



Spring Turkey Hunter Opinion Survey – 2018

523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

Report of Results 2018 Spring Turkey Hunter Opinion Survey

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This survey informs the following South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Strategic Plan and Wild Turkey Management Plan objectives:

GFP Strategic Plan 2016-2020

- Confidence Goal/Objective C: Provide opportunities for meaningful public input
- Opportunities Goal/Objective B: Enhance hunting and trapping opportunities;

South Dakota Wild Turkey Management Plan 2016-2020

- Objective 6/ Strategy C: Conduct a wild turkey hunter survey to determine current opinion on the use of rifles during the spring wild turkey season.

Methods

There were 11,055 unique license holders for the 2018 spring turkey hunting seasons. A disproportionate stratified random sample of firearm and archery spring turkey hunters was used to provide representative data for the population of spring turkey hunters, as well as license category (firearm or archery). In disproportionate stratified sampling the sizes of the different subgroups (strata) may vary and not represent the percentage of the subgroup within the larger population. This type of sampling provides the advantage of being able to examine responses of subgroups, particularly in cases where some subgroups are small and a proportionate sample might include only a few individuals within that group. Weighting was used for all combined analyses to ensure a proportional representation of hunters at the statewide level.

A total of 10,332 spring turkey license holders have an associated email address in GFP's 2018 license database. Given this high coverage rate (93%), an internet-based survey was administered. A sample of 1,250 firearm hunters¹ and 1,250 archery hunters² was drawn from the 2018 GFP license database for a total sample size of 2,500. The survey was administered using a modified Tailored Design Method; was designed to be accessible by invitation only, and setup to prevent repeated access once the survey was completed (Dillman et al. 2014). Up to three emails were sent to hunters in the sample asking for their participation in the survey and providing them with a unique link to access the survey. All survey data was analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software package.

¹ The firearm hunter stratum includes hunters who held only firearm licenses, as well as hunters who held both a firearm license and an archery license. In most cases, there is no statistically significant difference between these two types of firearm hunters. When a statistically significant difference exists, data is presented for each group separately.

² This stratum includes those hunters who only held an archery license.

A total of 939 responses were received. Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 2,439 hunters, resulting in a total survey response rate of 38.5% and a margin of sampling error of ± 3 percent overall. The margin of sampling error at the strata level was ± 4 percent (table 1). Normalized weights were calculated for each strata and applied in population wide analyzes.³ The completion rate for this survey (number of surveys completed divided by the number of surveys started) was 91 percent.

Table 1: Margin of Sampling Error and Weights

Strata	Population Size	Useable Response	Margin of Sampling Error	Normalized Weight
Firearm Hunters	8,750	540	4.1	1.47
Archery Hunters	1,582	399	4.2	0.35

Results

Hunting Tenure

- Over half (55%) of spring turkey hunters have been hunting the spring firearm turkey seasons for 6 or more years. *Figure 1*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between firearm hunters and archery hunters in tenure of hunting the spring firearm turkey seasons [$\chi^2=8.191$ (2, N=681) $p=0.017$; Cramer's V 0.11].⁴ Over one-third (39%) of firearm hunters had hunted these seasons 11 or more years compared with 27 percent of archery hunters. About half (53%) of archery hunters had hunted the firearm seasons five years or less compared to 41 percent of firearm hunters. *Figure 2*
- Over one-quarter (27%) of spring turkey hunters have hunted the spring archery turkey season for 6 or more years. *Figure 3*
- There were statistically significant but negligible differences between firearm hunters and archery hunters in tenure of hunting the spring archery turkey season [$\chi^2=6.074$ (2, N=548) $p=0.05$; Cramer's V 0.10]. *Figure 4*

³ Normalized weights were calculated by taking the raw weight (proportion of population \div proportion of sample) and dividing by the mean weight.

⁴ Statistical significance is determined by a chi-square statistic p value of ≤ 0.05 . Cramer's V is a statistic used to determine the strength of relationships determined by the chi-square statistic to be significant. The strength of association interpretation for Cramer's V follows: Negligible = 0.0 to 0.10; Minimal = 0.11 to 0.30; Moderate Association = 0.31 to 0.50; and Substantial Association >0.50 (Cohen 1988; Vaske 2008).

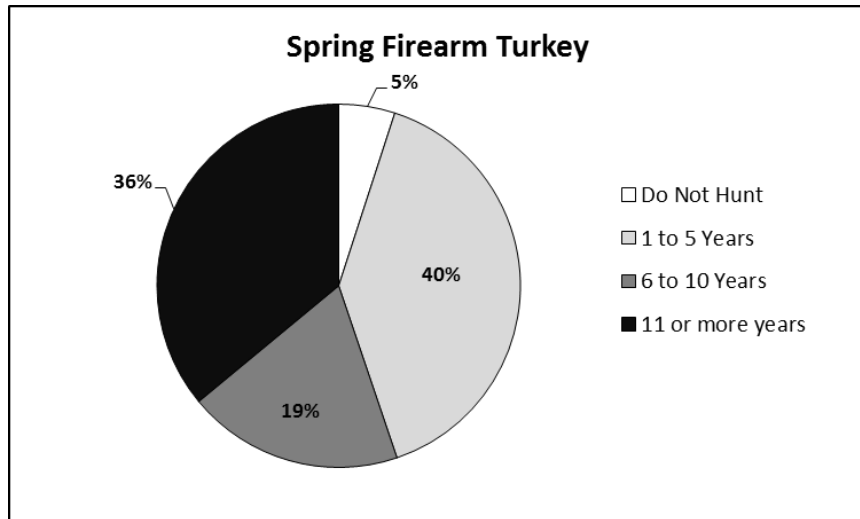


Figure 1: Spring turkey hunters' tenure - spring firearm seasons

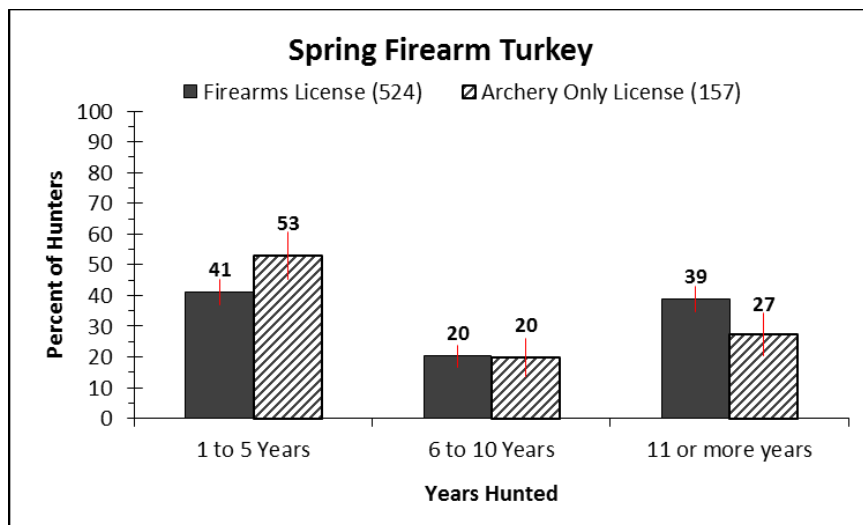


Figure 2: Spring firearm turkey tenure by license category

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

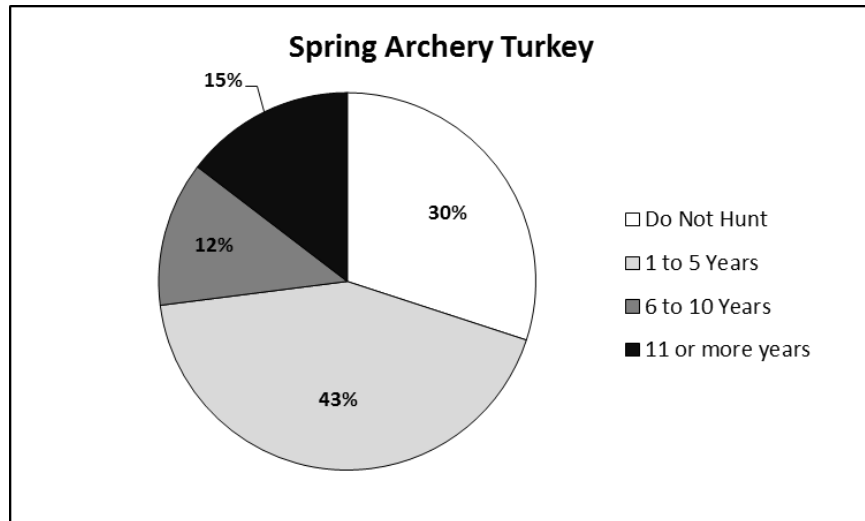


Figure 3: Spring turkey hunters' tenure - spring archery season

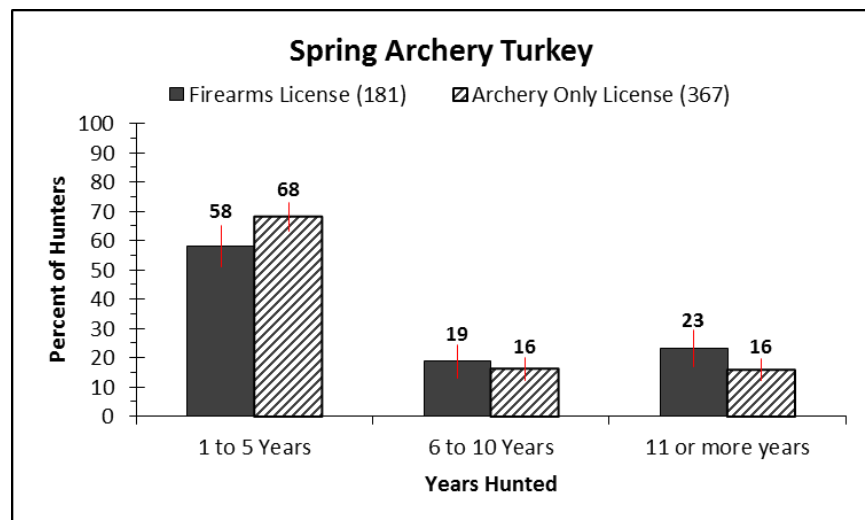


Figure 4: Spring archery turkey tenure by license category

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Most Preferred Weapon

- The majority of spring turkey hunters (70%) indicated their most preferred weapon when hunting spring turkey was a shotgun (shot shell and/or muzzleloading). *Figure 5*
- There was a statistically significant and substantial difference in preferred weapon between hunters holding firearm licenses and those holding archery licenses [$\chi^2=429.256$ (3, N=938) $p \leq 0.001$; Cramer's V 0.68]. Hunters holding archery licenses (80%) were more likely than those with firearm licenses (13%) to prefer to hunt spring turkey with archery equipment. In addition, hunters with firearm licenses (79%) were

more likely than hunters with archery licenses (18%) to prefer to hunt with shotguns.
 Figure 6

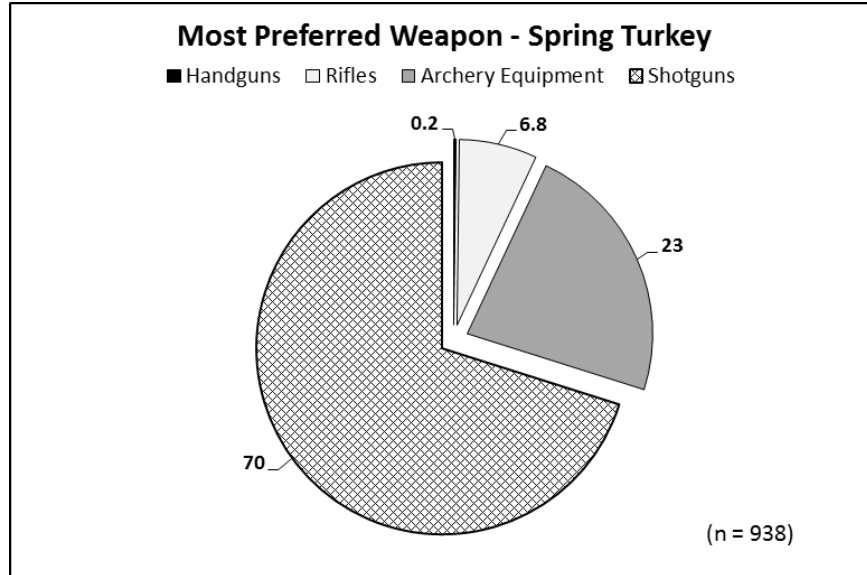


Figure 5: Spring turkey hunters' most preferred weapon

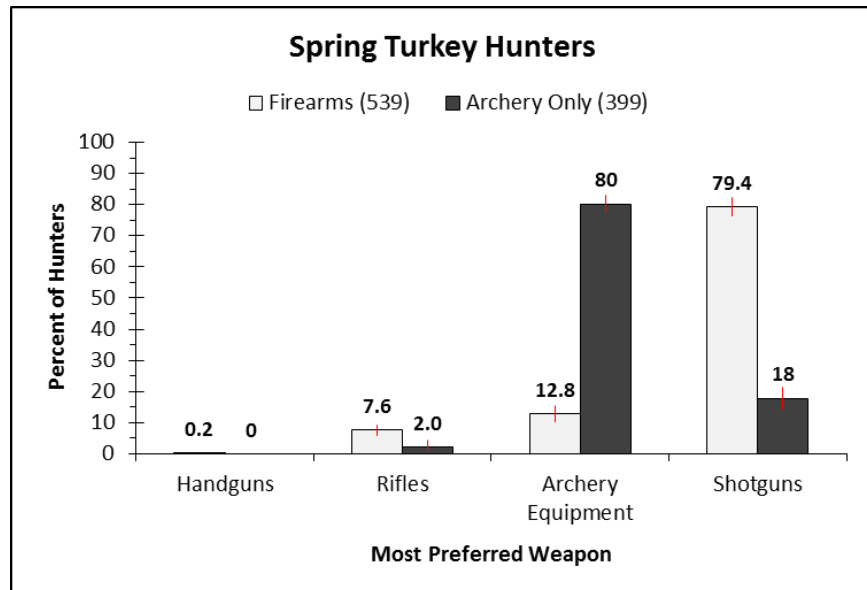


Figure 6: Spring turkey hunters' most preferred weapon by license category
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Land Type Hunted

- On average, hunters typically spend about half (52%) of their time hunting spring firearm turkey on private land. *Figure 7*
- There were no statistically significant differences between firearm license holders and archery license holders in the average amount of time spent hunting spring firearm turkey on private or public land [F (1, 697) = 0.597, p = 0.44; Eta = 0.03].⁵
- Hunters, on average, typically spend the majority (60%) of their time hunting spring archery turkey on private land. *Figure 8*
- There were no statistically significant differences between firearm license holders and archery license holders in the average amount of time spent hunting spring archery turkey on private or public land [F (1, 563) = 0.741, p = 0.39; Eta = 0.036].

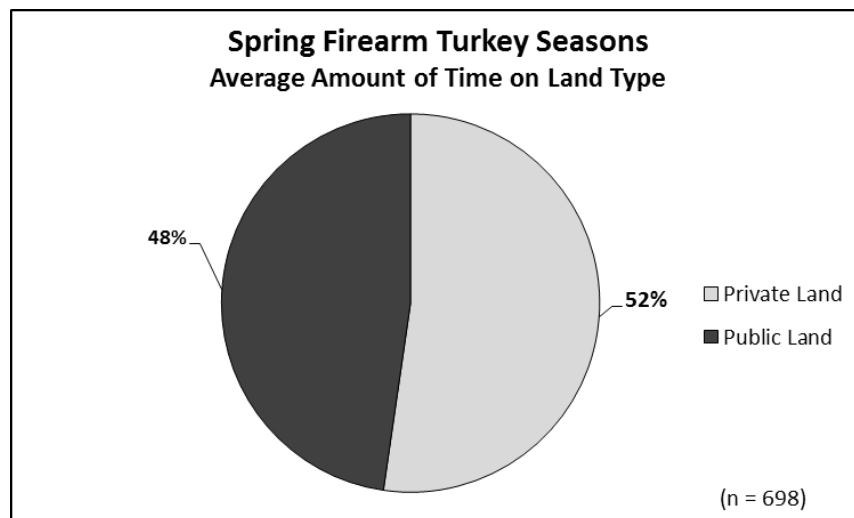


Figure 7: Average amount of total time hunting spring firearm turkey seasons by land type

⁵ Statistical significance is determined by an F statistic p value of ≤ 0.05 . Eta is a measure of strength of relationship. The strength of relationship interpretation for Eta follows: Negligible Association = 0.0 to 0.10; Minimal Association = 0.11 to 0.30; Moderate Association = 0.31 to 0.50; and Substantial Association = >0.50 (Cohen 1988; Vaske 2008).

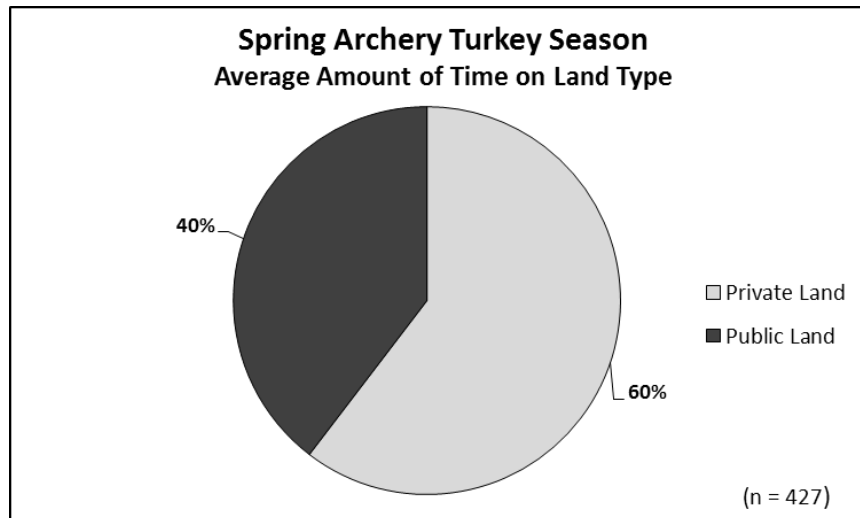


Figure 8: Average amount of total time hunting spring archery turkey season by land type

Season Dates

In 2018 the spring archery turkey seasons (excluding seasons within state park system areas) ran from April 7th to May 20th. The spring firearm turkey seasons ran from April 14 to May 20, 2018. Hunters were asked to indicate their level of support or opposition to maintaining the current season start dates and extending the spring turkey seasons to end on May 31st.⁶

- The majority of spring turkey hunters (61%) support extending the spring archery turkey season to end May 31st. *Figure 9*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between firearm license holders and archery license holders in their level of support/opposition for extending spring archery seasons to the end of May [$\chi^2=17.564$ (4, N=769) $p = 0.002$; Cramer's V 0.15].
- Firearm license holders were more likely than archery license holders to indicate they neither opposed nor supported extending the spring archery turkey season to end on May 31st (31% compared with 22%). In addition, archery license holders were more likely than firearm license holders to strongly support extending the season to the end May (56% compared with 42%). *Figure 10*

⁶ This question specifically excluded seasons within state park system areas.

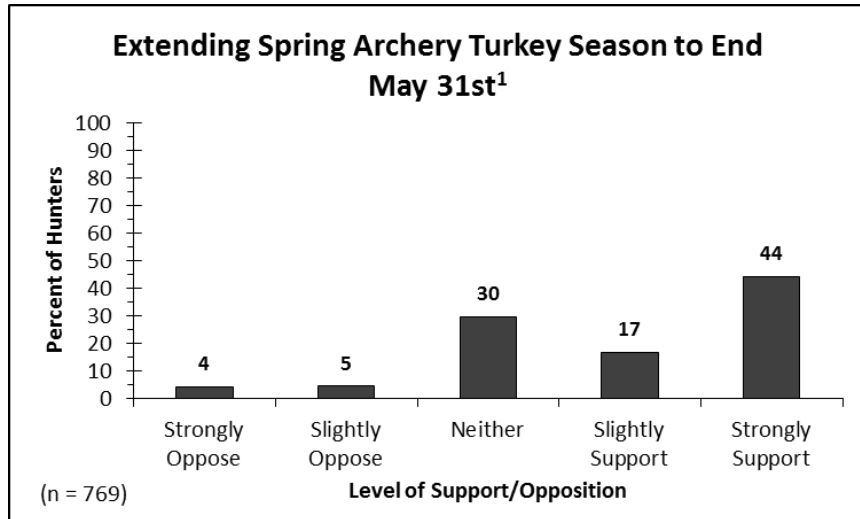


Figure 9: Spring archery turkey season date extension

¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

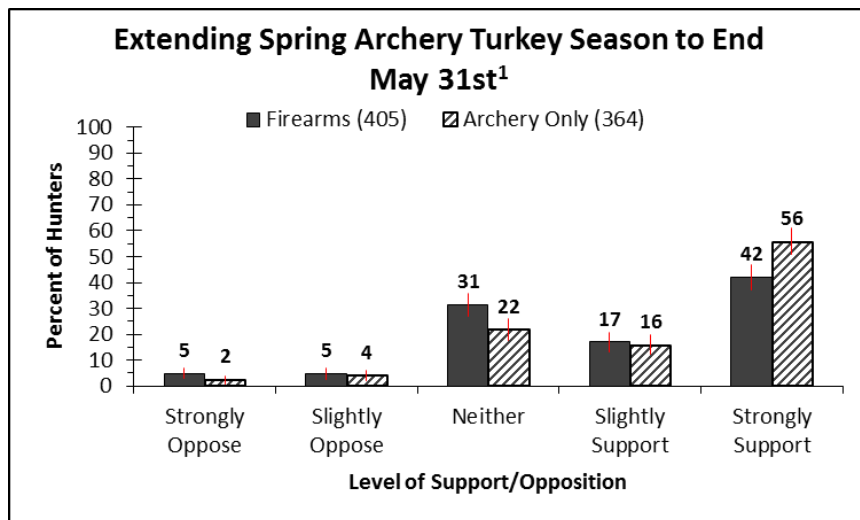


Figure 10: Spring archery turkey season date extension by license category

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals; ¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

- The majority of spring turkey hunters (61%) support extending the spring turkey mentored youth seasons to end May 31st. *Figure 11*
- There were no statistically significant differences between firearm license holders and archery license holders in the level of support/opposition for season date extension to the spring turkey mentored youth season [$\chi^2=7.489$ (4, N=665) $p = 0.112$; Cramer's V 0.10].

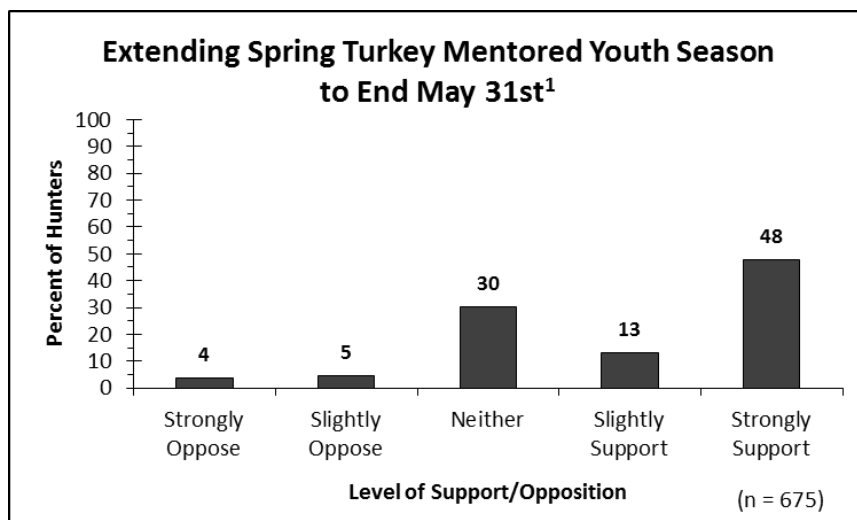


Figure 11: Spring turkey mentored youth season date extension

¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

- The majority of spring turkey hunters (60%) support extending the prairie firearm spring turkey season to end May 31st. *Figure 12*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between firearm license holders and archery license holders in their level of support/opposition for extending the prairie firearm spring turkey season [$\chi^2=29.057$ (4, N=750) $p < 0.001$; Cramer's V 0.20].
- Firearm license holders were more likely than archery license holders to strongly support extending the prairie firearm spring turkey season to the end of May (45% compared with 29%). In addition, archery license holders were more likely than firearm license holders to indicate they neither opposed nor supported this extension (37% compared with 26%). *Figure 13*

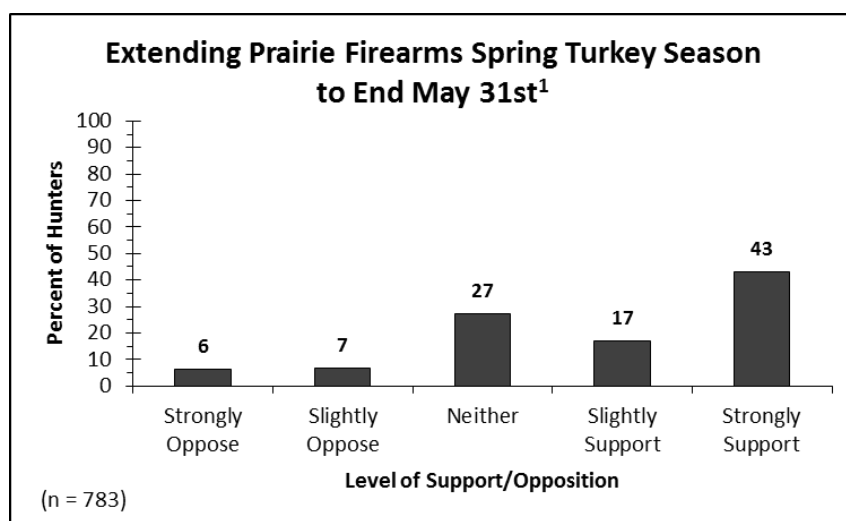


Figure 12: Prairie Firearm Spring Turkey season date extension

¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

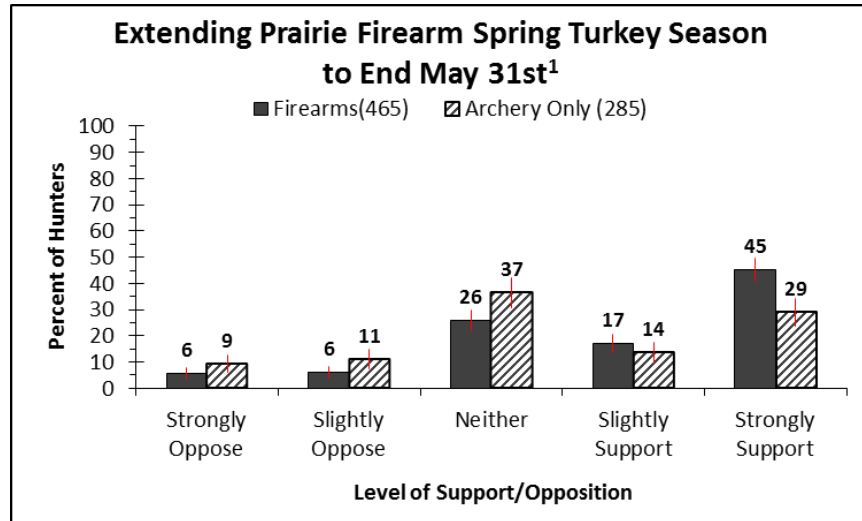


Figure 13: Prairie firearm spring turkey season date extension by license category

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals; ¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

- More than half of spring turkey hunters (58%) support extending the Black Hills firearm spring turkey season to end on May 31st. *Figure 14*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories and hunters' level of support/opposition for extending the Black Hills firearm spring turkey season date to end May 31st [$\chi^2=48.752$ (8, N=741) $p < 0.001$; Cramer's $V 0.18$].
- Hunters who held only a firearms license were more likely than those with an archery only license to strongly support the Black Hills firearms spring turkey season date extension (44% compared with 23%). In addition, archery only license holders were more likely than firearm only license holders to indicate they neither opposed nor supported the season date extension (44% compared with 28%). Hunters who held both a firearm and archery license were statistically similar to those who held only an archery license; however, caution should be used in interpreting results from this subgroup due to the relatively small sample size ($n = 75$). *Figure 15*

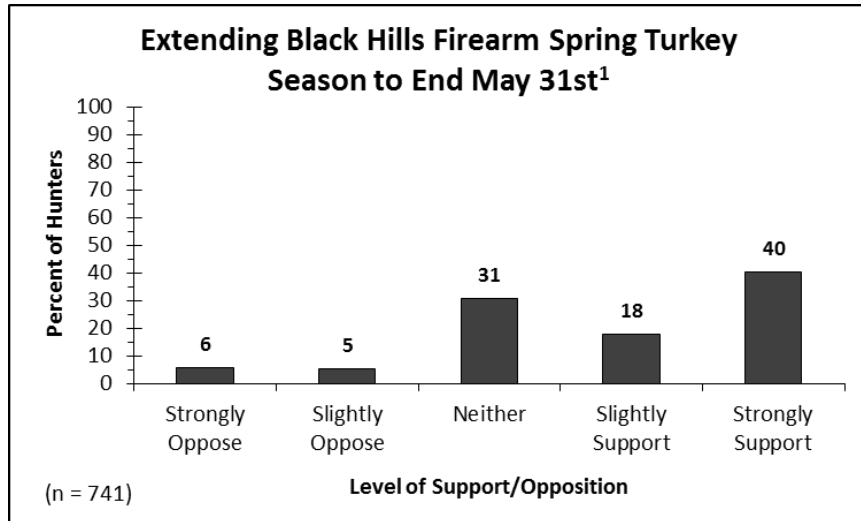


Figure 14: Black Hills firearm spring turkey season date extension
¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

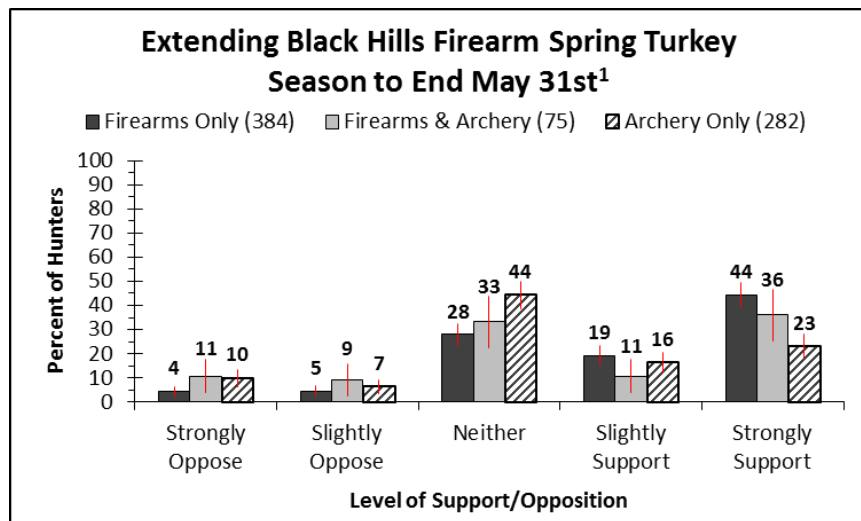


Figure 15: Black Hills firearm spring turkey season date extension by license category
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals; ¹Excludes seasons within state park system areas

Decoy Use

- Approximately three-quarters (76%) of spring turkey hunters indicate they normally use turkey decoys when hunting spring turkey seasons. *Figure 16*
- There were statistically significant but negligible differences between license categories and hunters' use of turkey decoys [$\chi^2=7.491$ (1, N=923) $p = 0.003$; Cramer's V 0.09]. *Figure 17*

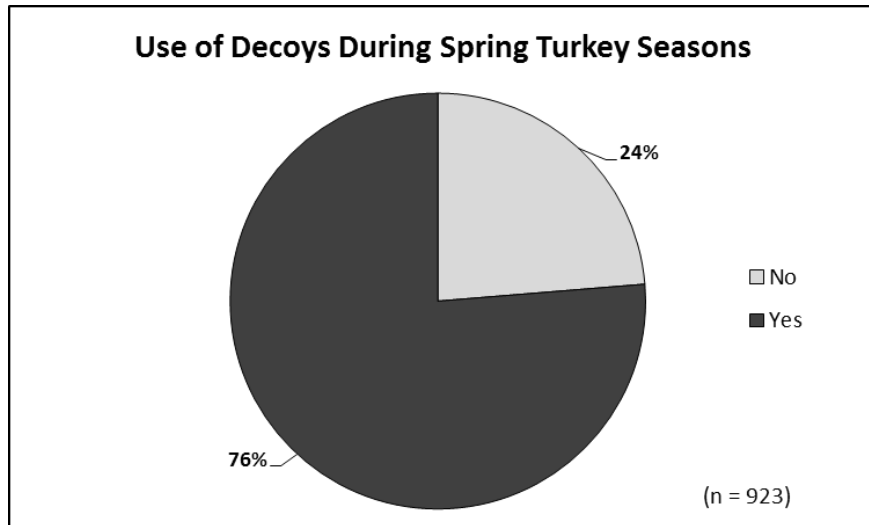


Figure 16: Decoy use during spring turkey seasons

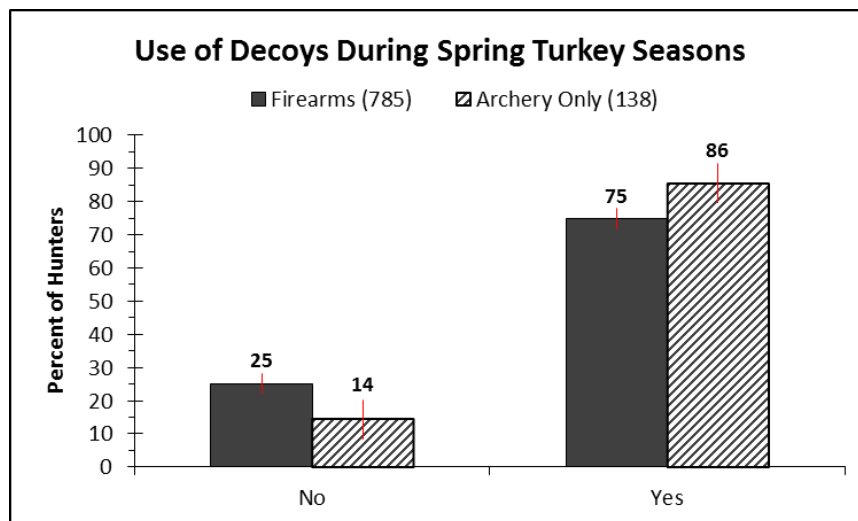


Figure 17: Decoy use during spring turkey seasons by license category
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

- Approximately half (54%) of spring turkey hunters were not concerned for hunter safety with the use of realistic full body or tail fan decoys when hunting spring firearm turkey seasons. One-quarter (26%) were slightly concerned, while 7 percent were very concerned. *Figure 18*
- There were no statistically significant differences between license categories and hunters' level of concern for hunter safety with the use of turkey decoys [$\chi^2=4.575$ (3, N=895) $p = 0.206$; Cramer's $V 0.07$].

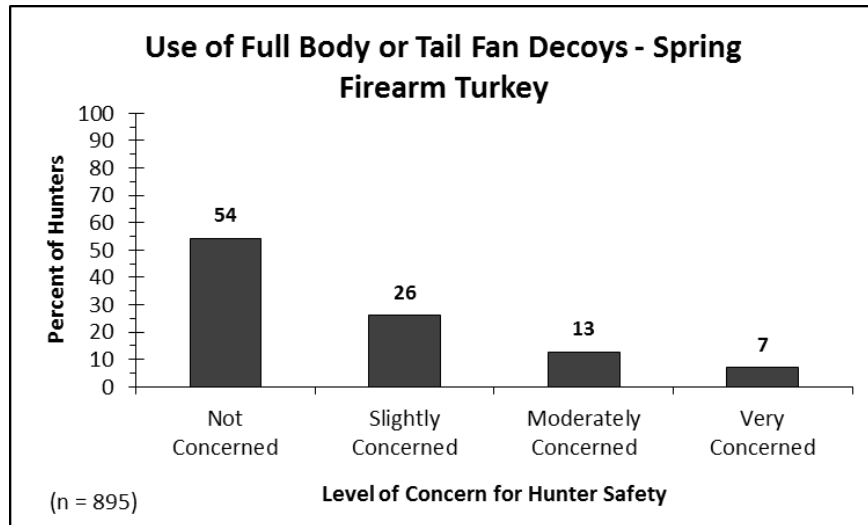


Figure 18: Level of concern for hunter safety with use of turkey decoys – spring firearm turkey

- The majority of spring turkey hunters (80%) indicated they were not concerned for hunter safety with the use of realistic fully body or tail fan decoys when hunting spring archery turkey season. Thirteen percent were slightly concerned, while 4 percent were very concerned. *Figure 19*
- There were statistically significant but negligible differences between license categories and hunters' level of concern for hunter safety with the use of realistic turkey decoys [$\chi^2=8.696$ (3, N=831) $p = 0.03$; Cramer's V 0.10]. *Figure 20*

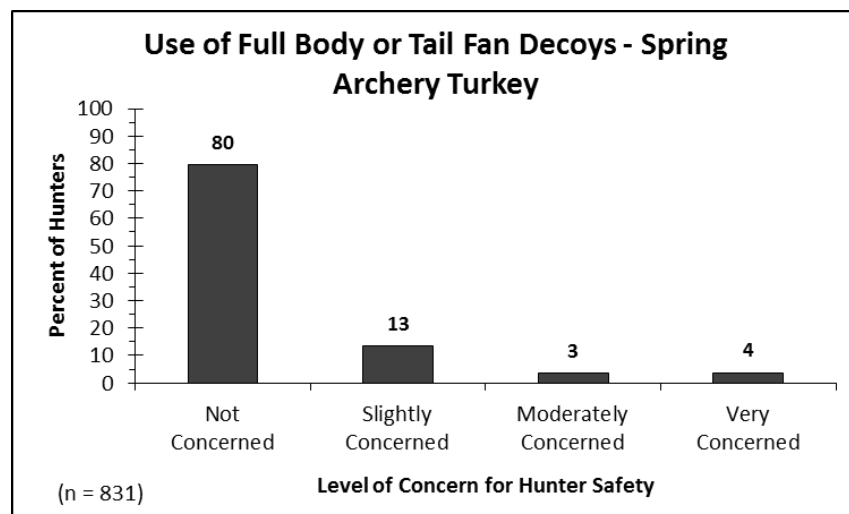


Figure 19: Level of concern for hunter safety with use of turkey decoys - spring archery turkey

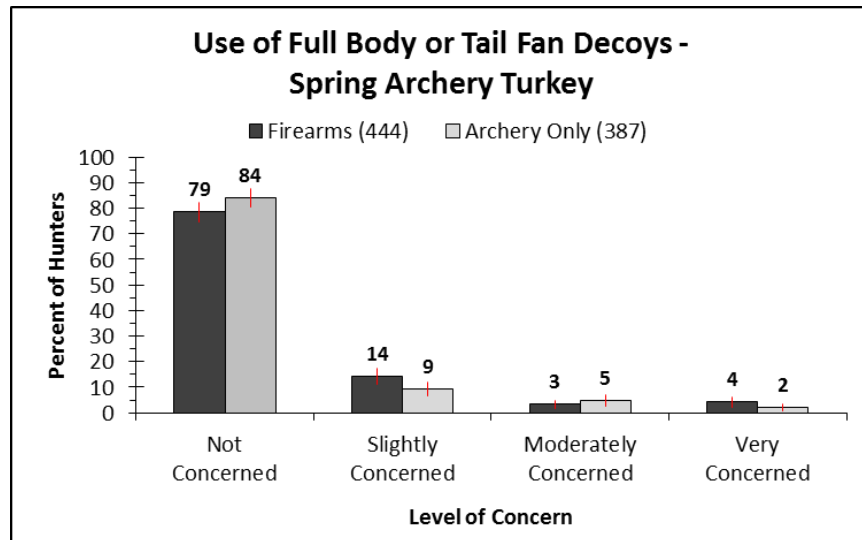


Figure 20: Level of concern for hunter safety with use of turkey decoys by license category - spring archery turkey
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Spring Turkey Firearm Restrictions

- Just under half (47%) of spring turkey hunters supported restricting firearms to shotgun only during all spring firearm turkey seasons. One-third (34%) of hunters were opposed to this restriction, and 19 percent neither opposed nor supported this restriction. *Figure 21*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories and hunters' level of support/opposition to restricting firearms to shotgun only during all spring turkey seasons [$\chi^2=10.361$ (4, N=754) $p = 0.04$; Cramer's V 0.12].
- Spring turkey hunters who held only an archery license were more likely than those who held firearm licenses to strongly support restricting firearms to shotgun only during all spring firearm turkey seasons (42% compared with 33%). *Figure 22*
- Just under half (48%) of spring turkey hunters supported restricting firearms to shotgun only during the East River prairie firearm spring turkey season. Nearly one-third (30%) opposed this restriction and 23 percent neither opposed nor supported it. *Figure 23*
- There was no statistically significant difference between license categories in level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotguns only during East River firearm spring turkey seasons [$\chi^2=6.884$ (4, N=748) $p = 0.14$; Cramer's V 0.10].

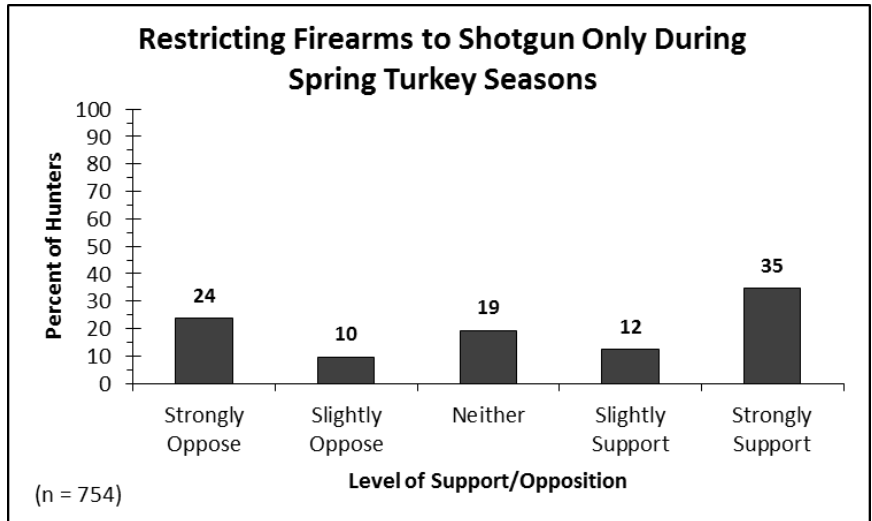


Figure 21: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only for all spring firearm turkey seasons

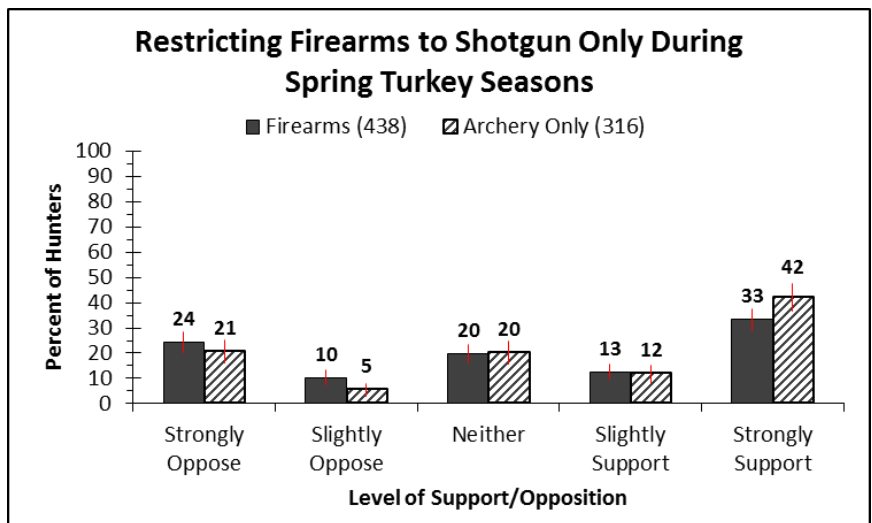


Figure 22: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only during all spring firearm turkey seasons by license category

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

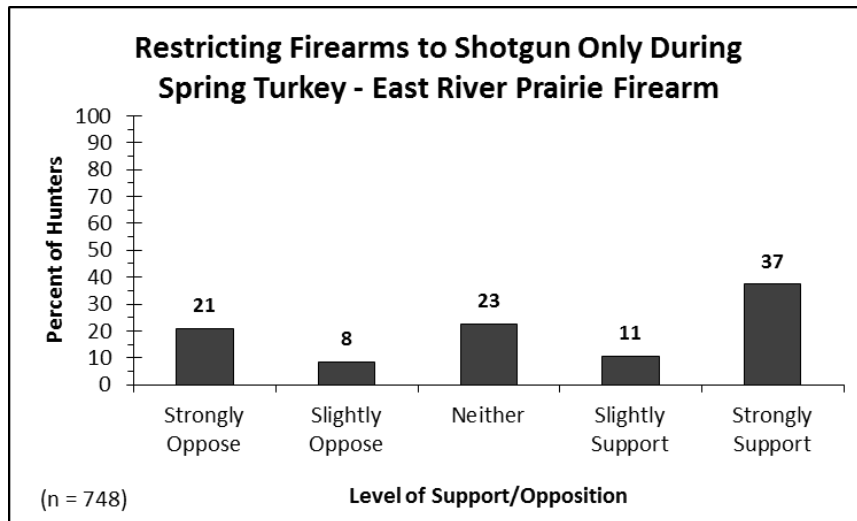


Figure 23: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only during East River prairie firearm spring turkey

- Less than half (42%) of spring turkey hunters support restricting firearms to shotgun only during the West River prairie firearm spring turkey seasons. Over one-third (35%) oppose this restriction and 23 percent neither oppose nor support it. *Figure 24*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories in their level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotguns only during West River prairie firearm spring turkey seasons [$\chi^2=13.085$ (4, N=721) $p = 0.01$; Cramer's V 0.14].
- Spring turkey hunters who held only archery licenses were more likely than those with firearms licenses to strongly support this restriction (40% compared with 30%), while those with firearms licenses were more likely to strongly oppose the restriction (28% compared with 18%). *Figure 25*

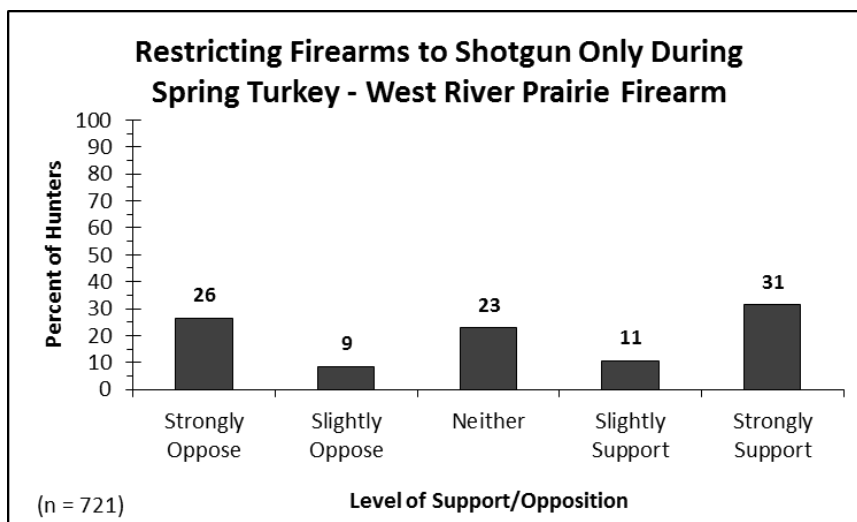


Figure 24: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only during West River prairie firearm spring turkey

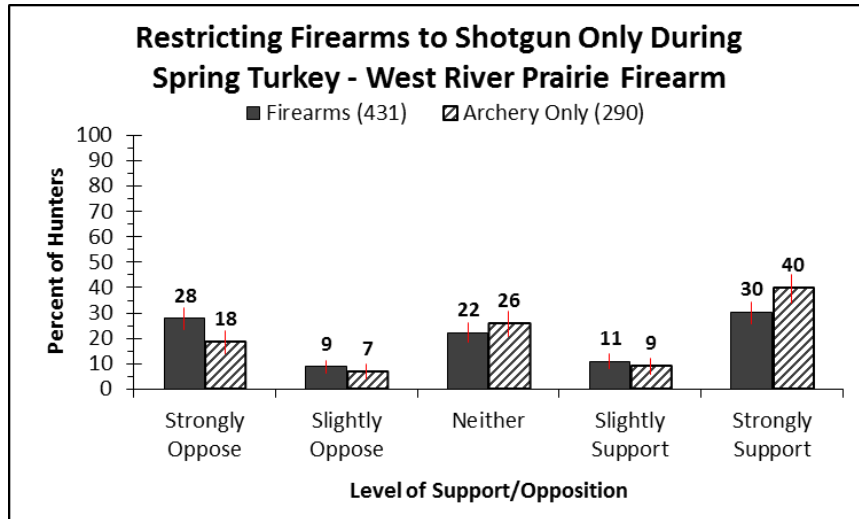


Figure 25: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only during West River prairie firearm spring turkey by license category
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

- Nearly half of spring turkey hunters (49%) support restricting firearms to shotgun only during the Black Hills firearm spring turkey season. Over one-quarter (29%) oppose this restriction and 22 percent neither oppose nor support it. *Figure 26*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories in their level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotgun on during Black Hills firearm spring turkey season [$\chi^2=11.760$ (4, N=732) $p = 0.02$; Cramer's $V 0.13$].
- Spring turkey hunters who held a firearms license were more likely than those with an archery license to be opposed to this restriction (30% compared with 19%). *Figure 27*

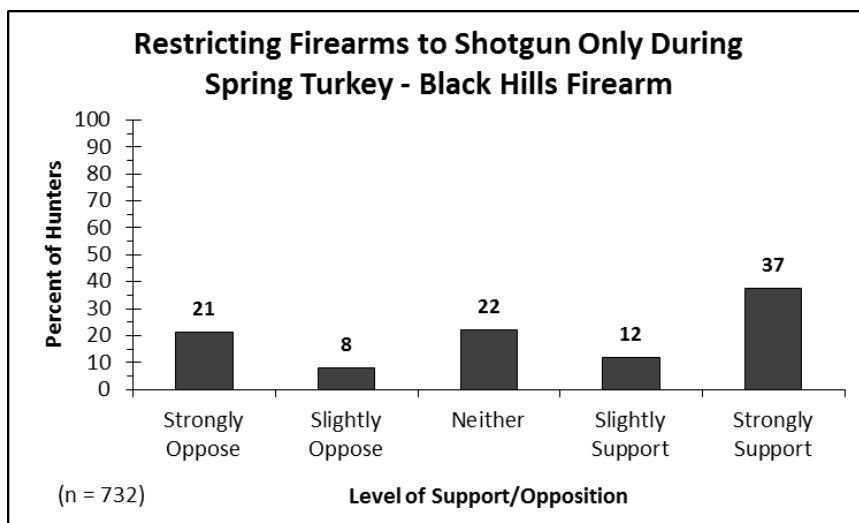


Figure 26: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only during Black Hills firearm spring turkey

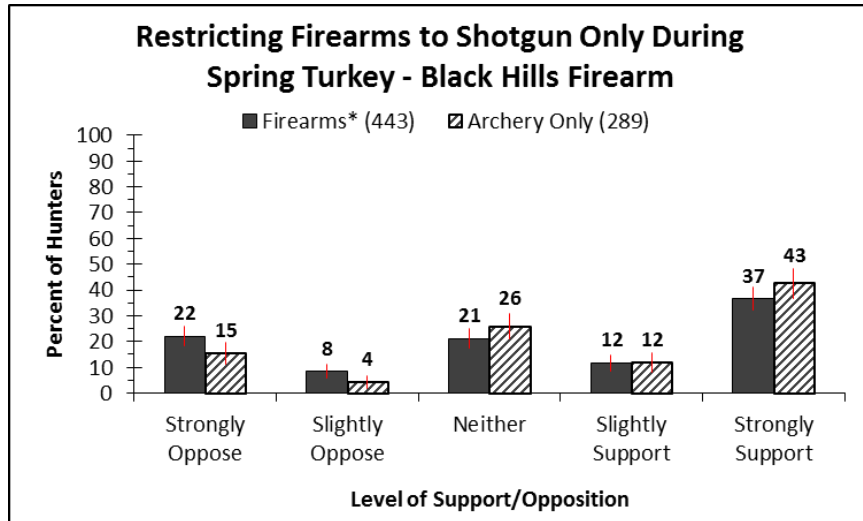


Figure 27: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only during Black Hills firearm spring turkey by license category

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

Spring Turkey Firearm Restrictions – Public Hunting Access

- Half of spring turkey hunters (50%) support restricting firearms to shotgun only on lands open to public hunting during all spring turkey seasons. Nearly one-third (31%) of hunters were opposed to this restriction. *Figure 28*
- There was no statistically significant difference between license categories in level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotguns only on lands open to public hunting during all spring turkey seasons [$\chi^2=9.315$ (4, N=764) $p = 0.054$; Cramer's V 0.11].

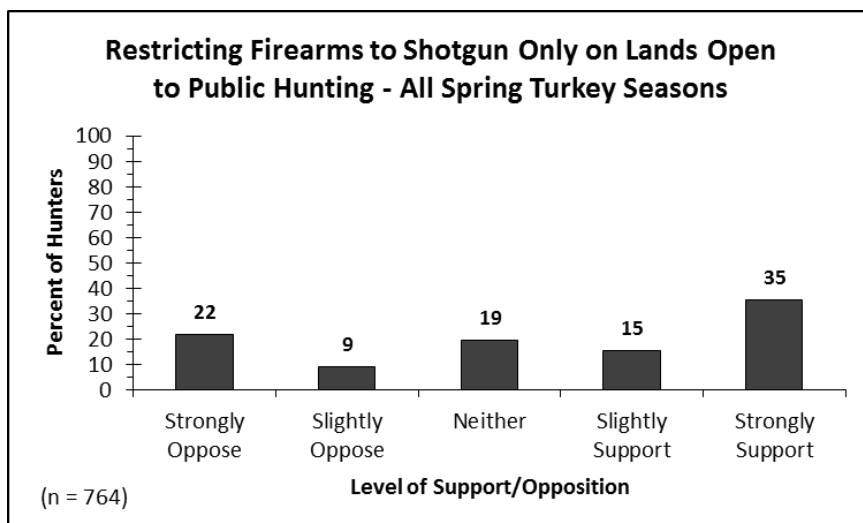


Figure 28: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting - all spring turkey seasons

- Half of spring turkey hunters (50%) support restricting firearms to shotgun only on lands open to public hunting during East River prairie firearm spring turkey seasons. Over one-quarter (28%) of hunters were opposed to this restriction. *Figure 29*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories in their level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotguns only on lands open to public hunting during East River prairie firearm spring turkey seasons [$\chi^2=9.930$ (4, N=700) $p = 0.04$; Cramer's V 0.12].
- Spring turkey hunters who held a firearms license were more likely than those with an archery license to be opposed to this restriction (29% compared with 20%), and those who held only archery licenses were more likely to be in support (56% compared with 49%). *Figure 30*

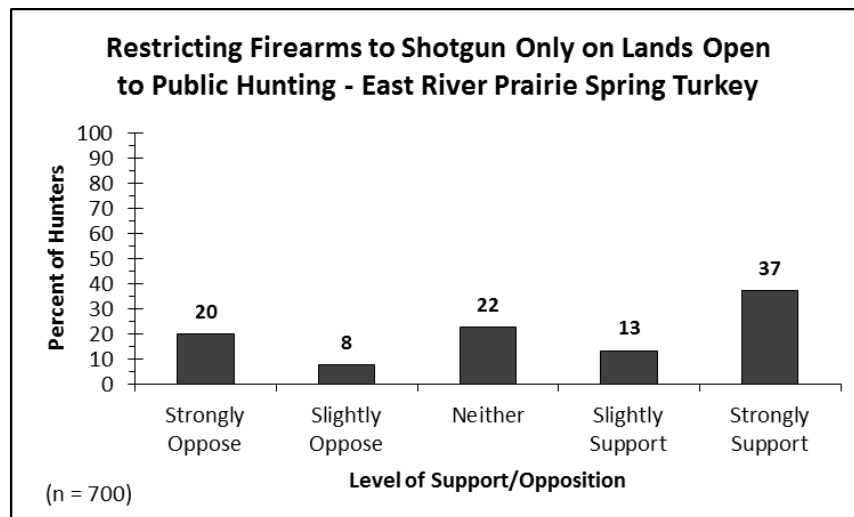


Figure 29: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting - East River prairie spring turkey

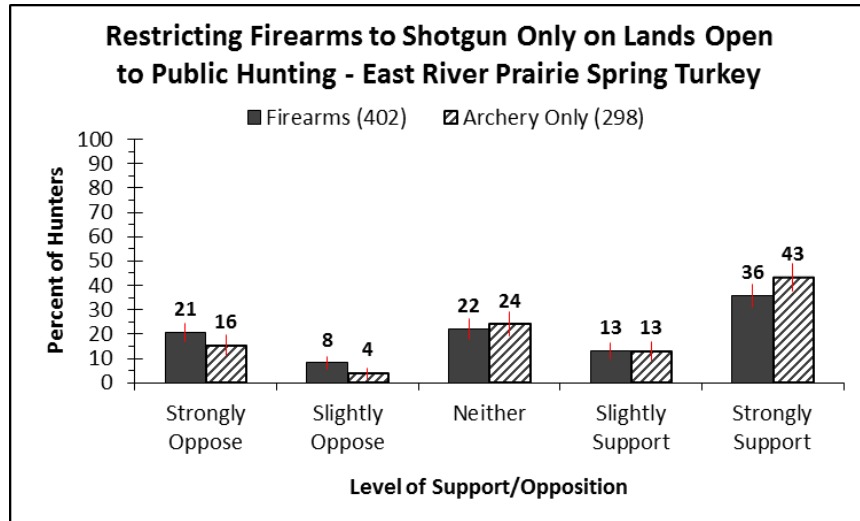


Figure 30: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting by license categories - East River prairie spring turkey
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

- Less than half of spring turkey hunters (46%) support restricting firearms to shotgun only on lands open to public hunting during West River prairie firearm spring turkey seasons. One-third of hunters (33%) opposed this restriction. *Figure 31*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories in their level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotguns only on lands open to public hunting during West River prairie firearm spring turkey seasons [$\chi^2=17.743$ (4, N=675) $p = 0.001$; Cramer's V 0.16].
- Spring turkey hunters who held a firearms license were more likely than those with an archery license to be opposed to this restriction (35% compared with 21%), and those who held only archery licenses were more likely to be in support (53% compared with 45%). *Figure 32*

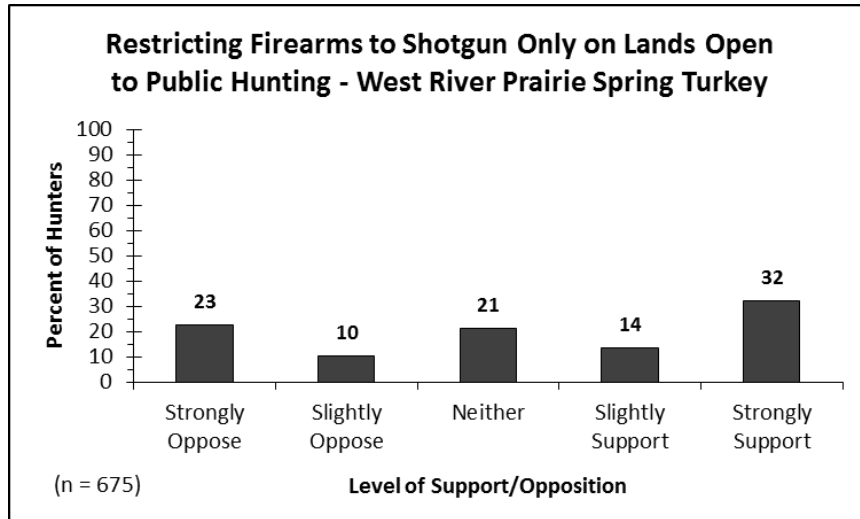


Figure 31: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting - West River prairie spring turkey

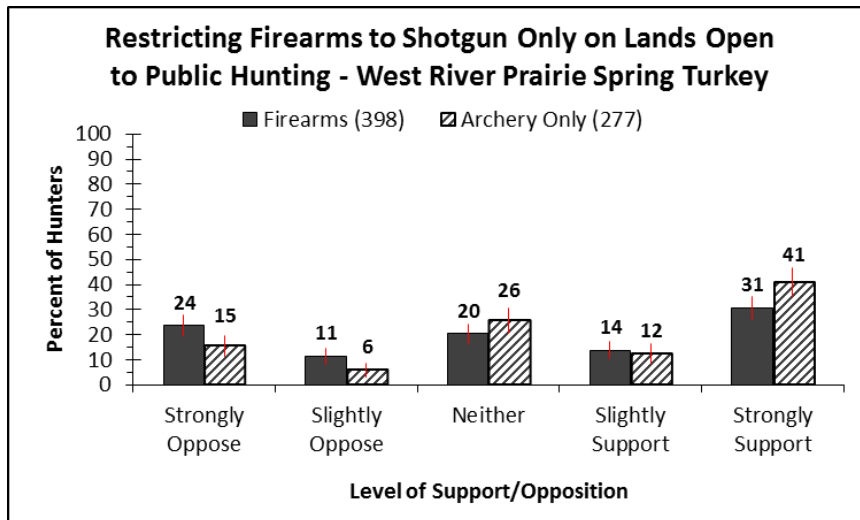


Figure 32: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting by license categories - West River prairie spring turkey
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

- About half of spring turkey hunters (51%) support restricting firearms to shotgun only on lands open to public hunting during Black Hills firearm spring turkey season. Nearly one-third (30%) oppose this restriction. *Figure 33*
- There were statistically significant but minimal differences between license categories in their level of support/opposition for restricting firearms to shotguns only on lands open to public hunting during Black Hills firearm spring turkey season [$\chi^2=17.816$ (4, N=693) $p = 0.001$; Cramer's $V 0.16$].

- Spring turkey hunters who held a firearms license were more likely than those with an archery license to be opposed to this restriction (32% compared with 18%), and those who held only archery licenses were more likely to neither oppose nor support this restriction (27% compared with 18%). *Figure 34*

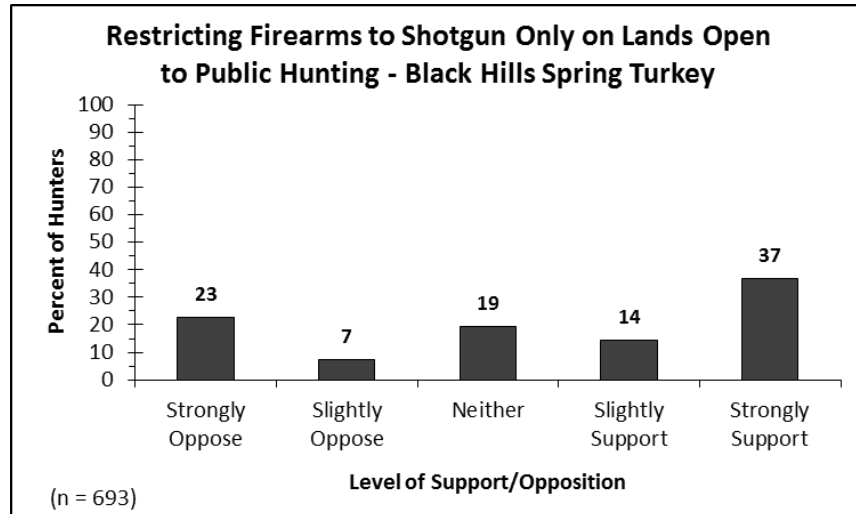


Figure 33: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting - Black Hills spring turkey

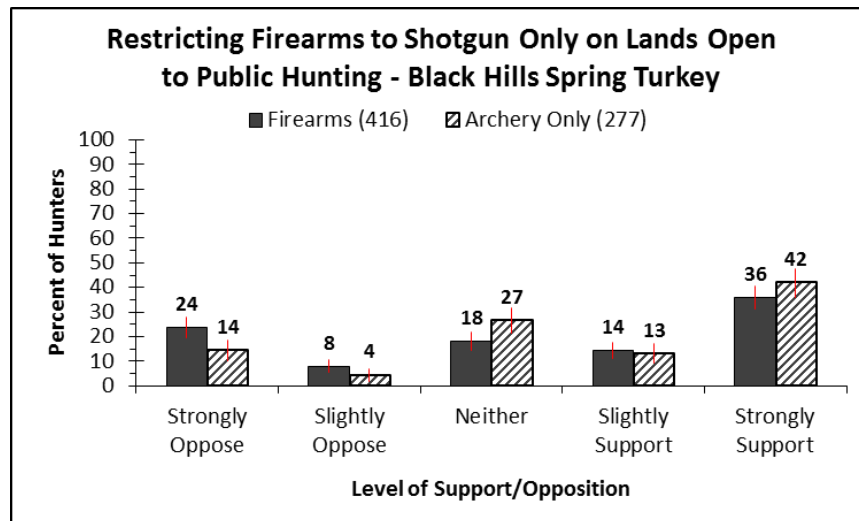


Figure 34: Level of support/opposition for shotgun only on lands open to public hunting by license categories - Black Hills Spring Turkey
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals

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APPENDICES

Appendix A
Survey Questions (format adjusted)

Q1. Approximately how many years have you hunted Spring Turkey seasons in South Dakota?

Please select one for each type of season:

Season Types	Do not hunt	1 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	10 or more years
Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2. When hunting Spring Turkey, which is your **most preferred** weapon?

Please select one:

- Archery Equipment Rifles (center-fire and muzzleloading)
 Handguns Shotguns (shot shell and muzzleloading)

Q3. How strongly would you support or oppose maintaining current season start dates and extending the following Spring Turkey seasons, *excluding seasons within state park system areas*, to end on May 31st?

Please select one for each season:

Spring Turkey Seasons	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support
Black Hills Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prairie Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mentored Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4. Typically, how much of your time Spring Turkey hunting do you spend on private and/or public land?

Please indicate time on each type of land for each season type:

Season Types	Private Land	Public Land	Total
Firearm	_____%	_____%	100%
Archery	_____%	_____%	100%

Q5. Do you normally use turkey decoys when hunting Spring Turkey seasons?

- No
 Yes

- Q6.** How concerned, if at all, are you for hunter safety with the use of realistic full body or tail fan decoys when hunting Spring Turkey seasons?

Please select one for each type of season:

Season Types	Not Concerned	Slightly Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Very Concerned
Firearm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Q7.** How strongly would you support or oppose restricting the following Spring Firearm Turkey hunting seasons to the use of shotguns only?

Please select one for each season:

Firearm Season	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support
East River Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West River Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All Spring Seasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Q8.** How strongly would you support or oppose restricting the following Spring Firearm Turkey hunting seasons **on lands open to public hunting** to the use of shotguns only (rifles and handguns would still be allowed on private lands in units where they are currently allowed)?

Please select one for each season:

Firearm Season	Strongly Oppose	Slightly Oppose	Neither	Slightly Support	Strongly Support
East River Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West River Prairie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Hills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All Spring Seasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank You for your valuable time completing this survey!

Those are all the questions we have for you. If you have additional comments about the Spring Turkey seasons in South Dakota, please use the space below to share your ideas.

Appendix B 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.

* Note – Respondents' comments did not have to be specific to any question asked on the survey but rather they were free to provide additional comments at the end. Text which appears inside brackets [] has been added to clarify respondents' reference to specific survey questions, identify parts of comments which were illegible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information or expletives has been omitted.

- 1009 With a turkey population that continues to grow, I'd like to see more tags available. Unfortunately, I can easily buy KS and NE tags and don't like the thought of giving those states revenue when we have the birds here.
- 1014 I have been hunting Spring Turkey hunt for 16 years south of Rapid City on private land. The only reason I can hunt private land is with shotgun or bow and arrow. The ranchers do not let anyone on their property with rifles or hand guns. Ranchers had bad experiences with hunters using rifles. Thanks and I'll be back next spring.
- 1046 Don't understand why a person cannot purchase a Black Hills turkey tag over the counter in locations in and around the Hills? Or at least make them available to purchase and print out on a home/public computer and printer set up. Kind of crazy in this day and age to have to purchase a turkey tag in an open, non-quota unit and then have it mailed to you from the headquarters in Pierre. I understand the need in limited quota draw units but not in an unlimited unit.
- 1047 I don't believe rifles should be used in turkey hunting.
- 1051 Just a thought but it would be kind of nice of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks to let Military Veterans just purchase a Tag and not have to be part of the drawing. This being in all Game in South Dakota.... Just a thought to give back.... Thanks for your time.
- 1052 I support a longer season because the weather interferes most of the time thank you
- 1085 I think you should just leave things as they are.
- 1088 Rifle use is my one issue with South Dakota Turkey season it's too easy for people to take a long distance shot without thinking of what is behind the bird or if it is a decoy. Please make rifle's illegal!

- 1092 I strongly disagree with extending the season length. Landowners and the game we hunt get pressured enough the way it is. Why even think about extending??
- 1113 I prefer calling turkeys in close, regardless of what tool I'm using to hunt, but there are places (especially West River) where it just isn't practical to hunt turkeys without a rifle. I have no problem with restricting public lands to shotgun only, but what that will effectively do is remove most of the public hunting lands in the West River unit to only a handful of people who would be hardy enough to both cover the miles necessary to find a shot close enough AND have the time and inclination to do so. On a related note I wish that the SDGF&P would open up a crossbow season, especially for turkey. It would be a great option for hunters to have a tag with their choice of archery, shotgun, or crossbow as all have a similar maximum range for turkeys.
- 1134 Enjoy the hunting in the Black Hills.
- 1141 Please restrict use of high power rifles on spring turkey. It's a safety issue and a fair game chase ethics issue. Thanks.
- 1154 I think the Archery season should open up sooner to allow them a better chance at harvesting a bird before all the shotgun hunters are out walking around firing rounds. This would also improve safety as the common bow hunter will use a blind with decoys and can sometimes not be seen by the gun hunter and that could be potentially dangerous.
- 1168 Please stop use of rifles
- 1176 Been seeing what looks to be homeowners feeding turkeys. Hunt all day sometimes and don't see or hear much. Drive by the same places and the yard is full of Turkeys and Deer.
- 1188 Not very many turkeys left on public or private as there were twenty five years ago a lot on reservation land
- 1207 Rifles used for turkey hunting are too dangerous!
- 1218 I strongly support banning the use of rifles or handguns for turkey hunting. It is dangerous and not sporting. I feel they should be banned on public and private land.
- 1221 East River is populated to where rifles would be of the same concern as deer hunting. West River is sparse enough that rifle hunting would not be of a concern.
- 1256 I think that the use of rifles during turkey season is just asking for trouble on any ground. If someone sees a "strutting tom" decoy and doesn't know that there is a hunter behind the decoy, it puts the hunter doing the actual boots to the ground hard hunting at risk of being shot by a rifle. I primarily hunt in a run and gun fashion, where as we typically fan turkeys in using a 1/2 size strutting decoy and hide behind it. Last spring, we were putting a quick stalk on some birds that weren't far off of the road. As we were about to crest the hill to go at the turkeys (we would have been pushing them towards the road as we circled behind the birds), a hunter shot at the turkeys while standing on the road. If we would have been 2 minutes faster at crawling up the hill, he may have shot our decoy without knowing we weren't actual turkeys. I understand this is a different instance, but it makes me believe that when guys are hard after a gobbler from the road, with a shotgun

or rifle, they may not take into account their surroundings and just hone in on shooting what they believe to be a turkey. Thank you and keep up to good work!

- 1260 I believe the length of the current seasons are appropriate for the number of birds that we have. We have seen a decline in numbers since at least 2010 and they have not come back to that level since. I have seen this happen on both public and private land and in the Black Hills as well as the Prairie. I STRONGLY urge you to make the move to a "SHOTGUNS ONLY" turkey season. The time has come for us to consider the safety of others as well as the "fair chase" in turkey hunting. Having read recently that shotgun shells can now be effective at greater distances, there is even less need to "reach out" with a high-power rifle. Thank you.
- 1272 Keep up the good work.
- 1274 The turkey population in the Black Hills seems to have fallen quite a bit
- 1333 Where have all the turkeys gone?
- 1344 extending the season in the Black Hills especially is important and you could favor the resident, residents only get those few extra days. It would be a favorable change for our state residents.
- 1359 South Dakota heritage for turkey hunters has been being able to use a rifle to hunt turkeys! Why isn't our heritage regarded as important or of value? I am proud to be in a state that gives hunters the option to use a rifle and yet we have a wonderful safety record for hunting turkeys even with the rifle option! Proponents of removing the rifle option are not true sportsmen and are not friends of the SD Hunter! They seem to be very ignorant of many of our sports and traditions! If they don't like hunting with a rifle then they shouldn't use one, but they shouldn't try to prevent others from enjoying the tradition.
- 1363 I hunt only private land so I would think some of my opinions might differ from someone whom only hunted public.....
- 1369 Consider opening season a week earlier
- 1371 Muzzle loading weapons should be included with shotguns. thanks
- 1374 very confusing survey.....wording of questions are very hard to understand.....
- 1411 I think it's a good idea just to allow only shotguns only on firearm seasons and to eliminate the use of rifles altogether during the firearm season. With possibly allowing muzzleloader shotgun as well. This would be an option to use during the firearm season.
- 1430 I believe turkey population is down compared to 5 to 10 years ago. The season should remain the same if not shorter and bag limits to 1 state wide.
- 1431 I would like to see the end of road hunting for turkeys. Not only is this unethical but also very unsafe. There is nothing more frustrating than working a bird and having some idiot in a vehicle pull up and start shooting. There is no skill or hunt involved in this practice. It causes a lot of bad feelings between land owners and hunters to allow this.

- 1432 Why are you trying to wreck hunting in this state? I thought the commissioners were about opportunity it seems like what's going on now with the turkeys and the deer management plans is all you're doing is taking the opportunity away from future generation, not allowing opportunity
- 1472 This pertains to hunting turkey's in Custer State Park. While I agree that turkey's should not be harvested from the road / right of way. I do not think there needs to be a restriction on how far off the road a hunter must be, unless it is a 50 yards or less. My experience hunting in the Custer State Park is that many birds actively strut not far from the roads and hunters using decoys could and should be able to actively pursue these birds. thanks.
- 1480 I'm just happy to have a healthy turkey population and the opportunity to hunt them. Keep up the good work. Thank You!
- 1482 I appreciate spring turkey hunting and hope it continues throughout my lifetime thank you
- 1489 I had a close call with a rifle hunter on public land one time and had my son along with me. I would prefer not to go through that again.
- 1523 No need to shoot Turkey with high power rifle. No sport in that.
- 1559 Extending the turkey season to May 31 would be helpful for kids as most would be out of school by then.
- 1564 Keep up the good work!!
- 1566 HUNTED THE BLACKHILLS THIS SPRING AND SAW VERY LITTLE TURKEY SIGN AND EVEN LESS TURKEYS. MOST TURKEYS OBSERVED WERE NEXT TO HOMES. STILL THINK THERE ARE TOO MANY MOUNTAIN LIONS, SAW 1 TWICE DURING OUR HUNTS AND SAW SIGN.
- 1580 I'm glad the agency seems to be taking a look at the use of rifles. A quick story: In 2010, my dad and I were hunting public land and working a gobbler that had come to within 15 yards. I did not have a clean shot due to some scrub pine being in the way. Another hunter shot at, and killed that bird using a rifle (the bird was still at 15 yards when the shot rang out). He took the shot at about 150 yards. I know he knew we were working that bird AND that we were very close to it. We were lucky neither my dad nor I was shot that day. The point here is that rifle hunting turkeys is very dangerous - particularly when in the hands of irresponsible and unethical hunters. To add insult to injury, when confronted with the ethical and safety issues, the other hunter said, "This is public land. I have as much right to that bird as you do." Rifle hunting spring turkey needs to go away - especially in the Black Hills. If a hunter can't call a turkey into shotgun range, s/he should probably find a different sport.
- 1588 I have never understood why a turkey is considered a big game animal.
- 1596 As an out of state hunter who owns land in South Dakota the longer the season the better.

- 1612 The overall population of turkeys seems to have decreased in the past few years due predation.
- 1613 Turkey hunting in South Dakota is the best it has ever been. Broods of turkeys are taking establishment almost everywhere and hunting is great! I have filled all my tags, 3-4/year, for the past 4 years without putting in a lot time.
- 1658 Please consider opening the Black Hills turkey season earlier, closer to April one, seems the turkeys become quite a bit more call shy late April.
- 1713 Leave it open to both shotguns and archery. Hunting already has too many restrictions. You'll just keep driving people away from the sport.
- 1724 I would like the Department to take action against the use of tail fan or full body stalking of turkeys (reaping), especially in the Black Hills area. I had several issues this year where it created a very dangerous situation while hunting with my 13 year old daughter. Not a good example of safe practices.
- 1726 Questions asking to support or oppose should have been worded separately I found them hard to answer
- 1749 I just think use of rifles on public land is dangerous. If you were hunting private probably be ok
- 1752 This survey once again demonstrates the discriminatory and possibly unconstitutional discrimination of hunting practices on the privately owned land and the so-called public land administered in the Game Production Areas, along with other identifiable discriminatory laws and regulations placed on South Dakota residents allowing for preferential treatment in obtaining deer hunting licenses by property owners who possess at least 160 acres. For those property owners who do not have this minimum amount of land, the same advantage is not afforded to them. One of the questions in this survey asks if the change to disallow the use of rifles and handguns on public land would be supported while this regulation would not apply to privately owned land. This again is another example of a discriminatory restriction. These types of actions may open the door to possible litigation challenging the constitutionality of preferential treatment of one class of citizens over another based solely on their means of support. With the understanding that these wildlife resources are supposed to be administered as a public trust by an impartial government agency, it would seem that no one person should have any advantage built in to the overseeing of what already belongs to all South Dakotans.
- 1756 Stop trying to change all of our shit! Meandering waters....deer management plan...now this kind of talk. The state of South Dakota is one move away from me never spending another penny on tags and preference points.
- 1764 The process for nonresident turkey licenses is too cumbersome. Nonresidents should be able to apply for leftover licenses in the second draw.
- 1774 I come from Wisconsin where we cannot use rifles. I am retired from the Wisconsin DNR as a Wildlife Biologist and helped re-establish turkeys in 5 different Counties here. I also teach hunter safety. I do not support the use of rifles while turkey hunting.
- 1777 Need to end all fall turkey hunting

- 1786 Get rid of rifles and handguns. Dangerous and unsporting, unethical for the turkey.
- 1814 I wish you would change the law to allow rifles on private land for east river turkey seasons and use shotguns on public land where there is normally more hunting pressure. I am all for safety, but on private land you are normally the only one hunting in that location.
- 1829 Change regulation where carcass must remain fully in tack for transporting. Would prefer to be able to remove breast and thigh and keep carcass otherwise in tack so can better process the meat. According to warden in prairie units can only pick/skin and gut for transport. Illegal to remove any meat from carcass which means a person must have a much larger ice chest/freezer to transport.
- 1838 Thanks for the work you do! Got a BH Turkey and an east river archery this year!
- 1856 My son and I have 2 days to hunt East River Turkey's. My son looks forward to it each year. If we don't fill opening weekend, we are done. We hunt open area's and it's hard to call them within shotgun range. That's why we use rifles. If you change it to shotgun only, we may have to quit applying for tags. Please don't take this opportunity away from me to spend quality time with my son.
- 1859 South Dakota is a beautiful state and I hope to come back someday soon!
- 1873 Archery Hunters need a little bit longer in the woods before shotgunners and Mushroom Hunters
- 1890 include crossbows as archery.
- 1894 Turkey numbers seemed down some over past years.
- 1903 Forest service gates didn't open till 15 May.
- 1904 I strongly oppose not allowing rifles. Although it isn't my preferred method of hunting, I still think people should be allowed to use them. Especially youth.
- 1938 Would like the season to be longer.
- 1949 I am disabled so it's hard for me to get out in a field somewhere so I would prefer to shoot one from the road on land I have permission to hunt on from the road and about half to three fourths of the season the turkeys are too far from the road for a shotgun so a center fire rifle would be the only way to get them even on public lands.
- 1975 Worry about managing the number of turkeys before you worry about the special interest group pushing for this. If you don't increase turkey population numbers you won't sell any tags.
- 2030 as a full time taxidermist and talking to many turkey hunters the fall turkey season needs to be male only turkeys in eastern sd .
- 2052 grow more turkeys
- 2064 Thank You for all that you do to make all of our hunting seasons in SD as good as they can be.

- 2069 Pleas re open fall Turkey west river, the turkeys particularly in Jackson county are to the point of infestation on ranches.... was a great season with over the counter tags, took young kids deer and Turkey hunting on the same trip and it was a great time
- 2072 Turkey seem to get very wild after hens start setting and hard to get them within shotgun range
- 2076 The questions that were asked whether it be season length, use of decoys, the use of rifles are good questions. But here is my take, the length of season could be longer but adding the time to the month of May isn't really the perfect solution in my mind. Now if you went April 1st to the end of May that would be great. Reason I say this is some years we have a very early spring and some we have a very late spring. When this happens breeding seams to change along with the nesting time. The decoy thing I understand the safety concern there is with the lifelike decoys we have on the market now. They are also very important part of the hunt and some days without that decoy there is no way a guy would have closed the deal. Then there is the rifle discussion, I don't like the use of rifles due to the fact a guy can shoot a long ways and with everyone in camo you cannot be for sure that you are not shooting into a guy's set up. Even on private land people set up on fence lines that divide properties to pull the birds off of someone else's land an onto their own to shoot and if someone on a 4 wheeler sees birds walking that way and shoots not knowing that guy is in the fence line spells bad news. I've been turkey hunting for over 15 years, everywhere from the Black Hills west river, east river, and the suburbs of Minnesota. There is no need to use a rifle an there is no sport in it either JMO!
- 2114 Please stop changing big game seasons and regulations this is a conservative state we don't want freedoms taken away. The new deer application changes might make me consider moving to Wyoming. Leave us alone. Stop justifying your position by causing more regulations to keep track of. Its anti-hunter and anti-American.
- 2116 I wish they had permits for the total time of the spring hunting seasons. I'm busy in the spring farming and sometime it's hard to get out when my season is open... it's hard to predict the spring weather. thanks
- 2126 Please keep Custer State Park to in state and shotgun only.
- 2128 Longer seasons will be better because of cold wet springs in SD.
- 2142 In our group we don't allow the use of rifles for Spring Turkey Hunting (Black Hills). Minnesota has never allowed rifles and we think that for safety this is best. It also increases sportsmanship of the chase. It is a turkey hunt, not a turkey shoot. Number of birds are too low in the Black Hills that Fall hunting should be eliminated or be Toms Only.
- 2149 Would like to see archery equipment included in the firearms season so that it would be legal to take a turkey with firearm or bow with the same license.
- 2174 I would like to see rifles limited to private land .
- 2182 You need to open fall turkey hunting in Charles Mix County!! The turkeys are killing the pheasant hatches

- 2208 I do not think there will be much success in the later stages of the hunt if extended into warmer times, and would support decoys and such to make up the difference.
- 2217 If SDGFP is considering restricting firearms for the turkey hunting seasons, the restriction should include shotguns as well as rifles and only allow the use of archery equipment, otherwise, leave it as is. The shotgun hunters want to eliminate the rifle, which is not fair to those that are not good at calling. To be fair, if SDGFP wants to restrict a firearm for the turkey seasons, restrict all of them. With the development of new shotgun loads, the range of shotguns has been increase substantially an restricting the use of rifles would not be fair. Let those that hunt decide what to use.
- 2226 Shotgun only. Way too many road hunters using rifles
- 2250 Let non-resident hunt with shotgun on east River private land
- 2273 Turkey numbers have seemed to decrease severely in the last few years in the areas I typically hunt. I would only be for extending season dates when numbers have increased except for youth season I would still support that season being extended.
- 2275 I would like to see shotgun only for all firearm zones. The ability to use a rifle doesn't seem ethical. I would also like to see the archery season go until the end of May.
- 2286 I haven't been able to draw a spring turkey firearm tag for 3 years as none are available for the third draw. Turkeys are abundant along the Missouri River and there is no reason more tags should not be available in those areas
- 2297 In my opinion there should be no reason for people to use high-powered rifles for turkey hunting.
- 2313 I hunt in Bennet County and the Turkey population where I hunt has been almost wiped out by disease or coyotes or something the last 2 years I only saw 1 Tom so I didn't harvest in fear it was the only one to do the breeding.
- 2337 Seems to be fewer and fewer turkeys in the spring, extending the season may not do much. No rifles in my opinion should be allowed, I have only seen people take unethical shots. More and more people are posting land making access difficult. Hunter harassment (while on public land) from non-hunters continues. Walk-in access (roads gated) is increasing, thanks for that! Much more enjoyable and seeing less trash dumped.
- 2343 I'm glad you are looking into changing turkey season stuff around but honestly feels like turkey numbers are down so would rather see a restriction on tags/shortening fall/spring season to limit number of harvests but allow every one the opportunity still.
- 2351 I only hunt turkeys using archery equipment. I would like to continue to use archery as my weapon of choice for all spring firearm seasons.
- 2362 If we end up having a spring turkey season such as the one we had this spring, it would be nice if there was an extension to extend the season. You guys/gals do great things that go unnoticed, so thank you and keep up the awesome work!!!
- 2386 Last yr was my 1st season in S.D. but due to family health issues I didn't make it out.

- 2441 I would like to see the season longer. I would then likely apply for both gun and archery.
- 2442 I would like to see more areas just allow Archery hunting vs firearm. I enjoyed archery hunting Farm Island this year. I didn't get a turkey but enjoyed all the toms I did see.
- 2490 numbers seemed down in Yankton area???
- 2502 Didn't get to hunt
- 2504 In my opinion, the season starts and ends a week or 2 early. The weather is miserable, usually, early and the hens are just beginning to sit on eggs late May so the best calling opportunities just are beginning when the season ends.
- 2506 Please consider a two bird limit on the prairie archery hunt.
- 2514 Having handguns and rifles lumped together made it difficult to strongly support a restriction to shotgun only. I understand the modified .223 as a handgun is an exception, but for the most part, effective handgun, shotgun, and archery ranges are not that much different. I'm in support of limiting firearm season to handgun, shotgun, and archery.
- 2612 I think the LaFramboise and Farm Island Recreation areas should be open for the entire length of the season for the Spring Archery Season. I'm not sure I understand why access to these areas lose before the season does. I assume it's because of the increased traffic. I would strongly support access to these areas for archery season for the entirety of the season.
- 2627 Week long archery only season is ridiculous. Especially when hunting public ground, primarily the Black Hills NF. People are tripping over each other with archery equipment during that week. Then add on firearms a week later it's almost impossible. I understand public ground and that is part of the fun/challenge but it was amazing the amount of hunters this spring. Not one time this year when I went out did I not call in a hunter, have someone drive up on the blind/set up, (illegal off road traffic every time) or watch someone set up within eye sight of me. Nebraska at least gives bowhunters 3 weeks before shotguns. A longer SD spring Turkey season will not alleviate these issues but would be a start. Primarily this survey appears to be focused on the use of rifles to hunt turkeys. It's about time that SD looks into this. Turkey hunting has always been a season where accidents happen based on decoy setups and the Hunter having blue/red/white cloths on. Now add a rifle to the mix....its dumb it has taken this long to look into this issue.
- 2633 This applies to all hunting. Allow crossbow hunting in this state. other states allow it. And it's just as lethal as any other bow and arrow. Crossbow hunting is getting more popular in other states why can we do it here. I understand for handicap people but if it's good enough for them to go out and harvest animals it should be allowed by other hunters.
- 2665 My only complaint with Spring Turkey season on public land is the chance of rifle hunters taking a longer shot at my decoy by mistake and putting my safety in jeopardy. Currently I only use my decoy the week that is archery only. If it was shotguns and archery only on public land turkey season on public land would be 10 times more enjoyable. Thanks for this survey!

- 2667 No use of rifles for turkeys, anywhere, any time. Thank you!
- 2677 I do support the use of long guns for Fall turkey season.
- 2699 Archery needs a completely separate longer season and restricted to shotguns on public land there seems to be few toms and they get too much pressure and are extremely skittish by the first week of archery
- 2702 Take out rifle firearms all together
- 2715 I think restricting Black Hills Turkey to shotgun and archery makes a lot of sense considering the proximity of hunters to turkeys (and other hunters at times) in wooded areas.
- 2761 The South Dakota hunting seasons is part of why growing up I stayed a South Dakota resident I feel there are too many changes being proposed
- 2783 Please open a fall statewide archery turkey season. Birds are plentiful, it provides archery hunters more opportunities to get out and hunt if deer tags are filled early.
- 2804 I think east river and public should be shotgun only. A lot safer for all involved. Turkey hunting i believe is about calling and getting up close and personal with game. Rifle is just shooting them not hunting.
- 2858 I am please this survey is taking place, and I sincerely hope rifles are restricted from being used for hunting turkey. It's not fair for the animal, and dangerous for fellow turkey hunters.
- 2875 Keep Archery only zones as is make no changes
- 2877 If you are going to restrict rifles and pistols on turkeys it needs to be across the board, not just on public land
- 2918 My question is concerning the fact that it is even brought up to restricting any Turkey Hunting to a shotgun only. I am assuming this is working towards eliminating Archery as a means of Harvesting a Turkey. It is next to impossible to get a firearms tag or spring turkey in Brookings county already, unless of course you are a land owner. Given what I have just mentioned concerning Brookings County, My eyebrows are raised and I will be the first to come kicking and screaming if any archery for the taking of any game animal is eliminated. I would throw my guns away if I had to choose between using guns with all hunting or using my Bow for hunting, As archery is my passion, not to mention the most challenging which equates (in my mind) as the most rewarding. AMOST anyone can pull a trigger and kill most anything. But at the same time, I have been around many, who with a gun of any kind only manage to maim or even struggle to hit their target at all. I would appreciate a response of some sort as to why this is being brought up. [contact info omitted]
- 2931 Shotgun permits should be available to non-residents who own property in South Dakota.
- 2961 I hunted for the first time around the Chamberlain area this spring and loved it. I archery hunted and did not get a bird but thoroughly enjoyed hunting there. I took my MN

resident bird then went to WY and took what is my 79th turkey, then to SD. They were fun but SD was so much more fun even without getting a bird.

- 2983 I am a non-resident, so it is basically impossible to get a spring firearm license. If I could get one, it would be my preferred method of harvest. I hunt in 48A. 5-6 years ago I got a shotgun license and a bird. Since then I have gotten an archery license every year and use a crossbow permit and have shot 1 bird. I have thought about ending my archery attempts. The difficulty is too high and the tag is expensive. I do like being out there. I come out probably 3 long weekends to hunt, as I do get to see some friends while I am there. On the survey I did not fill in the % of time using a shotgun on private land because I cannot get a tag being a non-resident. To actually harvest a turkey would make the experience that much more enjoyable..
- 2995 I strongly oppose the use of rifle or hand gun for turkey hunting public or private. I believe shotgun is more than enough for hunting turkeys. We have to look at the fact that it is about the hunt not the kill!! We also have to look at the safety factor person with a rifle can shoot 100 to 150 yards not all people think safety when an opportunity to harvest a turkey presents itself, they sometimes just shoot. With the new more realistic decoys they maybe shooting towards someone's set up from this distance and someone setting behind that setup and they do not even know this because they just see what they think is a turkey because they are too far away!!
- 2996 Again I and my husband were residents of S.D. for 35 years. We still own 600 acres of land in Chas Mix Co. Have hunting rights on another 300 acres, all in Chas Mix Co. We PAY over \$6,500 in property taxes , have turkeys on our land and CAN NOT hunt them because we are non-residents. We had to move back east because of our health and family. Non-resident landowners should be able to get some kind of preference points to hunt on their own land. Thank You.
- 3072 I am very grateful for the opportunities my home state allows me to partake in. My only comment would be that the state needs to increase the cost of non-resident hunting licenses for all big game. I have listened to non-resident hunters boast about how inexpensive it is to hunt here. We are not in alignment with our boarder states in regards to non-resident licenses.
- 3111 The use of rifles for turkeys should be banned statewide.
- 3169 Wondering why Union County is closed this fall season?? I saw so many this spring
- 3172 I have only hunted counties that only allow shotgun. I would love to be able to use my handgun!
- 3184 There is a major problem with our public lands system!!!! I went spring archery turkey hunting this spring and all the public land had cattle on it. Which in turn turns it into private land because I cannot hunt within 660 feet of livestock!! Why are farmers allowed to run cattle on PUBLIC land during hunting seasons??? That is something that needs to change
- 3189 I enjoy the season and always look forward to it...

- 3223 I did not enjoy my turkey hunting experience this year, and for several years because I, and several other hunters, have seen a huge decline in the turkey population in SD. There are not any to hunt. I am extremely dissatisfied.
- 3231 My opinion is that all spring firearm turkey seasons should be shotgun only. I would love to see the archery season extended. It has been very difficult to find any private land to hunt, anything, since I have moved to SD 8 years ago.
- 3237 Please consider making Newton Hills State Park an archery only area for spring turkey and extending the season into May. The less intrusive archery hunt would help to maintain good relations with multiple use visitors in the park.
- 3245 Season starts too early, better to open 1-2 weeks later. Leave open longer (end of May)
- 3252 Hunters in the hills for all species of big game have no self-control. They drive around and hop out when they see something and start unloading without examining surroundings. I would not mind getting rid of rifle hunting for turkeys in the hills.
- 3273 Why was Butte County not open to Turkey hunting? There were plenty available!!!
- 3352 Would like to see Spring seasons open April 1st.
- 3405 I strongly believe that rifles should not be used in the spring season. Decoying is a big part of spring turkey hunting. At 200 yds, it's easy to mistake decoys as real turkeys and not see the camo hunter.
- 3412 As a nonresident land owner, we would like to hunt with a gun, Union County we cannot, I pay taxes I should be able to hunt my own land!
- 3417 Difficult to find land to hunt and/or remote enough that some idiot doesn't come in and ruin my setup.
- 3441 This was my first year hunting spring turkeys in South Dakota and it was an amazing experience. The public land options and number of birds I saw was incredible, and I will be coming back every year. Thank you for the work that you do.
- 3443 Please consider a full week instead of a partial week for archery only before the gun season.
- 3451 Turkeys are not the problem. Land owner tags for deer are the problem. If you want to help with hunter tag options. You need to start restricting land owner tags and only give them preference. This would allow general public to get more tags therefore enaping with hunter tag satisfaction.
- 3488 It's exciting to see turkeys coming back in the area I hunt again