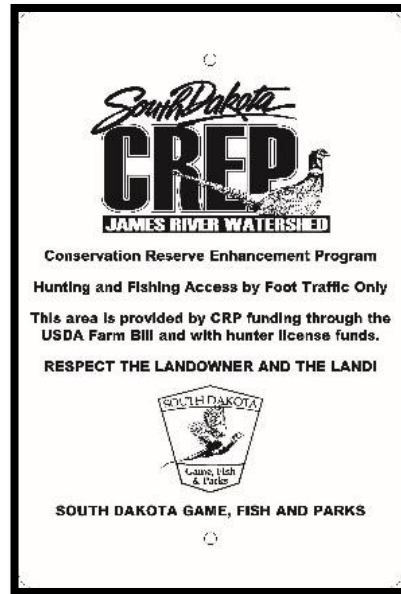


Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas: 2020 Survey Report

HDWI – WIA2020



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The primary goal of the Walk-In Area (WIA) Program is to provide the best possible access to high quality habitat on private land. Historically the program has focused on providing access to lands west of the Missouri River (West River) for big game hunting opportunities; however, recently the focus has also included enrollments east of the Missouri River (East River) where additional public access for pheasant hunting is needed (SDGFP 2021b). Beginning in 1999 GFP periodically conducts hunter surveys to evaluate the WIA program (Gigliotti 2000, 2006, and 2010; Longmire 2019). We conducted the 2020 *Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas (WIAs) Survey*, which builds on earlier hunter evaluation of WIAs in South Dakota. The purpose of this survey is to measure the use of the different land types for various kinds of hunting, and if they hunted WIAs, to obtain hunters' assessment of habitat and perceived crowding while hunting on WIA and CREP lands, and the role they play in hunters' ability to hunt. This report summarizes 2020 survey findings. Information was collected from randomly selected 2020 hunting license holders (N=7,500) using mixed modes approach. Initially participants were offered the opportunity to participate via online survey through a secure link. Those who did not respond were mailed a paper version of the survey. A reminder post card offered respondents the choice of online or paper survey mode. Adjusting for undeliverable, opt-out, and ineligible surveys, we received 2,210 completed surveys (32% response rate) with a margin of sampling error of ± 2 percent overall.

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Executive Summary

The primary goal of the Walk-In Area (WIA) Program is to provide the best possible access to high quality habitat on private land. Historically the program has focused on providing access to lands west of the Missouri River (West River) for big game hunting opportunities; however, recently the focus has also included enrollments east of the Missouri River (East River) where additional public access for pheasant hunting is needed (SDGFP 2021b). Beginning in 1999, GFP periodically conducts hunter surveys to evaluate the WIA program (Gigliotti 2000, 2006, and 2010; Longmire 2019). We conducted the 2020 *Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas (WIAs) Survey*, which builds on earlier hunter evaluation of WIAs in South Dakota. The purpose of this survey is to measure the use of the different land types for various kinds of hunting, and if they hunted WIAs, to obtain hunters' assessment of habitat on WIAs, and the role they play in hunters' ability to hunt. This survey also measures levels of perceived crowding on WIA and CREP lands and whether there is an association with overall satisfaction with their hunting experience.

This executive summary shares all major findings but it is not an exhaustive statistical review and synthesis of all data collected, nor does it provide program management recommendations. It is important to note, in the quantitative data there are often nuanced and important proportional response differences overall, as well as between resident and non-resident hunters. Additionally, qualitative data that typically arises from open-ended survey questions provides rich descriptions and important details from the perspective of the participant. Both forms of data should be synthesized together to inform program decisions and outreach strategies. When necessary, report page numbers are given for additional information.

Survey Sample

- A total of **2,210 responses** were received (65% residents and 35% non-residents). Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the total survey response rate was **32% with a margin of sampling error of ± 2 percent, overall**. In 2015, after correcting for undeliverable addresses, the total survey response rate was 46% with the same margin of sampling error of ± 2 percent, overall.
- **65% of responding hunters were South Dakota residents. Non-resident hunters represented 45 states, of which the largest proportion were from Minnesota (11%).**
- **48% of resident hunters and 57% of non-resident hunters were 50 – 69 years old and male.**
- **12% of survey respondents did not hunt in South Dakota during 2020.** Of reasons given for why they did not hunt in South Dakota in 2020, 43% selected COVID-19 considerations and about one-third selected time constraints.

Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas

- Half of the respondents said they **hunted South Dakota WIAs during 2020**. This is about a 10% increase from 2015.
- Three-quarters of all hunters were **somewhat or very satisfied with the 2020 Walk-In Area Program**, while 12% were somewhat or very dissatisfied. In 2015, 73% of hunters indicated they were satisfied and 16% were dissatisfied with the 2015 WIA Program.
- **98% of hunters intend to use South Dakota WIAs in the future.**
- For about half of the respondents, their **most preferred species to hunt on South Dakota WIAs is pheasant**, which was also the preferred species in 2015. It is important to note that, overall, about 10% of hunters selected other game species and of these 72% selected multiple species from the primary list (e.g., deer, waterfowl, and pheasant) and 33% listed other species (e.g., rabbit, prairie dog, coyote, elk, bobcat, dove, squirrel).
- To understand the factors that influenced **hunter decision-making about whether to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020**, survey participants were asked to use a Likert-type scale (1=no influence, 2=slightly influential, 3=moderately influential, 4=very influential, 5=extremely influential) to rate the level of influence of 10 statements.

Respondents were not asked to rank factors that influence hunter decision-making whether to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020. Based on reported mode counts (Table 13, pg. 68) and proportional responses (Figures 56 – 65, pp. 69 -78), the list can be broadly summarized as follows:

Factors that are very influential

- I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA
- It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps
- I have hunted WIAs in the past
- Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs
- Opportunity to harvest desired game species

Factors with no influence

- Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip
- Private hunting land required a fee
- No other public hunting lands near my home
- Friends or family wanted to hunt there
- The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land

- To understand **spatial demand for WIAs**, hunters were asked to use a Likert-type scale (1=not important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=critical (would not hunt otherwise)) **to rate the importance of having access to South Dakota WIAs 30 miles or less from their home residence.**

About 20% of respondents answered this question though their home residence zip code did not qualify; hence, data were filtered to only include South Dakota resident hunters (n=439). Overall, **nearly three-quarters of resident hunters reported that having access to WIA lands 30 miles or less from their home residence as moderately important, very important, or critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (see pg. 79).

- To understand the factors that affect **overall hunting experience using South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020**, survey participants were asked to use a Likert-type scale (1=not important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=extremely important) **to rate the level of importance of 10 statements.**

Respondents were not asked to rank factors that may affect their overall hunting experiences using South Dakota WIAs during 2020. Based on reported mode counts (Table 14, pg. 80) and proportional responses (Figures 67 – 76, pp. 81 - 90), the list is broadly summarized as follows:

Very important factors

- WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable
- Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters
- Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat
- Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species

Moderately important factors

- Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs
- Harvesting game species you would be proud to display

Factors with no importance

- Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs
- A designated parking area that is not far from hunting area
- Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt
- Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species

- **Survey participants were offered the opportunity to tell GFP if there were other factors that affected their overall hunting experiences (positive or negative) on Walk-In Areas during 2020. About one-third of respondents provided text responses.** To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

For text response examples, see pp. 91 - 96:

- Habitat management 39%

- Species management 15%
- Access 14%
- WIA Program 13%
- Crowding or hunting pressure 9%
- Landowner contact 4%
- Hunt interference 3%
- Non-resident concerns 2%
- Law enforcement 1%

Evaluation of WIA and CREP Lands by Game Species

In support of WIA Program decision-making, this survey asked whether a specific species was hunted in 2020 (e.g., upland birds, big game, waterfowl), if they hunted WIA or CREP lands during 2020, and also measured the use of the different land types for various kinds of hunting. The 2020 survey also obtained hunters' assessment of habitat and perceived crowding while hunting on WIA and CREP lands, which have not been measured previously.

Upland Bird Hunting: Grouse, Prairie Chicken, or Partridge

- Overall, **almost one-quarter of hunters** (23% resident and 22% non-resident) **hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020**. This is about an 9% increase from the 2015 survey.

Respondents that did not hunt grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge in South Dakota during 2020 were asked why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=1,248) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

- Not target species 77%
 - Hunting constraints 20%
 - Species population management 13%
 - COVID considerations 7%
- Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, the number of resident and non-resident grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge hunters increased. The mean number of days hunted and estimated total number days hunted also increased between 2015 and 2020.
 - Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge decreased about 18% WIAs and 3% on public lands. Additionally, 54% of survey respondents reported hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee, while 13% hunted on fee-based private lands. In 2015, 66% hunted on private lands.
 - In 2020, on average, hunters spent the greatest percentage of their time (about 44%) hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on private land (no fees charged), with 23% occurring west of the Missouri River. Similarly, in 2015, on average, hunters spent 45% of their time hunting on private lands.

Upland Bird Hunting: Pheasant

- **In 2020, a majority of hunters (75%) hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020. This represents a 4% decrease from 2015.**

Respondents that did not hunt pheasant in South Dakota during 2020 were asked why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=395) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

- Not target species 63%
 - Hunting constraints 44%
 - COVID considerations 14%
 - Access or opportunity constraints 13%
 - Crowding or hunting competition pressure 10%
- Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, the estimated total number of days hunting South Dakota pheasant increased for residents, noting the estimated number of resident hunters decreased during the same time period. The number of non-resident hunters also declined over the five-year period; however, the mean number of days hunted increased for both resident and non-resident hunters.
 - Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, pheasant hunting increased by 5% on WIAs and by 6% on public lands. Additionally, 67% of respondents reported hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee, while 20% hunted on fee-based private lands. In 2015, 85% hunted on private lands.
 - In 2020, on average, pheasant hunters spent 44% of their time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee, of which 33% was east of the Missouri River, and 14% hunted on fee-based private lands. In 2015, on average, pheasant hunters spent 62% of their time hunting on private land.

Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Upland Birds

- Overall, **39% (24% residents and 15% non-residents) hunted grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on South Dakota WIA or CREP lands during 2020.** This is about a 9% increase from the 2015 survey. The 2015 survey did not ask hunters to evaluate CREP lands.

WIA lands:

- **Overall quality of upland bird habitat on WIA lands:** 39% of hunters rated upland bird habitat on WIA lands as average and 38% as good. This represents a decline of 2% to 3% over the past five years.
- **Importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting:** 51% of hunters rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as very important (no change from 2015), followed by 22% as moderately important (about a 5% increase from 2015).

- **Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting:** 40% of hunters rated overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as somewhat satisfied, followed by 19% as very satisfied. Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for upland bird hunting was not measured in 2015.
- **Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands:** 49% of hunters rated their perception of crowding while upland bird hunting on WIA lands as not crowded, while half of hunters rated as slightly crowded to too many hunters. Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

CREP lands:

- **Overall quality of upland bird habitat on CREP lands:** 35% of respondents rated upland bird habitat on CREP lands as average and 43% as good. Overall quality of upland bird habitat on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.
- **Importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting:** 52% of respondents rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as very important and 17% as critical (would not hunt otherwise). This represents about a 3% increase over the past five years.
- **Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting:** 40% of respondents rated overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as somewhat satisfied and almost one-quarter were very satisfied. Overall satisfaction with WIA lands upland bird hunting was not measured in 2015.
- **Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on CREP lands:** 52% of hunters rated their perception of crowding while upland bird hunting on CREP lands as not crowded, while 57% rated as slightly crowded to too many hunters. Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

Big Game Hunting: Deer

Note: When appropriate data is reported for all strata (all, resident, non-resident); however, the non-resident deer (4%) samples were too small for meaningful statistical analysis at that level and too small to make mathematical comparisons between resident and non-resident strata for big game hunters. To compare 2020 survey results to 2015 survey results, the analysis is at the resident hunter strata level only.

- **Overall, 48% of respondents hunted South Dakota deer during 2020. Of resident big game hunters, 72% hunted deer.**

Respondents that did not hunt deer in South Dakota during 2020 were asked why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=795) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

- Not target species: 73%
 - License or regulation issues: 40%
 - Access or opportunity constraints: 34%
 - Hunting constraints: 27%
 - COVID considerations: 15%
- Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, the number of residents who hunted deer decreased but, on average, the number of days spent hunting increased by three.
- In 2020, 83% of residents primarily hunted deer on private lands that do not charge a fee, half of which was East of the Missouri River. Residents also hunted deer on WIA lands (32%) and public lands (42%). In 2015, a majority of resident deer hunters (87%) used private land.
- In 2020, on average, residents spent 24% of their time deer hunting on public land. Resident deer hunters also spent about two-thirds their time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee. In 2015, on average, resident deer hunters spent 71% of their time hunting on private land.

Big Game Hunting: Antelope

Note: When appropriate data is reported for all strata (all, resident, non-resident); however, the non-resident antelope hunter (1%) sample was too small for meaningful statistical analysis at that level and too small to make mathematical comparisons between resident and non-resident strata for big game hunters. To compare 2020 survey results to 2015 survey results, the analysis is at the resident hunter strata level only.

- **Overall, 18% of respondents indicated they hunted antelope in South Dakota during 2020. Of resident big game hunters, 27% hunted antelope.**

Respondents that did not hunt antelope in South Dakota during 2020 were asked why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=1,162) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

- Not target species 65%
 - License or regulation issues 44%
 - Access or opportunity constraints 34%
 - Habitat and population management 11%
 - COVID considerations 3%
- Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, the number of residents who hunted antelope increased about 20%, but the average number of days spent hunting did not change (i.e., 3 days in both 2015 and 2020).
- In 2020, about half of resident antelope hunters spent at least some time hunting on WIA lands east and west of the Missouri River, while 38% utilized public lands east and west of

the Missouri River. Similarly, on average, half of resident antelope hunters spent time hunting on private land that does not charge a fee. In 2015, 39% of resident antelope hunted on WIA lands, 39% on public lands, and 59% hunted on private lands.

- In 2020, on average, residents spent 36% of their time hunting antelope on private lands west of the Missouri River that do not charge a fee, 33% on Walk-In Areas west of the Missouri River, and 23% on western public lands. In 2015, on average, resident hunters spent 51% of their time hunting antelope on private land.

Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Big Game

- **Overall, 27% of survey participants indicated they hunted big game (i.e., deer and/or antelope) on WIA and/or CREP lands during 2020.** In 2015, about 45% of hunters reported that they had hunted deer, antelope, and/or wild turkey only on WIA lands (Longmire 2019). The 2015 survey did not ask hunters to evaluate CREP lands.

WIA lands:

- **Overall quality of big game habitat on WIA lands:** 36% of resident hunters rated the quality of big game habitat on WIA lands as average and 38% as good. In 2015, 31% of resident hunters rated big game habitat on WIA lands as fair and 41% as good.
- **Importance of WIA lands for 2020 big game hunting:** 47% of resident hunters rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 big hunting as very important and 34% as critical (would not hunt otherwise). In 2015, 43% of resident hunters rated big game habitat on WIA lands as very important and 31% as critical (would not hunt otherwise).
- **Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 big game hunting:** 65% of resident hunters rated their overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 big game hunting as somewhat to very satisfied. Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for big game hunting was not measured in 2015.
- **Crowding perception while big game hunting on WIA lands:** 34% of resident hunters rated their perception of crowding while hunting big game on WIA lands during 2020 as slightly crowded and 42% rated moderately crowded to too many hunters. Crowding perception while big game hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

CREP lands:

- **Overall quality of big game habitat on CREP lands:** 41% of resident hunters rated the quality of big game habitat on CREP lands as average and 49% as good to excellent. Overall quality of big game habitat on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.
- **Importance of CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting:** 32% of resident hunters rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 big hunting as slightly to moderately important and 62% as very important to critical (would not hunt otherwise). In 2015, 28% of resident hunters

rated big game habitat on CREP lands as very important and 18% as critical (would not hunt otherwise).

- **Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting:** 59% of resident hunters rated their overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting as somewhat satisfied to very satisfied, while almost one-fifth rated somewhat to very dissatisfied. Overall quality of big game habitat on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.
- **Crowding perception while big game hunting on CREP lands:** 31% of resident hunters rated their perception of crowding while hunting big game on CREP lands during 2020 as slightly crowded and 33% as moderately crowded to too many hunters. Crowding perception on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.

Waterfowl Hunting

Note: Due to small and fluctuating samples sizes (for both 2015 and 2020 surveys), data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied.

- **33% of respondents hunted waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020. This is about a 18% increase from the 2015 survey.**

Respondents that did not hunt waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020 were asked why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=950) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

- Not target species 73%
 - License or regulation issues 64%
 - Access or opportunity constraints 57%
 - Hunting constraints 34%
 - Habitat and population management 4%
 - COVID considerations 1%
- Between 2015 and 2020 surveys, the number of residents who hunted waterfowl increased minimally (i.e., 20 participants) and non-resident hunters increased by 294. The mean number of days residents spent hunting waterfowl increased by one day and there was no change (i.e., 5 days average) for non-resident hunters between 2015 and 2020.
 - In 2020 about one-quarter of waterfowl hunters spent at least some time hunting on WIAs and just over half hunted waterfowl on public lands, while 64% spent time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee. In 2015, on average, 21% spent time hunting waterfowl on WIAs, 78% spent at least some time hunting waterfowl on private land, and 59% spent time hunting waterfowl on public land.
 - On average, waterfowl hunters spent 29% of their time waterfowl hunting on public lands, while 47% spent their time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee. In 2015, on average, hunters spent 54% of their time hunting waterfowl on private land.

Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Waterfowl

Note: Though this sample is evenly split between resident and non-resident waterfowl hunters, the overall sample number was too small for meaningful statistical analysis and too small to make mathematical comparisons between resident and non-resident strata for waterfowl hunters. Findings are limited and should be carefully interpreted and applied.

- **About 10% (n=195) of hunters indicated they hunted waterfowl on WIA or CREP lands during 2020.** In 2015, 21% of hunters reported spending at least some time hunting waterfowl on WIA lands. The 2015 survey did not ask hunters to evaluate CREP lands.

WIA lands:

- **Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on WIA lands:** one-third of hunters rated waterfowl habitat on WIA lands as average but 62% rated as good or excellent. In 2015, 31% of respondents rated waterfowl habitat on WIA lands as fair and 42% as good.
- **Importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting:** 63% of respondents rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 17% rated as critical (would not hunt otherwise). In 2015, overall, 54% of respondents rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 24% as critical (would not hunt otherwise).
- **Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting:** 45% of hunters rated overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as somewhat satisfied and 31% as very satisfied. Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for waterfowl hunting was not measured in 2015.
- **Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands:** 58% of survey participants rated their perception of crowding while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands as not crowded and 22% rated as slightly crowded, while 18% rated as moderately crowded to too many hunters. Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

CREP lands:

- **Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on CREP lands:** one-third of hunters rated waterfowl habitat on CREP lands as average and 62% rated as good or excellent. Overall waterfowl habitat quality rating on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.
- **Importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting:** 56% of hunters rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 17% rated as critical (would not hunt otherwise). In 2015, overall, 63% of respondents rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 12% as critical (would not hunt otherwise).

- **Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting:** 46% of hunters rated overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as somewhat satisfied and 30% rated as very satisfied. Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for waterfowl hunting was not measured in 2015.
- **Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands:** 58% of hunters rated their perception of crowding while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands as not crowded, while 23% rated as slightly crowded and 16% rated as moderately crowded to too many hunters. Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.

Closing Question Comments

About 31% (19% resident, 12% non-resident) of survey participants provided additional text responses. All text responses are listed in Appendix C. The following themes and proportion of text coverage emerged. For text response examples, see pp. 97 - 110:

- WIA Program 38%
- Habitat management 22%
- Access 9%
- Species management 9%
- Non-resident 7%
- Crowding or hunting pressure 6%
- Rules and regulations 4%
- Licensing 3%
- Other public land <1%
- Landowner contact <1%
- Law enforcement <1%
- COVID-19 <1%
- Safety <1%

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	i
List of Figures	xiii
List of Tables	xvii
Introduction.....	1
Methods	1
Sampling Frame.....	2
Survey Administration	2
Data Analysis and Limitations	3
Confidence Interval and Sampling Margin of Error	4
Descriptive Data	4
Cross-Tabulation Tables	4
Psychometrics and Likert-Type Scale Measurement.....	5
Qualitative Data.....	6
Data Limitations	6
Results.....	7
General Description of Survey Results	7
Section 1: 2020 Hunting in South Dakota.....	10
Section 2: Upland Bird Hunting	11
Grouse, prairie chicken, and partridge.....	11
Pheasant	16
Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Upland Birds.....	20
Section 3: Big Game	31
Deer	31
Antelope.....	36
Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Big Game.....	40
Section 4: Waterfowl Hunting.....	49
Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Waterfowl	55
Section 5: Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas (WIAs)	66
Section 6: Sample Demographic Characteristics.....	98
Closing Question Comments.....	99
References.....	113
Appendix A: Survey Instrument (format adjusted).....	115
Appendix B: Open-Ended Survey Questions	130

Q1b. If there are other reasons why you did not hunt in South Dakota during 2020, briefly describe.....	130
Q2a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge in 2020, briefly describe.....	134
Q3a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota pheasant in 2020, briefly describe.	170
Q8a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota deer in 2020, briefly describe.....	181
Q9a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota antelope in 2020, briefly describe.	199
Q14a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota waterfowl in 2020, briefly describe.	224
Q20a. If other, what is your most preferred game species when hunting South Dakota Walk-In Areas?	246
Q23a. If there are other factors that affected your overall hunting experiences (positive or negative) on Walk-In Areas in 2020, briefly describe.	249
Appendix C: Additional Comments	271
Appendix D: Maps	313

List of Figures

Figure 1. Important landowner type definitions and descriptions.	3
Figure 2. Phi, Cramer’s V, and Eta-squared values and measures of association (adapted from Cohen 1988, Gigliotti 2012, Vaske 2008).....	5
Figure 3. Count and percent distribution of respondents presented by six license type pools from which participants were randomly selected to receive a survey.....	8
Figure 4. Reasons why some respondents did not hunt in South Dakota during 2020, data presented by percent of respondents.	10
Figure 5. Percent of respondents who hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020.....	11
Figure 6. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on different land types.....	13
Figure 7. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on different land types.....	14
Figure 8. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020.	15
Figure 9. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020.	15
Figure 10. Proportion of respondents who hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020.....	16

Figure 11. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant on different land types. ..	18
Figure 12. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant on different land types. ..	18
Figure 13. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020.	19
Figure 14. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020.	19
Figure 15. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of upland bird habitat on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.	22
Figure 16. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 upland bird hunting.	23
Figure 17. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 upland bird hunting.	24
Figure 18. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while upland bird hunting on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.	25
Figure 19. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of upland bird habitat on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.	27
Figure 20. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 upland bird hunting.	28
Figure 21. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 upland bird hunting.	29
Figure 22. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while upland bird hunting on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.	30
Figure 23. Percent of overall, resident, and non-resident hunters that hunted deer in South Dakota during 2020.	31
Figure 24. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer on different land types.	33
Figure 25. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer on different land types.	33
Figure 26. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer during 2020.	34
Figure 27. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer during 2020.	35
Figure 28. Percent of overall, resident, and non-resident hunters that hunted antelope in South Dakota during 2020.	36
Figure 29. Percent of respondents that hunted antelope on different land types.	38
Figure 30. Percent of respondents that hunted antelope on different land types.	38
Figure 31. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota antelope during 2020.	39
Figure 32. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that	

hunted South Dakota antelope during 2020.	39
Figure 33. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of big game habitat on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.	41
Figure 34. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 big game hunting.	42
Figure 35. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 big game hunting.	43
Figure 36. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while big game hunting on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.	44
Figure 37. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of big game habitat on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.	45
Figure 38. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 big game hunting.	46
Figure 39. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 big game hunting.	47
Figure 40. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while big game hunting on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.	48
Figure 41. Proportion of respondents who hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020.	49
Figure 42. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl on different land types during 2020.	52
Figure 43. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl on different land types during 2020.	53
Figure 44. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020.	54
Figure 45. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020.	54
Figure 46. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of waterfowl habitat on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.	57
Figure 47. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting.	58
Figure 48. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting.	59
Figure 49. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.	60
Figure 50. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of waterfowl habitat on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.	62
Figure 51. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands to 2020 waterfowl hunting.	63

Figure 52. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting.	64
Figure 53. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.	65
Figure 54. Proportion and count of resident and non-resident survey participants who hunted South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020.	66
Figure 55. Most preferred game species to hunt on South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020. .	67
Figure 56. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip.’	69
Figure 57. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘I didn’t have to secure permission to hunt a WIA.’	70
Figure 58. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps.’	71
Figure 59. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Private hunting land required a fee.’	72
Figure 60. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘No other public hunting lands near my home.’	73
Figure 61. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Friends/family wanted to hunt there.’	74
Figure 62. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land.’	75
Figure 63. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘I have hunted WIAs in the past.’	76
Figure 64. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs.’	77
Figure 65. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Opportunity to harvest desired game species on WIAs.’	78
Figure 66. South Dakota resident hunters rate the importance of having access to WIAs 30 miles or less from their home residence.	79
Figure 67. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs.’	81
Figure 68. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable.’	82
Figure 69. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters.’	83
Figure 70. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘A designated parking area that is not far from the hunting area.’	84

Figure 71. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat.’	85
Figure 72. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species.’	86
Figure 73. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt.’	87
Figure 74. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs.’	88
Figure 75. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species.’	89
Figure 76. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 - ‘Harvesting game species you would be proud to display.’	90
Figure 77. Overall satisfaction with the Walk-In Area Program.....	97
Figure 78. Future hunting use of South Dakota Walk-In Areas.....	97

List of Tables

Table 1. Strata levels by license type, population and usable survey counts, margin of sampling errors, and weights for combined survey waves of the Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas conducted every five years.....	9
Table 2. Estimated grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge hunting participation during 2015 and 2020.....	12
Table 3. Pheasant hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.	17
Table 4. Upland bird hunter evaluations of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands in 2020.	21
Table 5. Upland bird hunter evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands in 2020.....	26
Table 6. Resident deer hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.....	32
Table 7. Resident antelope hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.....	37
Table 8. Big game hunter evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands in 2020.	40
Table 9. Big game hunter evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands in 2020.....	44
Table 10. Waterfowl hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.....	51
Table 11. Waterfowl hunter evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands in 2020.....	56
Table 12. Waterfowl hunter evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands in 2020.....	61
Table 13. Factors that influence hunter decision-making whether to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020.....	68

Table 14. Descriptive statistics of factors that may affect overall hunting experience using South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020.80

Table 15. Resident and non-resident hunter sample respondent demographic characteristics.98

Introduction

According to the Public Trust Doctrine and reaffirmed through the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, fish and wildlife populations are held in trust and managed by the agency within each state charged with conserving those resources for current and future public use and enjoyment (Organ et al. 2012). This public trust thinking is clearly reflected in South Dakota's Department of Game, Fish, and Parks' (GFPs) 2021 Mission and Vision (<https://gfp.sd.gov/agency/>).

With approximately 80% of South Dakota's land base in private ownership, the majority of hunting across the state occurs on private land. For more than 30 years GFP has worked with landowners to lease public hunting access on privately owned lands. The Walk-In Area (WIA) Program was developed in 1988, and leases private land with reasonable hunting opportunity for unlimited public hunting access (foot-traffic only) in exchange for an annual payment and immunity from non-negligent liability. The WIA Program has grown from access agreements with 26 landowners covering about 23,000 acres to partnering with 1,476 landowners in 2020 who provided access to over 1.2 million acres of private land (SDGFP 2021a). The primary goal of the Walk-In Area (WIA) Program is to provide the best possible access to high quality habitat on private land. Historically the program has focused on providing access to lands west of the Missouri River (West River) for big game hunting opportunities; however, the focus has also included enrollments east of the Missouri River (East River) where additional public access for pheasant hunting is needed (SDGFP 2021b).

Beginning in 1999, GFP periodically conducts hunter surveys to evaluate the WIA program (Gigliotti 2000, 2006, and 2010; Longmire 2019). We conducted the 2020 *Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas (WIAs) Survey*, which builds on earlier hunter evaluation of WIAs in South Dakota. The purpose of this survey is to measure the use of the different land types for various kinds of hunting, and if they hunted WIAs, to obtain hunters' assessment of habitat on WIAs, and the role they play in hunters' ability to hunt. This survey also measures levels of perceived crowding on WIA and CREP lands and whether there is an association with overall satisfaction with their hunting experience.

This report summarizes a significant of quantitative and qualitative data and is presented by three respondent groups: all, resident, and non-resident. Data, mainly presented in charts, graphs, and tables, is in the same order as the survey instrument. This report does not discuss findings nor does it make WIA Program management recommendations; when appropriate, examples are given to demonstrate how the data may be applied/used.

Methods

A mixed-methods approach is a research design popular in social science disciplines, in which researchers collect, analyze, and integrate both quantitative (e.g., counts, numbers) and qualitative (e.g., text, pictures) data. Using both qualitative and quantitative means of data-collection offsets weaknesses inherent to each method, while also strengthening the interpretation phase of data analysis through data integration (Creswell 2003). Numerous peer-reviewed studies demonstrate that a mixed-methods approach enhances applied research when

the aim is to identify and describe multiple stakeholder perspectives or where researchers desire a more complete understanding of a phenomenon, particularly from the perspective of the population of interest (Creswell & Clark 2018). Hence, mixed-method approaches enhance a robust research protocol because they allow researchers to confirm quantitative findings with qualitative experiences.

Sampling Frame

To make informed decisions about how to manage WIAs in South Dakota, managers seek information from hunters using WIA and/or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands. It is unknown what proportion of hunters use WIA or CREP lands; therefore, the sampling frame for this survey includes 2020 license holders eligible to hunt (1) upland birds (prairie chicken, grouse, partridge, and/or pheasant), (2) big game (deer and/or antelope), and (3) waterfowl. To reduce survey fatigue for hunters, the random sample was drawn from a larger pool of license holders that had not been recently selected to participate in a different GFP survey (e.g., annual hunter harvest surveys).

Survey sample

Replicating the 2015 survey methodology (Longmire 2019), a disproportionate stratified random sample of resident and non-resident hunters was used to provide representative data at both the statewide and species hunted levels. 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 with a particular subgroup. A random sample of 5,000 resident hunters (antelope, deer, migratory bird, and small game) and 2,500 non-resident hunters (small game and waterfowl) was drawn from the 2020 GFP license database for a total sample size of 7,500. Weighting was used for all combined analyses to ensure a proportional representation of hunters at the statewide level.

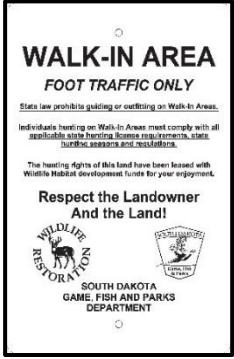
Survey Administration

Every survey situation is unique and what works well in one context may not in another. Recognizing this, ‘tailored design’ refers to customizing survey procedures to encourage all sample members to respond to the survey (Dillman et al. 2014). Numerous social science studies show that when comparing single mode surveys (e.g., internet only) to mixed-mode surveys (e.g., paper and electronic), the latter can improve response rates and reduce non-response error, in addition to lowering costs, improving timeliness, and reducing coverage error. Accordingly, we employed a tailored design method using a mixed modes approach. Using Qualtrics’ online survey platform, participants were emailed a personalized invite letter describing the opportunity to provide feedback to GFP via online survey through a secure link. Three reminder emails were sent, each one week apart. Those who did not complete an online survey were mailed a paper version. A reminder post card followed 10 days later. In the final contact, to augment response rates, all respondents were offered the choice of participating online or through another mailed copy.

Survey respondents were provided information sufficient to become informed participants. For example, definitions and signage that indicated different types of hunting lands, along with whether the land is under state or federal management (Figure 1).

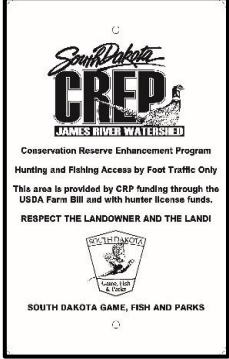
Important Definitions

Walk-In Area (WIA): refers to private land enrolled in the GFP Walk-In Area Program. WIAs are posted with similar signs.



**WALK-IN AREA
FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY**
State law prohibits guiding or outfitting on Walk-In Areas.
Individuals hunting on Walk-In Areas must comply with all applicable state laws, federal regulations, and local ordinances.
The hunting rights of this land have been leased with Wildlife Habitat Development Funds for your enjoyment.
**Respect the Landowner
And the Land!**
WILDLIFE RESTORANT
SOUTH DAKOTA
GAME, FISH AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): in this survey CREP refers to private land enrolled in the James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. CREP lands are posted with similar signs.



**South Dakota
CREP
JAMES RIVER WATERSHED**
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Hunting and Fishing Access by Foot Traffic Only
This area is provided by CREP funding through the USDA Farm Bill and with hunter license funds.
RESPECT THE LANDOWNER AND THE LAND!
SOUTH DAKOTA
GAME, FISH AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

Public Land – refers to lands owned by the state (Game Production Area, State Parks and Recreation Areas, and School and Public Lands) or federal government (U. S. National Forests, U. S. National Grasslands, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Waterfowl Production Area)

Figure 1. Important landowner type definitions and descriptions.

Data Analysis and Limitations

Statistical analysis is a method of calculating the likelihood of one outcome occurring in a situation given a specific set of circumstances. Social scientists are interested in answering three basic questions when analyzing survey data: (1) is the data attributable to chance? Given the selected probability level or level of significance (e.g., $p < .05$, $p < .01$, $p < .001$), if results are statistically significant, then they cannot be explained by chance alone and the alternative hypothesis is accepted (i.e., the relationship between variables exists in the population); (2) what is the strength and direction of effect size; and (3) is the effect size large enough to be practically useful? This is particularly important when applying results to answer program evaluation, species management, or policy and regulation questions.

The practical application for statistical analysis is that it provides unbiased data from which the agency can make informed operational and management decisions. Additionally, it provides the foundation for developing scientifically-defensible policy that also is acceptable to affected stakeholders. Though this report is not an exhaustive statistical review and synthesis of all data collected, it does provide and summarize much of the depth and breadth of data collected, which includes a significant amount of valuable raw data from which future statistical analyses and insights can be drawn. The following computerized software was used to summarize and analyze survey data: Microsoft Excel, IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 27), NVivo Plus (Version 13).

Confidence Interval and Sampling Margin of Error

According to Vaske (2008, p. 179), having a sample of a larger population complete a survey will always contain some degree of sampling error because the sample statistics are rarely equal to population parameters. Sampling margin of error, the extent to which a sample is limited in its ability to perfectly describe a population of interest, is calculated and communicated in terms of confidence level (i.e., confidence interval). In most social science studies, the goal is to receive enough completed surveys to allow project managers/researchers to be at least 95% confident that estimates derived from survey data are +/- 5% (i.e., sampling error). This means that when using comparable sampling methods to draw a random sample from the target population, then 95 out of 100 times (i.e., 95% of the time) the resulting data estimates will accurately reflect the population plus or minus 5%. For example, if 72% of sampled turkey hunters answer 'yes' to a question that asks about supporting a proposed regulation change, then we can be 95% confident that between 67% and 77% of all turkey hunters would also support it.

Descriptive Data

Descriptive statistics summarize the data's: (1) central tendency (i.e., the location of the data distribution using mean, median, mode), (2) dispersion around the central tendency (e.g., standard deviation, range, percent distribution), and (3) distribution of responses (e.g., frequency, percentage of responses). These statistical measures describe the basic features of the data and provide simple summaries about the sample and the measures. For instance, calculating the frequency (i.e., count) and percent of categorical variables (e.g., landowner type, attitudes, age) can be used to describe the sample by assessing the distribution of responses. Together with simple graphics analysis, descriptive measures form the basis of virtually every quantitative analysis strategy by helping to simplify and describe large amounts of data in a sensible way. Additionally, descriptive data often helps inform targeted communications, outreach, and education strategies, in addition to strategic planning needs and direction.

Cross-Tabulation Tables

Describing and understanding more complex research and management questions require a statistical cross-tabulation approach which assesses the association of multiple variables (nominal and ordinal) in a single table where columns correspond to independent variables and each row to dependent variables. Cross-tabulation tables are used to obtain the expected number of cases under the assumption of no relationship between the two variables. The most widely used statistical test used with a cross tabulation is the chi-square statistic (χ^2) test (or test for independence) with a p-value <0.05 to determine significance. The Chi-square test tells you whether the relationship between two categorical variables is significant. However, it is important to note, when 20% or more of contingency table cells have less than the expected count certain test statistics (e.g., chi-square analysis of association, effect size) cannot be accurately calculated. This often results in surveys with small sample sizes; especially, when analyzing *N*-way tables (i.e., higher than 2-by-2 or bivariate tables). All analyzed data contained in this report, at a minimum, apply a p-value of 0.05 to determine level of significance and will report when data meet or exceed it (e.g., $p < 0.05$), $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.001$).

Effect size describes the strength of association between the two related variables. In 2-by-2 tables, the phi-value (ϕ) is noted and, in larger tables, the Cramer's V value is used regardless of sample size. Phi-value and Cramer's V measures the strength of significant difference in the frequency distributions of Chi-square (χ^2) statistical tests (Figure 2). Eta squared (Eta²) is a measure of effect size for analysis of variance (ANOVA) statistical tests. Zero means no relationship, 1 is a perfect positive relationship and -1 is a perfect negative relationship.

Phi		Cramer's V		Eta ²	
Value	Relationship	Value	Relationship	Value	Relationship
.01 to .19	negligible	.01 to .10	negligible	.01 to .05	small
.20 to .29	weak	.11 to .30	minimal	.06 to .13	moderate
.30 to .39	moderate	.31 to .50	moderate	≥ .14	large
.40 to .69	strong	≥ .51	substantial		
≥ .70	very strong				

Figure 2. Phi, Cramer's V, and Eta-squared values and measures of association (adapted from Cohen 1988, Gigliotti 2012, Vaske 2008).

Psychometrics and Likert-Type Scale Measurement

The psychometrics field in psychology looks at the theory and technique of psychological measurement, which quantifies knowledge, abilities, attitudes, and personality traits (American Psychological Association 2020). Increasingly, natural resources conservation and management challenges and opportunities are linked inextricably to human attitudes, beliefs, norms, and value orientations (i.e., social constructs). Because these attributes cannot be directly observed and measured, social scientists make indirect inferences from survey responses to questions that serve as proxies. A 'Likert scale' is a type of psychometric response scale (e.g., a 7 point scale from 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree) is often seen in surveys and is by definition a multiple-item scale designed to create summated rating scales for measuring social constructs like attitudes, beliefs, or norms (Likert 1932). It is important to note that disagreement exists amongst scholars about whether Likert-scaled data should be analyzed with parametric statistics (e.g., t-test, analysis of variance, regression) or nonparametric statistics (e.g., Mann-Whitney test, Wilcoxon signed-rank test, Kruskal-Wallis test). Often the difference in statistical approach depends on the analyzed distribution of a given dataset (Carifio & Perla 2008, Jamieson 2004).

In contrast, a 'Likert-type scale' is used to measure a single item and is never combined with other measured items to create a summated scale. All questions in this survey are Likert-type scale measurements. Understanding the difference between the two is critical to selecting the appropriate statistical analysis and interpreting the data. Responses to a single Likert-type scale item are treated as ordinal data (not interval nor ratio); however, one cannot assume that respondents perceive differences between adjacent levels as equidistant, particularly when using ≤5 response levels (Cohen 1988). Because of this, the mean (or average), and sometimes the median (or middle value), should not be calculated from ordinal variables to measure the variable's central tendency.

Qualitative Data

Qualitative data typically arise from open-ended survey questions with participants and descriptive text data from observation surveys. Data generated through qualitative measurements (e.g., text, pictures) do not produce numbers. Instead, they represent rich descriptions from the perspective of the participant that reflect the complexity and detail of the underlying tasks, behaviors, or problem of interest. Qualitative data often is used to reveal and identify deeply held values, which establish meaning from the perspective of individuals influencing or being influenced by a phenomenon of interest. As such, qualitative data provide a powerful foundation that produces new theories or hypotheses, allows one to conduct comparisons and evaluations, and/or provide examples that illustrate or challenge ideas from other sources (Bazeley & Jackson 2013). Using NVivo Plus (Version 13), and guided by a grounded theory approach, text responses from the *Hunter Evaluation of Walk-In Areas in South Dakota - 2020* survey were sorted, coded, and broadly themed accordingly.

Data Limitations

It is unknown what proportion of hunters use private lands enrolled in Walk-In Area (WIA) and/or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) programs. Though the survey asks questions to assess time spent hunting on different types of land, the survey title may have led potential respondents to believe the survey was intended only for those that hunted on WIAs during 2020 and, therefore, did not attempt to complete it. Additionally, COVID-19 concerns and differing travel restrictions during 2020 may have influenced whether a person hunted at all, which may result in data that is different from a typical hunting year.

There are inherent challenges when comparing survey data across multiple years. While the 2015 and 2020 WIA Surveys ask some of the same questions, many of the 2020 questions are new or wording has changed since the 2015 version. As such, data are not always directly comparable. For example, the distinctions between lands east and west of the Missouri River and whether private lands charged a fee were not measured in 2015; thus, some data are not directly comparable. Also, with respect to percent time spent hunting on different types of land, some respondents provided data that totaled 100% for both east and west river lands, while others provided responses that totaled 200% (i.e., 100% for east and west river, separately). Further, all lands enrolled in CREP are located east of the Missouri River. Yet, some respondents indicated they hunted on CREP lands west of the Missouri River. This supports anecdotal information that an unknown proportion of hunters are unclear about the type of land on which they hunt.

Additionally, there were large percentage changes between 2015 and 2020 for resident participation in big game hunting. After a thorough review of 2020 data and numerous discussions with GFP staff, it is unclear if the increases are accurate or whether there are other influence variables at play – for instance, response data reflects a nuanced sampling difference between the two surveys and/or to what degree COVID-19 may have influenced big game hunting participation rates (i.e., potentially more time to hunt). As a result, big game data should be cautiously interpreted when comparing against 2015 WIA Survey findings.

Results

General Description of Survey Results

A total of 2,210 responses were received (residents n=1,439 [65%] and non-residents n=771 [35%]). The response by survey mode is evenly split (Qualtrics online n=1,104 [50%] and mailed paper booklet n=1,106 [50%]). Though all surveys are part of a single, multi-mode data collection method, Chi-squared tests of independence were conducted on three demographic variables (e.g., age, gender, residency status) and six key hunting-related questions. There were statistically significant differences, but with no to minimal relationship, between survey mode and each demographic variable. Similarly, there were statistically significant differences, but no to minimal relationship between survey mode and each hunting question. Consequently, there is no practical management difference when comparing survey mode influence on data representativeness. Together, these findings indicate even sampling coverage (i.e., an important sample representativeness characteristic) and underscores the importance of using multi-modal survey methods; especially, in target populations that are challenging to reach or when low response rates are anticipated. For instance, if we only relied on the Qualtrics online survey phase there would not have been enough completed surveys to reach the minimum sample size needed for statistical analyses.

Correcting for undeliverable addresses, the adjusted sample size was 6,856 hunters, resulting in a total survey response rate of 32%. The 2015 survey response rate was 46% (Longmire 2019). The 2020 multi-modal methodology is practically identical to the 2015 methodology; and yet, there is a 14% decline in overall response rate between the two instruments. The response rate decline over a 5-years-long time-period is expected and reasonable. In a recent review of survey methods and response rates (1971 to 2017), during 2010s average mail survey response rates dropped to a 40% low, and liner regression projections suggest that by 2025 average response rates will be ~28% (Stedman et al. 2019). Margin of error calculators offer a solid statistical way of predicting the accuracy and reliability of your survey results compared to the entire population. Calculations rely on a statistical assumption that all survey respondents are selected randomly.

Response rate is one commonly cited measure of whether the sample accurately represents the target population, but it should not be used alone when evaluating validity and reliability of survey data. Other measures, such as having a minimum response sample size (i.e., large enough to accurately represent the target population), become important measures of variability and representativeness. The overall margin of sampling error was +/- 2% for both 2015 (Longmire 2019) and 2020, which is quite good.

Six strata levels based on hunting license type and residency status were identified as the target population. Figure 3 shows the nearly even 2020 response distribution by strata level (ranging from 13% to 20%). Another indicator of even sampling coverage (i.e., an important sample representativeness characteristic) and further underscores the importance of using multi-modal survey methods to ensure data represents the target audience.

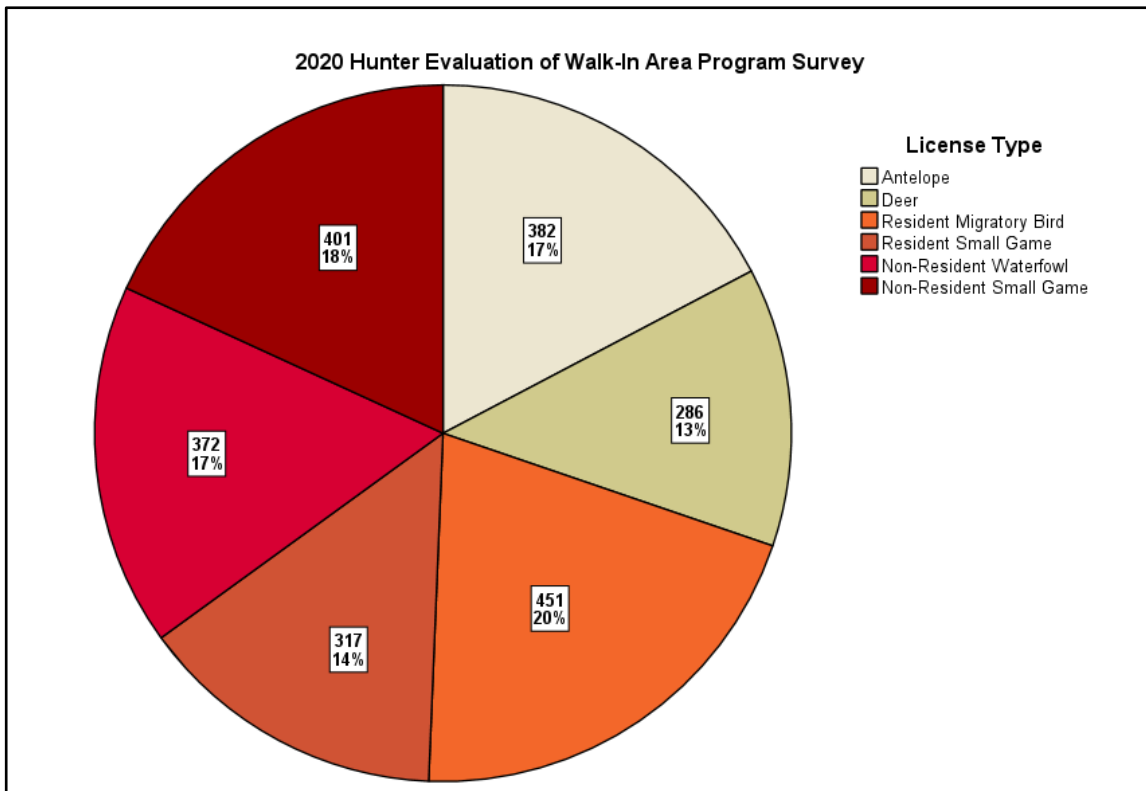


Figure 3. Count and percent distribution of respondents presented by six license type pools from which participants were randomly selected to receive a survey.

In 2020, the margin of sampling error at the strata level ranged from ± 4.57 percent to ± 5.78 percent; in 2015, the strata level ranged from ± 3.74 percent to ± 4.65 percent and included wild turkey (Table 1). Normalized weights were calculated for each stratum and applied in combined analyzes. Normalized weights were calculated by taking the raw weight (proportion of population \div proportion of sample) and dividing by the mean weight. Whether to calculate and apply weighted data depends on how the information will be applied. According to Gigliotti (2012), weighted data should be used in analyses when the information may be used to describe a population (e.g., all hunters) and un-weighted data when the analytic purpose is to compare the relationship between groups (e.g., resident and non-resident hunters).

Table 1. Strata levels by license type, population and usable survey counts, margin of sampling errors, and weights for combined survey waves of the Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas conducted every five years.

Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas				
Strata*	Population Size	Useable Surveys	Margin of Sampling Error	Normalized Weight
<i>2015</i>				
Resident antelope hunters	4,050	587	3.74	0.10
Resident deer hunters	53,041	441	4.65	1.71
Resident migratory bird hunters	25,641	490	4.38	0.75
Resident small game hunters	78,274	451	4.60	2.47
Non-resident waterfowl hunters	4,860	591	3.78	0.12
Non-resident small game hunters	83,321	630	3.89	1.88
<i>2020</i>				
Resident antelope hunters	6,960	382	4.87	0.13
Resident deer hunters	62,852	286	5.78	1.67
Resident migratory bird hunters	25,851	451	4.57	0.43
Resident small game hunters	74,091	317	5.49	1.76
Non-resident waterfowl hunters	5,845	372	4.92	0.18
Non-resident small game hunters	63,021	401	4.88	1.81

*2015 adjusted sample size=8,136 and 2020 adjusted sample size=6,856

For simplicity and an orderly presentation, survey data and findings are presented in order of survey design and original question flow.

Section 1: 2020 Hunting in South Dakota

It is unknown what proportion of hunters use private lands enrolled in Walk-In Area (WIA) and/or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) programs. Also, COVID-19 concerns and differing travel restrictions among states may have influenced whether a person hunted at all, which may affect response rates and potentially bias results. The 2020 survey begins with a filter question to determine whether respondents hunted in South Dakota in 2020 and, if not, why?

About 12% (n=261) of survey respondents did not hunt in South Dakota during 2020. Of reasons given, 43% (n=109) of all participants selected COVID-19 considerations and about one-third selected time constraints as a reason why they did not hunt in South Dakota in 2020 (Figure 4). Additionally, 34% of all survey participants selected other reasons (see Appendix B for all text responses).

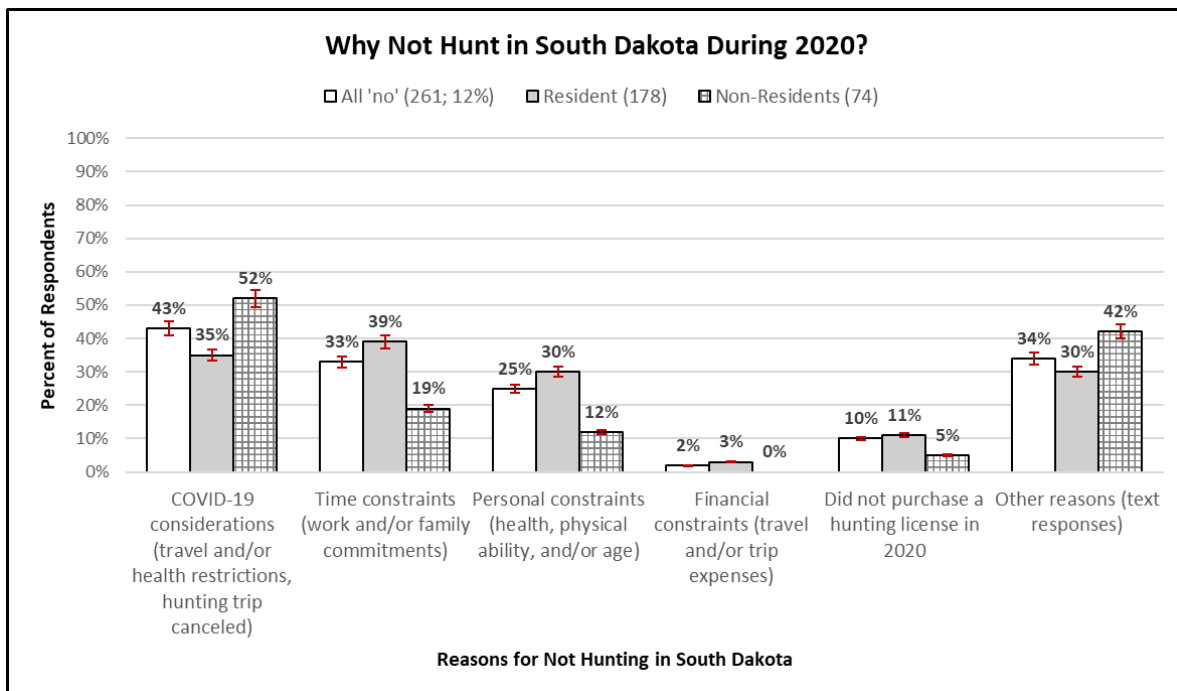


Figure 4. Reasons why some respondents did not hunt in South Dakota during 2020, data presented by percent of respondents.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one reason. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Section 2: Upland Bird Hunting

Grouse, prairie chicken, and partridge

Overall, almost one-quarter of hunters (23% resident and 22% non-resident) hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020 (Figure 5). This represents about 9% increase over the last five years. In 2015, overall, 14% of survey participants (13% resident and 15% non-resident) hunted these birds (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there was no statistically significant difference between resident and non-resident hunters with respect to whether they hunted grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge.

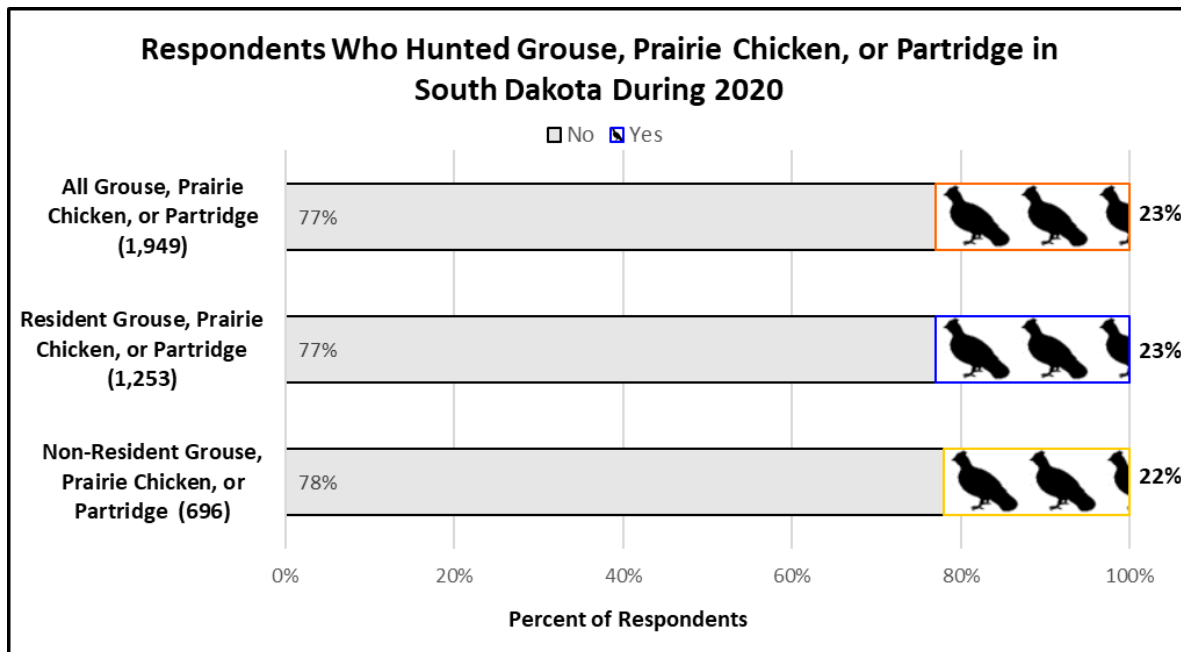


Figure 5. Percent of respondents who hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020.

Respondents that did not hunt grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge in South Dakota during 2020 were asked to describe why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=1,248) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

About 77% said this was not their target species to hunt and/or none in the area hunted, while 20% identified constraints such as “did not have time this year,” “don’t know where to hunt them,” “not familiar with land access and opportunities to hunt grouse successfully in South Dakota,” and “disabled and unable to walk them up.”

Approximately 13% of hunters mentioned reasons related to species population management. For example, one hunter said, “East river does not have any grouse or prairie chickens. We used to have partridge many years ago and did enjoy hunting them. They have since

disappeared.” About 7% reported COVID-19 considerations and travel restrictions as reasons for not hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge in South Dakota during 2020.

Hunters suggested specific places where habitat and opportunity to hunt these birds could be improved. Below are a few specific examples and not an exhaustive list:

Far Western South Dakota and there are no birds to hunt for many miles. The Game, Fish, and Parks needs to buy land, perhaps by Orman dam and turn more of it into hunting access by food plots, trees, and ground cover. It’s a shame we have to travel so far to find these birds. There are a few grouse in the area but limited in numbers.

I live in Hamlin county, hunt in this area, and hunt the family farm in McPherson county. In McPherson county, there are only a couple broods of grouse, and I have only seen two partridges in total. I chose not to hunt them to allow their numbers to naturally grow. When there is a greater number, I might harvest responsibly.

I only hunt in Gregory County - that's home. May be a few partridge - we no longer have grouse or prairie chickens in the area I hunt. Years ago, GFP would net them in the Whetstone Area.

Partridge in Eastern SD where we hunt are not as plentiful as they were 30 years ago when my dad hunted the area. There are a few grouse in Clark & Day County where we hunt.

For both resident and non-resident hunters, the estimated total number of days hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge increased from 2015 to 2020 (Table 2).

Table 2. Estimated grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge hunting participation during 2015 and 2020.

Estimated Grouse, Prairie Chicken, or Partridge Hunting Participation						
Strata	Sample Number	Percent in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants*	Estimated Days of Hunting	
<i>2015[†]</i>						
Residents	2,421	13.4	6.36	7,866	50,028	
Non-residents	1,257	15.4	4.16	5,032	20,933	
<i>2020</i>						
Residents	1,253	23.0	7.85	10,487	82,323	
Non-residents	696	21.5	4.48	6,389	28,623	

[†] Longmire 2019; *Huxoll 2016a, 2021a

During 2020 upland bird hunters spent at least some time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee (54%), public lands (46%), and WIAs (40%) both east and west of the Missouri River (Figures 6 and 7). According to Longmire (2019), grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge hunters spent at least some time hunting on private lands east and west of the Missouri River (66%), public lands (49%), and WIAs (58%) both east and west of the Missouri River.

For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there were no statistically significant differences between resident and non-resident hunter in type of land hunted. However, because the 2020 survey broke land type selection into east and west designations the two survey years should not be directly compared for some land types (e.g., private lands, fee and no fee) but others are appropriate. For instance, findings indicate in 2020 18% fewer hunters pursued grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on WIA lands than did in 2015. Similarly, 3% fewer uplands birds hunters hunted on public lands between 2015 and 2020.

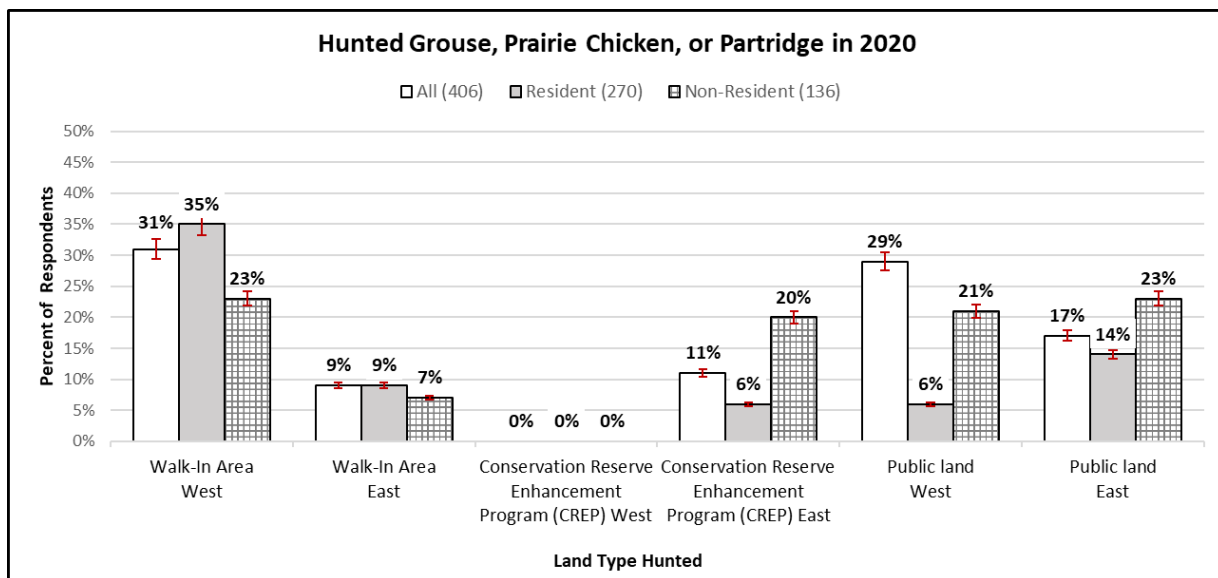


Figure 6. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on different land types.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. CREP lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

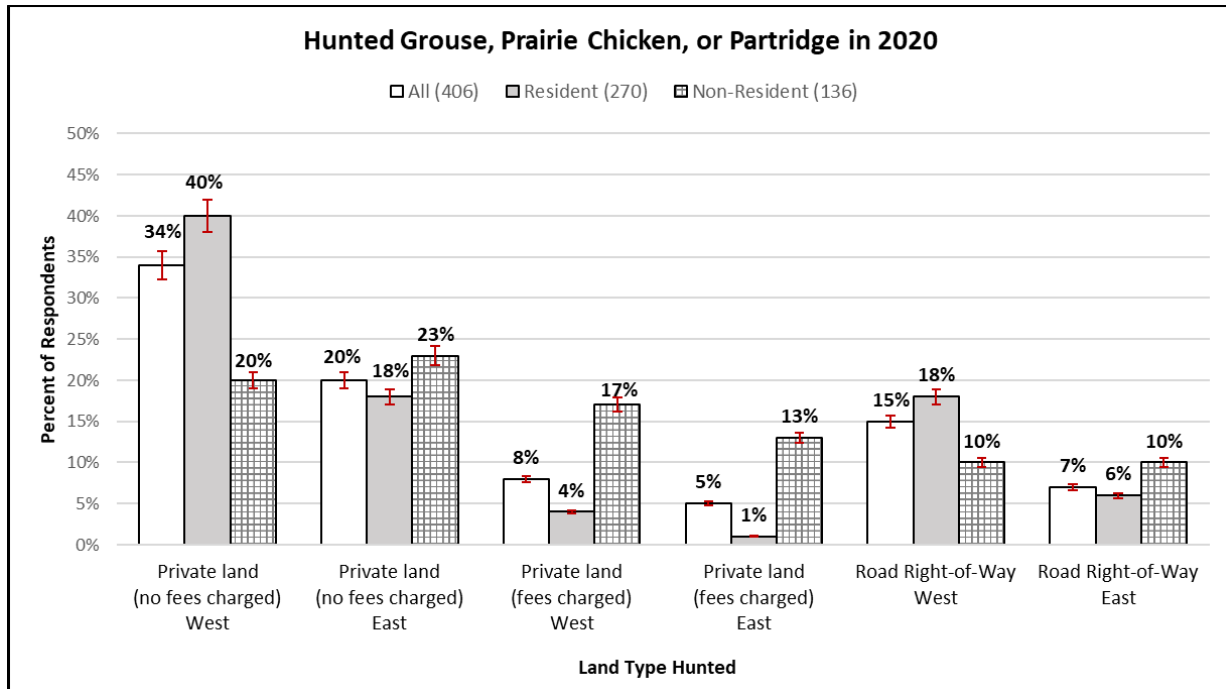


Figure 7. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on different land types.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

During 2020, the greatest percentage of their time (about 44%) was spent hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on private land (no fees charged), with 23% occurring west of the Missouri River (Figures 8 and 9). Similarly, in 2015, 45% of hunters (42% resident and 49% non-residents) spent the greatest percentage of their time hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on private land (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there was a statistically significant but minimal relationship between residency and the amount of time spent hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge on private land.

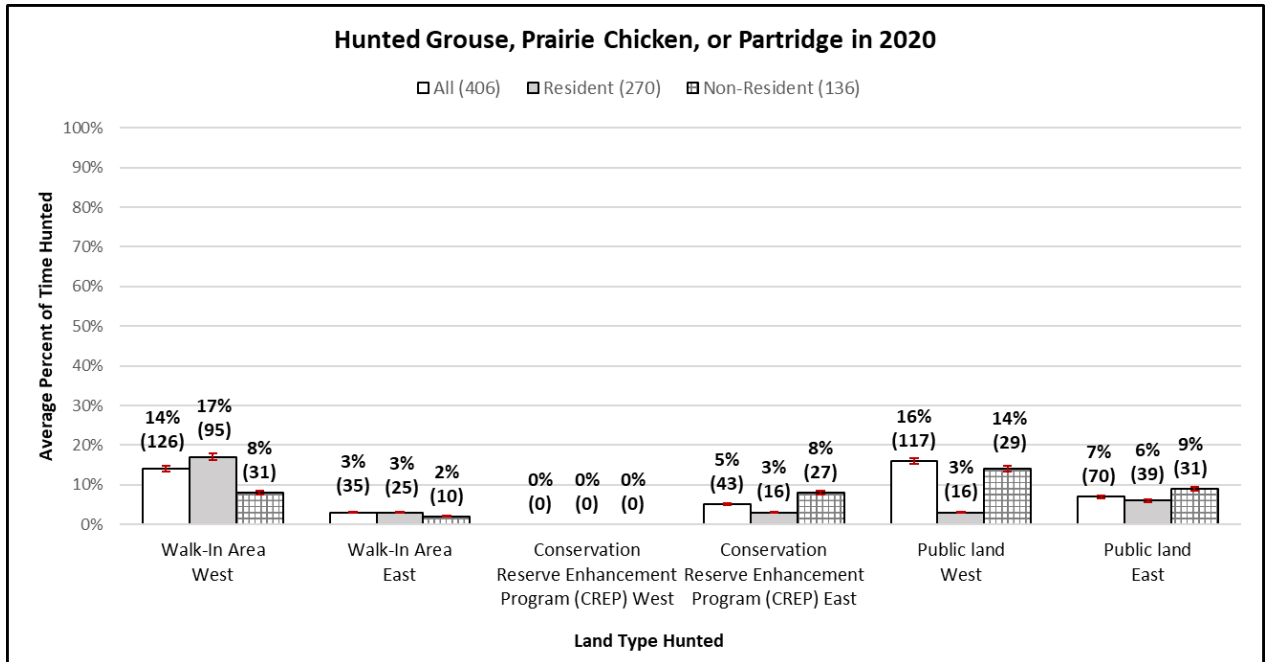


Figure 8. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. CREP) lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

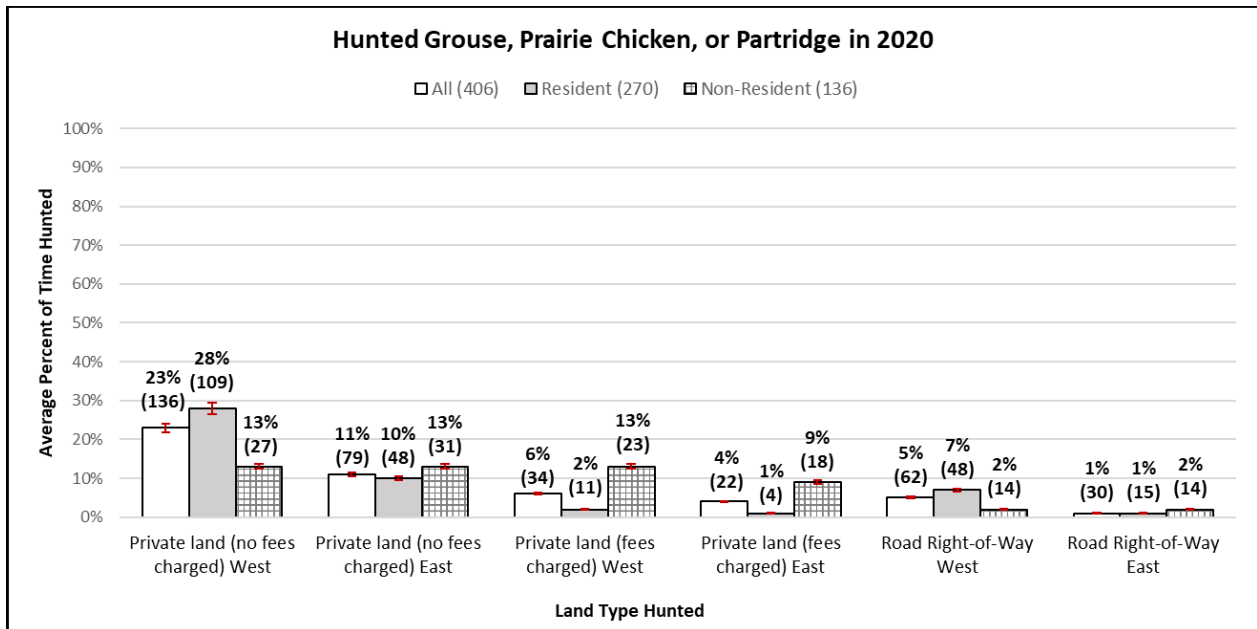


Figure 9. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge during 2020.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Pheasant

A majority of hunters (75%), which is about a 4% decrease over the past five years, hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020 (Figure 10). In 2015, overall, 79% of survey participants (70% resident and 96% non-resident) hunted this species (Longmire 2019). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents with respect to whether they hunted pheasants in South Dakota during 2020 ($x^2 = 19.404 (1), p < .001, V = 0.10$). There is no management implication. This difference may be due to effects of COVID-19 health considerations and travel restrictions on hunter decision-making in 2020.

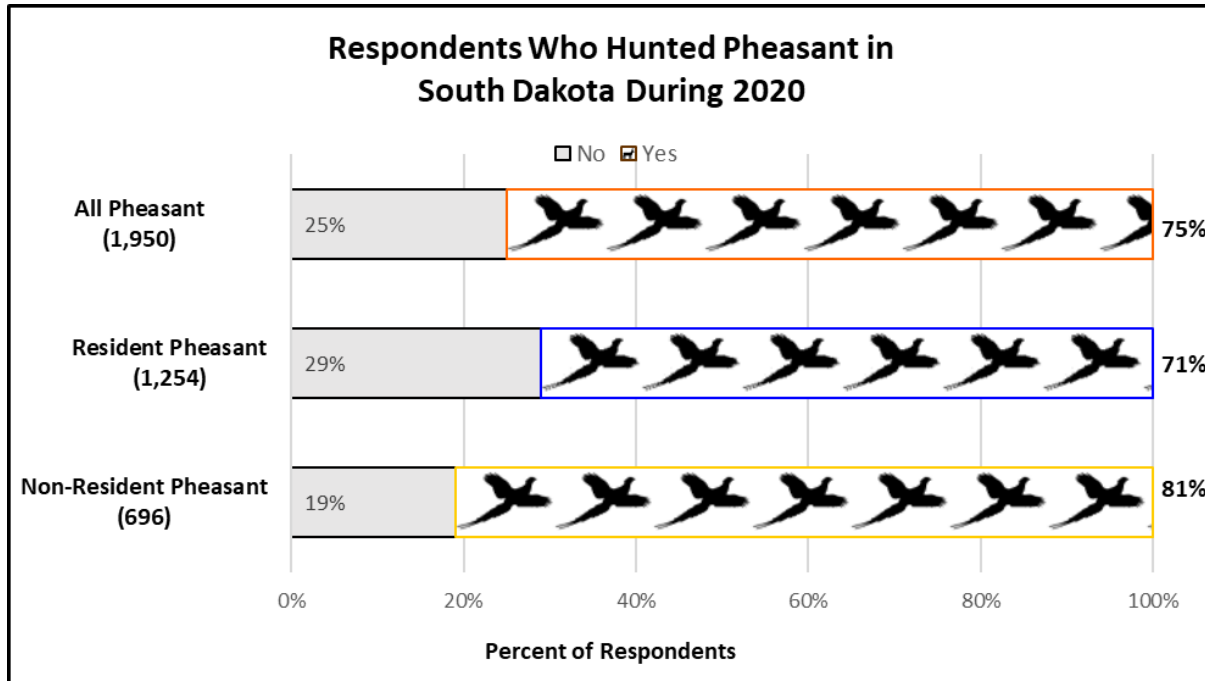


Figure 10. Proportion of respondents who hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020.

Respondents that did not hunt pheasant in South Dakota during 2020 were asked why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=395) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

About 63% said this was not their target species to hunt and/or none in the area hunted, while 44% identified constraints such as “I haven’t pheasant hunted in the last 10 yrs. or so. Too busy with work and kids,” “My work/kids’ schedule did not allow me to hunt in South Dakota for pheasants. If my waterfowl license was a full season license, then I would have purchased a small game license also and would have pheasant hunted,” “I am new to SD so am unexperienced with the land.,” and “I am getting older and find it difficult to walk them. So, I prefer to waterfowl hunt instead.”

About 13% mentioned reasons related to access and/or opportunity to hunt pheasant. For example, one hunter said, “Not enough birds to warrant travel to eastern SD. Preference would

be more opportunities within 100 miles of Rapid City. Economics is the reason,” another wrote, “Opportunities are few. You have to have contacts to access good habitat.”

About 10% of pheasant hunters mention themes of crowding and/or competition for hunting land, such as “Too much competition to hunt public or seek permission on private land. Factory (commercial) does not interest me,” “Public areas for pheasant hunting are used heavily with few opportunities for personal success,” and “Too much pay to hunt and then the public land gets a lot of pressure.”

Additionally, some pheasant hunters mentioned license or regulation issues, such as “The rules have become too restrictive and I also don't see a large enough population in places that are accessible to me,” and “Season conflicts with archery and rifle deer and antelope seasons, “ and “Cost of the license is too high for me. I've hunted it in the past but it's simply too high.”

Lastly, 14% reported COVID-19 considerations and travel restrictions as reasons for not hunting pheasant in South Dakota during 2020.

From 2015 to 2020, the estimated total number of days hunting South Dakota pheasant increased for residents, noting the estimated number of resident hunters decreased during the same time period (Table 3). The number of non-resident hunters also declined over the five-year period; however, the mean number of days hunted increased for both resident and non-resident hunters. The differences in means days hunted and estimated number days hunted between the 2015 and 2020 surveys may be influenced by factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 (e.g., differing travel restrictions among states, more time to hunt).

Table 3. Pheasant hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.

Pheasant Hunting Participation in South Dakota					
Strata	Sample Number	Percent in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants*	Estimated Days of Hunting
<i>2015[†]</i>					
Residents	2,421	70.4	7.73	65,135	505,494
Non-residents	1,257	96.4	4.72	84,901	400,733
<i>2020</i>					
Residents	1,254	71.3	11.88	59,607	708,131
Non-residents	696	80.7	5.31	62,289	330,755

[†]Longmire 2019; *Huxoll 2016a, 2021a

During 2020, nearly half of all hunters spent at least some time pheasant hunting on WIA lands and 36% spent time pheasant hunting on public lands (Figure 11), while 67% spent time pheasant hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee (Figure 12). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in type of land hunted. In 2015, pheasant hunters spent at least some time hunting on WIAs (43%) and public lands (38%), while 85% spent time hunting on private lands (Longmire 2019).

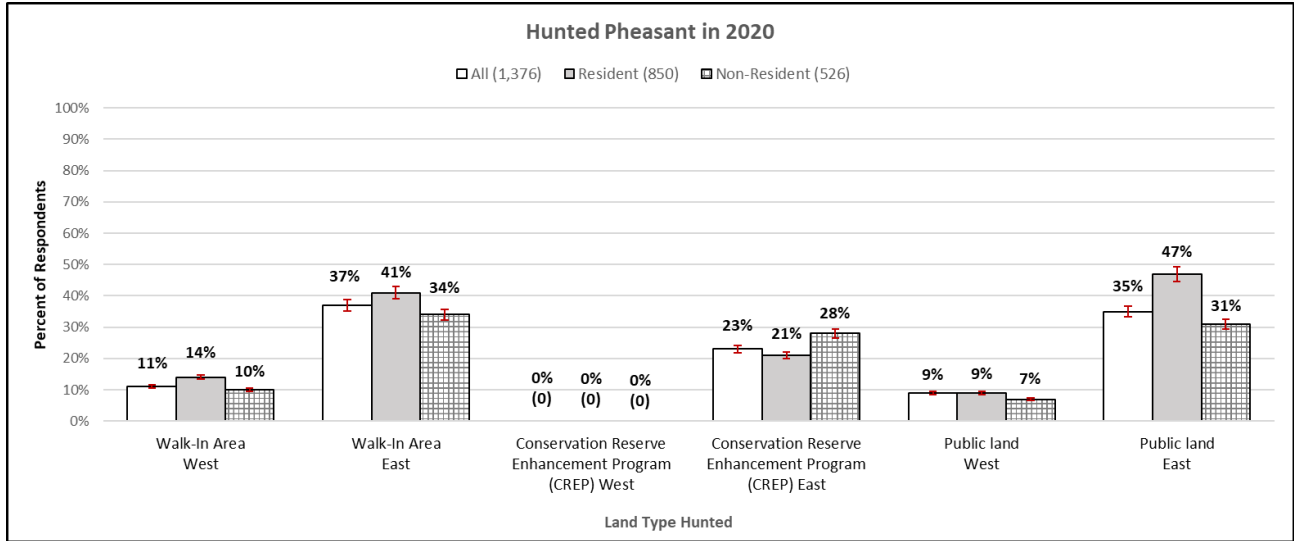


Figure 11. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant on different land types. Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. CREP lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

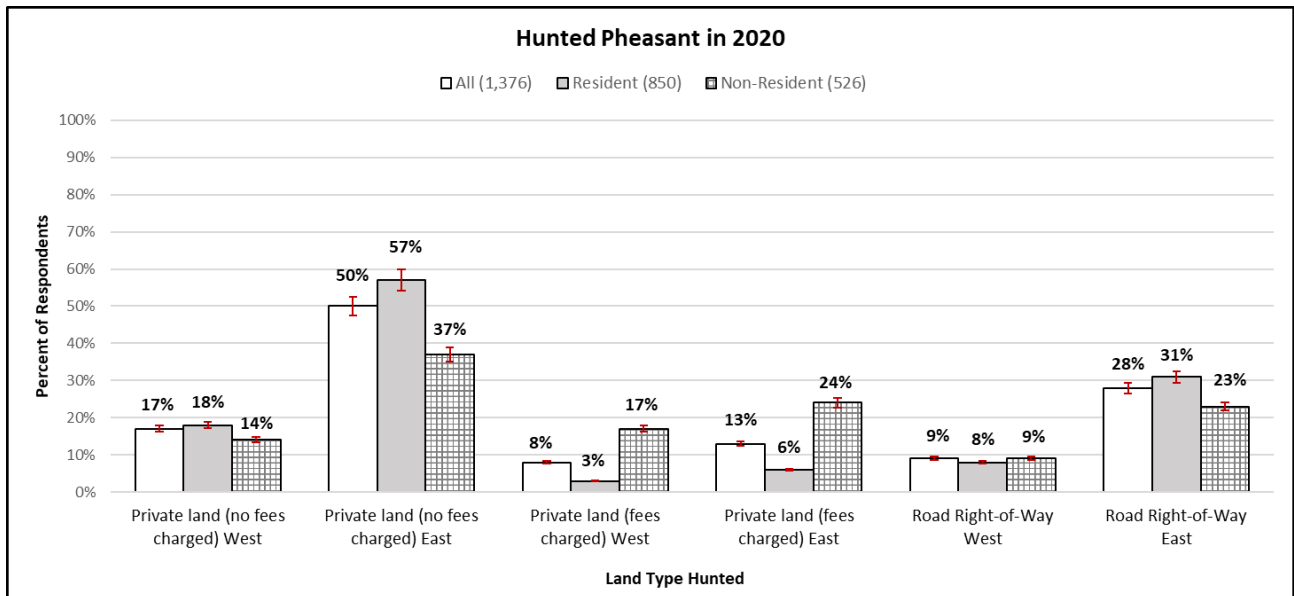


Figure 12. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant on different land types. Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

In 2020, on average, pheasant hunters spent about 44% of their time hunting on private land that does not charge fees, of which 33% was east of the Missouri River (Figures 13 and 14). In 2015, on average, pheasant hunters spent 62% of their time hunting on private land (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there was a statistically significant but minimal relationship between residency and the amount of time spent hunting pheasants on private land.

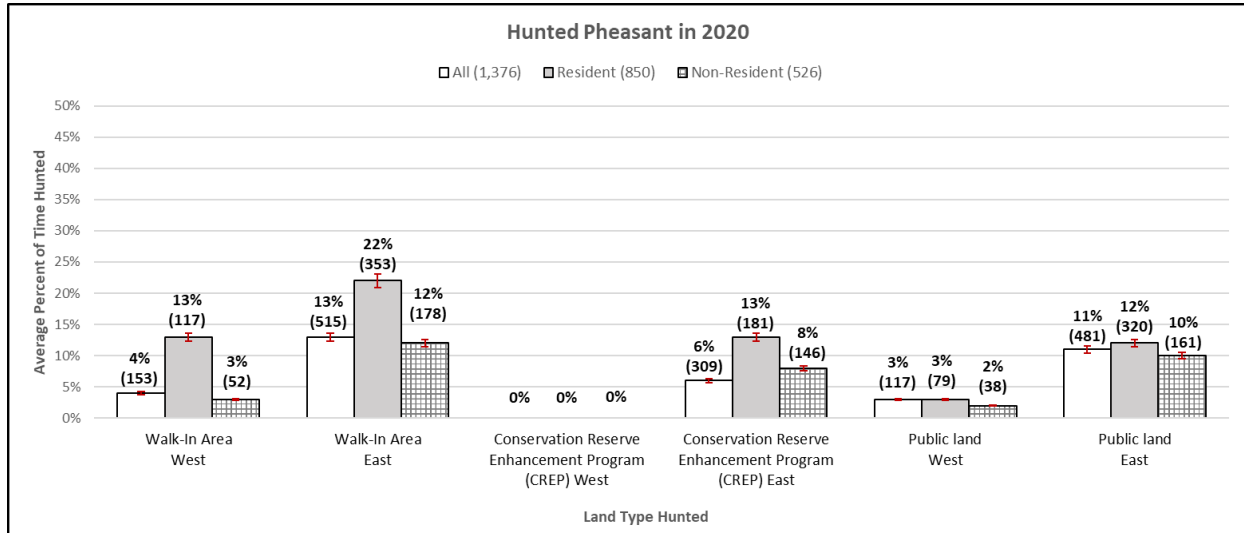


Figure 13. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. CREP lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

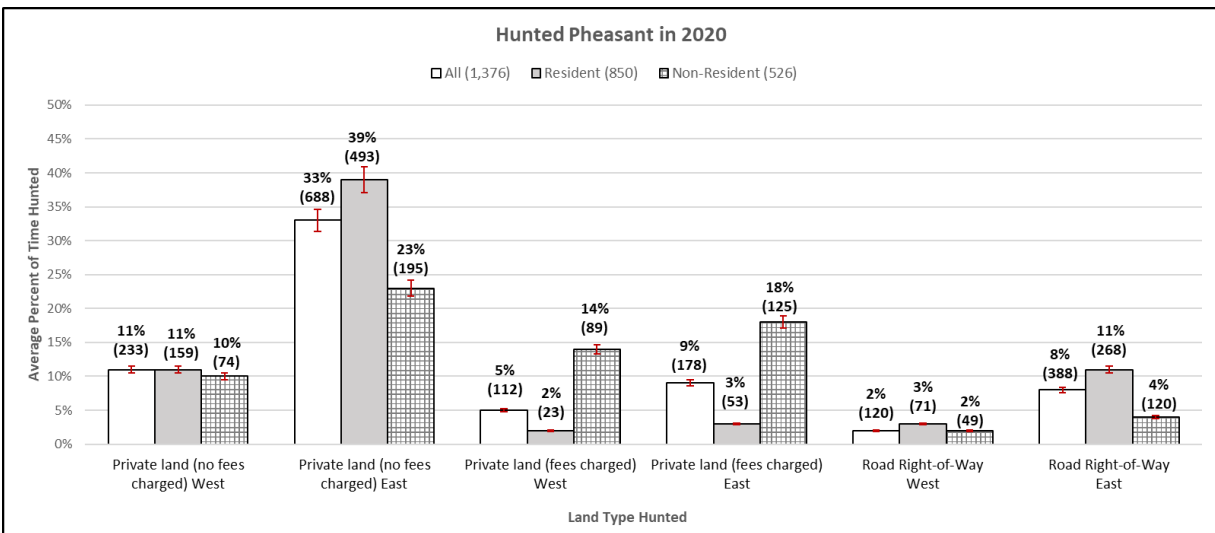


Figure 14. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota pheasant during 2020.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Upland Birds

Overall, 39% (n=734) of survey participants (24% residents and 15% non-residents) spent some time during 2020 hunting upland birds on South Dakota WIA or CREP lands. There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents with respect to whether they hunted upland birds on WIA or CREP lands. In 2015, about 44% of upland game hunters reported spending some time hunting on WIA lands (Longmire 2019). CREP lands not directly assessed in 2015.

Using 5-point Likert-type rating scales, respondents were asked to assess the following:

- **overall quality of upland bird habitat on WIA and CREP lands**
1=terrible, 2=poor, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent
- **importance of WIA and CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting**
1=not important at all, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=critical (would not hunt otherwise)
- **overall satisfaction with WIA and CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting**
1=very dissatisfied, 2=somewhat dissatisfied, 3=neither dissatisfied nor dissatisfied, 4=somewhat satisfied, 5=very satisfied
- **crowding perception while upland hunting on WIA and CREP lands**
1=not enough hunters, 2=not crowded, 3=slightly crowded, 4=moderately crowded, 5=too many hunters

Descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, median, mode) for WIA lands ratings are listed in Table 4 for WIA lands and Table 5 for CREP lands. Figures 15 to 18 present WIA lands-related responses by percent of respondents and Figures 19 to 22 present CREP lands-related responses.

Table 4. Upland bird hunter evaluations of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands in 2020.

Upland Bird Hunter Evaluations of South Dakota Walk-In Area Lands (2020)			
Strata	Mean*	Median	Mode
<i>All</i>			
Overall quality of upland bird habitat on WIA lands	3.33	3	3
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting	3.49	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands	3.45	4	4
Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands	2.89	2	2
<i>Residents</i>			
Overall quality of upland bird habitat on WIA lands	3.32	3	3
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting	3.68	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands	3.50	4	4
Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands	2.86	3	2
<i>Non-residents</i>			
Overall quality of upland bird habitat on WIA lands	3.34	3	4
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting	3.72	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands	3.38	4	4
Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands	2.60	2	2

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions; however, including for comparison to 2015 WIA survey data. Due to fluctuating and sometimes very small sample sizes, mode is the appropriate central tendency descriptive statistic for this data.

WIA lands:

- Overall, **39% of hunters rated upland bird habitat on WIA lands as average and 38% as good** (Figure 15). This represents a decline of 2% to 3% over the past five years. In 2015, 40% of respondents rated upland bird habitat on WIA lands as average and 41% as good (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020, there were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents in their rating of overall habitat quality for upland birds on WIA lands.

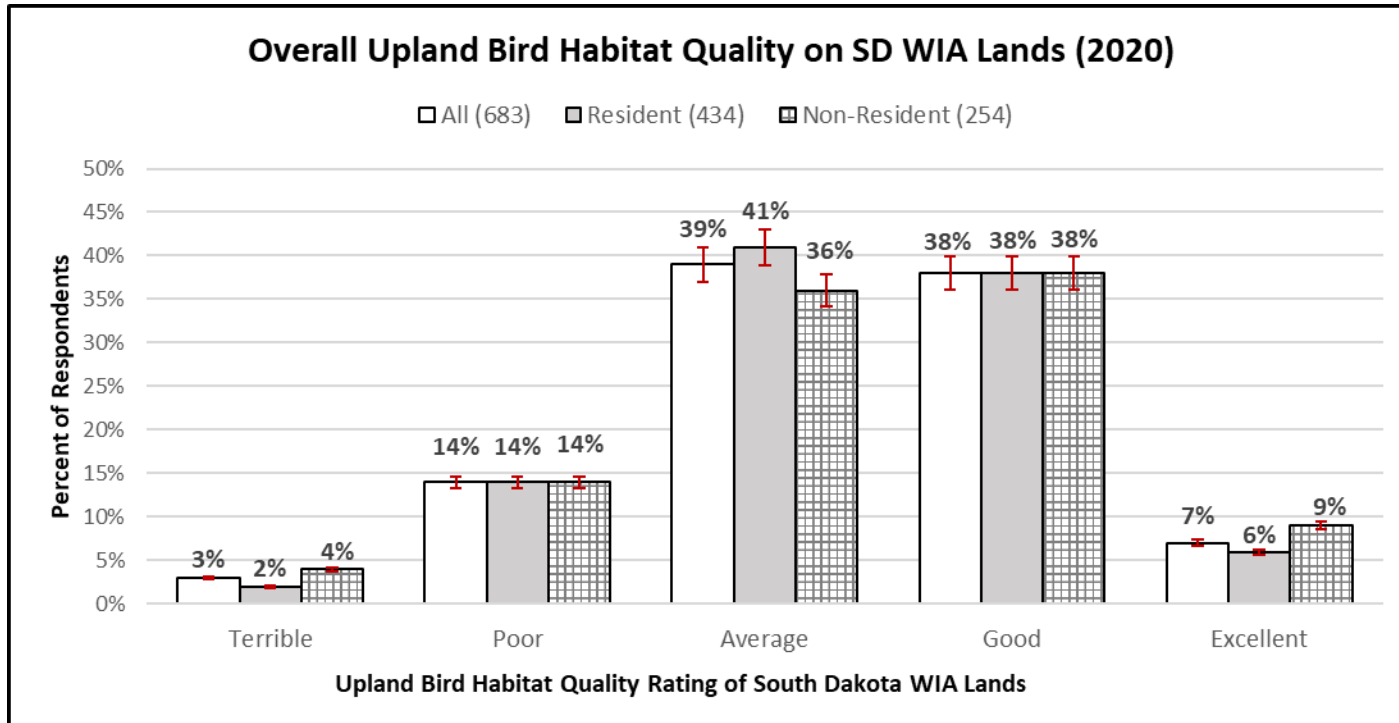


Figure 15. Hunters' evaluation of overall quality of upland bird habitat on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **half of all hunters** rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as **very important, followed by 22% as (26% residents and 17% non-residents) moderately important** (Figure 16). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents in rating of importance of WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting ($\chi^2 14.855 (4), p < 0.01, V = 0.15$). In 2015, 52% of hunters indicated WIAs were very important for their upland bird hunting, while 18% selected moderately important, with no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents on importance of WIAs (Longmire 2019).

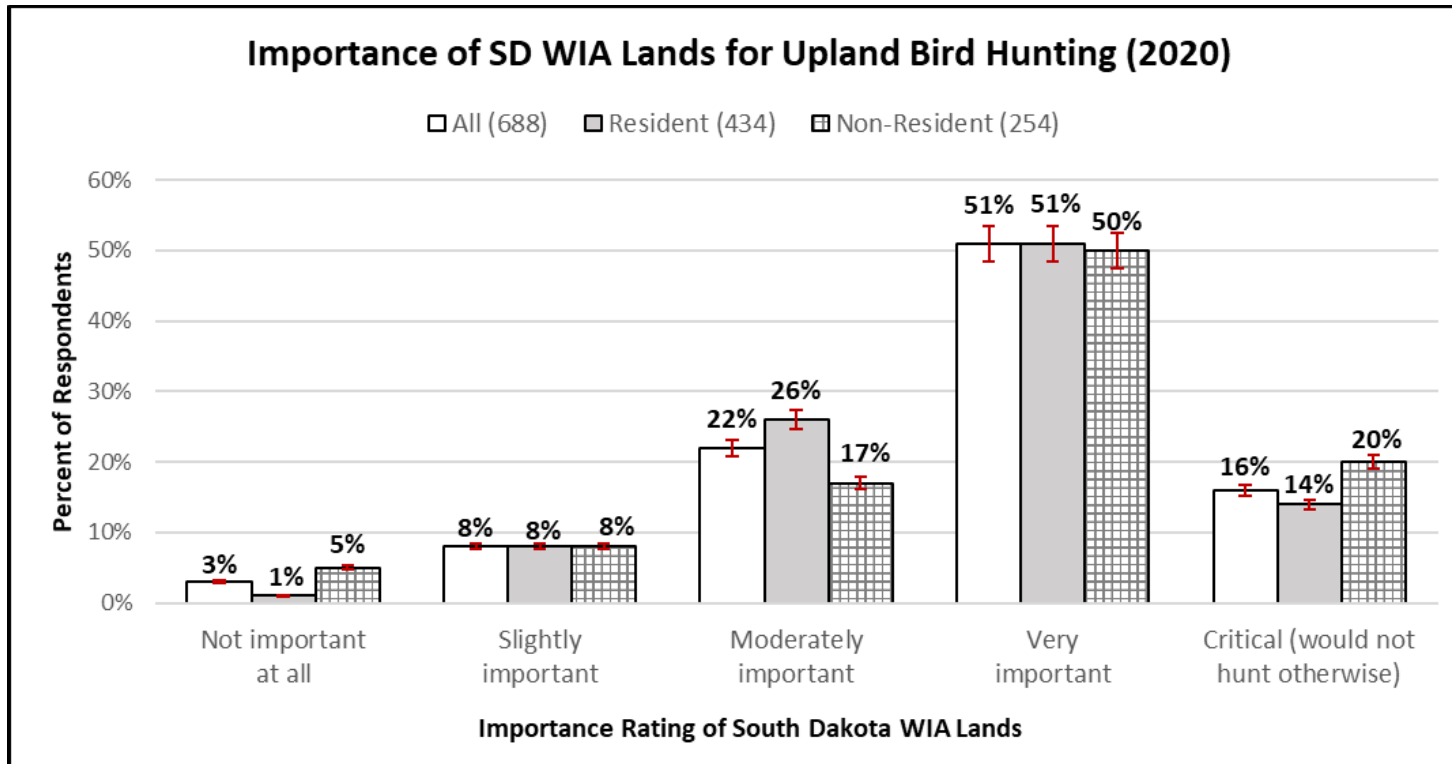


Figure 16. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 upland bird hunting. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **40% of all hunters rated overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as somewhat satisfied, followed by 19% as very satisfied** (Figure 17). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents in rating of overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 upland bird hunting ($\chi^2 = 26.626 (4), p < 0.001, V = 0.20$). Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for upland bird hunting was not measured in 2015.

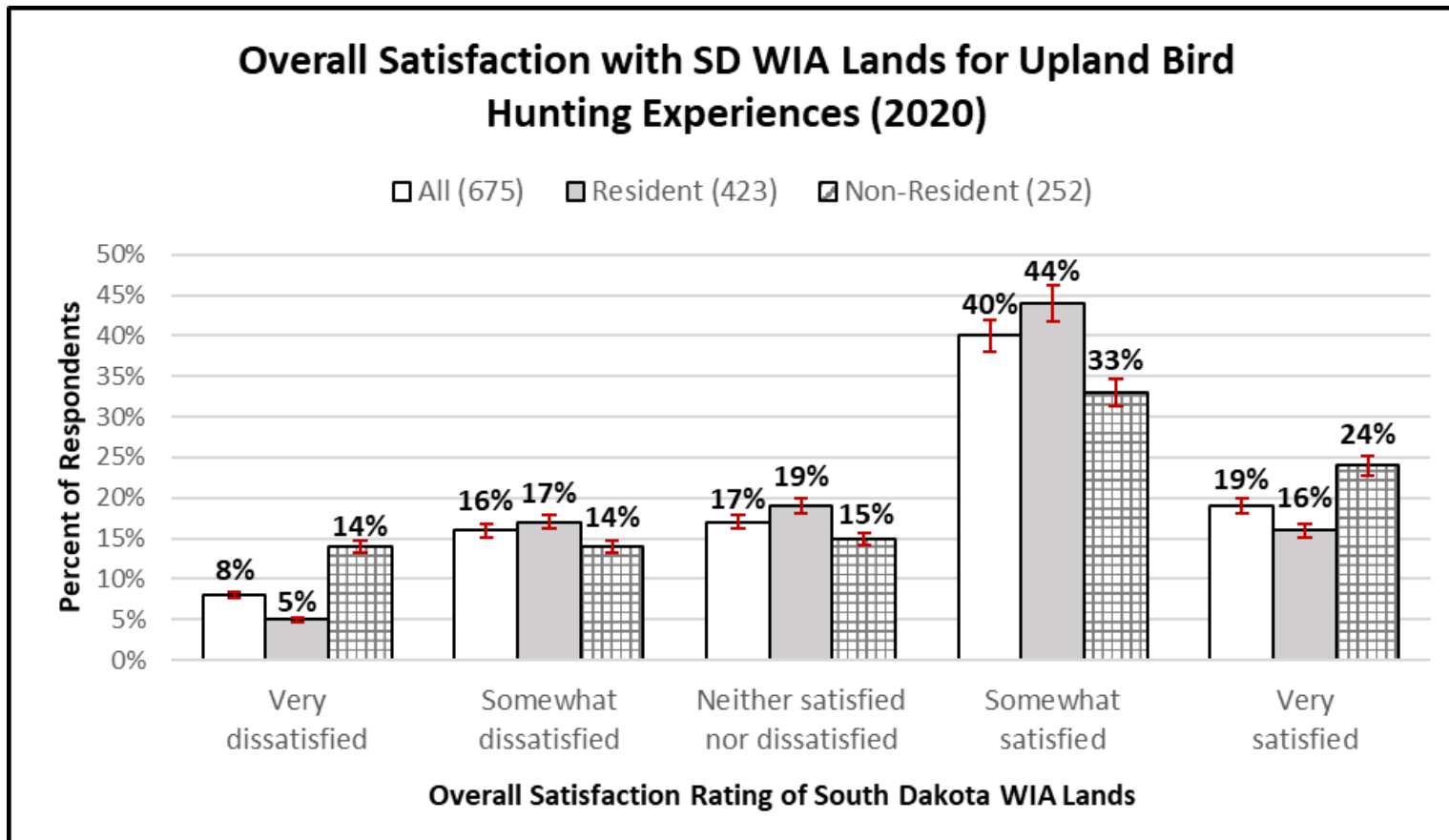


Figure 17. Hunters' evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 upland bird hunting. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, nearly half of all hunters (43% residents and 59% non-residents) rated their perception of crowding while upland bird hunting on WIA lands as not crowded, while half of hunters (55% residents and 40% non-residents) rated as slightly crowded to too many hunters (Figure 18). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents in rating of crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands ($\chi^2 = 18.332 (4), p < 0.001, V = 0.17$). Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

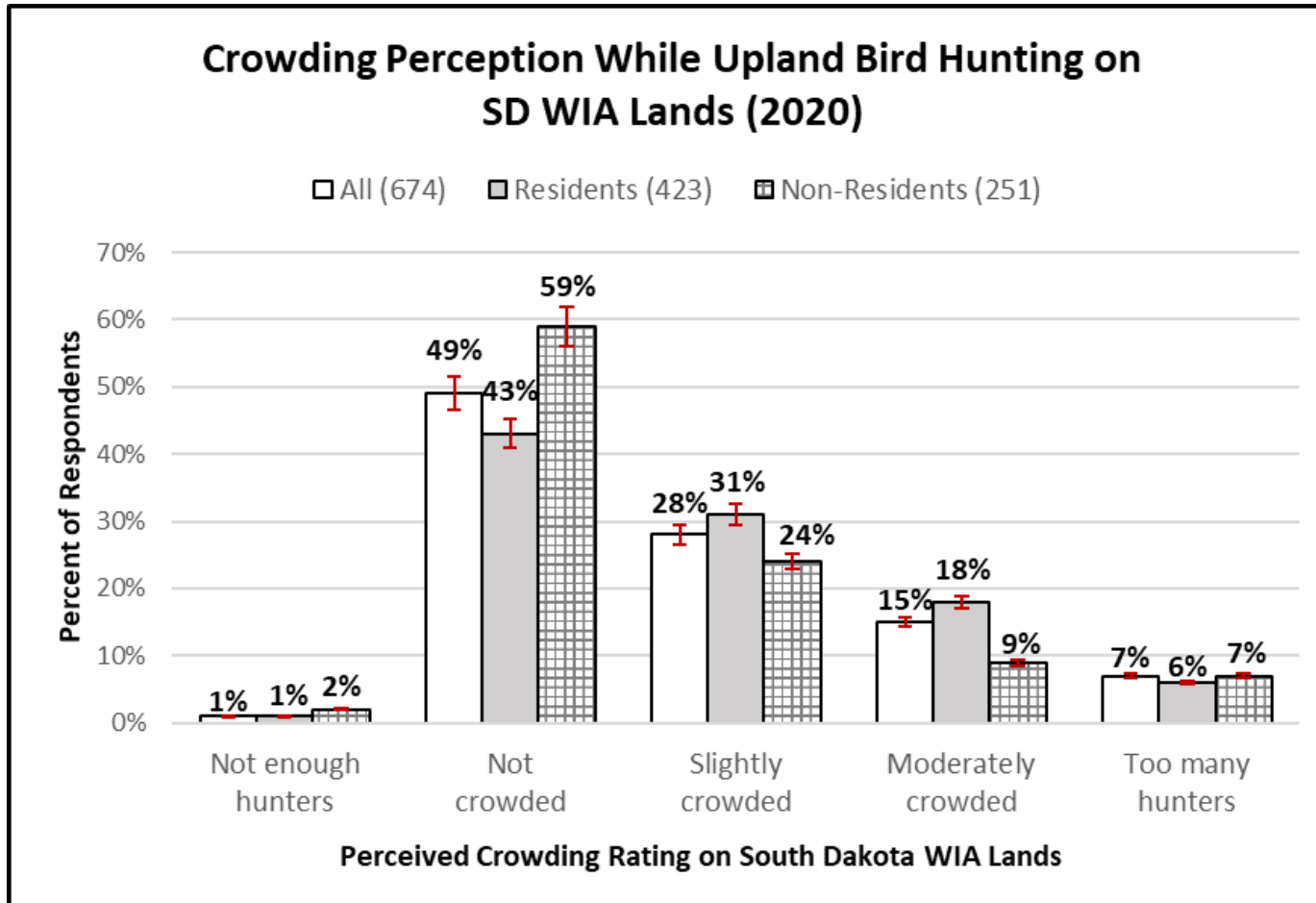


Figure 18. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while upland bird hunting on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Table 5. Upland bird hunter evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands in 2020.

Upland Bird Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Lands			
Strata	Mean*	Median	Mode
<i>All</i>			
Overall quality of upland bird habitat on CREP lands	3.51	4	4
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting	3.73	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands	3.62	4	4
Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on CREP lands	2.74	2	2
<i>Residents</i>			
Overall quality of upland bird habitat on CREP lands	3.54	4	4
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting	3.72	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands	3.62	4	4
Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on CREP lands	2.81	3	2
<i>Non-residents</i>			
Overall quality of upland bird habitat on CREP lands	3.47	4	4
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting	3.73	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands	3.62	4	4
Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on CREP lands	2.65	2	2

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions; however, included for 2015 WIA survey data comparison. Due to fluctuating and sometimes very small sample sizes, mode is the appropriate central tendency descriptive statistic for this data. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

CREP lands:

- Overall, **35% of respondents rated upland bird habitat on CREP lands as average and 43% as good** (Figure 19). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in rating of overall habitat quality for upland birds. Overall quality of upland bird habitat on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.

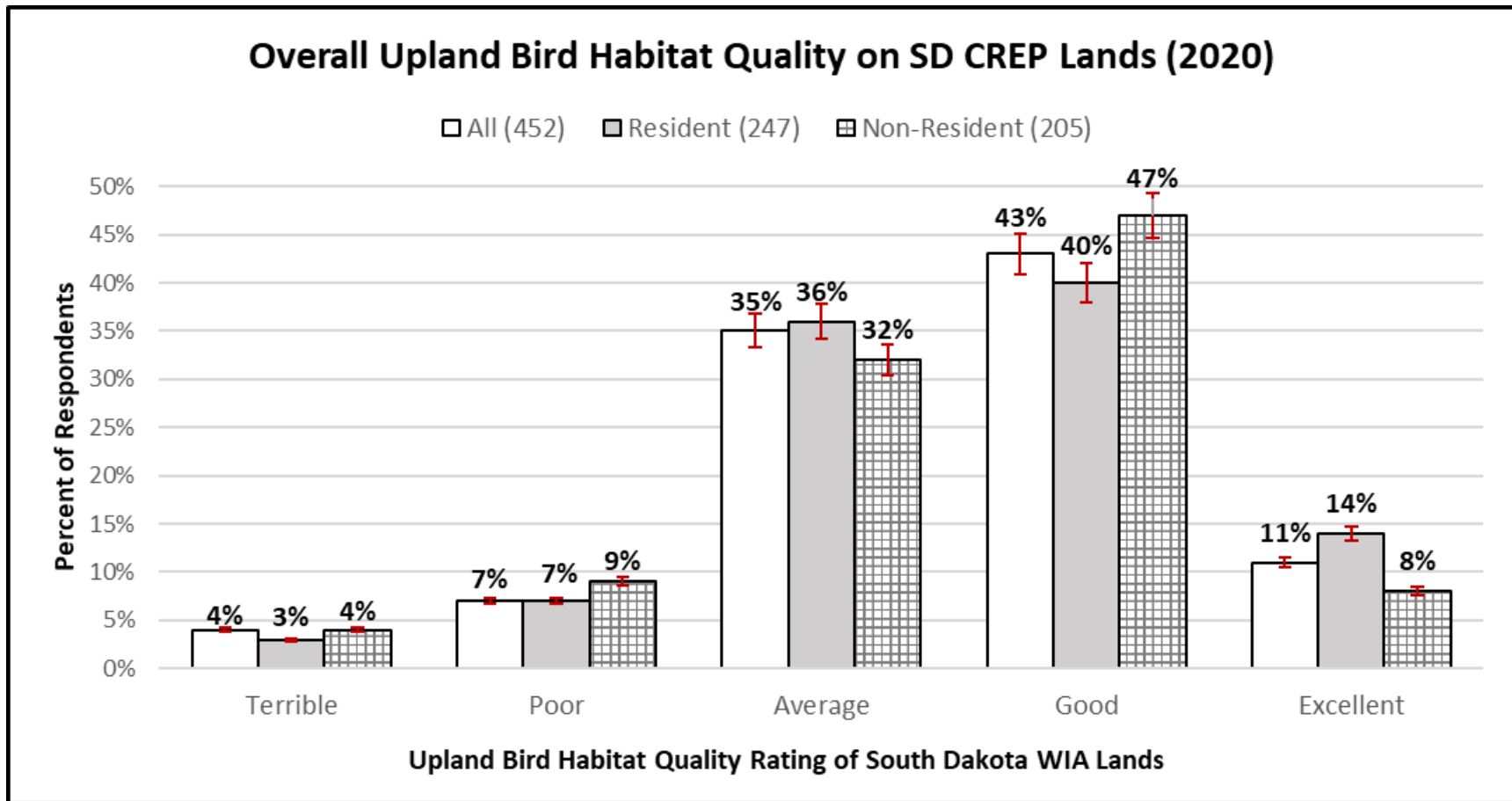


Figure 19. Hunters' evaluation of overall quality of upland bird habitat on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **52% of respondents rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as very important and 17% as critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (Figure 20). This represents about a 3% increase over the past five years. There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in rating of importance of CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting. In 2015, 49% of hunters indicated WIAs were very important for their upland bird hunting, while 23% selected moderately important (Longmire 2019).

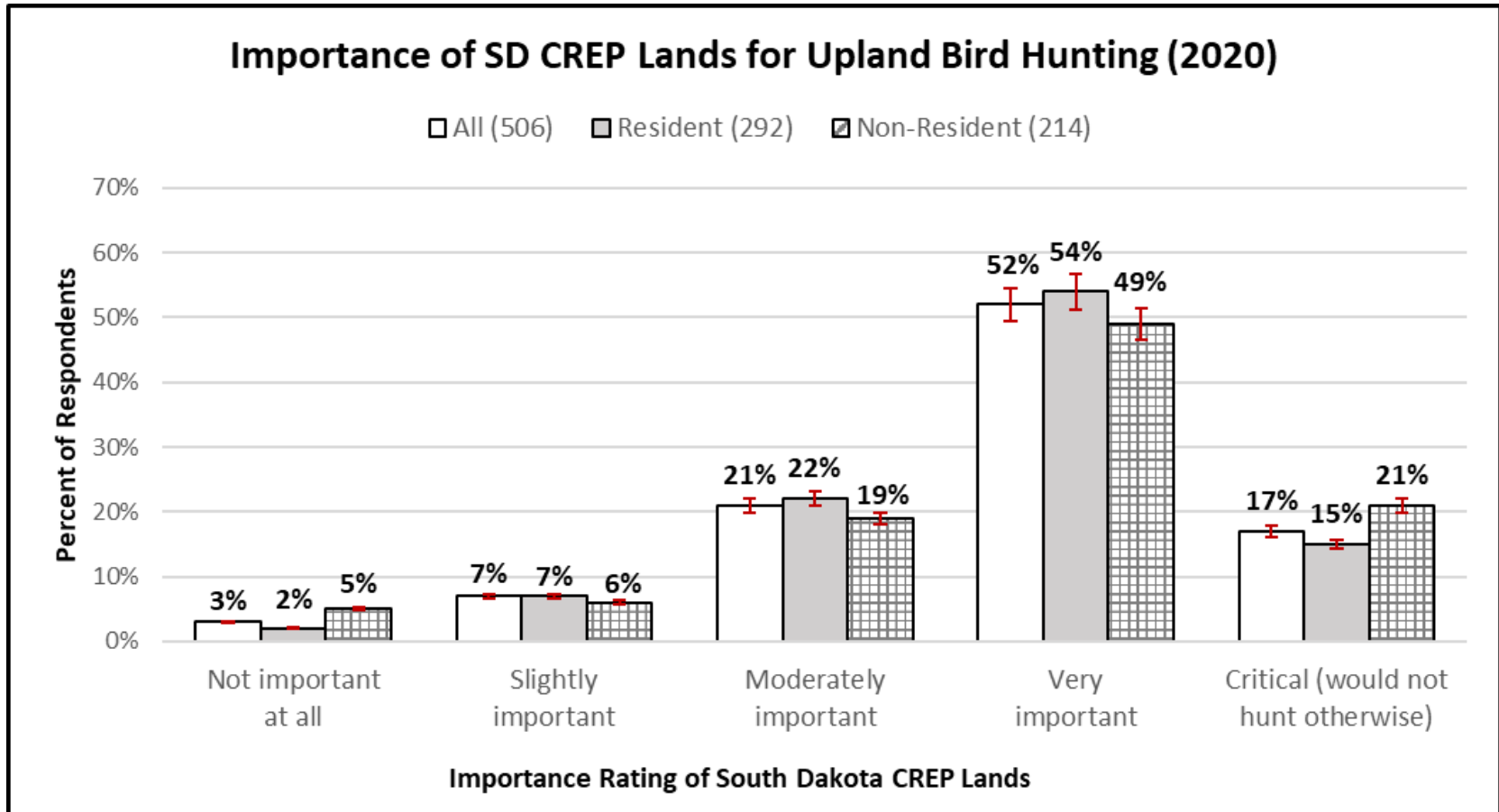


Figure 20. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 upland bird hunting.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **40% of respondents (42% residents and 37% non-residents) rated overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting as somewhat satisfied and almost one-quarter (20% residents and 29% non-residents) were very satisfied** (Figure 20). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents in rating of overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 upland bird hunting ($\chi^2 = 14.768 (4), p < 0.01, V = 0.18$). Overall satisfaction with WIA lands upland bird hunting was not measured in 2015.

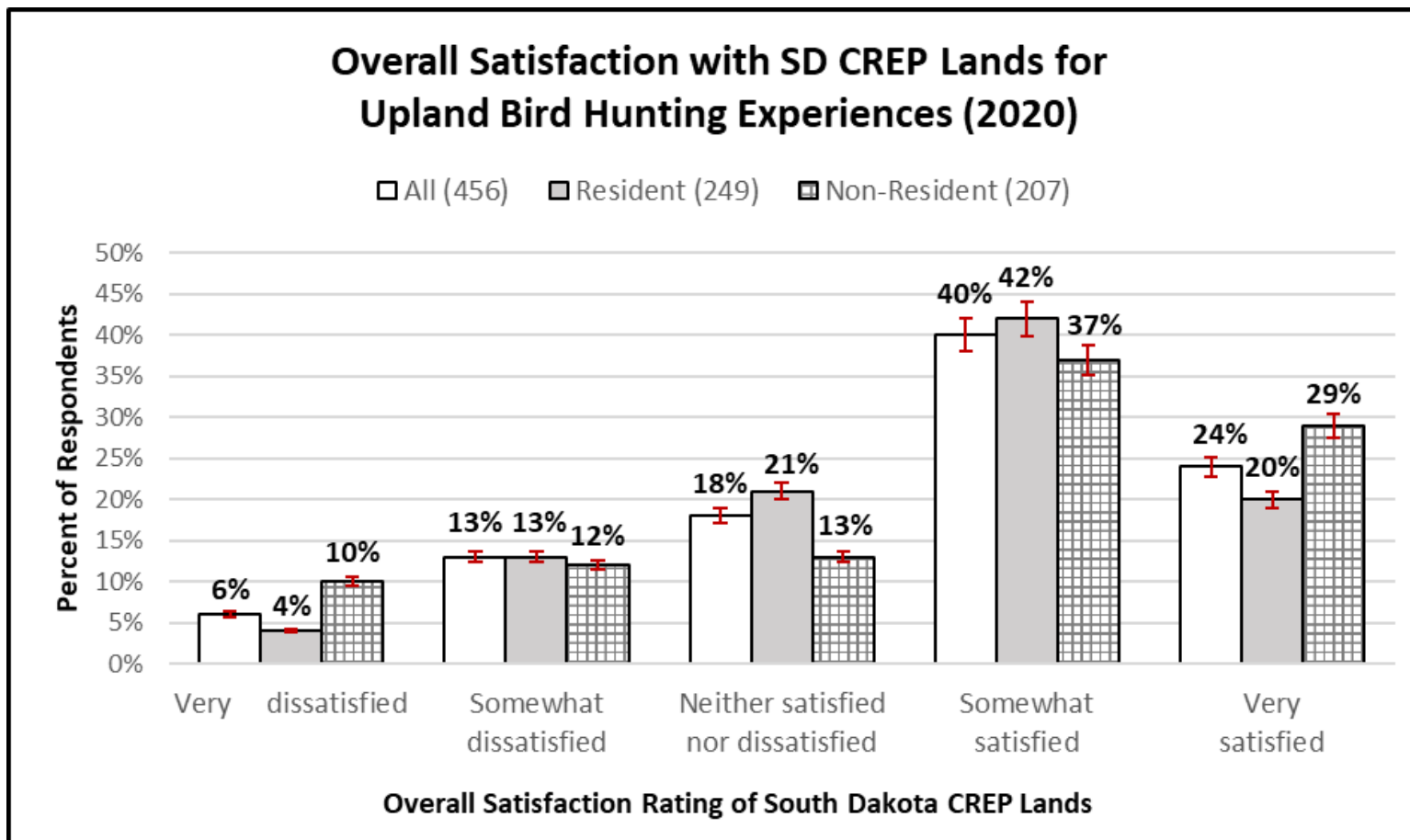


Figure 21. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 upland bird hunting.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, just over half of all hunters (46% resident and 60% non-resident) rated their perception of crowding while upland bird hunting on CREP lands as not crowded, while 57% (53% residents and 40% non-residents) rated as slightly crowded to too many hunters (Figure 22). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents in rating of crowding perception while upland bird hunting on CREP lands ($\chi^2 = 11.966 (4), p < 0.05, V = 0.18$). Crowding perception while upland bird hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

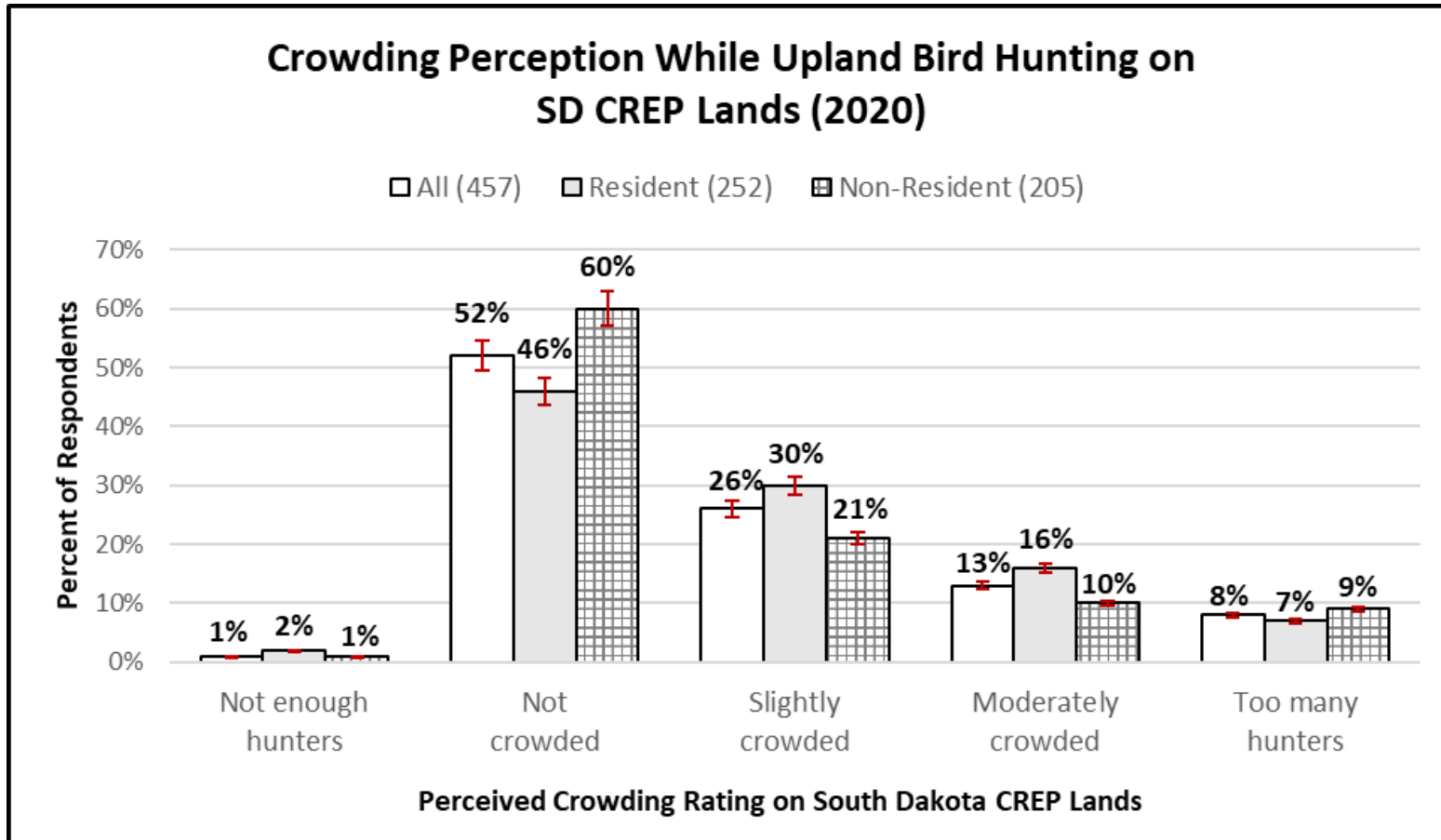


Figure 22. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while upland bird hunting on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval

Section 3: Big Game

Deer

When appropriate data is reported for all strata (all, resident, non-resident); however, there were only 29 non-resident deer hunters (4%), which is too small for meaningful statistical analysis nor comparisons. Resident hunters represent 65% of the total sample and, of these, 72% reported hunting deer in South Dakota during 2020 (Figure 23).

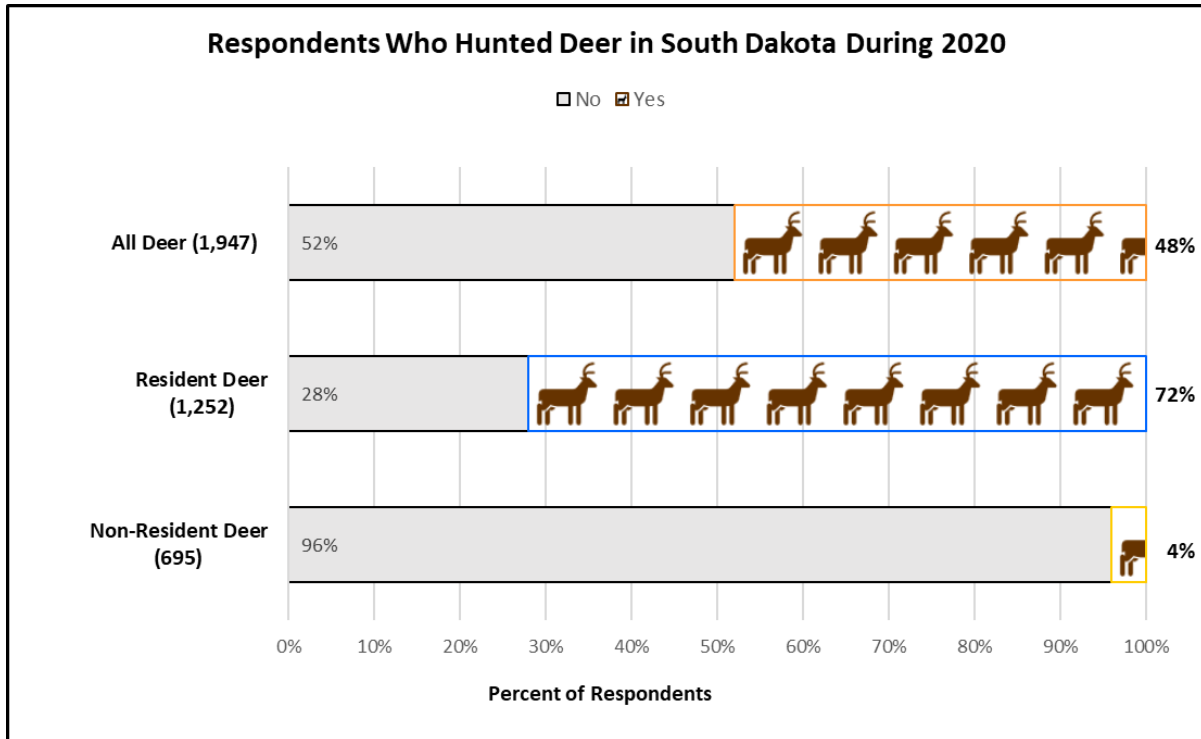


Figure 23. Percent of overall, resident, and non-resident hunters that hunted deer in South Dakota during 2020.

Respondents that did not hunt deer in South Dakota during 2020 were asked to describe why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=795) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

About 73% said this was not their target species to hunt, while 27% identified constraints such as “didn’t have time,” “I don’t know the first thing about hunting deer.,” “I am new to SD so am unexperienced with the land.,” “Too busy with other things. Went elk hunting in Montana with my son,” and “I had so much trouble finding a place that would process what I shot.”

About 34% mentioned reasons related to access and/or opportunity to hunt deer. For example, one hunter said, “Drew tag for Clark City. Could not access land to hunt.,” another wrote, “Hard to find land East River. Also, East River is a dangerous place to hunt deer. Have not hunted West River for years due to lack of available land.” Additional comments such as, “High barrier of

entry scouting / learning the land, and long drive,” “I did not hunt deer in 2020 because I have nowhere to hunt. Public lands are always way too over-crowded,” “I have no land to hunt on. I don’t hunt public land,” “No permission to hunt private ground in Yankton Co - public ground gets hit really hard,” “Too many hunters for public land and not enough access for private land,” and “I don’t like to compete with the pickup chaser hunters.”

About 40% of deer hunters mentioned license or regulation issues, such as “Because even though myself and family own thousands of acres in South Dakota, the state’s policies on out-of-state landowners getting tags is beyond stupid,” “Because for the 4th year now, I wasn’t selected for a Stanley County tag. What happened to get a tag every other year? It used to be an Any deer and any doe...Leave it to GFP to screw it up, “ “Because I never get drawn. I apply every year. The system is the worse. I feel it hurts the average hunter,” “Could not buy license over the counter,” “Couldn’t get a tag for the county where the private land is that I have permission to hunt,” and “Hard to get buck license. We have a pile of nonresident land which never gets touched.”

Lastly, 15% reported COVID-19 considerations and travel restrictions as reasons for not hunting deer in South Dakota during 2020.

From 2015 to 2020, the estimated total number of days hunting South Dakota deer increased for residents, as did resident participation in deer hunting, noting the estimated number of resident hunters decreased during the same time period (Table 6). The differences in mean days hunted, estimated participants, and estimated number days hunted between the 2015 and 2020 surveys is likely influenced by factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 (e.g., differing travel restrictions among states, more time to hunt).

Table 6. Resident deer hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.

Deer Hunting Participation in South Dakota					
Strata	Sample Number	Percent in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants*	Estimated Days of Hunting
<i>2015</i> [†]					
Residents	2,421	42.3	6.75	67,395	454,916
<i>2020</i>					
Residents	1,947	64.3	10.36	62,851	651,136

[†] Longmire 2019; *Huxoll 2016b, 2021b

In 2020, about 33% of resident deer hunters spent at least some time hunting on WIA lands east and west of the Missouri River and similarly 34% utilized public lands east and west of the Missouri River (Figure 25). While, on average, 83% of resident deer hunters spent time hunting on private land that does not charge a fee, of which 51% was east of the Missouri River (Figure 26). In 2015, a majority of resident deer hunters (87%) hunted on private land (Longmire 2019).

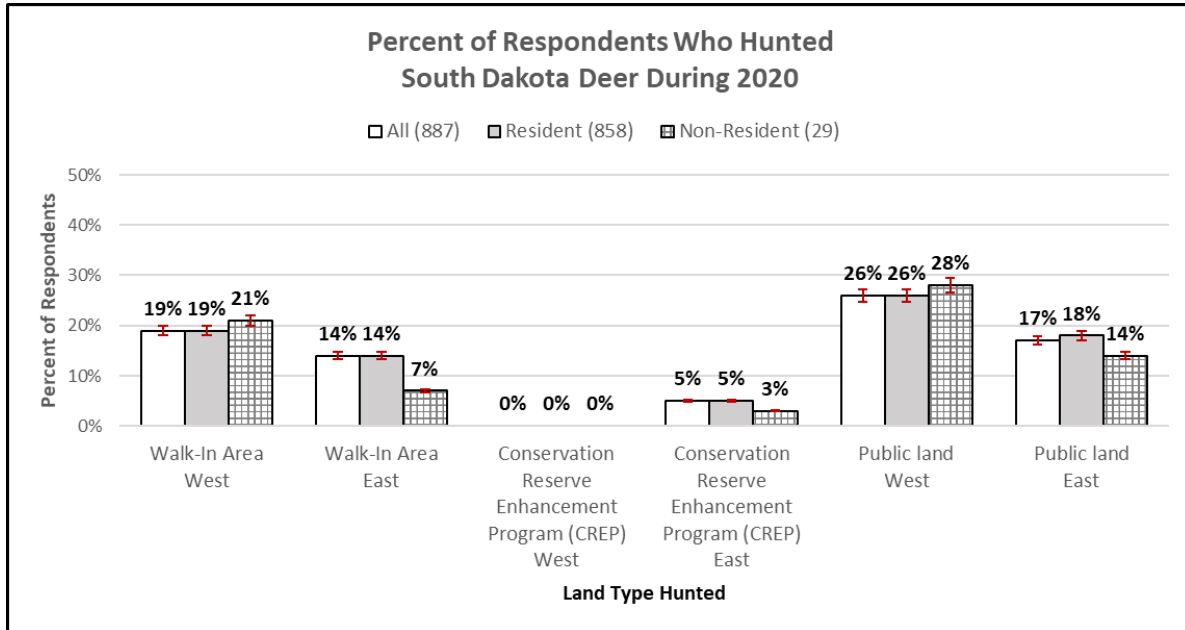


Figure 24. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer on different land types. Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

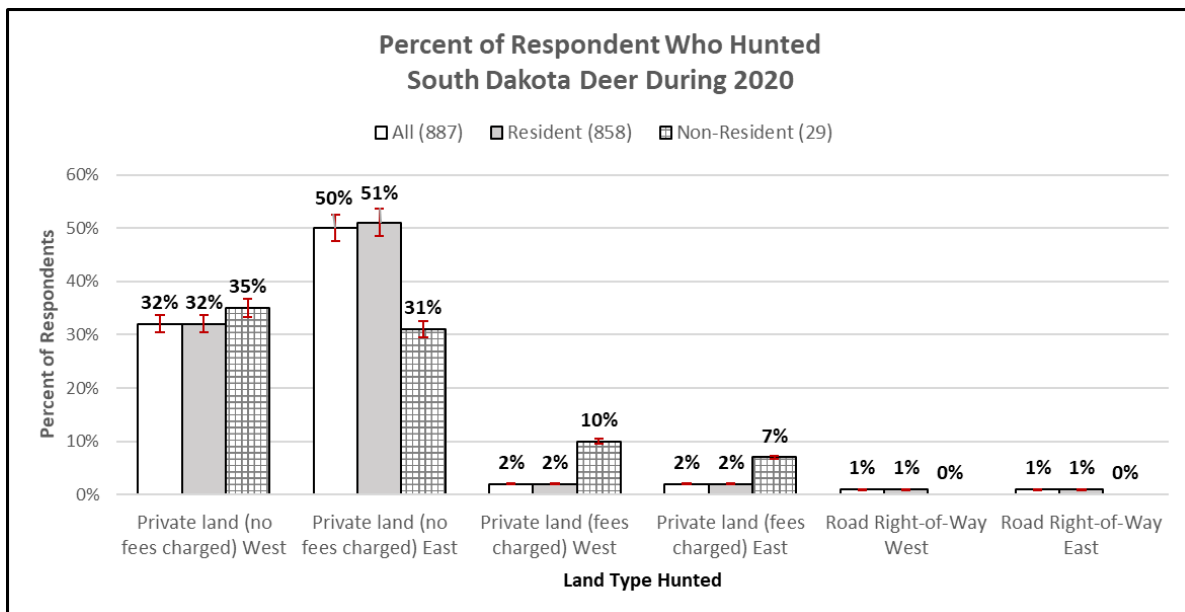


Figure 25. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer on different land types. Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

In 2020, on average, resident deer hunters spent 24% of their time deer hunting on public lands, of which 15% was east of the Missouri River (Figures 27). Resident deer hunters spent about two-thirds their time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee, of which 42% was east of the Missouri River (Figure 28). In 2015, on average, resident deer hunters spent 71% of their time hunting on private land (Longmire 2019).

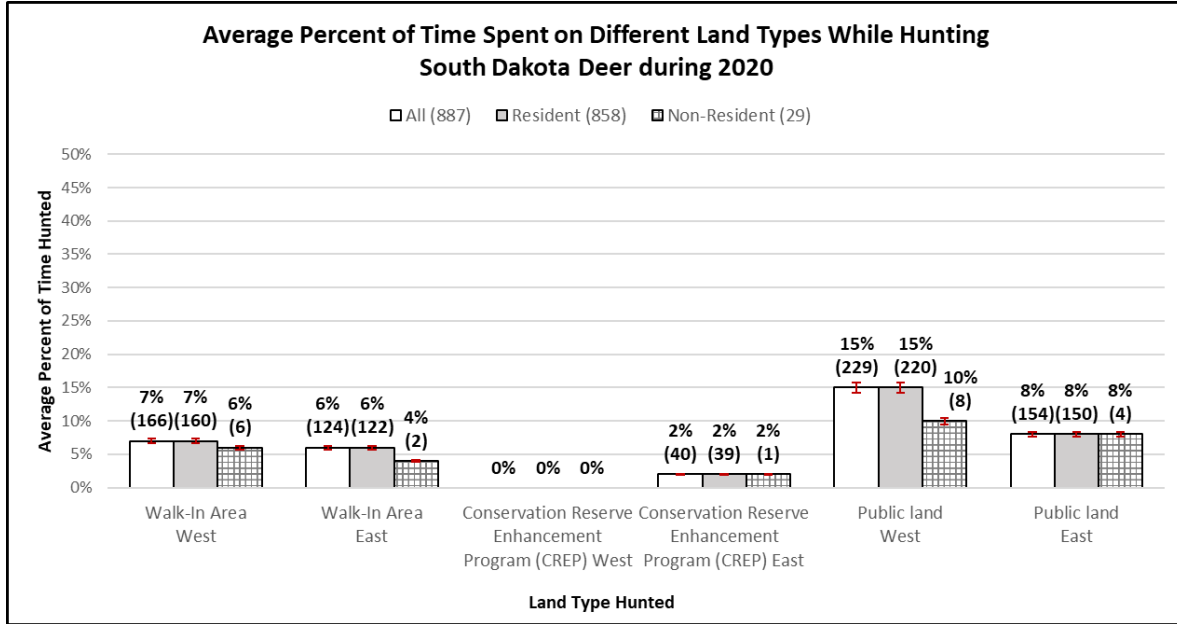


Figure 26. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer during 2020.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

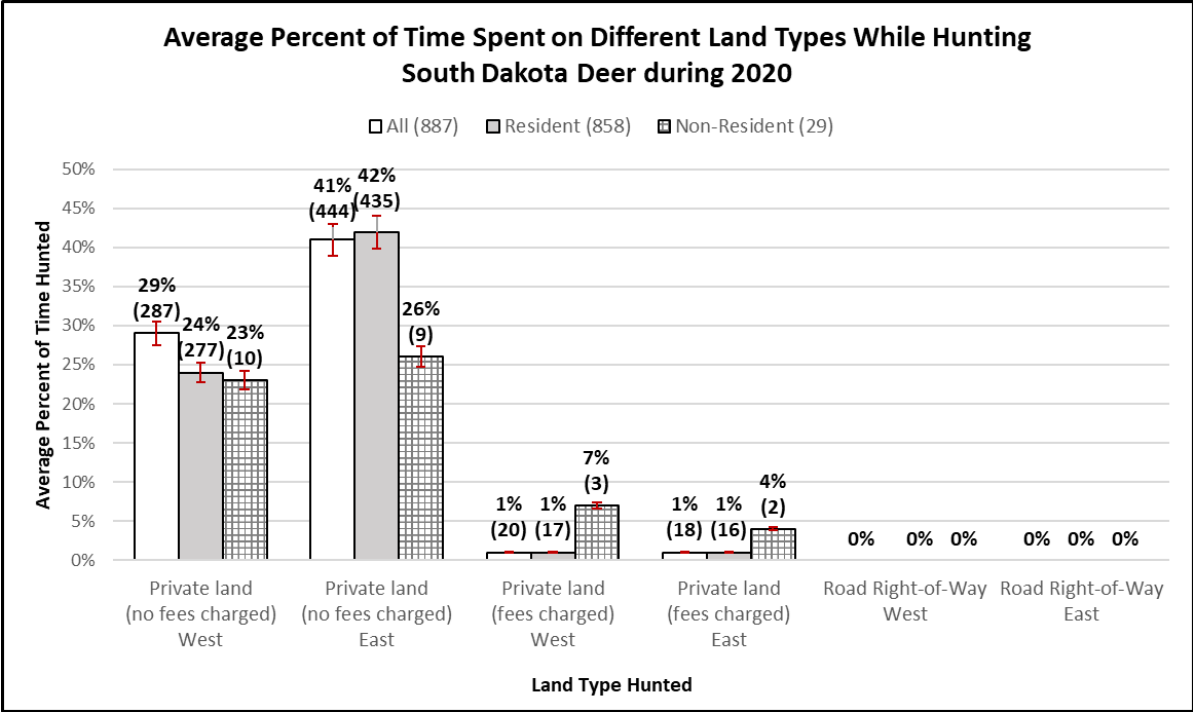


Figure 27. Average percent of time spent on different types of land and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota deer during 2020.

Note: Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Antelope

When appropriate data is reported for all strata (all, resident, non-resident); however, there were only 5 non-resident antelope hunters (1%), which is too small for meaningful statistical analysis nor comparisons. Resident hunters represent 65% of the total sample and, of these, 27% reported hunting deer in South Dakota during 2020 (Figure 28).

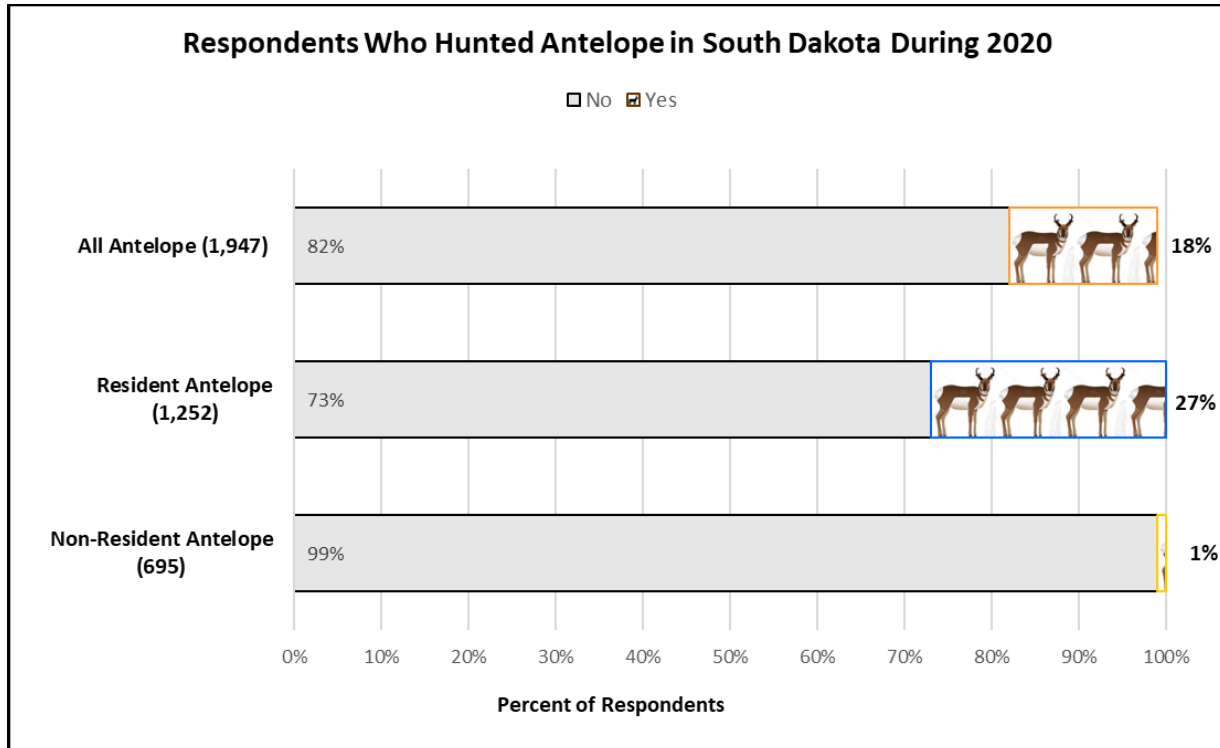


Figure 28. Percent of overall, resident, and non-resident hunters that hunted antelope in South Dakota during 2020.

Respondents that did not hunt antelope in South Dakota during 2020 were asked to describe why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=1,162) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

About 65% said this was not their target species to hunt, while 22% identified constraints such as “didn’t have time,” “I am too busy with farm work, although I know of very good Walk-In out by Isabel,” and “I live on East side of the river and do not have time to travel west of the river where antelope roam.”

About 44% of antelope hunters mentioned license or regulation issues, such as “Because as a non-resident it is almost impossible to get a license,” “Difficulty in getting a permit. Not worth waiting for. Easier to go to Wyoming,” “Even though I own land in Butte County, it’s not enough to be a landowner. I only manage to draw a tag every third year. Our ranch/farm in Jerauld county doesn’t have any antelope,” “License for non-resident is high for not much meat on a goat.,” “out-of-state and can’t use crossbow,” and “Tired of giving you people money for elk

or antelope and never get a tag. I have 26 years of so called preference points and have yet to have a tag. Not about to keep giving the state of SD more money. Way easier going to WY to have a far better experience. By the way, I am SD born and raised and educated. Not some transplant!”

About 34% mentioned reasons related to access and/or opportunity to hunt antelope. For example, one hunter said, “Did not apply. I do not have private land access for antelope. Walk-In Areas are often crowded and offer few opportunities during antelope season,” another wrote, “Didn’t plan any trips out West. Indians locked up Res. due to Covid.” Additional comments such as, “Do not have private land to hunt,” “Have hunted Harding County. Landowners out there are rude and harass people. They put signs “No Hunting” on school land and other public hunting land.,” “My perception is you need private land access for west river antelope hunt. I’m guessing that access is limited for a non-resident,” “Too much hunting pressure on public land,” and “Unsure of places to hunt antelope in SD to be successful.”

About 11% of antelope hunters reported reasons related to habitat and population management, such as “Extremely low herd numbers West River i.e., Perkins, Harding, Zieback. Mead counties,” “Few to none in Edmunds and McPherson counties,” “Population way down. Decided didn’t need 2 take out 2 breeding does,” and “I shot an antelope years ago. It was delicious and a great hunt, but I love antelope as a species and have decided I don’t need to kill anymore especially in Tripp county where I mainly big game hunt. The antelope population there has crashed as compared to 11 years ago when I shot my buck.”

Lastly, 3% reported COVID-19 considerations and travel restrictions as reasons for not hunting antelope in South Dakota during 2020.

From 2015 to 2020, the estimated total number of days hunting South Dakota antelope, along with estimated number of participants, increased for residents, while the average number of days in the field remained constant (Table 7).

Table 7. Resident antelope hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.

Resident Antelope Hunting Participation in South Dakota					
Strata	Sample Number	Percent in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants*	Estimated Days of Hunting
<i>2015</i> [†]					
Residents	2,387	2.4	3.2	4,632	14,822
<i>2020</i>					
Residents	1,252	26.8	3.5	6,960	24,360

[†] Longmire 2019; *Huxoll 2016c, 2021c

In 2020, about half of resident antelope hunters spent at least some time hunting on WIA lands east and west of the Missouri River, while 38% utilized public lands east and west of the Missouri River (Figure 29). Similarly, on average, 50% of resident antelope hunters spent time hunting on private land that does not charge a fee, of which 45% was west of the Missouri River (Figure 30). In 2015, resident antelope hunters spent 39% spent time hunting on WIA lands, 39% on public lands, and 59% spent time hunting on private lands (Longmire 2019).

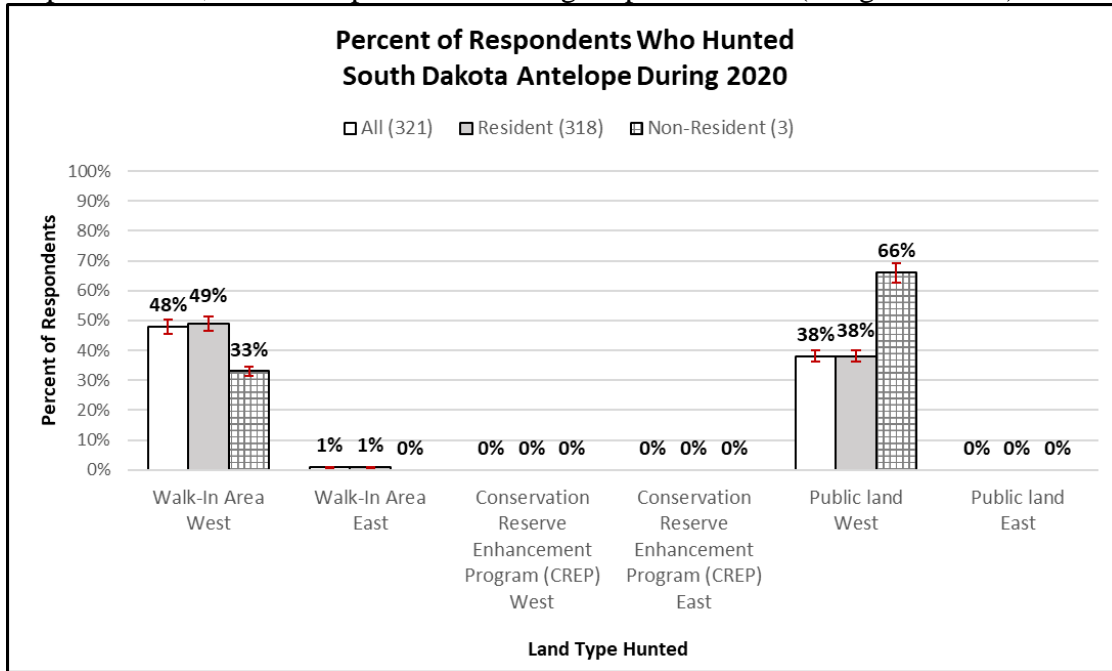


Figure 29. Percent of respondents that hunted antelope on different land types. Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

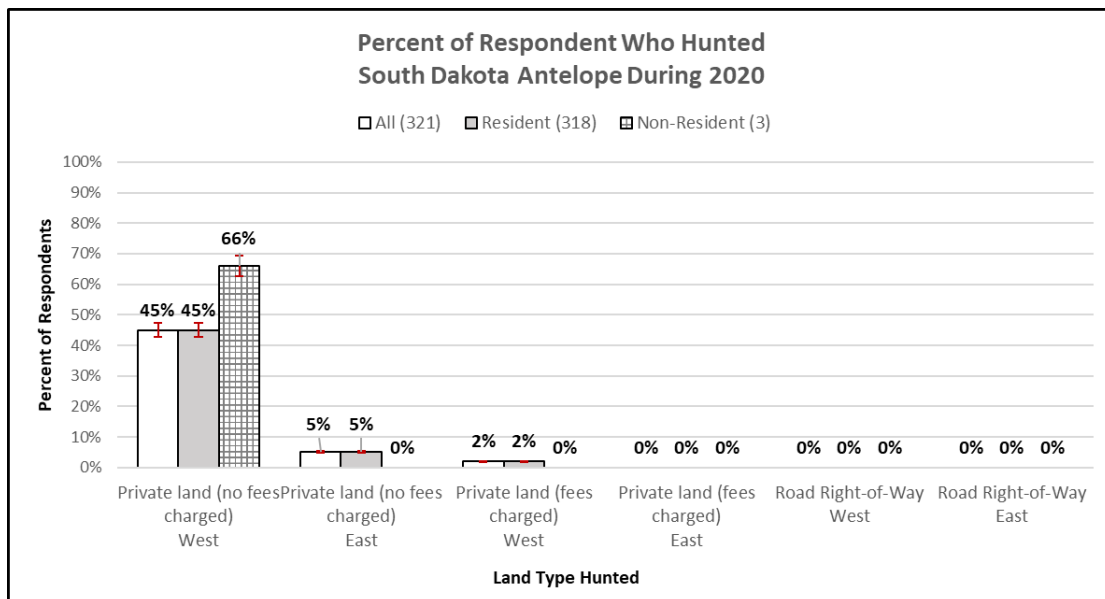


Figure 30. Percent of respondents that hunted antelope on different land types. Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

In 2020, on average, residents spent 36% of their time antelope hunting on private lands west of the Missouri River that do not charge a fee, 33% on Walk-In Areas west of the Missouri River, and 23% on public lands in western South Dakota (Figures 31 and 32). In 2015, on average, resident hunters spent 51% of their time hunting antelope on private land (Longmire 2019).

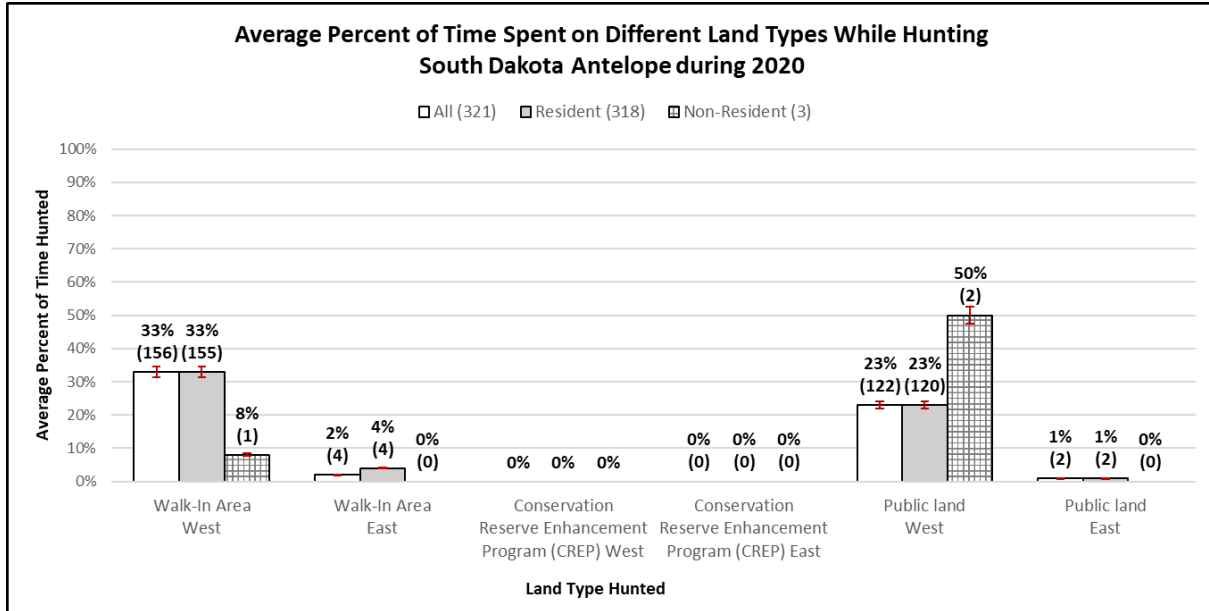


Figure 31. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota antelope during 2020.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

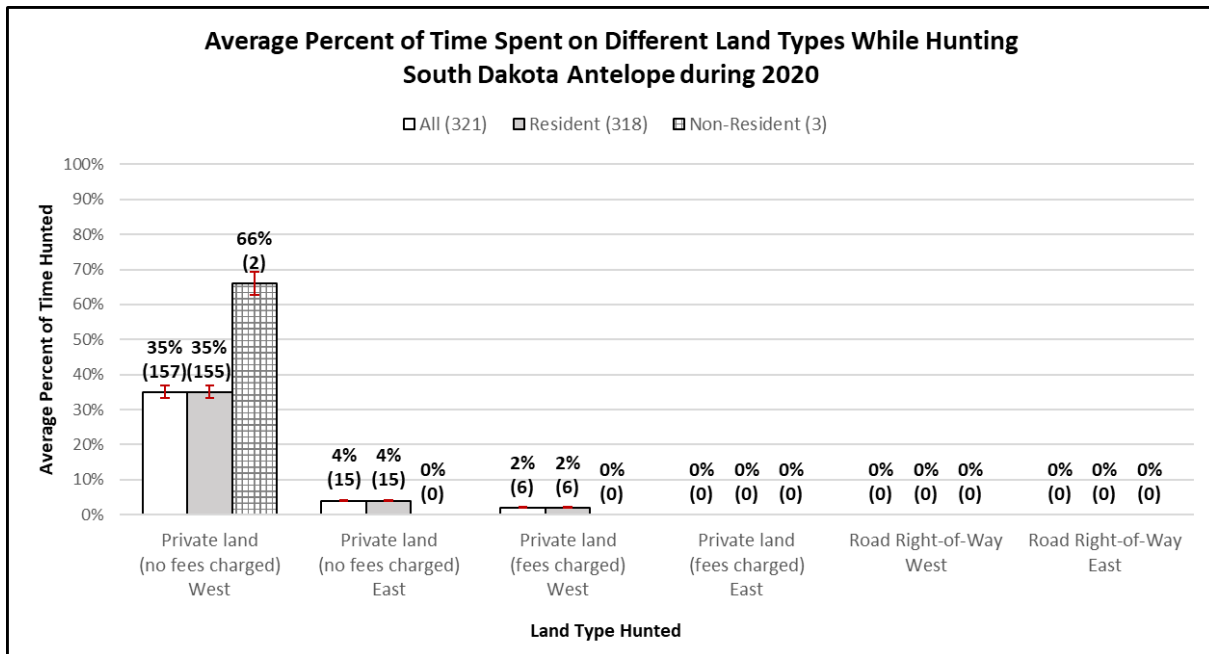


Figure 32. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota antelope during 2020.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Big Game

Of resident hunters, about 27% (n=255) indicated they hunted big game (deer or antelope) on South Dakota WIA and/or CREP lands during 2020. In 2015, about 45% of hunters reported hunting deer, antelope, and/or wild turkey only on WIA lands (Longmire 2019).

Using 5-point Likert-type rating scales, respondents were asked to assess the following:

- **overall quality of big game habitat on WIA and CREP lands**
1=terrible, 2=poor, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent
- **importance of WIA and CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting**
1=not important at all, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=critical (would not hunt otherwise)
- **overall satisfaction with WIA and CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting**
1=very dissatisfied, 2=somewhat dissatisfied, 3=neither dissatisfied nor dissatisfied, 4=somewhat satisfied, 5=very satisfied
- **crowding perception while big game hunting on WIA and CREP lands**
1=not enough hunters, 2=not crowded, 3=slightly crowded, 4=moderately crowded, 5=too many hunters

Descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, median, mode) for WIA lands are listed in Table 8 and Table 9 for CREP lands. Figures 34 to 37 present WIA lands-related responses by percent of respondents and Figures 38 to 41 present CREP lands-related responses.

Table 8. Big game hunter evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands in 2020.

Big Game Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Area Lands			
Resident Strata	Mean*	Median	Mode
Overall quality of big game habitat on WIA lands	3.32	3	4
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 big game hunting	4.09	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for big game hunting	3.56	4	4
Crowding perception while big game hunting on WIA lands	3.38	3	3

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions; however, included for 2015 WIA survey data comparison. Due to fluctuating and sometimes very small sample sizes, mode is the appropriate central tendency descriptive statistic for this data.

WIA lands:

- Overall, **36% of resident hunters rated the quality of big game habitat on WIA lands as average and 38% as good** (Figure 33). In 2015, 31% of resident hunters rated big game habitat on WIA lands as fair and 41% as good (Longmire 2019).

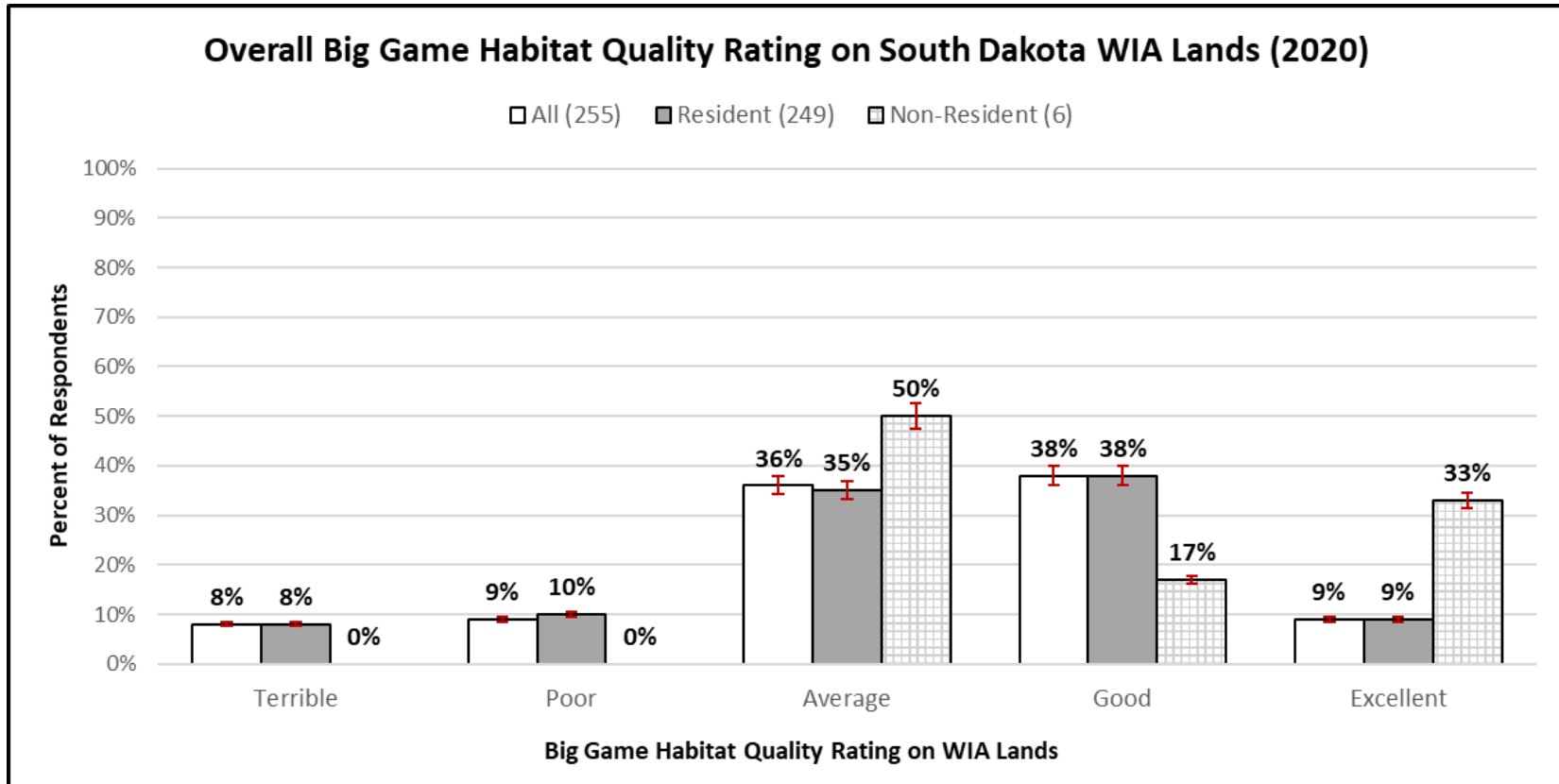


Figure 33. Hunters' evaluation of overall quality of big game habitat on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.
Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **47% of resident hunters rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 big hunting as very important and 34% as critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (Figure 34). In 2015, 43% of resident hunters rated big game habitat on WIA lands as very important and 31% as critical (would not hunt otherwise) (Longmire 2019).

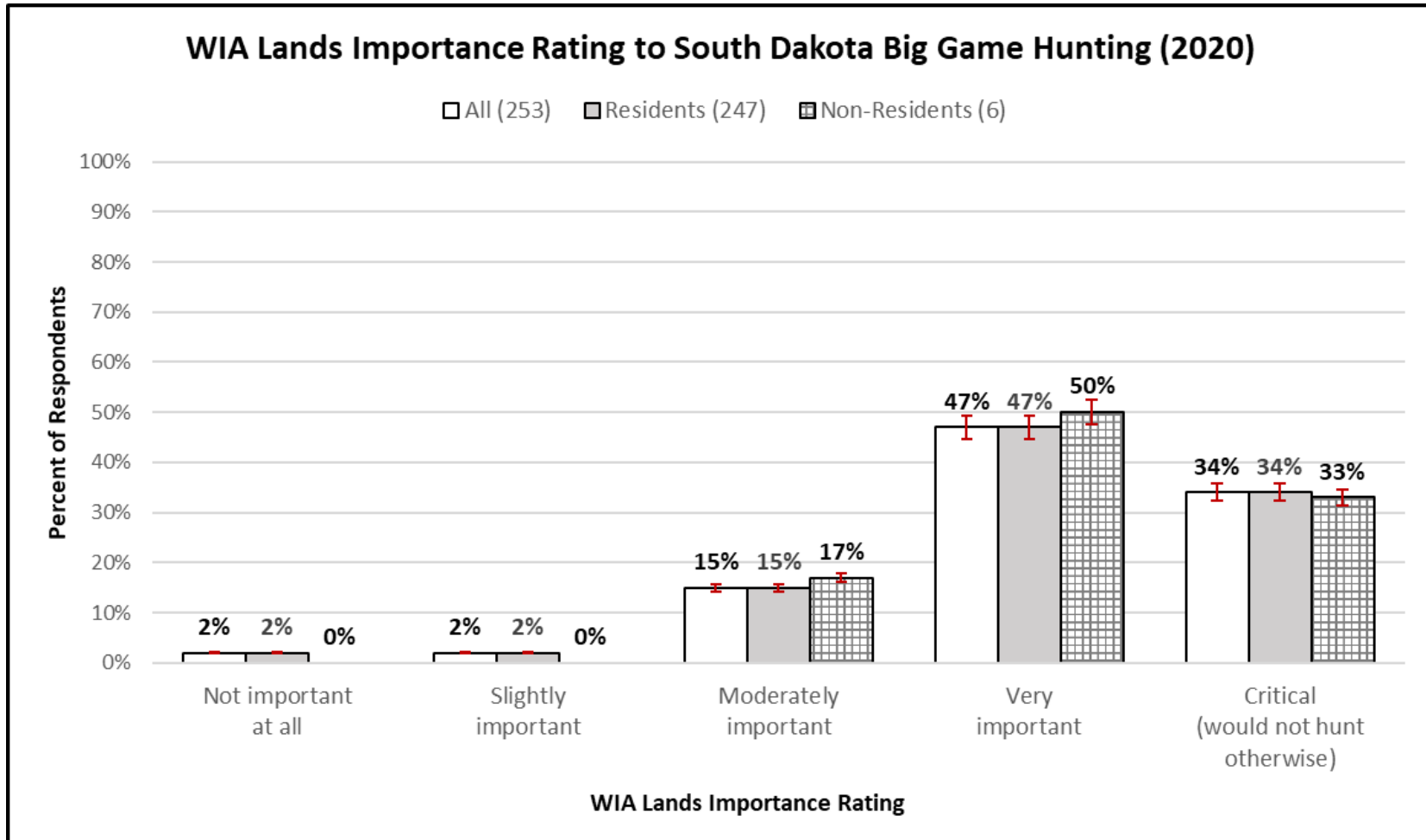


Figure 34. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 big game hunting. Note Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **65% of resident hunters** rated their overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 big game hunting as somewhat to very satisfied (Figure 35). Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for big game hunting was not measured in 2015.

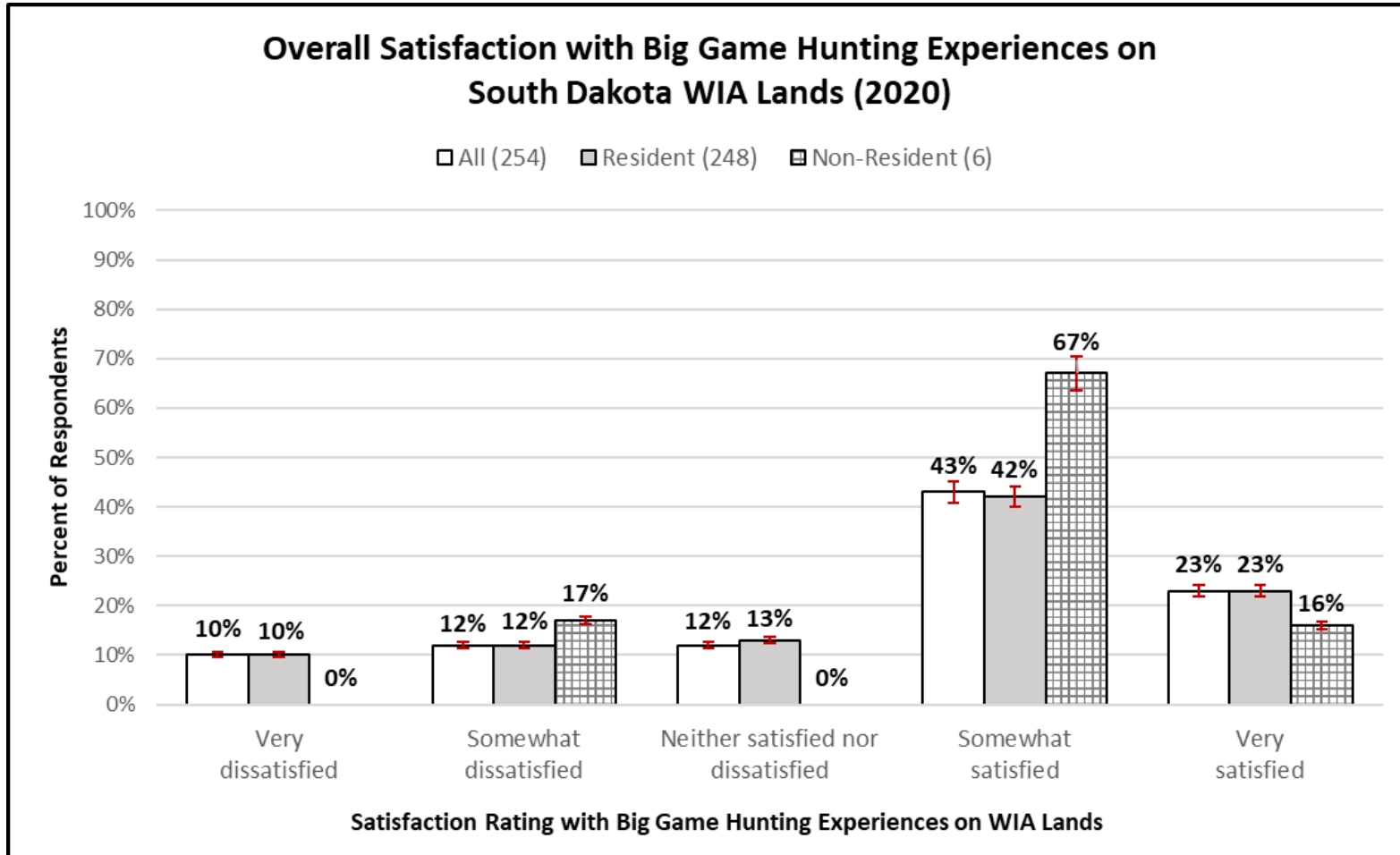


Figure 35. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 big game hunting. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **34% of resident hunters rated their perception of crowding while hunting big game on WIA lands during 2020 as slightly crowded and 42% rated moderately crowded to too many hunters** (Figure 36). Crowding perception while big game hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

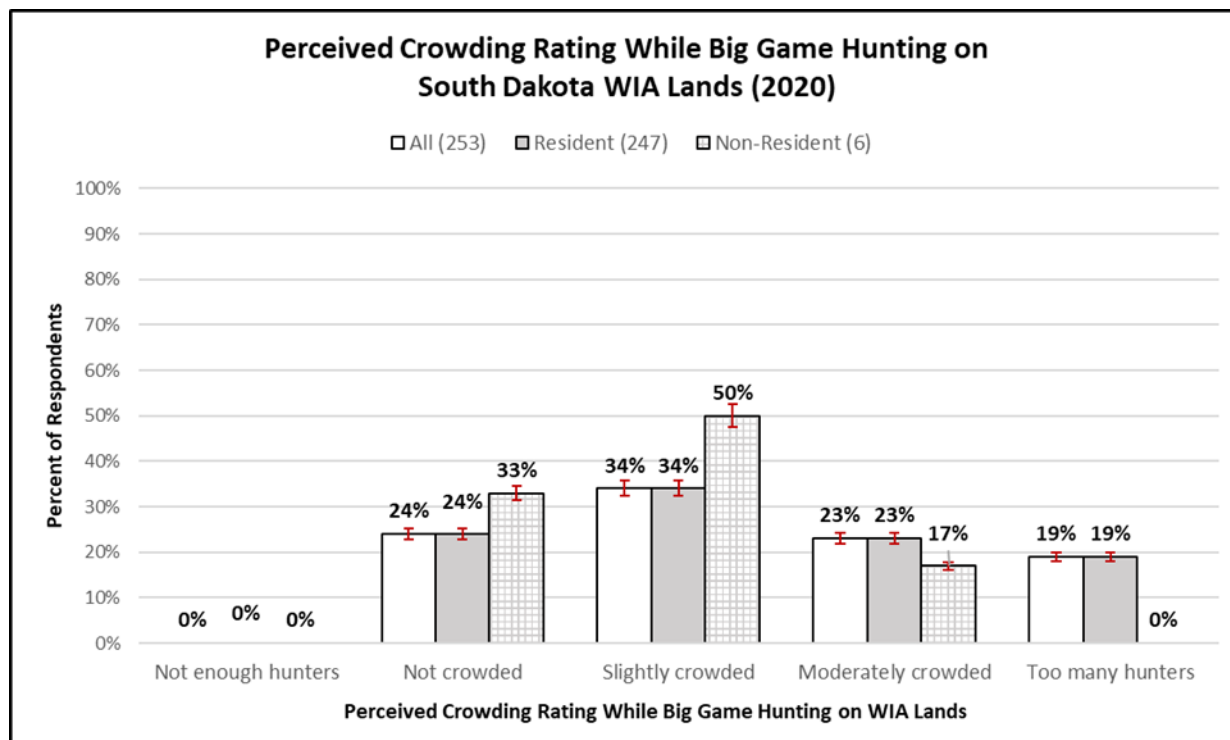


Figure 36. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while big game hunting on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Table 9. Big game hunter evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands in 2020.

Big Game Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Lands			
Resident Strata	Mean*	Median	Mode
Overall quality of big game habitat on CREP lands	3.46	3	3
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting	3.70	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for big game hunting	3.63	4	4
Crowding perception while big game hunting on CREP lands	3.10	3	2

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions; however, included for 2015 WIA survey data comparison. Due to fluctuating and sometimes very small sample sizes, mode is the appropriate central tendency descriptive statistic for this data.

CREP lands:

- Overall, **41% of resident hunters rated the quality of big game habitat on CREP lands as average and 49% as good to excellent** (Figure 37). Findings should be cautiously applied due to low sample size. Overall quality of big game habitat on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.

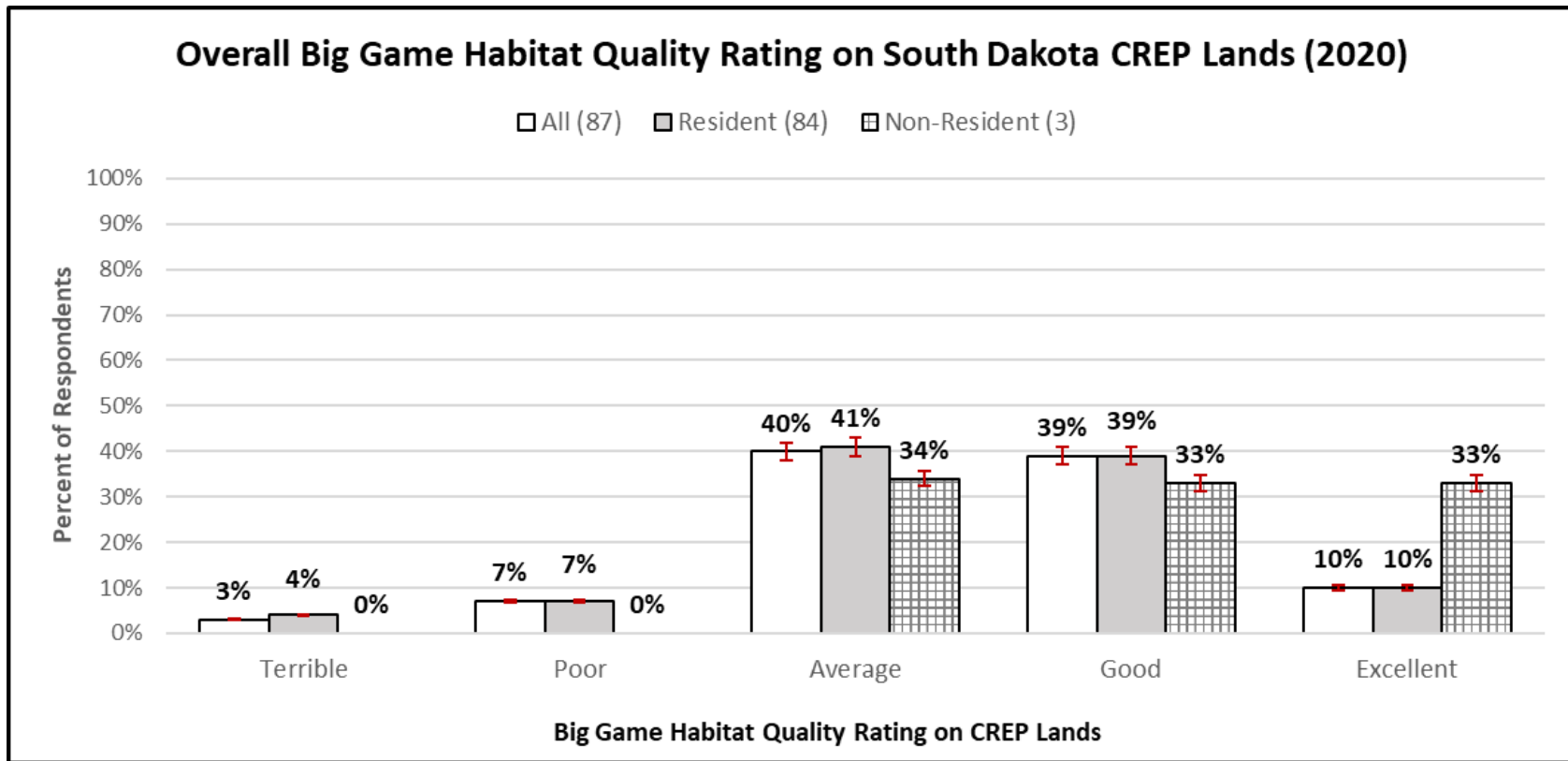


Figure 37. Hunters' evaluation of overall quality of big game habitat on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **32% of resident hunters rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting as slightly to moderately important and 62% as very important to critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (Figure 38). Findings should be cautiously applied due to low sample size. In 2015, 28% of resident hunters rated big game habitat on CREP lands as very important and 18% as critical (would not hunt otherwise) (Longmire 2019).

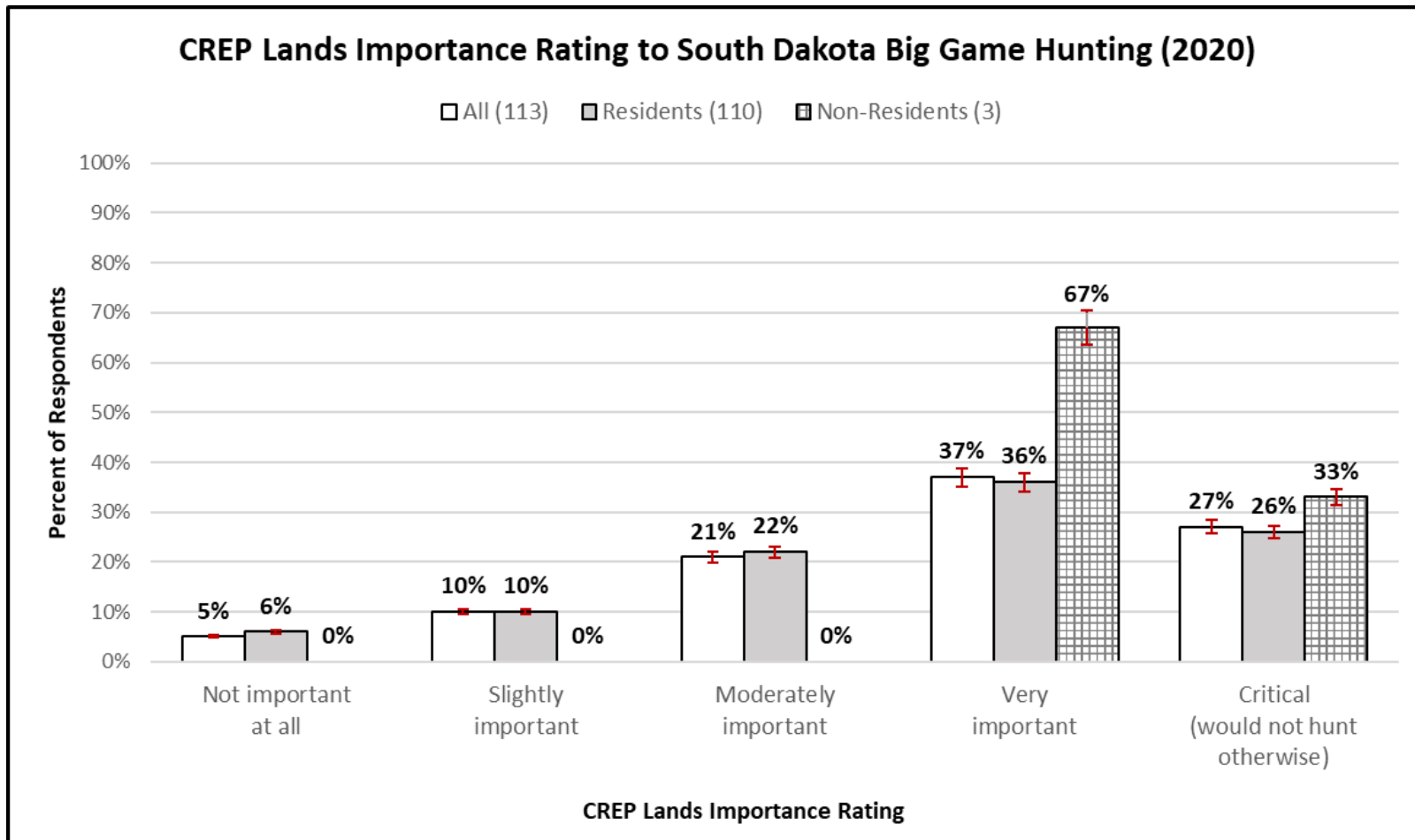


Figure 38. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 big game hunting.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **59%** of resident hunters rated their overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 big game hunting as somewhat satisfied to very satisfied, while almost one-fifth rated somewhat to very dissatisfied (Figure 39). Findings should be cautiously applied due to low sample size. Overall quality of big game habitat on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.

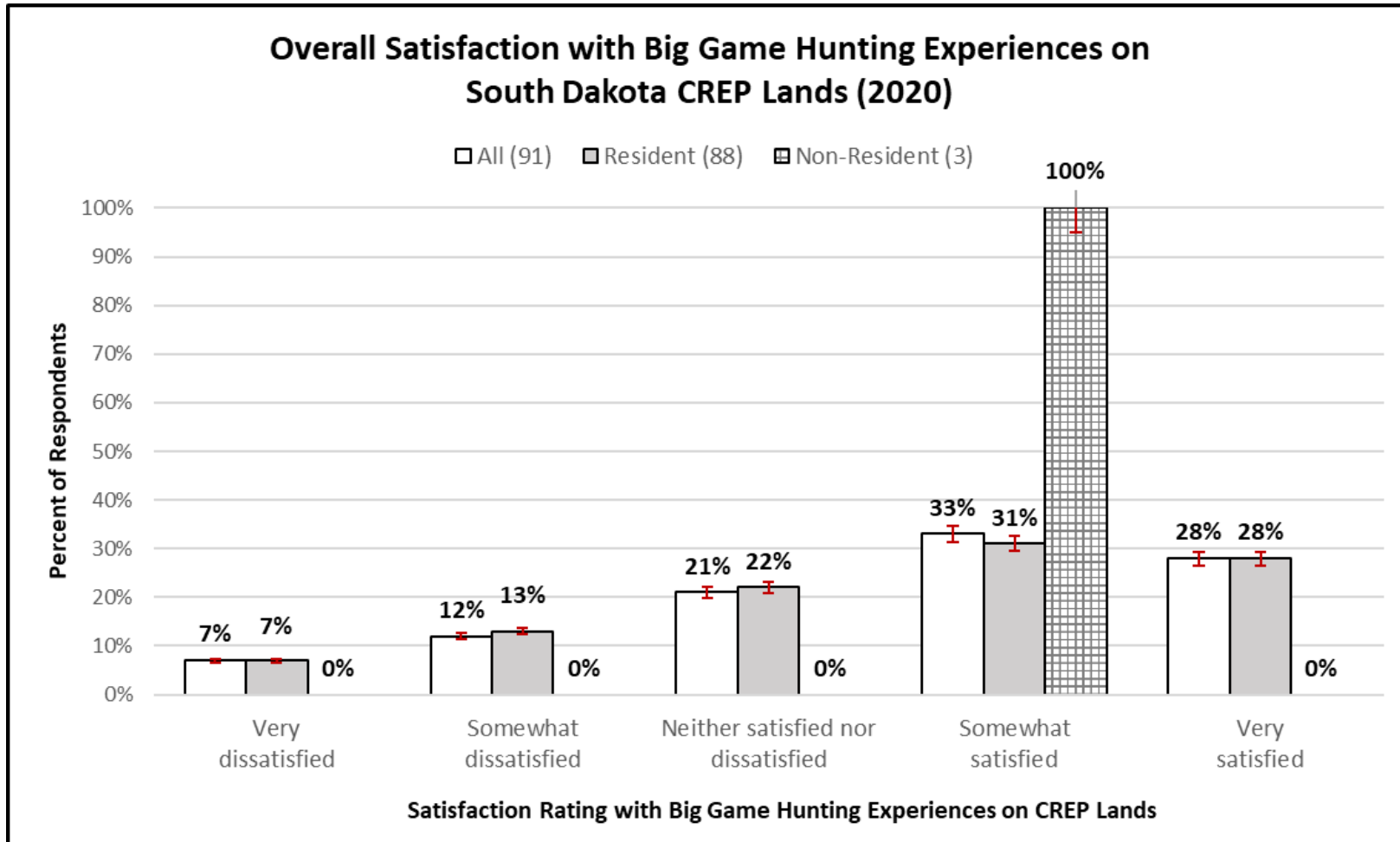


Figure 39. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 big game hunting.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **31%** of resident hunters rated their perception of crowding while hunting big game on CREP lands during 2020 as **slightly crowded** and **33%** as **moderately crowded to too many hunters** (Figure 40). Crowding perception on CREP lands was not measured in 2015.

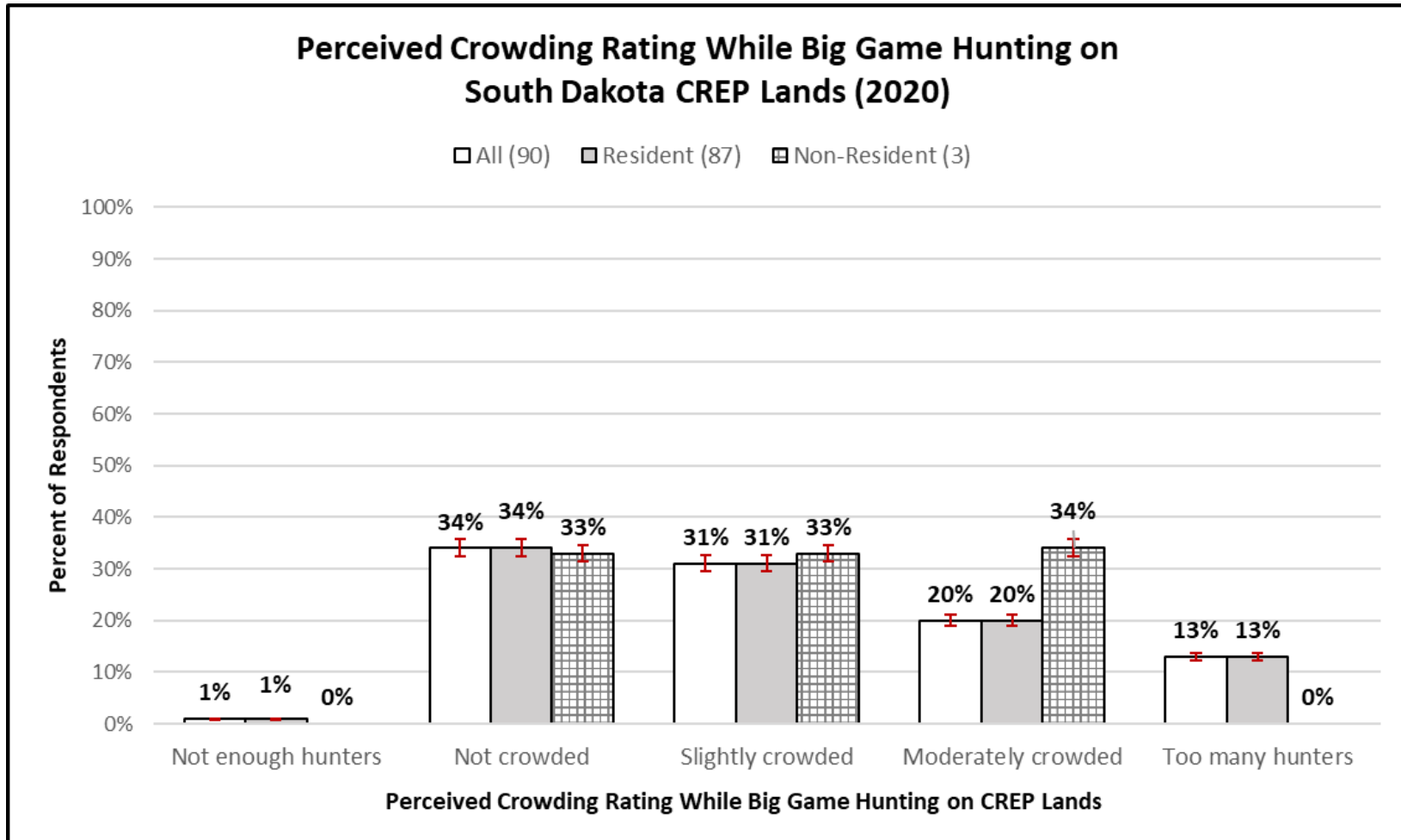


Figure 40. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while big game hunting on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Section 4: Waterfowl Hunting

Due to small and fluctuating samples sizes among questions (for both 2015 and 2020 surveys), data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied. Nonetheless, data in this section is informative and representative of the waterfowl hunters who participated in the survey.

About one-third of respondents (30% residents and 40% non-residents) hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020 (Figure 41). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents with respect to whether they hunted waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020 ($\chi^2 = 19.563 (1), p < 0.001, V = 0.10$). There is no management implication. This difference is likely due to effects of COVID-19 health considerations and travel restrictions on hunter decision-making in 2020. In 2015, overall, 15% of survey participants (19% residents and 5% non-residents) hunted waterfowl (Longmire 2019).

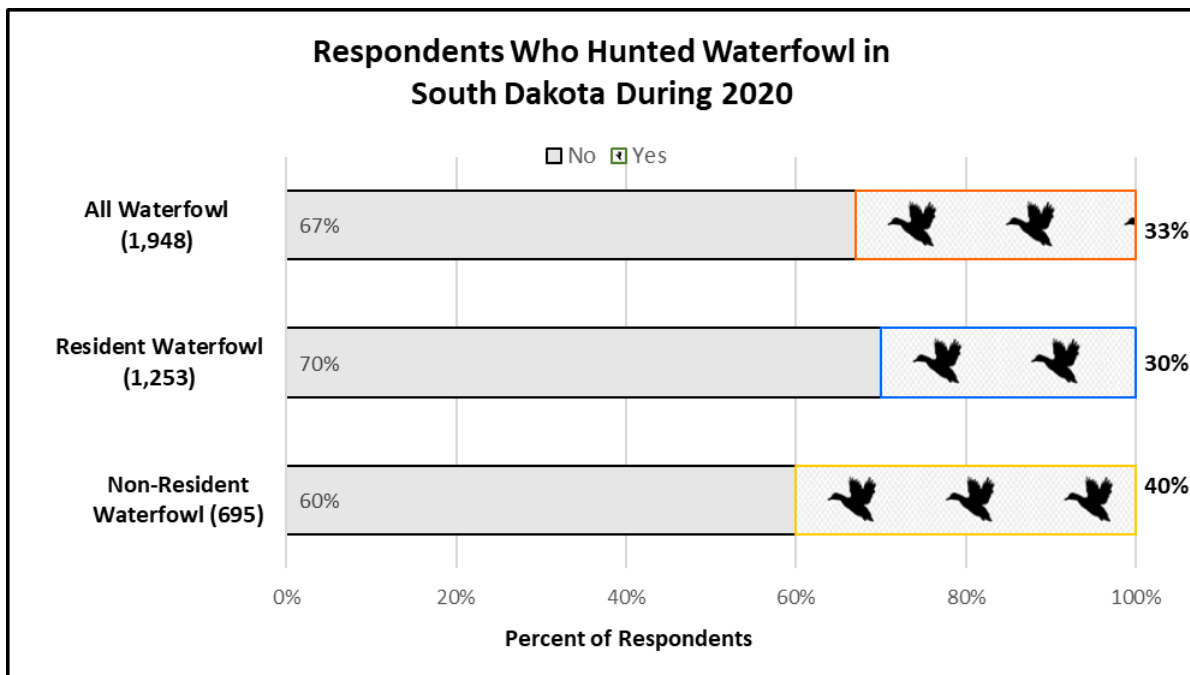


Figure 41. Proportion of respondents who hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020.

Respondents that did not hunt waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020 were asked to describe why not. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=950) were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

About 73% said this was not their target species to hunt, while 34% identified constraints such as “Because I have enough other hobbies so no time,” “Lack of time, and not many good public places to hunt close by,” “Disabled, so I no longer hunt waterfowl or small game,” “I don’t know much about waterfowl hunting so I’ve never done it,” and “Have hunted waterfowl in SD in past very successfully but can afford time off for only one SD hunt – pheasant.”

About 64% of waterfowl hunters mentioned license or regulation challenges, such as “Too hard and confusing to get a license,” “Because of the lottery system! I think it is ridiculous that so few people are allowed to duck hunt yearly when they are a federal bird!! MN and ND allow as many people as they want! I duck hunted SD once, and would have liked to do a combo hunt every year,” “Because the lottery system is a huge turn-off. Ditch the lottery and welcome out of state waterfowl hunters. We go to adjoining states or hunt Native American lands to hunt waterfowl to avoid the SD system,” “Did not like that I had to enter a lottery to get license. Makes it hard to plan, hard to get group together. Enjoy spring Snow Goose hunting in years prior,” “Lottery system is ridiculous. SD is the only state doing this. I hunted waterfowl in ND and spent all of my lodging and food money there,” “Your waterfowl hunting permit system is terrible for non-residents. We would hunt waterfowl if we could,” “The rules got so complicated that I just lost interest. I realize we have a 3 splash rule now, but for now I still lack enough interest,” and “My read of the regulations is that non-resident waterfowl license requires private land, WIAs are considered public land per a response I got from the Game office. As an out of state hunter I don't have private land to hunt on and the cost of the waterfowl license plus a small game license coupled with the in certainty of find private land to waterfowl hunt makes it cost prohibitive to me.”

About 57% mentioned reasons related to access and/or opportunity to hunt waterfowl. For example, one hunter said, “Prefer dry land hunting such as harvested corn fields but limited to areas and places to really hunt,” another wrote, “Thought about it but again very limited area to hunt. Orman Dam has great possibilities but not developed areas to hunt. Work on this one, perhaps put some goose pits in for the public.” Additional comments such as, “Mostly shoot stock ponds for ducks, but all I have access to were dry this year. Hunt geese in corn fields in & around Oral. Geese usually show up around Christmas but their arrival this year coincided with a wrenched knee for me,” “I would have liked to, but the availability of waterfowl hunting for out of state hunters appears to be severely limited and very complex to navigate,” “I don't really have a good place to go and don't have a lot of experience waterfowl hunting. If I could go with someone more experienced, I'd love to do it,” “Boat access on most waters are less than desirable for youth or elder hunters” and “Had license several years in a row, no ducks available on private land. Owners said no. Several years in a row, probably should not continue to apply as nonresident.”

About 4% of waterfowl hunters reported reasons related to habitat and population management, such as “Wasn't a very good flight in the area I hunt,” “Low waterfowl numbers,” and “Where I live, for the first time in many years, there were no Geese in the area until just recently, after the season closed when birds were coming back to go North.”

Lastly, 1% reported COVID-19 considerations and travel restrictions as reasons for not hunting waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020.

From 2015 to 2020, the estimated total number of days hunting South Dakota waterfowl increased for both resident and non-resident hunters, noting the estimated number of resident hunters remained functionally constant and non-resident hunters increased minimally during the same time period (Table 10). The mean number of days hunted increased by about one day for resident hunters and remained constant for non-resident hunters. The differences in means days hunted and estimated number days hunted between the 2015 and 2020 surveys may be influenced by factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 (e.g., differing travel restrictions among states, more time to hunt).

Table 10. Waterfowl hunting participation in South Dakota during 2015 and 2020.

Waterfowl Hunting Participation in South Dakota					
Strata	Sample Number	Percent in Sample Hunted	Mean Days Hunted	Estimated Participants*	Estimated Days of Hunting
<i>2015[†]</i>					
Residents	2,408	19.3	9.94	14,579	144,915
Non-residents	1,234	5.3	4.95	4,195	20,765
<i>2020</i>					
Residents	1,253	18.0	10.58	14,597	154,436
Non-residents	695	13.5	4.95	4,489	22,221

[†]Longmire 2019; *Huxoll 2016a, 2021b

During 2020, about one-quarter of waterfowl hunters spent at least some time hunting on WIAs and just over half hunted waterfowl on public lands (51%) east and west of the Missouri River (Figure 42), while 64% spent time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee, of which 53% occurred on lands East of the Missouri River (Figure 43). In 2015, on average, 21% spent time hunting on WIAs, 78% of waterfowl hunters spent at least some time hunting on private land, and 59% spent time hunting waterfowl on public land (Longmire 2019).

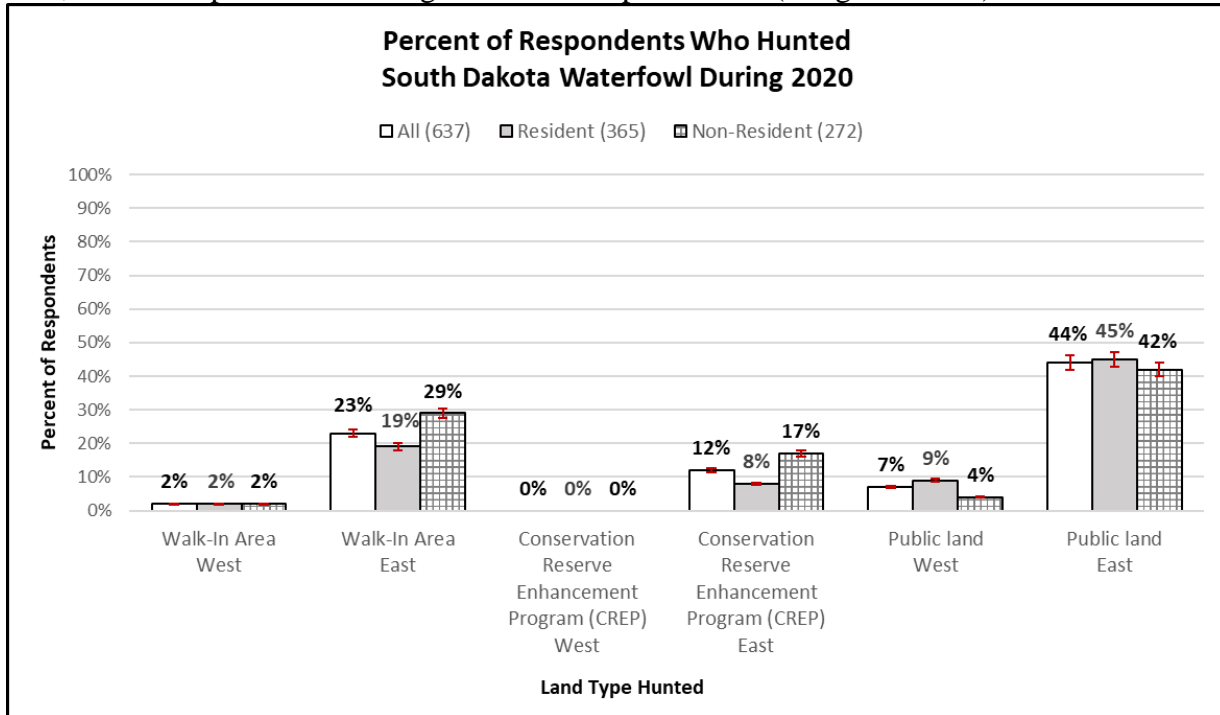


Figure 42. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl on different land types during 2020.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

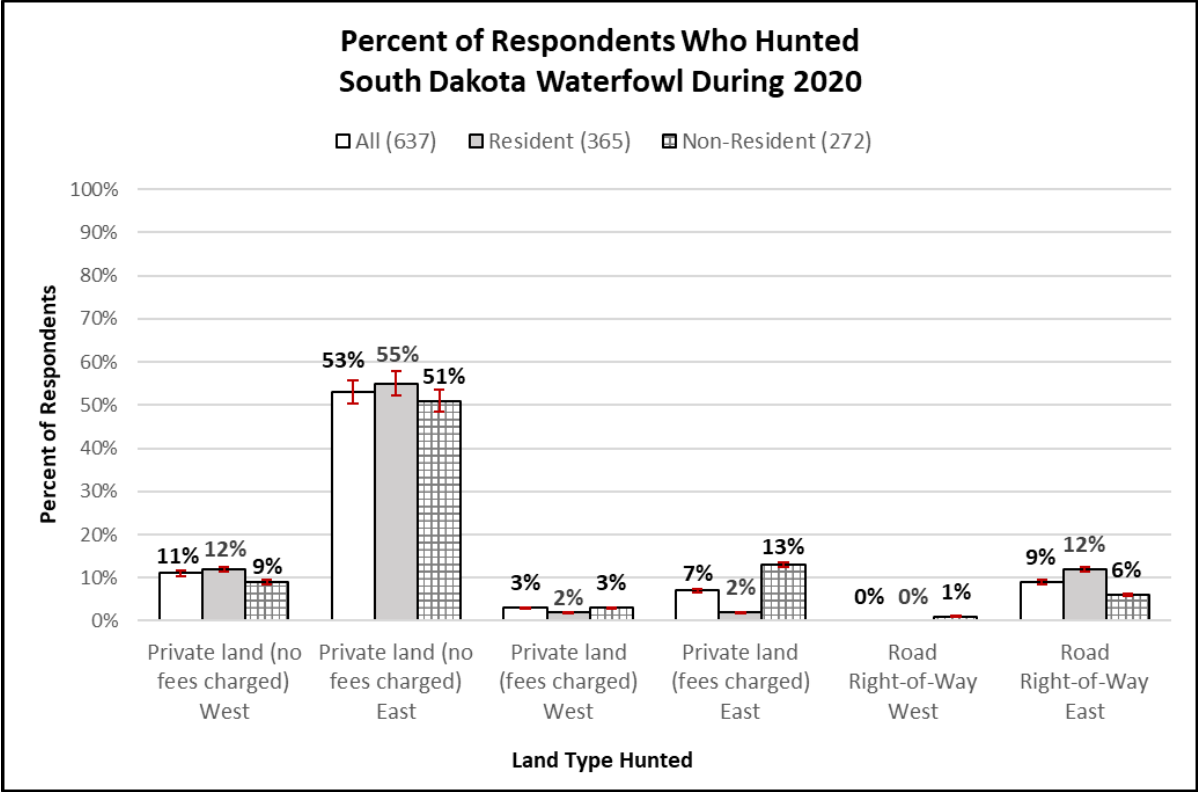


Figure 43. Percent of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl on different land types during 2020.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

In 2020, on average, waterfowl hunters spent 29% of their time waterfowl hunting on public lands (Figures 44), while 47% spent their time hunting on private lands that do not charge a fee, of which 39% was east of the Missouri River (Figure 45). In 2015, on average, hunters spent 54% of their time hunting waterfowl on private land (Longmire 2019).

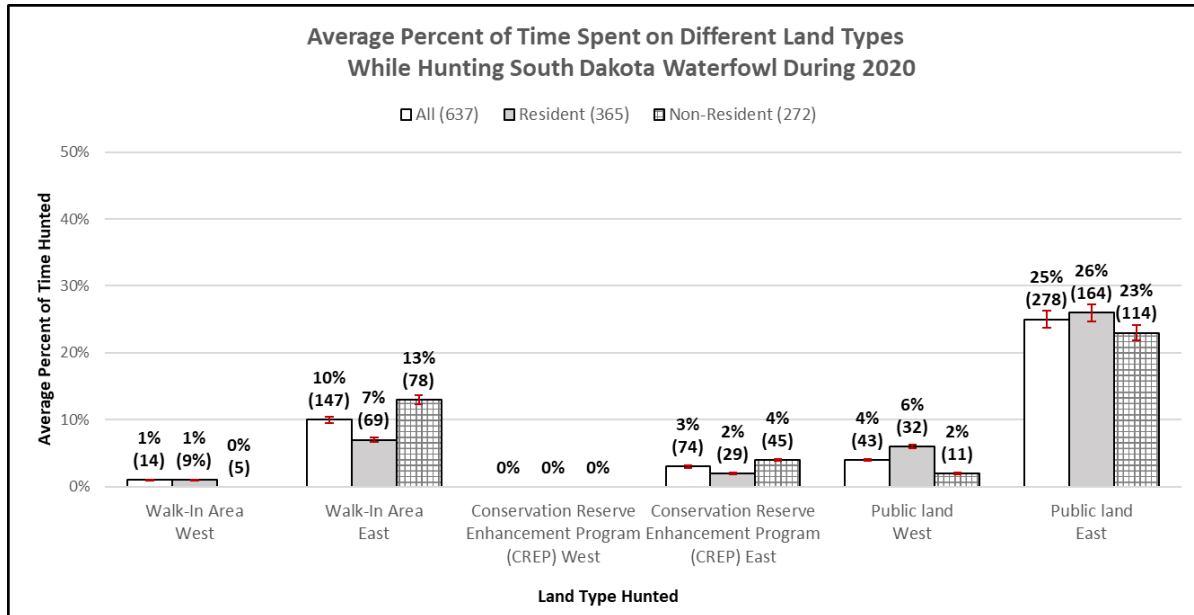


Figure 44. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020.

Note: percentage do not add to 100 because respondents could have selected more than one land type. Error bars represent 95% confidence interval. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands are only located east of the Missouri River.

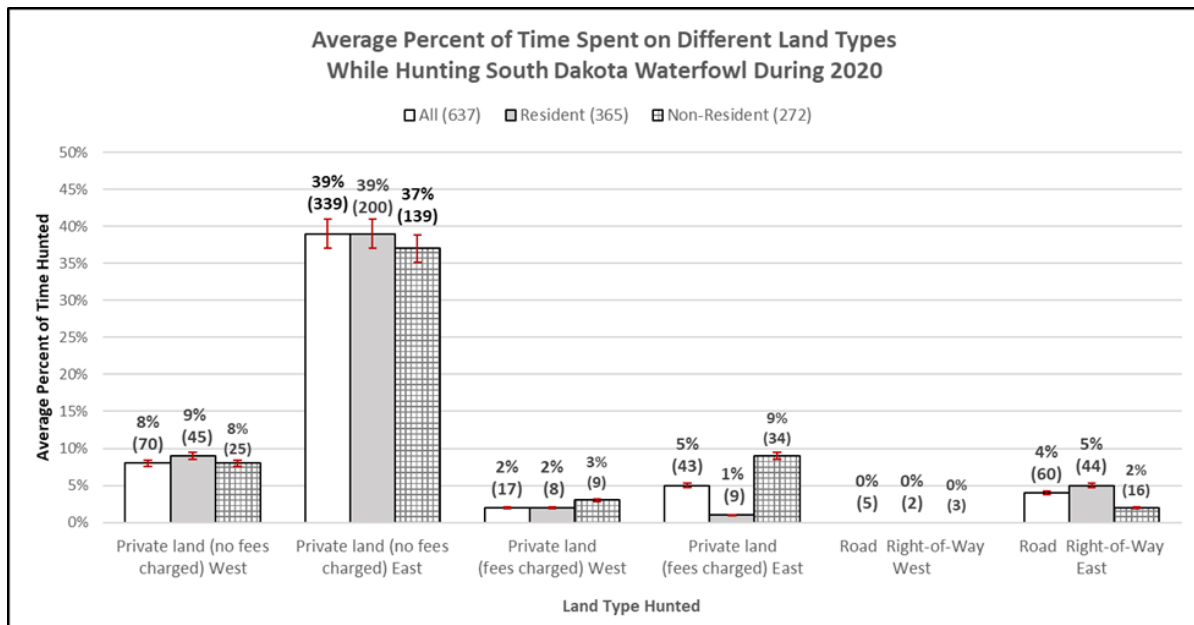


Figure 45. Average percent of time spent on different land types and count of respondents that hunted South Dakota waterfowl during 2020.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Walk-In Area and CREP Lands Evaluation: Waterfowl

About 10% (n=195) of hunters indicated they hunted waterfowl on WIA or CREP lands during 2020. Though this sample is evenly split between resident and non-resident waterfowl hunters, the sample number was too small for meaningful statistical analysis and too small to make mathematical comparisons between resident and non-resident strata for waterfowl hunters. Findings are limited and should be carefully interpreted and applied.

Using 5-point Likert-type rating scales, respondents were asked to assess the following:

- **overall quality of waterfowl habitat on WIA and CREP lands**
1=terrible, 2=poor, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent
- **importance of WIA and CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting**
1=not important at all, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=critical (would not hunt otherwise)
- **overall satisfaction with WIA and CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting**
1=very dissatisfied, 2=somewhat dissatisfied, 3=neither dissatisfied nor dissatisfied, 4=somewhat satisfied, 5=very satisfied
- **crowding perception while waterfowl on WIA and CREP lands**
1=not enough hunters, 2=not crowded, 3=slightly crowded, 4=moderately crowded, 5=too many hunters

Descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, median, mode) for WIA lands are listed in Table 11 and Figures 45 to 48 present WIA lands-related responses and Figures 38 to 41 present CREP lands-related responses by percent of respondents.

Table 11. Waterfowl hunter evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands in 2020.

Waterfowl Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Area Lands			
Strata	Mean*	Median	Mode
<i>All</i>			
Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on WIA lands	3.65	4	4
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting	3.87	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for waterfowl hunting	3.96	4	4
Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands	2.59	2	2
<i>Residents</i>			
Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on WIA lands	3.60	4	4
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting	3.82	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for waterfowl hunting	3.86	4	4
Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands	2.81	3	2
<i>Non-residents</i>			
Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on WIA lands	3.70	4	4
Importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting	3.91	4	4
Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for waterfowl hunting	4.07	4	5
Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands	2.35	2	2

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions; however, included for 2015 WIA survey data comparison. Due to fluctuating and sometimes very small sample sizes, mode is the appropriate central tendency descriptive statistic for this data.

WIA lands:

- Almost **one-third of hunters rated waterfowl habitat on WIA lands as average but 62% rated as good or excellent** (Figure 46). In 2015, 31% of respondents rated waterfowl habitat on WIA lands as fair and 42% as good (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents in rating of overall habitat quality for waterfowl in South Dakota. Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied.

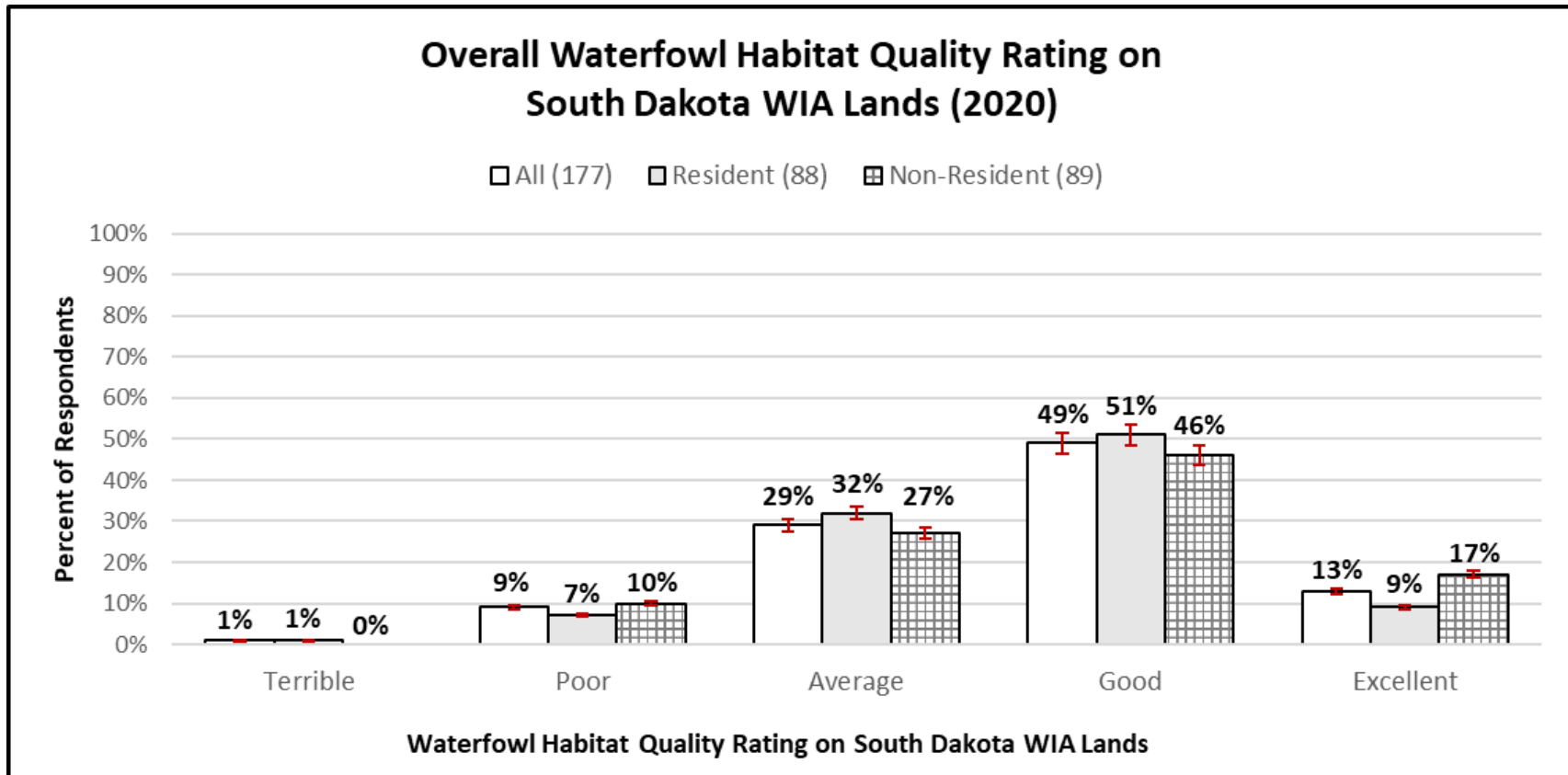


Figure 46. Hunters' evaluation of overall quality of waterfowl habitat on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands.
Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **63% of respondents rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 17% rated as critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (Figure 47). In 2015, overall, 54% of respondents rated importance of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 24% as critical (would not hunt otherwise) (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents in importance rating of WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting. Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied.

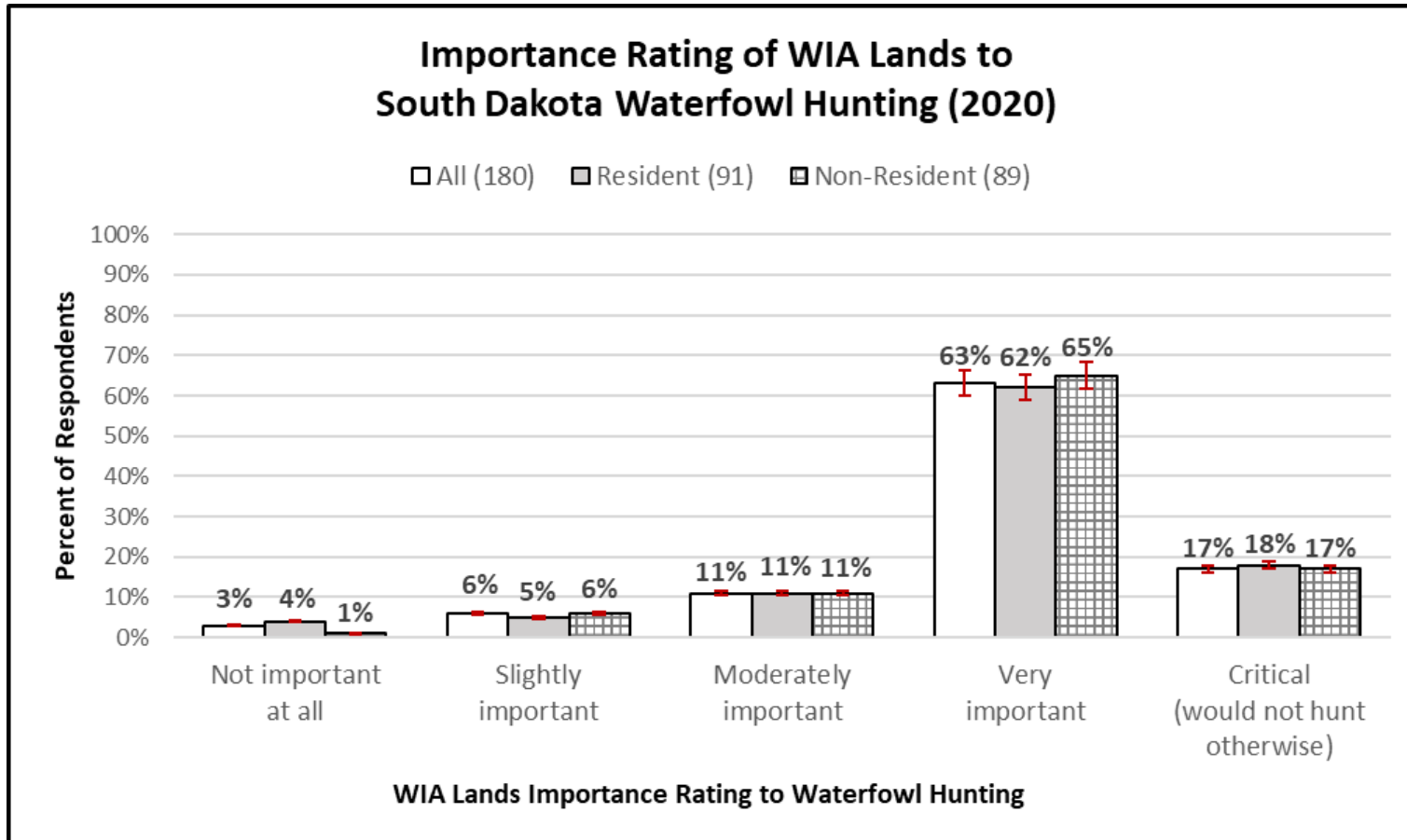


Figure 47. Hunters' evaluation of importance of South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **45% of respondents rated overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as somewhat satisfied and 31% as very satisfied** (Figure 48). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference between residents and non-residents in rating of overall satisfaction with WIA lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting ($\chi^2 = 10.318 (4), p < 0.05, V = 0.241$). Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied. Overall satisfaction with WIA lands for waterfowl hunting was not measured in 2015.

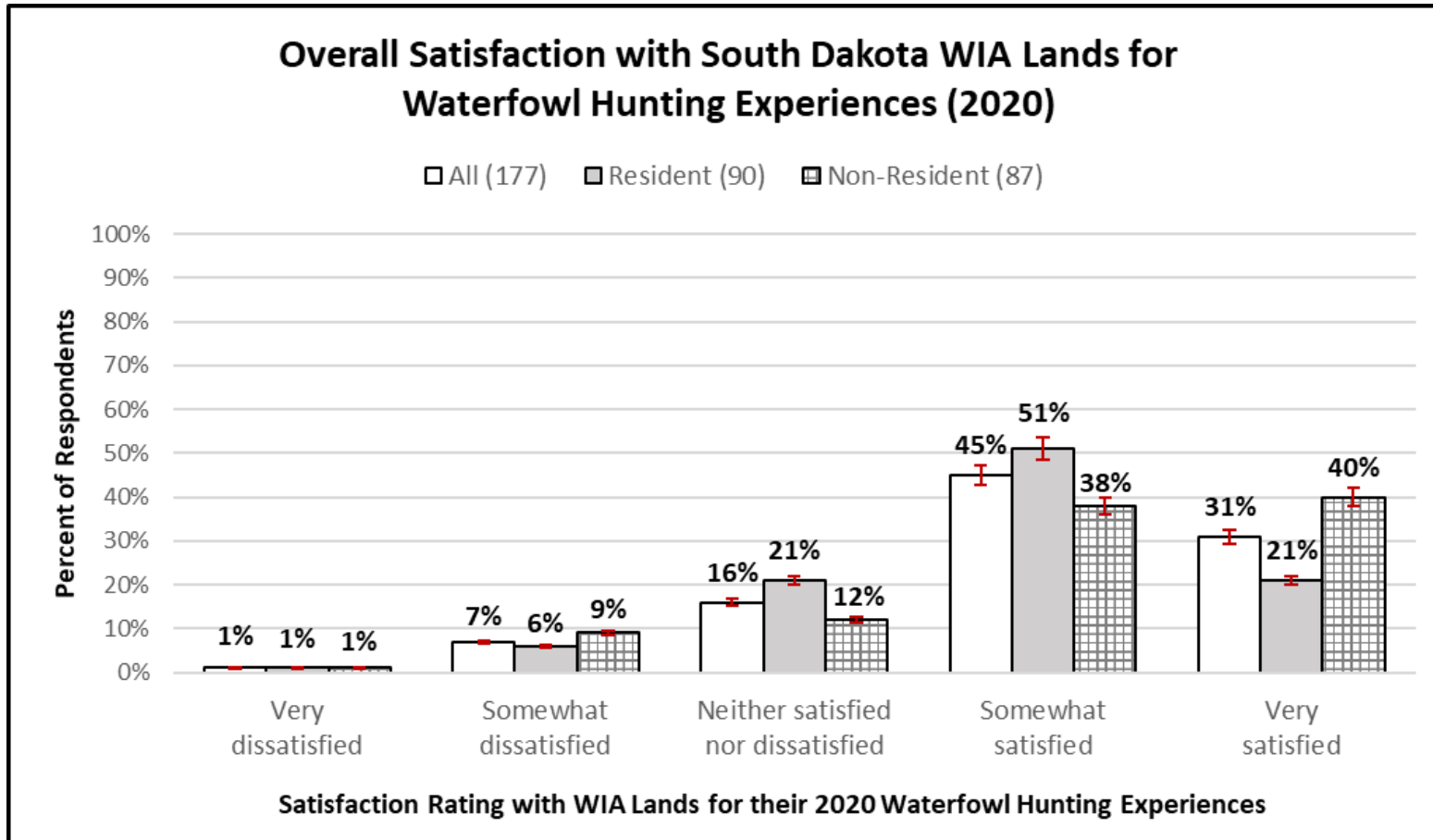


Figure 48. Hunters' evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Walk-In Area lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Of all hunters, a little over half rated their perception of crowding while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands as not crowded and 22% rated as slightly crowded, while 18% rated as moderately crowded to too many hunters (Figure 49). There was a statistically significant and moderate difference between residents and non-residents in rating of crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands ($\chi^2 = 18.210 (4), p < 0.001, V = 0.319$). Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied. Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on WIA lands was not measured in 2015.

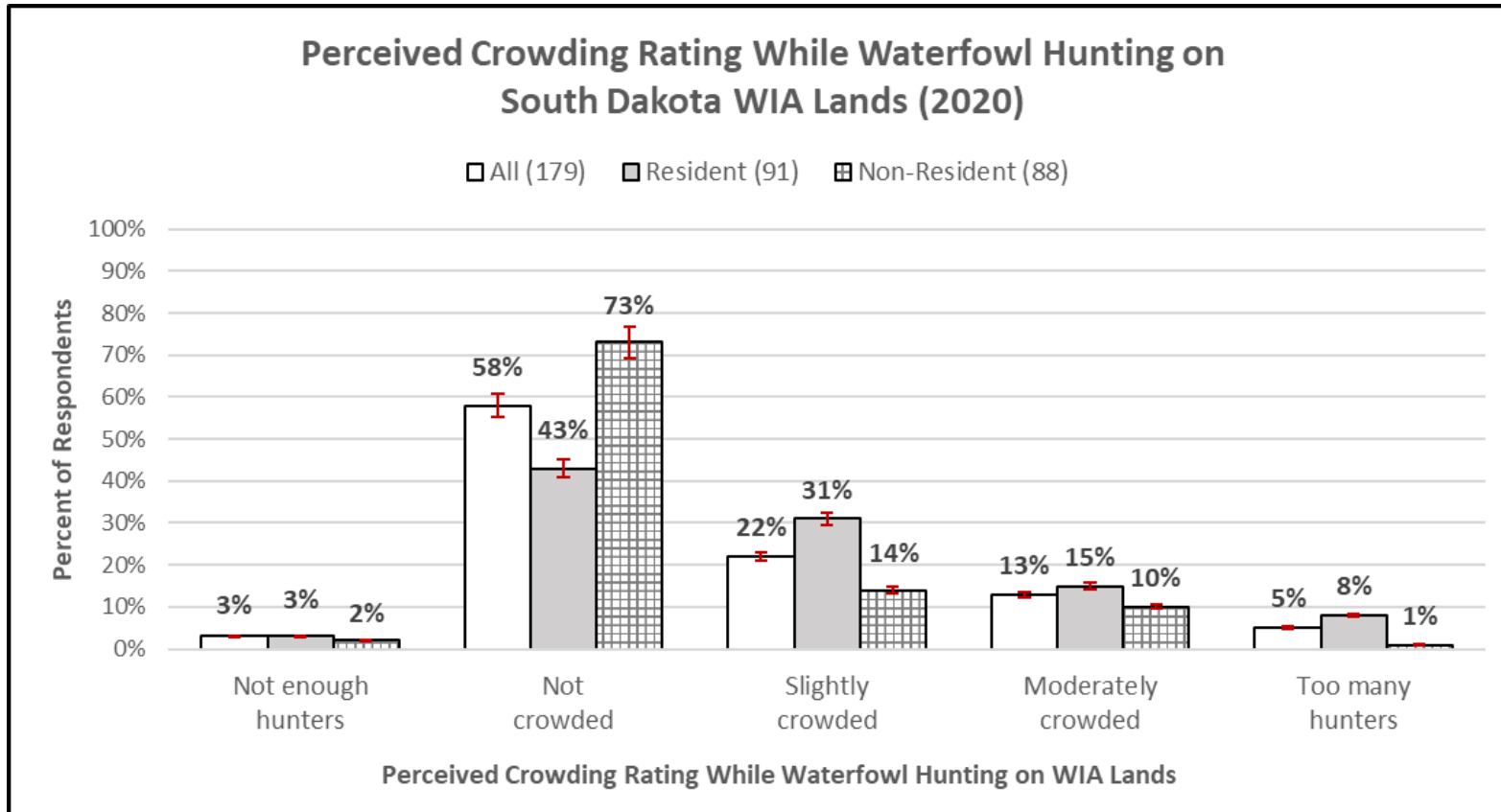


Figure 49. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on South Dakota Walk-In Area lands. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Descriptive statistics (e.g., mean, median, mode) for CREP lands are listed in Table 12 and Figures 51 to 54 present CREP lands-related responses.

Table 12. Waterfowl hunter evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands in 2020.

Waterfowl Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Lands			
Strata	Mean*	Median	Mode
<i>All</i>			
Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on CREP lands	3.70	4	4
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting	3.76	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for waterfowl hunting	4.00	4	4
Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands	2.59	2	2
<i>Residents</i>			
Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on CREP lands	3.59	3	4
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting	3.80	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for waterfowl hunting	3.92	4	4
Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands	2.75	3	2
<i>Non-residents</i>			
Overall quality of waterfowl habitat on CREP lands	3.77	4	4
Importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting	3.72	4	4
Overall satisfaction with CREP lands for waterfowl hunting	4.06	4	4
Crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands	2.36	2	2

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions; however, included for 2015 WIA survey data comparison. Due to fluctuating and sometimes very small sample sizes, mode is the appropriate central tendency descriptive statistic for this data.

CREP lands:

- About one-third of hunters **rated waterfowl habitat on CREP lands as average and 62% rated as good or excellent** (Figure 51). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in rating of overall habitat quality for waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020. Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied. Item not measured in 2015.

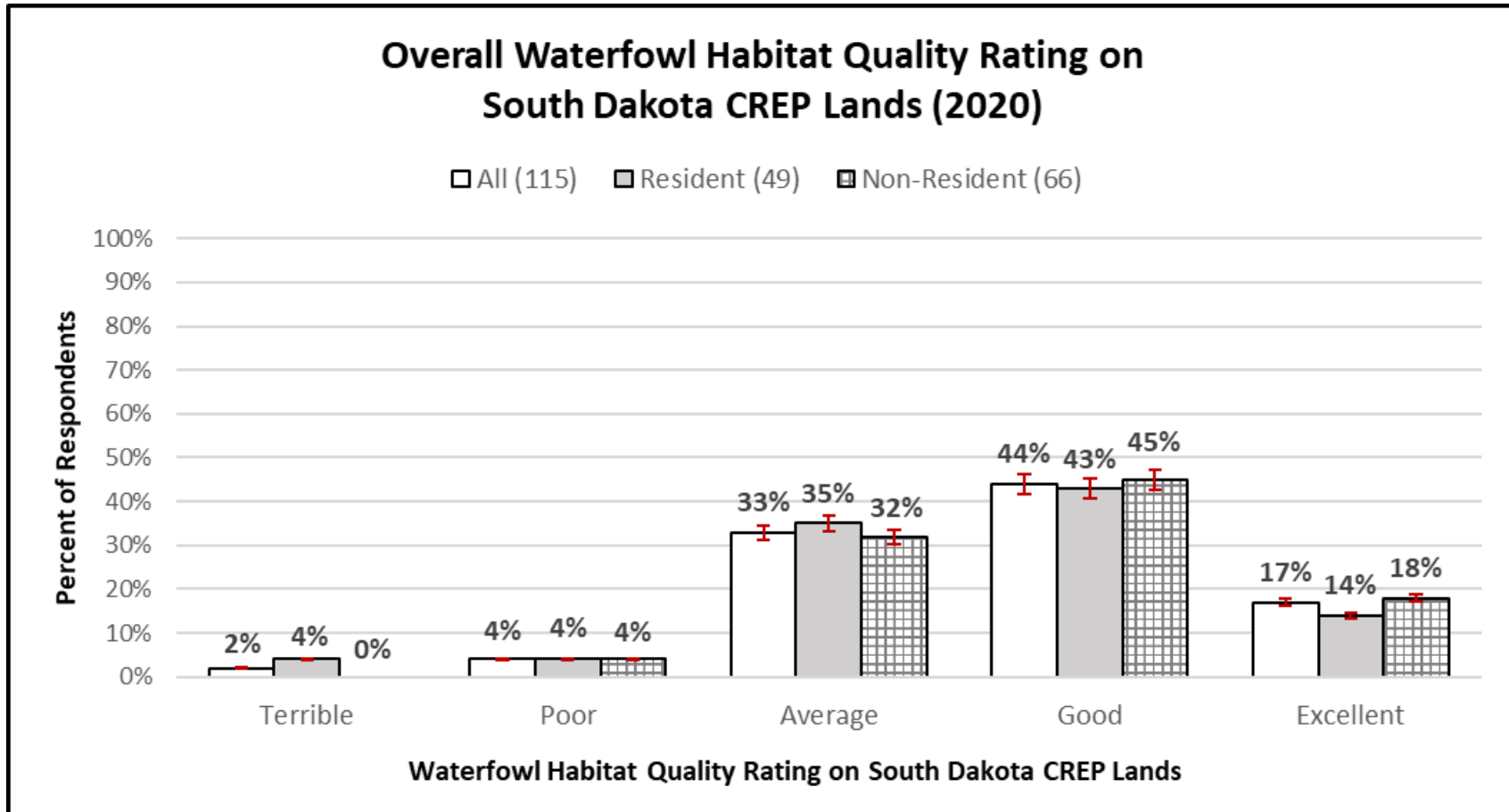


Figure 50. Hunters’ evaluation of overall quality of waterfowl habitat on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- **A little more than half of hunters rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 17% rated as critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (Figure 51). In 2015, overall, 63% of respondents rated importance of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as very important and 12% as critical (would not hunt otherwise) (Longmire 2019). For both 2015 and 2020 surveys, there were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents in importance rating of CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting. Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied.

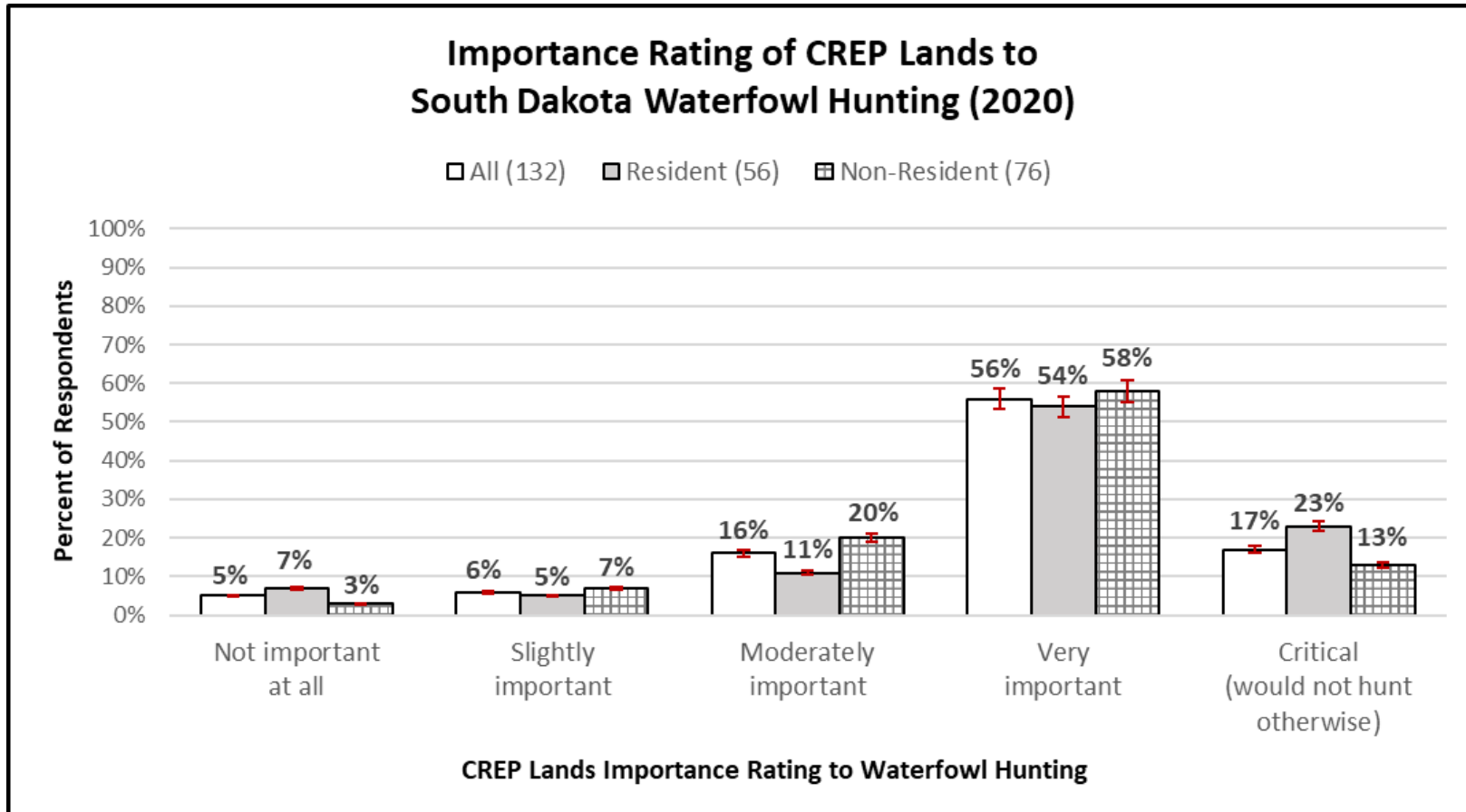


Figure 51. Hunters’ evaluation of importance of South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands to 2020 waterfowl hunting.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **46% of hunters rated overall satisfaction with CREP lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting as somewhat satisfied and 30% rated as very satisfied** (Figure 52). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in rating of overall habitat quality for waterfowl in South Dakota during 2020. Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied. Item not measured in 2015.

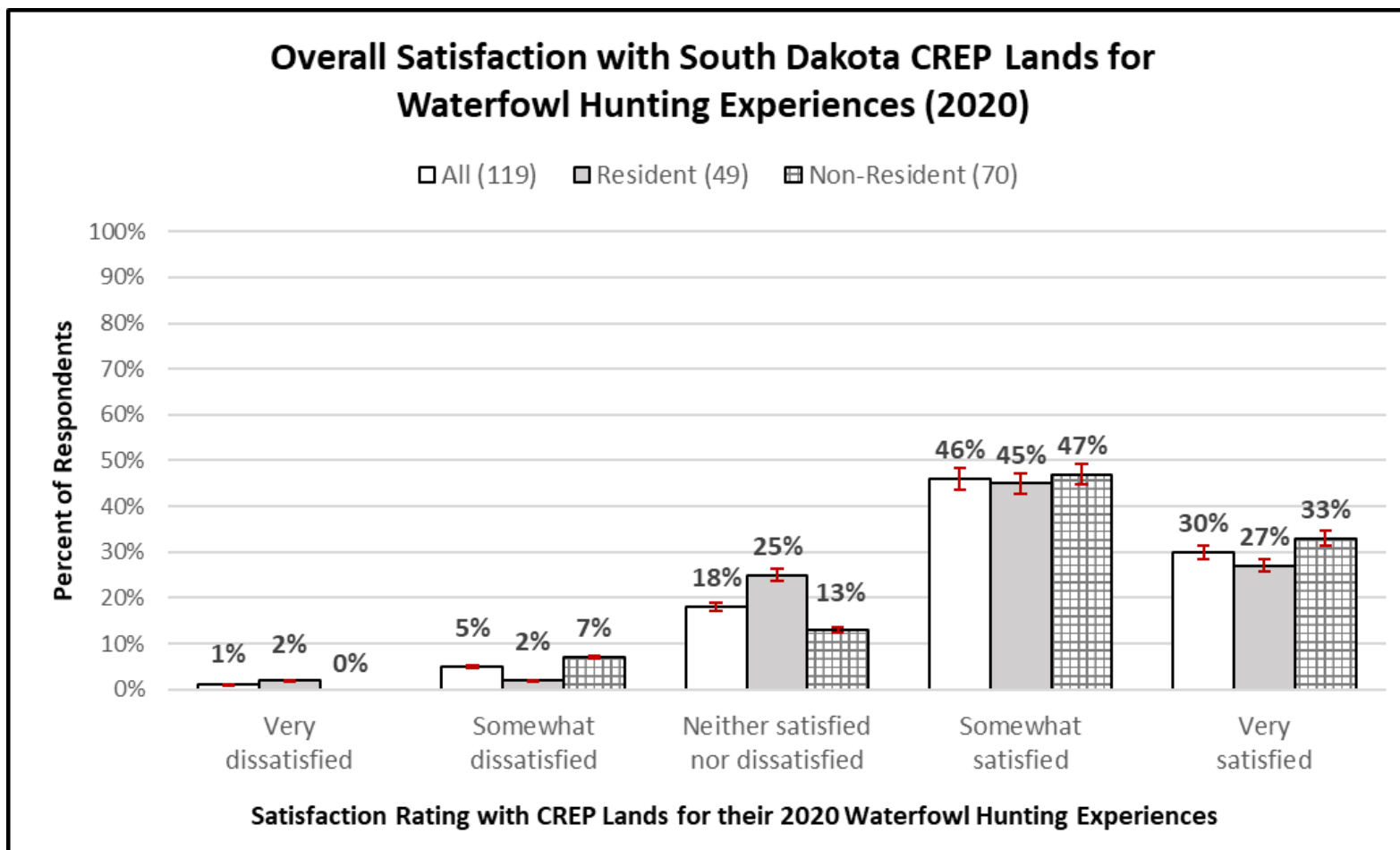


Figure 52. Hunters’ evaluation of overall satisfaction with South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands for 2020 waterfowl hunting.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Overall, **58%** of hunters rated their perception of crowding while waterfowl hunting on CREP lands as not crowded, while **23%** rated as slightly crowded and **16%** rated as moderately crowded to too many hunters (Figure 53). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in rating their perception of crowding while waterfowl hunting on South Dakota CREP lands during 2020. Due to small sample sizes, data should be cautiously interpreted and findings carefully applied. Item not measured in 2015.

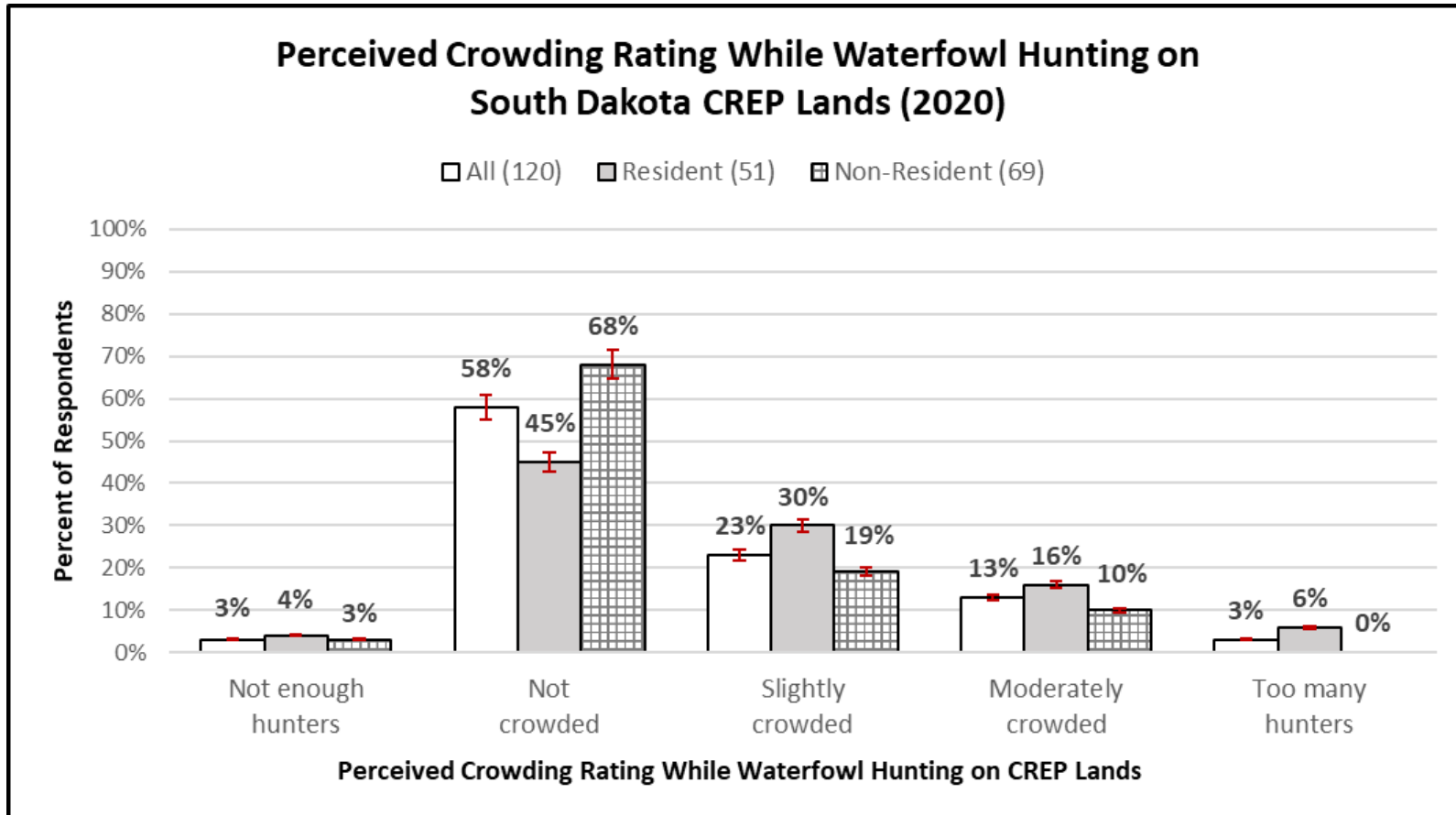


Figure 53. Hunters’ evaluation of crowding perception while waterfowl hunting on South Dakota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program lands.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Section 5: Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas (WIAs)

Half of survey participants (53% residents and 45% non-residents) hunted South Dakota Walk-In Areas (WIAs) during 2020 (Figure 54). Overall, this is a 10% increase from 2015 (Longmire 2019). There was a statistically significant but negligible difference between residents and non-residents with respect to whether they hunted on WIAs during 2020; however, there is no practical management difference ($\chi^2 = 12.062 (1), p < 0.001, V = 0.079$).

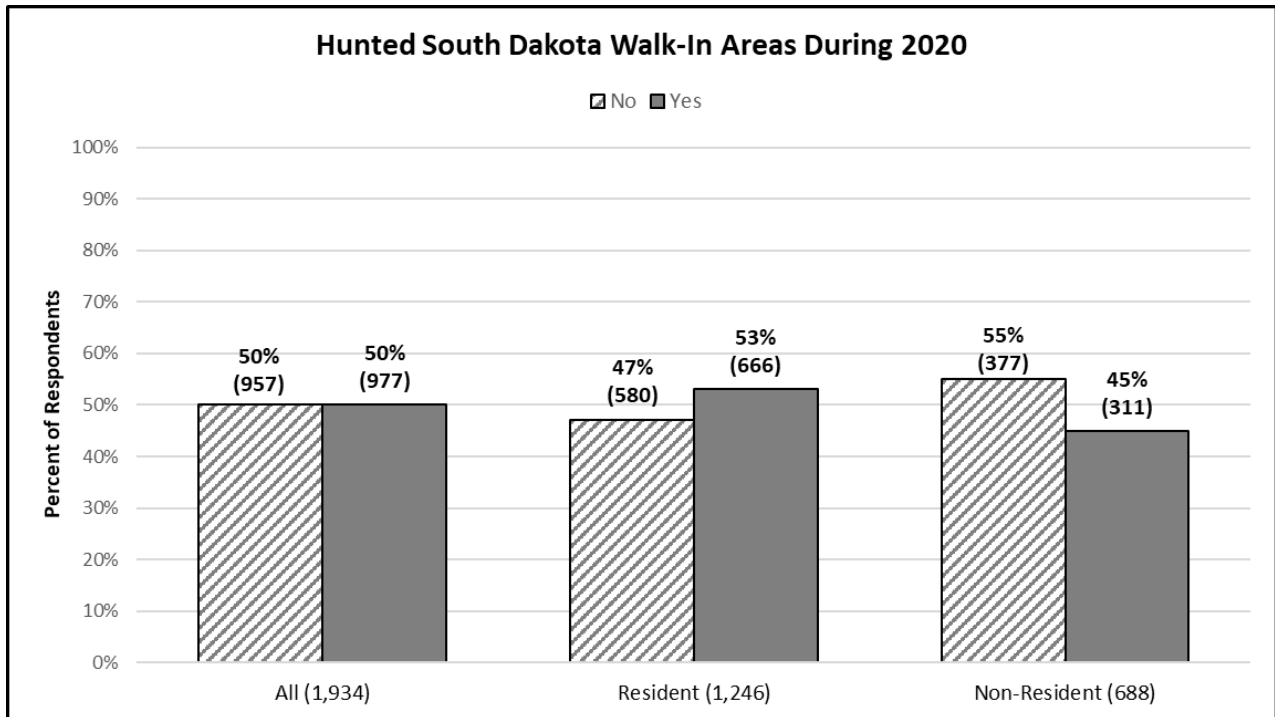


Figure 54. Proportion and count of resident and non-resident survey participants who hunted South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020.

When asked about their most preferred species to hunt on WIAs, half of all hunters preferred pheasant (Figure 55). This was also the preferred game species in 2015 (Longmire 2019). There was a statistically significant and moderate difference between residents and non-residents with respect to their most preferred species to hunt on WIAs during 2020 ($\chi^2 = 158.072 (5), p < 0.001, V = 0.402$). When comparing residents to non-residents by species, resident hunters preferred hunting big game (e.g., deer, antelope); whereas non-residents preferred hunting pheasant and waterfowl. This is likely due to the number of available resident and non-resident licenses by species (i.e., fewer big game licenses for non-residents).

It is important to note that, overall, about 10% of hunters selected other game species and of these nearly three-quarters selected multiple species from the primary list (e.g., deer, waterfowl, and pheasant) and about one-third listed other species (e.g., rabbit, prairie dog, coyote, elk, bobcat, dove, squirrel). All text responses are listed in Appendix B.

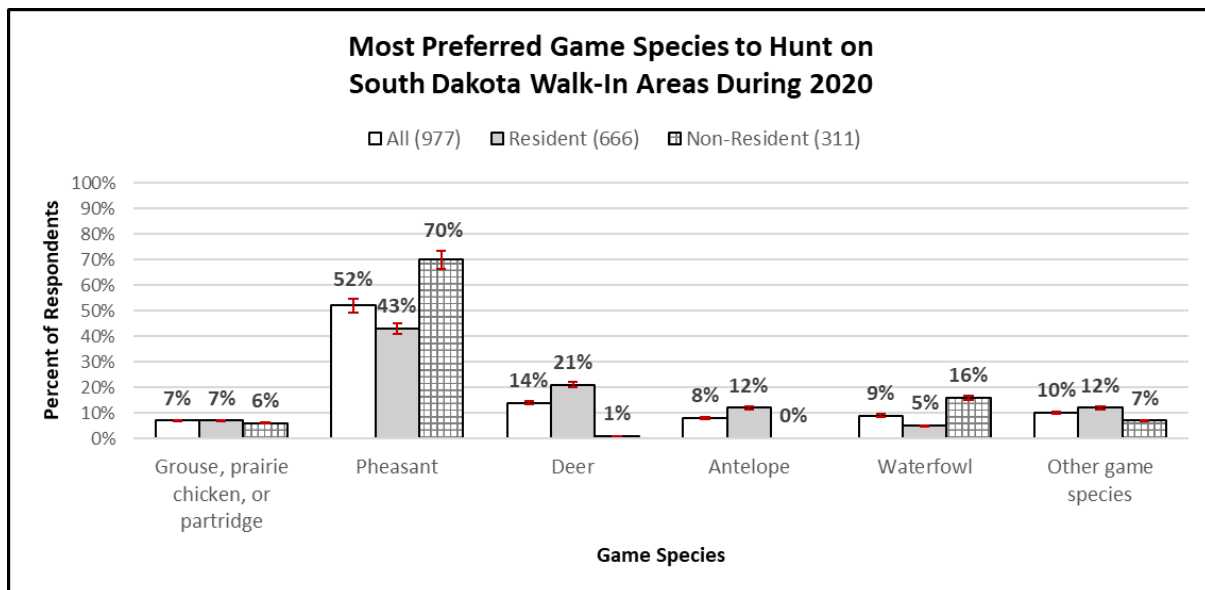


Figure 55. Most preferred game species to hunt on South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020. Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

To understand the factors that influence hunter decision-making about whether to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020, survey participants were asked to use a Likert-type scale (1=no influence, 2=slightly influential, 3=moderately influential, 4=very influential, 5=extremely influential) to rate the level of influence of 10 statements. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode) are reported in Table 13. Findings may inform program management, as well as targeted messaging, outreach, and communication.

Respondents were not asked to rank factors that influence hunter decision-making whether to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020. However, based on reported mode counts (Table 13) and proportional responses (Figures 56 – 65), the list can be broadly summarized as follows:

Factors that are very influential

- I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA
- It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps
- I have hunted WIAs in the past
- Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs
- Opportunity to harvest desired game species

Factors with no influence

- Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip
- Private hunting land required a fee
- No other public hunting lands near my home
- Friends or family wanted to hunt there
- The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land

Table 13. Factors that influence hunter decision-making whether to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020.

Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas (2020)			
Influence	Mean*	Median	Mode
Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip	2.50	2	1
I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA	3.62	4	4
It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps	3.42	4	4
Private hunting land required a fee	2.67	2	1
No other public hunting lands near my home	1.99	1	1
Friends or family wanted to hunt there	2.07	1	1
The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land	2.05	2	1
I have hunted WIAs in the past	3.46	4	4
Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs	3.16	3	4
Opportunity to harvest desired game species	3.50	4	4

*mean value is not an appropriate calculation for Likert-type 5-point scale questions

- Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip:** Overall, a little over one-third of hunters indicated this factor had no influence on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 56). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference (no practical management implication) between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020 ($\chi^2 = 12.685 (4), p < 0.05, V = 0.132$). In 2015, 25% of hunters selected ‘close proximity to my home’ as a reason they chose to hunt WIAs (Longmire 2019).

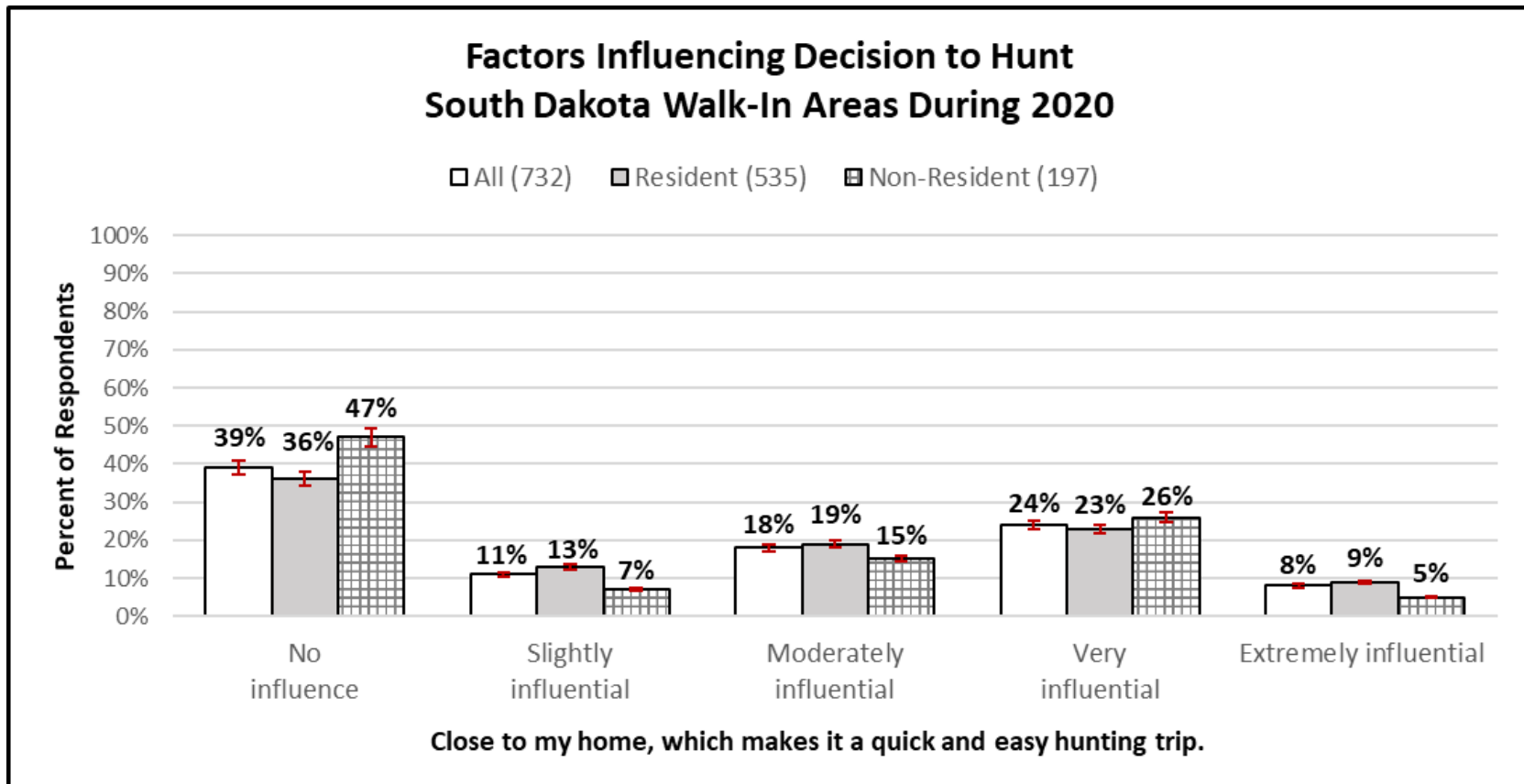


Figure 56. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA:** Overall, a little over one-third of hunters indicated this factor was very influential on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 57). There was a statistically significant but minimal difference (no practical management implication) between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of 'I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA' in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020 ($\chi^2 = 10.985 (4), p < 0.05, V = 0.122$). Item not measured in 2015.

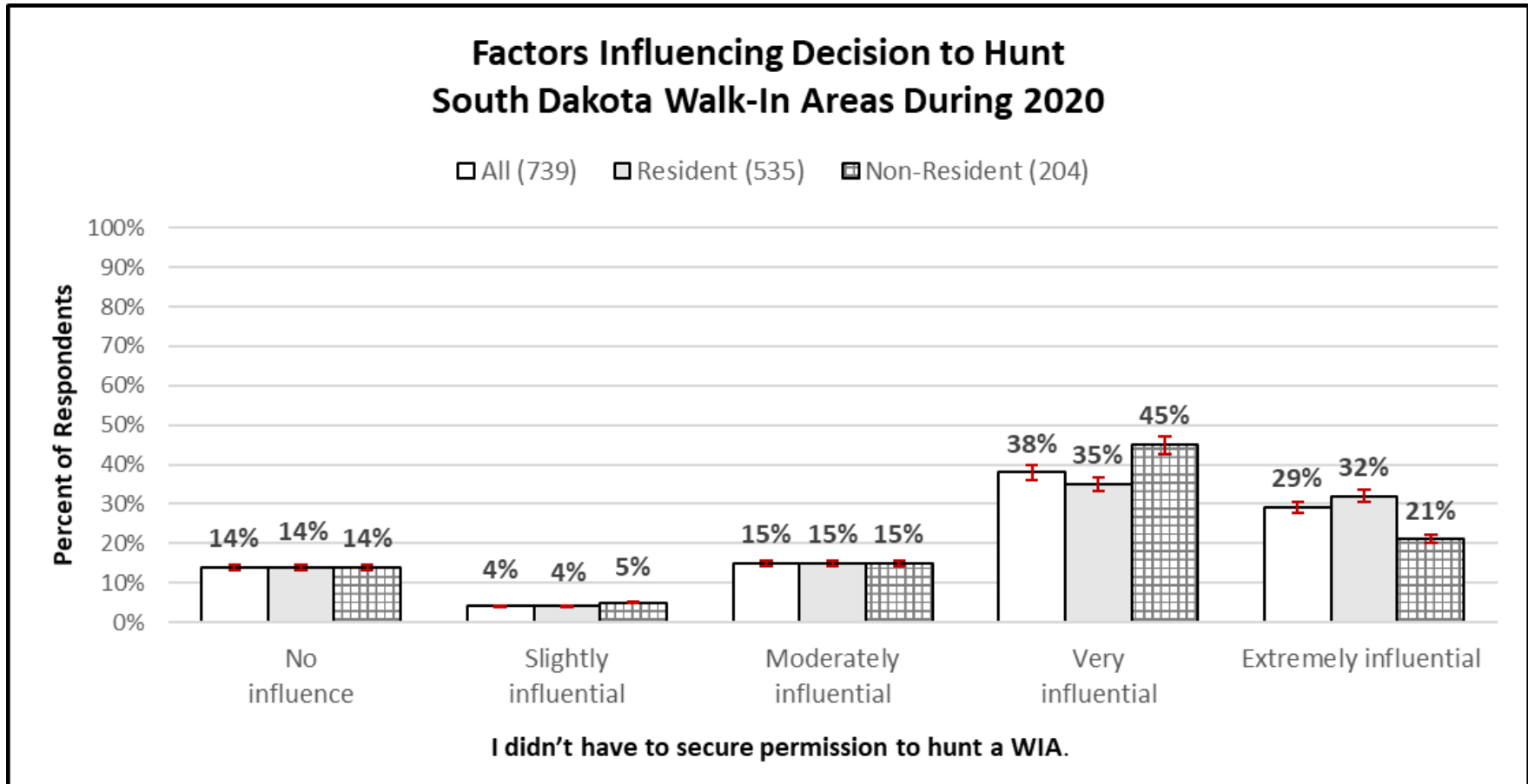


Figure 57. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – 'I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA.'

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- **It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps:** Overall, 57% of hunters indicated this factor was very or extremely influential on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 58). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘it is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020. Item not measured in 2015.

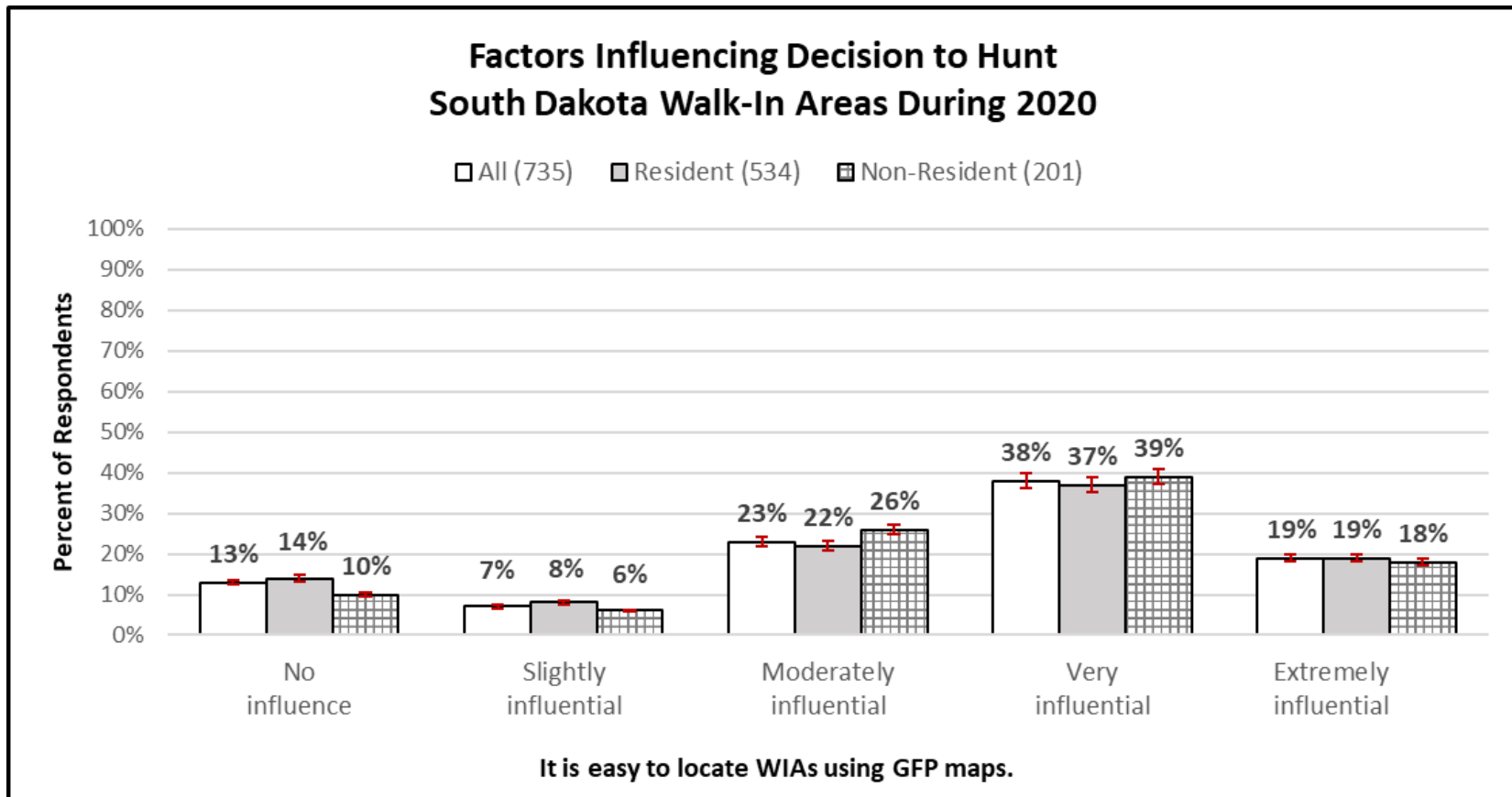


Figure 58. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Private hunting land required a fee:** Overall, 44% of hunters indicated this factor had no influence on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 59). On the other hand, almost half of all hunters reported the factor whether ‘private hunting land required a fee’ was either moderately, very, or extremely influential in their decision-making to hunt WIAs. In 2015, 21% of hunters selected ‘other private land required a fee’ as a reason they chose to hunt WIAs (Longmire 2019). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘private hunting land required a fee’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020.

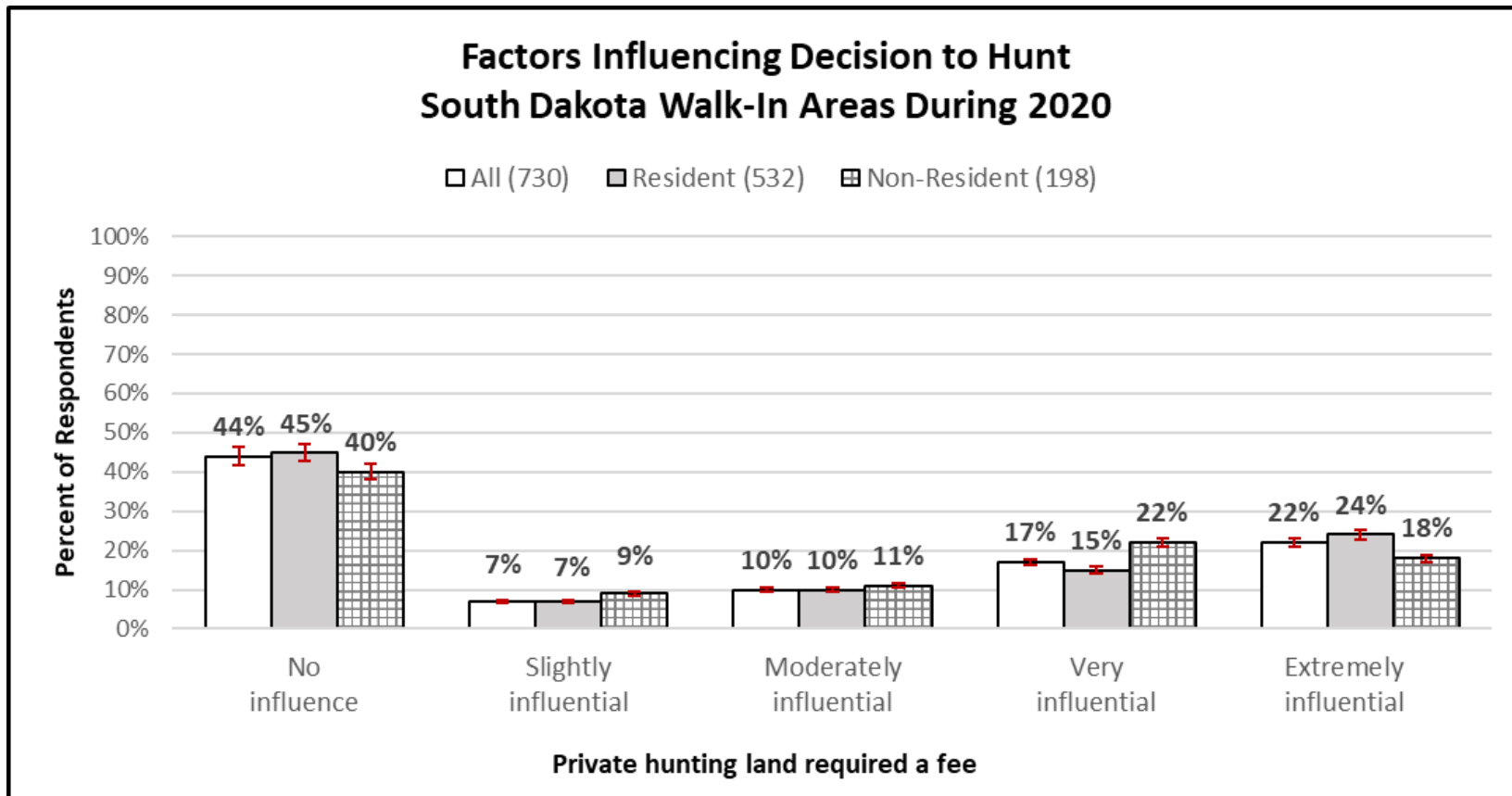


Figure 59. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Private hunting land required a fee.’
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- No other public hunting lands near my home:** Overall, 56% of hunters indicated this factor had no influence on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 60). Yet, about one-third of hunters reported that not having other public hunting lands near their home is moderately, very, or extremely influential in their decision whether to hunt WIAs. In 2015, about 15% of hunters selected ‘no other public access near my home’ as a reason they chose to hunt WIAs (Longmire 2019). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘no other public hunting lands near my home’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020.

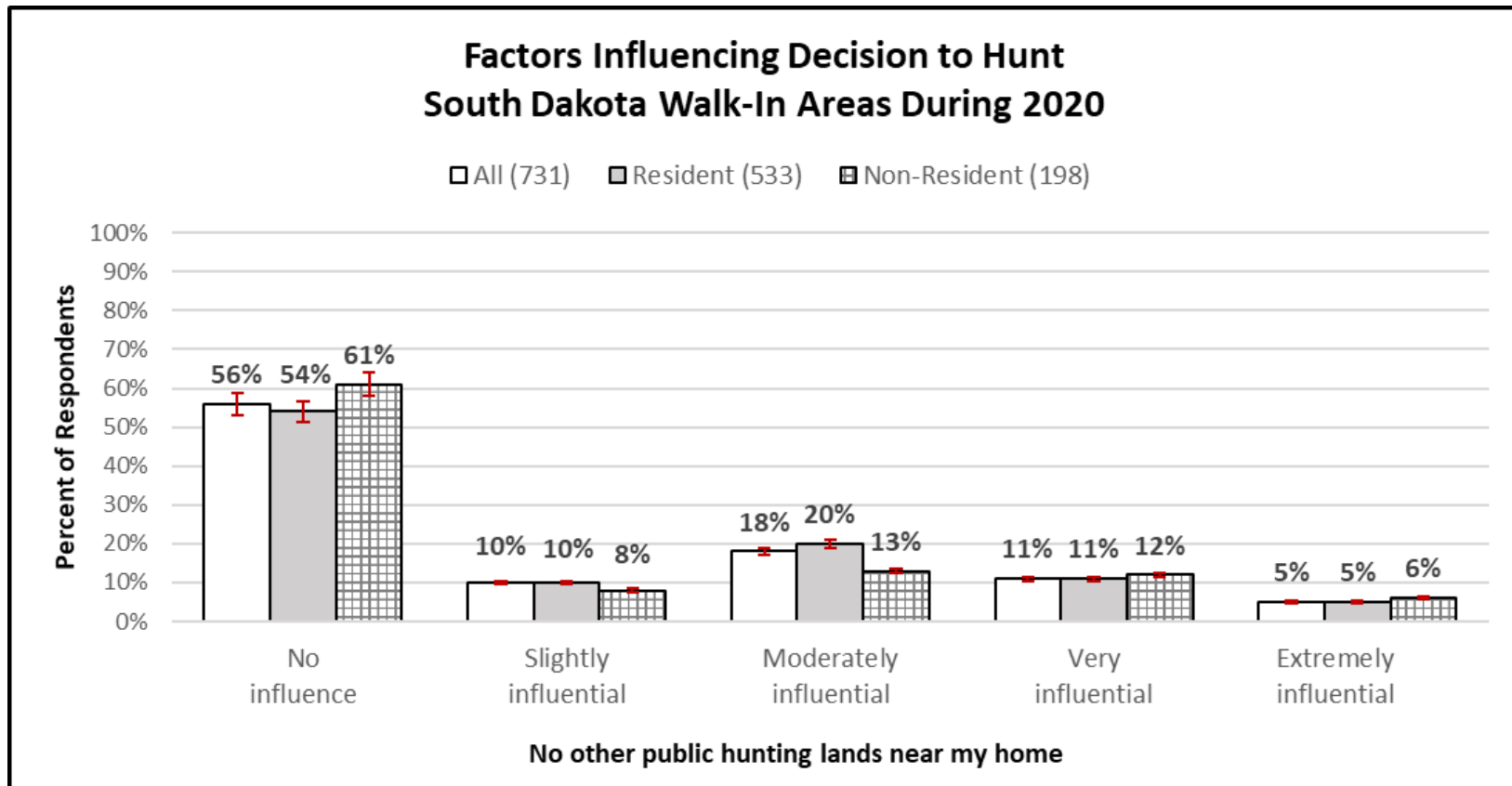


Figure 60. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘No other public hunting lands near my home.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Friends/family wanted to hunt there:** Overall, just over half of all hunters indicated this factor had no influence on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 61). Greater than one-third of hunters reported that whether friends or family wanted to hunt there as moderately, very, or extremely influential in their decision whether to hunt WIAs. This is roughly a 30% increase from the 2015 survey (i.e., 21% of hunters selected ‘friends/family wanted to hunt there’ as a reason they chose to hunt WIAs) (Longmire 2019). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘friends/family wanted to hunt there’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020.

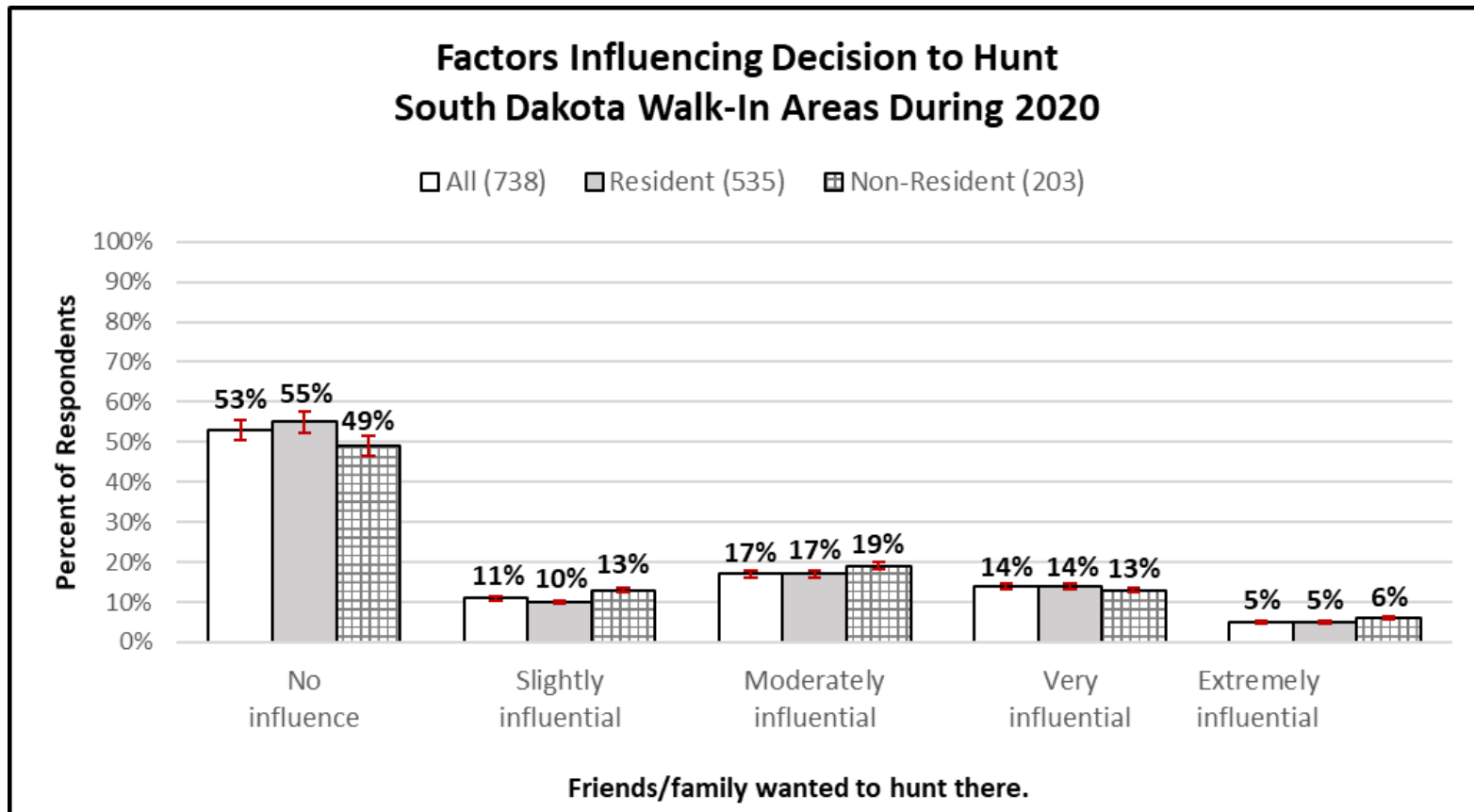


Figure 61. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Friends/family wanted to hunt there.’
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land:** Overall, nearly half of all hunters reported this factor had no influence on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 62). However, a little more than one-third of all hunters reported the randomness of coming across a WIA (i.e., not a planned trip) was moderately, very, or extremely influential in their decision-making. In 2015, 21% of hunters selected ‘just happened to come across the land’ as a reason they chose to hunt WIAs (Longmire 2019). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘the WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota WIAs during 2020.

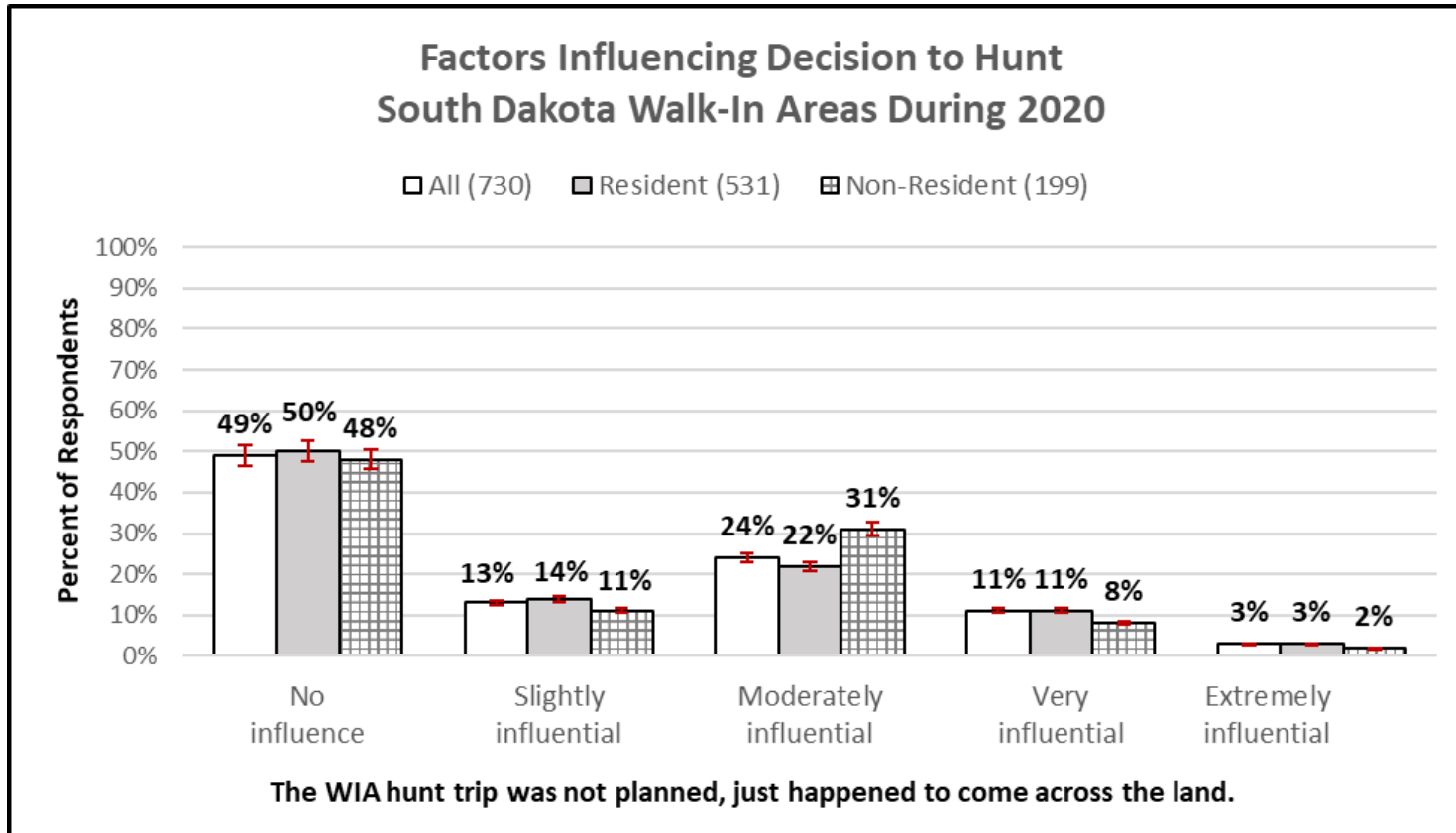


Figure 62. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 –‘The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- I have hunted WIAs in the past:** Overall, a majority of hunters (82%) indicated this factor was moderately, very, or extremely influential on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 63). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘I have hunted WIAs in the past’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020. Item not measured in 2015.

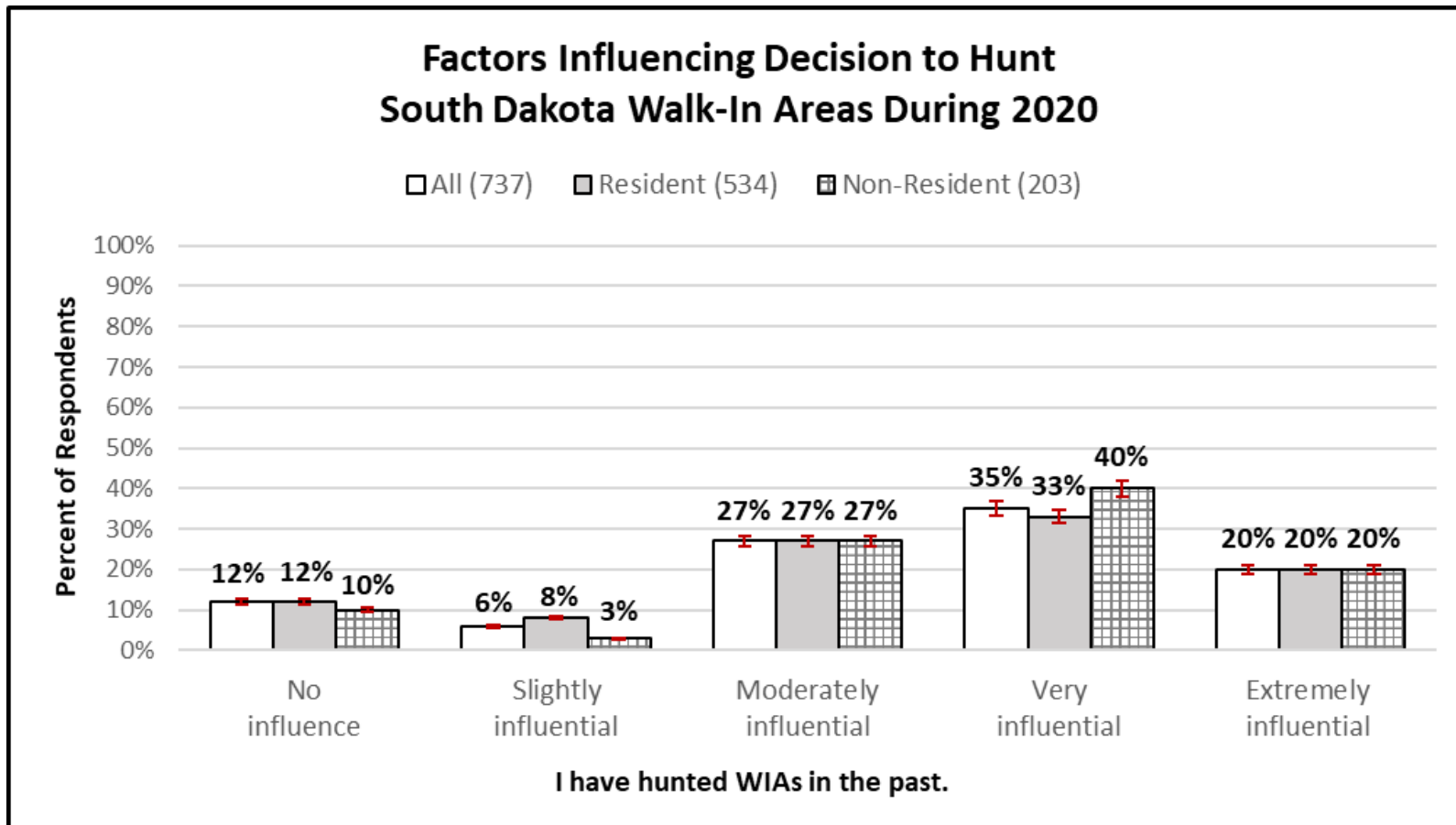


Figure 63. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘I have hunted WIAs in the past.’
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs:** Overall, three-quarters of all hunters reported this factor was moderately, very, or extremely influential on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 64). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020. Item not measured in 2015.

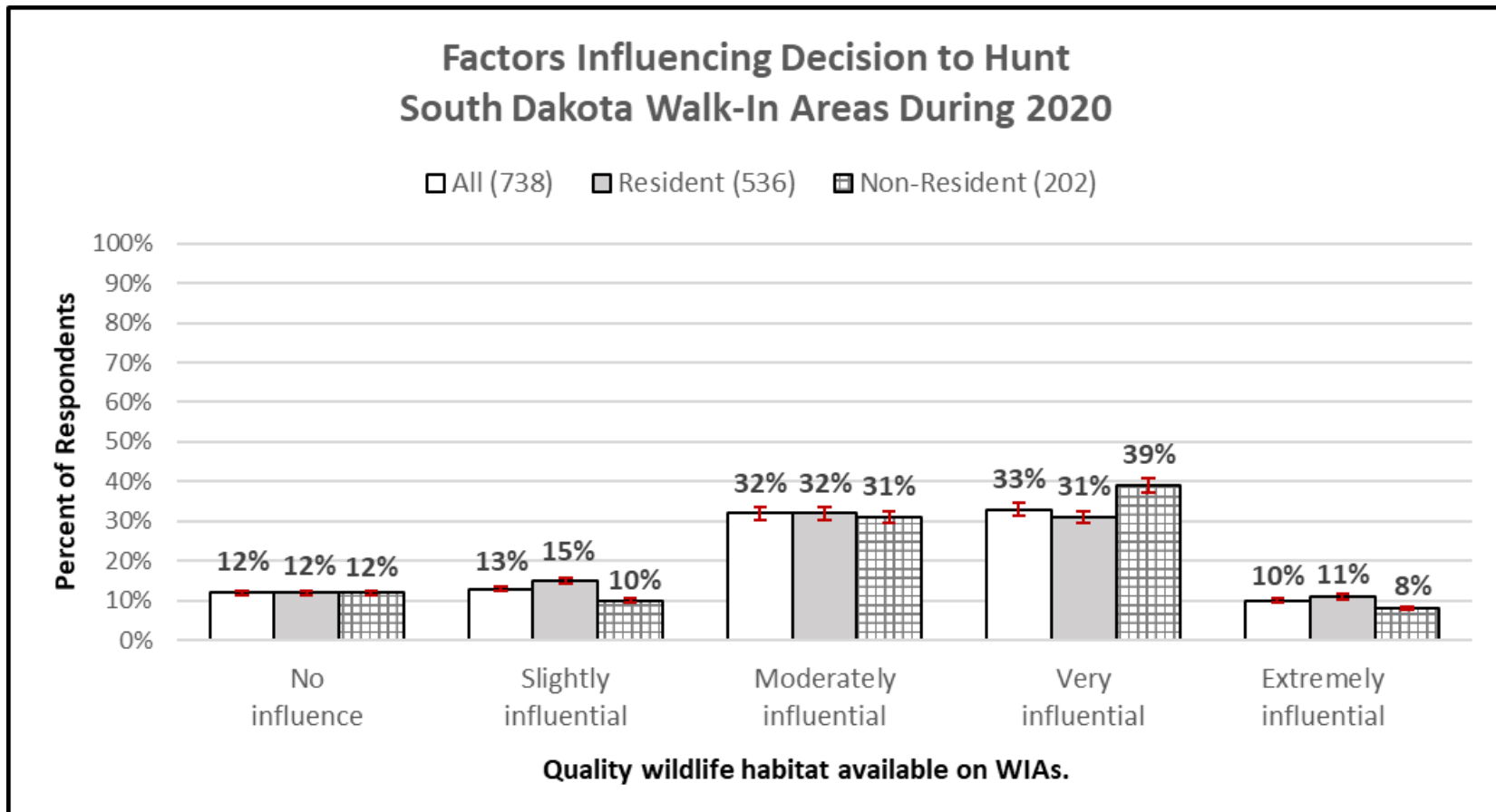


Figure 64. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Opportunity to harvest desired game species:** Overall, a majority of hunters (84%) indicated this factor was moderately, very, or extremely influential on their decision to hunt South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 65). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents in terms of overall influence of ‘opportunity to harvest desired game species’ in their decision making whether to hunt in South Dakota during 2020. Item not measured in 2015.

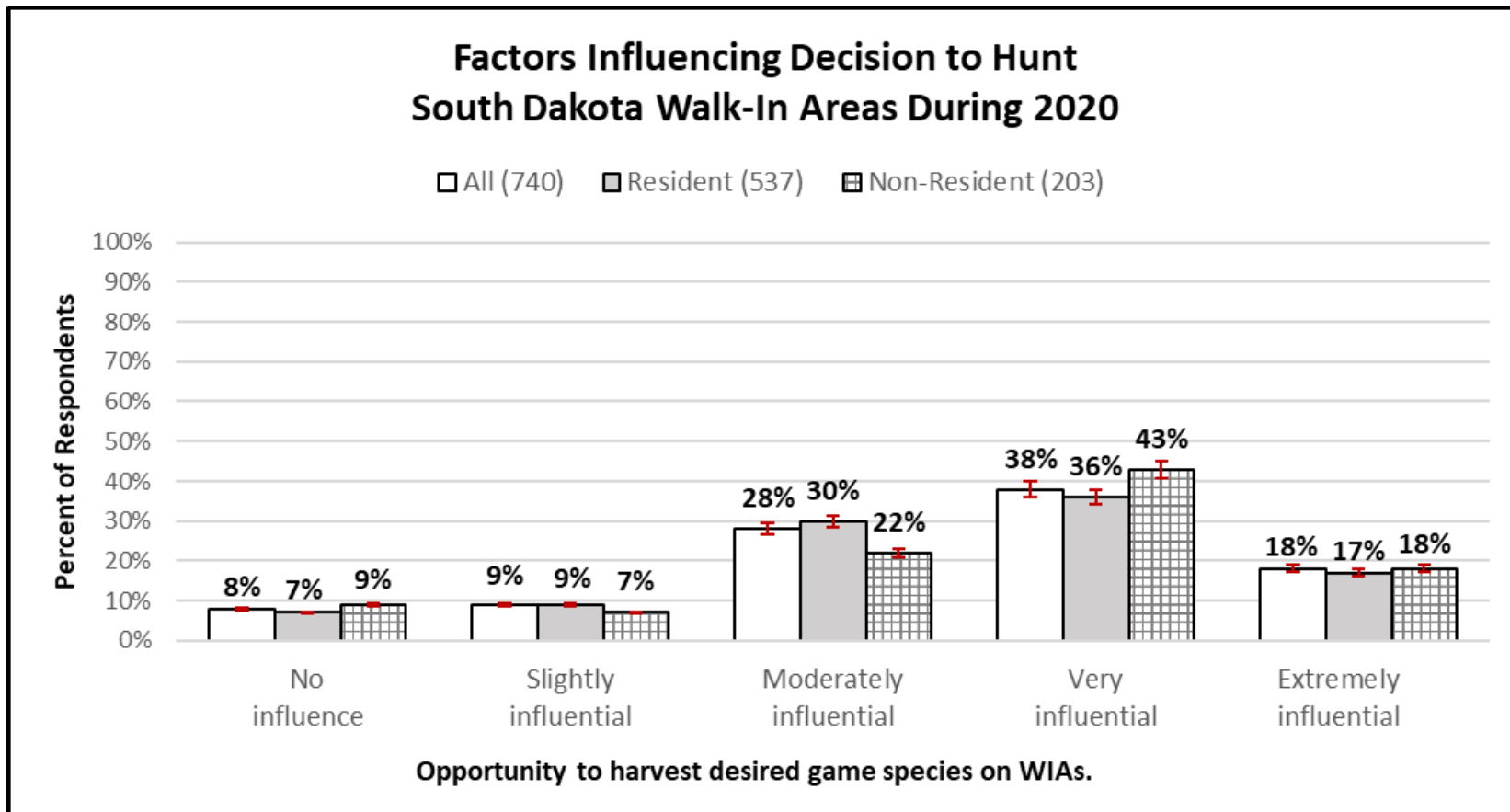


Figure 65. Factors influencing decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Opportunity to harvest desired game species on WIAs.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

To understand spatial demand for WIAs, hunters were asked to use a Likert-type scale (1=not important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=critical (would not hunt otherwise)) to rate the importance of having access to South Dakota WIAs 30 miles or less from their home residence. Respondents could also select 'N/A' if they lived more than 30 miles of South Dakota.).

About 20% of respondents answered this question though their home residence zip code did not qualify; hence, data were filtered to only include South Dakota resident hunters (n=439). Overall, **nearly three-quarters of resident hunters reported that having access to WIA lands 30 miles or less from their home residence as moderately important, very important, or critical (would not hunt otherwise)** (Figure 66). For a spatial and visual representation of the data, a statewide map and GFP Region maps are located in Appendix D.

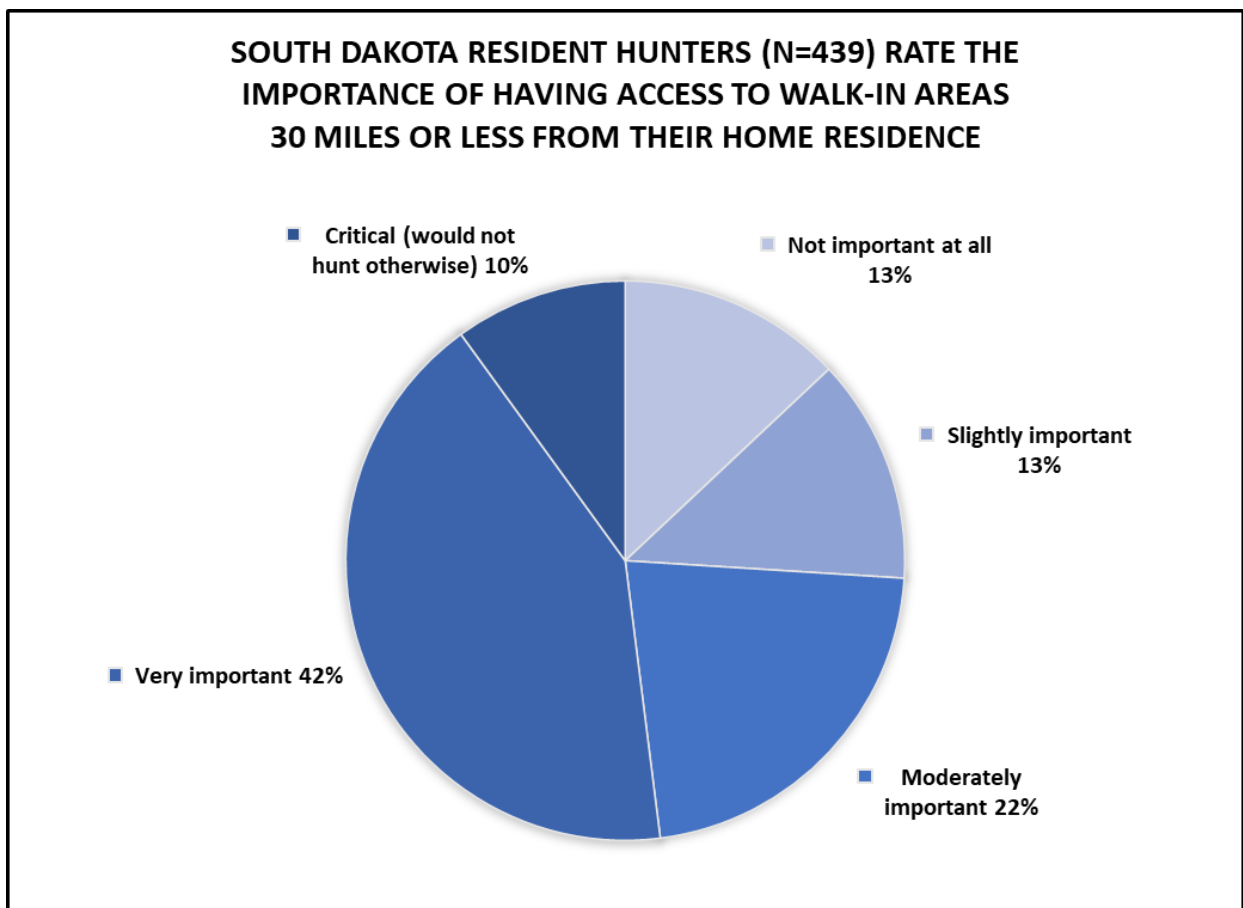


Figure 66. South Dakota resident hunters rate the importance of having access to WIAs 30 miles or less from their home residence.

To understand whether certain factors may have affected their overall hunting experience using South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020, survey participants were asked to use a Likert-type scale (1=not important, 2=slightly important, 3=moderately important, 4=very important, 5=extremely important) to rate the level of importance of 10 statements. Descriptive statistics (mean, median, mode) are reported in Table 14. Findings may inform program management, as well as targeted messaging, outreach, and communication.

Respondents were not asked to rank factors that may affect their overall hunting experiences using South Dakota WIAs during 2020. However, based on reported mode counts (Table 14) and proportional responses (Figures 67 – 76), the list is broadly summarized as follows:

Very important factors

- WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable
- Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters
- Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat
- Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species

Moderately important factors

- Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs
- Harvesting game species you would be proud to display

Factors with no importance

- Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs
- A designated parking area that is not far from hunting area
- Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt
- Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species

Table 14. Descriptive statistics of factors that may affect overall hunting experience using South Dakota Walk-In Areas during 2020.

Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas (2020)			
Experience	Mean*	Median	Mode
Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs	1.87	1	1
WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable	3.78	4	4
Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters	3.43	4	4
A designated parking area that is not far from hunting area	2.06	1	1
Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat	4.02	4	4
Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species	3.96	4	4
Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt	2.40	2	1
Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs	3.48	4	3
Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species	2.26	2	1
Harvesting game species you would be proud to display	2.76	3	3

- Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs:** A little more than half of all hunters indicated this factor was not important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 67). However, almost one-third of hunters reported that ‘advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs’ was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience while using WIAs. There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. In 2015, 39% of hunters indicated increasing marketing was slightly important to their overall hunting experience on WIAs (Longmire 2019).

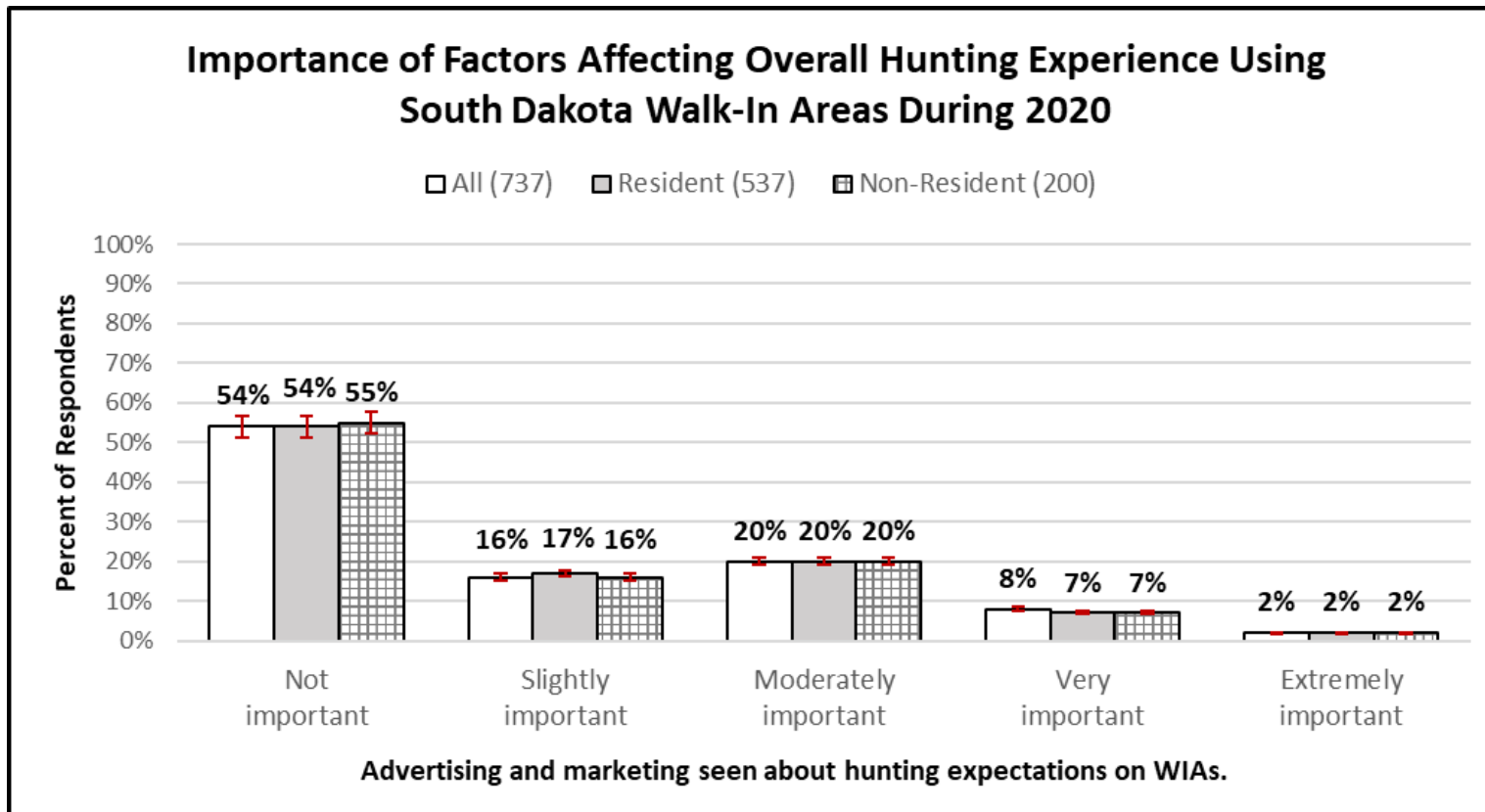


Figure 67. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable:** Nearly all hunters (90%) reported this factor was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 68). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. In 2015, 33% of hunters indicated improving signage was slightly important to their overall hunting experience on WIAs (Longmire 2019).

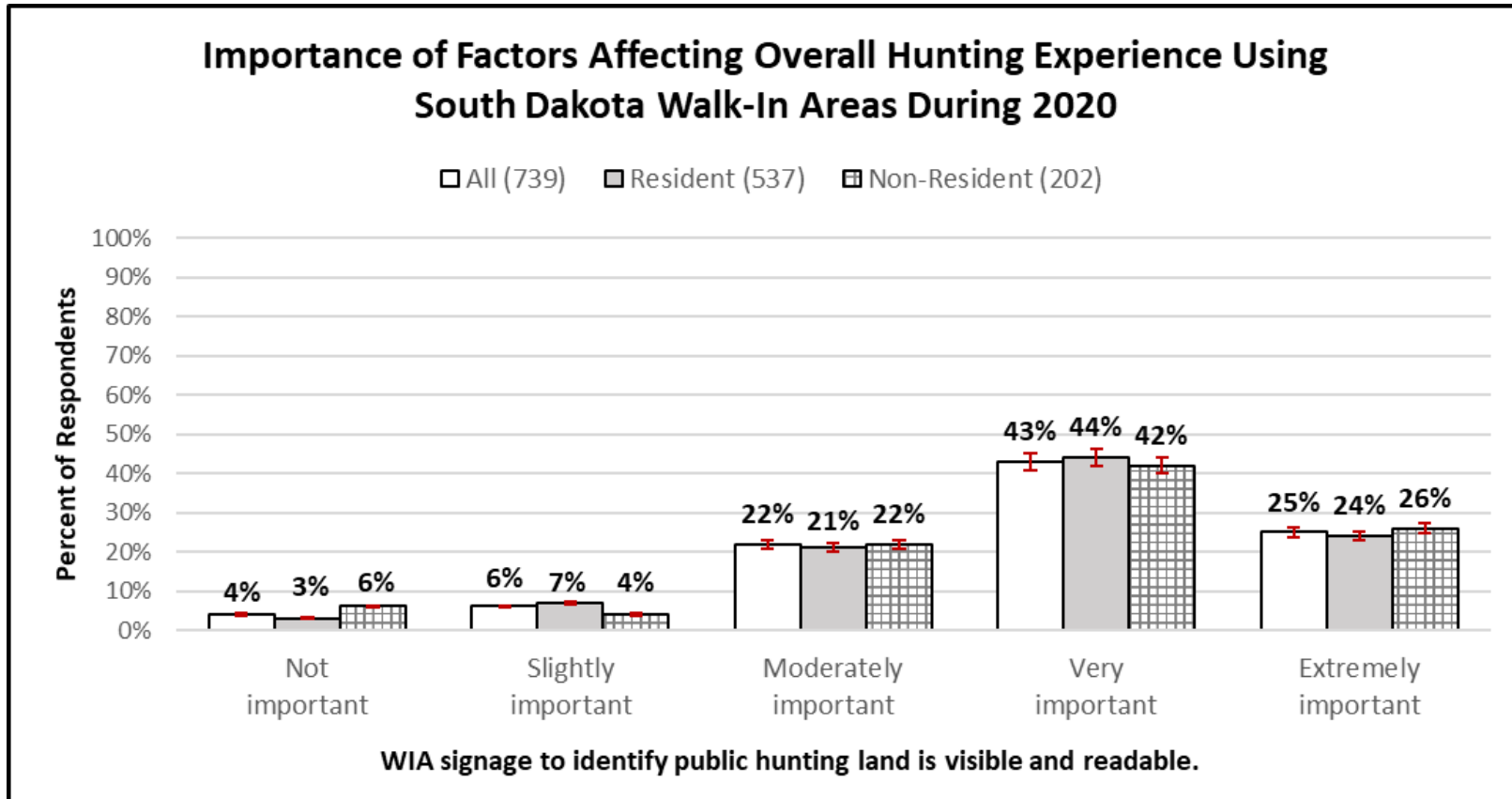


Figure 68. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters:** Overall, a majority of hunters (83%) of hunters indicated this factor was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 69). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. Item not measured in 2015.

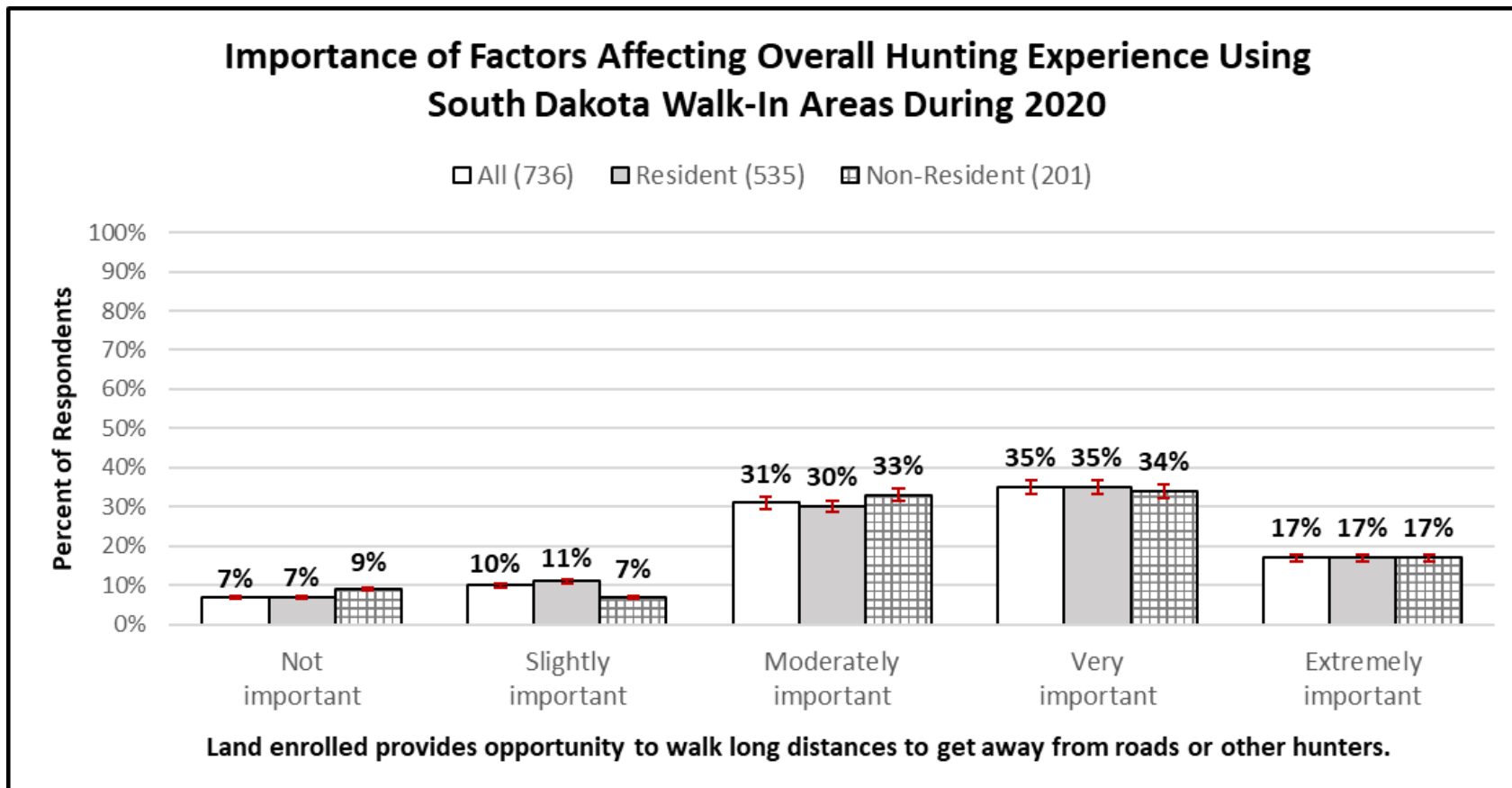


Figure 69. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- A designated parking area that is not far from hunting area:** Overall, a little more than half of all hunters indicated this factor was not important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 70). However, about one-third of hunters reported that ‘a designated parking area that is not far from hunting area’ was moderately to extremely important to their overall hunting experience while using WIAs. There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘a designated parking area that is not far from hunting area’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. In 2015, 37% of hunters indicated improved access and parking was not important to their overall hunting experience on WIAs (Longmire 2019).

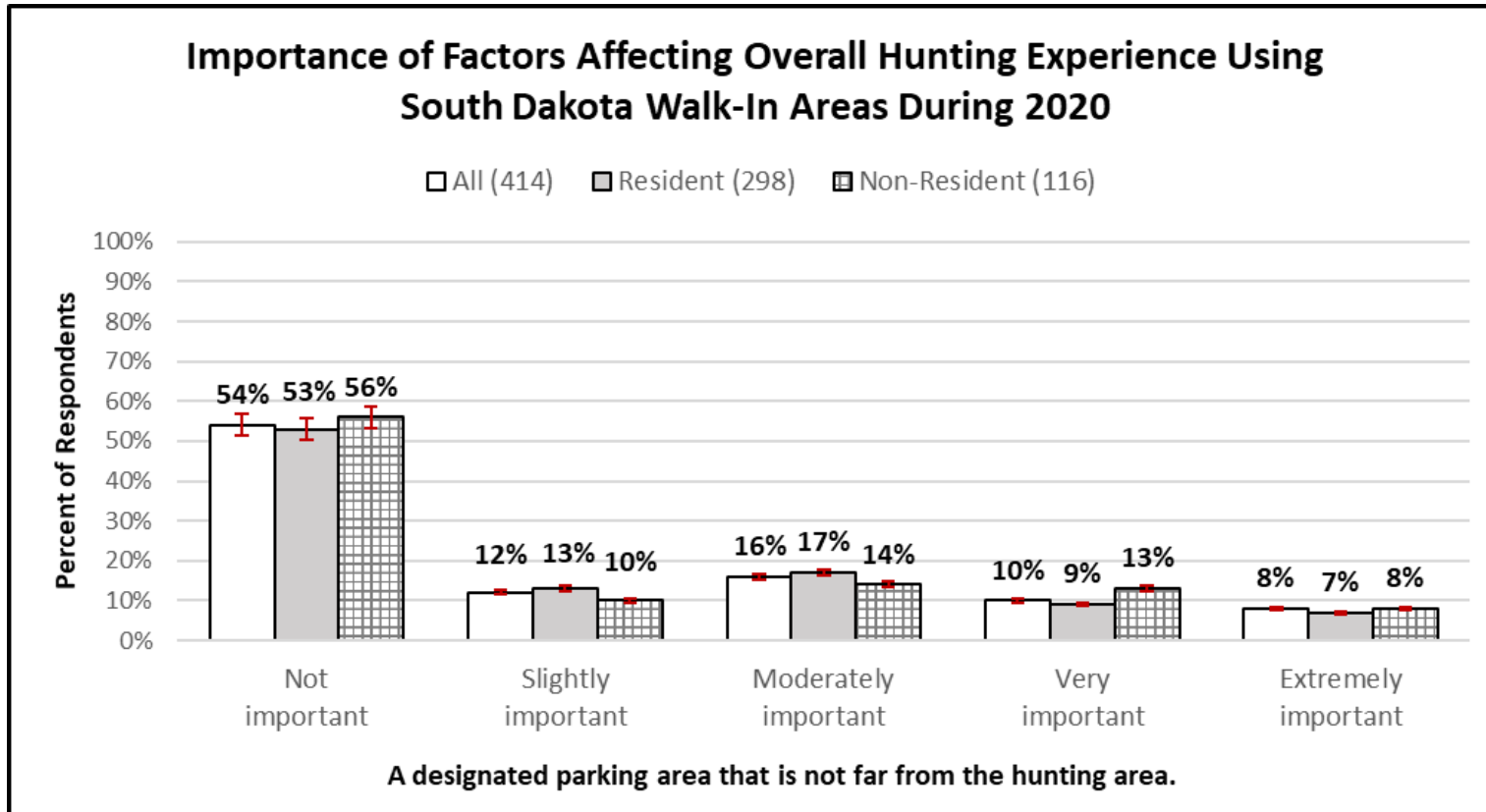


Figure 70. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘A designated parking area that is not far from the hunting area.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat:** Nearly three quarters of all hunters reported this factor was very or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 71). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat’ to their overall hunting experience. Item not measured in 2015.

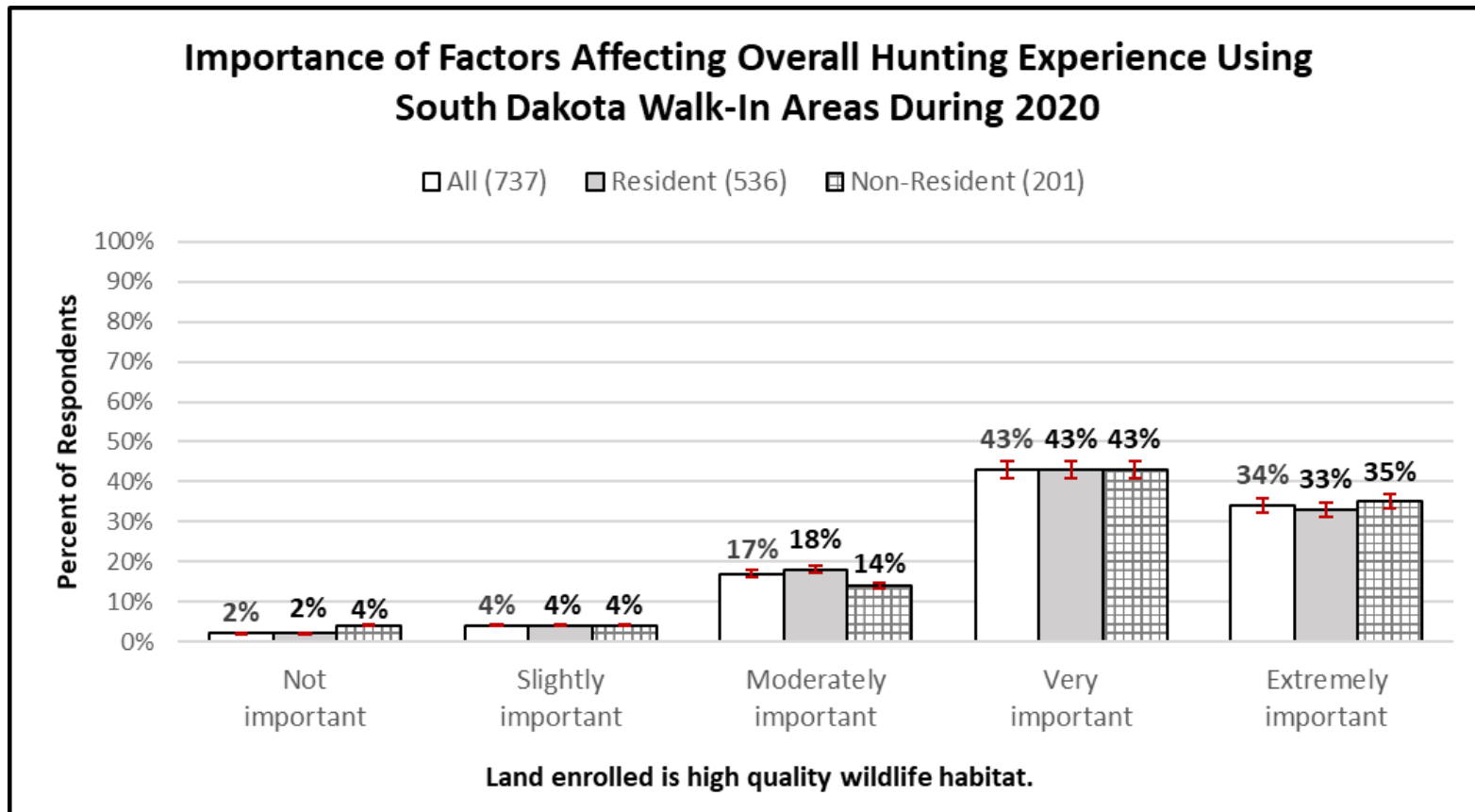


Figure 71. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species:** Overall, 70% of hunters indicated this factor was very or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 72). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. Item not measured in 2015.

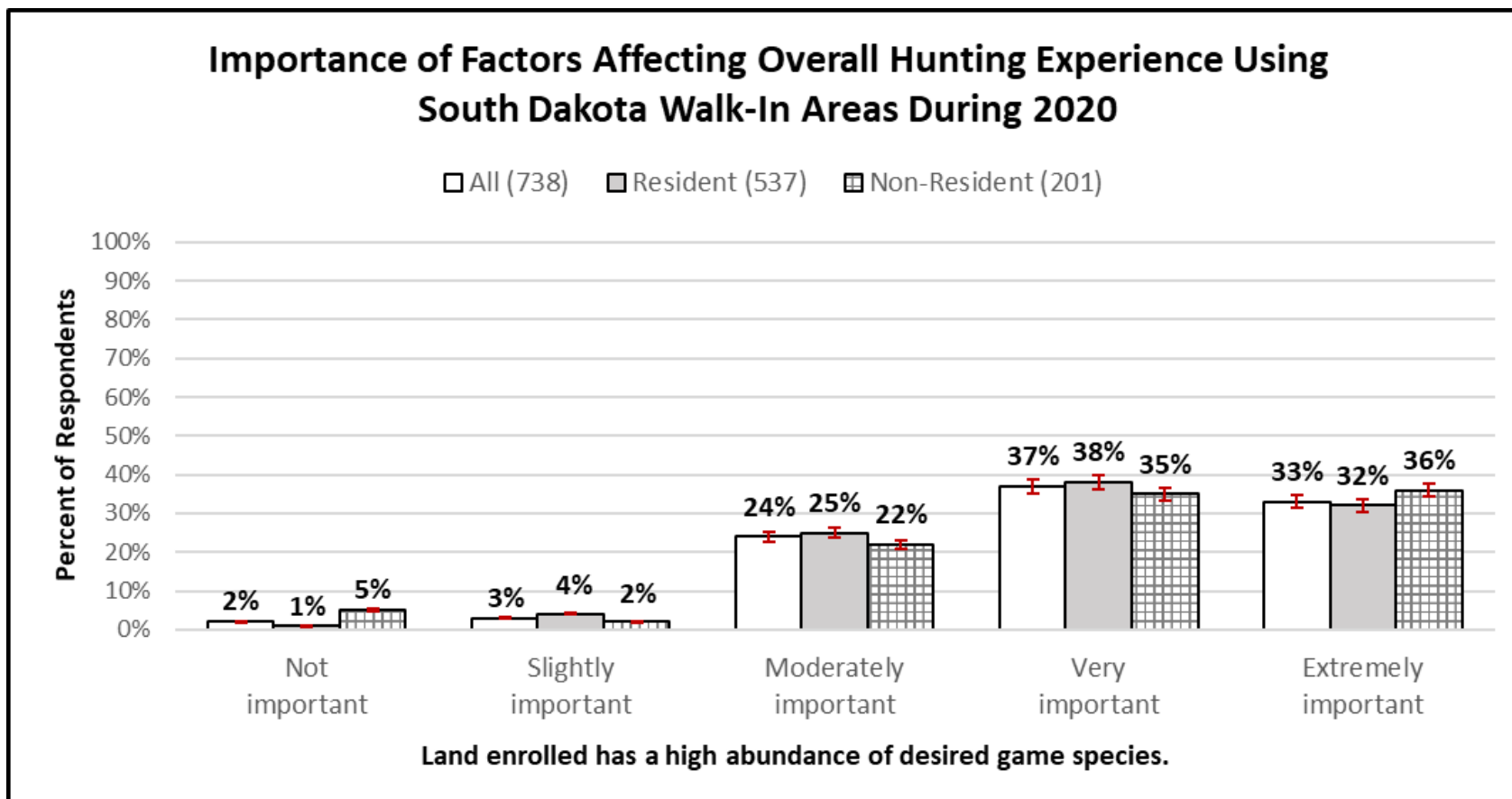


Figure 72. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt:** Overall, about one-third of hunters indicated this factor was not important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 73). However, almost half of all hunters reported this factor was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020. There was a statistically significant but minimal difference (no practical management implication) between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. 2020 ($\chi^2 = 11.382 (4), p < 0.05, V = 0.124$). Item not measured in 2015.

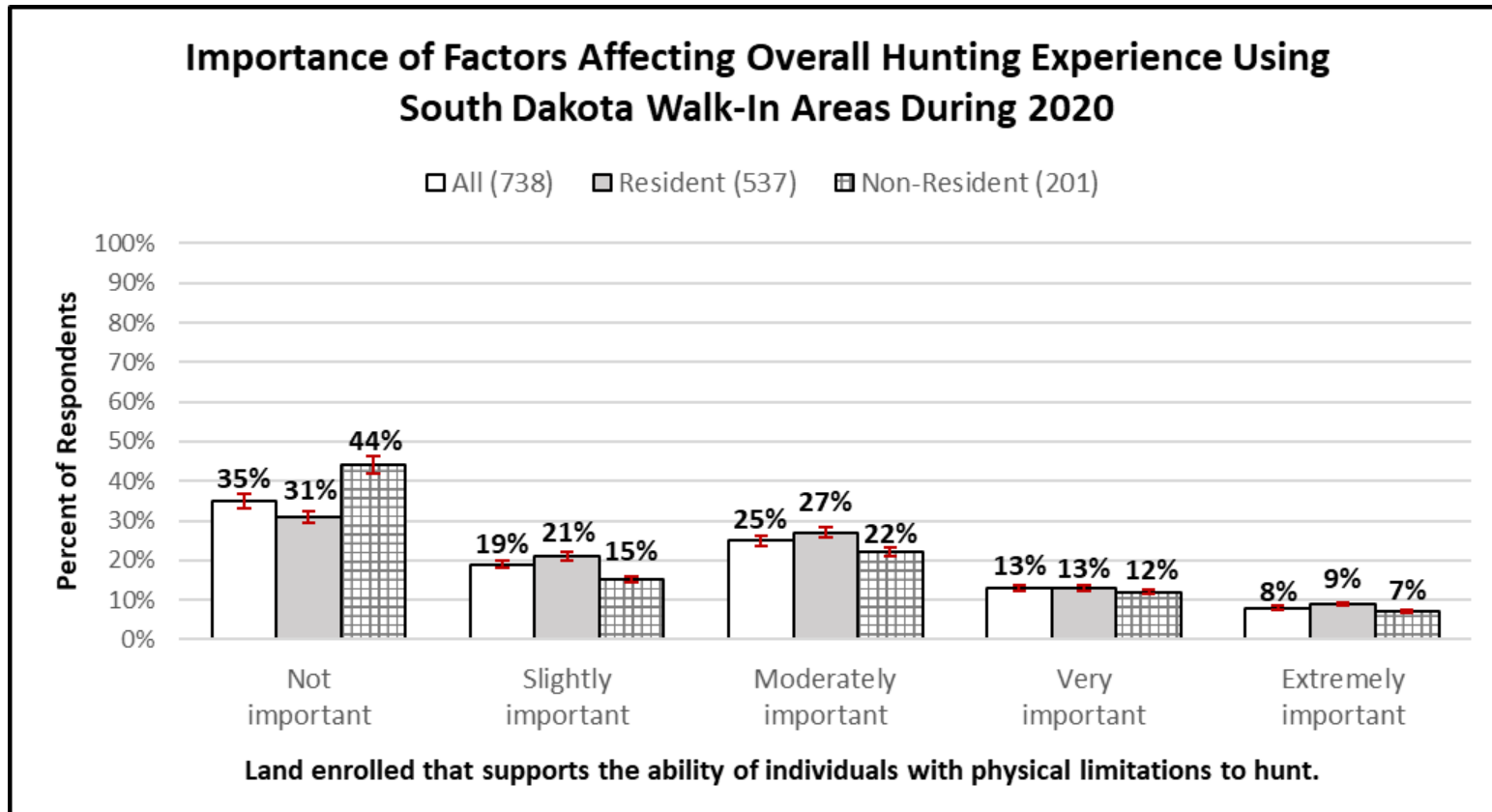


Figure 73. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs:** Overall, a majority of all hunters (81%) of hunters indicated this factor was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 74). There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs. Item not measured in 2015.

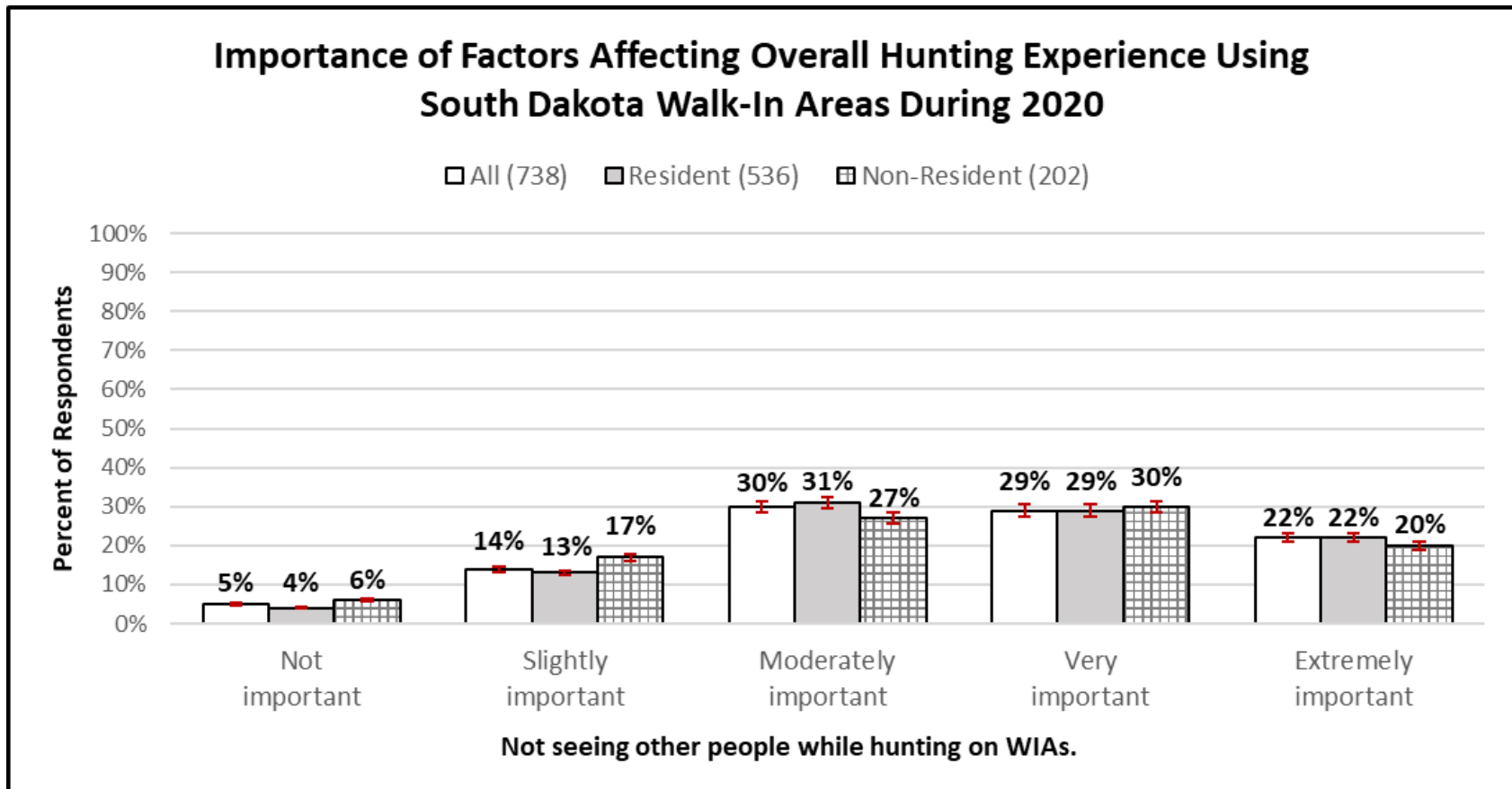


Figure 74. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species:** Overall, little more than one-third of hunters indicated this factor was not important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 75). However, 43% of hunters reported that not having to walk too far from their vehicle to hunt their desire game species was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience while using WIAs. There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species’ to their overall hunting experience on WIAs. Item not measured in 2015.

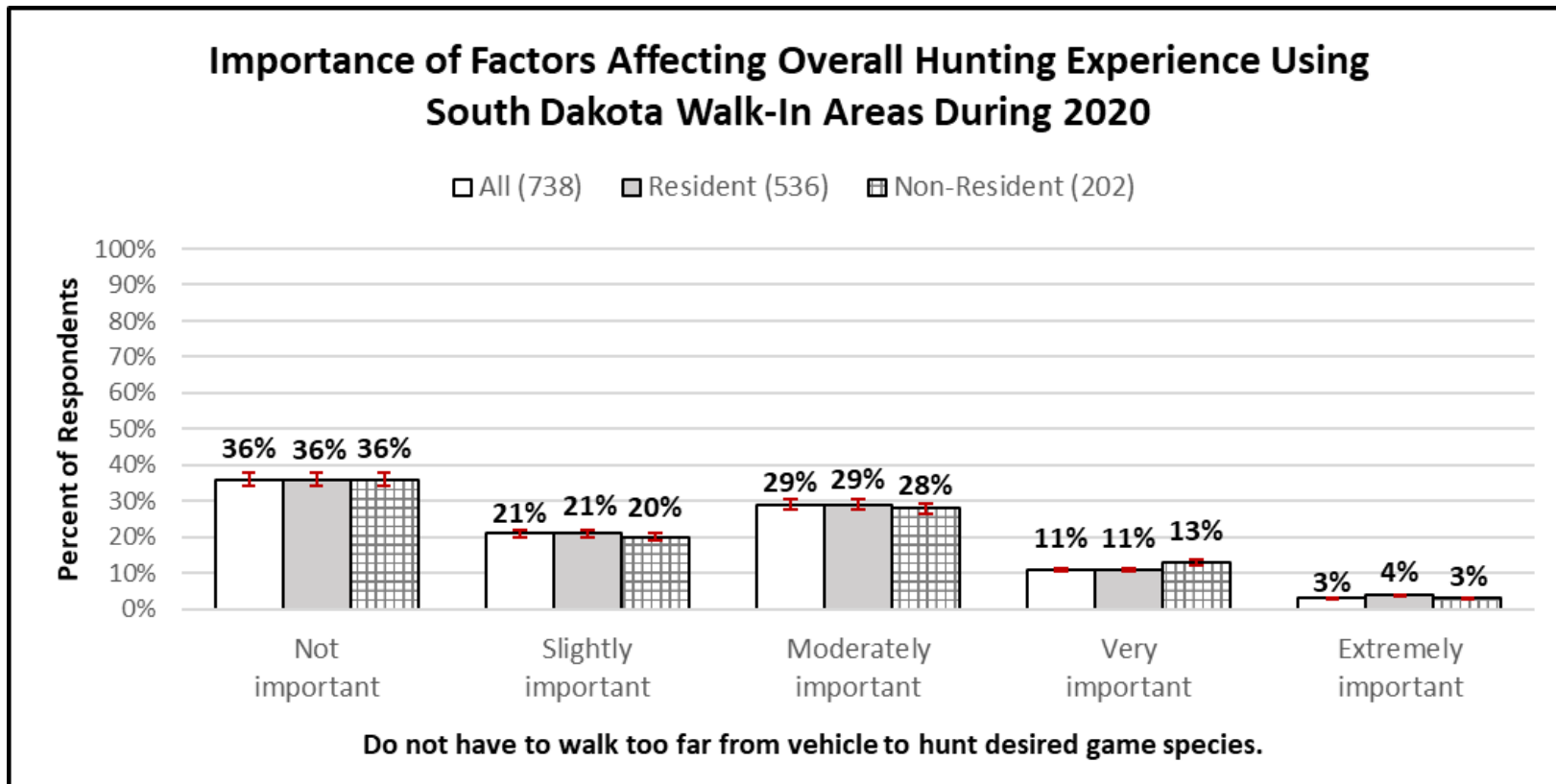


Figure 75. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 – ‘Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

- Harvesting game species you would be proud to display:** Overall, a little more than half of all hunters reported this factor was moderately, very, or extremely important to their overall hunting experience using South Dakota WIAs during 2020 (Figure 76). It is important to note that one-quarter of all hunter indicated this factor was not an important factor. There was no statistically significant difference between residents and non-residents for importance of ‘harvesting game species you would be proud to display’ to their overall hunting experience on WIA lands. Item not measured in 2015.

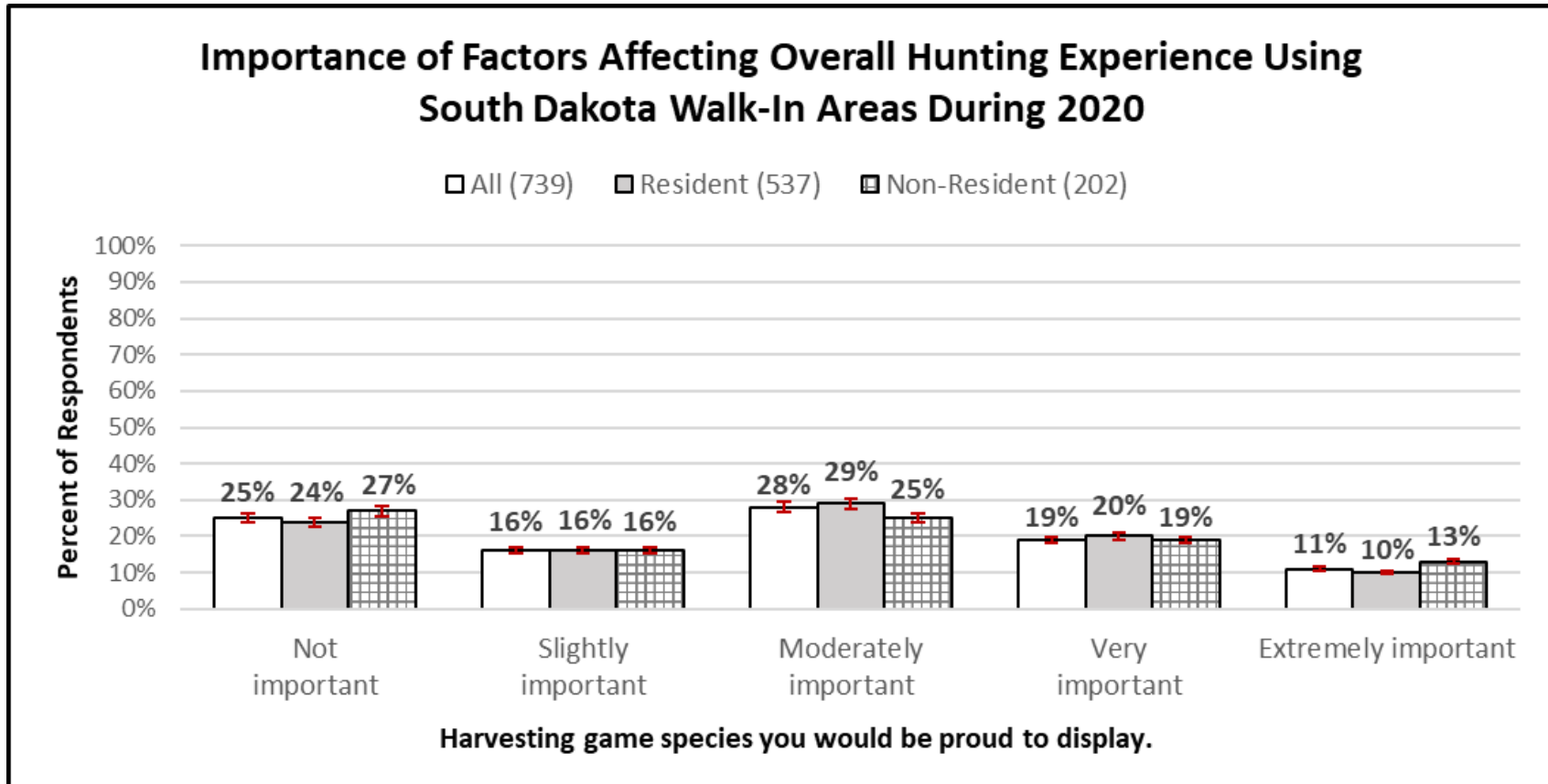


Figure 76. Factors influencing overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas during 2020 - ‘Harvesting game species you would be proud to display.’

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Survey participants were offered the opportunity to tell GFP if there were other factors that affected their overall hunting experiences (positive or negative) on Walk-In Areas during 2020. About one-third of respondents provided text responses. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses were coded and grouped by broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All comments are listed in Appendix B.

○ *Habitat Management: 39%*

Text comments generally referred to habitat quality, issues or conflicts with livestock and/or haying practices, and vegetation control. For example,

- For pheasant hunting, some of the WIA did not have what seemed to be good food areas nearby.
- A lot of the WIA's do not have suitable habitat for game birds.
- Good wildlife habitat and good opportunity to find wildlife on property.
- Have best luck on WIA for waterfowl in which the land is primarily used as pastureland.

- A lot of times the grass has been eaten by cattle or the fields have been cut or harvested.
- One WIA that my dad and I hunted on south of Pierre had 2 very aggressive horses. One of them bucked at my dad's dog. The dog was not bothering him. We had to leave.
- Overrun with so many cattle that there was no habitat left and you safely could not even hunt it.
- There seems to be too much livestock in them hard to sneak up on archery antelope when you got cows following you.
- Cutting of grasses leaving a bare field for the hunting season and allowing cattle to trample grass/habitat of WIA doesn't make much sense.

- Many of the acres are annually hayed or actively grazed and not good hunting opportunities
- Being able to see others while in walk in. The weeds where we hunt were so bad we could not see other hunters. The grass was over all of our heads.
- Too many prohibited noxious weeds, thistles etc.

○ *Species Management: 15%*

Text comments generally referred to wildlife populations (in general), big game species, upland bird species, and waterfowl species. For example,

- WIAs don't have any game to hunt.
- Don't see many birds on Walk-In Land
- It seems as though Walk in areas almost always have very poor habitat for game and have a lot less game than say a state game production area or CREP land
- Very few wildlife on WIA.
- Very low percentage of wildlife. You can't shoot what isn't there.

- Deer were only located in the farming fields due to late harvest. Never found in area where I could shoot. I did not take one shot all season. We watched deer eating.
- Hunted all walk-ins but never saw any antelope.
- I hunted (or tried to) antelope using walk in areas; however, there were very few antelope seen across all of 3 days and no reasonable opportunity to harvest them.

- I love the WIA for deer hunting. It's one of the only spots to hunt West River deer that we can find some nice deer.
 - In the last few/several years the opportunity to hunt deer on WIA seems to have decreased due to EHD.
 - I am not sure if it has just been the past few seasons, deer disease or low deer count, high hunter numbers or what but the deer haven't been there during hunting times.
 - Productive areas for big game are relatively abundant.
 - Very few deer on a West River public land I hunted in 49 A county this year.

 - Found pheasant on 80% of ground hunted which is encouraging
 - It was hard finding birds. Dog worked really hard for not much return.
 - Have seen good numbers of birds (pheasants) and waterfowl in the WIA's.
 - In 2020 we spent several days walking what looked to be very quality habitat areas surrounded with food and had water sources, but birds were very limited. We walked several that our dogs never even got birdy in and several where we only flushed hens and several with some hens but only one or two roosters.
 - With the proof of snow on the ground, I could walk hours at times and not even see a single pheasant or grouse track! Track!! It was the most horrible bird hunting I have seen in 50 years, anywhere.

 - Want better habitat available for waterfowl.
 - I am a big fan of the crop fields for waterfowl hunting.
 - The WIA CREP Waterfowl Production Area, are nice to have for spring Snow Geese.
- *Access: 14%*
- Text comments generally referred to access (difficulty or ease), boundary or signage, infrastructure, and landowner permission. For example,
- I have found on a few occasions when you'd get to a walk-in area there wasn't a spot to walk in. Barb wire would totally encompass some areas so I wouldn't hunt those areas because I would have to damage private property to get into the WIA.
 - Other issues were a lack of places to leave my vehicle so that I would not be in the way of the landowner or other traffic, signage (lacking), and access to many of the areas (some did not seem to have a way to drive or walk to them without trespassing).
 - There are a lot of areas that are not accessible (access across private property)
 - There are a number of walk-in properties and waterfowl production areas we hunted in the past where we historically have been very successful that have been inaccessible over the last few years due to road maintenance.
 - There are several WIAs near LaCreek NWR that have confusing access or access appears to be non-legal.
 - Disappointed that large tract of WIA was removed from program this year. Hope they will rejoin. Just NW of Hayes. Finding place to hunt without large landowner fee is difficult.
 - Access to private land for waterfowl hunting is very difficult to obtain. That is main reason that people are not hunting waterfowl anymore.

 - A guy can find and access WIAs without dealing with landowners.
 - I don't have to reserve it, I don't have to pay a fee, and it is public so I can access it

without being a landowner (I can't afford land).

- When I hunt deer or turkeys West river sometimes WIAs are the only areas I have access to hunt & are extremely important.

 - In 2020 you put up new signs so we hunted there.
 - Would like to see better signage defining which roads on WIA areas are designated roads.
 - Also miss marked; came across a couple that were marked on the book and GPS CREP or walk in and were not there and the land owner stopped and told us they were no longer there.
 - Make sure boundaries are clearly marked
 - Signage could be improved on numerous sites. Particularly those without fences around entire property.

 - We use a walk-in that is open to driving out to place decoys into almost every trip.
 - As hunters get older it's getting harder to get your deer or antelope out of the field in a WIA.
 - Other issues were a lack of places to leave my vehicle so that I would not be in the way of the landowner or other traffic
 - Some of the access roads to these properties have been changed to minimum maintenance or no maintenance, so they are essentially inaccessible.

 - Being able to set up a hunt without having to chase down the landowner to get permission.
 - I hunt pheasant late season so some of the landowners are not at their homesteads at that time of year they are in town and hard to find to get permission.
 - In early spring for Snow Geese a lot of CREP farmers are also not back to their summer work homes so it is also hard to get permission when they are not around.
 - Non-resident landowners can't find who to contact to ask permission!
 - This is very nice not to have to contact landowners.
- *WIA Program: 13%*

Text comments generally referred to affirmation of value, maps or Apps, and spatial configuration of WIA lands. For example,

- I absolutely love South Dakota and the WIAs available for hunters.
- I want to make sure my kids will be able to hunt public lands in the future. Me and my family have relied on them for 40+ years.
- I believe WIA is a good program.
- I love the WIA for deer hunting. It's one of the only spots to hunt West River deer that we can find some nice deer and not too many people.
- In general, I am very pleased and impressed with the WIA programs.
- I appreciate the time and effort the GFP puts in to acquiring and supporting the WIA program. It is a very important program for resident SD sports men who would otherwise not have a place to hunt. I encourage the GFP to continue this program and even expanding it if funding allows for the continued cultivation of future SD sportsmen to pursue hunting. It is worth the effort in both promoting youth interest in hunting and responsible management of wildlife in SD.

- The hunting atlas is very helpful.
- I had one landowner tell me that even though the GFP App pinpointed me on Walk-In land, he said the map wasn't accurate on the atlas, paper and downloaded, and that he's been trying to get GFP to connect it.
- Rely heavily on GPS or phone maps to be sure where I am hunting.
- GF&P App on my iPhone-10 works poorly in identifying current location when in question.
- The use of OnX Hunt and other apps to navigate to the sites is critical to a positive experience.

- Multiple WIA's, CREP areas and/or public lands in close proximity to each other. This allows the opportunity to hunt multiple areas in one day or at least go to another property if there are hunters already on the property I had planned to hunt. Having multiple properties with wildlife habitat in the same area will improve wildlife populations in the area.
- Habitat surrounding WIA effected the WIA. Having overall high quality habitat seemed to influence game abundance. Also, having multiple public options in a relatively small area so that if one area has hunters, it is easy to go to a different location. I nearly always go to areas with multiple options.
- Having ample amounts of walk in areas allows us hunters to be able to change areas very quickly based on hunting pressure
- I live in TX. The WIA allow me to start my hunt as soon as I cross the border. I hunt based out of Faulkton, SD. So, I hunt WIA going up and coming back.
- Many are too close to busy highways /interstate. I prefer quiet areas so I can really enjoy the surroundings.
- The walk-in area that I hunted the most borders private that I have permission on, so it is easy to cross the fence and hunt either side while pursuing game.

- *Crowding or Hunting Pressure: 9%*
 Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.
 - In the last few/several years the opportunity to hunt deer on WIA seems to have decreased due to (EHD plus more hunters), reduced tag numbers and it also seems WIA are attracting more hunters in the last few/several years.
 - I usually hunt later in the season so by that time it seems most areas have been over hunted. I'll mainly see only a few hens.
 - In Edmunds County, there are very few WIAs (or public lands in general), so the few around get hunted very hard, to the point where they have little value.
 - It is my experience that walk-in areas get way over hunted and I know I'm part of that problem with so much private land there are not a lot of good options to walk and hunt.
 - The land with any kind of cover was pounded by other hunters.
 - The land that still had habitat had birds but was also hunted hard before we arrived in early November.
 - Most WIA's seemed overutilized.
 - Public hunting areas were very packed during west river deer season.
 - Some issues with hunter concentration but pheasant & antelope hunting in East Harding

Co. Am going to adjust the days I hunt so I don't have to deal with the crowds on weekends or opening day.

- Some known hot spots or easily accessible areas can be crowded with hunters, pushing game the center or out altogether.
- Some private West River land was closed so a lot of pressure on WIA.
- They are way over hunted is my only comment on WIAs.
- I could not believe how bad the pressure was on the public land, especially walk in areas! Everything gets trampled to death.
- It almost didn't matter where I was, the areas had been beaten to death with far, far too many hunters.
- Vehicles on every approach Way too many hunters in the field.

○ *Landowner Contact: 4%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- Had a run in with a farmer a couple years back. The WIA signs were removed. Told us it was private land, so we did not hunt there.
- I believe a landowner removed signs for access to WIA piece of land I would have liked to hunt but did not figure this out until the end of the trip.
- Landowners were working on field near us and actually let us know their plans so we could plan accordingly, making their day and ours all the better
- Landowner harassing me while glassing public lands from roadway.
- Public land south of Sutton Bay was great but landowner East of public kept deer on his sunflowers field. This was very disappointing. I only hunted 3 days and one day was wasted. He drove up & down border of fence to keep mule deer in his field all day!!
- Several landowners like to harass people while they are legally hunting WIA. They interfere and, in my opinion, harass wildlife to stop legal hunters from harvesting.
- Landowners try to say it's not open. Landowners park cars and trucks outside of land. Have family and neighbors harass people.
- We were hunting in Harding Co., following our maps/boundaries ~1 1/2 mile from the nearest road and a rancher checking his cows saw us and tracked us down saying we were on private property. However, our map said otherwise. We were archery hunting for deer, but told the rancher we thought we were ok, by the GFP map and he said he didn't care what the map said. We politely apologized and moved on.

○ *Hunt Interference: 3%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- Landowner intentionally interfered with hunt. We assume to protect a trophy antelope from being shot.
- Many farmers were in the fields during open weekends. Couple actively harvesting when 4 hunters were set up.
- Had a very negative experience with an individual who stopped and approached 4 antelope up wind over open ground while I had a concealed approach. Needless to say, the goats left in a hurry. He could see I was there. I didn't harvest an antelope because of him.
- The only problem I have ever encountered is landowners & locals driving around while

hunting antelope in West River WIA's.

- Other hunters walking into a piece I started hunting from the other side blew my hunt.

○ *Non-resident Concerns: 2%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- Too many hunters trying to utilize the same land, GFP needs to quit selling out the resident hunters for dollars.
- Nonresidents need to either hunt public or private, but not both.
- Too many nonresident hunters!!!
- Too many nonresident waterfowl hunters!
- Too many out of state hunters. Rude, and they work the [...] out of the land. Seen breaking laws often

○ *Law Enforcement: 1%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- I hunted antelope in Harding County S.W. of Buffalo. This rancher license plate [...] continually harassed hunters driving and looking for antelope on public road that they could walk to. He puts ropes across the road with simple handmade signs to keep people out of areas that were public. I was hunting with my 2 sons and 2 grandsons and he harassed us, threatened us etc. We were not on his property and were not abrasive with him, but I took pictures showing an example of what he was doing. Can share these if you're interested. He raises buffalos and leases the antelope research land. I believe we personally saw him shoot antelope illegally and load them with his pickup with not placing tags on them. He purposely blocks roads with his equipment etc. He should be arrested for poaching and have his state licenses revoked. It was a bad example of him with 2 young boys with metal toys.
- Harassment from GFP Warden while hunting rabbit and squirrel with a crossbow. Didn't believe me, so wrote me a ticket anyway, even when other witnesses verified I was hunting small game. Will contest ticket.
- Large amount of poaching this year.

Overall, three-quarters of all hunters were somewhat or very satisfied with the 2020 Walk-In Area Program, while 12% were somewhat or very dissatisfied (Figure 77). Similarly, in 2015, 73% of hunters indicated they were satisfied and 16% were dissatisfied with the Walk-In Area Program (Longmire 2019). Hunters overwhelmingly reported they intend to use WIA lands in the future (Figure 78).

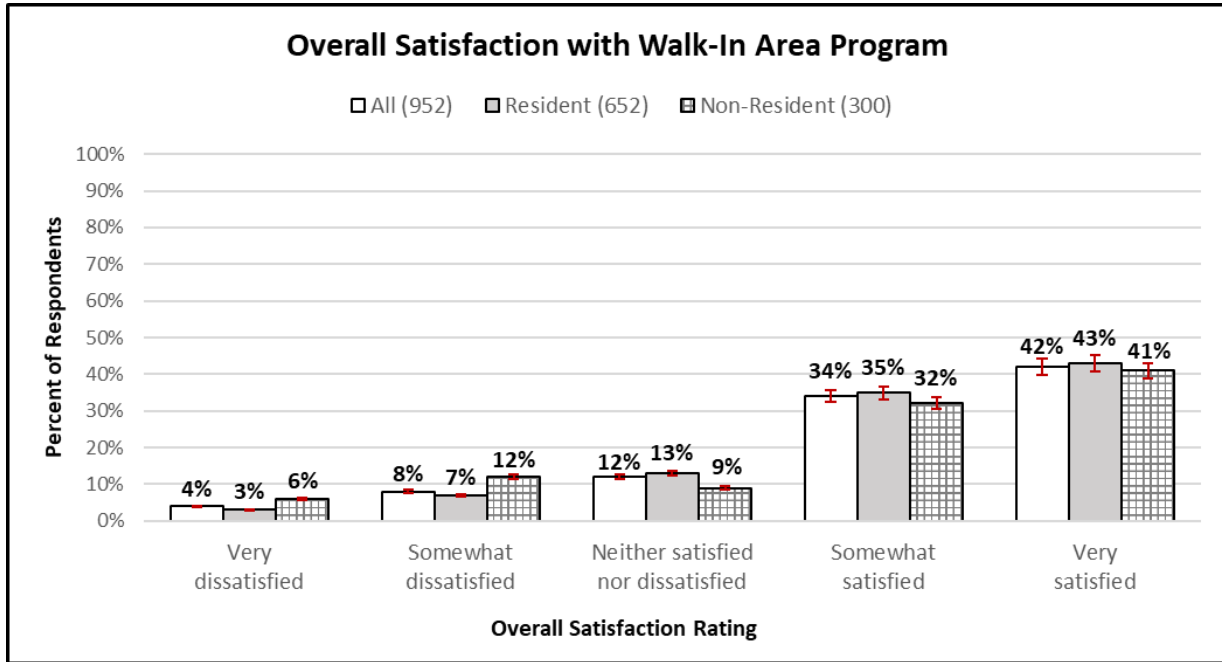


Figure 77. Overall satisfaction with the Walk-In Area Program.

Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence interval.

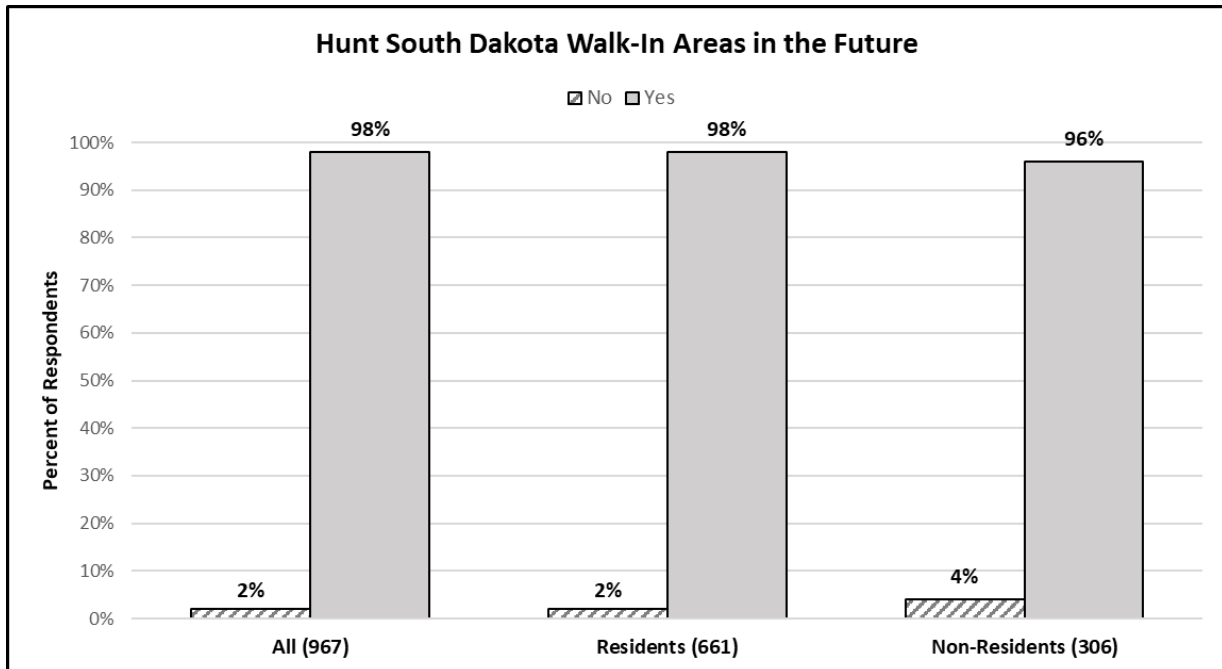


Figure 78. Future hunting use of South Dakota Walk-In Areas.

Section 6: Sample Demographic Characteristics

About 65% (n=1,439) of survey participants were South Dakota residents. Non-resident hunters represented 45 states, of which the largest proportion were from Minnesota (11% [n=231]). Almost half (47%) of resident hunters and just over half (57%) of non-resident hunters are 50 – 69 years old (Table 15). Overall, survey participants were overwhelmingly male (94% resident and 97% non-resident). Note, 2015 survey demographic data were not reported. There were no statistically significant differences between residents and non-residents with respect to sample demographic characteristics.

Table 15. Resident and non-resident hunter sample respondent demographic characteristics.

Hunter Evaluation of South Dakota Walk-In Areas (2020)			
Demographic Characteristics	All	Resident	Non-Resident
<i>Age category</i>	<i>n=2,181</i>	<i>n=1,421</i>	<i>n=760</i>
Under 18 years old	-	-	-
18 – 29 years old	149 (9%)	121 (9%)	28 (4%)
30 – 49 years old	629 (29%)	428 (30%)	201 (26%)
50 – 69 years old	1,109 (51%)	674 (47%)	674 (57%)
70 years old and over	294 (14%)	198 (14%)	96 (13%)
<i>Gender</i>	<i>n=2,208</i>	<i>n=1,437</i>	<i>n=771</i>
Female	110 (5%)	91 (6%)	19 (3%)
Male	2,095 (95%)	1,345 (94%)	750 (97%)
Prefer to self-describe	3 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.3%)

Closing Question Comments

Survey participants were offered the opportunity to tell GFP if there was anything else that s/he believed the survey overlooked and that they would like to convey related to the Walk-In Area Program in South Dakota (e.g., positive or negative changes observed, issues or opportunities). *Text which appears inside brackets [...] has been added to clarify respondents' reference to specific survey questions, identify parts of comments that were illegible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information or expletives were omitted.*

About 30% (19% resident, 12% non-resident) of survey participants provided additional text responses. To make sense of a large amount of rich and nuanced data, all text responses (n=665) were coded and grouped into 13 broad themes, recognizing that text comments often include multiple themes so percentages will exceed 100%. All text responses are listed in Appendix C.

- *WIA Program: 38%*

Text comments generally referred to WIA Program value, CREP lands, CRP program, maps or Apps, landowner preference, outreach or information needs, land enrollment criteria, and spatial hunting access needs. For example,

- I believe SDGFP is doing a good job in their planning for and acquisition of private lands for WIA's. There is one in particular that I go to, especially during Residents Only season that holds goods birds every year.
- A very good program giving opportunities to access land to enjoy the sport. Not all individuals have access to private land.
- I'm so grateful I have a place/land (west river) to deer hunt; however, in a year or two, that land will be sold. After that, I feel my hunting days will be over.
- I have helped some close friends scout walk-in land and seen the great success they have had from this opportunity. I will definitely hunt walk-in lands in the future and hope this program continues to expand and provide great hunting opportunities to more of the public.
- Walk-in and CREP acres are key to keeping me coming back.
- I would hunt much more WIA if it was available...it's a great program that supports landowners and hunters!
- For future hunters keep the WIA program for those that do not have access to hunt private land
- Hunters appreciate the walk-in areas VERY MUCH! It is the only way most get to hunt and without it the opportunities would be EXTREMELY limited. Thank you, SD, for the walk-in areas!
- Having WIAs in my area provides places I can walk with my 11-year-old grandson.
- Love the opportunities presented and I hope this program continues to grow.

- CREP has been a huge blessing for the Aberdeen area.
- CREP is a good program but we need more.
- We have a lot of CREP ground around us, I think it's great!
- Make sure to keep paying farmers competitively so we don't lose CREP ground.
- I think the farmers CREP program should have to leave a small portion of crop to

hunt until after seasons are done.

- CRP enrollment, should also include Walk-In Areas
- Allowing C.R.P. on land with US Fish and Wildlife grassland easements would improve habitat and benefit everyone from hunter, landowner, GFP, and state.
- It would be nice to see more areas enrolled in CRP and purchasing or leasing for walk in may be one of the few ways to do that.
- Bring back CRP - pay more money if the state has too. CRP was phenomenal back in the day.
- I also think that if you have land enrolled in the CRP program that land should be designated as WIA

- I am older, still like the printed atlas versus my phone.
- The app is great most of the time. Bad signal is the only problem I would have with that and that's not your fault.
- I appreciate the maps and wonder if there would be a way to also add a google maps location for people who are new to the area. For instance, there is a hunting area near Elk Point that I haven't been able to locate but see it on the map.
- I use on x hunt and having the latest info on that app is huge.
- Additional information that would be nice to have available would be weather that may have significantly affected broods. For example, a state map that shows areas of spring hail or drought.
- I'm a retired Soldier from SD and have excellent map reading skills, but I find using the free WIA map guide challenging when trying to pinpoint a specific WIA. Higher resolution maps if possible, please.
- It is vitally important to have public lands appropriately represented on various mapping software (On-X for example). This mapping software is the primary method that I (and others I hunt with) use to find public hunting land.
- No GIS service in SD, so OnX didn't do us much good
- I actually have 5-6 old map books in my file noting areas we hunted and our kills. Those books are fantastic.
- It looks good on your map to have all these locations but if there is nothing there it was a long drive for nothing.

- If it paid landowners considerably more for the privilege, there would be more landowner participation.
- It is a good program for landowners that like to get paid somehow for their relatives hunting all over them.
- Please just make sure that the farmers & ranchers that do have their land enrolled in these programs are taken care of because without them our group would not be able to hunt deer in our great state of SD.
- Also, farmers want the geese shot but most won't let you hunt. And then you allow them to kill the young geese in the spring. Not hard to figure out why you're losing hunters, you bow to the farmers and don't care about us hunters.

- We didn't see any postings regarding use of non-toxic shot only. We believed it was based on conversation w/ other hunters. That's all we used. Postings with the other

signage would be helpful.

- I really don't understand the terminology of the other choices or how they compare. A list of definitions would help to learn about the different opportunities.
- Appears to be a negative image towards hunters from the farming community.
- I like to hunt over water but sometimes don't understand where you can go and where you can't. Rules aren't very clear.
- I have not used the walk-in area program but would need more information about it to consider planning a trip for such.
- I need to be educated more on walk in areas.
- Information about fee-based hunting acres would be helpful.
- It would be good to provide phone numbers of people that can answer questions about game regulations, fish and game. With all the rules it can be confusing to all the meanings of the regulations.
- It would be nice to have a hotline open that would answer question about public areas.
- Maybe advertise it more on the licensing website or when you get drawn for waterfowl? I only found out it existed because my father in law kind of knew about it.
- Mend the relationships with the farmers so they will give permission for hunter to hunt their fields.
- Not all landowners seem to understand that their land is participating in the state's public hunting program, which they believe to be "landlocked" is not.
- Our CREP land has been well respected but there are others and some public lands in the Jerauld County area that are not. My friends tell me stories of finding garbage carelessly discarded while hunting. Mostly plastic water bottles, candy wrappers and aluminum cans. I don't have an answer to this problem except to keep encouraging others to pick it up and let the local game warden at least know it is happening.
- Use online check in, for some non-farmed areas. Put a message board with a picture of the area. People can communicate at the parking lot where people are set up.
- What are our fees going for?

- A lot of Walk-In Area is useless (no habitat) If enrolled, landowner should leave a little habitat.
- Seems like the local farmers are only willing to place the land without cover into the walk-in access programs.
- Seems like the local farmers are only willing to place the land without cover into the walk-in access programs.
- Be selective in the properties that we pay for WIA's.
- Why can't we hold these ranchers accountable to their leases? They pay very minimum amounts for these lands and yet they keep their cattle on them for way longer than they are supposed to.
- If I can pull up to a mile piece of walk-in and glass it all from the fence post that's a big problem and we are getting hustled. If that's the best we can do for walk-in areas, let's find something better to do with our money.
- CREP landowners need to be checked to see if they are leaving any habitat.
- Don't pay farmers for WIA if they till their ground in the fall.

- Have the ability to access land locked walk in areas or just don't pay the landowners this money for them to have the only ability and access to hunt their own land put in walk in area
- I have heard individuals from both SD and ND complain that the game depts are paying farmers for WIA and there is virtually no game sustainable habitat on the property. It's a total waste of money to pay for property that is incapable of sustaining game populations.
- I believe the WIA program is a very valuable and successful one. It provides great access to hunters across the state. However, I believe it should be monitored a little closer, there seems to be more WIA that is not suitable for habitat or hunting than there used to be. Whether the ag use has changed or whatever the reason, I believe once a WIA is no longer viable for habitat or hunting (e.g. overgrazed pasture land, hayed grass, or short stubble) it should be reconsidered and that money should possibly be used elsewhere.
- If the dollars are available, reward the landowner who enrolls quality habitat and terminate agreements for land without opportunity!
- I usually question how much the SDGFP is paying for poor-quality walk-in areas I avoid.
- It seems to me that our money could be better spent on improving habitat and expanding public hunting areas. I appreciate the landowners that allow us access, but there needs to be a standard of habitat availability on this land to warrant payment from the state.
- Wasting WIA monies on land that has no cover. I have seen large tracks of pasture ground plowed fields that are put into WIA with no benefit to the hunter. Instead of spending money on nonproductive land focus on land that will get the most bang for your buck.
- I hope landowners that stripped the fields bare after harvest don't receive a full payment, the hunter doesn't receive the full benefit of the land.
- I think regulations need to be stricter regarding how much grass and other habitat their land must provide in order to be enrolled in the walk-in program.
- Some of the areas don't seem suitable for the game I am hunting and appear to more of an opportunity for the landowner to earn some extra \$\$ for ground that he/she is not using during hunting season.
- I would bet we'd be willing to pay extra \$ for a stamp that allows me access on newer CREP or walk-in. For example, there could be different levels of access depending on the kind of stamp I buy: bronze, silver, or gold. Can't go on that land marked with gold unless you buy a gold stamp. Gold would be high standard habitat. Limited stamp access, and I don't have to intrude on farmers asking for permission. Farmers get big cut from stamp sales: farmers win, hunters win.
- I would make sure that WIA's have land that is not farmed. Our experience with several WIA's is with land that has been farmed or grazed that year. I'm not sure this is a value to hunters to hunt this type of land.
- I would make sure that WIA's have land that is not farmed. Our experience with several WIA's is with land that has been farmed or grazed that year. I'm not sure this is a value to hunters to hunt this type of land.
- Add more walk-in areas in Spink county

- Work with the Federal lands a lease more for developed hunting habitat around Orman Dam.
 - There is not nearly the amount or quality of WIA in the area I hunt. NW of Aberdeen.
 - Enroll ground in West River that is larger in size. Some areas were very small for deer hunting and allow limited opportunity to get out and do it right.
 - Even though it's an enrollment-based program, I'd love to see more within a 30-mile radius of Sioux Falls.
 - I have also seen some Walk-in areas that I feel are too close to inhabited buildings, to safety hunt.
 - I would encourage looking at adding the Vermillion River and/or Big Sioux River drainages for a future CREP area. This will enhance opportunities for hunters in the most highly populated area of SD and could benefit the R3 efforts to get/keep more folks hunting.
 - I understand why you have Walk-In Areas, but the area that we hunt is way too large to harvest a deer and drag it miles.
 - I would like to see more Walk-In Areas in Mead County
 - I spend allot of time hunting in Tripp county and there is almost no public land and the little there is are small parcels and not of the best wildlife habitat. some are barren hay fields that won't even support an ant. There used to be some great WIA in that county, but they went away about six years ago and no new ones have been established at all.
 - My opinion on east river WIA's: Ten 40-acre WIAs are better than one 400-acre WIA. In essence, more individual hunting areas are more important than have large areas.
 - Higher number of small areas allows for greater number of hunting opportunities. It's important to have food plots/food sources in/immediately adjacent to WIA's. I think a better job could be done in encouraging landowners to have food plots in WIA's on their property. i.e. Financial incentive.
 - Large tracks of land are critically important for this program to be successful, both in holding game and allowing hunters to get away from roads and noise.
 - More east river land in program
 - Not enough Walk-In Areas in Codington County.
 - There isn't a lot of walk-in areas in the southeast corner of the state
 - Would like to see some CREP/Walk-In Area around Sand Lake Refuge.
 - Most Walk-In Areas feel like it's set up for just pheasant hunters and I would like to see more set up for waterfowl (like entire crop fields) and deer.
- *Habitat Management: 22%*
Text comments generally referred to habitat quality, issues or conflicts with livestock and/or haying practices, and vegetation control. For example,
 - Many times, the tree belts are old and need re-planted. Many times, the food plot doesn't grow to a point that it is 'hunnable.' Many times, brohm grass has taken over providing limited grass habitat to hold pheasants.
 - Walk-ins are great cover habitat, but poor brooding areas. There is plenty of feed in South Dakota, and you have done a great job with habitat on walk-ins. Brooding is the key that you are missing, and pheasant thrive in alfalfa.

- There were spots on the map we drove quite a few miles to that ended up being a fenced in pasture or harvested/plowed field with no hunting opportunities.
 - Don't spend money on sub-standard habitat like stubble or bare ground.
 - I am a firm believer that food plots and letting the habitat establish itself will make a huge difference.
 - Look for opportunities to incentivize to improve the quality of habitat on WIA's.

 - Cattle grazing on public land especially out west is an issue in my opinion because it takes away all the cover.
 - In the past few years, I have seen some state Walk-In and game production areas being grazed a lot or mowed for hay too much?
 - It was always a disappointment to drive several miles to a WIA only to find a mowed hay field or pasture field.
 - For areas monitored under GFP, WIAs should be better maintained as far as signs and vegetation over growing on the roads which can lead to fire hazards from vehicles.
 - Game Production Area by North Wheeler is overgrown with cedar trees making it very hard to hunt deer there.
 - How long the grass/weeds were around Marshal County. Walk In areas grass was over our heads and unsafe to hunt not being able to see one another even with wearing orange.
- *Access: 9%*

Text comments generally referred to access (in general), boundary or signage, land locked and physical limitations. For example,

- At times, the farmers make the fields inaccessible by plowing so impossible to hunt. I have an ATV but still couldn't get in.
- Land access is everything. 90% of the people I know that use the youth and mentor seasons are landowners.
- I noticed in a lot of the use too Walk-In Areas between Newell & Hoover, the Walk-In side were not on fences.
- With planting of more row crops, habitat decreasing, and landowners' refusal to hunt, it gets tougher.
- Even if you can get to the land, the ranchers are constantly there harassing and telling you that you cannot be there.
- Hope there is more investment in the future for public land access - without it, hunting will become a "pay to play" for the wealthy. Regular people will not be able to enjoy too and carry on family traditions.
- My experience is that these locations are hoarded by out-of-state hunters and that landowners often discourage or make it difficult to hunt these locations.

- Better marking of boundaries. Access is limited at times. Better signage.
- For areas monitored under GFP, WIAs should be better maintained as far as signs and vegetation over growing on the roads which can lead to fire hazards from vehicles.
- Good signage is important. I don't want to accidentally hunt a piece of land that isn't in the program. I also want to be 100% certain the land I am on is in the program.
- Having the areas marked with signs better. It's hard to find some areas due to

someone tearing down the signs.

- Hunting land was not well marked. Signs were in disrepair and missing.
- I come across walk-in lands that are poorly marked. Whether people have torn down or they were old and fell down.
- I would have liked to know that it was a private road and not to drive on it to access the area. Not sure how this would be done. Possibly with a sign or note on the digital map alerting you to the private property area.
- Make sure they are marked with signs. Some places are on a map but there is no sign for the WIA, or it has been taken down and left to lay by the post.
- Many signs need replacing. Some are faded and hard to distinguish from other signage.
- Maps and signage need to be better.
- I also would like to see boundary signs on school and church land that is shown in the hunting atlas. Sometimes it is confusing on the exact boundary lines of said land.

- *Species Management: 9%*

Text comments generally referred to wildlife populations (in general), predator control, big game species, upland bird species, waterfowl species, and small game. For example,

- All the walk-in area in the state isn't worth much without wildlife to hunt.
- Bad bird population last year.
- Bird populations or lack of.
- We saw more birds back in around Carthage and the Lake Preston area than we have seen in 30 plus years.
- I suppose if I had a complaint it would be that some of the Walk-In Areas contain zero wildlife.

- The new predator bounty program is a joke. Residents that I talk to say they just pick up road kills to get paid. It's an ineffective random attempt at conservation.
- Try to aid in the number of predators in overpopulated areas - seems it is more common to see a higher number of predators lately.

- Deer numbers are down.
- Disappointed in the amount of big game
- Some areas were very small for deer hunting and allow limited opportunity to get out and do it right.
- From what I saw, in quantity of antelope just north of Hoovs to South Butte Boundary, I feel there shouldn't have been a season.
- In my antelope hunting experience the last few years it sure seems that the numbers are way down.
- They're killing the mule deer in the hills
- No more killing of mule deer does in any season.
- The record wet year of 2019 I assume the winter 2018/2019 killed most of the antelope. If there is any kind of game management, the season should have been closed in the area I hunted in.
- Current public lands are overrun with hunters with big game populations taking a severe hit in numbers or being run off onto private lands where the landowners are

- not allowing the general public to hunt unless they want to pay.
- Need to continue to work on increasing the population of mule deer throughout the state especially along any public lands where they have been over harvested. White tail populations in some areas have decreased a lot too especially anywhere near public lands along with areas where EHD has hit.
 - You need to do more to protect mule deer. They are way too few.
-
- Even though I didn't see as many pheasants in 2020 that I have seen in the previous 4 years of being in South Dakota
 - I believe you should stock pheasants on some Walk-In Areas, like the McIlray land.
 - Pheasant numbers have really fallen off due to the increase in row crops.
 - Public ground is yielding few birds.
 - Even local sportsmen are releasing birds on their land in South Dakota as the wild bird populations have drastically dropped.
 - All that we hunted were totally depleted of birds.
 - I personally believe and so do others concerning the pheasant season that it owes heed to be shut down for one year to bring the population back to somewhat like it used to be.
 - I think in South Dakota, if we are going to continue to boast that this is the best pheasant hunting in the country, we need to put some focus on actually having the birds to hunt. I don't know if releasing birds is an option or not, but as much money revolves around out of state hunters having a good experience and coming back year after year, we either need to put some money towards releasing birds, lowering harvest limits, or incentivize landowner to not drain their entire property.
 - Recent low pheasant numbers have forced our group to go to a "pay to play area."
 - The Resident season the week before general opener hammered the walk-in areas and thinned out the birds or pushed the birds to private land.
 - One issue is the not doing the road counts any longer - disappointed to learn that.
 - If SD does not actually invest in pheasant populations and more Walk-In/CREP Areas, more and more of the out-of-state hunters I know are going to turn to private land (fee) of other states, such as North Dakota and Nebraska.
 - Very appreciative of the walk-in areas just can't seem to find birds in SE SD
 - While South Dakota has a substantial amount of acres in WIA and CREP, there does not seem to be a relatively significant amount of these opportunities in the most dense pheasant range. Adding public access in these areas would be great.
 - With the amount of money pheasant hunting brings to the state from local and out of state hunters why not have a pheasant farm like the state fish hatchery and stock game production areas first then private walk in land CREP this would help to keep us as the number 1 state to pheasant if we can afford to stock fish we can afford to stock birds
-
- The only reason we didn't use them in 2020 was no ducks in or around any that we found.
 - I have been hunting waterfowl for 30-years and the best hunting I have ever experienced was at a WIA near Britton South Dakota last year.
 - I would like to see the waterfowl count along the Missouri River back on your website.

- Have found walk-in areas great for duck hunting in the past.
- There was never any waterfowl to be had by using a walk-in area.

- Small Game, Rabbits, and Squirrel populations seems to be declining in the areas I have hunted, and I am concerned as to the cause. I feel that GFP cares more about the cash revenue of Pheasants and some waterfowl than some basic game that some locals appreciate.

- *Non-Resident: 7%*
 Text comments generally referred to concerns about non-resident hunters and issues with non resident licensing. For example,
 - Regulating out of state pressure on these lands must also be a priority for a number of common-sense reasons.
 - We need to make sure residents are able to hunt before the nonresidents as well.
 - It is a great asset to the Public hunter but is also heavily used by the Non-Resident hunter.
 - I see more out of state hunters than I'd like to see. Waterfowling nonresidents is way too high! Archery Antelope is overrun with out of state hunters too.
 - Non-resident hunters' archery mostly was getting out of hand however the last season was noticeably less. Lots of out of state antelope bow hunters. So, the West river WIAs are a bit busy.
 - Still not in favor of archery open late for non-residents. It is the same time as antelope and people are everywhere. If it stayed 1st or second week of September, everyone would have more fun in my opinion.
 - Too many out-of-state hunters blow through walk-ins with 4-5 hunters and their local guides - move the game onto private lands and then hunt them there. No reason for game to come back!!!
 - All your Walk-In areas hold very little game and are way overhunted by out of staters.
 - My experience is that these locations are hoarded by out-of-state hunters and that landowners often discourage or make it difficult to hunt these locations.

 - As a non-resident hunter, 2020 changes made me feel less valued.
 - Deer, antelope, and waterfowl processes for out of state hunters should be evaluated to provide easier and more friendly registration process. State has abundance of deer and waterfowl, but difficult license registration process that limits out of state hunter from preserving those game and instead going elsewhere to nearby states.
 - I would like the opportunity to purchase a full season nonresident waterfowl license so I can return to your great state more often. I would even pay more for that license.
 - Also need to change the out of state small game license. Should be able to use it more than just (2) 5-day periods. Just increase the out of state fee and let us be just like the residents!!!
 - Given the changes in demographics (fewer in-state hunters) it would be good to generate more revenue for South Dakota and allow longer resident licenses that could generate more cash flow.
 - Increase the number of our of state licenses for big game (we pay much more than

in-state and could be allotted a greater number)

- I would like to see more days added to Non-Resident hunting for both Waterfowl and Pheasant.
- The non-resident will pay to hunt, just like pheasants.
- More non-resident opportunities for waterfowl would be fantastic.
- Open non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses to unlimited quantity for private land hunting.
- Please consider a pay per day for out of staters for waterfowl. Similar to nonresident fishing (or) upland game. The lottery approach honestly is a barrier for many to come back to SD to hunt.
- With the non-resident fees including the additional \$25, I would like to see 3 five-day seasons available which would bring more money (hospitality, gas, food, beverages) to SD.
- You are charging way too much for nonresident pheasant hunting. Please move to a reasonable open-day fee instead of two five-day periods. You are sticking it to nonresidents, and we know it, and we might get fed up with being gouged and stop coming.

- *Crowding or Hunting Pressure: 6%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- All public hunting areas had high numbers of hunters certain times of the year. Like during deer seasons it was too crowded in my mind.
- Don't seem to see the same amount of hunters as we have seen over the 55 years that we have been hunting back there. Normally, see a lot of people hunting and staking out the walk-in areas, but for the past several years, numbers seem to be dwindling.
- hunting pressure is much higher east river.
- There is always too much pressure in the eastern part of the state on public ground for the key hunting opportunities: waterfowl, pheasant, and deer.
- Hunting pressure on most public lands is really high for most species.
- It is getting extremely hard to hunt waterfowl with all the competition.
- Walk-in areas appear to be over hunted in the Southeast part of the state.
- There is limited public land to hunt on so that which is public is going to get over hunted.
- Overall perception is over hunted, full of other hunters, too much competition.
- I regularly saw 20 trucks wiping out birds on walk in that is too much pressure
- Overuse of walk-in area. All deer have been chased out by pheasant hunters.
- Last season, 1 school section broadening our property saw 22 hunters on opening day. I haven't seen these numbers before so stopped and talked to several of the hunters. I found this very dangerous and also very detrimental to the wildlife in the area. The majority stated there were extra tags in this unit and they had heard that people in the area manage for quality deer.
- The majority of public lands used for upland hunting are way over-hunted.
- Lots of hunters this year and not the numbers of pheasants in the Britton area.
- Opening weekend rifle deer, the Walk-In Areas were overrun with east river license plates. Would like to see East and West river open up same weekend to spread out

the public land hunters. Wouldn't hurt anyone's chances of success but take pressure off public lands.

- Some of the areas get extreme pressure with the early seasons prior to the statewide opener which has extremely reduced the attraction to hunt them.
- Use online check in, for some non-farmed areas. Put a message board with a picture of the area. People can communicate at the parking lot where people are set up. Less chance to walk into someone's hunt.
- Walk in areas get pounded. Not enough acres to go around.
- Turkey season in May I can count 12 cars or pickups with out of county license hunting turkeys on cabin road - same goes for deer season.
- Current public lands are overrun with hunters with big game populations taking a severe hit in numbers or being run off onto private lands where the landowners are not allowing the general public to hunt unless they want to pay.
- WIA gets hit hard for antelope, deer, and pheasants. As a hunter, that's kind of a bummer as usually most WIA hunters I encounter are not as ethical, not as respectful.

- *Rules and Regulations: 4%*

Text comments generally referred to general comments and species specific comments like big game species, upland bird species, and waterfowl species. For example,

- Will the GF&P please consider allowing turkey hunting with long rifles on PRIVATE GROUND. There is a concern about safety and rifle use on much-used public land during turkey season. Private land is hunted by only select, few individuals at a time. Long rifle use on private ground that the landowner controls access to does not pose the same safety risk as the unknown number of hunters who may be occupying well-traveled public land. For older hunters, especially the ones who have disabled licenses using a rifle to hunt turkeys gives us more chance of success and keeps us in the field enjoying the sport. Your continued attention to this matter is appreciated.
- Perhaps the state should make roadside haying illegal as well as a no hunt area.
- Corner hopping should be legal.
- Typically, pheasant hunters ruin good deer hunting land. I think that distinction needs to be made WITHIN the SDGFP.

- What is going on with the rifle tags for deer hunting east river? I actually have land I can hunt on and cannot get a tag because I don't qualify for landowner preference, but I can basically get an over the counter muzzleloader or archery tag.
- Creating a Special Buck tag for Private land would take a lot of pressure off the walk-in and public areas. Charge an added fee for the Special Buck tag like they do deer which adds to the budget.
- More bow hunting areas needed
- do what you can to put an end to big game road hunters. It ruins the hunt for kids to see such pathetic hunting practices. I hate having to explain to my son why people do it and why they seem to get away with it.
- WIAs I have previously hunted in NW SD, antelope habitat, have been converted to wind farms. I understand the state cannot tell the landowner what they can and cannot do; however, it was disappointing to lose a good hunting area.

- Would like to see a true primitive firearm hunting season. Flintlock only. The new muzzle loaders used by most are not what the muzzle loader season was meant to be. Not much different than a modern rifle. Could add it to the last part of the archery season maybe.
 - The season should be designated for South Dakota residents only and reduce the daily limit to two birds per person per day.
 - Pheasant season should not have been extended, also the first week of hunting season should open at noon.
 - Why do you sell unlimited pheasant licenses when wild bird numbers are completely on their [...]?
 - With respect to pheasant hunting, I believe that the season should be shortened and that limits should be reduced to two birds. There's just not many pheasants anymore.
 - I'd like to hunt ducks several more weekends in the fall as I feel the local residents don't harvest their fair share of what is raised in South Dakota.
 - Make your waterfowl application date. It's hard to plan 6 months in advance for a duck hunting trip.
 - I may have used walk in areas if the license requirements did not limit me to two periods. I was never able to use two five-day periods and feel the lack of flexibility in licensing limited my opportunities to hunt in SD.
 - Very glad the state changed the 10-day waterfowl to a 5-day split just like the pheasant license. I enjoy coming out several times each year to hunt but also to plant and set up the private land I hunt on.
 - When applying for a duck license, it might help to designate some cities or big water bodies to help those applying for a license to know correctly the area in which they will be hunting. Now, it is bit confounding to make sure that the right area for the duck license is being selected.
- *Licensing: 2%*
Text comments generally referred to Habitat Stamp fee, license cost, proposed license changes, and license draw process. For example,
 - Residents who pay state taxes and assist in keeping the state in the shape it needs to be year-round should be allowed more benefit vs. out-of-state hunters. This includes fees like the 2021 stamp. This fee should be paid by the out-of-state hunters who use our resources and leave with minimal responsibility.
 - You raised the license fee \$25.00, that has priced me out of being in SD anymore.
 - I'm a lot [...] about the \$10 habitat fee.
 - Was kind of shocked with the new \$25.00 stamp! You put out pamphlet that said cost was 121.80 and then added 25.00 stamp as a surprise hit. Didn't care for it at all.
 - Disappointed that there were more "fees" on top of the out of state license.
 - Use habitat stamp dollars to put in food plots on land like Besler Ranch used to have.

- *Other Public Land: <1%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- Another issue I see is on the National Grasslands and the over-grazing of cattle. Why can't we hold these ranchers accountable to their leases? They pay very minimum amounts for these lands and yet they keep their cattle on them for way longer than they are supposed to. This hurts the habitat and forces game on to private property.
- BLM is useless if you can't access it. I don't know if it's illegal to change access through private property to get to it, but I guarantee people are making money on this. What's the point of having land locked BLM? I don't want to break the law getting to these spots, but I also don't want to get shot hunting the 5% of accessible BLM trying to shoot a deer.
- BLM land that is landlocked defeats the purpose.

- *Landowner Contact: <1%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- Landowners who graze cattle or horses have been understanding to me personally, but I have a farming background. I could see where this could lead to problems, when people don't use common sense and hunt among livestock.
- Landowners sometimes seem to be a little sensitive about some of the walk-in areas.
- Landowners next to WIA will run you off saying it's their land. Have been threatened many times.
- I was checking out for deer hunting and he run me off because I was driving on established road in a pasture! And you pay him why? Says it's legal right in handbook.

- *Law Enforcement: <1%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- Enforce the tree stand date rule or remove from handbook. I have seen stands in the same locations on walk in and game production areas for over 5 years. All year long - all summer.
- Enforce the tree stand date rule or remove from handbook. I have seen stands in the same locations on walk in and game production areas for over 5 years. All year long - all summer.
- The COs need to be vigilant and watch for people with vehicles in the more remote walk-ins and public land.
- There are people who are guiding on public areas and I thought that was illegal.

- *COVID-19: <1%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub-themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- I didn't come to South Dakota due to COVID.
- Just didn't have as much hunting time this year due to the pandemic.
- I was only able to take day trips to South Dakota because of the Covid pandemic

and my families health situation. That allowed me to only hunt two days in South Dakota this year.

- With the COVID I didn't go back
- Covid was the biggest dampening factor to this year's hunting.

- *Safety: <1%*

Unlike some of the above themes, text comments did not lend themselves to sub themes. Here are a few examples of text responses.

- People were shooting in directions of other hunters and in close proximity, which shouldn't happen in my mind.
- Hunters (esp. road hunters) need to be safe and pay attention because farmers are busy harvesting. There have been countless times that hunters have stopped their cars in front of loaded trucks, left them partially in the way as they jumped out to shoot a bird, or failed to yield properly for farm equipment.

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Appendix A: Survey Instrument (format adjusted)

Hunter Evaluation of Walk-In Areas (WIAs) in South Dakota – 2020

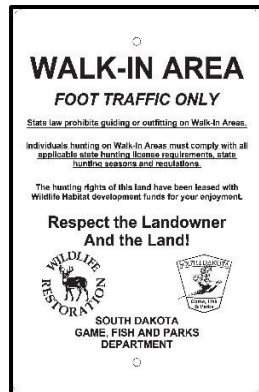
South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) wants to know about your **2020 hunting experiences in South Dakota**. The information you provide is an important part of hunting access program decision-making and management. **This survey should take about 20 minutes to complete and asks questions to:**

- measure the use of different land types for various kinds of hunting
- understand your opinions about and satisfaction with hunting public Walk-In Area (WIA) and/or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands in South Dakota (if applicable)

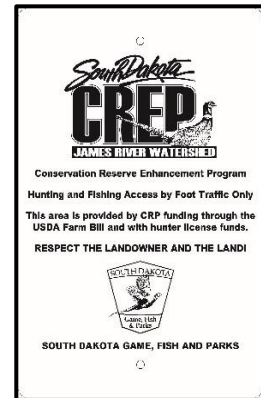
Once you have completed the survey, please return it using the enclosed postage paid and self-addressed envelope.

Important Definitions

Walk-In Area (WIA): refers to private land enrolled in the GFP Walk-In Area Program. WIAs are posted with similar signs.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): in this survey CREP refers to private land enrolled in the James River Watershed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. CREP lands are posted with similar signs



Public Land – refers to lands owned by the state (Game Production Area, State Parks and Recreation Areas, and School and Public Lands) or federal government (U. S. National Forests, U. S. National Grasslands, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Waterfowl Production Area)

Responding to the enclosed survey is **voluntary**. By completing and returning a survey, you are providing your implied consent to participate in this public involvement process and acknowledge data may be used in public documents and/or settings. Your responses will remain **confidential** and **never will be associated with your name, contact information or any identifiable characteristic**.

Questions? Contact Dr. Faren R. Wolter, Human Dimensions Specialist, Game, Fish & Parks, 605.773.4231 or faren.wolter@state.sd.us



Department of Game, Fish, and Parks
Foss Building
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

Survey #

Section 1: 2020 Hunting in South Dakota

1. In 2020, did you hunt in South Dakota?

No Yes → SKIP AHEAD to Section 2 on page 2.

↓
1a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt in South Dakota in 2020.
(select all that apply)

Reasons you did <u>not</u> hunt in South Dakota in 2020.	
COVID-19 considerations (travel and/or health restrictions, hunting trip canceled because of COVID)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time constraints (work and/or family commitments)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal constraints (health, physical ability, and/or age)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial constraints (travel and/or trip expenses)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did not purchase a hunting license in 2020	<input type="checkbox"/>

1b. If there are other reasons why you did not hunt in South Dakota in 2020, briefly describe here (if you need more space, use the last page):

If there is anything that you would like to convey related to the Walk-In Area Program in South Dakota (e.g., positive or negative changes observed, issues or opportunities), use the space provided on the last page.

Please place your survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and drop it in the mail to us.

Thank you for your time, thoughtful input, and for participating in this survey!

Section 2: Upland Bird Hunting

2. In 2020, did you hunt **grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge** in South Dakota?

No ~~2a.~~ We would like to understand why you did **not** hunt South Dakota **grouse, prairie**

chicken, or partridge in 2020, briefly describe here (more space on last page):

Yes



2b. If YES, about how many days did you hunt? Number of days _____

2c. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting **grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge** in South Dakota was spent on each of the following types of land?

Land Types	Percent of Time Hunting <u>West</u> of Missouri River	Percent of Time Hunting <u>East</u> of Missouri River
Walk-In Area	%	%
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	N/A	%
Public land (e.g., Game Production Area, Waterfowl Production Area, National Grassland)	%	%
Private land (<u>no</u> fees charged)	%	%
Private land (fees charged)	%	%
Road Right-of-Way	%	%

3. In 2020, did you hunt **pheasant** in South Dakota?

No ~~3a.~~ We would like to understand why you did **not** hunt South Dakota **pheasant** in 2020, briefly describe here (more space available on last page):

Yes



3b. If YES, about how many days did you hunt? Number of days _____

3c. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting **pheasant** in South Dakota was spent on each of the following types of land?

Land Types	Percent of Time Hunting <u>West</u> of Missouri River	Percent of Time Hunting <u>East</u> of Missouri River
Walk-In Area	%	%
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	N/A	%
Public land (e.g., Game Production Area, Waterfowl Production Area, National Grassland)	%	%
Private land (<u>no</u> fees charged)	%	%
Private land (fees charged)	%	%
Road Right-of-Way	%	%

- If you hunted grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant on Walk-In Area or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands in 2020, answer questions 4 to 7 (below).
- If you did **NOT** hunt upland birds on Walk-In Area or CREP lands in 2020, **SKIP AHEAD** to Section 3: Big Game Hunting on page 5.

Upland Bird: Walk-In Area or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) only

4. For each type of land, how would you rate the **overall habitat quality for upland bird** (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant) in 2020? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Terrible	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. For each type of land, how would you rate its **importance for your 2020 upland bird hunting** (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant)? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Critical (would not hunt otherwise)
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. For each type of land, considering your **total 2020 upland bird hunting (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant) experiences**, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. For each type of land, considering your **total 2020 upland bird hunting (grouse, prairie chicken, partridge, or pheasant) experiences**, how would you rate the **hunting conditions in terms of number of other hunters**? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Not enough hunters	Not crowded	Slightly crowded	Moderately crowded	Too many hunters
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 3: Big Game Hunting

8. In 2020, did you hunt **deer** in South Dakota?

No ~~8a.~~ We would like to understand why you did **not** hunt South Dakota **deer** in 2020, briefly describe here (more space available on last page):

Yes



8b. If YES, about how many days did you hunt? Number of days _____

8c. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting **deer** in South Dakota was spent on each of the following types of land?

Land Types	Percent of Time Hunting <u>West</u> of Missouri River	Percent of Time Hunting <u>East</u> of Missouri River
Walk-In Areas	%	%
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands	N/A	%
Public land (e.g., Game Production Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, National Grassland, National Forest, Bureau of Land Management)	%	%
Private land (<u>no</u> fees charged)	%	%
Private land (fees charged)	%	%
Road Rights-of-Way	%	%

9. In 2020, did you hunt **antelope** in South Dakota?

~~No~~ **9a.** We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota **antelope** in 2020, briefly describe here (more space available on last page):

Yes
↓

9b. If YES, about how many days did you hunt? Number of days _____

9c. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting **antelope** in South Dakota was spent on each of the following types of land?

Land Types	Percent of Time Hunting <u>West</u> of Missouri River	Percent of Time Hunting <u>East</u> of Missouri River
Walk-In Areas	%	%
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands	N/A	%
Public land (e.g., Game Production Areas, National Grassland, School and Public Land, Bureau of Land Management)	%	%
Private land (<u>no</u> fees charged)	%	%
Private land (fees charged)	%	%
Road Rights-of-Way	%	%

- If you hunted deer or antelope, on Walk-In Areas or CREP lands in 2020, answer the questions 10 to 13 (below).
- If you did NOT hunt big game on Walk-In Areas or CREP in 2020, SKIP AHEAD to *Section 4: Waterfowl Hunting on page 8.*

Big Game: Walk-In Area or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) only

10. For each type of land, how would you rate the **overall habitat quality for big game** (deer or antelope) in 2020? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Terrible	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. For each type of land, how would you rate its **importance for your 2020 big game hunting** (deer or antelope)? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Critical (would not hunt otherwise)
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. For each type of land, considering your **total 2020 big game hunting (deer or antelope) experiences**, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. For each type of land, considering your **total 2020 big game hunting (deer or antelope) experiences**, how would you rate the **hunting conditions in terms of number of other hunters?** (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Not enough hunters	Not crowded	Slightly crowded	Moderately crowded	Too many hunters
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 4: Waterfowl Hunting

14. In 2020, did you hunt **waterfowl** in South Dakota?

No ~~14a.~~ We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota **waterfowl** in 2020, briefly describe here (more space available on last page):

Yes
↓

14b. If YES, about how many days did you hunt? Number of days _____

14c. If YES, approximately what percentage of your total time hunting **waterfowl** in South Dakota was spent on each of the following types of land?

Land Types	Percent of Time Hunting <u>West</u> of Missouri River	Percent of Time Hunting <u>East</u> of Missouri River
Walk-In Areas	%	%
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) lands	N/A	%
Public land (e.g., Game Production Area, Waterfowl Production Area, School and Public Land)	%	%
Private land (<u>no</u> fees charged)	%	%
Private land (fees charged)	%	%
Road Rights-of-Way	%	%

- *If you hunted waterfowl on Walk-In Areas or CREP lands in 2020, answer questions 15 to 18 (below).*
- *If you did NOT hunt waterfowl on Walk-In Areas or CREP in 2020, SKIP AHEAD to Section 5: Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas on page 10.*

Waterfowl: Walk-In Area or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) only

15. For each type of land, how would you rate the **overall habitat quality for waterfowl** in 2020? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Terrible	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. For each type of land, how would you rate its **importance for your 2020 waterfowl hunting?** (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Critical (would not hunt otherwise)
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. For each type of land, considering your **total 2020 waterfowl hunting experiences**, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you? (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. For each type of land, considering your **total 2020 waterfowl experiences**, how would you rate the **hunting conditions in terms of number of other hunters?** (if you did not hunt on a land type, select 'N/A')

	N/A	Not enough hunters	Not crowded	Slightly crowded	Moderately crowded	Too many hunters
Walk-In Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CREP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 5: Overall Evaluation of Walk-In Areas (WIAs)

19. In 2020, did you hunt on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota?

Yes No → If no, SKIP AHEAD to Section 6 on page 13.



20. Which of the following is your **most preferred** hunt when hunting on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota? (select only one)

Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge Pheasant Deer Antelope Waterfowl Other game species

20a. If other, what is your most preferred game species when hunting on Walk-In Areas? (only one)

21. We would like to understand why you chose to hunt Walk-In Areas. Rate the level of influence each factor had in your decision to hunt South Dakota Walk-In Areas (WIAs) in 2020.

	No influence	Slightly influential	Moderately influential	Very influential	Extremely influential
Close to my home, which makes it a quick and easy hunting trip.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I didn't have to secure permission to hunt a WIA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is easy to locate WIAs using GFP maps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private hunting land required a fee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No other public hunting lands near my home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends/family wanted to hunt there.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The WIA hunt trip was not planned, just happened to come across the land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have hunted WIAs in the past.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality wildlife habitat available on WIAs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunity to harvest desired game species on WIAs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. How important to you is it to have access to South Dakota Walk-In Areas 30 miles or less from your home residence? (if you live out-of-state and more than 30 miles from the SD state border, select 'N/A')

- N/A
 Not at all important
 Slightly important
 Moderately important
 Very important
 Critical (would not hunt otherwise)

23. How would you rate the importance of each statement to your overall hunting experience using Walk-In Areas (WIAs) in 2020?

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Advertising and marketing seen about hunting expectations on WIAs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA signage to identify public hunting land is visible and readable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land enrolled provides opportunity to walk long distances to get away from roads or other hunters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land enrolled is high quality wildlife habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land enrolled has a high abundance of desired game species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land enrolled that supports the ability of individuals with physical limitations to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not seeing other people while hunting on WIAs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not have to walk too far from vehicle to hunt desired game species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harvesting game species you would be proud to display.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23a. If there are other factors that affected your overall hunting experiences (positive or negative) on Walk-In Areas in 2020, briefly describe here (more space available on last page):

24. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the 2020 Walk-In Area Program?

- Very dissatisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Somewhat satisfied Very satisfied No opinion

25. In the future, do you plan to hunt on Walk-In Areas in South Dakota?

- No Yes

Section 6: Demographics and Closing Question

The following questions ask basic descriptive information to help us characterize data. This information is confidential, anonymous, and not intended to be controversial nor political.

26. What is your age?

- under 18 years old 18 – 29 years old 30 – 49 years old 50 – 69 years old 70 years old and over

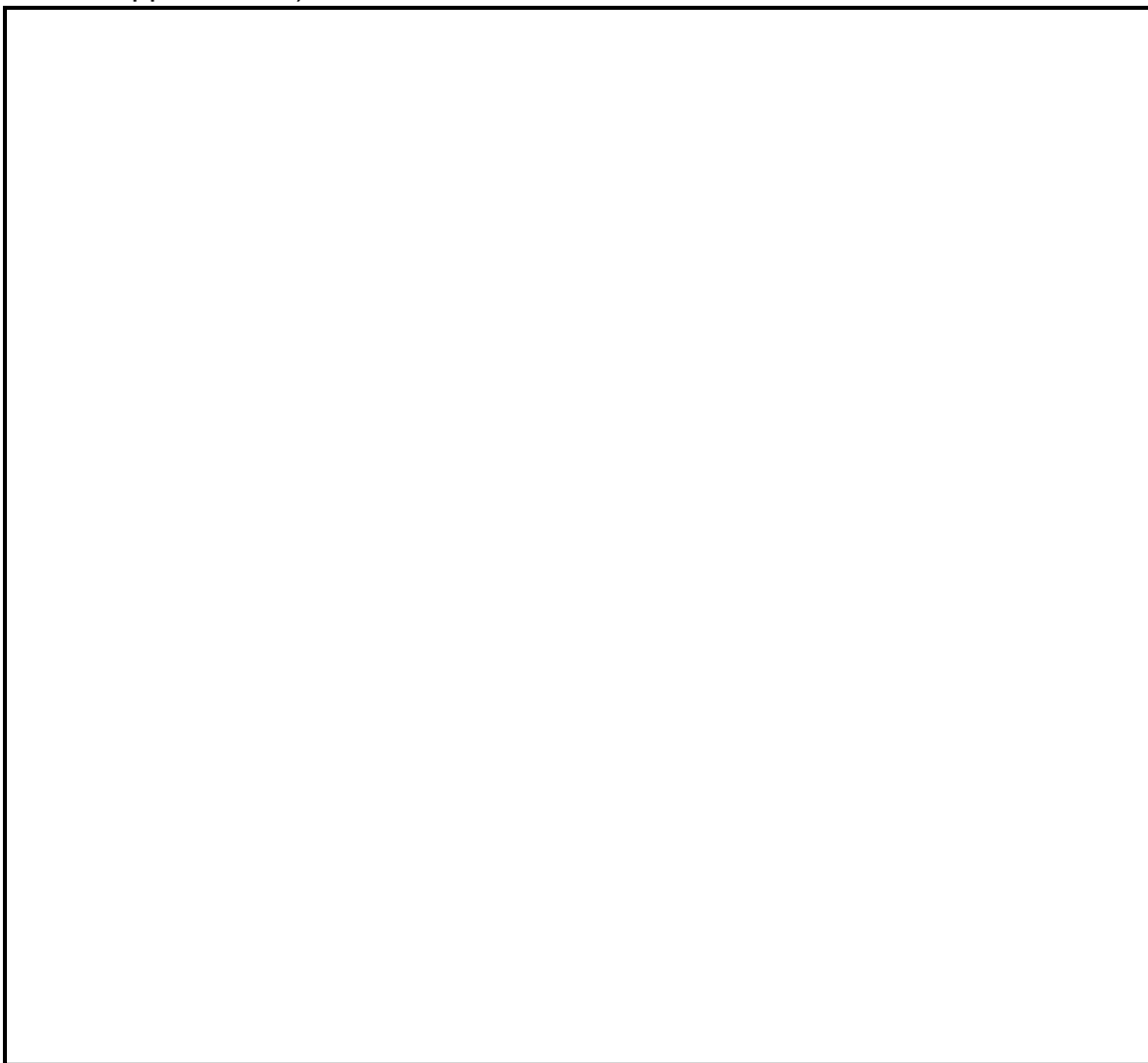
27. How would you describe yourself?

- Female Male Prefer to self-describe
-

28. What is your home residence state and zip code?

If there is anything that you would like to convey related to the Walk-In Area Program in South Dakota (e.g., positive or negative changes observed, issues or opportunities), use the space provided on the last page.

29. Closing Question: If there is anything that you believe we may have overlooked and that you would like to convey related to the Walk-In Area Program in South Dakota (e.g., positive or negative changes observed, issues or opportunities), describe here:



Please place your survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and drop it in the mail to us.

Thank you for your time, thoughtful input, and for participating in this survey! Questions? Contact Dr. Faren R. Wolter, 605.773.4231 or faren.wolter@state.sd.us

Appendix B: Open-Ended Survey Questions

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, to indicate where a comment was not legible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information has been omitted. Comments presented here are organized by the landowner and elk hunting samples.

Q1b. If there are other reasons why you did not hunt in South Dakota during 2020, briefly describe.

Age, too old to walk that much
Aging and lost interest
Always buy a license but rarely use it due to time to plan around work & family events.
Because of Covid I restricted my activities this year.
Cancer treatments, finished six months chemo in December. I have always hunted private lands, my grandfather homesteaded here. I think the Walk-In is a good program for people who need the opportunity.
Consider bending (?) hunting license dates to account for pandemic difficulties. Although SD Game, Fish, & Parks would lose some funds (less money for licenses), the SD economy would benefit (combined use of motels/hotels & restaurants)
Could not draw a deer license
Covid caused the lodge that I use to cancel.
Covid Restrictions - Lodging & dining concerns
Covid was the main reason. Flights were cancelled. I waited too long to give back my license. Wish that had gone a bit longer. Going to try this year. Seems better with Covid.
Did not draw a deer tag
Did not draw a license in 2020.
Did not draw a tag in the West River deer season.
Did not feel comfortable hunting with right wing extremists carrying firearms in the field. I have hunted since 1964!
Did not get out to South Dakota for the 2020 season
Did not hunt in 2020

Did not hunt in SD
Didn't apply because there weren't many licenses and about a five hundred mile drive
Didn't come back for pheasant season. NO birds on private property we have hunted on for 40 years. 3rd year in a row!!!
Didn't hunt due to COVID
Didn't want to. Too much hassle finding a place near rapid city.
Drew license but cancelled trip because of COVID
Froze out
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge are rare in the area I normally hunt. There were many ducks & geese on property I own that is in the program. Please consider the bow hunting opportunities for older people. It's time to allow them to use cross-bows in place of hand drawn bows. As in my case I'm 82 and cannot draw a recurve or compound bow any longer but would like the opportunity to hunt with a crossbow. I have asked a Dr. to give me a letter so I can request the use of one but have been denied that request.
Had a license but could not find the ducks
Had a lot going on with relocating and life changes so I did not get to hunt at all. I did have an archery tag but never got out to use it
Have not hunted in years. I keep buying a hunt fish combo thinking this is the year I am going to go hunting but have not since I moved to SD in 2010.
Helping 'care-take' wife after cancer treatments.
Hunting lodges and farmers renting out land, but they still hunt walk-in areas when these people have so much more to hunt. All about money instead of helping the youth learn to hunt.
I am 80 years old can't walk anymore
I am a non-resident and did not travel due to COVID19.
I am being treated for lung and bladder cancer and not strong enough to hunt or fish. I have my fish and small game license for 2021 and hope to use it this year. Always enjoy the time with friends fishing and hunting. Thank you for your hard work in keeping South Dakota a special place to enjoy. [...]
I became more of a target/recreational shooter as I get older - still buy my hunting and fishing licenses every year. I do enjoy seeing more public hunting areas out there.
I did not come to South Dakota due to covid
I did not hunt but I am a landowner
I did not hunt in 2020 due to concerns about lack of Covid-19 precautions in SD.
I do not hunt. I only purchase licenses because I shoot prairie dogs my own property.
I don't bird hunt. Need walk ins that allow wheelchair (electric) access on established roads and trails.
I don't hunt for food....I shoot vermin only
I don't hunt.

I drew a MT non-resident license and hunted there. Was invited to several pheasant hunts in SD but declined due to COVID.
I had knee replacement - missed the hunt! Drove the routes we road hunt to observe the wild life. Glad we have them - Our granddaughter (10) and dad train their German short hair there in off season.
I have Lyme arthritis for the past 8 yrs. every year I get a license but I'm very limited to hunting I walk out of my door usually during spring goose hunt and can only shoot a few times! Yes it sucks I've been hunting every year since I was 6 yrs. old but my body will not take it anymore!
I have not owned any type of shotguns or rifle in the last approximate 35 years.
I like hunting late season and the lakes froze up early causing premature migration.
I rarely hunt birds because I don't like BB's in my food. I hunt mostly small game animals which I can shoot with 22 rifle (no damaged meat). Deer hunting is not cost effective for the meat and I prefer beef to venison. I used to go deer hunting when my sons were younger to act as their guide and mentor which was a fun why to spend time with them we would only hunt walk-in areas.
I was drawn and planned to hunt waterfowl in SD in 2020 as I have for many years. However, after covid - 19 hit I had to first postpone and then cancel my annual hunting trips.
I was unable to make trip to SD
Just did not hunt. Just did not get around to it.
Just didn't have the desire. I drive around the countryside quite often just to observe the wildlife and I really enjoy that.
Just didn't seem to have the time. I do out frequently and target shoot.
Just never got out, no reason in particular.
Less interest in hunting overall, less motivation to get out. Did not have reliable transportation and no partners or friends for longer, further hunts. More interested in trapping but fur prices are so poor and didn't really do that either. I am a firm believer in public land and public access but success often gets bleak for targeted critters in a lot of what is available. No money to grease private landowner palms. I continue to buy licenses but often don't use.
Lost my dogs to old age a few years ago. Have not hunted since.
Major snowstorm
Most of my friends don't hunt anymore.
My hunting partner died
My wife was severely injured in a fall in August. I was her 24/7 nurse for fall, winter, and spring 2021.
Never made it out in 2020, COVID consumed to much of my free time.
No hunting because of Covid. And too difficult to get antelope license
No licenses drawn
No pheasants
No quality areas around home zip code would have to travel.
Normally hunt waterfowl but wasn't able to make it there this year.

Not enough productive land around Sioux Falls area. Build more lakes!
Nowhere to hunt, also no wild birds
Number of pheasants are declining! Plus the availability of land to hunt on ! The resident hunter has few places to walk. We hunt ditches most of the time. Farmers are cutting back further on their land so cover is diminished. We will not pay to hunt. South Dakota is shooting itself in the foot by eliminating the soil banks we used to have. I'm 71 and have hunted since I was 10 years old. Money has taken over the resident hunter.
Old dog
One Gov of SD did not value the health & welfare of her own state and most certainly not out of state valued hunters that spend their money. My experience in Eureka Mud Wizzow Lake was always great with good people and the farm community. I plan on coming for 2021 again all things considered... More valuable Walk-In would be helpful. Luckily we have had great farmers allow us on their land! Why do we need a draw for waterfowl when we see no other waterfowl hunters where we hunt?
Our ranch and the adjoining much larger ranch used to be in Walk-In until the less than sportsman abused their privilege of using private property. Gates left open, cattle scattered, drive all over, and the GF&P failure to hold up its end of the Walk-In contract.
Purchased a waterfowl license and was not able to hunt due to bad weather leading up to the weekend I had available in October.
Self-quarantined due to COVID-19 concerns. I normally return to SD every fall to hunt with lifelong friends in Lake Andes. It's a 6000 mile airline trip from Alaska where I live to Sioux Falls. Hope to come back to the state where I was born 85 years ago this year•
Thank you for all that you do! SD has abundant wildlife (big game, small game, waterfowl, etc.). Keep up the good work and please continue the Walk-In Area program. Keep up the good law enforcement and STOP poaching programs!
The 2020 hunt was delayed until Jan. 2021. Pheasants were plentiful. 3 day hunt; private land.
The reason I didn't hunt in SD in 2020 was because of the COVID-19 virus. We mainly hunted geese and ducks the past few years. Several years ago we did hunt pheasant for several years...and enjoyed hunting them. At that time, we hunted Walk-In Areas, some CREP that was open for hunting, some public land and even got on private land (no fees changed). We had good success, lots of fun and saw lots of birds. We were glad for the open hunting areas, public lands and other places were open to public hunting. We never paid to hunt. The more public access land you can have materially the better off out of state hunters will be. We always enjoyed hunts in SD and look forward to hunting in the future.
Too many people unmasked during a pandemic. Poor leadership from your Governor Kristi Noem. SD had an extremely high infection rate for Covid last fall.
Travel restrictions
Turned down for deer license. I wasn't notified when there was licenses that were turned back. Should have been notified. Some hunters had multiple licenses, when I was refunded my fee.
Typically come back home to hunt waterfowl and did not get drawn last year. Plus parents area older and had COVID concerns.

Usually only get out once a year with friends, COVID prevented this
Walk in areas need to actually have cover on them instead of bare pasture. Also, livestock in many, can't hunt safely
Walk-In Area - started when the farmer got land paid for down payment - And then it went in Soil Bank. Walk-In Areas back in 1958 sprayed for army worms that killed everything.
Warm Weather caused birds to stay north of where I hunt in SD
Was not allowed in deer unit due to covid
We got really busy at work and the weather turned cold - and wet. I am 58 and hunt with my sons but I didn't want to slow them down.
We planned on targeting late season Canadas around Pierre. Mild temps and poor bird reports. We decided to cancel.
Weather conditions - wet & cold Very limited areas to hunt pheasants in the Martin Area. Private Walk-In areas are mainly barren pastureland.
When I go to SD I only hunt pheasants and ducks. Also, not able to go in 2020 because of the virus.
Where we hunt in east river we were concerned for the health of our friends who own the land.
Your online license system screwed me out of a license!!

Q2a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge in 2020, briefly describe.

All but vanished in Charles Mix County. 1980s and 1900s and early 2000s; we harvested many of each. Last 10 - 15 years these and pheasants have been on a drastic decline. On both public and private ground.
Already committed time to pheasants
Although I have a big interest in prairie chickens, the best habitat and locations are a little too far. I don't usually go through far West. I use my 10 dogs for pheasants on the far east of the river.
Archery hunting takes priority
Areas did not have those species where I would typically hunt. Also, I have a lab and those early times can be too hot. I would like to try for them sometime.
Aren't any in my hunting area
Because I didn't want to. Is it a law that I have to hunt grouse?
Because I have no private land and I can't do much walking. And you have made it almost impossible to legally road hunt.
Because I went on a duck hunt
Because the SDGP license is not an annual permit and only allows you 10 days to hunt. I prefer to hunt pheasants during those 10 days.
Because we live in the eastern side of SD and couldn't make it out to the western side to hunt them this year. We did hunt pheasants and doves though.

Bird dog was killed in a car accident in October so did not do much upland hunting this year unfortunately.
Bird hunting is not a personal interest.
Birds are on private land can't get permission
Birds too scarce
Bow hunt deer. Birds run faster than me.
Brown county, not available
Busy hunting deer and elk
Busy with other outdoor activities
Busy, no time
Came out pheasant hunting only!
Came out for pheasants and there are not grouse in the area.
Came out from September 1st until roughly the 10th, season not open yet
Came solely for duck hunting this past year
Came there to hunt pheasant
Came to SD to waterfowl hunt only. Did not have the right gear with us to also upland hunt.
Cannot walk well-muscular dystrophy.
Can't find any
Can't walk that good anymore. Not that many birds to hunt.
Cause don't usually hunt them
Cause I don't and never have
Chasing pheasants, ducks, and geese.
Couldn't find any
Couldn't find the time
COVID
COVID
COVID
COVID
COVID
COVID concerns led me to make only 1 trip to SD
COVID issues caused us to shorten our trip in 2020. We come to hunt on Wagon Wheel Ranch but usually extend the trip and hunt on public lands as well but not in 2020.
COVID kept me from traveling.
Covid-19
COVID-19 complicated my hunting trips for 2020
Deer only
Did not buy a license
Did not choose to travel 80 miles to get to an area with huntable numbers.

Did not get out that far, did all of my bird hunting in the SE corner of South Dakota near home.
Did not get out West to hunt this year. Will be getting out there next year for prairie chickens.
Did not go west river and never saw any partridge
Did not go west to shoot
Did not have a license to hunt them.
Did not have an opportunity to find a location.
Did not have an opportunity to go west and hunt
Did not have any desire
Did not have any interest in hunting them.
Did not have enough time to go health problems
Did not have the chance nor the time.
Did not have the energy to get to an area where I could find them.
Did not have the time this year
Did not have the time to travel for more than one trip for pheasants.
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time due to family and other outdoor pursuits.
Did not have time last season.
Did not have time this year
Did not have time this year
Did not have time to travel to hunt
Did not have time with school
Did not have time
Did not have time.
Did not have time.
Did not have time.
Did not have time.
Did not have time. Other commitments.
Did not hunt an area where these species were prevalent.
Did not hunt due to time constraints
Did not hunt in an area that had these species.
Did not hunt in an area that held many of them.

Did not hunt in areas that had an abundance of these birds so I did not hunt specifically for them.
Did not hunt in areas that have them.
Did not hunt much just deer
Did not hunt this species
Did not hunt those habitat areas.
Did not know where to go
Did not know where to hunt these species.
Did not know you could, or where a good place to go would be
Did not purchase license, not much opportunity for eastern SD.
Did not see any
Did not see any
Did not see any
Did not see any
Did not see any in the area we hunted.
Did not see any of these species
Did not see any while hunting pheasant
Did not take the time
Did not take the time to hunt this game
Did not take the time.
Did not take the time.
Did not take time to hunt those species, only hunted pheasants two days.
Did not target areas where these species are found.
Did not target those species. Hunted only waterfowl and mule deer
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to drive or take the time.
did not want to hunt them
Didn't buy a license for upland game birds.
Didn't buy a tag due to no good public land opportunities close to Sioux Falls.
Didn't drive far enough west for huntable population of those birds.
Didn't get around to it.
Didn't get the chance
Didn't get to West River to hunt
Didn't go hunting west river
didn't go out to hunt any.
didn't have the chance, never saw these birds
Didn't have the opportunity
Didn't have the time

Didn't have the time
Didn't have the time
Didn't have the time.
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time this year
Didn't have time to go out west much because I was in college
Didn't have time to go to areas where they live and I don't know where to find high populations of them.
Didn't have time, too far to drive
Didn't have time, was focused on pheasants only.
Didn't have time. We hunted pheasants and ducks for the weekend.
Didn't hunt any of these birds
Didn't hunt for them
Didn't hunt them due to need for travel to find them.
Didn't hunt those species - instead I hunted pheasants.
Didn't know they were around heron
Didn't know where to hunt
Didn't see any
Didn't see any birds.
Didn't see any pheasant hunting
Didn't take the time
Didn't take the time go out for them
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to drive out west to hunt them.
Didn't want to!
Didn't want to, live in Sioux Falls, too far
Disabled and unable to walk them up
Do not habitat in areas I hunt
Do not have any of them where I hunt
Do not have any on the land we own around Haven, SD.
Do not have experience with this type of game.
Do not hunt birds currently
Do not hunt for them anywhere.

Do not hunt these birds and do not have time to hunt them.
Do not think there are many around area where I live.
Do not wish to hunt these game birds
Doesn't interest me.
Don't bird hunt anymore
Don't care to hunt them. No interest.
Don't care to hunt these
Don't eat them
Don't eat them so I don't hunt them
Don't enjoy the meat very much and have not had time until lately.
Don't enjoy these seasons. To warm and don't like dogs being vulnerable to snakes. If we see them during pheasant season we do shoot them.
Don't generally see these birds where I hunt. Pheasants are the norm.
DONT HAVE THEM OVER HERE FOR MUCH IN EAST SD, AND THE WEST RIVER RANCHERS WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THEM AROUND TO EAT GRASSHOPPERS
Don't have a dog and get too old to walk without one because would be had to get them up.
Don't have a dog. Maybe in the future.
Don't have any in our area
Don't hunt birds
Don't hunt birds
Don't hunt birds
Don't hunt birds at this time
Don't hunt them
Don't hunt them
Don't hunt them
Don't hunt them
Don't hunt them birds
Don't hunt them.
Don't hunt these animals
Don't hunt these birds
Don't hunt these species
Don't hunt those
Don't hunt those birds
Don't know anything about grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. I was there to hunt pheasant.
Don't know of many birds in areas I am able to hunt
Don't know where to go.
Don't know where to hunt them
Don't like to hunt these birds
Don't live in area where there are any or numbers very low, poor hunter access potential

Don't normally hunt these birds.
Don't see a lot of them here.
Don't target the species
Don't upland game hunt
Don't usually hunt these birds.
Don't usually hunt West River, typically only east River.
Drought situation
Duck and goose hunt only
Duck hunt only
Duck hunt only
Duck hunted
Duck hunter
Duck hunting
Duck hunting only
Duck hunting trip specifically
Ducks and geese
East river does not have any grouse or prairie chickens. we used to have partridge at many years ago and did enjoy hunting them. they have since disappeared.
Family life and work did not allow time
Fighting fires in CO. Then got busy guiding preserve pheasant hunters.
Focused on pheasant and did not consider hunting other upland birds
Focused on pheasant and ducks; did not have viable options to hunt the 3 species you are asking about.
Focused on Pheasant hunting and we did not come across any grouse, prairie chicken or partridge this year. several years ago we did shoot some grouse and prairie chicken while hunting pheasant , but have not seen any in the habitat we hunt in recent years
Focused on pheasants
Focused on waterfowl
Game birds not present on land I have access to.
Game too scarce to justify hunting
Generally I hunt pheasant and haven't seen many prairie chickens, grouse or partridge.
Getting older, legs don't work as good anymore.
Grouse and prairie chickens are not in my part of the state. Partridge are taken as a bird of opportunity while hunting pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, and partridge do not populate the areas I hunt.
Grouse/prairie chicken not in my part of SD. Partridge, I have not shot a partridge since 2010. They are so scarce in my area I will not shoot them if I encounter them. Every Spring I try and keep track of a few broods, but by fall they are almost always gone or depleted. The young birds seem to die off?? At least a very large percent.
Had limited time and hunted for pheasant only.
Had to drive too far for not much opportunity.

Handicapped
Handicapped unable to walk far
Have never done it. would not know where to look for these.
Have never gone hunting for these birds and I would not know what to do with them.
Have never hunted them but may try in the future.
Have never hunted these birds
Have never hunted these species.
Have never hunted these species.
have never hunted those species
Have never hunted those species.
Have never tried it or have time to do it.
Have never tried it.
Have no interest
Have not seen any in years where I hunt
Have private land
Haven't seen any where I hunt
Health problems, just hunted pheasants
Health reasons
Hopefully my answer will not be confusing. I hunted pheasant a considerable amount on state lands. I was primarily focused on pheasant. In the event one of these other mentioned game birds would have presented, I would have attempted to take this game. Most of my time was spent east river. I never saw a grouse, chicken, or partridge in all my hunts.
Hunt only deer and antelope at the moment
Hunt pheasants exclusively
Hunt pheasants only
Huntable populations of grouse not near areas that I hunt regularly
Hunted all waterfowl than upland this past year.
Hunted areas surrounding Watertown specifically for pheasant
Hunted ducks and geese.
Hunted Eastern SD and those birds are not there.
Hunted for geese
Hunted pheasant
Hunted pheasant
Hunted Pheasant and Archery Deer only in Clark, SD
Hunted pheasant and quail
Hunted pheasant and waterfowl
Hunted pheasant and waterfowl. Did see grouse but did not target them
Hunted pheasant only
Hunted Pheasant only
Hunted pheasant only.
Hunted pheasant only. Saw one grouse and didn't shoot.

Hunted pheasant primarily. Only saw a few grouse.
Hunted pheasant with an outfitter
Hunted pheasant, ducks, and geese
Hunted pheasants
Hunted pheasants instead.
Hunted pheasants mainly, although I did shoot some sharp-tail's while hunting pheasants.
Hunted pheasants only
Hunted pheasants only
Hunted Pheasants only
Hunted waterfowl. Didn't have the time to upland hunt
Hunting access is very restricted.
Hunting duck
Hunting duck, geese and pheasants
Hunting early season geese
Hunting from out of the state focused on pheasant
I was unable to hunt because of my health
I am 79 years old - I don't walk so good anymore.
I am 80 years old and I don't do that much walking anymore.
I am a landowner and rarely hunt public lands. It just so happens that our land does not have any grouse prairie chicken or partridge nor does the public land close to our property. We do have pheasants.
I am a non-resident and came to hunt pheasant.
I am from East River and would rather hunt pheasants. I have just never gotten into any of these other small game.
I am invited to South Dakota by a friend. His ground consists mainly of Ringneck pheasant.
I am not a big hunter on these birds
I am not familiar with hunting these species so I don't make time for the season.
I am not interested in hunting those animals
I am too lazy to drive out to Lemmon and hunt
I believe these three species are not up to the level they should be in order to hunt.
I bow hunt and put my emphasis on that, or have other outdoor activities that I enjoy.
I came for pheasants
I came to SD for pheasant hunting only.
I came to South Dakota primarily to hunt waterfowl. I did hunt pheasants a couple of times while there.
I come for ducks & geese, if I have time for another trip I'd do pheasant.
I concentrated on hunting pheasants, and did not see any of these other game birds,
I did not have any time to hunt any upland game bird at all in the 2020 season.

I did not hunt partridge because I either don't know of any coveys nearby (Beadle county) OR I want to protect the one or two coveys that are hanging on in my home area of McPherson county. I would hunt grouse/chickens but I don't know of an area that would consistently have birds within 60 miles of Huron. I see them somewhat rarely during late season pheasant hunts. I rarely drive more than an hour or two to hunt birds. If I was to travel for grouse would be more likely to head to the Nebraska Sandhills. In 2019 hunting deer on a walk-in area in Haakon county I saw incredible numbers of chickens.
I did not specifically target grouse while I was hunting in SD in 2020. However, while hunting pheasants my hunting party flushed some sharp-tailed grouse. I was able to harvest one.
I didn't get out much during 2020.
I didn't go hunting for them this year.
I didn't have tag nor did I care to hunt this specific type of animal
I didn't have time
I didn't have time.
I didn't know where to go
I didn't want to and not enough around me.
I do not care to hunt grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge.
I do not hunt for them.
I do not hunt grouse, prairie chickens, or partridge.
I do not hunt these animals.
I do not hunt these species.
I do not hunt those species
I do not hunt upland birds.
I do not like the taste of them
I do not live in an area where you could hunt these birds.
I don't bird hunt anymore
I don't bird hunt
I don't eat them so I do not hunt them
I don't have any near me
I don't have any reason for not hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. I pretty much hunt pheasants only.
I don't hunt birds
I don't hunt birds anymore
I don't hunt grouse, prairie chicken or partridge, just pheasants
I don't hunt that type of bird
I don't hunt them
I don't hunt them.
I don't hunt these birds
I don't hunt these birds

I don't hunt these birds.
I don't hunt this particular animal
I Don't hunt those birds
I don't hunt West River and not enough of them in East River.
I don't like road hunting and I have bad knees. Bird hunting requires a lot of tough walking.
I don't like the taste of it!
I don't live close to any of those birds and don't find them attractive enough quarry to travel a long distance to pursue them.
I don't target those birds in any hunting.
I don't think there are any in my area.
I don't think there are any in the SE corner of the state - if there are any I never seen them.
I don't think there are very many in South Dakota. I hunt ruffed grouse in northern Minnesota every year.
I don't usually hunt fowl, mainly interested in big game hunting.
I enjoy big game hunting rather than bird hunting.
I feel like public land is a waste of time for birds and I refuse to pay to hunt private.
I generally do not hunt specifically for these birds but do have the required license and would hunt them if I happened to see one
I go hunting pheasants with my family each year and we don't have a interest in any other birds.
I go to South Dakota for waterfowl. My dad took me since I was 12 you. I am now retired and I would like to hunt geese, prairie chicken, and partridge also. More time hunting in South Dakota is great.
I had a bad knee and it required medical attention. Not able to walk great distances.
I had COVID-19 when I usually hunt grouse and chickens
I had two opportunities to hunt pheasants in South Dakota. The first one was to scout out potential hunting ground on a parcel enrolled in ERP that was for sale. Our bid to buy was rejected. For the second trip I was invited to hunt pheasants with a group from Minnesota that had access to private land near Howard. Before the rest of the group arrived a friend and I also hunted pheasants for a few hours on the Heppner Waterfowl Production Area and the Burke Slough State Public Shooting Area.
I have a bad hip and ankle so very hard to walk uneven ground.
I have bad knees and can't walk a lot. I am going to get my left knee replaced this winter, so I will be able to walk again. I did have a turkey tag in 2020 or 2019.
I have hunted upland birds in the past and find hunting them in your walk in areas excellent, but I am getting older and find it difficult to walk them. So I prefer to waterfowl hunt instead.
I have never done it and I work a lot.
I have never hunted these before
I have never hunted these species. Do not have enough time off work.
I have never hunted those species and would not know where to start.

I have never hunted those species.
I have never tried to target them and not sure if I ever will because I am not sure how to hunt for them
I haven't made time to research and look into doing this hunt. It is something I consider doing some day.
I hunt around the town of Lake Andes by the Missouri River. These birds do not seem to be in this area.
I hunt Canada Geese
I hunt ducks and geese only
I hunt ducks, geese and pheasants.
I hunt exclusively for waterfowl. Not interested in upland bird hunting.
I hunt in eastern SD and I see very few grouse and same for partridge and prairie chickens.
I hunt in eastern SD. We see a few grouse and will gladly take a shot but there are very few.
I hunt mainly east river and where I live there is very few of them.
I hunt NE SD and not enough of these to hunt in that area.
I hunt on land owned by a friend. I hunt two/three days each year. My friend's land typically has a lot of pheasants, but not much else. I have hunted with my friend for 3 years. So, in my entire life I have hunted for 8 or 9 days total.
I hunt other states
I hunt pheasant only
I hunt those species at home
I hunt waterfowl only in SD
I hunted ducks
I hunted on the northeast part of SD. There weren't any Grouse, Prairie Chicken, or partridge.
I hunted only pheasants because where I live that is all there is.
I hunted Pheasant
I hunted Pheasant around Brookings. barely any of the other species around here
I hunted pheasants. Was not in areas where those game birds live
I just did not.
I just have never hunted any of these
I just have not gotten into hunting these birds, although I hope to in the future.
I just have other hunts going on during those time frames
I just hunt pheasant
I just hunt waterfowl
I just waterfowl hunt.
I like to hunt big game mostly
I live E.R., the distance. I will often hunt grouse when antelope or W.R. deer hunt. Didn't draw those last year.
I live East River and didn't travel much this fall so I stuck with pheasants. I'd like to hunt them though.

I live east river and never have hunted grouse.
I live in a county where these birds are pretty much non-existent.
I live in a county without these birds and do not care to travel where they are.
I live in an area with little opportunity.
I live in Edmunds County, and I never saw any of those.
I live in far Western South Dakota and there are no birds to hunt for many miles. The game fish and parks needs to buy land perhaps by Orman dam and turn more of it into hunting access by food plots , trees, and ground cover. It's a Shame we have to travel so far to find these birds. These are a few grouse in the area but limited in numbers.
I live in Hamlin county, hunt in this area and hunt the family farm in McPherson county. in McPherson county there are only a couple broods of grouse and only seen 2 partridges total. personally I chose not to hunt them to all there numbers to naturally grow, when there is a greater number I might harvest responsibly.
I live in the Black Hills home here. Plus, I'm disabled so left arm not working. It's tough hunting for me hard on my passion I have.
I live in the Eastern part of the state where there's no grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge to hunt.
I live in the SE part of the state and I don't believe the population is such that it would be a worthwhile hunt.
I live in the SE part of the state. Numbers of grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge aren't great compared to pheasant.
I live on the east side of the state and we just don't have any of those 3 around here.
I live on the east side of the state. I don't hunt upland game that much because public lands get pounded pretty hard by residents and nonresidents. I refuse to pay to hunt on land leased or reserved for nonresidents.
I live on the east side of the state. Not an abundance of the birds listed above on this side of the state. When I traveled west for big game hunting the opportunity never came up to harvest any listed birds listed.
I live too far away from their range.
I mainly hunt deer, or rifle hunt.
I mainly hunt pheasants where I live
I never have gotten into bird hunting
I never have.
I never have. Should learn more about these species.
I never hunted in areas where there were populations of grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge.
I never remembered the shotgun when we went out west hunting big game.
I only came to hunt pheasants and while hunting pheasants I didn't see any of the other birds.
I only deer hunt
I only go to SD to duck hunt.
I only hunt deer archery

I only hunt grouse or partridge if I happen to find some while hunting pheasant.
I only hunt in Gregory County - that's home. May be a few partridge - we no longer have grouse or prairie chickens in the area I hunt. Years ago GFP would net them in the Whetstone Area.
I only hunt pheasant
I only hunt pheasants
I only hunt pheasants
I only hunt Pheasants, but would be interested in hunting prairie chickens in the future
I only hunt pheasants.
I only hunt waterfowl.
I only hunted ducks
I only hunted pheasant due to time.
I only hunted pheasant. Thank You
I only hunted pheasant. There are very few of those birds listed in the east side of the state.
I only hunted roosters
I only hunted waterfowl
I only hunted waterfowl in South Dakota in 2020.
I only like to deer hunt
I only planned to hunt pheasants. I had no plans or info on where to hunt other small game.
I only shot one prairie chicken while hunting pheasant East River private lands
I only shot pheasants males
I only wanted to hunt Pheasant.
I only wanted to hunt pheasants
I only went to SD to hunt pheasant.
I personally don't care to bird hunt but do allow others to hunt on my land
I pheasant hunt
I planned the trip to waterfowl hunt.
I prefer big game hunting
I prefer hunting big game
I prefer to hunt for pheasants when I get out. If there are other species where I'm hunting then that's a bonus.
I prefer to hunt Pheasants. Grouse seem to be incredibly hard to get close to and although telling the difference between a grouse and hen pheasant is pretty easy I have no desire to ruin my record of not shooting a hen. Usually by the time I'm comfortable it's not a hen pheasant the little buggers are too far away. I also am hunting for the food side of things and am not a huge grouse fan. We also hunt in the north east corner primarily and don't see prairie chickens or partridge.
I rarely hunt upland birds
I saw lots of grouse when I was out deer hunting. Never at the right place at the right time.

I sometimes do hunt grouse, but this year I did not have time to make the trip.
I stayed away from hunt in groups covid-19
I stopped bird hunting 15 years ago
I travel to SD many times but only hunt pheasants and waterfowl. Just cant do it all.
I usually only hunt pheasant
I was hunting duck and pheasant instead
I was hunting for pheasants and those species were not present in the area I hunted.
I was hunting pheasants and did not see any of the other game mentioned.
I was in Kimball and have never seen any there.
I was in South Dakota to hunt waterfowl, pheasants, and deer. I did not consider a different hunt.
I was invited to hunt pheasant on private property. Was not offered opportunity to hunt other game.
I was not in an area that had these species
I was not interested in hunting them.
I was not interested in hunting those species.
I was not there to hunt them.
I was only after pheasants.
I was pheasant hunting
I was really focusing on pheasants. Also, I don't think there is a good population of grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge where I was hunting.
I was there to hunt ducks and geese
I was too far east in the area northeast of Aberdeen. I saw one small flock of grouse in 5 days. I would like to make a trip to South Dakota to hunt grouse, prairie chickens, and partridge.
I wasn't sure they were in season
I went goose hunting
I went to South Dakota to pheasant hunt.
I worked longer hours than expected.
I worked more this year because of COVID
I would have but never came across any. Always look for them while pheasant hunting
I would rather pay out of state for Nebraska, Wyoming, etc. than waste my time in south Dakota. I've filled out multiple of these surveys. And every year I get more, nothing ever changes. The public seems to voice one idea and the SDGFP just finds a way to make it more confusing or I'm guessing more profitable with little to no response to the outdoorsman. I could proceed with my rant with examples but knowing it wouldn't make a difference I'll just stop here. Good luck
I'm 82 years old and bird populations in northeast SD are minimal - I am no longer physically able to pursue birds the way used to. I do carry a shotgun in my vehicle during season and if I find a bird in opportune site (away from someone's house) I may try for it. It has netted me one pheasant in the last three seasons.

I'm from eastern SD and don't want to drive to west river to hunt them. Not really on the top of my list to hunt.
I'm just not that interested in harvesting any of the listed game.
I'm not a bird hunter
I'm not a fan of fowl.
In my area would like to see chicken population increase.
In the past I have hunted birds and enjoyed it. Most of my bird hunting friends have died. So, now I mostly fish.
It is a long way to go to hunt.
I've hunted all of them before and the results were very poor
I've never done this.
I've never hunted those species or had much interest in doing so. Their main range is relatively far from where I live, also.
I've only upland hunted for pheasants. I'm a waterfowl and deer hunter mostly.
Just a pheasant hunter
Just a pheasant, duck and goose hunter
Just came down to hunt pheasants
Just came for pheasants
Just did not
Just did not get around to it.
Just did not get out much because of COVID and not enough time
Just did not hunt for them this year
Just did not this year
Just didn't
Just didn't come across any when I was out. Mostly pheasant hunting and not very much.
Just didn't focus on it as a game bird in our area.
Just didn't focus on this type of hunting
Just didn't go
Just didn't have time, this year
Just didn't have time.
Just didn't hunt for these species. Only partridge would be found in my area.
Just didn't see any when I hunted
Just didn't take the time to look for any.
Just didn't take the time to. Haven't seen a partridge around where I hunt for years.
Just didn't.
Just focused on other things
Just hunt a few times and focus on pheasants.
just hunt ducks, geese and pheasants

Just hunted big game
Just hunted duck and pheasant
Just interested in pheasants.
Just never have. So I continue to hunt the normal species I always have.
Just never thought about it much
Just no time, or places to hunt, birds
Just not interested in eating them plus not sure where access and habitat for them is though haven't researched
Just not interested without a dog
Just not my type of game to hunt.
Just pheasant
Just pheasant & duck
Just Pheasant is all we were interested in.
Just pheasants
Just prefer hunting pheasants
Just that Pheasant hunting is my true passion.
Just wasn't interested
Just went for pheasant
Kids and time
Lack of accessible habitat.
Lack of birds.
Lack of experience, lack of dog, lack of mentor. Asked to go with a couple folks who hunted grouse, but they never followed up.
Lack of population near home.
Lack of quality hunting access
Lack of the time
Lack of these species in the area that I hunt. Plan to travel in 2021 to hunt them.
Lack of time
Lack of time and no partridge in eastern SD
Lack of time and too few to hunt without traveling.
Lack of time!
Limited amount of time
Limited time and opportunities to hunt this year
Live east river
Live East River and generally have not in the past.
Live far East River and didn't have the opportunity
Live in Brookings County. I have not seen a grouse or partridge in over 10 years.
Live in eastern part of state very limited opportunities
live in eastern SD and there are no partridge here

Live in eastern SD where there are none of the above
Live in Florida and when I arrive in So Dak I spend my time hunting pheasants.
Live in the eastern part of the state
Live out of state and came to South Dakota to hunt pheasants with a guide.
Location and other game birds are more accessible for me
Low bird populations and no place to hunt that hasn't been hunted to death
Low numbers
Low numbers in NE SD.
Low numbers of birds in my area.
Low population
Low population in my area
Mainly hunt pheasants, but would like to try grouse and or prairie chickens if the opportunity presented itself on available land.
Mainly hunt waterfowl & pheasants.
Me and my buddies were just hunting pheasants, all of us from out-of-state
Medical reasons
Military, not currently stationed in SD
More of a pheasant and waterfowl hunter.
More opportunity to hunt waterfowl in my area.
Most are west river for prairie chicken hunting I do very little upland game hunting west river
Most of my time is spent archery hunting.
Mostly, we hunt pheasant, we may run across prairie chickens, but not there to hunt prairie chicken or grouse.
My hunting trip was for pheasant only.
My license was a non-resident waterfowl license.
My only connection for hunting land is for pheasants so I only hunt pheasants
My schedule did not allow me to pursue grouse hunting in 2020. While antelope hunting in northern Meade County, we observed a much larger population of grouse than normal. I believe we will schedule a grouse hunt in 2021. Regarding hunting Partridge, I believe that the season should be closed in most SD counties. In general, there is currently not a huntable population of Partridge. I consider maintaining the Partridge season an example of mismanagement of a potentially valuable resource, and I would I refrain from harvesting them.
Never been interested
Never buy small game license
Never considered hunting these game birds in SD
Never do
Never done it. Did pheasant only.
Never grew up hunting birds and haven't been very interested in doing so.
Never had my dog or shotgun with when I was hunting in areas that had these birds.

Never had opportunity
Never have
Never have
Never have and not enough info on where to go
Never have gotten into bird hunting
Never have hunted these - there are very few in our area
Never have no interest
Never have, probably never will.
Never hunt any of them
Never hunted any before.
Never hunted them
Never hunted them and do not see any in the area where I hunt.
Never hunted these, no interest
Never really hunted those birds before, not enough CRP in East River
Never saw any
Never saw any
Never saw any
Never saw any
Never seem to find them
Never seen these birds where we hunt
Never thought about hunting them
Never thought about it. Only had time to hunt ducks.
Never thought of it. Usually the mission is just pheasants. Not to mention, I'm not sure I have ever see them out there.
Never tried and prefer to hunt big game with my vacation time
Never tried it before
Never tried it not sure how to start
Never went out west I live east river and we do not have a lot of grouse or prairie chickens. And did not see any partridge in years!
No available in my area
No available time
No birds
No birds
No birds in area
No birds in area hunted
No birds in Robert county
No birds of this type in our area
No desire
No desire
No desire

No interest at this time
No interest at this time in my life.
No interest in 2020 to do so.
No interest in hunting them
No interest in hunting them
No interest in hunting upland game
No interest in these birds
No interest or opportunity to hunt upland birds
No interest or time
No interest upland game birds
no interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest. Can't do it all.
No interest. No time.
No license
No local birds in my area and not enough time to make it west river.
No native population in local area
No nearby opportunities.
No one to go with
No one to hunt with and the bird count is low
No opportunity
No opportunity
No opportunity
No opportunity to hunt that species in my local area, not willing to travel West River. Intend to in the future.
No opportunity.
No option
No partridge in my area or very few! Did not travel that far to hunt the others and no land. Public land is hunted out after the 1st weekend.
No partridge left in the area - used to have some but have not seen them in years. Grouse - prairie chicken numbers are low so we are letting them repopulate.
No pheasant only
No place to hunt
No population close to me
No prairie chicken in this area partridge used to be around but have not seen any the last several years
No real interest
No reason

No time
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No time
No time - limited to when & where I can hunt
No time - work - health issues
No time and low bird numbers
No time and not enough interest at this time
No time limited access/knowledge of where to hunt
No time this year
No time this year.
No time to personally scout and hunt. Recent decline in numbers discouraged me from attempting.
No time to pursue them
No time young family

No time
No time, not in my area of the state, no land access
no time.
No time.
No time.
No time. Never have hunted these birds.
Nowhere to go that isn't over-crowded and/or hunted out.
None around here
None around Marshall county
None around me
None around me.
None around this area
None available
None here to hunt
None in county
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area
None in my area (Redfield)
None in my area
None in my area.
None in my eastern st grey
None in my part of the state.
None in our area
None in our area
None in our area.
None in our county
None in our hunting area
None in the area I hunted
None in the area I live.
None in the area I was hunting

None in the area we hunted
None in the area. Partridge are about wiped out.
None in the area. Was a lot when I grew up. Why not reintroduce them?
None in the areas I typically hunt
None near where I live
None of the three are available in my area of hunting.
None of these birds in our area
None of these species in the area I hunt
None to hunt locally
None where I hunt
None where we hunt
Non-resident
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter, but would like to get into the sport.
Not a bird hunter.
Not a game bird I pursue
Not a game bird(s) that I hunt.
Not a game I pursue
not a hunt I usually do
Not a large enough population of these upland birds in Eastern SD.
Not a lot in the area we hunt and would just as soon let the few in the area grow.
Not a prolific population in the area that I was hunting
Not a species of choice
Not a targeted species
Not an upland game hunter
Not an upland hunter
Not any good with a shotgun. Aren't prairie chickens endangered??
Not any where I live
Not around where I live
Not around where I live.
Not available in area I hunt.
Not available in my area of East River SD. Used to be partridge in the area but haven't seen any for several years now.
Not available to me. I hunt whatever my friends do so that dictates my hunt.
Not close to where I live.

Not easily aware of or had access to areas with grouse, prairie chicken, & partridge.
Not easily aware of or had access to areas with grouse, prairie chicken, and partridge
Not educated on these birds... focus was pheasant
Not enough around Beadle county.
Not enough birds. I like to protect what few there are.
Not enough free time this past season.
Not enough grouse in our area.
Not enough numbers of birds in my area
Not enough on eastern side of state
Not enough public land options to hunt.
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time and my black lab had an injury.
Not enough time and none in the area where I hunt.
Not enough time and not familiar with where there is good hunting for these species.
Not enough time during my visit and not focused point of my visit
Not enough time
Not enough time.
Not enough time. sheep, antelope, deer tags. fishing
Not entirely sure of the best location to hunt them
Not familiar with land access and opportunities to hunt grouse successfully in South Dakota.
Not familiar, didn't see any where we hunt
Not found in areas that I typically hunt
Not found on my land
Not in an area where that game was available.
Not in area hunted.
Not in my area
Not in my area and didn't travel west
Not in my area, very few partridge.
Not in season
Not in the area I hunt
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested

not interested
Not interested
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Not interested
Not interested
Not interested and did not have time
Not interested and can't find them
Not interested and land availability
Not interested in eating these birds, therefore I have no reason to hunt them.
Not interested in hunting grouse, prairie chicken, or partridges.
Not interested in hunting them because I do not like to eat them
Not interested in hunting them.
Not interested in hunting these birds.
Not interested in hunting these species.
Not interested in hunting those animals.
Not interested in pursuing those species.
Not interested in that type hunting
Not interested in that type of game
Not interested in these

Not interested in these birds
Not interested in these birds. Don't have dog.
Not interested in these species
Not interested in these species at the time.
Not interested in those game animals much and I live on the East River
Not interested in those species
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested. I have shot prairie chicken and partridge while hunting for pheasant and some areas I hunt I know I am likely to find them...if I was hunting prairie chicken I usually do it because I enjoyed the walk in that type of habitat
Not interested. Prefer to hunt big game
Not local in adequate or any #
Not many around
Not many around
Not many around Aberdeen, which is where we stay
Not many around where I live. Did not take time to go to areas with larger populations.
Not many birds - can't remember the last time I've seen a partridge, prairie chickens I've seen have been on private land and don't go west river to grouse hunt.
Not many cows for hunting pheasants
Not many in area I hunt
Not many in Douglas County. - Didn't want to travel to hunt them.
Not many in my area
Not many in the area.
Not many of these kinds of birds in my area
Not many opportunities in my immediate area.
Not many partridge in my hunting area
Not much habitat for those type of birds in SE South Dakota.
Not much of a bird hunter.
Not my cup of tea. I fish and hunt big game.
Not my interest.
Not my species to chase.
Not my target of choice.
Not my thing
Not my thing.
Not my type of hunting
Not my type of hunting
Not of interest to me to hunt them
Not on my list. Have a bad arm & can't hold up a shotgun.

Not pheasant in the area we hunted.
Not planned
Not prevalent in Eastern SD
Not prevalent locally
Not primary species I was targeting, had I ran across a chicken or partridge I would have harvested one. Hun population pretty low at least where I hunted.
Not readily available in my area and most of my hunting is with my son and grandson so the timing of gun hunts is based a lot on their schedules such as time off from work and school.
Not readily available in zone we hunt
Not really interested in it.
Not really sure where to go.
Not something that I am interested in
Not specifically. These birds available in area I hunt. I don't specifically target them but always harvest when opportunity presents. I did not harvest any this past season.
Not sufficiently abundant to bother.
Not sure
Not that many where I live.
Not wanting to travel very far, hunted pheasants locally.
Not what my trip was for.
Number are very low almost non existent
Numbers of birds are down. Secondly, my knees wouldn't allow me to walk enough to be successful.
Old feller
On a private ranch that does not offer them
On the other side of the state in west river in in east river
Only hunted pheasant and deer and geese
Only a few days to hunt while there in SD.
Only ducks
Only found time to hunt pheasants. Typically am big game hunting during upland game season.
Only go to SD to hunt pheasants.
Only had a duck license
Only had time to pheasant hunt. In the future I would like to hunt these species.
Only hunt deer.
Only hunt pheasant
only hunt pheasant
Only hunt pheasant & duck area of the state
Only hunt pheasant and duck area of the state
Only hunt pheasants
Only hunt pheasants
Only hunt pheasants

Only hunt pheasants in Miner Co.
Only hunt pheasants, don't have enough interest in the others
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunted deer, antelope, and predators - coyotes. Trapped coon getting in my barn and getting in my sweet corn, occasionally kill skunks when I see them.
Only hunted deer, ducks and doves
Only hunted deer.
Only hunted ducks and geese
Only hunted ducks and pheasant
Only hunted ducks geese and pheasants
Only hunted pheasant
Only hunted pheasant
Only hunted pheasant late in the session
Only hunted pheasant.
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants due to only being able to hunt a few days.
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants. Then contracted Covid-19 and returned home early.
Only hunted pheasants. Did not attempt to hunt anything else.
Only hunted pheasants. Have not seen grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge
Only hunted SD waterfowl in 2020
Only hunted waterfowl
Only hunted waterfowl
Only hunted waterfowl and pheasants
Only hunted waterfowl.
Only if they happened to fly while hunting pheasant but not a targeted species.
Only interested in hunting pheasant
Only interested in pheasant.
Only partridge in our area and didn't see any.
Only pheasant
Only pheasant
Only pheasant hunt
Only Pheasant hunted.

Only pheasant. Live in Northern MN have more places to hunt.
Only time for pheasants
Only traveled to SD to hunt pheasants.
Only wanted to hunt pheasant
Only waterfowl hunted
Only went to pheasant hunt
Opportunity did not present itself.
Other game was my preference because of the pandemic limitations.
Other hunting and fishing interests took priority
Our group was pheasant and duck hunting
Our group's passion is ring-necks and we hunt on private land only.
Our guided hunt only hunts pheasant
Our hunt was focused on pheasants - have no experience with these upland birds
Partridge in Eastern SD where we hunt are not as plentiful as they were 30 years ago when my dad hunted the area. There are a few grouse in Clark & Day County where we hunt.
Personal constraints and not a species I would normally hunt.
Pheasant and Ducks only trip
Pheasant and waterfowl hunting takes most of time
Pheasant and waterfowl hunted easy river. Bryant, Willow Lake area. . just the wrong area for those birds otherwise would have given it a go
Pheasant hunt only
Pheasant hunt only
Pheasant hunt was bought
Pheasant hunted
pheasant hunter
Pheasant hunter. Personal time restraints. Too busy to hunt another species.
pheasant hunting
pheasant hunting would have shot grouse if found some
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant hunting, none in the area
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only

Pheasants
Pheasants and duck hunter
Pheasants only
Pheasants only
Pheasants only
Pheasants only.
Physical ability: bad knees and back. Had no place to hunt.
Population down in area I usually hunt
Population not high enough near me
Prefer deer hunting
Prefer pheasant, duck, and geese
Prefer to hunt pheasant.
Prefer to spend available time hunting archery if I have an unfilled tag, but do also enjoy bird hunting.
Primarily hunt Black Hills and there are few grouse due to coyote depredation, thus I did not want to hunt the limited numbers. Would like to see more extensive efforts on coyote depredation in the Black Hills.
Primarily targeted pheasants further east of where grouse are typically found in SD.
Primary after waterfowl and pheasant
Really don't hunt these birds
Really no reason, was busy working on my house & fishing
Shotguns hard on hands. Arthritis.
Small amount of birds
spent more time hunting deer and elk
Spent time hunting deer and antelope.
Strictly a pheasant/quaail hunter. No desire for the other birds.
Targeted pheasant.
Targeted pheasants
Targeted pheasants
Targeted waterfowl
That type of bird is not in my area
The area I hunted did not appear to have these. It was primarily a waterfowl and pheasant hunt.
The area in South Dakota I hunt does not have any grouse, prairie chickens or partridge.
The HAIC in 2018 killed nearly all of the birds on my ranch.
The only hunting I participated in was archery deer, and I hunted exclusively on a state walk in area south of Hot Springs SD
There are far too few partridge and grouse and I have never seen a prairie chicken
There are little to no birds near union county.

There are no prairie chickens where we hunt. The grouse and partridge are small numbers too none in the area
There are none where I hunt
There are none.
There are not any grouse, prairie chickens, or grouse in the area I hunt.
There are not enough around to be worth the time.
There are not many birds in the area I hunt. The cost of a license is rather high compared to the amount of days allowed to hunt.
There are not many in the area I hunt.
There are not too many around my area.
There are very few of these birds, if any, in the Brown County area where I hunt.
There aren't any in our area/region.
There aren't many in the area I hunt.
There doesn't seem like there is a large enough number of any of these species in my common hunting area.
There is not any of those species in the area I hunt
There isn't much of any of these where I hunted in Gregory County.
There was too much snow to run our dogs for the week we were there.
There were none in the area I hunted.
There weren't any in the area we hunted.
These game birds are not close to me. I didn't hunt them because of time and financial constraints.
They are not abundant where I live
They are not found in my area.
They are not found in our area.
They are not in my area and I am not the biggest upland hunter.
They are not my bird of choice. I would only take one if I ran across them while hunting pheasant.
They don't exist where I hunt.
Those birds are not found in huntable numbers in the area I live.
Those species are not available in the areas I hunt
Those species you list are almost extinct in SD.
Those type of birds are not around my local area.
Time availability
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time constraints, distance to available land suitable to these species
Time constraints, plus work and family commitments. Also was recovering from leukemia so didn't apply for a license. Really like to hunt ducks, geese, and Ring neck pheasants. Will apply in 2021 with stable health recovery.
Time constraints.

Time limitations
Time limits. Hunted pheasants.
Time to do so if a big factor
Time was limited
Time, not sure where to find them either
Time.
Too far for me to drive to shoot grouse or prairie chicken.
Too far to drive
Too few birds near where I live (Charles Mix County).
Too scarce
Too Busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy and none in SE SD.
Too busy at this time
Too busy at work
Too busy fishing and moving into new house
Too busy hunting pheasants
Too busy with other activities.
Too busy working
Too busy working.
Too busy.
Too dry
Too expensive
Too expensive.
Too far away from my home
Too far from where I live to hunt those species
Too far to travel from here to hunt grouse, prairie chicken. Partridge, none around here.
Too few birds
Too hard to hunt
Too little time to do it all...concentrated on roosters
Too many hunters, where I go
Too old and too far away
Travel and trip expenses are too high
Trouble walking
Typically only hunt pheasants and deer.
Unfamiliar with hunting those birds.

Unfortunately lack of time, busy working
Usually only plan to hunt pheasant. Will harvest these only if seen. None seen.
Very few around my hunting area
Very few birds in our area. Also my age, don't walk as much anymore.
Very few grouse - do see them sometimes while pheasant hunting
Very few in my area
Very low numbers on east side of state
Want to every year but struggle to find good numbers with limited time to hunt them
Wanted to pheasant hunt
Was after pheasant
Was not game I was targeting this year.
Was not hunting a region with a huntable population
Was not in an area for these birds
Was not in the location, too far east.
Was not offered, nor did we see any while pheasant hunting. Would have done it if offered.
Was not there to hunt them
Was on a pheasant specific hunt
Was only hunting pheasant
Was Pheasant hunting
Was there to hunt pheasant.
Was there to pheasant hunt. Had I seen any of those birds I would have taken them as well.
Was waterfowl hunting only due to one old dog and one injured dog
Was working and ran out of time
wasn't interested
Wasn't interested in a hunt like that
Wasn't our target species
Waterfowl and archery hunter.
Waterfowl and pheasant only
Waterfowl hunter
Waterfowl hunting
Waterfowl only
We are waterfowl hunters only
We came to hunt pheasants, due to limited time.
We come for pheasants.
We did not have the opportunity.
We did not specifically target any of these species
We didn't get that far west
We do not enjoy bird hunting.
We don't have any of them around Day County.

We don't have many in our area
we don't have those around where I live
We don't have very many in Jerauld County, and we want to let the numbers grow.
We duck hunt in the morning and do a limited pheasant hunt in the afternoon. Plus they are not prevalent in Spink area.
We focus on pheasants and the sharp-tail population is very low in the areas we hunt. If we encounter sharp-tail's we do pursue them, but we did not see any this year.
We focused on pheasants and didn't see any grouse
We had a guide that hunted private land. We did not see any of these species.
We hunt in Miner County and I guess they aren't really available.
We hunt primarily in Faulk, Potter and Edmunds county and there is very little population of any of these species. There used to be more Hungarian Partridge and Sharp-tail Grouse in this area 20 years ago but the population has all but disappeared.
We hunt primarily waterfowl.
We hunted only pheasants and waterfowl.
We hunted pheasant and duck only.
We hunted Pheasant.
We just chase pheasants.
We just hunt pheasant
We just hunt pheasants.
We only go to SD to hunt pheasants. Once in Chamberlain and then later in Alpena. We normally also participate in the Ring Neck Competition in Huron, SD.
We only hunt pheasant
We only hunt pheasant. Our area doesn't hold these birds.
We only hunted pheasants in 2020.
We think we moved some Sharp-tailed Grouse but we couldn't tell for sure. We were worried they were hen pheasant and didn't risk it.
We used an outfitter to hunt pheasant.
We usually come to hunt pheasants
We went on vacation to South Dakota with the primary intention of hunting Pheasant.
We were concentrating on antelope, the CREP that we hunted didn't allow hunting birds
We were focused on pheasant
We were in SD to hunt pheasant and ducks. We never saw a grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge.
We were not in a county where it is legal to hunt these species.
We were on a pheasant hunting trip.
We were primarily hunting Pheasant and Ducks
We were primarily hunting pheasants and also had waterfowl tags.

We were targeting pheasants
We were targeting pheasants.
Went duck hunting only
Went fishing instead
Went for duck
Went hunting for pheasants but if they presented themselves we shot, which only happen twice six days of hunting
Went mainly for Pheasants
Went only for pheasants
Went pheasant hunting with a group of guys
went there to hunt pheasants
Went to hunt ducks only.
Went to hunt pheasant
Went to private property for pheasant. We have shot other birds as they presented, but I don't recall any of our hunters shooting any birds other than pheasant the last hunt.
Went to SD only to hunt waterfowl
Went to SD to hunt pheasant only.
When the tribe shut down - we never went - besides I am feeling my age
When we hunt in South Dakota, we hunt the northeastern part of South Dakota for waterfowl, so we really aren't in the prime area for this type of hunting.
Where I hunted there was not any.
Wife does not like them
Wife had Breast Cancer during bird hunting season.
Wife was sick
With only little time available, filling my deer tag was most important.
Work kept me busy.
Work, no time
Would have hunted if came across these birds. Did not have a small game license, just waterfowl. Price is too high to justify for few days. Hunt states like Nebraska and Kansas, and Iowa, include it with waterfowl.
Would have if we had saw them, but didn't see any
Would like to but just concentrate on pheasants
Would shoot one if seen during pheasant hunting.
Wuhan Virus eliminated my income

Q3a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota pheasant in 2020, briefly describe.

Access sucks. Commercial hunting and licensing has taken over. Average SD hunter is blocked out.
Again, I have licenses for KS, IA, and NE for duck hunting and I do not want to spend extra in your state to hunt pheasant. Would make trips if license was included with duck. Also. MN pheasant hunting Iowa pheasant hunting has been great!
Archery hunting is my priority.
Bad knees, can't walk that well.
Before I go I would like to get a dog so I don't lose any birds
Bird numbers are down.
Busy with harvest
Busy, no time
Came solely for duck hunting this year.
Came to SD to waterfowl hunt only. Did not have the right gear with us to also upland hunt.
Can't hold the gun up some but not like that.
Can't walk. Not very many birds.
Cost of out-of-state license
Cost of the license is too high for me. I've hunted it in the past but it's simply too high.
Cost. I get more meat in the freezer hunting deer and other big game.
Couldn't find the time to go where there are pheasants and didn't want to shoot the few we have in Butte Co.
COVID
COVID
COVID
COVID
COVID
COVID also challenged me to get to my land.
COVID-19
COVID-19 made scheduling tough. Actually had a 2nd half of tags from 2019 and wasn't even able to use it up. Excited to try the new extended January season hopefully this year.
Deer only
Did not buy a license
Did not have a dog
Did not have opportunity to hunt pheasants while in SD, targeted waterfowl.
Did not have the chance or time.
Did not have the time
Did not have the time off during season or was having different obligations.
Did not have the time.

Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time last season.
Did not have time this year and it's not really thing my thing.
Did not have time to get out and hunt, as my husband was diagnosed with brain cancer.
Did not have time to travel to East River and am new to SD so am unexperienced with the land.
Did not have time too. Doesn't interest me as much anymore.
Did not have time.
Did not have time.
Did not have time. Maybe next year.
Did not take the time to hunt pheasants.
Did not take the time.
Did not take time
Did not target pheasants. Hunted waterfowl and Mule deer only
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Didn't get out last year
Didn't get time
Didn't go hunting
didn't go out to hunt any
Didn't have many opportunities. No close friends that hunt and I don't have a dog.
Didn't have the time to get out.
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time for it
Didn't have time this year
Didn't have time this year.
Didn't have time this year.
Didn't have time.
Didn't have time.
Didn't hunt pheasants this year.
Didn't not have time
Didn't purchase a license
Didn't want to
Disabled hunter. No more walking.

Do not bird hunt anymore
Do not eat them
Do not hunt birds currently
Do not hunt pheasant
Do not like pheasant.
Do not own a dog
Don't bird hunt
Don't care to hunt them. No interest.
Don't have a dog. Maybe in the future. Mostly big game hunt.
Don't have dog.
Don't have gun dog anymore. Limited birds over-crowding in western end of state.
Don't have land to hunt
Don't have time
Don't hunt birds
Don't hunt birds at this time
Don't hunt pheasant
Don't hunt pheasants
Dry
Duck and goose only
Duck hunt
Duck hunt only
Duck hunt only
Duck hunting
Duck hunting only
Duck hunting only
Ducks and geese
Ducks only
Due to COVID did not travel.
Fewer places hold a huntable population. This puts more hunters in those places.
Focused on deer hunting.
Focused on ducks
Focused on waterfowl
Gave it up a number of years ago, too much walking.
Generally do, but never got around to hunting any this year. I love seeing some pheasants around again.
Getting older, legs don't work as good anymore.
Guided pheasant hunter. Doesn't pay for me to shoot them.
had foot surgery but hunt walk in areas and they are very important to all hunting in South Dakota. Keep up the good work

Had to drive for birds / had a hard time walking / bad knees
Have not hunted pheasants for at least 25 years and GFP only care about the out of staters when it comes to pheasants.
Haven't hunted pheasant for years.
Health reasons
Health reasons
High cost of license
High cost of license.
Hunt on deer and antelope
Hunt private property
Hunted all waterfowl as non-resident this year.
Hunted waterfowl
Hunting access is very restricted. Locally there are few to none.
Hunting duck
I am getting older and find it difficult to walk them. So I prefer to waterfowl hunt instead.
I did a duck hunting trip this year since pheasant #'s are down.
I did not have time during the fall to get out to SD to hunt pheasants.
I did not want to purchase both non-resident waterfowl and a non-resident small game license.
I didn't allocate more time to bird hunting in 2020 due to COVID-19
I didn't go hunting for them this year.
I didn't purchase a pheasant license when we were out duck hunting.
I didn't want to hunt pheasants
I do not find time to pheasant hunt, nor enjoy it.
I do not have the available funds to buy a non-resident pheasant license with my waterfowl license.
I do not hunt pheasant.
I do not hunt pheasants.
I do not regularly pheasant hunts
I do not like ditch parrots.
I don't bird hunt
I don't hunt birds
I don't Pheasant hunt
I go to SD to hunt ducks occasionally I bump into and shoot a pheasant in 2020 I did not shoot any pheasants.
I have lots of pheasants where I live in Minnesota.
I haven't hunted upland game since I moved back to South Dakota.
I haven't pheasant hunted in the last 10 yrs. or so. Too busy with work and kids.

I hunt geese and I got burnt out of pheasant hunting 15 years ago guiding so much
I hunt land owned in other states
I hunt waterfowl only in SD
I hunted duck
I never have gotten into bird hunting
I normally do, but I had to put my hunting dog down on opening weekend. Tough to hunt without your buddy in the field with you.
I only deer hunt
I only hunt waterfowl
I only hunted SD waterfowl in 2020
I only hunted Waterfowl
I prefer to hunt big game and waterfowl. While I enjoy pheasant hunting, travel and access issues are often involved.
I really don't bird hunt but allow it on my land
I typically hunt areas that don't have pheasant.
I usually hunt big game only.
I was not interested in hunting them.
I was there before the season opened.
I was there for waterfowl
I went goose hunting
I would rather pay out of state for Nebraska, Wyoming, etc. than waste my time in south Dakota.
Just after waterfowl. Next time I would like to pheasant hunt and waterfowl.
Just deer
Just hunted big game
Just hunted deer and antelope
Just hunted waterfowl
Just not interested
just not the same as the 80's and 90's lost interest.
Just waterfowl
Lack of quality hunting access. Non-resident competition.
Lack of time
License too expensive
Live out of state. Didn't have a good opportunity to come back. Covid got bad in SD.
Live west river have to drive so far to hunt them
Lot of walking. Have a bad knee.
Low bird numbers. Went fishing, instead.
Low numbers of pheasant
Low population. State must be counting birds on Gisi pheasant farms.

Low populations of birds
More of a big game hunter
My chocolate Lab had puppies and COVID-19
My hunting dog got cancer and died the Wednesday after resident opener after being in the ER starting opening morning
My license was for non-resident waterfowl only
My sons have moved
My work/kids schedule did not allow me to hunt in South Dakota for pheasants. If my waterfowl license was a full season license, then I would have purchased a small game license also and would have pheasant hunted.
Never hunted birds before.
No birds in our area
No birds in this area or enough to make it worthwhile.
NO BIRDS!!
No chance to get out
No desire
No desire to
No desire to
No desire to hunt pheasant
No dog
No dog getting old with health problems.
Not enough birds to warrant travel to eastern SD. Preference would be more opportunities within 100 miles of Rapid City. Economics is the reason
Not enough time
No free time.
No idea where to hunt
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interested since dog hunting came into the picture

No land to hunt that has pheasants. Rich man sport hunting preserves. Residents have very little chances for success.
No license
No license
No longer interested
No pheasant in our area
No pheasant in our area.
No pheasants in hills and I enjoy big game over bird hunting
No pheasants. Not enough time.
No place close to my residence where pheasants can be hunted.
No place to hunt
No place to hunt in Black Hills
No real interest.
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time and just not interested
No time for hunting pheasants
No time this season
No time this year
No time this year
No time to go
No time to hunt pheasants.
No time
No time, busy with work
No time, to look for birds where to many people from out of state
No time, too busy

No time.
None around Camp Crook
None in my area
Normally hunt them. Just no time.
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter.
Not a hunt I have done recently
Not a pheasant hunter
Not a pheasant hunter
Not an upland hunter
Not any pheasants in our area
Not any wild birds and no time.
Not enough free time.
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time and my black lab is injured.
Not enough time off
Not enough time.
Not enough to bother hunting.
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested in bird hunting
Not interested in bird hunting.
Not interested in hunting pheasant
Not interested, low local population
Not interested.
Not many pheasant around Spearfish.
Not much pheasant in my area.
Not my interest
Not my type of hunting
Not on the menu.
Not really many pheasants in my immediate area. And still not much good with a shotgun.

Not too interested in pheasants
Old and injured dogs
Old feller
Only deer hunt
Only ducks
Only go to SD to hunt waterfowl.
Only had a duck license
Only had a waterfowl license
Only hunt deer.
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunted deer.
Only hunted waterfowl
Only hunted waterfowl in SD in 2020.
Only hunted waterfowl.
Only went duck hunting
Only went to hunt ducks and geese.
Opportunities are few. You have to have contacts to access good habitat.
Overcrowding of public land and lack of access to private land without paying fees.
Perceived hunting pressure due to COVID
Physical ability: bad knees and back No place to hunt or private land Lack of birds
physical problems
Planned on going but something came up
Population down and public areas overcrowded
Population in areas that I have typically hunted are down.
population is too low
Population of pheasants has nose-dived. So has hunting opportunities!
Prefer big game
Prefer grouse and chickens in the grasslands and schedule did not permit trip after seasons overlap, we hunted week prior to pheasant opener
Prioritized deer hunting with available time.
Public areas for pheasant hunting are used heavily with few opportunities for personal success.
Public areas usually too crowded with hunters, bad weather.
Quit hunting pheasant because, we do not have many in my area like watch one now and then
Road hunting used to be a tradition but it is impossible to legally road hunt. So sad this happened.
Same reason
Season conflicts with archery and rifle deer and antelope seasons

Season not open when I am there, Sept 1st to 10th.
Season was not open when I traveled from WI to SD
Season wasn't open yet when I was in SD hunting.
Seems the birds have lost a lot of habitat due to drain tile through the years. The numbers are not there in walk in areas or public right away as in years past.
Seems to me like the birds know where the public land is and the last few times I have gone it wasn't with the money for the license.
Shotguns hard on arthritis.
Spent more time hunting deer and elk
Targeted Waterfowl
The bird count is too low for me to go walk around and not see any birds. I have not ever seen them along the roads like we used to
The flooding in the Bridgewater area from 2019 destroyed bird numbers.
The main reason is there is not the numbers of pheasants that the biologists and GFP think there is out there in fact it's been decreasing for many years, then they raised the limits of birds that can be harvested and the season extended which was a very bad decision. I have said this and so have many other hunters that are afraid to speak up but the pheasant season needs to be shut down for at least one year but this will never happen because the state is too worried about the out of state funds it brings in but the question is what are they going to do when the pheasants are all gone. I loved to hunt pheasants but have decided not to do so for that very reason I don't want to be take part in wiping out birds that have roamed this SD since the 1800s when they was brought over here. SD will survive not having a year of pheasant season there are the funds that come in for out-of-state fishing, duck and goose seasons.
The population isn't very good in the area I hunt
The rules have become too restrictive and I also don't see a large enough population in places that are accessible to me
There are very few birds in the area I hunted and numbers are way down this year
This year will be different. I have hunted pheasants several years ago and I am going back to hunting pheasants.
Thought the population was down in my area so let them be for a year.
Time constraints
Time constraints, work schedule. Most of my hunting was done in Fall River County during deer and antelope seasons. Not many pheasants there.
Timing didn't work out to pheasant hunt in SD with friends.
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy and no dog.
Too busy and there isn't many in my area
Too busy at work

Too busy trail riding. I would like to in the future.
Too busy working
Too busy working.
Too expensive
Too expensive
Too expensive for a license
Too far to drive to find birds. Buy more land and develop it into habitat.
Too far to drive to hunt pheasants
Too many hunters during pheasant season
Too many other things to hunt
Too many out of staters
Too many people per square acre and cost, shells, license...etc.
Too much competition to hunt public or seek permission on private land. Factory (commercial) does not interest me.
Too much fishing!
Too much pay to hunt and then the public land gets a lot of pressure
Too much work I'm old. Chicken is Walmart is cheap.
Trouble walking
Unable to hunt during the season due to work schedule.
Very few birds in our area. Don't like to drive hours for 3 birds.
Very limited on time and not wanting to be harassed by farmers like followed around or them acting like you're stealing their game when walking a ditch or road hunting
Walking problem.
Walking with a load gun makes me feel uncomfortable.
Was going to, but didn't get the time to return for late season pheasant. Also, license fees are steep for non-res with odd date blocks to hunt.
Was harvesting
Was not able to due to not able to get time off work to hunt
Was not able to make it out this year
Was too busy working hated to miss out too the number of pheasants in Western Sully County was at the some of the best levels it has been in several years in the Walk-in and the Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Lands, there was a lot of winter wheat planted in Sully County in the fall of 2019 which gave the hens nesting cover along with some cooperative weather made for some very successful nesting.
Waterfowl hunted
Waterfowl hunter
Waterfowl hunting
Waterfowl only

We used to hunt pheasants in northeastern South Dakota during our annual waterfowl trip. The pheasant population in that area has significantly decreased over the last 10 or so years, so we stopped purchasing licenses. There also has been a lot of habitat destruction as a result of burning and marsh and CRP turnover by the farmers, further contributing to decreased numbers of pheasants in that area.
Went to hunt the short grass before pheasant was open
Went to SD only to hunt waterfowl
Weren't in the right area
Where I live pheasants do not live. And I did not want to drive someplace to hunt them.
Won't pay to hunt. Don't road hunt.
Work too much
Working/football
Would love to hunt pheasants but my knees are both bad, need to replace both of them.
You put on miles to get one in Union County. I wasn't able to go other places.

Q8a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota deer in 2020, briefly describe.

72 yrs. old
Access
Again, too busy working along with not being able to get on any private lands. Plus, the public lands are being overrun with the hunters that have no other place to hunt because too many landowners will not allow people to hunt unless they are willing to pay.
Age, so not interested
All the weekends that I did not have my child, the weather created poor conditions, or I had other engagements.
Applied one unit, got turned down
As a non-resident, I chose to hunt deer in the state in which I reside.
As I have gotten older, I have given up deer hunting.
Because as a non-resident it is almost impossible to get a license.
Because even though myself and family own thousands of acres in South Dakota, the state's policies on out-of-state landowners getting tags is beyond stupid.
Because for the 4th year now, I wasn't selected for a Stanley County tag. What happened to get a tag every other year? It used to be an Any deer and any doe...Leave it to GFP to screw it up.
Because I did not get my application in until the second draw and I missed out
Because I never get drawn. I apply every year. The system is the worse. I feel it hurts the average hunter.
Because I no longer want to freeze my ass off for 30 pounds of meat
Because there were no licenses available for out-of-state hunters.
Because your lottery draw system is terrible. All the hunters oppose, and it still passes anyway.
Better hunting at home
Better hunting in MI.
Bird hunt only
Bird hunting only

Building preference points for West River. Would hunt east River but no non-resident antlerless tags.
Busy working
Came solely for duck hunting this year.
Came to SD in 2020 to hunt pheasant. I am not a deer hunter.
Can't get tag
Can't draw a rifle tag
Can't draw a tag in Gregory Co. Dodge them with pick-up every day of my life!
Can't get time off work
Can't take my dog deer hunting.
Changes to the non-resident rules are limiting and unfair. I even own a house and land in SD, but am an out of state resident
Concerned about Chronic Wasting Disease
Cost, time. Can hunt deer in my home state of IL
Could not buy license over the counter
Could not get a buck license to hunt own property!
Could not get a license for 3 years now.
Could not get a license.
Could not get any licenses east of the river
Could not get tag
Could not hunt because of my work demands.
Could not make the trip
Couldn't get a tag for the county where the private land is that I have permission to hunt
Couldn't afford tags. Laid off because of COVID-19.
COVID
COVID
COVID-19 impacted my big game hunting trip
Deer are given to me
Deer herd was down, and the previous year I bought a tag but turned it back in due to deer sickness. When the deer herd is healthier, I will most likely purchase another tag
Deer hunt in Iowa and Minnesota
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply for a license
Did not apply for a license
Did not apply for a license
Did not apply for a license
Did not apply for license
Did not apply for tags.
Did not buy a tag because non-residents cannot gun hunt whitetails East River
Did not draw

Did not draw
Did not draw
Did not draw
Did not draw a license
Did not draw a license
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag for the unit in which I wanted to hunt.
Did not draw a tag in Black Hills
Did not draw a tag where my brother lives. Hunted in Minnesota with family
Did not draw a tag.
Did not draw any deer tag
Did not draw any tags. Still don't understand new draw system? Supposed to make drawing a tag easier. It does not.
Did not draw license in preferred county. While I had a 2nd choice tag for an antler-less deer, I turned it back due to my locker plant no longer processing whole deer due to COVID
Did not draw tag
Did not draw.
Did not enter the drawing for it
Did not get a tag
Did not get a tag in the draw
Did not get drawn for a tag
Did not get drawn or have any desire
Did not get license
Did not have a license
Did not have an area
Did not have an opportunity
Did not have any good land
Did not have opportunity
Did not have the time to go deer hunting.
Did not have the time.
Did not have time
Did not have time to hunt deer or antelope.
Did not hunt despite having archery tag. Weather seemed to be bad whenever I planned to go. Few deer seen when scouting.
Did not need meat.
Did not put in for tag. Do not know any good public ground to hunt.
Did not send in for tags
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to hunt deer.
Did not want to!
Didn't have a tag
Didn't apply
Didn't apply

Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply for a tag.
Didn't apply for tags.
Didn't draw a license.
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't get a license
Didn't get a license
Didn't get a tag
Didn't get a tag this year but looking to hopefully do so in 2021.
Didn't get a tag. My husband got one. No need for that much meat.
Didn't get drawn.
Didn't have a license
Didn't have a license
Didn't have a tag.
Didn't have the opportunity
Didn't have the time.
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time.
Didn't have time.
Difficult for non-residents to draw permit
Do not apply for a license.
Do not big game hunt in SD
Do not deer hunt
Do not deer hunt
Do not hunt big game
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer
Do not hunt deer at all
Do not hunt Deer in SD.
Do not wish to hunt deer in SD. I hunt deer in my home state of CO.
Don't hunt deer
Don't like the taste and I am a bird dog man
Don't care to eat deer.
Don't care to hunt deer anymore.
Don't deer hunt
Don't do much big game hunting.
Don't have a place I could go

Don't have the extra time to put into deer hunting.
Don't hunt big game
Don't hunt big game
Don't hunt deer
Don't hunt deer
Don't hunt deer
Don't hunt deer
Don't want to
Don't want to hunt deer
Don't want to shoot does. Can't get buck license for East river
Drawing sucks
Drew a tag, but upon scouting I found almost no signs of deer where I hunt.
Drew tag for Clark City. Could not access land to hunt.
Duck and goose only
Duck hunt only
Duck hunting
Duck hunting only
Duck hunting trip specifically
Ease of obtaining a permit. Most tags are draw by county and too many people are allowed to get multiple buck tags (more than 2).
Focused on upland birds
Focused on waterfowl
Forgot to apply for tags
From out of state, I hunt in MN, and hard to be able to deer hunt in SD being from out of state or even in state.
From Texas and have a ton of deer
Getting too old and lack of interest
Getting too old to do much walking
Got a tag but was unable to go hunt.
Got busy. Upland hunting is more a priority.
Got turned down for all the rifle/muzzleloader tags I applied for.
Had a license, but with the opportunity to get a refund due to Covid concerns, I opted to get the refund and not hunt.
Had COVID during the season
Had license. But had knee replacement. Did not use it.
Had Meade A (49A) any deer tag. Daycare was closed for 2 weeks for quarantine during season.
Handicapped
Hard to find land East River. Also, East River is a dangerous place to hunt deer. Have not hunted West River for years due to lack of available land.
Hard to get buck license. We have a pile of nonresident land which never gets touched.
Have deer in home state, no need to, was after primarily pheasant
Have never hunted big game.
Have never hunted deer in South Dakota
Have not really deer hunted much before. Would like to get more into it. Need to acquire more equipment.

Have plenty of deer to hunt in my own state with over the counter tags.
Haven't for years
Haven't hunted deer in SD for over 30 years. Don't like hunting east river due to flat land.
Health issues
Health problems
Health reasons
High barrier of entry scouting / learning the land, and long drive.
Hunt at home in KS
Hunt deer in KS, my home state.
Hunt east of the Missouri does only. For out of state hunter, not interested in doe hunt.
Hunt in home state
Hunt in home state.
Hunt in Michigan
Hunt in TX at family ranch.
Hunt local
Hunt Nebraska
Hunted deer in 2019 - archery
Hunted in MN.
Hunted in other state
Hunted in Wisconsin
Hunted just for waterfowl and pheasants
Hunted Minnesota and Wisconsin
Hunted Pheasant Only
Hunted Pheasant, ducks, and geese.
Hunted waterfowl only. Out-of-state deer hunting is next to impossible in SD
Hunters elsewhere
Hunting pheasant
I already spend too much time hunting.
I am a bird hunter
I am a bird hunter; I do not hunt deer.
I am a Minnesota deer hunter.
I am from Missouri and hunt deer there.
I am nonresident hunter and it's very difficult to obtain license.
I am not a big game hunter. I only hunt birds.
I am not a deer hunter
I am not a deer hunter.
I am not a deer hunter.
I am not a resident.
I am not an avid deer hunter. All of the deer hunting I have done has been on our own ground. A landowner's permit for deer in Nebraska is very inexpensive and is good for bow, rifle, and muzzleloader.
I am only an upland bird hunter
I am too lazy to clean & process the deer after I shoot it
I became a South Dakota Resident 2 days before the waterfowl season. I will hunt deer next year.
I believe I applied but did not receive a tag.

I can hunt deer at home in North Carolina. I travel to the Dakotas to bird hunt.
I can never draw a tag
I can't get a damn license in my county!
I can't seem to get a tag; I have preference points but have been turned down every year.
I deer hunt Missouri
I did not apply for a license (didn't think I would have time) but will this year
I did not apply in time. When I found out when to apply, the draw was over. I would like to get a tag in 2021 for Yankton Co.
I did not draw a deer license.
I did not draw a tag
I did not draw any tags.
I did not get a tag to hunt deer.
I did not go out to South Dakota for the purpose of hunting deer, we have plenty of deer in Michigan
I did not hunt deer because I could not find a place to get it processed. I've only been in SD Dakota for 5 years and don't know too many people to find a place to get the deer processed. It was a shame too because it was an excellent year with little snow on the ground and I saw plenty of deer when out pheasant hunting, good numbers. I don't have a garage, or I might have tried to do it myself.
I did not hunt deer in 2020 because I have nowhere to hunt. Public lands are always way too over-crowded.
I didn't put in for deer
I didn't apply for a tag this year.
I didn't draw in my preferred area.
I didn't have a tag.
I didn't hunt deer
I didn't obtain a tag in the drawing.
I didn't try to get a tag. I have enough deer in OH but not enough birds.
I do my deer hunting in WI
I do not deer hunt
I do not enjoy big game hunting.
I do not have a reason for not hunting deer in SD.
I do not hunt big game anymore.
I do not hunt big game.
I do not hunt deer
I do not hunt deer anywhere
I do not hunt deer.
I do not hunt deer.
I don't deer hunt
I don't Deer hunt.
I don't have anyone to hunt with.
I don't hunt deer
I don't hunt deer anymore
I don't care for deer hunting
I don't deer hunt
I don't deer hunt

I don't deer hunt
I don't deer hunt
I don't deer hunt
I don't deer hunt
I don't deer hunt.
I don't deer hunt. Wing shooter only.
I don't feel SD non-resident laws are conducive for non-resident deer hunters. The draw system is too complex, not user friendly. I was planning to archery hunt but have been turned off by the recent pushback to non-resident openers. I have chosen to focus big game efforts in Montana and Wyoming instead.
I don't hunt big game
I don't hunt big game.
I don't hunt deer
I don't hunt deer
I don't hunt deer
I don't hunt deer
I don't hunt deer anywhere
I don't hunt deer in SD
I don't hunt deer, only birds
I don't hunt deer.
I don't hunt deer.
I don't hunt deer.
I don't hunt deer. Many out-of-state hunters feel the cost is a big factor, and there are limited licenses to hunt bucks during gun season.
I don't know the first thing about hunting deer.
I don't like to compete with the pickup chaser hunters
I don't really have a good place to go and I do most of my big game hunting in CO with my brother who lives there.
I don't target big game
I drew tags for a unit far from my home, so I didn't have enough time to make the trip to
I enjoy the bird hunting more.
I forgot to put in for a tag. When I remembered, they were all gone.
I gave up hunting deer many years ago
I grew up in a family that did not hunt big game. Enjoy venison and would sometime like to harvest a deer.
I had a non-resident waterfowl license only.
I had so much trouble finding a place that would process what I shot.
I have good deer hunting @ my resident's state of MO.
I have good deer hunting at home.
I have never hunted deer in South Dakota
I have no land to hunt on. I don't hunt public land.
I have no need to go to SD to shoot a deer.
I have not been able to get a rifle deer tag for the last three years. Hunted out of state.
I have not been hunting for big game in several years anywhere.
I have not hunted deer before, just prefer pheasant hunting.
I have only hunted deer once in SD; I would like to hunt deer there again

I have only hunted once in South Dakota. I am an Illinois resident. I will come back to South Dakota to hunt upland birds in the future.
I have physical problems
I haven't hunted deer for many years as I didn't like hunting with the people my Dad would invite. I have 3 pointing dogs now and my wife now hunts with me, so we hunt mostly upland birds and do not pursue deer anymore.
I hunt big game in my home state of MN and get all the meat I need from that. Also, nonresident licenses are expensive.
I hunt deer (white tail) in Louisiana
I hunt deer in Illinois
I hunt deer in Iowa where I am a resident.
I hunt deer in Minnesota
I hunt deer in Minnesota
I hunt deer in Minnesota
I hunt deer In Minnesota
I hunt deer in Minnesota.
I hunt deer in MN.
I hunt deer in MN.
I hunt deer in my home state
I hunt deer in Nebraska
I hunt deer in Nebraska
I hunt deer in Tennessee, and upland birds in South Dakota.
I hunt deer in Wisconsin
I hunt deer in Wisconsin on family land with less costs and less travel.
I hunt deer on a family farm in MN.
I hunt deer on property I own in Wisconsin.
I hunt in MN only
I hunt in my home state.
I hunt my deer in Alaska
I hunt only pheasants in South Dakota.
I hunt upland game only
I hunted antelope instead; I prefer the taste of antelope over deer.
I hunted deer for a number of years on the Lower Brule Reservation since it was possible to get a license. Then the ability to get a license became harder to get, and more expensive, and the deer became less prevalent, so I stopped applying there. I would hunt deer in SD if it were less than impossible for a non-resident to get a license and be able to find public land to hunt on.
I hunted deer in my home state of WI. No time to hunt deer in SD.
I hunted MN.
I just didn't apply this year.
I just never have targeted them. Plan to harvest one next season.
I live and deer hunt in Nebraska
I live and hunt deer in Iowa
I live in South Carolina
I live in Southern Illinois
I live out of state
I never have; I hunt deer in MN.

I never hunt big game
I no longer hunt big game.
I only do upland game hunting at this point
I only hunt deer in MN opening weekend
I only hunt ducks and geese
I only hunt pheasants
I only hunt upland birds, pheasants
I only hunt waterfowl
I only hunted pheasants due to time.
I only hunted Waterfowl
I only hunted whitetail in Minnesota
I only put in for elk & antelope
I only was interested in ducks and pheasants
I only went to South Dakota to hunt pheasant.
I quit killing things bigger than me several years ago
I really only hunt pheasants and waterfowl.
I reside in Texas and have a deer lease. I've been on 35 years in Texas.
I used to apply for deer tags, but the last several years I applied I didn't draw a tag, so I gave up
I used to hunt deer in SD but started to hunt in other states due to changes made to the Black Hills season and license allocation.
I used to hunt Hyde County, but since depletion of deer, I have not hunted deer for years.
I was busy taking care of sick daughter.
I was from out of state and there targeting ducks.
I was just hunting pheasants on this trip, I'm from out of state.
I was not drawn for a tag. I only applied for a waterfowl license.
I was only able to draw an archery deer tag and had no time to archery hunt. I was not able to hunt any of the deer firearms seasons due to not drawing a tag. Because the new lottery system is a bunch of crap.
I was only hunting birds.
I was only there to pheasant hunt
I was out of state. You don't allow cross bow hunters, and I have a permanent condition that I can't use a compound bow
I was Pheasant hunting.
I was unable to draw a desired any deer tag.
I wasn't there during deer season
I went goose hunting
I went to SD to pheasant and waterfowl hunt only
I won't kill Bambi - Meat is terrible
I would love to hunt deer in South Dakota, however as a nonresident it is impossible to draw a rifle or muzzle loader tag. I have a bow and am contemplating using my bow in the future, but that drops my odds of harvest way down.
I'm an upland bird hunter
If I want to shoot big deer, I would stay home in Utah
I'm 82 years old and lost my hunting partner
I'm a little too sentimental to shoot a deer. I shot one when I was twelve and I didn't like to see it suffer.

I'm from out of state (not eligible)
I'm getting too old to deer hunt
I'm just a bird hunter.
I'm not a deer hunter
I'm not a deer hunter.
I'm not a deer hunter.
I'm not interested in deer hunting. I prefer waterfowl and pheasant.
I'm not interested in hunting deer.
I'm the only one in my family that likes to consume it, and it is terribly expensive to take to a locker
Impossible for a non-resident to get a license east river
It is impossible to draw a permit as an out of state hunter
It was too warm, so I went fishing on my 1st trip out. Didn't have time on second trip so I didn't get an antlerless license last year for bow hunting.
Just an upland bird hunter
Just bird hunted
Just came to hunt Pheasant
Just can't get drawn for any deer
Just didn't
Just not a deer hunter.
Just not a deer hunter. May try in the future.
Just not a deer hunter. Only upland birds and waterfowl
Just not interested
Just not interested in deer hunting.
Just pheasants.
Just that Pheasant hunting is my passion.
Just waterfowl.
KY has deer
Lack of deer in area I hunt
Lack of draw-only permits
Lack of land access is the main reason I don't hunt deer in SD.
License cost for out-of-state is too much and hard to get on private land
License cost of out of state individual
License cost too much
License is too expensive, and not interested
License too expensive
License too expensive
Limited amount of time
Limited time and I own land in Kansas.
Limited time to do so currently.
Live in Ohio, we have land and hunt deer here in Ohio.
Live in WV, went to SD to hunt birds
Live out of state and did not try.
Live out of state and have a deer lease here; travel to SD strictly for upland birds
Lost interest in 2000
Missed draw

Missed the deadline. Unaware of the change in deadline.
Missed the tag draw
Must be drawn to get license. In the past, only change 15 one license in three to four years of applying.
My age.
My brother lives in Missouri. I hunt Deer in Missouri with him.
My dog doesn't point deer.
My passion is upland birds and working my vizsla.
Never acquired a taste for it. That is, I don't enjoy eating venison.
Never applied for a tag
Never drew a tag for East River deer or Black Hills deer
Never got a license. Never got selected.
Never have hunted big game in SD
Never have hunted deer
Never have, not interested
Never have.
Never have.
Never have. I hunt deer in MN.
Never have. No gun, no interest
Never hunted deer
New to the state so I am still learning good habitat for deer.
No
No access to hunting land
No access to land
No area to hunt
No deer hunting license
No deer permit
No desire
No desire
no desire
No desire to
No desire to
No desire to hunt deer in SD
No desire.
No draw
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest

No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest at this time
No interest at this time
No interest in 2020.
No interest in big game
No interest in hunting big game
No interest.
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No License
No license
No license
No license available for county
No license, all went to people who have better luck in the draw than me. I'm only interested in Black Hills deer.
No longer motivated to hunt deer
No need - plenty of meat from home hunts.
No non-resident rifle tags available where I hunt
No opportunity
No opportunity
No opportunity
No permission to hunt private ground in Yankton Co - public ground gets hit really hard.
No permit
No place to hunt.
No private land
No private land
No reason. Plan to in future years.
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag issued.
No tag, did not apply

No tag. No interest.
No tags
No tags available
No tags available in East River for non-resident even though I have access to private land.
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time available; pheasant only
No time or money for out of state license
No time this year.
No time to hunt
No time to hunt
No time to hunt
Non-resident
Non-resident
Non-resident
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident and couldn't get a license.
Non-resident fees too high
Non-resident hunt in MN
Non-resident license costs too much
Non-resident licenses cost too much
Non-resident only interested in hunting upland game
Non-resident, hard to draw rifle tag. Habitat. The farmers are allowed to graze/hay the public land areas, leaving the wildlife with nowhere to go. Plow all the crop fields fence to fence, hay/graze the public non-plowable down to the ground, then mow all of the section lines. What you are left with is no habitat for wildlife and the State officials scratching their heads.
Non-resident, no tag
Non-resident. Can't get buck license.
Non-resident. Did not draw west river
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter.
Not a big game hunter.
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter

Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter
Not a deer hunter; Lab can't retrieve them, and I can't hunt without her!
Not a game I pursue
Not a resident and no time.
Not big game hunter
Not currently a species of interest.
Not enough free time for us
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time for everything!
Not enough time to hunt everything I would like to.
Not good land to hunt
Not in season while I was there
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested in any big game hunting in SD
Not interested in deer
Not interested in deer hunting anymore

Not interested in deer hunting in South Dakota; living in Michigan provides more deer than needed.
Not interested in deer hunting.
Not interested in deer hunting.
Not interested in deer hunting.
Not interested in deer.
Not interested in hunting deer.
Not interested in hunting deer.
Not interested in that type of hunting.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not into big game hunting.
Not my deal!
Not my resident state, and last year I hunted deer in Montana
Not my target species
Not of interest
Not on the menu.
Not target species; Black Hills hard to draw
Not there in season
Old feller
Only bird hunt
Only ducks
Only ducks
Only go to SD to hunt waterfowl. I hunt deer in MN.
Only hunt birds
Only hunt deer in my home state.
Only hunt for deer at home in Wisconsin
Only hunt pheasant
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunted mountain lion
Only hunted Pheasant
Only hunted pheasants in 2020
Only hunted waterfowl
Only hunted waterfowl.
Only hunting small game & pheasant. No interest.
Only pheasant & duck
Only pheasant hunted in SD in 2020
Only pheasant hunted. Not interested in deer.
Only travel to SD to pheasant hunt
Only visited for bird hunting
Only went to hunt duck and geese

Only went to SD to hunt pheasants
Out of state hunter. Left before season started.
Pandemic
Personally, did not draw a tag. Did take two teenage girls out to get their deer. That anymore is almost more enjoyable nowadays.
Pheasant
Pheasant and duck trip only
Pheasant hunt only
Pheasant hunting
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Plenty of deer in MN that need killing
Plenty of deer in my area in WA state. We meet from around the country for pheasant in SD every October.
Plenty of deer where I'm from
Prefer bird hunting
Prefer upland bird hunting
Pregnancy. I did not feel comfortable applying for a tag when I knew I would be pregnant and having to walk/be out in SD wind and cold.
Primarily an upland bird hunter
Saw a lot of deer but just there for pheasants
Schedule and cost did not allow for big game hunting
School, no time
Sent tags back in again because of disease.
Short on time. We hunted pheasants and ducks for the weekend
Shot an elk; no room in the freezer
Small chance of getting a tag
Spent time deer hunting out of state
Stop hunting deer in my area
Time and license expense
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time is too limited
Time, Money, Land availability
Timing between work and seasons
Too busy with other things. Went elk hunting in Montana with my son.
Too difficult for out of state hunters to get license
Too difficult to obtain an out of state tag
Too expensive

Too expensive
Too expensive in SD, so I hunt deer in Wisconsin
Too expensive, can only shoot a doe. Licenses for bird hunting are already too high!
Too far away.
Too hard to draw rifle tag east river. I hunt MN because of this.
Too hard to get a buck license
Too hard to get a license.
Too hard to get a non-resident tag.
Too hard to get a tag
Too hard to get an out of state license
Too many hunters and too few deer on public land; not worth my effort.
Too many hunters for public land and not enough access for private land.
Too much crap now that they changed the licensing system
Too much money for license
Too restrictive to hunt
Totally screwed by new tag draw system - no tag(s) last two years. Have not talked to any hunters who are happy with it!
Turned in my license
Unable to get license in Gregory County 30 B. Too many Nebraska people domiciling in county. And seem to get a SD license and hunt on corporate land or ranch owners that they know.
Unable to obtain license
Upland game hunting only on this trip.
Was not able to draw a tag.
Was not in South Dakota during deer hunting season
Was not interested
Was not interested
Was not interested as I can hunt deer in my home state. I only occasionally hunt deer anymore.
Was only in SD to pheasant hunt
Was refused a license.
Was unsuccessful drawing a tag.
Wasn't interested
Wasn't interested
Wasn't part of my trip.
Waterfowl hunt
Waterfowl hunter
Waterfowl only
We are from Alaska and are avid bird hunters. Our first annual trip, we did not have a dog. Got a puppy for the second annual and she did great. In 2020, as a 1 1/2-year-old, she did amazing.
We come for the upland bird hunting only.
We come from Michigan to hunt upland birds and waterfowl only. We can hunt deer at home.
We deer hunt in MN
We go to South Dakota to upland bird and waterfowl hunt.
We have never hunted deer in South Dakota. Our primary purpose of hunting in South Dakota is for waterfowl.
We have piles of deer in Pennsylvania

We hunt deer in WY
We hunted pheasant only
We just pheasant hunt. Never had the opportunity to deer hunt.
We only bird hunt
We only hunted pheasants
We were on a guided pheasant hunt only
We were there only to hunt pheasant
We were there to hunt pheasants. Wrong season.
We would love to rifle hunt deer in SD, but the challenges are significant to attain an antlered deer license for a non-resident.
Went to Black Hills for 17 years until the license allocation changed my group of family and friends. Could not get licenses so we now hunt out of state.
west river this year...
Why would I hunt deer in SD when I can hunt them in Montana? Trying to hunt in South Dakota sucks. Whether it's deer, upland, or waterfowl, all SD cares about is non-resident money!!!
WI resident - no buck licenses
Would hunt white tail, but tough to get a tag
Would like to start deer hunting in 2021
You did not ask, but waterfowl hunting was excellent this year, and that is a big draw for us to get the combo hunt of waterfowl in morning and upland birds in afternoon. We were lucky enough to win the non-resident waterfowl draw for license; that is a big deal to us. We had 9 in our group that came from Ohio to hunt. All 9 of us hunt deer in Ohio
You don't let nonresidents hunt deer
You give the impression that, without private land access, a person shouldn't bother applying for a permit.

Q9a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota antelope in 2020, briefly describe.

Already have taken an antelope in SD years earlier
Antelope are not in my area
Antelope numbers are down. Public land and Walk-In are flooded with non-residents in archery and by rifle and pushed off.
Applied for preference point hopefully this year I will go.
Because as a non-resident it is almost impossible to get a license.
Because of COVID
Because the first and only antelope I harvested in South Dakota tasted horrible
Because the GFP won't let us hunt them in Tripp County.
Better pronghorn hunting opportunities in my home state of WY.
Bird hunt only
Bird hunter only
Bird hunting only
Bird hunting only
Building preference points to be able to hunt the county I want
Came for pheasants

Came solely for duck hunting this year.
Can't get time off work
Can't take my dog antelope hunting.
Cannot walk well.
Can't get tag
Chose not to.
could not buy license over the counter
Could not get a license.
Could not get access.
Could not get tags
Couldn't draw tag
COVID
Covid
Covid kept me from traveling.
COVID-19
COVID-19 cases
COVID-19; could not travel
Deer only
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
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Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply
Did not apply for a license
Did not apply for a license
Did not apply for a license

Did not apply for a license.
Did not apply for a license.
Did not apply for a tag
Did not apply for a tag
Did not apply for a tag
Did not apply for a tag
Did not apply for a tag
Did not apply for a tag this year. knew would not have time available during the season
Did not apply for a tag!
Did not apply for a tag.
Did not apply for a tag.
Did not apply for license
Did not apply for tag
Did not apply for tag
Did not apply for tag
Did not apply for tag
Did not apply for tag.
Did not apply for tag. Spent my hunting time on deer.
Did not apply for tags
Did not apply for west river
Did not apply this year
Did not apply this year.
Did not apply this year.
Did not apply time constraints
Did not apply, bad knees, can't walk very far
Did not apply.
Did not apply.
Did not apply. I do not have private land access for antelope. Walk-In Areas are often crowded and offer few opportunities during antelope season.
Did not apply. No tag.
Did not apply. Too many hunters, herd population is down. You're issuing too many tags. Is it about the herd population and health or is it all about the money?
Did not draw
Did not draw
Did not draw
Did not draw
Did not draw
Did not draw a license.
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag

Did not draw a tag
Did not draw a tag, even with preference points.
Did not draw a tag.
Did not draw any tag
Did not draw tag
Did not draw tag
Did not draw tag.
Did not draw tag.
Did not get a tag
Did not get a tag
Did not get a tag
Did not get a tag in the draw
Did not get a tag.
Did not get a tag.
Did not get a tag.
Did not get drawn
Did not get drawn.
Did not get license
Did not get license
Did not get license, not in season during upland opener
Did not get license.
Did not get my tag.
Did not have a tag
Did not have a tag for antelope.
Did not have a tag. Not familiar with area to hunt antelope.
Did not have an opportunity
Did not have opportunity
Did not have tag
Did not have the time.
Did not have time to make the trip.
Did not have time.
Did not have time.
Did not make the draw
Did not put in
Did not put in for a tag.
Did not take the time.
Did not target antelope. Hunted waterfowl and Mule deer only
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to hunt antelope.
Didn't apply for tags.
Didn't apply. Probably never will. Not high on my priority. Shot a few in other states
Didn't draw tag
Didn't get time to go out west during the season.

Didn't have enough time
Didn't have the opportunity.
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time available to hunt them.
Didn't have time to Hunt them
Didn't have time.
Didn't have time.
Didn't have time.
Didn't hunt any
Didn't know antelope existed in SD
Didn't know SD had antelope
Didn't plan any trips out West. Indians locked up Res. due to Covid.
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for a tag
Didn't apply for it.
Didn't apply for tag
Didn't apply for tags.

Didn't apply no place to hunt them
Didn't apply too hard to coordinate time
Didn't buy a license
Didn't draw
Didn't draw
Didn't draw
Didn't draw
Didn't draw
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't draw a tag
Didn't draw a tag otherwise I would have. I mostly hunt National Grassland for antelope.
Didn't draw a tag.
Didn't draw at tag
Didn't get a permit
Didn't get a tag
Didn't get a tag
Didn't get a tag - applied and didn't get a tag.
Didn't get drawn
Didn't get drawn
Didn't get drawn for a tag.
Didn't get drawn.
Didn't get drawn.
Didn't get license
Didn't get tag
Didn't have a license
Didn't have a tag
Didn't have license
Didn't have time or access to land
Didn't put in for antelope tags in 2020
Difficulty in getting a permit. Not worth waiting for. Easier to go to Wyoming.
Distance to travel to hunt antelope
Do not big game hunt in SD
Do not have private land to hunt
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt Antelope
Do not hunt antelope
Do not hunt antelope currently
Do not hunt antelope.
Do not hunt antelope.

Do not hunt anymore
Do not hunt big game
Do not hunt big game
Do not hunt species
Do not hunt the species
Do not like the taste of them
Don't care for antelope meat.
Don't care for the meat
Don't care to eat antelope.
Don't care to hunt them; no interest
Don't eat antelope so I do not hunt them
Don't have a private place to hunt.
Don't have any land in West river
Don't have anyone to hunt with.
Don't have interest anymore
Don't have the desire to
Don't hunt
Don't hunt
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't hunt antelope.
Don't like antelope
Don't like antelope meat
Don't like the taste
Don't like to eat antelope. Don't hunt what I don't like to eat.

Don't see any East river
Don't usually hunt them
Don't want to
Don't want to.
Don't apply for that typically
Don't enjoy the meat and no place to hunt.
Don't have access to private land west river. Not willing to deal with crowds on public land. Really don't need the meat. Lack of trophy buck opportunities.
Drew the tag, appreciate it very much, and looked forward my whole life to hunting antelope in western South Dakota, but then ended up unable to hunt because of an unexpected personal situation.
Duck and goose only
Duck hunt only
Duck hunting
Duck hunting trip specifically
Even though I own land in Butte County, it's not enough to be a landowner. I only manage to draw a tag every third year. Our ranch/farm in Jerauld county doesn't have any antelope.
Extremely low herd numbers West River i.e., Perkins, Harding, Zieback. Mead counties.
Few to none in Edmunds and McPherson counties
Focused on deer hunting.
Focused on pheasants
Focused on waterfowl
Forget to send in app
Forgot to apply for a tag
Forgot to apply for tags
From out of state, maybe someday
Go to WY for pronghorn
Had antelope tag for Stanley Co.; was on COVID quarantine during season.
Had other things to do and it is a long drive.
Handicapped
Hard to draw rifle tag as nonresident on eastern side of the state.
Hard to find hunting areas.
Hard to find!
Harvest time for me
Hate to eat them
Have hunted Harding County. Landowners out there are rude and harass people. They put signs "No Hunting" on school land and other public hunting land.
Have never applied
Have never hunted antelope
Have never hunted antelope anywhere
Have never hunted antelope.
Have never hunted big game.
Have never hunted, limited time off, used time for deer hunting
Have never targeted them.
Have not considered it

Have not hunted antelope for several years not enough where I hunt, and most private land isn't open
Have not hunted antelope in a number of years due to fishing and waterfowl hunting at that time of the year.
Have not hunted antelope in about 50 years
Have to go West River – season is a bad time; I am harvesting crops
Haven't been antelope hunting. Good antelope closer to my home in WA.
Haven't been big game hunting in several years.
Haven't ever hunted antelope
Haven't for years.
Haven't hunted antelope before mostly west river hunt
Haven't hunted antelope for about 10 yrs. Too busy w/ work & kids.
Haven't hunted antelope for over 30 years.
Haven't hunted antelope in many years, also don't have the time
Haven't tried this yet
Haven't had the desire to hunt antelope. Time, travel, and lack of experience plays a factor.
Haven't hunted antelope for lack of area to hunt and interest since 16 years old
Health problems, inability to walk that much
Heard they are stinky. Lol
Herd too small
Hunted elsewhere
Hunted MT
Hunted Pheasant Only
Hunting antelope in WY
Hunting other game
Hunting pheasant
I am a bird dog man.
I am an upland bird hunter
I am not a big game hunter.
I am not a resident and did not have time to hunt antelope
I am not a very avid big game hunter.
I am not an antelope hunter.
I am only a bird hunter.
I am primarily a bird hunter
I am too busy with farm work, although I know of very good Walk-In out by Isabel.
I applied for preference because I was unable to go during the 2020 antelope hunting season.
I archery hunt whitetails.
I came only to hunt pheasant
I can never draw a tag
I chose not to get a license
I could not get a tag.
I did not apply to hunt antelope this year.
I did not apply.
I did not apply.
I did not draw a tag.
I did not draw a tag.

I did not get a license.
I did not go out to South Dakota for the purpose of hunting antelope
I did not have the time but planning on next year
I did not have the time in 2020. I normally hunt Archery Pronghorn every other year.
I did not want to pay extra to hunt antelope.
I did not want to.
I didn't put in for antelope
I didn't want to
I didn't apply
I didn't apply for a license because I wasn't interested in antelope hunting in 2020.
I didn't apply for a tag
I didn't draw a tag to hunt this year.
I didn't draw a tag.
I didn't draw a tag.
I do not big game
I do not enjoy big game hunting.
I do not have a reason for not hunting antelope in SD.
I do not hunt antelope
I do not hunt antelope
I do not hunt antelope.
I do not hunt antelope.
I do not hunt antelope.
I do not hunt antelope.
I do not hunt antelope.
I do not hunt big game
I do not hunt big game.
I do not hunt big game.
I do not like the taste of antelope
I do not target antelope as a species.
I do not want to
I don't antelope hunt
I don't Antelope hunt.
I don't care to eat them
I don't eat antelope
I don't have a place to hunt them.
I don't have Antelope in my area
I don't have antelope land to hunt on.
I don't have the time
I don't have the time at this time in my life right now.
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt Antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope

I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope
I don't hunt antelope.
I don't hunt antelope.
I don't hunt big game
I don't hunt big game
I don't hunt big game.
I don't hunt for this animal
I don't hunt them
I don't hunt West River
I don't know the first thing about hunting antelope. The only reason I hunt pheasants is a group of high school friends got together to renew our friendships. One of my friends owns land in SD so we decided to go hunting there. I didn't know the first thing about hunting pheasants until my friends arranged this trip. Now you probably understand why I didn't respond to the first request to complete this survey!
I don't like antelope hunting
I don't like the taste of it!
I don't like the taste of the meat
I don't like the taste.
I don't like to.
I don't really have a good place to go and I do most of my big game hunting in CO with my brother who lives there.
I don't target big game
I don't want to eat antelope.
I don't feel SD non-resident laws are conducive for nr antelope hunters
I don't think there are that many
I drew a tag for Harding Co. antelope, but I was sick with COVID-19 the opening of the antelope season and was still weak the next week. It was a bummer; I like hunting antelope!
I focus on pheasant and deer hunting, only maybe in future I might try it.
I had a non-resident waterfowl license only.
I had a tag, but I didn't feel there were enough antelope that I felt like killing one.
I had an archery antelope tag but did not have time to hunt. I did not draw a rifle antelope tag. Otherwise, I would have rifle hunted them.
I had only purchased an apprenticeship license for deer as a friend was going.
I have never hunted antelope
I have never hunted antelope
I have never hunted antelope
I have never hunted antelope and it always seems to warm out during antelope season to shoot something to eat
I have never hunted antelope.
I have never hunted antelope.

I have successfully hunted Antelope in the past and I am satisfied with that experience. I have no further interest in Antelope.
I haven't hunted antelope yet but may in the future
I hunt antelope
I hunt antelope every year. I hunt CO and WY. Drawing a SD antelope tag is too difficult. Available land is poor.
I hunt Antelope in my home state of Wyoming.
I hunt antelope in WY where there are many more animals and the ability to get a license to hunt on numerous lands open to the public.
I hunt birds.
I hunt deer and elk when I get a tag.
I just hunt deer
I like to hunt birds. Big game hunting isn't a favorite.
I live on East side of the river and do not have time to travel west of the river where antelope roam.
I never have, just not interested
I never thought about it
I no longer hunt big game
I only have hunted antelope in Wyoming and don't expect to antelope hunt in S.D.
I only hunt antelope with a bow – had shoulder surgery.
I only hunt birds
I only hunt ducks and geese
I only hunt East River around home. I know nothing about hunting antelope.
I only hunt pheasant in SD
I only hunt pheasants
I only hunt small game
I only hunt waterfowl
I only hunted pheasants due to time.
I only hunted Waterfowl
I only wanted to shoot one & did in SD a few years ago
I only went to South Dakota to hunt pheasant.
I prefer to go to WY to hunt antelope, and due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year is the first time in 20 years that I didn't go to WY.
I shot an antelope a few years ago there. Didn't feel a need to shoot another one.
I shot an antelope years ago. It was delicious and a great hunt, but I love antelope as a species and have decided I don't need to kill anymore especially in Tripp county where I mainly big game hunt. The antelope population there has crashed as compared to 11 years ago when I shot my buck.
I travel to SD for bird hunting.
I traveled from Utah to only hunt pheasant.
I was fishing
I was not drawn for my 1st or 2nd selections
I was only hunting birds.
I was there targeting ducks and there were not antelope in the area I was hunting
I was there to hunt Pheasant
I was unable to attend our annual antelope hunt get-away in 2020.

I went goose hunting
I would like to but didn't find the time.
I would probably go farther west if I were to hunt antelope
I'm a bow hunter, just can't find the time
I'm an upland bird hunter
I've never done this.
I've never hunted antelope
I've never hunted antelope.
In college, no time
In the past the antelope seemed very pressured and few and far in between
Interested but not enough time to spend west river
It is almost impossible to get a permit as an out of state hunter.
Just applied for preference points this year, wasn't going to have the time to go
Just came to hunt pheasant
Just didn't want to.
Just enjoy wing shooting the most.
Just not interested
Just pheasant hunting on this trip
Just that Pheasant hunting is my passion.
Just waterfowl
Lack of interest
Lack of time
Lack of time, no tag
Lack of vacation / too many other hobbies!
Landowner had COVID
License for non-resident is high for not much meat on a goat.
License too expensive
Limited amount of time
Limited public land with quality animals
Little interest in the travel time and expense to hunt west river when east river game is so accessible.
Live east river, poor land access
Live out of state (not eligible)
Live out of state and did not try.
Lost my hunting land; private land
Lost private land
Low numbers.
Low populations, decreasing accessibility, and Covid restrictions.
Maybe in the future. Not fully retired yet.
Meat don't taste good
Military, was not in state for season
Must be drawn for license and walking problem.
My health.
My perception is you need private land access for west river antelope hunt. I'm guessing that access is limited for a non-resident.
Need to go west river.

Never applied
Never applied
Never applied
Never applied
Never applied for tag
Never applied to hunt them
Never applied, may try in future.
Never do, not interested
Never done it.
Never drew license.
Never gone antelope hunting
Never had any desire – taste like crap
Never had the opportunity to hunt them
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have
Never have antelope hunted
Never have done that
Never have hunted
Never have hunted antelope
Never have hunted antelope.
Never have, no interest
Never have.
Never have.
Never have.
Never have.
Never have. No desire to.
Never hunt antelope
Never hunted antelope
Never hunted antelope before
Never hunted antelope before.
Never hunted antelope before. No antelope in SE SD
Never hunted antelope.
Never hunted antelope.
Never hunted before
Never hunted them before
Never interested me.

Never knew SD had antelope
Never thought about it before.
Never tried
New to the area but it is something I plan on doing next year
No license
No access
No antelope in area
No antelope in Glacial Lakes Area. Too far to travel.
No antelope in my area
No antelope in our area
No antelope in the area I live.
No antelope on land I hunt
No antelope to hunt
No antelope where I hunt.
No area to hunt
No desire
No desire
No desire
No desire
No desire
No desire
No desire
No desire to
No desire to hunt antelope
No desire to hunt antelope
No desire to hunt antelope.
No desire to hunt them at this time.
No desire.
No desire.
No good reason. I like to archery hunt antelope. Busy time of year for me (construction) work wise.
No group to go with
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
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No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest in antelope
No interest in antelope
No interest in eating them
No interest in hunting antelope
No interest in hunting this species.
No interest in hunting, like to watch them.
No interest in west river at this time.
No interest last year
No interest or time in this part of my life, 3 young kids...would have to travel and invest in equipment.
No interest this last year
No interest this year
No interest, would go to Wyoming to hunt antelope instead.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.

No interest.
No land access
No land to hunt on
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
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No license
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No license
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No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license
No license purchased
No license.
No license. Not enough time to hunt everything.
No local population of antelope
No luck in draw
No luck in the draw
No need – plenty of meat from home state hunts.
No opportunity
No opportunity
No opportunity
No opportunity
No option
No permit
No place to go. I know people have to pay mostly.
No place to hunt
No place to hunt
No place to hunt
No population near me
No private land to hunt
No tag

No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
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No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag
No tag, no land
No tag.
No tag.
No tag.
No tag.
No tag. No interest.
No tags
No tags
No tags available
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time and hard to get a tag
No time available, pheasant only
No time or desire

No time this year.
No time to
No time to hunt then
No time!
No time, no tag.
No time, not selected for license
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time. Will this year.
None around
None around
None around here
None in area
None in hunting area.
None in my area
None in our area
None in the area I hunt
None locally
None near me. Not enough time.
None where I hunt
None where I hunt
Non-resident
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident (not eligible)
Non-resident fees to high
Non-resident hunters from Alaska just down for bird hunting
Non-resident licenses cost too much
Nonresident, no interest.
Non-resident, no tag
Non-resident, only hunt waterfowl
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big game hunter.
Not a big game hunter.
Not a big game hunter.
Not a big game hunter.

Not a caribou hunting
Not a fan of antelope hunting
Not a focus of my visit
Not a priority on my hunting list
Not a resident and no time
Not a species I hunt.
Not able to carve enough time out to be able to hunt antelope
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter
Not an antelope hunter...intrigues me though.
Not an interest
Not any near where I live.
Not currently a species of interest.
Not drawn
Not edible
Not enough free time for us
Not enough hunting area in my area
Not enough non-resident tags
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time to hunt all the available seasons.
Not enough time.
Not enough. I want herds to build a bit.
Not experienced
Not found in my area.
Not found in our area.
Not game I pursue
Not in area
Not in our area
Not in season
Not in season while I was there
not in South Dakota during Antelope season
Not interested

Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested and too far away for me.
Not interested at this point
Not interested at this time
Not interested at this time.
Not interested hunting antelope.
Not interested in antelope
Not interested in antelope
Not interested in antelope hunting
Not interested in big game hunting in SD
Not interested in hunting antelope.
Not interested in hunting antelope.
Not interested in hunting antelope.
Not interested in hunting antelope.
Not interested in hunting them.
Not interested in hunting them.
Not interested in shooting the animal.
Not interested in species
Not interested in this species.
Not interested last year.
Not interested, bird hunting is my game
Not interested, no permit
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested. Never have hunted antelope, maybe someday.

Not interested. None in our area.
Not interested. Too far to drive.
Not interested; not familiar with any options.
Not into big game hunting.
Not located in my area and I hear they taste very good.
Not my deal!
Not my interest
Not my resident state
Not my target species
Not of interest
Not of interest. Lack of knowledge.
Not on the menu.
Not particularly interested in hunting antelope at this time.
Not particularly interested.
Not really interested.
Not season
Not successful in drawing
Not sure where to go.
Not target species
Not that ambitious
Not there for antelope season
Not wanting to travel, however, would like to hunt at some point in future.
Not what I was there for
Not worth driving to west river and finding a public place to hunt.
On a guided pheasant hunt only
Only bird hunt
Only bird hunt
Only birds
Only ducks
Only ducks
Only go to SD to hunt waterfowl.
Only had waterfowl tag
Only hunt birds
Only hunt deer
Only hunt deer.
Only hunt east river
Only hunt pheasant
Only hunt pheasants.
Only hunt waterfowl
Only hunted pheasants
Only hunted pheasants in 2020
Only hunted waterfowl
Only hunted waterfowl and pheasants
Only hunted waterfowl in SD in 2020
Only hunted waterfowl.
Only interested in pheasant hunting.

Only pheasant & duck
Only pheasant hunted
Only pheasant hunted
Only pheasant hunting
Only travel to SD for pheasant
Only visited for bird hunting
Only went to SD to hunt pheasants
Other hunts happening then
Out of state
Out-of-state hunter.
Pandemic
Passion is upland birds
Pheasant and Archery Deer Hunt only in Clark, SD
Pheasant and duck only
Pheasant hunt only
Pheasant hunted only
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant hunting only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
pheasant only
Pheasant only
Population number being down & access to land.
Population too low, and not my interest
Population way down. Decided didn't need 2 take out 2 breeding does.
Prefer fishing!
Prefer upland bird hunting
Preparing for my son's wedding
Public land is all that is available without forking over farm/ranch subsidy cash. Number and quality of antelope not good on public land I have walked on.
Retired for that and never did hunt antelope.
Same as previous, out-of-state and can't use crossbow
Same: too many hunters are non-resident! I hunt in Wyoming!
Schedule and cost did not allow for big game hunting
Schedule conflicts with sports
season conflicted with my work schedule
Seems that numbers are down in area I like to hunt.
Small game hunter only
State changed preference points required for Harding County antlerless, could not draw with my points.
Tags are too high can't hunt as much
The land we hunt for upland game birds and waterfowl does not support antelope.
The location of antelope was further away than my schedule allowed.
The times I have wanted to hunt, I have not drawn a license. I have three preference points.
There are no antelope nearby and did not have time.

There aren't any antelope in my area.
There aren't any antelope in the area I hunt.
They are not in my area, and I really care to hunt them
They are west river. None in my east river area.
They do not taste very good
This is on my bucket list but won't happen for a few years
This is turning into a waste of my time.
Time and effort
Time constraints
Time, money, land availability
Timing between work and seasons
Tired of giving you people money for elk or antelope and never get a tag. I have 26 years of so called preference points and have yet to have a tag. Not about to keep giving the state of SD more money. Way easier going to WY to have a far better experience. By the way, I am SD born and raised and educated. Not some transplant!
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy and no tags.
Too busy and too far to drive
too busy and too far to go to hunt.
Too busy, chasing big mule deer bucks! We hunt them usually but were short time. Will hunt antelope next year.
Too difficult for out of state hunters to get license
Too difficult to get a tag and too difficult locating land with animals to hunt.
Too difficult to obtain an out of state tag
Too expensive
Too expensive
Too expensive
Too far and too expensive for such a small animal. Don't know any landowners out West.
Too far away
Too far away for hunting lands
Too far away.
Too far away. I have plenty antelope in Texas.
Too far from where I hunt. No set place to hunt.
Too far to drive to get to antelope country
Too far to drive to harvest.
Too far to drive.
Too far to go west river.
Too far west
Too fat to travel
Too few of antelope in SD. Not enough land available to hunt.
Too much hunting pressure on public land.
Too much money for a tag
Too old

Too old
Too stinky to eat.
Turned down an application
Turned down for tag
Two years of preference points and did not draw a tag
Unable to obtain license
Unsure of places to hunt antelope in SD to be successful
Upland birds only
Upland hunting only this trip.
Usually busy hunting other species. Hunted antelope in the past.
Was not in an area where antelope roam.
Was not interested
Was not interested.
Was unsuccessful in the draw
Wasn't a resident during the season
Wasn't interested in antelope
Wasn't interested in antelope
Wasn't drawn for unit I wished to hunt
Waterfowl hunter
Waterfowl only
We are bird hunting
We do not hunt antelope.
We do not hunt the western part of the state.
We don't have any in our area
We had a COVID exposure to a member of our group
We hunted pheasant only
We only planned the pheasant hunt. I wouldn't rule out an antelope hunt in the future.
We primarily hunt the north western corner as we have a cabin there.
We simply did not draw any antelope tags for the 2020 season.
Wife had Breast Cancer during the season.
Working
Would like to but not sure where to hunt them.
Would like to hunt antelope in 2021
Wrong time of year when I'm out there.

Q14a. We would like to understand why you did not hunt South Dakota waterfowl in 2020, briefly describe.

Q14a text
After I arrived, I did not find enough waterfowl to hunt so I did not go
Always go to WY
Bad arm
Because I have enough other hobbies so no time.
Because of the cap on non-resident waterfowl licenses.

Because of the lottery system! I think it is ridiculous that so few people are allowed to duck hunt yearly when they are a federal bird!! MN and ND allow as many people as they want! I duck hunted SD once, and would have liked to do a combo hunt every year.
Because the lottery system is a huge turn-off. Ditch the lottery and welcome out of state waterfowl hunters. We go to adjoining states or hunt Native American lands to hunt waterfowl to avoid the SD system.
Boat access on most waters are less than desirable for youth or elder hunters
Bought a preference point instead
Busy with other hobbies and work, no time
Busy year so did not hunt.
Came to SD to hunt pheasant.
Cost and land access for out of state individual
COVID
COVID limited me to one trip. I believe your state has been on some kind of lottery or drawing for where to hunt. So, I would rather go to ND and hunt with less restrictions.
COVID problems
Covid-19
Covid-19 impacted my waterfowl hunting
Deer only
Did not apply
Did not apply for license. We were new to the area and didn't know what to expect as far as "habitat."
Did not apply for tag.
Did not apply or purchase
Did not apply or purchase
Did not apply.
Did not consider
Did not enter the non-resident lottery in 2020
Did not get around to it
Did not get chosen. ND has a better system for out of state hunters.
Did not get drawn for permit
Did not go out.
Did not have a tag
Did not have enough time. Not much waterfowl access in the Black Hills region
Did not have opportunity
Did not have opportunity
Did not have opportunity
Did not have tag
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time
Did not have time to hunt; numbers of waterfowl where I hunt not too conducive to successful hunting.
Did not have time.
Did not have time.
Did not hunt

Did not hunt
Did not hunt because of COVID
Did not hunt this year
Did not like that I had to enter a lottery to get license. Makes it hard to plan, hard to get group together. Enjoy spring Snow Goose hunting in years prior.
Did not put in to draw a tag
Did not put in.
Did not see or participate in the migration this year.
Did not submit application on time and would be a secondary activity after pheasant.
Did not take the time to hunt
Did not take the time.
Did not take the time.
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did not want to
Did when I was younger but lost the desire to hunt in cold wet weather.
Did when I was younger but not into that cold weather hunting now.
Didn't get in for the lottery. Would have loved to buy. Didn't realize we missed the date.
Didn't have a time when geese traveled through.
Didn't have anyone to go with
Didn't have enough time
Didn't have the opportunity.
Didn't have the time
Didn't have the time
Didn't have the time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time
Didn't have time this year
Didn't have time this year
Didn't have time.
Didn't have time.
Didn't have time.
Didn't hunt waterfowl
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't work out.
Didn't apply
Didn't apply for the draw
Didn't apply. There's not a lot of waterfowl on our property
Didn't buy a license

Didn't draw a license
Didn't draw license
Didn't get a license. Don't want to get up early. Don't want to eat duck/goose.
Didn't get drawn for non-resident license
Didn't get to it.
Didn't have time. Migration seems off
Didn't have waterfowl stamp.
Didn't hunt any
Didn't put in for out-of-state draw.
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to
Didn't want to this year
Didn't want to.
Difficult to get a license
Difficult to get an out of state license.
difficulty in getting a license
Disability problems.
Disabled, so I no longer hunt waterfowl or small game
Do not
Do not care to hunt waterfowl.
Do not duck hunt
Do not have an interest in hunting waterfowl.
Do not hunt ducks or geese
Do not hunt them any more
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl
Do not hunt waterfowl currently
Do not hunt waterfowl much anymore.
Do not hunt waterfowl.
Do not like the taste
Do not like the waterfowl hunting culture (disrespect for the animals, overkill, crowded on public ground).
Do not like to hunt or eat waterfowl.
Do not want to
Do not waterfowl hunt
Doesn't interest me.

Doesn't interest me anymore.
Doesn't interest me.
Don't have time. I did not hunt antelope either
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl.
Don't like to waterfowl hunt - have to get up too early, and ducks and geese taste bad
Don't really know where to go yet; moved here from upstate NY 7 years ago. Hunting is completely different.
Don't bird hunt
Don't bird hunt
Don't bird hunt
Don't care for the meat.
Don't care for waterfowl to eat.
Don't care to
Don't care to eat them
Don't care to eat waterfowl
Don't care to eat waterfowl
Don't care to hunt them; no interest
Don't chase those birds any longer
Don't eat duck or goose
Don't eat them
Don't eat them
Don't eat them
Don't eat them so I didn't hunt them
Don't eat waterfowl
Don't enjoy it
Don't enjoy the meat and too much time and effort to just sit in a blind.
Don't enjoy waterfowl
Don't enjoy waterfowl hunting.
Don't have a dog or boat.
Don't have a dog. Maybe in the future.
Don't hunt
Don't hunt
Don't hunt birds
Don't hunt birds at this time
Don't hunt them anymore.
Don't hunt those
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl

Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl
Don't hunt waterfowl because I don't eat them
Don't hunt waterfowl.
Don't hunt waterfowl.
Don't interest me
Don't interest me
Don't like it
Don't like the taste
Don't like the taste
Don't like the taste of duck and geese.
Don't like the taste of ducks or geese.
Don't like the taste of waterfowl
Don't like the taste of waterfowl
Don't like to
Don't like to
Don't like to eat them.
Don't like to eat waterfowl.
Don't like to hunt waterfowl
Don't like to hunt/eat ducks
Don't want to
Don't want to
Don't want to hunt geese
Don't want to shoot steel shot
Don't waterfowl hunt.
Drought, poor conditions
Duck hunting is not my thing
Ducks suck!
Ducks taste like crap - geese aren't any better
Ducks were gone, off public land, by the time I got time to hunt them
Early freeze up, could not find a tundra swan to harvest
Family did not come from out of state to hunt.
Family issues
Federal stamp a hassle, and limit waterfowl where I hunt.
Focus on archery deer
Focused on pheasants
Focused on Walleye, Pheasants, and Grouse.
Freeze up before hunt
From out of state, and not enough time to hunt anything other than upland game
Froze during our dates; few birds
Fun to shoot but not a fan of the meat.
Gave it up

Gave it up 35 yrs. ago.
Gave it up.
Gave up waterfowl hunting 30 years ago. Just enjoy watching them
Gave up waterfowl hunting when I moved from South Dakota many years ago
Geese did not show up in our area until after season ended
Getting a little old for duck hunting, but still buy a license and stamp for duck hunting.
Getting too old, 76 – still have all the decoys + guns. When I did hunt it was in the Springfield area on the river + with a boat + blind.
Good waterfowl hunting in home state (CA)
Goose season closes too soon
Had a private land only license and could not gain permission, but with it being 0-8 degrees out really didn't try too hard to get permission either
Had Covid 19
Had license several years in a row, no ducks available on private land. Owners said no. Several years in a row, probably should not continue to apply as nonresident.
Had no time and dog died.
Hard to draw a tag
Hard to get a permit
Have applied twice before and did not get selected. Lack of interest by my friends I hunted with. Waterfowl is my favorite.
Have hunted waterfowl in SD in past very successfully but can afford time off for only one SD hunt – pheasant.
Have never hunted waterfowl
Have never hunted waterfowl in my life.
Have never hunted Waterfowl in South Dakota
Have never hunted waterfowl.
Have not done this for many years
Have not for 20 years.
Have not for years
Have not spent the time to research it
Haven't for years.
Haven't had time
Haven't for a few years since archery opens up earlier now
Haven't hunted waterfowl for 5 yrs.
Haven't hunted waterfowl for a number of years. I did some growing up.
Haven't hunted waterfowl for quite a few years, but plan to next season.
Haven't hunted waterfowl in 16 years
Haven't hunted waterfowl in many years
Health
Health & the time
Health issue
Hope to in the future
Hunt at family ranch in TX
Hunt at home
Hunt Big Game only!
Hunt in North Dakota

Hunt in other states with better governor
Hunt in other states with better governor
Hunt Kansas waterfowl
Hunt my own state for waterfowl.
Hunt Nebraska
Hunt only deer and antelope
Hunt waterfowl in NE.
Hunted elsewhere
Hunted Pheasant Only
Hunted waterfowl in other states.
Hunting deer, antelope and elk. As my children get older I will more than likely get back into hunting waterfowl also.
I am a college student and I don't have time for it.
I am a non-resident and the lottery system is not functional in my opinion for out of State hunters. I have two sons living in South Dakota, Sioux Falls and Pierre and it would be enjoyable to waterfowl hunt with them, but the early planning required for the hunt does not work with scheduling. Poorly designed to promote the hunting which is under-utilized.
I am a waterfowl hunter. I usually hunt Alberta, Canada and NE California for waterfowl.
I am an upland bird hunter
I am not a waterfowl hunter.
I am not a waterfowl hunter.
I am not a waterfowl hunter.
I am not a waterfowl hunter.
I am not a waterfowl hunter.
I am not an avid waterfowl hunter.
I am not much of a waterfowl hunter
I am thinking about hunting waterfowl in 2021. Did not have interest up to this point.
I can't seem to make a duck or goose taste even edible no matter how I prepare them.
I did not draw a license this year 2020
I did not have enough time to hunt waterfowl. In addition, South Dakota has traditionally made it difficult for non-resident waterfowlers to hunt.
I did not want to.
I didn't get around to it
I didn't buy a license to hunt waterfowl
I didn't hunt for them this year.
I didn't research what it would take to waterfowl hunt while we were out in SD. There were tons of birds but didn't make it a priority to figure out if we could do it and what licenses we would need.
I do not care to hunt them
I do not eat waterfowl
I do not enjoy waterfowl hunting.
I do not have a reason for not hunting waterfowl in SD.
I do not hunt waterfowl
I do not hunt waterfowl
I do not hunt waterfowl.
I do not hunt waterfowl.

I do not hunt waterfowl.
I do not know for sure. Just did not get out
I do not like wild waterfowl.
I do not want to.
I do not waterfowl hunt.
I don't bird hunt
I don't eat ducks or geese
I don't enjoy waterfowl hunting
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl.
I don't know much about waterfowl hunting so I've never done it.
I don't know. We have in the past. Busy with pheasant, I guess.
I don't bird hunt
I don't duck hunt
I don't eat it anymore
I don't eat them, so I don't kill them
I don't have a good place to hunt waterfowl. I don't live close to a very good area for waterfowl hunting.
I don't hunt birds
I don't hunt birds anymore
I don't hunt ducks.
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl
I don't hunt waterfowl anymore
I don't hunt waterfowl.
I don't like hunting waterfall.
I don't like the taste of it!
I don't like the taste of waterfowl.
I don't like waterfowl hunting
I don't really have a good place to go and don't have a lot of experience waterfowl hunting. If I could go with someone more experienced, I'd love to do it.
I don't typically hunt waterfowl.
I don't waterfowl hunt
I don't waterfowl hunt very much or very often.
I get more meat in the freezer hunting big game.
I get time
I got too busy during duck season to go out.
I hate being wet and cold!!
I hate the taste of them

I have decided to upland bird hunt in SD. Plus, SD requires a drawing.
I have never hunted waterfowl before but would be interested in learning more about it.
I have never hunted waterfowl.
I have never really hunted waterfowl and am not equipped.
I have not been hunting waterfowl in several years anywhere. I feel it is too much work compared to upland bird hunting.
I haven't hunted ducks or geese since my dad passed away. Might start again now that the grandkids are getting old enough to hunt with me.
I haven't hunted waterfowl for 20 years, too many other things to hunt during the season!
I haven't hunted waterfowl for several years
I hunt in ND
I hunt waterfowl in Alaska.
I hunt waterfowl in Minnesota and North Dakota
I hunt waterfowl in Missouri with my brother.
I hunt waterfowl in my home state of Wyoming and also in Nebraska.
I just didn't and normally don't.
I just didn't.
I just don't hunt waterfowl
I just don't hunt waterfowl
I like big game
I like to eat what I kill and I'm not too fond of the taste of waterfowl.
I lost my waterfowl hunting partners, so I lost interest.
I love to hunt waterfowl but no longer do because I just no longer enjoy the meat.
I never have hunted them
I no longer hunt waterfowl
I no longer hunt waterfowl.
I only hunt pheasants
I only hunted pheasants due to time.
I only hunted pheasants in 2020
I only planned to hunt pheasants
I only pursued a pheasant hunt. The trip to SD was only for that purpose.
I prefer big game. Requires too much gear and effort setting decoys for occasional success
I prefer to fish and pheasant hunt in the fall.
I prefer upland hunting
I think I would like to, but don't have equipment and prefer big game/archery when I have time.
I traveled from Utah to only hunt pheasants.
I was focused on teaching my daughter how to hunt.
I was there for a pheasant hunt.
I was too late to apply. Not enough licenses are available.
I worked longer hours than expected.
I would have liked to, but the availability of waterfowl hunting for out of state hunters appears to be severely limited and very complex to navigate.
I would love to but not enough time to hunt waterfowl.
I'm 72 years old.
I'm a professional pheasant preserve guide, too busy

Iced out of hunt, no ducks in area
I'm not interested in hunting waterfowl
I'm not interested in hunting waterfowl.
In general, I don't hunt waterfowl, and no one in SD invited me to hunt waterfowl. I would not come to SD specifically to hunt waterfowl since I am a resident of MD where there is spectacular waterfowl hunting.
In years past I used to be an avid waterfowl hunter but just have no time with family life.
Interested but no time and not enough equipment
It is a rich man's sport anymore. I can't justify the cost.
It is too difficult to get a nonresident waterfowl license.
It turned out the cold weather moved the ducks south so there were not many ducks to hunt. Also, with all of the rain/water, the few ducks we scouted were spread out.
It was not convenient.
I've never done so.
I've never hunted birds.
Just a pheasant hunter
Just did not get around to it this year.
Just did not.
Just didn't find the time
Just didn't have the time and I don't waterfowl much
Just didn't take time to go
Just didn't want to.
Just don't
Just don't hunt waterfowl
Just don't like to eat them
Just have not gotten involved
Just haven't gotten into it. Equipment, access, etc.
Just hunted big game
Just never have
Just not a waterfowl hunter
Just pheasant hunting on this trip
Just too busy in the fall to hunt duck or geese – and do not care for the meat.
Just wanted to hunt pheasant
Lack of comfort for duck ID on the wing. Lack of geese during season. Young child to care for.
Lack of geese and ducks in our area
Lack of interest and time
Lack of interest in this sport. Spent my time hunting deer and pheasants.
Lack of opportunity
Lack of time
Lack of time
Lack of time, and not many good public places to hunt close by.
Lack of waterfowl in my area in which I live.
License too expensive
License too expensive for out of state
Licensing has gotten way too expensive

Lifetime waterfowl hunter, now have small children. Hard to make time for waterfowl hunting
Limited time, public access too crowded
Live out of state and did not try.
Lost interest in duck hunting
Lottery system is ridiculous. SD is the only state doing this. I hunted waterfowl in ND and spent all of my lodging and food money there.
Low waterfowl numbers
Main focus was on pheasants, but might consider waterfowl in future years
Make it easier to get non-res waterfowl, not to target species hard to get species license
Medical problems
Medical school, too busy
Mostly shoot stock ponds for ducks, but all I have access to were dry this year. Hunt geese in corn fields in & around Oral. Geese usually show up around Christmas but their arrival this year coincided with a wrenched knee for me and my hunting partner needs heart bypass surgery. Next year!!
My Brittany dog doesn't like cold water
My daughters talked me out of duck hunting due to the cost
My friends are all pretty serious hunters. Me, not so much.
My interest is in big game.
My read of the regulations is that non-resident waterfowl license requires private land, WIAs are considered public land per a response I got from the Game office. As an out of state hunter I don't have private land to hunt on and the cost of the waterfowl license plus a small game license coupled with the in certainty of find private land to waterfowl hunt makes it cost prohibitive to me.
My schedule did not allow for me to waterfowl hunt in 2020.
Never any waterfowl where I hunt
Never been into waterfowl hunting
Never have hunted waterfowl
Never have, not interested
Never have, not interested
Never have, not interested
Never tried to hunt them
Never understood a very limited lottery system for federal migratory birds. The USFWS appears to be working hard to eliminate waterfowl hunters through regulations - you can shoot 1 of these, but none of these. I know many hunters that quit hunting waterfowl because the chances of screwing up are high, even with best of intentions. Always wondered why SD begs for out of state pheasant hunters and works to discourage waterfowl hunters.
No birds
No birds or waterfowl
No birds where we were hunting
No desire to hunt waterfowl
No desire to hunt waterfowl
No desire to hunt waterfowl
No desire to hunt waterfowl
No desire to hunt waterfowl

No desire to hunt waterfowl
No desire to hunt waterfowl
No desire to hunt waterfowl at this time.
No desire to waterfowl hunt in SD. Too far to transport hunting gear.
No duck in our area when season is open.
No ducks in late November
No geese
No geese in Pierre
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
No interest
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No interest
No interest
No interest in 2020
No interest in chasing geese all over the country
No interest in hunting waterfowl.
No interest in waterfowl hunting, also don't eat waterfowl, so I don't hunt anything that I won't eat, other than coyotes
No interest or time
No interest to hunt waterfowl anymore
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No interest.
No license
No license
No local access.
No longer have gun dog
No longer hunt waterfowl
No longer pursue waterfowl hunting
No migration into the area. Weather was too nice up north so birds did not have to migrate down.
No opportunity
No opportunity
No opportunity to get out. Haven't done it in many years.
No permit hard to understand the application process.
No place to go that isn't overcrowded
No place to hunt
No stamp
No tag
No time
No time
No time
No time
No time or access
No time this fall

No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time.
No time. Limited access.
No time. My least important hunting.
No time. Too much work.
No time; put more time into archery deer
No water in dams
None around
Non-resident
Non-resident
Non-resident hunters from Alaska just hunting for upland birds. And our dog doesn't like retrieving ducks.
Non-resident, no tag
Non-resident, no tag
Normally don't hunt waterfowl
North Dakota is easier to gain access to land. And licenses are over the counter
Not a big game hunter
Not a big waterfowl hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter
Not a bird hunter.
not a duck hunter
Not a duck hunter
Not a duck hunter
Not a duck hunter.
Not a fan of fowl
Not a fan of waterfowl hunting
Not a huge waterfowl hunter
Not a lot of time, but more interested in pheasant.
Not a passion of mine.
Not a resident and no time
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter

Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a Waterfowl hunter
not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter
Not a waterfowl hunter.
Not a waterfowl hunter. Would if I had the knowledge or place to hunt.
Not a waterfowler
Not able to get time
Not an avid waterfowl hunter
Not easy for out of staters to hunt NE-SD. The drawing format makes it difficult. I would hunt every year if you could create the same application process for waterfowl as you do for pheasants. It would help SD commerce overall if out of state waterfowl in NE SD was easier.
Not enough access to known public land or mentor/gear needed to hunt.
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time
Not enough time to do both upland & waterfowl
Not enough time to do so.
Not enough time to hunt everything
Not enough time.
Not enough time.
Not enough time. More money – short term licenses.
Not enough vacation. Will do a Snow Goose hunt in the near future.
Not enough weekends off of work.
Not familiar with available waterfowl areas
Not familiar with SD waterfowl hunting. If I hunt waterfowl, it is in ND.
Not fun
Not in season while hunting in SD
Not in season while i was there
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested
Not interested

Not interested in waterfowl
Not interested in waterfowl
Not interested in waterfowl
Not interested in waterfowl
Not interested in waterfowl hunting
Not interested in waterfowl hunting
Not interested in waterfowl hunting
Not interested in waterfowl hunting
Not interested in waterfowl hunting.
Not interested in waterfowl hunting.
Not interested in waterfowl. Don't care to eat them.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested.
Not interested. I don't hunt as much as I used to.
Not into it
Not into it
Not many places to hunt in west river. Quit hunting waterfowl.
Not much of a waterfowl hunter
Not my deal!
Not my interest
Not my resident state
Not my thing
Not my thing till I kill a deer.
Not my thing.
Not on my favorite list
Not really interested in waterfowl for the 3 days we hunt pheasants
Not really into waterfowl hunting but would be fun. No close friends or relatives hunt waterfowl.
Not that ambitious. Don't know people who hunt waterfowl.
Not the right timing.
Not there for ducks - strictly pheasants. Also, the likelihood of all four of us being selected in the lottery makes us concentrate on pheasants.
Not time and nowhere good to hunt them around me!
Not time.
Old feller – no guns
On a guided pheasant hunt only
Only came to SD to hunt pheasants
Only come to SD for Pheasants
Only hunt deer
Only hunt deer.
Only hunt pheasant

Only hunt pheasants.
Only hunt snow geese
Only Hunted Pheasant
Only hunted pheasants
Only pheasant
Only pheasant hunted
only visited for upland hunting
Only went to SD to hunt pheasants
Open heart surgery; couldn't shoot a gun
Our private land ponds dried up over the summer.
Out of state license too expensive. Have plenty of opportunities in ND for way cheaper
Passion is upland birds.
Personal constraints (age)
Personal injury interfered
Pheasant and Archery Deer Hunt only in Clark, SD
Pheasant hunt
Pheasant hunt only
Pheasant hunting
pheasant hunting only
pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only
Pheasant only trip
Pheasant only. Not enough time for both.
Pheasant only. Waterfowl were not in season when we hunted
Pheasants only
Pheasants only
Planned on it but never saw any ducks or geese after the November freeze that happened.
Poor amount of birds while I was there.
Poor weather conditions
Prefer dry land hunting such as harvested corn fields but limited to areas and places to really hunt.
Prefer pheasant hunting
Prefer upland bird hunting
Purchased license but did not make a trip.
Quit waterfowl hunting
Ran out of time while the birds were around. Had planned for a hunt one day, but it was extremely windy that day and didn't make it out. I will hunt more this year.
Rarely hunt waterfowl anymore. Too far to drive and can hunt here in KS.
Regulations too restrictive
Remove the application process and purchase over the counter, I would have.
Schedule did not allow for waterfowl hunting
SD make it difficult with lottery for license
Short of time. Flight way late.

Son didn't want to go. Not enough time.
Spent my time hunting deer and pheasants. Also, it was a nice fall and open water fishing opportunities existed well into December.
Stopped hunting waterfowl 30 or more years ago
The rules got so complicated that I just lost interest. I realize we have a 3 splash rule now, but for now I still lack enough interest.
The season opens here most years after the local ducks leave. The northern birds come through after my dams freeze. Also, the license costs.
The weather was too nice. Number waterfowl were not here.
They taste bad
Thought about it but again very limited area to hunt. Orman Dam has great possibilities but not developed areas to hunt. Work on this one, perhaps put some goose pits in for the public.
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time constraints
Time constraints.
Time constraints. Bad weather, plus frozen lakes and ponds.
Time hindrance due to other commitments
Time limitations
Timing between work and seasons
Timing of season.
Timing of season.
Timing with my waterfowl hunting partner didn't work out.
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy
Too busy and no geese
Too busy archery hunting and I love to sit in a tree
Too busy hunting waterfowl in Wyoming.
Too busy that time of year (mainly fishing)
Too busy working, so didn't go
Too busy.
Too complex for out of state people
Too crowded public hunting
Too early in the morning
Too early in the morning and too cold
Too expensive
Too expensive
Too few birds after late October snowfall.
Too hard and confusing to get a license
Too hard to get a license...went to North Dakota
Too hard to get licensed and hunt on own

Too hard to get permission and public areas over hunted for this reason. Lottery is also ridiculous.
Too late in season, got froze out
Too many regulations
Too many rules
Too many rules. And I have so many on my land. Shame what you have done. Was my favorite sport when I was younger.
Too many stamps! Rules!
Too much time invested archery deer hunting.
Too much work
Too old
Too old and fat! Looking forward to this coming year hopefully.
Too old to wear waders
Too old!
Too wet and cold in the fall. Never was too much of a bird hunter. Had fun with a couple friends who loved waterfowl hunting. I tagged along, but they both died. So that was the end of my waterfowl hunting.
Tried it but ultimately not interested in waterfowling. It's a cold, wet, labor intensive way to pass time.
Tried to get in the lottery for licenses before but did not get selected. Just have not re-applied to hunt waterfowl while we are there. Saw plenty of snow geese.
Unable
Unable to get time off of work to use license/draw
Unable to obtain license
Upland hunter
Upland only
used to but no longer have the desire
Used to hunt them years ago and always said that once I got a couple male wood duck to have mounted, I would quit and give others a chance and that is exactly what I did
Usually don't hunt waterfowl
Very little opportunity
Virus killed my income
Wanted to, just didn't make it out.
Was fishing
Was not interested
Was too busy
Was unsuccessful in drawing a non-resident permit for several years in a row
Was waiting for open heart surgery. Hope to hunt again next year.
Wasn't a very good flight in the area I hunt
Waterfowl license is more difficult than surrounding states to obtain. This needs to be revised to be a more friendly process.
Waterfowl licensing in SD is not friendly for non-residents.
We applied for and got tags but could not hunt due to freezing conditions. We had every intention of hunting waterfowl, but the last week of October was frigid. All the ponds we hunted in 2019 were frozen.
We are not residents of South Dakota

We are not very big waterfowl hunters we are more upland bird.
Weather was poor last fall. Northern ducks and geese did not stay in my area.
Weird weather
Weird weather and focused on fishing
Where I live, for the first time in many years, there were no Geese in the area until just recently, after the season closed when birds were coming back to go North.
Wife had Breast Cancer during waterfowl hunting season. Waiting for the 3 splash rule to start. I am not good at duck ID other than Mallards.
Wish I would have. My father in law passed away a few years ago and he was the reason we all hunted so much. Kind of stopped when he passed.
Working, no time off
Would have but unable to buy license
Would like to get into waterfowl hunting, just have not had the opportunity to get exposed to it.
Would like to hunt waterfowl in 2021
Would love to
Would love to when I am set in SD. Used to infrequently when I pheasant hunted. The current draw system for nonresident is too much of a pain to deal with.
Your waterfowl hunting permit system is terrible for non-residents. We would hunt waterfowl if we could.

Q20a. If other, what is your most preferred game species when hunting South Dakota Walk-In Areas?

- Bobcat
- Bobcat
- Checked all boxes
- Coyotes
- Coyotes
- Deer and turkey
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, antelope
- Deer, pheasant, and waterfowl
- Deer. Antelope. Coyotes.
- Deer. Antelope. Coyotes.
- Deer. Pheasant.
- Deer. Pheasant.

Deer. Pheasants.
Deer. Pheasants.
Deer. Waterfowl. Other game species.
Dove
Elk
Geese
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Antelope.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Antelope.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Coyote.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Deer.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Deer. Antelope.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant.
Grouse, prairie chicken, or partridge. Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Most WIAs are not worth a look
Pheasant
Pheasant and waterfowl. We only hunted waterfowl this trip. Have hunted pheasant in years past though.
Pheasant, waterfowl
Pheasant, waterfowl
Pheasant. Antelope.
Pheasant. Antelope.
Pheasant. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.

Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Deer. Antelope. Waterfowl. Turkey.
Pheasant. Deer. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Deer. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Deer. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Ducks.
Pheasant. Upland birds.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant. Waterfowl.
Pheasant/Duck
Prairie dogs
Rabbit
Rabbit and Squirrel
This year, I spent a fair amount of time hunting archery elk on WIA
Waterfowl. Deer.
Waterfowl. Ducks.
Waterfowl. Pheasant.
Waterfowl. Pheasants.

Q23a. If there are other factors that affected your overall hunting experiences (positive or negative) on Walk-In Areas in 2020, briefly describe.

2020 was very dry in my antelope area and much of the land was overgrazed. I don't understand Game and Fish dollars being paid for walk-in areas that can't be used till crops are harvested. Particularly harvested soybean fields are a waste of program funds, unless they are in a very good waterfowl flyway.

4 out of 5 properties I hunted in Corson and Dewey counties did not have suitable upland habitat. It was like the [...ineligible...] were picked by throwing darts on a map in some office in Pierre.

5-27-21 I hunted antelope in Harding County S.W. of Buffalo. This rancher license plate [...] continually harassed hunters driving and looking for antelope on public road that they could walk to the puts ropes across the road with simple handmade signs to keep people out of areas that were public. I was hunting with my 2 sons and 2 grandsons and he harassed us, threatened us etc. We were not on his property and were not abrasive with him but I took pictures showing an example of what he was doing. Can share these if you're interested. He raises buffalos and leases the antelope research land I believe we personally saw him shoot antelope illegally and load them with his pick-up with not placing tags on them. He purposely blocks roads with his equipment etc. He should be arrested for poaching and have his state licenses revoked. It was a bad example of him with 2 young boys with metal toys.

A guy can find and access WIAs without dealing with landowners.

A lot of people hunting WIA and game land in my area.

A lot of the walk-in areas do not have game species that I need to hunt. A lot of times the grass has been eaten by cattle or the fields have been cut or harvested and doesn't have any game to hunt.

A lot of the WIA's do not have suitable habitat for game birds. The cover is very limited to non-existent in most of these areas. CREP does provide some good habitat, but there is a limited amount of CREP land in Western SD. I would like to see better habitat for pheasants in Western SD.

A lot of time, just driving by and seeing waterfowl on them and then being able to set up a hunt without having to chase down the landowner to get permission.

A lot of WIAs are crops and can only be hunted after harvest. Leads to critical timing for waterfowl migrations.

Ability to hunt with family from other states

All good

All walk-in areas are very important.

Although not common; some of the posted WIAs had cows or other livestock and could not be hunted.

Areas need to be checked better some have zero habitat and landowner is still getting paid. Buy more quality areas like game production areas and leave food plots unharvested to hold game. Walk-ins are useless if no habitat is left on it. Charge more for licenses to release birds like they do fish and hunters will return

Areas were poorly maintained.

Areas were too dry

As a non-resident hunter some of the changes made in 2020 made me feel less valued as a visitor/customer. As a result, I cut back on from the amount of time I normally hunted in the state each fall since 2005.

As hunters get older it's getting harder to get your deer or antelope out of the field in a WIA. There should be a rule change on getting your game out. I have been hunting WIA for 25 years it is a fantastic program.

Availability of cover, water, and ESPECIALLY a food source.

Being able to see others while in walk in. The weeds where we hunt was so bad we could not see other hunters, the grass was over all of our heads.

Came in after opening weekend and trailing a storm. Areas were largely hunted out. Success rate was very poor.

Convenient to drive back roads, stop and hunt without dealing with getting permission to hunt.

Cutting of grasses leaving a bare field for the hunting season and allowing cattle to trample grass/habitat of WIA doesn't make much sense. If allowed to hay or graze cattle a certain percent of the enrolled field should be left as wildlife habitat.

Deer were bedding in a corner of the WIA. I accessed the WIA from private land and hunted the edge of it. I have some physical limitations so retrieving big game far from access points is not realistic.

Deer were only located in the farming fields due to late harvest. Never found in area where I could shoot. I did not take one shot all season. We watched deer eating.

Disappointed a large block North of Hayes was no longer in the program. Hopefully it will be in the future. This program is vital to us hunters who don't have private land access.

Disappointed that large tract of WIA was removed from program this year. Hope they will rejoin. Just NW of Hayes. Finding place to hunt without large landowner fee is difficult.

Don't see many birds on Walk In Land

Easier access to turkey land, easier access and better availability for waterfowl

Easy to access and quality cover for game.

Enjoy hunting WIA's

Figure out what happened to overall pheasant population in Charles Mix, Brule and Gregory counties. This much devastation for this length of time, has to be some sort of bird epidemic, not predators. Probably farming chemicals, pesticides & herbicides most likely.

For pheasant hunting, some of the WIA did not have what seemed to be good food areas nearby. However, much of the WIA looked good

Found pheasant on 80% of ground hunted which is encouraging

Funny, SDGFP is sending out this survey yet they decided to end the most important of all surveys: the pheasant count. Without this survey knowing or measuring the success or failure of your efforts to manage numbers is severely hampered if not impossible.

Game wardens and biologist should go out and check the land before it is enrolled and make sure it will support the game in sufficient numbers there is no reason to enroll 500 acers when only 5 to 10 percent has any cover

Good wildlife habitat and good opportunity to find wildlife on property. Multiple WIA's, CREP areas and/or public lands in close proximity to each other. This allows the opportunity to hunt multiple areas in one day or at least go to another property if there are hunters already on the property I had planned to hunt. Having multiple properties with wildlife habitat in the same area will improve wildlife populations in the area.

Got there late in season. Many fields already harvested. It was hard finding birds. Dog worked really hard for not much return. Saw a lot of birds out in unharvested fields with do not hunt signs.

Great to keep habitat available for birds. we go every year and it is interesting to see how the birds move from area to area from year to year, so having several spots available in a county is important. the hunting atlas is very helpful

Habitat surrounding WIA effected the WIA. Having overall high quality habitat seemed to influence game abundance. Also, having multiple public options in a relatively small area so that if one area has hunters, it is easy to go to a different location. I nearly always go to areas with multiple options.

Habitat, habitat, habitat!!! SD is dropping the ball. I've been hunting roosters in South Dakota for 24 years, in my mid 30's now. I've seen the decline in habitat and subsequently the decline in wildlife. 2020 is the last year I will be giving my license money to SD, we are selling our hunter house we've had for 20 plus years, for the simple fact of habitat loss and wildlife loss.

Had a run in with a farmer a couple years back. The WIA signs were removed. Told us it was private land so we did not hunt there. In 2020 you put up new signs so we hunted there. Thank you.

Had a very negative experience with an individual who stopped and approached 4 antelope up wind over open ground while I had a concealed approach. needless to say, the goats left in a hurry. He could see I was there. I didn't harvest an antelope because of him. Idiot! Overall, most hunters we encountered were good sportsmen and considerate of others.

Harassment from GFP Warden while hunting rabbit and squirrel with a crossbow. Didn't believe me, so wrote me a ticket anyway, even when other witnesses verified I was hunting small game. Will contest ticket.

Have seen good numbers of birds (pheasants) and waterfowl in the WIA's.

Have used walk in areas in previous years hunting and are an excellent addition to the hunting experience

Having ample amounts of walk in areas allows us hunters to be able to change areas very quickly based on hunting pressure

Hunted all walk-ins but never saw any antelope. Glassed and used spotting scope a lot. Hunted all day, saw no reason to hunt anymore when there isn't any antelope to be seen! Saw 7 herds of no more than 8 in a herd with one buck in each all on private!

Hunted Perkins County North. Many of the walk in areas have nothing to draw and keep game during the fall, pastures had been grazed hard & game would not exit private property to enter public areas unless being driven from private at the time. We put in 25 miles and more per weekend West River and had very few opportunities for game.

Hunted wig's during the resident season before regular season begins.

I absolutely love South Dakota and the WIAs available for hunters. I'm currently looking for a home because of the opportunities and land offered by the state.

I am a big fan of the crop fields for waterfowl hunting. We use a walk-in that is open to driving out to place decoys into almost every trip.

I am sure GFP is aware of the "habitat quality" of each WIA and the distribution of pheasant densities.

I appreciate the time and effort the GFP puts in to acquiring and supporting the WIA program. It is a very important program for resident SD sports men who would otherwise not have a place to hunt. I encourage the GFP to continue this program and even expanding it if funding allows for the continued cultivation of future SD sportsmen to pursue hunting. It is worth the effort in both promoting youth interest in hunting and responsible management of wildlife in SD.

I believe a landowner removed signs for access to WIA piece of land I would have liked to hunt but did not figure this out until the end of the trip. I would be willing to produce location to investigate and interested to learn more about this.

I believe WIA is a good program.

I desire WIA's to have room to get away from the vehicle. I do not mind walking great distances to get away from roads or other hunters. The quality of the habitat directly influences the quality of the animal it can yield. I would walk far distances for desired habitat and animals.

I did not hunt walk in areas as much in 2020 as usual. Overall it is a great program.

I don't have to reserve it, I don't have to pay a fee, and it is public so I can access it without being a landowner (I can't afford land). I could take friends along to hunt. The WIA areas with the best habitat were the best to hunt. Some are hayed to nothing supporting NO wildlife.

I don't own any land in the curb hunted. It is the only option.

I enjoyed duck hunting in south Dakota

I feel all land plays a role. Habitat is key. More is better. Improving those areas to nest, nurture, and winter game is EXTREMELY important! Very blessed to live in South Dakota and have opportunities to make lifelong memories and friendships!

I feel you manage for income from license sales and could care less about the experience of hunting or management of game!

I find WIA to be very hit or miss for pheasant habitat unless there is water/drainage that creates late season cover. Have best luck on WIA for waterfowl in which the land is primarily used as pastureland. I am very grateful of the public land availability in South Dakota. It has (and hopefully continues) afforded great opportunities to have a quality hunting experience with my sons and daughter.

I had one landowner tell me that even though the GFP App pinpointed me on Walk-In land, he said the map wasn't accurate on the atlas, paper and downloaded, and that he's been trying to get GFP to connect it. Luckily he was nice enough to still let me hunt. I wish there was a way to get into some Walk-In Areas that are "land-locked" by private lands without having to try and find a way to get in touch with landowners that own land surrounding. I've noticed this on some school and public lands that they are not easily accessible.

I have always been pleased with the walk in areas, more and new would be amazing but I am very happy with what we have. Thank you

I have bad leg can't walk over 50 yards at a time. I can't legally shoot from y car, side by side, 4x4 Ranger. I also have bad Roto cup in my right arm so I can use crossbow. It would be helpful to me, with GFP approval, to retrieve big game with my vehicles after I made a kill. I see coyote hunters drive, run around on Walk-In and CREP ground when I'm trying to bow hunt.

I have been hunting for many years and it's getting harder to hunt public land due to the amount of traffic in the lands. Farmers are putting more and more of their lands into crops and the habitat for game is diminishing as that happens more people use public lands

I have family that lives in SD so I have some private land to hunt. But I also like the challenge of hunting new ground and other towns and areas. So the Walk-In Area, give me a chance to do so. I hunt pheasant late season so some of the land owners are not at their homesteads at that time of year they are in town and hard to find to get permission. South WIA and CREP are the best options. Then in early spring for Snow Geese a lot of CREP farmers are also not back to their summer work homes so it is also hard to get permission when they are not around. So the WIA CREP Waterfowl Production Area, are nice to have for spring Snow Geese, also a lot of cattle ranchers cows are having calves so they are up all night keeping the calves out of the mouths of coyotes and going on little sleep so we don't bother them. One thing that would be nice for spring Snow Geese because they migrate so fast through an area would be for farmers who don't mind if you walk in to jump Snow Geese had a list for people to walk in only to hunt Snow Geese for the two months of early light geese. So people could use a mapping system with the names of the owner and know that it is ok to hunt the field when you see the geese out there otherwise by the time you find the owner a lot of time the geese are gone that has happened a lot of times, where when you see them you can make a move of them right away and more Snows would be harvested. I guarantee it has happened many times for our group. Just an idea for spring Snows but Walk-In only for the early light goose season.

I have found on a few occasions when you'd get to a walk in area there wasn't a spot to walk in. Barb wire would totally encompass some areas so I wouldn't hunt those areas because I would have to damage private property to get into the WIA.

I have hunted WIAs that have outstanding habitat for the game species I am pursuing and am extremely grateful and satisfied for the WIA program that the state and landowners provide. I am also frustrated, however, when I see 30 - 40 ac size property that is a WIA and there is absolutely no habitat on this property that would hold game unless only passing through. Hunting big game from ROWs is illegal. Property like this serves almost no purpose for game or sportsmen. A waste of funds in my opinion.

I hunt waterfowl on WIAs that allow vehicles to be driven on the harvested crop land to set up decoys.

There are not enough WIAs that allow that type of hunting. Access to private land for waterfowl hunting is very difficult to obtain. That is main reason that people are not hunting waterfowl anymore.

I hunt WIA's because they are widely available. However there needs to be many acres enrolled because under current SD rules, many of the acres are annually hayed or actively grazed and not good hunting opportunities. It requires scouting or knowledge of the area. I was raised on a ranch with appreciation and support of the ag industry. I am just not sure of the trade off or theory behind paying landowners for WIA's that are obviously used as part of their operations. Some communication to the hunters in order to understand the Department philosophy would be helpful.

I hunted (or tried to) antelope using walk in areas; however there were very few antelope seen across all of 3 days and no reasonable opportunity to harvest them. The WIA was very large (in Perkins County), but devoid of antelope (all antelope seen were on private ground). Plenty of mule deer, no antelope. Other issues were a lack of places to leave my vehicle so that I would not be in the way of the landowner or other traffic, signage (lacking), and access to many of the areas (some did not seem to have a way to drive or walk to them without trespassing). Seems we are spending state money on WIA contracts for ground that doesn't really produce hunting opportunities.

I hunted Meade County South Antelope and Meade County East Any deer and I was very disappointed to see how heavily everything was grazed or bailed. I anticipated higher quality land available. Also the few antelope I did find were on private land I was unable to access it due to landowner not willing to give permission. I grew up in Nebraska and getting landowner permission was never hard. South Dakota it has been virtually impossible.

I live in a highly agricultural area of Eastern SD. Halfway between Brookings and Sioux Falls. For several years I have been discouraged to see our tax money going to farmers that enroll a barren, flat, harvested bean field into WIA. Knowing full well that scarcely a mouse, let alone a huntable population of any game has been, or is on that entire piece of property. If the state is going to give these people money, make sure it is able to support some game. Not just a barren field. West river is a much different story in many cases.

I live in northeastern Day County. Some walk-ins have excellent habitat, and others are grazed to a golf green level and even have cattle on them too. The ones with habitat have variations of prairie grass, cattails, crp grasses, trees, and crop land. Reward the landowner enrolling good habitat!

I live in TX. The WIA allow me to start my hunt as soon as I cross the border. I hunt based out of Faulkton, SD. So I hunt WIA going up and coming back.

I live near Sioux Falls & it is very difficult to find public land that is not over-crowded by hunters! I know in general there just isn't a lot of East River public land, compared to West river. I think it should be a priority for GF+P to find, purchase, acquire or develop more public land East river!

I love the WIA for deer hunting. It's one of the only spots to hunt West River deer that we can find some nice deer and not too many people.

I mainly like to archery hunt antelope on walk in areas. would like to see better signage defining which roads on waif areas are designated roads. I see hunters driving on paths that I'm pretty sure aren't designated roads but I see roads/well traveled paths that I am pretty sure are ok to drive on but they aren't marked as such. Would like to know for sure before I drive them. Also it would be very helpful if other public hunting lands were posted as well, school land, BLM land, etc.

I normally hunt alone so the areas are nice .just a little large

I only hunted pheasant, and we saw very few when we hunted the WIAs. It was enjoyable terrain and I appreciated the opportunities to hunt there, even though we did not find many opportunities to shoot. Thank you!

I prefer to have good quality land to hunt. In the last few/several years the opportunity to hunt deer on WIA seems to have decreased due to (EHD plus more hunters), reduced tag numbers and it also seems WIA are attracting more hunters in the last few/several years. I have often asked myself, are more hunters losing access to private ground without a fee? If so, and if that trend continues to increase in the future, then all public land (WIA's included) will become increasingly crowded in the future.

I really liked the opportunity to hunt pheasants later into the season this year. I wish I would have had more time to go out after deer hunting was over.

I saw multiple WIA signs that are currently private land - no public hunting.

I see far too much crop land with absolutely no cover for game (soybeans, disked or cultivated fields)

I think it's great to have more land you can access besides private land

I thought the pheasant population would be better. It has declined in the past years. Mother nature is not friendly to the animals sometimes. The Walk-In Areas are great but the pheasant have to be there. I start hunting when all the pressure and crops are out. Here in SE South Dakota we have plenty of land to hunt WIA/CREP.

I understand the need to hay or graze WIA's some years, however some of the areas were overrun with so many cattle that there was no habitat left and you safely could not even hunt it.

I use the resident opener on public land to get myself and the dog tuned up.

I usually find areas on the maps and then drive to them to evaluate. If they don't appear to have adequate habitat I usually don't even try them and find another that does.

I usually hunt later in the season so by that time it seems most areas have been over hunted. I'll mainly see only a few hens. Since I usually hunt by myself I need small strips of cover to walk.

I was disappointed in the habitat on some I hunted and on several I didn't even bother hunting them.

I wish more walk in areas had food plots to hold pheasants in the wish! Without food pheasants leave the sis in search of food! I also think the 10am opener should be adjusted when daylight savings time adjusts maybe go to a 8 or 9 o'clock opening!

I would like to see it so once you shot an animal you could retrieve it with a vehicle

I would like to see more food plots in WIA and left in tell spring.

I would like to see more of them. I would like to see habitat for game. I do not think WIA should be a plowed field like they are in day county

I would say there is a lot of walk in area east of Lake City that would be considered as non-quality wildlife habitat for pheasants and other upland birds. These areas should be removed and money spent on other areas that have better grass land and overall better habitat. Very pleased with the areas around Britton and Hecla.

If fenced in land gates that can be used (opened) for hunters and dogs to use entering land. So you don't have to climb over fence to use.

If the farmer planted corn nearby instead of soybeans.

I'm a waterfowl hunter 'field.' All too often the WIA field is picked beans or corn that has been picked for feed. Both practices leave an empty field no birds of any sort want to be a part of. Corn . Don't waste money on other fields for waterfowl.

I'm a waterfowl hunter 'field.' All too often the WIA field is picked. Beans or corn that has been picked for feed. Both practices leave an empty field no birds of any sort want to be a part of. Corn . Don't waste money on other fields for waterfowl.

I'm baffled that GFP is still getting hustled by landowners enrolled in the program. Not only do they get money to enroll into the program, they also graze it down to where you couldn't hide a grasshopper on it. 90% of what is called a WIA! In Harding county should be change to Look-in! Boy does it look like a lot of public land to hunt from on maps. Until to get to it and it has cattle or sheep on it, and it has been grazed to dirt! The only reason I was up hunting that joke you guys call walk in, was for over the counter archery Antelope. Not a chance in hell I would ever apply for rifle in that unit with the hopes of harvesting anything on the walk-in programs there.

I'm originally from northern Minnesota where there is almost limitless public hunting areas and I hunt there every year. Too bad South Dakota doesn't have the same. Biggest problem is no signage on public school areas. It is difficult to determine just where they are.

In 2020 we spent several days walking what looked to be very quality habitat areas surrounded with food and had water sources, but birds were very limited. We walked several that our dogs never even got birdy in and several where we only flushed hens and several with some hens but only one or two roosters.

In Edmunds County, there are very few WIAs (or public lands in general), so the few around get hunted very hard, to the point where they have little value.

In general the WIAs in the areas I hunted (West of MO River) had little to no cover for the game species I hunted. I was better off hunting the road ditches just down the road from WIAs.

In general, I am very pleased and impressed with the WIA programs. The only problem I have ever encountered is landowners & locals driving around while hunting antelope in West River WIA's. I have reported such instances, but this hard to prove. A prime example is the Beszler Area southwest of Bison.

In some areas of the state there are WIA that are nothing more than grazed down pastureland.

In the county I deer hunt we've lost so much public land in the past few years from private parties & these game preserves buying up the land for private hunting. It just keeps getting harder for the avg. guy to be able to hunt. If it keeps going this way my group will be forced to give up deer hunting we can't afford to pay these fees that people are drying to charge to let you in and harvest an animal. They act like they own the animals & it just keeps getting worse year after year.

It is my experience that walk-in areas get way over hunted and I know I'm part of that problem with so much private land there are not a lot of good options to walk and hunt.

It is nice to have the opportunity to go hunting on a new piece of property whether I am successful or not. It's nice to have places to go.

It seems as though Walk in areas almost always have very poor habitat for game and have a lot less game than say a state game production area or crep land

It seems there have been too many tags given out in years past. The number of deer and especially the number of quality deer seem to be down in most places I hunted the last several years.

It was great. Not many hunters in the area and an abundance of game. Land owners were working on field near us and actually let us know they're plans so we could plan accordingly making their day and ours all the better

It would have to be coming to a walk in or crep and it being mowed or bailed. Also miss marked came across a couple that were marked on the book and gaps crep or walk in and were not there and the landowner stopped and told us they were no longer there.

It's hard to hunt habitat that has been overgrazed by livestock. Understandably that's just how it works but there should be some limitation to grazing and farming practices on WIAs

It's our only option. I will not pay a lodge to hunt pen raised birds.

I've enjoyed the ease of access to the walk in areas, they have been very helpful to me in my hunting plans.

I've waited years to get the "any tag" I wanted, but Covid 19 stopped me from going opening weekend.

Just really love having a place to go!

Just wish there was more walk-in areas, especially where ranchers and farmers complain about wildlife damage, mainly deer

Keep out-of-state hunters away first couple weeks of any season

Keep up the good work and be safe.

Keep up the good work. The book's "maps" are very helpful in locating property. Keep the land in program it's nice to go back to locations that have produced in the past and don't like to see areas taken out of the program. Would like to see food plots in more areas.

Lack of parking

Landowners are not allowing hunting more and more. Without WIA, hunting would be more difficult.

Landowner intentionally interfered with hunt. We assume to protect a trophy antelope from being shot.

Large amount of poaching this year, also many of the waif were harvested clean even bailed the stubble. Many farmers were in the fields during open weekends. Couple actively harvesting when 4 hunters were set up.

Large areas are good to avoid other hunter and provide space for those who are willing to work for game. Small areas crowded with weak hunters are not enjoyable.

Last few years many of the areas had been harvested for hay and the cover was not as good as in the past. Last year the heavy snow in late October pushed a lot of the pheasant to the middle of harvested fields where they couldn't be hunted. Rather than fill their crop early and then fly to cover in a WIA, they spent much of the day trying find grain beneath the snow.

Like big acres to hunt antelope with nobody around

Like to be able to see game on land

Lots of the WIA land I saw was grazed pastureland not good for much of anything. The land with any kind of cover was pounded by other hunters.

Love it! Thank you for all you do to provide these areas to hunt!

Make sure boundaries are clearly marked.

Many are too close to busy highways /interstate. I prefer quite areas so I can really enjoy the surroundings.

Many of the Walk-In Areas in Day County were tilled and/or plowed under. This is a waste of sportsman dollars if the farmer is going to plow under a bean or corn field immediately after harvest. No duck or goose will land there or provide cover for pheasants. If farmers are under contract to leave it till a certain date, a tip line to GFP to report tilled fields may be useful.

Many of the WIA's we find are somewhat heavily managed for crops. We hunt mostly in late November and early December and of course the crops are gone. Most do not have good winter cover, so we hunt mostly WPA's and CREP

Many Walk-In Areas are not enrolled as much as they were in the past. When I rely on hunting public ground for a lot of my hunting, I hate to see that land to become private again. It would be nice to know why landowners are pulling out their land. Some walk in is just pastureland which allow minimal success to harvest any game on that land.

Many WIAs west river are over grazed pastures with little to no cover for wildlife. SDGFP should monitor that closely and deny those landowners the payment

May not always hunt WIA but knowing they are available keeps me coming back every year.

Met some other very nice hunters, I was by myself, we all work together so we all had an area to hunt. I shot a very nice buck Antelope, just got it back from taxidermists.

More walk-in areas that contain ponds for waterfowl

More WIA's available near my home (Sioux falls) would be helpful.

Most don't seem to be suitable for hunting especially ones that allow cattle on them

Most of the WIAs in my area are not good habitat for game animals. Neither large or small game animals don't stay where the pastures are over grazed. I think it would be a good idea that if land is enrolled in CRP it should be a WIA. The CRP land is ideal for hunting because of cover, food and habitat for both large and small game animals.

Most walk in areas in counties able to get a license are already cultivated, hay had been cut or nothing around it to bring any game to it

Most WIA and Crep land was mowed or plowed under. The land that still had habitat had birds but was also hunted hard before we arrived in early November. Don't understand how you can pay farmers money for habitat and there is none.

Most WIA's seemed overutilized.

My family enjoyed a couple of hunts in WIA's near our home this fall and we were able to enjoy the time we had together while harvesting a few pheasants and letting the dog work. We would spend this time together during the weekdays vs. the weekends due to what appeared to be increased pressure from our friends east of South Dakota during the weekends. All in all, I feel that we were able to enjoy the WIA's in our home state while allowing the non-residents to enjoy their time on the weekends. Thank you all for the time you spend protecting our resources.

My main basis for satisfaction of WIA property is based off of the amount of participation on the Eastern side of the state. I hunt mostly within a 30 mile range outside of Sioux Falls. Use lots of GPA property throughout this range. There just isn't very much WIA where I hunt.

Near Ree Heights, the Walk-In Areas are pretty beat up by the time I get there in December.

Need a lot more land and more blinds and cooperation from landowners to provide them

Need more HABITAT!!!

Need more WIA's

Negative - some areas seem to allow tree stands up year round. They have the best spots so refuse to remove them so they don't lose the spots. Rules need to be enforced or removed from the handbook.

Never can find pheasants. Have to at least drive 150 miles not much in SE SD

Never many birds on public land. Over hunted.

Nice having land with good wildlife habitat for the opportunity to chase game.
negative is there is a lot of WIA that has poor habitat because it has been hayed or grazed or even crops at times.

Nice to be able to hunt close to home

No population of game birds

No signs for roads you can drive on or they have been removed by others or landowners

Non-resident landowners can't find who to contact to ask permission!

Not enough good habitat to support more birds

Not happy that some public areas are land locked

Not looking for trophy buck, just good meat to eat.

Of the 25 different times I went out to hunt Tracy Acres (near Big Sioux River) and Burbank Beach area, I saw deer 0 times. I am probably going to need to ask for permission to hunt on private lands because my son has been out two seasons with me and hasn't had a chance to shoot yet. I am not sure if it has just been the past few seasons, deer disease or low deer count, high hunter numbers or what but the deer haven't been there during hunting times. Thanks for offering land for non-landowners to hunt on!

One negative thing I see is letting farmers cut the good grass growing to short so just weeds grow there now.

One of the biggest complaints I have and I hear about walk-in land is when you drive 15 or 20 miles to get to a walk-in and it's a SD cow pasture a cow pasture. Just burns most upland bird hunters butt.

One WIA that my dad and I hunted on south of Pierre had 2 very aggressive horses. One of them bucked at my dad's dog. The dog was not bothering him. We had to leave. The horses went right up to the gate so we could not open it as they would have bolted. We had to climb under the fence and my dad is 84! Other experiences on WIA were great.

Other hunters walking into a piece I started hunting from the other side blew my hunt. Showing up to a piece and a hunter is already on it is a bummer. Overall very happy with the program.

Other people hunting close by

Over grazed or have cattle in fields to look out for. I believe ranchers shouldn't get paid as much if they graze it to the dirt vs having boot high grasses. Also they should be required to have the cattle out in a field or in a portion that isn't enrolled.

Pack out what you pack in

People driving on Walk-In Land. Cattle and or building in close proximity to hunting area. Signage torn down / not present. Landowner harassing me while glassing public lands from roadway. Walk-In that is overgrazed or barren tilled ground w/ no cover.

Percent of crops harvested

Pheasant population in the Yankton SD area was down on the Walk-In Areas I hunted.

Plenty of habitat. Lots of birds. Very few hunters. Bird populations high. Hunter populations low.

Poor cover in and around...I would pay extra tabs to hunt more CRP or CREP land

Positive - good pheasant population in our area and wasn't overly crowded

Positive because it's hard to get permission to hunt on private land and usually end up breaking a law road hunting

Public hunting areas were very packed during west river deer season.

Public land south of Sutton Bay was great but landowner East of public kept deer on his sunflowers field. This was very disappointing. I only hunted 3 days and one day was wasted. He drove up & down border of fence to keep mule deer in his field all day!!

Public land that provides good habitat is extremely important to populations of game especially when there is little incentive for landowners to provide habitat.

Ranchers mow or graze the habitat. There is no habitat when you allow this to happen. Stop mowing the road ditches.

Really like this program. Wish there were more acres enrolled

Road right away , seems to be reduced , maybe by farmers or landowners , trying to keep birds on their properties. It was a nice bonus in the 1990's to hunt. now that I am getting older it is harder to hunt the fields all day.

SD boasts about how many acres of Walk-in they have yet much of it west of the river seems like range land that is devoid of game. Seems it would be better to invest in high-quality acres instead of vast quantities of low-quality habitat.

SD overall is one of the best states for providing public access to hunters. However, in 3 of the last 4 years, a public WIA, where I personally harvested a limit of pheasants, has had that area removed from the WIA public program, or has had the land owner remove habitat, eliminating all possibility for wildlife. If the land owner chooses not to renew that's 1 thing. However, if land owners are allowed to remove habitat, they should NOT be paid for that land. Public land is vital to all resident hunters and they have not been made a priority in recent years. Money and private land has been the focus, with public land that should be just as important falling to the bottom of the list of importance. How else could 3 fantastic WIAs that just 1 hunter used disappear in such a short time?

SD was so dry pheasant hunting was hard on dogs and a big fire hazard.

SDGFP is doing a great job in Roberts county

Seeing other hunters in areas is an annoyance especially when stalking deer.

When hunting leased out land by GFP landowners interrupting a hunt due to them not understanding that the land leased is huntable.

Seemed the number of pheasants were down again I miss the days of birds everywhere. Really need to work for them these past 5 years

Seems to be a lack of wild birds in these types of areas. I/we just put that up and being hunted or weather conditions hurting the hatches.

Seems to be a lot of hay being cut the last couple of years in walk-in and crep areas the last couple of years.

Several landowners like to harass people while they are legally hunting WIA. They interfere and in my opinion harass wildlife to stop legal hunters from harvesting.

Signage could be better as far as property boundaries.

Signage could be better in some areas. Rely heavily on GPS or phone maps to be sure where I am hunting. Some walk in areas have relatively little cover for upland birds or deer and makes one wonder how the land qualified for walk in payments.

Signage could be improved on numerous sites. Particularly those without fences around entire property. It would be helpful to have signs placed in the middle of quarters that don't have fences, rather than just on the corners. GF&P App on my iPhone-10 works poorly in identifying current location when in question.

So many WIAs and WPAs are overgrazed, mowed so not even a gopher can survive or be seen!

Some areas in the North West region of the state were grazed heavily. Lack of moisture in the area contributed to the quality of the land.

Some areas of Walk-In way mowed or hayed West of Fawk Co. Also, some issues with hunter concentration but pheasant & antelope hunting in East Harding Co. Am going to adjust the days I hunt so I don't have to deal with the crowds on weekends or opening day.

Some area's under the CREP.....I don't know what the GF&P pays the landlord, but there is a lot of land that is totally ridiculous to hunt....No Grass, etc...Totally ridiculous. Spend Money were MAYBE GAME IS AVAILABLE. Paying landlords to just have half ass hunting land??? Please reevaluate, thanks

Some habitat quality in WIA is poor. Heavy grazing, little cover for game. Only realistic time you'd find game in these areas is often times bucks cruising during the rut. Otherwise there is nothing to hold them there (food/cover). Some areas are great and have this but some it makes you wonder why the state is paying to have it enrolled. Clearly a benefit to the farmer or rancher as a source of income (not much but still some income).

Some known hot spots or easily accessible areas can be crowded with hunters, pushing game the center or out altogether. Productive areas for big game are relatively abundant. But some expansion of public grouse and pheasant habitat would be helpful. To be successful, I sometimes drive 2 hours to a WIA that has good bird habitat. That is a long way for a couple of birds. I rely on public land and WIAs for 100% of my hunting. I appreciate the landowners who participate, and I am happy to follow expectations to keep those lands available for hunting.

Some of the land in this program is very poor for deer and antelope hunting because cattle are kept on it.

Some of the Walk-In Areas have very little cover after crops are out.

Some of the WIAs have minimal habitat. I would like the fees I pay to support the program go to landowners that put quality ground into the program.

Some private West River land was closed so a lot of pressure on WIA. Animals get terribly wild.

Some Walk in areas have little to no cover and aren't good for any hunting. Other WIAs have cattle so hunting is difficult.

Some WIA are just grazed pasture. These farmers should not be getting paid for that land. Since many farmers get tax payer subsidies their weeks and sloughs should be available for hunting.

Some WIA areas there's nothing to hunt cause farmer tilled soil and turned it black. Why pay for this when cover is missing?

Some WIAs are a barren wasteland and I am surprised you would pay someone for access. Some are pretty good. Great to have them as it reduces hunting pressure on other areas although hunting pressure is very low at this time unlike in the past when pheasant numbers were much higher. Now we can usually hunt without seeing anyone else vs. having people come in to hunt the same area when pheasant numbers were very high.

Some WIAs need to be groomed so birds and hunters can navigate the land.

Some WIA's were harvested/cut for hay. No habitat at all. Would be nice to know which fields are not productive. Otherwise, you drive quite a bit to find the productive WIA's.

Sometimes difficult to identify WIA area boundaries

Sometimes signage isn't always clear. I want to know I am on WIA land. I wish there were more. It is a pleasure to hunt these lands.

South Dakota needs to limit road access on all public lands including Black Hills National forest.

Stop-production ag programs were a significant negative impact to Walk In ground in 2020.

Thank you for public hunting access

Thank you for WIA's

Thanks for the survey, please continue to purchase and develop walk- in- areas and other areas. Not sure what this survey can do about game production areas. I heard this year there was a nice piece of land in the northeast part of the state that the landowner wanted to sell to be used for game production but the governor blocked the sale, thus reducing the opportunity for sportsmen. Not sure how you can overcome special interests and political agendas but these factors do hurt the quality of or lands and access. As much as possible please resist having the governor and special interests degrade the overall quality of our lands, sport, and heritage. The over- commercialization really hurts everyone. I do appreciate the governors predator control program. I think this is a very important program and could be expanded.

The amount of opportunity is awesome in my area

The birds were not there this year. No fault rod program rather Mother Nature

The cattle had trampled all the cover along the ditch. The ditch is the only cover in the WIA.

The current program is great. Thank you. More WIA land is always good!!!! I would rather have more acres available so hunters can spread out

The habitats that I hunt near my private land hunt are popular but do have good habitat management.

A concern I have is adjoining unimproved section lines have private no hunting signs posted by farmer/ranchers.

The majority of the walk in areas we chose to hunt were good pieces of land that contained game and provided the kind of cover then would need to be there. There are/were some other areas that we've wanted to hunt but it always seems like cows are grazing the walk in land. Not sure if it's supposed to be an every year occurrence or not but in some areas it seems like it is. These areas basically become land that you can't hunt.

The most disappointing is using the WIA booklet and getting to a spot only to find it has either been mowed or grazed so that there is no cover or habitat for birds to use. Also it seems like farmers have a burning desire to mow every ditch in sight and then you see stocks of round bales rotting away, either in fields or on farm guards.

The only places I hunt are public land or land such as WIA

The problem with the walk-in areas is usually over grazed or there seems to be too much livestock in them hard to sneak up on archery antelope when you got cows following you that would be the only thing I hunt on walk in areas otherwise too many people

The use of OnX Hunt and other apps to navigate to the sites is critical to a positive experience. Please keep developing them.

The walk in area I hunted was so great it was just me and my brother never forget the peacefulness and serenity

The walk in area that I hunted the most borders private that I have permission on so it is easy to cross the fence and hunt either side while pursuing game.

The Walk in area we hunted this year was a picked bean field. I'm not sure if this was active WIA but the signs were still up from years past. I assume that WIA's have to be set aside land.

The Walk-In Area that I hunted on is extremely large on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. We did not harvest a deer, but the problem if we did would be having to drag the deer miles out to our truck.

The Walk-In Areas for deer in Western SD are excellent. The only problem is the amount of people. I believe that the number of tags should be cut. SDGFP has done an excellent job with the upland and waterfowl Walk-In Areas. I specifically am pleased with the option to be able to drive on certain WIAs to put out decoys. These areas, like some that don't have this option, would be useless without it.

The waterfowl walk in areas that allow vehicle travel to set decoys was the best idea. The only problem is some years the fields are plowed black and can't be effectively used.

The WIAs are way overgrazed for the majority of areas. If the state is paying landowners for this access then the state should be managing the habitat & grazing for the WIA.

The WIAs where we hunt are over grazed pasture with no cover or wildlife shouldn't get paid if there's no habitat

There are a lot of areas that are not accessible (access across private property). Crazy it is enrolled and no way to access.

There are a number of walk-in properties and waterfowl production areas we hunted in the past where we historically have been very successful that have been inaccessible over the last few years due to road maintenance. Waterfowl hunting is a very gear intensive sport, so it is relatively important that we be able to at least drop our gear near where we intend to hunt. Some of the access roads to these properties have been changed to minimum maintenance or no maintenance, so they are essentially inaccessible.

There are some areas that absolutely have no cover at all for hunting purposes. GFP pay these landowners good money so hunters can hunt on their land. But there is no cover for the species to hide let alone eat. Landowners should be required to plant sorghum, corn or other crops for the benefit of all species. REGARDLESS.

There are some high quality WIA areas and then there are some that seem like a waste to spend your time. Last season there was a larger amount of hunters on the land so it was harder to find decent spots to hunt.

There is some Walk-In Areas that are not worth hunting it all needs to be looked at and don't spend money on it. Then there are some awesome spots to hunt.

There was good antelope WI area located along HWY 212 East of Newell that is no longer in the WI program - there is now wind turbines there. That really sucks, because I only do archery antelope and this was a great area for this. Now have to travel a lot further to get into good antelope habitat. Seems like archery hunting in this area would be safe - please try to get this area back for archery hunting only. This is also good for deer in this area.

There were some areas on the maps as walk in areas that were a fenced in pasture or harvested field with no habitat so it was frustrating to drive that far to the area and find no hunting opportunity. I would suggest spending the valuable money on areas that for sure offer some type of cover for hunting.

These lands were poorly managed and I will not be back. I had a very bad hunting trip to South Dakota. Very disappointed.

They are very important! The only downfall is that a lot of WIA have a lot of pasture land, or lack of cattail sloughs. But our group still took of pheasants out of WIA! Hopefully you talk to MN Gov and tell him how important it is to have WIAs, we have a few, but not enough!

They are way over hunted is my only comment on them

This is very nice not to have to contact landowners because a lot of people get permission before I do because I have to work and don't have a chance to ask first

This year I had COVID most of the month of Nov. It is nice to hunt pheasants close, but am willing to travel. Some WIAs just don't have birds, not sure if it's hunted too hard, predators, or? Is it possible to keep the WIAs but not allow hunting for a 1 yr. period? Let trappers trap some ground!

This year we had issues with huge numbers of out of state hunters in WIA. We had encounters with both rude individuals and individuals who were very disrespectful. I have never hunted with the amount of out of state people and just the overall rudeness.

Three huge factors. Way too much hunting pressure, far too little public land to hunt and far too little game. I am retired and have hunted birds with the blessing of having great gun dogs my entire life. I hunt three or four days a week consistently regardless of weather or time of season. I could not believe how bad the pressure was on the public land, especially walk in areas! Everything gets trampled to death. I hunt from the eastern border of the state to as far west as there are decent bird numbers west of the Missouri River. It almost didn't matter where I was, the areas had been beaten to death with far too many hunters. And this also had nothing to do with lack of experience or great dogs. With the proof of snow on the ground, I could walk hours at times and not even see a single pheasant or grouse track! Track!! It was the most horrible bird hunting I have seen in 50 years, anywhere. Also, I know some of the walk-in areas are set up for big game, but there was still far too much land enrolled with landowners taking advantage of game and fish hunters dollars that was even remotely decent habitat. Why is the game and fish using our hard earned license revenue to lease lands that are a moonscape? And again, there is just not near enough public land to hunt! And the game and fish wonders why non-residents no longer want to come to the state?! I live close to the Minnesota border and border jump for pheasants also. The pheasant hunting on public land in Minnesota is actually much better than nearly any place in the entire state of South Dakota! We normally hunt legal shooting hours beginning to end. Please come along. I would love to show you how horrific the public land hunting is in South Dakota! It would give me great pleasure [...]. Finally, no longer conducting bird number surveys was the absolute worst and most deceitful thing you could've done to hunters. A huge slap in the face. And you think that will generate more non-residence to hunt? Horribly dishonest, deceitful and disrespectful! Whether the Director or commission or a joint effort by only you know who, that was the absolute worst thing the game and fish could've ever, ever done! Have you people lost your minds?!

To many hunters trying to utilize the same land, GFP needs to quit selling out the resident hunters for dollars. Resident hunters are always the lowest consideration. GFP should stop acting like the Dept of Tourism. GFP should have regular hunters on the commission, not just people wanting to make money from hunting and politicians. Resume truthful brood counts. Governor should stay out of the GFP hunting. Game farms need more regulation, and limits on how many are allowed in an area. Much like liquor licenses are based on the county population. Ditch mowing should not be allowed during the fall. Non-residents need to either hunt public or private, but not both. Consider having the GFP Secretary become an elected position removing outside influences from other state entities and more responsive to the people electing them. I do not oppose closing some areas to vehicles but give some thought to the older guys who cannot walk in, maybe open roads only for hunting/scouting to those over 60. Same rules would apply as to not shooting from a vehicle, no ATVs, etc. It is good to see large tracks of land, but it is of no value to those who cannot walk a long way to access it. I often see the GFP wondering why the hunting numbers are down, maybe the answer isn't as hard to find as you think.... Try listening

Too many areas that had little to no habitat but were still paid for with my tax dollars. overall impression is that we are paying landowners for property that does not have habitat or game.

Too many hunters and not a lot of bad people

Too many hunters guys shooting off roads disrespectful neighboring landowners

Too many land locked WIA's

Too many non-resident hunters!!!

Too many non-resident waterfowl hunters!

Too many of the WIAs in Edmunds and McPherson counties were grazed or had minimal cover and habitat to attract and hold pheasant

Too many out of state hunters. Rude, and they work the [...] out of the land. Seen breaking laws often.

Too many prohibited noxious weeds, thistles etc.

Too many WIAs do not provide suitable habitat to hold wildlife and are just a waste of money. They are either grazed to nothing, hayed or were a crop field that was harvested and now provide no habitat.

Too many WIAs in my location are too close to buildings. They can't be hunted, other walk in areas have nothing but plowed fields which is a waste of money for nothing to hunt. The only other problem I find is when I walk back in a long ways to hunt then the land owner drives in to hunt it himself

Unfortunately, many of the huntable areas just don't hold birds. I think food plots on some of the CREP AND WIA would be a real plus. I also think the areas need to be tied up and not cut for longer periods of time. In my opinion it takes at least 3 years of untouched habitat to start to become productive. Cutting grass or switching in and out of the programs every couple of years degrades the quality of the land. Controlled burns every 6 to 10 years might be ok if done judiciously.

Very disappointed that governor granted funds to enhance pheasant population and all money went (from reports) to friends/political favors and not to actually benefit the SD pheasant population.

Very disappointed that governor granted funds to enhance pheasant population and all money went (from reports) to friends/political favors; and not to actually benefit the SD pheasant population.

Very few deer on a West River public land I hunted in 49 A county this year. Very limited public opportunities all together in this unit.

Very few pheasants in these areas

Very few wildlife on WIA. Not enough WIA with cover crop or water.

Very little to no cover Livestock have ground grazed to dirt Livestock on land during season Vehicles on every approach Way too many hunters in the field

Walk In are in bad shape, short grass. Landowners try to say it's not open. Landowners park cars and trucks outside of land. Have family and neighbors harass people. Landowners are harvesting these lands but right next door, their private land grasses are long and healthy. Very sad!!!

Walk in areas are great!

Walk in areas are over hunted... CREP land is either overhunted or the landowner should not be paid as they have farmed the land down to no habitat.

Walk in Program is great!

Walk-In Areas are/or sometimes okay. The grasslands suck for walking/killing/retrieving/getting animal back to truck! You can walk miles just to kill an animal then about to kill yourself getting it back to truck. You should be able to use truck/ATV/or all terrain vehicle to get animal. When you use these there better be a killed animal. You can't take anyone with a disability out because you can't drop them off. The law needs to be changed about the grasslands. Getting harder to hunt them!!

Walk-In Areas in Tripp, Todd, and Gregory County are typically not productive. I hunt early Nov., so I guess these areas are picked over. Only hunt Walk-In if I'm driving and see an area that looks productive. There are not many. Typical "Walk-In" areas are devoid of any habitat. They are usually cut to stubble and provide for very poor hunting. Waterfowl habitat is decent, but pheasant and grouse habitat is poor. Quail are non-existent in SD at this point.

Walk-In Areas that are for hunting but are a mowed field or harvested field. They will not hold game and poor hunting conditions. Too many WIAs like that seems like a waste of money & resources.

Walk-In Areas where you have to obtain a permission slip, makes it difficult if people are not home, and it is [...not legible...] just like trying to truck down people to get permission - either you can go or cannot go.

Way too much hunting pressure

We flushed 60 birds in 6 days of hunting with 3 guys and 2 dogs all on public land. I consider that very positive.

We have CREP on our land. I believe in the walk in idea so much that we are introducing it to the rest of our farm and ranch. I find the walk in idea is very helpful to keeping the damage done by persistent driving on farmland, pasture, and rarely used section line roads to a minimal. It also seems to decrease the number of wounded animals each season from hunters that drive around , scare up the deer, jump out [if they even get out of the truck] shoot at them on a dead run 300 yards away only to wound them. Of course, this leads to either not finding the animal or tracking it for hours while the animal suffers more that it should. What I just wrote applies to big game hunting not pheasants etc.

We have hunter game productions several times in the past 7 years. The last two years we have found most of our birds on walk in areas.

We have run across WIAs that were nothing more than pastures in the middle of plowed fields. No cover and a drain on state resources. Quite disappointing to out-of-staters.

We have WIA across the road from our private land. Good cover for late season hunting and no hunting pressure later in the year. A lot of pressure 1st few weekends of the pheasant season. Walk-In sometimes has better quality of cover than WPA's that are grazed down and farmed by the Feds. Many times several years in a row.

We hunted excellent public habitat near Corele, SD. But saw very few birds. Once we hunted private land near Corele we found an abundance of birds.

We need MORE walk-in areas. Upland bird hunting will be too expensive for my kids to hunt. Most places charge or you need to own your own land. Bye pheasant hunting.

We need more. There is a lot of people and most of the places we walked into had already been hunted [...removed sad face...]

We need the "Sportsman's License Plate" that replaces the SD Parks Sticker as a way of developing MORE revenue for GF&P, but also to add the convenience of renewing SD Parks Pass automatically with the applicants annual renewal of license plates...

We only worked in for a few hours because it was nearby and wanted to try it. We are from out of state (MI). Only saw 2 hens, late in season.

We primarily hunt Bennett County. There is an abundance of WIAs but the habitat is generally poor (stripped wheat/corn fields with maybe 2-3 inches of cover, overgrazed brome grass pasture, etc.). While the drought certainly plays a role, it makes little sense for the State to pay for a WIA that provide little to no habitat and even less possibility of hunting success. Also, while the State Access Map is an excellent resource, it does not always highlight legal access routes to the WIA. There are several WIAs near LaCreek NWR that have confusing access or access appears to be non-legal . Signage on access roads indicating you are on the right route would be helpful. I understand the increased cost of signage but you are already paying for the WIA so it makes sense that the area gets used.

We were hunting in Harding Co., following our maps/boundaries ~1 1/2 mile from the nearest road and a rancher checking his cows saw us and tracked us down saying we were on private property. However our map said otherwise. We were archery hunting for deer, but told the rancher we thought we were ok, by the GFP map and he said he didn't care what the map said. We politely apologized and moved on. The digital maps are nice to see your location on the go, but that guy was an idiot....

When bow hunting on walk-in area and some Minnesota hunters know that your hunting in there , but decide that they come fist and decide to pheasant hunt any way really makes you dislike MN hunters!

When I hunt deer or turkeys West river sometimes WIAs are the only areas I have access to hunt & are extremely important.

Why can't I access 90% of BLM West River?!!!!

WIA lands in Edmunds City have a lot of cattle and the low brushy areas have been cut flat to silage/feed - no to very little cover to hold birds.

WIA lease payments should be based on the quality of habitat and the amount of game it supports. I have walk thousands of acres that wouldn't support a mouse yet my money is being spent on this. I also disagree with the rancher getting a check for leasing the land and then getting to graze it down to nothing what a good deal for him. I would also like the GF&P to give up on the idea of paying for the trapping coons. Do you really think that the coons just all of a sudden woke up one day and decided to eat all the pheasants and grouse in South Dakota And North Dakota at the same time. Use the money to start two state own bird hatchery one east river one west river.

WIAs and CREP are important for providing prime habitat year round, not just during the hunting season. Without WIA + CREP we would see wildlife numbers drastically reduced. I would like to see more and better habitat on public and private land.

WIAs are a great idea

WIAs are great when available. Usually hunt them when they're not busy.

WIAs are ok...sometimes the cover is so tight you can't walk through it.

WIAs give everyone a chance to have a good and productive hunting trip. Also, at the time I go harvest season is in full tilt, never want to approach farmers for permission at that time of year.

WIAs seemed to be of lower habitat quality & lower pheasant numbers than CRP and WPAs. Was very pleased with the help I got from Travis Runia.

Wish vehicle parking was closer to actual walk in areas/entrance.

Would be nice to see a bigger number of game species.

Would be nice to see more quality areas enrolled to ease hunting pressure on all public lands. Do not waste money on areas that are just plowed up empty fields. I see some every year east river mainly, that I drive by and wonder how much money was wasted to lease it. Usually smaller pieces that are just plowed agricultural fields that you can see every inch from the road.

Would like to get more birds per hunt in the east side of the state.

Would like to see more Walk-In Areas for local hunters less out of staters. I see a lot of people scouting deer early and pushing deer off Walk-In Areas before hunting season starts.

Would like to see Walk-In and public land have more winter cover for game species. Short canary grass on a lot of public is useless once flattened by snow & wind. Late season most game have left. Also much walk on/public out west is grazed to nothing.

You can plan a hunt better because you know you will have a place to hunt.

You can walk these all day, nice walk very low percentage of wildlife. You can't shoot what isn't there. The leader of our state does not tell the truth about bird numbers. They are not there so when the hunters come and they walk and walk and don't flush anything it's a joke. It takes habitat we don't have much left.

You guys need to pay farmers to plant alfalfa near walk in areas and pay them not to mow them. Walk ins are good cover but poor breeding habitat.

Your public land is well monitored and is good habitat. WIAs are a threadbare joke in my opinion. You are getting fleeced. We evaluate visually and 100% of the time it is not worth hunting.

Your WIA at CREP are very good whitetail ground. The state operates better ground than most private. I do have some good private but I'm lucky.

Zero deer for me to shoot. (whitetail) Only saw mule deer.

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.

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, to indicate where a comment was not legible, or in some cases to indicate where personally identifying information has been omitted.

A lot of the Meade country WIA's are hayed every year or grazed heavily. Is there still a payment reduction for those WIA's? No WCO in that area!
A lot of WIAs are useless (no habitat) If enrolled, landowner should leave a little habitat. CRP enrollment, should also include WIAs.
A very good program giving opportunities to access land to enjoy the sport. Not all individuals have access to private land.
Access to WIA with appropriate numbers of birds are located within an hour's drive of my home. I no longer have a hunting dog to help with the huge wide open fields that are available. It would be a good Idea to do some selective mowing in some of areas with poor cover in the larger fields. This would make these fields better for folks like me who want to hunt.
According to the conservation officers that I have visited with most of our game production areas lack nesting cover. My observations are that we do not have the correct balance of forage to nesting cover. The lack of standing crops in most game production areas doesn't help the overall number of game birds. Nor does it help them to winter in given areas. The WIAs that I hunted were good. This year lots of cover for the birds to hide in. Thank You, [...]
Add more WIAs in Spink county
Thank you for the opportunity to do this. Work with the Federal lands a lease more for developed hunting habitat around Orman Dam.
Too many out of state hunters!
again, paying farmers near walk in areas to plant and not mow alfalfa would greatly increase pheasant numbers. Walk-ins are great cover habitat, but poor brooding areas. There is plenty of feed in South Dakota, and you have done a great job with habitat on walk ins. brooding is the key that you are missing, and pheasant thrive in alfalfa.
All issues were covered
All of the WIA areas around Martin S.D. seems to be only farmed ground without much cover. The wildlife management areas had the best cover and that is where we did all of our hunting. Seems like the local farmers are only willing to place the land without cover into the walk in access programs.

All public hunting areas had high numbers of hunters certain times of the year. Like during deer seasons it was too crowded in my mind. People were shooting in directions of other hunters and in close proximity which shouldn't happen in my mind.

All the WIAs in the state isn't worth much without wildlife to hunt.

All walk-in areas I've seen don't have any cover .

Allow advs. to be used on public land to transport people and gear for waterfowl hunting. Some hunters are elderly or handicap and are unable to make the long walks to and from waterfowl hunting on public land.

Allowing C.R.P. on land with US Fish and Wildlife grassland easements would improve habitat and benefit everyone from hunter, landowner, GFP, and state. This should strongly be considered.

Although I didn't hunt as often due to being in college, my past experiences hunting WIA parcels has been fairly poor most of the time. Many times the tree belts are old and need re-planted. Many times the food plot doesn't grow to a point that it is 'hunnable.' Many times broom grass has taken over providing limited grass habitat to hold pheasants. I often wonder why we see these WIAs in this condition. Why aren't they in a condition that produces more pheasants and has better spots to hunt? Puzzling.

Although I didn't not hunt WIAs this year, I have in the past and it is a fantastic program to open up more hunting opportunities for the public. I am very fortunate with the people I know and have loads of private to hunt. However, I have helped some close friends scout walk-in land and seen the great success they have had from this opportunity. I will definitely hunt walk-in lands in the future and hope this program continues to expand and provide great hunting opportunities to more of the public.

Although I do not hunt on Walk-In Areas, I find it extremely important for other hunting experience. I am fortunate enough to have private property to hunt & therefore make the choice to not utilize Walk-In Areas so that others who do not have private property hunting opportunities have the best hunting experience with one less person also trying to harvest game from the Walk-In Areas. For many who only have the option of Walk-In Areas to hunt, it is the utmost importance for these areas to be accessible from a reasonable driving distance & for quality of habitat to be present without being overrun by an over-abundance of people/hunters in order to afford them the best hunting experience possible.

As a non-resident hunter, 2020 changes made me feel less valued. The new predator bounty program is a joke. Residents that I talk to say they just pick up road kills to get paid. It's an ineffective random attempt at conservation.

I am getting a little old for this activity but I dearly love it and have been hunting since I could.

As an 80 year old, some road access in large WIAs would be appreciated.

As an out of state landowner. I will never work with the GPD until out of state landowners are cared for. If I lived in South Dakota, I would qualify for multiple deer tags. Yet the fact I own thousands of acres, and live 5 hours away disqualifies me for any tags. I have to draw in like everyone else. Allowing me to hunt only two times in over ten years. Yet I pay taxes, work with farmers, ranchers, co-ops, insurance agents, and banks. Your state policy against out of state landowners needs to change. I have even stopped donating to your fund raisers.

As I mentioned earlier insure that if you are spending walk in area money make sure there is actually hunting opportunities on the land. there were spots on the map we drove quite a few miles to that ended up being a fenced in pasture or harvested/plowed field with no hunting opportunities.

As long as I have access to quality hunting ground with adequate numbers of game, I will continue to come back to South Dakota. Walk in and CREP acres are key to keeping me coming back.

as long as the online WIA's are updated regularly, I think its a great program and productive.

Ask questions about interactions with landowners.

Asking for feedback on quality of specific WIAs may be beneficial. As stated previously some areas are fantastic while others are quite poor. I'm not aware of a standard to qualify for WIA contracts but possibly creating a set of standards to qualify ground for WIA programs? Double edged sword no doubt.

At times the farmers makes the fields inaccessible y plowing so impossible to hunt. I have an ATV but still couldn't get in and the birds were not there but we plan this trip 8 months ahead so it is what it is.

Awesome experience, we will be back

Bad bird population last year. Slowest hunting I've had in 18 years of going to SD.

Be nice to use motorized to get to water. Maybe like CREP

Be selective in the properties that we pay for WIA's. Seems to be many, many acres of WIAs that have little to no habitat for any game species. That money cloud be used elsewhere to improve access opportunities. We need to figure out how to get access to landlocked public lands. There are thousands of acres of public lands without anyway to access them. Because of this private owners have there own private preserves on top of their own land. Another issue I see is on the National Grasslands and the over grazing of cattle. Why can't we hold these ranchers accountable to there leases? They pay very minimum amounts for these lands and yet they keep their cattle on them for way longer than they are supposed to. This hurts the habit and forces game on to private property.

Beautiful state and wonderful support of outdoors people- hunters

Been hunting in your state for approximately 30 years. Use to hunt WIA land before finding private ground. The ground had a lot more pheasant habitat than now days. We enjoy walking ditches and section roads a lot more, overall. Your state is wonderful and we enjoy is a lot. Would like to see your WIA land to be more grassy or brushy for hunting and nesting for the birds.

Best state I have hunted in terms of access to public hunting lands. Fantastic hunting atlas. SD makes it VERY easy for out of state hunters. Keep up the great work.

Better maintain and expand it or there will be fewer opportunities to hunt in the future

Better maps showing Walk-In Areas

Better marking of boundaries. Access is limited at times.

Better signage

Between WIA, CREP, WPA etc. there has been a dramatic improvement in access to public hunting areas in the southeast area of the state over the past few years, which has been great for hunters in SE SD. The only area of improvement that I would like to see in would be access to crop land to hunt waterfowl in the southeast area. Perhaps the migration pattern is too unpredictable to make this cost effective but birds tend to get pushed off of public water/slews early in the season so having access to waterfowl feeding areas is necessary. In addition, a field hunt is a different experience than a water hunt. I appreciate the efforts SDGFP makes to continue to provide access to public hunting areas. It will become more important in the future as farms become larger and the number of land owners and those that allow access decreases. Thank you!

Bird populations or lack of

BLM is useless if you can't access it. I don't know if it's illegal to change access through private property to get to it but I guarantee people are making money on this. What's the point of having land locked BLM? I don't want to break the law getting to these spots but I also don't want to get shot hunting the 5% of accessible BLM trying to shoot a deer. Do Better.

BLM land that is landlocked defeats the purpose. Requirements should be made for private land that locks in tracts of public land to allow others access to simply cross into government owned land to hunt. No hunting would be allowed while crossing private land, hunting would be allowed once on government owned lands only. Private land owners are able to control these pieces owned by the government as their own and profit a great deal as a result of being able to manage these pieces as their own. The public loses out as a result.

Cattle grazing on public land especially out west is an issue in my opinion because it takes away all the cover.

Charge out-of-state hunters more. They can and will pay to hunt here. Residents who pay state taxes and assist in keeping the state in the shape it needs to be year round should be allowed more benefit vs. out-of-state hunters. This includes fees like the 2021 stamp. This fee should be paid by the out-of-state hunters who use our resources and leave with minimal responsibility.

Clean the cattails around the open water so hunters have a chance to retrieve their wildlife, if any so species come in sites especially around the McCoak and Minnehaha border. Ponds or stock dams are drying up and maybe need to be re-dug. Other than that and outside of your power we're very thankful for the opportunity to be able to take my kids and friends out hunting.

Continue to add more land. Thanks for having what is available.

Continue with current programs.

Control the trees

Corner hopping should be legal

CREP and WIA should be a place you actually want to walk-in. If I can pull up to a mile piece of walk-in and glass it all from the fence post that's a big problem and we are getting hustled. If that's the best we can do for walk-in areas, let's find something better to do with our money.

CREP landowners need to be checked to see if they are leaving any habitat. There is a huge area on highway 46 near Irene SD that was farmed to bare land. There was zero chance of hunting and shooting anything there

CRP is at a min., so maybe the habitat can be enhanced, with help from the state or Federal government

Cut back the amount of tags released each year to out of state people or non-residents to help build up populations again.

Cutting of grasses leaving a bare field for the hunting season and allowing cattle to trample grass/habitat of WIA doesn't make much sense. If allowed to hay or graze cattle a certain percent of the enrolled field should be left as wildlife habitat.

Deer numbers are down.

Deer, antelope, and waterfowl processes for out of state hunters should be evaluated to provide easier and more friendly registration process. State has abundance of deer and waterfowl but difficult license registration process limits out of state hunter from preserving those game and instead going elsewhere to nearby states.

Designated parking areas

Did not hunt in walk-in areas; however any opportunity public/private for people to be interested/involved in the hunting heritage is a good thing.

Did not use walk-in areas yhis year.

Did not hunt WIAs this year. All private hunting.

Didn't hunt WIAs

Disappointed in the lack of big game

Do not hunt Walk-In Areas because I have access to private land.

Do not like the system for deer application

Do not use, but good it is there

Doing a great job Thanks!

Don't have enough time

Don't spend money on sub-standard habitat like stubble or bare ground.

Don't fish during spawning

Don't pay farmers for WIA if they till their ground in the fall. Simple as that.

DONT SEEM TO SEE THE SAME AMOUNT OF HUNTERS AS WE HAVE SEEN OVER THE 55 YEARS THAT WE HAVE BEEN HUNTING BACK THERE. NORMALLY SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE HUNTING AND STAKING OUT THE WALK IN AREAS BUT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS NUMBERS SEEM TO BE DWINDLING. WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE OUR OWN LAND BACK THERE AS TO WHY WE DONT HAVE TO HUNT ON PUBLIC GROUNDS. WE SAW MORE BIRDS BACK IN AROUND CARTHAGE AND THE LAKE PRESTON AREA THAN WE HAVE SEEN IN 30 PLUS YEARS.

Don't understand why you can't have a food plot on ALL CREP land!

Dove was the only game I could have hunted WIA with the licenses I bought and the timing of the license purchase. I have hunted a lot of WIA in the past when I would pheasant hunt. There is not nearly the amount or quality of WIA in the area I hunt. NW of Aberdeen. It's not just the WIA lots more grazing land and pasture land instead of CRP and other grass land on private also. This makes the little bit of public land pressured.

Duck boat access. Please get us trails to the water.

Enforce the tree stand date rule or remove from handbook. I have seen stands in the same locations on walk in and game production areas for over 5 years. All year long - all summer. Not related to walk ins - I am tired of youth and mentor hunts. They will not get new people

into hunting. Land access is everything. 90% of the people I know that use the youth and mentor seasons are landowners.

Enjoy the time I hunt in SD

Enroll better quality lands with cover for game as opposed to large areas with no cover or game.

Enroll ground in West River that is larger in size. Some areas were very small for deer hunting and allow limited opportunity to get out and do it right. Also landowners who graze cattle or horses have been understanding to me personally, but I have a farming background. I could see where this could lead to problems, when people don't use common sense and hunt among livestock. Again I enjoy the WIA and its benefits for landowners, sportsman and of course the game it supports. The problem in my opinion lies in the habitat being gone from overgrazing and haying, then what you have is land, but not beneficial habitat. This drives more hunters to what is considered more prime ground. This is not safe and leads to over crowding and eventually Hunter ethics become an issue.

Even though I didn't see as many pheasants in 2020 that I have seen in the previous 4 years of being in South Dakota, I think it's awesome that you provide these lands for us to hunt on and it's much appreciated to you and the landowners. Thanks so much.

Even though it's an enrollment based program, I'd love to see more within a 30-mile radius of Sioux Falls. We hunt privately owned land from southwest MN to Sioux Falls as well as lots of GPA + public land we can. I would hunt much more WIA if it was available...it's a great program that supports landowners and hunters!

Even though we didn't use any of the walk in areas in 2020, we have used them in the past. They have provided excellent hunts in the past and we hope they will continue or even expand in the future. The only reason we didn't use them in 2020 was no ducks in or around any that we found.

Excellent low cost high availability option for "DIY" hunters! We didn't see any postings regarding use of non-toxic shot only. We believed it was based on conversation w/ other hunters. That's all we used. Postings with the other signage would be helpful.

Excellent program, hope it expands!

Expand walk-in areas as much as you can!

Farming practices disking sloughs and mowing of ditch banks are having a major negative impact on the bird cover in my opinion.

For areas monitored under GFP, WIAs should be better maintained as far as signs and vegetation over growing on the roads which can lead to fire hazards from vehicles. Especially the areas that are drive in.

For future hunters keep the WIA program for those that do not have access to hunt private land - and I believe it does help the game service in the winter and give the game habitat that is needed

From what I have seen of some of the Walk-In areas there is not enough cover, and I have also seen some Walk-in areas that I feel are too close to inhabited buildings, to safety hunt.

From what I saw, in quantity of antelope just north of Hoofs to South Butte Boundary, I feel there shouldn't have been a season.

Game Production Area by North Wheeler is overgrown with cedar trees making it very hard to hunt deer there.
Get back CRP!
Getting permission is getting harder. I live on a reservation. The Tribe sells too many tags & out of staters hunt everywhere Tribe tells them they can. This makes private land owners upset. So a lot are closing their land to everyone. I've been hunting 40+ years so I have some people let me go but are getting frustrated when they see others. Public land is good. I don't try to hunt it so others can have a place to go. Also Walk-In is hard for me with my health and age.
Good experience every year
Good Job - Much Appreciated
Good luck! with your survey! hope this helps
Good program
Good program for people who do not own land to hunt on! Like what SD does for wild life. Love coming to SD to hunt on our land with friends & family. We do not charge anyone to hunt there. We put out good food plots for all game to enjoy! Keep up the good work.
Good program.
Good signage is important. I don't want to accidently hunt a piece of land that isn't in the program. I also want to be 100% certain the land I am on is in the program.
Great Job South Dakota.
Great job. Keep adding public land for hunting.
Great program!!!!
Greatly appreciate the hunting opportunities provided by SDGFP and the great SD landowners!
Habitat management on the WIAs needs to be improved.
Habitat on WIA is sketchy at best - only those with crops or crops near by seem to produce birds. CREP habitat is much better but would benefit from food plots - hunting pressure is much higher east river.
Had a great experience in SD and will be back again to hunt this fall.
Have been coming to SD Since 1988. Marshall and Day counties. Great experience and people.
Have hunted walk-in areas in SD and had good success. Great idea!
Have lived in SD 31years only hunt antelope on WIAs. Geese mostly on CHAPS. Grouse on a (hot) school section (great warm up for the dog). When there were more pheasant hunted a lot on GPAs & WIAs. All your public access programs are great!!
Have no experience, my failure to respond to your email
Have not used Walk-In Areas - really no opinion. Sorry not much help.
Have the ability to access land locked walk in areas or just don't pay the land owners this money for them to have the only ability and access to hunt their own land put in walk in area
Having the areas marked with signs better. It's hard to find some areas due to someone tearing down the signs. Tough problem. Thanks for listening
Having WIAs in my area provides places I can walk with my 11 year old grandson.
Hire quality individuals to keep up these Walk-In Areas - locals tend to allow their dogs to wander on those lands.

Hit wrong button on one question, do plan to hunt walk in areas in the future
How long the grass/weeds were around Marshal County. Walk In areas grass was over our heads and unsafe to hunt not being able to see one another even with wearing orange.
How many years, really, can you expect a person to stay interested in elk or deer hunting to apply for a license, not get that license, and then keep applying, year after year, without success. I am 68 years old. I have never had a SD elk license in my life. I have double-digit preference points. I am a lifelong South Dakota resident. Getting to be the same problem with West River deer.
Hunted deer on Tribal land
Hunted on our farm only
hunted them late season over the new year holiday. cover was good, bird numbers adequate.
Hunters appreciate the walk in areas VERY MUCH! It is the only way most get to hunt and without it the opportunities would be EXTREMELY limited. Thank you SD for the walk in areas!
Hunting land was not well marked. Signs were in disrepair and missing. Some areas had no huntable cover for wildlife and should not be enrolled in the program.
Hunting pressure and habitat coverage are always key elements. There is always too much pressure in the eastern part of the state on public ground for the key hunting opportunities: waterfowl, pheasant, and deer.
Hunting pressure on most public lands is really high for most species. The more quality land that can be leased for us public land users the better.
Hunting South Dakota is awesome!
I absolutely love hunting the state of South Dakota. You provide great opportunities for waterfowl and small game. We hunted a waterfowl production area with really good success. I think you provide lots of public land with the walk in areas, game production areas, waterfowl production areas, etc. we see lots of pheasants in the area we hunt. I would like the opportunity to purchase a full season nonresident waterfowl license so I can return to your great state more often. I would even pay more for that license. Thanks again for what you provide for hunting opportunities.
I always purchase a combination fishing and hunting license mainly for fishing, but occasionally I use it for pheasants.
I am a big hunter for mountain lion hunting lot so far, nothing this year hoping to draw Black Hills this fall. Usually there's no cover on the ranchers farms I've seen cows on that land & no cover, some not all. I'm in the Black Hills some game land.
I am a firm believer that food plots and letting the habitat establish itself will make a huge difference.
I am moving to SD to primarily hunt and fish. Your game and parks departments are a true asset to the state. All I can say is job WELL DONE. When I came from Nebraska and saw how well your parks were maintained I could not believe it. Compared to Nebraska it was truly 5 stars. I very much look forward to living in SD and being able to use the natural resources on a daily basis.
I am not a fan of the extended season, leave the birds alone as the winter gets tough. Also need to change the out of state small game license. Should be able to use it more than just (2) 5 day periods. Just increase the out of state fee and let us be just like the residents!!!

I am not an expert and am a non-resident, however, I have heard individuals from both SD and ND complain that the game depts are paying farmers for WIA and there is virtually no game sustainable habitat on the property. It's a total waste of money to pay for property that is incapable of sustaining game populations.

I am not the leader of our group. We have always hunted a private property near Preshow. I really don't understand the terminology of the other choices or how they compare. A list of definitions would help to learn about the different opportunities.

I am older, still like the printed atlas verses my phone.

I am very appreciative of the public land hunting areas that SD provides. THANK YOU and keep up the good work!!!

I am very thankful for the hunting atlas. I came from Wisconsin and wish we had those. The app is great most of the time. Bad signal is the only problem I would have with that and that is not your fault.

I appreciate that GFP is going to fully fund the James River CREP with Habitat Stamp dollars. I would encourage looking at adding the Vermillion River and/or Big Sioux River drainages for a future CREP areas. This will enhance opportunities for hunters in the most highly populated area of SD and could benefit the R3 efforts to get/keep more folks hunting.

I appreciate the ability to write comments. On one recent survey, it was limited to only 250 words. Because I was limited on comments, I refused to complete the survey as I felt that my opinion was not important. Thanks again!

I appreciate the maps and wonder if there would be a way to also add a google maps location for people who are new to the area. For instance, there is a hunting area near Elk Point that I haven't been able to locate but see it on the map. Thanks again!

I believe any public access is a good thing. As commercialization grows, the only place the majority of SD residents will have access to is public ground owned or leased. Regulating out of state pressure on these land must also be a priority for a number of common sense reasons.

I believe if the state legalizes crossbow hunting for non handicapped hunters we can generate much more interest in hunting and generate funds for the related programs.

I believe SDGFP is doing a good job in their planning for and acquisition of private lands for WIA's. There is one in particular that I go to, especially during Residents Only season that holds goods birds every year. Thank you.

I believe state does a good job and some areas are questionable where and why we seldom see a bird - water is a big factor.

I believe that the worst thing to happen to the pheasant population in the last ten years or so is the practice of unrestricted haying. The cover along roadside ditches provided invaluable habitat. All public hunting areas get pounded, however, not all roadside ditches do. Our group, for example, does not road hunt. Perhaps the state should make roadside haying illegal as well as a no hunt area and raise the license fees, to at least partially reimburse the farmers.

I believe the Walk-In Area program is very important to due to it is getting harder and harder for general public to find land to hunt on. It doesn't affect me because I own land but for those that don't sympathize with and without the program it would affect the future of hunting for the people and the opportunities of hunting should be for everyone who wants to.

I believe the WIA program is a very valuable and successful one. It provides great access to hunters across the state. However, I believe it should be monitored a little closer, there seems to be more WIA that is not suitable for habitat or hunting than there used to be. Whether the ag use has changed or whatever the reason, I believe once a WIA is no longer viable for habitat or hunting (e.g., overgrazed pasture land, hayed grass, or short stubble) it should be reconsidered and that money should possibly be used elsewhere.

I believe walk in should be walking to fish We have spent 3 days helping some one get his pickup out of the ice in a pasture we rent the landlord put in to walk in. Walk in should be WALK IN not drive in and if not the should be required to have some kind of minimum clearance I seen people with cars out there no snow. very easily could have started a FIRE.

I believe walk-ins should have some kind of outdoor opportunity. Walk-Ins that are over-grazed and have cattle still on them during hunting seasons offer little to no opportunity (maybe shooting gophers at best). If the dollars are available, reward the landowner who enrolls quality habitat and terminate agreements for land without opportunity!

I believe you should stock pheasants on some Walk-In Areas, like the McElroy land. It's always in the program, big acres & plenty of habitat.

I come across walk-in lands that are poorly marked. Whether people have tore down or they were old and fell down.

I did not hunt a Walk-In Area in 2020, but have often in the past usually in Mellette County. I was very satisfied with those areas. Walk-In Areas are a blessing for most hunters. The areas work out for the land owner & the hunter. A great supplement to state owner areas.

I did not hunt any walk in areas in 2020, but have in past years. Would like to hunt pheasants in upcoming years as well. Keep the program going.

I did not hunt any walk in areas or CREP areas only because I had permission on private land. But some of the walk in areas and CREP around where I was hunting would have been as productive as the private land I was hunting

I did not hunt Walk in area.

I did not purchase a hunting license in 2020

I did not use the walk in area

I didn't come to South Dakota due to COVID

I didn't look into WIA ahead of my trip. I think it's a great idea and I'll likely use it in the future.

I do avoid walk-in areas that are relatively void of habitat. I usually question how much the SDGFP is paying for poor quality walk in areas I avoid.

I do have some concern with the Walk-In Program in SD. I have hunted many walk-in areas in SD over a number of years and think it needs to be better monitored. I've encountered areas where the pasture or field looks like the top of a pool table. You couldn't hide a songbird in some of these areas, let alone a pheasant or deer. It seems to me that our money could be better spent on improving habitat and expanding public hunting areas. I appreciate the landowners that allow us access, but there needs to be a standard of habitat availability on this land to warrant payment from the state. Thank you.

I do like the idea of the walk-in program.

I don't claim to be any kind of wildlife expert but in my antelope hunting experience the last few years it sure seems that the numbers are way down. In my opinion I believe there are too many rifle tags sold, perhaps it would be beneficial to limit the number of rifle tags or at least do away with the double tags.

I don't know much about the Walk-In.

I drive by them it is a joke when there is no cover to be had on them. Ground had been worked or heavily grazed. So it would be a waste of time to hunt. Also a waste of money to pay for ground with no cover. Why does state pay for ground to hunt on and then parties destroy the cover.

I enjoyed the pheasant hunting and may consider other hunting opportunities in the future. It's nice to be welcomed as a hunter in South Dakota, California is doing all it can to ban guns and hunting in a systematic attack on sportsmen (persons).

I enjoyed [...] out of it!!!

I farm next to Areas 1. Please spray to kill weeds. It costs me a lot of money to try to keep my ground and tree areas clean from your weed seed. 2. Make parking area I live here and like to use the road also.

I feel the governor of South Dakota is making some great changes to the hunting opportunities for non-residents. In the past I know that many of the rules were put in place due to non-residents leasing land and making it difficult for local hunters. Given the changes in demographics (fewer in-state hunters) it would be good to generate more revenue for South Dakota and allow longer resident licenses that could generate more cash flow. If I drive out to hunt I buy gas, lodging and meals....easy to leave \$200 in South Dakota for a three day weekend. I'd like to hunt ducks several more weekends in the fall as I feel the local residents don't harvest their fair share of what is raised in South Dakota. Pheasant numbers have really fallen off due to the increase in row crops...if you want pheasants you need wheat and to maintain marginal wetlands. When corn hit \$7/bushel many farms in South Dakota cleared groves and reduced wetlands to cash in but we all know economies run in cycles and now we pay the consequences as sportspeople. In recent years corn and soybeans have been modified to grow in marginal soils and with less rainfall. This is great if you need them but unfortunately higher yields are equaling lower prices in the market. I used to hunt around Hecla and my brother and I could shoot a limit of pheasants without a dog. Today some of the same public ground is yielding few birds. I used to buy a couple licenses a year but now just the two five-day blocks. Just not enough birds to keep me interested. Even local sportsmen are releasing birds on their land in South Dakota as the wild bird population have drastically dropped.

I find that the Walk-In Area program is highly overrated! Either the field is so overhunted or the cover is just not there. Also some areas are so full of weeds, you would not want to walk through them. I realize you are trying to get more and more hunters to come to our state or our county for more revenue. But really, the people who are residents in our county deserve better. It is getting extremely hard to hunt waterfowl with all the competition.

I find the habitat quality much better on CREP lands. Look for opportunities to incentivize to improve the quality of habitat on WIA's.

I grew up in SD. Just bought 160 acres but I can't deer hunt on my own property, I want to change this.

I grew up in South Dakota and have hunted in South Dakota my whole life. I can remember hunting walk-in areas a few times but in Western South Dakota you hardly ever see them. In North Dakota the public land open to sportsman on "PLOTS" program seems more successful.

I guess for myself & family members, the reason we don't hunt as much is the fact we don't have places or know land owners anymore to ask for permissions. Walk-in areas appear to be over hunted in the Southeast part of the state. I'm so grateful I have a place/land (west river) to deer hunt; however in a year or two, that land will be sold. After that, I feel my hunting days will be over. Over-hunted in WIAs. Didn't appear to have the pheasant numbers either. Appears to be a negative image towards hunters from the farming community

I have access to private land due to friends in SD so I have not looked at hunting public land.

I have been hunting ducks and geese in NE SD for almost 20 yrs. Scouting is very important to successful hunt. I love that there are so many places to go. Being from MN I have had enough doors slammed in my face it is great to come here and not have to bother anyone to gain permission. Also very busy time for farmers. Hard to locate landowner. Who do you ask farmer, landowner? LOVE this program! I like to hunt over water but sometimes don't understand where you can go and where you can't. Rules aren't very clear.

I have been hunting waterfowl for 30-years and the best hunting I have ever experienced was at a WIA near Britton South Dakota last year.

I have Complex Regional Pain Syndrome in my right knee. There is no cure. Being able to use some form of transportation to hunt would make hunting an enjoyment again.

I have deer hunted Walk-In Areas the last couple of years West River and it has been amazing. Love the opportunities presented and I hope this program continues to grow.

I have enjoyed and appreciated being able to hunt WIAs in the past.

I have had good success sometimes on walk in areas. However, with so few days to hunt and such a long drive to SD I have just gravitated to private operations that include lodging, some meals, and pheasants with the opportunity to hunt waterfowl if they are there. Honestly I find thousands of waterfowl on private land and it is impossible to get permission or buy permission or even make contact with landowners. Pretty frustrating so I just don't depend on having to find a place to hunt any longer and just pay.

I have hunted I SD since 1985, have only missed about 7 or 8 years also hunted Iowa 2 years. I am 81 years old and have hunted pheasants since I was 12 with my dad in pa. I have taken my son and 4 nephews and many friends along. this coming season there will be my son grandson and 3 to 4 nephews plus my hunting buddy Jim who has joined me on most of the trips, we all love SD and its people, its a great state.

I have hunted in Pennsylvania, New York, Idaho, Washington, North Dakota and now South Dakota. I started at age 12 with my father and have looked forward to hunting each year for over 60 years. Hunting in the Dakotas has been the most frustrating and depressing of any of my hunting experiences. We live in an area where there are abundant deer, but securing a rifle tag and access is another story. I have obtained permission to hunt on one farm with restrictions, no bucks. Just today we took a wildlife drive west on the Crook City road while the weather was between light snow and mist. Saw well over 100 turkeys and as many deer. Problem is 'no trespassing.' If there is a solitary reason we would move back to Idaho, it is because of the lack of unfettered hunting opportunities. My youngest son and I hunted pheasants twice in North Dakota, Mott and Watford City, last year on Conservation PLOTS properties. All that we hunted were totally depleted of birds. Neither of us will return. From what I have been told by the locals, I can forget drawing an elk tag here. Nevertheless I did apply both years we have been here without success.

I have hunted in walk in areas in past seasons, but not this year.

I have hunted on Walk-Ins before, just not last year.

I have hunted some walk-ins in the past that were grazed to the ground and some WPA's that suffered the same fate. Or the cattle created humps because they were forced to graze in the wetlands and completely ruined the pheasant hunting plus a awesome way to get hurt walking or running in those bogs. I definitely have a hard time with renting out WPA'S. Ruined a lot of good pheasant ground SW of Watertown. Modern farming hasn't helped either. I grew up on a small dairy farm we still own. Raised beef cattle and work cattle every year. So I know a little about what's happening with the landscape. Keep fighting

I have hunted the walk in area years back and did very well. I appreciate the land and love SD.

I have hunted the walk in areas out west and really appreciate them

I have hunted Walk-In Areas in Montana, Nebraska, and ND. I found them to be average as far as success, but despite being average they provide great opportunity for hunters. I definitely support the program.

I have hunted walk-in areas in previous years. They provide expanded hunting opportunities which I appreciate.

I have hunted walk-ins past seasons. It is a good program. Just didn't have as much hunting time this year due to the pandemic.

I have hunted WIA in the past and will in the future, and I appreciate the opportunity to hunt these areas.

I have many times went to hunt a walk in area only to find livestock in the fields making it impossible to hunt. What's the point of paying for this land if you can't utilize it during hunting season? Also come across fields of walk in completely tilled 0 cover makes no sense they should have to get livestock out during hunting season and not be able to till until spring period, otherwise it's just a waste of money lining a farmers pocket when they aren't providing anything of use.

I have no good answers as South Dakota is a popular place to hunt and there is limited public land to hunt on so that which is public is going to get over hunted.

I have not used the walk-in area program, but would need more information about it to consider planning a trip for such.

I have observed that most WIAs have very little suitable habitat. I have seen bare soybean stubble that wouldn't support a mouse, grazed out pasture, and whatever. I can only remember one instance of seeing people actually hunt a WIA and it actually had some habitat. My observations are East River only. Not sur what is going on in West River. I spent a lot of time in the field but not so much actually pursuing anything. My blood lust has diminished.

I have often seen WIA that have no cover on them to hunt anything. Why waste state money on those plots of land that is not benefitting anyone. 640 acres west of Huron 1 mile that is all pasture no cover nothing to hunt. Wasting WIA monies on land that has no cover. I have seen large tracks of pasture ground plowed fields that are put into WIA with no benefit to the hunter. Instead of spending money on nonproductive land focus on land that will get the most bang for your buck.

I have really enjoyed hunting in SD. I'm active duty Air Force and the public land availability is by far the best I've ever hunted.

I have strong safety concerns going into public facilities with no masking required or social distancing. Therefore, did not go to restaurants or bars.

I have used the walk in areas in the past, and often found them to be the only option for a place to hunt

I hope landowners that stripped the fields bare after harvest don't receive a full payment, the hunter doesn't receive the full benefit of the land.
I hunt northeast SD and my group of hunters appreciate all the available walk-in and creep lands.
I hunted pheasants and ducks on private land in 2018 and 2020. Both times the hunts were exceptional. The local people were a pleasure to meet and hunt with. I will try to come back every fall.
I hunted West River one day on public land for deer. Walked and glassed about 6 miles and did not even see a deer. There were plenty on private property. I love the experience of the outdoors, but there are too many hunters chasing the critters off of public land. I hunted Wednesday after the opening weekend hoping things would calm things down, but that didn't happen.
I like the walk in idea and the program of South Dakota. Just run out of time to hunt our private land and walk in areas.
I live east river but most of the public I hunted on was west river.
I love hunting in SD. You're doing it right.
I love hunting public lands for big game in the western half of South Dakota. I only hunt public lands and walk in area is an important part of that!
I love SD but the pheasant numbers are way down making it difficult to travel there twice a year. Iowa numbers are good and it's much closer. SD people are the best though!
I love the concept of the Walk-In program. My "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied" answers have mostly to do with the wide variation in terms of habitat in land enrolled in the WIA program. Some of it is great, and other spots have virtually no cover or habitat at all. We need more public land in general for hunting - it's crowded out there - but I'd take fewer WIAs if it meant that the overall quality of the habitat increased.
I love the outdoors. Have a Brittany who is my best friend. Hunting for me is carrying a gun (sense of FREEDOM) and watching my dog looking for pheasants or other game. To shoot a bird it's a BONUS! It would be nice to see a higher number of game, but you guys are doing an excellent job keeping the hunters happy and bring more hunters from out of state to spend money, a quality time with friends, and enjoy the FREEDOM South Dakota provides! Proud to be an AMERICAN living in SOUTH DAKOTA!
I mostly hunt private land, but enjoy the ability to have access to walk-in areas. The more walk-in areas, the better in my opinion.
I need to be educated more on walk in areas. Overall perception is over hunted, full of other hunters, too much competition. If not true, I need more info. A if not why not section might be nice on your survey. I love hunting SD, love the people!
I noticed a lot of the use too Walk-In Area between Newell & Hoover, the Walk-In side were not on fences. Use too there were a lot of them now only a few closer to Newall.
I only hunt big game it has been getting worse every year less public land to hunt and they keep big game tags high I used to see 40 to 50 deer a day on BLM land I hunt I haven't shot a deer on BLM in 5 years no I go in I see 3 or 4 deer not 30 or 40. I will still go I love the outdoors but my expectations of a good hunt are gone

I personally believe and so do others concerning the pheasant season that it owes heed to be shut down for one year to bring the population back to somewhat like it used to be and that if not that then the first month if the season should be designated for South Dakota residents only and reduce the daily limit to two birds per person per day.

I put I pheasant hunted in 2020 never did just waterfowl

I really appreciate the walk in program in SD. In the past we have hunted walk in areas a lot. It is a great resource for sportsmen of all sorts. Please keep up the program!

I really don't quite understand the difference between WIA and designated public hunting ground.

I regularly saw 20 trucks wiping out birds on walk in that is to much pressure

I saw some WIA land the landowner burned the cattails and then plowed as much of the wetlands as he could. Needless to say I did not hunt that land. And I would hope you did not pay for that land.

I support hunting and game refuges and I support fishing. I would make a donation to help the wildlife and fish flourish in SD.

I sure hope that your department doesn't take away our existing Goose Hunting opportunities along the Missouri River based on one year of extremely inconsistent goose migration.

I think for the most part the program is meant for the right purpose but what I don't think is right that the farmer can put the most worthless property in walk-in and get paid for it, the farmers get all the breaks because they bitch the most so the GFP always caves into them and I think the GFP needs to fight a little more for the hunter.

I think in South Dakota if we are going to continue to boast that this is the best pheasant hunting in the country we need to put some focus on actually having the birds to hunt. I don't know if releasing birds is an option or not but as much money revolves arounds out of state hunters having a good experience and coming back year after year we either need to put some money towards releasing birds, lowering harvest limits, incentivizing landowners to not drain tile their entire property. I have been hunting for 30 years and every year there is less and less land to hunt with fewer and fewer birds- the only people I see that are excited about pheasant hunting anymore are the guys who can afford to go on a pay hunt at a lodge or pay a private landowner to go on their land. I'm afraid that my son and daughter will not want to go hunting for these reasons- its just sad that you have to have tons of money to do the sport I love and grew up doing. Also, what is going on with the rifle tags for deer hunting east river? I actually have land I can hunt on and cannot get a tag because I don't qualify for landowner preference, but I can basically get an over the counter muzzleloader or archery tag

I think it is a good program and may look into it in the future. I currently have access to private land thru a group that I hunt with. If my current situation ends I will definitely start hunting public and walk-ins.

I think it is a great program. However, I don't think landowners should be paid for the program when they disc up every square inch of ground, leaving no habitat.

I think it is wonderful that walk-in areas are available for hunters to enjoy

I think it provides good opportunities for those without access to private land, especially fee for pay situations. They might not be able to afford.

I think it's a good program. Although I don't think land owners should be permitted to mow CRP when it's walk-in. Wasted money. It holds no birds.

I think it's a great idea, recent low pheasant numbers has forced our group to go to a "pay to play area." Enjoy hunting SD.
I think it's best program in the West, I just rarely use anymore as I have focused on private land.
I think our state does a wonderful job of upkeep and maintaining the walk-in and public shooting areas. I'm always proud to bring people visiting to hunt there.
I think public land is important for the sport to continue for those not lucky enough to hunt private, plus it provides rare tracts of habitat
I think regulations need to be more strict regarding how much grass and other habitat their land must provide in order to be enrolled in the walk in program
I think separate (public land only) licenses would be beneficial to all hunters. A hunter that has never been to a county, doesn't know anyone, doesn't have anywhere to go other than public land is hurting both public land hunting by overrunning the small amount of walk in, or for private land hunters are competing with random hunters for limited licenses.
I think the survey covered the topic well. I believe it needs to be stressed that there is plenty of areas for people to hunt. For all game species and different skill levels. To keep the sport of hunting going, people need access to hunting areas of all kinds. I prefer big country and lots of hiking for deer and antelope but others need places to hunt doves and rabbits.
I think the survey is very thorough
I think the walk in area programs are a great thing. I do wish the eastern side of the state had more CRP that would help all of our habitat.
I think the walk in program is a good one.
I think the walk in program is excellent. I would like to see more land in the program, probably for selfish reasons, more land to hunt. I am not sure how land is decided, but it seems to me that the program seems to work well.
I think the walk-in area concept is a very good deal. I'm just not hunting very much any more because of my age.
I think the WIA and CREP programs are awesome for the wildlife and public
I think the WIA is a great program. I suppose if I had a complaint it would be that some of the Walk In Areas contain zero wildlife.
I think there are a couple of things that you could do: increase the number of our-of-state licenses for big game (we pay much more than in-state and could be allotted a greater number), increase walk-in areas, and publicize the increase in non-resident licenses and where to hunt
I think they are fine but get hunted too much. Looks like excellent habitat and winter cover
I think this is a great program
I think walk in areas are great for those who don't have private lands to hunt
I think walk in is all good. I'm fortunate enough to have family owned private land.
I think Walk-In Areas are great to provide hunting places for hunters to go to.
I think y'all are doing a great job
I think you are doing a good job considering what you have to work with. With planting of more row crops and habitat decreasing and landowners refusal to hunt it gets tougher. We need to keep young people interested in hunting and conservation.
I think you have a great state, the hunting and fishing are great

I think you need to better vetted walk in areas such that they have good habitat.
I think your walk in program is a GREAT thing I've been blessed to be able to hunt on private land. But would do anything to help with this program
I thought the bird numbers were down considerably.
I understand the state having a limited budget and needing to utilize funding and stretch it as far as possible. In my opinion land acquisition and the habitat improvement should be the number one priorities. Personally, I think they should take the nest predator bounty money and utilize it for the above statement. I think the state has a great responsibility as well as does do a great job day today and long-term. Even though my experiences in the last 3 years have been very poor. I do know the state is successful in many other ways.
I understand why you have Walk-In Areas, but the area that we hunt is way too large to harvest a deer and drag it miles.
I use on x hunt and having the latest info on that app is huge.
I used to hunt walk in areas years ago but got discouraged when the Resident season the week before general opener hammered the walk-in areas and thinned out the birds or pushed the birds to private land.
I used Walk-In Area in 2019 for deer hunting. Very positive result. Good deal.
I very much appreciate the availability of land to hunt. Additional information that would be nice to have available would be weather that may have significantly affected broods. For example, a state map that shows areas of spring hail or drought.
I very much like the idea of the walk in areas, but usually don't harvest much when using them. Some of the areas don't seem suitable for the game I am hunting and appear to more of an opportunity for the landowner to earn some extra money for ground that he/she is not using during hunting season. Not sure I will hunt antelope again. Expensive tag (and sometimes hard to get), travel too far, and then lack of animals on public ground make these hunting trips unattractive. Not sure what the fix might be other than searching for better quality habitat for WIAs and ending contracts on ground that don't produce the sought after species.
I want to get as far away from roads and other hunters as possible. I understand why we don't allow primitive camping on public lands, we would have lots of problems. However I think that we can come up with a system something like the access permits you apply for to allow back country hunters a chance to do a backpack hunt in SD. I travel out of state to do those hunts now because I can't around here or anywhere close. Even if it was to test gear before being 10 miles up in Idaho before you realize a piece of gear is junk.
I want to make sure my kids will be able to hunt public lands in the future. Me and my family have relied on them for 40+ years. I am also concerned about the balance of tags vs amount of public land. We live and used to hunt in 49B, but there is not enough public land for the amount of hunters in the area. We have had to find private land to hunt on in order to find mature deer that are worth harvesting. I am not opposed to shooting does, but when you can't find a mature doe on public land, it's over hunted. I think we need to make sure residents are able to hunt before the nonresidents as well. We have started hunting in Harding County for archery season because of the access permit. We love the idea that only a certain amount of people will be able to hunt there and that there is always a variety of game to see, especially trophy animals and animals that we know will be trophies in the future. There is no question on whether it's being

over hunted or not. I think these same practices should be applied in other areas, especially 49B.

I was a resident of SD up until last year. I have hunted Walk-In Areas a great deal. It is a great program, especially as we see the growing trend of 'pay to hunt.'

I wasted a lot of good time and money hunting in South Dakota.

I will not hunt I SD again. You raised the license fee \$25.00, that has priced me out of being in SD anymore.

I wish South Dakota would sell over the counter Waterfowl and deer hunting license.

I would be willing to pay extra money for a stamp that allow me access on newer crep or walk-in...for example there could be different levels of access depending on the kind of stamp I buy....bronze ...silver or gold....cant go on that land marked with gold unless u buy a gold stamp...gold would be high standard habitat...limited stamp access and I don't have to intrude on farmers asking for permission. Farmers get big cut from stamp sales....farmers win hunters win....pheasants with more and better habitat.....not mowed to the dirt...win win....10 to 15 years ago habitat was great...now cattail swamps burned and mud is there crops can't even grow

I would hope the \$10 habitat stamp we are now paying for will lead to more and better lands to access either through WIA or CREP.

I would hunt big game on public land but I have limited abilities to walk in long distance and certainly can't pack an animal out long distances.

I would like to ask the SDGF to pull their proverbial heads out of their asses and actually work on habitat and growing the wildlife population. Also, ending the roadside counts for pheasant is very disturbing and shows the people in charge of the SDGF do not [care] about habitat and wildlife and care only about fooling hunters into giving them their license money only to [...]

I would like to see better overall habit for the birds. Having food plots on WIA. Limit roadside mowing of road right of ways

I would like to see handicap hunters be able to use a motorized machine to hunt in the WIA. My limitation does not provide me to hunt extensive WIA.

I would like to see more days added to Non-Resident hunting for both Waterfowl and Pheasant.

I would like to see more of the agriculture crop fields enrolled in walk in. We use these locations quite often.

I would like to see more Walk-In Areas in Mead County and all other Counties as well. Thank you!

I would like to see the waterfowl count along the Missouri River back on your website.

I would love to see more WIA areas being created with better wildlife habitat. I spend allot of time hunting in Tripp county and there is almost no public land and the little there is are small parcels and not of the best wildlife habitat. some are barren hay fields that won't even support an ant. There used to be some great WIA in that county but they went away about six years ago and no new ones have been established at all.

I would make sure that WIA's have land that is not farmed. Our experience with several WISA's is with land that has been farmed or grazed that year. I'm not sure this is a value to hunters to hunt this type of land.

I wouldn't be able to give my kids and other youth the great opportunities to get them outdoors without having access to the great Walk-In Areas. The memories we make on Walk-In Areas antelope and deer hunting is priceless!

I wouldn't change anything about your system. It's a gift to all of us.

If it paid landowners considerably more for the privilege there would be more landowner participation. It is a good program for hunters that don't have other access. It is a good program for landowners that like to get paid somehow for their relatives hunting all over them.

If land owners need to hay make sure that their private land is hayed 1st. If land owners haul land in program, they should have to give a portion of money back

If the cover isn't worth hunting , don't put it in the program.

If these walk in areas and crep land are for hunting, stop allowing those enrolled in it to harvest everything down to black dirt. There is NO cover for wildlife in many of these areas. It's a joke.

If you are going to pay rent for a WIA make sure you are not getting a bare field or require a percentage of the crop/cover isn't cut. If you want support from the resident hunter then start making them a priority, not a second thought. Remember resident hunters and their families vote and can submit referendum petitions for changes. Lower the number of non-residents, raise the hunting license fee if you just want their money so can the game farms, motels, etc.

If you don't start opening up a road to get game out you are going to lose the older hunters than can drag a deer miles out of Walk-In Areas,

I'm 70 years old and have had a broken hip. I'm extremely grateful for Walk-In Areas. Thank you for the program. I will be 71 for the 2021 season, and hope I will be able to hunt for many years.

I'm a lot pissed about the \$10 habitat fee. It's all about money, isn't it? How about charging the illegal aliens that hunt double?

I'm a retired Soldier from SD and have excellent map reading skills, but I find using the free WIA map guide challenging when trying to pinpoint a specific WIA. Higher resolution maps if possible please.

I'm grateful for people that put there land into walk-in but land enrolled should have habitat for wildlife a bear piece of ground shouldn't qualify for payment waste of money

Impossible to hunt deer in walk in areas when the season for pheasant is ongoing. Over-use of walk in area. All deer have been chased out by pheasant hunters.

In some areas local roads can get beat up quite badly by hunting traffic accessing these public lands. It would be nice to be able to help out some of the townships and counties financially with some road maintenance. The required road maintenance is directly related to the additional hunting traffic and some of the very rural areas don't have abundant funding to pay for the

repairs to the roads, this ultimately impacts the neighboring land owners and can leave a bad taste for the hunters and for the WIA program.

In the past few years I have seen some state Walk-In and game production areas being grazed a lot or mowed for hay too much?

In years past I have hunted Walk-In Areas and always had positive experiences. What's not to like.

Increased emphasis on Early Canada Goose Season walk-in opportunities, especially wheat stubble.

Information about fee based hunting acres would be helpful

Issue unlimited NRW licenses. The State will bring in much more revenue and more State lands will be utilized.

It can be frustrating to see Walk-In Areas of 0 habitat. Example would be grazed pasture land or bare fields.

It is a good program for the most part but I have seen some growth that would not hold any game and should not be enrolled.

It is a great asset to the Public hunter, but is also heavily used by the Non-Resident hunter. I think that looking at creating a Special Buck tag for Private land would take a lot of pressure off the walk-in and public areas. Charge an added fee for the Special Buck tag like they do deer which adds to the budget. The non-resident will pay to hunt, just like pheasants.

It is excellent - a huge benefit to SD. We use a guided pay areas to maximize our travel time. Have a group of 8-10 men. Have come annually 30 years. Love SD. Love your governor! Continue to grow the program. Target 30-50 year old hunters to come!

It is great South Dakota offers these public hunting opportunities hope it continues to growing

It is vitally important to have public lands appropriately represented on various mapping software (On-X for example). This mapping software is the primary method that I (and others I hunt with) use to find public hunting land.

It seem to me a lot of west river WI is a lot of bare fields?

It seems there is a little less walk in every year

It was a great season. I am thankful for the opportunities to hunt in the great state of SD!

It was nice the season was longer. Was kind of shocked with the new \$25.00 stamp! You put out pamphlet that said cost was 121.80 and then added 25.00 stamp as a surprise hit. Didn't care for it at all.

It would be good to provide phone numbers of people that can answer questions about game regulations, fish and game. With all the rules it can be confusing to all the meanings of the regulations.

It would be great if there were more WI areas with better habitat for deer, antelope, and upland game. I wish there was less paid hunting as most farmers and ranchers don't want to be housing the deer and antelope but do take advantage of paid hunting. Then after the season closes they want help from GFP to get rid of the wild game - especially the deer. I think the WI program is GREAT!! Wish there was more in it.

It would be nice if there was less CRP fields that are baled. Those fields leave no habitat for birds

It would be nice to have a hotline open that would answer question about public areas.

It would be nice to see more areas enrolled in crp and purchasing or leasing for walk in may be one of the few ways to do that. Pheasant and deer numbers are down drastically from 15 years ago and there is a clear and defined correlation between that and loss of crp and cover land. Farmers everywhere have been tilling up thousands of acres that used to be crucial habitat and something needs to be done to reverse the trend.

It's important to have quality habitat. When folks see bare pastures enrolled in WIA's, they get pissed off. My opinion on east river WIA's: Ten 40 acre WIAs are better than one 400 acre WIA. In essence...more individual hunting areas are more important than have large areas. If there's anyone hunting a WIA, I don't go in there. Higher number of small areas allows for greater number of hunting opportunities. It's important to have food plots/food sources in/immediately adjacent to WIA's. I think a better job could be done in encouraging landowners to have food plots in WIA's on their property. i.e. Financial incentive. CREP has been a huge blessing for the Aberdeen area.

It's very confusing where you can and can't hunt. We stopped in Pierre and got license and were told we could hunt the east side Missouri all the way to ND. We almost got in a bind right out the gate going into unmarked Refuge. Saved by another Hunter telling us. No GIS service in SD so OnX didn't do us much good. We do poorly In SD. We do great in ND. We are avid hunters hunt almost every day of duck and deer season in NC. I'm positive there is good fowl hunting in SD. We hunt the river from a boat we haul there a 18 ft boat with 70 hp. only 2 of us we getting some age on us so we aren't going to drag gear 1/2 mile or more across a field. We hunted some private land ponds that we could get to with few decoys with success. Until they froze then zero. Seemed like the areas on the Missouri River that were fairly calm were Refuges. We are going to figure it out. Will try again this year. Going to try to find another area where we can boat hunt. Maybe South Pierre or a lake that will accommodate the boat. Got any advice? The majority of landowners have been great to deal with concerning waterfowl hunting in their ponds which we can drive close to and unload our gear.

I've always appreciated the effort put in by SDFG to make sure that there are areas available to hunt

I've been involved in the hunting industry for over 20 years. I don't have the answers for public walk in areas but have been involved in several conversations and Board meetings dealing with it. The need couldn't be greater for public access but as our society changes we face a culture that requires instant gratification. Hunter numbers are declining at an alarming rate. Instead of banding together, hunters are at odds with each other regarding access and pay for access. Big game opportunities on public lands are plentiful but need some controls. I'll just provide 1 isolated example. Last season, 1 school section broadening our property saw 22 hunters on opening day. I haven't seen these numbers before so stopped and talked to several of the hunters. I found this very dangerous and also very detrimental to the wildlife in the area. The majority stated there were extra tags in this unit and they had heard that people in the area range for quality deer. Which is true. I made the mistake of telling 3 hunters who I was and immediately I was the problem. I was attacked because according to them all the deer were on our property and that we should go run them off so the true hunters can have a shot at them. We did end up having a very in depth conversation about hunting, public vs private. Turned out to be a great experience. They knew the landowners in the area but failed to reach out to any of them to discuss hunting opportunities. Long story short. I took the father and 2 young sons to one of my farms and allowed the youngest son to shoot a management buck. He was elated to say the least. It was his first deer and was able to see what true management looks like. They saw over 125 deer in 1 hour. The father and I have spoke on 3 different occasions since this time. It was a great experience. This scenario doesn't happen often and was a great teaching opportunity to give a few disgruntled public hunters a view of what true management and the costs associated with this. The basis of this rambling is all public assess needs management. The state buying more land for public access doesn't automatically translate to happy hunters. To get more young people involved in the sport of hunting, success is crucial. This will always be a debated topic and applaud the state for digging in. The majority of public lands used for upland hunting are way over hunted. This is not from personal experience, just from asking questions when I have the opportunity. I don't have the answers for these questions but would love to be involved in the conversation from a landowner perspective. Again, I've been involved in the hunting industry for over 20 years and have witnessed the changes over that time. Thanks for the time. Hope to see a discussion or survey dealing with landowner tags that other western states get the privilege to have. Also, the states turkey management is a complete failure. Would love to discuss this as well. Losing out on great revenue when hunters laugh and can buy tags at a gas station in NE. Just had to throw that in there.

I've hunted your walk-in areas for years (15) and have always been impressed by how well you organize and manage those lands. I actually have 5-6 old map books in my file noting areas we hunted and our kills. Those books are fantastic.

Just because I did not hunt Walk-In or CREP last year is not an indication of my opinion on the programs. I have hunted both in the past along with GPS + WPA land and school land. I support these great programs. Please continue and expand if possible. Only negative I see is, land enrolled in Walk-In that has no game or game habitat. Why pay a farmer for access to a plowed field?? Seen plenty of that. I really like when landowners allow vehicle access for waterfowl hunters. I'm too old to haul dozens of decoys a half mile and then haul dead honkers back to truck. Please continue to use my license \$ to enhance public hunting and fishing opportunities. Keep up the great work GFP, we appreciate it!

Just had one time where we drove up to the walk-in sign and got scolded by the farmer that was there for driving across his land to get there. I would have liked to know that it was a private road and not to drive on it to access the area. Not sure how this would be done. Possibly with a sign or note on the digital map alerting you to the private property area.
Just have someone inspect the WIA before you accept it. It should at least have a small chance of being suitable for the intent of the program.
Just have to be going to a spot on the map book or GPS app and its been mowed or bailed.
Just make sure the signs are up. I think some people remove them.
Just more of it, so its not so crowded. Private land is for the rich and that's only 5% of the population. Please think about that. 95% only have the WIA lands...that's why they are crowded. Thanks for your help!
Just more public land to hunt on
Just wish everybody played by the rules.
Keep access to as much land for public use as possible. SD has lot of public access hunting areas and that's what keep people hunting. I see more out of state hunters than I'd like to see. Waterfowling nonresidents is way too high! Archery Antelope is overrun with out of state hunters too.
Keep improving number of acres, distribution, and having maps that are good + easy to use on a phone while in the field
Keep it going and continue to expand access
Keep managing walk in areas to create quality habitat
Keep purchasing walk-in land that has good habitat features for wildlife. Don't spend money on just crop fields.
Keep pushing for more opportunities for hunters like myself to hunt quality habitat. Also, it is important to restrict vehicle access. Nothing ruins a hunt or a piece of ground faster than people driving it like a gravel road.
Keep putting effort and money in kids and predator control!
Keep securing more WIA.
Keep South Dakota and it's people first.
Keep the program going, but try to get more areas ER. Thanks!
Keep them. Nothing at this time.
Keep up good work!
Keep up good work! It's a compliment to you guys that the WIAs get hunted a lot, people have confidence in them. Bring back CRP - pay more money if the state has too. CRP was phenomenal back in the day.
Keep up the good work
Keep up the good work. Could always use more land.
Keep up the good work!
Keep up the great work!
Keep working on it, so has become a pay-to-play state and it truly limits access for most people.
Keep working on the program.

Lack of deer in western SD
Land only presents opportunity without resistance - no hassle hunting - thanks for the opportunity
Lanowners sometimes seem to be a little sensitive about some of the walk in areas.
Landowners next to WIA will run you off saying it's their land. Have been threatened many times.
Large tracks of land are critically important for this program to be successful, both in holding game and allowing hunters to get away from roads and noise.
Last year they were too crowded. We need more, but I see pheasant hunting on the decline, tilling, draining, sloughs, habitat loss. I think something needs to be done soon. - CREP is a good program but we need more - Need more winter cover - I think there is a genuine interest in wild birds even among out of staters
Laws for GRASSLANDS need to be changed to allow at least some kind of motor vehicle to have some access!! I can no longer take my elderly father out hunting antelope because he cannot walk that far. As for myself, I've about killed myself trying to get back to vehicle with animal. There should be where you're allowed to use a motor vehicle if you have an animal down! Please change these so we can hunt GRASSLANDS BETTER!!! At least do it for the elderly!
Leave more cover in roadway area
Like the fact that there is a program as have use walk-in areas in the past
Like the maps you used to send if you asked I have some older ones I still use but probably don't show the newer areas
Limit non-resident deer licenses because they are killing the mule deer in the hills. Raise N.R. fishing license fees, too.
Limit road access on all state and national land.
Located in areas without lots of public land, allows non-residents to easily hunt other area
Lots of hunters this year and not the numbers of pheasants in the Britton area
Love coming to SD. Great State
Love the opportunity to hunt in WIA...wish there was more.
Love visiting the state different format for License purchase all good just takes time to sort thru
Love your programs and the hard work in providing opportunities to hunt in your state. Phenomenal wildlife! Will retire soon and plan on spending more time up there. Thank you!
Make sure ag land has some cover if we are going to enroll it.
Make sure money is being spent wisely and not just thrown at number of acres. Far too many useless acres that are enrolled in some of these programs.
Make sure the land isn't bare of cover
Make sure they are marked with signs. Some places are on a map but there is no sign for the WIA or it has been taken down and left to lay by the post. Not sure if it is huntable
Make sure to keep paying farmers competitively so we don't lose CREP ground
Make sure walk in areas aren't mowed to the ground and leave no cover for animals

Make the area easy access for older generation. Have been hunting Pheasants in SD for over 30 years. Enjoy the opportunity to have walk in areas. Thank you SD.
Make your waterfowl application date. It's hard to plan 6 months in advance for a duck hunting trip.
Many signs need replacing. Some are faded and hard to distinguish from other signage.
Maps and signage need to be better.
Mark WIAs better and have more of them. The quality of cover is the most important characteristic. WIAs [...]cover is poor. In SD it' all about the cover.
Maybe advertise it more on the licensing website or when you get drawn for waterfowl? I only found out it existed because my father in law kind of knew about it
Maybe do food plots in WIA or something to promote more birds
Maybe do more research on lands that want to become walk in . Some walk in lands I believe should not be purchased for the reason they lack game and land that do not hold game !
Mend the relationship with the farmers so they will give permission for hunter to hunt their fields.
Mend the relationships with the farmers so they will give permission for hunter to hunt their fields.
More access for older and handicap hunters, especially for retrieval of game.
More and bigger signs designating the WIA
More bird more habitat
More bow hunting areas needed
More CREP or Walk In strips of small areas along water ways, ponds, fence lines or roads. 50 yards of nesting and hunting cover around fields would be beneficial for conservation and wildlife.
More east river land in program
More food plot areas for all species of hunted animals in that specific area. Try to aid in the number of predators in overpopulated areas - seems it is more common to see a higher number of predators lately. Always helps me when I go to a WIA that is fenced all the way around - reduces confusion of boundaries. Keep up the good work GFP! Less non-resident tags on big game.
More land in my area.
More non-resident opportunities for waterfowl would be fantastic
More safety questions should be asked. Asking how many people are hunting in your party. Thanks for taking care of SD!
More Walk-In Areas are always welcome. More of them with good quality habitat.
More Walk-In-Areas
Most of my thirty years hunting public and private land around Eureka has been outstanding. WIAs have always been an important part of our experience. Recent years have had fewer birds, reduced cover in WIAs and other public land, fewer CRP acres and bad weather. Very wet in 2019 so too much standing corn. Fifteen inches of snow this year. Low bird numbers both years.

Most of the walk in areas are nice and have easy access. Public hunting land west river is abundant, but the access and hunter harassment by local ranchers is terrible. There is much of the public/school land and BLM that has limited to no access to hunters. Even if you can get to the land, the ranchers are constantly there harassing and telling you that you cannot be there. In the last 3 years of hunting west river deer, we have had a GFP officer come almost every day and tell a rancher that they need to leave hunters on public ground. alone. The officers are always nice and are there to help and answer any questions on places to hunt and how to access the public ground. I wish this issue could be resolved for both the hunters and ranchers.

Most of the Walk in ground in the area I hunt does not have quality upland cover/habitat. It is often mowed or has been pastured. That said, when good cover can be found on walk in ground it usually produces a good hunt.

Most of the WIA in my area are not quality habitat for game animals. I think before you are able to put your land in a WIA it should be surveyed to see if it is land that would likely have game animals on it. To me a lot of the farmer/ranchers enroll in the program just to receive a govt check for said land. I also think that if you have land enrolled in the CRP program that land should be designated as WIA. I also would like to see boundary signs on school and church land that is shown in the hunting atlas. Sometimes it is confusing on the exact boundary lines of said land. Thank you for your considerations on these matters

Most of walk-in land is not many animals on it and you have to drag them to far after kill we need to have like some other states where a certain time set so we can drive in and pick up animal some states cant carry in firearm which is ok

Most walk in area don't have adequate cover for wildlife. It gets grazed and mowed. The areas that are harvested fields that allow you to drive out and place waterfowl decoys are a real blessing for us senior hunters.

Most walk in areas are good for hunting, young and old. But looking at the overall picture there needs to be some work to be done. You cant be hunting the same walk in areas year after year without stocking them. They have to have food, water and cover to survive the harsh winters of South Dakota. There are some areas that don't provide any of this. Landowners need to supply this if they are to get paid for their land. With that said, then the GFP can supply the wildlife for area.

Most Walk-In Areas don't have enough coverage on them to hide a field mouse, waste of money, and if there is cover it is over run with hunters.

Most Walk-In Areas feel like it's set up for just pheasant hunters and I would like to see more set up for waterfowl (like Ent crop fiends) and deer.

Most, if not all walk in areas I have hunted or observed have little or no habitat that would hold any type of game, including field mice or song birds. You are doing a great in-service to hunters to pay for land that even the farmers don't want to hold game. It appears that the farmers and ranchers are just using this program to secure extra dollars without actually wanting wildlife or hunters on their property.

Much of the negative aspect on public land comes from emergency grazing. Seems like every year for the last 20, they've been open to grazing. Really cuts back the available land to hunt

My experience with SD public walk in areas has been very poor in the past. Too many people farm or graze off the land leaving little cover for the wild life. I would like to see those regs changed.

<p>My general impression, which may be wrong, is that "Walk-In Areas" are privately owned with the landowner getting subsidies to allow access to the public. I feel like the state may be wasting its money with this. If you continue this program, ensure that the landowner maintains decent habitat if they're getting paid by the state. I do love to hunt SD though!</p>
<p>My mother kept a quarter in Walk-In so she wouldn't be bugged by a constant stream of hunters and it worked pretty well. The COs need to be vigilant and watch for people with vehicles in the more remote walk-ins & public land.</p>
<p>My response to future travel to Sd question is dependent on SD getting bird populations back to the 1990s or 1980s. Overall, WIAs are superior to anything we have in WI. Best of luck on solution for bird numbers, still 100% better there than here (WI). Note: When farmers switched to soy beans from milo, bird numbers started to dwindle. Late 80s/early 90s.</p>
<p>My wife and I enjoy hiking in the Walk-in-Areas. They are a way to get back into the prairie as it might have been in past centuries. The beauty and peaceful undulating hills of the Coteau des Prairie west of Sisseton are a place to escape COVID-19 and reset your spirit in times of stress. The Walk-In Area Program in South Dakota adds value to our State for it's citizens to enjoy for generations to come. Thanks for your management of this gift to all of us to enjoy.</p>
<p>Need better program for waterfowl hunting</p>
<p>Need more access for handicapped hunters. SD is piss poor.</p>
<p>Need more areas to handle all of the hunters</p>
<p>Need more areas.</p>
<p>Need more of it, but NOT more miles and miles of non-game producing bare ground, but good quality small and big game habitat!!</p>
<p>Need more of them</p>
<p>Need more walk-in areas in SD, private land is getting expensive and is being bought up so most of us cant afford to rent land to hunt.</p>
<p>Need to be mark better, hunters crossed into my land, blocked road way.</p>
<p>Need to plant habitat in your Walk-In Areas need some milo corn etc. SDGF should not graze your acres. Just my opinion.</p>
<p>No further comment on Walk-In. I will say that the first time ever I had heard a local radio station mention that hunters (esp. road hunters) need to be safe and pay attention because farmers are busy harvesting. There have been countless times that hunters have stopped their cars in front of loaded trucks, left them partially in the way as they jumped out to shoot a bird, or failed to yield properly for farm equipment. Hate to say it but I have not minded the drop in hunters these last few years because it has been less frustrating in the fall as we conduct important business.</p>
<p>No more killing of mule deer does in any season. I like the fact that kids are getting out for their first time but need to leave mule deer out of it. I do not agree with kids hunting under the age of 10 years old.</p>
<p>No one will use Walk-In Areas or anything else if hunting licenses keep going up in price. I own land in SD pay taxes on the land and home. A different license should be available for non-resident land owners.</p>

No overlooked question but I wanted to clarify. I have friends who own lots of corn fields in South Dakota. Big family event to hunt Pheasant each year. So, I only hunt on their private property. I'm not aware of anyone, other than family and friends hunting their property.
No viable habitat on most Walk in areas. Its a shame that the state pays anything to landowners that put horrible lands in the program that are good for nothing, or have grazed them to nothing prior to hunting season, or have land locked them to stop public access.
No, just never seen any geese to try to get into while scouting in the early nuisance season.
No, very happy with the opportunity to hunt.
No. I enjoy hunting in SD.
No. I was invited by a friend who owns property to hunt pheasant. It was my first time to hunt in SD and to hunt pheasant. I would definitely go again if the opportunity presents itself.
No. Keep up the good work.
no. loved our trip and can't wait to come back!
Non-resident hunters archery mostly was getting out of hand however the last season was noticeably less. Lots of out of state antelope bow hunters. So the West river WIAs are a bit busy.
Nope, I'm not a bird hunter. Could have separate surveys.
Normally hunt walk-ins but 2020 drew private ground hunting only. Have found walk-in areas great for duck hunting in the past.
Not all landowners seem to understand that their land participating in the states public hunting program, which they believe to be "landlocked" is not.
Not aware of the Walk-in Area Program. Thank You, a very happy and grateful visitor.
Not enough Walk-In Areas in Codington County.
Not much land in Presho
Notes on previous page. "Many Walk-In Areas are not enrolled as much as they were in the past. When I rely on hunting public ground for a lot of my hunting, I hate to see that land to become private again. It would be nice to know why landowners are pulling out their land. Some walk in is just pasture land which allow minimal success to harvest any game on that land." I am thankful for Walk-In and all public lands.
Nothing on walk in areas. But I thought this is the least deer I seen in my life
Noxious weeds are poorly controlled
Number of birds seen while hunting the WIA and CREP land.
On CREP ground you have no parking areas, I think the farmers CREP program should have to leave a small portion of crop to hunt until after seasons are done.
On some of the large WIA you should be allowed to use a motorized vehicle to retrieve a downed animal. With the stipulation if your caught driving in a WIA and you don't have a down animal you will be fined \$5000.00
On some of the public land, it seems like there is no way to access it. It's surrounded by private land with no visible public access point. Keep up the good work of having public land access.
One deer hunting 2 point or better on both sides for rifle seasons

One issue is the not doing the road counts any longer - disappointed to learn that. Excited the season was extended later into January w/o being a issue with spring breeding (so the science says). Disappointed that there were more "fees" on top of the out of state license. Hope there is more investment in the future for public land access - with out it, hunting will become a "pay to play" for the wealthy. Regular people will not be able to enjoy too and carry on family traditions.

Only hunted deer and pheasant in SD. Did hunt waterfowl in North Dakota. Would like to see more flexibility in waterfowl license availability for out of state hunters. I usually hunt waterfowl with friends from Minnesota, Oregon and Kentucky and we end up going to ND or Canada because of the license issue in SD. We would hunt in SD and would like to except for the difficulty in getting a license for out of state folks. SDGFP does a great job and we all thank you for that. Keep up the good work.

Open non-resident waterfowl hunting licenses to unlimited quantity for private land hunting. I understand limiting public lands or walk in area hunters. My father was born and raised in South Dakota. And he owns a ranch there. Bordering lots of family land. We do not live in state anymore and I have to gamble every year weather or not I can hunt waterfowl on our own ranch and the family's land. Not only me but also for friends I want to bring to enjoy the waterfowl hunting on our land. If we don't plan the trip in July when the drawing is (and all get drawn) we can't come hunt. Even on our own land. This is why I feel private land waterfowl hunting licenses state wide should be unlimited. At the very least a family land hunting license should be unlimited. Seeing as how waterfowl hunting is based on weather, there have been times in the past where weather is looking perfect for a hunt but I've already reached my quota of the license I obtained. Very frustrating when the land is ours and every other state I hunt waterfowl in does not do this.

Opening weekend rifle deer, the Walk-In Areas were over run with east river license plates. Would like to see East and West river open up same weekend to spread out the public land hunters. Wouldn't hurt anyone's chances of success but take pressure off public lands. Some areas were needing more Walk-In signs.

Our CREP land has been well respected but there are others and some public lands in the Jerauld County area that are not. My friends tell me stories of finding garbage carelessly discarded while hunting. Mostly plastic water bottles, candy wrappers and aluminum cans. I don't have an answer to this problem except to keep encouraging others to pick it up and let the local game warden at least know it is happening.

Out of state people need to learn and obey the law of SD.

Overall good program. Accent the hunt not the kill.

Overall, I believe the SD Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks along with resident farmers & ranchers do an excellent job of managing these resources. I base this on my experience growing up in eastern WA, that used to have excellent bird hunting and habitat. That is no longer the situation. overall, need to enroll land that has cover versus being bare

Overall, the WIAs are very positive! My only complaint is that some of them were plowed fields that held NO BIRDS! Not sure why they are err on they list if there is as nothing there, no cover and no crop??

Pay more for quality walk-in and forget about poor quality walk-in
Paying ranchers/farmers to leave areas open for WIA areas - not to run cattle or harvest ground cover needed to hold birds. Out-of-state hunters feel that we are being penalized by these folks. GFP should sign up the WIA for their hunting potential (cover) and encourage the ranchers/farmers enrolled to leave the cover for better hunting. I believe the better the cover the better the overall hunting would be [...]
Paying too much for land that has been moved and hayed without enough cover to hide a mouse!
People getting their livestock off the land when they are to.
Pheasant season should not have been extended, also the first week of hunting season should open at noon.
Please consider a pay per day for out-of-staters for waterfowl. Similar to nonresident fishing (or) upland game. The lottery approach honestly is a barrier for many to come back to SD to hunt.
Please continue to support and grow the Walk-In Areas Programs.
Please do not allow non-residents to hunt Walk-Ins until there is enough game for residents. I interviewed more than one party hunting that was dissatisfied. I spoke with no one happy. The GFP of South Dakota are an embarrassment to our state. The Walk-In Areas especially. They are a joke!! There are many ways one could manage a Walk-In Area. But that would take effort. Do you need money or just education?
Please do what you can to put an end to big game road hunters. It ruins the hunt for kids to see such pathetic hunting practices. I hate having to explain to my son why people do it and why they seem to get away with it.
Please just make sure that the farmers & ranchers that do have their land enrolled in these programs are taken care of because without them our group would not be able to hunt deer in our great state of SD.
Please reevaluate the CREP land. Land should be worth hunting.
Please see answer in 23(a). If SD does not actually invest in pheasant populations and more Walk-In/CREP Areas, more and more of the out-of-state hunters I know are going to turn to private land (fee) of other states, such as North Dakota and Nebraska.
Please see answer in 23(a). If SD does not actually invest in pheasant populations and more Walk-In/CREP Areas, more and more the out-of-state hunters I know are going to turn to private land (fee) of other states, such as ND and NE.
Private farmland counties (SE area) WIAs are scarce and is a farse to many. SD should pass laws for 1000' or more feet from any waters should have private hunting access (WIAs).
Private land is becoming very difficult to gain permission to hunt. I would not hunt pheasant or waterfowl without access to public lands.
Property selection process needs improvement. Too many fields did not have nearby food.
Provide increased or greater ability to drive into a walk-in area for waterfowl hunting when it comes to fields with harvested crops, this makes the opportunity to hunt WIA even more attractive.
Provide opportunities for handicapped people
Provided in previous answers

Public access is critical to the retention of hunters. WIAs are important, even those with low percentages of high quality habitat. Even tracts with one or two small wetlands in the corner at least provide an opportunity to get out of the truck and walk. I'd like to see rental rates increased to expand the program.
Public land access has been stopped for us elderly to use it. We need to way too far.
Purchased own land to hunt on. If I didn't have a place to hunt I would use walk in's.
Quit wasting our money GFP!
Really appreciate the planting of feed sources for bird and deer corn, beans, etc.) The wind breaks/bedding areas that have been developed on these lands is critical. Water sources near by has also helped these habitats and species that inhabit them.
Release birds like you do fish to bolster the population and hunter satisfaction and the hunters that have gone elsewhere will return
Restrict complete tilling of fields until after the migration of waterfowl. A Walk-In Area that is black soil is not of value to me.
Restrict non-resident hunters!
Restrict out of state hunters to private land, leave the public land for the residents only.
SD does a good job providing Walk-In Areas. I will hunt December (my choice) so the areas are pretty well hunted before I get there. From what I have seen, a change in grass or crop might help.
SD does a great job
SD is my favorite place to hunt!
SD non-resident rules are too restrictive and unfair.
SD, along with most of the Western states are making hunting more of a rich man's sport
SDGFP appears to be focused on the total number of acres designated as Walk-In Area. The quality and condition of the habitat is not important. Having large numbers of acres is. This brings hunters to SD and with them...their dollars. It is not until they park at the Walk-In Area and look at the poor cover, lack of habitat, and absence of wildlife that they understand it is an "acres" game.
Seems to be a good program
Small Game Rabbits and Squirrel's population seems to be declining in the areas I have hunted and I am concerned as to the cause. I feel that GFP cares more about the cash revenue of Pheasants and some water foul then some basic game that some locals appreciate.
Some areas I have seen nothing there
Some land that is grazed down to nothing shouldn't be getting funds for Walk-In Areas. There are many parcels that will never have an animal on them but they are still getting paid.
Some of the areas get extreme pressure with the early seasons prior to the statewide opener which has extremely reduced the attraction to hunt them.
Some of the GFP land I use to hunt was mowed by the adjoining farmer/rancher. This slew and grassland was my primary location for opening weekend. The farmer said he was given permission by a GFP official. The land, after 2-3 years of mowing, has taken a few years to come back close to it's original growth.
Some of the walk in areas do not have enough cover for hunting, a waste of time and money. All SD cares about is out of staters to have a place to walk in

Some of the walk in areas do not look very conducive to hunting. Some of the fields look to be stubble.
Some of the walk in areas have very little or nothing to hunt - to be labeled a walk in area there needs to be a legitimate hunting opportunity or grassland to hunt
Some of the walk in areas that I have observed, stand little chance of holding upland birds. It makes me wonder why the Conservation Officers sign them up ? Could be a waste of funds!
Some of the walk in signs are very old. Need to be updated.
Some west River WIA's I have observed over the years have very little value of proper cover to make hunting close to successful. Not sure if payment to these landowners is in the best interests of hunters who help fund it. If there are drought conditions and they cut or hay the grass GFP should get a full refund.
Some West River WIAs were hayed too much so hunting habitat was not great
Sometimes Walk-In Areas have way too many hunters at once.
Sorry never hunt Walk-In Areas
South Dakota conservation management is excellent. I love how your state puts so many efforts into hunting and conservation. I hope to be a resident one day.
South Dakota does a wonderful job, THANK YOU!!
South Dakota is doing fine with current programs and seasons
Spend more improving your product and less promoting it: Thanks
Still not in favor of archery open late for non-residents. It is same time as antelope and people are everywhere. If it stayed 1st or second week of September, everyone would have more fun in my opinion.
Sure hope rifle deer tag for out-of-state become available again.
Thank you for all that you do for us! That needs said. Thank you
Thank you for allowing me to split my waterfowl season this year. Been wanting to do that for years. Now I can make an early trip and a late trip. Thanks again
Thank you for having a walk in program! much appreciated
Thank you for participating in this practice and having it well documented.
Thank you for providing the opportunity.
Thank you for the habitat + opportunity!! We take our kids antelope hunting in Harding Co. All on public land and have found great relationships with local ranchers in Harding Co.
Thank you for Walk-In Area hunting
Thank you so much for doing this program!
Thank you!!
Thank you!!!
Thanks
Thanks
Thanks for all you do!
Thanks for asking!
Thanks for taking the time to survey hunters. Much appreciated!
Thanks for the opportunity to hunt
Thanks for the program. Have no livestock on property before season starts.

Thanks for your work and try to get the bird numbers up the best you can.

The area I live in has tremendous habitat, but I would love to see more area for wildlife production in the Dell Rapids Area where my folks live.

The biggest problem I've seen in the past is land locked Walk-In Areas where there is no access without crossing private ground.

The books are great and I have seen increased lands to hunt and if the people that recruit to get more land, god bless them. I wish that more younger people would get into outdoor hunting & fishing but shells are hard to come by. The Washington establishment is killing our sport, gas, ammo, guns at a premium. Its not a cheap sport anymore.

The GFP should use more money to acquire land and improve habitat

The last couple times we went antelope hunting which was 7-8 years ago we hunted strictly walk-in areas. It is really nice to know you have a place to hunt when you don't do it regularly and have landowners lined up. Hopefully will be taking grandson hunting this year and it will be nice to know there will be available land to hunt.

The last time I hunted walk in areas we drove to the spots located on the map and they were harvested fields that did not have enough cover for a field mouse. I couldn't believe you paid for it. It looks good on your map to have all these locations but if there is nothing there it was a long drive for nothing. So do I plan on doing walk in areas NO!!! Where are the food plots? They used to put them in up by Lake Thompson and it was probably too much work. What is our fees going for?

The more land available to hunt without charge allows more people esp. out of state people find quality hunting land. The more land available the more out of state hunters you will get. Ones that spend money on hotel and food. Not stay at private hunting lodges. If you have to spend most of your day finding land that no one else is using you won't come back.

The more quality land enrolled in WIA is a win for sportsmen hunting our great state. More enrolled land in larger blocks for big game hunting would be great to see for some more of the west river big game hunting experiences. I hope that some of the recent licensing increases will help support additional lands being added to the program.

The more walk in areas, the better. Keep adding as much as possible.

The more Walk In available, the better. Increase license fees as needed.

The name of the game is access! I found WIA and CREP very welcome in the days when age did not interfere. I would encourage - sustain and increase the opportunities for "Joe Average."

The no permission signs were unexpected and unfortunate to see.

the one thing I have noticed and I was going to call a game warden in some county but my gaps and other maps show duck unlimited ground open but no signs or it look like someone tore the sign down. Didn't hunt the area because I wasn't sure. Thank you and keep up the good work

The only change that needs to be looked at is getting big game out of the WIA - not driving a truck but maybe a 4-wheeler 1 person no firearm. As the people that hunt get older this has become an issue.

The quality of the enrolled lands that I have been on are great. Provide great opportunities to hunt and fish without having to pay trespass fees or guides if you do not wave permission to hunt. Thank you for providing these lands, especially along the James River and in Gregory County (turkey) and other West River units for deer and antelope.

The record wet year of 2019 I assume the winter 2018/2019 killed most of the antelope. If there is any kind of game management the season should have been closed in the area I hunted in.

The survey should have been broken down WIAs that allow access by foot traffic only and WIAs that allow vehicles to be driven on harvested crop land to set decoys. The lack of access to property that allows hunters to set decoys is the main reason people are no longer hunting waterfowl.

The Walk in Area program is awesome. Without it hunting would be very difficult. I would like to see more lands in the program, but it needs to be the right land and habitat. Wide open plowed fields with no cover or food sources don't provide much of a hunting opportunity, or at least not much of a chance for success.

The walk in areas are generally featureless other than grass at least most in areas I hunt but a few offer trees and cover for deer but all seem to have heavy pressure

The walk in areas are over run with out of state hunters.

The walk in areas have no cover for birds. The ones I have seen are mowed down to the ground. I just drive past them now and don't even bother with them.

The walk-in area maps are helpful, but we found that some areas are still hard to find due to the scale of the maps. There are sometimes oddly shaped sections of land that are not easy to locate and identify. Some of these, especially ones that are "landlocked" could use better signage, especially signs on roadways confirming the location of WIA.

The Walk-In program has never been effective at leasing ground with habitat and game. We are told about # of acres leased but it's barren ground. Wasted money and GFP pushes how good it is but we aren't stupid. Barren ground won't hold game. Very poorly managed.

The walk-in program is great. We don't have a lot of it right around me and I didn't spend time this year traveling to other areas to hunt so I didn't utilize it this year but I have hunted walk-in ground many times in the past for many different species.

The walk-in-area is great for those who don't have permissions to hunt private lands. Thank you for continuing to provide them

The WIA areas need to be marked a little better

The WIA Program should continue to be funded even though I did not utilize it in 2020.

The year before we hunted WIA with limited success, so this year we hunted in western MN on our way to hunt private land in SD. We may hunt WIA and CREP again, just kind of watching the bird count and seeing if people have success. 2019 was so wet, that it was pretty poor hunting.

There are areas near the James River close to farming colonies where it seems that Walk-In Area signs are suspiciously missing - perhaps intentionally removed - that creates confusion for hunters in knowing where the exact WIAs are. Perhaps for those that may be removing the signs, that is the point.

There are people who are guiding on public areas and I thought that was illegal.

There are way too many farmers disking crop ground right after they harvest it. Too much cattail cover is also destroyed in the fall. I realize GFP can't necessarily control that but if the governor really wants to improve pheasant numbers these two issues need to be addressed.

There definitely needs to be more habitat and GOOD public hunting available. With the non-resident fees including the additional \$25, I would like to see 3 five day seasons available which would bring more money (hospitality, gas, food, beverages) to SD. With the extra month available now, I would come back for a third trip but probably not a fourth.

There is some extreme difficulty if you want to carry decoys or access water in some cases. Others not so much. It also seems that food plots would help hold pheasants on larger tracks of walk-in areas. Similar to the one on Twin Lakes in Redfield.

There is walk in areas that obviously carry little game. Overgrazed pastures. Please don't waste my money on those areas.

There isn't a lot of walk-in areas in the southeast corner of the state

There should be better compensation to landowners who provide good habitat versus acreage that is essentially barren land.

There was never any waterfowl to be had by using a walk-in area.

They appear to be grazed down = no cover

They are all garbage cover. It's either cut to no cover or planted with corns or beans. Pretty useless to hunt on. Why am I paying 120 dollars to hunt that garbage?

They are on the map relatively easy to locate I believe the program is a needed success. I appreciate the fact that people allow me to go hunting on their land.

Think about the residents of the state, one of the lowest income state. Not able to pay to hunt or pay to lease land to hunt. Walk in is ok but most the land is farm ground in east River grass land that has been grazed west river. The farmer or rancher get richer again. Wake up make the outstate hunters pay more every other state does, they will still come. I have lived here my whole life ready to give up hunting, kids don't understand my stories when I grew up.

Think it is an excellent idea and I would encourage it

Think the program needs more attention, too many WIA that do not have habitat, and or is planted, cut , or plowed!! It is very difficult to find a WIA that is supported by food supply and good cover!! Very discouraged at the number of WIA's of bare ground!!

This is not related to walk in areas specifically but to this past year. I was only able to take day trips to South Dakota because of the Covid pandemic and my families health situation. That allowed me to only hunt two days in South Dakota this year. I may have used walk in areas if the license requirements did not limit me to two periods. I was never able to use two five day periods and feel the lack of flexibility in licensing limited my opportunities to hunt in SD.

this year was terrible year for deer hunting. none the less. it is very hard to hunt anything on bare ground. this is what I saw on a lot of walk-in hunting areas around Pierre. it seemed to be a waist of money to just have land to say its open hunting. I also think the number of non-resident deer tags should be dropped by two-thirds

Too many out-of-state hunters blow through walk-ins with 4-5 hunters and their local guides - move the game onto private lands and then hunt them there. No reason for game to come back!!!

Too many WIA where the land is pretty barren which leaves little hunting opportunities. Road side ditches in South Dakota are all cut which leaves no hunting opportunities for bird hunting

Too old to walk far, need access for those with physical limitations
Trees and grooves are being torn out for farming, which I understand is the farmers right. But there are Walk-In Areas that are bare pastures and open fields that will not hold any game, that money is being spent on. Maybe give that money to the farmers not to tear out a grove or burn a slough. I also understand that the farmer may put all of his land in WIA if they include the bare pasture of field. But I think that money is being wasted. That is my opinion. I appreciate having the WIA we do have.
Tried to answer online, but unable to get it to open up???
Understanding the fact that most WIAs are farming operations, the habit potential is somewhat limited but there is ample area to access. The media portrays SD as easy hunting with an over-abundance of upland game which is misleading, anyone who hunts the public areas finds the hunting very challenging with having to earn each bird harvested. Pay-for-play areas are specifically different with the birds and hunting designed for the novice hunter. I typically hunt early November as there are less hunters but very few limits are taken easily on public ground.
Use online check in, for some non-farmed areas. Put a message board with a picture of the area. People can communicate at the parking lot where people are set up. Less chance to walk into someone's hunt.
Very appreciative of the walk in areas just can't seem to find birds in SE SD
Very glad the state changed the 10 day waterfowl to a 5 day split just like the pheasant license. I enjoy coming out several times each year to hunt but also to plant and set up the private land I hunt on.
Very pleased with the amount of Public Land in the Eureka, excellent habitats and food plots.
Very positive, have used walk-in areas in past
Walk in areas get pounded. Not enough acres to around.
Walk in areas in South Dakota are a good thing!!
Walk in land gets hunted hard, resulting in minimal success rate. Not much anyone can do about it.
Walk-In Area programs are great. Seems like getting permission to hunt private land is getting very different in SD.
Walk-In Areas are an idea that's good. Only about 10% is worth hunting on (mowed, pastured, or rocks) 90%. But it's still good. Said to your waterfowl people - after growing up in western MN and watching flyway and breeding shift to Dakotas, why is licenses still capped in SD? You let 100,000 out of state hunters shoot pheasants and yet only a few thousand to shoot waterfowl that don't even stay here? Like to hear how that one is explained. Sell more waterfowl out of state licenses, my MN friends have given up applying.
Walk-In Areas are good for hunters.
Walk-In Areas are good for people who can walk long way or have dog. Otherwise, they are pretty much not worth it for people that can't walk too far. Also, farmers want the geese shot but most won't let you hunt. And then you allow them to kill the young geese in the spring. Not hard to figure out why you're losing hunters, you bow to the farmers and don't care about us hunters.
Walk-In Areas are great. I have used them in the past. Just don't need to now. Never thought much of the CREP program. Never used it and never will.

Walk-In Areas did not work for the waterfowl hunting I like to do
Walk-In Areas need a lot of improvement. Right now there is no game in those areas. Hasn't been for years. Looks like no food sources or water. No game birds being replenished. Hunting in SD too commercialized. Non-resident hunters pandered to the max. They have no respect for landowners or game laws.
Walk-in areas often lacking one of these 4 things: winter cover, nearby crops or food patches, water, and nesting cover. The best program is/was the CRP program and should be aggressively supported. Marketing more than adequate, Hunting Atlas is very good, Telephone FPG contacts VERY GOOD, people in general excellent
Walk-In ground in my area is usually poor ground that is quickly and easily over hunted, these grounds are usually fine for owners that have lots of acres, smaller operators don't usually want CREP and Walk-In adjacent to parcels they reside in.
Walking are great. I appreciate that there is public ground to hunt.
Was not able to draw deer or antelope tags that year. But if I were to, I would of used Walk-In Area. Keep up the good work. Thank you!
We did not hunt any Walk-In Areas in 2020. We had an excellent hunt on private land at Gettysburg. With the exception of acquiring Covid 19, we loved our hunt and will be back in 2021.
We found very few birds in the last several years.
We had a group of duck hunters coming to South Dakota to pheasant hunt. We all would have stayed more days to duck hunt, but only 3 of the 11 could get waterfowl licenses. The 3 hunters who got the waterfowl licenses stayed for a week. The 8 who could not get a license only stayed 3 days. If you open up the waterfowl licenses to allow more hunters access, we would be more likely to utilize the walk-in area program
We have a lot of CREP ground around us, I think it's great!
We have a lot of McPherson County Residents that are not getting deer tags. Too many are given to out of county hunters. I believe more should be given McPherson County residents.
We have a lot of Walk-In around my home ton. Turkey season in May I can count 12 cars or pickups with out of county license hunting turkeys on cabin road - same goes for deer season. We've been found out. My only negative is I don't know why GFP pay landowners for plowed ground where corn & wheat was planted and harvested!!! This survey is a great idea - sorry that I could not do it online.
We have a private hunting lodge. I went opening of season but it gets crowded in the roost and with the COVID I didn't go back. We have the best hunting in SD and it is not a pay hunt
We have been walked up on by others in some areas, these were all people from South Dakota
We have hunted pheasants in South Dakota for over ten years. Good bird numbers and low bird numbers we still have a good time. Just better when there are several birds. We are fortunate to have made friends with several local farmers and hunt mostly private land now. When we were first hunting in South Dakota we hunted a lot of WIA areas and State areas. It was always a disappointment to drive several miles to a WIA only to find a mowed hay field or pasture field. We started trying to look at WIA areas on Google Earth and it helped sort out some of the non productive areas. I think South Dakota has a great system. I just wish it was possible to have good quality habitat in all the WIA areas. Thank You.
We hunt on private land outside of the town of Belle Fourche, but live inside city limits. If feeding deer was not allowed in city limits, we would have had better luck filling our tags.

We love your walk in area program for waterfowl hunting. However, we did not get our first choice in 2020 and only drew a three day private land license. Therefore, we had to find private land to hunt waterfowl on, which we did. Thanks, [...]

We need more CRP acres statewide. Habitat, habitat, habitat!!!

We need more land open to hunting by the public for big game hunting. Current public lands are overrun with hunters with big game populations taking a severe hit in numbers or being run off onto private lands where the landowners are not allowing the general public to hunt unless they want to pay. Need to continue to work on increasing the population of mule deer throughout the state especially along any public lands where they have been over harvested. White tail populations in some areas have decreased a lot too especially anywhere near public lands along with areas where EHD has hit.

We need to continue to purchase and develop hunting land and access at all times. Quality and access is the only way to encourage hunting as a viable activity. Lack of interest and cost restraints to private land will continue to erode the sport. I mostly hunted doves this season on the Lower Brule.

We pay private landowners for the use of there land besides the out of state hunting license fee. Do not use your public hunting land. The price to hunt pheasant in South Dakota is getting high enough that I may soon decide to spend my recreational dollars another way.

We see lots of Walk-In Areas, however, we hunt private land. If was necessary to hunt Walk-In, we would. I believe it is very important to continue to develop Walk-In hunting.

Well for one thing Feds haven't burned in walk in areas for a while thank goodness. Noxious weed control needs to be addressed. In all walk in areas.

We've seen some Walk-In Areas un-enrolled where we antelope hunt. Would be nice to see it expanded. It would be great if Walk-In could be used to gain access to "land locked" school & public lands.

What's positive is that there is a place for us who have no other place to go. We know private land is a NO GO. We see a lot of it. But over all South Dakota has not disappointed me in 10 years going there. 10 straight years. We have had some very good hunts on WIA, Public/School lands and huntable Waterfowl Areas. We have had a couple bad years but to be truthful if you get a great day or couple rely good days they make up for the bad. It's a Great Place to be Snowy or Sunny. In 10 years I think we got rained on once. That's really great. Thank You for ALL you do. From the bottom of my heart.

When applying for a duck license, it might help to designate some cities or big water bodies to help those applying for a license to know correctly the area in which they will be hunting. Now, it is bit confounding to make sure that the right area for the duck license is being selected. Thanks.

When I am able to draw a west river deer tag, about once in every 3-5 years now, I do hunt walk-in lands. However, some of the lands are so large and the terrain so rough that they are very difficult to hunt and even more difficult to remove big game animals from. There has to be some type of accommodation for hunters to remove their downed game from the land, especially for senior hunters who don't mind a little walk but are simply unable to drag a deer very far. As it is now, senior hunters who can walk some aren't able to hunt much beyond the road because it all but impossible for us to drag a deer.

While I did not hunt Walk-In or CREP this year, I have in the past. They are wonderful programs. I hope you continue them in the future so avid outdoorsman can continue to hunt public land.

While not this year, I have hunted Walk-In Areas in the past. As someone who has access to private land, I found them very crowded with people and scarce of game. And with every step, you think, "if I do get something, how the heck am I going to get it out!" May God bless you.

While South Dakota has a substantial amount of acres in WIA and CREP, there does not seem to be a relatively significant amount of these opportunities in the most dense pheasant range. Adding public access in these areas would be great. Thank you for what you do!

While we sincerely appreciate the many public areas available to hunt a little more scrutiny of what constitutes hunting cover would be a fine idea. A survey of this nature helps the cause.

Who was the [...] that thought up HB 1140?

Why designate land as Walk-In if it has been grazed and there is nothing left for wildlife.

Why do you pay landowners for Walk-In land that is totally bare? Mowed for hay etc. Why do you sell unlimited pheasant licenses when wild bird numbers are completely on their [...]? You have absolutely no business selling pheasant licenses to out of staters when bird numbers are this low! Why not sell unlimited deer licenses like pheasant licenses? Same mentality! Get rid of all mountain lions before there is nothing left in the Hills! No brainer! [...] has land in Walk-In in Dewey County. I was checking out for deer hunting and he run me off because I was driving on established road in a pasture! And you pay him why? Says it's legal right in hand book. Start treating SD residents better and cut off out-of-state licenses until bird numbers come back and all state residents have big game licenses first! And Noem said bird numbers were through the roof? What planet is she from? She let Rez roadblocks keep us from getting to hunting destinations. She is a total joke and worst governor in SD history she sure earned to name [...]. All your Walk-In Areas hold very little game and are way overhunted by out of staters, please wake up!

WIA and CREP land in SD needs to have habitat. Plowed or empty fields are not acceptable. I plan to hunt ND in 2021. All WIA land in ND has some habitat.

WIA gets hit hard for antelope, deer, and pheasants. As a hunter, that's kind of a bummer as usually most WIA hunters I encounter are not as ethical, not as respectful. However, without public land opportunities in South Dakota I would not be able to do nearly as much hunting as I do. There needs to be an increase in suitable habitat acres enrolled into the WIA program if we are to sustain these high numbers of public land hunters.

WIAs are very important to most hunters. People who have access to quality private land; great for them. Those that have deep pockets that can afford trespass fees or leases have taken many opportunities away from the average hunter.

WIA's are very important to non-landowners, now more so than in the past when land owners were more willing to give permission without a fee.

WIAs I have previously hunted in NW SD, antelope habitat, have been converted to wind farms. I understand the state cannot tell the land owner what they can and cannot do; however, it was disappointing to lose a good hunting area.

WIAs look nice, keep it up! Please allow non-resident landowners to apply for East River Buck tags. Thank you!

WIA's that are popular with pheasant hunters likely will not be good for deer hunting. Deer do not like to settle in an area where they are being constantly flushed out by dogs & humans searching for pheasants. Basically, if you have a WIA that is popular with pheasant hunters it will NOT likely be very popular with deer hunters. Typically pheasant hunters ruin good deer hunting land. I think that distinction needs to be made WITHIN the SDGFP.
Will probably start hunting walk-in areas next year
With large pieces I would like to see a grazing agreement with landowners to rotate grazing year to year so there is better habitat. Use habitat stamp dollars to put in food plots on land like Besler Ranch used to have. Deer & especially grouse numbers are way down without more food & longer grass for better late season hunting & winter survival. Also some grains for early season dove hunts on Walk on areas.
With respect to pheasant hunting, I believe that the season should be shortened and that limits should be reduced to two birds. There just are not many pheasants anymore.
With the amount of money pheasant hunting brings to the state from local and out of state hunters why not have a pheasant farm like the state fish hatchery and stock game production areas first then private walk in land crep this would help to keep us as the number 1 state to pheasant if we can afford to stock fish we can afford to stock birds
Would be good to leave more acres unharvested for the game to have a food supply. Many WIAs get harvested or mowed towards fall and habitat is gone. I hope GFP does not waste money on these poor habitat acres.
Would be nice that WIA actually had cover and not be grazed down to nothing.
Would be possible to have hunting tags with more custom days available to hunt? I would be easier planning and I could get more out of my hunting season each year if I wasn't confined to two weekends and a 5.5 hour drive one way. Other than that, the area I do hunt is wonderfully maintained and the animals are healthy.
Would like to be able to be horseback to hunt Walk-In Areas
Would like to hunt geese closer to home, why can't we hunt SE SD, they have plenty of them in Lincoln County
Would like to hunt wild turkey and elk this season in 2021 and forward to include buffalo somewhere with rifle.
Would like to purchase signs to use with our taxidermy mounts
Would like to see a true primitive firearm hunting season. Flintlock only. The new muzzle loaders used by most are not what the muzzle loader season was meant to be. Not much different that a modern rifle. Could add it to the last part of the archery season maybe.
Would like to see cover crops planted. 2 years ago when very wet we planted sorghum in one field. Seen lots of pheasants, why not do this on GPAs, CREP, etc.? CREP is good but some don't have the protection needed to provide winter cover for pheasants. Sorghum would do this.
Would like to see more food plots and better cover for birds.
Would like to see more Walk-In Areas.
Would like to see some CREP/Walk-In Area around Sand Lake Refuge. Either right on the border or so. So I could set decoys up and possible better pass shooting. Most of all hunting in this area is pay hunting for out of staters. Most blue collar workers can't afford that.

Would love to see more Walk-In Areas. I wish there was a way to prevent pay to hunt places from utilizing WIA before hunting their own land. This happens way too often, limiting the success of the average joe hunter that cannot afford to pay to hunt.

Would you be so kind as to pass this request on to the proper party? Will the GF&P please consider allowing turkey hunting with long rifles on PRIVATE GROUND. There is a concern about safety and rifle use on much-used public land during turkey season. Private land is hunted by only select, few individuals at a time. Long rifle use on private ground that the landowner controls access to does not pose the same safety risk as the unknown number of hunters who may be occupying well-traveled public land. For older hunters, especially the ones who have disabled licenses using a rifle to hunt turkeys gives us more chance of success and keeps us in the field enjoying the sport. Your continued attention to this matter is appreciated.

Yes it would be nice if areas were more clearly marked with signs especially West River where cell service is very spotty.

You are charging way too much for nonresident pheasant hunting. Please move to a reasonable opera-day fee instead of two five-day periods. You are sticking it to nonresidents, and we know it, and we might get fed up with being gouged and stop coming.

You can never have to much quality cover. Covid was the biggest dampening factor to this year's hunting. Thanks for all you do.

You failed to ask or clarify why hunted Walk-In areas 0% of the time. My experience is that these locations are hoarded by out-of-state hunters and that landowners often discourage or make it difficult to hunt these locations. That seems counter intuitive, but that has been the experience of my hunting party over many years. We have given up trying due to all of the above.

You guys are doing a great job, but I would like to see more CREPS areas which I feel are the highest quality of all the public hunting areas.

You guys at GFP do a good job getting places for the hunters to hunt. In all the programs that you offer. Thanks

You guys should figure something else to fill out because this was a pain in the ass

You need to do more to protect mule deer. They are way too few.

You need to start releasing pheasant. The popular is way down and if it wasn't for the relationships and friends I have made throughout the years I probably wouldn't come out and hunt anymore or only once in a great while. South Dakota use to be my highlight of every fall hunting. Now it's a highlight of seeing friends. Hunting has gotten bad and you keep adding fees to put of state hunters. Makes it difficult to come year after year with low harvest and rising fees.

You people have all sold your souls for money. You are responsible for relying on pen raised pheasants to fill tags. I grew up in Tripp county and don't believe a single word that comes from your so called population estimates. Anyone who hunts in SD knows they are shooting a majority of pen raised birds any more on put lands. If you don't believe me just let me know and I will take you all to the field and show you the lined up trucks and trailers full of pen raised pheasants being dumped on a daily basis so you can all sell more licenses. You have failed the sportsman of this state. Your priorities for out of state hunters is a sad commentary.

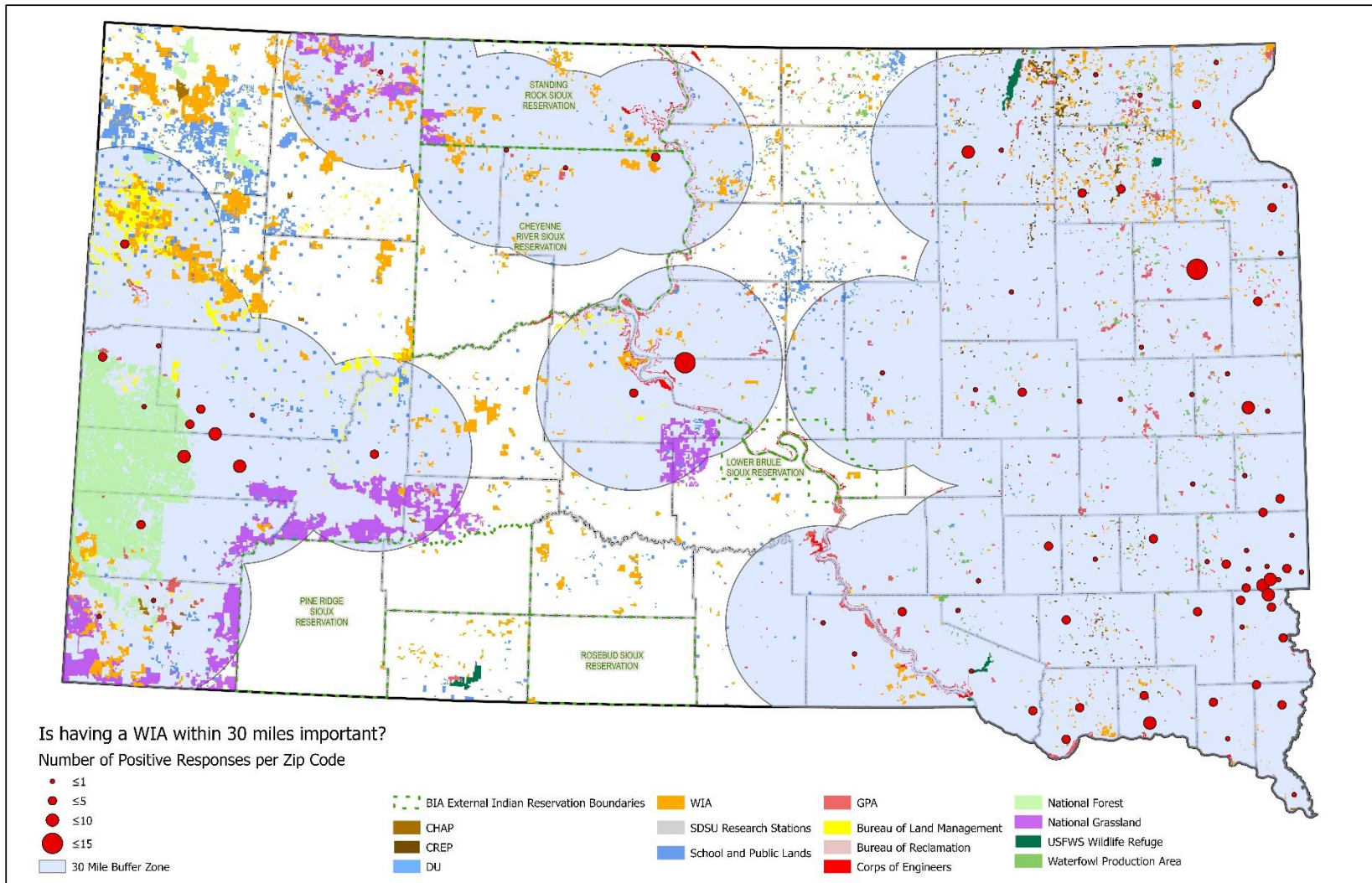
You should be asking questions about if people are satisfied with the habitat & the wildlife they are pursuing on the WIAs. Instead, the way you worded it, people will answer that it's extremely important that land enrolled is high quality habitat (it's NOT) and has a high abundance of desired species (it doesn't). I think this survey is lacking in both content & value. The answers provided will be open to interpretation in my opinion. I don't see how a useful report will generate from this survey.

Your walk in areas that I have tried to use in the past are either over hunted or lack the proper type of cover. I think you need to work on making these more attractive to the average hunter inclusive of shelter belts. Most of my time is spent in the Murdo, Draper, Presho, Winner, Ideal areas.

Your WIA program is well done.

Appendix D: Maps

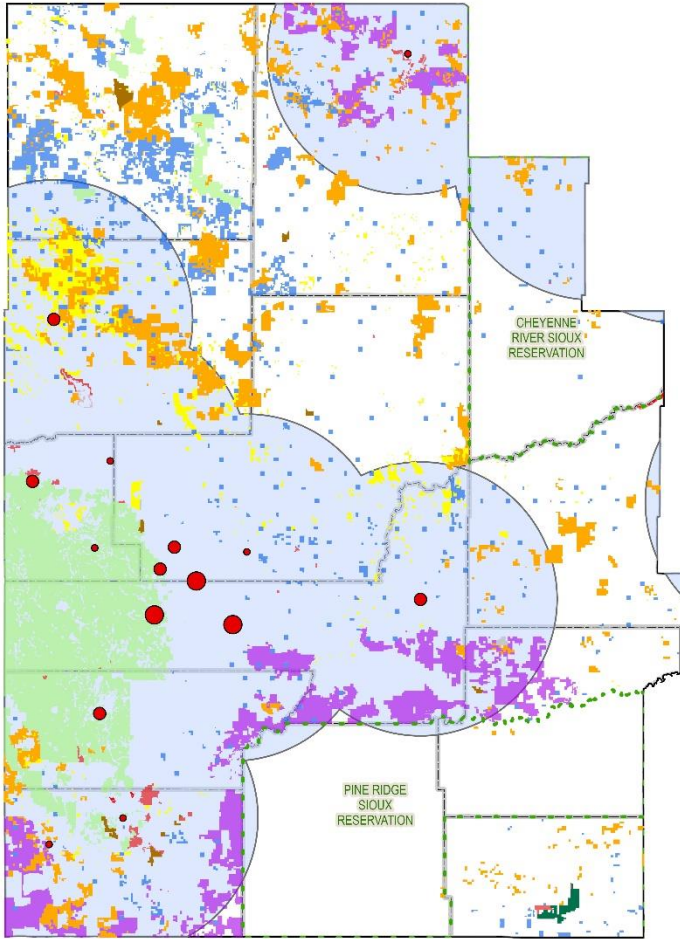
Maps show the spatial distribution of importance respondent ratings of having access to South Dakota WIAs 30 miles or less from their home residence.



Wildlife Region 1

Is having a WIA within 30 miles important?
 Number of Positive Responses per Zip Code

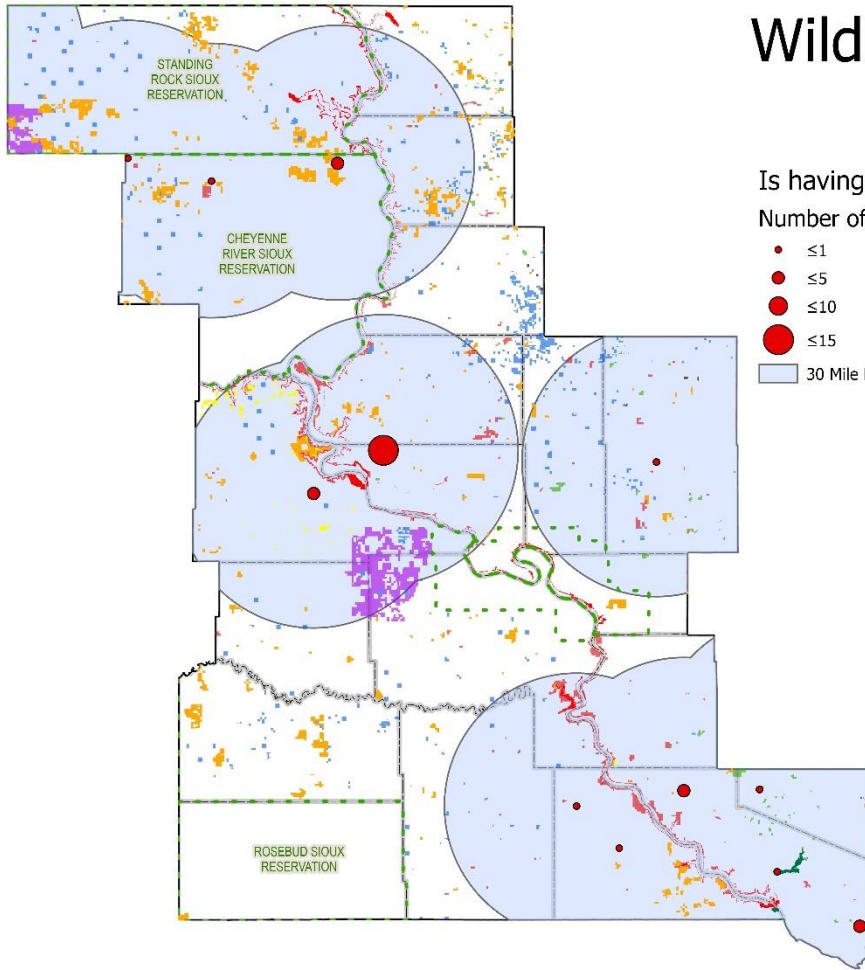
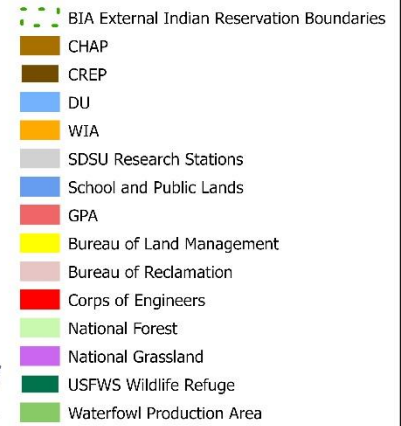
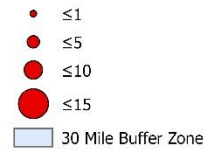
- ≤1
- ≤5
- ≤10
- ≤15
- 30 Mile Buffer Zone



- BIA External Indian Reservation Boundaries
- CHAP
- CREP
- DU
- WIA
- SDSU Research Stations
- School and Public Lands
- GPA
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Corps of Engineers
- National Forest
- National Grassland
- USFWS Wildlife Refuge
- Waterfowl Production Area

Wildlife Region 2

Is having a WIA within 30 miles important?
 Number of Positive Responses per Zip Code



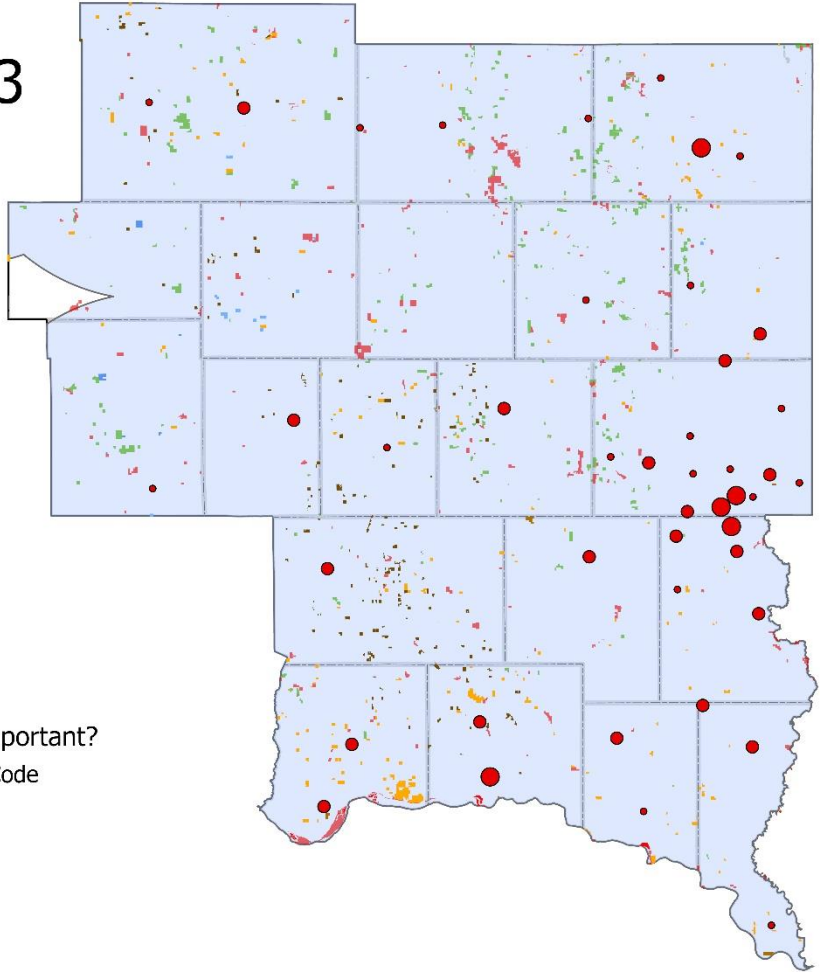
Wildlife Region 3

- BIA External Indian Reservation Boundaries
- CHAP
- CREP
- DU
- WIA
- SDSU Research Stations
- School and Public Lands
- GPA
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Corps of Engineers
- National Forest
- National Grassland
- USFWS Wildlife Refuge
- Waterfowl Production Area

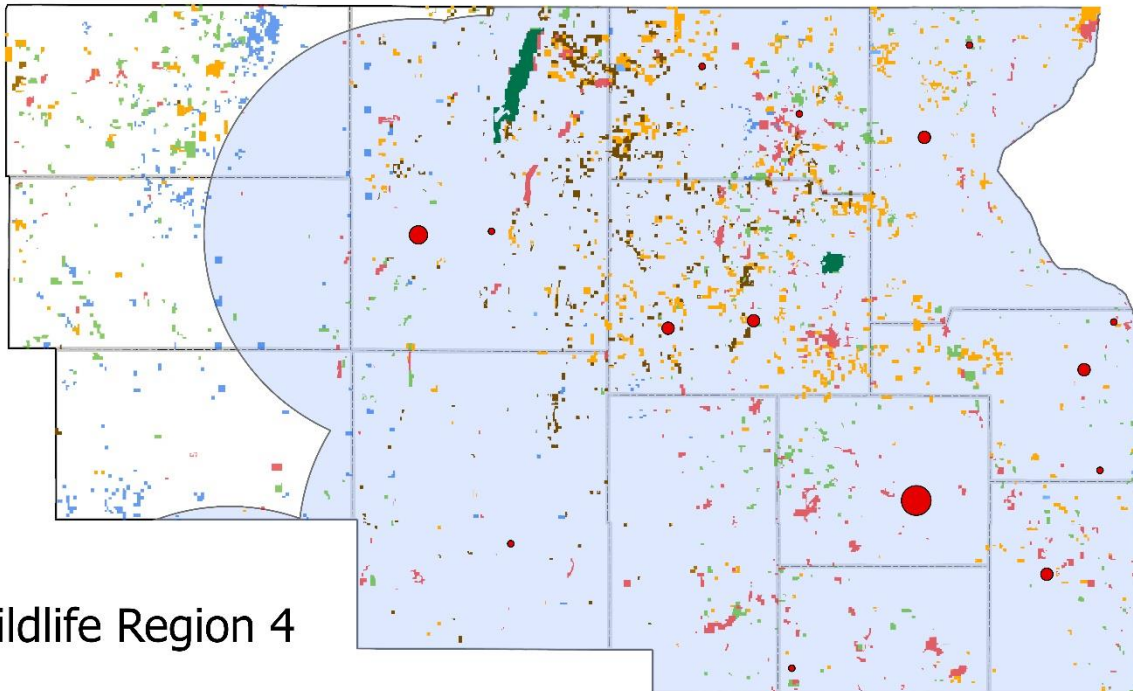
Is having a WIA within 30 miles important?

Number of Positive Responses per Zip Code

- ≤1
- ≤5
- ≤10
- ≤15
- 30 Mile Buffer Zone



Wildlife Region 4



Is having a WIA within 30 miles important?

Number of Positive Responses per Zip Code

- ≤1
- ≤5
- ≤10
- ≤15
- 30 Mile Buffer Zone

- BIA External Indian Reservation Boundaries
- CHAP
- CREP
- DU
- WIA
- SDSU Research Stations
- School and Public Lands
- GPA
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Corps of Engineers
- National Forest
- National Grassland
- USFWS Wildlife Refuge
- Waterfowl Production Area