
South Dakota REPORT

Antelope and Deer Hunter Input Opportunity

2022

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

WILDLIFE SURVEY REPORT 2022-12

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Dakota archery antelope and deer hunters have been steadily increasing the last 10 years. Although discussions about hunter densities is not new, more attention has been focused on archery hunter numbers in recent years based on stakeholder input and comments. We developed a focused input opportunity for all deer and antelope hunters in South Dakota. We provided background information about the topic and asked hunters their opinions and preferences regarding archery hunters and regulations in South Dakota. The input opportunity was designed to compare opinions and preferences among hunter groups including, resident archery hunters, resident firearm only hunters, nonresident archery hunters, and nonresident firearm only hunter. The questions were broadly separated into three categories: 1) land ownership type hunted most; 2) opinions about the number of archery hunters; and 2) preferences for maintaining or changing regulations regarding archery hunter numbers. We provided an opt-out response for every opinion or preference question by including a response option of either “no opinion” or “no preference.” Opt-out and non-respondents provided an opportunity to evaluate engagement and interest regarding specific questions and archery regulations.

Emails with links to input forms were sent to all hunters that applied for a deer or antelope license between 2019 and 2021. We received 8,183 responses from 88,672 deer applicants (9% response rate) and 1,868 responses from 17,369 antelope applicants (11% response rate). Response rates were greater for archery hunters compared to firearm only applicants. The relatively low response rates of about 1 in 5 archery hunters and 1 in 25 firearm hunters, in addition to respondents opting-out on questions, suggested concerns were isolated and limited to a minority of all deer and antelope hunters. We received 3,192 comments from deer hunters (39% of respondents and 4% of total applicants) and 771 comments from antelope hunters (41% of respondents and 4% of total applicants).

Public and private land hunting

- *In general: The majority of antelope hunters were hunting on publicly accessible land. Residents hunted publicly accessible land more than nonresident antelope hunters. Differently, residents hunted deer on private land more and nonresident deer hunters were split between public and private land hunting. There did not appear to be any large differences between archery and firearm hunters.*

Nonresident opinions about archery hunters

- *In general: Nonresidents agree with or have no opinion about the number of archery hunters in South Dakota.*

All nonresident hunter groups felt archery hunter numbers were about right for both antelope and deer by land ownership and residency. The only exception was nonresident firearm hunters chose too many archery antelope hunters on public land at a greater proportion compared to too few and about right options. However, the greatest proportion of responses for this group was no opinion.

Resident opinions about archery hunters

- *In general: Resident hunters felt there were too many nonresident archery hunters and too many antelope archery hunters on public land. There was marginal support from firearm hunters for too many white-tailed and mule deer hunters on public land, but many had no*

opinion. There was more support for too many mule deer hunters on public land compared to white-tailed deer hunters.

Similar to nonresidents, most residents had no opinion or chose about right for questions regarding antelope, white-tailed and mule deer archery hunters on private land. All residents chose too many archery antelope hunters on public land. Resident firearm hunters with an opinion chose too many white-tailed and mule deer archery hunters on public land. Resident archery hunters with an opinion chose about right for the number of archery white-tailed deer hunters on public land. Resident archery hunters with an opinion were split between about right and too many for the number of archery mule deer hunters on public land. Both resident archery and firearm hunters chose too many nonresident antelope, white-tailed and mule deer archery hunters.

Opinions about changes to archery hunting regulations

- *In general: Archery hunters responded at a higher rate and chose to maintain current archery regulations more than options to reduce or increase archery opportunity. Firearm hunters responded at a lower rate and chose to limit archery hunter opportunity. Among options to reduce archery hunting opportunity, firearm hunters preferred limiting antelope and deer archery hunters by requiring hunters to select 1 or 2 regional units. For archery hunters, there was no clear preference among options to limit archery hunting opportunity.*

All archery hunter groups chose to maintain the number of licenses available per hunter and the number of limited access units for antelope, white-tailed and mule deer. Even when archery hunters were subset by respondents that selected too many archery hunters for at least one question, most chose to maintain current regulations and not limit their own archery hunting opportunity, with the exception of nonresident antelope archery hunters. When subset by individuals that responded too many for at least one question, nonresident antelope archery hunters chose either adding limited access units or requiring hunters to select 1 regional unit more than maintain.

Firearm hunters chose to limit archery hunter opportunity, but firearm hunter response rates averaged less than 4%. There was less desire to increase or reduce the number of archery limited access units compared to options to restrict archery hunters to selecting 1 regional any antelope unit or 2 regional any deer units. However, this was contrary to hunter opinions about too many archery hunters on public land. For example, if there were too many archery hunters on specific public land, increasing the number of public land only limited access units would reduce archery hunters on public land, but not on private.

Regulations, management ideas and comments

- *In general: Four percent of all deer and antelope applicants provided comments and around 40% of those that responded provided comments. Comments ranged from general questions to opinions and suggestions to reduce, increase, or keep regulations the same. Specific responses ranged from providing unlimited opportunity for all hunters to closing antelope or deer hunting seasons for multiple years. Opinions varied within and among archery, firearm, resident and nonresident hunter groups. Many residents suggested limiting nonresident opportunity and most nonresidents commented on maintaining or increasing their opportunities. The range in opinions and suggestions illustrates the complexity and challenges with responsibly managing game species and providing fair and equitable opportunity for hunter groups while maintain understandable regulations.*

ANTELOPE HUNTER INPUT OPPORTUNITY

INTRODUCTION

The number of archery antelope hunters in South Dakota has more than doubled in the last 10 years with resident licenses increasing from 1,212 to 2,142 and nonresident licenses increasing from 255 to 877 (Figure 1). In 2012, 17% of archery antelope hunters were nonresidents and in 2021 this increased to 29%. Currently, there is no limit to the number of hunters that can purchase an archery antelope license with the exception to a limited access permit required to hunt some areas in the Black Hills. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has received public input regarding hunter densities and harvest from archery hunters. GFP solicited input from all antelope hunters to evaluate opinions about archery hunters and preferences for potential changes to the antelope season. Specifically, we wanted to isolate opinions about archery hunters by land ownership and residency, and preferences for management options. We also wanted to evaluate how different opinions and preferences were different for archery and firearm and resident and nonresident hunter types.

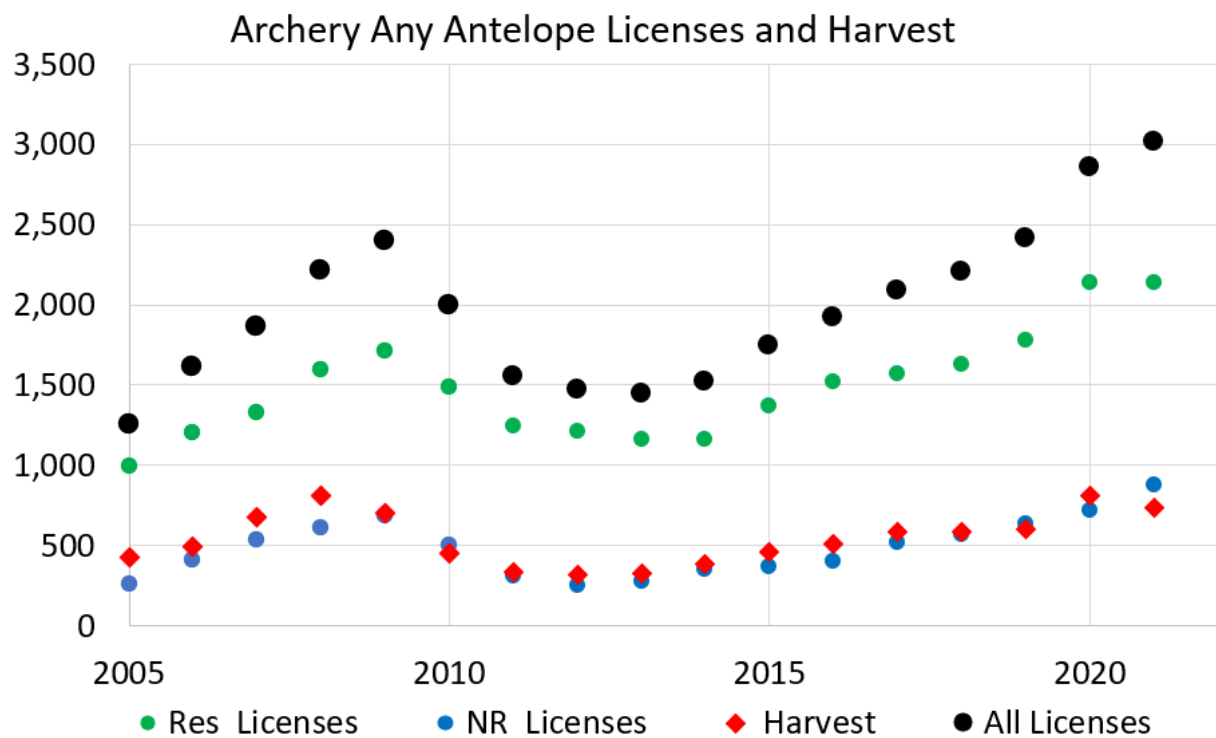


Figure 1. Total estimated antelope harvest (red diamonds) and number of antelope hunters in South Dakota (black, red, and blue circles) based on the number of any antelope licenses sold, which are limited to 1 per individual hunter.

METHODS

All individuals that applied for or purchased an antelope firearm or archery hunting license from 2019, 2020, or 2021 were emailed a request with an electronic link to complete an input

form (Qualtrics, Provo, UT) to solicit opinions and season structure preferences from antelope hunters. Input questions were designed to evaluate types of land hunted, opinions about archery hunter numbers by land ownership and residency, and preferences for reducing, maintaining or increasing archery hunting opportunity. The final question provided an opportunity for respondents to include additional comments or alternative management ideas (Appendix 1).

Survey results were summarized by hunter type which included 4 mutually exclusive groups: 1) resident archery hunters, 2) resident firearm only hunters, 3) nonresident archery hunters, and 4) nonresident firearm hunters. Firearm hunters included hunters that did not purchase an archery antelope license during 2019, 2020, or 2021. An additional subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least 1 question were evaluated for their preference regarding potential changes to archery licenses (Question 4; Appendix 1). All analysis was completed in Program R (R Development Core Team).

RESPONSES

The average response rates among all hunter types was 11% and included 1,868 responses from 17,369 surveys. Response rates were greatest for archery hunters (23% resident archery; 20% nonresident archery) and lowest for firearm hunters (6% resident firearm; 8% nonresident firearm; Table 1).

Table 1. Total responses, hunters surveyed and response rates by hunter type for the antelope archery hunter input opportunity.

Hunter Group	Number of Responses	Number Surveyed	Response Rate
Resident archery	722	3,202	23%
Resident firearm only	703	10,844	6%
Nonresident archery	309	1,581	20%
Nonresident firearm only	134	1,742	8%
All hunters	1,868	17,369	11%

QUESTION SUMMARIES

(1) Over the past 3 hunting seasons, please select one of the following describing the proportion of time you spent hunting antelope on publicly accessible lands (e.g., private land enrolled in a walk-in-area or controlled hunting access program, SD School and Public lands, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and GFP public hunting areas) compared to private property.

- All publicly accessible and no private
- Mostly publicly accessible and some private
- About the same amount publicly accessible and private
- Mostly private and some publicly accessible
- All private and no publicly accessible
- I did not hunt antelope any of the past 3 years

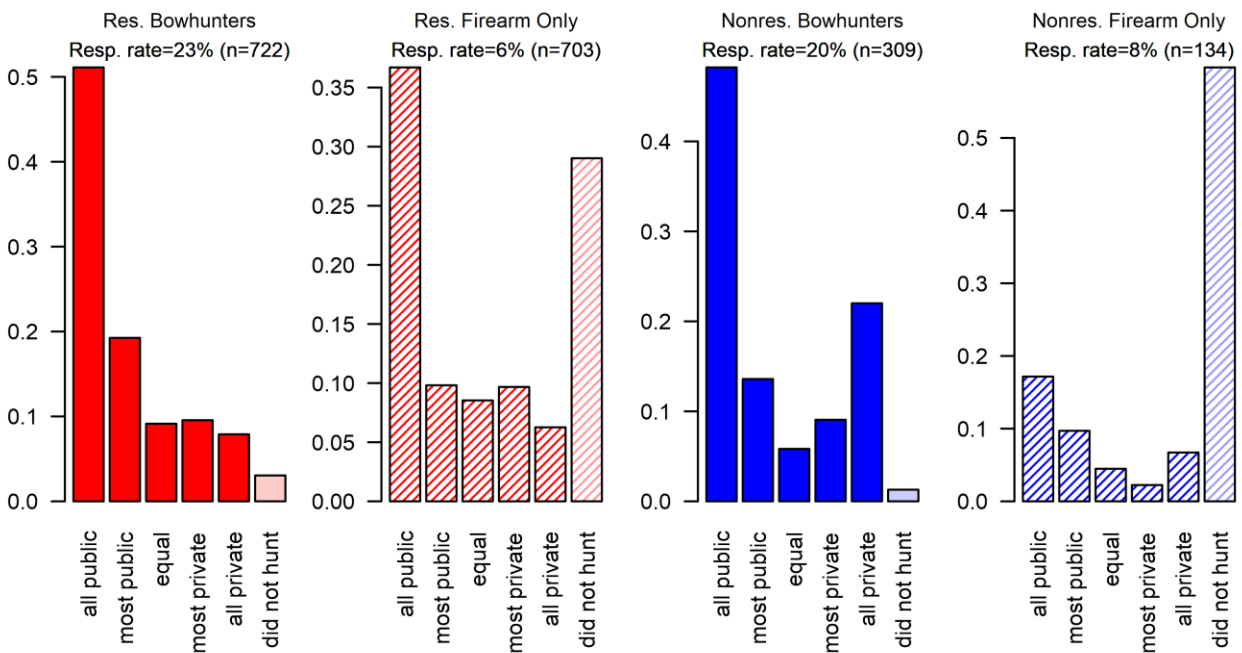


Figure 2. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 1.

(2) How do you feel about the number of archery antelope hunters on public land:

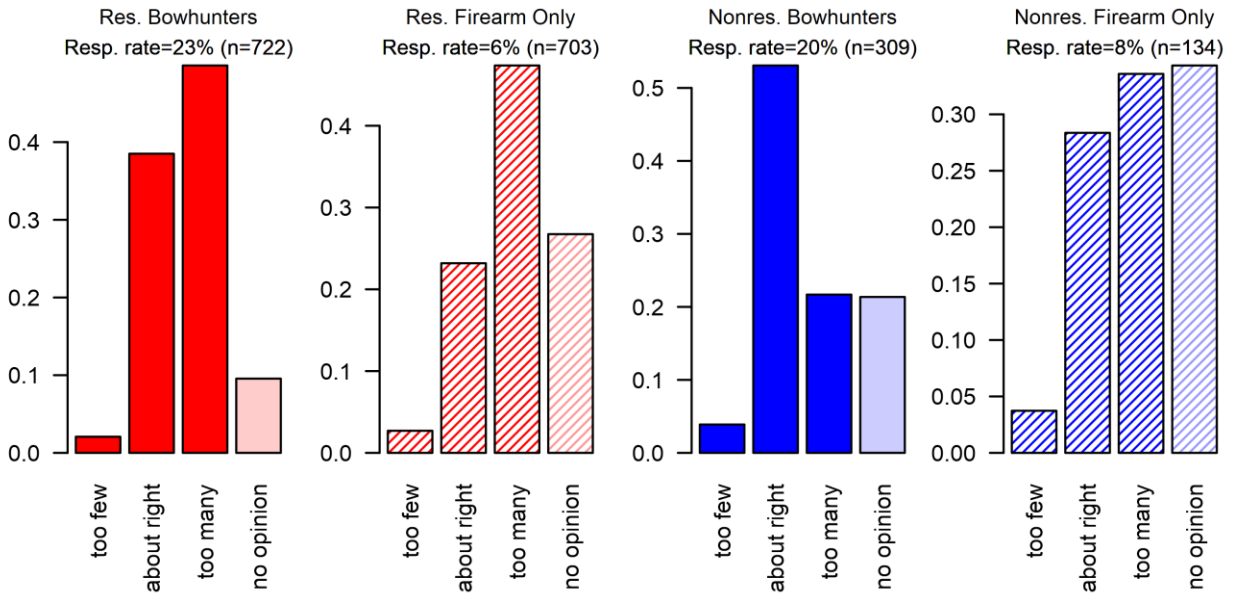


Figure 3. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 2.

(3) How do you feel about the number of archery antelope hunters on private land:

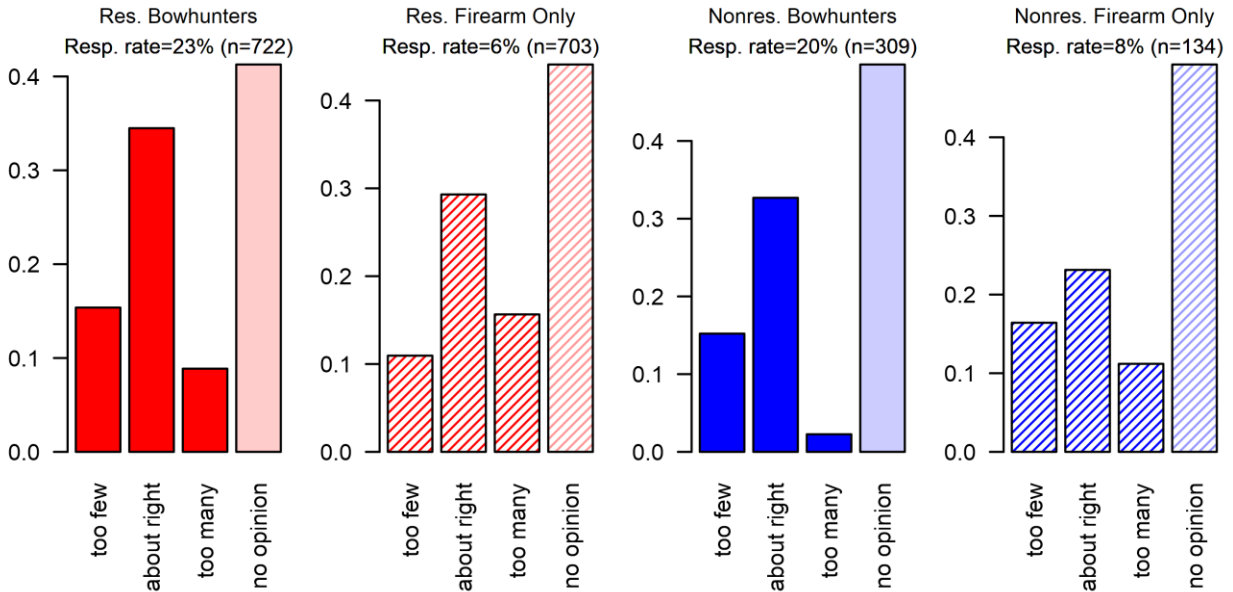


Figure 4. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 3.

(4) Please select one of the following options:

- Maintain current archery antelope license availability: single statewide archery hunting unit open where firearm antelope is open
- Maintain statewide antelope license option but restrict hunting pressure on certain public land areas by requiring archery hunter to draw a limited access permit
- Remove statewide antelope license option and allow archery hunters the option to select for only one regional hunting unit (2 to 5 regional hunting units to be determined)
- Increase the number of unlimited statewide antelope licenses that an archery hunter may purchase
- No preference

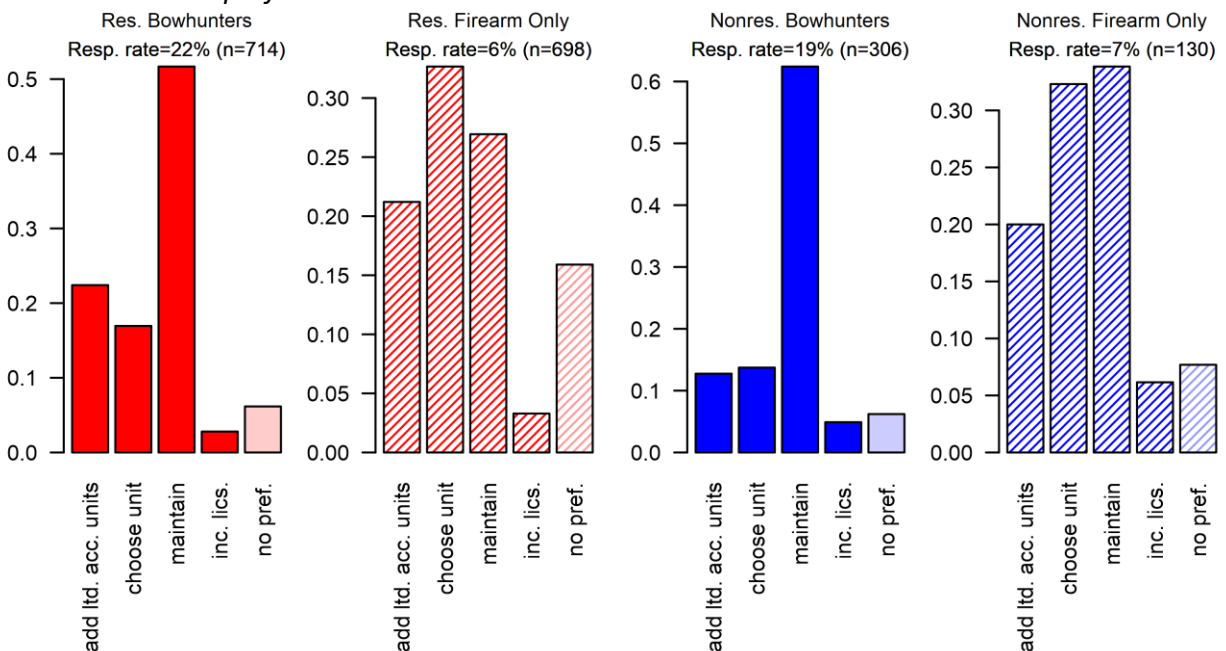


Figure 5. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 4.

(4) ****Responses from question 4 from a subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least one question****

Please select one of the following options:

- Maintain current archery antelope license availability: single statewide archery hunting unit open where firearm antelope is open
- Maintain statewide antelope license option but restrict hunting pressure on certain public land areas by requiring archery hunter to draw a limited access permit
- Remove statewide antelope license option and allow archery hunters the option to select for only one regional hunting unit (2 to 5 regional hunting units to be determined)
- Increase the number of unlimited statewide antelope licenses that an archery hunter may purchase
- No preference

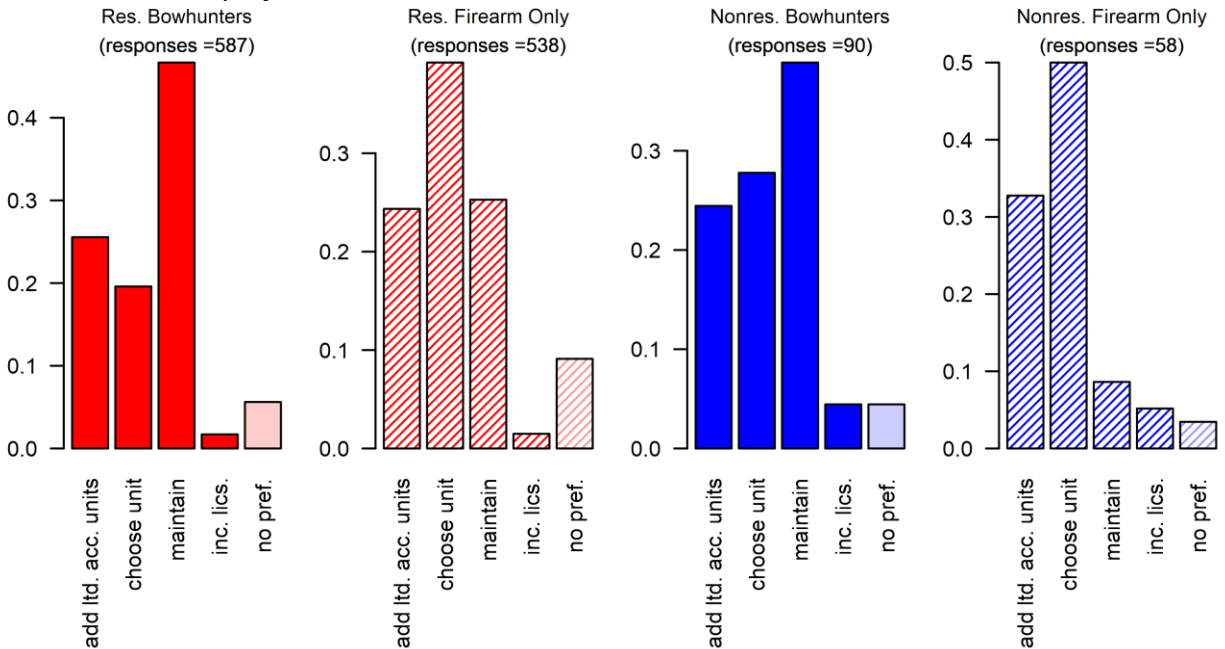


Figure 6. Proportion of responses from a subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least 1 question. Results are summarized by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 4.

(5) How do you feel about the number of **resident** archery antelope hunters?

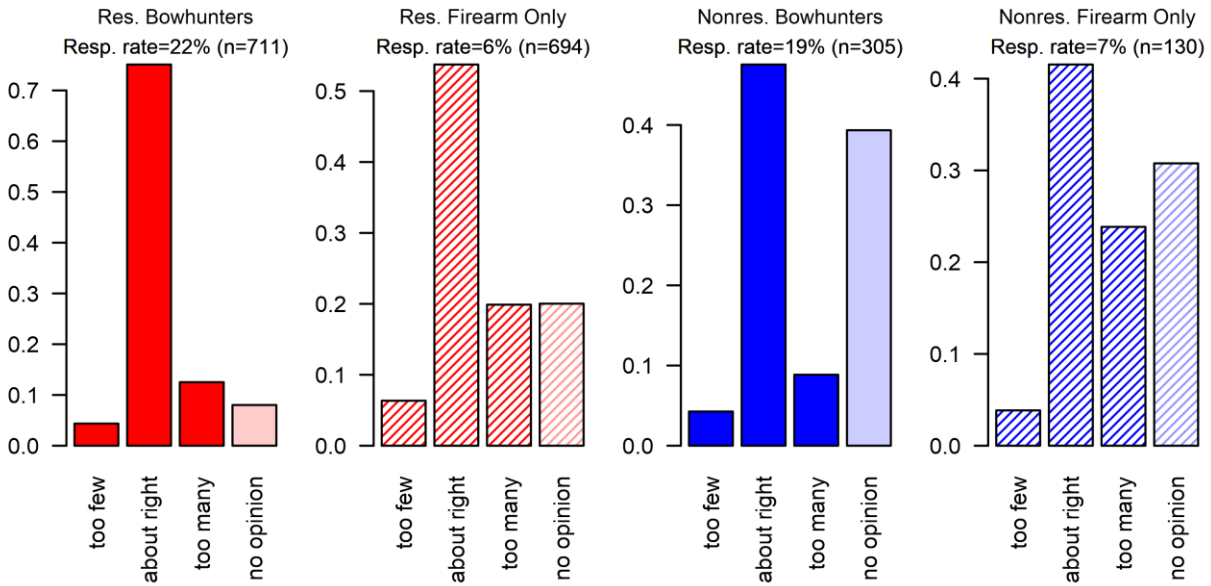


Figure 7. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 5.

(6) How do you feel about the number of **nonresident** archery antelope hunters?

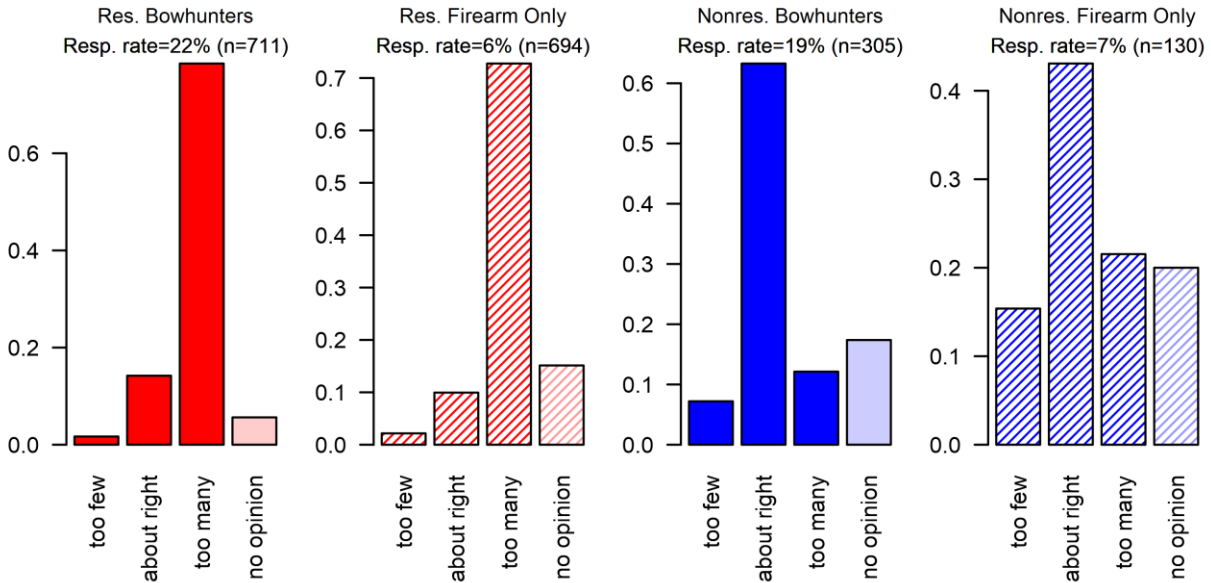


Figure 8. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 6.

(7) Please provide any additional comments or alternative management ideas in the space below:

All comments were edited to remove explicit language and personal information and are included in Appendix 3. Below is a summary of ideas from comments organized by category.

Licenses available and application process

- Increase or decrease the number of any antelope archery licenses available per hunter.
- Limit the number of buck licenses available per hunter.
- Create regions or units with a limited number of archery antelope licenses in each area.
- Increase or decrease the number of limited access units.
- Increase or decrease the number of total resident or nonresidents archery hunters.
- Create nonresident landowner license.
- Increase or decrease the number of archery hunters on private or public land.
- Allow landowners to set the number of available licenses.
- Include buck and doe tags with archery license.
- Create an application deadline.

Season timing

- Close season for multiple years.
- Change season length or split season into intervals.
- Require draw to hunt first 2 weeks of archery season and over-the-counter afterwards.
- Overlap archery with firearm season.
- Overlap nonresident archery antelope with nonresident archery deer season.
- Close deer archery hunting during early antelope archery season.

Methods of take and reporting

- Choose between firearm and archery any antelope license.
- Remove weapon requirement and make licenses available for all seasons.
- Allow crossbows during archery season.
- Allow crossbows after a certain age.
- Restrict crossbows more.
- Require mandatory harvest registration.

License fees

- Increase or decrease license fees.
- Require season or daily fee to access public land.
- Develop access fee program for private.

General and other ideas

- Follow archery regulations in Wyoming.
- Require public access for landowners that receive depredation assistance.
- Make hunting and fishing constitutional right and have a Governor elected Game Commissioner.
- Increase access.
- Improve habitat.
- Increase coyote control

DEER HUNTER INPUT OPPORTUNITY

INTRODUCTION

The number of archery any deer licenses in South Dakota has increased by nearly 30% in the last 10 years with resident licenses increasing from 25,100 to 30,530 and nonresident licenses increasing from 3,128 to 5,851 (Figure 9). In 2012, 11% of archery any deer licenses were sold to nonresidents and in 2021 this increased to 16%. Currently, there is no limit to the number of hunters that can purchase an archery deer hunting license. However, some public land hunting units require hunters to draw a limited access permit. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has received public input regarding hunter densities and harvest from archery hunters. GFP solicited input from all deer hunters to evaluate opinions about archery hunters and preferences for potential changes to the deer season. Specifically, we wanted to isolate opinions about archery hunters by land ownership and residency, and preferences for management options. We also wanted to evaluate how different opinions and preferences were different for archery and firearm and resident and nonresident hunter types.

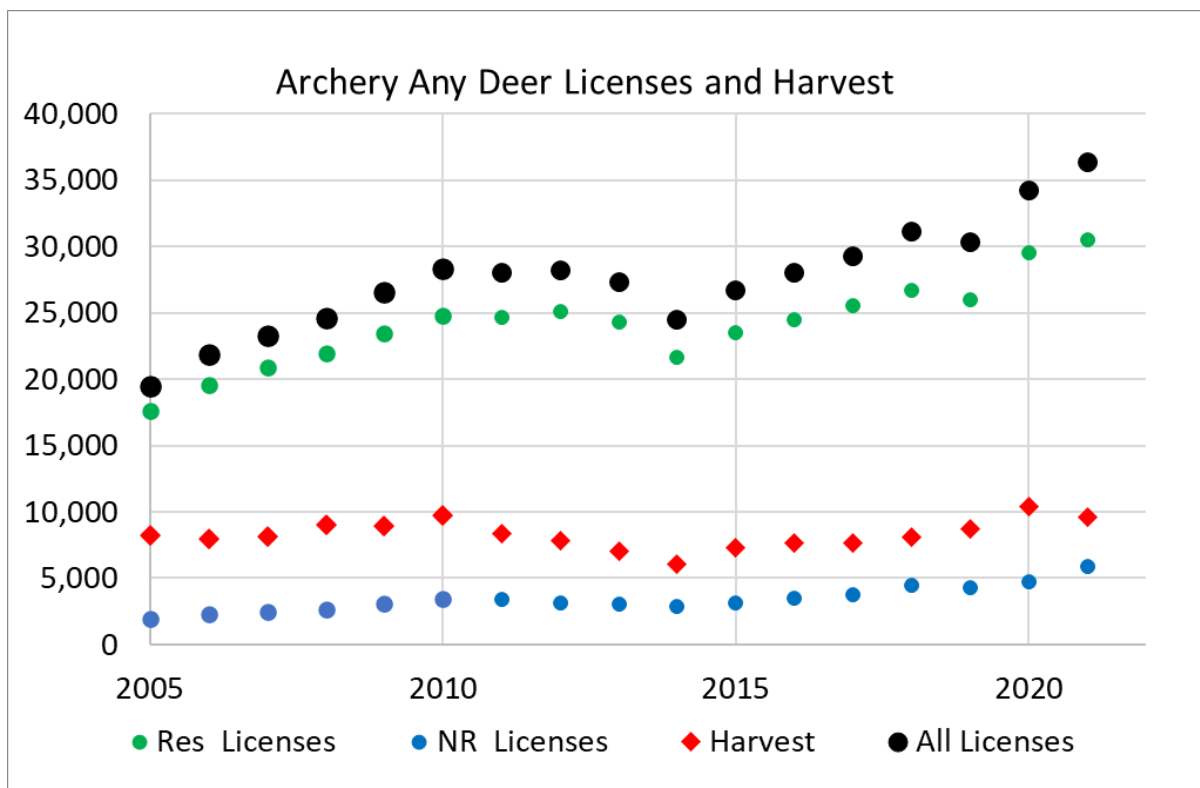


Figure 9. Total estimated combined white-tailed and mule deer harvest (red diamonds) and number of any deer licenses sold in South Dakota (black, red, and blue circles).

METHODS

All individuals that applied for or purchased a deer firearm or archery hunting license from 2019, 2020, or 2021 were emailed a request with an electronic link to complete an input form

(Qualtrics, Provo, UT) to solicit opinions and season structure preferences from deer hunters. Input questions were designed to evaluate types of land hunted, opinions about archery hunter numbers by land ownership and residency, and preferences for reducing, maintaining or increasing archery hunting opportunity. The final question provided an opportunity for respondents to include additional comments or alternative management ideas (Appendix 2).

Survey results were summarized by hunter type which included 4 mutually exclusive groups: 1) resident archery hunters, 2) resident firearm only hunters, 3) nonresident archery hunters, and 4) nonresident firearm hunters. Firearm hunters included hunters that did not purchase an archery deer license during 2019, 2020, or 2021. An additional subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least 1 question were evaluated for their preference regarding potential changes to archery licenses (Question 4; Appendix 2). All analysis was completed in Program R (R Development Core Team).

RESPONSES

The average response rates among all hunter types was 9% and included 8,183 responses from 88,672 surveys. Response rates were greatest for archery hunters (21% resident archery; 18% nonresident archery) and lowest for firearm hunters (3% resident firearm; 4% nonresident firearm; Table 2).

Table 2. Total responses, hunters surveyed and response rates by hunter type for the deer archery hunter input opportunity.

Hunter Group	Number of Responses	Number Surveyed	Response Rate
Resident archery	5,105	24,510	21%
Resident firearm only	1,319	47,618	3%
Nonresident archery	1,401	7,803	18%
Nonresident firearm only	358	8,741	4%
All hunters	8,183	88,672	9%

QUESTION SUMMARIES

(1) Over the past 3 hunting seasons, please select one of the following describing the proportion of time you spent hunting deer on publicly accessible lands (e.g., private land enrolled in a walk-in-area or controlled hunting access program, SD School and Public lands, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and GFP public hunting areas) compared to private property.

- All publicly accessible and no private
- Mostly publicly accessible and some private
- About the same amount publicly accessible and private
- Mostly private and some publicly accessible
- All private and no publicly accessible
- I did not hunt deer any of the past 3 years

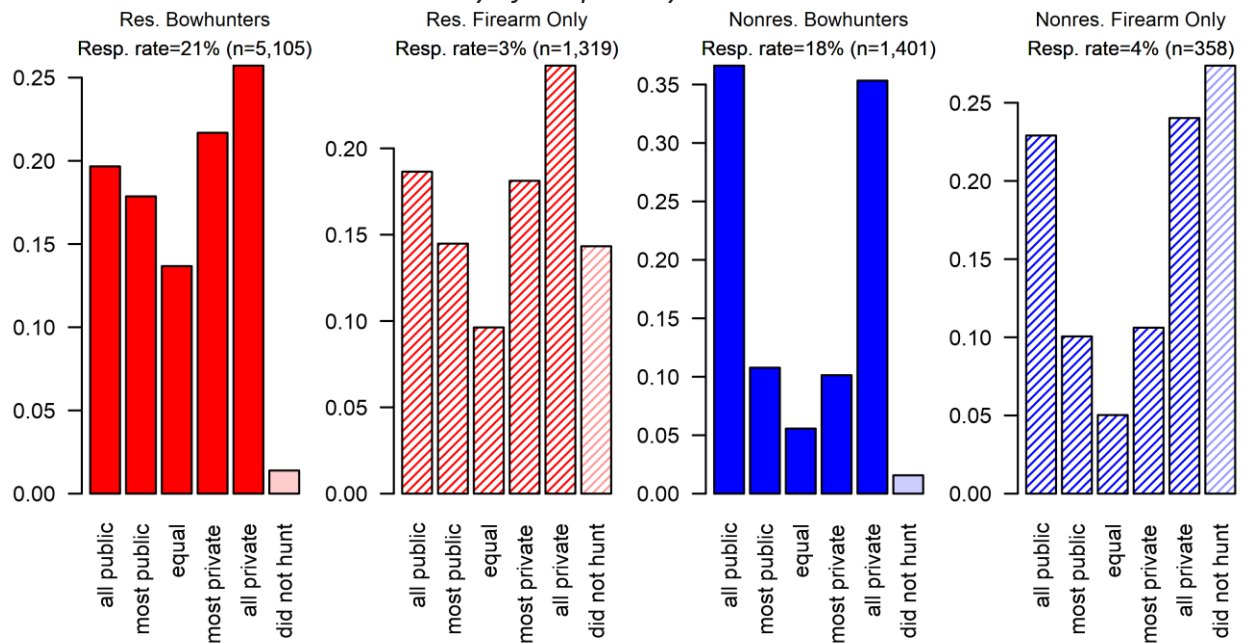


Figure 10. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 1.

(2) How do you feel about the number of **whitetail archery hunters** on public land:

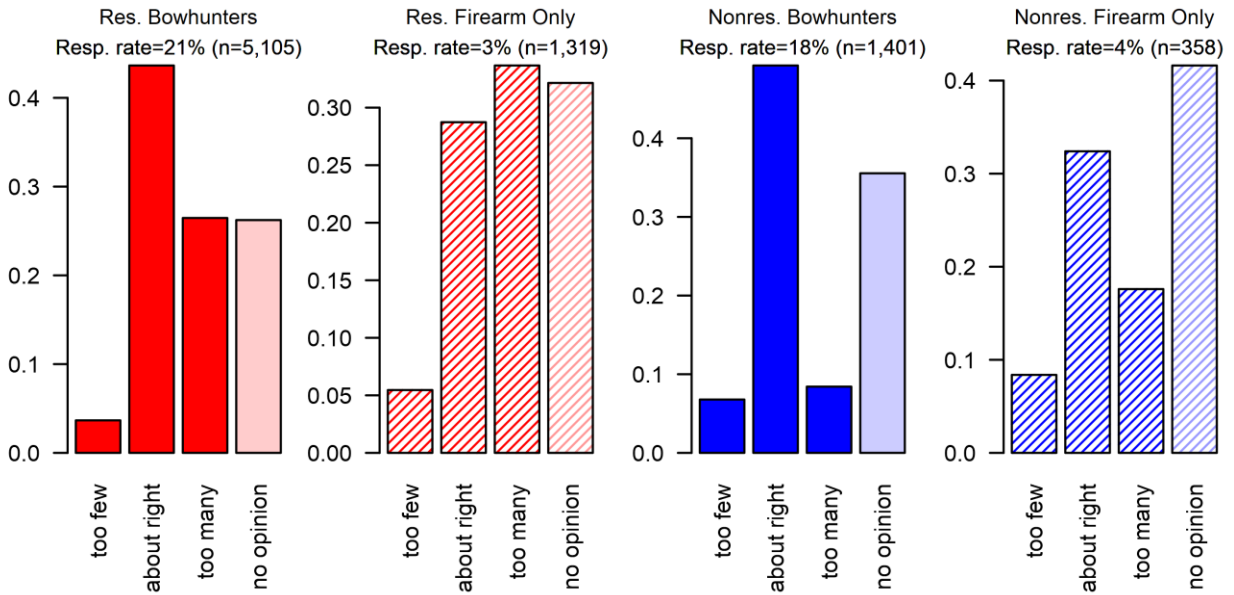


Figure 11. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 2.

(3) How do you feel about the number of **mule deer archery hunters** on public land:

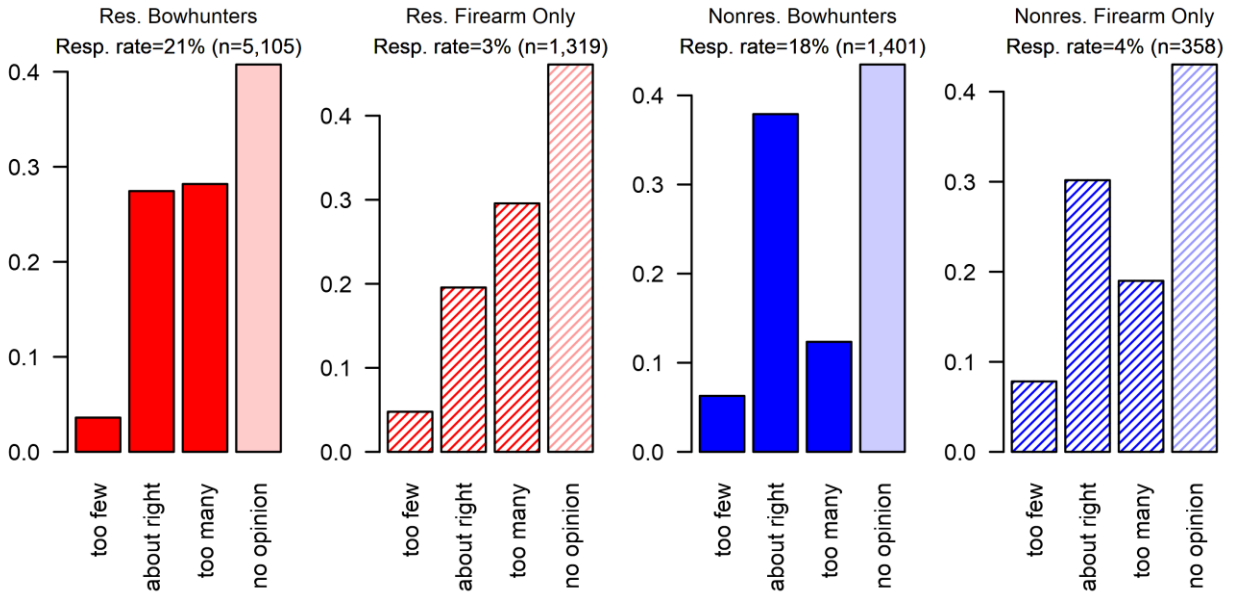


Figure 12. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 3.

(4) How do you feel about the number of **whitetail archery hunters** on private land:

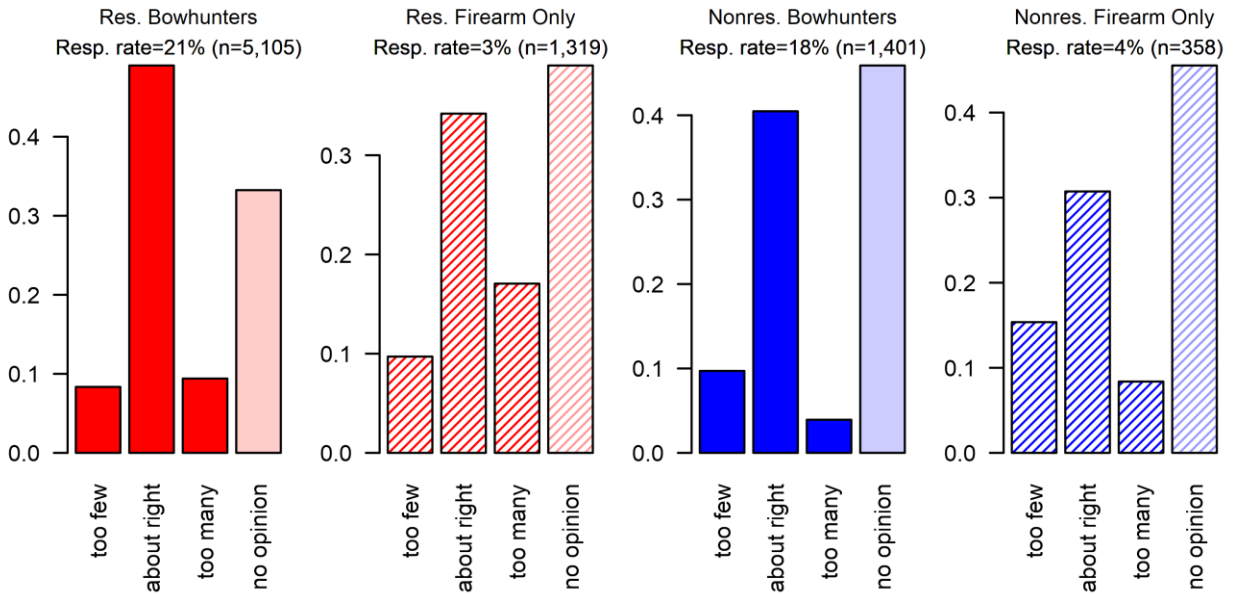


Figure 13. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 2.

(5) How do you feel about the number of **mule deer archery hunters** on private land:

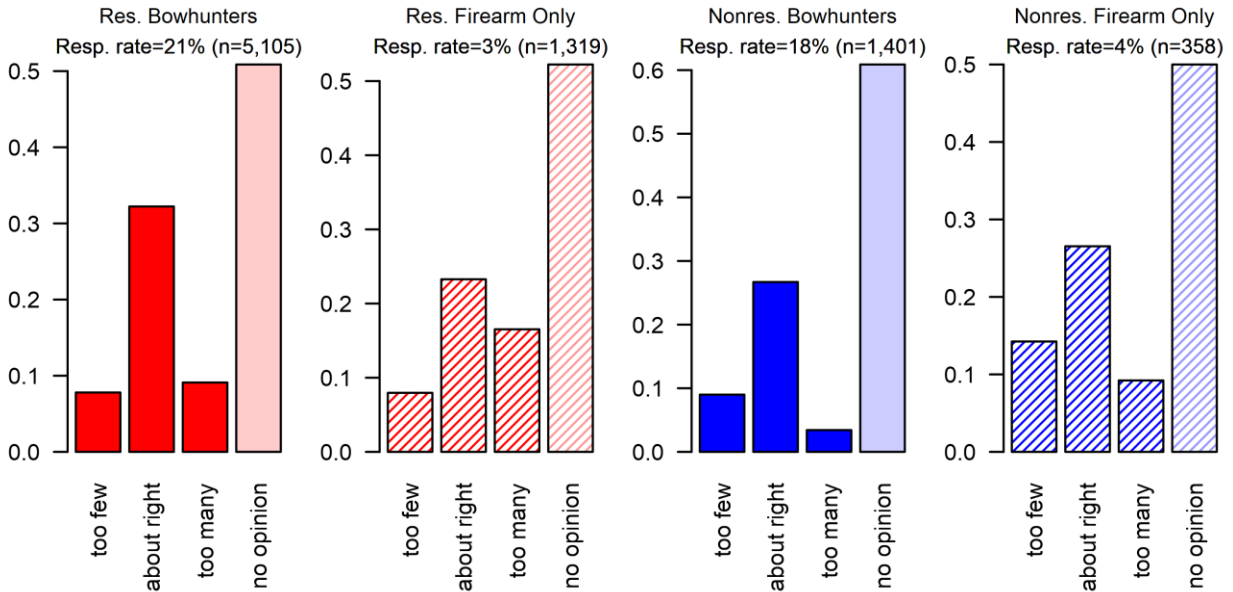


Figure 14. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 3.

(6) Please select one of the following options regarding the number of any deer archery deer licenses per hunter:

- Maintain current any deer license availability: Statewide or East River and/or West River
- Remove Statewide any deer license and maintain unlimited East River and West River any deer licenses
- Maintain unlimited Statewide any deer license and remove East River and West River any deer licenses
- Remove unlimited Statewide and East River/West River any deer licenses and replace with 5 to 10 regional units with a limited number of any deer licenses. Hunters would have the option to select up to 2 of these units during license draws with the ability to obtain licenses in additional units if leftovers are available.
- Increase the number of unlimited statewide any deer licenses that an archery hunter may purchase
- No Preference

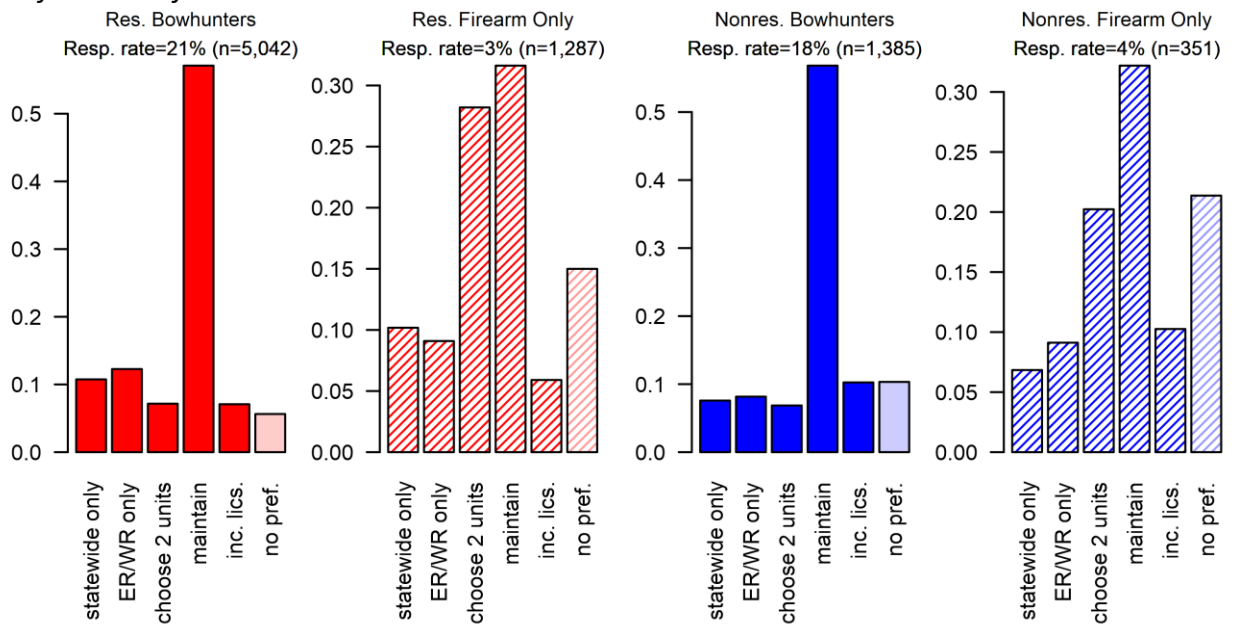


Figure 15. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 4.

(6) ****Responses from question 6 from a subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least one question****

Please select one of the following options regarding the number of any deer archery deer licenses per hunter:

- g. Maintain current any deer license availability: Statewide or East River and/or West River
- h. Remove Statewide any deer license and maintain unlimited East River and West River any deer licenses
- i. Maintain unlimited Statewide any deer license and remove East River and West River any deer licenses
- j. Remove unlimited Statewide and East River/West River any deer licenses and replace with 5 to 10 regional units with a limited number of any deer licenses. Hunters would have the option to select up to 2 of these units during license draws with the ability to obtain licenses in additional units if leftovers are available.
- k. Increase the number of unlimited statewide any deer licenses that an archery hunter may purchase
- l. No Preference

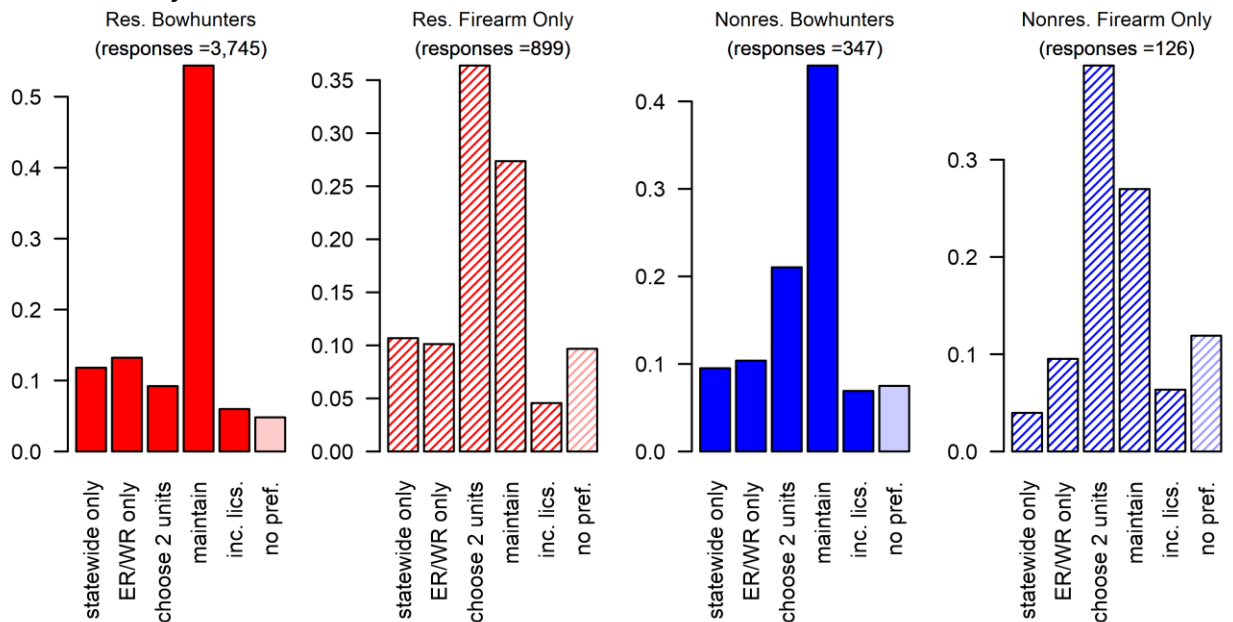


Figure 16. Proportion of responses from a subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least 1 question. Results are summarized by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 6.

(7) Please one of the following options regarding the number of limited access units:

- **Maintain** the four current public land units that require a limited access permit
- **Restrict** archery hunters in **more areas**
- **Restrict** archery hunters in **fewer areas**
- **No Preference**

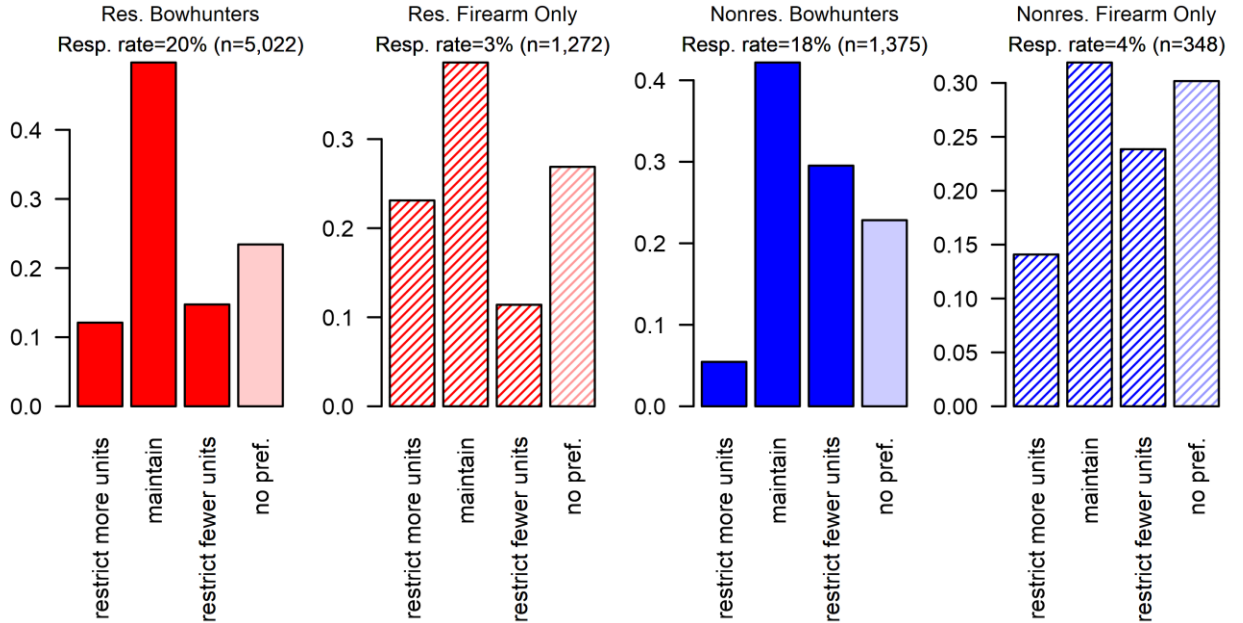


Figure 17. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 4.

(7) ****Responses from question 7 from a subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least one question****

Please select one of the following options regarding the number of limited access units:

- **Maintain** the four current public land units that require a limited access permit
- **Restrict** archery hunters in **more areas**
- **Restrict** archery hunters in **fewer areas**
- **No Preference**

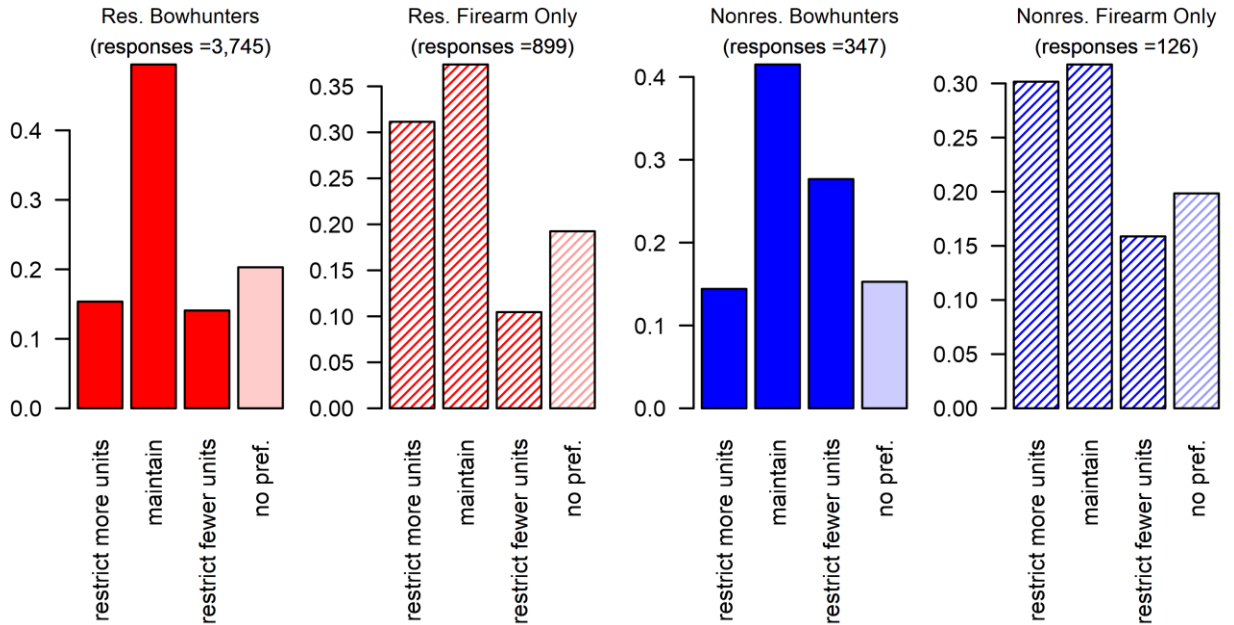


Figure 18. Proportion of responses from a subset of respondents that selected “too many” archery hunters for at least 1 question. Results are summarized by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 7.

(8) How do you feel about the number of resident whitetail archery hunters?

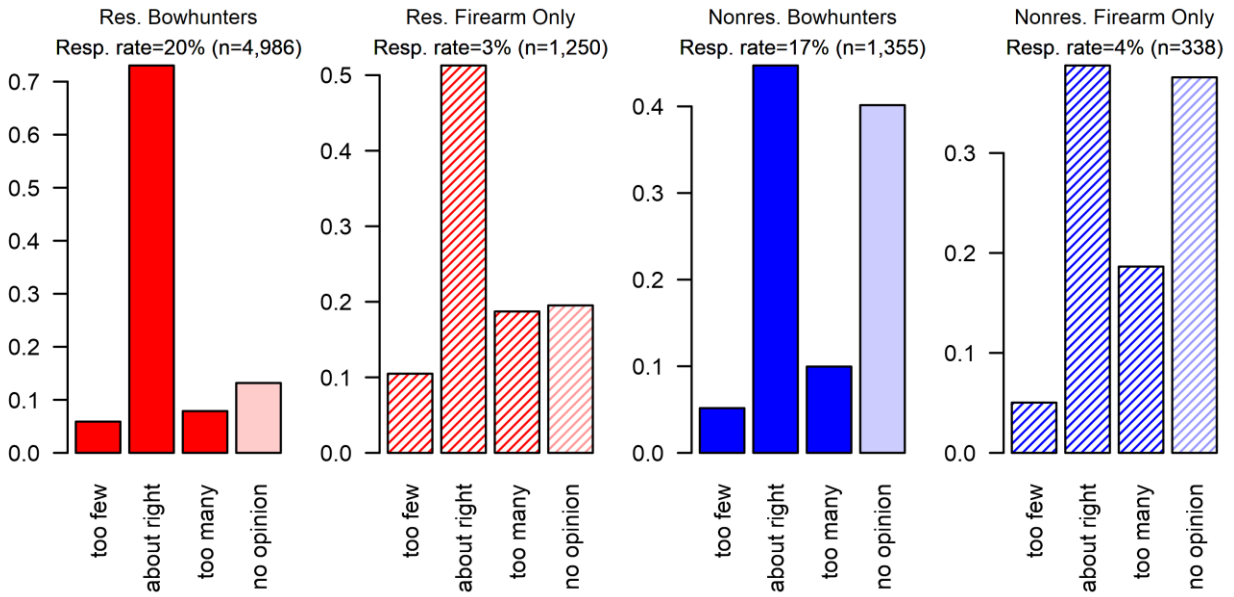


Figure 19. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 5.

(9) How do you feel about the number of resident mule deer archery hunters?

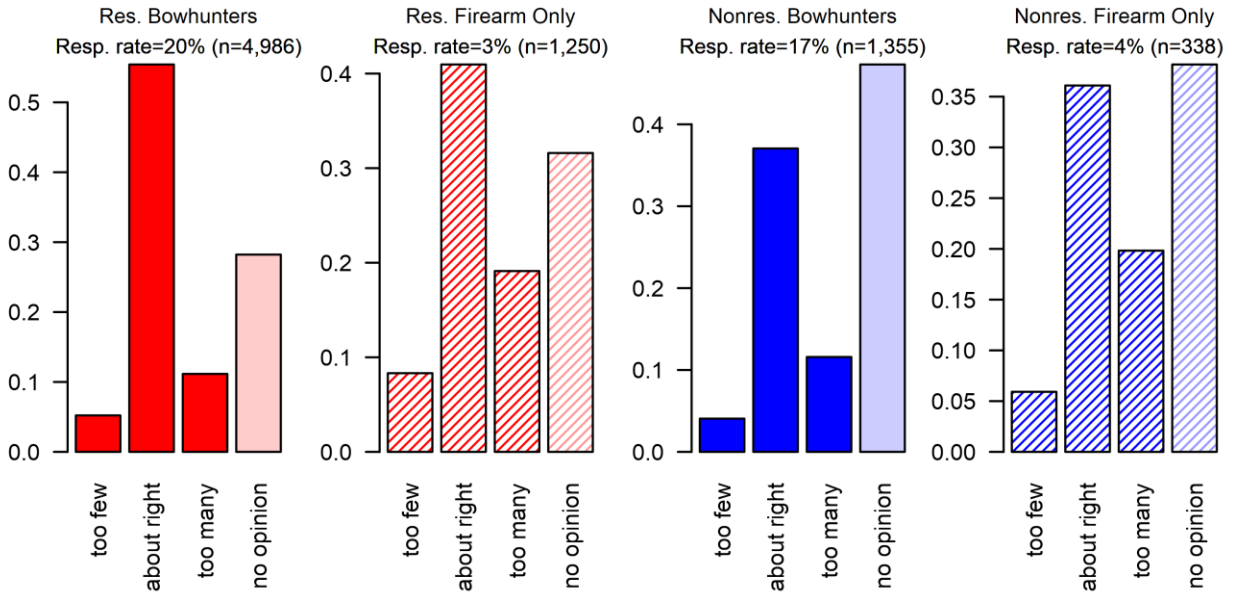


Figure 20. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 6.

(10) *How do you feel about the number of nonresident whitetail archery hunters?*

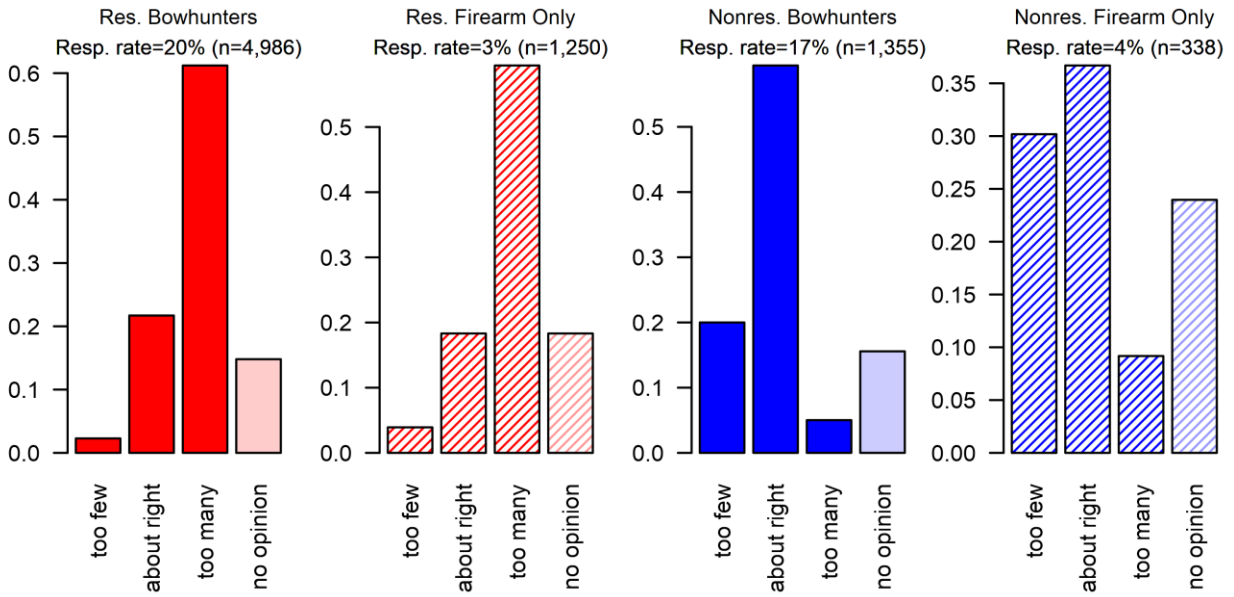


Figure 21. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 5.

(11) *How do you feel about the number of nonresident mule deer archery hunters?*

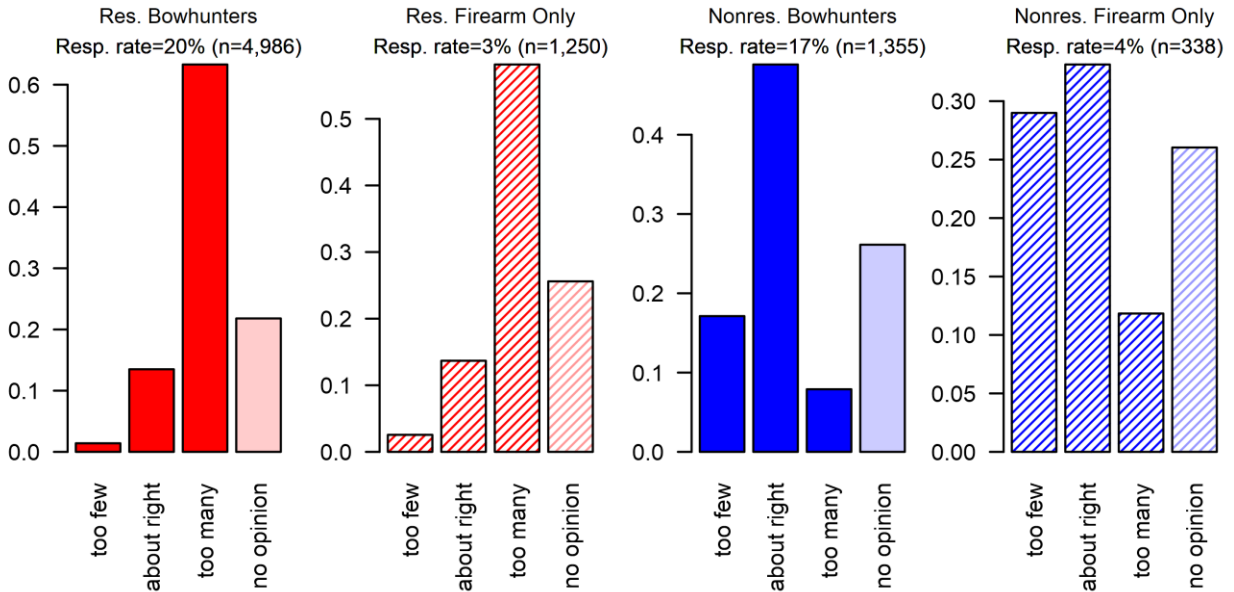


Figure 22. Proportion of responses by hunter group, resident bowhunter, resident firearm only, nonresident bowhunter and nonresident firearm hunter, with response rates and total number of responses at the top of each panel for question number 6.

(12) Please provide any additional comments or alternative management ideas in the space below:

All comments were edited to remove explicit language and personal information and are included in Appendix 4.

Below is a summary of ideas from comments organized by category.

Licenses available and application process

- Increase or decrease the number of any deer archery licenses available per hunter.
- Limit the number of buck licenses available per hunter.
- Create regions or units with a limited number of archery deer licenses in each area.
- Create county specific preference points.
- Increase or decrease the number of limited access units.
- Create trophy units.
- Increase or decrease the number of total resident or nonresidents archery hunters.
- Create previous resident license type.
- Increase or decrease the number of archery hunters on private or public land.
- Unlimited archery on federal land.
- Close public access on state parks.
- Change landowner requirements.
- Allow unlimited archery for landowner own land.
- Change any deer archery license type to buck only.
- Change archery license types to whitetail only or mule deer only.
- Include archery license in firearm draw currently limited to 2 season choices.
- Create a mule deer harvest quota.
- Include buck and doe tags with archery license.
- Return to all mail in applications.
- Remove nonresident application deadline.

Season timing

- Close season for mule deer for multiple years.
- Change season length or split season into intervals.
- Provide a January antlerless hunting season.
- Change firearm season dates.
- Close archery during firearm season.

Methods of take and reporting

- Choose between firearm and archery any deer license.
- Remove weapon requirement and make licenses available for all seasons.
- Require antler point restrictions.
- Require hunters to earn a buck license by harvesting a whitetail doe.
- Allow additional tag after successful harvest of deer.
- Require archery hunter education.
- Set up mandatory harvest checkpoint stations.
- Require mandatory harvest registration.
- Allow more archery technology.
- Allow crossbows during archery season.
- Allow crossbows after a certain age.
- Create lifetime license or lifetime disabled crossbow permit.
- Restrict crossbows more.
- Create a minimum age requirement for youth.
- Allow scopes on muzzleloaders.
- Allow baiting.
- Allow corner crossing.
- Limit nonresident guiding.

License fees

- Increase or decrease license fees.
- Require season or daily fee to access public land.
- Develop access fee program for private.
- Charge fee to film hunts.
- Create a mule deer stamp.

General and other ideas

- Follow archery regulations in other states including Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Montana.
- Increase law enforcement of deer hunters.
- Enforce deer stand removal dates or limit number of deer stands.
- Audit licensing system to evaluate potential tampering.
- Allow dogs for Black Hills mountain lion hunting.
- Limit pheasant hunting during deer season.
- Close waterfowl hunting near Sioux Falls during deer season.
- Provide financial compensation for deer crop depredation.
- Make Conservation Reserve Program profitable again.
- Require public access for landowners that receive depredation assistance.

- Increase access.
- Improve habitat.
- Increase meat processors.
- Limit UTV use.

APPENDIX 1: ARCHERY ANTELOPE HUNTING INPUT FORM

Topic Background

The number of archery antelope hunters in South Dakota has more than doubled in the last 10 years with resident licenses increasing from 1,212 to 2,142 and nonresident licenses increasing from 255 to 877. Currently, there is no limit to the number of hunters that can purchase an archery antelope license. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has received public input regarding hunter densities and harvest from archery hunters. GFP is soliciting input from hunters to evaluate preferences for potential changes to the archery antelope season.

(1) Over the past 3 hunting seasons, please select one of the following describing the proportion of time you spent hunting antelope on publicly accessible lands (e.g., private land enrolled in a walk-in-area or controlled hunting access program, SD School and Public lands, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and GFP public hunting areas) compared to private property.

- All publicly accessible and no private
- Mostly publicly accessible and some private
- About the same amount publicly accessible and private
- Mostly private and some publicly accessible
- All private and no publicly accessible
- I did not hunt antelope any of the past 3 years

(2) How do you feel about the number of **archery antelope hunters** on **public** land:

- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(3) How do you feel about the number of **archery antelope hunters** on **private** land:

- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(4) Please select one of the following options:

- Maintain current archery antelope license availability: single statewide archery hunting unit open where firearm antelope is open
- Maintain statewide antelope license option but restrict hunting pressure on certain public land areas by requiring archery hunter to draw a limited access permit
- Remove statewide antelope license option and allow archery hunters the option to select for only one regional hunting unit (2 to 5 regional hunting units to be determined)
- Increase the number of unlimited statewide antelope licenses that an archery hunter may purchase
- No preference

In 2021, 930 more resident and 622 more nonresident licenses were purchased for the archery antelope season compared to 2012. In 2012, 17% of archery antelope hunters were nonresidents and in 2021 this increased to 29%.

(5) How do you feel about the number of **resident** archery antelope hunters?

Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(6) How do you feel about the number of **nonresident** archery antelope hunters?

Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(7) Please provide any additional comments or alternative management ideas in the space below:

APPENDIX 2: ARCHERY DEER HUNTING INPUT FORM

Topic Background

The number of archery deer hunters in South Dakota has increased by nearly 30% in the last 10 years with resident licenses increasing from 25,100 to 30,530 and nonresident licenses increasing from 3,128 to 5,851. Currently, there is no limit to the number of hunters that can purchase an archery deer hunting license. However, some public land hunting units require hunters to draw a limited access permit. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has received public input regarding hunter densities and harvest from archery hunters. GFP is soliciting input from hunters to evaluate preference for potential changes to the archery deer season.

- (1) Over the past 3 hunting seasons, please select one of the following describing the proportion of time you spent hunting deer on publicly accessible lands (e.g., private land enrolled in a walk-in-area or controlled hunting access program, SD School and Public lands, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and GFP public hunting areas) compared to private property.
- All publicly accessible and no private
 - Mostly publicly accessible and some private
 - About the same amount publicly accessible and private
 - Mostly private and some publicly accessible
 - All private and no publicly accessible
 - I did not hunt deer any of the past 3 years
- (2) How do you feel about the number of **whitetail archery hunters** on **public** land:
- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference
- (3) How do you feel about the number of **mule deer archery hunters** on **public** land:
- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference
- (4) How do you feel about the number of **whitetail archery hunters** on **private** land:
- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference
- (5) How do you feel about the number of **mule deer archery hunters** on **private** land:
- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

During the archery deer season, hunters that would like to hunt an antlered deer have the option to purchase a statewide any deer license or they can purchase one or both of: East River any deer license and/or West River any deer license.

- (6) Please select one of the following options regarding the number of any deer archery deer licenses per hunter:
- Maintain current any deer license availability: Statewide or East River and/or West River

- Remove Statewide any deer license and maintain unlimited East River and West River any deer licenses
- Maintain unlimited Statewide any deer license and remove East River and West River any deer licenses
- Remove unlimited Statewide and East River/West River any deer licenses and replace with 5 to 10 regional units with a limited number of any deer licenses. Hunters would have the option to select up to 2 of these units during license draws with the ability to obtain licenses in additional units if leftovers are available.
- Increase the number of unlimited statewide any deer licenses that an archery hunter may purchase
- No Preference

In addition to the any deer archery license, hunters are required to draw a unit-specific limited access permit if they want to hunt any of the four limited access public land hunting units. These access permits reduce the number of archery hunters on specific hunting units.

(7) Please select one of the following options regarding the number of limited access units:

- **Maintain** the four current public land units that require a limited access permit
- **Restrict** archery hunters in **more areas**
- **Restrict** archery hunters in **fewer areas**
- No Preference

In 2021, 5,430 more resident and 2,723 more nonresident licenses were purchased for archery deer compared to 2012. In 2012, 11% of archery deer licenses were sold to nonresidents and in 2021 this increased to 16%.

(8) How do you feel about the number of **resident whitetail** archery hunters?

- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(9) How do you feel about the number of **resident mule deer** archery hunters?

- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(10) How do you feel about the number of **nonresident whitetail** archery hunters?

- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(11) How do you feel about the number of **nonresident mule deer** archery hunters?

- Too Few About Right Too Many No Preference

(12) Please provide any additional comments or alternative management ideas in the space below:

APPENDIX 3 AND 4: COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS PROVIDED IN SEPARATE DOCUMENTS