

2017 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: White tailed Deer

PERIOD: 6/1/2017 - 5/31/2018

HERD: WD201 - BIGHORN BASIN

HUNT AREAS: 35, 37, 39-41, 46-47, 50-53, 105-106, 109-125, 127, 164-165

PREPARED BY: LESLIE SCHREIBER

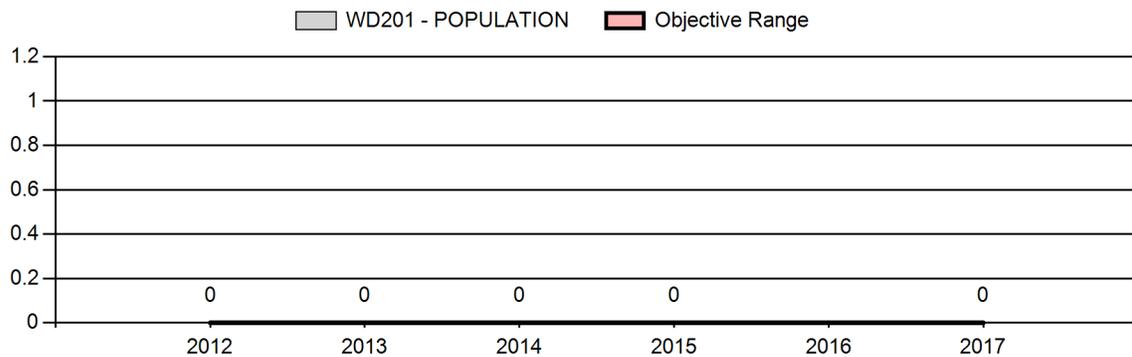
| | <u>2012 - 2016 Average</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018 Proposed</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Population: | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| Harvest: | 1,988 | 2,364 | 2,400 |
| Hunters: | 4,275 | 4,643 | 4,600 |
| Hunter Success: | 47% | 51% | 52 % |
| Active Licenses: | 5,147 | 5,705 | 5,700 |
| Active License Success: | 39% | 41% | 42 % |
| Recreation Days: | 19,715 | 18,851 | 18,850 |
| Days Per Animal: | 9.9 | 8.0 | 7.9 |
| Males per 100 Females | 36 | 0 | |
| Juveniles per 100 Females | 78 | 0 | |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Population Objective (± 20%) : | 0 (0 - 0) |
| Management Strategy: | Recreational |
| Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective: | N/A% |
| Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend: | 0 |
| Model Date: | None |

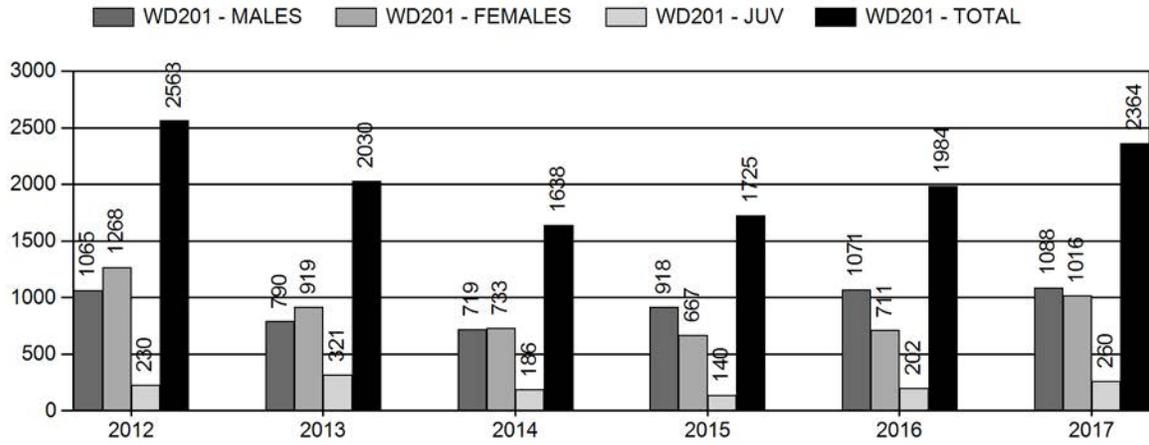
Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

| | <u>JCR Year</u> | <u>Proposed</u> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Females ≥ 1 year old: | 0% | 0% |
| Males ≥ 1 year old: | 0% | 0% |
| Total: | 0% | 0% |
| Proposed change in post-season population: | 0% | 0% |

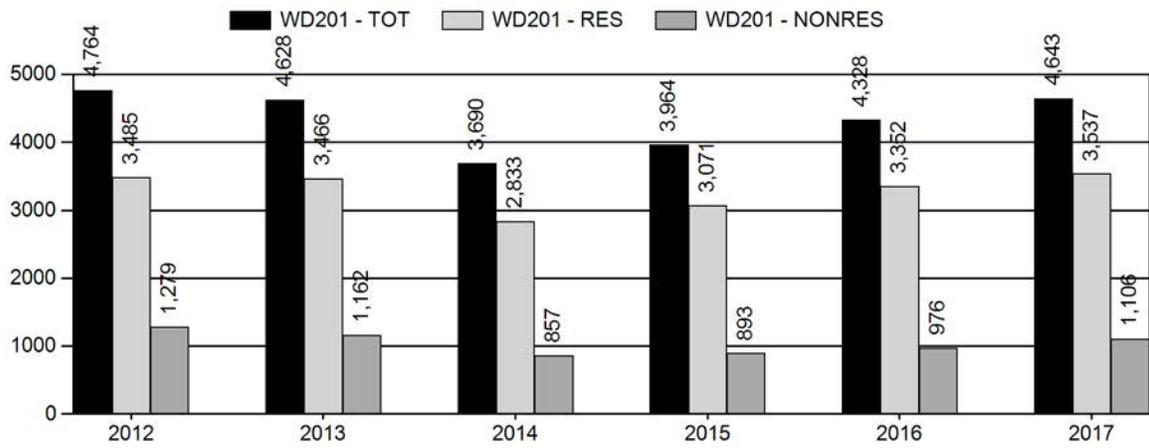
Population Size - Postseason



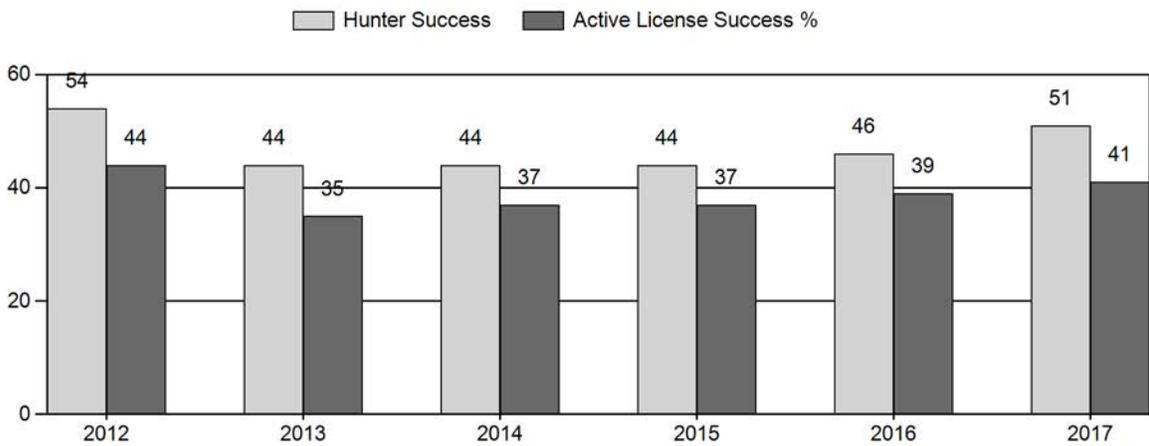
Harvest



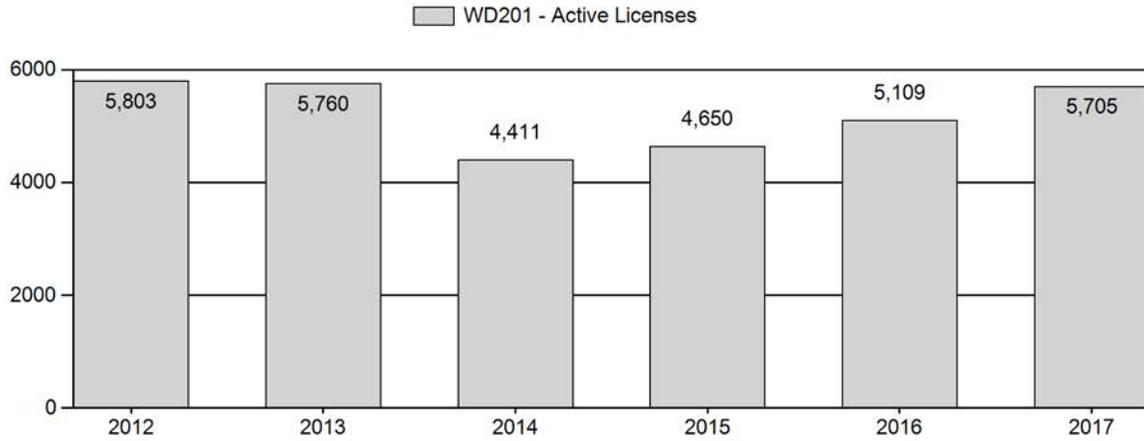
Number of Active Licenses



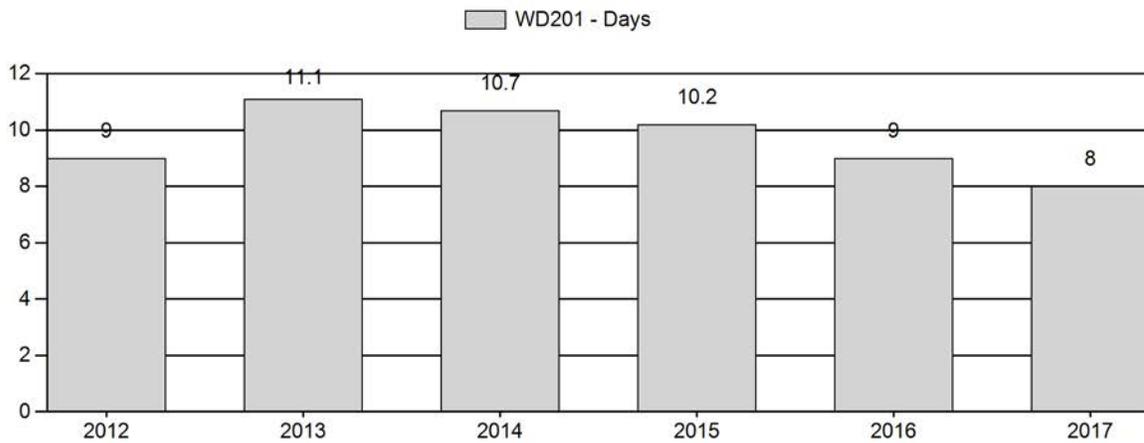
Harvest Success



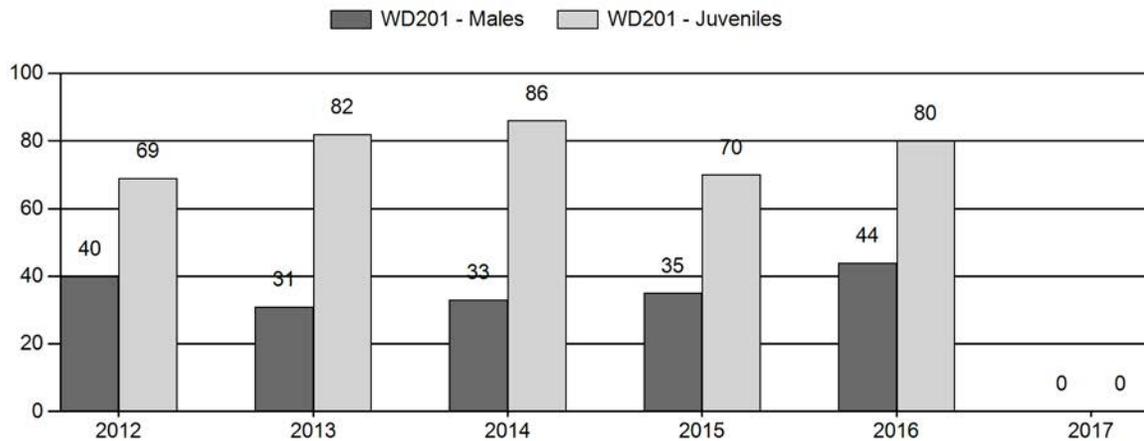
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2012 - 2017 Postseason Classification Summary

for White tailed Deer Herd WD201 - BIGHORN BASIN

| Year | Post Pop | MALES | | | | FEMALES | | JUVENILES | | Tot Cts | Cls Obj | Males to 100 Females | | | | Young to | | |
|------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-----|---------|---------|----------------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | | Ylg | Adult | Total | % | Total | % | Total | % | | | YIng | Adult | Total | Conf Int | 100 Fem | Conf Int | 100 Adult |
| 2012 | 0 | 35 | 58 | 93 | 19% | 234 | 48% | 162 | 33% | 489 | 1,109 | 15 | 25 | 40 | ±0 | 69 | ±0 | 50 |
| 2013 | 0 | 40 | 63 | 103 | 15% | 330 | 47% | 270 | 38% | 703 | 0 | 12 | 19 | 31 | ±0 | 82 | ±0 | 62 |
| 2014 | 0 | 45 | 72 | 117 | 15% | 359 | 46% | 309 | 39% | 785 | 0 | 13 | 20 | 33 | ±0 | 86 | ±0 | 65 |
| 2015 | 0 | 35 | 62 | 97 | 17% | 279 | 49% | 195 | 34% | 571 | 0 | 13 | 22 | 35 | ±0 | 70 | ±0 | 52 |
| 2016 | 0 | 47 | 96 | 143 | 20% | 322 | 45% | 256 | 36% | 721 | 0 | 15 | 30 | 44 | ±0 | 80 | ±0 | 55 |
| 2017 | 0 | 13 | 48 | 61 | 16% | 188 | 48% | 144 | 37% | 393 | 0 | 7 | 26 | 32 | ±0 | 77 | ±0 | 58 |

**2018 HUNTING SEASONS
BIGHORN BASIN WHITE-TAILED DEER HERD (WD201)**

| Hunt Area | Type | Season Dates | | Quota | License | Limitations |
|---------------|------|--------------|---------|-------|---------------|---|
| | | Opens | Closes | | | |
| 36 | 8 | Oct. 15 | Oct. 31 | 25 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 37,39 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 25 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 40 | 8 | Oct. 15 | Nov. 30 | 200 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 41 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 75 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 41 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 75 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 47, 51 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 75 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 47 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 50 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 51 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 50 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 110, 111 | 8 | Oct. 15 | Dec. 31 | 100 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 112, 113 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 25 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 112, 113 | 8 | Oct. 15 | Dec. 31 | 150 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 116, 117, 118 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 100 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 116, 117, 118 | 8 | Oct. 15 | Nov. 30 | 150 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 119, 120 | 3 | Oct. 1 | Nov. 30 | 75 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 120 | 8 | Sep. 1 | Dec. 15 | 150 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 121 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 50 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 122 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 50 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 124 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 75 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 124 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 100 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |
| 127 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 25 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer; also valid in Area 125 |
| 127 | 8 | Oct. 15 | Nov. 30 | 50 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer valid east of U.S. Highway 20 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|---------|-----|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 164 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 25 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 165 | 3 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 50 | Limited quota | Any white-tailed deer |
| 165 | 8 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 30 | 150 | Limited quota | Doe or fawn white-tailed deer |

| Special Archery Season Hunt Areas | Season Dates | |
|--|--------------|--------|
| | Opens | Closes |
| 36, 37, 40, 41, 47, 51, 110 – 113, 116 – 122, 124, 127, 164 - 165 | Sep. 1 | Sep.30 |

| Hunt Area | Type | Quota change from 2017 |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| 36 | 8 | |
| 37 | 3 | |
| 40 | 8 | +100 |
| 41 | 3 | |
| 41 | 8 | |
| 47, 51 | 3 | |
| 47 | 8 | |
| 51 | 8 | |
| 110, 111 | 8 | |
| 112, 113 | 3 | |
| 112, 113 | 8 | |
| 116, 117, 118 | 3 | |
| 116, 117, 118 | 7 | |
| 116, 117, 118 | 8 | |
| 119, 120 | 3 | +25 |
| 120 | 8 | |
| 121 | 3 | |
| 122 | 3 | +25 |
| 124 | 3 | |
| 124 | 8 | +25 |
| 127 | 3 | |
| 127 | 8 | +50 |
| 164 | 3 | |
| 165 | 3 | |
| 165 | 8 | |
| Herd Unit Total | 3 | +50 |
| | 8 | +175 |

Management Evaluation

Current Postseason Population Management Objective: none

Management Strategy: Recreational

2017 Postseason Population Estimate: none

2018 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: none

2017 Hunter Satisfaction: 72% Satisfied, 17% Neutral, 11% Dissatisfied

Herd Unit Issues

White-tailed deer in the Bighorn Basin are managed as one herd unit consisting of 33 hunt areas under recreational management. Hunting seasons for white-tailed deer are typically set in conjunction with mule deer hunting seasons by Hunt Area. Hunting opportunity exists for licenses exclusive to white-tailed bucks such as Type 3 licenses. White-tailed deer in the Basin are managed to minimize crop depredation using Type 8 licenses. Blue tongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease occurred in 2001, 2007, and 2011, sometimes severely reducing white-tailed deer abundance. Estimating the percent of the white-tailed deer population affected by disease mortality was never attempted, because no population estimate exists. Anecdotally, white-tailed deer populations have quickly rebounded from the most recent disease outbreak.

Weather

White-tailed deer in the Bighorn Basin are only marginally affected by drought, because they inhabit riparian corridors and irrigated crop lands. Weather influences this herd indirectly by regulating gnat populations that carry diseases. Temperature and precipitation data referenced in this section were summarized for the Bighorn Basin (Climate Division #4) by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/divisional/time-series>. Thirty-year averages constitute “normal” conditions. Spring 2017 experienced near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation with May receiving $\frac{1}{3}$ less precipitation than normal. Summer was slightly drier than normal. During the fall of 2017, precipitation was significantly above normal (September), below normal (October), or above normal (November), with temperatures in November significantly above normal. Temperatures were above average in December and January, turning cold in February resulting in the coldest February since 1989. Precipitation was near normal for December and January with a wet February receiving almost twice the average precipitation. Winter conditions moderated in March and April 2018.

Habitat

White-tailed deer are limited to riparian and agricultural lands along major streams. Some white-tailed deer are incidentally observed in forested and other non-typical habitats. Urban development in riparian areas or on retired farmland, especially along the Shoshone River, may impact the amount of habitat available for white-tailed deer. On the other hand, white-tailed deer seem to adapt to human activity.

Field Data and Harvest Data

Not enough classification data is collected to draw meaningful conclusions. White-tailed deer classification data is collected incidentally to mule deer classification data. Harvest data follows number of licenses issued by managers and does not provide an index to population level.

Population

Too little data is collected on white-tailed deer in the Bighorn Basin to justify creation of a population model. With no population model, there is no population estimate or objective.

Management Summary

White-tailed deer hunting seasons are set to address landowner concerns, as most white-tailed deer are on private land. White-tailed deer specific licenses (Types 3 & 8) are needed to obtain adequate harvest. Harvest does not affect the overall population, because of such low harvest rates. More buck and doe licenses are issued in 2018, because the population is quickly recovering from disease, and landowners are concerned with white-tailed deer numbers on croplands.