

# Gray Wolf Hunter / Trapper Questionnaire 2013

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## **Abstract**

Wisconsin held its second wolf harvest season on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. A questionnaire was sent to wolf harvest license holders asking them questions about the season and their activities. Sixty percent of license holders actively pursued wolves during the 2013 season. Active Wolf harvest license holders were more likely to hunt than trap (52% vs. 12%), but trappers were much more successful with success rates of 37% for trappers and 10% of hunters; 16% success for those that did both. Most wolf pursuers hunted or trapped an area because of known wolf predation. Wolf pursuers were not interfered with by other hunters and/or trappers (75%). Of the wolves harvested, most kept and tanned the hide or made it into a taxidermy mount (92%). Those receiving a wolf license this year said they would apply for another wolf license in 2014-15 74% of the time, 9% said no, and 17% were unsure.

## **Methods**

The wolf season start date is the 15<sup>th</sup> of October and the season was to continue until the harvest quota of 251 wolves was met or till midnight on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, whichever came first. A total of 2,510 wolf harvest licenses were issued from a total of 16,672 applicants for a license. A survey (Fig 1.) was sent to 1,200 of the 2,510 license winners after the close of the wolf season on 23 December. Youth and those that had received a citation during the wolf season were removed from the survey pool. All those surveyed received a letter explaining the survey, the survey, and a postage paid return envelope. A reminder letter was sent about 3 weeks after the initial survey, and a second survey mailing was done 5 weeks after the initial contact. All surveys were entered into Microsoft Access and stored on the DNR production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

Responses were received from 993 of the 1,200 hunters/trappers surveyed. After removing duplicates, the corrected response rate was 73.4%.

Most who had received notification that they had been selected to purchase a wolf harvest license had intended to "Hunt Only" (52.4%). This was followed by those that had intended to "Both Hunt/Trap" (34.6%), "Trap Only" (12.3%), and lastly "No Intention to Hunt or Trap" (0.7%; Table 1 Question 1). The intentions of those that actually purchased a wolf license differed ( $P < .0001$ ) from those that were granted permission to purchase a license but did not. Those that did not purchase a license had intended to "Hunt" more than "Trap" or "Both".

"Wanting to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals" and "An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped" were the two most important reasons for applying for a wolf license. There were many "other" reasons stated for applying for a wolf license, but wanting to reduce the impacts of wolves was often mentioned.

Overall, 60% of those selected to purchase a wolf license were active. Of those that did purchase a license, 75% actively pursued wolves (Table 1 Question 3). Among those that did not hunt or trap, "The zone I wanted to hunt/trap in closed before I could hunt/trap" was the most stated reason for not participating.

Wolf license purchasers trapped 51.4% of the time. Most of those that trapped were an active trapper prior to receiving a wolf tag, 81.1%. Trappers averaged 13.2 days afield, most did not use exposed bait (97.7%) (setting back at least 25 feet).

Seventy-one percent of wolf license purchasers said they hunted for wolves. Hunters averaged 6.8 days afield where wolves were their primary target, and averaged 9.7 days where wolves were their secondary target (Table 1, Sec 3 Q3). Rifles were used 78.6% of the time, followed by shotgun 13.7%, bow 3.8%, handgun 3.2%, muzzleloader 0.5%, and crossbow 0.2% respectively (Table 1, Sec 3 Q4). Sixteen percent of hunters hunted with the aid of dogs, and averaged 3.86 wolves run using 3.35 dogs (Table 1, Sec 3 Q5-7). Hunting with calls only, and incidental to other hunting were the two most common techniques (Table 1, Sec 3 Q8). Fifty-two percent of hunters that were presented an opportunity to shoot at a wolf did not, the most common reason was "Waiting for a better shot", 86%. Less than 2% of the hunters said that they hit a wolf they were unable to retrieve (Table 1, Sec 3 9-11).

Most hunters and trappers saw wolf sign (tracks, fur or scat, howling) while out after wolves, 88%. Hunters and trappers selected the area to pursue wolves because of known wolf predation on livestock, dogs, or game 66% of the time. Deer/Elk were the most commonly stated type of depredation, 57% (Table 1 Sec 4 Q 2-3). Known wolf depredation was the "primary (only) reason" or "very important" for 72.2% of wolf hunters and trappers. Thirty-three percent of them hunted or trapped at the request of a landowner. Predator Calling/howling and trapping/cable restraints were the two most popular harvest techniques used (Table 1 Sec 4 Q6). Finding a place to hunt or trap was "Very easy" or "Somewhat easy" for 78% of wolf license holders (Table 1 Sec 4 Q7). Days on private land by hunters and trappers outnumbered public land days 59% to 41% (Table 1 Sec 4 Q8). Hunters and Trappers moved their hunting/trapping activities due to an early wolf zone closure from their preferred wolf zone 49% of the time (Table 1 Sec 4 Q9). Of those that moved, more felt that the zone they moved to was "worse" or "Much worse" than "somewhat better" or "Much better". Hunter/trappers felt the Wisconsin DNR was "Very effective" or "Fairly effective" at alerting them of wolf zone closures (Table 1 Sec 4 Q10-11).

Crowding by other hunters or trappers was not an issue, as 62% of active wolf pursuers stated they were "Not at all crowded". Also they were not interfered with while pursuing, or with their chance to harvest a wolf (Table Sec4 Q12-13). There was little difference between the hunter/trappers rating the quality of the wolf season as "very high" or "fairly high" vs. "fairly low" or "very low"; 31.5% vs. 29.0%. Very few hunters or trappers (1.4%) used a guide to assist them with pursuing a wolf. The mean starting date for hunting/trapping was 23 October. Most stated the reason for starting when they did was "I wanted to start as soon as I could to ensure I got to hunt/trap before the wolf zone closed (Table 1 Sec 4 Q18-19).

Nineteen percent of active wolf pursuers said they registered a wolf in 2013. Most successful wolf pursuers kept it as a taxidermy mount or tanned and kept the hide, 92.8%, and wolves were reported to have had either "thick fur" or "fully furred" (Table 1 Sec5 Q1-Q3). Of those reporting a harvest, many felt that it was either "very easy" or "fairly easy" to report their harvest with the state, 65.6% (Table 1 Sec 5 Q5).

Seventy-four percent of those surveyed said that they would apply for another wolf license in 2014-15 season. The most stated reason for not applying was "Not enough time" (Table 1 Sec 6 Q1-Q2). Questions about wolf management, values of wolves, fears, and potential management actions were asked of all permit winners, and the results can be found in Section 6 questions 3-6. The average wolf pursuer in Wisconsin was male, 48.7 years old and a Wisconsin resident (Table 1 Sec 6 Q7-Q9).

**Table 1.** *The 2013-2014 wolf hunter/trapper survey.*

## Section 1: Participation in Wisconsin's Wolf Harvest

1. When you received notification that you had been selected to hunt and/or trap wolves during the 2013-14 season, what did you intend to do? **(Check one)**

License type	Both hunt/trap	Trap only	Hunt only	I had no intention to hunt or trap
Authorized / no license purchased	51 (27.7%)	4 (2.2%)	126 (68.5%)	3 (1.6%)
Licensed resident	248 (36.5%)	103 (15.2%)	325 (47.9%)	3 (0.4%)
Licensed non-resident	1 (20.0%)	0 (0%)	4 (80.0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>300 (34.6%)</b>	<b>107 (12.3%)</b>	<b>455 (52.4%)</b>	<b>16 (0.7%)</b>

No Answer = 13

2. What were the two most important reasons you applied for a wolf hunting/trapping license? Write a **1** next to your most important and a **2** next to your second most important reasons.

Reason for applying	Percent rankings		
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #1 or #2
An opportunity for me to spend time outdoors by myself or with friends or family	51 (53.7%)	44 (46.3%)	95 (5.5%)
An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped	271 (62.3%)	164 (37.7%)	435 (25.2%)
An opportunity for me to use my outdoor skills to pursue a challenging game animal	87 (47.5%)	96 (52.5%)	183 (10.6%)
I wanted to harvest a wolf in order to have a wolf taxidermy mount or tanned fur for display	91 (35.8%)	163 (64.2%)	254 (14.7%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals	309 (60.0%)	206 (40.0%)	515 (29.8%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on dogs	45 (45.5%)	54 (54.5%)	99 (5.7%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on livestock	13 (28.3%)	33 (71.7%)	46 (2.7%)
I was concerned about human safety with the current wolf populations	17 (22.1%)	60 (73.2%)	77 (4.5%)
I wanted to prevent others from access to a wolf harvest permit	2 (25.0%)	6 (75.0%)	8 (0.5%)
Another reason	7 (43.8%)	9 (56.3%)	16 (0.9%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>893 (51.6%)</b>	<b>835 (48.3%)</b>	<b>1,728 (100%)</b>

3. Did you do any wolf hunting and/or trapping during the 2013-14 wolf season?

Yes → skip to Section 2, Question 1     No

	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / no license	10 (5.3%)	179 (94.7%)	189 (21.5%)
Licensed resident	510 (74.7%)	173 (25.3%)	683 (77.8%)
Licensed non-resident	4 (80.0%)	1 (20.0%)	5 (0.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>524 (59.8%)</b>	<b>353 (40.3%)</b>	<b>877 (100%)</b>

No Response = 4

4. What are some of the reasons you did not hunt and/or trap for wolves?  
(Check all that apply)

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Poor weather	12	2.9
Too far to travel	9	2.2
License cost was too high	9	2.2
I wasn't confident in where to hunt/trap	32	7.8
The zone I wanted to hunt/trap in closed before I could hunt/trap	251	61.4
I wanted to prevent others from harvesting a wolf	4	1.0
Another reason	92	22.5

## Section 2: Participation in Wolf Trapping

1. Did you attempt to harvest a wolf by **TRAPPING**?

Yes     No → skip to Section 3, Question 1

	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / no license purchased	4 (40%)	6 (60%)	10 (1.9%)
Licensed resident	264 (51.9%)	245 (48.1%)	509 (97.3%)
Licensed non-resident	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4 (0.8%)
<b>Total</b>	269 (51.4%)	254 (48.6%)	523 (100%)

No Response = 358

2. Which of the following statements best describes your trapping experience:

Statement	Frequency	Percent
I was an active trapper prior to receiving a wolf tag	546	81.1
I was trapper certified but not actively trapping prior to receiving a wolf tag	96	14.3
I got trapper certified in order to pursue wolves by trapping	31	4.6

3. How many **other** people were with you on a typical wolf trapping day? If you were alone, please enter 0.

Number of others typically with me while trapping \_\_\_\_\_

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean	N	N miss
0.66	0	4.0	0.0463242	0.5716653	0.7540923	264	5

Assistants	Frequency	Percent
0	126	47.7
1	108	40.9
2	24	9.1
3	5	1.9
4	1	0.4

4. In the table below, first please tell us which zone(s) you attempted to trap a wolf during the 2013-14 season. Then for each zone, please complete the requested information.  
**(Zone map on back of letter)**

**Mean trapping effort – statewide**

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
# of days trapped	247	13.24	1.00	80.00	0.82	11.62	14.86
# of foothold sets made	254	12.56	1.00	123.00	0.86	10.87	14.26
# of cable restraint sets made	10	3.10	1.00	8.00	0.66	1.61	4.59
# of wolves seen	91	2.44	1.00	15.00	0.29	1.87	3.01
# of wolves restrained	53	1.32	1.00	4.00	0.10	1.12	1.52
# of wolves released	16	1.81	1.00	9.00	0.52	0.71	2.92
# of radio-collared wolves restrained	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
# of radio-collared wolves released	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other species captured & released	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Mean trapping effort by wolf zone

Zone	N obs	Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
1	110	# of days	101	9.31	1	50	0.73	7.85	10.76
		# of foothold sets made	107	12.76	1	120	1.49	9.81	15.71
		# of cable restraint sets made	4	2.5	1	5	0.87	-0.26	5.26
		# of wolves seen	40	2.38	1	15	0.49	1.38	3.37
		# of wolves restrained	24	1.33	1	3	0.14	1.04	1.63
		# of wolves released	10	1.9	1	9	0.8	0.1	3.7
2	58	# of days	50	5.54	1	10	0.3	4.93	6.15
		# of foothold sets made	55	9.11	2	34	0.97	7.16	11.06
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	4	4	4	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	15	2.67	1	9	0.68	1.21	4.13
		# of wolves restrained	9	1.44	1	3	0.29	0.77	2.12
		# of wolves released	1	2	2	2	.	.	.
3	79	# of days	76	15.91	1	70	1.78	12.36	19.45
		# of foothold sets made	74	8.14	1	40	0.78	6.58	9.69
		# of cable restraint sets made	4	2.75	2	4	0.48	1.23	4.27
		# of wolves seen	15	1.8	1	9	0.53	0.67	2.93
		# of wolves restrained	8	1	1	1	0	.	.
		# of wolves released	2	1	1	1	0	.	.
4	13	# of days	13	5.46	2	10	0.76	3.81	7.11
		# of foothold sets made	12	4.17	1	12	0.85	2.29	6.04
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	4	4	4	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	2	2	1	3	1	-10.71	14.71
		# of wolves restrained	1	1	1	1	.	.	.
		# of wolves released	1	1	1	1	.	.	.
5	37	# of days	36	6.81	1	21	0.78	5.21	8.4
		# of foothold sets made	37	9.22	1	47	1.52	6.13	12.3
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	2	2	2	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	12	1.92	1	4	0.31	1.23	2.61
		# of wolves restrained	6	1.17	1	2	0.17	0.74	1.6
		# of wolves released	1	1	1	1	.	.	.
6	42	# of days	40	12.63	1	40	1.29	10.02	15.23
		# of foothold sets made	41	6.95	2	35	0.98	4.97	8.93
		# of cable restraint sets made	0	.	.	.	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	16	2	1	4	0.22	1.52	2.48
		# of wolves restrained	5	1.8	1	4	0.58	0.18	3.42
		# of wolves released	1	4	4	4	.	.	.

5. Did you release any radio-collared wolves you had trapped or restrained?

Trapped or restrained	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	262	100.0

6. Did you trap wolves using exposed bait (setting back at least 25 feet)?

Bait	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	2.3
No	255	97.7

No Response = 8

7. On or after December 1<sup>st</sup> you could use foothold traps with a maximum spread up to 8 inches for wolves. Did you use traps larger than 7 inches on or after December 1<sup>st</sup>?

8" trap size	Frequency	Percent
Yes	9	3.5
No	247	96.5

No Response = 13

### Section 3: Participation in Wolf Hunting

1. Did you do any wolf **HUNTING**?

Yes     No → skip to Section 4, Question 1

License type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / No license purchased	6 (60.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10 (1.9%)
Licensed resident	361 (70.8%)	149 (29.2%)	510 (97.3%)
Licensed non-resident	3 (75.0%)	1 (25.0%)	4 (0.8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>370 (70.6%)</b>	<b>154 (29.4%)</b>	<b>524 (100%)</b>

No Response = 357

2. How many **other** people were with you on a typical wolf hunting day? If you were alone, please enter 0.

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean	N	N miss
1.12	0	15.00	0.10	0.91	1.32	359	11

#### Frequency of hunting assistants

Others	Frequency	Percent
0	186	51.8
1	105	29.2
2	19	5.3
3	13	3.6
4	13	3.6
5	6	1.7
5+	17	4.7

3. In the table below, first please tell us which zone(s) you hunted wolves during the 2012-13 season. Then for each zone, please complete the requested information.  
(Zone map on back of letter)

**Mean hunting effort - statewide**

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	339	6.76	1.00	40.00	0.32	6.14	7.39
# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	99	9.68	1.00	60.00	0.89	7.92	11.44
# of total days	370	8.79	0.00	64.00	0.47	7.87	9.71
# of wolves seen	110	3.16	1.00	17.00	0.30	2.57	3.76
# of radio-collared wolves seen:	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Mean hunting effort by wolf zone**

Zone	N obs	Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
1	126	# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	119	4.74	1.00	21.00	0.30	4.14	5.34
		# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	22	6.14	1.00	20.00	1.06	3.93	8.34
		# of wolves seen	25	4.08	1.00	17.00	0.92	2.17	5.99
2	71	# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	70	4.09	1.00	16.00	0.37	3.34	4.83
		# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	9	4.44	1.00	10.00	1.03	2.07	6.82
		# of wolves seen	14	2.57	1.00	7.00	0.52	1.45	3.70
3	150	# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	138	6.12	1.00	35.00	0.47	5.19	7.06
		# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	47	10.47	1.00	60.00	1.42	7.60	13.33
		# of wolves seen	53	2.68	1.00	11.00	0.34	1.99	3.37
4	28	# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	26	5.88	1.00	20.00	0.85	4.14	7.63
		# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	4	7.00	5.00	10.00	1.08	3.56	10.44
		# of wolves seen	5	2.00	1.00	4.00	0.63	0.24	3.76
5	42	# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	40	4.88	1.00	21.00	0.71	3.43	6.32
		# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	8	11.25	3.00	20.00	2.29	5.84	16.66
		# of wolves seen	12	2.42	1.00	4.00	0.36	1.63	3.20
6	46	# of days where wolves were your <b>primary</b> hunting interest:	42	5.29	1.00	15.00	0.53	4.22	6.53
		# of days where wolves were your <b>secondary</b> hunting interest:	15	10.73	1.00	30.00	1.87	6.72	14.75
		# of wolves seen	9	2.78	1.00	9.00	0.88	0.75	4.80

4. What type of weapon(s) did you use while hunting wolves? (Check all that apply)

Weapon	Frequency	Percent
Rifle	1,674	78.6
Shotgun	291	13.7
Handgun	68	3.2
Muzzleloader	10	0.5
Bow	81	3.8
Crossbow	5	0.2

No Response = 91

5. Did you hunt wolves with the aid of dogs?

- No → skip to Question 8  
 Yes

	Yes	No
Response	57 (16.0%)	300 (84.0%)
No Response = 13		

6. Please estimate of the number of wolves run during the season: \_\_\_\_\_

Mean = 3.86 wolves run

7. What was the number of dogs you typically used to run wolves: \_\_\_\_\_

Mean = 3.35 dogs used

8. Please tell us the number of days of hunting using each technique?

Variable	N	N mss	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
# of days hunting with BOTH Calls & Bait	38	332	5.34	1.00	21.00	0.71	3.91	6.78
# of days hunting with Bait Only	24	346	5.67	1.00	21.00	1.09	3.42	7.92
# of days hunting with Calls Only	253	117	6.07	1.00	40.00	0.34	5.40	6.74
# of days of hunting with the aid of dogs	55	315	4.87	1.00	16.00	0.53	3.81	5.94
# of nights hunted Incidental to other hunting	79	291	9.67	1.00	60.00	1.01	7.66	11.69

9. Did you shoot at the first wolf which presented an opportunity?

- Yes → skip to Question 11       No

	Yes	No
Total	56 (48.3%)	60 (51.7%)

No response = 254

10. What was your reason for passing up a wolf? (Check all that apply)

Reason for passing	Frequency	Percent
Waiting for a larger wolf	14	5.6
Waiting for a better shot	216	86.4
Wanted to hunt longer	8	3.2
Waiting for wolf with a better coat / different color	9	3.6
Wanted to avoid shooting a radio-collared wolf	0	0.0
Another reason	3	1.2

11. Did you hit any wolves you were unable to retrieve?

- Yes → How many were you unable to retrieve? \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

	Yes	No
Response	2* (1.6%)	127 (98.5%)

Frequency missing = 241

\*One person said they hit 1 wolf, the other did not indicate how many wolves hit.

## Section 4: General Wolf Hunting and/or Trapping Questions

1. Did you see any wolf sign (tracks, fur or scat) or hear any howling while you were hunting and/or trapping during the 2013-14 wolf season?

	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	459 (88.3%)	61 (11.7%)

No Response = 5

2. Did you select an area to hunt or trap because of known wolf predation on livestock, dogs, or game?

Yes       No → skip to Question 5

	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	339 (66.0%)	175 (34.0%)

No Response = 11

3. What type of depredation was it? **(Check all that apply)**

Depredation type	Livestock	Deer/elk	Hunting hounds/dogs	Pets
<b>Total</b>	197 (18.4%)	611 (57.1%)	216 (20.2%)	47 (4.4%)

4. How important in your decision to hunt or trap an area was the known wolf depredation?

	Primary (only) reason	Very important	Somewhat	Neither	Not too important	Not at all
<b>Total</b>	91 (27.3%)	150 (44.9%)	64 (19.2%)	18 (5.4%)	7 (2.1%)	4 (1.2%)

No Response = 5

5. Did you hunt or trap in an area at the request of a landowner?

	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	171 (33.3%)	343 (66.7%)

No Response = 11

6. Which, if any, of the following harvest techniques did you use? **(Check all that apply)**

	Predator calling/howling	Stalking /tracking	Trapping /cable	Aid of dogs	Incidental	Stand hunting	Bait /scent	Other
<b>Total</b>	284 (31.3%)	76 (8.4%)	246 (27.1%)	56 (6.2%)	61 (6.72%)	138 (15.2%)	47 (5.2%)	0 (0.0%)



12. Thinking about the number of other hunters and/or trappers you may have seen during your hunting and/or trapping days, how crowded did you feel during your 2013-14 wolf season? **(Circle one number)**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Not at all crowded		Slightly crowded		Unsure		Moderately crowded		Extremely crowded
<b>Total</b>	262 (50.5%)	63 (12.1%)	76 (14.6%)	13 (2.5%)	26 (5.0%)	11 (2.1%)	43 (8.3%)	8 (1.5%)	17 (3.3%)

No Response = 4

13. Other **wolf hunters or trappers** may have affected your wolf season. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2013-14 wolf season.

Response	Not at all	A little	Some	A great deal
How much, if at all, did other wolf hunters and/or trappers keep you from pursuing wolves where you wanted?	339 (65.6%)	74 (14.3%)	73 (14.1%)	31 (6.0%)
How much competition from other wolf hunters and/or trappers did you experience?	274 (53.1%)	126 (24.4%)	86 (16.7%)	30 (5.8%)
Overall, how much did other wolf hunters and/or trappers interfere with your chance to harvest a wolf?	312 (60.3%)	102 (19.7%)	65 (12.6%)	38 (7.4%)

14. While you were afield this fall, did the presence of other hunters interfere with your wolf hunting/trapping?

Yes       No → Go to Question 15

	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	128 (24.8%)	388 (75.2%)

No Response = 9

If **YES**, what were the other hunters hunting? **(Check all that apply)**

Archery Deer       Small Game       Turkeys  
 Gun Deer       Unknown

	Archery deer	Gun deer	Small game	Unknown	Turkeys
<b>Total</b>	207 (41.9%)	50 (10.1%)	179 (36.2%)	33 (6.7%)	25 (5.1%)

No Response = 146

15. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2013-14 wolf harvest season?

	Very high	Fairly high	Neither high nor low	Fairly low	Very low
<b>Total</b>	66 (12.9%)	95 (18.6%)	202 (39.5%)	81 (15.9%)	67 (13.1%)

No Response = 14

16. Did you hire a guide to assist you with your wolf trapping or hunting?

- Yes       No → skip to Section 5, Question 1

	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	7 (1.4%)	509 (98.6%)

No Response = 9

17. What percentage of your total wolf hunting/trapping days was done with a guide? \_\_\_\_\_ %

N Obs	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
7	68.6	0.00	100.00	17.0	27.06	110.08

18. On what date did you start your wolf hunting/trapping? \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Mean Starting Date for hunting/trapping was: **23 October 2013**

19. What was your motivation for starting hunting/trapping on the date you did?  
(Check all that apply)

	Frequency	Percent
It was the first day of the season	167	15.7
I wanted to start as soon as possible to ensure my best chance at a wolf	233	21.9
I wanted to wait until the wolves' fur was more prime	58	5.4
I wanted to start as soon as I could to ensure I got to hunt/trap before the wolf zone closed	247	23.2
I noticed that my preferred wolf zone was getting close to its quota and I wanted to ensure I got a chance to pursue wolves in it before it closed	76	7.1
It was my first period of free time that I could pursue wolves	211	19.8
I wanted to wait until the start of the dog use period	27	2.5
I wanted to wait until the start of the cable restraint period	2	0.2
I wanted fresh snow cover to make it easier to locate a wolf	41	3.9
Other	4	0.4

## Section 5: Wolf Harvest Registration

1. Did you register a wolf during the 2013-14 wolf season

- Yes       No → skip to Question 6, Question 1

	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	100 (19.1%)	424 (80.9%)

No response = 1

2. What did do you do with the hide? **(Check one)**

	<b>Sold</b>	<b>Taxidermy</b>	<b>Tanned &amp; kept</b>	<b>Tanned &amp; sold</b>	<b>Something else</b>
<b>Total</b>	2 (2.1%)	45 (46.4%)	45 (46.4%)	2 (2.1%)	3 (3.1%)

No Response = 3

3. How would you describe the fur condition of the wolf? **(Check all that apply)**

	<b>Thick fur</b>	<b>Thin fur</b>	<b>Fully furred</b>	<b>Areas of mangle</b>	<b>Poorly furred</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Total</b>	35 (31.5%)	26 (23.4%)	35 (31.5%)	7 (6.3%)	4 (3.6%)	4 (3.6%)

Frequency Missing = 489

4. How easy or difficult was it to use the DNR's wolf harvest reporting system?  
**(Circle one number)**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
	Very easy	Fairly easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Fairly difficult	Very difficult				
<b>Total</b>	41 (41.8%)	11 (11.2%)	30 (30.6%)	1 (1.0%)	7 (7.1%)	1 (1.0%)	5 (5.1%)	1 (1.0%)	1 (1.0%)

No response = 2

## Section 6: Background Questions

These last few questions will help us compare your answers to those of other wolf hunters and trappers.

1. Do you think you will apply for another wolf license in 2014-15?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
<b>Total</b>	633 (74.0%)	75 (8.8%)	148 (17.3%)

No response = 25

2. What are some of the reasons you are unlikely to apply for another wolf license?  
**(Check all that apply)**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Too costly</b>	<b>Not enough time</b>	<b>Not satisfied</b>	<b>Not enough sign</b>	<b>Harvested a wolf</b>	<b>Not a hunter trapper</b>	<b>Another reason</b>
Authorized / no License	40 (17.0%)	146 (61.7%)	20 (8.5%)	19 (8.1%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	11 (4.7%)
Licensed resident	113 (18.0%)	262 (41.7%)	164 (26.1%)	51 (8.1%)	9 (1.4%)	0 (0.0%)	30 (4.8%)
Licensed Non-resident	7 (58.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (8.3%)
<b>Total</b>	160 (18.2%)	408 (46.5%)	184 (21.0%)	74 (8.4%)	9 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)	42 (4.8%)

### Opinions about Wolf management objectives

3. As with all wildlife species, the WDNR is charged with balancing the perspectives of many differing groups of people, along with the long term sustainability of the species. In thinking about this challenge, to what extent should the following objectives be given priority in wolf management? (Check one response for each objective)

Potential management objective	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority	Not at all a priority
Remove wolves from areas where they are attacking domestic livestock	618 (73.1%)	178 (21.1%)	38 (4.5%)	11 (1.3%)
Create refuge areas to protect wolves from removal or harvest	13 (1.5%)	42 (5.0%)	202 (24.0%)	586 (69.5%)
Remove wolves from public lands where they are attacking hunting dogs	372 (44.1%)	226 (26.8%)	151 (17.9%)	95 (11.3%)
Promote the widest possible distribution of wolves in the state	56 (6.7%)	96 (11.4%)	200 (23.8%)	488 (58.1%)
Promote the diverse plant and animal communities that include wolves	63 (7.6%)	136 (16.4)	291 (35.2%)	337 (40.7%)
Maintain enough wolves to allow for a yearly public hunting and trapping season	212 (25.1%)	193 (22.8%)	192 (22.7%)	248 (29.4%)
Promote public opportunities to see and hear wolves (e.g., eco-tourism)	43 (5.1%)	77 (9.1%)	219 (25.9%)	505 (59.8%)
Reduce wolves in areas to address deer hunter concerns about predation on deer	613 (72.2%)	148 (17.4%)	66 (7.8%)	22 (2.6%)
Remove wolves that show aggression toward people	741 (87.7%)	64 (7.6%)	24 (2.8%)	16 (1.9%)
Leave wolves alone to allow them to regulate their own population	14 (1.7%)	14 (1.7%)	105 (12.6%)	703 (84.1%)
Increase law enforcement efforts to reduce the illegal shooting of wolves in the state	70 (8.3%)	122 (14.5%)	227 (26.9%)	425 (50.4%)
Reduce wolves where predation is slowing the growth of the state's reintroduced elk herd	594 (70.2%)	147 (17.4%)	63 (7.4%)	42 (5.0%)

4. People have different opinions about wolves. Circle the number on each row that best represents your opinion about wolves. **(Circle one number for each pair of opposite words)**

#### Wolves are... frequency (percent)

	Extremely	Moderately	Slightly	Neither	Slightly	Moderately	Extremely	
Harmful	329 (39.1%)	227 (27.0%)	96 (11.4%)	72 (8.6%)	55 (6.5%)	44 (5.2%)	19 (2.3%)	Beneficial
Bad	277 (32.8%)	165 (19.5%)	105 (12.4%)	196 (23.2%)	38 (4.5%)	39 (4.6%)	24 (2.8%)	Good
Unlikeable	255 (30.3%)	128 (15.2%)	95 (11.34%)	207 (24.6%)	74 (8.8%)	58 (6.9%)	24 (2.9%)	Likeable
Threatening	269 (31.8%)	208 (24.6%)	154 (18.2%)	111 (13.1%)	43 (5.1%)	45 (5.3%)	15 (1.8%)	Non-threatening
Worthless	227 (26.9%)	105 (12.4%)	85 (10.1%)	190 (22.5%)	100 (11.8%)	87 (10.3%)	50 (5.9%)	Valuable
Pests	254 (30.1%)	126 (14.9%)	73 (8.7%)	124 (14.7%)	73 (8.7%)	98 (11.6%)	95 (11.3%)	Trophy animal

5. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree to the following statements.  
**(Check one for each row)**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Does not apply
a) I worry about <u>my personal safety</u> when I go outdoors in areas where <b>wolves</b> live.	156 (18.3%)	269 (31.6%)	160 (18.8%)	148 (17.4%)	104 (12.2%)	14 (1.6%)
b) I worry about the <u>safety of my pets</u> when they go outdoors in areas where <b>wolves</b> live.	381 (44.8%)	282 (33.1%)	72 (8.5%)	43 (5.1%)	21 (2.5%)	52 (6.1%)
c) I worry about the <u>safety of children playing outside</u> in areas where <b>wolves</b> live	340 (39.9%)	310 (36.3%)	82 (9.6%)	62 (7.3%)	37 (4.3%)	22 (2.6%)
d) I worry about <u>my personal safety</u> when I go outdoors in areas where <b>bears</b> live.	39 (4.6%)	166 (19.5%)	224 (26.3%)	241 (28.3%)	158 (18.5%)	24 (2.8%)
e) I worry about the <u>safety of my pets</u> when they go outdoors in areas where <b>bears</b> live.	52 (6.1%)	176 (20.7%)	210 (24.7%)	234 (27.5%)	118 (13.9%)	62 (7.3%)
f) I worry about the <u>safety of children playing outside</u> in areas where <b>bears</b> live	85 (10.0%)	269 (31.6%)	176 (20.7%)	184 (21.6%)	106 (12.5%)	30 (3.5%)
g) I worry about <u>my personal safety</u> when I go outdoors in areas where <b>coyotes</b> live.	14 (1.6%)	42 (4.9%)	120 (14.1%)	268 (31.5%)	365 (42.9%)	42 (4.9%)
h) I worry about the <u>safety of my pets</u> when they go outdoors in areas where <b>coyotes</b> live.	65 (7.6%)	212 (24.9%)	120 (14.1%)	178 (20.9%)	208 (24.4%)	70 (8.2%)
i) I worry about the <u>safety of children playing outside</u> in areas where <b>coyotes</b> live.	44 (5.2%)	161 (18.9%)	150 (17.6%)	226 (26.5%)	225 (26.4%)	46 (5.4%)

6. The following statements pertain to the current permitting system, season dates and zone structure. For each statement please choose your best response.  
**(Select one response for each statement)**

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Neither support nor oppose	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose
Have smaller wolf zones where depredation problems on livestock and pets are high, to concentrate wolf harvest	182 (21.6%)	283 (33.6%)	239 (28.4%)	69 (8.2%)	70 (8.3%)
Give authority to the WDNR secretary to establish subzones in reaction to depredation problems and to concentrate wolf harvest in areas of low harvest	148 (17.7%)	322 (38.5%)	248 (29.7%)	55 (6.6%)	63 (7.5%)
Issue fewer wolf permits to achieve the harvest quota in an effort to have a longer season. (Note: fewer people would be allowed to participate in the wolf season)	66 (7.8%)	111 (13.2%)	138 (16.4%)	169 (20.0%)	359 (42.6%)
Issue more wolf permits to achieve the harvest quota and allow more opportunity to pursue a wolf. (Note: the quota would likely be achieved sooner resulting in a shorter season)	164 (19.3%)	151 (17.8%)	219 (25.8%)	178 (21.0%)	136 (16.0%)
Have early and late hunting/trapping periods to ensure that the wolf season would still occur later in the calendar year (harvest quota would not increase but be equally divided between the periods)	272 (32.1%)	247 (29.2%)	217 (25.6%)	53 (6.3%)	58 (6.8%)
Use certified citizen trappers for wolf depredation reduction outside of hunting and trapping seasons in <b>proactive control areas</b> (this could reduce hunter/trapper permits)	104 (12.3%)	151 (17.9%)	210 (24.9%)	140 (16.6%)	239 (28.3%)
Use certified citizen trappers for wolves directly on farms that have depredation; this would occur outside of the hunting/trapping season (used as an alternative to U.S. Dept. of Ag trappers )	248 (29.3%)	255 (30.1%)	166 (19.6%)	64 (7.6%)	113 (13.4%)
Issue unlimited "over-the-counter" permits in an area of the state where wolf habitat is limited and wolf conflicts are likely high.	319 (37.8%)	220 (26.0%)	150 (17.8%)	61 (7.2%)	95 (11.2%)
Allow wolves to become more established with a higher population level in what is now Zone 6 (see map)	39 (4.6%)	40 (4.8%)	144 (17.1%)	122 (14.5%)	497 (59.0%)

7. You are?

Male = **94.7%** Female = **5.3%**

8. What is your age? I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

License type	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
Authorized / no license purchased	179	46.69	19	75	1.07	44.57	48.80
Licensed resident	666	49.16	18	83	0.52	48.14	50.17
License non-resident	5	59.20	26	86	9.76	32.09	86.31

9. Are you a Wisconsin resident?

- Yes       No → skip to Question 7

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	Yes	No
<b>Total</b>	842 (98.7%)	11 (1.3%)

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No response = 28

10. In which Wisconsin county is your primary residence? *Available upon request*

11. Please use the space below to describe how future wolf harvest seasons could be improved, or to comment on any other aspects of the wolf harvest season.

- There were 605 comments left by wolf hunter/trappers. Summary was too long for this report.