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Different Hunting Season and Their Effects on Deer and Elk Population

The purpose of this investigation is to find any relationship between hunting seasons and deer and elk population. The idea came while I was out hunting, there seemed to be more deer and elk during the season than after the season. After researching, I hypothesized that there will be a 5%-10% change for deer and a 15%-20% change for elk. I went online to the Colorado Division of Wildlife website (CDOW) located at <http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/BigGame/Statistics/> and scrolled down to the 2007 statistics and clicked on harvest data. Obtaining the 2007 deer and elk harvest data, I then scrolled down to the 2007 statistics and clicked on the 2007 deer post hunt population estimates. I did the same for Elk. I repeated the second step for 2004-2006 hunting harvest data and again for 2004-2006 post hunt estimates. To get the total population I added the 2007 harvest total to the 2007 post hunt estimates for both deer and elk. I repeated this for 2004-2006. Next, I used my calculator and divided the total taken by total population (total taken/total population) and subtracted from 100 for all years 2004-2007 deer and elk. The data proves there were a 6.4%-7.7% loss of population for deer and a 14.3%-18.7% loss of population for elk. The hypothesis was proven correct. This could be important because if there was a major loss of population (30%-40%) hunting season could be stopped until the population regenerates. It also proves the importance of hunting in maintaining a healthy herd size.