

1987 WESTERN DEER WORKSHOP

PINGREE PARK, COLORADO

August 4-7, 1987



CHARL BRONSON

DEER MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORTS

3:00-3:15pm Break, Poster exhibits on display
3:15-3:45pm **“Summing-Up and Looking Ahead: Future demands on the deer resource and wildlife managers”** Bruce Gill, Colorado Division of Wildlife
3:45-4:00pm Presentation of O.C. Wallmo Award. Joe Wallmo, Len Carpenter
4:00-4:10pm Closing remarks - Dave Freddy, Program Chairman
6:00-7:00pm Dinner at Dining Hall
8:00-9:00pm Poster exhibits removed

AUGUST 7

7:00-8:00am Breakfast at Dining Hall
8:00-Noon Leave promptly from Hotchkiss Lodge for field trip to Poudre River experimental burns for habitat improvement. Rick Spowart & Tom Hobbs, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Noon-1:00pm Lunch served at Dining Hall
1:00-3:00pm Participants depart as needed

MANY THANKS TO

Director, CDOW
Workshop Chairman
Program Chairman
Registration
Poster Session
Field Trip
Barbeque
Refreshments
O.C. Wallmo Award

Jim Ruch
Bob Hernbrode
Dave Freddy
Shirl Calabra
Ron Kufeld
Rick Spowart
Gary Rudd
Dan Baker
Joe Wallmo

And to the participants in the panel discussions, poster sessions, and featured talks and all the other persons who volunteered their time to help when called upon.

**WESTERN STATES AND PROVINCES
DEER WORKSHOP**

**AUGUST 4 - 7, 1987
PINGREE PARK, COLORADO**

**HOSTED BY
COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**



AUGUST 4 •

Noon-6:00pm Participants arrive and register at Hotchkiss Lodge
5:30-6:30pm Social Hour, hosted by Colorado Division of Wildlife at Hotchkiss Lodge
6:30-7:30pm Dinner at Dining Hall
7:30-10:00pm Poster exhibits displayed at Hotchkiss Lodge

AUGUST 5

7:00-8:00am Breakfast at Dining Hall
7:30-8:30am Registration, Poster exhibits displayed at Hotchkiss Lodge

**SESSION I AT HOTCHKISS LODGE
"MONITORING DEER POPULATIONS"**

8:30-8:45am "Hello" from Workshop Chairman, Bob Hernbrode, Colorado Division of Wildlife
8:45-9:30am **"Where Do We Put Our Effort-What Are the Critical Population Characteristics that Should Be Measured?"**
Dale McCullough, University of California, Berkeley
9:30-9:45am Break, Poster exhibits on display
9:45-11:15am **Panel Discussion-"Why Sampling Systems Should Be Used For Monitoring Deer Populations, or the Evils of Biostatistics: Accuracy, Bias, and Precision"**
Gary White, Panel Leader, Colorado State University
Dave Anderson, Colorado State University
Charles DeYoung, Texas A & I University
Dick Bartmann, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Mike Hess, Nevada Department of Wildlife
John Ellenberger, Colorado Division of Wildlife

11:15-1:20pm Lunch Break, Poster Exhibits on display
Noon-1:00pm Lunch Served at Dining Hall
1:20-1:30pm "Welcome", Jim Ruch, Director, Colorado Division of Wildlife

1:30-3:00pm **Panel Discussion - "Harvest Systems for Deer: Walking the Line Between Quality and Quantity"**

Handwritten: This is a duplicate
Mike Reagan
Texas Wildlife

Dale McCullough, Panel Leader, University of Calif., Berkeley
Dave Pac, Montana Game & Fish Dept.
Larry Weishuhn, Private Consultant, Texas and Charles DeYoung, Texas A & I University
Doug Humphreys, N. Mex. Game & Fish Dept.
Doug Updike, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game
Dave Brown, Arizona Game & Fish Dept.
Harry Hariu, Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.
Jim Olterman, Colorado Division of Wildlife

3:00-3:15pm Break, Poster Exhibits on display
3:15-3:45pm Deer Status Report Summary, Grant Jense, Utah Division of Wildlife
3:45-5:00pm Business Meeting, Bob Hernbrode, Colorado Division of Wildlife
5:00-6:00pm Social Hour Hosted by Colorado Division of Wildlife at Hotchkiss Lodge. Poster exhibits on display
6:00-7:00pm Dinner, Barbeque Hosted by Colorado Division of Wildlife at Dining Hall Amphitheater

AUGUST 6

7:00-8:00am Breakfast at Dining Hall

**SESSION II AT HOTCHKISS LODGE
"IMPROVING DEER HABITATS"**

8:30-9:15am **"Habitat Improvements for Deer: A Nutritional Basis for Modifying Plant Communities"** Tom Hobbs, Colorado Division of Wildlife
9:15-9:30am Break, Poster exhibits on display
9:30-11:30am **Panel Discussion - "Enhancing Plant Communities for Deer"**
Len Carpenter, Panel Leader, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Bruce Welch, U.S. Forest Service, Utah
Richard Stevens, Utah Division of Wildlife
Dave Low, British Columbia Wildlife Branch
Leonard Coleman, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado
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1:30-3:00pm **Panel Discussion - "Habitat Improvements: How do we know we benefitted deer?"**
Henry Short, Panel Leader, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Colorado
John Kie, U.S. Forest Service, Calif.
Steve Torbit, Colorado Division of Wildlife
Donnie Harmel, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Fred Bunnell, University of British Columbia

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DEER STATUS REPORTS:

ALASKA

ALBERTA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

COLORADO

IDAHO

MONTANA

NEVADA

NEW MEXICO

OREGON

TEXAS

UTAH

WASHINGTON

WYOMING

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name None Alaska
State or Province

2. Current population estimate - proximity to management objectives:

Southeast Region

Units 1A & 2 - Intermediate numbers; static trend; current numbers below management objectives.

Units 1B & 3 - Low numbers; static trend; current numbers far below management objectives.

Units 1C & 4 - High numbers in most portions; stable to increasing trend; current numbers near management objectives in most portions.

Southcentral Region

Unit 6 - Intermediate numbers in most areas; stable to increasing trend; current numbers slightly below management objectives.

Unit 8 - Intermediate to high numbers in most portions; stable to increasing trend; current numbers near management objectives in most areas.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

<u>Type/Length of Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters Afield</u>	<u>No. Hunter-days</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	
				<u>Antler</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
Southeast Region	10,096	67,410	63	11,990	2,770
Unit 6	1,600	8,400	66	1,740	1,260
Unit 8 ^a	3,948	22,830	81	6,590	2,315

^a1984 figures.

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mailed-out questionnaire to a sample of deer license holders.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No special seasons based on the type of hunting method.

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

Antlered _____ # Antlerless _____ Total _____

The maximum number of deer that a hunter can take within the state is 5 of either sex. Most hunt areas have more restrictive bag limits.

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

No antler-point restrictions.

Alaska
Mule deer

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

The bag limit and/or season length have been reduced in some areas to limit the harvest. Otherwise, no special regulations exist to distribute hunters. Currently, hunter distribution does not appear to be a problem in most areas.

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

No road management at the current time. Extensive roading by logging operations in the Southeast Region is beginning to cause conflicts among user groups in some areas. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service is responsible for most of the roads.

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

No drawing hunts for deer.

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

Currently research is aimed at evaluating deer census techniques using an introduced, known-sized population on a small island near Juneau. Emphasis is on determining the relationship between fecal pellet-group density and deer density. Other work is being conducted on browse use, pellet-group disappearance rates, and emphasis of the management program is monitoring population trends using spring pellet-group surveys and hunter statistics.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name None Alberta
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Relatively stable. Preseason estimate 84,000. Future objective 97,000.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Forested areas (65-80 days)	56,000	320,000	29	10,500	5,200
Settled areas (24 days)					

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Telephone questionnaire.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No. Hunters may hunt during both archery and rifle (all weapons) seasons--there are no muzzleloader seasons.

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

Antlered _____ # Antlerless _____ Total _____

There is a mule deer license which allows a hunter to take an antlered deer. We also have some Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) where hunters, through a limited entry draw, can get an antlered authorization entitling them to use the one tag issued with the mule deer license for a buck in either an open area or the WMU where the authorization is good. Antlerless (females & fawns) hunting is all controlled by special license or authorization, through a limited entry draw (# hunters/WMU is set). The special license good in only one WMU, provides an additional tag so the hunter could then take two mule deer. The authorization, good in only one WMU, means the hunter can use the one tag issued with the mule deer license for either an antlerless animal in the WMU authorized or a buck anywhere there is an open season. There is also a special license for one small area, Camp Wainwright (approx. 150 square miles), where two tags are issued and can be used on either mule deer bucks or whitetail bucks, does or fawns. Archers can also purchase an additional antlerless deer license for a WMU. A hunter can possess the mule deer license, an antlered mule deer authorization, an antlerless mule deer authorization, an antlerless mule deer special license, an antlerless deer archery license for WMU's, and a Camp Wainwright special license if successful in all the draws so a potential of five mule deer could be harvested by one hunter. This would be very rare.

Alberta
Mule Deer

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

Alberta uses a 3-pt. antler rule for bucks over a large area. Purpose is to save enough bucks for breeding as a wide open season could wipe out the bucks in many areas before the rut. It is successful but lots of complaints regarding "no trophies." The only method for assessment is through field officer enforcement reports.

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

Yes, limited entry draw. Hunters apply and only a certain numbers are selected to hunt in a WMU. Works very well to maintain deer herds and produce a quality hunt (low hunter density and fewer landowner complaints). Hunters who do not get drawn are complaining occasionally.

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

Not specifically for deer but they are used in our Forest Reserves in the Alberta eastern slopes and on grazing reserves in other forested areas. Public opposed initially but support is increasing - they are not just for hunting but all vehicles use. Forestry & Fish & Wildlife can enforce.

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

Yes, we have a one year priority. If you apply this year and are not drawn, you go into priority one the next year ahead of all first time applicants. Works reasonably well in most WMU's but some are heavily oversubscribed and it does not help as much there because the priority is retained for only one year.

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

Little bit on hybridization with whitetail and effect of different harvest regimes on mule deer harvest, but basically very little.

White-tailed Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name None Alberta
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Relatively stable. Preseason estimate 140,000. Goal is not established but it will be in this magnitude..

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

<u>Type/Length of Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters Afield</u>	<u>No. Hunter-days</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	
				<u>Antler</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
Forested areas (65-80 days)	81,000	500,000	34	15,200	8,900
Settled areas (24 days)					

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Telephone questionnaire.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No.

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

Antlered _____ # Antlerless _____ Total _____

Hunters purchase a white-tailed deer license that comes with one tag and is good for an antlered (buck) or antlerless (doe/fawn) animal in most WMU's (where the season is open). There are three WMU's where hunting is only by authorization and there are both antlered and antlerless authorizations available. The Camp Wainwright deer Special License is also available as explained for mule deer. Also, there is a special shotgun/bow and arrow license in one WMU and an antlerless deer archery license in two WMU's. Therefore, the potential numbers of white-tailed deer available is five per hunter. However, this would be very rare.

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

No antler-point restrictions for white-tailed deer.

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

Yes, limited entry draw. Hunters apply and only a certain numbers are selected to hunt in a WMU. Works very well to maintain deer herds and produce a quality hunt (low hunter density and fewer landowner complaints). Hunters who do not get drawn complain sometimes. Only in three WMU's and Camp Wainwright.

Alberta
White-tailed Deer

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

Not specifically for deer but they are used in our Forest Reserves in the Alberta eastern slopes and on grazing reserves in other forested areas. Public opposed initially but support is increasing - they are not just for hunting but all vehicles use. Forestry & Fish & Wildlife can enforce.

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

Yes, we have a one year priority. If you apply this year and are not drawn, you go into priority one the next year ahead of all first time applicants. Works reasonably well in most WMU's but some are heavily oversubscribed and it does not help as much there because the priority is retained for only one year. Just for three WMU's and Camp Wainwright.

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

Little bit on hybridization with mule deer and effect of different harvest regimes on white-tailed deer harvest, but basically very little.

British Columbia Deer Status Report
for the
1987 Western States Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative: Ian Hatter
Wildlife Branch
Ministry of Environment and Parks
Victoria, British Columbia

2a. Provincial Deer Management Objectives:

1) Increase the deer population to 475,000 (mule, 150,000; black-tailed 275,000; white-tailed, 50,000) distributed within their present range.

2) Provide 900,000 hunter days of recreation and an annual sustained hunter kill of 60,000 animals.

3) Provide opportunities for people to view deer in their natural habitat.

2b. Deer population trends, by region, are shown below:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Population Trend</u>
Vancouver Island Black-tailed Deer	stable to increasing on Gulf Is. declining on Southern V.I. populations low and stable on Northern V.I.
Lower Mainland Black-tailed Deer Mule Deer	increasing increasing
Thompson-Nicola Mule Deer White-tailed Deer	increasing increasing
Kootenay Mule Deer White-tailed Deer	increasing increasing
Cariboo Mule Deer	stable to increasing
Skeena Black-tailed Deer Mule Deer	stable to slightly declining increasing
Omineca-Peace Mule Deer White-tailed Deer	increasing increasing
Okanagan Mule Deer	stable

White-tailed Deer increasing

On a provincial level, deer numbers are considered to be increasing due to mild winters. More conservative harvests, through shortening seasons and reducing bag limits, are also a factor in some regions. In the Thompson-Nicola, mountain pine beetle and spruce bud worm infestations have opened tree canopies and stimulated shrub growth, which has increased the quantity and quality of available winter forage.

3) 1985 Hunting Season Statistics:

Region	Harvest		No. of Hunters	No. of Hunter Days	% Success
	Antlered	Antler less			
Vancouver Island	6329	1008	12826	126100	57
Lower Mainland	1518	268	5051	30533	35
Thompson-Nicola	2575	1387	14583	98301	27
Kootenay	2887	757	13618	137460	27
Cariboo	1716	347	10033	78276	21
Skeena					
Queen Charlotte Is.	1512	630	1191	7373	180
Mainland	377	6	2549	16629	15
Omineca	773	51	4886	37025	17
Okanagan	4758	28	11606	91160	41

Hunter success is highest for coastal black-tailed deer. The Okanagan region has the highest hunting success for interior deer.

4) The deer harvest is estimated from the annual Hunter Sample Questionnaire. Every January, a large portion of the B.C. resident deer hunters who have purchased a hunting licence in the previous year are mailed a questionnaire requesting information on location hunted, species, management unit, no. of days hunted in location, age/sex of deer killed (2 point or more, spike, adult doe, fawn), and date of kill. Nonrespondents receive a second follow-up questionnaire. The responses are treated as a random sample which is used to project the total harvest by management unit with 95% confidence limits. In addition, all limited entry applicants are sent a mail questionnaire requesting similiar information on their harvest and hunting effort.

5) Hunters may hunt in more than one season; i.e. a bow hunter may also hunt in the regular rifle season. However, the regional bag limit applies. Special weapons seasons (longbows, crossbows and muzzle loading weapons), where available, are usually set in advance of the regular hunting season. In some regions a short bow and arrow season is available after the regular season. In some regions, a bow and arrow season may be the only opportunity for harvesting an antlerless deer, outside of limited entry. Special weapons may be used during the regular hunting season as well (see attached Hunting Regulations Synopsis).

6) The number of deer a hunter can legally take depends on the region in the province.

Region	Aggregate	Buck	Antlerless	
Vancouver Island	3	3	1	M.U. 1-1
Lower Mainland		2		M.U. 1-2 to 1-15
		2		M.U. 2-2 to 2-4
	2	2	1	M.U. 2-6 to 2-15
Thompson-Nicola		1	1	M.U. 2-5 *
Kootenay ** (White-tailed Deer)		1		M.U. 4-1 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-26, M.U. 4-34 to 4-37, M.U. 4-40
		2		M.U. 4-6 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-19, 4-27 to 4-23
(Mule Deer)		1		
Cariboo		1	1	
Skeena				
Mainland		1		
Queen Charlotte Is.	10	10	10	
Omineca-Peace (Mule Deer)	1	1	1	M.U. 7-5 to 7-14
		1		M.U. 7-2 to 7-4, 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 36
				M.U. 7-43 to 7-52, M.U. 7-54
(White-Tailed Deer)		1		

* there is no open season for antlerless deer on the mainland portion of 2-5

** the aggregate bag limit for deer is 2.

There are also limited entry hunts for antlered and antlerless deer.

7) Antler point restrictions are used in most regions. Vancouver Island has a 2 or more points restriction after the regular season for hunters who wish extended hunts. The East Kootenays and Skeena use a 4 or more point restriction during the rut to regulate the harvest when bucks are most vulnerable. The Omineca-Peace has a 4 or more point late season when migratory bucks are most vulnerable to hunters. The Okanagan has an early 4 or more point season in some management units for trophy alpine hunts, prior to the regular hunting season.

8) Regulations are used to limit or distribute hunters. Limited entry is used in some regions as the only available means for harvesting antlerless or spike-antlered deer. Special weapons seasons, antlerless seasons and antler point restrictions, also act to limit and distribute hunters. Similarly, variations in opening and closing dates within a region are used to regulate the harvest (see below).

<u>Region</u>	<u>Opening Date (1986)</u>	
Vancouver Island		
General	Sept. 12	M.U. 1-1 to 1-15
Bow and Arrow	Aug. 29	M.U. 1-1 to 1-15

Lower Mainland	Sept. 12	M.U. 2-2 to 2-15
Thompson-Nicola	Sept. 1	M.U. 3-15, 3-16, 3-32, 3-33, 3-42, M.U. 3-43, 3-44
	Sept. 22	M.U. 3-12 to 3-14, 3-17 to 3-20, M.U. 3-26 to 3-31, 3-34 to 3-41, M.U. 3-46
Kootenay		
General	Sept. 10	M.U. 4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-37, M.U. 4-40
Bow and Arrow	Sept. 1	M.U. 4-1 to 4-9, 4-14 to 4-37, M.U. 4-40
Cariboo		
General	Sept. 22	M.U. 5-1, 5-2, 5-12 to 5-14
Skeena		
General	June 1	M.U. 6-12, 6-13
	Sept. 10	M.U. 6-1 to 6-11, 6-14 to 6-18
Bow and Arrow	Sept. 5	M.U. 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-9
	Nov. 16	M.U. 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-9
Omincea-Peace		
General	Sept. 10	M.U. 7-2 to 7-15
(Mule Deer)	Oct. 26	M.U. 4-42, 7-48 to 7-52, 7-54
	Oct. 25	M.U. 7-19 to 7-22, 7-3 to 7-36, M.U. 7-43 to 7-47
Bow and Arrow	Sept. 1	M.U. 7-15
General	Sept. 10	M.U. 7-2, 7-3, 7-4
(White-tailed Deer)	Oct. 25	M.U. 7-19 to 7-22, 7-3 to 7-36, M.U. 7-43 to 7-46
Okanagan		
General	Sept 1.	M.U. 8-3, 8-15
	Sept. 10	M.U. 8-1, 8-2, 8-4 to 8-14, 8-21 to 8-26
Bow and Arrow	Sept. 1	M.U. 8-1, 8-2, 8-4 to 8-14, 8-21 to 8-26

9) There is provision under the Wildlife Act to close roads to hunting. Enforcement is the responsibility of the Conservation Officer Service. We are presently developing coordinated access planning with the Ministry of Forests and Lands, guide outfitters, fish and game clubs etc. to help regulate hunter distribution. The hunting public's reaction is mixed, with some supporting road closures, and others against it.

10) We do not use "preference points" to distribute the opportunity to draw deer permits. However, we do publish the odds of drawing a limited entry permit so hunters can determine which hunts are more or less popular, and to see what the odds were for hunts in a limited entry area last year.

11) Deer research efforts that are underway at this time include the

Integrated Wildlife Intensive Forestry Research (IWIFR) deer project which is investigating coastal black-tailed deer habitat management and its implications to intensive forestry on Vancouver Island, and a study on habitat relationships of mule deer in the interior Douglas Fir zone of central B.C. Both projects are jointly directed by the Ministries of Forests and Environment. In addition, a study on the effects of wolf control on black-tailed deer recruitment and population growth has just been completed on Vancouver Island.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name David E. Brown Arizona
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Deer populations in Arizona are currently at a high level and generally satisfactory for management objectives.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Firearms (85 different hunts)	85,523	334,962	30	22,519	3,047
Archery	14,404	104,653	6.6	N/A	N/A

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mail questionnaire to randomly selected number of hunters. 53,550 in 1986 for the 85 various firearms hunts. 11,979 archers also received questionnaires.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No.

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

Antlered _____ #Antlerless _____ Total 1

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

No.

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

Unit management system since 1971. Allocated number of permits per unit. Able to control hunter density and hunt success within narrow range.

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

Yes, roadless areas by U.S. Forest Service for habitat improvement; administered by both Department and Forest Service.

Arizona
Mule Deer

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

No.

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

- Effects of hunter density on survival and reproduction, and sex ratio.
- Final reports for long term North Kaibab studies.
- Effects of a savory cell on deer, elk, and antelope distribution and habitat use.
- White-tailed deer (Cones) habitat use requirements.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Doug Updike California
State or Province

2. Current population estimate - proximity to management objectives:

Since 1974, statewide trend is increasing slowly at 3-5% per year. Population size remains below desired levels.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

<u>Type/Length of Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters Afield</u>	<u>No. Hunter-days</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	
				<u>Antler</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
Unlimited hunters (30-44 days)	200,000	Unknown	2-13%	23,000	
Limited hunter #'s (9-16 days)	39,000	Unknown	15-60%	6,000	
Postseason	6,000	Unknown	3-80%	600	combined

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Return of deer tag through mail.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Only for some areas of the state.

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

Antlered 1 or 2 # Antlerless 1 or 2 Total 1 or 2

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

Yes, in the northeastern part of the state legal bucks are 3-point-or-better. The objective of this long-standing regulation is to keep the proportion of bucks in the herd elevated. This objective is met in some areas where competition between hunters is low. The level of compliance is measured indirectly by observing antler point classes after the season.

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

Yes, in some parts of the state hunter numbers are regulated to reduce buck harvest and elevate buck ratios or maintain them at desired levels.

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

Yes. These areas are usually closed to vehicles to maintain road quality. These closures are usually proposed and enforced by the Forest Service.

California
Mule deer

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

No.

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

Investigative Actions:

1. Effects of trace mineral (selenium) nutrition on fawn production and survival.
2. Identification of deer habitat using Landsat data.
3. Range methodology for assessing deer physical condition.
4. Economic value of deer in California.

Habitat Actions:

1. Effects of various habitat treatments on mule deer. Many projects are ongoing (re: brush burning, fencing, range rehabilitation and water development).

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Bob Hernbrode Colorado
State or Province

2. Current population estimate - proximity to management objectives:

519,670; 1988 objective established in 1983 is 601,325, so we are 14% below objective.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Archery (mountain) (37 days)	17,705	134,065	20	1,925	1,589
Archery (plains) (40 days)					
Muzzleloading (14 days)	3,653	16,563	48	997	760
Early High Country (12 days)	233	953	39	90	0
1st Combined Rifle (5 days)	35,372	124,283	25	8,836	0
2nd Combined Rifle (12 days)	53,260	248,064	26	9,984	3,948
3rd Combined Rifle (9 days)	65,671	273,132	33	18,818	2,896
Plains	3,371	9,128	71	1,428	956
Ranching for Wildlife	180	645	90	93	69
Extended Deer Season	180	602	95	0	171

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

1. For limited licenses we use a mail survey designed to estimate harvest at the herd unit level at \pm 5%, 90% of the time.
2. For unlimited licenses we use a telephone survey designed to give us \pm 5%, 90% of the time for the 10th largest herd unit. This implies the quality will be better for ranking 1-9 and less so for the remaining. Some 53% of the statewide deer population is measured within these quantitative standards. All deer harvests are monitored using one of these two methods.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Yes, with the exception that leftover license holders can hunt whatever season they hold in.

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

Antlered 1 # Antlerless 1* Total 1*

*After the drawing for limited licenses is held, all remaining (leftover) licenses are offered as a second (2nd) license. Hunters can, by holding a leftover license, take a total of two (2) deer. We have traditionally had leftover antlerless licenses.

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

Yes. The purpose of antler restrictions is to distribute hunters through multiple seasons. The 1986 season was the first year with three rifle seasons, but it appears to work well.

Colorado
Mule deer

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

Yes. We use antler restrictions, timing of seasons, length of seasons, and placement of antlerless licenses to distribute hunters.

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

No.

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

Yes. It is highly popular with hunters and affords periodic opportunities for some select highly popular hunts.

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

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Tom Parker and/or Cecil Brown Idaho
State or Province

2. Current population estimate - proximity to management objectives:

The population trends is up; generally meeting management objectives

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

<u>Type/Length of Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters Afield</u>	<u>No. Hunter-days</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	
				<u>Antler</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General rifle (26 day)	134,000	742,000	40	37,241	15,961
Archery (30 day)	13,800	89,000	12	843	778
Muzzleloader (varied)	3,800	1,600	17	403	236
Controlled (varied)	5,800	15,000	70	2,600	1,811

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Telephone survey of deer tag buyers and license buyers.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No.

6. How many deer can a hunter legally take per year?
Antlered _____ # Antlerless _____ Total _____
1 (antlered or antlerless)

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

No antler-point restrictions.

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

Successful controlled hunt applicants cannot hunt during general seasons. Nonresidents are limited to 13,700 tags. No major problems with hunter congestion.

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

Road management is used to control hunter densities for elk hunters and deer hunters are controlled incidentally. Generally, public support is good. Enforcement is the responsibility of a land management agency; state Fish & Game can help due to recent legislation.

Idaho
Mule deer

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

No. There is a one year wait for successful applicants.

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

Identification of sub-populations - Cecil Brown.

Security aspects of environmental components and behavior - Cecil Brown.

Assessment of factors affecting mule deer sightability - Bruce Ackerman.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Dave Pac, Ken Hamlin, Montana
Mike Frisine, Al Rosgaard State or Province
and John Weigand

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Montana's management objective is to maintain a harvest of 109,700 mule deer annually. Current harvest for 1986 was 60,614.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

<u>Type/Length of Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters Afield</u>	<u>No. Hunter-days</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	
				<u>Antler</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
General (5 week)	147,895*	866,127*	60*	45,422	15,119
Archery (5 week)					

*Includes white-tailed and mule deer hunters.

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Telephone survey for residents and mail survey nonresidents. In 1986, survey results were obtained from 27.5% of the deer license holders.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No.

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

Antlered _____ # Antlerless _____ Total _____

Depends upon the areas. In 1986 one buck and up to four does could be taken for no more than a total of four deer.

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

Yes. The objective is to test the season as a management strategy to provide larger bucks. 1986 was the first year of this season type and the evaluation is not complete. Hunter compliance is being monitored by increased patrolling of the area. Illegal kills are determined by field searches for dead deer and hunter reports.

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

Hunter distribution is somewhat addressed by issuing extra deer licenses in areas where hunter density is lower than desired. Significant shifts in hunter density will occur in eastern Montana in direct relation to the number of additional deer licenses issued. There is no management action currently which reduces hunter density. Rather, most management actions are directed at influencing deer harvest.

Montana
Mule Deer

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

Road management is used primarily to influence elk hunting access. Generally, the hunting public supports road management when they understand it will benefit the resources. The enforcement is shared by the federal government, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and local law enforcement authorities.

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

No. Several years ago we had a preference system that was discontinued. Recordkeeping and verification problems were enormous.

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

1. Long-term mule deer population ecology and habitat relationship studies in the Missouri River Breaks and Bridger Mountains are being written up currently.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Mike Hess Nevada
State or Province

2. Current population estimate - proximity to management objectives:

Nevada's deer population is at a high level at present, perhaps down slightly from 1986

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Archery (28 days)	544	14,976	27.7	443	194
Muzzleloader (15 days)	912	3,893	40.4	401	1
Rifle-buck (ave. 30 days)	30,605	147,821	49.0	16,648	7
Rifle-antlerless(ave. 30 days)	5,294	18,506	71.3	39	4,112
TOTALS	37,355	185,196	51.1	17,531	4,314

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mandatory hunter report card issued with deer tag. The 1986 return rate was 95.2%.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Yes, but it is possible for a hunter to obtain unsold antlerless tags.

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

Antlered 1 # Antlerless 2 Total 3 (antlered or antlerless)

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

No.

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

All deer hunts are full quota statewide by management area. System has been in effect for 10 years and works well.

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

No.

Nevada
Mule deer

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

A hunter unsuccessful in drawing is given preference for the next year's drawing. Preference only guarantees a preferred early drawing.

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

None.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Doug Humphreys New Mexico
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Probably stable with some locally increasing herds.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Bow - 23 days	Harvest data analysis will not be completed by July 1987.				
Muzzleloader 9 days					
Rifle D-1 - 2 days					
D-2 - 5 days					
D-3 - 7 days					

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

15% of random card survey.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Hunters may select primitive weapon, whereby, they can hunt with a bow during bow season and with a muzzleloader during muzzleloader season; or they may choose to hunt with a rifle during only one of the three rifle seasons.

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

Antlered _____ # Antlerless _____ Total 1

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

Antler-point restriction is used on one limited entry hunt where 500 permits are available.

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

Stratified seasons distribute hunters over time but no attempt is made to distribute or limit hunters geographically.

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

No.

New Mexico
Mule Deer

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

No.

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

Work continues on a deer population - environmental computer model.

Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representatives Name Al Polenz Oregon
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Increase @ 90% of M.O.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
General Buck/ 7-12 days	93,500	426,500	31	28,600	0
Limited Entry Buck/ 12 days	11,400	54,400	49	5,500	0
Archery/ 30 days	6,800	62,000	24	1,300	300
Controlled/ Varies	8,000	20,300	75	10	6,000

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Telephone survey of hunters.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Yes; either firearms or archery.

6. How many deer can a hunter legally take per year? Through drawing. Tag numbers limited.

Antlered 1 #Antlerless 1 Total 2

7. Do you use antler-point restriction regulations? If so, what is the purpose of this regulation and is the objective being met? How do you assess hunter compliance - illegal kill? Antler point restriction in effect in one unit. Was mandated by Commission for creation of a trophy hunting area. Objectives could be better met without point restriction. Will have no such regulation in 1987. Excessive illegal kill without limiting hunter numbers.

8. Do you have regulations to limit or distribute hunters? What type of regulations and are they working? Yes. Limited entry hunting (limit hunter numbers) used to obtain buck ratio recovery in overexploited units.

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

Yes. Currently have near 2 million acres involved. Approximately 85% of hunters favor the program. Most enforcement by Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and State Police Game Division plus U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

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

Two-year wait period on a few Limited Entry hunts. Propose deletion as it is not increasing applicants' chance to be drawn in the annual tag drawing.

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

None.

Black-tailed
Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representatives Name Al Polenz Oregon
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Increasing Currently 30% above benchmark (M.O.)

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
General buck/ 33 days (last 5 days either sex)	134,000	989,000	24	26,900	5,500
Archery/ 30 days	8,800	88,500	22	1,000	800
Controlled/ Varies	12,600	76,000	41	2,100	3,100

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Telephone survey of hunters.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Yes; either firearms or archery

6. How many deer can a hunter legally take per year? Through drawing. Tag numbers limited.
Antlered 1 #Antlerless 1 Total 2

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

Legal buck is 2 point or larger. Reason is prevention of illegal kill (most yearlings are very small spikes) and buck ratio maintenance. Objective is being met. No measure of illegal kill has been made.

8. Do you have regulations to limit or distribute hunters? What type of regulations and are they working? Controlled hunts provide a limited number of tags through a drawing process. Hunt area is generally quite small; bag limit is usually one antlerless deer and most hunts are for damage control.

9. Do you use access (road) management to regulate hunter distribution? What is the hunting publics reaction? Who is responsible for enforcement of closures etc.?
Yes, we have a road management program.

Approximately 85% of polled hunters are in favor.

Joint enforcement by Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police Game Division, USFS, BLM.

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

Have 2-year wait period on some limited entry deer hunts. Propose to drop next year because of hunter confusion and failure to improve applicants opportunity to draw a tag.

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

landsat habitat mapping.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Charles Winkler Texas
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Current population - 245,000, has been increasing for past four years.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

<u>Type/Length of Season</u>	<u>No. Hunters Afield</u>	<u>No. Hunter-days</u>	<u>% Success</u>	<u>Harvest</u>	
				<u>Antler</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>
Archery (30 days)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
General (9 days)	16,000	52,000	32	5,000	200

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mail questionnaire to license purchasers.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No.

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

Antlered 1 # Antlerless 2 Total 2

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

No antler-point restrictions.

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

No regulations of this type.

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

No access management applied.

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

Preference points used only on wildlife management areas. It's been well received by the public.

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

- Mule deer age determination.
- Antler development under field conditions.
- Mule deer response to predator.

White-tailed Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Mike Reagan Texas
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

4.2 million deer (current population). This is the all-time record for Texas.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Archery (30 days)	55,000	500,000	10	4,000	3,000
General (58 days)	508,000	4,000,000	58	277,000	161,000

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mail survey to license purchasers.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No.

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

Antlered 2 # Antlerless 4 Total 4

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

No antler-point restrictions.

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

We have no regulations to limit or distribute hunters.

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

No.

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

We use a preference point system only for our wildlife management areas. We have no access restrictions on private property.

Texas

White-tailed Deer

11. Primary deer research efforts underway at this time (list):
 - a. Influence of exotic big game animals on white-tailed deer.
 - b. Effects of genetics on antler development and body size.
 - c. Effects of relocating deer.
 - d. Genetic selection in white-tailed deer.
 - e. Reproductive rates of deer.
 - f. Nutritional levels of deer.
 - h. Effects of stand vs. pasture hunting.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Grant K. Jense Utah
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

The statewide mule deer population trend has been upward since the winter of 1983-84 and is approximately 75% of the management objective. Several management units are near carrying capacity.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
General (11 days)	167,125	728,599	32	53,676	--
Archery (17 days)	20,934	120,233	11	2,274	--
Muzzleloader (14 days)	5,918	27,374	20	1,193	--
Control permits (varies)	8,572	21,452	76	103	6,371
High Country buck (varies)	1,218	1,218	38	82	--

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mailed postcard questionnaire for majority of survey. Muzzleloader deer was done by telephone survey with approximately 2-7+ sample. All big game surveys will be done by telephone in 1987 except for control permit hunts.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

No, they may hunt all three seasons but have only one tag. Therefore, they may have up to three chances to fill their tag but are finished once they kill a buck deer.

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

Antlered 1 # Antlerless 2 Total 2

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

Yes, this regulation is popular with segments of the hunting public and some agency people. Originally it was used to provide for quality hunting. Now, it's being used to increase buck/doe ratios on some units. We are only into the preliminary stage of monitoring illegal kills. Buck numbers have increased to a degree, but further assessment is needed.

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

We have been asked by the Board of Big Game Control to look into ways of decreasing hunter numbers on the opening day of the general season. At present, we have six limited entry hunts on eight management units to provide for some hunting under uncrowded conditions for better than average bucks.

Utah
Mule Deer

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

Yes, a limited amount on state and Forest Service lands. We would like to do more in the future. The public is largely in support of the program with mostly positive comments. Forest Service and UDWR personnel enforce the regulation and the public

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

We have been asked by the Board of Big Game Control to investigate the positive and negative aspects of such a system. We currently use a two year waiting period for limited entry permits.

11. Primary deer research efforts underway at this time (list):
- a. Mule deer fawn mortality on the Pine Valley range.
 - b. Use of highway crossing structures by mule deer on a segment of I-15.
 - c. Assessment of damage to alfalfa and orchards by deer and elk and development of guidelines for evaluating crop losses.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name John Pierce Washington
State or Province

2. Current population trend - proximity to management objectives:

Stable. We want to increase 5%-10% for most populations in western Washington and maintain populations in eastern Washington.

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
Archery	14,583		19	1,161	1,554
Rifle	157,905		20	27,530	4,716
Muzzleloader	3,020		32	268	699

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Three wave hunter survey.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

Yes.

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

Antlered 1 # Antlerless 1 Total 1

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

Yes. To provide recreational opportunity. Objective is being met. Increase enforcement, patrol, signing. Recently implemented branched antler regulations to increase buck escapement. Have not yet evaluated the area.

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

Weapon choice selection is working, permit only units, road closures in some areas.

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

See above. General favorable opinion of road management. Vocal minority want retrieval law. Our department is responsible, as well as cooperating with landowners.

Washington
Mule Deer

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

Yes, sort of. We have waiting periods for all big game species except cougar and deer. Waiting periods are very well accepted by the general public.

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

1. Early winter mule deer ecology study.

Mule Deer Status Report

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

1. Attending Representative's Name Bob Luce Wyoming
State or Province

2. Current population estimate - proximity to management objectives:

1982-86 statewide population estimate = 424,656. 1986 population estimate = 446,454. Objective = 462,600. Population is currently below objective!

3. 1986 Hunting Season Statistics:

Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
				Antler	Antlerless
General 9/10 - 12/14	84,758	357,080	59.3	35,555	14,738

4. Method used to estimate harvest:

Mail harvest survey.

5. Do you limit hunters to one season (Rifle, Archery or Muzzleloader)?

General license holders may hunt both archery and rifle. Limited only on limited quota licenses which are valid in a specific area.

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

Antlered 1 # Antlerless up to 2 Total 2

One general & one limited quota license

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

In 1987 we will have 4-point-or-better seasons in 11 of the 165 hunt areas in the state. Objectives are to increase buck ratios by protecting small bucks in most cases. Compliance is checked on random and established check stations and randomly.

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

The only method we use to distribute hunters is by issuance of limited quota licenses. We feel they work well.

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

We do this through cooperation with BLM and U. S. Forest Service. The majority of the public is in favor of limited vehicle access as long as some access is left open. Enforcement is cooperative.

Wyoming
Mule deer

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

No.

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

NUGGETT CANYON MORTALITY STUDY - Assess mortality and distribution of kill to plan fencing, etc. Assess the value of SWAREFLEX reflectors in reducing highway mortality. (Self-running slide show)

WINTER MORTALITY STUDY - Utilize snow depths on winter range to assess winter mortality and develop a winter severity index. Data collection will include mortality transects, monthly classifications and monthly readings on snow depths on four major winter ranges in SW Wyoming.

Deer Status Report Combined

1987 Western States & Provinces Deer Workshop

State/Province	Type/Length of Season	No. Hunters Afield	No. Hunter-days	% Success	Harvest	
					Antler	Antlerless
ALASKA	Southeast Region	10,096	67,410	63	11,990	2,770
	Unit 6	1,600	8,400	66	1,740	1,260
	Unit 8 (1984)	3,948	22,830	81	6,590	2,315
ALBERTA	Forested areas (65-80 days)	56,000	320,000	29	10,500	5,200
	Mule Settled areas (24 days)					
Whitetail	Forested areas (65-80 days)	81,000	500,000	34	15,200	8,900
	Settled areas (24 days)					
BRITISH COLUMBIA	Vancouver Island	12,826	126,100	57	6,329	1,008
	Lower Mainland	5,051	30,533	35	1,518	268
	Thompson-Nicola	14,583	98,301	27	2,575	1,387
	Kootenay	13,618	137,460	27	2,887	757
	Cariboo	10,033	78,276	21	1,716	347
	Skeena Queen Charlotte Is.	1,191	7,373	180	1,512	630
	Mainland	2,549	16,629	15	377	6
	Omineca Okanagan	4,886 11,606	37,025 91,160	17 41	773 4,758	51 28
ARIZONA	Firearms (85 different hunts)	85,523	334,962	30	22,519	3,047
	Archery	14,404	104,653	6.6	N/A	N/A
CALIFORNIA	Unlimited hunters (30-44 days)	200,000	Unknown	2-13	23,000	
	Limited hunter #'s (9-16 days)	39,000	Unknown	15-60	6,000	
	Postseason	6,000	Unknown	3-80	600	combined
COLORADO	Archery (mountain) (37 days)	17,705	134,065	20	1,925	1,589
	Archery (plains) (40 days)					
	Muzzleloading (14 days)	3,653	16,563	48	997	760
	Early High Country (12 days)	233	953	39	90	0
	1st Combined Rifle (5 days)	35,372	124,283	25	8,836	0
	2nd Combined Rifle (12 days)	53,260	248,064	26	9,984	3,948
	3rd Combined Rifle (9 days)	65,671	273,132	33	18,818	2,896
	Plains	3,371	9,128	71	1,428	956
	Ranching for Wildlife	180	645	90	93	69
Extended Deer Season	180	602	95	0	171	
IDAHO	General rifle (26 days)	134,000	742,000	40	37,241	15,961
	Archery (30 days)	13,800	89,000	12	843	778
	Muzzleloader (varied)	3,800	1,600	17	403	236
	Controlled (varied)	5,800	15,000	70	2,600	1,811

MONTANA	General (5 week)	147,895*	866,127*	60*	45,422	15,119
	Archery (5 week)					
	*Includes white-tailed and mule deer hunters.					
NEVADA	Archery (28 days)	544	14,976	27.7	443	194
	Muzzleloader (15 days)	912	3,893	40.4	401	1
	Rifle-buck (30 day ave.)	30,605	147,821	49.0	16,648	7
	Rifle-antlerless (30 day ave.)	5,294	18,506	71.3	39	4,112
NEW MEXICO	Bow (23 days)	Harvest data analysis will not be completed by July 1987.				
	Muzzleloader (9 days)					
	Rifle D-1 - 2 days)					
	D-2 - 5 days)					
	D-3 - 7 days)					
OREGON	General buck (7-12 days)	93,500	426,500	31	28,600	0
Mule	Limited entry buck (12 days)	11,400	54,400	49	5,500	0
	Archery (30 days)	6,800	62,000	24	1,300	300
	Controlled (varies)	8,000	20,300	75	10	6,000
Blacktail	General buck (33 days)	134,000	989,000	24	26,900	5,500
	(last 5 days either sex)					
	Archery (30 days)	8,800	88,500	22	1,000	800
	Controlled (varies)	12,600	76,000	41	2,100	3,100
TEXAS						
Mule						
Whitetail	General (58 days)	508,000	4,000,000	58	277,000	161,000
	Archery (30 days)	55,000	500,000	10	4,000	3,000
	General (11 days)	167,125	728,599	32	53,676	--
	Archery (17 days)	20,934	120,233	11	2,274	--
UTAH	Muzzleloader (14 days)	5,918	27,374	20	1,193	--
	Control permits (varies)	8,572	21,452	76	103	6,371
	High Country buck (varies)	1,218	1,218	38	82	--
WASHINGTON	Archery	14,583		19	1,161	1,554
	Rifle	157,905		20	27,530	4,716
	Muzzleloader	3,020		32	268	699
WYOMING	General	84,758	357,080	59.3	35,555	14,738