

2018 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: White tailed Deer

PERIOD: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019

HERD: WD201 - BIGHORN BASIN

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

PREPARED BY: SAM STEPHENS

	<u>2013 - 2017 Average</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019 Proposed</u>
Population:	0	N/A	N/A
Harvest:	1,948	2,449	2,800
Hunters:	4,251	4,433	4,700
Hunter Success:	46%	55%	60 %
Active Licenses:	5,127	5,567	4,800
Active License Success:	38%	44%	58 %
Recreation Days:	18,889	19,188	20,000
Days Per Animal:	9.7	7.8	7.1
Males per 100 Females	35	37	
Juveniles per 100 Females	79	67	

Population Objective (\pm 20%) : 0 (0 - 0)

Management Strategy: Recreational

Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective: N/A%

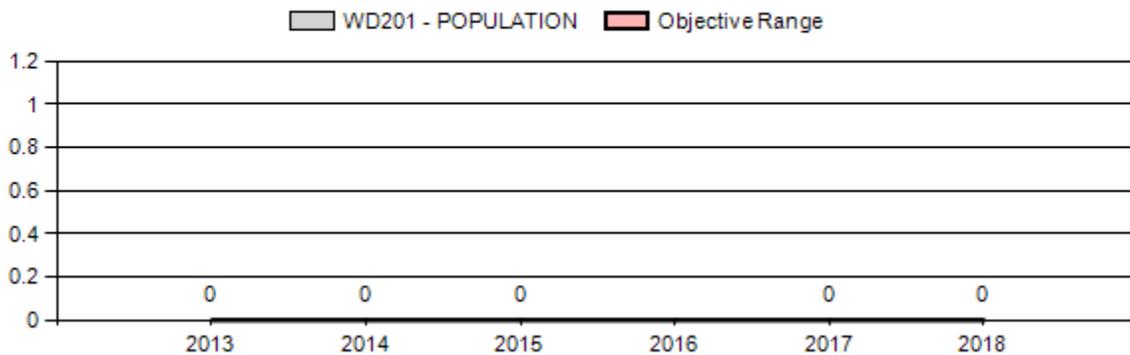
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend: 0

Model Date: 02/22/2018

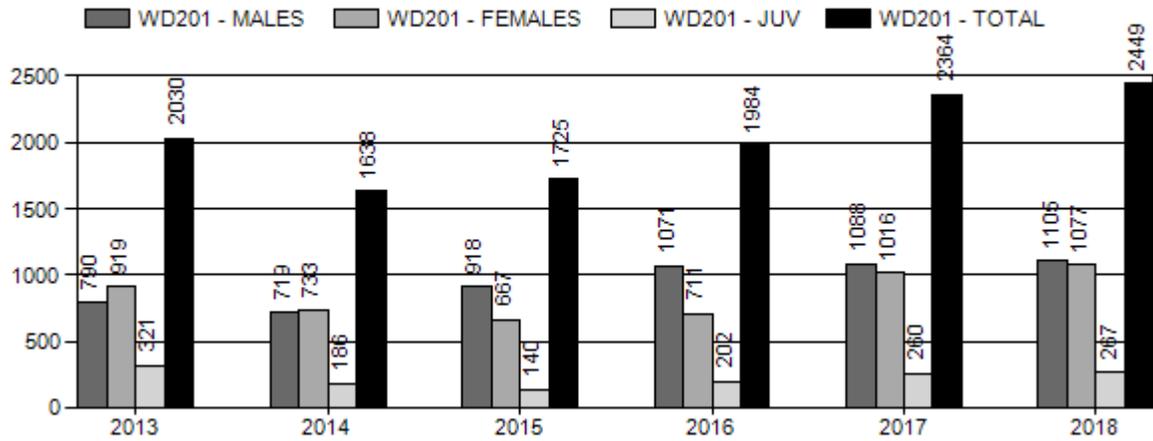
Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

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

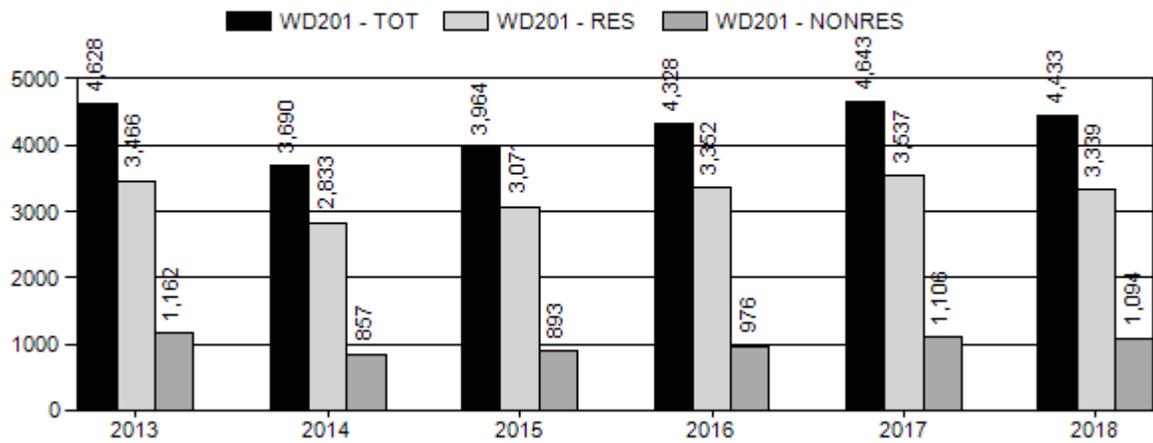
Population Size - Postseason



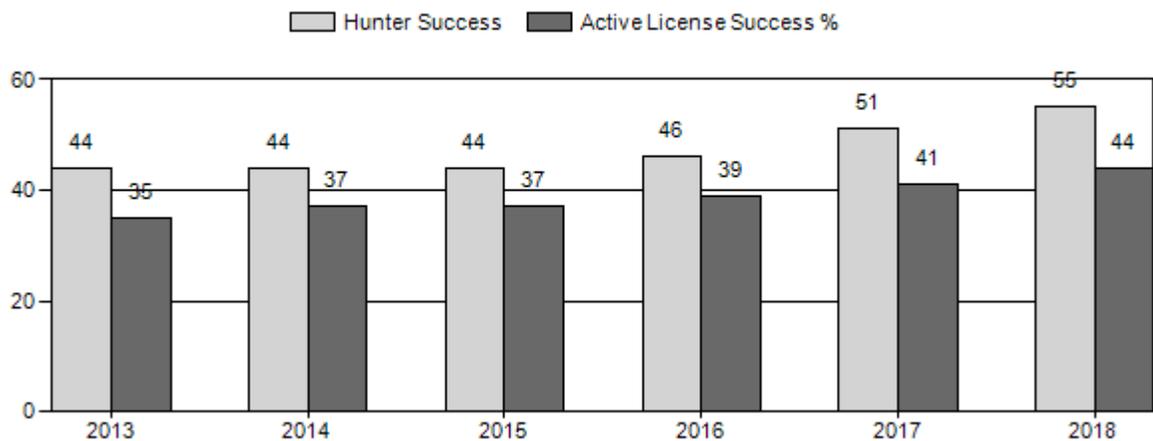
Harvest



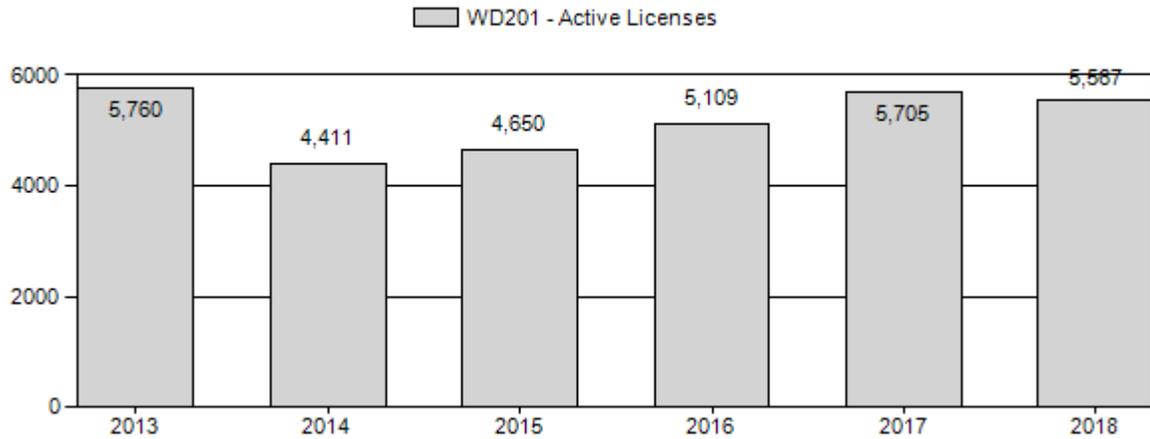
Number of Active Licenses



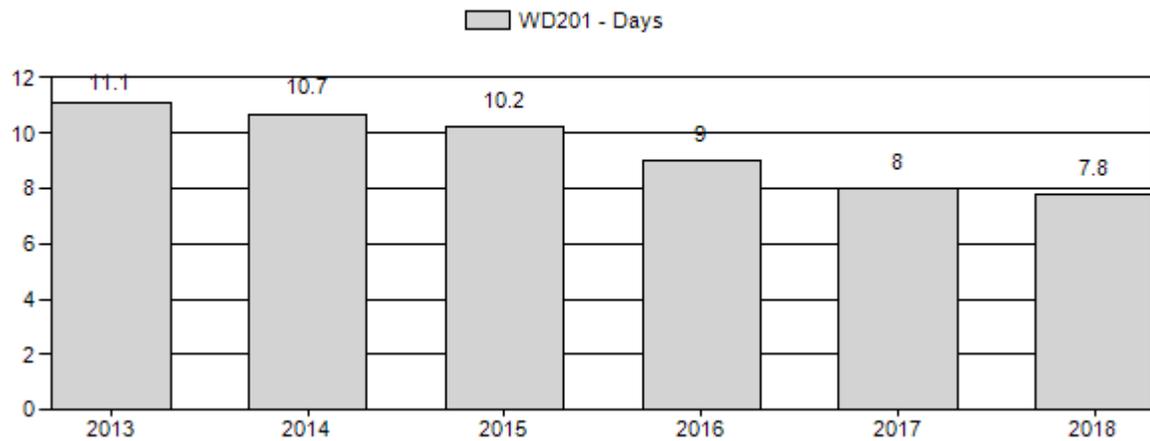
Harvest Success



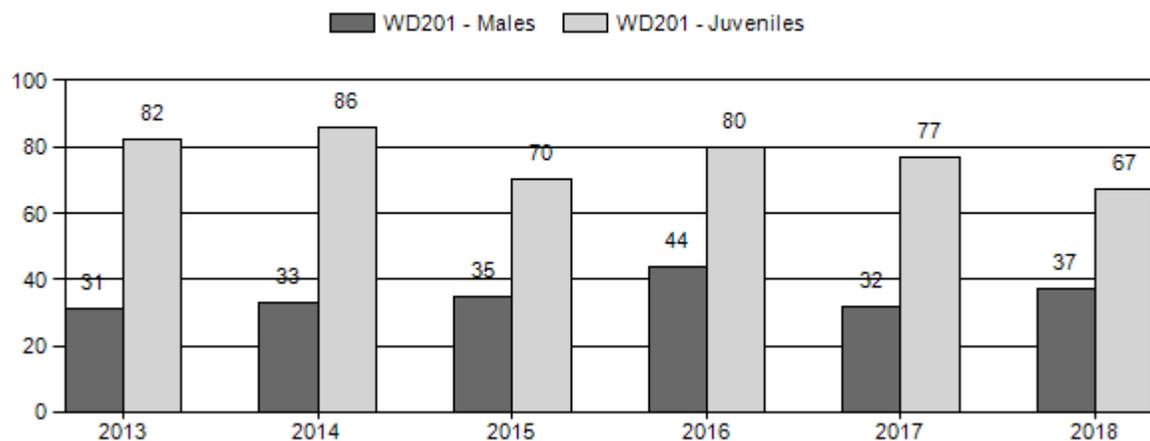
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2013 - 2018 Postseason Classification Summary

for White tailed Deer Herd WD201 - BIGHORN BASIN

Year	Post Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot CIs	Cls Obj	Males to 100 Females				Young to		
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			Yng	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
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	0	13	90	103	18%	282	49%	188	33%	573	0	5	32	37	±0	67	±0	49

**2019 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
39	8	Oct. 15	Nov. 15	50	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
40	8	Oct. 15	Nov. 30	300	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	Dec. 15	150	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	Dec. 15	100	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
51	8	Nov. 1	Dec. 15	100	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	35	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
112, 113	8	Oct. 15	Dec. 31	175	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
116, 117	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	100	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
120	8	Sep. 1	Dec. 15	200	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	75	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer

164	3	Nov. 1	Nov. 30	50	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer, also valid in Area 125
164	8	Nov. 1	Dec. 15	100	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer, also valid in Area 125
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 2018
39	8	+50
40	8	+100
41	8	+75
47	8	+50
51	8	+50
112, 113	3	+10
112, 113	8	+25
119, 120	3	+25
120	8	+50
127	8	+25
164	3	+25
164	8	+100
Herd Unit Total	3	+60
	8	+525

Management Evaluation

Current Postseason Population Management Objective: none

Management Strategy: Recreational

2018 Postseason Population Estimate: none

2019 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: none

2018 Hunter Satisfaction: 69% Satisfied, 16% Neutral, 15% 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, 2011, and 2012 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 that spring 2018 experienced warmer temperatures and above average precipitation. Average temperature and precipitation for summer months were both above average. During the fall of 2018, precipitation was significantly below normal and temperatures above normal. Temperatures were above normal for December and January, turning colder than average in February. Precipitation was near normal for December and January.

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. Additionally, general deer season limitation language for the Paintrock and North Bighorn herd units will be changed to “*antlered mule deer or any white-tailed deer*” to allow for doe or fawn white-tailed deer harvest with a general license in those hunt areas.