

Statewide Combined Deer Harvest

There were 39,133 resident deer licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available in 2025 and 89,798 resident licenses were issued. Nonresidents had 2,758 licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available and 8,594 were issued. Statewide, there were a total of 98,392 licenses sold that represented a total of 108,290 tags, a reduction of 11,710 licenses and 15,394 tags from 2024. A total of 67,916 individual hunters were issued deer licenses in 2025, down from 69,553 in 2024.

All hunters that listed a valid email address were surveyed using Survey123 Software. Hunters who did not supply a valid email address were not surveyed. Response rates ranged from 25% for Mentored Youth Antlerless Deer to 74% for Custer State Park Deer.

The projected statewide deer harvest was 42,261, a reduction of 4,824 from 2024. This estimate included 23,549 whitetail bucks, 12,471 whitetail does, 5,082 mule deer bucks, and 1,160 mule deer does. Reduced harvest of white-tailed does account for most of the overall difference. Mule deer made up approximately 15% of the total harvest.

The 2025 overall statewide harvest success increased to 39% from 2024. Harvest success ranged from 20% for Waubay National Wildlife Refuge Deer to 74% for Custer State Park Deer.

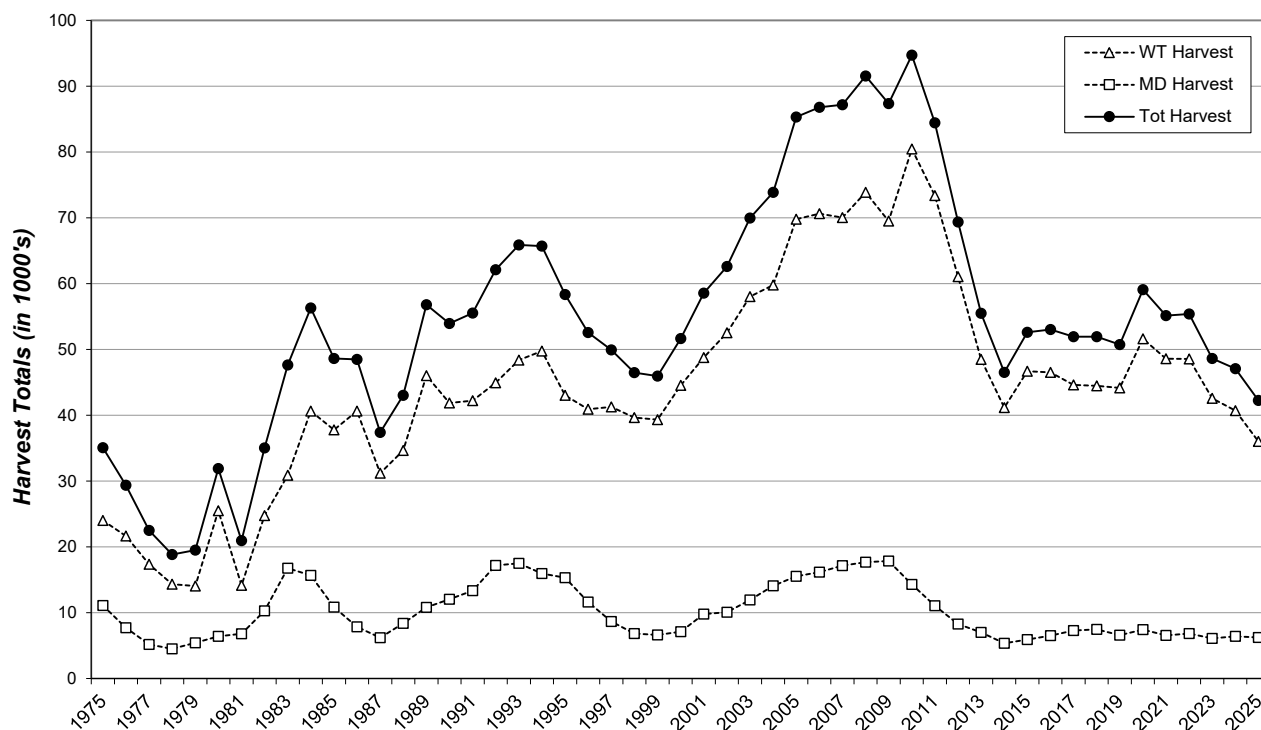
The total statewide estimate of 517,294 recreation days of deer hunting in 2025 results in an average of 5.26 days per hunter. Average hunter satisfaction values (1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied) ranged from 3.45 for Lacreek Refuge Deer to 5.88 for Apprentice Antlerless Deer.

2025 Statewide Deer Harvest Projection Summary

last revised: 18 March 2026

SOUTH DAKOTA	Season	Archery	Apprentice Antlerless	Youth Antlerless	Mentored Youth Antlerless	Muzzleloader	Landowner Own Land Antlerless	West River	West River Landowner Own Land	West River Special Buck Unit	East River	East River Landowner Own Land	East River Special Buck Unit	Sand Lake NWR	Waubay NWR	Lacreek NWR	Black Hills	Black Hills Landowner Own Land	Custer State Park	Grand Totals	
Harvest Statistic														Refuges							
Licenses/Tags																					
Resident Licenses																					
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	15,698	Unlimited	1,000	18,840	Unlimited	500	80	20	20	2,950	Unlimited	25	39,133	
Sold		27,816	487	2,758	4,368	2,678	2,040	15,555	2,786	1,005	18,812	7,836	499	80	20	20	2,952	61	25	89,798	
Resident Tags																					
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	19,520	Unlimited	1,000	18,840	Unlimited	500	80	20	20	2,950	Unlimited	25	42,955	
Sold		27,816	487	2,758	4,368	2,678	2,040	19,314	4,195	1,005	18,812	12,035	499	80	20	20	2,952	78	25	99,182	
Nonresident Licenses																					
Available		Unlimited	0	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1,260	Unlimited	1,000	Leftovers	250	N/A	8	2	2	236	N/A	N/A	2,758	
Sold		4,831	0	291	409	100	72	1,307	96	986	7	245	N/A	8	2	2	238	N/A	N/A	8,594	
Nonresident Tags																					
Available		Unlimited	0	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	1,565	Unlimited	1,000	Leftovers	250	N/A	8	2	2	236	N/A	N/A	3,063	
Sold		4,831	0	291	409	100	72	1,665	135	986	7	362	N/A	8	2	2	238	N/A	N/A	9,108	
Total Licenses																					
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	16,958	Unlimited	2,000	18,840	Unlimited	500	88	22	22	3,186	Unlimited	25	41,641	
Sold		32,647	487	3,049	4,777	2,778	2,112	16,862	2,882	1,991	18,819	8,081	499	88	22	22	3,190	61	25	98,392	
Total Tags																					
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	21,085	Unlimited	2,000	18,840	Unlimited	500	88	22	22	3,186	Unlimited	25	45,768	
Sold		32,647	487	3,049	4,777	2,778	2,112	20,979	4,330	1,991	18,819	12,397	499	88	22	22	3,190	78	25	108,290	
Hunters		25,010	487	3,049	4,777	2,694	1,885	16,478	2,882	1,991	18,679	8,081	499	88	22	22	3,190	61	25	67,916	
Recreation																					
Average Days Hunted		10.10	3.76	4.11	3.58	5.63	3.84	3.43	4.30	3.76	4.17	4.40	5.25	2.91	2.54	3.23	5.34	5.52	5.44	5.26	
Total Days Hunted		252,550	1,832	12,522	17,087	15,167	7,229	56,444	12,385	7,494	78,529	35,533	2,622	256	56	71	17,044	337	136	517,294	
Mean Satisfaction Score		4.56	5.88	5.20	5.53	4.37	4.85	4.61	4.58	5.19	4.39	4.46	4.63	4.44	3.59	3.45	4.91	4.64	5.44		
Harvest																					
White-tailed Deer																					
Bucks		5,543	27	168	245	217	18	5,119	676	885	6,026	2,428	236	30	2	8	1,886	18	18	23,549	
Does		1,610	233	1,213	2,251	459	620	2,238	339	19	2,279	1,184	9	0	2	0	0	14	0	12,471	
Total		7,153	260	1,381	2,496	676	638	7,357	1,015	904	8,304	3,612	245	30	4	8	1,886	32	18	36,020	
Mule Deer																					
Bucks		1,236	3	7	16	112	0	2,538	434	442	155	45	18	0	0	0	72	2	0	5,082	
Does		137	23	96	230	12	0	392	228	6	14	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,160	
Total		1,373	26	103	246	125	0	2,930	662	449	169	65	20	0	0	0	72	2	0	6,241	
Total Deer Harvest																					
Bucks		6,779	30	175	261	330	18	7,657	1,110	1,327	6,180	2,473	254	30	2	8	1,958	20	18	28,630	
Does		1,747	256	1,310	2,481	471	620	2,630	567	26	2,293	1,204	11	0	2	0	0	14	0	13,631	
Total		8,526	287	1,484	2,742	801	638	10,286	1,677	1,352	8,473	3,677	265	30	4	8	1,958	34	18	42,261	
Success		26%	59%	49%	57%	29%	30%	49%	39%	68%	45%	30%	53%	34%	20%	35%	61%	44%	74%	39%	

South Dakota Combined Deer Harvest 1975-2025



South Dakota Combined Deer Licensing 1975-2025

