

# Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt 2015-2016 Deer Report



Executive Summary  
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Bow-Hunt Administrators  
Advisory Organizations

Compiled by the  
Polk County Deer Task Force

The Polk County Deer Task Force believes that the White-tailed deer is a valuable part of our natural heritage. We support the perpetuation of the deer population in Polk County at ecologically acceptable levels.

-1997 Position Statement of the Polk County Deer Task Force

## Executive Summary

Based on the following results, it is recommended that the Polk County Controlled Bow-Hunt should be continued for the 2015-2016 season throughout the Polk County Deer Management Zone. It is also recommended to continue expanding efforts in the following areas:

- Urbandale
- Brown's Woods and Walnut Woods
- West Des Moines
- Johnston - Beaver Creek corridor
- Pleasant Hill
- private property throughout the zone



## Post Season Reports

### **Licenses Sold**

-The Polk County Deer Management Zone is divided into two zones. 1000 licenses were available for zone 48 which includes all of the cities, Polk County Conservation areas and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers areas. 200 licenses were available in zone 61 which is comprised of mostly rural areas not included in zone 48. Hunters purchased 638 antlerless licenses in zone 48 and 21 antlerless licenses in zone 61 for use in the Polk County Deer Management Zone.



### **Hunting Season**

-This year the IDNR allowed participating entities to use September 19, 2015 through January 10, 2016, for the Polk County Deer Management Zone bow-hunting season. Agencies could choose to use these dates for their season, or tailor their hunt to suit individual needs (as long as the dates were within the allowable season above). Pending approval from the Natural Resource Commission, the proposed hunt dates for the 2016 -2017 season will be September 17, 2016 through January 29, 2017.

### **Deer Harvest**

-Agencies reported that 324 antlerless deer had been harvested during the 2015-2016 bow-hunt, which is a decrease from 367 in the 2014-2015 season.

-There was a total of 356 antlerless deer harvested in the Polk County Deer Management Zone (including antlerless deer harvested in Camp Dodge with shotgun/muzzle).

29 incentive bucks were harvested during the 2015-2016 bow-hunt

A total of \*400 deer were harvested during the 2015-2016 season.

\* Count includes Camp Dodge (shotgun and muzzle any sex-tags)

### **Proficiency Testing**

- Archery Field and Sports and A & S Archery administered proficiency testing to hunt participants. 177 proficiency tests were taken by 170 hunters.

### **Safety Record**

No injuries were reported from hunters, neighbors or park visitors

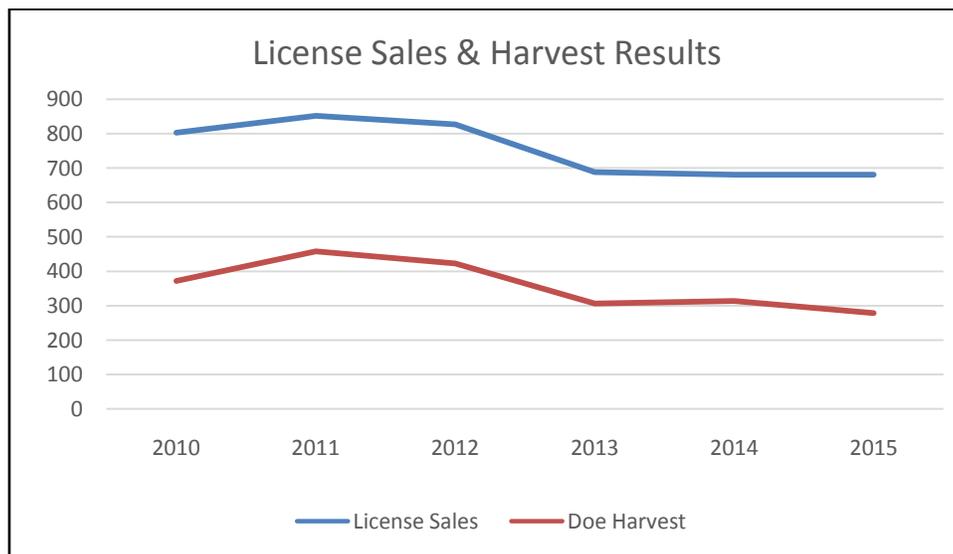


## Polk County Aerial Deer Surveys: 2015

by Bill Bunger Iowa DNR

Helicopter surveys were not flown this year. Weather conditions were not optimal to conduct surveys this year. The following graph gives a simple depiction of license sales and resulting doe harvest in the Polk/Dallas deer management zone. Over the last six years, license sales and doe harvest have started to decline. It seems likely this reflects a reduction in harvest opportunity (over 50% success in 2011 to 40% success in 2015) due to lower deer numbers since the inception of this hunt. It should be noted that 40% success is similar to harvest success seen by bow hunters at the statewide level. The 'easy' harvest of deer may be past. While we are aware of small, localized areas where deer numbers remain elevated, the general state of deer numbers has improved over the course of this hunt. Any future change in hunting opportunities will be driven by local public interest.

The success of this hunt remains in the hands of the cities and hunters who have made it successful. The dedication of city representatives to make this a safe event while bringing opportunity for individuals to address their concerns is admirable. In addition, hunters have volunteered their time and done so with respect for the landowners and the resource.



## Bow-Hunt Administrators

- City of Des Moines: Mike Gaul (515)-248-6329  
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Johnston: Jim Sanders (515) 727-7760  
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Polk County Conservation: Brian Herrstrom (515) 967-4889, c (515) 249-1753
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Saylorville Lake): Daniel Clark (515) 276-4656  
ext. 6507
- City of Urbandale: Andrew Dobbins (515) 331-6805  
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- Walnut Woods State Park (IDNR): Tim Gedler (515) 285-4502
- City of West Des Moines: Sally Ortegies (515) 222-3447  
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting
- City of Clive: Jeff Theilen (515) 238-0648, Joel Pasco (515) 210-7581  
-Administers public property bow-hunting
- City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis (515) 208-5212, Rick Courcier (515) 208-8214  
-Administers public and private property bow-hunting

## Advisory Organizations

The following organizations serve in an advisory capacity to the Polk County Deer Task Force (in addition to the organizations listed above).

- Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources: Bill Bunger (515) 975-8318
- City of Ankeny, City of Des Moines Animal Control, City of Grimes, City of Polk City, Dallas County Conservation Board, Des Moines Water Works
- Archery Field and Sports, A & S Archery, Des Moines Audubon, Des Moines Founders' Garden Club, Des Moines Izaak Walton League, IDNR Law Enforcement,  
Iowa Bow Hunters Assoc. (IBA), National Field Archery Association, Polk County Conservation Board, Polk County Board of Supervisors, Sierra Club and Westwood Neighborhood Association.

Table 1. Results from the helicopter deer surveys in Polk county, 1996 to present. **Survey not conducted in 2015 or 2016.**

Urban Areas Surveyed	Area (Square Miles)	Deer Sighted																		
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Water Works Park Area	3.91	100	159	206	204	136	88	105	102	134	130	37	58	63	51	46	35	21	35	46
D.M, South of Grand	1.37			56	45	39	50	49	36	63	56	18	53	66	49	55	28	28	29	18
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												150	164	188	103	76	76	74	49
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	43	132	149	106	128	86	91	155	226	167	137	301	216	232	151	189	182	238	165
Easter Lake & DSM River East	6.74	26	43	58	135	145	110	163	132	146	239	84	418	233	209	254	195	142	174	112
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	24	52	62	77	67	122	81	98	77	78	29	110	92	77	61	33	19	51	44
<b>Four Mile Creek:</b>																				
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	7	41	51	99	79	39	83	87	100	107	118	174	165	179	164	87	113	114	91
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93											48	71	59	86	63	53	43	70	71
Pleasant Hill east	2.27											25	31	150	162	128	90	71	138	123
North of I-80	4.45	58	128	128	158	117	103	86	80	104	127	16	124	202	136	177	125	71	98	167
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	15	14	35	4	23	12	6	0	28	15	8	15	15	17	25	18	21	14	12
Rock Creek	2.91	26	74	38	51	49	79	24	39	44	27	52	66	92	58	47	41	46	34	33
<b>Des Moines River:</b>																				
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	4.66	83	115	83	150	124	122	162	209	296	184	153	278	238	143	155	150	123	193	148
North of I-80*	2.81													175	122	124	111	82	118	97
South of I-80*	1.85													63	21	31	39	41	75	51
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.26									63	56	38	10	25	35	30	33	15	17	14
Quail Park- W. DSM	0.90																		101	92
<b>Walnut Creek:</b>																				
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	7	5	23	14	14	25	42	19	30	50	19	40	40	27	22	13	11
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30													23	15	10	5	8	6	4
Living History Farms	0.41				20	20	10	42	16	34	26	30	25	43	23	17	24	18	22	29
West of I-80	1.38	59	229	285	261	270	225	146	203	336	177	227	340	172	147	186	170	127	154	111
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													100	74	80	61	27	74	68
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	41	92	117	133	125	89	113	135	230	135	89	198	150	166	268	142	118	99	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.44</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>1,448</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>1,923</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>2,401</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,418</b>
<b>Rural Areas</b>																				
<b>Saylorville Reservoir</b>																				
Camp Dodge	2.23	55	71	93	105	108	69	73	68	195	165	148	234	148	109	93	107	49	91	101
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92		61	62	24	38	34	61	50	109	46	67	98	114	86	136	84	115	94	36
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55		41	72	94	83	85	86	50	137	94	55	66	127	91	90	105	110	67	67
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18		35	33	53	77	80	-	-		142	123	124	208	134	178	179	201	225	184
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	4.82	88	158	161	95	95	132	127	108	189	82	110	133	221	165	187	201	238	132	133
<b>Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>521</b>
<b>Chichaqua &amp; Skunk River</b>		96	85		197	109	-	-	187	133	106	181	210	-	154	-	103	-	-	168

\*New survey area, 2007.

*a* - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

Table 1. Results from the helicopter deer surveys in Polk county, 1996 to present. **Survey not conducted in 2015 or 2016.**

Urban Areas	Area	Deer per Square Mile																			Change	
	(Square Miles)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	(2013 to 2014)	
Water Works Park Area	3.91	26	41	53	52	35	23	27	26	34	33	9	15	16	13	12	9	5	9	12	33%	
D.M, South of Grand	1.37	0	0	41	33	28	36	36	26	46	41	13	39	48	36	40	20	20	21	13	-38%	
DSM airport west-63rd*	1.78												84	92	106	58	43	43	42	28	-33%	
Browns & Walnut Woods	4.20	10	31	35	25	30	20	22	37	54	40	33	72	51	55	36	45	43	57	39	-32%	
Easter Lake & DSM River East	6.74	4	6	9	20	22	16	24	20	22	35	12	62	35	31	38	29	21	26	17	-35%	
Yellow Banks & DSM River	1.75	14	30	35	44	38	70	46	56	44	45	17	63	53	44	35	19	11	29	25	-14%	
<b>Four Mile Creek:</b>																						
I80 -Des Moines River	5.29	1	8	10	19	15	7	16	16	19	20	22	33	31	34	31	16	21	22	17	-23%	
Pleasant Hill west*	0.93												48	71	63	92	68	57	46	75	76	1%
Pleasant Hill east	2.27												26	31	66	71	56	40	31	61	54	-11%
North of I-80	4.45	13	29	29	36	26	23	19	18	23	29	4	28	45	31	40	28	16	22	38	73%	
Margo Frankel Woods	0.78	19	18	45	5	29	15	8	0	36	19	10	19	19	22	32	23	27	18	15	-17%	
Rock Creek	2.91	9	25	13	18	17	27	8	13	15	9	18	23	32	20	16	14	16	12	11	-8%	
<b>Des Moines River:</b>																						
Saylorville Dam-Riverview Park	4.66	18	25	18	32	27	26	35	45	64	39	33	60	51	31	33	32	26	41	32	-22%	
North of I-80*	2.81													62	43	44	40	29	42	35	-17%	
South of I-80*	1.85													34	11	17	21	22	41	28	-32%	
Jordan Creek/South Woods	0.26	0								242	215	146	38	96	135	115	127	58	65	54	-17%	
Quail Park- W. DSM	0.90																		112	102	-9%	
<b>Walnut Creek:</b>																						
Raccoon River to I-80	0.79	0	1	9	6	29	18	18	32	53	24	38	63	24	51	51	34	28	16	14	-13%	
Clive Area; west of I-35*	0.30													77	50	33	17	27	20	13	-35%	
Living History Farms	0.41				49	49	24	102	39	83	63	73	61	105	56	41	59	44	54	71	31%	
West of I-80	1.38	43	166	207	189	196	163	106	147	243	128	164	246	125	107	135	123	92	112	80	-29%	
Beaver Creek (Johnston)	0.59													169	125	136	103	46	125	115	-8%	
Polk City Barrier Dam Refuge	3.11	13	30	38	43	40	29	36	43	74	43	29	64	48	53	86	46	38	32	26	-19%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.44</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-13%</b>	
<b>Rural Areas</b>																						
<b>Saylorville Reservoir</b>																						
Camp Dodge	2.23	25	32	42	47	48	31	33	30	87	74	66	105	66	49	42	48	22	41	45	10%	
Dam to MLB (west side)	1.92	-	32	32	13	20	18	32	26	57	24	35	51	59	45	71	44	60	49	19	-61%	
Dam to MLB (east side) <i>a</i>	2.55	-	16	28	37	33	33	34	20	54	37	22	26	50	36	35	41	43	26	26	0%	
MLB to Hwy 17 (east side)	4.18	-	8	8	13	18	19	-	-	-	34	29	30	50	32	43	43	48	54	44	-19%	
Jester Park, MLB to Bridge to Hwy 17	4.82	18	33	33	20	20	27	26	22	39	17	23	28	46	34	39	42	49	27	28	4%	
<b>Total (excluding Barrier Dam Refuge)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-15%</b>	
<b>Chichaqua &amp; Skunk River</b>																						

\*New survey area, 2007.

*a* - does not include Barrier Dam Refuge area

## 2015 - 2016 Deer Harvest

### POLK-DALLAS URBAN ZONE 48

A. **Polk County Conservation (PCC) Public Areas:** Brian Herrstrom 967-4889

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Jester Park				
Incentive Buck (4 allotted)	3		1	6
Sycamore Trail (includes Area C in Johnston)				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)				9
Easter Lake				
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)	2		3	12
Brown's Woods				
Incentive Buck (3 allotted)	1			25
Thomas Mitchell Park				
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)			1	5
Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)				
Four Mile Greenbelt				
Incentive Buck (included with Thomas Mitchell)			2	2
Yellow Banks Park				
Incentive Buck (0 allotted)				8
Gay Lea Wilson East Trail				
Incentive Buck 0 allotted)				2
<b>Polk County Conservation (PCC)</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
			<b>69</b>	

B. **City of Clive Public Areas:** Jeff Theilen 238-0648 / Joel Pasco 210-7581

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
West of I-80	1		3	2
Greenbelt Park: East of NW 114th				5
Incentive Buck (1 allotted)				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>City of Clive Private Property</b>				
None at present date				0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>City of Clive</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
			<b>7</b>	

C. **City of Des Moines Public Areas: Michael Gaul 248-6329**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Cases Lake: Hartford Ave			1	5
Crocker Woods: Prospect Rd. & Hickman Rd.	1			7
Ewing Park			1	3
Laurel Hill Woods				3
MacRae Park				2
Pioneer Park				1
Ashworth Park	1	1	1	5
Incentive Buck (8 allotted)				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>

**City of Des Moines Private Property**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
SW / Airport Area (South of Waterworks Park, West of Fleur to limits)	2		2	15
SE / Easter Lake and Ewing Parks Area (SE 14th east, South of DM River to Limits)	4		9	26
South of Grand Area (West of Terrace Hill to 63rd, South of University to Waterworks)	4	1	2	19
MacRae Park Area				
Prospect / Beaverville Park Area				6
East Area (East and Northeast area of city)	3		5	14
Incentive Buck (14 allotted)				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>City of Des Moines</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>
		<b>106</b>		

D. **City of Johnston Public Areas: Jim Sanders 727-7760**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Area A: Army Corps of Engineers (See USACE totals)				
Area C: Sycamore Trail (See PCC totals)				
Area E: City of Johnston - 156 Acres Incentive Buck (3 allotted)				9
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>City of Johnston Private Property</b>				
Private Property Incentive Buck (3 allotted)		1		14
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>City of Johnston</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>23</b>		

<b>E. City of Pleasant Hill: Heath Ellis 208-5212 / Rick Courcier 208-8214</b>				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Polk County Property (See PCC Totals)				
City Property				
Private Property	2			6
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)				
<b>City of Pleasant Hill</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>F. City of Urbandale Public Areas: Andrew Dobbins 331-6805</b>				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
City Parks				6
Incentive Buck (None allotted at this time)				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>City of Urbandale Private Property</b>				
Living History Farms (LHF) (West of I-35)			1	4
Incentive Buck (5 allotted)				
Other Private Property	3		1	18
Incentive Buck (7 allotted)				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>City of Urbandale</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
			<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>

<b>G. City of West Des Moines Public Areas: Sally Ortgies 222-3447</b>				
	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
South Woods				12
Incentive Buck (2 allotted)				
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>City of West Des Moines Private Property</b>				
	1			7
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>City of West Des Moines</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>

H. **USACE: (Corps of Engineers): 276-4656 Scott Rolfes ext. 6508; Daniel Clark ext. 6507**

	Incentive Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Saylorville (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)			2	21
Polk City Refuge (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)				
<b>USACE</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
			<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>

I. **Walnut Woods State Park: Tim Gedler 285-4502**

	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Walnut Woods State Park (No Buck Incentive Issued for this area)	1		1	6
<b>Walnut Woods State Park</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
			<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

Total Doe Harvested Zone 48 285

Total Incentive Bucks Harvested Zone 48 29

Total Shed Antlered Bucks Harvested Zone 48 3

Total Button Bucks Harvested Zone 48 36

Antler-less tags available zone 48: 1200 Sold: 638  
 Incentive Buck Tags available Zone 48: 55 Sold: 53

J. **IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 48**

	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Antlerless Only licenses	2	2	40	263
Incentive Licenses - Any Sex	32			2
<b>ELSI</b>	<b>Harvest Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>
				<b>265</b>
<b>Total Deer Harvested</b>				<b>341</b>

ELSI harvest totals for zone 48 are displayed to show reporting discrepancies by hunters to both administrating agencies and IDNR.

**POLK-DALLAS RURAL ZONE 61**

K. **Camp Dodge: Shannan Garretson 252-4648**

	Buck**	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Archery	8	0	0	13
Shotgun / Muzzle loader	7	0	0	9
**Buck (Normal seasons and any-sex tags allowed)				
<b>Camp Dodge</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

L. **IDNR ELECTRONIC LICENSING (ELSI) Zone 61**

	Buck	Shed Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
			2	8
<b>ELSI</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
				<b>8</b>

**Total Antlerless Deer Harvested Zone 61 32**

**Total Bucks Harvested Zone 61 15**

**Antler-less tags available zone 61: 400 Sold: 21**

<b>Antler-less Deer Harvested (Bow)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>
* Count including Camp Dodge (shotgun/muzzle) and ELSI zone 61		<b>356</b>

**Incentive Bucks Total 29**

**Bucks: Camp Dodge\*\* and ELSI zone 61 Total 15**

\*\*Normal seasons (shotgun/bow) and any-sex tags allowed

**Total Deer Harvested 400**