

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey Report - 2010



HD-8-11.AMS

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

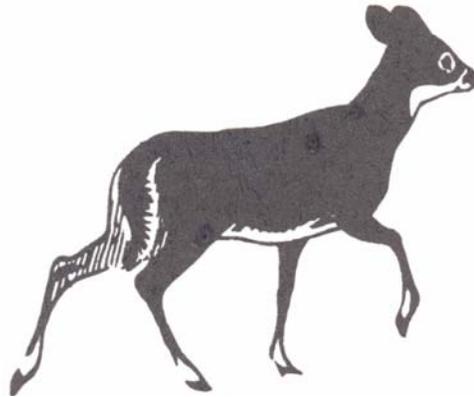


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523 E. Capitol
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This report was produced for Game, Fish and Parks' wildlife staff and administrators to evaluate the East River and West River deer seasons from the perspective of deer hunters and to improve their understanding of prairie deer hunters. Recommendations made in this report are solely my opinion and are intended as suggestions for future discussion and consideration by GFP wildlife staff. Recommendations in this report do not necessarily reflect any final decisions by wildlife staff or GFP policy.

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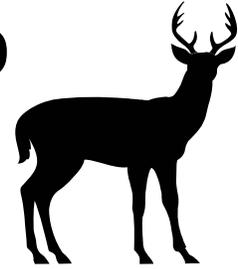
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Executive Summary

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey Report – 2010

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Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks



The general purpose of this deer hunter survey was to learn more about East River and West River deer hunters. More specific objectives were to learn how best to allocate deer hunting opportunities and structure deer seasons to maximize deer hunter satisfaction. This report has three parts.

Part 1 is a general description of prairie deer hunters (randomly selected deer hunters with a 2010 East River and/or West River deer license) covering six topic areas: 1) deer hunting history and preferences, 2) motivations for deer hunting, 3) general attitudes related to deer hunting, 4) opinions and preferences for deer hunting management options (deer season structure and design), 5) hunters' evaluations of their deer hunting experiences for the 2010 East River and West River deer season, and 6) demographic information.

Part 2 compares the results collected via the Internet versus questionnaires returned by mail. Twenty-seven of 63 statistical tests (43.5%) showed significant differences (at the $p=.05$ level) between the two data collection methods. While most of the significant relationships in the study were weak or small, the high number of significant differences suggests that additional data collection methods be used in conjunction with the Internet to adjust for possible biases that could result from utilizing the Internet as the sole data collection method. The Internet provides for some costs saving in conducting surveys of hunters while the mail survey can be used to compensate for the shortcomings associated with Internet surveys; namely incomplete coverage (not having e-mails for everyone) and relatively low response rates.

Part 3 has two types of comparisons between East River and West River rifle deer hunters covering five topic areas: 1) deer hunting history and preferences, 2) motivations for deer hunting, 3) general attitudes related to deer hunting, 4) opinions and preferences for deer hunting management options (deer season structure and design), 5) demographic information.

The first comparison examines the similarities and differences between a randomly selected sample of East River and West River deer hunters. In such a sample there would be a relatively high percentage (34% in this particular sample) of hunters with both licenses. Thirty-five (56%) of 63 statistical tests were significant in the comparison of a random sample of East River and West River rifle deer hunters. Most (31; 89%) of the significant relationships were relatively weak; 3 were moderate and one was very strong.

The second comparison recognizes that there are possibly three types of prairie, rifle deer hunters; East River, West River and hunters that do both. This analysis provides a better understanding of prairie, rifle deer hunters by recognizing a more complex segmentation of hunters; namely three groups rather than two groups. Fifty-four (86%) of 63 statistical tests were significant in the three-way comparison of East River, West River and deer hunters with both license types. Most (47; 87%) of the significant relationships were relatively weak; 5 were moderate and two were very strong. Many of the significant differences among the three groups (East River, West River and deer hunters with both license types) was due to the hunters with both license types being different from East River and West River deer hunters (i.e., hunters with only one of these deer licenses).



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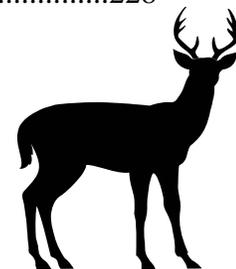
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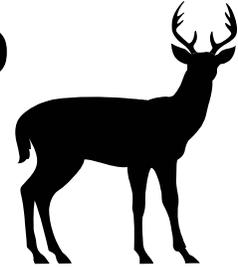


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The general purpose of this deer hunter survey was to learn more about East River and West River deer hunters. More specific objectives were to learn how best to allocate deer hunting opportunities and structure deer seasons to maximize deer hunter satisfaction.

Methods

Survey Instrument. The survey questionnaire had six topic areas: 1) deer hunting history and preferences, 2) motivations for deer hunting, 3) general attitudes related to deer hunting, 4) opinions and preferences for deer hunting management options (deer season structure and design), 5) hunters' evaluations of their deer hunting experiences for the 2010 East River and West River deer season, and 6) demographic information. The survey instrument included space for optional written comments. Two versions of the questionnaire were developed; an electronic questionnaire and a paper questionnaire (Appendix A). The two questionnaires had the same question wording and same sequence of questions.

Sampling. A total of 4,000 resident 2010 licensed deer hunters (2,000 from East River and 2,000 from West River) were randomly selected for this study. Twenty-nine hunters were included in both samples (Appendix B – Table 1), resulting in a sample size of 3,971 unique individuals. Data collection started with an e-mail invitation to respond via the Internet (SurveyMonkey.com was used for the Internet portion of this survey) for everyone that had provided an e-mail address. A total of 3,283 hunters in the sample had an e-mail address in the agency's database; of which 3,136 uploaded (147 had an opt-out status).

The Internet portion of this survey was e-mailed on January 31, 2011 (a reminder e-mail sent on February 3 and a final e-mail reminder sent on January 7, both indicating a closing date of February 11 for the Internet portion of the survey). All non-respondents to the Internet survey and hunters in the sample without e-mail addresses were mailed the questionnaire on February 13, 2011.

Results

Returns. A total of 1,236 returns came in via the Internet (39% return rate) and 1,674 questionnaires were returned by mail (74% return rate) (Appendix B – Table 2). Internet returns were 42.5% of the total returns received for this survey (Appendix B – Table 2). Returns by deer season (East vs. West River) were nearly 50-50 (Appendix B – Table 3).

→ *This report will first present results of the full, complete sample of randomly selected deer hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license (**Part 1**), followed by results comparing the two survey methods (**Part 2**), and results comparing hunters with an East River, West River or licenses for both seasons (**Part 3**),*

Results: Part 1 – Overall Summary

Deer Hunting in 2010. Hunters in the sample averaged 8.1 days of deer hunting (all types) during the 2010 deer seasons (runs through January 31, 2011) (Table 1). About 4% of the licensed deer hunters did not do any deer hunting in 2010. The deer hunters that hunted harvested an average of about 1.6 deer (0.7 antlered bucks and 0.9 antlerless deer) (Table 2). About 25% of the deer hunters did not harvest any deer in 2010.

About 24% of the licensed East/West River deer hunters hunted during the extended rifle deer seasons in January (January 1-9, 2011) for an average of 2.3 days harvesting an average of 0.7 deer (Table 3).

Types of Deer Licenses & Preferences. This analysis examines the different types of licenses, not the number of total licenses a hunter has. In the deer hunter sample, 62% had an East River deer license and 57% had a West River deer license (Table 4). Deer hunters had an average of 1.8 types of deer licenses (Table 5).

Most hunters with an East River or West River deer license preferred an East or West River deer license, although about 13% preferred archery deer hunting and 6% preferred Black Hills deer hunting (Table 6).

Motivations and Attitudes related to Deer Hunting. The top three rated motivations for Deer hunting were nature, social and excitement (Table 7 and Appendix C). However, when asked to select their most important motivation for deer hunting, 29% selected social reasons, 22% excitement and 19% selected nature (Table 8).

About 22% said that deer hunting was their most important outdoor recreational activity and another 44% said that deer hunting, while not the “most” important was still very important (Table 9).

About 22% reported that harvesting a deer was very important and 64% said that having an un-crowded, undisturbed deer hunting experience was very important (Table 10). On the scale used to measure the importance of these two aspects of deer hunting (harvest vs. crowding), having an un-crowded and undisturbed deer hunting experience was 25% more important than harvesting a deer.

Most East/West River deer hunters agreed (52% strongly agreed and 32% agreed) with the statement that they could be satisfied with their deer hunting experience even if they did not kill a deer (Table 11-A). Most East/West River deer hunters disagreed (50% strongly disagreed and 21% disagreed) with the statement that they were only interested in hunting for a buck (Table 11-B). About 13% of the East/West River deer hunters were only interested in hunting for a buck. However, there were mixed attitudes towards killing small bucks (Table 11-C). About 45% were only interested in harvesting a large buck if they were going to shoot a buck while 40% would harvest a small buck.

Deer Hunting Seasons in South Dakota. The following information was first presented in the survey questionnaire before hunters responded to the two questions about Special Management Units:

In South Dakota there are a few small hunting units (Special Management Units) that greatly restrict the number of deer licenses (e.g., the Little Moreau Rec. Area and Game Production Area in Dewey County and the National Grasslands in Lyman, Stanley and Jones Counties) in order to prevent crowding. Hunters applying for a deer license in such a unit may have to wait five or more years before drawing a license, but drawing a deer license would provide a hunting opportunity with a low number of hunters in the unit.

Most hunters (54%) were undecided about Special Management Units for deer hunting, although of those with an opinion, more felt they liked having Special Management Units for deer hunting in South Dakota than did this who disliked Special Management Units (38% vs. 9%) (Table 12-A). While most hunters (59%) were comfortable with the current number of Special Management Units, a higher percent of hunters wanted more compared to hunters wanting fewer (Table 12-B and Figure 1).

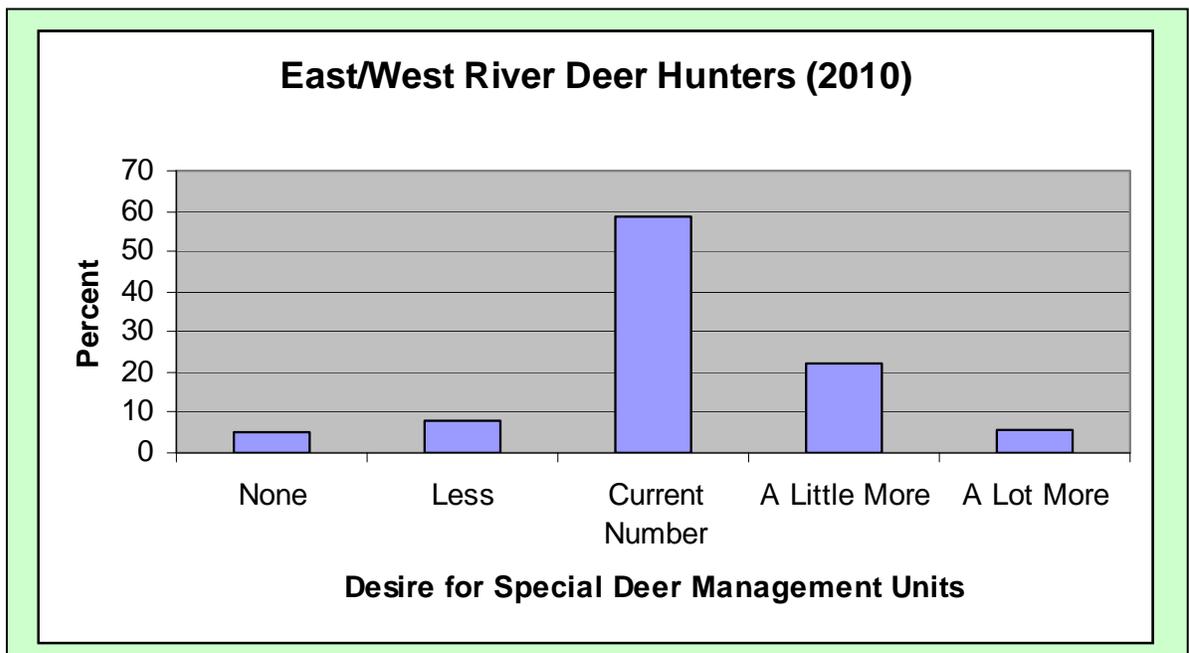


Figure 1. East/West River deer hunters' desire for Special Deer Management Units in South Dakota (2010).

The following information was first presented in the survey questionnaire before hunters responded to the two questions about allocation of “preferred” deer licenses:

There are 3 major rifle deer hunting seasons in South Dakota (East River, West River & Black Hills). Demand for licenses that allow harvest of a buck is greater than available. Currently hunters can apply separately for each of the deer seasons; therefore some hunters can receive “preferred” deer licenses in all 3 seasons while other hunters may not get any “preferred” deer license for a particular year. This occurs because the drawings for the 3 deer seasons are separate and independent of each other.

Hunter opinion was somewhat split on whether or not the current system of allocating rifle deer hunting opportunity was fair or unfair (37% unfair, 36% undecided, and 28% fair), but most hunters think they would favor a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year (Table 13). However, evidence from the recent survey of Black Hills deer hunters suggest that many hunters would not like the type of system that would be needed to achieve this objective.¹ Hunters were asked for suggestions for ways to improve the fairness of allocating buck hunting opportunities; these are listed in Appendices D and E.

Most East/West River deer hunters would like to either increase the length of the extended antlerless deer season (37%) or keep the season the same length (36%) (Table 14). Few hunters want the extended antlerless deer season reduced (2%), however, 10% felt the season should be eliminated. About 37% did not have an opinion about the preferred dates for the extended antlerless deer season while the highest preference among those with an opinion was for the extended antlerless deer season to start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days (Table 15).

If there was a need to reduce the deer herd in some hunting units in which not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended antlerless

¹ Gigliotti, L. M. 2011. 2010 Black Hills deer hunter survey report. Report #: HD-5-11.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

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deer season about half (52%) of the hunters would be favorable towards having an early (October) antlerless deer season; 31% would be opposed (Table 16).

Most deer hunters feel the length of the regular East River and West River rifle deer seasons (16-days for most hunting units) is just about right (58%) or too short (32%); only 5% felt the season was too long (Table 17).

East/West River Deer Hunters' Preferred Management Options. Only one of the eight management options designed to reduce the current number of bucks harvested to allow more bucks to mature enough to produce larger antlers received relatively high support by the hunters (Table 18). Slightly over half (52%) of the hunters would favor limiting the number of bucks a hunter could kill per year; 29% were opposed to this management option. Slightly more favored shorting deer seasons in January than opposed (40% vs. 33%). Hunter opinion was strongly opposed to the other six management options.

Evaluation of the 2010 East River Deer Season. About 62% of the sample of East/West River deer hunters hunted during the 2010 East River deer season (Table 19). About 84% of the East River deer hunting occurred on private land; 64% of the hunters did all of their hunting on private land (Table 20). About 16% of the East River deer hunting occurred on public land; 7% of the hunters did all of their hunting on public land.

Almost half (49%) of the East River deer hunters rated the whitetail deer population in the areas they hunted in 2010 as 'just about right'; more hunters rated the numbers of whitetail deer as 'too few' than did 'too many' (Table 21 and Figure 2). Most hunters felt the number of mule deer were 'too few'. Table 22 lists the county hunted by the East River deer hunters in this sample.

About one-third of the East River deer hunters said that it was easy finding good places East River to hunt deer in 2010; the other hunters had varying difficulty in finding good places to deer hunt (Table 23). Most of the East River deer hunters rated the quality of East River bucks in 2010 as fair (35%) to good (38%) (Table 24). Almost two-thirds (65%) of the East River deer hunters were satisfied with their 2010 East River deer hunting experiences; 23% were dissatisfied (Table 25).

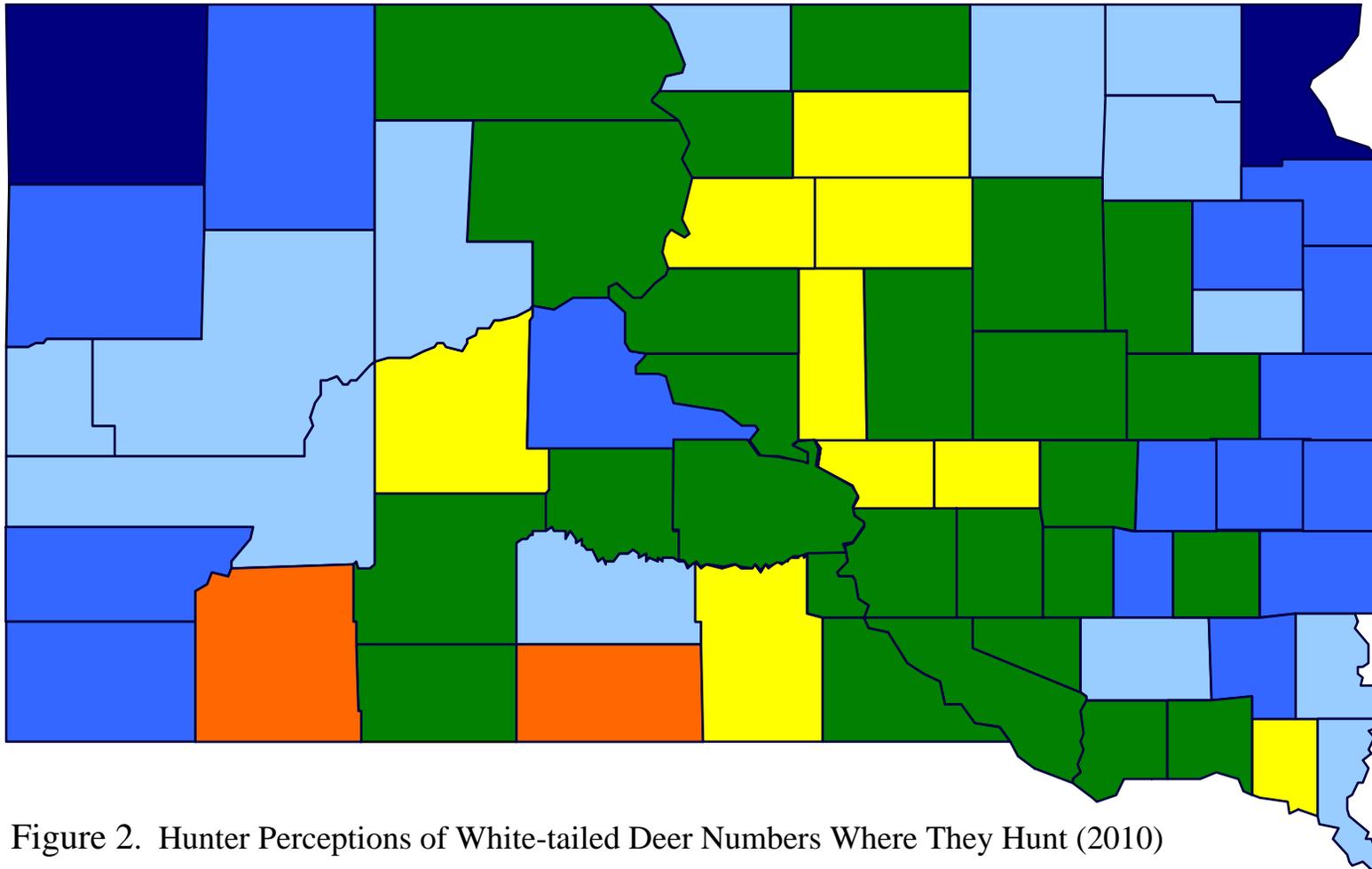


Figure 2. Hunter Perceptions of White-tailed Deer Numbers Where They Hunt (2010)



Evaluation of the 2010 West River Deer Season. About 55% of the sample of East/West River deer hunters hunted during the 2010 West River deer season (Table 26). About 66% of the West River deer hunting occurred on private land; 51% of the hunters did all of their hunting on private land (Table 27). About 35% of the West River deer hunting occurred on public land; 25% of the hunters did all of their hunting on public land.

Almost half (47%) of the West River deer hunters rated the whitetail deer population in the areas they hunted in 2010 as ‘just about right’; more hunters rated the numbers of whitetail deer as ‘too few’ than did ‘too many’ (Table 28 and Figure 2). Most hunters felt the number of mule deer were ‘too few’. Table 29 lists the county hunted by the West River deer hunters in this sample.

About 31% of the West River deer hunters said that it was easy finding good places West River to hunt deer in 2010; the other hunters had varying difficulty in finding good places to deer hunt (Table 30). Most of the West River deer hunters rated the quality of West River bucks in 2010 as fair (36%) to good (37%) (Table 31). A little more than two-thirds (68%) of the West River deer hunters were satisfied with their 2010 West River deer hunting experiences; 23% were dissatisfied (Table 32).

Landownership and Deer Hunting. One-third of the East/West River deer hunters in the survey reported owning land outside town/city boundaries (Table 33). About half of these landowners owned less than 160 acres. About 63% reported hunting deer on their land in 2010, and 57% reported having other deer hunters on their land in 2010. About half (51%) reported having both family members and non-family members deer hunting on their land in 2010. Table 33 also lists the county where their land is located.

Demographic Description of the East/West River Deer Hunter Sample. About 13% the deer hunter sample were part-time farmers/ranchers and 9% full-time farmers/ranchers (Table 34). Type of residence was about one-third rural, one-third small town, and one-third city (Table 35). Table 36 lists county residence of the deer hunter sample. The sample of deer hunters consisted of 93% male and 7% female (Table 37). Mean age of the deer hunter sample was 43.1 years (Table 38).

Results: Part 2 – Survey Methodology Comparison

Purpose of Analyses. A mixed-mode survey design was used in this study mainly to take advantage of the cost savings associated with data collected via the Internet. Everyone in the randomly selected sample with an e-mail address was first sent an e-mail invitation to complete the survey on the Internet. After about two weeks hunters without an e-mail address and non-respondents to the Internet survey were mailed a questionnaire. The purpose of this analysis was to measure the differences in data collected by the two methods. If the two data sets are essentially similar it would allow more of the data to be collected via the Internet and less effort would be needed for collection of data using alternative and most costly methods.

Summary. Twenty-seven of 63 statistical tests (43.5%) showed significant differences (at the $p=.05$ level) between the two data collection methods. Two types of statistics were used; the ANOVA F-statistic was used to test differences in means and the Chi-square statistic was used to test differences in frequencies among categories. Figure 3 lists the variables that were statistically similar and the table were the actual data can be found. Figure 4 lists the variables with significant differences and includes measures of association (strength of the relationships) (Figure 5). Cramer's V is a measure of association for the Chi-square significant tests and eta-squared is a measure of association for the means (ANOVA) significant tests. Twenty-five of the 27 significant tests were classified as weak and two as moderate relationships. Figure 4 also lists the table were the actual data can be found to evaluate the actual strength of the relationships.

While most of the significant relationships in the study were weak or small, the high number of significant differences suggests that additional data collection methods be used in conjunction with the Internet to adjust for possible biases that could result from utilizing the Internet as the sole data collection method. The Internet provides for some costs saving in conducting surveys of hunters while the mail survey can be used to compensate for the shortcomings associated with Internet surveys; namely incomplete coverage (not having e-mails for everyone) and relatively low response rates.

Table	Non-Significant Variables (2010) (Internet vs. Mail)	Test	p-value
39	Days of Hunting	ANOVA	.175
40	Total Buck Harvest	ANOVA	.637
40	Total Antlerless Deer Harvest	ANOVA	.056
40	Total Deer Harvested	ANOVA	.209
41	Hunted the extended antlerless deer season (Jan.)	χ^2	.476
41	Number of Deer Harvested in January Season	ANOVA	.313
43	Preferred Deer License (Season)	χ^2	.057
44	Rated Motivation – Nature	ANOVA	.261
44	Rated Motivation – Social	ANOVA	.095
44	Rated Motivation – Excitement	ANOVA	.377
44	Rated Motivation – Challenge	ANOVA	.093
44	Rated Motivation – Solitude	ANOVA	.110
47	Mean Importance – Un-crowded Hunt	ANOVA	.982
48-B	Mean Attitude – Interest in Buck Hunting	ANOVA	.072
48-C	Mean Attitude – Interest in Large Bucks	ANOVA	.072
49-C	Desired Number of Special Management Units	χ^2	.157
50	Attitude – Fairness of Current License Allocation	χ^2	.840
50	Mean Attitude – Fairness of Current License Allocation	ANOVA	.731
50	Attitude – Change Current License Allocation System	χ^2	.778
50	Mean Attitude – Change License Allocation System	ANOVA	.369
52	Attitude – Dates for Extended Antlerless Deer Season	χ^2	.144
53	Attitude – October Antlerless Deer Season	χ^2	.098
53	Mean Attitude – October Antlerless Deer Season	ANOVA	.819
54	Attitude – Length of the Regular Rifle Deer Season	χ^2	.333
55	Own Land Outside Town/City	χ^2	.091
58	Demographic – Mean Age	ANOVA	.131
App F – 1	Attitude – Shorter Deer Seasons	χ^2	.900
App F – 1	Mean Attitude – Shorter Deer Seasons	ANOVA	.629
App F – 2	Attitude – Not Hunting During the Rut	χ^2	.097
App F – 4	Attitude – Limit Number of Bucks/Hunter	χ^2	.769
App F – 4	Mean Attitude – Limit Number of Bucks/Hunter	ANOVA	.844
App F – 5	Mean Attitude – Shorten January Season	ANOVA	.346
App F – 7	Attitude – Reduce Muzzleloader Harvest	χ^2	.075
App F – 8	Attitude – Reduce Rifle Harvest	χ^2	.091
App F – 8	Mean Attitude – Reduce Rifle Harvest	ANOVA	.067

Figure 3. Non-significant variables tested for similarities/differences between survey data collection methods (Internet vs. mail).

Table	Significant Variables (2010) – Chi-Square Statistic (Internet vs. Mail)	<i>p</i>-value	Cramer's V
45	Top Motivation for Deer Hunting	.013	.076
46	Importance of Deer Hunting	<.001	.103
47	Importance of Harvest Success	<.001	.124
47	Importance of an Un-crowded Hunt	<.001	.113
48-A	Attitude – Satisfaction and Harvest Success	<.001	.078
48-B	Attitude – Interest in Buck Hunting	.033	.049
48-C	Attitude – Interest in Large Bucks	.002	.068
49-A	Attitude – Special Management Units	<.001	.092
51	Attitude – Extended Antlerless Deer Season	.029	.062
56	Demographic – Farmer/Rancher	<.001	.089
57	Demographic – Type of Residence	<.001	.082
58	Demographic – Gender	.018	.045
App F – 3	Attitude – Decrease Number of Any-deer Tags	<.001	.083
App F – 5	Attitude – Shorten January Season	.006	.061
App F – 6	Attitude – Reduce Archery Harvest	.004	.063
Table	Significant Variables (2010) – ANOVA Statistic	<i>p</i>-value	Eta²
41	Number of Days Hunting in January Season	.022	.008
42	Number of Types of Deer Licenses	<.001	.007
44	Rated Motivation – Meat	.036	.002
44	Rated Motivation – Trophy	<.001	.011
46	Mean Importance of Deer Hunting	<.001	.004
47	Mean Importance of Harvest Success	<.001	.012
48-A	Mean Attitude – Satisfaction and Harvest Success	.032	.006
49-A	Mean Attitude – Special Management Units	<.001	.006
App F – 2	Mean Attitude – Not Hunting During the Rut	.015	.002
App F – 3	Mean Attitude – Decrease Number Any-deer Tags	<.001	.004
App F – 6	Mean Attitude – Reduce Archery Harvest	.002	.004
App F – 7	Mean Attitude – Reduce Muzzleloader Harvest	.049	.001

Figure 4. Variables with significant differences between survey data collection methods (Internet vs. mail).

<u>Cramer's V</u>		<u>Eta²</u>	
<u>value</u>	<u>relationship</u>	<u>value</u>	<u>relationship</u>
.01 – .05	→negligible	.01 – .05	→ small
.06 – .10	→weak	.06 – .13	→ moderate
.11 – .15	→moderate	>.13	→ large
.15 – .25	→strong		
>.25	→very strong		

Figure 5. Measures of association used in this study and interpretations of the values.

Results: Part 3 – Season Comparison (East River vs. West River)

Part 3 has two types of comparisons between East River and West River deer hunters. The first comparison examines the similarities and differences between a randomly selected sample of East River and West River deer hunters. In such a sample there would be a relatively high percentage (34% in this particular sample) of hunters with both licenses. This amount of overlap would likely reduce the amount of differences between East River and West River deer hunters, but on the other hand reflects the actual amount of similarities and differences between East river and West River deer hunters. In this survey there were 24 hunters that were actually selected in both samples. These 24 hunters were removed from the statistical tests because an individual cannot be a member of both groups. However, this has a negligible effect on the statistical comparisons or descriptions of the results. Data is included in the tables for the 24 hunters that were in both samples.

The second comparison recognizes that there are possibly three types of prairie, rifle deer hunters; East River, West River and hunters that do both. This analysis provides a better understanding of prairie, rifle deer hunters by recognizing a more complex segmentation of hunters; namely three groups rather than two groups.

First Comparison (a random sample of East River and West River deer hunters). Thirty-five (56%) of 63 statistical tests were significant in the comparison of a

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random sample of East River and West River rifle deer hunters (Figures 6 and 7). Most (31; 89%) of the significant relationships were relatively weak; 3 were moderate and one was very strong. The very strong relationship was the variable measuring preferred deer license and it would be expected to find that hunters purchasing a particular license type would prefer that license over a license type not purchased (Appendix G – Table 6). Figures 6 and 7 also list the location of the tables with all the necessary data to see the actual frequencies and/or means for East River and West River deer hunters.

Table	Non-Significant Variables (2010) (ER vs. WR)	Test	p-value
App G – 1	Days of Hunting	ANOVA	.090
App G – 3	Hunted the extended antlerless deer season (Jan.)	χ^2	.694
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Social	ANOVA	.079
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Excitement	ANOVA	.607
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Challenge	ANOVA	.093
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Solitude	ANOVA	.689
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Meat	ANOVA	.160
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Trophy	ANOVA	.294
App G – 8	Top Motivation for Deer Hunting	χ^2	.171
App G – 9	Importance of Harvest Success	χ^2	.071
App G – 9	Mean Importance of Harvest Success	ANOVA	.067
App G – 9	Importance of an Un-crowded Hunt	χ^2	.060
App G–11-B	Attitude – Interest in Buck Hunting	χ^2	.730
App G–11-B	Mean Attitude – Interest in Buck Hunting	ANOVA	.820
App G–12-B	Desired Number of Special Management Units	χ^2	.311
App G –14	Attitude – Extended Antlerless Deer Season	χ^2	.907
App G –15	Attitude – Dates for Extended Antlerless Deer Season	χ^2	.344
App G –16	Attitude – October Antlerless Deer Season	χ^2	.946
App G –16	Mean Attitude – October Antlerless Deer Season	ANOVA	.950
App G –17	Attitude – Length of the Regular Rifle Deer Season	χ^2	.195
App G –21	Demographic – Gender	χ^2	.409
App G –21	Demographic – Mean Age	ANOVA	.472
App G –22	Percent Return by Survey Method	χ^2	.395
App F – 3	Mean Attitude – Decrease Number Any-deer Tags	ANOVA	.201
App F – 5	Attitude – Shorten January Season	χ^2	.312
App F – 5	Mean Attitude – Shorten January Season	ANOVA	.314
App F – 8	Attitude – Reduce Rifle Harvest	χ^2	.692
App F – 8	Mean Attitude – Reduce Rifle Harvest	ANOVA	.300

Figure 6. Non-significant variables tested for similarities/differences between a random sample of East River and West River rifle deer hunters.

Table	Significant Variables (2010) – Chi-Square Statistic (East River vs. West River)	p-value	Cramer's V
App G – 6	Preferred Deer License (Season)	<.001	.666
App G – 7	Importance of Deer Hunting	<.001	.123
App G–11-A	Attitude – Satisfaction and Harvest Success	.023	.052
App G–11-C	Attitude – Interest in Large Bucks	<.001	.106
App G–12-A	Attitude – Special Management Units	<.001	.078
App G – 13	Attitude – Fairness of Current License Allocation	.002	.066
App G – 13	Attitude – Change Current License Allocation System	.014	.055
App G – 18	Own Land Outside Town/City	.046	.038
App G – 19	Demographic – Framer/Rancher	<.001	.075
App G – 20	Demographic – Type of Residence	.005	.062
App F – 1	Attitude – Shorter Deer Seasons	<.001	.098
App F – 2	Attitude – Not Hunting During the Rut	<.001	.114
App F – 3	Attitude – Decrease Number of Any-deer Tags	.049	.047
App F – 4	Attitude – Limit Number of Bucks/Hunter	.001	.070
App F – 6	Attitude – Reduce Archery Harvest	.002	.067
App F – 7	Attitude – Reduce Muzzleloader Harvest	<.001	.076
Table	Significant Variables (2010) –ANOVA F-Statistic	p-value	Eta ²
App G – 2	Total Buck Harvest	<.001	.034
App G – 2	Total Antlerless Deer Harvest	<.001	.010
App G – 2	Total Deer Harvested	<.001	.029
App G – 3	Number of Days Hunting in January Season	.044	.006
App G – 3	Number of Deer Harvested in January Season	<.001	.040
App G – 5	Number of Types of Deer Licenses	<.001	.015
App G – 7	Rated Motivation – Nature	.001	.004
App G – 9	Mean Importance of Deer Hunting	<.001	.015
App G –10	Mean Importance – Un-crowded Hunt	.004	.003
App G–11-A	Mean Attitude – Satisfaction and Harvest Success	<.001	.005
App G–11-C	Mean Attitude – Interest in Large Bucks	<.001	.009
App G–12-A	Mean Attitude – Special Management Units	.015	.002
App G – 13	Mean Attitude– Fairness of Current License Allocation	.002	.003
App G – 13	Mean Attitude – Change License Allocation System	.010	.002
App F – 1	Mean Attitude – Shorter Deer Seasons	<.001	.008
App F – 2	Mean Attitude – Not Hunting During the Rut	<.001	.012
App F – 4	Mean Attitude – Limit Number of Bucks/Hunter	<.001	.006
App F – 6	Mean Attitude – Reduce Archery Harvest	<.001	.007
App F – 7	Mean Attitude – Reduce Muzzleloader Harvest	<.001	.007

Figure 7. Variables with significant differences between a random sample of East River and West River rifle deer hunters.

Second Comparison (East River, West River, and deer hunters with both license types). Fifty-four (86%) of 63 statistical tests were significant in the three-way comparison of East River, West River and deer hunters with both license types (Figures 8 – 10). Most (47; 87%) of the significant relationships were relatively weak; 5 were moderate and two was very strong. One of the very strong relationships was the number of types of deer licenses held by a deer hunter and it would be expected that hunters with both East River and West River deer licenses would have a higher mean number of deer license types based on the criteria for segmenting the sample into three groups (Table 63). The other very strong relationships was the variable measuring preferred deer license and the main difference was between East River and West River deer hunters having the highest preference for the deer license they purchased in 2010 (Table 64).

Many of the significant differences among the three groups (East River, West River and deer hunters with both license types) were due to the hunters with both license types being different from East River and West River deer hunters (i.e., hunters with only one of these deer licenses) (Table 59-81).

Table	Non-Significant Variables (2010) (ER, WR, and Both)	Test	p-value
68	Importance of Harvest Success	X^2	.089
68	Mean Importance of Harvest Success	ANOVA	.102
68	Importance of an Un-crowded Hunt	X^2	.148
69-B	Attitude – Interest in Buck Hunting	X^2	.251
69-B	Mean Attitude – Interest in Buck Hunting	ANOVA	.459
76-C	Attitude – Decrease Number of Any-deer Tags	X^2	.076
76-C	Mean Attitude – Decrease Number Any-deer Tags	ANOVA	.091
76-H	Attitude – Reduce Rifle Harvest	X^2	.230
80	Demographic – Mean Age	ANOVA	.468

Figure 8. Non-significant variables tested for similarities/differences among East River, West River, and rifle deer hunters with both license types.

Table	Significant Variables (2010) – Chi-Square Statistic (East River , West River, and both License Types)	p-value	Cramer's V
59	Percent Return by Survey Method	.050	.045
61	Hunted the extended antlerless deer season (Jan.)	.002	.066
64	Preferred Deer License (Season)	<.001	.527
66	Top Motivation for Deer Hunting	.001	.076
67	Importance of Deer Hunting	<.001	.154
69-A	Attitude – Satisfaction and Harvest Success	.006	.051
69-C	Attitude – Interest in Large Bucks	<.001	.098
70-A	Attitude – Special Management Units	<.001	.086
70-B	Desired Number of Special Management Units	.019	.058
71	Attitude – Fairness of Current License Allocation	<.001	.112
71	Attitude – Change Current License Allocation System	<.001	.112
72	Attitude – Extended Antlerless Deer Season	.002	.065
73	Attitude – Dates for Extended Antlerless Deer Season	.029	.050
74	Attitude – October Antlerless Deer Season	<.001	.072
75	Attitude – Length of the Regular Rifle Deer Season	<.001	.076
76-A	Attitude – Shorter Deer Seasons	<.001	.073
76-B	Attitude – Not Hunting During the Rut	<.001	.097
76-D	Attitude – Limit Number of Bucks/Hunter	<.001	.117
76-E	Attitude – Shorten January Season	.010	.049
76-F	Attitude – Reduce Archery Harvest	<.001	.071
76-G	Attitude – Reduce Muzzleloader Harvest	<.001	.069
77	Own Land Outside Town/City	<.001	.081
78	Demographic – Farmer/Rancher	<.001	.060
79	Demographic – Type of Residence	.003	.054
80	Demographic – Gender	<.001	.096

Figure 9. Variables with significant differences (chi-square statistic) among East River, West River, and rifle deer hunters with both license types.

Table	Significant Variables (2010) – ANOVA F-Statistic (East River , West River, and both License Types)	p-value	Eta²
60	Days of Hunting	<.001	.046
60	Total Buck Harvest	<.001	.103
60	Total Antlerless Deer Harvest	<.001	.038
60	Total Deer Harvested	<.001	.096
61	Number of Days Hunting in January Season	.006	.015
61	Number of Deer Harvested in January Season	<.001	.046
63	Number of Types of Deer Licenses	<.001	.282
65	Rated Motivation – Meat	.004	.004
65	Rated Motivation – Nature	<.001	.007
65	Rated Motivation – Excitement	.006	.004
65	Rated Motivation – Social	.021	.003
65	Rated Motivation – Trophy	.008	.003
65	Rated Motivation – Solitude	.008	.003
65	Rated Motivation – Challenge	.002	.004
67	Mean Importance of Deer Hunting	<.001	.045
68	Mean Importance – Un-crowded Hunt	.009	.004
69-A	Mean Attitude – Satisfaction and Harvest Success	<.001	.007
69-C	Mean Attitude – Interest in Large Bucks	<.001	.018
70-A	Mean Attitude – Special Management Units	<.001	.010
71	Mean Attitude– Fairness of Current License Allocation	<.001	.024
71	Mean Attitude – Change License Allocation System	<.001	.023
74	Mean Attitude – October Antlerless Deer Season	<.001	.009
76-A	Mean Attitude – Shorter Deer Seasons	<.001	.009
76-B	Mean Attitude – Not Hunting During the Rut	<.001	.017
76-D	Mean Attitude – Limit Number of Bucks/Hunter	<.001	.030
76-E	Mean Attitude – Shorten January Season	.008	.004
76-F	Mean Attitude – Reduce Archery Harvest	<.001	.009
76-G	Mean Attitude – Reduce Muzzleloader Harvest	<.001	.010
76-H	Mean Attitude – Reduce Rifle Harvest	.031	.003

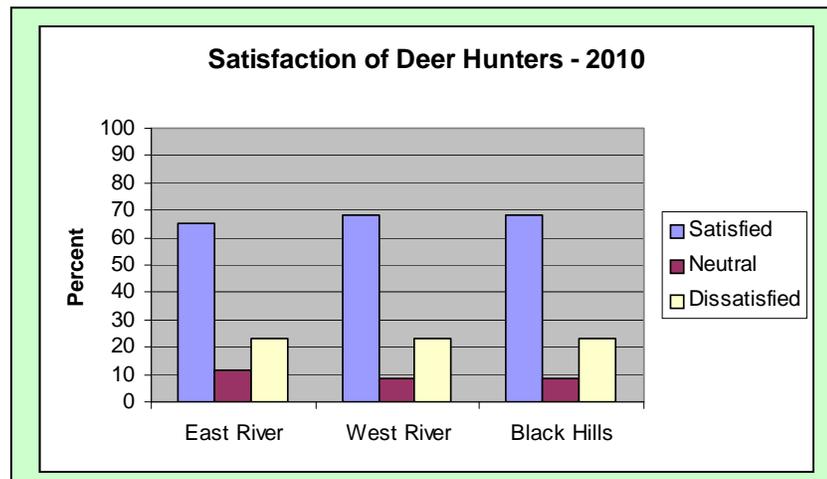
Figure 10. Variables with significant differences (ANOVA F-statistic) among East River, West River, and rifle deer hunters with both license types.

Discussion

Part 1. The first part of this study described prairie rifle deer hunters' characteristics such as hunting history and preferences, motivations and general attitudes related to deer hunting, opinions and preferences for deer hunting management options, and some demographic variables. The information gathered in this study will be useful in guiding future deer management decisions involving prairie deer seasons and provides a general understanding of prairie rifle deer hunters.

This section also provides an evaluation of the 2010 East River and West River deer seasons from the hunters' perspective. Hunters evaluated the two seasons based on several characteristics: perceived deer populations, quality of bucks, difficulty of finding good places to hunt, and overall satisfaction. Hunter satisfaction in 2010 was very similar for the three major rifle deer seasons (East River, West River and Black Hills) (Figure 11). While about two-thirds of the deer hunters were satisfied, satisfaction could be improved. This study is the first step in improving deer hunting in South Dakota by first identifying the current levels of various parameters, such as satisfaction, and developing a basic understanding of prairie deer hunters. The next step would be to set goals and develop, implement and monitor strategies for improving deer hunting opportunities.

Figure 11.
Satisfaction of deer hunters for the three major rifle deer seasons in South Dakota in 2010.

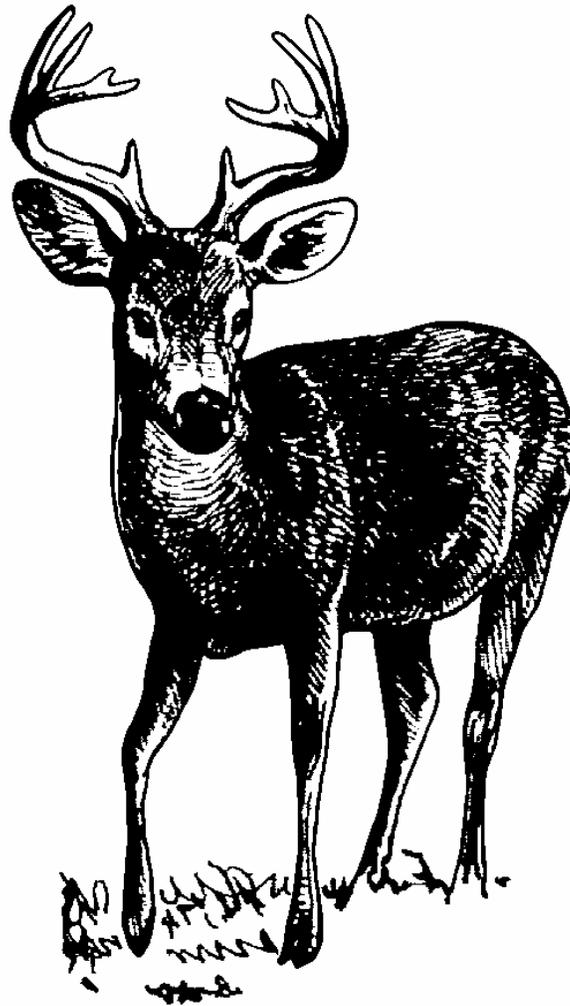


Part 2. This study used a mixed-mode survey combining an Internet survey (e-mail invitation to participate) with a mailed questionnaire survey design and compared responses received by the Internet with responses received by mail. The main purpose of this study design was to take advantage of the cost savings associated with Internet surveys. With about 43% of the responses received via the Internet, significant savings were achieved by using this mixed-mode survey design. However, given the high number of significant differences between the two data collection methods (Internet vs. mail) an Internet survey by itself would not be recommended for scientific surveys. There are two shortcomings with using the Internet to collect scientific deer hunter data; coverage (not having an e-mail address for the entire study population of deer hunters) and a low response rate associated with Internet surveys. Coverage was fairly high for the sample of prairie rifle deer hunters (83% had e-mail address), but should be cause for concern if there are important differences between those with and those without an e-mail address. Response rate for the Internet portion of the survey design was low (39%). These shortcomings are addressed by including a mail survey as part of the overall design.

Part 3. The third part of this study looked at similarities and differences between East River and West River rifle deer hunters. This involved two types of comparisons. The first comparison was a simple description of East River and West River rifle deer hunters as they actually exist. But since hunters can have deer licenses for both seasons the population of East River deer hunters includes deer hunters with a West River deer license and vice versa. The second comparison divides the sample of prairie deer hunters into three groups; East River, West River and hunters that have both license types. There were many differences between East River and West River deer hunters and many more differences when the analyses involve the three groups (East River, West River and hunters with both license types). Thus these differences need to be evaluated and considered when developing and implementing deer management changes for prairie deer seasons. What many work for one season may not work in the other.

Some types of changes that may be considered in the future will likely involve strategies to improve the “quality” of deer hunting. Experience with Black Hills deer

management demonstrated that a very high level of satisfaction could be achieved by reducing overall pressure on buck harvest and that satisfaction could be lowered when overall harvest pressures became too great.² Experience with Black Hills deer management has also demonstrated that the strategies to achieve higher satisfaction levels are very controversial. Most hunters do not like the various strategies that would have the best opportunity of achieving desired results (see Table 18).



² Gigliotti, L. M. 2011. 2010 Black Hills deer hunter survey report. Report #: HD-5-11.AMS. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Pierre, SD.

Results – Part 1: Overall Summary (Tables 1 – 38)

Table 1. Frequency of days hunted (for all types of deer hunting) by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010.

Days Hunting	Deer Hunting (all types) – 2010	
	Number	Percent
0	108	3.7%
1	177	6.1%
2	398	13.8%
3	270	9.4%
4	336	11.7%
5	235	8.1%
6	209	7.2%
7	167	5.8%
8	127	4.4%
9	38	1.3%
10	207	7.2%
11	21	0.7%
12	81	2.8%
13	17	0.6%
14	66	2.3%
15	73	2.5%
16 – 20	150	5.2%
21 – 25	64	3.4%
26 – 30	70	2.4%
31 – 40	37	1.3%
41 – 50	14	0.5%
51+	19	0.7%
missing ¹	(26)	--
Total^{1,2}	2,884	100%
Mean^{1,2}	8.12 Days	
95% CI	7.78 – 8.45	
Median	5.00	
Range	0 – 101	

¹Missing values not included in total and percent calculations.

²Calculations include hunters that did not hunt.

Table 2. Total number of deer harvested (for all types of deer hunting) by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010.

Deer Harvested	Deer Harvested (all types) – 2010					
	Antlered Bucks		Antlerless Deer ¹		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	1,331	47.9%	1,308	47.1%	683	24.6%
1	1,150	41.4%	802	28.9%	896	32.3%
2	224	8.1%	431	15.5%	657	23.7%
3	54	1.9%	126	4.5%	266	9.6%
4	12	0.4%	62	2.2%	132	4.8%
5	1	<0.1%	19	0.7%	70	2.5%
6	2	0.1%	16	0.6%	33	1.2%
7	0	0.0%	5	0.2%	11	0.4%
8	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	8	0.3%
9	0	0.0%	1	<0.1%	9	0.3%
10	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
11 – 15	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	5	0.2%
16+	0	0.0%	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
Total	2,776	100%	2,776	100%	2,776	100%
Mean²	0.66		0.91		1.55	
95% CI	0.63 – 0.69		0.89 – 0.98		1.54 – 1.66	
Median	1.00		1.00		1.00	
Range	0 – 10		0 – 19		0 – 20	

¹includes button/fawn bucks

Table 3. Hunting (and harvest) during the extended antlerless deer hunting during the extended East River and/or West River rifle deer season in January (January 1-9, 2011).

Hunting during extended antlerless deer season (Jan. 1-9, 2011)	East/West River Deer Hunters (2010)	
	Number	Percent
NO	2,212	76.5%
YES	678	23.5%
Total	2,890	100%
If Yes, How many days?	Number	Percent
1	262	39.0%
2	203	30.2%
3	91	13.5%
4	52	7.7%
5	28	4.2%
6	8	1.2%
7	10	1.5%
8	6	0.9%
9	12	1.8%
Total	672	100%
Mean Days	2.33 Days	
95% C.I.	2.20 – 2.45	

Table 4. Types of deer licenses East/West River deer hunters (combined) had in 2010.

Deer License	Number	Percent	Percent of Cases
East River Deer	1,805	35.5%	62.0%
East River Special Buck	16	0.3%	0.5%
West River Deer	1,658	32.7%	57.0%
West River Special Buck	20	0.4%	0.7%
Black Hills Deer	163	3.2%	5.6%
Archery Deer (statewide)	360	7.1%	12.4%
Archery Deer (East River)	233	4.6%	8.0%
Archery Deer (West River)	165	3.2%	5.7%
Antlerless Archery Deer	198	3.9%	6.8%
Refuge Deer	20	0.4%	0.7%
Muzzleloader Deer	211	4.2%	7.3%
Landowner/Operator Special Deer	49	1.0%	1.7%
Youth Deer	56	1.1%	1.9%
Mentor Deer License	54	1.1%	1.9%
Free Landowner Deer	19	0.4%	0.7%
Custer State Park Deer	4	0.1%	0.1%
S.D. Tribal Deer License	14	0.3%	0.5%
A deer license in another state	33	0.6%	1.1%
Responses	5,078	100%	
Cases	2,910		174.5%

Table 5. Number of different types of deer licenses held by East/West River deer hunters (2010).

Number of Types of Deer Licenses	East/West River Deer Hunters (2010)	
	Number	Percent
1	1,627	55.9%
2	737	25.3%
3	315	10.8%
4	149	5.1%
5	61	2.1%
6	17	0.6%
7	3	0.1%
8	1	<0.1%
Total	2,910	100%
Mean License Types	1.75	
95% C.I.	1.71 – 1.78	

Table 6. East/West River licensed deer hunters' most preferred deer season (2010).

Deer Season	East/West River Deer Hunters (2010)	
	Number	Percent
East River rifle deer	1,100	38.8%
West River rifle deer	1,031	36.4%
Black Hills rifle deer	174	6.1%
Archery deer	346	12.2%
Muzzleloader deer	38	1.3%
Refuge deer	7	0.2%
No Opinion	139	4.9%
Total	2,835	100%

Motivations for Deer Hunting

Table 7. Summary of importance ratings for the seven motivations rated by deer hunters with a 2010 East and/or West River deer license and summary statistics (*Appendix C*).

Motivation	Mean	95% C.I.
Nature	6.05	6.01 – 6.09
Social	5.98	5.92 – 6.03
Excitement	5.94	5.89 – 5.99
Challenge	5.14	5.08 – 5.20
Solitude	4.74	4.66 – 4.81
Meat	4.52	4.45 – 4.60
Trophy	3.99	3.91 – 4.07

Table 8. East/West River deer hunters' most important motivation for deer hunting.

Most Important Motivation	East/West River Licensed Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Social	810	28.9%
Excitement	606	21.6%
Nature	531	18.9%
Meat	374	13.3%
Challenge	210	7.5%
Trophy	174	6.2%
Solitude	101	3.6%
Total	2,806	100%

Importance of Deer Hunting

Table 9. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the importance of deer hunting.

Importance (scale)	Number	Percent
Most (4)	614	21.8%
Very (3)	1,229	43.6%
Moderately (2)	751	26.7%
Slightly (1)	175	6.2%
Not (0)	31	1.1%
No Opinion (missing)	16	0.6%
Total	2,816	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	2.79	2.76 – 2.83

Attitudes Related to Deer Hunting

Table 10. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the importance of harvesting a deer and having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to overall satisfaction with their deer hunting season.

Importance (scale)	Harvesting a Deer		Un-Crowded Hunt	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Important (3)	611	21.7%	1,791	63.6%
Moderately Important (2)	1,245	44.2%	731	25.9%
Slightly Important (1)	613	21.8%	214	7.6%
Not Important (0)	309	11.0%	41	1.5%
No Opinion (missing)	37	1.3%	41	1.5%
Total	2,815	100%	2,818	100%
Mean	1.78		2.54	
95% C.I.	1.74 – 1.81		2.51 – 2.56	

Table 11-A. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting.

Attitude (scale)	Number	Percent
<i>A deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.</i>		
Strongly Disagree (-2)	59	2.1%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	155	5.5%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	239	8.5%
Slightly Agree (+1)	890	31.7%
Strongly Agree (+2)	1,466	52.2%
Total	2,809	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.26	1.23 – 1.30
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	214	7.6%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	239	8.5%
AGREE	2,356	83.9%

Table 11-B. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting.

Attitude (scale)	Number	Percent
<i>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I will not shoot an antlerless deer.</i>		
Strongly Disagree (-2)	1,389	49.6%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	596	21.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	465	16.6%
Slightly Agree (+1)	220	7.9%
Strongly Agree (+2)	132	4.7%
Total	2,802	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	-1.03	-1.08 – -0.99
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	1,985	70.8%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	465	16.6%
AGREE	352	12.6%

Table 11-C. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting.

Attitude (scale)	Number	Percent
<i>I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck, i.e., I will pass up bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</i>		
Strongly Disagree (-2)	692	24.7%
Slightly Disagree (-1)	417	14.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	438	15.6%
Slightly Agree (+1)	644	23.0%
Strongly Agree (+2)	611	21.8%
Total	2,802	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.02	-0.03 – 0.08
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISAGREE	1,109	39.6%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	438	15.6%
AGREE	1,255	44.8%

Deer Hunting Seasons in South Dakota

Table 12-A. East/West River deer hunters' attitude towards having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that like this type of deer hunting opportunity.

Attitude	Number	Percent
Strongly Dislike (-3)	112	4.0%
Moderately Dislike (-2)	46	1.7%
Slightly Dislike (-1)	92	5.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	1,482	53.5%
Slightly Like (+1)	246	8.9%
Moderately Like (+2)	440	15.9%
Strongly Like (+3)	354	12.8%
Total	2,772	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.60	0.55 – 0.65
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISLIKE	250	9.0%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	1,482	53.5%
LIKE	1,040	37.5%

Table 12-B. East/West River deer hunters' desire to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota.

Attitude	Number	Percent
None	145	5.3%
Less	211	7.7%
Current Number	1,609	58.9%
A little More	608	22.3%
A Lot More	157	5.8%
Total	2,730	100%

Table 13. East/West River deer hunters’ rating of the fairness of the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer licenses and attitude towards changing the current system.

Attitude (scale)	Number	Percent
<i>How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer license is?</i>		
Very Unfair (-3)	289	10.2%
Moderately Unfair (-2)	319	11.3%
Slightly Unfair (-1)	430	15.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	1,006	35.6%
Slightly Fair (+1)	148	5.2%
Moderately Fair (+2)	333	11.8%
Very Fair (+3)	300	10.6%
Total	2,825	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	-0.8	-0.14 – -0.01
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
UNFAIR	1,038	36.7%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	1,006	35.6%
FAIR	781	27.6%
Attitude (scale)		
Number		
Percent		
<i>How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?</i>		
Strongly Oppose (-3)	97	3.4%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	89	3.2%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	93	3.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	868	30.8%
Slightly Favor (+1)	511	18.1%
Moderately Favor (+2)	625	22.2%
Strongly Favor (+3)	538	19.1%
Total	2,821	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.00	0.94 – 1.05
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	279	9.9%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	868	30.8%
FAVOR	1,674	59.3%

Table 14. East/West River deer hunters' preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days).

Preference	Number	Percent
Eliminate the extended antlerless deer season	291	10.3%
Reduce the length of the extended antlerless deer season	63	2.2%
Keep the extended antlerless deer season the same length	1,000	35.5%
Increase the length of the extended antlerless deer season	1,053	37.4%
No Opinion	411	14.6%
Total	2,818	100%

Table 15. East/West River deer hunters' preferred dates of the extended antlerless deer season.

Preference	Number	Percent
Always be January 1 – 9	411	14.8%
Start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days	989	35.6%
Start on December 26 and run through January 3, regardless of the day of the week	340	12.2%
No Opinion	1,040	37.4%
Total	2,780	100%

Table 16. East/West River deer hunters’ attitude towards having an early (October) antlerless deer seasons (when needed to reduce the deer population and not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended deer seasons).

Attitude	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose (-3)	500	17.7%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	200	7.3%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	177	6.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	477	16.9%
Slightly Favor (+1)	332	11.8%
Moderately Favor (+2)	478	17.0%
Strongly Favor (+3)	651	23.1%
Total	2,820	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.41	0.33 – 0.49
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	882	31.3%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	477	16.9%
FAVOR	1,461	51.8%

Table 17. East/West River deer hunters’ opinion of the length of the regular East/West River deer season (is 16 days for most hunting units).

Preference (length of regular East/West River rifle deer season)	Number	Percent
Too Short	905	32.1%
Just Right	1,623	57.6%
Too Long	145	5.1%
No Opinion	145	5.1%
Total	2,818	100%

East/West River Deer Hunters' Preferred Management Options:

Table 18. Improving the quality of bucks requires some type of strategy to reduce the current number of bucks harvested to allow more bucks to mature enough to produce larger antlers. How strongly do you favor or oppose each of these possible options (see Appendix F for detailed results)?

Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill per year.			
Mean ¹	0.50	Favor	52.1%
95% C.I.	0.42 – 0.57	Neutral	19.1%
Number	2,748	Oppose	28.8%
Shortening deer seasons in January.			
Mean ¹	0.14	Favor	40.1%
95% C.I.	0.07 – 0.22	Neutral	26.8%
Number	2,748	Oppose	33.1%
Reduce the muzzleloader harvest.			
Mean ¹	-0.84	Favor	19.3%
95% C.I.	-0.91 – -0.77	Neutral	31.8%
Number	2,741	Oppose	48.9%
Decrease the number of any-deer tags.			
Mean ¹	-0.94	Favor	17.5%
95% C.I.	-1.01 – -0.88	Neutral	23.8%
Number	2,738	Oppose	58.6%
Reduce the archery harvest			
Mean ¹	-0.97	Favor	20.7%
95% C.I.	-1.04 – -0.90	Neutral	26.4%
Number	2,749	Oppose	53.0%
Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting.			
Mean ¹	-1.03	Favor	17.2%
95% C.I.	-1.10 – -0.97	Neutral	25.7%
Number	2,746	Oppose	57.1%
Reduce the rifle harvest.			
Mean ¹	-1.03	Favor	16.0%
95% C.I.	-1.09 – -0.99	Neutral	26.5%
Number	2,750	Oppose	57.5%
Not hunting during the rut.			
Mean ¹	-1.31	Favor	15.0%
95% C.I.	-1.38 – -1.24	Neutral	21.9%
Number	2,753	Oppose	63.1%

¹Scale ranged from -3 = Strong Oppose to +3 = Strongly Favor

Hunters' Evaluation of the 2010 East River Deer Season

Table 19. Summary statistics for the number of 2010 East River deer hunters.

Total Number of Survey Respondents	2,910
Number Responding to the East River Questions	2,836
Number Missing¹	74 ¹
Number Hunting the 2010 East River Deer Season	1,745
Percent Hunting the 2010 East River Deer Season	61.5%

¹All missing values were from the Internet responders. This may be due to respondents exiting before completing the survey, or a possible issue with the Internet not recording responses for a small number of survey respondents.

Table 20. Type of land East River deer hunters used for their deer hunting in 2010.

Percent Of Time Hunting	East River Deer Hunters	
	Private Land	Public Land
0%	7.3%	64.1%
1% – 9%	0.5%	3.2%
10% – 19%	0.8%	7.4%
20% – 29%	1.4%	7.1%
30% – 39%	0.9%	2.0%
40% – 49%	0.3%	1.0%
50% – 59%	3.9%	3.9%
60% – 69%	1.2%	0.4%
70% – 79%	5.0%	1.6%
80% – 89%	4.5%	0.8%
90% – 99%	10.1%	1.2%
100%	64.1%	7.3%
Total	1,732	1,732
Mean	84.2%	15.8%
95% C.I.	82.8% – 85.6%	14.4% – 17.2%

Table 21. East River deer hunters' rating of the deer population in the areas they hunted.

Rating (scale)	East River Deer Hunters			
	Whitetail Deer		Mule Deer	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Far Too Few (-2)	180	10.7%	575	60.7%
Slightly Too Few (-1)	371	22.0%	136	14.4%
Just About Right (0)	826	49.0%	212	22.4%
Slightly Too Many (+1)	216	12.8%	14	1.5%
Far Too Many (+2)	93	5.5%	10	1.1%
Total	1,686	100%	947	100%
Mean	-0.20		-1.32	
95% C.I.	-0.24 – -0.15		-1.38 – -1.26	

See Table 22 for county ratings of whitetail deer numbers.

Table 22. East River county where hunters did the most of their hunting (2010).

County	East River Deer Hunters			
	Number	Percent	Whitetail Rating	Number Rating
55. Roberts	43	2.5%	-0.91	43
43. Lake	36	2.1%	-0.74	35
5. Codington	31	1.8%	-0.72	29
29. Grant	36	2.1%	-0.69	36
61. Turner	29	1.7%	-0.57	28
23. Deuel	32	1.9%	-0.55	29
1. Minnehaha	87	5.1%	-0.50	84
52. Moody	35	2.0%	-0.50	34
6. Brookings	50	2.9%	-0.48	50
34. Hanson	28	1.6%	-0.46	28
51. Miner	29	1.7%	-0.46	26
37. Hutchinson	32	1.9%	-0.45	31
48. Marshall	38	2.2%	-0.38	37
22. Day	46	2.7%	-0.35	43
16. Campbell	25	1.5%	-0.33	24
44. Lincoln	29	1.7%	-0.31	29
62. Union	34	2.0%	-0.28	32
32. Hamlin	42	2.5%	-0.23	40
3. Brown	103	6.0%	-0.22	102
4. Beadle	60	3.5%	-0.14	59

Table continued on next page.

Table 22 - Continued. East River county where hunters did the most of their hunting (2010).

County	East River Deer Hunters			
	Number	Percent	Whitetail Rating	Number Rating
42. Kingsbury	59	3.4%	-0.14	58
18. Clark	57	3.3%	-0.13	55
46. McCook	32	1.9%	-0.13	32
56. Sanborn	31	1.8%	-0.13	31
8. Davison	31	1.8%	-0.10	29
25. Douglas	23	1.3%	-0.10	21
10. Aurora	24	1.4%	-0.09	23
36. Hughes	29	1.7%	-0.07	28
59. Sully	39	2.3%	-0.05	38
13. Brule	55	3.2%	-0.04	52
7. Yankton	42	2.5%	-0.02	42
33. Hand	38	2.2%	+0.03	35
57. Spink	68	4.0%	+0.03	66
63. Walworth	28	1.6%	+0.04	27
17. Charles Mix	55	3.2%	+0.06	54
47. McPherson	33	1.9%	+0.09	32
12. Bon Homme	40	2.3%	+0.11	37
19. Clay	21	1.2%	+0.24	21
26. Edmunds	40	2.3%	+0.25	40
38. Hyde	24	1.4%	+0.27	22
28. Faulk	41	2.4%	+0.29	41
54. Potter	31	1.8%	+0.30	30
14. Buffalo	6	0.4%	+0.33	6
40. Jerauld	22	1.3%	+0.41	22
TOTAL	1,714	100%	-0.20	1,663

Overall Mule Deer Rating = -1.32 (N=947 East River deer hunters)

Table 23. East River deer hunters’ rating of difficulty of finding good places East River to hunt deer in 2010.

Rating (scale)	East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Easy (1)	585	33.7%
Slightly Difficult (2)	425	24.5%
Moderately Difficult (3)	384	22.1%
Very Difficult (4)	221	12.7%
No Opinion (missing)	123	7.1%
Total	1,738	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	2.15	2.10 – 2.20

Table 24. East River deer hunters’ rating of the quality of East river bucks in 2010.

Rating (scale)	East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Very Poor (-2)	39	2.3%
Poor (-1)	176	10.2%
Fair (0)	610	35.2%
Good (+1)	656	37.9%
Excellent (+2)	170	9.8%
No Opinion (missing)	82	4.7%
Total	1,733	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.45	0.41 – 0.49

Table 25. East River deer hunters' overall satisfaction with their 2010 East River deer hunting experiences.

Satisfaction (scale)	East River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	78	4.5%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	117	6.7%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	206	11.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	204	11.7%
Slightly Satisfied (+1)	272	15.7%
Moderately Satisfied (+2)	518	29.8%
Very Satisfied Like (+3)	342	19.7%
Total	1,737	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.96	0.87 – 1.04
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISSATISFIED	401	23.1%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	204	11.7%
SATISFIED	1,132	65.2%

Hunters' Evaluation of the 2010 West River Deer Season

Table 26. Summary statistics for the number of 2010 West River deer hunters.

Total Number of Survey Respondents	2,910
Number Responding to the West River Questions	2,824
Number Missing¹	86 ¹
Number Hunting the 2010 West River Deer Season	1,555
Percent Hunting the 2010 West River Deer Season	55.1%

¹All missing values were from the Internet responders. This may be due to respondents exiting before completing the survey, or a possible issue with the Internet not recording responses for a small number of survey respondents.

Table 27. Type of land West River deer hunters used for their deer hunting in 2010.

Percent Of Time Hunting	West River Deer Hunters	
	Private Land	Public Land
0%	25.2%	50.5%
1% – 9%	0.4%	2.2%
10% – 19%	1.8%	4.4%
20% – 29%	1.9%	4.7%
30% – 39%	0.7%	1.5%
40% – 49%	0.5%	1.0%
50% – 59%	5.1%	5.1%
60% – 69%	1.3%	0.6%
70% – 79%	3.8%	1.8%
80% – 89%	2.5%	0.8%
90% – 99%	6.3%	2.1%
100%	50.5%	25.2%
Total	1,536	1,536
Mean	65.5%	34.5%
95% C.I.	63.4% – 67.7%	32.3% – 36.7%

Table 28. West River deer hunters' rating of the deer population in the areas they hunted.

Rating (scale)	West River Deer Hunters			
	Whitetail Deer		Mule Deer	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Far Too Few (-2)	226	15.3%	348	24.5%
Slightly Too Few (-1)	284	19.3%	421	30.0%
Just About Right (0)	693	47.0%	517	36.8%
Slightly Too Many (+1)	182	12.3%	78	5.6%
Far Too Many (+2)	90	6.1%	41	2.9%
Total	1,475	100%	1,405	100%
Mean	-0.25		-0.68	
95% C.I.	-0.31 – -0.20		-0.73 – -0.63	

See Table 29 for county ratings of whitetail and mule deer numbers.

Table 29. West River county where hunters did the most of their hunting (2010).

County	West River Deer Hunters					
	Number	Percent	Whitetail Rating	Number Rating	Mule Deer Rating	Number Rating
35. Harding	111	7.5%	-1.14	104	-1.40	102
58. Stanley	66	4.4%	-0.55	65	-0.72	61
27. Fall River	68	4.6%	-0.52	63	-0.68	63
15. Butte	119	8.0%	-0.50	112	-1.12	104
53. Perkins	117	7.9%	-0.50	114	-0.88	107
21. Custer	40	2.7%	-0.49	37	-0.81	36
2. Pennington	116	7.8%	-0.32	110	-0.75	110
49. Meade	122	8.2%	-0.30	115	-0.83	114
9. Lawrence	22	1.5%	-0.25	20	-1.31	16
64. Ziebach	43	2.9%	-0.23	39	-0.38	39
50. Mellette	80	5.4%	-0.20	76	-0.43	75
24. Dewey	34	2.3%	-0.12	33	-0.48	31
39. Jackson	67	4.5%	-0.05	63	-0.42	62
20. Corson	52	3.5%	-0.04	52	-0.45	49
30. Gregory	126	8.5%	-0.01	123	-0.71	109
11. Bennett	31	2.1%	+0.03	31	+0.18	28
41. Jones	32	2.1%	+0.10	30	-0.10	30
45. Lyman	70	4.7%	+0.10	69	-0.70	66
31. Haakon	74	5.0%	+0.26	73	-0.10	69
60. Tripp	81	5.4%	+0.27	78	-0.40	72
67. Todd	14	0.9%	+0.50	14	-0.64	14
65. Shannon	4	0.3%	+0.75	4	+0.75	4
Total / Mean	1,489	100%	-0.26	1,425	-0.68	1,361

Table 30. West River deer hunters' rating of difficulty of finding good places West River to hunt deer in 2010.

Rating (scale)	West River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Easy (1)	476	31.0%
Slightly Difficult (2)	383	25.0%
Moderately Difficult (3)	294	19.2%
Very Difficult (4)	266	17.3%
No Opinion (missing)	115	7.5%
Total	1,534	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	2.25	2.19 – 2.30

Table 31. West River deer hunters' rating of the quality of West River bucks in 2010.

Rating (scale)	West River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Very Poor (-2)	63	4.1%
Poor (-1)	145	9.4%
Fair (0)	548	35.5%
Good (+1)	563	36.5%
Excellent (+2)	166	10.8%
No Opinion (missing)	57	3.7%
Total	1,542	100%
Mean 95% C.I.	0.42	0.37 – 0.47

Table 32. West River deer hunters' overall satisfaction with their 2010 West River deer hunting experiences.

Satisfaction (scale)	West River Deer Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	100	6.5%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	110	7.1%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	145	9.4%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	136	8.8%
Slightly Satisfied (+1)	260	16.8%
Moderately Satisfied (+2)	459	29.7%
Very Satisfied Like (+3)	337	21.8%
Total	1,547	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.99	0.89 – 1.08
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISSATISFIED	355	22.9%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	136	8.8%
SATISFIED	1,056	68.3%

Sample Description - Demographics

Table 33. Landownership by East/West River deer hunters (2010).

Own land outside town/city boundaries?	Number	Percent
NO	1,836	66.0%
YES	945	34.0%
Total	2,781	100%
If Yes, How many acres?		
	Number	Percent
Less than 40 acres	338	36.4%
40 – 159 acres	132	14.2%
160 – 639 acres	261	28.1%
640 – 2,559 acres	160	17.2%
2,560 or more	38	4.1%
Total	929	100%
Did you do any deer hunting on your land in 2010?		
	Number	Percent
NO	345	37.0%
YES	587	63.0%
Total	932	100%
Did other hunters do any deer hunting on your land in 2010?		
	Number	Percent
NO	404	43.3%
YES	528	56.7%
Total	932	100%
If Yes, were they...?		
	Number	Percent
Family members / relatives	168	32.2%
Non-family	87	16.7%
Both	267	51.1%
Total	522	100%

Table continued on next page.

Table 33-Continued. Landownership by East/West River deer hunters (2010).

In which county is your land or the majority of your land located?					
County	Number	Percent	County	Number	Percent
1. Minnehaha	59	6.3%	34. Hanson	12	1.3%
2. Pennington	26	2.8%	35. Harding	3	0.3%
3. Brown	27	2.9%	36. Hughes	21	2.3%
4. Beadle	16	1.7%	37. Hutchinson	21	2.3%
5. Codington	26	2.8%	38. Hyde	2	0.2%
6. Brookings	33	3.5%	39. Jackson	4	0.4%
7. Yankton	26	2.8%	40. Jerauld	6	0.6%
8. Davison	14	1.5%	41. Jones	3	0.3%
9. Lawrence	16	1.7%	42. Kingsbury	15	1.6%
10. Aurora	13	1.4%	43. Lake	17	1.8%
11. Bennett	4	0.4%	44. Lincoln	23	2.5%
12. Bon Homme	22	2.4%	45. Lyman	9	1.0%
13. Brule	13	1.4%	46. McCook	14	1.5%
14. Buffalo	1	0.1%	47. McPherson	10	1.1%
15. Butte	23	2.5%	48. Marshall	17	1.8%
16. Campbell	6	0.6%	49. Meade	36	3.9%
17. Charles Mix	24	2.6%	50. Mellette	5	0.5%
18. Clark	20	2.2%	51. Miner	9	1.0%
19. Clay	8	0.9%	52. Moody	21	2.3%
20. Corson	5	0.5%	53. Perkins	7	0.8%
21. Custer	21	2.3%	54. Potter	2	0.2%
22. Day	12	1.3%	55. Roberts	15	1.6%
23. Deuel	9	1.0%	56. Sanborn	14	1.5%
24. Dewey	3	0.3%	57. Spink	19	2.0%
25. Douglas	11	1.2%	58. Stanley	3	0.3%
26. Edmunds	9	1.0%	59. Sully	5	0.5%
27. Fall River	13	1.4%	60. Tripp	21	2.3%
28. Faulk	11	1.2%	61. Turner	26	2.8%
29. Grant	16	1.7%	62. Union	14	1.5%
30. Gregory	12	1.3%	63. Walworth	15	1.6%
31. Haakon	11	1.2%	64. Ziebach	4	0.4%
32. Hamlin	12	1.3%	65. Shannon	1	0.1%
33. Hand	13	1.4%	67. Todd	1	0.1%
Total				930	100%

Table 34. East/West River deer hunters: percent farmer/rancher.

Are you're a farmer/rancher?	Number	Percent
No	2,166	78.5%
Yes – Part-time	358	13.0%
Yes – Full-time	235	8.5%
Total	2,759	100%

Table 35. East/West River deer hunters: type of residence.

Is your residence...?	Number	Percent
Rural	952	34.4%
Small Town	895	32.4%
City	919	33.2%
Total	2,766	100%

Table 36. East/West River deer hunters' county residence.

County	Number	Percent	County	Number	Percent
1. Minnehaha	394	14.4%	34. Hanson	25	0.9%
2. Pennington	253	9.3%	35. Harding	8	0.3%
3. Brown	135	4.9%	36. Hughes	100	3.7%
4. Beadle	70	2.6%	37. Hutchinson	25	0.9%
5. Codington	104	3.8%	38. Hyde	7	0.3%
6. Brookings	106	3.9%	39. Jackson	7	0.3%
7. Yankton	71	2.6%	40. Jerauld	10	0.4%
8. Davison	70	2.6%	41. Jones	8	0.3%
9. Lawrence	70	2.6%	42. Kingsbury	33	1.2%
10. Aurora	15	0.5%	43. Lake	38	1.4%
11. Bennett	10	0.4%	44. Lincoln	125	4.6%
12. Bon Homme	39	1.4%	45. Lyman	21	0.8%
13. Brule	29	1.1%	46. McCook	22	0.8%
14. Buffalo	0	0.0%	47. McPherson	12	0.4%
15. Butte	52	1.9%	48. Marshall	24	0.9%
16. Campbell	11	0.4%	49. Meade	95	3.5%
17. Charles Mix	38	1.4%	50. Mellette	7	0.3%
18. Clark	20	0.7%	51. Miner	14	0.5%
19. Clay	25	0.9%	52. Moody	23	0.8%
20. Corson	10	0.4%	53. Perkins	16	0.6%
21. Custer	33	1.2%	54. Potter	10	0.4%
22. Day	29	1.1%	55. Roberts	34	1.2%
23. Deuel	18	0.7%	56. Sanborn	16	0.6%
24. Dewey	11	0.4%	57. Spink	42	1.5%
25. Douglas	21	0.8%	58. Stanley	24	0.9%
26. Edmunds	19	0.7%	59. Sully	10	0.4%
27. Fall River	25	0.9%	60. Tripp	39	1.4%
28. Faulk	10	0.4%	61. Turner	37	1.4%
29. Grant	37	1.4%	62. Union	41	1.5%
30. Gregory	25	0.9%	63. Walworth	29	1.1%
31. Haakon	16	0.6%	64. Ziebach	8	0.3%
32. Hamlin	25	0.9%	65. Shannon	4	0.1%
33. Hand	20	0.7%	67. Todd	4	0.15%
Total				2,729	100%

Table 37. East/West River deer hunters: gender.

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	2,578	93.2%
Female	187	6.8%
Total	2,765	100%

Table 38. East/West River deer hunters: age.

Age	Number	Percent
10 – 16	127	4.6%
17 – 19	103	3.7%
20 – 29	449	16.2%
30 – 39	506	18.3%
40 – 49	515	18.6%
50 – 59	596	21.5%
60 – 69	340	12.3%
70 – 79	116	4.2%
80+	17	0.6%
Total	2,769	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	43.1 years	42.46 – 43.66

**Results – Part 2: Tables Comparing Survey Method (Internet vs. Mail)
 (Tables 39 – 58)**

Table 39. Frequency of days hunted (for all types of deer hunting) by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010 analyzed by survey method.

Days Hunting	Deer Hunting (all types) – 2010					
	Internet		Mail		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	43	3.5%	65	3.9%	108	3.7%
1	78	6.3%	99	6.0%	177	6.1%
2	182	14.7%	216	13.1%	398	13.8%
3	109	8.8%	161	9.8%	270	9.4%
4	132	10.7%	204	12.4%	336	11.7%
5	102	8.3%	133	8.1%	235	8.1%
6	80	6.5%	129	7.8%	209	7.2%
7	65	5.3%	102	6.2%	167	5.8%
8	48	3.9%	79	4.8%	127	4.4%
9	17	1.4%	21	1.3%	38	1.3%
10	99	8.0%	108	6.6%	207	7.2%
11	11	0.9%	10	0.6%	21	0.7%
12	40	3.2%	41	2.5%	81	2.8%
13	8	0.6%	9	0.5%	17	0.6%
14	29	2.3%	37	2.2%	66	2.3%
15	35	2.8%	38	2.3%	73	2.5%
16 – 20	69	5.6%	81	4.9%	150	5.2%
21 – 25	28	2.3%	36	2.2%	64	3.4%
26 – 30	28	2.3%	42	2.5%	70	2.4%
31 – 40	14	1.1%	23	1.4%	37	1.3%
41 – 50	8	0.6%	6	0.4%	14	0.5%
51+	11	0.9%	8	0.5%	19	0.7%
missing ¹	(0)	--	(26)	--	(26)	--
Total^{1,2}	1,236	100%	1,648	100%	2,884	100%
Mean^{1,2}	8.39 Days		7.92 Days		8.12 Days	
95% CI	7.84 – 8.93		7.49 – 8.34		7.78 – 8.45	
Median	5.00		5.00		5.00	
Range	0 – 101		0 – 90		0 – 101	
ANOVA: F=1.839; df=1/2,882; p=0.175						

¹Missing values not included in total and percent calculations.

²Calculations include hunters that did not hunt.

Table 40. Mean harvest of deer (for all types of deer hunting) by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010 analyzed by survey method.

Type of Harvest	Survey Method		<i>p</i> -value
	Internet	Mail	
Bucks Harvested	0.66	0.67	0.637
95% C.I.	0.61 – 0.70	0.63 – 0.71	
Number	1,193	1,583	
Does Harvested	0.99	0.89	0.056
95% C.I.	0.91 – 1.07	0.84 – 0.95	
Number	1,193	1,583	
Deer Harvested	1.64	1.56	0.209
95% C.I.	1.55 – 1.74	1.49 – 1.64	
Number	1,193	1,583	

Table 41. Hunting (and harvest) during the extended antlerless deer hunting during the extended East River and/or West River rifle deer season in January (January 1-9, 2011) analyzed by survey method.

Hunting during extended antlerless deer season (Jan. 1-9, 2011)	Survey Method				Combined	
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	938	75.9%	1,274	77.0%	2,212	76.5%
YES	298	24.1%	380	23.0%	678	23.5%
Total	1,236	100%	1,654	100%	2,890	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.508$; $df=1$; $p=0.476$						
If Yes, How many days?	Internet		Mail		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	132	44.4%	130	34.7%	262	39.0%
2	82	27.6%	121	32.3%	203	30.2%
3	38	12.8%	53	14.1%	91	13.5%
4	20	6.7%	32	8.5%	52	7.7%
5	14	4.7%	14	3.7%	28	4.2%
6	3	1.0%	5	1.3%	8	1.2%
7	3	1.0%	7	1.9%	10	1.5%
8	3	1.0%	3	0.8%	6	0.9%
9	2	0.7%	10	2.7%	12	1.8%
Total	297	100%	375	100%	672	100%
Mean Days	2.16 Days		2.46 Days		2.33 Days	
95% C.I.	1.98 – 2.33		2.28 – 2.64		2.20 – 2.45	
ANOVA: $F=5.251$; $df=1/670$; $p=0.022$						
How many deer did you harvest?	Internet		Mail		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	155	52.2%	224	59.4%	379	56.2%
1	98	33.0%	99	26.3%	197	29.2%
2	33	11.1%	38	10.1%	71	10.5%
3	8	2.7%	9	2.4%	17	2.5%
4	1	0.3%	4	1.1%	5	0.7%
5	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	1	0.1%
6	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	2	0.3%
7	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
8	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
9	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Total	297	100%	377	100%	674	100%
Mean Deer	0.70		0.62		0.66	
95% C.I.	0.58 – 0.82		0.53 – 0.72		0.58 – 0.73	
ANOVA: $F=1.020$; $df=1/672$; $p=0.313$						

Table 41. Types of deer licenses East River & West River deer hunters had in 2010 analyzed by survey method.

Deer License	Internet			Mail		
	#	%	% of Cases	#	%	% of Cases
East River Deer	765	33.5%	61.9%	1,040	37.2%	62.1%
East River Special Buck	7	0.3%	0.6%	9	0.3%	0.5%
West River Deer	729	31.9%	59.0%	929	33.2%	55.5%
West River Special Buck	13	3.4%	1.1%	7	0.3%	0.4%
Black Hills Deer	78	7.4%	6.3%	85	3.0%	5.1%
Archery Deer (statewide)	168	7.4%	13.6%	192	6.9%	11.5%
Archery Deer (East River)	114	5.0%	9.2%	119	4.3%	7.1%
Archery Deer (West River)	91	4.0%	7.4%	74	2.6%	4.4%
Antlerless Archery Deer	102	4.5%	8.3%	96	3.4%	5.7%
Refuge Deer	12	0.5%	1.0%	8	0.3%	0.5%
Muzzleloader Deer	115	5.0%	9.3%	96	3.4%	5.7%
Landowner/Operator Special	16	0.7%	1.3%	33	1.2%	2.0%
Youth Deer	14	0.6%	1.1%	42	1.5%	2.5%
Mentor Deer License	24	1.1%	1.9%	30	1.1%	1.8%
Free Landowner Deer	9	0.4%	0.7%	10	0.4%	0.6%
Custer State Park Deer	4	0.2%	0.3%	0	0.0%	0.0%
S.D. Tribal Deer License	6	0.3%	0.5%	8	0.3%	0.5%
A deer license in another state	16	0.7%	1.3%	17	0.6%	1.0%
Responses	2,283	100%		2,760	100%	
Cases	1,236		184.7%			167.0%

Table 42. Number of different types of deer licenses held by East/West River deer hunters analyzed by survey method (2010).

Number of Types of Deer Licenses	Internet		Mail		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	645	52.2%	982	58.7%	1,627	55.9%
2	318	25.7%	419	25.0%	737	25.3%
3	150	12.1%	165	9.9%	315	10.8%
4	76	6.1%	73	4.4%	149	5.1%
5	35	2.8%	26	1.6%	61	2.1%
6	11	0.9%	6	0.4%	17	0.6%
7	1	0.1%	2	0.1%	3	0.1%
8	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	1	<0.1%
Total	1,236	100%	1,674	100%	2,910	100%
Mean License Types	1.85		1.67		1.75	
95% C.I.	1.78 – 1.91		1.62 – 1.72		1.71 – 1.78	
ANOVA: F=19.978; df=1/2,908; p<0.001						

Table 43. East/West River licensed deer hunters' most preferred deer season analyzed by survey method (2010).

Deer Season	Internet		Mail		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
East River rifle deer	453	37.5%	647	39.7%	1,100	38.8%
West River rifle deer	426	35.3%	605	37.2%	1,031	36.4%
Black Hills rifle deer	82	6.8%	92	5.7%	174	6.1%
Archery deer	173	14.3%	173	10.6%	346	12.2%
Muzzleloader deer	17	1.4%	21	1.3%	38	1.3%
Refuge deer	2	0.2%	5	0.3%	7	0.2%
No Opinion	54	4.5%	85	5.2%	139	4.9%
Total	1,207	100%	1,628	100%	2,835	100%

Chi-square: $X^2=12.238$; $df=6$; $p=0.057$

Motivations for Deer Hunting

Table 44. Summary of importance ratings for the seven motivations rated by deer hunters with a 2010 East and/or West River deer license and summary statistics comparing survey method (*see Appendix C*).

Comparisons of Survey Response Method (Internet vs. Mail)		
Motivation	(ANOVA) p -value	Eta ²
Nature	.261	<.001
Social	.095	.001
Excitement	.377	<.001
Challenge	.093	.001
Solitude	.110	.001
Meat	.036	.002
Trophy	<.001	.011

Table 45. East/West River deer hunters' most important motivation for deer hunting analyzed by survey method.

Most Important Motivation	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Social	309	25.8%	501	31.1%
Excitement	260	21.7%	346	21.5%
Nature	247	20.6%	284	17.7%
Meat	174	14.5%	200	12.4%
Challenge	100	8.4%	110	6.8%
Trophy	69	5.8%	105	6.5%
Solitude	38	3.2%	63	3.9%
Total	1,197	100%	1,609	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=16.067$; $df=6$; $p=0.013$				

Importance of Deer Hunting

Table 46. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the importance of deer hunting analyzed by survey method.

Importance (scale)	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most (4)	305	25.5%	309	19.1%
Very (3)	523	43.8%	706	43.6%
Moderately (2)	275	23.0%	476	29.4%
Slightly (1)	75	6.3%	100	6.2%
Not (0)	15	1.3%	16	1.0%
No Opinion (missing)	2	0.2%	14	0.9%
Total	1,195	100%	1,621	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=29.915$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$				
Mean	2.86		2.74	
95% C.I.	2.81 – 2.91		2.70 – 2.78	
ANOVA: $F=12.448$; $df=1/2,798$; $p<0.001$				

Attitudes Related to Deer Hunting

Table 47. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the importance of harvesting a deer and having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to overall satisfaction with their deer hunting season analyzed by survey method.

Importance (scale)	Survey Method			
	Harvesting a Deer		Un-Crowded Hunt	
	Internet	Mail	Internet	Mail
Very Important (3)	18.5%	24.1%	65.7%	61.9%
Moderately Important (2)	41.0%	46.6%	22.2%	28.7%
Slightly Important (1)	25.1%	19.3%	10.1%	5.8%
Not Important (0)	13.5%	9.1%	1.2%	1.7%
No Opinion (missing)	1.9%	0.9%	0.8%	1.9%
Number	1,194	1,621	1,194	1,624
Chi-Square:	$p < 0.001$		$p < 0.001$	
Mean	1.66	1.86	2.54	2.54
95% C.I.	1.60 – 1.71	1.82 – 1.91	2.50 – 2.58	2.50 – 2.57
ANOVA:	$p < 0.001$		$p = 0.982$	

Table 48-A. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by survey method.

<i>A deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.</i>				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	84	7.0%	130	8.0%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	73	6.1%	166	10.3%
AGREE	1,036	86.8%	1,320	81.7%
Total	1,193	100%	1,616	100%
Chi-square: $X^2 = 16.997$; $df = 2$; $p < 0.001$				
Mean	1.31		1.23	
95% C.I.	1.26 – 1.36		1.18 – 1.28	
ANOVA: $F = 4.609$; $df = 1/2,807$; $p = 0.032$				

Table 48-B. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by survey method.

<i>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I will not shoot an antlerless deer.</i>				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	871	73.3%	1,114	69.1%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	174	14.6%	291	18.0%
AGREE	144	12.1%	208	12.9%
Total	1,189	100%	1,613	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=6.819$; $df=2$; $p=0.033$				
Mean	-1.08		-1.00	
95% C.I.	-1.14 – -1.01		-1.06 – -0.94	
ANOVA: $F=3.237$; $df=1/2,800$; $p=0.072$				

Table 48-C. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by survey method.

<i>I am only interested in hunting for a "large" buck, i.e., I will pass up bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</i>				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	458	38.5%	651	40.4%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	159	13.4%	279	17.3%
AGREE	574	48.2%	681	42.3%
Total	1,191	100%	1,611	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.923$; $df=2$; $p=0.002$				
Mean	0.08		-0.02	
95% C.I.	0.00 – 0.17		-0.09 – -0.05	
ANOVA: $F=3.233$; $df=1/2,800$; $p=0.072$				

Deer Hunting Seasons in South Dakota

Table 49-A. East/West River deer hunters' attitude towards having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that like this type of deer hunting opportunity analyzed by survey method.

SUMMARIZED RESULTS	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISLIKE	96	8.3%	154	9.5%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	567	48.9%	915	56.7%
LIKE	496	42.8%	544	33.7%
Total	1,159	100%	1,613	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=23.666$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$				
Mean	0.73		0.51	
95% C.I.	0.64 – 0.81		0.44 – 0.58	
ANOVA: $F=16.002$; $df=1/2,770$; $p<0.001$				

Table 49-B. East/West River deer hunters' desire to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota analyzed by survey method.

Attitude	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	71	6.2%	74	4.7%
Less	96	8.4%	115	7.2%
Current Number	646	56.5%	963	60.7%
A little More	263	23.0%	345	21.7%
A Lot More	67	5.9%	90	5.7%
Total	1,143	100%	1,587	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=6.620$; $df=4$; $p=0.157$				

Table 50. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the fairness of the current statewide allocation of "preferred" deer licenses and attitude towards changing the current system analyzed by survey method.

Attitude: How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of "preferred" deer license is?				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
UNFAIR	435	36.8%	603	36.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	426	36.1%	580	35.3%
FAIR	320	27.1%	461	28.0%
Total	1,181	100%	1,644	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.348$; $df=2$; $p=0.840$				
Mean	-0.09		-0.07	
95% C.I.	-0.19 – 0.01		-0.15 – 0.01	
ANOVA: $F=0.118$; $df=1/2,823$; $p=0.731$				
Attitude: How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?				
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	120	10.2%	159	9.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	355	30.1%	513	31.2%
FAVOR	704	59.7%	970	59.1%
Total	1,179	100%	1,642	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.503$; $df=2$; $p=0.778$				
Mean	1.03		0.98	
95% C.I.	0.94 – 1.11		0.90 – 1.05	
ANOVA: $F=0.806$; $df=1/2,819$; $p=0.369$				

Table 51. East/West River deer hunters' preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days) analyzed by survey method.

Preference	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Eliminate the extended antlerless deer season	119	10.1%	172	10.5%
Reduce the length of the extended antlerless deer season	19	1.6%	44	2.7%
Keep the extended antlerless deer season the same length	401	34.1%	599	36.5%
Increase the length of the extended antlerless deer season	478	40.4%	577	35.2%
No Opinion	162	13.8%	249	15.2%
Total	1,177	100%	1,641	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=10.773$; $df=4$; $p=0.029$				

Table 52. East/West River deer hunters' preferred dates of the extended antlerless deer season analyzed by survey method.

Preference	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Always be January 1 – 9	156	13.3%	255	15.9%
Start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days	440	37.5%	549	34.1%
Start on December 26 and run through January 3, regardless of the day of the week	139	11.9%	201	12.5%
No Opinion	437	37.3%	603	37.5%
Total	1,172	100%	1,608	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=5.415$; $df=3$; $p=0.144$				

Table 53. East/West River deer hunters’ attitude towards having an early (October) antlerless deer seasons (when needed to reduce the deer population and not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended deer seasons) analyzed by survey method.

ATTITUDE	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSE	386	32.8%	496	30.2%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	180	15.3%	297	18.1%
FAVOR	612	52.0%	849	51.7%
Total	1,178	100%	1,642	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=4.642$; $df=2$; $p=0.098$				
Mean	0.42		0.40	
95% C.I.	0.29 – 0.55		0.30 – 0.50	
ANOVA: $F=0.052$; $df=1/2,818$; $p=0.819$				

Table 54. East/West River deer hunters’ opinion of the length of the regular East/West River deer season (is 16 days for most hunting units) analyzed by survey method.

Preference (length of regular East/West River rifle deer season)	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Too Short	364	31.0%	541	32.9%
Just Right	679	57.9%	944	57.4%
Too Long	60	5.1%	85	5.2%
No Opinion	70	6.0%	75	4.6%
Total	1,173	100%	1,645	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=3.407$; $df=3$; $p=0.333$				

East/West River Deer Hunters’ Preferred Management Options → Appendix F

Sample Description - Demographics

Table 55. Landownership by East/West River deer hunters (2010) analyzed by survey method.

Own land outside town/city boundaries?	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	778	67.8%	1,058	64.7%
YES	369	32.2%	576	35.3%
Total	1,147	100%	1,634	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=2.850$; $df=1$; $p=0.091$				

Table 56. East/West River deer hunters: percent farmer/rancher analyzed by survey method.

Are you're a farmer/rancher?	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No	950	82.8%	1,216	75.4%
Yes – Part-time	122	10.6%	236	14.6%
Yes – Full-time	75	6.5%	160	9.9%
Total	1,147	100%	1,612	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=21.966$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$				

Table 57. East/West River deer hunters: type of residence analyzed by survey method.

Is your residence...?	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	370	32.3%	582	35.9%
Small Town	343	29.9%	552	34.1%
City	433	37.8%	486	30.0%
Total	1,146	100%	1,620	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=18.384$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$				

Table 58. East/West River deer hunters: gender and mean age analyzed by survey method.

Gender	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	1,083	94.6%	1,495	92.3%
Female	62	5.4%	125	7.7%
Total	1,145	100%	1,620	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=5.634$; $df=1$; $p=0.018$				
Age	Survey Method			
	Internet		Mail	
	Mean Age		Mean Age	
	43.6 years		42.7 years	
95% C.I.	42.77 – 44.44		41.83 – 43.51	
Number	1,147		1,622	
ANOVA: $F=2.285$; $df=1/2,767$; $p=0.131$				

**Results – Part 3: Tables Comparing License Type (East/West/Both)
 (Tables 59 – 81)**

Table 59. Percent of returns by survey method by license type (2010).

Survey Method	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Internet	507	40.5%	471	42.6%	258	46.7%
Mail	745	59.5%	634	57.4%	295	53.3%
Total	1,252	100%	1,105	100%	553	100%

Chi-square: $X^2=5.972$; $df=2$; $p=0.050$ (Cramer's V = 0.045)

Table 60. Mean days hunted (for all types of deer hunting) and harvest by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010 analyzed by license type.

Parameter	License Type		
	East River	West River	Both
Mean Days Hunting	7.23	7.08	12.17
95% C.I.	6.77 – 7.68	6.58 – 7.59	11.21 – 13.12
Number	1,238	1,095	551
ANOVA: $F=68.863$; $df=2/2,881$; $p<0.001$			
Mean Bucks Harvested	0.41	0.67	1.12
95% C.I.	0.38 – 0.45	0.63 – 0.72	1.03 – 1.21
Number	1,226	1,090	549
ANOVA: $F=164.380$; $df=2/2,862$; $p<0.001$			
Mean Does¹ Harvested	0.72	0.87	1.39
95% C.I.	0.66 – 0.78	0.81 – 0.94	1.24 – 1.53
Number	1,226	1,090	549
ANOVA: $F=57.055$; $df=2/2,862$; $p<0.001$			
Mean Deer Harvested	1.13	1.55	2.51
95% C.I.	1.06 – 1.20	1.46 – 1.63	2.32 – 2.69
Number	1,226	1,090	549
ANOVA: $F=151.390$; $df=2/2,862$; $p<0.001$			

¹Antlerless deer

Table 61. Hunting (and harvest) during the extended antlerless deer hunting during the extended East River and/or West River rifle deer season in January (January 1-9, 2011) analyzed by license type.

Hunting during extended antlerless deer season (Jan. 1-9, 2011)	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	949	76.5%	869	79.2%	394	71.4%
YES	292	23.5%	228	20.8%	158	28.6%
Total	1,241	100%	1,097	100%	552	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.573$; $df=2$; $p=0.002$ (Cramer's V = 0.066)						
If Yes, How many days?	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	97	33.9%	109	47.8%	56	35.4%
2	83	29.0%	73	32.0%	47	29.7%
3	50	17.5%	15	6.6%	26	16.5%
4	27	9.4%	16	7.0%	9	5.7%
5	11	3.8%	6	2.6%	11	7.0%
6	5	1.7%	0	0.0%	3	1.9%
7	4	1.4%	4	1.8%	2	1.3%
8	2	0.7%	3	1.3%	1	0.6%
9	7	2.4%	2	0.9%	3	1.9%
Total	286	100%	228	100%	158	100%
Mean Days	2.49		2.04		2.44	
95% C.I.	2.29 – 2.70		1.83 – 2.24		2.17 – 2.71	
ANOVA: $F=5.198$; $df=2/669$; $p=0.006$						
How many deer did you harvest?	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	194	67.4%	106	46.5%	79	50.0%
1	72	25.0%	83	36.4%	42	26.6%
2	16	5.6%	31	13.6%	24	15.2%
3	5	1.7%	7	3.1%	5	3.2%
4	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	4	2.5%
5	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
6 or more	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	2.5%
Total	288	100%	228	100%	158	100%
Mean Deer	0.43		0.75		0.94	
95% C.I.	0.34 – 0.51		0.64 – 0.86		0.72 – 1.16	
ANOVA: $F=16.308$; $df=2/671$; $p<0.001$						

Table 62. Types of deer licenses East River & West River deer hunters had in 2010 analyzed by license type.

Deer License	East River			West River			Both		
	Number	Percent	% of Cases	Number	Percent	% of Cases	Number	Percent	% of Cases
East River Deer	1,252	70.3%	100%	0	0.0%	0.0%	553	34.4%	100%
East River Special Buck	7	0.4%	0.6%	8	0.5%	0.7%	1	0.1%	0.2%
West River Deer	0	0.0%	0.0%	1,105	65.3%	100%	553	34.4%	100%
West River Special Buck	3	0.2%	0.2%	12	0.7%	1.1%	5	0.3%	0.9%
Black Hills Deer	24	1.3%	1.9%	109	6.4%	9.9%	30	1.9%	5.4%
Archery Deer (statewide)	112	6.3%	8.9%	136	8.0%	12.3%	112	7.0%	20.3%
Archery Deer (East River)	109	6.1%	8.7%	28	1.7%	2.5%	96	6.0%	17.4%
Archery Deer (West River)	21	1.2%	1.7%	90	5.3%	8.1%	54	3.4%	9.8%
Antlerless Archery Deer	76	4.3%	6.1%	61	3.6%	5.5%	61	3.8%	11.0%
Refuge Deer	9	0.5%	0.7%	3	0.2%	0.3%	8	0.5%	1.4%
Muzzleloader Deer	70	3.9%	5.6%	57	3.4%	5.2%	84	5.2%	15.2%
Landowner/Operator Special	18	1.0%	1.4%	27	1.6%	2.4%	4	0.2%	0.7%
Youth Deer	29	1.6%	2.3%	16	0.9%	1.4%	11	0.7%	2.0%
Mentor Deer License	24	1.3%	1.9%	17	1.0%	1.5%	13	0.8%	2.4%
Free Landowner Deer	10	0.6%	0.8%	5	0.3%	0.5%	4	0.2%	0.7%
Custer State Park Deer	1	0.1%	0.1%	3	0.2%	0.3%	0	0.0%	0.0%
S.D. Tribal Deer License	4	0.2%	0.3%	6	0.4%	0.5%	4	0.2%	0.7%
A deer license in another state	12	0.7%	1.0%	8	0.5%	0.7%	13	0.8%	2.4%
Responses	1,781	100%		1,691	100%		1,606	100%	
Cases	1,252		142.3%	1,105		153.0%	553		290.4%

Table 63. Number of different types of deer licenses held by East/West River deer hunters analyzed by license type (2010).

Number of Types of Deer Licenses	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	907	72.4%	720	65.2%	--	--
2	219	17.5%	247	22.4%	271	49.0%
3	82	6.5%	94	8.5%	139	25.1%
4	31	2.5%	34	3.1%	84	15.2%
5	12	1.0%	4	0.4%	45	8.1%
6	1	0.1%	4	0.4%	12	2.2%
7	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	2	0.4%
8	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Total	1,252	100%	1,105	100%	553	100%
Mean License Types	1.42		1.52		2.90	
95% C.I.	1.38 – 1.47		1.48 – 1.58		2.81 – 3.00	
ANOVA: $F=569.994$; $df=2/2,907$; $p<0.001$						

Table 64. East/West River licensed deer hunters' most preferred deer season analyzed by license type (2010).

Deer Season	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
East River rifle deer	917	75.4%	39	3.6%	144	26.2%
West River rifle deer	43	3.5%	745	69.6%	243	44.3%
Black Hills rifle deer	44	3.6%	116	10.8%	14	2.6%
Archery deer	138	11.3%	117	10.9%	91	16.6%
Muzzleloader deer	15	1.2%	7	0.7%	16	2.9%
Refuge deer	4	0.3%	2	0.2%	1	0.2%
No Opinion	55	4.5%	44	4.1%	40	7.3%
Total	1,216	100%	1,070	100%	549	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=1574.588$; $df=12$; $p<0.001$						

Motivations for Deer Hunting

Table 65. Summary of importance ratings for the seven motivations rated by deer hunters with a 2010 East and/or West River deer license and summary statistics comparing and license type.

Motivation ¹	License Types			p-value
	East River	West River	Both	
Meat	4.54	4.63	4.28	.004
95% C.I.	4.43 – 4.65	4.51 – 4.75	4.11 – 4.46	
Nature	5.94	6.10	6.19	<.001
95% C.I.	5.87 – 6.01	6.03 – 6.17	6.10 – 6.28	
Excitement	5.93	5.88	6.09	.006
95% C.I.	5.86 – 6.00	5.80 – 5.96	5.99 – 6.18	
Social	5.90	6.00	6.09	.021
95% C.I.	5.82 – 5.98	5.91 – 6.09	5.98 – 6.20	
Trophy	3.92	3.94	4.24	.008
95% C.I.	3.79 – 4.04	3.81 – 4.07	4.07 – 4.41	
Solitude	4.69	4.67	4.97	.008
95% C.I.	4.58 – 4.80	4.55 – 4.79	4.82 – 5.13	
Challenge	5.06	5.11	5.37	.002
95% C.I.	4.97 – 5.16	5.01 – 5.21	5.23 – 5.51	

¹Scale: 0=Not Important to 7=Very Important

Table 66. East/West River deer hunters' most important motivation for deer hunting analyzed by license type (2010).

Most Important Motivation	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Meat	158	13.1%	169	15.9%	47	8.7%
Nature	215	17.9%	206	19.4%	110	20.4%
Excitement	264	21.9%	208	19.6%	134	24.8%
Social	346	28.7%	314	29.6%	150	27.8%
Trophy	83	6.9%	63	5.9%	28	5.2%
Solitude	54	4.5%	29	2.7%	18	3.3%
Challenge	84	7.0%	73	6.9%	53	9.8%
Total	1,204	100%	1,062	100%	540	100%

Chi-square: $X^2=32.295$; $df=12$; $p=0.001$

Importance of Deer Hunting

Table 67. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the importance of deer hunting analyzed by license type (2010).

Importance (scale)	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most (4)	192	15.9%	235	22.0%	187	34.6%
Very (3)	499	41.3%	483	45.3%	247	45.7%
Moderately (2)	385	31.8%	280	26.3%	86	15.9%
Slightly (1)	101	8.4%	57	5.3%	17	3.1%
Not (0)	23	1.9%	8	0.8%	0	0.0%
No Opinion (missing)	9	0.7%	3	0.3%	4	0.8%
Total	1,209	100%	1,066	100%	541	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=133.470$; $df=10$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	2.61		2.83		3.12	
95% C.I.	2.56 – 2.67		2.78 – 2.88		3.06 – 3.19	
ANOVA: $F=65.250$; $df=2/2,797$; $p<0.001$						

Attitudes Related to Deer Hunting

Table 68. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the importance of harvesting a deer and having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to overall satisfaction with their deer hunting season analyzed by license type (2010).

Importance (scale)	Harvesting a Deer					
	East River		West river		Both	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Important (3)	251	20.8%	263	24.7%	94	18.1%
Moderately Important (2)	555	46.0%	455	41.8%	234	45.0%
Slightly Important (1)	251	20.8%	225	21.1%	129	24.8%
Not Important (0)	135	11.2%	116	10.9%	57	11.0%
No Opinion (missing)	15	1.2%	16	1.5%	6	1.2%
Total	1,207	100%	1,065	100%	520	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=13.726$; $df=8$; $p=0.089$						
Mean	1.77		1.82		1.71	
95% C.I.	1.72 – 1.83		1.76 – 1.87		1.63 – 1.79	
ANOVA: $F=2.288$; $df=2/2,752$; $p=0.102$						
Importance (scale)	Un-Crowded Hunt					
	East River		West river		Both	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Important (3)	730	60.4%	713	66.9%	334	64.2%
Moderately Important (2)	335	27.7%	258	24.2%	132	25.4%
Slightly Important (1)	105	8.7%	69	6.5%	37	7.1%
Not Important (0)	19	1.6%	14	1.3%	8	1.5%
No Opinion (missing)	20	1.7%	12	1.1%	9	1.7%
Total	1,209	100%	1,066	100%	520	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.067$; $df=8$; $p=0.148$						
Mean	2.49		2.58		2.55	
95% C.I.	2.45 – 2.53		2.54 – 2.63		2.49 – 2.61	
ANOVA: $F=4.914$; $df=2/2,774$; $p=0.007$						

Table 69-A. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by license type.

<i>A deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.</i>						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	100	8.5%	71	6.9%	39	7.2%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	121	10.3%	79	7.6%	31	5.7%
AGREE	957	81.2%	885	85.5%	471	87.1%
Total	1,178	100%	1,035	100%	541	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=14.266$; $df=4$; $p=0.006$						
Mean (-2 to +2)	1.17		1.33		1.35	
95% C.I.	1.11 – 1.23		1.27 – 1.38		1.27 – 1.43	
ANOVA: $F=10.226$; $df=2/2,751$; $p<0.001$						

Table 69-B. East/West River deer hunters' attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by license type.

<i>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I will not shoot an antlerless deer.</i>						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	836	71.2%	751	72.6%	363	67.2%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	198	16.9%	160	15.5%	101	18.7%
AGREE	140	11.9%	123	11.9%	76	14.1%
Total	1,174	100%	1,034	100%	540	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=5.374$; $df=4$; $p=0.251$						
Mean (-2 to +2)	-1.05		-1.06		-0.98	
95% C.I.	-1.11 – -0.98		-1.13 – -0.99		-1.09 – -0.88	
ANOVA: $F=0.780$; $df=2/2,745$; $p=0.459$						

Table 69-C. East/West River deer hunters’ attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by license type.

<i>I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</i>						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	525	44.7%	394	38.1%	174	32.2%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	213	18.1%	148	14.3%	70	13.0%
AGREE	437	37.2%	491	47.5%	296	54.8%
Total	1,175	100%	1,033	100%	540	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=52.903$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-2 to +2)	-0.19		0.08		0.34	
95% C.I.	-0.28 – -0.11		-0.01 – 0.17		0.21 – 0.46	
ANOVA: $F=25.192$; $df=2/2,745$; $p<0.001$						

Deer Hunting Seasons in South Dakota

Table 70-A. East/West River deer hunters' attitude towards having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that like this type of deer hunting opportunity analyzed by license type (2010).

SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISLIKE	98	8.2%	115	11.0%	37	6.9%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	702	59.0%	532	50.8%	248	46.3%
LIKE	389	32.7%	400	38.2%	251	46.8%
Total	1,189	100%	1,047	100%	536	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=41.245$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	0.50		0.57		0.89	
95% C.I.	0.43 – 0.57		0.48 – 0.66		0.77 – 1.01	
ANOVA: $F=14.621$; $df=2/2,769$; $p<0.001$						

Table 70-B. East/West River deer hunters' desire to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota.

Attitude	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	57	4.9%	64	6.2%	24	4.6%
Less	91	7.8%	85	8.25	35	6.6%
Current Number	718	61.3%	604	58.6%	287	54.5%
A little More	237	20.2%	229	22.2%	142	26.9%
A Lot More	69	5.9%	49	4.8%	39	7.4%
Total	1,172	100%	1,031	100%	527	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=18.322$; $df=8$; $p=0.019$						

Table 71. East/West River deer hunters’ rating of the fairness of the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer licenses and attitude towards changing the current system analyzed by license type.

Attitude: How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer license is?						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
UNFAIR	482	39.8%	406	38.0%	150	27.5%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	448	37.0%	390	36.5%	168	30.8%
FAIR	280	23.1%	273	25.5%	228	41.8%
Total	1,210	100%	1,069	100%	546	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=70.801$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.25		-0.16		0.46	
95% C.I.	-0.34 – -0.16		-0.26 – -0.06		0.30 – 0.61	
ANOVA: $F=34.030$; $df=2/2,822$; $p<0.001$						
Attitude: How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	81	6.7%	99	9.3%	99	18.2%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	359	29.7%	321	30.1%	188	34.5%
FAVOR	770	63.6%	646	60.6%	258	47.3%
Total	1,210	100%	1,066	100%	545	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=70.982$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	1.16		1.05		0.54	
95% C.I.	1.08 – 1.24		0.96 – 1.14		0.40 – 0.68	
ANOVA: $F=33.444$; $df=2/2,818$; $p<0.001$						

Table 72. East/West River deer hunters' preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days) analyzed by license type.

Preference for extended season	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Eliminate	110	9.1%	98	9.2%	83	15.3%
Reduce the length	28	2.3%	19	1.8%	16	2.9%
Keep	450	37.2%	365	34.3%	185	34.0%
Increase the length	449	37.1%	412	38.7%	192	35.3%
No Opinion	173	14.3%	170	16.0%	68	12.5%
Total	1,210	100%	1,064	100%	544	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=24.107$; $df=8$; $p=0.002$						

Table 73. East/West River deer hunters' preferred dates of the extended antlerless deer season analyzed by license type.

Preference	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Always be January 1 – 9	181	15.1%	139	13.3%	91	17.1%
Start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days	456	38.0%	372	35.5%	161	30.2%
Start on December 26 and run through January 3, regardless of the day of the week	144	12.0%	126	12.0%	70	13.1%
No Opinion	418	34.9%	411	39.2%	211	39.6%
Total	1,199	100%	1,048	100%	533	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=14.072$; $df=8$; $p=0.029$						

Table 74. East/West River deer hunters’ attitude towards having an early (October) antlerless deer seasons (when needed to reduce the deer population and not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended deer seasons) analyzed by license type.

ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSE	360	29.9%	300	28.1%	222	40.6%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	203	16.8%	187	17.5%	87	15.9%
FAVOR	643	53.3%	580	54.4%	238	43.5%
Total	1,206	100%	1,067	100%	547	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=29.054$; $df=8$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	0.47		0.55		-0.01	
95% C.I.	0.35 – 0.59		0.43 – 0.68		-0.20 – 0.18	
ANOVA: $F=13.181$; $df=2/2,817$; $p<0.001$						

Table 75. East/West River deer hunters’ opinion of the length of the regular East/West River deer season (is 16 days for most hunting units) analyzed by license type.

Preference (length of regular East/West River rifle deer season)	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Too Short	393	32.5%	381	35.8%	131	24.0%
Just Right	682	56.5%	588	55.2%	353	64.8%
Too Long	69	5.7%	38	3.6%	38	7.0%
No Opinion	64	5.3%	58	5.4%	23	4.2%
Total	1,208	100%	1,065	100%	545	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=32.364$; $df=6$; $p<0.001$						

East/West River Deer Hunters' Preferred Management Options:

Table 76-A – 76-H. Improving the quality of bucks requires some type of strategy to reduce the current number of bucks harvested to allow more bucks to mature enough to produce larger antlers. How strongly do you favor or oppose each of these possible options analyzed by license type (scale for the mean ranged from -3 = Strong Oppose to +3 = Strongly Favor).

Table 76-A. Management Option: Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	609	51.8%	656	63.1%	311	58.6%
NEUTRAL	334	28.4%	234	22.5%	136	25.6%
FAVOR	232	19.7%	150	14.4%	84	15.8%
Total	1,175	100%	1,040	100%	531	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=29.595$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.84		-1.22		-1.11	
95% C.I.	-0.95 – -0.73		-1.32 – -1.11		-1.26 – -0.95	
ANOVA: $F=12.590$; $df=2/2,743$; $p<0.001$						

Table 76-B. Management Option: Not hunting during the rut.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Not hunting during the rut.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	675	57.3%	739	71.0%	368	68.9%
NEUTRAL	303	25.7%	185	17.8%	93	17.4%
FAVOR	200	17.0%	117	11.2%	73	13.7%
Total	1,178	100%	1,041	100%	534	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=51.575$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-1.03		-1.53		-1.48	
95% C.I.	-1.14 – -0.93		-1.63 – -1.42		-1.64 – -1.32	
ANOVA: $F=23.484$; $df=2/2,750$; $p<0.001$						

Table 76-C. Management Option: Decrease the number of any-deer tags.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Decrease the number of any-deer tags.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	619	52.8%	603	58.4%	304	56.9%
NEUTRAL	306	26.1%	233	22.6%	118	22.1%
FAVOR	247	21.1%	196	19.0%	112	21.0%
Total	1,172	100%	1,032	100%	534	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=8.459$; $df=4$; $p=0.076$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.86		-1.03		-0.97	
95% C.I.	-0.96 – -0.76		-1.14 – -0.92		-1.13 – -0.81	
ANOVA: $F=2.395$; $df=2/2,735$; $p=0.091$						

Table 76-D. Management Option: Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill per year.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill per year.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	262	22.3%	299	28.8%	216	40.5%
NEUTRAL	232	19.7%	180	17.3%	114	21.4%
FAVOR	682	58.0%	560	53.9%	203	38.1%
Total	1,176	100%	1,039	100%	533	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=74.934$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	0.81		0.48		-0.17	
95% C.I.	0.70 – 0.92		0.35 – 0.60		-0.35 – 0.02	
ANOVA: $F=42.684$; $df=2/2,745$; $p<0.001$						

Table 76-E. Management Option: Shortening deer seasons in January.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Shortening deer seasons in January.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	387	33.0%	339	32.6%	164	30.7%
NEUTRAL	365	31.1%	304	29.2%	132	24.7%
FAVOR	421	35.9%	397	38.2%	239	44.7%
Total	1,173	100%	1,040	100%	535	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=13.285$; $df=4$; $p=0.010$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	0.06		0.11		0.38	
95% C.I.	-0.05 – 0.17		-0.01 – 0.23		0.20 – 0.56	
ANOVA: $F=4.824$; $df=2/2,745$; $p=0.008$						

Table 76-F. Management Option: Reduce the archery harvest

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Reduce the archery harvest					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	588	50.0%	590	56.8%	315	59.0%
NEUTRAL	343	29.1%	291	28.0%	112	21.0%
FAVOR	246	20.9%	157	15.1%	107	20.0%
Total	1,177	100%	1,038	100%	534	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=27.712$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.76		-1.14		-1.11	
95% C.I.	-0.87 – -0.65		-1.25 – -1.03		-1.28 – -0.94	
ANOVA: $F=12.287$; $df=2/2,746$; $p<0.001$						

Table 76-G. Management Option: Reduce the muzzleloader harvest.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Reduce the muzzleloader harvest.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	520	44.4%	548	52.8%	289	54.3%
NEUTRAL	411	35.1%	333	32.1%	150	28.2%
FAVOR	241	20.6%	156	15.0%	93	17.5%
Total	1,172	100%	1,037	100%	532	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=25.940$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.63		-0.99		-1.00	
95% C.I.	-0.73 – -0.52		-1.10 – -0.89		-1.16 – -0.84	
ANOVA: $F=13.877$; $df=2/2,738$; $p<0.001$						

Table 76-H. Management Option: Reduce the rifle harvest.

SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Reduce the rifle harvest.					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	642	54.5%	608	58.4%	289	54.5%
NEUTRAL	334	28.3%	267	25.6%	139	26.2%
FAVOR	203	17.2%	166	15.9%	102	19.2%
Total	1,179	100%	1,041	100%	530	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=5.617$; $df=4$; $p=0.230$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.97		-1.14		-0.93	
95% C.I.	-1.07 – -0.87		-1.25 – -1.03		-1.09 – -0.77	
ANOVA: $F=3.468$; $df=2/2,747$; $p=0.031$						

Sample Description - Demographics

Table 77. Landownership by East/West River deer hunters (2010) analyzed by license type.

Own land outside town/city boundaries?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	768	64.4%	743	70.6%	325	60.6%
YES	425	35.6%	309	29.4%	211	39.4%
Total	1,193	100%	1,052	100%	536	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=18.323$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
If Yes, How many acres?	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Less than 40 acres	134	32.1%	129	42.9%	75
40 – 159 acres	60	14.4%	42	14.0%	30	14.2%
160 – 639 acres	132	31.7%	64	21.3%	65	30.8%
640 – 2,559 acres	79	18.9%	46	15.3%	35	16.6%
2,560 or more	12	2.9%	20	6.6%	6	2.8%
Total	417	100%	301	100%	211	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=21.562$; $df=8$; $p=0.006$						
Did you do any deer hunting on your land in 2010?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	123	29.4%	161	52.8%	61	29.2%
YES	295	70.6%	144	47.2%	148	70.8%
Total	418	100%	305	100%	209	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=48.362$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Did other hunters do any deer hunting on your land in 2010?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	172	41.2%	157	51.6%	75	35.5%
YES	245	58.8%	147	48.4%	136	64.5%
Total	417	100%	304	100%	211	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=14.502$; $df=2$; $p=0.001$						
If Yes, were they...?	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Family members / relatives	72	29.6%	45	31.5%	51
Non-family	38	15.6%	32	22.4%	17	12.5%
Both	133	54.7%	66	46.2%	68	50.0%
Total	243	100%	143	100%	136	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=7.422$; $df=4$; $p=0.115$						

Table continued on next page.

Table 77-Continued. Landownership by East/West River deer hunters (2010) analyzed by license type.

In which county is your land or the majority of your land located?							
County	ER	WR	Both	County	ER	WR	Both
1. Minnehaha	4.6%	5.6%	11.0%	34. Hanson	1.9%	0.3%	1.4%
2. Pennington	0.2%	7.9%	0.5%	35. Harding	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
3. Brown	4.3%	0.0%	4.3%	36. Hughes	2.2%	1.3%	3.8%
4. Beadle	2.6%	0.0%	2.4%	37. Hutchinson	3.1%	0.7%	2.9%
5. Codington	4.3%	1.6%	1.4%	38. Hyde	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%
6. Brookings	3.6%	1.3%	6.7%	39. Jackson	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%
7. Yankton	3.1%	1.0%	4.8%	40. Jerauld	1.4%	0.3%	0.5%
8. Davison	1.2%	1.3%	2.4%	41. Jones	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
9. Lawrence	0.5%	4.6%	0.0%	42. Kingsbury	2.4%	0.3%	1.9%
10. Aurora	1.7%	0.3%	2.4%	43. Lake	2.2%	0.7%	2.9%
11. Bennett	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	44. Lincoln	3.6%	1.0%	2.4%
12. Bon Homme	3.6%	1.0%	1.9%	45. Lyman	0.2%	2.6%	0.0%
13. Brule	1.4%	1.0%	1.9%	46. McCook	2.4%	1.0%	0.5%
14. Buffalo	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	47. McPherson	2.2%	0.0%	0.5%
15. Butte	0.2%	7.2%	0.0%	48. Marshall	3.4%	0.0%	1.4%
16. Campbell	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	49. Meade	0.1%	11.2%	0.5%
17. Charles Mix	3.4%	1.3%	2.9%	50. Mellette	0.0%	1.3%	0.5%
18. Clark	2.9%	0.7%	2.9%	51. Miner	1.2%	0.3%	1.4%
19. Clay	0.7%	0.3%	1.9%	52. Moody	2.9%	1.6%	1.9%
20. Corson	0.0%	1.3%	0.5%	53. Perkins	0.0%	1.6%	1.0%
21. Custer	0.5%	4.6%	2.4%	54. Potter	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
22. Day	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	55. Roberts	2.6%	0.0%	1.9%
23. Deuel	1.4%	0.3%	1.0%	56. Sanborn	2.2%	0.7%	1.4%
24. Dewey	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	57. Spink	3.4%	0.3%	1.9%
25. Douglas	1.4%	0.7%	1.4%	58. Stanley	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
26. Edmunds	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%	59. Sully	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%
27. Fall River	0.0%	3.6%	1.0%	60. Tripp	0.0%	6.9%	0.0%
28. Faulk	1.4%	0.3%	1.9%	61. Turner	2.6%	2.3%	3.8%
29. Grant	3.4%	0.3%	0.5%	62. Union	1.7%	0.3%	2.9%
30. Gregory	0.0%	3.6%	0.5%	63. Walworth	2.2%	1.3%	1.0%
31. Haakon	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	64. Ziebach	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%
32. Hamlin	2.2%	0.7%	0.5%	65. Shannon	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
33. Hand	1.4%	1.0%	1.9%	67. Todd	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Total					416	304	210

Table 78. East/West River deer hunters: percent farmer/rancher analyzed by license type.

Are you're a farmer/rancher?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No	895	75.8%	861	82.5%	410	76.6%
Yes – Part-time	160	13.6%	120	11.5%	78	14.6%
Yes – Full-time	125	10.6%	63	6.0%	47	8.8%
Total	1,180	100%	1,044	100%	535	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=20.099$; $df=4$; $p<0.001$						

Table 79. East/West River deer hunters: type of residence analyzed by license type.

Is your residence...?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	436	36.8%	316	30.2%	200	37.4%
Small Town	374	31.6%	369	35.2%	152	28.4%
City	374	31.6%	362	34.6%	183	34.2%
Total	1,184	100%	1,047	100%	535	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=15.990$; $df=4$; $p=0.003$						

Table 80. East/West River deer hunters: gender and age analyzed by license type.

Gender	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	1,087	92.0%	964	92.2%	527	98.1%
Female	95	8.0%	82	7.8%	10	1.9%
Total	1,182	100%	1,046	100%	537	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=25.419$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Age	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both	
	Mean Age		Mean Age		Mean Age	
	42.6		43.3		43.6	
	95% C.I.		95% C.I.		95% C.I.	
	41.68 – 43.59		42.30 – 44.26		42.29 – 44.82	
	Number		Number		Number	
	1,184		1,048		537	
ANOVA: $F=0.759$; $df=2/2,766$; $p=0.468$						

Table 81. East/West River deer hunters' county residence analyzed by license type.

County	ER	WR	Both	County	ER	WR	Both
1. Minnehaha	13.8%	12.2%	20.2%	34. Hanson	1.4%	0.1%	1.5%
2. Pennington	1.2%	21.3%	3.4%	35. Harding	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%
3. Brown	8.5%	0.6%	5.7%	36. Hughes	3.5%	3.1%	5.1%
4. Beadle	4.0%	0.7%	3.0%	37. Hutchinson	1.5%	0.2%	1.0%
5. Codington	5.9%	1.6%	3.4%	38. Hyde	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%
6. Brookings	5.4%	1.4%	5.5%	39. Jackson	0.0%	0.6%	0.2%
7. Yankton	2.8%	1.5%	4.2%	40. Jerauld	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%
8. Davison	2.7%	1.8%	3.6%	41. Jones	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
9. Lawrence	0.6%	6.0%	0.2%	42. Kingsbury	2.1%	0.3%	1.1%
10. Aurora	0.9%	0.2%	0.6%	43. Lake	1.7%	0.6%	2.3%
11. Bennett	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	44. Lincoln	5.2%	3.5%	5.3%
12. Bon Homme	2.4%	0.4%	1.3%	45. Lyman	0.3%	1.4%	0.6%
13. Brule	0.9%	0.7%	2.3%	46. McCook	1.3%	0.3%	0.8%
14. Buffalo	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	47. McPherson	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%
15. Butte	0.1%	4.7%	0.4%	48. Marshall	1.6%	0.1%	0.8%
16. Campbell	0.8%	0.0%	0.4%	49. Meade	0.3%	8.6%	0.6%
17. Charles Mix	1.8%	0.7%	1.9%	50. Mellette	0.0%	0.6%	0.2%
18. Clark	1.5%	0.0%	0.6%	51. Miner	0.9%	0.1%	0.6%
19. Clay	1.4%	0.2%	1.3%	52. Moody	0.9%	0.5%	1.3%
20. Corson	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	53. Perkins	0.0%	1.4%	0.2%
21. Custer	0.1%	2.2%	1.7%	54. Potter	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%
22. Day	1.9%	0.0%	1.3%	55. Roberts	2.3%	0.0%	1.3%
23. Deuel	1.3%	0.1%	0.4%	56. Sanborn	0.7%	0.2%	1.1%
24. Dewey	0.1%	1.0%	0.0%	57. Spink	2.6%	0.1%	2.1%
25. Douglas	0.9%	0.3%	1.5%	58. Stanley	0.2%	1.7%	0.8%
26. Edmunds	1.3%	0.1%	0.6%	59. Sully	0.6%	0.1%	0.4%
27. Fall River	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	60. Tripp	0.0%	3.7%	0.2%
28. Faulk	0.5%	0.1%	0.6%	61. Turner	1.6%	0.9%	1.7%
29. Grant	2.3%	0.4%	1.1%	62. Union	2.0%	0.7%	2.1%
30. Gregory	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	63. Walworth	1.0%	1.2%	1.0%
31. Haakon	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	64. Ziebach	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%
32. Hamlin	1.5%	0.4%	0.6%	65. Shannon	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
33. Hand	1.1%	0.1%	1.1%	67. Todd	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Total					1,166	1,037	526

Appendix A

2010 East & West River Deer Hunter Survey: Questionnaires and other mailings

East & West River Deer Hunter Opinion Survey - 2010



Natural Resource Management
with YOU in mind

January 2010

Dear East/West River Deer Hunter,

The general purpose of this survey is to learn more about East & West River deer hunters to keep your needs and desires in mind when developing deer management policy and objectives. This survey contains questions on some important topics that are currently being evaluated by Game, Fish and Parks. We are very interested in hearing hunters' opinions on these topics. Please take some time to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti

Game, Fish & Parks
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501



DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- Please try to answer what you believe to be true for you. The best answer is the one that most closely reflects your own feelings and beliefs, or what you actually did.
- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially (meaning that your name will never be associated with your responses). The questionnaire has an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls. Also, the ID number is used to identify the unit where you were licensed to hunt so we can group responses by area.
- It is important that the person to whom this was addressed fill out the questionnaire, even if someone else in your family is a more active deer hunter. This will ensure that the results accurately represent all East & West River deer hunters.
- When the study is completed the survey results will be available on the GFP web-page.
- If you have any questions about the **survey** contact Larry Gigliotti by email: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us.
- Your response is important even if you did not hunt East or West River deer this year because many of the questions are opinions about deer hunting issues.
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate please check this box and return your blank questionnaire.
- Please return your questionnaire using the postage-paid business reply envelope.

DEER HUNTING HISTORY & PREFERENCES

Please note that the **2010 deer season** includes all deer seasons starting with Youth Deer on **September 11, 2010 running through January 31, 2011.**

1. About how many days did you hunt for deer (include all types of deer hunting) this past season (2010)? *If you did not do any deer hunting, write '0' and skip ahead to question # 4.*

[_____] Total days of deer hunting

2. How many deer did you harvest this season (2010)?

[_____] Total Antlered Deer (Bucks)

[_____] Total Antlerless Deer (including button/fawn bucks)

3. Did you do any antlerless deer hunting during the extended East River and/or West River rifle deer season in January (January 1-9, 2011)?

No

Yes → How many days? [_____] Days

→ How many deer did you harvest during the January season? [_____]

4. What types of deer hunting licenses did you have this past season (2010)? *Please check (✓) all the types of deer licenses that you received in 2010.*

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. East River Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Refuge Deer
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. East River Special Buck	<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Muzzleloader Deer
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. West River Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Landowner/Operator Special Deer
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. West River Special Buck	<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Youth Deer
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Black Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Mentor Deer License
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Archery Deer (statewide)	<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Free Landowner Deer License
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Archery Deer (East River)	<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Custer State Park Deer
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Archery Deer (West River)	<input type="checkbox"/> 17. S.D tribal deer license
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Antlerless Archery Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 18. a deer license in <u>another</u> state

5. Which one season listed below would be your most preferred deer hunt?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. East River rifle deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Archery deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 7. No Opinion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. West River rifle deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Muzzleloader deer	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Black Hills rifle deer	<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Refuge deer	

MOTIVATIONS FOR DEER HUNTING

6. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt **deer**. Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).

		NOT IMPORTANT					VERY IMPORTANT	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a) To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c) For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d) Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e) To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f) To spend time alone in the outdoors.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g) For the challenges associated with deer hunting and dealing with the elements.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

7. Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **deer hunting**? Please circle only one response.

a b c d e f g

8. How important is **deer hunting** to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of outdoor recreation)?

- 1. My **MOST** Important recreation activity
- 2. **VERY** Important, but NOT the most important
- 3. **MODERATELY** Important
- 4. **SLIGHTLY** Important
- 5. **NOT** Important
- 6. **NO OPINION**

ATTITUDES RELATED TO DEER HUNTING

9. Here are three statements that deal with your feelings/preferences related to **deer hunting**. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. *Please circle one number for each item.*

- | | STRONGLY
AGREE | SLIGHTLY
AGREE | NEUTRAL/
NO OPINION | SLIGHTLY
DISAGREE | STRONGLY
DISAGREE |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| a) A deer hunting trip can be | | | | | |
| don't kill a deer..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| satisfying to me even if I | | | | | |
| b) I am only interested in hunting
for a buck, i.e., I will not
shoot an antlerless deer..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c) I am only interested in hunting
for a "large" buck, i.e., I will
pass up bucks that do not
measure up to my standards... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

10. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the deer season? **Filling my deer tag is ___ to me.** *Please circle only one response.*

Not <u>Important</u>	Slightly <u>Important</u>	Moderately <u>Important</u>	Very <u>Important</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5

11. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with your deer hunting season? *Please circle only one response.*

Not <u>Important</u>	Slightly <u>Important</u>	Moderately <u>Important</u>	Very <u>Important</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5

DEER HUNTING SEASONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

There are 3 major rifle deer hunting seasons in South Dakota (East River, West River & Black Hills). Demand for licenses that allow harvest of a buck is greater than available. Currently hunters can apply separately for each of the deer seasons; therefore some hunters can receive “preferred” deer licenses in all 3 seasons while other hunters may not get any “preferred” deer license for a particular year. This occurs because the drawings for the 3 deer seasons are separate and independent of each other.

12. How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer licenses is considering that some hunters can receive 3 “preferred” deer licenses and others receive none in the same year?

<u>Very Unfair</u>	<u>Moderately Unfair</u>	<u>Slightly Unfair</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Fair</u>	<u>Moderately Fair</u>	<u>Very Fair</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

13. How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?

<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Moderately Favor</u>	<u>Slightly Favor</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Oppose</u>	<u>Moderately Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the fairness of allocating buck hunting opportunities you may use this space to provide your ideas with GFP.

14. Which would be your preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days)?

- 1. Eliminate the extended antlerless deer season
- 2. Reduce the length of the extended antlerless deer season
- 3. Keep the extended antlerless deer season the same length (9 days)
- 4. Increase the length of the extended antlerless deer season
- 5. NO OPINION

15. The extended antlerless deer season originally ran from January 1 through the 9th, but was changed to start on the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days (it just so happens that this past year’s season the change resulted in a January 1-9 season). This change was made in order to provide two weekends of hunting opportunity. Which do you prefer?

- 1. Having the extended antlerless deer season always be January 1 – 9
- 2. Having the extended antlerless deer season start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days
- 3. Having the extended antlerless deer season start on December 26 and run through January 3, regardless of the day of the week
- 4. NO OPINION – DON’T CARE EITHER WAY

16. If there was a need to reduce the deer herd in some hunting units in which not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended antlerless deer season, how strongly would you favor or oppose having an early (October) antlerless deer season?

Strongly Favor	Moderately Favor	Slightly Favor	Neutral or No Opinion	Slightly Oppose	Moderately Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

17. The regular rifle East River and West River deer season is 16 days for most hunting units. Which statement below best describes your opinion of the 16-day rifle deer season for the East/West River deer seasons? **The rifle deer season is.....?**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Too Short	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Just Right	<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Too Long	<input type="checkbox"/> 4. No Opinion
---------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	--

18. Improving the quality of bucks requires some type of strategy to reduce the current number of bucks harvested to allow more bucks to mature enough to produce larger antlers. How strongly do you favor or oppose each of these possible options?

	Strongly Oppose ←————→ Favor						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting							
Not hunting during the rut							
Decrease the number of any-deer tags							
Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill/year							
Shortening deer seasons in January (because some bucks have lost their antlers and may be harvested with antlerless permits)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce the archery harvest	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce the muzzleloader harvest	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reduce the rifle harvest	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

19. In South Dakota there are a few small hunting units (Special Management Units) that greatly restrict the number of deer licenses (e.g., the Little Moreau Rec. Area and Game Production Area in Dewey County and the National Grasslands in Lyman, Stanley and Jones Counties) in order to prevent crowding. Hunters applying for a deer license in such a unit may have to wait five or more years before drawing a license, but drawing a deer license would provide a hunting opportunity with a low number of hunters in the unit.

A). How much do you like or dislike having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that would like this type of deer hunting opportunity?

Strongly Like	Moderately Like	Slightly Like	Neutral or No Opinion	Slightly Dislike	Moderately Dislike	Strongly Dislike
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

B). Would you like to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota?

None	Less	Current Number	A Little More	A Lot More
1	2	3	4	5

YOUR EVALUATIONS OF THIS PAST DEER HUNTING SEASON

20. **EAST RIVER:** If you did any type of deer hunting East River this season (2010) please answer the questions in this box. Skip ahead to the next set of questions if you did not hunt deer East River.

a) Which East River county did you do most of your deer hunting? _____

b) What type of land did you deer hunt for East River deer season? Please indicate the relative percent of time deer hunting private and public land.

_____ % Private Land

_____ % Public Land (includes Walk-In Areas)

100% (TOTAL)

c) How would you describe the deer population in the East River areas where you hunted? Please circle your response for both types of deer. Leave BLANK if you do not have an opinion.

	Far Too <u>Few</u>	Slightly Too <u>Few</u>	Just About <u>Right</u>	Slightly Too <u>Many</u>	Far Too <u>Many</u>
Whitetail Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Mule Deer	1	2	3	4	5

d) How easy or difficult was it to find good places East River to deer hunt this year (2010)? Please circle only one response.

<u>Easy</u>	<u>Slightly Difficult</u>	<u>Moderately Difficult</u>	<u>Very Difficult</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5

e) In general, how would you rate the quality of bucks East River? Please circle only one response.

<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

f) Considering your total 2010 East River deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? Please circle only one response.

<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

21. **WEST RIVER:** If you did any type of deer hunting West River (**do not include Black Hills deer hunting**) this season (2010) please answer the questions in this box. Skip ahead to the next set of questions if you did not hunt deer West River.

a) Which West River county did you do most of your deer hunting? _____

b) What type of land did you deer hunt for West River deer season? Please indicate the relative percent of time deer hunting private and public land.

_____ % Private Land

_____ % Public Land (includes Walk-In Areas)

100% (TOTAL)

c) How would you describe the deer population in the West River areas where you hunted? Please circle your response for both types of deer. Leave BLANK if you do not have an opinion.

	Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Whitetail Deer	1	2	3	4	5
Mule Deer	1	2	3	4	5

d) How easy or difficult was it to find good places West River to deer hunt this year (2010)? Please circle only one response.

<u>Easy</u>	<u>Slightly Difficult</u>	<u>Moderately Difficult</u>	<u>Very Difficult</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5

e) In general, how would you rate the quality of bucks West River? Please circle only one response.

<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6

f) Considering your total 2010 West River deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? Please circle only one response.

<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF

22. Do you own land outside town/city boundaries?

- No
 Yes → If yes, please answer the questions in this box before continuing:

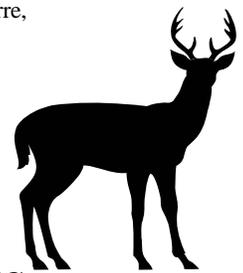
a) How many acres?		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. less than 40	<input type="checkbox"/> 3. 160 – 639 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 5. 2561 or more
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. 40 – 159 acres	<input type="checkbox"/> 4. 640 – 2559 acres	
b) In which county is your land or the majority of your land located? _____		
c) Did you do any deer hunting on your land this season (2010)? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
d) Did other hunters do any deer hunting on your land this season? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes → If YES, were they:		
<input type="checkbox"/> a) Family members/relatives		
<input type="checkbox"/> b) Non-family/relatives		
<input type="checkbox"/> c) Both		

23. Are you a farmer/rancher? No Yes – Part-time Yes – Full-time

24. Which South Dakota county do you live in? _____

25. Is your resident: RURAL
 SMALL TOWN
 CITY (greater than 10,000) (the following S.D. cities are greater than 10,000:
Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Pierre-Ft.Pierre,
Mitchell, Yankton, Huron, Vermillion)

26. What is your age and gender? _____ years MALE FEMALE

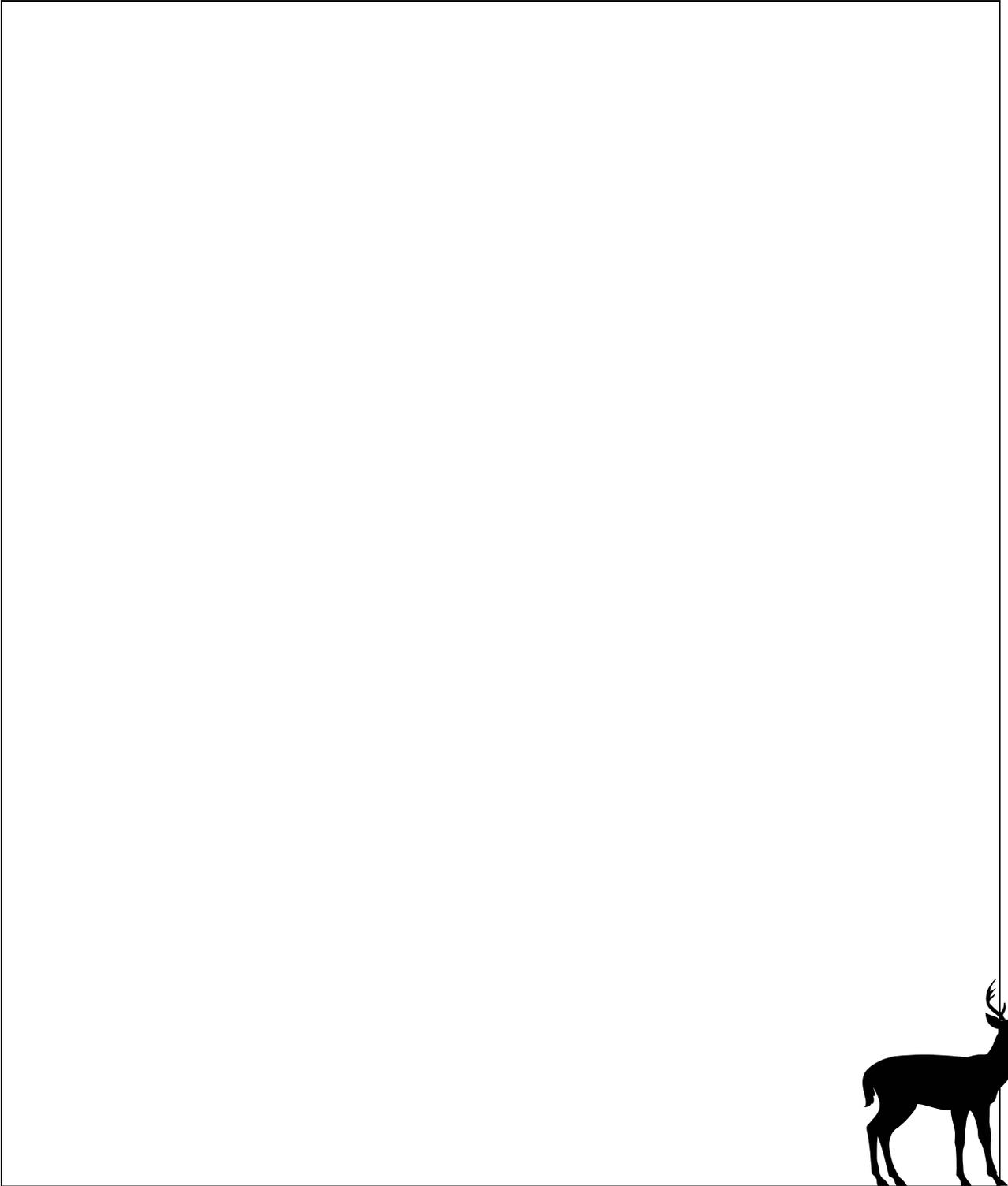


THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY. Results from this survey will be posted on GFP's web-page.

Please return your questionnaire using the addressed, pre-paid return envelope provided.

You may use this page for optional comments.

Comments received are included in the report given to GFP game managers, biologists, administrators and Commission members.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for optional comments. In the bottom right corner of this box, there is a black silhouette of a deer with antlers, facing right.

Post Card Reminder:

March 1, 2011

Last week I mailed you a deer hunter survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided or by the Internet. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt deer this year. The information from this survey is very valuable in making decisions related to deer hunting and deer management.

Please try to respond to the first mailing of the survey by March 14. If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist



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

March 16, 2011

RE: Last Reminder for the East & West River Deer Hunter Opinion Survey

Dear hunter:

You have been randomly selected to participate in this year's survey of East and West River deer hunters. As of March 15th we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

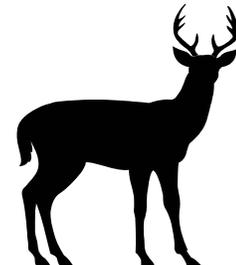
Your response is needed even if you did not hunt deer this year because many of the questions are either general opinion questions or specific questions about various management practices.

Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire, as your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid. **Deadline for returning your questionnaire has been extended to March 31, 2011.**

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate in this survey you can return your blank survey or discard it as this is the last reminder. However, the information is very useful in evaluating the East and West River deer seasons and we do appreciate your input.

Sincerely,
Larry M. Gigliotti



Copy of the Internet Survey:

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

1. Deer Hunting History & Preferences

*** 1. The 2010 deer season includes all deer seasons starting with Youth Deer on September 11, 2010 running through January 31, 2011.**

About how many days did you hunt for deer (include all types of deer hunting) this past season (2010)?

2. Deer Hunting in 2010

2. How many deer did you harvest this season (2010)?

Total Antlered Deer (Bucks)

Total Antlerless Deer (including button/fawn bucks)

3. Did you do any antlerless deer hunting during the extended East River and/or West River rifle deer season in January (January 1-9, 2011)?

No

Yes

3. January Deer Hunting Season

4. How many days did you hunt (January 1-9, 2011) and how many deer did you harvest during this season?

Days Hunted

Deer Harvested

4. Deer Hunting Licenses

Page 1

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

5. What types of deer hunting licenses did you have this past season (2010)? Please check all the types of deer licenses that you received in 2010.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> East River Deer | <input type="checkbox"/> Refuge Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East river special Buck | <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzleloader Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West River Deer | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner/Operator Special Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West River Special Buck | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor Deer License |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery Deer (statewide) | <input type="checkbox"/> Free Landowner Deer License |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery Deer (East River) | <input type="checkbox"/> Custer State Park Deer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery Deer (West River) | <input type="checkbox"/> S.D. tribal deer license |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antlerless Archery Deer | <input type="checkbox"/> a deer license in another state |

6. Which one season listed below would be your most preferred deer hunt?

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> East River rifle deer | <input type="radio"/> Archery deer | <input type="radio"/> No Opinion |
| <input type="radio"/> West River rifle deer | <input type="radio"/> Muzzleloader deer | |
| <input type="radio"/> Black Hills rifle deer | <input type="radio"/> Refuge deer | |

5. Motivations and Attitudes Related to Deer Hunting

7. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt deer from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).

	(Not Important) 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	(Very Important) 7
a) To bring meat home to eat.	<input type="radio"/>							
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.	<input type="radio"/>							
c) For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.	<input type="radio"/>							
d) Enjoying the time spent with friends and/or family.	<input type="radio"/>							
e) To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.	<input type="radio"/>							
f) To spend time alone in the outdoors.	<input type="radio"/>							
g) For the challenges associated with deer hunting and dealing with the elements.	<input type="radio"/>							

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

8. Which statement best described the MOST important reason for why YOU like deer hunting.

- To bring meat home to eat.
- To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.
- For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.
- Enjoying the time spent with friends and/or family.
- To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.
- To spend time alone in the outdoors.
- For the challenges associated with deer hunting and dealing with the elements.

9. How important is deer hunting to you in relation to all you other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of outdoor recreation)?

- 1. My MOST Important recreational activity
- 2. Very Important, but not the most important
- 3. Moderately Important
- 4. Slightly Important
- 5. Not Important
- 6. No Opinion

10. Here are some statements that may deal with your feelings/preferences related to deer hunting. Please indicate the extent to which you disagree or agree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neutral/No Opinion	Slightly Agree	Strongly Agree
a) A deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.	<input type="radio"/>				
b) I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I will not shoot an antlerless deer.	<input type="radio"/>				
c) I am only interest in hunting for a 'large' buck, i.e., I will pass up bucks that do not measure up to my standards.	<input type="radio"/>				

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

11. How important is filling your tag with the type of deer you were hunting for (whether it be any deer or a large antlered buck) to your overall satisfaction with the deer season?

- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- No Opinion

12. How important is having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to your overall satisfaction with the deer season?

- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Very Important
- No Opinion

6. Deer Hunting Seasons in South Dakota

There are 3 major rifle deer hunting seasons in South Dakota (East River, West River, and Black Hills). Demand for licenses that allow harvest of a buck is greater than available. Currently hunters can apply separately for each of the deer seasons; therefore some hunters can receive "preferred" deer licenses in all 3 seasons while other hunters may not get any "preferred" deer license for a particular year. This occurs because the drawings for the 3 deer seasons are separate and independent of each other.

13. How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of "preferred" deer licenses is considering that some hunters can receive 3 "preferred" deer licenses and others receive none in the same year?

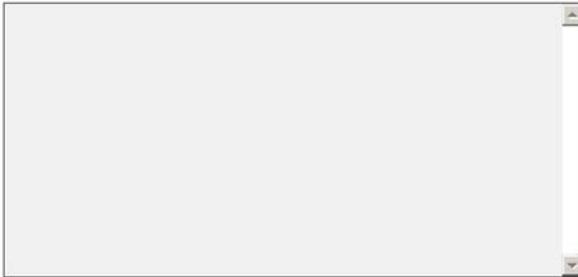
- Very Unfair
- Moderately Unfair
- Slightly Unfair
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Fair
- Moderately Fair
- Very Fair

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

14. How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?

- Strongly Favor
- Moderately Favor
- Slightly Favor
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Oppose
- Moderately Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

15. If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the fairness of allocating buck hunting opportunities you may use this space to share your ideas with GFP (if none, leave blank and move on to next question).



16. Which would be your preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days)?

- Eliminate the extended antlerless deer season
- Reduce the length of the extended antlerless deer season
- Keep the extended antlerless deer season the same length (9 days)
- Increase the length of the extended antlerless deer season
- No Opinion

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

17. The extended antlerless deer season originally ran from January 1 through the 9th, but was changed to start on the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days (it just so happens that this past year's season the change resulted in a January 1-9 season). This change was made in order to provide two weekends of hunting opportunity. Which do you prefer?

- Having the extended antlerless deer season always be January 1-9.
- Having the extended antlerless deer season start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days.
- Having the extended antlerless deer season start on December 26 and run through January 3, regardless of the days of the week
- No Opinion - Don't care either way.

18. If there was a need to reduce the deer herd in some hunting units in which not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended antlerless deer season, how strongly would you favor or oppose having an early (October) antlerless deer season?

- Strongly Favor
- Moderately Favor
- Slightly Favor
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Oppose
- Moderately Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

19. The regular rifle East River and West River deer season is 16 days for most hunting units. Which statement below best describes your opinion of the 16-day rifle deer season for the East/West River deer seasons? The rifle deer season is...?

- Too Short
- Just Right
- Too Long
- No Opinion

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

20. Improving the quality of bucks requires some type of strategy to reduce the current number of bucks harvested to allow more bucks to mature enough to produce larger antlers. On a scale of 1 (strongly oppose) to 7 (strongly favor) how do you feel about each of these possible options?

	1 - Strongly Oppose	2	3	4 - Neutral	5	6	7 - Strongly Favor
Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting	<input type="radio"/>						
Not hunting during the rut	<input type="radio"/>						
Decrease the number of any-deer tags	<input type="radio"/>						
Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill per year	<input type="radio"/>						
Shortening deer seasons in January (because some bucks have lost their antlers and may be harvested with antlerless permits)	<input type="radio"/>						
Reduce the archery harvest	<input type="radio"/>						
Reduce the muzzleloader harvest	<input type="radio"/>						
Reduce the rifle harvest	<input type="radio"/>						

7. Special Management Units

In South Dakota there are a few small hunting units (Special Management Units) that greatly restrict the number of deer licenses (e.g., the Little Moreau Rec. Area and Game Production Area in Dewey County and the National Grasslands in Lyman, Stanley and Jones Counties) in order to prevent crowding. Hunters applying for a deer license in such a unit may have to wait five or more years before drawing a license, but drawing a deer license would provide a hunting opportunity with a low number of hunters in the unit.

21. How much do you like or dislike having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that would like this type of deer hunting opportunity?

- Strongly Like
- Moderately Like
- Slightly Like
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Dislike
- Moderately Dislike
- Strongly Dislike

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

22. Would you like to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota?

- None
- Less
- Current Number
- A Little More
- A lot More

8. East River Deer Season

23. Did you do any type of deer hunting East River this past deer season?

- No
- Yes

9. East River Deer Hunting

Includes all types of deer hunting this past deer season (2010).

24. Which East river county did you do most of your deer hunting?

25. What type of land did you deer hunt for East River deer season? Please indicate the relative percent of time deer hunting private and public land (your answer must add up to 100 - do not include the %-symbol with your answer)?

Private Land (%)

Public Land (Includes Walk-In Areas) (%)

26. How would you describe the deer population in the East River areas where you hunted (leave blank if you do not have an opinion)?

	Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Whitetail Deer	<input type="radio"/>				
Mule Deer	<input type="radio"/>				

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

27. How easy or difficult was it to find good places East River to deer hunt this year (2010)?

- Easy
- Slightly Difficult
- Moderately Difficult
- Very Difficult
- No Opinion

28. In general, how would you rate the quality of bucks East River...?

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent
- No Opinion

29. Considering your total 2010 East River deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your?

- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

10. West River Deer Season (not including Black Hills deer hunting)

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

30. Did you do any type of deer hunting West River this past deer season (do not include any deer hunting in the Black Hills)?

No
 Yes

11. West River Deer Hunting

Includes all types of deer hunting West River this past deer season (not including Black Hills)(2010).

31. Which West river county did you do most of your deer hunting?

32. What type of land did you deer hunt for West River deer season? Please indicate the relative percent of time deer hunting private and public land (your answer must add up to 100 - do not include the %-symbol with your answer)?

Private Land (%)

Public Land (Includes Walk-In Areas) (%)

33. How would you describe the deer population in the West River areas where you hunted (leave blank if you do not have an opinion)?

	Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Whitetail Deer	<input type="radio"/>				
Mule Deer	<input type="radio"/>				

34. How easy or difficult was it to find good places West River to deer hunt this year (2010)?

Easy
 Slightly Difficult
 Moderately Difficult
 Very Difficult
 No Opinion

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

35. In general, how would you rate the quality of bucks West River...?

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent
- No Opinion

36. Considering your total 2010 West River deer hunting experiences, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your?

- Very Dissatisfied
- Moderately Dissatisfied
- Slightly Dissatisfied
- Neutral or No Opinion
- Slightly Satisfied
- Moderately Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

12. Land Ownership

37. Do you own land outside town/city boundaries?

- No
- Yes

13. Own Land

38. How many acres do you own?

- Less than 40
- 40 - 159 acres
- 160 - 639 acres
- 640 - 2559 acres
- 2561 or more

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

39. In which county is your land or the majority of your land located?

40. Did you do any deer hunting on your land this season (2010)?

No
 Yes

41. Did other hunters do any deer hunting on your land this season?

No
 Yes

14. Hunting on Your Land

42. Who hunted deer on your land this past season (2010)?

Family members and/or relatives
 Non-family/relatives
 Both family/relatives & non-family/relative members

15. Information About Yourself

43. Are you a farmer/rancher?

No
 Yes - Part-time
 Yes - Full-time

44. In what county do you live?

45. Is your residence...

Rural
 Small Town
 City (greater than 10,000) (the following SD cities are greater than 10,000: Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Pierre-Ft. Pierre, Mitchell, Yankton, Huron, Vermillion)

46. What is your age?
Years

Page 12

East & West River Deer Hunter Survey

47. What is your gender?

Male

Female

16. Optional Comments

48. You can use this space for optional comments. These comments will be added to the report that will be given to the GFP Commission, staff and made available to the public.

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First E-mail Invitation (sent November 30, 2010):

To: [Email]

From: sdgfpinfo@state.sd.us

Subject: [Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey 2010](#)

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

We are conducting this year's survey of Black Hills deer hunters by e-mail and the Internet to save money.

This year's survey is longer than usual because we are also asking a number of general attitude and preference questions that will help Game, Fish & Parks' biologists and managers develop a deer management plan for South Dakota. Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt deer in the Black Hills this year.

This e-mail survey closes on December 20, 2010 (@ 9:00 a.m.)

This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate simply ignore this request and any reminder e-mails. For scientific purposes we will be sending a mailed survey to a small sample of hunters that were unable to respond via the Internet to adjust for non-response bias.

Here is a link to the survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx>

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Thanks for your participation!

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx>

First Reminder E-mail (sent December 6, 2010):

To: [Email]

From: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

Subject: Reminder: Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

We are conducting this year's survey of Black Hills rifle deer hunters by e-mail and the Internet to save money.

This year's survey is longer than usual because we are also asking a number of general attitude and preference questions that will help Game, Fish & Parks' biologists and managers develop a deer management plan for South Dakota. Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt deer in the Black Hills this year.

This e-mail survey closes on December 20, 2010 (@ 9:00 a.m.)

This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate simply ignore this request and any reminder e-mails. For scientific purposes we will be sending a mailed survey to a small sample of hunters that were unable to respond via the Internet to adjust for non-response bias.

Here is a link to the survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx>

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Thanks for your participation!

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx>

Final Reminder E-mail (sent December 12, 2010):

To: [Email]

From: larry.gigliotti@state.sd.us

Subject: Last Reminder: Black Hills Deer Hunter Survey

Body: Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

This is one final reminder asking to you (if you are able) to complete a Black Hills deer hunter survey. We are conducting this year's survey of Black Hills rifle deer hunters by e-mail and the Internet to save money.

This year's survey is longer than usual because we are also asking a number of general attitude and preference questions that will help Game, Fish & Parks' biologists and managers develop a deer management plan for South Dakota. Please answer this survey even if you did not hunt deer in the Black Hills this year.

This e-mail survey closes on December 20, 2010 (@ 9:00 a.m.)

This survey is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate simply ignore this request and any reminder e-mails. For scientific purposes we will be sending a mailed survey to a small sample of hunters that were unable to respond via the Internet to adjust for non-response bias.

Here is a link to the survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx>

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Thanks for your participation!

Please note: If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be automatically removed from our mailing list.
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/optout.aspx>

Appendix B. East/West River Deer Hunter Survey – Sampling

- 1) 2,000 East River resident deer hunters (regular season) / Random Sample
- 2) 2,000 West River resident deer hunters (regular season) / Random Sample

Appendix B – Table 1. Sampling plan for the East/West River deer hunter survey – 2010.

License	Selected (random)	Number	ID #	# w/ E-mail	Percent w/ E-mail
East River	2,000	1,971	1 – 1971	1,614	81.9%
West River	2,000	1,971	1972 – 3942	1,645	83.5%
Both ¹	N/A	29	3943 – 3971	24	82.8%
Total	4,000	3,971	1 – 3971	3,283 ²	82.7%

¹ Both refers to hunters that by random chance ended up in both East & West River samples.

² Only 3,136 uploaded (147 on opt-out status)

Appendix B – Table 2. Return results for the East/West River deer hunter survey by method (2010).

Method	Sent	Undeliverable	Final Sample Size	Returned	Return Rate	% in Sample
Internet	3,136	N/A	3,136	1,236	39.4%	42.5%
Mail	2,297	24	2,273	1,674	73.6%	57.5%
Total	N/A	24	3,947	2,910	73.7%	100%

Appendix B – Table 3. Return results for the East/West River deer hunter survey by season (2010).

License	Initial Number	Undeliverable	Final Sample Size	Number Returned	Return Rate	% in Sample
East River	1,971	10	1,961	1,419	72.3%	48.8%
West River	1,971	14	1,957	1,467	75.0%	50.4%
Both	29	0	29	24	82.8%	0.8%
Total	3,971	24	3,947	2,910	73.7%	100%

Appendix C. Motivations for Deer Hunting: East/West River Deer Hunters (2010).

Appendix C – Table 1. Motivation: To bring meat home for food.

Importance scale	Meat		
	Number	Percent	
0	135	4.8%	
1	138	4.9%	
2	204	7.3%	
3	308	11.0%	
4	481	17.1%	
5	544	19.3%	
6	409	14.5%	
7	593	21.1%	
Total	2,812	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	4.52	4.45 – 4.60	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	4.62	4.46	
95% C.I.	4.50 – 4.73	4.36 – 4.55	
Number	1,195	1,617	
ANOVA: F=4.386; df=1/2,810; p=0.036			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	4.47	4.58	4.35
95% C.I.	4.37 – 4.58	4.47 – 4.68	3.41 – 5.28
Number	1,371	1,418	23
ANOVA: F=1.971; df=1/2,787; p=0.160			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix C – Table 2. Motivation: To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.

Importance scale	Nature		
	Number	Percent	
0	5	0.2%	
1	14	0.5%	
2	17	0.6%	
3	59	2.1%	
4	198	7.0%	
5	465	16.5%	
6	704	25.1%	
7	1,348	48.0%	
Total	2,810	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	6.05	6.01 – 6.09	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	6.08	6.03	
95% C.I.	6.01 – 6.15	5.97 – 6.09	
Number	1,191	1,619	
ANOVA: F=1.262; df=1/2,808; p=0.261			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	5.97	6.12	6.04
95% C.I.	5.91 – 6.04	6.07 – 6.18	5.50 – 6.59
Number	1,370	1,417	23
ANOVA: F=11.429; df=1/2,785; p=0.001			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix C – Table 3. Motivation: For the excitement that hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see deer, etc.

Importance scale	Excitement		
	Number	Percent	
0	9	0.3%	
1	17	0.6%	
2	19	0.7%	
3	82	2.9%	
4	218	7.8%	
5	492	17.5%	
6	753	26.8%	
7	1,219	43.4%	
Total	2,809	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	5.94	5.89 – 5.99	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	5.92	5.96	
95% C.I.	5.84 – 5.99	5.90 – 6.02	
Number	1,192	1,617	
ANOVA: F=0.781; df=1/2,807; p=0.377			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	5.95	5.93	6.14
95% C.I.	5.89 – 6.01	5.86 – 5.99	5.50 – 6.77
Number	1,368	1,419	22
ANOVA: F=0.265; df=1/2,785; p=0.607			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix C – Table 4. Motivation: Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.

Importance scale	Social		
	Number	Percent	
0	26	0.9%	
1	25	0.9%	
2	38	1.4%	
3	89	3.2%	
4	191	6.8%	
5	393	14.0%	
6	637	22.7%	
7	1,405	50.1%	
Total	2,804	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	5.98	5.92 – 6.03	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	5.92	6.01	
95% C.I.	5.84 – 6.01	5.95 – 6.08	
Number	1,187	1,617	
ANOVA: F=2.790; df=1/2,802; p=0.095			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	5.93	6.02	6.13
95% C.I.	5.85 – 6.00	5.95 – 6.09	5.57 – 6.69
Number	1,365	1,416	23
ANOVA: F=3.095; df=1/2,779; p=0.079			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix C – Table 5. Motivation: To bring home a trophy buck to hang on the wall or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.

Importance scale	Trophy		
	Number	Percent	
0	258	9.2%	
1	190	6.8%	
2	227	8.1%	
3	359	12.8%	
4	521	18.6%	
5	511	18.2%	
6	349	12.4%	
7	390	13.9%	
Total	2,805	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	3.99	3.91 – 4.07	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	3.73	4.17	
95% C.I.	3.61 – 3.86	4.07 – 4.27	
Number	1,188	1,617	
ANOVA: F=30.284; df=1/2,803; $p < 0.001$			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	3.94	4.02	4.55
95% C.I.	3.83 – 4.05	3.92 – 4.13	3.61 – 5.48
Number	1,365	1,418	22
ANOVA: F=1.100; df=1/2,781; $p = 0.294$			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix C – Table 6. Motivation: To spend time along in the outdoors.

Importance scale	Solitude		
	Number	Percent	
0	134	4.8%	
1	101	3.6%	
2	146	5.2%	
3	266	9.5%	
4	464	16.5%	
5	542	19.3%	
6	532	19.0%	
7	619	22.1%	
Total	2,804	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	4.74	4.66 – 4.81	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	4.67	4.79	
95% C.I.	4.55 – 4.78	4.69 – 4.88	
Number	1,188	1,616	
ANOVA: F=2.550; df=1/2,802; p=0.110			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	4.72	4.75	5.22
95% C.I.	4.61 – 4.82	4.65 – 4.85	4.28 – 6.16
Number	1,368	1,413	23
ANOVA: F=0.160; df=1/2,779; p=0.689			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix C – Table 7. Motivation: For the challenges associated with deer hunting and dealing with the elements.

Importance scale	Challenge		
	Number	Percent	
0	65	9.3%	
1	60	2.1%	
2	93	3.3%	
3	189	6.7%	
4	421	15.0%	
5	636	22.7%	
6	638	22.8%	
7	700	25.0%	
Total	2,802	100%	
Mean / 95% C.I.	5.14	5.08 – 5.20	
Survey Method			
	Internet	Mail	
Mean	5.08	5.19	
95% C.I.	4.98 – 5.18	5.11 – 5.27	
Number	1,186	1,616	
ANOVA: F=2.826; df=1/2,899; p=0.093			
License Type			
	East River	West River	Both ¹
Mean	5.08	5.19	5.41
95% C.I.	4.99– 5.17	5.10 – 5.28	4.66 – 6.15
Number	1,366	1,414	22
ANOVA: F=2.817; df=1/2,778; p=0.093			

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix D. Hunters' suggestions for ways to improve the fairness of allocating buck hunting opportunities – Internet responses.

ID	Suggestions for ways to improve the fairness of allocating buck hunting opportunities.
36	I think that Hunters that cooperate with the GFP on surveys etc. should receive a preference or at least extra consideration when it comes to a drawing. Last year I was turned down for 3 different drawing in McCook County and I have not failed to complete a survey and or sending in the teeth when asked.
39	Stop putting downloadable open hunting areas online. The downloadable maps are hurting many hunting areas. Some of the public areas I have hunted have been over run with nonresident hunters the last two years. First time on opening east river deer season i've had a bunch of out of state pheasant hunters and dogs ruining my deer hunt, thanks SD Game Fish & Parks. Everyone knows you're about the money!
66	I only have opportunity to hunt public areas. I suggest GFP consider have a special buck hunting weekend in certain public areas ie: Slim Buttes-Little Bend,etc and walk-in areas. The licenses/permits would be limited on a draw basis,one-time only success. I believe Slim Buttes had a TROPHY season such as this, 4-points or better, BIG PROBLEM WITH THIS is that 3-point bucks were shot and left. With a season like this have a profile of each hunter that received a permit and a conservation officer check on the hunters during the season.(The season being a 2 day season) Just a thought for those who have never shot a large buck or have had the opportunity to observe a large buck or two when hunting. A hunter would probably only get this type of permit after a few unsuccessful attempts.
70	Keep the system intact. It does not seem to be broken, so don't fix it.
74	Do not allow landowner preference in the general drawing. Every landowner should have the opportunity to hunt deer on THEIR OWN LAND. Owning land in a hunting unit should not give them preference over any other hunter to hunt land other than their own.
88	how about some type of system that gives people who take antlerless deer some kind of preference points also, someone who takes several antlerless deer help control population more than someone who only takes a buck, so people who take several antlerless should recieve some preference points allocation. another is some system where you can only take a buck after you have taken antlerless deer
97	Change the preference point system so that instead of adding your name in the drawing once for every preference point give the people with the most preference points the tags. In other words the people with 2 preference points would get the tags before someone with 1 or 0 preference points.
114	One main thing to improve fairness and give everybody a fair chance is by find a game warden that actually leaves his house at night and does something about poachers.
138	Residents who reside or closely reside to a county that they choose to hunt should be given preference over those who live futher distances away. Many of us, including myself choose to live in a rural area because of the hunting opportunities and the benefits of living closer to these isolated areas. People living in larger urban areas have the benefit of many ammenities and choose to live there but get the same preference to hunt in my back yard and often times I don't draw a tag and have to wait a couple of years. Land owners get preference and I believe there should be a formula for residents living in or near counties with a specified number of tags as well.
140	i think the system is fine the way it is now. if people want a preffered tag they can research counties with higher percentage of drawing the tag and hunt those areas. I think the majority of hunters want to hunt their home counties. For those people its more important where they

	hunt than hunting a buck and hunting in an unfamiliar area.
144	I often get denied for a county in east river that I and 1 other guy hunt and it seems like 1 of us does not draw a tag every other year. I think if a guys got permission to hunt the land he should be offered a chance at still getting the tag that he applied for as long as he has written and signed permission for the land he is going to hunt. Not getting the tag you want and having the land to hunt is kind of critical because some day it might not be there to hunt.
160	-How about every other year a applicant will get a east river buck tag. Instead of strange lottery that no one knows how it exactley works. At least you can plan for it this way and won't be let down.
166	I know some areas have voluntary requirements to not harvest small bucks. I would recommend this.
173	Increase the number of special buck tags. If people are willing to pay the fee sell them the tags.
180	If we want to improve our buck hunting in SD, we need to quit shooting so many does.
207	I believe every rifle deer hunter should go through the same requirements as bow hunters.
209	seems like lincoln county is going to be hard to get a buck tag. I dont know how it is in other counties but after the landowners get there tags there is only 20 tags left. maybe deligate a % of the tags for them like 20-25% then let the rest of us have some. Im sure they will be mad because deer eat alot of THEIR crops but more incentive to give permission to other people to hunt does if they really wanted to make an impact in there crops. Hunting bucks wont fix that but makes them feel better. There is one more thing a little off subject but muzzelloader season at the VERY END OF THE YEAR???? REALLY???? Check Iowas regulations or other states
214	This is the essence of your philosophical problem--I don't give a damn whether I harvest a buck. I'm not a horn hunter. If I get a buck, great. I'm a subsistance hunter and proud of it. GFP spends way too much energy trying to appease trophy huntings issues while the deer herds grow larger. Late last season, on two occasions; I saw herds of 50+ deer in hay yards. Why does GF&P want to maintain such large populations? To save a big buck? Get a grip. The doe population is a tremendous protein source. Why limit doe licenses in the regular season? Your limits (and your lottery) probably discourage a number of hunters who would be able to take dinner home, not horns. I think your current system discourages meat hunters. If GF&P wants to coddle the horn boys good luck controlling the population. By the time we get to the "extended" season, our roads and access to hunting in NE SD are extremely limited. I'll bet your kill staistics are minimal.
215	put out more anydeer tags, If I can't shoot a nice buck, I shoot a doe. Let the little ones become big ones.
216	Fairness of receiving a buck tag is not important to me. I believe tags should be distributed in a way that best manages the individual counties deer herd.
273	Control people from the city shooting small bucks, making game management nearly impossible in minnehaha county. Offer educational information about game management
375	Have regulations on the bucks that can be harvested, for example it has to be at least a four by four or three by three eighteen inches wide or greater
377	sd should think about doing away with nonresident buck tags for every season. too many tax paying sd citizens deserve these tags that sometimes have to wait up to 3 years to have a chance at a buck with a rifle. nonresidents supply a sufficient amount of revenue through upland hunting and tourism in sd.
397	I think you guys are doing a great job....
401	some seasons overlap if you hit Sand lake, you sonetimes miss opening of another season.

524	IF THAY WANT A BUCK THAY HAVE TO PURCHASE A DOE TAG BEFORE THAY GET TO HAVE A CHANCE AT A BUCK TAG! IF YOU ARE GONA HUNT THEN HUNT TO CONTROL. ALSO IF THE WEATHER IS NASTY DURING THE EXTENDED ANTERLESS DEER SEASON LIKE IT ALWAYS IS AROUND THAT TIME MAKE IT EXTEND IT THE WEEK AFTER REGULAR SEASON ENDS. NOT EAVEN SHER ABOUT THE WEATHER THEN
528	Have hunters hunt their own counties.
585	Have the drawings like the elk drawing - And if you get in one year you may not the next -
601	It would be nice if there were more preference point groups for drawing an any deer tag in the black hills. I dont agree that a person with 4 years preference and a person with 1 year preference are drawn out of the same group.
625	If information could be provided showing that on average how many years worth of preference points it takes to draw a tag that would be great. This goes for all big game tags in SD.
631	who doesn't love shooting that trophy buck I think unless you are a youth you should shoot a mature buck if at all possible but I don't know how you could manage that maybe a picture of a mature and non-mature buck with each tag or hunting guide. Farmers should get a free tag or at least on free if they buy one. P.S. open the dam on Michelson their is a lot of snow in the area!!!
632	Just offer doe tags one yr and no buck tags and c how many people apply. The quality of bucks is poor. Need to offer no buck tags for a few yrs.
661	Perhaps issue antlerless tags to landowners periodically instead of any deer every year if that is the practice. I have heard (true or not?) that some families (father, son, daughter) get numerous elk tags yearly, as they all are all "owners" of various tracts of land throughout western SD - just one large family business. I would have hunted WR antlerless but accidentally threw my antlerless tag away at the end of the regular WR season, forgetting about the extended season.
691	Shorten the season and eliminate the rifles (use shotgun slugs). Get the Red-necks out of their pick-ups and encourage more ethical hunting. Open up the season for all of the public. This type of season is how Minnesota does it and it seems to work. This state has a big problem with everyone wanting to harvest some antlers even if it is a 1 1/2 yr. 3x3. Pretty rare for a buck in Brookings county to make it past 2 1/2yrs. Manage more areas of the state like the Grasslands has been for the past few years. I apply there and even if I don't draw a tag, it;s worth the wait. The quality of the hunt is awesome. The Forest Service has been doing a nice job of keeping the vehicles on the roads and I haven't had anyone drive a pick-up or ATV into my spot for several years. This is a quality hunting experience that should be used as a model for other parts of the state.
694	Crack down on poaching. I found a huge 24 point whitetail a couple years ago while I was hunting. Someone had shot it the night before with a 22 cal from the road. Biggest deer I had ever seen...poached for fun...and left to waste.
707	I believe hunters should not be able to aquire so many buck tags in one year, I believe this would increase better buck hunting and also give you a well balanced buck to doe combination.
740	Do NOT use any system designed to produce deer with bigger antlers.
762	Try reversing the hunting (type of deer) seasons. Have doe and antlerless first, THEN the buck season. The buck hunters will have less deer to contend with, and the doe hunters might actually get a deer for a change. By the time the buck hunters have completed their season, the does are well hidden and are as hard to find as that 'trophy buck' that everyone seems to want. Please do not allow our State to reduce the enforcement of our game laws. SO many

	people openly brag of poaching multiple deer it is really aggrevating. They sell the meat (only keep backstrap and hind quarters) and leave the rest for the coyotes. I refuse to hunt illegally to 'get' my doe for my freezer, but these guys make me wonder if I am in the minority or majority. Maybe make the Game Wardens VERY visible and very mobile to let more people know they are being watched, even if the limited enforcement people can not actually do that. Something needs changing. Maybe a nice reward for those that will give law enforcement GOOD information that leads to arrests and fines. The people must be guaranteed that they will never be revealed to get this info.
777	I would like to see a system that would give preference to a person(non land owner) that lives in the county that they want to hunt in.
787	i think the up to 75% of tag should go to people that live in the county that they apply for. i dont think its fair that out of county hunters pull more tags that county residents do.
802	If you draw an any deer tag then you should have to wait 1 year to draw again in the same county, or if there are left over any deer tags after the first draw then they could be eligible. It would be nice to developpe a system where you need proof of land to hunt on (such as permission from a landowner) as many people draw tags in a county without having any land to hunt on and it is illegal to road hunt.
811	Move east river rifle season a week earliler...the weather and my job and the holidays all gang up and I lose my enthusiasm, energy, and health by Thanksgiving morning, plus it is very very cold and windy then. I would issue every license for deer you can print. I grew up and still manage land in Wisconsin where CWD showed up and eventually we all got tired of shooting deer and taking their bodies to the labs, and paid department hunters slaughter them for three months. Still the deer come in from other areas....I
824	Let land owner get certain number of tags for the amount of land they own and let them alloctate them how they choose.
831	I would like if you go back to one any deer and one antlerless. I like to be able to shoot a buck when the opportunity presents itself. I do not specifically go out to get a buck. I hate to hunt and come across a buck and know that I can not shoot it, because you know Murphy's law if you can't shoot one, one will get up right in front of you.
851	You will still need to give a preference to landowners.
874	Buck hunting is not that important to me. Until the state can regulate that the deer can only be harvested when it has eight or more points it really is a mute point to hunt for that "Big one" Many other states have rules like that and they can be implemented with easy registration points and manditory registration rules for antlered deer. If you cannot count points, you are too far away or do not care what you are shooting at. It is very easy to determine deer size and age if ou have spent any time at all hunting. Too many big deer are taken in the area we hunt in from the road or even on land people don't have permission to hunt on. If we were to implement a buck harvest registration point, be it a gas station or convienence store that sells licenses, and at that time the person who shot the deer would have to say when and where the deer was shot, it may limit the number of "grey area" shootings that take place every year. I don't have all the answers just a few suggestions. You could also base the extended antlerless season on the accessibility to getting around due to the weather conditions. The worse the conditions the fewer does are reduced. Like they used to do with the early snow goose season. Open it when they show up, closed when there gone. The whole point is to reduce the heard right?
876	Make sure poeple have land to hunt before they get license.
889	I THINK IT WOULD BE NICE IF A PERSON COULD ONLY KILL ONE BUCK A YEAR. BECAUSE IN SOME CASES A PERSON WILL BOW HUNT KILLING A BUCK AND THE SAME YEAR AND SAME AREA WILL KILL ANOTHER BUCK WITH

	RIFLE. I THINK IT IS ALRIGHT TO HAVE MORE THEN ONE LICENSE, BUT BEING ABLE TO SHOT ONE BUCK WOULD GIVE OTHER PEOPLE CHANCES AT BUCKS.
894	I am a landowner so i get landowner preference but i have family and friends that hunt our land that i should be able to help get tags. I see out of town hunters with buck tags road hunting and treaspasing because they have a buck tag but no place to hunt.
899	I understand that you are looking at options in order to improve fairness; however, some hunters such as myself, only apply for one license so an overall system such as this wouldn't necessarily have an effect on my drawing success if I'm only able to apply for one license...just a thought :-)
919	enforce the landowners rules. there are so many farmers and ranchers that get buck tags so they can shoot what they want but they cruise the country looking for it off their land. its abused.
938	I think the GFP should take into consideration out-of-state children of SD landowners and their ability to get a any deer tag for the rifle season in counties. I strongly believe they should be able to get a guaranteed any deer tag to hunt on their family owned land only, especially those whose families own considerable amounts of land. Many hunters prefer to trophy hunt. A solution could be to do an earn-a-buck system, where the hunter is required to harvest any antlerless deer first and then take that deer to the GFP where they will be given the option to purchase an additional any deer tag for perhaps \$200 or at least a considerable amount. I think it would not only be a great way to keep deer numbers sustainable, but provide a greater satisfaction rating in addition to being a great revenue generator for the state.
945	generally the counties that i hunt its a buck every other year due to the preference point system and I am okay with the current system I do think that the extended season dates need to be moved to not incorporate the holidays as a lot of people travel and cannot use that time as well as be before the bucks shed as this make sense for herd management
949	I think you need to do some kind of check on how often a hunter gets a buck tag because it seems that you get a buck tag one year and then go several years without one also i think you should be able to shoot a buck the entire season that is the license we paid for
951	Fill licences with the most preference first , then work your way down at least with 40% of the tags. Then do the same as you are doing now.
983	I think buck tags should be left the way it is. I have a lot of family land and I think the land owner has to right to shoot what he wants on his property and family should have to sit a buck tag out every few years because I have 6 guys that hunt the same property and if we all had buck tags our bucks would never get a chance to grow to be a trophy!!!! Keep things the way it is, I would love to shoot a buck every year but if I had to sit out a few years to get a moster, totally worth it.
995	make it a true preference draw for non landowners...3 yrs or more gets the tags, 2 yrs a chance of a tag, and one year no chance...unless they want antlerless tags. OR if you want to eliminate females...have an earn a buck season....you HAVE to shoot a doe first, then you can recieve a buck tag. If hunters cannot bag a deer during gun season within the given time frame of 3 weekends...or two continous weeks, then they are not very good hunters....there should NOT be a centerfire rifle season after the original season.
1010	too many landowners are not letting permission, getting to be too many deer around. The deer know where the safe haven is and go there. Know of a place where you could count 30-50 head every time they fed in season but could not go in there to get them to move. Been that way for many years now.
1013	Find some way that hunters could obtain permission to hunt on private land. Names, location etc. It is difficult to even find the owner to ask permission.

1029	Earn a buck tags. Harvest one ore two does and recieve an any deer lic. You pay a fee for a buck and two antlerless but you have two check in to receive your buck tag.
1050	All people with ten or more preference points should receive a license first (Elk) and 5 or more preference points receive a deer license. Have a doe hunting season first and those that harvest a doe deer will be able to purchase a buck license.
1055	The preference tag doesn't matter to me. I really just like to go hunting for the sporting and being with friends and fellow hunters.
1123	Let residents who live in the county have preference over those who do not.
1154	I have been told that some "hunting guides" are paying land owners up to \$1000 for each buck killed on their land. This practice limits the land that most hunters can hunt on unless they pay the fee. Is this legal? I live in Fort Pierre and have a serious problem with deer destroying trees and ornamentals. Most of this damage is done by bucks scraping the bark off the trees. I would like to see a deer reduction program similar to Pierre except that bucks be included instead of just antlerless deer like pierre has.
1178	Increase the size of caliber used to shoot deer. Too many wounded deer by small calibers.I hunt 200 miles from home and don't have access to housing after the opening weekend. If you want to reduce numbers of deer, allow me to use my unfilled tags in a local county during the late season.
1200	By making antler restrictions, (number points per side a criterion) and increase the number of tags.
1212	Why not let hunting start and run for 2 months if you have a tag? Why not let us hunt them rather than letthe deer be killed on the highway? I just dont understand.
1263	I won't hunt if I get doe tag, just for the fact that there would be no more bucks if it wasn't for the doe reproducing. I know you need both sex of deer to reproduce, but 1 buck can breed several doe. I would shoot a doe if there was a need for reduction.
1282	extend the season if weather is unbearable.
1285	I don't have a problem with the current system.
1296	BUCK TAGS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS ONLY. NO OUT OF STATE HUNTER GETS A BUCK TAG BEFORE A RESIDENT HUNTER.
1312	Give everyone a shot at a buck in the west river leave it open draw in the Eastern part of the state.
1334	I feel it is unfair that you have to own or farm 160 acres to be considered land owner preference. My father and I own 42 acres that are enrolled in CRP and we planted food plots in this ground to provide food for the deer during the hard winter months, yet I can not get land owner preference because we do not quallify because it is only 42 acres. I think this number should be lowered so that all land owners can get preference to hunt on their own land for whatever type of deer they choose. I live and hunt in Lincoln County, but have never put in for the any deer preference because I have to compete with all the other people putting in for any deer tags when a lot of them don't even have a place to hunt in Lincoln County. If I do put in for first choice of any deer I chance losing out on getting a tag at all because then I have to compete with the all those same people on the second choice and usually all the tags are taken in the first drawing.
1341	every year i hunt the same unit and the allocation for any deer license or whitetail buck seems to never waver with the qaunity of licenses while every year there are more and more bucks in county. due you actually survey the area or just fill quotas. other states seem to do quite well in selling a lot of licenses and not subject it to just a small county and increase the size of the units to larger areas such as like the zones in the phesant areas thus not limiting the hunters to flock to just a certain county but to actually where the deer are and not letting us be subjected to a very small tag quanity to a little county with a ton of mule deer bucks and

	whitetail bucks.
1404	Where should I start! I moved back to South Dakota six years ago and this year was the first time I was lucky enough to get issued a riffle tag for bucks. I take deer hunting very seriously, i set up multiple tree stands at multiple hunting properties for bow hunting which is my true passion. I do enjoy riffle hunting and I would do more of it if ever issued a tag. My problem is every year I start scouting deer as soon as they are in velvet, I try to pattern them as well as find ther bedding areas all to increase my chances at a nice buck. But as soon as opening day comes so do 15 pickup trucks full of people driving around trying to shoot a monster buck from the comfort of the pickup. Now I do not own enough land to get away from this and I have switched hunting spots every year to try to avoid this. Until you educate people on the true meaning of deer hunting and ways to deer hunt I will only enjoy deer hunting with my bow untill opening day, when all the idiots come out with there pickups and ruin it for me and other hunters that take deer hunting serious. I think you lottery system of issuing deer tags is far from fair to a lot of hunters, I feel everyone should have the oportunity to go hunting, and for people that say there are not enough mature bucks around need to get out and scout more. I think your extended antlerless season is to late in the year, I'm in favor of the extended season I just think that it is to late in the year. This year bucks were already shedding antlers during the extended season, I started finding sheds the first of January. I wish I had more room to write all my concerns and problems. Thank you and would like to hear back from you on some of these issues.
1414	i think we should have one more weekend in the first opening. when it opens back up in january if the wheather is bad the season should be extended.
1453	Land owners should not get their preference year after year.
1486	Have more week ends for anterless deer hunting the last two late seasons have had to much snow on the ground to hunt very well.
1538	Keep the road hunters in check. we had a number of people who shot deer from the road this year. contacted the conservation office but no one would stand up to heip him get a arrest. There are by far to many people that see a number of good deer when hunting other game that think they can get a lic. and then hunt anyplace they feel like. My family spends a lot of time helping to try and keep a healthy number of deer, we do a number of food plots to help keep deer off the roads, provide food for the pheasents and deer etc. We realize people need a place to hunt and we let a number of them hunt but you never see or hear from them until it the night before deer season and then they think they should be allowed to come up here from Sioux Falls or whearever and we owe them a place to hunt because they got a lic. Our faimly is sick of hunters and we will close all our land to hunters if this dose not change. This year we spent more time policeing out land then we did hunting. Most of our shelterbelts had roads around them after season. you also have state trapers that think they can come up here and shed hunt which is a big no no.
1582	It has seemed to me that in the East river deer season in 2009 and 2010 isn't as good of a season as West river. It seems to me that the deer have been in rut during west river hunting, then East river opens and there is only a few days that they are still in rut. I love going out and watching the deer run around like crazys when they are in rut. It always seem a lot me interesting to me!
1592	oNLY A STATEMENT OF MY PAST EXPIERENCES. I APPLIED FOR A BUCK ONLY TAG TWO YEARS AGO AND WAS TURNED DOWN. THIS YEAR I APPLIED FOR A BUCK AND DOE AND WAS AWARDED TAGS. MY ONLY INTEREST IS TO SHOOT A BUCK, DUE SOMEWHAT IN PART TO PROCESSING FEES FOR THE MEAT. MY POINT IS, IF PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN BUCK HUNTING ONLY THEN AWARD MORE BUCK TAGS. JUST BECAUSE I HAVE A TAG FOR A DOE

	DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE ANY INTENTION OF FILLING IT. i AM SURE YOU ALREADY CONSIDER THESE FACTORS. Estend the hunting for a third week for antlerless deer only. This would help the processors from having to start up processing again in january. Also consider a buck only season on the first week of hunting to help the buck hunters a little.
1621	Can I apply for a licence in a (Special Management Unit) and for East & West River deer licence?
1714	A special tag allocated specially for trophy deer. For example only a 5x5 or larger deer or only a deer with a antler score of 130 or larger could be taken. I hunt with a few hunters that only will shot a trophy deer and they will go home without filling their tags, I see this happen year after year. If the GF&P needs the deer herd thinned out this type of hunter will do very little for that purpose, why not give a tag to a hunter who is willing to shot a deer for reason's other than trophy purposes. I believe this not only will increase hunter satisfaction (for pure hunting) there will be more tags available and tags designed for specific hunting. What I would like to see is the trophy season come before the general deer hunting season. There would only be trophy hunters in the field creating less hunting pressure and more of an opportunity to see larger deer. Also when the regular deer season would open the trophy hunters would no longer be in the field which in return would lighten the hunting pressure giving a more enjoyable hunt to those hunting - less hunters more open un hunted land to hunt on. I believe these trophy tags would be a very sought after tag especially if it was a seperate season before the geneneral deer hunting season. It would give more hunting options to those who want to hunt. If a hunter is chosen for a trophy tag they would be ineligible the following year. I believe it would also raise a little more income for our state wildlife. One other idea I have (if you want to hear it this is becoming a novel) is to divide the tags in two seperate groups for the units. For example if there are 400 tags for Spink county 200 tags are good for say Nov. 20-27 the other 200 are good for Dec. 3-10. This would break up all the hunters being in the field at one time preventing overcrowding and giving hunters a better hunting experience. At times now when deer season opens it seems there are hunters everywhere it just pressure's deer which force's deer to move giving hunters an unfair advantage over the deer and puts unjust pressure on the deer. It takes the pureness of hunting out of the equasion, deer are justing running around for their life, bullets flying, deer running, and people driving around like mad men trying to find these deer. Also everyone is trying to get the same time off from work which then some are denied the vacation. With the two seperate season more people would be given the chance to hunt. If possible could you reply back to me as to what you think of these ideas? I have more but for now I'll leave it at this. P.S. If the state would happen to open a seperate trophy season would it be possible to receive a preference point for the idea? Aw just joking! Thank you ALL for what you do for our wildlife it's greatly appreciated!!!!!!
1723	Limit the number of buck tags to people with no land to hunt. When they get a buck tag, they come out to the country and purchase or lease hunting rights. Many of us with tags can't hunt there and land is taken out of circulation.
1787	at age 54 this was my first year applying for an east river tag. I was completely thrilled to get my double doe tag. thank you.P.S. I filled by 2:30PM opening day.
1846	I would like to see that if you live in say Hughs county and apply for Hughs county tag you would have a better chance than someone from another county
1863	I believe there should be a separate season for residents only
1900	The allocations should be mde based upon the need to harvest by sex of deer to maintain a healthy herd.
1939	One problem I have with the current system is when I applied and got my license I could only

	harvest a deer in one county. Is there a possibility when a hunter gets his or her license it can be used for the whole region, like if I got east river deer I can hunt and harvest a deer in all of east river.
2003	License should be awarded on a first come first served basis. This is the most fair approach in my opinion.
2007	you should have first choice in your county you live in before out of area hunters. For instance out of area hunters draw your any deer tags hunt on land they dont have permission they spook game and mess up hunting for the ones that live here and scout before season. Its not right that people who hunted all there lives here dont get tags but people from the big city do. Another thing i dont like is out of state tribal land hunters same deal harass game and drive around constently it does nothing but ruin the hunting around here in roberts county.
2022	For the Black Hills season allow for "Trophy tag" requiring four points on one side to be the minimum and make it unlimited so that anyone can go hunting during the season. This license could be more expensive than a regular license but would allow more participation, increase revenue and a very low percentage of deer would be harvested. This method, or one with similar characteristics, would allow the opportunity to revive the culture of "hunting camps" and other socially based hunting groups which has been lost in the management shuffle and reduced the opportunity for young and inexperienced hunters to be mentored by a group rather than an individual.
2063	I believe that most people enjoy hunting the same although some people have more time and work options to allow them to do it more. I think the field should be leveled for those who can only afford to hunt one season rather than six.
2074	more non resident tags are needed to increase state revinue
2078	Longer season to harvest your deer and more tags, because there is getting to be to many deer out there.
2097	No second tag until everyone who put in has a tag.
2159	There should be a way have name recognition between the seasons. If they already have received a preferred tag, then they should be bumped down on the list, allowing people applying for only one season to have a preferred tag.
2202	I hate the rut season rifle hunt. It takes the top end off some deer herds and probably kills more bucks than does as the bucks are vulnerable i.e. hunters who might be happy killing does 'luck-out' and kill a buck. I prefer the method Iowa and Kansas take with their season dates.
2216	Eliminate county drawings for antlered deer with a east river or west river unlimited tag.
2220	residents hould have first chance at the any deer tags. If a private landowner wants to have "trophy" hunts, he should be required to raise his own deer and fence his property to keep them in.
2258	With the preferance points system in place, i beleive if you qualify and get drawn for a tag, it's because you earned it??
2291	Limit number of buck tags to licensed hunter to 2 maximum statewide (excluding archery). Also limit number of buck tags for any unit to one only (excluding archery). Number of antlerless deer no limit.
2296	Need to inprove the hunting in the Black Hills lack of deer!!!!!!
2301	east river get out more any deer tag see to many bucks
2308	My only suggestion is to close all non-vital roads to traffic in grasslands. These areas would hold nice deer much longer if people didn't have free reign with trucks and ATVs to the grassland areas. People are very poor about adhereing to applicable laws when it comes to staying on trails and only designated trails. It is very frustrating to get to a "honey hole" and

	be there for 2 days (scouting) prior to the season only to have a barrage of ATVs and Trucks come plowing through the area the night before the season starts. I have no problem sharing the public lands with people if they are following regulations...many do not!!
2334	Everybody has the same odds in the drawing so its fair.
2339	Beside the two point or better buck license in the Black Hills, sell four point or better licenses too. You would sell more licenses, give more people the chance to spend time hunting, and enjoying the area. I realize you would have to take into consideration how it would effect the total deer population but it could changed yearly to reflect herd size and number harvested.
2348	i believe it is unfair for GFP to open up the black Hills fire trails to ATV's and not allow the same oppportunity for individuals to drive down those same roads with their vehicles. If you cant aford to purchase a ATV you are discriminated against because you are not allowed to hunt the same fire trial roads that the ATV people are allowed to us.
2392	I like the way the system is working so I really have no complaints at all. It makes sense to manage supply and demand by offering hunters a preference point for an unsuccessful drawing. Therefore, it feels fair to me. Of course, I'll love to have an opportunity to receive a buck license every year for at least one of the seasons; if possible. For me, I hunt Hanson County East River every year and we just started hunting Mellette County this past year for the first time due to a tip from a guy I ran into last year who knows ranchers in Mellette who want deer shot off the land since they pose a nuisance to their hay. Considering that info, I would have two suggestions: 1) Offer a place on the GFP website that tells hunters of areas where game population is a problem and give names and phone numbers of the Land Owners so we could call them and ask permission to hunt their land. Particularly the land owners who are complaining of high deer populations. I know our hunting party of 6-8 guys would drive across the state if we thought their was a chance we could shoot some plentiful deer. . 2) On that SPECIAL BUCK TAG deal you guys offer. I like the idea even though I've never applied for it. If you offered it where a hunter can still apply for the regular season and the SPECIAL BUCK TAG at the same time, then the hunter would have a stronger incentive to apply because then he could get a preference point for the regular season that year in which he did not draw, but then also have the Buck tag that he wants. For example, the supply and demand in Hanson County is such that I always get a Buck Tag every other year. You need 1 preference point to get an Any Deer Tag. I would like to pay for the SPECIAL BUCK TAG the years in between without losing my preference point that next year. Just to piggy back on that idea, I don't need to have all the Freedom the SPECIAL BUCK TAG OFFERS. What I mean by that is, the SPECIAL BUCK TAG could be offered for a specific county as opposed to all of East River and all of West River. Don't get me wrong, keep doing the Special Buck Tag the same way as you do now because I can see how some hunters may really like that freedom. I am suggesting that you consider offering a HANSON COUNTY(Or any specific county) BUCK TAG at a reduced price (than the SPECIAL BUCK TAG) of maybe \$75.00 or so. Once again, to keep hunters happy, if you offered this option, then still give a preference point for that year so guys could pay the regular lower fee of \$35.00 every other year (at least, that would be the case for HANSON County hunters). Perhaps it would be too complex. Not sure. Just an idea. What it does, is allows hunters who are willing to pay an extra fee hunt Bucks every year (or other year) for an additional \$40.00 premium. This would also increase state revenue. But you must allow those guys to retain a preference point in years they receive a HANSON COUNTY BUCK TAG or it will take away the incentive to do it. Well, that was long enough! LOL! I hope these ideas help your survey.
2411	I think it would be beneficial to keep record of buck permits and find a way for a hunter who APPLIED the year before and didn't receive the permit to be at the front of the line for the permit in the following year. Kind of like a preference system.
2421	I believe there is too much emphasis on some hunters to get "big" bucks, and I believe this

	<p>stems from the reality shows on T.V. . I enjoy eating venison, in fact it is the main meat I eat. Although I pass up numerous small bucks, waiting for a larger one, but I do that more for management of the deer then to harvest a big buck. Unfortunately it has gotten to the point that money buys bucks, if you want to spend the money to hunt exclusive private land the opportunity is there. I do not believe that land owners should be able to get license and then allocate them to who they wish. I feel it would put an end the deer hunting we currently enjoy. Although I do understand the current economic stress some landowners or under and can see why they want to profit from the game they feed all year. I wish there was a solution to this problem that would benefit both landowners and sportsman. I cannot and will not spend a couple thousand dollars to hunt deer in South Dakota, but would be agreeable to paying a reasonable "trespass" fee. I wish there was an answer to this dilema</p>
2429	<p>You could increase the number of buck licenses available and decrease the number of antlerless licenses.</p>
2456	<p>I think it not a problem with the drawings but its with having land to hunt on. Its getting to hard to find land. Everybody wants you to pay for land. The cost of everything else is high enough already let alone paying for land</p>
2463	<p>I THINK THERE SHOULD BE A SIZE LIMIT LIKE THERE IS FOR WALLEYES. A BUCK TAKEN SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 4 POINTS ON ONE SIDE. AND IF IT WERE UP TO ME, THERE WOULD BE NO HIGH POWER RIFLES ALLOWED! TOO MANY "HUNTERS" THAT HAVE NO CLUE WHAT A RIFLE CAN DO SHOOTING UP THE COUNTRY SIDE. MY FRIENDS DAUGHTER WAS ALMOST SHOT WHILE STANDING IN HER HOUSE! SHOTGUN OR MUZZLELOADER FOR FIREARMS,,,,AND I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT THINKS THIS WAY. THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ ALL OF THIS.</p>
2472	<p>I have applied for a Black Hills Buck license four years and was unsuccessful. I now will have five(5) preference points for the 2011 season. I do not think the preference point system is fair. Something should be done to assure a license, at least, every two years.</p>
2479	<p>I would like to see the rifle season not open as early so the rut is over and give the archery hunter out.</p>
2482	<p>i hunt more west river have permission so it is nice to get a liecen yearly to keep up the relationship yes any deer liecen nice not nessary</p>
2483	<p>if you want to decrease the numbers then open it longer in January because the ones that hunt doe are for the meat and want to get a kill and you do not want it to warm or the meat will spoil quicker.</p>
2484	<p>Our state has been out to reduce the doe population for many years. I have discussed this with many friends here in South Dakota and friends from other states. The one thing I would like to see in South Dakota is the "Earn a Buck" type system as I've seen in other states, where a hunter must first harvest a doe/anterless deer before their buck tag is valid. I would also like to see the buck tags go to a point restriction. I watch too many people pass up does to take a small buck just because it has antlers. This is making it hard to find many quality bucks in South Dakota. Also the state needs to increase the number of non-resident licences. Non residents bring a lot of money into the state. For West River there are very few available and East River they can't even apply until the third drawing. Just some suggestions my friends and I have been discussing.</p>
2545	<p>I think more than anything we need to have more does harvested. Plus we need to have a four point on one side minimum for bucks this will allow the bucks to grow larger and if we harvest more does you will see more larger bucks grow. I think we need to do something like Wisconsin where you are required to shoot a doe before you take a buck. If you put rules like this in place you will see less people shooting just any buck because it has horns. Plus after it</p>

	takes affect you will see more hunters that are more satisfied however the drawings end up. If I knew I was going to only get a buck license every three years, but during that year I would have a very good chance at seeing / harvesting a nice buck I would be very satisfied.
2546	First come, first served
2548	The seasons were split, and very confusing.
2560	Do away with LO preference in the regular draws or decrease the number allowed to something less than 50%. This is especially important in BH Deer, most hunters who apply with preference in BH unit are not hunting on thier own land. Why should they have preference to hunt on the BHNF? If a person wants preference, allow them to have a 1/2 price license valid only on their land or give them a free doe license if there are leftovers.
2576	Resident prefrence for selection process first.
2582	This applies to Elk as well as deer. You should adopt the same policy that is used in Colorado for the use of preference points. In other words the person with the most points should always get a tag before someone with fewer or no points at all!!!!!!!!!!
2592	There is a very limited number of tags you can use to harvest MULE deer in the Black Hills.I feel it is unfair for those who wish to hunt mule deer Bucks. The Number is limited to 400. Not very many considering the total tags for the BH.
2597	I am 67 years old and have hunted west river or the black hills for as long as I can remember but lately I have not drawn for a buck only hills tag in the last 4 years, I guess it is time that I quit and let the mountian lions have my share! this year I bought a left over tag for part of Meade county and never had a chance to hunt! Whats fair, who is getting the tags? Answer to question #13 add a anterless deer to the tag bought in the regular season for the areas that are over populated! Answer to question #14 I dont like to shoot an impregnated Doe
2607	i dont think its right that im a blackhills resident have been here my whole life and cant draw a deer or elk tag in the blackhills
2634	extend the anterless deer season to 3 weekends. this year the season was cut short due to the cold weather! Have a buck only season in the black hills 4 points (on both sides) or better. \$25.00 One tag per person.
2635	Some people tend to get a license every year ,why they don,t own land. While some land owners grt a land owner but don,t have any deer on their land so they hunt elsewhere. Also have heard some brag about all the tax free money they get from paid hunting, one said him and his wife took a 2 week trip to Hawai with unreportable money another was saying last year was his first year and collected about 18,000.00 all tax free.
2678	I believe there is a real problem in our state as far as trophy management. As a resident I could possibly shoot 5-7 antlered deer/ year. Rifle (ER, WR, BH) Archery (ER, WR) MuzzleLoader (general and special refuge hunts) This should not be allowed. Other states only allow their residents 1 buck tag per year and make residents choose their weapon. Deer management is not done by killing every buck. 1 buck can breed 10-15 does. The # of buck tags should be limited to allow more trophy animals to grow and number of antlerless tags increased to control population. Limiting archery hunters antlerless tags the past few seasons in certain counties but giving out double rifle antlerless tags in these counties is absurd. If there is really a shortage of does it isn't going to be the archery hunter (who more than likely waits to shoot a dry doe rather than fire on site). It is going to be the rifle hunter who consistantly shoot any antlerless deer.
2716	I think that one of the problems with the deer hunting is that everyone is hunting for the trophy buck and not shooting the does. We have an overpopulation of deer right on so maybe we should look at an earn a buck somehow. I hunt for a trophy deer all the time, but if I can't get one, I fill with doe tag. Also I wish we could get more then one buck tag for the bow. Make people shoot a couple of does to get another tag.

2761	I would like to see antler restrictions. Like for example four points on one side or better.
2763	I have heard about program in other states where they require you to shoot a doe before shooting a buck. I feel that with the growing deer herds that this might be a good thing to consider. Or maybe an antler restrcitions. I have too many little bucks.
2774	How about prefer in state hunters versus out of state hunters. We all pay for a license, however, those of us who are in state who see the increasing amount of out of state hunters coming in while getting less licenses for in state hunters is getting quite tiresome for many of us who hunt and who live in South Dakota.
2785	One application for one area of choice- either east river, west river, or Black Hills Eliminate all the specialty buck seasons such as Muzzleloader seasons, Archery seasons, Refuge Seasons etc. and make them a part of the regular west river, east river, or Black Hills drawings. If a person drew a license for a West River area as an example, he could hunt with archery gear in October, muzzleloader gear for a two week season in late October or early November, or regular firearm the rest of November. No muzzleloader, youth, antlerless archery, on federal lands like Forest Service, BLM, Corp of Engineers etc. Those seasons should be private land only if your going to continue issuing unlimited antlerless licenses all of the place for every season there is. If antlerled license types were left over after the first drawing, unsuccessful applicants for those units would be eligible to apply. Establish quotas for both antlered and antlerless licenses and when the number of antlerled licenses has been drawn, the applicant would automatically draw an antlerless license unless he checked a box stating he didn't want one. Second drawing would be for all left over licenses statewide by unit.
2786	I would like to be able to hunt on my parents land, but since we live in different counties I only get a license about every other year. I do not own any of the land but I am able to hunt whenever I get a tag.
2798	In my opinion, too many hunters have the mentality they have to shoot a buck no matter what. Every year I see hunters killing 18 month old bucks and they somehow think they would have degraded themselves if they had instead shot a mature doe, so they routinely shoot bucks several years before the buck reaches it's growth potential. In my opinion this way of thinking is wrong. I feel the deer harvest should be designed to reduce the doe population to help out our landowner hosts with deer numbers and allow a limited harvest of bucks so that hunters that do have a tag that allows for a buck do have a chance at a mature buck. I always fill my anterless tags with mature does and then if I can not locate a buck worthy of a place on my wall, I then fill the any deer tag with another mature doe. I wish more hunters would do this. I have found that landowners are more willing to let me hunt their land once they understand I am willing to shoot a doe and am not intent on shooting the first buck I see just because I have a any deer tag. Thanks for reading my thoughts. PS I would like to comment on the extended anterless season. I think this is a great idea. I did not go this year because of the fact I already had all the deer meat I needed and the weather got bad, but I think the extended season is wonderful in that it takes some pressure off hunters to fill during the regular season and it allows for the harvest of more does.
2812	Yes, to fairly allocate buck tags you need to give peference to people who live near and around the county that they are applying for. West river gets over run with people from the east river side. Just a bais opinion on my part. However, an earn a buck system or a system that allows a hunter to take a buck every X number of years might be better in some areas to reduce the number of bucks taken per year allowing them to grow while ensureing that does are harvested to reduce the herd.
2824	I think that the buck hunting opportunities are fair as they are right now. The only thing that I see is alot of people do not do there part in the doe harvest. I dont know how to fix that

	problem though.
2838	Look at the way Texas does things.....adopt that method.....Just because you have a shorter deer and buck season doesn't mean that people are not gonna kill more deer.....people are still gonna fill thier tags....but with a longer season. It will give people more time to be choosy and selective so they don't kill immature deer because they are running out of time....with a longer season you will have hunters waiting for that bigger mature animal instead of settling for a baby. this would increase the quality of the deer herds
2840	I dont think it is fair that the tribal hunting season start before our season
2852	It seems to be working fine for me at least in the counties I hunt (hyde,Jackson). However one concern I have is the later doe season seems to not be working as well as people think, More and more hunters hunt only bucks and then say going to come back and get does later then never do get their does; for many reasons; weather being the main one this year???
2928	Is it feasible for you to make public the details of how GFP sets up the odds in the drawing selections? Such as the odds for higher preference point being filled first, or drawn first, etc. Are some people (i.e. friends of GFP personnel) more aware of how the game works so they case play the odds better? Perhaps public disclosure of how any preference system works would put more confidence into the public's perception of the drawings odds.
2930	January anterless tags go statewide. City limits archery tags. (Esp. anterless, let hunters pay for tags rather than cities pay people to come trophy hunt. Need to cut does out to cut city deer.)
2952	If you could find a way to apply for all deer tags at one time on-line, it would be very helpful. If you could allow landowners an extra tag (for a fee) to give to a friend or relative it would increase the quality of the hunt. If kids (grandkids, etc) have to wait 2-4 years between tags, there is not much of a likelihood that they will grow up to be avid hunters. With the hunting population dropping, it is important to everyone, GF&P included, to get the next generation enthusiastic about hunting and the excitement of a deer camp type of hunt. The youth season, while a good idea, doesn't give the deer camp "environment". Giving landowners the option of an additional tag can bring that excitement to the younger generation.
2957	GFP could do more research on concentrations and locations of mature buck populations and issue more buck tags to hunters who apply in those areas.
3016	I am a resident landowner and outfitter. I do oppose a bill brought forth to increase the non-resident special buck licenses to 750 while leaving the resident at 500. Since they are private land licenses, why not take the extra 250 and put them in a special guaranteed pool to both resident and non-resident. Set the cost for the non-resident at \$750.00 and the resident \$500.00. I don't know how many resident hunters will buy, but a majority of the non-residents will pay. The licenses would still have to provide the name and number of the landowner. Now I know that I am a Harding County landowner along with my partner Matt Gilbert, but at this point in time we do allow public hunting. All this does is give us the chance to bring hunters into the State, increase GFP revenue, increase sales tax and tourism revenue and still allow some public hunting. Just a thought, but something has to give for the landowner.
3034	Have applied for and not drawn BH rifle deer for 2 years in a row. 1st year as an individual and 2nd year in a group of 2. I live in and contribute to the economy of the BH area year round. It would make sense that I should have better opportunity to hunt where I live, especially in relation to those who don't live here and don't contribute to the local economy year-round.
3054	I have many....The extended deer season is very poor management at it's utmost. To many does are being taken and everyone shots the big deer which is usually a buck that's dropped it's horns. Please stop this very very bad practice. We need coyote control my farm is over run

	and to few hunt them anymore. Second with little trapping going on the coon & skunks have gotten out of hand as well. The Elk season draw is a joke there must be a better way. I own land in 5 counties and have hunted South Dakota for over 50 years please read this. Thank you, Brad
3055	Resident hunters should have more preference over non resident hunters since we live here & pay taxes.
3074	The first west river rifle season is just a mature buck season as the doe season is extended in January. There are very few mature bucks that survive. There should be a trophy buck season..
3096	Get rid of landowner preference unless it is only on their own land. I own 80 acres which I manage carefully for wildlife yet I can only get a buck license 1 out of 3 years here in Brookings county. My neighbors do everything they can to eliminate wildlife like drain wetlands, farm fence row to fence row, cut down any semblance of wildlife cover yet they get at least 3 "landowner" buck tags every year. That is a crock. Just because you own 160 or more acres does not make you a wildlife producer. This system is similar to saying that if you own a BMW you should get to drive faster than anyone else or get to use special highways. Everyone should have an equal chance of drawing an any deer tag in the county they live.
3104	Systems not broken. Leave it the way it is.
3123	make extended doe season earlier even before main season too many bucks being shot after dropping horns.
3131	Put the Blk Hills in the same draw as the West River deer and limit the number of buck deer one hunter can harvest in a year.
3132	Have all 3 rifle seasons - Black Hills, West River, East River - with the same deadline. This will force people to have to choose their tag choices as they wish in relation to their preference.
3135	I don't agree with how the school and public lands purchases land that can't be hunted unless you have permission to cross the adjacent land. Haakan county has quite a bit of school land that is land locked and no access. The landowners surrounding the school land will not give permission to walk across their land to get to the school land. (Why waste the school money if you can't have access to the land?)
3153	In my opinion any one just buck hunting for big antlers should only be able to get a tag every 3-5 years. They don't use their tags to help keep the deer herd in check.If given a chance I will shoot an antlerless, this year was a year that I didn't have the opportunity.
3154	Does it matter? Preferences will still take effect, just not all in the same year in some cases. I'm afraid if you create a "fair" system, then some preferences will get lost.
3168	My family owns land and I'm not able to draw a east river tag I'm 35 years I have 9 years pref.I hope I can hunt a deer before I'm 45 on my familys land its very frustrating. My suggestion is if you own land no matter the size you should be able to hunt there.
3224	As the preference points system works all hunters still have the same opportunities for the same tags if they do not want two preferred tags in the same year they should simply send in for preference only on one. The seasons are overlapping in most cases for those who still want or would happen to get 2 preferred tags.If changes are going to be made I would look at increasing the acres required for getting a land owner buck tag. As it is now I see too many people that own or operate less than 1000 acres that get land owner buck tags and hunt all over. Or change it to land owner doe tags at a reduced rate, and give out a preference point for being a resident of that county.
3245	Allow land owners/ leasees the opportunity to distribute tags purchased from the state. Too often land operators family and friends can not get tags and the operator is not interested in other hunters.

3267	the one problem i had with west river deer hunting is the local landowners who are paid by hunters to hunt on their land. for the past 3 years on opening morning at landing creek bay in gregory county we have witnessed a group of 5 or 6 people not carrying guns walk through the public land before shooting hours and walk straight through to the private ground. To me this is unfair for the people hunting public ground, i know those guys where trying to run the deer off public ground into the private.
3268	Make areas with large doe to buck ratios earn a buck units. Shoot and register does before buck tag can be filled. Some areas in South Dakota are capable of producing large deer and I feel these areas are not managed to their full potential. Ex I hunt public land in Greagory county I see lots of deer and lots of young bucks are being shot. I do not want to take away the option for a hunter to harvest younger bucks but if they must shoot a doe first it may help more younger bucks reach maturity. In response to question 18 I strongly oppose this due to the large amount of upland, and waterfowl hunters in the field at that time. I question the safety of having the season in oct. maybe mid dec would be better.
3298	Hunters with the highest preference should be assured a license before hunters without points.
3329	Do not have the extended antlerless deer season right after Christmas, I was hardly able to hunt that week due to family and holiday events. Most other hunters I know had the same problem. It is best to have it in January, but make it at least a full two weeks. It will allow those who have weekdays off to have 4 full days to hunt too. The 9 day weekend to weekend hunt mainly benefits those who have Sat/Sun off.
3338	I believe the current system works fine, so why change it?
3407	persons with 3 preference points should get to draw before those with 2, and so one! example with the any deer muzzle loader tag, I knew of several people getting multiple tags before guys got one!
3423	I would be nice to be a year ahead in drawing so we could plan around a liensce draw, so we could hunt other game and possible in of states, if I knew I could shoot a buck next year this year I'd hunt waterfowl,
3432	Dont decrease the amount of Black Hills deer tags, increase them. There are large populations of deer in the hills. Evidence by the increased mountain lion population, which deer is their primary food source. If there is more food then the predator population increases. Plus for safety the amount of deer on the roads has increased, which means deer are having to get "creative" in where they get their own food. More and more are using the road ditches and such as a source of getting food.
3452	Have people list out what tag is most important to them and so on.
3461	even if i get a preference poit it doesn't meen i will get a tag the next year i think sdf@g have the best drawing that i have used leave it just the way it is
3476	it is my opinion that we as residents should have precedence over nonresidents. Nonresidents should only have access to leftover licenses.
3572	Build a better realationship withth the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. They give out over double the amount of antlered tags that the State does in Corson County. That ratio is very skewed and the State deserves more of those licenses. Look at the ratio of deeded land acres versus tribally owned land acres in Corson County and you can see what I mean. For state licenses, Corson should still be split in 2 units like it used to be due to the fact that there is way more acres of tribally owned land in eastern Corson County versus western Corson County (tribal licesenses are only good on tribal lands and state licenses are only good on public lands and deeded land). I am sure this is a management nightmare but I feel the natural resources are being exploited in some areas of Corson County. I know this is just one County, but it is just an idea I had.
3580	Think about ways to give local hunters a better chance at getting a preferred license in the

	area that they live, either county or regionally, as many of us don't have the time or resources to drive great distances to hunt.
3643	Response is not directly to the question. I have an opinion about the use of preferences. I would like GF&P to consider letting applicants with different preference points apply in a same group.... total the preference points of all applicants... divide the total preference points by the number of applicants..... set the result as the groups preference level for the drawing. Unsuccessful group draw each applicant would receive a preference point for the next year. Successful group draw all applicant preferences return to zero.
3678	keep it simple.....
3708	Only allow one buck tag during drawings. Any left over would be sold as left over tags, first come first served, as many as requested.
3753	I really appreciate the GFP's system of large walk-in areas mixed with dedicated road accesses. As I get older I appreciate being able to select hunting treks that are more manageable for me during the varying weather conditions.
3765	I would suggest looking at Colorado and how they issue out elk tags. You know when you are going to get a tag and you can more or less plan your hunt in advance.
3788	My comment is on the extended antlerless season. I don't understand why you choose to have the extended season in January. Why not have it right after the regular season.
3795	Let people know that shooting does is a good thing. Pass up the little bucks.
3798	The current system allows for preference points. If a hunter only wants to hunt in the county he resides in, then the preference point system works for this opportunity. If the hunter is willing to travel throughout the state there is a high probability he can draw a tag as you can see by the quantity of left over tags.
3804	The drawing system in place needs some adjustment. Why would someone with five years preference not get a tag and someone else has got one every season? Wierd system... Elk tags and muzzleloader seasons have been in my question area...
3816	Be sure that if landowners want a license they get one first.
3833	Point Restrictions for Buck Only tags
3838	Separate tags not only by unit, but also by public or private land. Many areas have lots of tags but landowners deny hunting permission, so the hunt is ruined by too many hunters on the public land.
3885	If a person receives one preferred license then the draw should end there for that person for a preferred license.
3928	I think that landowners that live on and farm/ranch the land they hunt should be given 1st choice of allocated licences in the area they live!
3956	have a minum number of years that you recieve anterless tags , example : if you get anterless tags 3 years in a row for the same county your 4th year you should automaticly get an any deer.
3963	FILL AN ANTERLESS TAG 1ST THEN YOU CAN HAVE A BUCK TAG

Appendix E. Hunters' suggestions for ways to improve the fairness of allocating buck hunting opportunities – Mail responses.

ID: 5

I would like to see seasons where you have to shoot bucks 4 points on each side or 8 points total. I think our bucks would improve for size very quickly in about 4 or 5 years.

ID: 10

Yu should be able to send for a buck tag (any buck) but make the rule you can not take anything under a 4x4 buck! Too many small bucks are shot!

ID: 12

By allowing so many non-resident hunters you are forcing resident hunters to use only walk in areas. Landowners now mostly charge money for deer hunting and it is the non-residents who pay the money. People like me who rely on deer to feed our families are forced onto vast or unproductive walk in areas where you can not efficiently fill tags. If you shout 1 deer 2 miles into a walk in area the entire day is then wasted dragging it back to the road. Cut the non-resident tags drastically and there will be plenty for the residents who pay taxes here and deserve them.

ID: 15

More land to hunt and less out of state hunters. I've waited up to 5 years for a buck tag and saw guys get them every year. How does that this happen.

ID: 31

Having preference doesn't seem to improve chances for getting a license. It gripes me to see hunters from other states and counties hunting in my home county when I have been denied a license. Old farts like me don't travel very far to go hunting (will be 84 next season). Thank you for this good interview.

ID: 33

NO more out of state West River Deer licenses. We don't want to turn into Minnesota and everyone gets a buck tag and shoots "dinks" we have quality animals because not everyone gets a buck tag. You have to wait your turn.

ID: 35

We have too many landowners' licenses given out to hunt any place they want. Make landowners draw for their licenses. Have game warden's and law enforcement offices write tickets to hunters who drive all over the fields to hunt and also hunters who chase deer for miles to kill (this is not hunting.)

ID: 44

I would be happy getting one tag if it was in a good area (trophy type).

ID: 57

In the East River extended season make the license good for any county that has surplus of deer.

ID: 63

Reduce your license fees.

ID: 68

My dad and I have hunted both East and West River seasons. We tried to get our tags filled with deer we could kill by taking good ethical shots. Not just shooting any deer no matter how far away it was. If there is a one deer limit per hunter for the whole state, I would be disappointed.

ID: 73

Landowners shouldn't get a buck tag every year.

ID: 98

I think you should increase the number of trophy buck licenses.

ID: 120

Keep it the way it is.

ID: 152

We need more muzzleloader buck tags.

ID: 158

Thanks for the opportunity to hunt every year for either bucks and or does.

ID: 199

Hunters only allowed one preferred deer, after getting one not allowed a second one.

ID: 205

I am 55 and have tried to get an elk tag for 15 – 20 years, I believe that is unfair how that drawing works. Now for the past couple of years my legs are shot so I'll never get to hunt elk. However I'd like to see it improved for other people before it is too late for them also.

ID: 211

The deer still need to be regulated. There is nothing wrong with taking a doe. I think the system is fair, if you don't get a buck tag 1 year, there is a fair chance you will the next year. It's just how it goes. I have talked with friends from other states and it makes me enjoy our system.

ID: 226

Allow the person to only get a buck tag every other year.

ID: 232

If you have one preference point the next year you should get buck tag for that county. This Indian hunting is getting out of hand. They hunt 3 weeks before us in East River. When it gets to us they are gone or so scared we don't have a choice. I know for a fact that the Indians are harvesting deer and cutting the horns off and leaving the meat. They should start when we do and finish when we do. I love hunting and watching deer. I only stand hunting to see and watch nature. We

should eliminate the January hunting so that the does can have good reproduction year.

ID: 238

I only hunt does as they taste better and have more tender meat.

ID: 265

Not sure but it took me 10 years to get a buck license, I was very lucky to get one. There are so many deer they should consider having a longer season again, and offer more buck licenses. It would increase interest and help control the population.

ID: 266

I would like to see double tags in the Black Hills deer rather than city shooting them.

ID: 289

It seems fair if you want a preferred deer license you can put in for the preference to have a better chance.

ID: 314

I believe all in state hunters should receive buck tags and if there is some left over then out of state hunters could receive a buck tag then.

ID: 330

Some hunters get any deer licenses about every year. The last two years I got my money back. What is the answer, I don't know?

ID: 352

I have not received a buck license for East River Deer in 7 years, which tells me preference points mean nothing. It needs to be set up that anyone receiving their first choice one year should not be put into the drawing the following year allowing people with preference points to get a chance at their first choice. Also I understand that landowner's licenses are taken right off the top of the total licenses available for each county, then leaving the rest of the licenses available for non landowners in the drawing. If this is true, landowners should get their requested licenses since they do own land, but don't take those licenses away from the total licenses for each county, the non-landowners should get a chance too!

ID: 359

I would like the East River Season to start 1 week earlier to have a better chance at a trophy deer.

ID: 363

Local residents of the county applied for should get preference.

ID: 365

I wish muzzleloader season was before rifle season. You can't get close enough to have a satisfying hunt after the deer have been chased by rifle hunters. It should be 2 weeks prior to rifle season.

ID: 369

With double or triple tags you must shoot an antlerless deer first then shoot a buck.

ID: 370

I used this space for my opinion on question 18. I feel that the two counties I hunted (Dewey West River and Walworth East River) had an over population of doe. I am a strong believer in managing doe population to increase the quality of bucks. I also know of quite a few hunters that could care less about shooting a doe and have never filled a doe tag in the last 10 plus years. The last two years 2008 & 2009 South Dakota has had a large percentage of corn still in the field during deer season this year 2010 I saw more big bucks and even smaller bucks with more potential than I have in any other year. Telling me that with good cover bucks mature an extra year or two before being harvested. All in all I love hunting my home state of SD just wish we could get everyone on the same page of manage deer population and quality of bucks.

ID: 373

Those that apply every year should receive preference; enthusiastically believe that ethical, safe hunting is a must. Those that violate should lose preference.

ID: 381

Can you shoot deer and have someone else tag it? I would like to know.

ID: 388

County Residents should have first preference for antlered deer in the county they reside in. Also they should be required to take a doe!

ID: 408

Put out more licenses.

ID: 431

Stop giving landowners 50% of lottery tags, just so they can hunt the whole unit if they can get landowner licenses to hunt their land only for any deer. Try to get tribal hunting to coincide with the state season, because tribal members now get 90% of adult deer are harvested way before state season's open. (Which I truly believe will never happen).

ID: 459

Watch landowner preference applications for license, half of these guys have nothing to do with the farm anymore but still get buck tags every year.

ID: 474

I would like to keep it so that residents have first chance at all buck tags commercial hunting is getting out of hand.

ID: 482

Give hunters who had a buck tag but were unsuccessful a preference point far sending an unfilled buck tag back in at their cost.

ID: 495

Have the first drawing for the county residents only use second drawing for half the tags that are set aside for landowners and the remainder of the tags from the first drawing.

ID: 502

I would say the system is fine the way it is.

ID: 510

I believe that county residents should have first chance at their counties tags. Too many locals get turned down way to often. I have hunted Day County my whole life and only drawn 4 buck tags. There is defiantly something wrong with that I can't possibly be that unlucky while many other non-landowners draw a tag almost every year or at least every other! I'm sick of being left out.

ID: 545

I think your preferred point system has worked well for years. Muzzleloader season this year should be placed before rifle season due to numbers being harvested down and deer being extremely wild with very limited cover to hunt them in.

ID: 560

Landowners should take priority to preferred deer license but all other non-landowners should still receive at least 1 tag. Landowners do not need 3 tags while others don't even get a chance to get a deer.

ID: 570

If hunting a buck, you may not harvest a buck under 4 points on each side this goes for youth hunters also, if the youth are allowed to hunt bucks or at least 4 points on 1 side, incase of breakage during the rut.

ID: 613

Let county residents have preference in their county that they reside.

ID: 638

I have a couple young hunters in the family so buck hunting isn't a priority right now for me.

ID: 652

Many hunters only apply for one of the preferred licenses, the same one every year either due to hunting rights, gas prices, time restraints or whatever. Not sure how you could make it any more fair and enable more hunters to have at least one tag/year.

ID: 654

My personal preferences are not as important to me as the general welfare of the deer population.

ID: 662

Make it fair, I think the current system works alright. If that's as fair as it gets then leave it. I don't see a lot of buck opportunities even if I have a tag, I hunt 100% public.

ID: 689

All deer license should be equally distributed among all types of deer hunter, (archery, rifle, and muzzleloader etc.) Manage the deer, not the hunting methods.

ID: 730

Keep track of who got buck tags the year before no matter what county and make sure people who didn't get a buck tag get theirs first.

ID: 751

Send me a survey on elk and then I will have a story for you. I have been waiting 14 years and still no tag. Then you hear hunters getting them in 4 or 5 or 6 years. Not Fair!!

ID: 764

Give a preference point to those who select an antlerless license as their first choice, this would give hunters a little more control over when they draw a buck tag, and they could plan a head each year.

ID: 768

East River rifle needs to be later. I believe our buck quality and deer herd in general is negatively affected by having the rifle season starting mid November. Our rut is disrupted causing a high percentage of does not being bred until mid – late December, which results in late fawns. Also in our area and surrounding is flat, when crops are out combined with rut our deer, especially mature bucks, are easily revealed. I think a later start to rifle season, such as the 1st weekend in December, would greatly benefit our deer herd.

ID: 803

CRP, Hunting in Brown County (20 years East Side Sand Lake Private land) was okay but didn't see the bigger bucks that I normally see. Weather last winter, wetness, the more cover the more deer, left early sun opening weekend (rifle) after bow hunting for 20 days straight. Couldn't believe how many people push deer around in trucks south of Groton to highway 34. Made me sick! That's half the problem no big bucks. Give out less buck tags!

ID: 830

12 – 13 are rifle questions, have everything to do with bow hunting there should not be unlimited bow licenses.

ID: 852

Increase the number of muzzleloader buck licenses.

ID: 870

Deep populations are heavy; before anyone can harvest a buck they should harvest a doe before a buck. That would do more to control population than special seasons.

ID: 873

I feel you should have a chance to receive a whitetail buck tag Black Hills. If you don't get drawn for the any deer Black Hills tag. It's been 4 years since I've been able to hunt in Black Hills, I don't want to loose my preference points for the any deer. I also would like to see a separate mule deer tag in East River Counties along with whitetail only. Maybe we could then harvest some larger mule deer.

ID: 885

Keep it the way it is. Be patient and wait for your opportunity just like hunting.

ID: 903

I've got one thing to say, I hear a lot that its not fair a farmer and his 2 sons get a tag every year but I don't, but yet these people don't own land and don't feed the deer, please don't take away the farmer and his 2 family members rights!

ID: 948

If the number of points had a minimum people would be required to shoot an older deer. So these city people who only have 1 or 2 days to hunt wouldn't be able to shoot spike bucks or 2 pointers. They would have to shoot a doe to fill their tag. Leaving the small bucks a chance to grow.

ID: 962

I would be happy with a buck tag every other year. No one should go 2 or 3 years with out getting a buck tag.

ID: 974

Do away with the lottery system in a way. Simply start at the top of the list of preference points, and work your way down. Once you get to a point where the number of hunters with a given amount of points exceeds the number of tags, and then begin drawing for them.

ID: 987

Landowner tags should not always be an any deer tag. I see a lot of smaller bucks getting shot, so why not go every other year for antlerless or any deer, because before they apply for landowner tag they can apply for the season that non-landowners or general public does.

ID: 992

Leave the drawings the way they are you are doing a great job! Don't worry about the complainers our world is full of them.

ID: 993

Not every hunter wants to hunt all 3 seasons or can 3 separate drawings has to be.

ID: 1041

Preference for all family members who live on or operate a quarter section or more; this doesn't seem fair and I say this because I used to farm and it didn't seem fair to me then.

ID: 1081

Ability to apply for preference points to any preferred season?

ID: 1082

I'm not as concerned about the preferred licenses as I am about providing licenses in areas where there are few deer and have high hunting pressure of the 25 days I hunted last year on private ground (with a bow) 1 had 3 animals within 20 yards. None of them were good shots. So I didn't shoot. I walked nearby shelter belts that had 4 different stands from 4 different people. The few deer around are highly pressured.

ID: 1093

By preferred do you mean any past points or landowner? I different opinions don't mess with my preference points. I have been applying for Custer Park elk for 23 years and now the mountain lions have eaten them all. Most landowners are shooting the deer they want anyway or seeing the right to shoot. Throw out 12 and 13 unclear questions.

ID: 1118

Leave it the way it is now.

ID: 1127

Overall I would say all locations is reasonably fair, my greatest concern is the number of young bucks harvested and the total number taken doing the extended season. I would like to see the same system used, but lower the total number of buck licenses issued for the rifle season. Additionally there should be an antler size restriction to limit small buck harvest.

ID: 1129

Give Deuel County back licenses to Deuel County hunters. The same goes for other counties.

ID: 1131

I believe on option that would be a good idea; would be to limit the number of out of state hunters. I realize it generates a lot of revenue but when SD families aren't getting tags over out of state people I think there could be a better way.

ID: 1149

Lower tag prices so it's more affordable for hunters.

ID: 1150

Keep the buck tags about the same for East River there is not that many bucks around my area. We have always had just too many does.

ID: 1158

Not sure how it works but yes I would think it would be much fairer if each person could get 1 deer rather than person getting 3 and the next person getting none.

ID: 1175

Stop and look into all people applying for landowner permits. Many don't qualify but you never check. I know many people who just put down land and don't live on or help with the farming. Solve this problem and everyone would have more chances at buck tags.

ID: 1190

Increase the season lengths. Do not give out of state hunters buck tags.

ID: 1196

Perhaps if a person gets a tag or not should be completely based on who has the greatest total number of preference points for a given deer license, instead of a lottery. Someone can get a statewide muzzleloader deer tag before anyone with only one preference point because they have two preference points.

ID: 1221

Residents of the county should get first chance in receiving tags rather than having to go to other counties to hunt. I am talking any deer tags.

ID: 1230

I like it with every 3 years I think it should be the same for farmers or ranchers to help herd sizes to have to shoot does. They don't eat the horns. One other thing the farmers that say they have deer problems eating there crops, should be helped by the state if they don't let other hunt there land.

ID: 1248

It is in my opinion the fairest when the farmers that applies; get the first chance to harvest a buck. The farmers are feeding these animals' not just deer, but all animals (wildlife) if they like to hunt. The deer eat in corn and alfalfa fields on up land where I hunt until hunting season after fields are harvested, then they move to river bottom land owned by someone who only hunts himself on has paid hunting only.

ID: 1261

Stop giving landowner licenses to every farmers child they should be put on list to draw and not given preference every year. Check them more frequently when they apply for there residence address and ownership. I can personally tell you of dozens of people who abuse this current system and mock the current rules to obtain a buck license every year, when in fact they own no land and use section numbers and locations from relatives land to secure their buck licenses. Make it fair for everyone.

ID: 1274

I personally think that those who receive a buck license should have to wait for 1 year or the following season to get another or be eligible for another buck license. This would give those who didn't draw a buck tag a better chance of getting one the following year.

ID: 1279

Farmers that raise crops shouldn't have to buy a license. They feed the deer and the deer thin a lot of crops.

ID: 1281

I feel that in order to have a buck tag that the individuals should have to shoot an antlerless deer first. This would help with the over population and maybe not have the need to have the extended season. Just for the fact that people are getting leftover tags in certain counties with high abundance or leftover tags. Just so they can apply in one county and second choice in another.

ID: 1316

I think people that live in a hunting area should get a preference over people from out of the county or area.

ID: 1331

Somehow encourage hunters not to shoot small bucks. Best way? Maybe some type of PR program.

ID: 1347

What is a preferred deer license?

ID: 1365

Keep the system as fair as possible. If you have to wait to get your tags and it is fair to everyone leave it that way.

ID: 1408

My suggestion from a wildlife management perspective in managing deer herds in Ag dominated areas would be to act more conservative on antlerless licenses. Coming from a hunting background living in agricultural areas in central Minnesota, your management is backwards. Start conserving does to increase the deer population in Northeast SD (East River in general) Hello!! Hunting 4 full days and seeing 2 deer in 2010 and hunting 6 days in 2009 and with 5 deer observed isn't exactly a high density population. I don't understand your way of thinking.

ID: 1409

More buck licenses there is a lot of deer killed by cars and trucks.

ID: 1421

When the drawings take place there should be a sequence for the tags issued. Landowners who are issued so many tags should have to hunt their land only. Second would be the residents of the county issued so many tags, must be county resident. Would be for residents of the state, so many tags to draw, must be resident of the state. Last of all for the non-resident to pick up the rest, this would also go with the other deer seasons as well. It is only fair for the county residents to be able to hunt. Too many non-residents seem to cause more issues, not knowing the county, lack of time to hunt, distance to drive.

ID: 1428

I feel it is not fair when you're from a county and apply and get no tags but 10 other people from Brown County get tags and Edmunds people get no tags.

ID: 1433

Make sure you have a place to hunt first.

ID: 1446

I believe people who reside in the county they apply for should hold preference over applicants for out of county residents.

ID: 1462

As a farmer, I feel that landowners feed and shelter wildlife year around and subsequently feel that farmers and ranchers should have preference for deer licenses for their own use.

ID: 1471

In Sanborn County there are few mature bucks, I would recommend decreasing buck tags.

ID: 1491

Landowners that will not let other people hunt on their land should not get a landowner preference.

ID: 1493

The practice of selling “special buck” licenses so the rich can hunt horns every year is just disgusting! It is just another form of discrimination again the average man and needs to be stopped! All hunters should take their chances in the regular drawing. If I find out that someone has one of these “special licenses”. They are never allowed to hunt on my land again.

ID: 1581

The older people who have shot a lot of bucks should let the younger people have a chance to get some bucks, or have a youth buck season.

ID: 1622

Make second season longer, ran into bad weather during time I had allocated to hunt. Thus, I didn't get another chance to go.

ID: 1625

If hunting all 3 you are not hunting for the right reason. You are only hunting for horns.

ID: 1633

My cousin asked me to hunt this year for the past twenty years he hunted the same areas! This year his draw was an antlerless year, he didn't enjoy his hunt this year at all. There are plenty of deer. He should have had a buck license.

ID: 1649

Stop killing all of the little bucks and let them grow up so you can have a chance of getting a monster buck.

ID: 1666

Season seems fine as it is to me.

ID: 1676

Higher count areas for control bow should be year round.

ID: 1684

Don't let people get more than two tags.

ID: 1749

I like getting the any antlerless tags not to concerned with buck tags.

ID: 1755

Leave it the way it is.

ID: 1771

I would recommend using Tennessee's GF&P hunting regulations. No lottery, dumbest idea for hunting ever. We should be able to hunt anywhere any country. With 1 license I would bring in better revenue, and more hunters.

ID: 1822

I think hunters should have to choose between East and West River, which ever is most important to them.

ID: 1833

I have not got a buck tag the last two years. If I don't get one this year I will probably give up hunting. Hunting does is okay be some guys get a buck tag every year. I would also like to see hunting 1 or 2 weeks earlier. We had a lot of cold weather the last 2 years.

ID: 1853

Need to harvest antlerless deer before the antlers to even the population.

ID: 1882

First come First Serve

ID: 1971

I think the current system works well.

ID: 1976

Need more antlerless tags given out and make them free.

ID: 2011

I hunt Slim Buttes with a bow. I think the ranchers should take their cows out of there a week before bow season because it seems to me when they go in there to check on them with their 4 wheelers they push most of the deer to private land. I also think there is two many rifle hunters that hunt in there; they take to many deer out of there. I have been hunting there for 7 years and the deer population has dropped every year the last 2 years have been the worst.

ID: 2029

In counties that offer low numbers of any deer tags maybe should be changed to offer x number of mule deer buck tags and x number of whitetail tags. If you want to shoot a mule deer then only apply for that type of tag.

ID: 2040

I am a meat hunter. To me it seems that bucks get hunted too hard.

ID: 2044

Go back to the old way that if you have a license in one season you don't qualify for any other.

ID: 2164

I think South Dakota should issue landowner coupons with licenses to maybe encourage landowners to let other people hunt.

ID: 2178

I think that these should not be as many archery tags allowed because this year where we have hunted east river for at least 10 years we only saw 1 small buck and 3 does. We usually see way more deer than that and have shot some really nice deer there. While we walk around all we see are archery stands in trees all over the place. The archery hunters shot all the deer there and we didn't see or shoot at anything all season.

ID: 2184

Every hunter should get one preferred choice.

ID: 2197

Hard to find places to hunt that were not crowded too many licenses.

ID: 2199

Landowners get a license of choice no matter what is besides that first come first serve!

ID: 2204

A \$45 statewide any archery tag should include an any antlerless tag. An early October antlerless will not help public land archery hunter's success. I am not happy with the amount of land locked public land, smug landowners just laugh at you when you ask them how to get to it. Complete waste of tax dollars.

ID: 2206

Allow resident hunters to have a greater chance at getting licenses than non-residents.

ID: 2207

The system that is currently used is a fair system! Everyone has equal opportunities to send in for tags and the ones with preference points have a better chance to get one; make sense!

ID: 2218

That west river special buck drawing is wrong. It should be after the rest of the drawings are done. This would give you one more chance to get a buck permit. This is the way it was intended to be fore how it is all money and out of state hunters.

ID: 2219

Make them shoot a doe first and sell all double tags.

ID: 2227

Stop giving out of state hunters the preferred licenses and give more to the people that suppose this state the most.

ID: 2260

Well I have applied for muzzleloader any deer tag for 4 years. I have been turned down every year. Why do some people apply the first year and get it? That is what is not fair in my mind.

ID: 2261

I have no problem with the current system.

ID: 2262

I think that it should be rotated every other year. If you draw one year you are not eligible until all the people from the year before that were turned down have a tag. What is left is open to anyone.

ID: 2292

Extend antlerless deer season, the whole month of January.

ID: 2299

In areas where there is never a leftover license there should never be 2 tag licenses. If you draw a buck tag in one season you should not have preference in another.

ID: 2309

Landowners can use landowner preference to get a license. I think that they should have to choose ahead of time if they are going to do the general drawing or landowner preference drawing, one of the other but never both.

ID: 2342

I think the system works well the way it is; Doe tags are usually available if hunters need meat and they don't affect preference points.

ID: 2349

Limit the hunter to only one tag for each east and west river seasons. Allow 1 tag to start during archery season and run through until the end of the year allowing either bow or rifle to be used with that single tag. Have season dates set so that only that weapon maybe used to harvest a buck during that allocated season. Archery only during bow season, archery or rifle during gun season, keep the late season muzzleloader hunt the trophy hunt.

ID: 2358

If a hunter wants a guarantee buck go to a hunting preserve.

ID: 2371

If a hunter gets a rifle buck tag, should not be allowed a buck tag for archery or black powder. Many times people are filled their archery or black powder tags with a rifle...even though illegal. Many hunters shouldn't apply for as many tags if they don't think they can fill them. I don't get a chance at one from my tree stand. They don't feel they are doing much wrong by just filling their archery tag with a rifle. Harder to patrol when more opportunity since they possess the tag to cheat/poach are they back use the hold the tags. Not opposed to a hunter getting more than one buck tag, but they should all be archery, black powder, or rifle.

ID: 2373

Too many licenses go to people who have applied the first time for a drawing. if 809 of the people who apply for a license have preference then 80% of the licenses should go to them!

ID: 2377

The only suggestion I have for the GF&P is that the any deer, muzzleloader season should be before the rifle season because some of bucks are starting to loose their horns and the deer are very wild and hard to get close to with a muzzleloader with open sites.

ID: 2386

I don't feel dad, mom, and son should get buck landowner tags in the same year. Then they only shoot big bucks or none.

ID: 2424

It works for me.

ID: 2435

Have to fill doe tags before they get a buck tag.

ID: 2437

Have drawings all on the same day. Make me pick my highest priority. Currently my highest priority is whatever deadline is next.

ID: 2440

I didn't go West River deer hunting because I usually apply in Harding County for whitetail deer and the whitetails have declined dramatically in number due to the severe winter weather, but I still enjoy Harding County and I think SD is one of the greatest deer hunting spots.

ID: 2464

East River seasons same date as West River seasons or better yet starts East River 1 week earlier and us West River people can go east and shoot whatever comes buy us. Like what has been happening or vise versa for years.

ID: 2467

If you could in a convenient way have to fill antlerless tags to be able to receive a buck license tag.

ID: 2470

I believe 1 statewide buck tag per archery hunter per year. As far as preferred tags, I don't know how that could be changed, I don't think it should be changed; sportsmen have plenty of hunting in SD.

ID: 2508

Some of the whitetail bucks have lost their horns by the 1st of December.

ID: 2517

Not so many people on the walk in areas if they don't know people are there. They should not hunt around that area.

ID: 2522

I would recommend combining the drawings with a system that would give preference to those hunters who only apply for one season and would be weighted against those who have applied for all 3 and/or already received a "preferred" tag.

ID: 2562

No one hunter should be allowed more than 1 buck or any deer tags in any one unit because by letting it continue 1 person having 15 deer out of 1 area is wrong makes them killers not hunters quite leasing miles and miles of walk in small areas very high death rate but low success rate. Hunters everywhere you look.

ID: 2591

With the number of hunters in our state, I think we have a good drawing system. I believe we can make it better for locals though. If like the landowner preference, we could somehow give a county resident preference we can satisfy a lot of people that live in their associated counties. We have good numbers of deer in all areas, and can improve that with management. I lived in Clark County for 15 years and got turned down about 4 times for a tag. Not a bad average but we can improve relationships in the counties by giving them a preference like the landowners. It does no good to have people in Clark County or any other county, mad when a simple solution like this may help. Why do outside people not enjoy a hunt in Clark? The resident that may own the land didn't get to.

ID: 2606

If archery hunters could receive more than one buck archery tag.

ID: 2615

Keep it simple! Complicated regulations and applications discourage some prospective hunters. Strongly oppose having higher fees for trophy buck licenses or "any" deer licenses. The average hunter needs the same opportunity to harvest a buck as the "Cabela's hunter." The current lottery system for any deer tags may be the best answer.

ID: 2628

Need to harvest more mountain lions. Need to change season on extended antlerless season. I have harvested bucks with no horns.

ID: 2643

If you are to have a muzzleloader season you should have it early instead of late, with scope sights.

ID: 2644

Focus on making laws that will increase the number and size of bucks. I would suggest requiring that there be a minimum of 3 points on one side before the deer can be harvested. Basically, if a hunter wants to shoot a buck, it had to meet this requirement, East or West. In terms of allocating licenses, a straight up lottery treated independent of other license applications is most fair. I still support the preference (year carry over) point system though, but I don't think preference should be given to applicants of multiple season in the same year. Need more public land!

ID: 2656

The present system allows preferred in 3 totally different settings. I do not prefer to hunt in the Black Hills. I do not have connections to hunt East River. I enjoy West River hunting, my age and physical conditions limit my ability to hunt on walk in areas. I do not feel the system is broken. The lottery system seems to work; if a season needs fixing I think the elk licenses seem to have a need for reform.

ID: 2667

I think people that hunt private and family owned land should have first chance before people that depend on state land.

ID: 2683

Deer will go where there is little pressure on them, and with this new idea, to give landowners a buck tag is really not a good move. If the landowner wants to harvest a big buck he will farm for a big buck by not harassing the herd. Look at the East side of Sioux Falls, why not turn this area into a special hunt for bucks as well as does.

ID: 2695

I harvest only does, I eat what I shoot.

ID: 2707

Since buck tags are in such demand, I see no Reason why a hunter should be able to harvest up to 8 or more bucks in a single year while others harvest none, if possible maybe change to a one or two buck tags in a year per hunter. Then others could get a tag also, possibly ever lowering the buck harvest and in return better quality bucks in future. To sum up get to shoot fewer but better quality bucks.

ID: 2710

The number of buck licenses need to be limited to one per person per unit. I know several individuals that buy up as many tags as possible. Even though they get

antlerless tags with the buck tags the antlerless tags never get used. They end up with a bunch of tags they don't use mean while I know people who would like to get antlerless tags and can't because they are sold out. This problem does not help in controlling the population of our deer herds and also keeps people from enjoying the outdoors.

ID: 2727

The most unfair allocations of licenses is that bow hunters get the first chance at the biggest and best bucks of all the bow hunters I know only a few will shoot a doe and wait for the largest bucks we need to have equal access to all the deer.

ID: 2734

State hunters should get preferred over out of state hunters.

ID: 2741

I really have an opinion it is just the luck of the draw.

ID: 2766

One idea is if state citizens can not get a tag in a county or have to have preference points out of state hunters should not be allowed tags. 45b it has a lot of public land but in state hunters can't get a tag every year but there is out of state hunters hunting the county.

ID: 2769

I have friends in other states that have a hard time getting deer licenses. I would like to see more special buck tags available. I don't think it is right that a person can get both an East and West river special buck tag.

ID: 2784

Less out of state any deer tags.

ID: 2814

One buck tag per hunter per season, they can get more buck tags after the 3rd drawing for the whole state. So if I had a buck tag for the Black Hills I could not get one for Jones County until after the 3rd drawing had been completed, so one buck tag per hunter but they can get all the doe and antlerless tags they want.

ID: 2818

Buck hunting is fine as is. More whitetails need to be taken overall.

ID: 2833

East River rifle has too many hunters for amount of deer I live on acreage and can't even hunt my place with a rifle, because I can't draw a tag. Don't see near the deer population as I use too. I think there should be no rifle season in Minnehaha County, should be archery and slug seasons only. There are too many people living in country and not enough room to safely shoot a rifle.

ID: 2835

In my opinion the state needs to crack down on hunters that are double dipping by putting in for their wives and kids. If you take care of that these would probably be just about enough tags for everyone. It happens a lot, especially with elk licenses.

ID: 2850

Give all residents a tag before giving any tags to non-residents. I deserve to hunt before someone who does not live in this state!

ID: 2864

I think a hunter should only have one buck tag per year. If he/she gets a buck tag for East River, they are not eligible for a buck tag for West River or Black Hills, but may still apply for buck tag archery. Any other tag should be does. This would increase the number of bucks to doe ratio in the state. There are too many "horn hunters" out there. I hear all the time where I hunt "I could care less about filling my doe tags, I just want a buck"

ID: 2879

Over all the GF&P does a good job managing licenses.

ID: 2896

Anything that increases kid's opportunities to hunt and decreases middle aged wealthy people's chances to buy all the hunting rights in the state I'm in favor of.

ID: 2908

You're doing a great job!

ID: 2925

I think the system we are using is fair. I have received preferred East and West River deer licenses in the same year and other years only received my second choice antlerless tags. However the odds of me receiving a preferred tag is the same based on my preference points as anyone else. My enjoyment of the hunt was the same regardless.

ID: 2940

Black Hills simple way too many cats. West River stays in West River, East River stay in West River.

ID: 2970

If I read the statement correctly, I like the system as is, if you put in and do not draw a license you should have a preference as we do now, allow these to add up as they do now because counties are hard to get licenses for I do not like pay hunting and the rich hunters getting more and more chances to get licenses, whether they are in state or out of state. It is getting harder to hunt every year farmers that seem to complain about deer damages are normally the ones that do not allow hunters.

ID: 2999

I think that the Black Hills buck tag and the muzzleloader buck tag you should have at least 1 year preference before you can ever draw those East River/West River

deer tags are way too popular to mess with. If a person makes it more difficult to draw on those tags some young hunters may loose interest and quit applying.

ID: 3008

Give more in state (resident tags) and less out of state tags. 3 years preference in the Hills is a little ridiculous. Residents who want the tags should have first rights to them. Understandably out of state hunters bring in more revenue to the state, but there must be some balance!

ID: 3010

I have two sons and two sons in laws; we have applied separately and as a group for the Black Hills tags. We had 4 years where no one has drawing a tag. It would be nice if you could figure out a way to get us a deer tag every 5 years or so.

ID: 3018

Doing pretty good I think!

ID: 3032

Reduce the fees but give out more licenses. Make hunter prove they harvest a deer, if not don't give them another chance for another license for a couple of years or so. Get more youth involved.

ID: 3039

Leave the current system in place.

ID: 3051

I would like to see bigger trophy bucks, I think you give out way too many buck tags to one person, me included. I would be happy with one buck a year or not even a buck tag for a while if I had a chance at a monster later. I live in Harding County and you give out way more tags than we have deer. Are you in it for the deer or the money? Why is there a January doe license? Most bucks have lost their horns by then. This also makes me think that your in it for the money not the deer.

ID: 3109

Landowners and family should get tags, first then in state, then out of state.

ID: 3147

I believe there is an over population of deer, more doe tags need to be filled but not when bucks are shedding where there is a chance to mistake a buck for a doe.

ID: 3169

I would like to see more buck tags given to the Black Hills season.

ID: 3172

Let people with the most preference points have first chance at a license.

ID: 3175

Do not allow farmers/ranchers to receive any aid from the state if they do not allow open hunting on their land. They won't let you hunt then turn to you guys when the deer are eating the hay or crops!

ID: 3185

I have applied for an elk tag in the Black Hills for 25 years and have drawn only 1 tag. I know several people who have drawn just about every elk tag that is offered. This seems to be what this buck tag is. If you could make it so 3 people got tags instead of one person getting 3 would be great.

ID: 3235

There are more private landowners complaining of over populated deer herds; or having problems with protecting the crops. These private landowners need to open up and let public land hunters such as me and my family known of their situation and these must allow public hunters access to help with over populated areas. Newspaper listings in the winter time for doe control or even turkey hunting.

ID: 3266

I own 80 acres and that's the only place I hunt! Why can't I get a landowner tag like other states allow.

ID: 3301

To get deer out of the towns.

ID: 3326

I am a farmer/rancher the number 1 reason for hunting deer is we have too many, as a group of family and friends we have strict rules on shooting bucks, we would like to see the doe and muzzleloader season extended and earlier in the season. As far as receiving a tag most hunters can draw one of the many tags available.

ID: 3350

You folks are shooting yourselves in the foot. You worry about your jobs more than you worry about hunting opportunities for the average guy. Your attitude towards landowners is hunting my grandkids future hunting; don't take credit for most of the deer in the state. Give people who raise them the credit – landowners.

ID: 3358

Give the landowners so many tags/ so many acres so they have more control.

ID: 3369

Any deer tags should not go to landowner tags. These landowner tags should be antlerless only.

ID: 3395

I think we should be able to a lager area. I would like to see us be able to hunt, Dewey, Ziebach, and Corson on the same tag.

ID: 3404

Not too shoot/harvest bucks younger then 4.5 years old.

ID: 3407

Preference points should mean something. Someone with 3 preference points should draw before someone with 2 and so on.

ID: 3420

I think landowners should get preference. They pay the majority of taxes. In some states you hunt for free on your own land. The ranchers feed the wildlife year around. The town folks don't and they expect to hunt wherever they want.

ID: 3446

I prefer a system where I can get any Black Hills tag, I have not had one in three years!

ID: 3496

Make buck only licenses available (West River Deer), with no doe hunting during antelope or archery seasons. If I apply for 3 buck tags in 3 seasons I should be able to get at least 1 licenses (archery not included). Remove all cattle and ranching activities during November (ranchers are disturbing and displacing deer onto private land for revenue priority during hunting season). Fairness is only as good as the money in pocket.

ID: 3505

Allow hunters to put in applications for only 1 buck a year.

ID: 3518

My biggest concern is when I rifle hunt in Corson County there are more Native American and out of state hunters that shoot first then look and if it is not big enough they leave it lay horns and all. They think they can run anywhere tribal, deeded, posted and it doesn't matter that's what I have a problem with.

ID: 3522

The county in which we hunt is Corson County where there are quite a few more mule deer than whitetail deer. A lot more mule tags could be issued due to the population ratio.

ID: 3528

Landowner's should not pull out of the resident licenses. This is the reason I didn't get a West River deer buck tag.

ID: 3558

Only allow SD residents not out of state students (college) to receive buck tags in Brookings County.

ID: 3562

The current system is working.

ID: 3573

Give tags to resident's first then let out of state hunters have what is left. We pay taxes here they don't.

ID: 3587

It is hard to let you know opinions without the numbers? Like how many license are sold to all 3 seasons or 2 seasons or 1 season by the same person verse how many just get the 1 season in there area. I would think that not many West River Season license holders do not get an East River licenses and vice versa there may be more that get a West or East and Hills tag though? Need to see the numbers.

ID: 3589

It seems that out of state hunters have less of a problem getting a license each year. Is money what drives this?

ID: 3599

4 points or better (4 on each side or at least one side) for both the Hills and Prairie. Increase mountain lion tags, hunt with dogs apply or obtain I should say either West River or East River antlerless tags, but not both. Leave Black Hills out of that, too tough to hunt as it is don't punish hunter's fortunate enough to draw a Hills tags. No more depredation hunts after December. If landowners want does shot do it early in the year don't risk shooting bucks off the haystack.

ID: 3616

All hunters to get the license they apply for to help control the population.

ID: 3620

You need to rebuild the deer herd. It's the poorest I've seen in 50 years of hunting.

ID: 3634

I think the preference point system is a good one however I have seen several times where people have 2 or 3 points for a season and someone with no points gets a tag that should not happen in my opinion. Unless there is an allotted amount for youth then I'm behind that 100%.

ID: 3684

West River hunters should get first shot at West River tags.

ID: 3714

I think every hunter how wants a buck taken should get one. Whoever wants more than 1 buck will have to pay to get another buck tag.

ID: 3733

I notice that this survey doesn't ask about West River doe tags or East River doe tags (whitetail). I had a West river whitetail doe tag and saw only 3 in Butte County.

ID: 3739

Allow so many "preferred" licenses every so many years per person. Such as someone can have 3 "preferred" license every 4 years. They can do one each year and then go 1 year without or all 3 in one year and then 3 years without. Allow 1 "preferred" per person per year. So if someone gets a West River "preferred" they can't get an East River or Black Hills that same year.

ID: 3740

That you would get preferred in own county every other year.

ID: 3754

You only get 2 weeks to hunt archery deer before the gun shots start and mess everything up. You should only have two weeks long rifle season and no hunting antelope during deer season if you can't fill it.

ID: 3764

I honestly think that only one buck tag should be purchased by a hunter with the exception of archery, because archery is hard enough, but by decreasing rifle buck tags to one per person per year would prevent one person from getting at least two buck tags for rifle. It makes it fair to everyone who loves to hunt and it would give more people a chance to draw a buck tag. I also think the group tags should be gone. I feel that it's 100% unfair to other hunters who get denied a buck tag because a group of two or four guys get one, and only get it because a primary hunter they group under had preference points. One buck tag per year I believe would make more hunters want to apply because their chances of getting one increase by that much more.

ID: 3770

Eliminate multiple buck tags except to landowners.

ID: 3783

Preference for hunt safe instructors.

ID: 3802

Please leave the current system in place. Why change something that works? If someone gets 3 any deer tags one year and the next hunter gets none. I would imagine it will be the other way around the following year. I reside in Hughes County and apply in one West and one East River County. I see where question 13 is going and strongly oppose. If someone is concerned with drawing an any deer tags every year apply in a county with ore successful chances. I believe the current system is plenty fair.

ID: 3824

In Pennington West River, if landowners let you hunt some won't let you shoot bucks or won't let you hunt at all cut their government lease land or BLM school land for cows grazing. Hills deer elk, bad cats have killed off deer and elk. Also seems wolfs in Custer area not coyotes cut more Hills tags. I've hunted where I was 12 years old and with my dad and old timers our deer for Hills are the pits. Muzzleloader deer buck tags need to be the entire season and started sooner.

ID: 3845

No matter what way they do it is usually means even less deer on public lands!

ID: 3850

I feel the local hunters should get first preference. For instance Black Hills rifle should have first preference given to West River hunters before East River hunters. Some should be applied to West River and East River seasons.

ID: 3856

It is a lottery drawing some win some don't; it's a game of luck.

ID: 3859

Increase the limits on mountain lions.

ID: 3865

Reduce the number of tags and increase the habitat.

ID: 3867

Give people with high preference point's higher odds of drawing a tag.

ID: 3875

I do not use a computer; the paper applications have a deadline. I don't think someone should have Monday after Friday deadline to apply on line. If they are not interested in getting a license on time tough luck.

ID: 3895

A person should only be able to get (2) preferred licenses in one season.

ID: 3906

Hunters need to learn and respect landowner's property. I've seen too many split fences and road shooting by hunters that do not respect the boundaries. This past year we had to repair fence by a disrespectful hunter.

ID: 3913

One deer license per person per year.

ID: 3952

The current system is about as fair as you can get. I have never personally had a season that I didn't get at least 1 preferred tag and if I didn't get one there are usually preferred tags left over in another unit. With preference points for each tag/unit you don't draw 1st choice on you better your odds the following year. I would rather have the opportunity to draw 3 tags and only get 1 than only be able to enter a drawing for 1.

ID: 3964

I think the way you have it now us good. Us landowners feed the deer so we should be able to get the landowner preference. We need to make the season shorter for shooting bucks. There is no way to hold bucks on your land as long as you leave East and West River rifle season open that long.

ID: 3970

Until you limit the size of bucks you can take it really makes no difference 4x4 minimum of other limitations.

ID: 9997

I'm a landowner/resident and always get my buck tags so don't care about the other jokers.

ID: 9998

Make out of state hunters pay more!

Appendix F. East/West River deer hunter survey – Preferred management options.

Appendix F – Table 1. Management Option: Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting.

Attitude (scale)	Shorter deer seasons for buck hunting.					
	Number	Percent				
Strongly Oppose (-3)	888	32.3%				
Moderately Oppose (-2)	397	14.5%				
Slightly Oppose (-1)	291	10.6%				
Neutral (0)	704	25.6%				
Slightly Favor (+1)	183	6.7%				
Moderately Favor (+2)	124	4.5%				
Strongly Favor (+3)	159	5.8%				
Total	2,746	100%				
Mean / 95% C.I.	-1.03	-1.10 – -0.97				
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	674	57.9%	902	57.1%		
NEUTRAL	297	25.5%	407	25.7%		
FAVOR	194	16.7%	272	17.2%		
Total	1,165	100%	1,581	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=0.212$; $df=2$; $p=0.900$						
Mean	-1.05		-1.02			
95% C.I.	-1.16 – -0.95		-1.11 – -0.93			
ANOVA: $F=0.233$; $df=1/2,744$; $p=0.629$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	701	52.5%	863	62.1%	12	54.5%
NEUTRAL	373	28.0%	324	23.3%	7	31.8%
FAVOR	260	19.5%	203	14.6%	3	13.6%
Total	1,334	100%	1,390	100%	22	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=26.102$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	-0.87		-1.20		-0.91	
95% C.I.	-0.97 – -0.77		-1.29 – -1.10		-1.67 – -0.15	
ANOVA: $F=22.429$; $df=1/2,722$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 2. Management Option: Not hunting during the rut.

Attitude (scale)	Not hunting during the rut.					
	Number	Percent				
Strongly Oppose (-3)	1,108	40.2%				
Moderately Oppose (-2)	417	15.1%				
Slightly Oppose (-1)	257	9.3%				
Neutral (0)	581	21.1%				
Slightly Favor (+1)	123	4.5%				
Moderately Favor (+2)	107	3.9%				
Strongly Favor (+3)	160	5.8%				
Total	2,753	100%				
Mean / 95% C.I.	-1.31	-1.38 – -1.24				
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	783	67.0%	999	63.1%		
NEUTRAL	234	20.0%	347	21.9%		
FAVOR	152	13.0%	238	15.0%		
Total	1,169	100%	1,584	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=4.671$; $df=1$; $p=0.097$						
Mean	-1.41		-1.23			
95% C.I.	-1.51 – -1.30		-1.33 – -1.14			
ANOVA: $F=5.921$; $df=1/2,751$; $p=0.015$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	790	59.1%	976	70.0%	16	72.7%
NEUTRAL	329	24.6%	249	17.9%	3	13.6%
FAVOR	218	16.3%	169	12.1%	3	13.6%
Total	1,337	100%	1,394	100%	22	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=35.693$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	-1.10		-1.50		-1.41	
95% C.I.	-1.20 – -1.00		-1.60 – -1.41		-2.34 – -0.47	
ANOVA: $F=33.245$; $df=1/2,729$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 3. Management Option: Decrease the number of any-deer tags.

Attitude (scale)	Decrease the number of any-deer tags.					
	Number	Percent				
Strongly Oppose (-3)	853	31.2%				
Moderately Oppose (-2)	357	13.0%				
Slightly Oppose (-1)	316	11.5%				
Neutral (0)	657	24.0%				
Slightly Favor (+1)	258	9.4%				
Moderately Favor (+2)	147	5.4%				
Strongly Favor (+3)	150	5.5%				
Total	2,738	100%				
Mean / 95% C.I.	-0.94	-1.01 – -0.88				
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	604	51.8%	922	58.6%		
NEUTRAL	282	24.2%	375	23.8%		
FAVOR	279	23.9%	276	17.5%		
Total	1,165	100%	1,573	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=19.074$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	-0.81		-1.04			
95% C.I.	-0.92 – -0.70		-1.13 – -0.95			
ANOVA: $F=10.854$; $df=1/2,736$; $p=0.001$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	715	53.7%	798	57.7%	13	56.5%
NEUTRAL	346	26.0%	307	22.2%	4	17.4%
FAVOR	271	20.3%	278	20.1%	6	26.1%
Total	1,332	100%	1,383	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=6.016$; $df=2$; $p=0.049$						
Mean	-0.90		-0.99		-0.74	
95% C.I.	-1.00 – -0.80		-1.09 – -0.89		-1.69 – 0.21	
ANOVA: $F=1.635$; $df=1/2,713$; $p=0.201$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 4. Management Option: Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill/year.

Attitude (scale)	Limit the number of bucks a hunter can kill/year.					
	Number		Percent			
Strongly Oppose (-3)	411		15.0%			
Moderately Oppose (-2)	161		5.9%			
Slightly Oppose (-1)	205		7.5%			
Neutral (0)	526		19.1%			
Slightly Favor (+1)	401		14.6%			
Moderately Favor (+2)	412		15.0%			
Strongly Favor (+3)	632		23.0%			
Total	2,748		100%			
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.50		0.42 – 0.57			
Survey Method						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	321	27.6%	456	28.8%		
NEUTRAL	223	19.2%	303	19.1%		
FAVOR	620	53.3%	825	52.1%		
Total	1,164	100%	1,584	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=0.526$; $df=2$; $p=0.769$						
Mean	0.50		0.49			
95% C.I.	0.39 – 0.62		0.39 – 0.59			
ANOVA: $F=0.039$; $df=1/2,746$; $p=0.844$						
License Type						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	334	25.0%	435	31.3%	8	34.8%
NEUTRAL	266	19.9%	252	18.1%	8	34.8%
FAVOR	736	55.1%	702	50.5%	7	30.4%
Total	1,336	100%	1,389	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=13.422$; $df=2$; $p=0.001$						
Mean	0.66		0.35		-0.22	
95% C.I.	0.55 – 0.77		0.24 – 0.46		-0.93 – 0.50	
ANOVA: $F=16.005$; $df=1/2,723$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 5. Management Option: Shortening deer seasons in January (because some bucks have lost their antlers and may be harvested with antlerless permits).

Attitude (scale)	Shortening deer seasons in January.					
	Number		Percent			
Strongly Oppose (-3)	425		15.5%			
Moderately Oppose (-2)	253		9.2%			
Slightly Oppose (-1)	212		7.7%			
Neutral (0)	801		29.1%			
Slightly Favor (+1)	272		9.9%			
Moderately Favor (+2)	244		8.9%			
Strongly Favor (+3)	541		19.7%			
Total	2,748		100%			
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.14		0.07 – 0.22			
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
	OPPOSED	365 31.4%	525 33.1%			
NEUTRAL	376 32.3%	425 26.8%				
FAVOR	422 36.3%	635 40.1%				
Total	1,163 100%	1,585 100%				
Chi-square: $X^2=10.118$; $df=2$; $p=0.006$						
Mean	0.10		0.17			
95% C.I.	-0.01 – 0.21		0.07 – 0.27			
ANOVA: $F=0.887$; $df=1/2,746$; $p=0.346$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	OPPOSED	439 32.9%	447 32.1%	4 17.4%		
NEUTRAL	399 29.9%	390 28.0%	12 52.2%			
FAVOR	495 37.1%	555 39.9%	7 30.4%			
Total	1,333 100%	1,392 100%	23 100%			
Chi-square: $X^2=2.327$; $df=2$; $p=0.312$						
Mean	0.10		0.18		0.26	
95% C.I.	-0.01 – 0.21		0.07 – 0.29		-0.53 – 1.06	
ANOVA: $F=10129$; $df=1/2,723$; $p=0.314$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 6. Management Option: Reduce the archery harvest.

Attitude (scale)	Reduce the archery harvest.					
	Number		Percent			
Strongly Oppose (-3)	958		34.8%			
Moderately Oppose (-2)	315		11.5%			
Slightly Oppose (-1)	220		8.0%			
Neutral (0)	746		27.1%			
Slightly Favor (+1)	168		6.1%			
Moderately Favor (+2)	141		5.1%			
Strongly Favor (+3)	201		7.3%			
Total	2,749		100%			
Mean / 95% C.I.	-0.97		-1.04 – -0.90			
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	655	56.1%	838	53.0%		
NEUTRAL	329	28.2%	417	26.4%		
FAVOR	183	15.7%	327	20.7%		
Total	1,167	100%	1,582	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=11.072$; $df=2$; $p=0.004$						
Mean	-1.10		-0.87			
95% C.I.	-1.21 – -1.00		-0.97 – -0.78			
ANOVA: $F=9.829$; $df=1/2,747$; $p=0.002$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	689	51.6%	792	57.0%	12	52.2%
NEUTRAL	366	27.4%	372	26.8%	8	34.8%
FAVOR	281	21.0%	226	16.3%	3	13.0%
Total	1,336	100%	1,390	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.114$; $df=2$; $p=0.002$						
Mean	-0.81		-1.12		-1.04	
95% C.I.	-0.92 – -0.71		-1.22 – -1.03		-1.90 – -0.18	
ANOVA: $F=18.039$; $df=1/2,724$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 7. Management Option: Reduce the muzzleloader harvest.

Attitude (scale)	Reduce the muzzleloader harvest.					
	Number	Percent				
Strongly Oppose (-3)	796	29.0%				
Moderately Oppose (-2)	329	12.0%				
Slightly Oppose (-1)	232	8.5%				
Neutral (0)	894	32.6%				
Slightly Favor (+1)	184	6.7%				
Moderately Favor (+2)	126	4.6%				
Strongly Favor (+3)	180	6.6%				
Total	2,741	100%				
Mean / 95% C.I.	-0.84	-0.91 – -0.77				
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	586	50.3%	771	48.9%		
NEUTRAL	393	33.7%	501	31.8%		
FAVOR	186	16.0%	304	19.3%		
Total	1,165	100%	1,576	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=5.173$; $df=2$; $p=0.075$						
Mean	-0.92		-0.78			
95% C.I.	-1.02 – -0.82		-0.87 – -0.69			
ANOVA: $F=3.863$; $df=1/2,739$; $p=0.049$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	612	45.9%	735	53.0%	10	43.5%
NEUTRAL	452	33.9%	434	31.3%	8	34.8%
FAVOR	268	20.1%	217	15.7%	5	21.7%
Total	1,332	100%	1,386	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=15.894$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Mean	-0.69		-0.99		-0.74	
95% C.I.	-0.79 – -0.59		-1.08 – -0.89		-1.64 – 0.16	
ANOVA: $F=18.231$; $df=1/2,716$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix F – Table 8. Management Option: Reduce the rifle harvest.

Attitude (scale)	Reduce the rifle harvest.					
	Number	Percent				
Strongly Oppose (-3)	893	32.5%				
Moderately Oppose (-2)	378	13.7%				
Slightly Oppose (-1)	268	9.7%				
Neutral (0)	740	26.9%				
Slightly Favor (+1)	200	7.3%				
Moderately Favor (+2)	132	4.8%				
Strongly Favor (+3)	139	5.1%				
Total	2,750	100%				
Mean / 95% C.I.	-1.03	-1.09 – -0.96				
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	Survey Method					
	Internet		Mail			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
OPPOSED	628	53.8%	911	57.5%		
NEUTRAL	321	27.5%	419	26.5%		
FAVOR	218	18.7%	253	16.0%		
Total	1,167	100%	1,583	100%		
Chi-square: $X^2=4.799$; $df=2$; $p=0.091$						
Mean	-0.95		-1.08			
95% C.I.	-1.06 – -0.85		-1.17 – -0.99			
ANOVA: $F=3.368$; $df=1/2,748$; $p=0.067$						
SUMMARIZED ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	738	55.2%	790	56.8%	11	50.0%
NEUTRAL	368	27.5%	365	26.2%	7	31.8%
FAVOR	230	17.2%	237	17.0%	4	18.2%
Total	1,336	100%	1,392	100%	22	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.738$; $df=2$; $p=0.692$						
Mean	-0.99		-1.06		-0.77	
95% C.I.	-1.09 – -0.89		-1.16 – -0.97		-1.62 – 0.07	
ANOVA: $F=1.076$; $df=1/2,726$; $p=0.300$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G. Comparison of an East River and West River deer hunter sample (2010).

Appendix G – Table 1. Mean days hunted (for all types of deer hunting) by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010 analyzed by license type.

Days of Deer Hunting –2010	License Type		
	East River	West River	Both Samples
Mean Days	7.9	8.3	12.0
95% C.I.	7.44 – 8.4	7.78 – 8.72	5.81 – 18.19
Number	1,407	1,455	22
ANOVA: F=2.412; df=2/2,881; p=0.090			

¹Calculations include hunters that did not hunt.

Appendix G – Table 2. Mean harvest of deer (for all types of deer hunting) by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license in 2010 analyzed by license type.

Type of Harvest	License Type			p-value
	East River	West River	Both	
Bucks Harvested	0.51	0.81	1.10	<0.001
95% C.I.	0.47 – 0.55	0.76 – 0.85	0.45 – 1.74	
Number	1,348	1,407	21	
Does Harvested	0.80	1.06	1.05	<0.001
95% C.I.	0.74 – 0.86	0.99 – 1.13	0.41 – 1.68	
Number	1,348	1,407	21	
Deer Harvested	1.31	1.86	2.14	<0.001
95% C.I.	1.24 – 1.39	1.77 – 1.95	1.17 – 3.11	
Number	1,348	1,407	21	

Appendix G – Table 3. Hunting (and harvest) during the extended antlerless deer hunting during the extended East River and/or West River rifle deer season in January (January 1-9, 2011) analyzed by license type.

Hunting during extended antlerless deer season (Jan. 1-9, 2011)	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	1,075	76.3%	1,123	77.0%	14	60.9%
YES	333	23.7%	336	23.0%	9	39.1%
Total	1,408	100%	1,459	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.155$; $df=1$; $p=0.694$						
If Yes, How many days?	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	111	33.3%	174	43.8%	4	44.4%
2	97	29.7%	103	30.7%	3	33.3%
3	57	17.4%	33	9.8%	1	11.1%
4	28	8.6%	24	7.1%	0	0.0%
5	15	4.6%	12	3.6%	1	11.1%
6	6	1.8%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%
7	4	1.2%	6	1.8%	0	0.0%
8	2	0.6%	4	1.2%	0	0.0%
9	7	2.1%	5	1.5%	0	0.0%
Total	327	100%	336	100%	9	100%
Mean Days	2.46		2.20		2.00	
95% C.I.	2.28 – 2.65		2.02 – 2.38		0.98 – 3.02	
ANOVA: $F=4.068$; $df=1/661$; $p=0.044$						
How many deer did you harvest?	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	214	65.0%	158	47.0%	7	77.8%
1	87	26.4%	109	32.4%	1	11.1%
2	21	6.4%	50	14.9%	0	0.0%
3	5	1.5%	11	3.3%	1	11.1%
4	2	0.6%	3	0.9%	0	0.0%
5	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
6	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	0	0.0%
7	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
8	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
9	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Total	3329	100%	336	100%	9	100%
Mean Deer	0.46		0.85		0.44	
95% C.I.	0.38 – 0.54		0.73 – 0.98		-0.33 – 1.22	
ANOVA: $F=27.532$; $df=1/663$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 4. Types of deer licenses East River & West River deer hunters had in 2010.

Deer License	East River			West River		
	#	%	% of Cases	#	%	% of Cases
East River Deer	1,435	61.7%	100%	370	13.4%	25.2%
East River Special Buck	8	0.3%	0.6%	8	0.3%	0.5%
West River Deer	206	8.9%	14.4%	1,467	53.2%	100%
West River Special Buck	3	0.1%	0.2%	16	0.6%	1.1%
Black Hills Deer	31	1.3%	2.2%	133	4.8%	9.1%
Archery Deer (statewide)	148	6.4%	10.3%	211	7.6%	14.4%
Archery Deer (East River)	140	6.0%	9.8%	93	3.4%	6.3%
Archery Deer (West River)	35	1.5%	2.4%	130	4.7%	8.9%
Antlerless Archery Deer	94	4.0%	6.6%	102	3.7%	7.0%
Refuge Deer	11	0.5%	0.8%	9	0.3%	0.6%
Muzzleloader Deer	106	4.6%	7.4%	106	3.8%	7.2%
Landowner/Operator Special	19	0.8%	1.3%	27	1.0%	1.8%
Youth Deer	31	1.3%	2.2%	25	0.9%	1.7%
Mentor Deer License	24	1.0%	1.7%	29	1.1%	2.0%
Free Landowner Deer	12	0.5%	0.8%	6	0.2%	0.4%
Custer State Park Deer	1	<0.01%	0.1%	3	0.1%	0.2%
S.D. Tribal Deer License	4	0.2%	0.3%	10	0.4%	0.7%
A deer license in another state	17	0.7%	1.2%	15	0.5%	1.0%
Responses	2,325	100%		2,760	100%	
Cases			162.0%			188.1%

Appendix G – Table 5. Number of different types of deer licenses held by East/West River deer hunters analyzed by license type (2010).

Number of Types of Deer Licenses	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	894	63.0%	732	49.9%	--	--
2	316	22.3%	409	27.9%	13	54.2%
3	123	8.7%	185	12.6%	7	29.2%
4	53	3.7%	95	6.5%	1	4.2%
5	27	1.9%	32	2.2%	2	8.3%
6	5	0.4%	11	0.7%	1	4.2%
7	1	0.1%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
8	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Total	1,419	100%	1,467	100%	24	100%
Mean License Types	1.61		1.86		2.79	
95% C.I.	1.56 – 1.66		1.81 – 1.92		2.27 – 3.27	
ANOVA: F=43.232; df=1/2,884; p<0.001						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 6. East/West River licensed deer hunters’ most preferred deer season analyzed by license type (2010).

Deer Season	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
East River rifle deer	959	69.4%	132	9.2%	9	39.1%
West River rifle deer	124	9.0%	897	62.7%	10	43.5%
Black Hills rifle deer	48	3.5%	124	8.7%	2	8.7%
Archery deer	166	12.0%	179	12.5%	1	4.3%
Muzzleloader deer	19	1.4%	19	1.3%	0	0.0%
Refuge deer	5	0.4%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
No Opinion	61	4.4%	77	5.4%	1	4.3%
Total	1,382	100%	1,430	100%	23	100%

Chi-square: $X^2=1248.878$; $df=6$; $p<0.001$

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Motivations for Deer Hunting

Appendix G – Table 7. Summary of importance ratings for the seven motivations rated by deer hunters with a 2010 East and/or West River deer license and summary statistics comparing survey method and license type (*see Appendix C*).

Comparisons of License Type (East River vs. West River)		
Motivation	(ANOVA) <i>p</i> -value	Eta ²
Nature	.001	.004
Social	.079	.001
Excitement	.607	<.001
Challenge	.093	.001
Solitude	.689	<.001
Meat	.160	.001
Trophy	.294	<.001

Attitudes Related to Deer Hunting

Appendix G – Table 10. East/West River deer hunters’ rating of the importance of harvesting a deer and having an un-crowded, undisturbed hunting trip to overall satisfaction with their deer hunting season analyzed by license type.

Importance (scale)	License Type			
	Harvesting a Deer		Un-Crowded Hunt	
	East River	West River	East River	West River
Very Important (3)	20.1%	23.4%	61.0%	66.15
Moderately Important (2)	45.4%	43.0%	27.4%	24.6%
Slightly Important (1)	21.8%	21.5%	8.5%	6.6%
Not Important (0)	11.8%	10.3%	1.6%	1.3%
No Opinion (missing)	0.9%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%
Number	1,370	1,422	1,371	1,424
Chi-Square:	$p=0.071$		$p=0.066$	
Mean	1.75	1.81	2.50	2.58
95% C.I.	1.70 – 1.79	1.76 – 1.86	2.46 – 2.54	2.54 – 2.61
ANOVA:	$p=0.067$		$p=0.004$	

Appendix G – Table 11-A. East/West River deer hunters’ attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by license type.

<i>A deer hunting trip can be satisfying to me even if I don't kill a deer.</i>						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	114	8.4%	98	6.9%	1	4.3%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	133	9.7%	106	7.4%	1	4.3%
AGREE	1,118	81.9%	1,216	85.7%	21	91.3%
Total	1,365	100%	1,419	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=7.572$; $df=2$; $p=0.023$						
Mean (-2 to +2)	1.20		1.33		1.52	
95% C.I.	1.14 – 1.25		1.28 – 1.38		1.11 – 1.93	
ANOVA: $F=12.603$; $df=1/2,782$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 11-B. East/West River deer hunters’ attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by license type.

<i>I am only interested in hunting for a buck, i.e., I will not shoot an antlerless deer.</i>						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	957	70.4%	1,012	71.4%	14	60.9%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	232	17.1%	226	15.9%	7	30.4%
AGREE	171	12.6%	179	12.6%	2	8.7%
Total	1,360	100%	1,417	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.628$; $df=2$; $p=0.730$						
Mean (-2 to +2)	-1.03		-1.04		-0.96	
95% C.I.	-1.09 – -0.96		-1.10 – -0.98		-1.47 – -0.44	
ANOVA: $F=0.052$; $df=1/2,775$; $p=0.820$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 11-C. East/West River deer hunters’ attitudes related to deer hunting analyzed by license type.

<i>I am only interested in hunting for a “large” buck, i.e., I will pass up bucks that do not measure up to my standards.</i>						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISAGREE	589	43.3%	512	36.2%	7	30.4%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	238	17.5%	199	14.1%	1	4.3%
AGREE	534	39.2%	705	49.8%	15	65.2%
Total	1,361	100%	1,416	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=31.389$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-2 to +2)	-0.12		0.16		0.52	
95% C.I.	-0.20 – -0.04		0.08 – 0.23		-0.18 – 1.22	
ANOVA: $F=24.599$; $df=1/2,775$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Deer Hunting Seasons in South Dakota

Appendix G – Table 12-A. East/West River deer hunters’ attitude towards having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that like this type of deer hunting opportunity analyzed by license type.

SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
DISLIKE	113	8.4%	136	9.7%	1	4.3%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	776	57.4%	693	49.6%	13	56.5%
LIKE	463	34.2%	568	40.7%	9	39.1%
Total	1,352	100%	1,397	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=16.775$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	0.53		0.66		0.83	
95% C.I.	0.46 – 0.60		0.59 – 0.74		0.23 – 1.42	
ANOVA: $F=5.978$; $df=1/2,747$; $p=0.015$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 12-B. East/West River deer hunters’ desire to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota analyzed by license type.

Attitude	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
None	63	4.7%	82	6.0%	0	0.0%
Less	105	7.9%	105	7.6%	1	4.3%
Current Number	803	60.4%	790	57.3%	16	69.6%
A little More	280	21.1%	323	23.4%	5	21.7%
A Lot More	78	5.9%	78	5.5%	1	4.3%
Total	1,329	100%	1,378	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=4.777$; $df=4$; $p=0.311$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 13. East/West River deer hunters’ rating of the fairness of the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer licenses and attitude towards changing the current system analyzed by license type.

Attitude: How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of “preferred” deer license is?						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
UNFAIR	525	38.3%	505	35.3%	8	34.8%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	510	37.2%	489	34.4%	7	30.4%
FAIR	337	24.6%	436	30.5%	8	34.8%
Total	1,372	100%	1,430	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=12.314$; $df=2$; $p=0.002$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	-0.18		0.02		0.35	
95% C.I.	-0.27 – -0.09		-0.08 – 0.11		-0.45 – 1.15	
ANOVA: $F=9.222$; $df=1/2,800$; $p=0.002$						
Attitude: How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters’ chances of getting at least one “preferred” deer license per year?						
SUMMARIZED RESULTS	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSED	113	8.2%	161	11.3%	5	21.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	417	30.4%	445	31.2%	6	26.1%
FAVOR	842	61.4%	820	57.5%	12	52.2%
Total	1,372	100%	1,426	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=8.571$; $df=2$; $p=0.014$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	1.07		0.93		0.70	
95% C.I.	1.00 – 1.15		0.85 – 1.01		-0.16 – 1.55	
ANOVA: $F=6.573$; $df=1/2,796$; $p=0.010$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 14. East/West River deer hunters’ preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days) analyzed by license type.

Preference for extended season	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Eliminate	142	10.3%	147	10.3%	2	8.7%
Reduce the length	33	2.4%	29	2.0%	1	4.3%
Keep Same Length	495	36.1%	499	35.1%	6	26.1%
Increase the length	508	37.0%	535	37.6%	10	43.5%
No Opinion	194	14.1%	213	15.0%	4	17.4%
Total	1,372	100%	1,423	100%	23	100%

Chi-square: $X^2=1.016$; $df=4$; $p=0.907$

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 15. East/West River deer hunters’ preferred dates of the extended antlerless deer season analyzed by license type.

Preference	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Always be January 1 – 9	210	15.5%	196	14.0%	5	21.7%
Start on the Saturday after Christmas and run for 9 days	496	36.6%	489	34.9%	4	17.4%
Start on December 26 and run through January 3, regardless of the day of the week	163	12.0%	176	12.5%	1	4.3%
No Opinion	485	35.8%	542	38.6%	13	56.5%
Total	1,354	100%	1,403	100%	23	100%

Chi-square: $X^2=3.325$; $df=3$; $p=0.344$

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 16. East/West River deer hunters’ attitude towards having an early (October) antlerless deer seasons (when needed to reduce the deer population and not enough antlerless deer were being harvested during the regular and extended deer seasons) analyzed by license type.

ATTITUDE	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
OPPOSE	423	30.9%	450	31.5%	9	39.1%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	233	17.0%	240	16.8%	4	17.4%
FAVOR	712	52.0%	739	51.7%	10	43.5%
Total	1,368	100%	1,429	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.111$; $df=2$; $p=0.946$						
Mean (-3 to +3)	0.41		0.41		0.09	
95% C.I.	0.30 – 0.53		0.30 – 0.52		-0.82 – 1.00	
ANOVA: $F=0.004$; $df=1/2,794$; $p=0.950$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 17. East/West River deer hunters’ opinion of the length of the regular East/West River deer season (is 16 days for most hunting units) analyzed by license type.

Preference (length of regular East/West River rifle deer season)	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Too Short	425	31.0%	473	33.2%	7	30.4%
Just Right	790	57.7%	819	57.4%	14	60.9%
Too Long	82	6.0%	62	4.3%	1	4.3%
No Opinion	72	5.3%	72	5.0%	1	4.3%
Total	1,369	100%	1,426	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=4.706$; $df=3$; $p=0.195$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

East/West River Deer Hunters’ Preferred Management Options → Appendix F

Sample Description - Demographics

Appendix G – Table 18. Landownership by East/West River deer hunters (2010) analyzed by license type.

Own land outside town/city boundaries?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NO	869	64.2%	953	67.8%	14	60.9%
YES	484	35.8%	452	32.2%	9	39.1%
Total	1,353	100%	1,405	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=3.988$; $df=1$; $p=0.046$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 19. East/West River deer hunters: percent farmer/rancher analyzed by license type.

Are you're a farmer/rancher?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No	1,015	75.7%	1,133	81.1%	18	81.8%
Yes – Part-time	185	13.8%	171	12.2%	2	9.1%
Yes – Full-time	140	10.4%	93	6.7%	2	9.1%
Total	1,340	100%	1,397	100%	22	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=15.333$; $df=2$; $p<0.001$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 20. East/West River deer hunters: type of residence analyzed by license type.

Is your residence...?	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	501	37.3%	440	31.5%	11	47.8%
Small Town	423	31.5%	469	33.5%	3	13.0%
City	420	31.3%	490	35.0%	9	39.1%
Total	1,344	100%	1,399	100%	23	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=10.613$; $df=2$; $p=0.005$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 21. East/West River deer hunters: gender and age analyzed by license type.

Gender	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	1,247	92.9%	1,311	93.6%	20	90.9%
Female	96	7.1%	89	6.4%	2	9.1%
Total	1,343	100%	1,400	100%	22	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.682$; $df=1$; $p=0.409$						
Age	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Mean Age		Mean Age		Mean Age	
	42.9 years		43.3 years		41.5 years	
95% C.I.	41.98 – 43.73		42.44 – 44.11		34.27 – 48.68	
Number	1,344		1,402		22	
ANOVA: $F=0.472$; $df=1/2,744$; $p=0.472$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix G – Table 22. Percent returns by survey method by license type (2010).

Survey Method	License Type					
	East River		West River		Both Samples ¹	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Internet	592	41.7%	635	43.3%	9	37.5%
Mail	827	58.3%	832	56.7%	15	62.5%
Total	1,419	100%	1,467	100%	24	100%
Chi-square: $X^2=0.724$; $df=1$; $p=0.395$						

¹The “Both” category is not included in the statistical tests due to small sample size.

Appendix H. Optional comments provided by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license responding via the Internet (2010).

ID	Optional comments by East/West River deer hunters -- 2010.
25	Snow greatly hindered my antler-less deer hunting during the extended season, as it has most years during the antler-less only season. As i am primarily a meat hunter, i prefer to wait until the extended season due to the lack of hunting pressure, and was very disappointed that i was unable to harvest any deer this year because i just couldnt get to the deer because of the deep snow. I think opening antler-less deer hunting immediately after the regular season would greatly eliminate the number of bucks shot that have lost their antlers, as well as increase the amount of does harvested via more cooperative weather.
46	Keep doe season open until Dec 30. Maybe close for a few days. More doe days in Dec before the deep snow limits you and the bucks drop horns
66	Please see previous comments. I think GFP is very progressive in providing hunting area for those hunters that do not have private places to hunt. This must continue to provide a place for young and old hunters alike. My personal opinion is that youngsters that have the opportunity to have a decent deer hunt will grow to be great citizens of our state and this also depends upon who are their mentors. Deer hunting should be an experience to enjoy the outdoors,a time to get to solidify and or develop a close life-time relationship with your son or daughter and or continue a fellowship with friends or relatives. The idea that it is a must to shoot a "TROPHY BUCK" is the essence of a great deer hunt has probably ruined many a deer hunt for young and old. Yes, I think the youth deer hunt is a Great Program and has reaped many rewards for parents and youths alike. I'm 76 years old and have not missed a hunting deer season (sometimes only East River)except for one or two years and consider deer hunting as a special time during my life time. My 3 sons deer hunted with me as they were growing up and times we shared together are priceless. Thanks for the opportunity to respond Craig D. Smith PE(Retired) 702 Bridgeview Pierre, SD 576501
70	By and large I would say the GFP does a good job of managing the dee hunting opportunities in the state. I would like to see more options for "antlered" muzzle loader deer licenses. Perhaps more licenses or more licenses reserved for people that have 5 or more preference points. Maybe after a person gets an antlered ML tag they need to sit out the drawing for a year or two, similar to the Black Hills elk tag. I hunt deer in many different locations in the state and I would consider a statewide any deer tag such as the ML tag to be highly desireable. I would also like to see the option of using optics on ML rifles. Unfortunately, my eyes are not what they used to be and a scope sight would make a shot more accurate and would help eliminate wounding that may sometimes occur. After all, even with a scope a ML rifle is still a 100 to 150 yard weapon that is slow to reload.
74	1) Eliminate rifle hunting East River. This would drastically reduce road hunting which is a HUGE problem east river. The use of archery eqpt, slug guns and or muzzle loading firearms only for East River. This would go a long ways in improving the quality of bucks as well as the overall hunting experience.
77	I have a family contact for hunting East River in Hand county otherwise it is almost impossible to obtain permission on private property....also I have a good friend who owns a ranch in Stanley county where it is impossible to hunt private property unless you have a family or friend. Turners Bad River Ranches has taken most of the Whitetail Deer population away from the average joe hunter which leads to Extreme over

	crowding of Public Hunting areas in Stanley Co. which in turn decimates the deer in those areas. When McQuistions WIA first opened 6 years ago I hunted there and there were lots of deer....now there are only a few in comparison same goes for the Corps of Engineer property around the Dam. The average joe needs more opportunities. I consider myself very fortunate that I currently have a few private pieces of land to hunt with quality deer on them.
88	i do not like the archery rule about counties close to interstate around sioux falls. only 2 tags allowed , i used to hunt close to town and now i am only allowed 2 tags. there is an over population yet archery is only allowed 2 tags. i feel this is unfair and not very smart. why limit archery tags as there are more hunters that would choose to take more deer closer to where they live and need to be harvested from???
90	Deer hunting is what you make of it. Big bucks are far and few between but the small one need to live to get big. Peolpe that complain about never getting a big buck need to not shoot a little one on the last day just to fill their tag, if they want meat shoot a doe. The late season, in my opinon, also hurts the deer more than it helps. Big bucks have lost their horns and get killed. Hunters also think that they have more time to shoot a deer.
97	The good old days of deer hunting are gone in the areas I hunt. The deer heard in my area is very small and immature. The majority of the bucks I see anymore are 1 1/2 year old deer. I love to rifle hunt but having the gun season run for 16 days during the heart of the rut really having an impact on the age structure of our deer in this part of the state (western minnehaha county). Please consider shortening the season, moving the season back a few weeks or cutting the number of tags. I have been working with my neighbors to try to convince them to pass on the 1 1/2 year old bucks but the comments I keep hearing is "thats all I see and I want to fill my tag" or "i thought it was bigger". Unfortunately we as sportsman know and agree that there is a problem in this area but most are unwilling to use self control to fix it. PLEASE CLOSE MINNEHAHA COUNTY TO RIFLE HUNTING!!!! I STARTED USING MY MUZZLE LOADER TO FILL MY RIFLE TAG 5 YEARS AGO. ANY RESPONSIBLE HUNTER KNOWS THAT THERE IS NOT AN ABSOLUTELY SAFE DIRECTION TO SHOOT IN, FROM HWY 19 EAST TO SIOUX FALLS. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE GETS KILLED.
99	West Meade County was terrible no public land I called and talked to over 30 ranchers no one would let us hunt. There is hardly any walkin.and very hard to access . I personaly would not recommend anyone that unit. It needs more walkin
103	like to hunt the jan season, but due to weather could not hunt should extend season when weather is bad area we hunt has more than enough deer
114	One main thing to improve fairness and give everybody a fair chance is by find a game warden that actually leaves his house at night and does something about poachers almost every night there are spotlights in the platte geddes area even during the middle of summer. I has been abou 18 months since i have seen a game warden out even in the day time, and im assuming the main reason is just because they dont want to do any paperwork when the catch somebody if they woul actually go out once in a while.
118	Would like to see the East River deer season start a week earlier, to avoid some of weather problems that occur with the current season dates.
121	The number of car accidents in Yankton county shows there are too many deer. A large proportion of hunters only hunt for antlers or else want only one or two deer. I am unusual in that I try to eat venison all year long. Because of this, increasing the number of antlerless tags does not have a linear effect on the doe harvest. I suggest you let

	archery hunters have 1 any deer tag and an open license to harvest as many antlerless deer as they want with a limit of only two in possession. Much like a fishing license. And rifle hunters get three antlerless tags.
128	should limit size of bucks harvested to 4x4 or larger
130	totally disagree with deer management in grant county there are way too many anterless deer being harvested. there may be a need for a larger doe harvest in other parts of the state but definetly not here, we just dont have many deer at all and the does are hunted to near extinction in many parts of the county. i have seen and heard of many bucks being harvested during the extended anterless season because they have lost their antlers. that season needs to be terminated. there needs to be anterless control in some parts of the state but dont make places with fewer deer see the bad end of that. i've lived around here my whole life and know a lot of old timers and this is the worst numbers anyone has seen in a long time.we need to stop shooting so many does. what the state should do in regards to bigger bucks is to put in place point restrictions so the smaller bucks have a chance to mature. it has worked in other states so i think it would be a good idea to try around here.
131	I would like to see the East River Rifle season go back to 9 days. It just seems like back when it was a 2 weekend season more people out in a shorter season created more chances to harvest a deer. It seemed like everyone tried a little harder rather than having the attitude they have 3 weekends to hunt. The 2 weekend season gives a little more sense of urgency to be out hunting if you want to harvest a deer. Personally I think were putting to much hunting pressure on the deer herd, being hunted from Sept. thru Jan.
140	I think that compared to most states the sd gfp does a great job of managing its deer hunting opprotunites. I am an archery hunter who hunts 100 percent public land. I would like to see the archery season start a few weeks sooner. The way it stands now there is not much time before public areas are inudated with pheasant hunters, starting with the youth season. I would also like to see more areas set aside for bowhunting only. This would also increase quality of bucks in those areas due to decrease harvest compared to rifle seasons. I would like to see the firearms season set back another week. The rut would be winding down and deer would not be as visible, people would be forced to actually get out of their trucks and walk to be able to see deer. This would not only improve the quality of the hunt for most people but would reduce the buck harvest for those not willing to get out of the truck. I would like to see the antlerless season for rifle in january. Archery hunters have very limited time when not competing with pheasant hunters or rifle hunters. Late december the pheasant hunters have thinned out and is the last chance to harvest a buck. Throw the rifle hunters in at that time and it severly dimishines an archers chance at a quality hunt. Keep that rifle season Jan 1-9. I hunt the Little Morreau rec area in dewey county and if that area was not regulated by limiting the number of rifle tags it would be overrun and over crowded. The quality of the hunt and the quality of the deer would severly diminish. I would like to see more areas like that limiting the number of rifle tags.
166	GFP does a good job - Thx!
180	Deer populations are the worst I have ever seen in my 25 years of hunting. In my opinion, hunting a deer from September to the end of January is way too long and stressful on the deer herd (assuming there is a decent deer herd in Moody county).
181	I would be nice to extend the anterless season a few extra weeks in Jan. Seems like every year we are not able to make it out due to the weather conditions. Most people who want to shoot a trophy buck are not willing to put the time and effort in to get the deer, they expect to drive to a area and walk out and shoot one. There are plenty of trophy deer in South Dakota, you just need to put some time and get out of your truck to

	find them! Our party has been to 4-5 different counties in the last few years and never have had a problem seeing at least 1 trophy deer on public land every year. I think limiting the number of tags to get a bigger deer will only limit the people going out year after year from getting a tag. This will only benefit a small percentage of hunters. Maybe create more hunting units in counties with point restrictions.
184	While I realize it is a difficult task to address, I feel that there are still many illegal and unethical activities taking place during the east river rifle deer season. I see way too many folks "hunting" right out of their vehicles. These activities take away opportunities from those of us out there hunting legally and ethically. I would recommend the GFP to increase the amount of stations where they set up and monitor full-body mounted deer (especially a trophy) near roadsides to catch trespassers, road hunters, etc.
185	The length of the deer seasons is too short. I have had too many situations where it was too hot for deer hunting or blizzard conditions. Lengthen the seasons. The number of deer harvested will be controlled by the number of licenses issued and hunter overcrowding will be eased.
190	Stop the road hunting
207	Certain areas in McCook have no deer. This is the worst year for deer population I have seen ever.
209	In my opinion there are way too many buck tags handed out. I seen an article in Outdoor Life I think and they rated us toward the end because of all the buck tags. If there were less bucks tags, the buck would be bigger. unfortunately there are enough people who shoot small buck just to get one they dont have a chance to grow big. Dont get me wrong I think we have alot of big bucks but alot of them are on private land or pay to hunt and dont want to set foot on public land. Again I think the muzzelloader season is messed up. No scopes and we are at the very end of the year maybe open it up for a week two weeks after youth that way they get two weekends then let us out. Close it and then let us out for the 2nd season.
214	See my prior comments on GF&Ps preoccupation with horn hunting.
215	We have several large landowners in Codington county that will not allow any hunting and the deer bunch up there. It would be nice if this can change but I don't know how you would do it. There are a lot of nice bucks in our area but there are too many illegal road hunters that shoot and run. Amazing how it is illegal to bait deer but every store sells some type of deer lick, etc. How about getting some conservation officers that can see a little grey area like the game wardens that I grew up with.
221	Way to long of a Survey.
222	Because of the limited number of any deer tags issued for muzzleloader season (i.e. most deer shot with muzzleloaders are does) and, considering that in South Dakota muzzleloaders are considered primitive weapons, I strongly suggest that muzzleloader season run concurrent with bow season. By the time muzzleloader season opens it is extremely difficult to shot a deer because they are so spooky. If that is not possible then consider a split season.
241	If the GF&P does any deer relocating, I am in need of a WIDE mule buck for the herd of 15 mule deer on my land. There are 5 bucks in this herd, all tall and narrow, lots of inbreeding. Scott Kolousek 605-539-0215 605-730-1509
247	just heart broken this year. I hunted alot of days and worked very hard at it and never got one. Guess will try again next year.
256	I would like to see the muzzleloader season in like Oct. After the east river season the deer leave here. It's so cold that time of year I don't want to go out hunting. The deer are

	very wild by that time, muzzle is not for long range shots.
268	When weather prohibits farmers harvesting corn fields in the county I deer hunt in it is almost impossible to find deer to hunt. Hunters cannot compete with acres and acres of standing unharvested corn fields and farmers, understandably, won't let you hunt those fields.
273	Limit the number of sioux falls residents that draw minnehaha tags because these people all draw tags with insufficient hunting areas causing over-crowded hunting areas. I cannot drive a mile during hunting season without passing a vehicle of hunters whom I know do not have permission to hunt any land other than a single 80-acre patch of walk-in land.
278	Bucks in Marshall for years are always much small then bucks taken in Day County and Roberts County...WHY IS THIS????
301	You ask where i hunted, if i was successfull, that i answered, You then later asked if hunted deer, whay the question? Seems to me you are always trying to get conflicting information.
320	Walk in lands were very poorly marked west river we never knew if we were on public land some cases public hunting areas were only marked by bordering land fences
358	it is getting harder and harder to find good land owners that will let you hunt on their land.....it's getting harder to know who owns the land, because it changes alot, one year you know who owns the land, the next year someone else owns the same land, takes the fun out of the hunt, things are changing so much these days, might stop hunting for that reason.....
361	Need to get back to work.....
371	one of my relatives has applied for an East River Deer License for the last 4 years and has not been awarded a license any of those years. He now has 4 Preference points, what would cause this situation as he is losing faith in the selection system.
375	Need to regulate the size of bucks being shot like other states. I hate it when people shoot small young bucks with a lot of potential. I want big bucks but it ain't gonna happen with people runnin round shootin little ones.
377	2010 deer hunting did satisfy me. i shot a 5 by 5 that was 4 1/2 yrs old with my bow. i seen about 4 other deer of this age and maybe older in miner county in 2010. i hunt almost every day from october 1st (or when most of the mosquitoes die) to the end of january with my bow, so seeing only 5 deer of that age is kinda bleek. i hunt 5 different private properties and about the same amount of public land so i kinda get a view of both. public land is greatly affected by waterfowl hunters in the early season in this area so i tend to wait til later in the season to hunt public. we archery hunted in the C unit of the slim buttes for a day and a half and seen and seen less than ten deer total. we spent most of our time north of hwy 20 but did venture south and cover jb road and north up the north divide. we only seen maybe 5 deer and a few turkeys. perkins county was very fun to bow hunt but the numbers of deer seen was a little harsh. it sounds like that county gets rifle hunted very hard and decimates the deer population. i love deer hunting and all the challenges it provides me every year. one species that south dakota needs to put a lot of attention toward is the rapidly declining number off antelope in the state. they can blame it on weather the past few years but rifle hunting is definitely the cause of the soon to be extinction. we usually spend a week of straight hardcore bow hunting on public land in butte and harding county and are seeing the steady decline of all goats. i still cant believe there is a second season late that allows more antelope to be killed. thanks for reading my concerns Lee Ruml
394	Do more to eliminate poaching and trespassing!

397	I think the game fish and parks is doing a fantastic job . The only real beef I have is the season itself. I can never understand why we are forced to hunt so late in the season. If you dont get your deer the first weekend you know you will be in snow the rest of the season. I think the cold eliminates alot of hunters. I know I had bought leftover antlerless tags for the extended season and couldnt fill them because all the land I hunt was unreachable because of snow. And also being 15 to 20 below sucks. I also had frozen deer to cut up buy the time I let them hang for 2 days. Why cant we start the first part of Nov. when it is still warm enough to get out and get to the deer. All the other states around us do just fine, why are we always have to be different.
423	Far too many out of staters getting licenses. There are way too many farmers charging money to hunt. The out of staters that hunt my area are constantly hunting private land that they do not have permission to be on they just say "they thought it was walk in." I haven't got to hunt my buddy's honey hole for 3 years because of this crap. What can be done about this?
473	I think we should have a point system for bucks. Only bucks with a minimum of four points per side or larger can be harvested. This would let the smaller bucks grow up and improve the quality of the bigger bucks.
487	I would really like to see the antlerless season open the day after Christmas in order for those youngsters that are in school to have more time to enjoy the hunting experience.
551	I feel that too many bucks are harvested before maturity, thus the poor quality of the average buck. This year was an improvement only because so much corn was still standing in 2009 making it harder to find deer because of the extra cover. 1 more year and a small buck becomes a decent buck and a decent buck becomes a nice buck and so on. QDMA is starting to educate the general public about the benefits of letting bucks mature but they can't reach everyone, and not everyone will agree with the idea of letting a buck walk. Too bad there isn't an easy way to implement antler restrictions but I am sure a lot of opposition would be encountered if GF&P tried to implement restrictions, some want to shoot a buck regardless.
558	WAY TO MANY DEER. LOWER PRICES AND GET RID OF DEER POPULATION. MORE HUNTERS
582	My family inherited land when my wife's parents passed. I'm the only member of 6 family's that can hunt as a resident in South Dakota yet I'm not guaranteed a license because I don't farm the land. We lease it to a nephew who is just starting to farm. He has many other acres he farms with his Dad so he doesn't need our quarter for preference but as I understand it I can't claim land owner preference because I don't farm it just pay taxes on it. This is East River. My brother, dad and I hunt West River also. When we started over 10 years ago we had no problem filling tags with nice mature whitetail bucks. Today we are lucky to fill one or two tags for two reasons. One is that a larger number of ranchers feel the GF&P have screwed them over some how and that the only people hunting their land are ones who will pay huge dollars to do so. I have had ranchers tell us how bad the deer population is and not let us hunt because they know the GF&P will either pay them for losses or they will just shoot deer and let them rot. I would like to receive a report from GF&P with a list of ranchers receiving aid for over crowding deer populations. They should not receive aid if they don't let people hunt. Many ranchers tell us stories about mountain lions coming through and killing farm animals and many deer. I have had more than one rancher tell me to shoot any lion I see which I won't do unless I feel threatened. The grasslands are packed with hunters who drive any place they want with disregard to posted trails. Back to East River, My family has land in Sanborn county. I try to get a preference license there every other year. I don't understand why we issue so many anterless tags. In our part of the county

	it is hard to find many does. Growing up a farm kid and still working many ours on our farm I'm very angry that we issue out of state tags to people yet i'm not guaranteed that I may get a tag.
584	I feel there are way too many coyotes killing alot of the fawns soon after birth. Many of the does I saw this past summer were alone or with one fawn. Not near the number of does as in the past years. I spent many hours in a deer stand and saw more deer with antlers than without.
585	Many walk-in areas where bare ground - Many walk-in areas where you had to wait for the crops to be harvested where plowed under right away. Believe we are not getting our moneys worth from walk in areas - It would be a good idea to pay more for the better hunting land and a lot less for the so - so land. A grading system would work -
589	In my humble opinion, education and proper Quality Deer Management are the keys to successfully changing the quality and size of bucks in an area. We have spent time learning how to size and age deer on the hoof and we only try to shoot bucks 3.5 years or older. We also will not shoot bucks unless they are trophy quality. (Unless we are hunting with a youth and trying to get them their first buck) Along with this, we have been buying a lot of extra antlerless tags and attempting to reduce the amount of does in the area.
594	I feel it is unfair in my area that the Yankton Sioux Tribe's season starts before I am able to hunt. From my perspective they are given an unfair advantage and do not respect my opportunities to hunt. they trespass at will and nothing seems to be done about it. I am not sure if anyone regulates their harvest but from what I see I don't think anyone is. I found several deer that were shot and left to spoil on my private property or bucks that had just the horns sawed off! I do not wish to take away their chance to hunt but wish that things could be done to give the residents who apply for state issued liscences the opportunities they deserve!!!!
598	A few of the survey questions were tied to improving the quality of bucks requiring some type of strategy to reduce the current number of bucks harvested to allow more bucks to mature enough to produce larger antlers. I agree that SD has the genetics, food sources and habitat to grow some huge bucks. The factor that limits our bucks the most is harvesting those bucks before they meet their full potential. I've had several occasions where I've passed a young buck with great potential only to watch him get shot a half hour later on the neighboring property. Unfortunately most tracks of land are relatively small and the bucks have a large enough ranges that they spend time on many different properties. Of course not everyone has the same definition of a trophy buck and some are just hunting for meat, but if we can get more people on the same page it will be good for everyone in the long run. This isn't an easy mindset to change but I do have a few suggestions. 1) Education - if you want bigger bucks in the state then start educating people. Start in hunter ed - show the progression of antlers through the years, etc. If you're shooting a deer for meat, shoot a doe versus a young buck. Another avenue for education is in your hunting handbook. Nebraska is a good state to follow here. For example, check out their deer management tips on page 28 (http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/hunting/guides/biggame/pdfs/biggame.pdf) It sounds too simple to work but they have seen the age of their harvested bucks go up. Eventually the mindset will change - I talked to an older fisherman cleaning walleyes at Lake Oahe this summer and he was telling me how hard it is to catch a ten pounder out of the river -- and this is while he's filleting an eight pound fish. He had no idea he was part of the problem. 2) Education will not be enough so you will need some other measures. I think you'll see positive results if you shorten the (rifle) season for bucks. Give folks two

	<p>weekends (~9 days) to shoot a buck and it's does after that. Our long season makes it hard for a big buck to survive the rifle season. Look at the surrounding states and most of the west and the SD buck season is longer than most if not all. You can also reduce the amount of buck tags in some counties. I'd rather shoot a big buck every other or every third year than a small buck every year. People will be more selective if they waited a year or more to get the tag. Another of your questions was in reference in how to get more does harvested in some units. One idea that has worked for some states is the earn a buck program - you must shoot a doe before you get your buck tag. This would be hard to implement here since we don't have game checking stations. One thing that might work along the same lines is earn a preference point. If you send in a picture and/or front teeth from a harvested doe, SD GFP will give that hunter an extra point in next year's buck drawing. Just a thought - adding an incentive will get more does shot. Good job overall and good luck.</p>
614	<p>The only piece of advice i would offer, would be, as far as the areas that are overpopulated, The reason i feel that antlerless deer are not harvested, is due to the fees that go along with it for processing, i feel that the coupons for processing for hunger is a great idea, but it is very difficult to use, or get reimbursed. I feel if a hunter could harvest an antlerless deer, take it to the local locker, and drop it off, and have nothing more to do with it, I feel you would have better success. Make the locker submit the tag number in order to be reimbursed.</p>
631	<p>there is a lot of snow in the Michelson wet land memorial area the dam should be completely open. it should be open at all times especially after November unless we have been in a drought for more than a year wild life cant live in water unless its a fish and we have enuff fishing spots and water in the area I let every one hunt but no more unless the dam gets open and the people that ask will know the reason... some education on knowing what a mature buck looks like a picture when you have the fever so with a tag or hand book I would like to see if the people could help manage it like a fish if you let it grow (go) it'll get bigger to me 95% of the sport is the shot if your just lobbing bullets shoot at a can and that brings up people that shoot sighs we need bigger fines and better ways of caching them that costs too much money and I would rather have that money for are kids schools maybe having a sighting in spot at some public areas would help?</p>
642	<p>I hunt on good private ground, the only downfall is that in the late antlerless only season too many bucks are being shot without horns. Also there have been quite a few non-resident hunters coming to hunt with no permission from any landowners. They come just because they can get leftover licenses.</p>
661	<p>I would harvest 4 - 5 deer each year for meat if I had a place to hunt with deer on it that I did not have to pay access fees or make donations in addition to the tag price. Also, no motorized retrieval on walk in is driving older hunters out of the game. Decent walk-in is crowded anyway. Ranchers and farmers do not realize that people in town are becoming weary of subsidizing low ag property taxes and then being unwelcome on the property of thier SD neighbors because they don't have a pocket full of cash to hand over as well. The more young SD resident hunters are restricted from access to opportunities by greed of commercial hunting, the fewer hunters / second amendment rights supporters are coming into the pipeline. I believe this is short-sighted but sadly, in my opinion, it is the future of SD hunting by all indications. I used to hunt a number of ranches and used to lobby for pro-agriculture issues in the legislature when my rural friends asked me to. At this point, I see lock out signs and land is leased to outfitters or otherwise closed. When privileged class landowners are fighting EPA regulations, PETA, other green organizations, or bills introduced in Pierre, I and other SD hunters</p>

	have little motivation to be involved, and may even support greater regulations. Certain legislators and ranchers seem to have a personal vendetta against GFP and their town-dwelling neighbors in their search to profit from wildlife. This will be destructive for all in the long run.
676	You have no choice for Minnehaha county in residence. The number of deer in the area we hunt is down each of the last years.
691	Where are the deer in eastern Brookings county? I live 1 1/2 miles south of "Gilleys Grove" and 1 mile NE of Bill Gibbon/ Scott Underwood property. Normally these areas have lots of deer. They aren't there. I have 46 acres of CRP (Bluestem/Switch grass and Shrub plantings) and 90 acres of native prairie. I haven't seen a deer on my place since October. Are all these wind turbines and overhead transmission lines along with a power plant effecting our wildlife populations?
695	A lot of people out there still can't hunt if you take there pickups away. All for the greed of that monster buck. To these slob executioners (I will not even lable them hunters) they need to put a higher penalty against them when they get caught. As an example - NO HUNTING rights for life and then 1yr in jail with a \$25,000 fine (The price of a cheeper pickup) if they are found hunting anytime after that.
707	If a hunter could only aquire 1 maybe 2 buck licenses during a given season, and quit harvesting does late season, I believe south dakota would be a lot better state for real quality deer hunting.
716	It is my opinion that there are far too many bucks being shot in Jan after they have dropped their antlers. I know of several hunters that unknowingly shot bucks trying to fill anterless tags. When you see a group of does you naturally try for the largest doe, not wanting to shoot a fawn. By shooting the largest doe many people are unknowingly shooting a buck that has dropped their antlers. I know this is a deer survey but we also need to increase the mountain Lion Tags in the Black Hills, especially in Custer State Park. Our Elk numbers are being decimated. What used to be a hunt of a lifetime in fast becoming a Joke. We also need to have a Wolf plan in effect because it won't be long and we are going to being having Wolf problems. Ken Schaeffer 605-660-7340
720	I don't hunt as hard as I used to, getting older, and like the cold less.
721	As hunters grow older, the ability to retrieve a deer lessens in relation to the habitat. Perhaps it is time to again consider some retrieval opportunities for the older hunter. The public areas along the Missouri River provide great hunting opportunities for both species of deer. However, the "river breaks" definitely poses a challenge for older hunters, those with physical disabilities or those with health related issues. Thanks.
740	Do NOT engage in any type of process for the purpose of producing bigger antlers. Do NOT encourage any type of commercialization of hunting or the encouragement of guides or private leasing of land for nunting.
742	The only suggestion I would have is to allow tags for two seperate east river counties. I enjoy hunting in Roberts County with family, but also know there are a lot of deer in Brule county that should be lowered. If given the oppurtunity I would hunt both counties.
752	Something needs to be changed with the Accompaniment rule. It is absolutely ridiculous to hold each person responsible for the other hunters in the group, yet not hold the person who is hunting illegally responsible for anything. I got ticketed for "hunting with an armed, unlicensed hunter." I had every right and all of the necessary licenses for the unit I was hunting, a guy in my group did not have a tag for the county we were in, but carried a rifle in case we saw a coyote. Game warden checked us and everyone in the group who had a license got a ticket, the guy who didn't have a license didn't get a ticket.

	There needs to be something changed there. I understand that there needs to be a law about party hunting, but this seems like a totally backwards way to go about it. The only reason I can see why it would be enforced this way is so that the warden's have the authority to hand out more tickets. I know that the Game Fish and Parks doesn't want to be viewed that way, so if I am wrong on that, please explain to me why it should be enforced the way it is. You will notice on my survey that I answered "slightly dissatisfied" for the question about how satisfied I was with the entire 2010 deer hunting season and that answer is directly related to my experience with this situation. Other than that it was a fantastic hunting season, it's just a shame this had to happen.
762	Attempting to find private land to hunt is a joke. The rich can purchase all the hunting rights they want and shoot everything that moves without worry. If the price is correct, the land owner may well participate in helping the 'purchaser' get as many deer as desired regardless of deer type or when they are harvested. This is not how I remember it when I was being taught how to hunt years ago. Respect for nature, not money, really mattered. Now, your wallet decides on how 'well' you will do next deer season. That is wrong!
773	Need either a better system to distribute muzzle loader buck tags or better placed tags
802	I think the number of buck tags could be reduced to promote the quality of deer harvested. I am strongly opposed to commercial deer hunting like pheasant hunting has turned into. If we allow tags to be bought and resold that would be devastating to hunting as we know it. Poaching penalties could be stronger with higher fines and losing hunting priviledges for a longer period of time.
804	you need to reduce the number of antlerless deer tags in lake county we are not seeing the deer that we did in past years..
811	There are too many deer. The car collisions is all the body count I need, However this winter may fix that...starvation and resporbtion and mortality of inutero fawns is probably starting about now....Jan31. The biggest bucks become visible only during the week or so of rut, they move many miles only at night and are generally unhuntable after the first gunshot of opening day....but I see more older bucks here than in a lifetime of hunting Wisonsin, and owning 360 acres of woods to hunt at that. n they are here, they have evolved incredible hiding skills due to the lack of cover, but large tracts of land with no hunters. I would caution you not to use deer license sales as a means of raising revenue. This skews the game management logic, and builds distrust of the department.
816	I would like to see the antlerless season in January moved to start immediatley after all seasons are closed. Every year the snow prohibits hunters from accessing deer in January. This would provide a much larger harvest of does.
824	Crack down on road hunting and people hunting out of vehicles. That is why deer are so spooked, it is mostly slob hunters chasing deer tha ruins it for the few that hunt ethically. A person cant even drive to break ice for cattle without seeing deer running over a 1/2 mile away because they hear a vehicle. To many people driving around hoping they can get a shot a deer even if they dont have permission to hunt any land in the area. The fines need to be greater for slob hunters like that.
828	I do believe the use of a scope during muzzleloader season. For the fact that you cannot detect the spike bucks with the bare eye.
831	The hunting experience would have been more enjoyable if I would have drawn 1 buck license instead of 3 doe. The hunting party I was with had 3 anydeer and 9 doe, so when a buck got up we at least got to shoot at it. We did harvest several doe.
834	Some how educate hunters on the impartance of filling antlerless tags to manage herd

	size and being selective when harvesting bucks to get more mature bucks in the field.
837	I would like more information about Mountain Lion sightings and kills East River. First, I think the population of big game animals is decreasing west river as a result of the large cats. I don't think that SD harvests enough of them to control their populations and I believe that is why they are now showing up East River. I for one do not want to see mountain lions east river and do not care to watch traditional big game animal populations suffer as a result. I would like to pass on my hunting heritage and tradition to my son and don't care to see Mtn Lion populations get out of control.
839	I still think there is to much preference given to land owners in the draw.
851	I still have way too many deer on my farm for the 3rd year in a row - 400-500 head in the herd. I would like to be able to receive 50-60 licenses after the extended season closes. I would distribute to people that I know so I can still have some control over who hunts my land - especially since the deer are located in close vicinity to both buildings & livestock. I would not charge anything for the tags - I have never charged anybody to hunt our land. We took over 40 deer off this property during the regular seasons this year but once winter sets in with a vengeance the deer bunch up & cause a considerable amount of damage. I think that if I could have 5-10 deer/week killed the deer would stay out of our hay supply. I realize that there is no easy answer & I do appreciate the efforts of GF&P to assist us with feeding the herds of deer. I think that it does help to a certain extent.
857	I believe that hunting bucks for shorter seasons or limiting the number of anydeer tags issued for any season is a very strong solution to the number of larger mature bucks. I have lived and hunted in 3 separete states and have seen the differences between the management stratagies each has implemented. To date the amount of hunting apertunities that are provided in SD are so far the best of all. But the managment of the deer heards are beginning to show that something must be done. If you folks really want my opinion on how to get more mature bucks for breeding and lower the overpopulated doe population in high density areas, there are two ways to begin. 1. In some states they require that a doe or antlerless deer be taken prior to being able to legally hunt a buck. (this solotion or variation of it would be for areas on over populated does) 2. create a point restriction for Rifle seasons and those areas where doe population is a problem. You folks will have review these separately and weight the success rate in the different states that use these techniques. I say to create a point restriction to rifle seasons becuase that is the season when I see the most number of bucks, from spikes to small 4x4 (8 points) taken because the hunters don't seem to look or evaluate the size of the deer prior to shooting. This is also the season that I see dead deer shot on purpose and then left to rot becuase the rack was to small for them to brag about. I personally don't see As Much of this Type of abuse during archery season but it does still happen.
865	My friends and I have private land we can hunt in LIncoln County. For the 2nd year in a row, I have failed to draw a tag for that county. This should not happen. When I talk to friends/relatives in other states they cannot believe this. It seems South Dakota caters more for out-of-state hunters than it's own residents.
880	Strongly encourage the Hunters for Hunger Program....This is one of the things I like to do. Donate at least one anterless deer to this program. It is very helpful that the processing fee is covered.
883	I understand that it is impossible to please everyone but I think GFP is generally doing a good job and my son and I enjoy every year we go if we get a deer or not. Keep up the good work.....Dale Thorpe
893	I do most of my hunting down in Brule Bottom in Brule CO and this year the deer where

	just not there !! Im not sure if they got pushed out by all of the pheasant hunters or what, early in the fall one of my girls and I drove down there and seen 32 doe and fawns in about an hour drive. Hunting season opened up and I seen a total of 4 deer all season long. Not really sure what happened to them.
919	please bring back the 2nd season dates of dec 26 through new years so that we may go hunting with family from out of state(california) during the holidays and share the hunting experience.
921	I would like to see more Mountian Lion Tags to reduce the population. It seems like Mountian Lions are affecting the Black Hills Deer and Elk populations. Lion population I believe is more than State says
936	Don't have a early October season it will only hurt the bow hunters. The second rifle opens the bow hunters get punished.
943	did not see as many deer this especially by the wind towers.we used to see 20-30deer on the opener now we see none.
945	Until this year we have run into a problem east river with the crop harvest being so late that there was a tremendous amount of cover for the animals. I think that the first season should be adjusted to be a little longer based on this trend and for those that are being game/herd conservationists. I also think that the antler less extended season should be moved earlier in the year due to the holiday travel and the bucks shedding. thank you
947	There are a few things I disagree with the past few years. 1) The fact that I am trying to bow hunt and the tribal hunters are rifle hunting in the same area. There are a lot of mature bucks taken out of the herd before they have a chance to breed. This gives the younger or smaller horned bucks the chance to breed. I also know the state has no control in that matter but maybe there could be better communication. 2) The late season antlerless season. This year there were no antlerless tags for archery in my hunting area. After hunting a few times and putting out trail-cams it was easy to see why. The antlerless population was far lower than the last few years. Yet there was still an extended season? Why have an extended season and reduce a population that is already low? Not shooting a doe with an any deer tag on the final days of the regular season is a matter of personal choice. Curious to see bucks that made it through the season we have watched deer feed in the fields. Then seeing those same bucks shot (after dropping their horns) in the late season is very frustrating.
949	I think that when the weather or when we get a lot of snow it is harder to hunt and you can't get to the areas to hunt or not enough areas to hunt you need to think about extending the season to give us an opportunity to harvest the deer
951	There is still FAR too many people that just drive around the country (road hunting) for deer. There needs to be more enforcement of some type to improve this practice. I know that the law enforcement is spread way too thin during deer hunting seasons. I did witness 3 instances of this activity during east and west River hunting this year alone. I don't know what the answer is, but would like to see it STOP!!!
973	tribe and white season should start at the same time and run same length of time
991	I hunted the extended east river season & shot an anterless deer only to find out that it was a buck that had already shed its antlers. I didn't think they shed that early, so it was a little disheartening to think that it could have been this coming falls possible trophy.
995	Like I said previously...I think an EARN a buck program should be implemented for Rifle & Archery seasons. It would increase the does harvested. I myself have NO problems dropping the hammer on a doe or two a year...its proper management. Once I have the meat in the freezer, I tend to pass on any buck that is not truly a mature deer....which in turn should lead to bigger bucks in the following years. There are

	waaaay to many hunters that will not harvest a doe...this is one way of eliminating that issue.
1003	The East River Deer Season needs to be longer - and maybe an incentive needs to be given to hunters to harvest more antlerless deer. The herd that is currently in our yard is large and is destroying feed that is meant for our cow herd. Maybe hunters before shooting a deer with antlers should have to harvest an antlerless deer.
1008	There would be nothing wrong with having to shoot a doe before being able to shoot a buck, especially in the area's where there is a population problem.
1009	I commend the GF&P for their expansion of WALK IN areas. Your participation in the CREP program will definitely yield more wildlife and more hunting opportunities to all hunters. I believe this will be one of the greatest programs the GFP has supported and will bring in record numbers of out of state hunters. I am disappointed not to see any promotion of food plots. This winter is becoming a tough one for the wildlife. I do not see any supplemental feeding by the GF&P. I know you do not like to do it. But right now most deer and a lot of pheasants are camped out at cattle operations. This would be fine and good if there was a cattle operation every mile or so. Here, in western Day County, I wonder if there is one in three or four miles. I think some food plots would save a lot of pheasants and help spread the deer out to prevent the spread of CWD. Another asset would be a big cattail slough every 5 miles. Is there any means of maintaining a water level in some sloughs that would promote cattail growth with out drowning out the cattails?
1014	As we get older, it becomes very difficult to hunt deer on public land. Dragging a deer is now impossible if distance or hills are involved. Private land where one can drive in to retrieve a deer is my best option. However, private land is often difficult to hunt until the owner and his family have filled their tags. My experience is that all their tags are rarely filled as most will hunt to the last day trying to shoot a nice buck. This year I never saw an antlerless deer while hunting. My preferred method is to walk into an area and wait for a deer to come by. Either the numbers are down or the deer have become nocturnal because of the pheasant hunting or all the "iron ponies" that seem to appear during the deer season. Oh well, I've harvested enough deer over the years. This year the enjoyment has come from witnessing the enthusiasm of my grandchildren as they were successful in taking their deer! The "mentor and youth seasons" are great. My nine year old granddaughter can hardly wait for next year so she can join her siblings in participation of this experience.
1029	The muzzleloader season needs more any deer tages or divide it up into units with more tags. Also we need to be able to use magnifying scopes.
1050	Special Management areas should have rule that only four by four or eight point bucks or better can be harvested and that 80% of the licenses go to people who live in that area, and would have harvested a doe preceding the buck season or harvested a doe the year before.
1052	Over the past 5 years I've really found a distaste to East River rifle hunting. There's too many tags given out for various types of hunting. The deer don't have a chance. There hunted from Sept-Feb and people shoot too many deer. I know of one person in the Chester Area that shot over 12 deer this year. Wow! That's a slaughter in my words. I found it harder and harder to get a hunting spot, shelter belt, to hunt archery deer. Too many hunters! Shooting deer from youth, muzzle, archery, rifle, and late antlerless is just too many deer getting whacked. We need to limit the amount of deer being shot in Lake County. We need to go back to 2 weekends of rifle and that's it. I get frustrated when I've been hunting in the same spot for 7 years and now there's people sitting in my stand. That's not your fault, it's the land owner's fault. The late antlerless season ends up

	with people shooting does with fawns in them and some nice bucks that shed antlers. I don't like that at all
1067	GFP needs to open a unlimited season similar to coyote hunting for mountain lions. there is too many in the hills they rare killing off the deer and elk population. It is such a long time period to receive an elk tag in the hills and after someone does there wont be any elk left in 5 years. I haven't had a hills tag for three years until this past one and i noticed a major decline in deer population since the last time i hunted the hills. There is no reason for having this big of a population of mountain lions in the hills. I guess will just let them kill off all our game and wait to do something until they seriously injure someone.
1083	First time in 17 years we hunted East River. We hunted the first week with sucess. Shot a nice 4 x 5 Buck. The deer was either gorded by another buck in the butt or shot with an arrow. The whole hind quarter was bad. Called Game warden. He came out a gave me another tag for any antlerless deer only. Not happy with the Game wardens decision. Accepted the tag and never filled. Hunted hard and never saw any does. All bucks.
1097	I would like to see some restrictions on buck size. Too many guys will shoot anything with horns and so bucks never have a chance to reach maturity. I wouldn't mind seeing a minimum points rule put in place. I would also like to see the extended anterless season be moved to right after rifle season to elimatue the chances of bucks being shot that have lost there horns. If more anterless deer need to be taken in a specific unit, try a buck specific tag with two anterless tags in a bundle, and elimatue any deer tags to better keep track of who is after what. Then allow the buck tags to turn to anterless for the extended season
1099	Need to manage for more quality buck. Increasee the buck to doe ratio. Continue with doe season to obtain objectives.
1100	I think the deer numbers for East River are down drastically. I dont know if it is because we are handing out to many antlerless tags or what, but I am not seeing the number of deer I used to see 5+ years ago.
1133	Quality public hunting and walk-in areas in grant county are almost non existent compared to 2 years ago. Can we do any thing to get some of it back?
1141	I have taken up muzzel loader hunting a couple of years ago....and enjoy it very much. i would very much like to see scopes allowed on muzzel loaders (even if they are only 1x power)... i have hunted all my life and as i get older my eyes are getting weaker and iron sights are harder to see in low light... i feel that scopes would allow for better shot placement and would result in fewer wounded deer. thank you....
1142	I think that there are to many any deer tags for this area, as it is hard to find a nice buck.
1154	I did not hunt this year because of physical problems but plan to hunt next year. I have noted an increase in trophy bucks the last few years but I'm not sure that is a good thing as it seems the chances of getting any license is decreased and on a personal level most of the deer damage I have is done by bucks.
1173	I think left over tags should be sold at places that sell licences, so that who ever wants to purchase a left over tag in their county can do so without doing lottery especially where there is lots of doe to be harvested.
1200	Thank you for the oppertunity for letting hunters share their thoughts and ideas to further improve our hunting privilege.
1229	Thankyou for trying to make my hunting experience even more enjoyable!
1241	i didnt get a chance to hunt this year cause of work and lack of antlerless deer in Marshall countny otherwise i have never had a problem with hunting deer, its alot of fun

1293	Suggest you try antler restrictions to improve the quality of bucks, i.e. minimum of four points per side.
1298	When you listed options for increasing the size of bucks there was not a question about using a size or point limit on bucks. I know that this would be difficult to enforce from a law standpoint, but I believe that if a point system was incorporated into buck harvest, it would benefit deer hunting in a couple of ways. First, I believe even with no enforcement, it would increase male age structure since the majority of people are not going to intentionally violate something that is considered law. Second, I think that a point system would probably decrease wounding rates, since the above mentioned individuals would take more time with their shots examining a deer to see if it meets the standard, and would reduce the number of quick, poor shots individuals take.
1312	West River is right where it needs to be if anything reduce the amount of non resident licenses available to non residents. It was like a jail break out there this year. Any county with public land just gets pounded by non residents.
1326	The coyotes have moved in to this area, and it is my belief that they are eating too many fawns in the spring. It's an easy meal for them. They need to be controled, this year I seen very few young deer, and that is very unusual.
1341	just disatisfied with the quantity of any deer tags available to hunters in our little county it seems when you put in for a any deer tag and not get it you are put in the back of the pack and have no chance of getting the doubles tag buck doe. this tag should just be sold as needed not allocated like it is thus i would not have 20 bucks running on my land and not have but 1 to 2 hunters that hunt my land have a permit to harvest them. it seems other states have a good out come with just selling tags limit one per hunter and not multiples thats occuring now. i do have the two different types of deer on my land so it causes a problem.
1349	I am lucky enough to hunt private property that for the past four or five years we have been able to grow some bucks. We only try to harvest 'wall hangers' and have had some very good success. It is not my land, however, so I rely on the draw. It was a little frustrating this year watching a few hunters from larger towns who drew for the county harvest one and two year old bucks just because they had antlers. Their tags would have been better used on antlerless deer, but they drew and it is their right to harvest what they want. I realize there is no easy way of preventing a hunter of taking a small buck. I've taken button bucks with anterless tags before and felt terrible about it, but sometimes you just can't tell. To me, an 'any deer' tag is a privelage to go out and look for the 'big one' and if I don't find one I will just go with an anterless. I think a lot hunters have that mentality, but others are just out to take the first thing they see with antlers.
1383	Normally I am very satisfied with the hunt, no matter the outcome. I look forward to opening day of deer season the day after it closes the year before. This season, however, a downer for various reasons, mostly out of my control. Me and my buddy normally take the entire first week of season off and what a week to get the flu and for the weather to go to heck...that put a real damper on the season. Also I would certainly like to see more of a presence of GF&P out there. It seems that each year there are more and more and more "roadies" driving roads, section lines and the like and I'm sure "they are following all the rules"! I, my hunting partner, and my daughter, I can honestly say, in many years of deer hunting, have never knowingly violated a hunting rule. Now, I can also honestly say, but not prove who, what and so forth, but I had bullets whizzing over my head on at least one occassion, saw trucks blazing trails down section lines and so forth. There was no way to confirm my suspicions, so there was no point in calling tips and so forth. Been there done that in the past and all it got me was in extremely

	awkward situations amongst others, since I'm from a very small town and people tend to "find things out". Henceforth, I wasn't gonna do anything unless I was extremely sure of my suspicions and since have put it in the past. How to word the above is why I took so long in taking this survey, whether I wanted to open my mouth again. This year was a disappointment and did leave a sour taste in my mouth. We have always knowingly done right and we go unnoticed, while others, who don't "follow the code" as close seem to always "get the big one" and "get the glory". Almost made me decide to get rid of the hunting stuff and sell the guns...but then they win. So, next year, I'll be out there with my best bud, daughter and maybe my son...we'll do things right and, others be damned, I'd rather get 1 deer and follow the rules and not have to worry about my conscience, than limit out knowing otherwise.
1405	I am retired and although I enjoy walking and hunting public land for deer, I am going to be forced to give up this great hobby soon as I just am having too much of a problem dragging deer 1/2 mile, more or less. I would like to respectfully request a change to "walk in" Game Fish managed public hunting areas where a motorized retrieval could be allowed after the hunt. I walk 3 miles a day, (6 days a week) and swim one mile a day (five days a week). I tell you this so you will understand that I am not lazy. I feel I should not be forced to pay for hunting on private land just so I can make a motorized retrieval of a deer that I hunted, tracked, and harvested a deer on. I fully agree that a motorized vehicle should not be involved in the hunt, but would like some type of allowance for Seniors, (perhaps 65 and older) who do hunt alone and can still walk and hunt, without having to drag a deer long past the point the hunter is expected to on "walk in" managed public land. If this change does not happen soon, I shall be forced to give up a hobby that I love and which also brings in a steady stream of money which I spend on hunting licenses / tags, each year. Thank you for any consideration concerning my request for change on public hunting land. My name is Richard Ideker, (for you to contact me for any question / comment), but would prefer my name NOT be made available in the report to the public.
1410	It would be nice to be able to get some more antlerless doe tags for archery hunting in minehaha county when we can hunt instead of having to open up an extra deer season to get rid of does.
1460	i think it is very hard to hunt here if you do not know anyone to get on private land. everywere i went on the public land it was to over populated by people making it way to hard to hunt. i hunt doe's only for the meet to feed my family and couldnt even get one. im not a big fan of how selfish the farmers are when it comes to hunting there land becaues someone in the family wants the land all to themselves just to get that one "big" buck.
1486	less out of state tags as many locals can not get tags or only every other year. Have out of state drawings after local drawings or resident drawings.
1522	Thank you for doing such a great job.
1538	As stated in the last comments space if things don't get better with the trespass situation our plan is to close all out land we own , rent, whatever to hunters. We have people calling every day wanting to hunt ducks geese or pheasnts plus putting up with the trespassing during deer season. We farm, ranch and run livestock on about 50,000 acres in S.D. The minn. people come to hunt geese so we let them there favorite thing is to send one or two people to ask permission in and old car then the next morning there are about 5-6 outfits out there and they charge hunters to be guided. The state had better start doing a better job of managing the resources instead of some of the B.S. they are doing now. I think it's time someone oversees the Dept of Game Fish and Parks. They had better start to take care of there problems internally or they are going to lose a lot of

	landowners respect and corporation. The state trapper for our county lives in S.F. not located center to his district as he is suppose to be. We have decided to close all our land to aerial hunting. It appears to state has a very big problem picking up the dead deer along the highways but have time to cut the antlers off. I could go on for hours about what I think but we are only tax payers and the dept don't really care about what we think anyway.
1575	I do not like the reservation seasons opening a week or two before the SD deer season opens. We live on the reservation line and I feel the Game and Fish looks the other way when native Americans hunt the private land next to the reservation boundries without valid SD licenses. By time the SD season opens the big deer are all gone or so wild that you can not get close to them. I feel that we are being discriminated against, why can't we open the SD season the same time? This is in Hyde County, Crow Creek Reservation.
1582	Maybe limiting the number of young bucks??? When I hunt for horns, I will only shoot at a 4 by 4 or larger. This way I know it is not suck a young buck.
1621	Can I apply for a deer licence in a special managment area and for East & West River?
1627	Ban the use of Rifles in very populated areas, ie parts of Minnehaha, Lincoln and Pennington Counties.
1634	I beleave Deer populations are down and with the winter snow we are having this year it will be worse next year. Also the Argus Leader had a full pages about Coyotes and the problems and cost of managing them why was there no mention of the GFP's web site so ranchers can call on local hunters to help? In my opinion you want to save staes tax \$ the GFP should have been all over the Argus for not mentioning that, I think it would be a good idea to advertise that more. thank you for all you do for our wild life. Kevin Postma
1635	i feel that a lot of the public land in falk county is being over farmed and not left to nature causing the deer to be run off and leaving no cover in the last 5 years i have watched a non farmed area that was wonderful to hunt be destroyed by over grazing and disked up it is very sad for the wildlife and hunters are we in this for money or nature
1656	Shorten the survery. Holy shit, it took 20 minutes.
1714	I have a few ideas whether or not they are applicable I am unsure, but here they are: *A special tag allocated specially for trophy deer in small limited numbers. The fee for (limited) trophy tags could be slightly higher than the other tags giving the state some added income. Definition of a trophy for example: * A 5x5 or larger deer * Or a deer with a antler score of 130 or larger. I do hunt with a few hunters that only shoot trophy deer and will go home without filling their tags, I see this happen year after year. If the GF&P needs the deer herd thinned out this type of hunter will do very little for that purpose, why not give a tag to a hunter who is willing to shoot a deer for reason's other than trophy purposes. I believe this not only will increase hunter satisfaction (for pure hunting) there would be more tags available along with tags designed for a specific type of hunting. What would be ideal is the trophy season come before the general deer hunting season, or better yet during the rut. There would only be trophy hunters in the field during that time which would create less hunting pressure and more of an opportunity to see larger deer during that season. Also, then when regular deer season opens the trophy hunters will no longer be in the field, which will lighten the hunting pressure giving a more enjoyable hunt to those hunting ie. less hunters, more open un hunted land to hunt on and happier hunters. * I believe these trophy tags would be very sought after especially if it was during the rut. A seperate season before or after the general deer hunting season I believe would also be welcomed by the public but the rut

	<p>would be ultimate time for the trophy only hunter. I believe the public would line up waiting for these tags especially if only very limited tags and only trophy hunters were in the field during that time. To a hunter that would almost be a dream hunt. If a hunter now wants to go on a true trophy hunt they need to hunt a private preserve costing thousands of dollars which most hunters can not afford. This new tag would allow the common hunter a chance to trophy hunt, with limited hunting pressure. These new hunting season's would give more hunting options to those who want to hunt. If a hunter is choosen for a trophy tag they should be ineligible the following year or years giving more people the chance to hunt trophy deer. *One other idea I have (if you want to hear it this is becoming a novel) is to divide the tags in two seperate groups for the units. For example if there are 400 tags for Spink county 200 tags are good for say Nov. 20-27 the other 200 are good for Dec. 3-10. This would break up all the hunters from being in the field at one time preventing overcrowding and giving hunters a better hunting experience. The way it is set up now when deer season opens there's hunters everywhere, the deer are pressured forcing them to move unnaturally. This in return give's hunters an unfair advantage over the deer and puts unjust pressure on the deer. It takes the pureness of hunting out of the equasion, deer are justing running around for their life, bullets flying, deer running, and people driving around like mad men trying to find these deer. *Also with the one deer season tied to a single tag everyone is trying to get the same time off from work which then some are denied the vacation. With the two seperate seasons possible three (trophy only season) more people would be given the chance to hunt. With the two hunting season's would bring two hunting group's which would then head to the field giving the small area town's twice the deer hunting income. The way it is now the hunters come in town fill their tags and leave. A new alternative way to dispurse tags: The first week of hunters will bring revenue to a town, hunt the unit, leave then. Then, the second group of hunters will come bringing revenue once again to the community. Now don't forget if passed the trophy only season will bring revenue to communities (this would be three deer seasons). This one deer season broken down into three seperate season's targeted for specific hunters, smaller numbers in the field, added revenue for communities and extra income for the state through the sale of tags. To a small community this is a big economic boost. This would be a win win situation for both hunter and community. Well what do you think? If possible could you reply back to me as to what you think of these ideas? I have more but for now I'll just leave it at this. Thank you ALL for what you do for our wildlife it's greatly appreciated!!!!!! Sincerely, Jeff Westrup P.S. If the state would happen to open a seperate trophy season would it be possible to receive a preference point for the idea? Just joking!</p>
1723	<p>There are too many people that purchase hunting rights, or lease them for there to be a good hunt anymore. Archers pass on too many deer looking for a trophy, and turn the property into a game refuge. I hunted on prairie, fields, and down on the Big Sioux river. A majority of the deer were sitting on lands that are hunted by archers as they are not pushed by anyone. Another thing that hurt our hunt was the late season flood. The deer wanted nothing to do with the property that had been underwater.</p>
1776	<p>while hunting, we seen alot of deer, but most were very small and not worth shooting at. very few were nice large deer and that goes for both species. most seen were bambies. of our party of four there were only 2 doe that we conidered nice doe. the rest were what I call bambies, very small. even the buck that was taken only had a fork. we had a total of 9 deer to harvest, which we did.</p>
1787	<p>I thoroughly enjoyed hunting for muledeer at little bend. My brother and his son-in-law are planning to apply next year,so we can hunt together.</p>

1846	On some of the big GFP land I would like to see a path to be able to take a 4x4 in to load your game on I live in Potter county and we have great hunting but on Hwy 212 and 1804 jct to the west is too far to drag a deer. Most every one does not get close to the river. It is way to far to drag your critter. You could have a set time to do this every day so you would not bother the people that are still hunting. If you go in to get your animal you should not be able to take your weapon. Thank you
1863	This year I was only able to draw a tag for East Sully County. I only had access to public areas in that county. These areas were overcrowded to the point of being dangerous. I did NOT enjoy my hunt and found it to be bothersome and irritating. I do not hunt for trophy reasons but rather for the meat. The public areas were so crowded that it was nearly impossible to shoot safely for fear of other hunters being less than 800 yards in any direction. I have access to a large amount of private land in Hughes County but was unable to draw for Hughes. It seems to me that there could be some type of allowance to provide resident hunters tags on private land. Resident hunters should have preference over out-of-state hunters. I do like the extended antlerless season in January. This season is not heavily populated with out-of-state hunters. This year I had East River rifle but next year will add Black Powder and possibly Archery so this will increase my opportunity to harvest more deer for the meat.
1865	I enjoyed my hunt. I just couldn't shoot the broad side of a barn. There were lots of deer, but not enough time with all of the crappy weather this year and work. Seasons need to be longer to accommodate the working class person.
1900	I hunted with family in the Hills and there are fewer deer than I have ever seen. Something more needs to be done to control the predators in that area of the state. We seen more predator kills than hunter kills of deer.
1938	The weather made it very hard to get around this year for me. You would think there would be a extension in years of bad weather for antlerless deer.
1987	Walk-in program has been very helpful in the past when west-river hunting.
1993	Why does the deer license in Shannon County only allow you to harvest one deer. There is such a over population of deer here. Why can't it be like the rest of the state with 3 license.
2006	The deer hunting is very poor in Ziebach county because of too much hunting and the bucks are killed before they get old enough. The biggest bucks we saw were 5x5 whitetails and 4x4 mule deer and we only saw one of each. We covered a lot of ground and we hunted a lot of different land in far different areas. Farming also makes it poor because a lot of the land in Ziebach county is farmed destroying deer habitat. There also aren't as many trees. I also think that bow hunting and muzzleloader hunting helps because I tried it this year and I found out that nobody really does it in our county and it was an experience I will never forget. Thank you for all the work your people do to improve the wildlife hunting and habitat.
2007	I hunt mainly my dad's land in Roberts county. I've hunted here all my life and I would say there are less deer than ever. My opinion to many does being shot over the years all the double tags and extended seasons youth deer all does being shot plus young antlerless deer. Why not offer any deer tags for youth deer and quit the extended seasons. Takes does to produce the deer herd. For instance 15 years ago you would see 100 deer in a group wintering now you might see 10 to 20 there now if your lucky.
2009	Liked the season better when it opened the weekend after Thanksgiving for East River. The bucks are at the tail end of the rut and seemed to have better quality deer previously.
2010	Thanks.
2012	The weather the past 2 years has been such as my family and I were not able to hunt the

	late season, maybe next year. And this might hold true for other hunters also.
2020	I would like to see the antlerless deer harvest longer due to weather challenges and time over the holidays. Go back to 1 or 2 deer per tag versus the 3 or more per tag.
2021	There were 6 people in our hunting party and all of us had triple tags for Ziebac county. We came home with just 2 deer. The walk in areas are getting smaller and ranchers would not let us hunt on their property, although some would for a price per gun, per day. Then we hear about ranchers complaining about the number of deer on their property during the winter and the GFP having to help harvest or kill a certain number of deer to help them out after the hunting seasons. Triple tags are to much as some people seem to shoot everything in sight including yearlings which hurts next years hunting. It seems the state is greedy for the money but knows the deer population isn't very good, the possibility of 3 deer for \$45 is a good deal, but the most we have have every come back with is 7 deer, out of a possibily 18 deer. Plus this year we didn't see many deer on any of the land we hunted, we only saw 2 antalop, when we typically would see hundreds, so both populations were down.
2022	Please make the previous comment avilable to the public, commission and staff. Please remember that you are managing a culture, a sport, a tradition and a legacy and not merely wildlife for wildlife's sake. Thsi is written by the survey participant's father who did not apply this year because the process has become very uncertain, onerous and inconvenient.
2066	It was not one of the choices but, I would like the antlerless season to be in early December for maybe 10 to 14 days. The January one is too late. Some bucks have dropped antlers. The deer have settled into a routine that allows them to survive a very difficult time of the year. The weather is usually more harsh in January and sometimes, I can't get out to hunt at all. I would like to see the science behind the January season.
2078	Longer seasons, and more tags.
2084	I think the walk in area in Northern Tripp County is over run with hunters. I fully understand the desire to have a place for people to hunt; yet having 15 hunters in a 600 acre area is a safety concern for the hunters and an unsportsman like disadvantage to the game in the area. The deer population in this area is diminishing at alarming rates, while it is growing in other areas that are not being hunted as heavily. I would like to see some change in the way the walk in land is governed.
2097	There are way to many does in my area. Maybe by lowering the cost of additional tags would result in more does being taken.
2103	I wish the state legislature, and in turn GFP would restrict vehicle hunting, ie, driving along canyons and draws, see something, jump out and shoot at it. That isnt hunting, its killing, and ruins it for the rest of us who walk to a certain location, sit and wait for the deer to come to us. I strongly dislike all deer hunters who drive around until they see something and then just jump out and shoot it. I am not talking about someone who sees a deer from a vehicle and then stalks it. I am talking about seeing a deer from the cab of a pickup and then just shooting it using the pickup hood as a gun rest. It just isnt right.
2125	I had one of my best hunts in 2010.
2146	I do see parties hunt public lands that are part of a hunt for pay system or a out of state party that pays to stay and hunt land that is watched the entire year and then directed to the public land that these deer follow. I do not mind if the parties hunting. are the ones doing the research for the fall hunt, but most times, its the party that will charge these hunters to hunt public land
2154	If supported by species; let the after season be either whitetail or muley for unharvested animals.

2168	Walk in areas were extremely crowded this year, compared to 2010.
2182	Ensure that walk-in land is contiguous and more clearly marked.
2190	In my opinion if better quality bucks and letting them grow to be more mature is what GFP and hunters in S.D. are after why not a minimum on points . Say 3or4 on one side.
2202	It is obvious the deer population was down substantially East River this year. Hunting more than 10 times archery this season, I estimate seeing only about 50% of the deer in past seasons. Mule Deer were down a lot in Stanley County as well, more than 50%. I dislike East River rifle hunting very much. Too many people and too much vehicle hunting. My optimism for a quality deer herd East river is quite low given the hard winter and decreased population. Grain prices and extended tillage this fall will have a negative impact on a quality deer herd as well. I've killed more than a hundred deer in my lifetime, all sizes and shapes. I am planning on spending our valuable vacation time in the future west river on private or limited access lands. I hunt with my teenage daughter and low pressure foot-hunting is our preferred method. Thank You.
2213	Public land appears to be receiving more pressure--hard to find a place to rifle hunt where there aren't tree stands, gut piles, and itchy trigger fingers within a stone's throw. This is the first year I've been harrassed by local landowners in areas adjacent to GPA/Corps lands--they didn't like me hunting on Corps land adjacent to private property (suspect the LO had a big buck in the area he wanted to harvest) I really like hunting deer, but I'm starting to get less motivated--I'm starting to understand why many people peter out on big game, and end up hunting pheasants...main complaint: too much pressure--buy some more land, let Dan McCormick Plant more trees.
2216	Do not care for the late antlerless season, should just add on at the end of buck season a extra 10 days or so. The late season has bad weather conditions for the deer when they should be left alone to make it through the winter. Also some very nice bucks that have shed can be killed at that time.
2220	You have to many hunters on to little public land. Granted you have some large areas of walk in area BUT.. it may as well be closed, I would not shoot a deer unless I was able to retrieve it and given the distances in some cases, it is not possible. Maybe some of the larger wia's like McQuistons and GFP areas like Mailshack & Little Bend should have strictly enforced "game retrieval route only" trails. I know I would be willing to walk the 3,4, or 5 miles if I knew I could harvest a deer, then go get my pickup, rather than drag (even with a cart) a deer that distance back. I would rather get a tag every 2nd or 3rd year and have no crowds. I don't know the entire solution, but believe the residents should have first choice on tags, and that a private property owner can not sell the chance to hunt public game. They want deer harvested, then let us in to harvest, I don't charge them a thing for my time. We have to many "game farms" and we need to close the hunting on public land to these canned hunters. You want to shoot a pen raised animal or bird fine, but not a public owned one. I see a bleak future if we continue to let the tourist dollar dominate our hunting.
2225	I have difficulty finding private land to hunt. If special seasons are to be offered for antlerless deer then offer hunters a place to hunt that vehicles can be used for game retrieval.
2254	I Think SD should have some sort of "earn a buck" program.... Where a hunter doesn't get to shoot a buck untill he/she harvestes a doe. Steve Wilson
2258	I spend approximately 5 week-ends in Stanley and Perkins co. helping the landowners/Ranchers with numerous tasks/jobs. I do this because it is getting harder and harder to find good private hunting without paying the commercial fees. I enjoy the freindship as much as the opportunity to hunt their ground. I just hope the commercial

	hunting does not take over most or all of the private land? I have hunted public land and i am not very impressed? I do appreciate the GFP for doing what they can to still maintain good areas to walk-in and hunt. I can't blame the landowners for wanting the additional revenue that hunter are willing to pay to hunt deer, "especially trophy deer". Overall, i appreciate the GFP for the good hunting we still have in South Dakota. I hope to hunt for a lot more years and to share that with my son. Thanks, Bill Dodge
2267	Start creating food plots for antler growth and overall health of the population with some of the walkin land. Obviously do allow hunting in these areas but most of the walkin areas are fields. I understand it would great need to watch these areas but it could be done.
2282	I would like to have seen a longer late antlerless season as I am dissabled and can't always get out when I want to.
2284	I would like to be able to get more than one archery tag west river. There are some quality deer in the Black Hills but not as good as the quality of prairie deer in large. Also, I would like to see the rifle deer hunt both west and east river to not be during the peak of the rut. Make it more of a hunt than a shoot where a good share of the quality deer are harvested when they are in the rut. Make more opportunities for archery hunters as most archery hunters are true hunters.
2286	So far I've normally been successful in obtaining a license east river. I have often thought that if I don't receive one in the normal draw, I think it would be only right to receive a license or two (even antlerless) to be used on my 47 acres only. That's normally where I've successfully filled my tags in the past and I know it's available for those owning 160 acres or more. I guess I don't see the difference.
2304	Appeared to be a drop off in Whitetails this year. I probably won't apply for Whitetails this year.
2308	I would prefer to see the rifle deer seasons move away from the rut by a week. The length of the season is fine in my opinion, but the ability to catch the tail-end of the rut ever year with a rifle is too easy. Not only that, but it eliminates one of the best weekends for archers who benefit from hunting that prime rut time.
2312	I cannot tell you how much my wife and I enjoy hunting west river since we have been able to fill our doe deer tags during antelope season. Last year worried us, there was talk of doing away with that.
2322	Would like to see the SD Archery season start Sept 1 or ealrier.
2327	More public shooting areas are always nice, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find private land to hunt on as many farmers lease land or only allow small numbers. Also, the predator population in the Black Hills, specifically mountain lions is out of control. We saw the fewest number of deer we have ever seen this year and no elk. not a good sign.
2332	The county in which I live is "Butte", not Butt. Not exactly sure where Butt county is.
2337	I had a West River tag but could not go for personal reasons. Also, per questions 25 and 27, Beadle County has produced nice bucks overall. However, for the past 3 years the areas I hunt in Beadle County (Southwest) suddenly quit producing deer numbers in general. It was never an issue before and I've hunted the same land for the past 18 years. It has become very strange and frustrating. It has somewhat diminished the experience we've always enjoyed in our family.
2339	I live in an area with a lot of deer around, but because I own less than 160 acres I can only receive a license every other year at most. I do have other hunters on my land but would like the opportunity to hunt without taking a chance with with the lottery every year.

2341	Hunting in Beadle co. for ER deer, the population in southern Beadle has been down significantly over the last 3-4 years. The quality of bucks has diminished as well. In hunting in north Perkins for WR deer, we are seeing fewer and fewer whit tail deer, and see few good bucks, which is different than previous years. Mule deer populations seem good, and we have been seeing good quality bucks. How do you manage these deer populations when you offer "any deer" tags which allows a hunter to hunt either mule deer or white tail deer?
2344	I think its not right to have to pay to hunt on some Ranchers land, we can come in and hunt for does but the big bucks get saved for some high dollar out of state hunter to come in and hunt..very unethical
2399	I hunted both east and west seasons every year and this was the only year my dad and I haven't shot a deer. Although i missed a decent buck east river, and we passed up a few does because the freezers was pretty full. We didn't get any deer west river mainly because the private land we were hunting the year before was turned into walk in and we got second season.
2408	gf&p do a great job of managing our resources
2411	I enjoy the way my hunting experience has been in South Dakota. I have had the experience of being called for a deperidation hunt 2 years ago. I like the fact that G F & P stays on top of the chronic wasting disease. The only thing I would like to see is a estimated harvest expectancy report broke down by area. For example, based on previous years, what number of deer would you project to be taken in area 50. For people who are registered on the website to receive info, keep updates on chronic wasting disease and other vital info pertaining to hunters/fisherman etc.
2420	Why are scopes not allowed on Muzzleloaders
2421	I feel that too many hunters hunt in large parties, but I am a solitary hunter so any number over 3 is too large in my opinion(just my opinion). Having hunted deer in South Dakota for 47 years (minus time in Marines). I have noticed a change in hunters attitudes. The areas I hunt, people are a little more likely to leave small bucks go. Personally I would harvest a doe instead of shooting a small buck, unless I feel that buck will not mature into a large buck or is on the waning side of his life. And I would prefer to take that particular deer out of the gene pool. I feel larger parties have more of a competitive mind set, and tend to shoot any deer they see, which I believe stems from the fact that numerous hunters in public land know that if they don't shoot the deer they see the chances of seeing more deer are pretty slim. Because the land gets "hunted" out in the first morning. I don't know what the solution to this is, but I do notice more hunters making a stand on the first morning instead of drives, which in my opinion keeps the deer in the area longer
2422	From my hunting experience over the past 30 years. The east river deer seasons is way to long and should be 7 days max.The number of anterless tags needs to be reduced. the areas I have hunted over the years, the bucks out number the does. there are way to many kinds of doe tags, you have mentor,youth,black powder, east/west rifle, east/west archery is there no end to it. How many deer can one person shoot. I agree there are units that still have large deer numbers and have some problems, BUT not all of them. There is another problem you need to have stonger penalties for hunting deer from the road/PICKUP . try taking privledges away for one year. This is a huge problem and a dangerous one. I enjoy going out and CALLING in coyotes, allowing people to run them down with snowmobiles is not the way to reduce the population. Who came up with this \$5.00 predator permit, you dont need one if you have big game license , but you cant get one intill aug. I start hunting in FEB. I can only hope some one reads this, you need more hunter input THANK YOU

2429	Your policy of raising the price of the buck license and adding antlerless tags is stupid. The majority of hunters just pay the license fee to get a buck license and do not even hunt does. If you truly want to reduce the deer herd, you could require that the antlerless licenses be filled prior to filling the buck license. Suggest changing your antlerless only season to later in January. Having the season during the Christmas-New Years season cuts down on the hunters due to the holiday. Moving it away from the holidays would be very helpful. Walk in areas in Mellette County are mostly good but seem to be getting overhunted. Everywhere that I hunted the first weekend had other hunters there at the same time.
2444	Too bad people don't follow rules, respect other people when they are on a spot. Perhaps when you have large walkin areas like you do out West that could be segmented, perhaps a lottery drawing system like goose pits in Pierre.
2446	extremely dissatisfied with hunter ethics encountered in Mellette County during west river opening weekend, as well as landowner attitudes towards hunters.
2451	In my opinion, too many tags are issued for rifle and muzzle loader. I also feel that their should be an antler restriction in order to promote larger mature bucks. The buck should be a minimum of a 4X4 or have 8 visible points. I know that other states have done this and the quality of the bucks has gone up tremendously. I see far too few deer and too many hunters. That, in my opinion, is why you see so much poaching and trespassing too. We have not done a good job in this state of managing this resource. Too much greed and not enough common sense. Reducing the number of archery tags is not going to matter. The success rates are low enough as it is. The rifle and muzzle loader tags is where the reduction should occur. Far too many bucks are killed in that late antlerless season as well due to dropping their antlers. I have a lot of friends that bow hunt, and I don't know too many of them that harvested a deer this year. Thanks for your time. Chris Murray Tea, SD
2456	We hunted all state ground and on average we saw at least 12-20 other hunters on the same land everyday. This tells me that the farmers in our area are not letting people hunt or they issued to many tags
2463	NEED MORE PUBLIC ACCESS NO HIGH POWER RIFLES, MUZZLE LOADER AND SHOTGUN ONLY, EAST RIVER TOO MANY EAST RIVER TAGS ALLOWED LESS DOES TAKEN, TOO MANY GUYS SHOOTING YOUNG BUTTON BUCKS START ARCHERY SEASON SEPTEMBER 1
2469	The antlerless season is a good idea but the weather the past couple years has been a major issue.
2472	I am a 100% Disabled Veteran 75 years old. I have a disabled hunter permit and can legally shoot from my PU Truck. This is however difficult to shoot deer without being able to drive into the walkin areas. It would be helpful if disabled hunters were able to drive into these walkin areas.
2482	to me if you want bigger bucks you make roles like teens smaller buck than 4 4older hunters 4 4mature deer you have to slow down some get passed because could not reconize. ifeel spreading out seasons is good as a older hunter . i would musslezzload more with a scope because my eyes do not shoot open sighs well any more i like to bow hunt to not be as crouded and be able to get on peoples property i would not have a chance
2483	weekend are best the week I have take off work because it is to dark that time of the year
2484	Our state has been out to reduce the doe population for many years. I have discussed this with many friends here in South Dakota and friends from other states. The one thing I would like to see in South Dakota is the "Earn a Buck" type system as I've seen

	<p>in other states, where a hunter must first harvest a doe/antlerless deer before their buck tag is valid. I would also like to see the buck tags go to a point restriction. I watch too many people pass up does to take a small buck just because it has antlers. This is making it hard to find many quality bucks in South Dakota. Also the state needs to increase the number of non-resident licences. Non residents bring a lot of money into the state. For West River there are very few available and East River they can't even apply until the third drawing. Just some suggestions my friends and I have been discussing. The most important suggestion I have to improve the quality of "Bucks" in South Dakota is the "Earn-A-Buck" and putting a point restriction on the antlers otherwise hunters will continue harvesting small bucks and the quality will never improve. The "earn-a-buck" will eliminate hunters from passing up a doe and taking a small buck and the point restriction will increase the quality of the bucks in South Dakota. For those hunters that only want a buck tag the state can continue with the "special buck tags", put the point restriction on those also, keep the fee for that tag much higher, and keep the number of tags limited to only so many per county.</p>
2494	<p>This was the worst year I have ever seen for low deer numbers and I put a lot of the blame on mountain lion numbers, I have seen more lion sign every year and I believe the lions kill a large number of deer, some blame has been put on coyotes, but I have seen less coyote sign over the last two years. I think lions need the same classification as varmints and have a shoot on sight plan. remember hunters pay for the "lions share of the deer" and every time a lion kills a deer it takes an opportunity away from a hunter. I think lions and zebra mussels are the same.</p>
2495	<p>I would like to see the second deer season be concurrent with the first season. Mainly because some of the bucks have already dropped their antlers by the time January comes around. I would also like to see some better wheelchair access to walk in areas, plus to be able to be brought in those areas w/ a vehicle and dropped off.</p>
2534	<p>Very disappointed with the amount of vehicular travel in the walk in areas. I saw ranch managers and association owners road hunting from vehicles in walk in areas. It is not fair that I walk several miles into an area just to have a vehicle drive by with people road hunting. Rob Mattox 605-578-1556</p>
2545	<p>Like I said previously I think we need to change the size of bucks that are allowed to harvest plus each person should have to harvest a doe before given a buck license.</p>
2555	<p>I would suggest having a system in place for buck management such as the black hills where you need to take a fork or better with your any deer tag. I believe this would increase the number of mature/trophy bucks thrown out the state as well as help reduce the doe population. I believe hunters would harvest more does with their any deer tag instead of taking adolescent bucks.</p>
2560	<p>Fix the issues with LO preference and make things more fair for all hunters to draw Big Game tags in the Black Hills and public land. If a hunter gets preference, he should be restricted to the land that he used to get preference. I know this is not an Elk survey, but it is completely unfair for some to get an any elk license every year in certain units and other people to receive one or none in a lifetime. While it does not take as long to get a Black Hills deer tag, there are similar fairness issues with those licenses as well.</p>
2571	<p>As I have stated in prior surveys, I believe the best way to manage the buck population would be to limit buck harvest by antler restrictions. Most guys are out with anydeer tags and shoot small bucks just to shoot a 'buck' instead of taking a mature doe. Bucks smaller than three points on a side shouldn't be taken unless in a youth or mentored season.</p>
2577	<p>Rifle season is way too short for West River deer Season in my opinion. Thanks.</p>

2581	Was unable to hunt due to Lower Back Surgeries. So no meat in the freezer. Hope to draw again next year god willing and the water doesn't rise.. Thanks for the great work your folks do in providing a superior hunting program! My only wish is to draw an elk tag here in my home state before I'm too old and broke down to enjoy the hunt if drawn. Thanks again to all of you women and men who have an outstanding game program. V/R Timothy B. Scott
2582	Refer to my comments on the point system!
2592	During the extended hunting there is very little access to BH forest as most all gates are closed and locked as of Dec 15th. I'm getting older and walking is more difficult for me. These gates restrict our access to public ares that are for the public and cannot be used. Close these gates after ALL hunting seasons are closed.Jan 31rst not Dec 15th.
2597	Increase mountian lion tags espeically where their are big horn sheep. Have draw tags for antlerless deer in the black hills areas where their is an abundance of antlerless deer. Be more fair on the draw. Maybe add an antlerless deer to the tag sold in the regular season in areas that have a great number of antlerless deer!
2623	I hunt an area where there is not much public land to shoot in, mostly private. I hunt on my nephews ranch so it is no problem for me. Don't know if cutting back to 2 tag permits would increase hunters or not, because you have to know somebody in the area I hunt. Just always wondered why the 3 deer tag is the only tag I can get for the area I hunt. I shot my wall hanger about 17 years ago and have taken does ever since and I think it has improved the buck size and quality over the years. I think maybe people need to be more educated about deer management and harvesting to improve the "big buck" syndrome. Thanks.
2635	Some land owners said we could hunt but not until paid hunters were done. If the number of deer is to high do like several years ago they have to get an antlerlees deer first before a buck . Should be a way of catching these landowners that have paid hunting and don,t pay taxes on that money, yet still want all the government help, if they have paid hunting then no government help also they should pay a higher land tax for that period as that time they are also recreational. I do beleive they should be able to charge to hunt on their land, but the regular person can,t afford it any more. Non land owners pay taxes on all our income.
2661	I would like to see all unit managed for larger bucks I think a good option would be more antlerless tags and implementing antler point restrictions on all units.IE muley 4x4 to be legal.
2673	concerns with the antlerless late season we're probably killing too many bucks who have already shed their horns.
2682	Would like to see CO-MANAGEMENT of deer herds with Indian Tribes in South Dakota. With 9 tribes setting their own independent season and the State also setting an independent season without assessing each others database, it is impossible to manage a deer herd that is using both land types during their lives. Mule deer, in particular, need to be co-managed in West River country. How does the State recognize or calculate Tribal harvest in their recommendations? or do you just ignore the fact that some tribes are harvesting several hundred deer in some Counties (Roberts, Lyman, Corson, Ziebach, etc)?
2686	not enough good public hunting options with the amount of pressure it gets during deer season
2699	This is only my second season deer hunting in South Dakota. Ive hunted some of the best "buck Hunting" private land in Minnesota and will never go back. I do wish there was more oppportunity for archery hunting around the Sioux Falls area. Ive knocked on

	many doors for permission to archery hunt and have had no luck.
2700	this was again a great west river season . weather was dry and warm .
2702	need to harvest less deer east river to raise the population
2716	I think that we need to look into the counties before we have all the tags go to antlerless tags for the late season. I feel some counties don't need that season but others do, so maybe look to see what units need to have deer harvested instead of just saying all of them. Also, I don't think that these places that have expensive deer hunts and won't let people on to shoot any deer, should get help from the Game Fish and Parks when they complain that there is to many deer on their property when winter comes. If they don't let hunters on to shoot deer/does then they shouldn't get help from the Game Fish and Parks funds.
2726	I am originally from Idaho where I hunted for a few years -- mostly mountain hunting. I have been hunting in SD for about 25 years, mostly east river and west river, but a few years muzzleloader and a few years Black Hills. SD has been a deer hunter's paradise for me. GFP, overall, has done an outstanding job of managing the deer herds -- recovering the herd from a few devastating winters and from disease (blue tongue / chronic wasting). All three of my kids (2 sons and a daughter, all now living in different states) grew up deer hunting, and all had wonderful experiences. One of my sons has been getting out-of-state licenses the last couple of years to come back to hunt with me. My wife also occasionally hunts and thoroughly enjoys the experience. (In 2009 she bagged a 4X5 whitetail buck larger than I had ever gotten 'til then -- in 2010 I beat her by a little with a nice 5X6 whitetail.) We hunt primarily for food, but I also have a nice display of antlers in my home office. Because of my current work situation, which involves a lot of travel in and out of state, the total days I can spend hunting are extremely limited -- only 2 days total in 2010. But those are some of the most enjoyable days of my entire year. As retirement draws a little closer, I am already planning longer hunting experiences. I have always done all my own butchering (with the help of my kids when they were home). I also do my own reloading, and have only shot reloads for many years. Many thanks to GFP for your wonderful work!
2730	We saw a lot of deer this year, maybe more than ever. However, we also we more crowded than we have ever been. I witnessed many out of town and out of state people driving section lines and shooting deer in places they had no permission to be on. It is sad as they are ruining it for the local people. I am a trophy hunter but am very adamant about people shooting does. We always harvest our does to the best of our ability either for meat for ourselves, or to donate to SAH. What an awesome program that is. There were many quality bucks but I did not see one that I considered "big enough" for me to harvest. The sheer amount of deer in the county was staggering. I believe that someday we may want to look at going towards antler restrictions or possibly an "earn a buck" type system to get some of the does harvested. I always save my tag for a big buck but if I don't harvest one I always hunt the late doe season and try to fill the tag then on an antlerless deer. I have never had a problem shooting a buck that had already dropped it's antlers, and think that is a silly argument. Being able to hunt during the rut here is of most importance to me. My best hunting memories have always been during deer season and the rut adds a lot of "magic" to that. Please don't change the season dates. I believe through education and public programs we can raise the awareness of how important it is to harvest does and keep the ratios in check, while giving everyone a chance at bigger bucks. I have seen this happen in my group of friends in recent years as we have changed our attitudes on harvesting does. Having a place to donate the meat and help needy families is a huge bonus, I think that is one of the best programs anyone has ever come up with and I support it completely.

2760	<p>Hunting in SD is becoming a rich persons hobby. You see fewer young people doing it and when you ask them why it is because they can't afford to do it. Pay hunting is just to costly for a deer hunt for the average SD resident. I also think if a landowner is charging to hunt they should not be able to have a free depredation season on their land to improve the herd for the people that pay to hunt.</p>
2764	<p>I would like to hunt all of the landowners land that is in two different units with my tags, the landowners land is in two different units. This is for the reason if I have a deer that runs across the road from one unit to the next I cannot follow it.</p>
2785	<p>Big Game seasons in South Dakota have become a mixed up special interest mess. It use to be that we had a month in November to devote to deer hunting whether it was in the Black Hills, the west river or east river area and there was usually time and opportunity to hunt in two of those three and we had to choose. That was fine because it was rare to be able to find a place to hunt in two areas anyway and we only had room for a couple deer or a deer and antelope in the freezer. Those of us that were interested in hunting deer with archery gear could spend a few nice days in October in the mornings before going pheasant hunting east river or late afternoons early in October after grouse hunting stalking mulies on the prairie or sitting in a tree stand. Now we have deer seasons mixed with antelope seasons and antelope seasons mixed with deer seasons, turkey seasons mixed with all other big game seasons, and one season running concurrently with another season, hunting seasons by unit and statewide hunting seasons, this method season and that method season and this tangle of seasons and dates, and locations (or not as the case might be) starts in late September and now goes clear till the end of January. Looking at all those seasons and all those "special openings and closings and re-openings and restrictions and application requirements is like trying to read and understand Egyptian. You can do one thing in this season but not in another and you can't use this license in this season but you can use it in that one. A person has to have a slide rule, a day planner , a PDA and cell phone alarm to tell him when he's suppose to apply for something, where he's suppose to apply for it, why he's suppose to apply for it and which weekend he's suppose to go hunting and who he's suppose to take along or can't take along. Why can't we have just a simple, straight forward, Antelope season application by individual management areas, deer season application by management area, elk season application by management area, turkey season by management area in stead of all these multiple season/method applications that are so confusing to read it takes nearly an hour to figure it out or understand what a person can do much less wants to do . How about just saying we're going to have two weeks to hunt archery elk in September, a week to hunt antelope in October, a month to hunt deer in November anywhere in SD and allow for a little extra antlerless deer hunting on private land only the first through the 15th of December statewide along with the pheasant season. Seems like every special interest group has to have their own season and its just completely ruined the fall atmosphere. September is Dove and Grouse month, October is pheasant and archery deer month. November is deer month and December is time to wind down, try to fit in one more pheasant hunt before the holidays and then after that, if there is opportunity, we can call a coyote or hunt a tree belt or brush patch for bunnies for stew. Has anyone honestly taken a good look at the confusing, complicated, voluminous mess represented by all the license applications from non-resident waterfowl to big horn sheep and everything in between. I tried to read and sort out the youth deer and mentor hunting applications this fall with my grandson and we finally just guessed about the right thing to do and when he got his deer, I'm still not sure we did the right thing, in the right place, at the right time..... It's not enjoyable anymore ladies and gentlemen. It's a bureaucratic mess! Can we just have</p>

	<p>a single deer season and you can use any type of legal weapon you want? Can we just have a deer season where I can take my grandson along to deer camp and he can hunt along side all of the adults like I did when I was 10 years old? Why do we have to have his season earlier than everyone elses? Why do we have separate hunting seasons in Custer State Park or on refuges or Farm Island? If their season in the park is only two weeks long, why do we have a month and one half long season in the Black Hills? It makes no sense to me to have some guy wearing an orange hat shooting at deer in December while I'm trying to cut a Christmas tree in the Black Hills with my family or blasting away with a muzzleloader from the road while I'm trying to enjoy a cross country skiing trip. Enough is enough!! Nowadays everybody is running around with every kind of license and tag imaginable in their pocket from the first of October until the deer have all lost their antlers at the end of January. We even encourage people to line their pockets with antlerless deer licenses and tags and shoot deer on GPA's WPA's or out in the middle of the badlands where there hasn't been a deer for the last 5 years. Hunting isn't meant to be a game of dodge ball with everybody carrying weapons of every description and bouncing off boundary fences trying to stay out of one another's way for almost half a year. It's just not nearly as enjoyable or rewarding as it once was. Maybe it's because every landowner is starting to charge big bucks for access and all of us that can't afford that sort of thing try to find an out of the way spot to hunt in peace and end up going home early because nobody can avoid the conflicts that always happen it seems. Our deer, antelope and elk seem like their numbers have dwindled so much on public lands that it's hardly worth trying to find a place to hunt in areas where I've hunted since I was a kid. I went up and camped in the North Cave Hills for the opening of the archery season and saw a single doe and her fawn in two days of hunting. I dropped down to the Slim Buttes for an afternoon on the way home and didn't see a deer in an area that 25 years ago, I was able to shoot a nice buck with my traditional archery gear in less than a day of hunting. I sat in a tree stand for a total of 6 different days (mornings and evenings) in the Black Hills in some of my favorite places and I saw 2 does and a fawn. I had trail cameras out on 7 different favorite hunting spots for over two months prior to the rifle season in the Hills and only got photos of 3 small, branch antlered bucks, two spikes, and about a dozen does and fawns. The photography was better in Jones county but not by much compared to years past. I didn't get any cougar photos in the Hills but I got a picture of a skunk! 10 years ago, in those same places, it was common to get a glimpse of a good buck several times during a season and get at least one shot if one was patient enough. One of those bucks was within 1/2 mile of the city limits of Rapid City. And before anyone thinks that my lack of success and satisfaction is attributable to my age, physical ability and mobility, I'm pleased to say that I walk and jog approximately 30 miles per/month, lift weights and do other exercises at home for the express purpose of trying to stay in good shape to hunt. I fully plan on putting a freighter pack on my back and towing a horse about 7 miles into elk camp in Colorado this year in September so there is hardly and issue for me to negotiate the Hills and other western SD landscape. I don't understand what is happening to our game or with our hunting seasons but in either case, it's obviously not something a lot of us are satisfied with. It's time for a complete overhaul and getting back to just the basics and the fundamentals!</p>
2786	<p>I was asked if I hunted East River and had to answer "No" because I did not draw a tag. I would like to be able to hunt on my parents land....kind of like a landowners tag. thank you.</p>
2789	<p>Additional comments regarding the 2010 hunting season: East River Rifle/Bow: I spent one day hunting with rifle this season with family. I was presented with a situation</p>

	<p>that involved irresponsibile/stupid hunters that abused the land that we had permission to hunt. Futhermore the hunters ruined/turned off my family members because they felt it was too dangerous to hunt with these individuals shooting rifles in a crazy manner. In addition, the farmer that had granted access to his land to retrieve deer was angry and chose to terminate permission. Reason for termintion was due to the farmers friend almost getting shot in his tin house blind. If your that dumb to shoot in the direction of a blind/house, you don't deserve to be hunting. To make things worse the individuals shooting toward the blind were using semi-auto rifles. So again, this is a prime example of the bad ruining it for the good. I still don't understand how some people gain access without permission. So now, we are looking for a new place to hunt with bow and rifle east river</p>
2798	<p>I feel that deer hunting is a wonderful sport and should be enjoyed whether the hunter has an anterless tag or an any deer tag. I am disappointed that so many hunters feel they have to shoot a buck no matter what. I would like to see the the deer in South Dakota be managed in such a way that more bucks have the opportunity to reach maturity. Thanks for sending out this survey.</p>
2809	<p>While additional surveys may have dimished response over the initial survey. I do appreciate that SDGFP is doing additional surveys to gather information. I like knowing that we as hunters in this state may not have direct input to decisions, but we have had the opportunity to give data and opinion. Thank you!</p>
2812	<p>I would like to introduce the idea that pay hunting is hurting the hunting opprotunities around the state. Too many deer go un hunted and are over run because landowners are too busy trying to make money instead of managing there deer herds. I understand that its there right to do so but then they should have not right to complain about wildlife damage caused by the deer they will nto allow people to harvest. This could be handled if they woudl allow people (a select number of there choosing) to harvest antlerless deer on there property for several years in exchange for one year to take a buck ie 1 in 5 years the hunter could harvest a buck. In the way the landowner could reduce the number of deer but at the same time keep high quality huntng avalible to people. Also, I think that a specail tax on those who offer pay hunting should be implimanted to offset the land that is then totally unavalible fo rthe general puplic to hunt. These fund could be used by GFP or the state to purchase or lease more land for public hunting. In addition a careful check shoud be made to insure that area pay hunting operations have been paying the correct state tax on their hunting income. In addition to these ideas I beleive that the late deer season should run longer and not so close to Christmas which was not an option for me to choose. Let it run for the first 2 weeks of january and find out how many bucks are taken. May in my area would like to reduce the deer but the conditions need to be right. Possibly issueing landowner antlerless deer tags for there own deperdation purposes, ie all winter to essentaily be able to harvest deer that feed on valuble trees and plants around a farm stead, thus insuring that those tags would be used totaly for problem deer. Also I would call for more reporting ressponsibility of taxidermists within the state, for i have seen deer come into a taxidermist shop weeks after season looking like they where just harvested, or piles of horns "picked-up" from deer that have been rotted out, I am not sure what the possily is but i think that is key to keeping better bucks out in the the population instead of huge piles of horns in some ones shed. Archery deer hunting season should be exteneded to provide more opprotunities for those who hunt public land. then current situtation only affords 1 weekend before the public land west of the river is invaded by a wave of antelope hunters who effectivly run many of the deer from the public lands. Thank you</p>
2822	<p>I enjoy hunting in South Dakota. I believe you guys do an excellent job of managing the</p>

	wildlife populations. There were more deer this year than I have seen previous years, especially antlerless deer. Keep up the good work, and I'm thankful for all the hard work you guys do for us hunters.
2824	One thing I would like to see is,,,,, Now you can not drive on National Grass Land, other than mark trails. Which is a good thing because people just drive all over the place. This past season hunters still did that just going where ever they wish, and there was no one to enforce that law or had out fines, that I saw. Wish there would have been.
2836	I would prefer a state wide 21 day season for both East & West River so the same hunters were not harvesting up to 6 deer a year.
2838	Make your season longer....give every person who can legally hunt one buck tag and two doe tags
2840	I think the state does a good job with the deer seasons the only thing that bothers me is when I go to scout the land I'm going to hunt a week before our season opens and there are people hunting tribal land right next to the land we will be hunting the next week. I ? that some of this people are tribal members. Plus I don't think its right they start a week early.
2844	As far as buck harvest goes, it is not so much that we need to limit the number of buck tags as it is that we need to educate hunters that just because it has horns you don't need to shoot it. Where I hunt we set the rule that nothing less than a 5x5 mule, or 3x3 white tail. Anything other than that must have land owners permission or not get invited back.
2852	I already commented on the late antlerless season being a mistake? Also where I hunt archery and rifle west river the mule deer have really diminished and I have spotted more cats every year? is this the problem? Lastly one of my concerns is my place has thousand plus pheasants on it destroying my straw stacks , silage, and distiller piles and I even put food plots in and leave them in for wildlife and gfp offered me 150 dollars??? Why so little? What are you going to do to encourage this and to assure that their continues to be walk in land with all the recreational land being bought? Thanks K.C. Gregg 605.848.0901 Thanks
2862	The travel restrictions in Jackson County need to be reconsidered. Many hunters we spoke with did not fill their tags because they could not get access to downed game and they did not want to drag the downed game for miles. This is the same issue I had this year. I took a smaller buck and quit hunting days early. I believe the travel restrictions can be beneficial but I believe that hunters should be allowed to drive to downed game and be allowed to retrieve downed game with a vehicle on all public ground.
2870	I only hunted in the badlands grassland. There were no deer in the area, hardly even any sign. Something happened to the deer in the badlands.
2883	I hate the fact the "hunters" use 4-wheelers for hunting (not just for getting from here to there, but "for hunting" --- I watch them and see it all the time). I know what I see. Four wheelers should NOT be in the field during big game seasons - period. Every place I walk for antelope and deer, all I see are 4-wheeler tracks and/or actually seeing so called hunters driving all over the country and hunting from these machines. It makes me sick, because I am 67 years old and walk and hike to do my hunting. If a hunter shoots big game far from their vehicle, then one does not drive in with a 4-wheeler to get it, but rather cut the critter up and pack it out. I know I am in the minority on this issue, so I really don't expect the GFP to even look at a response like mine.
2884	We need to be able to hunt on more government land.
2902	The regulations disallowing vehicle travel in the grasslands needs to be enforced better. Still far too many folks driving around disturbing other people's hunts and/or stalks.

	<p>This is a problem during rifle season only so it wouldn't need to be enforced throughout the entire year. I bowhunted the grasslands many times without having any problems but come rifle season it turns into a zoo out there.</p>
2913	<p>stop all road hunting. Must not shoot from roads period. Saw 2 deer wounded by road hunters, one even shot from the car. Stopping road hunting does two things, safer woods and less harvesting of bucks during the rut</p>
2914	<p>The populations in Harding County (from what I've heard Perkins too) for both deer and antelope are at absolutely abysmal levels. I feel the state has done a horrible job in managing this herd. Compared to 6 years ago, I would estimate that the deer and antelope herd in Harding county is at maybe 5-10% of what it was. I archery/rifle/muzzleloader hunted Harding county for approximately 15 days this year. I am in very good shape and do an incredible amount of hiking on both private and public land. I have been deer hunting for 23 years primarily with a bow. I am not a novice hunter or restricted physically. I know deer and can get into territory very few people can (or desire) get to. I saw fewer than 6 deer per day during those days afield. In my opinion, for this part of West River, for both deer and antelope, antlerless tags need to be completely eliminated for the next couple of years. BUCK tags only (not any deer tags) should be issued on a limited basis until the herds have had a chance to rebound. Extended seasons into January are an absolutely horrible idea if the state has any desire to increase the potential for trophy animals. It is my understanding that animals most stressed drop their antlers first (i.e dominant rutting bucks). I imagine the state could increase revenues by issuing tags in units designated as trophy only instead of worrying about giving every person carrying a weapon a dozen tags. I for one would pay a much higher tag fee for the privilege to have a limited access hunt in an area with trophy potential. The sad part is, the slim buttes/short pines area could easily have been converted to a trophy only unit 5-6 years ago with great success. Now you're going to have to wait a few years. The rest of my season was spent hunting primarily Meade and Pennington county. Deer numbers are much stronger in these areas (as opposed to Harding) but still much lower than they were a few years ago. My greatest concern is that we have a few more harsh winters and a valuable resource is reduced to a level that makes a quality hunting experience nearly impossible. I feel that Harding county is now at this point. I have hunted primarily the slim buttes and short pines area for the past 12 years. I will not be hunting it for any species of wildlife in the coming hunting seasons. My suggestion is for SD GF&P to actually do their job. I would like to see a biologist in the field on occasion actually studying the deer/antelope herds and having authority to reduce, increase, or eliminate a particular season all together. To me it seems like you did a herd census 6-10 years ago and have been issuing tags under the assumption that game population densities for the above mentioned counties have remained the same. DO YOUR JOBS!! It would be interesting to see SD GF&P actually manage a natural resource for current and future generations. Finally I don't view it as a coincidence that under current SD GF&P leadership all species of big game (except maybe turkey's & Lions) have all decreased substantially in all West River and Black Hills counties. You all deserve failing grades at this point in time.</p>
2928	<p>I hope the "open fields" doctrine stays to allow game law enforcement personnel to enter private lands as needed. What ever happened to the "South Dakota Lockout" land owners that stopped public access on their lands and then, supposedly, were going to be good guys and open the lands to hunting? I don't seem to have found any such lands opened up. As an older person (67) I wish I could use an ATV for game retrieval (only) on National Forest lands, State lands, Walk-In lands, etc. It would allow me to hunt (on foot) more difficult areas, knowing I could retrieve downed game. This is an Antelope</p>

	hunting statement: I wish you would help remove the chaos of the hunting experience. Too much hunter activity in too short of a season. Perhaps extend the season (the whole month of October?) and reduce the tags per license if necessary - spread out the hunters and also reduce stress on the antelope at the same time.
2929	no Lawrence county listed ?
2930	Cut number of tags in less populated areas. ie. Harding. Black Hills go back to the buck management rules. Have been seeing nicer deer come around because of that program, would like to keep it that way.
2933	Very few deer in the slim butts area. Dont know what has caused this but the numbers were maybe 1/10 of what we used to see in that area. Also there were a number of the trails closed to vehicals, makes hard to hunt for older people that cannot hike 4 to 5 miles.
2935	A couple years ago there was a major snow storm just prior to the start of West River deer seaso. It was very difficult, if not impossible to get to Harding County from easter South Dakota. Also, hunting was not feasible if you could get to northwestern South Dakota. I called an official at the Game, Fish and Parks and asked if the season could be extended. But he claimed that their survey for the first few days indicated that the harvest was satisfactory. However per my discussion with land owners this was not true at all. It appears that in many cases your department does not have a good understanding of the conditions and game in this area. It seems that the department is more interested in revenue than in the quality of the game or the hunting.
2941	Do away with the January antlerless rifle hunts.....
2942	The quality of the bucks in SD would increase if the hunters could be educated/convincd that just because they have an any deer liscense they don,t have to shoot a buck. They would be better off in the long run if they harvested a buck with special circumstances: a great stalk, their son/daughter was with them, it is bigger than the others they have taken, etc. They should quit shooting smaller bucks just to shoot a "buck".
2952	Additional licenses available to landowners for relatives or friends would be helpful
2957	There are way too many hunters on public lands. We need to drastically increase the cost of out of state hunting licenses to either decrease the number of out of state hunters on public lands or increase the revenue so more prime habitat can be leased or purchased to be used for public hunting land. Our resident license fees are way too high as compared to other states, but South Dakota hunters wouldn't mind so much if they actually saw their hunting opportunities increase along with the access to these areas increased and maintained better.
2965	Harding County slim butte area. Hunted for 2 full days and only seen 1 doe. First time to try hunting state land. Will never do it again. Very bad experience.
3014	I would like to see some kind of size limit put on bucks so they get bigger, for example, 12 to 20 inches across cant shoot etc
3016	I am native to Harding County and I am now semi-retired other than Crooked Creek Outfitters, LLC.
3020	I hunted in a party of seven in Harding County last fall. We hunted the North Cave Hills for a day and one-half. One of us took a long shot at a whitetail doe, and no one else shot. We saw few deer. We made the long drive to that area to hunt in the relatively wild, scenic setting. I assume that the license quota there is set due to the number of deer on private land, at least the number outside the hills. The hunting pressure in the hills is very heavy considering the number of deer there. It would be nice if the number of hunters on the national forest lands were more restricted. I would trade going less

	often for an occasional hunt up that way in which I had a better opportunity to bag a deer.
3024	listen to the land owners opinion rather than some college kid doing a study or GFP personal who think they know it all.
3026	I love the outdoors and love to go to Harding Co and hunt in the Custer National Forrest, The only question I have is, if I can't drive my atv off the road, ever, why can the rancher use it to herd cattle in the same area. Why is is ok for the neighboring rancher to drive his atv's and utv's throughout the CNF for months and I can't leave the trail to retrieve game. I understand you don't want hunters running wild on public land, but judging from the trails I see throughout CNF, there are few if any restrictions as to where the rancher can drive, and plenty of restrictions where the hunter can drive. This is a double standard.
3028	If GFP is looking to harvest more antlerless deer in October, please make this season a youth season or mentored hunt. There is no reason for adults to be killing deer in October with a rifle. It would be a great opportunity to educate SD youth on wildlife management.
3031	Thank You for Chap land to hunt on.
3054	I have many....The extended deer season is very poor management at it's utmost. To many does are being taken and everyone shots the big deer which is usually a buck that's dropped it's horns. Please stop this very very bad practice. We need coyote control my farm is over run and to few hunt them anymore. Second with little trapping going on the coon & skunks have gotten out of hand as well. The Elk season draw is a joke there must be a better way. I own land in 5 counties and have hunted South Dakota for over 50 years please read this. Thank you, Brad
3065	Please stop wasting tax payers money on these surveys.
3076	question how many more survey do I have to answer this is the 2nd survey this year?
3089	I feel there are an over abundance of deer in the west river area. It would benefit the ranchers and farmers if they had a website to go to and list there names and addresses if they feel they have too many deer on their land and would like them harvested. Something similar to the coyote hunters list. I know alot of west river ranchers and I have heard them complaining about deer ruining alot of their feed.I travel the west river area every week on a sales route and see the amount of deer feeding in hay yards and wheat fields, doesn't matter what time of day you can see 400 to 500 deer from Ft.Pierre to Wall from the highway, that has to be too many.
3096	Do everything you can to prevent further commercialization of deer hunting. I am afraid that if I lose my good west river spot, I will never find another one unless I want to pay big dollars.
3098	i would like to see a muzzle load season with more bucks, or a special tag you can get for muzzle load hunting. make the tag \$200.00 i did not get a east river buck tag, this year but we hunt only does . We saw a lot of bucks. deer season is turning into a big business, just like the pheasant season is today. You are losing your deer hunters, We have private land to hunt on, but if I did not have this land to hunt, it would be over for me. South Dakota hunters come first. Fred Barg
3099	I hunt both public and private land west river Haaken County. The school ground is public but the ranchers will not let a person access it out there. Is this legal I thought there should be some right of way as long as a person does not tear up the land.
3104	Tired of trespassers. Will be hunting somewhere different for West River Deer next year.
3119	Live in Lawrence County, was not an option on previous page. Grew up in Haakon

	County.
3122	Normally I hunt public land. I feel there should be a way to retrieve your big game at certian times during the deer season. Example from 12pm to 1pm and 1 hour after sundown. This would be especially helpful on large public hunting areas.
3123	possibly find a way to to make it easier for the residents of each county to draw in their own county. west river season is flooded with east river hunters and out of state hunters while some residents dont draw for their home county. Move antlerless deer season to immediately after main rifle season to eliminate bucks being shot after dropping horns.
3129	The land owners made imposible to get to some of the school lands and were very rude when you went to ask them to cross their land to get to the public hunting ground. Word from some ranchers the ranchers that had the school ground were using the land for their own hunting. The school land was in the middle of their property and you could not cross their land. Some ranchers had fenced off some roads to. We asked about that to and were told to stay off the road "VERY RUDELY".
3132	Kill more lions. They are hurting the animal poulations in the Black Hills.
3135	If their is School and public lands in a unit it should be able to be hunted. Almost all of the School and public lands in Haakon county is land locked with no access to the land. Why waist the money on purchasing land that you can't get to without having permission from the neighboring land owner. If you can't have access why list it as a public shooting area? This needs to change!!! The state needs to have right a ways to access all of the public lands including the school lands.
3141	I feel its coming to the point that if you don't pay someone to hunt hunters like myself will soon be done hunting all together. I will never pay to hunt. Its not like it used to be and no even when you ask a land owner if you can hunt 99% of the time they will tell you no.
3142	Hunter Education- teaching hunters how to tell a mature buck from a young buck. See a lot of hunters (alot of times out-of-state) will shoot anything with antlers. Maybe put some type of restriction on how small of a buck you can shoot. Hunting quality would be much better if individuals would shoot a doe versus shooting anything with horns, just to say they shot a buck.
3154	I think west/east river should have resident/non resident tags. East river people should have to buy a non-resident tag for west river (although they should be charged the same as a resdient fee). Therefor, there should be 3 classifications. Resident, non-resident, and out of state. All the east river people come west river to hunt because there WAS more public land, but now that the land owners are selling out the hunting rights to outfitters, all the east river people are crowded into the public lands. As a west river non landowner, it is hard to find public ground that isn't crowded by the east river people and vice versa. I also think that landowners that beg for the GFP to eliminate deer on their lands but don't allow anyone to hunt should not be helped. It frustrates me when land owners complain, but don't allow others to hunt. With Gov. Daugaards 10% cut, good luck keeping funds for public land. I think the GFP does a good job. Key up the good work.
3162	Not many deer east river (Hamlin Co. Private and public land)Saw alot of coyote tracks. West River has better deer population in area's I hunt (Harding or Gregory Co, Public land). But public land has alot of presure with other hunters. This is my opinion from the last 5 years.I really enjoy hiking out a mile or so to watch sun come up and see nature in its best.
3180	I just moved to South Dakota from Wisconsin this year. I am very impressed with the quantity and quality of the bucks I saw. The only thing I would suggest is maybe

	limiting the rifle hunting pressure during the rut to let those 150- 160 class bucks get another year older. I've hunted several of the top "big buck" states and I can honestly say, South Dakota has more potential than anywhere I've hunted before. I've seen bigger bucks in Kansas and Iowa where the gun hunting isn't until after the rut, but SD still impresses me. Keep up the good work!
3191	it would be nice if people with buck tags would not shoot the small ones. I have always passed on small bucks in favor of a large doe. It would be nice if there was a way to put guidelines in place for this and let the bucks mature
3202	Get rid of January antlerless extension. Bring back the week of antlerless immediately following the regular season. October antlerless season works great west river.
3209	I think we need more GF&P wardens in the field. Especially West River!
3214	Size limits and education about size limits on bucks is important. People need to stop shooting young bucks.
3216	I have several ideas that i would like to see.....I would like to see residents of a county have first preference at drawing a tag for that county that they live in for the east river rifle season. My wife and I have both tried drawing Hand county tags and this will be the 3rd year we have not drawn a tag. I know of several others that received tags at least every other year. I would also like to entertain the idea of eliminating the use of rifles. I would like to see a shotgun and muzzleloaders during the rifle seasons. I have a couple of reasons for this. I feel that it would reduce the number of accidents, wounded deer that are not recovered and it would also require hunters to change the way they hunt. Some of the hunters in the area spend all their time in the truck driving down section lines. This would ensure that hunters would have to get out and walk or sit and wait for a deer to come close. I think this will also help improve the quality of our bucks. People would have a better idea of what they shot. I personally feel that we need to have an antlerless season the first week of the rifle season to make those that received a buck tag to take a doe and register it to validate the buck tag. This would do several things....1. it would help control the population. 2. it would make sure that we are out of the first rut, giving some of the bucks a chance to live an extra year. 3. it would give the youth and younger hunters the opportunity to get a jump on the rest of the hunters and have a better chance at filling a tag. I spent the entire antlerless season looking for a doe that my son and father in law could get close to but they were so spooky and the snow was so deep it made it next to impossible. With the weather being cold and snow deep I couldn't get either of them into an area where they would have an opportunity for a shot. We found several herds but as soon as we started walking they were headed the other way. Please take this opportunity to change some of seasons and see what happens. I will say I have hunted in several other states and this one does a great job managing the deer herd. I think we could do a better job and when the hunters that are oppose to the changes shoot a deer of a lifetime they may change the way they feel. Thanks for the time
3234	I think the best things we could do to improve the quality of bucks is to limit hunting during the rut to Archery only. Start the Rifle seasons the Sat after Thanksgiving or even Dec1. The other option is antler restrictions for Rifle hunting.
3265	I would like to see more public hunting area's In Gregory county in the future. There was alot of public Walk In land pulled out for 2010 and it was very evident. Every Piece of public land we hunted was extremely crowded to the point where alot of the hunters didn't even feel safe.
3267	the one problem i had with west river deer hunting is the local landowners who are paid by hunters to hunt on their land. for the past 3 years on opening morning at landing creek bay in gregory county we have witnessed a group of 5 or 6 people not carrying

	guns walk through the public land before shooting hours and walk straight through to the private ground. To me this is unfair for the people hunting public ground, i know those guys where trying to run the deer off public ground into the private.
3268	I hunt public land almost exclusively during deer seasons due to the lack of access. And alot of people complain about deer being "refuged" in these areas I was thinking if a land owner utilized the deer depredation program to reduce deer numbers. That they then must open their land up the next year to the public through the CHAP program allowing them to still somewhat control how much hunting is done on their property
3290	I would like to see the antlerless season open from Christmas through the beginning of the new year. The bucks are losing their antlers and it is difficult to tell what you are shooting, doe or buck. More time to hunt over the holidays, thus giving hunters more days to harvest does and keep the herds more manageable.
3329	Allow the use of matchlocks and wheellock mukets during the muzzleloader season. I cannot use mine in SD and they are just as accurate as a flintlock or percussion rifle. The only difference is the ignition system. Have a short early muzzleloading season in addition to the long late season like most other states. If you are willing to use primitive weapons, you should be allowed to have the opportunity the harvest bucks prior to the scoped rifle season. Archery hunters have the opportunity to hunt choice bucks prior to rifle season and black powder hunters do not. Limit the number of west river hunters by having a split season during the opening two weeks of the buck season. It was crazy last year if not dangerous! One group can harvest bucks during the first week, and the other the second week. Antlerless should be able to be harvested during either season, the antelope seson, and late extended season. Have the extended West River Deer season extended for two whole weeks and keep in January. Too many other commitments take place between the Christmas/New Years holidays to have time to go hunting.
3338	I think you are doing a good job, the only possible suggestion would be an EAST RIVER antler restriction, in an effort to limit 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 year old buck harvests and allow more deer to approach maturity. Or a rule where an antlerless deer must be harvested first before a buck may be taken(although hard to enforce without 'deer check-in or registration'). Also maybe a 3 deer tag (one any deer, two antlerless) for Brown County, it seems alot of hunters I ran into hunt for buck only and leave their tag unfilled if they don't connect. However, there are a few meat hunters like myself who would like another doe without purchasing leftovers tags. Also, an interesting idea would be to convert unused archery tags to antlerless gun tags during the late antlerless season. This would really be appreciated as I(and others) had several unfilled archery tags this year, but could have used some more meat.
3374	I hunted 100% of my time in Fall River. The pulic land and walk in areas are few and far between. I found it very diifficult to find a place that wasn't already covered with hunters. I saw 1 deer in 7 days of straight hunting. There is far too little public land and far too many hunters for that area. I will not put in for that area again
3385	I have three opinions on deer hunting. My first opinion is that Game Fish and Parks needs to do more to encourage hunters not to shoot buck deer that are not mature or have small antlers. I was happy to see that a local conservation officer, Shawn Madison out of Mobridge wrote an article on the value of shooting antlerless deer for their meat and only shooting a buck if he is of decent size. Some hunters think that they have to shoot a buck but with all the antlerless deer it is better to just shot a doe than to shot a small buck. Plus, they need to identify the age of the deer, often they are shooting male fawns. My second opinion deals with the late antlerless season. I don't like the chances that a trophy buck could be shot, or even a younger buck, if the antlers have possibly fallen off

	early, it makes no sense. I do like the idea of an earlier October antlerless season in an area that is over-populated. My third opinion is on the Little Moreau Park area near Timber Lake, SD. At one time, the local land owners had a land owner preference for this park but now they do not. I think that land owners should still have preference to this park. These are my three opinions. Thank you
3407	might think about having all double tags (one any, one antlerless) and have to harvest doe first before you get your any deer!
3416	1, I think that mule deer should have a point limit size, Some never get to be big deer. Note some area deer numbers are lower than others and may be too many antlerless tags out, and I think Coyotes numbers have an affect on young deer in areas. Then in later November snow amounts can change the cores were deer move out to heavier cover or haven were they know there safe, City limits, some private land. I don't have an answer just my take on some thing. Things I seen hunting in same areas for years. It's good to have surveys that can help the management, and to see that some care about our great outdoors. Thanks for caring and good luck.
3418	Our deer populations have been visibly decreasing. Only a few years ago there were many herds in different areas. Now to go out hunting you are lucky to even see a couple running together and to get a shot is nearly impossible. I walk the terrain when I hunt so I'm not scaring them away with a vehicle and still can't see many deer. I believe there are still too many lions in the area taking the deer.
3432	Special licenses should be available for a land owner to harvest a deer on his/her property. I have 40 acres of property in the Black Hills unit, but do not qualify for a land owner preference license. However, I have a good amount of deer that are constantly on my property. My only way to harvest one of those deer is to apply for a Black Hills Deer license, which I usually am successful about every 3 years. The GF&P does allow land owner specific licenses for other game, they should allow it for deer also. My suggestion would be a specific license that would allow the land owner to harvest a deer on his or her own property during the deer hunting season. Fee should be the same as if a person were to apply for a regular license. This would give me the opportunity to harvest deer on my own land every year.
3457	I'm not a trophy hunter, and do appreciate the chance to shoot does during antelope season and the week following the end of the West River season, as well as 1-9 Jan. The ranch I hunt on in Jones county always has too many deer getting into his feed, and it's more productive than public land. In the last few years, I've found fewer mule deer in 21A but lots of pressure.
3461	again the system you have going at the moment is a very good system. i don't receive a tag every year for the best area to hunt i just find another area to go to. isn't that called hunting. you have alot of places to hunt my nice bucks came off hunting school land in perkins county and grasland in pennington county. i also took my does in both counties. the system is good if i was to shorten a season it would be stop all hunting in jan. this is the time when you do harvest a buck with no horns i have had this happen to me. and since the you want to cut the herd down shooting does is the way to handle that problem we hunters already shoot enough first year little bucks in the way just being born that year. Thank for the good work the fish and game do in south dakota. be fair to the ranchers they feed and water these animals pretty much all year round
3465	I think the grasslands in the Farmingdale area are overcrowded and over hunted. I think the trails are okay but I see far too many people driving in areas where they should not be. A lot of people are hunting by vehicle and I have had several opportunities to harvest deer ruined because of vehicles showing up out of nowhere. I could understand if a person is recovering an animal but that was not the case. Plus even though the trails say

	not to travel on them when wet I have seen several people still going back in in vehicles. I love walking the area but I think I will go further west next year.
3468	I allow young hunters with parents to hunt my land as I think this is important for our youth. I also allow adult hunters which include family, freinds and hunters that ask. If a hunter is paying to hunt private lands then I do not allow them the privilage to hunt my land. I wish hunters that pay for the privilage to hunt private lands would only be allowed to hunt those private lands. Licenses should be issued: 1. First to State residence and active Military personnel. 2. Secound to state residence with out of state family members applying for a hunt. 3. Third to out of state applicants without family members. Out of state resident family members should include: Father, Mother, Children, Grand Children, Grand Parents, Brother, Sister, Aunt, Uncle.
3474	This was my first time hunting in South Dakota because I moved here in February of last year with my current military assignment. I was put off by the number of people that are out for rifle hunting season and the complete disregard for safety they showed during rifle season. I vowed I will never hunt deer West river with rifle again.
3476	I strongly believe the gfp should give residents precedebce over nonresidents, if nothing else let us get out there first
3492	Please consider re-instating the 2 point or better for whitetail bucks, now that you have seperated out mule deer tags. We noticed a decline in good bucks in the areas we hunted. Also- we noticed a lot less deer in areas we have hunted in the past- dont know why, but it was not for lack of browse-could not believe there were so few deer yet so much food???
3495	We hunted in the Buffalo Gap Grasslands near Farmingdale and the Mule Deer #'s seemed to be way down.
3497	would like to see doe season eliminated during antelope season---too many people stirring up the antelope and when the buck season finally gets here the bucks are already spooked--add more doe season in dec/jan--very few bucks have lost their antlers in early jan
3503	I live on the Standing Rock Reservation. With this in mind, can you negotiate with the Tribe on their seasons? Tribal members deer season starts in October and runs thru December....almost a 3 month season! They extended the doe season thru January this year. The thought of a 3+ month season is pretty disgusting. The tribe also has a special combo license for deer and antelope....so deer hunting starts during antelope season. This is really poor. Thank you.
3522	IT IS TO HARD TO DRAW A ANY DEER TAG IN WESY RIVER COUNTYS. THERE ARY GETTING TO BE AS MANY MULLE AS WHITETAILE. MAKE MORE TAGS AVAILABLE
3538	Stop the late season doe permits. Too many bucks are being shot. Quit providing state money for people creating hunting preserves
3548	Why dont we have point restriction as to the numer of points need to harvest an animal? If you need doe's killed make the any deer hunters kill a doe first then they may harvest a buck afterwards. This would help control the population.
3556	Too many people think they can hunt with tribal tags on private land in Corson County. They need to respect the landowners rights. Just because they have the tribal tag they still need to ask for permission on private land. The tag does not give them treaspassing rights also.
3572	I really wish the West River Deer units would go back to species specific liceses (i.e. any mule deer or any whitetail deer). Ever since the species specific tags have been done away with, our mule deer population (especially in northwestern Perkins County)

	<p>has gone way down. Areas that used to have good populations of mule deer now have none. I now hunt Corson County due to the fact that the places I used to mule deer hunt in Perkins County have absolutely no mule deer in them at all anymore. It is pathetic. Another reason for this I believe is because GFP has made their management units larger (i.e. Corson going from two units to one and Perkins going from three units to two). Larger management areas mean sloppier less area specific management. Eastern Perkins County is different habitat than western Perkins County and north Perkins County is totally different habitat than southern Perkins County. This, coupled with taking a lot of the management decisions away from the guys who see these populations day in and day out (Conservation Officers) have really hurt our mule deer. I can provide you a list of landowners in northern Perkins County who are very frustrated at the current state of the mule deer population. Things need to change. Also, I feel the extended rifle season for antlerless deer should run earlier in the year. Mid December or before the West River Deer opening. I have seen quite a few bucks shot during this season that have already dropped their horns. I know people can harvest their antlerless deer during the firearms antelope season but it appears to me that most people don't utilize that unless they have an antelope license, and even then only a relatively small percentage does.</p>
3580	<p>As a hunter, I am looking for the chance to hunt as many days as possible, as I treasure the chance to be out as many days as possible and have a busy schedule like most people. We currently have alot of opportunities in our state with many harvest options and this gives us a chance to spend alot of time outdoors, which is what I am looking for.</p>
3604	<p>The pay to hunt land is getting to be more & more of an issue. Could the crop damage payment/help be eliminated when the land is not realistically open for hunting as the game tends to goto those areas when the hunting pressure rises. How I feel is that if the land is not open for public hunting then public money should not to be used for the wildlife damage or containment. Thanks</p>
3609	<p>We need to stop road hunters, all they do is cripple deer and wreck everybodys hunts. We need to stop the extended season for anterless deer to many bucks are getting killed during this season. If people would just deer hunt instead of just killing deer, they might find out deer hunting is a challenge, instead of running them down with there pickups! I dont understand how people think road hunting is hunting? Go out and sit in a tree stand once you might like it. I wish south dakota would change the coyote season during deer season also, that just gives people excuse to road hunt. Case the guns like minnesota make the fines bigger for shooting off the roads it might help thanks for your time!</p>
3624	<p>Your drop down boxes only included Pennington for the west river counties. I live in Lawrence co and I hunted in Lawrence co. It's hard to legislate hunter behavior. I would like to see some more education on the benefits of only taking the larger and older bucks to improve the overall hunting experience and improve the quality of the herd. Teach hunters how to recognize and properly identify the age of the animals.</p>
3643	<p>Preference drawing: Allow groups with unlike preference point to apply to together by: Adding all preference points of each hunter in the group, divide the total preference points by the number of hunters in the group, use the calculated number as the preference points for the application. If a successful application draw then each member of the group has their preference points reduced to zero. If the group is unsuccessful in the draw then add a preference point to each applicants preference that existed prior to the application. example: Hunter 1 preference points = 4 Hunter 1 preference points = 2 Hunter 1 preference points = 6 Hunter 1 preference points = 12 Total of the groups accumulative preference points in this example = 24..... divided by 4 applicants yields a preference of 6 for the draw. If the result of the calculation is fraction</p>

	then round the fraction to the next high/low whole number. This change will allow a hunter the choice to hunt with a different group then in the past without forfeiting preference points.
3661	Anterless seasons need to be restricted to coincide with the sixteen day buck season. The extended length of anterless season is putting a HUGE burden on land owners. Land owners are "hounded" for several months due to the extended anterless seasons. Sixteen days is plenty of time to harvest anterless deer. Restricting anterless season to coincide with buck season helps allow buck to survive the season. Allowing anterless hunts during a time frame when bucks may be anterless promotes unknowly killing bucks because hunter want to kill the larger bodied anterless deer. These larger bodied anterless deer tend to be bucks, thus defeating the purpose of the anterless tag! Thanks for the oppritunity to provide input.
3678	Cut or limit youth tags in the hills. ZERO antlerless mule tags in the hills, including archery, youth, rifle and muzzle. Manage the hills more closely.
3697	You have to go 75 miles EAST of WY. BORDER TO SEE QUALITY BUCKS. tHINK BACK WHEN YOU LIMITED BH DEER AND WE SEEN A INCREASE IN QUALITY BUCKS BUT FOR SOME REASON ARE ON THE DECLINE AGAIN. wHAT ABOUT CHARGING MORE FOR BUCK LICENSES AND LESS FOR ANTERLESS. IIKE \$50 FOR A BUCK AND 20 FOR ANTERLESS, POSSIBLY THIS WOULD HELP WITH NUMBERS AND POSSIBLY LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SMALLER BUCKS SHOT CAUSE THEY DON'T WANT OT SPEND THERE MONEY ON SMALL BUCK AND RATHER SHOOT DOES. SOMETHING SIMILAR TO SPECIAL BUCK LIC. BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE. I KNOW I HAVE HAD SPECIAL BUCK PERMITS AND HAVE PASSED ON NICE DEER JUST FOR CHANCE AT BIGGER, WITHOUT GIVING UP REVENUE. i DON'T KNOW WHAT ANSWER IS BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE QUALITY BUCKS AVAILABLE. IF YOU EVER HAVE PANELS FOR SUGGESTIONS FEEL FREE TO CONSIDER MY NAME. i REALIZE IT IS A TOUGH JOB AND CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE. I SERVE AS MAYOR OF OUR COMMUNITY AND HAVE FELT THE PRESSURES. SINCERELY GARY HENDRICKSON BELLE FOURCHE
3698	i do not like the antlerless season in january due to many bucks have shed by then. i would strongly favor moving the archery season dates starting september 1st- december 31st. i have hunted rifle season in butte county for 3 years now, and the amount of hunters on the weekends is ridiculous the quality and number of deer is very poor. maybe a split season or reducing the tags would be something to look at. i love the amount of oppertunitys i have to hunt deer in south dakota, but i would like to see more mature bucks.
3712	You need to put a antler size limitation on bucks taken. Should be 4 or more points on Whitetail to be legal. This would allow the smaller ones to grow and mature.
3735	I feel to increase the quality of bucks no one should shoot anything less than a 4 point (4X4). This would allow more mature deer and maybe more people would shoot does.
3765	The deer population in Brookings County seems to be very low and the hunters seem to be more?? Very disappointed in deer hunting this year compared to other years. Please reduce the number of deer tags issued. If farmers are complaining they then need to open up their land to hunters. It is the farmers choice.
3768	maybe for the special units that you draw for have trophy tags only. This would demand large bucks only and the smaller are left for maturation.
3771	I think the whole preference system needs a revamp. Licenses should go to people with

	<p>preference first (starting with the most down the ladder to the least) and then trickle down to non preference applications. The first year would be a hard hit, but after that, subsequent years would be better.</p>
3788	<p>I think for better trophy quality we should follow in Iowa's foot steps and loose the rifle season during the rut. I lived there for 3 years and think we could learn much from there deer management practices.</p>
3795	<p>Road hunters and trespassers are very scary. I watched people drive out onto the land I was hunting (I was the only one with permission) and try to shoot deer. Road hunters just start lobbing bullets and don't seem to notice people dressed in orange sitting in the field they are shooting into. I think making road hunting for deer illegal would be a good thing. Some of these people see antlers and start shooting from the window of the truck or the road. Not allowing road hunting may reduce the amount of trespassing in certain cases too. Make it illegal to have a loaded rifle inside a vehicle. These road hunters and people who will do anything to shoot an antlered deer, regardless of size, give hunters a bad name. Maybe the state should require all hunters to possess a hunter safety card. Several other states require a hunter safety card. I am amazed by the number of hunters who take unethical shots on deer and who seem to think the safety on a rifle or shotgun is optional and just a hinderance for when they need to shoot something. I will never rifle hunt East River deer again because of the crazy antler obsessed people. I am very surprised there aren't more hunting incidents and fatalities each year.</p>
3796	<p>There isn't enough any deer tags in Bennett County. The populations of mule deer is out of control. There should be an option of the number of deer a person wants to take. There are to many people who only want a buck tag. There should be a higher price for buck only tags. Hunters should be required to kill a doe and check it in to receive their buck tag.</p>
3797	<p>The more weekends to hunt the better. The only issue with too many people that I have found is pheasant hunters nearby, since they are moving around a lot and shooting a lot, disturbing the deer. I enjoyed the January antlerless season because there were so few pheasant hunters compared to the regular season.</p>
3798	<p>Keep supporting the need for CRP acres in SD, if we lose the CRP acres there will be no habitat left all of the land will be converted to corn and soybeans. Our natural resources are valuable to SD and the SD legislature would be smart to add a 1/2 per cent sales tax for protecting our wetlands and grasslands. MN has based the Lesard/Sams funding to develop/protect more of MN natural resources. It's time to allow all of the businesses that benefit from hunting seasons in SD to help contribute to the protection of our natural resources.</p>
3806	<p>I think a 3 point-or-better system (or something similar) would limit the number of immature bucks harvested each year. Much like elk seasons in many western states.</p>
3816	<p>Consider reducing the deer herds in the areas where there are multiple accidents with automobiles especially at night.</p>
3820	<p>I have a couple concerns with the west river unit that I hunted this past season. The areas on the maps look large however the better areas for game are on private land and the deer seemed to stay in these areas. The public areas that are good for deer were so crowded with hunters that it was not enjoyable or productive. I also noticed that within large areas that are public land, there is private land and no boundary markers to identify public land vs. private. It would be helpful if these boundries were signed. I also believe the road restrictions are excessive in some areas. I would support taking another look at these restrictions and possibly making a few changes.</p>

3847	I favor no gun hunting during the rut. Have the season afterwards to allow the mature bucks to propagate.
3850	I growing increasingly frustrated with not being able to hunt anywhere west river or in the black hills without having to constantly be over run with hunters. I have seen this problem grow consistently over the years, and frankly it is getting to the point of being ridiculous. GF&P needs to find additional hunting areas for sportsman to accommodate the hunting demand. I am also bothered by the lack of proper land boundary markers in the national grasslands, this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Recently the national grasslands restricted road travel to certain roads. However, when we tried to abide by these regulations and walk in areas where there was no travel allowed, we constantly ran into hunters driving the roads. If you want to restrict travel that's fine, but then enforce it so the law abiding hunters are not getting short handed. Additionally, SD residents living east river should be limited and give preference given to west river residences.
3851	Both large walk in areas I hunted still had cattle on them or they were just removed. The cattle took away the majority of the food source and did extensive damage to sources of cover. I know that grazing leases and such are important but there should be a date when cattle need to be out of these areas to allow the game to come back and the food source to have time to regenerate.
3864	We have seen fewer does and way more hunters(crowded) in our area.I believe we need to limit tags to single tag and fewer doe tags. These deer are chased on public land from late september (Archery until end of January with youth and Muzzleloader tags...way too much pressure. Also many people including myself feel the forest service took the roadless program too far..We feel something had to be done but they restricted access too much.I know several older people who are now starting in 2011 done hunting because now they cant even access the area they have hunted for years.I believe each hunting area needs to be looked at individually(West river) and at least have a few designated roads to access these areas.In the past my father could at least sit on the road and glass around looking for deer and watching what was going on with his family members while we hunted. Now he has to walk too far to even see the ridges we hunt.Something needs to change or south dakota will lose avid hunters who have enjoyed this priviledge their whole lives.
3870	I am very happy to see that off road travel is now prohibited in the national grass lands. We hunt off the Big Foot Road. A map has been prepared to indicate those areas which can be used for travel. My one concern is that on these roads, there is a very small post with a number indicating a travel road. It is too small - other larger signs need to be installed indicating "travel allowed" or "no travel allowed", so hunters will see the warning sign and not just a number on a post. It is a good start and will take a few years and warnings to get hunters into the mode of getting out of their trucks and start walking!! Thanks Doug Erickson
3872	I think this new license that has to be purchased for atv/pickup to drive trails in the black hills and the grasslands is bull crap that is 100 dollars i have to pay on top of hunting licenses that are increasing in price every year. I think the 25 dollar license should cover both atv/pickup for both the black hills and the grasslands.
3885	I recently(late January 2011) travelled to Pierre for a day and saw huge numbers of deer and pheasant near the road from Wall to Pierre. I am concerned there is going to be a large number of animals die from starvation due to the lack of food. There is also probably going to be a lot of road kill, which presents a great danger to motorists. I saw one herd of deer that exceeded 500. Is anything going to be done about this problem, i.e. a special winter season? I would think the farming community would be in favor of that

	to reduce the amount of grazing on their farmlands.
3890	The deer seasons were too short for my liking. I hunt during the week to avoid the "week-end crush" and thereby gain access to areas closed to me due for weekend hunting parties. I usually hunt alone ... it takes more time and effort and more days to hunt would be wonderful. There's a youth season ... how about a "senior" season?
3893	Could use more any dear tags instead of all of the white tail deer tags,cuz most private area lands will not let you hunt them.
3898	The GFP should consider going with a more weighted lottery system such as ND which cubes the # of preference points for all big game licenses. 3 years of unsuccessful drawings would result in 27 preference points to compete against 8 preferences for 2 years unsuccessful draw but still allows a small # with 0 or 1 year preference a chance to draw a tag.
3942	I think there should be an opportunity to put hunters in touch with landowners with deer overabundance. Maybe call GFP agents to see if they have had farmers/ranchers complain about problem deer. I'm aware of the depredation tags; however, I'm talking about the extended season in January. When I didn't fill my any deer/any antlerless tags (passed up a few younger bucks in November), I tried to call the GFP agent in Wall. I got his name and phone number from the office in Rapid City, called and left a message or two. No problem, I figured he was probably busy as I didn't hear anything back. I did finally call up a friend (7 Jan) who has some land in his family and he invited my to join him. I enjoyed that windy 20 degree day, saw many deer and brought home two. Still, I wonder if I might be more helpful to a farmer/rancher trying to thin out the herd of deer munching their hay or wheat. Thanks for doing your best to manage our wildlife!
3956	We have a lot of deer and a lot of good public hunting areas. If our license prices are raised to add more public hunting and related reasons that would be favorable.
3960	I have no complaints because it was only because of weather that I did not hunt this year.
3963	CRACK DOWN ON THE FAKE LAND OWNERS IF WE ARE DRIVING 400 MILES TO HUNT DEER WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANY DEER TAGS EVERY YEAR NOT JUST EVEY OTHER YEAR - AND WE FILL OUR DOE TAGS TO HELP OUT THE POPULATION.
3968	I think that there are people buying tribal tags and hunting on private and public land off the resevation with them

Appendix I. Optional comments provided by hunters with an East River and/or West River deer license responding by mail (2010).

ID: 2

This past year was the worst hunting I have experienced in memory. With all the crops removed prior to hunting I expected great hunting. We saw only 1 small antlerless deer in the 18 quarters of property. The deer didn't start showing up till January and after the season was over. I haven't fired a shot in 2 years now. I might think about trying West River.

ID: 3

I think a better way to control antlerless numbers would be for double tags to fill their antlerless tags first to receive their any deer tag. The Deer season could stay the same length (16 days), but having the first 7 days be antlerless only. This would give a chance to harvest your antlerless tag to receive any tag before antler hunting opener. The antler opener would be the 2nd Saturday of the rifle season. GF&P would ensure that a certain number of antlerless deer would be harvested. A majority of hunters would still hunt to harvest does which would not spook bucks. Check points could be set up to check in your does and be issued your buck tag.

ID: 12

There really should be a system in place, similar to how Sand Lake used to be, where certain times of the day you can drive into walk in areas to retrieve game. There is no reason why a person should have destroy himself dragging a deer over a mile in river breaks simply because GF&P won't allow it. Are elderly people supposed to just quit hunting now because they can't drag deer? The same can be aid about school land. GF&P is supposed to be providing a service to the tax payers of South Dakota but instead it has just turned into a money making scheme. They nonresidents are sold more tags than we are because they bring in so much money GF&P does not care about the average man from South Dakota. People who rely on deer for sustenance can hardly accomplish that now. It is not just deer hunting, it cost \$28 for a farm island sticker but we all see game wardens driving 2010 pick up trucks. The problem is made worse by the fact that GF&P shoot down vehicle access along the river all of my favorite fishing spots are now shut down for vehicles and fires are not allowed on the beach. How is there a danger of fire on the beach? I'm sure this is all done so people go spend \$28 on the stickers. We are not supposed to be GF&Ps revenue source; you are supposed to provide us a service. The way things are now makes it seem as if I am being punished for wanting to enjoy the outdoors the way people of this state always have.

ID: 15

Take the any deer out and make it mule or white tail. I think the mule would be more of them.

ID: 20

I would like to see our rifle deer seasons to start around the first week of December so that the main rut is pretty much over. I would also like to see you get ride of the special buck license to me that license is for road hunters to hunt any county that they want.

ID: 31

I think old people like me should have some special privileges like allowing us to use crossbow for archery hunting. Allow us to use single shot shotgun during muzzleloader season.

ID: 33

I think the Lyman County unit within the Lower Brule Reservation should start a week early like the reservation seasons in Corson and Mellette Counties.

ID: 44

Trophy Deer!

ID: 63

I think the commission should not be appointed, they need to be elected!

ID: 72

I manage and operate over 2500 acres of which we provide walk in areas and food plots. I spend more time patrolling for poachers, trespassers and dumping of game both illegally and legally taken out the remains of cleaned and dressed game and garbage from hunters. Than I get to chance to hunt myself. I would like to see additional seasons in January.

ID: 73

Way too many hunters in Union County, people trespassing all the time and most were from other counties. Increase the tags and split up the seasons more buck only doe only season would be nice or require your any deer tag holders to shoot a doe before they can take a buck. Eliminate rifles in highly populated areas (Union, Clay, Lincoln, Turner, and Minnehaha).

ID: 78

Preference points should be given more weight; (for example, in Sully County, all applicants with 3 preference points should get a tag prior to those with 2 or 1 points). Colorado elk drawings are like this, it is the most fair. I know a guy with 3 points for Sully County and since we had the tag together in 2006, he hasn't drawn. I got a tag in 2008 and 2010. I am thankful for my luck, but it isn't very fair to him.

ID: 91

My Mother in law owns a farm in Faulk County. This is where I hunt for deer. I refuse to hunt deer on public land. Poaching and chasing deer seems to be a real problem on public land as I have been nearly shot and run over by vehicles chasing deer. This year I had the same problem on the private land. I would very much like to see more law enforcement. I know there are money concerns as well as number of offices. I am a deputy sheriff and would work for free in Faulk County to help resolve these issues before someone gets hurt or killed. Also I have been hunting deer and pheasants on this property for several years. I have not seen a conservation officer yet.

ID: 104

The biggest problem I see with East River Deer is Beadle County (bucks) is that they never seem to get the chance to grow up. I see a lot of 3 ½ year old deer that get shot. These deer need at least 1 more year and they would have the potential of being a really nice buck. That's why I strongly disagree with having the January season, because you know that some of the deer lose their horns. This only adds to the problem of immature buck harvest. A month after deer season the smarter deer would become more relaxed and venture out from their hiding spots. Their horns fall off and the next thing you know there's riding around in the back of pickup trucks with a doe/fawn tag wrapped around his hoof.

ID: 132

I know the poaching has been a huge deal in our area. I am from Platte, and I think that GF&P should try and get more game wardens in or around our area. These kids don't understand what they are doing, and getting caught might just be what they need. Our deer population has dropped in our area and I think it is because of these people that are poaching, but all together GF&P has done an excellent job on keeping everything they do wonderful. I will say that the TIPS hotline trailer is a very neat thing. I saw it at the East River Sportsmen's club game feed in Platte. Thanks for everything all of you do!

ID: 161

The land we used to hunt (public) wasn't public anymore. We knocked on the door asking for permission and were told no. We talked to locals who told us they couldn't even get permission. We were willing to shoot does but it didn't matter. I would like to know if any depredation money went to landowners that denied hunters access! Is there a where this information who received depredation money in Gregory County is available? If so please post it on your website. I moved back to SD years ago to participate in the outdoor sports. I took a pay cut to be here! Now I am thinking I should have stayed away and more the bucks and bought my own hunting ground West River! It's a crime that an ordinary SD resident can't find a place to hunt!

ID: 165

Too many deer on private ground next to public ground HWY 19 to New Castle and Vermillion Bridge East side of the HWY.

ID: 175

Between mountain lions and forest management deer hunting in the Black Hills is going to go down hill in the next few years. You need to go back to more buck only licenses and protect the spikes again!

ID: 199

Muzzleloader should be run at same time as rifle, as they are not primitive rifles any more. Coyotes to many they are killing off fawns where I live by Little MN Southeast of Sisseton, hardly any young deer this season.

ID: 205

We usually hunt in Edmunds and Brown Counties; this is becoming very difficult due to landowners not allowing this. For the past few years I apply only for

antlerless tags, so my wife and kids can try for a buck. Landowners won't even allow antlerless tags on their property (so we won't scare away any bucks they may have). So I don't feel sorry for them with the over abundance of deer on their property.

ID: 217

You need more special buck licenses and increase the cost of those. It's a great way to general monies that will benefit lots of hunters. A few pay a lot to benefit a great number.

ID: 230

Quality of bucks this year has greatly improved. Mainly due to the poor hunting conditions (too many standing crops) the past two years.

ID: 232

West River is very fun to hunt the people are great and hunting is really good. You see all types of animals. That management deer that is very important to us. Out East River deer hunting the people are very ruined by patrolling the road between us so the deer don't cross the road hunting the big buck are not around because of this. My family and I moved to South Dakota for the hunting and the fishing and you guys have done very well with the wildlife in this state so keep up with it. Thank you for the great hunting and fishing in the state.

ID: 238

Goose season being open the same time as (opener deer seasons) will get some goose hunter hurt some day. This years deer opener I was sitting and waiting for daylight and a goose hunter came along parked his car and went walking into the rushes wearing camo, just at daylight. This area of Hamlin County, I have heard too many people shoot at sound that way I am always sitting at least an hour before you can shooting.

ID: 250

I have been an avid deer hunter in SD since legal age. Over the past 20 years, I have seen the numbers of deer dwindle in Minnehaha, Moody, and Lake Counties. No doubt our herd is healthy, but all the extra tags have taken a toll. Bow hunts in the past have resulted in multiple deer sightings, however now it is not the case. I am lucky to have Big Sioux bottom land to hunt, but I think rifle hunting should be removed in Minnehaha County. Slugs or muzzleloaders are plenty of power. I am all for a healthy herd, but my kids seeing deer is just as important as the harvest.

ID: 251

Review walk in areas West River for quality verses quantity. Refund fee's if areas effected by dieses or give notice which reduces the herd, before hunting season. Reduce the number of youth tags to 3 verses 5. Have an October muzzleloader season, 5 days early buck season.

ID: 263

I think the extended antlerless season should be during Christmas week when people who have jobs are on vacation, not the week after when they are back at work! Bucks shouldn't be legal to kill if they have 3 points on one side or less! My

opinion of people working for GF&P is there need to be more field educated and less college educated employees, this includes conservation officers, and state trappers plus all aspects of GF&P.

ID: 270

Concerned about road hunters before sunrise and after sunset snowmobile, and trespassing during the last season

ID: 275

We feel there are so many does a hunter should have to shoot a doe first before being able to shoot a buck. Another idea is having to shoot two does before shooting a buck.

ID: 277

I'd like to see the double tag license where the hunter would first have to fill the antlerless tag.

ID: 279

Reduce the number of archery licenses, some out of state BOW hunters have up to 5 licenses, this is very unfair to rifle hunters. Out of State land owners that do not live here should be able to get a buck license like a land owner that lives here!

ID: 289

Should the state be managing for quality bucks or over all herd health and quality? I have hunted mostly East River (Minnehaha, Lake and Brookings Counties). All of the Game Production waterfowl production that seems to set up for deer are older areas with mature tree and growth. The new areas seem to go into pheasant production and very few set up with new shelter belt or tree areas for deer hunting.

ID: 300

I think the extended season should be held right after the regular season.

ID: 302

Having the muzzleloader season after all other seasons is nuts. Game is the most spooked and shot up. Muzzleloader is a primitive gun, very poor chance of getting a shot because of the time of year and we can't use a scope, it's about as fair as chucking spears.

ID: 314

If there was a way to manage the deer population I'd think buck tags should be issued as 8 points or larger to help manage the take of mature deer. I also think the late rifle antlerless deer season there a few mature bucks taken that have shed their antlers already so if you would do any with the season wouldn't bother me. If there was an early October season for managing does that would hunt archery hunters. I think if you would give a couple extra antlerless tags with a archery any deer tag that would help a lot in managing the population.

ID: 316

For hunters my age public land is really not an option. If you hunt alone retrieving game, especially deer can be physically impossible. If you want all hunters to

utilize public land there needs to be a game retrieval system put in place. With so many landowners charging outrageous fees to hunt, public land is the only option for many hunters. The state pays landowners to place their land on a public list, but so many hunters do use it. I think the state is getting their monies worth. People aren't using it but the state is still paying for it. This needs to be addressed before the only people that are hunting are the landowners and the wealthy.

ID: 326

Every year I winter 300 to 500 deer on my land and I farm less than 1000 acres and live in Douglas County. I realize you can't shoot that many out but if a landowner has that many what's your solution.

ID: 337

I raise cattle for a living, also raise habitat, and also feed big herds of deer not by choice in the winter. Allowances should be made for this.

ID: 359

The coyote population is rising in my area. They seem to be getting braver in their attempts to find food. Last spring at 3 am in the morning while checking cattle, I had a coyote attack my dog while we were walking in the cattle yard. I was just wondering if you put a bounty on them, if more hunters would go after them.

ID: 363

I would enjoy hunting deer with a muzzleloader, but the season needs to be earlier in the year. Now by the time the muzzleloader season starts the deer have been hunted hard to two weeks and are very spooky. Later in the year the deer are congregated in herds if you want to shoot one of a hay pile, if you call that a sport. There is a limited amount of muzzleloader buck tags so it wouldn't hurt anything to have it earlier. Scopes should also be optional. SD needs to look at other states, where there muzzleloader season is a sport, not a reduction hunt.

ID: 365

Change muzzleloader season to open prior to East River deer. Then you wouldn't have to open another season for early areas to manage populations. I would hunt more muzzleloader if there was a greater chance. After being chased by East River hunters they are hard to get close enough to with muzzleloader.

ID: 370

I strongly agree with more special management areas possibly a zone in each county where doe populations are managed better and bucks of only certain standards may be shot. Tags in these areas hard to come by give the people looking for a buck of a lifetime to harvest one in their home state. Like I said in the other comment box better do bigger bucks the opportunity to breed instead of any buck finding a doe and passing bad genetics. South Dakota has the genetics just need to capitalize on them.

ID: 388

To improve quality of bucks! Have certain areas or county's, have seasons with only bucks up to 3 points on each side so mature bucks can breed! Washington State has done this with their deer and elk and it has helped a lot. Once this is

done for a couple of seasons then have a mature buck harvest for those hunters that have preference points. Muzzleloader deer should be right after archery season with limited amounts of buck tags and before modern rifle season. Archery is a primitive hunt and so are muzzleloaders.

ID: 392

As a landowner I've seen the damage over population of deer can do, especially when we have a hard winter. Even throughout the year they do crop damage. Plus the amount hit by vehicles seems to be increasing every year. I think more does need to be harvested to bring the population under control.

ID: 398

The only buck deer I take are big buck deer, old mature deer, a crippled buck or doe. The reason for not being found of a doe season is that I have a problem with shooting the mother away from her young. I feel that the longer she is with her young the more experience she provides for her young. How a near fat old doe is one that I would take in a heart beat.

ID: 412

I think GF&P should plant more food plots for deer. I see a large number of deer bunched up and looked very thin this winter. Maybe feed them some hay in heavy snow winters. Farmers complaining about deer feeding on their bales!

ID: 419

I strongly feel that a great number of deer have greatly diminished within the last couple of years. There has been too many hunters coming from another county and harvesting large quantity of deer leaving the people that live in the county not much chance to bag a nice buck. It has a lot to do with over crowdedness of hunters and not enough deer for everyone too fill. I have had 3 consecutive unsuccessful hunts and it gets a little frustrating.

ID: 421

In reference of management for larger bucks – antlers, this is often known as “quality deer management” the problems with it are first in always results in less opportunity access for everyday type folks. It has to if it is to create effect and along the same line, will attract more who can afford expensive hunts shutting out others. Second, it provides a negative public image; all hunters want is to kill the most magnificent herd out there. Enjoyment of the outdoors or food takes secondary places.

ID: 426

My number 1 complaint would be the road hunting. People who don't have permission to hunt in an area but seem to show up every night to drive around and just look. My second complaint I agree that landowners should be able to get a deer tag, but not a buck tag every year, and if they do get a landowner tag they should have to stay on that land. I know people that get a buck tag every year because they are landowners and yet they are hunting all over the place. It gets pretty old to see the same couple of guys shoot a monster buck every year while other people pass on immature bucks in the hopes that they will survive to be bigger the next year. Rifle deer hunting is quickly becoming a rich mans game in

SD. I do think we need to manage for bigger and better bucks and still have good harvest. Archery seems to be ok, but muzzleloader should be treated as a real hunting season and not an after thought. I believe archery and muzzleloader hunters will do just that – hunt. We should have a regular muzzleloader season before the rifle season for people who want to get out of the pickup and actually hunt and not just drive around.

ID: 431

Allow only 1 buck deer to be harvested per person no matter if you have all archery, rifle or muzzleloader licenses. Montana does this and I've hunted there since 1991 every year, and it seems to work.

ID: 432

Even though I received a license for Hutchinson County, I didn't hunt. I hunt only private land as public lands are too crowded and therefore not safe. When you go in trees other people go in them right behind you and using rifles or any kind of firearm extremely dangerous.

ID: 441

We really need to start cutting down on the deer harvest. There are getting to be few too many deer around and the winter has been very hard on them.

ID: 447

Move the January hunt back to December. It's too cold and too much snow the later it gets.

ID: 456

I didn't hunt much.

ID: 457

Muzzleloader season should be before and during rifle season. Muzzleloader should start the week before rifle and run through rifle season and open back up for the whole month of January.

ID: 459

GF&P needs to manage for better bucks.

ID: 495

To open up more private acres one possible solution might be to offer landowners money for deer taken on their land.

ID: 507

I would like to see better enforcement of the law regarding hunting from the road and chasing deer with vehicles.

ID: 545

Our family and farm has lived in and hunted northwestern Moody County for years. I've never seen the deer numbers so low in this area as I have the last few years. This year has been the worst. You need to eliminate all of the double tags, late season back to 9 day season. The rifle season needs to be placed back to the

later part of November, so that the mature bucks make it through the rut. A few years ago the rifle season was placed a right in the middle of the rut, taking out the majority of the mature bucks. We are still seeing the results of this! They talk a lot about all the deer being hit by cars now then years ago, but the amount of vehicles traveling the highways today has probably tripled, compared to some years back! Thank you for sending out this survey, I know there are a lot of sportsmen out there concerned about the lack of deer in the community!

ID: 555

I would like to thank GF&P for the fence to keep the deer out of my hay. They have to eat too so I left 2 large bales out of fence for feed.

ID: 560

There doesn't seem to be many public areas with sufficient cover for deer to bed down in McCook County.

ID: 570

Though I feel the SD GF&P does a great job. I feel during rifle season they are way under man powered. I feel they should be able to hire and deputies more people during this season. Though part time deputies wouldn't have the training as a full time GF&P warden, just the presence of additional wardens would greatly reduce the gross lawlessness I have unfortunately, some folks don't know this or believe in laws and the safety of their fellow hunters. New rule: you can not harvest a buck under 4 points, at least one side must have 3 points the other side might be broke due to the rut. 1 point = 3 inches at least.

ID: 600

Close mule bucks for a year in Jerauld County to allow for a trophy.

ID: 613

Any deer tags for muzzleloader season should either be longer or before rifle season. I know 8 people that have drawn this tag and none of them have harvested a buck.

ID: 630

Access to hunting land is the biggest issue we have with the loss of many walk in areas over the last few years and the increasing difficulty to get on private ground. I'm not sure long I will be able to hunt. I would like to see the GF&P secure more public areas even if it means an increase in license fees. I was fortunate enough to be able to hunt on private land this season but previous years I hunted public land which I found to be increasingly crowded. This not only takes the enjoyment out of it but also causes safety concerns.

ID: 638

A lot of hunters don't shoot/use their doe tags when they are hooked to a buck tag. Should unhook them and offer them cheaper. Also could add a youth tag numbers in areas loaded with lots of deer. Keep city limit hunting at a minimum at least during the rifle season. Venison is our primary meat source. Please keep it affordable!

ID: 648

It is getting harder to find land to hunt on. There are certain landowners that do not allow hunting on their land, yet they are some of the first ones to complain about deer populations and depredation.

ID: 654

I started to answer the survey online when I logged on my computer became so active I was concerned about who the company was doing the survey and what information they were trying to get from my computer.

ID: 662

90% of my deer hunting is by bow. I like the bow season because it is way less crowded and I see way more deer and have more opportunities to harvest a deer unlike the way to crowded East and West River public land, during the rifle seasons. Also, I think the youth and mentor season are a great thing but should be put back to the way they used to be in September then in January not from September all the way to January 31st at least on public lands. Public lands just keep getting more and more crowded. Let them hunt later into January or even February.

ID: 670

I believe it would benefit hunters and landowners if GF&P would allow hunters with unfilled tags to hunt border units during the extended antlerless deer season. My partner and I have applied for the Custer State Park any elk tags for over twenty years without success. Maybe it's time GF&P took a second look at this type of preference system.

ID: 689

Deer hunting should be managed by population and area, not the number of different seasons and hunting types. Every hunter should be allowed to apply for a deer tag, antlered or antlerless, in specific units, and then be allowed the choice of what weapon to use during specific seasons. Archers have too many advantages on tag numbers. This would be fairer.

ID: 730

For those of use that don't own land, and have to travel away for the land we have permission to hunt it would be nice to be able to hunt antlerless deer straight through January 9th with no break. The buck season is fine, I depend a lot on deer meat because it costs so much to hunt anymore, gas and lodging, but deer season is during the holidays and most people don't have a chance to get away too much and I don't believe there are too many meat hunters out there. Thank you very much I think this survey asked some very good questions for making hunting better. If the weather is bad for most of the season, bitter cold, wind, and ice. Maybe consider reopening till beginning of February.

ID: 734

I would like to see a 4 point or bigger rule.

ID: 743

I think the antlerless season should follow the 16 day regular rifle season for 9 days.

ID: 749

No antlerless deer rifle season in December/January people shoot too many better bucks during his time. Mountain lion season during West River/Black Hills Deer season would be great.

ID: 754

I notice there is a weed problem South of Ft. Sisseton. I also noticed there was less food plots for deer on that land too. Maybe that had something to do with less deer?

ID: 764

It seems like the quality and number of good bucks in South Dakota is very acceptable at this time. I do not believe that major changes are needed to improve the quality of bucks.

ID: 783

With age our eyesight changes! It is difficult to use open sights for muzzleloader hunting. I would suggest allowing glass of some type! It could be 1 power. I may have to quit muzzleloader hunting because of difficulty seeing the open sights.

ID: 803

I think GF&P has done a great job with walk in land etc. Last winter was tough on deer in Brown County.

ID: 825

I manage land in Hand County and have requested help this winter with a severe deer problem contacted Cory Flor the Hand County Conservation Officer and he told me I would be contacted by a state trapper, that has been over 2 weeks ago and have not heard anything. The deer are dying as my 50 acres of food plots are gone. I have dead deer piled up in CRP with my with my tractor. I feel the Conservation Officer and State Trapper should meet with me instead of ignoring me. I am concerted for the animals well being. You want to sell licenses and collect money but you don't want to help a person out or take care of what you consider your deer.

ID: 826

I really believe that the last day of deer season should be the first part of December. The last thing I want to do is shoot a deer in January only to find it was a fawn when I got it. Also how many bucks are shot by accident after the rifle season when the buck tags turn to doe tags?

ID: 843

I think the ways things are done are just fine. I think it would be great if there are areas where more management is needed that another type of license be issued for a certain amount of harvest with any type of weapon for the entire season (archery – antlerless). If you have a herd of 1000 and for sure you wanted 100 harvested you could offer a license that would for sure give the hunter 100% success if that hunter could use whatever weapon of choice throughout every season.

ID: 852

In general all areas that I hunted in Northeast Brown County had about a third of the deer I have been prior to 2010. I've noticed a steady decrease in the last 3 or 4 years. I believe this is due to loss of cover due to CRP acres being brought back into production, a severe coyote crisis and antlerless over hunting. I know I'm not a game biologist just a hunter who is 63 years old with 35 years of deer hunting experience. I do remember with fondness the sights of 150 deer coming in or going out on Sand Lake Refuge each morning and evening in the 80's. This year I saw 1 deer. The pendulum has swung. I'm also seeing a severe reduction in deer numbers on the Putney on the Randy Stonley land and Terry Cutless Northeast of Claremont. Possible solution 1 Coyote control, 2 Elimination of some doe licensees. And January season on antlerless. More cover, but how?

ID: 859

Too many coyotes around they need to be managed more.

ID: 861

I have been hunting for the last 5 years and have not drawn a buck tag. I believe if it was up to me a person would be able to draw a buck tag every other year to give others an opportunity to harvest a buck.

ID: 881

I think GF&P does a fine job. You can't please everyone all the time and can't please some no matter what you do. I like it if that GF&P buys land so all can hunt and that it doesn't come and pay state to hunt. It would be nice to do maybe more for the older hunters (seniors).

ID: 885

There are far too few wardens around the Aberdeen area when pheasant season is in full swing.

ID: 902

I think that there are way too many antlerless tags given out each year. I hunt mostly in Lake and Brookings counties and over the last few years the numbers are dropping. I do not know the real reasons why – illness, mountain lions, etc but I think the deer need time to recover. Thank you for your time and this survey.

ID: 903

I think you guys are doing a fine job!

ID: 908

I live outside of Sioux Falls the problem I've found is that there are too many people without any background are buying rural land and restricting access to hunters. This is their right as landowners. However, the deer herd is out of control where I live. I enjoy seeing the deer, but dislike seeing the deer crush my garden, alfalfa field and seedling trees. I own 5 acres and have enough other hunters their license.

ID: 913

Adding an early doe season would push the deer too hard in early fall making it hard for young deer to survive when separated from the doe and their habitat so early in their development and harder for them to adjust to the colder weather.

ID: 932

Need to eliminate all big game seasons in January. Deer do not need the stress. Shorten East River rifle season to 9 days like it used to be so their not hunting the buck in November or put the extra week in December. More bucks will e able to mature, if not hunted in the rut.

ID: 952

My family and I are often frustrated by the prevalence and laziness of road hunters. Often times we see hunters from the city driving by private properties they do not have permission to hunt on. Otherwise, we are a hunting family and enjoy being in the outdoors together.

ID: 959

I think you should change the muzzleloader season. For people like me that hunt a lot of public land, by the time the season comes around all the deer are spooked onto private land. Also, allowing scopes for late muzzleloader season would be smarter since the deer have been spooked and the shots will be further this would help thinning antlerless deer and with wounding deer.

ID: 963

Grant County has very few places that are not marked no trespassing, but when a person asks them it is still nope can't hunt here. Then when you list for people who have too many deer in Grant County is rarely on the list. Best to keep hunting your walk in areas, but the past 4 years have been to hard to harvest the deer because of the tall grasses and natures of way of keeping hunters out! Hunting is a challenge for those of us who just need meat in the freezer to feed the family it is getting more difficult each year.

ID: 974

Eliminate daily limit on snow geese in the spring. Other states have already. Doing so would increase non-resident hunters, and we know you like money! The wording in the handbook for snow goose limits opens the door for entrapment. Example: ten guys shoot 100 geese, 8 guys leave the other two with all the geese. Although they didn't shoot all the birds they get charged with "unlawful possession" for possessing too many birds that don't have a possession limit. Even when there is evidence, and the game warden admits to knowing that the two guys didn't shoot over their daily limit. If you want to manage the snow goose population why harass the people that actually put a lot of hard work into doing so. Greed? Why have an antelope season when the population is severely depleted. Hunters assume that the GF&P have done their homework, and don't issue more tags than there are antelope! North Dakota cancelled their season, but then again they have a surplus budget. Greedy, Greedy, Greedy! Might as well start issuing elephant or zebra tags, none of them either.

ID: 980

I feel the youth season is too long. A kid doesn't need over 4 months to shot a deer. It takes away the anticipation of the season! It should go back to a week before the other seasons start and a week later. Plus they don't need up to 5 tags. I have a boy that is 8 and I don't feel he needs that long to shoot a deer when he gets old enough. I don't think extending the season for antlerless deer is good either. If you just ran a normal season people would shoot more does knowing they don't have another opportunity to come back and shoot a doe.

ID: 987

This year I took my 2 daughters with me, a friend and uncle, they had a lot of fun they got to see a lot of deer alive, and they saw one get harvested by my friend soon they will be carrying a license, they had a lot of fun. I do a lot of coyote calling, and the thing that bothers me the most is those snowmobiles that run the coyotes over, that is not a sport! Either is letting someone on snowmobile carrying a gun and run down a coyote and shoot it. If someone runs over a coyote should be fined more and lose privileges for a year, if it's so hard to catch them in the act make it worth your wild and maybe their will be less doing it.

ID: 992

I took my daughter deer hunting in Turner County this year. There is hardly any place to hunt and there is a lot of illegal activity during the deer season. Many hunters are running deer down with there pickups and shooting out the windows it's mainly around the Marion area. I have heard rumors that the game warden is lax on this subject.

ID: 993

There should be not more deer seasons opened after the East River rifle season ends; this year the bucks started dropping antlers earlier than normal. What a shame killing mature males during the antlerless season!

ID: 1000

Muzzleloader season is considered a reduction season. I think you should have the any antlerless or any deer tags before rifle season. Muzzleloader hunting is more challenging than rifle hunting and demands closer encounters with deer just the same as archery hunting. After rifle season this becomes very difficult to accomplish. Have the season earlier and our odds of harvesting deer and reducing deer numbers will both go up. Also, I believe that it should be legalized to use scopes while muzzleloader hunting. A lot of the population that still uses muzzleloaders are aging and eyesight is diminishing. To take a deer ethically and to insane less injured deer I believe this would help. I've been told the reasoning behind not allowing scopes is to keep the season more traditional. Do we not allow in line muzzleloaders and more and more accurate sabots and bullets?

ID: 1021

Far to many people hunting the same ground. I won't go back to that county next year. The only opportunity to take a deer would have been illegal. I didn't fire a shot. I felt somewhat at risk with so many people, had my daughter along was unsatisfied with hunt. Awesome land to hunt, a lot of public hunting! There is just way too many folks on the land.

ID: 1041

When I hunt I like to walk into areas like trees, crop field edges, draws, etc. All areas I have permission to hunt on and have scouted. Every year I see more (East and West River) people hunting out of pickups on roads or in fields or pastures until they spot deer then jump out (or stay inside their pickup) and start shooting. I'm sure you know about this problem, I just wanted to say that this is very disappointing for someone like myself who has hunted deer for 40 years and has always tried to be a good hunter and taught my sons to do the same. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concern.

ID: 1053

Mellette County early license should be stopped, for deer season only. A lot more lions need to be killed in the Black Hills.

ID: 1082

I've been very dissatisfied the past several years when the rifle season was allowed to start (East River) during the best part of the rut. Very few, less than 5 %, actually use the rut to their advantage. They don't need to! They can shoot anything within 200 yards of them and they typically do it while the deer is on a full run. I'm in favor of reducing the number of rifle tags given each year as well as reducing the allotted rifle seasons.

ID: 1091

After filling out this survey, I have a suggestion for state spending cuts. What a waste!

ID: 1093

Fewer hunters and more deer in some areas; make original season longer and harvest more deer. Everyone is busier; I need another weekend to hunt deer. Bigger better bucks go back to the 2 or 3 points minimum. How about the deer farms down south, they seem to raise some very nice bucks. I don't care much about deer meat, I will shoot a doe if I see or abundance I will give mean to Sportsmen Against Hunger. I have not seen an abundance of deer in McPherson quite the opposite. I don't know where the Conservation Officer is getting his counts.

ID: 1114

Deer hunting numbers are down in the areas I have hunted the past few years, hunting deer has been poor. I hunt mainly public land and walk in areas; discouraging to not get a rifle buck tag each year in some counties it might be 2 or 3 years. Wealthy investors who buy land and manage it for hunting accumulate large numbers that are not accessible. Appreciate the public lands and walk in areas that we have provides the only opportunity to hunt for those of us with few private contacts.

ID: 1129

I don't mind not drawing a tag, but when I drive around and seeing hunters from other counties hunting in my county and I didn't get a license.

ID: 1131

I think a good idea would be to leave the antlerless season should run from beginning of season until January 1 or 2 weeks earlier some bucks have lost their antlers and are being taken as antlerless.

ID: 1138

Hunted until 2a West River public land North of Creighton Deer numbers were really down compared to years past probably only seen a dozen bucks and 20 – 30 does. Only saw 3 does in January, I know the weather could have played a part in it but we walked our butts off in draws and what not and only seen the 3 deer and not even close enough to shoot, plus we usually see more whitetail deer down by the river, this year I saw 1 buck and 2 does hopefully it is just one of those years where numbers were down and numbers will be better next year. Have hunted this unit for 15 plus years and have seen trends before going hopefully that is all it is.

ID: 1143

Way too many hunters in the public hunting areas there was 4 times as many hunters as there was deer. Mountain lions? Other hunters I talked to West River said there was less deer than usual in the breaks of the Cheyenne River.

ID: 1149

The tags cost too much for the average hunter and also general hunting and fishing license costs are too much. Keep people in Campbell County from poaching deer a week before the hunting season, and get the number of poachers down in the state.

ID: 1150

I think the GF&P needs to watch these farmers around Turner County like Haase by Parker, SD (they bait the deer)! They think they own the deer, okay this is the story. Every year they shoot a monster buck and when I say monster buck (like it scores 150 or more), but anyways no one sees these bucks and there is no way a deer around here can get that big that fast when the deer is only 3 years old and when no one has ever seen the deer. What we have for food around here is corn, beans and grass, and a 3 year old deer is just not going to get that big eating that kind of food! Sorry, but I really think you guys really need to look into this please. They own a lot of land around here and they let no one hunt so no one can fill their tags good and after the first day of the deer season they all run to their land! Oh and at night their son Dusty Haase will get on his dirt bike and chase the deer back to his land (but do not hunt around here because there is just no land to hunt that has deer on it and that these people I just named make it no fun anymore! No need to do something fast!

ID: 1158

Definitely agree with the question about each hunter only taking 1 buck. NO late season hunting with the chance of taking a buck that has lost its antlers. Shorter buck season might help too. You guys are doing a great job! Thank you!

ID: 1167

Keep up the good work!

ID: 1175

If your going to pay for lost hay bales a crop damage from wildlife make sure the landowner will allow hunting and actually let others hunt besides family members if they don't know pay. Why should I as a hunter pay for there crops when I can't hunt on their land.

ID: 1221

Residents of county should get first chance in receiving tags rather than having to go to other counties to hunt. I'm talking any deer tags.

ID: 1237

I really enjoy South Dakota hunting. Thank you for all the work you do with licensing and keeping the seasons going. Thank you!

ID: 1248

The deer are seen by everyone upland until the farmers harvest their crops off. Then the deer run to the flooded river bottom cattails on land that is owned by people that have paid hunting. Why should the landowner farming next to someone who doesn't farm this land or any land in the area have to pay for hunting, to shoot a buck or doe (buck) that has walked in his own fields after planting, spraying and then as he is combining his crops. I have hunted since I was 14 in the 1970's when we had a family farm there was no paid hunting in our area neighbors hunted together and on each others land or after the owner got his. Hunting was good most of the time it then changed when paid hunting started, it all changed we didn't find many deer on the land. I hunted until 2010 this was the first year since I was 14 that I had the most fun but my dad wasn't here to hunt with me. He has since passed away a few years ago. I think any farmer that hunts his own land should get one free deer tag. Remember they raid them for your interest. Thank you!

ID: 1252

I think we need to look into tribal license and how many they give out. I also think they hunt way to long.

ID: 1266

Just an idea, on a different not, make small game, fishing lifetime licenses available to residents.

ID: 1281

I didn't answer question 18 because I don't feel any answer is the right one. My personal feeling is that you as a hunter needs to know what a mature buck looks like a lot of people think a mature buck is one with horns and that is not the case. I see too many non locals and some locals that shout the first deer they strongly about the doe before buck tags that I stated earlier.

ID: 1304

Muzzleloader season should start prior to rifle season, like archery, it is a more primitive weapon than rifle.

ID: 1316

All East River counties were over run with people from Sioux Falls wrecking the hunting for the local people and I think this should be regulated some way.

ID: 1347

I am 58 years old, if I would have to wait 5 or more years to get a license I may never hunt again. I would not like that. I find the January 1 – 9th season, most times to cold and snowy. Section lines and fields with 1 to 2 feet of snow with -30 wind chills. I don't hunt with these conditions. For me the deer hunting experience, is applying for a deer license, getting a deer license. Don't lower licenses available for deer. I would like to go deer hunting and not get a deer, as opposed to not getting a license. I have hunted the same area for 46 years the biggest change I have seen comes from out of state pheasant hunters. 3 to 10 hunters with dogs go through the public land day after day. They move deer deep in the private land. Deer only come out during dark. Dogs and deer don't mix way too much hunting pressure. What would you think of an earlier deer season for East River, Say November 1 – 30th. It would be a longer season a warmer season. I would encourage hunters to walk more instead of hunting from front seat of a pickup.

ID: 1364

This winter has been tough and I believe GF&P would rather see deer and other wildlife starve to death than opening another season of feeding them. I personally think game numbers will be down this year because of that.

ID: 1365

I am strongly against having a rifle season in highly populated counties of does in October. I enjoy archery hunting and hunt mostly public land. When Rifle season starts then my archery season ends. There are already too many people hunting public land and allowing rifle hunters to hunt does in October would disrupt the archery season. There would be too many people around. I would rather see the January season extended. I also think the youth season is too long and should be decreased or regulated better. I enjoy seeing youth enjoy the outdoors and become educated in hunting but public land becomes over crowded when people can rifle hunt and archery hunt from September through January. I found the youth mentored season was better when it was in September and January only.

ID: 1371

The main problem in the area where I hunt is the tribal season opens way too early. They have all of the deer so spooked by the time our season opens that you can't find a deer. When I was archery hunting before rifle season and the tribal season opened the deer would come running past my stand and there was no way possible to get a shot! There needs to be something done about this!!

ID: 1380

I have hunted deer in Brookings County for 40 years. The numbers are as low as I can remember.

ID: 1392

Everyone has doe tags and just hunts for the big buck; they say they are going after doe. They rarely do, I think but with no intelligent background they should have to kill does too. 3rd state in nation for vehicle crashes with deer.

ID: 1394

I think the best way to manage the bucks taken each year is to limit each hunter to one buck per year for one season of their choice. For example, one guy got buck tags for archery, muzzleloader, East and West River, that's four bucks for one guy. This guy should only be able to shoot one buck per year and he should choose which season he want to shoot it in.

ID: 1408

Lets take a serious look at reducing the antlerless licenses available, to increase the deer herd in NE SD. Implementing a minimum points system to increase the antler size/buck age density would be favorable. Continue to conduct the research and let us look at other state's pilot programs where this technique has been tested. It can be very successful at reaching program goals. Dissatisfied East River Hunter

ID: 1418

We have way too many deer in Clark and Codington Counties being hit by cars. Let's reduce the numbers out there.

ID: 1441

I would like to see more Game Wardens out during deer hunting, especially opening weekend. There were too many people trespassing. IN my case my daughter shot her first buck this year and another hunter interfered with her hunt, after she had put the 1st bullet in him, this other hunter proceeded to shoot her buck all to hell. She could not get a head mount of her buck. Then when my husband confronted this hunter (told him he was trespassing and that my daughter had shot the deer) the hunter shoved a gun in my husbands gut. This is something that I didn't want my kids to see, but it happened, and it was scary.

ID: 1447

There are deer all over the place now. Should have a season in February, hardly seen any hunting season. Just a thought, now there is 40 – 50 deer coming to Town even in Daylight.

ID: 1461

Thank you for continuing to build South Dakota into a place of beauty and natural habitat! This is such a nice privilege, to be able to hunt is a great past time!

ID: 1490

This survey was too long!

ID: 1499

Well on the land owning, my dad is a farmer and own land which I hunt. So I didn't know if I should fill it out or not and said I'm a part time farmer.

ID: 1504

Keep up the good work!

ID: 1524

Would be nice to have more time because I don't know what the snow is going to do (how much) some places if it gets a lot of snow, can't get to your hunting places.

ID: 1549

Turner County people do all there hunting from pick up trucks. I am the only one I saw walking in 2010 and they chase and use radio to get them in Northern Turner County.

ID: 1581

Have a youth buck season.

ID: 1596

I mainly hunt for the joy with my son. So he can continue the pride of South Dakota and carry it on to his children someday. The pride in the hunt and process of product to enjoyment is the taste of the 1st jerky of the year! We also have awesome bonding time during the hunt, not only with me, his mother but his uncle and grandfather!

ID: 1600

Why not make cluster units of 2 – several counties. When I apply for a tag East or West, I can apply for 1 county only. Many times, one runs out of places to go due to seeing no deer or too many hunters where one is at. If some places have too many deer and you have a tag for only "x" but cannot go to county "y" or "z" your population problem will not be solved. So, make hunting units where some can hunt in adjoining counties. There are only so many public places. I can't afford to pay to hunt. Too much water floods out protective areas also!

ID: 1622

Primarily a duck hunter, so early season, I wouldn't be able to go. Later season we had 2 bad weekends in a row. I never fired a round.

ID: 1623

This year was my first year in approximately 20 years; I had chances to shoot but saved up chances for a bigger buck. I had a hard time finding time to get away to hunt and would like to see the season extended with 3 – 4 weekends of regular season to hunt. I'd also like to see 3 or 4 week extended past the holidays that would give someone with a young family like me time to get away. I saw more deer while pheasant hunting, couldn't seasons start and run at the same time.

ID: 1629

I am very fortunate to have family that farm and provide me a place to hunt. Without this privilege I would have a very difficult time finding a place to hunt. This concern was not reflected in my survey, but I feel that this is an important part of allowing those who can't afford Ag land and in particularly the youth to have continued involvement in hunting and fishing. Thank you for your great job

managing our wildlife resources. Our plentiful wildlife is one of the things that make's me proud to be a South Dakotan.

ID: 1647

I harvested my first deer this season. My attitude about deer hunting is that I don't care whether I fill my tag or not. The joy of the hunt comes when I hunt comes when I hunt with my grandsons. The mentor program is superb. I like the way the seasons are set. I think if the extended antlerless season began December 26th more families could hunt together.

ID: 1648

A lot of out of state hunters running and gunning – no respect, landowners are becoming too much into wanting money to hunt the land. This is why I gave up hunting years ago and might do it again.

ID: 1651

You can't close roads and trails on hunting land during deer season or hunting seasons – its criminal, don't listen to the idiots in Washington. They don't have sense to come in out of the rain. Look at the mess this country is in and they want to shove further regulations on your. If you listen, you are just as bad as them. Walk up and smell the roses before it's too late. Take a look at the roads and trails in Slim Buttes and the Regulations, a very bad situation, absolutely stupid.

ID: 1666

Not about deer hunters: Spearfishing on the Missouri 3 walleye limit but not slot would work well getting hard to find walleye under 20 inches at Spring, Cow, and Okobojo.

ID: 1679

I read the study from GF&P about the number of elk in CSP, going from 1200 to 200 in 10 years. I believe this is a huge problem that needs more action and less speculation. More Mountain lion tags need to be issued and legalize the aid of dogs in hunting them. I realize we do not want to wipe them out, but elk, big horn, mountain goat (when we can hunt them again) and deer tags bring in a lot more hunters and revenue! Also, Wolves may be something we need to look at before they become a problem like Montana, Idaho, etc as with wolf was shot near Woonsocket this last fall.

ID: 1710

A lot of land in Clay County is owned by one person, who doesn't allow people to hunt on his land. If you are hunting near his land (a public area is next to one piece) he and his family find ways to frighten deer out of that area. Also if you have shot a deer and wound it, he will not let you go get it or follow the trail if they go onto his land. Aerial pictures have been taken of his land, guess where the deer are. There are deer in South Clay County just getting them out of their safe haven is another story.

ID: 1717

We didn't see any big bucks at all this year. Lots of small four points and a lot of does! Frustrating even with all the corn out government food plots weren't drawing deer where we hunted.

ID: 1726

I would like to see a primitive season, archery and muzzleloader only same time frame and focus on antlerless only. Have unlimited doe tags in problem counties, because muzzleloader season is way to late most deer are very spooky. Limit archers to one buck tag and unlimited doe tags and muzzleloaders to one buck tag and unlimited doe tags. Seeing as I am over 50, I would enjoy muzzleloader during a brower range of climate changes, rather than blizzard conditions. Besides what would it hurt? Increase doe harvest.

ID: 1728

In my opinion by moving the muzzleloader (primitive) season ahead of rifle you will have a better harvest on buck and doe, and by eliminating the extended rifle season you will shoot fewer bucks that are already shed. I would also like to see shotgun slug or muzzleloader inline only in Minnehaha rifle season.

ID: 1749

This was my 2nd year hunting, and really enjoyed the outdoors hopefully I will be fortunate enough to fill my tag next year. It was a very enjoyable experience.

ID: 1761

How about staggering the permits to reduce crowding? How about walk in areas that are not plowed fields for deer seasons? How about restricting to shotgun slugs in more densely populated counties.

ID: 1773

Need to control population of coyotes by loosening snowmobile restrictions, not to chase or run over just to flush. Need to increase habitat. There is a lot fewer CRP acres and public areas that hurt game numbers. Farmers in my area are tiling almost every draw and waterway destroying even more habitat. By the time deer season comes around if the weather was good all fields are black and there is no reason for game to stick around. Muzzleloader season should be earlier before rifle season, because by mid December deer have become spooked and have begun to bunch up and move to their wintering grounds.

ID: 1778

In Brown County we have way to many female deer and too many hunters that are buck hunters only, we have to push to have does hunted more than bucks. It is crazy how many are getting hit on the roads this winter.

ID: 1802

It is tough to find landowners to allow you to hunt on their land making a challenge to hunt.

ID: 1805

When given preference points are from the county you just hunted or is it from the different counties. Are points given from year to year?

ID: 1810

I wish the GF&P to make the East River Deer Season to start like it usually does, but just run the whole deer season until December 31 and then close it. Leave the "any deer" tags alone, all the way through the deer season. Why should you have to give up at a certain date and just hunt does? If you paid for an any deer tag it should be good till the end of the season. Thanks for taking time to read my response.

ID: 1833

I like the outdoors and nature but I would like to get a nice buck someday. This year and last year the weather was cold and windy. It's hard for me to find land to hunt because a lot of farmers would not let me hunt their land.

ID: 1875

I live 9 ¼ miles East of Brookings on HWY 14 and there is CRP ½ a mile west of where I live plus a grove of trees on the north side of 14 and some buildings no body lives there. I have big round bales of hay west of where I live. The deer come and eat hay at night which I don't care they have to eat something when there's a winter like this. What I am concerned about is snowmobiles going around that grove on north side of 14 and deer go south in CRP over to graze on south side come back after dark cross 14 7 dead deer laying in the ditch they come back up here to eat hay. The snowmobiles should stay in ditch leaving deer stay n that grove on north side of 14. I don't know the law.

ID: 1895

It seems like the deer numbers in my area are way down.

ID: 1899

I have lived in Bon Homme County all my life. I only own about 60 acres in Northern Bon Homme County but farm (operate) well over 1000 acres in the same area. We see many deer in this area during the summer but in the fall they move out and go to the river (Southern Bon Homme) or along the Choteau Creek (Charles Mix and Bon Homme Counties). The thing that bothers me is I can't find a deer on my land during deer season. I understand I can get a buck only tag for my own land, which is not worth anything to me. I feel if they are on my fields most of the crops growing year and then move these landowners (operator) tags, should be good for not only my own land but anywhere in the county I live and farm.

ID: 1922

If a 10% budget reduction is implemented instead of raising fees again, I have a problem with providing feed for large deer herds on private land when the owners refuse to allow anyone to hunt.

ID: 1923

Thank you for the hunt.

ID: 1924

Last west river season there were not near enough whitetails or mule deer to be shot, everybody out there we talked to said so many deer had died for winter conditions. Hundreds of them they said, but yet GF&P still issued double tags that make no sense to me, and the GF&P must have known about the situation in Harding County!

ID: 1930

The little time I had to hunt this season was during bad weather and I was very busy and didn't spend much time in the field.

ID: 1956

If we could stop hunting clubs like in Sully County from getting a lot of deer in to their land like all their food plots, the deer on public land are there but in hunting season, they move to private land for food. The private clubs are good but to close for public lands we should not let clubs open so close to public lands. All your hard work goes over to private clubs (the rich) GF&P does a great job and the private clubs get all the glory and all of the public gets the leftovers GF&P is doing a great job. Keep up the great job.

ID: 1962

Didn't hunt this year

ID: 1977

I would like to see less any deer tags and more bucks only tags 2 points per side of horns in the Black Hills units. As I feel we are seeing less big buck, since we quit having buck only tags and went to more any deer tags. People with any deer tags are shooting small bucks yet with any deer tags.

ID: 1989

Shannon County needs to issue double tags. Every county in the state has double tags we are getting over run with deer in Shannon County.

ID: 2001

I think the GF&P should do an earn a buck program where hunters need to shoot a doe before they can kill a buck.

ID: 2014

I do feel we need to continue to expand or work to expand the public hunting areas which are accessible by any hunter. There is a constant growth of landowners who are either leasing land or charging a fee to hunt deer. As this occurs, it becomes much more difficult to have an enjoyable experience for oneself or the youth we are trying to encourage to join in the sport. The more we allow the use of land to become "pay to hunt" for in-state or resident hunters, the less our youth will look to get into the sport and enjoyment hunting truly can give oneself.

ID: 2029

I don't know if this survey is a good tool to use when consideration of issuing tags. I feel you need to let the person taking the survey to give an option of writing in an answer instead of choosing a pre written choice. You may be surprised why pre

written answers are by past and hunter answers are put in. I know you have to get studies done to keep a healthy deer population and I feel you are doing a super job. I enjoy hunting and hope to for many more years to come.

ID: 2042

Would love to see size restrictions I believe it should be at least a 4 x 4 with the intention of harvesting nothing less 130 inches.

ID: 2054

I do not think a landowner who changes a hunter to hunt deer on his or her property should be compensated for damage that deer cause on there property.

ID: 2055

Too many immature bucks are taken. I would like to see all bucks taken must have at least a 16 inch spread. Majority of bucks even get a chance to grow up policing would be mainly on the honor system of the hunter himself or unless a game check by the GF&P under normal circumstances. Areas with over abundance of does would be helped if 1 or 2 does had to be taken before a buck is harvested. Extended season should run the whole month of January – to many times we have had bad weather limiting hunting.

ID: 2056

I retired after 30 years with ALCOA All.Co, In Badin, NC came out here in 2003. I love the beauty of the country and all the wildlife in it, have always been an avid hunter. The rules and regulations are quite different from that of NC. This was just my 2nd year deer hunting since I came out here in 2003 because of the legal procedure tags etc. I worked part of the summer of 2009 out at Snake Creek Park. I worked with some great guys. Dave Ink is one of the best they assist me in filling out the forms to get my first deer tags. I was grateful. I am glad to participate in this survey.

ID: 2093

To get more mature buck's people need to stop shooting small immature bucks. I have seen too many people shoot a small buck to just fill there buck tag.

ID: 2100

I would like to see it mandatory to kill 1 or 2 does before you can kill a buck. Also keep the size limit on the Hills and I like that it takes two years to get a tag there. I can see the difference.

ID: 2106

You guys do a good job, greatest state on earth we have it all.

ID: 2114

Tree plots put in by soil conservation are great for deer. There never was any deer before until we had trees put in on the farm.

ID: 2130

There are lots of deer in both counties I hunt. Weather and crop harvest are the only detriments I've experienced to filling tags. Both Youth and Tripp counties have too many does Yankton, whitetails and Tripp, mulies.

ID: 2131

I believe we have too many deer in many of our units; double tags would probably work better if you had to shoot a doe first before you could shoot your buck. The January season the last 2 years was helpful to anyone because the weather limited the success. A long second season might help with this.

ID: 2134

I feel too many so called antler hunters put in for any deer licenses but if they do not get a trophy buck will not shoot anything small. Thus cutting down on all deer taken for the season emencially, and keeping a hunter that would shoot a smaller deer from getting a licenses! Maybe a 5 or 6 point buck only license should be made to eliminate this problem?

ID: 2136

I farm and own 2000 acres and have a hard time stopping trespassers living so close to Sioux Falls. That is what will make for a poor hunt when I see vehicles or foot tracks that someone has been on my land when I myself hunt the right way by walking in and out and sitting as if I were bow hunting. Being a farmer I am too busy to archery hunt but would love to start someday.

ID: 2164

I think having a earlier antlerless deer season is a great idea especially for disabled hunters. My dad is disabled and he loves to hunt but can't always get around when there are feet of snow on the around. It would be helpful in that. I also think that east river deer is hard to hunt because the public areas are so spread out and some are hard to access. Otherwise, SD has done a great job managing its wildlife resources! But the waterfowl goose season should start later and end later.

ID: 2189

Long gun seasons during the rut are extremely detrimental to production of quality bucks. Just look at Iowa, limited range slug guns, no gun rut hunting, equals big bucks. Illinois is the same situation. Thanks for the hard work.

ID: 2192

My dad says you should give out more Custer State Park deer tags and let people hunt mountain lions with dogs. We are feeding our resources to the cats.

ID: 2194

We do not hunt near the number of deer in our area, as we did 5 – 10 years ago. We have expanded our food plots and the number of trees planted in these last 5 – 10 years and has seen deer numbers drop mainly due to the number of tags given out and opening these late seasons. We have over 5000 acres of ground that I can hunt and have yet to harvest a trophy buck, let a lone even see very many. It would be nice to get rid of these extended seasons to shoot does and bucks that

have dropped their horns already. That would be a good start to getting our deer populations back where they should be.

ID: 2199

It's easy to manage the crappy deer herd in South Eastern SD. Look at the quality of deer on the east side of Sioux Falls. They just need years to grow. SD has great genetics in their deer herd but it latterly is run down. We could be just as good or better then Iowa or Kansas if we didn't kill off every deer every year. It takes does to make bucks and if you have 3 bucks in an area, it's not hard to run them all more does makes more bucks, better chance for bucks to survive equals bigger bucks!. Why is Iowa better than SD? Are their biologists smarter? Eliminate extended Deer season if your not smart enough to shoot a deer in 2 weeks your not smart enough not to shoot a buck with no horns. Eliminate multiple doe tags (one per person per county.) My friends could eliminate every deer in a 20 mile area 'legally" if we didn't care about the herd (this does happen). Go back to one week 2 weekend season. Switch to muzzleloader/SG season only in South Eastern Counties same population of people per square mile as Iowa. This way people will actually have to hunt for these trails vs. chance down with truck and shot at a quarter mile.

ID: 2201

In Codington County NE SD we need to start our rifle season earlier the reason why there is not enough deer taken is the fact that our weather is more extreme than other parts of Eastern SD. I talk to a lot of hunters that did not harvest a deer because of snow and cold temps. All of my farmer neighbors agree on this. We need to start the rifle season in Northeast SD earlier in the fall. If not my neighbors are going to take care of the problem on there own.

ID: 2207

Once again I am extremely disappointed in how you (GF&P) have managed the deer population! You have gone to far and killed way too many deer! The hunting around here Minnehaha/Turner Counties have plummeted over the last 10 years and is basically a waste of the time hunting here. The other hunters have no common sense and drive around shooting at anything and everything they see not caring who's ground it is on. I personally have nearly been shot at least 3 times to the point of hearing bullets wiz by me! East River deer has turned into a mess tanks to you, since there is not deer around anymore people get so excited when they see a deer that they seem to try to do anything to get it regardless of where it is. Less Doe Tags! No Extra season for Doe! If you haven't noticed there are hardly any deer around and does happen to be the ones that make more! Thanks again for ruining a life long tradition for many people! If you keep going like you are I guess I won't have to worry about passing deer hunting onto my kids or any young people because you will have all of the deer dead by then. The funny thing is that nobody will read this and it won't even matter that I wrote this.

ID: 2210

I feel as though archery hunter's opportunities on public land are lessened by the pheasant/antlerless deer hunting early seasons. Imagine yourself sitting in a tree stand while there are youth pheasant/deer (rifle) hunters and all antlerless rifle hunters hunting it is a very uneasy feeling not knowing if they are shooting in the

direction you are or not. I would also like to see an early muzzleloader season along with more opportunity to draw a tag. The season being so late is tough as the deer have been hunted so hard by the time muzzleloader opens. Both Archery and muzzleloader (with no scope) are limited range shooting it is better to have early season unspooked deer as to have a clear, clean and ethical shot. I don't understand why scopes are not allowed in muzzleloaders. Also the bow mounted range binder being legal would help in making better ethical shots knowing exact. Thank you for your time with the survey.

ID: 2222

I think that you should make a buck, doe tag for bow hunting or at least the option just like rifle hunting.

ID: 2235

Thank you for all you do!

ID: 2262

I think the number of tags should be limited between people that bow hunt. What I mean is that bow hunters can end up with four or five buck tags between all of the seasons combined. This should be only two buck tags per person per year between all seasons.

ID: 2288

Eliminate the mule doe from youth hunting in the Hills area to help build the mule deer population in the Black Hills. I don't see as many mule deer in the Black Hills since the youth hunting season began. Keep it to whitetail deer only.

ID: 2299

Our deer numbers have really declined the Roberts County area with all entities having deer seasons and with the tribe set an early start making it tough on the deer population and with all the poaching it devastating on the deer herds. There has to be some happy medium that can be obtained between state and tribal authorities. You can't just shoot deer and then go get another licenses and go again and again and again to have a three month period to hunt and to have designated hunter status well eventually. No deer in our area.

ID: 2306

Deer hunting in Perkins County seemed like a lot of small deer this year especially the doe and bucks did not have much for size also.

ID: 2321

Problem I have is mostly with the any deer muzzleloader season at the very end of the season when you can't get within 300 yards of a deer. Then you are expected to use an open sight muzzleloader. I hear of more people using center fire rifles during the season than muzzleloaders. If you are going to have this season it should be moved to right before rifle season and be controlled better than what it has been.

ID: 2325

The deer population was pretty good for until last spring until the 3 snowstorms we had 1 week for 3 weeks. I think a good share of them got starved out and killed off. You can really tell driving on the highways of West River. Very seldom do you see the deer like I used to. I had a friend antelope hunt in Harding County and saw a few antelope and no deer.

ID: 2342

My only suggestion would be a program to reduce does/fawns maybe an earn a buck system where a hunter would have to tag a doe/fawn first then be issued a buck tag. I see too many does and small bucks but people don't shoot and tag doe they are trying to get a buck. Maybe education in HuntSafe classes telling people that the only way to get a nice buck is to let the small ones grow. Another idea is to have a size limit on horns like 3 x 3 ore 4 x 4 or bigger can be shot, or more doe tags at a reduced price 5 or 10 dollars.

ID: 2349

We need to eliminate those who are killing rather than hunting. No one should be allowed to hold more than a max of 5 tags allowing antlered deer harvested. This example would apply for both East and West River united. The 5th tag would be a float tag allowed to be used either in the Black Hills unit or any of those counties that may have leftovers. 2 tags max East River, 2 tags max West River, and 1 tag for any of the units with leftovers or the Black Hills.

ID: 2358

I have included photos of walk in ground that has little cover and been plowed. Who makes and monitors the rules for the payment to the landowners for walk in ground? I have also seen walk in ground with cattle on it. I am not asking anyone to carnal the program but the monitor is better. Hunters should have the option to report walk in land that does not meet requirements and land own does not receive payment. I would like someone to follow up with me.

ID: 2363

They give too many doe tags for Perkins for the population and too many tags for Harding which had low deer numbers. Also making the Grasslands too hard to access for handicap or (semi handicap people) and elderly who can't walk much from shutting down prairie trails that we've hunted for years, then you have younger people running all over with vehicles. If were going to shut trails off we need to enforce it better so it is fair to everyone.

ID: 2373

Every year I see people draw Custer State Park any elk license on their first or second attempt. I have applied for many more years then this with no success. My time is running out. Can anything be done to alleviate this problem?

ID: 2381

If the doe population is high and not enough are being taken. Then why not make it so that you have to harvest a doe before harvesting a buck.

ID: 2385

The landowner tag is fine, but what about giving landowners archery tag for the entire archery season!

ID: 2386

I think this survey is very good to get hunters opinion. I feel deer numbers are down from a few years ago. I live 5 miles south of Madison. The coyotes are getting to be a really big problem.

ID: 2390

Mellette County is fun to hunt! Love the scenery and abundance of walk in land.

ID: 2402

West River deer in Northeast Mellette County was a disaster. The mule deer are simply gone. They were down in 2009 but I still got a nice buck (mule) and only three doe. We did see a total of ten whitetails who were very wild. Also, we saw only one gut pile where we usually saw 20 – 30 in the past years and no taken deer on or in vehicles driving back from Vivian to Sioux Falls on two Saturday evenings very different. Locals told us the problem is mountain lions. My partner did shoot one whitetail buck that went down, tried to get up but fell back and was still, but it disappeared in the 10 minutes it took him to cross a ravine. Could have got up and walked off but no trail and no deer after a long search. We've both been hunting deer in SD for 40 years, so we have some idea of what we are doing.

ID: 2415

I have been hunting Mellette County for 20 plus years. In that time I have noticed and experienced these things. Cutting back on being able to drive in a little farther on paths in walk ins like for example Bob Hutchison's land. I know he complained about it getting dug up on wet years so the GF&P moved the signs back from where they were originally. A lot of people can't drag a deer over 2 miles of rough terrain. A mile seems like a long distance, especially when there is a path to drive on. I can also give you a lot of examples of ranches destroying a good hunt riding their 4 wheelers, horses, tractors, pickups, out to check their cattle and sometimes rounding them up on hunting season driving all the deer out with them. If your hunting two days and got up early walked 2 miles in the dark to sit on a hill for the morning and they decide to move cattle that morning or even check them, they just wasted your time. It really sucks. They need rules or loose their payments completely. I also notice some land (walk in) appears to never be hunted wasting money paid out because some ranchers know how to fill out paperwork and get it approved.

ID: 2423

How about an antler restriction on whitetail and mule deer bucks? It had worked well in the Black Hills.

ID: 2435

I would really like to see a point rule or doe rule put in place to see larger bucks around. Many states have to shoot does 1st to get buck tags. I think it would help manage herds, more so East River. Would like to see a 6 point or larger law, east and west river. Way too many bucks get shot way to young. South Dakota has

everything we need to have large bucks around. Out of state tags are way too cheap! If they want to hunt big game in SD make them pay for it!

ID: 2440

I also think the Game, Fish, and Parks does a good job in managing our South Dakota wildlife. I would like to thank and tell you what a good job; the game wardens do in my section of the state. They are Brian Humphrey and Todd Crownover, they do excellent work, I have worked with both officers on game department things and they both are very good officers.

ID: 2447

Antler Point Restrictions? Do they Work? I see far too many juvenile bucks killed! Hunters will have a very hard time harvesting a large antlered mature buck if young bucks are allowed to be harvested. I don't like or understand why some counties have a split season that allows hunting the weekend before the regular season and then reopens later toward the end of the regular season.

ID: 2470

I do not like deer hunting after December 31st. Too many people run around with 3 or 4 doe tags. These people are not hunters, they wound too many deer, and if they don't fall they do not trail them. We are shutting down our ground for any outsiders because of this. Also there is not enough game wardens to properly control deer seasons. We have planted 60 acres of tress put ground back to grass – food plots. It is a shame that deer get hunted for 4 plus months a year. I think we have far less deer around now. In Davison County, I've talked to a lot of landowners and most will not let outsiders in to hunt. The main reason was the extended season for antlerless deer and these poor sportsmen with all the doe tags.

ID: 2474

I am curious if GF&P has though about a plan to help with food plot management or providing info on location type of food etc to maybe help with getting and sustaining good productive plots. I'm sure farmers/ranchers would benefit as the deer are in Milo, Wheat, Alfalfa fields a lot of the time and we certainly need for our bucks to be able to grow more than they have been in recent years. I know you can't keep shooting a 3 x 3 or even spikes and increase your rack sizes. I know of someone who he and his son went to Harding County and came back with 21 deer. Most were 4 x 4 small and some were only spikes: I am very curious if there has ever been any consideration of a no buck season. I for 1 would sacrifice 1 season or even a 1 week only season to get larger bucks. Just Curious, I'm sure I'm in the minority on this one! Thanks for your time, I also rate bass fishing on the Missouri River as high as anything and the slot limit there has produced 5 and 6 pound smallmouth. I've caught several with my hunting partner.

ID: 2488

There are too many multiple tag licenses. Instead of 500 3 tag licenses in a county, give out 1500 single tag licenses. I am 47 years old, I went deer hunting with my father and his friends, they had 1 deer tag. On the last day he would shoot any deer, just so that he would fill his tag and put meat in the freezer, buck hunting was not important on the last day of the season, meat was. Most people I know

who hunt deer only need to kill and eat 1 deer to be happy with their deer season. We process our own meat to keep the cost down. We also only hunt 1 or 2 weekends because of the expenses. If I was the only hunter in my group to draw a tag I would only go 1 or 2 days or not go at all. Hunting with friends and family is the most important thing. I really don't want 3 tags; I want 1 tag and my hunting partner to also get a tag. The split season in Mellette County is awesome; more people get a chance at a tag. Preference tags are important, not preferred deer. People who really want to hunt deer will apply every year. Hunting times and some deer meat are more important than just killing deer! Less Multiple tags!

ID: 2505

Too many hunters on public land and ranchers drop paid hunters off in walk in areas to scare deer off. Need to distinguish private land tags and public land tags.

ID: 2512

Because of the poor quality of whitetail bucks East River. My son and I have started hunting in Missouri. There they have a 4 point or bigger rule. We see many nice and old bucks. People didn't like the four point rule at first but talking to some people now they like it. It took a couple of years before some of them shot a buck, but now they are glad of the quality of bucks. I think our deer seasons are way too long. Nine days for a rifle or muzzleloader tag is plenty long. If people want a license they will get out and hunt. One license for deer is plenty. No one needs multiple doe tags.

ID: 2522

We hunt on my father's small ranch. Many ranchers around him in Meade County restrict hunting. Two things would help hunters like us. 1) Better posting of public areas and legal paths to get there. Some ranchers claim right the don't have posted signs, fence off access. They need to have consequences! Better information on who owns what land and access to contact information so we can contact the landowners.

ID: 2541

Overall I think GF&P does a good job of deer management. It's a complex and difficult job, but I think GF&P does a decent job of it. That being said, I wish there was a way the landowners that are generous and nice enough to let people hunt deer on their land could some how be compensated by the state. I would support an increase in license fees if I knew some would be send to the landowners, coupons or tags could be attached to licenses, filled out by hunters, give them to the landowner who could send them to the state for compensation. I think it would help open up some more land for hunting and pay hunting operations are really cutting into the hunting land available to regular hunters, and the landowners that don't change are being overwhelmed.

ID: 2549

I had bad experience hunting on walk in areas. I was hunting about one and a half into one a crossed from a farmers land, land had a small dirt road a cross the farmers prairie land after 2 days the farmer came and ordered everyone off his land saying no one had the right to drive down this road to the hunting area is 1 ½

miles off the road and if someone don't want you crossing his land what are you going to do what good is a public hunting areas if you can't get to it?

ID: 2561

I think that the west river deer season has become too commercialized due to the number of antlered deer tags given out. Giving out lots of non-resident antlered deer tags fuels the commercialization of wildlife in South Dakota. The majority of hunters that come out to Meade County have no interest in harvesting antlerless deer and this does not help with the management of the deer population in the county. It's all about antlers and money out in Meade County. Landowners in Meade County have a positive view towards making money of wildlife. This creates problems with deer depredation in the winter months. Fee hunting is costing the state a lot of money each year. The only way to limit this problem is to limit the antlered deer harvest and increase the antlerless harvest. Aldo Leopold would be very disappointed if he went hunting in Meade County.

ID: 2562

2/3 walk in a jack rabbit pack a lunch a nothing to hunt. Place to hunt with animals have 10 times the hunters that should be there no matter where you look south of us hunters everywhere walk in areas. Are no good to most people because only the rancher benefits because who will drag a deer 11 miles out. Make them make access to hunters for retrieval not to drive and hunt but for getting to there game. BLM has access until neighbor put up walk in signs they stole from other properties. All and all landowners and GF&P will make this a rich mans sport yet. Lease some more barren ground for walk in areas.

ID: 2591

There is only one way to increase horns and you know it. The bucks have to be allowed to mature. At more expense to the state we need to mature point minimum, like 4 points or bigger. Our hunters know what a mature buck is, mostly if they don't live in that area they don't care. They are going to fill a buck tag, no matter what. We have to educate people on what to harvest. Like on ducks, people know what to shoot the others are going to be illegal by their choice. Imagine our hunters seeing 120 to 180 class bucks on a regular basis. Think they will be mad? Heck NO! Good press for game and fish! Although I love hunting alone as our people grow, the hunting gets more crowded. The special units actually over crowd the rest. The problem is the same as before hunters need to take the time to get to know the areas. Scout, talk to farmers and residents, the results will be more land to hunt and thus reduce crowding. GF&P can't solve it all, we as residents need to realize our little world is changing also.

ID: 2642

Hard to get permission too hunt even in problem areas and then GF&P has to provide fence or feed the deer. I have a problem when that happens!

ID: 2644

Please consider setting up more public land for hunting both East and West River. If you compare the percent of public acres in SD to that in other super awesome hunting states like Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho etc. SD really doesn't have very

much public hunting. If the sport/recreation of hunting is going to prosper for generations to come in SD, there must be more public hunting lands. Thank you!

ID: 2672

I would like to see some program or step to give people who hunt private land a better chance of drawing than the people who hunt public land. It seems like the public land is over crowded most days and can actually be dangerous to hunt on with that many rifles around. Something should be implemented to get people to hunt private land and ask landowners before the season rather than on opening day which offends a lot of landowners. On a side note I have family with land and for 2 years have not been able to draw a tag to hunt it, yet I know several people who hunt the public land in that same unit and never fill their tags because they say there are too many people hunting those small areas. It's just my opinion but I can't see how that controls the population in the unit it just depletes it on those public areas. Thank you for your time.

ID: 2683

South Dakota needs to keep in mind that deer hunting is a special time of year and that if (you see I said if) you shoot a nice deer it should be special and that should be that, the state should not decide what is big if you guys think that is where the money is at. Then you should not be in this line of work. I for one believe and will always believe that public areas are public, that nice deer are good, but you have to work for them, if you shoot a huge buck all the time it would not be worth the effort and then you would complain to the state that there are no big bucks.

ID: 2707

I strongly oppose any early or late extension to our rifle deer seasons. Not only is this unsafe for our archery hunters it also seems to put deer into their nocturnal habits and limits their daytime movements, making it harder for hunters during the regular rifle seasons. Also this moves deer away from public hunting areas to less accessible private property thus areas to less accessible private property thus defeating the purpose of the early season. I would also like to see some kind of antler restrictions. I believe the antler restrictions had a very positive effect on the quality of bucks had a very positive effect on the quality of bucks in the Black Hills. Until the restrictions were lifted and the predation from Mountain Lions they lifted and the predation from mountain lions the Black Hills had become a good hunting area. Now, of course it is all gone thanks to poor management by Game, Fish, and Parks Department. Also could GF&P take a look into the public areas along the White River in Lyman County, the food plots poor at best and for the last 8 – 10 years cattle have been allowed to eat everything the farmers have left for the wildlife. The fences need to be fixed. This happens every year, come on guys you can do better than this.

ID: 2712

I am upset with US Forest Service road restrictions in the Black Hills many roads are closed for the muzzleloader season. I enjoy walking but as I get older I'm not able to drag the deer as far. I would like to use the roads and trails to retrieve my deer. If this does not change I will quite hunting the Black Hills. I have also talked with many hunters that feel the same.

ID: 2727

I also hunt deer to hunt out my friends whom are farmers. I am allowed access because I will shoot at least 1 doe each year. I am also allowed access because I treat the land with respect.

ID: 2753

I would rather shoot a doe, then a small buck. I am a college student so more weekends would be helpful to me. The land I own is with my sibling and aunts and uncles.

ID: 2769

I think more out of state hunters should be able to hunt deer. Sell more special buck tags and raise the price of the Special Buck tags.

ID: 2777

I do not like having to pay for a doe tag that I have no intention of using. It's a rip off! I should not be forced to buy something I don't want.

ID: 2814

If you give out more doe tags at a cost of \$5 per tag, you maybe get more doe or antlerless deer taken. Maybe more people would give their deer to the needy. I would give mine to fight against hunger. About the five dollars per antlerless tag it would have to be after they have already had the third drawing.

ID: 2818

Ownership of land by the state GF&P is anti-American and will be detrimental to the long term hunting opportunities in the state. Private free market system with GF&P oversight such as license numbers will always be better.

ID: 2823

Deer season order, September Youth and Archery season, East River opens same shorten in some counties. West River opens same time (same or longer seasons). Muzzleloader season needs to be before rifle season. Quite letting farmers and ranchers bait deer and hunt over baited areas. Food plots that are a wildlife program and landowners get paid to leave a crop in for wildlife and get a payment for it should be open to public hunting. Don't let hunting get anymore out of hand; it's not a rich man's sport in South Dakota. I have a 4 and 6 year old and would like to be able to take them hunting in SD, when they reach age.

ID: 2833

I have lived on my acreage in Northwest Minnehaha County for 10 years now and have physically watched the deer numbers drop dramatically in that time. First three years were great for my archery hunting. Now I'm lucky to even see a set of horns let alone a big one. I see way too many hunters driving in their pickups road hunting with their rifles in my county completely. Illinois and Iowa produce some of the biggest whitetail around we have the same shelter and food sources as they do, but our deer get hunted hard with rifles that's a big difference right there. A size limit would be good for buck hunting as well that maybe too hard to regulate.

ID: 2850

More resident tags, less non-resident tags! South Dakota residents deserve too hunt before out of states!

ID: 2864

Wish West River dates didn't run over the East River dates. Can we start the archery season beginning September 1st? Does only till November 1st, didn't ever hear how to apply for the doe season in East Sioux Falls.

ID: 2895

Raise the number of mountain lions being shot.

ID: 2896

Shorten rifle seasons more deer will be killed. Let us choose between Muzzleloader tag or a rifle tag. This would decrease the number of hunters in woods at the same time. Some how try to minimize money from taking up all the hunting opportunities in state. Kill many more lions before there no more elk in the Black Hills.

ID: 2925

I like the current system we have for deer hunting. Everybody likes to see a good buck. For me I enjoy the opportunity to use different equipment and types of hunting. I hunt with handguns, rifles, shotguns, and muzzleloaders, and archery as time permits. To me a trophy is in the eye of the beholder, if a three point is what a hunter is satisfied with he should be allowed to take it home. With the number of any deer tags that have been issued in the last 15 to 20 years I see larger bucks. Unfortunately the biggest are always when I have only an antlerless tag or in the case of mule deer and a white tail tag. I enjoy being able to draw an antlerless tag and still go hunting on the years I do not draw an any deer tag. I remember when you applied all over the state and had to wait two to three years to get a license with the exception of the Black Hills. The West River area I hunt is Harding County I believe deer and antelope numbers are down at this time. In 2009 and 2010 I saw very few deer and antelope. I feel the blizzard in November 2008 took a toll on them. I saw less deer in 2010 than I did in 2009.

ID: 2926

Take care of the Mountain lion problem! If the problem persists I would bet money that you will lose all revenue on elk and deer tags as no one will want a tag as results of the rapidly decreasing herd numbers. It's pretty bad when everybody I know who has been sending in for an elk tag (either in the park or out) has told me that they don't even want to draw a tag now and are just going to send in for a preference point in hopes that the numbers may someday come back.

ID: 2945

This survey is a great idea. You should do this survey every three to five years an excellent management tool.

ID: 2966

It is unfortunate that the "trail" rules governing the Black Hills are also applied to the Slim Buttes, which I understand is also part of the Custer National Forest. After

20 plus years of hunting the Slim Buttes and what has become the highlight of our annual hunting experience for our kids, we found this year (after not getting selected for a license for 3 years) that we could no longer travel the road or trail to the public portions of the Slim Buttes. Fortunately the forest service ranger only gave our hunting group a warning for traveling the same roads for the past 20 years when he could have nailed us for a fine of \$265 per vehicle. Not only is this absurd but in its infinite wisdom, the federal government couldn't put up a sign that reads "no motorized vehicles beyond this point". Instead they spent the time placing multiple signs indicating that prior to certain points was forest service land and beyond certain points was forest service land. I know this sounds confusing so you will have to see it for yourself.

ID: 2969

Very unhappy with fed restrictions hunters blamed for rancher destruction and abuse of trails and overuse.

ID: 2970

Create as many ways to give meat away to good organizations for food to the needy or for anyone needing or liking deer meat. I do not like shooting more deer meat than I can use. Stop late doe seasons because too many bucks are shot during these seasons. Farmers and ranchers that do not allow hunting, deer go there during the hunt and sometimes stay, between my home (Brandon) and Sioux Falls, try and get permission to hunt, the electrical station included, these deer are not pushed or hunted very hard in these places and yet we taxpayers spend money on trying to stop deer from getting hit on the highway.

ID: 2992

As I am getting up in years it would help to be able to use motorized vehicles to get my kill to the truck. At present I have the help of other but they are getting older. I now use a 2 wheeled cart but it is difficult getting the deer up slopes etc. It would be nice to have areas dedicated to handicapped hunters, such as myself. So I can hunt in less rugged terrain, although, I love the areas where I hunt.

ID: 3002

I believe that the January doe season be ended, more emphasis on depredation management.

ID: 3004

Harding County Ranchers hate east River hunters without a GPS they will try to bluff you off public land.

ID: 3008

Deer population did seem down in all areas West River that I hunted. I would like to see the population rise slightly. Also would like to see residents get tags first over out of state hunters which should get second draw or left over tags.

ID: 3018

I saw a scary amount of lions this logging season in Black Hills. Worked in Timber since 1992 and this year we saw an unusually low amount of deer and too many

cats! They are killing all the elk and deer off. Better do more cats seasons and kill more before it's too late!

ID: 3025

Close rifle east river hunting for bucks during the rut, push the rifle opening date back one week like it was years ago, and the quality of bucks will increase. There is nothing worse than having bow hunting ruined by people chasing deer with vehicles during the rut. No reason high powered rifles are used during rut on flat ground, dangerous, and not even sporting.

ID: 3027

Deer seasons go to long in my opinion! This year in Deuel County there was a spot that 40 – 50 deer got shot out of! Deer get taken advantage of when a season runs that long and we get the snow that we got this year. Please take a look at this and please think about shortening the season up!

ID: 3032

I would really like to see deer that are hit by vehicles picked up right away by who ever had contract or at least dragging off the side of the road. You can't tell me any law enforcement that drives by a road kill can't radio any lazy GF&P official to get this unnecessary ugly site out of site. Tourists do not need to see this and I don't either.

ID: 3056

In Harding County a lot of yearlings but not many mature deer. I think there was another poaching ring this year. 14 years ago there was one reported and anything happened for the cave hills areas I think 3 points or better on one side should be in effect, Black Hills two points or better. I have hunted Harding County for 25 years this was the worst I have ever seen it, for numbers and mature deer for mule deer and whitetails.

ID: 3060

The deer population in West River is in need of some help. Control of large cats is about 80 % of the problem out there when I would talk to the local residents and hunters.

ID: 3062

I have hunted on some private land for about 40 years so don't know how hard it is to find a place to hunt.

ID: 3063

I would like to see SD adopt and honor based fine for mistaking a spike for a doe. I understand that hunters must identify their targets, but when accurate hunters can humanely harvest a deer at 300 plus yards, it's an easy mistake to make. I have done this as well. Luckily I had my buck tag unfilled when I did this, but what about those hunters that weren't so lucky? In my eyes they have three options, one they can put a doe tag on the deer and hope not to get caught. Two, they can admit what they did and take the fine, three; they can leave the deer lie and never tag it. Unfortunately I have heard of people taking option three far too many times. I just hate to think of the animal dying for nothing. I can also understand the disbelief

that anyone would even pay a self induced fine since telling the truth was always an option, but the fact of the matter is that many hunters do not know what the fine maybe. Everyone makes mistakes but the thought of losing my license and privilege to hunt for one year because of an honest mistake seems pretty steep. I would hope honesty would at least create some leniency, but there isn't any peace of mind of that being a sure thing. I would also hope that the penalties and fine would be greater for someone trying to get past the Game, Fish, and Parks but that's not the issue. With these three options in mind, I ask what does the state have to loose. If someone was going to lie about it, they still might, but this would at least give them another incentive to come clean and go straight to the property officials. Also, the hunters that would already admit to the mistake would continue to do so with peace of mind about the full extent of the fines and consequences. In my opinion, this would reduce the amount of people that let the deer lie, but this still wouldn't be a proper solution for the problem is no one knew about it. I'm sure the skepticism of this idea would be the way to enforce it. Maybe a message line that would add a certain fine on next year's deer tags. If drawn they would pay the license fee and say an extra \$35 - \$50 for the fine. If not drawn they get their money back minus the \$5 fine and fine, something like that. I'll leave it to the experts for the best plan of action from here forward. I am a very proud SD resident and I love deer hunting, whether I use a bow, rifle, or muzzleloader. I feel a sense of pride for every animal I harvest and I have thanked god for every one of them – pheasants, grouse, does, small bucks, or big bucks. But it bothers me to think that people could harvest an animal like that and knowingly let it lie for nothing. I know this survey is confidential but I would appreciate a response to this whenever you may have the time. If you've read this far I appreciate your time and concern and I apologize if this letter disqualifies my response for the survey. Keep up the good work protecting our wonderful state.

ID: 3079

I would like to see the extended season to include 3 weekends to allow for weather variables and travel during the season. It seems that not enough whitetails are being harvested West River and they are pushing the mule deer out.

ID: 3087

Great year for deer out West, I saw many quality bucks and good doe/fawn herds on both private and public ground. Had many opportunities to harvest whitetail and mule deer as well as providing opportunities at other bonus species such as sharp-tail grouse, pheasants and even turkey in the same area. Great job of managing these valuable resources for us.

ID: 3091

I would like to state how strongly I agree with eliminating the late season antlerless tags. I truly believe too many bucks are being harvested unknowingly until it is too late of course. An October season seems very reasonable.

ID: 3109

Need more antlerless tags in Haakon County buck tags can stay at the same number.

ID: 3115

As a bow hunter, greatly preferred East River Rifle season starting the weekend of Thanksgiving (how it used to) to starting the weekend after West River start.

ID: 3147

I have harvested great bucks the last 3 years in a row. What we don't need is everyone and their cousin coming from East River because they heard something to this nature. Please do all that you can to let people know that thee are people that will take your money for a guided hunt and dump you off on someone else's land they don't have permission to hunt. I'm certain you know all of this before I say it but it makes me feel better voicing my opinion.

ID: 3158

My opinion is that the GF&P opens an antlerless season starting the day after the West River Rifle season ends, and let it run two weeks for all unfilled tags.

ID: 3175

Public land is over hunted; we hunted 3 days hard and saw very few deer on public land driving back in no counted 100's on private land next to public land.

ID: 3179

I can't take off work for hunting so more weekend time would be nice.

ID: 3194

Out of state landowners should have some type of preference to get a license to hunt on their property? Out of state hunters should pay more for deer hunting licenses.

ID: 3199

I work outside of my resident county town, so I can only hunt on weekends. Some weekends I don't even see a deer, too many hunters.

ID: 3235

More public lands need to be available; the state needs to offer ranchers and farmers more money for setting aside game production areas. This will also allow for more walking and competitive hunting, giving the wildlife and better opportunity.

ID: 3238

I hunt for enjoyment and for the meat and to be with my hunting buddy.

ID: 3248

Maybe you need to consider an earn a buck program.

ID: 3252

Need to increase the amount of public hunting areas, or have a list of farmers/ranchers that will allow hunting of both buck and doe.

ID: 3278

I don't understand why when you ask a landowner to hunt and they refuse, yet they call the GF&P and complain about there being too many deer on there property. Is

there anyway they could be required to let so many hunters on there property each year and different people each year, especially the ones who complain each year about the deer population. If you want to increase the quality of bucks put antler restriction on the deer like other states. Also if you want more does shot give the butchers more tags for donated deer?

ID: 3297

I think shutting off the road access is ridiculous. Not being able to go where you want is bullshit. What about these hunters that can't get around very well and don't have a doctor's excuse? Where are their rights?

ID: 3301

There are too many deer in towns.

ID: 3325

Do it like Iowa and Texas get bucks and doe ratio closer to 2 does to 1 buck. Make hunters take more does. Make crossbows legal so we older guys can still bow hunt.

ID: 3326

Would love to see doe season right after any deer season, too many bucks are being killed in January.

ID: 3334

Make it mandatory that the bucks be four points or better to harvest. Scrutinized the walk in areas more thoroughly.

ID: 3337

When the extended deer season started it was in my eyes needed but now the numbers around the area I hunt have decreased substantially. I would like to see that season closed and if you think we have a problem with too many deer just allow more licenses for does only to reduce the numbers during the regular season. I also think that rifle hunting during the rut is unfair to the deer and the archery hunters. Too many deer are being shot by people coming out of Sioux Falls and they are shooting small bucks or big bucks because of not their hunting tactics but because of the timing of the season where the deer are not concerned about humans, but breeding. I am a person who started at a young age rifle hunting and then started archery hunting around the age of 18 and the satisfaction of getting a deer archery hunting is so much better than rifle hunting and I believe the GF&P should try and promote archery hunting more and rifle hunting less and a good start would be by shortening the rifle season.

ID: 3347

Fall River County has seen a decline in deer populations for the past several years. I think it can be attributed to several factors. Too many licenses issued for the amount of deer. We have been targeted as one of the counties with a CWD problem, which has kept the two deer tags coming from the GF&P. A few years ago, they shot large herds after season was over the test for CWD. Many of those groups were shot on public lands (such as National Grasslands). The population has never recovered! In addition, the mountain lions in this area do not get

harvested as heavily as in other counties. The deer are suffering from this predation. Many hunters come to this area to fill their tats (such as youth tags and muzzleloader tags) because of the amount of public land, when many antlerless deer are taken, reproduction cannot happen. The city of Hot Springs had two years of deer reduction in January. Unfortunately they did their kills on the edges of town not the interior (city cemetery on North edge of town). This practice has almost illuminated the deer population that existed on the fringes. I believe the deer in the Black Hills are over hunted archery starts in September, youth season then rifle season muzzleloader and archery hunting into the end of January. Couple with lion predation, the population is not sustaining itself! I know muzzleloading and archery are more challenging than rifle season, but both of these seasons are too long and cover too large of areas.

ID: 3350

In general you guys do a job like it should be done. I don't think you look far enough down the road 50 years. If you don't start working on landowner relations more all the private land is going to be saved for the high rollers like most of Europe, help fence, game warden visits, ask for input, you do some, but more money too. Landowners who allow hunting or it will be doctors and lawyers in 50 years.

ID: 3355

I like the extended antlerless season when it goes through 2 weekends after Christmas. A longer season would be better.

ID: 3369

Sioux Falls had an antlerless archery season to manage the over population in city limits. You had to use your only available doe tag to hunt this season. In the future this should be a separate tag. Only one archery doe tag in Minnehaha? Have you counted/surveyed deer numbers around or east of Sioux Falls? Road killed deer on I-90 East of Sioux Falls, Rice Street East of Sioux Falls?

ID: 3380

If a hunter has an any deer tag, he must show proof that he killed a doe before he's allowed to shoot a buck. Also I don't think pheasant hunting should be so close too deer season because it makes the seer very nervous and really hard to hunt.

ID: 3404

I see that pronghorn population is very low in Dewey, Ziebach, Meade and Perkins County. In my opinion less then half since the 2008 season as it is January difficult task to succeed but I suggest to lower numbers of tags for rifle season.

ID: 3407

The state of SD and the GF&P does an excellent job of providing hunting opportunities to many people; one way to increase doe kill and big bucks is the issue. One any tag and could use it for bow season, rifle season, muzzleloader, etc then allow additional antlerless tags (up to 5).

ID: 3420

Too many buck tags given out in Custer.

ID: 3441

We were doing fine without the lions being so populated here in the Black Hills area. Please inform the public how the lions are attacking the elk and deer populations.

ID: 3444

You need to follow Wyoming's lead buck draw 1 year draws only 1 year bucks only 1 year. Land management sucks here too much land locked up to people. How pay taxes to you that is called our land bull shit. Open up red shirt to drive in the middle. Some of us can't walk that far or pack a deer that far to feed our families that are going to lead to proclaim landowner gets thing deer cost \$1000.00. They can keep all their deer.

ID: 3460

Any early deer season should be previous to the upland bird season, but many row crops are still standing in East River Counties. I don't favor hunting any game birds or animals after January 7th (exception rabbits and predators) because of antler drop and winter stress. I am in favor of depredation hunts if the need comes about.

ID: 3475

I really think your prairie seasons are too long and you should start one week later. Currently the season is coinciding with too much of the rut and too many of the bigger bucks are vulnerable. Also you should eliminate the late season in January. At this time the bucks are shedding their antlers and some are mistaken for does and shot.

ID: 3488

Get rid of people that use 4 wheelers for hunting. They hunt from their 4 wheelers!

ID: 3496

Disabled and handicapped hunters are severely being discriminated against. ATV's need to be curtailed and restricted to roads same as any vehicles unless handicapped and enforced. Too many licenses for landowners they too should be issued only through lottery. Too much public land being turned into walk in areas and the effort to turn into wilderness areas thus, effectively commercialized to those who can afford horses, access fees and guides (outfitters) these areas at least still should have main roads and some tributaries so that all people can enjoy, not just the wealthy and able bodied. Protect your resources and revenue, front page news of hunters shooting dummy deer (any illegal activity), depicting hunters as slobs, criminals etc is not in your best interest. Killing the moose with shotguns and auto pistols is illegal anywhere by anyone. Your own practices and polices are keeping hunter involvement to lower numbers hunting.

ID: 3505

Deer hunters in SD should be allowed only 1 Buck deer a year, there is no need to kill more then 1 buck. There should not have been an antelope season in Ziebach this year you should be ashamed for having that season.

ID: 3509

This time frame for the extended season is not a good time frame as it interferes with holiday visitor/relatives (who are not involved in hunting). Also a study should be carried out to ask hunters if upland game or deer the first week of January is more important. This would result in all deer being driven from the hunted area. Nothing would be left for regular season.

ID: 3516

Would like to see a minimum size for bucks taken 2 points in the Black Hills again and make the tags buck only again. Population in Black Hills has gone down considerably 4 points or bigger in East and West would give us better quality bucks.

ID: 3532

As I can not interested in harvesting an antlerless deer, I am wondering why this is my only option for a license West River. I'm sure that there are people that would purchase this tag and accomplish your goals. Over all our hunting and fishing in South Dakota is very good and GF&P is doing a great job.

ID: 3533

Corson County, Seen more buck than usual. Like 1 buck tag 2 antlerless, extended season 9 days is good Saturday to Sunday, good. Start Earlier for 2 reasons easy to hunt over Christmas Vacation, so bucks don't loose antlers before the season.

ID: 3587

I would prefer a long season like Wyoming because my family that hunts can not always get the weekends off to go and can't go during the week because of work, and with the amount of houses moving into country area. It is harder to just shoot deer without getting them in the right spot to make sure everyone is safe and not shoot at a residence.

ID: 3589

I grew up hunting in the Black Hills, it somewhat saddens me that family hunting is no more because of the draw. I would not mind if we closed the season for 1 year or 2 and open it to allow over the counter purchases of tags.

ID: 3592

A buddy of mine had late season doe tags and 2 muzzleloader tags out of 5 deer taken 4 of them where bucks with no horns. I would be in favor of the over Christmas doe only season! In the Hills they darted a bunch of elk in Custer State Park last week. They darted a cow, she goes to lie down and a mountain lion kills her. There are way too many lions all over the Hills! You wait 10 – 12 years to get a tag then have to wait another 10 years to apply again. They need to do a lot more to protect our elk instead of letting the lions eat them all! Put a bounty on the lions till they can manage them. Like 5 or 10 of them. I'm in college so hunting over Christmas break would be a real good thing. Another family outing when everyone is home and can't hunt the January 1st – 9th because I'm a college wrestler, but even high school kids down to 12 years old has the time off.

ID: 3599

Really need to increase number of cats killed. Deer population in Black Hills is way down, along with elk. Sell so many tags where the hunters can use hounds, decrease or stop antlerless tags in the Black Hills.

ID: 3620

You need to get rid of more mountain lions in the Hills. If they eat 1 deer a week that is a lot of deer its not too hard to figure out where the deer have gone. The deer population in the Hills is the poorest I've seen in the 50 years the prairie north of the Hills is also the poorest I've ever seen. Your paper deer in Pierre don't work.

ID: 3635

I believe West River, SD needs to have more available land opened up to hunting. We have tried to gain access through private, but have been refused time after time. Outfitting has also taken a number of ranches we have hunted, finding a new place or places to hunt are getting harder and harder to find. I have two boys 14 and 7 and trying to get them along with myself a place in the near future to hunt are almost gone.

ID: 3644

It would be great if we could still get tags over the counter so that families could hunt together more effectively. I would rather hunt every other year then to never be able to hunt with all my brothers, uncles, dad, and grandparents. Hunting used to be a family tradition now only a minority can get tags in the same area. Maybe a reserved tag could be given to people every 2 or 3 years if they don't draw one or register for one. My family could register for tags in the year 2012, then we could all go together, so none of us get tags in 2011 so we all get them in 2012. I just miss the family hunting together that was always my favorite part.

ID: 3645

In my opinion you have a good program. I don't expect to fill my tags year after year. There have been a couple of years where I have not filled my tags. I don't blame anyone. Some years have been better than others. I am going to pick up archery and would like to see more tags around or in city limits.

ID: 3651

Years ago, the Black Hills unit was divided into various units – boundaries were like today road to road, highway to highway. Units were regulated by type and size of deer taken. Your hills tag was good from North to South, all units, but every year or every other year you would see a visit that might be totally closed for that season, due to low population or lack of mature bucks no limited tags just no hunting at all.

ID: 3664

Reinstate the four point restriction; the Black Hills has potential to make this state a trophy whitetail state.

ID: 3670

I'd like to know where the deer went to; a lot are not in the Hills.

ID: 3706

The elk unit outside of Spearfish was way over hunted between archery and rifle. Too many tags for that unit possibly.

ID: 3719

I can't figure out why all the people in Sioux Falls area draw a license for Kingsbury before the people that live here!

ID: 3720

We are allowing hunters to hunt for trophies and with no regard for the meat. If a hunter doesn't want the meat, why is he hunting? Stop the policy that allows them to dump the caucus at a processor to walk away with the antlers. What is sportsmanship? Values and principles are more important than selling licenses. What are these behaviors teaching our new hunters? Young people learn that this is what hunting is about. Hunting has much deeper roots than this. Please think about it.

ID: 3748

Mountain lions killing too many Black Hills deer run the dogs.

ID: 3764

Would there ever be a chance to maybe turn rifle tags into a statewide tag I mean I understand that some areas have more people so more deer maybe harvested but it could help with tag issues. Also limit the number of tags statewide just a though. Another thing I know Nebraska does is you have to harvest a doe, check her in to GF&P then you're allowed your buck tag. I've heard that it's a good way to keep hunters honest and makes them do something in order to get a buck tag. I hunt because I love it not to harvest that monster buck but because I love the nature part of it and it helps me relax. I don't know if any of this what I've said will help just some thoughts and opinions. Thanks for listening.

ID: 3802

Although I often hunt during the muzzleloader season most season runs through January. With the season gaining more popularity in recent years I believe many bucks that have dropped their antlers are being harvested. I believe ending the season the 2nd or 3rd Sunday in January would reduce the harvest of some bucks. Please keep non-residents allotted licenses out of East River and at a minimum in West River. Not doing so will only make access problems and fee hunting rise. Unfortunately, many non-residents issues are determined by extreme anti-public West River legislators and senators whose goal is to commercialize hunting as much as possible. Please as a department do not support such measures. South Dakota is truly an outdoor paradise. Let's continue to fight to keep it this way for the ones who live here!

ID: 3812

The ranch we hunt is owned by my in-laws. The majority of the deer on this ranch are mule deer. We drew whitetail only which made it somewhat difficult. Where the whitetail deer were, there were hundreds of them unfortunately mostly on private land overall a good hunt though.

ID: 3820

Public hunting boundaries and access points should be clearly signed. Several areas are land locked out by private landowners or private lands within public hunting area do not have boundaries marked. No hunting and no trespassing signs are posted in public right of way by private landowners. It is very frustrating that a portion of my tax dollars go to subsidize farmers/ranchers who restrict access across their property to get to public land. I would like to see an effort to address and correct these issues. Thank you for your consideration on these matters.

ID: 3824

Antelope are going to paid hunting also. I also hunted deer in Meade County and was told you can't afford to hunt in past years people know. I asked if I did something wrong they said no, going to paid hunting. GF&P needs to work to get BLM/School land closed to grazing land for cattle. Maybe cut out of state hunters or paid hunting. This is the feeling of many hunters.

ID: 3845

Everything they seem to do mean less deer on public land. Deer numbers are down, way down who ever is doing the estimate of deer numbers needs to be canned. Same for the lion estimates, the hunters have taken close to the total they gave as a total population who ever did the study needs to be removed from office and someone that can do it giving a job. Deer numbers are up on private land where the pay hunting is.

ID: 3848

The quality of bucks is decreasing because many hunters only come west to hunt for one weekend and do not care the quality of deer. Even though I hunted a lot of private land the private land is surrounded by large acres of public. I understand the state makes money off of licenses sold but hopefully this survey will indicate ways that you can still make your money and improve quality of bucks. Possibly increase buck license about 50% which would put it to around 65 to 70 bucks and than could decrease buck licenses and than also increase doe licenses. Just an idea like I said hopefully. The statistics from your survey will help improve the experience for hunters and local hunters of units being hunted.

ID: 3850

I am very disappointed that there are there are not more hunting areas available. A sportsman should be able to go enjoy the outdoors and get away from people. Additionally the numerous hunting areas that are public property that is land locked and we cannot access the property to hunt. The GF&P and the forest service need to get together and create a better map that had everything you need on it. You shouldn't have to use 3 makes to figure out where you are public property, roads and your hunting unit.

ID: 3856

Just didn't see any deer this year to shoot. 1st time hunting West River, lots of bucks but had a doe tag.

ID: 3860

We saw very few mule deer during our hunting. We saw many whitetails which were great, but in all our days hunting we saw a handful of mule deer where we normally see the opposite. I don't know if there needs to be fewer any deer licenses or not but everyone we visited with saw little or no mule deer.

ID: 3865

Don't issue as many tags if the number of wildlife is down.

ID: 3875

I love deer hunting; my grandchildren are getting into it now too. Granddaughter has been hunting for 2 seasons now and grandson will be 12 this coming season. We would all like to shoot big bucks but any legal deer that presents good shot usually gets taken. My son and I get any deer muzzleloader tags this year after 7 years they were had a bull, hunted some public land we West River hunted. Never saw another hunter during that season, West River season first few days. There are always people on every ridge top but after that hunting on public land is not bad.

ID: 3879

While most of my hunting was done in Lawrence County, archery was because I own 33 acres of hunt able property and the deer numbers are slightly high here and quality of bucks was good. Rifle hunting was done on my private property in Pennington County where numbers seemed down and also quality of bucks was down. I am primarily a head hunter and have taken numerous 140 + bucks mostly in Pennington County. I am currently very picky and only hunt for 150 to 160 class bucks.

ID: 3888

Public land was hard to find and hard to get to because it was blocked off by private land all the way around.

ID: 3899

The GF&P needs to allow ore bow hunting in and around communities to help control the deer problems.

ID: 3901

I like the face you guys took the time to hear from us. It shows your duty to the job and us the hunters. You guys might not hear this a lot but I think GF&P does a good job. Matter of face I would like to see more of you meaning, game checks. When I was younger my father and I came to one at the Wasta rest area. We were dealt with very professionally. Check points will keep more hunters honest. I believe presence at times is lacking. I haven't seen a check point for over 20 years. This said continue to do a good job and remember some hunters do see what you do for us.

ID: 3909

GF&P needs to increase license fees and use the additional revenue to establish a fund where this money is used to purchase quality hunting ground for the average hunter! The average hunter in the state is getting pinched out. A typical South

Dakota dad can't afford \$150 per gun per day to take this boys hunting. Look at the current GPA is this state they are burned out by the 2nd week of the season. It is even worse West River where the ranchers want a couple of thousand dollars to hunt deer. So much for a father/son hunting experience.

ID: 3937

I hope we don't forget that hunting is a sport. Not a business and hope that we consider the youth that hunts and how hard it is for them and their parents to afford the expense hunting has become. How hard it is to find a place to hunt due to all the paid hunting in South Dakota.

ID: 3952

For length of regular season, I feel if it were longer less hunters would harvest small to medium size bucks and more would be able to wait to take a mature deer. When you have a 3 weekend season it can be tough to get away for 2 weekends in that time frame so the sense of urgency to tag a buck is higher. For an earlier antlerless season, I feel starting the hunting pressure would impact the quality of hunt and success of regular season however bucks would have antlers and be identified. However I think by extending the regular seasons you will find higher success with antlerless deer taken.

ID: 3953

When I hunted the West River deer season in Harding County, I hunted hard for two days and saw hundreds of hunters and not 1 deer. I saw zero deer in two days. I think there has been too many tags given out for the Harding County unit with the Slim Buttes for too many years and have almost killed off all the deer. Just run them off all public property and onto private property that landowners will not let people they don't know hunt on.

ID: 3958

The mountain lions are going to destroy the deer and elk population in the Black Hills! Leave the lion season open year round.

ID: 3964

We need to get East and West rifle deer season shorter. We don't need 2 weeks and 3 weekends to kill a buck. It is about impossible to manage bucks with rifle open that long during rut. Everyone I have talked to says the same thing!

ID: 3966

If a farmer or rancher does not allow hunting without a fee they should not get any help or feed from GF&P.

ID: 9997

How about opening archery season 2 weeks earlier? This way we can get a velvet buck.

ID: 9999

Too many deer not enough access to them! They all have a price tag and that's not hunting too me!