

Results of the 2013 WISCONSIN WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

Participation in Waterfowl Hunting and Opinions of Hunting Regulations

Section 1: Your Waterfowl Hunting Experiences

This first section asks about your waterfowl hunting and other hunting experiences in Wisconsin. Questions that refer to “waterfowl” mean geese and ducks, including coots and mergansers.

1. **Prior to the 2013** waterfowl seasons, during which of the following years did you do any duck or Canada goose hunting in Wisconsin?

2012	73%
2011	71%
2010	67%
2009	62%
2008	60%
None of these years	16%

2. Did you do any duck or Canada goose hunting in Wisconsin during 2013?

Yes, both duck and goose	54%
Yes, duck only	14%
Yes, goose only	4%
No, I didn't do any duck or goose hunting	28%

3. During the 2013 waterfowl seasons in Wisconsin what type of land or water did you hunt?

Private land owned by someone else	52%
State owned property	49%
Federal owned property	20%
Public waters not within state or federal property	25%
Private land I own	17%
County or municipal owned land	18%
Private land owned by a club	4 %
I'm not sure	2%

4. How often did you use the following techniques to hunt waterfowl during the Wisconsin 2013 seasons?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Walk in water hunting (no boat)	29%	15%	24%	20%	13%
Open water (beyond emergent plants)	69%	13%	10%	6%	3%
Field hunting	35%	13%	25%	18%	9%
Layout boat	89%	5%	5%	1%	1%

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Motorized boat	47%	7%	16%	16%	14%
Non-motorized boat	48%	12%	23%	15%	4%
Blinds (permanent)	59%	12%	12%	10%	7%
Blinds (non-permanent)	28%	12%	23%	23%	14%
Decoys	4%	5%	13%	22%	56%
Pass shooting	17%	16%	29%	22%	16%
Jump shooting (land or water)	29%	24%	29%	13%	5%
Using a dog for retrieving	38%	10%	13%	10%	30%
Motorized decoys	44%	13%	20%	15%	8%

5. Over the past three years (or fewer if hunting less than three) about how many ducks and geese did you usually harvest in a year? Just give us your best recollection.

In the last three years the average number of ducks harvested by respondents was 10.9 ducks.

0	9%
1-3	19%
4-9	26%
10-19	27%
20-29	11%
30+	9%

In the last three years the average number of geese harvested by respondents was 3.4 geese.

0	31%
1-3	44%
4-9	16%
10+	9%

6. Below is a list of attributes that can have an influence on your waterfowl hunting experiences. Please tell us how satisfied you are with each one. **(circle one number for each issue)**

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Habitat where I hunt	4%	9%	33%	35%	20%
When waterfowl are arriving in the area I hunt	7%	18%	38%	25%	12%
Length of time waterfowl are staying in the area I hunt	10%	28%	35%	21%	6%
Timing of waterfowl seasons	9%	16%	37%	27%	10%
Overall numbers of waterfowl where I hunt	10%	27%	33%	23%	8%
Ease of understanding regulations	6%	13%	31%	35%	15%
Number of places available for me to hunt	10%	22%	36%	22%	11%
Amount of time I have to hunt waterfowl	12%	23%	35%	20%	10%
Weather patterns for waterfowl hunting	3%	8%	60%	24%	6%
Overall quality of my waterfowl hunts	2%	16%	41%	33%	8%

7. Below is a list of attributes that may contribute to satisfying waterfowl hunts. Please indicate how important each one is to you.

	Not at all important	Little importance	Neutral	Somewhat important	Very Important
Seeing ducks/geese	0%	2%	8%	31%	59%
Opportunities to shoot	0%	5%	25%	40%	30%
Not missing any shots	15%	13%	34%	18%	19%
Harvesting a duck/goose	4%	12%	37%	33%	14%
Filling my daily bag limit	30%	23%	36%	7%	4%
A chance to call in birds	6%	6%	28%	39%	22%
A chance to work my dog N/A=30	16%	6%	12%	5%	21%
Dog retrieving all downed birds N/A=31	14%	5%	10%	12%	29%
Not losing a crippled or downed bird	1%	1%	5%	17%	76%
Hunting a new area	8%	14%	48%	23%	7%
Hunting a traditional area	2%	3%	33%	41%	21%
Hunting a remote/secluded location	7%	7%	34%	34%	18%
Having weather that I like	8%	8%	40%	29%	15%
Bagging a specific species	17%	16%	44%	19%	5%
Not feeling crowded by other hunters	1%	3%	5%	26%	66%
Not having any conflicts with other hunters	1%	1%	5%	16%	76%
Not having any equipment failures	3%	4%	25%	28%	40%
Passing on tradition to a new hunter N/A=3	1%	2%	11%	26%	57%
Being with family and friends N/A=1	1%	1%	5%	21%	71%

8. From the above list please select three attributes that are most important to you during a waterfowl hunt. So if seeing ducks was most important you would write the letter "a" in the first space.

22%	Seeing ducks
18%	Being with family and friends
10%	Opportunities to shoot
10%	Not feeling crowded by other hunters

9. About how much did you spend on waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin during the 2013 seasons? Include all expenses such as licenses, equipment, lodging, food and gas. We realize you may hunt both ducks and geese. Please just do your best to separate expenses between duck and goose hunting. If you do not hunt ducks or geese, please write 0 in the appropriate space.

By respondents the average duck hunter spent \$365 on duck hunting and \$173 on goose hunting in 2013. During the 2013 seasons in Wisconsin, I spent about...

Ducks

<\$100	22%
\$100-249	33%
\$250-499	21%
\$500-999	15 %
\$1000	9%

Geese

<\$100	52%
\$100-249	27%
\$250-499	10%
\$500+	11%

10. During the past **three years** have you done any waterfowl hunting outside of Wisconsin?

No	81%
Canada	3%
Yes, in another state (ND, SD, MO were top 3)	18%

11. During the past **three years** would you say that you spend more time waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin or outside of Wisconsin?

In Wisconsin	70%
Outside Wisconsin	18%
About equal time	12%

12. Below is a list of information sources about waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin. From this list please check the **two** information sources that you most rely on for waterfowl hunting information.

DNR regulation booklet	59%
Other waterfowl hunters	45%
Hunting magazines/papers	33%
DNR website	26%
Other websites	9%
Newspaper articles	8%
Another source	6%
Social media (Facebook, Twitter, on-line chats)	5%
Conservation/hunting organizations	6%
Other DNR publications	2%
DNR employees	2%
Direct email from DNR	1%

13. In addition to waterfowl hunting, what other species have you hunted in Wisconsin?

Deer gun	94%
Deer bow	67%
Turkey spring	70%
Pheasant	60%
Squirrel	54%
Grouse	53%
Rabbit	50%
Turkey fall	43%
Dove	29%
Woodcock	22%
Bear	19%
Raccoon	17%
Bobcat	3%
No other hunting	2%

14. From the list below please rank the types of hunting you most enjoy. You can rank up to three, with 1 representing your favorite hunting and 3 representing your third favorite.

RANKED FIRST – SECOND - THIRD

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Duck	32	23	12
Deer gun	18	22	24
Deer bow	32	11	8
Turkey spring	6	15	15
Pheasant	4	5	8
Squirrel	1	1	3
Grouse	5	15	12
Rabbit	0	1	2
Turkey fall	0	0	1
Dove	0	1	1
Woodcock	0	0	0
Bear	1	2	3
Raccoon	0	0	2
Bobcat	0	0	0

15. Have you ever introduced someone to waterfowl hunting – that is, taken someone waterfowl hunting for their very first time?

No, I have not	20%
Yes, a child	27%
Yes, an adult	14%
Yes, both a child and an adult	39%

Section 2: Commitment to Waterfowl Hunting

The questions in this section ask about your history with waterfowl hunting and how important waterfowl hunting is to you.

1. Who first introduced you to waterfowl hunting?

Father	42%
Friend	29%
Other family member	14%
I started on my own	12%
Spouse	2%
Someone else	1%
Hunting instructor	0%

2. Before you started waterfowl hunting, did you ever go along with others who were waterfowl hunting but where you did not carry a firearm?

Yes	40%
No	60%

2. How old were you when you first went waterfowl hunting?

The average age of respondents first duck hunt was at 17 years old.

<13	44%
13-19	30%
20-29	15%
30+	12%

4. For how many years have you hunted waterfowl? I've hunted waterfowl for _____ year(s).

The respondents average number of years waterfowl hunting was 26 years.

<5	10%
5-9	13 %
10-19	17%
20-29	17%
30-39	15%
40+	28%

5. How many days are you waterfowl hunting now compared to prior years?

I'm hunting about the same number of days now as I did in prior years	22%
I'm hunting more days now than I did in prior years	29%
I'm hunting fewer days now than I did in prior years	47%
I wasn't hunting waterfowl prior to 2013	2%

6. For some people, waterfowl hunting may be one of the most enjoyable things in their lives. For others, it may be just one of a number of interests they have; something which they enjoy but are not strongly committed to. If you could no longer participate in waterfowl hunting, would you:

Miss it more than all of your other interests	14%
Miss it more than most of your other interests	54%
Miss it slightly	30%
Not miss it at all	2%

7. Considering all of your other **wildlife-oriented activities**, how many substitutes do you have for waterfowl hunting? In other words, if you could not participate in waterfowl hunting, how many other different wildlife-oriented activities are there that you enjoy doing just as much or more?

I have no wildlife-oriented substitutes for waterfowl hunting	5%
I have only a few wildlife-oriented substitutes for waterfowl hunting	24%
I have some wildlife-oriented substitutes for waterfowl hunting	41%
I have many wildlife-oriented substitutes for waterfowl hunting	30%

Section 3: Duck Hunting in Wisconsin

This section looks specifically at duck hunting in Wisconsin. Even if you did not hunt in 2013, please continue with the questions – you will be directed to the next section.

1. Did you do any duck hunting during the 2013 seasons?

Yes	95%
No	5%

2. In which zone(s) did you hunt ducks?

North zone	43%
South zone	68%
Mississippi River zone	13%

3. Did you or a hunting partner do any scouting prior to hunting?

No	28%
1 trip	18%
2 trips	20%
3 trips or more	36%

4. How many ducks did you harvest during 2013? _____ ducks

The respondents on average harvested 9.9 ducks during the 2013 season.

0	14%
1-3	18%
4-9	27%
10-19	25%
20-29	9%
30+	7%

5. How many days did you go duck hunting in Wisconsin in 2013? For each month, please write the number of days you hunted.

Average number of days hunted in September was 2.0

Average number of days hunted in October was 6.0

Average number of days hunted in November was 4

Average number of days hunted in December was <1

The average number of days hunted was 11.9 during the 2013 season by respondents

6. Now think about your duck seasons prior to 2013. About how many days did you hunt ducks during those prior Wisconsin seasons? Just provide your best estimate. If you did not hunt prior to 2013 write a "0" in the space below.

The average days hunted by respondents was 11.9 days prior to 2013.

7. Think of all the locations in Wisconsin where you duck hunted in 2013. On average, about how many miles did you travel, one-way, to your duck hunting locations?

On average respondents drove 39 miles one way to hunting destinations

<10 miles	20%
10-25 miles	44%
26-50 miles	17%
51-100 miles	11%
101+ miles	7%

8. About how far would you be willing to travel, one-way, in Wisconsin to a new duck hunting location that was recommended by another hunter? Just give us your best estimate.

I would be willing to travel _____ miles, one way, to a new duck hunting location.

On average respondents, would drive 80 miles one way to new hunting destinations

<10 miles	5%
10-25 miles	14%
26-50 miles	36%
51-100 miles	24%
101+ miles	21%

9. During the 2013 duck season, did you tend to hunt the same area (the same property or lake) or did you move from area to area?

Same area throughout the season	64%
Moved to different areas throughout the season	36%

10. Was the area(s) you hunted in 2013 the same area(s) you hunted in 2012?

Yes	84%
No	12%
I did not hunt in 2012	4%

11. For the 2013 duck season, please indicate your level of satisfaction with each of the following.

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Number of ducks you saw during the season	13%	30%	29%	20%	8%
Number of shots you took	11%	23%	38%	21%	6%
Number of ducks you harvested	15%	26%	32%	20%	6%
Timing of the duck season	11%	17%	37%	26%	9%
Number of days in the duck season	10%	10%	36%	30%	15%
Number of days you got to hunt	16%	30%	30%	17%	6%
Number of ducks in the daily limit	5%	9%	38%	28%	21%
Overall quality of your duck hunts	6%	19%	34%	31%	10%
Your overall satisfaction	6%	14%	36%	35%	10%

12. Your overall satisfaction rating may have been influenced by some of the following. Please tell us how large of a problem each of the following was for you when you went duck hunting in 2013.

	No problem	Minor problems	Unsure	Some problems	Large problems
Crowding at hunting areas	29%	19%	8%	32%	12%
Hunting pressure	24%	17%	14%	30%	14%
Ducks unable to find rest areas	25%	16%	37%	16%	7%
Interference from other hunters	26 %	21%	18%	24%	12%
Other hunters sky-busting	25%	12%	16%	27%	20%
Ducks arriving after the season is closed	14%	10%	27%	25%	23%
Ducks concentrating on fewer areas	11%	11%	39%	28%	12%
Conflicts with other duck hunters	42%	24%	21%	9%	5%
Obtaining access to hunting sites	37%	18%	25%	14%	6%
Early freeze-up	27%	20%	24%	21%	9%
Other weather conditions	26%	22%	38%	10%	4%

In 2011, duck hunting in Wisconsin changed from a 2-zone structure (North and South zones) to a 3-zone structure (North, South and the Mississippi River zones – **see map on back cover**). This change was done in-part based on input from hunters responding to surveys similar to this one. The past three hunting seasons (2011, 2012 and 2013) have been managed with this 3-zone structure. The next few questions address the change from a 2-zone structure to a 3-zone structure.

13. Prior to reading the above information, were you aware that Wisconsin had recently changed from two duck zones to three duck zones?

Yes, I was definitely aware of the change	67%
No, I was not aware of the zone change	33%

14. How would you compare your Wisconsin duck hunting experiences under the 3-zone structure to your experiences under the former 2-zone structure? Compared to the former 2-zone structure, would you say that your duck hunting experiences under the 3-zone structure has been...

Much worse	3%
Somewhat worse	5%
About the same	79%
Somewhat better	5%
Much better	3%
I didn't hunt under the 2-zone structure	5%

15. Your answer to Question 15 may have been influenced by some of the following. For each item below, please indicate if you thought it was worse, about the same or better under the 3-zone structure.

	Much worse	Worse	Unchanged	Better	Much better
Number of ducks you saw during the season	6%	11%	76%	6%	1%
Number of shots you took	5%	11%	78%	5%	0%
Number of ducks you harvested	7%	13%	73%	7%	1%
Timing of the duck season	8%	12%	71%	6%	2%
Number of days in the duck season	5%	5%	81%	7%	2%
Number of days you got to hunt	4%	15%	76%	5%	0%
Number of ducks in the daily limit	4%	6%	83%	6%	2%
Number of hunters at your location	7%	15%	72%	7%	0%
Overall quality of your duck hunts	3%	11%	78%	7%	1%
Your overall satisfaction	3%	13%	73%	10%	1%

The next few questions consider various aspects of duck harvest management in Wisconsin. Even if you have little experience with duck hunting, please try to answer each question.

16. Which statement best describes how you feel about the **total daily duck bag limit** over the last three years in Wisconsin (or however many years you've been duck hunting if fewer than three)? Would you say the total daily duck bag limit was...

too low	12%
about right	75%
too high	5%
no opinion	8%

17. Over the past three years, which statement best describes how you feel about the **duck season length** (number of days in the season) in Wisconsin? Would you say the duck season length was...

too short	35%
about right	58%
too long	2%
no opinion	6%

18. Over the past three years, which statement best describes how you feel about the **timing of the duck season** in Wisconsin? Would you say the duck season timing was...

too early	26%
about right	50%
too late	17%
no opinion	6%

20. What do you think the **daily bag limit for hen mallards** should be in Wisconsin?

0 hen mallards	3%
1 hen mallards	43%
2 hen mallards	40%
No opinion	13%

21. Opening day of duck season has traditionally started at noon or more recently at 9 a.m. A later morning or mid-day start time allows for better duck identification and for safer hunter access on the first day of hunting. At what time do you think shooting hours should begin on opening day of duck season?

= $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise	43%
9 a.m.	36%
Noon	9%
Some other time	7%
No opinion	5%

22. Wisconsin has the option of having a split in its duck season; that means a closure for a period of time during the season. For the question that follows, assume the duck season is 60 days total. For each zone listed below, we'd like to know three preferences:

First tell us if you would like to have a split season. If No, go to the next zone.

	North	South	Miss River
No	70%	54%	60%
Yes	30%	46%	40%

If yes, tell us your preference for the length of the closure.

	North	South	Miss River
5-days (Monday – Friday)	49%	47%	35%
7 days	23%	24%	24%
9 days	15%	16%	20%
More than 9 days	7%	9%	13%
Unsure	5%	4%	8%

Then tell us if the closure should occur during the first half (first 30 days) or second half (second 30 days) of the season.

	North	South	Miss River
First half	79%	74%	77%
Second half	21%	26%	23%

23. The opening day of duck season varies from year to year based on federal rules and the calendar. Assuming a 60-day duck season, please tell us your preference for opening day of the duck season for each of the three zones.

	North	South	Miss River zone
Saturday nearest Sept 24 th (Sept 21 – Sept 27)	49%	24%	25%
Saturday nearest Oct 1 st (Sept 28 – Oct 4)	25%	36%	25%
Saturday nearest Oct 8 th (Oct 5 – Oct 11)	8%	19%	13%
Later than the Saturday nearest Oct 7 th	3%	7%	4%
Makes no difference to me / Unsure	16%	14%	33%

The next few questions present duck hunting opportunities available in other states but not in Wisconsin.

24. Some states offer “**managed hunts**” on a few public lands. Managed hunts **reduce hunter crowding** and **enhance the quality** of the hunting experience by allowing a **limited number** of hunters to **reserve a time slot** via a random lottery selection specifically for themselves (and their hunting party). Currently Wisconsin does not have the authority to offer managed duck hunts on state properties. In states that offer managed hunts, the average application fee is approximately \$3.

Do you think managed duck hunts on select state properties should be offered in Wisconsin?

Definitely yes	15%
Probably yes	15%
Unsure	25%
Probably no	19%
Definitely no	26%

25. We would like to know if there is hunter interest in managed hunts. Suppose the DNR provided the opportunity for you to apply via a lottery to duck hunt a public land area that was reserved specifically for you (and your hunting party). How much interest, if any, would you personally have in a managed duck hunt on a state property? We realize this may be difficult without knowing the location of the properties but please just provide your best assessment of your interest level.

A great deal of interest	19%
Some interest	24%
Unsure	14%
Little interest	17%
No interest at all	26%

States south of Wisconsin that are not recognized as duck production states offer additional hunting days through an early teal season in September. In these states, the season length varies based on the status of the teal population but is always separated from their regular duck season by several weeks because of their southern location. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is considering offering a similar season for northern states. In Wisconsin, that would mean that the regular duck season may open a week or two later than the early teal season but would still be a 60 day season. A **possible early teal season** would be structured as:

Harvest of blue-winged and green-winged teal only;

Scheduled some time between the first and last day of September but before the opening of the regular duck season;

Season would be statewide;

Length of the season would vary by year depending on federal regulations.

26. Would you favor or oppose Wisconsin adopting an additional early teal season scheduled before the regular duck season?

Definitely favor	23%
Probably favor	18%
Unsure	17%
Probably oppose	18%
Definitely oppose	25%

27. Considering other hunting seasons that occur during September in Wisconsin, which week during September would you prefer an early teal season to open?

1st week of September	23%
2nd week of September	29%
3rd week of September	18%
4th week of September	6%
Makes no difference to me	25%

28. What would be your preference for the length of a September early teal season?

5 days	13%
7 days	28%
9 days	27%
12 days	14%
16 days	19%

29. Your opinion about an early teal season may be based on some of the following. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Definitely agree	Probably agree	Unsure	Probably disagree	Definitely disagree
An early teal season would allow more hunting opportunities	30%	35%	14%	12%	10%
An early teal season would allow hunters to harvest more ducks	17%	40%	24%	10%	8%
Duck hunting in September would provide more favorable weather conditions	18%	35%	25%	11%	11%
Hunters would not be able to identify teal from other ducks and would shoot the wrong species	29%	24%	21%	17%	8%
An early teal season would disturb the marshes and decrease the quality of the regular duck season opener	33%	23%	24%	14%	6%
An early teal season would result in a later opening date for the regular duck season	16%	28%	39%	11%	5%
Duck hunting in September is too early because of heat and mosquitos	17%	24%	23%	26%	10%
Young teal born that year may not be flying by September 1st	8%	12%	58%	17%	6%

30. How likely do you think you would be to hunt an early teal season in Wisconsin?

Very likely	20%
Fairly likely	20%
Unsure	16%
Not too likely	26%
Not at all likely	18%

Section 4: Canada Goose Hunting in Wisconsin

This section looks specifically at goose hunting in Wisconsin. Even if you did not hunt in 2013, please continue with the questions – you will be directed to the next section.

1. Did you do any Canada goose hunting during the 2013 seasons?

Yes	76%
No	24%

3. Did you or a hunting partner do any scouting prior to hunting?

No	32%
1 trip	18%
2 trips	15%
3 trips or more	35%

4. How many geese did you harvest during 2013? _____ geese

On average the respondents harvested 2.6 geese during the 2013 season.

5. For Canada goose hunting there are numerous zones, subzones and time periods from September through December. We'd like to know first, if you hunted the zone/time period and second, if you did, how many geese you harvested.

	No	Yes	Average number harvested
Early statewide season (Sept 1 – Sept 15)	55%	45%	3.5
Exterior north zone (Sept 16 – Dec 16)	60%	40%	3.6
Exterior south zone (Sept 16 – Oct 6 / Oct 12 – Dec 21)	48%	52%	3.9
Mississippi River subzone (Sept 21 – Sept 29 / Oct 12 – Jan 2)	91%	9%	.3
Horicon zone period 1 (Sept 16 – Oct 27)	93%	7%	1.8
Horicon zone period 2 (Oct 28 – Dec 16)	95%	5%	1.1

6. How many days did you go goose hunting in Wisconsin in 2013? For each month, please write the number of days you hunted.

*Average number of days hunted in September was 3.0
Average number of days hunted in October was 4.0
Average number of days hunted in November was 2.0
Average number of days hunted in December was 0.6*

The average number of days goose hunting was 9.3 during the 2013 season by respondents

7. Now think about your past three goose seasons (or fewer if hunting less than three). About how many days did you hunt geese during those past Wisconsin seasons?

The average number of days' goose hunting was 10.9 over the last three seasons by respondents

8. Think of all the locations in Wisconsin where you goose hunted in 2013. On average, about how many miles did you travel, one-way, to your goose hunting locations?

On average respondents drove 29 miles one way to hunting destinations

<10	25%
10-25	47%
26-50	14%
51-100	10%
101+	5%

9. About how far would you be willing to travel, one-way, in Wisconsin to a new goose hunting location that was recommended by another hunter? Just give us your best estimate.

On average respondents, would drive 55 miles one way to new hunting destinations

<10	8%
10-25	25%
26-50	40%
51-100	18%
101+	10%

10. During the 2013 goose season, did you tend to hunt the same area (the same property or lake) or did you move from area to area?

Same area throughout the season	64%
Moved to different areas throughout the season	36%

11. Was the area you hunted in 2013 the same area you hunted in 2012?

Yes	80%
No	17%
I did not hunt in 2012	3%

12. How frequently, if at all, did you hunt geese in each of the following types of land or water?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
In a field	23%	11	16%	26%	24%
In a marsh	26%	14% %	26%	20%	14%
In another waterbody	30%	16%	24%	22%	9%

13. For the 2013 goose seasons, please tell us how satisfied you were with each of the following.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Number of geese you saw during the season	9%	21%	30%	23%	18%

Number of shots you took	20%	24%	37%	14%	6%
Number of geese you harvested	31%	23%	31%	9%	6%
Timing of the goose season	6%	12%	40%	28%	14%
Number of days in the goose season	7%	7%	38%	31%	18%
Number of days you got to hunt	15%	26%	34%	18%	7%
Number of geese in the daily limit	21%	17%	30%	22%	10%
Solitude of your hunting area (not too many other hunters)	7%	16%	32%	26%	19%
Overall quality of your goose hunts	8%	13%	42%	27%	11%
Your overall satisfaction	6%	16%	41%	25%	11%

14. Your overall satisfaction rating may have been influenced by some of the following. Please tell us how large of a problem each of the following was for you when you went goose hunting in 2013.

	No problem	Minor problems	Unsure	Somewhat of a problem	Large problem
Crowding at hunting areas	39%	22%	12%	18%	8%
Hunting pressure	34%	19%	16%	21%	10%
Geese unable to find rest areas	34%	21%	31%	9%	5%
Interference from other hunters	35%	20%	19 %	19%	6%
Other hunters sky-busting	36%	15%	16%	20%	14%
Geese arriving after the season is closed	24%	13%	24%	23%	16%
Geese concentrating on fewer areas	18%	12%	35%	26%	9%
Conflicts with other goose hunters	48%	24%	16%	8%	4%
Obtaining access to hunting sites	35%	19%	16%	19%	10%

The next few questions consider various aspects of goose harvest management in Wisconsin. Even if you have little experience with goose hunting, please try to answer each question.

15. Which statement best describes how you feel about the **total daily goose bag limit** in the **early September season** and the **regular season** over the last three years in Wisconsin (or however many years you've been goose hunting if fewer than three)?

	Early September season	Regular season
Too low	10%	47%
About right	76%	48%
Too high	5%	0%
No opinion	8%	5%

16. Which statement best describes how you feel about the **goose season length** (number of days in the season) over the last three years in Wisconsin (or however many years you've been goose hunting if fewer than three)? Would you say the goose season length was...

Too short	21%
About right	72%
Too long	0%
No opinion	6%

17. Which statement best describes how you feel about the **timing of the goose season** over the last three years in Wisconsin (or however many years you've been goose hunting if fewer than three)? Would you say the goose season timing was...

Too early	13%
About right	75%
Too late	2%
No opinion	10%

18. Wisconsin has the option to have one or two splits (season closures) in the Exterior Zone for Canada goose hunting. Please tell us the kind of season you would most prefer in each of the following Exterior Zones.

	North Zone	South Zone	Mississippi River Zone
No split	72%	60%	65%
One split during duck split	14%	22 %	18%
One split during gun deer season	9%	12%	8%
Prefer a split but at a different time	3%	3%	2%
Two splits	2%	5%	6%

19. Under current regulations, Canada goose hunters can hunt one zone in the same season but not multiple zones. This restriction was established to prevent the over-harvesting of Canada geese across the zones. If this restriction was removed so that a hunter was allowed to purchase permits for both the Horicon and the Exterior zones how likely would you be to hunt both the Horicon and the Exterior zones or to remain hunting in one zone?

Very likely to hunt both zones	25%
Fairly likely to hunt both zones	18%
Unsure	19%
Fairly likely to hunt in one zone	15%
Very likely to hunt in one zone	24%

If you have any questions, please contact **Jordan Petchenik at (608) 266-8523.**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to: Equal Opportunity Office, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240



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