

2016 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: White tailed Deer

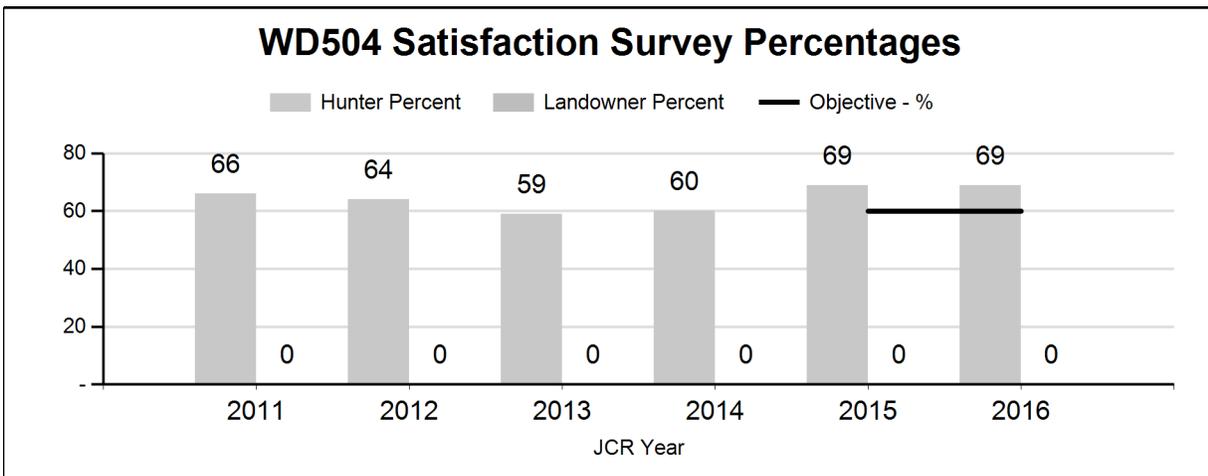
PERIOD: 6/1/2016 - 5/31/2017

HERD: WD504 - SOUTHEAST WYOMING

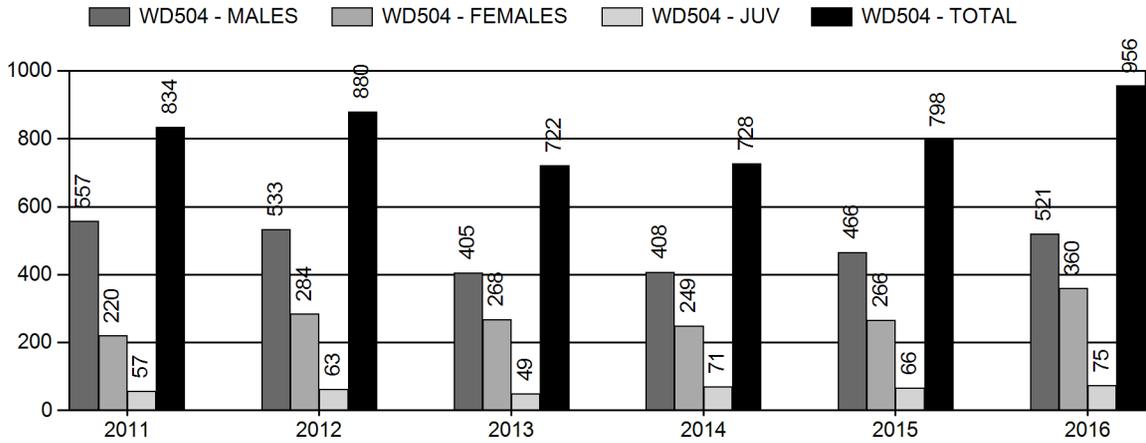
HUNT AREAS: 15, 59-64, 70, 73-81, 83, 161

PREPARED BY: MARTIN HICKS

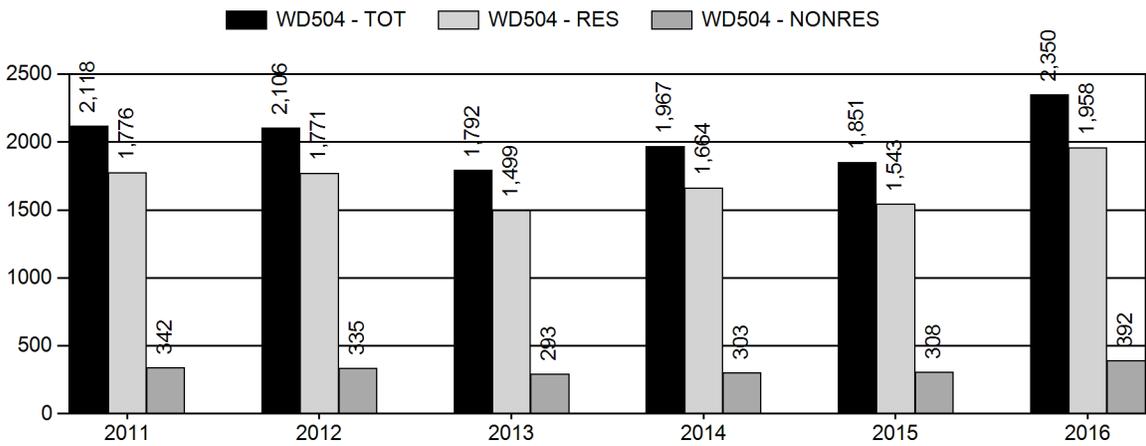
	<u>2011 - 2015 Average</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017 Proposed</u>
Hunter Satisfaction Percent	64%	64%	70%
Landowner Satisfaction Percent	0%	0%	0%
Harvest:	792	956	1,000
Hunters:	1,967	2,350	2,450
Hunter Success:	40%	41%	41 %
Active Licenses:	2,196	2,670	2,725
Active License Success:	36%	36%	37 %
Recreation Days:	8,553	10,533	10,500
Days Per Animal:	10.8	11.0	10.5
Males per 100 Females:	38	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	68	0	
Satisfaction Based Objective			60%
Management Strategy:			Recreational
Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:			N/A%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:			2



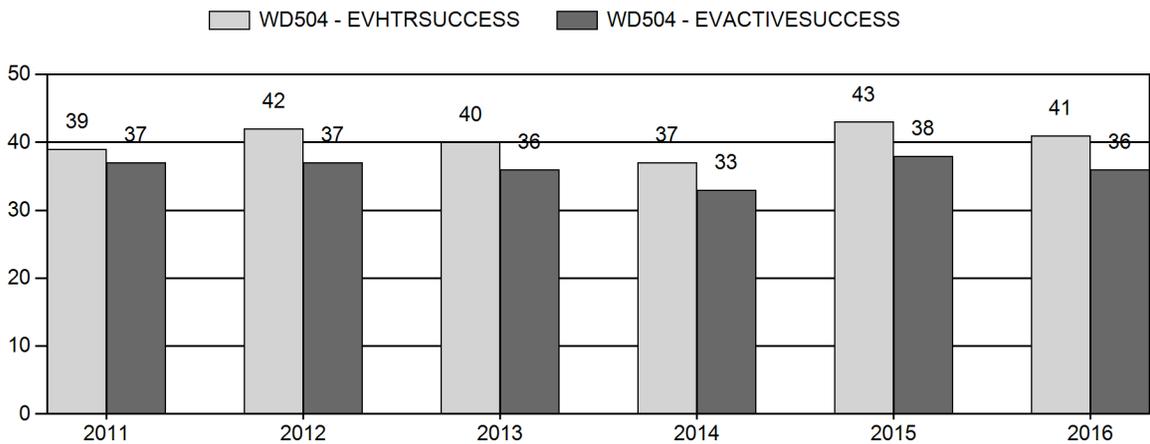
Harvest



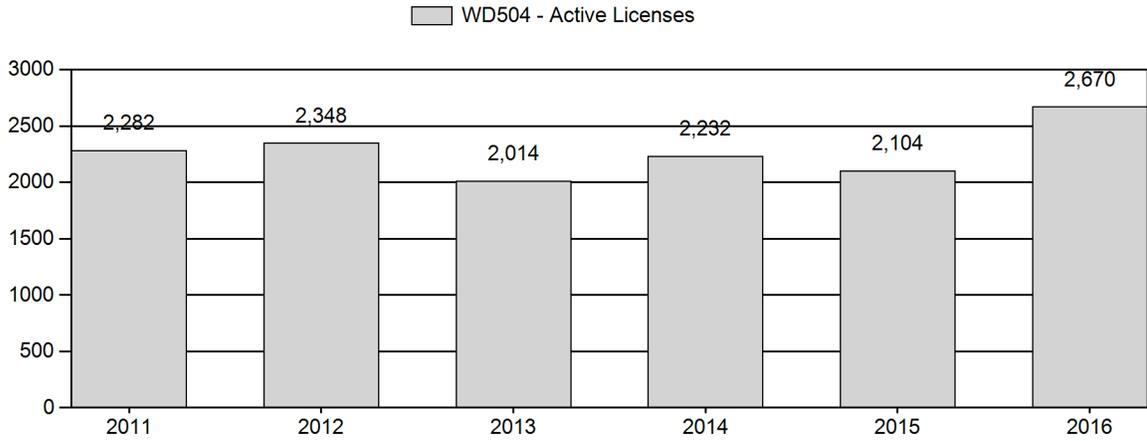
Number of Active Licenses



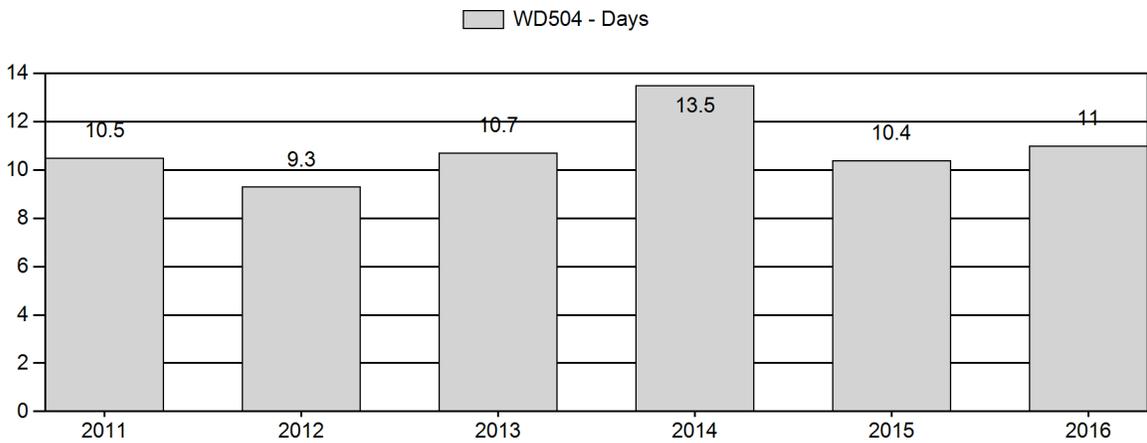
Harvest Success



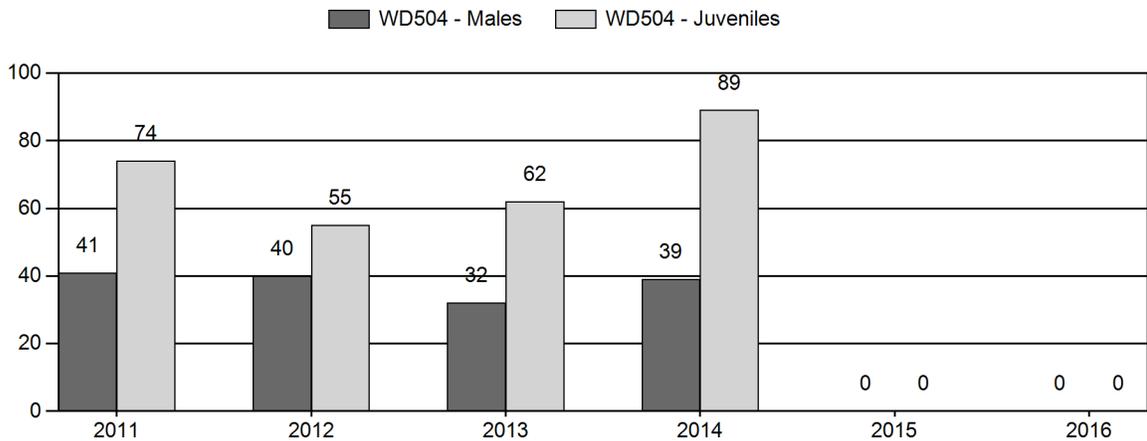
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2017 HUNTING SEASONS
SOUTHEAST WYOMING WHITE-TAILED DEER HERD (WTD504)

Hunt Area	Type	Season Dates		Quota	License	Limitations
		Opens	Closes			
15	3	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	400	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
	3	Dec. 1	Dec. 31			Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
15	8	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	300	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
59,60,64	3	Nov. 1	Nov. 30	150	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer, all lands within Curt Gowdy State Park, archery only; the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille (Sybille Wildlife Research Unit) south of Wyoming Highway 34 shall be closed
59,60,64	3	Dec. 1	Dec. 31			Doe or fawn white-tailed deer valid in Area 59 and Area 64
59,60,64	8	Nov. 1	Dec. 31	125	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer, except the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission's Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille (Sybille Wildlife Research Unit) south of Wyoming Highway 34 shall be closed; all lands within Curt Gowdy State Park, archery only
70,74	3	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	50	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
70,74	8	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	50	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
75,76,77	3	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	75	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
75,76,77	8	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	100	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
78,79,80,81,161	3	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	25	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
78,79,80,81,161	8	Sept. 1	Dec. 31	25	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer

Special Archery Season Hunt Areas	Opening Date	Closing Date	Limitations
15,59,60,64,70,74,75,76,77,78,79,80, 81,161	Sept. 1	Sept. 30	Refer to Section 2 of this Chapter

Hunt Area	Type	Quota change from 2016
70,74	3	+25
70, 74	8	+25
75,76,77	3	+25
75,76,77	8	+75
Total	3	+50
	8	+100
Total		+150

Management Evaluation

Current Hunter Satisfaction Management Objective: Hunter satisfaction; Target goal: $\geq 60\%$

Management Strategy: Private Land

2016 Hunter Satisfaction Estimate: 70%

Most Recent 3-year Running Average Hunter Satisfaction Estimate: 67%

The management objective for the Southeast Wyoming Herd Unit was reviewed in 2015 through the public objective review process. It was determined to abandon the numeric objective of 4,000 white-tailed deer and go with a sportsmen satisfaction survey with a satisfaction goal of $\geq 60\%$ and a private land management strategy. A landowner satisfaction survey will not be used in conjunction with the sportsmen survey. The sample size would be very low and the majority of occupied white-tailed deer habitat is on private land, which complicates management since there is little access opportunities.

There is not a reliable post-season population estimate. This is an open herd with Colorado and Nebraska so trying to model this herd would violate the assumption that it is closed. Seasons are designed to provide opportunity during the mating period when male deer are more vulnerable to harvest. Management is driven primarily by local Department personnel perception of population trend and landowner tolerance for this species.

Weather

Weather in this herd unit was relatively normal during the past bio-year. Precipitation amounts were above average at all elevations throughout southeast Wyoming during spring months then became dry and hot from July through November. Timing of precipitation and amounts received during key growth periods for cool season grasses and preferred transitional range and winter range shrub species was excellent. While early season growing conditions were optimal, late summer and fall precipitation were lacking. Generally speaking weather patterns most likely had

a positive influence on all big game species. For specific meteorological information for the Southeast Wyoming herd unit the reader is referred to the following link:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>

Habitat

Forage availability continued to improve in 2016 with an increase in amounts of precipitation received and the timeliness of when it was received. Precipitation received in April, May, and early June resulted in excellent growth of cool season grasses and forbs, and above average leader growth on preferred key shrubs. Cheatgrass continues to be a major threat to native rangelands and big game ranges, particularly at all elevations below 6,500'. Its presence ties the hands of habitat managers limiting habitat enhancement options, and may result in reduced carrying capacities of rangelands if it is the predominant specie. This herd unit is comprised of a mix of native rangelands, CRP, dryland and irrigated croplands.

Many riparian areas within the herd unit experienced some level of springtime flooding in 2016. With favorable land management post-flooding, the potential does exist for cottonwood and willow regeneration in many stream systems. Establishment of these species may aid in reversing negative trends in woody species composition and age classes of important understory browse species and woody species that provide thermal and hiding cover values. White-tailed deer inhabit areas that are supported by agriculture, including dryland and irrigated croplands.

Field/Harvest Data

This herd will grow rapidly until densities become too high, then seasons are adjusted to try and bring the population down or an EHD outbreak occurs that reduces densities. Hunter success is typically around 35% with hunter effort running about 11 days per harvest. Hunting opportunity is limited to private land. Low success and high effort rates were contributed to hunters trying to find a white-tailed deer on public land or trying to harvest a deer during the general season when they are less vulnerable to harvest. Chronic wasting disease is found throughout the herd unit, but the diseases impact on the population is unknown. The long-term prevalence rate average is around 20%, but with a small sample size. There are a limited number of tooth samples so a reliable inference into population performance is not available.

The hunter satisfaction level was 70% for the 2016 season, which was higher than the five-year average of 64%. White-tailed deer appear to be rebounding from the 2012 EHD outbreak which could explain a slightly higher satisfaction level.

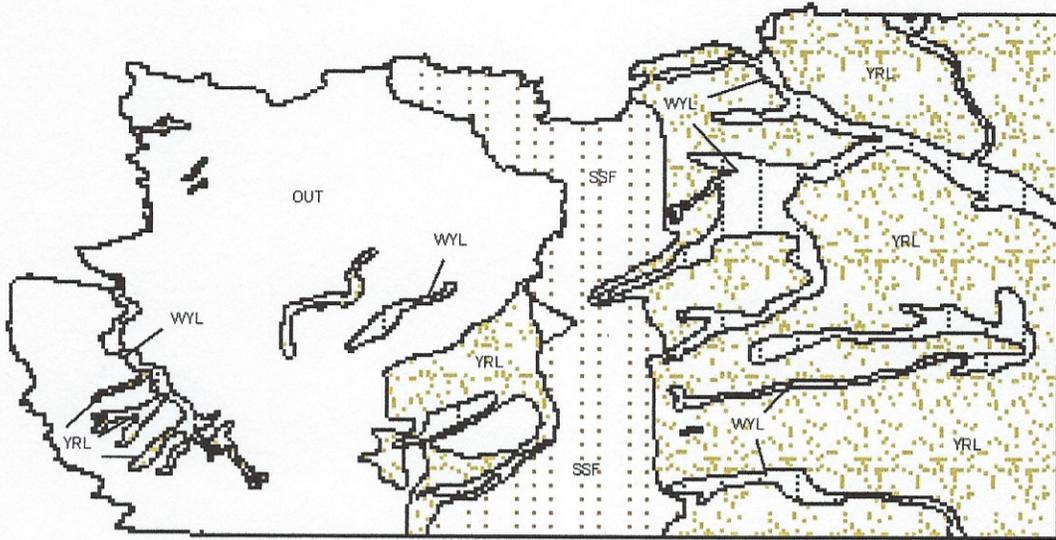
Population

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Management Summary

Population trend varies on weather conditions and disease outbreaks. As densities become too high, the population will typically crash from an EHD outbreak. Severe winter conditions will also reduce white-tailed deer numbers if they go into the winter in poor condition. There have been no reports of winter mortalities. There was an EHD outbreak in 2012 that prompted a decrease in Type 8 licenses for hunt areas in southeast Wyoming. It does appear white-tailed deer are recovering from the 2012 outbreak and harvest levels in the extreme southeast portion of the herd unit are at stable harvest levels. The population in the western portion of the herd unit has reached densities that are favorable for an increase in Type 3 and Type 8 licenses along with an extended season. For simplicity the reader is referred to the hunt table for 2017 changes.

For the 2017 season we will try to attain a harvest of around 1,000 white-tailed deer. Our objective is to provide opportunity and minimize damage and maintain a hunter satisfaction level greater than 60%.



White-tailed Deer (WTL504) - Southeast Wyoming
Hunt Areas 15, 59, 64, 70, 74-81, 161

