Wyoming Range Hunters’ Attitudes Toward Mule Deer Management
Surveys of Hunter Attitudes

- 2005 statewide survey of deer hunters
- 2009 survey of Wyoming Range hunters
- Around 300 people from each of three areas
- Elicitation study completed in 2008
  - Issues
  - Solutions
  - Obstacles
  - Outcomes
Elicitation Study

Issues

- Habitat
- Development
- Hunting
- Disturbance
Elicitation Study

**Solutions**
- Variety for each of the issues

**Outcomes**
- More quality deer/increased populations
- Habitat preservation/enhancement
- Better relationships
- Preserve Wyoming Range deer herd for future generations
Wyoming Range Attitude Survey

March, 2009

Five topic areas

- Hunting experience
- Hunting management
- Population
- Habitat
- Disturbance

Wyoming Range area residents

Wyoming residents

Nonresidents
Quality Hunt

- Satisfied: 62% Range resident, 61% WY resident, 75% Non-resident
- Neither: 7% Range resident, 6% WY resident, 2% Non-resident
- Dissatisfied: 28% Range resident, 30% WY resident, 22% Non-resident
Total number of mule deer

Number of deer in past 5 years

- Increased: Range resident 13%, WY resident 8%, Non-resident 6%
- Stayed the same: Range resident 30%, WY resident 25%, Non-resident 17%
- Decreased: Range resident 54%, WY resident 44%, Non-resident 41%

Acceptability of deer numbers

- Acceptable: Range resident 49%, WY resident 50%, Non-resident 55%
- Neither: Range resident 9%, WY resident 13%, Non-resident 10%
- Unacceptable: Range resident 39%, WY resident 35%, Non-resident 44%
Number of hunters in past 5 years

- Increased: 28% (Range resident), 29% (WY resident), 26% (Non-resident)
- Stayed the same: 28% (Range resident), 30% (WY resident), 26% (Non-resident)
- Decreased: 12% (Range resident), 12% (WY resident), 10% (Non-resident)

There were too many other hunters

- Agree: 46% (Range resident), 51% (WY resident), 36% (Non-resident)
- Neither: 3% (Range resident), 4% (WY resident), 3% (Non-resident)
- Disagree: 50% (Range resident), 45% (WY resident), 60% (Non-resident)
How would you rate the current quality of deer habitat

- Excellent: 14% (Range residents), 11% (WY residents), 23% (Non-residents)
- Good: 47% (Range residents), 49% (WY residents), 51% (Non-residents)
- Fair: 27% (Range residents), 35% (WY residents), 37% (Non-residents)
- Poor: 7% (Range residents), 7% (WY residents), 3% (Non-residents)
How have habitat conditions influenced deer numbers

Increase
- Range residents: 13%
- WY residents: 10%
- Non-residents: 10%

Remain the same
- Range residents: 24%
- WY residents: 24%
- Non-residents: 27%

Decrease
- Range residents: 42%
- WY residents: 20%
- Non-residents: 16%

Did not influence
- Range residents: 42%
- WY residents: 20%
- Non-residents: 15%
Questions / Comments?