

Where the Boone & Crockett Whitetail Deer Come From

Trophy whitetail entries from 2011 hunting seasons are beginning to pour into Boone and Crockett Club headquarters. But while the sporting world waits to see which states are hot -- or not -- producers of giant bucks, North America's overall robust trend in whitetail entries is a story for all conservationists to celebrate.

B&C historical records show that trophy whitetails are up 400 percent over the past 30 years.

"It's worth remembering where America's favorite big-game species stood not so long ago -- at the brink of extinction," said Ben Wallace, Club president. "In 1900, less than 500,000 whitetails remained. But habitat programs, research, science-based management, regulations and enforcement, all led and funded by hunters, brought this game animal back to extraordinary levels. Today there are more than 32 million whitetails!"

The Boone and Crockett system of scoring big-game trophies originated in 1906 as a means of recording details on species thought to be disappearing. Over time, these records evolved as an effective way to track the success or failure of conservation efforts.

As North America's whitetail herd has grown, numbers of big bucks also have risen. For the period 1980-1985, hunters entered 617 trophy whitetails into Boone and Crockett records. For the period 2005-2010, the total jumped to 3,090, an increase of 400 percent.

During this 30-year span, many states and provinces saw percentage gains much greater than the continental average (see data below). For example, trophy whitetail entries from Wisconsin have risen 857 percent. In Illinois, the increase is 896 percent. Ontario went from a single entry to a whopping 41, a 4,000 percent gain!

Six states and provinces had zero entries in 1980-1985. For 2005-2010, they combined for 48.

Boone and Crockett offers two premier ways to trace and detail historic conservation developments, not just with whitetails but many other species as well.

A book, "Records of North American Big Game," offers detailed tabular listings for trophies in 38 different categories of game. Each entry includes the all-time entry score, date harvested, location of kill, hunter and owner names, and selected measurements. At 768 pages, the book retails for \$49.95.

A searchable online database, called "Trophy Search," is another exceptional resource. By buying an annual subscription, users can sort B&C archival data in infinite ways to identify national as well as local trends. An annual subscription is \$50.

Boone and Crockett Club Associates receive discounts on both items. Order online at www.boone-crockett.org or by calling 888-840-4868.

The list below includes state-by-state rankings for whitetail entries during the period 2005-2010, plus comparative data from 1980-1985.

B&C Trophy Whitetail Production, 2005-2010 (Typical and non-typical trophies combined)

1. Wisconsin	383 entries	1980-1985 rank 3rd, 40 entries
2. Illinois	299 entries	1980-1985 rank 6th, 30 entries
3. Iowa	224 entries	1980-1985 rank 2nd, 59 entries
4. Ohio	215 entries	1980-1985 rank 14th, 16 entries
5. Missouri	214 entries	1980-1985 rank 9th (tie), 25 entries
6. Kentucky	199 entries	1980-1985 rank 9th (tie), 25 entries
7. Indiana	195 entries	1980-1985 rank 16th, 14 entries
8. Kansas	181 entries	1980-1985 rank 4th, 35 entries
9. Minnesota	172 entries	1980-1985 rank 1st, 76 entries
10. Saskatchewan	147 entries	1980-1985 rank 7th (tie), 27 entries
11. Texas	132 entries	1980-1985 rank 12th, 19 entries

12. Alberta	115 entries	1980-1985 rank 7th (tie), 27 entries
13. Nebraska	78 entries	1980-1985 rank 18th (tie), 12 entries
14. Oklahoma	48 entries	1980-1985 rank 22nd (tie), 7 entries
15. Ontario	41 entries	1980-1985 rank 42nd (tie), 1 entry
16. Arkansas	40 entries	1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries
17 (tie). Michigan	39 entries	1980-1985 rank 17th, 13 entries
17 (tie). Mississippi	39 entries	1980-1985 rank 18th, 12 entries
19. North Dakota	31 entries	1980-1985 rank 31st (tie), 4 entries
20. Pennsylvania	26 entries	1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries
21. New York	25 entries	1980-1985 rank 28th (tie), 5 entries
22. South Dakota	24 entries	1980-1985 rank 20th (tie), 8 entries
23 (tie). Georgia	23 entries	1980-1985 rank 5th, 31 entries
23 (tie). Maryland	23 entries	1980-1985 rank 28th (tie), 5 entries
25 (tie). British Columbia	19 entries	1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries
25 (tie). Maine	19 entries	1980-1985 rank 11th, 20 entries
27. Virginia	17 entries	1980-1985 rank 22nd (tie), 7 entries
28. Tennessee	15 entries	1980-1985 rank 20th, 8 entries
29. Colorado	13 entries	1980-1985 rank 42nd (tie), 1 entry
30. Idaho	11 entries	1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries
31 (tie). Massachusetts	8 entries	1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries
31 (tie). Quebec	8 entries	1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries
33. Delaware	7 entries	1980-1985 rank 42nd (tie), 1 entry
34 (tie). Louisiana	6 entries	1980-1985 rank 28th (tie), 5 entries
34 (tie). Manitoba	6 entries	1980-1985 rank 15th, 15 entries
34 (tie). Washington	6 entries	1980-1985 rank 31st (tie), 4 entries
37 (tie). Montana	5 entries	1980-1985 rank 13th, 17 entries
37 (tie). Alabama	5 entries	1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries
37 (tie). North Carolina	5 entries	1980-1985 34th (tie), 3 entries
40 (tie). Connecticut	4 entries	1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries
40 (tie). New Hampshire	4 entries	1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries
42 (tie). New Jersey	3 entries	1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries
42 (tie). New Brunswick	3 entries	1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries
42 (tie). West Virginia	3 entries	1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries
45 (tie). Mexico	2 entries	1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries
45 (tie). Wyoming	2 entries	1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries