

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2023 Deer Hunter Survey.

January, 2024

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 (SCDNR) 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 2023 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 2022 survey can be found at www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/deer/2022/DeerHarvestReport.html

Thank you for your assistance.

Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Big Game Program Coordinator

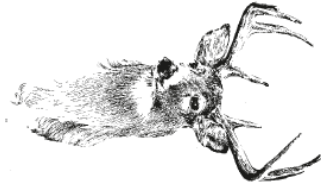
PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886 or write 2023 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

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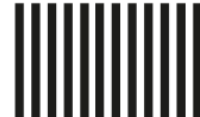


**DEER HUNTER SURVEY
S.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 167
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976**

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Figure 1 cont.

2023 South Carolina Deer Hunter Survey

1. Did you hunt deer in SC this past season (2023)? 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 (2023). **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.

	SC Counties You Deer Hunted	# of Days Hunted	# of Deer Harvested	
			#Bucks	#Does
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

If you did not harvest any deer in SC in 2023 please go to question # 6.

4. Please record the number of deer taken by month of season in SC last season (2023).

August	September	October	November	December	January

5. Please record the number of deer taken with each weapon in SC last season (2023).

Rifle	Bow	Shotgun	Muzzleloader	Crossbow	Handgun

6. Please circle **all** the weapons that you hunted deer with in 2023.

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 2023, please complete the box below.

If you did not harvest any hogs or coyotes please go to question # 10.

	County	# of Hogs		County	# of Coyotes
1.			1.		
2.			2.		

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.



COMPLETE YOUR HUNTER SURVEY

Help Manage SC's Deer Herd



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