ALABAMA HUNTER HARVEST ANNUAL REPORT

This study was conducted for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources by Responsive Management

RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

ALABAMA HUNTER HARVEST 2022-2023

2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Responsive Management conducted this study for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine Alabama licensed hunters' participation in hunting and harvest of various species, their method of game check reporting, and other characteristics of their hunting in Alabama in the 2022-2023 seasons. This marks the sixth annual hunter harvest survey conducted by Responsive Management for the Department, starting with the 2017-2018 hunting seasons. The study entailed a scientific, probability-based telephone survey of Alabama licensed hunters.

The researchers chose to use telephones as the preferred sampling mode primarily because Responsive Management's past experience on harvest surveys has shown that license holders who do not actively participate in hunting or who do not successfully harvest an animal are less likely to respond to a mail or online survey than to a telephone survey, as there is more effort involved in responding via mail or online. Mail and online surveys, therefore, obtain more avid samples than do telephone surveys because hunters who did not hunt or harvest will readily tell an interviewer verbally that they did not do so but are much less motivated to answer even a single survey question on paper and mail it or go to a web address and respond online. Thus, harvest surveys performed via mail or online have an inherent risk of overestimating harvest because of the decreased response from those who did not hunt and/or harvest during the season. Additional reasons are detailed in the body of the report.

Responsive Management, in collaboration with the Department, developed the telephone survey questionnaire based on the aforementioned previous surveys conducted for the Department from 2018 to 2022. Responsive Management computer coded the survey for its computer-assisted telephone interviewing system.

The Department provided the sample of Alabama licensed hunters for this study. The sample will not be used in any other way by Responsive Management; once surveys are completed, Responsive Management does not keep and maintain license databases. The survey was conducted in July and August 2023. Responsive Management obtained 3,242 completed interviews with Alabama licensed hunters, 2,932 of whom went hunting.

HUNTING DEER: PARTICIPATION, LOCATION, TYPES OF LAND, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

➢ There were more than 233,000 hunters who hunted deer during the 2022-2023 deer seasons in Alabama.
  • These hunters went hunting for more than 5.4 million days seeking deer.
  • The harvest of deer numbered nearly 309,000 during the 2022-2023 seasons.

Deer Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Deer / Equipment / Land / Deer Type	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Deer-All	233,450	5,439,545	308,729
Archery	100,021	1,574,418	66,931
Modern	208,853	3,704,334	231,965
Primitive	20,436	160,251	10,078
Private Land		4,952,426	292,181
WMAs		262,037	9,205
Other Public		213,060	7,342
Buck			141,749
Doe			160,313

WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

➢ Overall, 87% of harvesters reported all of their deer. Further analysis shows that 87% of all *deer* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

➢ Almost three quarters of those who harvested deer in 2022-2023 (72%) used a commercial processor to process at least some of their deer in the past 3 years.

HUNTING TURKEY: PARTICIPATION, LOCATION, SEASONS, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

➢ In Alabama in the 2022-2023 seasons, there were over 70,000 hunters who hunted turkey.
   • These turkey hunters spent nearly 753,000 days hunting turkey.
   • Turkey hunters harvested more than 47,000 turkeys in the 2022-2023 seasons in Alabama.

Turkey Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Turkey / Equipment / Season / Turkey Type	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Turkey-All	70,359	752,783	47,131
Archery		11,933	
Modern		714,404	
Primitive		26,446	
Fall	1,963	17,975	47
Spring	68,756	734,808	47,084
Jakes			3,485
Gobblers			43,646

➢ Overall, 92% of turkey harvesters reported all of their harvest. Further analysis shows that 91% of all *turkeys* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

TYPE OF GAME CHECK METHOD USED

➢ Both deer and turkey hunters use the phone app option most commonly when they use Alabama's Game Check System to report their harvested deer or turkey: 85% of deer harvesters and 89% of turkey harvesters did so in the 2022-2023 deer and turkey seasons.

For the deer/turkey that you reported, tell me all the game check methods you used. For any of the deer/turkey, did you use...? (Among those who harvested.)

The phone app	Deer	85
	Turkey	89
The telephone other than the app	Deer	5
	Turkey	5
The website	Deer	8
	Turkey	6
Do not know / None of these	Deer	4
	Turkey	3

Multiple Responses Allowed

■ Deer (n=1352)
■ Turkey (n=204)

Percent: 0 — 20 — 40 — 60 — 80 — 100
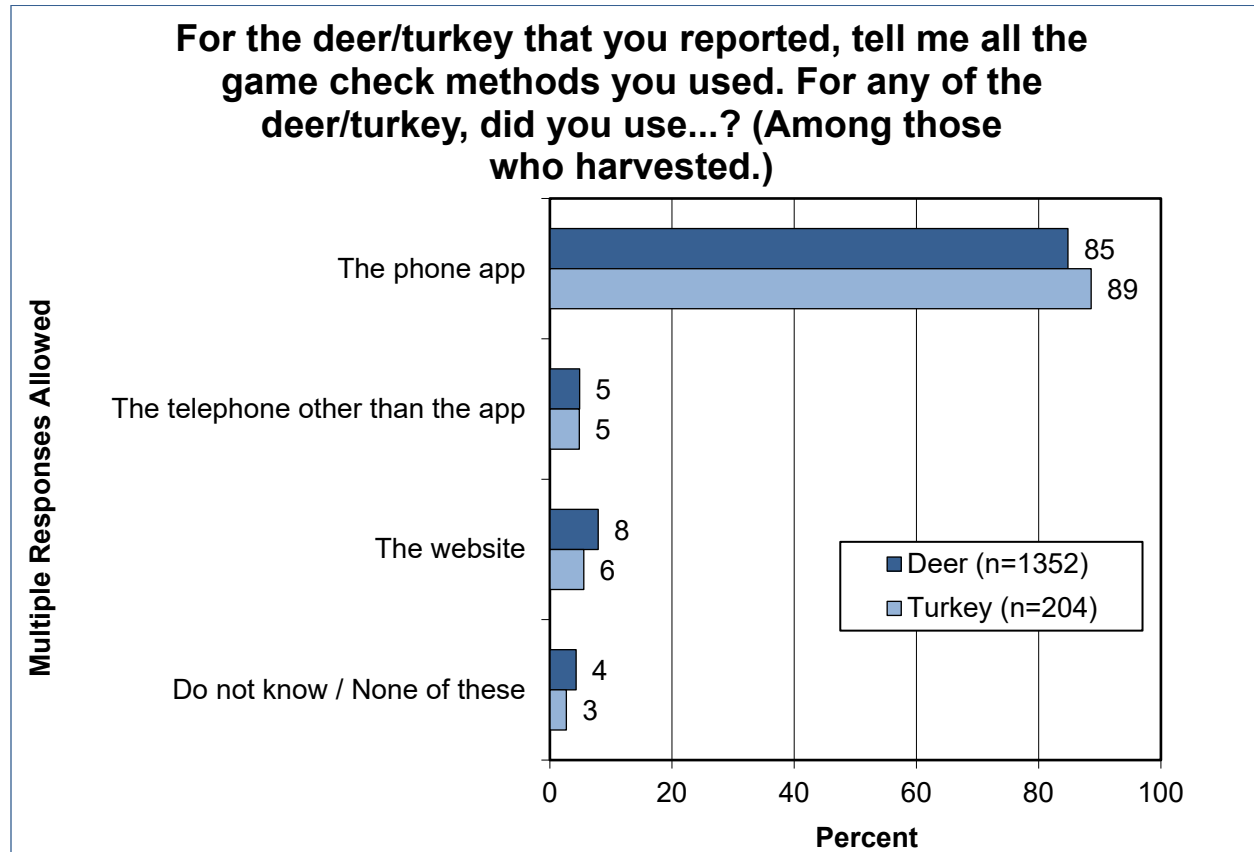
HUNTING QUAIL: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF QUAIL HUNTED, DAYS, AND HARVEST

➢ More than 9,400 quail hunters, hunting for more than 55,000 days, harvested nearly 371,000 quail in the 2022-2023 season.

Quail Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Quail / Quail Type	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Quail-All	9,427	55,350	370,665
Wild	2,765	13,252	27,640
Pen-Raised	6,662	42,098	343,026

HUNTING DOVE: PARTICIPATION, SPLIT HUNTED, DAYS, AND HARVEST

➢ Dove hunters numbered nearly 66,000 in the 2022-2023 season, hunting about 263,000 days and harvesting nearly 1.5 million dove.

Dove Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Dove-All	65,648	263,019	1,475,191
First Split		196,957	1,121,051
Remaining Splits		58,856	322,819
Unknown Splits			31,321

HUNTING OTHER SPECIES: PARTICIPATION, DAYS, AND HARVEST

➢ Data regarding hunting of other species are shown in the tables below. The most popular of these other species among hunters in the 2022-2023 seasons were wild hog, duck, coyote, and squirrel, each hunted by over 20,000 hunters.

Small Game Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Species	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Bobcat	3,337	3,233	2,451
Coot	1,469	4,455	12,838
Coyote	23,154	122,508	74,626
Duck	29,893	312,652	525,867
Fox	735	4,148	1,343
Goose	7,536	43,006	61,527
Opossum	2,461	4,851	8,363
Rabbit	10,043	57,629	47,438
Raccoon	6,622	89,079	35,047
Snipe	341	481	1,316
Squirrel	22,640	122,715	225,927
Wild hog	37,061	252,717	335,421
Woodcock	1,029	4,005	2,825

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Responsive Management conducted this study for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine Alabama licensed hunters' participation in hunting and harvest of various species, their method of game check reporting, and other characteristics of their hunting in Alabama in the 2022-2023 seasons. This marks the sixth annual hunter harvest survey conducted by Responsive Management for the Department, starting with the 2017-2018 hunting seasons. The study entailed a scientific, probability-based telephone survey of Alabama licensed hunters. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY

The researchers chose to use telephones as the preferred sampling mode for several reasons. Responsive Management's past experience on harvest surveys has shown that license holders who do not actively participate in hunting or who do not successfully harvest an animal are less likely to respond to a mail or online survey than to a telephone survey, as there is more effort involved in responding via mail or online. Mail and online surveys, therefore, obtain more avid samples than do telephone surveys because hunters who did not hunt or harvest will readily tell an interviewer verbally that they did not do so but are much less motivated to answer even a single survey question on paper and mail it or go to a web address and respond online. Thus, harvest surveys performed via mail or online have an inherent risk of overestimating harvest because of the decreased response from those who did not hunt and/or harvest during the season.

Another important reason for choosing telephones as the preferred survey mode is that mail and online surveys systematically exclude those who have difficulty reading. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute of Literacy estimated that 43% of the general population of the United States cannot read beyond a "basic level," suggesting that many might be reticent to complete a mail or online survey they must read to themselves. Additionally, people with poor or limited internet service or who are not comfortable with technology may be hesitant to complete a survey online. However, telephone surveys allow respondents who cannot or will not respond to a mail or online survey to participate. In a telephone survey, a live interviewer reads the survey questions, clarifies them if necessary, and assists the respondent with completing the survey, making it an excellent option to reduce bias and increase response to the survey.

The last reason that the researchers chose to use telephones for this survey is because telephone surveys have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of the reduced use of paper, reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires, and reduced quantity of material to be disposed of after the survey.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

Responsive Management, in collaboration with the Department, developed the telephone survey questionnaire based on the aforementioned previous surveys conducted for the Department from 2018 to 2022. Responsive Management computer coded the survey for its

computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. An important aspect of this CATI system is that the computer controls which questions are asked, but each telephone survey is administered by a live interviewer. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey and to ensure that the survey was updated for the 2022-2023 hunting seasons.

Responsive Management also developed an online version of the questionnaire that was given to those who had cell phones and who could not be reached after repeated call attempts, as explained further on. This version was the same as the telephone version with slight wording adjustments to account for the online mode. Note that the online survey was closed, meaning it was available only to respondents who were specifically selected for the survey; it was offered only to those who were in the telephone sample.

Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey. The survey included screener questions to confirm that hunters were 16 years old or older and were licensed to hunt in the 2022-2023 seasons. A further question asked if they had hunted in Alabama during the 2022-2023 hunting seasons to determine the participation rate, and those who had hunted were then given the full survey.

SURVEY SAMPLE

The Department provided the sample of Alabama licensed hunters for this study. The sample will not be used in any other way by Responsive Management; once surveys are completed, Responsive Management does not keep and maintain license databases. The sample was stratified based on residents/nonresidents and by lifetime license holders/non-lifetime license holders (i.e., lifetime versus any other type of hunting license). Within each of these sub-samples, a probability-based selection process ensured that each eligible hunter had an equal chance of being selected for the survey. All groups were then proportioned properly during the data analyses, using the proportions in the entire dataset of license holders (resident vs. non-resident, and lifetime license holder vs. any other license holder).

TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The interviews were conducted using Responsive Management's CATI system, which utilizes software for telephone data collection. The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that the CATI system branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The software also allowed for error checks during the interview to help ensure that the data were accurate and valid.

For quality control of the telephone surveys, Survey Center Managers monitored interviews in real time and provided feedback to the interviewers. To ensure that the data collected by telephone are of the highest quality, the interviewers are trained through lectures, role-playing, and video training, according to the standards established by the American Association for

Public Opinion Research. The Survey Center Managers conducted briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaires, thereby ensuring the integrity of the data.

Telephone surveying times were Monday through Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 7:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all hunters to participate. When a hunter could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

When potential cell phone respondents could not be reached after repeated call attempts, they were sent a text message from an Alabama number inviting them to take the survey online as a self-administered survey. The text provided a link to the online survey that had an introduction with more information and instructions to begin the survey. This helped to raise the response rate. A copy of the text and online introduction are shown below.

Text Message Sent to Cell Phone Nonrespondents to Encourage Participation in the Survey
Hello [name]. My name is Amanda with Responsive Management. Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries would like your opinion on your hunting in Alabama. Please consider taking this survey: [survey link].

Online Survey Introduction for Cell Phone Nonrespondents Who Were Provided the Link
The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is conducting its annual hunting study to get feedback from hunters in order to better understand hunting participation, experiences, preferences, and opinions in the state.

As one of the hunters selected to participate in the study, your answers are very important to this study and to future management decisions.

Your answers will be kept completely confidential and will not be associated with your name or contact information in any way. The survey will only take 5-10 minutes, based on your level of activity.

Responsive Management, an independent research firm that specializes in natural resource and fish and wildlife issues, has been contracted by the Division to conduct this study. If you need technical assistance with the survey, please contact Responsive Management via email at research@responsivemanagement.com.

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate.

Please click "Next" or the arrow below to begin the survey.

The survey was conducted in July and August 2023. After the surveys were obtained, the Survey Center Managers and statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained 3,242 completed interviews with Alabama licensed hunters, 2,932 of whom went hunting.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data were collected and weighted by license type. The sample was divided into three distinct groups:
- Lifetime license holders.
- Resident non-lifetime license holders.
- Nonresident non-lifetime license holders.

Survey interviews from these groups were then obtained in their proper proportions. Once the data were collected, response rates were computed for each of these groups individually, and these were used to estimate the total number of participants and to weight the final data, as lifetime licensees had a considerably lower rate of participation in hunting than the other license categories.

The analysis of the data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The results were weighted by the aforementioned stratification variables so that the overall sample was representative of Alabama licensed hunters as a whole. As indicated, residents and nonresidents were in their proper proportions, as were lifetime license holders and non-lifetime license holders.

The data analysis for this survey included a trends analysis, in which the results of this survey are shown alongside those from the previous surveys for comparison. It is important to note that an additional license, the Resident Bait Privilege License, was added to the database of licensed Alabama hunters in the 2021 survey (for the 2020-2021 seasons) and subsequent years. Because this additional license added nearly 30,000 hunters to the overall sample, comparisons of hunting and harvest numbers before and after this addition should take the change into consideration.

SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of Alabama licensed hunters, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 1.71 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 1.71 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the standard formula described on the following page, with a sample size of 3,242 and an estimated population size of 305,135 Alabama licensed hunters.

Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left(\sqrt{\frac{\dfrac{N_P(.25)}{N_s} - .25}{N_P - 1}} \right)(1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
N$_P$ = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
N$_S$ = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the <u>maximum</u> sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

HUNTING DEER: PARTICIPATION, LOCATION, TYPES OF LAND, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

➢ There were more than 233,000 hunters who hunted deer during the 2022-2023 deer seasons in Alabama.

- These hunters went hunting for more than 5.4 million days seeking deer.
- The harvest of deer numbered nearly 309,000 during the 2022-2023 seasons.
- Hunters most commonly hunted deer with modern firearms: this weapon type accounted for the most deer hunters, days, and harvest. This was followed, at about half the number of hunters, by archery equipment, with primitive firearms being the least used.
- Most deer hunting and harvest was on private lands.
  - County data are shown, as well.

Deer Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Deer / Equipment / Land / Deer Type	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Deer-All	233,450	230,493	236,407	5,439,545	5,194,895	5,684,195	308,729	291,311	326,147
Archery	100,021	95,413	104,630	1,574,418	1,445,821	1,703,016	66,931	53,893	79,969
Modern	208,853	205,038	212,668	3,704,334	3,524,788	3,883,880	231,965	218,145	245,786
Primitive	20,436	17,892	22,980	160,251	118,502	202,000	10,078	241	19,915
Private Land				4,952,426	4,719,555	5,185,297	292,181	275,193	309,169
WMAs				262,037	207,942	316,131	9,205	0	18,856
Other Public				213,060	162,182	263,938	7,342	0	15,566
Buck							141,749	132,517	150,982
Doe							160,313	147,783	172,842

WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

Deer Hunting: Mean Days, Deer Harvest per Hunter, Days per Harvest, and Buck-Doe Percentages (2022-2023)

	Mean Days per Hunter	Deer Harvest per Hunter	Days per Harvest	Percentage
Deer Overall	23.3	1.32	17.6	
Archery		0.67	16.0	
Modern		1.11	23.5	
Primitive		0.49	15.9	
Buck				45.9
Doe				54.1

Deer Hunting: Harvest of Bucks, Does, and Fawns by County (2022-2023)

County	Harvest of Bucks			Harvest of Does			Harvest of Fawns		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Autauga	2,852	1,638	4,066	3,248	1,413	5,083	140	0	360
Baldwin	2,575	1,410	3,740	6,400	3,500	9,301	338	0	723
Barbour	6,258	4,280	8,235	5,309	2,937	7,681	47	0	173
Bibb	3,199	1,768	4,631	2,033	750	3,316	200	0	463
Blount	1,002	261	1,743	1,291	279	2,303	47	0	173
Bullock	3,144	1,457	4,830	6,288	3,195	9,381	147	0	372
Butler	3,544	2,042	5,046	2,549	1,126	3,973	47	0	173
Calhoun	1,231	465	1,996	1,215	298	2,133	185	0	585
Chambers	2,860	1,557	4,163	3,717	1,832	5,602	590	140	1,039
Cherokee	842	165	1,518	594	72	1,116	94	0	273
Chilton	1,091	310	1,872	2,184	1,032	3,335	100	0	286
Choctaw	1,311	486	2,136	1,389	296	2,482	0	0	0
Clarke	2,919	1,573	4,265	2,438	997	3,879	294	0	706
Clay	1,113	220	2,007	922	29	1,815	341	0	807
Cleburne	1,490	208	2,771	541	6	1,076	0	0	0
Coffee	2,562	1,365	3,760	2,389	410	4,369	0	0	0
Colbert	1,305	408	2,201	1,029	203	1,855	100	0	286
Conecuh	1,879	882	2,876	3,544	1,267	5,822	0	0	0
Coosa	1,817	772	2,862	2,707	1,303	4,111	100	0	286
Covington	3,168	1,724	4,611	2,309	782	3,835	140	0	424
Crenshaw	2,917	1,689	4,144	4,883	2,548	7,217	47	0	173
Cullman	2,590	1,395	3,785	1,144	417	1,871	0	0	0
Dale	3,537	1,894	5,180	2,162	752	3,572	0	0	0
Dallas	1,371	593	2,150	3,489	1,640	5,337	0	0	0
DeKalb	1,360	487	2,234	1,880	790	2,970	100	0	286
Elmore	3,448	1,286	5,610	3,093	1,160	5,025	100	0	286
Escambia	1,884	770	2,999	2,276	901	3,651	0	0	0
Etowah	937	148	1,727	1,131	79	2,183	0	0	0
Fayette	1,236	343	2,129	546	-24	1,115	0	0	0
Franklin	1,603	282	2,924	1,280	546	2,014	94	0	347
Geneva	1,834	876	2,793	1,399	332	2,466	0	0	0
Greene	1,436	0	2,874	1,106	372	1,840	0	0	0
Hale	546	113	978	1,347	275	2,419	100	0	286
Henry	2,113	875	3,350	1,905	572	3,238	441	0	1,003
Houston	837	170	1,505	1,383	325	2,441	187	0	497
Jackson	5,434	3,216	7,652	4,015	2,054	5,975	0	0	0
Jefferson	1,002	216	1,788	902	138	1,666	100	0	286
Lamar	995	190	1,800	1,932	585	3,279	0	0	0
Lauderdale	1,383	500	2,266	2,770	1,063	4,477	100	0	286
Lawrence	1,671	832	2,509	788	153	1,423	489	42	936
Lee	3,433	1,575	5,290	2,431	1,281	3,581	147	0	372
Limestone	993	254	1,732	2,238	836	3,639	200	0	463
Lowndes	2,999	1,641	4,357	2,462	1,294	3,630	94	0	347
Macon	1,990	983	2,997	4,018	1,510	6,525	0	0	0
Madison	3,248	764	5,733	2,640	1,193	4,088	0	0	0
Marengo	1,961	996	2,925	2,885	1,394	4,376	0	0	0
Marion	1,291	486	2,096	3,318	1,379	5,256	96	0	277
Marshall	966	240	1,693	688	108	1,268	0	0	0
Mobile	2,199	814	3,584	2,094	1,002	3,186	0	0	0
Monroe	2,714	1,329	4,099	2,672	1,141	4,203	47	0	173
Montgomery	2,908	1,490	4,325	3,609	1,769	5,449	0	0	0
Morgan	1,349	575	2,123	795	103	1,487	0	0	0
Perry	3,007	1,632	4,383	2,553	1,130	3,976	0	0	0
Pickens	888	278	1,499	1,507	366	2,649	0	0	0
Pike	2,694	1,408	3,980	2,515	1,256	3,775	147	0	372
Randolph	2,085	1,092	3,078	2,132	944	3,320	94	0	273
Russell	2,733	1,543	3,924	5,053	2,670	7,437	194	0	451

Deer Hunting: Harvest of Bucks, Does, and Fawns by County (2022-2023) (continued)

County	Harvest of Bucks			Harvest of Does			Harvest of Fawns		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
St. Clair	501	11	991	401	30	772	47	0	173
Shelby	1,196	456	1,935	1,944	925	2,963	200	0	571
Sumter	1,084	199	1,969	1,037	185	1,890	0	0	0
Talladega	793	272	1,314	893	131	1,655	47	0	173
Tallapoosa	2,146	979	3,314	4,272	2,336	6,207	100	0	286
Tuscaloosa	2,605	1,271	3,939	2,552	1,224	3,879	100	0	286
Walker	1,596	583	2,610	2,092	684	3,501	200	0	463
Washington	1,650	697	2,602	2,233	1,006	3,461	0	0	0
Wilcox	2,084	1,099	3,068	3,370	1,412	5,329	147	0	372
Winston	1,977	906	3,048	3,141	1,127	5,155	0	0	0
Unknown	3,812	2,359	5,266	3,053	1,656	4,450	341	0	682

Deer Hunting: Days by County (2022-2023)

County	Days		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Autauga	129,899	88,946	170,853
Baldwin	162,278	117,118	207,437
Barbour	166,819	114,889	218,750
Bibb	89,309	47,366	131,251
Blount	41,766	18,881	64,650
Bullock	99,686	64,816	134,555
Butler	79,686	49,352	110,020
Calhoun	89,102	42,921	135,282
Chambers	111,084	75,943	146,225
Cherokee	45,961	23,552	68,370
Chilton	67,105	37,290	96,919
Choctaw	58,020	25,923	90,117
Clarke	99,898	63,462	136,334
Clay	49,188	22,112	76,265
Cleburne	81,146	32,580	129,712
Coffee	86,641	53,133	120,148
Colbert	53,415	27,471	79,358
Conecuh	81,085	44,703	117,466
Coosa	91,016	50,690	131,342
Covington	122,668	80,144	165,193
Crenshaw	90,151	55,055	125,247
Cullman	86,332	47,397	125,268
Dale	108,026	70,141	145,911
Dallas	68,154	44,641	91,666
DeKalb	76,941	31,632	122,251
Elmore	97,506	61,531	133,481
Escambia	71,436	41,165	101,708
Etowah	51,108	24,080	78,136
Fayette	32,717	12,055	53,380
Franklin	61,206	30,991	91,420
Geneva	43,882	25,341	62,423
Greene	39,299	17,230	61,369
Hale	34,921	15,496	54,345
Henry	77,069	41,663	112,475
Houston	47,184	23,265	71,103
Jackson	166,418	106,624	226,211
Jefferson	59,053	36,089	82,017
Lamar	33,432	14,201	52,662
Lauderdale	96,687	50,432	142,943
Lawrence	68,954	38,600	99,308

Deer Hunting: Days by County (2022-2023) (continued)

County	Days		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Lee	120,139	78,488	161,791
Limestone	70,586	34,926	106,246
Lowndes	67,331	41,223	93,438
Macon	110,049	57,305	162,794
Madison	72,465	43,233	101,697
Marengo	70,806	41,833	99,778
Marion	63,854	35,268	92,440
Marshall	49,155	22,661	75,649
Mobile	89,014	50,283	127,746
Monroe	94,417	53,888	134,946
Montgomery	99,065	61,271	136,860
Morgan	58,519	33,438	83,599
Perry	61,433	37,652	85,215
Pickens	45,275	13,816	76,733
Pike	105,149	65,435	144,862
Randolph	86,172	48,603	123,740
Russell	114,670	79,196	150,144
St. Clair	30,872	13,440	48,305
Shelby	77,946	51,964	103,927
Sumter	44,058	21,842	66,274
Talladega	46,802	24,097	69,506
Tallapoosa	116,230	74,430	158,030
Tuscaloosa	80,414	45,122	115,706
Walker	88,321	52,638	124,005
Washington	119,259	54,551	183,967
Wilcox	98,565	60,436	136,694
Winston	107,839	64,688	150,990
Unknown	94,607	67,649	121,564

➢ The matrix below and the graph on the following page show compliance data among those who harvested deer; note that "do not know" responses were excluded. Overall, 87% of harvesters reported all of their deer, as represented by the green-shaded cells and the green bar on the graph. Further analysis shows that 87% of all *deer* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

Compliance With Deer Reporting Requirements (Cells Show Percentage Out of All Those Who Harvested Excluding "Do Not Know" Responses)

Deer	Reported 0	Reported 1	Reported 2	Reported 3	Reported 4	Reported 5	Reported 6
Harvested 1	1.7	43.6					
Harvested 2	0.6	1.8	20.9				
Harvested 3	0.6	1.0	1.0	11.7			
Harvested 4	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.7	5.8		
Harvested 5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	2.1	
Harvested 6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.8

	Reported none	Reported some	Reported all	
Harvested More Than 6	0.1	1.8	2.2	
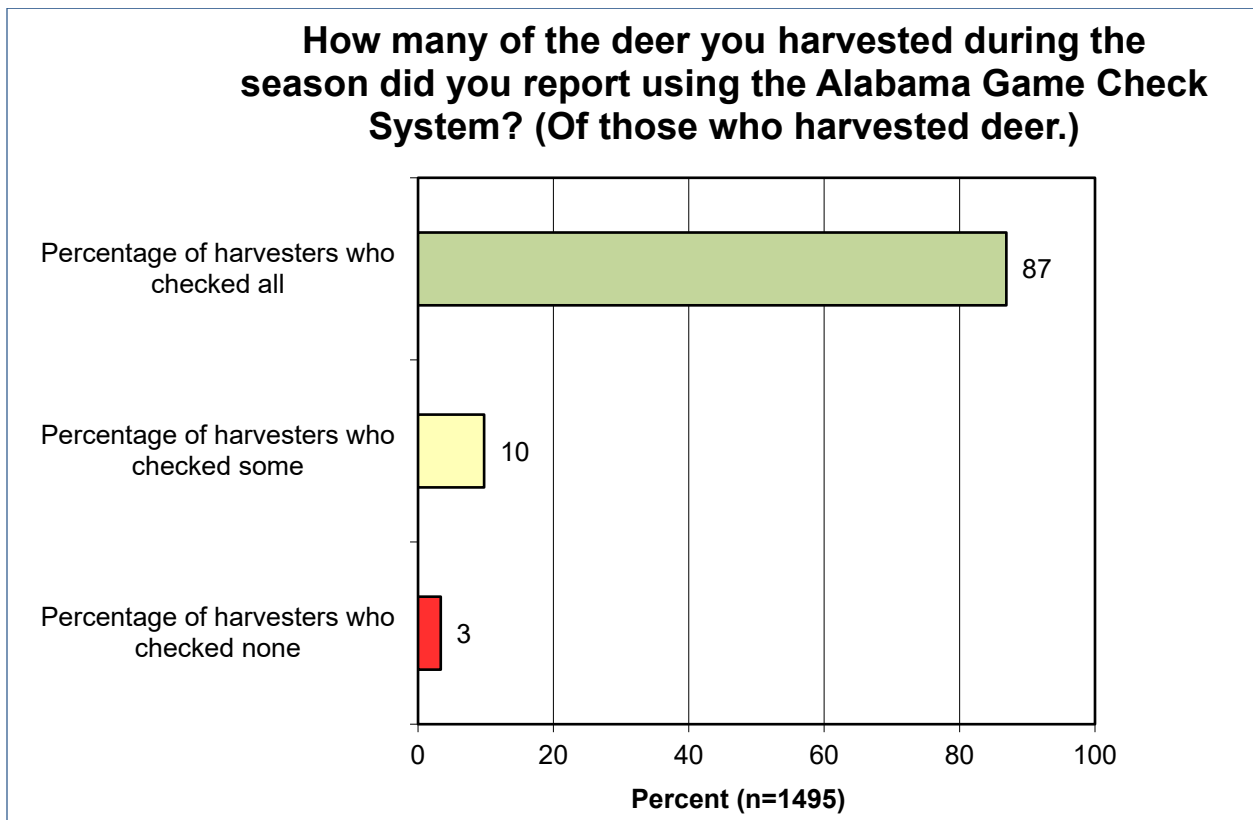
How many of the deer you harvested during the season did you report using the Alabama Game Check System? (Of those who harvested deer.)

	Percent
Percentage of harvesters who checked all	87
Percentage of harvesters who checked some	10
Percentage of harvesters who checked none	3

Percent (n=1495)

➢ Almost three quarters of those who harvested deer in 2022-2023 (72%) used a commercial processor to process at least some of their deer in the past 3 years. (The question has a 3-year timeframe but was asked only of those who harvested in 2022-2023 so as to ensure that the respondent had harvested some deer before being asked the question.)
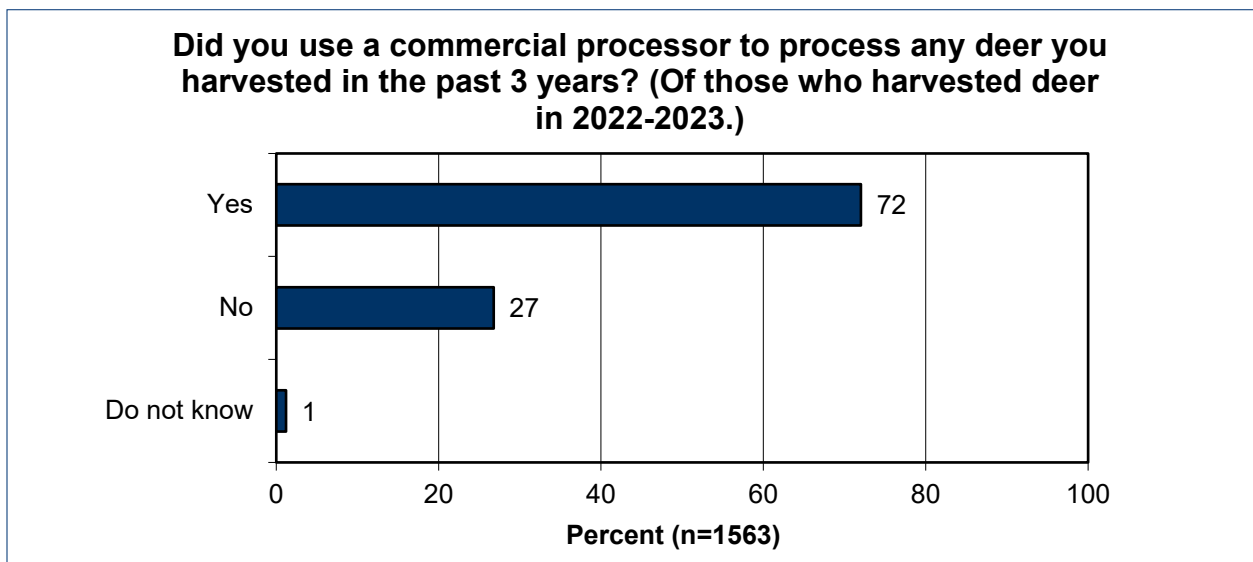
Did you use a commercial processor to process any deer you harvested in the past 3 years? (Of those who harvested deer in 2022-2023.)

	Percent
Yes	72
No	27
Do not know	1

Percent (n=1563)

HUNTING TURKEY: PARTICIPATION, LOCATION, SEASONS, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

➢ In Alabama in the 2022-2023 seasons, there were over 70,000 hunters who hunted turkey.
- These turkey hunters spent nearly 753,000 days hunting turkey.
- Turkey hunters harvested more than 47,000 turkeys in the 2022-2023 seasons in Alabama.
- Modern firearms were the most popular way to hunt turkey, accounting for most of the days of turkey hunting.
  o Among turkey hunters who used archery equipment, 30% used a crossbow.
- By far, the spring season accounted for most of the hunters, days, and harvest of turkeys.
  o County data are also shown.

Turkey Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Turkey / Equipment / Season / Turkey Type	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Turkey-All	70,359	66,154	74,563	752,783	679,498	826,068	47,131	40,936	53,326
Archery				11,933	3,523	20,344			
Modern				714,404	643,534	785,274			
Primitive				26,446	10,296	42,595			
Fall	1,963	1,145	2,781	17,975	7,349	28,601	47	0	2,602
Spring	68,756	64,583	72,930	734,808	662,268	807,348	47,084	39,544	54,624
Jakes							3,485	1,956	5,013
Gobblers							43,646	38,026	49,266

Turkey Hunting: Mean Days, Turkey Harvest per Hunter, and Days per Harvest (2022-2023)

	Mean Days per Hunter	Turkey Harvest per Hunter	Days per Harvest
Turkey Overall	10.7	0.67	16.0
Fall	9.2	0.02	* 384.4
Spring	10.7	0.68	15.6

* The relatively low number of hunters hunting in the fall combined with their low success rate produces a relatively large number of days per harvest.

You said you hunted turkey with archery equipment during the 2022-2023 season. Did you hunt with a crossbow?

Yes — 30
No — 70

Percent (n=21)
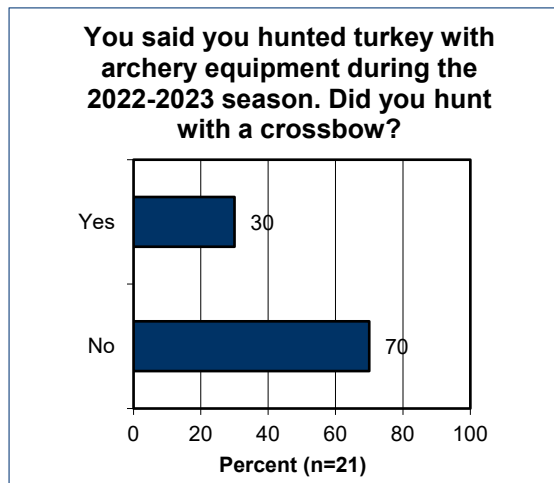
Turkey Hunting: Harvest and Days by County (2022-2023)

County	Harvest of Turkeys			Days of Turkey Hunting		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Autauga	1,957	706	3,209	17,106	6,853	27,359
Baldwin	394	0	880	29,350	15,850	42,849
Barbour	4,479	1,892	7,066	23,110	12,258	33,962
Bibb	0	0	0	1,680	340	3,020
Blount	334	0	888	4,074	0	9,175
Bullock	1,275	284	2,266	13,700	5,536	21,864
Butler	719	104	1,334	10,517	2,947	18,087
Calhoun	701	0	1,551	10,420	0	22,025
Chambers	588	9	1,166	13,075	5,759	20,392
Cherokee	701	0	1,551	10,347	2,217	18,476
Chilton	882	0	1,837	15,037	3,791	26,282
Choctaw	748	0	1,883	5,825	1,546	10,103
Clarke	1,137	224	2,050	22,153	4,128	40,178
Clay	394	0	846	7,415	232	14,597
Cleburne	200	0	463	8,527	0	17,277
Coffee	568	0	1,286	9,414	2,105	16,722
Colbert	883	125	1,641	15,566	4,662	26,470
Conecuh	1,126	317	1,935	8,054	2,018	14,090
Coosa	2,216	887	3,544	28,013	13,825	42,202
Covington	1,215	297	2,133	12,499	3,778	21,220
Crenshaw	232	0	566	4,872	867	8,877
Cullman	541	0	1,133	10,958	4,104	17,812
Dale	1,409	456	2,362	22,705	11,223	34,188
Dallas	240	0	528	10,462	2,557	18,366
DeKalb	140	0	520	7,014	0	15,050
Elmore	775	122	1,427	10,574	1,790	19,358
Escambia	401	0	855	6,318	1,561	11,075
Etowah	0	0	0	2,705	0	5,510
Fayette	0	0	0	1,703	0	3,776
Franklin	701	87	1,316	11,148	3,494	18,802
Geneva	147	0	372	3,135	686	5,583
Greene	792	55	1,528	14,326	3,000	25,652
Hale	301	0	715	7,851	1,083	14,618
Henry	574	0	1,274	10,305	2,335	18,276
Houston	47	0	173	2,852	0	6,616
Jackson	937	42	1,833	27,889	9,310	46,469
Jefferson	648	0	1,302	11,088	2,305	19,871
Lamar	0	0	0	1,293	0	3,192
Lauderdale	476	0	1,016	5,887	972	10,801
Lawrence	347	0	781	10,217	4,292	16,142
Lee	427	5	850	14,635	6,793	22,477
Limestone	100	0	286	4,612	1,478	7,747
Lowndes	240	0	528	10,880	5,325	16,434
Macon	1,313	509	2,117	19,267	9,646	28,888
Madison	835	137	1,533	10,634	4,185	17,082
Marengo	628	15	1,241	13,899	2,802	24,997
Marion	539	0	1,189	10,306	1,433	19,180
Marshall	301	0	622	6,613	1,471	11,754
Mobile	200	0	463	4,108	0	8,735
Monroe	483	2	964	16,537	5,518	27,556
Montgomery	1,234	248	2,220	13,929	4,845	23,013
Morgan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	147	0	372	7,221	0	14,986
Pickens	200	0	571	759	0	1,823
Pike	788	206	1,370	16,219	6,460	25,979
Randolph	701	33	1,370	10,407	1,629	19,185
Russell	977	346	1,608	19,878	11,002	28,754

Turkey Hunting: Harvest and Days by County (2022-2023) (continued)

County	Harvest of Turkeys			Days of Turkey Hunting		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
St. Clair	100	0	286	1,603	0	3,766
Shelby	394	0	803	13,869	5,888	21,849
Sumter	441	0	910	1,512	213	2,811
Talladega	191	0	553	3,005	0	6,874
Tallapoosa	1,336	389	2,283	16,869	8,386	25,352
Tuscaloosa	641	21	1,262	14,060	3,511	24,608
Walker	743	239	1,248	16,539	6,666	26,413
Washington	802	0	1,631	11,111	3,077	19,146
Wilcox	2,118	541	3,694	16,110	7,229	24,991
Winston	1,095	49	2,142	21,394	3,568	39,221

➢ The turkey harvest reporting compliance data are shown in the matrix and graph below; the matrix and graph exclude "do not know" responses. Overall, 92% of turkey harvesters reported all of their harvest, as represented by the green-shaded cells and the green bar on the graph. Further analysis shows that 91% of all *turkeys* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

Compliance With Turkey Reporting Requirements (Cells Show Percentage Out of All Those Who Harvested Excluding "Do Not Know" Responses)

	Reported 0	Reported 1	Reported 2	Reported 3	Reported 4
Harvested 1	1.8	54.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Harvested 2	0.7	1.5	21.8	0.0	0.0
Harvested 3	0.7	0.4	0.4	8.9	0.0
Harvested 4	0.0	1.5	0.4	0.4	7.0

How many of the turkeys you harvested during the season did you report using the Alabama Game Check System? (Of those who harvested turkey.)

Percentage of harvesters who checked all — 92

Percentage of harvesters who checked some — 5

Percentage of harvesters who checked none — 3

Percent (n=295)

TYPE OF GAME CHECK METHOD USED

➢ Both deer and turkey hunters use the phone app option most commonly when they use Alabama's Game Check System to report their harvested deer or turkey: 85% of deer harvesters and 89% of turkey harvesters did so in the 2022-2023 deer and turkey seasons.

For the deer/turkey that you reported, tell me all the game check methods you used. For any of the deer/turkey, did you use...? (Among those who harvested.)

Multiple Responses Allowed

The phone app
- 85
- 89

The telephone other than the app
- 5
- 5

The website
- 8
- 6

Do not know / None of these
- 4
- 3

■ Deer (n=1352)
■ Turkey (n=204)

Percent

0   20   40   60   80   100

HUNTING QUAIL: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF QUAIL HUNTED, DAYS, AND HARVEST

➢ More than 9,400 quail hunters, hunting for more than 55,000 days, harvested nearly 371,000 quail in the 2022-2023 season.

Quail Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Quail / Quail Type	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Quail-All	9,427	7,660	11,194	55,350	38,139	72,562	370,665	0	746,340
Wild	2,765	1,796	3,734	13,252	4,985	21,519	27,640	10,572	44,708
Pen-Raised	6,662	5,169	8,156	42,098	28,021	56,175	343,026	182,986	503,065

Quail Hunting: Mean Days and Days per Harvest (2022-2023)

Quail	
Mean Days per Hunter	Days per Harvest
5.9	0.15

HUNTING DOVE: PARTICIPATION, SPLIT HUNTED, DAYS, HARVEST, AND WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL

➢ Dove hunters numbered nearly 66,000 in the 2022-2023 season, hunting about 263,000 days and harvesting nearly 1.5 million dove.

Dove Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)

Dove / Split	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Dove-All	65,648	61,537	69,759	263,019	228,253	297,784	1,475,191	1,307,978	1,642,404
First Split				196,957	166,999	226,915	1,121,051	996,215	1,245,887
Remaining Splits				58,856	46,219	71,492	322,819	253,388	392,249
Unknown Splits							31,321	16,338	46,303

Dove Hunting: Mean Days and Days per Harvest (2022-2023)

Dove	
Mean Days per Hunter	Days per Harvest
4.0	0.18

➢ The graph below shows the acceptable travel distances among dove hunters to participate in a public lands limited quota dove hunt: 76% would be willing to travel more than 30 minutes.

How long, in minutes, would you be willing to travel to participate in a public lands limited quota dove hunt? Would you be willing to travel…? (Asked of those who hunted dove.)

	Percent
30 minutes or less	16
31 to 60 minutes	29
61 to 90 minutes	20
More than 90 minutes	27
Do not know	8

Percent (n=727)
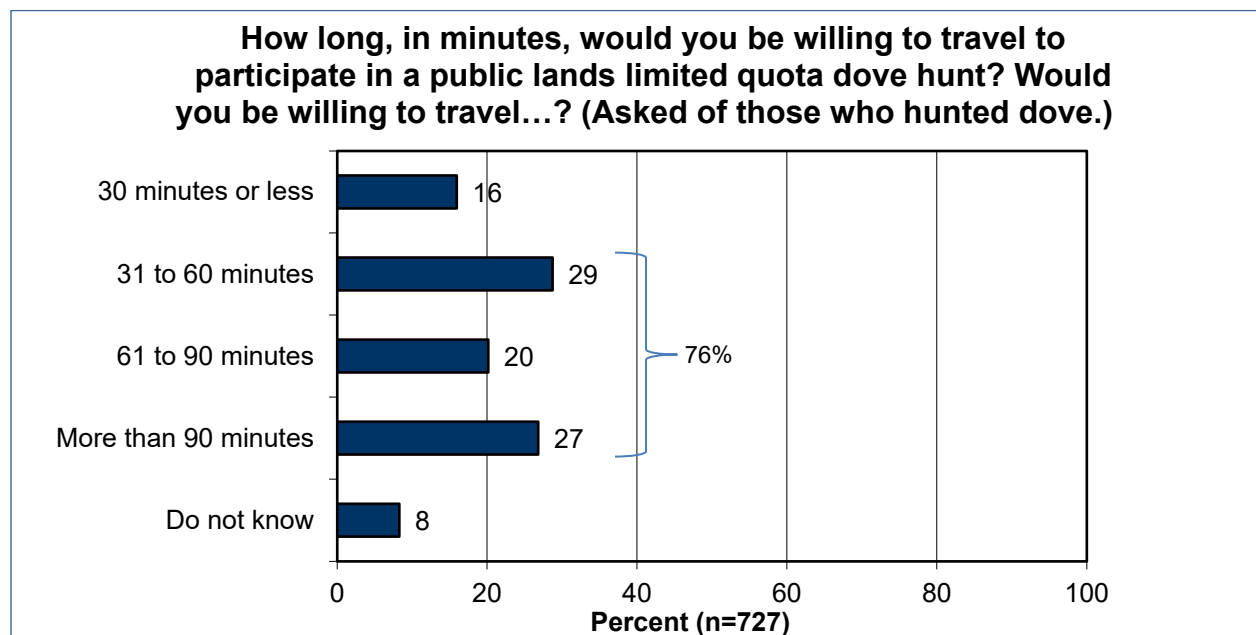
HUNTING OTHER SPECIES: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF LAND, DAYS, AND HARVEST

➢ Data regarding hunting of other species are shown in the tables below. The most popular of these other species among hunters in the 2022-2023 seasons were wild hog, duck, coyote, and squirrel, each hunted by over 20,000 hunters.

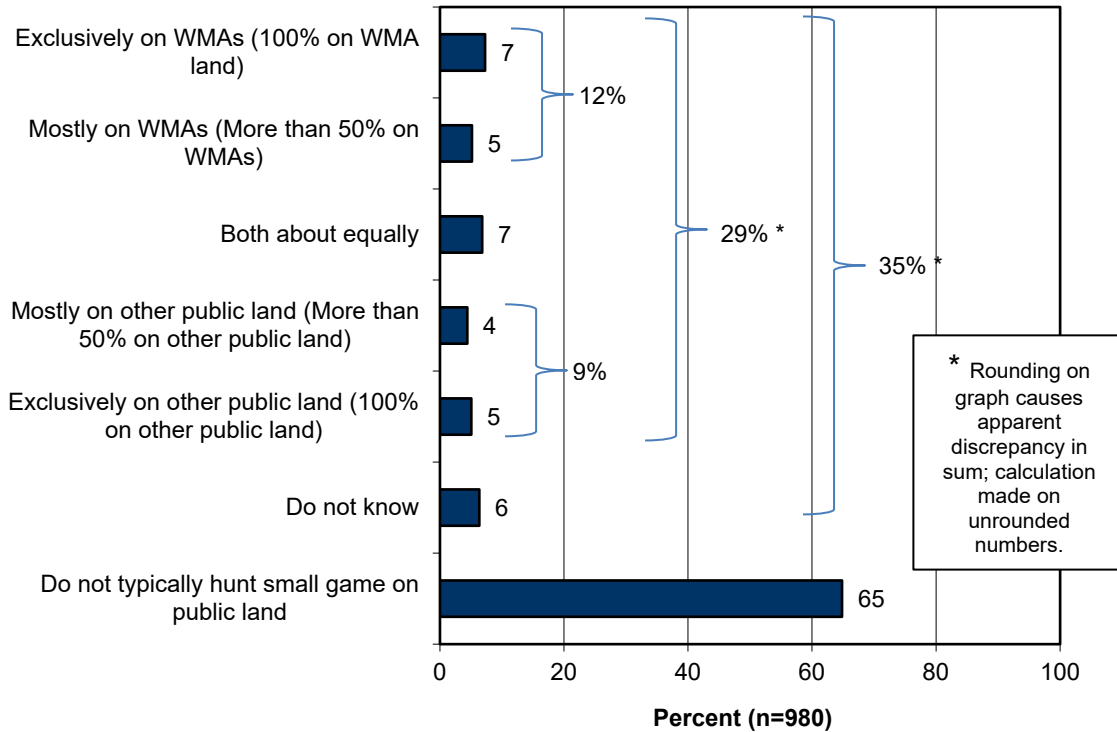**Small Game Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2022-2023)**

Species	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Bobcat	3,337	2,273	4,402	3,233	633	5,834	2,451	1,353	3,549
Coot	1,469	761	2,178	4,455	54	8,856	12,838	2,094	23,582
Coyote	23,154	20,461	25,848	122,508	90,127	154,890	74,626	52,375	96,877
Duck	29,893	26,876	32,910	312,652	262,965	362,338	525,867	395,743	655,991
Fox	735	233	1,237	4,148	0	10,152	1,343	81	2,604
Goose	7,536	5,950	9,122	43,006	26,821	59,190	61,527	36,248	86,807
Opossum	2,461	1,546	3,377	4,851	1,648	8,054	8,363	3,499	13,227
Rabbit	10,043	8,221	11,865	57,629	36,049	79,208	47,438	31,078	63,798
Raccoon	6,622	5,133	8,112	89,079	41,698	136,461	35,047	23,408	46,685
Snipe	341	0	683	481	0	1,076	1,316	0	3,611
Squirrel	22,640	19,974	25,306	122,715	90,195	155,234	225,927	155,004	296,851
Wild hog	37,061	33,755	40,368	252,717	196,483	308,950	335,421	235,769	435,073
Woodcock	1,029	435	1,622	4,005	758	7,253	2,825	309	5,342

Small Game Hunting: Mean Days and Days per Harvest (2022-2023)

Species	Mean Days per Hunter	Days per Harvest
Bobcat	1.0	1.32
Coot	3.0	0.35
Coyote	5.3	1.64
Duck	10.5	0.59
Fox	5.6	3.09
Goose	5.7	0.70
Opossum	2.0	0.58
Rabbit	5.7	1.21
Raccoon	13.5	2.54
Snipe	1.4	0.37
Squirrel	5.4	0.54
Wild hog	6.8	0.75
Woodcock	3.9	1.42

➢ As shown on the following page, 35% of small game hunters hunt small game on public land (assuming that 6% are responding that they do not know their public land locations, not that they do not know if they hunted on public land—excluding the "do not know" responses, 29% definitely indicate hunting on public land): 12% do so primarily on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), 9% do so primarily on other public lands, and 7% hunt both about equally.

In a typical year, if you hunt small game on public land, would you say your small game hunting in general on public land occurs...? (Asked of those who hunted small game.)

Exclusively on WMAs (100% on WMA land) — 7

Mostly on WMAs (More than 50% on WMAs) — 5

12%

Both about equally — 7

29% *

35% *

Mostly on other public land (More than 50% on other public land) — 4

Exclusively on other public land (100% on other public land) — 5

9%

Do not know — 6

Do not typically hunt small game on public land — 65

* Rounding on graph causes apparent discrepancy in sum; calculation made on unrounded numbers.

Percent (n=980)

Breakdown of WMA versus other public land small game hunting. (Among those who typically hunt small game on public land.)

- 21% — Exclusively on WMAs
- 15% — Mostly on WMAs
- 19% — Both about equally
- 13% — Mostly on other public land
- 14% — Exclusively on other public land
- 18% — Do not know
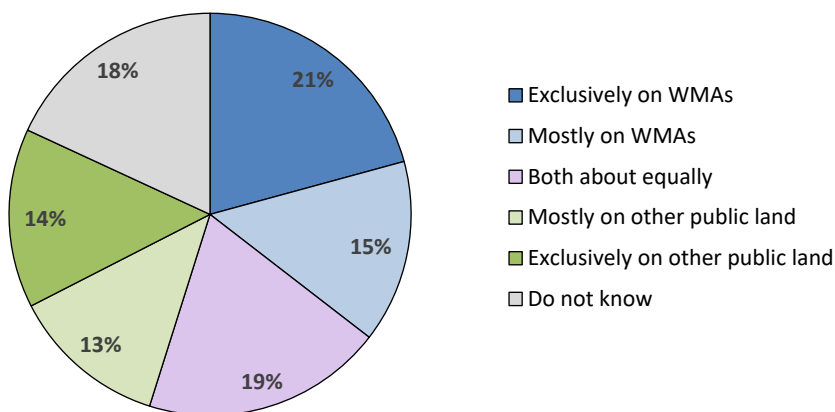
➢ Waterfowl hunters were also asked about WMA hunting: 63% of waterfowl hunters hunt waterfowl on public land (with the same assumption above about "do not know" responses—excluding the "do not know" responses, 56% definitely indicate hunting waterfowl on public land): 26% do so primarily on WMAs, 21% do so primarily on other public lands, and 10% hunt both about equally.
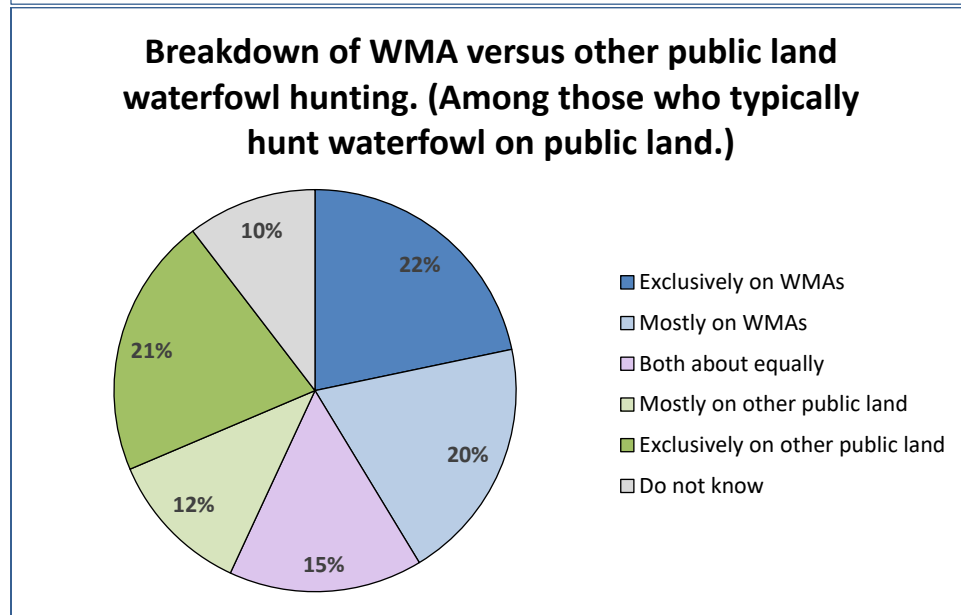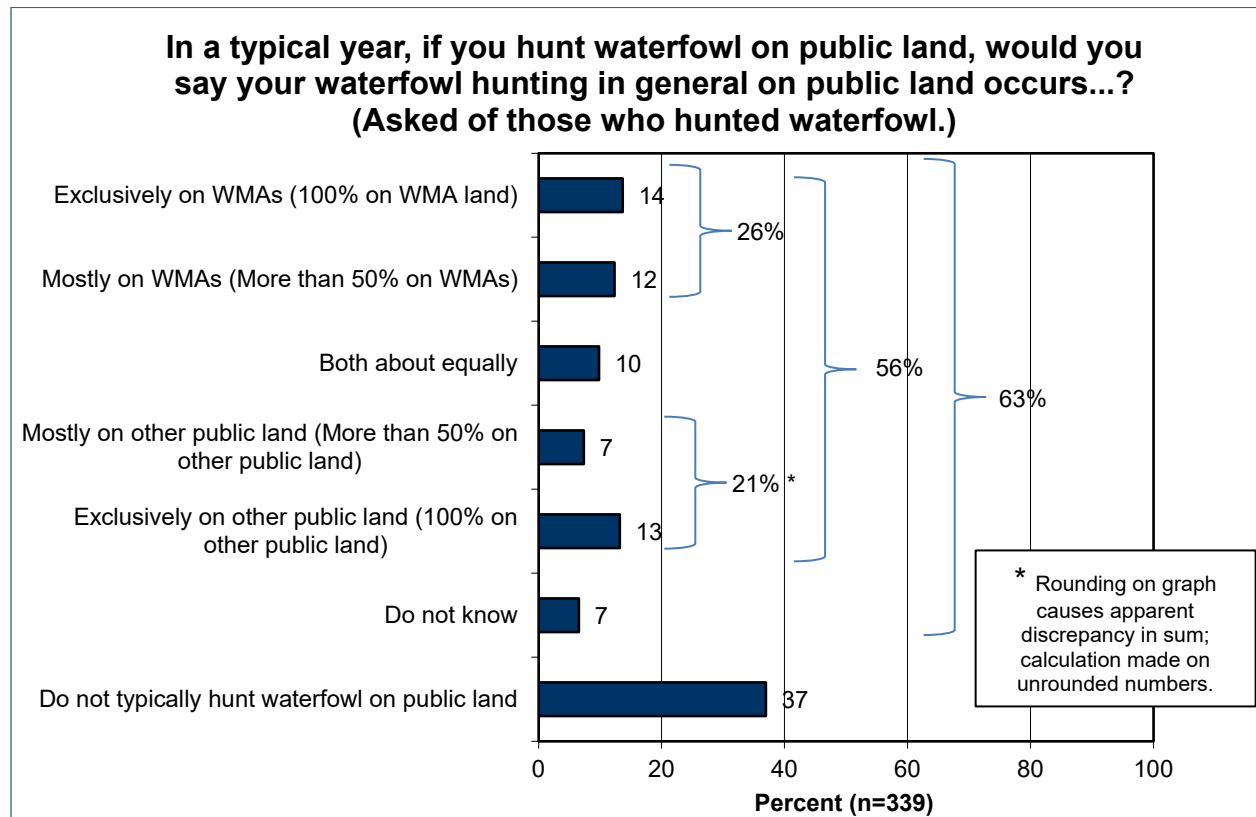
In a typical year, if you hunt waterfowl on public land, would you say your waterfowl hunting in general on public land occurs...? (Asked of those who hunted waterfowl.)

Category	Percent
Exclusively on WMAs (100% on WMA land)	14
Mostly on WMAs (More than 50% on WMAs)	12
Both about equally	10
Mostly on other public land (More than 50% on other public land)	7
Exclusively on other public land (100% on other public land)	13
Do not know	7
Do not typically hunt waterfowl on public land	37

26% (Exclusively on WMAs + Mostly on WMAs)
21% * (Mostly on other public land + Exclusively on other public land)
56%
63%

Percent (n=339)

* Rounding on graph causes apparent discrepancy in sum; calculation made on unrounded numbers.

Breakdown of WMA versus other public land waterfowl hunting. (Among those who typically hunt waterfowl on public land.)

Category	Percent
Exclusively on WMAs	22%
Mostly on WMAs	20%
Both about equally	15%
Mostly on other public land	12%
Exclusively on other public land	21%
Do not know	10%

TRAPPING

➢ As shown in the accompanying graph, raccoon was the most popular species to trap. (One
decimal place was used so that most of the species did not round to 0 at the integer level.)

Did you participate in trapping or purchase a trapping license this season? If yes, for what species?

Species	Percent
No, did not trap	94.1
Raccoon	2.7
Coyote	1.2
Opossum	1.1
Feral Swine	1.0
Beaver	0.6
Bobcat	0.5
Fox	0.4
Otter	0.2
Skunk	0.1
Muskrat	0.1
Mink	0.1
Nutria	0.0
Other	0.3
Do not know	1.6

Multiple Responses Allowed

Percent (n=2932)
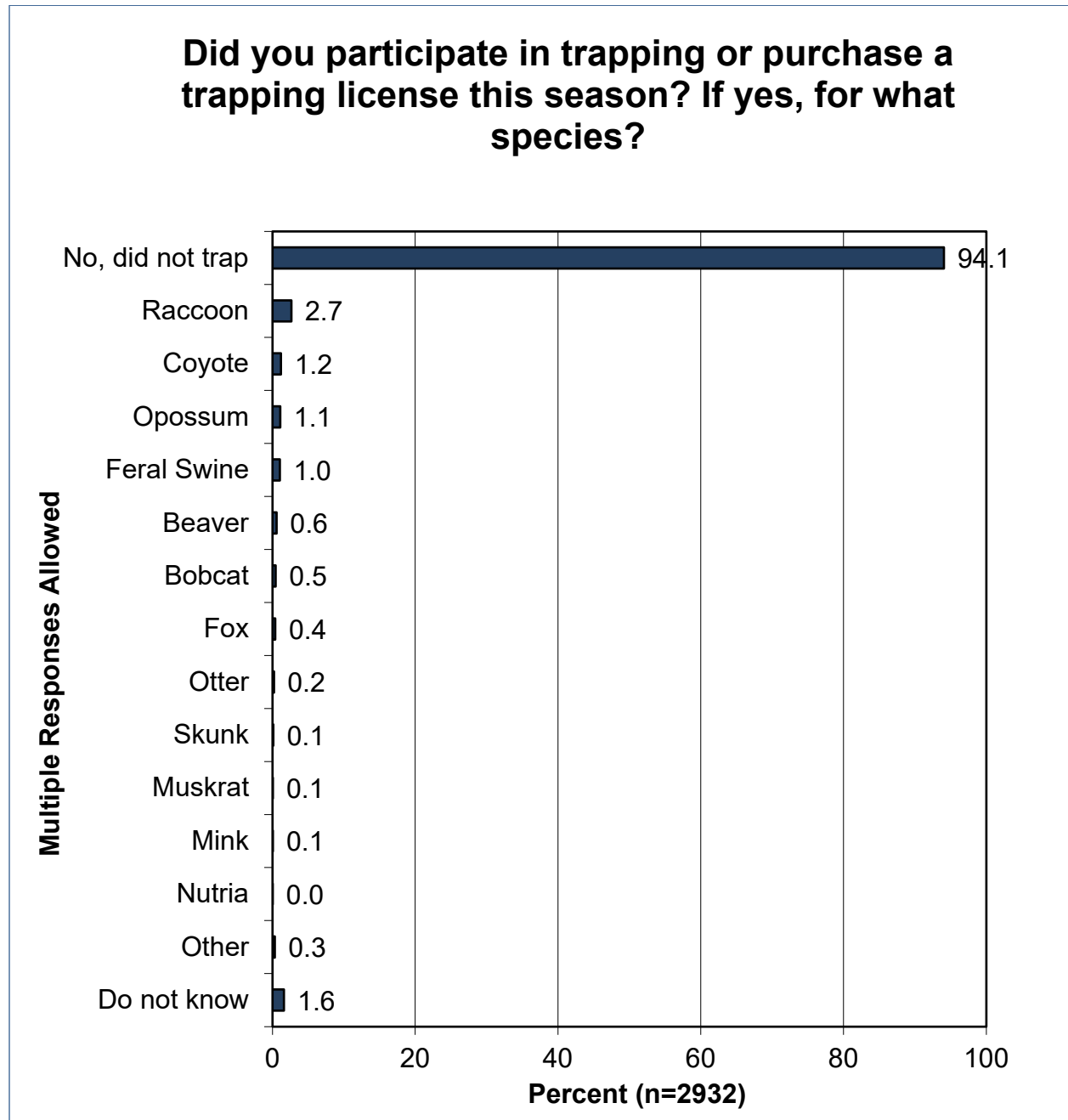
TRENDS

➢ The trend tables below show a fairly stable number of deer hunters in the current year compared to the previous year, which leads to fairly stable numbers of days hunted and harvest.

Deer Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Equipment	Number of Hunters					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Deer-All	202,540	191,054	198,924	228,015	237,878	233,450
Archery	80,979	75,815	80,300	89,664	97,580	100,021
Modern	179,102	171,293	180,746	201,464	216,348	208,853
Primitive	20,454	16,895	16,909	21,627	22,773	20,436

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Days Trends

Equipment / Land Type	Hunter-Days					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Deer-All	4,749,691	4,093,081	4,494,715	4,909,537	5,377,945	5,439,545
Archery	1,370,848	1,121,685	1,210,213	1,361,344	1,487,788	1,574,418
Modern	3,201,076	2,848,141	3,154,406	3,468,873	3,694,619	3,704,334
Primitive	177,767	123,254	130,095	190,393	196,225	160,251
Private Land	4,438,114	3,731,519	4,089,566	4,461,649	4,932,552	4,952,426
WMAs	205,341	217,415	211,673	238,625	226,059	262,037
Other Public	106,238	144,147	193,475	243,304	219,335	213,060

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.
WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

Deer Hunting: Harvest Trends

Equipment / Land / Deer Type	Number Harvested					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Deer-All	212,444	203,040	218,358	272,731	301,122	308,729
Archery	49,206	39,086	42,221	55,352	63,367	66,931
Modern	154,746	157,433	169,497	209,699	228,129	231,965
Primitive	8,460	6,522	6,640	8,154	10,005	10,078
Private Land	201,433	192,142	205,620	253,511	286,179	292,181
WMAs	6,433	6,650	6,161	6,765	7,697	9,205
Other Public	4,549	4,248	6,433	12,456	7,246	7,342
Buck	94,471	83,162	94,034	123,561	134,113	141,749
Doe	114,116	114,553	118,418	141,850	160,172	160,313

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.
WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

Deer Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

	Mean Days per Hunter					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Deer Overall	23.5	21.4	22.6	21.5	22.6	23.3

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Deer Harvest per Hunter Trends

Equipment Type	Mean Deer Harvest per Hunter					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Deer Overall	1.05	1.06	1.10	1.20	1.27	1.32
Archery	0.61	0.52	0.53	0.62	0.65	0.67
Modern	0.86	0.92	0.94	1.04	1.05	1.11
Primitive	0.41	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.44	0.49

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Days per Harvest Trends

Equipment Type	Mean Days per Harvest					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Deer Overall	22.4	20.2	20.6	18.0	17.9	17.6
Archery	20.7	18.1	18.6	16.5	16.2	16.0
Modern	27.9	28.7	28.7	24.6	23.5	23.5
Primitive	21.0	18.9	19.6	23.4	19.6	15.9

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Buck-Doe Percentage Trends

Deer Type	Percentage					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Buck	44.5	41.0	43.1	45.3	44.5	45.9
Doe	55.5	59.0	56.9	54.7	55.5	54.1

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

➤ The trends for other species are shown below.

Turkey Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Season Type	Number of Hunters					
	2017-2018	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**	***2020-2021**	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**
Turkey-All	48,626	49,878	61,224	59,988	72,332	70,359
Fall	1,563	1,833	1,616	2,837	1,779	1,963
Spring	47,488	48,194	59,946	57,567	70,750	68,756

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Days Trends

Equipment / Season Type	Hunter-Days					
	2017-2018	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**	***2020-2021**	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**
Turkey-All	510,907	521,678	711,202	548,417	710,374	752,783
Archery	17,858	14,700	22,759	11,604	11,684	11,933
Modern	477,067	494,233	684,115	534,370	682,702	714,404
Primitive	15,982	12,744	4,328	2,443	15,988	26,446
Fall	11,645	9,497	6,621	14,644	12,897	17,975
Spring	499,261	512,181	690,156	533,773	697,477	734,808

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Harvest Trends

Season / Turkey Type	Number Harvested					
	2017-2018	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**	***2020-2021**	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**
Turkey-All	28,093	25,750	34,882	25,468	35,997	47,131
Fall	619	98	217	472	257	47
Spring	27,474	25,652	34,666	24,995	35,740	47,084
Jakes	2,236	1,208	1,760	1,928	3,644	3,485
Gobblers	25,858	24,542	33,122	23,540	32,354	43,646

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

Season	Mean Days per Hunter					
	2017-2018	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**	***2020-2021**	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**
Turkey Overall	10.5	10.5	11.6	9.1	9.8	10.7
Fall	7.4	5.2	4.1	5.2	7.3	9.2
Spring	10.5	10.6	11.5	9.3	9.9	10.7

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Harvest per Hunter Trends

Season	Turkey Harvest per Hunter					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Turkey Overall	0.58	0.52	0.57	0.42	0.50	0.67
Fall	0.40	**	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.02
Spring	0.58	0.53	0.58	0.43	0.51	0.68

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

** Sample size too small for calculations.

Turkey Hunting: Days per Harvest Trends

Season	Mean Days per Harvest					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Turkey Overall	18.2	20.3	20.4	21.5	19.7	16.0
Fall	18.8	**	30.6	31.0	50.1	*** 384.4
Spring	18.2	20.0	19.9	21.4	19.5	15.6

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

** Sample size too small for calculations.

*** The relatively low number of hunters hunting in the fall combined with their low success rate produces a relatively large number of days per harvest.

Quail Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Quail Type	Number of Hunters					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Quail-All	8,821	8,953	7,796	6,696	8,470	9,427
Wild	3,004	2,144	2,903	2,093	2,566	2,765
Pen-Raised	8,094	8,087	6,218	5,477	7,465	6,662

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Quail Hunting: Days Trends

Quail Type	Hunter-Days					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Quail-All	**	52,336	39,541	40,046	36,323	55,350
Wild	39,696	12,710	11,491	13,021	8,383	13,252
Pen-Raised	53,740	39,603	27,019	27,009	27,940	42,098

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

** Not determined for the 2017-2018 season.

Quail Hunting: Harvest Trends

Quail Type	Number Harvested					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Quail-All	347,308	321,589	154,063	253,176	282,450	370,665
Wild	67,889	37,851	21,662	27,234	22,068	27,640
Pen-Raised	279,418	283,738	132,379	225,942	260,381	343,026

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Quail Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

	Mean Days per Hunter					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Quail-All	10.6	5.8	5.1	6.0	4.3	5.9

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Quail Hunting: Mean Days per Harvest Trends

	Mean Days per Harvest					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Quail-All	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

	Number of Hunters					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Dove-All	38,837	35,955	55,800	49,990	60,309	65,648

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Days Trends

Split	Hunter-Days					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Dove-All	213,107	194,068	233,234	207,038	218,995	263,019
First Split	153,102	143,766	162,116	146,306	145,872	196,957
Remaining Splits	59,747	49,601	57,688	53,930	61,251	58,856

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Harvest Trends

Split	Number Harvested					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Dove-All	1,567,042	1,257,006	1,345,741	1,159,243	1,370,878	1,475,191
First Split	1,118,151	884,211	967,728	814,933	973,791	1,121,051
Remaining Splits	397,517	317,444	323,922	313,903	318,697	322,819
Unknown Splits	51,375	55,351	54,116	30,440	78,389	31,321

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

	Mean Days per Hunter					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Dove-All	5.5	5.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	4.0

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Mean Days per Harvest Trends

	Mean Days per Harvest					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Dove-All	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Species	Number of Hunters					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Bobcat	2,760	2,594	3,339	2,375	2,050	3,337
Coot	649	895	1,009	704	726	1,469
Coyote	15,667	14,117	19,721	14,340	14,287	23,154
Duck	27,114	22,421	23,603	20,323	27,258	29,893
Fox	893	296	1,009	880	984	735
Goose	5,277	4,927	6,444	3,959	5,726	7,536
Opossum	487	718	1,087	704	1,156	2,461
Rabbit	5,439	4,527	8,774	7,478	7,847	10,043
Raccoon	5,601	4,199	5,668	3,783	5,901	6,622
Snipe	81	148	388	264	172	341
Squirrel	17,210	14,549	21,429	16,892	17,704	22,640
Wild hog	28,737	27,076	35,094	30,968	32,330	37,061
Woodcock	162	74	311	352	258	1,029

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Days Trends

Species	Hunter-Days					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Bobcat	11,365	14,493	4,037	4,399	1,435	3,233
Coot	2,029	7,053	543	1,320	3,609	4,455
Coyote	114,299	60,219	85,173	108,036	46,601	122,508
Duck	307,016	227,003	237,273	192,758	334,067	312,652
Fox	893	2,296	5,124	6,422	1,031	4,148
Goose	32,796	25,653	34,939	11,525	30,471	43,006
Opossum	649	1,163	17,547	5,543	4,210	4,851
Rabbit	34,988	41,386	55,980	56,041	43,554	57,629
Raccoon	98,469	74,479	144,336	124,224	130,374	89,079
Snipe	244	1,628	311	264	258	481
Squirrel	122,417	90,910	108,466	112,171	108,845	122,715
Wild hog	241,343	174,767	190,067	211,849	206,354	252,717
Woodcock	2,029	**0	543	1,672	430	4,005

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

**No hunters in the survey specifically hunted woodcock (i.e., 0 days hunting woodcock) but there was reported harvest in that season.

Small Game Hunting: Harvest Trends

Species	Number Harvested					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Bobcat	3,071	3,109	3,028	2,364	1,900	2,451
Coot	5,070	24,660	10,249	4,650	2,578	12,838
Coyote	61,108	65,668	56,523	60,154	49,139	74,626
Duck	674,362	540,023	431,067	373,242	598,518	525,867
Fox	943	148	1,553	1,074	1,203	1,343
Goose	47,012	40,148	41,849	17,299	35,840	61,527
Opossum	1,418	2,194	11,025	4,644	2,835	8,363
Rabbit	41,897	45,403	73,139	55,675	49,458	47,438
Raccoon	80,732	37,783	65,685	31,936	49,482	35,047
Snipe	884	2,222	466	709	1,031	1,316
Squirrel	240,929	179,245	276,172	240,401	226,875	225,927
Wild hog	344,407	258,924	255,364	295,418	340,697	335,421
Woodcock	534	222	621	946	601	2,825

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

Species	Mean Days per Hunter					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Bobcat	4.1	5.6	1.2	1.9	0.7	1.0
Coot	3.1	7.9	0.5	1.9	5.0	3.0
Coyote	7.3	4.3	4.3	7.5	3.3	5.3
Duck	11.3	10.1	10.1	9.5	12.3	10.5
Fox	1.0	7.8	5.1	7.3	1.0	5.6
Goose	6.2	5.2	5.4	3.9	5.3	5.7
Opossum	1.3	1.6	16.1	7.9	3.6	2.0
Rabbit	6.4	9.1	6.4	7.5	5.6	5.7
Raccoon	17.6	17.7	25.5	32.8	22.1	13.5
Snipe	3.0	11.0	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.4
Squirrel	7.1	6.2	5.1	6.6	6.1	5.4
Wild hog	8.4	6.5	5.4	6.8	6.4	6.8
Woodcock	12.5	0.0	1.8	4.8	1.7	3.9

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.
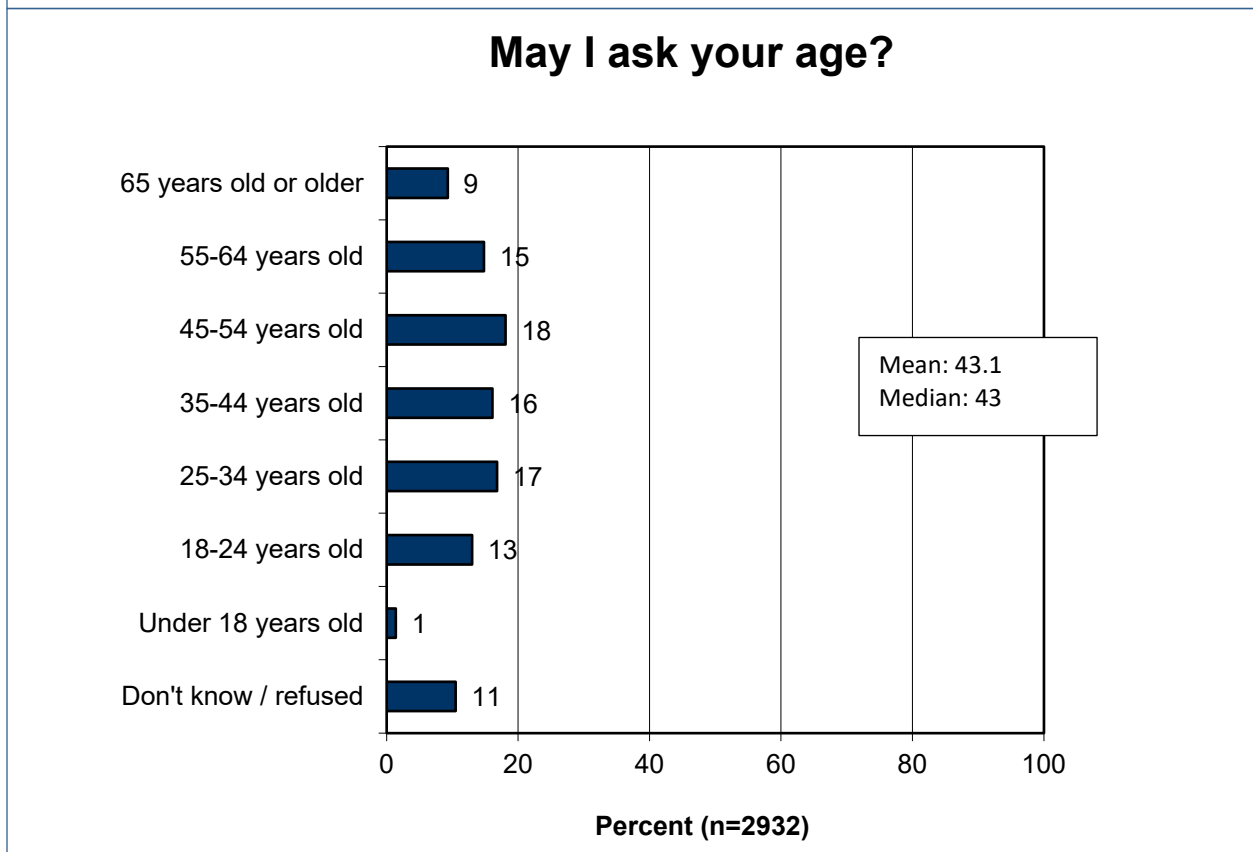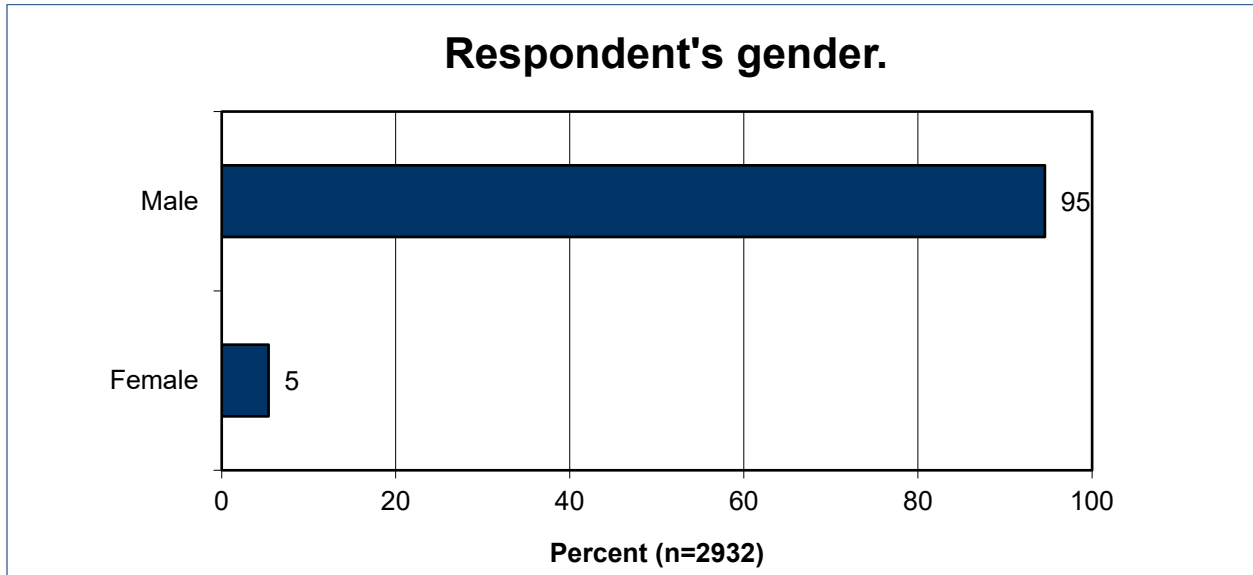
Small Game Hunting: Days per Harvest Trends

Species	Mean Days per Harvest					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Bobcat	3.7	4.7	1.3	1.9	0.8	1.3
Coot	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.3
Coyote	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.8	0.9	1.6
Duck	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Fox	0.9	15.5	3.3	6.0	0.9	3.1
Goose	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7
Opossum	0.5	0.5	1.6	1.2	1.5	0.6
Rabbit	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.2
Raccoon	1.2	2.0	2.2	3.9	2.6	2.5
Snipe	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4
Squirrel	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Wild hog	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Woodcock	3.8	**	0.9	1.8	0.7	1.4

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

**No hunters in the survey specifically hunted woodcock (i.e., 0 days hunting woodcock) but there was reported harvest.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

➢ The below graphs show the age and gender of Alabama licensed hunters in the 2022-2023 seasons. The overwhelming majority of hunters are male; the median age is 43 years. The graphs are only of those licensed hunters who hunted in 2022-2023 and were given the full survey.

Respondent's gender.

Gender	Percent
Male	95
Female	5

Percent (n=2932)

May I ask your age?

Age group	Percent
65 years old or older	9
55-64 years old	15
45-54 years old	18
35-44 years old	16
25-34 years old	17
18-24 years old	13
Under 18 years old	1
Don't know / refused	11

Mean: 43.1
Median: 43

Percent (n=2932)

ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies, businesses, and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Focusing only on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has conducted telephone, mail, and online surveys, as well as multi-modal surveys, on-site intercepts, focus groups, public meetings, personal interviews, needs assessments, program evaluations, marketing and communication plans, and other forms of human dimensions research measuring how people relate to the natural world for more than 30 years. Utilizing our in-house, full-service survey facilities with 75 professional interviewers, we have conducted studies in all 50 states and 15 countries worldwide, totaling more than 1,000 human dimensions projects *only* on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Responsive Management has conducted research for every state fish and wildlife agency and every federal natural resource agency, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Additionally, we have also provided research for all the major conservation NGOs including the Archery Trade Association, the American Sportfishing Association, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Dallas Safari Club, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

Other nonprofit and NGO clients include the American Museum of Natural History, the BoatUS Foundation, the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the Ocean Conservancy. As well, Responsive Management conducts market research and product testing for numerous outdoor recreation manufacturers and industry leaders, such as Winchester Ammunition, Vista Outdoor (whose brands include Federal Premium, CamelBak, Bushnell, Primos, and more), Trijicon, Yamaha, and others.

Responsive Management also provides data collection for the nation's top universities, including Auburn University, Clemson University, Colorado State University, Duke University, George Mason University, Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Rutgers University, Stanford University, Texas Tech, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, University of Montana, University of New Hampshire, University of Southern California, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Yale University, and many more.

Our research has been upheld in U.S. Courts, used in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at major wildlife and natural resource conferences around the world. Responsive Management's research has also been featured in many of the nation's top media, including *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, CNN, National Public Radio, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

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