

Nonresident Deer Hunting

ISSUE

This *Issue Review* provides an overview of nonresident deer hunting licenses in Iowa.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

CODE AUTHORITY

Iowa Code Chapter 483A
Chapter 94 Iowa Administrative Code

BACKGROUND

Nonresident deer hunters desire to hunt in Iowa, as hundreds of trophy deer have been recorded locally by the DNR, and nationally in publications such as the [Boone and Crockett Club's Big Game Records Program](#).

A nonresident deer hunter wanting to hunt antlered deer must apply for a combination nonresident any-sex deer license (\$295), an antlerless deer license (\$125), nonresident hunting license (\$110), and pay the wildlife habitat fee (\$11).

CURRENT SITUATION

License Fees

During the 2009 Legislative Session, nonresident hunting license fees were increased in SF 478 (FY 2010 Standings Appropriations Act). The following table compares three hunting seasons—2008 through 2010, and lists the cost of the increase in license fees for nonresident deer licenses (does not include any administrative or licensing fees):

| License Type | Nonresident Deer Hunting Licenses Sold and Revenue Generated | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| | 2008 Hunting Season | | | 2009 Hunting Season | | | 2010 Hunting Season | | |
| | Fee | # Sold | Revenue | Fee | # Sold | Revenue | Fee | # Sold | Revenue |
| Nonresident Hunting 18 and Over | \$ 80 | 33,290 | \$2,663,200 | \$ 110 | 28,045 | \$3,084,950 | \$ 110 | 23,202 | \$2,552,220 |
| Nonresident Hunting Under 18 | 30 | 1,235 | 37,050 | 30 | 1,084 | 32,520 | 30 | 808 | 24,240 |
| Nonresident Hunting Habitat Fee | 11 | 37,161 | 408,771 | 11 | 31,644 | 348,084 | 11 | 26,270 | 288,970 |
| Nonresident Any-Sex Deer | 220 | 5,999 | 1,319,780 | 295 | 5,995 | 1,768,525 | 295 | 5,998 | 1,769,410 |
| Required Nonres. Antlerless Deer | 100 | 5,999 | 599,900 | 125 | 5,995 | 749,375 | 125 | 5,998 | 749,750 |
| Nonresident Antlerless Deer | 150 | 2,780 | 417,000 | 225 | 2,237 | 503,325 | 225 | 2,257 | 507,825 |
| Nonresident Holiday Season | 50 | 262 | 13,100 | 75 | 231 | 17,325 | 75 | 195 | 14,625 |
| Nonresident January Season | N/A | N/A | N/A | 225 | 34 | 7,650 | 225 | 51 | 11,475 |
| Nonresident Preference Points | 10 | 8,971 | 89,710 | 50 | 10,286 | 514,300 | 50 | 8,103 | 405,150 |
| Total | | <u>95,697</u> | <u>\$5,548,511</u> | | <u>85,551</u> | <u>\$7,026,054</u> | | <u>72,882</u> | <u>\$6,323,665</u> |
| Dollar Change | | | | | | \$1,477,543 | | | \$ (702,389) |
| % Change | | | | | | 26.6% | | | -10.0% |

There were fewer permits sold during the 2009 hunting season but revenue increased due to the fee increase. During the 2010 hunting season, there was a decrease in permits sold and in revenue.

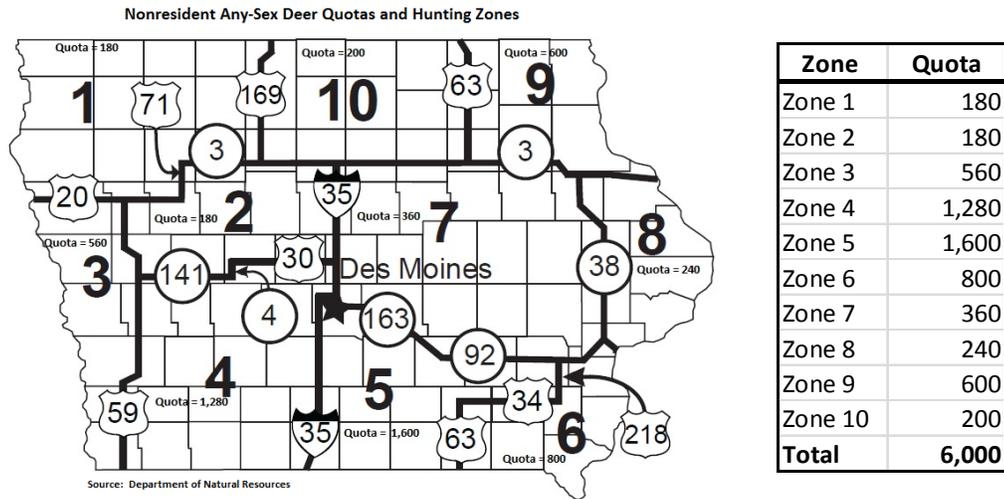
Preference Points

A nonresident applicant can purchase preference points that are applied to the applicant's account when they do not receive a hunting license. Prospective hunters accumulate preference points to increase their chances of obtaining a nonresident license in future years. The drawing process for a nonresident any-sex/antlerless deer combination licenses starts with the group of applicants that have the most preference points and those licenses are awarded. The process continues to the next group of applicants with the next level of preference points and licenses are awarded and the process continues until all quotas are filled. Other information related to preference points includes:

- A nonresident that does not apply for the any-sex/antlerless deer license can purchase a preference point for \$50 plus application fees and the money is deposited in the Fish and Game Protection Fund.
- A nonresident that does not obtain the any-sex deer license will receive one preference point for that year and receive a refund for the nonresident license fee paid less the \$50 for the preference point.
- A nonresident that is awarded an any-sex/antlerless deer license will receive a refund for the cost of the preference point.
- Preference points do not accrue in a year when the applicant fails to apply, but the applicant retains any preference points previously earned.
- Preference points apply only to obtaining a nonresident any-sex/antlerless deer license. Once an applicant receives a license, all preference points are removed.

License Quotas

Current nonresident deer quotas include 6,000 any-deer/antlerless-only combination licenses and 4,500 antlerless-only deer licenses. The map lists the nonresident hunting zones with the quota for nonresident any-sex deer licenses:



The 6,000 nonresident any-sex deer license quota sells out each year and the licenses are sold on a first-come-first-served basis until a quota is filled. If resident deer hunting quotas are not met during the regular hunting season, then a nonresident can apply for an antlerless-only nonresident deer license for late December also called the holiday season. In addition, if resident deer quotas are not met during the holiday season, a nonresident can apply for the January antlerless-only nonresident deer license. The following table summarizes the number of applications received for nonresident any-sex deer licenses and the number awarded over the past seven years:

| Hunting Year | Applicants | Applicant Change In Numbers | Applicant Change % | Quota | Unsuccessful Applicants |
|--------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 2004 | 12,169 | | | 6,000 | 6,182 |
| 2005 | 12,231 | 62 | 0.5% | 6,000 | 6,231 |
| 2006 | 10,544 | -1,687 | -13.8% | 6,000 | 4,587 |
| 2007 | 11,105 | 561 | 5.3% | 6,000 | 5,136 |
| 2008 | 11,470 | 365 | 3.3% | 6,000 | 5,470 |
| 2009 | 10,114 | -1,356 | -11.8% | 6,000 | 4,190 |
| 2010 | 9,542 | -572 | -5.7% | 6,000 | 3,638 |

The data indicates an 11.8% decline in applications during the 2009 hunting season, the first year of the nonresident fee increase, and a 5.7% decline in 2010, the second year of the fee increase.

Nonresident Deer Harvest

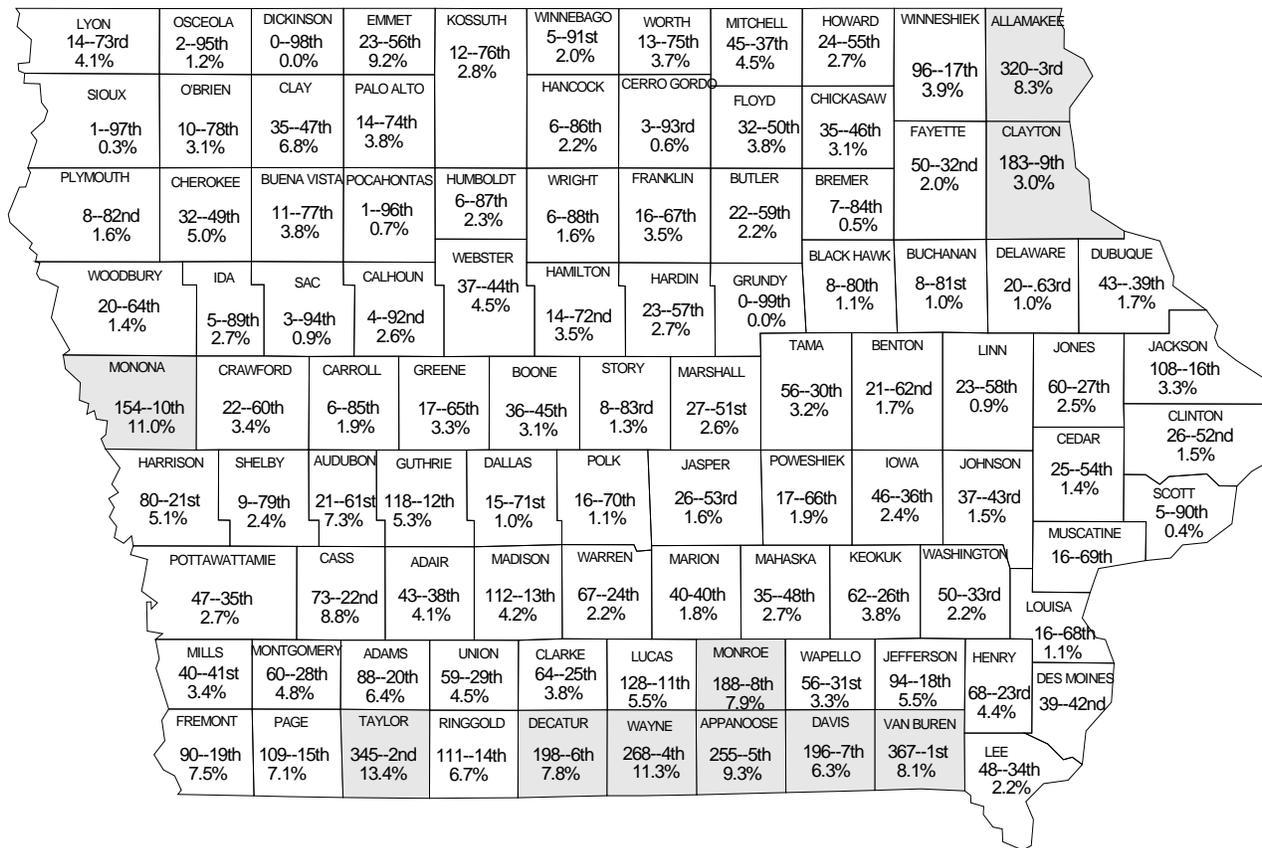
During the 2009 hunting season, 5,628 deer were harvested by nonresident hunters, equal to 4.1% of the total 136,504 deer harvested in Iowa. Ten counties harvested 44.0% of the nonresident deer: Van Buren, Taylor, Allamakee, Wayne, Appanoose, Decatur, Davis, Monroe, Clayton, and Monona.

The following map details nonresident deer harvesting information per county:

- Number of deer harvested by nonresidents.
- County ranking in terms of nonresident deer harvested to the total deer harvested Statewide.
- Percentage of nonresident deer harvested per county to total deer harvested per county.

The top ten counties are shaded.

2009 Nonresident Deer County Harvest



The DNR indicates that increases in land owned by hunting guides or outfitters may have led to a concentration area for the nonresident deer harvest, but no data has been collected to support this theory. In addition, most of the top ten counties are located on an Iowa border.

Resident and Nonresident Comparison

The following table summarizes license fees from all resident and nonresident hunting licenses for the 2002 through 2010 hunting seasons.

| Resident Versus Nonresident Hunting Licenses Fee Revenue | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Includes All Hunting Licenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | Total Hunters In Iowa | % Change | Total License Fee | % Change | Resident License Fee | % Change | Nonresident License Fee | % Change | % Res. To Total Lic. | % NR to Total Lic. |
| 2002 | 257,899 | | \$ 18,480,807 | | \$ 12,127,515 | | \$ 6,353,292 | | 65.6% | 34.4% |
| 2003 | 269,014 | 4.3% | 21,117,249 | 14.3% | 13,583,630 | 12.0% | 7,533,619 | 18.6% | 64.3% | 35.7% |
| 2004 | 257,899 | -4.1% | 22,174,009 | 5.0% | 13,997,339 | 3.0% | 8,176,670 | 8.5% | 63.1% | 36.9% |
| 2005 | 269,014 | 4.3% | 22,614,577 | 2.0% | 14,607,846 | 4.4% | 8,006,731 | -2.1% | 64.6% | 35.4% |
| 2006 | 286,607 | 6.5% | 23,755,952 | 5.0% | 14,784,513 | 1.2% | 8,971,439 | 12.0% | 62.2% | 37.8% |
| 2007 | 280,398 | -2.2% | 23,714,887 | -0.2% | 15,035,945 | 1.7% | 8,678,942 | -3.3% | 63.4% | 36.6% |
| 2008 | 291,424 | 3.9% | 23,384,356 | -1.4% | 15,311,067 | 1.8% | 8,073,290 | -7.0% | 65.5% | 34.5% |
| 2009 | 290,171 | -0.4% | 24,168,760 | 3.4% | 15,113,358 | -1.3% | 9,055,402 | 12.2% | 62.5% | 37.5% |
| 2010 | 271,434 | -6.5% | 23,999,616 | -0.7% | 15,258,497 | 1.0% | 8,741,119 | -3.5% | 63.6% | 36.4% |
| Average | 274,873 | 0.7% | \$ 22,426,324 | 3.4% | \$ 14,320,151 | 3.0% | \$ 8,106,173 | 4.4% | 63.9% | 36.1% |

The nine-year average indicates there are approximately 275,000 hunting licenses sold generating \$22.4 million, with \$14.3 million (63.9%) from residents and \$8.1 million (36.1%) from nonresidents.

Economic Activity

The *Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2006 Report*, estimated the following economic activity in Iowa related to deer hunting for 2006:

| 2006 Iowa Deer Hunting Economic Activity | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| (In Millions) | | | | | |
| Description | Total | Resident | % Res. | Nonres. | % Nonres. |
| Retail Sales | \$ 137.4 | \$ 120.6 | 87.8% | \$ 16.8 | 12.2% |
| Output | 213.8 | 188.1 | 88.0% | 25.7 | 12.0% |
| Earnings | 67.3 | 58.9 | 87.5% | 8.4 | 12.5% |
| Federal Taxes | 15.2 | 13.4 | 88.2% | 1.8 | 11.8% |
| State Taxes | 14.7 | 13.1 | 89.1% | 1.6 | 10.9% |
| Total | \$ 448.4 | \$ 394.1 | 87.9% | \$ 54.3 | 12.1% |

During 2006, approximately 87.9% of the economic activity from hunting was generated by residents and approximately 12.1% was generated by nonresidents. The full report is available at: http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/responsive/AFWA_HuntingReport_2007.pdf.

ALTERNATIVES

In previous years there have been discussions on increasing the 6,000 nonresident any-sex/antlerless deer licenses in Iowa. Currently, the 6,000 licenses generate approximately \$3.3 million in fee revenue. In FY 2010, the total hunting and fishing fees deposited in the Fish and Game Trust Fund was \$28.7 million, and \$3.3 million is 11.3% of that total. It is estimated that an increase of 1,000 nonresident any-sex deer licenses would generate an additional \$540,000 to the Fish and Game Trust Fund.

Raising the nonresident license quota would increase revenue for the Fish and Game Protection Fund; however, this could create other issues. There are concerns that nonresidents may purchase more land in Iowa that would limit hunting access for residents. In addition, the increase in nonresident hunters would decrease the chances for a resident to harvest a trophy deer.

BUDGET IMPACT

Hunting and fishing license fees are deposited in the Fish and Game Trust Fund. Any fees generated from an increase in the number of nonresident deer licenses sold would generate additional income for the Fund. The following table summarizes the receipts for the past six years to the Fish and Game Trust Fund and indicates that the sale of hunting and fishing licenses generate approximately 63.9% of the revenue to the Fish and Game Trust Fund.

The increase in revenue for "Fees and Permits" for FY 2010 is due to the inclusion of boat registration fees that are paid every three years. In previous years, boat registration fees were not included in the Fish and Game Trust Fund. In addition, the nonresident deer license fee increase is included for FY 2010.

| Fish and Game Trust Fund Receipts | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Description | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | Six Year Average |
| Federal Funds | \$11,134,856 | \$11,566,472 | \$12,996,244 | \$15,155,639 | \$17,296,250 | \$17,515,889 | \$14,277,558 |
| Intra State Transfers | 1,535,920 | 2,478,280 | 260,529 | 485,726 | 5,095,822 | 1,390,264 | 1,874,424 |
| Reimbursement Other Agencies | | | | | | 121 | 121 |
| Interest | 141,064 | 291,685 | 335,994 | 347,048 | 97,076 | 80,095 | 215,494 |
| Fees and Permits | 25,809,316 | 27,035,673 | 33,397,824 | 27,452,835 | 28,751,689 | 34,905,970 | 29,558,885 |
| Refunds and Reimbursements | 636,293 | 55,520 | 643,442 | 250,070 | 503,486 | 250,537 | 389,891 |
| Sale of Real Estate | | | | | | 12,870 | 12,870 |
| Sale of Equipment | 433 | 1,660 | 2,491 | 3,629 | 20,669 | 807 | 4,948 |
| Rent and Leases | 16,042 | 5,792 | 77,442 | 273,554 | 218,740 | 236,599 | 138,028 |
| Agriculture Sales | 570 | 24,127 | 143,699 | 198,279 | | 167,166 | 106,768 |
| Other Sales | 468,445 | 456,710 | 685,361 | 1,026,802 | 945,306 | 1,141,447 | 787,345 |
| Unearned Receipts | 72,274 | 72,419 | 186,844 | 136,148 | 42,848 | 341,864 | 142,066 |
| Income Tax Checkoff | 136,703 | 118,382 | 109,514 | 120,460 | 112,041 | 115,379 | 118,747 |
| Other | 257,747 | 427,190 | 386,069 | 464,184 | 353,162 | 424,614 | 385,494 |
| Total Receipts | \$40,209,663 | \$42,533,910 | \$49,225,453 | \$45,914,375 | \$53,437,089 | \$56,583,622 | \$46,264,098 |
| Fish and Game Appropriation | \$34,288,895 | \$38,355,335 | \$38,370,766 | \$34,322,525 | \$36,371,314 | \$38,793,154 | \$36,750,332 |
| % to Receipts | 85.28% | 90.18% | 77.95% | 74.75% | 68.06% | 68.56% | 79.44% |
| % License Fee to Total Receipts | 64.19% | 63.56% | 67.85% | 59.79% | 53.80% | 61.69% | 63.89% |

OTHER STATES

Several surrounding states do not have a quota for nonresident deer licenses. The following table summarizes 2006 data from the federal Fish and Wildlife Service comparing all resident and nonresident hunters. South Dakota has a larger percentage of nonresident hunters; however, pheasants were hunted more than deer in 2006. Of the 171,000 South Dakota hunters, 128,000 hunted pheasants and 67,000 hunted deer.

| State | Total Hunters | Resident Hunters | % To Total | Nonresident Hunters | % To Total |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| Iowa | 251,000 | 208,000 | 82.9% | 44,000 | 17.5% |
| Illinois | 316,000 | 258,000 | 81.6% | 58,000 | 18.4% |
| Indiana* | 272,000 | 237,000 | 87.1% | 35,000 | 12.9% |
| Minnesota* | 536,000 | 509,000 | 95.0% | 26,000 | 4.9% |
| Missouri* | 608,000 | 540,000 | 88.8% | 68,000 | 11.2% |
| Nebraska* | 118,000 | 102,000 | 86.4% | 16,000 | 13.6% |
| South Dakota* | 171,000 | 89,000 | 52.0% | 81,000 | 47.4% |
| Wisconsin* | 697,000 | 649,000 | 93.1% | 48,000 | 6.9% |

*States that do not have nonresident deer license quotas

STAFF CONTACT: Debra Kozel (515-281-6767) debra.kozel@legis.state.ia.us

REFERENCE

“A Review of Iowa’s Deer Management Program,” January 10, 2009, Iowa Deer Study Advisory Committee, http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/files/files/draft_report.pdf

“Trends in Iowa Wildlife Populations and Harvest—2009”
http://www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/files/files/logbook_2009.pdf