

# **2016 SOUTH CAROLINA DEER HARVEST REPORT**



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEER RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT**



*Submitted by*

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## INTRODUCTION

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is the most popular, sought after, economically important, and controversial game animal in South Carolina. The 2016 Deer Hunter Survey represents the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' (DNR), Wildlife Section's ongoing commitment to conduct pertinent research related to the state's white-tailed deer resource.

The primary objectives of this survey research were to obtain valid estimates of; (1) the statewide deer harvest in 2016, (2) the harvest of deer in the constituent counties of the state, (3) hunting effort related to deer, (4) resident and nonresident hunter activities, and (5) weapons use, weapons preference, and harvest rates by weapon type. Information on hunter opinion related to certain aspects of the deer resource as well as estimates of the wild hog and coyote harvest in the state is also presented.

Due to the importance of deer as a state resource, DNR believes that accurately assessing the harvest of deer, as well as hunter participation in deer hunting, is key to the management of this species. Proposed changes in deer-related laws and regulations should have foundations in biology, therefore, the population dynamics associated with annual hunting mortality cannot be ignored. Similarly, when issues arise that do not involve biological parameters, it is important to have information related to deer hunter activities afield because they too form an important basis for managing deer.

Since the inception of the Statewide Deer Research and Management Project (Deer Project) the methods used to document the state's deer harvest have changed. Historically, deer harvest figures were developed using a system of mandatory deer check stations in the 18 county Upstate (Game Zones 1 and 2) in conjunction with reported harvests from properties enrolled in the Antlerless Deer Quota Program (ADQP) in the 28 county Coastal Plain (Game Zones 3 and 4). This system yielded an actual count of harvested deer and was, therefore, an absolute minimum harvest figure. Shortcomings in this system included deterioration of check station compliance in the Upstate and failure to report by ADQP cooperators in the Coastal Plain. Also, since the acreage enrolled in the ADQP tends to be about one-half of the deer habitat in the Coastal Plain, past harvest figures have not documented deer harvests on non-quota lands (+- 3.2 million acres) because there

was no legal requirement to report harvested deer in the Coastal Plain. Therefore, it is suspected that historic deer harvest figures only accounted for about one-half of the total deer harvest that occurred annually in the state.

### **Survey Methodology**

The 2016 Deer Hunter Survey represents a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2016 Deer Hunter Survey was developed by Wildlife Section personnel (Figure 1). The mailing list database was constructed by randomly selecting 25,000 known Big Game Permit holders that included 8 license types. The license types included: (1) Resident Sportsman's, (2) 3-year Resident Sportsman's, (3) Resident Combination, (4) 3-year Resident Combination, (5) Resident Junior Sportsman's, (6) Resident Big Game Permit, (7) 3-year Resident Big Game Permit, and (8) Nonresident Big Game Permit. The number of individuals associated with each license type was based on an attempted sampling rate of approximately 15 percent for licenses purchased through December of 2016. Since deer seasons statewide end on January 1 there was no need to sample individuals that were licensed thereafter.

Data entry was completed by Priority Data, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska. Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 7 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL).

### **Acknowledgments**

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## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

As with any mail survey, a portion of the attempted sample (30,000) was returned as undeliverable mail (285). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 29,715 representing 18.6 percent of the entire population (159,560) of license holders. A total of 6,068 completed surveys were returned yielding a 20.4 percent response rate and 3.8 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population.

### **Deer Harvest**

During the 2016 deer season it is estimated that a total of 99,678 bucks and 72,637 does were harvested for a statewide total of 172,315 deer (Table 1). The overall harvest represents an 11 percent decrease in harvest from 2015 (195,030) and is 46 percent below the record harvest established in 2002 (319,902). After many years of rapidly increasing during the 1970's and 1980's, the deer population in South Carolina exhibited relative stability between 1995 and 2002. Since 2002, however, the population has trended down. The overall reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to a number of factors, including habitat change. Although timber management activities stimulated significant growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1970's and 1980's, considerable acreage is currently in even-aged stands that are greater than 15 years old. According to forest inventory data, during the last 20 years the states' timberlands in the 0 to 15 year age class decreased 34 percent while timberlands in the 16 to 30 year age class increased 104 percent. This situation simply does not support deer densities at the same level as younger stands in which food and cover is more available.

Also, coyotes are a recent addition to the landscape and are another piece of the puzzle. SCDNR has recently completed a major long-term study with researchers from the United States Forest Service Southern Research Station at the Savannah River Site investigating the affects coyotes are having on the survival of deer fawns. This research demonstrated that coyotes can be a significant predator of deer fawns, that predation by coyotes can be an additive source of mortality, and that efforts to increase fawn recruitment via coyote control provided only modest results and at high cost. Obviously one cannot apply these results uniformly across the state because habitats,

coyote densities, deer densities, etc. vary. However, coyotes are now well established in South Carolina so they should be expected to play a role in deer population dynamics at some level. That being the case, this “new mortality factor” combined with extremely liberal deer harvests that have been the norm in South Carolina are clearly involved in the reduction in deer numbers in the last decade. Given this and the difficulty and high cost of coyote control, it seems apparent that making adjustments to how we manage deer, particularly female deer, is more important now than prior to the colonization of the state by coyotes.

As it relates specifically to the decrease in harvest during the 2016 deer season it should be noted that hunting conditions in South Carolina were poor during the fall of 2016. This began the first week in October with hurricane Matthew. The magnitude of this event forced a flood related temporary season closure for all game species in a number of coastal counties. Although these closures only lasted 5 to 10 days, the aftermath of Matthew created access and other problems for deer hunters. The deer harvest in a number of coastal counties affected by the storm was down over 25 percent which dramatically affected statewide totals. Additionally, hunting was negatively impacted across the state by unseasonably warm temperatures and what many called a record acorn crop, both of which negatively affected daytime movements by deer. Recall that deer hunters faced similar poor hunting conditions in 2015 as a result of the 1,000-year flood spawned by hurricane Joaquin. Provided that hunting conditions are more normal, the deer harvest in 2017 is expected to increase because many deer that would normally have been harvested the last two years were not and should be carried-over at some level.

### **Harvest Per Unit Area County Rankings**

Comparisons can be made between deer harvests from the various counties in South Carolina if a harvest per unit area is established. Harvest per unit area standardizes the harvest among counties regardless of the size of individual counties. One measure of harvest rate is the number of deer taken per square mile (640ac. = 1 mile<sup>2</sup>). When considering the estimated deer habitat that is available in South Carolina, the deer harvest rate in 2016 was 8.2 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer harvest in the state has declined in recent years, South Carolina remains at the top among southeastern states, many of which have also noted a

declining trend. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Anderson (19.1 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), Spartanburg (15.7 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), Calhoun (14.0 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), Hampton (12.6 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), and York (12.4 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>).

### **Deer Harvest Rankings by County**

Total deer harvest by county is not comparable among counties because counties vary in size and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, it has become customary to rank the counties based on number of deer harvested (Table 3). The top 5 counties during 2016 were Orangeburg, Colleton, Anderson, Spartanburg, and Hampton.

### **Deer Harvest on Wildlife Management Areas**

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 60,000 licensees having a WMA Permit. Wildlife Management Areas represent lands owned by DNR, other state owned lands enrolled in the WMA Program, US Forest Service lands enrolled in the WMA Program, and private and/or corporate lands that are leased by DNR as part of the WMA Program. Deer harvest figures for coastal WMAs are from check stations and are presented only for those WMA properties that have a deer check-in requirement. Deer harvest figures for upstate WMAs (Mountain and Central and Western Piedmont Hunt Units) were estimated by extrapolating the county deer harvest rates (deer/mi<sup>2</sup>) to the acreage of WMA land that falls within the respective counties comprising the WMA. This assumes that hunters on WMA lands exhibit effort and deer harvest patterns similar to those of the general licensee database that was surveyed. Finally, the estimated deer harvest on WMA lands is included in, not additive to, the county and statewide estimates found throughout this report.

During the 2016 season it is estimated that 3,906 bucks, 2,729 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 6,635 (Table 4). This figure represents a 1 percent decrease from 2015.

### **Hunter Opinion Regarding the Deer Population**

The 2016 Deer Hunter Survey asked participants their opinion regarding the following

question. Compared to past years, how would you rate the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often? Survey participants were given 3 choices; increasing, about the same, or decreasing. Just under half (49%) of hunters indicated that the number of deer in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years (Table 5). More hunters (39%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (12%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.3 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population as decreasing. The opinion among hunters that the deer population is decreasing has been consistent the last few years and recent harvest data and population reconstruction modeling supports this opinion.

### **Number of Deer Hunters**

Even though all individuals receiving a survey were licensed to hunt deer, only 86 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 86 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for nonresidents 60 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 124,589 residents (Table 6) and 14,408 nonresidents (Table 7) for a total of 138,997 deer hunters statewide during 2016. This figure represents a 5 percent decrease from the 146,024 hunters in 2015. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Laurens, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Newberry for resident hunters (Table 6) and Hampton, Allendale, Chester, Union, and Lancaster for nonresidents (Table 7).

### **Hunting Success**

For determination of hunting success only those individuals that actually hunted deer were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one deer. Overall hunting success in 2016 was 65 percent, which should be considered very good. Success rates for residents (65%, Table 6) were slightly higher than nonresidents (64%, Table 7). Estimates for resident and nonresident success rates for all counties are presented in Tables 6 and 7.

## **Hunter Effort**

For the purposes of this survey hunter effort was measured in days with one day being defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Resident hunters averaged 15 days afield for a total of 1,860,966 days deer hunting and nonresidents averaged 14 days for a total of 197,146 days (Table 8). Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2016 was estimated at 2,058,112 days (Table 8), down 9 percent from 2015. The number of days devoted to deer hunting in South Carolina is very significant and points not only to the availability and popularity of deer as a game species, but to the obvious economic benefits related to this important natural resource. Previous surveys conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that approximately 200 million dollars in direct retail sales are related to deer hunting in South Carolina annually.

The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of deer hunting during 2016 were Orangeburg, Anderson, Colleton, Laurens, and Spartanburg (Table 8). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Anderson, Colleton, Laurens, and Aiken counties. Nonresidents hunted the most in Hampton, Chester, Allendale, Union, and Jasper, counties and these 5 counties totaled 42 percent of all the nonresident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2016. There was more nonresident deer hunting effort in both Allendale and Hampton counties than resident effort.

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged over twice as many days (20 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (9 days) (Table 8). Similarly, successful nonresidents (17 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful nonresidents (8 days).

The amount of effort required to harvest a deer varied between residents and nonresidents and by the county hunted. On the average it took less time for nonresidents to harvest a deer (10 days, Table 7) compared to residents (12 days, Table 6). This may be due to the fact that many nonresidents hunt commercially where considerable preparation is done prior to the hunter's arrival. Also, there may be less selectivity with respect to deer harvested by nonresidents. Counties requiring the least effort to harvest a deer included Beaufort, Jasper, Clarendon, Bamberg, and Orangeburg for resident hunters (Table 6). On the other hand, nonresidents spent less time to harvest a deer in Dorchester, Greenville, Sumter, Pickens, and Beaufort counties (Table 7),



however, none of these counties experienced what should be considered a high level of nonresident hunting activity.

### **Deer Harvest by Weapon Type and Weapons Utilization and Preference**

All areas of South Carolina have long and liberal firearms seasons and the majority (79%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 9). Shotguns (9.3%) and archery equipment (6.6%) also contribute significantly to the overall deer harvest in the state, whereas, muzzleloaders, crossbows, and handguns combine to contribute less than 5 percent to the total harvest (Table 9).

Although rifles are used by over 90 percent of hunters, nearly 80 percent of hunters use multiple weapons during the course of the deer season (Table 10, Table 11). Resident hunters appear to be more flexible than nonresidents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (22.5%) and shotguns (22.8%) than nonresidents (14.3% archery and 8.4% shotguns) (Table 11). This finding has been consistent for many years and two points can likely be made. First, since most aspects of deer hunting (travel, accommodations, etc.) are typically more convenient for residents, they may have more time to devote to becoming comfortable or proficient with additional weapons, in this case archery equipment. Second, shotguns are the customary weapon related to hunting deer with dogs and the argument can be made that dog hunting is being practiced more by residents than nonresidents. The weapons utilization data supports this contention.

On the other hand, nonresidents (19.5%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (12.2%). Keep in mind that muzzleloader or primitive weapons seasons are only available in Game Zones 1 and 2 (the Upstate). It is suspected that the high utilization of muzzleloaders by nonresidents is related to the availability of this special season at an earlier date in South Carolina than in neighboring states. Also, the argument can be made that muzzleloaders require less commitment than archery equipment and would allow nonresidents a comparatively easy method of harvesting deer during the special season. This finding has been consistent for many years.

Unlike weapons utilization, weapons preference is the single weapon that a hunter prefers. Obviously, a majority (79%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 12). Bows (12%) are the second most preferred weapon which is interesting because compared to other states, there are limited exclusive opportunities for bow hunters in South Carolina. Nonetheless, the number of hunters

indicating that bows are their preferred weapon has increased over time. Finally, there are several interesting points that can be made about preferences for other weapons based on residency. Shotguns are preferred significantly more by residents (7.0%) than nonresidents (2.4%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by nonresidents (2.9%) than by residents (1.0%) (Table 12) . The explanation of this situation is likely similar to that for weapons utilization in that, (1) residents do most of the dog hunting in the state and tend to use shotguns, and (2) nonresidents use muzzleloaders to take advantage of a special season that is not available as early in their home state.

### **Deer Harvest by Month of Season**

The 2016 Deer Hunter Survey asked hunters to provide information on the month of kill for deer taken during the 2016 season. Although South Carolina is noted to have the longest firearms deer season in the country, the relationship between season length and deer harvest is often misunderstood. Deer naturally increase their movements during the breeding season or rut making them more susceptible to being seen and harvested by hunters. In contrast, outside of the breeding season deer movements are reduced, therefore the chances of hunters seeing and harvesting deer are reduced.

Deer harvest by month of season demonstrates this phenomenon (Figure 2). Although firearms seasons are not open in all parts of the state in late August and early September, relatively few deer are harvested during that time where the season is open. On the other hand, a disproportionately high number of deer are taken during October and November. October and November encompass the majority of the breeding season in South Carolina with over 80 percent of does conceiving during that period (Figure 3). Ultimately, timing of the season is a more important factor in determining deer harvest and quality hunting than the length of the season. Although South Carolina offers early opening seasons, there may be negative consequences as it relates to deer harvest. Hunters should understand that hunting pressure that builds prior to the breeding season can suppress daytime movements of deer during the breeding season when deer movements and hunter harvests should be greatest.

### **Wild Hog Harvest**

The 2016 Deer Hunter Survey also asked hunters to provide information on their wild hog and coyote harvesting activities. Documenting the hog harvest became customary several years ago because wild hogs are commonly taken incidental to deer hunting. Wild or feral hogs are often thought of as “game” and there is a certain amount of sport associated with harvesting hogs. Wild hogs provide quality meat for the hunter and mature hogs can make a highly sought-after “trophy”. Wild hogs are not native to South Carolina or any part of the North American continent. They are descendants of European domestic hogs that escaped or were released dating back as far as the early Spanish explorers. Also, closed-range or fencing requirements for livestock did not arise until the 1900's and letting hogs “free-range” was common prior to fencing laws. Wild hogs were historically associated with the major river flood plain systems in Coastal South Carolina. Unfortunately, recent relocations of wild hogs by hunters appear to be responsible for the species populating areas where they were not found in the past. Wild hogs directly compete with native species like deer and wild turkey for habitat and food, and hogs can do significant damage to the habitat and agricultural production through their rooting activities. Legislation passed during the 2005 session of the South Carolina General Assembly prohibits the release of hogs in the state and legislation passed in 2010 prohibits the removal of a live hog from the woods without a permit (SC Code Section 50-16-25).

During 2016 an estimated 25,252 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), a 25 percent decrease from 2015 (33,404 hogs). Hog numbers and thus harvest, can vary substantially from year to year due to bottomland flooding during the fall and winter farrowing season which can cause mortality in piglets (and some adults). With major flooding in both 2015 and 2016 this point could easily explain the significant decrease in harvest in 2016. Evidence of the presence of hogs in 45 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (46 of 46 counties in 2015). Statewide, approximately 1.2 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup> were harvested, however, this figure is deceiving because hogs only inhabit a relatively small portion of the state as a whole. The top 5 counties for wild hog harvest per unit area were Abbeville (4.7 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), Hampton (3.3 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), Anderson (3.0 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), Allendale (2.6 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), and Richland (2.4 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>). With the exception of Richland County all of these counties were in the top 5 counties for wild hog harvest in 2015 as well.

## **Coyote Harvest**

Unlike wild hogs which are treated like game to some degree, coyotes are typically thought of as varmints that pose a threat to native game species. Like wild hogs, coyotes are a non-native species in South Carolina. Although a popular notion among hunters is that DNR released coyotes, the agency has never released coyotes in South Carolina. The occurrence of coyotes in the state is more recent than hogs and they appear to have gotten to the state by two methods, (1) natural movements from western states and (2) illegal importation. Coyotes were first documented in Oconee and Pickens Counties in 1978 and were thought to be linked to animals that were illegally imported for hunting purposes. Evidence for this includes an illegal importation case that was made and the fact that coyotes had not been documented in adjacent counties in Georgia and North Carolina. Within a few years coyotes began to appear in the western piedmont counties of Anderson, Abbeville, McCormick, etc. indicating a southeastern expansion from the original site. In the early 1980's coyotes were documented in Allendale County and were thought to be natural immigrants from Georgia since they had previously been documented in the adjacent Georgia counties. Coyotes from this source apparently populated to the Northeast until they encountered the Santee Cooper Lakes. In the late 1980's coyotes were documented in the Pee Dee Region, again associated with illegal imports. In any event, by the mid-1990's coyotes had been documented in all South Carolina counties.

Sportsmen often voice concern over the presence of coyotes and the potential impact they have on game species such as deer. Though coyotes are one of the most adaptable animals, they are not designed to prey on big game. The coyote's diet is chiefly composed of small mammals (rats and mice), insects, and a variety of vegetable matter including fruits. On the other hand, coyotes will take deer fawns and deer that are sick or injured. SCDNR has recently completed a major study with researchers at the Savannah River Site investigating the affects coyotes are having on the survival of deer fawns. Cumulative data through the first 3 years of the study indicated approximately 70 percent total fawn mortality with coyotes being responsible for approximately 80 percent of these mortalities. If these findings even moderately represent a statewide situation, this "new mortality factor" is clearly involved in the reduction in deer numbers. This is especially true when combined with extremely liberal deer harvests that have been the norm in South Carolina.

The last 3 years of the study were for the purpose of determining if reducing coyote density through trapping increases fawn survival. It seems logical that if coyotes are preying on fawns, then significantly reducing coyote densities should increase fawn survival. Over the course of the 3 year coyote “control” phase, 474 coyotes were trapped/killed on the study areas. Overall, results showed only modest increases in fawn survival following these efforts with an overall average of about 35 percent increase in survival. Also, trapping seemed to help in some years but have little effect on predation in others. This “year” effect may have something to do with the availability of coyote food sources that may change in abundance annually. Given these results and the difficulty and high cost of coyote control, it seems apparent that making adjustments to how we manage deer, particularly female deer, is more important now than prior to the colonization of the state by coyotes.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2016 it is estimated that approximately 28,513 coyotes were harvested incidental to deer hunting in South Carolina (Table 13), a decrease of 2 percent from 2015 (29,027 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all counties. Although the number of coyotes killed by deer hunters increased exponentially since the late 1990’s pointing to the expansion of this species in South Carolina, the harvest has been relatively stable around 30,000 since 2010. Statewide approximately 1.3 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup> were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Anderson (2.5 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Kershaw (2.8 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Saluda (2.8 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Cherokee (2.8 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Abbeville (2.5 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), and Spartanburg (2.3 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>).

### **Supplementary Information**

The following section is not related to the 2016 Big Game Hunter Survey, but is offered as information relevant to the state’s deer population.

Data related to deer-vehicle collisions for 2016 was not available from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) at the time of this publication, therefore, 2015 is the most current data available (Table 14). Since reporting of deer vehicle collisions is contingent upon notification of some law enforcement agency and then SCDPS, this figure should be considered a minimum. Also, the reader should bear in mind that reporting criteria have changed over time.

Average body weights and antler characteristic of deer vary among the constituent counties

in South Carolina and are dependent on deer density and available nutrition (Tables 15 and 16). Statewide averages for male deer indicate that 1.5 year old bucks average about 107 lbs. and 3.6 antler points while bucks 2.5 years old and older average about 138 lbs. and 6.5 antler points. Yearling (1.5 years old) females average approximately 88 lbs. while does 2.5 years old and older average nearly 101 lbs. This information is based on sampling completed between 1987 and 1994.

The history of the deer population and harvest in South Carolina demonstrates a trend typical of a species that initially expands into available habitat, stabilizes, and begins to decline as habitat changes (Figures 4 and 5). It is important to recognize that habitat is the primary factor controlling deer density in South Carolina, though regulated harvest is important as well. Keep in mind that between 1750 and 1900 the deer population in South Carolina experienced a tremendous decline as it did in most of North America. Although unrestricted subsistence and commercial harvest of deer was important in the decline, major changes in habitat related to clearing of land for agriculture was the controlling factor.

By 1900 deer numbers in the State were very low, perhaps 20,000. However, in the 1920's, significant drought and the cotton boll weevil had devastating consequences for farming. With the decline in farming, reforestation of the state began and was largely complete by the 1970's. Timber harvest activities that followed into and throughout the 1980's created vast areas of early successional habitat that allowed for a dramatic increase in the State's deer population. South Carolina's deer population peaked in the mid to late 1990's at just over 1,000,000 deer.

Over time, deer hunters gained a better understanding of the relationship between deer numbers, habitat, and deer quality leading to more aggressive female harvests in many parts of the state. This increased emphasis on harvesting female deer as a means to control deer densities has played a role in the stabilization and ultimate reduction in the State's deer population. Habitat is also very important. Keep in mind that the same timber management activities that stimulated the growth in South Carolina's deer population in the 1980s have resulted in considerable acreage currently being in even-aged stands that are greater than 15 years old. This habitat type simply does not support deer densities at the same level as habitat in early stages of ecological succession. As a result, a combination of habitat change, high deer harvests, and the establishment of coyotes has caused the deer population to trend down since 2000. Currently the statewide population is estimated at about 700,000 deer.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2016.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2015
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>	
Abbeville	223,113	349	1,803	1,308	3,112	71.7	8.9	-28.3
Aiken	500,546	782	2,540	1,664	4,203	119.1	5.4	-21.6
Allendale	216,455	338	1,577	1,213	2,791	77.6	8.3	-36.7
Anderson	219,068	342	3,620	2,930	6,550	33.4	19.1	5.9
Bamberg	196,573	307	1,890	1,452	3,342	58.8	10.9	-21.5
Barnwell	281,764	440	1,837	1,363	3,200	88.1	7.3	-31.4
Beaufort	147,441	230	946	823	1,769	83.3	7.7	8.0
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,049	1,790	3,839	147.8	4.3	-33.2
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,234	1,923	4,156	45.9	14.0	25.0
Charleston	288,732	451	1,710	1,355	3,065	94.2	6.8	3.3
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,400	882	2,282	68.7	9.3	-7.3
Chester	300,589	470	2,697	1,729	4,426	67.9	9.4	-6.7
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,561	1,497	4,057	91.8	7.0	12.2
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,527	2,062	4,589	65.0	9.9	65.1
Colleton	502,666	785	3,800	3,048	6,848	73.4	8.7	-19.2
Darlington	286,228	447	873	711	1,584	180.7	3.5	3.0
Dillon	214,069	334	654	464	1,118	191.5	3.3	-28.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,238	1,554	3,792	79.8	8.0	-11.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,567	1,331	2,898	85.1	7.5	-24.4
Fairfield	384,607	601	2,783	1,493	4,275	90.0	7.1	-30.7
Florence	397,888	622	2,706	1,520	4,226	94.2	6.8	-27.6
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,704	976	2,680	149.1	4.3	-28.8
Greenville	294,257	460	2,082	1,315	3,397	86.6	7.4	-2.6
Greenwood	204,400	319	1,564	1,291	2,855	71.6	8.9	-7.0
Hampton	324,840	508	3,260	3,118	6,378	50.9	12.6	-29.8
Horry	533,336	833	1,680	1,311	2,991	178.3	3.6	-26.7
Jasper	309,889	484	1,818	1,874	3,692	83.9	7.6	-28.2
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,840	1,463	4,303	83.8	7.6	-25.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	1,963	1,157	3,120	85.4	7.5	-5.0
Laurens	317,916	497	3,639	2,341	5,980	53.2	12.0	36.2
Lee	220,106	344	1,613	1,165	2,779	79.2	8.1	9.3
Lexington	280,742	439	2,132	1,388	3,520	79.7	8.0	15.5
McCormick	212,021	331	1,668	1,220	2,889	73.4	8.7	31.2
Marion	216,907	339	698	438	1,136	190.9	3.4	-48.7
Marlboro	281,271	439	948	491	1,439	195.4	3.3	-46.7
Newberry	317,761	497	2,768	1,959	4,727	67.2	9.5	-10.0
Oconee	284,348	444	1,361	714	2,075	137.0	4.7	18.3
Orangeburg	504,516	788	5,565	4,197	9,761	51.7	12.4	-5.5
Pickens	219,926	344	1,544	777	2,321	94.7	6.8	24.3
Richland	340,121	531	1,515	830	2,345	145.1	4.4	-17.6
Saluda	192,173	300	1,767	1,398	3,164	60.7	10.5	17.5
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,656	2,879	6,536	40.7	15.7	4.9
Sumter	338,968	530	1,743	1,099	2,842	119.3	5.4	-29.7
Union	258,111	403	2,369	2,189	4,558	56.6	11.3	-2.3
Williamsburg	513,851	803	2,857	2,506	5,363	95.8	6.7	-31.2
York	276,650	432	2,930	2,446	5,376	51.5	12.4	18.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>99,697</b>	<b>72,655</b>	<b>172,353</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>-11.7</b>
95% Confidence Interval for harvest			<b>(+ -) 3,628</b>	<b>(+ -) 3,266</b>	<b>(+ -) 5,560</b>			

\* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant deer habitat within each county.

Table 2. County rankings based on deer harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2016.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2015
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>	
Anderson	219,068	342	3,620	2,929	6,549	33.5	19.1	5.9
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,656	2,879	6,535	40.7	15.7	4.9
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,233	1,922	4,155	45.9	14.0	25.0
Hampton	324,840	508	3,259	3,118	6,377	50.9	12.6	-29.8
York	276,650	432	2,930	2,446	5,376	51.5	12.4	18.2
Orangeburg	504,516	788	5,564	4,196	9,760	51.7	12.4	-5.6
Laurens	317,916	497	3,639	2,341	5,980	53.2	12.0	36.2
Union	258,111	403	2,369	2,189	4,558	56.6	11.3	-2.3
Bamberg	196,573	307	1,890	1,451	3,341	58.8	10.9	-21.5
Saluda	192,173	300	1,766	1,397	3,163	60.8	10.5	17.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,526	2,062	4,588	65.0	9.9	65.1
Newberry	317,761	497	2,768	1,958	4,726	67.2	9.5	-10.0
Chester	300,589	470	2,696	1,729	4,425	67.9	9.4	-6.7
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,399	882	2,281	68.7	9.3	-7.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	1,564	1,291	2,855	71.6	8.9	-7.0
Abbeville	223,113	349	1,803	1,308	3,111	71.7	8.9	-28.3
Colleton	502,666	785	3,799	3,048	6,847	73.4	8.7	-19.2
McCormick	212,021	331	1,668	1,220	2,888	73.4	8.7	31.2
Allendale	216,455	338	1,577	1,213	2,790	77.6	8.2	-36.7
Lee	220,106	344	1,613	1,165	2,778	79.2	8.1	9.3
Lexington	280,742	439	2,132	1,388	3,520	79.8	8.0	15.5
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,238	1,553	3,791	79.9	8.0	-11.8
Beaufort	147,441	230	946	823	1,769	83.3	7.7	7.9
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,840	1,462	4,302	83.8	7.6	-25.8
Jasper	309,889	484	1,817	1,874	3,691	84.0	7.6	-28.2
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,566	1,330	2,896	85.1	7.5	-24.5
Lancaster	266,382	416	1,963	1,157	3,120	85.4	7.5	-5.0
Greenville	294,257	460	2,082	1,315	3,397	86.6	7.4	-2.6
Barnwell	281,764	440	1,836	1,363	3,199	88.1	7.3	-31.4
Fairfield	384,607	601	2,782	1,492	4,274	90.0	7.1	-30.7
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,560	1,496	4,056	91.8	7.0	12.1
Florence	397,888	622	2,706	1,519	4,225	94.2	6.8	-27.6
Charleston	288,732	451	1,710	1,355	3,065	94.2	6.8	3.3
Pickens	219,926	344	1,544	777	2,321	94.8	6.8	24.3
Williamsburg	513,851	803	2,857	2,506	5,363	95.8	6.7	-31.2
Aiken	500,546	782	2,539	1,663	4,202	119.1	5.4	-21.6
Sumter	338,968	530	1,743	1,098	2,841	119.3	5.4	-29.7
Oconee	284,348	444	1,361	713	2,074	137.1	4.7	18.2
Richland	340,121	531	1,514	830	2,344	145.1	4.4	-17.6
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,049	1,790	3,839	147.8	4.3	-33.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,703	976	2,679	149.2	4.3	-28.8
Horry	533,336	833	1,679	1,311	2,990	178.4	3.6	-26.7
Darlington	286,228	447	873	710	1,583	180.8	3.5	2.9
Marion	216,907	339	697	438	1,135	191.1	3.3	-48.8
Dillon	214,069	334	654	463	1,117	191.6	3.3	-28.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	948	491	1,439	195.5	3.3	-46.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>99,678</b>	<b>72,637</b>	<b>172,315</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>-11.7</b>

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2016.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2015
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	5,564	4,196	9,760	51.7	12.4	-5.6
Colleton	502,666	785	3,799	3,048	6,847	73.4	8.7	-19.2
Anderson	219,068	342	3,620	2,929	6,549	33.5	19.1	5.9
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,656	2,879	6,535	40.7	15.7	4.9
Hampton	324,840	508	3,259	3,118	6,377	50.9	12.6	-29.8
Laurens	317,916	497	3,639	2,341	5,980	53.2	12.0	36.2
York	276,650	432	2,930	2,446	5,376	51.5	12.4	18.2
Williamsburg	513,851	803	2,857	2,506	5,363	95.8	6.7	-31.2
Newberry	317,761	497	2,768	1,958	4,726	67.2	9.5	-10.0
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,526	2,062	4,588	65.0	9.9	65.1
Union	258,111	403	2,369	2,189	4,558	56.6	11.3	-2.3
Chester	300,589	470	2,696	1,729	4,425	67.9	9.4	-6.7
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,840	1,462	4,302	83.8	7.6	-25.8
Fairfield	384,607	601	2,782	1,492	4,274	90.0	7.1	-30.7
Florence	397,888	622	2,706	1,519	4,225	94.2	6.8	-27.6
Aiken	500,546	782	2,539	1,663	4,202	119.1	5.4	-21.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,233	1,922	4,155	45.9	14.0	25.0
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,560	1,496	4,056	91.8	7.0	12.1
Berkeley	567,530	887	2,049	1,790	3,839	147.8	4.3	-33.2
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,238	1,553	3,791	79.9	8.0	-11.8
Jasper	309,889	484	1,817	1,874	3,691	84.0	7.6	-28.2
Lexington	280,742	439	2,132	1,388	3,520	79.8	8.0	15.5
Greenville	294,257	460	2,082	1,315	3,397	86.6	7.4	-2.6
Bamberg	196,573	307	1,890	1,451	3,341	58.8	10.9	-21.5
Barnwell	281,764	440	1,836	1,363	3,199	88.1	7.3	-31.4
Saluda	192,173	300	1,766	1,397	3,163	60.8	10.5	17.5
Lancaster	266,382	416	1,963	1,157	3,120	85.4	7.5	-5.0
Abbeville	223,113	349	1,803	1,308	3,111	71.7	8.9	-28.3
Charleston	288,732	451	1,710	1,355	3,065	94.2	6.8	3.3
Horry	533,336	833	1,679	1,311	2,990	178.4	3.6	-26.7
Edgefield	246,543	385	1,566	1,330	2,896	85.1	7.5	-24.5
McCormick	212,021	331	1,668	1,220	2,888	73.4	8.7	31.2
Greenwood	204,400	319	1,564	1,291	2,855	71.6	8.9	-7.0
Sumter	338,968	530	1,743	1,098	2,841	119.3	5.4	-29.7
Allendale	216,455	338	1,577	1,213	2,790	77.6	8.2	-36.7
Lee	220,106	344	1,613	1,165	2,778	79.2	8.1	9.3
Georgetown	399,638	624	1,703	976	2,679	149.2	4.3	-28.8
Richland	340,121	531	1,514	830	2,344	145.1	4.4	-17.6
Pickens	219,926	344	1,544	777	2,321	94.8	6.8	24.3
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,399	882	2,281	68.7	9.3	-7.4
Oconee	284,348	444	1,361	713	2,074	137.1	4.7	18.2
Beaufort	147,441	230	946	823	1,769	83.3	7.7	7.9
Darlington	286,228	447	873	710	1,583	180.8	3.5	2.9
Marlboro	281,271	439	948	491	1,439	195.5	3.3	-46.7
Marion	216,907	339	697	438	1,135	191.1	3.3	-48.8
Dillon	214,069	334	654	463	1,117	191.6	3.3	-28.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>99,678</b>	<b>72,637</b>	<b>172,315</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>-11.7</b>

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2016.

Area	Acreage	Bucks	Does	Total	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	1,139	603	1,742	5.8
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	1,462	1,080	2,542	10.2
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	872	668	1,540	8.3
<b>Subtotal for Upstate WMA's</b>	<b>472,436</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>5,824</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>Coastal WMA's*</b>					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	8	7	15	6.3
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	59	25	84	5.0
Botany Bay WMA	2,000	19	22	41	13.1
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	42	36	78	4.8
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	5	7	12	11.7
Donnelley WMA	8,048	12	15	27	2.1
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	122	103	225	0.6
Hamilton Ridge	13,281	27	18	45	2.2
Liberty Hill	7,876	15	15	30	2.4
Hickory Top WMA	1,836	2	7	9	3.1
Manchester State Forest WMA	25,505	40	17	57	1.4
Moultrie WMA	9,480	15	20	35	2.4
Oak Lea WMA	2,024	23	28	51	16.1
Palachucola WMA	5,947	23	29	52	5.6
Santee Cooper WMA	2,828	3	7	10	2.3
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	2	2	4	3.2
Wateree River WMA	3,674	3	6	9	1.6
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	13	14	27	2.9
<b>Subtotal for Coastal WMA's</b>	<b>365,083</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>837,519</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>6,635</b>	<b>5.1</b>

\*Check Station data.

Table 5. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2016 compared to previous years.

	Increasing	About the Same	Decreasing
<b>Residents</b>	12.3	48.7	39
<b>Non-Residents</b>	10.1	49.9	39.9
<b>Overall</b>	12.0	48.9	39.1

Table 6. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2016.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	3,667	48,027	70	0.8	15.9	1,754	1,275	3,029
Aiken	3,826	63,411	68	1.0	15.8	2,391	1,614	4,006
Allendale	1,156	12,494	69	0.9	11.6	638	438	1,076
Anderson	4,803	76,544	71	1.4	11.7	3,587	2,930	6,517
Bamberg	1,754	23,815	76	1.5	9.3	1,495	1,056	2,551
Barnwell	1,734	25,727	80	1.4	10.3	1,375	1,116	2,491
Beaufort	996	12,953	68	1.7	7.8	897	757	1,654
Berkeley	3,886	50,039	69	1.0	13.1	2,033	1,774	3,806
Calhoun	2,551	43,881	73	1.6	10.7	2,232	1,873	4,105
Charleston	3,069	39,337	68	1.0	12.9	1,694	1,355	3,049
Cherokee	1,216	19,967	59	1.5	10.8	1,136	717	1,853
Chester	2,710	37,284	58	1.1	12.8	1,774	1,136	2,909
Chesterfield	2,132	46,652	75	1.6	13.5	2,132	1,315	3,447
Clarendon	2,332	35,929	76	1.9	8.1	2,411	2,013	4,424
Colleton	3,906	67,318	70	1.6	10.6	3,388	2,949	6,337
Darlington	1,335	27,161	63	1.1	17.7	857	678	1,535
Dillon	837	17,178	69	1.1	18.3	638	299	937
Dorchester	2,929	44,837	66	1.2	12.4	2,172	1,455	3,627
Edgefield	2,371	32,941	71	1.1	12.4	1,435	1,216	2,650
Fairfield	3,627	50,856	65	1.0	14.7	2,272	1,196	3,468
Florence	2,790	51,973	66	1.4	13.2	2,591	1,355	3,946
Georgetown	2,272	35,351	63	1.2	13.4	1,654	976	2,630
Greenville	3,248	43,880	66	1.0	13.1	2,033	1,315	3,348
Greenwood	2,670	38,541	72	1.0	14.3	1,515	1,176	2,690
Hampton	1,973	32,682	73	1.5	11.1	1,216	1,734	2,949
Horry	2,730	42,806	58	1.0	15.2	1,614	1,196	2,810
Jasper	1,216	17,596	72	1.8	8.0	1,076	1,116	2,192
Kershaw	2,750	41,350	70	1.4	11.1	2,511	1,216	3,726
Lancaster	1,893	36,089	68	1.3	15.0	1,534	877	2,411
Laurens	4,982	67,057	68	1.2	11.6	3,507	2,292	5,799
Lee	1,774	32,503	61	1.5	12.4	1,514	1,116	2,630
Lexington	3,109	39,637	72	1.1	11.4	2,132	1,355	3,487
McCormick	2,033	24,451	75	1.1	10.6	1,355	957	2,312
Marion	1,415	22,618	62	0.8	19.9	698	438	1,136
Marlboro	877	19,530	73	1.3	16.6	717	458	1,176
Newberry	3,966	50,518	68	1.1	11.6	2,571	1,794	4,364
Oconee	1,993	30,011	69	1.0	15.1	1,295	697	1,993
Orangeburg	5,879	91,108	74	1.6	9.8	5,301	3,966	9,267
Pickens	2,531	31,785	64	0.9	14.0	1,495	777	2,272
Richland	2,850	39,796	65	0.8	17.2	1,515	797	2,312
Saluda	2,630	35,490	66	1.2	11.6	1,734	1,315	3,049
Spartanburg	4,862	66,401	70	1.3	10.3	3,607	2,830	6,437
Sumter	2,451	41,630	66	1.1	15.4	1,694	1,016	2,710
Union	3,667	46,113	66	0.9	13.6	1,594	1,793	3,388
Williamsburg	3,547	51,693	72	1.4	10.8	2,511	2,292	4,803
York	3,647	54,005	63	1.3	11.3	2,551	2,232	4,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,589</b>	<b>1,860,966</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>87,843</b>	<b>64,248</b>	<b>152,091</b>
<b>% Change from 2015</b>	<b>-9.4</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-10.0</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>-10.7</b>

Table 7. Nonresident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2016.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	181	1,385	54	0.5	16.8	49	33	82
Aiken	247	1,747	47	0.8	8.8	148	49	198
Allendale	1,170	14,343	66	1.5	8.4	940	775	1,714
Anderson	66	396	50	0.5	12.0	33	0	33
Bamberg	560	7,534	71	1.4	9.5	396	396	791
Barnwell	330	5,572	70	2.2	7.9	462	247	709
Beaufort	49	610	67	2.3	5.3	49	66	115
Berkeley	99	478	67	0.3	14.5	16	16	33
Calhoun	181	1,187	73	1.2	23.2	2	49	51
Charleston	82	330	20	0.2	20.0	16	0	16
Cherokee	313	4,484	74	1.4	10.5	264	165	429
Chester	1,137	16,650	72	1.3	11.0	923	593	1,517
Chesterfield	544	6,578	67	1.1	10.8	429	181	610
Clarendon	148	1,072	44	1.1	6.5	115	49	165
Colleton	462	6,940	57	1.1	13.6	412	99	511
Darlington	132	1,055	50	0.4	21.3	16	33	49
Dillon	82	2,044	60	2.2	11.3	16	165	181
Dorchester	82	610	80	2.0	3.7	66	99	165
Edgefield	231	3,083	71	1.1	12.5	132	115	247
Fairfield	659	9,611	67	1.2	11.9	511	297	808
Florence	165	2,374	80	1.7	8.5	115	165	280
Georgetown	115	808	43	0.4	16.3	49	0	49
Greenville	33	214	100	1.5	4.3	49	0	49
Greenwood	198	2,407	58	0.8	14.6	49	115	165
Hampton	1,566	28,619	71	2.2	8.3	2,044	1,385	3,429
Horry	82	1,022	80	2.2	5.6	66	115	181
Jasper	528	11,408	81	2.8	7.6	742	758	1,500
Kershaw	412	4,880	64	1.4	8.5	330	247	577
Lancaster	709	10,336	65	1.0	14.6	429	280	709
Laurens	181	1,813	64	1.0	10.0	132	49	181
Lee	132	1,269	50	1.1	8.6	99	49	148
Lexington	66	346	50	0.5	10.5	0	33	33
McCormick	330	4,500	65	1.8	7.8	313	264	577
Marion	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Marlboro	264	4,319	81	1.0	16.4	231	33	264
Newberry	280	4,649	71	1.3	12.8	198	165	363
Oconee	132	1,006	50	0.6	12.2	66	16	82
Orangeburg	330	4,237	70	1.5	8.6	264	231	495
Pickens	49	247	67	1.0	5.0	49	0	49
Richland	66	874	50	0.5	26.5	0	33	33
Saluda	82	791	80	1.4	6.9	33	82	115
Spartanburg	132	1,731	50	0.8	17.5	49	49	99
Sumter	132	577	38	1.0	4.4	49	82	132
Union	874	11,952	68	1.3	10.2	775	396	1,170
Williamsburg	313	3,742	68	1.8	6.7	346	214	561
York	478	7,319	69	1.2	12.3	379	214	593
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,408</b>	<b>197,146</b>		<b>1.4</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>11,855</b>	<b>8,407</b>	<b>20,262</b>
<b>% Change from 2015</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>-17.0</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-12.4</b>	<b>-25.6</b>	<b>-18.4</b>

Table 8. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and nonresident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2016.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Residents	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Non-residents	Total Days
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		
Abbeville	16.5	9.9	13.1	48,027	7.5	7.7	7.6	1,385	49,412
Aiken	25.2	7.4	16.6	63,411	9.9	4.6	7.1	1,747	65,158
Allendale	16.8	4.9	10.8	12,494	15.7	5.8	12.3	14,343	26,837
Anderson	19.8	9.9	15.9	76,544	5.0	6.3	6.0	396	76,940
Bamberg	17.5	6.4	13.6	23,815	13.6	13.1	13.4	7,534	31,348
Barnwell	17.8	8.3	14.8	25,727	21.1	7.2	16.9	5,572	31,299
Beaufort	17.7	5.4	13.0	12,953	13.5	10.0	12.3	610	13,563
Berkeley	19.2	6.8	12.9	50,039	2.5	6.0	4.8	478	50,517
Calhoun	21.7	10.4	17.2	43,881	8.4	3.3	6.5	1,187	45,068
Charleston	16.7	8.4	12.8	39,337	5.0	3.8	4.0	330	39,667
Cherokee	21.7	8.8	16.4	19,967	15.1	12.7	14.3	4,484	24,451
Chester	17.2	10.1	13.8	37,284	17.8	9.1	14.6	16,650	53,934
Chesterfield	29.5	10.1	21.9	46,652	14.6	7.7	12.1	6,578	53,230
Clarendon	23.1	5.5	15.4	35,929	10.8	4.4	7.2	1,072	37,001
Colleton	23.0	8.3	17.2	67,318	19.8	9.5	15.0	6,940	74,258
Darlington	27.0	11.6	20.3	27,161	22.0	3.3	8.0	1,055	28,216
Dillon	29.4	7.4	20.5	17,178	52.5	6.3	24.8	2,044	19,222
Dorchester	23.5	7.2	15.3	44,837	8.8	2.0	7.4	610	45,447
Edgefield	17.1	9.8	13.9	32,941	14.8	11.5	13.4	3,083	36,024
Fairfield	19.0	8.7	14.0	50,856	17.5	9.7	14.6	9,611	60,467
Florence	25.5	8.7	18.6	51,973	16.8	5.0	14.4	2,374	54,347
Georgetown	22.2	7.9	15.6	35,351	17.5	2.8	7.0	808	36,159
Greenville	18.2	7.3	13.5	43,880	6.5	0.0	6.5	214	44,095
Greenwood	18.7	8.4	14.4	38,541	18.2	6.2	12.2	2,407	40,948
Hampton	26.3	4.3	16.6	32,682	22.7	8.1	18.3	28,619	61,301
Horry	19.9	11.5	15.7	42,806	15.3	1.0	12.4	1,022	43,828
Jasper	20.5	8.7	14.5	17,596	23.3	15.6	21.6	11,408	29,004
Kershaw	18.5	10.1	15.0	41,350	15.0	7.8	11.8	4,880	46,229
Lancaster	23.1	14.1	19.1	36,089	18.3	10.4	14.6	10,336	46,425
Laurens	17.8	7.5	13.5	67,057	9.3	11.3	10.0	1,813	68,871
Lee	30.2	7.2	18.3	32,503	16.8	2.5	9.6	1,269	33,772
Lexington	18.6	6.9	12.8	39,637	4.5	6.0	5.3	346	39,983
McCormick	16.1	6.8	12.0	24,451	15.6	10.8	13.7	4,500	28,951
Marion	19.4	12.5	16.0	22,618	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	22,618
Marlboro	25.4	14.8	22.3	19,530	21.3	1.8	16.4	4,319	23,849
Newberry	17.2	7.7	12.7	50,518	19.9	8.6	16.6	4,649	55,167
Oconee	21.7	7.3	15.1	30,011	12.3	4.8	7.6	1,006	31,017
Orangeburg	20.2	8.9	15.5	91,108	16.6	4.2	12.9	4,237	95,345
Pickens	18.7	7.5	12.6	31,785	5.5	4.0	5.0	247	32,032
Richland	20.1	9.0	14.0	39,796	24.5	2.0	13.3	874	40,670
Saluda	18.0	9.1	13.5	35,490	13.7	3.5	9.6	791	36,282
Spartanburg	16.7	8.3	13.7	66,401	7.0	16.8	13.1	1,731	68,132
Sumter	24.8	9.1	17.0	41,630	4.3	4.4	4.4	577	42,207
Union	17.0	7.9	12.6	46,113	15.9	9.8	13.7	11,952	58,064
Williamsburg	18.3	9.4	14.6	51,693	18.4	3.1	11.9	3,742	55,435
York	19.0	9.2	14.8	54,005	16.6	13.8	15.3	7,319	61,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>1,860,966</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>197,146</b>	<b>2,058,112</b>
<b>% Change from 2015</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-8.2</b>	<b>-18.6</b>	<b>-23.6</b>	<b>-22.8</b>	<b>-17.1</b>	<b>9.0</b>

Table 9. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2016.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>
<b>Number of Deer Harvested</b>	137,163	11,373	16,025	4,480	2,929	345
<b>Percent Total Deer Harvest</b>	79.6	6.6	9.3	2.6	1.7	0.2
<b>Percent Hunter Success With Weapon</b>	60.0	27.3	33.0	26.1	18.1	9.7

\* Total is not applicable because individual hunters take deer with multiple weapons.

Table 10. Number of hunters using each type of weapon in South Carolina in 2016.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>
<b>Residents</b>	113,874	28,033	28,406	15,200	12,210	4,236
<b>Non-Residents</b>	13,918	2,060	1,210	2,810	1,369	389
<b>Total</b>	127,792	30,093	29,617	18,009	13,578	4,625

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 138,997.

Table 11. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2016.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>
<b>Residents</b>	91.4	22.5*	22.8*	12.2*	9.8	3.4
<b>Non-Residents</b>	96.6	14.3	8.4	19.5	9.5	2.7
<b>Total</b>	92.2	21.3	20.7	13.3	9.8	3.3

\* Significant difference in weapons use category based on residency.

Table 12. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2016.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>
<b>Residents</b>	77.6*	12.4*	7.0*	1.0*	1.8	0.2
<b>Non-Residents</b>	84.7	8.4	2.4	2.9	1.5	0.1
<b>Total</b>	78.6	11.8	6.3	1.3	1.8	0.2

\* Significant difference in weapons preference category based on residency.



Table 13. Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2016.

Rank is by per unit area harvested.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./ Mile <sup>2</sup>	% Change from 2015	2016 Rank	2015 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./ Mile <sup>2</sup>	% Change from 2015	2016 Rank	2015 Rank
Abbeville	1,649	4.73	-15.3	1	1	710	2.04	-18.0	11	4
Aiken	527	0.67	-21.8	31	28	1,351	1.73	108.1	16	35
Allendale	893	2.64	-47.7	4	3	481	1.42	100.0	19	38
Anderson	1,031	3.01	-40.5	3	2	870	2.54	-37.6	1	1
Bamberg	389	1.27	-10.0	17	19	298	0.97	-27.2	32	23
Barnwell	298	0.68	-46.2	30	21	367	0.83	-33.7	35	24
Beaufort	55	0.24	127.6	46	45	40	0.17	-44.2	46	45
Berkeley	687	0.77	-61.9	27	10	550	0.62	52.4	39	43
Calhoun	618	2.08	-4.8	8	8	687	2.31	42.9	4	14
Charleston	756	1.68	109.5	12	30	275	0.61	90.5	41	44
Cherokee	206	0.84	-22.1	25	24	298	1.22	-57.3	25	3
Chester	252	0.54	-59.7	35	20	1,031	2.19	38.3	7	15
Chesterfield	275	0.47	-70.7	38	17	756	1.30	-39.6	23	8
Clarendon	321	0.69	-59.6	28	15	481	1.03	-33.3	29	18
Colleton	916	1.17	-29.4	18	16	733	0.93	8.9	34	34
Darlington	367	0.82	17.2	26	33	481	1.08	66.7	28	41
Dillon	389	1.16	102.4	19	38	115	0.34	376.2	44	46
Dorchester	504	1.07	-0.2	21	25	389	0.82	24.6	36	40
Edgefield	69	0.18	-4.8	43	43	779	2.02	40.8	12	21
Fairfield	321	0.53	-16.7	36	36	848	1.41	13.7	20	25
Florence	687	1.11	42.9	20	31	618	0.99	2.9	30	31
Georgetown	1,077	1.72	21.0	10	18	275	0.44	-42.8	42	36
Greenville	298	0.65	76.9	32	41	618	1.35	11.8	22	26
Greenwood	550	1.72	-0.6	10	14	756	2.37	49.7	3	16
Hampton	1,672	3.29	-27.6	2	4	367	0.72	-61.9	38	10
Horry	893	1.07	16.1	21	27	298	0.36	-52.4	43	37
Jasper	481	0.99	-47.4	24	12	298	0.62	-46.2	39	28
Kershaw	573	1.02	-11.8	23	22	1,420	2.52	28.4	2	9
Lancaster	137	0.33	185.7	39	44	893	2.15	48.6	8	21
Laurens	344	0.69	-28.6	28	26	916	1.84	-18.9	14	7
Lee	115	0.33	-52.4	39	33	710	2.06	-10.5	10	6
Lexington	0	0.00	-100.0	46	35	618	1.41	28.6	20	29
McCormick	756	2.28	109.5	7	23	618	1.87	97.8	13	33
Marion	779	2.30	-49.4	6	5	275	0.81	-48.0	37	17
Marlboro	618	1.41	-62.2	15	6	137	0.31	-71.4	45	30
Newberry	321	0.65	21.2	32	39	870	1.75	0.5	15	13
Oconee	893	2.01	-4.8	9	9	641	1.44	-23.8	18	11
Orangeburg	389	0.49	-35.2	37	32	1,260	1.60	6.9	17	20
Pickens	481	1.40	233.4	16	40	389	1.13	61.9	27	39
Richland	1,283	2.41	36.8	5	13	641	1.21	142.5	26	42
Saluda	69	0.23	-64.3	41	36	687	2.29	-20.6	5	2
Spartanburg	92	0.22	-72.8	42	29	893	2.15	-9.4	8	5
Sumter	825	1.56	-51.7	13	7	527	0.99	4.3	30	32
Union	229	0.57	90.5	34	42	504	1.25	-19.4	24	18
Williamsburg	1,145	1.43	-25.6	14	11	779	0.97	-17.0	32	27
York	23	0.05	-4.8	46	46	962	2.23	17.7	6	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,252</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>-24.7</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>28,513</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
	<b>(+ -) 2,015</b>					<b>(+ -) 1,473</b>				

95% Confidence Interval for harvest

Ranking is based on harvest per square mile

Table 14. Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Transportation 2012-2016.

<b>County</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Abbeville	9	1	10	3	9
Aiken	74	67	77	62	84
Allendale	8	9	13	9	10
Anderson	105	91	87	86	88
Bamberg	18	13	21	11	12
Barnwell	15	15	17	15	14
Beaufort	179	166	138	112	108
Berkeley	102	88	74	79	57
Calhoun	41	29	28	34	47
Charleston	244	185	185	147	199
Cherokee	26	25	22	25	15
Chester	22	18	16	16	33
Chesterfield	14	21	11	14	33
Clarendon	34	24	26	23	21
Colleton	70	82	85	66	56
Darlington	44	48	49	59	87
Dillon	28	41	25	64	54
Dorchester	81	73	71	77	67
Edgefield	7	7	5	3	8
Fairfield	35	16	15	26	28
Florence	99	91	74	118	113
Georgetown	47	47	28	34	29
Greenville	129	115	139	121	111
Greenwood	15	10	25	17	18
Hampton	12	11	20	15	10
Horry	103	135	131	184	189
Jasper	58	74	55	56	54
Kershaw	49	51	46	37	33
Lancaster	23	15	23	30	31
Laurens	15	15	20	16	16
Lee	35	23	19	21	19
Lexington	68	35	57	34	38
McCormick	7	4	7	3	1
Marion	35	43	31	39	45
Marlboro	19	22	21	21	51
Newberry	8	11	10	7	8
Oconee	18	8	14	15	7
Orangeburg	115	142	152	143	144
Pickens	25	29	23	32	23
Richland	99	71	85	54	77
Saluda	9	8	7	7	6
Spartanburg	146	160	158	136	165
Sumter	69	62	39	43	24
Union	19	15	15	10	18
Williamsburg	71	64	43	58	85
York	35	77	98	96	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>2,357</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>2,460</b>

Table 15. Average live body weights of deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.

COUNTY	Males				Females			
	1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old		1.5 Years Old		2.5+ Years Old	
	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.	N	Avg. Wt.
Abbeville	1,390	111.7	484	145.9	466	90.4	747	102.7
Aiken	2,667	121.6	1,485	162.6	808	94.9	1,522	109.6
Allendale	6,175	108.9	3,333	146.0	2,503	87.7	5,606	100.8
Anderson	30	121.9	17	148.1	4	92.5	8	113.0
Bamberg	2,414	111.9	1,113	142.4	884	91.4	1,721	103.9
Barnwell	1,478	119.1	695	156.6	601	94.3	1,071	106.9
Beaufort	952	101.6	1,236	135.2	690	86.7	1,818	99.8
Berkeley	3,162	100.6	4,198	127.3	1,086	83.4	3,991	97.2
Calhoun	1,588	110.2	633	144.1	312	91.4	943	104.6
Charleston	1,256	97.9	2,088	123.3	422	83.3	1,581	95.8
Cherokee	1	80.0	1	139.0	9	77.8	26	89.6
Chester	1,445	105.9	963	140.1	470	87.4	1,091	99.4
Chesterfield	79	119.4	140	152.5	27	93.5	1,128	99.8
Clarendon	13	101.3	29	152.5	42	89.6	87	103.0
Colleton	5,822	105.6	6,908	135.5	3,279	87.9	8,920	100.4
Darlington	334	113.6	273	153.3	216	92.8	573	105.2
Dillon	74	112.8	46	138.5	13	92.8	50	103.9
Dorchester	1,868	107.2	2,205	137.0	653	88.0	2,055	103.0
Edgefield	556	100.9	334	133.4	159	84.6	306	96.9
Fairfield	2,048	102.1	1,444	136.5	761	86.3	2,021	99.2
Florence	696	110.8	459	139.2	198	89.6	621	102.8
Georgetown	1,881	98.7	2,281	126.1	668	85.6	1,961	97.6
Greenville	7	122.1	9	149.9	7	79.3	16	98.4
Greenwood	1,158	111.4	537	145.1	313	90.2	629	103.0
Hampton	6,103	106.7	4,710	140.0	3,034	87.2	7,236	100.5
Horry	302	96.1	311	126.1	129	79.2	301	91.3
Jasper	3,385	101.8	4,691	135.4	2,142	84.6	5,948	96.9
Kershaw	603	108.9	588	144.6	251	89.6	758	102.9
Lancaster	472	113.1	246	153.3	213	91.4	441	105.2
Laurens	240	104.7	181	132.9	107	87.3	238	96.9
Lee	472	119.6	187	151.3	162	96.6	330	108.5
Lexington	20	120.8	9	164.8	6	101.3	15	115.8
McCormick	2,354	101.5	1,056	134.5	877	85.3	1,745	97.3
Marion	690	108.5	501	138.7	256	88.6	630	98.7
Marlboro	106	115.0	62	149.8	30	95.0	70	107.8
Newberry	143	97.1	100	135.6	85	86.0	171	92.7
Oconee	74	113.1	58	152.6	33	85.3	39	99.6
Orangeburg	2,293	112.5	1,375	145.0	686	90.8	1,684	103.4
Pickens	47	109.1	41	145.4	18	79.9	48	100.5
Richland	1,320	106.1	1,274	145.2	651	92.7	1,879	106.3
Saluda	100	115.8	40	148.0	25	93.6	34	105.2
Spartanburg	34	109.3	22	142.2	13	95.0	31	98.8
Sumter	666	111.3	353	142.1	188	94.4	509	105.3
Union	958	101.7	608	135.8	439	87.9	761	97.8
Williamsburg	469	112.5	559	143.3	150	91.4	478	106.0
York	13	96.9	30	143.9	20	78.7	41	93.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,958</b>	<b>107.3</b>	<b>47,913</b>	<b>137.9</b>	<b>24,106</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>61,879</b>	<b>100.6</b>

Table 16. Antler characteristics of male deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data

COUNTY	1.5 Years Old Males			2.5+ Years Old Males			% 1.5 Bucks in Antlered Harvest
	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	Number Points	Percent Spikes	Outside Spread	
Abbeville	4.2	32		7.2	2		74
Aiken	4.4	28	8.7	7.4	1	14.7	64
Allendale	4.0	36	7.7	7.2	3	13.7	65
Anderson	4.7	28		6.8	0		63
Bamberg	4.0	34	7.6	6.7	4	12.5	68
Barnwell	4.6	21	8.7	7.1	2	13.9	68
Beaufort	3.1	58	7.4	6.4	9	13.0	44
Berkeley	3.0	62	6.6	5.8	12	11.5	43
Calhoun	4.0	33	7.4	7.0	3	13.2	72
Charleston	2.8	69	6.2	5.4	15	10.6	38
Cherokee				7.0	0		50
Chester	3.4	47	8.7	6.7	4	13.9	61
Chesterfield	4.5	21	8.6	7.2			61
Clarendon	2.8	58	6.2	7.7	3	12.9	31
Colleton	3.3	50	6.9	6.4	7	11.7	46
Darlington	3.1	57	7.4	6.7	5	13.7	55
Dillon	3.2	54	8.1	5.7	9	11.6	62
Dorchester	3.3	53	6.6	6.0	9	11.1	46
Edgefield	3.3	50		6.6	5		63
Fairfield	3.1	55	7.5	6.4	6	13.8	59
Florence	3.4	47	7.4	6.1	9	12.1	60
Georgetown	2.8	65	6.6	5.6	13	11.0	45
Greenville	4.7	14		7.6	0		44
Greenwood	3.9	34		6.7	3		68
Hampton	3.9	39	7.7	6.9	4	13.0	56
Horry	3.0	58	6.8	6.2	8	12.1	49
Jasper	3.3	52	7.0	6.6	6	12.8	42
Kershaw	3.6	47	7.7	6.9	7	12.3	51
Lancaster	4.3	27	6.7	7.4	0	15.0	66
Laurens	3.2	53	6.7	6.0	10	13.7	57
Lee	4.3	25	8.4	6.7	2	12.9	72
Lexington	4.1	30	9.1	7.3	0	15.7	69
McCormick	3.5	47		6.8	4		69
Marion	3.3	52	7.3	6.2	10	12.4	58
Marlboro	3.1	53	7.0	6.4	10	12.6	63
Newberry	2.8	54		6.3	8	13.3	59
Oconee	3.4	52		7.3	3		56
Orangeburg	3.8	38	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	63
Pickens	4.0	43		7.2	2		53
Richland	3.3	52	7.3	6.8	5	13.5	51
Saluda	4.0	32	9.0	6.9	0	10.8	71
Spartanburg	4.0	33	6.1	7.1	0		61
Sumter	3.7	41	7.7	6.6	5	12.5	65
Union	3.3	51	7.2	6.6	5	13.6	61
Williamsburg	3.6	43	7.6	6.8	5	12.6	46
York	3.1	60	5.3	7.4	0	13.3	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>55</b>

# Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2016 Deer Hunter Survey

January, 2017

Dear Sportsman:

White-tailed deer are one of the most important game species in South Carolina. Therefore, it is important that this species be monitored for population status and harvesting activities. Wildlife resource managers require current and accurate information about deer harvests to aid in successfully managing this important natural resource and to optimize future hunting potential. To obtain this needed data, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is conducting a survey of licensed Big Game Permit holders.

You are one of a group of randomly selected hunters asked to participate in this survey. To draw accurate conclusions it is very important that you complete the survey and return it. Please take time to read each question. Even if you did not hunt deer last season please indicate this by answering the appropriate questions and moving on to the next set of questions.

In addition to the questions concerning your deer hunting activities, there are questions concerning the weapons that you used to harvest deer and questions concerning the number of wild hogs and coyotes that you may have harvested. Not only is this data important to DNR game biologists, many hunters are interested in this type of information so it is important that you answer these questions too.

Please note that complete confidentiality will be given to you. There is no number on your survey form, therefore, there is no way to link your responses to you. Keep in mind that the primary purpose of the survey is to determine the deer harvest in South Carolina and not to determine whether game laws are observed. By accurately answering the survey questions you will enable DNR biologists to better manage the white-tailed deer resource for you and other citizens of the state.

Please keep in mind that in order to reduce costs, this is the only 2016 Deer Hunter Survey form you will receive. There will be no reminders or second surveys sent to individuals that do not respond to this initial survey. Therefore, it is very important that you take a few minutes to complete this survey and mail it. Return postage is prepaid.

Results of this survey will be posted on the DNR web site once completed (hopefully by June). The results from the 2015 survey can be found at [www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2015/DeerHarvestReport.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2015/DeerHarvestReport.html)

Thank you for your assistance.



Charles Ruth  
Wildlife Biologist  
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

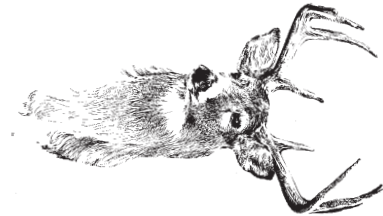
**PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.**

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2016 Deer Hunter Survey, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202

16-11158

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SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 167  
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976**

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IN THE  
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Figure 1 Cont.

**2016 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey**

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2016)? 1. Yes      2. No  
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 9.**
2. Did you harvest any deer in SC this past season? 1. Yes      2. No
3. Even if you did not harvest any deer, please record the SC counties you deer hunted and the number of days hunted in each county this past season (2016). Please begin with the county you hunted the most. If you harvested deer please record the number of bucks and does taken in each county. A day of hunting is defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Please do not give ranges (i.e. 5-10), rather provide absolute numbers (i.e. 5). Provide information only for yourself - not friends, relatives, or other hunt club members.

Counties You Deer Hunted	# Days Hunted	Number Deer Harvested	
		# Bucks	#Does
1		# Bucks	#Does
2		# Bucks	#Does
3		# Bucks	#Does
4		# Bucks	#Does

**If you did not harvest any deer in SC in 2016 please go to question # 6.**

4. Please record the number of deer taken by month of season in SC last season (2016).

August	September	October	November	December	January

5. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon in SC last season (2015).

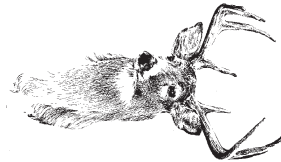
Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

6. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2016.  
1. Rifle    2. Bow    3. Shotgun    4. Muzzleloader    5. Crossbow    6. Handgun
7. Please circle the **one** weapon that you **prefer to hunt deer with.**  
1. Rifle    2. Bow    3. Shotgun    4. Muzzleloader    5. Crossbow    6. Handgun
8. Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of deer in the area that you hunt most often? **Circle one**  
1. Increasing    2. About the same    3. Decreasing
9. If you **harvested** any wild hogs or coyotes while hunting in SC in 2016, please complete the box below.  
If you did not harvest any hogs or coyotes please **go to question # 10.**

County	# Hogs	County	# Coyotes
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

10. Are you a resident of SC? 1. Yes      2. No
11. If yes, which county \_\_\_\_\_

Separate and return this portion of the survey. Postage is prepaid. Please do not staple this form.



**Help Manage  
SC's Deer Herd**  
**COMPLETE YOUR  
HUNTER  
SURVEY**



**DNR**

**DEER HUNTER SURVEY**  
 SCDNR  
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 www.dnr.sc.gov

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Figure 2. Percent of deer harvested by month of season in South Carolina in 2016. Note that December includes January 1 which is the last day of deer season.

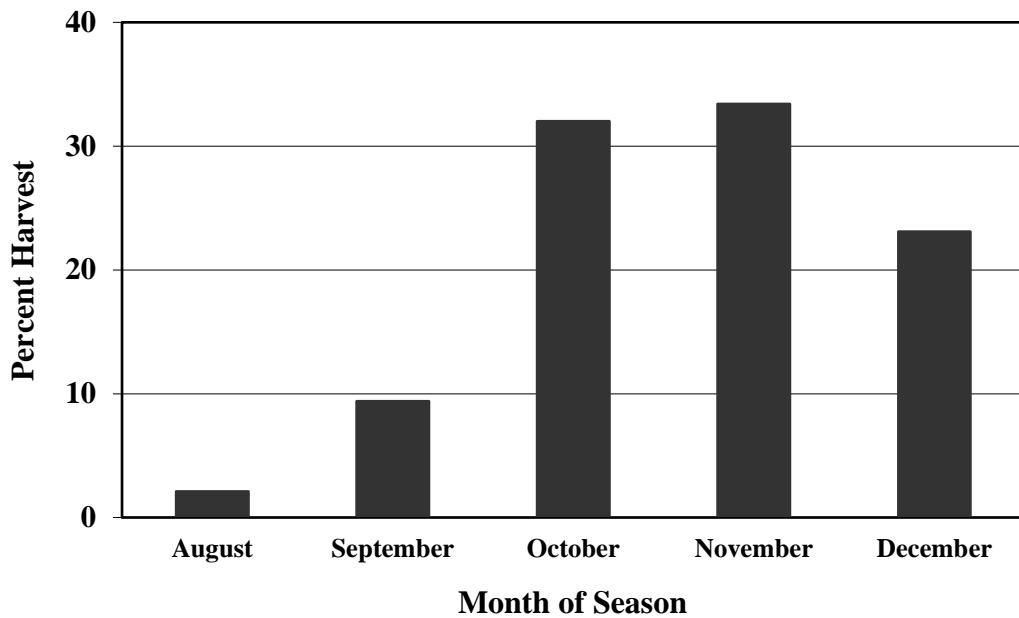


Figure 3. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

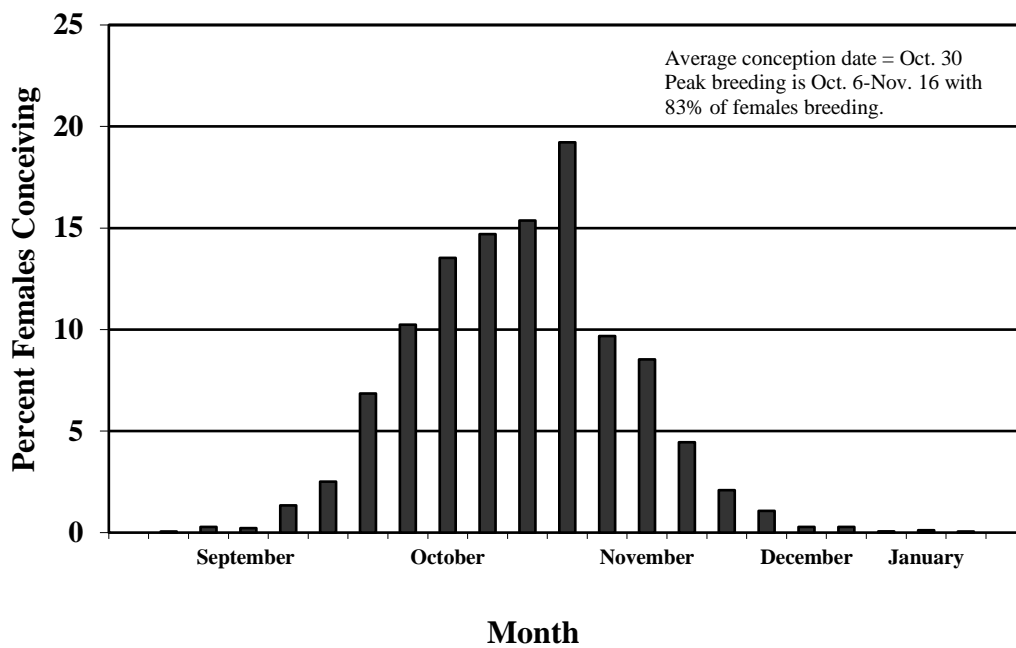


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2016.

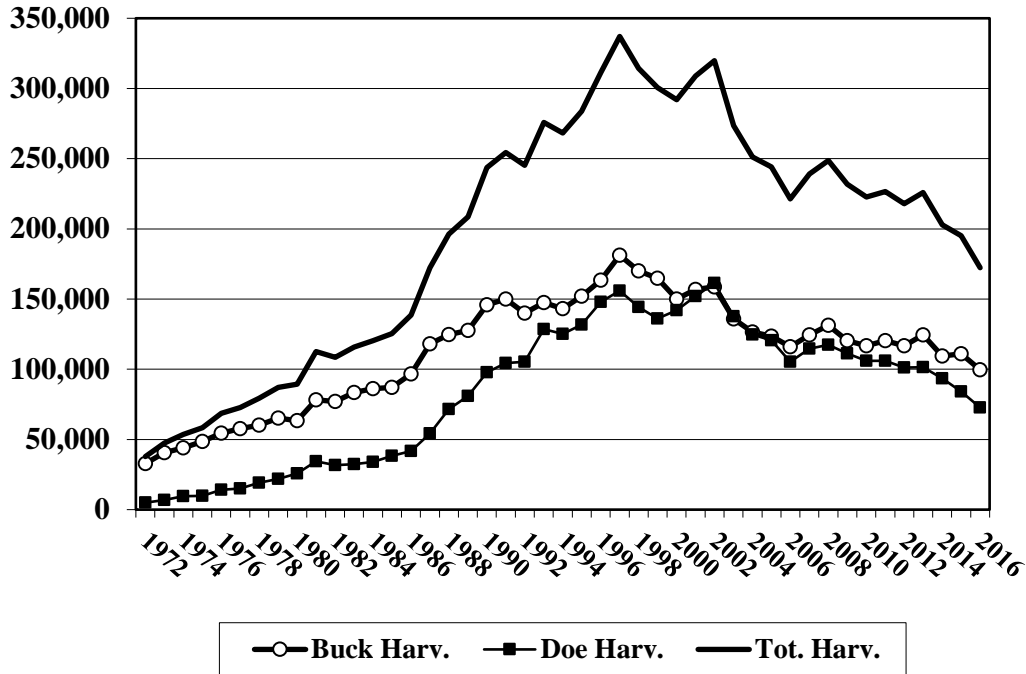


Figure 5. Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2016 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

