Wildlife on Private Lands
Status Report 2012

HD-2-14.AMS

Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.
Human Dimensions Specialist
South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks

Division of Wildlife
Serving People, Managing Wildlife

Longmire, C.L. 2014. Wildlife on Private Lands: Status Report 2012. Report ID# HD-2-14.AMS. Pierre, SD: South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks.

This report summarizes results from the 2012 Wildlife on Private Lands Survey. Information was collected regarding wildlife populations on private lands and landowners' desires for how these populations should be managed. A mail-back, postage-paid, status report survey was included with the *Landowners Matter* newsletter in May of 2013.

Private Lands, Elk, Whitetail Deer, Mule Deer, Antelope, Pheasant, Canada Geese, Turkey

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

Published by:
SD GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
PIERRE, SD

July 2014

For Additional Copies:
SD GAME, FISH, AND PARKS
Human Dimensions
523 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Visit our homepage at: http://gfp.sd.gov/

Executive Summary

Wildlife on Private Lands
Status Report 2012

HD-2-14.AMS

Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.

- 97% of responding landowners indicated white-tailed deer were present on their property; 48% of these landowners rated the population size as just about right, 26% too many, and 27% too few. 47% of responding landowners with white-tailed deer indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 50% rated the damage as a minor problem.

- 75% of responding landowners indicated mule deer were present on their property; 52% of these landowners rate the population size as too few, 37% as just about right, and 13% as too many. 28% of responding landowners with mule deer indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 60% rated the damage as a minor problem.

- 6% of responding landowners indicated elk were present on their property; 58% of these landowners rated the population size as too few, 29% as just about right, and 13% too many. 36% of responding landowners with elk indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 37% rated the damage as moderate and 20% as major.

- 14% of responding landowners indicated pronghorn were present on their property; 42% of these landowners rated the population size as just about right, 16% too many, and 42% too few. 29% of responding landowners with pronghorn indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 62% rated the damage as a minor problem.

- 41% of responding landowners indicated wild turkey were present on their property; 42% of these landowners rated the population size as just about right, 43% too few, and 15% too many. 24% of responding landowners with wild turkeys indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 55% rated the damage as a minor problem.

- 59% of responding landowners indicated Canada geese were present on their property; 46% of these landowners rated the population as just about right, 36% too many, and 19% too few. 42% of responding landowners with Canada geese indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 39% rated the damage as minor, 30% as moderated, and 31% as major.

- 90% of responding landowners indicated pheasants were present on their property; 74% of these landowners rated the population size as too few, 3% too many, and 23% as just about right.14% of responding landowners with pheasants indicated they experienced depredation, and of these landowners 69% rated the damage as minor.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Table of Contents

Executive Summary i
List of Figures v
List of Tables vii
Introduction 1
Methods 2
General Results 3
- General Population Status 3
- General Depredation Evaluation 4
- Hunting on Private Land 6
- Deer Hunting Seasons 9

Species Specific Results 10
- White-tailed Deer 10
  - Population 10
  - Population Trends 12
  - Depredation 15
  - Depredation Trends 16
  - County-Level Data 19
- Mule Deer 20
  - Population 20
  - Population Trends 22
  - Depredation 25
  - Depredation Trends 26
- Elk 29
  - Population 29
  - Population Trends 30
  - Depredation 32
  - Depredation Trends 33
- Pronghorn 35
  - Population 35
  - Population Trends 36
  - Depredation 39
  - Depredation Trends 40
- Wild Turkey 42
  - Population 42
  - Population Trends 43

Depredation 44
Depredation Trends 45
Canada Geese 47
Population.....47
Population Trends.....48
Depredation 51
Depredation Trends 52
Pheasants 55
Population.....55
Population Trends.....56
Depredation 59
Depredation Trends 60
Comments 61
References 62
Appendix A - Survey Instrument.....63
Appendix B - Maps.....67
Appendix C - Additional Comments.....99

List of Figures

Figure 1: GFP Management Regions 2
Figure 2: Statewide Mean Wildlife Population Levels 3
Figure 3: Statewide assessment of game species depredation on private property 4
Figure 4: Level of depredation damage by game animals on private land 5
Figure 5: Requests for help from GFP for depredation damage 5
Figure 6: Need for more hunters on private land 6
Figure 7: Responding landowners' acreage owned/operated 8
Figure 8: Hunting opportunities provided on private land 8
Figure 9: Opinions regarding East/West River and extended antlerless deer seasons 9
Figure 10: Statewide white-tailed deer populations on private land 11
Figure 11: Regional comparison of white-tailed deer populations on private land 11
Figure 12: Statewide - ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 13
Figure 13: Region 1 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 14
Figure 14: Region 2 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 14
Figure 15: Region 3 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 14
Figure 16: Region 4 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 15
Figure 17: Statewide rating of white-tailed deer depredation damage on private land (2012) 16
Figure 18: Regional comparison of white-tailed deer depredation on private land (2012) 16
Figure 19: Statewide – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 17
Figure 20: Region 1 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 17
Figure 21: Region 2 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 18
Figure 22: Region 3 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 19
Figure 23: Region 4 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 19
Figure 24: Statewide mule deer populations on private land 21
Figure 25: Regional comparison of mule deer populations on private land 21
Figure 26: Statewide – of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 22
Figure 27: Region 1 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 23
Figure 28: Region 2 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 24
Figure 29: Region 3 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 24
Figure 30: Region 4 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 24
Figure 31: Statewide evaluation of mule deer depredation on private land (2012) 25
Figure 32: Regional comparison of mule deer depredation on private land (2012) 25
Figure 33: Statewide – ratings of mule deer damage (2007, 2010, & 2012) 26
Figure 34: Region 1 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 27
Figure 35: Region 2 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 28
Figure 36: Region 3 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, &2012) 28
Figure 37: Region 4 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 28
Figure 38: Statewide elk populations on private property (2012) 29
Figure 39: Regional comparisons of elk populations on private property (2012) 30
Figure 40: Statewide – ratings of elk populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 30
Figure 41: Region 1 – ratings of elk populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 31
Figure 42: Region 2 – ratings of elk populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 32
Figure 43: Statewide evaluation of elk depredation damage on private land (2012) 32
Figure 44: Regional comparison of elk depredation on private land (2012) 33
Figure 45: Statewide - ratings of elk depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 33
Figure 46: Region 1 – ratings of elk depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 34
Figure 47: Region 2 – ratings of elk depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 35
Figure 48: Statewide pronghorn populations on private property (2012) 36

Figure 49: Regional comparisons of pronghorn populations on private property (2012) 36
Figure 50: Statewide – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....37
Figure 51: Region 1 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....38
Figure 52: Region 2 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....38
Figure 53: Region 3 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....38
Figure 54: Region 4 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....39
Figure 55: Statewide evaluation of pronghorn depredation on private land (2012) 39
Figure 56: Regional comparison of pronghorn depredation on private lands (2012).....40
Figure 57: Statewide – ratings of pronghorn depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012).....40
Figure 58: Region 1 – ratings of pronghorn depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 41
Figure 59: Statewide wild turkey populations on private property (2012).....42
Figure 60: Regional comparisons of wild turkey populations on private property (2012).....43
Figure 61: Statewide – ratings of wild turkey populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....43
Figure 62: Statewide evaluation of wild turkey depredation on private land (2012).....45
Figure 63: Regional comparison of elk depredation on private land (2012) 45
Figure 64: Statewide – ratings of wild turkey depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 46
Figure 65: Statewide Canada geese populations on private property (2012).....47
Figure 66: Regional comparisons of Canada geese populations on private property (2012) 48
Figure 67: Statewide – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....49
Figure 68: Region 1 – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....50
Figure 69: Region 2 – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....50
Figure 70: Region 3 – ratings of Canada geese populations 50
Figure 71: Region 4 – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012).....51
Figure 72: Statewide evaluation of Canada geese depredation on private land (2012) 51
Figure 73: Regional comparison of Canada geese depredation on private land (2012).....52
Figure 74: Statewide – ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012).....53
Figure 75: Region 1 –ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 54
Figure 76: Region 2 – ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 54
Figure 77: Region 3 - ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 54
Figure 78: Region 4 - ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012) 55
Figure 79: Statewide pheasant populations on private property (2012) 56
Figure 80: Regional comparisons of pheasant populations on private property (2012).....56
Figure 81: Statewide – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 57
Figure 82: Region 1 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 58
Figure 83: Region 2 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 58
Figure 84: Region 3 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 58
Figure 85: Region 4 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012) 59
Figure 86: Statewide evaluation of pheasant depredation on private land (2012).....59
Figure 87: Regional comparison of pheasant depredation on private lands (2012) 60
Figure 88: Statewide – ratings of pheasant depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012).....60

List of Tables

Table 1: Responding landowners list of other problem wildlife on private lands..... 7
Table 2: Opinions regarding deer reduction strategies 10
Table 3: Landowners' perceptions of white-tailed deer populations on private lands.....13
Table 4: Landowners' perceptions of white-tailed deer depredation on private lands 18
Table 5: Landowners' perceptions of mule deer populations on private lands 23
Table 6: Landowners' perceptions of mule deer depredation on private lands.....27
Table 7: Landowners' perceptions of elk populations on private lands 31
Table 8: Landowners' rating of elk depredation damage on private lands 34
Table 9: Landowners' perceptions of pronghorn populations on private lands.....37
Table 10: Landowners' rating of pronghorn damage on private lands 41
Table 11: Landowners' perceptions of wild turkey populations on private lands 44
Table 12: Landowners' rating of wild turkey depredation damage on private lands 46
Table 13: Landowners' perceptions of Canada geese populations on private lands.....49
Table 14: Landowners' rating of Canada geese depredation damage on private lands.....53
Table 15: Landowners' perceptions of pheasant populations on private lands 57
Table 16: Landowners' rating of pheasant damage on private lands 61

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Wildlife on Private Lands
Status Report 2012

HD-2-14.AMS

Cynthia L. Longmire, Ph.D.
Human Dimensions Specialist
South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks

Introduction

Along with hunter harvest and biological data collected, landowner opinions are an important part of the information needed to make sound wildlife management decisions in the best interest of all South Dakota citizens. The Wildlife on Private Lands Status Report summarizes information collected from landowners regarding wildlife populations on their lands and their beliefs on how these populations should be managed in their area. A mail-back (postage-paid) status report survey was included with the *Landowners Matter* newsletter (appendix A). This newsletter was sent to 14,749 subscribers in May of 2013. The purpose of this survey was to provide a general overview of the status of selected game species (white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, turkey, Canada geese, and pheasants) on private lands from the landowners' perspective. Responses were collected regarding landowners' opinions about the relative population and depredation damage on their property caused by these seven game species, Game, Fish, and Parks' (GFP) depredation program, type of hunting on their lands, and landowners' opinions regarding the rifle deer seasons.

Similar surveys were also administered in 2010 and 2007, and detailed reports of their results can be found in Gigliotti 2011 and Gigliotti 2007. This report summarizes results from the Wildlife on Private Lands 2012 Survey, as well as provides basic trend analyses across the three survey years (2007, 2010, and 2012).

Methods

Newsletter subscribers received a single mailing of the survey, and no follow-up contacts were attempted. Since landowners choose whether or not they will subscribe to the *Landowners Matter* newsletter, the results presented here are based off of a self-selected sampling methodology. Landowners who do not have a subscription to the newsletter have no chance of being selected for this survey; therefore, results from this survey should not be used to make inferences about the larger landowner population as there is no way to confidently know the accuracy of such sample estimates (Vaske 2008; Salant and Dillman 1994). The results presented here represent the 2,578 landowners who did respond.[1] A description of responses is presented at both the statewide and regional level (figure 1).

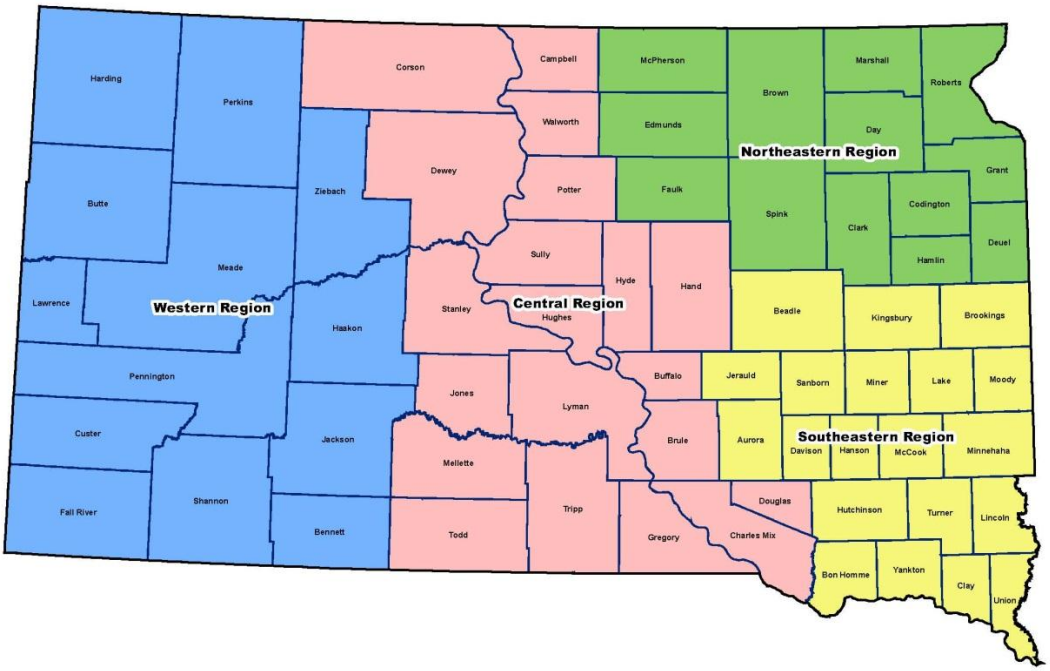


Figure 1: GFP Management Regions[2]

[1] A total of 3,372 landowners responded in 2010 and 3,260 landowners responded in 2007 (Gigliotti 2011; Gigliotti 2007).
[2] Regions are also referred to as: Western Region/Region 1; Central Region/Region 2; Southeastern Region/Region 3; and Northeastern Region/Region 4

General Results

General Population Status

Landowners were asked to indicate whether any of the seven selected game species were found on their land. For those species found on their property, landowners were also asked to indicate their opinion regarding species' population levels, as well as the degree of depredation damage caused, if any. Landowners' evaluation of wildlife population levels on their property were measured using a 5-point scale: -2 far too few; -1 slightly too few; 0 just about right; 1 slightly too many; 2 far too many. White-tailed deer was the most prevalent game species on private land followed by pheasants and Canada geese. Landowners' mean rating of white-tailed deer populations was zero, indicating on average landowners felt white-tailed deer populations were *just about right* (figure 2). The only positive mean rating for wildlife populations on private lands was regarding Canada geese (0.29), indicating on average landowners believed geese populations to be slightly above the *just about right* threshold. The lowest rated population was for pheasants (-1.16), indicating landowners felt there were *slightly too few* pheasants on private lands.

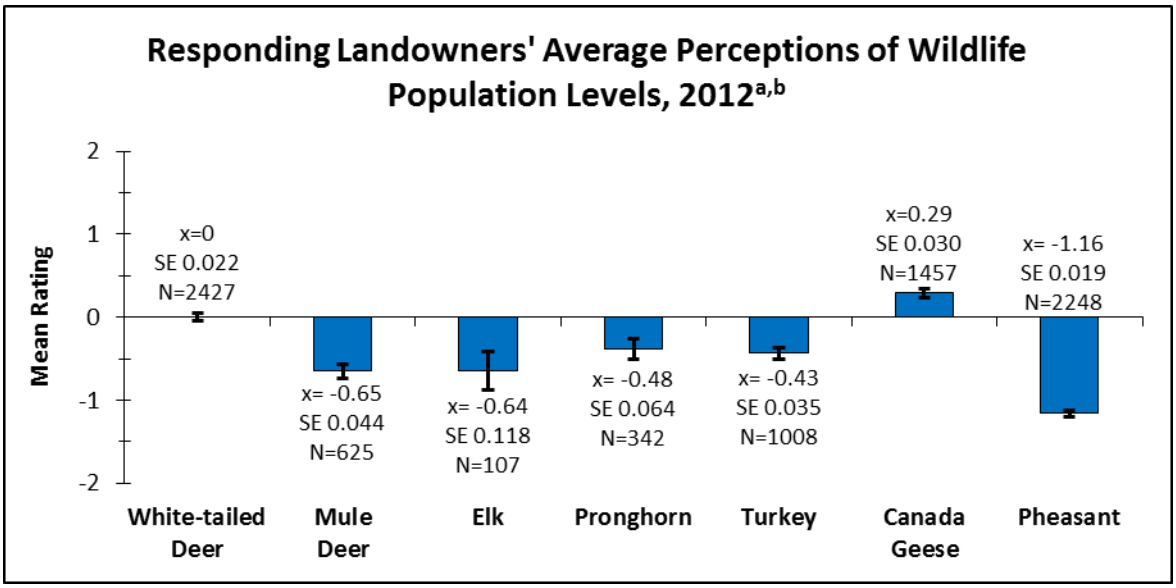


Figure 2: Statewide Mean Wildlife Population Levels
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

General Depredation Evaluation

Overall, landowners reported having the most depredation damage done by white-tailed deer with 47 percent of landowners evaluating the damage as minor to major (figure 3). Pheasants were the second most prevalent game species on private land, but had the lowest overall assessment of depredation damage with 15 percent of landowners evaluating damage from pheasants as minor to major, of which about two-thirds was reported as minor. Elk was the least prevalent game species on private lands, but had the third highest evaluation of depredation with 36% of landowners who had elk on their property reporting damage, of which 55 percent was evaluated as a moderate to major problem.

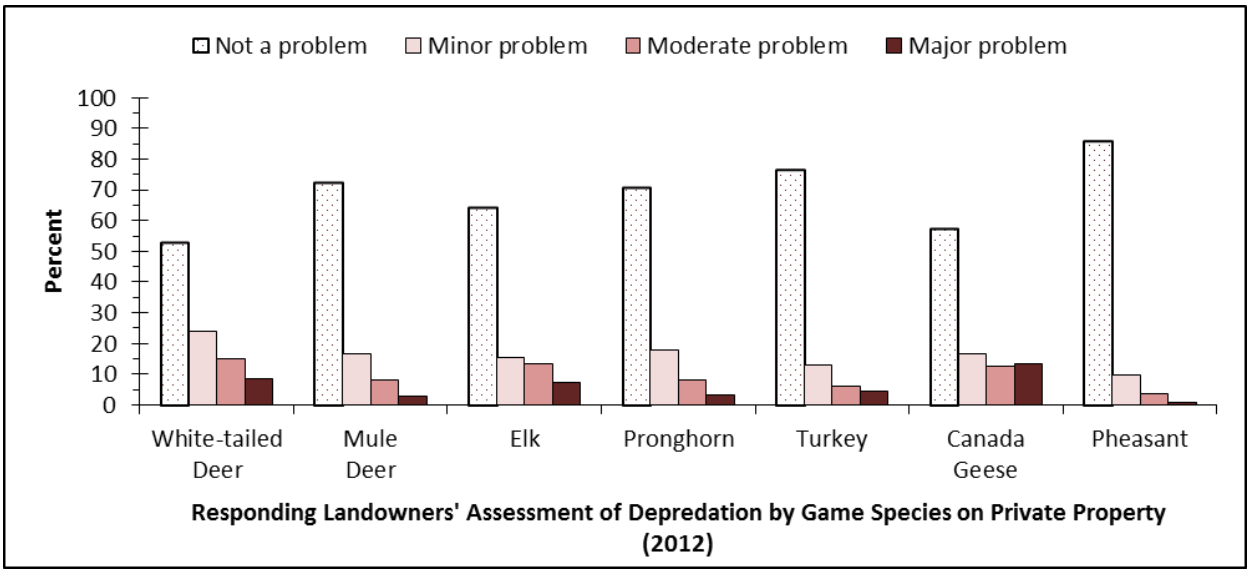


Figure 3: Statewide assessment of game species depredation on private property

A total of 1,454 (58%) of the responding landowners reported some level of depredation, ranging from minor to major damage. Approximately 37 percent of landowners reporting depredation damage indicated the overall level of damage was unacceptable (figure 4). Regionally of landowners reporting damage, the percent indicating it was at unacceptable levels ranged from a low of 31 percent in the Central Region to a high of 43 percent in the Northeastern Region (Western Region 33% and Southeastern Region 38%).

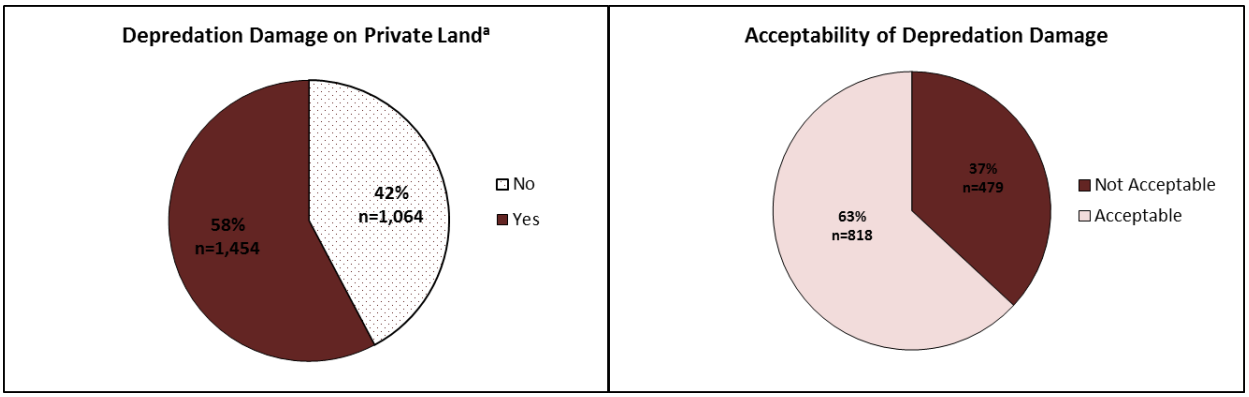


Figure 4: Level of depredation damage by game animals on private land
[a] game animals: white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, wild turkey, Canada geese, and pheasants

Only 18 percent of the landowners reporting some level of depredation damage (or 9% of all responding landowners) requested help from GFP for wildlife depredation from the seven game species listed in this survey (figure 5). The Northeastern Region had the highest percentage of landowners requesting help (22%) and the Central Region had the lowest with 10 percent (Southeastern Region 17% and Western Region 21%). Of the landowners requesting help, 26 percent felt there was no resolution to the problem and only 6 percent felt the problem was completely resolved. A little over one-third of landowners reporting depredation damage (35%) felt having more hunters would help reduce the number of problem wildlife on their land (figure 6), and of these landowners, 12 percent indicated they needed help getting hunters onto their land.

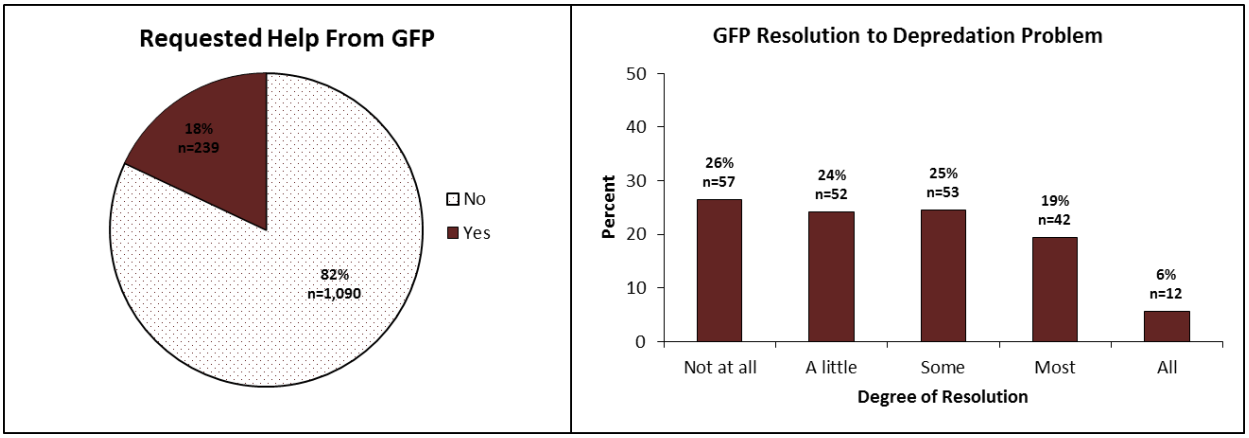


Figure 5: Requests for help from GFP for depredation damage

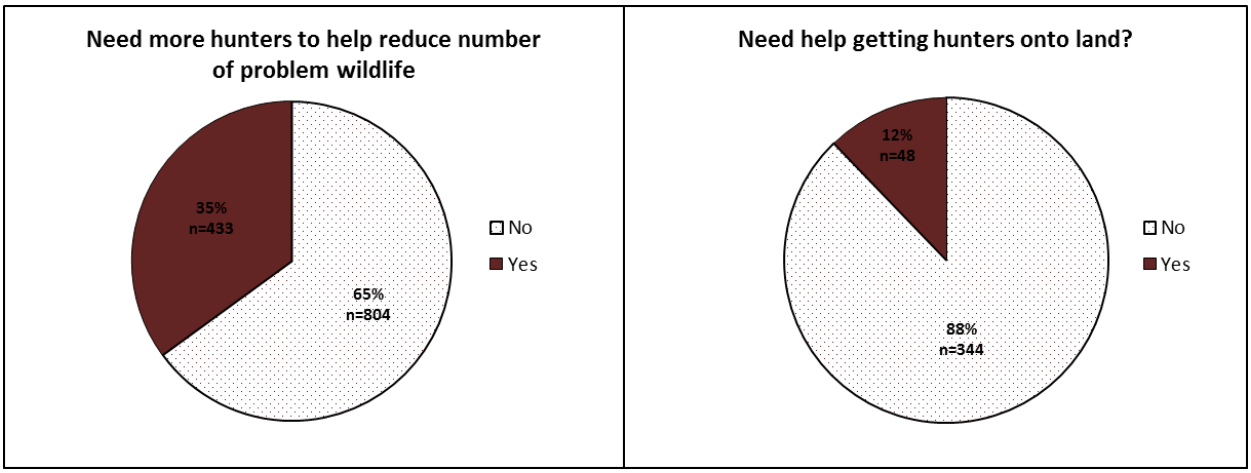


Figure 6: Need for more hunters on private land

An open-ended question asked landowners to list other wildlife species (not including the 7 game species listed in the survey) with which they were having concerns or problems (table 1). The majority of responding landowners (68%) left this question blank; however, 17 percent listed coyote, followed by raccoons (8%), skunks (6%) and beavers (2%).There is some variation in response by region. For example, in the Western and Central Regions prairie dogs were the second most commonly listed species; however, in the eastern regions raccoons were the second most commonly listed species.

Hunting on Private Land

The highest percent of landowners operated (owned/leased) 160 to 639 acres in 2012 (figure 7); with the size of land operated varying among the four management regions. The vast majority of responding landowners (90%) indicated hunting occurred on their land in 2012. This ranged from 88 percent in the Western and Southeastern Regions to 95 percent in the Central Region (Northeastern Region 93%). Most provided free access to people other than immediate family members (75%), and 75 percent indicated they themselves or immediate family members hunted on their land (figure 8). About 4 percent provided guiding and/or services, 4 percent charged an access fee to at least some hunters, and 3 percent leased some hunting rights to

individuals or groups. The Central Region had the highest percentage of landowners charging the various types of fees for hunting access compared to the other three regions.

Table 1: Responding landowners list of other problem wildlife on private lands

Problem Wildlife	Number of Responding Landowners				
	Statewide n=2,578	Western Region n=336	Central Region n=480	Southeastern Region n=1,079	Northeastern Region n=636
Coyotes	439	35	69	188	139
Raccoons	216	10	22	116	52
Skunks	158	15	21	77	44
Beaver	61	8	9	31	14
Gophers/Ground Hogs/Woodchucks	57	5	4	23	17
Prairie Dogs	55	31	23	2	0
Mountain Lions	37	20	3	7	5
Badgers	36	4	6	19	5
Hawks	32	4	5	11	8
Fox	24	2	6	11	4
Rabbits	24	0	22	15	3
Owls	17	3	2	6	5
Opossums	12	0	5	6	1
Muskrat	10	1	0	3	6
Blackbirds/Starlings	10	1	3	0	4
Grouse/Partridge/Prairie Chickens	9	1	4	2	2
Porcupines	8	8	0	0	0
Eagles	6	3	1	1	0
River otter	6	0	0	2	2
Wolves	6	3	1	0	2
Ducks	5	1	0	2	1
Mink	5	0	0	4	1
Geese/Cranes	4	0	0	2	2
Squirrels	2	0	0	1	1
Snakes	2	0	0	0	0
Songbirds	2	0	1	0	1
Moles	1	0	0	0	1
Civit cats	1	0	1	0	0
Walleyes	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	813	113	135	344	231

NOTES: 1) Statewide numbers may not equal the sum of regional numbers, as not all landowners indicated the primary county where they owned/operated land; 2) Landowners may own/operate land in multiple counties and in multiple regions – regional assignment is based on the primary county listed by landowners.

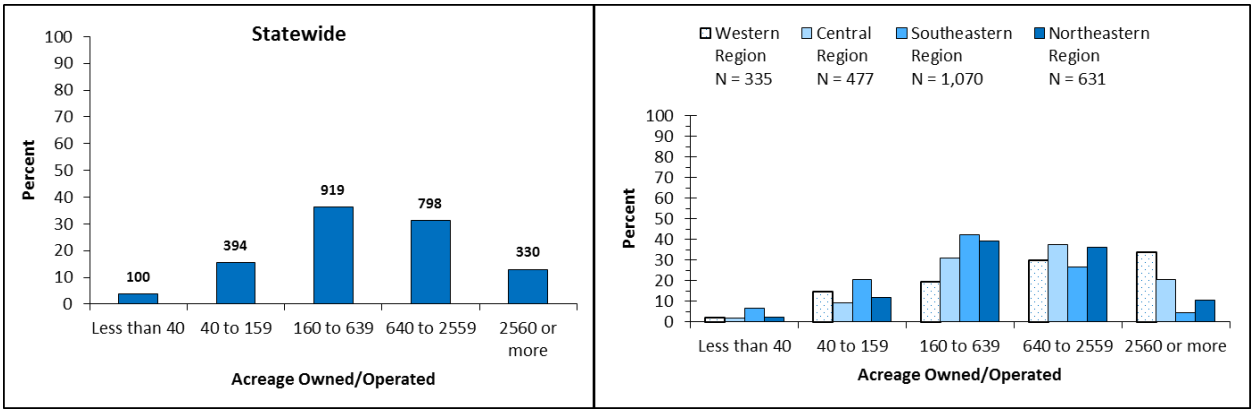


Figure 7: Responding landowners' acreage owned/operated

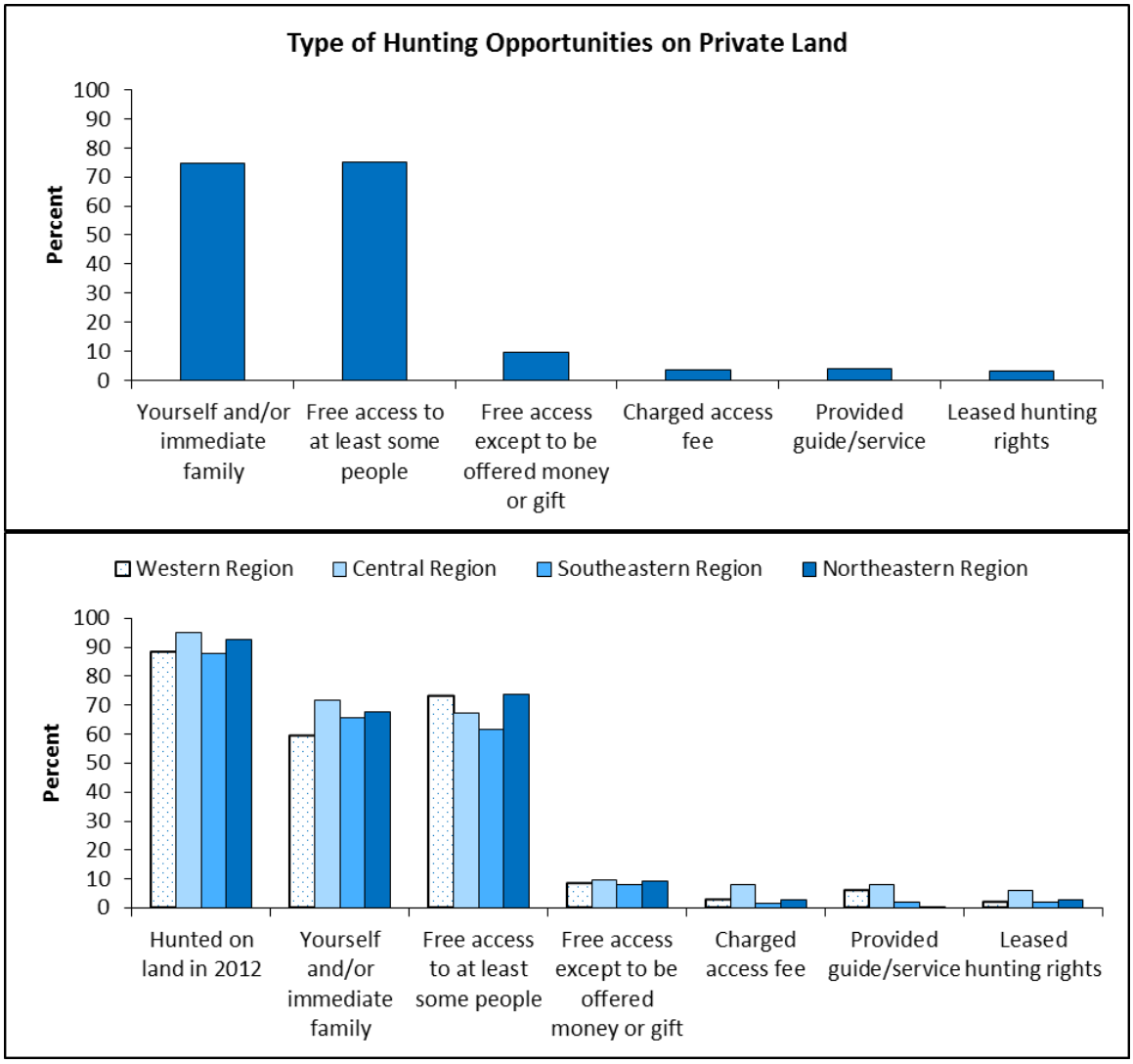


Figure 8: Hunting opportunities provided on private land

Deer Hunting Seasons

The majority of responding landowners (56%) felt the length of the regular rifle East and West River deer seasons were *just right*, 22 percent felt the seasons were *too short*, and 11 percent felt they were *too long* (figure 9). Responses were similar across the four regions. Forty-seven percent of landowners liked to some degree the extended antlerless deer season. Twenty-three percent disliked the extended season and 30 percent were neutral. The percentage of responding landowners who liked the extended season ranged from 38 percent in the Northeastern Region to 54 percent in the Central Region (Western Region 45% and Southeastern Region 51%).

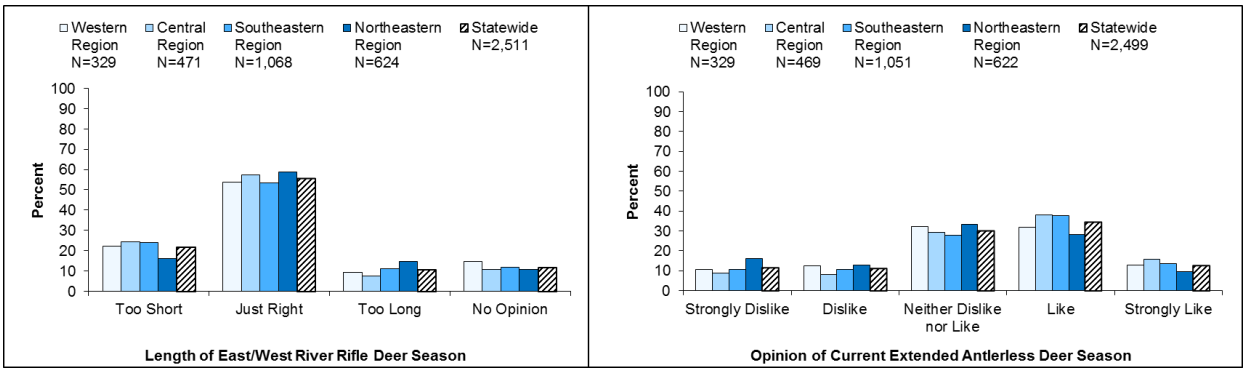


Figure 9: Opinions regarding East/West River and extended antlerless deer seasons

Landowners were asked their opinion of four different deer population management strategies for situations when the deer population in their area was too high (table 2). Adding special antlerless deer seasons in late December and January received the highest positive rating (57% of responding landowners) and special depredation deer hunts received the lowest positive rating (42% of responding landowners). For all four regions, a higher percentage of landowners liked each of the four strategies than disliked the strategies.

Table 2: Opinions regarding deer reduction strategies

	REDUCTION STRATEGIES	N	STRONGLY DISLIKE	DISLIKE	NEITHER DISLIKE NOR LIKE	LIKE	STRONGLY LIKE
			----------PERCENT----------				
STATE	Lengthen the regular deer season	2,154	15.2	15.7	23.2	32.4	13.5
	Increase the number of deer licenses	2,161	8.5	12.7	25.8	38.6	14.4
	Include special antlerless deer seasons in late Dec. or early Jan.	2,152	11.7	11.2	20.3	40.4	16.4
	Special depredation deer hunts	2,039	12.1	15.3	31.0	28.8	12.8
WESTERN REGION	Lengthen the regular deer season	278	17.6	14.7	23.7	32.0	11.9
	Increase the number of deer licenses	281	10.7	13.5	26.7	35.9	13.2
	Include special antlerless deer seasons in late Dec. or early Jan.	283	10.2	13.4	18.4	40.6	17.3
	Special depredation deer hunts	266	10.5	12.8	29.3	33.1	14.3
CENTRAL REGION	Lengthen the regular deer season	403	12.7	16.4	22.6	35.5	12.9
	Increase the number of deer licenses	412	9.7	12.4	22.6	40.8	14.6
	Include special antlerless deer seasons in late Dec. or early Jan.	406	9.6	7.1	20.2	44.3	18.7
	Special depredation deer hunts	380	10.3	15.0	32.1	29.7	12.9
SOUTHEASTERN REGION	Lengthen the regular deer season	910	13.4	14.7	23.3	33.0	15.6
	Increase the number of deer licenses	906	7.5	12.3	27.3	38.1	14.9
	Include special antlerless deer seasons in late Dec. or early Jan.	906	10.6	10.7	20.8	40.7	17.2
	Special depredation deer hunts	872	12.3	15.6	32.6	26.7	12.8
NORTHEASTERN REGION	Lengthen the regular deer season	538	19.0	16.7	22.5	30.1	11.7
	Increase the number of deer licenses	538	8.6	13.0	24.7	39.8	13.9
	Include special antlerless deer seasons in late Dec. or early Jan.	533	16.1	13.5	20.3	37.0	13.1
	Special depredation deer hunts	500	14.0	16.2	28.4	29.4	12.0

Species Specific Results

The following sections provide a more detailed discussion of population and depredation levels on private property for each of the seven game species surveyed.

White-tailed Deer

Population - The vast majority (97%) of landowners who responded indicated they had white-tailed deer on their property (figure 10). Nearly half (47%) of these landowners felt the white-tailed deer population levels on their property were *just about right*, 26 percent felt there were too many and 27 percent felt there were too few. The mean rating statewide was *just about right* ($\overline{X}$ 0.00, SE 0.022, N=2,427). Landowner evaluations of the white-tailed deer populations varied significantly among the regions (figure 11). While the most frequently

occurring response for all four regions was *just about right*, landowners in the Northeastern and Southeastern Regions, on average, were more likely than landowners in the Western and Central Regions to indicate there were too few white-tailed deer on their property.

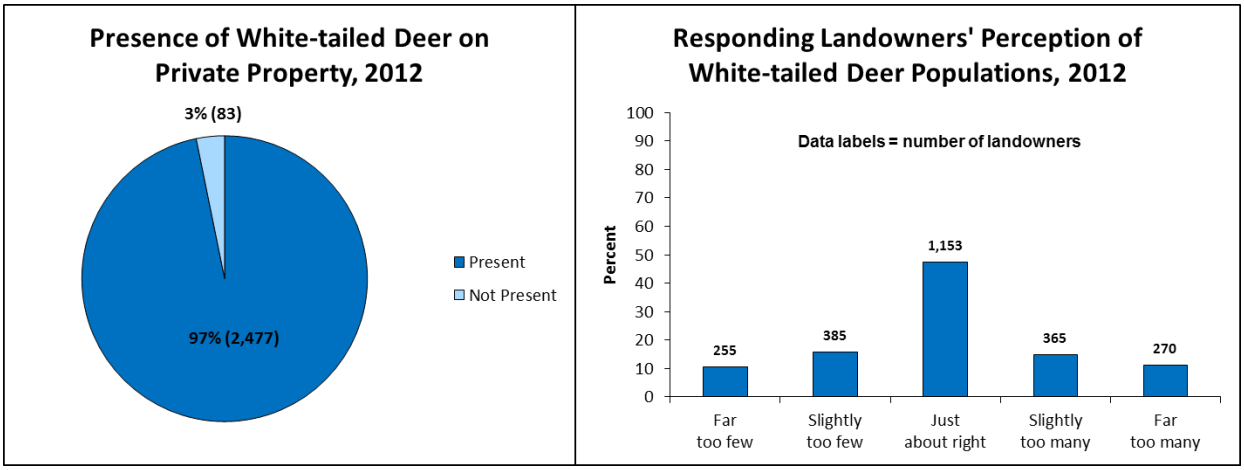


Figure 10: Statewide white-tailed deer populations on private land

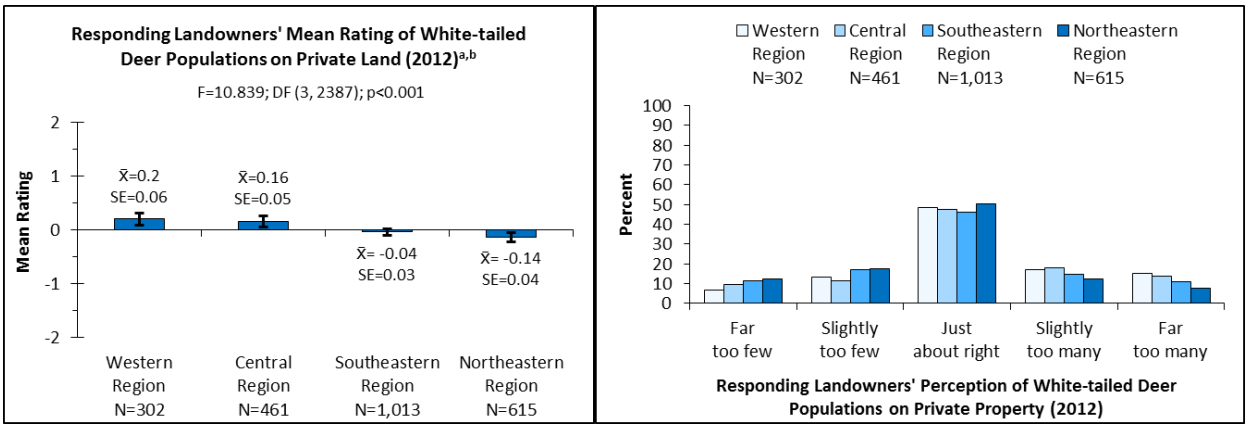


Figure 11: Regional comparison of white-tailed deer populations on private land
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – Basic analyses of the data from the three survey years indicate there are some significant differences at both the statewide and regional levels.[3] Landowners' evaluations of white-tailed deer populations in 2012 differed significantly from evaluations received in 2010 and 2007 (figure 12).[4] On average, landowners statewide in 2007 and 2010 indicated there were more white-tailed deer on their property than landowners in 2012. The percentage of landowners who indicated there were too many white-tailed deer on their property decreased from 36 percent in 2007 to 26 percent in 2012 (table 3). The proportion of landowners who felt the population was *just about right* has remained at approximately 47 percent across the three survey periods; however, the number of landowners who feel there are too few white-tailed deer has increased from 16 percent in 2007 to 26 percent in 2012.

At the regional level, there were significant differences between the 2007, 2010, and 2012 landowner evaluations in three of the four regions. There were no statistically significant differences from 2007 to 2012 in the Western Region (figure 13). In the Central Region, from 2007 to 2010, there was an increase in the proportion of landowners who felt there were too many white-tailed deer; however, this percentage decreased in 2012 to levels similar to 2007 (figure 14). Across the three survey years, 2012 saw the highest proportion of landowners who felt there were too few white-tailed deer on their property with 26 percent. During this same time period, in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions, the percentage of landowners who rated white-tailed populations as too few increased while those who rated these populations as too many decreased (figures 15 and 16).

[3] Data for 2010 and 2007 comparisons were taken from the status reports for the respective years. A more detailed description of the data can be found in Gigliotti 2011 and Gigliotti 2007.

[4] The overlap of confidence intervals can be used as a quick way to check for statistical significance. If the intervals do not overlap, there will be a statistically significant difference between the estimates. If there is a large enough overlap, then the difference is not significant; however, confidence intervals can overlap by as much as 25% of their total length and still show a significant difference between the means for each group. When this is the case, a more formal test of significance should be employed.

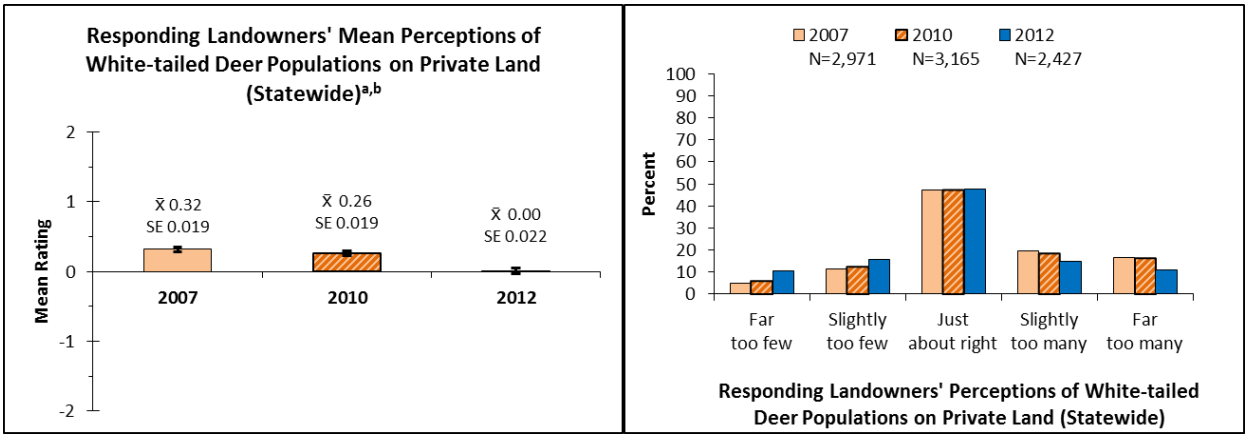


Figure 12: Statewide - ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 3: Landowners' perceptions of white-tailed deer populations on private lands

White-tailed Deer Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=427	2010 N=411	2012 N=302	2007 N=564	2010 N=659	2012 N=461
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	5.0	6.8	6.6	5.2	2.6	9.3
Slightly too few	11.9	10.5	13.2	11.7	8.6	11.5
Just about right	43.8	42.1	48.3	51.0	44.9	47.3
Slightly too many	18.7	20.9	16.9	17.8	22.0	18.0
Far too many	20.6	19.7	14.9	14.4	21.9	13.9

White-tailed Deer Population	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 N=1,182	2010 N=1,245	2012 N=1,013	2007 N=798	2010 N=790	2012 N=615
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	4.5	6.3	11.4	6.0	7.8	12.4
Slightly too few	10.8	14.5	17.1	11.3	13.5	17.6
Just about right	47.5	48.3	46.2	45.6	50.1	50.1
Slightly too many	19.8	17.8	14.6	21.8	15.1	12.2
Far too many	17.4	13.2	10.8	15.3	13.4	7.8

White-tailed Deer Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=2,971	2010 N=3,165	2012 N=2,427
	--percent--		
Far too few	5.1	6.0	10.5
Slightly too few	11.3	12.5	15.8
Just about right	47.1	47.1	47.5
Slightly too many	19.8	18.4	15.0
Far too many	16.7	16.0	11.1

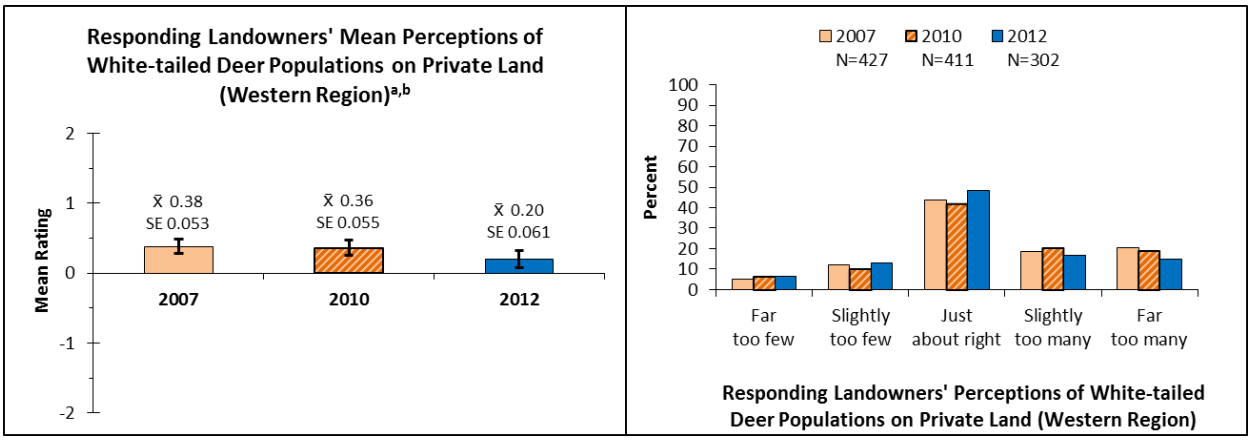


Figure 13: Region 1 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

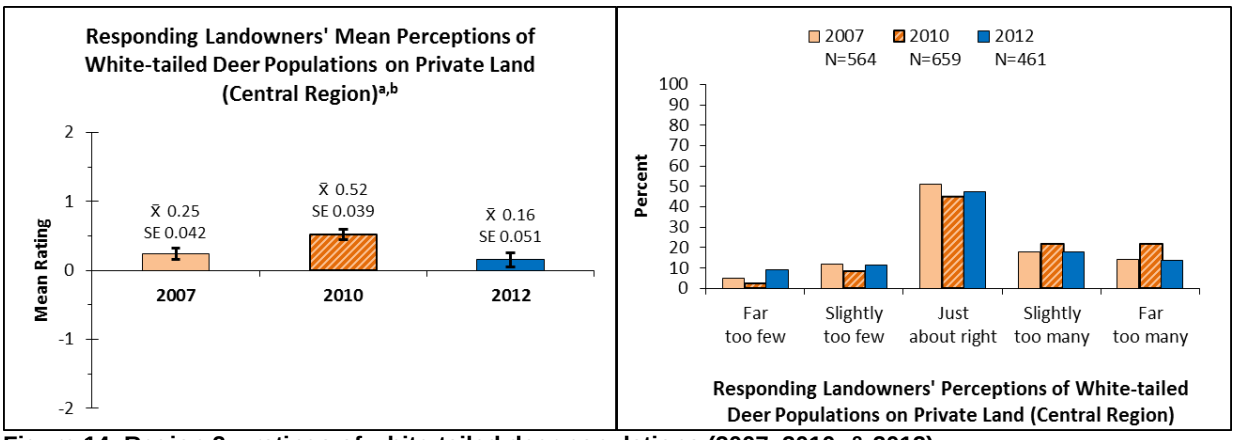


Figure 14: Region 2 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

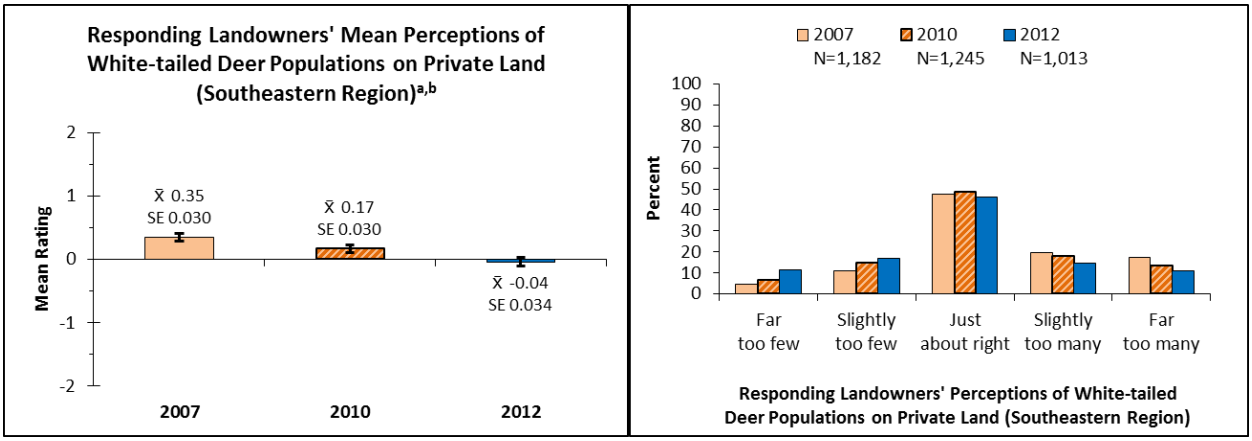


Figure 15: Region 3 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

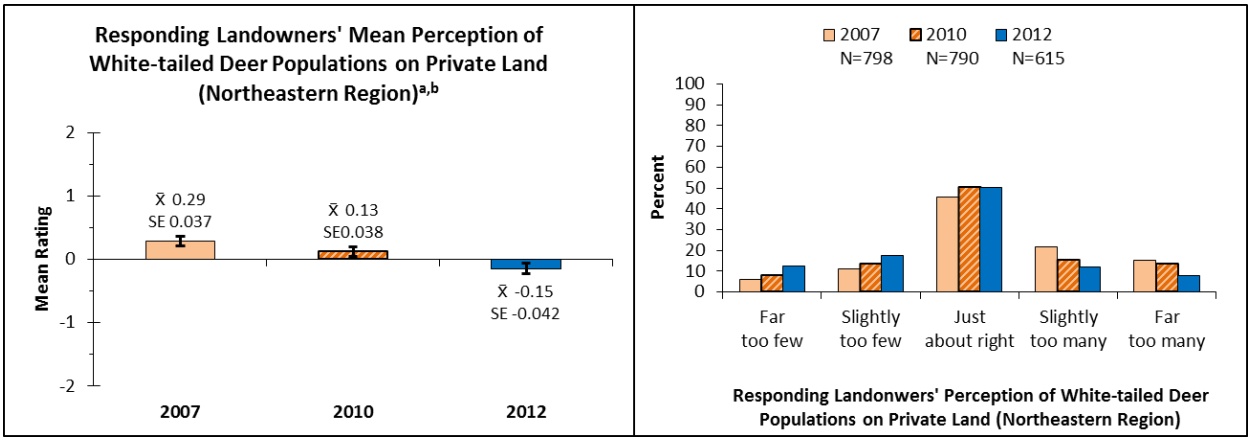


Figure 16: Region 4 – ratings of white-tailed deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation – Of the seven game species evaluated, white-tailed deer had the highest percentage of landowners who reported depredation damage as a problem. Forty-seven percent of responding landowners who had white-tailed deer on their property reported depredation damage as a problem (figure 17). Half of the landowners who reported damage as a problem assessed its severity as minor. A comparison of depredation damage assessment at the regional level shows the most frequent response for all four regions was *not a problem*; however, there are some significant differences in severity of damage (figure 18). The majority of landowners in the Northeastern and Southeastern Regions (55%) indicated white-tailed deer depredation was *not a problem* on their property compared with 43 percent in the Western Region and 49 percent in the Central Region. Landowners in the Western Region were more likely than landowners in the Northeastern and Southeastern Regions to assess the depredation as more severe. Thirty-two percent of landowners in the Western Region indicated the damage was a moderate to major problem; compared with 22 percent in the Southeastern Region and 20 percent in the Northeastern Region.

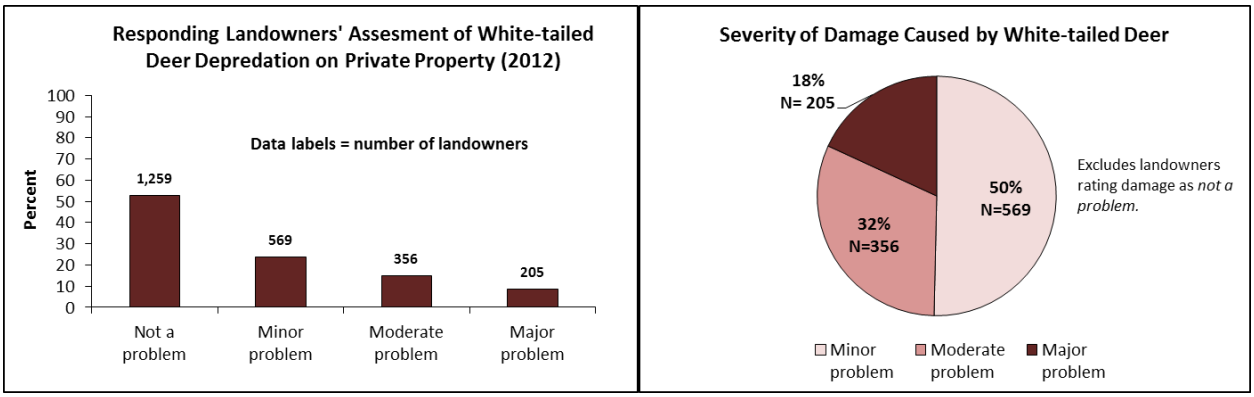


Figure 17: Statewide rating of white-tailed deer depredation damage on private land (2012)

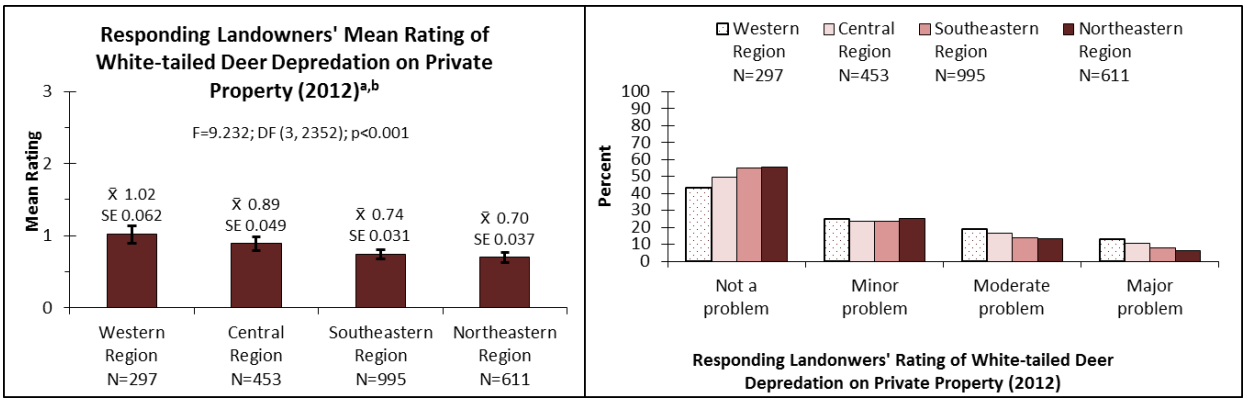


Figure 18: Regional comparison of white-tailed deer depredation on private land (2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation Trends –There were significant differences, statewide, in landowner assessments of depredation damage across the three survey periods (figure 19). The proportion of landowners who indicated white-tailed deer damage was not a problem has increased from 2007 to 2012. While the percentage who indicated the damage done was a minor or major problem has remained fairly stable over this time; the proportion who felt the damage was moderate has decreased (table 4).

There were no statistically significant differences in level of damage across the survey period for landowners in the Western Region (figure 20). In the central region, there was a decrease in the percentage of landowners who indicated the damage was not a problem from

2007 to 2010 (figure 21). This proportion increased in 2012 to levels similar to 2007. In addition, the percentage of landowners who indicated the damage was a major problem increased from 2007 to 2010, with only a slight decrease in 2012. In the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions, from 2007 to 2012, there was an increase in the proportion of landowners who reported that damage was not a problem (figures 22 and 23).

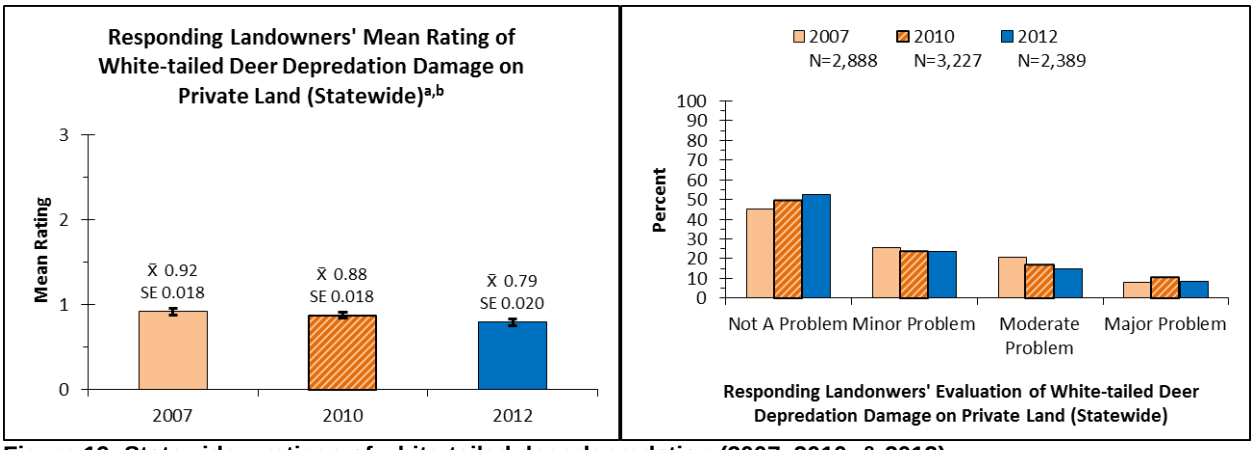


Figure 19: Statewide – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

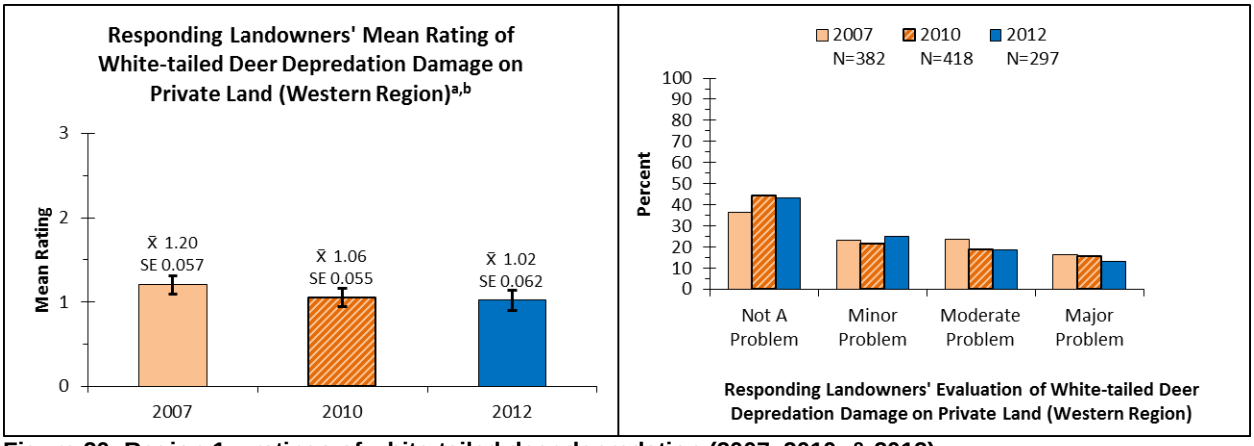


Figure 20: Region 1 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 4: Landowners' perceptions of white-tailed deer depredation on private lands

White-tailed Deer Depredation Damage	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=382	2010 N=418	2012 N=297	2007 N=613	2010 N=672	2012 N=453
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	36.4	44.3	43.1	52.3	43.9	49.4
Minor Problem	23.2	21.5	24.9	20.1	20.1	23.4
Moderate Problem	23.7	18.7	18.9	21.1	22.3	16.3
Major Problem	16.6	15.6	13.1	10.8	6.5	7.1

White-tailed Deer Depredation Damage	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 N=1,158	2010 N=1,267	2012 N=995	2007 N=735	2010 N=809	2012 N=611
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	45.1	52.6	54.9	45.7	51.7	55.5
Minor Problem	27.7	24.8	23.5	28.1	25.8	25.0
Moderate Problem	20.6	15.5	13.9	18.8	13.3	13.4
Major Problem	6.5	7.1	7.7	7.4	9.1	6.1

White-tailed Deer Depredation Damage	Statewide		
	2007 2,888	2010 N=3,227	2012 N=2,389
	--percent--		
Not a Problem	45.4	49.4	53.0
Minor Problem	25.7	23.6	24.0
Moderate Problem	20.7	16.8	15.0
Major Problem	8.2	10.2	9.0

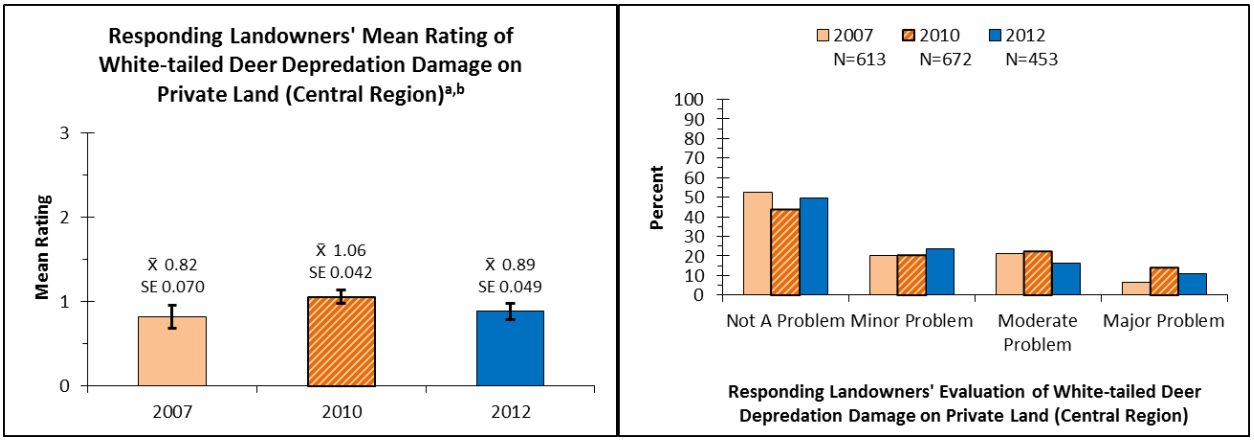


Figure 21: Region 2 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)

[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate problem; and 3 Major problem

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

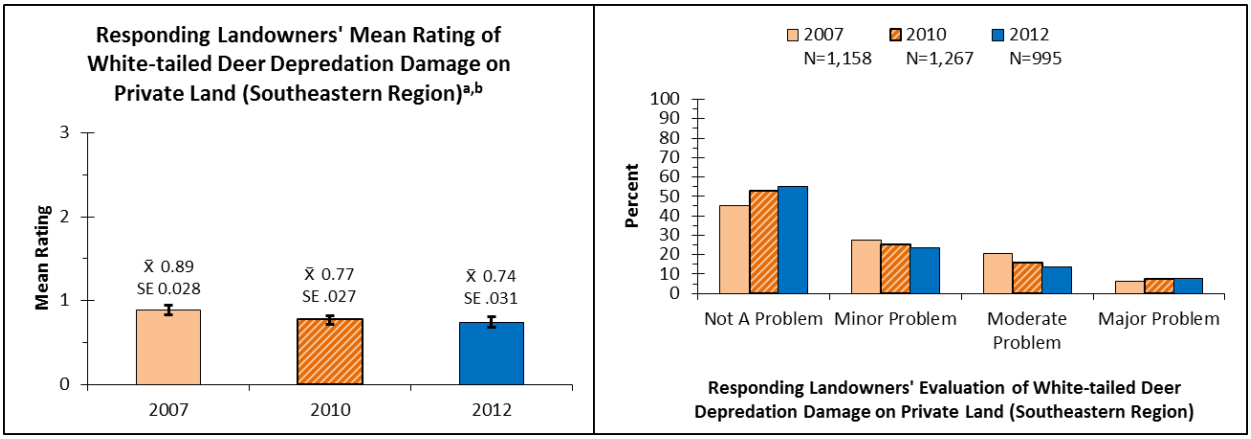


Figure 22: Region 3 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

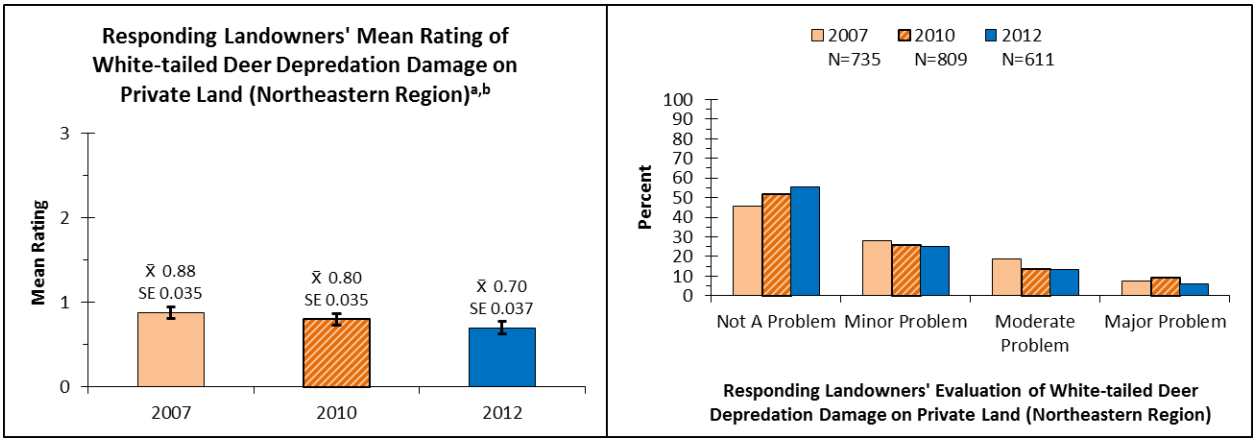


Figure 23: Region 4 – ratings of white-tailed deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

County-Level Data – Starting in 2010, landowners' opinions about the white-tailed deer populations on their land were summarized by the primary county where their land was located. It is important to keep in mind that there is an unknown level of representativeness at the county-level, and this information does not reflect actual deer populations for the counties. This information may be useful, however, as a supplement to biological data collected for making deer management decisions. The maps provide a picture of where landowners may need assistance from Game, Fish, and Parks in reducing depredation damage from white-tailed deer

(appendix B). For maps showing the mean rating a standardized interpretation was used. This allows for consistent map interpretation across survey years regardless of how the individual data is distributed in a given dataset, and maintains interpretation categories consistent with the 5-point scale respondents received. Supplemental tables are provided to show county-level information (i.e. number of responses per county, mean value, and frequency distribution).

Mule Deer

Population – Three-quarters of responding landowners indicated they did not have mule deer on their property (figure 24). Over half (52%) of landowners who had mule deer on their property felt their population levels were too few, 37 percent felt the level was *just about right* , and 13 percent felt there were too many. The mean rating statewide was *slightly too few* ($\overline{X}$ -0.65, SE 0.044, N=625).[5] Landowner evaluations of the mule deer populations varied significantly among the four regions. Landowners in the Western and Central Regions differed from those in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions (figure 25). Responding landowners in the Western and Central regions were more likely to indicate the mule deer populations on their land were *just about right* (43% and 37%, respectively), while responding landowners in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions were more likely to evaluate them as being *far too few* (51% and 61%, respectively).

[5] Survey Scale:-2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

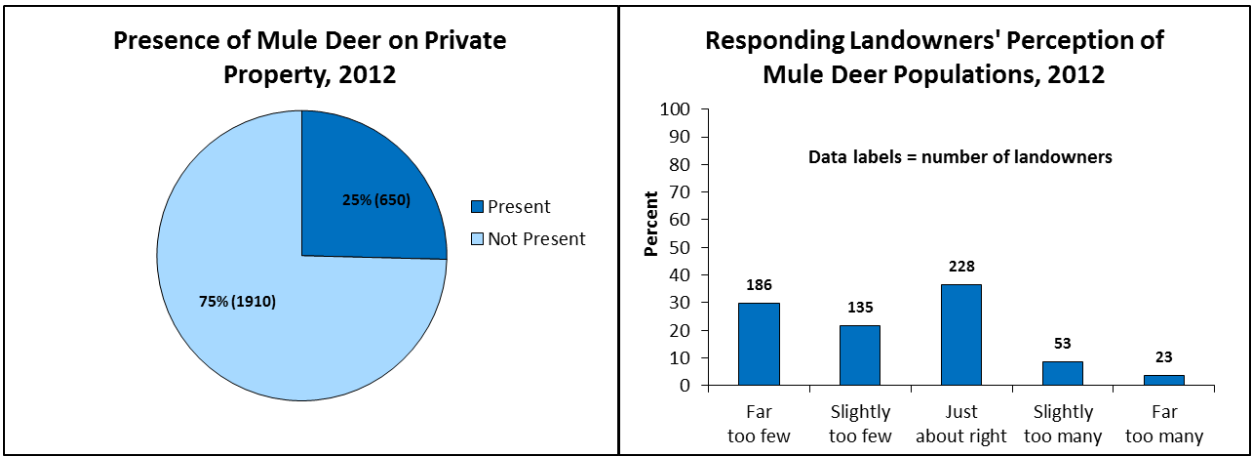


Figure 24: Statewide mule deer populations on private land

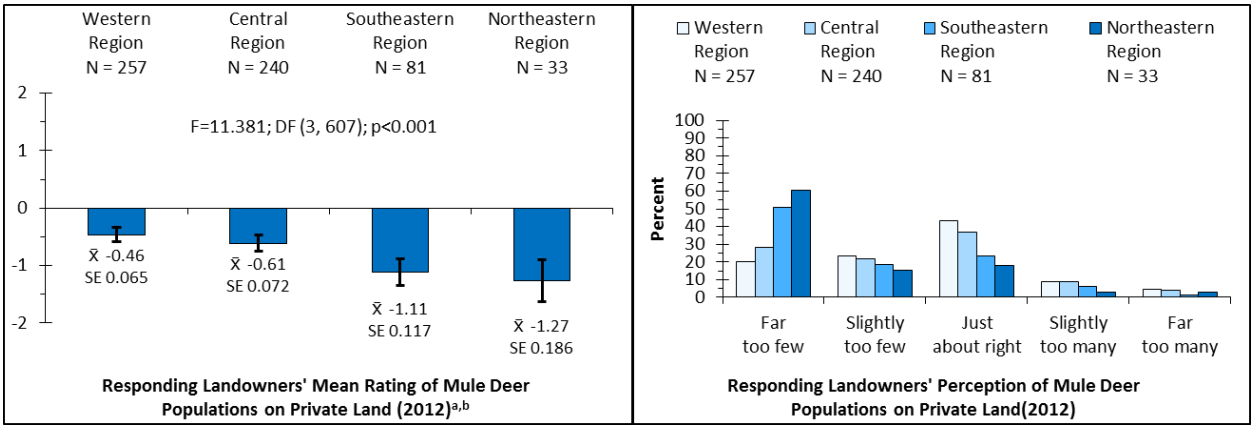


Figure 25: Regional comparison of mule deer populations on private land

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – There were significant differences in mule deer population evaluations across the survey years (figure 26). Statewide, the proportion of landowners who feel the mule deer populations on their land are *far too few* increased from 13 percent in 2007 to 30 percent in 2012. The percentage of landowners rating these populations as *just about right* decreased from 48 percent in 2007 to 36 percent in 2012; likewise, the proportion of landowners who feel there are too many mule deer decreased from 21 percent in 2007 to 12 percent in 2012 (table 5). Regionally there were significant differences across the three survey years (figures 27-30). Similar to statewide trends, the proportion of landowners who feel mule deer populations on private land are too few is increasing while the percentage of those who think the populations are just about right or too many is decreasing across all four regions.

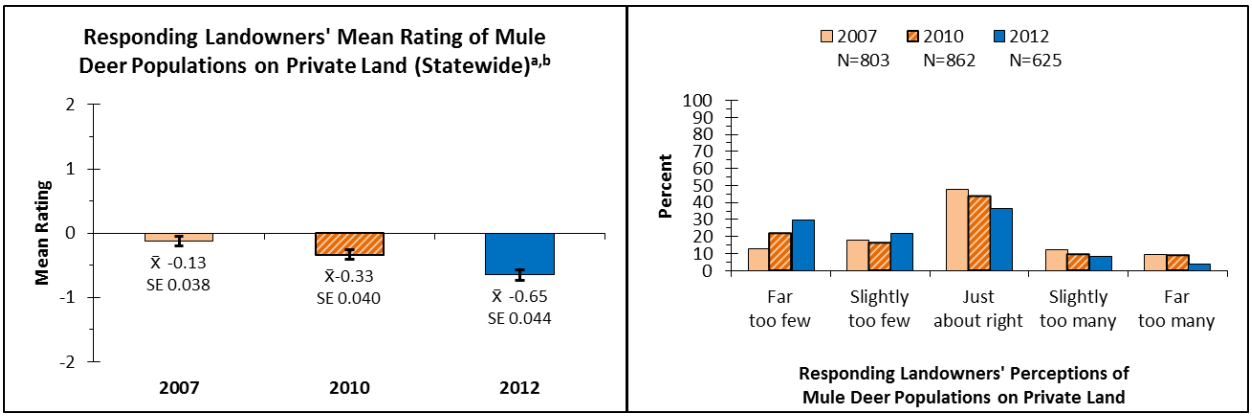


Figure 26: Statewide – of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 5: Landowners' perceptions of mule deer populations on private lands

Mule Deer Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=333	2010 N=345	2012 N=257	2007 N=322	2010 N=352	2012 N=240
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	8.7	19.1	20.2	12.7	13.4	28.3
Slightly too few	16.6	13.9	23.3	18.4	18.2	21.7
Just about right	50.4	49.6	43.2	49.2	45.2	37.1
Slightly too many	13.4	10.4	8.9	10.8	10.8	8.8
Far too many	10.8	7.0	4.3	8.9	12.5	4.2

Mule Deer Population	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 N=104	2010 N=108	2012 N=81	2007 N=44	2010 N=39	2012 N=33
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	26.1	47.2	50.6	18.4	53.8	60.6
Slightly too few	17.4	14.8	18.5	18.4	17.9	15.2
Just about right	40.2	30.6	23.5	39.5	17.9	18.2
Slightly too many	12.0	3.7	6.2	10.5	7.7	3.0
Far too many	4.3	3.7	1.2	13.2	2.6	3.0

Mule Deer Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=803	2010 N=862	2012 N=625
	--percent--		
Far too few	13.0	21.6	29.8
Slightly too few	17.8	16.1	21.6
Just about right	47.7	44.1	36.5
Slightly too many	12.2	9.5	8.5
Far too many	9.3	8.7	3.7

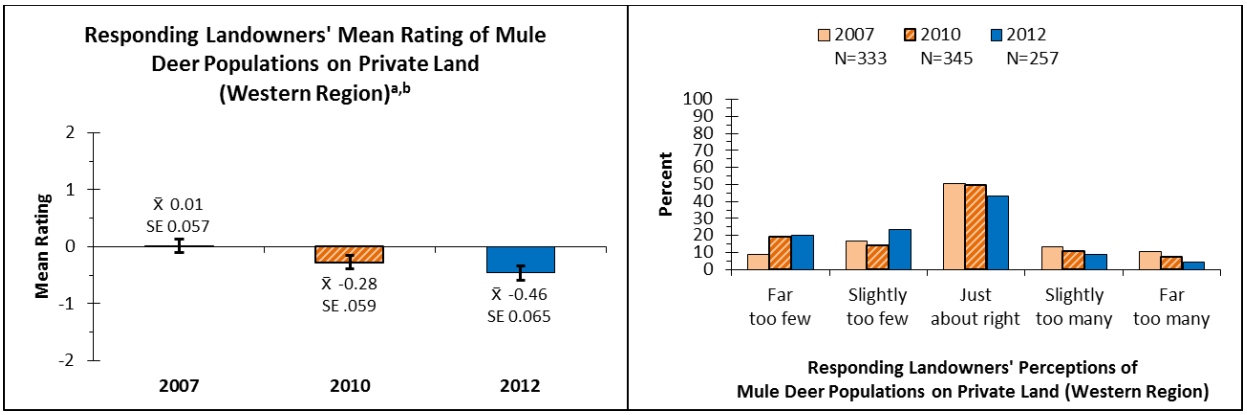


Figure 27: Region 1 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

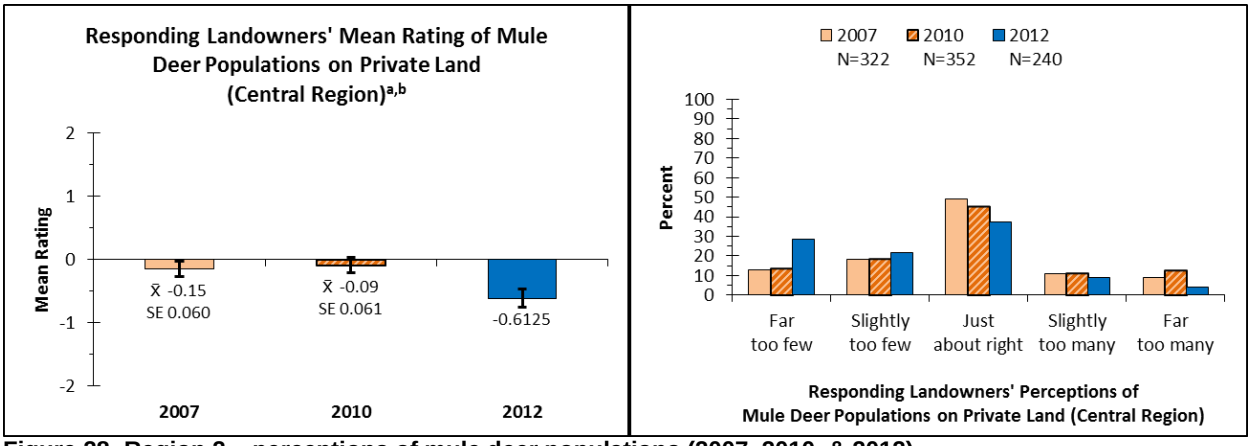


Figure 28: Region 2 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

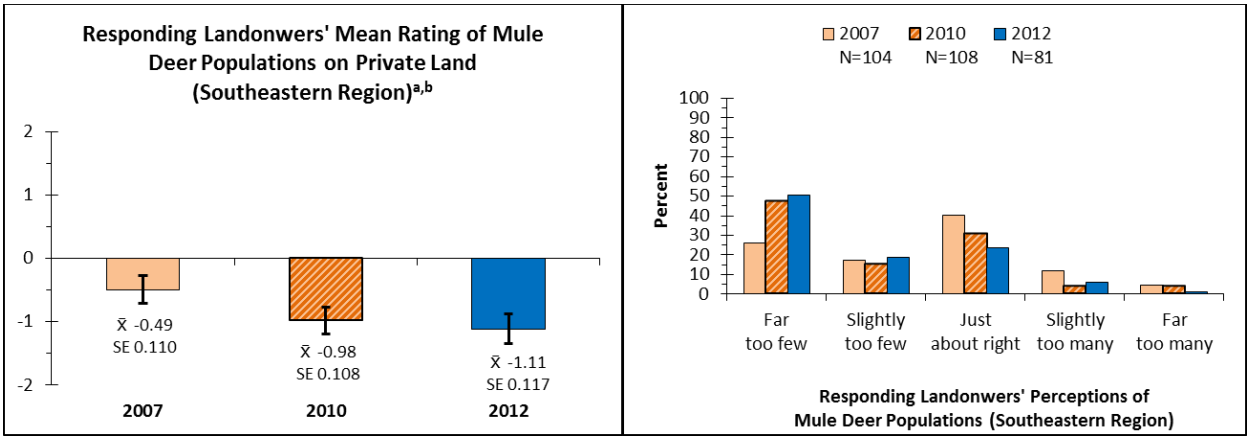


Figure 29: Region 3 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

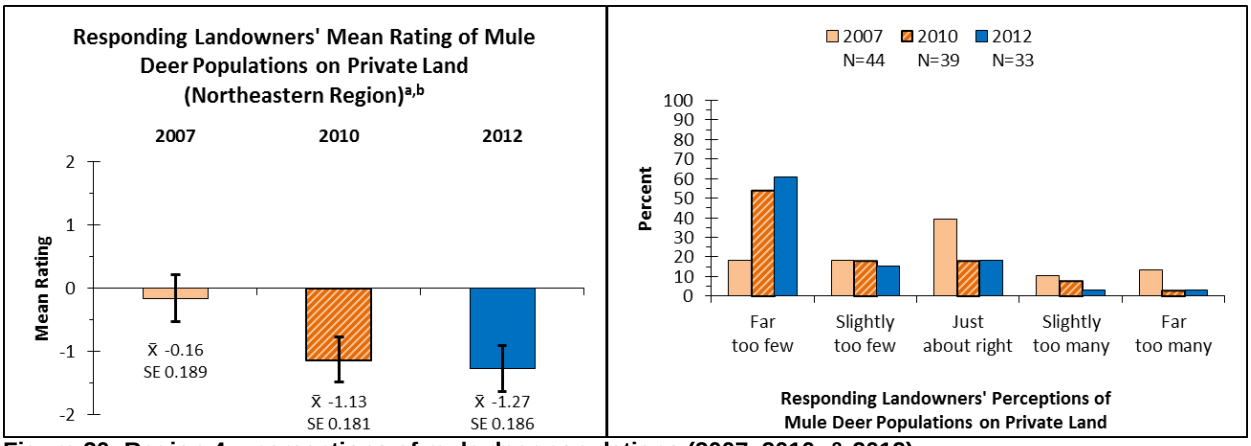


Figure 30: Region 4 – perceptions of mule deer populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation – A little over one-quarter (28%) of landowners with mule deer on their property reported depredation damage from mule deer as a problem (figure 31). Landowners who indicated the damage was a problem predominantly assessed it as being minor. In all four regions the majority of landowners with mule deer present on their property indicated depredation damage was *not a problem* (figure 32). Landowners in the Western Region, however, were more likely to indicate that mule deer damage was at least a minor problem.

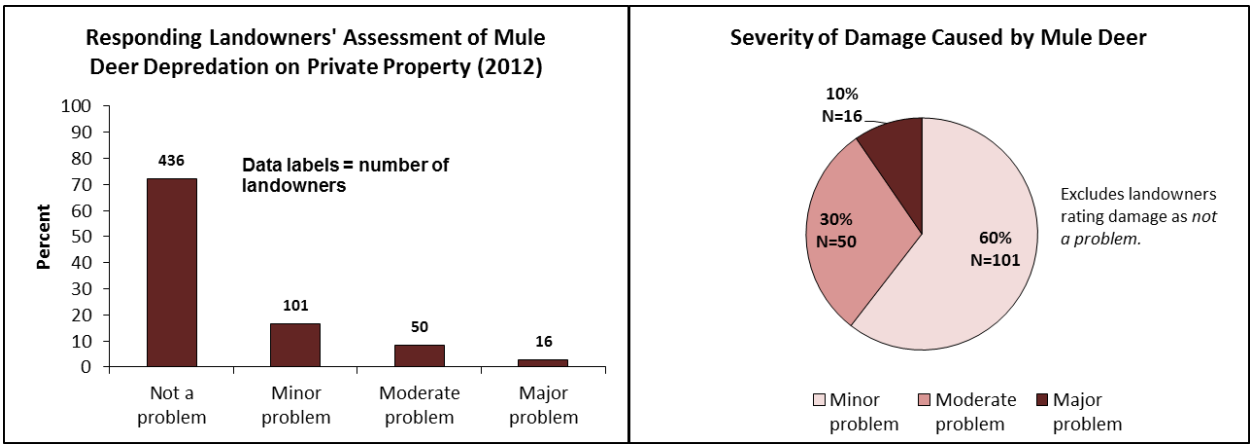


Figure 31: Statewide evaluation of mule deer depredation on private land (2012)

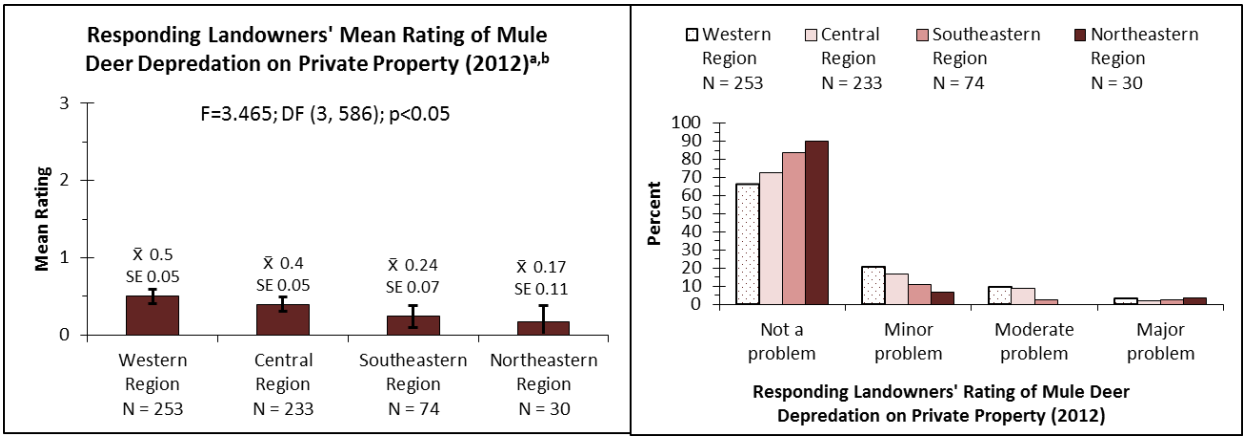


Figure 32: Regional comparison of mule deer depredation on private land (2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation Trends – Mule deer depredation damage evaluations were significantly different at the statewide level (figure 33; table 6). The percentage of landowners reporting mule deer damage as a problem decreased from 2007 to 2012. In the Western and Central Regions, the percentage of landowners who indicated mule deer damage was not a problem increased from 2007 to 2012 (figures 34 and 35). The small numbers of landowners providing information about mule deer damage on their land in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions makes it difficult to statistically evaluate any trends during the time period. It would appear, however, similar trends to the Western and Central Regions are present. Since 2007, the proportion of landowners indicating mule deer damage was not a problem has increased in both the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions (figures 36 and 37).

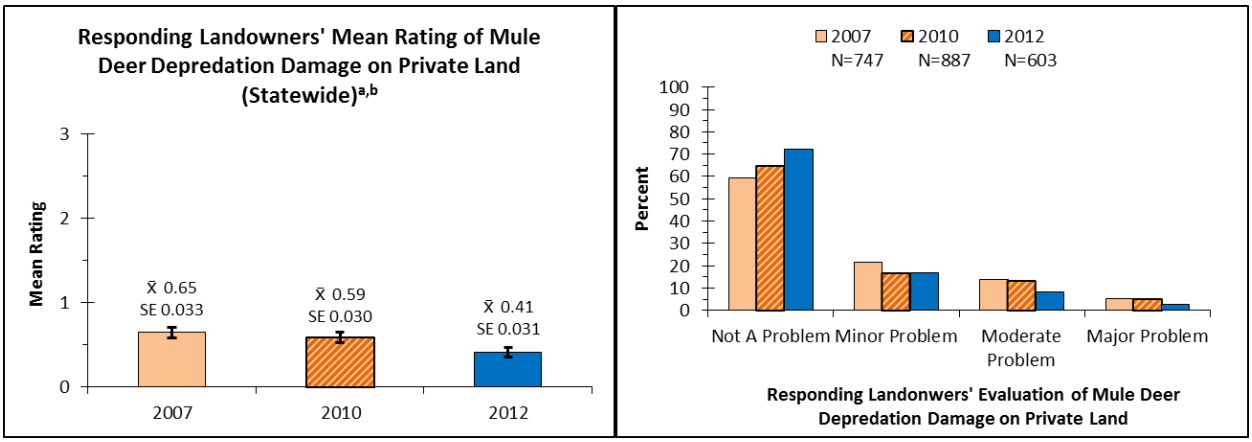


Figure 33: Statewide – ratings of mule deer damage (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 6: Landowners' perceptions of mule deer depredation on private lands

Mule Deer Depredation Damage	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=313	2010 N=356	2012 N=253	2007 N=303	2010 N=361	2012 N=233
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	53.9	60.7	66.4	63.9	61.8	72.5
Minor Problem	22.4	19.4	20.6	21.0	16.3	16.7
Moderate Problem	16.4	15.7	9.9	12.1	15.2	8.6
Major Problem	7.3	4.2	3.2	3.0	6.6	2.1
Mule Deer Depredation Damage	**Southeastern Region**			**Northeastern Region**		
	2007 N=94	2010 N=110	2012 N=74	2007 N=37	2010 N=41	2012 N=30
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	64.5	80.9	83.8	60.0	78.0	90.0
Minor Problem	19.7	10.9	10.8	25.7	12.0	6.7
Moderate Problem	13.2	4.5	2.7	8.6	7.3	—
Major Problem	2.6	3.6	2.7	5.7	2.4	3.3

Mule Deer Depredation Damage	Statewide		
	2007 747	2010 N=887	2012 N=603
		--percent--	
Not a Problem	59.3	64.9	72.3
Minor Problem	21.7	16.6	16.7
Moderate Problem	13.9	13.4	8.3
Major Problem	5.1	5.1	2.7

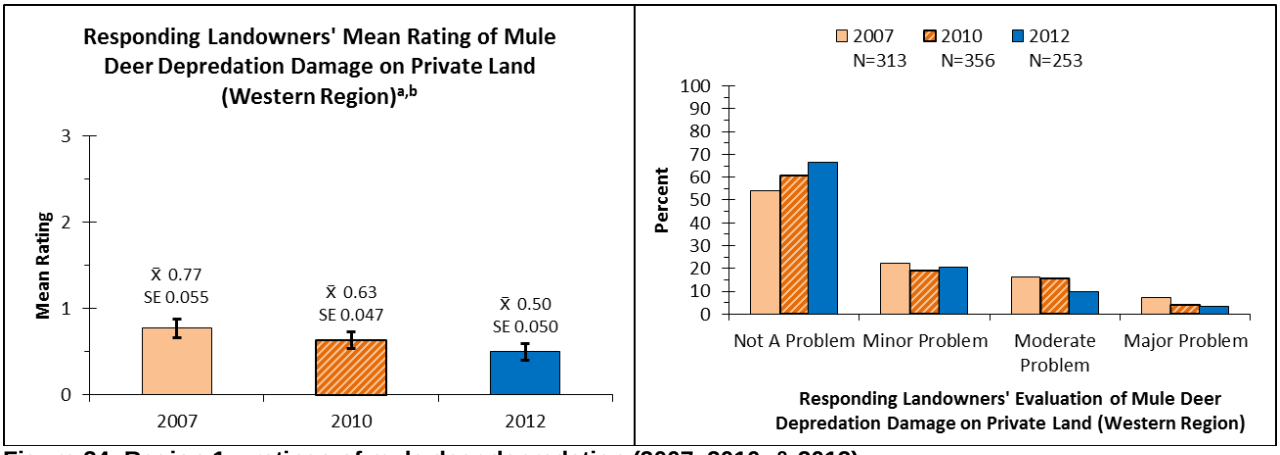


Figure 34: Region 1 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)

[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

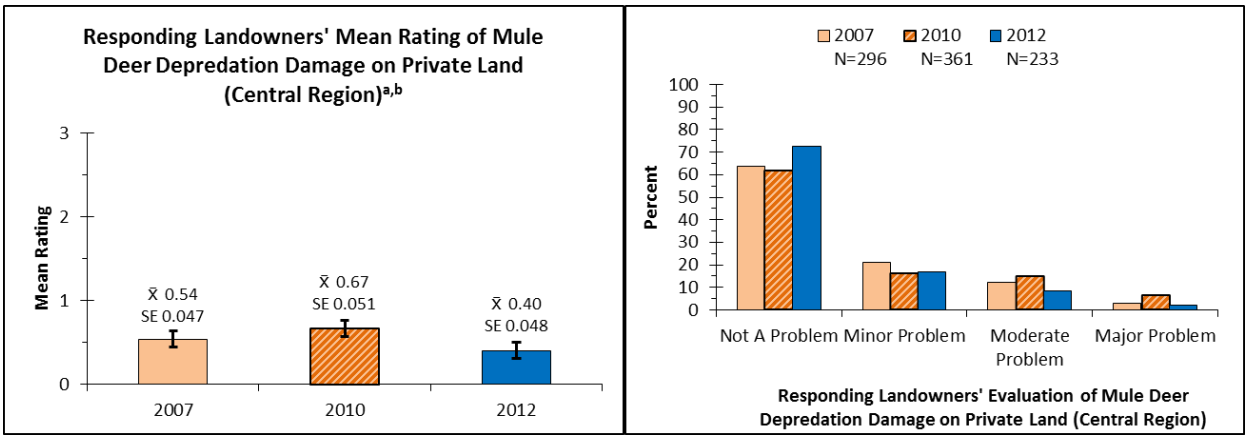


Figure 35: Region 2 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

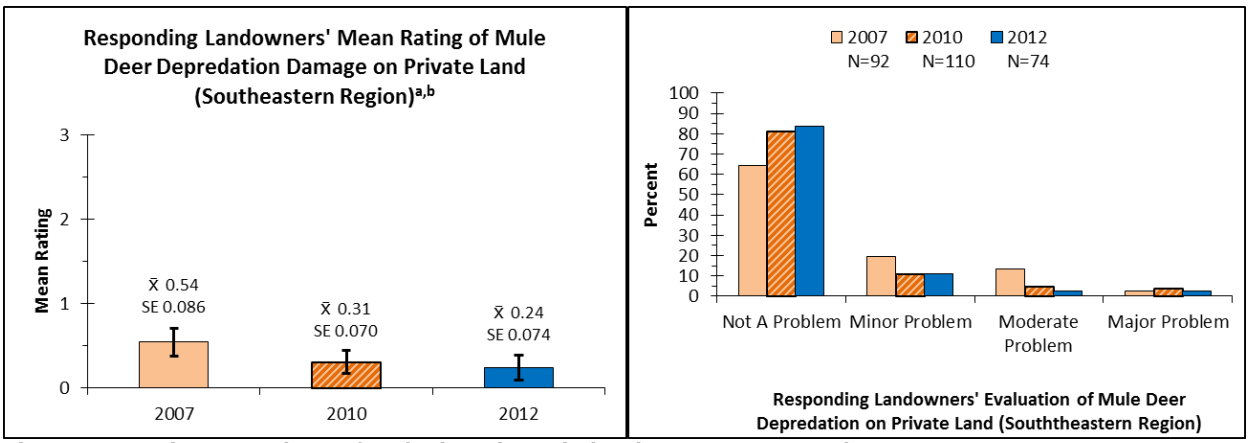


Figure 36: Region 3 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, &2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

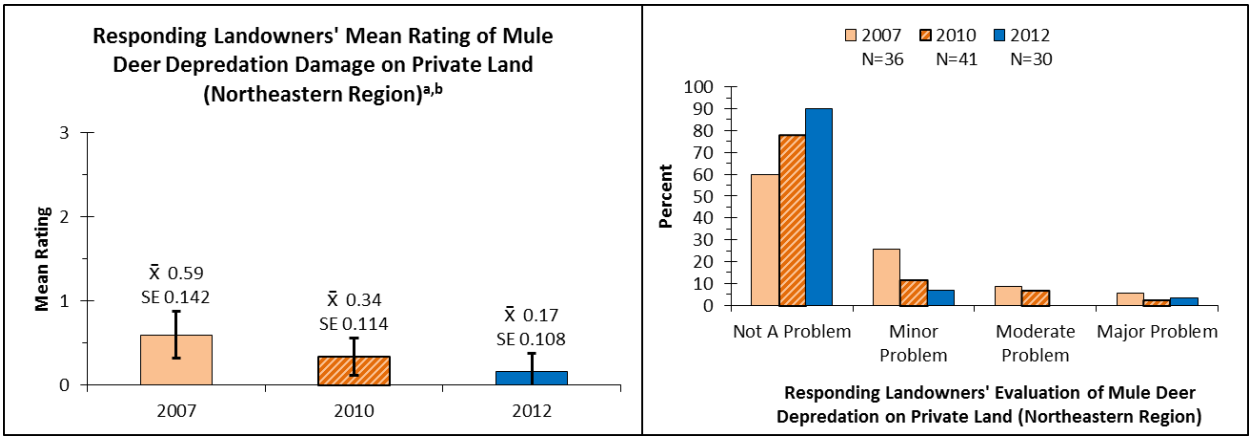


Figure 37: Region 4 – ratings of mule deer depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Elk

Population – Of the seven game species surveyed, elk was the least prevalent on private property. Six percent of responding landowners indicated they had elk present on their property (figure 38). Forty-four percent of landowners who had elk on their property felt their populations were *far too few*, and another 14 percent felt the population levels were *slightly too few*. Twenty-nine percent of landowners felt the populations were *just about right*, and 13 percent felt they were either *slightly too many* or *far too many*. Overall, the mean rating was *slightly too few* ($\bar{X}$ -0.64, SE 0.118, N=107).[6] The small sample size at the regional level makes statistical comparisons difficult and potentially unreliable. Descriptively, however, it appears that landowners in the Central Region were more likely than landowners in the Western Region to rate elk populations on private property as far too few (figure 39).

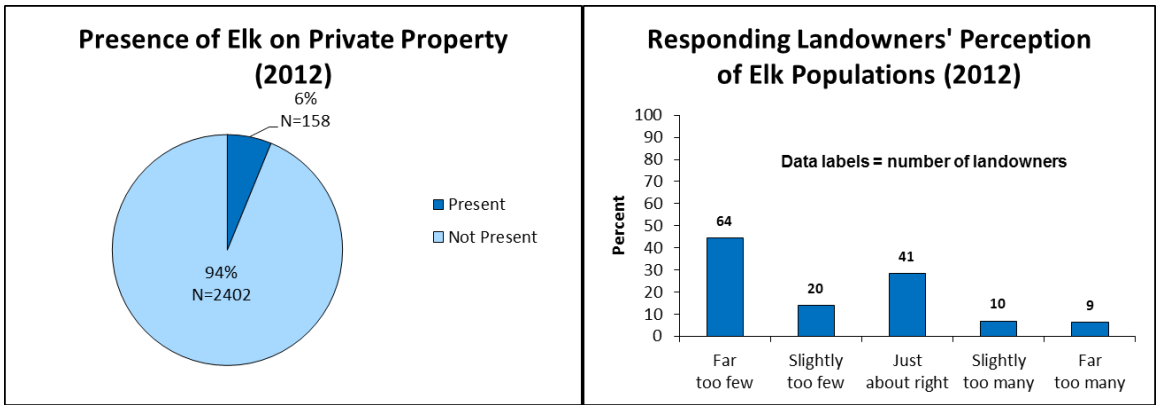


Figure 38: Statewide elk populations on private property (2012)

[6] Survey Scale:-2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

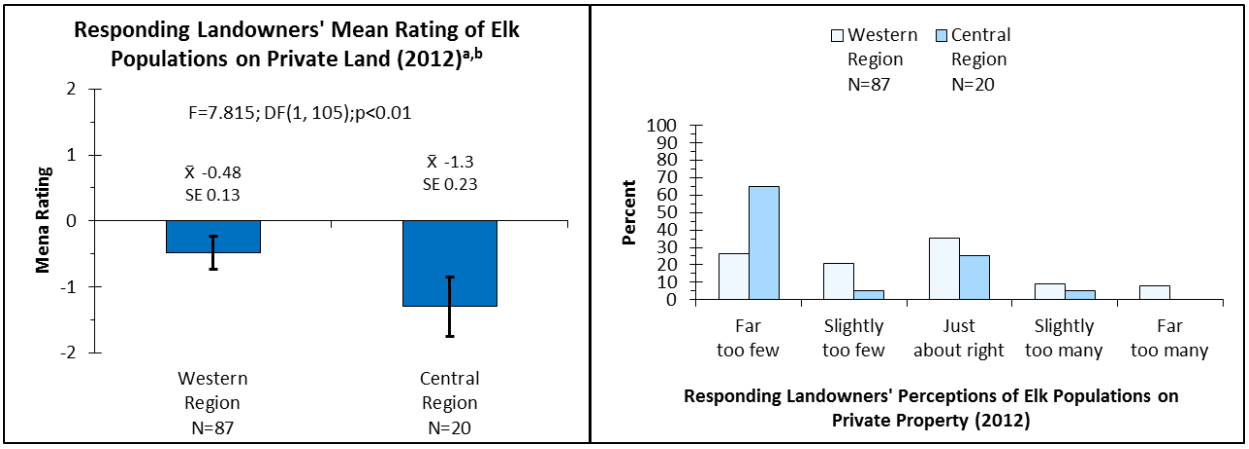


Figure 39: Regional comparisons of elk populations on private property (2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – Since 2007 landowners' evaluations of the number of elk on their property has decreased, on average, from *just about right* to *slightly too few* (figure 40 and table 7). The 2010 and 2012 statewide data represent data from both the Western and Central Regions; however, there was no reported data for the Central Region in 2007. Landowners in the Western Region reported population ratings similar to the statewide trend (figure 41). On average, responding Central Region landowners for 2010 and 2012 indicated, elk numbers were too few (figure 42).

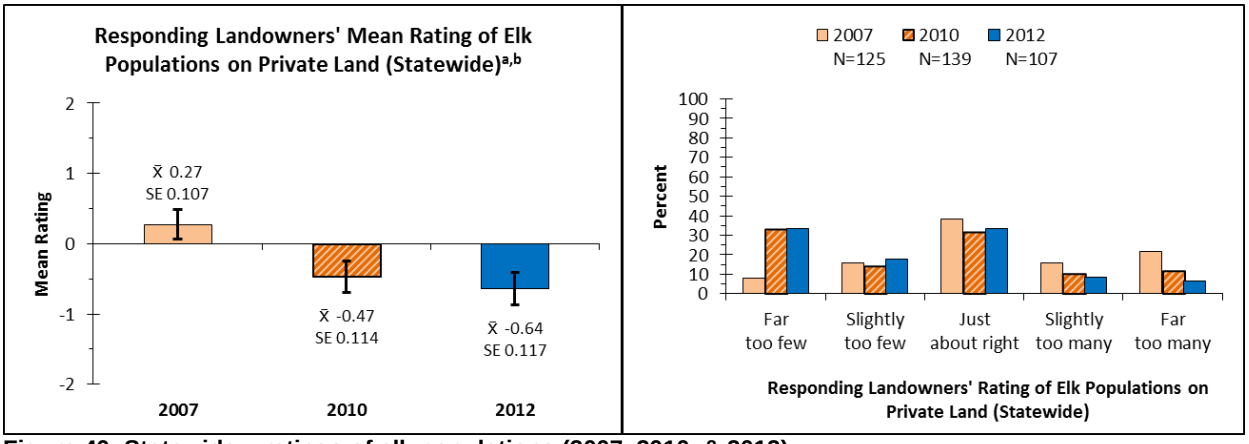


Figure 40: Statewide – ratings of elk populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 7: Landowners' perceptions of elk populations on private lands

Elk Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=125	2010 N=116	2012 N=87	2007 No Data	2010 N=22	2012 N=20
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	8.0	26.7	26.4	ND	59.1	65.0
Slightly too few	16.0	13.8	20.7	ND	13.6	5.0
Just about right	38.4	35.3	35.6	ND	18.2	25.0
Slightly too many	16.0	12.1	9.2	ND	—	5.0
Far too many	21.6	12.1	8.0	ND	9.1	—

Elk Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=125	2010 N=139	2012 N=107
	--percent--		
Far too few	8.0	33.1	33.6
Slightly too few	16.0	13.7	17.8
Just about right	38.4	31.6	33.6
Slightly too many	16.0	10.1	8.4
Far too many	21.6	11.5	6.5

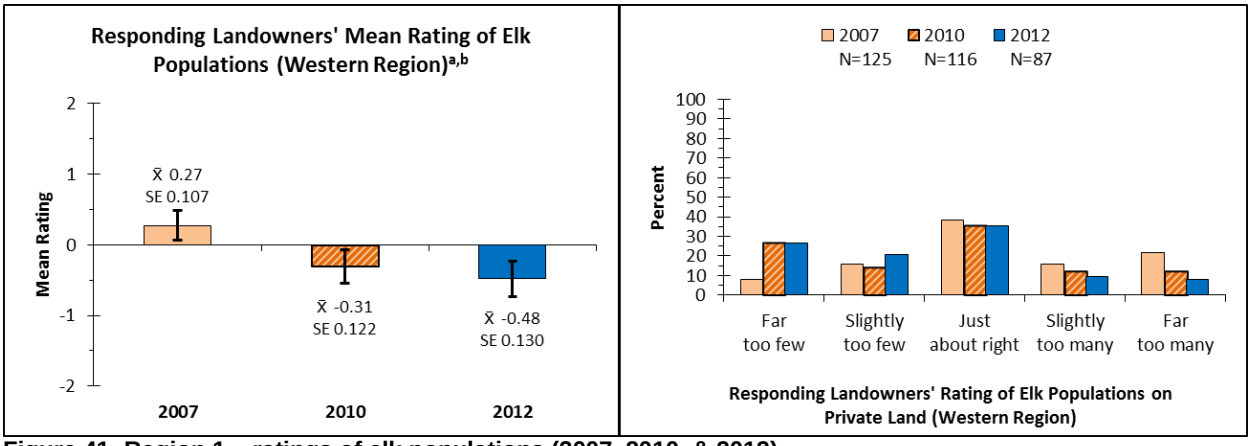


Figure 41: Region 1 – ratings of elk populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

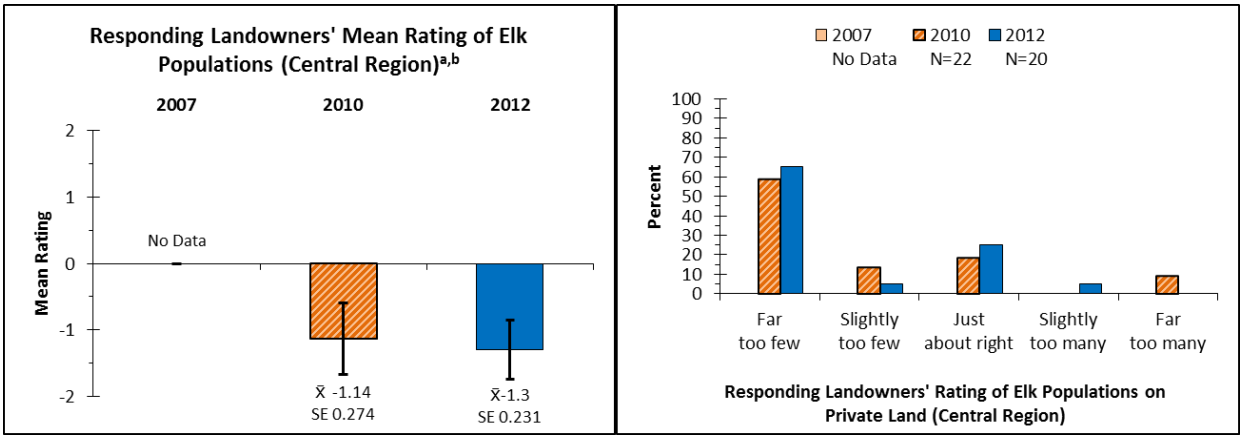


Figure 42: Region 2 – ratings of elk populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation – Sixty-four percent of landowners who have elk on their property indicated elk depredation damage was *not a problem* (figure 43). The majority of landowners who indicated the damage was a problem assessed it as being moderate or major (37% and 20%, respectively). Landowners in the Central Region were more likely than landowners in the Western Region to indicate elk damage was *not a problem*. Forty-five percent of landowners in the Western Region indicated elk damage was a problem; 20 percent indicated it was a *minor problem*, 16 percent a *moderate problem*, and 9 percent a *major problem* (figure 44).

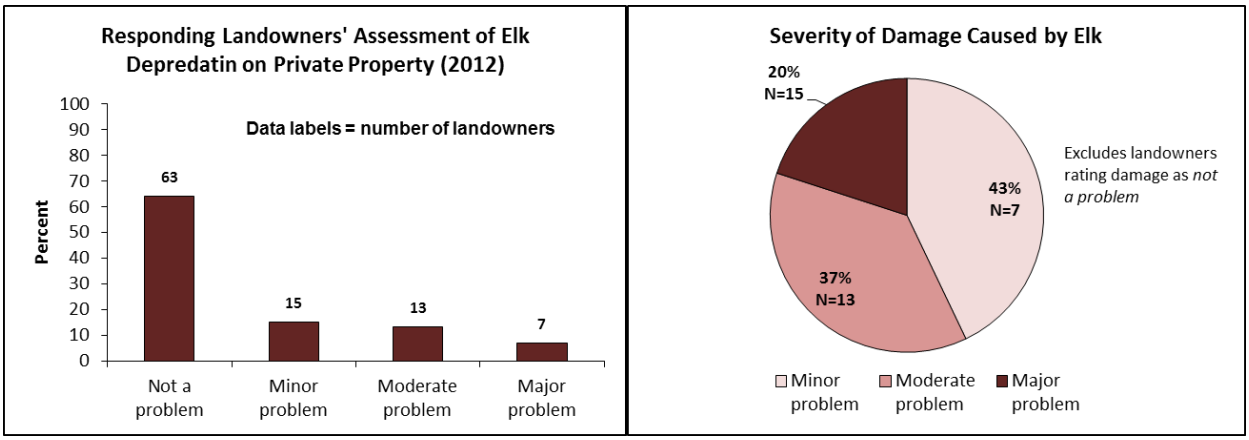


Figure 43: Statewide evaluation of elk depredation damage on private land (2012)

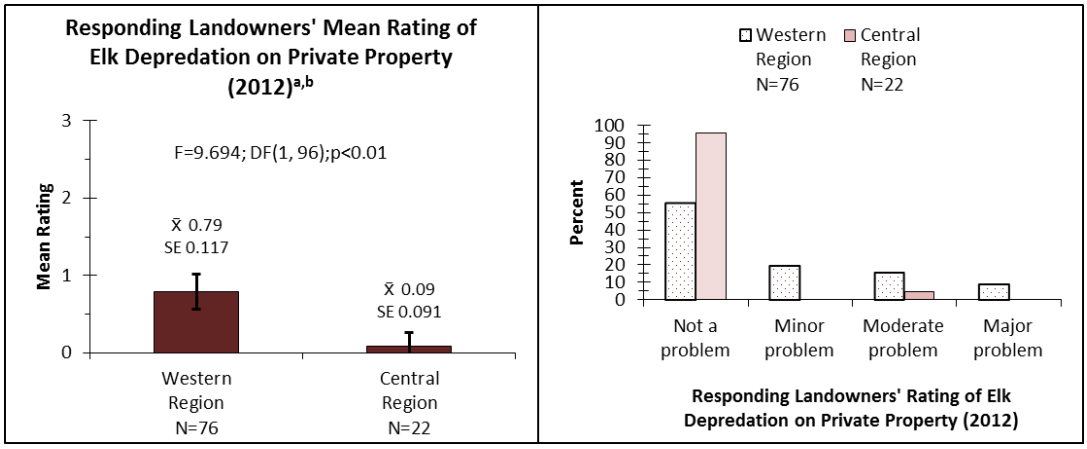


Figure 44: Regional comparison of elk depredation on private land (2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation Trends – Elk depredation damage evaluations were significantly different at the statewide level (figure 45 and table 8). The proportion of landowners who indicated elk damage was a problem decreased from 2007 to 2012 (70% and 36%, respectively). In the Western Region the percentage of landowners who indicated elk damage was *not a problem* increased from 30 percent in 2007 to 55 percent in 2012 (figure 46). There was no significant difference in elk damage ratings in the Central Region between 2010 and 2012 (figure 47).

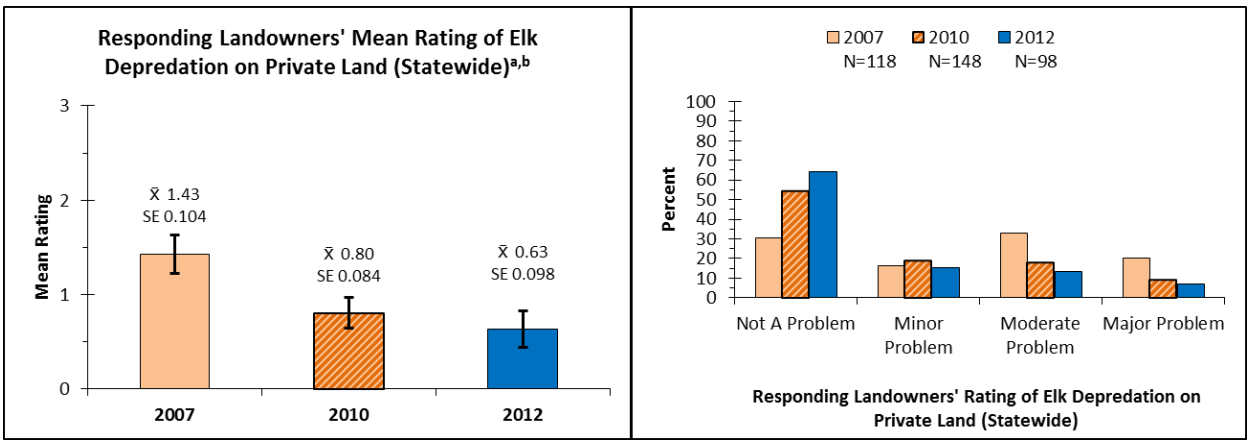


Figure 45: Statewide - ratings of elk depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 8: Landowners' rating of elk depredation damage on private lands

Elk Depredation	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=118	2010 N=123	2012 N=76	2007 No Data	2010 N=24	2012 N=22
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	30.5	48.0	55.3	ND	91.7	95.5
Minor Problem	16.1	21.1	19.7	ND	8.3	—
Moderate Problem	33.1	20.3	15.8	ND	—	4.5
Major Problem	20.3	10.6	9.2	ND	—	—

Elk Depredation	Statewide		
	2007 N=118	2010 N=148	2012 N=98
	--percent--		
Not a Problem	30.5	54.7	64.3
Minor Problem	16.1	18.9	15.3
Moderate Problem	33.1	17.6	13.3
Major Problem	20.3	8.8	7.1

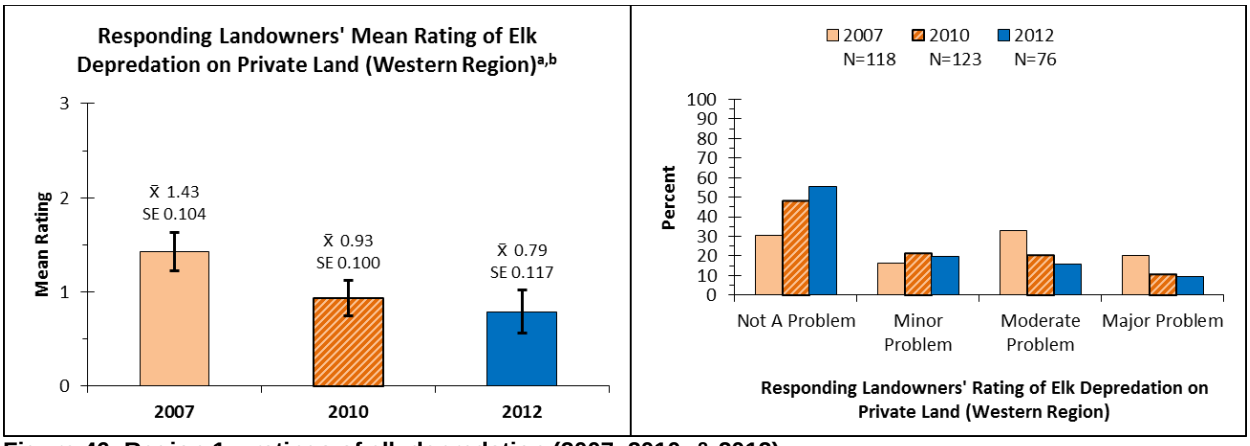


Figure 46: Region 1 – ratings of elk depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)

[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

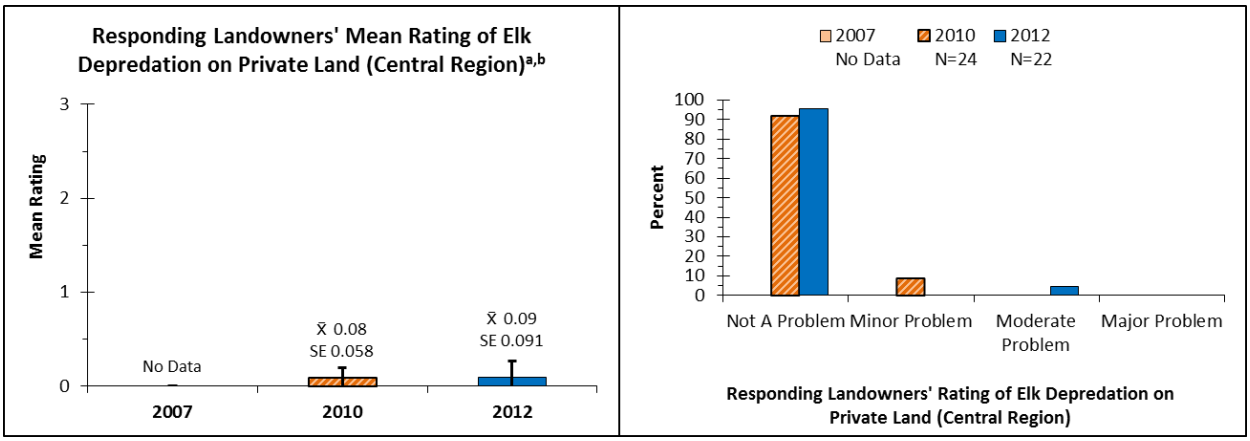


Figure 47: Region 2 – ratings of elk depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Pronghorn

Population – The majority (86%) of responding landowners indicated they did not have pronghorn on their property (figure 48). Forty-two percent of landowners who reported pronghorn on their property felt the populations were *just about right*; 16 percent felt there were too many and 42 percent felt there were too few pronghorn on their property. The mean rating was *slightly too few* ($\bar{x}$ -0.48, SE 0.062, N=342)[7]. There were differences between landowners' rating of pronghorn populations at the regional level (figure 49). On average landowners in the Western Region indicated populations were *just about right* while landowners in the Northeastern Region indicated pronghorn populations were *slightly too few*. The most frequently occurring response in the Western and Central Regions was *just about right* compared with *far too few* in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions.

[7] Survey Scale:-2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

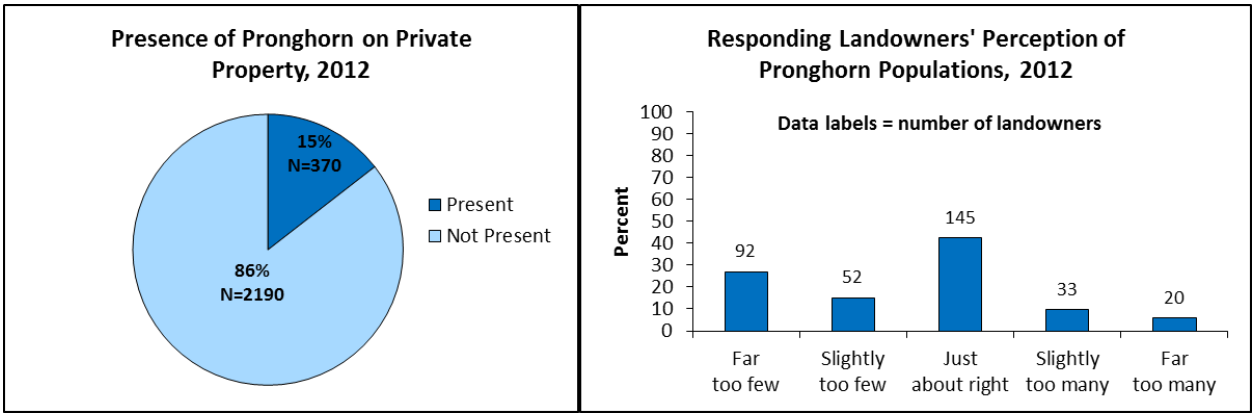


Figure 48: Statewide pronghorn populations on private property (2012)

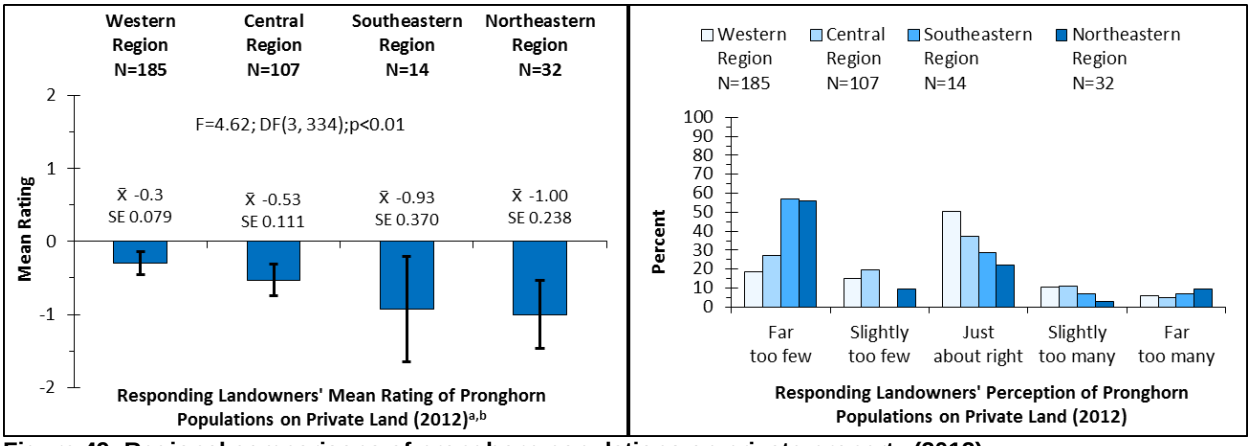


Figure 49: Regional comparisons of pronghorn populations on private property (2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – Since 2007 landowners' evaluations of the number of pronghorn on their property has decreased, on average, from *just about right* to *slightly too few* (figure 50 and table 9). The 2010 and 2012 data represent data from all four management regions; however, there is no data reported for pronghorn in the Southeastern or Northeastern Regions in 2007. Landowners in the Western Region reported population ratings similar to the statewide trend (figure 51). There were no significant differences in the rating of pronghorn populations in the Central Region from 2007 to 2012 (figure 52) or the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions from 2010 to 2012 (figures 53 and 54).

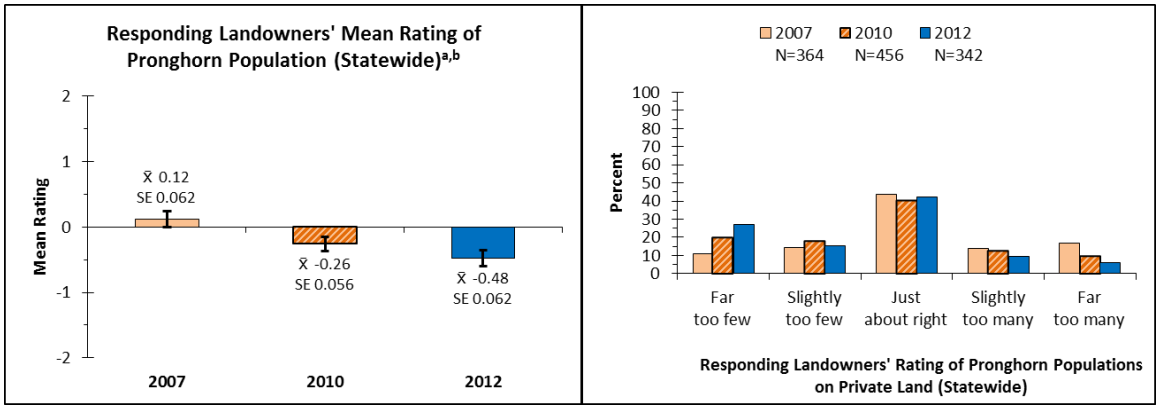


Figure 50: Statewide – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 9: Landowners' perceptions of pronghorn populations on private lands

Pronghorn Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=229	2010 N=254	2012 N=185	2007 N=135	2010 N=153	2012 N=107
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	7.5	14.6	18.4	12.5	19.6	27.1
Slightly too few	10.6	17.3	15.1	23.1	20.3	19.6
Just about right	41.0	42.5	50.3	51.9	39.9	37.4
Slightly too many	18.5	13.8	10.3	4.8	13.7	11.2
Far too many	22.5	11.8	5.9	7.7	6.5	4.7

Pronghorn Population	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 No Data	2010 N=15	2012 N=14	2007 No Data	2010 N=22	2012 N=32
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	ND	66.7	57.1	ND	59.1	56.2
Slightly too few	ND	6.7	—	ND	13.6	9.4
Just about right	ND	26.7	28.6	ND	18.2	21.9
Slightly too many	ND	—	7.1	ND	—	3.1
Far too many	ND	—	7.1	ND	9.1	9.4

Pronghorn Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=364	2010 N=456	2012 N=342
	--percent--		
Far too few	10.7	19.7	26.9
Slightly too few	14.3	18.0	15.2
Just about right	43.7	40.1	42.4
Slightly too many	14.0	12.5	9.6
Far too many	17.0	9.6	5.8

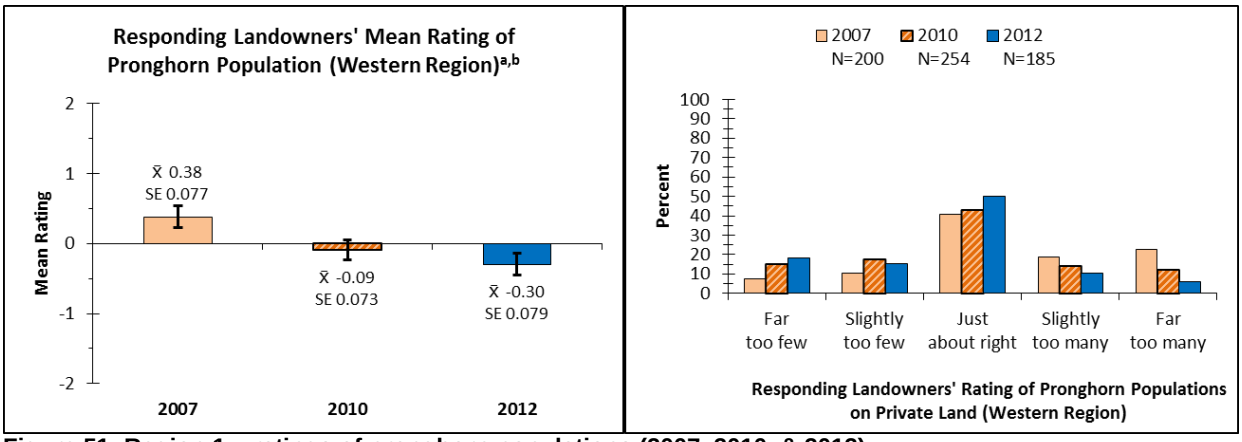


Figure 51: Region 1 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

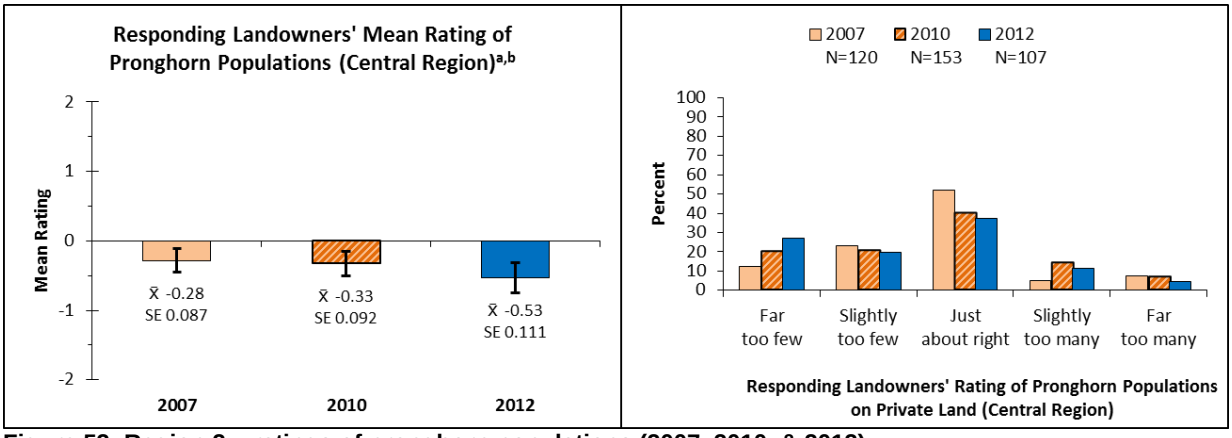


Figure 52: Region 2 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

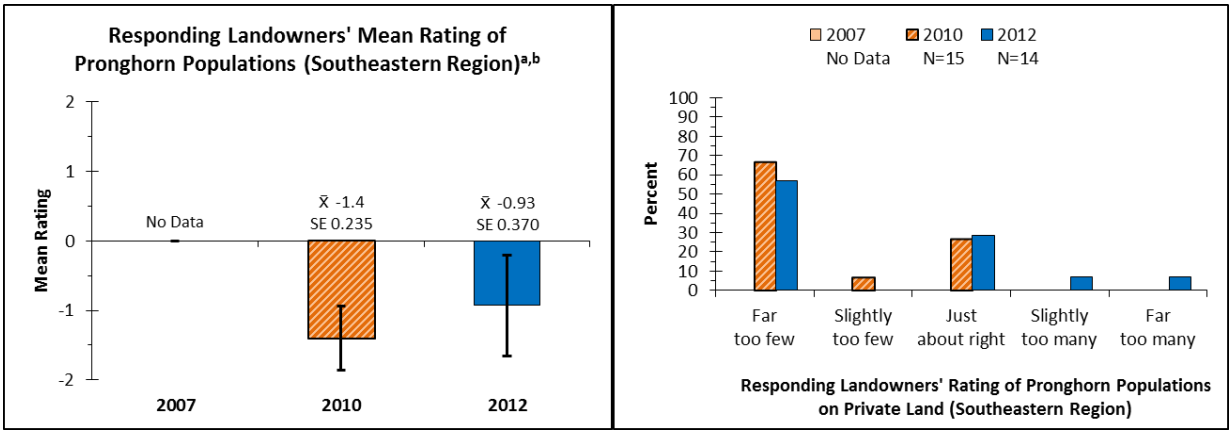


Figure 53: Region 3 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

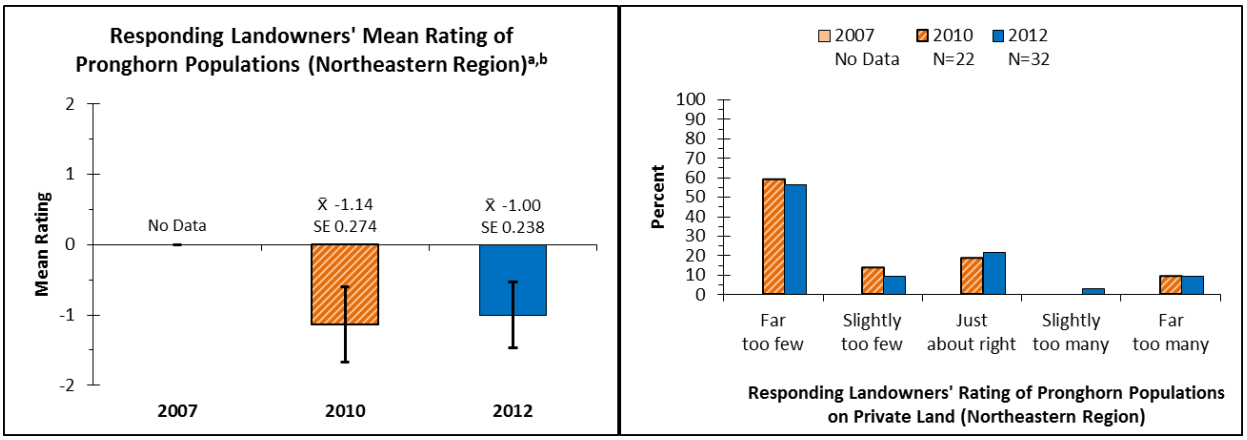


Figure 54: Region 4 – ratings of pronghorn populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation – Seventy-one percent of landowners who have pronghorn on their property indicated pronghorn damage was *not a problem* (figure 55). The majority of landowners who indicated the damage was a problem assessed it as being minor (62%). Landowners in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions were more likely than landowners in the Western and Central Regions to indicate pronghorn damage was *not a problem* (figure 56). Ninety-two percent of landowners in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions reported the damage as *not a problem* compared to 63 percent and 75 percent in the Western and Central Regions, respectively.

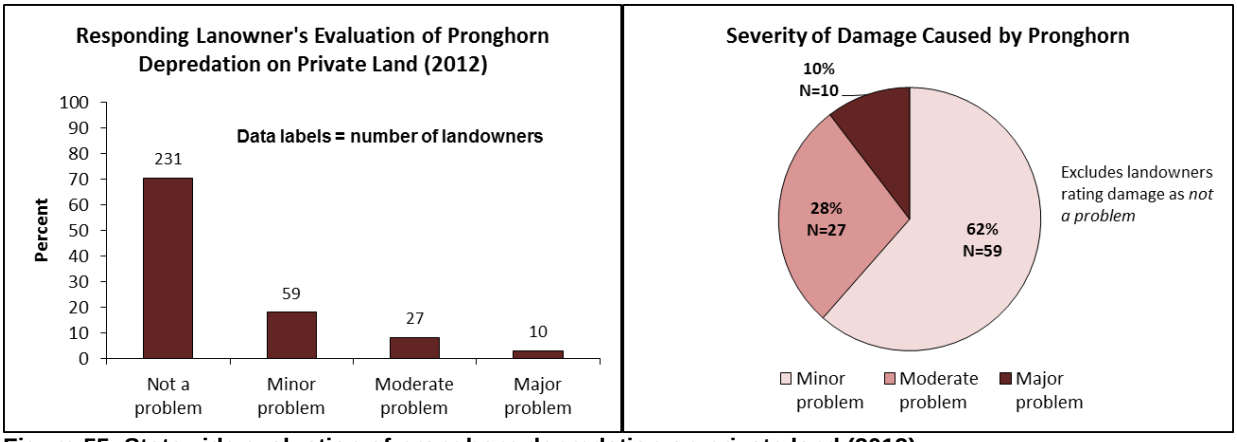


Figure 55: Statewide evaluation of pronghorn depredation on private land (2012)

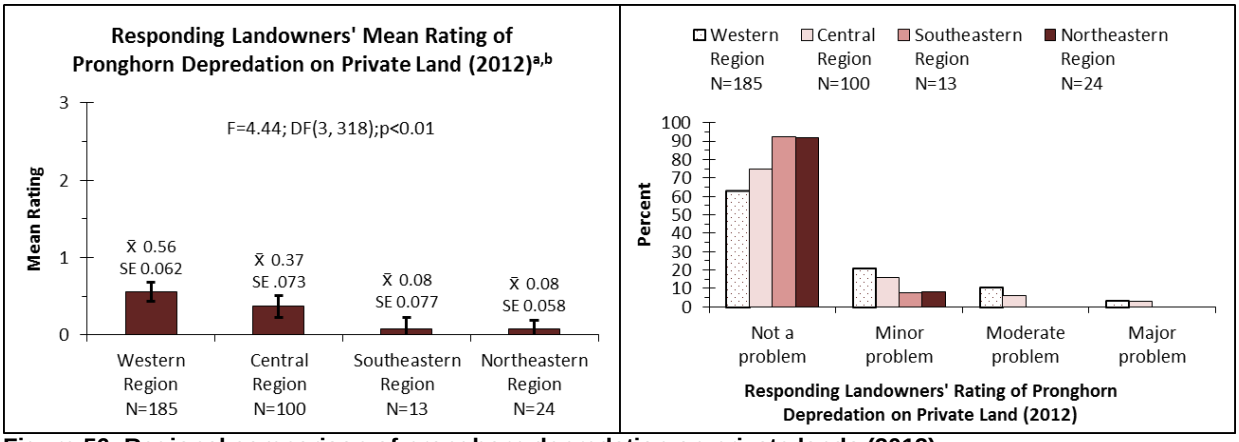


Figure 56: Regional comparison of pronghorn depredation on private lands (2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation Trends – Pronghorn depredation damage evaluations were significantly different at the statewide level (figure 57 and table 10). The proportion of landowners who indicated pronghorn damage was a problem decreased from 43 percent in 2007 to 29 percent in 2012. Of the four management regions only the Western Region showed significant differences in landowners' rating of pronghorn depredation across the survey years. The percentage of landowners who indicated pronghorn damage was *not a problem* increased from 47 percent in 2007 to 63 percent in 2012 (figure 58).

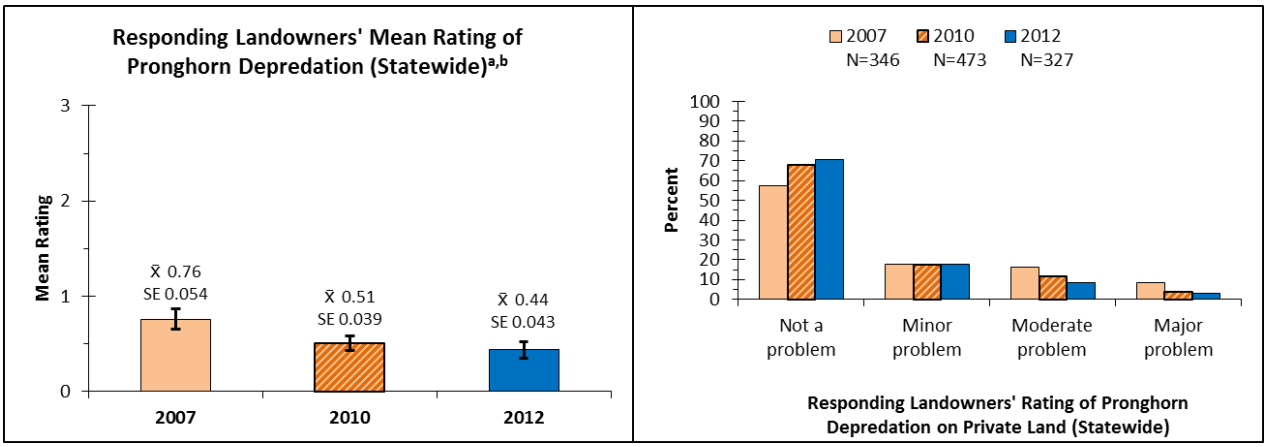


Figure 57: Statewide – ratings of pronghorn depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 10: Landowners' rating of pronghorn damage on private lands

Pronghorn Depredation	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=221	2010 N=266	2012 N=185	2007 N=125	2010 N=158	2012 N=100
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	46.9	63.9	63.2	75.7	69.6	75.0
Minor Problem	21.1	18.0	21.6	13.6	18.4	16.0
Moderate Problem	20.7	12.8	11.4	7.8	10.1	6.0
Major Problem	11.3	5.3	3.8	2.9	1.9	3.0
Pronghorn Depredation	**Southeastern Region**			**Northeastern Region**		
	2007 No Data	2010 N=15	2012 N=13	2007 No Data	2010 N=22	2012 N=24
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	ND	100.0	92.3	ND	91.0	91.7
Minor Problem	ND	—	7.7	ND	4.5	8.3
Moderate Problem	ND	—	—	ND	4.5	—
Major Problem	ND	—	—	ND	—	—

Pronghorn Depredation	Statewide		
	2007 N=346	2010 N=473	2012 N=327
	--percent--		
Not a Problem	57.2	67.9	70.6
Minor Problem	17.9	17.1	18.0
Moderate Problem	16.5	11.2	8.3
Major Problem	8.4	3.8	3.1

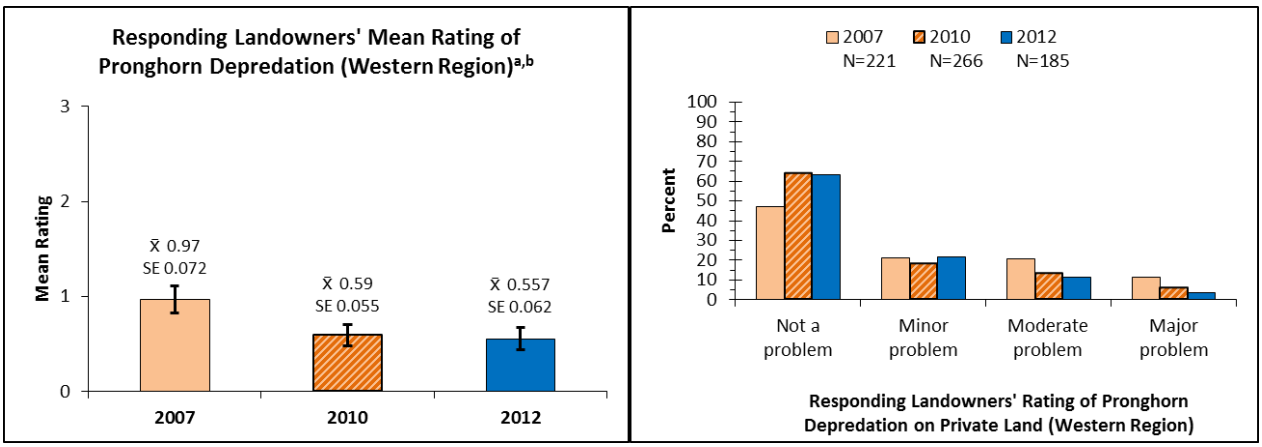


Figure 58: Region 1 – ratings of pronghorn depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)

[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem

[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Wild Turkey

Population – Forty-one percent of responding landowners indicated wild turkeys were present on their land (figure 59). Forty-two percent of landowners who had wild turkeys on their property rated the population as *just about right*, 43 percent felt there were too few turkeys, and 15 percent felt there were too many on their property. Overall, the mean rating was *slightly too few* ($\bar{x}$ -0.43, SE 0.035, N=1,008).[8] There were differences between landowners' rating of wild turkey populations at the regional level (figure 60). On average, landowners in the Southeastern Region were more likely than those in the other regions to rate populations as *far too few*; however, the most frequent response in all four regions was *just about right*.

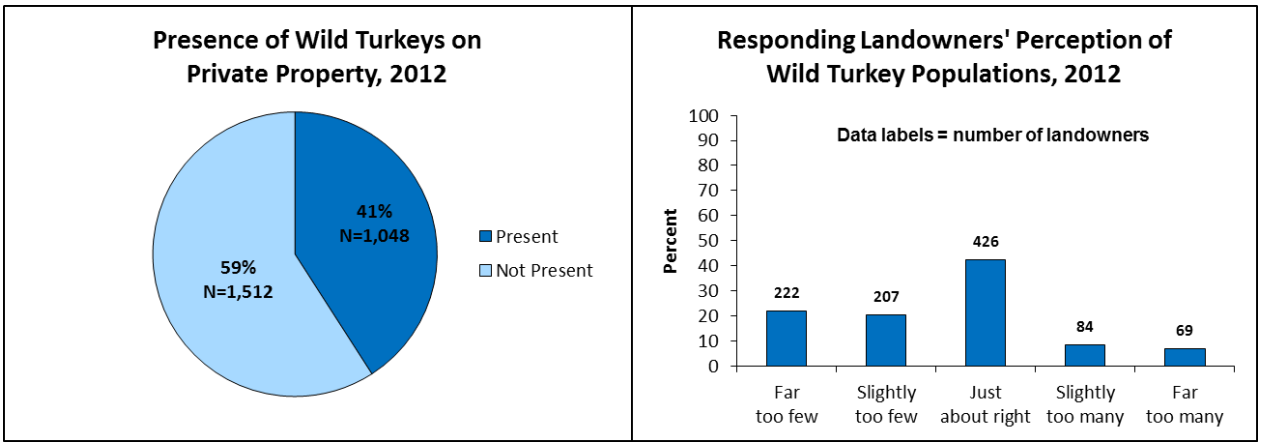


Figure 59: Statewide wild turkey populations on private property (2012)

[8] Survey Scale:-2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

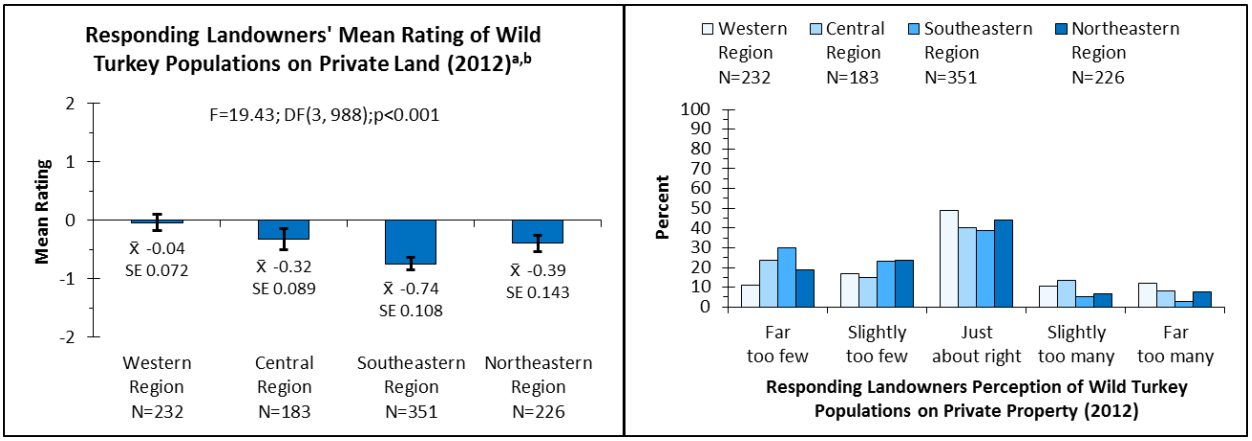


Figure 60: Regional comparisons of wild turkey populations on private property (2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – Across the three survey years landowners' evaluations of the number of wild turkeys on private property has remained statistically similar at both the regional and statewide levels (figure 61 and table 11). On average, landowners in 2012 rated turkey populations on private land as *slightly too few*.

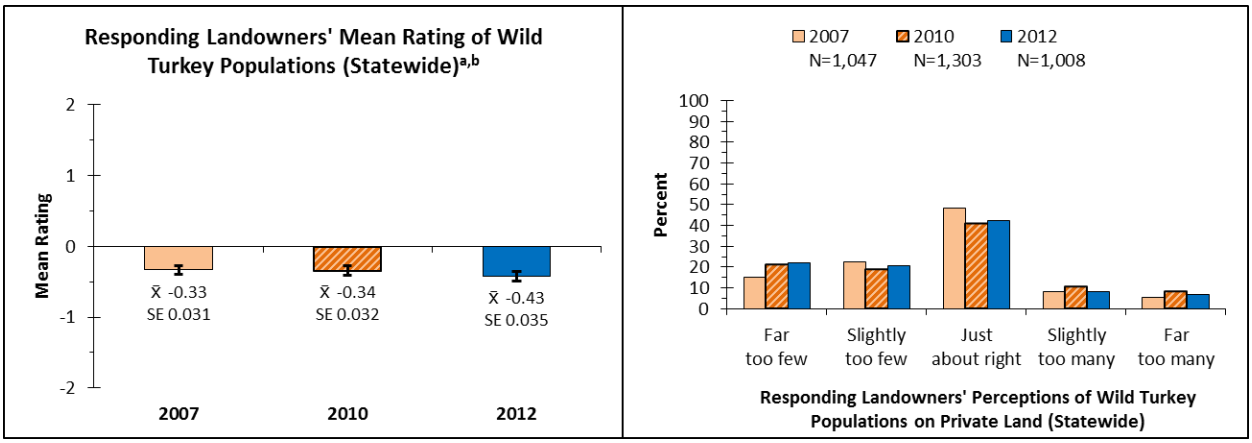


Figure 61: Statewide – ratings of wild turkey populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 11: Landowners' perceptions of wild turkey populations on private lands

Turkey Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=251	2010 N=328	2012 N=232	2007 N=209	2010 N=260	2012 N=183
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	7.1	11.6	11.2	15.8	16.9	23.5
Slightly too few	13.6	12.2	16.8	25.0	15.0	14.8
Just about right	58.6	48.5	49.1	46.1	45.4	39.9
Slightly too many	11.5	13.4	10.8	7.0	11.5	13.7
Far too many	9.2	14.3	12.1	6.1	11.2	8.2

Turkey Population	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 N=346	2010 N=403	2012 N=351	2007 N=241	2010 N=292	2012 N=226
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	21.8	33.5	30.2	15.9	19.9	18.6
Slightly too few	28.4	23.6	23.4	25.0	22.3	23.5
Just about right	41.3	33.0	38.7	46.6	41.4	43.8
Slightly too many	6.3	6.5	5.1	9.1	11.0	6.6
Far too many	2.3	3.5	2.6	3.4	5.5	7.5

Turkey Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=1,047	2010 N=1,303	2012 N=1,008
	--percent--		
Far too few	15.0	21.3	22.0
Slightly too few	22.6	18.8	20.5
Just about right	48.5	41.1	42.3
Slightly too many	8.4	10.4	8.3
Far too many	5.4	8.4	6.8

Depredation – The majority of landowners who have wild turkeys on their property (76%) reported turkey depredation was *not a problem* (figure 62). The majority of landowners who indicated turkey depredation was a problem assessed it as being minor (55%); one-quarter rated the damage as moderate, and 20 percent indicated turkey depredation was a major problem. On average, landowners in the Southeastern Region were more likely to indicate turkey depredation was not a problem (figure 63).

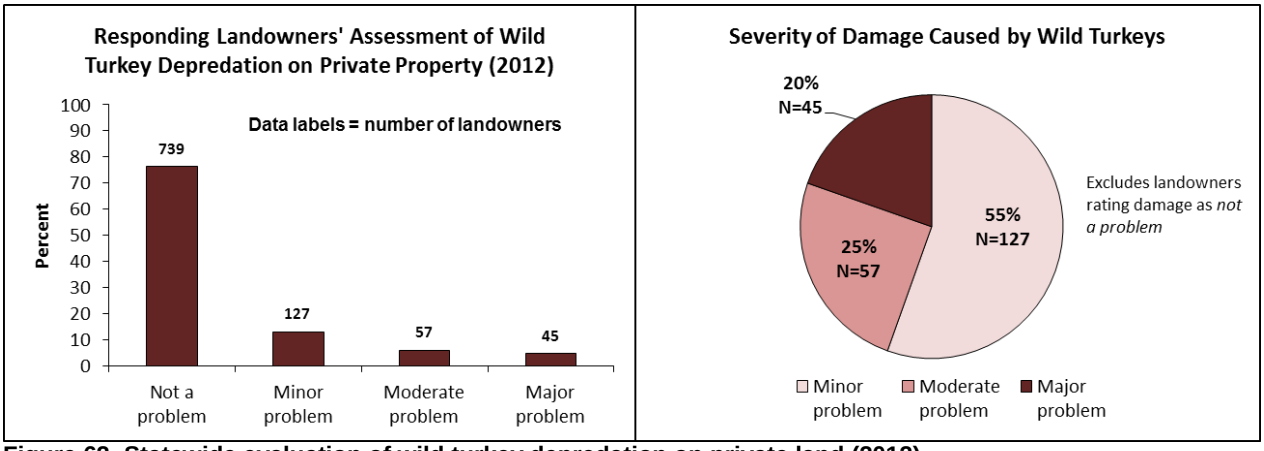


Figure 62: Statewide evaluation of wild turkey depredation on private land (2012)

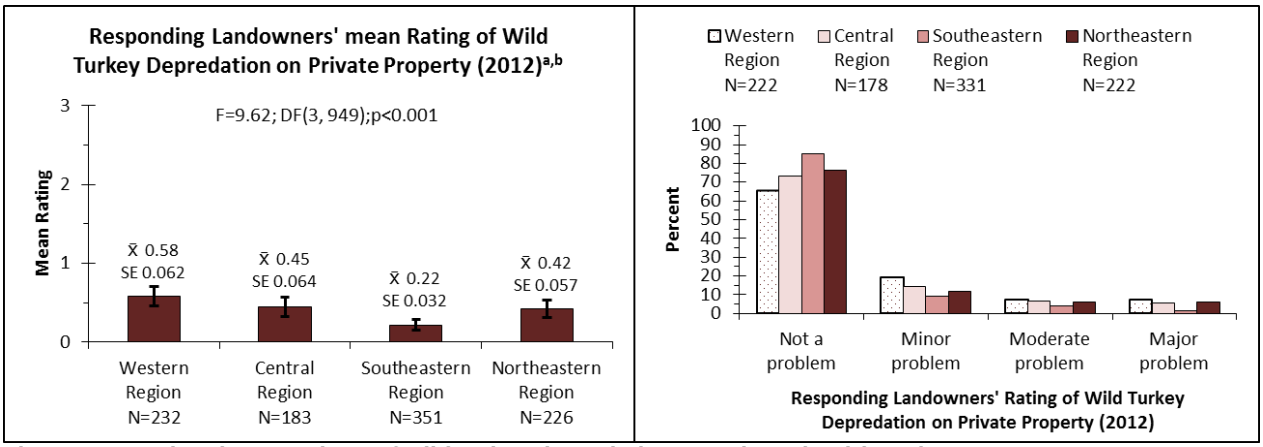


Figure 63: Regional comparison of wild turkey depredation on private land (2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation Trends – Across the three survey years landowners' evaluations of wild turkey depredation damage on private property has remained statistically similar at both the regional and statewide levels (figure 64 and table 12). Over three-quarters (76%) of landowners with wild turkeys on their land indicated turkey depredation was *not a problem*.

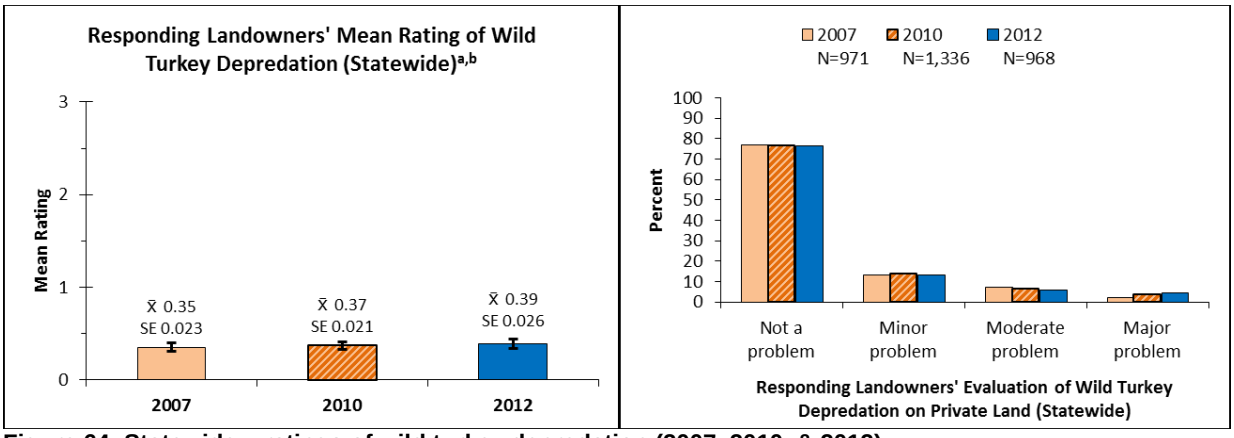


Figure 64: Statewide – ratings of wild turkey depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 12: Landowners' rating of wild turkey depredation damage on private lands

Turkey Depredation	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=234	2010 N=338	2012 N=222	2007 N=194	2010 N=266	2012 N=178
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	66.9	66.0	65.3	80.1	69.9	73.0
Minor Problem	16.5	18.6	19.4	11.1	15.8	26.0
Moderate Problem	12.2	8.6	7.7	6.9	9.8	12.0
Major Problem	4.3	6.8	7.7	1.9	4.5	10.0
Turkey Depredation	**Southeastern Region**			**Northeastern Region**		
	2007 N=320	2010 N=411	2012 N=331	2007 N=223	2010 N=300	2012 N=222
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	85.8	87.6	85.2	76.4	78.0	76.1
Minor Problem	9.0	8.5	9.1	16.6	14.7	11.7
Moderate Problem	4.5	2.4	4.2	5.0	5.7	6.3
Major Problem	0.7	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.7	5.9

Turkey Depredation	Statewide		
	2007 N=971	2010 N=1,336	2012 N=968
	--percent--		
Not a Problem	76.8	76.3	76.3
Minor Problem	13.4	13.9	13.1
Moderate Problem	7.5	6.2	5.9
Major Problem	2.3	3.6	4.6

Canada Geese

Population – Of the seven game species surveyed, Canada geese were the third most prevalent species with 59 percent of responding landowners indicating Canada geese were present on their land (figure 65). Forty-six percent of landowners who reported having Canada geese on their property rated the populations as *just about right*, 36 percent felt there were too many, and 19 percent indicated there were too few Canada geese on their property. Overall, the mean rating was *just about right* ($\bar{x}$ 0.29, SE 0.030, N=1,457).[9] Landowners in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions were more likely than landowners in the Central and Western Regions to indicate there were too many Canada geese on their property (figure 66).

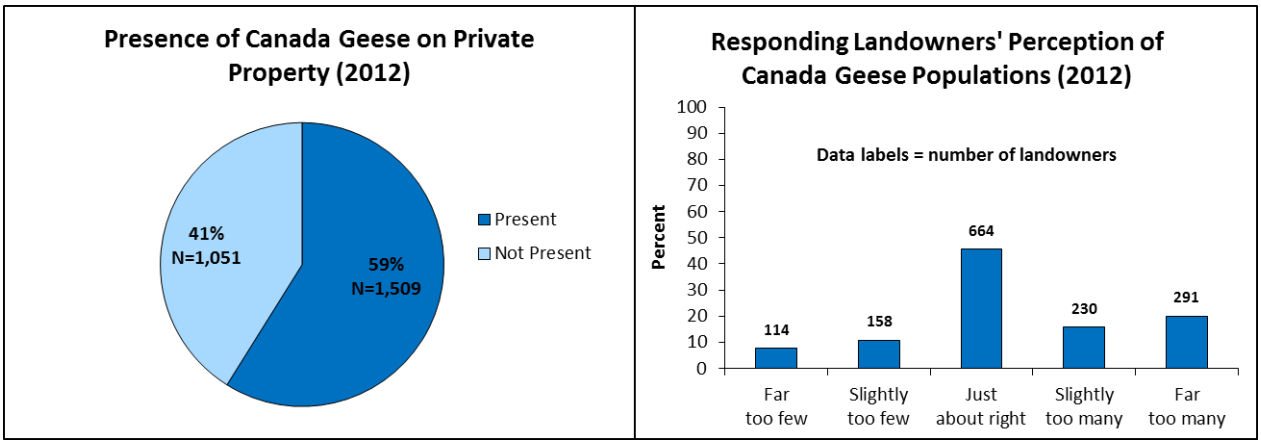


Figure 65: Statewide Canada geese populations on private property (2012)

[9] Survey Scale:-2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

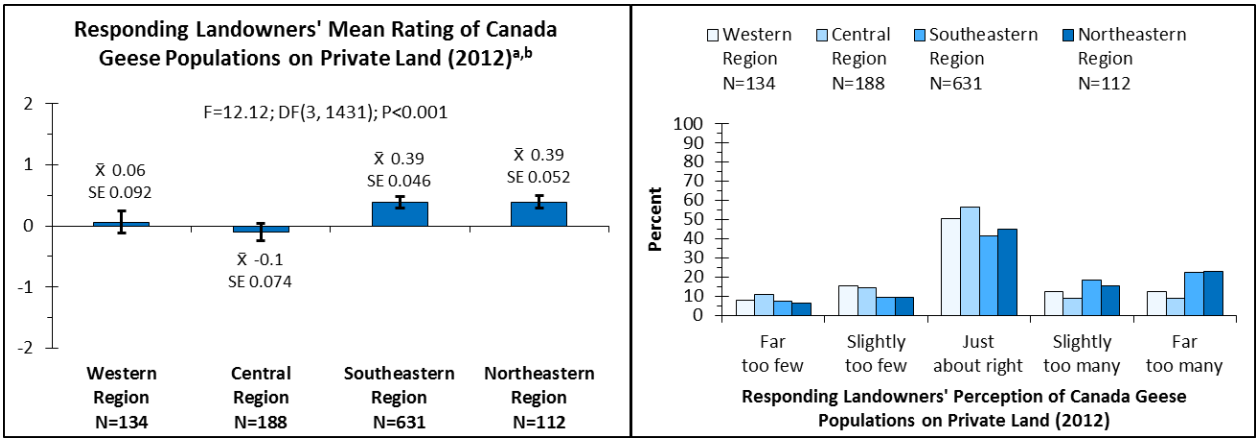


Figure 66: Regional comparisons of Canada geese populations on private property (2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – Since 2007 landowners' evaluations of the number of Canada geese on their property has increased (figure 67 and table 13). The proportion of landowners indicating there were too many Canada geese on their property increased from 25 percent in 2007 to 36 percent in 2012. There were significant differences in 2 of the 4 regions across the survey years (figures 68-71). The proportion of landowners in the Central Region who felt the populations were *far too many* increased from 3 percent in 2010 to 9 percent in 2012; however, the most frequent response across all three survey years was *just about right*. Similarly, landowners in the Southeastern Region who felt the Canada geese populations were too many increased from 31 percent in 2010 to 41 percent in 2012, with the most frequent response across all three survey years being *just about right*.

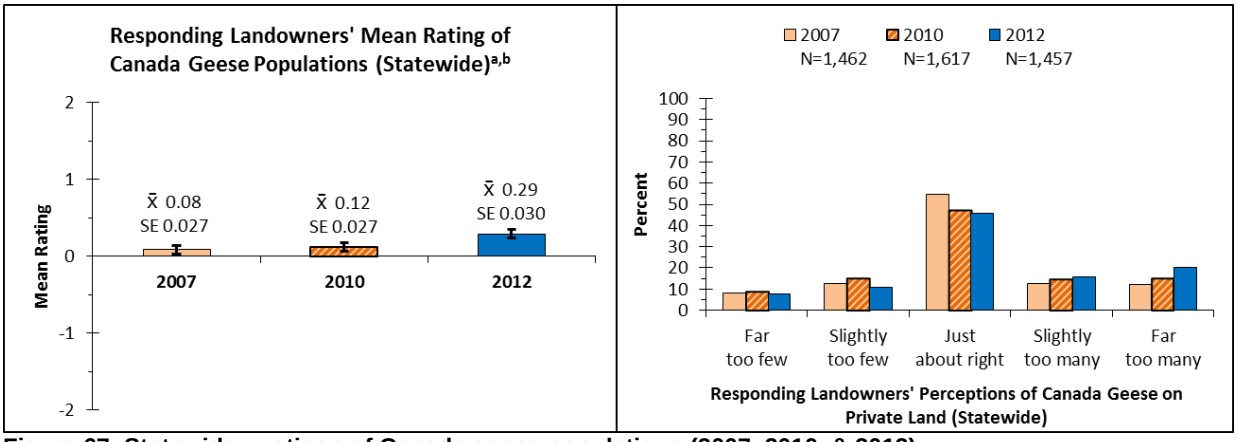


Figure 67: Statewide – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 13: Landowners' perceptions of Canada geese populations on private lands

Canada Geese Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=131	2010 N=143	2012 N=134	2007 N=187	2010 N=207	2012 N=188
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	6.1	14.0	8.2	17.1	15.9	11.2
Slightly too few	9.9	16.8	15.7	22.9	25.1	14.4
Just about right	61.8	49.0	50.7	50.3	47.8	56.4
Slightly too many	9.2	10.5	12.7	4.6	7.7	9.0
Far too many	13.0	9.8	12.7	5.1	3.4	9.0

Canada Geese Population	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 N=604	2010 N=641	2012 N=631	2007 N=511	2010 N=599	2012 N=482
	--percent--			--percent--		
Far too few	9.4	7.6	7.8	4.3	5.3	6.4
Slightly too few	12.0	15.8	9.5	10.9	9.7	9.8
Just about right	52.0	45.9	41.7	57.1	48.9	45.0
Slightly too many	13.4	12.9	18.5	14.8	19.0	15.6
Far too many	13.1	17.8	22.5	13.0	17.0	23.2

Canada Geese Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=1,462	2010 N=1,617	2012 N=1,457
	--percent--		
Far too few	7.9	8.5	7.8
Slightly too few	12.7	14.8	10.8
Just about right	54.7	47.3	45.6
Slightly too many	12.4	14.3	15.8
Far too many	12.3	14.9	20.0

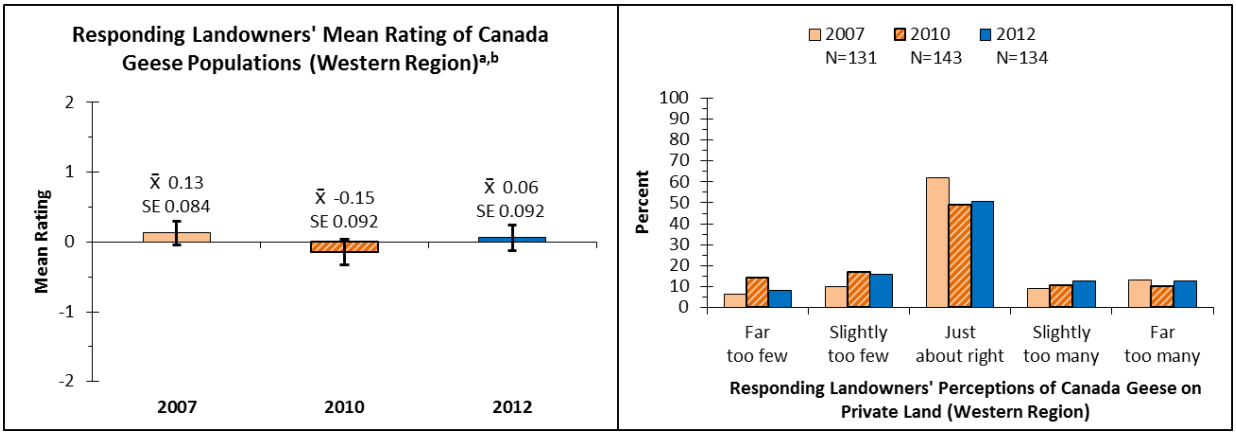


Figure 68: Region 1 – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

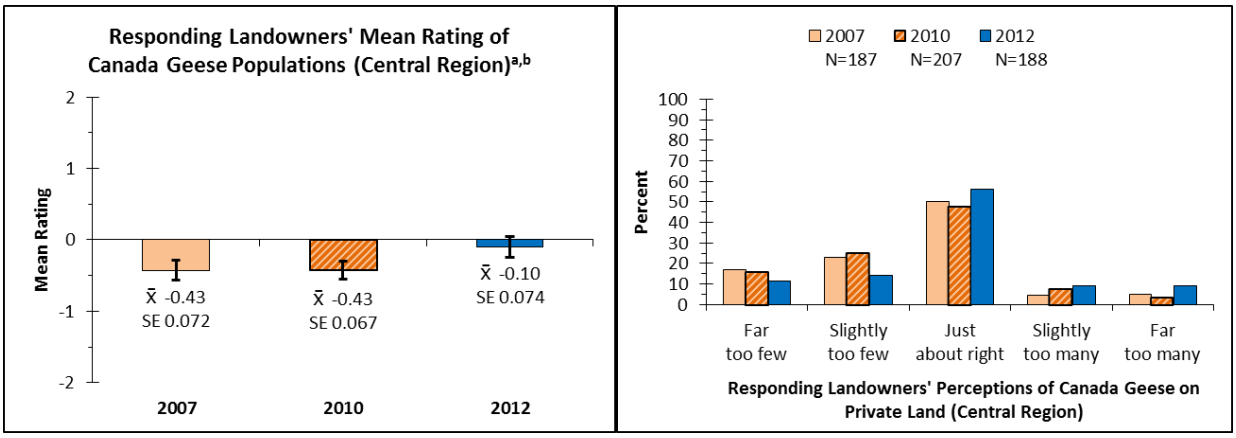


Figure 69: Region 2 – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

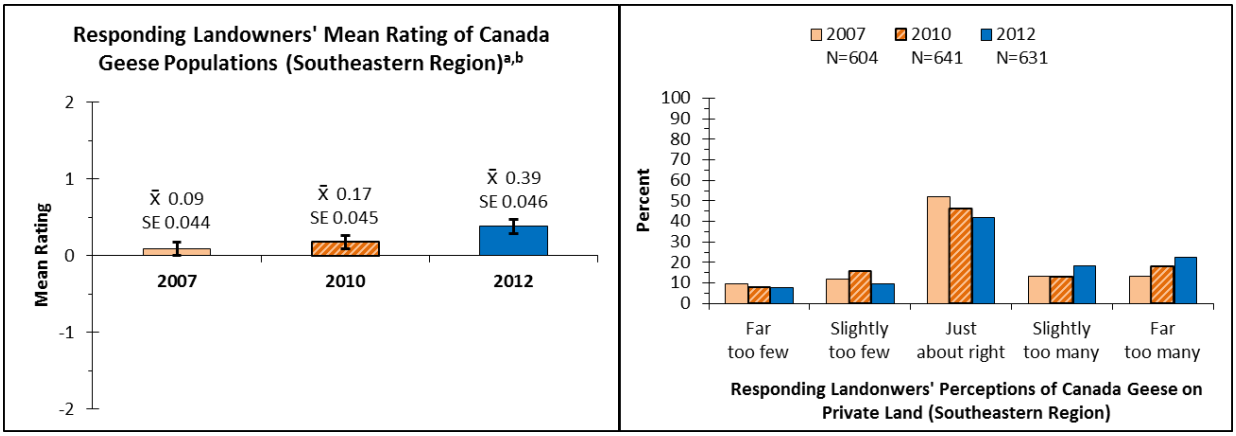


Figure 70: Region 3 – ratings of Canada geese populations
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

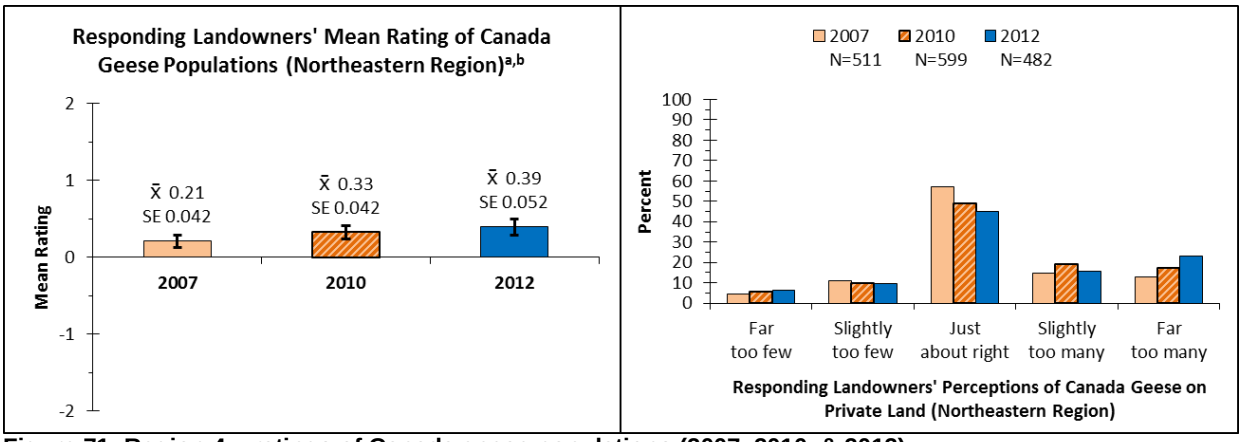


Figure 71: Region 4 – ratings of Canada geese populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation – Fifty-eight percent of landowners who have Canada geese on their property indicated geese depredation damage was *not a problem* (figure 72). The majority of landowners who indicated the damage was a problem assessed it as being moderate or major (30% and 31%, respectively). Landowners in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions were more likely to indicate Canada geese damage was a *major problem* (figure 73). Fifteen percent of Southeastern landowners and 18 percent of landowners in the Northeast region indicated the damage was major.

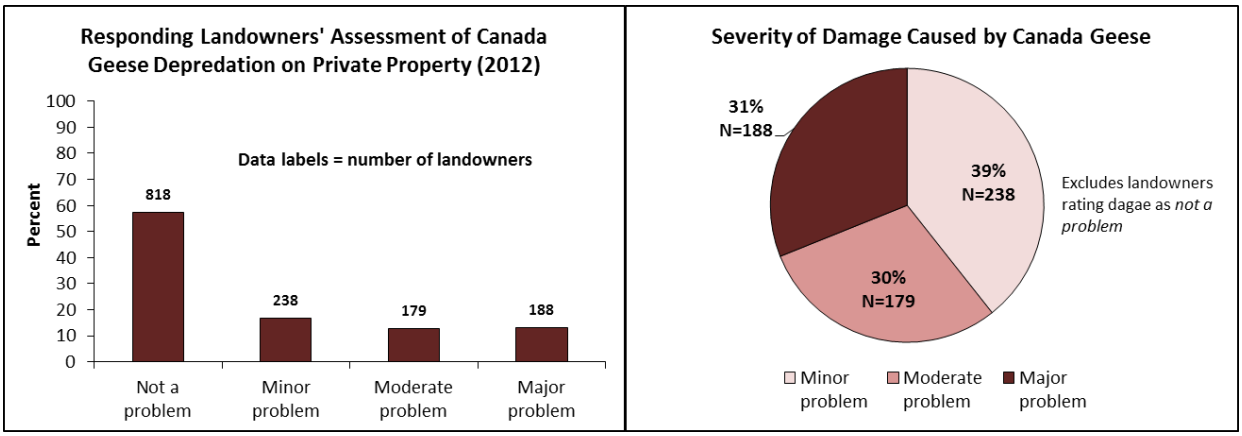


Figure 72: Statewide evaluation of Canada geese depredation on private land (2012)

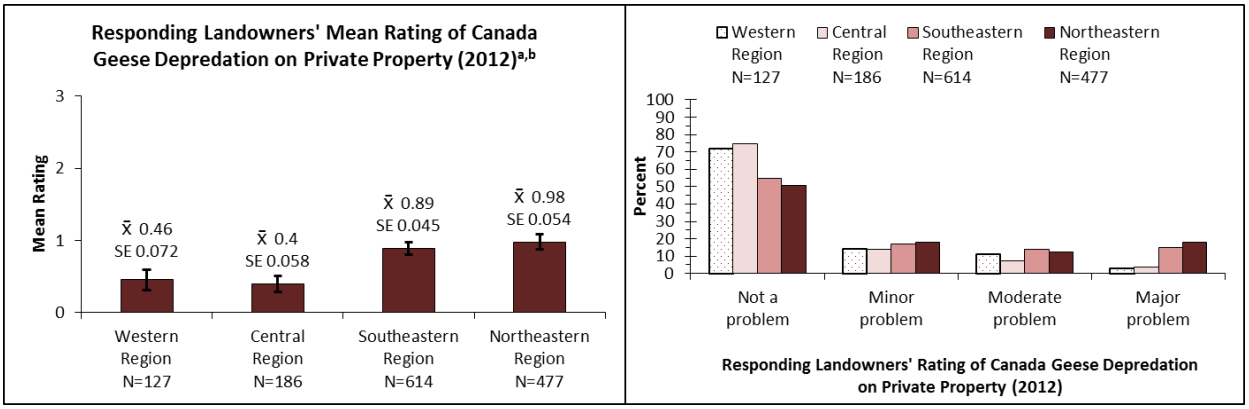


Figure 73: Regional comparison of Canada geese depredation on private land (2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation Trends – The mean rating of Canada geese depredation on private land was statistically higher in 2012 than the reported levels in 2007 and 2010 (figure 74 and table 14). A greater proportion of landowners indicated geese depredation was a major problem in 2012 than the previous two survey years. Thirteen percent of landowners evaluated the damage as major in 2012, compared with 6 percent in 2007 and 10 percent in 2010. There were significant differences in 2 of the 4 regions from 2007 to 2012 (figures 75-78). The mean rating of geese depredation damage was statistically higher in the Southeastern and Northeastern Regions in 2012. In both regions a greater proportion of landowners evaluated the damage as a *major problem* compared with previous survey years.

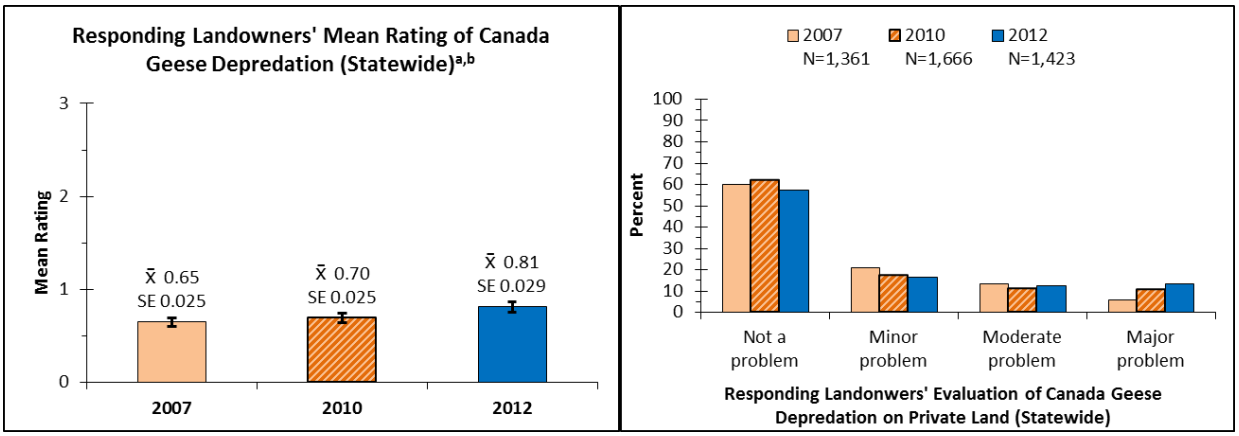


Figure 74: Statewide – ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 14: Landowners' rating of Canada geese depredation damage on private lands

Canada Geese Depredation	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=120	2010 N=147	2012 N=127	2007 N=177	2010 N=218	2012 N=186
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	67.2	77.6	71.7	84.3	78.9	74.7
Minor Problem	17.2	9.5	14.2	8.7	14.2	14.0
Moderate Problem	12.9	8.2	11.0	6.4	5.0	7.5
Major Problem	2.6	4.8	3.1	0.6	1.8	3.8

Canada Geese Depredation	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007 N=560	2010 N=660	2012 N=614	2007 N=476	2010 N=614	2012 N=477
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	58.6	61.4	54.6	52.4	52.3	50.9
Minor Problem	21.5	16.1	16.8	24.4	20.8	18.2
Moderate Problem	13.1	12.1	14.0	16.3	12.7	12.6
Major Problem	6.7	10.5	14.7	6.9	14.2	18.2

Canada Geese Depredation	Statewide		
	2007 N=1,361	2010 N=1,666	2012 N=1,423
	--percent--		
Not a Problem	59.8	61.8	57.5
Minor Problem	20.9	17.0	16.7
Moderate Problem	13.5	10.9	12.6
Major Problem	5.7	10.3	13.2

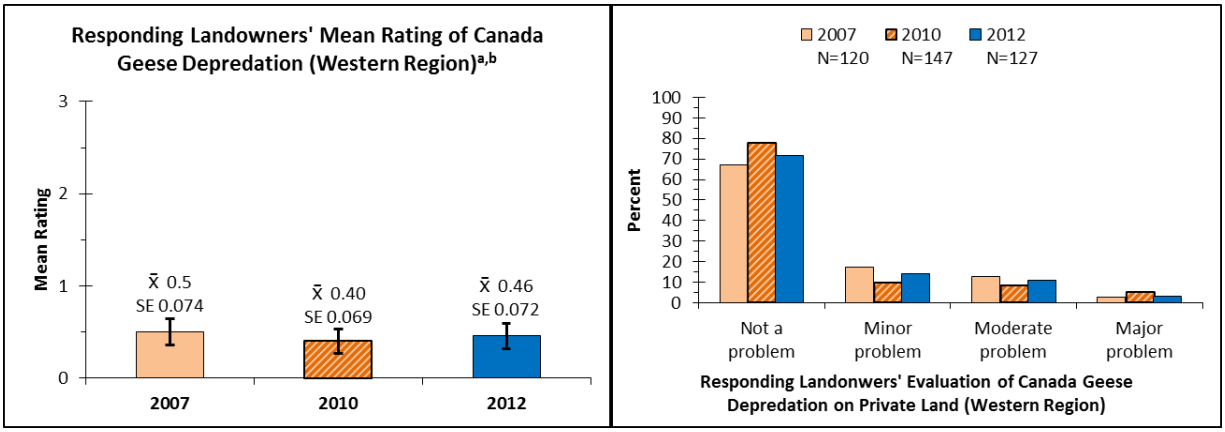


Figure 75: Region 1 –ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

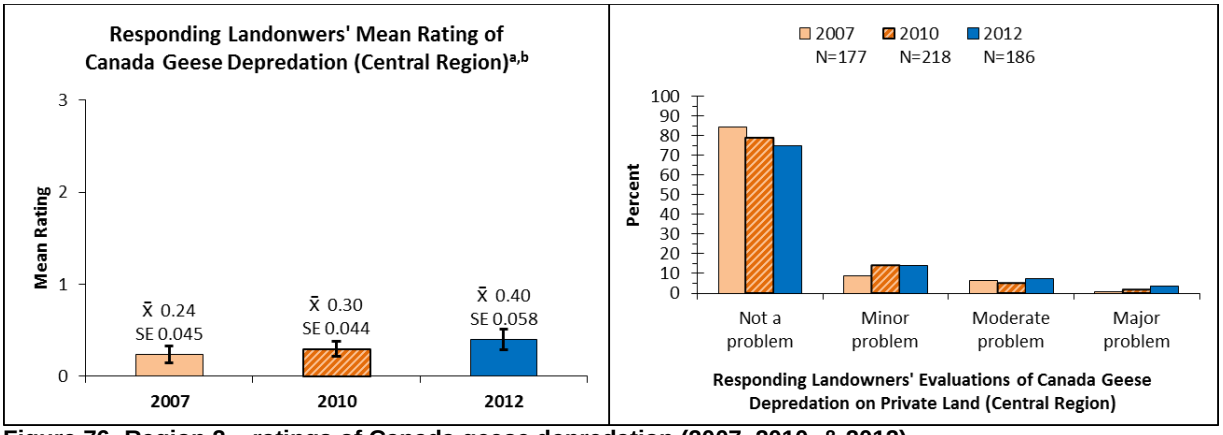


Figure 76: Region 2 – ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

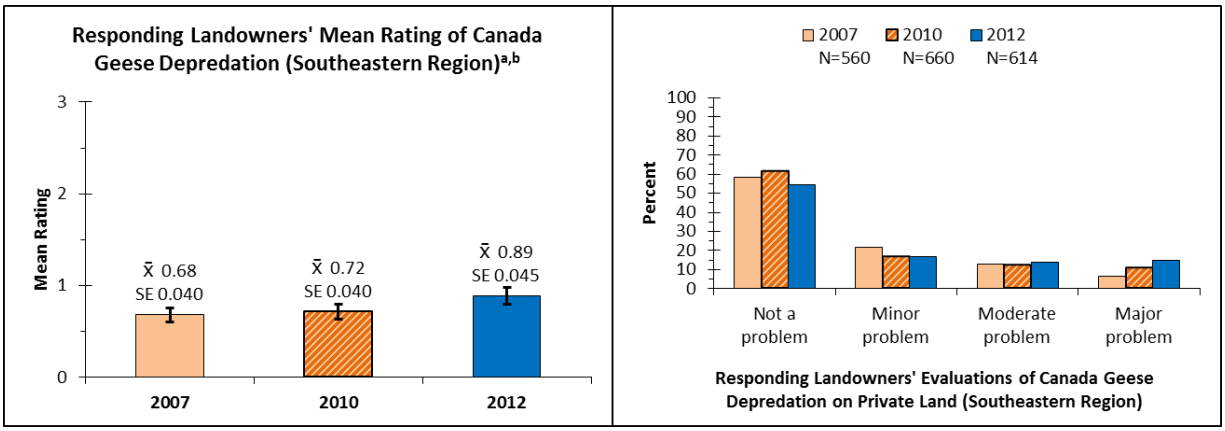


Figure 77: Region 3 - ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

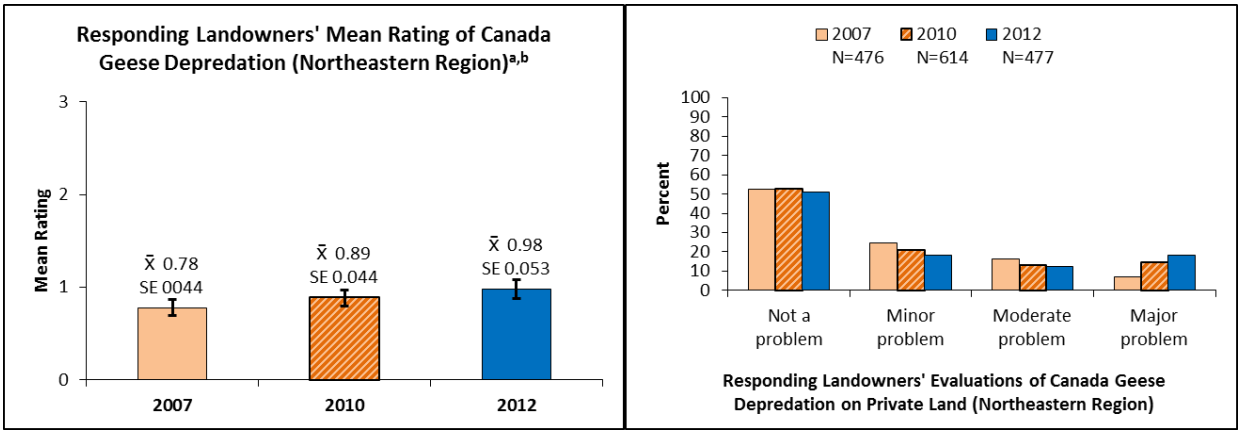


Figure 78: Region 4 - ratings of Canada geese depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: 0 Not a problem; 1 Minor problem; 2 Moderate Problem; and 3 Major problem
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Pheasants

Population – The vast majority of responding landowners (90%) indicated they had pheasants on their property (figure 79). Forty-five percent of landowners who reported pheasants on their property felt the populations were *far too few*, and another 29 percent felt the populations were *slightly too few*. Only 3 percent of landowners reported there were too many pheasants on their property. The mean rating was *slightly too few* (x̄ -1.16, SE 0.019, N=2,248). There were differences between landowners' rating of pheasant populations at the regional level (figure 80). A greater proportion of landowners in the Central Region indicated pheasant populations were *just about right* while landowners in the Western, Southeastern, and Northeastern Region were more likely to indicate populations were *far too few*.

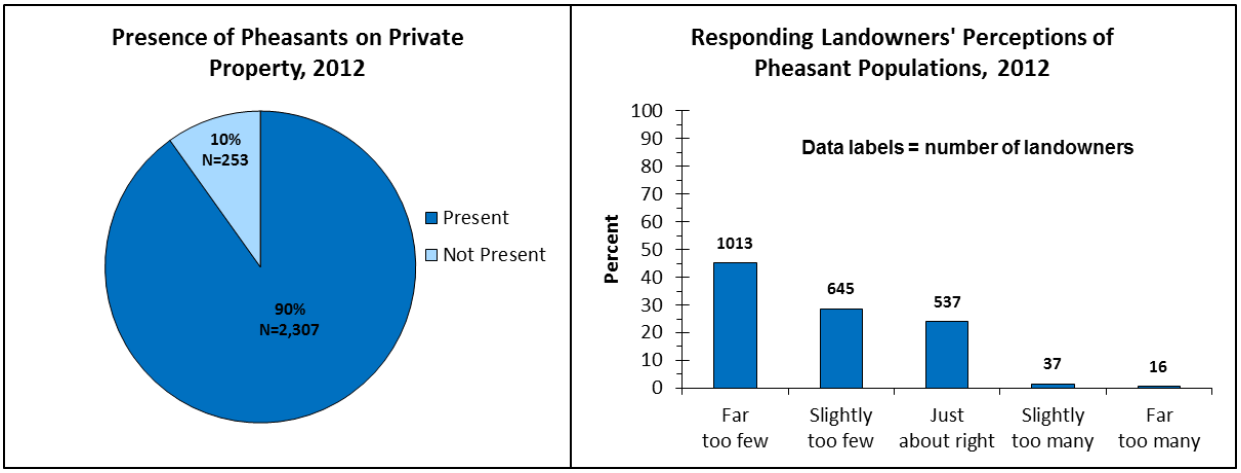


Figure 79: Statewide pheasant populations on private property (2012)

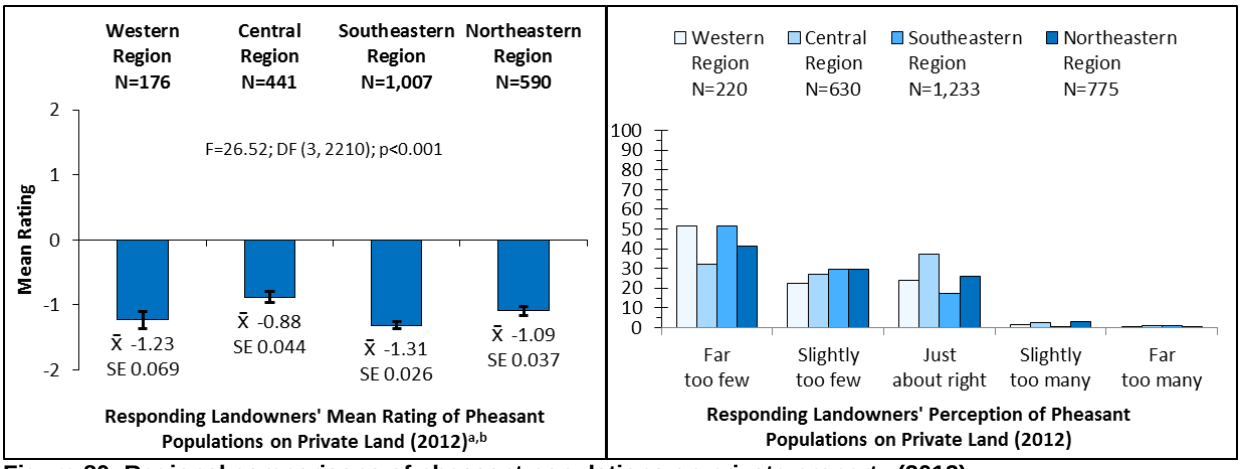


Figure 80: Regional comparisons of pheasant populations on private property (2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Population Trends – No data was collected regarding pheasant populations on private lands as part of the 2007 survey; however, landowners' evaluations of pheasant populations on private property differed statistically from 2010 to 2012 (figure 81 and table 15). A greater proportion of landowners rated the populations as *far too few* in 2012 (45%) than in 2010 (28%). There were no significant differences between the 2010 and 2012 ratings in the Western Region. In the case of each of the other three regions landowners were more likely to indicate there were too few pheasants on their property in 2012 compared to 2010 (figures 82-85).

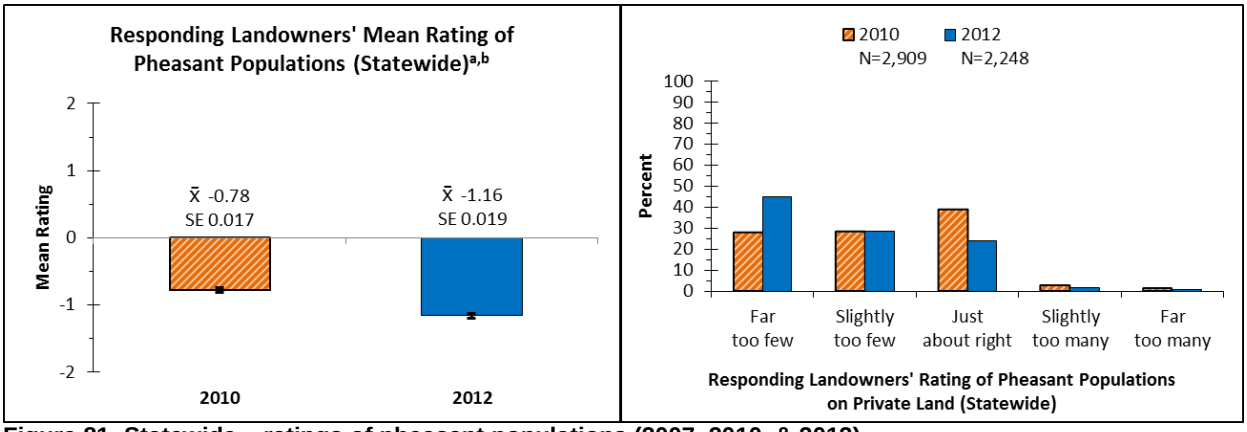


Figure 81: Statewide – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Table 15: Landowners' perceptions of pheasant populations on private lands

Pheasant Population	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007 N=	2010 N=220	2012 N=176	2007 N=	2010 N=630	2012 N=441
		--percent--			--percent--	
Far too few		45.5	51.7		16.7	32.4
Slightly too few		29.1	22.2		22.4	27.0
Just about right		22.3	23.9		52.2	37.2
Slightly too many		2.3	1.7		5.7	2.5
Far too many		0.9	0.6		3.0	0.9
Pheasant Population	**Southeastern Region**			**Northeastern Region**		
	2007 N=	2010 N=1,233	2012 N=1,007	2007 N=	2010 N=775	2012 N=590
		--percent--			--percent--	
Far too few	—	35.7	51.7	—	19.9	41.2
Slightly too few	—	32.5	29.6	—	27.2	29.8
Just about right	—	30.4	17.2	—	46.2	25.8
Slightly too many	—	1.1	0.6	—	4.4	2.9
Far too many	—	0.3	0.9	—	2.3	0.3

Pheasant Population	Statewide		
	2007 N=	2010 N=2,909	2012 N=2,248
		--percent--	
Far too few	—	27.9	45.1
Slightly too few	—	28.6	28.7
Just about right	—	38.9	23.9
Slightly too many	—	3.1	1.6
Far too many	—	1.5	0.7

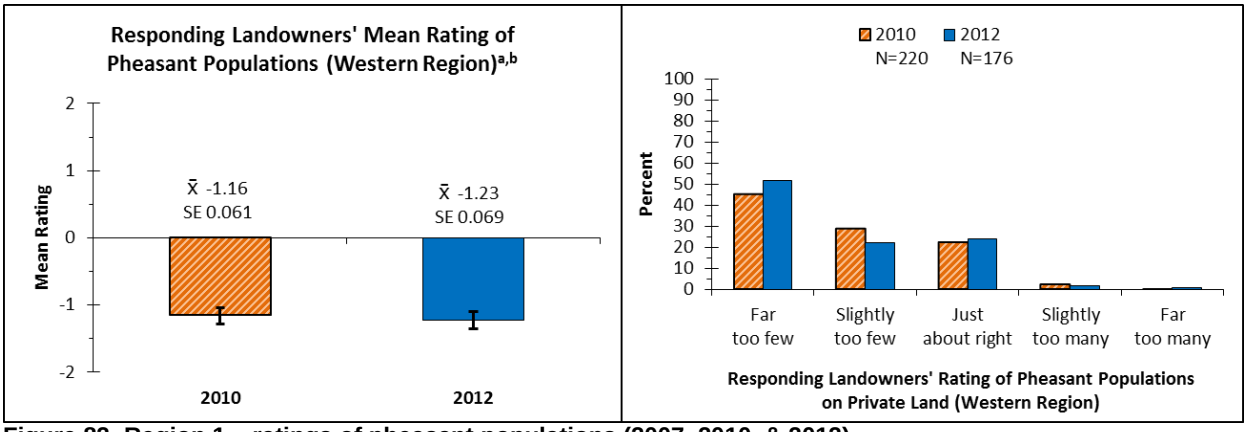


Figure 82: Region 1 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

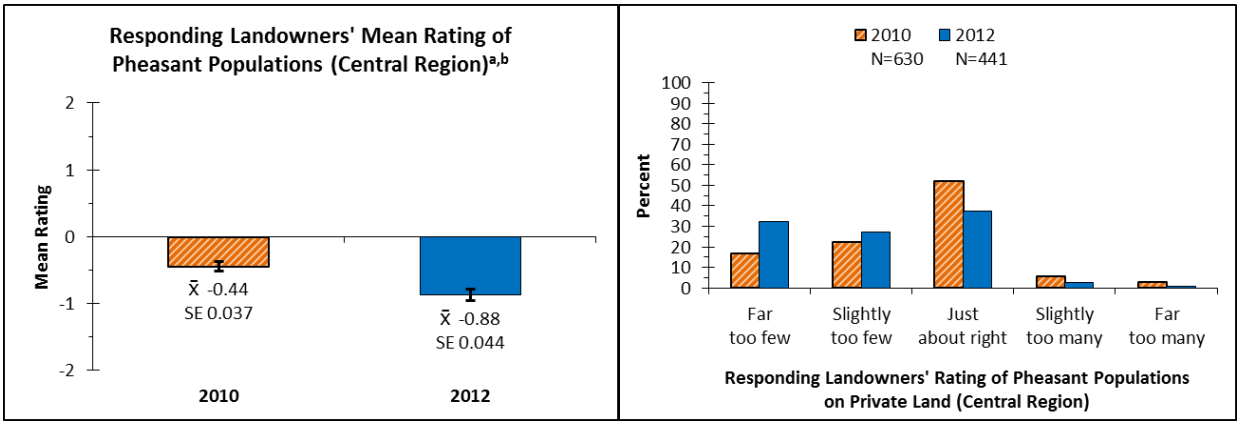


Figure 83: Region 2 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

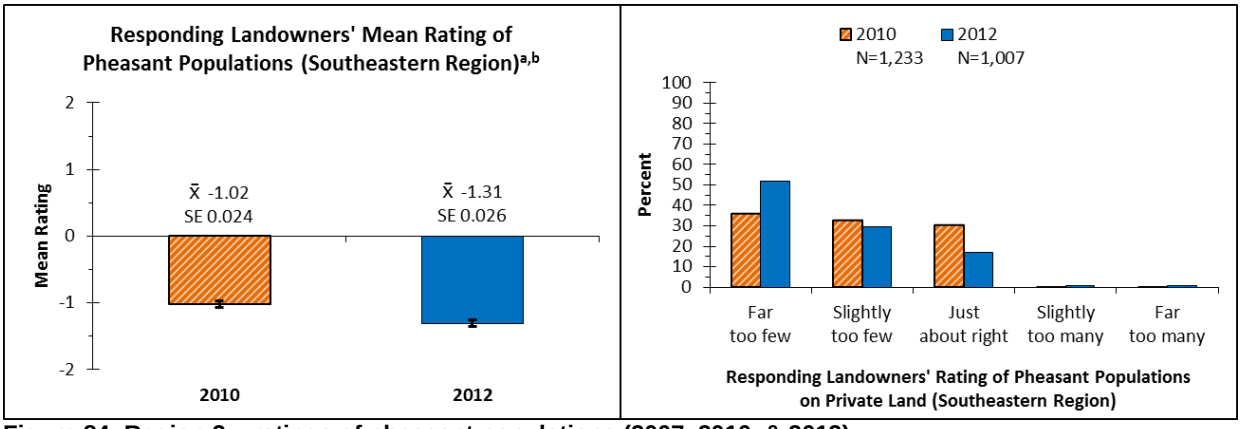


Figure 84: Region 3 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

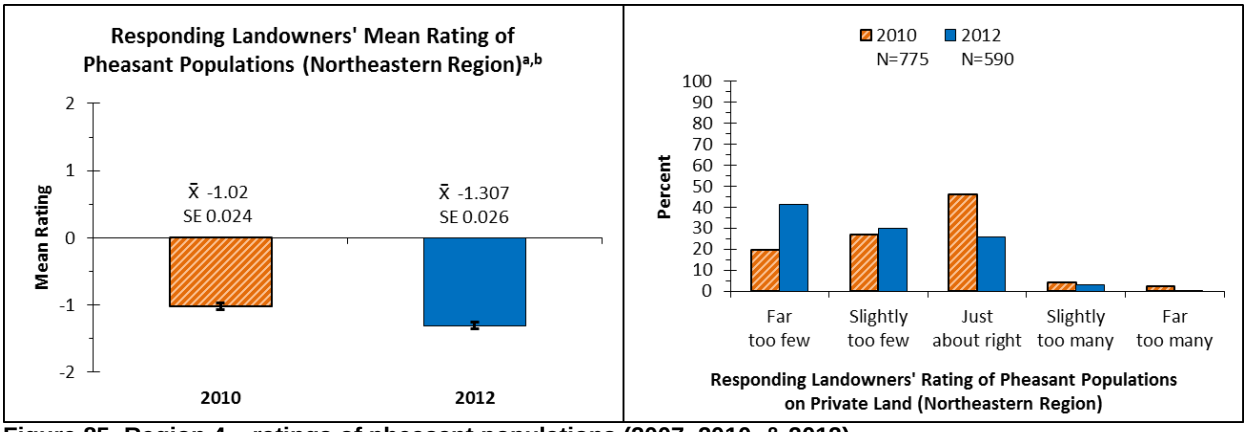


Figure 85: Region 4 – ratings of pheasant populations (2007, 2010, & 2012)
[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many
[b] Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Depredation – Eighty-six percent of landowners who have pheasants on their property indicated pheasant damage was *not a problem* (figure 86). The majority of landowners who indicated the damage was a problem assessed it as being minor (69%). Although the most frequent response in each region was *not a problem*, landowners in the Central, Southeastern, and Northeastern Regions were more likely than those in the Western Region to indicate damage was a problem (figure 87).

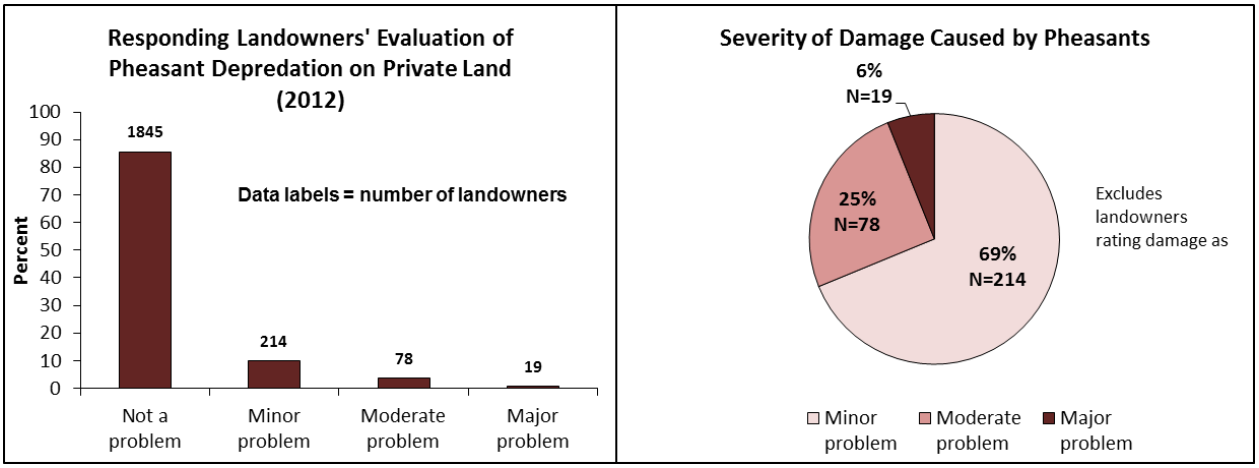


Figure 86: Statewide evaluation of pheasant depredation on private land (2012)

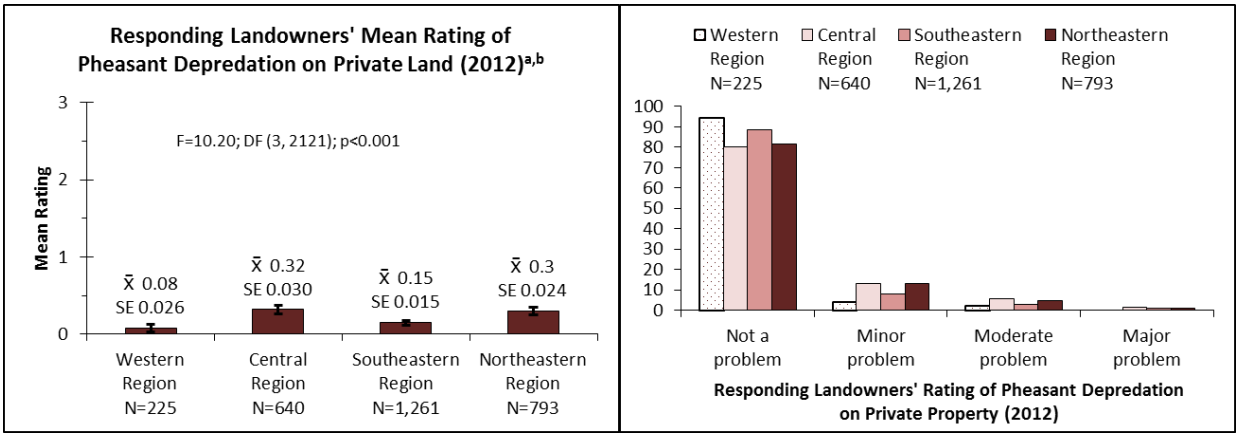


Figure 87: Regional comparison of pheasant depredation on private lands (2012)

Depredation Trends – There were no significant differences between responding landowners' evaluations of pheasant depredation from 2010 to 2012 in each of the four regions. On average, landowners rated the damage as *not a problem* in both survey years (figure 88 and table 16).

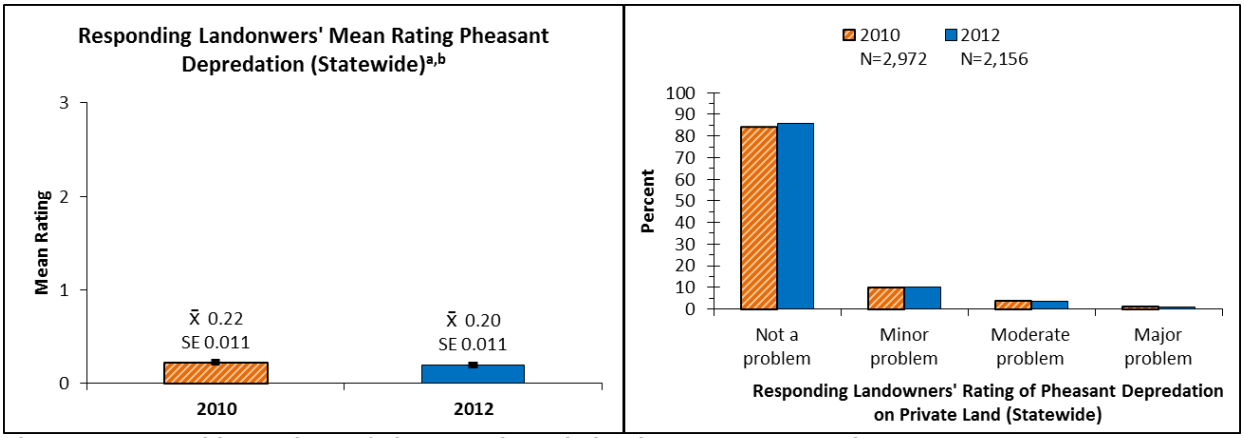


Figure 88: Statewide – ratings of pheasant depredation (2007, 2010, & 2012)

Table 16: Landowners' rating of pheasant damage on private lands

Pheasant Depredation	Western Region			Central Region		
	2007	2010	2012	2007	2010	2012
	N=	N=225	N=157	N=	N=640	N=428
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	—	92.4	94.3	—	78.8	80.1
Minor Problem	—	6.7	3.8	—	12.5	13.1
Moderate Problem	—	0.9	1.9	—	6.7	5.4
Major Problem	—	—	—	—	2.0	1.4

Pheasant Depredation	Southeastern Region			Northeastern Region		
	2007	2010	2012	2007	2010	2012
	N=	N=1,261	N=971	N=	N=793	N=569
	--percent--			--percent--		
Not a Problem	—	88.7	88.8	—	80.2	81.4
Minor Problem	—	8.6	7.8	—	11.7	13.0
Moderate Problem	—	2.1	2.6	—	6.2	4.7
Major Problem	—	0.7	0.8	—	1.9	0.9

Pheasant Depredation	Statewide		
	2007	2010	2012
	N=	N=2,972	N=2,156
		--percent--	
Not a Problem	—	84.3	85.6
Minor Problem	—	10.3	9.9
Moderate Problem	—	4.1	3.6
Major Problem	—	1.3	0.9

Comments

Many of the landowners who responded to the survey provided additional comments. These comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey; rather respondents were free to provide additional comments at the end. Comments are included in appendix C.

References

Gigliotti, L.M. 2007. Wildlife on Private Lands: Status Report 2007. Report ID# HD-11-07.AMS. Pierre, SD: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

Gigliotti, L.M. 2011. Wildlife on Private Lands: Status Report 2010. Report ID#: HD-6-11.AMS. Pierre, SD: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

Salant, P.A. and D. A. Dillman 1994. *How to conduct your own survey*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Vaske, J.J. 2008. *Survey research and analysis: Application in parks, recreation and human dimensions*. State College, PA: Venture Publishing, Inc.

Appendix A - Survey Instrument

[Business Reply Mail Placeholder]

Wildlife on Private Lands – Status Report 2012

Dear South Dakota Landowner:

Landowner opinions are an important part of the information needed to make sound wildlife management decisions in the best interest of all South Dakota citizens. We hope you will take a few minutes to complete and return this short survey.

This report card is your opportunity to tell Game, Fish and Parks about the status of wildlife populations on your lands and your desires for how these wildlife populations should be managed in your area. This wildlife status report card is designed so that your information can be easily summarized with other landowners in your area. This information, when coupled with hunter harvest and biological data, will be utilized by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks and the GFP Commission to make more informed decisions regarding wildlife populations in your area. **In order to enable us to use your information in the 2012 Wildlife Status Report this card must be returned to GFP by April 24, 2013.**

Summarized reports from these surveys, along with the hunter harvest and biological data collected by Game, Fish and Parks staff will be made available to the public by request and will also be posted on GFP's web page (http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/private-land). In addition, the information from this survey will be periodically reported in the *Landowners Matter* newsletter.

Q1. First, please check (☑) all the following wildlife game species listed below normally found on your land. Then, for each species that you checked, please indicate your opinion regarding the wildlife population levels on your land.

		*Please indicate your opinion about the population level of each game species normally found on your land by circling **one** response for each of the species you checked.*				
Wildlife game species normally found on my land…	☑	**Far Too Few**	**Slightly Too Few**	**Just About Right**	**Slightly Too Many**	**Far Too Many**
A. Whitetail Deer	☐	1	2	3	4	5
B. Mule Deer	☐	1	2	3	4	5
C. Elk	☐	1	2	3	4	5
D. Antelope	☐	1	2	3	4	5
E. Turkey	☐	1	2	3	4	5
F. Canada Geese	☐	1	2	3	4	5
G. Pheasant	☐	1	2	3	4	5

Q2. For each of the wildlife species you checked in Q1 above, please indicate the degree, if any, of depredation damage caused by those wildlife species on your farm/ranch in 2012.

Depredation damage from _____ is…	**Not A Problem**	**A Minor Problem**	**A Moderate Problem**	**A Major Problem**
A. Whitetail Deer	0	1	2	3
B. Mule Deer	0	1	2	3
C. Elk	0	1	2	3
D. Antelope	0	1	2	3
E. Turkey	0	1	2	3
F. Canada Geese	0	1	2	3
G. Pheasant	0	1	2	3

If you listed any level of wildlife depredation damage from any of the game animals listed in Q2, please answer the questions in Box A.

Skip the questions in Box A if you had no wildlife depredation damage from any of the game animals listed in Q2 (i.e., you circled "Not A Problem" for all 7 game animals).

Box A

A-1. Consider your total amount of depredation damage from the list of wildlife in Q2, would you describe the situation as acceptable or not acceptable?

☐ **Acceptable** meaning that additional measures/actions were not needed to reduce or help control the problems

☐ **Not Acceptable** meaning additional measures/actions were needed to reduce or help control the problems or that the actions taken to address the problems were too time consuming or expensive

A-2. Did you request help from GFP for any of the wildlife depredation problems for the list of species in Q2? ☐ **No** ☐ **Yes**

➡ **If YES:** Was the problem solved?

Not At All	**A Little**	**Some**	**Most**	**All**
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

A-3. For any of the depredation damage from the listed wildlife, do you think having more hunters would help reduce the number of problem wildlife on your land?

☐ **No** ☐ **Yes**

➡ **If YES:** Do you need help getting hunters onto your land to help control

[illegible] having concerns or problems with on your land.

_____

_____

Q4. Did any hunting (by yourself or any other persons) occur on your land, in 2012, for any of the 7 wildlife species listed in Q2?

☐ **No** ☐ **Yes**

➡ **If YES,** what type of hunting opportunities? *Please check (☑) ALL that occurred.*

☐ A. Yourself and/or immediate family members
☐ B. Free access to at least some people (*other than yourself and/or immediate family members*)
☐ C. Free access to at least some people (*other than yourself and/or immediate family members*), EXCEPT to be offered money or a gift
☐ D. Charge an access fee to at least some hunters
☐ E. Provide guide and/or service (e.g., room, meals, etc.) to hunters
☐ F. Lease some hunting rights to an individual/group/guide

Q5. The regular rifle East River and West River deer season is 16 days for most hunting units. Which statement below best describes your opinion of the 16-day rifle deer season for the East/West River deer seasons?

The deer season is _____?

☐ Too Short ☐ Just Right ☐ Too Long ☐ No Opinion

Q6. How do you feel about the current extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs 9 days)?

Please CIRCLE one:

Strongly Dislike	Dislike	Neither Dislike Nor Like	Like	Strongly Like

Q7. If the deer population in your area (county) were too high, which deer population reduction strategies do you like or dislike?

Please CIRCLE one for <u>each</u> item:

Reduction Strategies	Strongly Dislike	Dislike	Neither Dislike Nor Like	Like	Strongly Like
A. Lengthen the regular rifle deer season	1	2	3	4	5
B. Increase the number of deer licenses/hunters	1	2	3	4	5
C. Include special antlerless deer seasons in late Dec. or early Jan.	1	2	3	4	5
D. Special depredation deer hunts	1	2	3	4	5

Q8. About how many acres do you normally operate in South Dakota (land owned & leased)?

☐ Less than 40 ☐ 40 -159 ☐ 160 - 639 ☐ 640 - 2559 ☐ 2560 or more

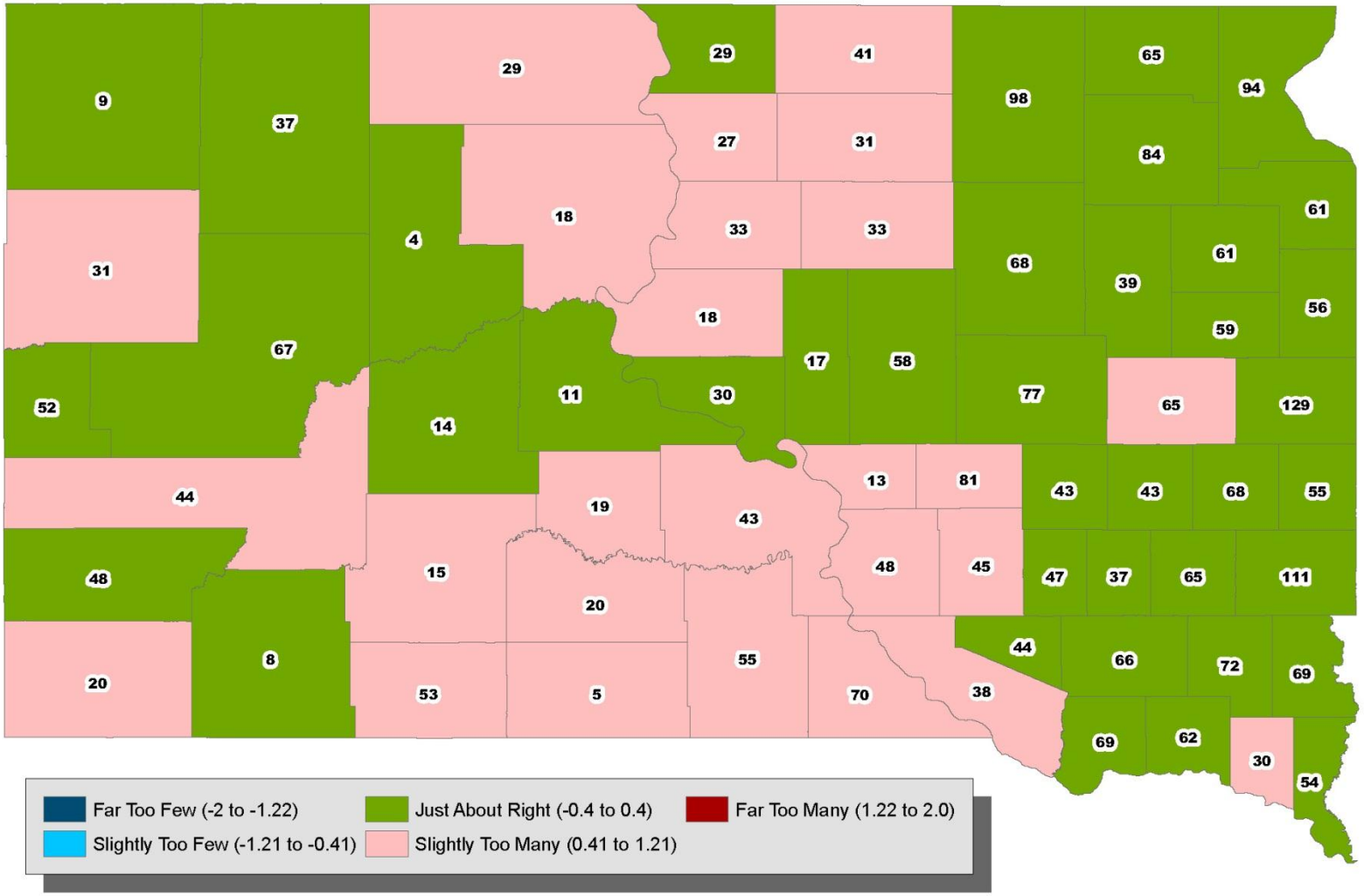
Q9. Primary County these acres are located in: _____

Please feel free to provide comments, ideas or share concerns regarding the management of wildlife populations or hunting seasons you would like GFP to consider.

THANK YOU, for taking the time to complete this survey.

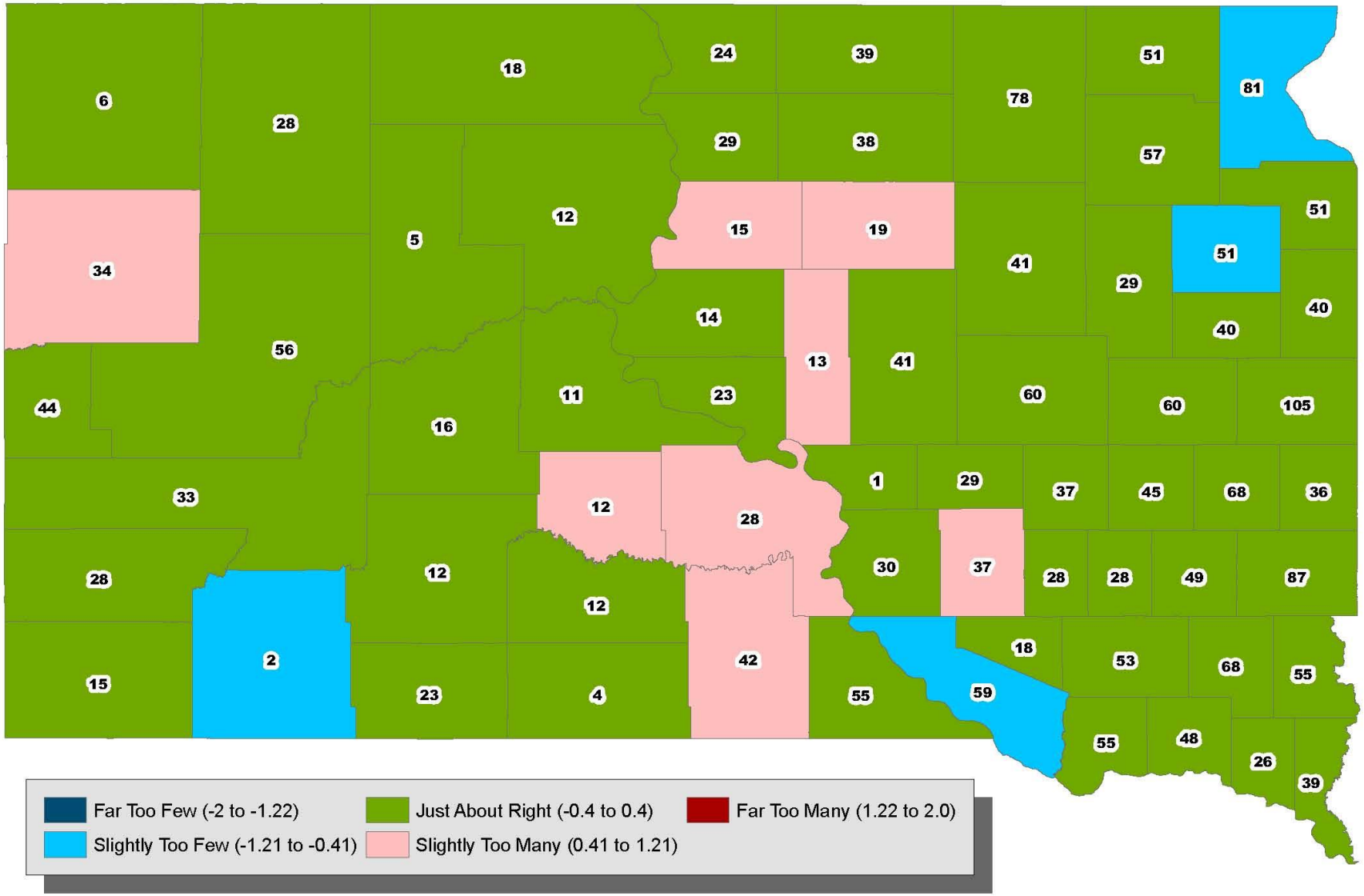
To return your questionnaire, please re-fold the questionnaire so that the business return address (postage paid) to Game, Fish & Parks is showing when folded in half; tape shut and drop in the mail.

Responding Landowners' Perceptions (Average) of White-tailed Deer Populations in 2010



County Labels = Number of responses

Responding Landowners' Perceptions (Average) of White-tailed Deer Populations in 2012



*Data labels = Number of responses

Region 1 – County level white-tailed deer statistics

Region 1	2012 Responses	2012 Mean[a]	2010 Mean[a]	Mean Change[b]	2012 Frequency Distribution (Percent)				
					Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Bennett	23	0.30	0.75	-0.45	0.0	8.7	56.5	30.4	4.3
Butte	34	0.56	0.75	-0.19	11.8	5.9	32.4	14.7	35.3
Custer	28	-0.21	-0.10	-0.11	21.4	14.3	46.4	0.0	17.9
Fall River	15	0.40	0.45	-0.05	6.7	6.7	46.7	20.0	20.0
Haakon	16	0.31	0.21	0.10	6.3	12.5	43.8	18.8	18.8
Harding	6	0.33	-0.11	0.44	16.7	0.0	50.0	0.0	33.3
Jackson	12	-0.17	0.47	-0.64	0.0	41.7	41.7	8.3	8.3
Lawrence	44	0.27	0.40	-0.13	2.3	11.4	50.0	29.5	6.8
Meade	56	0.07	0.27	-0.20	5.4	17.9	48.2	21.4	7.1
Pennington	33	0.27	0.45	-0.18	3.0	15.2	51.5	12.1	18.2
Perkins	28	0.25	0.27	-0.02	3.6	14.3	53.6	10.7	17.9
Shannon	2	-1.00	-0.25	-0.75	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Ziebach	5	0.00	0.25	-0.25	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] A negative change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived fewer deer on their property than in 2010. A positive change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived more deer on their property than in 2010.

Region 2 – County level white-tailed deer statistics

Region 2	2012 Responses	2012 Mean[a]	2010 Mean[a]	Mean Change[b]	2012 Frequency Distribution (Percent)				
					Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Brule	30	0.03	0.44	-0.41	6.7	23.3	40.0	20.0	10.0
Buffalo	1	0.00	1.00	-1.00	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Campbell	24	-0.04	0.34	-0.38	4.2	20.8	58.3	8.3	8.3
Charles Mix	59	-0.66	0.42	-1.08	33.9	15.3	37.3	10.2	3.4
Corson	18	0.33	0.45	-0.12	0.0	5.6	61.1	27.8	5.6
Dewey	12	0.33	0.94	-0.61	16.7	8.3	33.3	8.3	33.3
Douglas	18	-0.39	-0.16	-0.23	16.7	27.8	44.4	0.0	11.1
Gregory	55	0.40	0.87	-0.47	9.1	10.9	34.5	21.8	23.6
Hand	41	0.29	0.29	0.00	7.3	7.3	48.8	22.0	14.6
Hughes	23	-0.26	0.13	-0.39	4.3	26.1	65.2	0.0	4.3
Hyde	13	0.62	0.24	0.38	7.7	0.0	46.2	15.4	30.8
Jones	12	0.83	0.84	-0.01	0.0	0.0	41.7	33.3	25.0
Lyman	28	0.50	0.65	-0.15	0.0	7.1	50.0	28.6	14.3
Mellette	12	0.33	1.10	-0.77	8.3	0.0	50.0	33.3	8.3
Potter	15	0.53	0.67	-0.14	6.7	0.0	46.7	26.7	20.0
Stanley	11	-0.18	0.00	-0.18	9.1	18.2	54.5	18.2	0.0
Sully	14	0.21	0.67	-0.46	0.0	7.1	64.3	28.6	0.0
Todd	4	0.25	1.00	-0.75	0.0	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0
Tripp	42	0.62	0.78	-0.16	2.4	2.4	47.6	26.2	21.4
Walworth	29	0.28	0.41	-0.13	3.4	13.8	55.2	6.9	20.7

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] A negative change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived fewer deer on their property than in 2010. A positive change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived more deer on their property than in 2010.

Region 3 – County level white-tailed deer statistics

Region 3	2012 Responses	2012 Mean[a]	2010 Mean[a]	Mean Change[b]	2012 Frequency Distribution (Percent)				
					Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Aurora	37	0.49	0.80	-0.31	2.7	5.4	51.4	21.6	18.9
Beadle	60	0.05	0.31	-0.26	11.7	15.0	41.7	20.0	11.7
Bon Homme	55	-0.38	0.28	-0.66	14.5	21.8	52.7	9.1	1.8
Brookings	105	0.03	0.01	0.02	6.7	15.2	57.1	10.5	10.5
Clay	26	-0.08	0.47	-0.55	11.5	11.5	57.7	11.5	7.7
Davison	28	0.11	0.15	-0.04	7.1	10.7	57.1	14.3	10.7
Hanson	28	-0.21	0.19	-0.40	14.3	14.3	57.1	7.1	7.1
Hutchinson	53	-0.40	-0.08	-0.32	18.9	26.4	34.0	17.0	3.8
Jerauld	29	0.38	0.42	-0.04	3.4	13.8	37.9	31.0	13.8
Kingsbury	60	0.25	0.58	-0.33	5.0	25.0	31.7	16.7	21.7
Lake	68	-0.29	-0.06	-0.23	16.2	27.9	33.8	13.2	8.8
Lincoln	55	0.09	0.23	-0.14	12.7	12.7	43.6	14.5	16.4
McCook	49	-0.16	-0.28	0.12	10.2	24.5	44.9	12.2	8.2
Miner	45	0.02	0.14	-0.12	4.4	20.0	53.3	13.3	8.9
Minnehaha	87	0.00	0.12	-0.12	13.8	10.3	49.4	14.9	11.5
Moody	36	0.25	-0.02	0.27	5.6	11.1	52.8	13.9	16.7
Sanborn	37	0.22	0.37	-0.15	8.1	10.8	48.6	16.2	16.2
Turner	68	-0.25	-0.04	-0.21	17.6	19.1	39.7	17.6	5.9
Union	39	-0.13	0.35	-0.48	15.4	10.3	53.8	12.8	7.7
Yankton	48	-0.27	0.18	-0.45	18.8	20.8	39.6	10.4	10.4

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] A negative change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived fewer deer on their property than in 2010. A positive change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived more deer on their property than in 2010.

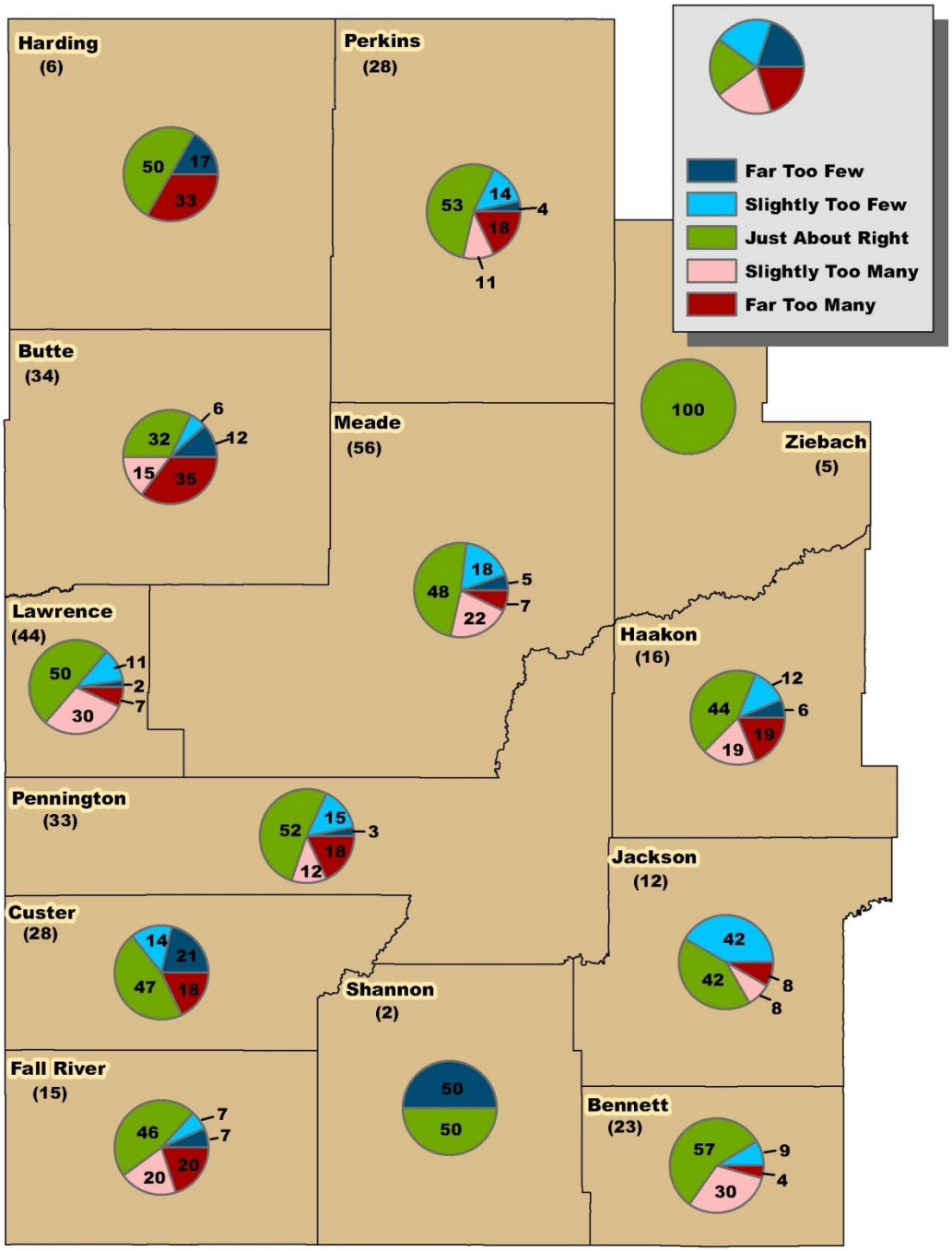
Region 4 – County level white-tailed deer statistics

Region 4	2012 Responses	2012 Mean[a]	2010 Mean[a]	Mean Change[b]	2012 Frequency Distribution (Percent)				
					Far Too Few	Slightly Too Few	Just About Right	Slightly Too Many	Far Too Many
Brown	78	-0.01	0.34	-0.35	11.5	15.4	48.7	11.5	12.8
Clark	29	0.03	0.31	-0.28	3.4	13.8	62.1	17.2	3.4
Codington	51	-0.55	-0.18	-0.37	27.5	17.6	43.1	5.9	5.9
Day	57	-0.19	0.19	-0.38	17.5	15.8	47.4	7.0	12.3
Deuel	40	-0.15	0.04	-0.19	2.5	27.5	57.5	7.5	5.0
Edmunds	38	0.03	0.61	-0.58	10.5	15.8	42.1	23.7	7.9
Faulk	19	0.84	0.85	-0.01	5.3	5.3	26.3	26.3	36.8
Grant	51	-0.08	-0.30	0.22	7.8	21.6	51.0	9.8	9.8
Hamlin	40	-0.10	0.15	-0.25	10.0	12.5	57.5	17.5	2.5
Marshall	51	-0.39	0.02	-0.41	13.7	29.4	41.2	13.7	2.0
McPherson	39	0.08	0.54	-0.46	2.6	15.4	53.8	28.2	0.0
Roberts	81	-0.44	-0.27	-0.17	21.0	16.0	54.3	3.7	4.9
Spink	41	0.00	0.18	-0.18	7.3	14.6	58.5	9.8	9.8

[a] Scale: -2 Far Too Few; -1 Slightly Too Few; 0 Just About Right; 1 Slightly Too Many; 2 Far Too Many

[b] A negative change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived fewer deer on their property than in 2010. A positive change in mean indicates responding landowners in 2012, on average, perceived more deer on their property than in 2010.

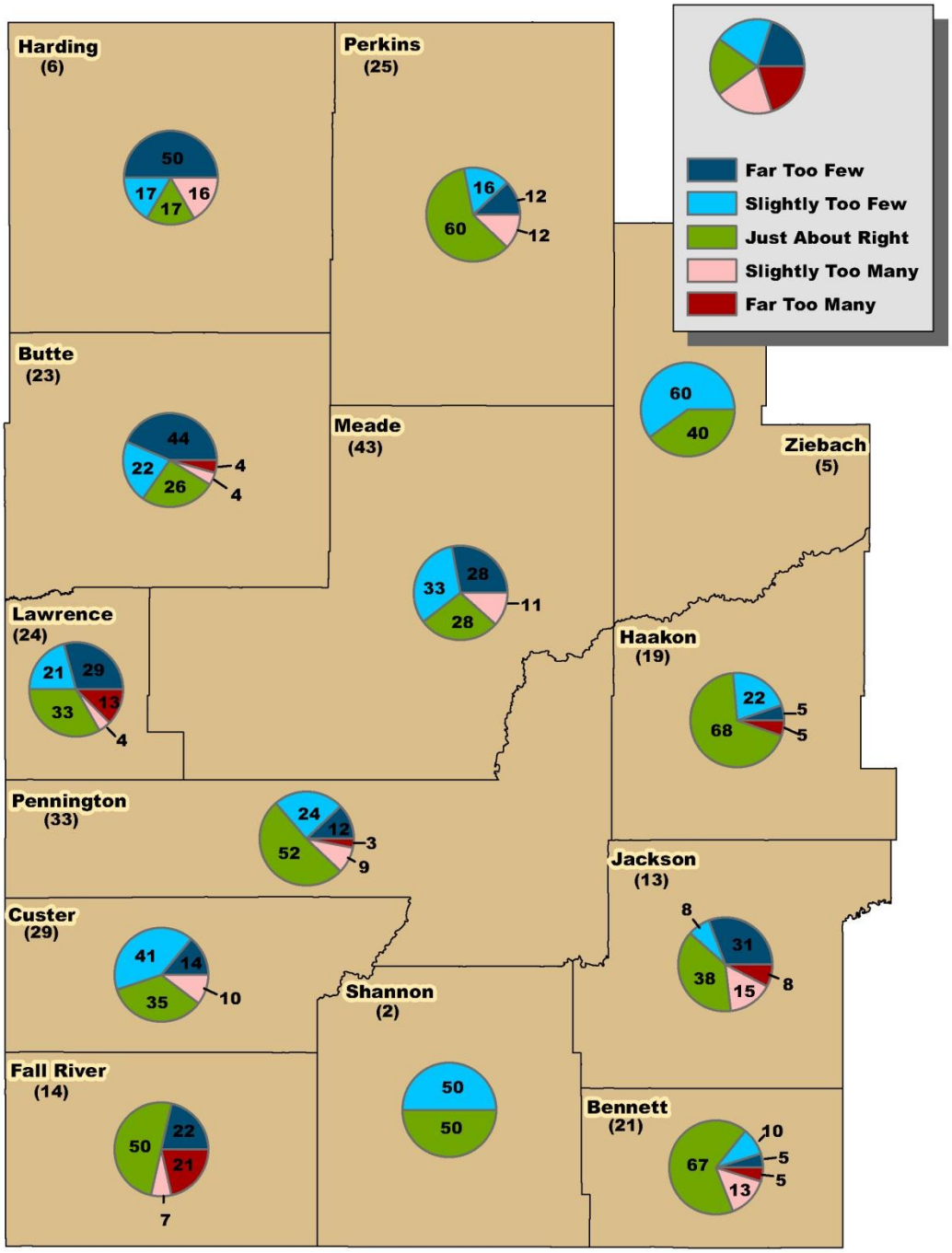
Responding Landowners' Perception of White-tailed Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

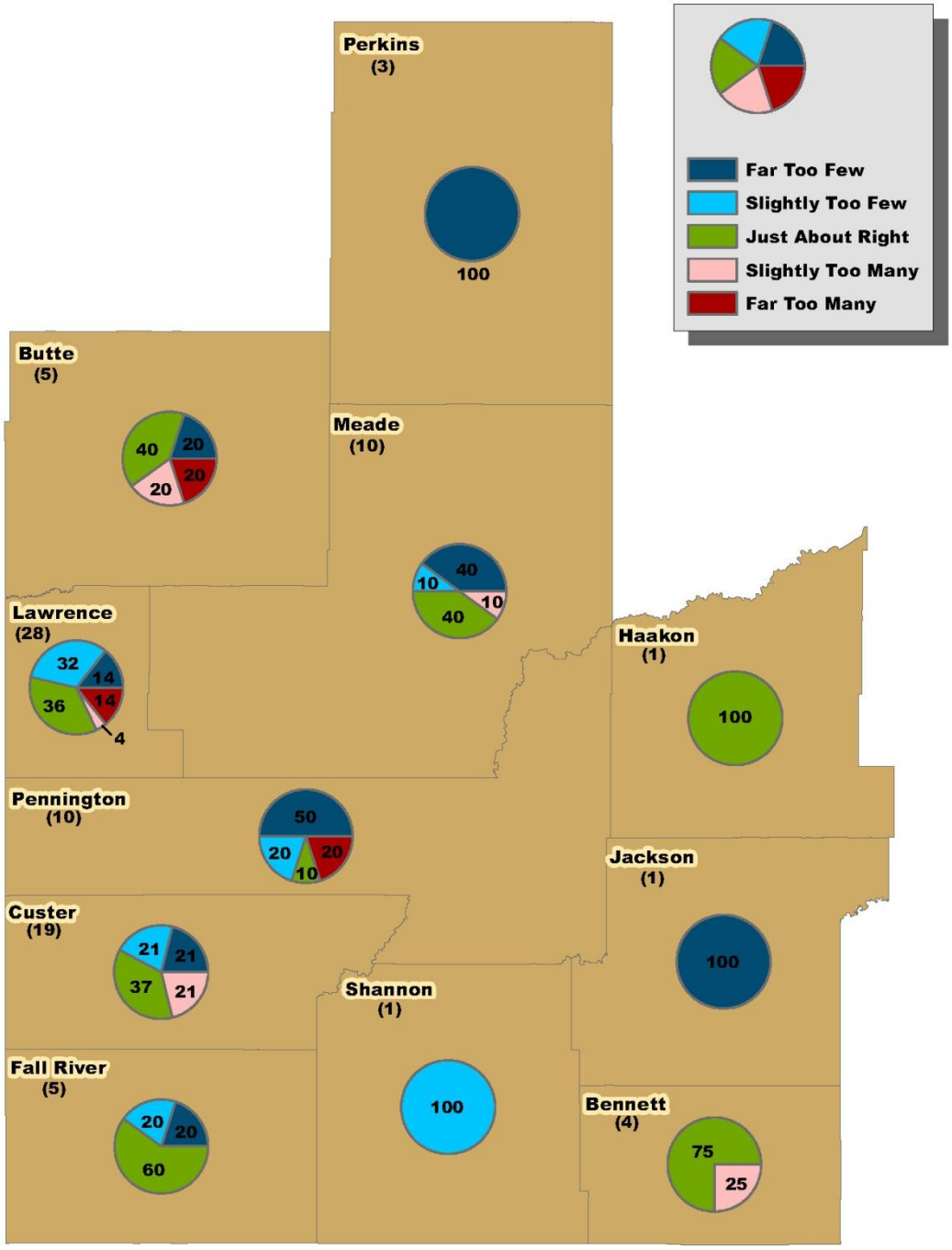
Responding Landowners' Perception of Mule Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

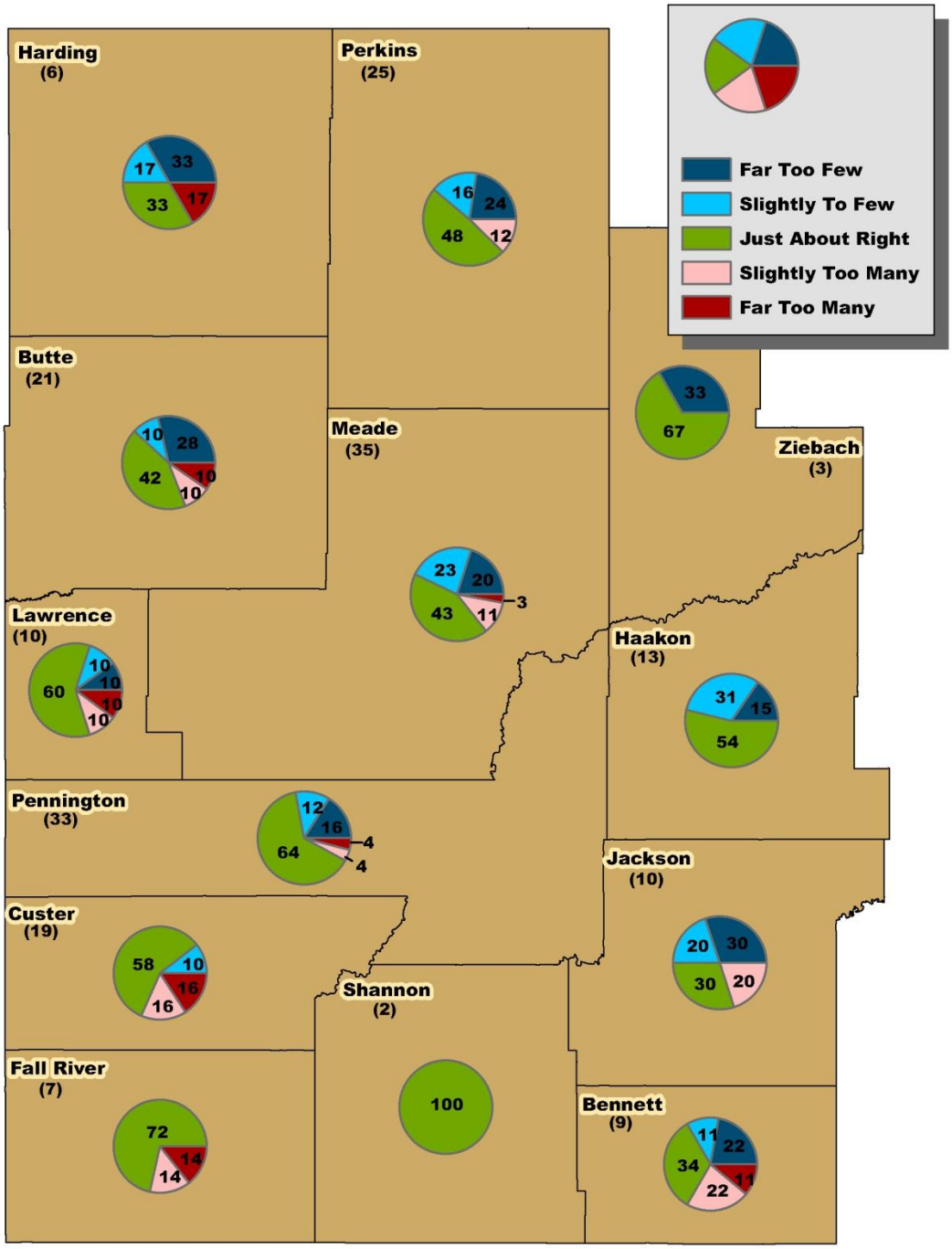
Responding Landowners' Perception of Elk Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

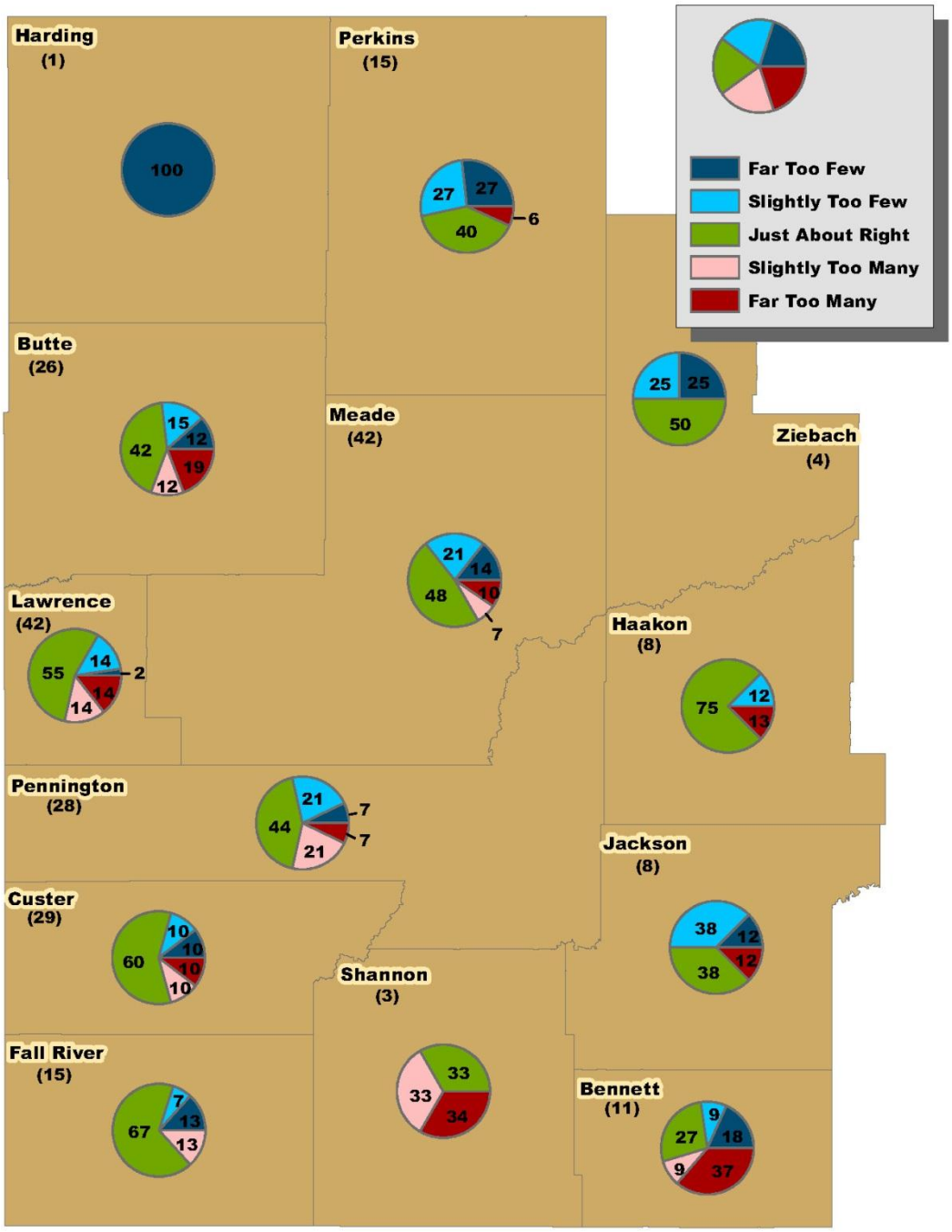
Responding Landowners' Perception of Pronghorn Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

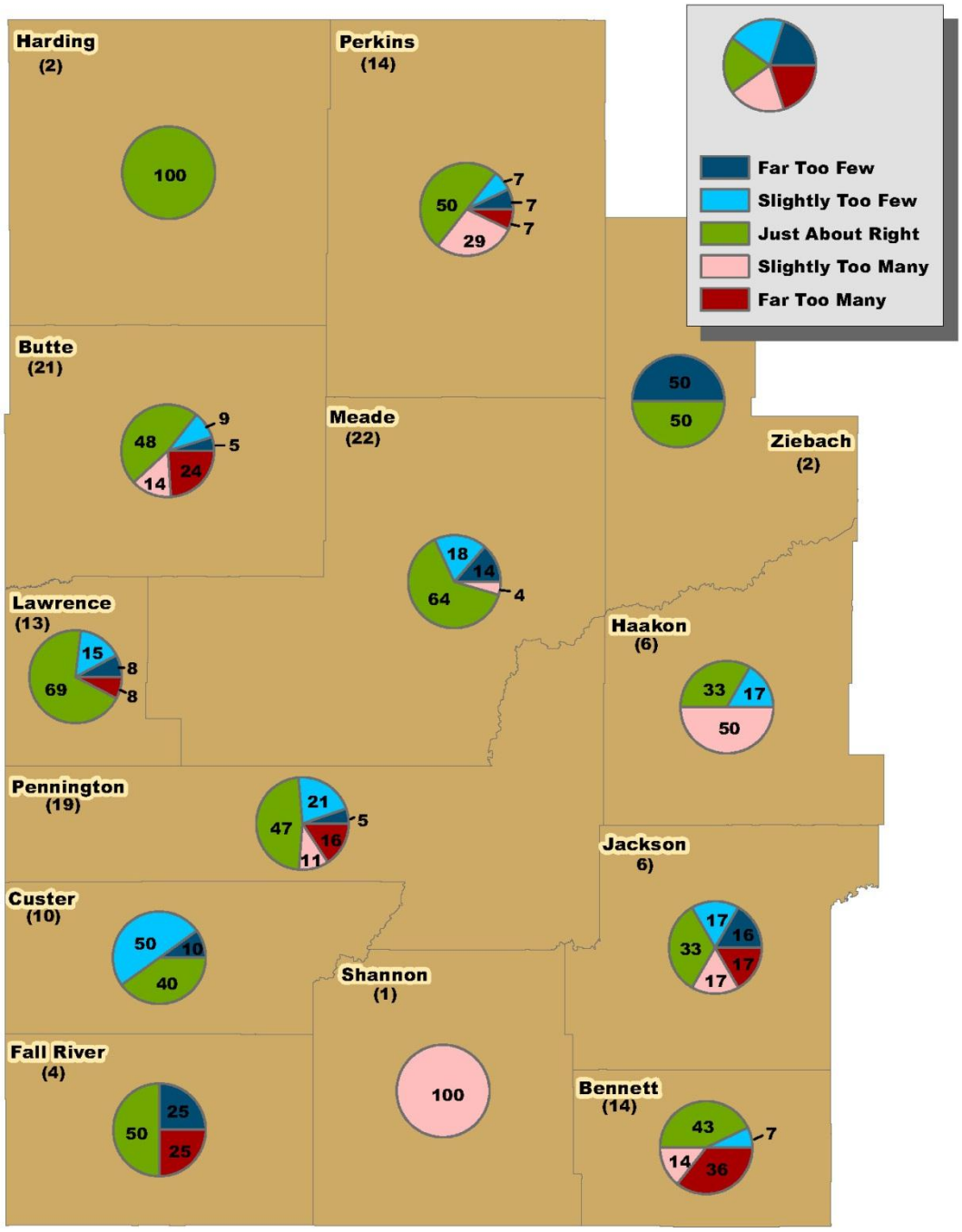
Responding Landowners' Perception of Turkey Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

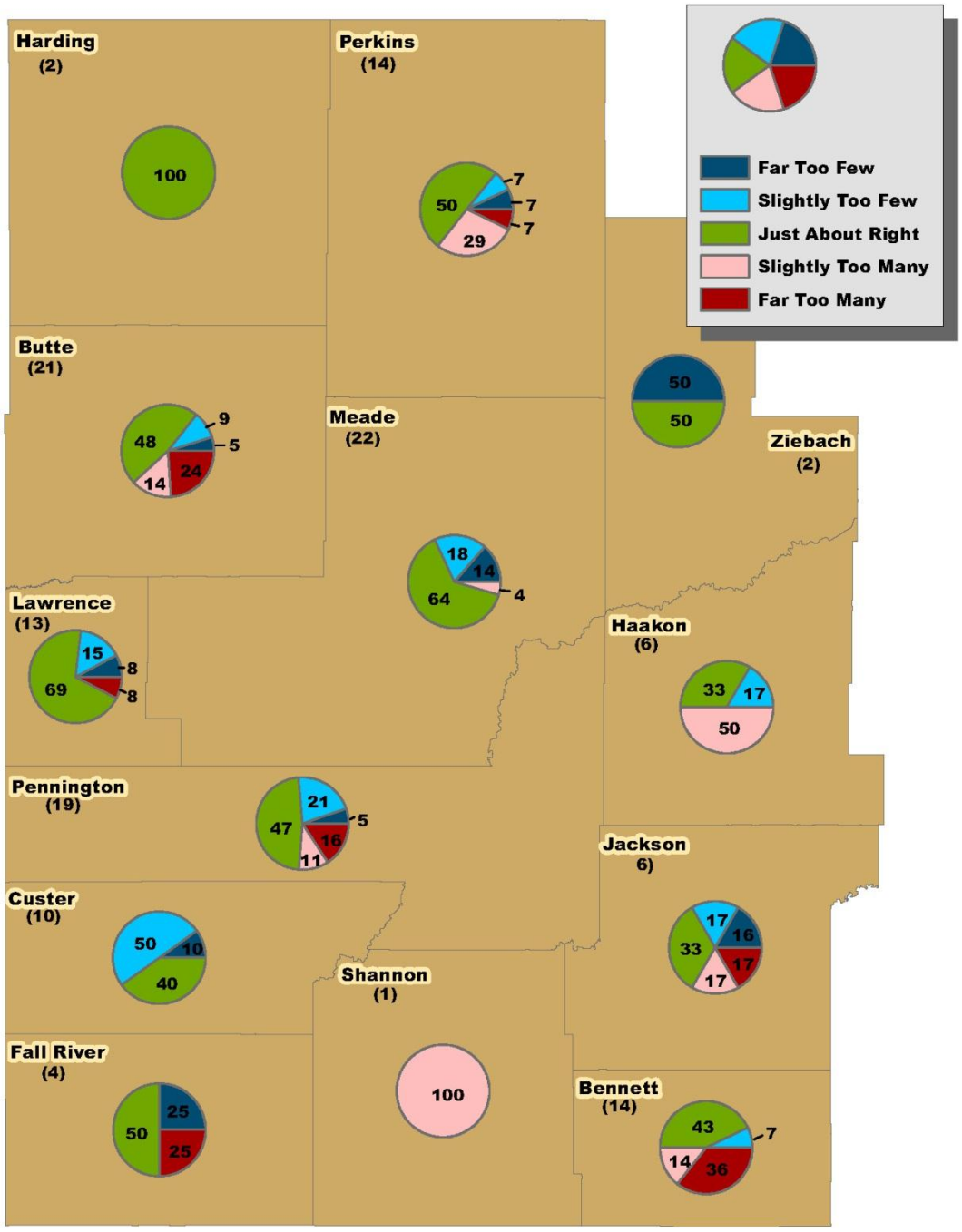
Responding Landowners' Perception of Canada Goose Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

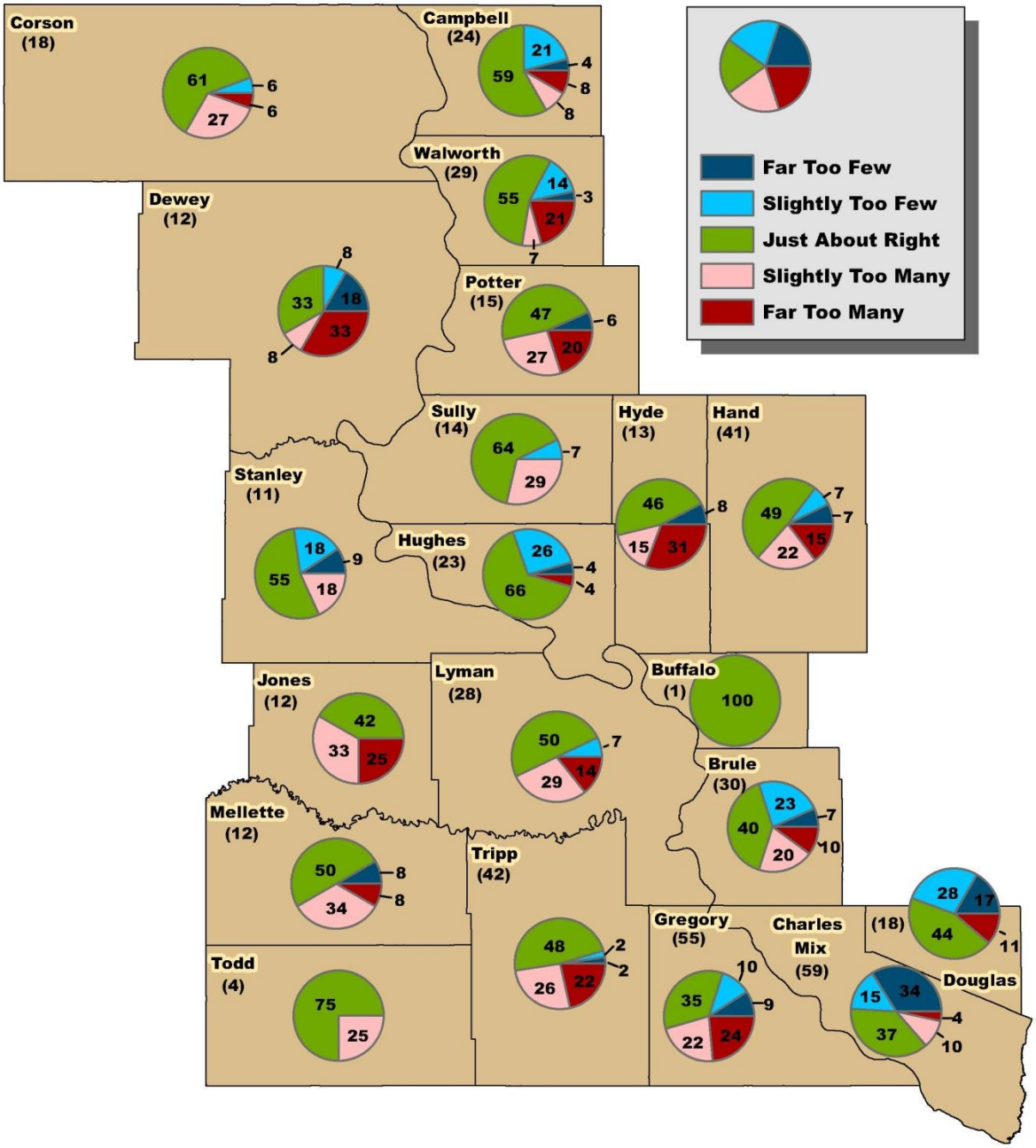
Responding Landowners' Perception of Canada Goose Populations for 2012 (Region 1)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

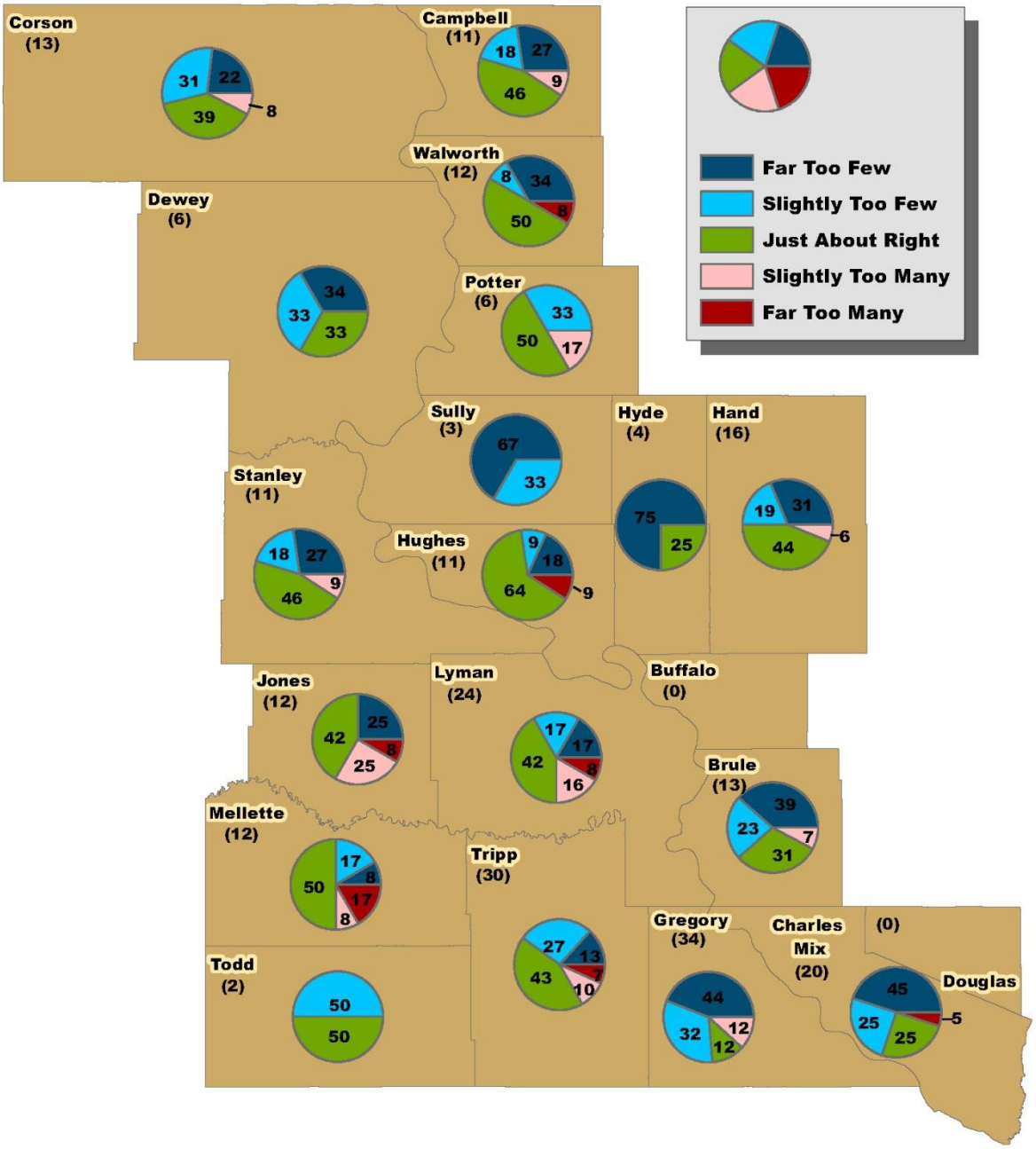
Responding Landowners' Perception of White-tailed Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

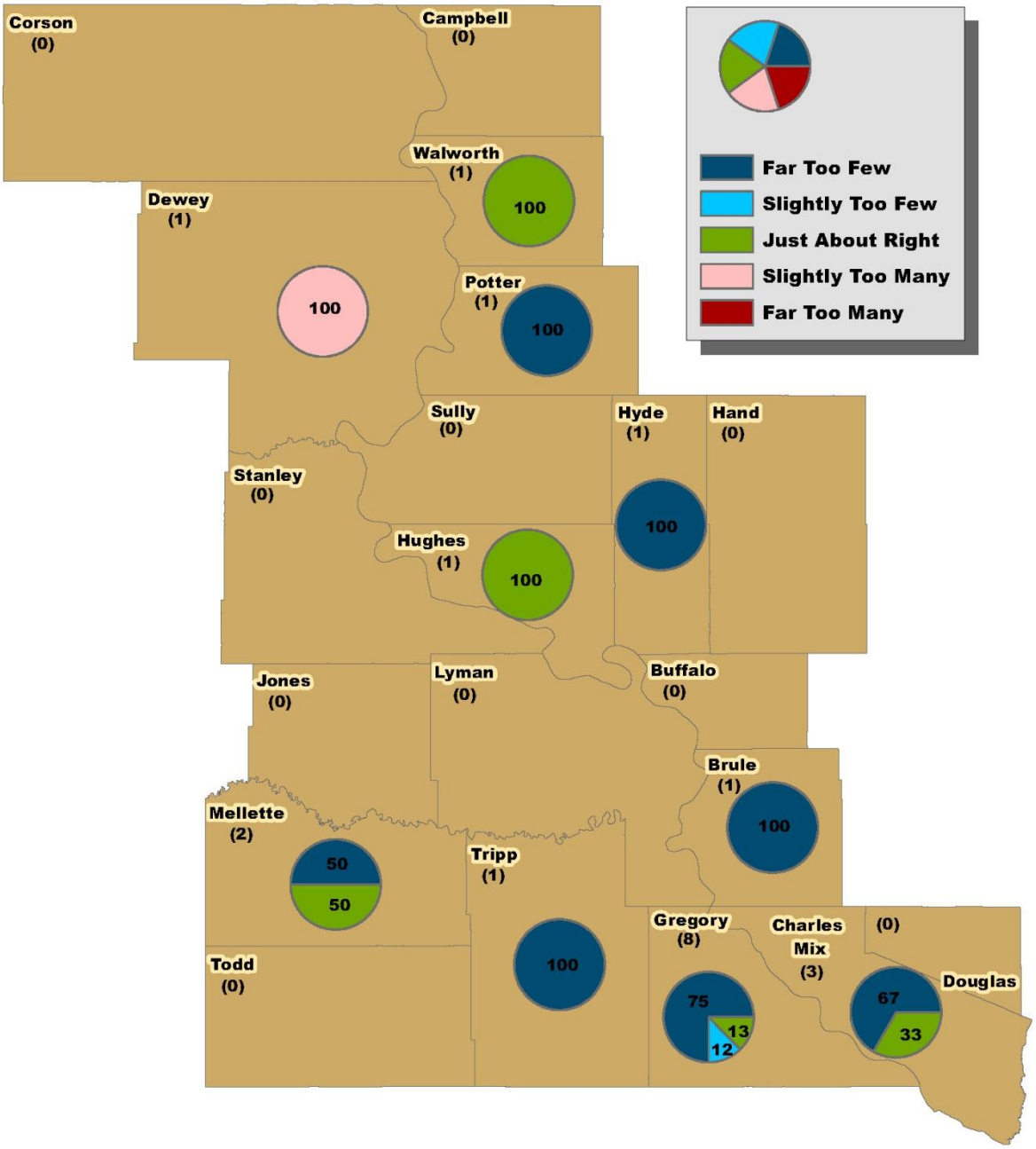
Responding Landowners' Perception of Mule Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

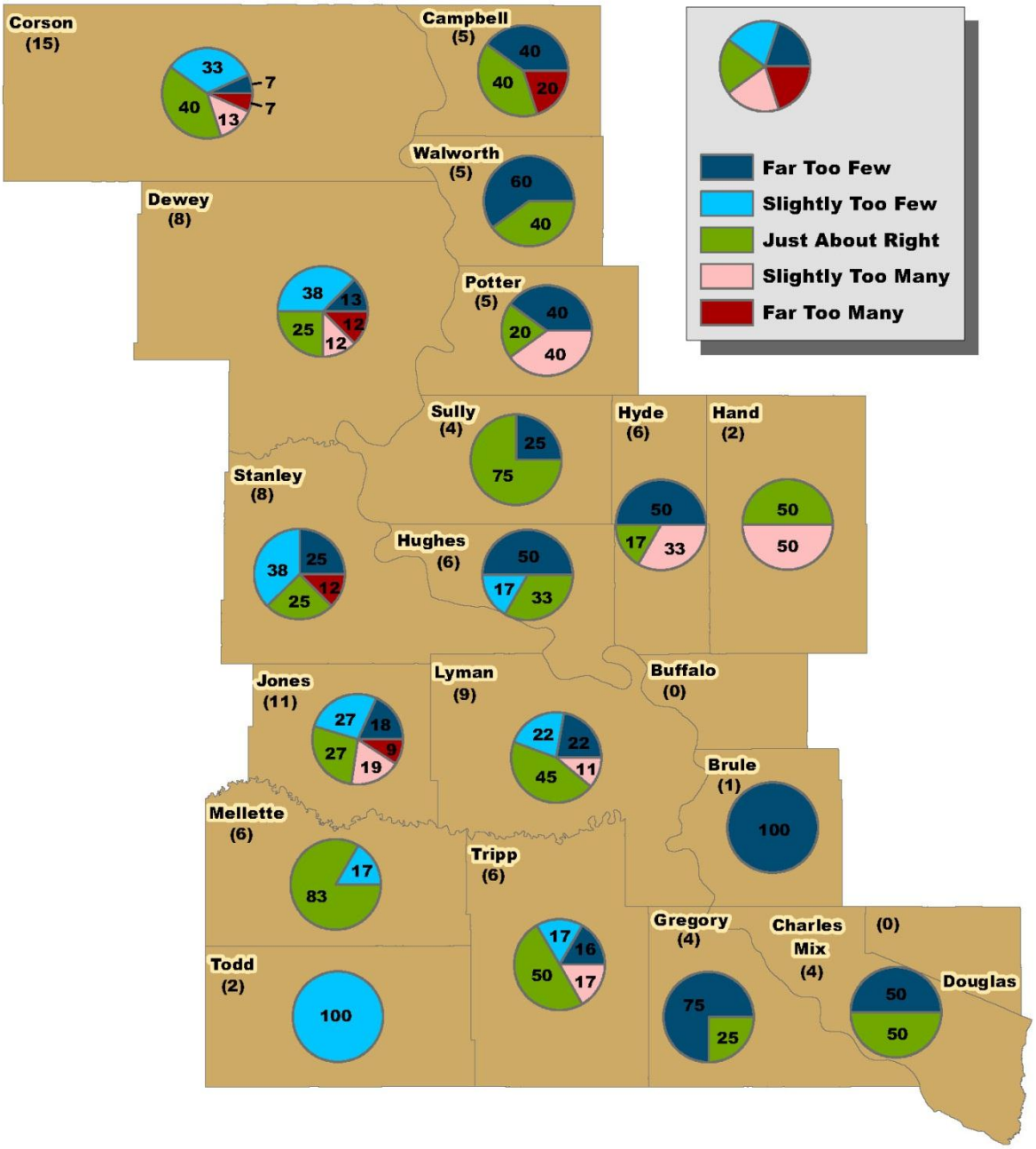
**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

Responding Landowners' Perception of Elk Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages
**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

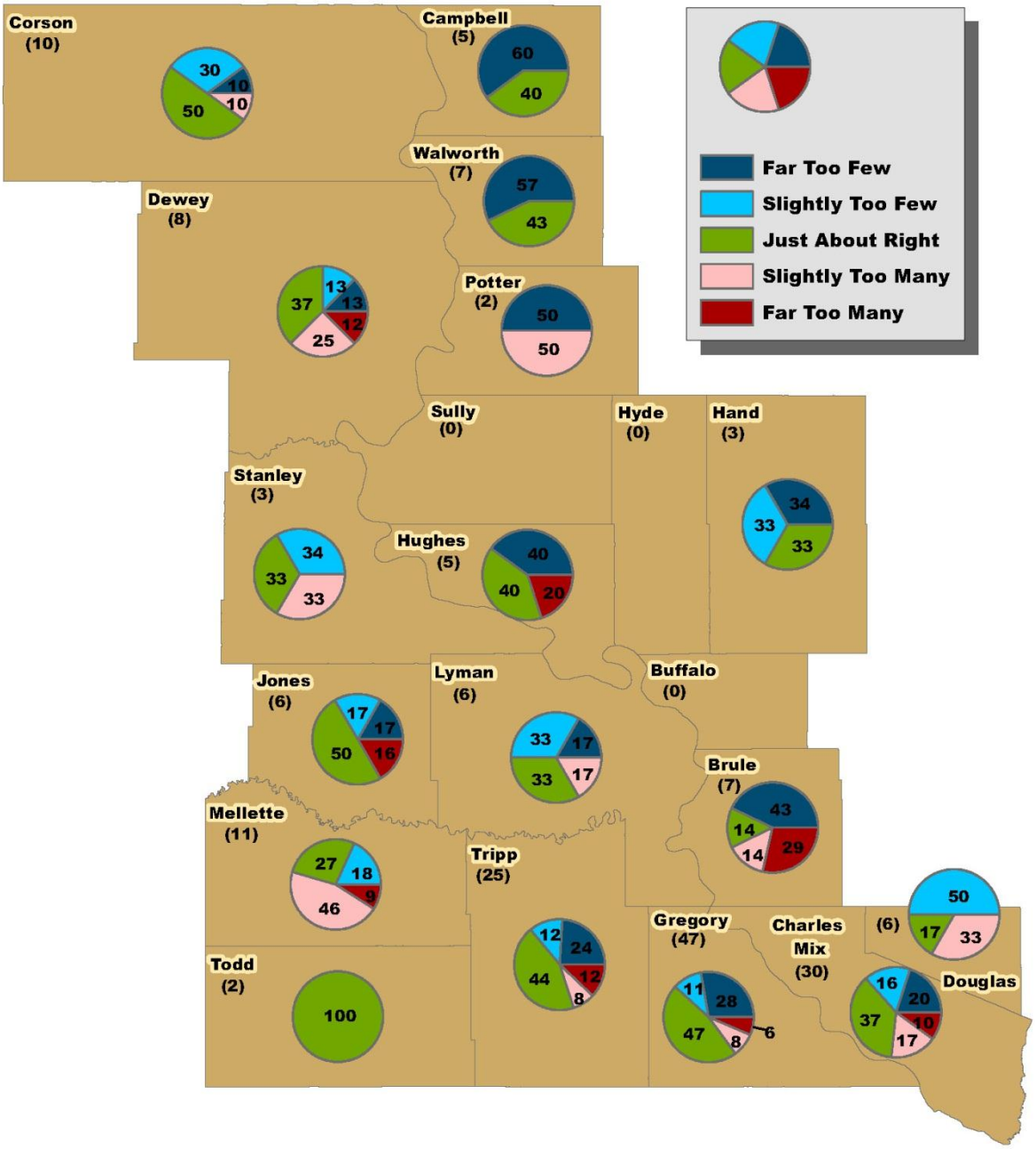
Responding Landowners' Perception of Pronghorn Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

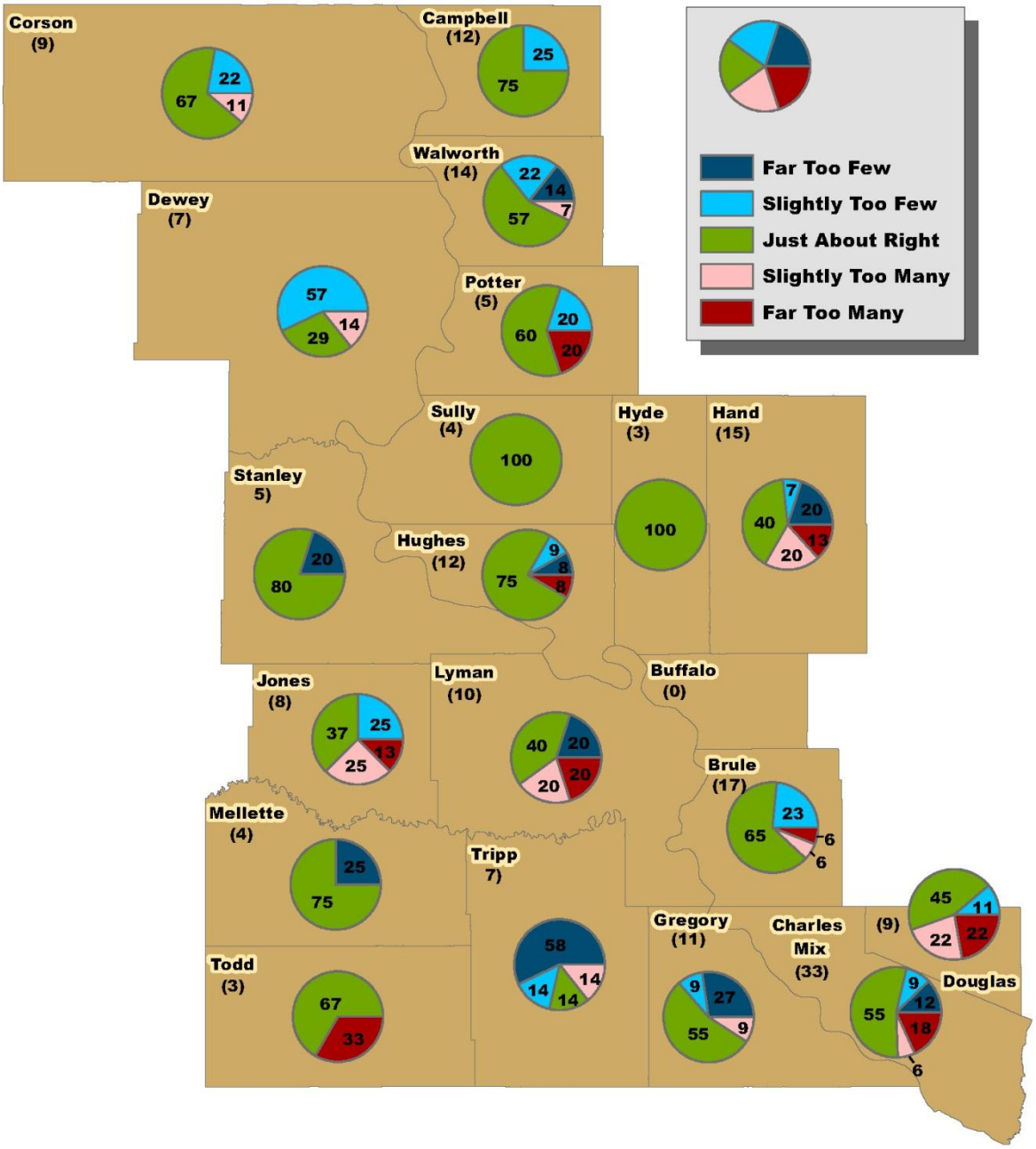
Responding Landowners' Perception of Turkey Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

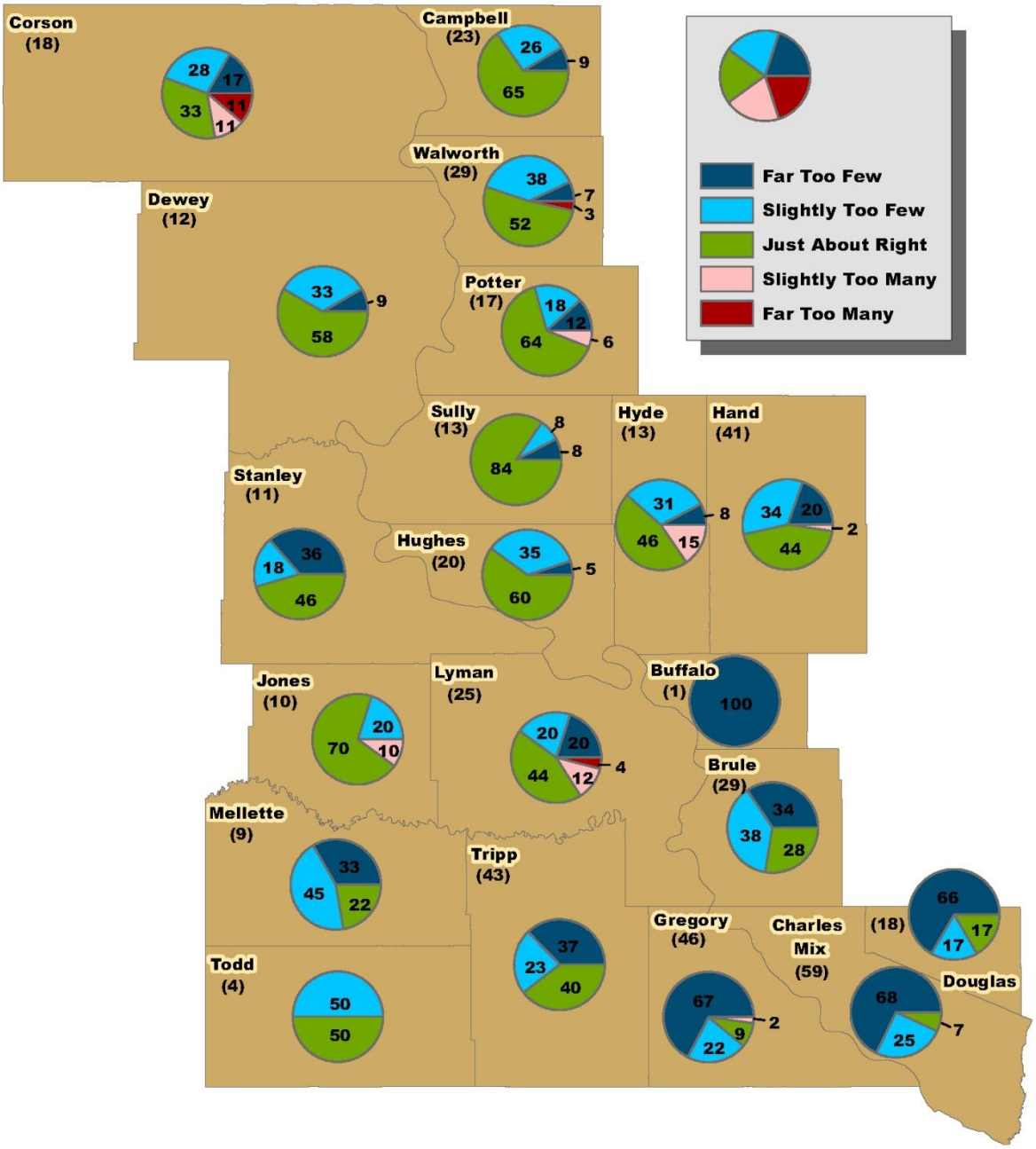
Responding Landowners' Perception of Canada Goose Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

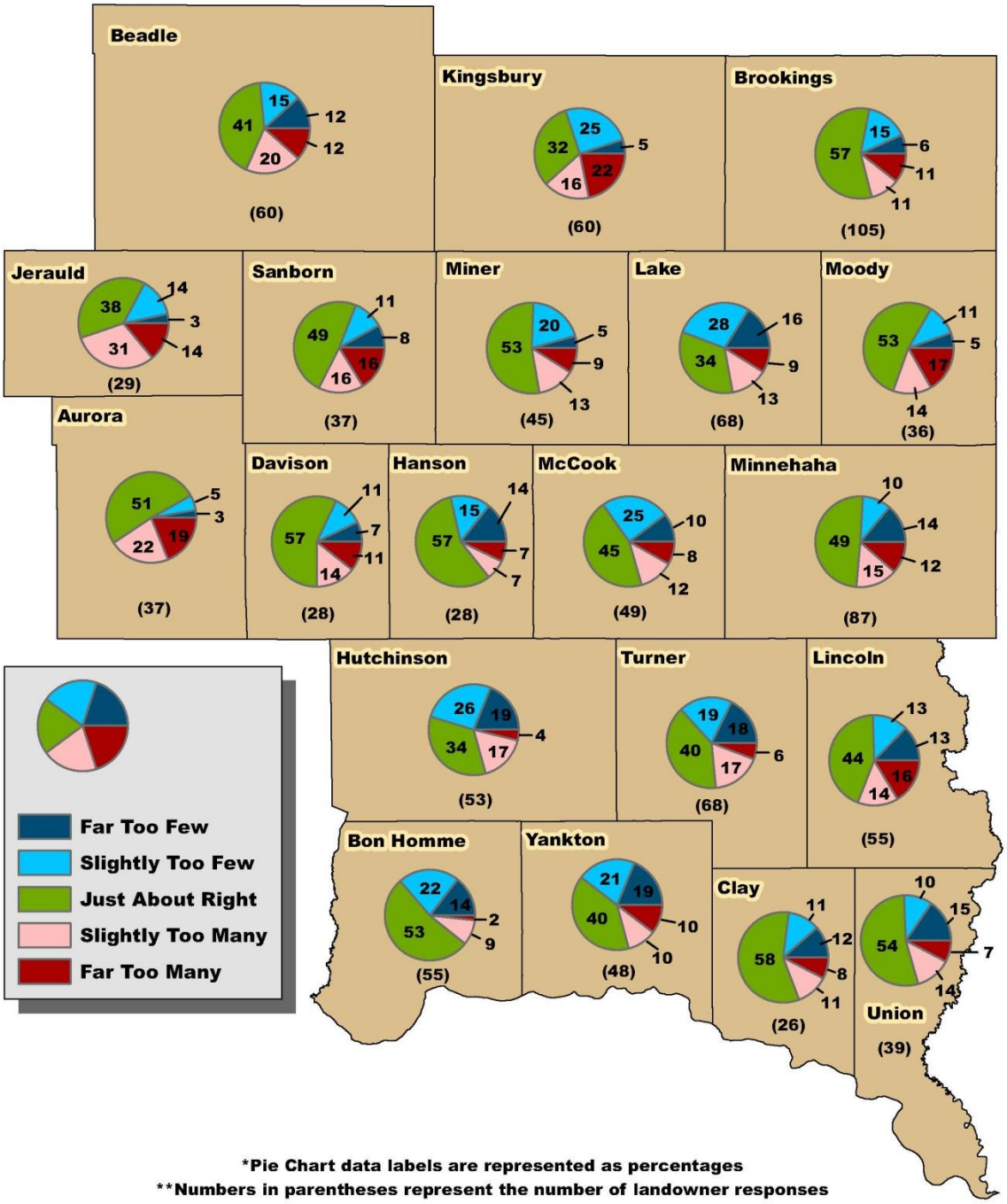
Responding Landowners' Perception of Pheasant Populations for 2012 (Region 2)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

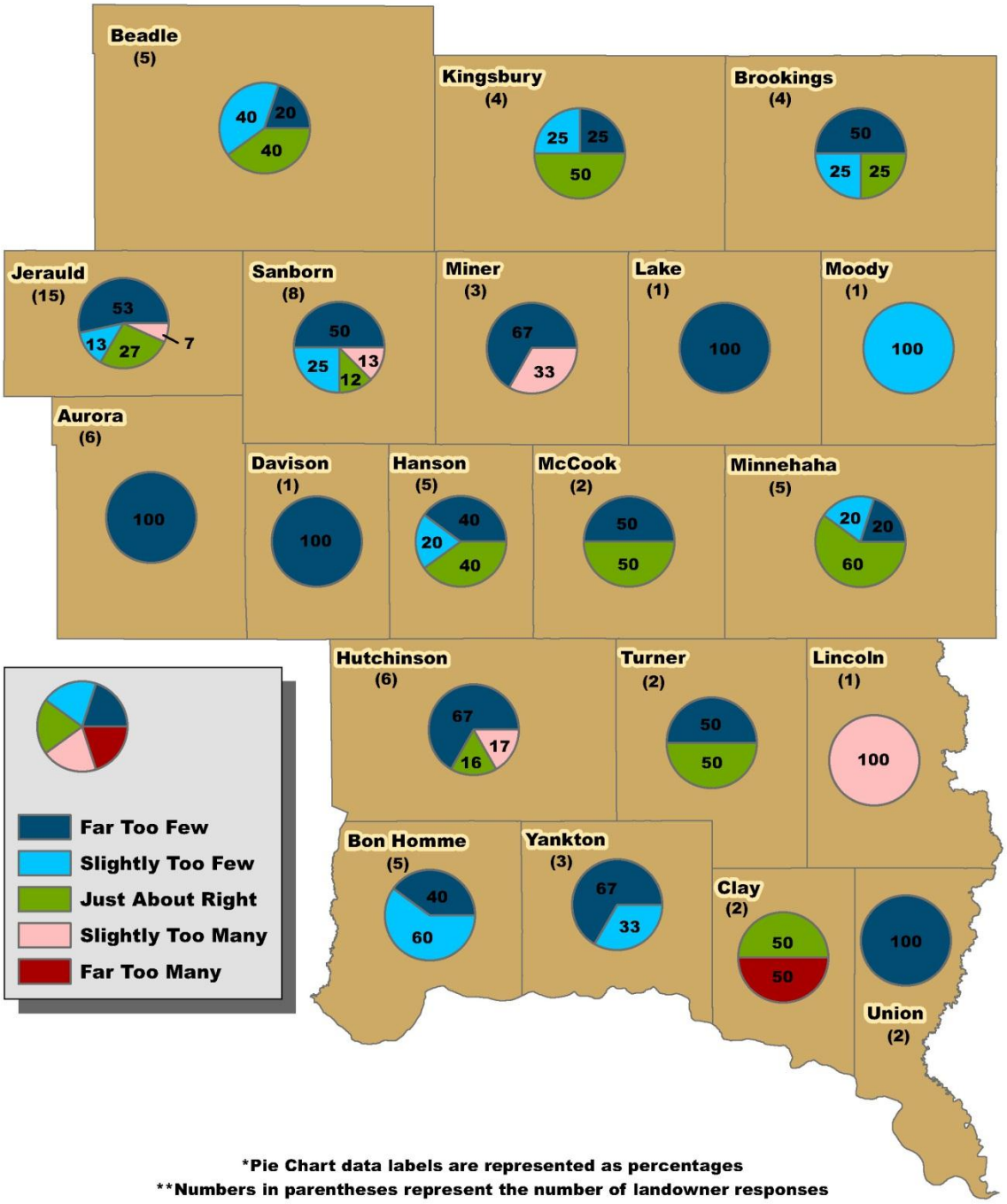
Responding Landowners' Perception of White-tailed Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 3)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

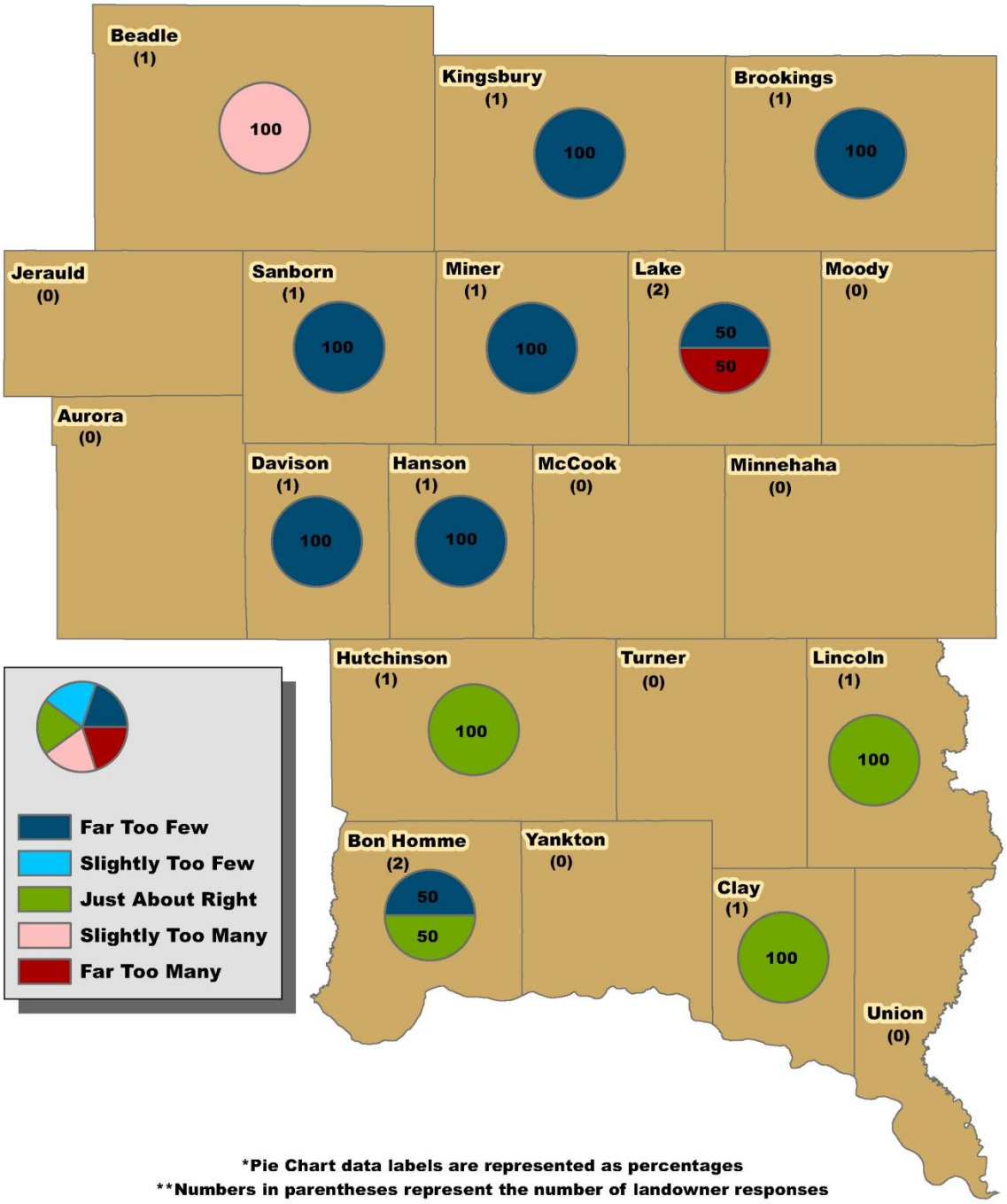
Responding Landowners' Perception of Mule Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 3)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

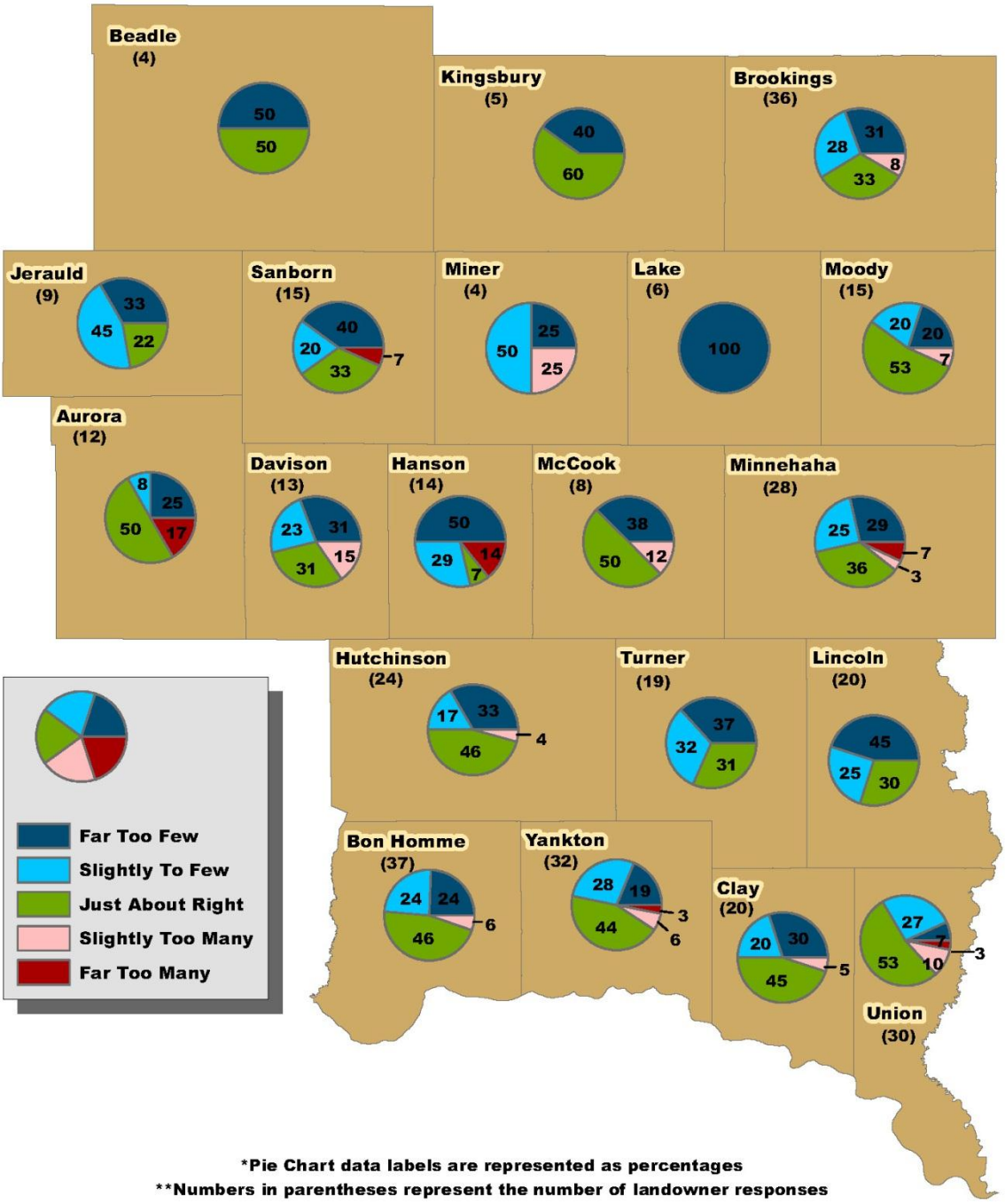
**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

Responding Landowners' Perception of Pronghorn Populations for 2012 (Region 3)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages
**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

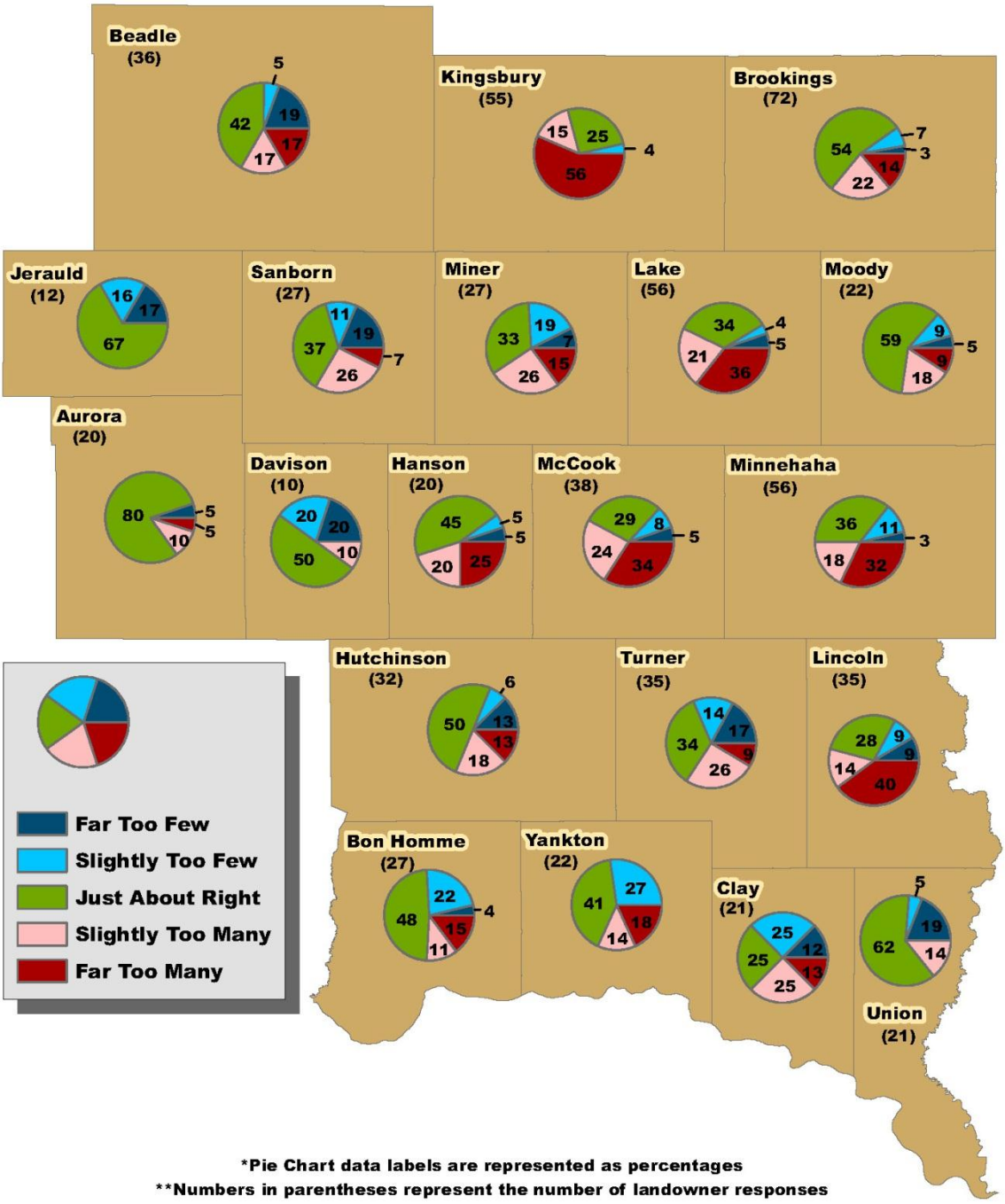
Responding Landowners' Perception of Turkey Populations for 2012 (Region 3)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

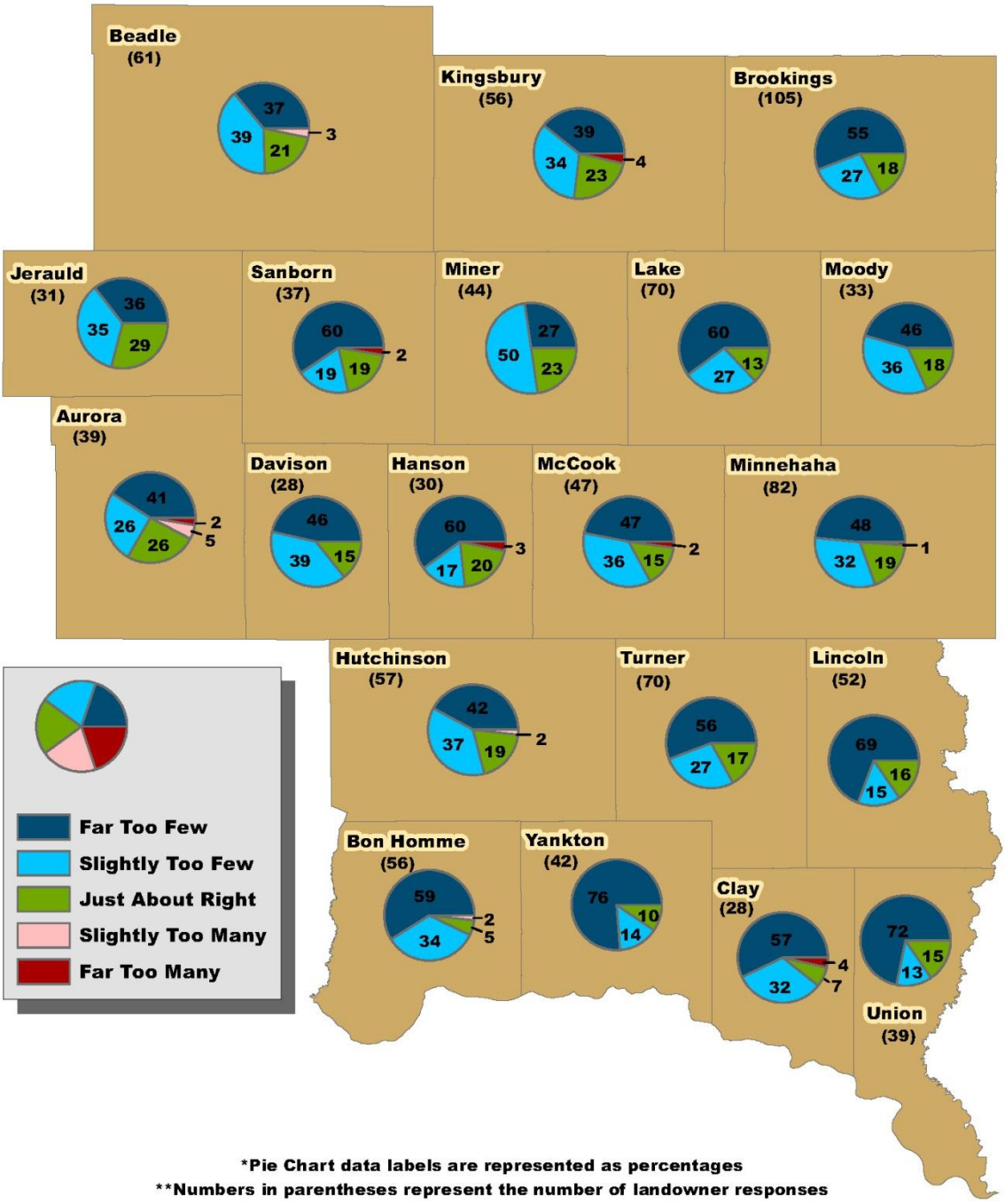
Responding Landowners' Perception of Canada Goose Populations for 2012 (Region 3)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

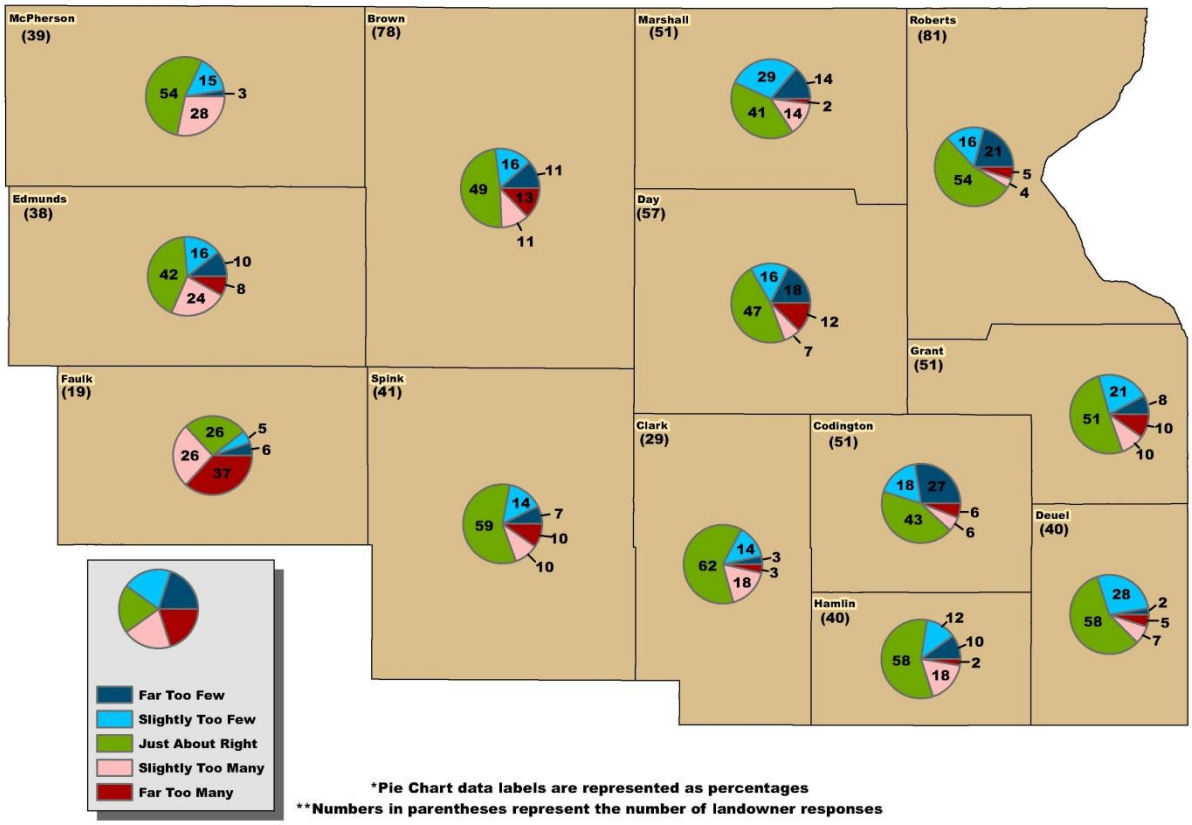
Responding Landowners' Perception of Pheasant Populations for 2012 (Region 3)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

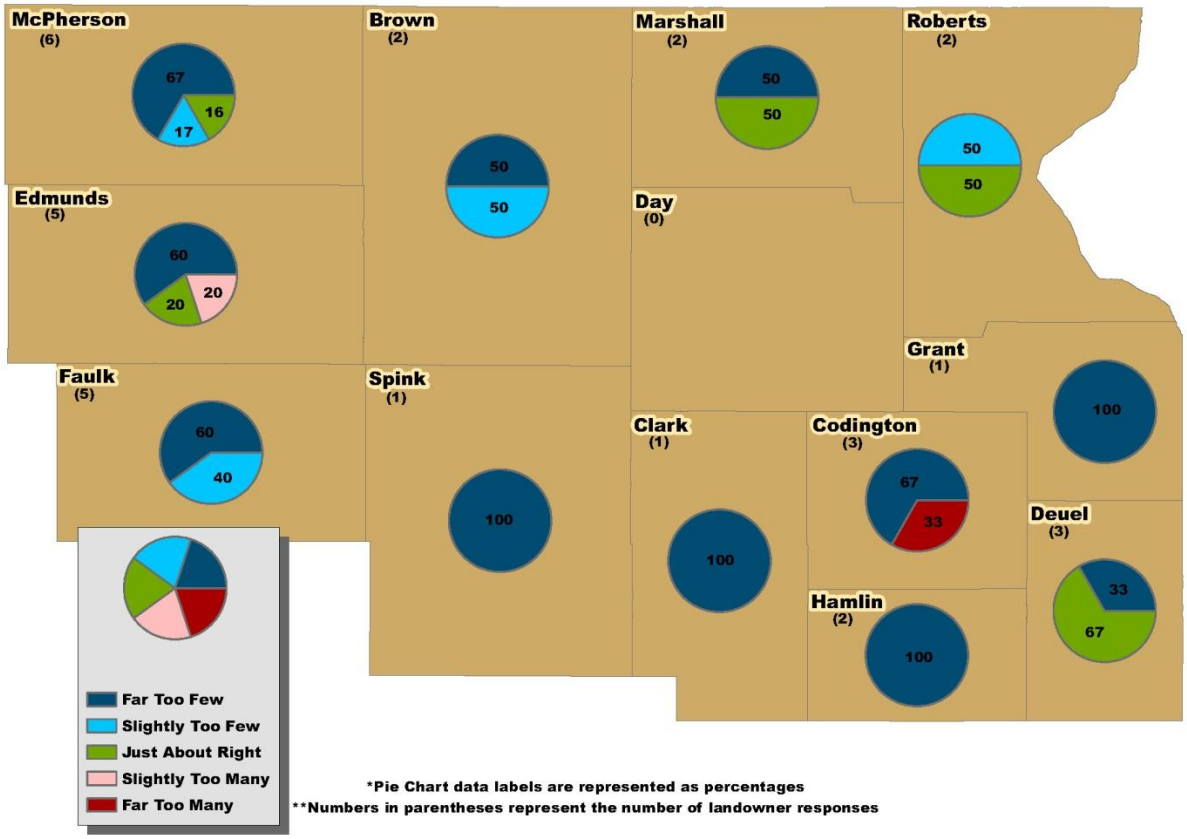
Responding Landowners' Perception of White-tailed Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 4)



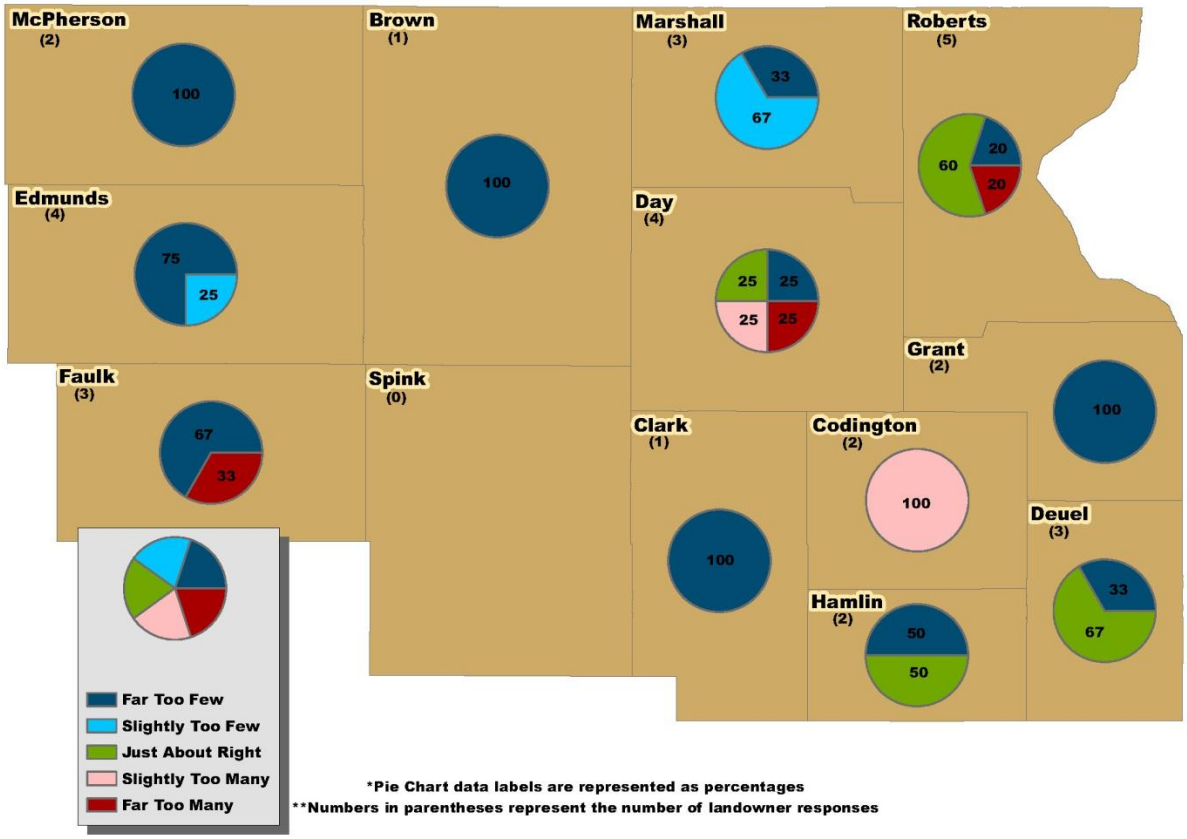
*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

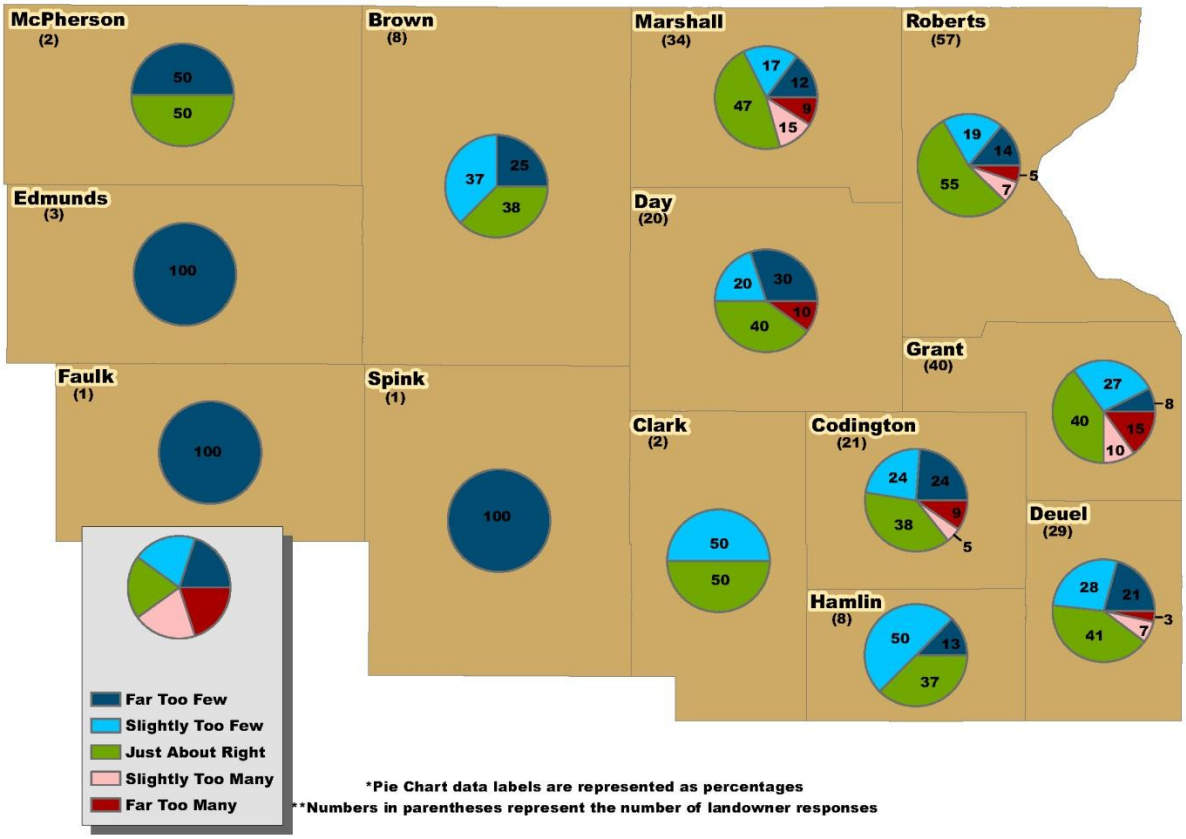
Responding Landowners' Perception of Mule Deer Populations for 2012 (Region 4)



Responding Landowners' Perception of Pronghorn Populations for 2012 (Region 4)



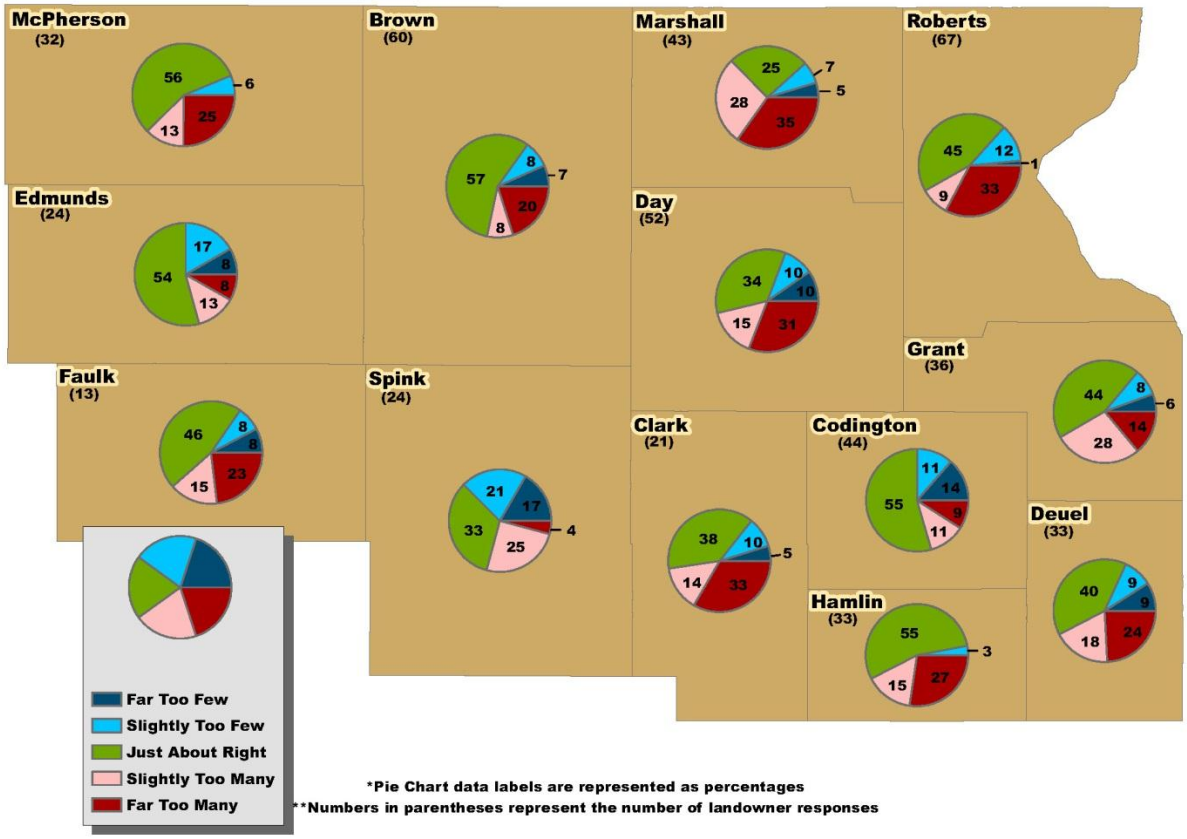
Responding Landowners' Perception of Turkey Populations for 2012 (Region 4)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

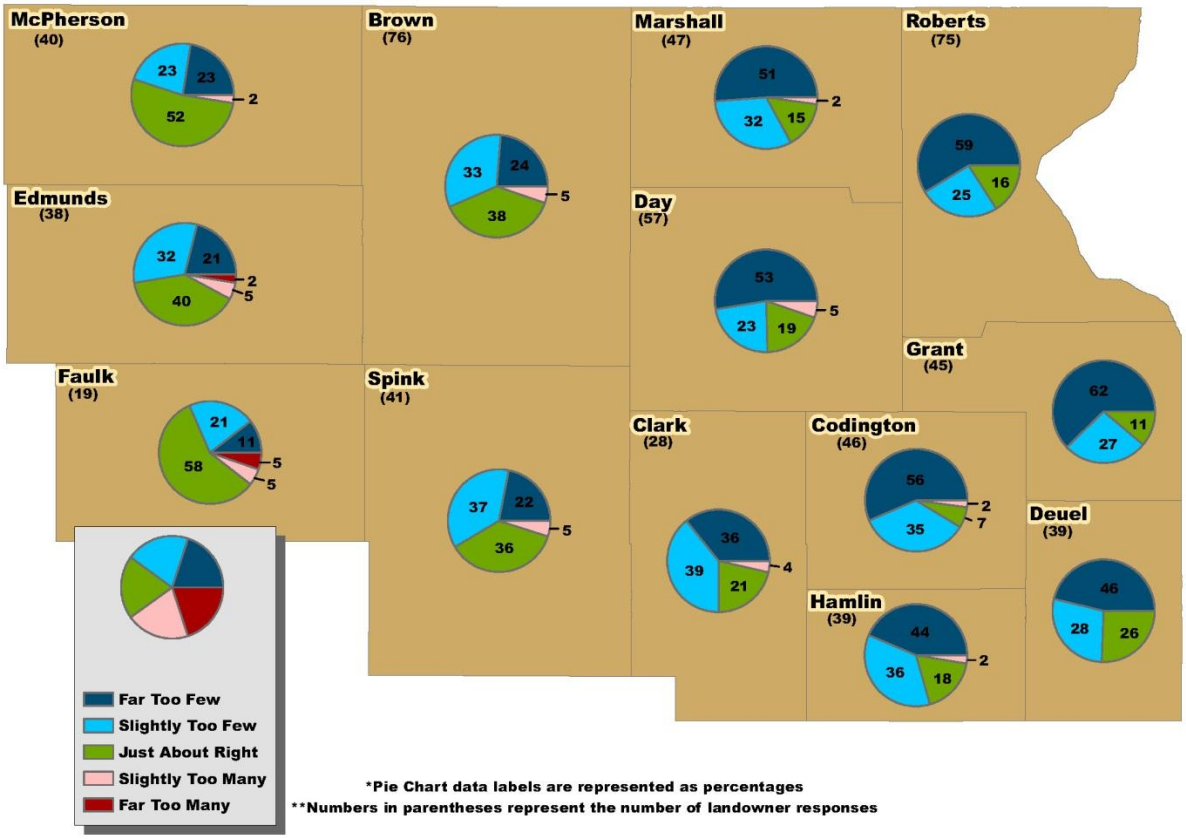
Responding Landowners' Perception of Canada Goose Populations for 2012 (Region 4)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

Responding Landowners' Perception of Pheasant Populations for 2012 (Region 4)



*Pie Chart data labels are represented as percentages

**Numbers in parentheses represent the number of landowner responses

Appendix C - Additional Comments

The views expressed in survey comments are the views of the commenting respondent(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks or the author(s) of this report. Neither the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks nor the author(s) guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of any opinion or view expressed in respondents' comments. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks reserves the right, but not obligation, to remove at its discretion any language which discloses personally identifiable information about respondents or any other individual, as well as language which is obscene, profane, offensive, malicious, discriminatory, defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

- You're killing too many Canada geese
- You should lower license prices
- You seem to have a lot of money, why don't you do something about the coyotes.
- You people in government are stupid. The landowner feeds, breeds, raises, your livestock. You sell them. Guess who makes the money. If my neighbor was like this to me we would be in court or jail. You are not a neighbor.
- You only talk about the coyotes; you need a bounty on them. You only talk of game you get money for.
- You only give a dam about the license fee otherwise you don't give a [expletive] about anything except your salary
- You need to have a spring goose season to get the numbers down. Shorten the deer season, lower numbers of tags so the deer have a chance to come back.
- You need more CRP land
- You need a bolder way of addressing trespassing
- You might consider requiring hunters to take a doe and register it before they can get a buck permit. Allow SD landowners to take varmints like coyotes, skunks, wild cats, etc. Anytime without a permit.
- You have to stop [name] from destroying our deer herd from over population, creating disease and from high numbers of predators on his land which is reducing pheasant and turkey numbers and harassing our deer herd.
- You have to do something about the coyotes, there are way too many. You shouldn't have 2 deer doe tags.
- You folks do a good job thank you

- You do a pretty good job

- You do a great job despite what [legislator] says!

- You do a good job thanks. Q1g [pheasants] this year.

- You can manage too much or too high of wildlife populations with more or less hunting pressure. But I don't know what you can do if a wildlife population gets a disease like the deer in se sd. Due to the drought and the fact that available feed is frozen down the deer have to come to our feed. They do a few hundred dollars damage, mostly to our best alfalfa and they really like our wet grain. Last year we had about 75 mule deer but they left early this winter. The coyotes are trying to get the herd of whitetails I have seen them. Plus we found one that was partly eaten but still alive. I don't mind feed wildlife some. The hunters are a waste of time but some help out. We always see more trash and litter on section lines and townships roads but most are good people.

- You are overreacting on the geese

- You are doing a good job.

- Yankton has very few pheasants, one idea is to pay for pheasant chicks and have landowners raise them to be released, pheasant season should be shortened to Dec 15 is long enough

- Would prefer that antlered licenses that weren't filled would revert to antlerless for late season you did before.

- Would prefer extended antlerless season starting just before Christmas and going until New Years to coincide with school vacations.

- Would like to see return of grouse and partridge.

- Would like to see more permits issued to non-resident especially with game that seem abundant (turkeys, whitetails in some areas) given the population of SD possibly more hunters would help if there is over abundance.

- Would like to see archery deer open sooner.

- Would like to see a crossbow season for whitetail deer ran during archery season. Allow mentor hunters to do crossbow season too.

- Would like to have the geese back to the way it was. A season north of Hwy 50. We have geese on the river, 10 miles away when you changed it the season is over for us. Would like it the way it was 3 years ago.

- Would like consideration of non-resident owner deer hunting privileges. Would like to see more aggressive habitat preservation. Better land stewardship practices.

- Would be nice if mountain lion population was greatly reduced so a person does not feel the need to constantly be on the alert. Mountain lions don't seem to affect turkeys but I have

seen deer running (for no apparent reason) and have neighbors reporting deer carcasses that were attributed to lions.

- Work with whoever it takes to increase CRP rental rates to more accurately reflect cash rent. CRP acres are good for wildlife.

- Wolves need to be addressed as a listed species west river many are confirmed not only as transients but we should expect that there will be breeding pairs.

- With the excessive deer die off last year I would highly suggest that there would be no landowner permits everyone in drawing for licenses (in Bon Homme and other areas with high die off)

- With the application for black hills tags there is more road hunting than ever, issue tags over the counter and make hunters get out and walk or spend more time in the field with the game wardens. Elk hunting is starting to be the same way in this area, more people are killing elk driving up and down public roads.

- With my principle residence outside of SD I strongly object to the law that does not allow me, the landowner for over 50 years, to hunt deer on my own land.

- With all of draining of sloughs and low ground tearing out trees does nothing to help wildlife you need habitat to have wildlife and it is fast leaving our area. The big farmers do not seem to care. Small towns get a lot of money from hunters. Townships also get money from license fees. Stop what you can.

- With a longer whitetail season I would be able to offer quality hunters to more hunters. Whitetail depredation happens during months of snow accumulation. Pheasant depredation during the winter and after spring planting.

- Wildlife groups should realize they will never gain landowner support by political or regulatory methods. Hunting on private land is an earned privilege.

- Why would anyone shoot turkey hens in the spring when our turkey population is the lowest it's been since the late 1970s? Why would we have a four month fall turkey season and try to keep them from surviving the cold and more than two feet of snow.

- Why waste money sending out landowner matters when it arrives March 29th and it advertises burn workshops on March 21 & 28th? Good use of landowner and sportsman money.

- Why not shoot those geese with a rifle and be rid of some. Whitetail deer are hard on fences and they break fence posts.

- Why is the landowner responsible for picking up road kill deer?

- Why it is that [name] has not been to court & charged for shooting 61+ cormorants. Aren't they federally protected? Why would you reduce fine and jail time? Does that mean I can shoot what and when I want too?

- Why can't I have landowner preference on land that I own but do not operate?

- Whitetail deer populations need to be thinned. If we are ever going to get pheasant populations back up. Coyotes and hawks are going to need to be controlled. Need more whitetail deer licenses.

- Whitetail deer need to be killed off on our ranch. All other species are fine.

- Whitetail deer in Jerauld County are too high. The antelope population is getting high south of Hwy 34 in Stanley County

- While I like crep, I wish rifles could be limited to deer season only.

- Where we are in Codington County low deer numbers were other parts they have many should split county and give higher numbers of tags. Deer season should be 1 week like it used to be not 16 days like now.

- When we contact GFP we were told they had no depredation money and the whistle they gave us last year they found does not really work so don't bother using it. Our depredation occurs in the spring on our hay fields.

- When making the hunting guide - I think it should be mentioned that hunters that do not have to pay a fee to the owners, should be generous enough to leave a tip for the privilege of hunting. They even use our buildings for their convenience.

- When 2 tag deer licenses are issued require antlerless tag to be filled first. Turkey numbers need to be reduced.

- What is the reason antlered tags do not carry over into antlerless season? I hunt for big bucks and don't shoot a doe until the second or third weekend. If the tag carried over, I may shoot a doe later on in the antlerless season if short of meat. Instead I'll let you worry about keeping them out of haystacks.

- We're too close to town so we don't allow hunting

- We think there are about the right amount of deer on our land except in winter when they gather for food. That is why we needed help from GFP to protect our alfalfa bales.

- We sure would like turkeys in Edmunds County. Nonresident landowners should be able to draw for east river buck tags.

- We still have way too many coyotes. I run a 200 cow operation. We see coyotes on a regular basis when we feed and now we are calving.

- We share our hay with the deer every year and we have done this for many years. The deer yard here, the more snow and cold temp, the more deer. Hay corrals have helped, but we could use some help. Turkey stay close to the deer.

- We really need some way to force the paid hunting outfits, to hunt land from start of season to the end and also to take out some does and fawns not just big bucks leaving us to winter feed all those whitetails.

- We provide excellent habitat for wildlife with CRP acres, food plot and corn for harvest broken with strips of milo. We have seen several duck & pheasant nests in the spring along with a number of chicks resulting from 2-3 hatches. However, when hunting in the fall, the pheasant population seems to be lacking. I think the abundant coyote population in the area has a negative effect on the pheasant population.

- We plant 3 or more winter food plots primarily for pheasant, but in winters of heavy snow, deer will destroy the plots and leave nothing for pheasants, special depredation hunts would help. We would like to see the 2nd & 3rd drawings for deer tags open to out-of-state equally to out-of-county residents. Personally, I would rather have out-of-state hunters than those from Sioux Falls or other metro SD areas and they spend more money locally! Make the out-of-state waterfowl hunting process easier. Allow out-of-state deer hunters eligible for an "any deer" tag after a certain # of doe tags.

- We need to put a bounty on coyotes or help us kill them and we are seeing lions on the prairie, let the dogs run them on the private ground.

- We need to look at predator control because I feel there are too many "egg eaters" that are getting our pheasant nests in the spring. From May to Nov I caught 78 raccoons in my farm alone. That's too many!!

- We need to liberalize the methods to reduce the coyote population in our area. Maybe we should consider snowmobiles to get to them just like GFP uses airplanes. The problem keeps growing with the current methods of control.

- We need to do a better job of educating our youth! We have a lot of lazy hunters out here and they are teaching their children the same! Good hunters don't drive pickups for hunting.

- We need to control the coyote population better

- We need more pheasants and fewer fox and coyotes.

- We need help to control coyotes. Pay hunting operations should share cost. Also add a small amount to hunting licenses. This appeal from a pheasant hunting operation.

- We need a stronger conservation officer presence during deer season, to eliminate the use of pickups to hunt & chase deer while shooting from pickups. This is done by local farmers not people from town. It is a disgusting way to hunt and only SD refuses to institute a cased gun law in pickups during deer season.

- We need a split season on antelope here in Bennett County, as most of these animals don't migrate out of the rough and are hard to hunt sandhills until later in the fall.

- We must do something to reduce coyote numbers. There are far too many coyotes, they are ready to sit under the yard pole and howl. We have called about 6 times to get

someone to fly over our land and shoot them. They already killed and ate our first stock calf.

- We maybe need a bounty on raccoons & coyotes to improve the pheasant population
- We lost over 100 ton corn silage to mold caused by turkeys & raccoons digging holes in bunker
- We let everyone hunt, but do not let everyone know this
- We hunt pheasants, sharp tail grouse and partridge and deer. Partridge population is down so we've stopped killing them. What can we do to improve their numbers?
- We have way too many raccoons & coyotes. They are the reason we don't have any pheasants. You can drive miles & miles and not see a pheasant. 85% of the pheasants we shot were pen raised. Shorten the pheasant season and put the limit at 2 birds.
- We have way too many coyotes and somehow have to get them under control their numbers, because too hard on other wildlife.
- We have too many hunters and too much traffic. Hunting does very little to solve our problem.
- We have too many foxes, coyotes, and redtail hawks with too little cover for pheasants in southeast South Dakota. I believe the hawks are a big problem in our area.
- We have several deer on our property and do not have a problem with them.
- We have no concerns. We don't hunt. We don't want any hunters on our land.
- We have lost our wildlife in SD. The mountain lions killed off all the elk in the hills, EHD got the deer, drought got the pheasants & in western state the wolves are killing off wildlife at an alarming rate. Let us hunters shoot wildlife in lieu of feeding the predators.
- We have far too many Canada geese nesting in our area.
- We have deer fence but we have garden crops that are not protected (about 10 to 15 acres)
- We have been trying to plant trees on our land for 15 years. The deer destroy everything. It has cost us (and the taxpayers) thousands of dollars and hours. No help from the GFP to get the deer out of there.
- We have a pair of breeding mountain lions that keep the deer population in check and have severely decreased the elk population but we like having them come through here anyway.
- We have a number of deer carcasses that are being dumped in our ditches and in creeks and water areas. Many waterfowl mainly geese as well. Usually only a small area is removed and sometimes the complete animal is dumped. I could probably show you six at the present.

- We have a lot of damage to the pheasants by hawks and eagles.
- We have a few acres of CRP that are for wildlife habitat but they don't let hunters in some have a surplus of deer in one area causing crop damage. Us taxpayers are paying for the land.
- We had tremendous whitetail die off this year. I estimate around 90% - I found mostly bucks
- We had a lot of big bucks die last fall
- We had 90% die off. Season should be closed until deer come back.
- We feel tribal license should start on same date as state. Tribal license hunters have the deer chased which make it hard for state hunters.
- We feed the elk all year, but there is no season here. We need an elk unit east of Hwy 34.
- We don't need wolves or mountain lions in the state of South Dakota.
- We don't have enough wildlife in our area.
- We do not need an extended season, let the animals rest. East river should only be 9 days long.
- We could do with less deer they do too much crop damage and too many accidents on roads.
- We are wondering why our pheasant population is 10% of what it used to be in 2006/2007
- We are very much against road hunting. Too many slob hunters throwing out their beer cans and other trash.
- We are on standing rock -- I hate having to buy two licenses.
- We are in need of a better working relation with local game warden. Someone who works for all the people they represent rather than the ones who he favors.
- We are having terrible trouble with coyotes. They are killing deer and our baby calves off our cows in the calving pasture. We do have the state trapper out here. He has gotten several coyotes. We have shot 5 this year. But we see coyotes every morning. That we go to the pasture but too far away to shoot.
- We are getting more and more coyotes. No doubt hard on deer and pheasants. What can be done about that?
- We are always willing to give permission to hunt to anyone who asks.
- We appreciate the quick response time when we request electric fences for geese.
- We also have land in the walk in area program

- We feed about 500+ deer all winter I plan to shoot everyone I find in my crops this spring.
- Way too many coyotes
- Way too many coyotes
- Way too many deer west river. Ranchers can count 150-200 deer on their land every day.
- Way too many Canada geese. They are very hard on beans and wheat. Can fly or move won't reduce numbers, there certainly wasn't near the numbers pre 80's. Same with deer. Any landowner that buys land and tries to harbor them raise food plots for them they are raising them. They should fence them in their property. I couldn't let my cow run on their land with them.
- Want grouse & partridge
- Unless we get more tree stands and cover for the wildlife to be in we are not going to see more because of no winter cover. Too many farmers are just farming for the chance of big money. Not money farming for simple living and the sight of wildlife on their land.
- Unit 2 has way too many elk in it, thin them out.
- Turkeys are making a comeback. We have several antelope and 3 pheasants we do not charge an access fee.
- Turkey population needs to be thinned down.
- Trying to sow grass seeds by pond (turkey)
- Try to keep this for restocking
- Too often hunters who have an "any deer" tag & an "antlerless" tag use only the "any deer" tag to get their buck leaving too many does. Is it possible to require the hunters to fill the "antlerless" tag before they get their buck?
- Too much vehicle/deer damage
- Too much land is closed to hunters.
- Too many whitetail deer too many Canada geese
- Too many predators like skunk, coyotes, and chicken hawks. Also badgers put bounty on them so they can be trapped or hunted.
- Too many hunters try to hunt on forest service land in badlands area for deer and antelope. They need to make better prior arrangement with private land owners.
- Too many deer, turkeys are mostly dirty.
- Too many deer not safe to drive at night

- Too many deer licenses are being put out. Our deer populations are going down. Farming is taking over our wildlife is disappearing.

- Too many deer hunters just hunt to shoot a buck with a big rack and if they don't get one, they don't shoot any.

- Too many deer hunters are looking only for trophy bucks. Should have an increased fee for trophy only deer, and offer more antlerless licenses at a lower fee. Need to implement an aggressive coyote control program- a bounty system may be the answer.

- Too many deer

- Too many coyotes. The drought reduced the population of mice & voles, coyotes killed many fawns and turkeys, low fur prices so there's no incentive to hunt them. Trapped six and shot one did not sell any, mange on last one taken march 14. Two brush bucks with small antlers taken 2 miles east of spearfish.

- Too many coyotes, wolves. Aren't any rabbit tracks in snow last winter might be an indication. Farming practices ruin pheasant nesting and skunk & coon don't help any. I don't have any answers but need people to realize the consequences of their actions with chemicals and ruining cover.

- Too many coyotes, raccoons and skunks thanks to the animal activists. We didn't see one pheasant all through harvest.

- Too many coyotes NW of Olivet. Any ideas on how they could be reduced would be helpful.

- Too many coyotes are starting to take livestock sheep mostly, have seen them right in cattle yard during calving. Why are there no jackrabbits in our area anymore? Very few pheasants.

- Too many coyotes

- Too many coyotes

- Too many coyotes

- Too many black jacks eating our fish and in a few years too many eagles got to let more hunters shoot Canada geese in the spring.

- Too many acres are being tilled destroying habitat for wildlife. The wants or needs of humans are out weighing the needs of wildlife.

- Too many "hunters" buy licenses and don't have or bother to secure a place to hunt. They then drive around causing problems for others. Selling extra tags only makes this problem worse.

- Too hard for nonresidents to get licenses

- Too darn many deer

- To many horned owls are killing the pheasants

- Tilling is a necessary management tool but we are seeing creek ditches and waterways disappearing this is bad farming/wildlife practices! Round up spraying of fence lines is a poor practice.

- Throw out this ridiculous micromanagement bull shit of the GFP. When a hunter has a big game license (rifle, bow, & muzzleloader) let them be able to shoot a buck or doe as nature does, also remove shooting from road restrictions it's a joke it never stop anything just made criminals of everyone and lost hunters from hunting anymore or taking out grandchildren & a new generation to become future hunters. Also these new type black powder guns with the drop in charges (hall firearms) should be removed from muzzleloader seasons, they are not muzzleloaders. They should be used in rifle seasons only.

- This year with the die off of whitetail we had less depredation. (We live in NW Gregory Co. And have an equal mix of mule & whitetail) but normally we have more of both species and I would like to see more permits available or over the counter depredation.

- This winter, a huge group of deer whitetail, have grouped together on my land. Northern Minnehaha County.

- This was acceptable what GFP did to help us. Need to get rid of the Canada geese in the spring of the year, fall hunting the geese are all gone in our area when the season is open. Big problem in our area and each year getting worse because we have such an increase each year. Something really needs to be done with them.

- This survey seems to concentrate on deer problems and I feel the Canada goose problem is more of a concern.

- Thin out the deer population for their own good. Keep them from starving, disease and highway killing. Give some of the deer meat to food pantry or the banquet in sf or other such places. This might work for the goose population also. Minneapolis did that a few years ago. Geese were all over their lakes. No refuges would take them so they rounded them up and butchered for the poor & homeless.

- These past few years the deer have definitely done damage to newly planted shelterbelts. Believe the raccoons are eating the pheasant eggs and the coyotes are eating the pheasants. We hear them far too much and they sound close.

- These over population of geese are costing farmers way too much; let the farmers do something about them.

- There won't be any hunting in SD if you don't control the predators. The coyotes are over-running the farm!

- There should be depredation hunts and give the meat to the needy people.

- There seemed to be adequate deer as we progressed with harvest but hunter success was down. Surprising as the corn came out early. Loss of pheasant nesting habitat is a growing

concern. My pheasant depredation is feeding on newly planted corn. We often feed in these areas to stop digging.

- There seem to be a growing number of coyotes
- There is too much private land that is closed to hunting in and around my land. Deer are safe there all year, this winter the deer that needed fed came to me.
- There is more to life than dollars & cents. It is okay if wildlife eat their share an increased quality of life to see & be able to hunt wildlife in sd. Plus the economic benefit in SD is huge. Let's hope we don't sell out our wildlife, habitat, & quality of life for $7-8 corn.
- There is greatly much more 4 legged wildlife on a farm than most people realize. Pheasants grouse & etc. We love 4 leg over are greatly damaging.
- There is an over population happening and we need to encourage more hunting to decrease the overabundance. This decreases disease in herds and lessens damage to property.
- There are way too many predators. Small game in almost non-existent and the main culprit is the large number of raptors.
- There are way too many prairie dogs. We need more help controlling them.
- There are way too many geese in and around Sioux Falls. Need a Junior Hunting season near or even in Sioux Falls. We have 130 acres in city limits but we can't hunt it. Also a danger for airport, something should be done to reduce geese before an accident occurs.
- There are way too many coyotes. Loosen laws to allow snowmobiles to help chase then to roads for shooting.
- There are way too few pheasants for the amount of acres and the deer season isn't quite early enough
- There are very few pheasants left in our area. Consider lowering the daily limit to 2 birds like the state did when numbers were low i.e. the late 70's. Shorten the pheasant season - the wildlife numbers shouldn't suffer because of the greed of the state and pay hunting.
- There are very diminished deer numbers in turner county! Maybe no hunting for a year or two to help population. I farm with a man who has about 10,000 acres and we say very little deer last fall. It was very sad.
- There are too many lions
- There are too many coyotes
- There are too few partridges.
- There are not too many deer and never will be you sell way too many tags.

- There are hunters willing to volunteer or even pay to help control nuisance populations no need to pay "professionals" 5-6 days longer season adequate give bow & black power options. We need to treat our non-resident sons daughters, grandchildren better east river.

- There are far too many geese. Why wasn't Hamlin co. included in depredation season this spring? Something has to be done.

- There are a lot of coyotes. They are in the cow yard getting the new born calves. You need to have a bounty or something to get the number of coyotes back down. Organized hunts, make a hunting season for them, or get someone to hunt them from a helicopter like they use to.

- The whitetail deer population west of Watertown is out of control! The depredation of crops is hurting our production levels and the deer are destroying our haystacks and consuming hay we put up for our livestock. The farmers in dist. 4-5 need to organize and back a bill like bh 1160 which was defeated in 2013. If enough farmers complain it would pass.

- The US Forest Service's plan program & thus continuing reduction of timber operation is seriously affecting the black hills wildlife environment or habitat.

- The types of strategies used depend upon the total population at the time. Sometimes longer seasons would help sometime it would do harm. I do like the idea of special depredation hunts. I've lost thousands of dollars worth of trees due to overabundance of deer.

- The turkeys in our area are a nuisance. They appear every other week for about 3 to 4 days in a row. They peck on windows & cars (they see their reflection). I have to scare them away to stop pecking 1 to 4 times each day they are here.

- The state needs to restart purchasing land for public access. Simply leasing land is not good enough. There are willing sellers and organizations such as pheasant forever willing to provide funds to assist in these purchases. Governor Daugaard will not receive my vote again, if this doesn't change.

- The stackyard/fencing program is bs if a farmer has too many deer get more hunters in. It is just a fancy program for greedy farmers that could be taken care of by themselves without state money. More deer & more happy hunters minus less state dollars spent = win, win. Years ago - I didn't need your help still don't. Can cure my own problems. You don't cure a yappy puppy by giving him a treat every time he yaps just say no.

- The season is too long due to the blue tongue disease. I found 4 bucks, 3 does for a total of 7 deer.

- The season is all right if you have deer in your county.

- The rifle deer season should not occur during the rut.

- The regular rifle season could be one weekend longer, preferably early. I can frequently not drive to or walk in area later due to heavy snow. This includes the late doe season. I really don't want to snow shoe in and drag a deer out for 1/2 - 1 mile each way.

- The regular rifle deer season is too long. GFP needs to loosen restrictions on night time hunting on varmints. Way too many coyotes, raccoons, & skunks. Not to mention the local CO in the area is quite aggressive.

- The predators are out of control in 15 months 110 coons were shot or trapped on the immediate farmstead and there are more still.

- The population of pheasants and partridge is extinct in the no wheeler area. The chicken and grouse population is just about nil. Nothing has been done to help population of any game birds in the area in last 15 years. This is a game production area, but no game to reproduce. Game birds should be restocked

- The pheasant season is way too long. End of November is long enough. When it gets cold and the ground covered with snow; it is not a good time to chase the birds from the scarcely remaining protective cover and food sources. Many do not survive when these areas are denied to them.

- The pheasant season is too short. There is no reason not to be hunting throughout Jan. Of each year.

- The pheasant season is too short.

- The pheasant season is too long & that hurts the population

- The pheasant season is far too long

- The pheasant season needs to end early. 2 years in a row we had terrible spring hatches due to weather, the numbers are down, but yet we have this extended season. This year in December we had a blizzard and people were bragging how easy pheasant hunting was when they were grouped up. These braggers were out of state hunters. We have chosen not to shoot pheasant for 2 years to get numbers up on our land. I appreciate it if GFP did the same. We need to conserve our wildlife it's not always about revenue.

- The people that are having the deer problems are the same people that won't let anyone hunt. They patrol their land all during season & have licenses themselves but kill 2 or 3 and they still have 100 to 200 left after season then they call you to complain & then run to the nearest wheat growers coffee clutch & complain there!. There are not red fox.

- The only time deer area problem is after the seasons are over. There are several large tree strips in our neighborhood and the deer seem to rotate between them.

- The number of whitetail deer has decreased dramatically in the last 5 years. I used to have 10-12 deer over winter and now have none. We have over harvested does in my area.

- The multiple hunting seasons & length of each become cumbersome & disruptive to our daily operation. A shorter break between the end of wr season & antlerless season would be appreciated as in incurred a higher than desired loss of bucks during the antlerless season. More tags should be issued, not more hunters. Get in and get the job done and get out.

- The mountain lion season is way too long, and the harvest to high. There should not be a special Canada goose hunt in Brown County.

- The management of Lacreek NWR has been and is a major concern. The US government needs people like [GFP staff]. We are most fortunate to have [GFP staff] as our game warden. He is polite and considerate in dealing with us, especially during pheasant season. I hope he can finish his career in [county name].

- The measures to control resident geese have been ineffective. The recent changes in seasons and limits do nothing to control the problem because any hunter or biologist knows the geese harvested in early seasons are not the same birds. Good to see increased limits but 15 birds and August seasons have publicized the hunt so much many landowners don't let other people hunt in fall because they receive no help from GFP when geese are problem in spring and many charging to hunt. Even GFP employees and grad students have paid to hunt. We don't want this commercialization of hunting especially when it's not helping the original problem. Not allowing non-residents helps a lot.

- The loss of CRP lands, the drainage of sloughs, and low lands and waterways have seemed to change wildlife habitat and where and how they move and live. Drought may also have affected this.

- The late antlerless depredation season that runs in December & January does not work very well in my area as to many bucks are shot that have shed antlers in early January.

- The land is leased out for grain harvest and in the fall for cattle to range.

- The hunters harvested about 30% of deer tags this year. Then tribal season started for another 30 days. Mule deer numbers are low in my area whitetail about right. I think too many tags sold this year by the state. When we have tribal season as well to contend with.

- The help I need is to make it easier for out of state deer hunters access; local people who I give permission to (almost anyone) hardly ever go because they can kill deer very close to where they live.

- The GFP needs to proactively reduce the deer population. It needs to be reduced to 15% of the amount. Over population!

- The GFP should raise the Canada goose limit in the problem areas and extend date for this goose. The GFP should have at least 1 season if not 2 for antlerless deer only no bucks of any size.

- The GFP does not take care of deer and goose damage complaints in a timely and effective fashion. I know the GFP does not think our personal property has any value, but this is a very bad attitude for them to have if the GFP were to be graded for service it would be an f. Have you ever considered training your wardens to be prompt and to treat the landowners with respect?

- The geese eat my beans from the time they walk until they can fly and then they leave. More hunters will do nothing unless they can shoot them in May and June. I have lost from 1-20 thousand dollars a year from them for the last 20 years. That is a lot of money.

- The geese eat 5 acres of crop each year.

- The geese are bad, and we have hunters all the time.

- The game fish and parks is doing a pretty good job. Anyway you could encourage the taking of antlerless deer would be good. Also, any way you could help reduce predators such as aerial hunting would help our pheasants.

- The game & fish needs to take responsibility for their animals. It's not that hard plant beans along the slough on your land for geese. Plant crops for harvest to feed during winter leave some stand for food plots. Pretend that is live and just take care of it. The only time you own them is when you receive money.

- The federal government needs to stop protecting the hawks, eagles, and owls! The food for our wildlife is disappearing!

- The extended season should also be over the Christmas vacation so that relatives can come back and fill a tag.

- The extended antlerless season should be in early Dec. Because of the bucks dropping their horns. Every year there are several bucks killed because they dropped their horns, this year was no exception. GFP does not talk to the landowners enough to really find out what is going on with the deer population. The landowners know what is going on with them!

- The extended antlerless season is okay but the deer have moved locations by then because of hunting pressure and or feed supplies.

- The elk population east of Custer State Park is at an acceptable level if the population of elk is increased within the park, then the park fence on the east side needs to be replaced in order to hold the elk in the park.

- The elk do damage to the fences.

- The elk 80-200 are on my property from May - Oct which may increase the need for more financial assistance for pasture, fences, elk are hard on fences. I asked for help on a hay yard in 12/13 years and was denied.

- The electric tape fence that was put up by the state/federal agency for Canada goose control around my oats field worked great. The fence was put up as soon as I requested it by polite & good workers. I observe abuse of the road hunting laws for both pheasants & deer. Coyote population is too high.

- The EHD epidemic has certainly taken care of the overpopulation problem in this area for a while! Mother Nature usually finds a way!

- The director of the SD GFP should be fired for his support of commercial hunting operations.

- The department is losing valuable income by not opening the deer season to out of state hunters, either by limited license or full! There is plenty of deer for everybody! Please consider this. Thanks

- We lost a lot of deer to disease and the drought really hurt the pheasant population by about 80 percent.

- The deer problem comes from the deer bunching up in "safe havens" where they know they're safe. After the season is over or when the weather gets nicer they spread out and do their damage. I would also like to see a season on hawks & owls! It's them or pheasants.

- The deer population must be addressed after the great losses the past 2 years!

- The deer population can handle itself as we and disease are its only enemies. We need way more freedom to hunt coyotes and skunks and raccoons.

- The deer population and pheasant population have both dropped off the past few years. I see a few wild turkeys on my farms once in a while. The Canada geese population stays about the same.

- The deer killed so many of my nice trees in my wind break and I planted 200 scotch pine & the rabbits ate the tops off that remained about the snow line, only 1/2 dozen lived.

- The deer herd stay on the neighbors hill sides in the day time feed on our irrigated alfalfa fields at night. As many as 70 head or more. They move out before daylight so it is hard for hunters to get them. The neighbors are against any hunting, trapping, fishing (box elder creek) or wood cutting out their land so deer are safe. I wish the season opened earlier.

- The deer are thick on the Belle Fourche river can't harvest corn or beans at all.

- The deer are hunted from sept 1 to jan 15 or longer that’s way too long give them a break 16 day rifle season is too long. Anybody that wants a deer can shoot one within 9 days or less. I plant food plots & leave for winter.

- The deer & turkey problem I have occurs later than the regular deer season. We have a good number of deer year round, but when winter sets in our land has good water access and great protection. We have our worst trouble with corn supplies for cattle.

- The damage to the deer population by blue tongue/midge may be overstated, as I feel the numbers were over estimated. As to deer killed (from this disease). The number of deer I see, both alive (just missed hitting 3 last night) and lying by the road dead from vehicles, is still fairly high. Too many hunters will not take a doe. This is wrong. Maybe we need a year (or two) or antlerless only hunting.

- The coyote population is going to become a problem as the numbers increase. Five years ago seeing a coyotes was a very very rare in faulk co. Now in the summer time, while working in the fields, I sometimes see 2 or 3 in a week. And I know there are many more than that.

- The coyote population is decimating the pheasant, quail and turkey population. The deer continue to run rampant destroying young trees and hay bales. Cougar and bobcat are moving into the area. At least 1 wolf has been shot by a local farmer for killing a calf.

- The Canada goose population is about to get very destructive. Too many predators of all kinds which is reducing pheasant population.

- The Canada geese cause way more damage to our crops than the deer as their land is along the river. They never leave and feed on the crops spring, summer and fall.

- The Canada goose problem would best be fixed if the season would close at 12 noon like it was back in the 70's.

- The Canada goose population in Day County is being mismanaged. There are many landowners violating the laws and poaching is occurring in widespread fashion under the guise of depredation lots of wanton waste. Poor examples for youth being set up to be violators.

- The Canada geese destroyed almost 2 or 3 acres of soybeans last spring, about $2000 worth of crop. I hope I don't have to deal with them again this spring.

- The approx. 6 acres of land I own is an uninhabited farmstead so I do not have any concerns with wildlife

- The 9 day season (years ago) was ample time to shoot a deer and allows more bucks to get bigger for those who trophy hunt. I've seen these "special" antlerless seasons at work - bucks that have dropped their antlers get shot because doe hunters usually shoot for the most meat & bucks are larger.

- The 16 day ER rifle seer season is long enough. Quit trying to make it easier for people to shoot something from the road when they are not willing to get out and hunt! With the 300 yard capability muzzleloaders & optics just leave them as a possible weapon in the er rifle season.

- Thank you for the 2 free landowner doe tags. Q6. The large dominant bucks have shed their antlers. This year started Dec. 15, best doe management tool we used was the week after the regular season, tags convert to antlerless. Hunters still excited to hunt, convenient for butchering, weather better, does distinguishable from bucks. [GFP staff] is an awesome game manager, good dept. representative.

- Tell out of state hunters that they have to ask to hunt my land, not just go on it and act like it's their own land, had a lot of them do that to me because my land is in CRP

- Teach people how to hunt and shoot properly.

- Taking care of feeding deer and helping farmers

- Strongly disagree with late season or extended deer seasons for many reasons. Would like better predator control or even bounties on some predators: skunks, raccoons, lions & coyotes.

- Strive to manage to the middle, not the extremes

- Stricter enforcement and punishment for unlawful hunters, trespassers without permission and careless hunters.

- Stop the road hunting.

- Stop the early pheasant hunts or at least allow the kids on private land only. There is no adult SD hunter that needs to hunt a week early. All adults start on opening day. Game production areas are supported by all hunting license. Out of state included. Stay out of public shooting areas. Some out of staters only have pubic land to hunt.

- Stop or control road hunting in my area we have people who hunt in some spots daily until no pheasant are seen, even after I have planted pheasants I purchased from a local game producer.

- Stop male deer hunts until population improves. No hunting after November 20 under depredation. Hunters create problems by stopping on wrong property for where they thought they were.

- Stop giving two and three tags licenses - people only apply for those so they can get a buck tag. The longer season is the less chance that hunters will harvest a deer.

- Stop all hunting in turner county until numbers improve

- State season should coincide with tribal season

- Start the season sooner - not later! Who wants to freeze their ass of in December and January

- Start the antlerless deer season 12-20 and run until 12-31. Starting earlier would allow family home for Christmas more of a chance to hunt antlerless deer.

- Start rifle season after thanksgiving like it used to be.

- Start hunting coyotes with airplanes open to everyone who wishes to or forget ever having a pheasant population.

- Start deer season earlier

- Start 2nd Saturday in November & end December 31st.

- Spring goose season should include brown county

- Spring Canada geese season

- Spring Canada geese season

- Special goose seasons can only hunt on a particular piece of ground. Open it up to the whole county. As long as the hunter has permission to hunt the land. Let them hunt the whole county.

- Sorry I missed the deadline on this letter I am pleased with this arrangement.

- Someone has to step up and figure out a way to control all the uncontrolled drainage. Removal of shelter belts and other damaging farm practices/greed driven

- Somehow we need to get hunters to harvest more does. Perhaps an early season or require hunters to shoot a doe before they get their buck tag. We need to reduce our car/deer accidents.

- Some people with lot of crp have a lot of deer on them I sure hope they don't cry to GFP to help with them in winter time because too many deer around them they could let some hunt them.

- Some out of state pheasant hunters would like to see their license divided into 3 four day hunts instead of 2 five day hunts. Most people have a week vacation at a time they would have one day for travel to the state 4 days to hunt 1 day back home and 1 day to rest before going back to work.

- Some of the GFP people don’t know what's going on and make bad management decisions

- Some deer are dying this year due to food shortages form too much snow cover.

- Sold farm last year - but we would like to keep receiving the game, fish, & parks mailer. Do you know the whereabouts of [name]? He headed dept. late 60's early 70's. I would like to get reacquainted with him.

- So much is written and said about the weather affecting our pheasant population I think without question the predators have more to do with pheasant numbers then the weather. The number of skunks and raccoons we have that ruin nests each year is the problem. I don't think the GFP has done anything to address this problem.

- So many deer died in Charles Mix County that you are going to have to reduce the number of licenses until the population can rebuild. We can't lose many more does or we won't have any deer.

- So long as GFP can come onto my land without a warrant, you'll get no information from me.

- So far I have enjoyed doing business together with GFP. I don't hunt - maybe skunks now and then.

- Since lions have showed up our deer population has decreased a lot.

- Should move McKilligan rifle range over to the Bartron public shooting area. It would be much easier to police.

- Should have to shoot antlerless before shooting a buck.

- Should fill all McPherson county residents applications, before out of county or out of state applicants.

- Should be a law that legs & thighs are required to be removed and used on waterfowl & pheasants, not just breast meat and thrown in ditch, Montana requires it. Muzzleloader should be week before rifle season and regular time. It is a primitive weapon. Why not have archery after?

- Should allow out of state ownership to have a different position in white-tailed deer hunting. Also should have a resident fee for several game for non-residence keep land ownership.

- Shortened deer seasons, not held during the rut, to help properly adjust sex and age structure of herd. So we can have a larger buck to doe ratio. Also start limiting archery tags. Modern equipment has changed success and should be limited.

- Shorten the pheasant season

- Shorten season for pheasant hunting, increase habitat & discourage ditch mowing & draining of wetlands.

- Shorten pheasant season in southern SD. On our 600+ acres there is not one single bird. Deer come and go.

- Shorten pheasant season in Robert & Grant Counties so our young hunters can bag a few more birds or at least one. What happened to your early youth cheap licenses for deer, hope you dropped it.

- Shoot more whitetail does your game wardens have a bad PR with landowners very poor! A3a I have as many hunters on my land that it can take safely

- Severe drought limited feed sources available to depredate severe die off of whitetail deer due to disease see only small numbers. Are seeing many coyotes 1 mtn lion seen near the house in November last. 1 possible wolf sighting each of the last 2 years if predators continue to increase other wildlife will suffer.

- Sell more licenses to hunt these white geese when they move through. The little towns can use the out of state money. It's a loss to the state to limit licenses.

- Seen more dead deer during pheasant season than live ones during deer season.

- Scopes on muzzleloaders. This is a problem for those of us in our 70's. You only get 1 shot, why not place it well?

- Saw very few deer this year because of blue tongue.

- Run antlerless season right after 16 day any deer season

- Rifle hunting in our area is becoming more dangerous with added acreage

- Rifle deer season should be adjusted as needed because of weather. Pheasant hunting should not be allowed on road right of ways (road hunting), shorten season considerably, as far as I'm concerned no pheasant hunting at all, until necessary. Landowners shouldn't have to buy permits for deer hunting on their ground.

- Resident Canada geese are a problem & I can't find hunters to hunt them except where there are small grain crops. Need to find a way to entice hunters to hunt geese over row crops as well.

- Require anyone getting depredation help to allow free doe hunts on their land that year and 2 years in the future. Shorten sharptail season end it by nov 30 eliminate partridge season. There are none bring them back somehow. Eliminate mule deer season in our county population declining sharply. Stop all spotlighting during 16 day deer season. People use it to locate deer. Make anyone applying for depredation help (feed) open up the hunting for 2-3 years. I have neighbors with 2-300 deer in jan-feb that won't let people in to shoot them but get feed from you we have sent hunters to them only to be denied.

- Reintroduce the wolf

- Regular season should be lengthened to 45 days. A special depredation season of at least 20 days or a special crossbow season of 25 days a higher limit on geese to cut down depredation

- Reduction of deer. How are the dead deer going to be handled? Turkeys under apple trees in the yard.

- Reduce the pheasant limit to 2 cocks for one year with the possession limit of 10. Bring the bounty back on coyotes.

- Reduce the number of antlerless tags(deer)

- Reduce the number of "any" deer licenses. Change to buck only and antlerless only to control what type of number is harvested.

- Reduce the coyote population

- Reduce pheasant season in Yankton co. I have food plots 200 acres for 7 years and not a pheasant on it.

- Reasoning for my question 7 answers. Shorten the time I have to deal with persons wanting to hunt on my land and with those who don't ask for permission.

- Really need to get coyotes & raccoons under control. I think they really hunt our pheasant population.

- Raising the out of state pheasant license fee was a real mistake. I predict you'll lose a lot of money.

- Raise crp acres land rentals so more people would enroll land in the program

- Raccoons tore down a large amount of ear corn off the stalk. My problem with pheasants is they come out of nearby crp and eat my seed corn out of the ground. I wish you would allow spot light hunting of raccoons. They damage my corn and farm buildings raccoon numbers are out of control.

- Raccoons are very damaging to buildings etc. Probably don't help the pheasant population either.

- Rabbits on young trees in winter.

- Rabbits are eating my trees in the shelterbelts

- Quit letting yst members go 2 weeks before anyone else, let alone give them half a dozen tags a piece that they don't have to buy and think they can hunt where ever they feel like.

- Quit killing so many mule deer does. Issue very few antelope tags for SW Harding co.

- Q7b property owner tags. Q3. Managing for a species (deer) has caused collapse of vegetation

- Q7b for residents only. Bring back bounty for badger, fox, coyotes, muskrats year round. Too many out of state licenses. Spring duck and goose season tears up roads by out of state hunters.

- Q7 strategies should include: decrease cost of non-resident license costs. Also, if including special antlerless deer season move the date up to early Dec. To reduce stored hay/grazing depredation problems earlier in winter.

- Q7 need season to take more does and less bucks. Q2 minimal damage from mule and whitetail deer due to open winter would be much worse in a severe winter.

- Q7 let landowners help with problem areas by removing excess deer. This can be done in person or by letting others that want them harvest the excess.

- Q7 d. I saw deer herds of 40-100 in one field in western fault county in late December 2012. If these landowners allow hunting I'm in favor of depredation hunts. If they don't allow hunting I don't feel they deserve any financial assistance.

- Q6. Really like when all (any deer) licenses converted. My time is limited I really like when any deer licenses also convert to doe after the regular season ends. Deer were scarce in winfred area of lake county this year I thought

- Q6 was a problem to me because I had a buck tag and the drought affected me because the bucks were dying off left and right so I didn't have a chance to harvest an animal because the buck ag didn't revert to antlerless like previous years. We had a few young antlerless. I wouldn't shoot because numbers are down. A larger doe I would have harvested.

- Q6 causes hunter - landowners problems. Q7 in hand co deer pop is too low. In Hand County (Campbell Township) we have had a disease in the whitetail deer pop. Too many license issued pheasant season far too long causes hunter/landowner problems.

- Q6 bucks are dropping horns by them, and getting shot.

- Q5. Should vary depending on conditions that year. Q6. Should vary as above. Have seen a lot of bobcat last couple of years here in Union County would like to be able to harvest one as a landowner.

- Q5. Should be less than 1 week! Q6. Absolutely not if you do there will be no way may land will be in walk in. I strongly recommend walk in should have 3 options white signs open to all game (deer, pheasants, partridge) at a higher rate. Yellower signs open only to small game (not deer) pheasants partridge. Blue or any other color open to deer only no small game. I am so tired of the disrespectful ruthless deer hunters. They are one of a kind.

- Q5. Shorten deer season to 9 days. Q6 very few deer shot at extended antlerless deer season in my area.

- Q5. Rifle season is too long. People just drive around looking for deer, if you shorten the season they would have to get out and actually hunt! Q6. Some bucks have lost horns by then so could be harvesting a nice big buck instead of a doe.

- Q5 we must do something about the tribal season opening way before ours, at least open ours sooner! Q6 I know for a fact my cousin thought he was shooting a big doe, but killed a big bucks that she rack. Q5. I know tribal hunters love to shoot lots of bucks also! Something must be done to control how many tags each of them get too!. Q7. Deer do bunch up in winter so in those areas; if one or hundreds of deer they will eat hay. Top priority is to protect that hay by moving it in to the yard or fence around it, also make sure the herd heas plenty of feed in them areas where they bunch up. Thank you for feeling our comments are important.

- Q5 should be free to landowners. The deer, coyotes & geese are not being "managed" they are over taking everything. They need to be managed to a normal number. Deer are in herds of 50+ geese are 1000 + coyotes large numbers.

- Q5 limit interference with pheasant hunting. Q6 move to after pheasant season.

- Q5 I am getting tired of trying to keep them dam tribal hunters off our property! Q6 the tribal deer season is way too long. Q6 should only be whitetail. The mule deer population is dwindling so I would like to see the season close for a couple years!

- Q5 give out less buck taes. Outlaw the elevated deer stands for rifle season. It is hunting season not ambush season, okay for bows.

- Q5 far too long! No one needs 16 days to shoot their deer such a long season is just harassment and people don't try hard they just drive around and shoot from the roads! Q6 deer harassment! Many people are wondering why the GFP aren't setting up deer feeding stations for all the starving deer this hard winter! Certainly there must be some revenue for this from the sale of licenses.

- Q5 by the end of 16 days no one is hunting anymore. Q6. I and my neighbors are continuously carrying 125 to 175 mostly antlerless deer on our land. It seems to me there is very little active hunting for these deer. It seems it’s all buck hunting. Our shelterbelts, planted by my dad in the 30's and 40's are being devastated by the huge numbers of deer. I am 73 years old and an active farmer. The problem grows each year.

- Q5 antlerless only. Eliminate the pheasant season for clay & turner counties for 5 years! Antlerless deer season (no bucks) in Clay County. Drought killed the pheasants. The [name of farm] exposed 168 dead deer from a disease! They don't allow hunting on their land.

- Q5 16 days is okay when the numbers are high. Q6 how many bucks are dropping their antlers and getting shot? Q7 issue more antlerless tags during regular season. You're doing a good job with the deer population. I am sure after the die off in Bon Homme County the license numbers will be cut in half at least. Hunters & landowners expect it. You need to help with the pheasant population in Bon Homme County.

- Q5 - it's too short for good hunters & sportsmen and too long for idiots with high power rifles.

- Q4c poorly worded lots of people like to offer a gift but my access is free to some don't charge anything. Antlerless season should continue for one week after regular deer season. Not in January when antlers have fallen off.

- Q4. If they did they were trespassing. I would like them to lower the number of mountain lions to be taken per season. I think the 2013 limit of 100 was way too many. I also think those killed by vehicles and by GFP people should be counted toward the total.

- Q4 we have such a small amount of acres in SD we have to limit hunting parties and we run out of time. We requested help previously from NE. It was a joke, so assume yours would be also. We allow free access to hunters but we have to monitor so we don't have hunters shooting hunters. Longer seasons would allow us to let more people in over a longer time frame. The past 3 years we have lost portions of corn fields to deer. I mean stalk and all! Drought was hard on corn this year, so the SD deer came on down to our NE headquarters to eat hay and corn we purchased. They are really hard on wddg. We had tremendous deer loss to disease (EHD) but apparently more migrated in from the north and we have had herds of 100 seen on our NE land (2 of those herds seen in one night = 200!)

- Q4 out of state hunters! Q7 the deer population is not too high! This questionnaire is agribusiness biased not in my opinion wildlife biased. For example you do not ask anything regarding the how to increase wildlife! Is SD GFP a part of USDA?

- Q3. We had lion attacks in March 2011, September 2011 and again in July 2012. It cost 354.40 for vet bills. These were all attacks on horses. We lost one horse in April 2011. He was attacked twice. Local game warden agreed it was a lion attack. The trapper said it was attacked by something else we were not paid for the vet bills or horse. We forgot to mention about prairie chickens or grouse. The last 5 years, we have seen very, very few grouse. We have been used to 50 to 100 grouse coming into our yard for about 9 months every year, except the last few years we have seen only 2 to 5 birds a year. We have noticed that all of the game shot the last few years has been very few. We were discussing this with the other two families at our place and we all feel the same. We all feel that the numbers of wildlife decreased because of the school land that the game & fish took over. Hunters that hunt here have only shot one antelope in 2 years. That means no whitetail, mules, turkey, pheasant, or grouse. Plus, grouse use to hatch their young about 1/2 mile southeast of our place every spring.

- Q3. Very bad problem far too many coyotes & can hide in hill range out of sight of hunters. Planes needed for reduction. Bow seasons & youth season & muzzleloader seasons should be extended a lot long and rifle season shortened because most rifle hunters trespass & hunt illegally or chase the deer & have no regard to the landowner or the families that live in the area. With bow, muzzle, & youth it is taken more serious & is more of a sport where as those hunters are much more respectable of landowner. During pheasant or rifle deer season people go wherever & shoot in whatever direction they like with no regard to property people and livestock. They will drive down crops to chase deer thru private property and it is an illegal way of hunting which I would like to see stopped. I have to suffer the loss of animal damage. All year just to have hunters damage & destroy my property when seasons open.

- Q3. I trap them. I had to quit raising poultry (chickens, turkey, and geese) because I can't control them. I would consider raising poultry again if I could control raccoons you folks do an excellent job! Thanks for allowing for landowner input. I think lengthening the east & west river deer season 1 week would help. Sometime ever 3-5 days of bad weather changes the number of days hunted.

- Q3. I realize that these are not wildlife as such but are some of our problems on our land. Maybe some kind of bounty on coyotes, and maybe just let us do our own reduction of Canada geese eating up from 10 or more acres of soybeans on a couple of our fields next to public shooting areas that have water and many Canada geese nests on them during the early planting times when corn & soybeans are just an inch high. They completely destroy several acres that need to be replanted each year. GFP has put up some electric wires, but doesn't seem to deter or help the problem.

- Q3 do you have any elimination plans for them? Q5. Deer are pretty spooked from the first weekend and stay that way. Q6. Move the dates earlier in December weather is bad by late December/early January.

- Q3 coyotes, harassing and chasing cattle, all year long, and they are killing a lot of prairie chicken grouse and pheasant. In my opinion there are too many predators on the ground and in the air. Especially for small game, also need more food plots and habitat area for small game. Also need to control predators. The way we farm today is "very hard" on wildlife game species.

- Q3 coyotes are the only real problem, both for cattle & deer. Can't kill enough. Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my feelings. I strongly dislike the late season doe season. We have people sneaking in try to shoot doe's and leaving gates open, by this time we are feeding cattle cake & the cows follow a pickup thinking they will be fed. We have enough trouble keeping the mule deer doe population where we want it without having these meat hunters, coming out and shooting them for maybe 40 pounds of meat. Please close this late season completely in our area 02a or at least make it off limits to mule deer. The whitetail reproduces at a much faster rate and they are at least harder to killer.

- Q2g corn fields when seeding GFP does not one thing to control our predators. Don't stop me from killing, trapping predators with a season. Thanks for helping pay for food plots! Work to help us keep our CRP so federal keeps the program

- Q2 we had major depredation 30+ years ago GFP provided snow fence and later stack yard materials. As of now it is under control.

- Q1a died off 70% to last fall 80% loss, q1b died off last fall 60%. A1 only because of diseases a3 people have no respect these days? 7d offer depredation to farmers & ranchers. Hunters have no respect on property fences between walk-in land to private land from hunting pressure! Thanks "landowner"

- Q1&q2 deer population in my neighborhood is just about right during season, but because there are fewer & fewer cattle ranches. When the winter gets tough deer come from out of my neighborhood to get to the feed. Somewhat the same thing for the turkeys. I have way too many turkeys while almost all my neighbors have no turkeys except during the summer. I dislike the extended (late) season because some of the bucks start shedding antlers by Dec. 20. Some people in the extended season could legally shoot a good trophy buck and I think that those wouldn't even know it.

- Q1 this is a direct result of drain tiling by surrounding farmers and north of us, draining the slough/marshes. It's a complete travesty & should not be allowed. Recommend changing regular rifle deer season back to thanksgiving weekend, and to last weekend to weekend only (2 total). Work w/government agencies, FSH offices, to limit drain tiling. This is not a separate issue. It directly affects the pheasant & migratory bird population negatively

- Q1 they have really disappeared the last 2 years. I'm afraid with no new CRP they may become extinct. I remember what it was like in the early 1970-1975 hardly saw one. Q2a. They do destroy our 2nd & 3rd cutting of alfalfa. Where when they were thick next to CRP fields. A3 my problem is my neighbor won't let people shoot does. Makes a fuss when they hunt on our land. A problem with the deer season. Any whitetail license. They went to shoot a buck. So they wait. Then the does get wild. So then they can't get anything. Another problem. People still driving around in pickups. We allow some deer hunting. Walk only can't scare the deer away. The drivers scare the deer away and wonder why they can't get a deer. I don't hunt deer but won't allow certain people to hunt because I know how they hunt.

- Put the food plots back in on GFP land. Right now it is sort of a CRP & around long lake there is a lot of Russian thistle. This needs to be controlled as it spreads onto private property.

- Put a bounty on coyotes and raccoons

- Put a higher bounty on coyotes that will increase hunting and control the coyote populations.

- Put a bounty on coyotes. Other states do it and it works. I raise sheep and cattle and I'm concerned.

- Put a bounty on coyotes. Longer Canada geese season and higher bag limits.

- Put a bounty on badgers, raccoons, skunks, & coyotes. They are hard on pheasant and turkey eggs.

- Problem coyote when calving

- Predators have taken a lot of the pheasants. Hawks, coyotes, fox, skunks, & raccoons eat eggs

- Predation due to coyotes have kept numbers down! Usually not a problem but due to lack of moisture with livestock for limited pasture. State trapper is wonderful but needs to have resources time/plane support to address large number of predators.

- Predators are getting to be the biggest problem. Last summer we live trapped 17 coons, 5 skunks, and we have numerous coyotes in our area.

- Predator control of coyotes is needed. Clone [name]. Or put him in a plane more would solve most of our problems.

- Prairie dog population

- Possibly allowing more food plots on CRP ground

- Poor pheasant hunting in Sisseton area.

- Farm by state or county in 1964, 12 fox and 34 raccoons and 1 badger were found dead on 40 acres.

- Please move the antlerless deer season to early December hunting in late Dec & Jan results in more bucks shot who have already shed horns. This doesn't help reduce population. Change to earn your buck license by shooting does first. Will stop doe tags from not being filled.

- Please include the crossbow into the archery season for everyone and not just limited to the disabled. That alone would help out. Also consider adding the option for rifle season in Kingsbury for the any deer plus antlerless tags as a double tag option.

- Please have extended antlerless seasons earlier before some bucks are shedding antlers. Whitetail depredation occurred in 2011-2012 not a problem after big die off last fall.

- Please drastically reduce the antlerless licenses of all types (archery, youth, regular season, muzzleloader) the EHD has about eliminated our deep population

- Please consider trying to reestablish the mule deer herd in the northern hills. Don't have hunting season on both bucks and does for a few years. Because of their nature they are easily shot. I see not a one anymore where we used to have an established herd. It wouldn't hurt to just shoot whitetails even though they are fewer because of the disease.

- Please allow antlerless deer to be taken during antelope for the few counties east of Missouri that have antelope tags just like the west.

- Plant food plot for pheasants and deer and all of the corn

- Pheasants maybe going the way of our jackrabbits

- Pheasants eat new planted corn seed or pull tiny corn plants out and eat the seed. Canada geese eat and trample young soybean plants. Yellow and red wing blackbirds eat corn seed like pheasants. Regular blackbirds destroy (eat) entire sunflower fields.

- Pheasant season way too long, should only be 2 weeks and closed during deer season.

- Pheasant season too long. Need to shorten stop mid-December.

- Pheasant season to long 14 days would be about right in Bon Homme County

- Pheasant season is way too long.

- Pheasant season is too long and the trapper should be able to hunt coyotes and skunks.

- Pheasant season is too long. Don't hunt after they have found their winter home.

- Pheasant population is low

- Pheasant numbers are really down here. Seldom see a bird. Don't know if it was the tough winter a year ago or not. We have heard several coyotes this winter I do know they are not vegetarians

- Pheasant hunting: are too many road hunters for the amount of birds.

- Pheasant & turkey we commercially hunt deer we don't. Pheasant & turkey we leave food for them. Deer do the damage during the summer in corn fields.

- Pet peeve: my family has owned and farmed land in Miner County for over 125 years. Each year I host free 5 hunters from Wisconsin, where I now live. Even though I only hunt on 1500 acres that I own, pay taxes on and buy some supplies for. (I'm retired & no longer actively farm.) I still must buy an out of state hunting licenses. SD is a great state. I'd probably move back except would be a long trip to see the grandchildren.

- Permission to hunt only by landowner or lease

- People hunting deer from their pickups, people driving down slimy township roads tearing up the roads for hunting purposes. Hunters going out on private land without permission.

- People from the county that they live in and own land should be given first chance at getting a license in that county.

- Owners of greater than 640 acres should be allowed to hunt large game on their property free of charge for the purpose of depredation and game management. Redtail hawks have been noted to be significantly reducing the pheasant population on our property.

- Over the years, we as hunters have grown away from meat hunting and evolved into antler hunting. Hunting has turned from a necessity into recreation and increased deer populations have permitted this at the expense of the landowners. I have a neighboring landowner (out of state) that is dumping semi-loads of ear corn to feed pheasants and deer out of season during the winter months.

- Out of state hunters owning land in SD should get at least 1/2 off normal out of state hunting fees (like family homesteads). Open season on coyotes, wolves, lions year round with no stipulations resident or not.

- Our populations were down considerably this year because of the drought and having the graze the land more than normally would.

- Our place is in the Sandhills region therefore we have very few pheasants or game birds. Deer and antelope population are at a natural balance.

- Our pheasant population was way down (ne Lake County) our coyote numbers are too many! We have good wildlife areas along Battle Creek. Our deer count was 80-100 on 3 quarters of land this winter 2013?

- Our pheasant numbers are way down because of 2 consecutive cold wet springs. Not due to the heavy snows of a couple of winters ago. We lost neither pheasants nor deer that year because of sloughs and tree belts we planted years ago and to the 3 food plots we have. No complaints here, except too many coyotes and I don't want any mountain lions which had been spotted a while ago.

- Our mule deer populations have taken a beating in the last 2 years for 150 to 8. I would like to see more efforts to stop poaching. More robo deer stings - I would be prepared to help with this.

- Our land is all tillable corn or beans & not good habitat for any wildlife. As far as I know no one hunts it.

- Our deer population is down considerably, due to the past years of flooding on the James River. Also last summer many deer died due to the fly, also the drought cause a shortage of cover. Also the building of housing projects has made a difference from what it was say 10 years ago.

- Our coyote population is getting out of control. We have coyote tracks within 20 feet of our house, we regularly see coyotes in amongst the cows, and it is only a matter of time before we start having calf losses. There needs to be more incentive for hunting & trapping them.

- Our CO in [county name] has done a great job with relationships. [Staff name] is working hard to retain wildlife habitat.

- Our biggest problem late spring Canada geese feeding on small soybeans a constant battle scaring them away till the beans get bigger! The worst part is we don't even know if it’s legal to scare geese away from crops? But they really do a lot of damage! A3b plenty of people hunt Canada geese in early fall best idea early season!

- Our area has tribal hunting. This has really reduced the deer population in our immediate area. I hear a lot now because of the amount of snow we have. I believe the deer are in trouble now.

- Our area deer population hit very hard by EHD this past year

- Our acres are pastures & CRP best suited to pheasants, deer & turkey. They predators are the main problem.

- Our 160 acres are now 75% under water. My primary problem are all the walleye, northern pike, and white bass that continually distract me and make it difficult to get other things accomplished. Other than that we enjoy all the species of wildlife that hang around our place. We had 20 bald eagles roosting in our trees this week & flying by our front window all the time. A beautiful sight.

- Open up deer buck rifle hunting to non-resident landowners who own over 160 acres.

- Open the whitetail deer season to 365 days a year and remove any limit restrictions please!

- Open season on deer

- Open Lake Herman park to hunting. There are too many deer in and around park. I understand the thinning of the Canada goose.

- Only one deer license per person not where you can shoot five or six spread out the license to other people, who can eat five deer.3 months is way too long.

- Only migration before spring planting and after harvest. Not everyone can get time off to hunt a longer season would give more opportunity.

- One deer took out 2 big bales of alfalfa

- On spotlighting let hunters hunt predators without landowners having to be with them. Thinking of the age of most landowners and to help with predator control.

- On extended antlerless season, since last year's EHD or whatever it was it seems like our deer numbers are down considerably. Found 4 dead deer on only 34 acres of bean ground.

- Now that you have saved the eagles, hawks etc.; our pheasants, cottontails & tree squirrels are about extinct. I am tired of the deer killing about $250 worth of my trees every year. I have decided that from now on the solution to my problem will be the use of a rifle.

- Not your fault but being so dry the deer were in large herds on land one could not hunt.

- Not us but hear of mountain lion south kingsbury-no deer

- No troubles in 2012 due to deer die off. We typically have too much crap damage by too high whitetail deer populations which more from dense cover of creek & river bottoms. These populations are not correctly counted or controlled by GFP.

- Not too many deer left.

- Not only are the deer in fields and eat hay, but they have damaged small trees in our house yard, as well as new seeding in our lawn. We have to pick up deer droppings in our lawn. They come close to the house and we fear that they will run through sliding glass doors of the house.

- Not many deer in our area, so no problems with damage to our crops.
- Nonresident landowners, one license for the season. Deer, duck, geese, pheasant
- No season, I have 10 thousand acres and never saw a deer. Hunters I talked to said the numbers wasn't there.
- No problems at this time, if a problem does happen I'll contact a conservation officer
- No pheasants?
- No one stopped by, but someone shot a deer in my driveway less than 200 feet from my house. Open dove season sooner before they leave. Enforce starting hours more for pheasants. Goose season starts late here, right across boarder hunters can shoot 25 Canada geese/day stupid we start so late.
- No one hunts antlerless deer in season because they say they will come back later - way too lazy. Very angry at having to pay extra for coyote control. Lots of walk in so have idiots with guns tearing up roads with giant 4wheel drive vehicles 24 hours/day from sept to april (keep shed hunters off walk in areas). Any deer season should only be 4 days long at the end of the regular season. GFP has great COs to work with.
- No hunting deer after the normal hunting season.
- No grouse hunting
- No deer; no pheasants close season to out of staters in Hanson County. Don't rely on your counts
- No cover left on farm ground for hunters due to drought usually I allow.
- Need to open more season on Canada geese
- Need to open a long spring goose season to keep them moving north to Canada where they belong!
- Need to lower goose population. Need to lower deer population too many get hit by vehicles
- Need to increase the west river private land buck tags for non-residents. Also develop a better way to determine if private land tag applicant actually have a place to hunt when they apply and reject those who do not have private land to hunt on.
- Need to do something to get resident Canada geese population under control
- Need to determine the reasons pheasant population is so low in our country.
- Need to control coyotes, raccoons, skunks. If they keep increasing at the rate they are going there will not be a pheasant or grouse in our area. I don't have an answer but hunters need to shoot more whitetail does. Everyone wants a buck tag and won't shoot does.

- Need to be flexible on deer season length and hunting numbers. This is due to the way deer numbers can vary season to season. This is also very true for the Canada goose as some acres have problems almost every year.

- Need more mulie tags issued in Walworth County.

- Need more funding for aerial hunting of coyotes.

- Need help with coyotes

- My wife & I have been turned down 2 of 4 years for landowner preference. I fed 250 deer prime alfalfa for 3 weeks this year. The deer move into our place when the winter gets bad. GFP did haul 1 bale out.

- My main concern is for all native bird species. Does anyone care for the "little birds" that live in grasslands?

- My family has a great hunting tradition. Need to have muzzleloader slug only in Minnehaha County. To populated for rifle. My barn has been hit twice by rifle fire during deer season. We live by Colton – hardly a place you can aim a rifle that you're not shooting at a house. Deer hunters shooting from road; haven't seen a game warden for 10 years.

- Muzzleloader season could be extended to the end of January like it used to be.

- Must use more aggressive means to control before becomes out of hand on coyote and mountain lions! Allow hunting from air by controlled personnel and by year round bounties.

- Must get rid of coyotes & geese and place more hen pheasants and help feed pheasants and deer. Most of our land is leased to walk in area.

- Mule deer and antelope numbers are at the lowest I have seen them for years here in western Harding County.

- Move muzzleloader deer season ahead of rifle deer season. Allow landowners with land zoned ag to apply for landowner deer tag without a minimum acreage restriction. Classify lions and wolves as varmints with no season or protection. They belong in the zoo.

- Mountain lion on landowners land by landowners….like you allow on the prairie

- Most deer travel 1+ miles from property with a lot of cover and large numbers of deer. Not much I can do when they run out of feed on other property.

- More resources need to be focused to ADC for coyote control!

- More public access for hunting is needed in Yankton County. GFP should be allowed to purchase land using money received from licenses. Encourage trapping of predators.

- More predator control to benefit small game. I have some of the best pheasant numbers in the area because of predator control & food plots. I trap & kill dozens of skunks and coons, possums every year. Let's put the bounty back on.

- More out of state goose hunters. Increase panfish limit from 15 to 25 to 50 lakes and ponds in our area are not getting the fishing needed to increase size of fish. Who wants to drive 50-60 miles to catch so few fish!

- More non-resident waterfowl license in ne corner.

- More non-resident deer licenses.

- More licenses for out of state hunters. Coyote numbers are very high.

- More food plots

- More enforcement of "hunters" shooting form vehicles. I experienced 3 incidents of "deer hunters" shooting in my direction with rifles from pickups while I was archery hunting. The land was private & posted. This is a very common occurrence west river & has happened to me yearly while bowhunting & pheasant hunting during the rifle deer seasons.

- More days allowed to hunt would benefit more licenses. Problem in my area is that during hunting season it is difficult to catch herds traveling from private yard areas across open fields safe enough to shoot in. I have 43 in open day light while another field 1/2 mile away had another 23 not even bothered by traffic.

- More coyotes control

- More conservation officers. I would buy a license if it looked like a certificate like they did "back in the day". This includes mountain lions.

- More buck only licenses. Any deer tags, only so many antlerless mule deer tags because the mule deer does are so much tamer and the numbers of the mule deer are way down. The 2 or 3 doe tags need to be limited on the mule deer doe tags and shoot more whitetail does before you kill all the mule deer out in some areas.

- McCook could have a better pheasant population and fewer raccoons and skunks. Coyote population is slightly noticeable but not a major problem

- Maybe cheaper antlerless tags would help for those that want meat.

- Many deer do not get hunted because it seems most hunters only want big/trophy animal.

- Make people pass a hunting course for all ages before issuing gun permit and permission from landowner before tags are issued. For all ages. Far too many careless and disrespectful hunters

- Make more out of state buck and doe licenses available

- Make it legal for a landowner to donate his tag to youth hunting group of his choice. Too manage youth hunting. Too many coyotes they are a problem in the spring.

- Make deer hunter take a doe first then a buck

- Make better nesting area for pheasants on public lands. Make people that get depredation fee. The land is public record and people can hunt that land.

- Lump all seasons together, tired of so many different seasons and lack of respect of land. Cut tag prices to get more hunters. Manage a quality herd not volume herd. We do not kill own best bull like you kill the big bucks, bull elk. Listen to landowners not resorts, clubs and environmentalist and hobby farms who do not make a living on the land.

- Lower out of state license fees.

- Lower number of landowner acres needed for landowner licenses. Landowner licenses to be given first, they feed the wildlife not GFP

- Lots of questions about hunting, no one want to discuss water rights and who should or should not be able to go on land. Seems like GFP wants all kinds of data on one but is quiet on the other! People fishing on our land.

- Loss of crp is hurting pheasant population

- Loss of crp acres coupled with weather issues have decimated our pheasant population. Deer and turkeys seem to be holding steadily but draining of pot holes and removal of old shelterbelts will also have a negative impact on those too.

- Loss due to ehd was quite significant in this area. This was reported to local conservation officer.

- Longer deer season and more hunters for a couple of years will help the deer pop. Coyotes, raccoons and skunks are hurting pheasant numbers in crp ground. Maybe longer season for geese to cut the number down.

- Livestock is being threatened or not being raised at all because of coyotes, both east and west river. It usually is not hard to get hunters to control certain wildlife species. I think more should be done to control coyotes.

- Live, owned land in Roberts County for 25 years after growing up there and living there for 20+ years. I've helped with planting & harvesting on the farm and paid many thousands of dollars to care for my mother in her wilmot home. However I live in MN. I've applied for a deer license for my farm but by the time the county residence and neighboring county get their apps filled the applications are gone for an out of state landowner like me. So people hunt or maybe even though it's posted can't something be changed.

- Licenses are too expensive for youth to 21 years old and seniors 62+

- Let's hope for the moisture for farmers! Wildlife geese are my only problem - the real problem is from January until the babies hatch and fly by august. This is true every year, more so this year with the little water in my pond in front of my home.

- Let's get more waterfowl licenses to hunt these Canada geese. When opposing groups cry there will be no place left for me to hunt. I am telling you they have to get out ahead of time and talk to landowners and they will find lots of landowners that welcome them.

- Let us as non-residents landowners hunters (who provide habitat for the game) have an opportunity to hunt bucks!

- Let non-residents buy geese licenses just like pheasant ones

- Let landowners kill mountain lions w/o any strings attached (on their own property) no tag, no season, no parameters.

- Let landowners hunt coyotes off snowmobiles with an uncased and loaded shot gun. Also let them hunt on neighbors' land that gives permission to hunt on. Coyote numbers are way too high and are causing lots of financial losses to livestock.

- Let farmers shoot geese that are causing problems anytime they need.

- Less whitetail buck tags and more antlerless tags, limit the number of buck tags one hunter can receive no one needs to shoot or kill more than 1 or 2 bucks certainly not for the meat

- Less antlerless license offered. Coyotes need to be controlled.

- Lengthen muzzleloader season

- Lengthen black powder season fewer long shirts.

- Last year was the first time in many, many years I did not even apply for an archery or east river tag! With the deer and pheasant numbers down and the cover disappearing, the fawns and pheasants don't stand a chance! Why don't you put a bounty on county!

- Last year the put up goose fence around water. It was put up way too late.

- Last year (2012) we must have had 25 deer shooters for every deer in our area, you can't call them hunters when most of them won't even get out of their pickup to shoot! It gets too dangerous to even be out in your own yard & your livestock have to be kept in the yard & the dog tied up to keep them from being shot! Only 1 person had the courtesy to even ask permission to hunt on my property. Which is why I strongly dislike any extended season.

- Landowners that work their ground from another state, should be able to get a hunting license without going through a point or lottery system or drawing.

- Landowners that feed the wildlife year round should receive free license that would be transferable to anyone.

- Landowners should get free deer tags for the whole county not just your land

- Landowner should have option of hunting on their own land with our having to pay licenses since we are the ones feeding the wildlife.

- Land very close to Rapid City so rifles are not acceptable trying to use archery but is not effective enough.

- Land rented. Renter has control of who hunts on land.

- Land is open to youth hunt only.

- Land enrolled in walk in (crep)

- Late special antlerless deer season end up killing some antlerless bucks as antlers have already fallen off.

- Kingsbury is losing the deer population. To many tags for does. Farming is taking our wildlife. CRP and trees are taken out for farming practices and I know there is nothing that can be done.

- Kill way more coyotes they kill our sheep & newborn calves.

- Kill more coyotes

- Kill more coyotes

- Keep up the good work on lion control. Stop out of state hunters from any big game. It just raises all our costs in many ways I could sell hunts I don't.

- Keep up the good work of protecting our wildlife.

- Keep the wild pigs out of SD

- Just learned of the extra fee tacked on hunting licenses to fund coyote control. Dislike this. Allow landowners to hunt off snowmobiles we control them. No cost to GFP no skin off your butt.

- Just encourage more hunting w/o raising fees.

- Jeff Vonk needs to get good advice from good coyote manages and let them hunt right instead of micromanage the coyote control he knows nothing about.

- It's time to clean up this mountain lion and wolf crap. They've got all the deer pushed into the towns in the black hills. Coyotes are stealing calves & sheep. Nice mess you guys have created.

- It’s obvious that farming practices are severely limiting wildlife habitat. Fewer cattle, fewer fence rows, round up herbicide killing all the weeds in non-farmers’ acres so the pheasant numbers are rapidly dropping.

- It's not good having a winter season. That is not hunting that is a slaughter. I don't like my birds handled this way by some city "sportsman" I feed these birds year-round. You have to know the hunter. Some cannot be trusted and if they have a #1 on their license the answer is no.

- It would be difficult for me to comment on the length of seasons as I don't have sufficient numbers of any critter to allow hunting.

- It was so dry during the hunting season that only conscientious, trusted people were allowed on the land.

- It seems to me that the licensee is not hunting many days. We don't see the hunters like we used to. Maybe a solution is to sell more licenses.

- It seems every hunter is a "buck" trophy hunter, instead of a buck only license, how about a doe first buck second license, would reduce doe populations in the problem areas. Need a method to contain the coyote population. Pheasants do not have a chance to survive the winters.

- It really gets to us to see all these deer shot for fun and leave them lay and also all this livestock cattle shot of our each year which is done for fun some years we lose 4 or 5 cattle which amounts to quite a few dollars.

- It appears to me that most (any deer tags holders) will only fill tags with nice rack bucks. I admit I am one of these hunters, I am not sure of a remedy. One possible idea is having to fill an antlerless tag first this might just cause wanton waste of game. I also feel the GFP and landowners (farmers) relations have improved over the last few years which is good.

- It always about money. There should not be hunting of jackrabbits, quail, partridge, especially in Union County. We don't have anymore. I do see them, but very rarely and I always watch for them. Wildlife is always welcome, hunters are not.

- Issue more combined buck and antlerless licenses (whitetail) question: if you have a combined license, do you normally harvest a doe?

- Instead of hunting coyotes from planes, why not put a bounty on them.

- Implementing a senior hunting license running at the same time as the youth season. A lot of older hunters would participate in this season. As of now they don't bother buying a license because of the late weather situation.

- Inform ND hunters about the hunting laws regarding trespassing on private land that is not posted. I have a bad problem with ND hunters.

- Increase the number of non-resident permits or allow a certain number of permits for non-resident landowners who pay taxes to the state of SD. A landowner with a continuous piece of property in two states should not be penalized!

- Increase tag per license, require antlerless tag before horn fill

- Increase pheasant in the area

- Increase mountain lion kill numbers. Increase beaver kill numbers like you do for coyotes utilizing gf&p personnel, etc.

- Increase license fee for bucks substantially to $100 - 150. Decrease license fee for doe to $15-20. Doing this would increase the quality of deer hunting or even antelope for that matter, in SD. It should also go a long way toward eliminating the need for special depredation deer hunts. Getting the right combination for license fees and numbers harvested should be revenue neutral with what you have now.

- Increase interest in antlerless deer (doe) hunters only want the big horn bucks.

- Increase deer tags numbers, stiffer penalties for trespassers!

- Increase concentrated efforts need to be made to emphasize and promote better and stronger courtesy and hunter -landowner relationships. Trespassing is a huge problem. It only takes a very few negative experiences by a few hunters to ruin hunting rights to many others. Too many hunters take the attitude that landowners "owe" them hunting privileges. I feel this is driven in a large degree from road hunting and the expanded problems that resulted from it.

- Increase bounty on pocket gophers! Increase penalties for killing birds of prey!

- In your area, most landowners won't let doe hunters in until after buck season closes. This protects does until late season. When we get too much snow early, this gives the deer another advantage. Currently within a 2 mile radius of artesian, there are 3 herds of deer with 75-125 deer in each herd. If we have a bad winter there will be problems.

- In this early Canada goose season for 2013 Lincoln County should be included. I have too many Canada geese on land in 2011 I have over 5 acres destroyed by geese. There is also too many coyotes with this year with no water in ponds I don't know what will happen.

- In the past had 2-3 sections in walk in

- In the extra extended season you should be allowed to shoot any deer if you have that license.

- In our county we live approx. [property description]. Shortly after the regular deer season the deer leave our area and herd up on the river bottoms. The majority of the land on the bottoms is owned by a family corp. that doesn't as a general rule allow outsiders to hunt during the early January season. Therefore the January season in worthless in this area.

- In our area when harvest is complete most all deer move into other private lands leaving it almost impossible to get a good hunt. These other lands have more sloughs and are very wet for winter cover.

- In order to keep pheasant hunters happy we have to release more birds. I don't want to raise our fee or our relationship may become less friendly. I would like to see the limit go to two

birds so everybody would be happy they fill their limit we can have more hunters, and the GFP can sell more licenses.

- In areas you are having problems selling licenses lower costs to non-residents. Allow non-resident landowners to hunt their own land at a reasonable cost!

- In a difficult winter it's not a matter of reducing the amount of deer. When the snow is as deep as it is this year, all their browse and wild food is buried under a ton of snow so even though game experts say they don't eat hay, corn, grain, etc. They do what is necessary to survive; they eat whatever is available in farmsteads, hay, silage, grain etc. I do not want to see them die - neither do I want them to become fodder for coyotes, which a lot of that is happening as well. I look out and in our corral deer were eating with our horses and didn't even move when I came out to observe. The poor things. You can only issue so many licenses to a point where it becomes dangerous - people are apt to shoot others in error.

- In 96-97 winter (a heavy snow amount) the deer population increased to what has created problems with our apple trees if a reduction in deer licenses, the number of deer won't decrease. Will the GFP allow funds to displace the deer population or at least protect us with fence supplies?

- In 2012 I would estimate a 75% loss on a 100 acre barley field & some areas of total loss in soybeans due to Canada geese. Also we have added expense of avitrol on seed corn to control pheasants. Deer consume hundreds of bushels of corn at 6-7 dollars. Cattlemen are liable if their cows cause this type of damage.

- In 2011 GFP out of Webster came out because of the geese in the winter wheat, spring wheat, corn and beans. It helped the only thing that I was unhappy with is when they came to pickup their propane canon that they could have waited until I combined the wheat and not drive in it with their vehicle!! It was only a week from being combined when it happened. No wonder people are unhappy with the GFP.

- I'm trying to increase populations of all wildlife with gf&p programs for assistance, but having very little luck working directly with your biologists local COs are also frustrated with your biologist lack of response to request for assistance. Something is terribly wrong with this program. All the news is destruction of habitat. And some of us are trying to increase habitat but don't ever get your people to answer our calls or emails. Hope someone can give a copy of this to your commissioners. The basis of your survey is depredation. Should include other topics. Box a needed other answers. I didn't feel I could use your choices. I think the deer die off has skewed results. I think pheasants are competing with native grouse to a detriment. I know it's about money. I think as a landowner that I should be able to legally shoot a lion with a .22 other state allow it.

- I'm concerned about the dramatic loss of habitat that is occurring (CRP loss, tiling, tilling of "odd" areas, shelter belt demolishing) it all adds up. Also, am disappointed with the shortening of muzzleloader season. Also, I own 143 acres and would really like an antlerless hunt you own land tag!

- I'm an organic farmer and also have an organically certified grass fed beef herd. The deer are increasing in numbers around my place each year. They prefer grass and grain which

are non-gmo and have not been exposed to the toxic inputs utilized by commercial farming. This has resulted in much loss on my operation. I would appreciate any help.

- I'm always run over by hunters in a season that lasts forever. Bow hunter and youth season is ok buy I don't love it at all.

- If you would lower the license fee you would probably have more hunters. The female deer population needs to be taken care of more guys want buck deer than females. The deer are everywhere; you can't drive to town without the deer in the road. Have to watch for them constantly. The coyotes are a problem and once in a while we see a mountain lion.

- If you would have a buck only landowner season 4 or 5 days prior to opening of the regular deer season lots of landowners would have their tags filled and would let more non-landowners hunt on their land when season starts.

- If you want to increase hunter take of Canada geese expand daily limit during fall season! Most hunters don't participate in warm weather early goose hunts. It sure does make fall hunt harder after the birds get that early education from the few early season hunters out in the field.

- If you own land and farm it you can get a deer license.

- If you have permission from the landowner then let them snowmobile coyotes. I don't need the government to protect me. It is impossible to stop a sled, unease the gun, load it and then shoot the coyote, by then a good clean shot is lost. If you really had coyotes control you would not set up such circumstances. Let me stop that sled and immediately shoot the coyote.

- If we are surely important part of wildlife than landowners should have special feeless license for putting up with bs

- If the people having trouble with too many deer are asking for help, make sure they allow hunting; some of my neighbors do not

- If something isn't done soon about the coyote problem here, we will not have a pheasant left.

- If someone is on my land, they are trespassing. The animals need somewhere they can be safe.

- If public compensation is going to landowners for hunting access, make sure it is worthwhile habitat. Not a problem, occasional sporadic beaver activities on willows, no problem.

- If hunting season is too long there’s more potential for livestock to get hurt when people get desperate and push the limits of landowners. Trespassing where livestock are, property damage, fence being cut or gates being left open.

- If a farmer is having a problem with wildlife on his property, he should be allowed to shoot the animal and use the meat.

- I'd like to see all deer removed. They are dangerous for traveling. I'm responsible for my cattle so you should also be responsible.

- I wouldn't care if there were no elk, they are nice to look at but they sure are destructive. I don't plant oats or alfalfa anymore because they just destroy it. Deer are only a problem in early spring or late fall. Not as big a problem as elk.

- I would surely like to be able to hunt deer on my own land during rifle season. But because I am a nonresident I am at the end of the line for any draws. They are all to her. As a result no one hunts deer on my land & I would like the option of once every two or three years to have the ability to hunt deer, not every year, just once in a while.

- I would like to thank you all for the great job that GFP does.

- I would like to see the west river rifle season to be the last week of November for 9 days. Too often the dominate trophy class bucks don't get a chance to breed. As a landowner the 16 day season is too long to be patrolling for trespassing and other violations. My worst depredation comes from crows and blackbirds in sunflowers. I would like to see something to help.

- I would like to see the tags in the extended antlerless season to become party tags. I feel if you want to reduce the antlerless population this would be a very economical way of doing just that.

- I would like to see the pheasant season shortened.

- I would like to see the deer managed so that more of the bucks were allowed to reach full maturity.

- I would like to see some type of program to link responsible hunters and ranchers together. Not just for hunting seasons and the almighty dollar.

- I would like to see some kind of 4 point/16 in spread width license to increase buck deer license for people wanting a bigger deer with some increased licenses.

- I would like to see SDGFP start a payment plan on crops wildlife destroy. The elk season needs to be the same as Crook County, WY. The turkey population needs to be taken as a big problem.

- I would like to see quail in our area.

- I would like to see mule deer managed more intensively by eliminating or greatly reducing "any deer" tags and adding a mule deer specific tag.

- I would like to see more quail released on crp grounds so they will be better established. I would like to see more deer licenses mad available to small acre landowners those with less than 25 acres. Not any quail almost no pheasants

- I would like to see more licenses available to out of state hunters! They pay everywhere for the opportunity. Like gas, food, motels, guides and my land to hunt on. SD makes millions on out of state hunters! 2nd I would raise the cost of non-landowner, in state hunters. They spend very little money, maybe a few shells. They trespass, hunt illegally, almost never ask permission to hunt private land, disrespect fence, gates, and tear up roads! They never pay for hunting privileges! I would raise the cost by 10 times. They would stop most of the disrespect.

- I would like to see less antlerless doe tags issued as the herd numbers are way down no 3 tags should below if is not have a season for antelope in 2013.

- I would like to see any deer season run for 9 days, followed by 7 days of doe season. Then landowners would let more people on to hunt. Late seasons kills way too many young bucks. Shut down season on mule deer in Sandborn County for 5 years for landowner special license also. 9 for buck and 6 right after for doe total.

- I would like to see a very limited number of good bucks taken each year, allow more smaller buck tags. Try to bring back the larger animals we have shot most of the good bucks leaving gen. Small ones to breed.

- I would like to see a season on otter. Would like to make it legal to shoot coyotes from a snowmobile either on our own land or land with permission

- I would like to see a 9 day season and then go to antlerless season 1 week later for 1 month. If you wait till after x-mas the bucks have lost their horns or will soon. We'll never get any big bucks out here if this continues the way it is.

- I would like to see an earlier start to east river rifle season. Most years it's real cold by the start and the does are out of rut. If it is cold and snow the deer around me are moving out for their winter grounds. I would like to see you cut back doe licenses and build the deer herd up. The deer numbers around me are way down.

- I would like to offer my ranch for mentor hunting only free access any help you could give me in publishing this information to that group of hunters would be appreciated.

- I would like the special antlerless deer season to start following the regular season. I had 54 deer taken on my farm last year. When it got into late Dec. Early Jan. They started to get to my antlerless bucks. If you want less deer the hunters needs to harvest.

- I would like the opportunity to rifle hunt on my own land as a non-resident.

- I would like Hanson County turkey season to be full season instead of just half season like it presently is

- I would like GFP to consider opening up a Canada goose season in spring to cut down on some of this population. The flocks of geese that I've seen this spring are close to 300 to 500 in one field. Last time I had crops eaten by geese, I lost at least 3 acres of beans. As an average of crop production, 30 bushels an acre is what I produce. And with beans being $14 a bushel I lost $1260 plus expenses on those acres.

- I would like away to keep the deer killing the trees around the yard.

- I would like access to portable panels to protect hay in the winter, or payments to put up wildlife fence around hay. Also would like some help with prairie dogs.

- I would like a free deer permit. I do not charge to hunt. So I let people who ask hunt for free.

- I would include a more bold way to stress trespassing and shooting near dwellings than is currently state in hunting regulations. Example bold or red print. It still will not cure the problem but may better assist violator and landowner when these problems arise.

- I wish we could participate in the early goose season, or have a goose season ahead of the pheasant season. The late goose season doesn't pertain to anyone who is away from the immediate vicinity of the Missouri River.

- I wish there could have special season to trap or hunt raccoons and beavers and coyotes to encourage more people to hunt them possibly

- I think you guys do a good job. The landowners that complain about damages should open their land to more hunters.

- I think you folks do an excellent job. Really I do with the loss of habitat. It is only going to get harder to place people and grow population of wildlife. I think increasing habitat is the natural answer but how? They are taking out groves of trees, CRP & [illegible]. Is there any way to stop this?

- I think you are issuing too many east river deer permits. I am surprised there are not more accidents with all the hunters roaming around this also makes it difficult to hunt deer the way they should be hunted (from a stand).

- I think you are doing a very good job.

- I think wardens need to be the middleman. Working with landowners and the public to help with over population of any species. They are supposed to know the numbers in their counties. And where possible problem areas are! So they can put hunters where needed! Not to have one area with few deer or species and another over populated in the same county or area. They shouldn't be watching 1 person or group all day just to get a ticket! We also need to do something with predators!

- I think turkeys would be much better than those geese and get more of like chuckers and partridges and have a coyote hunts, there is too many of those too. They ate all my ducks.

- I think this incident is disgraceful and sheds a bad light on the GFP "fishing regs not enforced fairly" argusleader 11/5/12

- I think there should be a law to keep the deer food plots at least 5 miles away from a major highway.

- I think the rifle deer season is way too long I think a 9 days straight with them to take either sex deer in those 9 days. End of season don't keep dragging it on. I feel rifle season is too long. I think the 9 days and let them take either sex end of season.

- I think the east river deer season should be put back to the old season. Starting the season on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Because the bucks are still in rut before thanksgiving and it's just a slaughter with rifles. That way we can keep the dominate bucks alive. Remember it's about proper herd management, not just the money

- I think the deer season should only run 2 weekends. 9 days should be enough time to shoot your deer. Otherwise it seems like people just keep driving around our land waiting for the deer to step out. The deer can only hide so long.

- I think the blue tongue disease took care of the over population of the deer in our area.

- I think that with the deer ehd there should be less licenses. I also think that letting people get 2 or more left over licenses is wrong. Archery hunters should be allowed only one buck tag per year.

- I think that they should not let farmers cut or burn road right of ways before pheasants get a chance to hatch

- I think southeastern counties should be included in the Canada goose hunting special season.

- I think some animals should be controlled like raccoons, badgers, coyotes and even muskrats, they do quite a lot of damage. raccoons are a big problem.

- I think seasons are about right.

- I think non-resident landowners should be able to hunt deer on their own land.

- I think management is pretty good. Tired of the "iron pony show" going on for so long during regular rifle deer season. Need to shorten "any deer" season people chasing deer with trucks is just not right.

- I think GFP should consider paying more for walk in areas.

- I think GFP gets most things correct. Why wreck Canada goose eggs, let us hunters in. Game wardens are not as friendly as they used to be. Landowners are partners in wildlife! Game wardens should be taught that.

- I think everyone should shoot an antlerless deer (doe) before they can take a buck.

- I think buck tags should be extended 1 more week.

- I think any (buck) deer license should be available to shoot a doe in late season like before.

- I think antelope licenses should be less. There is not many antelope like we had years ago.

- I strongly think there are way too many mtn lions in the state of sd. I hear reports from a lot of farmers & ranchers having seen mtn lions or where they have been. The game and fish going to wait until someone is attacked or hurt bad before they are going to do something.

- I still have difficulty keeping hunters off my property do to walk in land that bound my property. They hunt without permission and I have to ask them to leave. Property is clearly posted.

- I still feel the number of mountain lions is high and not declining. Overall, I feel it needs to be managed at a lower level, primarily due to loss of elk calves! Sightings and sign on my property remains high. I believe a partial season that coincides with rifle deer season would increase success if coupled with the Jan. 1- March 31 season to ensure the targeted number is reached.

- I should now answer as I rent the land and I live out of state. However in my opinion when I drive through the surrounding area every several years. There are too many deer throughout the range of cattle country.

- I reported predator problems and you did nothing! It cost me several thousand dollars in dead livestock. You are worthless tax sucking, lazy, incompetent, from [GFP staff] to [GFP staff] to [GFP staff].

- I really enjoy having a special buck license! I usually only shoot a mature buck (never a young buck) sometimes not filling the license. You do a great job as far as I'm concerned. Thanks!

- I really don't like the road deer hunters

- I read recently that several counties (including my adjoining county of Kingsbury, Lake & McCook) will have a special hunting season for Canada geese. I strongly feel that miner county should be included as goose damage is quite severe along the eastern side of the county where I farm.

- I quit east river deer hunting 4 or 5 years ago. I got tired of the "road" hunters and trespassers. I have found deer carcasses on our land where someone took hind quarters and left the rest, drove thru our crp to retrieve deer shot from the road, it's just frustrating I would turn them in if I could catch them.

- I own this land I rent it out to someone else to operate it is pasture land and not much cover for wildlife.

- I own land and pay taxes. I live out of state. Why do I have to pay for out of state license when I own the land?

- I oppose your thoughts on water on private farm lands. Lot of people pay payments and all pay taxes on it. The landowner does not receive anything for this. It's a bad deal for the landowner. Ice fishermen are the worst people I ever have dealt with. No respect.

- I only have 17 acres and all the land around me is pay to hunt therefor the whitetail deer population is a little high. Turkeys are down but it seems to be something besides hunting.

- I now live out of state and still operate the family farm but I receive no landowner preference when applying for a tag. Along with the fact I only receive 2 5 day pheasant hunts. I pay all of the same taxes as a resident, support the community and receive none of the benefits.

- I need help reducing population of raccoons, coyotes, opossum, skunk, and prairie dogs. Hunting them is not an option because there are so many. I can poison prairie dogs, but they invade from the neighbors. Antlered deer are ruining my tree belts which are less than 10 years old. They also come from the neighbors who don't allow anything.

- I live out of state, own about 2000 acres of land in SD and cannot ever get a chance at an east river buck license. I get a chance at the last draw after SD residents get their chances. Simply not fair. Pay about $16,000 in taxes. Should at least be treated as resident non landowner.

- I live in Madison, SD and go to the farm on a monthly basis. I'm only replying since you said that I must! I don't have any idea no one asked to hunt deer, only pheasants. I own 160 acres. None of it is farmed.

- I live in Langford now. Have been for almost 30 years so I don't know what is on my land, I know there is deer, geese, pheasants but I've never heard if the cash renters have said any things about any damage.

- I like to hunt with a special buck license in another county with landowner permission from another landowner. Problem: I cannot apply landowner preference in my own county to hunt my own land.

- I like the idea of having one extra weekend in regular rifle season for hunters that don't have time to hunt during the week by skipping 5 weekdays than another weekend added on to 16 days to make 18 days. Plus adding 800 at least amount of owners to get a chance to get a license like it had before.

- I liked the way it used to be. If you didn't fill the bucks only tag, it would shift to a antlerless deer tag.

- I just believe landowner farmers should come first and help make decisions, we feed them.

- I haven't had any major damage from the geese yet, but I hear real problems from others. Beavers have been a problem in the past. I'm nervous about coyotes during calving in the springs. I've had neighbors tell me they've seen mountain lions in the area.

- I haven't checked my trees this spring but the deer, have in the past broken limbs and damaged young trees quite a bit either there aren't as many deer or they don't bother the older trees. Rabbits are eating tree back. Gophers digging in shelterbelt. A friend traps them when we discover them.

- I have walk in program land so I do receive a minimal amount of compensation (the payment should be higher). GFP should charge more for non-resident pheasant licenses. They will pay at least 50% more. Early resident pheasant season should be on private land. Not just government access land. I never hunt then because of amount of people on small

amount of land. Unfilled antlered deer tags should be able to fill antlerless deer in late December/January season. Why was this changed?

- I have walk in on my property, the hunters have been very cooperative over usually stop to visit if they get game. Usually geese both Canada and migration. Overall the wildlife regulations are quite well related. Would like to see an increase in the pheasant population and possibly increase in wild turkey.

- I have trapped 30 or more raccoons for each of the last 3 years. It is very difficult to shoot woodchucks as they are very fast and very destructive to farm structures. We only have an occasional badger. The deer eat our hay and jump over our electric fences and short them out regularly. We only allow one hunter on our land. We have had hunters in the past who had no respect for our fences or cattle close by the trees.

- I have some land at [property description]. There are Canada geese that nest in the sloughs. Really I love to see the geese but the goslings that are hatched and their parents do the damage to the soy beans. The corn comes back fairly well. Last year GFP helped me.

- I have some CRP acres. A real help for the pheasant population. The deer did minor damage before corn was harvested

- I have seven food plots around and when they get snowed in or depleted I feed my pheasants and also deer feed with them also. I would like to be able to get some help with feed.

- I have property on both sides of I-90. My rifle licenses allow me to hunt on only one side. I especially like archery hunting & archery hunters and would like to use crossbows, but much more widely accepted, especially for youth and senior citizens.

- I have pasture that's never been broken so I can't put it into crp or watershed. If something would come available so I could put the 85 acres into conservation I would that’s for sure. Please let me know if there’s something available for me.

- I have out of state family that apply for licenses every year but only draw every other year. I would like the law to be changed so that family would have licenses available every year to hunt on family land. This change should include spouses and children of family members. All family members are members of our family partnership.

- I have no problem with the management of wildlife in my area! But am very concerned about the loss of crp acres and the farming from fencerow to fencerow. In my area we lost thousands of acres to row crops the last few years. Pheasants can't lay eggs in dirt! Call me anytime.

- I have my land posted with a no hunting sign

- I have lost calves to coyotes; however, they do keep deer numbers down somewhat. I would like to see a bounty placed on coyotes.

- I have heard that Mellette County corn commissioners have approved having a state plane hunt coyotes, if so I would like my land covered. However, before May 1st & after Oct 1 I am taking cattle into the pasture.

- I have had damage to small evergreen trees this past fall has been the worst in the last 5 years. Every year I replace several trees at a cost of 50-100 dollars

- I have had 8 or 9 peacocks killed this year by owls. The hawk and owl populations on our land are excessive. I do not want them killing my birds or wildlife! They are yours come and get them please!

- I have an increasing problem with the growing population on my land in Jones County of prairie dogs. Also, I had land last year in Stanley County [property description] next to the national grass lands and the prairie dogs are extremely bad! They are now on the private land and are moving inward very rapidly.

- I have always wondered why GFP calls it game management yet does not allow the transfer of tags. My relatives out of state would love to hunt and would pay the up charge and a transfer fee if they could have my license. It creates more dollars for GFP and is part of management.

- I have a problem with the long bow season for deer/elk/turkeys

- I have a problem with the late season deer

- I have a concern about people driving and shooting deer from pickups, especially on land without permission.

- I hate to see the slaughter of the Canada geese. I realize that there is a problem with crop damage. I wish that the soybean plant could be genetically altered to cause the plant to taste bitter so that a goose has no desire to eat it. Then the farmer and sportsman would be happy.

- I guess I'm a conservationist. Some years back I put my 40 on a 10 year program where the state paid a sum yearly to not raise anything on it. We planted some trees and had an earth moved out to make a small lake with an island in the middle of duck and goose to hatch their eggs. If I remember right this took about 4 or 5 acres. These animals and fowl should have a refuge.

- I feel with all the vehicle deer accidents that there are maybe too many deer. In this light they are a huge cost and danger. Last I looked SD was 4th in the nation for this.

- I feel the rifle season on whitetail deer should be shut down for a couple years so that their population comes back. I think we had to have over a 90% kill on the whitetail deer this year.

- I feel that the landowner should be allowed to shoot wildlife at any time if they are doing damage.

- I feel that landowners should be able to get licenses for half price. Also where there is an abundance of game, that landowners should be able to get double limits.

- I feel that deer tags should go to the county residents first then the leftovers to those from out of town. Landowners should never be denied a deer tag. Landowners should have first choice at muzzleloader tags also. I've been denied 4 years now and I own and operate 2800 acres of land.

- I feel pheasant, Canada goose and deer populations are all down at the present time. We also had a major die off of raccoon. We did have a large herd of deer "150-200" in late spring 2011. We cleared snow 2 miles from our farm. We thank you. The weather is the main factor as you know.

- I feel coyotes, raccoons, and skunks have hurt our pheasant population and also the big rain we had in our area last May. I'm thinking coyotes are taking a lot of fawns too. About 4 years ago we had a lot of fawns in the spring but come fall, the deer population was not there. I don't see many deer or pheasants in the corn fields at harvest but I've seen as many as 3-4 coyotes in a field and sometimes 8-12 raccoons in a strip of corn.

- I feed the deer all summer, than by the time archery, youth, muzzleloader season have all started, before we can hunt the deer go to the hills or along the rivers and we don't have anything to shoot. Why are these seasons allowed before rifle?

- I favor more antlerless tags & less any deer tags because rather than shoot a doe, people will shoot a basket racked 4 pointer. This also would allow more bucks to mature. Trophy bucks are few and far between.

- I enjoy wildlife on my land and am willing to have some depredation damage - mainly antelope when they are 100+ in a herd of deer polishing horns on the brush near my house is my only damage.

- I enjoy wildlife around to look at and try to identify, so I really don't have anything to say.

- I don't understand as a farmer resident, now non-resident and landowner that restricts non-resident to migratory birds and in some cases deer. If funds are short in the GFP then why limit the number of waterfowl hunters when much of the resources are raised out of state. Remove lone cedar trees from SD game production areas. Serve only for perches for hawks, owls and crows.

- I don't think the early goose in the fall is working. There are just enough hunters going out to make them wild. Most hunters don't like to hunt when it is hot and the mosquitoes are out. I think the season would open with the duck season, there would be more geese shot. I have noticed that most hunters would rather hunt ducks then geese.

- I don't live in SD but I own land there. I pay taxes there. I believe I should be able to purchase an in state license to hunt & fish.

- I don't live by my land. I live in Madison. I know people hunt on the land. I am not a hunting person. I can't answer these questions. My land is there for people that hunt there is 3 years left on my contract including this year.

- I don't like the pheasant season running till xmas (close late season at 3pm). Pheasants are bunched up in cover they go to roost and are driven out before dark and don't get back to cover and die.

- I don't like the long pheasant season. Most birds have bunched up in their winter home. If they are pushed out several days in a row, they find another place, which may not give them good cover for the rest of the winter.

- I don't like killing all these deer. Some of these farmers won't be happy until everything is dead and will have no wildlife and you'll be out of a job. All this drainage of farm land is terrible!!

- I don't know why you want our concerns but nothing ever gets done. I have 75 acres of land what makes me mad is the people that don't own land get deer licenses more often than the people who own land. As a result those people will not hunt any of my land. It's very sad that the deer eat my corn off of my land and I can't get even get a deer license. Like I said I have deer, Canada geese, pheasant and quail but those city people won't hunt my land. The people that feed the deer should at least be able to get a deer license.

- I don't hunt anymore. Would like to see more Canada geese. I see in paper we have to many, this is not the case at our place we would like more.

- I don't have any comments concerning GFP

- I don't have an answer but the Canada geese are taking many acres of crop alongside water sloughs.

- I don't believe that there should be a mourning dove season anywhere. It was outlawed in Iowa and it should be outlawed in every state. The reasoning is based on sound studies.

- I don't believe that having too many pheasant is ever a problem; in fact having too few is a concern. I live in Illinois but get back to SD to hunt at least once, but sometimes 3 times. Two years ago was discouraging in Hutchinson County but last year was more of the worst I can remember I encourage your department to do everything they can to support habitat programs and projects that contribute to good pheasant hunting. I don't hunt deer so don't have much input on that.

- I don’t think private hunting preserves should have the right to hunt earlier and longer than the public. Even though they release birds, it doesn't give them the right, or more rights than the public. Money?? If fish populations get low in a body of water, don't hold any fishing tournaments for a year. Money??

- I don’t hunt deer in SD anymore because of the way licenses are sold. Example - why give one hunter 2 antlerless permits and not one per hunter - you would see more licenses and keep everyone happy. I deer hunt in Minnesota where I can get a license.

- I do not like that some of the public areas are closed to the public (53l). After opening weekend of deer season those 20 hunters return home to east river and do not return which leaves that unit untouched for the remainder of the season. 53l should be a 3 day season only and then become 53a.

- I do not believe the wildlife are a problem with the pasture. I try to sell the hay as soon as possible so do not have a serious problem with this. We do have more deer and antelope than we did 50 years ago. This is a problem for many ranchers.

- I do not agree with the spring Canada goose season.

- I do not agree with the change this hunting season with the buck license not converting to doe license for the extended season. The deer population is there to support the license that has already been paid for.

- I didn't like that you guys starved the pheasants 2 winters ago. I hear that you don't believe in feeding them, but you could have removed snow in areas so that they could have gotten to feed. I did it with a snow blower in a cornstalk field next to a slough and within 1 hour there were 7 pheasants in that area getting to feed. That winter really hurt our pheasant numbers and the state has felt the effects. Maybe next time talk to landowners for help or an opinion.

- I did not hunt this year because of death of the whitetail deer. There were no pheasant hatch in my area

- I continue looking at a percentage of licenses sold forcing a doe to be harvested first. Many will comply just because it is the legal thing to do. Say 25% by lottery in every county get the doe first, only option.

- I contacted GFP about problem coyotes last year left a message my call was not returned

- I constantly encourage everyone to come out to hunt my deer

- I believe the problem we had with deer was mainly due to the weather with snow and ice.

- I believe the pheasant season is too long after a while the average farmer and rancher is tired of putting up with other people's recreation constantly having to watch over their land. Please discontinue that extended deer season also.

- I believe that your pheasant count done before hunting season should be on the conservative side, so expectations are realistic or better than expected, 2012 survey was not good for the state as out of state hunters were somewhat disappointed! Maybe state should release breeding stock or share cost with landowners.

- I believe that the 160 acre threshold for landowner preference is too arbitrary. I have more deer on my acres of 80 then most 160 acre allotments. In 2010, I had over 180 deer wintering on me, in 2011 142 deer at one time, and in 2012, 36 deer at one time but 2012 has been open winter. GFP could validate.

- I believe lions should be on the same game status as coyotes - open season year long, with hunters' options about shooting females.

- I am semi-retired so don't get out to the farm much anymore, however, the land is 100% tillable so not much wildlife on it. Years past there was no problems.

- I am on a 23.85 acres [illegible]. I hunt pheasants only we have a goose next which giant Canadians use. When I was a kid east river deer season used shotgun slugs. I think high powered rifles in novice hands can be dicey and so I don't want a lot of them in use of small areas. I hope SD continues hunter safety programs for beginners. Too many hunting groups are endangered by lack of firearm safety practices.

- I am not the farmer; it's rented to my brother. I live away from the land so I have no idea what kind of life is on this property! I haven't heard that there is a big loss from an over population of wildlife!

- I am not an avid hunter, but the goose population is out of control and turkey population could be going that way. I live beside a lake and farm beside a lagoon. Goose and black birds are a problem in my fields. I have put some land beside a lagoon into CRP because every year it was harvested by wildlife before I came to combine it.

- I am not against burning game production areas if done at a different time. I am against burning at the time pheasants, ducks, and geese are nesting in the areas. I feel there are other methods to clean up areas rather than burning. I welcome any officials to inspect my land as to how I clean up areas.

- I am not a landowner anymore but my interest in good stewardship of all resources is still a concern to me. Here for I have answered these questions I feel that I have some knowledge of to express an opinion.

- I am disappointed that as a landowner, when I apply for preference license I get no preference. This year I received one any deer tag with my deer population. You need a little work on pr with the landowner. Some non-preference got a double tag. I also pay the same price!

- I am an absentee landowner; my acreage is surrounded by the [property description]. I have no information regarding the questions asked. The only wildlife I have seen on the property is antelope and rattlesnakes.

- I am a non-resident that enjoys SD land and opportunity & have for over 40 years! Habitat, weather, & disease seem to always be the determining factor in wildlife populations on my 160 acres of heaven. Not that you don't know that! Thanks for the great things you do.

- I am a non-resident (formerly a SD resident) I would love to come back and hunt waterfowl for more than 10 days straight thru the season, maybe 3 - 5 day seasons, 2 - 5 day seasons. I have about 475 acres enrolled in CRP which is good for everyone - financially I take a hit.

- I am a Montana resident here we are given the opportunity for our input, but not taken to a vote to decide issues. I don't like the taking of hen turkeys in the spring or the taking of turkeys in the rifle. It's both dangerous for other types of hunters & counterproductive to their recovery for such a sensitive species of game.

- I am 85 years old. Have less restrictions on youth hunting or you are going to run out of hunters and an overabundance of employees. No kid wants to go hunting with the adults breathing down their necks.

- I allow lots of hunters to hunt deer on my ground. They do not hunt from a vehicle. 90% of all deer harvested in this area are from the front seat of a truck they want to road hunt everything. GFP agree with them! No enforcement of existing laws.

- Hunting guides should be watched closer. The quality of replacement birds is a very serious problem. Some of these guides are as bad as the Texas game slaughters. Improve the quality of these game farms.

- Hunters that over shoot deer and leave it lay and keep on hunting in hope to get a better deer. Didn't ask (road hunters)

- Hunters should have to harvest an antlerless deer prove it before being allowed an antler tag.

- Hunters cause more damage than most of the wildlife. They drive ATV, pickups, and snowmobiles where ever they want. Road hunting is out of control. A grove of trees 500 feet from road is considered open hunting. They leave trash and junk all over. We get Aberdeen & Watertown hunters all season who are not farmer friendly.

- Hunters are more of a problem driving on trail when muddy and stopping in the middle of roads over the top of hills!

- Hunters are dangerous people shooting every which way toward livestock and roads and farmsteads. But I counted 50 head of deer in my fields and I want them dead even if I have to kill them or I should get paid for my losses.

- How could we get help with the beaver?

- Help promote more habitat for upland and waterfowl, I know this costs money! Maybe offer incentives to farmers to do this.

- Hawks, eagles, owls kill too many grouse

- Hawks at lambing time. 2 lambs disappeared earlier and this morning I saw a hawk circle & drop in on some lambs in a yard then flew out & circled in lower stopped hovered over them and I ran out of the barn and scared him off. Too long pheasant season. Much stress on hens after first lasting snow. Hunters driving them away from food & shelter constantly.

- Hawks & coyotes destroy far too many pheasant nests & young pheasants

- Hawk migration and early harvest did a number on pheasants on my land. Coyotes are heard many nights hard on deer

- Having trouble with geese in the corn and wheat fields.

- Have they ever considered splitting the deer season? For example, one weekend before thanksgiving and then 2 or 3 weekends after but leaving thanksgiving weekend open. I have pheasant hunters that want to come at thanksgiving and I don't want them and deer hunters out there at the same time.

- Have spring turkey tags unlimited, both resident and non -resident. Do like Nebraska and print turkey tags online. Have a separate tag for all public land for deer and turkey.

- Have special antlerless deer season Dec 1-9 so no bucks have shed antlers and deer are not in winter pattern

- Have some problems with non-resident predator hunters from Iowa hunting coyotes and fox. Shooting off the road near farmsteads, near cattle and trespassing.

- Have grouse on my land as well. Would really like to increase these numbers.

- Have an earlier doe season. Too many bucks shot after Jan.

- Have a spring Canada goose season!

- Harvest more does

- Had problems with geese eating soybeans. GFP put up electric fence and stopped them. Our biggest problem was coyotes spooking calves in the feed lot. 15 head broke out on the road and 6 were hit by a car and killed. Hunters got 3 coyotes the day of the break out. I contacted [name] later when the calves hit the fence again. He snared a total of 3 more, 2 of which were in our yard. I thank him very much.

- Had a license for antlerless for a youth hunter. Didn't harvest a deer. 2 weeks after the season closed, saw overabundance of deer in the area.

- Greed and high ag prices are destroying all the things that make SD unique and valuable to me. We are turning into MN & IA.

- Great idea of goose depredation hunts in early spring in northern counties in sd. Needs to be expanded to Lincoln County and more southern counties. Thanks for your response to the goose problem.

- Gratis license for landowners. GFP should be more user friendly in this regard. Somehow we need to control the unimproved road law better, especially when you own the land on both sides.

- Get rid of late rifle deer hunt!

- Goose related damage occurs in the summer and the geese come off the lake and eat off the corn and wheat. Maybe a earlier season goose season would help with this problem.

- Goose problem is when soybeans are very young (June).

- Go back to the old 9 day deer season and be done with it. Then predator callers have a chance. Tired of calling you deer hunters instead of coyotes.

- Go back to the old 9 day deer season and be done with it.

- Go back to 1 week 2 weekends like it used to be if there still too many does, have antlerless season end of Dec.

- Giving non-resident landowners equal opportunity as residents for deer licenses.

- Give out of state hunters a break and lower the out of state license fees. I have a MN son-in-law and grandson who would like to hunt on my land, but the fees are too high for them.

- Give more antlerless licenses out and let people hunt longer. I've got deer ruining my row crops during summer than come fall people tell me they didn't get a license because there weren't any more available.

- GFP works hard providing a very necessary function. Please keep up the good work

- GFP should issue more antlerless permits than buck permits. I have more of a problem with does and fawns in the fall than bucks. They ruin my feed and are by my cows. I don't like those diseased suckers by my cows and feed. I have only a few antlerless hunters. All the other hunters are road hunters where they chase the [expletive] out of the game. The GFP also should enforce road hunting a whole lot more. I don't put up with road hunters. I have grandkids that like to hunt on my ground without having road hunters interfering.

- GFP should check the tribal maps and correct the tribe on these incorrect maps. Indians trespassing and hunting on private land. Out of state hunters buying tribal deer hunting licenses and using their maps that show deeded land as Indian land and hunting deeded land.

- GFP failed miserably in predator control over the past 10 years & longer. It has resulted in huge livestock losses that it doesn't even acknowledge & the pheasant population has suffered immeasurably also. Why does the GFP take predator control so lightly!

- GFP does a great job

- GFP does a good job.

- GFP couldn't manage themselves out of a wet paper bag!

- GFP generally doing a good job

- Get the Canada geese to keep going to Canada they are just feathered rats!

- Get some of your COs certified by the Boone & Crockett club to measure heads. The department is sadly lacking in this. At one time the department had over 15 measures. It's a shame to let the public be the experts.

- Get rid of road "hooting" (let's not glorify it by calling it hunting.) Extend the pheasant season to February. Encourage young hunters to continue the youth early season.

- Geese cause problems but this past year GFP has controlled the problem

- Geese are mostly just flyover. Pheasants are not enough of them. Deer in 2012 were not too much of a problem in years past they have been. If that happens again make a deer licenses like a pheasant licenses, if you want one you get one.

- Game wardens should be people instead of Rambo/superman

- Game & fish management plans are providing ample hunting & fishing opportunities perhaps raising limits could be instilled when game becomes overpopulated CREP acres with game and fish excellent for all wildlife. Keep up the good sensible efforts for South Dakota outdoors.

- Fill the antlerless tag before filling the antler tag.

- Fewer antlerless mule deer doe tags. Mule deer numbers are down and need to grow.

- Farmers are destroying all habitat, stripping every single tree, cutting off underground springs. The state should be ashamed they are letting this happen.

- Far too many coyotes

- Extending/lengthening the regular rifle season allows for years of bad weather which preclude hunters from being able to hunt. It also allows for serious hunters to continue hunting if they have been unsuccessful during the opening or following weekends. 16 days to hunt is usually too short, extending another 5-7 days would be good in years of bad weather. GFP can always shorten season as appropriate will help deer population census or disease epidemics. GFP needs to address wolf populations for West River.

- Extend the late (Jan) season in Bennett County.

- Expand territory for licensee to include multiple counties, if not expand area to include 1-2 mile area beyond county licensed. I have been on depredation hunts. All were in county line sections, indicating that deer had less hunting pressure there and could "escape" over a county line to avoid pursuit and later congregate there.

- Excess deer are causing problems. I fence in several cornfields and other fields with electric fence. The deer are constantly hitting the fence and allowing my cattle to escape. We also have many deer hit by cars each year. The deer also destroy parts of my alfalfa and bean fields. This causes many $$ in damage.

- Everyone always wants to shoot a big buck. All buck licenses should be restricted to 4 point or better.

- Every year I hear about nice bucks shot from the road during rifle season. I don't know how to stop it. Maybe more warning on deer tags as a reminder. I hate the late January hunting

season. Some bucks drop antlers and get shot as a doe. Two weeks is plenty of time to harvest a deer.

- Even though my land has been in the family for over 70 years, I have trouble getting hunting licenses because I live out of state. How about giving us a break. I would love to come spend money in SD more often.

- End the early youth season. Shoot all the lions. Open elk hunting in wind cave & not mix the CWD they have with elk outside their "precious park"!

- Eliminate tribal sustenance hunting. Require everyone to abide by SD game & fish regulations.

- Eliminate all otter, nesting geese, too many predators, more ducks and pheasants. No early seasons except for geese

- EHD was very bad throughout country. We must back off for a few years to get the numbers up. The river landowners have all the trouble the deer concentrate down there. I want the population to be more for quail.

- East river deer season should be lengthened 1 week by starting one week sooner.

- East river deer rifle season: I would like to see the people that chase deer in pickups be cited for this type of activity. There is movement towards blinds and better hunting practices but there are still fellows that chase the deer with vehicles.

- East river deer hunting should be shotgun.

- E. River is too populated for rifle season. May need muzzleloader season only along with archery are hunters not careful.

- During the late season antlerless seasons many bucks are shot! Either the horns have fallen off or they are too young to have horns. Friends have told me of many nice bucks being shot. That is why I'm against late doe hunts.

- During the early pheasant season, one week before the regular season, resident hunters should be allowed to hunt on their own land, before the out of state hunters are allowed to hunt.

- Due to the loss of many deer (both whitetail & mule deer) on our ranch we didn't hunt ourselves or outside hunters. It was because of blue tongue and mites.

- Due to the dry conditions of 2012, the deer and pheasant populations have decreased! Please consider reducing the number of licenses for deer and shorten season!

- Due to drought and that deer mite I found numerous deer carcasses during harvest. I have not seen one deer this winter not even tracks.

- Dry weather, bad blue tongue in Hutchinson. Not many deer left.

- Drought, water issues are impacting the pheasant population. I have a great relationship with [GFP Staff] & [GFP Staff]. Good people to work with.

- Don't run the doe season in Jan. Passed the 10th because if the bucks lose their racks they will be shot as does. At sand lake they have 2 tags doe & buck & some double doe tags. Give out buck tags and more double doe tags you would have more hunters & give more money to the area around sand lake more income on meal, fuel, room, rent & etc. More crp makes more pheasants.

- Don't over hunt our deer!

- Don't like the very high number of archery and muzzleloader doe tags available.

- Don't like expanded out of state hunting licenses. When it gets to the point that only out of state wealthy hunters can hunt, the local hunters that can't get licenses and anti-hunting groups will put a referendum on the ballot and outlaw hunting and it will pass.

- Don't lie about pheasant pop.

- Don't have monies to keep white house open for visitors' kids. Please cut back on federal wildlife operation by 90% or more. Let landowners take care of their land no federal agency wasting tax paying people's money.

- Don't bring wild pigs into our county.

- Don't bring any more mountain lions into our county.

- Don't allow any deer every year. Close the mule deer for 2 years then open it for 1 year for about 10 years in McPherson County. Whitetails more doe tags, and have a size limit for bucks! No one should be allowed to shoot a whitetail buck that is less than a 4x4.

- Does are producing twins and not being hunted making the doe population high. Much damage is being done to crops and fences. Coyotes are rapidly becoming a big problem. Can be done before coyotes kill off the pheasants.

- Do not issue mule deer licenses in northern butte county, only whitetail, they are just not there since the blizzards. We are having some dead whitetail deer show up the last couple of weeks along Red Water River. Shorten the bow season for antelope and deer. Keep up with mountain lion hunting, they are increasing.

- Do not go longer than 18 Oct for opener. Shooting hours noon to sunset. Till day light savings time. 11 to sunset.

- Do like the tribe starting early

- Dislike the outfitting/guiding business in SD. It ruins our outdoor heritage. Special buck tag, get rid of it! No one hunts on my land with it. Lots of varmint and feral cats, no trappers, trappers wanted. So lots of bad ethics in hunters, esp. on neighbors guided hunts. GFP is doing a good job! Improvements can always be made.

- Disease problems in whitetail deer. Need law enforcement support from conservation officers on private pond fishing,

- Disease appears to have pretty badly decimated deer population. Pheasant population is lowest ever. Shorten the last winter season. We have to depend almost entirely on pen raised birds.

- Didn't get any help from GFP in Watertown, just smart talk

- Development has badly encroached on us causing hunting access problems. We have 520 acres with immediate neighbors total 2000 and have allowed unrestricted archery, and rifle hunting. Tree damage has been severe.

- Develop controlled access routes for whitetail under i-29 where natural creeks allow

- Deer here are not too high. Do not introduce river otter in this neck of the woods. It will be a pain in the???? And a reason to outlaw them all together like other states.

- Depredation is a big concern whenever we get snow. Setting up feeding stations would help more people. Then a few gates. As I fill this out this morning the deer are moving out and the turkeys are moving in. Hopefully there isn't another deer down from starving.

- Depredation hunts are good by members who know how to use rifles properly. More licenses you get people with no clue out there shooting. Same with pheasant hunting. Everyone but the dog has a gun and way too many in a group that have no clue what's going on. I don't have much land, so guess I don't have too much wildlife problem.

- Depredation damage is high with large population of deer but worse with winter habitat not available during harsh winters. GFP needs to have feed plan in place for these conditions. The herd reduction occurs drastically thru starvation and predators, depredation of farm feed is great when we have to deal with 300 hungry animals taking source away only worsens death losses.

- Deer when area is dry they like to pull core of corn stalk out & chew on the juicy end piece, that being, no corn setting on that stalk a problem last year & other years also. Pheasants are helping now picking up a lot of shelled corn in harvested field, meaning less volunteer corn growing this year but peck a lot of planted seed out when corn starts to show in the spring can take a lot of deer and that means no stalk so no ear of corn.

- Deer took a large amount of sunflowers last year and there are a large number of them on the same land this year. We have been seeing up to 100 deer in one field regularly this winter. We are very concerned about the damage they will do after crops are seeded and up.

- Deer tend to bunch up in winter and with a lot of snow should be feed some hay.

- Deer seasons are too short because sometimes you have bad weather and can't hunt same goes for the extended antlerless season for 9 days. Also some weekends don't work to hunt because of family holiday activities between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also with fawn

size increasing any chance we can extend the deer season areas from counties to units (similar to waterfowl hunting?)

- Deer season should start 2 weeks earlier.

- Deer season gets too long with state and then tribal season in this area. Coyotes are getting a lot of the fawns in both deer and antelope. See a lot of dry does in summer.

- Deer season entirely too long. Deer get run too hard and safety from rifle shoots is a concern. Late season and depredation season = too many antler deer shooting. Even when even when antlers are gone everyone shoots biggest deer!

- Deer populations are way down especially mule deer would like to see the pressure off them for a few years. They rebound far slower than whitetail or antelope. The coyote population is doing awesome! Donated 100 lambs to them last summer and my 1st calf this spring. Wolf & lion sightings more frequent.

- Deer populations are very erratic within this area and Kingsbury County where I did my deer hunting. I know of one farmer in my area that wouldn't allow harvesting of does, so I definitely don't believe we need more licenses or hunters. I know of a farmer in southern Deuel County who was having deer problems in his hay but when I asked for permission to hunt he said absolutely not so is it the fault of the deer? There is also a lot of demolition of shelterbelts and farmsteads which is concentrating the deer even more in these problem areas. The deer also have traditional wintering areas they go to as the winter wears on. The pheasants are suffering from a lot of the same problems.

- Deer population will never get too high when you turn mountain lions loose.

- Deer population was very low

- Deer population last summer was reduced by half on my property due to drought and blue tongue. Our pheasant numbers have dropped by 60% a year over the last 2 years.

- Deer population is low yet in Grant County would like to see bow hunting season open earlier in sept. So that farmers like me would have opportunity to go West River to hunt. When its late sept. Start we often are combining beans, even corn. North Dakota starts early- why can't we?

- Deer population got hit hard by disease

- Deer numbers in Lake County are really down. A lot of Canada geese too many out of county deer hunters that don't have any place to hunt.

- Deer numbers are down. I have 40 acres of food plots. I have app. 55-60 deer feeding on them. When we have good deer numbers I had 120-150 deer. Bow hunter should not take more than 1 deer.

- Deer hunters/licenses in our area are very appropriate. I am in favor of the special antlerless season as it controls the female breeding herd as regular season tends to be a "buck only" hunt. The special depredation hunts are good for "special needs" concerns i.e.

heavy snow covering normal feed sources forcing them into stored feed sources on farms/ranches

- Deer are under hunting pressure for 5 or 6 months every year. It is no surprise they migrate to city limits because of this. Nobody should require 16 + days to harvest a deer.

- Deer are a big problem. I planted $5000 worth of new trees in the yard and we need to put fences around each in the fall until summer. They've ruined at least 5 of them.

- Deer and pheasants really took a hit last year from weather and disease.

- Deer (whitetail) are a problem for highway users. Used to be numbers of jack rabbits along highways -50's-80's now many deer now occasional rabbits along or on the highways!

- Damage in field areas are limited to areas next to dams or crp and are annoying but understandably have to have to maintain wildlife. My primary concern is my home and yard area. Deer have destroyed my tulip beds several fruit trees, weeping willow, and this past fall destroyed my tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and ruined my squash. I am considering using motion sensing lights that also turn on loud radios.

- Cut the doe licenses down. When you kill a doe you kill future production

- Cut down number of raccoons and red tail hawks. I have personally seen hawks take pheasants. Hawks are taking most all of baby jackrabbits. As we till the fields in spring we see some baby jackrabbits but the hawks hone them in short order. Raccoons are a pest far too many of them.

- CRP should remain a long term choice for hard to farm acres and marginal crop type topsoil. Some land should return to original state.

- CRP good program for hunters and farmers

- Coyotes they are causing a lot of problems.

- Coyotes population is growing too large.

- Coyotes need to be taken care of. Airplane!! Less buck tags more doe tags. Less rifle buck tags more muzzleloader tags with an earlier season. SD could be a trophy state!

- Coyotes let the snowmobiles hunt them. Too dam many they are killing deer, baby calves and anything that a "pack" can bring down. Why pay to hunt by air when you can do the same by organized hunting by snowmobiles.

- Coyotes kill calves, fox kill pheasants & partridges.

- Coyotes have devastated the pheasant population. Killing the hens on the nest.

- Coyotes are increasing. We hear them more often and closer. Pheasants appear to be struggling; too many skunks and raccoons.

- Coyotes are getting our pheasant, deer and other animals. Can't raise pheasants and other birds because of them. They have to be controlled somehow.

- Coyote problem! Hats of them, hear packs every night from our bedroom window in summer and fall. State needs to put a bounty on them, trap them or get rid of them by plane or some means, but get it done!! Too many skunks! I've personally trapped or shot 95+ in last 2 years. Need bounty! Too many Canada geese hard on pastures & electric fence. Need to be thinned down! Coons need bounty!!!

- Coyote problem is bad had pair of them living right by farm tracks in yard. Was worried about calving. So told game warden he sent trapper and he caught them fine job good man. You are so dumb should allow snow mobiles to hunt them be the cheapest way to control them. Had a friend who had coyote den on his property and there was 17 deer fawns remains around den

- Coyote problem

- Coyote population must be reduced

- Control the beaver population. They are destroying what trees we have around the ponds, sloughs and lakes. They did a job on some of the pine trees I planted along the creek between Cottonwood Lake and Roy Lake.

- Control coyotes. Control the skunks, coyotes, raccoons, bald eagles and hawks for the pheasant population

- Control coyotes too many hawks taking young birds and adult pheasants in late fall and winter

- Control coyotes damage they kill cats, dog, cattle

- Continues to increase the pheasant population growth for years to come in whatever efforts it takes!

- Consider moving antelope to a later date. Climate change produces hot days during current season.

- Consider 4-5 roosters per day! Hunting does not affect population levels. Far too many roosters after season closes, probably adversely affects hen survival in areas of limited critical winter habitat

- Commodity prices & greed are destroying habitat! Deport some predators! Good luck!

- Cormorants are very hard on my fish in my pond. Q6 there are low amount of deer now. Plant corn in 1/2 of GFP land keep it there till April 1st. Get season owls and cormorant. Release hen pheasant every year. It does work, I have been doing it for 30 years. If I don't there would be none. We will soon have no out of state hunters, they come to hunt and get no birds. Stop releasing Kansas blue backs in SD.

- Close season for at least 2 years or until number of deer increases

- Chicken hawks are killing a lot of pheasants

- Cheaper licenses for out of state land owners.

- Charge less for out of state licenses my group quit coming fee too high.

- Changes need to be made for Canada goose season out of state hunters should be able to buy a license just like pheasant hunters. We need a spring season also. And quit raising license prices, this only reduces amount of hunters. Have an antlerless only season for a couple of years to get numbers under control.

- Can't get hunters to shoot does. They all want bucks. We need doe only permits lots of them.

- Cancel the late antlerless deer season, the deer are stressed enough without being harassed that late in the year. Also the state ADC program kills too many coyotes in our area on neighboring land, if a problem occurs, take the few coyotes that are problems, do not fly the area and kill from 20-40 coyotes in a large area that are not bothering anyone. Use more specific methods to get only the problem coyotes.

- Canada geese take a long time to reestablish, now because of a few farmers that receive public (tax public) subsidies, complain about geese eating some of their crops we are viewing those beautiful geese as pests. The hunters shoot and throw away the geese, they can't possibly eat 15 birds a day, they just shoot and throw. They (hunters) have mindset that geese are pests like what they call snow geese "sky carp"

- Canada geese eat the row crops off as soon as it emerges. Day after day. Possibly be allowed to reduce goose numbers.

- Canada geese cause many dollars worth of crop damage in this area and I feel that there needs to be higher daily limits along with permits for depredation in the spring to control numbers before or during nesting.

- Canada goose population too high crop damage

- Canada geese should be hunted all year long to slow the population growth and the destruction of crops.

- Canada geese in the spring are a real problem in my corn and bean fields. Coyote numbers need to be reduced to help pheasant population.

- Canada geese are a major problem in this area. I don't know how you could get enough hunters to help eliminate the problem. I let everybody hunt who want to. The electric fence that was put up last year really helped.

- Buck tags should go to doe tags in late season "it saves the little buck."

- Bring back the west river early October antlerless season. It is too conflicting with holidays & too dang cold in December & January especially for old timers

- Better enforcement of illegal snowmobile use (trespassing & harassing wildlife)

- Better control of coyotes or allow landowner to hunt with vehicle on own land coyotes are killing calves and sheep.

- Being a non-resident landowner, I dislike the fact I can't get a landowner deer license other than a late draw which means does.

- Been dry for geese year before was a few. This year with the dead ones we found it will be sometime til deer are a problem. The pheasants did good, the drought did in many deer. Ducks and geese that were in ponds this summer before were gone last year without rains this year see problems for all wildlife. Pray for rain!

- Because of the extended winter this year is the reason for deer problems because of snow.

- Because if you had a buck license and didn't get a deer you could hunt the extended season.

- Beavers cutting down planted trees

- Beaver are the biggest problem they take a lot of corn along the river banks making food stores in the water.

- Basically I think the GFP is doing a good job and addresses problems. Coyotes are the main problem. The GFP is addressing that issue. It is just too big of a problem statewide to deal with adequately.

- Badgers, raccoons and fox are hard on pheasants!

- Badgers digging holes everywhere

- Badgers are causing lots of problems would like to see a state trapper utilized. Whitetails make growing trees near impossible w/o expensive and time consuming measures which I don't have time for.

- At some point you need to be less concerned about the non-resident license number and income than the local resident & landowners that bear the cost of all your income. In fact, I have inspected fields of winter wheat that have been all but destroyed by geese, but if that farmer tries to protect his crop, he is in the wrong. I am also not in favor of GFP being competitor in buying land and taking it out of production.

- As the CRP disappears to farming, so will the pheasants! That is their nesting habitat!

- As I see it you need to get out of trying to manage wildlife. Where I grew up we had a good balance. Not as many skunks, not as many coyotes, ample deer, partridge, jack rabbits, plenty of pheasants. No mountain lions, no wolves, civet cats, badgers, a great balance but now after years of trying to control we have this.

- As an out of state landowner, I would do more hunting if the license fees and hunting times were more in line with residents. I already pay in excess of $7000 in property taxes.

- As an oats farmer, Canada geese are my main concern. Once the oats are windrowed I have a real problem with the geese cleaning out large sections of the windrows.

- As a landowner, I would like to have the opportunity to hunt deer from the beginning of the regular season to the close of the antlerless season if I have any unfilled tags. Our land provides for the deer year round. I leave some corn for the deer and pheasants for the winter. This winter they are showing signs of hunger as the snow and cold lingers on.

- Area Walworth County farmers/ranchers seem to think the coyote population is high. My guess would be that the number of hunters is on a decline. CRP acres is also going down which will have an impact of pheasant, duck, & deer population.

- Anyone who what's to shoot a deer can do it in 9 days. A lot of people will not shot does til late season. If we need to kill more antlerless deer sell licenses for a special season.

- Any predator should be allowed to be hunted by any means including snowmobiles.

- Antlerless seasons should occur early to mid-December so more hunters return and more antlerless deer are taken. While the bucks antlers are not shedding yet.

- Animals die from disease; poaching; cars; harsh winters and dry summers and predators. We don't need more hunting rights.

- Allow scopes on muzzleloaders

- Allow preference to immediate family member no longer living @ home on the farm. Allow owners to grant preference certificates to employees.

- Allow non-resident landowners the right and access to licenses like residents have but at non-resident fees scale currently in place. I own the land I've paid taxes for 22 years I should be able to hunt.

- Allow more non-resident hunters

- Allow more deer to be shot bucks ruin trees auto damage herds of over 100 sighted crop damage populations have increased.

- Allow more deer permits. Allow more antlerless deer per hunters

- Allow any deer in extended season (deer)

- Allow all landowners to control geese depredation in the spring! Lower water levels in selected low land to bring back cattails instead of water.

- Allow .17 caliber rim fire legal for rabbit at night antlerless season not to run at the same time of the end of pheasant season (hunting lodges are more acceptable if they are not around hunting). Able to shoot Canada geese in spring.

- All deer license should become antlerless after regular season, I did not like the way it was done this year.

- After the final date, I wish the doe season would continue for 2 weeks immediately (not in late Dec & Jan) some years the bucks drop their horns by the late Dec or Jan resulting in inadvertent harvesting of these deer. I have let muzzleloader hunters on my land and have witnessed this more than once. (Need more eastern deer planted in oak wood lake area).

- After deer season closes and cold snowy weather sets in the deer move in to hay stacks. Also in the spring and fall they get in our new tree belt and really raise cain with the young trees. I don't have many acres to hunt but the deer move in after season. They even work on fruit trees in our yard.

- A3a if they shoot only doe. We need to have doe permits filled first before the buck tags are filled. Too many hunters just take the buck and don't fill the doe tag. They can always donate doe to food bank, even with all the dead deer this last fall there are still too many. My cornfield looked terrible by mid-summer.

- A3a definitely for geese. A3b just increase limits and length of season. I guess if I were to make a comment or suggestion I would strongly recommend using good ol' common sense when it comes to managing wildlife. If you can see there is a problem somewhere, address that issue in a timely manner. Muskrats also do a lot of damage to roads when we have a wet season. They undermine culverts and cause them to wash out. They have cost our township plenty through the years.

- A3 starting with that landowner! Q4 pheasants no deer hunting of consequence.

- A-3 more hunters would help but I would like to be able to control just who gets to hunt.

- A2b Canada geese GFP have been very helpful providing fences not sure how this April hunting will help. We will see! Deer population is very low. I enjoy hunting deer and have not harvested a deer in 3 years due to the fact we have very few rifle, muzzle. There is too much pressure on deer. I think youth season is unnecessary the kids can go with parents and help them hunt until they are 16 years old. Land prices are taking out a lot of CRP so in turn our wildlife will suffer even more. The length of deer season is over 5 months the deer need a break they are being run around in December and again in January where numbers are low do not reopen season cutting back on tags was good but the cover areas are getting smaller I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion, farm and so enjoy seeing deer but the numbers are very low. Thanks

- A2a I didn't realize the magnitude until I combined. A3a I had many hunters here more may be unsafe.

- A2 wanted more licenses. A2a you reduced the deer take by not letting buck licenses revert to antlerless in the late season. A3 depends on your season. Q4 we had room & meals for our son & some friends at no charge! Some other friends came after our son & friends were here opening weekend they brought us candy & sausage (2 items). We did not charge them for hunting. Q6. But let all buck licenses revert to antlerless! What are you thinking? There are way too many deer in Tripp County & other counties too! When there are 5-10 deer accidents (with vehicles) in our local paper every week that's too many! Why didn't buck licenses revert to doe licenses in that late December to January season? We could have gotten rid of a few more deer! Landowners feed the bucks as well as the does so those

licenses should be free too. Don't forget who feeds the deer you want to be paid for licenses for. Also put wolves on the hunting list for licenses. Believe it or not, they are here!

- A2 the ranchers whine enough for all of us. Q4. Trespassing illegal hunting. Every year the wildlife populations on our land drop, including predators. GFP blamed the mountain lions now the lions are gone. What who is GFP going to blame now – certainly not hunters, ranchers, & trappers. I think GFP should change its name to wildlife depredation inc or hunters/trapper support group. That would more accurately describe their management style.

- A1 partly some damage but not extreme.

- A rather serious deer disease called blue tongue 2 dead in our farm yard.

- A number of years ago I added a berm on my land to hold more water for nesting waterfall. Unfortunately it has had little impact on waterfall but has had a very negative impact on deer & pheasants populations. The flooded area has taken away almost all of my prime pheasant nesting area along with food plot capabilities.

- A need for non-game bird/wildlife management

- A modest bounty on coyotes $10-$20

- A herd of 30-40 deer "yard up" in my farm yard when I am not there during the winter (homer township). They do extensive damage to trees. I encourage any and all hunters to come and take a shot. Ten years ago I sought help from GFP and was told "perhaps you could leave a dog out there and have someone feed it" (over the winter)! I saw no point in contacting GFP after that.

- 9 days is plenty long for deer seasons, after that hunters become a nuisance

- 9 days any deer no extensions, youth season is too early many fawns still spots. Limit total number of tags anyone can have to say 3 in the state. Unless there are leftovers this would give more people the opportunity to hunt.

- 2012 had very few violations on our property by the hunting public. Biggest concerns are usually people road hunting big game, or snowmobiles trespassing after a deep snow.

- 20 million $$ and counting for GFP land purchases in Fall River Co. with no elk tags for the past 2 years and with only 17 deer tags is a very poor use of the sportsman money.

- $5 bounty payment for raccoons. No hunting or trapping license required for taking raccoons

- #1 mentor season is too early, some fawns are not ready to wean or be on their own. Late antlerless season is very bad. Most bucks have shed and many are harvested. Both East and West River.

- I strongly disagree with the late December/early January antlerless deer season. By then a lot of bucks are shedding their antlers. I try to manage my deer herd for quality bucks. I also allow some public hunting for does after the general rifle season. I did not allow that this

year because of the EHD outbreak. In 2010 and 2011 I let hunters I for the late antlerless season. They pick out the big does so as not to harvest young “button” bucks. In 2010, 3 of the first 5 does that were harvested were bucks that had shed. In 2011, 2 of the first 3 were bucks that had shed. The only way to avoid this is have an earlier antlerless season. Run it shortly after the regular season and don’t wait so long. Antlerless deer NEED to be harvested but not these shed bucks. In 2010 & 2011 I stopped the hunting because of these bucks being harvested. Another item I would like to see addressed is the number of non-resident turkey tags being given out. These are the people that spend money in our state when they come in. They don’t spend it if they don’t draw tags.

- We protect the mule deer does all year long, and they are very gentle. They don’t expect anyone to hunt them, and then this late season hunt comes along and they just stand there and get killed. Sometimes a hunter will shoot 3 or 4 of them before they walk away. Also I don’t like the policy of giving an unlimited number of licenses away from the leftover tags. I heard of a fellow form RC who had a whole bunch of tags like 15-20 and shot that many deer down by Cottonwood SD and was then calling around to find people who would take them. This type of hunter we don’t need. I myself have picked up deer that were shot for depredation purposes and see nothing wrong with this policy if there is a surplus of deer in a certain area, but you nor I can predict whether there is going to be a surplus in a certain area.

  Also I have been going to call some of the Commissioners and discuss this sudden rise in bobcat prices. I am sure that the bobcat population will be wiped out next year if the department doesn’t implement some type of limit or quota or something. I personally sold a medium tomcat for 850 of up to $1400, U gave seen the cats completely wiped out in our area twice in my lifetime and they weren’t this high. Every time they’ve been wiped out it takes 10-15 years before they start to come back and they have never gotten back to where they were when I was young back in the 60s. I know I don’t have a degree in biology, but I think if you were to impose a 2 or 3 cat limit per person, a quota in each area, and shorten the season up to 2 or 3 weeks you could prevent the disaster that’s coming. Anyone of these measures would be better than the present and all three would be great. I am very concerned about this. I have trapped cats since I was 13 years old. I love to catch a big tom once in a while. But I never kill a female or kitten on purpose. My boys and myself use live traps, so as to not hurt the population. The most toms we’ve ever taken in one year on our place is 2 and that’s off nearly 200 acres. I know of individuals who tat 20-40 cats and brag about it. With 80% being females and kittens, they need to be shut off as they don’t have the willpower to help themselves.

  Also, I just came home from CSP with a beautiful mountain lion. I was lucky enough to draw access on the last hound hunt. We took a large female the 1st day. Really appreciate the opportunity to hunt in the park with dogs. [Name] was great and has been a good friend to me for years. My hats off to [name] and all the CSP people and the department for this opportunity. I understand the last hound hunt was 100%.