

Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire 2008

By Brian Dhuey

Abstract

The 2008 gun deer season provided active hunters with over 3.4 million days of hunter recreation. Hunter days a field did not differ significantly ($P=0.42$) from 2007 levels. Gun deer hunters averaged 5.6 days a field during the 2008 season. The majority of gun deer hunting took place on private lands (71%). The Northern Forest, Eastern Farmland, and Southern Farmland regions of the state experienced the most hunter days. Ninety-eight percent of all respondents hunted the 2007 "Regular" gun deer season. Forty-three percent of the respondents who actively hunted in 2008 killed a deer.

Methods

A survey was mailed to approximately 10,000 gun deer hunters after the completion of the 2008 gun deer season. The sample was drawn from the 2008 license sales, which had gun deer authority, in proportion to license sales for each county. The questionnaire included specific questions about the days and units in which gun deer hunters hunted as well as the type of land hunted (private, public, or industrial). A second mailing of 5,000 questionnaires was sent to non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 4,357 of 10,000 hunters surveyed. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 42%. In 2008, 98.2% of hunters who purchased a license hunted during the 9-day season (Table 1). Forty-three percent of the respondents who actively hunted killed a deer (antlered or antlerless) during the 2008 season. These numbers were down slightly from the 2007 season where 98.4% of the license holders hunted and 51% of those killed a deer.

Wisconsin held an antlerless only gun hunt in October in select deer management units, 29% of survey respondents said they took part in this hunt with a mean of 2.4 days hunted and 0.3 deer killed per active hunter. Twenty-nine percent of surveys respondents planned on participating in the statewide antlerless only gun deer season in December (11-14). While nineteen percent said they plan on hunting the muzzleloader season in 2008.

While new rules were in place for the CWD zone in 2008 that made season structures similar to "traditional" deer seasons, most hunters felt the Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been "Too aggressive". While more hunters felt the plan was "About right" as opposed to "Not aggressive enough". Approximately 11% of licensed hunters participated in the statewide youth deer season as either a hunter or a mentor. While more than half (53%) of the hunters have shot an antlerless deer to pre-qualify for "Earn-a-Buck", only 27% of the hunters are in favor of this current system, with about the same number of hunters in favor (27%) of a statewide antlerless only hunt in mid-October.

Hunters (59%) were in favor of consolidating regulation pamphlets into one general hunting regulations publication. Hunters overwhelmingly (72%) preferred a paper copy of the hunting regulations be handed out by the local license agent. More hunters supported the idea that the

DNR sell advertising space in regulations pamphlets to offset printing costs, 50% supportive vs. 15% opposed.

When the results of this survey were expanded to the larger population of licensed gun deer hunters, the number of active hunters in 2008 was estimated at 630,855. This is a decrease from the estimated 632,881 hunters that hunted the 2007 season. The 2008 gun deer season (22 - 30 Nov.) provided these hunters with approximately 3.4 million days of hunting recreation. This is an increase of about 91,000 hunter days from 2007 levels. License sales increased about 0.2% from 2007 levels, and hunters averaged about 0.1 more days afield.

Gun deer hunters averaged 5.6 days afield in 2008, this is more than the 5.5 days in 2007. Most hunter days were spent in the Northern Forest (31%), Eastern Farmland (27%), and Southern Farmland (22%) regions of Wisconsin (Figure 1). The remaining hunter days were spent in the Western Farmland and Central Forest regions, 14% and 7% respectively. Much of this distribution is in relation to the amount of deer habitat in each region. Seventy-one percent of hunter days were spent on private lands (Table 1). Public lands (about 20% of the State's deer range) provided approximately 701,000 hunter days of recreation (21% of hunter days). This is up slightly from the 676,000 hunter days on public land in 2007. The rest of the hunter days were spent on Industrial forest, Forest Tax, or a mixture of land ownership types.

Wisconsin's gun deer hunters are not likely to move from deer management unit to deer management unit. Seventy-two percent of gun deer hunters have hunted the same deer management unit five or more years.

Hunters were asked how they obtained access to private land on the opening day of the gun deer season. Eighty-eight percent of the respondents either owned the land themselves, hunted on land owned by a relative or family member, or hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land. Of the hunters that hunted private land, 6% paid for access, with the average payment of \$445.44. Hunters that did hunt public land would have preferred (75.7%) to have hunted private land.

The 2008 gun deer harvest was 13% lower than in 2007, so it's not surprising that only 13.5% of hunters felt the deer population was "about the same" or "went up" from last year. Only once in the last seven years did hunters that thought the population "went down" not outnumber those that thought the population "went up", by at least a 6 to 1 ratio. With the decrease in harvest was a decrease in hunter satisfaction, only seven percent rated their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High". Eighteen percent rated their hunt "About Average", while 75% rated it "Fairly Low" to "Very Low". Successful hunters are significantly ($P = <0.0001$) more likely to rate their hunt "Very High" or "Fairly High" than unsuccessful hunters.

"Seeing deer" and "Spending time with friends and family" continue to be the "most" important factors influencing Wisconsin hunters' perceptions of "quality". "Weather" and "Not seeing other hunters" have the least effect. In Wisconsin, hunters continue to say that their happiness is not very strongly correlated to a dead deer, as only 18.3% of hunters ranked "Killing a deer" as the most important factor effecting their perception of "quality".

Lower deer numbers in some units and a smaller kill meant that overall, hunters were less satisfied with deer hunting in Wisconsin, with 43% of the hunters rating their satisfaction a four or lower on a scale of 1 to 10 (mean = 5.1). This was higher than in 2007 when 28% rated their satisfaction a four or lower and with the mean being 5.9. As in the previous 3 years, about four times as many hunters felt that the DNR's population estimate was "too high" compared to "too low" in the area they hunted.

Table 1. *Answers to the 2008 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire.*

Question 1. What is your county of residence?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Northern Forest	476	12.1%
Western Farmland	572	14.6%
Central Forest	203	5.2%
Eastern Farmland	1,096	27.9%
Southern Farmland	1,577	40.2%

No Answer = 250

Question 2. Do you plan on hunting the statewide antlerless only gun deer season (Dec. 11-14)?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,191	29.0%
No	2,920	71.0%

No Answer = 62

Question 3. Do you plan on hunting the 2008 muzzleloader season, which immediately follows the 2008 "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	777	18.8%
No	3,362	81.2%

No Answer = 35

Question 4. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been: **(Check only ONE)**

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Not aggressive enough	303	7.5%
About right	1,003	24.7%
Too aggressive	1,180	29.0%
I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion	1,582	38.9%

No Answer = 106

Question 5. Did you participate, as a hunter or a mentor, in the October (11-12) youth deer season?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	451	10.9%
No	3,685	89.1%

No Answer = 38

Question 6. Did you participate in the 4-day October Antlerless only **Gun** deer hunt?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,193	28.8%
No	2,953	71.2%

No Answer = 28

If yes, how many days did you hunt? **Mean = 2.4 days**

If you killed a deer, what type and how many?

of Antlerless deer killed: **Mean = 0.32**

Question 7. Are you in favor of the current system of shooting an antlerless deer this year to pre-qualify for "Earn-a-Buck" next year?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,091	26.6%
No	3,009	73.4%

No Answer = 73

Question 8. Have you ever shot an antlerless deer to pre-qualify for "Earn-a-Buck"?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	2,182	52.7%
No	1,958	47.3%

No Answer = 32

Question 9. Would you favor a statewide antlerless only hunt in mid-October over a hunt only in units that are chronically over population goals?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	1,095	26.7%
No	3,011	73.3%

No Answer = 67

Question 10. In your opinion, would it be easier to find information if the DNR consolidated all of the various hunting regulation pamphlets into one general hunting regulations publication?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	2,432	59.1%
No	967	23.5%
Some, but not all	97	2.4%
I don't care	619	15.0%

No Answer = 59

Question 10a. Most hunters that put a response to question 10 option 3 felt that waterfowl and trapping regulations should not be consolidated into one pamphlet.

Question 11. What is your preferred source for the hunting regulations information pamphlet?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Paper copy of the regulations from a local license agent	2,971	71.9%
The DNR internet website	200	4.8%
I go online as well as pick up a paper copy for the field	97	2.4%

No Answer = 40

Question 12. With the rising cost of paper and ink, the DNR is spending more money on printing of the hunting regulations. To offset these costs, the DNR could sell limited advertising space in its regulations pamphlets, and put more money into wildlife management programs. How do you feel about advertising in the regulations publications?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Supportive	2,083	50.4%
Neutral	1,446	35.0%
Opposed	605	14.6%

No Answer = 40

Question 13. Did you hunt the "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 22 - 30?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	4,081	98.2%
No	72	1.6%

No Answer = 21

Question 14. How many days did you hunt during the 2008 "**Regular**" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the early antlerless only or muzzleloader seasons.)

Mean days hunted = 5.6.

Days	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	81	2.0
2	375	9.2
3	392	9.7
4	531	13.1
5	644	15.9
6	534	13.2
7	469	11.6
8	333	8.2
9	698	17.2

No Answer = 24

Question 15. What type of firearm did you use most?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Rifle	3,152	77.4%
Shotgun	828	20.3%
Muzzleloader	53	1.3%
Handgun	38	0.9%

No Answer = 10

Question 16. How many **antlerless** deer permits did you **purchase** this season?

Mean number of permits purchased = 0.45.

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
None	2,635	64.6%
1	911	22.3%
2	356	8.7%
>2	179	4.4%

Question 17. During the entire 2008 9-day gun deer season how many deer did you register that were killed on either private or public/industrial forest land?

Number Killed	Private Land Antlered %	Private Land Antlerless %	Public Land Antlered %	Public Land Antlered %
0	82.6%	76.3%	95.0%	94.9%
1	16.3%	19.6%	4.8%	4.5%
2	0.9%	3.2%	0.2%	0.5%
3	0.2%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%
4	0.1%	0.1%	N/A	0.1%
5+	0.0%	0.1%	N/A	N/A

Question 18. If you hunted deer with a gun this past season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

Date 2008	Regions Where Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Northern Forest	Western Farmland	Central Forest	Eastern Farmland	Southern Farmland	
Nov. 22	185,769	84,804	44,172	142,674	130,977	588,396
Nov. 23	179,920	82,649	41,094	137,595	123,128	564,386
Nov. 24	129,900	44,634	26,472	79,879	62,487	343,372
Nov. 25	104,505	37,708	19,393	70,645	52,175	284,426
Nov. 26	91,268	40,324	19,393	79,417	54,638	285,040
Nov. 27	84,189	47,404	20,162	92,808	78,032	322,595
Nov. 28	103,119	51,714	22,317	96,347	83,265	356,762
Nov. 29	98,502	58,024	22,933	99,426	95,270	374,155
Nov. 30	70,491	43,249	15,699	72,030	69,105	270,574
Total	1,047,663	490,510	231,635	870,821	749,077	3,389,706

Deer Management Unit Group	Land Type Hunters Hunted (# of hunter days)					Total
	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax	Mixed	
A	33,091	34,630	1,231	6,618	6,926	82,496
B	56,177	50,944	3,694	4,156	14,621	129,592
C	42,171	46,789	308	7,695	14,775	111,738
D	136,364	55,254	2,924	9,696	35,091	239,329
E	38,477	50,328	2,309	1,231	5,079	97,424
F	83,881	58,947	5,695	7,849	12,159	168,531
G	24,626	39,555	1,847	6,464	5,849	78,341
H	53,714	66,797	1,077	3,386	8,773	133,747
J	175,919	28,012	1,539	6,772	11,235	223,477
K	752,618	72,645	616	7,388	37,554	870,821
L	118,510	93,577	1,539	3,694	14,314	231,634
M	510,980	45,096	462	2,770	17,546	576,854
N	366,767	58,640	462	2,309	17,546	445,724
Total	2,393,295	701,214	23,703	70,028	201,468	3,389,708

Question 19. Thinking about the previous 5 gun deer seasons, please check each year that you hunted the above mentioned DMU.

# of Years in same unit	# of Responses	Percent (%)
0	257	6.3%
1	275	6.7%
2	217	5.3%
3	194	4.8%
4	193	4.7%
5	2,945	72.2%

Question 20. If you hunted privately owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? (Please check ONE.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
I own the land. (Go to 20a)	1,112	35.5%
I lease the land. (Go to 20a)	89	2.8%
I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family. (Go to 22)	1,030	32.9%
I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land. (Go to 20b)	624	19.9%
I obtained permission from a non-related landowner. (Go to 20b)	229	7.3%
I hunted unposted private land. (Go to 22)	17	0.5%
Other (please describe):	33	1.1%

No Answer = 946

Question 20a. Approximately how many acres of land do you own in Wisconsin?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Less than 20	682	36.6%
20-39	218	11.7%
40-79	370	19.8%
80+	596	31.9%

Question 20b. If yes, were you denied hunting access to any land that you had asked permission to hunt?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	241	16.5%
No	1,223	83.5%

Did you pay for access to private land?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Yes	82	6.0%
No	1,282	94.0%

If yes, how many acres?

Mean acres leased: **153.8**

How much did you pay for the hunting lease?

Mean paid for a lease: **\$445.44**

Question 21. If during the 2008 regular 9-day gun deer season you hunted public land or industrial forest land, would you have preferred to hunt on private land?

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Definitely prefer to hunt private land	563	50.1%
Probably prefer to hunt private land	287	25.6%
Probably prefer to hunt public/industrial forest land	170	15.1%
Definitely prefer to hunt public/industrial forest land	103	9.2%

Question 22. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? (Check Only One)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Deer numbers went up	88	2.2%
Deer numbers went down	3,273	81.0%
About the same	455	11.3%
I did not hunt the same area as last year	104	2.6%
Unsure	121	3.0%

No Answer = 40

Question 23. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2008 "Regular" 9-day gun deer hunt? (Check Only One.)

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Very High	96	2.4%
Fairly High	206	5.1%
About Average	724	17.9%
Fairly Low	1,189	29.5%
Very Low	1,820	45.1%

No Answer = 46

Question 24. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a “quality” deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with “1” having the most effect and “7” having the least effect on you hunting experience.

Factor influencing hunt	% That ranked it “1” (having the most influence) [*]	Mean value of response
An opportunity to kill a deer	27.1%	3.14
Seeing deer	49.8%	2.37
Seeing bucks	26.8%	3.22
Weather	9.4%	4.82
Not seeing other hunters	13.6%	4.45
Spending time with friends and family	43.4%	2.97
Killing a deer	18.3%	4.07

^{*} Many hunters rated multiple factors as having the most influence so the column total will not equal 100%.

Question 25. How many deer do you and your immediate family eat in one year? **Mean = 2.0**

Question 26. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin? (Circle One)

Mean = 5.1

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
1	520	12.9%
2	334	8.3%
3	510	12.6%
4	381	9.4%
5	545	13.5%
6	327	8.1%
7	484	12.0%
8	556	13.7%
9	193	4.8%
10	198	4.9%

No Answer = 33

Question 27. The DNR’s population estimate of the deer herd in your hunting area is:

Answer	# of Responses	Percent (%)
Too Low	723	17.9%
About Right	325	8.0%
Too High	2,552	63.1%
Don’t Know	445	11.0%

No Answer = 35

Dear Fellow Deer Hunter:

By completing and returning this survey, you are an integral part of the DNR deer management program. Responses to this survey are voluntary and are used to assess your impressions of the deer population, hunting pressure, and hunter satisfaction. This information is also used to develop management direction and hunting season structure. Your response is important regardless of how much or where you hunted. Even if you didn't hunt at all, providing that information is important to proper deer management. Please report only on your hunting experiences in Wisconsin, not those of other members of your party or family or friends.

Reverse the flap on the questionnaire when you are finished and tape the edge and mail. Using your stamp will save DNR funds for wildlife management although no postage is required to return the questionnaire. Your cooperation is appreciated and will help us continue the long tradition of quality deer hunting in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Keith Warnke

Keith Warnke
Big Game Specialist
Bureau of Wildlife Management

<p>1. What is your county of residence? _____</p>	<p>9. Would you favor a statewide antlerless only hunt in mid-October over a hunt only in units that are chronically over population goals? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>2. Do you plan on hunting the statewide antlerless only deer season (Dec. 11 - Dec. 14)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>10. In your opinion, would it be easier to find information if the DNR consolidated all of the various hunting regulation pamphlets into one general hunting regulations publication? (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (2) <input type="checkbox"/> No (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Some regulations should be combined but not all. Please explain: _____ (4) <input type="checkbox"/> I don't care</p>
<p>3. Do you plan on hunting the 2008 muzzleloader season which immediately follows the 2008 "Regular" 9-day gun deer season? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>11. What is your preferred source for the hunting regulations information pamphlet? (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Paper copy of the regulations from a local license agent (2) <input type="checkbox"/> The DNR's internet website (3) <input type="checkbox"/> I go online as well as pick up a paper copy for the field</p>
<p>4. The Wisconsin DNR's plan to eliminate CWD in the deer herd has been: (Check only ONE) (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Not aggressive enough (2) <input type="checkbox"/> About right (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Too aggressive (4) <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know enough about the plan to have an opinion</p>	<p>12. With the rising cost of paper and ink, the DNR is spending more money on the printing of the hunting regulations. To offset these costs, the DNR could sell limited advertising space in its regulation pamphlets, and put more money into wildlife management programs. How do you feel about advertising in the regulations publications? (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral (3) <input type="checkbox"/> Opposed</p>
<p>5. Did you participate, as a hunter or a mentor, in the October (11-12) youth deer season? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>13. Did you hunt the "Regular" 9-day gun deer season of Nov. 22-Nov. 30? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>6. Did you participate in the 4-day October Antlerless only Gun deer hunt? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how many days did you hunt? _____ # of Antlerless deer killed: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">If you answered NO, please stop here and return the survey.</p>
<p>7. Are you in favor of the current system of shooting an antlerless deer this year to pre-qualify for "Earn a Buck" next year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>8. Have you ever shot an antlerless deer to pre-qualify for "Earn a Buck"? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

Figure 2. 2008 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire.

14. How many days did you hunt during the 2008 "Regular" 9-day gun deer season? (Do not include days hunted during the muzzleloader season.)

15. What type of firearm did you use most?

- (1) Rifle
- (2) Shotgun
- (3) Muzzleloader
- (4) Handgun

16. How many antlerless deer permits did you purchase this season?

17. During the entire 2008 9-day gun deer season how many deer did you register that were killed on either private or public/industrial forest land?

Antlered deer registered from private land # _____

Antlerless deer registered from private land # _____

Antlered deer registered from public or industrial # _____

Antlerless deer registered from public or industrial # _____

18. If you hunted deer with a gun during the "Regular" 9-day deer season, fill in the table below.

Write in the management unit number for each day you hunted. (See Map.) If you hunted in more than one unit on a given day, list only the unit in which you spent the most time. Also, please specify the type of land on which you hunted.

REGULAR SEASON

Date 2008	Unit Number	Private	Public	Industrial	Forest Tax
Nov. 22 (Sat.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 23 (Sun.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 24 (Mon.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 25 (Tues.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 26 (Wed.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 27 (Thurs.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 28 (Fri.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 29 (Sat.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nov. 30 (Sun.)	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Thinking about the previous 5 gun deer seasons, please check each year that you hunted the above mentioned DMU.

- (1) 2007-last year
- (2) 2006
- (3) 2005
- (4) 2004
- (5) 2003

20. If you hunted privately-owned land on **OPENING DAY** of gun deer season, how did you obtain access to the land? (Check only ONE)

- (1) I own the land. (Go to Question 20a)
 - (2) I lease the land. (Go to Question 20a)
 - (3) I hunted land owned by a relative or member of my family. (Go to Question 22)
 - (4) I hunted on a friend's or neighbor's land. (Go to Question 20b)
 - (5) I obtained permission from a non-related landowner. (Go to Question 20b)
 - (6) I hunted unposted private land. (Go to Question 22)
 - (7) Other (please describe): _____
- _____

20a. Approximately how many acres of land do you own in Wisconsin?

- (1) Less than 20
- (2) 20-39
- (3) 40-79
- (4) 80 acres or more

(Go to Question 22)

20b. Were you denied hunting access to any land that you had asked permission to hunt? Yes No

Did you pay for access to private land? Yes No

If yes, how many acres? _____

How much did you pay for the hunting lease? \$ _____

(Go to Question 22)

21. If during the 2008 regular 9-day gun deer season you hunted public land or industrial forest land, would you have preferred to hunt on private land?

- (1) Definitely prefer to hunt private land
- (2) Probably prefer to hunt private land
- (3) Probably prefer to hunt public/industrial forest land
- (4) Definitely prefer to hunt public/industrial forest land

Consider the DMU you hunted most frequently during the opening weekend of the 2008 9-day gun season.

22. In your hunting area, how have deer numbers changed from the last year? (Check only ONE)

- (1) Deer numbers went up
- (2) Deer numbers went down
- (3) About the same
- (4) I did not hunt the same areas as last year
- (5) Unsure

(please continue on back)

Figure 2. 2008 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire (continued).

23. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2008 "Regular" 9-day gun deer hunt? (Check only ONE)

- (1) Very High (4) Fairly Low
 (2) Fairly High (5) Very Low
 (3) About Average

24. Please rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 through 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on a "quality" hunting experience.

- _____ An opportunity to kill a deer
- _____ Seeing deer
- _____ Seeing bucks
- _____ Weather
- _____ Not seeing other hunters
- _____ Spending time with friends and family
- _____ Killing a deer

25. How many deer do you and your immediate family usually eat in one year?

26. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with deer hunting in Wisconsin?

Circle One: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

27. The DNR's population estimate of the deer herd in your hunting area is:

- (1) Too Low
 (2) About Right
 (3) Too High
 (4) Don't Know

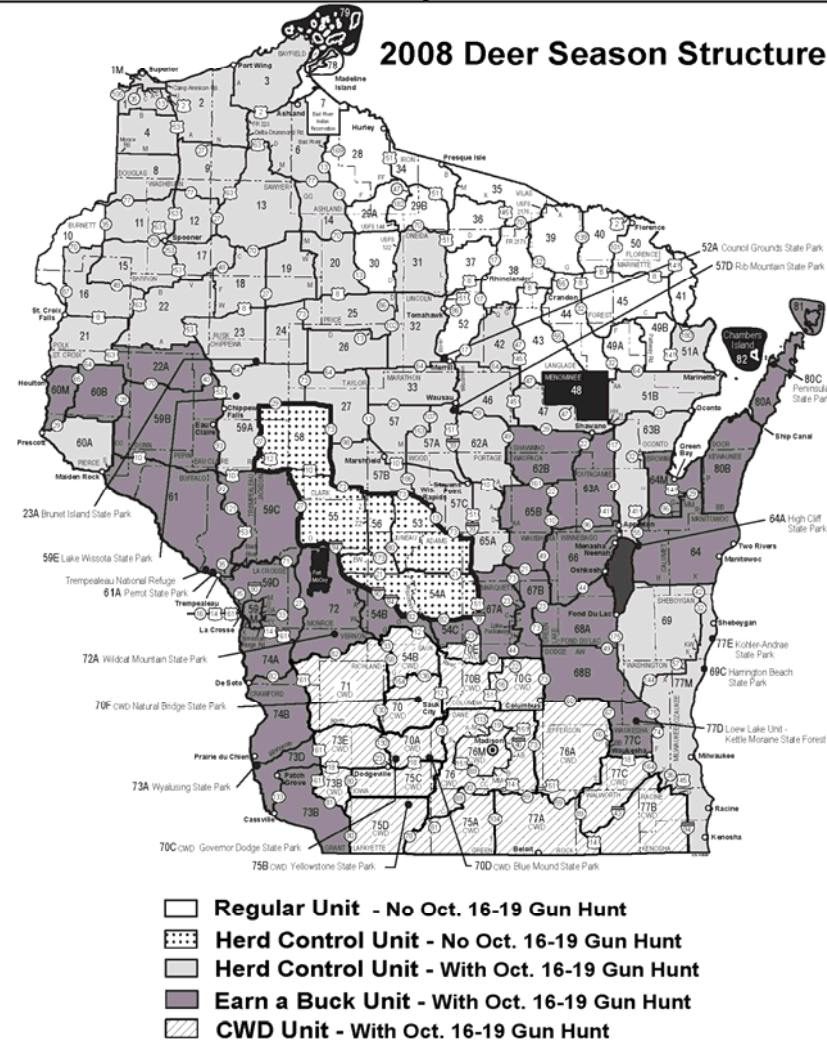


Figure 2. 2008 Gun Deer Hunting Questionnaire (continued).