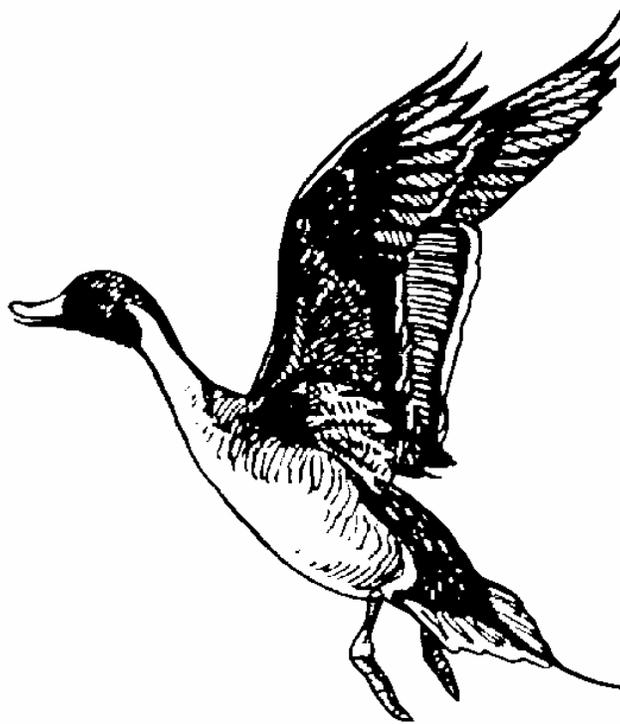


South Dakota
Waterfowl Hunter Survey – 2008
The Future of Waterfowl Hunting in South Dakota

HD-6-09.AMS

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Executive Summary

South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey – 2008

The Future of Waterfowl Hunting in South Dakota

HD-6-09.AMS
Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

The purpose of this survey was to collect information from South Dakota waterfowl hunters to evaluate the problem of declining waterfowl hunting in South Dakota and explore the potential to reverse the trend. A conclusion drawn from this survey data was that one important component of reversing the decline of waterfowl hunter participation should focus on keeping the current waterfowl hunters actively participating in the sport.

We have a wide range of duck and goose hunters in South Dakota ranging from very dedicated and committed to very sporadic hunters with very low commitment to the sport (Figure A). Given the right set of contributing factors the potential exists to lose significant numbers of hunters (12-14%) over the next decade, mainly from the group of hunters with the lowest level of interest and commitment. This report does not cover the topic of recruitment but makes the assumption that the current rate of decline is likely to continue at a rate higher than the rate of current recruitment, all else being equal.

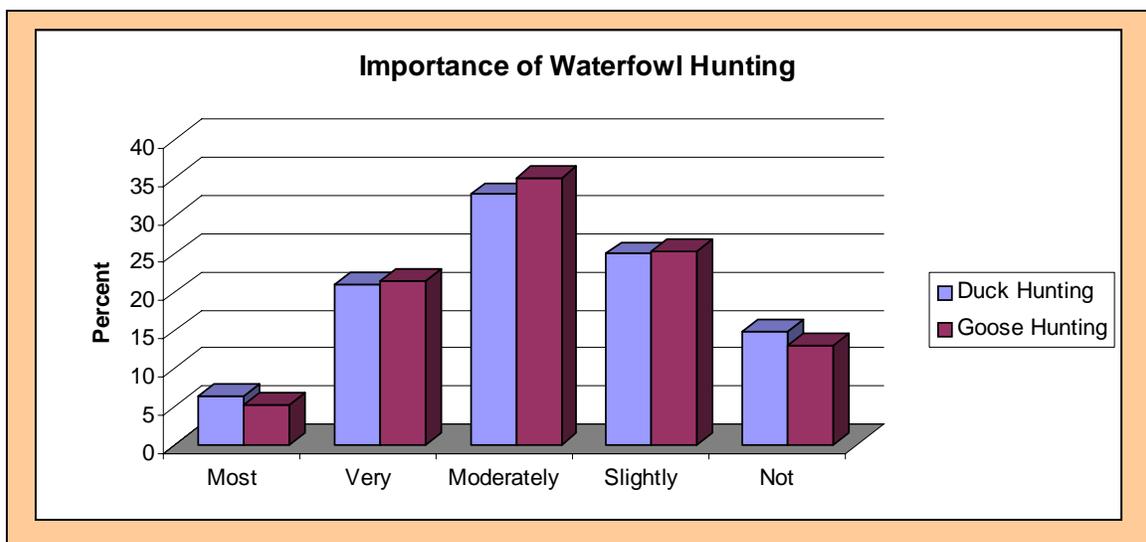


Figure A. Duck and goose hunters' rating of the importance of duck and goose hunting.

Predicting Future (Duck) Waterfowl Hunting from Survey Data. The simple question of asking hunters if they intend to waterfowl hunt in the future produces a ‘fuzzy’ result. Future participation is strongly related to hunters’ evaluation of the importance of that activity (Figure B). The 3.7% of hunters that reported that they do not intend to hunt ducks in the future is probably a relatively accurate prediction; however, unforeseen events could easily affect the future behavior of some of the 81.5% of hunters currently intending to hunt ducks in the future. That still leaves almost 15% of the hunters that are undecided. Many factors can be involved in these hunters’ future decisions to hunt ducks, making predictions a little uncertain. We know that 3.7% have made the decision to drop out of duck hunting, but it is the 15% that are near the point of making a decision about future duck hunting, many of which are now sporadic duck hunters that make predictions of future waterfowl hunter numbers difficult. Stemming the tide of declining duck hunting will depend on how effective an agency is at reaching these hunters with programs that will keep them actively participating in duck hunting.

Estimated Importance of Duck Hunting	Intention to Hunt Ducks in Future	Percent	Estimated Intention to Hunt Ducks in Future
Most 6.4%	Yes	96.1%	Yes 81.5% Not Sure? 14.8% No 3.7%
	Not Sure?	2.9%	
	No	1.0%	
Very 21.0%	Yes	95.1%	
	Not Sure?	3.7%	
	No	1.2%	
Moderately 32.8%	Yes	89.3%	
	Not Sure?	8.8%	
	No	1.9%	
Slightly 25.0%	Yes	81.0%	
	Not Sure?	16.9%	
	No	2.1%	
Not Important 14.8%	Yes	39.4%	
	Not Sure?	45.7%	
	No	14.9%	

Figure B. Relationship between hunters’ evaluation of the importance of duck hunting and their intention to hunt ducks in the future.

A Model of Declining Duck (Waterfowl) Hunting (Figure C). This model shows that there are a number of pathways leading to dropping out of duck hunting. One pathway suggests that for various reasons some hunters experience a decline in enjoyment of duck hunting (*some of the factors are listed in Appendix B – Table 42 and Appendix F*). A decrease in enjoyment can lead to hunters hunting fewer days per year as can other factors (*see Appendix B – Table 40 and Appendix E*). Hunters that hunt infrequently in a year may get to the point that they are not doing any hunting some years, including not purchasing needed licenses some years as well as other reasons for not duck hunting some years (*see Appendix B – Table 20 and Appendix C*). In addition to this pathway there can be a number of other factors that can lead directly to duck hunters dropping out of duck hunting, such as age, illness, change in family or work status, developing interest in other activities, etc.

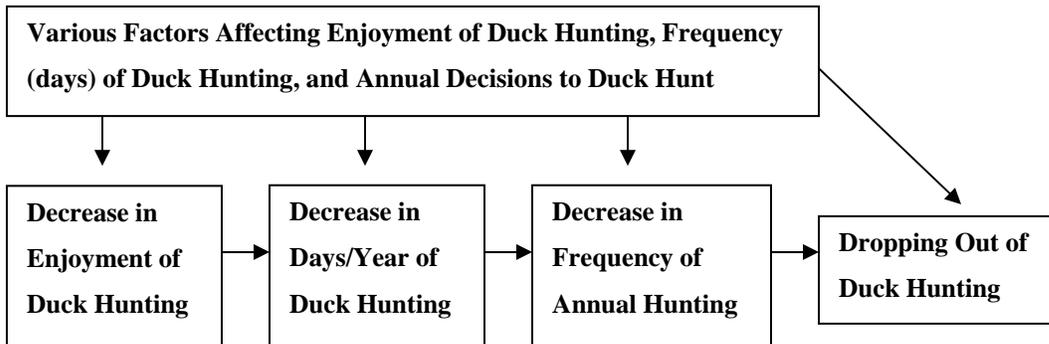


Figure C. A model of declining duck (waterfowl) hunting participation.

The mix of reasons for hunters’ decrease in enjoyment and frequency (daily and annual) of duck hunting tended to be relatively similar. Also, no specific reason was listed as a major reason for not duck hunting by a majority of hunters, however, one general theme was evident—‘**too busy**’. Five of the top six reasons for not duck hunting were related to being too busy (with family, work or participating in other types of outdoor recreation). Difficulty in finding places to hunt was the other reason.

The survey results were not all doom and gloom for the future of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. The predictions of further declines in waterfowl participation are what could happen, not what will happen. Also, the survey results suggests that there are lapsed waterfowl hunters (hunters that have hunted waterfowl in the past but are not currently active in the activity) not counted in this sample (because they did not purchase a Migratory Bird Certification for 2008) that in varying degrees of frequency will hunt waterfowl in the future. It will be a far easier and fruitful effort to bring lapsed waterfowl hunters back into active participation than to recruit new adult waterfowl hunters.

Selected Findings:

- Waterfowl hunting experiences of South Dakota adult, resident hunters who have purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification:

NEVER hunted ducks or geese	12.5%
Hunted GEESE, but NOT ducks	12.6%
Hunted DUCKS, but NOT geese	4.1%
Hunted BOTH	70.8%

Duck Hunters:

- South Dakota adult, resident duck hunters' satisfaction with their most recent year of duck hunting:

Satisfied	66.4%
Neutral / No Opinion	18.3%
Dissatisfied	15.3%

- South Dakota adult, resident duck hunters' attitude towards duck season management strategies (2008):

Hunter's Choice	52.9%
Season w/in Season	12.2%
Undecided	34.9%

- How big a role does the COST of licenses (S.D. hunting licenses plus Federal Duck Stamp) play in your decision to hunt ducks in a particular year?

Major Role	11.3%
Minor Role	42.7%
Not Important	45.9%

- Type of land duck hunters did the majority of their duck hunting:

Private Land	55.1%
Public Land	38.4%
Walk-In-Areas	5.7%
Don't Know	0.9%

- Duck hunters' rating of difficulty in finding places to hunt ducks:

Very Difficult	12.1%
Moderately Difficult	28.2%
Slightly Difficult	26.9%
Not A Problem	32.9%

- Is crowding (too many duck hunters – disturbances from other hunters) ever a problem at places you like to hunt ducks?

NO	52.1%
YES	47.9%

If YES, how big of a problem?

Always Crowded	3.3%
Often Crowded	28.3%
Sometimes Crowded	53.6%
Seldom Crowded	14.9%

- South Dakota adult, resident duck hunters' interest in a free waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class:

Very Interested	17.7%
Moderately Interested	22.4%
Slightly Interested	27.6%
Not Interested / No Opinion	32.3%

Goose Hunters:

- South Dakota adult, resident goose hunters' satisfaction with their most recent year of goose hunting:

Satisfied	69.2%
Neutral / No Opinion	16.2%
Dissatisfied	14.6%

- South Dakota adult, resident goose hunters' usual type of goose hunting:

Pass Shooting	30.5%
Over Field Decoys	50.9%
Over Floating Decoys	7.3%
Incidental while Hunting Other Game	11.2%

Importance of Duck/Goose Hunting & Satisfaction:

- Hunters' satisfaction with duck/goose hunting increased as their rating of the importance of duck/goose hunting increased (Figure D).

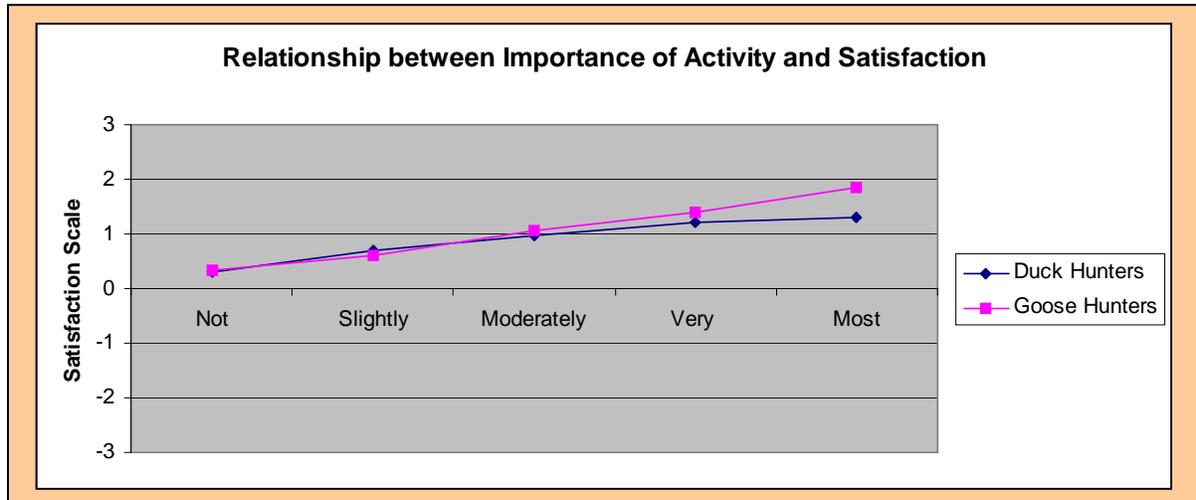


Figure D. Relationship between hunters' evaluation of the importance of duck/goose hunting and their satisfaction with their duck/goose hunting.

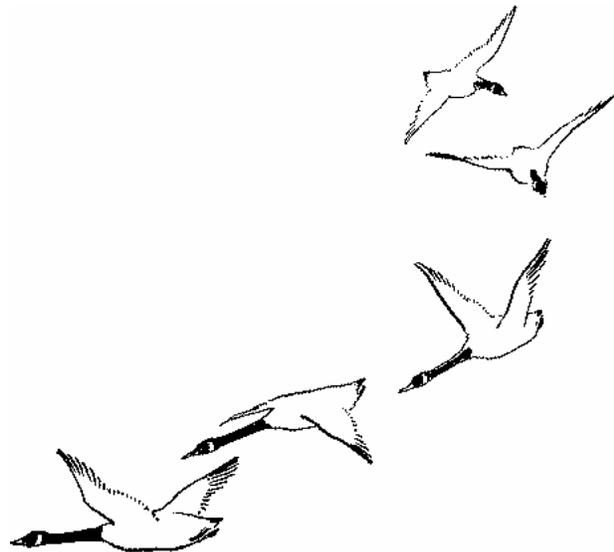


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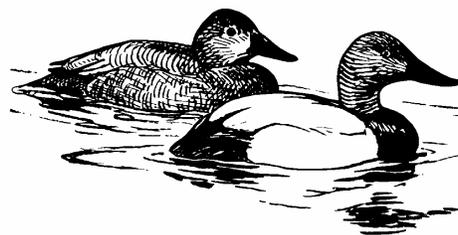
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South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey – 2008

The Future of Waterfowl Hunting in South Dakota

Game, Fish & Parks / Division of Wildlife
Agency Report
HD-6-09.AMS

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

This survey is part of a study involving two separate surveys designed to evaluate the problem of declining waterfowl hunters in South Dakota and the potential to reverse the trend. This survey was sent to a sample of resident, adult hunters who purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification, which is a requirement for residents to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota (referred to as the waterfowl hunter sample). The other survey was sent to small game hunters (purchased a Small Game License or Combination License) who had not purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification (referred to as the bird hunter sample).

The purpose of the waterfowl hunter survey was to describe the current adult, resident South Dakota hunters licensed to hunt waterfowl to evaluate the future of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota and factors that may contribute to a further decline in waterfowl hunting. The bird hunter survey report (HD-7-09.AMS) will evaluate the potential to attract bird hunters to participate in waterfowl hunting.

METHODS

Sample Selection and Survey Implementation. A total of 3,000 adult residents licensed to hunt small game and had a South Dakota 2008 Migratory Bird Certification were randomly selected (1,400 Small Game License: ID# 1 – 1400; 1,600 Combination License: ID# 1401 – 3000). A short questionnaire was sent to all non-respondents to the long survey. The following chart shows the mailing schedule for this survey:

Mailing	Date
Survey Questionnaire	January 15, 2009
1 st Postcard Reminder	January 28, 2009
2 nd Survey Questionnaire	February 24, 2009
2 nd Postcard Reminder	March 10, 2009
Non-respondent Survey Questionnaire	April 6, 2009
Postcard Reminder	April 10, 2009

Questionnaire Design. The waterfowl hunter survey questionnaire was a large booklet (8½ by 11) with 11 inside pages of questions with a light blue cover mailed out in a large white envelope with a postage-paid business reply envelope included (Appendix A). Since a Migratory Bird Certification is also needed to hunt dove, snipe and sandhill crane the first question is used to filter out the non-waterfowl hunters and also to distinguish between duck and goose hunters. Most of the questionnaire is directed towards duck hunters (questions 2 – 21): frequency of duck hunting, reasons for not duck hunting, importance of duck hunting, influences on getting started in duck hunting, reasons for less hunting and reasons for decreased enjoyment of duck hunting, satisfactions and motivations of duck hunters, and opinions about duck hunting regulations and experiences. A few questions measure parameters related to goose hunting (questions 22 – 26): frequency and type of goose hunting and importance of and satisfaction with goose hunting. The questionnaire ends with a few demographic variables: age, gender, county and type of residence, plus a space for optional comments.

The non-response survey was a 4-page questionnaire folded in thirds to fit a #10 window envelope (mailing address was attached to the questionnaire) and a #9 postage-paid business reply envelope included (Appendix A). The non-response survey consisted of the initial filter question and seven key questions for duck hunters, three key questions for goose hunters, ending with three demographic questions.

RESULTS – SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

Return Rates. The Small Game License sample achieved a 59% return rate and the Combination License sample had a 70% return rate for a combined return rate of 66% (Appendix B – Table 1). The non-response survey achieved a return rate of 26% (23% for the Small Game License sample and 29% for the Combination License sample). This provided an overall return of 74% (68% for the Small Game License sample and 78% for the Combination License sample).

Evaluation of Non-Response Bias. A total of 22 variables were evaluated for non-response bias (Table 1). Nine (41%) significant differences were found between the regular survey and the non-response survey. Population estimates for made for each variable (except

for ratings of the importance of each motivation) using the data from the non-response survey to adjust for non-response bias (Appendix B – Tables 3 – 16).

Table 1. Summary of variables tested for non-response bias in the 2008 South Dakota waterfowl hunter survey.

Appendix B Table	Variable	Significant	p-value
2	Distribution of usable questionnaires by license type (reflects return rates)	NS	=0.088
3	Waterfowl hunting experience	Sign.	<0.001
4	Duck hunter: 5 year hunting history (2004-08)	Sign.	=0.029
5	Duck hunter: satisfaction with duck hunting	Sign.	=0.044
6	Duck hunter: importance of duck hunting	NS	=0.223
7	Duck hunter: interest in a free waterfowl hunting workshop	Sign.	=0.028
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Excitement	Sign.	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Nature	NS	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Social	NS	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Challenge	NS	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Solitude	NS	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Additional Hunting	NS	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Meat	NS	–
8	Duck hunter – Motivation: Trophy	NS	–
9	Duck hunter: most important motivation	Sign.	=0.003
10	Duck Hunter: attitude towards management strategy	Sign.	=0.003
11	Goose hunter: 5 year hunting history (2004-08)	Sign.	<0.001
12	Goose hunter: satisfaction with goose hunting	NS	=0.514
13	Goose hunter: importance of goose hunting	NS	=0.102
14	Gender	NS	=0.316
15	Residence type	NS	=0.652
16	Age	Sign.	=0.003

A higher percentage of non-respondents did not hunt waterfowl (21% vs. 8%) (Appendix B – Table 3). Respondents to the full survey had a higher frequency of duck hunting but were less satisfied with their duck hunting experiences compared to non-respondents (Appendix B – Tables 4 and 5). Respondents to the full survey were also more interested in attending a free waterfowl hunting workshop and rated the motivation for duck

hunting of ‘excitement’ higher in importance compared to non-respondents (Appendix B – Tables 7 and 8). A higher percent of respondents selected ‘excitement’ as their top motivation while more non-respondents selected ‘nature’ as their top motivation (Appendix B – Table 9). A higher percent of non-respondents did not have an opinion about duck hunting management strategies compared to respondents to the full survey (44% vs. 30%) (Appendix B – Table 10). Respondents to the full survey had a higher frequency of goose hunting compared to non-respondents (Appendix B – Table 11). Respondents were older than non-respondents (Appendix B – Table 16).

RESULTS – DUCK HUNTING BY SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

Duck Hunting: Past, Present and Future. Having a current Migratory Bird Certification is not a good measure of waterfowl hunting or duck hunting participation. About 13% of the 2008 Migratory Bird Certification holders never hunted ducks or geese and another 13% hunted geese but never hunted ducks (Appendix B – Table 3).

Only about 50% of the South Dakota resident duck hunters hunted all five of the past five years (2004–2008) and each year had about the same level of participation (Appendix B – Table 17). This means that in any one ‘regular’ year we can expect about 30% of the current duck hunters to not participate in duck hunting in a particular year. It suggests that in a year with the right alignment of factors we could experience a more significant drop in duck hunting participation. It also suggests that there are a fair number of ‘duck’ hunters that were not in the original sample population because they did not purchase a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification.¹ Therefore the easiest way to increase duck hunting participation is to increase the frequency of participation by experienced duck hunters with a resulting 30% potential increase. Unfortunately, many of the factors contributing to not hunting may not be easily addressed by a state agency.

Most (82%) of the current duck hunters intend to hunt in the future, 14% were not sure if they would hunt ducks in the future and only 4% reported that they will not be hunting ducks in the future (Appendix B – Table 18). This indicates that at least the potential is relatively high for maintaining duck hunter numbers but not necessarily guaranteed. Recent

¹ This will be estimated by the companion bird hunter survey.

(past five years) hunting frequency is a strong indicator of future hunting (Appendix B – Table 19).

Reasons for NOT Duck Hunting. Hunters that did not hunt ducks every year of the past five years (2004–2008) or intend to hunt ducks in the future were asked to rate on a 3-point scale² the importance of 26 reasons for not duck hunting every year (Appendix B – Table 20 and Appendix C). Hunters listed an average of about 2½ major reasons for not duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 21). No single reason had an outstanding percent of hunters selecting it as a ‘major’ reason for not duck hunting – even the highest rated reason was rated as ‘not a reason’ by 73% of the hunters. Five of the six top selected reasons were related to being too busy with other activities (family, work, or participating in other forms of hunting or outdoor recreation). The fourth highest rated reason was ‘too hard to find a place to hunt’ was listed as a major reason by 9% of the hunters and is possibly an item that an agency may be able to address. Small bag limits and various types of regulation complexity were not often listed as a major reason for not duck hunting in a particular year.

Importance of Duck Hunting. About 6% of the duck hunters listed duck hunting as their most important recreational activity and another 21% listed duck hunting as a very important activity; however, 25% listed duck hunting as only slightly important and about 15% said that duck hunting was not important (Appendix B – Table 6). Importance of duck hunting appears to be a very discerning variable, being significantly related to a number of variables. Importance of duck hunting was strongly related to frequency of duck hunting and intention to hunt ducks in the future (Appendix B – Tables 23 and 24). Note that hunters that were ‘not sure’ if they would hunt ducks in the future had a similar importance rating of duck hunting as hunters that did not plan to hunt ducks in the future. This indicates that hunters in the ‘not sure’ group are more closely aligned in intention to hunt in the future with the ‘no’ group than the ‘yes’ group. Also, the number of reasons for not duck hunting increased as importance of duck hunting decreased (Appendix B – Tables 25 and 26). Overall, this indicates that we have a wide range of duck hunters ranging from very dedicated and committed to very sporadic hunters with very low commitment to the sport. This indicates that we have the potential to see further declines in duck hunting participation.

² Coded as: 0=Not a Reason; 1=Minor Reason; and 2=Major Reason

Our sample of duck hunters shows a significant range of when they first started duck hunting (Figure 1 and Appendix B – Table 27). Importance of duck hunting was not significantly related to decade when hunters first started duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 28). Thus dedicated, committed duck hunters are not a generational factor, meaning that it is just as possible to produce dedicated, committed duck hunters today as it was in any other time period.

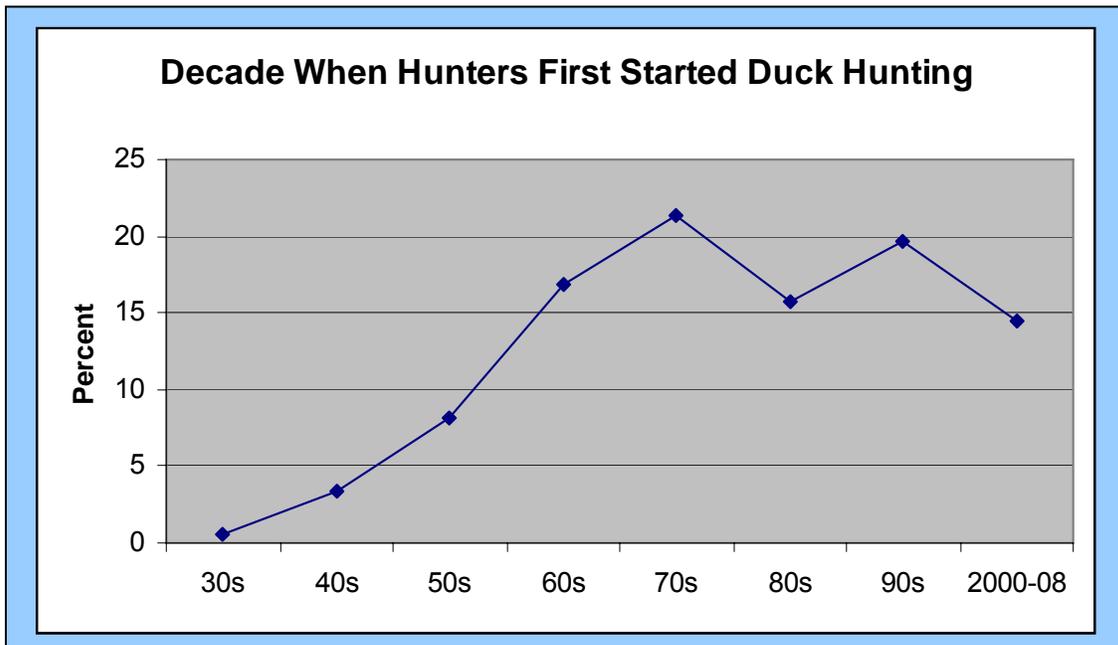


Figure 1. Decade when 2008 South Dakota resident hunters first started duck hunting. Note: The 2000-08 point on this graph is not a true measure because the data comes from a sample of adult hunters and covers only an 8-year time period.

Influences on Duck Hunting Participation. The two top rated influences on getting hunters started in duck hunting were family/relatives followed by friends (Appendix B – Table 29 and Appendix D). Although of much lower overall importance, having lots of places to hunt ducks and no crowding were the next two most important influences. Also, having high duck populations can be an important influence for some hunters. However, note that education efforts (measured by the importance of watching programs or reading about duck hunting) do not seem to have much influence on getting hunters started in duck hunting.

Duck hunters listed an average of $2\frac{2}{3}$ major influences for getting them started in duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 30). The number of influences was significantly related with hunters rating of the importance of duck hunting—the higher the importance of duck hunting the more influences listed by hunters (Appendix B – Tables 32 and 33). Looking at just the top two influences listed by duck hunters (family/relatives and friends), the influence by family members appears to have a more significant impact on the importance of duck hunting to the hunter (Appendix B – Table 34).

Duck Hunting Frequency. About one-third of the duck hunters have hunted ducks every year since starting and another one-quarter have hunted most years (Appendix B – Table 35). Hunters averaged 9 days (median=6 days) of duck hunting for the last year they duck hunted (Appendix B – Table 37). General yearly frequency of duck hunting and mean number of days of duck hunting were strongly related to hunters' rating of the importance of duck hunting (Appendix B – Tables 36 and 38).

About 56% of the resident duck hunters reported that the number of days they currently duck hunt in a year has decreased from when they first started duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 39). Work and family obligations were the top two reasons for declining frequency of duck hunting followed by 'hard to find good places to hunt' and being 'more interested in hunting other game' (Appendix B – Table 40 and Appendix E). Only about 7% listed 'complex regulations' as a major reason.

Since one reason for decreased hunting frequency and also for dropping out of hunting could be related to a general decrease in enjoyment of the sport, relative change in enjoyment of duck hunting was included in this survey. About one-third of the resident duck hunters reported a general decline in their enjoyment of duck hunting since they first started duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 41). The top six reasons for hunters' decreased enjoyment of duck hunting (in order of importance) were 'hard to find good places to hunt', 'work obligations', 'more interested in hunting other game', 'family obligations', 'age', and 'too crowded where I like to hunt' (Appendix B – Table 42 and Appendix F).

Satisfactions & Motivations of South Dakota Resident Duck Hunters. About two-thirds of the resident duck hunters were satisfied with their most recent year of duck hunting; 18% were neutral and 15% were dissatisfied (Appendix B – Table 5). The three top

rated motivations for liking duck hunting were excitement, nature enjoyment, and social aspects (Appendix B – Table 8). Challenge and solitude were rated as moderately important and having additional hunting opportunity, meat and trophy were rated relatively low in importance. Overall about 90% of the hunters selected nature enjoyment (33%), excitement (30%), or social aspects (26%) as their top reason for why they like duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 9).

Opinions about Duck Hunting Regulations & Experiences. The following information was provided in the survey questionnaire:

Hunter’s Choice uses an aggregate bag (1 hen mallard OR 1 pintail OR 1 canvasback) to limit harvest on species needing additional protection while maintaining full hunting opportunity on abundant species or stocks of ducks such as drake mallards.

Season-Within-a-Season involves having a short 39-day season for pintail and canvasbacks within a 74-day duck hunting season.

While about 35% did not have an opinion towards a duck management strategy a large majority of those that did have an opinion preferred the Hunter’s Choice duck management strategy (Appendix B – Table 10).

Only about 11% of resident duck hunters consider the cost of licenses (S.D. hunting licenses plus Federal Duck Stamp) to play a major role in their decision to hunt ducks in a particular year, although about 43% said that license costs do play a minor role in their decision to hunt ducks (46% reported that license cost was not a factor) (Appendix B – Table 45).

Most resident duck hunters do the majority of their duck hunting on private land (55%), 38% on public land and 6% on Walk-In Areas (Appendix B – Table 46). About one-third of the hunters reported that they did not have any difficulty finding a place to hunt ducks, with the other two-thirds reporting varying levels of difficulties in finding places to hunt ducks (27% slightly; 28% moderately, and 12% reported it was very difficult to find places to hunt ducks) (Appendix B – Table 47). Rural residents had less difficulty in finding places to hunt ducks compared to town and city residents. Nearly half (48%) of the resident duck hunters said that crowding was at least sometimes a problems at places they like to hunt ducks (Appendix B – Table 48).

Resident duck hunters were asked to rate their overall duck hunting knowledge and skills on a 10-point scale (ranging from 1 = beginner, 5 = average, and 10 = very experienced). Average self-reported knowledge/skill level was 6.6 (Appendix B – Table 49). About 16% of the duck hunters reported that they would be very interested in attending a free waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class if it was available near where they live (22% were moderately interested) (Appendix B – Table 7). On average, hunters not interested reported the highest level of duck hunting knowledge and skill and hunters most interested reported a knowledge/skill level just a little above average (Appendix B – Table 51).

Additional Analyses of the ‘Importance of Duck Hunting’ Variable. The ‘importance of duck hunting’ variable (Appendix B – Table 6) seems to be a very diagnostic measurement. Seventeen of 20 duck hunting variables analyzed by importance of duck hunting were significant (Table 2). Duck hunters rating duck hunting higher in importance had more years of duck hunting experience, were more likely to hunt ducks in the future (Figure 2), listed more influences on getting them started in duck hunting, hunted more often (years and days/year), were more satisfied with their duck hunting (Figure 3) and rated themselves higher in duck hunting knowledge and skills. Duck hunters rating duck hunting lower in importance had more reasons for not duck hunting, were more undecided about their preferred duck management strategy, were more likely to list cost of licenses as a major factor in their annual decision to hunt ducks, and less interested in a free waterfowl hunting class. Duck hunters selecting excitement as their top reason for liking duck hunting had the highest importance rating for duck hunting while hunters rating ‘having additional hunting’ as their top reason for liking duck hunting had the lowest importance rating for duck hunting.

The three variables not significantly related to importance of duck hunting also revealed much about duck hunters. Looking at the top two influences on getting hunters started in duck hunting, family influences were significantly related to importance of duck hunting while influences by friends were not. In other words, while both influences were important in getting hunters started in duck hunting, only family influences seemed to also have a strong positive attitudinal influence on hunters. It is especially valuable to learn that importance of duck hunting was not related to decade when hunters first started duck hunting. This means that there was no ‘special’ time in the past that was necessary for

creating dedicated duck hunters, i.e., given the right mix of factors it is just as possible to create dedicated duck hunters today as it was in the past. The finding that importance of duck hunting was not related to hunters reported difficulty in finding places to hunt ducks tells us that this is equally a problem for all levels of duck hunters.

Table 2. Summary of duck hunting variables analyzed by the ‘importance of duck hunting’ variable in the 2008 South Dakota waterfowl hunter survey.

Appendix B Table	Variable	Significant	p-value
23	Mean number of years duck hunting: 2004-08	Sign.	<0.001
24	Intention to hunt ducks in the future	Sign.	<0.001
25	Mean number of major reasons for not duck hunting: 2004-08	Sign.	<0.001
26	Mean Reasons Index Score: not duck hunting 2004-08	Sign.	<0.001
28	Decade when first started duck hunting	NS	=0.211
32	Mean number of major influences for getting stated in duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
33	Mean Influences Index Score: getting stated in duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
34	Influence of family on duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
34	Influence of friends on duck hunting	NS	=0.608
36	General yearly frequency of duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
38	Mean number of days of duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
52	Mean satisfaction with duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
53	Top motivation for liking duck hunting	Sign.	<0.001
54	Preferred duck management strategy	Sign.	<0.001
55	Role of cost of licenses for duck hunting	Sign.	=0.004
56	Type of land hunted for ducks	Sign.	<0.001
57	Difficulty in finding places to hunt ducks	NS	=0.994
58	Crowding at places where they hunt ducks	Sign.	<0.001
59	Hunters self-rated duck hunting knowledge/skill	Sign.	<0.001
60	Interest in a free waterfowl hunting class	Sign.	<0.001

Estimated Importance of Duck Hunting	Intention to Hunt Ducks in Future	Percent	Estimated Intention to Hunt Ducks in Future	
Most 6.4%	Yes	96.1%	Yes 81.5%	Not Sure? 14.8%
	Not Sure?	2.9%		
	No	1.0%		
Very 21.0%	Yes	95.1%		
	Not Sure?	3.7%		
	No	1.2%		
Moderately 32.8%	Yes	89.3%		
	Not Sure?	8.8%		
	No	1.9%		
Slightly 25.0%	Yes	81.0%		
	Not Sure?	16.9%		
	No	2.1%		
Not Important 14.8%	Yes	39.4%		
	Not Sure?	45.7%		
	No	14.9%		

Figure 2. Relationship between hunters’ evaluation of the importance of duck hunting and their intention to hunt ducks in the future.

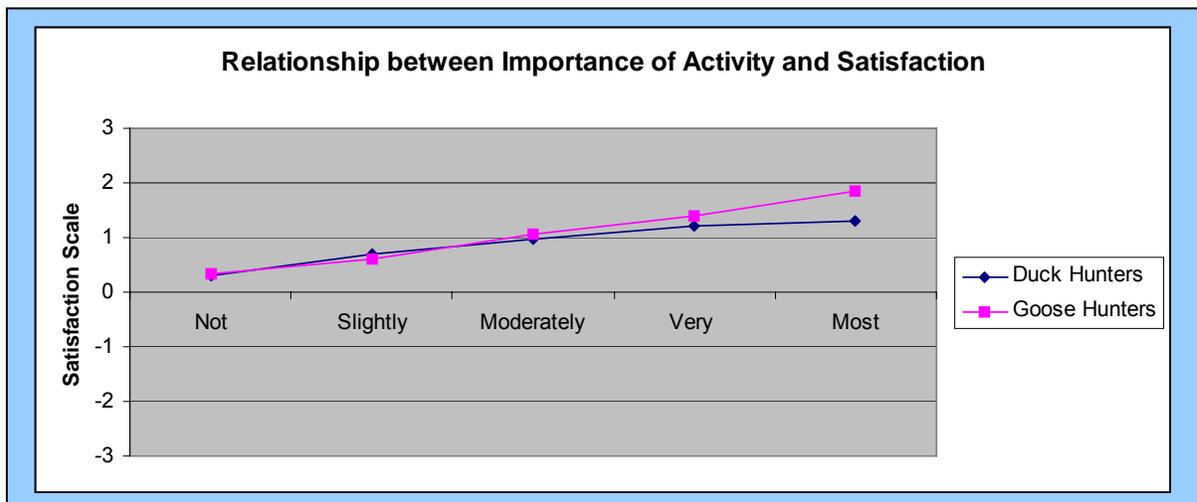


Figure 3. Relationship between hunters’ evaluation of the importance of duck/goose hunting and their satisfaction with their duck/goose hunting.

RESULTS – GOOSE HUNTING BY SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

Goose Hunting: Past and Present. Having a current Migratory Bird Certification is not a good measure of waterfowl hunting or goose hunting participation. About 13% of the 2008 Migratory Bird Certification holders never hunted ducks or geese and another 4% hunted ducks but never hunted geese (Appendix B – Table 3). Most certificate holders hunted both ducks and geese (71%), although about 13% have hunted geese but not ducks.

Goose Hunting Frequency. Almost half (48%) of the South Dakota resident goose hunters hunted all five of the past five years (2004–2008) and each year had about the same level of participation (Appendix B – Table 61). This means that in any one ‘regular’ year we can expect about 30% of the current goose hunters to not participate in goose hunting in a particular year. It suggests that in a year with the right alignment of factors it could result in a more significant drop in goose hunting participation. It also suggests that there are a fair number of ‘goose’ hunters that were not in the original sample population because they did not purchase a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification. Therefore the easiest way to increase goose hunting participation is to increase the frequency of participation by experienced goose hunters with a resulting potential of about a 30% increase. Unfortunately, many of the factors contributing to not hunting may not be easily addressed by a state agency.

Goose hunters averaged 9 days (median = 5 days) of goose hunting for the last year they goose hunted (Appendix B – Table 62). Most goose hunters (51%) hunted over field decoys, 31% hunted by pass shooting, 7% hunted geese over floating decoys and 11% were incidental goose hunters (hunting geese while hunting other game) (Appendix B – Table 63).

There is considerable overlap in duck and goose hunters—81% of the waterfowl hunters (Migratory Bird Certification holders that actually have hunted duck and/or geese) have hunted both ducks and geese, 14% hunted geese only and 5% hunted ducks only. Most likely, many of the reasons for not duck hunting and influences for duck hunting, etc. are similar for goose hunting.

Satisfaction of Goose Hunters. About 69% of the goose hunters were satisfied with their most recent year of goose hunting (2004–08), 15% were dissatisfied and 16% neutral or no opinion (Appendix B – Table 12).

Importance of Goose Hunting. About 5% of the goose hunters listed goose hunting as their most important recreational activity and another 22% listed goose hunting as a very important activity; however, 25% listed goose hunting as only slightly important and about 12% said that goose hunting was not important (Appendix B – Table 13). As with duck hunting, the importance of goose hunting variable is very diagnostic. The importance of goose hunting was strongly related to number of years of goose hunting during the past five years (2004-08), number of days of goose hunting, satisfaction with goose hunting (Figure 3) and type of goose hunting (Appendix B – Tables 64 – 67). The number of years, number of days and satisfaction level all increased with hunters’ rating of the importance of goose hunting. Incidental goose hunters rated goose hunting much lower in importance compared to the other three types of goose hunting (pass shooting, field decoys, and floating decoys).

RESULTS – DEMOGRAPHICS: S.D. RESIDENT DUCK & GOOSE HUNTERS

Because of the significant overlap between duck and geese hunters the demographics for each group are very similar (Appendix B – Tables 68 – 70). The median age of the adult waterfowl hunters (duck and geese hunters) was 47 years old.³ Less than 2% of the waterfowl hunters were female. About 44% of the hunters lived in cities, 27% in small towns and 29% rural.

Optional comments provided by South Dakota adult, resident waterfowl hunters at the end of their questionnaire are listed in Appendix G.

³ Reminder: This survey did not include hunters with a Youth License or a Junior Combination License.

DISCUSSION

Non-Response Bias. The largest impact of non-response bias was on participation variables. Non-respondents had a lower participation rate and lower involvement in waterfowl hunting. In general, non-respondents tend to be less involved/interested in the subject of surveys. If one of the objectives of the survey requires an accurate estimate of involvement or interest in the subject area then non-response bias issues must be addressed.

The Future of Waterfowl Hunting in South Dakota. The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Department has maintained a long record of hunter participation and waterfowl hunting by South Dakota residents is registering a sharp decline over the past decade (Figure 4). This brings up a number of questions: Should a wildlife agency be concerned about declining waterfowl hunter numbers? Will numbers continue to decline? What is causing the decline? Can the decline be stopped or reversed?

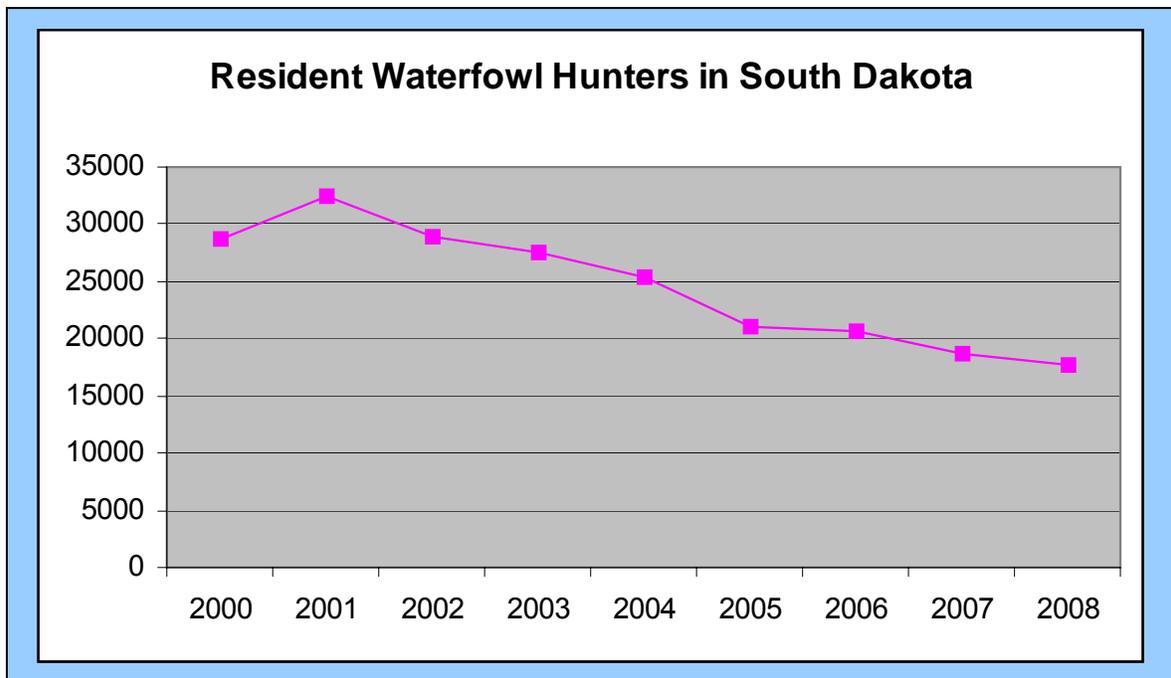


Figure 4. Participation in waterfowl hunting by South Dakota residents, 2000 – 2008.

Should a wildlife agency be concerned about declining waterfowl hunter numbers? A decline in duck hunter numbers is a concern from both an economic and social perspective. The extra license fees that waterfowl hunters pay has paid for considerable acres set aside for hunting and conservation efforts benefiting many species in the U.S. In addition, duck hunters have been in the foreground when it comes to raising money and lending support for conservation projects, defending hunting against its critics and influencing Congress on important conservation issues. In rural states such as South Dakota, hunting makes a significant contribution to bringing money into rural communities.

While the economic contributions of hunting are often touted in a way that seems to make it the most important benefit, the social benefits of hunting in general and duck hunting in particular probably outweigh economics. Unfortunately, the social benefits are difficult to measure and thus are difficult to communicate, especially to non-hunters. Social aspects of hunting include psychological and cultural components. Writings by Randall L. Eaton and Edward O. Wilson talk about the innate connection between humans and nature and the important role experiences in nature play in our psychological, physical and spiritual health. And Dr. Eaton strongly hints at hunting providing one of the strongest, intense connections that humans can have with nature and the positive benefits from maintaining a hunting culture.

The waterfowl hunting culture is richer and more diverse than most other types of hunting⁴. The very aspect of duck hunting that some would consider as barriers to the sport are what contributes most to waterfowl hunting culture, namely the difficulties associated with duck hunting in particular; e.g., getting up early in the morning, often in harsh weather, facing the difficult task of reaching your hunting site to set up a number of decoys and with a large part of the hunt dependent upon having the ‘right’ weather for the day’s hunt. In addition, duck hunting requires some special equipment and much skill, such as how to set up the decoys in a pattern that will attract ducks, calling, identifying ducks in flight and shooting skills. As such, duck hunting represents an advanced level of hunting.

⁴ Nelson, D. and T.J. McCormick. 2008. It’s the culture, stupid. *Delta Waterfowl*. (Winter):62-71, 90.

Will numbers continue to decline? It is difficult to make an actual numbers prediction of future trends based on a single set of hunter survey data; however, some general potential changes in trends may be identified. There does not seem to be a major single factor contributing to the decline in waterfowl hunting participation but rather a mix of factors, which makes it difficult to predict future trends. The most revealing variable is the ‘importance of duck/goose hunting’ variables. About 15% of duck hunters and 13% of goose hunters reported that duck and goose hunting was not an important activity. Based on the low interest in and low involvement with waterfowl hunting of this group and given the right set of contributing factors the potential exists to lose 13–15% of our current numbers of waterfowl hunters over the next decade. A second variable that lends support to this prediction is hunters’ intention to hunt ducks in the future, which shows that 15% were ‘not sure’ if they would continue to hunt ducks. This worst case prediction assumes that the waterfowl population remains stable (at levels similar to the past decade).

Predicting Future Waterfowl (Duck) Hunter Numbers from Survey Data. The simple question of asking hunters if they intend to waterfowl hunt in the future produces a ‘fuzzy’ result. Future participation is strongly related to hunters’ evaluation of the importance of that activity (Figure 2). The 3.7% of hunters that reported that they do not intend to hunt ducks in the future is probably a relatively accurate prediction; however, unforeseen events could easily affect the future behavior of some of the 81.5% of hunters currently intending to hunt duck in the future. That still leaves almost 15% of the hunters that are undecided many of which are now sporadic duck hunters. Many factors can be involved in these hunters’ future decisions to hunt ducks, making predictions a little uncertain. Stemming the tide of declining duck hunting will depend on how effective an agency is at reaching these hunters with programs that will keep them actively participating in duck hunting.

What is causing the decline? One factor that may affect waterfowl hunter participation is waterfowl populations. In spite of local annual fluctuations in waterfowl production, South Dakota has been under ‘liberal’ waterfowl regulation guidelines during the time period depicted in Figure 4 indicating relatively good waterfowl numbers and liberal hunting opportunities, yet has seen declining numbers of waterfowl hunters. Therefore limited waterfowl hunting opportunities are probably not the main contributing factor in the recent declines in numbers of waterfowl hunters.

Duck hunters that have not consistently hunted ducks in the past five years (essentially duck hunters that have quite duck hunting, at least temporarily) or do not intend to hunt ducks in the future provided some clues to the specific reasons for declining duck hunter numbers (Appendix B – Table 20 and Appendix C). While no one specific reason was listed as a major reason for not duck hunting by a large majority of hunters, one general theme was evident–‘**too busy**’. Five of the top six reasons for not duck hunting were related to being too busy (with family, work or doing other specific types of outdoor recreation). Difficulty in finding places to hunt was the other reason.

One predictor of declining annual participation in waterfowl hunting would be a decline in the number of days per year of waterfowl hunting. Overall half (56%) of the duck hunters reported a decrease in the number of days of duck hunting since they first started duck hunting compared to 16% hunting about the same number of days and only 11% reporting an increase in the number of days of duck hunting. Three of the top six reasons given for a decrease in the number of days per year of duck hunting were related to being too busy (with work, family or hunting other game) (Appendix B – Table 40 and Appendix E). Difficulty in finding good places to hunt, crowding problems (which is related to the problem of finding good places to hunt), and age were the other three reasons.

One predictor of the number of days of duck hunting would be duck hunters’ enjoyment of duck hunting. About 32% of the duck hunters reported a decrease in enjoyment of duck hunting since they first started duck hunting. About 41% reported that their enjoyment level has been about the same and about 22% reported an increase in enjoyment of duck hunting since they first started duck hunting. The top six reasons

(although in different order) given were the same top six reasons given for a decrease in the number of days per year of duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 42 and Appendix F).

A Model of Declining Duck Hunting (Figure 5). This model shows that there are a number of pathways leading to dropping out of duck hunting. One pathway suggests that for various reasons some hunters experience a decline in enjoyment of duck hunting (some of the factors are listed in Appendix B – Table 42 and Appendix F). A decrease in enjoyment can lead to hunters hunting fewer days per year as can other factors (see Appendix B – Table 40 and Appendix E). Hunters that hunt infrequently in a year may get to the point that they are not doing any hunting some years, including not purchasing needed licenses some years as well as other reasons for not duck hunting some years (see Appendix B – Table 20 and Appendix C). In addition to this pathway there can be a number of other factors that can lead directly to duck hunters dropping out of duck hunting, such as age, illness, change in family or work status, developing interest in other activities, etc.

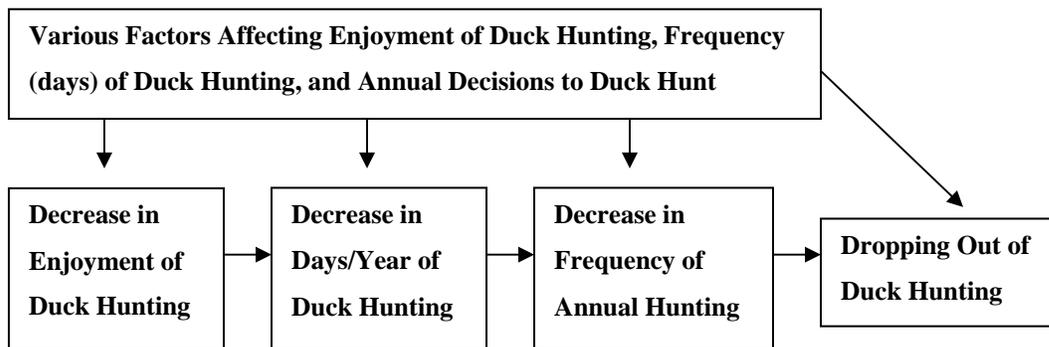


Figure 5. A model of declining duck (waterfowl) hunting participation.

Can the decline be stopped or reversed? First let's explore the potential for maintaining and actually increasing the number of licensed waterfowl hunters that continue to participate in waterfowl hunting most years using the model. In any one year we have about 30% of duck hunters (hunters that have hunted ducks in the past) that do not hunt ducks in a particular year. Of this group only about 4% said they will not be hunting ducks in the future, 12% indicated they plan to hunt ducks in the future and 14% were undecided about participation in duck hunting in the future. The easiest way to increase waterfowl hunter participation would be to increase the frequency of participation by infrequent duck hunters. The potential to reverse the decline in waterfowl hunting participation is relatively large—most of the infrequent duck hunters have not made the final decision to quit duck hunting.

Unfortunately, a wildlife agency has little control over many of the factors affecting waterfowl hunting participation. However, one factor that placed relatively high on the list was difficulty in finding places to duck hunt. An agency could place more effort in identifying good waterfowl hunting areas. Another factor placing relatively high on the list was problems with crowding. An agency could provide more areas with controlled hunting access. Although lower in importance, classes on waterfowl hunting were of interest to a significant number of hunters and could contribute to maintaining waterfowl hunter participation. Of particular importance in waterfowl hunting was the influence of family and friends. Activities that had a family focus would probably have the greatest long term impact.

The survey results were not all doom and gloom for the future of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. The predictions of further declines in waterfowl participation are what could happen, not what will happen. Also, the survey results suggests that there are lapsed waterfowl hunters (hunters that have hunted waterfowl in the past but are not currently active in the activity) not counted in this sample (because they did not purchase a Migratory Bird Certification for 2008) that in varying degrees of frequency will hunt waterfowl in the future. It will be a far easier and fruitful effort to bring lapsed waterfowl hunters back into active participation than to recruit new adult waterfowl hunters.

In this discussion I talked about waterfowl hunting and duck hunting somewhat interchangeably while the survey collected data from duck hunters and goose hunters separately, with most of the data collected from duck hunters. Most hunters participate in both and likely had similar influences and attitudes. However, there may be some important differences between duck hunting and goose hunting, such as difficulty and opportunity. Because of the importance of being able to identify ducks on the wing, some may consider duck hunting to be more difficult than goose hunting. Also, goose hunting opportunities may be more widespread (both area and longer season) than duck hunting. Goose hunting may be one vehicle to maintain waterfowl hunter participation as well as introducing hunters to a waterfowl hunting culture.



Appendix A

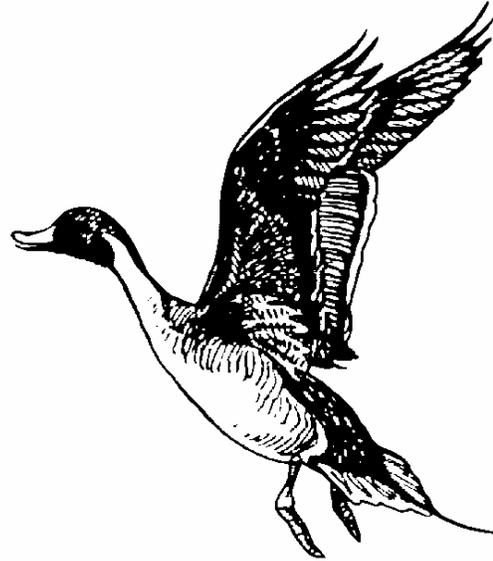
South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey – 2008

Questionnaires and other mailings used in the survey.

2008

South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey

The Future of Waterfowl Hunting in South Dakota



January 2008

Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter,

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is concerned about the trend in declining waterfowl hunter numbers. Declining waterfowl hunters means reduced political and financial support for maintaining quality habitat for waterfowl production and associated species. This survey is designed to learn important information about South Dakota waterfowl hunters and is a first step in addressing the question of what can we do to reverse the trend of declining waterfowl hunters.

Your name was randomly selected from our current list of licensed hunters to participate in this survey. It is important that everyone selected participate so that we get representative input from all types and levels of waterfowl hunters and especially from hunters that no longer participate in waterfowl hunting.

Waterfowl management is a partnership between hunter and wildlife professionals. We need your help to address the issue of declining waterfowl hunter numbers. It has been about ten years since our last detailed survey of South Dakota waterfowl hunters so we need to up-date our understanding of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. We know that this is a rather lengthy survey but we sincerely hope that you will help us with this study. Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

Planning Coordinator / Human Dimensions Specialist

Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501

DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

- Please try to answer what you believe to be true for you. The best answer is the one that most closely reflects your own feelings and beliefs, or what you actually did.
- Do not write your name on the questionnaire. Your answers will be treated confidentially. The questionnaire had an identification number so that your name can be checked off our list when you return your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls. Your name will never be associated with your responses.
- It is important that the person to whom this was addressed fill out the questionnaire, even if someone else in your family is a more active waterfowl hunter.
- A summary of results will be sent to all participants in this survey, and a copy of the complete report will be available upon request.
- If you have any questions about the **survey** contact Larry Gigliotti @ 605-773-4231 (e-mail address: Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us).
- Your response is important. We need information from current as well as past waterfowl hunters; frequent as well as infrequent waterfowl hunters, i.e. from all types and levels of waterfowl hunters. If you have never hunted waterfowl than all you need to do is answer the first question and return your questionnaire.
- This survey is voluntary. If you do not want to participate please check this box and return your blank questionnaire.
- Please return your questionnaire using the postage-paid business reply envelope.

Your assistance in completing your survey is greatly appreciated! The information you provide will help us develop a plan for maintaining quality waterfowl hunting opportunities in South Dakota. A space is provided at the end of this questionnaire for any special comments you may want to make.



Please do not remove the cover from your questionnaire. The ID number on the front cover is used to let us know that you returned your questionnaire. We then do not have to bother you with additional mailings or telephone calls.

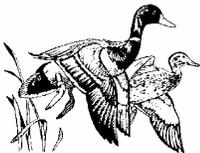
2008

South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey

Dear South Dakota Resident Waterfowl Hunter,

Game, Fish and Parks is conducting an evaluation of the waterfowl hunting opportunities in South Dakota and is asking for your help by telling us a little about your waterfowl hunting experiences in South Dakota and sharing with us your opinions about waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. According to our records you have purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certification which is your state license to hunt waterfowl (Note that a current Federal Duck Stamp is also required to hunt waterfowl in South Dakota). If you are not a waterfowl hunter you only need to answer the first question in this survey.

1. Which of the following best reflects your waterfowl hunting experience? *Please check (✓) the most appropriate answer.*
 - A) I have never hunted waterfowl (ducks or geese). → **If you checked this statement you do not need to answer additional questions. Please return your questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you!**
 - B) I have hunted geese but **NOT** ducks. → **Please skip ahead to question #22**
 - C) I have hunted ducks but **NOT** geese. → **Please continue with question #2**
 - D) I have hunted **BOTH** ducks & geese. → **Please continue with question #2**



Duck Hunting by South Dakota Resident Hunters

Frequency of Duck Hunting:

2. Which of the past five years have you hunted **ducks** in South Dakota or some other state? *Please check (✓) ALL that apply.*

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

3. Do you intend to hunt ducks in South Dakota or some other state in the future?

- 1) No
- 2) Not Sure, Undecided
- 3) Yes

→→ **If you hunted ducks every year from 2004 through 2008 and plan to hunt ducks in the future skip question #4 and continue on with question #5 on page 3.**

→→ If you did NOT hunt ducks all five year (2004 –2008) and/or you no longer plan to hunt ducks in the future, please continue with question #4 before continuing on with question #5.

4. If you have not hunted ducks every year (2004 – 2008), and/or you do not plan to hunt ducks in the future please tell us which of the following are a MAJOR, MINOR, or NOT a reason for why you did not hunt ducks all five years and/or do not plan to hunt ducks in the future. Please rate each item by checking (✓) one box for each reason.

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>
I did other hunting or fishing activities instead of duck hunting:			
a) I hunted geese.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) I hunted pheasants.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I hunted big game.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) I fished.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) I did other forms of outdoor recreation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) I did other forms of indoor recreation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Licenses too expensive.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) No dog to hunt with.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Too hard to find a place to hunt.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Places I hunt were too crowded.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Season was too short.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Duck numbers were too low.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Bag limits were too small.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Bag limit regulations were too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) Boundaries of hunting units too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Season dates in different units too complicated...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) In general, regulations too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) It is too difficult to identify ducks on-the-wing...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) Don't like to eat ducks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t) Concerned about diseases in birds (ducks).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u) Not enough time – too busy with family or work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) Military commitments.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
w) Sickness or health problems.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
x) Companions could not hunt.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
y) I started hunting ducks less than five years ago...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
z) I did not always live in an area where I could easily hunt ducks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other MAJOR reasons? _____

5. How important is **DUCK** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

Duck Hunting is:

- 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important (i.e. more important than most other activities)
- 3. **MODERATELY** important, but several types of recreation are more important
- 4. **SLIGHTLY** important, but ranked relatively low compared to other types of recreation
- 5. **NOT** important →
- 6. **NO OPINION**

if duck hunting is NOT important to you the following questions may be difficult for you to answer, therefore you may skip ahead to question #22 at the bottom of page 9.

6. About what year did you first hunt ducks? _____

7. How important were each of the following factors for getting you started in duck hunting? *Please rate each item by checking (✓) whether the item was a MAJOR, MINOR, or NOT a reason for why you first started duck hunting.*

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>
a) Influence of family member(s) or relatives.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Influence of friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I just wanted to try something new.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) High duck populations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Lots of places to hunt ducks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) No crowding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Had lots of time to hunt ducks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Not much else to hunt during the duck season....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Read about duck hunting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Watched programs about duck hunting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Like to eat ducks.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other reasons which greatly influenced you to start duck hunting? _____

8. About how frequently (based on the years that you hunted) did you hunt since you first started duck hunting? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. Every year
- 2. Most years (more than three-fourths but not every year)
- 3. A little more than half of the years
- 4. About half of the years
- 5. A little less than half, but more than one-fourth of the years)
- 6. Not very often (less than one-fourth of the years)
- 7. NO OPINION

9. Based on the most recent year that you hunted ducks (as indicated in question # 2) about how many days did you hunt ducks in that year? Leave this question blank if you did not hunt ducks at all during the past five years (2004-2008).

_____ Number of days duck hunting during your most recent year of duck hunting (all we need for this item is a rough estimate).

10. In general, how has the number of days you duck hunt during the season changed since you started duck hunting. *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. GREATLY DECREASED → **Please answer questions in BOX A**
- 2. SLIGHTLY DECREASED → **Please answer questions in BOX A**
- 3. STAYED THE SAME
- 4. SLIGHTLY INCREASED
- 5. GREATLY INCREASED
- OR**
- 6. I JUST STARTED DUCK HUNTING RECENTLY
- 7. NO OPINION

BOX A – Participation in duck hunting has decreased.

Please check (✓) if each of the following is a MAJOR, MINOR, or NOT a reasons for why you now hunt ducks fewer days during a season.			
	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>
a) Licenses too expensive.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Equipment too expensive.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Age.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Health problems.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Family obligations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Work obligations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continued on next page			

BOX A Continued – Participation in duck hunting has decreased.

Continued from previous page...	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>
g) Too crowded where I like to hunt.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) No one to hunt ducks with.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Poor behavior by other hunters.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Hard to find good places to hunt.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Season too short.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Bag limit too small.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Bag limits too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Regulations in general too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) In general, duck hunting is too difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Steel shot regulations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) Low duck populations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) Too much law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) I'm more interested in hunting other game.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t) I'm more interested in fishing.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u) I'm more interested in other forms of recreation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) I don't like to eat ducks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
w) Concerned about diseases in birds (ducks).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
x) I moved to an area where it is harder to go duck hunting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <u>MAJOR</u> reasons? _____			

11. In general, how has your enjoyment of duck hunting changed since you started duck hunting. Please check (✓) only one response.

- 1. GREATLY DECREASED → Please answer questions in BOX B on next page
 - 2. SLIGHTLY DECREASED → Please answer questions in BOX B on next page
 - 3. STAYED THE SAME
 - 4. SLIGHTLY INCREASED
 - 5. GREATLY INCREASED
- OR**
- 6. I JUST STARTED DUCK HUNTING RECENTLY
 - 7. NO OPINION

BOX B – Enjoyment of duck hunting has decreased.

Please check (✓) if each of the following is a MAJOR, MINOR, or NOT a reasons for why you now enjoy duck hunting less than you used to.

	<u>Major Reason</u>	<u>Minor Reason</u>	<u>Not A Reason</u>
a) Licenses too expensive.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Equipment too expensive.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Age.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Health problems.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Family obligations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Work obligations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Too crowded where I like to hunt.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) No one to hunt ducks with.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Poor behavior by other hunters.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Hard to find good places to hunt.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Season too short.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Bag limit too small.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Bag limits too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Regulations in general too complicated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) In general, duck hunting is too difficult	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Steel shot regulations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) Low duck populations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) Too much law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) I'm more interested in hunting other game.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t) I'm more interested in fishing.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u) I'm more interested in other forms of recreation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) I don't like to eat ducks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
w) Concerned about diseases in birds (ducks).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
x) I moved to an area where it is harder to go duck hunting.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other MAJOR reasons? _____

Satisfactions and Motivations of South Dakota Resident Duck Hunters

12. Based on the most recent year that you hunted ducks (as indicated in question # 2) how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total duck hunting experiences for that year? *Please circle only one response.* Leave this question blank if you did not hunt ducks at all during the past five years (2004-2008).

<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

13. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt **ducks**. *Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).*

	VERY	NOT					IMPORTANT	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a) To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) For the excitement that duck hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see ducks coming in.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
c) Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
d) To bring home a special duck to stuff for display or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
e) For the solitude that duck hunting can provide	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
f) For the challenges associated with duck hunting and dealing with the elements..	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
g) To have <u>additional</u> hunting opportunities, i.e. just something else to hunt.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

14. Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **duck hunting**? *Please circle only one response.*

a b c d e f g h



Your Opinions About Duck Hunting Regulations & Experiences

Hunter's Choice uses an aggregate bag (1 hen mallard OR 1 pintail OR 1 canvasback) to limit harvest on species needing additional protection while maintaining full hunting opportunity on abundant species or stocks of ducks such as drake mallards.

Season-Within-a-Season involves having a short 39-day season for pintail and canvasbacks within a 74-day duck hunting season.

15. Both of the above described management strategies have been used in South Dakota (Hunter's Choice: 2006-2008 and Season-Within-a-Season prior to 2006). **Of these two management strategies**, which do you prefer? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. HUNTER'S CHOICE
- 2. SEASON-WITHIN-A-SEASON
- 3. UNDECIDED

16. How big a role does the COST of licenses (S.D. hunting licenses plus Federal Duck Stamp) play in your decision to hunt ducks in a particular year? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. MAJOR ROLE – I seriously consider not hunting ducks some years because the licenses are too expensive
- 2. MINOR ROLE – I consider the cost but it is not a major influence in my decision of whether or not I will hunt ducks in a particular year
- 3. NOT IMPORTANT – The cost of licenses does not influence my decision.

17. In the last year you hunted ducks, did you do the majority of you duck hunting on: *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. PRIVATE LAND
- 2. PUBLIC LAND
- 3. WALK-IN AREAS
- 4. DON'T KNOW

18. How difficult is it for you to find places to hunt ducks? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. VERY DIFFICULT
- 2. MODERATELY DIFFICULT
- 3. SLIGHTLY DIFFICULT
- 4. NOT A PROBLEM

19. Is crowding (too many duck hunters – disturbance from other hunters) ever a problem at places you like to hunt ducks?

- 1. No
- 2. YES → If YES, how big of a problem?
 - 1. ALWAYS CROWDED
 - 2. OFTEN CROWDED
 - 3. SOMETIMES CROWDED
 - 4. SELDOM CROWDED

20. On a scale of 1 to 10 how would you rank your overall duck hunting knowledge and skill, with 1 = to “beginner”, a 5 = to about average (e.g., can ID ducks in hand, etc.) to 10 = to “very experienced” (e.g., can ID ducks in flight, call ducks, etc.)? *Please circle only one number.*

Beginner				Average				Very Experienced	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

21. If Game, Fish and Parks offered a FREE waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class (e.g., how to identify ducks in flight, duck hunting regulations, effective shooting tips, etc.) near where you live, how interested would you be in attending? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. VERY INTERESTED
- 2. MODERATELY INTERESTED
- 3. SLIGHTLY INTERESTED
- 4. NOT INTERESTED
- 5. NO OPINION



Goose Hunting by South Dakota Resident Hunters

→ Please answer this section IF you checked B or D in Question #1

Frequency of Goose Hunting:

22. Which of the past five years have you hunted **geese** in South Dakota or some other state? *Please check (✓) ALL that apply.*

- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008

23. How important is **GOOSE** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

Goose Hunting is:

- 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important (i.e. more important than most other activities)
- 3. **MODERATELY** important, but several types of recreation are more important
- 4. **SLIGHTLY** important, but ranked relatively low compared to other types of recreation
- 5. **NOT** important →
- 6. **NO OPINION**

if goose hunting is NOT important to you the following questions may be difficult for you to answer, therefore you may skip ahead to question #27 at the top of page 11.

24. How do you usually hunt geese? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

- 1. PASS SHOOTING
- 2. OVER FIELD DECOYS
- 3. OVER FLOATING DECOYS
- 4. INCIDENTAL WHILE HUNTING DUCKS OR OTHER GAME

25. Based on the most recent year that you hunted geese (as indicated in question # 22) about how many days did you hunt geese in that year? Leave this question blank if you did not hunt geese at all during the past five years (2004-2008).

_____ Number of days goose hunting during your most recent year of goose hunting (all we need for this item is a rough estimate).

26. Based on the most recent year that you hunted geese (as indicated in question # 22) how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total goose hunting experiences for that year? *Please circle only one response.* Leave this question blank if you did not hunt geese at all during the past five years (2004-2008).

<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Slightly Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neutral or No Opinion</u>	<u>Slightly Satisfied</u>	<u>Moderately Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



First Postcard Reminder

January 28, 2009

Last week I mailed you a South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt any ducks or geese this year because we also need to know that information. The survey is also designed to collect your opinions about waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. This survey was sent to a small, randomly selected sample of resident hunters.

Please try to respond to the first mailing of the survey by February 13. If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or if it got misplaced, don't worry (just wait and watch your mail) as a second questionnaire will be mailed to you in a couple of weeks if we don't receive your completed questionnaire in the mail.

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

Letter sent with 2nd mailing of questionnaire:



Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

February 24, 2009



Dear South Dakota Hunter:

You have been randomly selected to participate in a survey to describe hunters who have purchased the 2008 Migratory Bird Certification. As of February 23, 2009 we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you mailed it in the past 5 days it is likely that it crossed this mailing and you can discard this follow-up request. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire I urge you to take the time to complete and return it, as your response is very valuable.

Because the purpose is to describe our license purchasers in terms of their hunting behavior it is important that we hear from everyone selected for this survey. Some people feel that because they don't hunt very much that their participation in this survey is not important, but it is just as important to hear from license holders that do very little or no hunting as it is to hear from very active hunters. Our small, randomly selected sample is designed to accurately describe hunters that purchase the Migratory Bird Certification. Your response is needed to ensure that this survey is scientifically valid.

I included another questionnaire with this mailing in case you did not receive the questionnaire in the earlier mailing or misplaced your questionnaire.

Sincerely,
Larry M. Gigliotti



Second Postcard Reminder

March 10, 2009

Last week I mailed you a South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

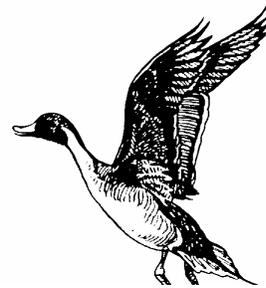
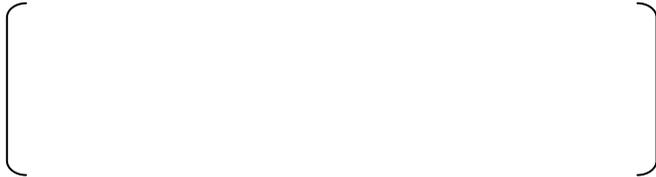
YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt ducks or geese this year because we also need to know that information. The survey is also designed to collect your opinions about waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. Any amount of information that you can provide will help us with this study.

This survey was sent to a small, randomly selected sample of resident hunters. **Deadline for responding to this survey in time for it to be used in our study is April 7, 2009.**

Larry Gigliotti

Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

NON-RESPONSE SURVEY
2008 SOUTH DAKOTA WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY
Game, Fish & Parks, 523 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501



Please do not remove your mailing label. Your ID number is needed to identify your license type and unit.

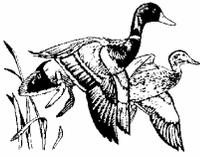
Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter,

March 2009

This is a short follow-up survey to the rather lengthy survey that we sent you last month as part of our study to describe Migratory Bird Certification purchasers. The purpose is to determine if non-respondents are different from those that responded to the earlier survey. This survey is needed to scientifically adjust for possible non-response bias. This survey should only take a few minutes to complete. We would greatly appreciate your assistance with this study. It is important that everyone selected participate so that we get representative input from all types and levels of hunters. Please take a few minutes to answer your questionnaire and return it using the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you.

Larry M. Gigliotti

4. Which of the following best reflects your waterfowl hunting experience? *Please check (✓) the most appropriate answer.*
- A) I have never hunted waterfowl (ducks or geese). → **If you checked this statement you do not need to answer additional questions. Please return your questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope provided. Thank you!**
 - B) I have hunted **geese** but **NOT ducks**. → **Please skip ahead to question #9**
 - C) I have hunted **ducks** but **NOT geese**. → **Please continue with question #2**
 - D) I have hunted **BOTH** ducks & geese. → **Please continue with question #2**



Duck Hunting by South Dakota Resident Hunters

Frequency of Duck Hunting:

5. Which of the past five years have you hunted **ducks** in South Dakota or some other state? *Please check (✓) ALL that apply.*

- 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

6. Based on the most recent year that you hunted ducks (as indicated in question # 2 above) how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total duck hunting experiences for that year? *Please circle only one response.* Leave this question blank if you did not hunt ducks at all during the past five years (2004-2008).

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very
<u>Dissatisfied</u> | Moderately
<u>Dissatisfied</u> | Slightly
<u>Dissatisfied</u> | Neutral or
<u>No Opinion</u> | Slightly
<u>Satisfied</u> | Moderately
<u>Satisfied</u> | Very
<u>Satisfied</u> |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

7. How important is **DUCK** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

Duck Hunting is:

- 1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
- 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important (i.e. more important than most other activities)
- 3. **MODERATELY** important, but several types of recreation are more important
- 4. **SLIGHTLY** important, but ranked relatively low compared to other types of recreation
- 5. **NOT** important →
- 6. **NO OPINION**

if duck hunting is NOT important to you the following questions may be difficult for you to answer, therefore you may skip ahead to question # 9.

8. If Game, Fish and Parks offered a FREE waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class (e.g., how to identify ducks in flight, duck hunting regulations, effective shooting tips, etc.) near where you live, how interested would you be in attending? *Please circle only one response.*

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Very
<u>Interested</u> | Moderately
<u>Interested</u> | Slightly
<u>Interested</u> | Not
<u>Interested</u> | No
<u>Opinion</u> |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

9. People enjoy hunting for many different reasons. Please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt **ducks**. Please rate by circling one number for each item on the scale from 0 (not at all important) to 7 (very important).

	NOT IMPORTANT					VERY IMPORTANT		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) To bring meat home for food.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
b) To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
h) For the excitement that duck hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see ducks coming in.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
i) Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
j) To bring home a special duck to stuff for display or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
k) For the solitude that duck hunting can provide	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
l) For the challenges associated with duck hunting and dealing with the elements..	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
m) To have <u>additional</u> hunting opportunities, i.e. just something else to hunt.....	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

10. Overall, which statement above best describes the most important reason for why you like **duck hunting**? Please circle only one response.

- a b c d e f g h

Hunter's Choice uses an aggregate bag (1 hen mallard OR 1 pintail OR 1 canvasback) to limit harvest on species needing additional protection while maintaining full hunting opportunity on abundant species or stocks of ducks such as drake mallards.

Season-Within-a-Season involves having a short 39-day season for pintail and canvasbacks within a 74-day duck hunting season.

11. Both of the above described management strategies have been used in South Dakota (Hunter's Choice: 2006-2008 and Season-Within-a-Season prior to 2006). **Of these two management strategies**, which do you prefer? Please check (✓) only one response.

1. HUNTER'S CHOICE 2. SEASON-WITHIN-A-SEASON 3. UNDECIDED



Goose Hunting by South Dakota Resident Hunters

→ Please answer this section IF you checked B or D in Question #1

Frequency of Goose Hunting:

12. Which of the past five years have you hunted **geese** in South Dakota or some other state? *Please check (✓) ALL that apply.*

- 2004
 2005
 2006
 2007
 2008

13. Based on the most recent year that you hunted geese (as indicated in question # 9 above) how dissatisfied or satisfied were you with your total goose hunting experiences for that year? *Please circle only one response.* Leave this question blank if you did not hunt geese at all during the past five years (2004-2008).

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Very
<u>Dissatisfied</u> | Moderately
<u>Dissatisfied</u> | Slightly
<u>Dissatisfied</u> | Neutral or
<u>No Opinion</u> | Slightly
<u>Satisfied</u> | Moderately
<u>Satisfied</u> | Very
<u>Satisfied</u> |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

14. How important is **GOOSE** hunting to you in relation to all your other types of recreation (including other types of hunting as well as non-hunting types of recreation)? *Please check (✓) only one response.*

Goose Hunting is:

1. My **MOST** important recreational activity
 2. **VERY** important, but not the most important (i.e. more important than most other activities)
 3. **MODERATELY** important, but several types of recreation are more important
 4. **SLIGHTLY** important, but ranked relatively low compared to other types of recreation
 5. **NOT** important
 6. **NO OPINION**



Information About Yourself:

15. What is your age and gender? _____years MALE FEMALE

16. Is your residence: RURAL
 SMALL TOWN
 CITY (greater than 10,000) (the following S.D. cities are greater than 10,000:
 Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Watertown, Brookings, Pierre-Ft. Pierre,
 Mitchell, Yankton, Huron, Vermillion)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.
 We will send all participants a copy of the summary results when the report is completed.

Third Postcard Reminder

April 10, 2009

Last week I mailed you a South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey. This postcard reminder is being sent to ask you to complete and return your survey as soon as possible using the pre-paid return envelope provided. If you have already completed and returned it to us, please accept our sincere thanks.

YOUR response is needed even if you did not hunt ducks or geese this year because we also need to know that information. The survey is also designed to collect your opinions about waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. Any amount of information that you can provide will help us with this study.

This survey was sent to a small, randomly selected sample of resident hunters. **Deadline for responding to this survey in time for it to be used in our study is April 28, 2009.**

Larry Gigliotti
Planning Coordinator/Human Dimensions Specialist

South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey – 2008

Appendix B – TABLES

Appendix B – Table 1. Return rates for the South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey – 2008.

Parameter	License Type		Combined
	Small Game	Combination	
Initial Sample Size	1,400	1,600	3,000
ID Numbers	1 – 1400	1401 – 3000	1 – 3000
Percent of Sample	46.7%	53.3%	100%
Number of Licenses	35,754	44,077	79,831
Undeliverable	145	116	261
Final Sample Size	1,255	1,484	2,739
Number Returned	771	1,057	1,847
Initial Return Rate	61.4%	71.2%	67.4%
Number Returned Blank	29	22	51
Usable Questionnaires	742	1,035	1,796
Usable Return Rate	59.1%	69.7%	65.6%
Non-Response Survey			
Sample Size	484	427	911
Usable Returns	111	122	233
Return Rate	22.9%	28.6%	25.6%
Combined Return Rate	68.0%	78.0%	74.1%

*Includes 19 returns that removed the survey ID number.

Evaluation of Non-response Bias

Appendix B – Table 2. Distribution of useable questionnaires by license type and survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

License Type	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey		Combined	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Small Game	742	41.8%	111	47.6%	853	42.4%
Combination	1,035	58.2%	122	52.4%	1,157	57.6%
Total	1,777	100%	233	100%	2,010	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=2.919$; $df=1$; $p=0.088$						

Appendix B – Table 3. South Dakota resident hunters' (i.e., purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certificate) waterfowl hunting experience analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Hunting Experience	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
NEVER hunted ducks or geese	148	8.2%	48	20.6%
Hunted GEESE , but NOT ducks	219	12.2%	31	13.3%
Hunted DUCKS , but NOT geese	81	4.5%	8	3.4%
Hunted BOTH	1,348	75.1%	146	62.7%
Total	1,796	100%	233	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=37.673$; $df=3$; $p<0.001$				

Appendix B – Table 3-Continued. South Dakota resident hunters' (i.e., purchased a 2008 Migratory Bird Certificate) waterfowl hunting experience analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Hunting Experience	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
NEVER hunted ducks or geese	196	9.7%	12.5%
Hunted GEESE , but NOT ducks	250	12.3%	12.6%
Hunted DUCKS , but NOT geese	89	4.4%	4.1%
Hunted BOTH	1,494	73.6%	70.8%
Total	2,029	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 4. South Dakota resident duck hunters’ duck hunting history over the past five years (measured by the number of years hunted from 2004 through 2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Number of Years	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	128	9.0%	14	9.1%
1	212	14.8%	32	20.8%
2	140	9.8%	24	15.6%
3	129	9.0%	14	9.1%
4	109	7.6%	13	8.4%
5	711	49.8%	57	37.0%
Total	1,429	100%	154	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=12.456$; $df=5$; $p=0.029$				
Mean	3.41		2.98	
95% C.I.	3.31 3.50		2.69 3.27	

Appendix B – Table 4-Continued. South Dakota resident duck hunters’ duck hunting history over the past five years (measured by the number of years hunted from 2004 through 2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Number of Years	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
0	142	9.0%	9.0%
1	244	15.4%	16.9%
2	164	10.4%	11.8%
3	143	9.0%	9.0%
4	122	7.7%	7.9%
5	768	48.5%	45.4%
Total	1,583	100%	100%
Mean	3.37		3.26

Appendix B – Table 5. South Dakota resident duck hunters’ satisfaction with their most recent year of duck hunting (2004-2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Satisfaction (scale)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Satisfied (3)	193	16.4%	25	17.9%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	349	29.6%	50	35.7%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	215	18.2%	24	17.1%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	196	16.6%	30	21.4%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	131	11.1%	8	5.7%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	65	5.5%	2	1.4%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	31	2.6%	1	0.7%
Total	1,180	100%	140	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=12.951$; $df=6$; $p=0.044$				
Mean	0.96		1.31	
95% C.I.	0.87 – 1.05		1.10 – 1.53	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
SATISFIED	757	64.2%	99	70.7%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	196	16.6%	30	21.4%
DISSATISFIED	227	19.2%	11	7.9%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.517$; $df=2$; $p=0.003$				

Appendix B – Table 5-Continued. South Dakota resident duck hunters’ satisfaction with their most recent year of duck hunting (2004-2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Satisfaction (scale)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Very Satisfied (3)	218	16.5%	16.9%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	399	30.2%	31.7%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	239	18.1%	17.8%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	226	17.1%	18.3%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	139	10.5%	9.2%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	67	5.1%	4.1%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	32	2.4%	2.0%
Total	1,320	100%	100%
Mean	1.00		1.08
SUMMARIZED RESULTS			
SATISFIED	856	64.8%	66.4%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	226	17.1%	18.3%
DISSATISFIED	238	18.0%	15.3%

Appendix B – Table 6. Importance of duck hunting to South Dakota resident duck hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most Important (4)	104	7.4%	7	4.5%
Very important (3)	323	22.9%	27	17.5%
Moderately Important (2)	465	32.9%	50	32.5%
Slightly Important (1)	332	23.5%	43	27.9%
Not Important (0)	174	12.3%	26	16.9%
No Opinion (0)	15	1.1%	1	0.6%
Total	1,413	100%	154	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=6.964$; $df=5$; $p=0.223$				
Mean	1.87		1.64	
95% C.I.	1.81 – 1.93		1.46 – 1.81	

Appendix B – Table 6-Continued. Importance of duck hunting to South Dakota resident duck hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Most Important (4)	111	7.1%	6.4%
Very important (3)	350	22.3%	21.0%
Moderately Important (2)	515	32.9%	32.8%
Slightly Important (1)	375	23.9%	25.0%
Not Important (0)	200	12.8%	13.9%
No Opinion (0)	16	1.0%	0.9%
Total	1,567	100%	100%
Mean	1.85		1.79

Appendix B – Table 7. South Dakota resident duck hunters' interest in attending a free waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills workshop analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Interest in Free Workshop (scale)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Interested (3)	228	17.7%	19	13.8%
Moderately Interested (2)	289	22.4%	29	21.0%
Slightly Interested (1)	356	27.6%	27	19.6%
Not Interested (0)	375	29.1%	57	41.3%
No Opinion (0)	41	3.2%	6	4.3%
Total	1,289	100%	138	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=10.886$; $df=4$; $p=0.028$				
Mean	1.26		1.03	
95% C.I.	1.20 – 1.31		0.84 – 1.22	

Appendix B – Table 7-Continued. South Dakota resident duck hunters' interest in attending a free waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills workshop analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Interest in Free Workshop (scale)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Very Interested (3)	247	17.3%	16.4%
Moderately Interested (2)	318	22.3%	21.9%
Slightly Interested (1)	383	26.8%	24.8%
Not Interested (0)	432	30.3%	33.3%
No Opinion (0)	47	3.3%	3.6%
Total	1,427	100%	100%
Mean	1.25		1.18

Appendix B – Table 8. South Dakota resident duck hunters' ratings¹ of eight motivations for duck hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivations for Duck Hunting	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Mean	95% C.I.	Mean	95% C.I.
Excitement	6.21	6.15 – 6.27	5.88	5.68 – 6.09
Nature	6.17	6.11 – 6.23	5.97	5.76 – 6.18
Social	6.04	5.97 – 6.12	5.92	5.71 – 6.13
Challenge	4.93	4.83 – 5.03	4.66	4.37 – 4.96
Solitude	4.75	4.64 – 4.86	4.51	4.20 – 4.82
Additional	3.79	3.67 – 3.90	3.69	3.37 – 4.02
Meat	2.38	2.26 – 2.49	2.68	2.33 – 3.02
Trophy	2.23	2.11 – 2.34	2.53	2.17 – 2.88

¹Rated on a scale of 0 (not important) to 7 (very important).

Appendix B – Table 8-Continued. South Dakota resident duck hunters' ratings¹ of eight motivations for duck hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivations for Duck Hunting	Comparing the Surveys		
	Mean Difference	Percent Difference	Significance
Excitement	-0.33	4.7%	Significant
Nature	-0.20	2.9%	NS
Social	-0.12	1.7%	NS
Challenge	-0.27	3.9%	NS
Solitude	-0.24	3.4%	NS
Additional	-0.10	1.4%	NS
Meat	+0.30	4.3%	NS
Trophy	+0.30	4.3%	NS

¹Rated on a scale of 0 (not important) to 7 (very important).

Appendix B – Table 9. South Dakota resident duck hunters’ most important motivation (reason) for liking duck hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivation For Liking Duck Hunting	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Excitement	445	34.7%	29	21.2%
Nature	358	27.9%	60	43.8%
Social	350	27.3%	34	24.8%
Challenge	50	3.9%	4	2.9%
Solitude	26	2.0%	4	2.9%
Additional	24	1.9%	5	3.6%
Meat	19	1.5%	1	0.7%
Trophy	11	0.9%	0	0.0%
Total	1,283	100%	137	100%

Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=22.040$; $df=7$; $p=0.003$

Appendix B – Table 9-Continued. South Dakota resident duck hunters’ most important motivation (reason) for liking duck hunting analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Motivation For Liking Duck Hunting	Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Excitement	474	33.4%	30.0%
Nature	418	29.4%	33.4%
Social	384	27.0%	26.4%
Challenge	54	3.8%	3.6%
Solitude	30	2.1%	2.3%
Additional	29	2.0%	2.5%
Meat	20	1.4%	1.2%
Trophy	11	0.8%	0.6%
Total	1,420	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 10. South Dakota resident duck hunters' attitude towards duck season management strategies (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Preferred Strategy	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hunter's Choice	740	57.9%	60	43.5%
Season w/in Season	152	11.9%	18	13.0%
Undecided	387	30.3%	60	43.5%
Total	1,279	100%	138	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=11.603$; $df=2$; $p=0.003$				

Appendix B – Table 10-Continued. South Dakota resident duck hunters' attitude towards duck season management strategies (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Preferred Strategy	Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Hunter's Choice	800	56.5%	52.9%
Season w/in Season	170	12.0%	12.2%
Undecided	447	31.5%	34.9%
Total	1,417	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 11. South Dakota resident goose hunters’ goose hunting history over the past five years (measured by the number of years hunted from 2004 through 2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Number of Years	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	127	8.1%	12	6.8%
1	208	13.3%	38	21.5%
2	170	10.8%	33	18.6%
3	167	10.7%	16	9.0%
4	139	8.9%	16	9.0%
5	756	48.2%	62	35.0%
Total	1,567	100%	177	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=22.550$; $df=5$; $p<0.001$				
Mean	3.44		2.97	
95% C.I.	3.35 – 3.53		2.71 – 3.24	

Appendix B – Table 11-Continued. South Dakota resident goose hunters’ goose hunting history over the past five years (measured by the number of years hunted from 2004 through 2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Number of Years	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
0	139	8.0%	7.7%
1	246	14.1%	16.1%
2	203	11.6%	13.5%
3	183	10.5%	10.1%
4	155	8.9%	8.9%
5	818	46.9%	43.7%
Total	1,744	100%	100%
Mean	3.39		3.28

Appendix B – Table 12. South Dakota resident goose hunters’ satisfaction with their most recent year of goose hunting (2004 – 2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Satisfaction (scale)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Very Satisfied (3)	204	14.8%	24	14.6%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	434	31.6%	61	37.2%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	298	21.7%	32	19.5%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	225	16.4%	26	15.9%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	118	8.6%	11	6.7%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	64	4.7%	4	2.4%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	31	2.3%	6	3.7%
Total	1,374	100%	164	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=5.231$; $df=6$; $p=0.514$				
Mean	1.05		1.15	
95% C.I.	0.97 – 1.13		0.92 – 1.38	
SUMMARIZED RESULTS				
SATISFIED	936	68.1%	117	71.3%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	225	16.4%	26	15.9%
DISSATISFIED	213	15.5%	21	12.8%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.947$; $df=2$; $p=0.623$				

Appendix B – Table 12-Continued. South Dakota resident goose hunters’ satisfaction with their most recent year of goose hunting (2004 – 2008) analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Satisfaction (scale)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Very Satisfied (3)	228	14.8%	14.7%
Moderately Satisfied (2)	495	32.2%	33.5%
Slightly Satisfied (1)	330	21.5%	20.9%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	251	16.3%	16.2%
Slightly Dissatisfied (-1)	129	8.4%	8.0%
Moderately Dissatisfied (-2)	68	4.4%	3.9%
Very Dissatisfied (-3)	37	2.4%	2.8%
Total	1,538	100%	100%
Mean	1.06		1.08
SUMMARIZED RESULTS			
SATISFIED	1,053	68.5%	69.2%
NEUTRAL / NO OPINION	251	16.3%	16.2%
DISSATISFIED	234	15.2%	14.6%

Appendix B – Table 13. Importance of goose hunting to South Dakota resident goose hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Importance of Goose Hunting (scale)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Most Important (4)	91	5.9%	7	4.0%
Very important (3)	353	22.9%	33	18.8%
Moderately Important (2)	531	34.5%	63	35.8%
Slightly Important (1)	391	25.4%	44	25.0%
Not Important (0)	165	10.7%	25	14.2%
No Opinion (0)	10	0.6%	4	2.3%
Total	1,541	100%	176	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=9.187$; $df=5$; $p=0.102$				
Mean	1.87		1.69	
95% C.I.	1.81 – 1.92		1.53 – 1.85	

Appendix B – Table 13-Continued. Importance of goose hunting to South Dakota resident goose hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Importance of Goose Hunting (scale)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Most Important (4)	98	5.7%	5.2%
Very important (3)	386	22.5%	21.5%
Moderately Important (2)	594	34.6%	34.9%
Slightly Important (1)	435	25.3%	25.3%
Not Important (0)	190	11.1%	11.9%
No Opinion (0)	14	0.8%	1.2%
Total	1,717	100%	100%
Mean	1.85		1.81

Appendix B – Table 14. Gender of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Gender	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	1,587	97.9%	179	96.8%
Female	34	2.1%	6	3.2%
Total	1,624	100%	185	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=1.007$; $df=1$; $p=0.316$				

Appendix B – Table 14-Continued. Gender of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Gender	Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Male	1,766	97.8%	97.5%
Female	40	2.2%	2.5%
Total	1,806	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 15. Residence type of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Residence	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	482	29.4%	57	30.8%
Small Town	436	26.6%	53	28.6%
City	723	44.1%	75	40.5%
Total	1,641	100%	185	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=0.856$; $df=2$; $p=0.652$				

Appendix B – Table 15-Continued. Residence type of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Residence	Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
Rural	539	29.5%	29.9%
Small Town	489	26.8%	27.3%
City	798	43.7%	42.8%
Total	1,826	100%	100%

Appendix B – Table 16. Age of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).¹

Age (years)	Full Survey		Non-Response Survey	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
11 – 19	6	0.4%	0	0.0%
20 – 29	293	17.9%	50	27.6%
30 – 39	262	16.0%	40	22.1%
40 – 49	347	26.2%	40	22.1%
50 – 59	400	24.4%	30	16.6%
60 – 69	206	12.6%	14	7.7%
70 – 79	102	6.2%	6	3.3%
80 – 89	21	1.3%	1	0.6%
90 – 99	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Total	1,638	100%	181	100%
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=23.138$; $df=8$; $p=0.003$				
Range	17 – 91		20 – 81	
Median	47.0		40.0	
Mean	46.5		41.0	
95% C.I.	45.8 – 47.2		38.8 – 43.1	

Appendix B – Table 16-Continued. Age of South Dakota resident waterfowl hunters analyzed by survey (South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008).

Age (years)	Surveys Combined		Population Estimate
	Number	Percent	Percent
11 – 19	6	0.3%	0.3%
20 – 29	343	18.9%	21.2%
30 – 39	302	16.6%	18.1%
40 – 49	387	21.3%	21.5%
50 – 59	430	23.6%	21.7%
60 – 69	220	12.1%	10.9%
70 – 79	108	5.9%	5.2%
80 – 89	22	1.2%	1.0%
90 – 99	1	0.1%	0.1%
Total	1,819	100%	100%
Mean	46.0		44.6

¹Note that this survey specifically targeted adults and thus this parameter (and others measured in this survey) only reflects values for resident waterfowl hunters who purchased either a Small Game or Combination License (excludes the Youth Small Game and Junior Combination Licenses).

Duck Hunting by South Dakota Resident Hunters

Appendix B – Table 17. Frequency of Duck Hunting: Years of duck hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Year Hunted	Duck Hunter			
	Number	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases	
2004	973	20.0%	68.1%	
2005	946	19.4%	66.2%	
2006	966	19.8%	67.6%	
2007	993	20.4%	69.5%	
2008	992	20.4%	69.4%	
Total Number/Cases	4,870	100%	340.8% (1,429)	
Number of Years Hunted (2004-2008)	Full Sample		Removes Hunters that Started Duck Hunting After 2004	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	128	9.0%	81	6.9%
1	212	14.8%	131	11.1%
2	140	9.8%	98	8.3%
3	129	9.0%	93	7.9%
4	109	7.6%	93	7.9%
5	711	49.8%	683	57.9%
Total	1,429	100%	1,179	100%
Mean	3.41		3.73	
95% C.I.	3.31 – 3.50		3.63 – 3.83	

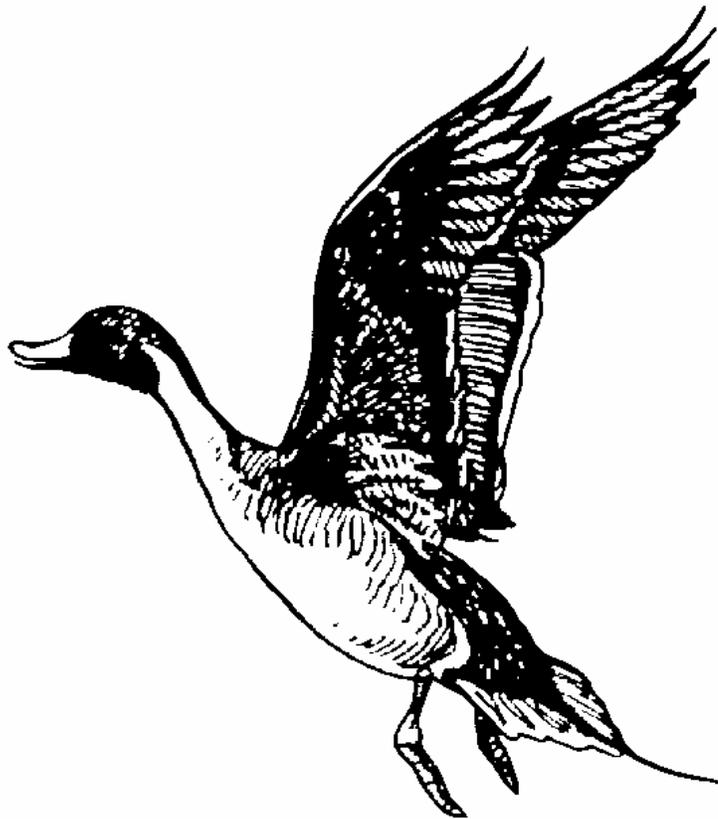
Appendix B – Table 18. Duck hunters' intentions to hunt ducks in the future (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Intension to Hunt Ducks in the Future?	Number	Percent
NO	52	3.6%
Not Sure, Undecided	200	14.0%
YES	1,177	82.4%
Total	1,429	100%

Appendix B – Table 19. Frequency of Duck Hunting: Years of duck hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) analyzed by Duck hunters' intentions to hunt ducks in the future (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Intension to Hunt Ducks in the Future?	Mean Number of Years	95% C.I.	Number
NO	2.00	1.44 – 2.56	52
Not Sure, Undecided	1.72	1.49 – 1.95	200
YES	3.76	3.66 – 3.85	1,177
Average/Total	3.41	3.31 – 3.50	1,429

ANOVA: $F=144.111$; $df=2/1,426$; $p<0.001$



Appendix B – Table 20. Reasons why duck hunters did not hunt ducks the past five years (2004 – 2008) or do not intend to hunt ducks in the future (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Reason	Mean	Major Reason (2)	Minor Reason (1)	Not A Reason (0)
Not enough time–too busy w/ family or work	0.41	14.1%	12.6%	73.3%
Hunted pheasants instead of duck hunting	0.37	13.3%	10.3%	76.4%
Hunted big game instead of duck hunting	0.32	12.0%	7.7%	80.3%
Too hard to find a place to hunt	0.29	9.2%	10.6%	80.2%
Did other forms of outdoor recreation	0.23	5.8%	11.7%	82.5%
Fished instead of duck hunting	0.20	6.2%	7.2%	86.6%
Places I hunt were too crowded	0.17	4.4%	8.3%	87.3%
Don't like to eat ducks	0.16	4.3%	7.0%	88.7%
Did not always live where I could easily hunt ducks	0.15	5.7%	3.8%	90.6%
Did other forms of indoor recreation	0.14	3.2%	7.7%	89.1%
Duck numbers were too low	0.13	2.9%	6.9%	90.2%
Licenses too expensive	0.13	2.8%	7.1%	90.1%
Bag limit regulations were too complicated	0.13	2.7%	7.4%	89.9%
Hunted geese instead of duck hunting	0.12	3.6%	4.6%	91.7%
In general, regulations too complicated	0.12	2.9%	6.1%	91.0%
No dog to hunt with	0.12	2.4%	6.8%	90.8%
Too difficult to identify ducks on-the-wing	0.12	2.2%	7.5%	90.3%
Season was too short	0.10	2.4%	4.9%	92.7%
Boundaries of units too complicated	0.10	2.2%	5.2%	92.6%
Companions could not hunt	0.10	1.4%	6.9%	91.7%
Started hunting ducks less than 5 years ago	0.09	3.6%	1.7%	94.7%
Season dates in different units too complicated	0.09	2.1%	4.5%	93.4%
Sickness or health problems	0.06	1.7%	2.7%	95.7%
Bag limits were too small	0.05	1.0%	3.3%	95.7%
Concerned about diseases in birds (ducks)	0.05	1.0%	3.3%	95.7%
Military commitments	0.03	1.0%	0.8%	98.2%
Other Major Reasons → <i>see Appendix C</i>		8.6%		
Total		1,429		

Appendix B – Table 21. Number of major reasons why duck hunters did not hunt ducks the past five years (2004 – 2008) or do not intend to hunt ducks in the future (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Number of Major Reasons	Number	Percent
0	187	26.0%
1	129	18.0%
2	112	15.6%
3	115	16.0%
4	59	8.2%
5	45	6.3%
6	20	2.8%
7	21	2.9%
8	14	1.9%
9 – 14	16	2.2%
Number	718	100%
Median	2.00	
Mean	2.37	
95% C.I.	2.20 – 2.54	

Appendix B – Table 22. Reasons Index Score¹ for why duck hunters did not hunt ducks the past five years (2004 – 2008) or do not intend to hunt ducks in the future (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Reasons Index Score	Number	Percent
0 – 4	260	36.2%
5 – 9	191	26.6%
10 – 14	152	21.2%
15 – 19	69	9.6%
20 – 24	30	4.2%
25 – 29	9	1.3%
30 – 34	6	0.8%
35 – 39	1	0.1%
Number	718	100%
Median	7.00	
Mean	7.91	
95% C.I.	7.41 – 8.40	

¹Reasons Index Score is calculated by adding the values for the list of 27 reasons: Major Reasons=2, Minor Reasons=1 and Not A Reason=0.

Appendix B – Table 23. Frequency of Duck Hunting (*see Table 17*): Mean number of years of duck hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) analyzed by the importance of duck hunting (*see Table 6*).

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Number of Years	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	4.69	4.51 – 4.86	102
Very Important (3)	4.53	4.41 – 4.64	323
Moderately Important (2)	3.74	3.59 – 3.89	465
Slightly Important (1)	2.59	2.39 – 2.79	329
Not Important (0)	1.39	1.17 – 1.61	186
Average/Total	3.41	3.31 – 3.51	1,405
ANOVA: F=175.401; df=4/1,400; p<0.001			

Appendix B – Table 24. Importance of duck hunting (*see Table 6*) analyzed by duck hunters' intentions to hunt ducks in the future (*see Table 19*).

Intension to Hunt Ducks in the Future?	Importance of Duck Hunting	95% C.I.	Number
NO	0.84	0.51 – 1.16	49
Not Sure, Undecided	0.94	0.80 – 1.09	196
YES	2.08	2.02 – 2.14	1,160
Average/Total	1.88	1.82 – 1.94	1,405
ANOVA: F=125.337; df=2/1,402; p<0.001			

Appendix B – Table 25. Mean number of major reasons (*see Table 21*) why duck hunters did not hunt ducks the past five years (2004 – 2008) or do not intend to hunt ducks in the future analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Number of Major Reasons	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	1.53	0.48 – 2.58	15
Very Important (3)	1.75	1.31 – 2.18	67
Moderately Important (2)	1.96	1.65 – 2.27	210
Slightly Important (1)	2.48	2.19 – 2.77	241
Not Important (0)	3.06	2.66 – 3.46	170
Average/Total	2.38	2.20 – 2.55	703
ANOVA: F=7.236; df=4/698; p<0.001			

Appendix B – Table 26. Mean Reasons Index Score (*see Table 22*) for why duck hunters did not hunt ducks the past five years (2004 – 2008) or do not intend to hunt ducks in the future analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Reasons Index Score	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	4.07	1.58 – 6.56	15
Very Important (3)	5.10	3.86 – 6.35	67
Moderately Important (2)	6.92	5.98 – 7.87	210
Slightly Important (1)	8.68	7.89 – 9.48	241
Not Important (0)	9.54	8.46 – 10.63	170
Average/Total	7.94	7.44 – 8.44	703
ANOVA: F=8.940; df=4/698; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 27. Decade when duck hunters first started hunting (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).¹

Decade First Started Duck Hunting	Number	Percent
1930s	6	0.5%
1940s	43	3.4%
1950s	104	8.2%
1960s	213	16.8%
1970s	271	21.3%
1980s	200	15.7%
1990s	250	19.7%
2000s (2000–2008)	184	14.5%
Number	1,271	100%
Missing²	158	(11.1%)
Total	1,429	

^{1,2}Hunters rating duck hunting as ‘not important’ were provided an opportunity to skip the remaining duck hunter questions (*see Appendix A*): 121 (76.6%) of this ‘missing’ category rated duck hunting as ‘not important’.

Appendix B – Table 28. Importance of duck hunting (*see Table 6*) analyzed by decade when duck hunters first started hunting (*see Table 27*).

Decade First Started Duck Hunting	Importance of Duck Hunting	95% C.I.	Number
1930s	2.40	0.98 – 3.82	5
1940s	2.24	1.85 – 2.64	41
1950s	1.93	1.72 – 2.14	102
1960s	2.01	1.88 – 2.14	212
1970s	1.99	1.87 – 2.11	268
1980s	2.12	1.98 – 2.25	199
1990s	2.15	2.03 – 2.28	249
2000s (2000–2008)	1.96	1.82 – 2.11	180
Average/Total	2.05	1.99 – 2.10	1,256
ANOVA: F=1.377; df=7/1,248; p=0.211			

Appendix B – Table 29. Important influences for getting started in duck hunting (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Influence	Mean	Major Influence (2)	Minor Influence (1)	Not An Influence (0)
Influence of family member(s) or relatives	1.42	62.6%	17.0%	20.4%
Influence of friends	1.36	52.4%	31.0%	16.6%
Lots of places to hunt ducks	1.04	36.3%	31.0%	32.7%
No crowding	0.82	26.5%	28.5%	45.0%
Had lots of time to hunt ducks	0.81	22.4%	36.1%	41.5%
High duck populations	0.69	18.6%	31.7%	49.7%
Like to eat ducks	0.66	15.7%	34.7%	49.6%
I just wanted to try something new	0.63	17.2%	28.8%	54.0%
Not much else to hunt during the duck season	0.39	6.3%	26.6%	67.1%
Watched programs about duck hunting	0.37	5.6%	26.3%	68.1%
Read about duck hunting	0.32	4.8%	22.3%	72.9%
Other → <i>see Appendix D</i>		23.5%		
Total	1,292 (137 duck hunters did not answer this question)			

Appendix B – Table 30. Number of major influences that hunters listed for getting them started in duck hunting (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Number of Major Influences	Number	Percent
0	73	5.7%
1	318	24.6%
2	319	24.7%
3	216	16.7%
4	135	10.4%
5	125	9.7%
6	60	4.6%
7	35	2.7%
8	6	0.5%
9	5	0.5%
Number	1,292	100%
Median	2.00	
Mean	2.68	
95% C.I.	2.59 – 2.78	

Appendix B – Table 31. Influences Index Score¹: influences that hunters listed for getting them started in duck hunting (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Influences Index Score¹	Number	Percent
1 – 2	58	4.5%
3 – 4	141	10.9%
5 – 6	195	15.1%
7 – 8	217	16.8%
9 – 10	231	17.9%
11 – 12	187	14.5%
13 – 14	138	10.7%
15 – 16	83	6.4%
17 – 18	33	2.6%
19 – 20	8	0.6%
21 – 22	1	0.1%
Number	1,292	100%
Median	9.00	
Mean	8.98	
95% C.I.	8.76 – 9.20	

¹Influences Index Score is calculated by adding the values for the list of 11 influences: Major Influences=2, Minor Influences=1 and Not an Influence=0.

Appendix B – Table 32. Mean number of major influences (*see Table 30*) that hunters listed for getting them started in duck hunting analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Number of Major Influences	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	2.97	2.62 – 3.32	102
Very Important (3)	2.93	2.72 – 3.13	321
Moderately Important (2)	2.72	2.56 – 2.88	464
Slightly Important (1)	2.43	2.24 – 2.63	324
Not Important (0)	2.06	1.63 – 2.49	65
Average/Total	2.69	2.59 – 2.78	1,276
ANOVA: F=5.731; df=4/1,271; p<0.001			

Appendix B – Table 33. Mean Influences Index Score¹: influences that hunters listed for getting them started in duck hunting (*see Table 31*) analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Influences Index Score	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	9.51	8.72 – 10.30	102
Very Important (3)	9.85	9.41 – 10.30	321
Moderately Important (2)	9.18	8.83 – 9.54	464
Slightly Important (1)	8.16	7.73 – 8.60	324
Not Important (0)	6.63	5.67 – 7.59	65
Average/Total	8.99	8.77 – 9.21	1,276
ANOVA: F=13.791; df=4/1,271; p<0.001			

Appendix B – Table 34. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by influence of ‘family member(s) or relatives’ vs. influence of ‘friends’.

Influence of Family Member(s) or Relatives	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Not An Influence	1.79	1.67 – 1.92	259
Minor Influence	1.89	1.77 – 2.02	217
Major Influence	2.19	2.12 – 2.26	800
Average/Total	2.05	2.00 – 2.11	1,276
ANOVA: F=18.579; df=2/1,273; p<0.001			
Influence of Friends	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Not An Influence	2.12	1.97 – 2.27	212
Minor Influence	2.04	1.93 – 2.14	394
Major Influence	2.05	1.97 – 2.12	670
Average/Total	2.05	2.00 – 2.11	1,276
ANOVA: F=0.498; df=2/1,273; p=0.608			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 35. General yearly frequency of duck hunting: ‘About how frequently (based on the years that you hunted) did you hunt since you first started duck hunting?’ (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

General Yearly Frequency of Duck Hunting	Number	Percent
Every year	503	35.2%
Most years (more than ¾, but not every year)	395	27.6%
A little more than half of the years	83	5.8%
About half of the years	77	5.4%
A little less than half, but more than ¼ of the years	78	5.5%
Not very often (less than ¼ of the years)	116	8.0%
No Opinion / Blank¹	179	12.5%
Number	1,429	100%

¹Note that hunters stating that duck hunting was ‘not important’ had the option of skipping most of the duck hunting questions (about 2/3 of the hunters did skip questions 6 through 21).

Appendix B – Table 36. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by general yearly frequency of duck hunting.

General Yearly Frequency of Duck Hunting	Importance of Duck Hunting ¹	95% C.I.	Number
Every year	2.54	2.46 – 2.63	497
Most years	2.06	1.97 – 2.14	389
A little more than half	1.61	1.44 – 1.78	83
About half of the years	1.57	1.34 – 1.79	76
A little less than half	1.56	1.40 – 1.73	78
Not very often	0.97	0.84 – 1.11	112
Average/Total	2.06	2.01 – 2.12	1,235

ANOVA: $F=77.590$; $df=5/1,229$; $p<0.001$

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 37. Number of days duck hunting for the most recent year of duck hunting during the past five years (2004-2008) (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Days of Duck Hunting	Number	Percent
1	64	5.3%
2	153	12.7%
3	121	10.1%
4	115	9.6%
5	139	11.6%
6	91	7.6%
7	34	2.8%
8	40	3.3%
9	4	0.3%
10	128	10.7%
11 – 20	220	18.3%
21 – 30	65	5.4%
31 – 40	18	1.5%
41 – 50	9	0.7%
Number	1,201	100%
Median	6.00	
Mean	9.00	
95 % C.I.	8.51 – 9.48	

Appendix B – Table 38. Mean number of days duck hunting for the most recent year of duck hunting during the past five years (2004-2008) analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Number of Days Duck Hunting	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	19.0	16.99 – 21.01	96
Very Important (3)	12.6	11.57 – 13.64	311
Moderately Important (2)	7.4	6.72 – 8.02	443
Slightly Important (1)	4.9	4.32 – 5.47	283
Not Important (0)	4.0	2.62 – 5.38	52
Average/Total	8.95	8.46 – 9.43	1,185
ANOVA: F=94.114; df=4/1,180; p<0.001			

Appendix B – Table 39. Relative change in days duck hunting since first duck hunted (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Change in Duck Hunting Frequency	Number	Percent
Greatly Decreased	511	35.8%
Slightly Decreased	286	20.0%
Stayed the Same	231	16.2%
Slightly Increased	104	7.3%
Greatly Increased	55	3.8%
I just started duck hunting recently	39	2.7%
No Opinion / Blank¹	203	14.2%
Number	1,429	100%

¹Note that hunters stating that duck hunting was ‘not important’ had the option of skipping most of the duck hunting questions (about 2/3 of the hunters did skip questions 6 through 21) – these hunters were added to this category.

Appendix B – Table 40. Reasons why duck hunters have decreased in frequency (days) of duck hunting since they first started duck hunting (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Reason	Mean	Major Reason (2)	Minor Reason (1)	Not A Reason (0)
Work obligations	1.09	39.8%	29.2%	31.0%
Family obligations	0.91	30.1%	30.7%	39.2%
Hard to find good places to hunt	0.86	27.2%	32.1%	40.7%
I'm more interested in hunting other game	0.85	23.8%	37.3%	38.9%
Age	0.50	11.8%	26.0%	62.2%
Too crowded where I like to hunt	0.50	11.6%	26.3%	62.1%
No one to hunt ducks with	0.50	9.4%	31.2%	59.4%
Low duck populations	0.43	10.4%	22.1%	67.5%
More interested in other forms of recreation	0.43	6.7%	29.6%	63.7%
Equipment too expensive	0.36	7.5%	20.6%	71.9%
Steel shot regulations	0.35	8.1%	18.3%	73.6%
Poor behavior by other hunters	0.35	6.6%	21.6%	71.8%
Licenses too expensive	0.34	7.3%	19.7%	72.9%
I'm more interested in fishing	0.34	7.0%	20.1%	72.9%
Bag limit too complicated	0.34	6.4%	20.6%	72.9%
Regulations in general too complicated	0.32	6.8%	18.5%	74.7%
Season too short	0.31	7.2%	16.3%	76.5%
I don't like to eat ducks	0.29	5.8%	17.7%	76.5%
Moved to where it is harder to go duck hunting	0.28	8.6%	11.3%	80.2%
In general, duck hunting is too difficult	0.21	3.3%	14.9%	81.8%
Health problems	0.19	3.5%	12.0%	84.5%
Bag Limit too small	0.18	3.2%	12.1%	84.7%
Too much law enforcement	0.17	2.9%	10.9%	86.2%
Concerned about diseases in birds (ducks)	0.11	1.3%	8.8%	89.9%
Other Major Reasons → <i>see Appendix E</i>		17.3%		
Total	971 (6 duck hunters did not answer this question)			

Appendix B – Table 41. Relative change in **enjoyment** of duck hunting since first duck hunted (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Change in Duck Hunting Enjoyment	Number	Percent
Greatly Decreased	130	10.4%
Slightly Decreased	269	21.4%
Stayed the Same	519	41.4%
Slightly Increased	135	10.8%
Greatly Increased	144	11.5%
I just started duck hunting recently	31	2.5%
No Opinion / Blank¹	201	14.1%
Number	1,429	100%

¹Note that hunters stating that duck hunting was ‘not important’ had the option of skipping most of the duck hunting questions (about 2/3 of the hunters did skip questions 6 through 21) – these hunters were added to this category.



Appendix B – Table 42. Reasons why duck hunters’ enjoyment of duck hunting has decreased since they first started duck hunting (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Reason	Mean	Major Reason (2)	Minor Reason (1)	Not A Reason (0)
Hard to find good places to hunt	0.96	34.1%	28.3%	37.6%
Work obligations	0.79	24.3%	30.8%	44.9%
I’m more interested in hunting other game	0.79	23.6%	32.1%	44.4%
Family obligations	0.64	16.8%	30.8%	52.4%
Age	0.58	15.5%	27.1%	57.4%
Too crowded where I like to hunt	0.58	15.3%	27.3%	57.4%
Low duck populations	0.51	14.5%	21.8%	63.7%
No one to hunt ducks with	0.48	9.5%	29.1%	61.4%
Equipment too expensive	0.47	9.5%	27.6%	62.7%
Steel shot regulations	0.45	12.5%	19.8%	67.7%
Poor behavior by other hunters	0.45	10.0%	25.1%	64.9%
Licenses too expensive	0.45	9.3%	26.6%	64.2%
Regulations in general too complicated	0.43	12.5%	17.5%	69.9%
Bag limits too complicated	0.42	10.8%	20.8%	68.4%
I’m more interested in other forms of recreation	0.40	8.3%	23.6%	68.2%
Season too short	0.35	10.0%	15.3%	74.7%
I’m more interested in fishing	0.35	8.0%	19.0%	72.9%
In general, duck hunting is too difficult	0.35	6.8%	21.1%	72.2%
I don’t like to eat ducks	0.32	8.0%	16.3%	75.7%
Health problems	0.26	5.5%	15.0%	79.4%
Too much law enforcement	0.23	5.3%	12.3%	82.5%
Bag limit too small	0.23	4.0%	15.0%	81.0%
Moved to where it is harder to go duck hunting	0.19	5.8%	7.8%	86.5%
Concerned about diseases in birds (ducks)	0.11	1.5%	8.3%	90.2%
Other Major Reasons → <i>see Appendix F</i>		18.0%		
Total		399		

Satisfaction and Motivation of South Dakota Resident Duck Hunters

South Dakota resident duck hunters' satisfaction with most recent year of duck hunting in South Dakota → see Table 5

Appendix B – Tables 43A–43H. *Reasons for liking duck hunting– People enjoy hunting for many different reasons, please rate the importance of each reason for why you like to hunt ducks.*

Appendix B – Table 43-A. Importance of reason: To bring meat home for food.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	MEAT	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	349	27.4%
1	174	13.7%
2	181	14.2%
3	156	12.3%
4	181	14.2%
5	126	9.9%
6	62	4.9%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	43	3.4%
TOTAL	1,272	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	2.38	2.27 – 2.50

Appendix B – Table 43-B. Importance of reason: To enjoy nature, the outdoors and the beauty of the area.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	NATURE	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	2	0.2%
1	2	0.2%
2	5	0.4%
3	20	1.6%
4	61	4.8%
5	210	16.5%
6	326	25.6%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	649	50.9%
TOTAL	1,275	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	6.17	6.11 – 6.23

Appendix B – Table 43-C. Importance of reason: For the excitement that duck hunting provides, e.g., the feeling one gets when you see ducks coming in.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	EXCITEMENT	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	1	0.1%
1	8	0.6%
2	5	0.4%
3	15	1.2%
4	72	5.6%
5	163	12.7%
6	322	25.2%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	693	54.2%
TOTAL	1,279	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	6.22	6.15 – 6.28

Appendix B – Table 43-D. Importance of reason: Enjoying the time spent with friends/family.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	SOCIAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	16	1.3%
1	11	0.9%
2	14	1.1%
3	16	1.3%
4	77	6.0%
5	184	14.4%
6	311	24.4%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	645	50.6%
TOTAL	1,274	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	6.04	5.97 – 6.12

Appendix B – Table 43-E. Importance of reason: To bring home a special duck to stuff for display or otherwise to demonstrate hunting skills and accomplishment.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	TROPHY	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	388	30.5%
1	214	16.8%
2	169	13.3%
3	112	8.8%
4	171	13.5%
5	96	7.6%
6	57	4.5%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	64	5.0%
TOTAL	1,271	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	2.24	2.12 – 2.35

Appendix B – Table 43-F. Importance of reason: For the solitude that duck hunting can provide.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	SOLITUDE	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	72	5.7%
1	34	2.7%
2	58	4.6%
3	93	7.3%
4	248	19.5%
5	248	19.5%
6	249	19.6%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	269	21.2%
TOTAL	1,271	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	4.75	4.64 – 4.86

Appendix B – Table 43-G. Importance of reason: For the challenges associated with duck hunting and dealing with the elements.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	CHALLENGE	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	47	3.7%
1	30	2.4%
2	55	4.3%
3	69	5.4%
4	228	17.9%
5	301	23.6%
6	293	23.0%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	253	19.8%
TOTAL	1,276	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	4.93	4.84 – 5.03

Appendix B – Table 43-H. Importance of reason: To have additional hunting opportunities, i.e., just something else to hunt.

IMPORTANCE SCALE	ADDITIONAL HUNTING	
	NUMBER	PERCENT
0 NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	137	10.8%
1	86	6.8%
2	118	9.3%
3	131	10.3%
4	273	21.6%
5	241	19.0%
6	161	12.7%
7 VERY IMPORTANT	119	9.4%
TOTAL	1,266	100%
MEAN / 95% C. I.	3.80	3.69 – 3.91

Summary mean importance ratings for the reasons for liking duck hunting
 → *see Table 8*

South Dakota resident duck hunters' most important motivation (reason)
 for liking duck hunting → *see Table 9*

South Dakota Resident Duck Hunters' Opinions about Duck Hunting Regulations & Experiences

Information Provided in Survey Questionnaire:

Hunter's Choice uses an aggregate bag (1 hen mallard OR 1 pintail OR 1 canvasback) to limit harvest on species needing additional protection while maintaining full hunting opportunity on abundant species or stocks of ducks such as drake mallards.

Season-Within-a-Season involves having a short 39-day season for pintail and canvasbacks within a 74-day duck hunting season.

Appendix B – Table 44. Both of the above described management strategies have been used in South Dakota (Hunter's Choice: 2006-2008 and Season-Within-a-Season prior to 2006). Of these two management strategies, which do you prefer?

Preferred Strategy	Number	Percent
Hunter's Choice	736	57.9%
Season-Within-a-Season	150	11.8%
Undecided	386	30.3%
Total	1,272	100%
Adjusted for non-response bias → <i>see Table 10</i>		

Appendix B – Table 45. How big a role does the COST of licenses (S.D. hunting licenses plus Federal Duck Stamp) play in your decision to hunt ducks in a particular year?

Role of Cost?	Number	Percent
MAJOR ROLE – I seriously consider not hunting ducks some years because the licenses are too expensive .	145	11.3%
MINOR ROLE – I consider the cost but it is not a major influence in my decision of whether or not I will hunt ducks in a particular year.	548	42.7%
NOT IMPORTANT – The cost of licenses does not influence my decision.	589	45.9%
Total	1,282	100%

Appendix B – Table 46. In the last year you hunted ducks, what type of land did you do the majority of your duck hunting?

Type of Land Hunted?	Number	Percent
PRIVATE LAND	705	55.1%
PUBLIC LAND	491	38.4%
WALK-IN AREAS	73	5.7%
DON'T KNOW	11	0.9%
Total	1,280	100%

Appendix B – Table 47. How difficult is it for you to find places to hunt ducks?

Difficulty in Finding Places to Hunt?	Number	Percent	
VERY DIFFICULT	155	12.1%	
MODERATELY DIFFICULT	361	28.2%	
SLIGHTLY DIFFICULT	344	26.9%	
NOT A PROBLEM	421	32.9%	
Total	1,281	100%	
	Residence Type		
Difficulty in Finding Places to Hunt?	Rural	Small Town	City
VERY DIFFICULT	12.0%	10.1%	13.4%
MODERATELY DIFFICULT	21.7%	31.3%	30.2%
SLIGHTLY DIFFICULT	22.6%	28.7%	28.8%
NOT A PROBLEM	43.7%	29.9%	27.6%
Total Number	350	348	569
Pearson Chi-square: $X^2=31.208$; $df=6$; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 48. Is crowding (too many duck hunters – disturbances from other hunters) ever a problem at places you like to hunt ducks?

Is crowding a problem where you duck hunt?	Number	Percent
NO	659	52.1%
YES	606	47.9%
Total	1,265	100%
	→ If YES, how big of a problem?	
→ If YES, how big of a problem?	Number	Percent
ALWAYS CROWDED	20	3.3%
OFTEN CROWDED	171	28.3%
SOMETIMES CROWDED	324	53.6%
SELDOM CROWDED	90	14.9%
Total	605	100%

Appendix B – Table 49. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your overall duck hunting knowledge and skill, with 1 = to ‘beginner’, a 5 = to about average (e.g., can ID ducks in hand, etc.) to 10 = to ‘very experienced’ (e.g., can ID ducks in flight, call ducks, etc.)?

Self Rated Duck Hunting Knowledge and Skills?	Number	Percent
1 → BEGINNER	28	2.2%
2	28	2.2%
3	59	4.6%
4	85	6.6%
5 → AVERAGE	253	19.7%
6	121	9.4%
7	200	15.6%
8	221	17.2%
9	155	12.1%
10 → VERY EXPERIENCED	133	10.4%
Total	1,283	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	6.61	6.49 – 6.74
Median	7.00	

Appendix B – Table 50. If Game, Fish, and Parks offered a FREE waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class (e.g., how to identify ducks in flight, duck hunting regulations, effective shooting tips, etc.) near where you live, how interested would you be in attending?

Interest in Free Workshop?	Number	Percent
VERY INTERESTED	227	17.7%
MODERATELY INTERESTED	287	22.4%
SLIGHTLY INTERESTED	353	27.6%
NOT INTERESTED	373	29.1%
NO OPINION	40	3.1%
Total	1,280	100%
Adjusted for non-response bias → <i>see Table 7</i>		

Appendix B – Table 51. Self-reported duck hunting knowledge/skill analyzed by South Dakota resident duck hunters' interest in attending a free waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills workshop.

Interest in Free Workshop:	Mean Knowledge/Skill	95% C.I.	Number
VERY INTERESTED	6.27	5.95 – 6.59	227
MODERATELY INTERESTED	6.43	6.19 – 6.67	287
SLIGHTLY INTERESTED	6.46	6.24 – 6.68	353
NOT INTERESTED	7.23	7.01 – 7.45	371
NO OPINION	5.87	5.03 – 6.71	39
Average/Total	6.62	6.50 – 6.75	1,277
ANOVA: F=10.795; df=4; p<0.001			

Additional Analysis of the 'Importance of Duck Hunting' Variable

Appendix B – Table 52. Mean satisfaction of duck hunters analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Satisfaction¹	95% C.I.	Number
Not Important (0)	0.30	-0.16 – 0.77	53
Slightly Important (1)	0.71	0.54 – 0.87	278
Moderately Important (2)	0.98	0.83 – 1.12	426
Very Important (3)	1.20	1.01 – 1.38	303
Most Important (4)	1.31	0.94 – 1.67	98
Average/Total	0.97	0.88 – 1.06	1,158
ANOVA: F=7.139; df=4/1,153; p<0.001			

¹Satisfaction scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral/No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

Appendix B – Table 53. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by top motivation for liking duck hunting.

Top Motivation for liking Duck Hunting	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Excitement	2.36	2.26 – 2.45	432
Challenge	2.16	1.84 – 2.48	50
Meat	2.11	1.53 – 2.68	19
Trophy	1.91	1.21 – 2.61	11
Social	1.90	1.80 – 2.00	344
Nature	1.89	1.79 – 2.00	355
Solitude	1.88	1.46 – 2.30	25
Additional Hunting	1.42	0.97 – 1.86	24
Average/Total	2.06	2.00 – 2.11	1,260
ANOVA: F=10.059; df=7/1,252; p<0.001			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 54. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by preferred duck management strategy.

Preferred Duck Management Strategy	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Hunter's Choice	2.17	2.10 – 2.25	729
Seasons w/in Season	2.27	2.12 – 2.42	147
Undecided	1.76	1.66 – 1.86	381
Average/Total	2.06	2.00 – 2.14	1,257
ANOVA: F=25.394; df=2/1,254; p<0.001			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 55. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by the role that COST of licenses play in hunter’s decision to hunt ducks.

Role of Cost of Licenses for Duck Hunting	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Major Role	1.83	1.68 – 1.99	144
Minor Role	2.03	1.95 – 2.11	539
Not Important	2.14	2.05 – 2.22	583
Average/Total	2.06	2.00 – 2.11	1,266
ANOVA: F=5.500; df=2/1,263; p=0.004			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 56. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by type of land where hunters did the majority of their duck hunting.

Type of Land → Used for Majority of Duck Hunting	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Private Land	1.98	1.90 – 2.05	696
Public Land	2.20	2.12 – 2.29	484
Walk-In Areas	2.03	1.77 – 2.29	73
Don’t Know	1.18	0.34 – 2.02	11
Average/Total	2.06	2.00 – 2.12	1,264
ANOVA: F=7.798; df=3/1,260; p<0.001			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 57. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by hunters’ rating of the difficulty of finding places to hunt ducks.

Difficulty in Finding Places to duck Hunt	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
Very Difficult	2.08	1.91 – 2.25	153
Moderately Difficult	2.06	1.95 – 2.16	359
Slightly Difficult	2.05	1.95 – 2.16	340
Not A Problem	2.05	1.96 – 2.15	413
Average/Total	2.06	2.00 – 2.11	1,265
ANOVA: F=0.027; df=3/1,261; p=0.994			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 58. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by crowding at places where hunters like to hunt ducks.

Is Crowding a Problem Where You Hunt Ducks?	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
NO	1.91	1.83 – 1.98	653
YES	2.23	2.15 – 2.31	597
Average/Total	2.06	2.00 – 2.12	1,265

ANOVA: F=33.320; df=1/1,248; $p<0.001$

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important

Appendix B – Table 59. Duck hunters’ self-rated duck hunting knowledge/skill level analyzed by the importance of duck hunting.

Importance of Duck Hunting (scale)	Mean Knowledge/Skill Level¹	95% C.I.	Number
Not Important (0)	4.38	3.79 – 4.96	64
Slightly Important (1)	5.46	5.24 – 5.68	322
Moderately Important (2)	6.56	6.38 – 6.75	462
Very Important (3)	7.70	7.50 – 7.90	319
Most Important (4)	8.52	8.22 – 8.83	101
Average/Total	6.62	6.49 – 6.74	1,268

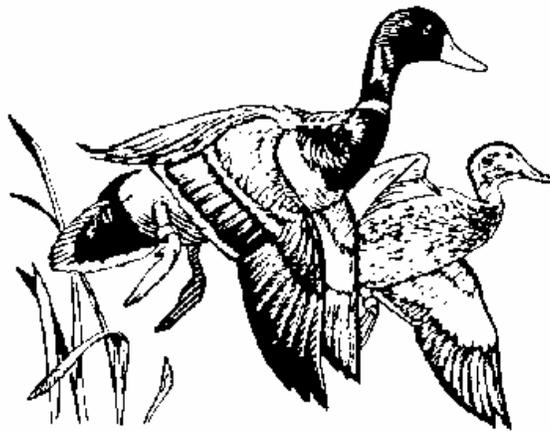
ANOVA: F=97.454; df=4/1,163; $p<0.001$

¹Knowledge/Skill Level: scale ranged from 1 to 10 (1=Beginner, 5=Average, 10=Very Experienced)

Appendix B – Table 60. Mean importance of duck hunting analyzed by hunters' interest in a FREE waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class.

Interest in Free Workshop:	Importance of Duck Hunting¹	95% C.I.	Number
VERY INTERESTED	2.37	2.23 – 2.50	224
MODERATELY INTERESTED	2.17	2.06 – 2.28	282
SLIGHTLY INTERESTED	1.96	1.86 – 2.06	348
NOT INTERESTED	1.92	1.81 – 2.02	372
NO OPINION	1.62	1.25 – 1.98	39
Average/Total	2.05	2.00 – 2.11	1,265
ANOVA: F=10.783; df=4/1,260; $p<0.001$			

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important;



Goose Hunting by South Dakota Resident Hunters

Appendix B – Table 61. Frequency of Goose Hunting: Years of goose hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Year Hunted	Goose Hunter		
	Number	Percent of Responses	Percent of Cases
2004	1,067	19.8%	68.1%
2005	1,059	19.7%	67.1%
2006	1,077	20.0%	68.8%
2007	1,088	20.2%	69.5%
2008	1,094	20.3%	69.9%
Total Number/Cases	5,385	100%	343.4%
Number of Years Hunted (2004-2008)			
	Number	Percent	
0	127	8.1%	
1	208	13.3%	
2	170	10.8%	
3	167	10.7%	
4	139	8.9%	
5	756	48.2%	
Total	1,567	100%	
Mean	3.44		
95% C.I.	3.35 – 3.53		

Importance of goose hunting to South Dakota resident goose hunters → *see Table 13*

South Dakota resident duck hunters' satisfaction with most recent year of duck hunting in South Dakota → *see Table 12*



Appendix B – Table 62. Number of days goose hunting for the most recent year of goose hunting during the past five years (2004-2008) (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Days of Goose Hunting	Number	Percent
1	81	6.1%
2	197	14.7%
3	161	12.0%
4	123	9.2%
5	134	10.0%
6	93	7.0%
7	34	2.5%
8	52	3.9%
9	5	0.4%
10	133	9.9%
11 – 20	156	11.6%
21 – 30	60	4.5%
31 – 40	25	1.9%
41 – 50	11	0.8%
51 – 90	10	0.7%
Number	1,338	100%
Median	5.00	
Mean	8.99	
95 % C.I.	8.44 – 9.54	

Appendix B – Table 63. ‘How do you usually hunt geese?’ (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Goose Hunting Method	South Dakota Resident Goose Hunters	
	Number	Percent
Pass Shooting	435	30.5%
Over Field Decoys	725	50.9%
Over Floating Decoys	104	7.3%
Incidental while Hunting Other Game	160	11.2%
Total	1,424	100%

Additional Analysis of the 'Importance of Goose Hunting' Variable

Appendix B – Table 64. Mean number of years of goose hunting during the past five years (2004 – 2008) analyzed by the importance of goose hunting.

Importance of Goose Hunting (scale)	Mean Number of Years	95% C.I.	Number
Most Important (4)	4.48	4.23 – 4.73	91
Very Important (3)	4.46	4.33 – 4.58	353
Moderately Important (2)	3.71	3.57 – 3.84	531
Slightly Important (1)	2.88	2.71 – 3.05	391
Not Important (0)	1.67	1.42 – 1.92	175
Average/Total	3.48	3.40 – 3.57	1,541
ANOVA: F=125.940; df=4/1,536; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 65. Mean number of days goose hunting for the most recent year of goose hunting during the past five years (2004-2008) analyzed by the importance of goose hunting.

Importance of Goose Hunting (scale)	Mean Number of Days Goose Hunting	95% C.I.	Number
Not Important (0)	4.13	2.52 – 5.73	40
Slightly Important (1)	4.42	3.98 – 4.85	363
Moderately Important (2)	7.27	6.65 – 7.90	502
Very Important (3)	12.68	11.52 – 13.84	346
Most Important (4)	25.78	21.93 – 29.62	86
Average/Total	8.99	8.44 – 9.54	1,337
ANOVA: F=127.581; df=4/1,332; $p<0.001$			

Appendix B – Table 66. Mean satisfaction of goose hunters analyzed by the importance of goose hunting.

Importance of Goose Hunting (scale)	Mean Satisfaction ¹	95% C.I.	Number
Not Important (0)	0.33	-0.10 – 0.76	46
Slightly Important (1)	0.62	0.48 – 0.76	369
Moderately Important (2)	1.05	0.93 – 1.18	516
Very Important (3)	1.38	1.22 – 1.54	351
Most Important (4)	1.86	1.58 – 2.14	91
Average/Total	1.05	0.97 – 1.13	1,373

ANOVA: F=23.064; df=4/1,368; $p < 0.001$

¹Satisfaction scale: 3=Very Satisfied, 2=Moderately Satisfied, 1=Slightly Satisfied, 0=Neutral/No Opinion, -1=Slightly Dissatisfied, -2=Moderately Dissatisfied, -3=Very Dissatisfied

Appendix B – Table 67. Mean importance of goose hunting analyzed by usual type of goose hunting.

Usual Type of Goose Hunting	Importance of Goose Hunting ¹	95% C.I.	Number
Pass Shooting	2.07	1.97 – 2.16	409
Over Field Decoys	2.18	2.11 – 2.25	700
Over Floating Decoys	2.00	1.83 – 2.17	103
Incidental While Hunting Other Game	1.45	1.32 – 1.59	143
Average/Total	2.05	2.00 – 2.10	1,355

ANOVA: F=23.825; df=3/1,351; $p < 0.001$

¹Importance of Duck Hunting: 0=Not Important; 1=Slightly Important; 2=Moderately Important; 3=Very Important; 4=Most Important



General Demographic Information: S.D. Resident Duck & Goose Hunters

Appendix B – Table 68. Age of South Dakota resident duck and goose hunters (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Age of Hunter (Years)	Duck Hunter		Goose Hunter	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
11 – 19	5	0.4%	5	0.3%
20 – 29	267	19.0%	270	17.4%
30 – 39	231	16.4%	248	16.0%
40 – 49	297	21.1%	334	21.6%
50 – 59	342	24.3%	377	24.3%
60 – 69	167	11.9%	197	12.7%
70 – 79	78	5.6%	96	6.2%
80 – 89	17	1.2%	21	1.4%
90 – 99	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Total	1,405	100%	1,549	100%
Range	17 – 91		17 – 91	
Median	47.00		47.00	
Mean	45.85		46.62	
95% C.I.	45.05 – 46.65		45.86 – 47.39	

Appendix B – Table 69. Gender of South Dakota resident duck and goose hunters (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Gender	Duck Hunter		Goose Hunter	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	1,367	98.2%	1,507	98.4%
Female	25	1.8%	25	1.6%
Total	1,392	100%	1,532	100%

Appendix B – Table 70. Residence type for South Dakota resident duck and goose hunters (SD Waterfowl Hunter Participation Survey – 2008).

Residence Type	Duck Hunter		Goose Hunter	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	399	28.4%	454	29.3%
Small Town	382	27.1%	414	26.7%
City	626	44.5%	683	44.0%
Total	1,407	100%	1,551	100%

Appendix C. Additional reasons and comments for why hunters did not hunt ducks all five years (2004–2008) and/or do not plan to hunt ducks in the future (Appendix B – Table 20).

- ID: 16**
Was mostly a big game and pheasant hunter and didn't start waterfowl hunting until 2007.
- ID: 35**
Steel shot not effective in colder weather and cost of alternatives to steel.
- ID: 42**
Duck hunting in the area I typically hunt is over crowded with out of state hunters. Over the last 5 to 10 years the duck hunting experience has decreased because of this.
- ID: 47**
I only like to hunt mallards or teal. I don't shoot any other ducks. My deer season took too long this year and didn't get to do any duck hunting.
- ID: 95**
Bow hunting takes the majority of my hunting time.
- ID: 133**
Northern Mallards come here very late in the season. Wasn't always like that.
- ID: 172**
I just recently retired and moved back to SD.
- ID: 199**
I was busy.
- ID: 213**
Most people want payment to hunt their land.
- ID: 231**
Weather is sometimes a factor for me. I personally land hunt ducks and November/December weather pushed most of the ducks out of the area.
- ID: 290**
With the dry years there was no water locally.
- ID: 332**
I didn't want to.

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ID: 385

Growing physical impairment.

ID: 399

There are too many out of state hunters. If more licenses are given in our zone (NE SD) then you will lose many hunters out of states come when hunting is best and best areas which entail about two weeks. They occupy farmers land or upset farmers so locals can't hunt. Don't let Chamber of Commerce or Legislature change current number of license. Duck hunting for locals will end. They already are leasing land to squeeze out locals.

ID: 411

I was busy with work and limited number of ducks and geese around but the numbers are increasing.

ID: 439

South Dakota has lottery system on waterfowl licenses, which is foolish because giving up revenue and hunting opportunity for out of staters. Surrounding states don't have and it's a migratory bird? Come back to SD to pheasant hunt but can't waterfowl hunt.

ID: 443

I hunt only private land and depends on accessibility.

ID: 446

Can't identify ducks so don't bother; need more private land to hunt on.

ID: 449

There was a drought in our zone for six years and very little water for nesting our ducks.

ID: 454

I just moved to present location.

ID: 467

It is too hard to get on land. They want money or they don't want you around.

ID: 496

I was not a resident in 2005. I moved to South Dakota in 2005.

ID: 508

I am just getting to old; I am now 77 years old.

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- ID: 519**
The geese are here and the season ended.
- ID: 547**
Like duck hunting and have a son that has interest in it and a dog that loves to hunt.
- ID: 563**
I was attending college out of state (I am still an SD Resident).
- ID: 598**
There are too few ducks/geese to make it worth while.
- ID: 599**
Personal issues, time restraints, money restraints, once I resolve these issues, then I can think about hunting.
- ID: 604**
Shells are getting to expensive (steel shot).
- ID: 649**
Related to I and I above, very few ducks in SE SD so a distance to hunt. There used to be more here.
- ID: 682**
We lost most of our public land in my unit.
- ID: 690**
Mainly lack of interest
- ID: 707**
I lived out of state for most of the last five years.
- ID: 729**
The cost of hunting has become very expensive, soon will be for rich people only. Please do something, we are going to lose our young peoples interest, and that's where the future of hunting lies.
- ID: 740**
All of the small ponds froze before major duck numbers came through SD.
- ID: 785**
I lived in Southeast Wisconsin.
- ID: 828**
Landowners and commercial operations aren't worth the hassle.

- ID: 830**
Separated Achilles tendon no hunting in 2008
- ID: 878**
Primary reason is that I was living in NE for the majority of the last 5 years.
- ID: 943**
In my area; (river below Gavin's Point) duck and goose populations don't usually get good until the season closes. I and other hunters I know in this area would do more waterfowl hunting if the season ran into January. Also, cost of everything needed to hunt waterfowl is getting to high.
- ID: 965**
Licenses are too expensive for what you get out of it.
- ID: 970**
I will hunt only when my sons get a non-resident license.
- ID: 999**
I don't care to eat duck and have no use for it.
- ID: 1008**
My age (70) hunting is hard work.
- ID: 1012**
I have no experience.
- ID: 1045**
I have kids.
- ID: 1070**
Early goose season scares all our game out of the area.
- ID: 1113**
My health; I can't depend on my heart.
- ID: 1133**
I don't know how to answer those because the only reason I didn't hunt ducks for those years; it's me and my dad just hunted everything else and hadn't went duck hunting in a lot of years, I guess we just forgot about it we started going again last year and are hooked again. We both will be avid duck hunters from here on out, man what a blast we forgot how much fun it was.

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ID: 1142

My eyesight is almost gone due to macular degeneration.

ID: 1145

I resided in a state that had poor duck/goose numbers in my area.

ID: 1202

Private hunting land was sold.

ID: 1229

Not many pot holes close to Rapid.

ID: 1262

I didn't waterfowl hunt because of gas prices.

ID: 1296

My age is kicking in. I will be 87 in January.

ID: 1295

My father and father in law are farmers and I spend all my free time in the fall helping them harvest.

ID: 1324

Hunted ducks all my life just got out of it for a while.

ID: 1333

Low water levels and my dog died.

ID: 1349

I live in Arizona since November 2003. I moved back specifically for more hunting, prior to my move I hunted every season.

ID: 1352

I have trouble with wardens walking in soughs not enough water to have a lot of ducks.

ID: 1368

Don't own all the proper equipment, duck blind decoys, boat etc.

ID: 1375

Living in Douglas no ducks returned the end of November when the season closes shortly there after. Douglas should be open into the later part of January.

ID: 1376

I'm older very busy in my work and I prefer hunting pheasants.

- ID: 1406**
The fuel costs
- ID: 1409**
The ducks unlimited banquet last attended with their drinking and smoking turned me off to ducks after I spend a large sum on auction items not more ducks
- ID: 1453**
I don't have a buddy that likes to hunt ducks near Spearfish.
- ID: 1458**
I spend more time hunting out of state for quail and chuckers, hens, these birds are mostly on large tracts or public land without access issues plus I own pointing dogs and unlike most SD hunters I prefer grouse to pheasant hunted due to access/ too many people out doing that.
- ID: 1466**
It is hard to find the landowners to get permission to hunt.
- ID: 1476**
The ducks are feeding after shooting hours.
- ID: 1522**
I just had to have to have surgery in December 2008 and was unable to hunt because of that.
- ID: 1597**
I was short on free time.
- ID: 1604**
A lot of other responsibilities
- ID: 1621**
I was too busy.
- ID: 1657**
I am a beginner to the sport of hunting.
- ID: 1665**
None of the above, I lost my privileges for the years of 2005 and 2006.
- ID: 1693**
I couldn't find any recipe that would cover up the taste of a wild duck.

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ID: 1695

The reason I don't hunt anymore is land is all leased out were do you to hunt?

ID: 1700

It is hard to find time and hunting companions have quit duck hunting also but we are talking about starting again.

ID: 1741

My privileges were revoked for one year.

ID: 1780

Driving distance to good areas is too great.

ID: 1784

I feel the flight pattern of northern mallards has changed. Very Few in Grand and Roberts counties compared to the 60's, 70's and 80's.

ID: 1803

I moved during the fall of one hunting season.

ID: 1806

Lost hunting pattern in dry year's sloughs I had permission for dried up, then in high water years no cattails in friends slough.

ID: 1843

I'm not in flyway in Black Hills and too busy.

ID: 1854

Water where I hunted dried up and had to find other places private land hard to find and public land is too crowded.

ID: 1879

The gas prices

ID: 1967

It is too far to go for decent hunting. Seeing the constant incessant degradation to our wetlands all over SD is depressing.

ID: 1996

I hunted ducks for the first time in 2006.

ID: 2105

Steel shot is not lethal and too expensive.

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- ID: 2108**
Live where there were not many ducks.
- ID: 2195**
My son is now hunting with his buddies of the same age.
- ID: 2203**
I got married in 2008 and moved to an area in 2005 where private landowners aren't as likely to give permission to hunt.
- ID: 2210**
Seems like hunting/fishing licenses keep going higher and higher and it is harder to say that it's worth it to buy them, at all when you not sure how many times or if I'm going to get out at all this year to do that. I love the outdoors along with hunting/fishing, but it seems like we have less and less time to do these things.
- ID: 2223**
It is hard to find a place where other hunters haven't ruined it for most good hunters.
- ID: 2283**
The economy and fuel prices kept me from hunting.
- ID: 2291**
Newer hunter and land is limited
- ID: 2308**
Don't know the types of ducks to what was in season, so it was difficult to get someone to go with that knew the species.
- ID: 2310**
Travel/lodging/expenses to travel to the areas with consistent numbers of birds in prohibitive expenses not related to licenses.
- ID: 2319**
I need hunting companions.
- ID: 2338**
The bull rushes are missing from my favorite hunting spots. The ducks are no longer stopping in these spots.
- ID: 2351**
The cost of the licenses

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ID: 2465

I am getting to old.

ID: 2489

The cost and it is hard to find a good place to hunt. The regulations are also complicated.

ID: 2507

Getting to be to many houses around WFPA in Sioux Falls Area.

ID: 2514

I am to busy with late harvest.

ID: 2568

I do not know how to call or have time to scout.

ID: 2578

The low water conditions in public sloughs! Hunting pressure in sloughs with a duck population!

ID: 2636

I had 2 kids.

ID: 2653

Goose hunting is becoming too commercialized.

ID: 2677

There are no ducks; high water in the 90's wiped out the cattails no interesting to eat a duck!

ID: 2682

I have purchased a license the last two years, bought decoys this next year I'm buying a duck boat. I have young grandsons coming up. I love to hunt ducks but the last two years have been busy building a home for my daughter.

ID: 2744

The price of steel shot or non toxic shot is just too expensive.

ID: 2813

The ducks fly before you can shoot, back to the water before you can shoot and fly after sundown. The landowners are getting bad running out of places to hunt a lot of the dams are filled up now and farmed over. I just don't hunt as much as I used to. I use to hunt ducks a lot more years ago.

Larry M. Gigliotti, Ph.D.

ID: 2819

Loss of longer high plains season

ID: 2862

All Black Hills lakes should be open to waterfowl hunting for the Hills hunters.

ID: 2873

I moved out of state for two years.

ID: 2901

Most of the seasons cold weather caused sloughs to ice over.

ID: 2936

I moved out of state for school.

ID: 2941

Non-toxic shells are too expensive.

ID: 2944

We were harvesting from August 1st to December 5th.

ID: 2995

I am too old to get around in the sloughs.

Appendix D. Additional influences and comments important for getting hunters started in duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 29).**ID: 8**

I grew up on a farm and had access to sloughs in my backyard. Enjoy eating Canada Geese and there is an adequate supply to hunt.

ID: 16

For the most part my friends I met while at school here in Sioux Falls influenced me to go; now I'm hooked!

ID: 24

I like all forms of hunting.

ID: 34

I was young and wanted to shoot.

ID: 38

My father was a South Dakota Conservation Officer from 1956 to 1988, hunting is/was a major part of my heritage.

ID: 47

My dad and uncle were still alive then. Now that they are gone I don't do it as much.

ID: 82

It was a family tradition.

ID: 96

I can have very good success on public land which is not always the case when pheasant hunting on public land.

ID: 111

My dogs

ID: 112

I enjoy watching all migratory birds and hearing them.

ID: 114

Being outdoors in the elements and peace

ID: 140

I have hunted ducks since I was 16 years old.

ID: 143

My parents got me started hunting is now very important to me.

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- ID: 149**
The outdoor experience
- ID: 150**
I like the challenge of the sport.
- ID: 172**
Friends and neighbors were enthusiasts.
- ID: 188**
I just love of the outdoors and nature, spending time with family and friends.
- ID: 193**
It is a great sport to get out and spend time in the outdoors even though I am 70 years old.
- ID: 194**
I enjoy spending time with family in the outdoors.
- ID: 199**
We hunted everything we could.
- ID: 200**
I like the wildlife art.
- ID: 210**
I grew up on a farm back then the ducks used the fields around the family farm.
- ID: 222**
Watching them cup their wings and come on decoys.
- ID: 242**
I enjoy being in the outdoors.
- ID: 260**
Hunted deer at first wanted more of a variety to hunt.
- ID: 262**
My son wants to hunt everything. I want to make that happen.
- ID: 269**
I liked watching them and hunting.

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ID: 271

There was/is no better way for a kid to spend time with his dad! I love the time spent with him as much as the hunt itself.

ID: 279

I like the adventure.

ID: 301

I like going hunting for the camaraderie.

ID: 322

I love to decoy and jump stock dams.

ID: 328

It is a great sport; it's up to how good you are at calling and decoy spread.

ID: 338

I enjoy eating a roast duck with sage dressing.

ID: 341

I saw duck in a bird book and wanted to see them first hand then I was hooked.

ID: 355

I seemed more challenging then just walking in fields.

ID: 357

Hunting ducks is a challenge.

ID: 369

I started in Iowa in the 50's.

ID: 382

I love to enjoy the outdoors.

ID: 385

It is enjoyable in bad weather.

ID: 401

I enjoy the outdoors.

ID: 421

I love to watch the waterfowl.

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ID: 424

I enjoyed being out hunting with my father.

ID: 444

My dad, he was in the field with my dad at age 7 watching my dad and older brothers hunt ducks.

ID: 446

Pretty birds like nature, had my first drake mallard mounted when I was a kid.

ID: 449

Plenty of water in our area and more dugouts and dams put in.

ID: 454

All my friends hunt ducks and geese.

ID: 465

It is a good sport.

ID: 467

I came from a family that always hunted; ducks, geese, pheasants, deer, antelope, grouse, huns (where are they now?), and turkeys.

ID: 475

I like to hunt anything, fish and trap this fit right in.

ID: 500

My son really got interested in hunting ducks and geese otherwise I may not have got back into hunting ducks and geese.

ID: 517

I just like to hunt and when I started we had more ducks than anything else. I hunted mostly mallards in our own cornfields.

ID: 519

The season always closed when they are here.

ID: 539

I started hunting when I was nine years old.

ID: 547

I just like getting out there and watching the birds work.

ID: 581

Just so I could be out hunting in general.

- ID: 588**
I love the outdoors.
- ID: 591**
My father and I hunted ducks together. I also like to go hunting with friends.
- ID: 599**
It was something I read about, saw on TV, saw people doing, so I had to try it too.
- ID: 624**
I love duck hunting but I think the season should start sooner.
- ID: 636**
I live on a good duck hunting lake.
- ID: 662**
Scott Simpson (GF&P) of Pierre.
- ID: 663**
I think it is the best hunting as far as excitement and fun.
- ID: 666**
I liked to see if I could hit them and they are good eating.
- ID: 676**
It's the tradition of American Freedom.
- ID: 677**
Basically, my friend took me out and now I'm hooked!
- ID: 688**
I like hunting not only for the food but quality time with family and friends.
- ID: 690**
Hunting was a number one priority at the time.
- ID: 697**
I was attending school at SDSU and it was some friends from college.
- ID: 706**
It was becoming too difficult to hunt pheasants! Finding land to hunt on that had an abundant amount to make it worth buying a license; road hunting is a thing of the past.

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- ID: 733**
The blind hunting out of a boat, without a boat I wouldn't hunt as much.
- ID: 739**
I loved to go out with my dad and brother to see the thousands of ducks in the field flying around like a tornado!
- ID: 742**
I was just fascinated by it from an early age.
- ID: 747**
I lived on a farm so I was in close proximity to good duck hunting. Ducks from the Lake Andes Refuge frequently fed on nearby cornfields.
- ID: 785**
My father was a duck and pheasant hunter.
- ID: 798**
It was to learn the skills our forefathers had.
- ID: 800**
My son wanted to hunt so it gave us something we could do together.
- ID: 806**
Spending time with my dad and being outdoors were the primary motivators.
- ID: 828**
I love to hunt the hunting experience.
- ID: 861**
There were a lot more ducks than pheasants.
- ID: 876**
I liked being out in the field.
- ID: 885**
I had a private lake that was great for hunting, haven't hunted ducks since 2000.
- ID: 888**
I had some good retrievers.

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ID: 894

I moved here from out of state and could do other outdoor sports I used to get into SD culture.

ID: 911

My college roommate used to duck hunt.

ID: 930

There is a lot of good shooting.

ID: 935

I like to be outdoors.

ID: 938

I had a good working dog.

ID: 942

I have always loved hunting.

ID: 943

I'm mostly the type of person who loves the outdoors and all forms of hunting and fishing. I believe it's in my blood, something I was born with.

ID: 963

I wanted to be in the outdoors.

ID: 965

It gave me something else to hunt while I am grouse hunting.

ID: 970

I hunted ducks (shot at) my first time with my father when I was about 15 and never went again until about 1953-1959 during my college years. Around 1976 I had a boat and decoys and the Missouri River and two boys to hunt with. They are now non-residents but return for waterfowl whenever they draw a license. I am now 79 and hunt ducks only when they draw a license. So, family is a major reason for hunting. In regard to college years where I was ducking hunting was a guy thing like drinking.

ID: 985

I was raised in ND on a national wildlife refuge and we had thousands of ducks. The hunting could not have been better.

ID: 1000

Easy access to public areas was great (this is not the case now).

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ID: 1008

It was just fun to be out in the marsh.

ID: 1014

My dad and older brothers all hunt ducks and gees, it's in our blood!

ID: 1015

I trapped muskrats a lot and my dad like duck hunting.

ID: 1021

My brother in law got me started.

ID: 1022

It was to spend time with friends and also to take part in conservation.

ID: 1024

I enjoy hunting in general.

ID: 1029

There are no pheasants.

ID: 1030

I like to hunt all kinds of animals.

ID: 1045

I liked to hunt. My dad was a hunter.

ID: 1048

I like the challenge to decoy ducks and calling ducks.

ID: 1052

I enjoyed the outdoors and challenge of hitting ducks.

ID: 1070

I started doing it with some friends.

ID: 1087

I liked shooting sports.

ID: 1091

My grandfather and father were avid duck hunters.

ID: 1115

I lived on a farm and ducks would quickly destroy the crops.

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ID: 1123

My father and 2 brothers were all hunters.

ID: 1142

It was more of a food source.

ID: 1144

It was because of my English Springer Spaniel.

ID: 1151

I wanted to get back into it, since I hadn't done it for a while.

ID: 1165

In general, I have always enjoyed wing shooting of any kind.

ID: 1192

It is just a great outdoor sport.

ID: 1233

I dislike pheasant hunting due to the commercialization of it.

ID: 1242

My dad started me and I love getting others started as well.

ID: 1257

My father got me started.

ID: 1262

I started hunting with my dad.

ID: 1292

My older brothers and dad got me started.

ID: 1324

There were a lot of local ducks that were very good during the early season before it got cold.

ID: 1327

I have always been fascinated by and attracted to waterfowl hunting.

ID: 1333

A duck calling contest

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ID: 1352

I got a lab that loved duck hunting and I had two sons who I took and then I took their friends and got them started. To me watching the dog and the young hunters was more fun than me hunting.

ID: 1375

I love the early morning atmosphere.

ID: 1380

Pheasant hunting and deer hunting are not as good as today.

ID: 1389

It was part of the food for our table.

ID: 1391

I lived on a farm with a lot of ducks.

ID: 1399

The Available places to hunt at that time that were not crowded and had to pay to hunt or which is no longer the case.

ID: 1406

I started training hunting dogs.

ID: 1412

I wanted to do taxidermy.

ID: 1414

Lots of shells

ID: 1419

The enjoyment I got from watching my dog retrieve.

ID: 1420

I loved to shoot.

ID: 1428

My daughter wanted to hunt waterfowl this year besides pheasants and deer.

ID: 1435

I would eat sleep and go to school so I could hunt.

ID: 1451

It was fun.

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- ID: 1453**
I lived in northern Sacramento Valley in California and had friends that liked to hunt ducks.
- ID: 1470**
Being there
- ID: 1472**
I loved to see the dog work.
- ID: 1478**
I had a good dog.
- ID: 1479**
It was a father, son, brother, friend thing.
- ID: 1483**
There was a limited number of out of state hunters to compete with.
- ID: 1495**
I had bought a black lab and that's how I taught her.
- ID: 1499**
It is relaxing.
- ID: 1502**
So I could spend time with my son and friends.
- ID: 1505**
I like to shoot guns.
- ID: 1523**
I just love to watch them fly and set their wings.
- ID: 1534**
My father got me interested and started.
- ID: 1544**
Family
- ID: 1554**
The sight of ducks locked up coming to decoy.
- ID: 1556**
Hunting dogs

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- ID: 1582**
I just like to hunt.
- ID: 1584**
Nothing else to hunt and weather is good in the early season.
- ID: 1611**
The action
- ID: 1621**
Father and friends growing up
- ID: 1625**
I enjoyed hunting and different hunting experiences.
- ID: 1628**
Love the peace and quite until the sun comes up.
- ID: 1634**
You almost always get to shoot at one.
- ID: 1657**
My boyfriend
- ID: 1663**
It is just something me and my friends did and loved it.
- ID: 1692**
My dad
- ID: 1695**
Once again leased ground where do you hunt?
- ID: 1697**
Enjoyment of quiet outdoors and sunrises on the river!
- ID: 1700**
Being outdoors and hunting with friends.
- ID: 1709**
I hate pheasant hunting and am annoyed by pheasant hunters.
- ID: 1718**
I archery hunted for deer, alone for 22 years; took up duck hunting for companionship and a heated blind.

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- ID: 1729**
So I could get out and enjoy the outdoors.
- ID: 1736**
Owning a dog
- ID: 1752**
Mostly to hunt with my father at age 14
- ID: 1754**
The love of watching birds fly and just hunting
- ID: 1757**
I plain and simple liked to hunt and waterfowl gave me a chance to learn a new quarry.
- ID: 1767**
My brother also hunted ducks and geese; doesn't everyone?
- ID: 1768**
Private land to hunt
- ID: 1784**
Enjoy the outdoors and nature
- ID: 1790**
It was something to occupy my time
- ID: 1792**
It's a time to be with nature
- ID: 1797**
I love to hunt.
- ID: 1806**
It was a family legacy inherited a gun.
- ID: 1809**
I enjoyed the outdoor experiences with dad, brother and uncle.
- ID: 1811**
My dad
- ID: 1817**
Thrill of hunting over decoys.

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- ID: 1833**
Grew up with father and friends who duck hunted
- ID: 1854**
Referring to e and f had private land to hunt but water dried up and had to find other places that are more crowded.
- ID: 1856**
It is challenging and quite enjoyable.
- ID: 1878**
Hunter success is usually high.
- ID: 1907**
Early teal season
- ID: 1909**
I just looked forward to spending time with my dad.
- ID: 1920**
It is a great way to work your retriever!
- ID: 1935**
I like to take my dogs out.
- ID: 1941**
Hunting ducks with dogs
- ID: 1942**
Family Tradition
- ID: 1967**
Duck populations were high when I started hunting but I didn't know that ducks were just everywhere
- ID: 1997**
Calling ducks into decoys
- ID: 2012**
My father was an avid waterfowl hunter
- ID: 2020**
In my small community it was a coming of age event
- ID: 2023**
Just like duck hunting and calling ducks over decoys

- ID: 2030**
Tradition in my blood
- ID: 2031**
I would be with my dad
- ID: 2038**
There were plenty of places to hunt without asking permission.
- ID: 2049**
I was going duck hunting with my dad before I could even carry a gun.
- ID: 2050**
My great-grandfather, grandfather, and father were big duck hunters and so heritage was and is a big deal to me.
- ID: 2052**
Always been just part of fall every year.
- ID: 2059**
To spend time with my dad
- ID: 2105**
Fun to blast shit when young
- ID: 2108**
It's just great.
- ID: 2109**
Father loved it so I did; I love it so my son does.
- ID: 2110**
1 old guy sold me some decoys at a young age. He said it would be fun.
- ID: 2115**
I like to smell morning fresh air and watch the sun rise.
- ID: 2116**
I love guns and the outdoors.
- ID: 2118**
Just to enjoy the outdoors and see other animals.
- ID: 2124**
Family tradition

- ID: 2133**
Being in the outdoors
- ID: 2148**
Family tradition, grandpa, dad, uncles all hunted. I liked ducks best since I was old enough to remember.
- ID: 2182**
Lots of ducks in cornfields
- ID: 2186**
Just my innate interest in wildlife plus getting my 1st firearm at age 9; also, the fact I lived on a farm and good duck hunting sloughs were right on and near the farm. You could hunt just about anywhere back then.
- ID: 2200**
The peace and solitude of the outdoors
- ID: 2201**
Watching my dog retrieve
- ID: 2210**
Just seeing the amazing sites of hundreds to thousands of ducks sitting on ponds and flying through the air
- ID: 2249**
Our family hunting dog
- ID: 2254**
I had a lot of time in college
- ID: 2256**
I grew up hunting with a bb gun.
- ID: 2291**
Waterfowl hunting is so fun and great target/shooting practice.
- ID: 2296**
Family tradition for opening day
- ID: 2303**
Getting into outdoors, enjoy nature and the environment.
- ID: 2306**
Family and friends

- ID: 2316**
Lots of ducks at the time
- ID: 2319**
I bought some property in SD near a lake.
- ID: 2334**
Fun
- ID: 2335**
Outdoors in general; love wildlife
- ID: 2350**
I had a good retriever that loved to hunt
- ID: 2354**
Just love to watch ducks and geese fly and hear the sounds of waterfowl
- ID: 2357**
Family and friends
- ID: 2391**
It takes a rare breed to be a waterfowl hunter
- ID: 2405**
Spend time with family and friends
- ID: 2425**
My father hunted waterfowl and I wanted to spend time with him. He started taking me when I was 7 and I loved being in the country seeing the ducks and geese.
- ID: 2439**
First time was awesome, I was hooked right away.
- ID: 2440**
To spend time with my son
- ID: 2464**
Had labs to hunt with
- ID: 2475**
Most of the other birds are all gone; I'm getting sick of shooting coots

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- ID: 2487**
For food
- ID: 2522**
You can hunt with friends and family; really don't have to be quiet while hunting waterfowl (unlike deer hunting). I also love to run my lab.
- ID: 2544**
Family tradition (I was 12)
- ID: 2545**
The thrill of setting out decoys and calling them in
- ID: 2562**
A ½ hour before sunrise is the best time of the day.
- ID: 2568**
I like to be outdoors
- ID: 2569**
Excitement of action
- ID: 2572**
The show they put on coming into decoy
- ID: 2577**
I lived by the lake growing up
- ID: 2578**
Love to hunt and shoot a shot gun!
- ID: 2592**
My dad was a duck hunter
- ID: 2597**
My dad hunted and got me started
- ID: 2603**
Peaceful, easy to get permission on private land
- ID: 2609**
Family time
- ID: 2614**
My dad

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- ID: 2621**
Family Tradition
- ID: 2645**
Being outside hunting heritage spend time with family and friends
- ID: 2651**
The love of outdoors
- ID: 2652**
Have had hunting dogs all my life
- ID: 2659**
Purchased a dozen decoys and wanted to see how decoy hunting worked.
- ID: 2667**
General love of birds, wildlife and the outdoors
- ID: 2677**
Family owns a lake, ducks are plentiful in 1978, cooked our harvest not the best eating!
- ID: 2678**
My friend's father took us when he could
- ID: 2679**
Very fun to do with my son
- ID: 2682**
I have started again because of grandsons and I don't want to lose the right to hunt ducks with my family.
- ID: 2686**
My father
- ID: 2687**
Just enjoy decoying waterfowl.
- ID: 2688**
Fun outdoors father and son
- ID: 2694**
Just the time out in the field away from everything
- ID: 2714**
This challenge of decoying them

- ID: 2723**
My father in law was very good at it.
- ID: 2735**
To get my kids into it
- ID: 2741**
Hunting with my golden retrievers
- ID: 2742**
Great family time/ kids love it
- ID: 2744**
Back then it was affordable and something new to try just love to hunt
- ID: 2768**
Love the challenge
- ID: 2785**
Love for the outdoors and enjoyed the sport.
- ID: 2815**
My dad took me
- ID: 2829**
Great pass shooting
- ID: 2847**
My father
- ID: 2862**
Fun
- ID: 2873**
Offered a new challenge
- ID: 2876**
1986 was a bad year for pheasant hunting.
- ID: 2877**
Duck season is open when goose season is open.
- ID: 2887**
Enjoy hunting

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ID: 2899

My college roommate

ID: 2920

Went hunting with my dad and was hooked after watching flocks of ducks flying at about 4 years old. I have loved it since.

ID: 2932

Spend time with family and friends.

ID: 2934

The weather is usually nice that time of year.

ID: 2955

Found a place to hunt.

ID: 2968

My dad took me

ID: 9013

I had lots of fun with my youngest brother and friends

ID: 9017

All of my hunting influence was from my dad and uncles who were avid hunters.

Appendix E. Additional reasons and comments for why hunters have decreased their frequency (number of days) of duck hunting since they first started duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 40).

- ID: 8**
Enjoy all aspects of hunting but will not shoot anything I don't eat. A couple of ducks per year is enough.
- ID: 92**
(GFP employee's) action in 2002 (name deleted from report)
- ID: 101**
Just didn't get out
- ID: 120**
College, moved away from my hunting land
- ID: 130**
I had knee surgery
- ID: 133**
Northern mallards come here later in the year compared to many years ago.
- ID: 178**
It's to nice so ducks and geese stay up north then it turns cold so the ponds freeze over and get some snow so wildlife flies over and doesn't stop here.
- ID: 193**
Fly way has moved west further for ducks and geese both.
- ID: 194**
2008 duck numbers were low and November's big blizzard ended season.
- ID: 210**
The middle years started bounty deer.
- ID: 242**
It is harder to get permission for landowners.
- ID: 267**
Manage a campground at Platte Creek (private).

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ID: 280

It used to be easy to get on land and now it is leased around Lake Preston.

ID: 322

Around Pierre, there is too much law enforcement even when you know you do everything right. You shouldn't see the Game Wardens in one spot. It just makes everyone nervous with that much law enforcement.

ID: 341

The gas prices and cost of steel shot, duck hunting is not a cheap sport and rising costs in a slowing economy don't help.

ID: 369

The pond dried up.

ID: 377

I have to get up early.

ID: 382

I don't like the early sundown; because I like to get up late in the morning.

ID: 383

Lack of boat access

ID: 436

There are not enough good public places to hunt.

ID: 446

Too many season are open at the same time; haven't kept up on the regulations so don't bother with ducks.

ID: 449

Dams and dugouts have frozen over in our flyway. I would like to see a bit earlier season on ducks.

ID: 481

It is very difficult to find land to hunt on without paying.

ID: 517

I think your doing a good job of regulating the resources.

ID: 535

Steel shot.

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ID: 539

The Eastern SD duck migration is very short.

ID: 547

I have a young son and my time with him comes first, but he wants to go with me. He is 3 and I told him when he is fine he can go and we will go a lot.

ID: 588

Crowded out of Springfield area by out of state hunters

ID: 610

Don't understand why I have to buy 2 separate licenses when I pay \$30 for general; in other words, it is getting to expensive.

ID: 636

Trapped in my spare time and took time off to do some.

ID: 662

Bow hunting deer.

ID: 682

Loss of public land in my unit

ID: 688

This season is too short when migrating and bag limit is too small because of the high prices of equipment.

ID: 706

As I get older it becomes less and less challenging.

ID: 740

Not a high number of ducks around and we don't have a dog.

ID: 747

Moved frequently from 1970 to 1992 out of state

ID: 798

The change in the trespass laws of the 50's.

ID: 811

I travel for my job and want to spend time with family.

ID: 830

I moved from Aberdeen to Rapid City.

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ID: 835

I am getting old.

ID: 857

Favorite hunting spots are sometimes dry.

ID: 860

GF&P has changed access to an area by 4 mile lake which I used to hunt frequently.

ID: 861

Main reason is low duck populations, too nice of weather, so season is over before the migration occurs.

ID: 915

There is not enough public access land in the area I live, hunting hours are too short, and no use of electronic calls is allowed.

ID: 932

You say hunter numbers are down but not in my area. Hunter numbers are extremely high.

ID: 943

Areas that are close to home where I hunted when younger has been developed.

ID: 999

I don't eat duck and don't have a person to give them too.

ID: 1008

It does seem awfully expensive to get licensed up to hunt once or twice a year.

ID: 1014

Hard to get on private lands because of pheasant hunting (pay hunters)

ID: 1052

Don't have a dog right now and gas prices.

ID: 1070

The small duck numbers, early season chases birds away.

ID: 1075

The season closes when ducks come down from the north; we have very few ducks when season is open.

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- ID: 1086**
I graduated from college in North Dakota which has more opportunity.
- ID: 1095**
It is hard to find area's to hunt, problems with landowners and farmers.
- ID: 1115**
Don't have a boat or a dog.
- ID: 1123**
The weather
- ID: 1142**
Poor eyesight and no one that wants to hunt with me
- ID: 1191**
It seems you are constantly looking over your shoulder, someone is always pissed off.
- ID: 1192**
Starting and quitting time for ducks is not early enough in the morning or late enough in the evening. You have to shoot them most of the time illegally if you want to get any.
- ID: 1208**
The cold weather pushing birds south too soon
- ID: 1242**
The landowners turned down letting us hunt! 2 out of 5 will let you hunt!
- ID: 1259**
Just don't take the time busy with other things
- ID: 1283**
I'm 73 years old and the bad weather
- ID: 1344**
There was no duck migration through this area this year.
- ID: 1352**
It's getting to be a rich man's sport. Steel shot is high licenses go up every year and I'm getting older.
- ID: 1391**
I'm 72 years old, it's a younger mans sport.

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- ID: 1403**
The landowners won't let you hunt or want too much money to hunt.
- ID: 1412**
Weather on the weekends to nice or to cold
- ID: 1420**
Like goose hunting better
- ID: 1434**
Gas is too expensive
- ID: 1436**
I can't find land and there are not nearly as many ducks.
- ID: 1451**
There are too many out of staters contracting land which I use to hunt and too many out of state hunters everywhere else, with poor/bad hunting habits.
- ID: 1464**
I had kids time consuming love it not enough time
- ID: 1472**
I no longer have a dog.
- ID: 1476**
Duck hunting has changed over the years it is much more difficult to find a place to hunt the ducks are smarter. They feed after shooting hours.
- ID: 1490**
I think the early honker season is uncalled for, the birds get shot at a few times and they head for Nebraska, the shorts and t-shirt hunters leave geese in the ditches they spoil by the time they head for home.
- ID: 1493**
I buy the license but I don't go, doing something else.
- ID: 1530**
I am lazy
- ID: 1534**
Family obligations and time commitments in general
- ID: 1558**
Dry Conditions

- ID: 1563**
Seems when ducks are in the area the season ends.
- ID: 1610**
I moved away from friends and opportunity.
- ID: 1642**
Loss of access to sloughs where a duck boat can be used
- ID: 1645**
Population is much lower migration is later every year, land access has decreased.
- ID: 1651**
By the time the ducks are here the season is about over.
- ID: 1663**
Weather and water hold drying up, and my best friend died.
- ID: 1682**
Low duck population is the most
- ID: 1695**
Leased land were do you go?
- ID: 1700**
I love the sport of duck hunting but hunt only once a week and that is for pheasants.
- ID: 1729**
Cost to go out and hunt, general, gas, shotgun shells are costing to much for the average person.
- ID: 1760**
There seems to be less and less ducks and geese every year since I started.
- ID: 1763**
I archery deer hunt more often.
- ID: 1784**
Very few northern mallards come through Grant/Roberts counties.
- ID: 1796**
It used to be a lot easier to obtain access to hunt.

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- ID: 1811**
Time and lost my widow ladies who liked to eat plucked ducks.
- ID: 1817**
Steel shot too difficult to reload and that was part of the hunting experience, like making flies for fishing.
- ID: 1835**
Weather has changed ducks are coming down later; the season needs to go longer into January.
- ID: 1879**
Gas prices
- ID: 1967**
Too far to travel for and duck hunting time and money and number of ducks, make it less enjoyable, hence likely to hunt ducks less.
- ID: 2019**
Lost my last partner
- ID: 2023**
Not much water around and not many ducks
- ID: 2024**
Lost interest
- ID: 2030**
Legs are not as good
- ID: 2031**
The flight path has changed they are cutting me off; the last 5 years the Missouri River gets ice in it before the ducks come.
- ID: 2052**
Mallards not flying the same flyway; glacial lakes area are real slow.
- ID: 2058**
I have daughters in tennis, fall sports high school. ND duck regulations have changed originally from ND still like to hut in ND and can't hunt at my in laws farm because area is restricted to 1 period.
- ID: 2059**
Too many out of state people are leasing the land I used to hunt.

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- ID: 2089**
I work to much don't have enough leisure time.
- ID: 2105**
Rather be interested.
- ID: 2109**
Season ends when mallards are just arriving, need split season or longer December 31st.
- ID: 2110**
I had a bad experience with a game warden bothering me when I was young.
- ID: 2116**
High pheasant numbers, high ammo costs, high water levels have ruined some areas, waterfowl migration patterns have changed, archery hunting
- ID: 2118**
Drought limited potholes and fuel costs
- ID: 2124**
Too much water where I like to hunt; Dry Wood Lake
- ID: 2131**
Drought years, no water, no ducks
- ID: 2149**
Good public access is poor.
- ID: 2182**
Not as many ducks.
- ID: 2254**
There is no duck hunting in the Sioux Falls area, need to drive to fine ducks and typically like to morning hunt.
- ID: 2287**
I get older along with my friends and it is harder to fine other hunters to go with.
- ID: 2295**
Time (higher priorities)

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- ID: 2310**
Many minor reasons combined to make it easier and cheaper to do other things.
- ID: 2342**
Migration patterns of ducks too weather dependant, most ponds/stock dams frozen when other hunting is finished.
- ID: 2343**
Other than the river or large lakes access not available for boat and trailer
- ID: 2350**
Canada goose season opened September 6 and youth season September 20th ducks had been chased around for 3 weeks before duck season opened they were gone or in the middle of huge bodies of water.
- ID: 2357**
Mainly do to my disability
- ID: 2382**
Season opens to late lots of teal leave the area! Bought up with teal season in the 60's was great!
- ID: 2391**
I will pay a trespass fee, but not pay \$200 or \$300 a day to shoot ducks and geese. Landowners and GF&P have to get along, so that the common hunter has a good place to hunt.
- ID: 2456**
Between 1977 and 1999 we lived in Arizona, when we moved here to SD we moved to Hot Springs, not many ducks/geese here compared to the Sisseton area where I grew up.
- ID: 2475**
Areas where we hunt waterfowl are on farmers ground but they will not let hunter out to harvest them; they get mad cause they are their crops. Also farmers receiving government money for setting idle should be open for all hunters.
- ID: 2487**
Farmers farming potholes, also native grass pastures, CRP being broken to farm.
- ID: 2507**
To hard to find who owns the land

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- ID: 2519**
School
- ID: 2545**
Never any ducks around (mallards) until the season is almost closed or closed, and then it's very cold and ponds are frozen.
- ID: 2550**
Pheasant hunting
- ID: 2556**
I am disabled, there are no designated areas for disabled hunters, ATV's could be allowed for handicapped hunters, to access fishing and hunting on some or all walk in areas.
- ID: 2578**
Cost of steel shot shells, clean kills with steel shot!
- ID: 2582**
Had no time went to college.
- ID: 2586**
Promotion of cooking ducks would like this; a lot of people I know don't or won't eat it so they don't hunt.
- ID: 2588**
Started college hard to find places to hunt away from here
- ID: 2608**
Steel shot is a big joke more ducks hurt but not killed with steel shot.
- ID: 2609**
Have more time late in season northern flights to short.
- ID: 2645**
Hunted other game time to get out is limited.
- ID: 2651**
Low income
- ID: 2661**
River levels drops to much after first couple of weeks of season opening, making docking a boat difficult as well as navigation around sandbars, also makes water level in hunting spot too low.

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ID: 2671

Sloughs are open water lakes have no cover hard to hunt, too many areas cultural chemicals killing off cattails and submerged vegetation.

ID: 2677

Too much work to o much gear too many regulations if you actually got to shoot a duck you might be fined or go to jail.

ID: 2682

Time just have to make time

ID: 2687

Just not enough wetlands to hold large amounts of ducks in my area to hunt

ID: 2694

Become to commercialized, have to pay to hunt I won't

ID: 2761

There are no ducks, no one seems to care or do anything about it.

ID: 2763

Poor fall population for northern birds, weather patterns, birds don't stay.

ID: 2768

Limited number of day's boats can get on big bodies of water like parts of Lake Oahe; I see a lot of bad hunting by boat hunters that have no respect for others.

ID: 2775

The cost of hunting has greatly increased from the years fast and never enough time.

ID: 2813

A lot of the major reasons above hunting just not fun anymore, don't enjoy it anymore.

ID: 2829

Commercial hunting operations

ID: 2832

Getting older

ID: 2862

We hunted all the water in the hills when I was a boy.

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ID: 2901

Weather causes early freezing of sloughs.

ID: 2913

Friends out of state just couldn't hunt (to complicated).

ID: 2944

Work on 4000 acre farm to busy like to hunt geese.

ID: 2955

My hunting has stayed the same so this question really isn't a factor in the number of days I hunt.

ID: 2982

Seasons are to short for the big ducks when they come down in the area.

Appendix F. Additional reasons and comments for why hunters' enjoyment of duck hunting has decreased since they first started duck hunting (Appendix B – Table 42).

- ID: 92**
(GFP employee) (name deleted from report)
- ID: 178**
Farmers are leasing out their land to rich guys in town or cities; one duck and goose slough that I have hunted for 50 years! Now I can't hunt there because they leased the land to a group of hunters from the city.
- ID: 213**
Not as much fun hunting ditches and section lions as sloughs and corn fields; most want to get paid to let me hunt.
- ID: 280**
Too many leased areas
- ID: 336**
Declining waterfowl habitat, too many little sloughs allowed to be drained
- ID: 382**
Daylight ends before I have a good place figured out.
- ID: 449**
Drought in our area and been on for 6 years.
- ID: 517**
Don't have the time and the money to hunt as much as I would like.
- ID: 518**
Too many private places were you can not hunt! No one gives you permission.
- ID: 539**
Teal were pretty much gone before hunting opened and the mallards were there for 2 or 3 days.
- ID: 681**
The season should start earlier than October.
- ID: 682**
The loss of public lands

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- ID: 688**
Wrong time during migration
- ID: 736**
Older hunters have trouble when you have to walk great distance with decoys all public land doesn't allow you to drive close.
- ID: 828**
Commercial hunters, greedy landowners and out of state hunters
- ID: 860**
Changes in access at 4 mile in Marshall County
- ID: 915**
Exhausted public access land in my area and no food plots
- ID: 932**
There are too many hunters
- ID: 943**
Places I hunted close to home have been developed.
- ID: 965**
Bag limits are way too complicated. Duck stamps are too expensive.
- ID: 1075**
Our season closes when our ducks get down to this area along the Missouri River.
- ID: 1115**
Don't have a boat or a dog.
- ID: 1233**
Season dates along with weather patterns.
- ID: 1391**
I personally like to see law enforcement enforcing the rules.
- ID: 1399**
It used to be all you had to do is ask for permission to hunt but now everyone wants a lot of money to be able to go onto their land. It is impossible to compete with the amount of money that out of state hunters are willing to pay.
- ID: 1403**
It is hard to find land to hunt; public land has too many people.

- ID: 1409**
The ducks and geese here are gone
- ID: 1451**
Too many contracted places and what is left to hunt is full of hunters with bad behaviors. I don't have the money to buy right for land like all the out of state people that contract every thing I used to hunt not very happy since out of state hunters started to hunt our waters.
- ID: 1472**
No longer have a dog.
- ID: 1476**
I have pretty much given up on duck hunting. It's too hard to compete with other hunters and find an opportunity to shoot ducks.
- ID: 1566**
Just not very lucky
- ID: 1597**
Finding land that isn't too crowded to hunt
- ID: 1614**
Work obligations, I have also gotten older and fat; hard to wallow in the mud!
- ID: 1642**
Low duck population during duck season migration timing is a major factor
- ID: 1695**
Leased land
- ID: 1763**
Archery deer hunt more
- ID: 1784**
Licenses are too expensive
- ID: 1806**
Don't have a dog anymore.
- ID: 1835**
Steel shot wounds too many birds weather has changed too many nice fall days.

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ID: 1967

Seeing the drained sloughs/tiling/ditches all over the state and associated environment degradation is depressing. Poor water quality in GPA's and WPA's; our GPA's and WPA's are storm sewers for the Ag industry; they are often too full of water for good duck production and hunting and too shallow for fishing and fish production.

ID: 1985

My favorite duck ponds are drying up.

ID: 2031

Just being with my sons makes it worth while, many days no ducks but I am having fun with my boys.

ID: 2068

Gas prices, time, costs!!!!

ID: 2089

Preferred when shooting time was till ½ hour after sunset; ducks don't fly much until then. It shouldn't make a difference to change back because you can only have set limit anyway.

ID: 2110

Commercial group hunters leasing all land with lots of potential

ID: 2118

Fuel limited access and potholes

ID: 2124

Too much water, it seems like the birds have changed flight routes.

ID: 2148

I love waterfowl hunting; local populations of Canada geese are my main target, local duck populations have been declining in recent years, due to less rain/snowfall. I take advantage of whatever species are thriving as far as hunting/fishing in SD.

ID: 2286

Ducks don't get down along Charles Mix County along the river till seasons just about over.

ID: 2342

Access issues/private land on or near water costs money to access

ID: 2425

Competition for good hunting spots is getting way to crazy in NE SD where I like to hunt ducks, when scouting you run into several bunches of guys all trying to get on the same field or wetland. In NE SD you would never know that waterfowl participation is decreasing. The hunters in the field are getting better and intensity for locations is getting intense, more pressure than ever before in SD on waterfowl. Two things really hurt resident hunters in SD.

- 1) Non residents pressure all in NE SD during the same couple of weeks when the peak of migration normally is (November 1st – 15th) GF&P needs to spread the license out so everyone is not piled on top of each other.
- 2) Students from other state getting resident waterfowl privileges for being a student at SDSU, kids from all over the country come to SDSU to hunt as their main reason to come; this puts tons of pressure in NE SD.
- 3) GF&P proposals to allow more and more non-resident waterfowl hunters in NE SD each year. It seems that every couple of years it gets proposed to increase non resident licenses. I'd like to see a decrease so we have more opportunity for residents. Resident hunters are getting pushed out of the picture.

ID: 2475

Everything gets shot up within the first week usually from the Sioux Falls folks.

ID: 2487

Mallards (northern flight) arrives 2 weeks later than seasons.

ID: 2502

I'm getting older and with limited time to hunt, the ducks get pushed aside; get to cold and wet!

ID: 2507

Seems to be a lot less potholes and dug outs.

ID: 2536

I think goose season is too long; it looses some of the appeal for waterfowl.

ID: 2545

By the time the Northern Mallards arrive the season is almost over; and ponds and sloughs are frozen over hard to set out decoys then!

ID: 2550

Pheasant Hunting

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- ID: 2578**
Cost of steel shot shells! Clean kills with steel shot!
- ID: 2641**
Not enough law enforcement.
- ID: 2688**
People sky busting on shooting at while in field on water; slob hunters
- ID: 2761**
No ducks
- ID: 2763**
Youth pre season opens before regular season; ducks are gone before normal season.
- ID: 2768**
Too many boat hunters these days even if you walk the shoreline boats always show up push birds/setup to close/no respect for fellow duck or goose hunters.
- ID: 2813**
Hunting is not much fun anymore. Landowners are harder to get along with to many people out hunting. Staying in and watching TV just about as much fun anymore. All hunting and fishing licenses are way too high; the combo hunting fishing license is way too high.
- ID: 2829**
Power hunting out of state license holders
- ID: 2862**
No where to hunt in the Hills
- ID: 2955**
I'm not as interested in killing as I once was. Maybe that comes with age.

Appendix G. Optional comments provided by South Dakota adult, resident waterfowl hunters at the end of their 20008 South Dakota waterfowl hunter survey questionnaire.

ID: 8

I enjoy the outdoors and hunting very much. I can't count the times I have been laying in the goose decoys with ducks five feet away (on the ground). It is a great experience even without killing, Mother Nature at her best.

ID: 16

It would be nice to have the option to donate money to waterfowl agencies when applying for a license. It is also very nice to have the free SD atlas for public land available. I've hunted in MN and there aren't available, so I strongly recommend keeping these not some who hand these out.

ID: 22

I live close to Sand Lake. I enjoy watching young geese in my yard.

ID: 24

Thank you for requesting the info from me!

ID: 42

Since moving to Minnehaha county in 2007 the distance to my favorite hunting spots is considerable. Over the last several years both duck and goose hunting in that have been depleted by the increasing number of out of state hunters. Sports are over crowded and the birds are chased out of the area by the constant pressure. We don't need more hunters; we need a better hunting experience.

ID: 47

Don't get me wrong I love to hunt ducks and geese, but I bow rifle and muzzleloader hunt deer. It takes up most of my time. I don't have anybody to hunt with. Your high plains, low plains, north zone, middle zone, south zone is all that really necessary? Shotgun shells, guns and all the other stuff are too expensive. I haven't hunted ducks or geese for a while. Raise the number of ducks you can shoot!

ID: 67

I believe steel shot cripples more ducks than lead ever poisoned; steel shot flawed science.

ID: 82

I would like to see an end to the federal regulation of no more than 3 shells per gun. This regulation dates back to the market hunter days and is outdated. The loss of waterfowl hunters is due to the cost of steel shot and federal and state stamps. A person can't even hunt waterfowl while hunting pheasants, because of steel shot, plugs in shotguns and other regulations most hunters would rather use lead shot and if one member of a hunting party has lead, the whole party would be in violation while taking waterfowl.

- ID: 90**
I have not hunted ducks or geese since 1998.
- ID: 111**
Never forget that some residents buy license to support wildlife projects and do not hunt.
- ID: 112**
The kill is not important to me, being out and enjoying the experience is. My age and health limit me as to how much hunting I can do but fishing is a good thing.
- ID: 113**
Start the season later.
- ID: 116**
I think that more waterfowl should be banded, as that is a trophy for us hunters.
- ID: 121**
Would hunt more ducks and geese but limited in this area, mostly stock ponds. The two of us can only eat so many. So traveling to hunt better areas for better hunting for more birds isn't an option, plus the cost is a factor.
- ID: 134**
I lived in Grand Island, NE in 2007 and hunted ducks and geese on North Platte River, was a lot higher number of birds than I can locate in Gregory County, SD.
- ID: 136**
I would like to see more boat ramps in Springfield, SD "bottom roads", to many people by each other on top. You hear a lot about how the birds fly by because of bad weather and freezing lakes, put a map on the net where the birds are at. I know this can't be exact but it would be good info. Put up web cams over major flyway stops, buy more public land! I'll pay more for boat ramps/hunting just don't waste it!
- ID: 140**
There are some public lands that there is no way or very difficult to launch duck boat or jon boat.
- ID: 143**
We are very satisfied with our hunting; we wish that duck season would not open the same day as archery season as we love and do both, both are very important to us.
- ID: 149**
I normally spend about 50 days a year hunting ducks and geese.
- ID: 152**
I'm a bow hunter and only goose hunt in the off season (in spring for snow geese). I would probably hunt goose and ducks more if I knew how to do it better. So classes would be good.

- ID: 172**
Customer service at Watertown Fish and Wildlife center was below par (only one individual contacted) uninformed and unconcerned. Also public hunting area maps outdated because of road washout or water coverage.
- ID: 174**
I would like to see hunters able to hunt geese half hour past sunset. This would be one way to help control the population better, I think.
- ID: 178**
It seems like the last 3 or 4 years there haven't been a lot of geese and ducks coming by Hamlin County. The early season I think is chasing our local geese out of the county really fast
- ID: 181**
I have only hunted geese a few times with friends but think it could be great fun if I could find the time to do it! All my free time is spent chasing big mule deer.
- ID: 188**
Maybe provide flight patterns or some kind of tracking or behavior patterns to tell when the best days (or part of season) for hunting or roughly provide what part of the state (declining number of hunter) they are expected to fly through; I think that part of the reason. Hunters can't seem to find birds. I've personally never had problems. I'm right between two large lakes and the Little MN River and a ton of sloughs with plenty of feeding. My area is prime for hunting more often then not.
- ID: 190**
For the most part the Game Fish & Parks does an excellent job. However, I do have a problem with the attitude toward some mountain lion sightings. A friend of mine spotted a lion and reported it. The responding game warden did a very brief search of the area and determined that she must have seen a coyote. She had seen this lion on top of a round bale eating a road kill deer. Coyotes do not drag a complete deer carcass on top of a bale. After the game warden left, this woman saw mountain lion tracks 20 feet away from the bales. This warden won't admit there was a lion in the area. The GF&P needs to realize that most people won't call in a lion sighting unless there are certain that is what they saw.
- ID: 193**
I have hunted and fished for as long as I can remember and still plan to do so as long as I can walk.
- ID: 196**
Have a higher bag limit.
- ID: 200**
I feel the early goose season should end and begin with the duck season. The waterfowl became disturbed and opening day has never been the same since the early goose season started. Also I have shot fewer geese since they started it.

- ID: 204**
You would have more people hunting ducks and geese if the farmers would have to post their land. Most farmers don't care if you hunt their land but they are so big it's hard to get a hold of them to get permission (or something like that).
- ID: 207**
The game wardens now days are much more interested in arresting you than they are helping you.
- ID: 213**
In my area most farmers want to be paid to let people hunt. This is making me think about going to other states to hunt and buy my ammo and other equipment needed. I have already started fishing out of state so hunting is not far behind. I figured I may as well give my money to people who care about more than the money and care more about the wildlife.
- ID: 216**
Make it less penal/unfriendly for non-residents to hunt. It's not like SD doesn't need the revenue.
- ID: 229**
Thanks for looking after our waterfowl resources. Lets hope our state budgets do not effect any future surveys or work such as this.
- ID: 236**
I have hunted out of state all but one year.
- ID: 242**
I would like to see more public areas to hunt ducks and geese in. I think a big reason for the decline in hunting from people I know is it is too hard to get landowners permission.
- ID: 248**
One of the reasons I hunt less is because I have done almost all of my hunting on or very near the farm I grew up on and don't get back there as much as I used to.. When I do get back I usually feel like I need to be working and doing farm work.
- ID: 254**
Need for more walk in areas I find it difficult in locating land owners to ask permission to enter their land.
- ID: 256**
I have not hunted ducks or geese for approximately 12 years. I purchased a migratory bird stamp for dove season.

- ID: 260**
Take the daily limit of snow geese away in one of the two snow goose seasons (either spring or fall). I have hunted snow geese more than any other waterfowl and there is not a lot of hunting pressure on these types of geese in my area and people do not want to put the effort into truly hunting them properly. Cased gun law on hunting rifles during deer season, too much driving not enough walking!
If people truly want to earn the deer, they will get the gun out of the case and put fair chase on the deer!
- ID: 262**
Moved here from Colorado in 2000 to raise my boys in a more rural, hunting and fishing friendly environment, mission accomplished! I think SD does a great job of providing it's residents with ample hunting and fisher opportunities. I understand the economical gain that non-resident outdoorsmen provided, but I hope that residents are always your primary concern.
- ID: 269**
It would be nice if the boat ramp in Union County was useable.
- ID: 271**
I have been involving several friends/employees in my hunts for the past couple of years question 21 on page 9 would be a great interest to approximately 5 of the guys I have been taking out with me. Also would be of value to my 2 younger son's ages 6 and 9.
- ID: 279**
I would really like to see more nesting baskets being placed in wetlands around SD. It would also be great if SD GF&P and DU could work together purchasing land for nesting habitat.
- ID: 283**
I hunt the La Creek goose season in January. I have found that since it is such a small area, and there really isn't much else going on that time of year. The wardens in that area are too aggressive, because they don't have much else to do. I have been checked on the last 6 trips, and I am getting tired of it.
- ID: 290**
Education on how to hunt ducks on water would increase the amount of hunters in my opinion, including boats, decoys and waders. Easier access to public water would be nice as I get older the walk to the water gets tougher also getting boat into the water, education on how and where to hunt ducks on the Missouri River.
- ID: 301**
I wish we had more easily accessible huntable marshes near Rapid City.
- ID: 306**
Important to keep road hunting for geese open for all hunters, enforce harassment by farmers in Pierre area.

ID: 311

I would like to duck hunt or goose hunt from date to date given, without all the rules, like say 10 ducks a year and maybe 5 geese is all. The cost is too high! Basic – kiss system! Knowledge and skills would be good for the young hunters or old!

ID: 320

We have over hunted our local black goose flock, ducks usually get here too late and leave to early to enjoy, to old to wad through sloughs any more and not enough ducks for a lot of effort.

ID: 322

I like the fact that we have law enforcement when a place is over crowded though, 2 to 3 game wardens around the area just make people uncomfortable and nervous. I don't mind talking to game wardens but when they are regulating over crowding instead of the law it's not fair to them.

ID: 328

I love duck hunting not very good at it but I try my best. I hate eating duck I wish there was a place that would take the meat for free. I think the state needs to do more to draw wildlife closer to Sioux Falls. It seems like you have to travel way too much to go hunting at all. Like I said I love hunting but it's too much gas and time to go out so I don't go as much as I use to when I was in high school.

ID: 330

I think that the youth hunting program is a very good thing my son shot his first goose this year and I hope to get him out more next year.

ID: 336

The waterfowl habitat is declining.

ID: 338

We will continue to lose young duck hunters until they learn to enjoy eating what they harvest!

ID: 341

My two biggest complaints are rising cost and the other is possession limits. I don't mind bag limit sizes but if my dad and I go to a different part of the state and are going to hunt for a week straight, possession limits really screw things up! We want to be able to keep and eat all that we harvest but we end up having to gift birds away (in order to keep hunting). I understand the logic behind possession limits but if I don't harvest more than my daily limit, I shouldn't be breaking the law!

ID: 358

This was my first time hunting geese, going to do more next year.

ID: 369

I have turned in the wild 400 plus geese last fifteen years, I have enjoyed it very much. I am still hunting this year on Indian ground. I raised geese in Douglas and Charles Mix Counties.

- ID: 377**
I think the pheasant season should be extended through at least mid January as only 5 percent hunters are truly hunting. Several birds are going to die from the cold weather anyway.
- ID: 382**
I would hunt more if people would be more considerate like don't sit in a warm running car when I'm at the ditch waiting for feeding geese or ducks.
- ID: 383**
We need better access to water with duck boats on trails.
- ID: 385**
Farming methods have made hunting and access more difficult. Landownership changes from out of state and uncaring parties are becoming something to deal with.
- ID: 386**
We need more law enforcement on these late season hunters, when you find geese in the ditch dumpsters, this needs attention.
- ID: 399**
There has been increased talk and action to increase the number of out of state licenses in our zone. The people I believe pushing this don't understand duck hunting consists of about three good weeks and limited to certain areas over half the hunters we see now are out of state. This three week window is when they come they know when it's good. Land is limited then. ND has this problem now don't repeat it SD. I know we will lose more SD hunters if this happens. A number of friends I hunt with have given up duck hunting over the years because of the number of out of state hunters to compete with. I am a business owner that benefits from them but I don't want to quit hunting.
- ID: 412**
It would be good if federal wardens had a published journal with available information criteria in which they would disclose what is considered a baited field.
- ID: 415**
The checking of answer 1 question 16 has more to do with the state raising of resident licenses fishing, hunting, big game and how the increase in park passes the costs being places on the resident, while non-resident pheasant hunting license cost don't go up, I know myself and many others are getting tired of the state catering to the nonresidents.
- ID: 421**
The goose hunting walk in areas along the Missouri River here in Pierre are absolutely the best thing GF&P has ever done, because both of my boys figured out they have places available to hunt geese, both of them turned from being non hunters to avid goose hunters now. Please do everything possible to routine there walk in areas.

- ID: 427**
I recently moved to SD and have enjoyed the opportunities that are presented here.
- ID: 439**
The state of SD has a budget deficit; we have thousands of pheasant hunters coming to our state from other states that would gladly pay for state waterfowl licenses if they could buy over the counter. Why don't we take advantage of this surrounding states do?
- ID: 442**
I am not exactly sure where the Canadian goose population is at but around my hometown we have an over abundance in the spring. Is there a possibility for a spring season?
- ID: 443**
I hunt only on private land when there is water available to hunt because I don't like to hunt on public land competing with a lot of other hunters. I also had a bad experience with a wildlife law official on public land when I had broken no laws. He was caring the ducks away and lectured us on behaviors we were not doing. That is why I only hunt on private ground.
- ID: 444**
My mind is good but the body is weak. I sometimes use a chair in the goose blinds as it is hard for an 84 year old man to get up from the prone position.
- ID: 446**
I would like to see more rural private land available for hunters; CRP should be open like walk in because of federal funding for CRP land.
- ID: 450**
I would like to see more emphasis on getting our youth involved in hunting. Having more programs related to getting youth away from computers and cell phones.
- ID: 453**
I believe as I'm sure you do that the future of waterfowl hunting lies in our youth. I urge all waterfowl hunters to take their kids every time they go, make it fun, and invite a non-hunting friend of theirs along. If you don't have any kids find some. Don't let the tradition die with you! Some stick some don't just like when you where a kid. Keep it going don't be selfish.
- ID: 467**
I am on disability now so I need easy access. I know with the trespass law and inability to find the good public shooting areas my ability to hunt is limited. I used to wade sloughs and pursue it a lot more when I was younger. I have a bitch about steel shot pass shooting. You have to shoot pass shoot a rifle to snows most days.

- ID: 475**
I now live in town but have 2500 acres I can hunt including several waterfowl sloughs. I like to hunt elk and deer but my age prevents some of that.
- ID: 481**
People in general don't like paying to hunt anything, the higher the prices the less hunting road hunting only option left and many landowners harass road hunters and generally try to make hunting difficult.
- ID: 486**
I like the hunter's choice option because it gives the hunter the option that they can make a mistake when shooting into a group of ducks.
- ID: 490**
I think you should make all farmers let you hunt on all their set aside acres they are already getting paid for that land. We should be able to hunt on that land without having to pay.
- ID: 497**
Moving from MN to attend grad school here opened many more waterfowl doors for me. I hunted in Brookings County last fall and never went without ducks or public land to hunt, compared to other places in the country. SD is an amazing waterfowl state, judo on the survey. I have never seen anything this detailed before from a state agency.
- ID: 505**
I like the later opening of the season for geese and the later closing. I would like to do some duck hunting down the road, but our problem is the ducks start flying about the time the sun goes down most days would a later closing time in the evening be possible?
- ID: 512**
I would hunt ducks and geese every year if I could donate my ducks and geese to sportsman for hunger with no processing fees.
- ID: 514**
I go mainly to pay for hunt geese I need help getting in an out of blind pit.
- ID: 517**
I think your doing a very good job. Keep up the good work. Use all the tools you have and can like this survey. Probably the biggest challenge man has is trying to keep and protect the prime grass land in their nesting areas. So their will be ducks to hunt if this economy ever turns around and settles down.
- ID: 518**
Just getting started after about 14 years, using a black powder shot gun, makes it a challenge.
- ID: 519**
I have 2 ideas I think should be addressed I guess 3 things: 1) you should extend Canadian goose season in Sioux Falls because of the number of geese and population control. You have an early season why not a late, also so city

- ground is openly regulated. 2) A bow hunting season along Rice Street because of the accidents and damage. 3) Have Excel energy have a drawing for bow hunting tags for along the interstate because of the number of accidents and possible deaths. Why don't we address things that need addressing?
- ID: 524**
I have hunted geese since 1944 and still enjoy doing it. I'm just getting a little slow and can't shoot as fast, but it is still fun.
- ID: 545**
Keep road hunting legal, that's the only place a person can hunt pheasants these days.
- ID: 563**
I hunt ducks on federal waterfowl production areas about 5 times this year in Lake County. I went by myself each time, saw very few birds, had only a couple of shots, and bagged zero ducks. I hunted relatively early in the year (prior to deer season), so I didn't hunt during the mass of migration. I was however, very disappointed with the season.
- ID: 568**
Thanks! I appreciate you working for conservation and maintaining hunting habitat. I am an advocate for hunting and as my young children grow...I hope to introduce them to as much of it that SD has to offer. Good Luck to you!
- ID: 576**
I liked question 21 GF&P could put on classes plus decoy and calling more walk in areas just for decoys in fields in eastern and northeast SD. Stubble fields corn and beans once crops are out for decoys. GF&P is doing a great job keep up the good work.
- ID: 581**
Most years the freeze comes too early, and the birds go right through. It makes it tough to get the Northern migrating birds. I have never seen a flock of canvas backs but pintail numbers seem to be going up.
- ID: 585**
With sons becoming old enough to hunt I may hunt more in the future. You should try to get US Fish and Wildlife to put food plots on WPA's.
- ID: 589**
I like corn field hunting ducks. They we arrive late when the season is over.
- ID: 596**
Thank you for conducting this survey. I look forward to receiving the summary report!
- ID: 598**
Offer a small game package which includes ducks/geese. Allow a longer season.

- ID: 599**
I have hunted for many years, but have done very little waterfowl hunting. I would have done more, but time and money have always been factors why I haven't. When I get my life in better order, I will be able to do more of all kinds of hunting. I think this is true for most people, as our financial condition always seems to show itself in how much recreational activity we pursue. Still, more hunters I think would should an interest in waterfowl hunting if they would invest money in the necessary equipment and time out in the field pursuing this game.
- ID: 604**
Goose hunting can be fun if you can hunt without a pit boss (like by Martin).
- ID: 606**
I like what has been done with public hunting land around the Pierre area; there is some great public hunting access.
- ID: 615**
I have taught my children and grandkids to hunt, along with some friends. This is important for people to do.
- ID: 621**
I was an out of state hunter for 32 years. I was outraged by the cost SD charged. I was very upset with only ten days to hunt pheasants or ducks and geese.
- ID: 622**
I lost interest in duck hunting when you could not shoot any redheads or canvass backs.
- ID: 623**
I buy a duck stamp every year. I don't usually go hunting for just ducks or geese but if I happen to come on them I will try to shoot one.
- ID: 633**
The Sheehan public hunting area was the best thing that happened to public goose hunting in South Dakota for years. It is well organized and run very well. It gives everyone an equal opportunity to hunt geese on a regular basis.
- ID: 636**
If license fees are raised again I will cut back on tags big time. We have the highest fees of all the states around us! I had cut back in the past due to the last raise in fees. if they go to high I will pick 1 or 2 events or stop hunting. Look at MT they can hunt a lot more for less. In fact nobody has a deer tag above out fee!
- ID: 643**
I do not hunt in Minnehaha County.
- ID: 649**
It would be helpful if GF&P would host a website that monitored fall populations so that we knew when and where migrating birds arrived and left.

- ID: 652**
What a complete waste of our hunting license dollars. You sent me how many notices that it was coming etc. I don't even hunt waterfowl. I feel these dollars could be spent on a lot of things other than wasting it on surveys and creating more good for nothing government jobs. Why don't you eliminate these stupid jobs and make our licenses more affordable.
- ID: 654**
Possession limits need to be clarified (what is legal to shoot per day). The game biologists should begin some studies on the effects of the huge Canada goose populations, and their impact on ducks especially mallards. I know for a fact that numerous ponds and small lakes are now full of breeding geese in the spring and void of mallards. 25 years ago the opposite was the case. The geese also take all the feed from fields where mallards would feed. I'd be looking hard at our increased bag limit on geese as they are reducing the duck population all the water fowl hunters I know would rather bag 5 mallards than 15 geese.
- ID: 656**
License cost should be decreased for senior citizens these old people take their grandsons hunting because they usually retired and have time.
- ID: 672**
Do not increase the non-resident license numbers.
- ID: 676**
I believe whenever there is a large surplus of fish eaters, like pelicans or loons, there should be a limited season to shoot them, because it would keep more fish in the lakes, and then you would sell more fishing licenses. You would sell more sportsmen's licenses because of the shooting season (offer this idea in your meeting).
- ID: 681**
Duck season should start two weeks earlier after the first two weeks of duck hunting all most all teal are gone. Antelope season always opens on the same day as duck season there for you have one good weekend of duck hunting.
- ID: 682**
Loss of public and walk in lands has forced the Ellsworth Air Force Base airmen to over crowd what is left to hunt. My opinion is that I disagree with that the airmen are allowed to fully hunt in SD even if they reside in another state also. They need some sort of partial hunting privileges.
- ID: 688**
Hunting has been a way of life for many years for me and my family. The price of shells, license, gas and all the other equipment that we would need has become to expensive and the time of season is not the right time for migrating birds.
- ID: 690**
I have not hunted as much in the past years due to my age and the difficulty in getting around; also the lack of interest because of the above.

- ID: 695**
You're duck season is not long enough some years mallard hunting would be good 2 or 3 weeks after you have closed the season.
- ID: 706**
I have always felt that there should be a short duck season in the spring in South Dakota, because the weather is much better for duck hunting in March. I am a teal hunter (blue wing) and in the north they migrate too soon and the hunters down south have a longer time to hunt them. Also, you would have a better chance to harvest ducks that miss your area in the fall suck as canvasbacks!
- ID: 713**
With today's economy the cost of guns, ammo and equipment and the fact that most people do not care to eat waterfowl would be my guess as to the decline in hunter numbers.
- ID: 733**
How can I find a landowners phone number and name to ask permission? All the ducks are on the other side of the fence in that pond. Being nice to landowners and respectful does not change any chance I might have it seems their all grumpy toward my Minnehaha truck plates.
- ID: 734**
Steel shot sucks!
- ID: 735**
I am concerned about the continued loss of wetlands throughout Eastern, SD.
- ID: 736**
Make it easier for older hunters to get to the waters edge.
- ID: 742**
Although I target both goose hunting is my passion and also the main reason I live here. I hunt from the beginning of the early season through its end in mid February out in Pierre.
- ID: 747**
Most of the duck and goose hunting was done on land that I own in the last five years.
- ID: 759**
Game and Fish does a good job protecting our wildlife.
- ID: 774**
My biggest frustration is I don't knowing where I can legally hunt. in the last ten years I have see many more walk in areas and my son and I enjoy hunting them.
- ID: 781**
Normally, our hunting party complains there are not enough hunters in the field. The ducks can find enough water to sit in where no hunters are.

- ID: 784**
The numbers of geese are way down in numbers where I hunt. This is Canada goose early season. As I get older I enjoy hunting more, I don't have to kill some thing to enjoy a good hunt. When you started this season I shot 30 to 53 Canada geese per season. In 2006 I shot only 3 and in 2009 shot only 2 just didn't see very many. As for ducks the roto duck decoy is terrific. You get closer shots can identify what you are shooting at.
- ID: 795**
It seems since the water level has been down the geese are not stopping above the dam like they used to.
- ID: 798**
I didn't answer question 11. I hunt to have the skills our forefathers had. The worst thing that has happened to hunting in SD is to pay to hunt. Those people who use hunting companies or are longer should be called clients not sportsmen; a visit to one is almost exactly the same as a visit to a house of prostitution. Both guarantee results.
- ID: 800**
It's so great to get away from work and to be able to spend time with family in the outdoors. To see my family and friends get excited when they see a flock of ducks or geese coming towards us. It more fun for me just to see them enjoy hunting.
- ID: 809**
Please make regulations simple and less confusing.
- ID: 811**
I travel for my job, when I am home on the weekends all I want to do is spend time with my wife and two children.
- ID: 813**
As a landowner I need to have the option of a dark (Canada) goose depredation program that starts earlier than the September 1st opening for problem geese.
- ID: 817**
I didn't hunt geese or buy a stamp this year because of the attitude of your game wardens last year in the Pierre area. The threatened me with a fine for hunting to close to a baited field when there was no way you could tell if a field was baited or not. Then they send you half a mile further away where there was no chance of even seeing a goose. Landowners drive by showing you with dirt if you hunt a road ditch, hoping you will go away. Goose hunting has become so commercialized. If you don't pay, you stay away.
- ID: 825**
My children are becoming of hunting age and are showing interest in all forms of hunting and trapping that intern is renewing my interest.

- ID: 826**
I think the free GF&P waterfowl seminar is a great idea. Also think a recipe book for ducks and geese would be a good promoter. I love to hunt, but feeling it is important to eat what I shoot my cooking skills are limited and don't know how to cook both ducks and geese.
- ID: 830**
Just wish there were more good areas in western South Dakota, both public and walk in areas.
- ID: 845**
I can't wait to see the results.
- ID: 858**
Although the state GF&P has a multitude of areas that provide great hunting, early snow blizzards can block hunters from getting to the areas/pits, especially the Bluffs public shooting area off the Joe Creek Road (additionally the mail shack area). As I hunt on the Bluffs area often this road needs to be plowed out so that hunters can get to the parking lot. This would have been necessary only 3 – 4 times during the last five years but in 2008, there were 2 of those blizzards and they were early, completely eliminating this popular spot. Please hire a farmer or a county snow plow and clean these entrances out!
- ID: 860**
We have a place also in Marshall County and would like access to 4 mile lake restored for waterfowl, the public lack input.
- ID: 861**
I was out today and yesterday (3/11 and 3/12/09) plenty of ducks/geese for short. Hardly ever saw any ducks during out season, except locals early but our season usually ends before the northern get here. Many local lakes are leased so I usually have to hunt state areas that are crowded.
- ID: 876**
I recently moved from out of state in a metro area. I like being back in the county don't know how accurate my survey will be for SD being it's my first year.
- ID: 886**
I have started to buy migratory stamps and taken a membership in Ducks Unlimited mostly because of a dam project completed on my ranch some years ago. Costs were shared and much of the organization was done by the above organizations especially US FWS and it was a positive experience with them. I do hunt mostly upland bird's deer and recently fall turkey. Waterfowl are only incidental. I am interested in preserving some of our remaining resources.
- ID: 894**
I moved here for business reasons, duck hunting is the activity that really helped me discover a love for the SD Outdoors and connect better with other men here. Pheasant hunting too but duck hunting is really unique. I want to learn so I could teach my two boys which I did great memories.

- ID: 911**
Question 12 – dissatisfaction was due to weather, wet weather caused problems getting local crops out and I am not setup for waterfowl hunting as well as field hunting did experience some flooded cornfield hunting that was outstanding. Need to get some wardens.
I manage a c-store in NE SD which opened in 2004. I have seen a definite increase in both waterfowl and upland hunting in the area. Seems to be a major influx of out of state hunters in the area since the late 90's also. Permission for hunting is getting a little tougher but more so due to improved participation by both local and relatives returning to hunt using it on more days of the season. I would also state that the early goose season has diminished compared to ten years ago, probably due to loss of water and more hunting pressure. Hunting in general in my local area has greatly improved with more opportunities on a variety of game compared to the mid 90's mild winters, abundant CRP is definite pluses.
- ID: 915**
We need more waterfowl game production areas and better mapping to public areas. The SD hunting atlas shows no public hunting grounds in Lawrence County, yet there are 3 small lakes for waterfowl Cox's Lake, Upper and Lower Mirror Lakes this is an unlisted game production area. This is an unlisted game production area. This makes me wonder how many more are not listed.
- ID: 917**
Do you offer a early youth season for ducks or geese like they do for pheasants? Maybe a good idea my oldest boy is 11 I'll look into the early season this year a little more, I enjoy pheasant hunters more less time to prepare in my location.
- ID: 928**
This is a good survey system.
- ID: 932**
A lot of areas may have low numbers of waterfall hunters but Codington County and surrounding areas are not one of them.
- ID: 938**
We live in a motor coach and travel the state bird hunting all season. We love to work with bird dogs. We try to follow the ducks from Montana to South Dakota while we hunt sharp tails and pheasants.
- ID: 943**
I would hunt more waterfowl if the season was extended. My dad who lives in Spearfish wanted to hunt waterfowl over Christmas but the season's were closed in this area. I would like to see waterfowl seasons extended through or into January. At least stay open till the same date as Nebraska.

ID: 944

Goose hunting has changed considerably in the last few years. There is an abundance of geese in the spring and early summer thus destroying many acres of young plants. Following the early season the goose population in Day County is nearly non-existent. Some may be due to weather and crop rotation, but the question is where are they?

ID: 957

I have not hunted geese in the last 2 years and I will probably not hunt again because of age.

ID: 963

You should raise license cost to create more public land and wetlands.

ID: 965

I believe your administrative costs, and biologist costs are way too high! You should be spending more of our license fees money on feeding wild game in the winter. There is a lot of deer and antelope that are going to starve to death this winter. These animals should be fed by the Game Fish & Parks during rough winters like this one. The elk that are stuck up in the high country should be fed this winter, put our money to good use and don't throw it away on new buildings and lay off a bunch of high dollar staff.

I also believe walk in areas are a huge waste of money trim or eliminate a lot of white collar staff! I believe landowners should receive some of the license money, since they are the one's feeding (and fixing fences) from all of this wild game.

You guys could avoid a lot of automobile accidents by not only building under the road crossings, where you know the deer must cross to feed or sleep. You could also decrease car and deer accidents significantly by placing salt blocks back off of the main roads. A lot of these deer that are on the highways are (attempting) to lick salt off the roadways! You could really save a lot of car deer accidents simply by placing salt blocks, back off of the roads where deer are thick.

I believe Game Fish & Parks staff could be reduced by 50 to 60 percent and the organization would function much more effectively.

We do not need all of these high dollar studies that you do. For what is actually gained in knowledge, it simply is not worth it. Put this money into taking care of your stock during rough winters like we are having this year and please quit making more and more regulations. People are becoming totally turned off by this never ending list of more and more new laws and regulations.

I personally know for 4 people that have just quit buying license to hunt and fish because they are simply sick and tired of all the new laws and regulations that they must stay abreast of and I'm not very far from joining them.

People like to keep it simple when they hunt or fish and no one enjoys wondering if you are legal or not!

I am seeing more and more cases of trespassing on adjoining landowners surrounding walk in areas. People may walk in to get their animals but a lot of them are driving in on adjoining landowners, to retrieve their deer or antelope. I realize your job isn't easy, but some good old (common sense) like this can't hurt!

ID: 970

I think hunting regulations should address the management objections in this case the directed towards matching populations to the nesting habitat. Simply increasing the bag limits has demonstrated a futile effort for example I for one would never put 20 chickens in the freezer let alone do the same for snow/blue geese; the federal regulations and determinations for baiting and closing of fields and control. Many of these are the result of personal bids against commercial hunting and a bias towards legislating sportsmanship. The regulations should address the means that would further the gross hunter harvest making it more inviting for the average person to hunt where the waterfowl are without fear of being arrested or harassed by law enforcement. If the wisdom of management dictates 3 dark geese a day will control the population, then let the hunter achieve 3 dead geese. They are in the end 3 dead geese. Making it easier to gift the harvest to others is self regulating. We eat only a few waterfowl a year and I as well as others I talk to have difficulty giving the birds away (from the standpoint of finding someone who really wants a steady supply of raw waterfowl) so why make hunters and law enforcement wasting time jumping through legal hoops?

ID: 985

I think you are doing a very good job just keep it up.

ID: 1014

You should lower out of state fees and let more hunters in SD, I have groups of my friends all send in and not everyone gets to come hunt! These are my friends and the only people I hunt with. The people in Woonsocket don't hunt ducks, just pheasants and deer.

ID: 1015

Why I believe we have fewer duck hunters in South Dakota because of child support laws if you are 1000 dollars behind in support you can not hunt or fish in this state I know there are a lot of low life's out there that don't care about their kids but there are a lot of good people that just fell behind because they may have lost their job or got hurt I don't know the answers but I do know if a kid does not have the chance to go hunting or fishing chances are they will not do these things when they get older.

ID: 1021

No one gives permission for any animal, no matter how good you are how nice, polite, caring or anything you are if your vehicle has Sioux Falls plates the first thing most people look at I grew up in small town never had a problem till I moved to Sioux Falls.

ID: 1025

I believe in the January youth hunt but shutting down at least 2 fields for 2 weeks is not right. Let them experience the same late hunting as the rest of us. I do not hunt that area but friends do.

ID: 1029

The guy I used to hunt geese with died. He had the land. I would like to get started again.

- ID: 1030**
I do most of my hunting in Day County. The duck hunting has been excellent the past 3 years. We have even found good numbers of wood ducks in the area we hunt. The goose hunting had been spotty, very hard to pattern. All in all I just love being in the outdoors and enjoy time with family and friends no matter the outcome of the game that was shot that day.
- ID: 1036**
I've hunted waterfowl in the past but now I hunt more coyote and fox.
- ID: 1044**
I moved here from Texas, people here have it good, when it comes to duck hunting.
- ID: 1045**
Steel really is crappy for lack of a better word. I can not tell you how many ducks that took hits you can here, flutter a bit and fly off for pheasants it is fine, waterfowl nope. But non-toxic alternatives are not cost effective. So steel it is. Also for youth hunting program leaves something to be desired. Thank you for the opportunity to complete this survey.
- ID: 1047**
I'll be leaving college in the upcoming years but would like to come back to SD to hunt ducks. Is there anyway to drop the non-resident fee's, I think it'd bring a lot more Minnesota hunters over.
- ID: 1048**
Access to public water could be improved. Duck hunting is dependant on the number of good places to hunt.
- ID: 1049**
I moved to town two years ago from the farm.
- ID: 1053**
Access up here is something very hard. We have farmers plowing roads up, and cutting off public land, also unclear as to where it is legal to hunt and where it isn't. A lot of signs are disturbed or moved. When the state buys land for people to hunt on the people should be able to get to it.
- ID: 1054**
I was unable to hunt the 2008 season to my full intentions, I returned from military deployment to hunt the last few weeks. Missing out on most of the season made it that much better when I climbed back into the blind.
- ID: 1063**
Over all I think South Dakota has done a good job of game management. I am not a big fan of pay hunting but still like pass shooting and public areas to hunt in.

- ID: 1070**
Please remove the early goose season. In 1995 I moved to Kranzburg, SD. My friends and I shot 180 geese with no early season, I most likely shot 25 geese the next few years was about the same, shortly after that the early season started while the 1st day was easy, after that the geese moved out. It is the same every year now. Opening day is good then you might as well put the decoys away for the year.
- ID: 1075**
I think our season should be later for the area along the South Dakota and Nebraska borders. We don't get any good mallard hunting until the season is closed.
- ID: 1078**
Since high school and college when we jump shot ponds, I have only been duck or goose hunting half a dozen times in a blind with decoys and calling. Time to shoot and no one has opening in a blind to get me in.
- ID: 1079**
Get rid of the early goose season please.
- ID: 1081**
The hunter's choice is terrible. I wasn't in SD to hunt the season in a season. Louisiana limit is 6 ducks and only one can be a mallard hen. They also see more pintails and canvasbacks than South Dakota. There is no reason we can't adopt that limit.
- ID: 1082**
With people losing there jobs for example my father was recently laid off after 28 years can't afford hunting licenses and yet prices go up every other year.
- ID: 1086**
I understand why SD has the length of season that it does. Yet, crops that most farmer's plant don't come out until later in the year, all I care to do is field hunt, and this makes it difficult. Today is February 11th and there are more ducks and geese in cut corn than there ever were during the season. I do live in Southern SD and realize that is a factor. I think we should get a few more weeks to hunt, being that I never had an chance to get my field decoys out this season. Maybe I was spoiled living in ND the last four years, but I need to field hunt to have a successful year.
- ID: 1087**
Finding good hunting spots has become more difficult with the increase of charged hunting and guided hunts. This has closed a lot of private land to hunting and made pass shooting difficult in many places that I hunt.

- ID: 1091**
My grandfather on both sides of the family and my father were avid waterfowl hunters. We had and took the time to hunt out youngsters today are so tied up with other activities it is hard for them to even go with their father to hunt ducks. We love to take these kids with us hunting, but these days they are occupied even on most Saturdays with sports and other activities.
- ID: 1094**
Issues not covered: it's a pain in the ass to have to round up a federal stamp and upgrade your small game license. In these busy times there needs to be a quick online way to get everything. Soft bottomed book sucking sloughs become less appealing as one ages. Other agencies including USFWS, SDGF&P, PF need to step up and assist NRCS with swampbuster enforcement.
- ID: 1095**
Landowners are my greatest complaint. I have family with land or I would not hunt anymore. I have four kids that I am trying to get involved with hunting and finding places to hunt is the problem. When you go to public landing northeast part of the state there is so many out of states. We hunted only three times on public land this year. While someone is listening to a hunter, I would like to complain deer tag drawings, why in Day County is there 600 tags, 297 go to landowners, 303 for the rest of us. Change the rules so we can get any deer tags for private land only.
- ID: 1098**
I haven't hunted waterfowl for over ten years. Probably only half a dozen times ever in my lifetime.
- ID: 1105**
I think the Game Department has over the years done an exceptional job in managing all wildlife in SD. People are turned off by the way pheasant preserves have ruined pheasant hunting; preserves were the worst decision made in the last thirty years in SD. It caused the cost to hunt to stop the average hunter from hunting. The cost to hunt is the real reason you are loosing hunter in my opinion.
- ID: 1113**
I have loved hunting rabbit's ducks, geese and deer until my old thicker started acting up but ill fish and hunt until the end.
- ID: 1115**
I think public hunting could be improved greatly by having an agreement with a farmer to plant crops on game and fish lands percentage depending on size of area and type of land and location. Farmers allowed to harvest maybe 75% of crops or so, I think game would be increased mainly where there are no food plot areas.

- ID: 1120**
You are getting my poorest year of hunting for geese, due to other personal reason I didn't get to hunt as much as I would have liked to. What little time I got to spend the last three years have been less impressive than the previous ones. There seems to be a decline in bird numbers local geese always freezes up before the Northern birds arrive.
- ID: 1123**
I do have a long life of hunting, my father started us hunting game in 1933, when I was 12, goose and ducks at Sand Lake. In my navy years if I was home on leave, I would make it out hunting.
- ID: 1129**
Goose hunting in South Dakota on private land is a thing of the past unless you are rich just like the rest of hunting. The state lands are away too overcrowded and the majority of walk-in land is trash land that is usually pastured down to nothing. To be wasting hunter's money on this land is a slap in our face in my opinion CRP land should be open to hunting since it is paid for by the hunting it is paid for by the taxpayer. In this state money talks and that is it.
- ID: 1142**
Duck hunting today is more fruitful compared to 70 years ago.
- ID: 1143**
I fully support GF&P officers access to private land to monitor hunters! I have only positive experiences with officers and have found them to be completely professional. Having lived and hunted in the Pierre area I have met far more landowners who were rude, condescending and judgmental than any GF&P officers. I have found most landowners to be friendly and cooperative about upland game, but found Pierre area land owners to be arrogant and often rude. GF&P officers thank you for all you do!
- ID: 1145**
Having lived in several different states and hunting most legal game animals, fishing and trapping, SD does a great job of managing wildlife and providing plenty of opportunity.
- ID: 1151**
The only thing that I would really like to see changed is the length of the season. Seems way too short, a couple of weekends and then it is over.
- ID: 1173**
I would like the longest season possible for ducks and geese and more efforts to acquire more areas for public to hunt. I have a cabin at Pickerel Lake in Day County and hunt that area as often as I can. Thanks for all of the Federal State and walk in areas.
- ID: 1185**
Keep up the good work!

- ID: 1192**
More bales for nesting of Giant Canada geese I don't like the early season. It is lowering the population to much. Also the young birds meat is to soft. Game Fish & Parks have been slack on the nesting for Canada's. It is otherwise a great program.
- ID: 1201**
Equipment and licenses are getting to expensive. Some hunters are very rude. Don't do as much as I used to because of medical problems.
- ID: 1204**
Very poor goose hunting in my area geese have changed fly ways. I live in eastern Gregory County.
- ID: 1208**
In previous years, cold weather pushes the birds through our areas we hunt way before the season ends. I don't feel ducks stay in our area very long. Waterfowl hunting slows down when the river and other areas that hold water freeze.
- ID: 1216**
Hunted geese once in Pierre and got skunked.
- ID: 1227**
I am not a fan of hunter's choice. I think too many birds get shot by accident and stuffed in the weeds.
- ID: 1250**
If your going to charge so much money give hunters more options and places to hunt.
- ID: 1252**
I never got any time to hunt at all in 2008, just got way to busy with family things.
- ID: 1283**
I would like to see boating on small hunting lakes stopped. Messing with the birds has driven them away.
- ID: 1288**
I very much appreciate the waterfowl access programs SDGF&P provides hunters. These access areas plus road right or ways are the only waterfowl areas available to me and many other SD hunters.
- ID: 1290**
Just stop global warming so we get the geese down from Bismarck sooner! South of Pierre in the pocket, geese come down sooner. Open access on the core line in front of the Big Bend Ranch to allow hunters to get at the geese.
- ID: 1292**
I think a set number of 4 or 5 ducks regardless of sex or gender per bag limit, would save many ducks from being left lay in the field because they were the wrong sex or gender. It is too difficult to identify which kind of ducks you are shooting when they come in by flocks.

- ID: 1295**
The majority of the reason that I hunt ducks is something else to do when the geese aren't flying, I originally started hunting geese because there were too many geese around my father in laws farm in Lake County. Over the last ten years I seldom see any geese around his farm. If there were geese in his farm area then I would spend more time hunting. I have about 1000 dollars worth of decoys that haven't made it out of the shed in many years. When my kids get old enough to hunt then I will try to find places where the geese fly.
- ID: 1309**
I do not hunt ducks or geese only pheasants.
- ID: 1321**
Do not increase the non resident licenses in the Northeast part of the state or anywhere for that matter. Private ground is steadily becoming more difficult; greatly due to non resident hunters. There are plenty of licenses available to them. The great SD hunting is due in part to resources management, allowing more non resident hunters would only degrade the opportunities here. I don't think adding a few more dollars to the budget is worth degrading this fine waterfowl hunting area. If you want to see the impact of non resident hunters just drive around the northeast part of the state in March and April.
- ID: 1323**
My biggest reason for not duck hunting is the fact that I moved to the Black Hills areas and don't have as much available duck hunting.
- ID: 1324**
Very good early season duck hunting on the eastern part of the state. Northern ducks coming down plentiful, goose hunting in Central part of the state has changed. I don't believe heavy populations of greater Canadians are coming down as far as they did ten to fifteen years ago. Thanks for all you do.
- ID: 1327**
2005 and prior were not in SD, I lived elsewhere. South Dakota is blessed with fantastic waterfowl hunting and habitat and I hope it can continue for my kids. I am not a fan of "Hunters Choice", can't see how it can help the effected species. Very concerned about recent loss of CRP acreage in area it was visible this fall. Good Luck with the survey and keeping the resources up!
- ID: 1331**
Too many sky busters lying in the ditches around Lake Andes shooting at geese way up in the air!
- ID: 1333**
Not a lot of great places to hunt ducks on the west side of the state and a lot of the stock dams have dried up. There also use to be a lot of good walk in areas to hunt ducks.

- ID: 1336**
What makes me mad is when farmers complain about geese problems but they won't let you on their land to help get the problem reduced.
- ID: 1346**
Do most of my hunting with my older brother and my son in Brookings County.
- ID: 1349**
This year there was a very high population of both canvasbacks and redheads at Plum Lake in Kingsbury County. Is this a statewide trend or was it by coincidence? The north part of the lake was literally covered with them on several occasions.
- ID: 1352**
I kind of quite hunting geese because for ten years we couldn't hunt geese in McCook and know they can shoot five geese. I don't understand they were fairly tame and then you slaughtered them. That is why I don't hunt geese.
- ID: 1368**
This was my first season hunting ducks. I am lucky to have friends that are avid and experienced duck hunters who were able to take me out a few times. I am now hooked and plan to hunt ducks every year from now on!
- ID: 1375**
Like I stated earlier; I think the duck and goose season starts too early in Douglas County, they arrive late in November and early December. So you're limited to about two weeks of duck hunting in Douglas County. Lake Andes is only four miles from the county line.
- ID: 1380**
I've heard comments that the harassment from landowners and law enforcement makes no sense given the large population of geese in the area. When a wounded goose lands in a protected area and then go to retrieve they get questionable. This causes the hunters to question if they want to continue in the sport.
- ID: 1389**
Please make the second season at Bennett County longer. There are approximately 20000 refuge count geese wintering there. It's lightly hunted. It just got good hunting and the season is over.
- ID: 1391**
My name should be removed from surveys as I am 72 and my interest in hunting has dropped off considerably. I have been fortunate to have my own hunting land and live close to it. I still spend time doing lots of looking but not much shooting. It seems to take more effort than I am willing to give, but fresh hair and wildlife are wonderful.
- ID: 1392**
I usually buy a stamp with intention of going out but to busy and some years it freezes early and ducks leave others they don't show until season is almost over.

- ID: 1393**
I think we need more places or land to hunt geese. It seems like every place you go to hunt you have to pay to get on the land.
- ID: 1397**
I don't feel I've done enough waterfowl hunting to answer these questions properly.
- ID: 1400**
Give great consideration to extend the Canada goose season in Grant County even if it means shortening the early season goose limit. I see significantly more geese in the later season. I rarely hunt the early goose season due to lack of birds. I have addressed this in person with Scott in Watertown.
- ID: 1420**
There are too sticking many out of state hunters for ducks, geese and pheasants.
- ID: 1422**
I enjoy hunting waterfowl. It is fun and exciting to see them especially during migration. Sometimes migration patterns change and waterfowl are not in my area. Time with work and military obligations does not allow me to hunt that much.
- ID: 1424**
We need more days for goose hunting; also after the first week in January in Roberts and Grant Counties.
- ID: 1427**
I only hunt late season mallards, Drakes only. All I want is about 4 or 5 ducks per year. Same goes for late season honker geese. I have all my own land to hunt.
- ID: 1427**
It would be nice if the licenses would come down in price. I may only go a few times a year and we might even hit some, it's something the kids and I can do together to get out of the house. There should be more public areas with easier access. You should be able to shoot whatever is flying in the area through the open dates.
- ID: 1435**
Most of the ducks fly at night but the late season ducks feed in the day but the season is closed by that time. With duck hunting it seems like there's law enforcement where the birds are, like having a cop behind you wherever you drive. If there are fewer hunters and they hunt less time why can't we harvest more ducks per hunter?
- ID: 1436**
The out of state hunters might not get on land but they screw up hunting because they are always driving around and scaring geese away from decoys, but it's not always intentionally done.

- ID: 1443**
The Department should help save more small wetlands as the small wet lands are being drained. The game wardens could act a little friendlier and we need to watch out for gun control.
- ID: 1451**
I haven't been doing as much hunting as I use too because lack of land and the public land is too crowded with bad hunters. When we started letting out of state people hunt. I've seen a lot of land disappear because they were paying big money to hunt. Now I can't find many places to hunt they are all contracted out and that sucks. Leave the out of state hunters out of our state!
- ID: 1458**
SD need to change hunting waterfowl from a ditch it leads to bad hunting practices, they shoot at geese that are way too high.
- ID: 1459**
I question why money is wasted on walk in areas that hold cattle especially when the cattle are on the land during hunting season. We are paying for land we cannot use.
- ID: 1461**
It's great to live in a state where hunting and fishing is so easy to access.
- ID: 1464**
I think SD has done a great job with all hunting! I used to live in MN and SD is much better in my opinion. SD is truly a sportsmen paradise. I have a couple young children so I've slowed down especially waterfowl.
- ID: 1466**
Waterfowl migrate through an area you should be to hunt them on private land that isn't fenced or standing crops. Any land the government pays for set aside and it should be open for public hunting.
- ID: 1470**
It'll be tough to dominate or contend with Wii and sports like football soccer, hockey, etc. Please promote public and private education.
- ID: 1479**
Duck hunting for the past few years has become quite a full family sport. We have recently gotten into hunting retriever training so ducks and goose hunting has been something we have grown very passionate about. All of our children, girl and my wife included have all taken the hunters safety course. With a new hunter at the age of twelve my son insists that this is the sport of choice. The joining of the SD HCR has made the sport of hunting more enjoyable because retrieving all of the game shot and watching the dogs work make it all worth it. Keep up the good work you do and we as hunters will help keep up our end by following the rules of the sport.
- ID: 1483**
Weather plays a key roll in how much duck hunting we do.

- ID: 1488**
There is not enough area to hunt on public land near our area so we travel 2-2 ¼ hours to hunt. The price of gas has interfered and I don't know anyone with private land we can hunt on.
- ID: 1493**
Sometimes I go out to hunt and I just sit there, I watch the ducks and geese, fly land and watch them talk to one another. It's like I buy the licenses to go hunting but it's also relaxing and the beauty of seeing the animals.
- ID: 1502**
I think more non resident's licenses should be sold. My opinion is that the non resident would only hunt for 1-5 total days this may be done by county.
- ID: 1514**
It seems like too much emphasis in this state is placed on hunting. I have to try to make a living on land that cannot be drained because hunters and state organizations want every acre to be duck habitat. It is very frustrating to be forced to sacrifice my livelihood for a recreational activity. Our roads get destroyed every fall because hunters are too lazy to get out of their vehicles. If it was legal to road hunt waterfowl you would probably have more hunters. I deal with too many jerks during hunting season for it to be fun anymore.
- ID: 1516**
You need a separate map for duck and goose hunting and if possible show some sort of fly way in the maps. There needs to be more public land near the ponds and lakes.
- ID: 1520**
This was very poor year for me. We normally hunt the West Whitlock area and the geese came late and everything was frozen and as a result we had no geese in our immediate area.
- ID: 1521**
You should be able to shoot speckle bellies during spring goose season. We never see them in the fall.
- ID: 1522**
I really have enjoyed duck and goose hunting. I wish I could've gotten out more to do it but with work and business I just wasn't able to get out as much as I would have liked too.
- ID: 1523**
Thanks for honoring SD resident sportsmen by seeking our opinion and we respect the job you do.
- ID: 1525**
Please keep LaCreek Refuge area a tag only permit area as to keep over harvesting this small but crucial refuge for large Canadian Geese. I watched many hunters along road ditches bordering the refuge drop many wounded

- geese in the refuge which they could not retrieve which is a waste. Perhaps close the major fly out road ditches to hunting or a low 50 yards unarmed retrieval area in these areas.
- ID: 1234**
Maintaining the habitat for ducks and geese and all wildlife is exceptionally important. The opportunity to hunt ducks and geese should also be a priority to maintain interest in ducks and geese. Continue to fight for clean water and purchasing land to convert to sloughs and hunting preserves – public land that is for the future of ducks and geese and wildlife in general.
- ID: 1544**
It's too hard to get permission on private land and there's too many out of state hunters and there's too many pay hunting places.
- ID: 1554**
I would like to remind everyone involved with this survey that waterfowl conservation also includes the harvest of birds! To the point: if a field or property is leased by the GFP for the purpose of waterfowl hunting, with license fees and or SD tax dollars, how do our officials allow a federal game warden to close the property due to baiting? This field was declared a loss by insurance and tilled to good farming practice. These officials have no idea what conservation means most likely they're not even sportsmen. By not allowing these fields to be hunted this so called conservation officer give hundreds of thousands of birds a safe haven not just for a few weeks but an entire season. With controlled hunting these birds would have moved from field t field allowing some of them to be harvested. To sum it all up: as a sportsman who has hunted in SD for over twenty five years I have always respected state laws and officials, however, in 2008-2009 I feel the SD GFP failed in its duty to respect and represent the SD sportsmen. I have three children ages 9-13 my oldest hunted geese over field decoys for the first time this year and she's hooked! We're all counting on you! Stand up and be counted, represent the SD sportsmen and women.
- ID: 1555**
We need better boat ramps at waterfowl production areas and at smaller WPA.
- ID: 1556**
We need more walk in areas close to Rapid City (within 30 miles) for public hunting.
- ID: 1558**
Hunting in SD is excellent. The only problem with waterfowl hunting is extreme day conditions that exist where we hunt in Charles Mix County.
- ID: 1563**
I do a lot of river goose hunting late when closed around here.
- ID: 1566**
I greatly enjoyed SD hunting and public lands that are available to hunt. I just wish the habitat was there for more ducks.

- ID: 1580**
I'd really like to hunt geese however my business makes it difficult to do when the geese come down.
- ID: 1582**
Hunting ducks and geese is a great experience. The numbers I thought were down but it is great having the ducks coming into your blind. Sometimes it is hard to figure out the bad limit.
- ID: 1584**
Out of state hunting licensing, why is it a lottery not just bought over the counter? SD has ducks and people would combo duck hunts with geese and pheasants.
- ID: 1585**
In the early season "hunter's choice" is too difficult for most hunters. Landowners who are complaining about goose numbers need to be more cooperative in letting people hunt. Hunting has become so commercialized that most farmers won't even let you waterfowl hunt anymore compared to when I first started hunting when nobody cared about ducks and geese.
- ID: 1607**
1) Focus more on kids, 2) Regulate non-resident numbers and or their leasing of land and 3) Simplify the regulations.
- ID: 1610**
I hunted 1988-2008. When I moved, I missed the opportunity to drive a short distance to hunt. I miss the fellowship. I also had a heart attack which made the cold mornings less attractive.
- ID: 1613**
My personal feeling is that the habitat nesting and predator control is crucial to ducks. Predators such as skunks, raccoons and opossums and avian predators such as crows and seagulls do more to damage the nests and young of the year than hawks, coyotes and foxes combined.
- ID: 1632**
Due to health reasons hunting has become more difficult each year since 2002. It used to be extremely important to me but over all life does change because of your health.
- ID: 1640**
I moved to Mobridge from Webster. In Day County the waterfowl numbers are high. Very few in Mobridge except for good goose numbers some years. Rather than banking on a possible good season I've just found other things to hunt, deer, coyotes and pheasants. I do miss the duck and goose hunting.
- ID: 1645**
In general, the population seems down and private access is harder to come by. I use a boat primarily to hunt waterfowl and ramps – access to water is harder with dryer years. It's too much effort for limited opportunity and private land hassles.

- ID: 1654**
Thanks!
- ID: 1657**
My boyfriend got me started in the sport of hunting but he is not a big waterfowl hunter. He does hunt waterfowl occasionally and I'm sure I will too.
- ID: 1659**
Extend the season for goose hunting in Eastern South Dakota. Leave it open until the end of February.
- ID: 1661**
Opening up public land to pits is a crock. The geese don't always fly over the pits and it limits the number of hunters. This decreases the chance of finding a place to hunt. Shooting success isn't always shooting a goose it is finding a place to hunt. Take out the pits and open bluffs to pass shooting. This is the main reason I haven't hunted geese the past few years. Being from Hughes County I have plenty of private land with pits and decoys. What I don't have is a good place to pass shoot.
- ID: 1663**
The hunting has improved around Douglas County. I think because of public hunting areas and the trees and CPR acres that have been planted in and around this area it is very important that we keep this privilege alive for our young American Hunters.
- ID: 1665**
Duck hunting in SD is a great outdoor activity. The mud is getting deeper and the ducks are flying faster but it is still one of my favorite outdoor experiences.
- ID: 1669**
I saw fewer ducks this year than I have for many years in Grant and Deuel Counties.
- ID: 1681**
Do this on line next year.
- ID: 1682**
I hunted most of the time in western Brown and there are very few ducks compared to years ago. This makes it hard because most good hunting is east where the big bodies of waters are and the flyway is there too. That's the same with geese.
- ID: 1684**
My goose hunting was satisfying we had geese here during the season dates. As for duck hunting most of the ducks didn't really get to our area until the season was over. As for the goose season, the dates are fine but I think the duck season should be extended.

- ID: 1695**
Get away from people making money and bring it back as a sport and the love of nature.
- ID: 1697**
You're doing a pretty good job. Keep up the good work and pray for more rain!
- ID: 1700**
Waterfowl hunting is a wonderful sport to enjoy, however, my lab doesn't duck hunt and my 2 hunting companions that I have hunted with since the '70's no longer duck hunt, although we have talked about starting again. I do believe regulations are somewhat too complicated. I don't know if I should have filled out this survey since it has been several years since I have hunted waterfowl. I do buy a waterfowl stamp even though I no longer hunt waterfowl.
- ID: 1701**
When buying my sportsman license around this time of year (April, May) like at Cabela's in Mitchell they have not had the waterfowl stamp so then I end up not getting the stamp and not hunting waterfowl in the fall.
- ID: 1706**
Unless the duck season hours are expanded to ½ hour before daylight and ½ hour after sundown, there never will be a legal way to hunt ducks in feeding fields. As long as North Dakota keeps ½ day goose hunting, the less numbers and opportunities there will be in South Dakota.
- ID: 1707**
The local game wardens should be more sociable and accessible. There should be more work with youth groups.
- ID: 1714**
I enjoy pheasant hunting more than waterfowl hunting and hunt pheasants every weekend of season with friends from high school 30+ years. Most of my waterfowl hunting is before pheasant season opens.
- ID: 1716**
I moved from Iowa in the summer of 2000, and clearly the duck hunting opportunities are significantly better. However, I firmly believe the number of mallards continue to decline each year. I love South Dakota and the duck hunting opportunities it has, but I am very concerned about the number of migrating mallards decreasing in recent years.
- ID: 1718**
In my opinion duck hunting can be a very expensive and can require a lot of hard work. With that being said, I started duck and goose hunting in 2001. I was very fortunate because my 2 duck hunting partners are in there late 70's and have duck hunted for 50 years. They also had blinds and hundreds of decoys, not to mention a lot of experience. We hunt on the Missouri River around Elk Point on sand bars that they have hunted for many years. Even though it's public ground, these guys, as well as other hunters stake claims on the bars as early as July. Now that's great for us, but not for the new guy. In the time I've hunted there, the

blinds or claims have been the same guys every year. When new guys try to move into the area he is not received very well. The old boys talk a lot about in the 50's and 60's they had little wars, burning blinds, cutting decoys loose so they float down the river, and even taking shots at hunters that set up to close. Luckily it's not that bad anymore. You're probably wondering why I'm telling you this, it's because it's where I hunt. First, as I mentioned my partners are very old and their hunting days are numbered and I probably will not hunt there after them. You should be able to see why a new hunter doesn't have much of an opportunity to start hunting there. Maybe if these guys couldn't stake claims, some have 2 or 3 with blinds and decoys set up for the entire season, if it was a first come basis every day it would give more opportunity to other hunters. Also there is no public access to the river after the river depth is lowered for the winter. The ones that do get a boat on the water either leave their boat on the bank somewhere or get access from the Nebraska side. Farther up the river above Lewis & Clark Lake in the Springfield area, I guess duck hunters have to apply for a spot or area each season. I've heard there are certain individuals who have all their friends apply, even if they don't hunt so that person is going to get a spot every year. The down side of this is the spot they get and aren't used is a spot someone else could have gotten, again, reducing the chance for a new guy. The upper area around Pierre is strictly a money game if you have it you get a lot of ducks and geese. I don't know much about the rest of the state but they probably have their problems too. So to sum this up I'd say that waterfowl hunters are declining because of the hard work required the lack of access to waterfowl area's, expense and unfair practices.

ID: 1721

Keep the mentoring program! It's a great way to introduce kids to duck hunting at an early age, before they get too caught up in other activities.

ID: 1722

Public draw area northeast of Pierre is money very well spent. LaCreek area is very well managed.

ID: 1727

I believe that a mandatory duck/goose identification class be taken with a test administered prior to a duck license/stamp being issued. I have met few hunters that can ID more than 10 types of ducks.

ID: 1741

May I please have my license back one mistake in 31 years of hunting did not warrant loss of the only thing next to family I care about. It's my fault for not knowing about the shooting at big game from a dirt road in BH.

ID: 1748

I wish you could hunt Canada Geese and ducks in the spring.

ID: 1752

No one seems to like the "hunter's choice", it seems that the hunters want the point system back! A lot of hunters would like to know how much federal money is given to SD in a year. Open more of the closed to waterfowl areas and the lakes that have no boating during Oct. – Dec. in SD. A lot of hunters are really

- tired of the crappy deals the Dept of Game, Fish & Parks has pulled in the past years.
- ID: 1754**
I really like all the youth hunts that GF&P put on. Keep it up! I would like to see a later season on ducks. It seems like when the larger amount of ducks come down from up north our season is over.
- ID: 1757**
My grandson goes with me but he is tired of carrying a BB gun. Next year he will be old enough to be a mentored youth and I hope he'll want to go more often. I can't always justify going hunting with friends but I can always go with him.
- ID: 1760**
It seems to me that there is getting to be less ducks and geese in Deuel County every year especially ducks. I wonder if the flight patterns are changing or if the nesting habitat is being destroyed, because it seems to be getting harder every year to get decent bag limits of ducks. The geese seem to still be around here in decent numbers but sure not like 6-10 years ago.
- ID: 1762**
Send a survey such as this one for bow hunting, all big game and small game/fish.
- ID: 1765**
First time I hunted ducks. I never shot because of my lack of knowledge of what I could shoot. I don't know if I will try again next year or not. I spent a little time studying your pictures of ducks but still felt inadequate when the ducks were in flight.
- ID: 1769**
It seems as if the waterfowl populations vary from year to year. In 2007 was an average possibly due to the weather. 2008 was great, lots of open water with cold temps. My overall opinion just depends of Mother Nature.
- ID: 1776**
I was wondering if we can raise the limit of geese to 4 or 5 per limit due to the over population.
- ID: 1781**
The registration fields at Pierre are the best public land goose hunting in the Country. Keep it going.
- ID: 1782**
I like to hunt snow geese in the spring.
- ID: 1787**
When in the field, hunters drove by on the road honking the horn. We have been checked in the same field by 2 different officers, it interrupted hunting both times, is this harassment?

- ID: 1790**
I would like to see more public land, prices lowered and an increased goose population.
- ID: 1795**
A lot of time spent antelope and deer hunting cuts into my duck and goose hunting. This year will be different so I will probably hunt geese and ducks a lot more.
- ID: 1796**
When I moved to South Dakota 12 years ago I was never turned down when asking permission to hunt on private land. That has changed quite a lot in the last 3-4 years. It appears there are more commercial operations that are tying up the land that was available.
- ID: 1797**
One thing that discourages me while goose hunting is hunters that sky bust; there has been times I've quit hunting areas because of this. I normally take vacation days during the week to avoid the sky busters on the weekend. I understand that creating a law to prohibit this is unreasonable and not enforceable but I wish game wardens would monitor this and ask hunters to stop or to leave the hunting area. I have asked hunters to not shoot at high geese and get the response if you don't put steel in the air you can't kill geese. I want to thank the SD GF&P for creating the great goose and duck hunting opportunities at Pierre. I have had some great hunts (during the week) and have shot many limits of geese. I need to make time and get there to shoot some of the ducks. Hunter education on shotgun shells would also help. At 3 1/2" 12 gauge doesn't have any more killing range than a 3" or 2 3/4" magnum. It only has more pellets which help's make a clean kill. A lot of hunters don't understand this and think they can "scratch" out a goose at 60 yards plus high or shoot further than the smaller length loads.
- ID: 1806**
As 65 I have the amazing opportunity to be a dad to a 10 year old who is enthusiastic about any kind of fishing or hunting. I love SD for the opportunities ahead for us and would love to participate in training and promotion. I am a retired professor from SDSU and have background in surveys, statistics and teaching. I would welcome the right opportunities to help the cause.
- ID: 1808**
In my opinion the bag limits for early season and regular season Canadian geese should be switched. There aren't near as many birds in early season and a smaller bag in regular season just makes for too short of a great hunting day.
- ID: 1809**
There should be more of a controlled pass shooting effort used for goose hunting at LaCreek Refuge maybe walk in areas similar to those at Oahe.

- ID: 1811**
Duck and goose hunting in NE of the state is awesome. You should allow more out of state hunters in that area. I never saw any other hunters it would be nice to have other hunters help move ducks.
- ID: 1813**
Why not just drop the redhead/canvass back season?
- ID: 1833**
Hunting in general has a \$ sign on it and the average person can't afford to pay to hunt. Too much leasing land or buying land for hunting, those are the major reasons for less duck hunting!
- ID: 1835**
I've hunted ducks and geese in SD since I've been a year old! I'm a taxpayer, landowner and registered voter! I'm very concerned about the future of all hunting in SD for the people that can't afford to pay the fees that a lot of greedy landowners in this state want to charge. It seems that these days many local landowners and the GFP are very concerned about the non resident hunters and the money they bring in. I you open more SD counties to non resident waterfowl hunters they will tie up all the better places to hunt ducks and geese, just like they have done to pheasant hunting! Remember the local hunters are the taxpayers and voters in this state. I belong to SD Wildlife Federation, SD Bow hunting, NRA and the Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation. My son likes to hunt and I would like to see him be able to have a place to hunt. The GFP has done a good job getting additional walk in areas. Keep non resident waterfowl hunters out of SD, they will take over everything.
- ID: 1856**
I would like to give credit to the GFP of SD for doing an excellent job of acquiring and maintaining public land for wildlife and hunters. Wildlife and habitat being the primary and the hunter being the lucky 2nd! Also credit for arbitrating and balancing between wildlife, hunters, landowners, legislators, the general public and the free radicals bouncing in and out and around the whole operation.
- ID: 1858**
The past few seasons hunting pressure from non residents with bordering MN. Most hunters from MN can not be called sportsmen. Field hunters always regret being set up in the fields and having road hunters lying in the ditch pass shooting from road right a ways.
- ID: 1869**
Spring Canadian season, there are always lot of birds in the Yankton area every spring.
- ID: 1872**
You need to keep the season open on the river longer if the weather is soft.

- ID: 1877**
The boat ramp at the Lake Andes Refuge needs to be improved so it could be used. This is a nice area to have in our area but there is no small boat access. Please help us out on this. This area needs boat access.
- ID: 1883**
The money that private landowners are asking for and receiving to hunt their land has taken SD resident hunters out of the picture. I have two sons and an average SD wages I can't afford to pay to hunt, after buying licenses, shells, guns and gas. Once again a SD tradition is being sold to the highest bidder.
- ID: 1895**
The only reason I haven't hunted ducks is because of the lack of time.
- ID: 1907**
Regarding question 7, page 3: I believe you may be missing a data gathering opportunity by just asking what got someone started in duck hunting. What about asking what got someone continued in duck hunting and to list the same options in #7 to respond to? When I started duck hunting I wasn't even a teenager, so the major influential reason at the time would have been family. As I continued duck hunting, the major reasons would have changed. In college years, it would have been friends, and also in that age span, I was reading more about it and collecting a few videos, and watching TV programs about duck hunting. As a maturing water fowler in later years, my reasons changed again. It was about conservation, I bought stamps and memberships so wetlands could be purchased. It was about the challenge of deciding to shoot a "drakes only day" and share it with someone. It was a commitment to species identification and respecting the point system and a good feeling about not taking any hen mallards. It was about buying a license every year whether you could get out or not. It was the delight of introducing youth to the sport and pulling together every bit of knowledge and skill you had so there could be successful shot on the end of their gun barrel, to capture some memories and then for them to pick up where you leave off! Regarding question 13, page 7: If you were after peace and quiet, you wouldn't be standing there with 3 shells of gunpowder loaded in your shotgun!
- ID: 1909**
As my youngest son and daughter became of age to hunt I would like to share with them the memorable experiences I had with my dad at the duck pond.
- ID: 1920**
I have a hard time supporting ducks unlimited after being a committee member for a number of years. I am very supportive of the GF&P. I believe they do a good job with habitat and waterfowl opportunities.
- ID: 1921**
I do not agree with raising the cost of SD residents to hunt but would like to see non residents raised. Also as a landowner it is us (farmers) who make duck/goose hunting possible to much of the public and think that there should be a lower rate for hunting than non landowners. It is our hard earned money spent to feed the wildlife not the GF&P. The public and GF&P officers trespassing

- should not be tolerated. A conservation officer entering a decoy spread on private land just to check licenses ruins the hunt for everybody and causes the landowners to lose respect for the officers and department. The GF&P needs to use some common sense.
- ID: 1935**
I really enjoy the SD outdoors. I mostly hunt pheasants. I know in the future I'll do more waterfowl hunting. I need more experience.
- ID: 1937**
Personal preference of hunting has switched my waterfowl hunting to geese. Unfortunately family obligations and work have limited hunting time and made me choose one over the other.
- ID: 1941**
If the state increases non resident waterfowl license, do it statewide not just north east South Dakota, if you revoke them do it statewide. NE South Dakota is very crowded with duck hunters.
- ID: 1942**
I'm active in the Canton area ducks Unlimited I'm the former chairman and current committee member. My dad help start the chapter in 1976 or 1977.
- ID: 1944**
There is way too much commercial hunting and I feel the state caters to that type of hunting.
- ID: 1959**
Extend the shooting hours until ½ hour after sunset for waterfowl and pheasants would greatly improve hunter satisfaction. This is the rule in Canada and I enjoy hunting ducks there more than my home state (SD) because of the extended 30 minutes of hunting.
- ID: 1962**
The East River deer season (rifle) should open a week later. Yes, I am an archery hunter and the extra week during rut would be great. The mentored hunting is great! I have a 10 year old that will hunt forever! The use of dogs to hunt mountain lions, I believe, is the way too go. I know it was in the legislature but don't know where it went. That way the hunter knows exactly what he is shooting, male or female and the odds of wounding an animal would be minimal. I would like to commend GF&P on a job well done!
- ID: 1967**
Another GF&P survey...of course it will provide the Department with the data to support what it wants to do, get more money and people involved in duck and goose hunting (including non residents) and to justify easing restrictions on non resident hunters so as to enhance and increase revenue to the department. The only hope for ducks is wetlands restoration throughout the states watersheds and prohibiting wetlands drainage. Any ditch, tile or trench draining water from private property to public water and land should be plugged and filled in. We look more like Minnesota every year with no ducks and a rotten environment. I

am sick of our polluted waters all over the State! I am sick of seeing SD wetlands drained!

ID: 1978

Why can you shoot pheasants with lead in some fields but not waterfowl? Steel should be for state and federal lands and over all waters. Ask 5,000 people and see how many people they know died from lead poison! Your loosing hunter's due to the high price of steel and extremely high price of non-toxic shot shells. If there is limits set 3 or 5 black geese or 20 white geese. Why are you limited to 3 shells in the gun?

ID: 1979

There is no need for a limit on snow geese in the spring. They are trying to cut down on the population so a limit makes no sense at all. Deer tags need to be cut back. There are very few deer around. To keep kids interested in hunting there needs to be deer for them to hunt successfully or they well get discouraged. Muzzleloader season should not be so late. There are mature bucks without antlers that get shot with doe tags every year.

ID: 2009

Goose hunting in the Pierre area has changed for me to the extent that I no longer care to hunt geese. The reasons are late bird arrival in the area; bird's feeding habits and the GF&P protects birds too much, i.e. they make walk in areas/parking too restrictive.

ID: 2010

I am originally from rural Minnesota. I came to South Dakota to further my education after high school. I became more involved in outdoor recreation and duck/goose hunting and absolutely loved it. I plan on living in South Dakota the rest of my life and can't wait until fall every year.

ID: 2011

When I moved to Chamberlain, I was excited about the later goose season until I found out how hard it was to get on landowners fields to hunt and the limited amount of public land in Brule County that was suitable for WF hunting. After living in Spink County all my life I was surprised to see the change. I guess I had just been spoiled. Could the GF&P give some sort of incentive to private landowners to raise Pintails, Canvasbacks and Red heads like they did with the Canadian Geese in the '80's and '90's to help boost their populations?

ID: 2012

I have some concerns about hunter harassment in the past 3 years while hunting in areas within the law in public roadways and Lake Yankton and I have been told to move on by landowners while pass shooting as well as told to leave while hunting at the Lake by people sledding.

ID: 2020

I notice the survey didn't include or address the value of hunting with your dog.

- ID: 2026**
The major reasons I have slowed down is several little things. I have a young family and kids are active in sports. When I do get a chance, water holes on private ground I normally hunt are drying up. I hope to hunt more in future years as kids are now older and can hunt with me.
- ID: 2030**
I wish there was better boat access to much of the public water.
- ID: 2031**
Don't rise and lower the Missouri river during duck season, and chase the duck down sooner.
- ID: 2038**
I remember when you decided to plant Canada Geese in the state and I believe it was a great decision and believe because of this, it renewed my interest in waterfowl hunting and should be continued to improve waterfowl hunting in the eastern part of the state; anything that will improve or increase the population of geese.
- ID: 2047**
Goose hunting is great around Pierre! My only issue is time, deer & pheasants take priority after work and family.
- ID: 2048**
My son & I recently took advantage of the opportunity to hunt over decoys above the dam via the registration shack (Pierre). It was a great experience and the GFP personnel were great. I hope this public opportunity is continued.
- ID: 2049**
GF&P does an excellent job providing waterfowl hunting opportunities (specifically in Pierre) for someone like myself. I've only lived in Pierre for 7 months (scouting places to hunt in a new area, very few decoys) and I wouldn't have been able to hunt in most places under the circumstances.
- ID: 2050**
I mainly hunt the McPherson County walk in and public water holes. North Central McPherson is one of SD's best kept secrets concerning waterfowl hunting. My friends and I shot 12 different breeds of ducks in '08.
- ID: 2059**
I think it would be wrong to issue more licenses to out of state hunters who are ruining our hunting experiences by trespassing, littering, violating bag limits, safety rules (shooting over other hunters), coming here uneducated about the limits of their own guns and sky busting at anything that moves (pelicans, seagulls, etc.). I have seen out of state hunters shooting protected species and been unable to get through when trying to contact TIPS line. Part of our license fee goes to obtaining more public land, but why buy land when current designated public areas are allowed to have cattle grazing and trampling cover, farmers that plow up access roads, making access impossible and waterfowl production areas that have no water or food sources for the birds? When land is

- leased it needs to be investigated more thoroughly for suitability (access, habitat, etc.). I love hunting waterfowl, but find that every year it gets more difficult to find land to hunt – some days we just have to give up because we can't find an open area to hunt.
- ID: 2074**
Keep the limit at 5 per day.
- ID: 2075**
Generally I purchase the licenses and stamps to support the state and federal waterfowl programs these past ten years. Finding places to legally hunt and complying with the various regulations have just made it more of a hassle than the enjoyment I can derive from it. This applies to other types of hunting too.
- ID: 2081**
I spend a lot of time in a pit hunting geese. It seems like the ducks don't show up until after the season ends.
- ID: 2089**
Extend shooting time to ½ hour after sunset and lengthen the season. I believe that the season was longer this past season. Mid December is usually when it freezes up around here and the ducks take off.
- ID: 2105**
Waterfowl season should be year round with no limits. Geese are a nuisance to food plots; they destroy young corn plants and are taking food from pheasants. Waterfowl hunting should be the last concern of South Dakota wildlife. More time and money should be invested in deer and fish. We need to give out less permits for deer in east river because all the deer are dead. In the last 5 years deer hunting has been terrible. The worst thing the GFP ever did was take the slot time of Diamond Lake. That was the best lake close to Sioux Falls where you could catch 28" – 30" walleye with ease.
- ID: 2109**
I grew up when a Canada goose was a rare kill unless you drove to Pierre. I really, really enjoy the early season on Canada geese, what an experience. In Brooking County the SDSU students go around and look up all the wheat fields before the season and never use half of them. I wish landowners would do something about that, like some will ask what day or just give permission for one weekend at a time.
- ID: 2110**
When a warden stops you to check guns and ammo, why do they follow you to your spots and continue to watch and follow and then check again? This has happened to me many times. I got my brothers and nephews hunting ducks can you honestly have a great time in situations like this. This is why I am reserved so many times in support.
- ID: 2111**
If it were not for the hunting/habitat areas available through the walk-in program, waterfowl production area and similar programs I would be much less likely to

- hunt ducks in SD. This is a vital program for not only waterfowl but all types of hunting. I hope that the state of SD and the GFP do all they can to keep up this program if not expand it.
- ID: 2121**
I have been hunting the Apple Tree area near Springfield SD for 15 years. Recently you eliminated permanent blinds in unit 1. Since then the duck boat hunters have invaded the area in great numbers. A lot of these hunters are out of state hunters who are rude and don't care about other hunters. I have young children that are starting to hunt and our experience is becoming less desirable every year. I miss the days of taking my 77 year old father out in a warm blind to hunt ducks. I can't afford the expensive duck boat like most of the out of state hunters. I'm afraid my children won't experience the enjoyment I had.
- ID: 2124**
I believe the numbers have declined where I hunt due to too much water, but the numbers were good further north and it probably depends on where you choose to hunt.
- ID: 2140**
I have recently been more active in duck hunting. I'm for all the hard work and dedication of GFP on preserving & maintaining waterfowl production so that I may continue to enjoy hunting and pass along the tradition to future generations.
- ID: 2145**
This is the second survey I have filled out this year.
- ID: 2148**
I am very concerned about the destruction of nesting habitat for ducks. Somehow we must make it attractive and economically feasible for landowners to preserve wetlands. We need to pay landowners to not till native prairie and drain wetlands. These habitats are irreplaceable and nearly extinct in the United States. Please use license dollars to purchase public lands for hunting/fishing purposes. To me, migratory waterfowl embodies the "wild" and "free" in all of us. Migratory birds are a national treasure and should be enjoyed by all and exploited by none, i.e. commercial hunting. Please keep waterfowl hunting accessible to us all.
- ID: 2149**
The changing climate and the influx of out of state hunters greatly influence waterfowl hunting. Early goose season received a lot of pressure from out of state hunters. Everywhere we went in Day and Brown County we found out of state hunters. The changing climate has dramatically changed sloughs to lakes. Prime puddle duck hunting i.e. mallards is hard to find outside of private land.
- ID: 2156**
We would like to do more decoy hunting. With the present draw process it places undo hardship on us to be available to draw for a decoy field. The draw process being one hour before day light, living in Winner makes it hard for us to be at the field office so early.

- ID: 2165**
Early Canadian Geese the limit should be 6.
- ID: 2171**
Access remains a problem in South Dakota. I do the majority of my waterfowl hunting in North Dakota as land access is better. North Dakota is more hunter friendly than South Dakota.
- ID: 2174**
The season is too short for both ducks & geese. A lot of ducks and geese are still in North Dakota when the season closes.
- ID: 2182**
I have a great opportunity to hunt both ducks and geese. I can hunt both water and fields on private land. I don't care to hunt as much anymore. Bag limits and regulations are part of the reason. I enjoy dusk, seeing the Game, I don't care about shooting as much.
- ID: 2185**
I did not hunt ducks and geese in South Dakota. I hunted in Western Nebraska and attempted to hunt east of Yankton on the Missouri River in 2007 but quit due to harassment by other hunters.
- ID: 2186**
Thank you for taking the time to try to understand the reason for the trend in declining waterfowl hunters.
- ID: 2200**
I believe the duck season should be extended to coincide with the length of the goose season.
- ID: 2201**
Goose and duck hunting would be more fun if you could carry your bow and shotgun to your tree stand. Take advantage of each opportunity at that present time.
- ID: 2202**
I hunted in the state pit north of Pierre once this year and had a very good hunt and time. I thought the program was run very well and afforded an important opportunity to access the land to hunt on.
- ID: 2206**
All my hunting time is for pleasure time with friends and a son in law. I don't shoot things I don't eat. Keep up the good work and keep an eye on the out of state hunters and in state poachers.
- ID: 2210**
Please buy more public land.
- ID: 2220**
Improve the launch area on the eastside of Lake Thompson that would be great.

- ID: 2222**
I think a little longer season would be nice.
- ID: 2223**
There is too much sky busting for geese. If hunters were more educated on how to range birds everyone would benefit. There is a lot of hunters who are out just to shoot, if this is the case they should go to a sporting clay range and shoot as many bullets as possible because shooting at every flock of geese no matter how high ruins it for everyone and wastes up a lot of birds that might fly lower.
- ID: 2234**
It's tough when you can't get on private land and sloughs were the ducks and geese are.
- ID: 2242**
Geese seem to be getting smarter every year. It's been getting harder and harder to bring them into the decoys. We're using flocked headed, full body Avery decoys, it could be the spread or how we are calling them.
- ID: 2244**
I just wish the duck season and archery deer season did not have to open on the same day.
- ID: 2249**
One of the reasons I hunt ducks less is that my hunting partner (my black lab) is no longer with me. Hunting with a good dog makes duck hunting great.
- ID: 2254**
I don't mind sharing the field with others. I do mind rude people that show up after sunrise, set up 50 feet from you and shoot at anything they see. The older I get the more I appreciate the hunt, not the limit. Other states have mandatory hunter safety programs, perhaps SD could benefit from this. Programs should include basic etiquette sometimes young people have no other reference to learn from except bad examples. Perhaps we can provide a positive influence.
- ID: 2256**
Duck hunting in NE part of the state has been very good in recent years. I'm guessing hunter numbers are down since I seem to see more out of state hunters than residents as well as more resident from further away such as Brookings, Sioux Falls etc. My main complaint for waterfowl is that back when I first started hunting, shooting hours were ½ hour before to ½ hour after sunrise and sunset. Since I mainly hunt ducks the law of sunset is a hindrance because ducks move the best during that ½ hour after sunset. I will always be a duck hunter regardless because even walking out of the field or slough during that ½ hour of last light is a reason to keep coming back.
- ID: 2271**
The reports I hear about what GF&P officers have done to hunters really takes the fun out of going hunting. Say you go to your friends place and shoot traps before you go hunting ducks now you have both lead & steel in your car or you hunt state land with lead in your car but you shoot steel in the field. What are

- you supposed to do, dump good ammo? Or drive back 90 miles to unload your car?
- ID: 2286**
There needs to be a longer duck season here along the River at Charles Mix County.
- ID: 2287**
I would like to see pheasant and duck season in Eastern South Dakota go to the end of December for the reason of many people would enjoy hunting as an option over the holidays. I really enjoy hunting on these walk in areas, especially good crop land after harvest. I work as a farm laborer so I can enjoy the use of my boss's land to hunt. I also have a great friend who lives in Pierre who treats me to hunting and lodging while we hunt the big geese. Keep up the good work and God bless.
- ID: 2297**
In my experience the #1 hassle for duck hunters is money for a lease or over crowded public land. The way it is now in SD is great. I hope it stays that way.
- ID: 2299**
In general waterfowl hunting isn't as much fun as it used to be. There are too many regulations and fewer places to hunt, the better public lands are too crowded and the private lands are getting more difficult to gain access too without money. The goose numbers are great but it's getting very competitive for places to hunt. It's getting very expensive, the guns, shells, licenses, gear, gas, it's all getting quite high. The duck numbers seem to be very low. Maybe a perceptible but the migration seems to be getting later every year, overlapping deer seasons. I'd rather hunt deer.
- ID: 2301**
A waterfowl hunting knowledge and skills class would be a great idea, even for a small fee. It would be a way for GF&P to raise a little money for more walk in areas or something. I know at least half dozen guys that would go to a class like that.
- ID: 2302**
The only goose hunting I do is the early spring light goose season. Don't like spending that much money on stamps and the price of shells is getting out of hand.
- ID: 2303**
Hunters need to be less wasteful and have more respect for what they hunt.
- ID: 2306**
Take more Canada geese in the spring time as there are too many and also shoot more specks.
- ID: 2307**
Lengthen the season in Fall River County. There are lots of ducks and not many hunters. Warmer temperatures have made hunting ducks a little more difficult. A

longer season (ending the end of January) would give us colder weather and a better time span.

ID: 2310

Additional public lands in a county (Hyde) with relatively low land values and high duck nesting opportunities should be a higher priority. Purchasing land to benefit the resource and the public will never be cheaper than today. While easements protect some resources it is using public money to benefit few landowners that may or may not allow it's not helping the general license holder. Lands and waters on private ground that receive GF&P or other public monies for private habitat projects should not be allowed to charge for any hunting or fishing on any of their ground, not just those projects. Dog work is very important as wee. Labs thrive on waterfowl hunting and I find it a reason to go duck hunting on any given day rather than upland hunting. Waterfowl hunting is traditionally a passed down tradition. This survey should take into account how folks feel about their children's opportunities and or interest in duck and goose hunting to give you the chance to make some proactive informational decisions. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in this survey.

ID: 2319

I bought property and moved to SD in 2006-2007 so that I could have better access to hunting and more opportunities.

ID: 2335

Waterfowl hunting is extremely important to me, it's my passion. I wish I had become a waterfowl biologist instead of a teacher. I have good success for ducks and geese each year. I think I shot 44 Canada's, 10 snows and many ducks but I put a lot of time in and road miles. I have read before that there has been a push to move Missouri River licenses to the northeast area. I live in Webster and we have huge amounts of amounts of pressure with waterfowl as is, even more so with pheasants due to public land. Pheasant hunters hunt sloughs etc. and with constant shooting, birds that roost feel constantly pressured, even if not being shot at. We can't allow additional licenses to be allocated here, the migration is unpredictable. Gaining access can be difficult mainly due to competition. I also read possible additional taxes added to licenses for road repair/maintenance fees? This is a just thought but not practical. Farmers and truckers would also need to be taxed extra as well granted hunters really tear up gravel on minimum maintained roads but no more than tractors or semi's do on highways etc. I believe placing that extra tax on licenses is opening a large can or worms, too many variables for outdoorsmen to hassle about. You don't need that headache. Overall, I support my SDGFP and their efforts to maintain a healthy waterfowl populations, hunter involvement and studies as best I can.

ID: 2342

While license fees are normal, gas, motels, food, access fees (if I chose not to scout and lie in a ditch) have been a major deterrent. Hunting ditches is generally crowded and some of my fellow sportsmen don't seem to have as much respect for me or the game (sky busting, booze, litter, parking too close) as they once did. I would love to see you open up areas like LaCreek that are less frequented and still have people who will let you hunt geese/ducks if you ask for free or at a reasonable cost.

- ID: 2349**
There needs to be more access to public land. How can a 62 year old pull a duck boat and decoys ¼ mile plus to duck sloughs. Only GFP people can drive to sloughs. Both fields adjacent are plowed yet we can't have access, just walk in.
- ID: 2350**
The high price of gas last fall also kept me from hunting as often as I would have liked too. Be careful about letting out to many out of state waterfowl licenses. Out of state hunters are buying up the best hunting areas and then they seem to think they are residents while they are here for a few months. Conservation officers are really going to have to be on top of things in the future.
- ID: 2354**
I do a lot of traveling and am in contact with a lot of hunters throughout the country. South Dakota does the best job managing their wildlife resources of any state. A special thanks to the work of Day County game wardens and wildlife department employees. I would like to see cormorants added to waterfowl bag limits. They are doing a lot of damage to South Dakota fishing.
- ID: 2356**
I think you should start a program for snow geese (spring season) similar to that of antler less deer. Hunters and landowners could register online to try and match up those people wanting to hunt and those that have too many geese on their land!
- ID: 2357**
I love to hunt ducks and geese but due to my disability it is hard for me to get around. I can no longer carry decoys or walk long fields to get to the good spots. I am very limited on my shooting areas and I only hunt on public land. I have a family of 6 and the extra meat is used well (needed) if I can't bring home the meat it would not pay to hunt even though part of my soul would be lost. It is what I look forward to all year long.
- ID: 2373**
I run a pheasant guide service. More non residents that come to pheasant hunt would be willing to buy waterfowl license if available. They always miss the deadline. Licenses need to be available over the counter when they arrive in SD.
- ID: 2375**
I do not like the no retrieval zone on the refuge.
- ID: 2382**
I'm very interested in the possibility of an early teal season. We have so many and they leave so early. I would rather hunt teal for 2 weeks and forget about the rest.

ID: 2388

Now that my family and new friends are becoming more involved in waterfowl hunting, I plan to hunt more next season and spring goose. I feel that licenses are inexpensive compared to other outdoor activities. I ran into difficulty getting permission to hunt snow geese on private land due to other hunters abusing the privilege.

ID: 2391

I love the late season duck and goose hunting. Keep the season open longer for the northern flights that come down. The best hunting is after the season is closed and that sucks. So we drive out to Pierre at high gas prices, real high motel rates to shoot 6 geese. You people want to know if waterfowl hunters, young and old, love to hunt ducks and geese. A lot of my buddies and I used to go to Pierre 6 or 7 times a year but between gas and hotel rates that has cut down to 1 or 2 times a year.

ID: 2395

Steel shot should only be used over water, steel shot sucks. People wound a lot of ducks and geese because of steel shot.

ID: 2407

There needs to be more lakes around here so the ducks and geese have some where to land. So make some lakes around here and you will have happy hunters and more proud anglers.

ID: 2424

2008 was my first year to duck hunt. While I was pleased to find public walk ins to use, they were often "taken" which left me out in the cold several times. Overall – once I was able to secure a spot and the hunting was fantastic!

ID: 2425

The hunting has been good, the hunting pressure has increased to the point it isn't worth it anymore. Scouting used to be the most enjoyable part of the hunt and now it is a rat race and landowners get pounded by hunters asking for permission to hunt when the birds are using one of their fields. You should segment out the non resident licenses so they are all not coming over when the birds are in. Everyone comes during November 1-20. Split our duck season or start it later. We have two opportunities 1) local ducks and 2) migratory ones. It seems that our duck season keeps opening earlier and earlier. Start the season when the ducks have some plumage, Oct 10 or so like we used to in the early '90's and late '80's. Close it down for two weeks then open it back up and run it later. Or have a week long early teal/duck season then close it down. The point is that the current season opens too early when the birds all look like hens, and then we have poor hunting until the bad weather pushes birds south. Then the season closes down and we still have ducks for more weeks. Decrease the non resident pressure or we will end up like ND and be totally over run by Minnesota hunters.

ID: 2426

I like duck hunting but most years we are combining so we don't have much time.

- ID: 2431**
The biggest reason there is a loss in numbers of goose hunters is the requirement of using steel shot, it doesn't work worth a crap and alternative no toxic shot is too expensive, steel shot does not have the lethality that I needed. I would like more goose hunters to push for using lead shot, it's deadlier and inexpensive.
- ID: 2434**
I think the SD GF&P does a great job ensuring hunters have the resources to hunt in the state. The amount of public land allows me to have multiple options as to where I hunt.
- ID: 2456**
As I mentioned earlier I now live in Hot Springs so for good waterfowl hunting I have to travel to where I grew up around the Sisseton area (then I can hunt with my brothers/nephews). I don't do it very often but do very much enjoy it when I get to go —especially hunting.
- ID: 2460**
The hunting program at Sheehan's is a very good program. Lake Oahe should be a refuge and the shooting hours on ducks should be ½ hour after sunset for the River.
- ID: 2464**
I'm fairly new to SD but the first thing I noticed was all the CRP land/walk in areas in Clark and Day counties but nothing/minimal places towards Aberdeen, Mitchell, Huron and Redfield. These are great places to hunt if hunters had a little more access. I wish the state and federal government would introduce better incentives to landowners to put land in CRP programs. Work with DU, state, federal to try to enroll and educate landowners on the benefit of CRP. Raise the price of state duck tag and federal tag a few dollars to and put that to work in the state.
- ID: 2465**
I feel that the GFP has done a good job relating to waterfowl hunting. I meet many good, average and equal income people from SD to share hunting with. I hope the GFP keeps out or severely limits the big east money. The big money has almost totally destroyed pheasant hunting for the average South Dakotan. While growing up, I could hunt pheasants any place. Today I have to lease land to hunt pheasants.
- ID: 2475**
The price of the license, ammo, equipment and just to travel is getting to be too much. I enjoy hunting and I want to continue hunting but if things don't change I don't know what will happen.
- ID: 2477**
Most of my goose hunting lately has been in the spring conservation order.

- ID: 2478**
I really enjoy duck and goose hunting but have also noticed even in my own circle of friends a decline in those participating. None of us ever really went more than a few times a year, but opening day was always a tradition. Usually also a weekend when we hear a big push of mallards are coming through in late Oct/Nov. We also usually did at least one spring snow goose hunt (stalking in on a big flock). I really cannot explain the decline in hunting, other than we all are older with families and other things going on. We are doing more archery deer hunting than in the past also and that takes up some time.
- ID: 2480**
I'm born and raised in South Dakota and I love and appreciate the opportunities provided to enjoy the hunting sports.
- ID: 2485**
It's very disheartening to watch the people hunt in the trees above the dam. Many days you could easily pickup several limits of dead or wounded that couldn't be retrieved geese. Public land is just that public but at most a large percentage of the land they are required to hunt is in designated pits. It's sad but until some motorist gets killed it will continue. I have youth interested in waterfowl hunting but I am hesitant to hunt very often due to this unethical display that happened daily in 2008-2009.
- ID: 2487**
South Dakota migratory bird stamp funds has improved areas along the Missouri River but where have you guys done any work in Spin and Faulk counties? Like improving nesting habitat for example. South Dakota is out pricing itself in licenses prices, it's one of the highest in the nation. I've hunted other states and they are a lot cheaper, this is hurting hunting. Sometimes less makes more. I've had many out of state hunters quite because of the price as well as friends in state.
- ID: 2489**
Not having a hunting dog is also a factor.
- ID: 2490**
I'd appreciate it if the information from this survey will be used to continue to provide the high quality of duck and goose hunting that SD provides. By limiting the number of out of state waterfowl licenses the quality of SD waterfowl hunting has remained optimal for all hunters. Not too many hunters in the field at the same time.
- ID: 2498**
I have not hunted ducks or geese since the early '80's.
- ID: 2501**
I think it would be very interesting if a class was given on the identification and types of ducks that are in this state.

- ID: 2502**
As I get older Waterfowl hunting becomes less important as big game and pheasant hunting takes its place. I also find it harder and more complicated to find a place to hunt. Much of the private land I used to hunt is now public and controlled by GF&P, not that it's a bad but I have to compete with more people and have different time schedules to meet to be able to hunt. I'll add this, much of the land set aside for WF hunting is wasted – if the geese don't fly there, the land can't be used for any other hunting so some land is never used.
- ID: 2507**
It seems there are fewer pot holes, stock dams as when I first started hunting and the traditional sloughs have turned into lakes, therefore void of cattails, slough grass, muskrats and muskrat huts, Western and Northern Minnehaha County are prime examples. Drive around and look for a slough that is full of cattails and muskrat huts, they are hard to come by. Grass Lake south of Humboldt is a prime example: there was a reason it was called Grass Lake for those who didn't get a chance to see it 20-25 years ago it was a beautiful site. I'm afraid we have dropped the ball, the damage is done. Why do we continue to do so?
- ID: 2512**
I have had several hunts ruined by both state & (last year) a federal warden who treat hunters as though they are guilty of violations when they have done nothing. Marty Yost from Watertown was one of them.
- ID: 2514**
We are overpopulated with Canada Geese they feed on my crops all summer long. Maybe we need a spring season.
- ID: 2522**
Extend your September 5 goose limit through the middle of October.
- ID: 2523**
Paid hunting has ruined goose hunting. Soon only people with money will be able to afford hunting. We need more walk in programs.
- ID: 2532**
If we are trying to control the Canada Goose population why not shoot them them in the spring.
- ID: 2544**
I work at South Dakota State University and I have a M.S. in biology with wildlife emphasis. I know the importance of surveys and statistics. Feel free to send me any and all surveys my way and I will fill all in with unbiased opinions. I enjoy the outdoors and hunting in all aspects and have 2 boys (12 & 6) who are well immersed in dads outdoor activities. Thank you for sending me this survey and I will assume my input is well received.
- ID: 2545**
Just want to thank you for the opportunity to fill out a survey. Hope this will help in making better decisions for improving waterfowl hunting in South Dakota.

- ID: 2562**
I was born and raised in west central Minnesota to a duck hunting family. We had good hunting. I moved to SD in 1966 and found duck hunting here to be much better. I now enjoy taking my grandchildren hunting. SD is an outstanding migratory bird hunting state!
- ID: 2568**
Your survey indicated a waterfowl class would be possible to have you teach how to call? In the Hughes County area, there is not much opportunity to hunt ducks that I know of. I also feel like it would be beneficial during your class to show the best way to clean ducks and some recipes.
- ID: 2569**
It seems game wardens go out of their way to figure out ways to write a ticket or just a borderline harassment attitude that he has a power trip to prove. Sometimes it seems they have too much time on their hands trying to figure out how to use it. It also is getting hard to get on productive land without paying money to hunt. It's getting way too complicated to hunt or fish anymore without being illegal on how it's done. With all the different rules and limits and regulations we have now, it's making your sportsman license only the 1st check to GFP every year. Enough is enough for some people wardens are important but don't abuse the privilege.
- ID: 2572**
I think the duck season should go into the month of February along with the goose season. The season opens too early for ducks by the time the migration for ducks is on the season is over. The ducks and geese are adapting to either hunting pressure or the weather so why can't we adapt and stretch the season longer? That is something the state of SD needs to do is make the season the same for ducks and geese.
- ID: 2578**
The economic crisis is having a major impact on all hunting and shooting sports!
- ID: 2586**
Duck hunting has always been a part of my life and I hope to continue doing it for a long time. I have friends with kids that I hope to get started so I should be doing a lot of it for the next few years.
- ID: 2588**
Ever since I started college my hunting experience has been much more complicated since it is hard to find areas to hunt away from home.
- ID: 2595**
The state of South Dakota has done a great job providing places to hunt. I hope they continue to work on finding land that hunters can use. Also, the goose hunting decoy land north of Pierre is a great program and needs to be expanded, it's wonderful. It's a great place for families to hunt together.

- ID: 2597**
I would like to see duck season to open later in the fall, maybe a week or two.
- ID: 2603**
I believe it's very important to keep "paid hunting" out of waterfowl hunting. We have enough money being made in the pheasant business.
- ID: 2608**
Steel shot is a joke. There are too many Canadian geese.
- ID: 2609**
In the last 5 years we have had several contacts in the field with local game wardens in the Brookings and Kingsbury area. All of our contacts have been positive with polite and professional officers. I mention this because we always have youth hunters with us and they have the understanding the GFP is on our side, working for our best interests as hunters. I comment the officers in the field.
- ID: 2612**
I have made several calls to GFP regarding violations. It seems that there is no response to complaints but contact with GFP even that's initiated by the hunter is always adversarial. I called "Doug" in Sioux Falls to ask a question earlier this year and he was rude, sarcastic and unprofessional. I cannot help but believe he would be the same way in the field. Very few of my contacts with GFP have been positive experiences and I have never been contacted for any violation. I would like to add that in a law enforcement context not all contact need be negative. It would be possible to have positive contact with GFP officials even if that contact started as a license check. While hunting deer in Turner County I was contacted by the GFP after a license check he asked us the status of our hunt and provided alternative locations to try. This is completely different contact than the confrontational sarcastic attitude Doug had when I called. Persons like Doug ruins GFP's reputation throughout the hunting community. It has been 4 months since I contacted him and his demeanor bothers me to this day.
- ID: 2614**
The local CO is a jerk. Every time anyone talks to him they are always questioned and treated as if they have done something wrong and are guilty.
- ID: 2617**
I did not purchase a federal waterfowl stamp for the 2008-2009 season. The reason, the shutdown of the Haskins walk in area. This is one of the few places the average joe can hunt.
- ID: 2623**
I don't hunt as much as I used to because I don't have the time. The cost of the hunting license is too much money. That is the main reason I have bought one license in the past 5 years.
- ID: 2632**
I see by the numbers that hunting is declining. That's so very hard to understand since it is so enjoyable. It is something that if learned with a good teacher and example can be enjoyed throughout one life. South Dakota is a hunter's

- paradise. Believe me I've not lived here forever. The people who manage it, including landowners GFP staff and their game wardens are great Americans! Hunting correctly is hard work but enjoyable. Quite frankly sometimes I think some people are too lazy to do it right so they quit or don't start.
- ID: 2634**
I used to hunt ducks and geese almost exclusively but since the pheasant population have boomed it is much easier to grab the gun and dog and make a quick walk to get in some pheasant hunting. Duck hunting is labor and time intensive. In today's busy schedule it is harder every year to find time to hunt ducks.
- ID: 2638**
Goose hunting is very good in South Dakota. I have had very positive experiences every year. I don't hunt ducks as much.
- ID: 2640**
I used to like to hunt a lot. Then I kind of got away from it when I was in school and with work. I still enjoy it but don't have time to get out much. Sometimes you forget how much fun it was after being away from it for a while. I will probably try to do more in the next few years.
- ID: 2645**
I duck hunted a lot in college while and SDSU. I had more time then and not many other species to hunt. My time commitments and priorities have changed the last 5 years as well. I hope to do more duck/goose hunting in the future.
- ID: 2651**
I think GFP does the best job they can with managing geese. I'm turned off of hunting due to the amount of people that didn't let people hunt their land and how commercialized hunting has become.
- ID: 2652**
I would be happy to supply a few more names of people who hunt waterfowl. My son tagged along at age 8 and started hunting at age 12. He can tell what type a duck it is in flight and at untold distances. Because of his introduction to hunting I believe he is the man he is today. He is a conservation officer in Huron and I'm very proud of him. We are both hoping for a grandson. Unfortunately, there appears to be many reasons for the decline. Anytime I have the opportunity to bolster a young hunter towards waterfowl I will take it. I love to see young kids at DU events. I think an in flight ID seminar is a great idea. A mailing would be expensive but also a good tool. I've seen the decline but would welcome more hunters. There is plenty of room out there. Now I wish someone would attempt to find a remedy for all the road hunter deer hunters out there. I'm not sure if I will even rifle hunt next year, I've had just too many bad experiences.
- ID: 2661**
Non resident hunters in Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix counties should have the same hunting season restrictions as in Pierre.

- ID: 2667**
I see many more non resident waterfowl hunters every year. They tend to crowd into popular areas where some resident hunters have now given up hunting because of over crowding. I think GF&P should actively encourage young people to hunt waterfowl and put tighter restrictions on the number of non resident waterfowl hunters. If that is not done, some day non resident hunters may far out number residents (see pheasant hunting data) and an important legacy will be lost forever. They say money talks and unfortunately all types of hunting seems to be something that only people (non residents mostly) with money can enjoy anymore.
- ID: 2669**
Closing section lines especially in Sully County has significantly decreased goose hunting opportunities in that area. I believe any section line be it improved or unimproved should be open to public hunting. What can you hurt, step or grass? Hunt on section lines by Tug Bush Farm property and see how long you will be there, but I'm sure he has never broken the law.
- ID: 2673**
I have hunted geese with the same friends for the past 20 some years. The most recent years we have hunted the walk in pits at the Lower Oahe Mail Shack area. I have been very disappointed in the up keep of those pits. I packed out a garbage sack of empty shells, wrappers, plastic bottles, etc. from pit 104 this last season. The pallets are all rotted, the covers are in bad shape and pit 107 had a dead cow in it. I told by buddies I should see if the State would hire me during the summer to do some up keep on these pits. It wouldn't take much too improve them.
- ID: 2677**
There are so many rules, I can't worry about all of them (did I do that, did I not do that). Generally it's about sportsmanship and being with family. Rules and regulations are fine for high traffic areas along rivers and fly ways but all the rules are meaningless over some pothole; out in the middle of nowhere when it's just you. I never wanted to just shoot ducks I always wanted the classic hunt: calling ducks in over decoys. It's hard getting up early, setting up for an "iffy" chance. Now at age 65 I have a boat and excited lab retrievers and I have the time. Basically there are not enough ducks! There are not enough cattails!
- ID: 2678**
I think that the season for Canada geese could be a little longer in the eastern part of the state. I would also enjoy being able to harvest more snow geese in the spring if the limit was higher than 20 birds. On several occasions we filled out on snow geese in a short period of time and had to quit hunting. A limit of 30 or 40 a day would be nice. A law prohibiting jump shooting snow geese n the spring would be good.
- ID: 2679**
Now do a deer hunting survey, please. Thank you GF&P for all you do for the hunters and their families.

ID: 2683
If South Dakota would liberalize their out of state regulations on waterfowl I would increase my waterfowl hunting drastically. Numerous friends visit residents of South Dakota but are unable or find it difficult to obtain last minute waterfowl licenses. Therefore residents (like me) find other forms of hunting or recreation to entertain them. We raise the birds in potholes then I shoot most of my waterfowl (prairie birds) in Texas or the Gulf Coast during winter with my Southern hosts!

ID: 2686
I road hunting is ever taken away it will be the "end" of hunting in SD. Over the years hunting has gone commercial. The old days with father and son are getting fewer and fewer because of commercial operations. It is very hard to find a farmer that will let you hunt anymore. Thank you GFP for acquiring as much public land as you can.

ID: 2688
I've hunted a lot around Day Lake (Clark County). I'd say the biggest problem is too much water with limited vegetation to hide on hunt from. The hunting is great if you can find the right spot for at least one hunt. I feel a lot of people don't know how to properly waterfowl hunt, shoot at anything no matter how high. The waterfowl always flies high and is on alert because people won't leave them alone. It would be nice to find a way to limit or teach people or ticket people for shooting a mile high. I've recently found some private land and that's been awesome hunting but limited to wet years. I like the Sheehan goose land and hope that continues.

ID: 2694
The hunting in this area is good. The farmers seem to be less willing to allow people to hunt. They all seem to think that the wildlife is theirs. Money is what they seem to need from hunters. A lot of this comes because out of state hunters will pay just about any amount to hunt. Commercialized hunting has really affected the avid non wealthy hunters. The same farmers that won't let people hunt are usually the ones that always complain about there being too many deer, ducks and geese. Other than that it seems that hunting is fair. Thanks for selecting me, I gladly respond with hopes of hearing more positive stuff out of the GFP rather than bad.

ID: 2696
I really enjoy duck hunting but only hunt geese when they fly by. I don't enjoy it enough to drive more than 100 miles to hunt them, in fact I only hunt close to home where I can drive out to in the morning. Sioux Falls area has beautiful game and waterfowl areas open to the public but it truly isn't enough and they are crowded with too much hunting pressure. Since 1/7th of the population lives in this area I would like to see more outdoor public areas for use by hunters as well as campers and people looking to escape town to enjoy our beautiful state.

ID: 2697
The lack of water has decreased our duck hunting. This survey needs to be online to help cut paper costs. I will continue to hunt as long as I don't have to pay a huge cost. Paid hunting is taking away a lot of family opportunities.

- ID: 2713**
I was hoping in the near future that Grant and Roberts County could have an extended season. With the power plant in Big Stone the geese and ducks stay there far after the season has closed. Our group takes advantage of going to Pierre and Bennett County but with the cost it is getting more difficult. What I have seen in the past years that there is little pressure around Big Stone. There is a good chance for extreme goose hunting for everyone late December and January. A lot of them don't leave unless we have a bad winter with a lot of snow. We hunted all the way to the last day and there was still about 7000 still holding there.
- ID: 2720**
Very good survey, thanks for choosing me and keep up the great work!
- ID: 2723**
I hunt geese now and never started until I retired in 2006, what a good time. I do hope SD GFP will be able to maintain a working agreement north of Pierre on the same premise that they have in the past. Access to private land is very difficult as everyone likes to charge and that takes a lot of fun out of it.
- ID: 2742**
I think that the daily bag limit on ducks should be a little more clear and easier for hunters for it's hard to understand the way it's written. Some of us hunters have a reading problem it's not that we are dumb it's just hard to understand.
- ID: 2744**
I am very thankful to live in SD where I have the opportunity to hunt and fish and enjoy the outdoors. I have hunted and fished most places in the state and have enjoyed waterfowl hunting since I was a child. However, the cost is skyrocketing to the point that many people will be pushed away from this type of hunting. It is very sad that hunting has become so expensive, the state has done a great job with public land access and the amount of land open to the general public is very impressive.
- ID: 2745**
It seems to me that I don't see as many ducks as I did back in the '70s and '80s. You would drive by ponds or lakes and they would have ducks in them. However, since the '90s and on I see more Canada Geese locally which is nice.
- ID: 2754**
I would like to see some kind of sign in the program to reduce more than on group or unknown group or person on public hunting ground. Safety and hunting plans are compromised by people showing up after I'm already hunting there.
- ID: 2761**
The number of ducks in NE SD has been dwindling for 25 years. The GFP does little or nothing about it. The GFP should not let goose and duck hunting get ruined in SD by allowing more out of state hunters. We are a small state that should not be ruined. We don't make a lot of money but there should be some benefits to being here.

- ID: 2766**
Having to use steel the past years has frustrated me to no end. I really struggle with ducks that fly away and then die because of a steel shot that did not cleanly kill it like lead. I find the heavy shot is too expensive to shoot all day long.
- ID: 2771**
The season needs to reflect the movement of the geese (start later and end later) maybe adjust closing date by bird count?
- ID: 2775**
I have noticed in the years that I have hunted that the public lands are well maintained. It is very encouraging to see the additions and upkeep done that has been needed for years. Thank you for the opportunities to hunt more places.
- ID: 2779**
I'm not a great caller but I can get into a hiding place pretty well and wait. Duck and Goose hunting is one of the very few types of hunting where you can almost count on a game warden wanting to check your licenses and how many shells you have in the gun as soon as you are hidden. There are too many stamps required, too many overlapping seasons, the bag limits are confusing and too many shot and number of shell requirements. If I want to have to follow that many rules, I'll go to work.
- ID: 2782**
South Dakota offers excellent opportunities to hunt waterfowl. Public land hunting is very good and very diverse. The lower Oahe Waterfowl unit is awesome! I would be willing to pay more for licenses each year to continue and expand public areas such as Sheehan's and walk-in area programs. I appreciate the fact that South Dakota limits the number of non-resident licenses for waterfowl. I believe the GFP has done an excellent job of managing the waterfowl resource in South Dakota.
- ID: 2784**
I enjoy a blustery day corn field shooting. I also like to eat a few good green heads. Commercialization and regulations have made it not worth going. We don't eat goose so I don't hunt them anymore.
- ID: 2786**
Thanks for all you do!
- ID: 2788**
I would like to do duck hunting but there are not many ducks in our area. I would like to see you give out more tags for Bennett County goose hunting and have the January season open longer, 8 days is not enough if the weather is bad plus all the hunters would not be out there all the same week!
- ID: 2793**
I rarely or never hunt near where I live.

- ID: 2800**
I lived in Castlewood for 16 years and hunted waterfowl every year. I moved to Alexandria in 1980 and have not hunted waterfowl or purchased a license except for 1 year since I have lived here.
- ID: 2805**
I live in a county bordering the Missouri River. However, access to waterfowl hunting is impossible and Nebraska hunters do not conform to SD regulations. The migration patterns have changed drastically since the 1970's causing waterfowl not to use the river as a stop over during the fall. The drought conditions in the east central part of the state have eliminated a perceivable migration in that area. I usually try to hunt in the Beadle, Jerauld, Sanborn area and there has been no waterfowl to hunt for the past 3 years as the potholes are empty. Ducks Unlimited claims to work with GFP on habitat but there never has been a successful project in the area south of I90 in the eastern part of the state. The majority of the projects are in a triangle from Aberdeen to Watertown to Brookings.
- ID: 2807**
The rising cost of the licenses is starting to concern me! Landowners are getting harder to deal with and I will not pay to hunt when the GFP already subsidizes the landowners.
- ID: 2813**
It is getting harder to hunt if you don't own land. The big farmers and ranches won't let you hunt on their land anymore. This has changed a lot in recent years, you can't even drive down a section line without the landowner coming out and jumping all over you. Hunting is all about money these days. You need to own land and have money now to hunt. These days I would like to stay in the house and watch TV or go fishing. Yu also run into too many other hunters on one quarter of ground. It's just not fun anymore. Deer hunting is really bad between landowners and running into other hunters.
- ID: 2815**
Some years are better than others. This was a great goose year and a poor duck year. A long time ago, I decided if there was only one recreation I could do I would hunt ducks. I have never regretted the choice I made.
- ID: 2823**
How about some horse trails around Lake Thompson? There's plenty of state and with no horse access.
- ID: 2829**
Our NE corner of the state offers some fine waterfowl hunting. In my opinion we have enough out of state licenses in our area at this time. Our migrating flocks of birds need a resting body or bodies of water. We have more duck boats being used in this area than I can ever remember. The boats force the birds from sunrise to sunset and are used from Oct. - Dec. Why did you omit "commercial hunting" in your survey?

- ID: 2830**
Please do not send me another survey.
- ID: 2842**
One of the things that cause some dissatisfaction with duck and goose hunting is trying to compete with other hunter's equipment, large expensive field spreads, etc. I'm starting to feel outclassed many days in the field and typically try not to hunt a slough that has other hunters. Typically, I can still have good days in the field but it takes more driving and scouting to find birds where they haven't been harassed too much which is difficult in Brookings County.
- ID: 2844**
I am very happy that we can still hunt and fish in the United States.
- ID: 2847**
South Dakota has many public areas to hunt. I would like SD to have an area at the sloughs/marshes to launch a duck boat. Many times the area where you are required to park is 100-200 yards or more away from the slough. There is no way a couple of life long 60+ year old duck hunters can pull or carry their boat and equipment to the water's edge. Try and create a way to back into sloughs or get close enough for a short drag to the water.
- ID: 2850**
Reconsidering and eliminating many of the waterfowl refuges on the Missouri River should be considered. Many are based on political reasons not biological justifications. I would bring youth to waterfowl hunting knowledge class. I would not be much interested myself but would from the stand point of bringing youth to the sport. Most of my hunting is done on Lower Brule Sioux Reservation. They do a very good job with regulating and managing waterfowl seasons.
- ID: 2862**
I'd like to see all Black Hills Lakes and water way open to public waterfowl hunting like it was when I was a boy.
- ID: 2873**
Thanks for all your work.
- ID: 2874**
The duck season for my area gets over when the ducks just get down to the area. This means less people hunt them down here. What's wrong with making the season the same as goose? Also, why can't the limit of geese be raised?
- ID: 2876**
Please change duck season to ½ hour after sunset. Many times we had to leave the field because of the sunset rule. The ducks were just starting to come into decoys! My boys go to school in the AM and we would like to hunt in the evening! There is plenty of light left to shoot safely.
- ID: 2877**
I would like to see a change in the spring goose hunting season. I mean besides being able to hunt snows and blues, lots of specks and Canadians fly back

- through around the same time so why not be able to hunt them as well with a daily limit? No specks come through eastern SD in the fall but they do in the spring. Just as many Canadians fly back through in the spring as well. Perhaps keep the goose season open until February as it does in the Pierre area.
- ID: 2880**
I would like to see more days/seasons offered for Canadian geese. My boys are just beginning to hunt and with school activities it's difficult to get out there with them. A more lengthened season or hours would assist in pretty much all of the seasons offered for hunting.
- ID: 2882**
Hunting is a good thing, filling out surveys is not.
- ID: 2890**
I live in the country and all the field are combined so no corn is left on the ground. The ducks were great hunting when the farmers used corn pickers. So the ducks stay on the land by the river where they leave corn for the geese, it's too commercialized.
- ID: 2891**
My main duck hunting anymore is when I happened to get a shot at ducks while I am goose hunting. Duck hunting is not what it used to be!
- ID: 2896**
If we're more concerned about the financial survivability of the family, farmers who own the land would give more access to it. Instead the hunters through Ducks Unlimited and other wildlife groups lobby for laws and regulations to make it increasingly more difficult to make a profit on the family farm.
- ID: 2899**
I do not support additional non resident hunting licenses it greatly limits my hunting opportunities. Many times all I see is out of state licenses on vehicles that are parked at docks and landings.
- ID: 2905**
I plan to hunt ducks and perhaps geese more often when certain military obligations cease due to retirement.
- ID: 2913**
It would be nice to develop a sponsored out of state preferential status for relatives and friends.
- ID: 2920**
I love snow goose and duck hunting. I enjoy getting equipment ready and scouting. The only reason I do less waterfowl hunting now is because of my family and job commitments. I am concerned with the number of public places to hunt. Most years I do a majority of my duck hunting on public land.
- ID: 2925**
We need a longer duck season.

- ID: 2928**
Thank you for taking the time to research duck hunting in SD.
- ID: 2935**
My health is getting real bad so I am limited to what I can hunt and where.
- ID: 2948**
I like both the hunter's choice and the season in a season. The hunter's choice has the problem of early hen mallards and drakes looking too much the same. It puts a lot more pressure on your hunt not to make mistakes. The season in a season had a problem that it closed before a lot of pintails and cans migrated south. If there was a way to have both types of regulation that would be the best as SD is one of the nation's best places to hunt ducks. I believe that we also have the right amount of out of state hunters coming into the state. If we were to have anymore I believe you would start to really have an over pressure situation on your hands. I also believe that it makes no sense to have an early goose season limit of 5 for one month and then the day that duck season opens dropping the limit to 3. These are the same birds we are shooting at. I would understand if the limit was dropped when the migration starts but not when duck season starts. I think that it should just stay at 5 for the whole year.
- ID: 2949**
I would like to see a non resident boating use permit used at all boat ramps and lakes. Similar to a snowmobile trail use permit charged in other states. I think it would help keep residents licenses cost down. Thank you for looking into this.
- ID: 2950**
Thanks for the great job SD GFP does at managing our wildlife.
- ID: 2955**
Keep the public hunting program along Lake Oahe. This was the first year I really used that and found it was very good. I have spoken to friends that hunt on the water and they tell me that Peoria Flats area is very difficult to figure out as far as the boundaries and that trying to get answers from the officials is very difficult. I've always wondered that when we see Canadian Geese in such large numbers with hunting pressure on the decline the dept. closes fields that could increase the harvest rate. I don't think we want to develop a situation similar to the snow and blue situation. I also think that the boat ramps along Lake Sharpe could be repaired or improved.
- ID: 2959**
I haven't been satisfied at all because I've never been able to time my trips when conditions were ideal. If time permitted I would do much more duck and goose hunting.
- ID: 2960**
Repair the ramp at Lake Andes Middle Lake, the lake needs to have boat access.

- ID: 2972**
This isn't specific to the survey but I want to thank and recognize our department of Game Fish & Parks for the great job they do. Thank You.
- ID: 2975**
Keep up the good job. I buy the complete license if I hunt or not.
- ID: 2982**
They need to extend the goose season to the end of February out to the river system. The big geese finally get there about the time the season ends. That includes the duck season in that area about the only ducks that are there are the big mallards. You really don't see those big ducks until later in the season. So make the duck and goose seasons the same date out on the river system if you can.
- ID: 2995**
Trapping takes up 75% of my time during the waterfowl season. I have trapped since 1930.
- ID: 2998**
I would like to see longer seasons. Most years birds are gone by seasons end but it would be nice to hunt longer if birds are around.
- ID: 9006**
Young people get discouraged duck hunting mostly because of areas hunted. Parents need to take them to good areas like NE SD so they keep interested and there is more public hunting there.
- ID: 9009**
The Federal Warden sucks! I was disappointed hunting waterfowl. If things stay the way they are I will stop hunting waterfowl, I was very unhappy.
- ID: 9010**
I am concerned about the loss of CRP lands. It scares me even more not knowing President Obama's views on this. My grandson just started hunting this season and it was the best hunting experience of my life. So I hope the GFP and continue to work with landowners so we will always have a place to hunt.
- ID: 9011**
Duck and geese are one of our very favorite meals. Domestic ducks and geese are no comparison.
- ID: 9016**
My husband is the hunter I'm usually just along for the ride. We support maintaining waterfowl habitat and places to hunt.

ID: 9017

The primary reason you are losing waterfowl hunters is because of the steel shot regulations and high costs involved. I've had hundreds of hunters tell me that they've quit because of the cost of steel shot, extra federal stamp and extra regulations. I would also like to add that the federal regulation of 3 shot maximum per gun is outdated and of no real use with the absence of market hunters. In SD there is so much opportunity to hunt other species, there is a lot of competition for the hunting dollar spent.

ID: 9018

(Only returned a letter with the following comment) Stop sending me surveys. I am sick and tired of receiving them. I'm not going to take them they are a waste of my time. The waterfowl hunting sucks around here because the only spot they go to is on places you can't hunt and are owned by you guys.

ID: 9019

(Only returned a letter with the following comment) These are steel shot hunting comments for upland and waterfowl hunting.

I took a father and son with me hunting this year where lead was OK to shoot, but they wanted to get rid of some steel shot anyway. They wounded several pheasants that escaped, that I believe would have been dead and retrieved had they been lead shot. I contend the loss of wounded game (probably later coyote instead of people food) is greater than the number of birds saved from lead poisoning. The potential to ban lead split-shot is even more ridiculous. What is the lifespan of a duck or goose that eats lead shot anyway? My hunch is most are killed well before succumbing to lead. I think steel shot wastes game, is expensive, and inefficient. Lead is the oldest and best killer.

Appendix H. Report sent to survey participants.

October 2009

Dear South Dakota Resident Hunter,

Earlier this year you participated in one of two surveys. One survey was sent to small game hunters who had also purchased the Migratory Bird Certification (waterfowl hunter survey) and the other survey was sent to small game hunters who had NOT purchased the Migratory Bird Certification (bird hunter survey). The overall purpose of the two surveys was to evaluate the future of waterfowl hunting in South Dakota. These surveys explored factors that may contribute to a further decline in waterfowl hunting and explored the potential to attract pheasant hunters to participate in waterfowl hunting.

Results: We received a very good response from our hunters (nearly 75%). These two surveys provided a wealth of useful information about resident pheasant, duck and goose hunters in South Dakota (far too much to adequately summarize here). Two detailed reports were produced plus an overall summary report and are available on the GFP web-site. These three reports:

South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter Survey–2008
South Dakota Bird Hunter Survey–2008
The Future of Waterfowl Hunting Summary Report–2008

can be found under the ‘Opinion Surveys’ subheading on the Game, Fish and Parks web page at:

<http://www.sdgifp.info/Publications/Index.htm>

Thanks again for your help with this study. Commissioners and GFP staff will receive a copy of the complete report including all the comments I received from hunters related to this survey. I can be reached by e-mail at:

Larry.Gigliotti@state.sd.us

Sincerely,
Larry Gigliotti
Game, Fish & Parks