

ARCHERY ELK

A total of 333 resident licenses were issued for the 2025 Archery Elk season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were sent an email invitation to a Survey123 survey at the end of the season and 234 responded for a 70% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 11.91 days for a total of 3,967 days of recreation for the season. The projected harvest was 100 bulls and 26 cows for an overall success rate of 38%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.51 for the season. Approximately 91% of responding hunters reported hunting mostly on public land, 7% on private land they did not own, and 3% on private land they owned.

Summary comparison of the 2016-2025 Archery Elk seasons

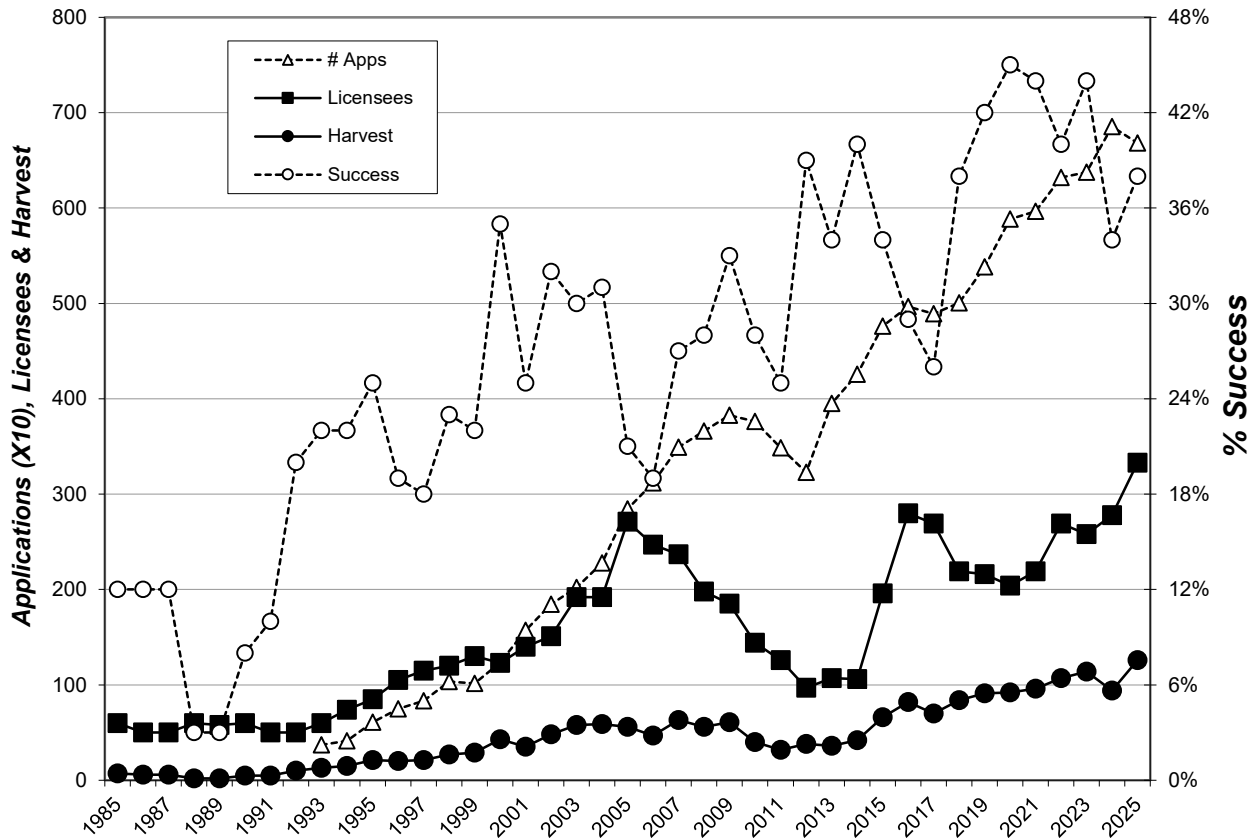
Year	# Apps 1 st Choice	Licenses Sold	Harvest			Success Rate	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
			Bulls	Cows	Total			
2016	4,965	280	57	25	82	29%	11.11	5.40
2017	4,892	269	50	20	70	26%	11.29	5.60
2018	5,006	219	65	19	84	38%	11.70	5.50
2019	5,382	216	77	14	91	42%	11.08	5.61
2020	5,884	204	80	12	92	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
2025	6,682	333	100	26	126	38%	11.91	5.51

2025 Archery Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 28 Jan 2026

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections							Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted	Land Hunted Most		
Appl. 1st		Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Bull		Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)	Public				Own	Other	
Unit/Type	Choice *							Calves	Calves									
H1A-21	775	30	30	80%	46%	14	0	0	0	14	+/-3	6	6.3	14.0	29	0	0	
H1A-23	9	15	10	70%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	+/-0	0	4.9	12.6	10	0	0	
H2A-21	4,780	125	123	77%	56%	66	3	0	0	69	+/-6	18	6.0	13.1	118	3	1	
H2A-23	55	70	64	61%	23%	0	15	0	0	15	+/-5	7	5.2	9.1	57	0	0	
H3A-21	744	40	39	72%	36%	14	0	0	0	14	+/-4	7	4.4	14.3	28	4	7	
H3A-23	17	30	29	62%	11%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-3	2	4.9	9.0	26	0	3	
H4A-21	15	10	8	50%	50%	4	0	0	0	4	+/-3	0	6.8	10.5	0	0	8	
H4A-23	2	10	10	70%	14%	0	1	0	0	1	+/-1	0	5.0	5.9	1	1	4	
H5A-21	30	2	1	0%							+/-		0.0	0.0				
H7A-21	249	10	10	80%	38%	3	1	0	0	4	+/-2	4	5.9	15.6	10	0	0	
H7A-23	6	10	9	44%	25%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-3	0	5.5	12.8	9	0	0	
Totals	6,682	352	333	70.3%	37.8%	100	26	0	0	126	+/- 29	43	5.51	11.91	292	9	21	
The response rate for all units combined is: 70.3%															91%	3%	7%	
Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.																		
* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.																		

Archery Elk 1985-2025



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 1,865 licenses were issued for the 2025 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 1,191 responded for a 64% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 5.78 days which projects to a total of 10,789 days of recreation for the season. The projected harvest was 487 bulls and 676 cows for an overall success rate of 62%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.31 for the season. Approximately 88% of responding hunters reported hunting mostly on public land, 8% on private land they did not own, and 4% on private land they owned.

Summary comparison of the 2016-2025 Black Hills Firearm Elk seasons

Year	# Apps 1 st Choice	Licenses Sold	Harvest			Success Rate	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
			Bulls	Cows	Total			
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
2025	13,471	1,865	487	676	1,164	62%	5.78	5.31

2025 Black Hills Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 28 Jan 2026

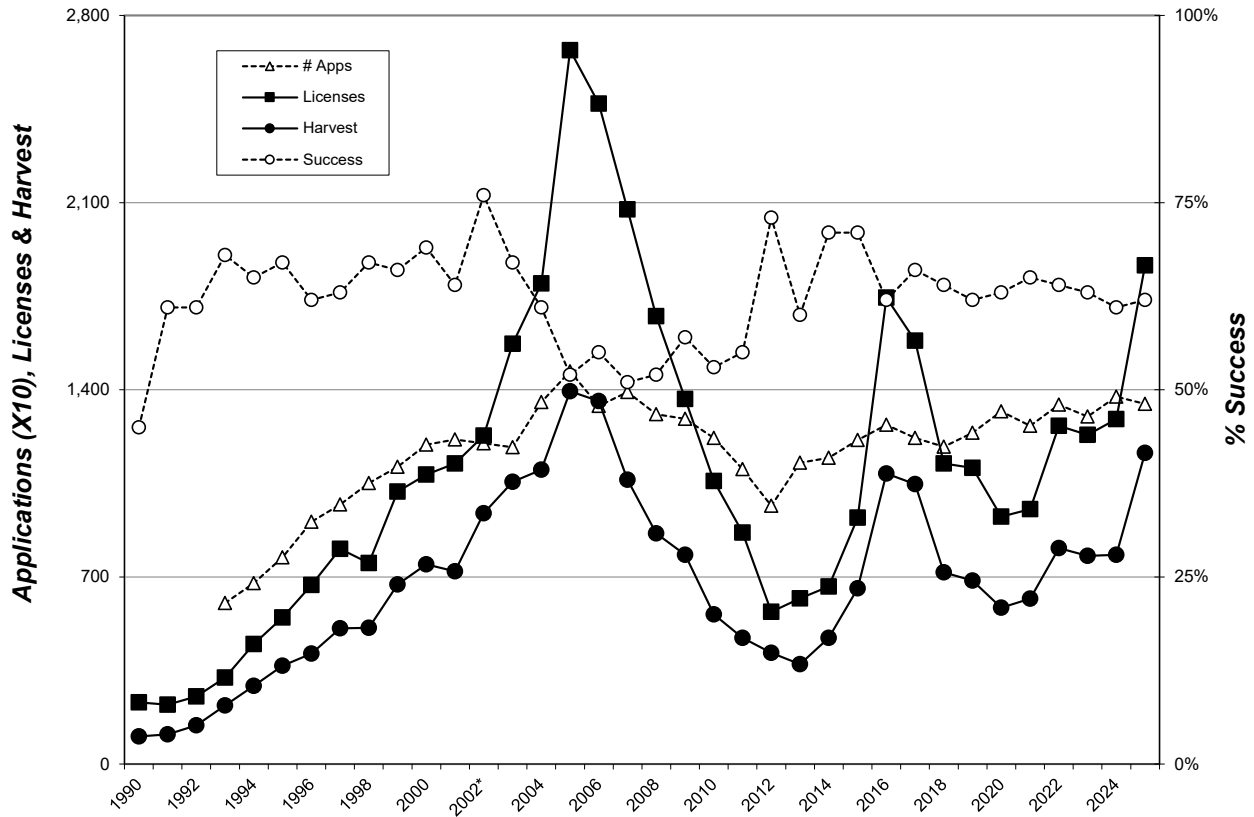
Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted	Land Hunted Most		
Unit/Type	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)				Public	Own	Other Private
H1A-21	1,321	80	80	69%	84%	64	3	0	0	67	+/-4	6	5.15	7.5	76	3	1
H1B-23	98	100	100	68%	57%	0	46	4	7	57	+/-7	4	5.47	5.1	94	0	0
H2A-21	9,086	350	352	74%	83%	273	16	3	0	292	+/-8	30	5.83	8.2	338	7	4
H2B-23	203	100	95	57%	63%	0	53	2	5	60	+/-8	2	5.15	4.4	93	0	0
H2C-23	60	100	96	48%	59%	0	52	2	2	56	+/-10	8	5.76	3.6	88	0	0
H2D-23	19	50	50	60%	73%	0	37	0	0	37	+/-5	2	5.90	3.8	50	0	0
H2E-23	103	125	129	62%	56%	2	66	2	3	73	+/-9	3	5.45	5.3	123	0	0
H2F-23	87	125	131	66%	73%	0	93	3	0	96	+/-7	5	5.81	3.2	129	0	0
H2G-23	31	125	125	62%	72%	0	87	0	3	90	+/-8	11	5.64	2.5	122	0	0
H2H-23	4	10	12	50%	33%	0	4	0	0	4	+/-3	0	4.00	6.2	10	0	0
H2I-23	0	10	12	83%	40%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-1	0	4.30	4.9	12	0	0
H2J-23	3	10	9	89%	38%	0	2	0	1	3	+/-1	0	3.86	3.4	8	0	0
H3A-21	1,711	120	118	62%	63%	71	3	0	0	74	+/-8	6	5.18	8.7	73	24	19
H3B-23	29	45	47	68%	34%	0	16	0	0	16	+/-4	1	4.28	6.4	43	0	4
H3C-23	13	45	47	77%	47%	0	22	0	0	22	+/-4	1	5.03	4.4	42	0	1
H3D-23	7	45	45	62%	39%	0	16	0	2	18	+/-5	3	5.15	3.5	40	0	2
H3E-23	18	60	64	53%	38%	0	23	2	0	24	+/-7	4	4.41	6.1	45	0	17
H3F-23	11	60	66	58%	32%	0	21	0	0	21	+/-6	5	4.06	4.4	54	0	9
H3G-23	9	60	60	62%	35%	0	19	0	2	21	+/-6	0	4.42	5.1	34	3	16
H4A-21	70	40	40	45%	61%	22	2	0	0	24	+/-7	0	4.89	8.4	2	22	16
H4B-23	6	40	45	53%	42%	0	17	0	2	19	+/-6	2	4.62	4.3	6	2	32
H5A-21	66	5	5	80%	100%	4	1	0	0	5	+/-0	0	6.75	7.5	3	3	0
H7A-21	418	35	35	60%	81%	22	7	0	0	28	+/-4	3	5.90	9.2	32	2	2
H7B-23	44	50	50	62%	61%	0	31	0	0	31	+/-5	3	5.17	5.4	44	2	2
H9A-21	51	15	15	67%	70%	11	0	0	0	11	+/-2	2	5.50	13.0	3	3	9
H9B-23	3	40	37	65%	25%	0	8	2	0	9	+/-4	0	4.45	6.3	9	2	23
Totals	13,471	1,845	1,865	63.9%	62.4%	468	649	19	27	1,164	+/- 140	102	5.31	5.78	1,593	66	144

The response rate for all units combined is: 63.9%

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 1990-2025



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 405 licenses were issued for the 2025 Prairie Firearm Elk season. All license holders that provided a valid email address were sent a survey at the end of the season and 236 responded for a 59% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 8.00 days for a total of 3,240 days of recreation. The projected harvest was 101 bulls and 83 cows for an overall success rate of 45%.

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

Approximately 30% of responding hunters reported hunting mostly on public land, 55% on private land they did not own, and 15% on private land they owned.

Summary comparison for 2016-2025 Prairie Firearm Elk seasons

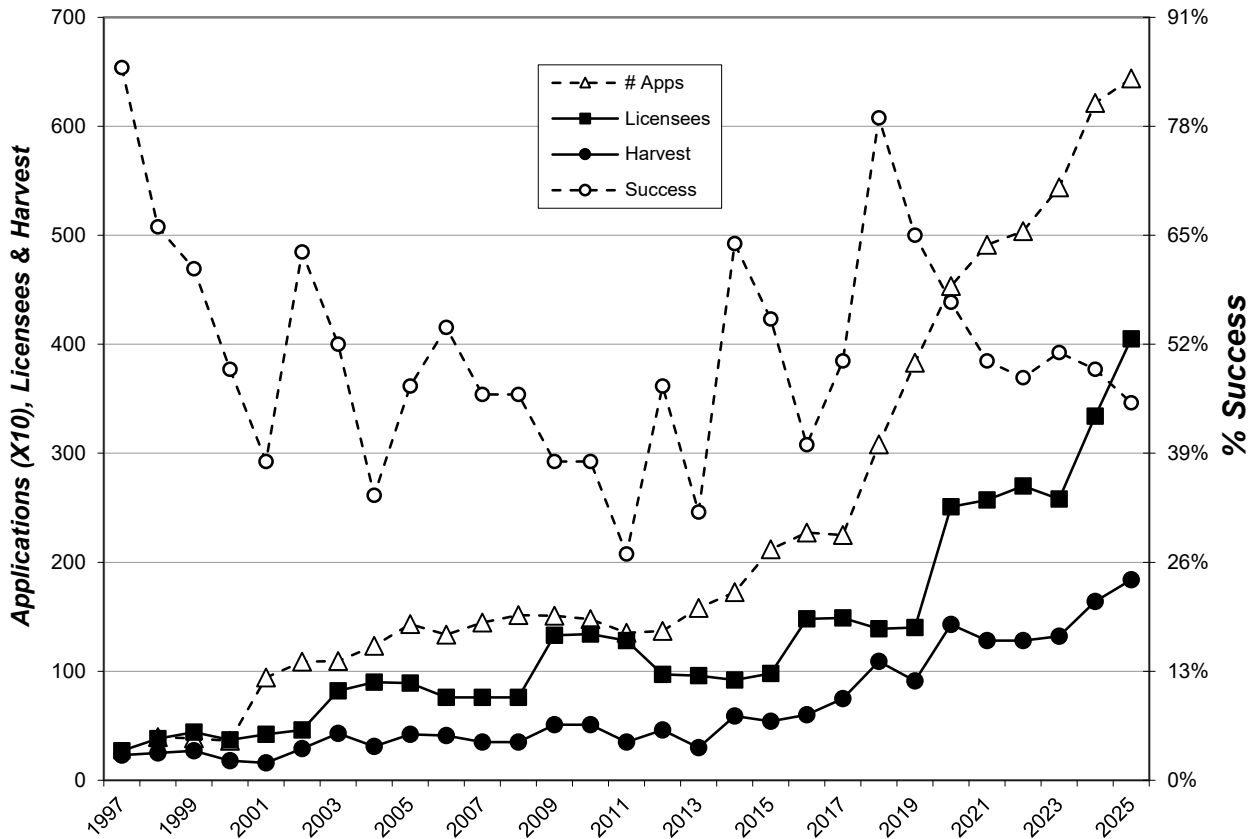
YEAR	Licenses	Harvest			Success	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
	Sold	Bulls	Cows	Total			
2016	148	32	27	60	40%	4.76	4.68
2017	149	41	34	75	50%	6.43	4.81
2018	139	59	51	109	79%	5.55	5.58
2019	140	41	50	91	65%	5.73	5.43
2020	251	56	87	143	57%	5.97	5.02
2021	257	57	71	128	50%	6.57	5.05
2022	270	74	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
2025	405	101	83	184	45%	8.00	4.65

2025 Prairie Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 29 Jan 2026

Resident Licenses						Harvest Projections						Elk Shot Not Recovered	Avg Satisfctn Score	Avg Days Hunted	Land Hunted Most								
Unit/Type	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Resp.	Success	Bulls	Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total Elk Harvested	CI (95%)				Public	Own	Other Private						
09A-21	155	8	8	75%	83%	7	0	0	0	7	+/-1	1	4.5	10.8	0	3	5						
09A-23	23	30	30	41%	25%	0	8	0	0	8	+/-6	0	4.1	16.3	3	0	25						
11B-21	427	16	16	50%	63%	10	0	0	0	10	+/-4	0	5.1	8.5	4	8	4						
11C-21	190	16	16	63%	40%	6	0	0	0	6	+/-3	2	4.2	6.4	5	5	5						
11D-23	51	30	29	52%	53%	0	15	0	0	15	+/-5	2	4.8	3.5	2	0	27						
11E-23	14	10	10	44%	100%	0	10	0	0	10	+/-0	5	7.0	4.5	0	0	10						
15A-21	115	8	8	100%	88%	7	0	0	0	7	+/-0	1	5.5	14.0	0	2	6						
15A-23	2	5	5	60%	33%	0	2	0	0	2	+/-2	0	5.0	12.3	0	0	5						
27A-21	784	30	30	70%	95%	27	1	0	0	29	+/-2	0	6.0	9.6	1	10	19						
27A-23	44	40	38	61%	26%	0	10	0	0	10	+/-4	0	4.2	7.6	12	0	23						
35A-21	963	10	10	70%	86%	9	0	0	0	9	+/-1	0	6.1	3.0	4	4	1						
35A-23	37	30	29	66%	37%	0	11	0	0	11	+/-4	2	4.6	5.2	20	0	8						
35B-21	1,663	8	8	88%	100%	8	0	0	0	8	+/-0	1	5.6	5.1	5	3	0						
35B-23	79	40	38	61%	13%	0	5	0	0	5	+/-3	0	3.3	7.3	25	2	10						
49A-21	134	10	10	40%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	+/-0	0	4.0	19.8	0	3	5						
49A-23	8	15	15	40%	17%	0	3	0	0	3	+/-4	3	4.5	8.0	3	0	13						
WRA-21	1,647	30	30	41%	92%	28	0	0	0	28	+/-4	3	5.8	5.8	3	13	15						
WRA-23	101	80	75	64%	25%	0	17	0	2	19	+/-6	2	4.1	7.2	20	3	36						
Totals	6,437	416	405	58.7%	45.5%	101	81	0	2	184	+/- 47	20	4.65	8.00	112	57	208						
The response rate for all units combined is:															58.7%						30%	15%	55%

Prairie Elk 1997-2025



LANDOWNER PRAIRIE ELK

A total of 187 licenses were issued for the 2025 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 54 responded for a 29% response rate. All responses were received through the Internet.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 9.1 days for a total of 1,703 days of recreation. The projected harvest was 69 cows for an overall success rate of 37%.

Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 4.02 for the season.

2025 Landowner Prairie Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 28 Jan 2026

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		
PRE-23	NA	Unltd	187	29%	37%	0	69	0	0	69	+/-20	3	4.02	9.1		
* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice																

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

CUSTER STATE PARK ARCHERY ELK

A total of 10 resident licenses were issued for the 2025 Custer State Park (CSP) Early Archery Elk season which was open from September 1-30. There was no Late CSP Archery season in 2025.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 11.5 days for a total of 115 days of recreation. Eight hunters responded and the projected harvest was 9 adult bulls. Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 6.50 for the season.

Summary comparison of the 2016-2025 CSP Archery elk seasons

Year	Applications	Licenses	Bull Harvest	Cow Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted	Average Satisfaction
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
2025	5,402	10	9	0	88%	11.5	6.50

2025 Custer State Park Archery Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 28 Jan 2026

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	5,402	10	10	80%	88%	9	0	0	0	9	+/-1	1	6.50	11.5		

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

CUSTER STATE PARK FIREARM ANY ELK

A total of 25 resident licenses were issued for the 2025 Custer State Park (CSP) Firearm Any Elk season which was open from October 1-31.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 6.1 days for a total of 151 days of recreation. Nineteen hunters responded and the projected harvest was 22 adult bulls. Hunter satisfaction was based on a numerical scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 7 (very satisfied) and averaged 5.53 for the season.

Summary comparison of the 2016-2025 CSP Firearm Any elk seasons

<i>Year</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Licenses</i>	<i>Bull Harvest</i>	<i>Cow Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
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
2025	10,386	25	22	0	89%	6.1	5.53

2025 Custer State Park Firearm Elk Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 28 Jan 2026

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	10,386	25	25	76%	89%	22	0	0	0	22	+/-2	4	5.53	6.1			
* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that unit as 1st choice.																	

* 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 2025.

Summary comparison of the 2007-2025 CSP Antlerless elk seasons

<i>Year</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Licenses</i>	<i>Bull Harvest</i>	<i>Cow Harvest</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Avg. Days Hunted</i>	<i>Average Satisfaction</i>
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
2019-25	Closed						