

2018 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: White tailed Deer

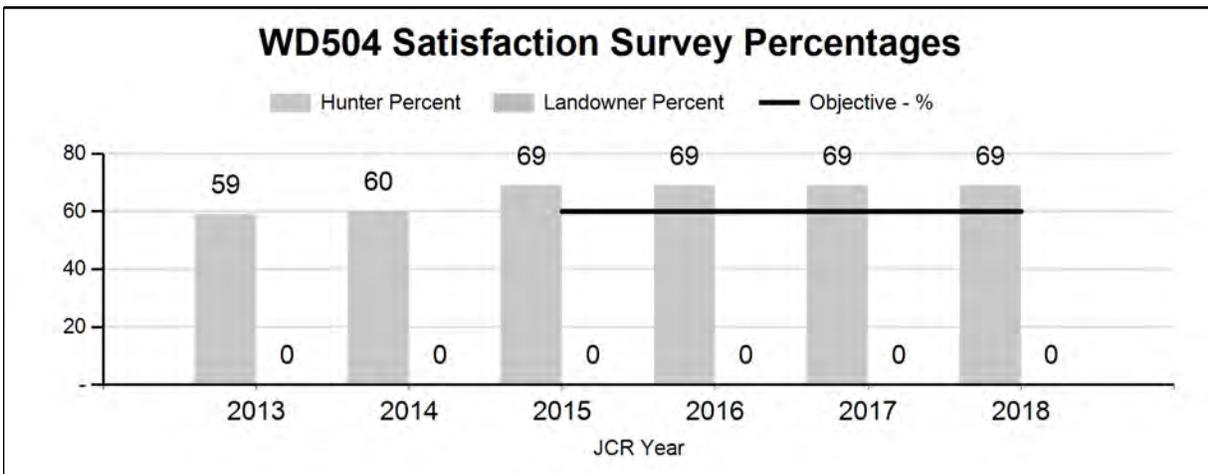
PERIOD: 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019

HERD: WD504 - SOUTHEAST WYOMING

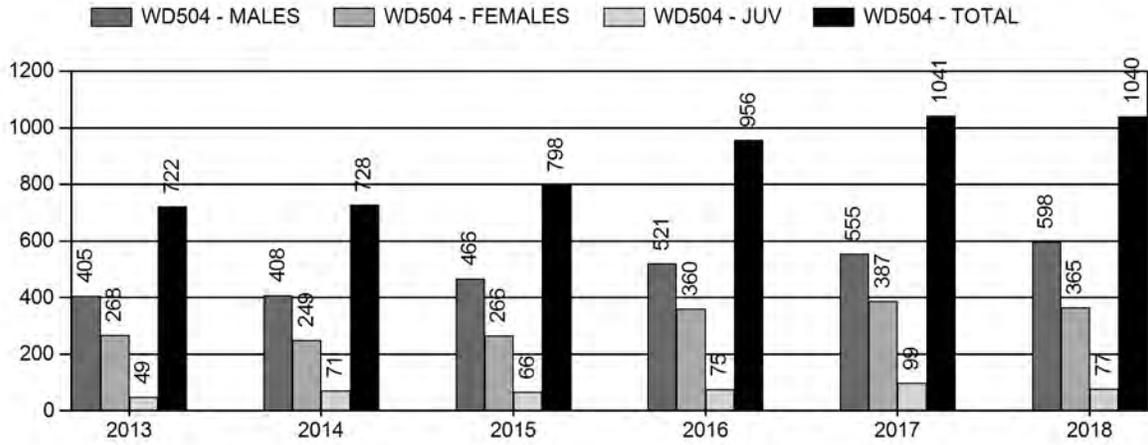
HUNT AREAS: 15, 59-64, 70, 73-81, 83, 161

PREPARED BY: MARTIN HICKS

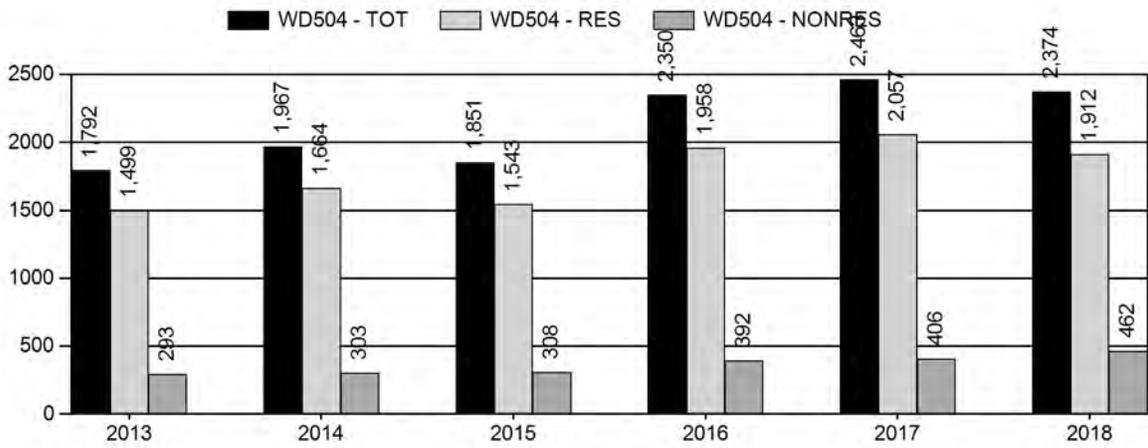
	<u>2013 - 2017 Average</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019 Proposed</u>
Hunter Satisfaction Percent	65%	69%	65%
Landowner Satisfaction Percent	0%	0%	0%
Harvest:	849	1,040	1,150
Hunters:	2,085	2,374	2,475
Hunter Success:	41%	44%	46%
Active Licenses:	2,350	2,738	2,840
Active License Success:	36%	38%	40%
Recreation Days:	9,409	12,051	12,800
Days Per Animal:	11.1	11.6	11.1
Males per 100 Females:	35	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	71	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:			5



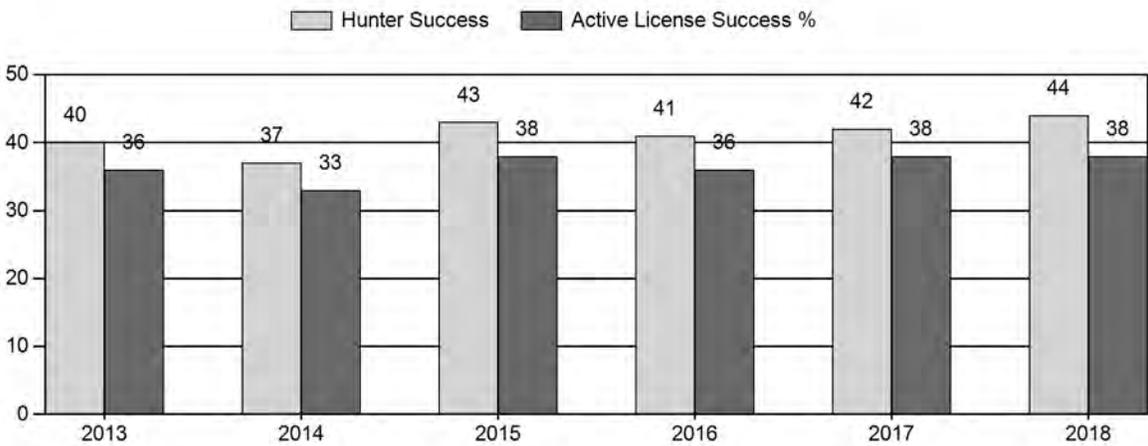
Harvest



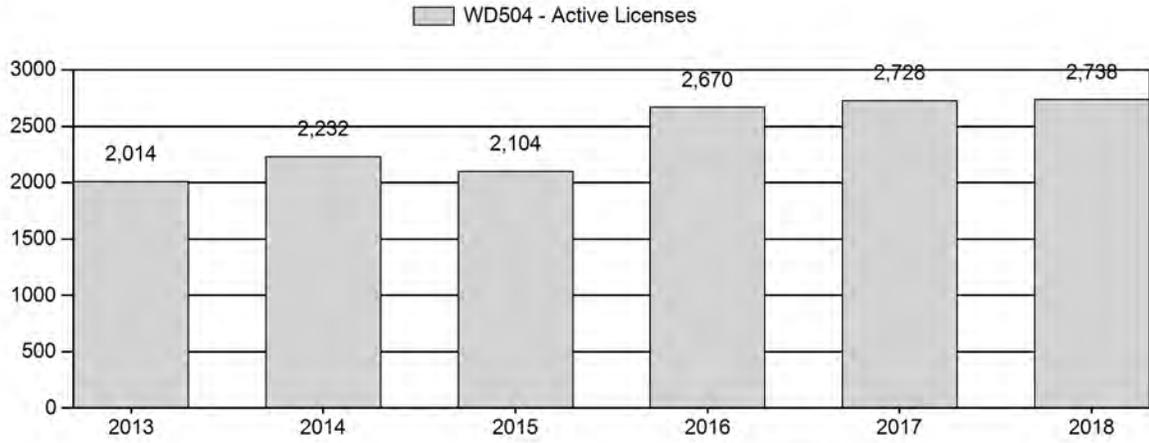
Number of Active Licenses



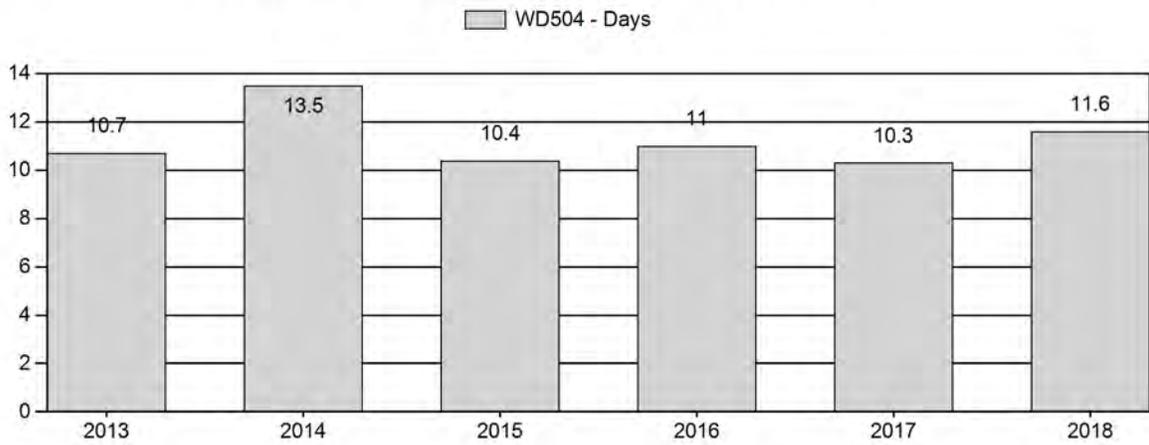
Harvest Success



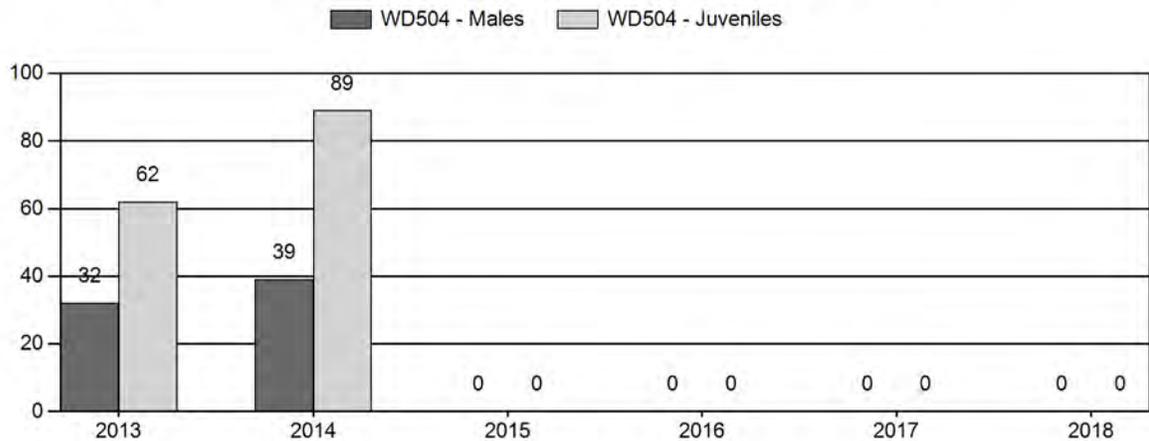
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



**2019 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	450 500	Limited quota	Any white-tailed deer
	3	Dec. 1	Dec. 31			Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
15	8	Oct. 1	Dec. 31	400 450	Limited quota	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
59,60,64	3	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	200 250	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	300 350	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. 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	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 2018
15	3	+50
15	8	+50
59,60,64	3	+50
59,60,64	8	+50
Total	3	+100
	8	+100
Total		+200

Management Evaluation

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

Management Strategy: Private Land

2018 Hunter Satisfaction Estimate: 63%

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

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 sportsperson 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 limited access.

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. 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 ft. Its presence ties the hands of habitat managers by limiting habitat enhancement options, and may result in reduced rangeland carrying capacities where it is the predominant species. 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 2018 and past flooding events most likely improved riparian habitat. With favorable land management post-flooding, the potential exists 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. Seasons adjustments may bring the population down. Disease outbreaks common at high densities, such as EHD, may also reduce numbers. Hunter success is typically around 36% with hunter effort running about 11 days per harvest. Hunting opportunity is limited to private

land. Low success and high effort 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%, though this estimate is derived from a relatively 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 63% for the 2018 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 are not enough tooth samples collected in the field to infer any population dynamics.

Management Summary

Population trends vary with weather conditions and disease outbreaks. As densities become high, the population is likely to 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. Landowners in southeast Wyoming have observed an increase in white-tailed deer and have expressed concerns on densities so access should improve throughout the area. Hunt Area 15 Type 3 licenses will increase from 450 to 500 and Type 8 licenses from 400 to 450. Hunt Areas 59, 60, 64 Type 3 licenses will increase from 200 to 250 and Type 8 licenses from 300 to 350.

For the 2019 season we will try to attain a harvest of around 1,150 white-tailed deer. Our objective is to provide opportunity and minimize damage and maintain a hunter satisfaction level greater than 60%.