GF&P seeks smaller deer harvests May 3, 2013 South Dakota

Daily Republic

... Thousands of fewer deer licenses and tags could be offered to hunters ... There would be only a minor reduction for the Black Hills ... areas were hit to varying degrees by fatal disease last year. Approximately 3,700 deer were reported to be found dead. Throughout much of the state, drought may be cutting into reproduction...

Harsh winters and drought have reduced the deer herd but help may be on the way

November 14, 2013 South Dakota, Rapid City Journal

... Deer populations peaked in 2009 but three consecutive harsh winters, followed by the 2012 drought have seen deer populations decline in the Black Hills and open grassland areas ... The numbers of mule deer harvested has declined each year from a peak of 18,000 in 2009 to less than 10,000 in 2012...

<u>SD big game policy group to hold 3 public meetings</u> May 13, 2013 South Dakota, Westport-News

... Gov. Dennis Daugaard called for an independent review of the state's policies amid growing complaints from hunters about declines in the Black Hills elk and deer populations. Some think the state's growing mountain lion population is responsible, while others think the Game, Fish and Parks Department has issued too many licenses for elk and deer...