

Statewide Combined Deer Harvest

There were 51,771 resident deer licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available in 2020 and 104,340 were issued. Nonresidents had 2,837 licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available and 8,566 were issued. Statewide, there were a total of 112,906 licenses sold that represented a total of 128,215 tags, an increase in 6,590 licenses and 7,294 tags from 2019. A total of 70,469 individual hunters were issued deer licenses in 2020, up from 68,644 in 2019.

All hunters that listed an email address were surveyed using Survey123 Software. All hunters who did not respond or did not supply an email address were mailed post card requests to respond through the GFP website. Response rates ranged from 33% for Landowner Antlerless Deer to 77% for Custer State Park.

The projected statewide deer harvest was 59,071, an increase of over 8,000 from 2019. This estimate included 30,491 whitetail bucks, 21,147 whitetail does, 5,904 mule bucks and 1,530 mule does. Increases in white-tailed buck, white-tailed doe, mule buck, and mule doe harvest accounted for the increase in overall harvest. Mule deer made up approximately 13% of the total harvest.

The 2020 overall statewide harvest success increased to 46% from 42% in 2019. Harvest success ranged from 23% for Waubay Refuge to 74% for West River Special Buck.

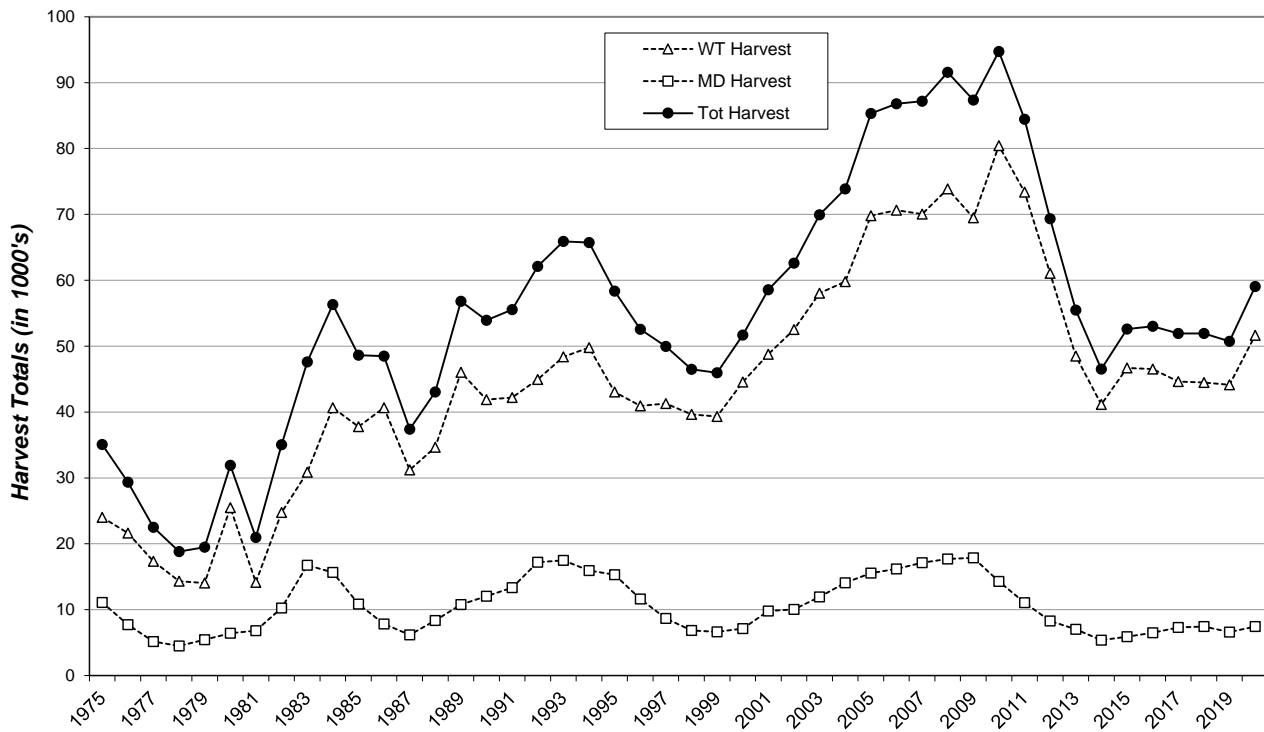
The total statewide estimate of 603,635 recreation days of deer hunting in 2020 results in an average of 5.35 days per hunter. Average hunter satisfaction values (1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied) ranged from 4.55 for Sand Lake Refuge to 6.19 for Custer State Park.

2020 Statewide Deer Harvest Projection Summary

last revised: 12 May 2021

SOUTH DAKOTA Harvest Statistics	Season	Archery	Apprentice Antlerless	Mentored Youth	Muzzleloader	Landowner Own Land Antlerless	West River	West River Landowner Own Land	West River Special Buck Unit	East River	East River Landowner Own Land	East River Special Buck Unit	Refuges			Black Hills	Black Hills Landowner Own Land	Custer State Park	Grand Totals
		Sand Lake NWR	Waubay NWR	Lacreek NWR	Black Hills	Black Hills Landowner Own Land	Custer State Park												
Licenses/Tags																			
Resident Licenses																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	17,928	Unlimited	1,000	27,310	Unlimited	500	105	20	20	4,800	Unlimited	88	51,771
Sold		29,551	3,794	6,387	3,550	387	17,960	2,776	997	26,225	7,092	499	108	20	17	4,850	39	88	104,340
Resident Tags																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	23,948	Unlimited	1,000	30,110	Unlimited	500	105	20	20	4,800	Unlimited	88	60,591
Sold		29,551	3,794	6,387	3,550	387	23,974	4,463	997	28,848	11,537	499	108	20	17	4,850	61	88	119,131
Nonresident Licenses																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	Unlimited	1,439	Unlimited	1,000	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	10	2	2	384	N/A	N/A	2,837
Sold		4,692	508	N/A	157	6	1,422	29	958	437	N/A	N/A	10	2	2	343	N/A	N/A	8,566
Nonresident Tags																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	Unlimited	1,921	Unlimited	1,000	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	10	2	2	384	N/A	N/A	3,319
Sold		4,692	508	N/A	157	6	1,914	41	958	451	N/A	N/A	10	2	2	343	N/A	N/A	9,084
Total Licenses																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	19,367	Unlimited	2,000	27,310	Unlimited	500	115	22	22	5,184	Unlimited	88	54,608
Sold		34,243	4,302	6,387	3,707	393	19,382	2,805	1,955	26,662	7,092	499	118	22	19	5,193	39	88	112,906
Total Tags																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	25,869	Unlimited	2,000	30,110	Unlimited	500	115	22	22	5,184	Unlimited	88	63,910
Sold		34,243	4,302	6,387	3,707	393	25,888	4,504	1,955	29,299	11,537	499	118	22	19	5,193	61	88	128,215
Hunters																			
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	25,869	Unlimited	2,000	30,110	Unlimited	500	115	22	22	5,184	Unlimited	88	63,910
Sold		25,710	4,302	6,387	3,572	321	18,732	2,805	1,955	25,175	7,092	499	118	22	19	5,193	39	88	70,469
Recreation																			
Average Days Hunted		11.14	3.71	3.77	4.36	3.74	3.34	4.14	3.69	4.19	4.92	5.62	2.81	3.22	3.70	4.87	4.62	3.28	5.35
Total Days Hunted		286,443	15,956	24,071	15,577	4,413	62,569	11,620	7,207	111,812	34,915	2,803	332	71	70	25,307	180	289	603,635
Mean Satisfaction Score		5.25	5.73	5.77	5.14	4.92	5.30	5.29	5.81	4.90	5.07	5.11	4.55	5.24	5.64	5.44	5.23	6.19	
Harvest																			
White-tailed Deer																			
Bucks		6,253	249	371	272	9	7,266	917	964	8,744	2,807	250	35	5	9	2,296	15	28	30,491
Does		2,807	1,847	2,773	882	212	4,058	546	16	5,405	1,655	6	5	0	0	897	11	26	21,147
Total		9,061	2,096	3,143	1,154	221	11,324	1,463	981	14,149	4,462	256	40	5	9	3,193	26	53	51,637
Mule Deer																			
Bucks		1,234	26	21	170	0	3,042	527	465	223	98	18	0	0	0	75	6	0	5,904
Does		150	372	472	17	0	237	214	4	23	36	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1,530
Total		1,384	397	493	186	0	3,278	740	469	246	134	18	0	0	0	82	6	0	7,434
Total Deer Harvest																			
Bucks		7,487	275	392	442	9	10,308	1,444	1,429	8,967	2,905	268	35	5	9	2,371	21	28	36,394
Does		2,957	2,218	3,244	899	212	4,295	759	21	5,428	1,691	6	5	0	0	904	11	26	22,677
Total		10,445	2,493	3,636	1,341	221	14,602	2,203	1,450	14,395	4,596	274	40	5	9	3,275	32	53	59,071
Success																			
		31%	58%	57%	36%	56%	56%	49%	74%	49%	40%	55%	34%	23%	49%	63%	52%	61%	46%

South Dakota Combined Deer Harvest 1975-2020



South Dakota Combined Deer Licensing 1975-2020

