

1. Current population trend or estimate - and proximity to management objectives:

	<i>estimate</i>	<i>objective</i>
<i>White-tail</i>	51,815	52,000
<i>Mule Deer</i>	585,816	509,950

2. 1992 Hunting season statistics:

Type/length of season: see #6	# of hunters afield:	# of hunter days:	% success:	Harvest	
				Antler:	Antlerless:
<i>White-tail</i>	22,787	110,618	53.1%	7,427	7,325
<i>Mule deer</i>	101,703	469,854	85.6%	49,439	37,571

3. Method used to estimate harvest:

*Hunter mail survey*

4. Do you limit hunters to one season (rifle, archery or muzzleloader)?

*No.*

5. Do your deer seasons extend into the breeding season? If so, how far?

*Some; seasons are set by hunt area. Season dates vary from September 1 to December 31.*

6. How many deer can a hunter legally take per year?

# Antlered:	# Antlerless:	Total:
2*	7	9

*\* 1 white-tail and 1 mule deer; hunters can take a doe instead in some areas, for a total of 9 antlerless possible.*

7. Do you use antler-point restriction regulations? If so, what is the purpose of this regulation and is the objective being met? How do you assess hunter compliance - illegal kill?

*No.*

8. Do you have regulations to limit or distribute hunters? What type of regulations and are they working?

*Yes. The number of nonresident general license hunters is limited by regional license quotas. We also have limited license quotas for all hunters in several hunt areas. Multiple opening days, varying season lengths, legal sex, and bag limits also distribute hunters in space and time.*

9. Do you use access (road) management to regulate hunter distribution? What is the hunting public's reaction? Who is responsible for enforcement of closures etc.?

No.

10. Do you use a system such as "preference points" to distribute the opportunity to draw big game permits? If yes, what has been your experience with such a system?

No.

11. In what ways do you believe hunting impacts your deer populations (i.e. compensatory/additive mortality, total population size, genetics, behaviour, etc.)? What data do you have to support this?

*Seasons are set to bring populations toward herd unit objectives; populations are estimated from POP II, v. 7 modelling and trend counts. Hunting can be additive, when the management objective is to reduce populations. Data support these conclusions, however natural winter mortality is also an important regulator of deer populations.*

12. What do you feel are the major factor(s) limiting the deer populations, and what evidence is this based on?

*Deer populations are limited politically by population objectives, using hunter harvest, and biologically by habitat constraints (i.e., winter range). In most areas of the state, attempts are made to maintain herds at objectives that are below the biological maximum that could be supported in the absence of sociopolitical considerations.*

13. Do you make any attempts to model deer populations? If so, please describe the model. Identify any problems.

*POP II, v7 is the model currently used. Problems occur in quantifying natural mortality, interchange of animals between herd units, adequate sample sizes, and representative sampling of the deer populations.*

14. What is your state or province's approach to manipulating habitat to benefit deer?

*Active habitat manipulations occur on Department-owned big game winter ranges, and on public lands in cooperation with federal agencies. Active manipulations include prescribed burning, range treatments, and plantings.*

15. Primary deer research efforts underway at this time (please list):

1. (completed) *Movements and habitat use of white-tailed deer in the Black Hills (1989-1991)*
2. *Distribution and growth rate of the Little Mt. - Pine Mt. mule deer herd (1989-1994)*
3. *White-tailed deer movement patterns in and around Devil's Tower (1990-1993)*
4. *Copper Mt./S. Bighorns mule deer movements and seasonal ranges (1991-1994)*