

## History of Mule Deer Allocations in Saskatchewan:

**1967** - Prior to 1968 the deer licence was valid for both deer species.

**1968** - Declining mule deer (MD) populations in the SW required that mule deer be included in the Big Game Draw (BGD) with a quota of 426 either-sex licences.

**1974** –MD harvest prohibited in zones not included in the special MD hunting area to protect small, remnant MD populations.

**1976** - By 1976 the quota of either-sex “rifle” licences had increased to 2805 and a draw was added for 240 archery licences.

**1983** – Due to increasing populations, antlerless mule deer licences were first offered in the Draw with a quota of 1455.

**1985** - An archery antlerless mule deer quota was included in the BGD.

**1986** - Either-sex and antlerless muzzleloading seasons were included in the BGD.

**1987** - The one-licence concept was introduced for white-tailed deer to simplify the licencing process. Instead of 3 separate licences valid only in the archery, muzzleloader or rifle season, hunters were able to purchase an either-sex licence valid in the appropriate season while using the appropriate firearm type. Prior to 1987, an unsuccessful archer could turn in their archery licence and purchase a first regular licence.

**1988 to 1992** – Mule deer either-sex draw rifle and muzzleloading licence sales averaged 6658 and archery draw licence sales averaged 994 (13% of total of 7652).

**1993** – The one-licence concept was expanded to most of the 1993 BGD seasons. Instead of having a separate draw for archery, muzzleloader and rifle there is now one draw for each species and successful applicants may hunt in the season/s of their choice with the appropriate firearm type. OTC tags for archery either sex MD were established as the 1,000 tag quota set for the Archery Draw had not being fully utilized from 1986 – 1992.

**1993 to 1997** - Either-sex draw licence sales averaged 6204 and archery licence sales averaged 929 (13% of total of 7133).

**1998 to 2001** - Due to a reduction in the MD population draw quotas were reduced. Either-sex draw licence sales averaged 3817 and archery OTC licence sales average increased to 1208 (24% of total MD either sex opportunities).

**2002 to 2008** - Population recovery resulted in increased draw quotas. Either-sex draw licence sales averaged 6117 and archery licence sales averaged 1428 (19% of total of 7545).

**2009 to 2011** - Due to a reduction in the MD population draw quotas were reduced. Either-sex draw licence sales averaged 5208 and archery licence sales averaged 2123 (29% of total of 7331).

**2012 to 2015** - The BGD either-sex MD licences – 15,934. Archery MD OTC licences – 11,029. (41% of the total 26,963).

**2016** – The BGD issued 3,574 either sex MD Licences. Archery MD OTC licences – 2803. (44% of the total 6,377).

Thanks to our new HAL system we were also able to request and verify some other data that has been speculated on:

- How many of the MD OTC licence purchasers also applied in the 2016 MD Draw?
- Response: Of the 2,803 OTC license purchasers 2,019 were registered in the MD draw (72%).
  
- How many of those are “99” applications?
- Response: 118
  
- 2,019 of the 2,803 (72%) OTC MD tag purchasers are multiple firearm users.

Also, based on the **2016 Hunter Harvest Survey on 2015 activities** the following information was determined:

- 46,566 SK resident big game hunters (including bear) were surveyed.
- 10,238 SK resident big game hunters completed their HHS. Of these, 308 indicated they did not hunt in 2015.
- Given the response rate and sample size, less than 1% margin of error in the data. Using this data, we can estimate the total number of big game hunters using each firearm.

<b>Total Hunters Using One Firearm Type Exclusively (46,566 surveyed)</b>		
<b>Total Estimated Hunters</b>	<b>Firearm Type Used</b>	<b>Percent of Hunters</b>
34,509	Rifle Only	74.1%
1,562	Bow Only	3.4%
1,027	Muzzleloader Only	2.2%
188	Shotgun Only	0.4%
103	Crossbow Only	0.2%

- The above results show that 37,389 (80.3%) of Saskatchewan hunters are firearm exclusive.
- Estimated 9,177 (19.7%) SK resident big game hunters hunt with 2 or more firearm types.

Definition of a hunting licence: A licence provides the purchaser with a hunting opportunity, meaning hunters are offered time in the field and are not guaranteed to successfully harvest an animal.

To ensure the future of hunting opportunities for all Saskatchewan Residents, regardless of their chosen firearm, we must ensure that two fundamental criteria must be used to allocate all hunting opportunities:

- That Government uses the best possible science and data in the management of our wildlife resources and
- Adherence to the Provincial Game Allocation Principles in the distribution of those opportunities.