



Deer License Proposal FAQ's

1. Why did the Department recommend and the Commission propose this change?

In 2010, the Department surveyed deer hunters asking hunters if they would be in favor of a license system that would increase hunters' chances of drawing at least one "preferred" deer license.

East/West River Deer Hunters

How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?

Summarized (n=2,821):

Oppose	9.9
Neutral/No Opinion	30.8
Favor	59.4

Black Hills Deer Hunters

How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?

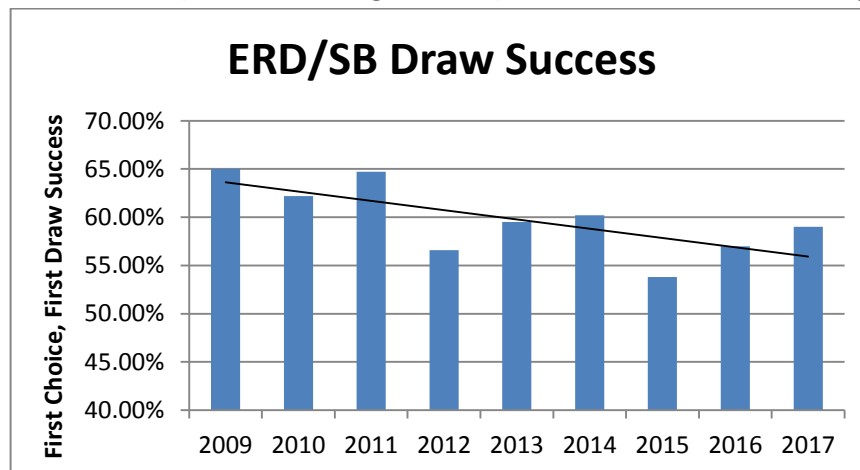
Summarized (n=2,585):

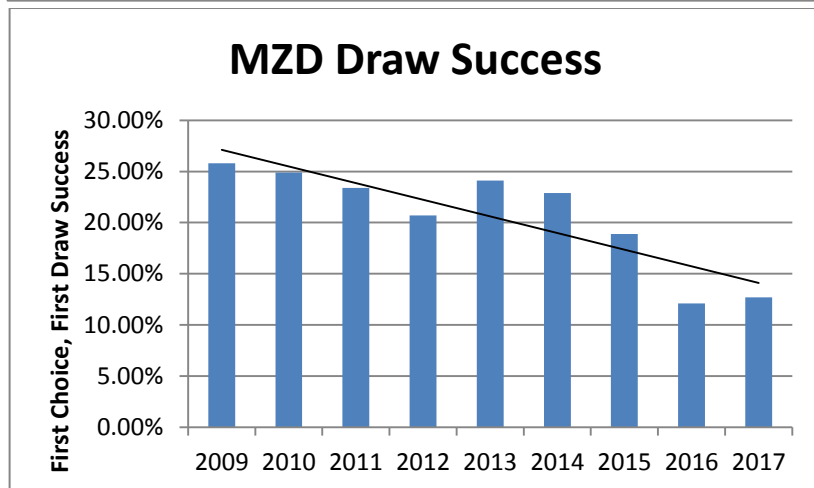
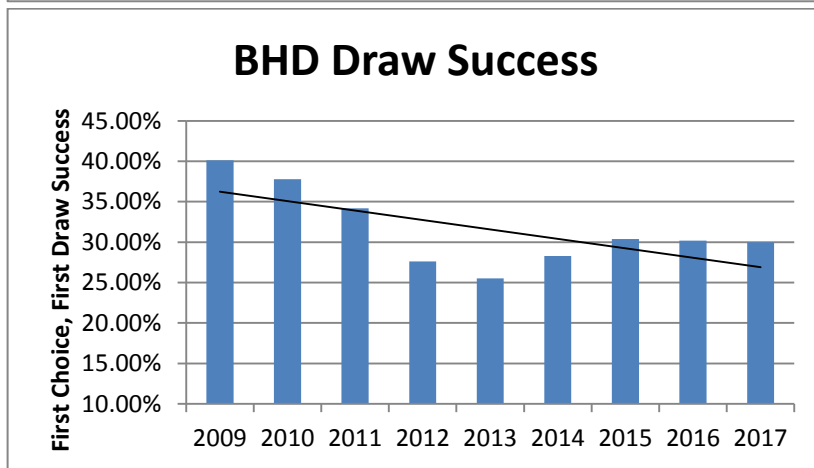
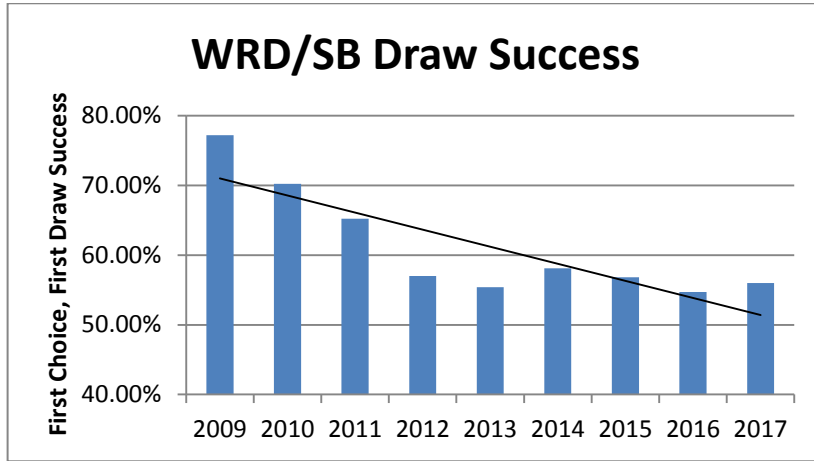
Oppose	21.2
Neutral/No Opinion	23.1
Favor	55.7

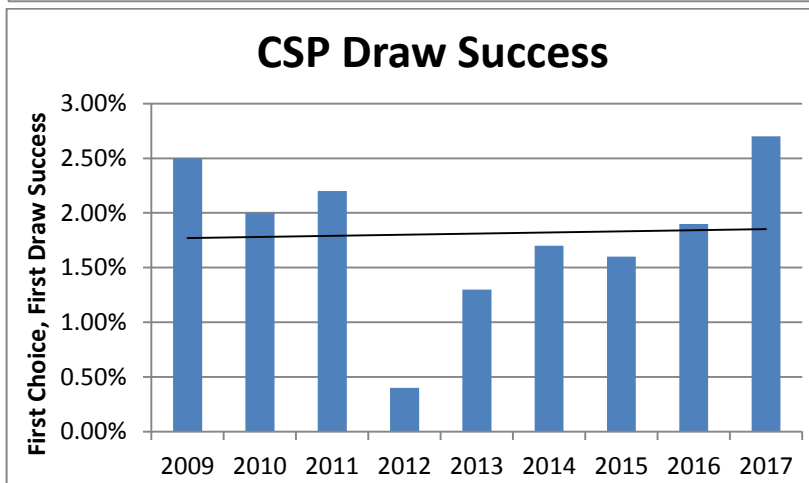
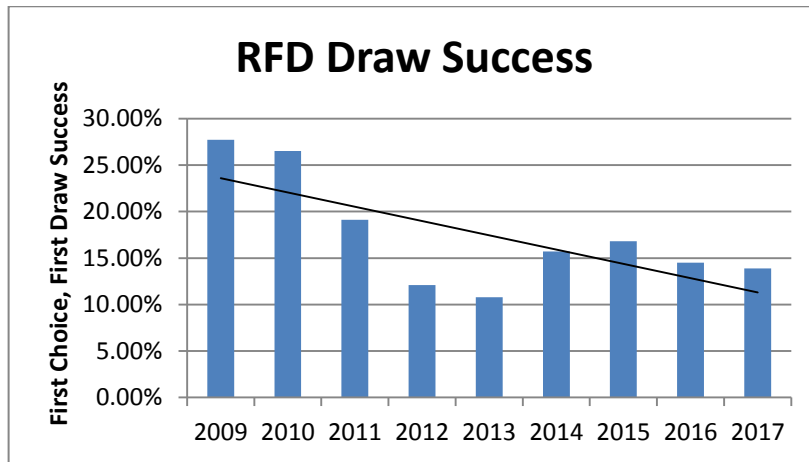
In 2014, 71% (n=4,054) of surveyed deer hunters and landowners supported the concept of increasing hunters' chances of drawing at least one buck license.

During the development of the statewide deer management plan several social management considerations were identified through stakeholder group meetings and public comments to the deer plan. One area which received considerable attention from the public was deer license allocation. The Commission work group had asked the Department to generate potential alternatives to the current license allocation process with an end goal of potentially increasing the number of hunters who would draw their "preferred" deer license.

2. Has first choice, first draw success (odds of drawing a license) decreased over the last few years?

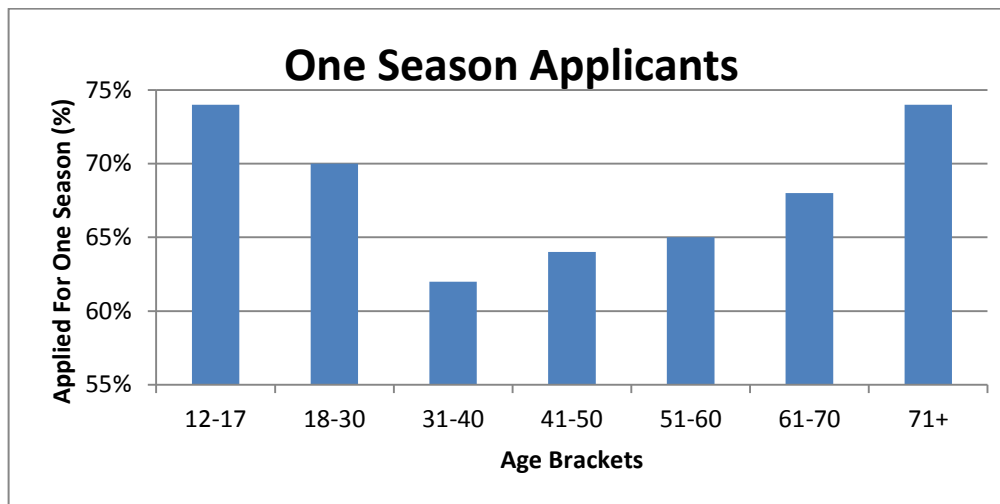






3. What are the stats of people and their ages applying for just one/preferred license?

Of the 52,633 deer applicants in 2017; 35,140 applied for just one season.





- 4. What is the biggest difference between the current system and the proposed deer license draw alternative?**
 Drawings for East River, West River, Black Hills, and Muzzleloader deer seasons would be combined for the First and Second Drawing and applicants would have to choose between one of the four seasons as their first and second choice in the first draw. Special buck, Custer State Park, and Refuge deer hunting seasons would remain under the current structure.
- 5. The proposed alternative does not limit applicants to just one license. Through the 4th draw, residents could potentially get up to 9 licenses and nonresidents would be limited to 1. Can you elaborate on how this could work?**

Drawing	Resident	Nonresident
1 and 2	Maximum of 1 license in ERD, WRD, BHD, or MZD	Maximum of 1 license
3	Maximum of 1 license in <u>each</u> of the WRD, ERD, BHD and MZD seasons.	
<i>Leftover Resident and Nonresident Licenses Pooled</i>		
4	Maximum of five additional licenses for a maximum total of nine licenses.	Maximum of 1 license, for a total of no more than one license per hunter.
5	Unlimited. First-come, First-served	Unlimited. First-come, First-served

- 6. Does the alternative license drawing process currently proposed by the GFP Commission allow nonresidents an earlier opportunity or an advantage over the current system?**

No, the proposal is more restrictive to nonresidents than our current system because it adds another draw tier before leftover licenses are pooled and made available to nonresidents. Our current system today, leftover licenses are pooled in the 3rd draw and made available to residents and non-residents where an applicant (both residents and nonresidents) through the 3rd draw could get a maximum of 5 licenses by submitting five separate applications if they had no licenses when the 3rd draw started.

With the deer license draw Commission proposal, leftover licenses would not be pooled until the 4th drawings and made available for both residents and nonresidents. However, nonresidents would be limited to a maximum of 1 license through the 4th draw.

- 7. Is the Commission proposal expected to generate more revenue for the Department?**

No, the Department expects the proposal to be revenue neutral because the same number of deer licenses will be sold. However, there is a good chance the Department could lose revenue because fewer people may purchase preference points and fewer nonresident licenses may be sold because the proposal further restricts nonresident draw opportunities.

- 8. What does that 3rd draw look like under the Commission’s current proposal?**

Third Draw – Residents (including residents successful in the 1st or 2nd draw periods) would have the opportunity to submit applications for any of the 4 seasons (East River, West River, Black Hills, Muzzleloader) they do not already possess a license from Drawing 1 or 2 with a maximum number of 4 licenses through the





third drawing. The Department projects a greater amount of leftover licenses will be available for residents to pick up a 2nd buck license if desired in the 3rd draw.

Non-Residents successful in Drawing 1 or 2 would not have the ability to submit application in the third drawings. If unsuccessful in Drawing 1 or 2 a nonresident applicant would have the opportunity to apply for a 1st and 2nd choice of available nonresident licenses (original 8%) from the Black Hills and West River deer seasons.

9. Tell me more about the 4th draw?

Fourth Draw – Licenses remaining in the 4th draw period would be pooled and made available to both residents and non-residents for each of the 4 seasons (East River Deer, West River Deer, Black Hills Deer, and the unlimited Muzzleloader "antlerless whitetail" Deer). Resident hunters would have the opportunity to pick up 5 additional licenses and nonresidents would have the opportunity to acquire a leftover license if they do not possess a license from Drawings 1-3. East River licenses would not be available to non-residents until the 4th draw.

10. If I didn't draw my 1st or 2nd choice in the 1st draw, can I use my preference in the 2nd and/or 3rd draws to increase my draw odds?

Yes, you could use preference through the 3rd drawings for either your 1st or 2nd choice if you click the "use my preference" box. If you never click the "use my preference" box then you would be able to purchase preference for all four seasons. You would not earn a preference point for your unsuccessful application(s) in the first draw until the following year pending you agreed to purchase the \$5.00 preference point.

11. Is the Department going to refund me for the preference points I purchased since 2015?

No, the Commission proposal allows you to use your accumulated preference in both 1st and 2nd choices in drawings 1-3 if you choose to use them. So the use of accumulated preference for more than one season could be used in the same year.

12. Under the proposed alternative can my 2nd choice be a different weapon/season than my 1st choice? E.g., 1st choice is ERD-07A can my 2nd choice be MZD?

Yes, absolutely and you can click the box to use preference for muzzleloader for your 2nd choice as well.

13. How does this proposed alternative impact group applications?

What is the most important takeaway to know about group applications with this alternative?

The group application process will not change with the proposed alternative. Applicants will still be able to submit a group application for a 1st choice, 1st draw season as long as the group uses the same group ID number. There would be no changes when submitting a group application.



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

14. You stated that we would be taking approx. 21,000 applications out of the 1st draw. How does this differ from what we have currently?

Based on the results received from mock applications filled out by the 208 folks that attended the focus groups and choose BHD, ERD, WRD and MZD as their preferred season, below is a breakdown of what their preferred season selections were. We used those figures to put the 17,196 individual hunters who applied for 2+ licenses into one season because in the 1st draw under the proposal they would have to make a preferred choice, thus reducing the number of applications received by 21,202.

Proposed Alternative (ERD, WRD, BHD, MZD)		
Season	Preferred Choice	Percent
BHD	31	15%
ERD	74	36%
MZD	21	10%
WRD	82	39%

Residents Only- Proposed Alternative		2017 Applicants: One Season	Mock Applications (Preferred Choice)	Projected Total Applicants	Projected Applicants Removed from the First Draw:
	2017 Total Applicants				
ERD/ESD	32053	21916	6191	28107	3946
WRD/WSD	20422	8616	6706	15322	5100
BHD	13339	4331	2579	6910	6429
MZD	7847	400	1720	2120	5727
	73661	35263	17196	52459	21202

In 2017, 17,196 residents applied for two or more 1st draw licenses that included some combination of ERD, WRD, BHD, MZD.

Approximately 21,202 applications would be taken out of the 1st draw with the proposed alternative if those 17,196 were allowed to select one season in the 1st draw.





15. The 22 units/licenses that are hard to draw (took 2+ preference points in 2017), will remain hard to draw. What do you mean when you say this?

Units/Licenses that took 2+ preference points to draw in 2017

WRD	ERD	MZD	BHD
15A01	05A01	ST101	BH101
20A01	07A01		
21A01	12A01		
24B11	17A01		
27A01	37A11		
27L01	38A01		
35C01	59A01		
35L01	61A01		
45B01	63A01		
58A01			
45D01			

The above 22 license draw probabilities are projected to increase substantially under the new proposal; however, the 22 licenses that allow a hunter to harvest an “any deer” or ‘any white-tailed deer” out of the 137 available will still be hard to draw. Hard to draw units are a factor of supply and demand. Typically these are units which may have fewer overall licenses yet a strong base of deer hunters wanting to hunt that given unit.

16. How many residents applied for both an East River Deer and a West River Deer licenses in 2017?

6,485 applicants.

How many residents drew both an ERD and a WRD first choice license in 2017?

1,987 applicants

17. How does the proposed alternative impact landowner preference?

Eligible landowners would be able to use landowner preference in their 1st draw; 1st choice application just as they can with the current system. A landowner could get a landowner own land license for the unit they own/operate land in and also apply for a 1st choice, 1st draw license in a different season.

18. Please explain how the Special Buck seasons work for East and West River.

Under the Commission proposal, Special Buck would not change and be implemented as under the current structure. The Special Buck drawing would continue to be held earlier and if unsuccessful a deer hunter could apply for the same season in the First Draw.

19. With the cubed preference point system now in place, does the proposed alternative provide even greater success rates for the preferred choice? Can you provide some context to connecting cubed preference points and this alternative?

Preference points are now being cubed for all deer drawings, which increases applicants’ draw odds that have more preference.





SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

The Department has received a lot of suggestions in regards to letting the cubed system function for a couple of years before more changes are implemented. The Department does believe cubing preference will increase an applicant’s chances; however, making people choose a preferred season in the 1st draw will result in fewer applicants for all seasons, resulting in less preference points that are being cubed, thus increasing draw odds.

20. Under the Commission proposal approximately 3,800 additional hunters would have an opportunity to deer hunt and be in the field with family and friends, while the number of licenses offered stays the same. Can you expand on how important that is as we tackle recruitment, retention and reactivation efforts?

Residents Only- Proposed Alternative		2017 Overall 1 st Draw Success	Projected 1 st Draw Success
	2017 Successful Applicants		
ERD/ESD	18955	59%	67%
WRD/WSD	11346	56%	74%
BHD	3999	30%	58%
MZD	1000	13%	47%
	35300	46%	67%

Under the proposed alternative nobody would have two licenses after the first draw for the four firearm season. Because of this, the Department projects over 3,800 licenses would be allocated to someone who would not have drawn a license under the current system, resulting in more deer hunters being able to hunt on an annual basis.

21. If implemented, how will the department determine if this alternative drawing process is working or is successful?

If the proposed drawing structure is passed, the Department would analyze draw probabilities, determine how many unique deer hunters are in the field, and the number of hunting days in 2022 after three years of implementation and draw statistics are available. At that time the Department would bring a recommendation to the Commission that would retain, modify or remove the proposed alternative.

22. If this proposed drawing structure is approved, will the department conduct mock or draft draws before implementing?

Yes, in order to test run the new programming language that would be necessary if the proposed alternative was approved, the Department would set-up mock applications to ensure things run smoothly.

23. What is the timeline for the proposals?

The proposed changes are scheduled for action (adopt, modify or reject) by the Commission on October 4th, 2018 in Deadwood. Before that time, the public is encouraged to comment on the proposal by visiting the Department’s webpage at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/> or by sending a letter to: SDGFP, 523 East Capitol Ave. Pierre, SD 57501.

24. What is the timeline if the Commission passes this proposal at their October meeting?

Adopted changes would be implemented for the 2019 deer hunting seasons.





SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

25. Will the proposed changes increase the quality of bucks because less people will be drawing licenses?

The proposed change does not change the number of licenses allocated across the four deer seasons (WRD, ERD, BHD and MZD), so the same number of bucks harvested would likely be the same under the proposed change; thus not influencing buck quality or buck age structure.

