

APPENDICES

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Appendix A

Summary of 2017 Landowner Survey

Perceived Status of Big Game Populations and Suggested Hunting Season Strategies

Sheridan Biologist District

Pronghorn Antelope Areas 10, 15, 16, 109

White-tailed and Mule Deer Areas 23, 24, 26

Elk Areas 37, 38, 129

May 2018

Prepared by:

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Wyoming Game & Fish Department

It is imperative that the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) works closely with private landowners to manage wildlife populations, specifically deer and pronghorn antelope, in areas that are predominately private lands. In order to gauge landowner perceptions and opinions in an effective manner, the WGFD conducted an annual survey of landowners who historically have allowed hunting. This survey was sent out in early January with a requested return date of early February. We solicited perceived population status of big game herds and suggestions for 2018 hunting season strategies. A total of 173 landowners within the Sheridan Biologist District were queried on their perceptions of pronghorn antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk populations on their properties, as well as what hunting season adjustments they would suggest for the 2018 seasons.

Landowners were given the opportunity to choose between three options based on their perception of big game populations (i.e. below, at, or above "desired" levels) for their property. "Desired population" is a measure of landowner acceptance or tolerance of wildlife, and not necessarily correlated to the post-season population management objective established by the WGFD. Landowners were given three options for suggested season strategies (i.e. more conservative, same, or more liberal). Landowners were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments. Attached is a copy of the survey sent to landowners.

Surveys were mailed to 173 landowners with self-addressed, stamped envelopes. Fourteen surveys were returned as undeliverable. Sixty-four useable surveys were returned for a response rate of 40% [$64/(173-14)=.403$]. Results are provided below. Not all landowners responded to each question or for all species. Some landowners are credited with a response in more than one hunt area. Therefore, total responses may exceed the number of actual survey returns.

Pronghorn Antelope

Table 1. Summary of survey results for pronghorn antelope grouped by hunt area and herd unit.

Hunt Area	Population			Season		
	Below Desired Level	At Desired Level	Above Desired Level	More Conserv Season	Same Season	More Liberal Season
10	1	6	3	1	8	1
15	2	8	8	0	11	7
16	1	6	4	2	5	4
SubTot (n=39)	4 (10%)	20 (51%)	15 (38%)	3 (8%)	24 (62%)	12 (31%)
109 (n=25)	1 (4%)	10 (40%)	14 (56%)	0 (0%)	11 (44%)	14 (56%)
2017 (n=64)	5 (8%)	30 (47%)	29 (45%)	3 (5%)	35 (55%)	26 (41%)
2016 (n=58)	1 (2%)	36 (62%)	21 (36%)	1 (2%)	43 (74%)	14 (24%)
2015 (n=60)	2 (3%)	30 (50%)	28 (47%)	0 (0%)	41 (71%)	17 (29%)
2014 (n=68)	2 (3%)	41 (60%)	25 (37%)	1 (1%)	37 (62%)	22 (37%)
2013 (n=71)	5 (7%)	35 (49%)	31 (44%)	4 (6%)	40 (56%)	27 (38%)
2012 (n=74)	7(9%)	46 (62%)	21 (28%)	1 (1%)	48 (69%)	20 (30%)
2011 (n=41)	5 (12%)	19 (46%)	17 (41%)	2 (5%)	25 (61%)	14 (34%)
2010 (n=53)	5 (9%)	26 (49%)	22 (42%)	1 (2%)	36 (68%)	16 (30%)
2009 (n=58)	10 (17%)	29 (50%)	19 (33%)	4 (7%)	40 (69%)	14 (24%)
2008 (n=29)	5 (17%)	11 (38%)	13 (45%)	2 (7%)	16 (55%)	11 (38%)
2007 (n=53)	5 (9%)	27 (51%)	21 (40%)	0 (0%)	35 (66%)	18 (34%)
2006 (n=36)	2 (6%)	18 (50%)	16 (44%)	1 (3%)	21 (60%)	13 (37%)
2005 (n=39)	6 (15%)	20 (51%)	13 (33%)	2 (5%)	22 (58%)	14 (37%)
2004 (n=37)	3 (8%)	26 (70%)	8 (22%)	1 (3%)	37 (73%)	9 (24%)
2003 (n=54)	9 (17%)	29 (54%)	16 (30%)	2 (4%)	38 (75%)	11 (21%)
2002 (n=55)	15 (27%)	31 (56%)	9 (16%)	7 (13%)	36 (69%)	9 (17%)
2001 (n=57)	19 (33%)	32 (58%)	5 (9%)	8 (15%)	40 (77%)	4 (8%)
2000 (n=56)	25 (45%)	28 (50%)	3 (5%)	13 (23%)	38 (68%)	5 (9%)

Leiter Herd Unit (hunt areas 10, 15, and 16): The Leiter Herd Unit was created in 2014 when the Ucross Herd Unit (hunt areas 10, 16) was combined with the Clearmont Herd Unit (hunt area 15). We received 39 responses from landowners in this herd unit, a slight increase from 2016. Most responses (89%) indicated the pronghorn population is at or above desired levels. Most landowners suggested maintaining (62%) or liberalizing (31%) the current season strategy. The current population simulation estimates this population relatively high and harvest the past 4 years is the highest in 30+ years. Most pronghorn within this herd unit occur on private lands, with limited opportunities for public land hunting. Some hunting opportunity is provided on a Walk-In Area and small scattered parcels of public lands.

Beckton Herd Unit (hunt area 109): We received 25 responses from landowners in this herd unit, similar to recent years. All but one landowner indicated the population was at or above desired levels. The pronghorn population has likely at least stabilized in recent years as harvest has continued to increase annually. This population will likely never be reduced to desired levels for some landowners due to limited access and urban development which hinders safe hunting opportunities. All landowners favored maintaining (44%) or liberalizing (56%) season strategies, similar to responses in recent years.

Mule Deer

Table 2. Summary of survey results for mule deer grouped by hunt area and herd unit.

Hunt Area	Population			Season		
	Below Desired Level	At Desired Level	Above Desired Level	More Conserv Season	Same Season	More Liberal Season
23	5	10	3	1	13	4
26	9	9	1	3	15	1
SubTot (n=37)	14 (38%)	19 (51%)	4 (11%)	4 (11%)	28 (76%)	5 (13%)
24 (n=30)	11 (37%)	15 (50%)	4 (13%)	8 (26%)	17 (57%)	5 (17%)
2017 (n=67)	25 (37%)	34 (51%)	8 (12%)	12 (18%)	45 (67%)	10 (15%)
2016 (n=68)	26 (38%)	38 (50%)	8 (12%)	19 (28%)	40 (59%)	9 (13%)
2015 (n=70)	25 (36%)	38 (54%)	7 (10%)	14 (20%)	43 (62%)	12 (17%)
2014 (n=74)	30 (40%)	36 (49%)	8 (11%)	17 (24%)	46 (64%)	9 (12%)
2013 (n=74)	35 (47%)	32 (43%)	7 (10%)	23 (31%)	38 (51%)	13 (18%)
2012 (n=75)	35 (47%)	29 (39%)	11 (15%)	23 (33%)	42 (57%)	9 (12%)
2011 (n=62)	28 (45%)	26 (42%)	8 (13%)	11 (17%)	43 (69%)	8 (13%)
2010 (n=59)	27(46%)	20 (34%)	12 (20%)	13(22%)	36(61%)	10(17%)
2009 (n=59)	27 (46%)	20 (34%)	12 (20%)	13 (22%)	36 (61%)	10 (17%)
2008 (n=28)	4 (14%)	19 (68%)	5 (18%)	1 (4%)	24 (86%)	3 (11%)
2007 (n=59)	20 (34%)	33 (56%)	6 (10%)	10 (17%)	39 (66%)	10 (17%)
2006 (n=41)	15 (37%)	15 (37%)	11 (27%)	5 (12%)	27 (65%)	9 (22%)
2005 (n=46)	7 (16%)	23 (51%)	15 (33%)	4 (9%)	27 (59%)	15 (33%)
2004 (n=48)	12 (25%)	21 (44%)	15 (31%)	7 (8%)	27 (56%)	14 (29%)
2003 (n=65)	15 (24%)	34 (55%)	13 (21%)	8 (12%)	42 (65%)	15 (23%)
2002 (n=65)	31(48%)	23 (35%)	11 (17%)	16 (25%)	37 (59%)	10 (16%)
2001 (n=79)	38 (48%)	34 (43%)	7 (9%)	19 (25%)	47 (62%)	10 (13%)
2000 (n=67)	22 (32%)	38 (57%)	7 (11%)	15 (24%)	45 (71%)	3 (5%)

North Bighorn Herd Unit (hunt area 24): We received 30 responses from landowners in this herd area. Fifteen respondents (50%) thought the population was at desired levels while four (13%) respondents thought the population was above desired levels and 11 (37%) thought the population was below desired levels. This is a change from recent years where most landowners felt the population was at or above desired levels. Current population simulations estimate the population is below the post-season population management objective as established by the WGFD. Most landowners (57%) suggested maintaining current season strategies (i.e. 30 September archery season, 17-day general deer season in October and limited doe/fawn permits) while the other respondents were split between more conservative (26%) and more liberal (17%) season structure.

Powder River Herd Unit (hunt areas 23, 26): We received 37 responses from landowners within these hunt areas. Most respondents (51%) thought the population was at or above desired levels, while 38% thought the population was below desired levels. This is similar to the past few years. Current population simulations estimate the population is below the post-season population management objective as established by the WGFD. Most landowners (76%) favored maintaining the current season structure (i.e. 30 day September archery season, 14-day general deer season in October and an extended doe/fawn season).

White-tailed Deer

Table 3. Summary of survey results for white-tailed deer grouped by hunt area and herd unit.

Hunt Area	Population			Season		
	Below Desired Level	At Desired Level	Above Desired Level	More Conserv Season	Same Season	More Liberal Season
23	2	2	9	0	6	7
24	2	7	21	0	17	13
26	1	5	10	1	9	6
2017 (n=59)	5 (8%)	14 (24%)	40 (68%)	1 (2%)	32 (54%)	26 (44%)
2016 (n=55)	1 (2%)	17 (31%)	37 (67%)	0	27 (49%)	28 (51%)
2015 (n=65)	7 (11%)	22 (34%)	36 (55%)	3(5%)	36 (56%)	25 (39%)
2014 (n=61)	3 (5%)	22 (36%)	36 (59%)	4 (7%)	32 (55%)	22 (38%)
2013 (n=47)	6 (9%)	19 (29%)	41 (62%)	5 (8%)	28 (42%)	33 (50%)
2012 (n=72)	3 (4%)	18 (25%)	51 (71%)	0	30 (41%)	42 (59%)
2011(n=63)	2(3%)	19(30%)	42(67%)	0	26(41%)	37(59%)
2010 (n=55)	2(4%)	16(29%)	37(67%)	0	23(42%)	32(58%)
2009 (n=53)	4 (7%)	19 (36%)	30 (57%)	1(2%)	29 (55%)	23 (43%)
2008 (n=26)	5 (19%)	8 (31%)	13 (50%)	2 (8%)	12 (46%)	12 (46%)
2007 (n=48)	8 (17%)	14 (29%)	26 (54%)	3 (6%)	22 (46%)	23 (48%)
2006 (n=36)	4 (11%)	11 (31%)	21 (58%)	1 (3%)	19 (53%)	16 (44%)
2005 (n=40)	3 (8%)	11 (28%)	26 (65%)	2 (5%)	20 (51%)	17 (44%)
2004 (n=37)	2 (5%)	11 (30%)	24 (65%)	0	14 (38%)	23 (62%)
2003 (n=57)	6 (10%)	14 (25%)	37 (65%)	4 (7%)	25 (45%)	27 (48%)
2002 (n=58)	11 (19%)	19 (33%)	28 (48%)	7 (13%)	28 (50%)	21 (37%)
2001 (n=68)	13 (19%)	30 (44%)	25 (37%)	6 (9%)	45 (66%)	17 (25%)
2000 (n=58)	11 (19%)	21 (36%)	26 (45%)	6 (10%)	31 (53%)	21 (37%)

Powder River Herd Unit (hunt areas 23, 24, 26): We received 59 responses from landowners in these hunts areas. The majority (92%) thought the white-tailed deer population was at or above desired levels, while only five landowners (8%) felt the population was below desired levels. Favorable environmental conditions have allowed this population to remain at relatively high levels despite record harvest levels. All but one landowner suggested maintaining or liberalizing current season strategies. During the 2017 season, hunters could harvest any white-tailed deer for up to 91 days, including the 30-day September archery season, with additional time allowed for doe/fawn harvest, depending on hunt area.

Numerous landowners have expressed concern and frustration with the number of white-tailed deer, especially in the Bighorn area. It is common to see several hundred deer in one field. Landowners in these areas have committed to increasing access for hunters to harvest antlerless deer. The number of deer – vehicle collisions has also increased, most notably along the Big Goose Road and Highway 87/335 from Sheridan to Bighorn.

Elk

Table 4. Summary of survey results for elk.

Hunt Area	Population			Season		
	Below Desired Level	At Desired Level	Above Desired Level	More Conserv Season	Same Season	More Liberal Season
37	0	5	7	1	5	6
38	0	4	1	2	2	1
Sub Tot (n=17)	0	9 (53%)	8 (47%)	3 (18%)	7 (41%)	7 (41%)
129 (n=17)	4 (24%)	11 (65%)	2 (12%)	3 (18%)	12 (71%)	2 (12%)
2017 (n=34)	4 (12%)	20 (59%)	10 (29%)	6 (18%)	19 (56%)	9 (26%)
2016 (n=31)	3 (10%)	20 (64%)	8 (26%)	3 (10%)	22 (71%)	6 (19%)
2015 (n=28)	2 (7%)	17 (61%)	9 (32%)	1 (4%)	22 (79%)	5 (18%)
2014 (n=31)	8 (26%)	17 (55%)	6 (19%)	4 (13%)	23 (74%)	4 (13%)
2013 (n=35)	12 (34%)	15 (43%)	8 (23%)	4 (12%)	18 (55%)	11 (33%)
2012 (n=27)	10 (37%)	10 (37%)	7 (26%)	2 (8%)	13 (50%)	11 (42%)
2011 (n=20)	7 (35%)	8 (40%)	5 (25%)	4 (20%)	11 (55%)	5 (25%)
2010 (n=19)	10(53%)	5(26%)	4(21%)	7(37%)	7(37%)	5(26%)
2009 (n=19)	10 (53%)	5 (26%)	4 (21%)	7 (37%)	7 (37%)	5 (26%)
2008 (n=12)	6 (50%)	3 (25%)	3 (25%)	1 (8%)	10 (83%)	1 (18%)
2007 (n=16)	5 (31%)	6 (38%)	5 (31%)	2 (13%)	8 (50%)	5 (31%)
2006 (n=20)	8 (40%)	7 (35%)	5 (25%)	5 (25%)	8 (40%)	7 (35%)
2005 (n=18)	4 (22%)	10 (56%)	4 (22%)	4 (22%)	9 (50%)	5 (28%)
2004 (n=12)	3 (25%)	9 (75%)	0	0	10 (83%)	2 (17%)
2003 (n=17)	5 (31%)	9 (56%)	2 (13%)	3 (21%)	9 (64%)	2 (14%)
2002 (n=20)	4 (20%)	12 (60%)	4 (20%)	1 (5%)	16 (80%)	3 (15%)
2001 (n=23)	6 (26%)	12 (52%)	5 (22%)	4 (17%)	14 (61%)	5 (22%)
2000 (n=10)	3 (30%)	4 (40%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)

North Bighorn Herd Unit (hunt areas 37, 38): We received 17 responses from landowners in these hunt areas, with most (71%) from landowners in hunt area 37. Most landowners (53%) thought the elk population was at desired levels, while the rest (47%) thought elk numbers were above desired levels. No landowners thought elk numbers were below desired levels. Most landowners supported similar (41%) or more liberal (41%) season strategies.

Hunt Area 129: We received responses from 17 landowners in this hunt area. Area 129 encompasses all lands in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties outside an established elk hunt area. This area was established in 2001 to address expanding elk numbers outside established hunt areas and herd units. Responses were mixed, with some landowners desiring more elk while others want longer seasons so they can kill more elk and reduce their numbers. The WGFD does not wish to actively manage elk in these areas. Most (71%) landowners favored maintaining the current season structure (i.e. 61-days general license any elk; 30-days general license antlerless elk; and additional cow/calf licenses for 91 days).

Sheridan Regional Office
700 Valley View Drive
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

January 15, 2018

Dear Landowner:

Please take a moment to consider the following survey. We would like you to take a moment to think about the antelope, deer and elk hunting seasons for 2018. Although it is still very early in the year, we would like to get a feeling for what direction you think we should head this fall.

Please think about what you saw this past summer and hunting season, and what is showing up for the winter. Naturally, this winter will play a big part in big game survival and the setting of hunting season this spring; however, we would like to get your input now as best as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the list department personnel.

<i>Sheridan Biologist</i>	<i>Buffalo Game Warden</i>	<i>Sheridan Game Warden</i>	<i>Dayton Game Warden</i>
<i>Tim Thomas</i>	<i>Jim Seeman</i>	<i>Bruce Scigliano</i>	<i>Dustin Shorma</i>
672-7418	684-5223	672-2790	655-9495

Please return this questionnaire to my attention at the Sheridan Regional Office on or before **February 2, 2018**. You can also e-mail your response to me at the e-mail address below.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance in managing Wyoming's wildlife.

Sincerely,

Tim Thomas
Sheridan Wildlife Biologist
700 Valley View Drive
Sheridan, WY 82801
672-7418
Tim.Thomas@wyo.gov

NAME: _____ **(optional)**

ANTELOPE HUNT AREA(S) (HA) for YOUR RANCH: _____, _____

Overall for your area, is the antelope population:

HA _____	HA _____	
_____	_____	Less than desired levels
_____	_____	At or near desired levels
_____	_____	Higher than desired levels

For the 2018 season, would you like to see antelope hunting seasons:

HA _____	HA _____	
_____	_____	More conservative with fewer licenses and/or shorter seasons
_____	_____	About the same as this year
_____	_____	More liberal with more licenses and/or longer seasons

MULE DEER HUNT AREA(S) for YOUR RANCH: _____, _____

Overall for your area, is the mule deer population:

HA _____	HA _____	
_____	_____	Less than desired levels
_____	_____	At or near desired levels
_____	_____	Higher than desired levels

For the 2018 season, would you like to see mule deer hunting seasons:

HA _____	HA _____	
_____	_____	More conservative with fewer licenses and/or shorter seasons
_____	_____	About the same as this year
_____	_____	More liberal with more licenses and/or longer seasons

Would you like your name included on a list of landowners allowing access for **FREE **DOE/FAWN ONLY** hunting for deer and/or antelope for the 2018 hunting season?**

YES NO
 Antelope
 Mule Deer
 White-tailed Deer

(check all that apply)

Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Restrictions (e.g. dates): _____

Appendix B

**Summary of
2017 Landowner Survey**

**Perceived Status of Deer and Pronghorn Populations
And Suggested Hunting Season Strategies**

Gillette Biologist District

May 2018

Prepared by:

Erika Peckham
Gillette Wildlife Biologist
Wyoming Game & Fish Department

Overview

Questionnaire surveys of landowners within the Gillette Biologist District have been conducted after each hunting season from 1996 through 2017. Landowners completed the surveys and returned them with their coupon forms either separately or with their landowner coupons to their local game warden by March 1st of the following year.

The questions asked for each of the surveys were essentially the same with only slight variation between the first survey and subsequent surveys. Landowners were asked if the pronghorn and deer herds on their ranches were below desired levels, at desired levels, or above desired levels. They were also asked if they thought that next year's hunting season should be more conservative, about the same, or more liberal than the previous hunting season. Overall, it appears that the response rate is declining when comparing years past.

A brief summary of the 2017 responses relative to the 2018 hunting season is as follows.

Pronghorn Questionnaire Responses

Area 1

- 53% of respondents think that pronghorn are at desired levels with 25% stating they were below.
- 68% of respondents desire the same season for 2018.

Area 3

- 67% of respondents believe that numbers are below objective, 33% feel that they are above objective.
- Landowners are evenly split on the season for 2018, with some wanting more conservative and others wanting a more liberal season and others wanting it to remain the same.

Area 17

- 65% of landowners feel that antelope numbers are where they should be.
- 60% of landowners favor the same season for 2018.

Area 18

- 63% of landowners think that pronghorn numbers on their property are at desired levels.
- 100% of landowners favor the same or more liberal season for 2018.

Area 19

- 100% of respondents felt that antelope were at or above desired numbers.
- 100% of respondents wanted the same or a more liberal season for 2018.

Area 23

- 89% of landowners surveyed believe that pronghorn numbers on their property are at desired levels.
- 100% of landowners favor the same season for 2018.

Area 24

- 56% of landowners surveyed believe that pronghorn numbers on their property are above desired levels with the remainder of respondents split on their opinion.
- 75% wanted the same season or a more liberal season for 2018.

Area 27

- The 1 respondent wanted a more liberal season for 2018 and felt that numbers were higher than they would like to see them.

Overall Pronghorn Survey Results

- Sample size of 99 landowners answered the portion on pronghorn (some incomplete, only answering either the portion regarding population or season and not both, some not indicating hunt area).
- 60% of total respondents think that pronghorn numbers on their property are at desired levels with 14% indicating that pronghorn numbers on their property are below desired levels and 26% indicating that pronghorn numbers on their property are above desired levels.
- Most (66%) favor the same season for 2018 with 25% favoring a more liberal and 9% favoring a more conservative season for 2018. Responses were fairly similar as compared to the 2017 season responses.

Relationship to 2017 Post-season Population Estimate, Its Objective and Landowner Desires for the 2018 Hunting Season

- North Black Hills Herd Unit is estimated to be below objective. Overall, 64% of landowners think pronghorn are at the desired level and the majority (70%) want the same season for 2018.
- Gillette Herd Unit is estimated to be only slightly below objective. Respondents were equally split on where they believe the herd is, however most want a similar season for 2017.
- Pumpkin Buttes Herd Unit is estimated to be above objective. 92% of all respondents want the same season for 2017.
- Winter conditions were mostly moderate with some severe weeks in the winter of 2017-2018. Winter commenced average temperatures and snowfall. In the months of January and February there were prolonged periods of cold couple with snowstorms. The 2018 seasons account for the winter and also address the capacity of the public land in some hunt areas.

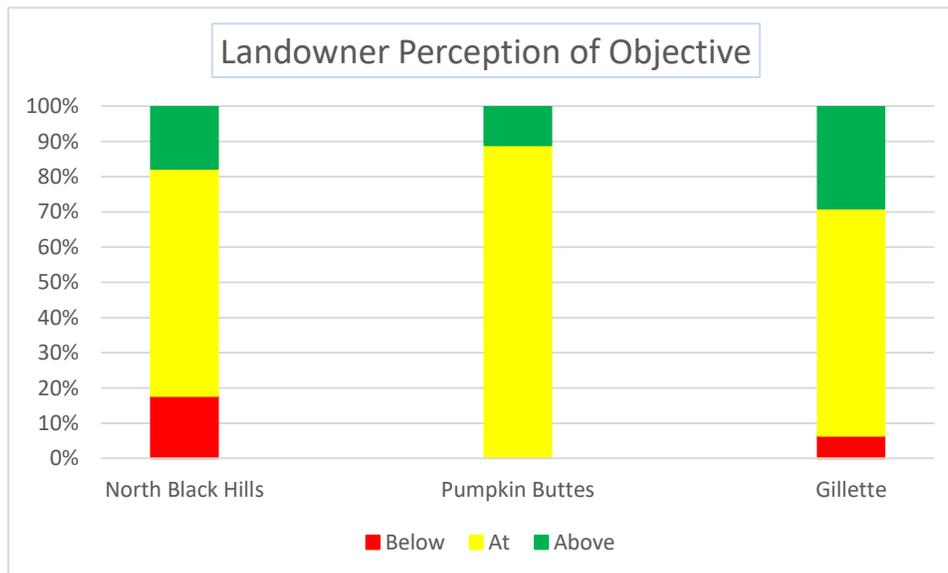


Figure 1. 2017 landowner survey results by herd unit regarding pronghorn herd size compared to herd objective.

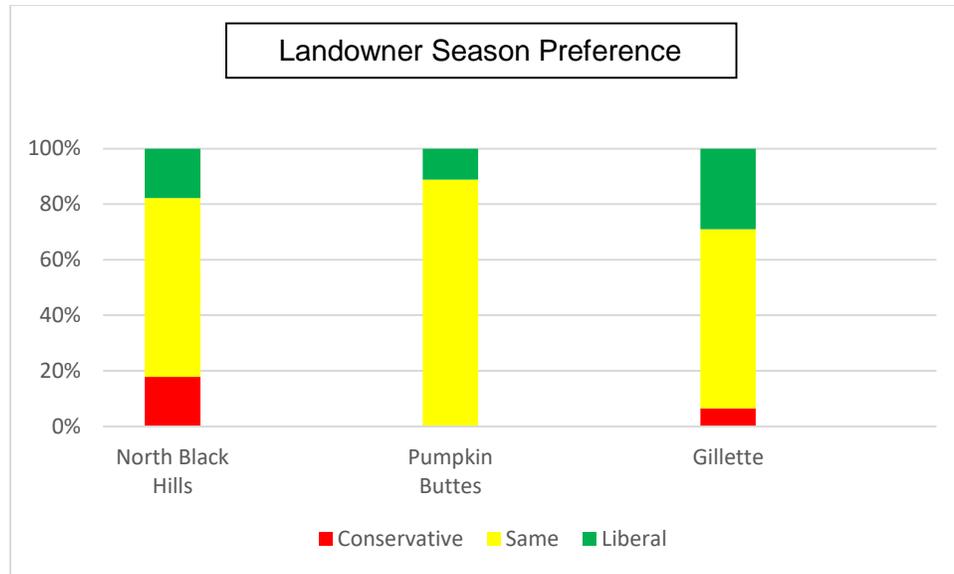


Figure 2. 2017 landowner survey results by herd unit regarding desired 2018 pronghorn hunting seasons.

Table 1. 2017 landowner survey results, and results by year 1997-2017

Hunt Area	Population			Season		
	Below Desired Level	At Desired Level	Above Desired Level	More Conserv Season	Same Season	More Liberal Season
1	5	10	4	2	13	4
3	2	0	1	1	1	1
17	2	20	9	2	18	10
18	1	5	2	0	6	2
19	0	6	1	0	6	1
23	0	16	2	0	18	0
24	2	2	5	2	2	4
27	0	0	1	0	0	1

YEAR						
*2017	14(14%)	59(60)	26(26%)	9(9%)	64(66%)	24(25%)
2016	16(25%)	34(54%)	13(21%)	9(15%)	39(66%)	11(19%)
2015	20(29%)	42(62%)	6(9%)	8(12%)	53(79%)	6(9%)
2014	22(26%)	49(58%)	13(16%)	19(23%)	49(61%)	13(16%)
2013	31(47%)	29(44%)	6(9%)	32(48%)	29(44%)	5(8%)
2012	72(44%)	82(50%)	11(6%)	47(29%)	103(64%)	11(7%)
2011	30 (37%)	47 (57%)	5 (6%)	25 (32%)	49 (62%)	5 (6%)
2010	30 (33%)	45 (49%)	16 (18%)	21 (23%)	52 (57%)	18 (20%)
2009	19 (18%)	60 (56%)	29 (27%)	15 (14%)	72 (66%)	22 (20%)
2008	7 (6%)	55 (50%)	48 (44%)	9 (8%)	60 (56%)	39 (36%)
2007	7 (6%)	58 (48%)	55 (46%)	4 (3%)	69 (57%)	46 (39%)
2006	14 (11%)	58 (44%)	61 (46%)	6 (5%)	74 (56%)	53 (40%)
2005	6 (10%)	22 (35%)	34 (55%)	4 (7%)	31 (53%)	23 (40%)
2004	28 (16%)	86 (50%)	59 (34%)	12 (7%)	98 (57%)	63 (36%)
2003	30 (17%)	105 (60%)	43 (24%)	11 (6%)	109 (62%)	56 (32%)
2002	24 (18%)	78 (58%)	33 (24%)	17 (13%)	80 (59%)	38 (28%)
2001	27 (21%)	74 (59%)	25 (20%)	23 (18%)	73 (58%)	30 (24%)
2000	50 (40%)	58 (46%)	17 (14%)	33 (27%)	65 (52%)	26 (21%)
1999	48 (46%)	37 (35%)	20 (19%)	30 (29%)	47 (46%)	25 (25%)
1998	49 (37%)	64 (48%)	21 (16%)	31 (23%)	73 (54%)	31 (23%)
1997	68 (49%)	60 (43%)	11 (8%)	56 (41%)	63 (46%)	18 (13%)

*Note-Totals of Hunt Area may not equal total for 2017. This is due to some landowners not reporting what area they are in or answering only portions of the survey. Their opinions were factored into the total, but not by Hunt Area.

Deer Questionnaire Responses

Area 1

- 68% believe deer numbers on their property are at desired levels.
- 76% favor the same season for 2018.

Area 3

- 67% feel that deer are at desired numbers and would like to see the same season as 2017.

Area 10

- There was only one respondent. The respondent felt that deer numbers were below where they would like to see them.
- The respondent favored a more conservative season for 2018.

Area 17

- Respondents were split evenly (47%) on whether the deer herd was at or below objective.
- 51% favor a similar season for 2018 while 41% believe the season should be more conservative.

Area 18

- 54% of respondents felt that deer were where they would like to see them.
- 77% favor the same season for 2018.

Area 19

- 93% believe deer numbers on their property are at or below desired levels.
- 65% favor the same season for 2018.

Area 21

- Respondents were evenly split on both the objective and season structure for 2018.

Overall Deer Survey Results

- 72 landowners answered the deer portion of the survey (some incomplete, only answering either the portion regarding population or season and not both, some not indicating hunt area).
- Most (54%) think that deer numbers are at desired levels with 38% of the respondents indicating that the herds are below desired levels and 8% indicating that herds are above desired levels.
- Most (64%) favor the same season for 2017, with 25% desiring a more conservative season, and the remaining 11% indicating the need for a more liberal season.

Relationship to 2017 Post-season Population Estimate, Management Objective and Landowner Desires for the 2018 Hunting Season

- Powder River Herd Unit is far below objective. Landowners generally desire a higher population of deer in the herd unit and prefer the same or more conservative season in 2018.
- Pumpkin Buttes Herd Unit is near objective. The annual landowner survey results show that landowners continue to desire a higher deer population. Although 50% of respondents in Deer Area 19 are satisfied with current deer numbers, 40% prefer an increase in numbers.
- Black Hills Herd Unit is slightly above objective. In the Sheridan Region portion of the herd unit the majority of landowners (68%) indicate that the herd is at desired levels for mule deer. Most (65%) want to see the same season in 2018.
- Cheyenne River Deer herd unit is below objective. In the Sheridan Region portion of the herd unit the majority (75%) of landowners indicate that the herd is at or below desired levels and favor the same or more conservative seasons for 2018.

Figure 3. 2017 landowner survey results by hunt area regarding deer herd size compared to herd objective.

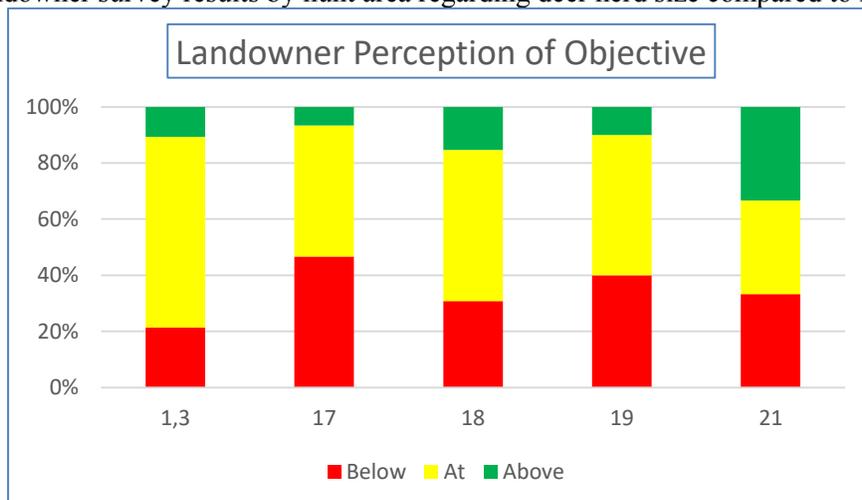


Figure 4. 2017 landowner survey results by hunt area regarding desired 2018 deer hunting seasons.

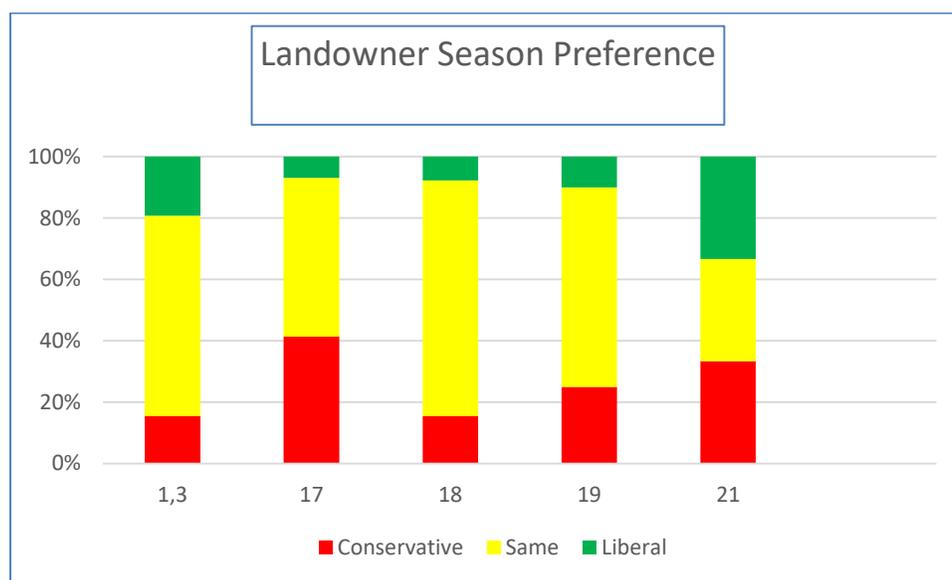


Table 2. Summary of responses by landowners regarding deer population levels and opinions for deer hunting seasons 1997– 2017 and summary of 2017.

Hunt Area	Population			Season		
	Below Desired Level	At Desired Level	Above Desired Level	More Conserv Season	Same Season	More Liberal Season
1	5	15	2	3	13	4
3	1	4	1	1	4	1
10	1	0	0	1	0	0
17	14	14	2	12	15	2
18	4	7	2	2	10	1
19	8	10	2	5	13	2
21	1	1	1	1	1	1

YEAR	Population			Season		
*2017	36(35%)	56(54%)	12(11%)	26(26%)	60(60%)	14(14%)
*2016	26(39%)	35(53%)	5(8%)	18(28%)	40(61%)	7(11%)
*2015	27(36%)	39(51%)	10(13%)	20(28%)	44(60%)	9(12%)
*2014	39(49%)	33(42%)	7(9%)	33(43%)	37(49%)	6(8%)
*2013	43(65%)	23(35%)	0	37(57%)	23(35%)	5(8%)
*2012	106(66%)	46(29%)	8(5%)	80(52%)	65(42%)	8(5%)
2011	52 (71%)	20 (28%)	1 (1%)	41 (59%)	27 (39%)	1 (1%)
2010	56 (57%)	38 (39%)	4 (4%)	40 (51%)	49 (41%)	8 (8%)
2009	64 (57%)	43 (38%)	5 (4%)	50 (45%)	58 (52%)	6 (5%)
2008	28 (26%)	72 (67%)	7 (7%)	17 (16%)	78 (72%)	13 (12%)
2007	22 (18%)	83 (66%)	20 (16%)	13 (10%)	88 (70%)	24 (19%)
2006	24 (18%)	75 (57%)	32 (24%)	14 (11%)	77 (58%)	41 (31%)
2005	18 (19%)	54 (56%)	25 (26%)	14 (14%)	60 (61%)	25 (25%)
2004	52 (29%)	98 (55%)	29 (16%)	30 (17%)	117 (67%)	29 (16%)
2003	57 (30%)	110 (58%)	23 (12%)	34 (19%)	108 (61%)	35 (20%)
2002	43 (32%)	76 (56%)	17 (13%)	30 (22%)	84 (62%)	22 (16%)
2001	44 (35%)	65 (52%)	17 (13%)	34 (27%)	74 (59%)	18 (14%)
2000	38 (29%)	73 (57%)	18 (14%)	34 (26%)	66 (51%)	30 (23%)
1999	30 (29%)	56 (55%)	16 (16 %)	26 (25%)	56 (55%)	20 (20%)
1998	60 (47%)	63 (49%)	6 (5%)	51 (39%)	65 (50%)	15 (11%)
1997	64 (47%)	56 (41%)	16 (12%)	57 (42%)	61 (45%)	18 (13%)

*Note-Totals of Hunt Area may not equal total for 2017. This is due to some landowners not reporting what area they are in or answering only portions of the survey. Their opinions were factored into the total, but not by Hunt Area.

APPENDIX C

2017 Buffalo / Kaycee Landowner Survey

May 16, 2018

Prepared by Cheyenne Stewart

Buffalo Wildlife Biologist
Wyoming Game & Fish Department

The 19th Buffalo/Kaycee landowner postseason survey was conducted following the 2017 hunting season. About 155 landowners were queried on their perceptions of pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk populations as well as what hunting season adjustments they recommend for the 2018 hunting seasons. The survey was mailed along with a landowner coupon form and information on submitting landowner coupons for reimbursement. Landowners were asked the following questions for each species that occupies their ranches (pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk):

Overall for your area, is the (*species*) population:

- Below or less than desired levels
- At or about right at desired levels
- Above or higher than desired levels

For next year, would you like to see the (*species*) hunting seasons:

- More conservative with fewer licenses
- About the same as this year
- More liberal with more licenses

Beginning in 2005, landowners were also asked if they were willing to provide free access for doe/fawn Pronghorn and/or deer hunting. General comments were also requested.

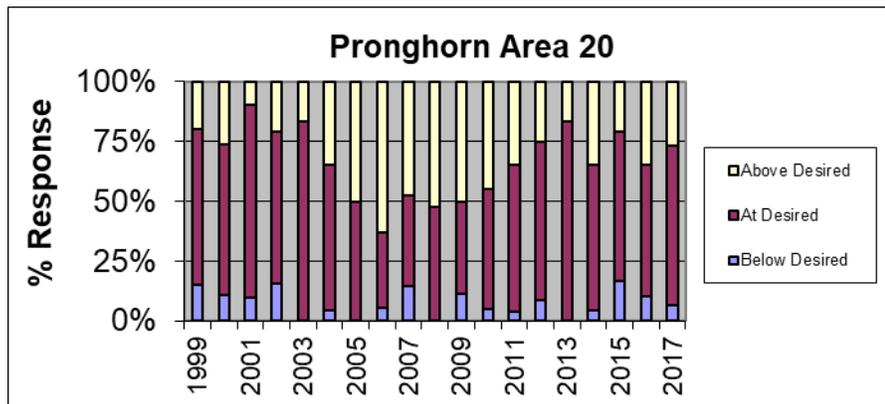
Sixty responses were received for a response rate of 39%. This compares to 42% in 2016, 45% in 2014 & 2015, 34% in 2013, 40% in 2012, and 47% in 2011. Results of the 2017 survey and 19-year trends are provided below. Not all landowners responded to each question or for each species. Some landowners are credited with a response in more than one hunt area because of landownership patterns. Therefore, total responses may exceed the number of actual survey returns. The total (*n*) references the number of landowners who responded for the respective species followed by the totals for all hunt areas. Samples are generally low at the hunt area level limiting the confidence in the results.

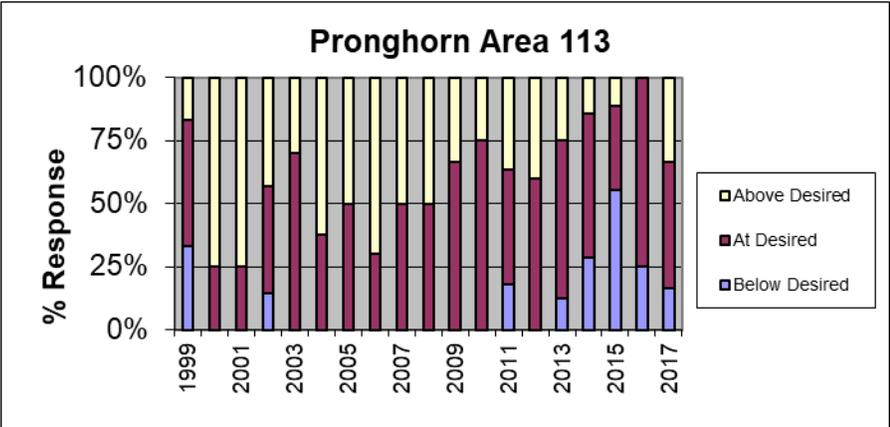
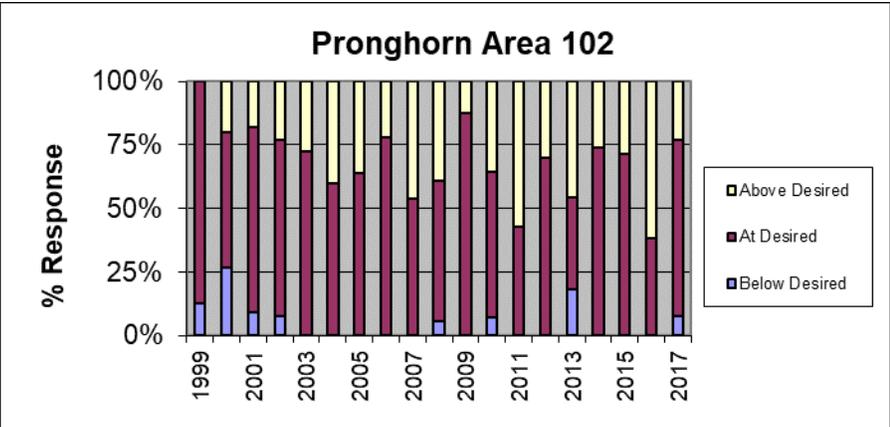
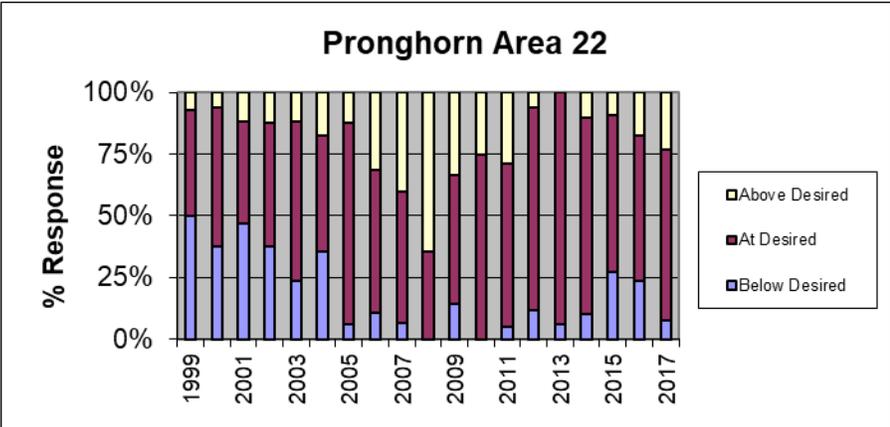
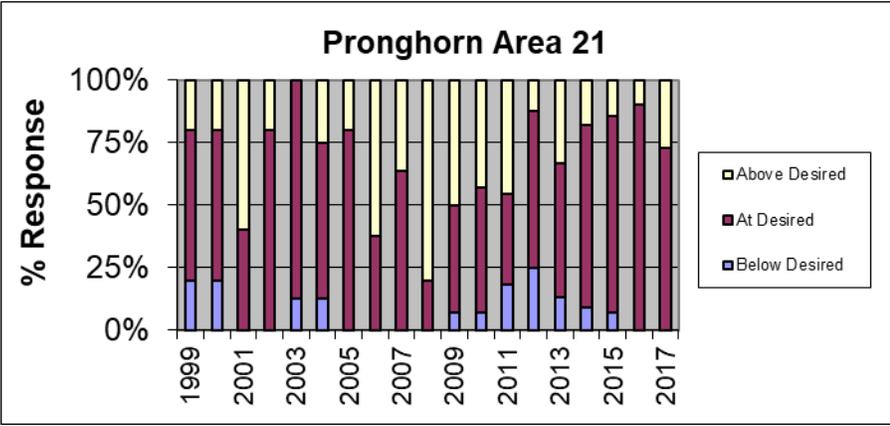
Some interpretation of survey responses was needed as some landowners responded for species they do not have, or have limited numbers of, on their property. For example, a landowner who has low potential for pronghorn on a ranch and responded they are below desired numbers was not included in the final results.

Combining all hunt area responses by species indicates that landowners believe pronghorn numbers are near desired levels, with some interest in more liberal seasons. Responses for mule deer suggest deer numbers have been relatively stable the last six years with continued interest in increasing populations with current or even more conservative season structures. Responses for white-tailed deer indicate that white-tailed deer populations may be at lower, and more palatable, levels following the 2013 EHD outbreak and liberalized seasons. Combined responses show the percentage of landowners responding that white-tailed deer numbers are too high dropped from 74% in 2010 to 43% in 2013 and has decreased further to 33-38% in the last two years. The combined hunt area responses for elk has a more limited sample size. Long-term trends indicate landowners are supportive of maintaining season structures and the 2017 survey shows some movement from respondents thinking the population is above desired levels, to being at desired levels. A number of factors can influence landowner responses including population size, annual precipitation, private property hunting management strategies, and depredation problems.

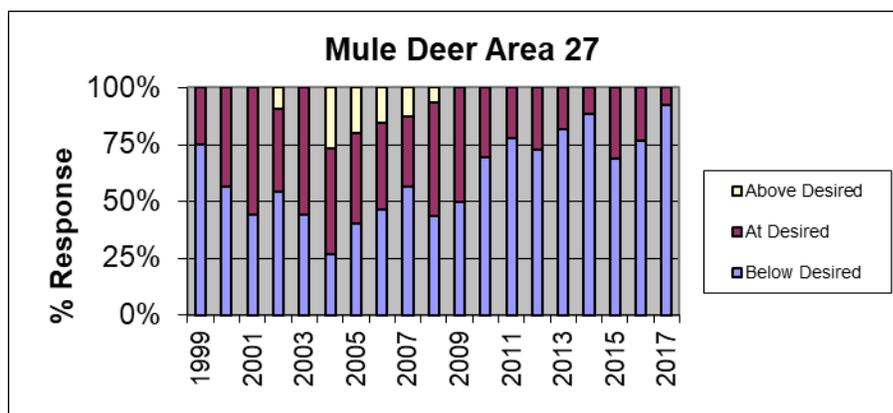
Only four landowner responded they would accept doe/fawn hunters free of charge for one or more species.

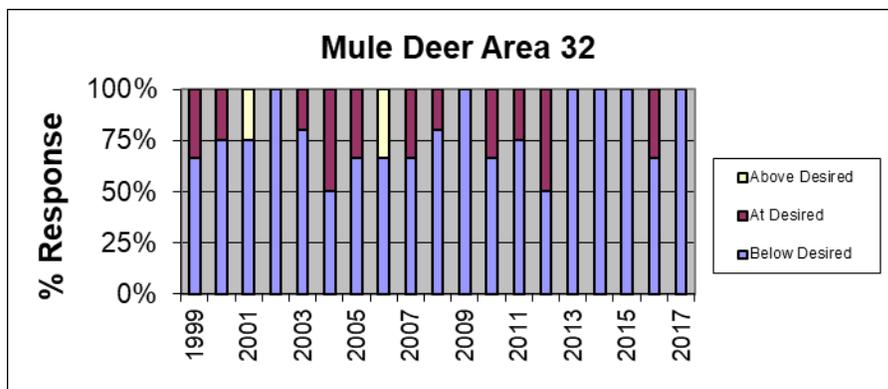
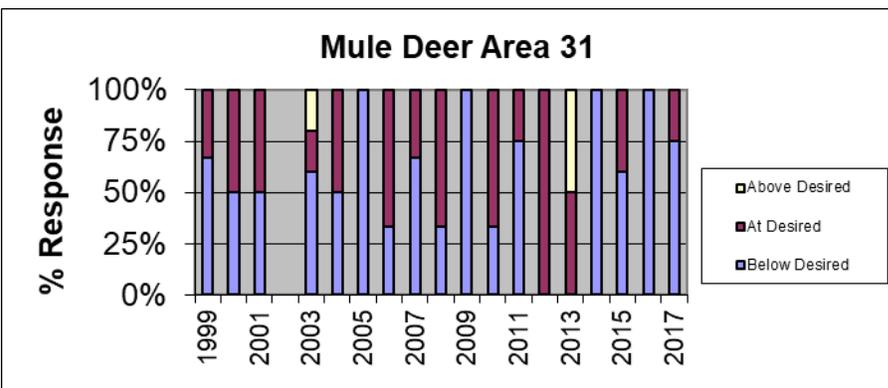
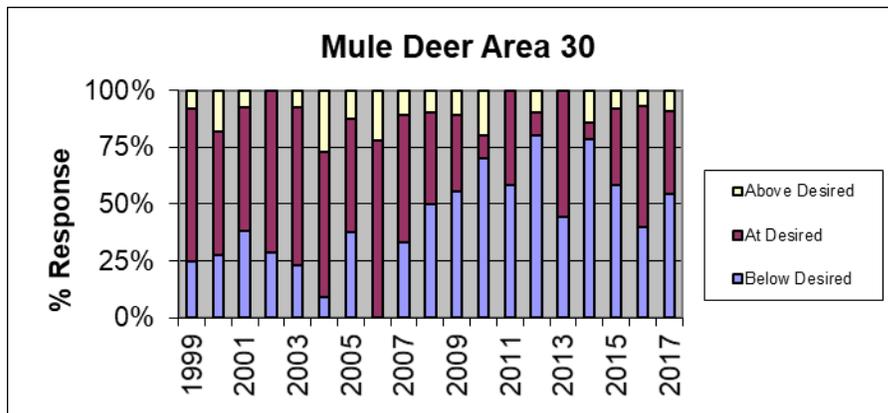
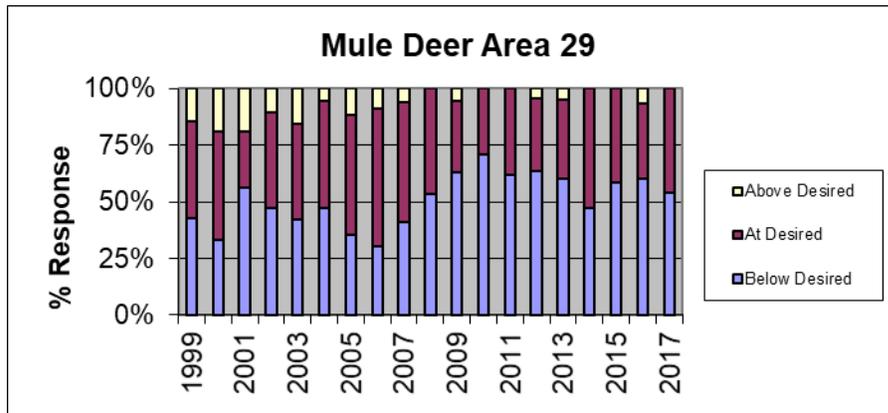
Pronghorn		Population			Seasons		
Hunt Area		Below Desired Levels	At Desired Levels	Above Desired Levels	More Conserv Seasons	Same Seasons	More Liberal Seasons
2017	20	1	10	4	3	4	8
	21	0	8	3	0	4	7
	22	1	9	3	3	2	8
	102	1	9	3	1	4	9
	113	1	3	2	1	2	3
2017 (n=58)		4 (7%)	39 (67%)	15 (26%)	8 (14%)	16 (28%)	35 (60%)
2016 (n=60)		7 (11%)	38 (59%)	19 (30%)	9 (14%)	42 (66%)	13 (20%)
2015 (n=71)		16 (19%)	53 (64%)	14 (17%)	17 (21%)	59 (71%)	7 (8%)
2014 (n=72)		6 (7%)	56 (70%)	18 (23%)	8 (10%)	58 (73%)	13 (17%)
2013 (n=61)		6 (9%)	47 (69%)	15 (22%)	6 (9%)	45 (69%)	14 (22%)
2012 (n=56)		6 (10%)	45 (71%)	12 (19%)	6 (10%)	45 (71%)	12 (19%)
2011 (n=65)		6 (8%)	42 (55%)	28 (37%)	5 (7%)	51 (67%)	20 (26%)
2010 (n=60)		3 (4%)	46 (61%)	27 (35%)	3 (4%)	55 (74%)	16 (22%)
2009 (n=66)		6 (8%)	35 (47%)	34 (45%)	4 (5%)	44 (59%)	27 (36%)
2008 (n=62)		1 (1%)	30 (44%)	38 (55%)	1 (2%)	39 (58%)	27 (40%)
2007 (n=61)		4 (6%)	33 (51%)	28 (43%)	4 (6%)	39 (60%)	22 (34%)
2006 (n=60)		3 (4%)	32 (47%)	34 (49%)	3 (4%)	39 (57%)	27 (39%)
2005 (n=52)		1 (2%)	38 (67%)	18 (32%)	0 (0%)	42 (75%)	14 (25%)
2004 (n=61)		8 (11%)	39 (55%)	24 (34%)	8 (11%)	39 (56%)	23 (33%)
2003 (n=65)		5 (7%)	53 (75%)	13 (18%)	7 (10%)	52 (74%)	11 (16%)
2002 (n=59)		11 (18%)	36 (60%)	13 (22%)	9 (15%)	40 (68%)	10 (17%)
2001 (n=52)		11 (19%)	35 (60%)	12 (21%)	9 (16%)	42 (75%)	5 (9%)
2000 (n=59)		13 (21%)	34 (54%)	16 (25%)	9 (14%)	39 (62%)	15 (24%)
1999 (n=46)		14 (27%)	32 (60%)	7 (13%)	13 (25%)	36 (69%)	3 (6%)

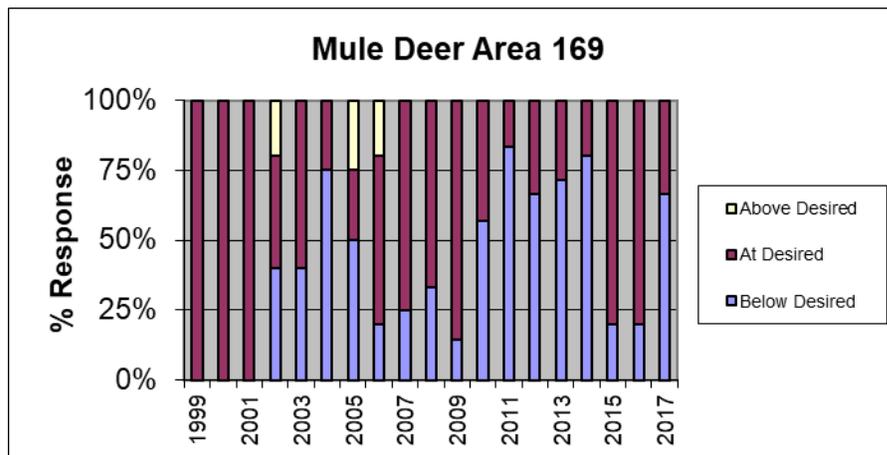
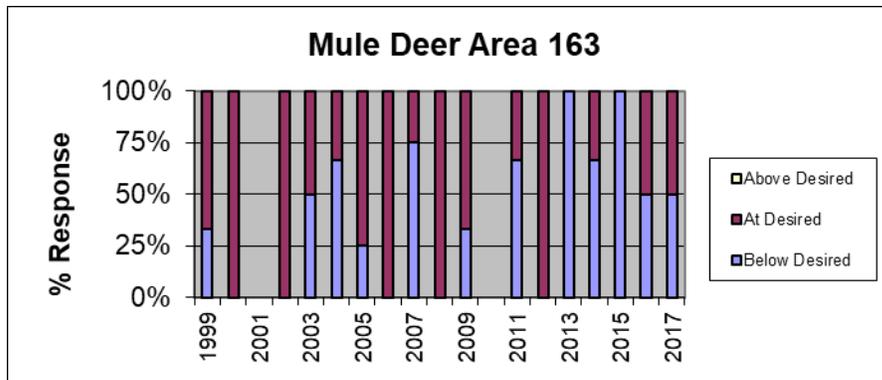
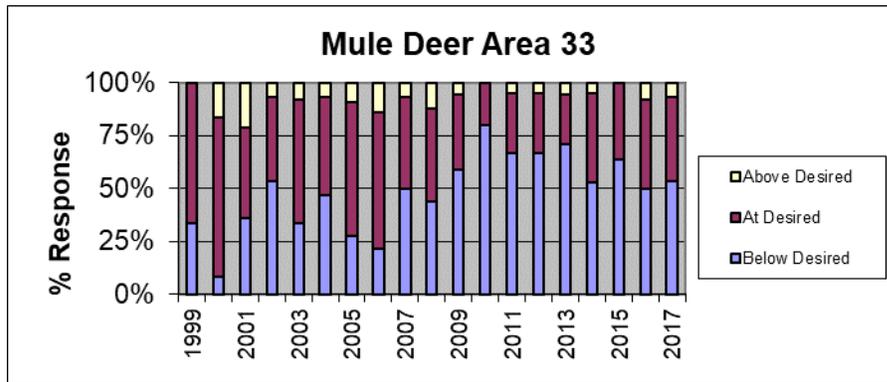




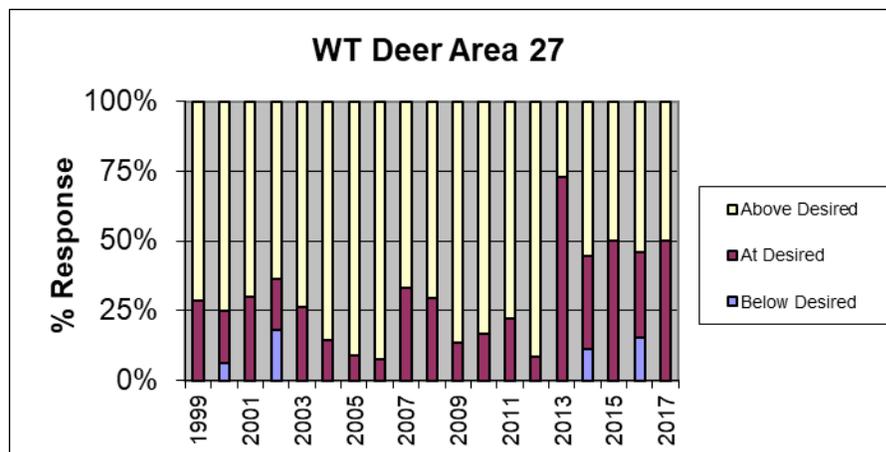
Mule Deer		Population			Seasons		
Hunt Area		Below Desired Levels	At Desired Levels	Above Desired Levels	More Conserv Seasons	Same Seasons	More Liberal Seasons
2017	27	12	1	0	9	3	0
	29	7	6	0	5	7	0
	30	6	4	1	5	5	1
	31	3	1	0	3	1	0
	32	1	0	0	1	0	0
	33	8	6	1	6	8	0
	163	3	3	0	2	3	0
	169	2	1	0	0	2	0
2017 (n=66)		42 (64%)	22 (33%)	2 (3%)	31 (47%)	29 (44%)	1 (2%)
2016 (n=61)		39 (56%)	28 (40%)	3 (4%)	28 (43%)	34 (52%)	3 (5%)
2015 (n=73)		55 (62%)	33 (37%)	1 (1%)	37 (43%)	48 (56%)	1 (1%)
2014 (n=69)		55 (68%)	23 (28%)	3 (4%)	41 (54%)	31 (41%)	4 (5%)
2013 (n=61)		50 (68%)	21 (28%)	3 (4%)	46 (64%)	23 (32%)	3 (4%)
2012 (n=55)		48 (65%)	23 (31%)	3 (4%)	30 (45%)	33 (49%)	4 (6%)
2011 (n=66)		54 (68%)	25 (31%)	1 (1%)	48 (64%)	25 (33%)	2 (3%)
2010 (n=61)		51 (70%)	20 (27%)	2 (3%)	30 (44%)	37 (54%)	1 (2%)
2009 (n=64)		41 (53%)	33 (43%)	3 (4%)	21 (30%)	42 (61%)	6 (9%)
2008 (n=62)		33 (48%)	32(46%)	4 (6%)	17 (25%)	47 (69%)	4 (6%)
2007 (n=62)		34 (49%)	30 (44%)	5 (7%)	26 (39%)	33 (50%)	7 (11%)
2006 (n=59)		20 (28%)	42 (58%)	10 (14%)	15 (22%)	45 (64%)	10 (14%)
2005 (n=50)		22 (38%)	29 (50%)	7 (12%)	16 (32%)	34 (68%)	5 (10%)
2004 (n=64)		30 (40%)	36 (48%)	9 (12%)	21 (31%)	36 (52%)	12 (17%)
2003 (n=66)		33 (42%)	40 (51%)	6 (7%)	23 (29%)	46 (59%)	9 (12%)
2002 (n=69)		34 (48%)	32 (45%)	5 (7%)	24 (34%)	45 (63%)	2 (3%)
2001 (n=52)		27 (44%)	26 (43%)	8 (13%)	17 (29%)	37 (63%)	5 (8%)
2000 (n=63)		24 (34%)	39 (55%)	8 (11%)	19 (27%)	40 (56%)	12 (17%)
1999 (n=47)		23 (43%)	28 (52%)	3 (5%)	18 (32%)	34 (61%)	4 (7%)

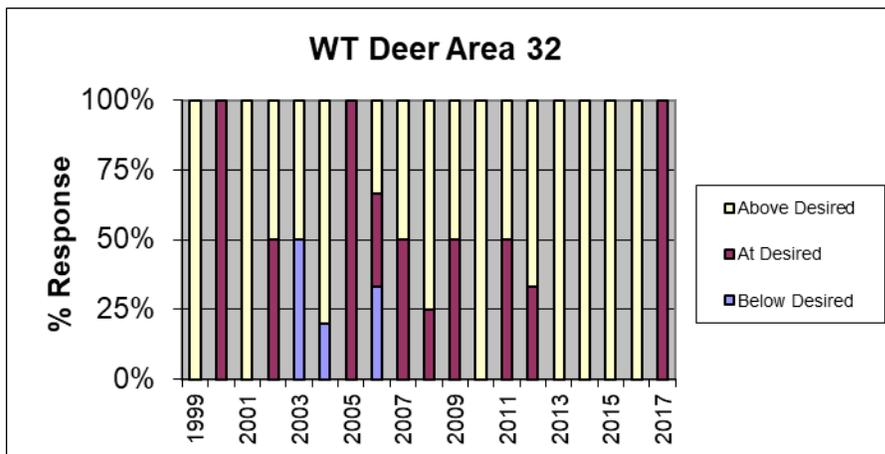
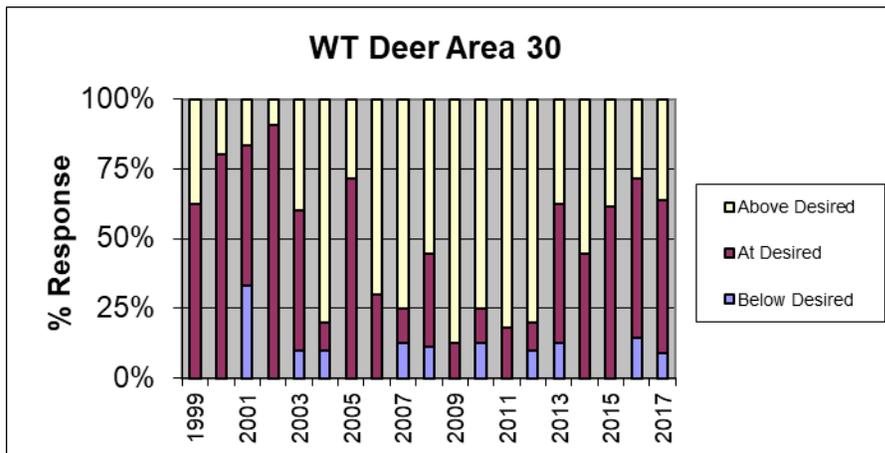
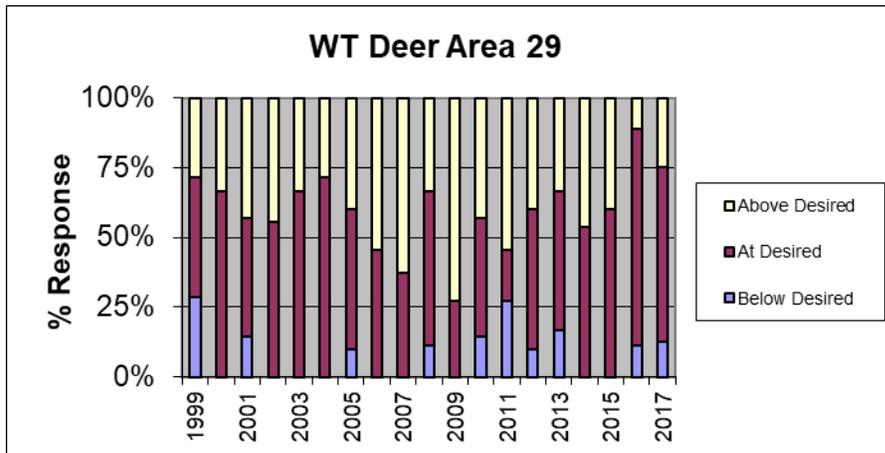


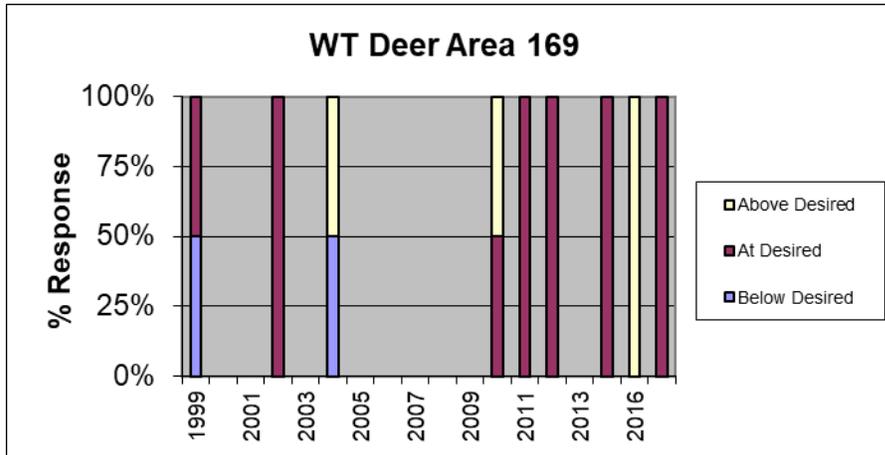
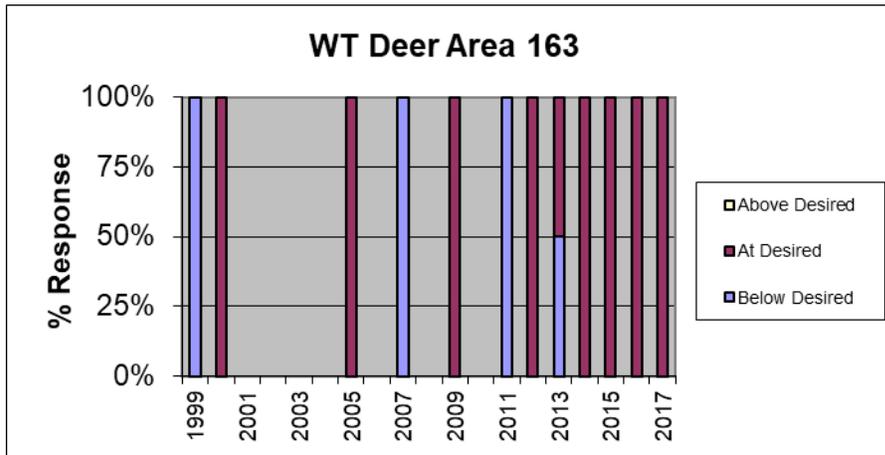
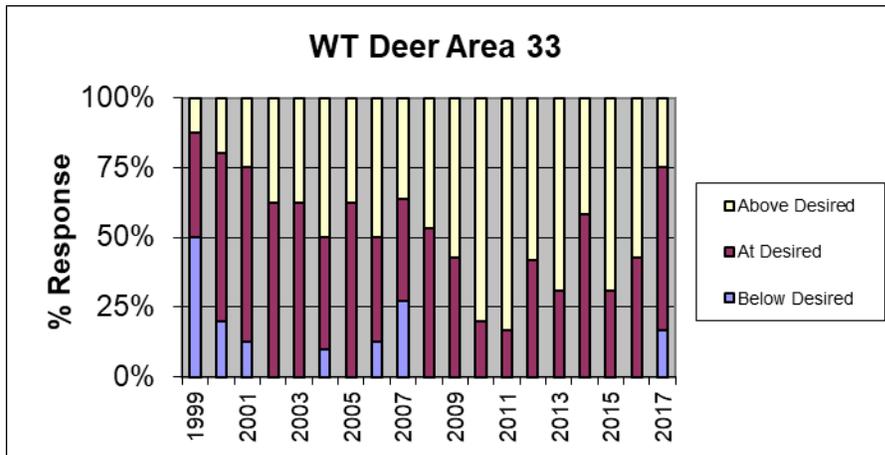




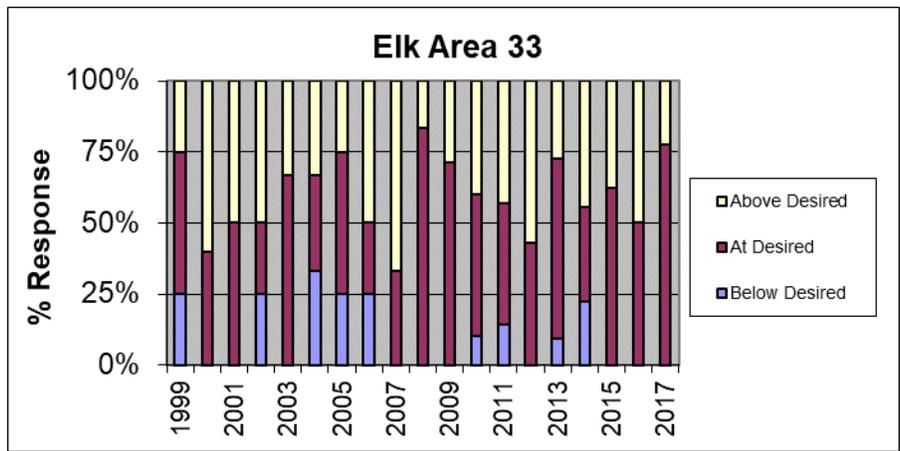
WT Deer		Population			Seasons		
Hunt Area		Below Desired Levels	At Desired Levels	Above Desired Levels	More Conserv Seasons	Same Seasons	More Liberal Seasons
2017	27	0	6	6	1	6	5
	29	0	5	2	2	4	1
	30	1	6	4	1	6	4
	31	2	0	1	1	0	1
	32	0	1	0	0	1	0
	33	2	7	3	2	8	2
	163	0	1	0	0	1	0
	169	0	1	0	0	1	0
2017 (n=48)		5 (10%)	27 (56%)	16 (33%)	7 (15%)	27 (56%)	13 (27%)
2016 (n=42)		5 (11%)	24 (51%)	18 (38%)	6 (13%)	27 (57%)	14 (30%)
2015 (n=54)		0 (0%)	29 (52%)	27 (48%)	0 (0%)	40 (74%)	14 (26%)
2014 (n=51)		2 (4%)	26 (47%)	27 (49%)	3 (6%)	31 (57%)	20(37%)
2013 (n=43)		4 (8%)	23 (49%)	20 (43%)	5 (11%)	32 (68%)	10 (21%)
2012 (n=45)		2 (4%)	15 (31%)	32 (65%)	2 (4%)	26 (53%)	21 (43%)
2011 (n=47)		4 (8%)	11 (23%)	33 (69%)	4 (9%)	18 (39%)	24 (52%)
2010 (n=43)		2 (4%)	10 (22%)	34 (74%)	1 (2%)	20 (47%)	22 (51%)
2009 (n=49)		0 (0%)	14 (27%)	37 (73%)	0 (0%)	16 (33%)	32 (67%)
2008 (n=49)		2 (4%)	22 (41%)	30 (55%)	1 (2%)	27 (50%)	26 (48%)
2007 (n=50)		5 (11%)	14 (31%)	26 (58%)	2 (5%)	18 (44%)	21 (51%)
2006 (n=48)		2 (4%)	13 (29%)	30 (67%)	2 (4%)	17 (39%)	25 (57%)
2005 (n=37)		1 (2%)	20 (50%)	19 (48%)	1 (2%)	20 (50%)	19 (48%)
2004 (n=46)		4 (8%)	12 (25%)	32 (67%)	4 (9%)	13 (28%)	30 (64%)
2003 (n=47)		2 (4%)	21 (44%)	25 (52%)	3 (6%)	19 (40%)	26 (54%)
2002 (n=43)		2 (4%)	25 (57%)	17 (39%)	4 (9%)	26 (59%)	14 (32%)
2001 (n=41)		6 (15%)	17 (41%)	18 (44%)	5 (13%)	17 (43%)	18 (45%)
2000 (n=45)		3 (6%)	25 (53%)	19 (41%)	2 (4%)	28 (60%)	17 (36%)
1999 (n=41)		10 (27%)	14 (38%)	13 (35%)	4 (11%)	22 (59%)	11 (30%)

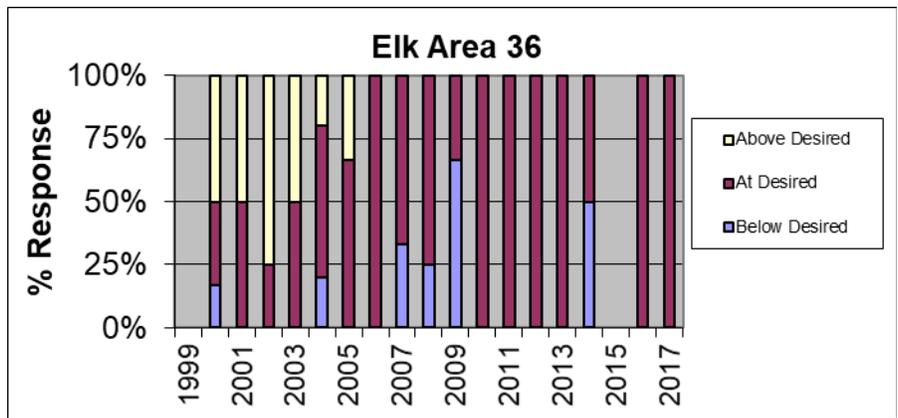
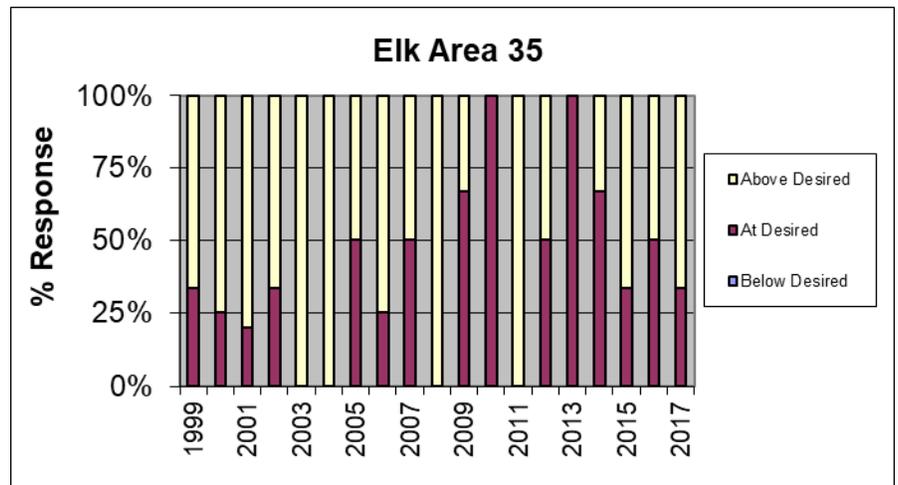
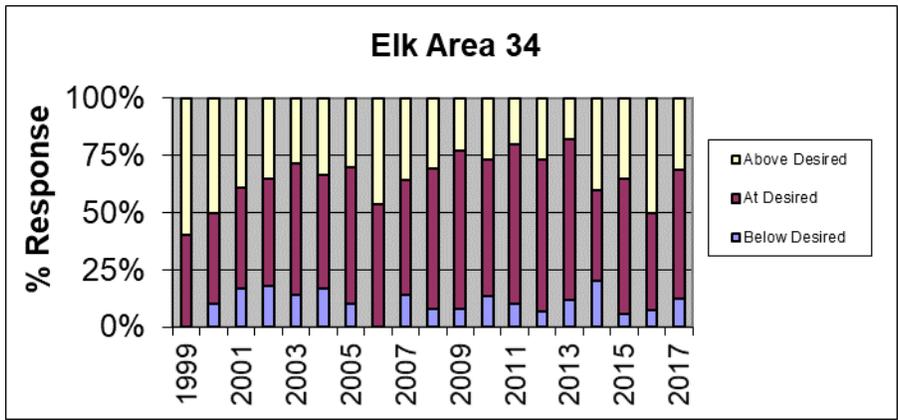






Elk		Population			Seasons		
Hunt Area		Below Desired Levels	At Desired Levels	Above Desired Levels	More Conserv Seasons	Same Seasons	More Liberal Seasons
2017	33	0	7	2	1	6	1
	34	2	9	5	1	12	3
	35	0	1	2	0	1	2
	36	0	3	0	0	3	0
2017 (n=31)		2 (6%)	20 (65%)	9 (29%)	2 (6%)	22 (71%)	6 (19%)
2016 (n=31)		1 (3%)	16 (52%)	14 (45%)	1 (3%)	21 (70%)	8 (27%)
2015 (n=31)		1 (4%)	16 (57%)	11 (39%)	1 (4%)	23 (85%)	3 (11%)
2014 (n=27)		6 (21%)	12 (41%)	11 (38%)	4 (14%)	17 (58%)	8 (28%)
2013 (n=34)		3 (10%)	22 (71%)	6 (19%)	3 (10%)	25 (80%)	3 (10%)
2012 (n=23)		1 (4%)	15 (60%)	9 (36%)	1 (4%)	18 (75%)	5 (21%)
2011 (n=31)		3 (10%)	18 (62%)	8 (28%)	2 (7%)	21 (72%)	6 (21%)
2010 (n=30)		3 (10%)	20 (64%)	8 (26%)	3 (10%)	22 (73%)	5 (17%)
2009 (n=30)		3 (12%)	17 (65%)	6 (23%)	1 (4%)	19 (73%)	6 (23%)
2008 (n=25)		2 (8%)	16 (64%)	7 (28%)	0 (0%)	19 (76%)	6 (24%)
2007 (n=22)		3 (14%)	11 (50%)	8 (36%)	5 (24%)	8 (38%)	8 (38%)
2006 (n=22)		1 (5%)	10 (45%)	11 (50%)	2 (9%)	13 (59%)	7 (32%)
2005 (n=19)		2 (10%)	11 (58%)	6 (32%)	1 (5%)	15 (79%)	3 (16%)
2004 (n=30)		6 (20%)	14 (47%)	10 (33%)	3 (10%)	20 (69%)	6 (21%)
2003 (n=25)		2 (8%)	13 (52%)	10 (40%)	0 (0%)	14 (58%)	10 (42%)
2002 (n=28)		4 (14%)	11 (39%)	13 (47%)	6 (21%)	16 (57%)	6 (21%)
2001 (n=25)		3 (11%)	11 (41%)	13 (48%)	3 (11%)	16 (59%)	8 (30%)
2000 (n=33)		3 (9%)	13 (37%)	19 (54%)	3 (8%)	22 (61%)	11 (31%)
1999 (n=17)		1 (6%)	7 (41%)	9 (53%)	3 (18%)	11 (65%)	3 (18%)





APPENDIX D

CAMPBELL COUNTY HUNTER ASSISTANCE SERVICE 2017 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Operations

2017 was the 34th year for the Campbell County Hunter Assistance Service (here after “Service”). The program was started in 1983 as an effort to better coordinate private land availability with prospective hunters. The Service has since evolved to include both private land hunting coordination as well as public land hunting information.

In 2017, the Hunter Assistance Service was operated from the Campbell County Visitor’s Center (here after “Visitor’s Center”), located at Highway 59 and Interstate 90. Prior to 2000, the Service was conducted at both the Visitor’s Center and the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce in downtown Gillette. With a consolidated operation at one location, the Service is better able to maximize limited resources as well as provide better service to the hunting community, as all the information is located at one readily accessible and centrally located site.

During the past 17 years, the Service has also provided information for the Department’s Walk-in Access areas. In 2000, a temporary position was funded by the Department to work at the Visitor’s Center from late September through early November. A Game and Fish Department Access Yes grant was used from 2003-2009 to fund the position. The focus of this position was to promote Walk-in Access areas within Campbell County, distribute Walk-in Access guides, to contact landowners in the Gillette District to find those ranches seeking additional hunters, and to keep an active list of those ranches available at the Visitor’s Center for hunters seeking hunting opportunities. In previous years, the temporary employee had spent considerable time contacting landowners to inquire about big game hunting opportunities on private land. Those with open dates to take additional hunters were kept on a calling list to be distributed to hunters seeking such opportunity. The hired employee also worked at the Visitor’s Center during peak visitation periods, answering hunter questions and recommending appropriate departmental publications.

For the 2017 hunting season, coverage was provided by the Gillette Wildlife Biologist and Game Wardens, the Sheridan Information and Education Specialist, and by employees of the Visitor’s Center. It is hoped that this position will be refilled in future seasons when funding is available, as it is a valuable addition to the Service and provides the hunting public with additional information.

The Service has greatly expanded during the past several years to become more than just an opportunity to provide hunter assistance during the peak fall season. The Visitor’s Center now fields hunter inquiries year-round. The permanent staff at the Visitor’s Center has become well-versed in hunting and fishing opportunities within the region and are able to provide this information to nonresident tourists and residents throughout the year. If unable to directly assist the public with hunting and fishing information, The Visitor’s Center forwards requests to either local Department personnel or the Regional Office in Sheridan. The Department has benefited greatly from this added service. The number of Department customers the Visitor’s Center has assisted points to the need for a permanent Game and Fish public office in Gillette, should funding become available.

Various Department publications were made available for free distribution during Service operations, including hunting regulations, fishing guides, and various specialty publications of the Department.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land status maps (1:100,000) have been available at the Visitor's Center for the past ten years for resale to the hunting public. Sportsmen were assisted with understanding these maps by using a map display of Northeast Wyoming, which included marked public access roads. The display maps were updated to show changes in land ownership due to sales of state lands and exchanges of USFS and BLM lands. Display maps were located outside the building. Specific information on public lands hunting, map reading, and hunter ethics was also posted to the outside wall. The availability of critical hunting information along the outside wall of the Visitor's Center provided full-time support to the hunting community, even when the Visitor's Center was closed. The "big map" has become a popular stop for non-resident hunters. Hunters can update their own field maps and ask questions of WGFD and Visitor's Center staff before going into the field, and have mentioned that they appreciate and enjoy the service. Hunters also mention that they are very pleased with the "one-stop shopping" opportunity they have to purchase maps, reference the large map, and pick up regulations, and have their questions addressed at the Visitor's Center.

Results and Discussion

Personnel focused on fielding questions from the multitude of hunters that stopped in at the Visitor's Center and educating sportspersons about available public land and Walk-In Area hunting opportunities.

Visitor's Center personnel were very good in documenting hunter participation with the Service. During peak visitation periods when there were typically 10 to 20 hunters at the Visitor's Center at one time, it could be challenging to document detailed visitation information. Hunter information posted outside of the building meant that many hunters were never directly contacted by the Visitor's Center staff inside. Self-service information was very good for the customers, but the approach does not lend itself well to documenting actual total visitation and assistance provided. Additionally, some hunters were seen using the outside map and services during times when the Visitor's Center was closed. Overall, the Visitor's Center personnel did a commendable job in sampling the visiting hunter population; however the total numbers reported are recognized as being less than the actual total number of hunters using the Service in past years, due to the staffing limitations.

The recorded visitation in 2017 totaled approximately 331 hunters (Table 1). This total is likely lower than the actual total of visiting hunters, as some individuals that visited during September were not tallied by Visitor's Center staff and for reasons mentioned in the previous paragraph. It is conservatively estimated that at least 800 hunters actually used the Service in some fashion during the 2017 season.

Table 1. Gillette Hunter Assistance Service summary from 1984 to 2017.

Year	Landowners	Total Hunters
1984	45	741
1985	36	554
1986	24	923
1987	24	1,131
1988	22	737
1989	28	501
1990	28	236
1991	43	442
1992	46	695
1993	31	727
1994	24	681
1995	33	701
1996	28	651
1997	19	626
1998	27	573
1999	19	620
2000	29	1,776
2001	22	1,316
2002	17	1,346
2003	29	1,237
2004	35	1,711
2005	18	845
2006	12	481
2007	17	1,034
2008	12	922
2009	10	600
2010	0	1,007
2011	0	903
2012	0	853
2013	0	593
2014	0	540
2015	0	476
2016	0	331
2017	0	288

Peak visitation tends to occur just prior to the start of the rifle season and remains high following the October 1st season opener for about 3 to 7 days. Many nonresident hunters feel that they must hunt the opening days of a season despite efforts to inform them that such a strategy is not necessary for a successful Wyoming hunt. The Gillette Wildlife Biologist and Gillette Wardens were present at the Visitor's Center for two days prior to opening day and fielded the majority of hunting questions. The Sheridan Information and Education Specialist was also present on one day to assist. If staff members were unable to answer a question for a visiting hunter, they would either contact the Wildlife Biologist via cell phone or would contact the Sheridan Regional Office for assistance. The employees of the Visitor's Center did a commendable job in answering hunting questions this

past year. Additionally, they reported that throughout the year they received 155 phone calls about hunting.

Sales of BLM Surface Management Maps were still popular, even with gps and phone apps assisting in orientation. Many non-residents read about the Service via the Campbell County Hunting Guide – a mini magazine distributed by The Gillette News-Record in collaboration with Wyoming Game and Fish. The magazine is mailed annually to non-residents who draw an antelope license in Campbell County. It offers several news articles regarding the area’s hunting program and encourages use of the Hunter Assistance Service.

Recommendations for the 2018 Hunter Assistance Service

Overall, the 2017 Hunter Assistance Service accomplished the goals set in 2016. Operations ran efficiently and effectively as many sportsmen were greatly benefited by the Service. However, without a temporary employee to assist with contacting landowners, hunters were at a disadvantage this year when trying to find last-minute private land hunting opportunities. The following recommendations are offered to further refine and improve operations:

1. Consider using the Access Yes technician to assist with the Service. Time should be spent by this employee prior to the season contacting landowners to generate the initial hunting lists and re-doing maps as needed. Following the opening of local hunting seasons, time should also be dedicated to data summaries and report preparation. Clearly this project has proven to be of great benefit to the Department since there is no Game and Fish public office in Campbell County. The Visitor’s Center may request some form of compensation from the Department in future years now that it is under new management, considering the time spent by permanent staff, use of the facilities, and the savings provided to Department personnel time.
2. Department staffing by local permanent personnel is still needed early in the season to help train temporary and Visitor’s Center personnel. The presence of personnel helps greatly with answering hunter questions, as the beginning of the hunting seasons is the most congested time for the Visitor’s Center. The addition of a Sheridan WGFD staff member the weekend prior to opening day and over the first week of October is a great benefit and provides faster service to hunters with questions that Visitor’s Center staff may not be capable of answering.
3. Continue the sale of BLM and USFS maps at the Visitor’s Center. The availability of maps is well-received by hunters, and they consistently comment that they appreciate it each year. Providing maps for sale at the Visitor’s Center should be a top priority, so that hunters do not need to leave and return again with their questions.
4. It is recommended that the Point-of-Sale (IPOS) license technology be included as a resource for hunters at the Visitor’s Center. Sale of leftover licenses was very popular when it was offered in 2005 at the Visitor’s Center, and hunters who used this opportunity in 2005 mentioned that they appreciated the service and would like to see it offered again. Other hunters who were visiting the Service for the first time in 2016 inquired about whether they could purchase leftover licenses at the Visitor’s Center, along with their maps and other WGFD hunting documents. Offering improved “one stop shopping” rather than having to redirect hunters to a local license agent would greatly improve the efficiency of Hunter Assistance Service as a whole and would likely be very popular with visiting hunters.

5. The Department should continue to assist the Gillette News-Record with publishing the hunter information newsletter in 2018. These efforts greatly contribute to the effectiveness of the program and give hunters a head start by answering many common questions within the publication.
6. Update the display maps with new BLM maps as the maps become available. The new maps will include land ownership changes that are currently marked by hand on display maps. A new display map should be made at least every other year, as older maps become weathered and faded, and land exchanges need to be updated.
7. Disseminate information about the Service to landowners as much as possible prior to the 2018 hunting season. It has been noted that many local ranchers were unaware of the service, and it is not possible for the temporary staff of the Visitor's Center to contact all of the 500+ landowners in the region. Using direct letters or newsletters distributed to ranchers by the USDA and NRCS will facilitate communication and information between ranchers and the Department. The result will hopefully be an increase in participation by landowners in the Hunter Assistance Service program. Currently the visitor's center does not provide a list of landowners looking for hunters, as it was becoming difficult to accurately maintain.
8. Expand the availability of similar services to the towns of Sundance and Buffalo. Work with PLPW staff to set up large maps and public displays at accessible points in both Sundance and Buffalo. Staffing may not be immediately possible at these locations, but many questions can be answered with public displays that hunters can visit on their own. Consider working with USFS - Thunder Basin National Grasslands personnel to revamp the kiosk at Weston. The kiosk has been removed, although this would still be an excellent spot for information.

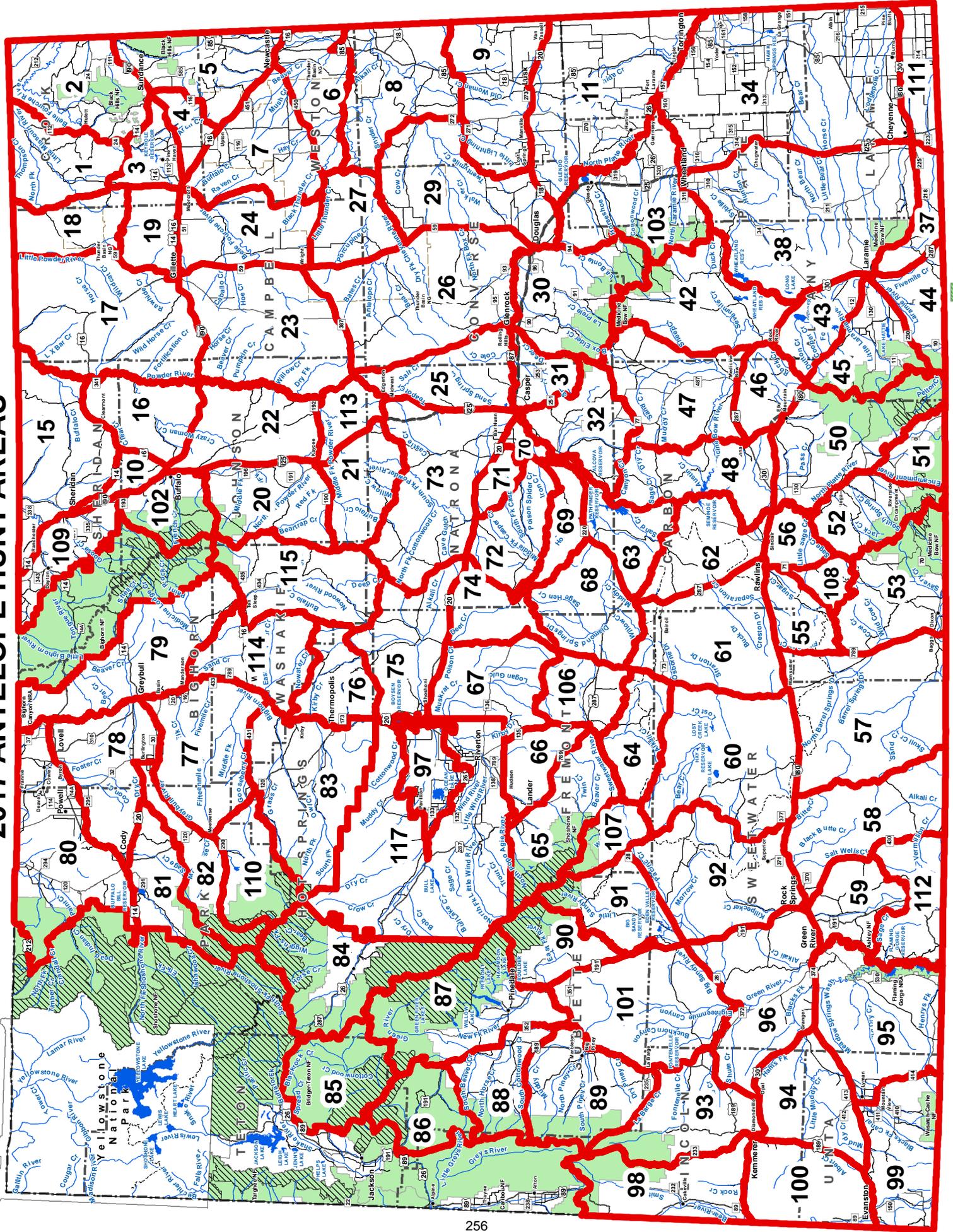
APPENDIX E

HERD UNIT AND HUNT AREA MAPS

Pronghorn Hunt Areas
Deer Hunt Areas and Nonresident Regions
Elk Hunt Areas
Moose Hunt Areas

2017
Job Completion Report
Sheridan Region
Wyoming Game & Fish Department

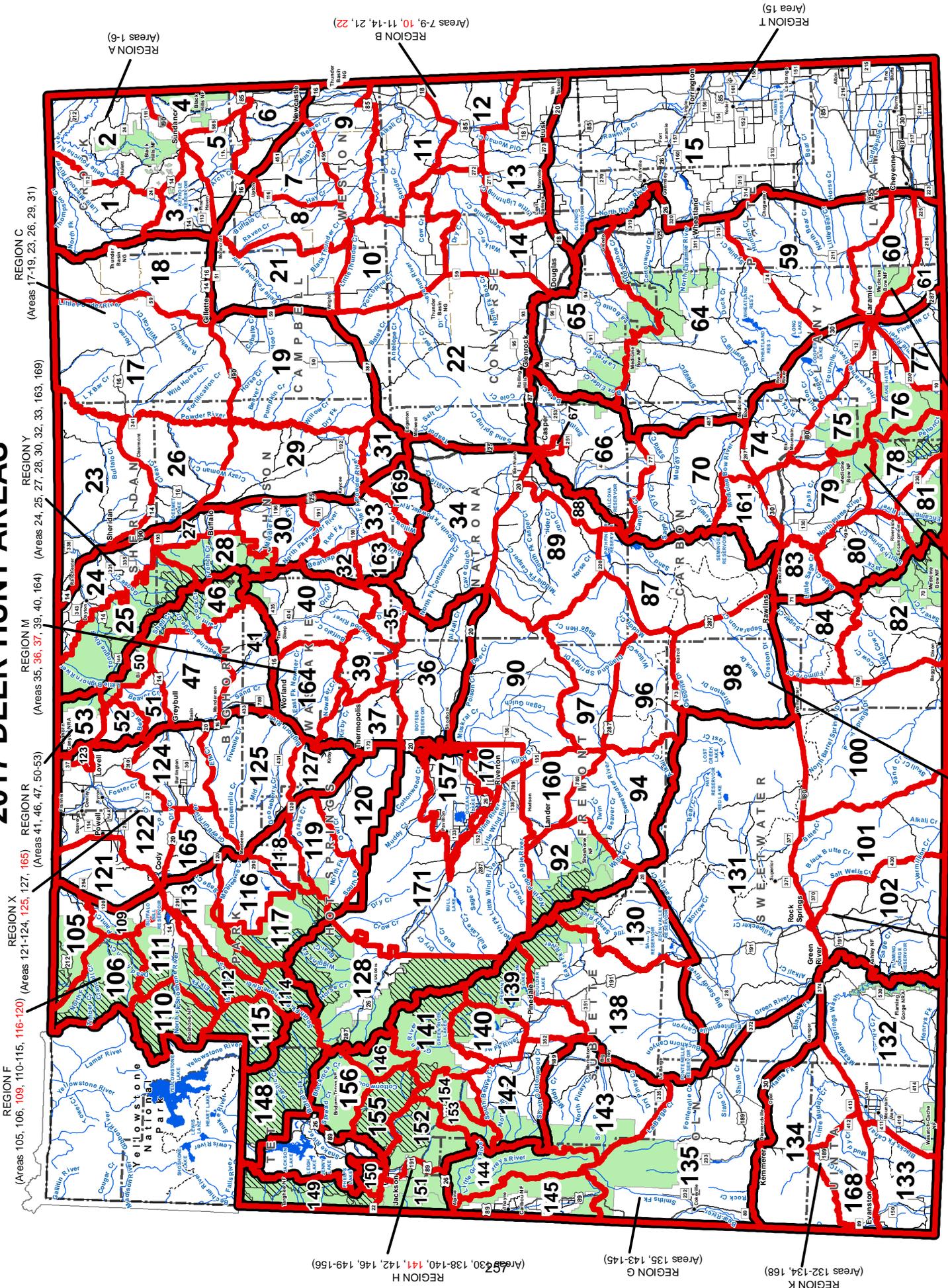
2017 ANTELOPE HUNT AREAS



Note:  Wilderness area, nonresidents must have guides

THIS MAP IS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE ONLY. Please use the written boundary descriptions in this regulation for detailed boundary information.

2017 DEER HUNT AREAS

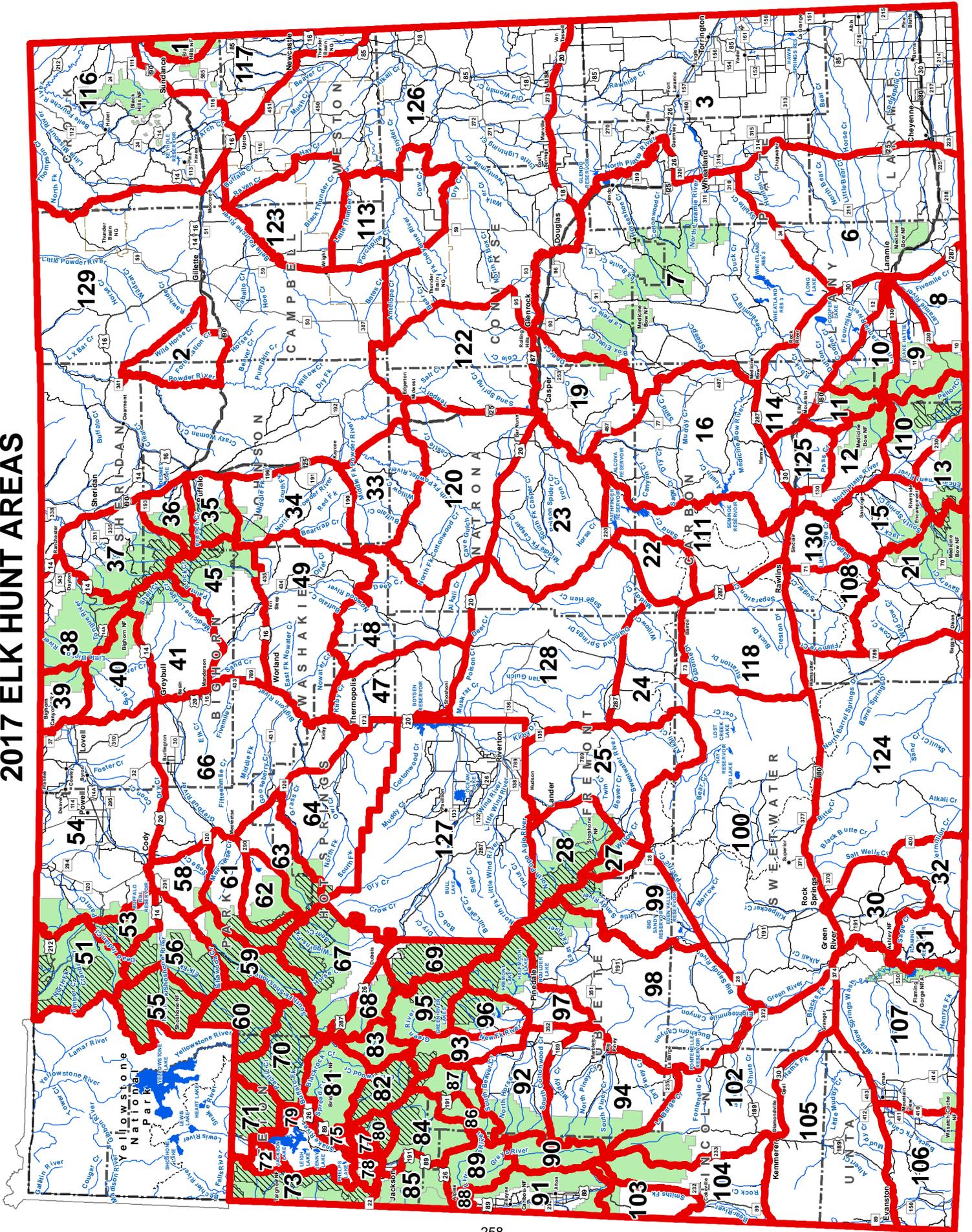


THIS MAP IS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE ONLY. Please use the written boundary descriptions in this regulation for detailed boundary information.

Note: Wilderness area, nonresidents must have guides
LIMITED QUOTA AREAS - Nonresident Region General and Resident General Licenses are not valid for limited quota areas.

REGION A (Areas 1-6)
REGION B (Areas 7-9, 10, 11-14, 21, 22)
REGION C (Areas 17-19, 23, 26, 29, 31)
REGION D (Areas 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 164)
REGION E (Areas 34, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 94, 96-98, 128, 148, 157, 160, 170, 171)
REGION F (Areas 105, 106, 109, 110-115, 116-120)
REGION G (Areas 135, 143-145)
REGION H (Areas 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 170)
REGION I (Areas 130, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 146, 149-156)
REGION J (Areas 59, 60, 61, 64, 65)
REGION K (Areas 132-134, 168)
REGION L (Areas 121-124, 125, 127, 165)
REGION M (Areas 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 164)
REGION N (Areas 41, 46, 47, 50-53)
REGION O (Areas 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169)

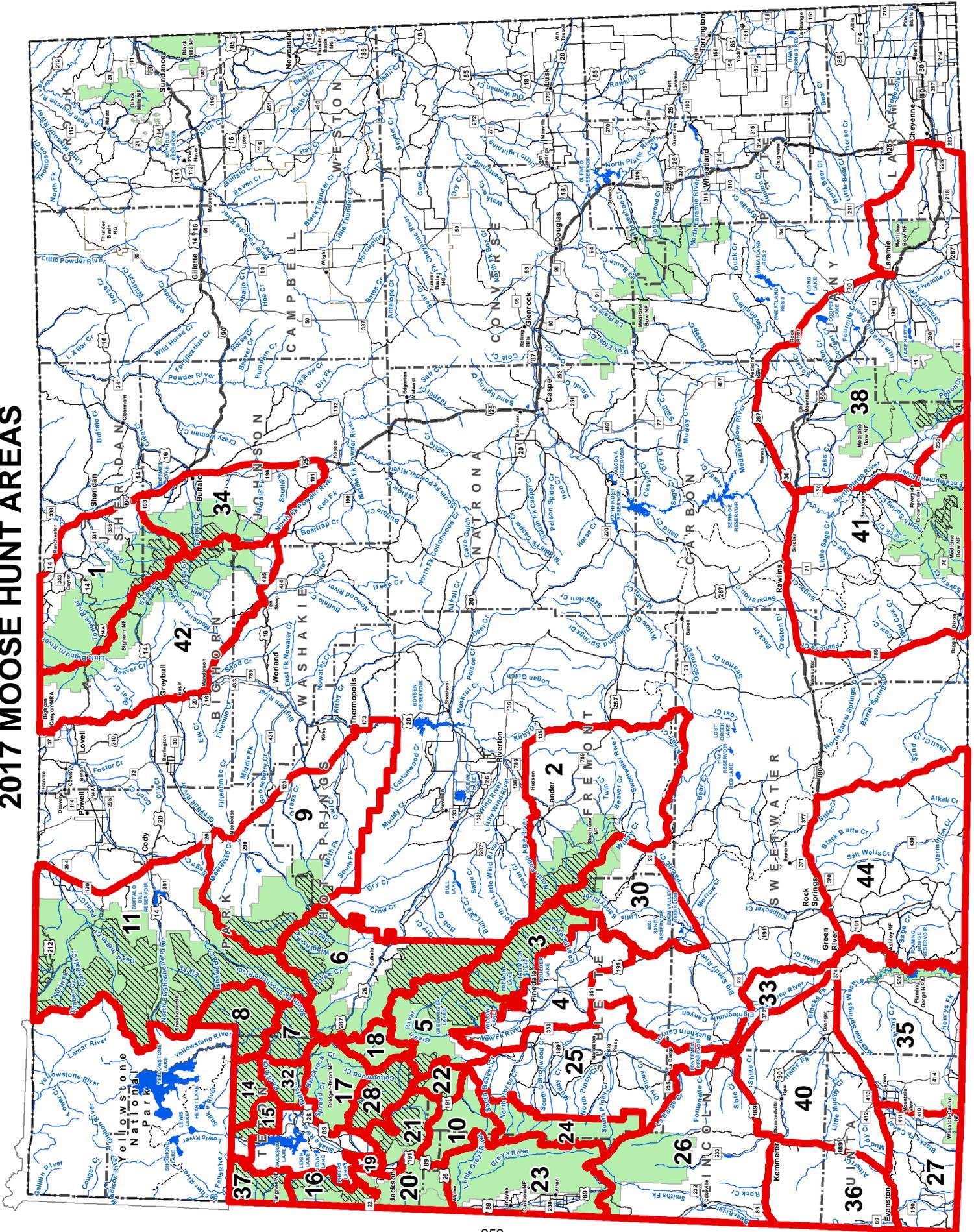
2017 ELK HUNT AREAS



Note: Wilderness area, nonresidents must have guides

THIS MAP IS FOR GENERAL REFERENCE ONLY. Please use the written boundary descriptions in this regulation for detailed boundary information.

2017 MOOSE HUNT AREAS



Note: Wilderness area, nonresidents must have guides.

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