

CUSTER STATE PARK

CSP DEER

For the white-tail doe season we received 35 report cards and 9 of the 35 hunters did not hunt; however, for the 26 hunters that hunted 22 killed antlerless deer (85%). Additionally, this year we added a white-tailed doe license on to the any white-tail license tag holders and there were 4 of 8 hunters (50%) who also harvested antlerless white-tails. Therefore, there were a total of 41 antlerless deer (33 does, 2 buck fawns, 5 doe fawns, and 1 yearling spike buck) harvested during the any white-tail and antlerless seasons. Unfortunately, during the antlerless season, some hunters were not success ($n = 4$, 18%), and some only harvested one antlerless deer ($n = 7$, 32%). Overall, the antlerless deer harvest was better than expected. For the any deer seasons both mature mule deer and white-tailed bucks were killed.

Summary comparison of the 2000-2008 seasons.

Year	Apps/Licenses	WT Harvest	MD Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted
2000	565/4	2 bucks	1 bucks	75%	5.25
2001	606/4	2 bucks	2 bucks	100%	5.0
2002	651/6	4 bucks	2 bucks	100%	5.67
2003	708/42	11 bucks, 18 does	1 buck	100%	2.1
2004	757/52	9 bucks, 20 does	2 bucks	60%	1.1
2005	876/50	12 bucks, 17 does	2 bucks, 1 doe	64%	1.6
2006	1,016/37	9 bucks, 32 does	2 bucks	97%	2.68
2007	1,203/37	9 bucks, 31 does	2 bucks	95%	2.8
2008	1,088/47	8 bucks, 38 does	2 bucks	86%	3.0

CSP SPRING TURKEY

We collected information from 106 report cards. We had 19 hunters (18%) which did not hunt and indicated a high non-participation rate. Therefore, only 82% ($n = 87$) of hunters that received a license visited the Park to hunt spring turkeys. Of the hunters that participated, we had a harvest success rate of 86% (75 of 87). Most hunters used shotguns (92%), followed by combination shotgun/bow hunters (4%), and bow hunters (4%). The majority of birds harvested were mature gobblers (2+ years of age) at 95%, with a break down of ages including juveniles at 5%, 2-year olds at 45%, 3-year olds at 24%, 4-year olds at 10%, and 5+-year olds at 16%. Most comments indicated an excellent hunt and hunters enjoyed the experience. One hunter commented this was the best spring turkey hunt provided in North America.

Summary comparison of the 2000-2008 seasons.

Year	Apps/Licenses	Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted
2000	449/100	34	34%*	3.17
2001	451/100	34	34%*	3.10
2002	520/100	37	37%*	2.77
2003	540/100	47	47%*	2.57
2004	636/100	52	52%*	1.98
2005	663/100	47	47%*	1.73
2006	683/100	47	84%	2.20
2007	737/125	71	77%	2.50
2008	741/135	75	86%	1.80

*Harvest and success for CSP Spring Turkey were estimated assuming all nonrespondents were unsuccessful. The 2006-08 estimates were based on the sample reporting.

CSP BIGHORN SHEEP

Population surveys indicated a low population of approximately 35 bighorns in Custer State Park. Surveys indicate one lamb survived through February, 2008. We continue to monitor the population for disease and are testing adult females and males for *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia*. We hope to supplement the herd in the near future.

Summary comparison of the 2000-2008 seasons.

Year	Apps/Licenses	Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted
2000	2,364/4	4 rams	100%	2.25
2001	2,466/3	3 rams	100%	1.66
2002	2,424/2	2 rams	100%	2.50
2003	2,506/2	2 rams	100%	1.50
2004	2,725/3	3 rams	100%	4.00
2005	CLOSED			
2006	CLOSED			
2007	CLOSED			
2008	CLOSED			

CSP ARCHERY ELK

There were 58 archery elk licenses issued in 2008 (8 early season and 50 late season). There were 3084 (+785 pref only) applicants for the early season licenses and 2007 (+525 pref only) for the late. The average days hunted was 13 days and 7.9 days for the early and late seasons, respectively. A total of 442 recreation days were reported for both seasons. The harvest was 8 bulls for an overall success rate of 16%.

The 2008 season statistics were:

Unit	Licenses Available	Licenses Sold	Response Rate	Success	Projected Harvest		
					Bulls	Cows	Total
CU1-21	8	8	100%	25%	2	0	2
CU1-21	50	50	100%	14%	6	0	6
Total	58	58	100%	16%	8	0	8

Summary comparison of the 2000-2008 seasons:

Year	Applications	Licenses	Bull Harvest	Cow Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted
2000	1,859	58	12	5	29%	7.36
2001	2,289	58	10	4	24%	8.63
2002	2,745	58	5	3	14%	9.69
2003	2,778	58	14	3	29%	7.76
2004	3,324	55	7	0	13%	9.12
2005	3,964	57	6	3	16%	8.63
2006	4,523	56	13	0	27%	7.81
2007	4,869	58	3	1	8%	9.30
2008	5,091	58	8	0	16%	8.74

CSP FIREARM ELK

There were 76 licenses available for the firearm elk seasons (35 regular season, 1 regular tag sold through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation by raffle, and 40 antlerless). There were 10,998 (+1574 preference only) applications for the regular season and 3,655 (+728 pref only) for the antlerless season (2nd season only). The average days hunted for the regular season was 3.9 days and 2.8 days for the second antlerless season. There were a combined 37 bulls and 21 cows harvested in all seasons. The overall success rate was 77%.

The 2008 statistics were:

Unit	Licenses Available	Licenses Sold	Response		Harvest		
			Rate	Success	Bulls	Cows	Total
CU1-21	36	36	100%	97%	35	0	35
CU1-23	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0
CU2-23	40	40	100%	59%	2	21	23
CU3-23	0	0	NA	NA	0	0	0
Total	76	76	100%	77%	37	21	58

Summary comparison of the 2000-2008 seasons:

Year	Apps/Licenses	Bull Harvest	Cow Harvest	Success	Avg. Days Hunted
2000	10,444/140	39	81	86%	2.75
2001	11,081/140	36	79	82%	3.01
2002	11,679/140	39	91	93%	3.57
2003	12,431/170	39	97	80%	2.91
2004	13,196/188	44	126	90%	2.27
2005	15,021/166	43	86	78%	3.21
2006	14,323/167	41	91	79%	3.11
2007	15,148/101	38	31	68%	3.70
2008	14,653/76	37	21	77%	3.33