



Roger Smith  
123 Main Street  
South Dakota

Dear South Dakota Deer Hunter:

I am writing to ask for your help in a study of deer hunters in South Dakota. The general purpose of the study is to learn more about deer hunting patterns so we can provide specific information to wildlife managers and landowners to improve hunting opportunities and the quality of hunting in the state of South Dakota. The study is being supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, who has asked us here at Colorado State University to help conduct the survey. This survey effort is separate from other surveys conducted by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, & Parks (ex. harvest surveys). We would greatly appreciate you filling this survey out even if you have filled out a harvest report for the season. Answering the survey will only take a few minutes, but it has the potential to improve your hunting experience.

Your responses are important to us whether this is the first time you bought a hunting license or the twentieth time. For our sample to represent hunters in your state, it is important that we hear from all different types of hunters, including you (even if there is a more active deer hunter in your household). The survey is voluntary, and the results of this survey will be held strictly confidential.

When you have completed the survey please mail it back to us in the enclosed postage paid stamped return envelope. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact me by calling 970-491-7307 or emailing me at [John.Loomis@colostate.edu](mailto:John.Loomis@colostate.edu)

Thank you for helping us with this important study and we look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Loomis, Project Manager  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

*This voluntary survey contains information collections that are covered by the Office of Management and Budget clearance number 0560-XXXX, which expires XX/XX/XXXX. The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing and submitting the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Skip Hyberg, Stop 0508, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, or by email to [skip.hyberg@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:skip.hyberg@wdc.usda.gov).*

# DEER HUNTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

## A survey of individuals who hunted deer in South Dakota in the 2014 season



A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, being carried out by Colorado State University. This survey is conducted under authorities provided by Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-198), as amended.

Under Title 7 of the U.S. Code and CIPSEA (Public Law 107-347), facts about your operation are kept **confidential** and used only for statistical purposes. Your help on this study is greatly appreciated!

*Please return your completed questionnaire in the self-addressed pre-paid envelope included. Thanks!*

### **PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT**

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Cover Illustration: Tom Kelly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## I. YOUR 2014 DEER HUNTING SEASON IN SOUTH DAKOTA



You have been contacted because you purchased a deer hunting license in 2014. The information you provide will help the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, farmers/ranchers as well as U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service agency to improve hunting opportunities for you.

1. Did you hunt deer during the 2014 hunting season in South Dakota? Circle one:

Yes (please continue with the survey)

No (please return the uncompleted survey in the postage paid envelope. ***Returning the envelope provides essential information even if you did not hunt***)

When we ask about your South Dakota **Hunting Season** in the following questions we mean just your deer hunting activity in early, regular and late seasons (including white-tail and mule deer) combined during the 2014 season.

When we talk about a **Hunting Trip**, we mean a trip taken for the primary purpose of hunting deer.

2. How many deer hunting trips did you make during this 2014 Hunting Season? \_\_\_\_\_ # of Trips

3. In total, about how many days of deer hunting did you take this Hunting Season? \_\_\_\_\_ # of Days

4. During the hunting season what percent of your time deer hunting was spent on:

Private Lands (including Walk-In Areas\*) \_\_\_\_\_% + Public Lands \_\_\_\_\_% + Right of Ways \_\_\_\_\_% = 100%

\*Walk-In Areas are privately owned acres with public hunting access.

5. ***If you did NOT hunt deer on Private Lands go to II. YOUR DEER HUNTING EXPERIENCE on page 2.***

***IF you DID hunt deer on Private Lands*** please tell us about the type of lands you hunted. This will help farmers, ranchers, other landowners and SD Game, Fish & Parks better manage for deer.

5a. Percent of your time this hunting season spent deer hunting on each of the following land cover types:

Cropland \_\_\_\_\_% (Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_) + Grassland \_\_\_\_\_% +  
Wetland & Area surrounding wetland \_\_\_\_\_% + River bottom \_\_\_\_\_% + Other \_\_\_\_\_% = 100%

5b. Percent of your time this season spent deer hunting on private land enrolled in the state Walk-In Areas Program? \_\_\_\_\_%

6. Did you hunt deer on lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)\* lands during the 2014 deer hunting season? (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure

\*CRP land typically resemble tracts of perennial grasses and/or wooded shelter belts occasionally with wetlands intermixed

If **No** or **Unsure** please go to Question #7.

If **Yes**,

6a. What percent of your time spent deer hunting this season was spent:

**Directly on** lands enrolled in CRP \_\_\_\_\_% Lands **adjacent** to CRP \_\_\_\_\_%

7. Is the availability of CRP lands an important factor in your decision of **where to hunt deer**? Circle one:

Not at all          Slightly                                  Very          Extremely  
 Important      Important          Important      Important      Important

8. Is the availability of CRP lands an important factor in the **quality of deer hunting** in the county you hunt most often? Circle one:

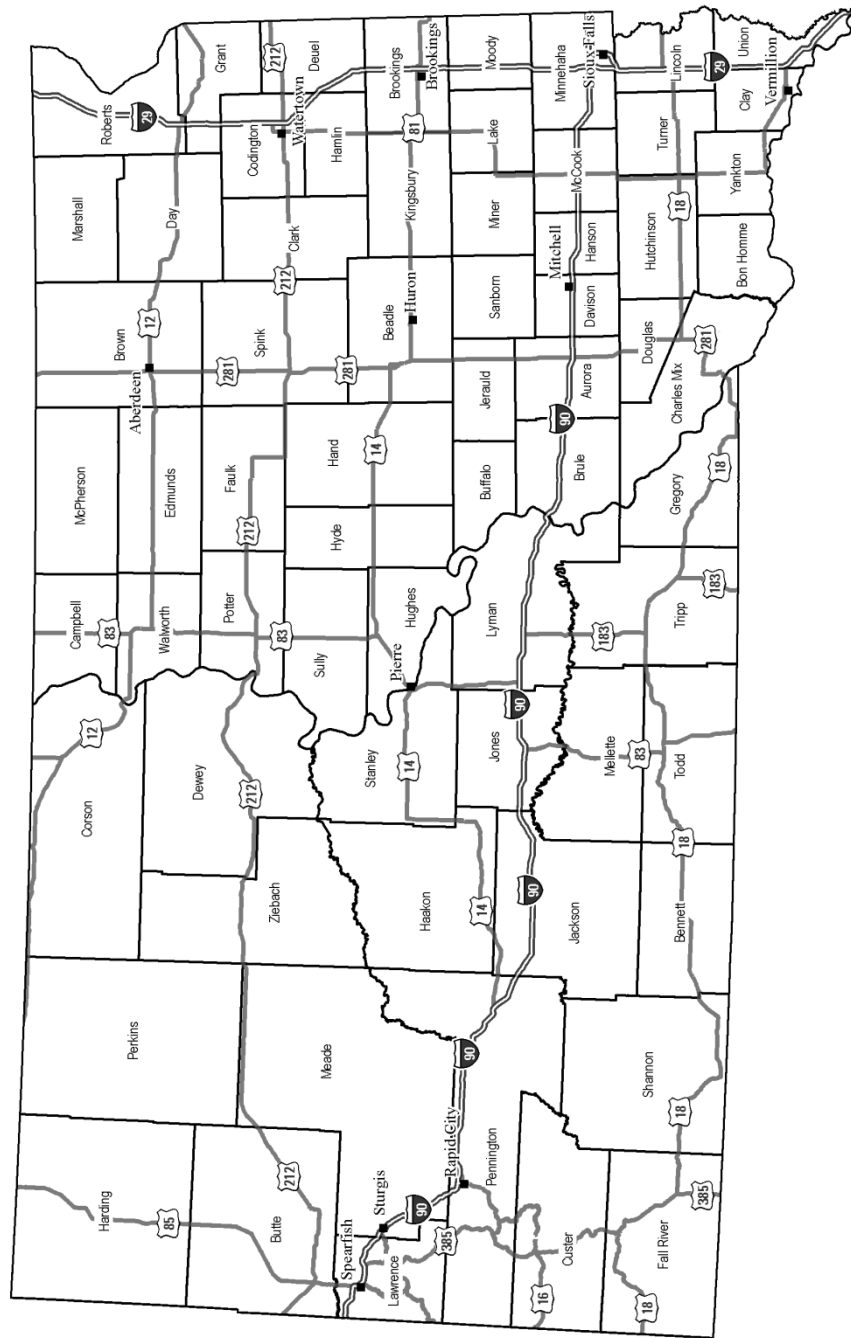
Not at all          Slightly                                  Very          Extremely  
 Important      Important          Important      Important      Important

## II. YOUR DEER HUNTING EXPERIENCE

Please tell us what factors influence your decisions on how often you hunt deer.

<i>Please circle one number for each item</i>	<b>Would the following factors increase the amount of deer hunting you do in a season?</b>			
	No Change	Not Likely	Likely	Very Likely
<b>1.</b> More free time	1	2	3	4
<b>2.</b> Higher deer populations/success rates	1	2	3	4
<b>3.</b> More areas to hunt & greater access	1	2	3	4
<b>4.</b> Less hunters & fewer crowds	1	2	3	4
<b>5.</b> Lower cost	1	2	3	4
<b>6.</b> Longer hunting seasons	1	2	3	4
<b>7.</b> Other reason (Please list)_____	1	2	3	4

PLEASE USE MAP FOR FOLLOWING QUESTIONS REGARDING HUNTING LOCATION.



### III. YOUR TYPICAL DEER HUNTING TRIP IN SOUTH DAKOTA

A typical hunting trip is a trip to go deer hunting where you go most often.

1. In which county and deer hunting unit did you most frequently hunt deer in during the 2014 season? (See map)

County Name \_\_\_\_\_

In answering these next few questions, please answer with deer hunting trips to this county in mind.

2. How many **trips** did you take to this county to hunt deer? \_\_\_\_\_ # of trips
3. About how many **days** did you spend deer hunting on a typical trip? \_\_\_\_\_ # of days per trip
4. What method of take did you use most frequently during the deer hunting season (check one)?  
Rifle/Shotgun \_\_\_\_\_ Bow \_\_\_\_\_ Muzzel loader \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many deer did you harvest in this county during the 2014 season (please note 0's if appropriate)?  
# of White-tail Deer \_\_\_\_\_ # of Mule Deer \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is your one-way **travel time** from your home on a typical hunting trip? \_\_\_\_\_ # of hours
7. What is your one-way **travel distance** from your home on a typical hunting trip? \_\_\_\_\_ # of miles
8. On a typical trip to this county, how many hunters were in your party? \_\_\_\_\_ # of hunters.

*The number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program has been declining in South Dakota since 2007. CRP declined by nearly 500,000 from 2007 to 2012; a 28 percent decline. Additional CRP acres are set to expire in the next few years, and if not re-enrolled, could be converted back to crop production.*

9. If CRP acres were to decline by an additional 50% in the county you hunt most frequently, would you expect the number of hunting trips you take over the course of the season to this county to change in some way? Check one:

\_\_\_\_ No Change in number of Trips

\_\_\_\_ Yes, Fewer Trips → \_\_\_\_\_ # of fewer deer hunting trips each season

\_\_\_\_ Yes, More Trips → \_\_\_\_\_ # of additional deer hunting trips each season

**IV. SEASONAL DEER HUNTING EXPENDITURES IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

To understand the economic impact that hunting has on the state, it is important we have an idea of what you spent on deer hunting during the 2014 hunting season **in the state of South Dakota ONLY.**

Please estimate the expenditures you made for only for yourself, not for others.

	<b>\$ Spent in the County Where you Hunted Most Frequently</b>	<b>\$ Spent in Rest of State of South Dakota</b>
1. Gasoline/travel costs		
2. Restaurants/Bars/Taverns		
3. Grocery stores/liquor stores		
4. Rental Car		
5. Lodging		
6. Access/leasing fees		
7. Ammunition		
8. Guns/Bows used for Deer Hunting (please circle which one or both if applicable)		
9. Hunting License		
10. Taxidermy		
11. Repairs to equipment		
12. Special clothing used for deer hunting		
13. Non-clothing gear used for deer hunting (stands, weapons, arrows, etc.)		
14. Other? Please List: _____		

15. Were there any other items purchased out of state specifically for deer hunting in South Dakota? (such as catalog, internet, out of state travel en route, etc.)

Yes → \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please list item \_\_\_\_\_

Yes → \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please list item \_\_\_\_\_

Yes → \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please list item \_\_\_\_\_

No

## V. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please tell us a little something about yourself. These last few questions will help us in evaluating how well our sample represents hunters in the state. **Your answers will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for the analysis of this study. Statistics will only be reported as an average of overall responses, and you will not be identified in any way.**

1. Are you?    Male    Female
2.     In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
3.     Are you employed?    Yes (Go to #3a.)    No (Skip to #3d.)
  - 3a. Do you work part time or full time?    Full-time    Part-time
  - 3b. Do you take time off from work to participate in hunting?    Yes    No
  - 3c. How many weeks of paid vacation do you receive each year? # \_\_\_\_\_ of weeks (Go to #4.)
  - 3d. Are you retired?    Yes    No
4. What is the zip code in which you live? \_\_\_\_\_ County Name \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are you a member of a hunting or sportsman's organization?    Yes    No
6. Are you a member at a Private Hunting Club?    Yes    No
  - 6a. If you belong to a hunting club(s) or sportsman's organization(s) what is the sum of your annual dues?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually
7. Your highest level of formal education completed? (Please circle one)

<b>High School Or Less</b>	<b>Associates Degree</b>	<b>College (B.S./B.A) or Technical School</b>	<b>Graduate or Professional School</b>
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8. Was **your** own income from all sources (before taxes) last year?

<input type="checkbox"/> less than \$19,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$29,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$39,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$59,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$79,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000-\$99,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$299,999	<input type="checkbox"/> more than \$300,000

**Thank you for completing the survey!**  
**If you have any comments please write them on the back of the survey.**  
**Please return in the postage paid return envelope we provided.**



**COMMENTS?**

**Please feel free to write any comments you have about wildlife management in SD. When you are finished, please place the survey in the stamped return envelope and mail it back to us.**

ID-SD-DEER#