



Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2018

WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1810

December, 2018

Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2018

By

Mike Dorssom, M.A., Associate Research Scientist

With the assistance of

Bistra Anatchkova, Ph.D., Survey Research Manager

Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center

University of Wyoming

1000 E. University Ave, Dept. 3925

Laramie, WY 82071

(307) 766-2189 • wysac@uwyo.edu

<http://wysac.uwyo.edu>

Citation for this document: WYSAC (2018) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2018*, by Dorssom, M. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1810). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Short reference: WYSAC (2018), *Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance*.

© Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, 2018.

Table of Contents

1. Summary	4
2. Methodology	4
2.1. Compliance Checks	4
2.2. Data Entry and Analyses	5
3. Results	6
3.1. Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2018)	6
3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks Results	7
3.3. Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks Results	12

List of Tables

Table 3.1. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by County (2018)*	9
Table 3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by Municipality (2018)	10
Table 3.3. Summary of Tobacco Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2018)	11
Table 3.4. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2018)*	14
Table 3.5. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2018)	15
Table 3.6. Summary of Tobacco Sales Compliance Rates by Municipality (2017)	16

List of Figures

Figure 3.1. Total Number of Compliance Checks (2007–2018)	6
Figure 3.2. Number of Regions Submitting Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2018)	7
Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2018)	12

Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks, 2018

1. Summary

In August 2018 the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) engaged the Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center (WYSAC) to complete data entry, analysis, and reporting for the annual alcohol and tobacco sales compliance inspection checks performed by Wyoming police officers. This marks the tenth consecutive year that WYSAC has handled this project.

Data entry began in September and concluded in November 2018. After all inspection forms were entered into a database, the data were cleaned and then analyzed. The results are summarized in tables found in Section 3 of this report. A total of 1,080 alcohol and 782 tobacco sales compliance inspection forms were received by WYSAC and entered in the database. Of those, 1013 (93.8%) alcohol and 762 (97.4%) tobacco forms were determined to be valid and subsequently included in the analyses.

The analyses show that, for all businesses where valid checks were completed, the overall compliance rate was 88.9% for alcohol sales and 94.5% for tobacco sales.

2. Methodology

2.1. Compliance Checks

Police officers in conjunction with an underage youth buyer attempted alcohol and tobacco purchases statewide. Checks are most often conducted at brick and mortar stores. Occasionally in the past vendors at special events (such as the Cheyenne Frontier Days) have also been checked. Aside from the type of item purchased, the protocol for completing these checks is the same for both alcohol and tobacco sales. It involves criminal compliance checks, which are “used to educate, encourage compliance, and penalize non-compliance. These operations consist of prosecuting individuals for age-of-sale law violations through the court system.”¹

Prior to any compliance check purchase attempt, the youth buyer is:

- Photographed,
- Searched for additional cash or alternative identification,
- Taught the state or local statute explaining the law regarding underage purchasing, and
- Instructed to stay in line of sight of accompanying officers

The item to be purchased (i.e., bottle of Bud Light, pack of Marlboro Blues) is established beforehand. During buy attempts it is preferable for two officers to accompany the youth buyer, though this is not always a viable option due to small precincts and other engagements of officers. Buyers carry their

¹ Nelson-Bragg, T. (2011). *State of Wyoming Compliance Check Manual*. Published by the Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division and Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police.

own personal identification, often a Wyoming driver's license, and are instructed to present it to any requesting clerks. If a purchase attempt is successful the clerk is issued a citation, or, less often, they are issued a warning.

The alcohol compliance checks included in this year's analysis were completed from October 2017 through August 2018 and the tobacco checks from January 2018 through August 2018.

2.2. Data Entry and Analyses

WYSAC was instructed to download electronic scans of the compliance check forms from WASCOP's website. Forms were manually entered by trained WYSAC staff into two custom-built Microsoft Access Databases; one each for alcohol and tobacco checks. All officers who did not properly finish their inspection forms were contacted by telephone for clarification in an attempt to fill missing data, a process which ran from September to November 2018.

Once data input was completed, the database was imported into SPSS for processing, where cross-tabulations and frequency tables were generated. Finally, the databases were converted into Microsoft Excel files for electronic delivery to WASCOP.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliance for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Inspection forms which indicated an unsuccessful attempt (i.e. business closed, no longer selling alcohol/tobacco) were considered a null attempt and not included in the total valid compliance check count or data analysis. In a few cases, blank or extremely incomplete compliance check forms were submitted. These forms were counted towards only the total number of checks and are excluded from all other calculations. Of the 1,080 alcohol forms submitted, 1,013 were categorized as valid, 65 as null, and 2 as incomplete. Of the 782 submitted tobacco forms, 762 were categorized as valid, 18 as null, and 2 as incomplete.

Compliance rates are calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of valid compliance checks performed. This rate is considered valid since all compliance forms included in the calculations had a *resolution*, thus leaving no missing data associated with them.

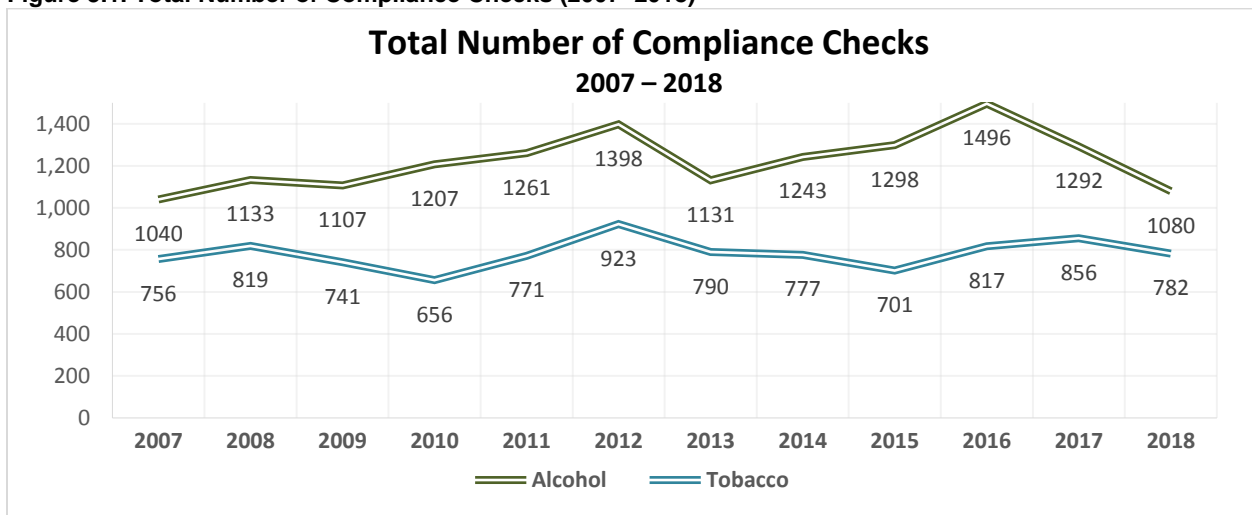
A minor logical assumption was made concerning incomplete and inconsistent forms. For any compliance checks that resulted in no violation, the data regarding identification requested, checked, and checked against a calendar were assumed to be true. For a substantial number of cases these three variables were incomplete, however given the inspection result, these data were filled in as true.

3. Results

3.1. Compliance Checks Counts (2007 – 2018)

The total number of compliance checks forms submitted each year from 2007 to 2018 is shown below in Figure 3.1. These totals include forms that were not used in the calculation of compliance rates, such as for businesses that were closed. Each year the number of completed forms for compliance with alcohol sales submitted to WYSAC for data entry and analysis has been substantially higher than those for tobacco sales. This year saw a drop in the number of both alcohol and tobacco compliance checks, the drop being relatively more significant for the alcohol compliance checks.

Figure 3.1. Total Number of Compliance Checks (2007–2018)



3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks Results

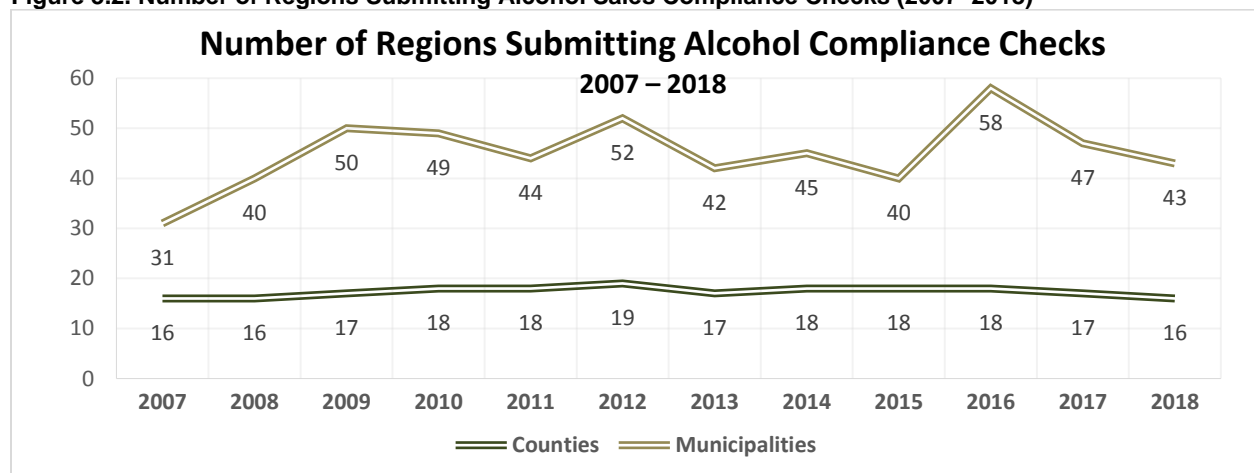
In 2018, a total of 1,080 alcohol compliance check forms were submitted to WYSAC. After removing null attempts, 1,013 forms were determined to be valid checks and included in the calculations of compliance rates.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliance for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Data which represented an unsuccessful attempt because the business was closed were considered a null attempt and not included in the total compliance check count or calculations. Compliance rates were calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of valid compliance checks performed. Each qualifying establishment received one of three values: no violation/no infraction, violation/citation, or warning.

As shown in Figure 3.2 below, valid alcohol forms were returned for 16 of 23 Wyoming counties. A total of 43 Wyoming cities, unincorporated communities (such as Hiland), and census-designated places (such as Alcova) submitted valid forms, which is 5 fewer than in 2017. The number of checks returned varied greatly from one municipality to another; Cheyenne submitted the highest number of valid inspections (189), followed by Gillette (96), and many small municipalities completed as few as one inspection.

Although not as significant as it was from 2016 to 2017, there is a drop in the number of localities at which alcohol compliance checks were conducted. A likely explanation is that law enforcement officers concentrated their efforts in bigger municipalities. As can be seen in Table 3.2., no major city or town has been overlooked.

Figure 3.2. Number of Regions Submitting Alcohol Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2018)



Following are the results from the alcohol compliance checks performed as part of the 2018 statewide compliance checks report. Compliance rates are presented first by county (Table 3.1), then by municipality (Table 3.2). In the county table, the name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Overall alcohol sales compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 88.9%, an improvement from 2017² where the overall alcohol compliance was 85.4%. It should be noted that different municipalities have submitted checks each year, so this comparison should not be considered representative of the "statewide compliance rate" but rather a comparison of the overall compliance rates for those municipalities that submitted forms.

Results by county, presented in Table 3.1 displays the alcohol sales compliance rates and violations/infractions for counties listed alphabetically. It indicate that Campbell County had the highest alcohol compliance rate a 95.8%, followed by Sheridan (94.4%) and Sublette (92.9%).

Table 3.2 displays the alcohol sales compliance rates and violations/infractions for municipalities listed alphabetically.

Table 3.3 summarizes municipalities in groups of decreasing compliance. Sixteen municipalities had a 100% compliance rate. Many of these municipalities had very small sample sizes (5 or less) which are more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

² WYSAC (2017) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2017*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1708). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.1. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by County (2018)*

County	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Albany ⁵	67	61	5	1	2	91.0%
Campbell ¹	96	92	4	0	12	95.8%
Converse ⁴	23	21	2	0	4	91.3%
Fremont ⁹	44	39	5	0	0	88.6%
Goshen ⁷	40	36	4	0	0	90.0%
Hot Springs ¹⁶	3	1	1	1	1	33.3%
Johnson ¹⁴	31	26	5	0	7	83.9%
Laramie ⁶	191	173	16	2	4	90.6%
Lincoln ¹²	44	37	5	2	2	84.1%
Natrona ¹²	88	74	14	0	7	84.1%
Park ¹⁰	57	49	8	0	0	86.0%
Sheridan ²	36	34	2	0	18	94.4%
Sublette ³	98	91	7	0	0	92.9%
Sweetwater ¹¹	104	89	15	0	3	85.6%
Teton ¹⁵	20	15	5	0	5	75.0%
Uinta ⁸	71	63	7	1	0	88.7%
TOTAL	1013	901	105	7	65	88.9%

* The name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Table 3.2. Alcohol Sales Compliance Rates and Number of Violations by Municipality (2018)

County	Municipality	Valid Alcohol Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Alcohol	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	18	17	0	1	0	94.4%
Natrona	Alcova	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	8	8	0	0	1	100.0%
Natrona	Bar Nunn	4	1	3	0	0	25.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	11	9	2	0	0	81.8%
Sublette	Boulder	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	32	27	5	0	7	84.4%
Laramie	Burns	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Casper	53	46	7	0	4	86.8%
Laramie	Cheyenne	189	171	16	2	4	90.5%
Park	Cody	56	48	8	0	0	85.7%
Sublette	Daniel	9	8	1	0	0	88.9%
Lincoln	Diamondville	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Converse	Douglas	17	16	1	0	4	94.1%
Fremont	Dubois	5	5	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Edgerton	5	5	0	0	1	100.0%
Lincoln	Etna	2	1	0	1	0	50.0%
Uinta	Evanston	67	60	6	1	0	89.6%
Natrona	Evansville	16	12	4	0	0	75.0%
Uinta	Fort Bridger	3	2	1	0	0	66.7%
Goshen	Fort Laramie	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Campbell	Gillette	96	92	4	0	12	95.8%
Converse	Glenrock	6	5	1	0	0	83.3%
Sweetwater	Green River	11	11	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Hiland	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	20	15	5	0	5	75.0%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	10	7	3	0	0	70.0%
Lincoln	LaBarge	2	1	1	0	0	50.0%
Fremont	Lander	26	21	5	0	0	80.8%
Albany	Laramie	67	61	5	1	2	91.0%
Goshen	Lingle	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Marbleton	10	10	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	2	2	0	0	2	100.0%
Sheridan	Misslin	0	0	0	0	1	N/A
Fremont	Pavillion	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Laramie	Pinedale	63	59	4	0	0	93.7%
Fremont	Riverton	11	11	0	0	0	100.0%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	93	78	15	0	3	83.9%
Sheridan	Sheridan	36	34	2	0	17	94.4%
Lincoln	Thayne	3	3	0	0	1	100.0%
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	3	1	1	1	1	33.3%
Goshen	Torrington	34	30	4	0	0	88.2%
Uinta	Urie	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
TOTAL		1013	901	105	7	65	88.9%

3.3. Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks Results

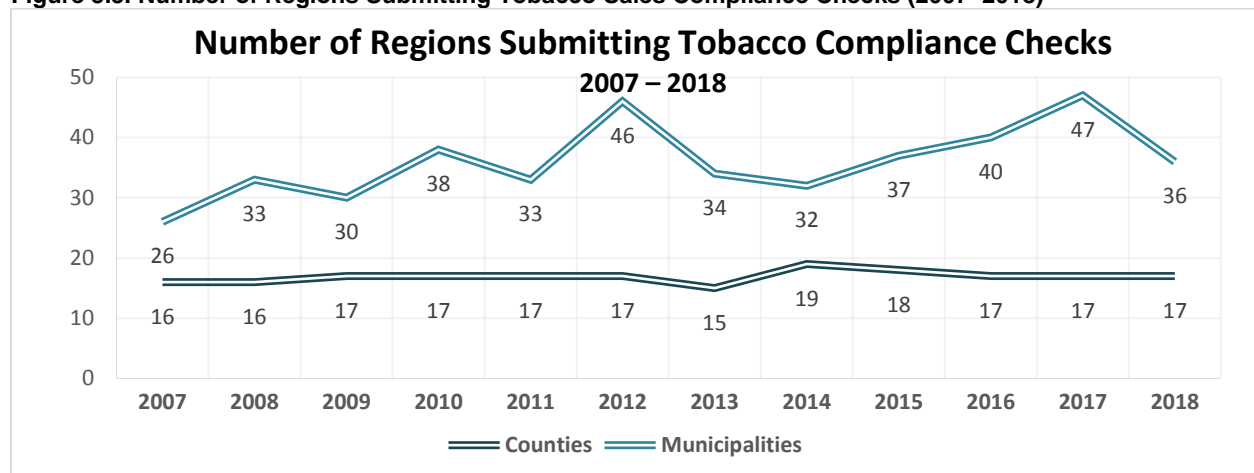
In total, 782 tobacco sales compliance checks were submitted to WYSAC and entered into a database. After removal of null attempts, 762 checks were included in the calculations and analysis.

Inspection forms indicating only a warning was issued were considered a violation of compliancy for data analysis purposes, though no citations were issued. Data which represented an unsuccessful attempt because the business was closed or no longer sells tobacco were considered a null attempt and not included in the total compliance check counts or calculations. Compliance rates were calculated by dividing the number of non-infractions reported by the number of compliance checks performed.

As shown below in Figure 3.3, valid tobacco sales compliance checks forms were returned for 17 Wyoming counties, the same number as in 2017. However, 11 less municipalities submitted in 2018 (36) compared to 2017 (47). Historically there have been substantially fewer municipalities receiving tobacco sales compliance checks than alcohol sales compliance checks.

There is a drop in the number of localities at which tobacco compliance checks were conducted. A likely explanation is that law enforcement officers concentrated their efforts in bigger municipalities. As can be seen in Table 3.3., no major city or town has been overlooked.

Figure 3.3. Number of Regions Submitting Tobacco Sales Compliance Checks (2007–2018)



Following are the results from the tobacco compliance checks performed in 2018. Compliance rates are presented first by county (Table 3.4), then by municipality (Table 3.5). In the county table, the name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Overall tobacco sales compliance for all reporting counties and cities was 94.5%, up slightly as compared to 91.9% in 2017³. It should be noted that different municipalities have submitted checks each year, so this comparison should not be considered representative of the "statewide compliance rate" but rather a comparison of the overall compliance rates for those municipalities that submitted forms.

Results by county, presented in Table 3.4, indicate that four counties, Niobrara, Park, Sweetwater, and Teton had a perfect tobacco sales compliance rate of 100%. Hot Springs County had the lowest compliance rate of 60.0%.

Table 3.5 displays the compliance rates and infractions for all 36 municipalities that returned tobacco sales compliance checks, listed in alphabetical order.

Table 3.6 presents the tobacco sales compliance rates for all municipalities organized into groups of decreasing compliancy. Twenty municipalities had perfect compliance rates. It should be noted that for many of these municipalities the sample sizes were very small (5 or less) which is more likely to result in extreme rates (100% or 0%).

³ WYSAC (2017) *Wyoming Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks, 2017*, by Holder, W. T. (WYSAC Technical Report No. SRC-1708). Laramie, WY: Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center, University of Wyoming.

Table 3.4. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by County (2018)*

County	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Albany ¹²	62	57	5	0	2	91.9%
Campbell ⁵	31	30	1	0	2	96.8%
Converse ¹³	36	32	4	0	2	88.9%
Fremont ⁶	82	79	2	1	0	96.3%
Goshen ¹³	36	32	4	0	4	88.9%
Hot Springs ¹⁷	5	3	2	0	0	60.0%
Johnson ¹¹	15	14	1	0	3	93.3%
Laramie ⁹	164	156	8	0	0	95.1%
Lincoln ¹⁵	21	18	3	0	1	85.7%
Natrona ⁷	76	73	3	0	1	96.1%
Niobrara ¹	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Park ¹	25	25	0	0	0	100.0%
Sheridan ⁷	51	49	2	0	1	96.1%
Sublette ¹⁶	19	16	3	0	0	84.2%
Sweetwater ¹	56	56	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton ¹	29	29	0	0	2	100.0%
Uinta ¹⁰	48	45	3	0	0	93.8%
TOTAL	762	720	41	1	18	94.5%

* The name of each location is followed by a superscripted number which represents its relative ranking, with the highest compliance rate given a rank of one.

Table 3.5. Tobacco Sales Compliance Rate and Number of Violations by Municipality (2018)

County	Municipality	Valid Tobacco Compliance Checks	No Infractions	Prohibited Sales Violation	Prohibited Sales Warning	Closed or Does Not Sell Tobacco	Compliance Rate
Lincoln	Afton	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Alcova	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Alpine	4	4	0	0	1	100.0%
Sublette	Big Piney	4	3	1	0	0	75.0%
Converse	Bill	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Boulder	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Johnson	Buffalo	15	14	1	0	3	93.3%
Natrona	Casper	74	71	3	0	1	95.9%
Laramie	Cheyenne	164	156	8	0	0	95.1%
Park	Cody	25	25	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Daniel	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Converse	Douglas	30	28	2	0	0	93.3%
Lincoln	Etna	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Uinta	Evanston	47	44	3	0	0	93.6%
Uinta	Fort Bridger	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Campbell	Gillette	31	30	1	0	2	96.8%
Converse	Glenrock	5	3	2	0	2	60.0%
Sweetwater	Green River	16	16	0	0	0	100.0%
Teton	Jackson	29	29	0	0	2	100.0%
Lincoln	Kemmerer	8	5	3	0	0	62.5%
Fremont	Kinross	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Lander	26	26	0	0	0	100.0%
Albany	Laramie	62	57	5	0	2	91.9%
Niobrara	Lusk	6	6	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Marbleton	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Natrona	Midwest	1	1	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Pavillion	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Pinedale	8	8	0	0	0	100.0%
Fremont	Riverton	51	48	2	1	0	94.1%
Sweetwater	Rock Springs	40	40	0	0	0	100.0%
Sublette	Sand Draw	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%
Sheridan	Sheridan	51	49	2	0	1	96.1%
Fremont	Shoshoni	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%
Lincoln	Thayne	4	4	0	0	0	100.0%
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	5	3	2	0	0	60.0%
Goshen	Torrington	36	32	4	0	4	88.9%
	TOTAL	762	720	41	1	18	94.5%

