

# Game Management Survey – Statewide Analysis

(All Respondents Weighted by County of Residency)

December 12, 2007

2 - Are you able to hunt as much as you would like in NH?

[N = 2025; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

37.1% - Yes

62.9% - No

3 - If not, what are the main barriers preventing you from hunting more in NH? (Check all that apply.)

*Limited to those responding "No" to question 2 above.*

[N = 1272; 95% C.I. = ±2.8%]

77.7% - Lack of free time

21.3% - Can't find huntable lands

12.0% - Can't get landowner permission to hunt on lands of interest

14.4% - Hunting licenses are too expensive

9.3% - No one to hunt with

35.2% - Posting of land

(Other responses listed separately)

4 - In which of the following youth (under 16) weekend seasons did you mentor youth hunter during 2006?

(Check all that apply.)

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

19.3% - Deer

7.0% - Turkey

2.0% - Waterfowl

71.3% - None

5 - How many times in the last 3 years have you mentored youth (under 16) during the regular seasons for the following species?

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Deer	958	0	100	2.87	1
Bear	433	0	30	0.45	0
Waterfowl	438	0	80	0.83	0
Turkey	575	0	60	1.35	0
Small Game	577	0	100	2.10	0
Others	369	0	20	0.40	0

6 - Would you support or oppose a youth pheasant hunt prior to the regular pheasant season?

[N = 2010; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

32.3% - Strongly Support

42.6% - Support

16.2% - Undecided

6.2% - Oppose

2.7% - Strongly Oppose

7 - Do you consider the use of electronic calls to be "fair chase" for the following species? (Please answer yes or no for each species.)

	Yes	No	
Deer	29.8%	70.2%	[N = 2007; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Moose	29.7%	70.3%	[N = 1995; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Bear	30.3%	69.7%	[N = 1987; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Turkey	38.5%	61.5%	[N = 2007; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

8 - Do you consider the use of electronic decoys to be “fair chase” for the following species? (Please Enter yes or no for each species.)

	Yes	No	
Deer	17.8%	82.2%	[N = 1989; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Moose	15.8%	84.2%	[N = 1971; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Bear	17.0%	83.0%	[N = 1969; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Turkey	30.8%	69.2%	[N = 1989; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Coyote	66.7%	33.3%	[N = 1991; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Waterfowl	37.2%	62.8%	[N = 1979; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]
Crows	57.9%	42.1%	[N = 1973; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

9 - Have you ever employed a licensed NH guide?

[N = 2025; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

3.3% - Yes

96.7% - No

10 - If yes, for which species? (**Check all that apply.**)

*Limited to those responding “Yes” to question 9 above.*

[N = 68; 95% C.I. = ±12.4%]

26.8% - Deer

40.5% - Moose

26.1% - Bear

13.1% - Turkey

11.7% - Grouse

6.6% - Woodcock

9.9% - Coyote

10.0% - Waterfowl

1.3% - Crows

(Other responses listed separately)

11 - Which species do you hunt in NH? (**Check all that apply.**)

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

23.4% - Moose

93.4% - Deer

30.3% - Bear

46.4% - Turkey

20.8% - Pheasant

16.0% - Waterfowl

44.8% - Grouse

18.0% - Woodcock

30.4% - Rabbit/Hare

22.8% - Squirrel

36.7% - Coyote

15.6% - Crows

(Other responses listed separately)

12 - Please rank those species you hunt in NH in order of preference with "1" as your favorite. (Rank only those that you hunt.)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median	Rank
Moose	580	1	12	3.30	3	3
Deer	1915	1	10	1.34	1	1
Bear	681	1	12	3.74	3	5
Turkey	995	1	11	2.85	2	2
Pheasant	491	1	12	3.81	3	6
Waterfowl	389	1	12	4.08	3	7
Grouse	969	1	12	3.32	3	4
Woodcock	414	1	12	4.99	5	10
Rabbit/Hare	660	1	12	4.64	4	8
Squirrel	522	1	12	5.39	5	11
Coyote	784	1	12	4.95	5	9
Crows	353	1	12	6.65	6	12

13 - Approximately how many days a year do you spend hunting each of the following species in NH? (Please enter whole numbers.)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Deer	1900	0	90	15.09	10
Bear	687	0	75	6.52	4
Turkey	967	0	90	8.07	5
Pheasant	510	0	60	5.65	3
Waterfowl	422	0	60	6.74	4
Grouse	923	0	90	7.98	5
Woodcock	423	0	30	4.97	3
Rabbit/Hare	638	0	120	7.86	5
Squirrel	520	0	90	7.37	5
Coyote	719	0	365	20.38	5
Crows	399	0	60	5.16	2

14 - Approximately how many miles do you regularly travel one way to hunt each of the following species in NH? (Please round to nearest whole number.)

**Limited to NH residents only**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Moose	396	0	250	60.66	40
Deer	1670	0	250	23.43	10
Bear	587	0	200	30.42	10
Turkey	849	0	250	12.96	5
Pheasant	412	0	200	15.86	10
Waterfowl	363	0	175	14.63	10
Grouse	807	0	250	33.98	10
Woodcock	358	0	220	24.79	5
Rabbit/Hare	545	0	250	30.59	10
Squirrel	436	0	120	6.38	1
Coyote	621	0	200	12.61	5
Crows	326	0	100	7.52	2

15 - In which one (1) Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) do you do the majority of your hunting for the following species?

	A	B	C1	C2	D1	D2	E	F	G	H1	H2	I1	I2	J1	J2	K	L	M
Deer	6.8%	2.8%	1.4%	1.3%	2.2%	4.4%	1.7%	1.7%	5.8%	5.5%	7.8%	4.0%	3.8%	5.2%	13.4%	10.3%	8.6%	13.3%
Bear	7.9%	3.6%	2.3%	2.6%	3.9%	6.9%	5.0%	3.9%	10.0%	6.9%	5.4%	6.4%	6.8%	6.5%	9.9%	6.0%	4.1%	1.9%
Turkey	0.4%	1.1%	0.7%	0.7%	2.8%	5.4%	1.2%	2.5%	6.2%	7.2%	10.1%	6.0%	5.9%	4.7%	11.9%	13.2%	7.5%	12.4%
Pheasant	5.0%	0.6%	0.1%	2.1%	2.2%	4.0%	1.4%	3.0%	5.8%	4.8%	7.9%	7.7%	4.6%	4.0%	9.9%	12.9%	7.3%	16.5%
Grouse	16.1%	4.9%	3.6%	4.9%	4.2%	5.5%	3.1%	1.9%	6.1%	5.4%	6.1%	4.4%	4.8%	4.3%	8.3%	5.9%	6.3%	4.2%
Woodcock	10.9%	4.1%	3.2%	3.8%	5.4%	4.5%	2.5%	1.1%	6.0%	4.4%	6.9%	4.7%	5.8%	5.8%	9.3%	8.2%	7.2%	6.2%
Rabbit/Hare	11.5%	5.4%	4.8%	5.5%	4.8%	5.2%	2.4%	2.2%	6.7%	3.5%	6.9%	2.1%	3.4%	4.9%	7.7%	10.1%	5.4%	7.3%
Squirrel	2.0%	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	2.4%	2.7%	0.5%	1.3%	5.4%	6.4%	10.9%	4.0%	4.6%	4.3%	12.1%	14.9%	9.8%	16.3%
Coyote	4.6%	2.4%	0.7%	1.4%	2.3%	3.7%	1.4%	1.8%	7.3%	5.7%	10.4%	5.1%	4.1%	4.6%	12.8%	10.0%	7.9%	13.7%
Crows	2.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1.6%	2.8%	3.4%	1.9%	1.1%	6.3%	6.1%	8.9%	4.9%	2.7%	3.7%	9.1%	12.6%	11.2%	18.6%

Deer [N = 1920; 95% C.I. = ±2.3%]  
 Bear [N = 629; 95% C.I. = ±4.0%]  
 Turkey [N = 929; 95% C.I. = ±3.3%]  
 Pheasant [N = 453; 95% C.I. = ±4.7%]  
 Grouse [N = 879; 95% C.I. = ±3.4%]  
 Woodcock [N = 360; 95% C.I. = ±5.3%]  
 Rabbit/Hare [N = 573; 95% C.I. = ±4.2%]  
 Squirrel [N = 458; 95% C.I. = ±4.7%]  
 Coyote [N = 719; 95% C.I. = ±3.7%]  
 Crows [N = 332; 95% C.I. = ±5.5%]

16 - Which species do you hunt outside of NH? (Check all that apply.)

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

- 4.6% - Moose
- 46.5% - Deer
- 8.4% - Bear
- 14.4% - Turkey
- 8.2% - Pheasant
- 7.8% - Waterfowl
- 12.9% - Grouse
- 5.5% - Woodcock
- 7.8% - Rabbit/Hare
- 4.0% - Squirrel
- 8.6% - Coyote
- 2.7% - Crows

(Other responses listed separately)

17 - If you hunt outside of NH, what is your primary reason(s) for doing so? (Check all that apply.)

*Limited to those indicating they hunt outside of NH in question 16 above.*

[N = 1174; 95% C.I. = ±2.9%]

- 45.0% - To take advantage of additional hunting time
- 33.6% - Visit friends and family
- 41.3% - More abundant game
- 24.0% - Better hunting access
- 18.1% - Better opportunity to hunt trophy animals
- 11.0% - More liberal seasons
- 13.9% - To hunt in a more rural setting
- 7.7% - To hunt species not present in NH

(Other responses listed separately)

18 - If you are not a resident of NH, what is your primary reason for hunting in NH? (**Check all that apply.**) **SUMMARIZED IN ANALYSIS BY RESIDENCY (Non-Residents)**

19 - In NH, where do you do the majority of your hunting?

[N = 1977; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

23.4% - Public land

39.1% - Private land

37.5% - Half public land / half private land

20 - Do you support or oppose the hunting of big game in shooting preserves in NH?

[N = 1980; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

9.8% - Strongly Support

29.5% - Support

34.0% - Undecided

15.8% - Oppose

10.9% - Strongly Oppose

21 - Would you support or oppose a hunting mentor program (similar to our youth hunter program) if it means that a new adult hunter could delay taking hunter education for one year and hunt only under the supervision of another licensed hunter?

[N = 1968; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

11.7% - Strongly Support

31.4% - Support

19.4% - Undecided

23.8% - Oppose

13.6% - Strongly Oppose

22 - If you have you ever witnessed an illegal act by a hunter or trapper in NH, did you call Operation Game Thief or a CO?

[N = 1955; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

12.9% - Yes

6.9% - No

80.2% - Never witnessed an illegal act

23 - If no, why not?

(Responses listed separately)

24 - How difficult is it for you to gain access to huntable lands in NH?

[N = 1979; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

2.5% - Very Difficult

8.4% - Difficult

28.3% - Moderately Difficult

32.3% - Of Little Difficulty

28.5% - Not Difficult

25 - What Special Youth Weekend hunts in NH did you participate in when you were younger than 16 years old? (**Check all that apply.**)

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. = ±2.2%]

1.5% - Youth Waterfowl Weekend

10.2% - Youth Deer Weekend

1.9% - Youth Turkey Weekend

79.8% - None

26 - What deer seasons do you hunt in NH? **(Check all that apply.)**

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

42.7% - Archery

61.2% - Muzzleloader

90.9% - Regular Firearms

2.3% - None

27 - Which do you prefer as a method for managing deer populations?

[N = 1964; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

37.1% - Antlerless Permits

62.9% - Days of Either Sex

28 - If a reduction in antlered buck harvest is required to achieve management objectives, which method would you prefer? **(Check one.)**

[N = 1929; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]

37.8% - Restricting harvest to certain antler point classes

26.4% - Shortening seasons

28.0% - Reducing antlered buck bag limits

7.8% - Other

(Specific suggestions for other are listed separately)

29 - When you hunt deer in NH, which deer are you most interested in taking? **(Check one.)**

[N = 1940; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]

19.1% - A trophy buck

22.6% - Any antlered deer

44.6% - Any adult deer

13.6% - Any deer

30 - Besides NH, what other states or provinces do you hunt deer in? **(Check all that apply.)**

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

14.5% - VT

19.9% - ME

13.1% - MA

9.1% - NY

9.3% - PA

1.3% - NJ

2.4% - CT

3.2% - Quebec

31.1% - None

(Other responses listed separately)

31 - Do you support or oppose the current season timing and dates for deer hunting in NH?

[N = 1955; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

14.9% - Strongly Support

56.6% - Support

15.7% - Undecided

10.3% - Oppose

2.5% - Strongly Oppose

32 - Which of the following changes in the current season timing and dates for deer hunting in NH would you support? (**Check all that apply.**)

[N = 2062; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

27.8% - Delaying the start of the archery season to October 1st

24.2% - Moving the muzzleloader season after the firearms season

20.6% - Ending the archery season with the close of the regular firearm season

7.1% - Shortening the regular firearms season

23.9% - Splitting the muzzleloader season with a portion before and after the regular firearms season

17.2% - Making a portion of the muzzleloader season for open sights and exposed hammer guns only

33 - Do you support or oppose limiting NH hunters to a single antlered buck per year?

[N = 1965; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

19.2% - Strongly Support

33.6% - Support

20.2% - Undecided

18.7% - Oppose

8.3% - Strongly Oppose

34 - Do you support or oppose the use of crossbows by all licensed bow hunters during the archery deer season?

[N = 1971; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

8.2% - Strongly Support

19.0% - Support

14.7% - Undecided

26.4% - Oppose

31.7% - Strongly Oppose

35 - Do you support or oppose the use of bait for hunting deer?

[N = 1969; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

5.9% - Strongly Support

21.1% - Support

19.4% - Undecided

26.4% - Oppose

27.2% - Strongly Oppose

36 - Do you support or oppose deer feeding, excluding food plots?

[N = 1973; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

6.8% - Strongly Support

26.5% - Support

23.0% - Undecided

24.3% - Oppose

19.4% - Strongly Oppose

37 - Have you applied to the NH moose lottery in the past 5 years?

[N = 1982; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

45.0% - Yes

55.0% - No

38 - Are you aware there is a bonus point system for moose permit applicants in NH?

[N = 1974; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

58.4% - Yes

41.6% - No

- 39 - If you were hunting moose in NH, which would you be most interested in taking. **(Check one.)**  
[N = 1938; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]  
21.4% - A trophy moose  
26.0% - Any antlered moose  
37.0% - Any adult moose  
15.5% - Any moose
- 40 - Current rules allow a 3rd unarmed person to help moose hunters in NH if that 3rd person is a licensed guide. Should a 3rd unarmed person be allowed to help on the hunt in NH, even if that person is not a licensed guide?  
[N = 1946; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]  
75.7% - Yes  
24.3% - No
- 41 - Do you support or oppose an overlap of the bear season with the regular firearms deer season?  
[N = 1966; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]  
16.5% - Strongly Support  
44.0% - Support  
21.9% - Undecided  
12.3% - Oppose  
5.2% - Strongly Oppose
- 42 - If you hunt bear in NH, what method(s) of hunting do you employ? **(Check all that apply.)**  
[N = 2062; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]  
32.1% - Stalking  
12.8% - Baiting  
2.8% - Hounding  
45.6% - Do not hunt bear
- 43 - Have you personally experienced a conflict as a result of the overlap of bait and hound hunting for bears in the last 4 years?  
[N = 1755; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.4\%$ ]  
2.7% - Yes  
97.3% - No
- 44 - If you hunt bear in NH, which season option best fits your preference as a bear hunter?  
[N = 858; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 3.4\%$ ]  
26.9% - Bear seasons where methods (i.e. bait, hound, still) are mutually exclusive even if it results in a shorter season  
73.1% - Bear seasons where methods overlap in varying degrees potentially accommodating longer hunting seasons
- 45 - If you hunt bear over bait in WMU's C1, C2, D2, E, F, G, I1, J1 or J2 where 2 bait sites are allowed, do you typically employ 1 bait site or 2 bait sites during the bear season?  
[N = 252; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 6.3\%$ ]  
70.6% - 1 bait site  
29.4% - 2 bait sites
- 46 - Which NH turkey season(s) do you participate in? **(Check all that apply.)**  
[N = 2062; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]  
40.4% - Spring Season  
23.6% - Fall Archery  
13.5% - Fall Shotgun  
44.7% - None

- 47 - If the turkey population could accommodate additional harvest, what action would you prefer?  
[N = 1737; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.4\%$ ]  
18.2% - No action  
27.6% - Liberalized Spring Season  
45.9% - Liberalized Fall Shotgun Season  
8.3% - Liberalized Fall Archery Season
- 48 - If the spring season were liberalized, which option would you prefer?  
[N = 1592; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.5\%$ ]  
59.5% - A second bird in the bag  
40.5% - Extended daily hunting hours
- 49 - How would you rate spring turkey hunting pressure in NH?  
[N = 1470; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.6\%$ ]  
7.6% - Heavy  
44.4% - Moderate  
40.5% - Light  
7.5% - None
- 50 - How would you rate "hunter interference" in NH during the spring turkey season (hunter interference is defined as hunters calling or walking in on birds you are working)?  
[N = 1345; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.7\%$ ]  
5.7% - Heavy  
23.5% - Moderate  
46.9% - Light  
23.8% - None
- 51 - If you hunt during the spring turkey season, which statement best describes your hunting behavior?  
**(Check one.)**  
[N = 1024; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 3.1\%$ ]  
36.1% - I only shoot toms (adult gobblers)  
47.4% - I prefer to shoot toms, but will shoot jakes (sub-adult gobblers)  
16.4% - I shoot toms or jakes without distinction
- 52 - NH Fish and Game currently uses volunteers to help stock pheasants in Southwest NH. If the use of volunteers were statewide, would you be willing to commit to participate in a volunteer stocking program?  
[N = 1811; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]  
47.5% - Yes  
52.5% - No
- 53 - Do you own 50 or more acres of old field habitat that you would be willing to include in our pheasant program as a stocking site?  
[N = 1738; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.4\%$ ]  
1.8% - Yes  
98.2% - No
- 54 - How would you characterize hunting safety on the NH pheasant hunting sites?  
[N = 1211; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.9\%$ ]  
5.1% - Poor  
24.6% - Fair  
61.4% - Good  
9.0% - Excellent

55 - The current grouse season runs from October 1 - December 31. Should the grouse season be: (Check your preference.)

[N = 1686; 95% C.I. = ±2.4%]

9.3% - Shorter

12.7% - Longer

78.0% - The same

56 - The current daily bag limit for grouse is 4. Should the daily bag limit on grouse be: (Check your preference.)

[N = 1682; 95% C.I. = ±2.4%]

4.0% - Increased

17.2% - Decreased

78.8% - Remain the same

57 - The 30-day woodcock season opening date was recently delayed from the traditional October 1st date to October 6th, to provide greater hunting opportunity in early November when migrant birds are more likely to be available. Do you support or oppose this change?

[N = 1626; 95% C.I. = ±2.5%]

9.8% - Strongly Support

46.5% - Support

39.8% - Undecided

2.7% - Oppose

1.2% - Strongly Oppose

58 - Do you hunt waterfowl in NH?

[N = 1912; 95% C.I. = ±2.3%]

18.1% - Yes

81.9% - No

59 - If you hunt waterfowl in NH, what percentage of your waterfowl hunting occurs in each zone? (Do not include the "%" sign in your answer, just the number)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Inland Zone	419	5	100	85.11	100
Coastal Zone	203	0	100	35.00	40

60 - If the total duck kill has to be reduced, which is your preference?

[N = 1106; 95% C.I. = ±3.0%]

28.1% - Shorter seasons

71.9% - Reduced bag limits

61 - The waterfowl season traditionally opens on a weekday. Do you prefer a weekday opening or would you prefer a weekend opening?

[N = 1040; 95% C.I. = ±3.1%]

53.7% - Weekday

46.3% - Weekend

62 - Do you have access to email/internet at home?

[N = 1949; 95% C.I. = ±2.3%]

93.9% - Yes

6.1% - No

63 - Do you use the NH Fish & Game website?

[N = 1946; 95% C.I. = ±2.3%]

87.1% - Yes

12.9% - No

64 - If you don't use the Fish & Game website, why not?

[N = 262; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 6.2\%$ ]

37.4% - Don't know website address

30.3% - Don't use the web

32.3% - Other

(Specific reasons for other are listed separately)

65 - Please indicate your sex:

[N = 1943; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]

95.9% - Male

4.1% - Female

66 - Please indicate your age:

[N = 1947; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.3\%$ ]

2.7% - 16-20

6.1% - 21-30

17.9% - 31-40

28.9% - 41-50

26.9% - 51-60

10.4% - 61-67

7.4% - 68 and over

67 - Which state/province do you live in?

*Based on raw responses, not weighted.*

[N = 2050; 95% C.I. =  $\pm 2.2\%$ ]

<0.1% - AL

<0.1% - CA

0.5% - CT

0.1% - FL

6.1% - MA

0.4% - ME

<0.1% - MI

<0.1% - NC

90.2% - NH

<0.1% - NJ

0.2% - NY

<0.1% - OH

0.3% - PA

0.2% - RI

<0.1% - VA

1.5% - VT

<0.1% - WA

68 – If you live in NH, which county do you live in?

*Based on raw responses, not weighted.*

[N = 1849; 95% C.I. = ±2.3%]

8.7% - Belknap	(160)
7.7% - Carroll	(143)
10.8% - Cheshire	(199)
8.2% - Coos	(152)
11.1% - Grafton	(206)
11.6% - Hillsboro	(214)
10.7% - Merrimack	(297)
11.7% - Rockingham	(217)
10.9% - Strafford	(202)
8.6% - Sullivan	(159)
	(1,849)
Nonresidents	(213)
Total	(2,062)

69 - How long have you been hunting in NH?

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
1917	1	67	25.35	25

70 - How many years in the last 5 have you hunted in NH?

[N = 1940; 95% C.I. = ±2.3%]

1.8% - 1 year  
 5.8% - 2 years  
 7.3% - 3 years  
 5.9% - 4 years

79.3% - 5 years (*The Hunter Attitudes survey conducted in 1995 found that only 58.0% of hunters had hunted in each of the preceding 5 years. This may imply that we are getting down to the core (“avid” or “very avid”) hunters.*)