to get a deer that is still in velvet.

1907 In Iowa they have an early and a late season muzzle loader season. Having only one shot at a deer I think out ways rifle hunting. It would be nice not to hunt deer in the freezing cold when the deer are skiddish from rifle season.

1955 I believe limited access hunting units should be increased. I feel that a youth should only get one tag between the mentor and youth season. Youth hunting age should be 12-16 years. Youth hunting season is too long and it is being abused. I believe nonesidents youth should not be allowed to hunt during this season. They should pay as an adult nonresident.

2025 1--Several years ago it seemed like far to many tags were issued resulting in decreased deer numubers, then disease really took deer numbers down even further. I never saw an over population and am not sure how those determinations are made. 2--Public ares, which in my mind are few and far between are over hunted. It became to dangerous to hunt deer in these areas for me and my family. We need more public areas instead of more "pay to hunt areas". 3--How about "Buck only" or "doe only tags" instead of "an deer".

2076 Referring back to the question about how much land you own. I own 36 acres of pure trees and brush used only for hunting. The issue I have is not being able to send in for landowner tags because I don't have 160+ acres. I feel this needs to be reduced dow for hunters that own/buy land for hunting purposes. GF&P is doing a great job overall!! Thanks!!

2165 In light of the recent cut back in tags issued East river I believe this to be mistake. There remains a fair number of deer seen along the highways. This tells me that there remains a significant number of deer in this part of the state. I have also sen fairly large herds post season. I am also greatly disappointed in the fees that are now being charged for preference points. The fact that one did not get drawn should be enough to qualify for preference in the next years draw. The charging of fees oly supports turning hunting into a blood sport for only those that can afford to pay for it.

2243 In no way should rifle seasons coincide with traditional time periods that deer are in rut. This allows for trophy hunting with a firearm rather than management purposes. In my opinion, rifle hunters should do a better job of herd management and less tophy pursuit.

2374 limit archery permits state wide

2381 Land owners complain about deer eating there crops but yet won't let anyone hunt them I think they shouldn't get help from gfp if they complain but won't let anyone hunt

2541 why waste my time, you'll just hire more bioligists and raise the tag prices!

2551 I haven't gotten a firearms deer tag in the "draw" for 3 years. Where others get multiple tags every year. This doesn't seem fair or unbiased.

2610 I don't like where south Dakota does the draw-many years you go without getting a license and there are deer all over-other states people brag where they can get as many deer as they want as can get lots of tags

2776 Was not successful in any deer application drawings (B.H. or Minnehaha Co.) in 2015.

2812 I think the management of the deer heard should be addressed. And believe that south dakota should also be looking at other states that do have an excellent deer management system in place. Also land owner tags should be put in a different class instead o in the public drawing that should be a different count and a different total of tags to draw from. Thanks

2952 I would like to see more GFP wardens and personnel out in the field. We have way to many people over bagging, chasing and illegally taking of our animals.

2971 A couple of things I would like to see considered. Putting a minimum antler size on bucks harvested in some areas (I-29 corridor). Having the muzzleloader season either before, or coinciding with the firearm season. Allowing magnifying scopes on muzzleoaders during the muzzleloader only season.

2997 make a slot limit on the size of antlered deer. too many out of state hunters including many in state hunters shoot the first deer with antlers they see. many first and second year bucks are shot and need the time to grow before they are ready to harvest.make a rule deer must be atleast 4x4 or similar.

3001 I bow hunt Newton Hills State Park in Lincoln County and it gets very hectic in there during rifle season. limiting the amount of hunters (even if it includes me) in the park at certain times would help not only the clutter of lots of hunters but I think we would see increase in deer population with less traffic in and out of the park. whether it be multiple seasons, or using a permit system to limit the number of hunters in the park

3026 Growing up in the heavily legislated state of Minnesota I truly appreciate the hunting/licensing/population concepts that the state of South Dakota employs. I feel the hunting success and enjoyment of our youth need to be of primary focus in determining appropriate regulations and seasons. South Dakota seems to be focused on their hunters and traditions and not special interests and bureaucracy as in states like MN. Please don't ever lose this focus. The future of our sport depends on it! Thank you for all you do to preserve this valuable asset in our state.

3059 I am 64 years of age and would love to continue to bow hunt. I find that I can no longer easily draw and hold my bow for an accurate shot. I have hunted and supported hunting for many years as have other hunters of my age. I would love to see senior citizens be permitted to use a crossbow to hunt during the regular archery season.

3063 I am not very well educated wildlife management ,but I wonder about the gfp deer harvest of "urban deer" in and around Sioux Falls. My question is ...Would it be possible to tranquilize and transport these deer to neighboring counties to rebuild herds reduced by blue tongue .

3213 THE COST OF PURCHASING AN ACRE OF LAND HAS INCREASED GREATLY OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS. NOW IT IS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PURCHASE 160 ACRES OF LAND FOR LESS THAN $500,000 AND IN MOST CASES CLOSER TO $1,000,000. FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, IN ORDER TO QUALIF FOR LANDOWNER PREFERENCE YOU NEED TO OWN 160 ACRES IN ONE COUNTY. PEOPLE OWN LAND IN MULTIPLE COUNTIES AND MAY BE SMALLER THAT 160 ACRES. IF THE TRACTS ARE SMALLER THAN 160 ACRES THEY WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR LANDOWNER PREFERENCE IN EITHER COUNTY. I BELIEVEA LANDOWNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO HUNT WILDLIFE ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY IF THE LAND THEY OWN PROVIDES FOOD AND/OR SHELTER FOR WILDLIFE. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, IT MAY REQUIRE A SPECIAL APPLICATION FOR LANDOWNER TO HUNT THE LAND THEY OWN (AND ONLY THE LAND THEY OWN REGARDLESS OF THE TRACT SIZE OR COUNTY THAT IT IS IN. OTHER PEOPLE I HAVE TALKED WITH (THAT ARE NOT LANDOWNERS) WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT ANTERLESS DEER IN EAST RIVER COUNTIES THAT ONLY HAVE ANY DEER TAGS FOR RIFLE SEASON. I THINK THE "SPECIL BUCK" TAG IS A GREAT IDEA. HAVING A MORE EXPENSIVE TAG THAT ALLOWS A HUNTER TO HUNT ANY COUNTY TO HARVEST A BUCK.

3220 Bought a muzzleloader to hunt in Brookings County. Then there wasn't a season offered for that in 2015. What drove that decision, low numbers? I saw plenty of deer when archery hunting and could have taken any number of them with a muzzleloader. I thik the archery season and the muzzleloader season should be same starting dates, with antlerless only tags for muzzleloader, to increase doe harvest. Those who want to shoot a buck with muzzleloader should have later starting date.

3424 Deer hunting has become more difficult over the past several years. Habitat has been decreasing, especially trees. White-tails are highly adaptable and will continue to move into urban areas...is there a plan to deal with them via hunters? Sioux Falls nd Rapid City pay to have them limited...another lost revenue for GF&P. Youth season is too long during the poorest weather. My own kids wouldn't go out once it got so cold and snowy...too discouraging for them to trudge through the snow carrying their gar.

3606 If I owned or leased land I would be able to plant a food plot and hunt deer on it. Conversely, if I wanted to bring a bucket of corn out or some other food source and hunt over it that would be considered baiting and illegal. I am not sure there is a dfference between the two situations?

3651 need more east river deer tags.

3878 We had high numbers of antlerless deer in Union County. Not allowing any extra antlerless tags again for this year will be a mistake. The numbers are going to get out of hand again until mother nature takes care of it on its own. Allow us to kill some oes in this are so they just aren't wasted again like with EHD.

3957 I think that limiting the number of firearm tags will bring the population up, but you should not just limit it to firearms. In my mind there is to many archery hunters killing or wounding what ever gets close to them. Two times this year I found dead dee that looked like from archery wounds

3971 Every man for him self...weather you're meat hunting or horn hunting. South Dakota has great amounts of public land for a person to explore..east and west river.

4134 The distribution of tags should go to the residents that actually live in the county they applied for, before they are disbursed to out of county applicants. Its really frustrating

applying for a license in the county you live in and see people from othercounties getting a license when you don't, and there out just driving for deer and trespassing ruining the reputation of GOOD hunters that abide by the rules. I do like the preference points and how that works but I don't like that we have to pay for thm now. for instance if you keep buying preference points but never draw a tag then what's the point of applying for a license. Personally I'm ok with a higher price of a tag within reason, versus paying for a preference point and not getting a tag. I do eel like the price of the migratory bird stamp is quite high. I understand that the GFP needs to make money to pay game wardens and such, but there needs to be a balance of knowing when a price might be just to high for the excitement and reward of huntin. Thank you for the opportunity of taking this survey and to voice some of my concerns. hopefully with all of the information you are getting you can continue to make it a great experience and thrill to hunt in south Dakota!

4146 A number of your questions are not reflective of reality here in Clay County; for instance, there has been no late season or muzzleloader hunts for a number of years.

4170 I am an avid deer hunter who loves the opportunity to hunt deer with both my bow and rifle. While I enjoy the thought of some day shooting a "wall-hanger," my family (wife, 5 kids) also depend on venison for food for the year, both b/c of our love of venion as well as financial reasons, so I also balance trophy hunting with needing food. Due to the low number of deer and the reduced number of tags (especially the double tags and the lack of being able to buy an "antlerless only" archery tag), it has mad it harder to harvest the number of deer we need for our freezer. Since I partly hunt for food reasons, I like the thought of having more tags available so that more people have the opportunity to hunt. Having a double tag was nice b/c it increased my chaces of filling a tag, but at the same time, it reduced the number of hunters. Increasing the number of double/triple tags meant that fewer hunters were shooting more deer. I know people who love shooting deer, so would go out and fill all their tags and ten give the meat to Hunters Against Hunger, while I was at home without the opportunity to hunt with the rifle. For rifle, maybe instead of having it be set up where you only get your 1st choice OR your 2nd choice where a tag is a double/triple tag, an lternative would be to set it up where hunters could enter a lottery and apply for an "any deer" tag or a "buck only" tags as their 1st and 2nd choice, but then allow them to also apply for a second tag in addition that would be an additional "antlerless nly" tag that they could automatically get (kind of like archery used to be, but have a limit on how many of the automatic tags are available). For the more "preferred tags" like an "any deer" or a "buck only" one you could raise the prices and then charg slightly less for the additional tags. This format could be beneficial by (1) allowing the state could collect more money due to having more overall tags available instead of slight cost increases for a double/triple tag (2) allow hunters who need meat te opportunity to purchase a second tag, (3) more hunters would have the opportunity to get in the field instead of fewer hunters harvesting more deer. For archery, I would love if the system would go back to being able to apply for an "any deer" tag as ell as a second "any antlerless" tag. I wouldn't think that bowhunters would reduce the deer population that much with the 2nd tag, but would provide the ability to take an extra deer for the freezer. Many bowhunters can only get out during the weekends o an occasional night during the week, so filling an archery tag is anything but a sure thing. This past year I was unsuccessful drawing an East River rifle tag. I did get my West River rifle tag, but it was for one deer only. I also had one east river achery and one west river archery, so I had a total of 3 tags, two of which were for the bow. I was quite worried about being able to get enough deer for our freezer, which added a stress to the hunts, especially since I was only able to use my west river rchery tag for a 3 day hunt. For those of us needing meat, I would enjoy some kind of set up that increases my

ability to fill the freezer. All this to say, my degree is not in wildlife management (although I was a Wildlife and Fisheries major two diffeent times while at SDSU, lol!), I'm just shooting off the cuff potential ideas to create a healthy deer population while also allowing hunters more opportunities to be in the field and those who need to fill their freezers, not just those who are trophy hnters or enjoy shooting deer for the sake of shooting deer. Thank you for being willing to hear feedback from us hunters!!

4176 I would like archery hunting to start earlier in the year.

4211 While the survey addresses muzzle loaders, it does not address possibly allowing more use/tags in areas like east river with areas where no tags were available.

4513 More archery options for doe management. Urban areas have management issues, open it up to archery.

4522 It would be nice if the gfp actually gave tags to its residents so they could go hunting. I don't know where the shortage is but I haven't found it yet.

4735 I have missed out on east river hunting the last 2 years. I'm hoping this year deer tags will increase because I still see a large population in our area and am confused as to why tags are so limited. I hunt in the McCook area. I guess I'm just looking fo answers. I do enjoy deer hunting and will still continue to apply for a tag and hope for the best!

4779 I would like to see deer tags based on deer that reside on land that is accessable to public as it seems tags issued dont reflect the number of deer tags are issued for .In example private land that holds deer no one is allowed to hunt

9908 I feel that does never get a chance to grow up. I very rarely see a big doe any more. Always lots of small deer. I also think if a resident applies for a tag he or she should get one before an out of state.

Unknown DAU

1223 Please open archery season earlier. I think I speak for many archery hunters when I say taking a mature buck in velvet is a dream. Would rather not have to travel to ND to take a velvet buck.

3056 Archery season opening dates need to open earlier. There is no good reason not to. Nebraska, which is south of SD had mid - Sept. archery season opening dates clear back in the 70's. Their fall & winter weather is about 2 weeks later than SD so I see n reason why we shouldn't have a 9/1 opening date for archery deer, or 9/15 at the very latest. Weather being too warm is not a good excuse.

3691 Limit antlered deer harvested to 3x3 points or better

3858 The drawing system is not workng I have not had a license for seven years. Too many years included in the perference drawing

5002 People that live in county they hunt should have first access to licenses = left overs for latter times. Know some landowners that hunt all over, should stay on land theyhave or put into a lottery for a tag.

5027 Q3. 47A. Q16. No interst in hunting there applies.

5038 Q7. Have not gotten a license in the last 3 years.

5047 Muzzleloader season - eastern Minnehaha County 01A has a lot of antlerless deer, should consider a season for antlerless deer. A lot of people would be out trying to get

an exra deer or some would even donate for people who need some extra meat. Myself, I would be willing to donate one if they would use it.

5062 Q8. We have 250 acres of CRP not accessed to public and won't be. 2012 drought took out every deer in Bon Homme County. Q10. West River Gregory County rifle. 2013 & 2014, a waste of time. Filled two tags out of 34 tags, from out hunting party in 2014. Q12. It's the amount of tags given out. Not the length of the season. Q13 C. January only. Q13E. Never. Q14. Youth deer is way too long. I called and speak with either [gentleman] in Pierre every year to speak with them on tag restrictions, and I pay and order them over the phone. I also spoke with a gentleman from Sioux Falls 4 years ago, but we lost touch.

5063 Shoot mountain lions in any all all capacities! It is so stupid to have a predator species controlled in limited abilities.

5064 We are losing more hunting areas to paid hunting every year. The GPA and walk in areas are wor out by bird hunters before deer season begins driving out deer to adjacent private land.

5080 Q4. Have not seen mule deer for years. Q11. Deer habitat look good we just not go out there. Q12. We just love the hunt. Q14. We just hunt the first weekend.

5089 Q12. Does not matter, food is food.

5099 How about a traditional muzzleloader season? Flintlocks and percussion, no scopes.

5124 I feel that because landowenrs feed the deer they should be able to hunt them. There should be a special tag that allows them to hunt only land they own. tHis tag should allow them to hunt in multiple counties. It is nealy impossible to own 160 acres in one county. As land prices increase the reality of owning 160 acres is near zero for most people. Allowing landowners (of less than 160 acres) to hunt their own land in any county would be a great thing.

5129 The preference point system needs overhaul. I have 9 points while my daughter in law has received 3 tags to my zero in the past 9 years.

5148 The current licensing process seems excessively skewed toward preference points. It would be nice to be able to have a shot at a license without being required to purchase additional preference points.

5168 It would be extremely attreactive if you had a deer reporting section on your facebook page where your "followers" could post the numbe of deer they see on any given date. Perhaps with pictures and a brief discription of what they're reporting (county, section of county, weather conditions, and maybe the basic food stuff the animals are eating at the times). This could have a massive impact on the research value for our states biologists and improve the quality of all our states wildlife. Facebook could be a wonderful tool to bring the states residents into a family which really appreciate the would around us. I would suggest you use the state GFP website to promote it. Thank you for allowing me to be involved with this survey.

5188 I believe this is my opportunity. I live in Minnehaha County and there seems to be an abundance of deer, we've hit two this year. My suggestion - you hit a deer, offer out an antlerless tag per hit. Individual has the choice to accept or turn down. They have to inform a GFP warden if successful in filling the tag.

5189 We think the GFP does a good job managing the deer in South Dakota but, we do have some concerns about the special buck season. We have witnessed the wealthy farmer-

ranchers purchase these tags which are supposed to be only for private land, and use them to (work) the public lands. Also, they just send friends & relatives through as pheasant hunters, chasing all the deer out to their private land where only they have access to them. If these licenses were more affordable to the rest of the residents and having a later season opener with a $5.00 preference, we all would have a chance of taking a big buck. By the way, thepersons that pheasant hunt the public areas to push the bucks out, is the only time you will see them hunt pheasants all year (we know, they are our neighbors).

5191 Please go back to starting east river seasons after Thanksgiving for firearm hunting and give the archer one more week before rifle hunters get a chance to chase deer all over the country.

5228 Q12. Doe is good enough/don't care about horns. I think if you close down horn hunting in our area it would be a good thing.

5240 It is almost to the point that if you don't own land you don't get a tag. A lot of "city folk" spend a lot of money and time to deer hunt but it's becoming harder and harder to hunt in South Dakota. I takes away a lot of memories when we can't hunt together as a group or family.

5245 More public & school ground would be great. It is getting harder every year to get on public ground. Fewer out of state tags would be fine also the out of staters can shoot pheasants but fewer big game tags would be fine with me.

5263 I don't mind doing my part for you studies but it would be nice to get a tag once in awhile.

5319 I think you have to be careful not to over harvest even if one year looks like there is an abundance of animals. I heard a few years ago you could get triple antelope tags and now the numbers are low. Things like winer kill & disease can quickly decline the number of deer in an area. I would like to see ore CRP back in the field, ever since the decline in CRP acres I have also noticed a decline in game including deer & pheasants. I have a young son whose first year of mentored deer hunting was last year and went good for him harvesting a doe but doesn't seem like there are nearly as many animals as there were when I was a kid and want him to enjoy the outdoors as much as I do. I hope this information will help.

5361 Q12. Don't care if has horns

5363 Have not been lucky the last 2 years to get a license. To pay for preference points is dumb. If you don't get a license one year you should be at the top fo the list the next. In state 1st out of state can get leftovers.

5389 Q1. I don't remember a couple, a few?

5390 Q2b, d, e, & f. Never hunted. Q8. Walk in Areas. Q13. Hunting up North in Potter County wheather conditions are a huge factor and time to go!

5447 would like to get preferance points not have to pay for them!

5466 This is a very weak survey, deer numbers suck and the state acts like everyone draws a tag to hunt every year. Preference points don't mean shit anymore. You are loosing rifle hunters because of all the pressure of archery hunters. Very weak, but what do we get from are GFP.

5470 If possible I would like to see people who likve the the county they apply for get first chance at those tags. I live in Lake County and have only had a tag three of five years, and it's very frustrating to see out of county people driving around looking for deer.

Especially, when they circle all the ground they are unable to hunt because it's private ground and you know they have no permission within five miles.

5481 Q7. Have not hunted in past 5 years

5484 I do believe SD does a very good job with their deer management. However, I strongly believe that if a person recieves a landowner tag he/she should be restricted to his/her land and not be able to hunt on others including state land.

5502 Q12. I haven't received a license in the last 2 years. I would just like to get a license again (Brookings County) 06A. My mom has land there.

5504 We do not need a youth season every one should hunt at the same time. When open ealry for youth deer a very hard to hunt later.

5535 Q9. I would say good except the food plots are small and terrible. SD should look at MN food plots. Q15d & f. Too long. Not enough deer in Roberts County coyote problems and too many doe permits for too many years. All seasons are too long, deer are run from mid-September to mid-January. Too stressful for this part of the country.

5572 I don't understand why we take out tress on public hunting areas or let cattle graze the grass. Which only leaves the bad weeds left. Also makes these areas hard to walk in.

5584 Q13E. What? Q14b, e, f. Don't follow

5625 I live west of Yankton off of Hwy 50, most days there between 1-3 dead deer on the side of the road hit by vehicles. 99% are always does. Doe licenses need to be increased or the season be increased or extended.

5638 There are too many deer in protected areas. If there is a road or hwy near wehre they cross. Too many deer being killed by vehicles.

5647 Q7. Population decreased during EHD outbreak but seems to be coming back where I hunt. Q12. I'm willing to shoot a doe as well so I wouldn't like to hunt less, but I would be willing to have less opportunity to have an antlered tag. Maybe alternate with antlerless and antlered? Q13F. Charge, it's for habitat hunters will pay. Q15. if you want more big bucks, have your gun seasons after rut. Start them early December.

5675 Q2 muzzleloader - should not have as a later season. Years ago deer had to hide for 3-6 weeks now - 3 months, they don't have a chance. To may does are killed with the xtra seasons. Bow season should be limited. Habitat - we all know it’s the answer. As the number of landowners get less but the areas get bigger, more land is set aside as a safe haven. It's a shame killing deer in Sioux Falls - why are they here? They think they are safe! Hunt close to a preserve, you have a better chance. When it says walk in only enforce it! No 4-wheel all terrain vehicles! Fine them $1,000. If you don't walk, you don't belong there.

5684 You guys do a gret job! We look forward to our hunt every year with our teenaged sons. It has been a tradition for several years now and it has been full of memories. We don't always shoot big bucks but we scratch one every once in a while, which keeps us coming back with excitement. It is one of the times I can spend quality time with my son and I treasue every minute of it. We go West River to avoid the crowds and enjoy hassle free hunting. You guys do it better than any other state!

5687 Never hunted west river.

5714 The biggest problem about deer hunting is the trophy hunting & permits have to be given to people who are willing to take a doe when unable to find a buck. This is the main

reason why it is getting to be a problem with deer population. I know of quite a few hunters that are only looking for trophy deer and the people who want to hunt for deer meat are not getting tags. I have applied last 2 years only not to get a tag and yet deer population is still going up. I have private land to hunt and do not hunt on public land.

5717 Q13B. 5 for residents 1 for nonresidents

5723 Would like to see available tags in Day County restored to what, they used to be. Used to be 100 available. Last year their was 600. It seems to me, through an educational observation, at least, that the population is roughly the same as it has been since I started hunting the area. Also, don't like the new preference point system. Why should I have to pay $5 to sit on my ass why not increase the cost of a tag. Didn't draw last year and was unaware of the change. It took Two preference points basically last year to draw in Day County. If the trend holds it will be another two years until I draw again.

5746 Possible more doe/anterless license in limited areas.

5765 Please leave the seasons alone! Need more tags for Black Hills. Families can no longer hunt together! Please don't mess with any more - you can only hunt or jeopardize family hunts or starting the youth!

5773 Q12. Rifle hunters shoot all small bucks, bowhunters manage deer. Q14. Open rifle season later!

5817 Q5b. I help manage a farm with 90 acres of trees on a 174 acres farm. Q12. I hunt private land we already are in to management of deer on area property. I manage a farm by Hudson I worked to provide food plots on river bottoms so deer will survie through winter and have healthy deer we use to have 300-500 head of deer mosted fied from disease. Our land butts up against the nature conservatory. The deer numbers were down to maybe 30-40 deer now numbers are getting better. I apply for rifle tag every year it takes 5 years for me to get a tag just seems it takes along time to get a tag for all the work I put into providing food plots and I get to hunt 1 out of 5 years with a rifle.

5835 Q13. Are you serious? Go look it's low.

5864 There needs to be a size of antler before they can be harvested. If hunters keeps killing a small buck we will never have 140 and up class animals.

5883 Why did you reduce the number of licenses in East River counties when in some areas the deer population has hisen? And after doing so you care charging resident hunter $5.00 for preference points to make up for that mistake. Charge the non-resident hunter 2x more!

5896 Farmers and ranchers that take public money for leased hunting land, should not cut all corn and food for game. They don't leave it natural. Better access for handicap people.

5907 Allow hunters more archery only hunting land. Like Atkins WPA near Tea. I enjoy deer hunting there.

5911 Muzzleloader deer season is too late. That season should open sooner or at least open before rifle.

5973 Instead of more licenses per county for control of the deer herd give the landowner additional permits to hand out to his hunters or keep them for himself. Everyone know where the deer population is overrun.

6011 I have 2 young sons that have had youth licenses the past two years. I would like to see the system acknowledge hunters that work with youth hunters, and allow them

preference points to hunt in the county they wish. Youth and those that mentor them should be given preference to continue the tradition of hunting for future generations.

6040 I live in Watertown. I work for a farmer NW of Watertown. I see a lot of deer. I think there could be more licenses issued. Seems to be a lot more road kill this spring.

6059 I feel that the issue of baiting deer needs to be brought forward as a way to help along the nutritional needs of our wildlife also. More public access would be great. Any landowner who has problems with deer should be required to allow hunters access before the state should put any efforts into the problem. Commercialization of hunting has driven a lot of sports people out of the fields. If you charge a person to hunt a public resource than they should have to have and report on a sales tax license and also to provide business liability insurance.

6062 I think the state should strongly consider limiting archery tags given out. How many deer are wounded and never found and are wasted? I think muzzleloader season should run as same time as bow season. I think muzzleloader should come before rifle season. If deer numbers are low I think residents should ocme before out of state hunters. If there are leftover tags after resident drawings there should be non-resident drawing. I also think that archery hunters should have to draw like the other seasons, limit the archery tags. I was told by one archery hunter that he stuck 6 deer an dlost them in one season. How mnay hunters do the same thing? I hunt for the meat for my family. We use everything we can, we love deer meat and to hear stories like that is very upsetting! I also think you should be able to scope muzzleloaders to increase the chance to harvest the animal.

6068 Q1. I hunted as a youth but have not been successful in getting a tag sine I retired from in 2007.

6105 Q12. I generally, if I harvest a deer, I take a doe or a small buck. I love to hunt archery and I hunt on the ground. These self proclaimed "trophy hunters" do more damage to the sport and deer populations than good based on what I observe in the field. Especially rifle hunters.

6111 Q12. I don't shoot small antlered deer anymore.

6128 Do you do coyote population surveys to help determine deer herd control?

6129 Q3. BH1 as well. Q4. Both When I'm in BH1. Q5a. I operate 16000 acres, but because I'm only a hired hand. I can't apply for operating land I would like to know what SD GF&P means by operating land. Q7. I had land but can't hunt deer on land I operate. Q14. Never got a license. I didn't get license last year in 2015 so wondering why I got this survey.

6139 When I hunt, I hunt for the fact that I am putting meat on the table. If there is an overpopulation of deer allow for more tags to be given to people. Not often after the limited tags.

6143 I would support limiting the success of out of staters to draw a SD deer tag.

6171 Give hunters applying in their own counties preference over hunters applying for other counties, or have an increased out of county rate for hunters applying out of county (similar to out of state, but at a cheaper price than out of state hunters). Work with landowners to assist hunters in gaining access to private property.

6174 I would like to see more doe tags given out. Even just for archery season, my opinion.

6192 Q2. Only hunt ER deer rifle.

6201 To involve more hunters and youth hunting I would like to see a family permit where a family group (which would hunt together) would have 1 or 2 permits this would increase the family ties to hunting as well as educate youth and new hunters to this sport.

6205 Why in a youth season can't the hunter shoot a buck? It could be the chance of a lifetime.

6209 Trees - we have more habitat for deer…for food and shelter - it is imperative to their survival. I understand the revenue from non-resident tourism is wonderful for the state; however, the meat we receive from hunting feeds our family throughout the year. It's disheartening to apply and be denied. It's my state and my food - how mahy tourist rely on this?

6234 I stongly think there is a lot of coyotes that are eating the young deer. I have also thought people might be shooting them and leaving them because the deer seem to be vanishing last couple of years. I will say you have done a very good job on the game grounds they are awesome and the deer do seem to do well in them. It does seem like something else is going on with the deer though. I also don't think farmers draining their sloughs out to farm and tearing tree belts out is a good thing. I think it will be bad for everything in the future.

6263 Limit all mule deer permits in all West River zones. Especially doe permits. Even less doe permits in the northwest units

6270 I am glad GFP sent this survey to me. I hunt in Northern Roberts County and the firearms opener has always been like a family reunion, but thelast few years, the state drastically ecreased thenumber of tags in55A. It's frustrating for all of us in our group that if you draw a tag one year, you are basically guarenteed to be rejected for the following 2-3 years.

6294 5A. Family farm that I'm not able to get a landowner. I know how to manage bucks an dlet them get fully mature before I shoot them. By not giving me a tag or people I hutn with (kids) doesn't solve a management problem. Somehow, they need to come up with a way to allow people in our county have the first rights at tags. I'm not a fan of not getting a tag in my county and a group of hunters from Sioux Falls gets tags and comes shooting anything that moves. When I get a tag for my area I can choose what buck to harvest before someone from out of county or Tribal shoot everything. I wan tto be able to choose if I shoot or wait till next year. Just because you have a tag doesn't mean you need to kill something small!

6307 Deer season runs too long! The rifle seasons are good, but the farmers & ranchers don't want all these people on their land for 4-5 months. I also think there should be a draw for archery tags. Also, put a quota on them to and shorten the archery season & youth season. If they can't fill a tag in 30 days, oh well. I also think muzzleloaders should go before rifle season or at least be able to use a scope. After all, it's only a 200 yard gun. Deer are pretty jumpy after rifle season. As for hunting, it gets worse every year here in Day county. There are a few places for deer or upland game but since farming has become profitable again, they are raping the land, but that doesn't really matter, they've closed 70,000 acres to hunting, fishing and trapping and more farmers are getting on board all the time. Pay hunting, road closures, public land get burnt from Aug. - Jan. so there are few deer there anyway. I also think 4-wheelers, 3 wheelers and motorcycles should be outlawed on all public lands. A person on foot cannot even compete. FAIR CHASE HUNTING.

6322 Q12. Archery every year get tag. Rifle I could skip years in between tag. Don't give out so many rifle tags to get more money and let the deer population grow to numbers they use to be.

6338 Q12. Rifle yes/Archery no.

6385 Q2. Only hunt East River. Q7F. Because of archery tags.

6390 Q12. Don't think it will help. There are some people that don't care an will shoot anything. Q13. But you will never see that on public land. After first day they all go to private an it is almost impossible to get permission.

6415 I would like to see any deer tags turn to antlerless tags at end of season, I have two sons that are of age now and I teach them great harvest stategies. The lack of deer were evident ealy in the season and Jan. numbers increased in the area but our tags were no good. Please let all tags turn antlerless and/or use in any county after rifle season closes.

6439 I have hunted west river deer the last 20 years, and the past couple of years have been tough hunting. I would hope you limit the numbe of mule deer doe tags the next few years. I am not a biolotist but I feel this would help.

6447 Stop fishing while walleyes are spawning on the Missouri River system. The non residents park here and our Fishery will end like other states with 1 fish daily bag limits.

6486 Residents of a county should be given tags before someone who doesn't reside in said county. I didn't hunt the 2014 season because I was on bedrest for pre-term labor and then I wasn't drawn for a tag 2015 season. My husband has lived here all his life and he wasn't drawn for a tag in the 2015 season either, greatly reducing the amount of meat to feed our family. There were people hunting here that we know don't reside in this county, but we weren't able to.

6489 When my group gets to hunt west river we hunt north of Isabel SD I believe it's unit 20A corson County. It took five years to get any deer tags. We find it way easier to find mule deer then whitetail where we hunt now. Last year we did not get any tags where we hut the number of deer way outweigh the number of hunters. I know the number of licenses arebased off a whole unit but I have to say by what we see the ratio of deer tags to actual deer population is way off.

6494 I think the FFP is doing a good job. I believe there is room for improvement in the licensing area. Specifically the preference points. Why would you make people pay for them? The GFP is supposed to manage hunting so everyone has an equal chance to obtain a license. Making people purchase a preference point is the exact opposite of that. I would support a small increase to all icenses vs only some paying for preference points. I also would like to see more walk in areas as private land is very difficult to obtain permission to hunt.

6501 Q12. Depends on how much "less often": 20% less - Yes, 50% less No. The number of "drive around till they fill all their tags" hunters is too lhigh and frustrating to those who "post up" & hunt on foot.

6527 Double doe tags are ineffective at decreasing deer population. Not very many hunters have a place to take two fat does.

6565 It would be very beneficial to landowners/operators to be allowed special reduced priced tags to be able to better manage grossly over populated areas and to help curb crop losses due to this problem. I have personally seen large losses in crops and feed piles

from herds of whitetailed deer numbering wellover 1,000 head in a quarter - section area. The deer consumed huge amounts of standing corn and destroyed a lot of hay in the area andlater in the winter, large numbers died from disease. Having a way to better manage this problem would greatly benefit landowners/operators and also the GFP.

6577 This fall was a wet fall. So in turn the area I hunted had 8 quarters of corn in the field yet. So it was hard to get any deer to shoot at. After the season was done, it was dry enough to harvest. Then started seeing more deer. So in my opinion, it would be nice to have the season last a week or two longer.

6579 West River units double tages go back to processing a doe first before you take a buck. Anyone caught with a buck and no doe in a game check would receive a severe penalty. Helps get rid of extra does. Most people I know who hunt WR with double whitetail only shoot a buck. To control deer populations East River issue doe tags first or have an October doe season. Maybe set up check stations where you have to show or report your doe first before you are issued a buck tag. Check out article in American Hunter magazine February 2016 "Winter Whitetails in SD". It is not legal to hunt deer in December with high power rifle. I mean buck deer. Taken by Non resident on leased land from Texas Outfitter. Surely several laws of our State broken here.

6582 I work for a farmer friend, he does not hunt on his land but he has given me perission to hunt his land. I watch the deer from start to end every year. We plant food plots for pheasants and other wildlife we have partrage and grouse in the CRP. Wildllife goes where it wants when it wants but we need to put a stop to the BS of peopole from Sioux Falls with deer tags for Douglas County and Charles Mix, Hutchinson. We need to give these tags out to the people who live in that county that feed and take care of them. A lot of people think they can go wherever they want or chase wildlife to blockers and that from the road or ditch. It's not fair to me or anyone else that puts the time in to sit and be patient for a safe management hunt. It's not safe to hunt East River anymore. People shoot into trees just to see what comes out. More wardens would help! Response time is too long to catch the trouble makers. We also need to get stiffer on operators of land that have no rights to it . I also think that if a person has private land to hunt deer he or she should be able to get special tag for that area only.

6611 Q12. I would rather shot a big doe than a small buck. Q13 C&D. Only if a buck tag can be used for a doe. If I can use an any deer tag for a buck or a doe furing the regular season why can't I shoot a doe with it when doe season opens back up. You are just forcing people to shoot little bucks during the season.

6647 Q12. why hunt less? How do you get a big buck if you don't hunt? Q13. Early rifle ruins archery. In general, rifle hunters are slob hunters.

6648 Q15. Need to open the season 1 week earlier.

6709 Quality not quanity…This is a great survey, I hope others have similar views and SD GFP is allowed to make some changes to improve age sturcture in our deer populations. We need to limit access permits for archery, muzzleloader etc. in the firearm limited access units.

6710 I only hunt east river deer and west river (mule) deer. Problem inmy opinion by the time season arrives the deer are 80% spooked from early season hunters & lookers (future) that it is difficult to get near them or you see traffic tracks on private lands that drove them out earlier. West River too much traffic and early hunting. I have not been there for 4-5 yars because of that and no one has luck when someone drove them out earlier.

Too much pressure before the season. There are just too many seasons causing it, maybe try rotating seasons to give everyone an opportunity to see something.

6752 I have been very satisfied with the quantity of deer and the quality of bucks, I see 25 to 30 deer each day with an average of 6 bucks a day with an average of 2 good quality bucks. Where I hunt the problem is when it gets cold or snowy the deer head north to a farm where he feeds them so the food is easy for them to get, what the locals tell me is he complains to game and fish so they help him with feed for the deer but yet he will only let anyone hunt if they are willing to pay him to hunt. I would like to see game and fish work on the muzzleloader season, it seems unfair that the buck tags are limited and it is after the rifle season, I know but the in lines are as good as a regular rifle, ture but could you not make a traditional muzzleloader season and free up the buck tags a little. I am very lucky as I hunt on private land, I think you are going good for the hunting seasons, the problem is I think in time it is all going to be pay to hunt because they are seeing what the lodges are getting for hunting. Overall, I am a very satisfied hunter, even now that the turkeys took a hit and the numbers are low I still go just to hunt with my dad and enjoy the outdoors. Thank you for all you have done so I can enjoy my past time an denjoy the outdoors.

6799 Crossbow hunting at age 65 or older should be allowed without doctors slip. This limits older people from archery hunting.

6809 What about closing the season for Mule deer in Faulk County for a few years?

6815 One thing I wouldn't mind seeing as well as others is open East River Archery season earlier so we have a chance at taking a buck in velvet like they are able to do in North Dakota. It's not all that important but I have talked to other hunters that would also enjoy the opportunity to do so.

6818 I would like to see more buck management to get more mature bucks. I am open to many ways to work towards that one way is no more double antlerless/antlered tags. By that I mean all buck tags are single tags. All doe tags can be multiple tags. I would probably be easiest to enforce and I wouldn't have to watch people fill their buck tag and leave doe tag unfilled. I hunt for 3 reasons food, sport and family time, and I would rather shoot a doe to eat myself than shoot a young buck. Plus when your child or father or grandfather shoots a trophy it is worth the wait.

6826 Q1. Should never be denied a buck tag two years in a row! Q12. Ihave been denied 2 years in a row.

6828 I have not yet had a tag in South Dakota. So I really don't have a strong opinion on this subject.

6835 As more habitat is destroyed for farming purposes there is less habitat for all animals. These animals need habitat in wetlands, sloughs, grasses, trees, and prairie. If habitat isn't available future generations will not know and love hunting and the outdoors. I also feel it is expensive for residents to hunt a deer. GFP should cut some programs or increase non-resident fees. A resident deer tag (any) is about the equivelant to what residents in Colorado pay to shoot an elk. At least an elk provies more than 30-40 pounds of meat.

6858 The annual deer hunt used to be a time when we went out hunting as a family and got to spend time together. It didn't matter if we were hunting buck or doe. In recent years the only choice is for buck only/any deer and that is it. Since we are not landowners if we didn't have 2 - 5 years preference points we were denied a license. The annual deer

hunt became maybe one person out of the family got a license. We didn't care if we had doe tags at least we were still able to hunt. I hunted 20 plus years with getting some sort of deer tag and now I don't ever know if I will get a tag or not. As far as the public land goes. That gets hit so hard by pheasant hunters by the time deer season comes around the deer are all pushed out of there. The same land gets hunted numerous times each day. Eventually the deer get pushed out and don't come back.

6866 I would like to see a way to regulate the size of bucks taken. I hear an see so many young bucks getting shot. I ask why do you shoot such a young deer/buck, they answer me with because I had a any deer tag or first buck they seen. I know many hunt for meat as I do but lots of young small deer get shot an never have a chance to grow over that 100 to 120 class deer. It would just be better chances of seeing deer get bigger if hunters had to take a better judgement on a buck, before they shoot. I also think its sad to see people take small bucks just because the tag allows them to. If they want meat shoot a doe and let the small bucks grow.

6900 Q3. Hunted 26A for years until access became a problem. Q6. I use the meat I kill! Q7. Pickups driving fields. Q12. Don't shoot the small bucks. Q17. If it is over hunted it needs to be addressed.

6914 All I can say is pay hunting or leasing hunting rights to land has ruined hunting over recent years. Hunting is a great sport and I like to see more people take on the sport. I was raised by a long line of hutners In my family. It is part of me and in my blood. It makes my blood boil to see all the rich people having access to private lands reserved for these people who pay. Worse part of it all is that it is "something to do!" It's the "in thing." Most of them will never understand the love and passion that those of us have that were brought up hunting & fishing feel inside. Hunting islosing its passion and need and drive. It is now becoming all about money.

6964 I feel that there shold be more deer tags for SD residents and less for out of staters. I feel that residents are being shorted on deer tags.

6989 I think the SD GFP has done a great job with our deer population. Hope to see more and more bigger bucks in the future for the young hunters.

7010 Q12. Not all about the rack, it's about managing and harvesting mature deer and thinning herds to reduce "line breeding (in breeding)". Also shooting cull/management bucks and old mature does.

7028 Q12. I am to hold to miss a season. Muzzleloader season is way too late. You should have a draw for a season you can harvest a buck. For 2 weeks during archery season. Just like every other state.

7060 Require minimum score requirement!

7067 Access to private landis a concern for hunters. Liability insurance for farmers to give permission to hunters is a great concern for farmers (in case of accident).

7069 Too many West River deer units are restricted to one tag licenses. There seems to be ample population to support 2 & 3 tag licenses, esp whitetail. Residents of units should get preference for tags in their unit of residence. Walk in areas are clearly marked but other public lands are not clearly maked. Have seen owners of private land near walk ins purposefully chase deer onto their private land off of walk ins and make attemps to direct hunters away from walk ins by parking vehicles to obstruct access to walk in or make it appear as if walk in is occupied (37A).

7084 I believe if you have a east river license you should not have a west river license.

7117 Q12. Hunters should be able to make those decisions themselves.

7150 I believe we should bring back the antlerless options for both Hills deer and archery deer licenses.

7157 Haven't drew a tag in 3 years.

7195 As a resident of SD, it's hard to understand why I can't get a license at least once every 2 years. In the last 5 years. I have only received 1 tag (rifle).

7212 Q19. Depends on numbers and locations!

7214 Q3. Sheridian Lake area. Buy your tags at a locate store like Cabelas and sportgood store.

7217 Just a couple of observation over the past five years. I have been unable to find any deer on the Buffalo Gap Grasslands from Railroad Buttes to the Cheyenne River for about five years. There were no tracks in the snow. There were many whitetail there in the past. I am retired and getting elderly. Would like to see senior prices on hunting licenses as it is a little harder to scrape up cash now. Also, start the muzzleloader and archery seasons a little earlier. Last year I had a muzzleloader license, whitetail doe, which I have to go away to find them so due to weather and busy Dec. commitments unable to use it.

7252 Q7. Antelope numbers are way down. I don't want Mt. lions or wolves in the Black Hills!

7261 I appreciate the efforts taken over thepast years to monitor and control the deer licenses issued. Those efforts need to continue if we are going to maintain good hunting for those who are interested.

7268 Parently own ranch in 53A

7279 Q12. Less often your kidding me! It takes 4 years to hunt Black Hills that is only public hunting ground. Look at all the licenses you sell in the tate. How many are landowners? Yet the GFP bow down to them. They do not own the wildlife!

7298 West River hunting has become a game of money to buy access and I feel East River is right behind for average SD wages are getting left out other than the Hills.

7307 Q2. Have not hunted the other 3

7318 West River private land has become a safari busines and mostly locked out to resident hunter unless you pay large hunting fees. This has drawn in mostly out of state hunters and reduces open land to local residents.

7319 I am overall pretty happy with the management of deer hunting in SD. My only real complaint is I would like to see mostly earlier or later rifle seasons to avoid the rifle seasons falling during the prime of the rut. Way too many immature and mature deer are killed during the middle of November that normallymay survive if people couldn't shoot at such long distances. Many of the potential giants are being "slaughtered or over harvested" because a lot of the cover due to crops being harvested. Earlier seasons may allow SD to grow more mature deer. I would love to harvest 5+ year old deer on a regular basis.

7323 I am most likely done deer hunting. Landonwers control hunting - unless you own land or are willing to pay, forget about hunting. It's all about money and it's just not worth it. My money is better spent than enriching a landowner for a deer.

7331 I haven't used limited access units.

7384 I feel the bigger concern should be sustaining a healthy population of deer for future hunting opportunities. Whatever that takes.

7392 I don't think it's right that I have not had a resident license for 2 years. Residents should get either Hills or Prairie licenses.

7409 You need to get more input from landowners. The landower I visit with are very negative about the GF&P and mostly the game wardens.

7413 Keep up the good work

7434 The GFP needs to stop catering to the wealthy people ie: giving landowners any preference over the working class non landowners. If these landowners are having trouble with any wildlife then they need to allow hunters on their property at no cost to cull the herd. Also any landowner that do not allow do not allow this should not be allowed to lease any public lands either. Hunting is becoming ridiculous on cost due to morons who hunt for horns and not as a need to feed their family. I can go to another state and hunt cheaper than in SD.

7442 During the west river season much of the public land (BLM, WIA, etc.) are land locked by private land. Two different times during the season I tried to gain access to public land but was denied by private landowners. These areas were north of New Underwood off of West Elm Spring Rd and Hope Rd. There should always be an access road to public hunting land or remove those areas from the map. We drove many miles only to be denied access to some very prime public land.

7459 Q13. Archery over the counter tags.

7510 More needs to be done about youth and mentor hunting. Too many people are taking advantage of youth tags.

7514 We need a game warden in Harding County.

7533 Preference points. The only way to get fdrawn for a license in BH1 is to pay extra for preference points. In your next survey ask hunters what they think of that system. I know this last season if you had no preference points, you weren't even considered. It took 1 or 2 points.

7596 I am happy to see you looking at restructuring some of the different deer hunting seasons in SD. I have hunted deer mostly in BH1 because that is where I reside. Once the antler restrictions were put in place the quality of the deer has improved dramatically in BH1. Then we got a better handle on mountain lions, the numbers have really shot up. The problem is getting a license. I don't have a problem drawing a license every two years but not every three. Every three years is too big of a disconnect and you have hunters walking away from the sport. You need to approach this somewhat like you have with elk licenses. I would like to see a hunter only get one deer license per year unless there are leftovers in the three most popular units. Such as BH1, East River, and West River. One person should not walk around with three licenses in their pocket when you have sportsman that can't draw any tags. This from the sport or not even taking it up. Regarding declining mule deer numbers one of the contributing factors is people feeding deer in towns such as in Hot Springs and Rapid City. I am very familiar with what went on in Hot Springs. We went through some dry years and the deer moved into town and people started to feed them. Then the deer were so numerous that they had to them them down. These deer migrated into town from the surrounding area and were shot off. Between this, lions, and too many doe tags being issued, these all had huge impacts on

our mule deer numbers. There needs to be stiffer fines for feeding deer and these laws need to be enforced to stop this from reoccurring.

7615 I think the $5 for the preference point is very bogas and just a money grab. My son is 17 and he has only been able to hunt 1 time in the hills and now we have to pay for the prefeence points. Most likely he will not get to hunt yet another year. It would be nice if you would rethink the fee for a BH's deer preference point.

7641 Q7. Only hunted 1 year.

7645 Make hunting as it ws 20 years ago, stop making more regulations and blocking off more of the old existing logging roads and closing gates. A lot of hunters go out hunting and never get out of their vehicles because they could not get to their kill to get it home. (your liberal gov. administrators are taking the fun out of hunting)

7655 Q4. Both

7661 Have a Black Hills Muzzleloader Season.

7671 Q14. Never hunted in 2015. Q. 15 Never hunted in 2015.

7678 I think there should be more ags for people with a point limit on the bucks. This would get more people out to enjoy the hunting heritage. There can be more to enjoy than hunting and killing. It's just enjoying being outdoors with the chance to get a buck or even just meat for the family.

7682 I think you guys do a grea job. I have 13 year old son that is very interested in some sort of wildlife biology.

7694 All hunting in South Dakota is great! GFP does a wonderful job, keep up the good work.

7700 Q15. Archery season should not continue during rifle season in the Hills. It's too difficult to get Black Hills deer permits. Reduce the mountain lion population by making them listed as a predator and/or allow the use of dogs to hunt them. Their population is too high in the Hills. Many seen in Spearfish. They are losing their fear of man and are becoming a problem and a danger in Spearfish.

7709 I hunt the West River firearm's season in unit 15A. What I have found is that the deer herd will gather up at private land areas where hunting is forbidden. I saw a group of 350 deer on a private tract with nothing on the surrounding areas where access was attainable. What usually happens is "blue tongue" goes through the herd about every five years. I guess it's mother nature's way.

7716 Don't make the deer season the same as Fall Turkey season. All turkey go to winter range before season starts and no fun turkey hunting with deer hunters.

7723 Q4. No preference

7739 Make available more doe tags for rifle and archery in the Black Hills. Number of archery doe tags has decreased unable to harvest archery doe tags or Black Hills. There are a surplus of does in the Black Hills. Car/deer accidents have increased. Dead deer a long most roadsides has increased in the foothills and Black Hills.

7761 Q3. On the rare occasion we get a license. The more studies, more surveys, more people hired, more buildingds built, and more land they buy, the less hunting we get to do!

7770 On the average I feed from a 100 to 300 deer a year! I do believe GFP should give the landowner or operator free tags for them or whoever works on the ranch or farm! That’s

pretty cheap billto pay compared what we feed them! Don't get me wrong we love to se wildlife just like the next guy.

9900 I would like to see Black hills deer tags be sold over the county once more. Prefer to see more tags in West River 21A open too, as well as harvesting even 1 deer (any deer) for a lesser price than the 2 tags.

9901 We need more deer in Lake County!

9902 Q18. Youth - Important. Need to continue supporting youth! In all phases, including price that from a 68 year old Grandpa.

9903 Q11. Depends on which walk in area. Q12. Hard to manage for that when the next guy shoots deer passed up. Q19. For safety and hunt quality, undisrupted.

9904 Easily accessible draw results to help the public understand limited draw licenses would be helpful for us all to be content with results. If number of times applied and points for a specific license recepient (not name) just number.

9905 Spink County has very little public hunting for those with out permission for private lands. Landowners boardering lands I can hunt are harsh and do everything to deter people form even trying to hunt the few acres available to hunt. Chase deer shine lights honk horns etc. I'm thinking about changing the county I hunt in. I guess they are worried about making that $$ from our wildlife. The landowners threaten to get you in trouble even if you're not doing anything.

9906 I rarely receive east river licenses even though I apply every year. I see deer almost every day around my house. I live in Grant County, I'm not happy.

9907 It seems if you aren't a landowner you have a hard time of getting a license. If yo don't buy preference points good luck on getting a license. GFP should look to help out the senior citizens. They don't hunt hard but still enjoy being out. Give them licenses, they have only so many hunts left.

**Landowners' Comments** – sorted by DAU

DAU 1

73 They are doing quite well without additional management. Too many doe!

120003 All our farm and ranch land is in one combined block. If anyone wants to go hunting on our land they must ask us in person for permission. My wife and I are operating this place for 53 years and we live on the place year around. I helped build the dam in Fort Pierre in 1957 and 1958. I worked there 6000 hours for Western Contractors and on February 5th 1959 I was drafted in the US Army and returned home here to Watauga (Corson County) in March 1961. Joe Foss our Govenor was a close friend of mine and I dearly miss him!

120005 Q4. Coyotes are taken care of all the deer. Q5. get rid of the coyote then we'd have deer again. Q9. Get rid co the coyotes they take care of. Q10. There wasn't any deer to hunt the coyote took care of that. Q15. The coyote take care of population of deer.

120010 I have completed this survey to the best of my ability. Neither my son or husband hunt. We have always had plenty of deer on the land and passing through. There is

some cover here and there and they use it. Old shelter belts and a new one are riseted. There has been some tree damage from deer we have always allowed hunting on the place and many come back every year. We always enjoy watching the deer move in and out of the place and hunker down in the hay yard. As of yest we really haven't had a problem with the deer damaging our hay supply. We do want to know who is on our land hunting (ie permission)

120014 We operate in Western Corson County. WE seem to have tribal hunters (non Indians) (out of state mostly) that starts earlier every year! They either don't know where they should be hunting or don't care. They are told by tribal folks to just hunt anywhere they want! My observations is that we have fewer state hunters but the ones that come hunt longer (more tags more different types of licenses). WE seem to be loosing what I would call casual or one weekend hunters but have more pro type hunt at whatever the cost! This should be a long term concern if we don't have the local hobby folks it becomes harder to control deer numbers and keep support brood baised. On a different note, deer population will not build or stay decent unless you do more about coyote populations. We are flat over run with them. Calf depredation is a real problem! We just didn't see a normal number of fawns that fall coyotes got them! This should be top priority! Landowners will support any efforts you put into it.

120016 I'm unhappy about tribal license hunting on deeded land, especially by out of state hunters. We are constatly running off hunters without a state license!

120021 Concerning deer population where Iive it's rather difficult to control or get a good handle on it when two agencies (GFP & Tribes) are trying to manage the same herd.

120026 Have no problem with deer. Between the GFP and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe the deer population get hit hard. I am surrounded by tribal land. The two seasons seem to go on for a long time.

120030 Q12. Go with Standing Rock Seasons

120032 Natives hunt for to many days no big left in Northern Corson.

120035 When you start providing free "any deer" tags to landowners I will be happy to complete your survey.

120038 Death rate has been around 90% in last few years. I do have an excellent area for all wildlife that could be developed into a wetland and deer area. I would be willing to fence it off so no cattle could access it. For wildlife only approximately 15 acres in addition to the other 15 acres I already have, come take a look. !4 - Almost all 90%? Of deer died in last 2 years, only a very few left. Did not get a license for this reason in '14 or '15.

120045 Q4. Our pasture is surrounded by tribal gound so it is very hard to give you a number and it is always being hunted on! Q9. I have hunters going on my land all the time with no permission.

120061 Landowners should always get a license no matter what they put in for. I was turned down the first time I applied.

120078 Q8b. Denied. Q14c & e. Would be driving down grass and making their own road in pastures.

120085 If someone hits a deer with a car, you should be able to take it home.

120089 I'm not in favor of multiple tag owners, lots of allure in taking extra animals. Hunters should get off their butts and hunt rather than drive around in 4 WD pickups and 4

wheelers and shoot from their vehicles. Multiple tags can wipe out a herd of mule deer. The are stupid enough to just stand there and be shot - one hunter - one deer not 4 deer just because you have the tags.

120090 No amount of my good wildlife practices do any good on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, due to their horrible deer management. My land is in Walk in, that does not stop them from crossing by vehicle all my property. I do have good walk in hunters from out of state who come and hunt respectfully, but the SRST seasons are way too long, they drive everywhere with little regard for land, fence, cattle, right, or any thing else. They kill a lot of deer by "flock" shooting. I find more dead deer than antler sheds. I have few deer to enjoy as result.

120099 I would love to do more to help with conservation but am always short on man power. I used to plant 400 trees/year alone but am down to 100; ban't find help. I have parts of some fields that are uncroppable and would work nice for trees and conservation but its hard to plant tress in sod and get to grow without help with planting/fabricing/sometime watering (all summer) ect.

120109 Q8a. Help with some fence 5 years ago.

120113 I manage my land for livestock and the deer benefit as well.

135013 I have 150 acres of alfalfa and barley fields along the Little Missouri River that have over 100 head of white tail deer on them every night. That is too many! They are competing with my cows on the feed grounds well before dark. My problems are because 2 of my neighbors are outfitters and one more only lets on pay hunters. This causes way to many deer left in a small area. Female deer are not taken when hunters pay large dollar amounts to hunt. This leads to excess deer numbers.

135015 If we don't get control of the coyote population I believe we son't have to worry about deer populations. They will disappear.

135023 A possible solution for Q15 - hand out tags to landowners, they could use them themselves or let others use the tags, maybe family, friends, people they trust being on their land.

135026 Predetor control is becoming the main thing affecting deer numbers. Too many coyotes.

135027 We have a very limited amount of deer population due to the dramatic increase in the coyote population. I think the GFP should really look into this. We are also losing livestock because of the increase in the coyote population along with the other major predators, wolves & mountain lions.

135030 The bigger problem we as landowners face, not only in sustaining widlife numbers is the predator problem we have. We, as ranchers, have had to sell our sheep, due to excessive looses. We worry now that the coyotes will start working on young calves. I have never in over 60+ years seen the predators so bad as they are now.

153008 I would like to see landowners get licenses free of charge, not hav to pay for one. And I would like landowners to be guaranteed a license to hunt on their own land. After all landowners are feeding the deer and putting up with the damage they cause and are not getting paid for it. These are not our animals. So why should we feed and put up with these animals, and then pay for a license to harvest one? That would be like my neighbor putting his cows on my land to graze it and then I would pay him! That is a little extreme but I think you get the picture. I would have liked to hunt on my own land, but I do not think it is right for me to pay for a license, especially since I am

feeding these animals. I ask that you please consider this! P.S. And I don't know, what can be done about some of the hunters, that have absolutely no respect for the landowner or our land and the trespassing that goes on!

153017 Predators are a problem, you shouldn't ignore them. You didn't have any question about predators.

153089 Q15. Excess mule show up during January - May. None at hunting time would be a problem with lots of snow.

153095 This would be more pertinent to our area if it applied to antelope. Seems our deer population is way down at present but slowly recovering.

153101 Q10. Posted safe haven

153109 I think GFP is doing a good job already, keep up the good work.

153118 Landowners should have the right to say how his land is hunted on not the state, example - if I let people drive off trails on my land I should be able to do this. There are too many regulations to follow.

153138 There are far to few mule deer. They need to change the rifle season from mid November to mid October and have the muzzlelaoder season during the rut. There needs to be a point restriction on bucks and more doe tags available.

153144 I have had severe deer depredation damage to trees, mostly from mule deer.

153157 Most hunters out here are in it for trophy bucks, if they don't shoot a buck they don't shoot anything. I have had hunters promise me that they would shoot a doe with their double tags but endedup shooting a buck then leaving without shooting a doe. Even when they have seen as many as 50 or 60 head of does standing around. We have thousands of dollars worth of crop, fence, gear damage every year! I think you should let out deer buck tags like you put out elk tags, with an endless supply of antlerless deer tags. We have 15 to 20 hunters annually and probably they shoot 120 bucks maybe 1 to 4 does yearly.

153179 Q4. Mule deer seem total all year 5 deer whitetail 1-3 all year antelope 4 was 5 hunters got 1. Q5. Don't like whitetail at all. They chase off mule deer and just as they are ever with brunt of car and pairs them they run in front of car reck car. I like mule deer very much ask hunters please not shot the only 4-5 mule deer left I like them so not skidish. Q5f. The whtietail brought in the deseases 70 -0 80 chased off the full mule deer. I like see in the trees in the morning the antelople also died with diseases. Q9. No deer. Q12 & 13. No deer 1 whitetail then 3 at hunt 5 antelope 5 mule deer wiped out almost everything lots of coyotes and cougers. Q16b. Mule deer. Cougares or something chase the cattle.

153212 Leaving gates open or not getting them properly closed is my biggest gripe! WE have good hunters for the most part that we really enjoy.

153219 I have tired many times to call SD GFP. I have tried numerous numbers and could not contact anyone or leave a message. I am very interested in the deer as we feed (free choice) distilled grain to average 40,000 pounds per year. We like wildgame! However I would like to talk to someone in "position" about the management of this wildlife. However this question does not pertain to our operation. We feed approximately (varies from year to year, as it does with you) 100+ deer. 80 - 120 turkey and 400 to 800 pheasants. I do know that your organization is also interested, as I receive many

of these forms. Please have the right person in the FG&W contact me. I will tell our story and they can properly fill in the correct answers.

153228 Q15 F. I feel that there are enough hunters for increase in tags, let more hunters get licenses rather than more tags per hunter. With the extra tag going to resident hunters.

153238 When we went south to hunt, very few fawns and would see coyotes. Our Game warden is a very fair person! Tough job to keep landowners happy.

153246 Coyotes are a problem (in Northern Perkins Co.)! Less coyotes = more antelope, deer and birds.

153254 Q20h. If seed cost was reimbursed.

153263 We live in western Corson County. The tribal deer season starts two weeks before the state season. It is really unfair to the state hunters when most of the really nice sized bucks are already taken. My family loves to hunt deer, but really disheartening to watch the deer grow all summer and then not get the opportunity to harvest them. I would encourage you to start the season at the same time. Your fencing program is great. We have used this program and is very much appreciated.

DAU 2

64 If this is a survey that does not need a signature then it does not need a ID number either.

100 To be honest we have hated to see the hunting season arrive. Especially the bird season. Some people don't know the difference between a chicken and a grouse. Some hunters think they can camp on our land and hunt then leave garbage behind when they leave. We (me and my family) spend our time driving around checking gates and watching for trespassers. I'm sorry the hunters feel just because they have a license they are legal to do as they please. We enjoy seeing all wild life. They are truly an education to watch.

109 Q17A. We have a shelter belt but it's for cattle and the deer stay there.

22023 The SD GFP does a good job of deer management, but should always listen to landowners and heed their opinions. Doe manamgement is important, but PLEASE have the doe season right after the regular seaosn - NO JANUARY SEASON! One more thought, we need to manage so we keep our mule deer herds viable! Whitetails continue to encroach on mule deer habitat. Thanks to SD GFP for all they do!

29011 Q16f. Give free tag to landowner/op for managing deer and habitat. Q16g. We manage the wildlife and habitat and you sell the tickets to people that want to hunt including us. This has worked well for GFP at landowner/op expense even allowing you to offered to buy more land. Q20 a. Can't justify paying subscription.

29017 Over 3 million acres of National Forest West River seems like all the licenses go to out of staters. Locals always complain they can't draw a "hills" tag. Game, Fish, and Parks doesn't manage wildlife they manage hunters and money.

29019 Q14c. Season runs entirely too long.

215003 Since GFP claim ownership of the deer population: it is no more than right - GFP - also claim to pay your insurance dedductible at time of auto -deer collisions.

215012 Some farmers don't let hunting on their land and have game wardens keep eye on their land and deer get bigger as years go by and they move on to others peoples land - poor image for game wardens.

215019 As a landowner, the seasons seem to go on forever. People start asking about hunting in August and don't quit till end of January. Get tired of it. Try to send them to walk in but they aren't interested in going there because they can't drive around.

215024 Q9. More deer are killed by cars then hunters. There were the least deer hunters in this unit than I have seen in years. Q13. I would like to see the Oct. doe season again. Q17. I do not allow them to be hunted here. I live along the Belle Fourche River and have too many deer already. I could use some depredation hunters.

215025 I feel that landowners should be able to have doe tags free, and/or get a deer (all) tags free. If hunters get buck tags, should be included so (2 for 1).

215032 Have too many whitetail does.

215033 Q15. Landowners in Sd should be allowed to harvest deer for their own use except dusting regular season without a license.

215039 Q13 - Must go through Thanksgiving weekend

215046 We live and farm next to Whitewood Creek. Problem we have is deer come off of creek in evenings and night. Nothing to see 40 to 100 herd on hay fields & corn acres. Not much chance to hunt when they just come in at night. Lose corn acres every year from does and coons.

215053 Q18. Keep GFP out of private land involvement. Q19A. Above statement applies. Less government employee involvement period. Get the US Government out of land ownership and sell it to private U.S. private citizens in a fair manor. That would reduce government spending on employees, vehicles buildings, retirment, and other operating expenses. No more Wildness Areas, Grants and other BS no more Natinal Parks than we have now.

215059 I have a lot of crop damage at times. I have called GFP I was told they already know and there is nothing they can do so it's up to me to take care of the problem myself. They are too busy.

215076 I am familiar with deer populations found within the Belle Fourche Irrigation District and along the Belle Fourche River in Butte County. At present the white tail deer populations are out of control. More effort to encourage landowners to allow access to harvest deer needs to be implemented. Crop damage, building & fence damage, and deer-vehicle collisions are excessive. Deer are wintering in herds of 100+ creating all sorts of issues with those types of density.

215091 I have a question for you and it is why not give a portion of the license fees to landowners to pay for damages to crops and grass. I manage my grass and winter areas for my cattle/sheep so I believe I already manage for wildlife they kind of go hand in hand. I also think landowners should never have to pay for a deer tag if you own or operate more than 250 acres.

215092 We plant stuff for our own livestock & deer eat it.

215100 Q16. But they eat about 20% of my corn crop and 10% of alfalfa

215115 Q5e. They don't damage hay but if you store grain on grownd. They will find it. Q9. I think we have to accept some damage or not have any deer. Q15a. This should be done in small areas where the deer are heavy.

215120 I think farmers/ranchers should be well informed about Wounded Warrior opportunites they could support or participate in. This year I found out one of the hunters I have been letting in has been bringing a wounded warrior for hunting whitetail. Learning this helped me decide how to better decide who to let in.

215147 All landowners should have one free tag for any deer for feeding them.

215153 The deer are not the problem to me. It is all the stupid hunters that don't ask or have permission and don't care about the farmers or ranchers on the ground.

215160 Ask yourself how close deer and elk are to the top of the food chain!! Work on a blue tongue cure or "control." If a rancher wants to open his place to open predator hunting, then they hsould never get any tax payer money through the GFP (for deer depredation). Game and Fish won't even let me ride a horse hunting big game as well aspredators on walk in. With all this walk in how do you control the predators? People don't walk for miles to shoot a coyote. Sometimes the answers are basic, that’s when job security enters into the game! Talk to the sportmen in Montana - they'll tell yu why there aree less deer and elk. Coyotes, cats and wolves. Put a high bounty on coyotes. Fur prices are terrible. Entice people to hunt. Open up walk ins to predator hunting so people can drive to these remote spots. Walk in areas indirectly have been a detriment to deer populations! Control the predators: coyotes are running us over. Cats are more and more and wolves in the future. Aerial hunting sves our sheep operation every year. Let snowmobiles hunt coyotes on any private land with permission. These large predtors are the basic problem. We don't need coyotes, cats or wolves. If the young can't survive neither will the species (talking deer here).

215163 Q15f. Doe tags only up to 10. Q16b & Q17b. All my land is habitat,oak trees, cider trees, oats, alfalfa, winter wheat.

215185 I had over 100 head of antelope south of Sourdough Rd. They cleaned off the field and raised hell with the fence.

249008 It would like information on technical or finacial assistance through GFP private lands habitat program. Need more muzzleloader licenses.

249027 You need more whitetail only. Any deer tag they will kill all the mule deer and don't thin the whitetail! Maybe some Jan. Control deer, often people that have deer damage in winter do not have many during deer season. The deer hay corrals are alright but they just drive the deer to someone else hay that is out in the open. My opinion is not worth much? But I am not changing!

249038 Q17a. But not partialarly for whitetail habitat.

249060 It would be nice if CO's would drive to ranches and visit with the people who live on them. We are here everyday. We know if and where wildlife are.

249079 Q16. Don't have this problem. We have very few deer, lots of coyotes. Your walk in areas are over hunted and they push deer out of area and up to highway road ditches where most of deer in area reside. Our land has natural deer habitat and had lots of deer before walk in areas were established.

249081 Q16c & d. We allow no antlerless hunting try to raise big bucks. We don't allow any antlerless hunting. We Try to raise bigger bucks don't not won't the shot by accident.

249091 We enjoy seeing wildlife on our land. We think the deer numbers are about right, right now. We plant food plots for the deer to help them get through the winter and it works. We let family and friends hunt without paying and we take a few paid hunters to help pay for the damage the deer do and to help pay for the food plots we plant.

249125 Q13 & 14 didn't hunt in 2015

249135 I manage all my Tripp County land for pheasants. The deer also benefit which is fine by me. The downside is: I have a deer refuge that is attractive to deer hunters road hunters/poachers. Trespassing increases dramatically during deer season.

249149 If a landowner hasn't had any need to take advantage of some of your programs, it would be a gesture to show him some appreciation for running thme, if he would be able to receive several licenses to be able to do with them as he pleases.

249154 I am a hay & alfalfa see producer in an area where I am surrounded by pay hunting. I feed deer all winter (they eat some hay every winter and eat alfalfa seed in the fall). As long as they pay hunters only shoot bucks we will have a surplus of does. In the winter of 1976-77 I had 300 head in my hay and all GFP did was try to fence the stakcs. The deer then moved to eat up the neighbors hay. I think GFP should buy corn when it is cheap (now) and store it (by used bins) corn will last for years and years. Then when you have a bad winter you can help feed your deer. Note: aflalfa seed is $100 a bushel one deer eats $5.00 a day. In 1976 hay was very valuable.

249175 The landowner should be able to get a free lincense if he choose to as we feed them year round or at least a dicounted price. If there is too many deer in one place the landowner complains they should give depredation tags to the landowner or who the landowner choose to give them too.

249185 Q10. Does, fawns, neighbors fee hunt chase deer onto us when season over, very few bucks. Q15E & F. Hunters had permission to hunt on us. Shot on another landowner, caused problems, don't have hunters, would have just family hunt. Q20B. SDPTV Q21A. Plant trees for shelter and fruit. As a landowner, I would like to be able to deal with the deer that are destroying my fruit trees, strawberry plants, and garden. They have eaten over a hundred dollars worth of strawberry plants 3 years running, and each year just as the tomatoes ripen, they show up and clean house. I put a light in the garden, I play the radio, and they just keep working their way through the garden. There are lots of fee hunters around us. We are covered up with does and fawns. We had the same hunters for many years. One shot a deer on the next door neighbor and caused problems. Haven't had hunters since and don't want any. We never charged anyone and were amazed that they would cause such a problem for a deer, when they had hunted here for years taking 6 - 12 per year with all the seasons. All for a buck! And got snotty with us, that we minded, as we deal with out neighbor year round and don't need trouble. I'd like every landowner to receive at least two tags free every year to use as they see fit. We feed these animals year round and the damage is not insignificant.

249193 I have had GFP through NRCS help fund cross fencing and stock dam repair, it was a big help, I would like to plant food plots along Elm Creek in Central Meade County sometime. The Antelope population causes more trouble in our wheat fields then the deer do anywhere else - whitetail sheds are problem with ag tires.

<u>DAU 3</u>

29028 Q14e. To short. Q16a in the black hills. Q17a. Garden they thing Q18a. They take care of themselves.

32011 We deal only with "urban deer" since we are just homeowners who live on the edge of town and see significant numbers of deer.

32030 I think the deer management is ok. The trouble I have is with dogs that people let run loose.

32035 Need a blance of wildlife in city limits. Not let the noisey few get their way. Harvesting of deer, mountain lions and turkey is at times needed…at others not. Year by years bases on actual numbers! What idiot came up with a survey form too big to fit the envelope?

32048 We do not have the huge amount of deer now, it's the huge amount of elk and they are extremely frustrating and destructive. A split season for deer or some way to accommodate east river hunters if their cron crop isn't harvested, they can't come hunting!

32060 House on 1 acre in Rapid City, SD

32098 Q21 H. Please provide the seed for 10 acres and we will plant 10 acres.

39003 No to any antlerless hunting after horns are shed, too many big bucks are shot as does. Lack of respect for property, private or public. Mountain bike of road - damage to resources, no respect for wildlife or residents.

39019 Q9a. Did ask if we could get some hunters. Q19k. Will it keep the deer out? Q20B. Hearing about services.

39021 I hope tha hunters will be allowed to use dogs too hunt mt. lions as in most other states that have mt. lion hunting. According to some big game biologist I have talked with an adult lion will eat one whitetail deer per week. Planting trees or shrubs or cross fencing for livestock cannot overcome the loss of deer because of large predators.

39039 The deer population in my area is defintely a lot lower than years ago. What I like to see and what I'm seeing is more and more quality bucks in my area, so if it means a lower deer population for larger bucks, I'm willing to see that sacrifice. The size and quanity of whitetail bucks is 10 fold over years ago. Keep up the good work!

39049 But only a city lot in Spearfish, SD

39052 The deer belong outside city limits! They damage and destroy our farmland in Spearfish Valley (Evans Lane). The GFP should be able to remove these deer. There should be some way to control the deer migration from the golf course across the interstate and back into Spearfish Canyon.

39067 Last year (2015) the abundant deer herd in the area disappeared. Used to see 5 to 30 deer on my property. They have disappeared starting in late 2014. Now there are none, except for an occassional group of 2 or 3 each week.

42012 Q18a. All of our land is managed for wildlife and ranching.

42020 We don't have the proper habitat for whitetail and our mule deer numbers are down considerable the last 5 years. We have about 2000 acres of good mule deer habitat we don't graze from May 1st to December 31st. We think the coyotes are killing the

fawns. We have made our land a walk in for all hunting. Hunters were driving down our grass and created a fire risk. We don't allow any deer hunting until the numbers come back. We used to have about 50 nor barely a dozen.

52026 Hunters must have written permission before obtaining a license to hunt on private land that would help stop some of the road hunting and trespassing.

93182 Q4. I'm a wildlife biologist (BS-64, ms-68) and worked 16 years for GFP and 20 years for DU. Q5. I used to have 100-250 WT come in nightly after my hay was cut also, some mule deer, now in the past 5-10 years maybe 25 wt and no mule deer. Q17A. I had 3 GFP personnel to discuss improving forage quality, but dept. personnel said they couldn't justify dragging no-till drill up to Moon area. They did give me seed and I hired a guy with drill from Wy to do it. Q19. Read comment on 17A. GFP can't justify coming up to moon area to do work in no depredation in area. GFP won't provide help other than seed, no man power or equipment. In answer to the last question on the survey let me review some items to make my answers more clear. I do not plant trees or shrubs on my property, although I spray my ponderosa pines each year to protect them from Mt. Pine Beetles. My trees are very old (250-300 yrs) and I have been protecting them, I still have lost about one each year for the past 7 years. The Dept. does not provide any help with this matter. I have planted alfalfa and alsike clover on my uplands for 15 years or so to improve the hay quality and forage for deer and elk. 3 GFP personnel were at my place in 2014 and looked at my hay fields and a small dam that does not hold water. They told me they couldn't justify bring a no-till drill up there because the area does not have a depredation problem, and that they would provide me seed but I would have to find a means to get it planted. As for the dam they couldn't justify the cost and I should contact RMEF about a guzzler. In 2014, [name removed] gave me alfalfa seed and alside clvoer seed and I hired a guy out of Wyoming to no till drill it. I have asked [name removed] for more seed for 2016 and was told last fall he wouldn't have seed until this spring, so far he has not responded to my 2 text messages I sent him since the first of the year. I do cut hay on about 30 acres of my property, but do not run any cattle or horses on it. My tract of land is only 40 acres, but I'm adjoined by over 2000 acres of private land that does not have livestock or is grazed only lightly. Some hay is harvested on about 50-60 acres of this total, and could be improved with some efforts such as the inter-seeding that I am doing. One of my adjoining neighbors also spray for pine beetles to protect their ponderosas. The Dept. has provided some of my neighbors with cable for their fence to prevent deer and elk damage. None of my neighbors have large enough tracts to qualify for elk or deer landowner permits. In fact most of the landowners in the Moon area that own tracts large enough are residents of Wyoming and cannot qualify for such permits.

249023 Q19. My 320 a are mostly hay land & feed yard. Q21. Don't apply to my operation.

249047 Q8. Not deer it's elk. I have little deer problem its elk I have problems with.

249088 Q6d. For some people.

321004 Q6E - Flowers, Trees, neighbors feed them. Q17A. Around my home they damage enough.

321015 I hope that SD GFP continues to work with landowners to offset or compensate landowners for their support and to help landowners by compensation for wildlife damage to crop and grassland and watering areas. I have appreciated their (SDGFP) recognition that farmers and ranchers need help to offset costs of depredation which

allows landowners to continue to provide habitat for a very important resource for the state and nation.

321025 Deer fence for hay would be nice.

321029 Own 5 acres in close to city of Custer and allow limited bow hunting - I'm now living in Charles Mix County and own/operate about 950 acres.

321030 Q9a. Elk Wire! Q16. Hypothetical Q17a. Not intentionally…but they like alfalfa and oats. Q17b for hay harvest. Q18a. Not intentionally…but they eat alfalfa and oats. Q18b. The same hay field. Deer are not the problem elk are the problem!

321032 My deer problem is every spring they are in my hay field North of Pringle. I believe that at times they are close to 300 head. I've mentioned it to GP but said not much could be done about it. I put it into Walk-in but that doesn't help in early spring. Solution pay for damage.

327007 I am a rancher in Western Custer County with an Edgemont address

327012 Population seems to be down a bit over past few years. I would like to see the tag numbers stay low for a few years to get the deer numbers back up. How about a mult-tag antlerless only season in a special zone between Pringle and Custer. They are going to either get hit on the highway or get taken over by disease if they are not thinned out.

421002 Q11. Used to have land in the walk in program but did not renew in 2014 due to lack of wildlife, deer, elk and antelope.The number of deer, both whitetail and mule deer are almost nonexistant in our area. GFP staff has been told year after year of the massive decline in deer population but continue to issue way too many deer tags for our area.

421008 We have always like to see deer, elk, and turkeys on the ranch. There is too many different seasons to hunt deer, elk and turkeys. You should let the mule deer population build up. Right now we don't need a doe season here for a couple of years. We need to stop trapping bobcats, we use to see them once in a while in person and in game camera's but don't see them anymore.

427011 Q10. Everybody wants to shoot a buck. Q17A. They take advantage of good forage. Q18. They also graze forage late fall and spring.

427016 Q10. If it were whitetail only tags. Q16. Increase non-resident tags. Thank you for finally asking landowners. I live in 27A. The whitetail are pushing mule deer out. We need whitetail only tags. We used to have them but I understand that it didn't pass the hunter happiness test you seem to be so worried about.

427058 Sometimes I think there should be an IQ test required to get a big game tag! Nonlandowner hunters are the rudest, stupidist hunters out there. They have no respect for private property. In our unit 27A there is no reason not to have filled more cow elk tags, these tags are wasted on guys that think they can kill one elk from their pickup windows! They don't want to get out there and work for it.

427065 Q4. Retired Q11. There is no deer.

427069 Q8c. In 1999 we planted 500 trees and shrubs during winter 2000-2009 whitetails ate almost all of them it's a continuing battle. Q17a. Not for whitetails

427072 Q13. No tag. Q15. Private ground no public hunting.

427078 In 1988 whitetail and mule deer were about 50/50 today 95/5. When whitetail numbers get high they need to be harvested. Twice in 25 years I have seen blue tounge cause numbers to plumet. They are a use them or coase them resource. Leasing out our hunting to an outfitter has become an important way to offset property taxes.

427080 Q2. leased 400. Q3. 1/3 in BHFP District 2/3 in Oral Area Q9b. In past years I received talk from GFP, no action on predators. It is nice to have deer. A few years ago there was a surplus, but mountain lions and disease has reduced deer numbers. Sighting of wolf in region is more frequent, please make it legal to kill wolf any time by anyone! Do not protect the wolf. My family have provided habitat for wildlife for 80 year, never received a thank you from GFP or free license. Qestion 20a. Consider send a printed material in mail to landowners once a year about habitat management programs and practices. Also printed material about GFP private habitat program. The local game wardens are good men, but past years I have little respect for office managers in Pierre.

DAU 4

42001 Allow landowners to issue several licenses to anyone they choose.

42016 You missed the #1 problem for sustaining deer populations! Coyotes kill a lot of deer. We need help killing coyotes.

42029 Q17a & Q18 They destroy any trees we plant before they mature.

42046 Q9a. What service? Q14c. Too long. Q16. Double tags - antlerless and antler. Give landowners tags to do as see fit!

42059 I belive any land owner should be able to get free licenses to hunt deer on their own private land. After all the deer are allowed to eat and multiply on this acreage year around. This would be a small appreciation of what farmers and ranchers do to supply these animals with feed and water.

42070 Retail store

42071 Q10. They need to be antlerless tags. Most hunters just want a buck, have just a limited number buck tags and the rest antlerless tags.

411023 We have been planting trees often, the trouble is that the deer do so much damage before they are big enough to survive. We notice a lot of out of area or out of state hunters who drive our roads and section lines aimlessly. As landowners we know they don't have permission on either side of the road, yet they continue hunting that way. Can this practive be discouraged more and how.

411033 Make it antlerless before you shoot antlers. Way too many does. Most everyone wants horns.

411037 Without a lot of work I would like to keep deer out of my yard and out of my hay ground, corn, and my silage pile.

411041 Q8B - Wouldn't help on my trust land

411057 I have a question about walk in land payments. West River we only get a $1 an acre. East river get $40 plus per acre. We have just as mnay hunters come from long

distrances to hunt good land. I have had my land many others like me for more than 12+ years with no increase. I have asked this questionsmany times when I sign up every year and get no answer.

411062 Buck deer should be five points or bette to harvest for white tails and mule deer should be "160"

411068 More doe licenses!

411084 I border tribal ground. Every year I see the deer that were raised on my ground shot before state West River Season opens. I feel this is very unfair and I believe landowners in my situation should be able to buy a special landowner tag where the season starts the same time as tribal season. Thanks

421004 Q3. East of HWY 79 Q5. Very Few. Q10. Hunters cause damage too.

421031 Q17a. Not on purpose! We have way too many whitetail deer. Here a couple of years ago, they were so thick that they had developed disease and died off. As a result you asked hunters to voluntarily return their tags and not here we go again, the population of deer is exploding and disease will be coming. From what I see, about half of the does have twins, it sure doesn't take them long to spread. I have spent a lot of money planting trees and fencing deer out of them, but I clearly need to spend a lot more on fencing. They penetrate the fence and kill as many trees as they can, I guess it's their mission in life. My hay fields and bales are a delightful smorgesboard for them. By the time alfalfa dries down enough to turn my cattle in, in the fall, the deer and antelope have it eaten off. They get into the hay bales and gorge themselves nightly. I get a little tired of the costly side effects of too many deer. One problem I see and I have written letters to you in the past, hunters want to take a mule deer over a whitetail. I guess if the tags cost the same, why not take the biggest deer you can. The other thing I see is that no one wants to take a doe and that is a population control problem right there. I have said for years, give the doe tags for free, but who am I, I just feed them for you and have all the costs. I enjoy having wildlife around and have been trying to encourage more mule deer to move in, but to many of anything is a burden. I'll keep it short this time and maybe this will be read.

421035 This was a waste of time you will do what you want to anyway.

427006 We have a deer and turkey problem on our small place. The GF&P moved turkey from our place but the numbers are back. About 100 turkey on our small place.

427017 We farm 400 acres on Angostura Dist. The deer population on that part of Fall River County is 10 fold to that of the deer on the grass lands that we have in my view.

427059 Make it possible for adults/parents to get apermit in order for children to have a mentor.

427088 We have had a fence our Colorado Blue Spruce tree to prevent damage from the deer. Every year they wreck branches from carragna bushes. They completely destroyed 2 Colorado Blue Spruce trees before we fence the others. I would like to keep the deer out of my corn field.

439006 Q10e. @ no charge. Q14f. I will let anyone hunt that asks. Some people don't ask!

439010 Deer hunting should be to feed the family, not a sport to see how many dollars you charge for licenses. The other paper you sent questioned GFP land purchases. We strongly oppose GFP buying more land. License fees are over charged #1 take's land away from SD tax base. #2 Most ranchers manage the land to the best of their ability.

#3 you charge a large fee for licenses get paid buy more land usually giving more than someone living off the land could afford.

439014 I think landowners should b given free tags. We should hav input if there are enough deer or not, need to change waterfowl licenses should be unlimited for in state and out of state hunters.

439015 Landowners supply a large amount of land for the state to have a deer herd. More thought for the landowner should be given. Longer season, would help as many landowners can't just drop everything they are doing and hunt when the state sets it's season! A landowner should not have to pay for a tag.

439020 Q15. More double tags hunters will shoot a buck only. Q16. Deer feed on hay and grain fields regrowth. Q20c. Don't have any.

439025 I do not hunt much because of time spent ranching. Different subject: Why does bobcat season start so late? I enjoy trapping while doing chores but by Dec. 26 the coons and yellow coyotes are rubbing. Please go back to bobcat season Dec. 1 or 10 an shorten the end.

439028 Q4. 5 years ago it would have been a "4" for both species. The last 2 years mule deer would be a "0" and whitetail a "2". Q8. More than 5 years ago. I was wondering about the number on the front, so I had to re-read your cover letter! Have a good day and I'll see you at the next stakeholders meeting.

439036 My deer problem is with whitetail deer. I would strongly support harvesting more whitetail deer. My mule deer population has been decimated by disease and over hunting. Please do not harvest the mule deer does. Leave them along for a few years to let them repopulate. My experience with the walk in hunting has been mostly positive, except for the over hunting/killing of the mule deer. I would be happy for over hunting of whitetail deer.

439043 My pasture is overrun with mountain lions which has killed many cattle and horses over the years. Yes, they also kill deer. I have complained numerous times to the GFP but to no avail. I had one state trapper come about 10 years ago but did nothing toward adjusting a mile and 1/2 away from the area and got 13 coyotes and 2 bobcats. Fur prices were high that year. The lion in question was a mother with kittens near a 15 acre calving yard. The toll that year alone was 13 head young calves and 14 head yearling heifers about 1/2 mile away. GFP wants proof of loss for such things but I am not a wild like photographer or wildlife documentry film maker. 1/2 buried carcusses of cattle with lion tracks as big as saucers are proof enough for me. I have also witnessed a horse take down and kill. Quite exciting, except the horse belonged to me.

441005 Q1. Our land is leased out to relatives who fill out this survey. Q4. Have not gone out to observe.

441007 I live in Haakon Co. right on the Bad River. We are friends with local game warden. I think you should have had a doe season this winter. They enjoy my wheat fields. I live just east of [description removed] so we have lots of deer. They don't bother me except when they start eating our hay stacks. We have had an open winter so they have not been too bad so far this winter. The main concern is hitting one on the highway. Went to Philip about 3 weeks ago at night and had to stop 4 times for deer crossings. I don't speed! I wish deer controlled coyotes.

441014 Q4 - Whitetails - currently far too few, 5 years ago far too many. We bougt the farm in 2011 for the first year or two we were completely overrun with whitetails. Once counting 40 in 30 minutes on 200 acres. At that time hunted some myself and let friends hunt. 2014 and 2015 saw significant declines due to disease to the point we let no one hunt. As such response to the survey varies greatly in the last 5 years. An idea for licenses would be to establish 2 pools for first drawing. One pool would be to hunt public ground. Other would be to hunt private land. For private land pool it would need signed by a landowner that gives you permission to hunt. Drawings for each tag to be based on % of public or private land in the county. After that for any second drawin gany left over licenses would be available to a consolidated group. This would reduce trespassing, yet still give all a far chance to hunt while forcing productive discussion between hunters and landowners while maximinzing the benefit.

441028 Since I lease out my land, there would have to be incentive enough to equal what my lease payment is now for me to increase habitat for deer.

441031 Caught local couple (man and wife) trespassing confronted them and received verbal abuse. Still pondering on weather to file trespassing charges these two are white trash.

441033 Of the 37A, I only rent 60 A for grazing. 400 A are farmed and remainder is mowed for hay every other year. I am 80 years old and may retire soon. I have a mile of somewhat wooded creek and would like to plant some food plots along the creek. I also have been thinking about starting a youth first time hunting unit for boys and girls to shoot their first game. Would also furnish guides for kids without a parent to help. All this would be cost free including loaner weapons and probably ammo. If the child couldn't afford it all this in the thinking stage so far.

441040 I would like to see a special antlerless season for landowner so that we could hunt in peace.

441047 Let landowners have more say over the licenses. The could buy them to use on their land, such as a few pay hunters if they need extra income.

441054 It has always bothered me that we as farmers and ranchers kind of get kicked in the teeth by GF&P when we question policies of game and hunter manamement. The policy of road hunting and retreaving game from as far as the eye can see off private land make for bad relations between hunter and landowner and landowner and GF&P. I let family and some friends hunt deer and on a normal year we usually harvest about 20 deer. We select for horn size and correct horn genes. We normally take about 2/3 of the harvest as does. The walk - in - area usually don't hold very many deer because of all the bird hunting and antelope hunting. This is what happens with private land if I let anyone hunt. I have not went to the pay-hunt system because it just eliminates a group of hunters especailly a father or mother that want to take their kids out and do some hunting. The next generation is what will kep the sport of hunting going. If a farmer -rancher does a good job of managing their land for livestock and or grain production you will have good number of birds and deer. The public service of raising the birds and deer does not come cheap and I believe the state should do a better job of compensation. Some personal idea's. I don't believe that anyone that runs a pay-hunt operation or anyone that does not let hunting should get any help from the state! Deperdation hunts usually don't fix the core problems. Thank you for your time.

441063 Q17B. All of it

441068 Q13B. Would prefer a week earlier.

441080 Problems: Pay hunting, road hunting

441082 You don't respond quick enough to the deer herd numbers. We had way too many deer leading up to 2013 and you wouldn't issue more licenses. Mother nature then thinned the herd down by sending a disease through them. You do nothing to reward the landowner for feeding and sheltering the animals through winter.

441101 Deer have killed some young trees, they are way too numerous.

441111 I think there is an over population of deer, but I'd rather deal with deer than people that have no respect for property lines or parking in the middle of country roads. I have in years past allowed people to hunt, usually a son and his father, but then it turned into the dads friend and I just shut it down. East River people are the worth, if I see a "1" license plate they can go back home.

441115 Q4 - Getting to be a problem on alfalfa hay in winter. 16B. I allow enough for wildlife. Q17B. Allow enough for wildlife

441122 Q3. I'm unable to answer your questions, due to illness we were now living in RC. I really don't know anything about the deer. I leave my land to John Weber. I've never paid attention to the deer in that area.

441130 Q11. Approximately 40 years ago I purchased my first land in Jones County. I had never hunted deer (or anything else) but had heard so much publicity about landowner preference for licenses. So I applied (an had never before) for both deer and antelope licenses. I got turned down for both yet know of several non landowners (city residents) who bragged about having several licenses. Need say I have never applied again and have no intention too.

441131 Would like to visit with someone about habitat programs, and fencing for trees in yard. I also farm around a 96 acre wetland in Jones County and wondering about any programs that would make it worthwhile not to try and tile it out.

441133 Q5C. I've hit several in my lifetime.

441137 Fees you collect should not be used to help farmers & ranchers, if they don't let people hunt. They should be used to buy ro rent just good hunting habitat. There is a lot of the Jones County land that has been rented by GFP and put into walk in that you can see a mouse 100 yards away. It's either grazed off, mowed, or farmed edge to edge. There is no habitat to sustain wildlife.

441138 Q20G. Should never be done- it'll lead to damage to land resources!

441148 We live 4 miles of White River bottoms land in our place in Jones County. WE have a lot of white tail on it. We have too much hunter pressure in our area, during rifle deer season it is a full time job for 1 of us to patrol our ranch in Jackson, Jones, and Mellette County. Hunters trespass and people bothering you to go hunting are problems. Also if the South Dakota ADC program would not kill so many coyotes in our area (neighbors ranch) it would help. That way we would have a better method then putting more hunters in the field which is a bigger problem than coyotes. Let the coyotes be and they will help with the deer problem.

441151 I believe that landowners should be given extra tags according to thenumber of acres owned to be used on their land if they request them. To be used at their own discretion.

450006 The area of my ranch has a lot of scrub oak, ash, elm and berry trees and shrubs growing wild so don't need extra shelter.

450015 Two years ago our some and friends found 18 dead bucks so they have been very conservative when taking deer. Zero shot one year ago and one shot this year.

450023 There needs to be a bigger effort in taking does. Taking bucks does nothing to control the deer populations.

450032 Things to consider: Black Powder Season: This hsould be the same as regular season. At one time this meant the "old fashion muzzleloader" with open sites - now it is a season of high powered rifles with ranges far beyond the original. They should receive no special season. Archery - Compound bows have definitely changed this style of hunting. Giving these hunters more than rifle hunters is not necessary nor fair to those who do not have the strength to even try to hunt in this style. Shorten archery only to 1 week. Youth deer: We have seen this as an excuse for "dads" to get in an extra kill or multiple kills. One man came here and asked permission to hunt with his son -- he came back 7 times for 7 sons! He no longer has access to our land, but that does not keep him from walk in areas. Kids need to be with dads hunting with them in one season - the regular season. This teaches them about safety, getting along with other hunters in the same hunt areas, and being able to handle hunts messed up by other hunters in a sane and understanding way. Their hunt needs to be the same as regular. We live on he county road with our land on both sides of the road. We are hounded by hunters who see the deer and turkey cross over. People shoot within sight of our house. Road hunters for birds are constant. Your hunting seasons from Sept 26 - Jan 15 plus spring turkey give us little rest from hunters. We have way less game than hunters passing through. We love our wildlife and put up with fixing fences and shooing them out of our year, just seeing them gives us pleasure. We'd like some peace with the pleasure. Oh, we odo love to hunt, so we are not anti-hunting ranchers.

450048 As a resident and more important a landowner/operator, the fence that I fix, the crop damage that I suffer is quite expensive and time consuming. It irritates me that after all I do for pheasants, turkeys, deer, and all other wildlife with forage and cover (grass, trees, ect) that then I have to pay for a license and also am required to only hunt during a specified time. This time frames is also during my busiest times, weaning calves, combining grain, hauling in hay, planting wheat ect. As a landowner, wanting to hunt deer especially, I do my work and usually don't get to hunt the deer. Perhaps a later season for landowners would help. Sorry on the other side, page 7. I should have read closer. Thanks

450049 Q9. Too many now.

450060 Draught years should be taken into consideration in regard to hunting season and number of hunters. In just the past year the deer numbers are down a lot. When they become too thick disease sets in. Too dry, the food source becomes scares.

450061 This is a working ranch for cattle management. I do not manage this land for deer. But if I take good care of it the deer and cattle co-exist and both benefit. There is plentiful grass, water feed for both. The deer population goes up and goes down on a cyalical basis. I feel I am more qualified to manage this land because I have lived here for 30 years and raised a family and I am still in business.

450076 Let landowners hunt a week before others. By the time tribal hunters, hunt the week before the state season, the deer are spooked. Then we also have to make sure they

don't cross onto our deeded land. Seems like most of deer season is hunting for trespassers not deer. Have more trouble with tribal hunters trespassing than state. Wish there was a way for the tribal guides to be fired for telling their hunters that private land is tribal land and ignore the not hunting signs. It's not some poor guy from out of state's fault that their guide misguides them. But I guess I will start prosecuting the poor out of state hunters to get the point across.

465006 Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Sorry but mine is all Indian land so none of this pertains to my ranch. Sorry.

465013 I don't believe Tribal deer season should start before regular season should run at the same time.

465015 Our deer population stays well balanced here. They continue to be protected here. The neighbors cattle and goats do more damage to my fields than over 100 deer in the winter. The park service needs to spend more money and plant the natural grasses and trees for the wild animals and help the landowners feed our wildlife in South Dakota.

465020 I'm currently working with USDA NRCS out of Martin, SD

467011 My wife's land is all trus tland. We have deeded on three sides owned by others. 5 years ago we had too many deer on our land. We lost probably 75% 2 and 3 years ago to I believe blue tongue.

467021 I have land in Hughes and Mellette count and this information applies to this land also.

467040 Q18. We allow no hunting on one section of land

467066 Q3. Lease land to family who ranch and farm. Q13b. I wish it would miss the rut as we lose good genetics. Unrelated but I'm convinced that the reduction in Mt. Lions is the only reason elk numbers are on the rise. I would like to see a larger Black Hills heard than you propose and am apposed to the extra antlerless licenses being issued.

467068 Living in Tripp Co. and renting out the property in Todd Co. we would not use the deer management programs. We have had lots of Native Americans hunting on the property in Todd Co. this passed year. We also had a problem with the cutting of live trees in the creek close to the road, It was easy access. I am not a hunter however, my family always has enjoyed deer hunting. My sister always has come back home for the season. Her passing this last year really gave the trespassers a go, they thought. I really feel the hunting season does very little to control the deer population. So many are strictly hunting horns. Now think having pheasant hunting for months is great. Again, strictly for $$$. If you had deer season run for months, just maybe it would help cut the deer population. The amount of damage deer do is terrific. The landowner and the drivers pay the cost. GFP want the control, everyone else can pay for the damages.

467071 My land is located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and is surrounded by tribal trust land. I do my own wild game restoration which is difficult as tribal members hunt my land borders using their own season hunting days dates. There is no reason that the state of SD should be interested in any programs for my land under this type of land use.

467077 The deer in the La Creek area have taken a big hit due to EHD the past couple years, last summer we were still finding them dead, this makes 3 years in a row, the whitetail population has been decreasing. I've seen a few more deer this past winter than the

past few. We are hoping their numbers are coming back and we can get back to the numbers we were at. As a management tool we have limited the deer harvest because of this issue. Thank you.

467078 Q20 H - Need more information on turnip & radishes

467085 I think that to shoot a buck in the Black Hills it should have to have 2 points or better as there are not a lot of larger antlered deer there. The deer in Todd are coming back again slowly, we lost a lot of deer in 2012 & 2013 to disease.

DAU 5

5 Q5E, Q7A & C. Whitetails Q9. unless it was a whitetail only season in Jones and Stanley County. Q15C. For whitetails only Q15D - G. For does only. Q16A. They kill trees and ruin hay stacks. In Jones County we have a terrible problem with whitetails. Mule deer all died out a few years ago, but are slowly coming back. Whitetails along the White River are a scourge! Whitetails are bad in Stanley County also but not as bad as Jones County.

66 Deer destroy trees and shrubs. How is that habitat management?

52002 We have planted pine trees in our yard, the deer have come in and next to destroyed some of these trees that were just getting a good start. We've had up to fifteen or more deer in our yard.

52020 Q6e & Q16 Whitetail. Whitetail deer need reduced

52044 All my acres are in Shannon County. I only own 10 acres in Pennington.

524001 The coyote population in Dewey County is out of control. The state should let the trappers hunt them more! We would also like to see the amount of out of state tags limited. They are the ones who trespass and road hunt both deer and pheasants. Pheasant season needs to be shortened also. Also, if you open antlerless season in October people who don't know any better will be shooting fawns just to fill their tags. This is not a good idea at all!

524028 Would like to hear more Thank You's to farmers & ranchers for grazing & feeding all wildlife. Wildlife is the publics but very little is said about who feeds all wildlife. Private landowners foot the total bil.

524038 I really don't know what the solution is on the deer problem. I know they dang sure ruin your corn piles, hay stacks, tear down or loosen the fenses, and are always on the roads. I think the state should have to pay for all the vehicles hit by deer. I know I've had several claims some quite large. We feed them all year after year. They destroy the feed piles where the cows don't want to eat it then we pay for hitting one.

524051 Q9. If they are doe tags. Deer need to be manage by county not state. Bring back early doe season. It was the only way I could get does harvested.

524057 Q20 - We manage our land for cattle and horses, results are good for deer. We have major problems with tribal seasons and state seasons. The Rules are different, seasons are different and the maps are different. Results are a lot of trespassing and damage to grass from vehicles. We can't have big bucks without a point system or something like that and more does need to be taken.

524061 You'll do whatever you want to do. Our input doesn't change anything. Don't ever send another survey.

524082 I do see deer grazing on winter wheat, corn, sunflowers, I just don't like deer daaging our yard trees, shrubs, other than that deer can roam freely.

524083 We have a lot more damage to report (and experience) in hour Hamlin County properties.

524084 Q7A. Easy winter not a problem, hard winter a major problem. Q8. Know you won't help. Q9. Why did you cut back on deer licenses? Q18. Can manage my own land but need to worry about the law & your parasites. Q20. With no till wildlife life have all the cover needed to flourish. Read Timber Lake Topic - how many deer - car accidents per week - should tell you idiots that we have too many deer. 5 out of state doe tags? Wow.

524090 You asked for my opinion so here goes. Yes, there are deer around here, they do a lot of crop damage. GFP, make a lot of money from the sale of license. What does the farm/rancher get? The headache-people running on your land - cut fences, etc. However, my issue is the GFP not taking care of the coyotes. They are running in packs. They are killng baby calves. People are or have sold their sheep because coyotes. I haven't much respect for GFP. They're only around for the money they get from the landowners. I've often thought if I hit a deer on the road, someone gets killed or my car is damaged. Where is GFP when those bills come in? GFP sell licenses to kill deer and antelope and other birds so evidently theymust own them. Wouldn't they be liable for damages casued by them? If our cows are on the road and someone hits one of them we are liable. Some food for thought if I damage my car it could get interesting. I'm am not filling out your survey, it's none of your business regarding what is on my land.

524094 Would like to see landowners receive 2 licenses per farm/ranch for private use for no fee. We feed & have these deer on our land all year and should be able to harvest a couple of deer for that service.

524128 Q8a. I did in 1980's. Q16b & Q17b. Of planted trees. Q20e. Not good for grass varity.

524157 Q10. People hunt without asking.

524169 Q9. Reason why: is they all want the big one. Q12. The tribe season is too long. Q14e. They all want to drive their ATV's and not many will get out and walk. Tribal season is too long. Too many buck tags not enough doe tags. Shoot a doe before a buck. I like seeing the deer and don't mind feeding them have done it for years. Like to see a law that everyone walk to hunt deer no driving of any kind. There should be a class on how to close gates.

524172 Tribe and state should open and close at the same time. Tribal members do not respect no hunting signs. I don't like hunters.

524175 Damage to my silage piles by deer is out of control. Trespass and road hunting is not policed at all.

531036 Q2 & Q17b. None of your business

531064 We have a lot of turkeys on the Bad River. More Toms than hens. Should have been a fall turkey hunt on the Bad River. Q5 E - Kills trees in yard. Q9. Only takes on bucks to kill tress. Q.11 Doe hunt

531067 My wife and I have hit 5 deer in the last 3 years. I am sick of it.

531077 Hunters need to understand that a percent of the deer harvest needs to include some antlerless deer not everyone gets a chance at a trophy buck. Antlers are tougher to eat than the meat.

531102 Thanks for asking our opinions. I have 4500 acres of very good deer habitat and try to manage for quality deer. My biggest problem is hunters showing up opening weekend looking for a place to hunt. They say they have been to the walk-in areas and are over-crowded. I do allow some hunting to relatives and friends but perhaps these people need to be reminded to establish a place to hunt before applying for a license. Keep the season (West River) short and in the last half of November to allow the dominant bucks to breed the does. Thanks for wanting input from the landowners.

558009 Q20. small scale. I have 168 acres and would be very interested in finding out ways to help develop and manage it for deer, pheasant, and grouse habitat plan an planting more food plots this year and would be very interested in adding a dam for wildlife. If there are programs to help my number is [contact info removed]

558025 I think if something is not done about the whitetail population, mother nature will take over as it has in the past with the sickness! Also would like to see more antlerless tags issued, whitetails and muleys.

558033 Mule deer numbers are down and not recovering. Mule deer does still need protection till the herd recovers.

558037 The deer are hunted way too many days a year. Muzzleloader season should be the same as rifle season. The west river would be ok if there wasn't two three day weekends or Thanksgiving in it. I just feel if you can't harvest a deer with a week and two weekends, then there aren't enough deer out there and you shouldn't shoot one anyway. I'm a landowner, I love wildlife, but the deer seasons are way too long. It's the worst 3 weeks of my life on the farm. I don't harvest deer myself till late season doe, now I can't do that because season is closed. I don't have the time during the deer season to mess with deer processing. It should be up to each landowner to have a late season doe harvest.

558052 I would be helpful to keep in step with today's whitetail management practices. Some of our laws are outdated with today's hunting.

558053 Muzzleloader season should run concurrent with rifle season. 2 months is to long to deal with hunters. 2 weeks is plenty of time for both seasons.

558071 You should remit the license money to landowners and stop acquiring land.

558079 It's nice to have a gFP person stop by and touch base with in early fall-late summer.

558090 South Dakota west river hunters are terrible about honoring posted "no trespassing" signs. They seem to think if no one is around, it's a free pass to drive all over the land looking for deer and/or coyotes.

558093 Q5F. Yes, I have mixed feelings but won't all considered. Q7E. Tough on electric fencing. Q8a. Thought about it with hay. Q20f. Too Dangerous. Q20h. Need more info and T and TA. We appreciate the friendly manner of our Conservation Officer Josh. We would enjoy more regular conversation with the Department. There were lots of things in the survey that made me think I need more information and education. Thank you.

558105 I feel I already share my grass, crops and water systems with deer. I really enjoy meeting & visiting with most hunters. We allow dere, turkey & small bird hunting on

our land in Stanley & Haakon Co. Deer hunting is mostly first friends & family. Archery and bird hunting is pretty open if I don't already have too many hunters with permission.

564000 Our ranch is located on several miles of creek. The biggest reasonour deer population isn't increasing is due to coyotes killing young animals. We utilize the CSP program so hay back & forth to protect wildlife. Thru this program we also have wildlife friendly fences and leave portions of crops unharvested. Unfortunately, there is tribal land mixed within our borders and we have absolutely no control over who can hunt that land. As long as they have a tribal permit they can hunt any tribal land. So lit is very important that the state continues to open deer season on the same weekend as the tribe. I simply do not like any archery season at all. That is by far when the most trespassing and poaching is done. I've seen many archers hunting that don't even know how to shoot a bow properly. Its just an excuse to be the 1st to get the trophy buck by any means while lthey are still in late summer grounds and are docile. Make it antlerless only and see what happens. Only the real archers will get licenses.

564006 Q7. Whitetails damage haystacks, muleys do not.

564012 Q15h. Earn a buck, hunters must first harvest a doe before they can harvest a buck.

564023 More Antlerless tags or an antlerless season too many "buck" hunters.

564046 Need to have more doe only tags

564051 We have planted about a 5 acre tree plot. Also have fenced out 2 areas of the creek for wildlife. Feel welcome to check it out or check with the office in Dupree and they will probably take you out to see it. Q5C No problem, watch slow up. Q5E No problem now. Q17 Ours are mostly whitetail.

564060 Send it to my Son he has it

564094 q19. The person I lease to has filled all of this out. Q20. The person I lease to has filled all this out.

564102 What difference does this all make? Any deer I get on my property gets shot off by Indians who don't care if it is white man deeded property and I can't go on tribal land. I am 75 years old the HELL with it!

564113 Please take note of my answers on question #14. Road hunting and repassing are a major problem in my area by all hunters including local and out of sate. Because of these issues, I feel your seasons are too long. As a landowner I used to enjoy hunting season, I now dread it due to these issues. Your survey is concerned with deer management, I would be more interested in hunter management.

<u>DAU 6</u>

26 Q17b. Native grassland Q20h. Winter wheat

28 We have too many deer (whitetail) in Potter/Sully County area. Can't raise a garden without a 6 foot high fence, they damage trees. Planting new trees is a difficult task because deer destroy them. When driving after dark I keep one foot on the break. Installing grill guards is $7500 for each truck. The dead deer hit by traffic smell and are very unsightly for locals and tourist. No one picks them up anymore. DOT said they don't have the budget. GFP owns all wildlife until there is a problem with then

GFP doesn't care very much. We need less habitat for deer not more. We have an over supply of whitetail deer.

81 The Landowners should be allowed to hunt deer etc for nothing and 2-3 weeks before opened to public. Also out of county etc. should be charged wheel taxes etc.

616039 East River Deer season - 14 days is long enough.

616042 Would like to see better trophy deer management!

616065 I'm a ND resident so I don't personally hunt our land, but family members and friends do, it would be nice to be able to hunt our land without paying the non-residnet rates.

616068 The doe (whitetail) population in our area is way too high. Most hunters only seem to be interested in shooting bucks. Something needs to be done to encourage hunters to shoot more does.

616076 Q9. Not if they only want to shoot trophies.

633032 Q10. The worst problem is trying to keep people who have no permission to hunt out of our land.

633036 Q16a. Pheasants. One reason these deer are so many they are gather in big bunches during day time and at night they go way out to rustle and feed on other land. Nobody hunts a lot of these places because they are feed and coyotes run them back in day and night. They are a great damage to trees by debarching and just plane rubbing down.

633053 No knowledge to answer deer questions

633054 One idea would be to send landowners an application for deer licenses each year to give them a chance to get one.

633059 Q16B. For pheasants it's planted but the corn is harvested all around and the deer like the few acres.

633063 Need to harvest more does.

636016 I would like to see GFP sell me 5 permits for antlered deer that I could resell to out of state hunters. We have a lot of deer on our ranch and that is a way I could get repaid for what they eat and or destroy. I have too many head of livestock on the place to let the general public run wild over the ranch - with 4 or 5 hunters we can be with them and control what they are shooting at.

636019 I have 5,632 acres in Sully County. Why would you ask me about my 141 acres in Hughes County. A lot of people in Western Sully County have Pierre addresses.

636028 Road hunters sometimes.

636031 We seem to have plenty of deer in east Hughes County. I have quite a few hunters every season. I encourage hunting for population management of the whitetail deer. Only problem is all everyone seems to want to shoot is big bucks. I give antlerless hunters priority. We are losing our hunting youth. They would rather play computer or ball. What we really need is coyote hunters. They are getting ridiculously thick. The red fox and jackrabbit populations are about wiped out in our area. Having less grass acres has a lot to do with that. Thank you for the time and work you all do to try to best manage wildlife resources in South Dakota.

636041 I own 2240 acres in Hyde County and 860 in Sully County, my answers would be totally different on some questions if they were about Hyde or Sully County!

636044 There are approximately 160 deer with 2 miles of me. 2 years ago there was 193! Too many!

636051 Q1. I don't have any Hugh County farm ground. I do have ground in Sully County. Q2. of the 240 acres I rent 100 acres as farm ground. The rest is mainly managed for pheasants. Q3. The land is farmed not ranched but this is not my primary income. Q16b. Managed more for pheasant but improvements also help deer.

636072 I would like to see a stop put on antlerless permits. I would like to see more information on what the Game and Fish would do to support Game management.

636081 Make landowner tages available for acreage than 160.

636101 Q18 G & H. You refused to help me.

638001 Q4. Summertime not bad, bunch up in winter time.

638009 Q8a. [name removed] gets it all!

638010 Would like to see out of state hunters able to get abuck tag if they have had a doe tag before, in same unit. It also would be nice if people who hunted school ground would talk to the renter so they would know who is out there. Also more orange should be worn.

638026 Q14 C & F - These 2 issues need some major attention by the GFP. As a landowner and rural resient I feel all road hunting needs to come to a stop! Whether road hunting small or large game, it is not fair or safe for landowners or residents of rural areas. I have no hunting and safety zone signs posted around my house and still have road hunters stopping to shoot pheasants in my yard. As a parent of small children it scares me to death to have my kids playing in my yard during the season and that is not fair to me or them.

638037 Q8B - After much complaining

638039 Any habitat that I have for the wildlife is just a magnet for the coyotes and nobody is managing the coyotes around here.

638044 Everyone wants the trophy buck. If it's a buck only licenses a doe needs to be shot first and signed off on by law enforcement. Same thing for multiple license tags.

654001 Q16a. WHY?

654018 We have had damage on several vehicles (3) due to deer. No one was injured or killed but costly to us! We would be in favor of more licenses given and we do let not only our county residents to hunt but other in SD and out of state. My husband says to have a bounty on them.

654020 You guys are doing a great job. Forget about the tree huggers, etc. Those people don't know what they are talking about, no experience etc. Good example is the Siberian Husky in Sioux Falls when the lady left him outside for awhile. Everyone on facebook sided with her. Animal control or whoever arrested her did not know what they were doing. Very good example of people not knowing what they were doing. Keep up the good work. You can't please everyone, remember that.

654028 We have far too many coyotes killing the pheasant population.

654057 Total lack of consideration for an injured animal after I reported it to the local conservation officer. It took 2 days for a response!

654060 Harvesting more deer would help, more double tags, make hunters less selective. Do not lengthen season - there is plenty of time to kill a deer - the hunters who don't get one are passing on too many in search of a trophy buck. The deer are a major problem to new tree groves and feed piles and bales. I would like them all shot! Many people enjoy hunting, including myself but the deer do a lot of damage. Q9. It depends on the hunters - Some are more of a problem than the deer.

654063 Road hunting & trespassing is biggest complaints with any hunting season in SD. Out of state or out of area hunters get a tag from GFP, then expect landowners to allow unlimited access to their land. As a result of road hunting/trespassing we have shut down access to over 10,000 acres in SD except to family and a select few friends. GFP needs to quit buying private properties with public tax dollars. Go fundraise from private donors if you want to buy land. It is hard enough to get established as a producer without having to compete against your own tax dollars. Quit cutting tag numbers back, when I can drive 3 miles either side of my farm & see 10 dead deer hit by cars. There are too many. Out of curiosity could GFP public the Boone & Crocket state record for whitetail taken out of season by Kenworth Semi tractor. I think I may have a state record.

654064 Let us apply for landowner license when we own 120 acres not just 160 acres for we own the land, we should be allowed to apply to get the licenses

654066 Q16A includes cover crops

654070 Q16a. Have 5 acres of trees usually leave 4 or 5 acres or corn unharvested for the deer.

654071 Q4. I raised a large garden and sometimes deer do damage to it.. Q6. Garden and evergreen trees. I have some shelter belt trees but am 89 years so don't plant or care for more.

654093 Q9. I already have many hunters that come regularly. If more were present it would probably result in less deer harvested because of hunter interference (congestion)! I have rented my land out to a large farming operation which cleared rock piles and removed old fences. The harvesting operations are very efficient leaving very little waste grain products. Also I rent my pasture to the neighbors for replacement heifers. The remaining grass acres I use to put up hay and sell. Bottom line about all this is simply that deer numbers have dropped in he last 5 years on my farm probably because of less desirable feed resources. Deer and pheasants, from my observations like to hang around livestock operations because of the feed wagon in the winter months.

659009 Q6. Rubbing on the trees

659027 I think the seasons should just be long, giving hunters more opportunity to scout and plan hunting outings. Also, pay more attention to depredation problems and put more permits for hunting season in the chronic areas. Along with longer season this would make managing more practical and public friendly. GFP gets a black eye the more the anti's hear of having to put down through depredation herd reduction.

663032 My major complaint is with CO [name removed]. He does not return phone calls, and when asked face to face he said "he gets lots of calls" and couldn’t recall mine even though I left a message on his house phone on Thanksgiving Day 2015. His response is typical. Many others in my area concur - he is arrogant, self-important and has very poor PR skills. He is a waste of my hunting dollars and taxes! You may share this with

his superviosr (who is n0t doing their jobs) because this is not a new problem. Farmers/Ranchers have been upset with [name removed] for years! Wake up, he brings no credibility to the Dept. He is despised!

663035 Our family enjoys mule deer. I think the whitetails need to stay to the north of our ranch and we see some infringing on our mule deer habitat. We do not allow much hunting on our ranch thinkg we hold a good doe population and get some nice bucks show up as a result. We feel the deer need some place where the hunting is restricted. The deer on our ranch provide lots of opportunity for people to observe deer in their natural habitat.

663044 With deer it don't matter they have enough stuff to go in and will go where they go, it doesn't matter how much you plant for them they go where they want.

663048 GFP sells deer license corret? They benefit from the farmers and ranchers allowing the deer to graze and eat crops, yet the farmers and ranchers receive "no" payment for what they have invested in the deer population. I feel this is wrong! Do I have a solution that would solve this problem for me? No, but when I see 5 or 6 brand new GFP vehicles heading in the same direction with 1 person in each vehicle I feel as though that is a waste of money! I could go on about other topics but I'm running out of room. Lucky for you I guess.

663063 Youth season should be longer and allow them to shoot up to free deer. Work with the landowners to secure locations for youth to hunt. Need to harvest more does. Deer problems will greatly increase if we have a hard winter.

663069 Q5c. 6 and counting. Q9. Good, not stupids who just drive around shooting from section lines into my property. Q10g. Still get idiots driving into (through) fences leaving gates open at walk in pastures. Q18d. For Deer? Q18k dumb idea in CSP. GFP should take a more active role in educating public on illegal to shoot from section lines into property in which people have no permission to hunt. Driving around in a pickup on opener morning and chasing deer is wrong. Walk in does not mean drive in (need GFP officials to police this). Go to bars on opener night without GFP uniform on and listen to drunk poachers then bust them.

663078 Wonder if you have a "handle" on #'s of deer road killed - & data on traffic - seems to me much more traffic, more trucks on road. I wonder ow influential to your management decisions are complaints from motorists who've hit a deer - guess we can't keep folds off the road at night but makes me sad to see all the deer killed - I don't think many even think about it. It wouldn't fly but 55 mph speed limit after dark? Also, how big a factor is the epizootic Hemorrhaging disease anymore? Seems like here, populations have not recovered much since the outbreak. Another "wish" that probably woul dnot happen is increase hunter "competence" somehow. I wince when I hear all the fusillades of shots and am afraid mostly from .223's. Should only be one shot/deer and then a big boom. Most states don't allow 22 centerfises for good reason. They're suitable only for an excellent marksman close range even then, those .22 slugs don't usually hae the penetration. Seems like use of vehicles illegally is not as bad as use to be but still goes on, one of my pet peeves.

663080 Afte 2nd week of deer season - the deer go in to hiding and are very scared, very few get harvested late, we just have to put up with unhappy hunters that cannot fill tags.

663089 Need stiffer fines & penalties for violations.

663097 Commerical guides abuse walk in areas by driving their hunters to a walk in area and allow them to walk through the area. The guide will drive to the opposite end of the walk in area and pick them up with their bus. The guide does not guide them through the area but transports huntes with their vehicles to the walk in area (not all guides are involved in the above activity , most abide by the laws and regulations).

663104 Limit buck tags - charge more - split seasons - too many people hunting at same time. Be more aggressive on trespassing. Talk to landowners about deer population.

DAU 7

730004 Q14. drive throug a field and cut fence to get through other side. We need hunter management and a lower number of deer. Maybe all hunters need a county atlas so they do not have an excuse for being on the wrong land and know where to send the money for the wrecked fences.

730010 The last 40+ years the land I own/lease has supported 50+ head of whitetail deer. In my opinion the landowner should not have to pay SDGFP to harvest 1 or 2 head/year. The reasons for my opinion are, I already spend my time, stopping harvest to give or refuse hunting permission, maneuvering around parked vehicles on the road. I usually give permission if no one else is hunting. I am appreciative of the hunters that do ask permission. I'm sure GFP are not aware of the expense and inconveniences imposed on landowners because of deer hunters. One year I lost a young healthy cow do to a hunter I was unaware of. A dead cow, a gut pile and a rib cage in a straight line within 50 yards of all 3parts of the evidence. Free hunting for the landowner/leasee would be a small gesture of appreciation to the landowner from GFP.

730025 In the last 5 years we went from way too many deer (I lost several thousands of dollars) to about right now. I didn’t really know how to answer some of the questions when they covered so many years.

730026 There is an extreme deer population in Gregory County and because we have a deer problem, why are there tags that are denied? This makes no sense to us.

730032 1. Poaching is a big problem. Private property is not sufficiently respected. More effective means are needed to manage , need more game wardens for example or heavier fines. 2. GFP needs to explore and develop effective means of deer population control other than sole reliance on killing them by licensed hunters. 3. Expanded deer hunting severely limits my freedom of movement on and use of my land. It is not a good option for the landowner.

730036 Can't plant young trees. Deer just destroy them strip the bark off. Multiple tags don't work they get the buck shot and then don't coe back. I have herds of up to 150 to 200 that come around when the ground gets covered with snow. Looking for feed. I am living 4 miles northeast or Dallas. I look for the herds to get bigger.

730045 Had a corn field of 142 acres and deer ate half of the field and cost me $50,000 and GFP did nothing.

730052 I own land in Gregory County, I'm finding more gates left open, more trespassing. I don’t charge anyone to hunt if they ask. There has been a lot of people hunting without permission. If this keeps up, I will close all hunting on my property. There are

a few people who are going to ruin it for everyone else. I don't like people chasing them with pickups, I see this all the time.

730056 Q20H. Mostly 4 pheasants.

730060 Q8b. Pretty good - but after the fact of losing over 200 fir trees. Q16a. Have no choice of the matter. Q16B. All the deer use it out of 1500 acres.

730065 1. There are too many deer througout the state of South Dakota (as evidenced by the quantity of dead deer along almost every highway in every direction). I am surprised that the insurance industry hasn't tried to take on this issue (to date). 2. Deer hunting should be more "sporting" and require more effort/skill than it prsently does. In this area, the vast majority of hunters fill their tags in 1 day and report "passing" on several before actually shooting at deer. This is another indication that the deer population is too large. 3. More emphasis should be given to help hunters donate deer meat to various food assistance entities. More hunters would apply for multiple tags if they had an easy way to donate game.

730068 I think there should be more out-of-state licenses made available but they should have land to hunt on with the landowners signature on their application. Also, these hunters should be able to apply a month ahead of other applicants.

730071 Q7. Deer have to eat, I will put with thtat to have deer on my land.

730077 Q16A - for pheasants. Q16B - For pheasants

730081 In my opinion there wouldn't be very much trouble with over population if it wasn't for paid hunting and only a few deer harvested in a large area, spilling over into the population at large.

730091 GFP is in ths for the money not wildlife. Let us decide how lmany and what type of wildlife to harvest on our lands. We feed them, see them every day, know which ones need harvested (problem animals) and which ones need to mature for breeding stock. You guys just work on numbers and how much cash you need to support your jobs. Too many out of staters & game farms now. It's made enemies out of neighbors and ruined hunting.

730099 I have way too many deer. Every night I have 50 head around or near my corn pile & corn crib. I have to put bales around where I can to block their access. We need more antlerless tags & fewer buck tags. I provide free access to hunters & they still take the little 3pt & 4pt bucks over does. I tell them to leave the bucks and take the does and come back next year for the bucks, few listen! Q9. If doe tags only.

730100 Instead of a double or triple tag choice offer just antlerless tags like you do for elk. That would give people that just want meat the opportunity to hunt just for meat. Too many tags go unfilled with the 2 or 3 tag system because everybody wants a "buck" and no does. They only need one deer but get extra tags because it is easy to get two tags over 1 tag. If sportsmen want to hunt and are unsuccessful in the buck drawings. Give them the doe only option. I like that you cancelled the antlerless part of the rifle season as bucks that had dropped antlers already were being harvested. Bucks are not the main problem. Buck to doe ratio here is way heavy on does or antlerless deer.

730125 They cost me a lot of money - and I get nothing in return. All I see is GFP getting rich off of us. Q12 West river should be year round

730141 Q16B - Planted trees for wildlife at least 10 acres of trees

730146 My farm is located by the river hills. Deer come by the hundreds to my fields in late summer & fall. It's all paid hunting to the north of me , maybe you should make every trophy hunter shoot a doe first and check it in before a buck.

730149 I have deer and turkey hunters to supplement my income. Therefore I am very interested in maintaining a good management practice concerning my land.

730155 SD GFP needs to increase the number of non resident special buck tags for west river SD. 500 nonresident tags is not enough tags to meet the number of applications. Hunters plan their trip and take vacation time early in the year. SD loses a lot of friends when nonresident deer huners apply and don't draw a deer tag. These nonresidents then go to Canda or other states on their deer hunt. SD will never see these hunters again. This negative image is not conductive to what SD wants topromote to the hunting industry. It sure doesn't promote a positive image of the GFP to SD farmers & ranchers who own the land that west river special bucks nonresient hunters need permission to hunt, and have th elandowners name on the nonresidents application. If GFP in cooperation with landowners doesn't properly manage deer numbers, mother nature will manage deer numbers and the result is not pleasing for anyone.

730162 We have about 100 deer on our property spring, summer and fall. They leave us during the winter. Our biggest problem is tree damage in our shelter belts.

730176 I like your feed the hungry program. Issue a number of antlerless only tags at a reduced price to anyone who lives in the county with a problem. Make anyone with a 2 tag draw fill their antlerless tag before their antler tag.

730188 I am in Gregory County and adjoin Tribal land. There seems to be no limit to their season. They are constantly trespassing/cutting fences and sneaking on our property. I'd like to see GF&P and tribal keep similar seasons and enforce trespass laws and show a greater presence in tribal areas.

730192 The deer are over populated on some ground that I farm. They are causing major crop damage. Some family members could not get a doe license in Gregory County.

730194 Q9. Because no one wants to shoot does.

730196 Need a game warden in Gregory County, not another deputy sheriff.

741003 Q6. The damage was in Lyman and Tripp Counties. I have land that was damaged in other counties. As I mentioned previously, my deer issues are in all of the counties we own land in, not just Jones.

745000 How can we obtain more deer licenses for out of state deer hunters? Walk in areas should be used for grazing or haying and it won't hurt the hunting on these lands, much of the land you pay for disturbed habit should be as good for hunting as undisturbed!

745007 Let the landowners have more rights when and hard to hunt as we feed and pay taxes on the land these animals survive on without our land there would be no hunting.

745015 We live along the Big White River where deer habitat is abundant without us doing anything to improve it. As I indicated, I am happy with the deer present population. We lease 621 acres from School & Public Lands, hence the indication that we have walk inarea.

745016 We do cover crop in wheat stubble

745019 Q9. Not much

745020 Q13. Too Long

745049 Q14 - Hunting the wrong area. Kill more coyotes w/the plane in Feb./March time frame and your wildlife will come back.

745050 Put less buck tags out and more doe tags. People aren't shooting the does. Or put a point restriction on the bucks to manage for bigger deer and less shot. The mule deer in are unit 45B are very low in numbers, had a big die off and would like to see less mile deer tags put out.

745069 Q15f. only for does. Q20. Increase doe tags to manage deer.

745070 I feel that you need to extend the Antlerless season or re-open it after Jan. 1st. Too many people are unsuccessful filling an any deer tag and shoot small undeveloped bucks just to get a buck. Any deer should turn into any antlerless and the season should be extended!

745074 Should increase out of state licenses because less trouble with them being habitual poachers. Don't believe in giving more than two licenses to anyone (especially if not a landowner). Q15 - options C,D,E and F all are bad idea. Poachers use doe tags as cover (reason to be in the field with a gun). If they see that special deer they can shoot it and retrieve it after hours. Grant more out of state licenses, they increase local business.

745080 Need more mule deer.

745081 I strongly believe SD GFP needs to look into changing the West River firearms season. The open days fall during the rut. I believe SD would have old and bigger deer if the season was later in November. I have many fellow hunters I know feel the same. Another suggestion I have is looking into a point restriction on bucks. Again, I feel that would help get a more mature herd. I also think the fewer mule deer tags the better or make them youth only, or archery only. They are far too easy to harvest with a firearm. I don't want to see the limited herd disappear. Thanks for reading my comments. Being born and raised in SD and hunting is something I'm very proud. I hope to see the deer herd continue to thrive. Thank you for putting this survey out. I've been wanting to comment for years. I hope fellow landowners and hunters alike feel as I do. Should also issue landowner tags that can be sold to out of state hunters. Sometimes they do not get drawn, thus less income for state and landowners. Thanks

745099 Q18. I don't believe in use of tax follars to improve one's own land. Pay for it yourself, I do.

760007 Q16a. We have a lot of natural habitat.

760035 Q18d & e. Looked into these programs, but regulations hurt normal haying practices. I appreciate you at GFP for asking the landowner for our input and opinions on deer management. Reducing the tag numbers in 2015 was a bad idea. Northern Tripp County still has an excess population. I would like to see a management plan that would severely reduce the whitetail population so that the whitetail don't over populate the mule deer. It looks to me that the whitetails are having twins while the mules are having singles. A major problem we have in this area is hunters plowing up our dirt roads and section lines when it is muddy. Muddy so as to minimize road maintance by townships (often township governments don't have funds to fix these roads) and also often deer season ends we have to deal with rutted up roads all winter long after the hunters are gone. Another thing that strikes in my craw is "sportsman" who hunt for

'horns'. I have heard numerous times about somebody boasting about the big rack, but the meat was so strong and tough that they had to throw away the meat. We host two families with children that come here for family time. It is quite an honor to go into these families honor and they tell us and remince about each child getting their first deer on our ranch. These are the 'true sportsmen' not the braggarts that baha around in their $60,000 pickups. We see fewer and fewer youth participating in hunting.

760036 I enjoy seeing the deer we have. We have larger groups during winter but they spread out during warmer months. I have not had a problem with cattle feed in the winter. Some mini damage in summer. I think we have a good hunt able population of deer.

760067 Q15. Shoot antlerless first then antler.

760070 Antlerless tags should be just for whitetail deer and not mule deer.

760085 Rifle Deer: In my opinion it would be beneficial to both the hunters and deer populations to having a split season. Some what like Gregory County does. I think if the season strictly coincides with the rut it doesn't allow some of the better bucks to pass their genes. It seems to be a competition across the country to get the biggest buck and the biggest bucks are harvested each season, mostly pre-rut or during rut leaving the less desirable bucks to breed most of the does. I think it has weakened our deer herd. Pay hunting has a share to do with this also, if someone is paying thousands of dollars they expect to harvest a decent deer. Maybe sometimes a buck that looks big to someone from the eastern US but is isn't mature yet is harvested, most likely unknowingly. Archery deer: I would like to see more opportunity for archery hunters to get more than one buck tag. Rifle hunting allows for many chances to get buck tags. Maybe a limited issue draw for archery tags would allow for leftover buck tags in some counies. Not just an unlimited number of tags, resulting in one tag and you're done.

760090 Reduce cost of licenses. Lowest cost more will be sold.

760092 I left the farm and rented it out.

760096 I see down by the River on the highway someone put red pain on the road in spots or blood from a deer. I think it would slow cars down if you would put them spots where there is deer crossings. It would make people take not and slow down.

760104 I would like to see it made mandatory that if a hunter has multiple tags (example 2 doe 1 buck) that they have to fill the doe tags before they can fill the buck tag.

760105 Q9. Too many road hunters.

760106 Please split Tripp County back into North and South halves, as it used to be. The deer populations are different and the species are different. The two halves of Tripp County are still larger than many east river counties. Tripp County is too large for GFP to manage effectively as one unit. Seasons are plenty long as they are. The only way to reduce deer populations without a massive die off is to force or coerce hunters into taking more does. Mule deer in North Tripp are currently dropping in population. We have not taken mule does in two years. Whitetail deer along the Big White River are rebounding from the 2012 die off. Now is the time for you guys to issue whitetail doe tags to keep this population from exploding.

760110 I haven't hunted deer for many years, but I think it's very unethical that gfp charge landowners to hunt deer or anything for that matter.

760115 Q2. I only own 40 outright, but have ownership shares in 20,000 acre [name removed]. I am not actively involved in that operation so I don't put down landowner preference. My sons and I hunt the family ranch and I am familiar with deer numbers and hunting activity.

760119 Tripp county has a very high number of road hunters during the firearm season, resulting in many trespass violations and a fairly unsafe condition for residents and property, ie buildings, cattle, horses, etc. I don't know if it would be financially feasible to add a part time Game Warden from opening pheasant season to the end of deer firearm season or not. But it should be given some consideration.

760131 Landowners could get several tags to do with as they see fit on their own land. Shoot a antlerless deer & check it in before shooting a buck.

760144 I think landowners should be able to purchase a muzzleloader tag as you can for rifle season! I have applied and not drawn a muzzleloader tag, if I cam feeding these animals all year long I think a landowner should be able to purchase a tag.

760148 Q11. Did get a deer hunting license.

760152 At this point not implemented in to law but awareness on the GFP website and also on the deer license paper work to allow the small young bucks to grow to maturity. Would like to see bucks of 3 years of age or older taken instead of shooting all those baby bucks. It would give more hunters an opportunity to harvest a nice buck rather than shooting a head hanger (ntohing really to be proud of). Make pictures available to hutners that show antler size. 1 year through 6 years to give them an idea of what a couple of years of body growth can do. If you need the meat shoot a doe, let the little bucks grow.

760156 Q15. Leave things the way they are.

760166 All land in Lyman County but border Tripp on West and South boot of Lyman. Whitetail weren't managed at all with all time high 2009-2010. Saw the blue-tongue in bucks found 15 dead. Next year bucks, does, kids (42 dead) They need to be shot heavily early. Mulie have a brain disease here in 2010 went from 400 in winter to 200 by next winter. They have stabilized now 100-150 in winter. Whitetail low but growing (peak 400) now 60.

760173 The Game Fish & Parks gives free seed for plots in Winner. I have operated a seed business for 5 years and have yet seen any or been contacted by anyone. And on years we have good deer population I have had several town people tell me they were denied a license. I am for cutting back licenses if deer #'s aren't there. I think it should go back to South Tripp and North Tripp. The way it is now all together, we have more road hunters and out of town hunters that think everything is theirs to hunt AKA Sioux Falls hunters. Local hunters tend to respect land ownership more than out of town or out of state. Also have had trouble with Omaha Neb. Hunters that seem to get tags every year.

760176 I feel that farmers/ranchers hould have ability to buy deer tags from SDGFP and distribute to hunters who have an interest in hunting their property. Often, I have people who would like to hunt but don't get drawn for tags. It makes it nearly impossible to schedule hunters (usually out of state) when we don't even know if they will get a license. It seems to me that both the SDGFP and property owners would benefit/profit form this. The bottom line is…just because someone has a tag for my area, it doesn't mean I will let them hunt. If I had the tags for those who want to hunt

my property, then they would, obviously, be able to hunt. With the rising land taxes and property prices, the landowners should be able to market a product in which they feed year round and try to re-gain some money for damages that result every year to their crops/feed supplies. I brought this same point up several years ago but received no feedback from GFP. I would love to hear why a program like this would not work! I have yet to find a farmer/rancher who was opposed to doing something like this!

760186 I think tax paying landowners should be given free x number of resident and nonresident deer tag or tags that they can sell. Q9. Deer hunters do more damage than the deer. Q10. You forgot trespass.

760187 Q4. Very section have any around. Q9. We do not allow many people into hunt. Q20. We have a dam's fenced off.

760199 Poaching has been a major problem in NW Tripp County for years. When I planted CRP the mule deer left and white tails showed up. When I planted CRP the prairie chickens left and have not returned. Our pheasant, prairie chicken, whitetail deer and mule deer have virtually disappeared in the last 5 years. Blue tongue has been a major problem on my ranch for about 4 years. Our farm is 33% wildlife habitat, 33% farm ground and 34% pasture.

760202 I have land in Lake and Rames Townships. The deer population in the 2 townships is at a very low population of deer. Lots of west river disease. Mostly whitetail deer. North 1/2 of Tripp coutny has lots of deer. South 1/2 is bad.

760216 The GF&P should pay the deductible of every vehicle damaged by deer or any other wildlife governed by the GF&P. As for loss of lives or injuries of people due to deer or other wildlife. I would like to see that survey!

760227 Maybe some landowner only tags could be given when the other seasons are closed. We are usually pretty busy during regular seasons.

760229 The deer in our area creat tremendous damage in our area crops, etc. Last year we spend over $20,000 in tires alone that we ruined from running over sheds in our fields. Trespassing and abuse from hunters driving around is also a problem. Hunters drestroy our county roads by driving in area during muddy conditions. Illegal hunting out of vehicles and abuse of road hunting is a severe problem that does not seem to be stopped by GFP personnel .

760234 You have license fees to low, should raise them to $150. Also, should have transfer tags for people giving them away. Deer transfer tags should be $150 each. Looks really bad, people driving around town with pickup load of deer trying to give them away. Might want also, to look at goint to .243 diamety bullets for deer. Better look at reloading books at AR-223 bullet energy. These are 1-8 twiest barrels for up to 80 gr. Bullets. Most of these heavy bullets in 22 cal. Are hollow point which are not recommended for hunting. Last is fines - need to be increased for leaving deer lay. Alaska has fines for this. This is a problem on walk in ground.

760239 I rent the land out and cannot know the answers to the questions asked.

<u>DAU 8</u>

25 Q16a They are just there. Q17a. What are mule deer? Sorry, but where have all the mule deer gone. Q18f. Already have. Q20H. Crop Residue. Our family turned in a

deer "baiting" complaint on a fellow (now farmer habitat guy) no results! Can antelope be added to the varmint list? Now, they cause more damage than deer and they don't run in front of auto's at dusk.

68 How come landowners don't get to hunt a week before everyone else. They feed and take care of the wildlife year around. But the landowner has to compete with everyone else to kill a deer he has been watching all season. Maybe landowners may have a better attitude toward's the Game and Fish. They don't wake the Game & Fish up in the middle of the night when they hit a deer they have to wake the farmer up.

84008 I am all for pheasants not deer. I am not a deer hunter and I don't like deer meat. I don't like deer in my yard ruining my garden foods and killing the new trees and shrubs I plant. Last year I struck a deer with my car almost $5k damage. I would like to know how to drive them off away from my yard/garden.

84033 We have large herds of deer 946 one year) that spend way too much time on my property in the winter/spring. I open my land to all hunters free. I'm irritated at the night time scouting just before season opens. Pheasant hunters (usually out of state) are polite and social and perhaps have a few beers in town after the hunt. Deer hunters are intrusive, presumptuous, littering, (usually local in state) hunters. I stereo type them as 4 wheel drivers tearing up fields and drinking a few whiskey drinks while hunting. This is probably because our deer hunters average age is 20 - 40 and our pheasant hunters are 40 - 70. Pheasant hunters send cards and small gifts throughout the year. Deer hunters have no contact until pre deer season and then insult us by acting like long lost best friends and the few that do give us something, usually give the unwanted deer salami.

84056 I just signed up 166 acres in CRP. Asked if a food plot could be planted in that field. Was told yes, but would not be paid on those acres. How stupid on GF&P! Archery hunters should not have all fall to kill the big bucks. The new bows are very deadly.

87004 I have 12 acres in Yankton County. I cannot do anything with it. I do have 304 acres in Brule County that I do manage for wildlife.

87013 Minnesota public TV has a great program about their state and hunting, why doesn't SD have something like this? Nebraska has on 840AM radio station a couple times a week about their hunting seasons, also what lakes fishing is good and what fish are biting. Very sad that we live in SD with all kinds of hunting and fishing and we have nothing on our public tv or radio stations. On the Conservation Digest calendar why do you not put the dates for applications to be sent in? Once question you asked do we need more hunters, NO! I had to wait 25 years to hunt, until I was able to buy land to hunt on.

87028 I am 79 years old. I own the land, my sone and grandsnos farm and hunt deer on the property.

87037 I hunted WR mule deer for years in Tripp County. For the past 2 years I failed to draw tags even though the rancher that owns the land I normally hunt said he was seeing more deer than ever. He also said that there were a tremendous number of car/deer accidents happening. I guess I don't understand what happening. I guess I don't understand what the hell is going on where a landowner has dozens of mulies crapping on his silage pile but yet I can't get a tag to hunt his ranch.

88039 Q4b. I own land in Butte County also. There we have many, many mule deer.

88045 Less restrictions for landowners shooting coyotes on their own propertyat night!

88060 It is terrible to try & get trees going. We have spent $1000+ dollars to try to start trees and between deer eating them & when in rut wrecking the cattle panels we put around the best trees (about 50) it is so hard. I have a nephew who is tree crazy and helps plant-water-panel the trees but sometimes it's a losing battle.

412019 Q4. I have many acres in trees. Excellent deer habitat.

412021 Establish a "landowner" deer season that starts on the same day as pheasant season and ends on Dec. 31.

412030 Coyotes in the area may hurt the young deer population

412031 Q9. They do as much damage.

412044 Q8a. Not yet but plan on calling them for help! Q10. people we know as we have livestock to watch out for. Q12 & 13. Don't hunt don't know. We have way too many deer in our area, coming up close to house in groups and destroying young trees. We recently hit a deer coming up lane and took out headlite on truck. We have way too many coyotes too even they can't get rid of the deer hunters in area kill at least 60 coyotes each season and that leaves many to kill deer, but in still leaves too many deer. They both are out of control in this area.

810023 I farmed for 40 years and now I live on 5 acres surrounded by 13 acres of trees so I know deer.

810028 Landowners - producers should have access to licenses for clients - hunters the same as with small game. This would allow us to promote deer hutning in conjuction with our pheasant hunting. Many hunters ask how they can hunt my deer and all I say is good luck!

813003 There are too many deer in my area. Doing damage to trees.

813015 Stop big game hunting on state owned railroad right of way. It is a license to trespass or shoot deer off the railroad righto of way. A no brainer!

813018 Q9. No need neighbors slauter enough. Q16a. I do for pheasants.

813028 I think SD GFP does a pretty good job managing the deer population. Promoting the sport of hunting and conservation to our young people is very important.

813034 Q16A & Q17A. For pheasants but deer are too.

813038 Q9. Too much traffic - tear up fields when wet. Q20. Land PX - too expensive

817000 I am not a supporter of archery deer hunting. Too many deer live with an arrow stuck in them. The archery hunter has to sometimes go for miles looking for their deer.

817016 Since 2012 haven't had enough deer to apply for license, on east river deer.

817024 This is a waste of time.

817041 Deer numbers are very low in my area. I would like to see them higher. I provide lots of cover and food plots. We lost most of the deer herd in the drought of 2012. I would like to increase habitat and water sources for all wildlife. Send a GF&P a wildlife manager out to see me and make a plant to increase wildlife numbers. I enjoy seeing wildlife on my property and the hunting experiences with my family, friends, and neighbors.

817045 In my estimate blue tongue eliminated 75% of the whitetail in 2012. This population is slowl rebounding. Prior to the blue tongue epidemic the whitetail population was out of

control. While this allowed for excellent hunting it caused excessive crop damage and made for dangerous driving at night.

817052 I found it very hard to receive a landowner/operator deer this year. I have allowed (parent), supervised to young boys and girls to hunt deer or waterfowl on my property. This has worked well for me. I have had no problems on my property. I am presently working on trying to purchase 80 more acres of land in one parcel by already established land which consist of 80 acres (50 ac. Farmable) and 30 ac grass/wetland, adjoining my present property and would let supervised youngest hunt that as well.

817058 Q9. We don't let anybody else hunt our land. Q13. Start Nov 14, omit 2nd season. Q15. Refer to q13 - my comment.

817060 Q4. Before the EHD die off in 2012 the deer population was way to high. Numbers are about right now. Q9. Hunting pressure doesn't seem to have much effect on crop damage along heavily wooded areas. There is already plenty of hunting pressure in this area due to tribal permits. Crop damage is still fairly significant along theses areas. The EHD outbreak in this area significantly reduced the deer herd in 2012. Deer numbers seem to be rebounding fairly fast in certain areas. More licenses may help if the landowners with high concentrations of deer allow hunting without a fee!

817067 In regards to Q12 & 13 it's a little hard to answer those questions because it depends on the year & the weather. The last couple of years the deer have left are area halfway through the deer season because of the early cold. So I don't know that you'd want to start earlier or have a longer season. I know 4 or 5 years ago when that disease came through the deer it really hit the population hard inour area. We lost 12 deer alone on our property, four of which were nice bucks. So we are still recovering from that so the last few years we haven't seen a lot of deer. In the last year we've finally had a couple doe stick around through the year until winter when they migrate. Prior to the disease I felt like we had a nice herd and good management. Now we're starting all over. We have a couple of stock dams with trees and undisturbed grass and also plant crops nearby. So it's just going to take time. Hope this has been helpful.

817070 Q10. To much poaching going on. Q15. Have the season same as Tribal.

817071 I am of the opinion that deer populations need to be managed and more aggressively by the GFP. When populations get to high (like 3-4 years ago) we get problems with crop damage, feed damage, vehicle damage and disease problems in the deer population. It was sad to see suffering and dead deer lying around, when I feel this could be avoided by better deer population management. It is amazing to me how quickly the population has rebounded in the last year. The population seems about right at the present time, bt warning this quickly changes too many and you guys seem to be slow to get a head of this. Sorry if you don't like my opinion, but I think it would help to be more proactive. I wish somehow there could be a requirement to take a doe before being allowed to have a buck tag, but I don't have any ideas how to implement this idea in an organized fashion.

825012 When cold and snow move in, deer move to River area.

825047 I live in Charles Mix County and drive to Mitchell every Tuesday evening to bowl. The deer are in plenty along Betts Road in Northern Douglas County and South Davison County. There were some Tuesday trips that wanted several hundred deer in roughly 8-10 mile stretch from a mile south of the Dimmock Road to the interstate. It's good to

see the population come back this fast, but, I think there should be more licenses issued to maintain or even reduce numbers some.

834000 We have deer populations that are a lot lower than before! 3 years ago I believe many died. I would prefer that a requirement of 4 pt. or larger on bucks would improved the quality of our hunts. Everyone wants to shoot a buck, that why we have so few nice bucks. If the deer numbers get out of hand make a doe only season. That would get the number down and improve the buck population and size! I believe you will see an increase in the CRP acres in the next few years, lots of 60 plus year old farmers and a 10 year contract or 15 year! Paying $200o to $240 an acre, you can't make that farming it. Makes retirement look a lot better! The eat river deer and west river season always seem to be in the prime rut time making those larger bucks sitting ducks for rifle hunters. I'm an archer and love the time outdoors but watch a buck all year & wait and then see him shot off the road by a passer by kind of hurts! But I know you can't catch them all but the season could stand to be a week later.

834006 I am 92 so I rent my land out.

834007 Deer in east river should be reduced.

834019 Deer population is too high in Hutchinson County. More licenses are needed to keep population down to a manageable level.

834023 Q14g. Not experienced but a concern.

837015 The deer are doing a lot of damage to my corn fields.

837018 Why don't you offer a free deer license to landowners? After all theyprovide all the feed and property for the deer to survive. I think that a landowner knows best when deer are a nuisance, and probably would harvest them in a timely manner if a free license were made available to them.

837019 Don't harvest food plots wildlife eats year round.

837035 The deer population has grown very fast. Since the wasting disease they had a few years ago. I know the herd on my wetlands is at 15-25 deer and I see them go to my neighbor and eat his feed for his livestock. I think it's time for more hunters and longer seasons. At least for a few years then see what the deer population is then.

837055 Q4. Saw 1 mule deer buck, normally 20 in the fall. I live in Hutchinson County and since 2012 (EHD) we are making a slow come back. Please don't increase the amount of tags! Please listen to us out here and not your biologists or regional advisors. Brian Humphrey is doing a great job, please respect his opinion.

837080 I rent this land out.

840016 I think they could be managed better by teaching people successful ways to hunt and forget about special youth hunts, that only makes the deer spooky and unable to properly hunt. Better control of poaching and the "iron horse" method may also prove helpful.

851005 I have no complaint about deer management in SD. I live 4 miles west of Canova and 3 miles north in Miner County. We still have some good CRP in our area. We see lots of deer anytime day and night. They show no fear to human activity. My concern is that we can't have any large mature bucks, but have many 2 and 3 point bucks with lot sof antlerless deer.

856007 On this 58 acres in Sanborn County we have more deer than some people that have 1,000 acres. The guy that bow hunts on our property told me that he saw at least 8 to 10 bucks on this property. Having this many deer on our property, I can't get a landowners license because I don't own enough acres.

856014 After 42 years of (farming and ranching) I know wildlife and ag go together. My small problems on my farm are small. The young producer's need to make every acre count, so if enough dollars are spent to help them, then they would be more in favor of your programs. Help them if it is possible and leave us older producers out.

856029 Q14. Pheasant hunters are the worst.

856031 My problem is town people, shooting from roads, acroos land, by buildlings and trespassing. Thinking they have the right to do what they want and they own the deer. They don't have any land, they don't raise and feed and have the crop damage but they have the right to trespass and shoot at anything.

DAU 9

4 Q8A. But many years ago when winters were harder. Q9. Depending on the year.

7 Deer numbers in our immediate area seem to have dropped dramatically in the last 2-3 years.

30 Q5b. 2 are nice 50 a problem. Q16a. Any trees planted are destroyed. You never gave any ideas on the over population of deer. Maybe we should try to manage our over population. I'm tired of all these deer. Driving in the summer and fall months is no fun. It is also very expensive. Please do something. Your deer control them.

93019 Close the antlerless late rifle seasons!

93025 My land is leased to my son. My husband and I go to Mesa, AZ every year for 5 1/2 months. I do not feel I can give legitimate answers to this questionaire.

93031 Q7. E - 3 in 6 months, way too many deer. Q14 D - Smokers

93034 Deer numbers in our immediate area are down dramatically in the last 2 years.

93061 Need to do a better job of leeting some of the hunter know that a license is not a permit to hunt anywhere. We have had problems with hunting on land that is off the beaten path. They think because no one see's them they can hunt.

93073 Q14. Blocking approches. I farm 1500 acres, my hobby is growing trophy whitetails. Mild winters and cool summers really help. Biggest concern locally is all the tree belts that are being bulldozed. All the witner habitat is now gone and the deer lose, it's hard to argue with $7 corn.

93074 Q11. I retired from hunting 5 years ago.

93087 I've got 125 acres of CRP the NRES won't let me put a food plot in it. I would sure like to!

93091 If the pheasant season was shorter the deer would not get chased out of the cattail sloughs that they winter in. This past pheasant season the out of state hunters walked the cattails every day in the months of Nov. & Dec. The deer were chased out every day.

93098 Q10. There are no deer to hunt. Q15. It isn't to high there are no deer around. In my area there are no deer and the coyotes are thick, whatever deer there are, coyotes are getting. I live on the Brown, Marshall County line. The repore your game warden has with the public is non existent. I use to have him talk to kids about hunting but not no more, he lies worse than anyone.

93107 During the winter within a mile 1/2 there are close to 300 deer. They wreck trees, fences, their antlers pierce our tires and I am always worried about hitting them with my auto. I have to pick up the dead deer, GFP will not do that. During the summer there are trails through the wheat fields and they eat the tassels of the corn. I have tried to tell GFP that there are way too many deer but it seems to have fallen on deaf ears. I have let more people hunt but we ended up with way too many problems.

93109 Q16B. Pheasants

93117 If the GFP doesn't do something to control the coyote population we will not have any deer left. We went from having a decent deer population to next to none. The coyotes are getting most of the fawns.

93125 Q8A. Just this winter for the first time. Q16B. Try to keep deer from farmyard trees and shelterbelts. No use planting trees and shrubs - the deer just kill them all.

93190 We need more antlerless deer harvested and I am not in favor of increasing te length of the season because of livestock and roadway problems. Bottom line: we need to harvest deer in a way that has the least impact to the property and property operators. We have to live through the season and are the ones who have to manage the situation after the hunters are gone.

93204 I feel all landowners should get a double deer tag at a reduced price.

93221 If more deer tags are given, please only to local, landowner hunters. Out of state & game preserve hunters destroy our roads and once the roads are destroyed they go in fields. The are not safe. Plus, those that hunt private game preserves seem to think when they are done there, they can road hunt everywhere without respect to those sitting in the trees with their families.

93224 Way too many any-deer tags are called "buck tags" and are used to harvest anything with horns. I ran a RR in NE SD for years and the only deer moving and being chased during the day were horned. The any-deer season should be 4 days long and occur at the end of the regular season, after the rut and when more antlerless deer have been harvested. The hunting seasons are so long. Landowners have to put up w/idiot hutners for 5 months - Sept - Jan - ruining roads, infering w/harvest & blocking roads to approaches. SD has a wonderful wildlife resource and great cons. Officers to help protect it. Keep up the good work.

926003 I lease land, but its right on the county line - Walworth side

926011 I am not a hunter but have always allowed hunting when asked. Some people assume the answer is yes without asking however. My wife and I no longer live on the farm as we relocated to Aberdeen for medical reasons. A small acreage was enrolled in CRP last year and recently had conversation with Conservation Officer about walk in area payments. Some of the questions are left unanswered but I am willing to cooperate in ways that fit my needs.

926016 Did damage to newly planted trees close to yard las fall. I was surprised they were so close to the house. Need to wrap trees this fall. Only goingto plant perennials that deer don't like, no roses.

926042 We already have too many hunters on our farm. We really get tired of hunters everywhere! The deer get pushed off our land during the season and the hunters struggle to fill towards the end of the season. Now (in the spring) I have 50 deer coming into my hay yard and eating at our corn pile and if I drive through the trees I can find a herd of 200 head. They are supposed to be spread out, these deer hang around all summer and multiply and eat the edges of our crops! The edges of the corn fields by the trees show severe damage. We get tired of the deer and the hunters too. Some days (usually weekends) there will be 4 random hunters stop and they all want to visit for a while. This makes it hard to get the work done. It would help if the neighbors would allow more hunters to break up the heard that accumulates in the winter! Touchy subject!

926047 We have a neighbor that doesn't allow hunting deer. This has been going on for years, consequently, the deer all flock there during the season. Once the season is over, we are covered up with deer. Upwards of 1,000 or more. I don't know how that problem can be managed. Consequently, we con't encourage deer if possible.

926051 I have planted 4 new tree groves over the last few years. I had different types of fruit trees planted and the deer keep destroying those trees. Even though I planted the groves for livestock protection. I do enjoy seeing the deer use the shelter belts. Wildlife going about their business always seems to help me forget some of the day to day obsticles I seem to accumulate. More awareness would have been appreciated about deer eating the fruit trees from NRCS. I maybe would have stagered the trees, I don't know? Hopefully the trees will out grow the % of damage.

926060 Q9 Not sure

926084 Q16a. But not in this county.

926088 What bothers me is that when a deer is killed on the highway right of way and it has antlers, our conservation officers cut the antlers off but leave the carcass lay for either wildlife to eat or a contracted pick up person has to be notified. Why can't that conservation officer dispose of the carcass.

928016 There are many deer accidents between Seneca and Faulkton. Too many vehicles are damaged and a lot of deer are killed. I myself have hit 4. They need to be thinned out. I do not hunt deer or pheasants. I am not a hunter. At night many near misses and during the day. Always on guard when driving. What a shame to be in fear of hitting deer.

928020 I personally dislike deer. They cost me $4200 in pickup repair this year. They also destroyed one of my apple trees in Seneca.

928027 Q9. Because our neighbors herd and bait deer to their land during deer season, every year except this last year. Q11. We are busy combining and working cattle. Q13. Should be longer.

928028 The one thing I would appreciate from any local, state, or federal agnecy is that they would all use common sense when certain issues arise. In my book Common Sense goes a long way!

928038 Make it more friendly to out of state hunters. Issue more out of state licenses if the residents aren't using them. Make smaller hunting units so that areas of high deer numbers see more hunt pressure, the current system of units by county line only isn't working, we are in an area where 3 counties merge and in this 20 mile by 30 mile area on three counties we have too many deer in the winter. Make guest licenses

available i.e. landowner out of state frien dor relative hav direct connection as landowner acts as a sponsor.

928055 I have spent appox. $30,000 of my own $ on trees and the deer are very hard on certain types - Burdok for one and all my fruit trees. So I don't plant them anymore. I live on a main hwy and I clean up dead deer weekly from car and or truck kills in the road ditches mostly in the spring an suumer and fall. We have way too many deer, in our area, I have counted herds of 15 up to 56 mostly in the fall or winter.

928058 Get rid of the late season antlerless deer. Control Edmunds County for people driving cover with pickups and chasing deer.

928069 I would like to see the GFP fix and pay for all the damage pheasant and deer hunters do to our township roads and section lines! They are a mess because of hunters!

928071 Too many deer. Deer have destroyed several trees I have to put a pence around my garden to keep deer out or they destroy it.

947000 I had about 40 acres of turnips, radishes & barley as a cover crop and the deer spent lots of time grazing that. Also had some insurance (crop) strips that I did not harvest or graze, the deer enjoyed them too. At times I counted about 60 deer going in and out of my yard this winter. I would have expected problems with deer in my feed if we would have had a harsh winter. I have plenty of deer, but, I have also limited the number of hunters also. I would like to some bigger bucks that is the reason I've limited the number of hunters. I welcome archery hunting but limit rifle hunters. Archery hunters have better hunting ethics. I hate hunters that drive their pickups up and down roads and across fields. This needs to be addressed in hunter safety courses. Park the pickup, climb a tall hikk and scout for the deer. In some of the game production areas that are infested with brome grass I think spraying 30 feet and planting a crop such as oats, peas, turnips, radishes, corn, soybeans would spread out the wildlife and improve the habitat.

947001 I have a CRP contract and manage my Campbell County pastures with deer & wildlife in mind.

947004 There are a lot of double doe tags issued each year but my son and son-in-law, who are non-residents are unable todraw a single tag because the tags are already use up by the time they are eligible to apply. Issuing single tags would give them a chance to come home to hunt with me each year.

947006 There are too many deer on the roads at night!

947031 Q8a. Not lately but a few times the past during harsh winters.

947034 More CRP acres would help with deer habitat. Since the rent of crop land and CRP payment have grown apart it doesn't leave much room for deer or pheasants. When thee was more CRP the deer didn't seem to be as much of a problem! Maybe an program for pasture or hayground could help. Even the GFP land get grazed down too lmuch in this area.

947052 15 Deer white tail observed on land. 2 killed by cars, 1 taken by hunting.

947072 Q9. More hunters helps to rid of the deer, but the litter and open gates are a big issue as well.

947073 Q8b. After multiple requests. Q9. Tree damage occurs prior to beginning the hunting season. Q16a. Deer reproduce without management. They have no serious predators except automobiles and the diseases of our population. Deer are your asset and my

problem. Reparations for tree damages seem appropriate. SDGF&P could better utilize the dollars earned from deer tag sales by allowing the landowners to protect their homesteads. Consider what deer protection seriously cost GF&P at my home. Now consider what GF&P would lose in deer tag sales if as a landowner I irradiated the deer that come into my homestead. SDGF&P would save money letting the landowner protect their homestead.

947074 Q9. More tags would help not necessary more hunters.

947076 Q6. I was very upset of how this situation was handled. Q8b. Joe G. is a great guy and friend. It's how GFP wanted to put up corrals that would cost $$$ that doesn't make sense.

947082 When landowners apply for a buck tag or any tag, they should get it.

957000 Two years ago I had a shooting near my place as my home yard is surrounded by trees. I got in the car and drove out to investigate and the hunters were dragging a big buck deer out of my pasture next to a shelter belt. The person on the road by the pickup told me they shot the deer in the corn fild north of my house and it ran over on my land. Now these were local hunters and I knew they told me a bold face lie because my neighbor was out in his corn field combining and he later told me they never asked to hunt on his land and they never asked to hunt my land. They were local people who were abusing their hunting rights because they had no permission to be hunting on my tree strip nor on my neighbors corn field. I don't let anyone I don't know hunt in my tree strip because it surrounds my home.

957003 Cut down the high population of deer by hunting and giving the meat to the poor.

957012 One thing about deer season I do not like is all the town people that come out to the country & act like they own the land they hunt on. If it's wet they tear up all the dirt roads and do not care about the people who live out in the country. I have also been trying to establish a new tree shelterbelt the last few years & have had a real big problem with deer wrecking the new trees.

957022 I am 71 years old, I did not hunt last year at all. May not buy a license this year. My son Travis farms my ground. He however, does farm and manage grass - he has 40 acres. He never pastures and manages for wildlife. He also plants plots and manages other acres along Snake Creek where it enters the James River. I'm sure he would appreciate some support (financial assistance). He also never charges to hunt our property, we do not believe in pay hunting. We do however, keep it mainly for family the 1st week of the season, then control who hunts after that.

957032 You are doing a pretty fair job.

957044 Q5c - GFP should pay for damages to vehicles.

957058 We live next to HWY 281 it is very busy. We love deer and provide good habitat but are worried about deer crossing the highway from our property. We have in the past requested deer crossing signs but have had no response. We always have deer vehicle accident next to our property. Would like a better system for dead deer pickup by our property.

957064 I don't like early youth hunt! Kids have been hunting with their parents for years on opening day of the regular season and it worked well. That early season is just to early. I've seen some fawns with spots still on them when they have that season. If they kill the doe you got runt deer if the fawns make it. No need for that season!

957078 Increase predator control, more personable and friendly game wardens, steeper penalties and fine for violators and trespassers, encourage proper land management amoung hunters.

957092 I enjoy deer hunting in South Dakota, and have great respect for the land and wildlife. However, I have encountered more and more hunters who don't respect the land, laws and wildlife and come out hunting. I n the past year I have had deer hunters trespass and try hunting just feed from my house. I have had goose hunters mud up a field and leave there garbage behind (5 gallon pail full of spent shells spread across my corn stubble). My encounters with especially out of state hunters has really begun to sour me on hunting. I love the wildlife and like watching them out my window but hunters putting my family and my livestock in danger really irritates me. GFP needs to step up education and enforcement of hunting laws. They also need to educate the public that this is our land that we care very deeply about. Hunters need to come and show the same respect. No mud bugging township roads. No trespassing. No hunting near livestock. Clean up your trash and take it with you and first and foremost, ask permission.

957095 I am against opening a doe season in December/January for 2 reasons: 1) Certain years bucks have already lost their antlers. 2) It seems like more poaching goes on during the late season.

957101 Q16a. Save some crops.

957106 Q4. As long as they are not in danger of extinction, then there are too many. Q5. Not sure benefits outway problems caused by deer and deer hunters. Q9. Responsible local hunters should be allowed higher limits. I am not a big fan of irresponsible out of state hunters that carelessly leave ruts in roads, ditches, and fields. Q12. Archery hunters cause the fewest problems in my experience they should be promoted more.

957109 Way! Give more tags? No Way! Most farmers dread deer season in my area and can't wait for it to be over! We have had cattle shot at, our dog shot at! So far once - consider the other side of the avenue, not just the hunters side!

957125 Have had a landowner license every year for three years. Never shot a deer. Busy harvesting and ill health. Thank you. The only problem I have with deer are my trees. They like to destroy the small ones and take bark off the bigger ones. Vegetarian old Indian word for poor hunter

957126 Q7. New seedings. Q13. 10 days too early. Q15 Antlerless 2 weeks before buck season. My home place is located on [description removed]. My operation consists of stock cows, fed cattle, grain, pastures, and alfalfa. I am a permitted CAFO operation, with lagoon and nutrient management plan. In 2012 along the banks of Cottonwood Lake and Creek pastures up through, the Bald Mountains and back south, we conservatively lost 250 deer due to blue tongue. Prior to 2012 in Jan, Feb, March in tougher winters approximately 200 - 300 deer will bunch up within a 2 - 3 mile radius of the feed lot. This year during the coldest 2 weeks around 70 deer would feed. I leave 5 to 10 acres, of corn for wildlife food, virtually every year it keeps the deer away from, my feed stockpiling site most years, barring an unusually harsh winter. I am a 58 year old rancher, father of 4 daughters, who have had deer licenses since they were old enough to hunt, they have grown now, and it is difficult to find the time to hunt like they did when they were 14-18 years old. I personally have not harvested a mature 5-6 year old buck for 12 years. This year I have 3 local bucks that I think will becoming 4 years old this summer, I would say there are 15 smaller bucks that have

been raised since 2013. There will be some fights this year. I am not in favor of the 1 week early season, since it comes during the height of the rut. Start the antlerless season 1 week early same as now, and the buck season Thanksgiving week. We get the old bucks to pass on genetics, they become nocturnal and they mature. Will we lose some bucks to poaching or over anxiousness? Yes, but it will be inconsequential in the long run. I love to see, observe and the right one harvest. Building a new deer stand this summer heated, refrigerated. Thank you

957132 Q4. I don't farm it and have not been there enough to see too many, if any. Q6. Renter has not said anything. Q9. Renters does not like hunters.

957135 Deer don't bother me and I don't hunt deer so I don't care about this survey.

DAU 10

22 In the winter of 12 and 13. we feed about 70 deer. $5.00 corn with out any help from GFP when I asked they told me, we don't feed deer, but we only lost two. Which I thought was pretty good. You guys sell tags. Made good money because of me. I could have left them die. But I don't believe in starving animals. Right now we are feeding 77 turkey. Thank you!

90 GF&P has to much power and money available to them.

105003 1. It would help if (safe program CRP) would allow corn etc. to be planted, without losing those acres for CRP payment. 2. Allow mentored hunters, the choice to shoot a buck at least once in 4-5 years of youth hunting. At least by 3rd year for instance. 3. Provide more info to the public about managing deer to develop larger bucks. Maybe this would make people shoot a doe, instead of a 3x3 or smaller buck.

105006 Declare the deer varmints. Stop the feeding program and let nature take care of problems. The feed left in our area just increased the herd size which lead to drastic problems and did nothing to save them.

105010 Have 152 Acres CRP, 118 pasture, 40 tillable

105020 Would like to see GFP putting food plots on their grounds. Would like to see the spotlighting bill enforces from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hours before sunrise (instead of 10pm-1/2 hours before sunrise). Road hunters to lose their license for 5 years if caught. We need to be careful that many of the "new technologies" don't remove the "fair chase" in hunting (i.e. trail cameras, drones, etc.). Other: The efforts made by GFP staff in general public relations the last years has been very good. Also, the "last hunt' thought for someone terminally ill is a great idea!

105030 Too many people that don't qualify for landowner status, are sending in applications as landowners. Access to more land to hunt in general is a future problem for the next generation of young hunters.

105032 The deer population should be eliminated. They are worthless animals. All they do is wreck property. A stupid deer can easily wreck a family car that the family can't afford to replace. They come in our yard and destroy our garden. The only reason you are interested in deer is you can charge city swellers to hunt them. Then they drive on our land without permission, after they kill one. They don't want to eat it because they stink so badly that they generously donate the meat to some poor sucker. Most farmers won't even hunt them anymore because the fees are so high that you can't

get enough back to justify the license and processing. Eliminate them all. Ave our cars and lives. They are just sheep with their brains knocked out.

105056 I believe there are too many deer but the only way that issuing more licenses will help is if hunters will shoot does and not just wait for the big trophy bucks or even the biggest doe. This trophy hunting does nothing to thin the population.

105065 I understand this survey was for Codington Co. as a landowner in Clark Co. I felt it is important to fet information from landowners in all counties.

105066 We planted 46 acres of food plots. We put in 20 acres in Grant county for Pheasants Forever, they pay $50 per acre. I don't think the Game Department pays enough. We also have 440 acres of CRP, we turned more than 300 pheasants lose in it. I think we fed the coyotes. I belong to the Pheasants Forever, Pro Pheasants, NWTF and the Whitetails. I am a member of the NRA. My son has some grain bags at the farm and the deer have punched hold in 3 of them. There are about 40 deer in his section. I have 50 pheasant hens to turn lose this spring from Stone Hill. I will get 100 8 week old pheasant chicks to turn lose this summer.

105067 Q 18B. The ocunty/state tax shelterbelts as if productive farm land so it is not fesible to put in trees. A lot of people are removing old shelterbelts for this reason.

105068 Q1. We own 20 acres that we cut hay on. Q3. I am an ag teacher at LATI.

105077 Keep up the good work GFP.

105080 I own land in Clark County. I live in Waterotwn SD and drive highway 20 almost everyday. I see deer hit by vehicles almost every day. This is costing many dollars for repairs for individuals and also the insurance companies. Thus costing the vehicle owners more in insurance. I believe the SD GFP should have insurance on their deer. I have to put insurance on my cattle and other animals for my protection. My belief is that the deer population should be eliminated or cut back drastically for the protection of the public.

105099 The area I live in is primarily farmland, with some pasture and no cattail sloughs. Very few deer winter here and spring habitat for fawns is getting to be limited. We do have a nice population of does and young deer in the summer and fall but seeing a big buck is a rare event. Habitat loss is our biggest problem and I would love to see CRP get to be competitive against land cash rent. This would benefit all game species.

1018004 Seldom go to farm anymore 85 years old stay close to home.

1018022 When [name removed] talk on the radio ask farmers and they will let you hunt. [name removed] Son's asked about hunting geese on my land I said Ok but when I asked [name removed] about my son hunting pheasants on his land he said NO! I quit hunting deer I got tired of sitting in cold stand watching hunters driving around sloughs and shooting out of their pickups.

1018023 There are too many deer in my area. They eat crops, lie down in them leaving flattened wheat or beans, and leave trails as they walk or run across them.

1018025 Q9. Already have nephews hunting on property. Q16a. We feed shelled corn to our cows in the pasture. Deer clean this up. 50 acres are no longer being farmed (12+ years) and was many trees and tall grass great habitat for wildlife.

1018027 I am retired, rent out all my land and would not be able to give you a true picture as I live in Clark.

1018029 Teach hunters how to be respectful, sick of hunters abusing landowners. Have even called the game warden with license plate umbers and pictures and he did nothing! Make game wardens answer their phones. Have left numerous messages, they do not return my call for several days!

1018034 You should make it mandatory that a hunter has to harvest a doe before he can get a buck tag. Otherwise, they only look for a trophy and no deer get harvested and the guy who wants venison doesn't get a license.

1018040 You can have many food plots! But never will replace cattail wetlands that are being drained everyday!

1018050 The car-deer accidents are costing us too much money. Car insurance skyrockets because of all the deer accidents. The state should help pay for car damages.

1018074 We have more than enough deer in our county. Unfortunately, come deer season most of them bunch up on out of state owned property or land owned by people that don't allow anyone else to hunt. I realize there is nothing that can be done about this, but I would hope you would not allow out of state licenses to be used.

1018076 Q. 7 A little outside row corn. Q9. Too many hunters.

1018080 We need to get the coyote population under control in my area. They have been extremely hard on the deer population. I would like to see some sort of bounty placed on them to increase hunting interest.

1022005 Life long resident of NE SD. We lost our wetlands to flooding in the mid 90's as did GFP and fed GPAs. There is no outcry - none. Fishing opportunity seems to be adequate replacement for pheasant & deer habitat and it is laughable to suggest GFP would promote wetland restoration when 90=% have been lost for 25 years and it is acceptable. Today's deer herds congregate in isolated locations vs. yester year when the deer wintered in the wetlands throughout the area, providing much more broad opportunity for hunting. We feed the deer from approx. April 1 to the first snowfall, then they go to their winter grounds. Antlerless seasons should help get doe hunters into these areas where trophy hunters don't want their "next year" trophies getting shot, but it has to be early enough so their bucks still have their antlers. I have hit more deer with vehicles than archery rifle combined in the last 20 years and that should not be happening.

1022014 I am tired of planting trees and have the deer ruin them. I don't know who counts deer but you should send them back to grade school to learn to count. The more deer we have the less licenses you sell.

1022021 Q5A. The key word is self-sustaining. I don't think you will ever stop deer from coming out to eat in the aflalfa fields or hay bales, no matter how much land the GFP owns. I suggest plainting alfalfa field buffers in areas, then maybe let the adjoining landowner hay it and leave 1/3 or 1/2 the bales for the deer. That way the deer can eat all winter. Q6. I have had deer damage my hay one time but that was years ago. I don't remember the year but it was an extremely tough winter. Herds of deer came up to my hay piles, weak & starving. When I called the GFP to suggest selling some of those bales of alfalfa at a reasonable price they said no they couldn't. Instead they bought hay down south somewhere, paid big moneyf or it and trucked it up here. Finally they managed to get 1 bale to my farm and some corn. I would have been satisfield selling some of my hay - the deer ate it anyway! I woul dhave been happy, the deer would have been happy and it would have saved the GFP a lot of money.

The GFP did provide me with hay panels the following year, but by then it was too late. Q5B. I love seeing the deer. This fall I had two does, one with a single and one with a set of twins. They would ocme out of the trees west of my house and go to the aflafla field south of my house and eat almost every evening. The fawns were very young, the twins still had spots. Must have really been born late. Anywat got to enjoy themfor awhile until boyotes killed them. At least I know they killed one cause I found it fresh when I went to fed the sheep in the sheep yard. They killed it, ate the guts and never seem to come back to ever feed again. I thought that was strange, cause I was watching hoping to get a shot at one. The coyotes don't seem to bother my adult ewes ever.

1022094 Q8a - What good would it do when I asked for help about the geese destroying my corn & beans and was told that they don't do anything for that anymore! Q9. Maybe !11. Because of health reasons.

1023003 I do these things for the pheasant habitat more than deer.

1023010 Glen passed away and I no longer live on my farm. So am not acquainted with deer population a harm done so have no opinion.

1023016 I think your attempts to improve the management of whitetail deer in Eastern SD is a great idea, especially allowing private landowners some input. The problem I have with the GFP is that all the programs where assistance & habitat development which are cot-shared by the dept are not available to individuals who have a pheasant hunting preserve. tHose people do more than anyone else as far as developing habitat for all wildlife. I think your stance on that issue is very hypocritical, thus I find it hard to view anything you do, favorably.

1023024 Q8a. I asked for help and didn't get any!

1023037 Q9. If they don't drive walk in

1023059 Q9. From deer yes, from hunters no. Q18c. How could that help?

1029025 I personally would like to see an earlier season. The main reason is to have some what of a chance to hunt while deer are in the rut cycle as bow hunters have and like West River. I would like to see East River open the same week as West River.

1029030 Put a bounty on the coyotes. They're killing all th eyoung fawns. Seen it from my friends trail camera. Help to get rid of the coyotes.

1029040 It seems as if the local newspaper often has a number of vehicles/deer collisions and have experienced close encounters several times. Hopefully this is monitored by the GFP and may indicate there are too many deer around the roads. In 1997 I had put 1/4 secetion of land in CRP mainly for wildlife. In 2007 I cut it down to 34 acres. In 2017 I will not continue any CRP programs as it is very costly because the programs only pay 50 to 60 precent of renting out the land.

1029047 Q11. I hunted about 20 years ago before they moved the season up got too expensive for what I got and was tired of freezing my tail. Q16a. I don't manage it but have some across from with about 40 acres of trees and unfarmable land. The deer, coons, fox and other critters have hauled in weed seeds and I have weeds I never had before! Q18d. Deer nest? New one to me.

1029057 In a typical year the deer consume at least $500 worth of crop above and beyond what I set aside for them. I don't mind that at all. It is worth that to keep deer around. However on high stress winters I see up to $5000 in damage. One of those winters I

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| | decided to contact my local conservation officer and SDGFP showed up with alfalfa and shelled corn. The deer preferred my hay over any of the feed that was supplied. I tested the hay that was brought by SDGFP and it tested lower than my hay. My question is why. I can't receive payment for the hay the deer are already eating rather than the SDGFP buying hay from someone else and hauling it to my place. I produce hay to sell every year and the deer "take delievery" on their own. |
| 1029058 | Q4. Five years ago there was a lot more deer. Population has declined drastically the last few years. |
| 1029062 | Q9. Do you mean deer hunters who get out of their pickups to shoot a deer? Is shooting a deer out the window fun? Does anyone Stalk a deer? Just about retired - have for the last 30 years used a no-till min-till farming practice on our 1200 acres. |
| 1029063 | I think you are doing a great job! Just don't introduce wolves. |
| 1029064 | Would be more likely to do the above in Q18, Q20 for pheasants and deer as secondary. |
| 1029069 | Those receiving licenses should not be able to get rifle, bow and muzzle tags. Just give them 1 so more people can hunt. |
| 1032004 | My pickup was hit by a deer this fall in Deuel County - moderate damage. |
| 1032024 | I would like to see bow licenses increased and black powder reinstated in Hamlin County. We have plenty of deer and a lot of them get hit on the highway. I'd rather see them shot with a bow or black powder than hit with a car. I am always glad when deer season is over because of all the high powered rifles. I feel much safer with bow hunters. |
| 1032030 | Don't listen to the 2% of farmers that complain, if it was up to them they would want no deer. |
| 1032032 | All in Deuel County. |
| 1032038 | Q5e. Some so do raccoons. Q7e. Raccoons are way worse along the cattails. |
| 1032047 | Q14 E - Road signs |
| 1048005 | I don't have a problem with too many deer except during harsh winters when they bunch up in my trees and get into our cattle feed. Food plts are good for awhile but they tend to cause the deer to bunch up and when the food plot is used up they all migrate to my yard, trees and feed. The last bad winter "2010" I think they did a lot of damage to my evergreens |
| 1048009 | Possible funds for some private landowenrs involvement in deer counts. Find away to control the ppoulation of coyotes. Some sort of bounty. |
| 1048013 | East River deer season should start after the rut! It should start Thanksgiving weekend like it was. |
| 1048017 | I am planting 120 acres of new CRP in 2016. I there anything I could do through GFP tro benefit wildlife and get a bigger payment? |
| 1048018 | Q15F. If deer are real problem then charge for first tag second free. Don't use over population for an excuse to bring more money in by charging for second tag. |
| 1048022 | Get more acres of food plots in CRP |

1048034 The deer in our area seem to bunch up early December and do not spread back ut until Spring. Fortunately, the last two winters have not been bad so the deer haven't bothered our feed to bad. But if we were to have a bad winter the deer population would cause excessive damage to our feed.

1048040 Why do landowners have to buy a license. We feed 90% of them anyhow. Should just send me one instead of having to pay for it. As long as they're your deer - GFP should pay for damages to my vehicle. We have hit 2 in the last 15 years.

1048053 I am sorry, I am 78 year old female that doesn't hunt, my husband was a wildlife supporter and avid hunter. I have a 12 3/4 old great grandson who hunted deer for the first time this eyar. He got a nice doe but it was wounded only and got up and ran. My grand daughter, his mom, followed the deer until it got too dark too see. The next AM she went out again and found it picked clean by coyotes, only ribs, and head were remaing. We have beautiful country here that the deer like but the population is going down. My pature tenter said he never got one shot at the deer this year. Theres good graze for hem but too many predators. We hear wolves as well as see them occassionally and have mountain lions. I don't know what the solution would be. About 4-5 years ago we had reverse situation about 800 deer between our farm and my nephews a mile north - they had a worn path from his place to our pasture. GFP brought out some corn for them & hay to replace my nephews hay they ate. They came and put gates around our hay for our horses to keep them out, I felt guilty about it because my husband when he lived, always saw to it the deer had feeding areas but we needed the hay for the horses too. I wish there was a perfect situation to enable us to enjoy the wildlife which we do but not have so much it overwhelms us.

1055002 I think the deer population is coming back - I am now almost 94 and rent out land and unable to be actively involved (as in the past).

1055022 Enforce the road hunting laws!

1055047 There is a bigger problem for my trying to get hunters to respect that other hunters maybe out there and fighting over who was there first. When I used to hunt driving for deer was looked down on. Now that is the only way most hunters know how to hunt which I don't think is hunting.

1055067 No way should tribal members have a deer season open before ours does! All open same dates.

1055072 I live in an area that is close to the reservation in Roberts County. The season that the BIA or Tribe has is very troublesome to me and others living close to BIA land. There is absolutely no reason that they should have a season starting 2 - 3 weeks before the official season of the state starts. If they consider themselves citizens of US then they need to obey our national laws not what they make up. I feel that the state GFP are not being forceful enough in restricting the (BIA-Tribe) from having this season. I know it doesn't bother some that are not close to Tribal land but it ruins the hunting for local white people of the area, management of deer too produce a possible trophy buck in almost impossible under this situation. Do something about this.

1055079 I enjoy seeing the deer on my land.

1055093 The biggest thing I see is certain landowners have excellent habitat and all the deer hole up there and they won't let anybody hunt.

1055096 Deer numbers are down in the NE. I suspect predation, CWD (minor) and late season stress to does carrying fawns. The East River Deer season should not be extended at

all beyond the 16 day season. Make people get out of their vehicles and hunt! The youth deer season is too long, starting early is good but going into January should stop. Why do we let non-resident youth hunt for $10/license? Increase that fee to at least what a resident adult has to pay for a similar tag. I love to hunt deer and to watch them. Thanks for trying to straighten this mess out.

1055098 Q12. Would like to see archery deer open September 1st. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to make some comments on our deer heard and hunting seasons. First I do believe our deer herd is slowly coming back, but it has a ways to go. I would definitely like to see the January doe only season ended East River like it is West River. It makes no sense. I have to admit it's been a lot more peacefull during Roberts county rifle season since the number of tags have been cut. The number of road poachers have dramatically decreased. I would however love to see our archery deer season open September 1st to give archers the opportunity to take a buck in velvet. I can't see how opening the archery season a little earlier would effect landowners at all. If you want to test landowner tollerance, double the rifle tags, come out to my farm during rifle season and we will watch the parade of road poachers circling the section waiting for a chance to pop a deer from the road. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these.

1055100 Q15. I really like the 2 tag option for landowners, a 3rd tag is just too much - let someone else hunt! Q16. To include pheasants.

<u>DAU 11</u>

52 Q15b. Shotgun season?? Too many high power rifles now. I stopped hunting deer because it has become too dangerous and the liability of hitting someone in Minnehaha Co. Is a concern. There are far too many rural homes & people walking/jogging on public roads during deer season. Too be honest, I am not comfortable with high power rifles being used in our neighborhood, although there are lots of deer. I am not in favor of more permits in Minnehaha for rifles - just too dangerous.

84 Problems No1. Vehicle collisions. No2. Where habitat is good and crops nearby extensive damage example one 60 acre field end rows yielded 90 bu. And res of field 180 bu. Per acre. I like to see the deer around and my family likes to hunt them. So I guess live with the good and the bad.

111014 I am retired and rent my land out and live in Sioux Falls for many years now.

111020 I don't hunt deer myself, but allow anyone who asks to hunt. In my opinion there are too many deer in the area and don't know for sure how GFP could handle it but wish they could be reduced somehow. I basically just have one field receives a lot of damage when it's planted to corn, mostly because of an old grove next to it and a neighbor that has a deer haven and doesn't allow any hunting. There is also vehicle damage in the area. I farm in Minnehaha County, Edison Township, and is a lot of deer in a large area.

111039 Too many deer killing motorcyclists, cannot ride after dark without seeing deer. This last month have seen groups of 50-60 deer, 2 different places - that is too many.

111057 People that buy small plots of land (20) acres then get any number of tags archery - rifle & muzzle, they harvest everthing or around their land.

111064 Q20h. After corn sil. Harvest on big Sioux River Bottom.

111074 I farm in Moody . Need to weed them out.

111082 Use the license system like they have in Kentucky. Go to Walmart and buy your deer license that is good for multiple deer. Instead of using tags, you simply call in a number code after killing your deer. If you want more deer, you go back to Walmart and buy another license. Get rid of that silly lottery in order to obtain a deer license in SD.

111084 Should use taller fences along roadways in certain critical areas. I mean much more than used now.

111107 Please get rid of those animals. They should not be in a city. Put a fence along the river. Keep them off our property.

111138 Q19a5. Not

111152 1. There are too many does in Northern Minnehaha County. Would doe reduction methods help control population? The number of bucks and male deer seem ok. 2. Could landowners get a second, any deer license for free to compensate for crops injured by deer?

116007 What I have noticed is that you are slow to respond to changing conditions. A numbe of years ago we were practically overrun with deer in Brookings County resulting in crop damage on our land and vehicle - deer collisions on the rise. I think itt would serve everybody in the state much better if you would get out and talk to farmers, ranchers and landowners to find out what is really going on in the vrious counties instead of relying on whatever methods you currently use.

116011 Q9. Would like to control the population with licenses for myself and family. I am a landowner and did not receive a license! I would strongly urge the issuing of more or mandatory offering of permits to landowners if they wanted a deer license or licenses. I live in East Central SD and am a landowner. I am very disgusted about only receiving a deer permit "1" out of every about "3" years. In this circumstance that I do not receive a license, I do not allow any hunting on my land at all. We usually have 10-15 people with permits that want to hunt every year. They are understandably very upset when turned down, I don't turen down anybody that asks to hunt. I then refer them to the GFP officer for a place to hunt!

116018 I am very concerned about the use of mountain lions in the Black Hills to control deer populations. Repopulating the large cats is the most assinine thing the GFP has ever done. Increase these hunting permits.

116021 Come out and see the damage to my trees.

116022 I would like to see a law that would prohibit hunters from shooting small bucks. I would also like to see harsher penalties for poachers. We need more Game Wardents in my area on the first day of rifle season in the fall.

116048 Nonresidents need to be charged double th price now. Nonresidents should only be allowed (one deer tag) in SD. There needs to be a lot more game checks on our Hwy's interstates during the whole deer season theres way to many illegal tagging going on in different counties.

116055 No one person should be allowed more than 2 tags for West River and or 2 tags for East River. This means a total of 2 tags for archery, rifle, and muzzleloader for 1 fall.

1119008 Some wardens need more leeway in transporting or killing problem deer. I have a garden on the farm, deer have destroyed 2/3 of the garden in a couple days. Wardens have installed air cannons etc. to no avail. Garden is large part of my physical therapy and vital to my well being.

1142006 I recently heard a program where a group was going to tack $20 on the GF&P license to provide money for habitat. I am very much opposed to this idea. I think the license fees are plenty high already. I think hunting should be a privilage and a right for all SD residents. Adding more fees will eliminate some being able to afford to hunt. I think there are better ways to fund habitat other than forcing every hunter to pay for it. I certainly am not against habitat, but believe a volunteer/incentive program might work if handled in a proper manner. Increased license fees opens a "slippery slope" to hunting privilages for only the more "well to do" due to over pricing. Then what was really gained by a price increase except less hunters, unlicensed hunters! Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion. I had a very enjoyable deer hunt in Potter County in 2015 and am planning on hunting deer there in 2016.

1142009 I sold my land in late 2014, but I have some opinions to express. I had my farm in East Central Kingsbury County. [description removed]. I was born and raised there until I sold the ground. Changes have been made in farming practices as well as hunting. I had tree row in my land, and remember all kinds of wildlife including deer, but the last few years the deer population drop. I believe in later years you people have been issuing too many licenses for the revenue. Also, [name removed] had the best perch and walleye fishing in the state then the USF put those damn muskies in the lake you people work together, I feel like you put these fish in there because there was no lake access to the lake for the public. I have been an avid hunter and fisherman for 73 years things need to change, money isn't everything.

1142022 Allow immediate family members to claim landowner preference even if they don't live with me. My children help me continue to keep everything done on the farm on weekends and holidays. You issue too many licenses to people who drive the roads, and won't hunt public land (too many other hunters), and poach off my land. If I or my immediate family don't get a license, there is no deer taken off my land (unless they hunt without permission i.e. trespass).

1142026 You are issuing too few licenses. I live 7 miles south of Iroquois and 1/2 west. There are herds of 50+ deer in our area. You really have to observe these herds, they damage a lot of hay that is left out. There should be more encouragement of landowner/hunter relations.

1142030 Q5a. Your question health herd, is not the same as mine. Q18. Will not use GFP for financial assistance. This allows me to manage from year to year.

1142036 Q18. Have not inquired.

1142044 1. No nonresident licensing. 2. County resident only no out of county licnesing for draws 1 & 2, draw 3 - all applicants. 3. One buck license every 3 years only allowed. 4. One doe license every 2 years only allowed.

1142045 Q13D. Big time this should be before Rifle season. The muzzleloader season should start before the rifle season. It's near impossible to get a shot at the deer in my area with a muzzleloader after rifle season because the deer have been chased around so hard from all the illegal hunting and chasing and shooting from pickups. It's awful in this area.

1142053 Q18b.Kingsbury Co. CO chooses to be unaccessible, no listed phone number, does not respond to calls on poaching or trespassing, poor service.

1142057 Road hunting is a very big problem. I'm afraid to be out w/cattle first week of season. Need more game wardens druing early deer season. I like deer & support deer hunting but road hunting is getting out of control during deer season. They fire into the sections and it's dangerous for humans/livestock and unfair to the deer. We farm multiple quarters and allow deer hunting on all of them. Road hunters are lazy and dangerous and ruin it for everybody.

1142062 Deer hunters seem to have no respect for those of us grazing livestock esp. crop residues. They leave gates open, cut fences, or simply drive vehicles and deer through our fences. A little respect for our property would go a long way in our support for deer hunters and a longer season.

1142063 Issues I have with the GFP concerning the deer population. Do not allow out of state east river hunting. Let the Sioux Falls hunting contingent dictate the deer population so they can fill their tag easily with one trip to our county. Allowing the deer population to grow to an unacceptable (by farmer & rancher standards) levels. Then only offering ineffective solutions. YOUR deer population causes an incalculable amount of damage, destruction and death every year. If my livestock were causing the same I would be fined, imprisoned and forced to pay damages. The perfect deer population would be a few in each zoo.

1143013 I have a few suggestions for he GFP other than deer control 1. Weed & thistle control on land owned by GFP & Federal wetland. I have land next to both parties and have to call both departments to get thistle control. I'm so tired of it, I have begun to spray GFP land myself at my expense. It seems like neither party cares, but farmers are bound by law to control them on their land. 2. Land that has good cover for pheasants and ducks also is great for coyotes, skunks, fox and coon. We need better control of these 4 species if we're to have good pheasant numbers. A bounty on coyotes would help 27 coyotes ere killed on public hunting land and slough near me by people who come to hunt pheasants but found none so decided to hunt coyotes instead. Chicken hawks should also be added to the list. To your credit deer populations are under control as are Giant Canadian Geese. I think these other problems I've mentioned could be solved also.

1143019 "Sharing" field grain (corn, etc) as long as it is reasonable I can tolerate it. Its very dishearting when the deer do major damage/destructive damage to mypersonal garden as well as fruit trees, grapevines, flowers.

1144022 I would like to see a survey like this for Canada Geese. I'm having problems with them.

1144026 I don't know much about deer and hunting seasons but I do have deer damage every year to trees and crops. I have land next to CRP that I don't own and the crops next to it are damaged every year. Sometimes I get damage on my yard, to flower beds and grapevines. In the past I have lost new tress and had to replant. My son lives next door to me and has lost or has badly damaged trees or shrubs. I would appreciate some information on if I can get paid for deer damage or what I can do to protect my trees, shrubs etc from deer damage. I also have some minor fence problems.

1144059 I think landowners should be able to shoot deer free of charge "we do feed them!" Not including acreage.

1144064 Here in Lincoln County in 2012 during the drought year, I would only have to walk a short distance to find dead yearling because of blue tongue disease. The next year in 2013 I harvested 200 acres of corn next to prime deer habitat and it was very disappointing. I usually have deer around me a lot but hardly saw even one doe. But after the license reduction of antlerless deer here in Lincoln County the antlerless population has increased greatly by not having any antlerless tags the last 2 years in Lincoln County. I think we could gradually start an antlerless season here in Lincoln County slowly, like around 50 tags or so. But our problem down here is the amount of mature bucks not present during the rut. I hunt prime areas and see a lot of 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 year old bucks, but I pass them up looking for a 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 year old mature buck, but the last 3 years since 2012 I hardly see one anymore, and trust me I know how to hunt these older, wiser bucks, but they are not living long enough to get this age. Down here in Lincoln County we are swarmed with archery hunters during the rut because of close proximity to Sioux Falls. And think we should try and limit the amount of any deer archery tags in Lincoln County.

1146019 Don't let out of staters in. Wed on't lose crop to deer we lose them to pheasants.

1146045 Today I saw 4 adult deer and 3 fawns eating in our field. Last year we had a completely white deer in our trees. A beautiful sight, I have not seen a white deer this year. At times we have deer look in our living room window. WE love living on our acreage.

1152001 I am aware of a serious deep depredation problem near Ward SD on a friends' property. I am sure this is not an isolated cae in SD and I would hope that their people can get some serious help from Game, Fish and Parks.

1152010 I live in Flandreau. We have deer in our groves on the farm. We live in the South-East part of town. This winter we had 6-8 deer in our back yard, in the trees, so they could be out of the wind. When the snow elted, they left.

1152016 I farm so I may be doing some of these things without trying to.

1152017 Q.18A. You won't put food plots on game production land - you are very against plots and you've cut down 5 acres of trees within 2 miles of my farm in the past 5 years Why?!! Then you want us farmers to do plots and plant trees?

1161001 I live about 10 miles from Sioux Falls and I think they should shorten the deer hunting season and a season should be established to hunt the deer hunters. We are tired of the trespassing, hunting from pickups and four wheelers. They shoot into the middle of a section, then race around the section to try to shoot them coming out the other side. They call themselves sportsmen, we can't wait for the deer season to end.

1161009 We see deer ocassionally and enjoy their company.

1161021 I have land along the Vermillion River so the deer have woods for cover, my crops for feed and water from the river. You are doing a good job with the deer.

1161062 Q4. Depends on the area. Q18. Need to control the geese.

1162012 I think the landowner should receive a tax break on real estate taxes. If this is the only use is for wildlife habitat.

Unknown DAU

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| 27 | Q11. We have been denied licenses in ND and SD due to living along the border! We have SD address w/no residency wanted to charge us non-resident tags for a gratis. If we can't hunt our own land why should anyone else? We have no rights as landowners to hunt the deer we feed! I am surprised you sent this to us! only makes me more pissed that you want our input but GFP has taken away our rights to hunt on our own land. We have not participated in the last 3 years! Keep the illegal hunters off our land. We have it posted. If we can't hunt it neither can they! You have taken away any enjoyable time for us! |