

# **2012 SOUTH CAROLINA DEER HARVEST REPORT**



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



**DNR**

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 2012 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 2012, (2) the harvest of deer in the constituent counties of the state, (3) hunting effort related to deer, (4) resident and non-resident 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 3-6). 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 (+- 3.4 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 2012 Deer Hunter Survey represents a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2012 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 5 license types, the first 3 of which have a Big Game Permit included. The license types included: (1) Resident Sportsman's, (2) Resident Combination, (3) Resident Junior Sportsman's, (4) Resident Big Game Permit, and (5) Non-resident 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 2012. Since deer season 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 (25,000) was returned as undeliverable mail (554). Therefore, the actual attempted sample was 24,446 representing 14.8 percent of the entire population (164,937) of license holders. A total of 6,465 completed surveys were returned yielding a 26.4 percent response rate and 3.9 percent sampling rate on the entire licensee population.

### **Deer Harvest**

During the 2012 deer season it is estimated that a total of 116,673 bucks and 101,181 does were harvested for a statewide total of 217,854 deer (Table 1). This figure represents a 3.8 percent decrease in harvest from 2011 (226,458) and is 31.9 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 pine stands that are greater than 10 years old, a situation that 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 is currently involved in 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 indicates 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 final 3 years of the study is attempting to determine if coyote control (trap/kill) leads to increased fawn survival on the area.

### **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 2012 was 10.4 deer per square mile over the entire state (Table 2). Although the deer population in the state has declined in recent years, this harvest rate should be considered good in comparison with most other states. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Bamberg (19.2 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), Anderson (16.5 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), Union (15.6 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), Greenwood (15.5 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), and Abbeville (14.8 deer/mile<sup>2</sup>), and (Table 2).

### **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 2012 were Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Colleton, Newberry, and Fairfield.

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

Deer hunting on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) remains popular in South Carolina with approximately 53,000 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 2012 season it is estimated that 4,711 bucks and 3,825 does were harvested for a total deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas of 8,536 (Table 4). This figure represents an increase of approximately 1.3 percent from 2011. It is estimated that approximately 18,047 hunters spent 212,954 days hunting deer on WMAs in South Carolina in 2012.

### **Hunter Opinion Regarding Deer Numbers**

The 2012 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. About half (50.2%) 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 (35.4%) believed that the deer population was decreasing than increasing (14.4%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being neutral, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.2 suggests that hunters viewed the deer population as slightly decreasing. The opinion among hunters that the deer population is decreasing has been consistent the last few years. 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 87.0 percent actually hunted deer. For residents, 85.3 percent of sampled licensees hunted deer and for non-residents 96.3 percent hunted deer. Extrapolating to the respective licensee populations yields 127,369 residents (Table 6) and 14,738 non-residents (Table 7) for a total of 142,107 deer hunters statewide during 2012. This figure represents a 1.4 percent increase from the 140,152 hunters in 2011. Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Orangeburg, Laurens, Newberry, Spartanburg, and Williamsburg, for resident hunters (Table 6) and Hampton, Allendale, Chester, Union and Lancaster for non-residents (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 2012 was 67.8 percent, which should be considered very good. Success rates for residents (68.6%, Table 6) were slightly higher than non-residents (63.8%, Table 7). Estimates for resident and non-resident success rates for all counties are presented in Tables 6 and 7. Success rates for resident hunters were highest in Jasper, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, and Dillon. Non-residents experienced the highest success in Barnwell, Marlboro, Bamberg, Lee, and Greenwood. However, only Bamberg County had appreciable numbers of non-resident hunters.

## **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 15.9 days afield for a total of 2,022,644 days deer hunting and non-residents averaged 13.7 days for a total of 202,009 days (Table 8). Total effort expended deer hunting in South Carolina during 2012 was estimated at 2,224,653 days (Table 8), down less than one percent from 2011. 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 2012 were Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Aiken, Colleton, and Fairfield (Table 8). Resident hunters expended the most hunting effort in Orangeburg, Williamsburg, Aiken, Spartanburg, and Berkeley counties. Non-residents hunted the most in Hampton, Chester, Allendale, Williamsburg, and Jasper counties and these 5 counties totaled 40 percent of all the non-resident deer hunting effort that took place in South Carolina in 2012.

Resident hunters who were successful at harvesting at least one deer averaged over twice as many days (20.8 days) afield as unsuccessful residents (8.9 days) (Table 8). Similarly, successful non-residents (16.9 days) averaged about 2 times the days afield when compared with unsuccessful non-residents (8.2 days).

The amount of effort required to harvest a deer varied between residents and non-residents and by the county hunted. On the average it took less time for non-residents to harvest a deer (8.4 days, Table 7) compared to residents (10. days, Table 6). This may be due to the fact that many non-residents 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 non-residents. Counties requiring the least effort to harvest a deer included Jasper, Allendale, Clarendon, Williamsburg, and Colleton for resident hunters (Table 6). On the other hand, non-residents spent less time to harvest a deer in Georgetown, Dorchester, Beaufort, Williamsburg, and Anderson counties (Table 7), however, none of these counties exhibited what should be considered a high level of non-resident 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 (78.7%) of deer are harvested with centerfire rifles (Table 9). Shotguns (9.9%) and archery equipment (6.8%) also contribute significantly to the overall deer harvest in the state, whereas, muzzleloaders, crossbows, and handguns combine to contribute less than 5 percent of the total harvest (Table 9).

Although rifles are used by approximately 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 non-residents in their use of multiple weapons and significantly more residents use archery equipment (25.2%) and shotguns (29.6%) than non-residents (13.9% archery and 7.9% 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 non-residents. The weapons utilization data supports this contention.

On the other hand, non-residents (21.1%) used muzzleloaders more frequently than residents (14.1%). 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 non-residents 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 non-residents 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 (77.5%) of deer hunters prefer rifles (Table 12). Bows (11.5%) 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 (8.2%) than non-residents (2.1%) and muzzleloaders are preferred more by non-residents (3.6%) than by residents (1.1%) (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) non-residents 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 2012 Deer Hunter Survey asked hunters to provide information on the month of kill for deer taken during the 2012 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 2012 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 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 2012 an estimated 26,674 wild hogs were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), an 18 percent decrease from 2011 (32,494 hogs). Evidence of the presence of hogs in 46 of 46 counties was made by hunter harvest activities (46 of 46 counties in 2011). Statewide, approximately 1.22 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 (4.4 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), Allendale (3.1 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), Charleston (2.9 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), Marion (2.9 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>), and Sumter (2.7 hogs/mile<sup>2</sup>).

### **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. DNR is currently participating in a multi-year study with researchers at the Savannah River Site in Aiken and Barnwell Counties concerning the impact that coyotes are having on deer. Specifically, the objective of this study is to determine potential impacts on deer fawn survival and recruitment. Cumulative data through the first 3 years of the study indicates 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” combined with extremely liberal deer harvests and lower deer populations should cause concern. The last 3 years of the study is to determine if coyote control (trap/kill) leads to increased fawn survival on the area.

Coyotes are not protected animals in South Carolina and hunters are allowed to harvest them throughout the year during daylight hours. During 2012 it is estimated that approximately 28,211 coyotes were harvested by deer hunters in South Carolina (Table 13), an decrease of 12.5 percent from 2011 (32,204 coyotes). As in past years, there was evidence of coyotes being harvested in all counties. The number of coyotes killed by deer hunters has increased exponentially since the late 1990’s pointing to the expansion of this species in South Carolina. Statewide approximately 1.3 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup> were harvested and the top 5 counties for coyote harvest per unit area included Anderson (3.6 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Saluda (3.5 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Newberry (2.9 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), Laurens (2.8 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>), and Lancaster (2.7 coyotes/mile<sup>2</sup>).

### **Supplementary Information**

The following section is not related to the 2012 Big Game Hunter Survey, but is offered as information relevant to the state’s deer population.

Data related to deer-vehicle collisions for 2012 was not available from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) at the time of this publication, therefore, 2011 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 have 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 in the State's deer population. However, the overriding factor is habitat. 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 pine stands that are greater than 10 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, the deer population has trended down since 2000 and currently the population is estimated at about 750,000 deer, a level comparable with the mid 1980's.

## List of Tables

<b>Table</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2012.....	15
2	County rankings based on deer harvest per unit area in South Carolina 2012.....	16
3	County rankings based on total deer harvest in South Carolina in 2012 .....	17
4	Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2012 .....	18
5	Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2012 compared to previous years .....	18
6	Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2012 .....	19
7	Non-resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2012 .....	20
8	Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and non-resident hunters in South Carolina in 2012 .....	21
9	Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2012.....	22
10	Number of deer hunters using each type of weapon in South Carolina in 2012.....	22
11	Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012 .....	22
12	Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012.....	22
13	Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012.....	23
14	Number of deer-vehicle collisions reported by the South Carolina Department of Transportation 2004-2011.....	24
15	Average live body weights of deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.....	25
16	Antler characteristics of male deer from South Carolina counties, based on historic data.....	26

## List of Figures

<b>Figure</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2012 Deer Hunter Survey .....	27-28
2	Percent of deer harvest by month of season in South Carolina in 2012 .....	29
3	Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.....	29
4	Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina, 1972-2012.....	30
5	Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2012, based on population reconstruction modeling .....	30

Table 1. Estimated statewide deer harvest in South Carolina in 2012.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2011
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>	
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,895	2,267	5,162	43.2	14.8	4.0
Aiken	500,546	782	3,277	1,971	5,248	95.4	6.7	0.1
Allendale	216,455	338	2,475	2,441	4,916	44.0	14.5	13.1
Anderson	219,068	342	2,894	2,746	5,640	38.8	16.5	1.9
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,001	2,890	5,891	33.4	19.2	-20.4
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,286	2,002	4,288	65.7	9.7	-1.7
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,296	1,023	2,319	63.6	10.1	43.3
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,271	2,209	5,480	103.6	6.2	8.8
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,125	1,837	3,962	48.1	13.3	-23.2
Charleston	288,732	451	2,655	2,483	5,138	56.2	11.4	11.2
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,920	1,441	3,361	46.6	13.7	32.6
Chester	300,589	470	3,539	3,208	6,747	44.6	14.4	18.7
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,346	1,321	3,667	101.6	6.3	9.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,478	2,587	5,065	58.9	10.9	2.4
Colleton	502,666	785	3,720	4,198	7,918	63.5	10.1	-4.6
Darlington	286,228	447	1,349	966	2,315	123.6	5.2	0.1
Dillon	214,069	334	837	645	1,482	144.4	4.4	-30.5
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,789	2,024	4,813	62.9	10.2	1.4
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,672	2,335	5,007	49.2	13.0	21.8
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,654	3,610	7,264	52.9	12.1	-2.3
Florence	397,888	622	2,343	2,654	4,997	79.6	8.0	-21.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,028	1,732	3,760	106.3	6.0	-3.2
Greenville	294,257	460	1,315	1,186	2,501	117.7	5.4	-20.8
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,506	2,459	4,965	41.2	15.5	12.5
Hampton	324,840	508	3,081	3,137	6,218	52.2	12.3	-18.5
Horry	533,336	833	2,312	1,742	4,054	131.6	4.9	-16.3
Jasper	309,889	484	2,082	2,084	4,166	74.4	8.6	-7.9
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,772	2,264	5,036	71.6	8.9	-7.7
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,726	2,545	5,271	50.5	12.7	17.3
Laurens	317,916	497	3,191	2,822	6,013	52.9	12.1	-24.0
Lee	220,106	344	2,430	1,837	4,267	51.6	12.4	25.8
Lexington	280,742	439	1,664	1,334	2,998	93.6	6.8	-0.7
McCormick	212,021	331	1,940	1,522	3,462	61.2	10.5	23.6
Marion	216,907	339	1,023	870	1,893	114.6	5.6	-45.1
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,548	920	2,468	114.0	5.6	-13.3
Newberry	317,761	497	3,570	3,707	7,277	43.7	14.7	17.1
Oconee	284,348	444	975	354	1,329	214.0	3.0	-2.6
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,048	4,944	10,992	45.9	13.9	-16.0
Pickens	219,926	344	1,267	707	1,974	111.4	5.7	51.3
Richland	340,121	531	2,099	1,401	3,500	97.2	6.6	-22.0
Saluda	192,173	300	1,928	1,812	3,740	51.4	12.5	-2.9
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,176	2,971	6,147	43.3	14.8	22.2
Sumter	338,968	530	2,607	2,263	4,870	69.6	9.2	5.0
Union	258,111	403	3,158	3,115	6,273	41.1	15.6	-16.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,670	4,292	8,962	57.3	11.2	-19.6
York	276,650	432	2,735	2,303	5,038	54.9	11.7	-13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>116,673</b>	<b>101,181</b>	<b>217,854</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>	

95% Confidence Interval for harvest (+ -) **3,922** (+ -) **3,964** (+ -) **6,465**

\* 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 2012.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2011
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>	
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,001	2,890	5,891	33.4	19.2	-20.4
Anderson	219,068	342	2,894	2,746	5,640	38.8	16.5	1.9
Union	258,111	403	3,158	3,115	6,273	41.1	15.6	-16.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,506	2,459	4,965	41.2	15.5	12.5
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,895	2,267	5,162	43.2	14.8	4.0
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,176	2,971	6,147	43.3	14.8	22.2
Newberry	317,761	497	3,570	3,707	7,277	43.7	14.7	17.1
Allendale	216,455	338	2,475	2,441	4,916	44.0	14.5	13.1
Chester	300,589	470	3,539	3,208	6,747	44.6	14.4	18.7
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,048	4,944	10,992	45.9	13.9	-16.0
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,920	1,441	3,361	46.6	13.7	32.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,125	1,837	3,962	48.1	13.3	-23.2
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,672	2,335	5,007	49.2	13.0	21.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,726	2,545	5,271	50.5	12.7	17.3
Saluda	192,173	300	1,928	1,812	3,740	51.4	12.5	-2.9
Lee	220,106	344	2,430	1,837	4,267	51.6	12.4	25.8
Hampton	324,840	508	3,081	3,137	6,218	52.2	12.3	-18.5
Laurens	317,916	497	3,191	2,822	6,013	52.9	12.1	-24.0
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,654	3,610	7,264	52.9	12.1	-2.3
York	276,650	432	2,735	2,303	5,038	54.9	11.7	-13.7
Charleston	288,732	451	2,655	2,483	5,138	56.2	11.4	11.2
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,670	4,292	8,962	57.3	11.2	-19.6
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,478	2,587	5,065	58.9	10.9	2.4
McCormick	212,021	331	1,940	1,522	3,462	61.2	10.5	23.6
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,789	2,024	4,813	62.9	10.2	1.4
Colleton	502,666	785	3,720	4,198	7,918	63.5	10.1	-4.6
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,296	1,023	2,319	63.6	10.1	43.3
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,286	2,002	4,288	65.7	9.7	-1.7
Sumter	338,968	530	2,607	2,263	4,870	69.6	9.2	5.0
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,772	2,264	5,036	71.6	8.9	-7.7
Jasper	309,889	484	2,082	2,084	4,166	74.4	8.6	-7.9
Florence	397,888	622	2,343	2,654	4,997	79.6	8.0	-21.2
Lexington	280,742	439	1,664	1,334	2,998	93.6	6.8	-0.7
Aiken	500,546	782	3,277	1,971	5,248	95.4	6.7	0.1
Richland	340,121	531	2,099	1,401	3,500	97.2	6.6	-22.0
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,346	1,321	3,667	101.6	6.3	9.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,271	2,209	5,480	103.6	6.2	8.8
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,028	1,732	3,760	106.3	6.0	-3.2
Pickens	219,926	344	1,267	707	1,974	111.4	5.7	51.3
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,548	920	2,468	114.0	5.6	-13.3
Marion	216,907	339	1,023	870	1,893	114.6	5.6	-45.1
Greenville	294,257	460	1,315	1,186	2,501	117.7	5.4	-20.8
Darlington	286,228	447	1,349	966	2,315	123.6	5.2	0.1
Horry	533,336	833	2,312	1,742	4,054	131.6	4.9	-16.3
Dillon	214,069	334	837	645	1,482	144.4	4.4	-30.5
Oconee	284,348	444	975	354	1,329	214.0	3.0	-2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>116,673</b>	<b>101,181</b>	<b>217,854</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>	

Table 3. County rankings based on total deer harvested in South Carolina in 2012.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest	Harvest Rates		% Change from 2011
						Ac/Deer	Deer/Mi. <sup>2</sup>	
Orangeburg	504,516	788	6,048	4,944	10,992	45.9	13.9	-16.0
Williamsburg	513,851	803	4,670	4,292	8,962	57.3	11.2	-19.6
Colleton	502,666	785	3,720	4,198	7,918	63.5	10.1	-4.6
Newberry	317,761	497	3,570	3,707	7,277	43.7	14.7	17.1
Fairfield	384,607	601	3,654	3,610	7,264	52.9	12.1	-2.3
Chester	300,589	470	3,539	3,208	6,747	44.6	14.4	18.7
Union	258,111	403	3,158	3,115	6,273	41.1	15.6	-16.4
Hampton	324,840	508	3,081	3,137	6,218	52.2	12.3	-18.5
Spartanburg	265,939	416	3,176	2,971	6,147	43.3	14.8	22.2
Laurens	317,916	497	3,191	2,822	6,013	52.9	12.1	-24.0
Bamberg	196,573	307	3,001	2,890	5,891	33.4	19.2	-20.4
Anderson	219,068	342	2,894	2,746	5,640	38.8	16.5	1.9
Berkeley	567,530	887	3,271	2,209	5,480	103.6	6.2	8.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	2,726	2,545	5,271	50.5	12.7	17.3
Aiken	500,546	782	3,277	1,971	5,248	95.4	6.7	0.1
Abbeville	223,113	349	2,895	2,267	5,162	43.2	14.8	4.0
Charleston	288,732	451	2,655	2,483	5,138	56.2	11.4	11.2
Clarendon	298,087	466	2,478	2,587	5,065	58.9	10.9	2.4
York	276,650	432	2,735	2,303	5,038	54.9	11.7	-13.7
Kershaw	360,485	563	2,772	2,264	5,036	71.6	8.9	-7.7
Edgefield	246,543	385	2,672	2,335	5,007	49.2	13.0	21.8
Florence	397,888	622	2,343	2,654	4,997	79.6	8.0	-21.2
Greenwood	204,400	319	2,506	2,459	4,965	41.2	15.5	12.5
Allendale	216,455	338	2,475	2,441	4,916	44.0	14.5	13.1
Sumter	338,968	530	2,607	2,263	4,870	69.6	9.2	5.0
Dorchester	302,717	473	2,789	2,024	4,813	62.9	10.2	1.4
Barnwell	281,764	440	2,286	2,002	4,288	65.7	9.7	-1.7
Lee	220,106	344	2,430	1,837	4,267	51.6	12.4	25.8
Jasper	309,889	484	2,082	2,084	4,166	74.4	8.6	-7.9
Horry	533,336	833	2,312	1,742	4,054	131.6	4.9	-16.3
Calhoun	190,584	298	2,125	1,837	3,962	48.1	13.3	-23.2
Georgetown	399,638	624	2,028	1,732	3,760	106.3	6.0	-3.2
Saluda	192,173	300	1,928	1,812	3,740	51.4	12.5	-2.9
Chesterfield	372,478	582	2,346	1,321	3,667	101.6	6.3	9.5
Richland	340,121	531	2,099	1,401	3,500	97.2	6.6	-22.0
McCormick	212,021	331	1,940	1,522	3,462	61.2	10.5	23.6
Cherokee	156,664	245	1,920	1,441	3,361	46.6	13.7	32.6
Lexington	280,742	439	1,664	1,334	2,998	93.6	6.8	-0.7
Greenville	294,257	460	1,315	1,186	2,501	117.7	5.4	-20.8
Marlboro	281,271	439	1,548	920	2,468	114.0	5.6	-13.3
Beaufort	147,441	230	1,296	1,023	2,319	63.6	10.1	43.3
Darlington	286,228	447	1,349	966	2,315	123.6	5.2	0.1
Pickens	219,926	344	1,267	707	1,974	111.4	5.7	51.3
Marion	216,907	339	1,023	870	1,893	114.6	5.6	-45.1
Dillon	214,069	334	837	645	1,482	144.4	4.4	-30.5
Oconee	284,348	444	975	354	1,329	214.0	3.0	-2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>116,673</b>	<b>101,181</b>	<b>217,854</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>10.4</b>	

Table 4. Estimated deer harvest on Wildlife Management Areas in South Carolina in 2012

<b>Area</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Bucks</b>	<b>Does</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Deer/Mi.<sup>2</sup></b>
Mountain Hunt Unit	193,566	856	446	1,302	4.3
Central Piedmont Hunt Unit	159,793	1,815	1,790	3,605	14.4
Western Piedmont Hunt Unit	119,077	1,288	971	2,259	12.1
<b>Subtotal for Upstate WMA's</b>	<b>472,436</b>	<b>3,959</b>	<b>3,208</b>	<b>7,167</b>	<b>9.7</b>
<b>Coastal WMA's*</b>					
Bear Island WMA	1,519	12	19	31	13.1
Bonneau Ferry	10,697	45	43	88	5.3
Botany Bay WMA	2,000	29	22	51	16.3
Crackerneck WMA	10,470	71	46	117	7.2
Cross Generating Station WMA	654	1	10	11	10.8
Donnelley WMA	8,048	14	40	54	4.3
Francis Marion WMA	252,578	203	157	360	0.9
Hamilton Ridge	13,281	57	63	120	5.8
Hickory Top WMA	1,836	62	12	74	25.8
Manchester State Forest WMA	25,505	113	53	166	4.2
Moultrie WMA	9,480	25	9	34	2.3
Oak Lea WMA	2,024	28	32	60	19.0
Palachucola WMA	5,947	25	22	47	5.1
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA	5,000	0	1	1	0.1
Santee Cooper WMA	2,828	30	39	69	15.6
Victoria Bluff WMA	800	5	0	5	4.0
Webb Wildlife Center WMA	5,866	32	49	81	8.8
<b>Subtotal for Coastal WMA's</b>	<b>358,533</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>830,969</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>3,825</b>	<b>8,536</b>	<b>6.6</b>

\*Check Station data

Table 5. Hunter opinion (percent) regarding the number of deer in the area hunted most often in South Carolina in 2012 compared to previous years.

	<b>Increasing</b>	<b>About the Same</b>	<b>Decreasing</b>
<b>Residents</b>	15.0*	49.7	35.3
<b>Non-Residents</b>	11.2	53.2	35.6
<b>Overall</b>	14.4	50.2	35.4

\* Significant difference in opinion based on residency.

Table 6. Resident deer hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2012.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	3,960	52,608	66	1.24	10.7	2,736	2,181	4,916
Aiken	4,056	68,832	68	1.25	13.5	3,176	1,913	5,089
Allendale	1,569	21,350	82	1.68	8.1	1,301	1,339	2,640
Anderson	3,807	58,996	74	1.43	10.8	2,793	2,659	5,452
Bamberg	2,296	45,320	85	1.99	9.9	2,277	2,296	4,572
Barnwell	2,047	36,538	83	1.75	10.2	1,837	1,741	3,577
Beaufort	1,186	20,986	74	1.87	9.5	1,224	995	2,219
Berkeley	3,711	62,728	68	1.45	11.6	3,214	2,181	5,395
Calhoun	2,315	37,112	82	1.69	9.5	2,124	1,779	3,903
Charleston	3,099	44,955	73	1.57	9.2	2,525	2,353	4,878
Cherokee	1,779	29,384	70	1.61	10.2	1,645	1,224	2,870
Chester	3,099	51,213	69	1.59	10.4	2,582	2,353	4,936
Chesterfield	2,028	38,567	70	1.57	12.1	2,028	1,148	3,176
Clarendon	2,468	40,882	76	2.00	8.3	2,391	2,544	4,936
Colleton	3,692	62,574	83	1.92	8.8	3,271	3,807	7,078
Darlington	1,722	24,392	77	1.31	10.8	1,320	937	2,257
Dillon	861	19,742	82	1.69	13.6	823	631	1,454
Dorchester	2,716	42,375	73	1.68	9.3	2,659	1,894	4,553
Edgefield	3,080	41,915	65	1.47	9.3	2,353	2,162	4,515
Fairfield	4,017	58,750	75	1.57	9.3	3,118	3,176	6,294
Florence	2,850	53,776	72	1.74	10.9	2,315	2,640	4,955
Georgetown	2,334	41,093	73	1.55	11.4	1,971	1,645	3,616
Greenville	2,372	32,330	62	1.05	13.0	1,301	1,186	2,487
Greenwood	3,329	47,730	73	1.45	9.9	2,449	2,372	4,821
Hampton	2,181	33,823	76	1.56	9.9	1,645	1,760	3,405
Horry	2,162	39,830	72	1.73	10.6	2,123	1,626	3,749
Jasper	1,588	21,445	87	1.75	7.7	1,473	1,301	2,774
Kershaw	3,348	57,351	76	1.35	12.7	2,468	2,047	4,514
Lancaster	2,238	41,533	76	1.91	9.7	2,277	2,009	4,285
Laurens	4,304	58,999	70	1.35	10.2	3,061	2,736	5,797
Lee	2,085	44,229	75	1.99	10.7	2,372	1,779	4,151
Lexington	3,271	44,133	71	0.91	14.8	1,664	1,320	2,984
McCormick	2,487	34,491	63	1.20	11.6	1,607	1,377	2,984
Marion	1,320	21,273	75	1.39	11.6	995	842	1,836
Marlboro	976	25,022	71	1.98	13.0	1,186	746	1,932
Newberry	4,247	62,306	75	1.62	9.0	3,310	3,577	6,887
Oconee	1,588	20,470	63	0.82	15.7	976	325	1,301
Orangeburg	5,816	93,625	79	1.77	9.1	5,758	4,553	10,311
Pickens	2,028	27,357	53	0.95	14.2	1,224	708	1,932
Richland	3,042	38,624	70	1.13	11.2	2,085	1,358	3,443
Saluda	2,468	33,898	71	1.48	9.3	1,856	1,798	3,654
Spartanburg	4,247	65,806	64	1.40	11.1	3,061	2,870	5,930
Sumter	3,023	54,503	72	1.54	11.7	2,506	2,162	4,668
Union	3,118	44,095	72	1.34	10.6	2,085	2,085	4,170
Williamsburg	4,151	71,912	80	2.04	8.5	4,438	4,017	8,455
York	3,290	53,775	75	1.28	12.7	2,257	1,970	4,228
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,369</b>	<b>2,022,644</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>103,858</b>	<b>90,122</b>	<b>193,980</b>
<b>% Change from 2011</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-2.8</b>

Table 7. Non-resident hunter and deer harvest statistics in South Carolina in 2012.

County	Number Hunters	Man/Days Hunted	Percent Success	Deer/Hunter	Days/Deer	Buck Harvest	Doe Harvest	Total Harvest
Abbeville	189	1,755	81	1.31	7.1	160	87	247
Aiken	247	3,597	73	0.65	22.5	102	58	160
Allendale	1,160	15,405	81	1.96	6.8	1,175	1,102	2,277
Anderson	73	885	76	2.60	4.7	102	87	189
Bamberg	595	8,196	88	2.22	6.2	725	595	1,320
Barnwell	348	3,612	92	2.04	5.1	450	261	711
Beaufort	73	450	76	1.40	4.4	73	29	102
Berkeley	131	1,146	33	0.67	13.2	58	29	87
Calhoun	73	609	83	2.00	10.2	2	58	60
Charleston	189	2,945	75	1.38	11.3	131	131	261
Cherokee	363	6,078	68	1.36	12.3	276	218	493
Chester	1,146	17,697	83	1.58	9.8	957	856	1,813
Chesterfield	363	5,208	67	1.36	10.6	319	174	493
Clarendon	73	827	50	1.80	6.3	87	44	131
Colleton	624	8,645	81	1.35	10.3	450	392	841
Darlington	44	363	0	1.33	6.2	29	29	58
Dillon	73	638	76	0.40	22.0	15	15	29
Dorchester	189	638	83	1.38	2.4	131	131	261
Edgefield	290	3,264	71	1.70	6.6	319	174	493
Fairfield	711	11,358	62	1.37	11.7	537	435	972
Florence	102	508	57	0.43	11.7	29	15	44
Georgetown	58	290	20	2.50	2.0	58	87	145
Greenville	29	377	76	0.50	26.0	15	0	15
Greenwood	87	1,552	85	1.67	10.7	58	87	145
Hampton	1,349	20,729	80	2.09	7.4	1,436	1,378	2,814
Horry	102	2,292	50	3.00	7.5	189	116	305
Jasper	754	12,721	76	1.85	9.1	609	783	1,393
Kershaw	363	4,816	64	1.44	9.2	305	218	522
Lancaster	914	12,112	75	1.08	12.3	450	537	986
Laurens	131	1,581	68	1.67	7.3	131	87	218
Lee	87	1,291	87	1.33	11.1	58	58	116
Lexington	44	189	25	0.33	0.0	0	15	15
McCormick	305	4,642	76	1.57	9.7	334	145	479
Marion	58	464	76	1.00	8.0	29	29	58
Marlboro	261	5,237	89	2.06	9.8	363	174	537
Newberry	334	4,888	77	1.17	12.5	261	131	392
Oconee	87	653	0	1.17	22.5	0	29	29
Orangeburg	334	4,961	81	2.04	7.3	290	392	682
Pickens	73	783	76	0.60	18.0	44	0	44
Richland	102	725	77	0.57	12.5	15	44	58
Saluda	102	769	76	0.86	8.8	73	15	87
Spartanburg	160	1,915	61	1.36	8.8	116	102	218
Sumter	174	1,973	62	1.17	9.7	102	102	203
Union	986	14,143	72	2.13	6.7	1,073	1,030	2,103
Williamsburg	348	2,379	79	1.46	4.7	232	276	508
York	450	6,702	80	1.81	8.3	479	334	812
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,738</b>	<b>202,009</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>12,839</b>	<b>11,082</b>	<b>23,922</b>
<b>% Change from 2011</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>-14.7</b>	<b>-11.9</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>-11.3</b>	<b>-12.1</b>	<b>-11.7</b>

Table 8. Hunting effort (man/days) by county for successful and unsuccessful resident and nonresident deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012.

County	Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Residents	Non-Residents (man/days)			Total Effort Non-residents	Total Days
	Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		Successful	Unsuccessful	Average		
Abbeville	17.6	8.2	13.3	52,608	11.9	5.2	9.3	1,755	54,363
Aiken	25.7	8.9	17.0	68,832	31.3	5.5	14.6	3,597	72,429
Allendale	18.2	6.4	13.6	21,350	15.5	7.0	13.3	15,405	36,755
Anderson	17.9	12.1	15.5	58,996	14.5	3.0	12.2	885	59,881
Bamberg	25.7	7.9	19.7	45,320	14.5	11.2	13.8	8,196	53,516
Barnwell	21.4	11.1	17.9	36,538	11.5	7.7	10.4	3,612	40,150
Beaufort	20.4	9.3	17.7	20,986	2.5	8.7	6.2	450	21,436
Berkeley	23.6	8.5	16.9	62,728	13.0	3.5	8.8	1,146	63,874
Calhoun	21.6	8.2	16.0	37,112	8.4	0.0	8.4	609	37,722
Charleston	20.5	6.8	14.5	44,955	23.8	8.6	15.6	2,945	47,900
Cherokee	19.7	10.9	16.5	29,384	16.0	18.1	16.8	6,078	35,462
Chester	21.7	9.1	16.5	51,213	19.7	9.8	15.4	17,697	68,910
Chesterfield	24.0	13.0	19.0	38,567	12.2	17.1	14.4	5,208	43,774
Clarendon	21.0	9.5	16.6	40,882	13.3	4.0	11.4	827	41,708
Colleton	22.0	7.9	16.9	62,574	19.8	6.4	13.9	8,645	71,219
Darlington	19.6	8.3	14.2	24,392	10.0	5.0	8.3	363	24,754
Dillon	27.4	14.0	22.9	19,742	10.0	8.5	8.8	638	20,380
Dorchester	19.7	9.0	15.6	42,375	4.0	2.0	3.4	638	43,013
Edgefield	15.8	9.6	13.6	41,915	14.8	4.7	11.3	3,264	45,179
Fairfield	17.9	8.9	14.6	58,750	19.7	11.8	16.0	11,358	70,108
Florence	24.4	10.8	18.9	53,776	2.5	6.0	5.0	508	54,283
Georgetown	21.9	9.1	17.6	41,093	5.0	5.0	5.0	290	41,383
Greenville	18.5	8.9	13.6	32,330	10.0	16.0	13.0	377	32,707
Greenwood	18.7	9.3	14.3	47,730	21.0	2.0	17.8	1,552	49,282
Hampton	19.8	7.8	15.5	33,823	18.3	8.1	15.4	20,729	54,552
Horry	22.8	11.1	18.4	39,830	26.0	2.0	22.6	2,292	42,121
Jasper	18.7	5.7	13.5	21,445	21.2	7.2	16.9	12,721	34,166
Kershaw	23.6	9.2	17.1	57,351	18.8	7.3	13.3	4,816	62,167
Lancaster	23.0	10.4	18.6	41,533	18.8	7.1	13.3	12,112	53,645
Laurens	17.8	8.7	13.7	58,999	11.9	14.0	12.1	1,581	60,580
Lee	28.6	8.0	21.2	44,229	17.3	10.0	14.8	1,291	45,520
Lexington	18.8	9.0	13.5	44,133	5.0	4.0	4.3	189	44,321
McCormick	19.8	7.8	13.9	34,491	24.2	7.1	15.2	4,642	39,133
Marion	23.9	9.0	16.1	21,273	10.5	5.5	8.0	464	21,737
Marlboro	38.4	8.8	25.6	25,022	20.1	19.8	20.1	5,237	30,259
Newberry	20.2	7.0	14.7	62,306	17.4	10.4	14.7	4,888	67,195
Oconee	16.8	9.3	12.9	20,470	9.0	6.0	7.5	653	21,123
Orangeburg	19.4	9.9	16.1	93,625	18.1	7.6	14.9	4,961	98,586
Pickens	19.0	9.1	13.5	27,357	17.0	1.5	10.8	783	28,140
Richland	19.7	5.6	12.7	38,624	2.3	13.7	7.1	725	39,349
Saluda	17.3	7.6	13.7	33,898	10.5	3.7	7.6	769	34,666
Spartanburg	19.2	10.7	15.5	65,806	11.8	13.0	12.0	1,915	67,721
Sumter	23.4	9.6	18.0	54,503	15.0	7.7	11.3	1,973	56,476
Union	17.6	8.7	14.1	44,095	17.7	6.3	14.3	14,143	58,238
Williamsburg	23.2	6.8	17.3	71,912	8.5	3.5	6.8	2,379	74,291
York	21.0	8.1	16.3	53,775	22.1	6.1	14.9	6,702	60,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>2,022,644</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>202,009</b>	<b>2,224,653</b>
<b>% Change from 2011</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-3.5</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

Table 9. Estimated deer harvest by weapon type in South Carolina in 2012.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Number of Deer Harvested</b>	171,451	14,814	21,568	6,536	2,179	1,307	217,854
<b>Percent Total Deer Harvest</b>	78.7	6.8	9.9	3.0	1.0	0.6	100.0
<b>Percent Hunter Success With Weapon</b>	64.0	32.4	35.9	30.5	21.8	17.1	NA*

\* 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 2012.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>
<b>Residents</b>	117,434	32,097	37,701	17,959	7,642	5,222
<b>Non-Residents</b>	14,031	2,049	1,164	3,110	1,091	383
<b>Total</b>	131,465	34,146	38,866	21,069	8,733	5,605

Total across weapons not given because hunters use multiple weapons. Total hunters = 142,107.

Table 11. Weapons utilization (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>
<b>Residents</b>	92.2*	25.2*	29.6*	14.1*	6	4.1*
<b>Non-Residents</b>	95.2	13.9	7.9	21.1	7.4	2
<b>Total</b>	92.7	23.3	26.0	15.3	6.2	3.9

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

Table 12. Weapons preference (percent) among deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012.

	<b>Rifle</b>	<b>Bow &amp; Arrow</b>	<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>Muzzle-loader</b>	<b>Crossbow</b>	<b>Handgun</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Residents</b>	77.5*	12.0*	8.2*	1.1*	0.9	0.4	100.0
<b>Non-Residents</b>	84.4	8.7	2.1	3.6	0.8	0.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	78.6	11.5	7.1	1.5	0.9	0.4	100.0

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

Table 13. Estimated wild hog and coyote harvest by deer hunters in South Carolina in 2012.

County	Hog Harv.	Harv./ Mile <sup>2</sup>	% Change from 2011	2012 Rank	2011 Rank	Coyote Harv.	Harv./ Mile <sup>2</sup>	% Change from 2011	2012 Rank	2011 Rank
Abbeville	1,537	4.41	5.8	1	3	758	2.17	4.3	9	11
Aiken	905	1.16	3.8	18	24	1,074	1.37	-15.3	18	21
Allendale	1,032	3.05	-53.1	2	1	632	1.87	26.8	13	25
Anderson	547	1.60	-45.1	13	6	1,242	3.63	22.1	1	4
Bamberg	232	0.75	-55.4	30	16	232	0.75	-25.5	32	33
Barnwell	358	0.81	-42.6	26	21	253	0.57	-28.4	41	39
Beaufort	84	0.37	-55.0	37	32	84	0.37	1.5	45	45
Berkeley	1,326	1.50	38.9	14	25	589	0.66	18.4	38	43
Calhoun	611	2.05	-5.2	7	11	295	0.99	-45.4	26	15
Charleston	1,305	2.89	46.2	3	13	337	0.75	-29.5	32	30
Cherokee	189	0.77	-8.9	28	31	274	1.12	-40.1	24	12
Chester	295	0.63	-32.4	35	29	1,095	2.33	-9.1	8	6
Chesterfield	442	0.76	1.4	29	34	758	1.30	30.4	20	34
Clarendon	947	2.03	57.4	9	22	716	1.54	-9.3	16	19
Colleton	1,663	2.12	-2.3	6	10	526	0.67	-33.3	37	34
Darlington	463	1.04	-42.8	22	15	547	1.22	-5.8	22	26
Dillon	84	0.25	-87.3	43	12	295	0.88	41.7	28	42
Dorchester	484	1.02	-65.7	23	5	232	0.49	-38.1	43	41
Edgefield	84	0.22	100.5	44	46	611	1.58	-24.6	15	10
Fairfield	653	1.09	-23.3	19	20	737	1.23	-26.1	21	20
Florence	442	0.71	-26.6	31	28	442	0.71	-37.4	34	28
Georgetown	674	1.08	-57.3	20	8	253	0.40	-56.5	44	36
Greenville	295	0.64	-5.2	34	35	274	0.60	-74.2	40	8
Greenwood	653	2.04	31.1	8	17	863	2.70	22.3	6	9
Hampton	968	1.91	-40.2	10	4	337	0.66	-35.1	38	31
Horry	1,095	1.31	-28.7	16	14	442	0.53	112.6	42	46
Jasper	821	1.70	9.9	12	19	337	0.70	24.8	36	43
Kershaw	842	1.50	39.9	14	26	737	1.31	-15.5	19	23
Lancaster	295	0.71	77.6	31	41	1,137	2.73	61.0	5	18
Laurens	168	0.34	-42.1	40	36	1,368	2.75	-14.4	4	1
Lee	126	0.37	200.8	37	45	274	0.80	-47.3	31	24
Lexington	42	0.10	-32.1	46	44	884	2.02	63.7	11	27
McCormick	316	0.95	-4.9	24	27	695	2.10	85.8	10	29
Marion	968	2.86	-33.3	4	2	547	1.62	1.4	14	22
Marlboro	526	1.20	-46.1	17	9	105	0.24	-70.2	46	39
Newberry	232	0.47	39.5	36	43	1,453	2.93	18.6	3	7
Oconee	358	0.81	-9.4	26	30	358	0.81	-54.6	30	17
Orangeburg	274	0.35	-54.5	39	33	1,095	1.39	-23.6	17	14
Pickens	105	0.31	-15.8	42	42	295	0.86	-5.2	29	37
Richland	379	0.71	-54.4	31	17	589	1.11	-39.6	25	13
Saluda	316	1.05	152.6	21	40	1,074	3.58	12.4	2	2
Spartanburg	358	0.86	91.4	25	39	505	1.22	-59.4	22	3
Sumter	1,432	2.70	2.9	5	7	484	0.91	-10.3	27	31
Union	63	0.16	-66.2	45	38	779	1.93	7.1	12	16
Williamsburg	1,537	1.91	68.1	10	23	568	0.71	-14.4	34	38
York	147	0.34	-40.8	40	37	1,032	2.39	-15.8	7	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,674</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>-17.3</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>28,211</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>-12.5</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
	<b>(+ -) 1,914</b>					<b>(+ -) 1,656</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 Public Safety 2005-2011. Data for 2012 was not available.

<b>County</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Abbeville	5	11	22	10	8	12	10
Aiken	31	47	57	54	59	62	59
Allendale	5	10	13	5	8	12	8
Anderson	27	47	67	75	87	116	89
Bamberg	8	20	14	14	21	14	15
Barnwell	17	29	13	11	16	20	15
Beaufort	57	110	128	157	155	163	123
Berkeley	35	40	62	66	84	87	88
Calhoun	8	10	16	27	14	15	24
Charleston	100	175	194	200	182	219	131
Cherokee	4	10	7	13	17	15	19
Chester	7	7	22	17	20	19	18
Chesterfield	4	7	18	20	25	15	14
Clarendon	12	16	34	35	47	50	49
Colleton	24	45	59	64	60	55	66
Darlington	9	13	24	38	29	35	37
Dillon	4	8	5	8	17	27	15
Dorchester	52	48	82	63	67	63	82
Edgefield	15	17	24	15	12	12	4
Fairfield	11	9	26	16	15	22	25
Florence	17	24	40	39	56	66	69
Georgetown	16	8	15	16	20	24	31
Greenville	18	56	87	63	96	133	113
Greenwood	16	33	63	21	27	29	10
Hampton	10	25	14	16	13	29	20
Horry	24	45	67	70	95	85	98
Jasper	23	50	61	75	63	76	59
Kershaw	11	18	30	24	29	71	54
Lancaster	7	11	13	29	20	14	22
Laurens	34	48	51	45	27	28	22
Lee	15	8	15	18	27	35	33
Lexington	26	34	50	37	36	46	42
McCormick	6	11	12	11	4	4	3
Marion	0	4	10	15	13	19	33
Marlboro	5	7	9	14	10	19	21
Newberry	21	31	31	21	14	22	14
Oconee	9	13	15	17	18	12	15
Orangeburg	25	64	88	86	55	62	82
Pickens	11	18	13	21	22	23	17
Richland	51	64	94	96	100	101	91
Saluda	16	10	27	25	11	8	8
Spartanburg	35	94	91	106	113	117	133
Sumter	38	30	48	58	51	73	75
Union	9	9	10	12	17	8	6
Williamsburg	21	19	30	42	42	39	55
York	11	53	43	36	31	38	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>2,044</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 2012 Deer Hunter Survey

January, 2013

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 2012 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 2011 survey can be found at [www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2011/DeerHarvestReport.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2011/DeerHarvestReport.html)

Thank you for your assistance.



Charles Ruth  
Wildlife Biologist  
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

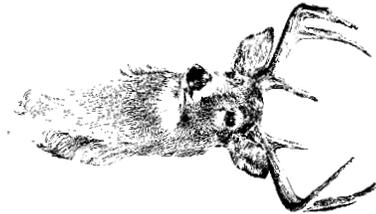
PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2012 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

12-8335

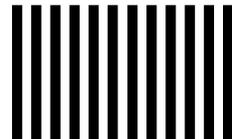
 Printed on Recycled Paper



DEER HUNTER SURVEY  
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 167  
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 1371 COLUMBIA SC



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

Figure 1 Cont.

2012 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2012)? 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 (2012). 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 2012 please go to question # 6.

4. Please record the number of deer taken by month of season in SC last season (2012).

August	September	October	November	December	January

5. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon in SC last season (2012).

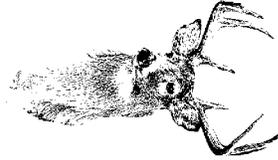
Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

6. Please circle all the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2012.  
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 2012, 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  
 PO BOX 167  
 COLUMBIA SC 29202-0167  
 www.dnr.sc.gov

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Figure 2. Percent of deer harvested by month of season in South Carolina in 2012. Note that December includes January 1 which is the last day of deer season.

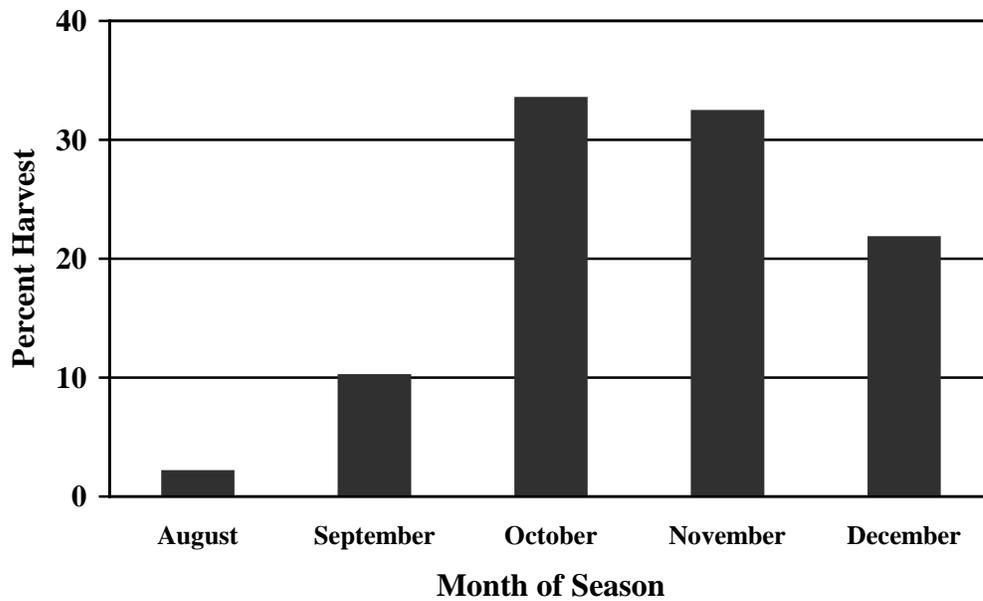


Figure 3. Percent of female deer conceiving by week in South Carolina, based on historic data.

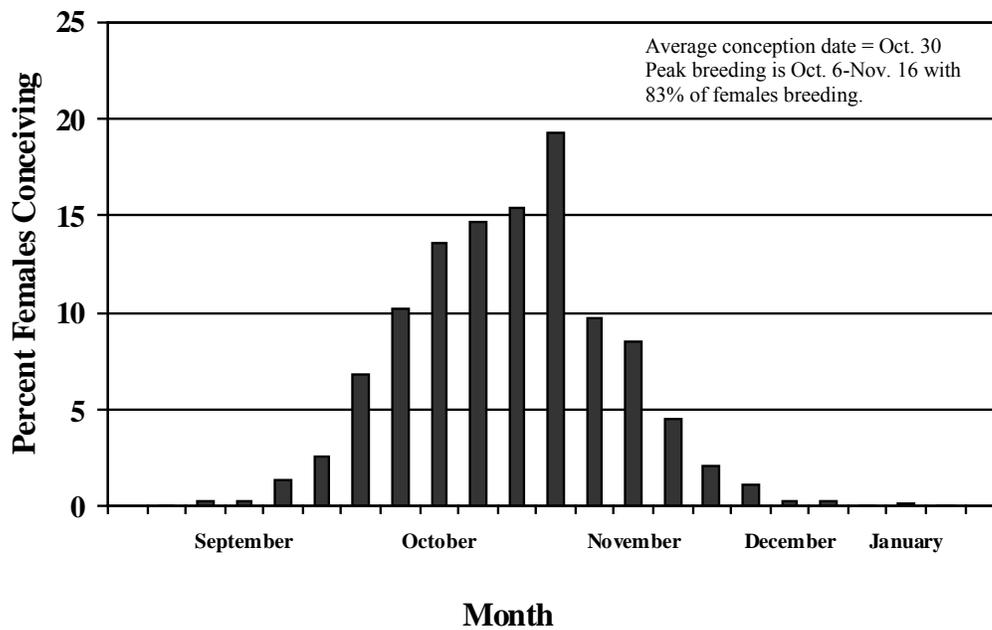


Figure 4. Estimated deer harvest in South Carolina 1972-2012.

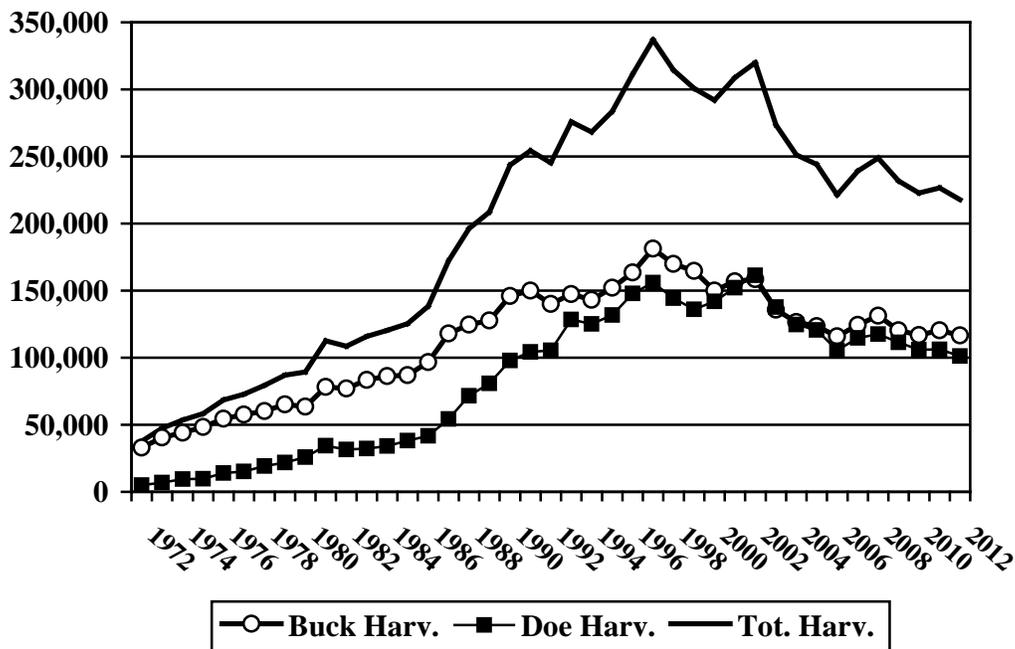


Figure 5. Estimated South Carolina deer population 1972-2012 based on population reconstruction modeling. Note that antlerless deer includes male fawns (button bucks).

