NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEER

There were 132 licenses issued for the 2025 Wildlife Refuge Deer seasons, which included 88 at Sand Lake (80 residents and 8 nonresidents); 22 at Lacreek (20 residents and 2 nonresidents); and 22 at Waubay (20 residents and 2 nonresidents).

All license-holders that provided a valid email address were surveyed for each season and response rates for Sand Lake, Lacreek, and Waubay refuges were 67%, 91%, and 50%, respectively.

The seasons had different opening dates at each refuge. The average days hunted were 2.91 at Sand Lake, 3.23 at Lacreek, and 2.54 at Waubay.

The projected harvest for Sand Lake was 30 whitetail bucks, for Lacreek was 8 whitetail bucks, and for Waubay was 2 whitetail bucks and 2 whitetail does. The reported success rate for Sand Lake was 34%, for Lacreek was 35%, and for Waubay was 20%.

Harvest summaries for 2016-2025 National Wildlife Refuge Deer Seasons

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge

YEAR	LICENSES	BUCKS	DOES	% SUCCESS	AVG DAYS HUNTED
2016	163	33	16	30%	2.60
2017	165	36	15	31%	2.72
2018	164	46	15	38%	2.66
2019	115	27	10	32%	2.54
2020	118	34	5	34%	2.81
2021	114	39	5	38%	3.08
2022	114	33	11	39%	2.63
2023	106	34	1	33%	3.11
2024	110	27	3	27%	3.16
2025	88	30	0	34%	2.91

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

YEAR	LICENSES	BUCKS	DOES	% SUCCESS	AVG DAYS HUNTED
2016	23	7	1	34%	2.50
2017	29	11	1	41%	2.73
2018	29	7	0	23%	2.00
2019	21	9	0	41%	2.79
2020	19	9	0	49%	3.70
2021	17	9	0	53%	3.44
2022	22	11	0	50%	3.56
2023	22	6	0	25%	4.06
2024	22	11	1	56%	4.02
2025	22	8	0	35%	3.23

Waubay National Wildlife Refuge

YEAR	LICENSES	BUCKS	DOES	% SUCCESS	AVG DAYS HUNTED
2016	33	8	1	29%	2.29
2017	21	10	3	61%	2.22
2018	22	10	3	56%	2.94
2019	22	6	3	40%	2.93
2020	22	5	0	23%	3.22
2021	21	8	1	44%	2.55
2022	22	9	6	66%	2.47
2023	22	5	0	24%	3.11
2024	21	7	3	47%	2.35
2025	22	2	2	20%	2.54

2025 Sand Lake Refuge Deer Harvest Projections

Last Revised: *13-Mar-26*

	Licenses								Harvest Projections						
	Resident			Nonresident					Whitetail				Total	Mean	Avg
	Appl. 1st			Appl. 1st			Response	Tag	Bucks		Does		Deer	Satisf	Days
Unit/Type	Choice *	Available	Sold	Choice *	Available	Sold	Rate	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvested	Score	Hunted
SL1-01	67	20	20	24	2	2	73%	56%	12	0	0	0	12	4.81	2.47
SL2-01	79	20	20	40	2	2	82%	39%	7	1	0	0	9	3.28	3.47
SL4-01	12	20	20	7	2	2	50%	27%	6	0	0	0	6	5.43	2.29
SL5-01	22	20	20	17	2	2	64%	14%	3	0	0	0	3	4.25	3.42
Licenses	**180**	**80**	**80**	**88**	**8**	**8**	**67.0%**	**34%**	**29**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**30**	**4.44**	**2.91**

2025 Waubay Refuge Deer Harvest Projections

	Licenses								Harvest Projections						
	Resident			Nonresident					Whitetail				Total	Mean	Avg
	Appl. 1st			Appl. 1st			Response	Tag	Bucks		Does		Deer	Satisf	Days
Unit/Type	Choice *	Available	Sold	Choice *	Available	Sold	Rate	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvested	Score	Hunted
WA1-01	47	10	10	6	1	1	82%	22%	2	0	0	0	2	3.44	3.44
WA3-01	9	10	10	2	1	1	100%	18%	0	0	2	0	2	3.73	1.64
Licenses	**56**	**20**	**20**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**90.9%**	**20%**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**4**	**3.59**	**2.54**

All units require the use of muzzleloader firearms.

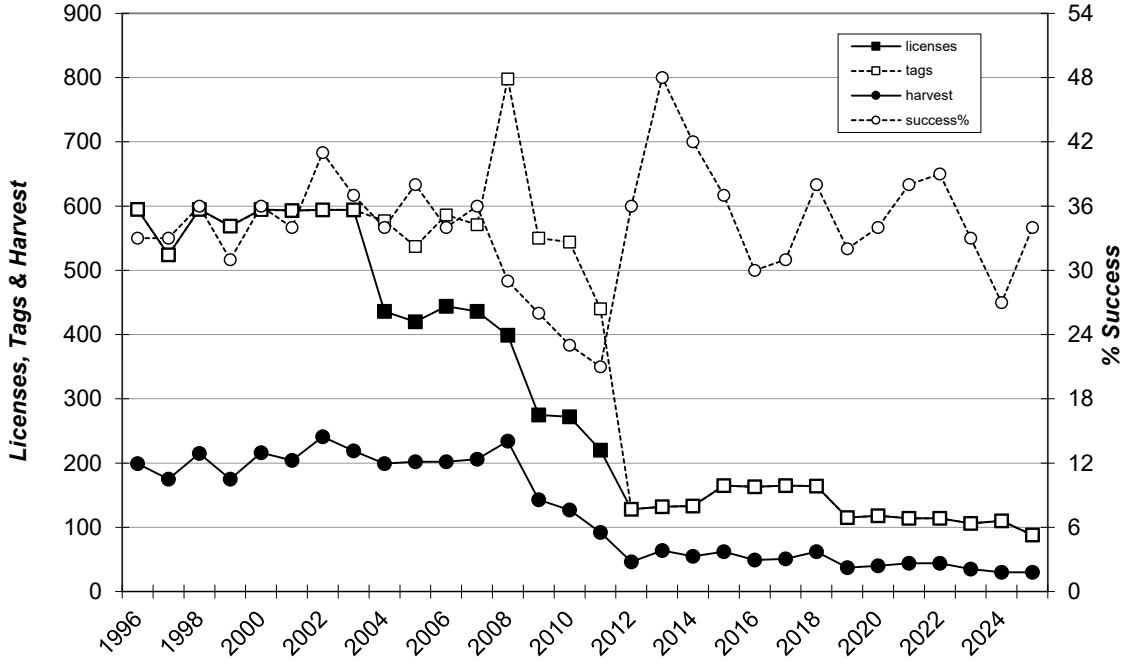
2025 Lacreek Refuge Deer Harvest Projections

	Licenses								Harvest Projections						
	Resident			Nonresident					Whitetail				Total	Mean	Avg
	Appl. 1st			Appl. 1st			Response	Tag	Bucks		Does		Deer	Satisf	Days
Unit/Type	Choice *	Available	Sold	Choice *	Available	Sold	Rate	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvested	Score	Hunted
LC1-01	50	10	10	14	1	1	45%	20%	2	0	0	0	2	3.40	2.80
LC2-01	90	10	10	21	1	1	55%	50%	6	0	0	0	6	3.50	3.67
Licenses	**140**	**20**	**20**	**35**	**2**	**2**	**50.0%**	**35%**	**8**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**3.45**	**3.23**

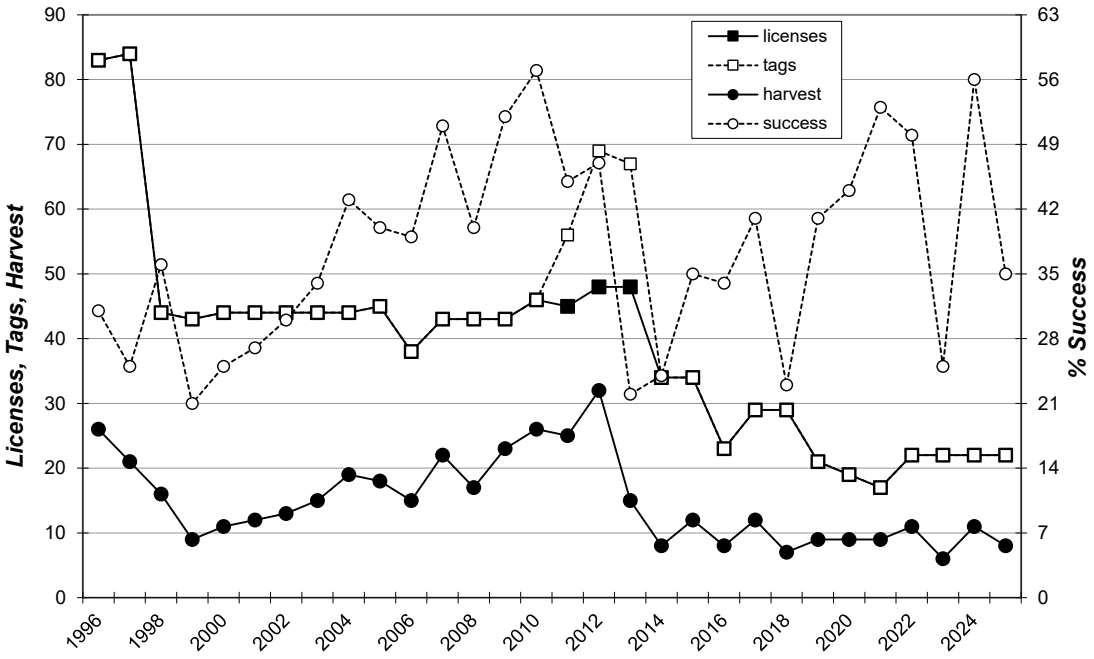
Response rate for all units combined was: **68.2%**

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

Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge 1996-2025



Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge 1996-2025



Waubay National Wildlife Refuge 1996-2025

