

2017 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: White tailed Deer

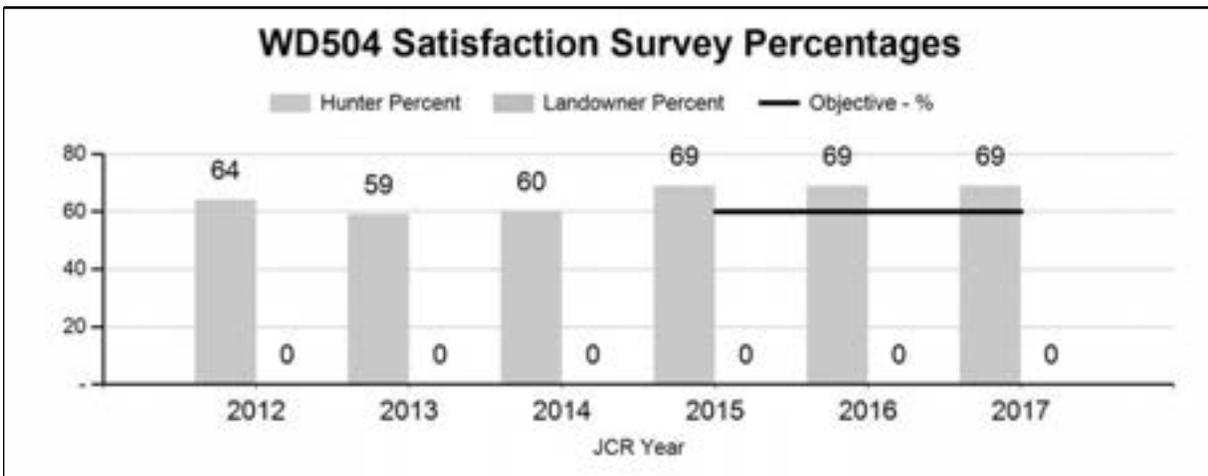
PERIOD: 6/1/2017 - 5/31/2018

HERD: WD504 - SOUTHEAST WYOMING

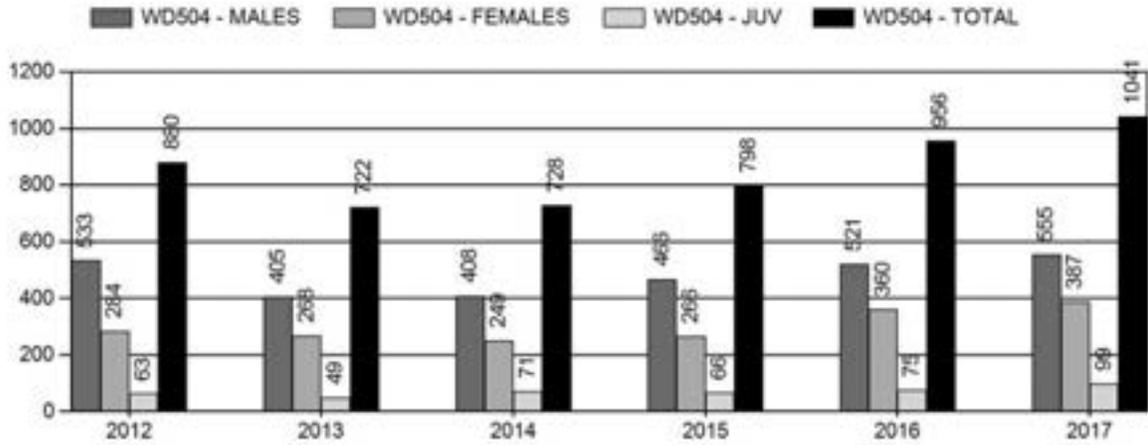
HUNT AREAS: 15, 59-64, 70, 73-81, 83, 161

PREPARED BY: MARTIN HICKS

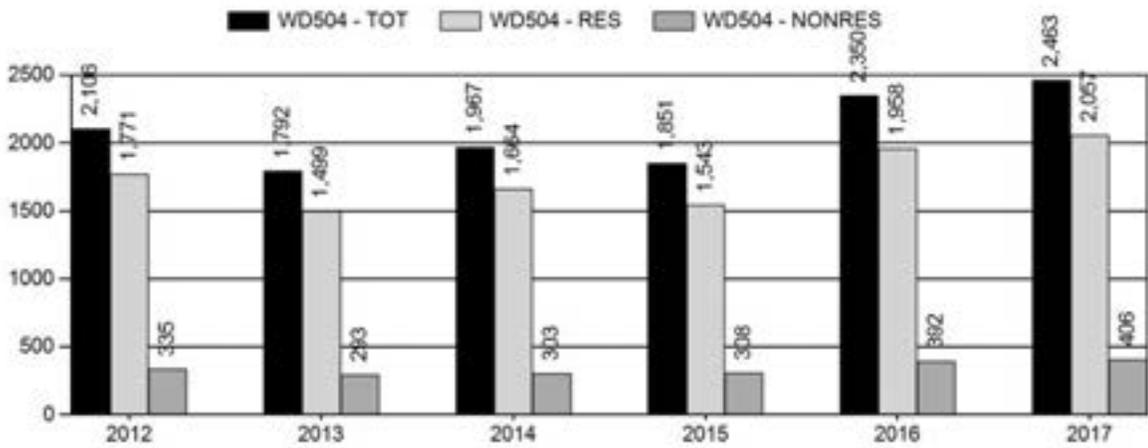
	<u>2012 - 2016 Average</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018 Proposed</u>
Hunter Satisfaction Percent	64%	64%	70%
Landowner Satisfaction Percent	0%	0%	0%
Harvest:	817	1,041	1,160
Hunters:	2,013	2,463	2,750
Hunter Success:	41%	42%	42 %
Active Licenses:	2,274	2,728	3,100
Active License Success:	36%	38%	37 %
Recreation Days:	8,904	10,698	10,500
Days Per Animal:	10.9	10.3	9.1
Males per 100 Females:	37	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	65	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:			6



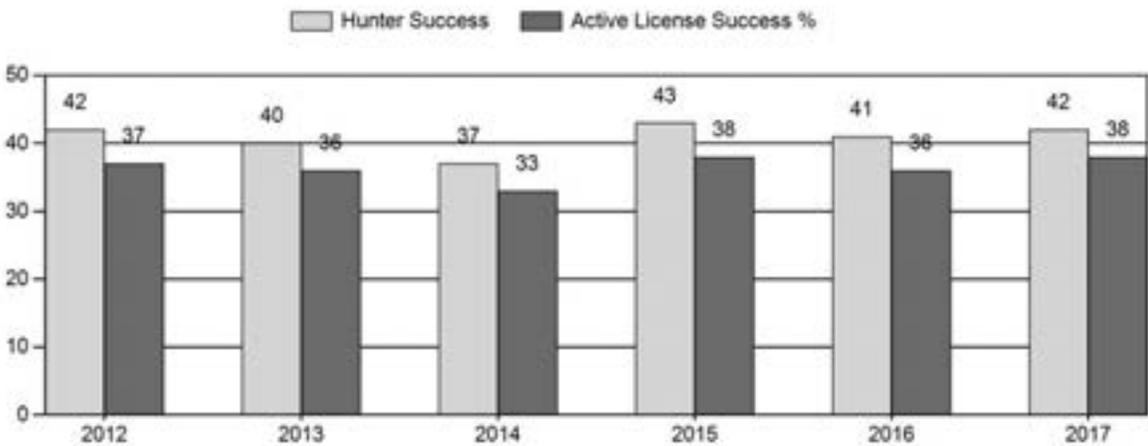
Harvest



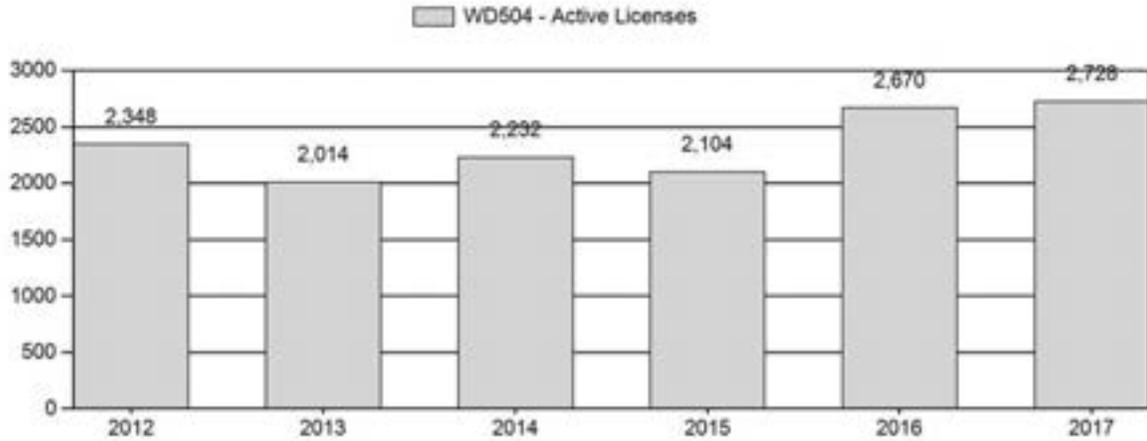
Number of Active Licenses



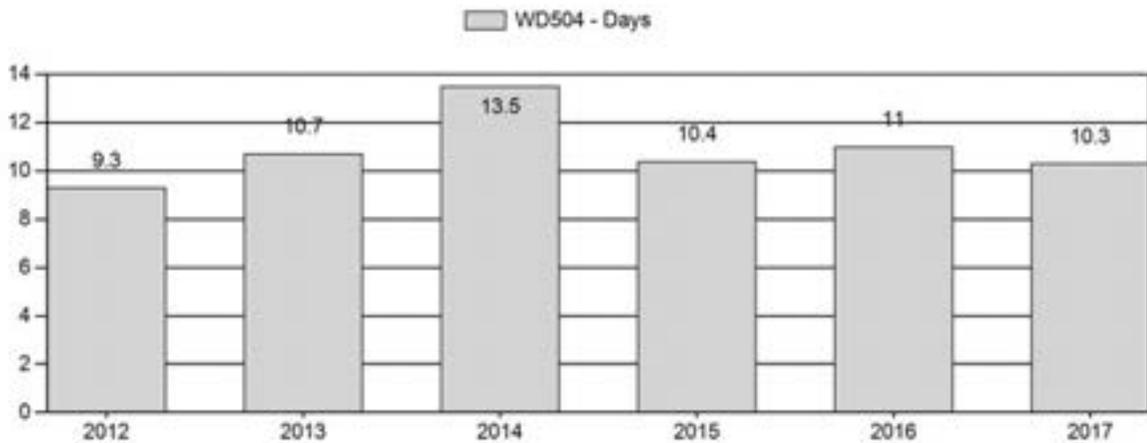
Harvest Success



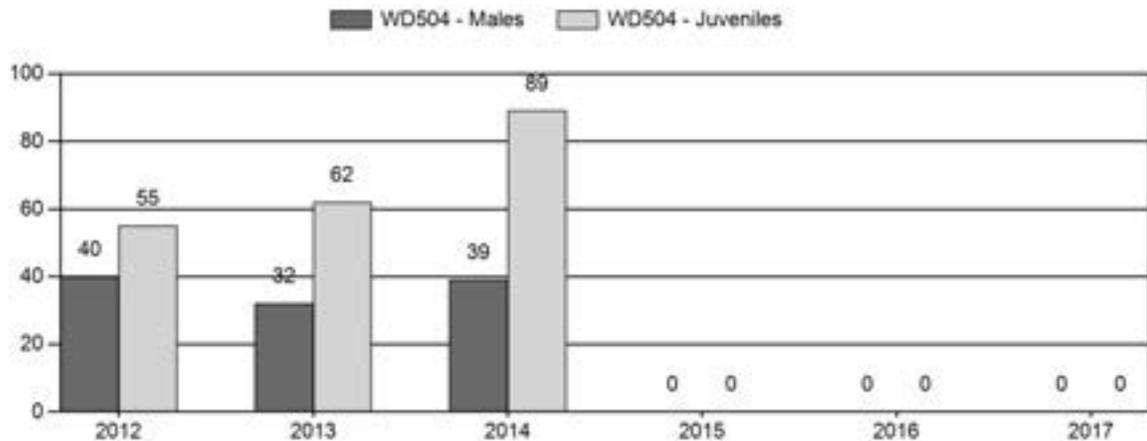
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2018 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	450	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
	3	Dec. 1	Dec. 31			Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
15	8	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	400	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
59,60,64	3	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	200	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer, all lands within Curt Gowdy State Park, archery only;
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	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	300	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer; 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. 15	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	50	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 2017
15	3	+50
15	8	+100
59,60,64	3	+50
59,60,64	8	+175
78,79,80,81,161	8	+25
Total	3	+100
	8	+300
Total		+400

Management Evaluation

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

Management Strategy: Private Land

2017 Hunter Satisfaction Estimate: 69%

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.

Herd Unit Issues

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 average at all elevations throughout southeast Wyoming during spring months then became dry and hot from July through November. Generally speaking weather patterns most likely did not have a negative effect on white-tailed deer. There was a major hail storm in June along the I-25 corridor that most likely had a negative impact on very isolated portions of this herd unit. For specific meteorological information for the Southeast Wyoming herd unit the reviewer is referred to the following link: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>

Habitat

Forage availability for white-tailed deer was typical compared to past years. 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 riparian areas, native rangelands, CRP, dryland and irrigated croplands.

There were no major flooding events in 2017 and past flooding events most likely improved riparian habitat. 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 impact it has on this herd unit is unknown. The long-term prevalence 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 69% for the 2017 season, which is similar to past years. White-tailed deer have rebounded well from the 2012 EHD outbreak so there is plenty of opportunity for hunters. However, access is difficult to obtain in this herd unit, particularly for bucks so that could explain why the satisfaction rate is not higher.

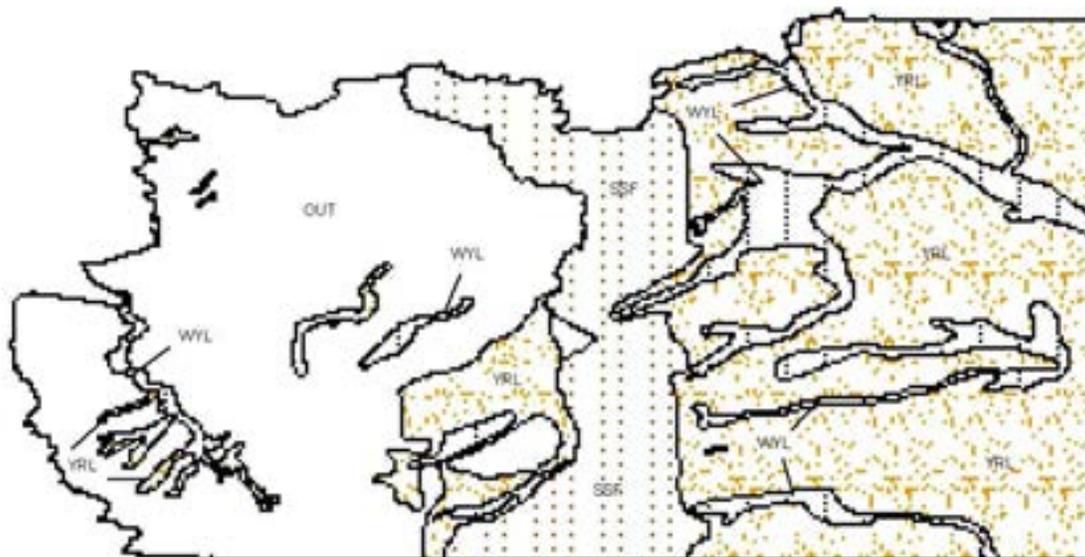
Population

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. There is not enough tooth samples collected in the field to infer any population dynamics.

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. White-tailed deer have recovered to levels prior to the 2012 outbreak so Type 3 and Type 8 licenses will increase where appropriate based on access and local deer densities. Hunt Area 15 Type 3 licenses increased from 400 to 450 and Type 8 licenses from 300 to 400. Hunt Areas 59, 60, 64 Type 3 licenses increased from 150 to 200 and Type 8 licenses from 125 to 300. There is also support and opportunity to allow doe/fawn white-tailed deer hunting earlier for Hunt Areas 59, 60, 64 so Type 3 and Type 8 licenses will open October 1. Hunt Areas 78-81,161 Type 8 licenses increased from 25 to 50. The Thorne/Williams limitation language will be removed for the 2018 season to simplify the regulations. Signs will be posted that inform hunters they are not permitted to hunt on the Thorne/Williams Wildlife Research Unit.

For the 2018 season we will try to attain a harvest of around 1,160 white-tailed deer. Our objective is to provide opportunity and minimize damage and maintain a hunter satisfaction level greater than 60%.



White-tailed Deer (WTS04) - Southeast Wyoming
HA 16, 55, 57, 59-64, 70, 73-81, 83, 151
Revised 10/99

