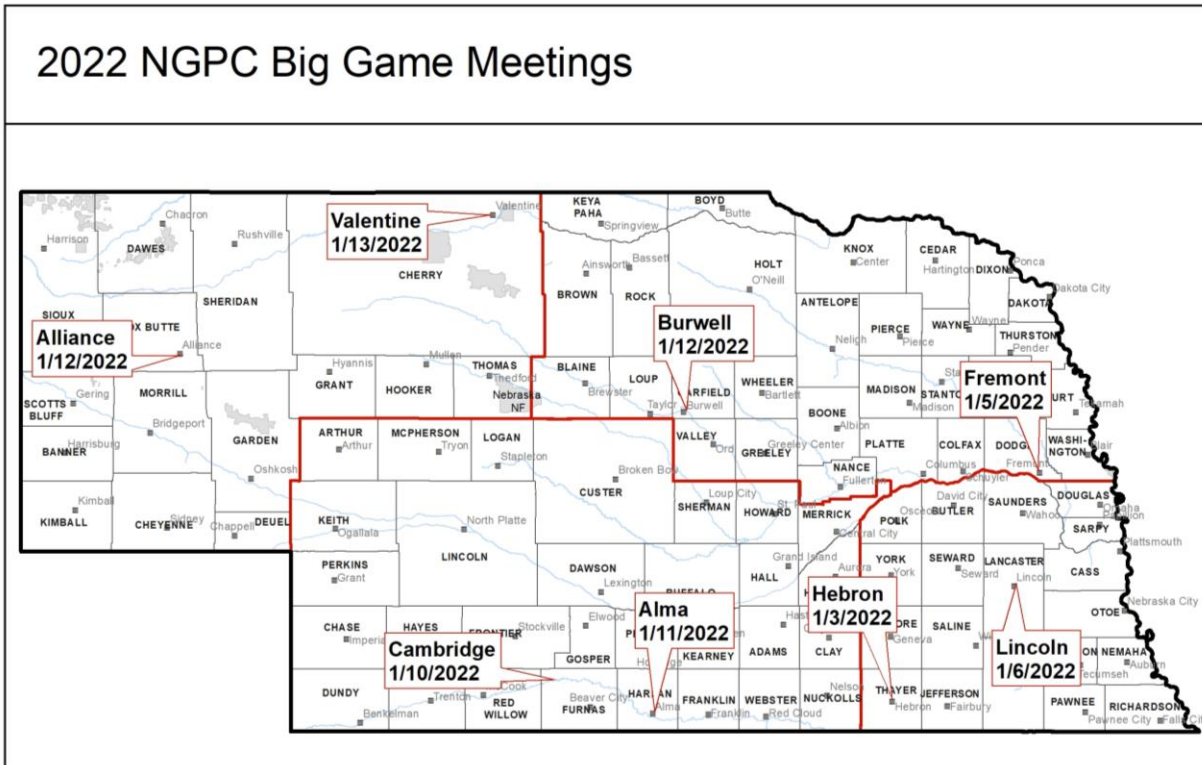


Topic: 2022 Winter Big Game Meeting Summary

This briefing will provide an overview of the 2022 Winter Big Game Meetings.

In January 2022, eight in-person meetings and one virtual meeting were held to provide information to and receive input from hunters, landowners and the general public regarding big game issues across the state. The eight sites were selected based upon past history of meetings and current regional issues.

Locations:



Attendance:

Meetings were attended by 245 total individuals from the public. Some attendees attended an in person as well as the virtual meeting. Commissioners were able to attend all but the Cambridge meeting. In all, 7 different commissioners were able to attend meetings. Director McCoy and Deputy Director Swenson were also able to make it to at least one meeting.

Format:

Each meeting was led by local NGPC staff or the district wildlife manager. A slideshow with information was presented at each meeting followed by an open Q&A period. Meetings typically ended to allow individual discussions with NGPC staff and commissioners.

Input:

Notes from each meeting were taken and are attached on the following pages. However, common topics were:

- Nonresident hunter numbers
- Reduced deer numbers
- Special Landowner Season questions
- Depredation and DCP questions

**Big Game Informational Meeting
Alma – Johnson Center Building
January 11, 2022
7-9 pm**

28 Total Attendees

17 Attendees from Public

5 – Both LO and Hunter

1 – LO

11 – Hunter

Commissioner – John Hoggatt

Rest Game & Parks Staff

Bob Meduna – Gave presentation on Deer Management emphasizing Republican Unit

Dusty Schelbitzki – Gave presentation on the depredation program and resources for landowners with damage.

Questions/Comments:

- A lot of questions about CWD
- How many Republican WT permits are purchased by nonresidents
- People were finding dead deer along the Republican River (EHD)
- How many more does were killed on HCR with the new permit compared to previous years.
- Have a lot of nonresident hunters that stopped killing does because bonus permits were taken off the regular permit
- Every year I put in for elk permits and can't draw, yet landowners can get a DCP anytime they want
- What is NGPC's process when a landowner calls for a DCP during season
- How many elk hunters has NGPC helped to get in contact with landowners having damage
- Need to open a depredation season for hunters to purchase elk permits instead of just handing them out to landowners
- Is there a limit on the amount of permits nonresidents can purchase
- West half of the Republican Unit (west of HWY 183) is very few deer, but start to see more as you get to the eastern portion of the unit
- There are a lot of hunters on HCR and it is becoming unsafe for neighboring properties
- Is there a way to have the Corps draw for areas for deer hunters to hunt similar to what they do for waterfowl blinds

A lot of individual discussions were occurring, and an announcement was made for anything else they wanted us to include in the notes. No comments/questions were presented. Several people stayed to talk with individual biologists after the meeting.

Additional comments following meeting:

- Would like to see bonus tags on nonresident SWB tags so they could have opportunity doe instead of a young buck
- Decrease SC AO tags to make up for the added bonus on the statewide tags
- Would like to see small units for better deer management
- Would like to see Harlan Co Res its own deer unit
- Would like to see more accurate data collected on harvested deer at Harlan Co. Res
- Would like to see a survey question added to the deer hunter survey for nonresidents "would you be willing to harvest a doe if you had a bonus tag included, instead of a young buck"
- Would like to see a limit set for nonresidents for Harlan Co Res, similar to the MDCA

**Southwest Big Game Management Meeting
Cambridge, NE
January 10, 2022**

Attendance included 12 NGPC staff from Wildlife, Law Enforcement, and Parks Divisions and 29 members of the public.

Chad Taylor started the meeting by thanking those in attendance for coming and introduced NGPC Staff before giving a PowerPoint presentation about Nebraska's big game species and their management.

Questions and Comments asked by Attendees:

Elk

- they started seeing elk 5-7 years ago on their farm in Northern Furnas County. They liked seeing elk at first, but they don't want the elk anymore or at least don't want additional expansion. The elk walk on grain storage bags, are hard on fence, and spend a lot of time near a pivot in a corn field. Craig noted 5 cows and 2 bulls seen in 2021 growing season. These elk leave after harvest.
- he has observed elk in his farm ground in Southern Furnas County. It sounds like the elk are causing some damage to his crops. Ken said he saw 16 elk in his area in 2021. These elk also leave after harvest.
- Asked if there's any elk collared in our region?
- Asked why the elk season is split into early and late, instead of allowing the same hunters to hunt again late, like the season was structured in the past.

Deer

- Asked if Commissioners attend these types of meetings and noted that there was no commissioner in attendance. *We stated that Commissioners usually attend these meetings as there have been a Commissioner to almost every Big Game Public Meeting we've had.*
- Stated that it doesn't matter what hunters say at these meetings because commissioners and administration don't listen to their concerns. He said 6 people told him they weren't going to the meeting because their opinion doesn't matter and things won't get done. He stated again that people need to listen.
- Stated that she owns a small hayfield in Frontier County that has 150 mule deer on it regularly. Several pivots normally have 80 mule deer. They have killed 72 mule deer does in 2021 hunting season on a 10 mile stretch of landowners. Every harvested doe was carrying triplets and two does had quadruplets (fetus counts). She wants the Frenchman West SC boundary to be moved east to allow more AO permits to hunt these deer. She also requested that Season Choice AO tags be valid during the October Rifle Season.
- Asked if there is a way to connect hunters with landowners wanting deer harvested?
- Asked why the agency removed the bonus tag from Youth Deer Permits?
- Very few white-tailed deer on the Republican River and MD numbers are down in the uplands. Cody stated that bonus tags should be removed)
- There's very low white-tailed deer numbers on the river near Indianola.
- Deer are scarce, it will soon be where you better shoot the first one you see.
- Why are people's concern taken seriously?

Other deer comments from unknown individuals

- Will the bonus tags be removed from our permits?
- How can we kill deer if there aren't any?
- How many tags can we purchase?
- I don't see a fraction of deer on the river as past years.

Turkeys

- Several sarcastic/ joking comments from those in attendance about very few turkeys.
- When the people were asked about turkeys the overwhelming majority of people replied with “what turkeys”
- Craig Hilker (Arapahoe) Said he thinks he seen a good hatch this year.

Mt. Lion

- Can the draw be held sooner to allow hunters more time to secure permission to hunt and scout?
- Can the agency publish a map of locations where lions are being harvested?

Other Comments

- I’m not a hunter, but I’m here because elk showed up. Bureaucracy bogs down progress.
- Concerned that hunter’s concerns do not make it to the top.

Big Game meeting Fremont Lakes SRA 1-5-2022

NGPC Commissioners – Ken Curry and Dan Kreitman

NGPC Staff – CO's - Cory Krause and Brian Arp

Wildlife – Scott Wessel, Russ Hamer, Jeff Borchers, Kyle Smith, Dusty Schelbitzki

Public – 20 attendees - 10 hunters, 1 landowner, 9 Landowner/hunter

Lucas Negus gave a presentation and moderated the meeting.

Comments and Questions from the audience:

- Slides were difficult to see with room setup
- Where does NGPC get the deer data? The check station he uses just handed him the seal and he attaches it.
- Do we have contact with Santee, Omaha, or Winnebago administrations to manage deer in and adjacent to their properties?
- Are landowner tags included in with Elk harvest information?
- How does the earned landowner elk permit work, is it once in a lifetime, will depredation tags be included as part of the ten harvested?
- What was the purpose of the special landowner 3 day permit?
- One member of the audience felt he had an above average feel for the pulse of the hunting community and feels like NGPC is only looking at harvest information to make decisions, that it is irresponsible for NGPC to not say anything about EHD, there are very few deer out there and yet we still continue to push seasons choice. The web page also has conflicting information with the two closing dates for the January antlerless seasons (the member was not aware that River antlerless season now ends January 31). Deer collisions with automobiles are back to 2012 numbers
- Is there a number that we think is too much harvest?
- Is there a way to let the deer populations creep up to allow hunters to become more successful? Something needs to change with the online signup, he has been registered for 4 years and not been called. Need to come up with a way to let hunters know where the harvest needs to take place.
- NGPC needs to assume if percent success is down then the population has to be down, they are seeing a lot less deer.
- Do you have harvest numbers comparing public vs private? The two bonus tags are impacting populations on public ground.
- In their area had a lot of wet corn that didn't get harvested until after rifle season.
- The management units are too big and NGPC should consider doe only seasons with no bucks being shot.
- Nebraska is about creating opportunity to harvest deer but we are missing an opportunity because the population is at rock bottom now more than what harvest numbers have said.
- NGPC should consider limiting harvest along the Elkhorn River, no antlerless harvest, just not seeing the deer!
- NGPC has a legislative problem with nonresident permits, NGPC charges significantly less compared to surrounding states.
- What is the amount NGPC can increase the cost of nonresident tags, what percentage of hunters are nonresident?
- Do biologists conduct any kind of population surveys? Using thermal cameras can be an effective way to see deer and count deer at night.

- What does your data indicate about the harvest on public property?
- Will the depredation system change – in reference to connecting hunters with landowners with deer issues. A hunter has registered with the online system (antlerless hunter database) for the last 4 years and has never been called to assist with too many deer in an area. Would like to have a system setup to let hunters know where additional harvest is needed.
- Before any depredation tags are given the landowners need to allow permission.
- In the North Platte River elk zone the depredation tags were filled first then the landowner would allow regular season permits in – this was a misunderstanding that was cleared up after the meeting; the hunter was referencing landowner tags being filled first, not depredation tags
- Are we concerned about the trophy bull elk status with the increase in the number of permits?
- Why do we drag the antlerless seasons out so long?
- Is there a poaching problem?
- Is there a way to publish poaching violations as an effort to shame the individual?
- With the surveys that are sent out to the hunters and landowners please continue to have a comments section.
- Can NGPC give more notification time with the once in a lifetime bull elk permits, would like more time to contact landowners and setup their hunt.
- A hunter expressed concern about Santee Sioux reservation deer hunting and its perceived impact on non-tribal lands in Knox County.
- A hunter that primarily hunts in Missouri and Elkhorn units expressed concerns about deer populations as it relates to harvest data and EHD in 2021. He stated that he thinks it was irresponsible for NGPC to not publish information during the fall regarding EHD. He used ND/SD response in his discussion and cited personal communication with NE LE that told him up to 50% loss due to EHD in some areas. This was in response to disease occurrence information presented. He also expressed disappointment in our late season antlerless seasons and incorrectly stated that we had two different end dates on our website. (1 was for season choice and the other for river antlerless). He also cited deer collision data as proof that deer populations are very low in Elkhorn unit – questioning the validity of our harvest data.
- Hunter that primarily hunts public ground (wma, federal, ofw) in Cal West and Sandhills expressed concern about impact that bonus tags are having on those areas as it relates to opportunity. Further expressed concern about number of non-residents. Was pleased that we have provided additional opportunity through OFW. His initial question was about harvest data from private land vs public land – do we differentiate?
- Hunter/landowner on Elkhorn river asked about the possibility of doing away with River antlerless permit. Due presumably to perceived low population in his area. He later said that he personally was not going to use his permit this year, but would probably take his kids out to try to shoot a couple of does. Which provided a good opportunity to reinforce the value of landowners helping with herd management through harvest or restriction on harvest on their land.
- Does NGPC have the ability to pull tags if there is a disease event?

Big Game Meeting
NOEC – Lincoln
1/6/2022: 7-8:30 PM

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission hosted an annual big game meeting at the Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center on January 6, 2022. There were 39 people present consisting of 2 Commissioners, 11 NGPC representatives and 26 public attendees. Southeast District Manager, Kyle Smith, gave a presentation on big game management with an emphasis on the Wahoo, Blue Southeast and Blue Northwest deer units. A question/comment session followed with the last attendee leaving around 8:30.

Public Attendees (26)

- **Hunters – 26**
- **Landowners – 7**
- **Landowners and Hunters – 11**

Commission Staff

Commissioners Dan Kreitman and Rick Brandt
Jim Swenson – Deputy Director
Alicia Hardin – Wildlife Division Administrator
Kyle Smith – SE District Manager - Management
8 other NGPC staff – biologists and COs

Presentation – Kyle Smith

- Nebraska Deer Management
- WT Population Goals
- WT Biology
- Decision Making/Input
- Harvest Data
- Historic Data
- Depredation
- Hunter and Landowner Survey
- Disease – CWD,EHD
- 2021 Firearm Season Overview
- Deer Management Units – WH,BSE,BNW

Discussion/Questions/Comments

- What was the reason for the special landowner season? What did the harvest data look like?
- Hunters Education courses need to do a better job of teaching kids hunting ethics.
- Are deer permits selling out?
- Is money a factor when making decisions about big game recommendations?
- Are we looking to add a bonus tag to the BSE unit permit in the future?
- Deer data base – list it by deer units instead of counties.
- Do we keep track of the average age of deer hunters?
- What are we doing to reduce the NR pressure on public areas in the State?
- Why don't we regulate NR hunters more?
- What is the percentage of NR hunters that hunt in Nebraska?
- Have the first two days of rifle season be residents only.
- Any concern about the number of unrestricted deer permits being used in certain deer units? How do you regulate that?

- How many rifle permits were sold?
- What percent of hunters harvest two bucks?
- Is predation having an impact on deer populations?
- Any consideration to move rifle season? Like to see it moved to late November.
- Archery Survey needs to be simplified, too complicated.
- Any consideration to make .40 caliber muzzleloader legal?

Questionnaire Comments

- As a landowner I would like to see a longer rifle season so I can allow more hunters on my property.
- Limit the number of NR permits, residents should have first opportunity.
- Is there a preferred harvest percentage?
- Hunting access is an issue in Nebraska.
- Don't add permits, add an extra week to rifle season instead.
- Have you considered managing public and private lands separately? So, you can manage public land better. Deer numbers in the southeast have declined on public areas due to increased pressure from both residents and NR.
- Republican unit has a very poor deer population. Fewer doe tags would help.
- What percent of hunters filled rifle permits this year? What percent in the Buffalo unit?
- I would like to see the term "weapon" changed in game regulations.
- Deer numbers down on my property in Knox county. Bucks decreased from 12 to 6, does from 15 to 4.
- I would like to see an increase in the elk and bighorn sheep populations.
- Deer numbers in Colfax county are down considerably.
- How do you select which landowners to survey? How many do you send out?
- Get email addresses of people attending so you can send out an overview of all meetings. Add unit hunted on questionnaire.
- I've had a Nebraska deer permit for 62 consecutive years. Does anyone have more consecutive years than this? My first permit was in 1960 in the Nemaha unit.

Burwell Big Game Information Meeting January 12, 2022

Attendees –

Commissioners – John Hoggatt and Pat Berggren

NGPC Staff – Wildlife – Dusty Schelbitzki, Kelly Corman, Josh Kounovsky, Bryan O'Connor, Russ Hamer, Grant Wiemer, Mark Feeney, Scott Wessel, Lucas Negus

NGPC Staff – Parks – Tommy Hicks, Logan Epp

NGPC Staff – LE – Daryl Teter

10 public in attendance – 4 hunters, 6 hunter/landowner

Lucas started the meeting at 7 with brief introductions and a presentation. Questions and comments followed, with the last folks leaving the meeting hall at 9:20. Questions and comments are recorded below, and there was discussion or an answer provided for nearly every question and comment.

- What was the purpose of the Special LO season? Did more ground open up for hunting by public? He believes the answer is NO! His opinion is that “they” just wanted their big buck first
- How do you quantify road kill numbers? Does NGPC use roadkill numbers? What is that number most recently?
- Do you have any info on Hunters Helping the Hungry this year? Is funding a problem? We really need a local locker to participate! Commissioner Hoggatt suggested emailing his local commissioner to express his support for expanding the program
- The deer exchange is also available on the NGPC website
- You need to have a meeting in the tri-city area – Kearney, GI, or Hastings. That area is very under represented for meetings and there are tons of people that would come.
- What is considered a breeding population, or herd, of elk? How many?
- We have cow elk on our cameras every fall, but have never seen one in person (North of Ord)
- What is the total elk herd in Nebraska? Commissioner Hoggatt texted Luke Meduna to get an accurate answer
- I heard they are adding 150 elk permits next year? Is that a rumor?
- What is the criteria for landowner elk? What does it take to get into the LO elk zone?
- How do you handle crop damage from elk?
- Is the estimated number of 2500 -2900 elk in Nebraska what the NGPC wants?
- How far do bull elk travel?
- Why no bonus tags yet on archery permits? Nearly all the rifle permits have them now.
- Was the Loup West unit the only unit with 2 bonus tags?
- What is the endgame for antlerless tags? We hunt Buffalo, Howard, Merrick, and Hall counties. You should be done with antlerless tags there, hardly any deer and we hunt over 100 days a year.
- How much do coyotes affect deer populations?
- Bowhunters should be able to carry a rifle so we can shoot coyotes when we see them.
- We are seeing/getting more mountain lions around. What are laws/rules about shooting them? Will we ever have a statewide season again?
- What is the estimated population of mountain lions in Pine Ridge? What was the harvest this year?
- Is 4 lions harvested in 4 days concerning? How long would the season run if quota not met? Were they killed in a 5 mile radius? Has the season ever made it to dog running season?

- There were ideal conditions at the start of the lion season and hunters have learned to be effective at hunting them
- Why is bobcat and fox season not open until December 1? Should open October 1 so us bowhunters can shoot them.
- I hunt both near and on Halsey. In last 4 or 5 years pressure has really increased and is mostly non-residents. There are hardly any deer seen there anymore. There should be a point system or drawing for non-residents
- Your website says “come to our state”, “it’s easy”, buy “over the counter”, and can buy 2 tags for under \$600, no wonder non-residents are flocking here
- Need to increase price and limit permits for NR
- January doe season is about nothing more than money to NGPC. There are way more “shed bucks” shot than reported, it’s actually close to 40% of the deer shot in January are “shed bucks”.
- How was pronghorn harvest this year?
- How many of the “unrestricted harvest” permits are statewide buck permits?
- What is NGPC thoughts on thermal scopes? He thinks they’re a poachers delight.
- Boone and Crockett affidavit now states that you didn’t use certain extra technologies.
- Worst thing to ever happen to archery was the crossbow.
- The modern muzzleloader has really changed the game.
- When are you going to relax the baiting and feeding laws, just let us bait.
- What’s the difference between food plots, cover crops, and baiting or feeding?

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Big Game Meeting Minutes
The Knight Museum, Alliance, NE
January 12th 2022**

Attendance:

Commissioner- Doug Zingula

Game and Parks Employees:

NW District Managers- Hunter Baillie, Matt Steffl, Dan Kling, Greg Galbraith

NW Biologists: Justin Powell, Chris Becker, Nate Rau, Maria Baglieri

2 Fisheries personnel- NW District Manager Al Hansen and Biologist Joe Rydell

4 Conservation Techs attended in audience

- 11 Landowner/Hunters
- 4 Non-landowner/Hunters

Hunter Baillie began the meeting at 7:01 P.M.

Hunter delivered a PowerPoint presentation discussing elk, antelope, and deer management in the NW District that lasted about ½ hour, then the floor was opened for questions and comments. Meeting and Q/A was finished around 8:45 and staff conversed with public until around 9:15PM.

Summary of Questions/Comments:

- Hunting public land this year was the worst I have ever seen. Overcrowding. Lots of Non-residents. Crescent Lake was a pumpkin patch. What is being done in the Pine Ridge and Plains to fix this? Hunter explained ideas that are being discussed, possibly limiting non-residents and changing permits.
- LO says limiting non-residents is the wrong direction, he needs them for revenue to pay off high taxes. Instead, need to limit how many hunters on are public, with limited permits and limited access.
- Pheasant numbers used to be great but are horrible now. Blames insecticides and neighbors haying all the habitat. Hunter mentioned talking to the neighbor to solve issues. LO said No No No that is like talking to my ex-wife,
- Way too many coyotes. All time high. Need a predator control program, especially with APHIS funding being eliminated. Need more control from airplanes. One guy in Western South Dakota killed 3,000 in a month, 100 in a day. Game and Parks needs to set aside funding for predator control. Steffl commented on contacting county board personnel so they are aware that there is a need for APHIS, and that they need funding.
- Elk don't belong in farm country. LO tolerance is getting to be a serious issue. Elk north of Alliance aren't even in a zone. (Hunter pointed out that they are in a unit.)
- Private landowners need their own permits, limit the public. Private landowners control the hunting.
- There needs to be seminars on coyote control and pheasant management. Mansato is Mansatan.
- Trophy animals cause problems LO vs LO. Trophy animal crosses the fence and the neighbor shoots it, it causes war.
- A couple LO's had questions and concerns on CRP program, and no funding, and where the walk-in money goes. Steffl gave insight into the program, and funding sources. He also talked about the good behavior of hunters, and that his district has not lost any properties in 4 years. LO mentioned he allowed public access and that the hunters "raped and pillaged" his land of all the pheasants. Would never allow public hunting again. And would never recommend it to another LO. Not worth it for the low amount of money, Another LO said, "that is your choice."
- A hunter asked how the MDCA is doing, and if it is possible to do in the Pine Ridge? Or are there other ways to improve the MD numbers? Maybe restrict 2 firearms permits to one. Hunter explained some of the ideas that have been thrown around, and will likely be talked about in depth in future discussions and at council meetings.

- A hunter sees more outfitters every year, would like to see an outfitter license. LO said that is not fair to the LO, and he can charge whatever he wants, and that is none of your business. The hunter says that an outfitter/landowner can take 100 hunters and charge, they need to be held accountable with some oversight. Someone else asked “for landowners that charge or just outfitters?” The hunter said both. Other LO’s said no not interested. LO said they are able to do that in states with lots of public land, not in our state that is all private. It wont work.
- Guy from Alaska said that his state is primarily public, and wishes it was more like Nebraska where its 97% private. This is America, anyone can buy land. Save up, buy land, and manage wildlife on it. LO control wildlife and habitat in the state.
- There needs to be a coyote bounty, there are too many coyotes.
- Get rid of lions, they are killing all the mule deer.
- Will there be more lion tags next year? Hunter gave a breakdown of lion season with what was harvested and other information.
- How does the NGPC set permit numbers? Hunter explained.
- Why 2 Bonus tags in Plains? Justin and Hunter explained, also the low amount that was harvested.
- LO went on very long tangent about CWD, and how government is instilling false fear, and that it is causing him to lose money on outfitting. Kling and Zingula both acknowledged but said we must move onto others that have questions.
- A couple LO’s asked questions regarding the earned elk permit incentive. Hunter explained the ins and outs, and how the incentive works and who qualifies.
- A hunter expressed there needs to be more information available on the depredation sign-up list online, and the same for the donation page. No one knows about these things.

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Big Game Meeting Minutes
Valentine, NE 69201
January 13th 2022

Attendance:

Game and Parks Employees:

NW District Managers- Hunter Baillie, Matt Steffl,

Program Managers – Dusty Shelbitzki, Sam Wilson

NW Biologists: Tom Krolkowski, Maria, Baglieri, Kelly Corman

LE Division - Greg Hesse

Fisheries Division- Zac Brashears, Derek Schacht, Clayton Osburn

- 6 Landowner/Hunters
- 1 Non-landowner/Hunters

Hunter Baillie began the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Hunter delivered a PowerPoint presentation discussing elk, antelope, and deer management in the NW District then at 7:31 p.m. Sam Wilson presented a short presentation on Mountain Lions and the current research being done in the Niobrara Valley. The floor was opened for questions and comments. Meeting and Q/A was finished around 8:45 and staff conversed with public until around 9:15PM.

Summary of Questions/Comments:

- Sam mention Lion Depredation cases have been rare in Nebraska – One LO mentioned that he disagreed.
- LO asked about previous depredation and how we determine a socially acceptable lion population size. Sam Explained.
- LO is missing 20 calves. All lost at one time due to a lion. They disappeared.
- LO missing half of his deer herd before archery season. Hunter explained potential of an EHD outbreak in his area.
- LO discussed our staff collaring Mountain lions on his property. Staff have collared 4 recently and have another trail camera picture of three. Densities in his area are at his tolerance level and is ready for a hunting season. Worried about the future of the deer herd.
- Same LO if EHD booms and lions are at current densities the deer will never recover. Sam mentioned that we have a biologist in the area to work towards making that decision.
- LO interested in turkeys and why they are disappearing from his place North of Newport. Hunter and Dusty discussed.
- LO mentioned he has lots of turkeys and like to see them. 1000's last fall.
- LO asked if we will ever have a lion season in the Niobrara river valley. Sam addressed. Assumes yes after a population count is gathered.
- Question on Wolves. Staff explained they can now shoot them.
- Question on EHD – Kelley and Hunter explained symptoms.
- LO asked if we have a license to regulate outfitters? Concerned on ethics of neighboring outfitter.
- Questions asked on the legality of outfitting on public ground. LE officer Hesse explained.
- Another LO mentioned that they have great outfitters that lease his place.
- What are plans to limit NR hunters?
- Prices of NR permits need raised.
- LO mentioned he needed NR hunters.
- Question on if we have any bear sightings?
- After the meeting LO mentioned that the increase in hunter pressure around his pivots reduced damage to nearly tolerable levels. Much better than last year.

PUBLIC DEER MEETING

**January 3, 2022 Geneva, NE 7:00PM
Hebron Activities Center**

Meeting called to start at 7:06pm
Meeting concluded around 8:45pm

Commissioners present; District IV Commissioner John Hoggatt

15 members of the public attended, 15 were hunters and 4 were both hunters and landowners.

NGPC staff present; District Manager Kyle Smith, Big Game Program Manager Luke Meduna, Depredation Program Manager Dusty Schelbitzki, Conservation Officers Kyle Gaston, Matt Taylor and Matt Seitz, Biologists Brad Seitz and Rick Souerdyke, NGPC Private Lands Biologists Michele Furher-Hurt and Sam Cowan

Kyle Smith gave a presentation on Nebraska deer management, strategies, hunter and landowner survey results, communication, harvest data, disease issues, permitting and overall deer management philosophies.

Questions fielded by staff from public attendees:

- Other states public hunting satisfaction rate compared to Nebraska's?
- Only killed 6 on DCP's in BSE?
- Can't keep trophy antlers on bucks killed on depredation permits?
- Considered adding a bonus tag on regular permits?
- Consideration of moving rifle season to a different time?
- Thoughts of limiting the number of buck tags to 1?
- Lowering prices for elderly aged below aged 70?
- Raising NR prices, like to see it raised?
- Rules and regs for new landowner firearm permit, why it was different?
- What's the limit on family and who is defined as family?
- How many people complained to get that passed (special landowner)?
- How many lions are killed by permit and how many are killed by NGPC removal?
- Thoughts about limiting NR's to one or drawing only?
- Talk about lowering turkey tags overall for NR's?
- Turkey declines, flooding, virus's what's causing it?
- Rooster pheasants are a rare bird what can we do to get them back up?

Public Comments:

- Success rate on special landowner season was 24%, 15% was antlerless
- 2 lions have been killed Mt. Lions in the first 3 days.
- Talking about turkeys and the comment about fur prices being so terrible.

Commissioner Comments:

- Contact NGPC, we would rather help to draft legislation than have legislation drafted upon us. Pushed to have landowners/hunters involved.

Summary of written public comment

- Move rifle season, landowner season should be only does, more game wardens, wants mgmt. to be designed for bigger bucks.
- This deer season has been difficult, not a lot of deer activity the past 2 years, weather has been too nice.
- Lower senior license age to 65 instead of 70, put black powder ahead of rifle season.
- NR are becoming a larger problem each year, limit the number of permits and reduce buck tags to 1 per person.
- Problems with too many deer and crop damage. (Dusty visited with this individual post mtg.)
- Individual's ground is in the river antlerless unit.
- Make the application/permit process easier for landowner season.

ZOOM Winter Big Game Meeting January 18, 2022

There was a peak of 136 attendees, 410 had preregistered for the meeting.

Four Commissioners (Berggren, Cassels, Curry, and Hoggatt) and Director McCoy were in attendance.

Approximately 15-20 additional staff attended.

Luke Meduna, Big Game Program Manager, gave a 25 minute presentation on deer and elk from a statewide perspective and then he and relevant staff answered questions from the chat for just over 2 hours.

From the Chat:

- Will this recording be available to us to listen to later?
- What has caused the dramatic decline in the turkey population in northeast Nebraska ?
- I would like to hear about the Frenchman MDCU. What kind of biology is used making the management decisions
- What was the primary driver of the early landowner hunt? And do you have the stats broken up as to how many deer were harvested in the landowner hunt vs regular 9 day gun?
- Cedar county seems to have had a small number of deer do you have any comment on that.
- That poll is tough if you are a nonresident!
- Comment. Was looking over canyon lands this past deer season. Had the walk in sign but nothing saying it was canyon lands. Was kind of a little confusing to make sure was looking at right area
- I am a non resident attendee I had to choose as in state
- I was unable to answer survey
- What has happened to the deer population in the Frenchman? Whitetail and Mule? I have a group of 8 hunters and we have only taken 2 deer in the past two years. We talked to other hunters and they said the same...no deer.
- Comment in antelope county during the 9 day gun this year our deer sightings were down noticeably and buck sighting significantly, appx 50% fewer buck sightings.
- I have another question but it is too much to type.
- What is game and parks going to do about damage to land owners caused by elk? I'm told that they are going to eradicate the herd in Paxton and Hershey. Something needs to be done. We are getting around 20% crop damage per acre.
- Question. Has there been any thought to having a Nebraska Resident Only season for deer? Similar to what was done for a Landowners season?
- realizing whitetail shed their antlers earlier than mule deer, does that factor into only having a 2 week Jan. antlerless season?. I would like to see the Jan antlerless season extended to end of Jan, especially where limited quota exists(Frenchman). If there is concern over harvesting wt bucks, make the last 2 weeks of Jan. mule deer only.
- Why are we the only state to have a statewide deer tags for both non residents and residents. Why haven't we switched to a draw system like Iowa and Kansas.
- Do you have any comment on the hundreds if not thousands of deer found in the north central unit by farmers late in the summer?
- Why are our nonresident tags cheaper than either Kansas or Iowa and available over the counter with an unlimited does and two bucks for any non resident
- why is there no data on the amount of nonresident tags sold.
- I would like to address the quality of our hunts in Nebraska compared to other states. Based on our own harvest statistics per hunt over the past 7 years, we are about 10 times more effective in other

states when targeting mature bucks. 38 sits per successful hunt compared to 3.5 sits per successful hunts in SD, WY, and MT. I think we should look at alternatives to help with the age structure of our population.

- I had 150 antelope on one field of wheat today!
- Good evening. I am a nonresident hunter who has hunted Nebraska for about 20 years...pheasant and deer. Over the last few years I have noticed a significant drop in deer population yet there seem to be even more antlerless tags. This year there was even a SW Reservoirs antlerless tag. Many of the river tags still allow two deer per tag. I would like to see populations rise and I would be very happy to pay for only one deer per tag and reduce the number of available tags. Put another way, I would rather pay more for a better hunting experience. Thank you.
- Q- whats your mission statement? What are trying to manage for number of deer killed? hunters in the field? quality bucks? Because i cant see a logical plan other than sell as many tags as possible.
- I think the age structure should be broken down in 1, 2, 3 4, and 5+ if possible
- Why is there still such a low amount of Elk tags but an unlimited supply of deer tags.
- Also, we have noticed a significant decline in turkey population in NE Nebraska over the past 10 years. approx. a 300% decline.
- tait, mission statement is on the game and parks website
- Comment / Question In Butler County deer numbers from my experience and others are at least 50% down - maybe more. Very sad. Question - very concerned about 3 weekends with Rifle hunting during the November Rut - are there other "trophy states" that have "sustained" hunting three weekends during the rut with Rifles - if so who are they? Thanks for this meeting and information.
- How are you aging the bucks? Is this based solely on a visual assessment of the harvested animal? I know the age of harvested bulls has been continuing a downward trend over the past 10 years. So has the quality.
- question How many out of state tags are sold?
- Is there any possibility that there will be limits placed on doe permits or complete removal of them for public land areas. Why are there still statewide tags and not unit specific only like Iowa and Kansas.
- Interested in the status and any results of the GPS tracking studies for understanding migration corridors. Any possibility of using federal wildlife corridor funds for Pronghorn, Mule Deer or Elk?
- Question I am concerned about the cancelation of spring bear season in Washington state, which was done simply by the governor not appointing a ninth commissioner on the state's Fish and Wildlife board to break a tie. I want to make sure that we do not see a reduction in hunting opportunities here in NE. What safeguards are in place to prohibit this from happening to the big game hunting seasons we have in NE?
- Why is Iowa able to make 10 million a year off of resident deer tags alone and we are only making 2.5 million for all deer tags sold.
- Have you considered reducing the required acreage for non-resident landowners w/land in the elk area from 1,280 acres?
- Questions. Why did Pine Ridge November Firearm sell out so fast? Should it be a draw unit?
- Please explain how the special landowner permit season became part of the deer hunting regulations.
- question on youth life time permits
- David, it was a law passed in the Nebraska state legislature they were forced to do it.
- Very slippery slope if the State Legislature creates and sets seasons.....
- indeed
- if you are still issuing depredation permits when you have other tools in the box like walk in hunting. There is no over populated walk in hunting areas. if they don't sign up they really don't have a problem.
- Question Has there been any discussion about an early muzzleloader season? I'd like to see one in October during warmer weather.
- I think the quality of the elk hunting in North Platte unit has slowly declined over the past 5 years. Landowner consensus in the area is because more bull permits are being given out.
- question, can you move rifle season so it is not during the rut?

- Agreed when will November firearm season be moved to December like Iowa and Kansas
- Will Game & Parks take a more aggressive approach to CDW such as the Alabama Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources did in partnering with various stakeholders in the agricultural industry, and other state and federal agencies where there would be drop off points where any hunter's deer could be checked for CWD?
- Briam Wiese, you are 100% correct!
- why don't you issue NR elk licenses. There are farmers in the sandhills with significant elk damage! If the elk are living on private land, and access is dependent upon landowner cooperation, why not be more liberal with license allocation.
- Question Nebraska is a lot like the United States in that we have large population centers in the east and our largest tracts of public land in the West. I would like to see an expansion of funding for the Open Field and Waters program to expand hunting opportunities, particularly in the Eastern 1/3 of the state. This seems like one of the easier ways to expand hunter access to land without the need to find a seller or put money down for property acquisitions by the state. Does NE have any plans to expand the budget for this program? Which organization has the authority to adjust this program's budget-Game and Parks, the Unicameral, etc...?
- Is the Elk herd large enough to start issuing permits to out of state hunters?
- Really don't want to see NR Elk hunters
- why issue to NR when you have residents that cant get tags?
- You won't blame the bobcats and mountain lions for turkey population decline?
- why cant life time youth permits be able when they leave the state when they get older and have to move out of stat for employment . they should be able to buy big game permits at residence permit cost.
- what about the 3 tags for any turkey hunter causing the decrease at all?
- Years back there was a four point or better restricted buck permit for the Sandhills area. Why was this discontinued and could this be entertained for some units in Nebraska?
- Deer Season Question.Why are we not moving rifle season out of rut? Doesn't seem smart to have our highest success rate weapon season during the rut where they're the most vulnerable.
- Help me understand why non-resident LO deer permit is 7 times more than resident. As I non-resident LO with farms, I pay tremendous property taxes compared to neighboring states. Why such a penalty just to non-resident landowner? Also, why not offer a NR LO youth permit at a reduced price?
- Another Deer Question. Can we start a size limit to get the younger bucks to live longer? Like a minimum width/point count? Also take 6in and under bucks off the doe tag?
- Question Years back there was a four point or better restricted buck permit for the Sandhills area. Why was this discontinued and could this be entertained for some units in Nebraska?
- Why are we offering so many depredation tags and not more cow/elk tags?
- Dan, I believe the youth permits are also \$6 for NR youth.
- How are we keeping from over harvesting the state deer population when they're being harvested through depredation tags while also having to got through an entire deer season?
- Comment - I am currently a non-resident and prior Nebraska resident for 8 years. My son and family continue to reside in Nebraska. We travel to NE and hunt together regularly. I would disagree strongly with any restrictions to reduce access/big-game opportunities targeting non-residents. It seems there are plenty of deer to go around in the state.
- Why are we allowing so many male turkeys to be harvested? 3 in the spring and 4 in the fall I far too high.
- there needs to be a program to teach people to shoot a doe and let little bucks grow. especially directed at kids to promote bigger deer in the future.
- Comment Please close the fall turkey season and stop the aggressive advertising to try and lure out of state hunters. Turkey numbers are decimated, at least, from Gothenburg east.
- thanks

- Question How did the statute of the landowner initiated? Please explain how the special landowner permit season became part of the deer hunting regulations.
- Thanks for doing this. Love the information and Q&A!
- Question What ways are you looking at to help the elk issue besides eradication, Would something like Montana's Block Management program where the fees go to help compensate landowners for damage, while also allowing access to land to hunt be feasible?
- I would love to see our 9 day rifle season start the weekend after Thanksgiving. Or - limit hunters to 1 buck taken with a firearm during the rifle season.... or both.
- Considering the large decline in turkey numbers have you considered eliminating the fall turkey season or at least putting a limit on the number of fall turkey tags someone can buy? Maybe not allow people to shoot hens?
- Can we limit buck tags to only 1? Quality of bucks would increase significantly 2. Goes with first question, possibility moving rifle season out of rut? Please! 3. Increasing out of state youth deer tags, \$7 is just to cheap. Been poachers around us use their kids tags to kill more bucks. If you really want your kid(s) to hunt \$100 minimum is more than a fair price. 4. Limit out of state tags, every other surrounding state is difficult to obtain a tag so everyone just comes to Nebraska. 5. Enjoyed seeing the reduced numbers of seasons choice and the boundary changed for River antlerless tags in our area, Frenchman. Hopefully numbers will begin to climb
- I am very happy with the expansion of the river doe tags - Thank You.
- Agree on not shooting hen turkeys in the fall if that season isn't eliminated.
- Have you considered reducing the required acreage for non-resident landowners in the elk area from 1280 acres?
- With Turkey numbers down, has there been any thought to limiting out of state permits?
- Iowa and Kansas residents also shoot more deer though?
- correct it was not included
- Any consideration of bringing back a the prairie tag for Mt. Lion like there was in years past? Also is there any public data/info on verified Mt. Lion sightings/encounters? There has been many reports in western Knox county this season. I report all my sightings to Mitch the game warden in my area.
- Question shouldn't there be more control or limited access to walk in land for big game?
- Comment, it's a high probability that the number of out of state hunters allowed in Nebraska makes it very difficult for Nebraska residents to obtain permission to find land to hunt on.
- I came up and archery Antelope hunted in 2020. I was unsuccessful but saw antelope. I did my scouting contacted landowners for the 2021 season. I wasn't staying current on regulations. When August came around I was surprised when I went online to purchase and learned non resident archery tags were limited last year. I appreciate and respect the management of the wildlife. cancelled vacation cancelled hotel equal lost tourism dollars. Are nonresident archery antelope tags on first come base this year also?
- Has the upland game manager held meetings like this one? Pheasants and quail are in desperate need of help!
- Will the Blue river ever be part of the river antlerless permit?
- question was the antelope herd in the grasslands area hit hard with ehd?
- My question in regards to lengthening the Jan. antlerless season is due to concern over hunter density/crowding with a 2 week season. I understand landowner tolerance is a concern, but if deer are causing crop damage, a longer season should increase harvest success and help alleviate issues. In my experience, lengthening a season significantly reduced the impact of hunter crowding. Hunter experience is also a factor. cramming lots of hunters into a short season reduces the quality of the hunt!
- Comments
- there needs to be more cat tags an allow dogs.
- What was the main purpose of allowing the special 3 day landowner rifle season?
- Bull harvest ages of been declining yet we continue to add tags year over year.

- How can you get faster testing results for CWD so if you animal tests positive, you are not spending a lot on processing fees?
- question, can we have no non resident deer hunting
- I see, thank you.
- I support efforts to improve the age structure so there are more older deer - including changes to season/weapon choice/age restrictions. That said it's important to maintain rifle hunt for youth during Thanksgiving break (important family tradition).
- I'm a non resident archery hunter. I've always had great experiences and appreciate the opportunity to come to NE and hunt. there was a lot of pressure in Pine Ridge during opening week and we weren't successful but we didn't have a problem finding relatively unpressured areas to hunt and had several encounters. For whitetail my only suggestion is to consider an antler point restriction like 4 points on one side or something like that.
- Why do we have unlimited deer tags and yet are killing half as many deer as Iowa and Kansas. Why is it not a limited quota for every unit with smaller units to help manage each deer herd better?
- Comment I would actively support and join any effort to have legislature change BELF restrictions to open up to public hunting. Would need ot find a way to make it a win/win for most stakeholders. Right now it's a shame that those public lands are not available for all. Thanks
- Don't forget South Dakota! I wish Nebraska managed our deer herd like South Dakota did.
- Comment also support any increase to walk-in access - right now public lands in the SE get POUNDED by pressure.
- What is the plan for fire prevention in the Pine Ridge area.
- our Turkey population in Missouri is down as well. Population seemed to start declining about the time fur and harvest declined. I think nest predators are adding to the decline
- Has there been any Deer with Covid in the state?
- You stated that you guys were very aggressive in the Frenchman region. I am a non-resident that has hunted Nebraska for 11 years. After talking to some of the farmers, several complained to us and told us to shoot any coyote we saw because they were killing the cattle. They said the deer usually kept the coyotes away. We only saw 12 deer the entire week and they were all small deer. It seems like their was a major eradication in this region. Two deer in two years between eight hunters is not good stats. In the years prior to these past two years, we were at least 50% successful. Will this change or continue to decrease in this region?
- By the way. Thank You very much for doing this. I know I appreciate back and forth to try to make our Nebraska hunting experience better.
- More comments Thanks a lot to the staff and commissioners for being open to public input which is often contentious. I would like to see an easier process for hunters to submit CWD samples during archery season. I did last year and it was NOT user friendly dealing with UNL lab.
- will there be the 3 day early land owner season this year
- Son-in-law shot a 6 x 8 last season in the Panhandle Area. Great hunting experience,
- And they were ALL (three 400+ along with multiple others over 380) shot on our ranch! Your age structure is declining. We have 130 on our ranch on 3 or 4 might push 360. Happy to discuss offline. They size, age and quality are declining.
- nest predators, red fox and hawks are all hard on the bird populations.
- that's all
- they make 5 million off only 15,000 non resident tags
- Great Point
- From all data provided it was only 2.5 million
- for whitetails
- Have to drop off. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- yes
- having a straight draw is a way better option than a point system where there is point creep which deters applying due to not having points.

- iam on now
- can we have non resident bow hunting start after the November firearm season
- Question anything about game cameras like other states starting to ban them? Could see it on cell ones but not regular ones.
- Being a non-resident hunter and hunting public land, why are the locals threatening us and telling us to leave the area and go hunt somewhere else?
- Hello Luke, as a non resident hunter I want to thank you for giving us an opportunity to hunt deer. I did notice once the access to the lakes in the Frenchman unit during the season choice made it far more difficult, however I think it made hunting safer. I hunted around swanson reservoir in 2013 and it sounded like a war zone. I hunted 2020 I had 2 mule deer doe tags with the bonus white tail tags. It was very difficult to find any deer in the Frenchman unit in the areas that had public access. Not sure if there would be a way to get more access to better hunting land in the Frenchman unit. .
- If we have less deer than surrounding states, then why does every unit not have only limited quotas with no statewide tags and draws for non residents.
- Disagree with Lyle. Then sell lifetime deer, turkey etc permits
- What is the plan with the elk bonus point system? Understand that several people have the max points in this state but see a lot of people draw tags on their first time applying
- Question came across a down buck in Sacramento near Holdrege and called game warden. field dressed it and it was green inside. has there been anymore reports of that disease in Nebraska?
- What is the number of whitetail deer per acre in their prominent areas, obviously the sandhills wouldn't be part of that.
- lyle is on point with the lifetime.
- i am a landowner and work with several other landowners in my area to improve the health of the deer. We were putting out mineral from Cabela's during the spring and summer. We have seen marked improvement in the size, health and rack size. However, a local NGPC officer told us that was illegal because we were baiting deer, so we stopped. Is that really illegal? If so, how come Cabela's sells it?
- I'm not sure if has been mentioned yet but have we at all considered creating limitations for crossbow hunters due to the clear advantage. Such as a shorter season or a doctors note?
- Question why don't they issue more Mountain lion tags? The season was closed after 4 days. I heard that one person was involved in 3 of the kills
- Question. What about starting Bobcat season when deer firearm season starts. Landowner I hunt with wants them gone but we see them can't shoot because not in season
- can we get a season for muzzleloader pronghorn different from firearm? they are just as hard to hunt with that weapon as the new tech in crossbows which are legal over the counter?
- Lets limit rifle buck tags then. Even if we are just limiting the extra 2.5% that gets taken... lets do it and limit 1 permit filled with a firearm during the firearm season annually... 2.5% is 2.5%! I think we should also limit rifle buck tags as well then too during the rifle season. I was a resident in South Dakota and it took me 4 years to draw a rifle tag in the county I lived in! Subsequently, when bow hunting, I saw an exponential more amount of mature bucks than I've experienced in Nebraska... and I own 477 acres of ground specifically ONLY for deer hunting. ... and my SD spots are permission spots, not managed for deer habitat.
- New Mexico takes into account habitat improvement on the property when allocating LO tags....has then ever been considered?
- Please address the use of telecheck last season and accuracy of the 2020 harvest data also not requiring a in person checkin on archery or muzzle loader invites dishonesty and poaching
- 1.47
- ... gotcha ..\$3 issue fee. so 18% of \$5 = \$0.90
- really liked the early rifle season for land owner!
- How do we promote the use of quality land management including running trail cameras, minerals, quality food to grow big deer compared to going out the first day of rifle to shoot the first deer that comes out?

- really would love a mountain lion permit for me in nance co Fullerton ne
- That'd be great - we get cats on cameras every year!
- Thank you for the information.
- What is the criteria for a landowner to be issued a depredation permit? What do they do with the deer they shoot and how is the Game and Parks Commission monitoring the amount of deer killed?
- this year I seen 2 mountain lion on my game camera
- what about deer feeders on private ground bordering walk in land any way to check or control that
- comment Thanks for the response and for the working man draws work better than sitting on computer. dropping off thanks good luck and great days afield to everyone
- Suggestion would be to have more of these zoom meetings in the future to address statewide concerns versus the meetings at designated locations. It might allow for more questions to be answered and hosts to not be overwhelmed with questions. Another suggestion might be to have species specific meetings versus general big game meetings.
- In regards to CWD, please do not spend a ton of money just for testing. Spend it on research to help us figure out solutions... not just know whether we have it or not.
- Just some feedback on bull tags... After drawing a bull tag last year, would you ever consider drawing the once in a lifetime tags earlier - maybe a year in advance - to give hunters more time to scout, gain permission, plan vacation, etc? I lucked out, but I had no idea how hard it would be to get access. I feel like it would help the hunters and would take pressure off the landowners who are taking 100's of calls from random people they don't know. Nice job answering all the questions, this was a good meeting.
- Thanks for the meeting NG&P commissioners and staff.
- this zoom that game and parks is having today is very informative. thanks for giving us time to comment and learn the other hunters concerns. keep up the good job. got to go.
- what does the political party matter to the deer herd?
- Maybe this has been touched on - but has there been any effort made to increase public hunting land when Nebraska is #48 out of 50 states with public land availability only at 3%?
- Stephen Miles Had a cow elk permit for the North Platte River unit and filled it. Tested positive for CWD. What can be done for me to be a depredation permit for the North Platte Unit for this coming season?
- Question and comment, the amount of outfitters leasing land limit access to Nebraska hunters and opportunities for our youth to hunt. Can you consider limitations for the number of outfitters and the amount of land they can lease?
- Comment, agree with mason on the crossbow this used to be considered primitive...far from that today, has no place in the archery season to me, unless medically required, fits more with muzzle loader season.
- out of state hunter,,but wife's family farm and cousins farms I should always be able to hunt. no one in family's hunt but me. 65yr old. alot of anti out of state hunting negativity.
- 2 hours in and we still have almost 100 people still on! It obvious you care— Thank
- Please stop early landowner deer season after this upcoming 2nd season - pits privileged landowners against non-landowners - not what most deer hunting tag buyers are asking for from the G&P - we are all just deer hunters. Also increasing the amount of days chasing bucks during the rut with a rifle by 30% almost has to result in lower buck maturity and trophy opportunities a few years down the road. Thank you.
- Any consideration given to eliminating deer urine use due to possible disease issues?
- Completely agree with Chad P
- thank you for answering questions for 2 hrs Luke
- Luke and NCPC, thanks for taking the time to provide all the information and answer hunters and landowners questions and concerns!!!

- they can't eliminate the early landowner season because3 it was something forced on them by the NE legislature, its something that would either have to be declares unconstitutional by the NE court system, or repealed by the legislature.
- Thank you for all the information. This is a lot of information to process.
- I hear a lot of talk about reducing/keeping non-residents from hunting and as a non-resident there's concern. Hunting Nebraska for 11 years can you guys take longevity into consideration and look at everyone under 5 or 10 years. I know there was a huge uptick of non-residential hunters when COVID started.
- Sounds like we are more interested in non-resident deer hunter than resident deer hunters!!
- Has the NGPC considered allowing the new "firestick" technology for muzzleloader hunting?
- The local NGPC officers and/or their immediate family members won the elk lotteries in my area for five years in a row. This doesnt seem right.
- Thanks for your input on answers, disagree on the elk draw statistics based off points accrued. Percentages are higher solely off the number of applicants and people with 1-2 points shouldn't be drawing more tags than the people with max points. Also understand with the Nebraska elk season being so new the point creep wouldn't sustainable for anybody new to apply, as several other western states are experiencing now. Again thanks for your time on all these questions
- due to muzzleloader capability why are we not starting to restrict them more seeing how its not really a primitive weapon any longer?
- Thanks for your answer on the mineral. We were not hunting over the bait, Only putting it out in the spring and summer. Nothing in the fall. We were still told it was illegal because we cant put it out in any hunting season such as spring turkey, even though we not hunting spring turkey.
- does NG&P ever seek out public help to collar MNT lions, elk etc? if so where would a person get on this list or who would a guy contact.
- It is unfortunate that NE Legislature is involved in Game management.
- Thanks for all the information. It's been very informative.
- I believe the Legislature passed the bill based on landowner input and request. As a landowner and provider of the habitat needed for a good deer population, it seems right to be able to hunt your own ground without competing with the rest of the public. It is only a 3 day season and the success rate was pretty low.
- Thanks for the answering questions
- why not just allow baiting?
- Any consideration to including non agricultural food plots the same as baiting deer? How is this any different then hunting over a mineral or supplement pile.
- Comment I would also like to see BELF open for hunter access. And on a final note, you folks do good work stewarding our wildlife. We appreciate the effort.
- Thank You very much for your time!
- Thanks for hosting
- Appreciate your time and the information shared. Thank You.
- thanks for the clarification on the mineral question and addressing it with your new regulation. We are just trying to improve deer health and not doing it in the fall.
- Thank you 😊
- will the Frenchman unit still have bonus tags for wt antlerless?
- Thank you for your time
- Thanks for taking the time to answer questions. Very informative.
- thanks for the response
- thank you all game and parks folks for your time
- can you put up your email Luke
- luke.meduna@nebraska.gov
- Thank you for your time and effort. Very informative. with the amount of questions. May need to schedule more meetings.

- <https://outdoornebraska.gov/regulations/>
- Thanks for doing this!
- Giddiup! Have a good night!!!!