

WEST RIVER FIREARM DEER

There were 21,735 licenses issued for the 2025 West River Firearm Deer season (16,862 regular, 1,991 Special Buck, and 2,882 Landowner Own Land Only) for a total of 27,300 tags.

The West River season was open 16 days from November 15 – 30 in most units. Unit 30A in Gregory County was open from November 8-11 and Nov. 24 – 30. The season was also open from December 13-21 for all unfilled antlerless deer tags.

All hunters who provided a valid email address were surveyed using Survey123 Software for the regular West River season, the West River Special Buck season, and Landowner Own Land Only licenses. Final response rates were 49% for regular West River Deer, 26% for Landowner Own Land, and 59% for Special Buck.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 3.43 days in the regular West River season, 4.30 days for Landowner, and 3.76 days in the Special Buck. These averages project to a total of 76,323 recreation days for all West River firearm deer seasons.

The West River projected deer harvest was 10,286 for the regular season, 1,677 for Landowner Own Land, and 1,352 for the Special Buck licenses. Success rates were 49% for the regular season, 39% for [Landowner Own Land](#), and 68% for Special Buck.

The mean satisfaction score for those responding to the regular West River season was 4.61 (1 being very dissatisfied and 7 very satisfied).

Summary comparison of the 2016-2025 West River Deer seasons (including Special Buck and Landowner)

YEAR	Licenses Sold				Harvest					Tag Success	Avg Days	Avg Satis
	Resident		Nonres		Bucks		Does					
	Lics	Tags	Lics	Tags	WT	Mule	WT	Mule	Total			
2016	21,974	28,565	2,510	3,086	8,789	3,885	3,805	354	16,384	53%	3.33	5.13
2017	21,310	26,057	2,322	2,679	7,977	4,384	3,224	399	15,984	56%	3.28	5.05
2018	21,389	26,184	2,337	2,691	7,731	4,200	3,270	427	15,628	54%	3.38	5.10
2019	20,864	28,342	2,028	2,592	7,717	3,800	3,732	423	15,672	51%	3.09	5.18
2020	21,733	29,434	2,380	2,872	9,147	4,033	4,621	454	18,255	56%	3.46	5.30
2021	23,028	33,731	2,745	3,679	8,514	3,846	5,366	556	18,282	49%	3.50	5.12
2022	23,671	34,621	2,796	3,738	7,864	3,893	5,317	568	17,642	46%	3.51	4.69
2023	21,413	29,884	2,585	3,528	7,589	3,473	3,661	468	15,190	46%	3.60	4.55
2024	21,525	30,001	2,562	3,206	7,583	3,662	3,917	509	15,670	47%	3.64	4.63
2025	19,346	24,514	2,293	2,651	6,679	3,415	2,596	626	13,315	49%	3.57	4.61

2025 West River Deer Antlerless Harvest by Date

	Total	Nov 15 - 30	Dec 13 - 21
Reports	2,070	1,696	374
Percent of total		82%	18%
Projected	2,910	2,384	526

2025 West River Deer Harvest Projections

Unit/Type		Licenses											Harvest Projections									
		Resident			Nonresident			Tags sold	Response Rate	Success		Hunter Success	Whitetail				Mule Deer				Total Deer	
		Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold			1st tag	2nd tag		Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Harvest	CI (95%)
02A-01	622	400	400	118	32	32	432	51%	59%			59%	63	2	4	0	173	0	14	0	255	+/-20
02A-13P	4	50	50	1	4	4	54	39%	24%			24%	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	13	+/-8
02A-18	63	200	200	16	16	16	432	55%	53%	17%		53%	87	7	53	4	0	0	0	0	151	+/-25
02C-02	430	100	100	121	8	8	108	64%	57%			57%	9	0	0	0	52	0	0	0	61	+/-8
02C-11	34	25	24	11	2	2	26	73%	63%			63%	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	+/-3
11A-02	164	125	123	22	10	10	133	50%	58%			58%	36	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	77	+/-11
11A-11	25	50	50	4	4	4	54	43%	65%			65%	23	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	35	+/-8
11B-02	75	25	25	18	2	2	27	48%	31%			31%	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	+/-5
11B-11	43	50	50	17	4	4	54	54%	55%			55%	22	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	30	+/-7
15A-01	666	200	201	146	16	16	217	52%	68%			68%	39	0	2	0	103	0	2	2	147	+/-13
15A-18	453	600	597	100	48	48	1,290	44%	62%	24%		62%	334	7	195	18	0	0	0	0	554	+/-56
15A-19P	25	500	477	18	40	63	1,080	38%	40%	28%		40%	0	55	239	53	0	0	0	0	347	+/-56
15B-01	237	150	148	39	12	4	152	45%	51%			51%	47	0	0	0	34	0	2	0	83	+/-13
15B-18	282	400	399	39	32	33	864	48%	63%	27%		63%	227	15	136	13	0	0	0	0	390	+/-42
15B-19P	10	200	194	5	16	21	430	40%	53%	31%		52%	0	28	119	18	0	0	0	0	165	+/-36
20A-01	456	200	201	88	16	16	217	50%	53%			53%	38	0	6	0	68	0	4	0	115	+/-14
20A-03	3	50	49	1	4	4	53	38%	45%			45%	0	0	3	0	0	0	21	0	24	+/-9
20A-11	96	350	350	47	28	28	378	44%	46%			46%	161	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	173	+/-22
21A-02	477	100	102	78	8	8	110	55%	67%			67%	9	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	73	+/-9
21A-11	256	200	199	14	16	16	215	47%	64%			64%	128	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	138	+/-15
21A-13P	6	50	50	0	4	4	54	46%	52%			52%	0	2	26	0	0	0	0	0	28	+/-8
21B-01	94	50	50	12	4	4	54	70%	55%			55%	14	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	30	+/-5
21B-11	50	50	50	6	4	4	54	54%	69%			69%	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	+/-6
24A-01	247	100	100	44	8	8	108	52%	48%			48%	14	0	2	0	35	0	2	0	52	+/-10
24A-11	68	250	250	27	20	20	270	45%	43%			43%	111	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	117	+/-18
24A-13	0	100	100	3	8	8	108	40%	34%			43%	0	2	32	10	0	0	0	0	45	+/-14
24B-11	56	10	10	11	1	1	11	36%	75%			75%	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	+/-4
24B-13	1	10	9	1	1	1	10	70%	57%			57%	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	6	+/-2
27A-02	364	100	99	117	8	8	107	64%	52%			52%	11	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	56	+/-8
27A-11	81	50	49	24	4	5	54	46%	64%			64%	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	+/-7
27A-13P	3	25	25	0	2	2	27	52%	21%			21%	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	+/-4
27B-02	414	200	202	71	16	16	218	47%	63%			63%	64	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	137	+/-15
27B-11	91	100	97	22	8	11	108	53%	57%			57%	56	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	62	+/-10
27B-13P	5	50	50	1	4	4	54	59%	34%			34%	0	2	17	0	0	0	0	0	19	+/-6
27L-02	25	5	6	15	1	1	7	86%	67%			67%	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	+/-1
27L-11	34	10	10	6	1	1	11	64%	100%			100%	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	+/-0
30A-11	540	450	449	54	36	36	485	46%	37%			37%	158	0	18	2	0	0	0	0	178	+/-23
30A-13P	7	100	99	3	8	9	108	42%	30%			30%	0	2	25	5	0	0	0	0	32	+/-11
30B-11	534	450	451	112	36	36	487	52%	43%			43%	188	2	20	2	0	0	0	0	211	+/-21
30B-13P	20	100	99	6	8	8	107	38%	35%			35%	0	0	29	8	0	0	0	0	37	+/-13
31A-01	701	600	598	149	48	48	646	51%	64%			64%	127	0	8	0	262	0	16	2	414	+/-24
31A-03P	9	100	100	0	8	8	108	45%	56%			60%	0	0	13	2	0	2	47	4	69	+/-11
31A-08	93	75	75	15	6	6	162	56%	84%	42%		84%	36	2	11	2	27	0	22	4	103	+/-15
31A-18	10	100	99	7	8	8	214	50%	58%	21%		58%	59	2	24	0	0	0	0	0	85	+/-20
31A-19	4	150	151	4	12	11	324	53%	32%	21%		35%	0	2	84	11	0	0	0	0	97	+/-23
35A-01	666	275	274	221	22	22	296	52%	65%			65%	54	0	0	0	135	2	2	0	192	+/-15
35A-11	13	75	75	15	6	6	81	57%	30%			30%	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	+/-7
35A-18	29	50	49	11	4	4	106	45%	79%	46%		79%	31	13	22	0	0	0	0	0	66	+/-15
35A-19P	2	75	75	2	6	6	162	45%	25%	16%		26%	0	4	31	2	0	0	0	0	38	+/-17
35C-01	489	200	198	138	16	16	214	49%	63%			63%	20	0	0	0	108	0	6	0	135	+/-14
35C-03P	0	50	49	0	4	4	53	49%	52%			52%	0	0	4	0	0	0	24	0	29	+/-7
35C-11	17	75	75	14	6	6	81	54%	48%			48%	33	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	39	+/-8
35C-18	24	50	50	7	4	4	108	46%	76%	44%		76%	35	0	26	4	0	0	0	0	65	+/-15
35C-19P	0	75	70	0	6	11	162	48%	51%	29%		54%	0	6	46	17	0	0	0	0	69	+/-19
35L-01	698	75	78	310	6	6	84	65%	62%			62%	12	0	0	0	38	0	0	2	52	+/-6
35L-11	15	25	25	8	2	2	27	59%	63%			63%	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	17	+/-4
39A-01	415	225	175	70	14	14	189	57%	69%			69%	46	0	2	2	71	2	9	0	131	+/-11
39A-11	51	50	50	8	4	4	54	57%	45%			45%	23	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	24	+/-6
39A-13P	0	50	50	0	4	3	53	47%	40%			38%	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	17	+/-8
39B-01	268	275	274	38	22	23	297	46%	57%			57%	105	0	2	0	54	0	9	0	170	+/-18
39B-11	2	50	50	4	4	4	54	48%	50%			50%	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	+/-7
39B-13	0	50	50	2	4	4	54	67%	50%			57%	0	0	27	5	0	0	0	0	32	+/-6
41A-01	295	200	201	31	16	16	217	44%	57%			57%	62	0	0	0	58	0	5	0	125	+/-16
41A-11	10	200	200	31	16	16	216	43%	61%			61%	124	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	131	+/-16
45A-01	303	100	98	24	8	8	106	48%	</													

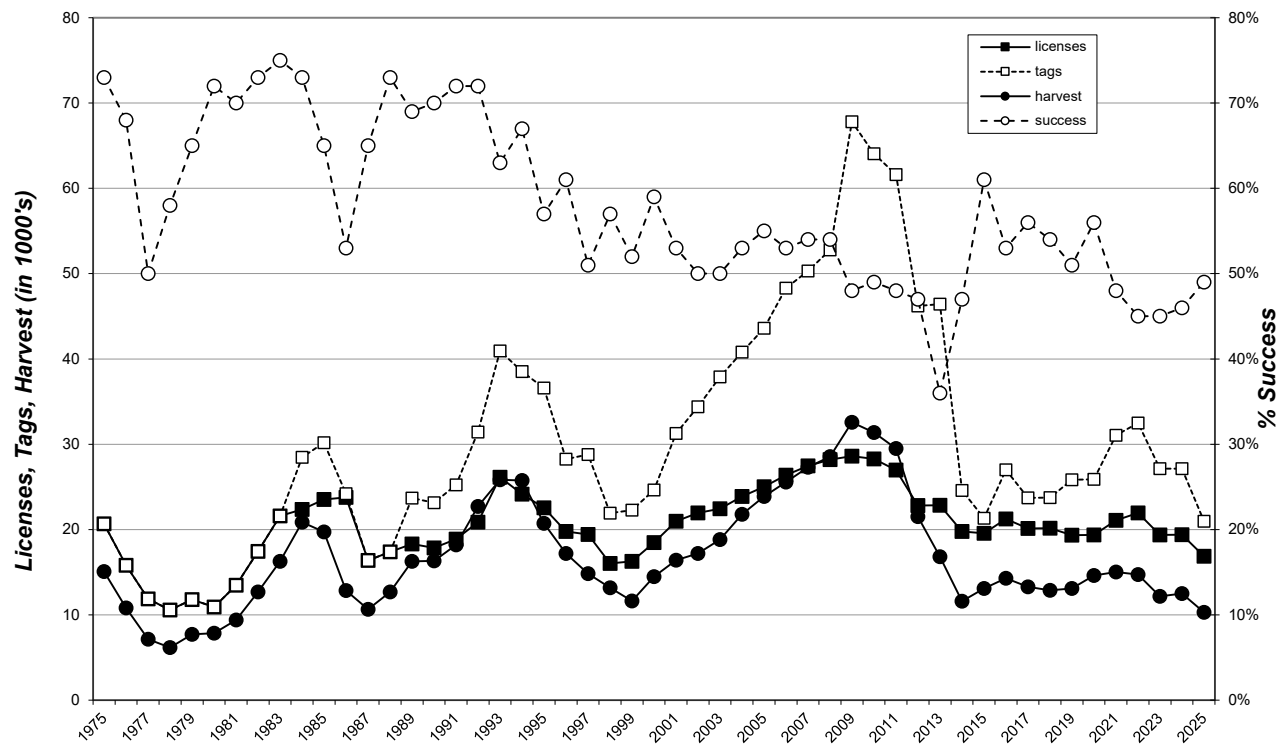
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Last Revised: 23-Feb-26	Licenses										Harvest Projections															
	Resident					Nonresident					Whitetail								Mule Deer						Total	
	Appl. 1st Choice *		Avail.	Sold	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Tags sold	Response	Success		Hunter	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does		Deer Harvest	CI (95%)				
Unit/Type										1st tag	2nd tag	Success	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn						
53C-18	63	250	250	40	20	20	540	47%	63%	22%	63%		141	13	63	13	0	0	0	0	230	+/-34				
53C-19P	1	100	79	1	8	28	214	45%	49%	37%	54%		0	11	88	11	0	0	0	0	110	+/-24				
58A-01	599	150	150	92	12	12	162	61%	67%		67%		20	0	2	0	83	0	3	0	108	+/-9				
58A-18	0	150	150	0	12	12	324	59%	64%	19%	64%		81	5	41	7	0	0	0	0	133	+/-20				
58D-01	5	5	5	0	1	1	6	60%	33%		33%		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	+/-2				
58D-13	0	3	2	0	1	1	3	0%	0%		0%		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-				
60A-01	424	50	50	42	4	4	54	37%	45%		45%		5	3	0	0	16	0	0	0	24	+/-9				
60A-11	392	600	597	93	48	48	645	49%	47%		47%		247	4	45	4	0	0	0	0	301	+/-26				
64A-01	314	250	250	67	20	20	270	45%	65%		65%		84	0	2	2	84	0	2	0	175	+/-17				
64A-11	5	75	74	11	6	7	81	43%	50%		50%		41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	+/-10				
64A-19P	1	50	50	2	4	4	108	52%	29%	11%	29%		0	4	17	0	0	0	0	0	21	+/-11				
65A-02	52	75	74	3	6	2	76	49%	46%		46%		23	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	37	+/-9				
67A-01	83	75	75	17	6	6	81	54%	56%		56%		26	0	2	0	13	0	4	0	45	+/-8				
67A-11	12	75	74	9	6	6	80	45%	44%		44%		36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	+/-10				
Totals	17,831	15,698	15,555	3,928	1,260	1,307	20,982	48.9%				55%	4,861	258	1,969	269	2,516	22	369	22	10,286	+/-1,405				

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

West River Deer Regular Season 1975-2025

(does not include Special Buck or Landowner Own Land)



2025 West River Landowner Own Land Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 11-Mar-26

Last Revised: 11-Mar-26

Unit/Type	Harvest Projections																	Total Deer Harvest	Mean Satisfactn Rating	Average Days Hunted
	Resident Licenses		Nonresident Licenses		Tags sold	Response Rate	Hunter Success	Tag Success	Whitetail				Mule Deer							
	Avail.	Sold	Avail.	Sold					Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does					
									Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn				
WR1-01	Unltd	1,377	Unltd	57	1,434	28%	38%	38%	272		25	7	221		14		540	-	-	
WR1-08	Unltd	1,409	Unltd	39	2,896	23%	54%	39%	395	9	284	22	200	13	200	13	1,137	-	-	
Totals		2,786		96	4,330	25.6%	45%	39%	667	9	310	29	421	13	214	13	1,677	4.58	4.30	

2025 West River LOL Harvest Distribution

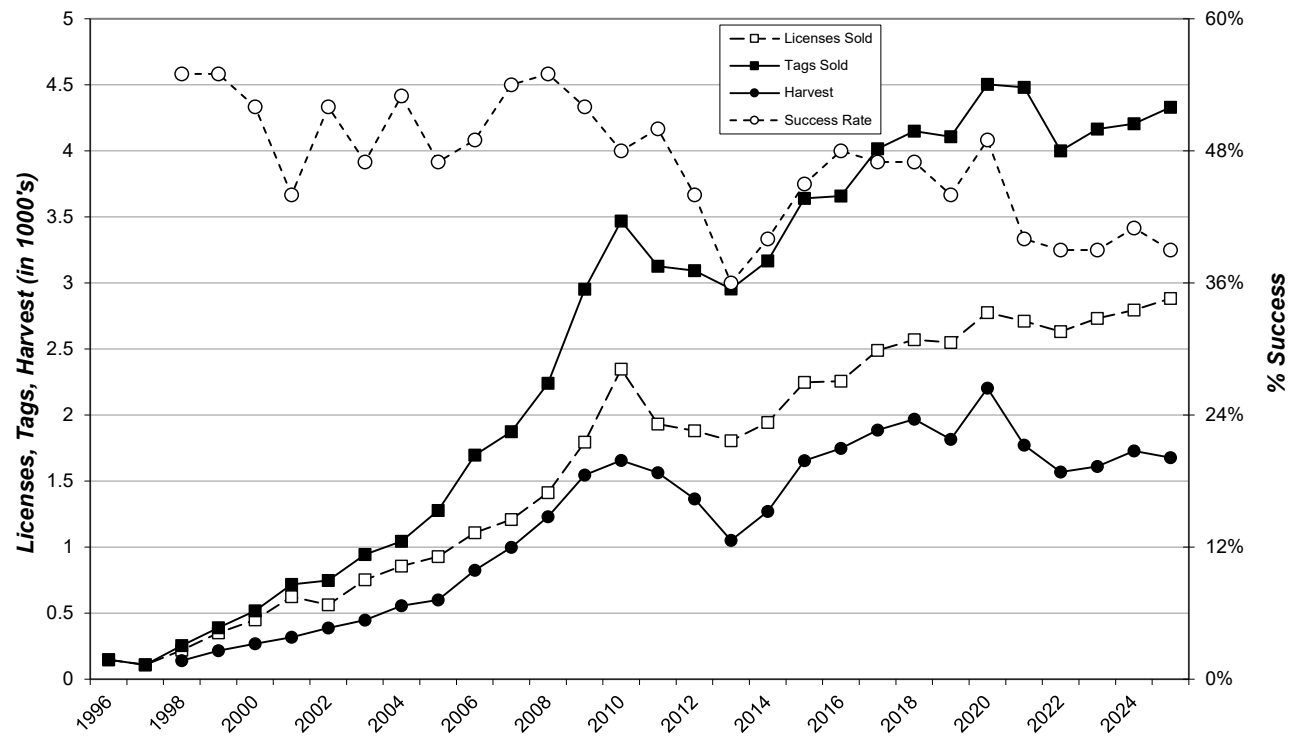
Last Revised:

12-Mar-26

Unit	Projected Harvest									
	Whitetail				Mule Deer				Total	
	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does			
	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate	%
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	24	0	9	0	32	4	17	4	91	5.4%
02C (SE Pennington)	4	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	12	0.7%
11A (N Bennett)	8	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	20	1.2%
11B (S Bennett)	4	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	12	0.7%
15A (Butte)	33	0	52	0	24	0	4	0	113	6.7%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	16	0	9	0	12	0	9	0	46	2.7%
20A (Corson)	28	0	13	0	32	0	9	0	82	4.9%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	20	0	9	0	12	0	13	4	59	3.5%
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	0	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	13	0.7%
24A (Dewey)	12	0	4	4	8	0	13	0	42	2.5%
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	8	0	0	0	8	0	9	0	25	1.5%
27B (Fall River)	16	0	9	4	12	0	4	0	45	2.7%
30A,B (Gregory)	118	4	74	4	8	0	4	0	213	12.7%
31A (Haakon)	45	0	9	0	56	0	31	0	140	8.3%
35A (W Harding)	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8	0.5%
35C (E Harding)	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	4	12	0.7%
39A (N Jackson)	0	0	9	0	4	0	4	0	17	1.0%
39B (S Jackson)	12	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	25	1.5%
41A (Jones)	16	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	24	1.5%
45A (W Lyman)	20	0	17	0	20	0	17	0	75	4.5%
45B (E Lyman)	12	0	13	0	4	0	0	0	29	1.7%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%
45D (Ft Pr Nat GrsInd)	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.7%
49A (W Meade)	33	0	22	4	24	0	9	0	91	5.4%
49B (NE Meade)	16	0	4	0	12	0	4	0	37	2.2%
50A,B (Mellette)	16	0	4	0	24	0	17	0	62	3.7%
53A (N Perkins)	16	0	0	4	8	4	4	0	37	2.2%
53C (S Perkins)	24	0	9	0	12	0	4	0	49	2.9%
58A (Stanley)	37	0	9	0	32	4	17	0	99	5.9%
60A (Tripp)	73	0	22	0	4	0	0	0	99	5.9%
64A (Ziebach)	4	0	0	0	20	0	13	0	37	2.2%
65A (Oglala Lakota)	20	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	24	1.4%
67A (Todd)	8	0	0	0	8	0	4	0	20	1.2%
TOTALS	667	9	310	29	421	13	214	13	1,677	

Use these figures for approximations only!

Landowner Own Land West River Deer 1996-2025



2025 West River Special Buck Harvest Projections

Last Revised: 04-Mar-26		Licenses						Harvest Projections										Total Deer Harvest	Mean Satisfactn Rating	Average Days Hunted
		Resident			Nonresident			Whitetail				Mule Deer								
		Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Appl. 1st Choice *	Avail.	Sold	Response Rate	Tag Success	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does				
										Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn			
Unit/Type																				
WR-01		915	500	501	1,098	500	493	63%	74%	285	0	5	0	441	2	6	0	739	-	-
WR-11		76	500	504	352	500	493	56%	62%	599	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	614	-	-
Totals		991	1,000	1,005	1,450	1,000	986	59%	68%	885	0	17	2	441	2	6	0	1,352	5.19	3.76

2025 West River Special Buck Harvest Distribution

Last Revised: 04-Mar-26	Projected Harvest									
	Whitetail				Mule Deer				Total	
	Bucks		Does		Bucks		Does			
	Unit	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Adult	Fawn	Estimate
02A (NE Penn/SE Meade)	40	0	0	0	22	0	2	0	64	4.7%
02C (SE Pennington)	22	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	41	3.1%
11A (N Bennett)	14	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	19	1.4%
11B (S Bennett)	12	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	20	1.5%
15A (Butte)	41	0	0	0	35	0	0	0	76	5.6%
15B (SW Butte/Lawrence)	26	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	34	2.5%
20A (Corson)	38	0	0	0	33	2	2	0	74	5.5%
21A (E Custer/S Penn)	38	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	54	4.0%
21B (C Custer/C Penn)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.3%
24A (Dewey)	21	0	3	0	11	0	0	0	35	2.6%
27A (NW FRiver/SW Cust)	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	0.7%
27B (Fall River)	21	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	29	2.1%
30A,B (Gregory)	121	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	128	9.4%
31A (Haakon)	40	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	83	6.1%
35A (W Harding)	19	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	36	2.7%
35C (E Harding)	22	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	46	3.4%
39A (N Jackson)	17	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	25	1.9%
39B (S Jackson)	26	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	39	2.9%
41A (Jones)	41	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	60	4.5%
45A (W Lyman)	35	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	41	3.0%
45B (E Lyman)	12	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	22	1.6%
45C (NE Lyman/SE Stanley)	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	0.7%
45D (Ft Pr Nat GrsInd)	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	10	0.7%
49A (W Meade)	19	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	25	1.9%
49B (NE Meade)	22	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	37	2.7%
50A,B (Mellette)	52	0	2	0	14	0	0	0	68	5.0%
53A (N Perkins)	29	0	0	0	19	0	2	0	50	3.7%
53C (S Perkins)	26	0	3	0	16	0	0	0	45	3.3%
58A (Stanley)	38	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	65	4.8%
60A (Tripp)	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	2.3%
64A (Ziebach)	21	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	49	3.6%
65A (Oglala Lakota)	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	8	0.6%
67A (Todd)	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.0%
TOTALS	885	0	17	2	441	2	6	0	1,352	

Use these figures for approximations only!