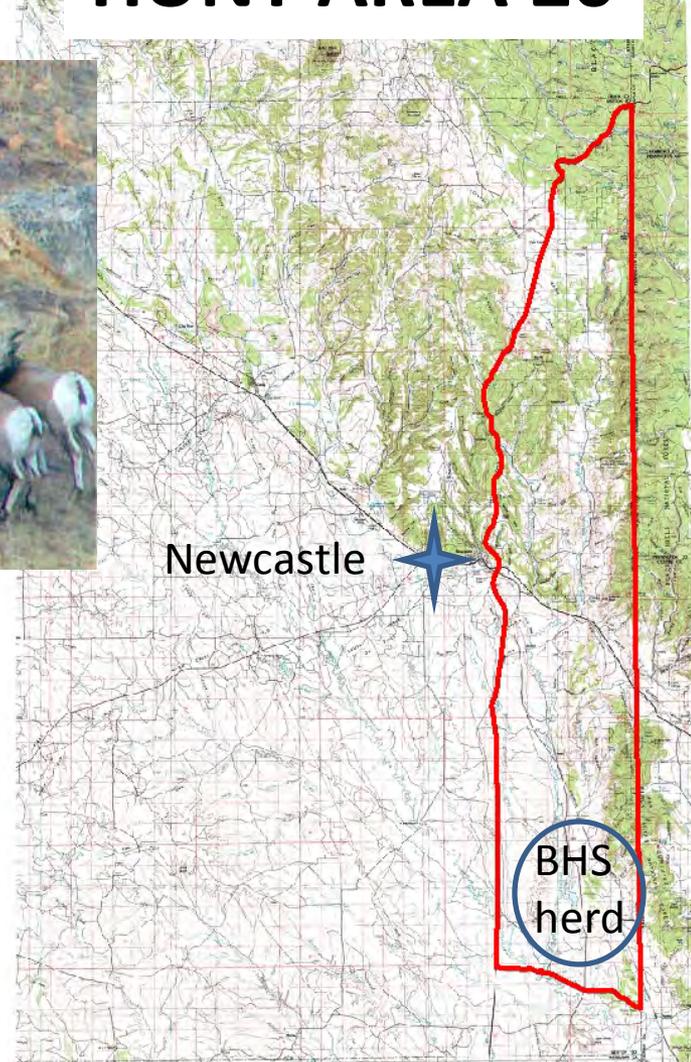


A vibrant rainbow arches across a cloudy sky, positioned centrally behind the text. Below the sky, a dense line of trees, likely a forest, stretches across the bottom of the frame. The overall scene is a natural landscape with a prominent rainbow.

# **Sundance & Hulett Area 2016 Hunting Season Proposals**

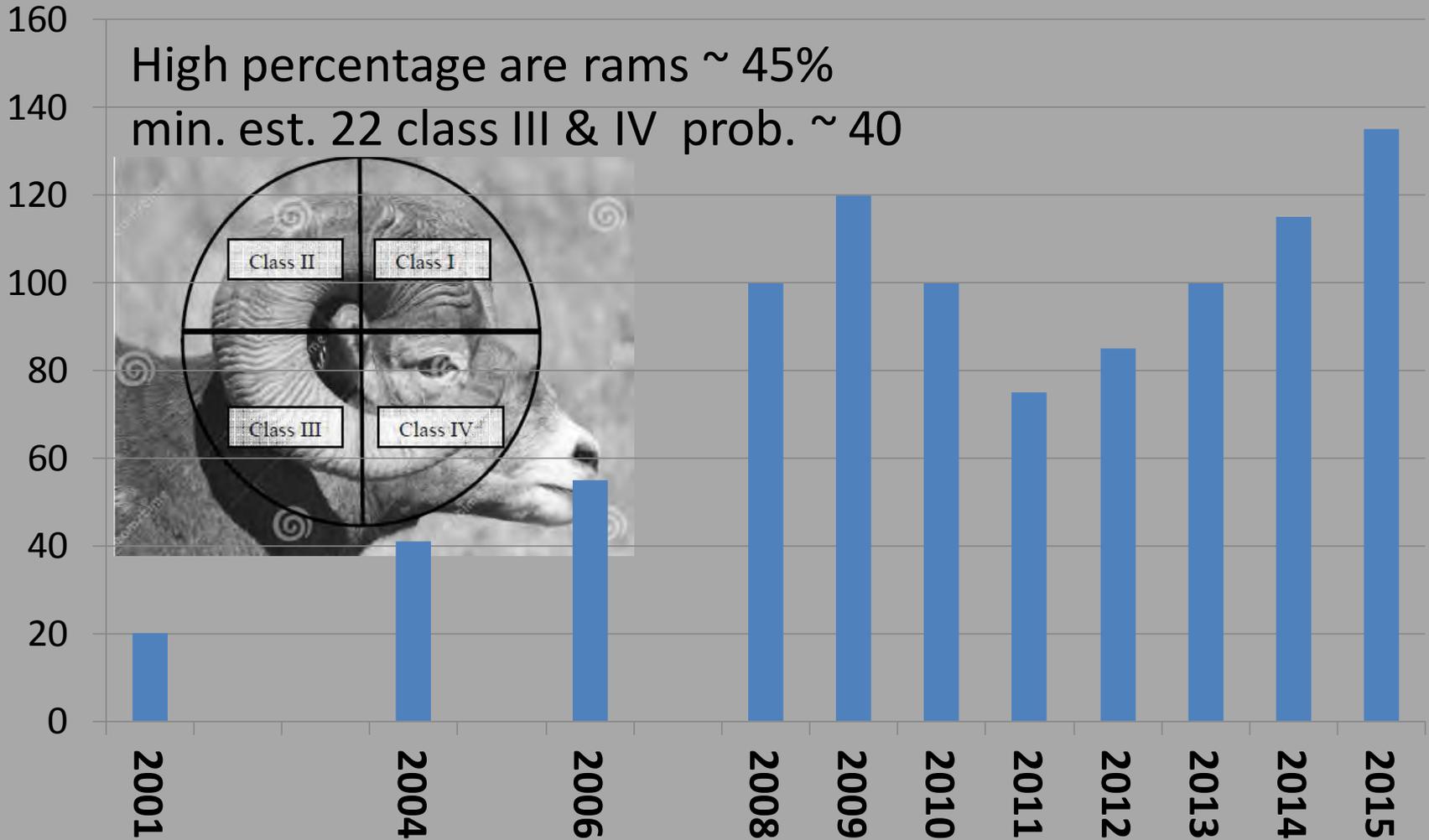
# Bighorn Sheep

## HUNT AREA 20



**“Kouba Canyon”**

# Herd Recovering



# Continue to Hunt both WY & SD



**Wyoming 2015 ram (170+ B&C)**

## **Wyoming:**

**2 Resident Licenses**

**Any Ram**

- **Sept. 1 – Dec. 31**
  - **Archery (opens Aug. 15)**

## *South Dakota:*

*2 Licenses Any Ram*

# Elk

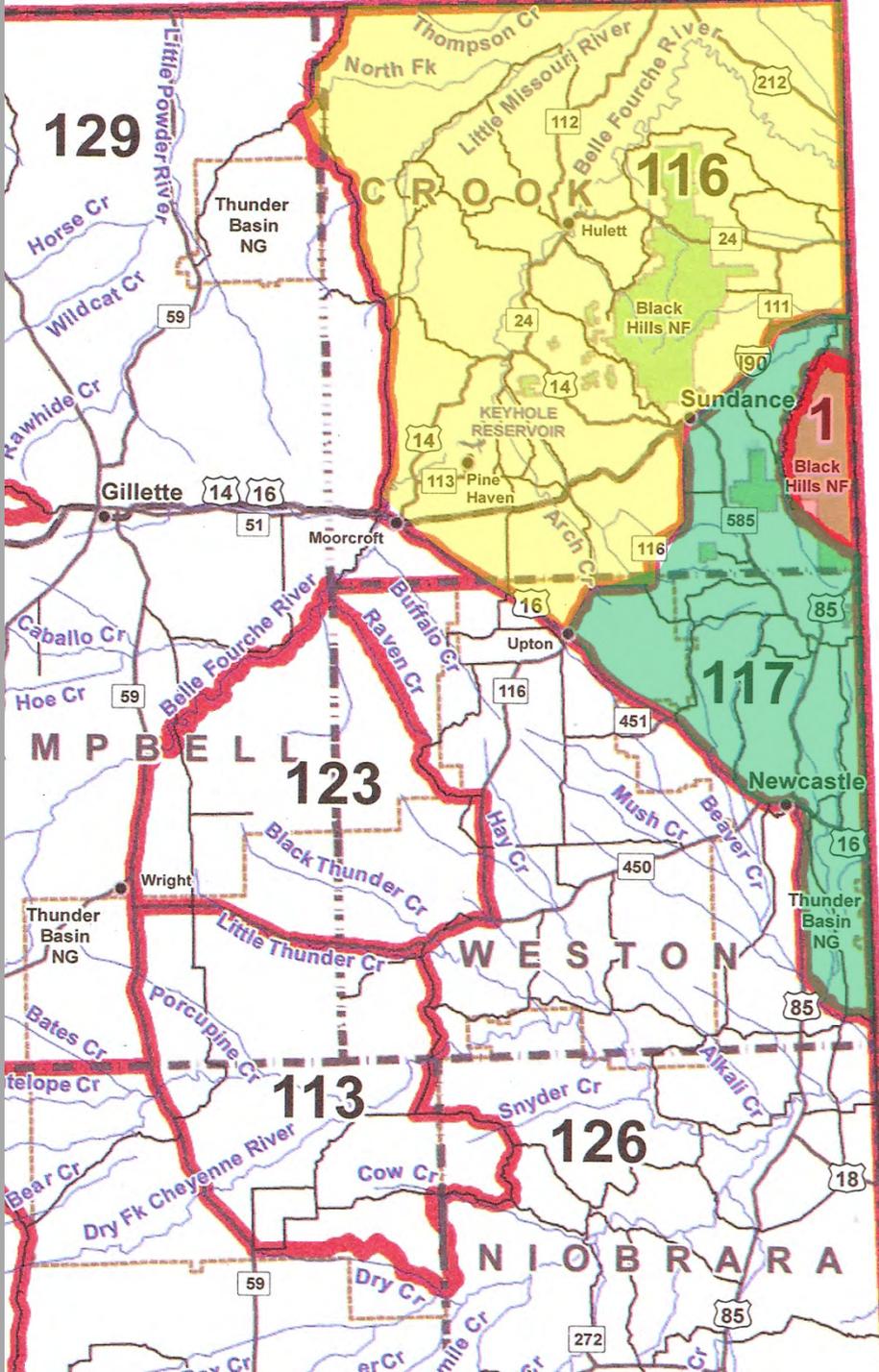


# Black Hills Elk

Hunt Area 1

Hunt Area 116

Hunt Area 117



# Black Hills Elk Herd

## *Management Objectives*

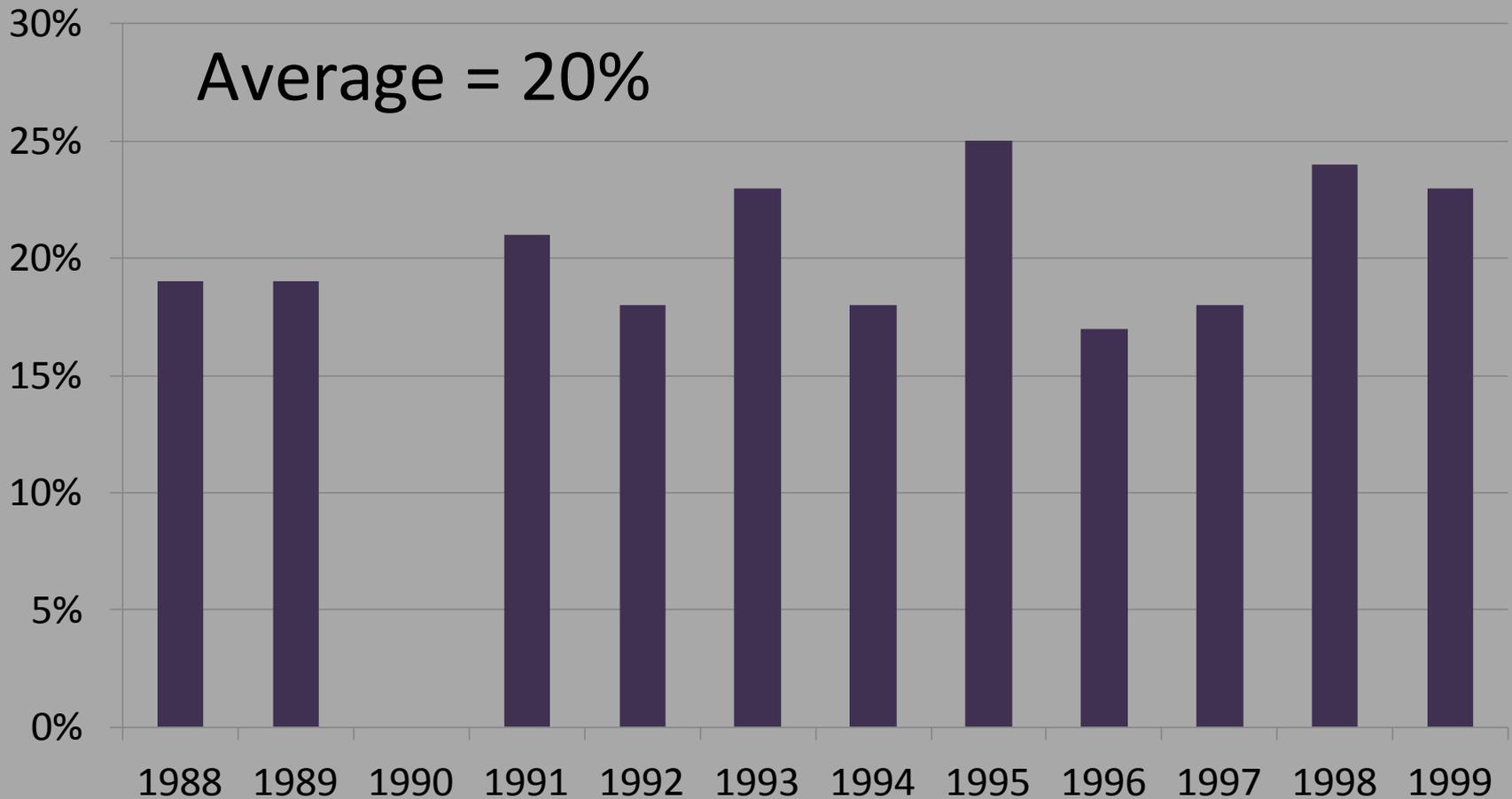
**Satisfaction:**      *60% Landowner*      *57%* (2015)  
                             *60% Hunter*                      *49%* (2015)

*Population Guess: ~ 2,500*

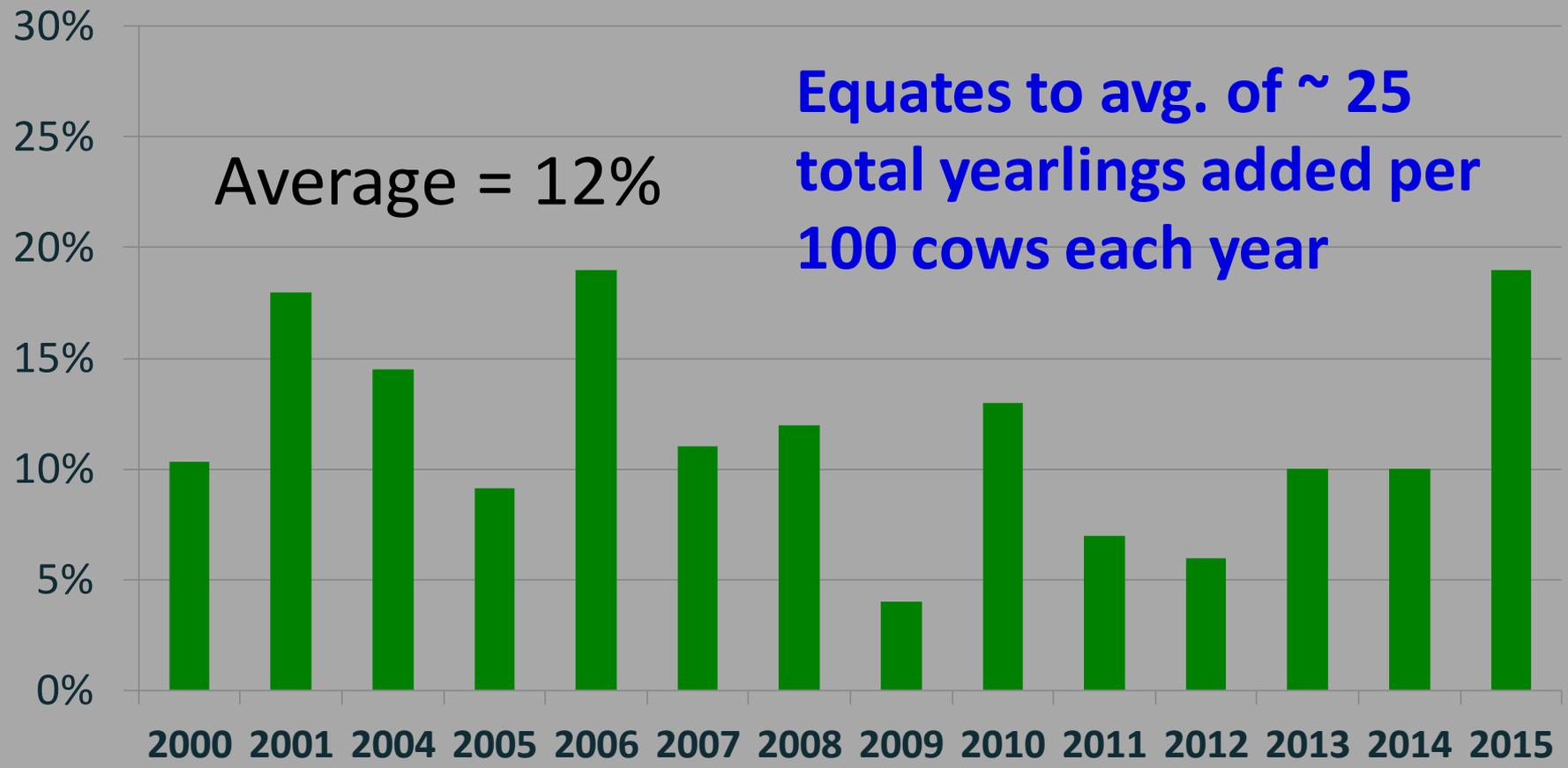
**Classifications:**    Not able to conduct

**Trend:** Inadequate harvest where poor hunter access. Long-term tooth age data indicates this herd's growth has slowed; and harvest levels would control herd of about 3,500 head (47calfs : 100cows : 40bulls). Other data suggests would control herd of ~ 2,500.

# Recruitment of yearling cow elk into the population has dropped since 2000



Now average about 12 yearling cow elk added per 100 cows each year.



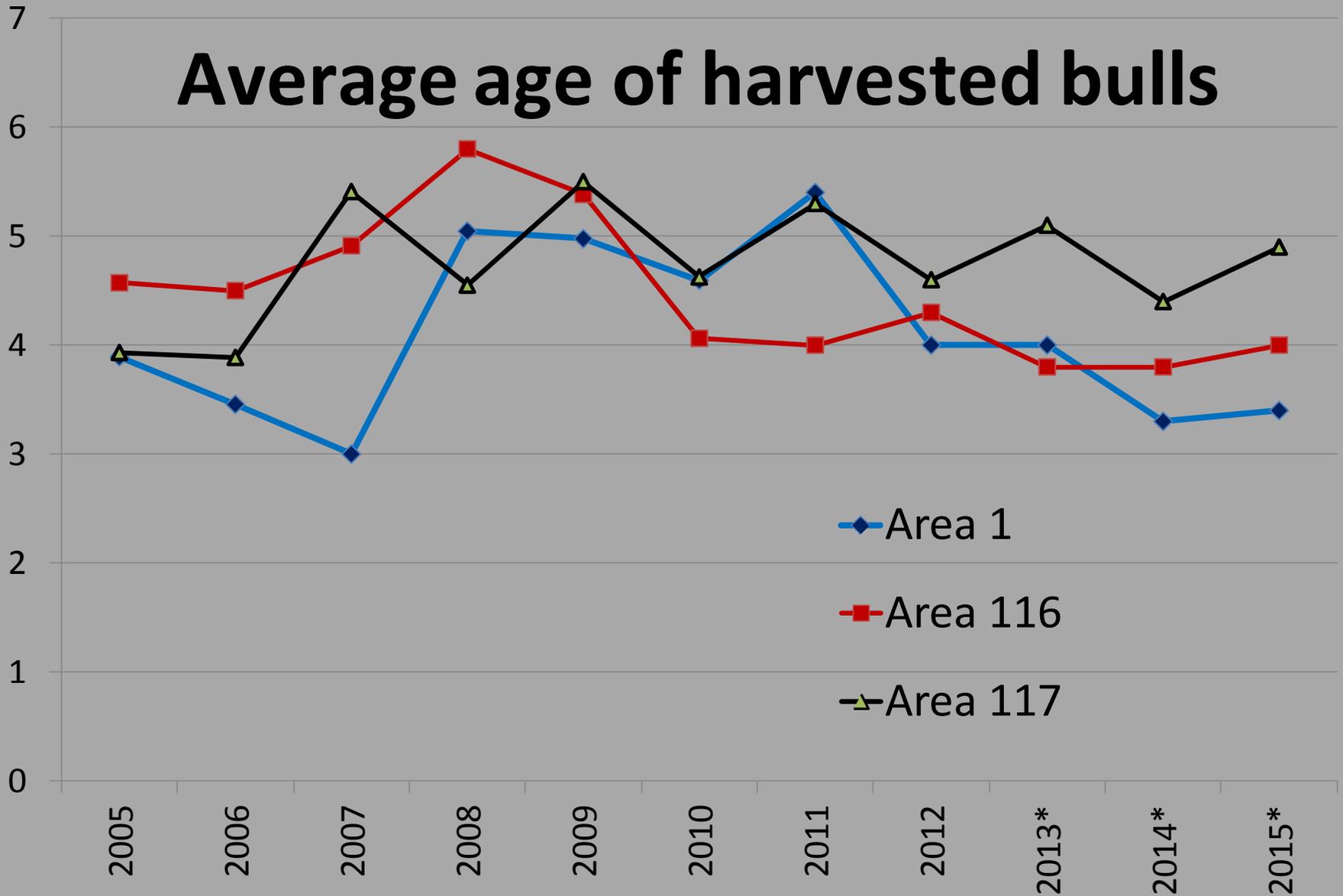
Percentage of yearling cow elk in the harvest – Tooth Age Data

# Secondary Mgmt Objective

## *AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HARVESTED BULLS*

Segment of Bull Harvest	<i>Objective</i>	2013	2014	2015
<b>Bulls 0-2 yrs. old</b>	<b>20%</b>	33%	25%	24%
		<b>3 yr. mean</b>		<b>28%</b>
<b>Bulls 3-5 yrs. old</b>	<b>60%</b>	39%	61%	63%
		<b>3 yr. mean</b>		<b>54%</b>
<b>Bulls 6+ yrs. old</b>	<b>20%</b>	27%	14%	13%
		<b>3 yr. mean</b>		<b>18%</b>

# Average age of harvested bulls



\* Low sample sizes HA 1 & HA 116

# Elk Hunt Area 1

**Type 1**      **10/15 - 11/30**      **Limited quota; 100 licenses any elk**

**Type 4**      **10/15 – 11/30**      **Limited quota; 75 licenses antlerless elk**

**Change from 2015:**      **None**

## **Hunter success better:**

**Type 1 = 44%** (slight drop)

**Type 4 = 38%** (improving)

**Satisfaction = 69%** (Improvement; Neutral 17%)

# Elk Hunt Area 116

<b>Gen. Lic.</b>	<b>10/15 – 11/10</b>	<b>Any elk.</b>
	<b>11/11 – 11/30</b>	<b>Antlerless elk</b>
<b>Type 6</b>	<b>10/15 – 01/31</b>	<b>Limited quota; 250 licenses Cow or Calf.</b>
<b>Type 8</b>	<b>08/15 – 10/14</b>	<b>Limited quota; 50 licenses Cow or Calf. Valid in that portion of Area 116 off National Forest.</b>

**Change from 2015:                      None**

Hunter success still mostly poor:

**Gen = 14%                      Type 6 = 19%                      Type 8 = 40%**

**Satisfaction = 42%      but, 28% neutral**

# Elk Hunt Area 117

<b>Type 1</b>	<b>10/15 - 11/30</b>	<b>Limited quota; 275 licenses any elk</b>
	<b>12/1 - 01/31</b>	<b>Unused area 117 type 1 licenses valid for antlerless elk</b>
<b>Type 4</b>	<b>10/15 - 01/31</b>	<b>Limited quota; 250 licenses antlerless elk</b>
<b>Type 6</b>	<b>10/15 - 01/31</b>	<b>Limited Quota; 250 licenses, cow or calf</b>
<b>Type 8</b>	<b>8/15 - 10/14</b>	<b>Limited Quota; 50 licenses cow or calf, valid off National Forest</b>

**Change from 2014:**

**None**

# Hunter Success and Satisfaction Elk Area 117

Hunter success good:

**Type 1 = 57%** (dropped some)

**Type 4 = 38%** (~same)

**Type 6 = 38%** (improved)

**Type 8 = 63%** (improved)

**Satisfaction = 52%** but, 28% neutral  
(dropped)



# Archery Elk

**Sept. 1 – Sept. 30**

**See regulations**

# Hunt Areas 126 & 129

## AREA 126 – General License

9/1 – 9/30 Any Elk in Weston Co.

10/1 – 10/31 Any Elk

11/1 – 11/30 Antlerless Elk

## AREA 129 - General License

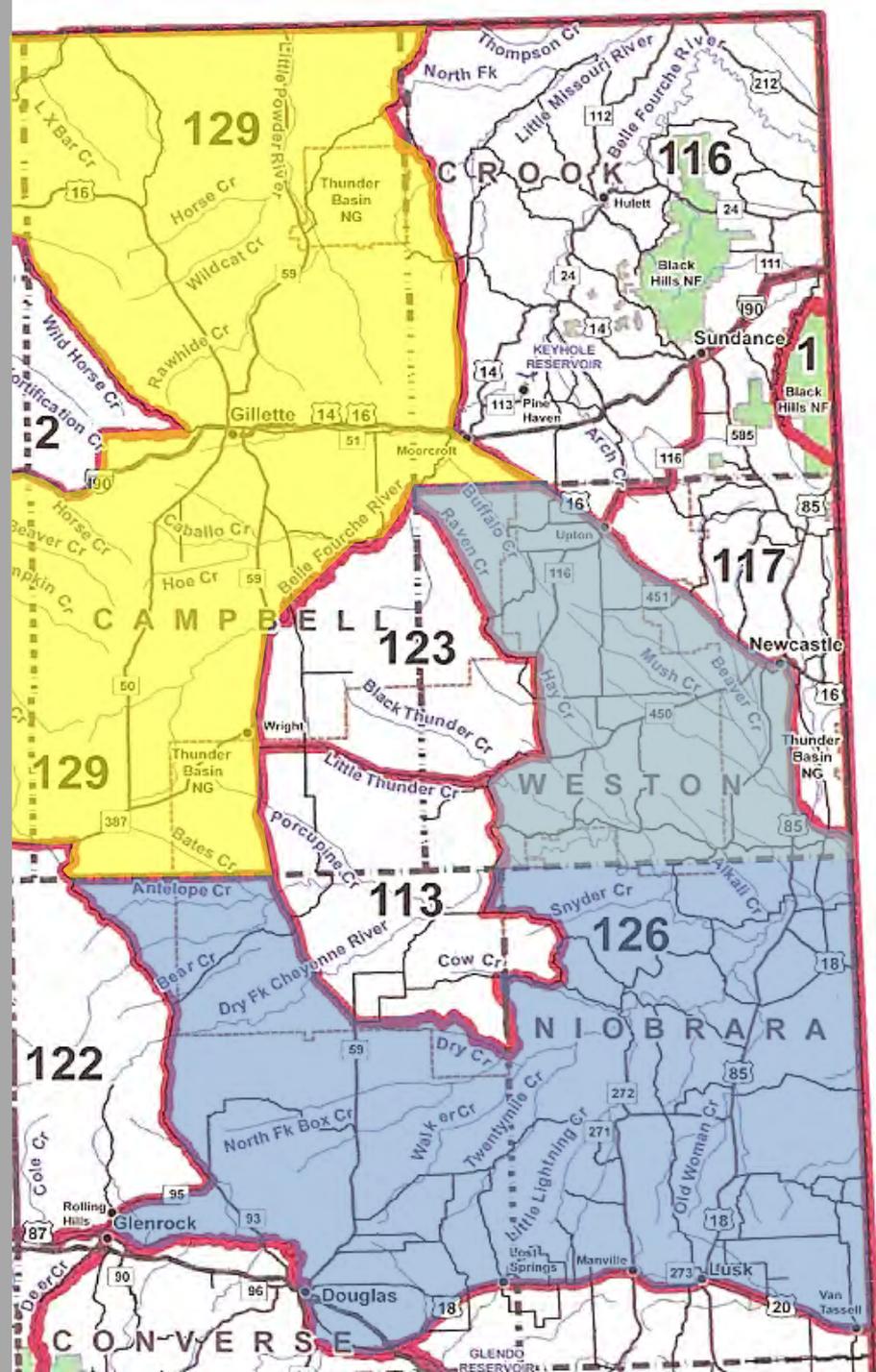
9/1 – 10/31 Any Elk

11/1 – 11/30 Antlerless Elk

## Type 6

10/1 – 11/30 Limited quota  
200 licenses  
cow or calf

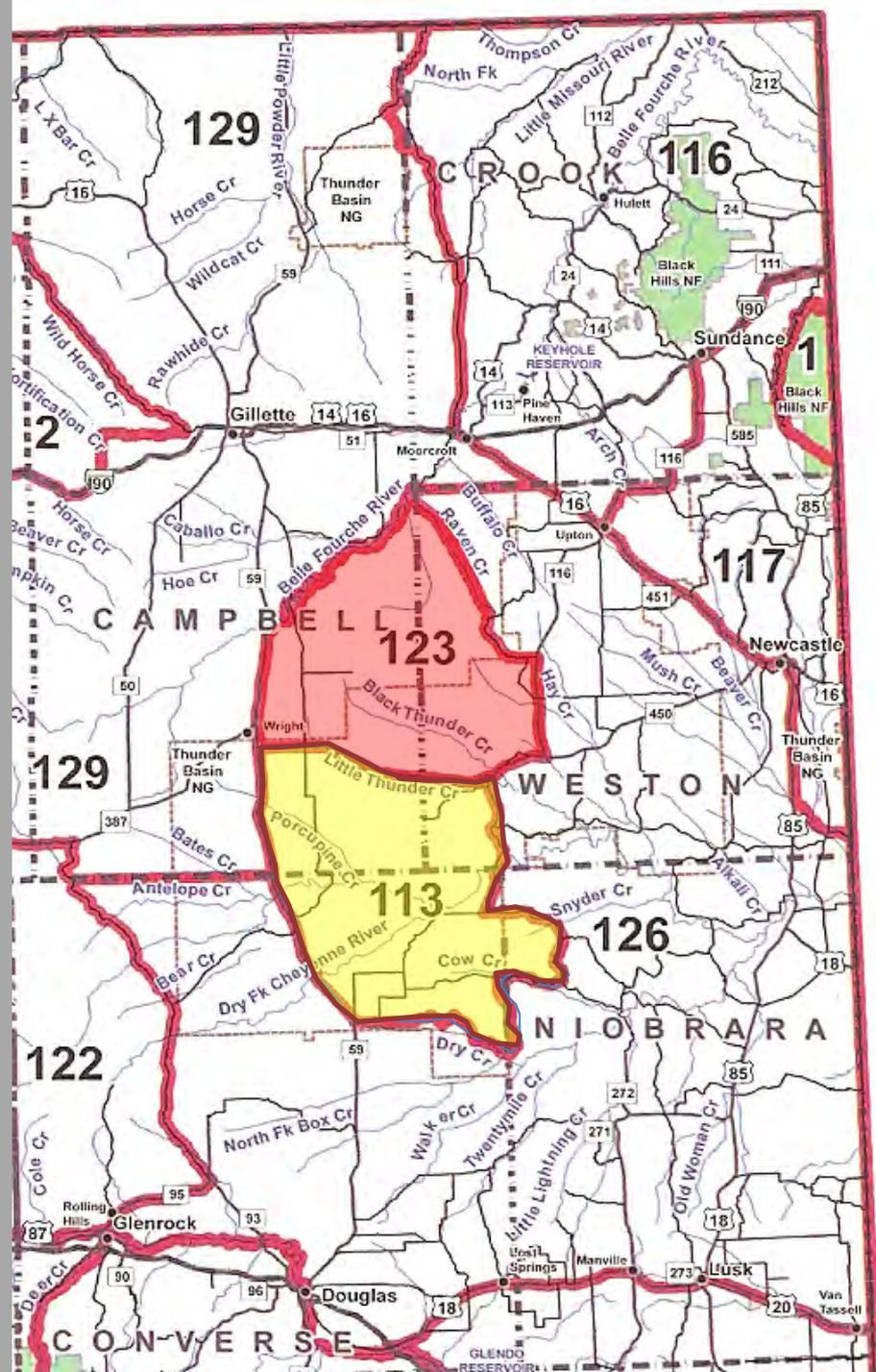
Change from 2015 - None



# Rochelle Hills Elk

## Hunt Areas

113  
& 123



# Rochelle Hills Elk Herd

## *Management Objectives*

***Satisfaction:***      ***60% Landowner***      ***62%*** *(2015)*  
                                 ***60% Hunter***                      ***92%*** *(2015)*

***Population Guess:***              ~ 800

- **Classifications\*:**      55 calves : 100 cows  
   81 bulls    : 100 cows

*\* inadequate samples at times*

# Rochelle Hills Elk

<u>AREA</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LIMITATIONS</u>
113			<b>CLOSED</b>
123	4	10/20 – 11/30	Limited Quota; 50 licenses antlerless elk

Changes from 2015: Area 113: Close Type 4 season

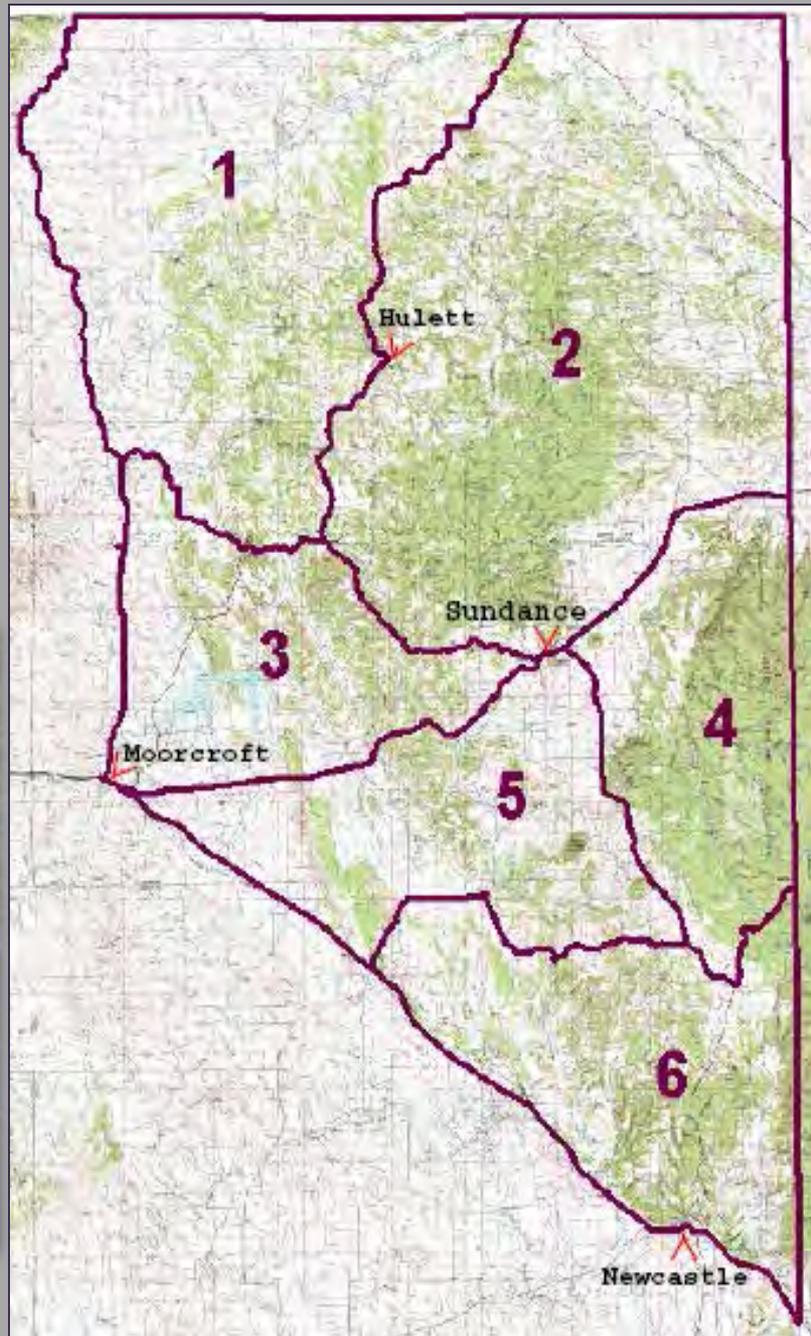
Area 123: Close Type 1 season  
Same Type 4  
No Type 6

# Change in # of Licenses you can have

## Proposed Language (Chp. 2)

For elk, no person shall **apply for** and receive more than one **(1) full price** (General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3, **4, 5** or 9) and one **(1) reduced price** (Type **6, 7 or 8**) license through the initial drawing. **After the initial drawing**, a person may apply for and receive up to a total of **three (3)** elk licenses, of which no more than one (1) shall be a General, Type 0, 1, 2, 3 or 9 license. However, **no** person shall apply for and receive **more than a total of three (3) elk licenses in a single hunting season.**

# Deer Management and Hunting Seasons in the Black Hills



# Post-Hunt Population Objectives



## Black Hills Mule Deer

30,000 – changed last yr.

## Black Hills

## White-Tailed Deer

55,000 – Changed last yr.

**Deer numbers in the Black Hills have begun to rebound, most notably north of I-90 thanks to two years of very good fawn production and survival**

# Management Strategy

## Recreational Hunting

### Mule Deer

- 20 to 29 bucks  
per 100 does after hunt

### White-Tailed Deer

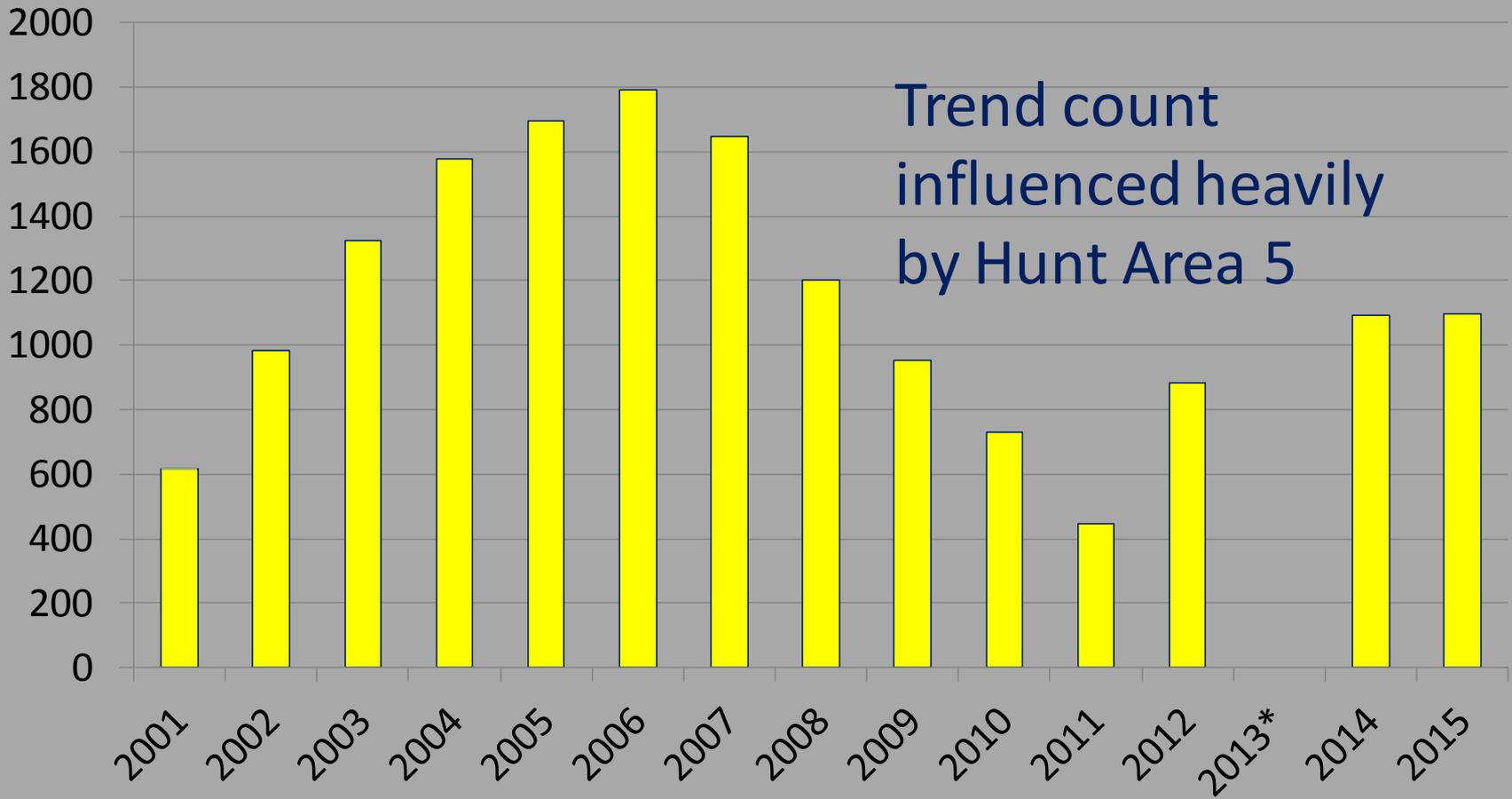
25 to 44 bucks per 100 does  
before hunt



**Black Hills  
Mule Deer**

# Mule Deer Trend Counts

*(October)*



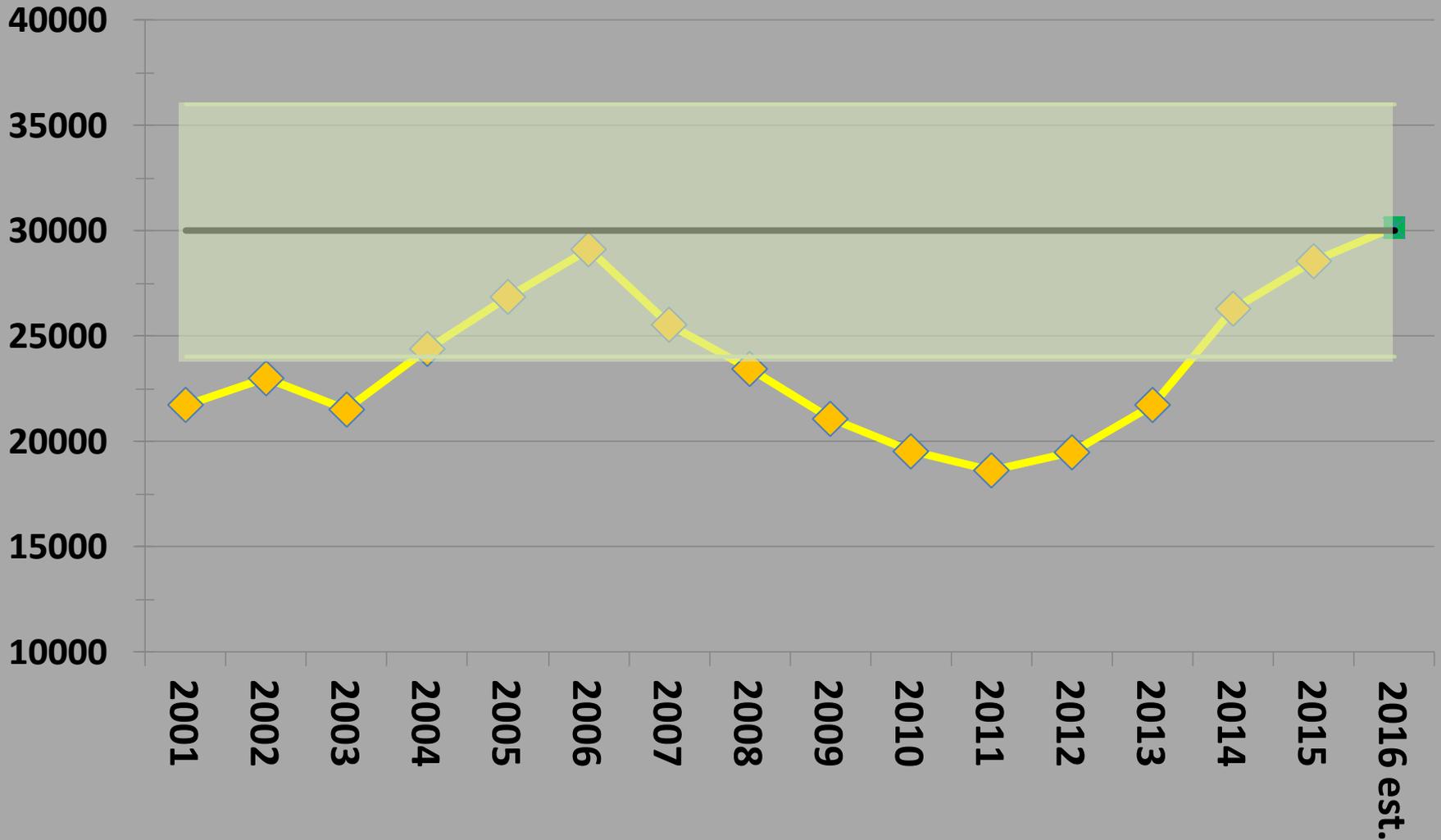
# Black Hills Mule Deer Herd (Hunt Areas 1 - 6)

**Population Objective: 30,000**

**2015 Best Estimate: 28,500 *(likely bit high)***

<b>Classifications:</b>	<b>79 fawns:100 does</b>
<b>(post hunt)</b>	<b>29 bucks:100 does</b>

# Post-Season Population Estimates Black Hills Mule Deer

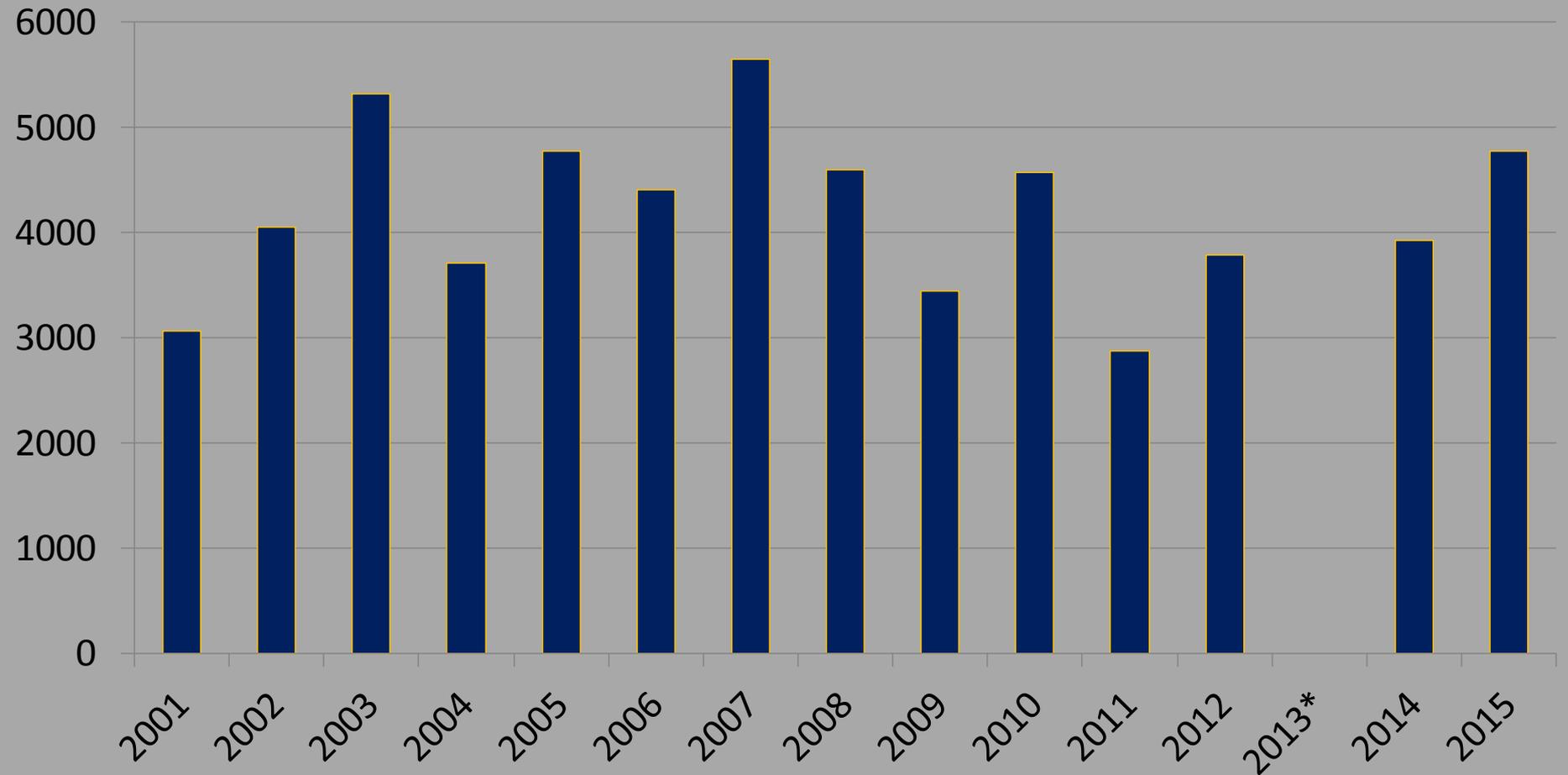




**Black Hills  
White-tailed Deer**

# Whitetail Deer Trend Counts

## (October)



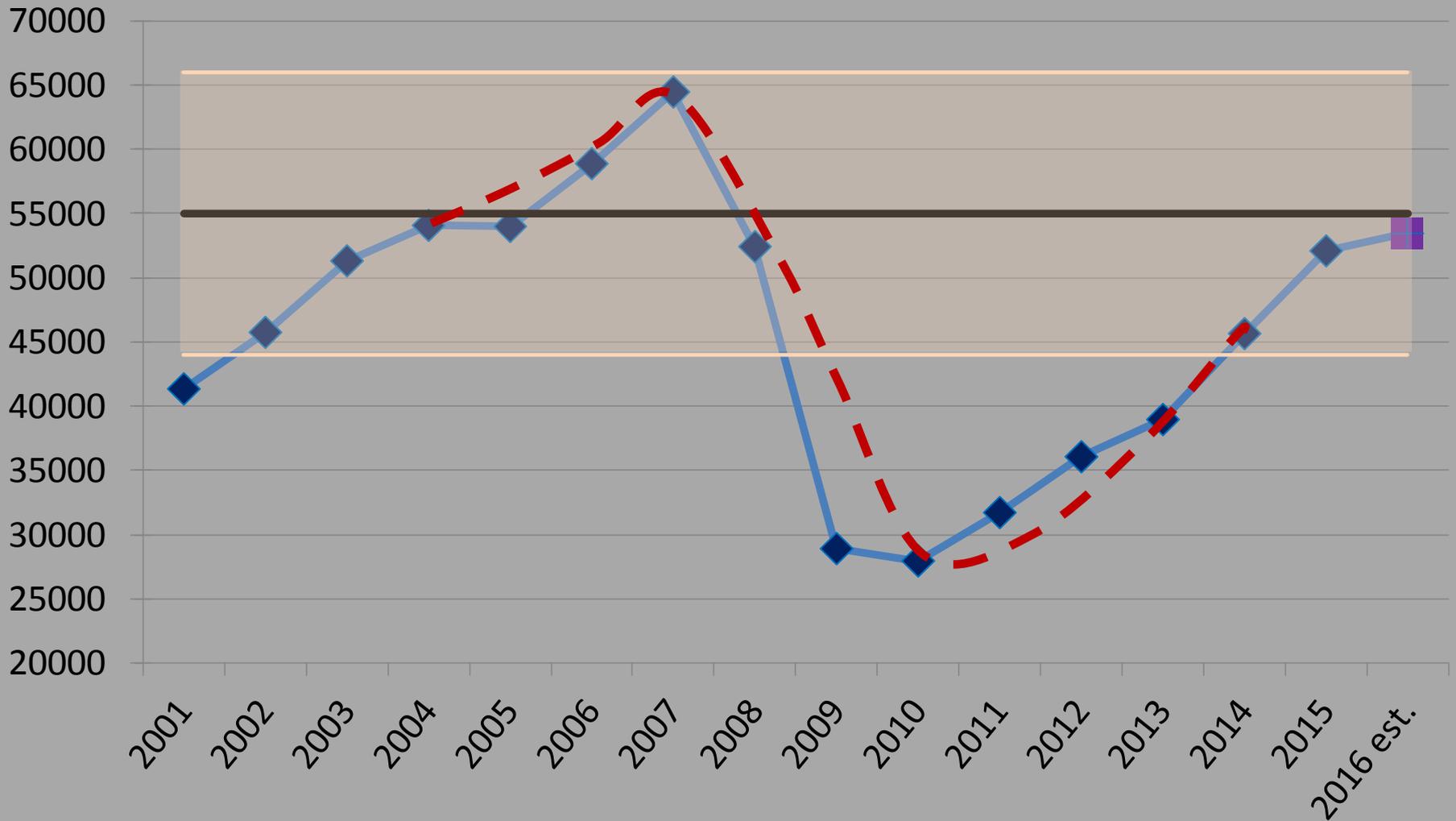
# Black Hills White-Tailed Deer Herd (Hunt Areas 1 - 6)

**Population Objective: 55,000**

**2015 Best Estimate: 52,000**

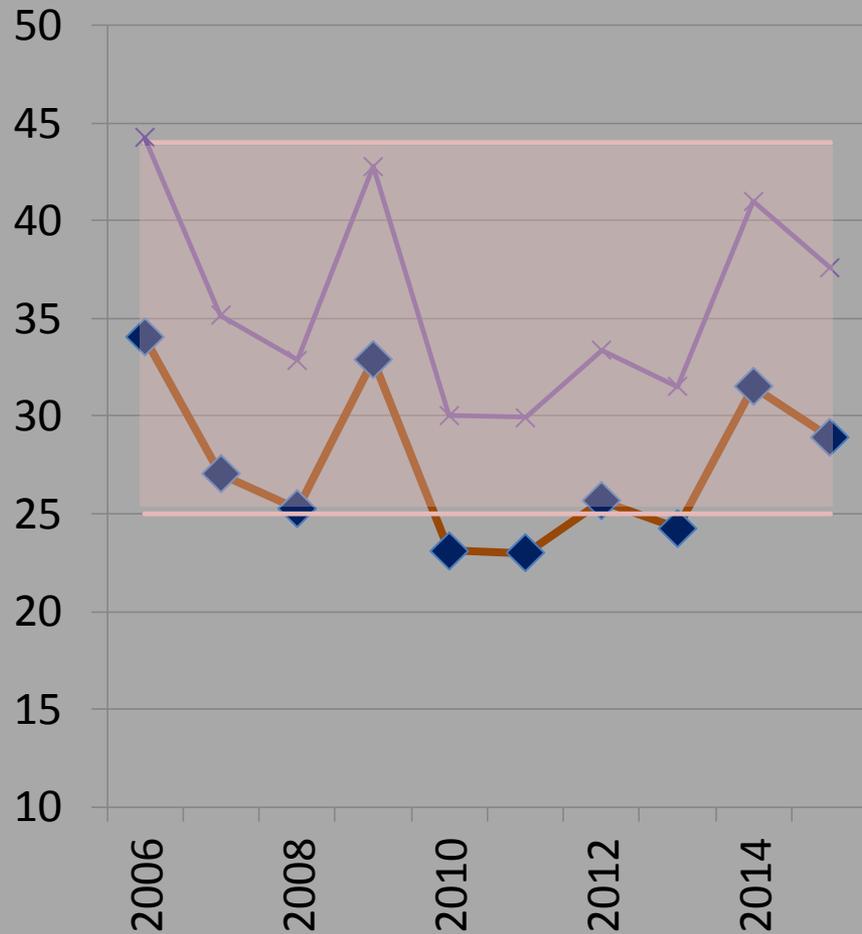
**Classifications: 85 fawns:100 does**  
**pre hunt (est.) 29 (38) bucks:100 does**

# Post-Season Population Estimates Black Hills Whitetail Deer

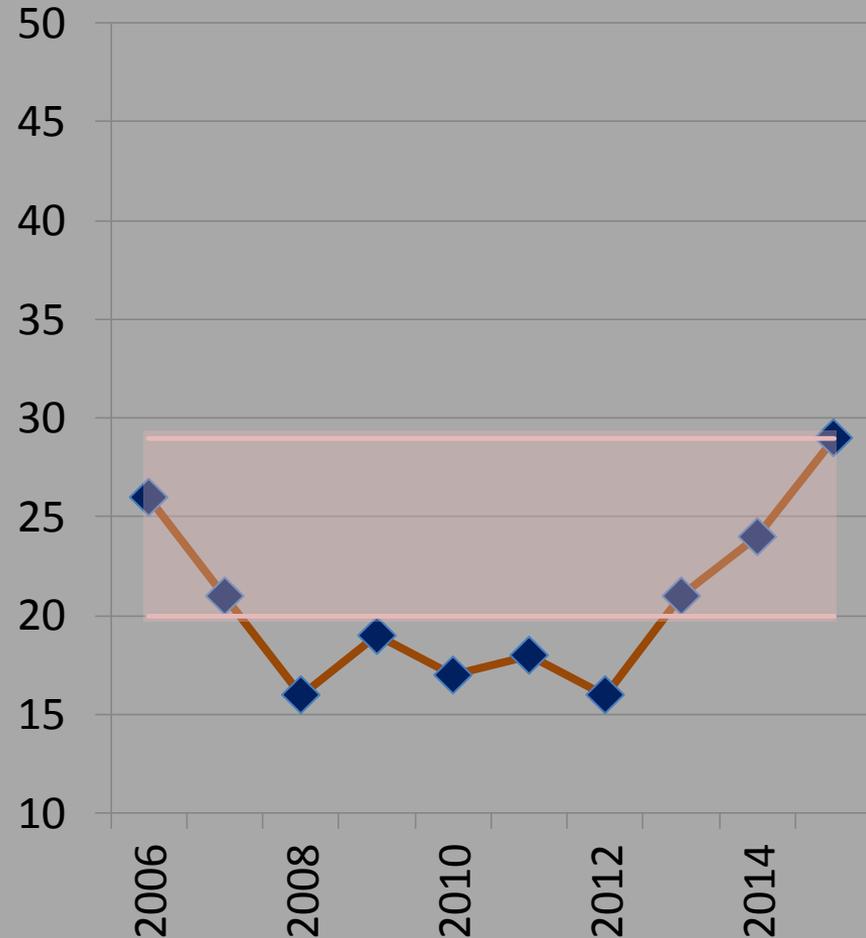


# Observed Buck:Doe Ratios

## WHITETAILES – BEFORE HUNT



## MULE DEER – AFTER HUNT

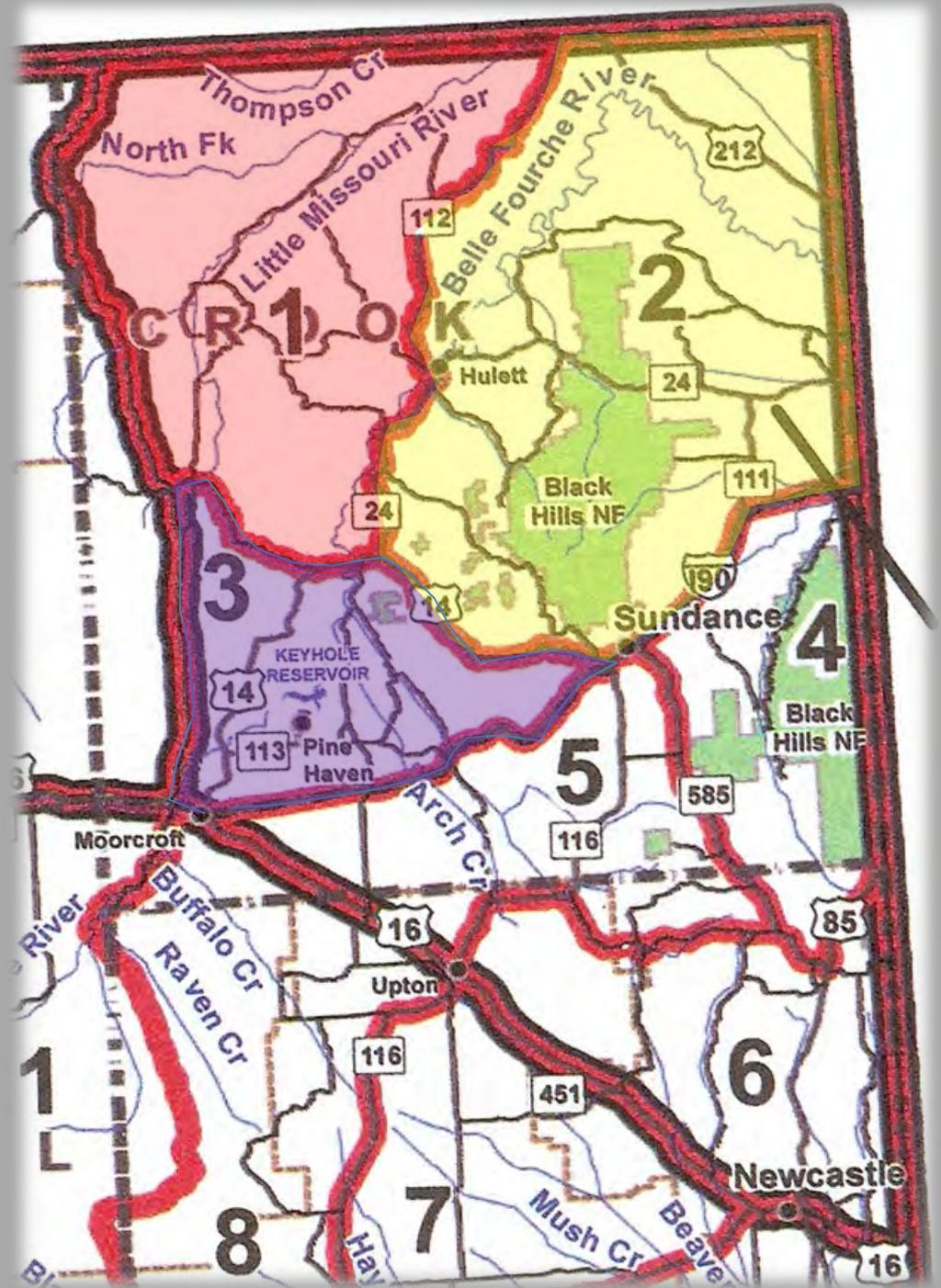


# Hunt Areas

1

2

3





# Deer Hunt Area 2

**Gen. 11/1 - 11/30**

**Antlered deer off private land;  
any deer on private land.**

**Type 6 11/1 – 11/30**

**500 licenses doe or fawn valid on  
private land (*either sp.*)**

**Type 8 11/1 - 11/30**

**3,000 licenses doe or fawn  
white-tailed deer valid on  
private land (*also valid in Areas 1 & 3*)**

**Change from 2015:**

**+ 250 type 6**

**+ 1,000 type 8**

# Deer Hunt Area 3

**Gen. 11/1 - 11/30**

**Antlered deer off private land;  
any deer on private land.**

**Type 8 11/1 - 11/30**

**3,000 licenses doe or fawn  
white-tailed deer valid on  
private land** *(also valid in Areas 1 & 2 )*

**Change from 2015:**

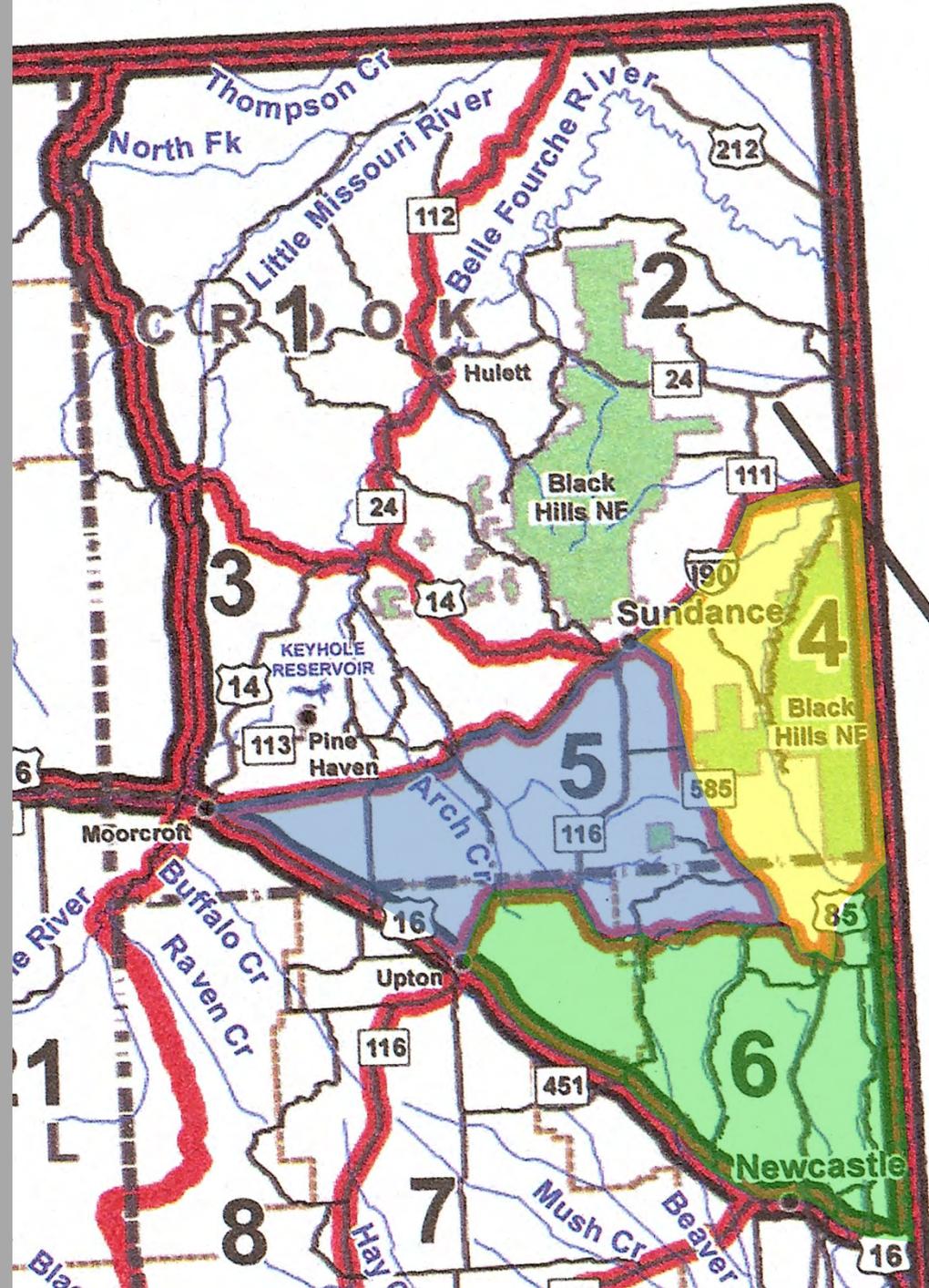
**+ 1,000 type 8**

# Hunt Areas

4

5

6



# Deer Hunt Area 4

**General**      **11/1 - 11/20**      **General license; antlered deer off private land; any deer on private land, except the lands of the State of Wyoming's Ranch A property shall be closed**

**Type 6**      **11/1 – 11/20**      **Limited quota; 300 licenses doe or fawn valid on private land only**

**Change from 2015:**      **+100 Type 6**

# Deer Hunt Area 5

<b>General</b>	<b>11/1 - 11/20</b>	<b>General license; antlered deer off private land; any deer on private land</b>
<b>Type 6</b>	<b>11/1 - 11/20</b>	<b>Limited quota <b>150</b> licenses doe or fawn</b>
<b>Change from 2015:</b>		<b>+100 Type 6</b>

# Deer Hunt Area 6

**General    11/1 - 11/20    General license; antlered deer off private land; any deer on private land**

**Change from 2015:    None**

# Proposed Non-Resident Quotas

		<i>Change from 2015</i>
<b>Region A</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>+1,000</b>

Quota is designed to somewhat limit hunter numbers on public land, allow increased buck harvest in Region A, and attract more hunters into the area to help with doe/fawn harvest.

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and red. Below the sky, a dark, forested valley stretches across the middle ground. In the foreground, a dry, brown field with some sparse grass is visible. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

# Archery Deer

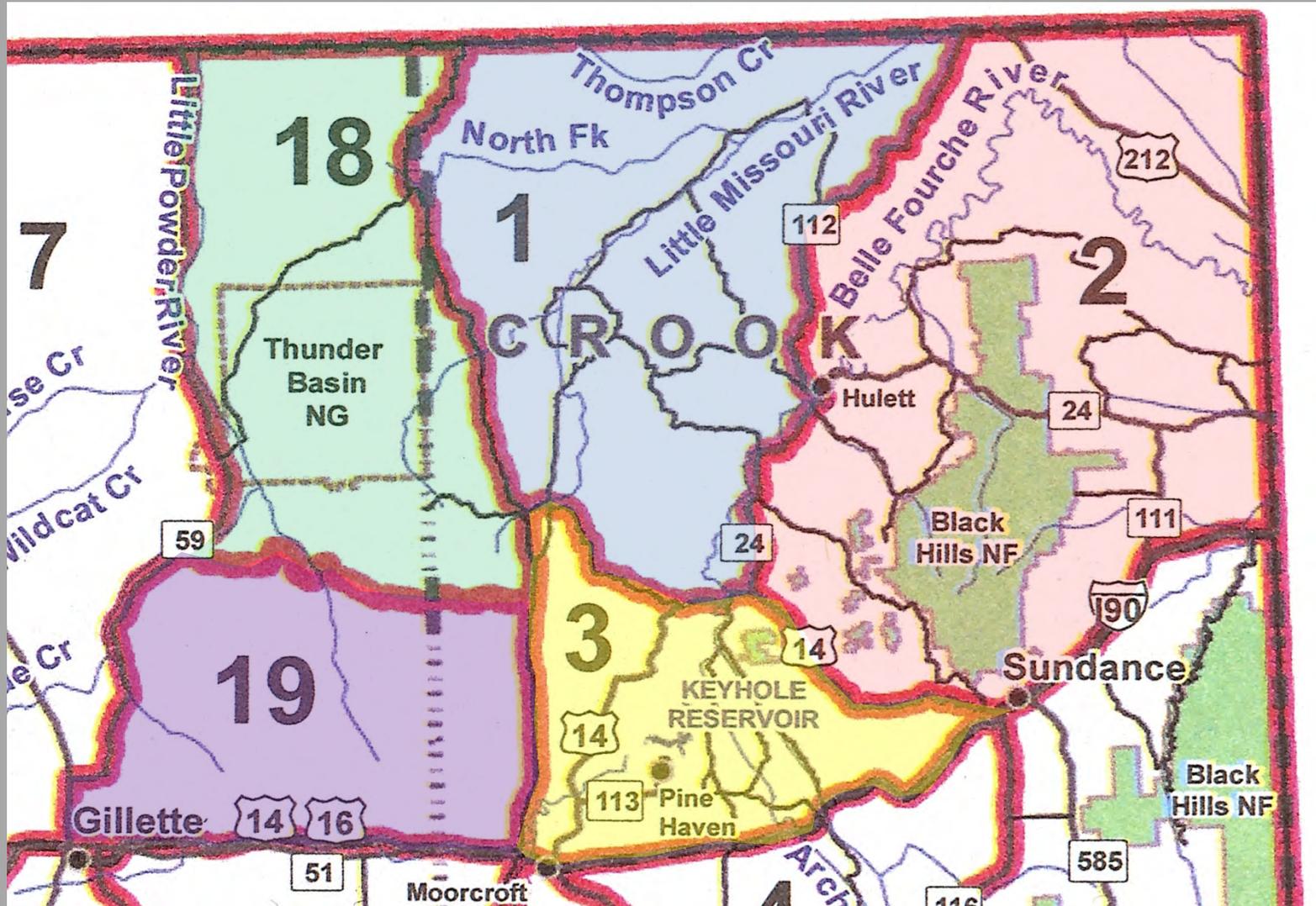
Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

*Same Restrictions as Rifle Hunters*

# Antelope Seasons & Mgmt.



# North Black Hills Antelope



**Hunt Areas 1, 2, 3, 18 and 19**

# North Black Hills Antelope

*(Hunt Areas 1, 2, 3, 18, 19)*

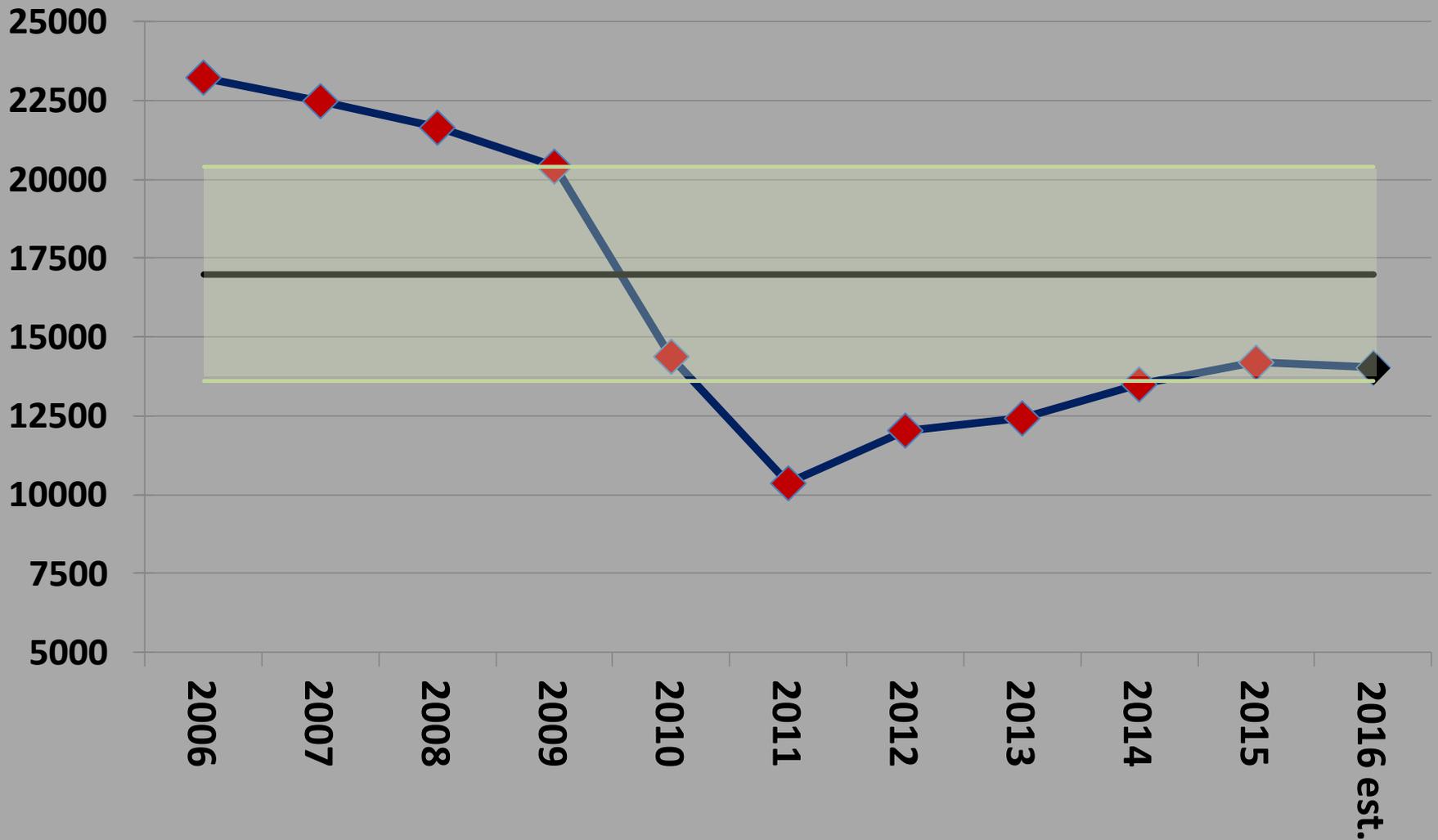
**Population Objective:** 17,000 (revised last yr.)

**2015 Best Estimate:** 14,200

**Classifications:** 90 fawns:100 does  
37 bucks:100 does

- *Trend: Population declined between 2006 & 2011. Rebounding since 2012. With proposed season the population is projected to remain about the same.*

# Post-Season Population Estimates North Black Hills Antelope



# Antelope Hunt Area 1



**Type 1 10/1 – 11/20 Limited Quota: 300 licenses any antelope**

**Type 6 10/1 – 11/20 Limited quota; 200 licenses doe or fawn**

**Change from 2015: + 50 Type 1 licenses  
+ 100 Type 6**

# Antelope Hunt Area 2



**Type 1 10/1 – 11/20 Limited Quota; 200  
licenses any antelope**

**Type 6 10/1 – 11/20 Limited quota; 200  
licenses doe or fawn**

**Change from 2015: none**

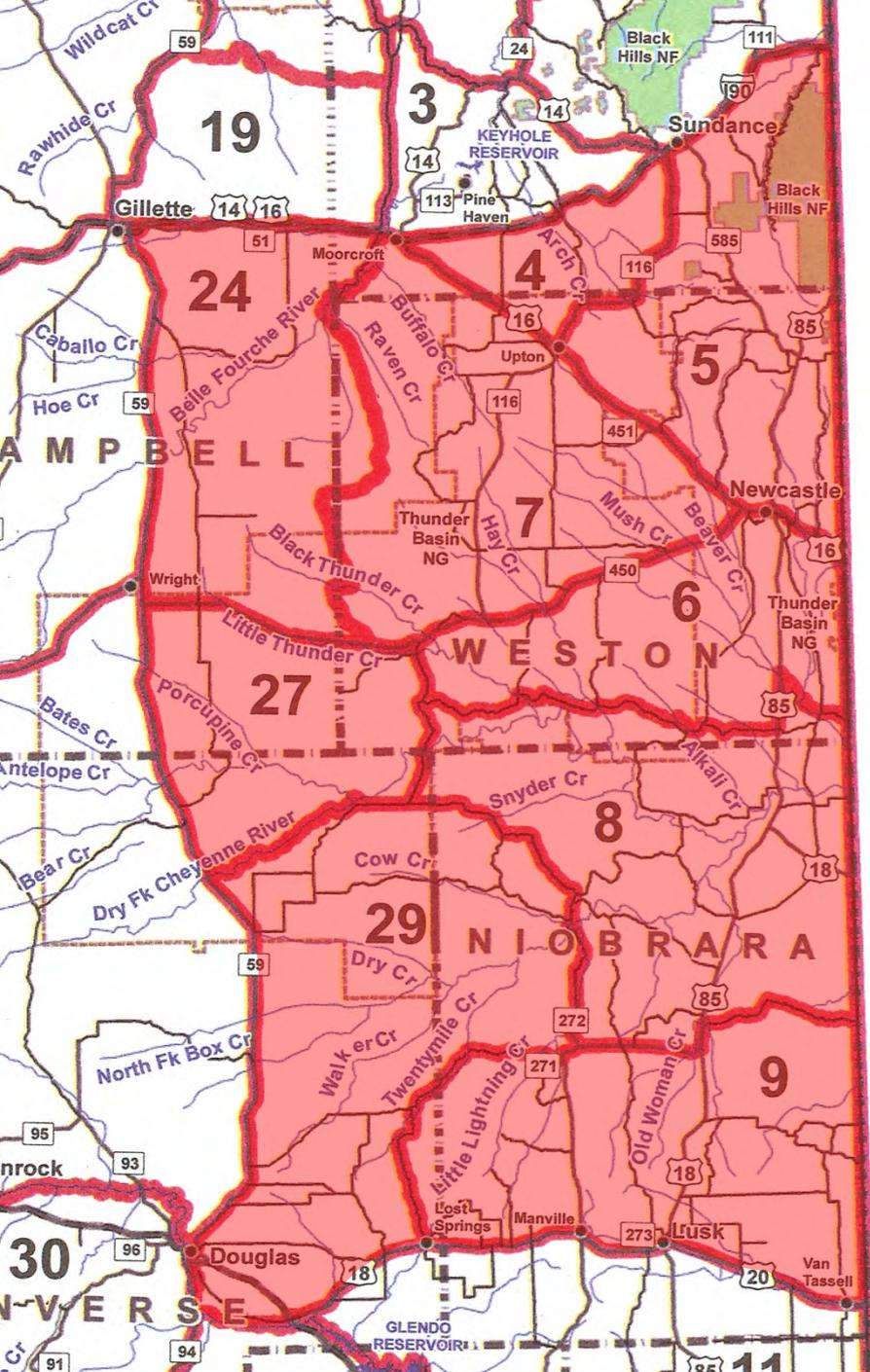
# Antelope Hunt Area 3



**Type 1 10/1 – 11/20 Limited Quota; 300  
licenses any antelope**

**Type 6 10/1 – 11/20 Limited quota; 150  
licenses doe or fawn**

**Change from 2015: + 150 Type 1  
+ 75 Type 6**



# Black Thunder Pronghorn Antelope



# Black Thunder Antelope

*(hunt areas 4-9, 24, 27 & 29)*

**Population Objective: 49,000**

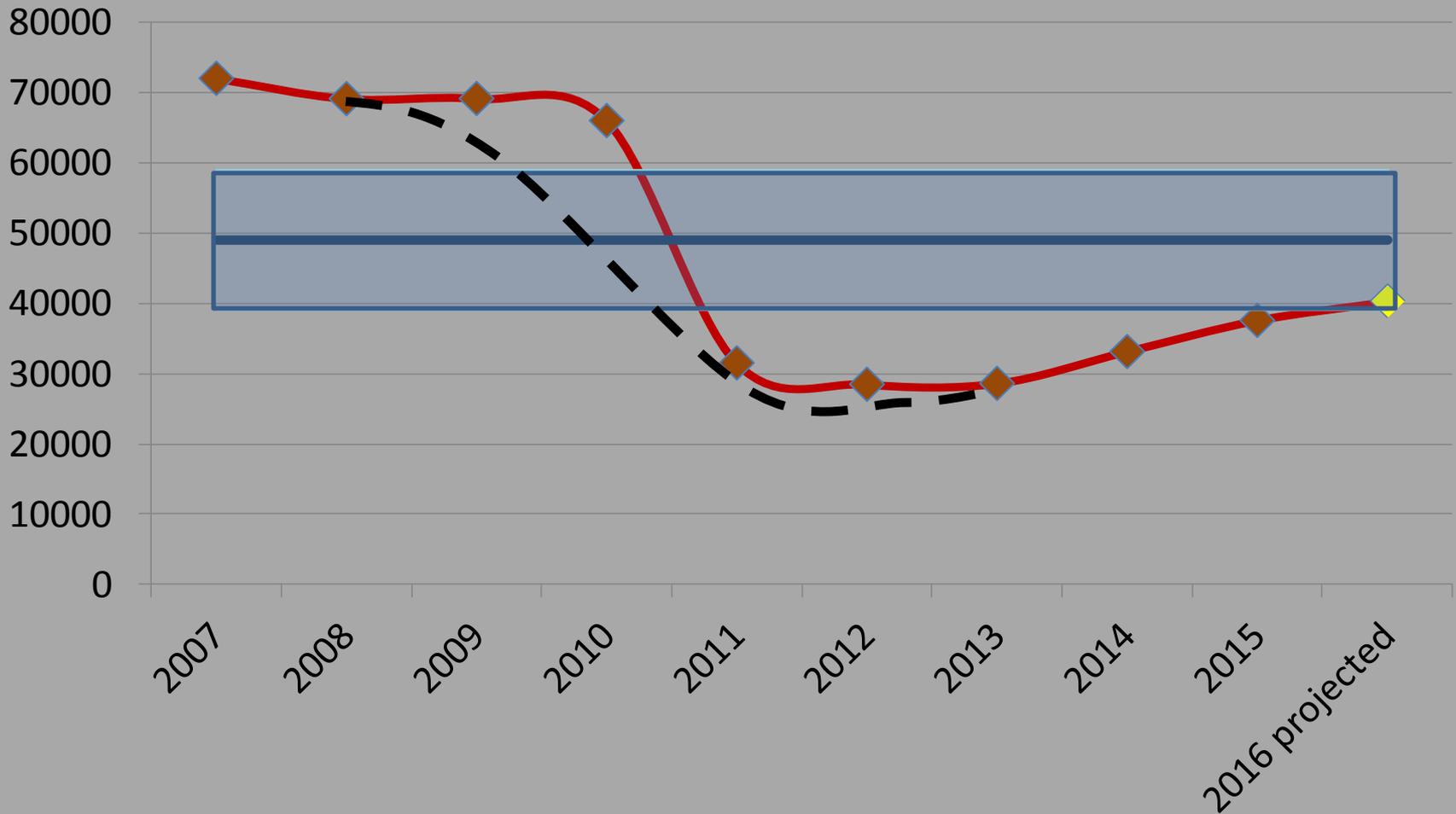
**Current Best Estimate: 37,500**

**Classifications: 87 fawns:100 does**  
**45 bucks:100 does**

- *Trend: Population declined 2007-2012. Slight increase in 2013, bit more in 2014 & 2015 due to good fawns numbers and survival. Pop. to increase ~ 7% in 2016*

# Black Thunder Pronghorn

## Post-Season Population Estimates



# Antelope Hunt Area 4

**Type 1    10/1 - 11/20    Limited Quota: 200 licenses  
any antelope**

**Type 6    10/1 - 11/20    Limited Quota: 200 licenses  
doe or fawn**

**Change from 2015:    + 50 Type 1  
+ 125 Type 6**

# Antelope Hunt Area 5

<b>Type 1</b>	<b>10/1 - 11/20</b>	<b>Limited Quota: 100 licenses any antelope</b>
<b>Type 6</b>	<b>10/1 – 11/20</b>	<b>Limited quota; 50 licenses doe or fawn valid on private land</b>
<b>Change from 2015:</b>		<b>None (same as 2013 &amp; 2014)</b>

# Archery Antelope

**Areas 1 - 5 & 17**

**Sept. 1 to Sept. 30**

*Other Hunt Areas*

*Aug. 15 to Sept. 30*



# Mountain Lions

Reg. soon to be opened

Public Mtg. in Sundance  
APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM

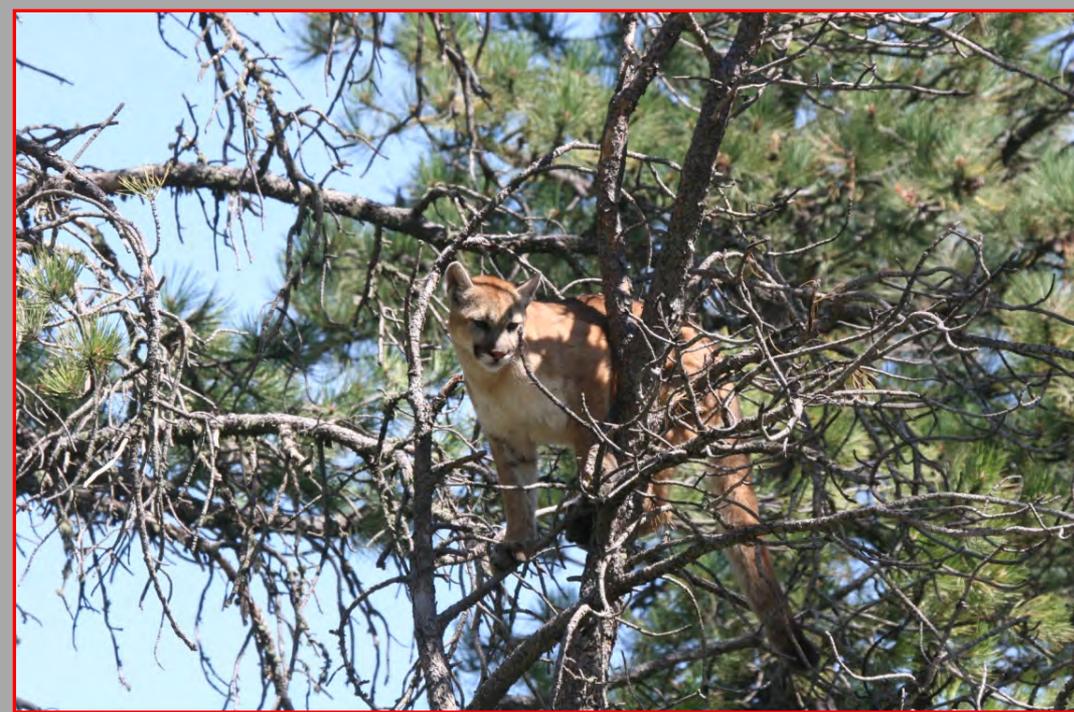
WGFD folks avail. to visit.

2015-16 Mortality Limits:

HA 1 = 24

HA 30 = 12

HA 32 = 25





# Game Birds



# Wild Turkey

## Proposed FALL hunting season 2016

Area 1 (Black Hills):

Nov. 1 – Nov 30

General License any wild  
turkey.

Change from 2015: None

# Wild Turkey SPRING season 2017

## Area 1 (Black Hills):

- April 08 – May 20
- General License any male wild turkey, or wild turkey with a visible beard.



**Change from 2016: Date, stay at 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. in April**

# Sage Grouse 2016

Area 2

**CLOSED**

*Includes Crook County  
east of the D Road and  
north of Hwy 16. Plus,  
Weston Co. North of Hwy  
16 & East of Hwy 85 & all  
of Niobrara Co.*

**No Change from 2015**



Photo by Nathan Payne, Gillette-News Record

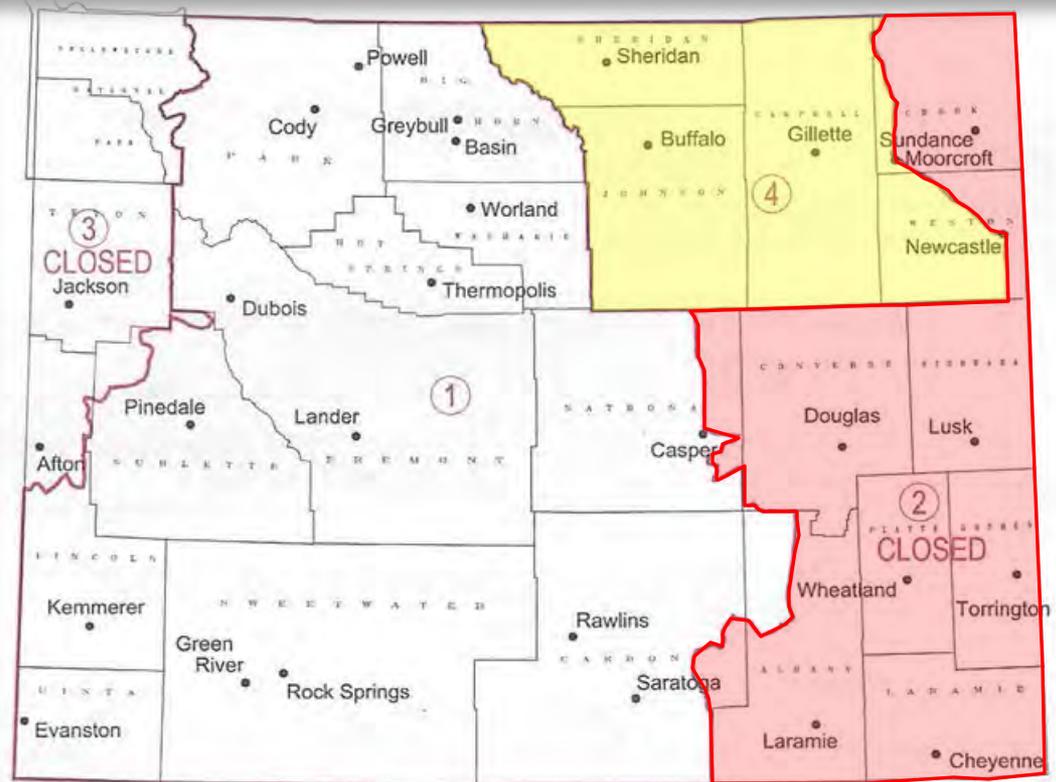
# Sage Grouse 2016

## Area 4

Sept. 17 – Sept. 19

*2 daily*

*4 in possession*



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

Change from 2015

Opening & Closing dates

# Ruffed Grouse

## Proposed Season

<u>Area</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Closes</u>	<u>Bag</u>	<u>Poss.</u>	<u>Limitations</u>
1	Sept. 1	Nov. 30	3	9	Any ruffed grouse

**No Change**



# **Blue Grouse**

## **Proposed Season**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Opens</b>	<b>Closes</b>	<b>Bag</b>	<b>Poss.</b>	<b>Limitations</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Any blue grouse</b>

**No Change**

# Sharp-tailed Grouse

## Proposed Season

<u>Area</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Closes</u>
1	Sept. 1	Dec. 31

No Change

<u>Bag</u>	<u>Poss.</u>	<u>Limitations</u>
3	9	Any Sharp-Tailed Grouse

# Chukar & Gray Partridge

## Proposed Season

<u>Area</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Closes</u>	<u>Bag</u>	<u>Poss.</u>	<u>Limitations</u>
1	Oct. 1	Jan. 31	5	15	Any Chukar partridge
1	Oct. 1	Jan. 31	5	15	Any gray partridge

**No Change**

# Other Stuff (Chp. 2)

**Section 12. Use of Aircraft to Spot or Locate Wildlife.** No person shall use any aircraft ~~to~~ with the intent to spot, locate and aid in the taking of any ~~Wyoming~~ wildlife, except predatory game animals, whether by ~~spotting or locating the wildlife, communicating with any person attempting to take the wildlife, or by providing other aid to any person taking the wildlife within twenty-four (24) hours~~ of being airborne from August 1 through January 31 of the following calendar year. Nothing in this Section shall apply to the operation of an aircraft in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate any game animal, such as aircraft used for the sole purpose ~~commercial, commuter or other aircraft used for the sole purpose~~ of passenger transport.

# Comments ?

Must be received by 5:00 p.m. March 25, 2016

- Written comments accepted tonight.
- Standard mail

**Wyoming Game and Fish Department**

**ATTN: Regulations**

**3030 Energy Lane**

**Casper WY 82604**

- WGFD website at [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov).
- **Verbal, e-mail, fax or telephone and unsigned comment forms WILL NOT be forwarded to the Commission for their consideration.**