

ARCHERY ELK

A total of 278 resident licenses were issued for the 2024 Archery Elk season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were sent a survey at the end of the season and 181 responded for a 65% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 12.66 days for a total of 3,519 days of recreation for the season. The projected harvest was 77 bulls and 17 cows for an overall success rate of 34%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.46 for the season. Approximately 89% of responding hunters reported hunting mostly on public land, 8% on private land they did not own, and 3% on private land they owned.

Summary comparison of the 2015-2024 Archery Elk seasons

Year	# Apps 1 st Choice	Licenses Sold	Harvest			Success Rate	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
			Bulls	Cows	Total			
2015	4,761	196	55	12	66	34%	11.74	5.39
2016	4,965	280	57	25	82	29%	11.11	5.40
2017	4,892	269	50	20	70	26%	11.29	5.60
2018	5,006	219	65	19	84	38%	11.70	5.50
2019	5,382	216	77	14	91	42%	11.08	5.61
2020	5,884	204	80	12	92	45%	11.24	5.90
2021	5,966	219	82	14	96	44%	11.18	5.89
2022	6,319	269	89	18	107	40%	12.27	5.87
2023	6,375	258	103	10	114	44%	11.64	5.66
2024	6,855	278	77	17	94	34%	12.66	5.46

2024 Archery Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 19 Feb 2025

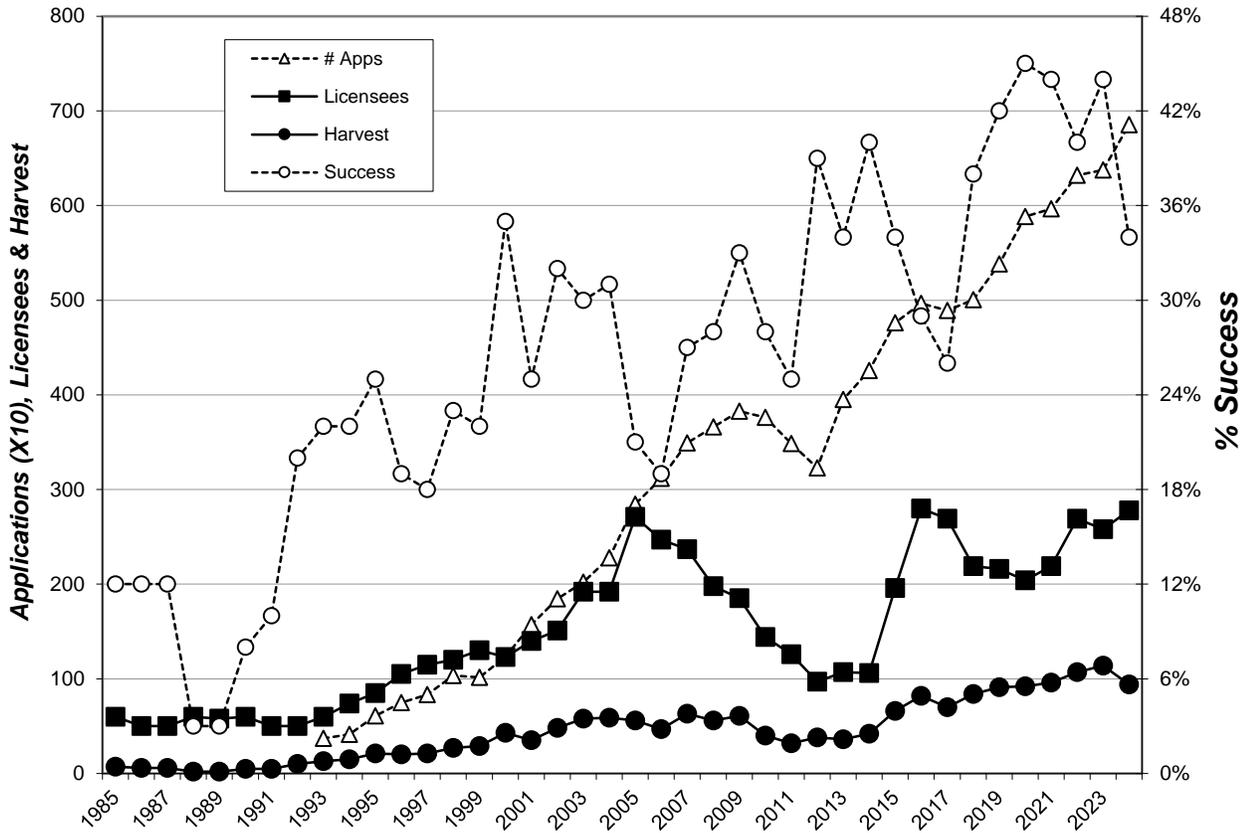
Unit/Type	Resident Licenses					Harvest Projections						Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted	Land Hunted Most		
	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)				Public	Own	Private
H1A-21	823	30	31	58%	50%	16	0	0	0	16	+/-5	9	6.1	13.7	31	0	0
H1A-23	11	10	8	50%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	+/-0	0	4.8	12.3	8	0	0
H2A-21	4,766	100	100	75%	47%	44	0	1	1	47	+/-6	23	6.0	14.0	93	1	1
H2A-23	67	40	38	53%	20%	0	6	0	2	8	+/-5	4	5.5	8.6	32	0	0
H3A-21	861	40	39	69%	11%	4	0	0	0	4	+/-3	3	4.0	16.2	27	6	4
H3A-23	13	30	30	63%	5%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	2	4.4	9.1	25	0	2
H4A-21	31	10	10	70%	29%	1	1	0	0	3	+/-2	3	5.3	11.9	0	0	10
H4A-23	2	10	10	40%	50%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-4	0	6.0	7.7	3	0	5
H5A-21	32	2	2	50%	100%	2	0	0	0	2	+/-0	0	7.0	6.0	2	0	0
H7A-21	249	10	10	60%	83%	8	0	0	0	8	+/-2	0	6.8	15.5	10	0	0
Totals	6,855	282	278	65.1%	33.8%	76	14	1	3	94	+/- 27	42	5.46	12.66	233	8	22

The response rate for all units combined is: 65.1%

Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

Archery Elk 1985-2024



Prior to 2002 it was assumed that any hunter that did not report harvesting an elk at the mandatory check in was unsuccessful, and success was measured by dividing the number of hunters that reported harvesting an elk by the total number of tags issued.

BLACK HILLS FIREARM ELK

A total of 1,290 licenses were issued for the 2024 Black Hills Firearm Elk season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were sent a survey at the end of the season and 834 responded for a 65% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 6.36 days which projects to a total of 8,207 days of recreation for the season. The projected harvest was 427 bulls and 355 cows for an overall success rate of 61%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.05 for the season. Approximately 85% of responding hunters reported hunting mostly on public land, 11% on private land they did not own, and 5% on private land they owned.

Summary comparison of the 2015-2024 Black Hills Firearm Elk seasons

Year	# Apps 1 st Choice	Licenses Sold	Harvest			Success Rate	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
			Bulls	Cows	Total			
2015	12,126	922	312	345	657	71%	6.66	5.54
2016	12,692	1,745	363	724	1,087	62%	4.59	5.42
2017	12,201	1,581	364	682	1,047	66%	4.77	5.50
2018	11,871	1,124	315	402	717	64%	5.08	5.36
2019	12,396	1,108	332	354	686	62%	5.00	5.48
2020	13,198	926	360	224	585	63%	5.35	5.33
2021	12,656	954	370	249	619	65%	5.70	5.40
2022	13,447	1,265	426	381	808	64%	5.78	5.51
2023	12,999	1,232	435	344	779	63%	6.13	5.41
2024	13,742	1,290	427	355	783	61%	6.36	5.05

2024 Black Hills Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 19 Feb 2025

Unit/Type	Resident Licenses					Harvest Projections							Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted	Land Hunted Most		
	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)	Public				Own	Private	
H1A-21	1,381	60	60	66%	95%	49	8	0	0	57	+/-2	2	6.05	6.9	58	2	0	
H1B-23	95	65	63	60%	76%	0	46	0	2	48	+/-5	5	6.16	5.4	63	0	0	
H2A-21	9,214	300	300	73%	84%	241	11	1	0	253	+/-7	34	5.86	7.2	281	12	4	
H2B-23	187	50	49	63%	58%	0	24	3	2	28	+/-5	3	5.32	4.8	49	0	0	
H2C-23	70	50	50	58%	72%	0	34	2	0	36	+/-5	3	5.56	3.9	48	0	0	
H2E-23	74	40	40	60%	54%	0	18	3	0	22	+/-5	2	5.00	4.6	40	0	0	
H2F-23	62	40	37	73%	93%	0	34	0	0	34	+/-2	3	5.92	3.2	36	0	0	
H2G-23	20	40	40	65%	69%	0	26	2	0	28	+/-4	2	6.57	3.2	35	0	0	
H2H-23	5	10	10	90%	11%	0	1	0	0	1	+/-1	1	2.63	7.9	9	0	0	
H2I-23	0	10	10	80%	38%	0	4	0	0	4	+/-2	0	2.75	9.4	10	0	0	
H2J-23	3	10	10	60%	33%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-2	0	4.67	7.8	8	0	2	
H3A-21	1,849	120	120	59%	65%	68	8	2	0	78	+/-9	5	5.07	8.1	74	32	12	
H3B-23	27	45	44	66%	45%	0	17	2	2	20	+/-5	2	3.86	6.0	39	0	3	
H3C-23	18	45	45	70%	26%	0	7	0	4	12	+/-4	1	3.86	6.1	41	0	1	
H3D-23	14	45	45	73%	24%	0	10	0	1	11	+/-3	1	3.83	6.6	38	0	1	
H3E-23	30	60	60	62%	35%	0	16	3	2	21	+/-6	0	4.00	6.4	44	0	15	
H3F-23	11	60	59	71%	36%	0	18	3	0	21	+/-5	0	3.73	5.3	41	1	14	
H3G-23	10	60	59	49%	21%	0	10	0	2	12	+/-6	0	4.15	3.9	47	2	4	
H4A-21	98	40	40	43%	41%	16	0	0	0	16	+/-7	2	3.80	7.4	5	12	21	
H4B-23	6	40	39	62%	25%	0	10	0	0	10	+/-4	0	3.48	7.3	8	2	24	
H5A-21	64	5	5	80%	50%	3	0	0	0	3	+/-1	0	4.00	11.8	4	1	0	
H7A-21	420	30	30	63%	84%	21	5	0	0	25	+/-3	0	5.58	8.7	28	0	2	
H7B-23	27	20	20	65%	77%	0	15	0	0	15	+/-3	2	6.00	7.3	17	2	2	
H9A-21	56	15	15	40%	67%	10	0	0	0	10	+/-4	3	5.17	7.3	0	3	13	
H9B-23	1	40	40	58%	35%	0	14	0	0	14	+/-5	0	4.50	7.3	7	0	31	
Totals	13,742	1,300	1,290	64.8%	60.7%	407	341	20	14	783	+/- 106	70	5.05	6.36	1,055	62	131	

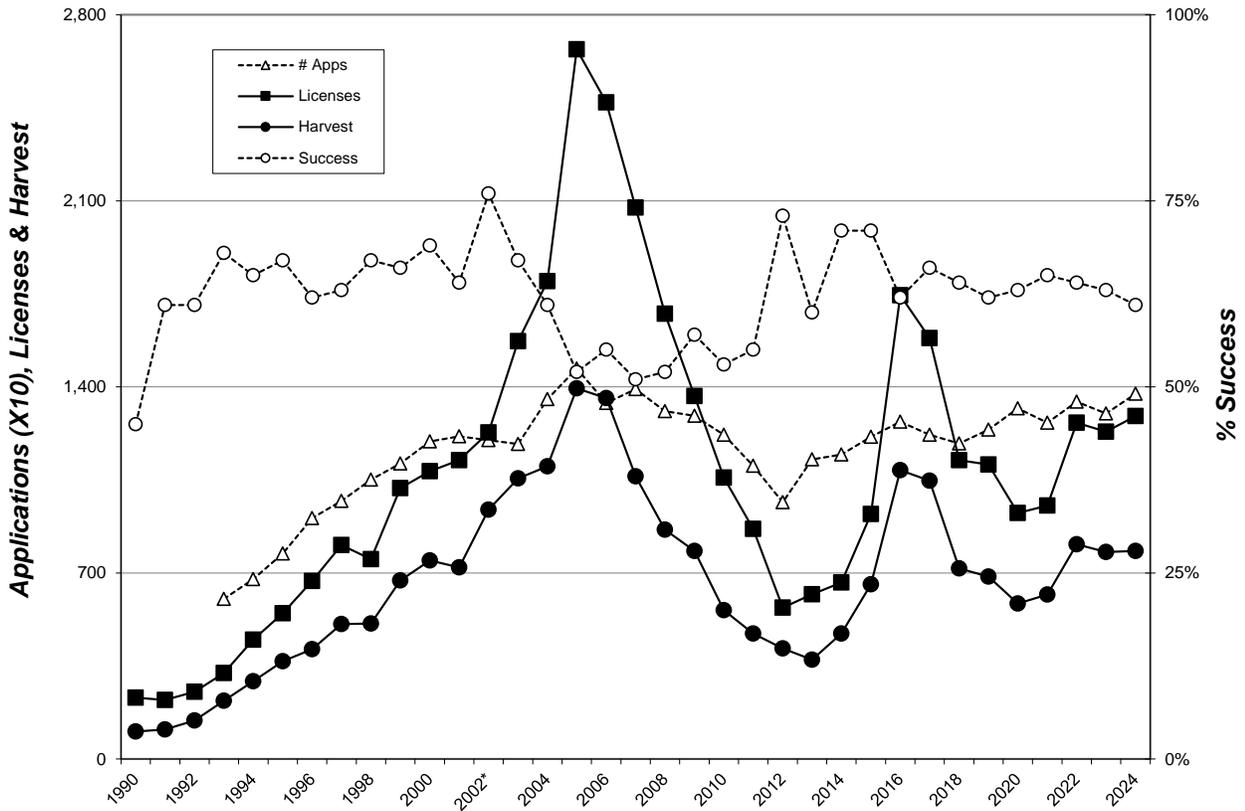
The response rate for all units combined is: 64.8%

85% 5% 11%

Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

Black Hills Firearm Elk 1990-2024



Prior to 2002 it was assumed that any hunter that did not report harvesting an elk at the mandatory check in was unsuccessful, and success was measured by dividing the number of hunters that reported harvesting an elk by the total number of tags issued.

PRAIRIE FIREARM ELK

A total of 334 licenses were issued for the 2024 Prairie Firearm Elk season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were sent a survey at the end of the season and 210 responded for a 63% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 8.34 days for a total of 2,784 days of recreation. The projected harvest was 91 bulls and 73 cows for an overall success rate of 49%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 4.68 for the season.

Approximately 28% of responding hunters reported hunting mostly on public land, 59% on private land they did not own, and 13% on private land they owned.

Summary comparison for 2015-2024 Prairie Firearm Elk seasons

YEAR	Licenses		Harvest			Success	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
	Sold		Bulls	Cows	Total			
2015	98		29	25	54	55%	4.59	5.34
2016	148		32	27	60	40%	4.76	4.68
2017	149		41	34	75	50%	6.43	4.81
2018	139		59	51	109	79%	5.55	5.58
2019	140		41	50	91	65%	5.73	5.43
2020	251		56	87	143	57%	5.97	5.02
2021	257		57	71	128	50%	6.57	5.05
2022	270		74	55	128	48%	7.19	4.73
2023	258		78	53	132	51%	6.78	4.84
2024	334		91	73	164	49%	8.34	4.68

2024 Prairie Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 18 Feb 2025

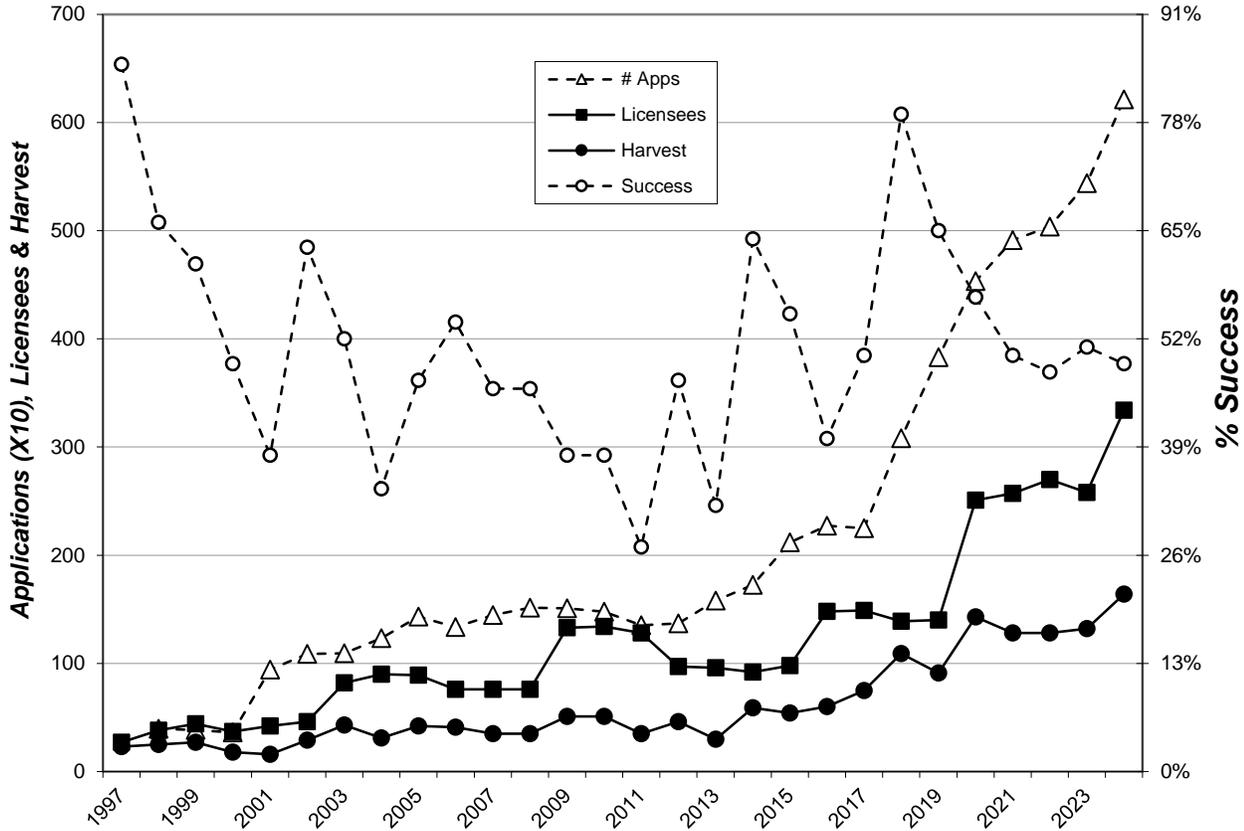
Unit/Type	Resident Licenses					Harvest Projections						Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfcn	Avg Days Hunted	Land Hunted Most		
	Appl. 1st		Sold	Resp.	Success	Bull	Cow	Total Elk		CI (95%)	Score				Public	Own	Other
	Choice *	Avail.				Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves								
09A-21	176	8	8	63%	100%	8	0	0	0	8	+/-0	0	7.0	2.4	0	5	3
11A-23	6	10	9	56%	20%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	5.5	2.5	0	0	7
11B-21	467	16	16	75%	75%	12	0	0	0	12	+/-2	1	6.0	7.2	3	7	7
11C-21	208	16	16	69%	64%	10	0	0	0	10	+/-3	0	5.3	5.0	0	7	9
11D-23	58	30	30	63%	58%	0	13	2	3	17	+/-4	0	5.4	4.2	2	0	24
11E-23	26	10	10	70%	29%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-2	0	4.4	2.4	0	0	7
15A-21	123	8	8	50%	75%	4	2	0	0	6	+/-2	0	5.7	16.7	0	0	6
15A-23	2	5	5	60%	33%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	4.0	4.0	0	0	2
27A-21	834	30	30	57%	65%	18	2	0	0	19	+/-5	2	4.2	8.9	7	9	14
27A-23	41	30	30	60%	50%	0	12	0	3	15	+/-4	0	5.0	4.5	8	0	18
35A-21	1,038	10	10	60%	50%	5	0	0	0	5	+/-3	0	4.7	19.5	8	2	0
35A-23	61	30	30	63%	16%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-3	0	3.3	10.1	17	0	9
35B-21	1,579	8	8	50%	100%	8	0	0	0	8	+/-0	0	6.0	7.5	6	0	2
35B-23	107	40	39	63%	46%	0	15	0	3	18	+/-5	2	4.4	6.1	28	0	10
49A-21	138	10	10	60%	100%	10	0	0	0	10	+/-0	2	5.2	23.8	0	0	10
49A-23	12	15	15	60%	11%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	3.6	13.4	0	0	8
WRA-21	1,245	20	20	55%	73%	15	0	0	0	15	+/-4	0	5.3	15.1	4	5	11
WRA-23	91	40	40	75%	20%	0	8	0	0	8	+/-3	0	3.9	7.6	4	4	27
Totals	6,212	336	334	63.1%	49.1%	89	63	2	10	164	+/- 44	6	4.68	8.34	84	40	175

The response rate for all units combined is: 63.1%

Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

Prairie Elk 1997-2024



LANDOWNER PRAIRIE ELK

A total of 114 licenses were issued for the 2024 Landowner Own Land Prairie Elk season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were sent a survey at the end of the season and 38 responded for a 34% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 5.7 days for a total of 645 days of recreation. The projected harvest was 36 cows for an overall success rate of 32%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 4.61 for the season.

Approximately 93% responding hunters reported hunting mostly on private land they owned, and 7% on private land they did not own.

2024 Landowner Prairie Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 19 Feb 2025

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Avg	Avg	Land Hunted Most			
Unit/Type	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)	Elk Shot Not Recovered	Satisfctn Score	Days Hunted	Public	Own	Other
PRE-23	NA	Unltd	114	34%	32%	0	36	0	0	36	+/-14	0	4.61	5.7	0	81	6
															0%	93%	7%

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

CUSTER STATE PARK ARCHERY ELK

A total of 5 resident licenses were issued for the 2024 Custer State Park Early Archery Elk season which was open from September 1-30. There was no Late CSP Archery season in 2024.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 10.3 days for a total of 51 days of recreation. Four hunters responded and the projected harvest was 3 adult bulls. Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.50 for the season.

Summary comparison of the 2015-2024 CSP Archery elk seasons

Year	Applications	Licenses	Bull Harvest	Cow Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
2015	3,600	4	3	0	75%	16.3	6.50
2016	3,707	3	1	0	33%	15.0	6.00
2017	3,704	3	1	0	33%	9.7	5.67
2018	3,772	3	2	0	50%	11.0	5.50
2019	4,055	3	3	0	100%	5.0	7.00
2020	4,353	3	1	0	33%	13.7	6.50
2021	4,456	3	1	0	33%	11.3	6.33
2022	4,904	4	2	0	50%	20.0	5.50
2023	5,028	4	2	0	50%	16.8	7.00
2024	5,498	5	3	0	50%	10.3	5.50

2024 Custer State Park Archery Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 19 Feb 2025

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Avg	Avg	
Appl. 1st						Bull	Cow	Total Elk		Elk Shot Not		Satisfctn	Days	
Unit/Type	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves	Harvested	CI (95%)	Recovered	Score	Hunted
CU1-21	5,498	5	5	80%	50%	3	0	0	0	3	+/-1	0	5.50	10.3

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

CUSTER STATE PARK FIREARM ANY ELK

A total of 15 resident licenses were issued for the 2024 Custer State Park (CSP) Firearm Any Elk season which was open from October 1-31.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 5.3 days for a total of 79 days of recreation. Fourteen hunters responded and all reported harvesting adult bulls which results in a projected harvest of 15 adult bulls. Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.79 for the season.

Summary comparison of the 2015-2024 CSP Firearm Any elk seasons

Year	Applications	Licenses	Bull Harvest	Cow Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
2015	9,136	8	8	0	100%	1.9	6.88
2016	8,958	9	8	0	89%	2.8	6.56
2017	8,828	9	8	0	88%	2.3	6.71
2018	8,670	9	8	0	86%	5.7	5.71
2019	8,949	9	8	0	89%	2.8	6.25
2020	9,385	9	8	0	89%	5.8	6.89
2021	9,215	8	8	0	100%	1.6	6.86
2022	9,672	11	11	0	100%	4.0	6.75
2023	9,725	11	11	0	100%	3.4	6.86
2024	10,456	15	15	0	100%	5.3	5.79

2024 Custer State Park Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 19 Feb 2025

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Avg	Avg		
Appl. 1st						Bull			Cow		Total Elk		Elk Shot Not	Satisfctn	Days
Unit/Type	Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Calves	Harvested	CI (95%)	Recovered	Score	Hunted	
CU1-21	10,456	15	15	93%	100%	15	0	0	0	15	+/-0	4	5.79	5.3	

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.

CUSTER STATE PARK ANTLERLESS ELK

The Custer State Park Antlerless Elk season remained closed in 2024.

Summary comparison of the 2007-2024 CSP Antlerless elk seasons

Year	Applications	Licenses	Bull Harvest	Cow Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
2007	3,763	60	1	31	53%	3.3	NA
2008	3,646	40	2	21	55%	2.8	NA
2009	3,548	20	0	19	95%	2.5	NA
2010	3,192	5	0	4	80%	NA	NA
2011-15	Closed						
2016	3,138	20	0	18	90%	2.20	6.20
2017	3,436	29	1	24	86%	2.10	5.83
2018	3,175	23	0	4	19%	3.35	2.19
2019-24	Closed						