

Spring Turkey Hunting Questionnaire 2015

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Abstract

Overall, 42.5% of respondents rated the quality of their spring turkey hunting as “Very High” or “Fairly High”. Eighty-six (86.1) percent of all spring turkey hunters that received at least one harvest permit hunted turkeys during the 2015 spring turkey season. The overall success rate for active hunters was 37.0%. A youth turkey hunt was held in the spring of 2015; 14.8% of survey respondents participated (as youth or as a chaperone), 30.1% reported a turkey being harvested. The mean number of Gobblers/Jakes seen by hunters was 4.1 compared to a mean number of hens of 6.6. Statewide, the overall satisfaction level with the spring turkey hunt was 7.0 on a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best).

Methods

A sample of hunter names and addresses were randomly drawn from the current spring turkey hunter permit file. A survey was mailed to ≈10,000 spring turkey hunters after the completion of the spring turkey season. The questionnaire was mailed in proportion to the number of permits distributed in each zone. The questionnaire asked each hunter specific questions about their spring turkey hunting experience (Figure 1). A second mailing was made to 5,000 of the non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) were combined in the fall of 2008, with the number of TMZ's going from 46 down to 7. Zones were expanded in an effort to increase hunting opportunities for Wisconsin's turkey hunters. Time periods were extended from 5-day to 7-day in 2012.

Results

A total of 4,049 spring turkey hunter surveys were returned. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 40%. The proportion of respondents who applied with landowner preference for this spring's turkey hunt permit was 18.4% (Table 1, Question 1). Statewide, 27.8% of the respondents have 0-5 years of spring turkey hunting experience and 30.0% have 16+ years of experience (Table 1, Question 2).

Most spring turkey hunters “Strongly Agree” (29.7%) or “Agree” (50.9%) that the current permit allocation process affords them a fair chance at receiving a permit for the zone and time period in which they prefer to hunt (Table 1, Question 3a). Sixty-seven percent (67.4%) of hunters also “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” that having separate, 6-week time periods is important to maintain a quality hunt (Table 1, Question 3b). Hunters prefer the current spring season format (53.7%) (Table 1, Question 3c). Only 9.6% of spring turkey hunters “Disagree” or “Strongly Disagree” that the current 7-zone system allows them sufficient opportunity to hunt different locations (Table 1, Question 3d). Spring turkey hunters were asked if they are satisfied with the current season framework. Sixty-seven (66.8%) “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” (Table 1, Question 3e).

Statewide, 14.8% of survey respondents participated in the youth turkey hunt as a youth or chaperone; of those, 30.1% reported a turkey being harvested (Table 1, Question 4). All

surveyed hunters were asked who introduced them to turkey hunting, 39.7% introduced themselves, while 28.9% were introduced by a friend (Table 1, Question 5).

Statewide, 86.1% of the respondents hunted turkeys this spring. Of those who did not hunt, 53.0% bought a 2015 wild turkey stamp (Table 1, Question 6). The success rate for active hunters who received a harvest permit was 37.0%. This success rate may be high because of response and prestige biases of a mail survey. The spring turkey harvest registration data success rate (19.7%) is uncorrected for nonhunters and is probably a low estimate.

Surveyed hunters were asked how difficult it was to find a place to hunt in the spring of 2015, and 89.1% of the respondents said it was "Very Easy" or "Somewhat Easy" (Table 1, Question 7). Spring turkey hunters were also asked to report the days on which they hunted. Hunting pressure was relatively constant Wednesday through Sunday, with the most pressure on Saturday. The new additional days, Monday and Tuesday, had the least hunting pressure (Table 1, Question 8). Hunters averaged 3.7 days a field pursuing turkeys.

Statewide, the mean # of Gobblers/Jakes seen by hunters was 4.1; the mean # of Gobblers/Jakes heard by hunters was 5.1; the mean # of Hens seen was 6.6, and the mean # of Hens heard was 4.6 (Table 1, Question 9). Sixty-three percent (62.9%) of respondents that had a shot at a turkey did not shoot at the first turkey which presented an opportunity; 69.5% reported waiting for a better shot, or for an adult gobbler (Table 1, Question 10).

Of the respondents that harvested a turkey, 29.3% with one tag harvested one turkey; 34.4% with two tags harvested one turkey, and 9.7% harvested two turkeys; 31.4% with three or more tags harvested one turkey, 16.3% harvested two turkeys, and 12.4% harvested three or more turkeys. Surveyed hunters were asked if they hit any turkeys that they were unable to retrieve; 5.1% were unable to find their bird, 98 hunters reported hitting one turkey, and 6 hunters reported hitting 2 or more turkeys (Table 1, Question 12). Ninety-four percent (94.1%) of turkey hunters used a gun "most" while hunting, while a gun was used 95.6% of the time to kill a turkey (Table 1, Question 13).

The percent of time turkey hunters spent on private land varied by TMZ from 51.8% in TMZ 7 to 88.9% in TMZ 1 (Table 1, Question 14). Of the hunters on private land, 29.1% owned the land and 62.9% hunted land owned by a friend or relative. Only 1.0% of hunters on private land hunted land open via the Turkey Hunter Access Program (THAP) (Table 1, Question 14b). Sixty-nine percent (69.7%) of those that hunted land open to public access saw turkeys and 21.6% harvested a turkey on land open to public access (Table 1, Question 14c).

Eighteen percent (17.9%) of hunters responded to "Other hunters kept me from hunting where I wanted to" with "Definitely Yes", or "Somewhat". Fourteen percent (14.0%) of respondents answered "There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted" with "Definitely Yes", or "Somewhat". Only 11.0% of the respondents indicated that other hunters interfered with their chance to bag a bird (Table 1, Question 15).

Overall, 42.5% of respondents rated the quality of their spring turkey hunting as "Very High" or "Fairly High", while 22.2% rated their hunt as "Fairly Low" or "Very Low" (Table 1, Question 16). The most important factor that influenced respondents' perceptions of a quality hunt was "seeing turkeys/calling birds in/hearing gobbling". The least important factors were "killing a turkey (Tom, Jake or bearded hen)" and "Weather" (Table 1, Question 17).

Only fourteen percent (14.3%) of respondents felt that turkey numbers in the zones they hunted in the spring increased relative to the year before (Table 1, Question 18). Most hunters (76.5%) would like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) they hunted stay the same as opposed to increase or decrease (Table 1, Question 19).

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with spring turkey hunting in Wisconsin on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst; statewide, hunters ranked their overall satisfaction level at 7.0 (Table 1, Question 20).

Hunters were asked to rank four factors and the influence each factor has on how quickly a turkey population would recover following a period of decline. In general, hunters felt that reducing spring or fall permit levels was “Neither Important or Unimportant” or “Somewhat Important” on turkey population recovery. However, 89.0% of hunters felt “A dry spring that allows high production of young” was “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important”. Similarly, 92.6% of hunters felt “A mild winter that allows high survival of all turkeys” was “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important” (Table 1, Question 21).

Table 1. Responses to the 2015 Spring Turkey Hunting Questionnaire.

1. Did you apply with landowner preference for this spring's turkey hunt permit? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone2	Zone3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	17.3	15.8	18.6	21.3	23.8	25.0	11.3	18.4
No	82.7	84.2	81.4	78.7	76.2	75.0	88.8	81.6

2. How many years of spring turkey hunting experience do you have? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
0-5	21.7	37.0	26.0	23.9	30.1	43.4	49.4	27.8
6-10	17.8	22.9	25.5	23.3	23.9	30.2	25.9	22.4
11-15	17.7	17.7	22.4	23.9	22.5	13.2	11.1	19.8
16+	42.8	22.4	26.1	28.8	23.4	13.2	13.6	30.0

Wisconsin's current turkey hunting season framework is intended to provide a quality turkey experience. Separate zones and time periods serve to limit hunter interference, produce a safe hunt, enhance hunter access to private lands, and maintain reasonable hunter success. Please answer questions 3a-3e about the current turkey permitting system.

3a. I feel that the current permit allocation process affords me a fair chance at receiving a permit for the zone and time period in which I prefer to hunt. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Strongly Agree	33.3	24.2	32.1	31.4	21.8	21.7	22.5	29.7
Agree	50.7	49.1	50.0	51.4	60.2	48.1	57.5	50.9
Neutral	9.6	15.8	11.1	11.7	12.6	17.0	16.3	12.1
Disagree	4.3	7.8	5.3	4.3	2.9	10.4	3.8	5.3
Strongly Disagree	2.1	3.1	1.5	1.2	2.4	2.8	0.0	2.0

3b. I feel that having separate, 6-week time periods is important in maintaining a quality spring turkey hunting experience. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Strongly Agree	30.6	25.0	29.0	26.9	22.9	22.6	16.3	27.6
Agree	38.0	40.4	38.3	44.0	42.4	34.9	41.3	39.8
Neutral	16.5	21.1	18.5	16.4	20.5	24.5	30.0	18.6
Disagree	10.1	9.5	10.4	9.6	8.3	15.1	11.3	10.0
Strongly Disagree	4.8	4.0	3.9	3.2	5.9	2.8	1.3	4.1

3c. Of the following spring season formats, I would most prefer (choose ONE option only).
(Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
The current six, 1-week time periods	54.1	54.0	52.9	57.7	48.8	48.1	42.5	53.7
Four 1-week time periods, followed by one 2-week time period	10.8	10.1	11.6	12.1	10.5	11.3	13.8	11.1
A single, continuous, 42-day season	35.1	35.9	35.5	30.3	40.7	40.6	43.8	35.2

3d. I feel the current 7-zone system affords me sufficient opportunity to hunt different locations.
(Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Strongly Agree	24.4	19.0	23.7	23.8	18.8	10.4	16.3	22.2
Agree	42.1	44.4	44.8	49.5	44.0	53.8	48.8	45.0
Neutral	23.7	25.7	22.3	19.4	26.1	19.8	27.5	23.2
Disagree	7.1	8.6	6.6	6.5	8.7	13.2	6.3	7.4
Strongly Disagree	2.8	2.2	2.6	0.8	2.4	2.8	1.3	2.2

3e. In general, I am satisfied with the current season framework. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Strongly Agree	24.5	18.1	22.6	22.5	18.2	14.2	9.9	21.5
Agree	42.5	46.1	45.5	48.8	41.6	48.1	51.9	45.3
Neutral	18.2	19.1	18.9	18.5	24.4	19.8	27.2	19.1
Disagree	11.1	13.8	10.3	8.5	11.5	14.2	9.9	11.1
Strongly Disagree	3.7	2.8	2.7	1.9	4.3	3.8	1.2	3.0

4. Did you or a youth you chaperoned participate in the Youth Turkey Hunt April 11th and 12th?
(Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	15.3	17.0	13.5	14.9	13.9	9.6	7.4	14.8
No	84.8	83.0	86.6	85.1	86.1	90.4	92.6	85.3

▪ If yes, was a turkey harvested during the Youth Turkey Hunt? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	29.4	32.5	29.7	27.1	38.2	27.3	22.2	30.1
No	70.6	67.6	70.3	72.9	61.8	72.7	77.8	69.9

5. Who introduced you to turkey hunting? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Parent	20.1	22.4	18.0	19.1	14.4	9.6	18.5	19.3
Friend	29.2	25.3	29.5	32.4	27.8	28.9	28.4	28.9
Sibling	4.4	5.3	3.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	8.6	4.9
Self	39.6	40.5	40.1	36.7	46.4	41.4	34.6	39.7
Other	6.7	6.6	8.7	6.0	5.7	14.4	9.9	7.3

Other people mentioned were: Spouse, Uncle, Children, In-law, Cousin, Grandparent

6. Did you hunt turkeys this spring? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	88.9	85.6	86.7	85.7	84.2	70.8	70.4	86.1
No	11.1	14.4	13.3	14.3	15.8	29.3	29.6	13.9

▪ If no, did you buy a 2015 wild turkey stamp? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	55.1	47.6	61.8	45.7	60.0	55.6	38.1	53.0
No	45.0	52.4	38.2	54.3	40.0	44.4	61.9	47.0

7. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt in the spring of 2015? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very Easy	60.3	46.9	59.8	53.0	57.0	57.3	46.4	55.8
Somewhat Easy	30.1	39.7	30.7	35.0	30.2	30.7	48.2	33.3
Somewhat Difficult	8.6	11.9	8.5	10.0	11.6	12.0	5.4	9.6
Very Difficult	1.1	1.6	1.0	2.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.3

8. Please check all the days that you hunted for turkeys this spring. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Wednesday	16.2	17.3	15.4	15.8	16.3	18.3	12.0	16.1
Thursday	16.0	16.0	15.6	15.2	17.0	16.5	15.1	15.8
Friday	19.7	16.5	18.7	17.3	18.8	16.9	19.3	18.3
Saturday	22.0	19.3	21.3	21.1	20.8	19.7	21.9	21.1
Sunday	16.2	15.2	15.5	16.4	17.3	14.7	18.2	15.9
Monday	5.2	8.6	7.7	7.5	6.4	7.2	6.8	7.0
Tuesday	4.8	7.1	5.7	6.8	3.5	6.8	6.8	5.8

Mean Days Spent Hunting

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Days	3.7	3.5	3.7	4.2	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.7

9. Please fill in the **number** of turkeys you saw or heard while actively hunting. (Mean)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Gobblers/Jakes heard	6.0	5.0	4.1	4.7	5.6	3.4	4.9	5.1
Gobblers/Jakes seen	4.5	4.6	3.5	3.6	4.1	2.2	2.9	4.1
Hens Heard	4.9	5.3	3.6	4.2	5.3	2.1	4.7	4.6
Hens Seen	6.6	8.0	6.2	5.7	7.1	3.4	6.1	6.6

10. Did you shoot at the first legal turkey which presented an opportunity? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	37.0	35.9	37.0	39.9	36.3	39.3	28.6	37.1
No	63.0	64.1	63.0	60.1	63.7	60.7	71.4	62.9

▪ If no, please tell us which of the following was the reason. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Waiting for a better shot	34.0	33.6	31.0	33.2	35.9	30.8	38.7	33.2
Waiting for an adult gobbler	38.3	40.7	34.3	35.9	25.0	25.6	22.6	36.3
Waiting for a larger bird	6.7	8.8	7.6	7.5	6.5	7.7	6.5	7.5
Wanted to hunt longer	3.3	3.7	4.2	2.7	5.4	5.1	9.7	3.7
Other	17.8	13.2	22.9	20.7	27.2	30.8	22.6	19.3

11. Did you harvest a turkey? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	37.0	38.7	35.2	38.6	39.3	29.3	28.1	37.0
No	63.0	61.3	64.8	61.5	60.7	70.7	71.9	63.0

- How many turkeys did you harvest this spring? (Percent)

Zone 1					Zone 2				
Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds	Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds
1	71.6	28.3			1	69.6	30.4		
2	58.8	32.8	8.5		2	39.6	43.4	17.0	
>2	33.0	36.6	13.4	17.0	>2	33.3	29.6	29.6	7.4
Zone 3					Zone 4				
Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds	Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds
1	69.3	30.7			1	71.2	28.8		
2	62.7	29.9	7.5		2	56.6	36.8	6.6	
>2	44.1	33.8	16.2	5.9	>2	46.5	24.8	15.5	13.2
Zone 5					Zone 6				
Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds	Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds
1	72.0	28.0			1	75.4	24.6		
2	56.3	31.3	12.5		2	83.3	16.7	0.0	
>2	17.6	47.1	23.5	11.8	>2	62.5	25.0	12.5	
Zone 7					Statewide				
Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds	Tags	No Birds	1 Bird	2 Birds	3/+ Birds
1	75.5	22.6			1	70.7	29.3		
2	100.0	0.0	0.0		2	55.9	34.4	9.7	
>2	50.0	0.0	50.0		>2	39.9	31.4	16.3	12.4

- 11b. What type of weapon did you use to harvest a turkey this spring? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Gun	97.1	95.0	94.5	95.7	94.1	90.9	92.9	95.6
Bow	2.4	2.3	3.5	3.3	5.9	9.1	0.0	3.1
Crossbow	0.5	2.7	2.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	1.4

12. Did you hit a turkey you were unable to retrieve? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	4.4	7.9	3.7	6.2	4.1	1.3	1.9	5.1
No	95.6	92.1	96.3	93.8	95.9	98.7	98.2	94.9

- If yes, how many? (Frequency)

Number of Turkeys	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
1	27	32	16	20	3	0	0	98
2	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	6

13. What type of weapon did you use **most** while hunting turkeys this spring? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Gun	95.2	92.0	93.2	95.5	94.2	94.7	94.6	94.1
Bow	3.6	5.2	4.6	3.1	5.3	4.0	0.0	4.1
Crossbow	1.2	2.8	2.2	1.5	0.6	1.3	5.4	1.8

14. What percentage of your time hunting did you spend on private vs. public land: (Mean Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Private Land	88.9	87.4	85.4	86.1	75.0	62.8	51.8	85.5
Public Land	10.7	12.6	14.1	13.1	24.1	31.9	46.8	14.0

15. If you hunted private land how did you obtain access (Check only ONE): (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
I own the land	25.9	23.5	34.9	26.4	45.9	43.5	36.7	29.1
I hunted land owned by a friend or relative	66.7	67.8	58.2	62.6	48.4	47.8	56.7	62.9
I hunted land owned by a landowner I didn't know	5.6	5.1	3.7	5.9	4.1	4.4	3.3	4.9
I hunted unposted private land	0.6	1.3	1.4	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
I hunted private land open to hunting via a public access program	1.3	2.3	1.8	3.1	1.6	4.4	3.3	2.0

15a. If you hunted on private land open to public access, which program was the land enrolled in? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Open Managed Forest Law (MFL)	21.9	15.2	23.5	38.0	23.5	40.0	75.0	25.4
Voluntary Public Access (VPA)	10.5	9.8	8.2	10.1	5.9	10.0	0.0	9.4
Turkey Hunter Access Program (THAP)	0.9	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Uncertain	66.7	71.7	68.2	51.9	70.6	50.0	25.0	64.2

15b. While hunting on private land open to public access, did you: (Percent)

See turkeys?	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	72.0	79.8	62.8	67.8	68.2	36.4	66.7	69.7
No	28.0	20.2	37.3	32.2	31.8	63.6	33.3	30.3

Harvest a turkey?	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	26.2	22.6	18.3	18.0	30.0	0.0	18.2	21.6
No	73.9	77.4	81.7	82.0	70.0	100.0	81.8	78.4

16. Other hunters may have affected your turkey hunt. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2015 spring hunt. (Percent)

- Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Definitely Yes	5.3	6.7	6.4	7.2	5.4	2.7	8.8	6.2
Somewhat	9.7	14.0	11.5	13.2	10.8	12.0	12.3	11.7
Not Much	19.0	16.5	16.5	19.6	18.0	18.7	10.5	17.8
No, Not At All	66.1	62.9	65.6	60.0	65.9	66.7	68.4	64.4

- There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Definitely Yes	2.2	3.5	3.1	4.3	1.9	2.7	5.5	3.1
Somewhat	9.3	12.2	12.0	12.6	9.9	2.7	5.5	10.9
Not Much	22.0	24.0	20.8	25.5	25.9	22.7	16.4	22.8
No, Not At All	66.5	60.4	64.2	57.7	62.4	72.0	72.7	63.3

- Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Definitely Yes	2.9	3.9	2.8	4.1	3.1	2.7	1.8	3.2
Somewhat	6.7	8.3	8.8	9.4	5.6	1.3	7.3	7.8
Not Much	15.6	16.7	16.8	17.0	22.2	20.0	10.9	16.7
No, Not At All	74.9	71.2	71.6	69.5	69.1	76.0	80.0	72.3

17. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your spring 2015 Wisconsin wild turkey hunt this year? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very High	21.0	21.3	17.6	16.6	19.3	16.2	14.0	19.2
Fairly High	24.4	27.2	21.6	20.5	19.9	18.9	26.3	23.3
Average	32.3	36.1	37.7	35.3	38.0	33.8	40.4	35.3
Fairly Low	16.6	12.1	16.4	19.4	12.3	24.3	8.8	15.9
Very Low	5.9	3.4	6.7	8.2	10.5	6.8	10.5	6.3

18. Rate the factors that most influence your perception of a quality spring turkey hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience. (Mean)

Factor	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
An opportunity to kill a turkey	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.1
Seeing turkeys/calling birds in/hearing gobbling	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.4
Killing a turkey (Tom, Jake or bearded hen)	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.1
Killing a mature Tom	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.2	3.7	3.8
Weather	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.1
Not seeing other hunters	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.1	3.6	3.9
Spending time with friends and family	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.3	3.2

19. Do you feel that the turkey numbers have changed from last year in the zones(s) you hunted this spring? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Increased	16.2	16.6	12.8	11.5	10.8	9.2	16.7	14.3
Stay the same	44.2	45.9	40.8	34.6	40.9	26.3	29.6	41.4
Decreased	36.8	34.3	42.5	51.8	44.3	61.8	50.0	41.2
Did not hunt same zone	2.8	3.3	3.9	2.0	4.0	2.6	3.7	3.1

20. Would you like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) you hunted changed? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Increased	13.3	24.7	11.3	8.2	16.3	10.9	10.4	14.4
Stay the same	78.2	70.5	79.0	76.2	75.3	78.1	85.4	76.5
Decreased	8.5	4.9	9.7	15.6	8.4	10.9	4.2	9.2

21. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with spring turkey hunting in Wisconsin. (Mean)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Rating	7.1	7.2	7.1	6.7	7.0	6.5	6.4	7.0

22. Rank the factors below, regarding the influence each has on how quickly a turkey population will recover following a period of decline. Please check one for each factor.

Reducing spring permit levels	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very Important	9.6	10.9	12.5	11.8	8.5	8.7	9.6	10.9
Somewhat Important	30.9	33.5	33.5	35.4	30.3	29.0	36.5	32.8
Neither Important or Unimportant	36.6	35.6	34.6	35.6	45.5	34.8	42.3	36.2
Somewhat Unimportant	14.7	14.6	13.0	12.2	10.3	13.0	7.7	13.5
Very Unimportant	8.2	5.4	6.4	5.1	5.5	14.5	3.9	6.6

Reducing fall permit levels	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very Important	9.3	12.2	12.4	12.0	11.5	17.4	15.1	11.4
Somewhat Important	28.0	26.6	26.5	28.2	26.7	27.5	18.9	27.2
Neither Important or Unimportant	36.1	37.9	36.5	36.5	39.4	27.5	45.3	36.7
Somewhat Unimportant	15.2	16.7	15.7	14.8	14.6	13.0	11.3	15.4
Very Unimportant	11.5	6.6	9.0	8.6	7.9	14.5	9.4	9.3

A dry spring that allows high production of young	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very Important	60.2	54.9	56.1	64.1	57.3	58.8	76.9	58.8
Somewhat Important	29.2	31.9	31.3	28.5	29.9	33.8	21.2	30.2
Neither Important or Unimportant	8.1	9.5	9.2	5.2	7.9	5.9	0.0	8.0
Somewhat Unimportant	1.2	2.4	2.3	1.3	3.1	1.5	1.9	1.8
Very Unimportant	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.2

A mild winter that allows high survival of all turkeys	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very Important	68.7	63.4	69.3	78.7	69.7	75.4	90.6	69.9
Somewhat Important	24.5	26.8	22.3	17.0	24.2	15.9	7.6	22.7
Neither Important or Unimportant	4.5	6.9	6.0	2.6	3.6	7.3	0.0	5.0
Somewhat Unimportant	1.0	1.6	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.5	1.9	1.0
Very Unimportant	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.4

Dear Turkey Hunter:

We are surveying a random sample of Wisconsin wild turkey hunters to obtain needed information for managing Wisconsin's wild turkey population and setting permit levels. Please take a few minutes to complete the attached questionnaire. Completion of this questionnaire is **voluntary**. Your participation in this survey will provide us with critical information needed to regulate the harvest of wild turkeys and to provide Wisconsin hunters with a high quality hunt. Please complete this survey **even if you did not hunt or harvest a turkey this year**. Information on this form will remain confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

Return the survey in the enclosed envelope. Using your stamp will save the Department funds needed for management, even though no postage is required to return this questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Scott Walter

Scott Walter
Upland Wildlife Ecologist

This survey is available **online**, please go to:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/surveys.html>
Click on the link **Mail-selected surveys** tab,
and click on the link **Spring turkey hunting questionnaire**
Enter the following when prompted:
Password: turkey15

Filling out the questionnaire online will save the department dollars that can be used for management

<p>1. Did you apply with landowner preference for this spring's turkey hunt permit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>4. Did you or a youth you chaperoned participate in the Youth Turkey Hunt April 11th and 12th? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, was a turkey harvested during the Youth Turkey Hunt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>				
<p>2. How many years of spring turkey hunting experience do you have? (Check ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15 <input type="checkbox"/> 16+</p>	<p>5. Who introduced you to turkey hunting? <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Sibling <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Self</p>				
<p>Wisconsin's current turkey hunting season framework is intended to provide a quality turkey hunting experience. Separate zones and time periods serve to limit hunter interference, produce a safe hunt, enhance hunter access to private lands, and maintain reasonable hunter success. Please answer questions 3a-3e about the current turkey permitting system.</p> <p>3a. I feel that the current permit allocation process affords me a fair chance at receiving a permit for the zone and time period in which I prefer to hunt. <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>6. Did you hunt turkeys this spring? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, did you buy a 2015 wild turkey stamp? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>				
<p>3b. I feel that having separate, 6-week time periods is important in maintaining a quality spring turkey hunting experience. <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>IF YOU DID NOT HUNT, PLEASE STOP HERE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE.</p>				
<p>3c. Of the following spring season formats, I would most prefer (choose ONE option only): <input type="checkbox"/> The current six, 1-week time periods <input type="checkbox"/> Four 1-week time periods followed by one 2-week time period <input type="checkbox"/> A single, continuous, 42-day season</p>	<p>7. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt in the spring of 2015? <input type="checkbox"/> Very easy <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat easy <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Very difficult</p>				
<p>3d. I feel the current 7-zone system affords me sufficient opportunity to hunt different locations. <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>8. Please list the zone(s) and time period(s) and check all the days that you hunted for turkeys this spring. (If your tags were for one zone and time period, fill out one column only.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Permit #1: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> <p>Permit #2: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Permit #3: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p> </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>Permit #4: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Permit #1: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p>	<p>Permit #2: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p>	<p>Permit #3: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p>	<p>Permit #4: Zone: ____ Period: ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p>
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<p>3e. In general, I am satisfied with the current season framework. <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree</p>					

Figure 1. 2015 Spring Turkey Hunting Questionnaire.

<p>9. Please fill in the number of turkeys you saw or heard while actively hunting. (If your tags were for one zone and time period, fill out one column only.)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Permit #1:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Permit #2:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Permit #3:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Permit #4:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zone: _____ Period: _____</td> <td>Zone: _____ Period: _____</td> <td>Zone: _____ Period: _____</td> <td>Zone: _____ Period: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen</td> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen</td> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen</td> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard</td> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard</td> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard</td> <td>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____ Hens seen</td> <td>_____ Hens seen</td> <td>_____ Hens seen</td> <td>_____ Hens seen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____ Hens heard</td> <td>_____ Hens heard</td> <td>_____ Hens heard</td> <td>_____ Hens heard</td> </tr> </table>				Permit #1:	Permit #2:	Permit #3:	Permit #4:	Zone: _____ Period: _____	Zone: _____ Period: _____	Zone: _____ Period: _____	Zone: _____ Period: _____	_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen	_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen	_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen	_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen	_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard	_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard	_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard	_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard	_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens heard	_____ Hens heard	_____ Hens heard	_____ Hens heard
Permit #1:	Permit #2:	Permit #3:	Permit #4:																								
Zone: _____ Period: _____	Zone: _____ Period: _____	Zone: _____ Period: _____	Zone: _____ Period: _____																								
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_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens seen	_____ Hens seen																								
_____ Hens heard	_____ Hens heard	_____ Hens heard	_____ Hens heard																								
<p>10. Did you shoot at the first legal turkey which presented an opportunity? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, please tell us which of the following was the reason:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for a better shot</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for an adult gobbler (Did not want to shoot a jake)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for a larger bird</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to hunt longer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)</p>		<p>14. What percentage of your time hunting did you spend on private vs. public land: _____ % Private land _____ % Public land</p>																									
<p>11. Did you harvest a turkey? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to 12)</p> <p>11a. If yes, how many? _____</p> <p>11b. What type of weapon did you use to harvest a turkey this spring?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gun <input type="checkbox"/> Bow <input type="checkbox"/> Crossbow</p>		<p>15. If you hunted private land how did you obtain access: (Check only ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I own the land</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I hunted land owned by a friend or relative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I hunted land owned by a landowner I didn't know</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I hunted unposted private land</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I hunted private land open to hunting via a public access program (go to 15a and 15b)</p>																									
<p>12. Did you hit a turkey you were unable to retrieve?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how many? _____</p>		<p>15a. If you hunted on private land open to public access, which program was the land enrolled in?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Open Managed Forest Law (MFL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Public Access (VPA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Hunter Access Program (THAP)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Uncertain</p>																									
<p>13. What type of weapon did you use most while hunting turkeys this spring?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gun <input type="checkbox"/> Bow <input type="checkbox"/> Crossbow</p>		<p>15b. While hunting on private land open to public access, did you:</p> <p>See turkeys? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Harvest a turkey? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>																									
<p>16. Other hunters may have affected your turkey hunt. For each statement below, check the response which best reflects your 2015 spring hunt:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Definitely Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Somewhat</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Not Much</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No, Not At All</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>					Definitely Yes	Somewhat	Not Much	No, Not At All	Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																							
<p>17. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your spring 2015 Wisconsin wild turkey hunt this year? (Check ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fairly High</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> About Average</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fairly Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Low</p>		<p>18. Rate the factors that most influence your perception of a quality spring turkey hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience.</p> <p>_____ An opportunity to kill a turkey</p> <p>_____ Seeing turkeys/Calling birds in/Hearing Gobbling</p> <p>_____ Killing a turkey (Tom, Jake or Bearded hen)</p> <p>_____ Killing a mature Tom</p> <p>_____ Weather</p> <p>_____ Not seeing other hunters</p> <p>_____ Spending time with friends and family</p>																									

Figure 1. Continued.

19. Do you feel that the turkey numbers have changed from last year in the zone(s) you hunted this spring?
(If your tags were for one zone, fill out one column only.)

Zone: _____ Zone: _____

Increased Increased

Stayed the same Stayed the same

Decreased Decreased

Did not hunt same zone Did not hunt same zone

20. Would you like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) you hunted changed?
(If your tags were for one zone, fill out one column only.)

Zone: _____ Zone: _____

Increased Increased

Stay the same Stay the same

Decreased Decreased

21. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with spring turkey hunting in Wisconsin.
Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

22. Rank the factors below; regarding the influence each has on how quickly a turkey population will recover following a period of decline.
(Please check one for each factor):

<u>Factors:</u>	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important or Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Reducing spring permit levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing fall permit levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A dry spring that allows high production of young	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A mild winter that allows high survival of all turkeys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

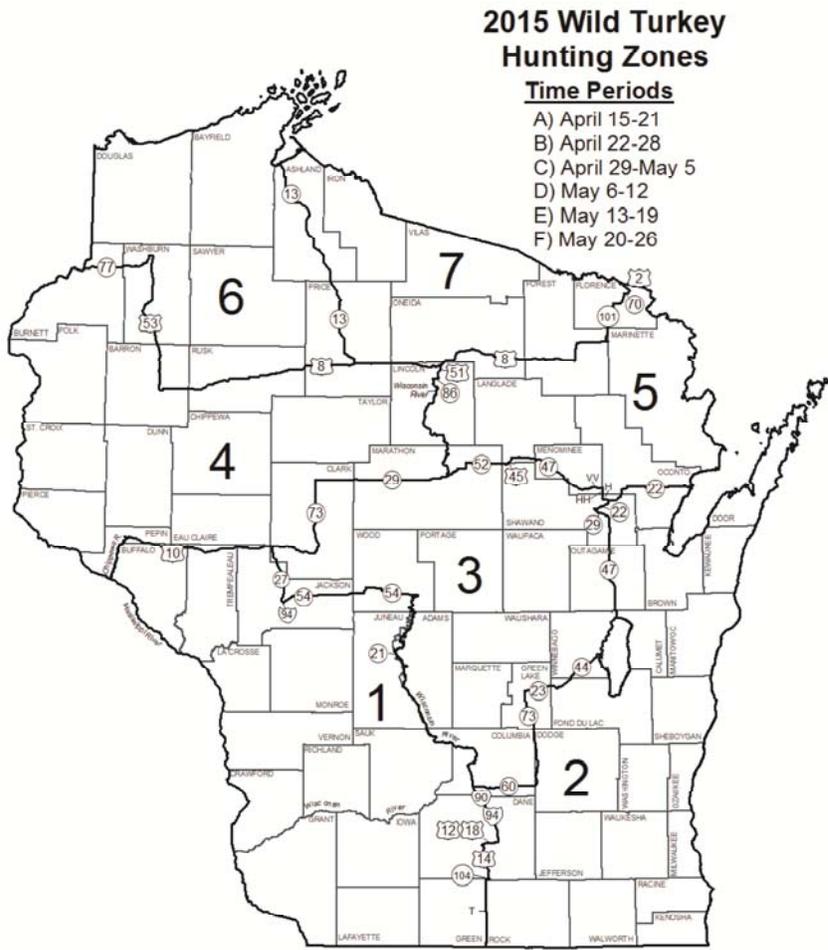


Figure 1. Continued.