



Understanding Turkey Hunter Motivations and Experiences in North Carolina

2026



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Executive Summary

The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*, hereinafter turkey) population in North Carolina has grown from an estimated 2,000 birds in 1970 to 270,000 turkeys in 2024, leading to record hunter harvests and renewed interest in understanding turkey hunters themselves. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has never conducted a human dimensions survey of turkey hunters, thus this study was designed to establish a modern baseline of hunter opinions, behaviors and experiences. The survey focused on participation rates, hunter perceptions of turkey management, hunting trip characteristics, motivations and equipment use, regulatory opinions and the economic impact of turkey hunting in the state.

A mixed-methods survey was conducted in summer 2025. The survey was distributed to 14,031 license holders with Big Game Harvest Report Cards over the age of 18 through emails, a push-to-web letter, and finally a survey packet. The questionnaire was based on previous National Wild Turkey Federation surveys as well as the other NCWRC hunter surveys and was developed by the Social Research Unit and the Wildlife Management Division. The questionnaire was open from May 13th, 2025 to September 15th, 2025. Data were analyzed using IMPLAN, Stata and NVivo. In total, there were 2,624 respondents to the survey, leading to a response rate of 19%.

Results suggest that there were an estimated 117,371 people that hunted turkeys in North Carolina in the 2025 turkey hunting season. The average turkey hunter took three trips and spent seven days hunting turkey. They went hunting alone and spent \$126 per person per trip. This led to a total estimated trip-related expenditure of \$33,398,798. Estimated equipment expenditures totaled \$57,023,861, leading to a total estimated expenditure of \$90,422,659. This resulted in a total economic contribution of \$109,544,574.

While the largest proportion of respondents reported hunting turkeys for two to five years, hunting turkeys for more than 25 years was the second largest category, and reported beginning to turkey hunt at an average age of 29 years old. Introduction to turkey hunting typically began due to social pathways, such as introduction by family or friends. Respondents indicated barriers to beginning to turkey hunt were limited turkey presence, lack of access and lack of mentorship.

Most respondents hunted in the Piedmont or Coastal regions and, generally, hunted within the same region in which they lived. While most respondents reported hunting on private lands only, 22% of respondents indicated hunting on game lands, at least sometimes. This is particularly interesting as game lands only make up 5% of North Carolina's land base. Land management practices on private properties varied, with mowing and food plots being the most frequently selected. Shotguns were the dominant weapon used. Most respondents did not harvest a turkey in 2025, but harvest success was higher among younger hunters and hunters in the coastal region. Overall satisfaction is high, however respondents hunting on game lands exclusively indicated lower satisfaction, same with hunters in the mountain region.

Respondents reported "somewhat high" (32%) to "high" (23%) levels of trust in the NCWRC to manage turkey populations and their habitats. While all possible aspects of turkey hunting showed above average satisfaction and above average importance, spending time outdoors and feeling safe while hunting were rated with the highest satisfaction and importance. Notably, harvesting a turkey was ranked with the lowest importance and satisfaction, indicating that while it is important, actually harvesting a bird is not central to the turkey hunting experience. Overall, findings highlight high hunter satisfaction and support in the NCWRC and its management actions.

Introduction

The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*, hereinafter turkey) population in North Carolina has increased from approximately 2,000 turkeys in 1970 to 270,000 turkeys in 2024 (NCWRC 2024). Restoration efforts have been successful, and along with the increasing turkey population, hunter harvest has hit record highs in the last five years. Additionally, very little turkey hunter-specific information exists, as the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) has never conducted a human dimensions survey of general turkey hunters. The last turkey hunter survey was conducted in the early 1990s by the North Carolina State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, which did not represent all turkey hunters. As such, it is important to establish a baseline of turkey hunter opinions to begin to track change over time. The purpose of the study was to understand turkey hunter experiences, habits, and opinions on turkey management in North Carolina.

The specific objectives were to:

- Estimate turkey hunting participation
- Assess hunters' perceptions on turkey management
- Determine average turkey hunting trip profiles (locations used, miles driven, etc.)
- Identify turkey hunter characteristics (equipment use, goals, motivations, etc.)
- Determine opinions on current turkey regulations
- Assess economic impact of turkey hunting

Methods

Data Collection

The survey instrument was developed by the Social Research Unit and Wildlife Management Division and was based on previous surveys (1989-1992 Spring Gobbler Season Survey Results from the North Carolina Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Membership). A modified version of the Tailored Design Method (Dillman et al., 2014) was used to collect data from May 13th, 2025 to September 15th, 2025. The original sample was a random sample of 20,000 license holders over the age of 18 having active Big Game Hunting privileges between April 1st, 2024 and March 31st, 2025, proportional between license types and residency status. The exact number of turkey hunters has been difficult to estimate, but previous hunter surveys estimate that 50% of license holders with Big Game Hunting privileges hunt turkeys (Jewell et al., 2024b). Results are to be analyzed at the turkey management regional level (**Figure 1**), so a minimum of 383 responses are needed from each of these strata to achieve a sample size large enough to represent the target population at the 95% confidence interval. Considering this and an estimated response rate of 20%, the minimum sample size for this project would be 11,500 hunters (**Table 1**).

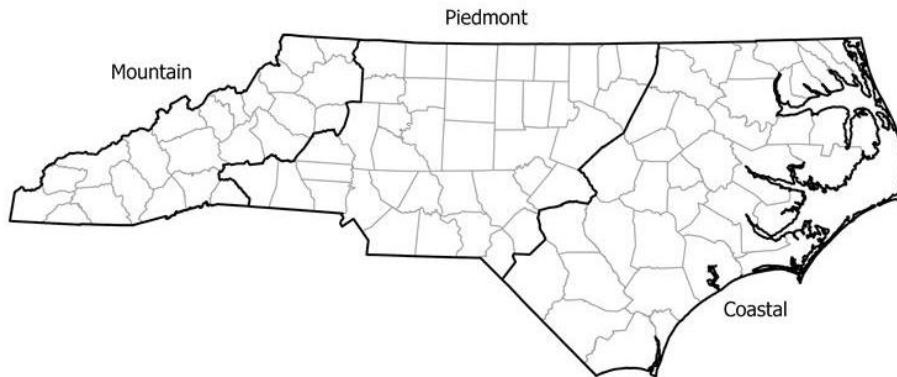


Figure 1. Map of turkey management zones

Table 1. Minimum sample size estimates

Strata	Min Resp. Required	Estimated Resp. Rate	% of license holders with big game privileges who hunt turkey	Sample Size
Mountains	383	20%	50%	3,830
Piedmont	383	20%	50%	3,830
Coast	383	20%	50%	3,830
Minimum Sample:	1,149			11,500

After adjusting for deceased individuals, inaccurate addresses, and respondents that did not request a Big Game Harvest Report Card, the final sample was 14,031 license holders with a Big Game Harvest Report Card.

The online survey was hosted on Qualtrics XM. The first email was sent on May 13th, 2025, with the first reminder email being sent on May 19th, 2025. A letter including a push-to-web QR code and link with a unique identifier code that respondents had to enter to begin the survey was mailed to nonrespondents approximately two weeks after the second email. A third email reminder was sent on June 12th, 2025. Finally, approximately two weeks after the third email, nonrespondents were mailed a full survey packet with a cover letter and a business reply envelope. The survey packet also included a push-to-web QR code and survey link.

Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using Stata 18 and Stata 19 for quantitative analysis and NVivo for qualitative analysis. Quantitative analyses included descriptive statistics, frequencies, count data, chi-square analyses, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), and ordered logistic regressions. The satisfaction-importance matrix was adapted from Alamanza et al. (1994) and Jewell et al. (2025, 2024a). Qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis techniques in which data were grouped by theme. Only themes with more than 10% agreement were developed to ensure that the most salient themes were developed.

Economic Assessment

The survey instrument collected data on turkey hunting trips and equipment expenditures. The economic contribution was estimated using this survey-sourced data through an IMPLAN Input-Output model, with 2024 data year statistics, but reported in 2025 dollars. This method has been used previously for fisheries related economic assessments (Jewell et al. 2025, Jewell et al. 2024a, Jewell et al. 2023). IMPLAN uses data collected from turkey hunters on participation, equipment and trip-related expenditures along with the data on North Carolina's economy to generate multiplier effects from turkey hunting. As the survey was completed after the 2025 turkey hunting season had concluded and asked respondents to estimate expenses surrounding the 2025 season, the report will list economic contributions as 2025 impacts.

Turkey Hunting Participation

North Carolina does not offer a specific license for turkey hunting. Rather it is a species permitted for hunting through a big game privilege, which is associated with a number of different hunting licenses, as well as a separate big game privilege. In recruitment of the survey, the first two emails to respondents did not mention turkey and the survey was advertised as a wildlife management survey. This terminology was used as to not bias the sample towards turkey hunters and has been used in previous social science research (Jewell et al. 2025, Jewell et al. 2024a, Jewell et al. 2023). After consenting to the survey and identifying what species they had hunted in the last 12 months, the second question asked respondents if they had hunted turkeys during the 2025 season, if they have hunted turkeys previously, but not in the 2025 season, or if they had never hunted turkeys in North Carolina before. Only respondents who took the survey from the first two emails were counted in the estimation because once respondents received the letter and full survey packet, they knew it was a turkey hunting survey.

Based on this screener question, 44% of respondents hunted turkeys in the 2025 season. Data on the number of Big Game Harvest Report Cards issued was then used to estimate the total number of turkey hunters in North Carolina. Using the most recent data available, it was determined there were 266,510 hunters with Big Game Harvest Report Cards in Fiscal Year 2023. Thus, there were approximately 117,371 turkey hunters in North Carolina.

Sampling error describes the deviation in the sample from the population being measured. The maximum sampling error is calculated by dividing the standard deviation of the population by the square root of the size for the sample and multiplying by the Z-score value, which is based off the confidence interval of 95% (Dillman et al. 2014). The sample size from this project was 629 with an estimated population of 117,371. This leads to a maximum possible sampling error for the entire population of turkey hunters of 3.90% (112,794 – 121,948).

$$B = \left(\sqrt{\frac{\frac{N_p(.25)}{N_s} - .25}{N_p - 1}} \right) (1.96)$$

Trip and Equipment Expenditures

The survey collected information on itemized expenditures for a typical turkey hunting trip, which included categories such as food and beverages, lodging, transportation costs and other trip expenses. Trip expenditure profiles were then estimated by using the averaged itemized expenditures, the average trips per person, the average number of people paid for, and the percentage of money spent in the county where they turkey hunted most often. This was then extrapolated to the entire turkey hunter population hunting in North Carolina.

The survey also collected information on turkey hunting expenditures on equipment related to turkey hunting that may be used on multiple trips (shotguns, decoys, blinds, etc.). Respondents were asked to estimate the cost of items purchased for turkey hunting specifically. Due to equipment purchases typically occurring where the hunter lives, only equipment purchases made by North Carolina resident turkey hunters were used in calculations.

Multiplier Effects

Trip and equipment expenditures were then organized into industry-specific sectors to determine the secondary impacts resulting from those expenditures. The IMPLAN input-output model then uses those industry-specific expenditures to provide several economic indicators to determine overall impact. The model generates direct, indirect and induced impacts. Direct impacts are the impacts to local industry; indirect impacts are the impacts that indicate the impact of the activity from regional business purchases and induced impacts indicate the household spending of income generated by the activity. These three impacts also have three economic indicators – employment, labor income and value-added. Employment statistics indicate how many full-time, part-time, and season employees are supported by turkey hunting in North Carolina. Labor income describes the income from that employment, and value-added indicates the labor income in addition to taxes on production and imports and other property income. All these indicators combine to estimate the economic contribution of turkey hunters.

Results

In total, there were 2,624 respondents to the survey, leading to a response rate of 19%. Over half of responses (87%) came from the online version of the survey that was accessed from one of the mailings, either the letter or the packet (**Figure 2**).

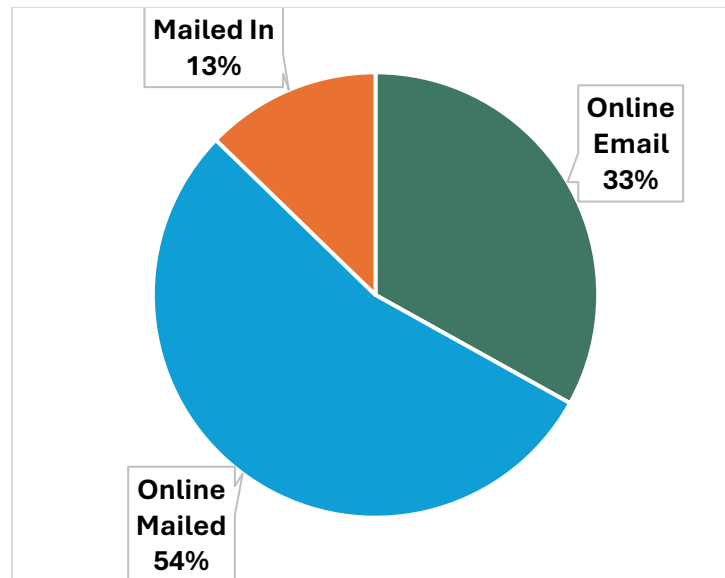


Figure 2. Method of submission for all respondents (n = 2,624)

The first set of questions asked respondents about their turkey hunting participation in the last 12 months and specifically the 2025 turkey season, to determine the turkey hunter population. While all respondents answered these questions, only respondents who took the survey from the recruitment emails were used to calculate participation. This is because the first recruitment emails described the survey as a “wildlife management” survey as to not bias the survey towards turkey hunters. The first question asked respondents directly if they had hunted turkeys in the 2025 season (**Figure 3**).

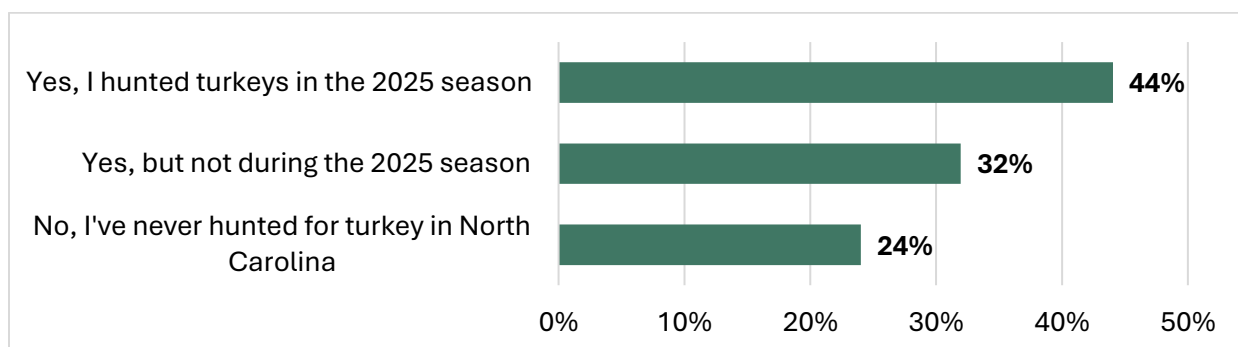


Figure 3. Respondents' participation in the 2025 turkey hunting season (n = 629)

Regardless of their answer to the first question, respondents were asked to select all the species they hunted for in North Carolina in the last 12 months (**Figure 4**). Most respondents indicated hunting for deer (85%), followed by turkeys (52%).

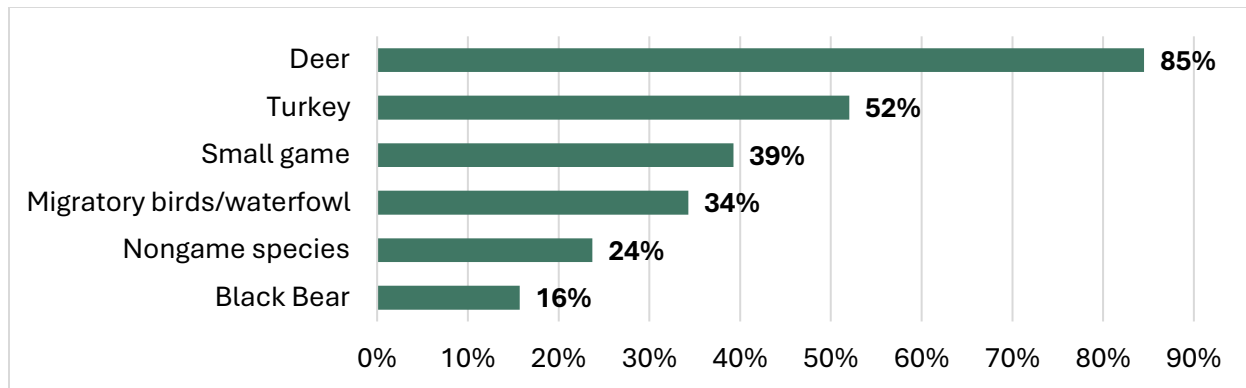


Figure 4. Species' respondents hunted for in North Carolina in the last 12 months (n = 2,576)

All respondents were asked a series of demographic questions (**Appendix A.1**). Most respondents were male (94%) and white (96%). The average age of all respondents was 53 but when separated into three categories (18 – 40 years old, 41 – 60 years old, 61 years or older), most (38%) respondents were 61 years or older. A note for future analyses, any comparisons made to age category are generalizable to the 90% confidence interval. The single highest category of education selected was a high school diploma with 30%, but 38% of respondents had a bachelors, graduate or professional degree. Most respondents were employed in a full-time capacity (55%), and the highest yearly income category selected was between \$60,000-\$89,999. Most respondents lived in a rural area (41%), and in the piedmont region of North Carolina (43%, **Appendix A.2**).

Demographic characteristics were compared between turkey hunters and non-turkey hunters through chi-squared tests to identify statistically significant differences. This comparison was based on the selection of whether or not they hunted turkeys in the last 12 months (Figure 4 results). Non-turkey hunters were more likely to be female than turkey hunters ($\chi^2 = 21.61$, $p < 0.01$). Turkey hunters were more likely to identify as white than non-turkey hunters ($\chi^2 = 4.24$, $p = 0.04$). Non-turkey hunters were more likely to indicate they identify as American Indian or Alaska Native than turkey hunters ($\chi^2 = 5.93$, $p = 0.02$). Turkey hunters were more likely to identify as Hispanic or Latino/a than non-turkey hunters ($\chi^2 = 4.51$, $p = 0.03$). Turkey hunters were more likely to be younger than non-turkey hunters, with an average age of 51 for turkey hunters, and 57 for non-turkey hunters. Considering the three aforementioned age categories, turkey hunters were more likely to be between 18 and 40 years old, as well as between 41 and 60 years old ($\chi^2 = 59.69$, $p < 0.01$). Turkey hunters were more likely to be employed on a full-time basis, while non-turkey hunters were more likely to be retired ($\chi^2 = 51.24$, $p < 0.01$). Additionally, turkey hunters were more likely to report a higher annual household income ($\chi^2 = 35.52$, $p < 0.01$).

Finally, all respondents were asked in what other outdoor activities they participate (**Figure 5**). Most respondents indicated they hunted other species than turkeys and fished. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in what kind of outdoor activities they participate in, and most respondents indicated farming (n = 22), camping (n = 21) and target shooting (n = 17, **Appendix A.3**).

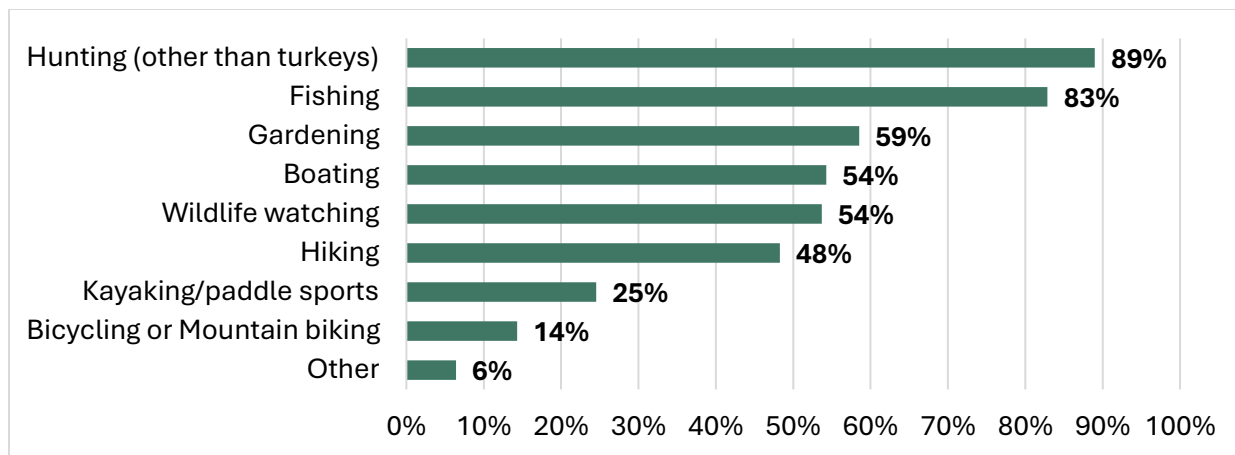


Figure 5. Outdoor activities respondents participate in (n = 2,450)

When comparing outdoor activities to whether respondents were turkey hunters or not, there were statistically significant differences (**Appendix A.4**). Turkey hunters were more likely to indicate they hunted something other than turkeys ($\chi^2 = 35.11$, $p < 0.01$), fished ($\chi^2 = 27.14$, $p < 0.01$), boated ($\chi^2 = 22.07$, $p < 0.01$), watched wildlife ($\chi^2 = 25.09$, $p < 0.01$), hiked ($\chi^2 = 4.56$, $p = 0.03$), and went kayaking or paddling ($\chi^2 = 9.69$, $p < 0.01$).

Turkey Hunter Economic Contributions

To determine the estimated expenditures and associated economic contributions of turkey hunters, respondents that hunted in the 2025 season were asked a series of questions regarding their trip and equipment expenditures. On average, turkey hunters took three trips, which were defined as trips away from home lasting either one day or multiple days in the 2025 season. Turkey hunters indicated spending 75% of their trip expenditures in the county they turkey hunted the most often. The average turkey hunter went hunting alone and spent \$126 per trip in North Carolina. When extrapolated to the total estimated number of turkey hunters, the 2025 trip-related expenditures came to a total of \$33,398,798 (**Table 2**). North Carolina turkey hunters spent \$57,023,861 (**Table 3**) on equipment expenditures in the last 12 months. The categories with the highest trip-related expenses were gasoline and ammunition. The categories with the highest equipment-related expenditures were leased land and shotguns.

Table 2. Total turkey hunter trip expenditures

Expenditure Item	Total Expenditures
Food & drinks at restaurants	\$1,283,453
Food & drinks purchased at convenience/grocery stores	\$1,370,600
Lodging at hotels, lodges, cabins or campgrounds	\$3,929,581
Gasoline	\$7,724,479
Vehicle rental	\$771,127
Other transportation costs	\$625,881
Ammunition	\$6,282,576
Equipment rentals	\$2,910,214
Guide/outfitter or tour fees	\$2,500,883
Camping supplies	\$1,323,065
Boating expenses	\$464,789
Other expenses	\$4,212,152
Total	\$33,398,798

Table 3. Total turkey hunter equipment expenditures

Expenditure Item	Total Expenditures
Shotguns	\$17,075,648
Game calls	\$1,010,102
Scopes and other optics	\$2,240,327
Decoys	\$2,919,688
Archery equipment	\$2,342,008
Processing and taxidermy costs	\$2,518,552
Gear	\$3,267,190
Leased land	\$20,968,565
Blinds and/or tree stands	\$2,907,397
Camping equipment	\$852,553
Adaptive hunting gear	\$921,830
Total	\$57,023,861

Trip and equipment expenditures were entered into IMPLAN to assess overall economic contributions. The overall economic contributions of turkey hunters in North Carolina from the 2025 season was \$109,544,574 (**Table 4**). Turkey hunting directly and indirectly supported 778 full- and part-time jobs across the state. The Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) multiplier was 1.86, meaning that for every dollar spent on turkey hunting in North Carolina, there was a \$1.86 return to the economy.

Table 4. Economic summary for turkey hunting in North Carolina

Turkey Hunter Expenditures	
Trip Expenditures	\$33,398,798
Equipment Expenditures	\$57,023,861
Total Expenditures	\$90,422,659
Turkey Hunter Economic Contributions	
Total Economic Impact	\$109,544,574
Economic Indicators	
Labor Income	\$33,729,095
Value Added	\$63,653,837
Jobs Supported	778

Turkey Hunting in North Carolina

Respondents that turkey hunted in 2025 were asked a set of questions regarding their turkey hunting in North Carolina. In the 2025 season, respondents took an average of three trips away from their home to hunt turkeys in North Carolina and spent seven days turkey hunting. Respondents also traveled an average of 32 miles from their residence to where they turkey hunted most often.

Respondents were asked how long they have been turkey hunting in North Carolina (**Figure 6**). The category with the largest proportion of responses was between two and five years, followed by more than 25 years.

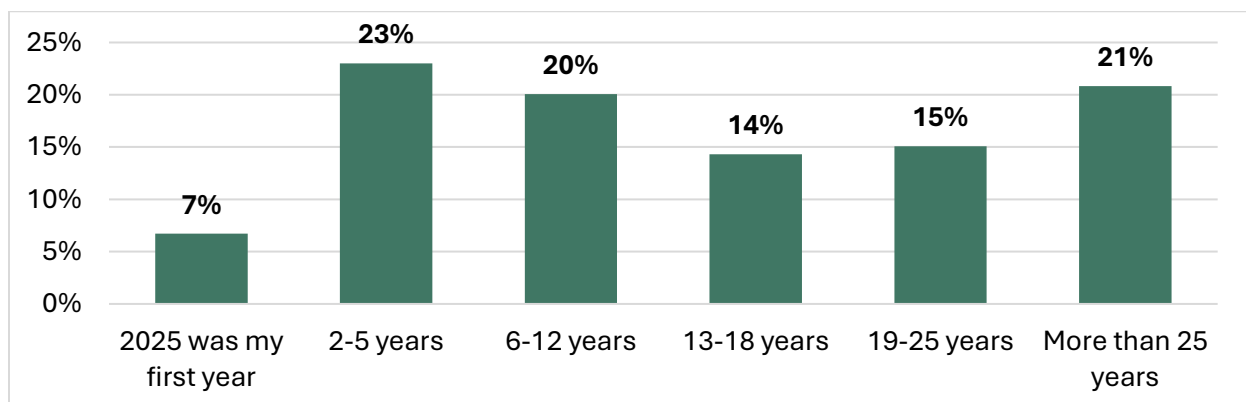


Figure 6. Number of years respondents have turkey hunted (n = 1,161)

How long respondents have been turkey hunting was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.5**) and age (**Appendix A.6**). Respondents who hunted in the mountains or multiple regions have been turkey hunting longer than respondents who hunted on the coast or in the piedmont ($\chi^2 = 39.97$, $p < 0.01$). Additionally, older respondents were more likely to report turkey hunting for longer (More than 25 years, $\chi^2 = 130.28$, $p < 0.01$).

Respondents were asked at what age they began turkey hunting, and on average, respondents were 29 years old (range 4 – 77, $n = 1,141$). This was compared to region hunted (**Table 5**). A one-way ANOVA was performed to compare the effect of region hunted on the average age respondents started turkey hunting. This revealed there was a statistically significant difference in average age respondents started turkey hunting and region hunted ($F(3, 1,056) = 10.12$, $p < 0.01$). There was a statistically significant difference in age respondents started turkey hunting between coastal hunters and mountain hunters ($p < 0.01$), coastal hunters and hunters who hunt in multiple regions ($p < 0.01$), and piedmont hunters and hunters who hunt in multiple regions ($p < 0.01$). There was not a statistically significant difference in age respondents started turkey hunting between coastal hunters and piedmont hunters ($p = 0.45$), piedmont hunters and mountain hunters ($p = 0.09$), and mountain hunters and hunters who hunt in multiple regions ($p = 1.00$). These regional differences may be explained by the timeline of turkey translocations and restoration, as translocations ended in 2000 and restoration was considered complete in 2005. Additionally, restoration began in the mountains and ended in the coast.

Table 5. Average age when respondents started turkey hunting by region hunted

	Coastal Region	Piedmont	Mountains	Multiple Regions	F
	30.92 ^a	28.89 ^{a,b}	25.40 ^b	22.69 ^c	10.12 ^{**}
n	388	409	160	103	
Notes: * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$; means with different subscripts are statistically different (Bonferroni's post-hoc test)					

Next, respondents were asked to share what encouraged them to begin turkey hunting (**Figure 7**). Most respondents indicated they already hunted, just did not hunt turkey, followed by a friend was a turkey hunter and they introduced me. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in what else encouraged them to start turkey hunting, and they said to hunt with family ($n = 8$), they previously hunted in another state ($n = 7$), the turkey population increased ($n = 5$), and they have just always hunted ($n = 4$, **Appendix A.7**).

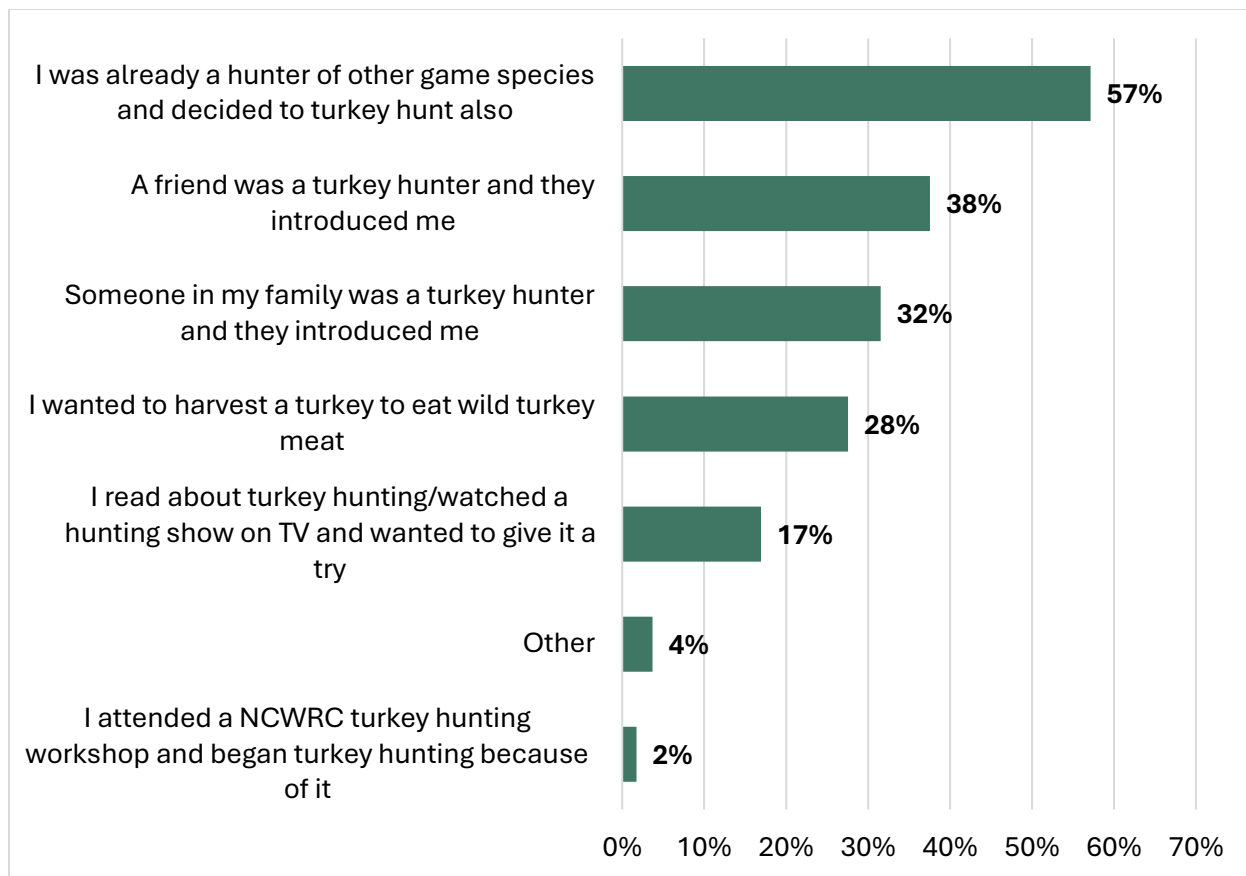


Figure 7. What encouraged respondents to begin turkey hunting (n = 1,158)

Selections for what encouraged respondents to begin turkey hunting was compared to the region they hunted (**Appendix A.8**) and age (**Appendix A.9**). Respondents who hunted in multiple regions selected someone in their family was a turkey hunter and they introduced them more often than the other regions ($\chi^2 = 15.02$, $p < 0.01$). Hunters who were 61 years or older were more likely to select they were already a hunter and decided to try turkey hunting ($\chi^2 = 11.50$, $p < 0.01$), as well as more likely to select other and provide their own response ($\chi^2 = 9.19$, $p = 0.01$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to select someone in their family introduced them ($\chi^2 = 69.65$, $p < 0.01$), more likely to select they wanted to harvest a turkey to eat wild turkey meat ($\chi^2 = 11.86$, $p < 0.01$), and more likely to select they read about turkey hunting or watched a show ($\chi^2 = 9.19$, $p = 0.01$).

Respondents then indicated their participation in North Carolina's youth turkey season (**Figure 8**). Just over half of respondents had never participated in a youth turkey season in any capacity. The next largest proportion of respondents selected that they brought a youth hunter turkey hunting during the season. North Carolina's youth turkey season was introduced in 2006, which may explain why nearly half of respondents have never participated in a youth turkey season.

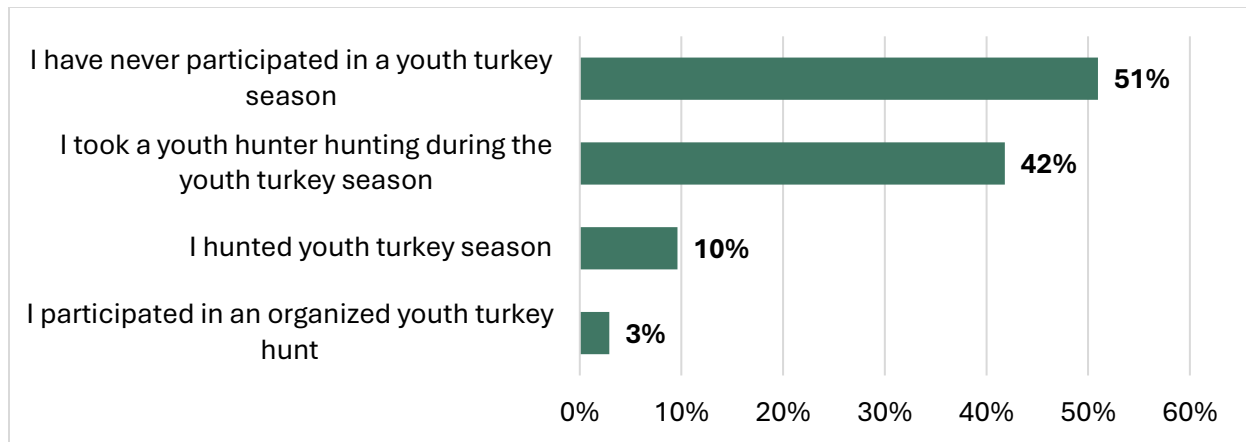


Figure 8. Respondent's participation in North Carolina's youth turkey season (n = 1,134)

Participation in youth turkey season was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.10**) and age category (**Appendix A.11**). Hunters in the piedmont and coast were more likely to indicate they had never participated in a youth turkey season in any capacity ($\chi^2 = 15.38$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents who hunted in multiple regions were more likely to indicate they had taken a youth turkey hunting ($\chi^2 = 13.33$, $p < 0.01$), and that they had hunted youth turkey season themselves ($\chi^2 = 11.88$, $p = 0.01$). Respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to select they had never participated in a youth turkey season ($\chi^2 = 19.45$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents between the ages of 41 and 60 were more likely to have taken a youth hunting during the youth turkey hunting season ($\chi^2 = 32.28$, $p < 0.01$). Finally, respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to have hunted youth seasons themselves ($\chi^2 = 96.92$, $p < 0.01$).

Respondents were then asked to share if they experienced any barriers in starting to turkey hunt (**Figure 9**). The most common selection was that there were no or few turkeys in the area they were hunting, followed by not having anywhere to hunt. Respondents were given the option to write in a barrier they experienced, and they said there were not enough turkeys (n = 10), they had no time to hunt turkeys (n = 10), they had no interest or motivation to hunt turkeys (n = 9), and that they had nowhere to hunt (n = 6, **Appendix A.12**).

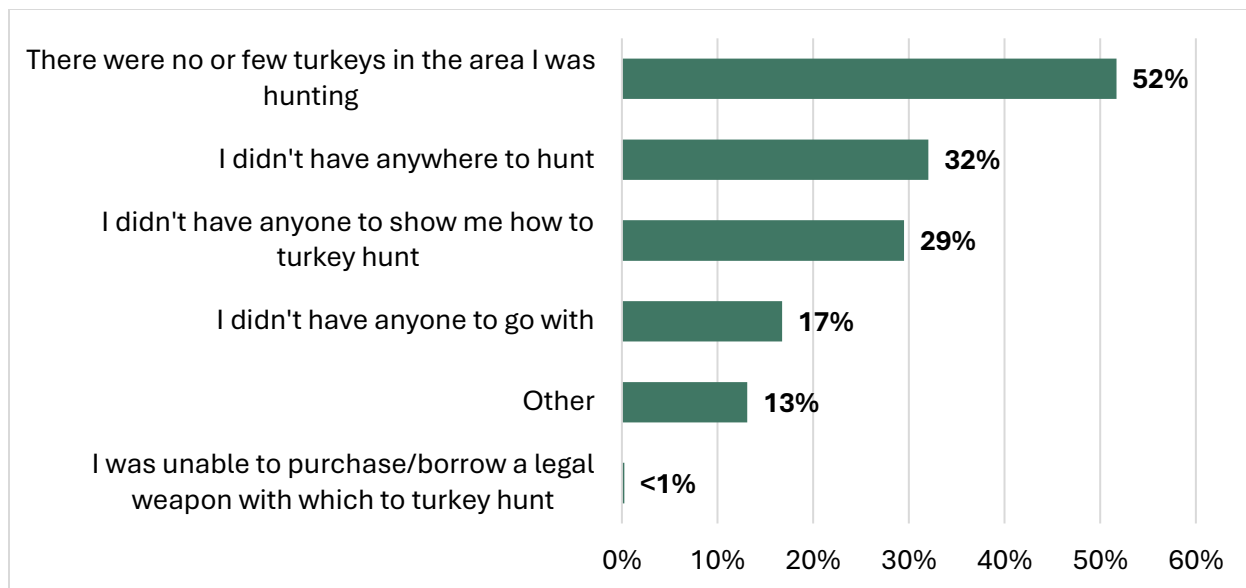


Figure 9. Barrier to start turkey hunting (n = 824)

Selections of barriers were compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.13**) and age category (**Appendix A.14**). Respondents who hunt on the coast were more likely to indicate they didn't have anyone to show them how to turkey hunt ($\chi^2 = 8.35$, $p = 0.04$). Respondents over the age of 61 were less likely to indicate they did not have anywhere to hunt ($\chi^2 = 22.36$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to indicate there was another barrier to start turkey hunting ($\chi^2 = 8.25$, $p = 0.02$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to not have anyone to show them how to turkey hunt ($\chi^2 = 10.24$, $p = 0.01$) and more likely to not have anyone to go hunting with ($\chi^2 = 16.49$, $p < 0.01$).

Respondents were then asked to indicate which North Carolina county they turkey hunted in the most, second most and third most. The answers to these questions were then sorted into the turkey management regions, and most respondents reported hunting in the piedmont region, followed by the coast (**Figure 10**).

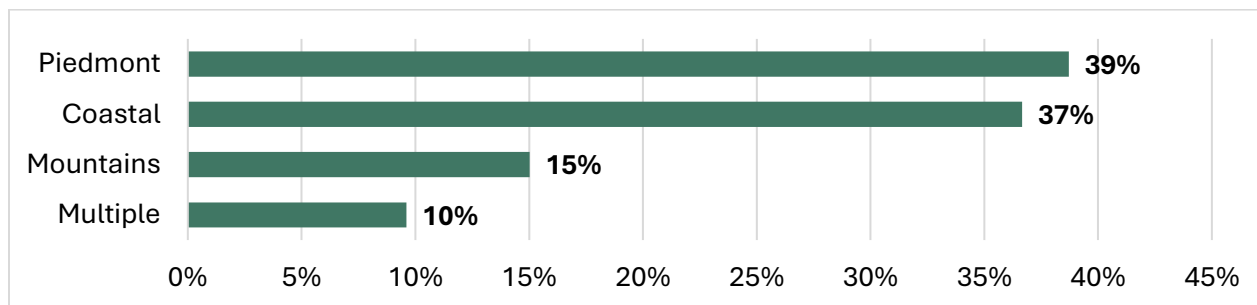


Figure 10. Turkey management regions where respondents hunted (n = 1,072)

When comparing these regions to the regions where respondents live, the majority of respondents hunt in the region they live (**Table 6**). While still the minority, respondents who live in the Piedmont but do not hunt exclusively in the Piedmont either hunt in the Coastal region or in multiple regions. Respondents who live in the Mountains most often hunt in multiple regions, if they do not hunt exclusively in the mountains.

Table 6. Turkey management regions where respondents hunt versus where they live

	Lives on Coast (n = 312)	Lives in Piedmont (n = 465)	Lives in Mountains (n = 150)
Hunts on Coast	290 (93%)	45 (10%)	2 (1%)
Hunts in Piedmont	5 (2%)	353 (76%)	3 (2%)
Hunts in Mountains	2 (1%)	10 (2%)	130 (87%)
Hunts in Multiple Regions	15 (5%)	57 (12%)	15 (10%)

Next, respondents were asked to share the property size of the property where they hunt. The average property size for turkey hunting, statewide, was 535 acres (range: 2 – 10,000, n = 1,060). Comparisons with average property size and region hunted, age category, and property land type can be found beginning on page 74.

Respondents then selected on what kind of land they hunted (**Figure 11**). Most respondents indicated they hunted only on private lands, while 22% hunted on game lands at least some of the time. The results of this question were simplified into respondents who only hunted on private lands (78%), only hunted on game lands (5%), and hunted on both public and private lands (17%) for secondary analysis.

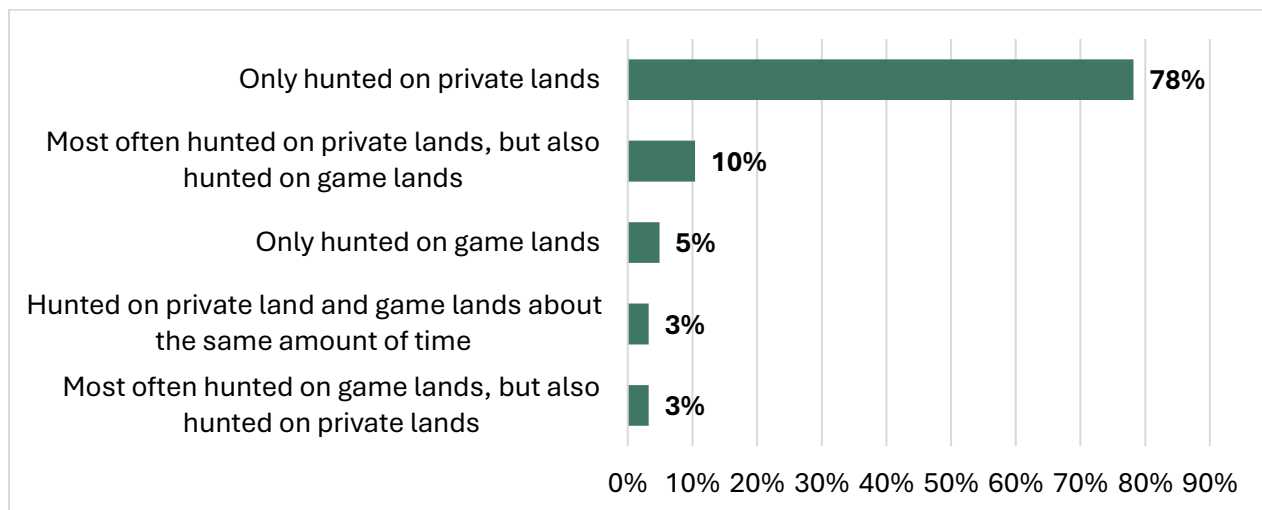


Figure 11. Land type respondents hunted (n = 1,141)

Land type respondents hunted on was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.15**) and age category (**Appendix A.16**). Respondents who hunted in the Mountains and multiple regions were more likely to indicate hunting on both public and private land ($\chi^2 = 114.38$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents between the ages of 18 and 40 were more likely to indicate hunting on both public and private land ($\chi^2 = 15.63$, $p < 0.01$).

If respondents hunted on private land, they were asked to select any land management practices they use on that land (**Figure 12**). The largest proportion of respondents indicated they used mowing and food plots on their private property. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in what other kind of land management they do on their property, and respondents said maintaining agricultural fields ($n = 18$), trapping ($n = 3$), and limiting harvest on their property ($n = 3$, **Appendix A.17**).

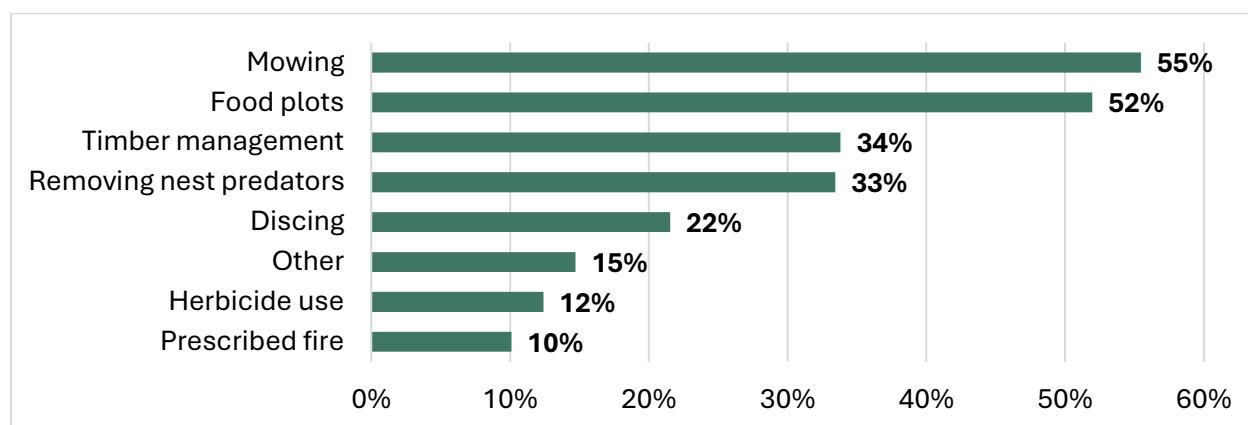


Figure 12. Land management practices respondents use on private land ($n = 822$)

Use of land management practices were compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.18**) and age category (**Appendix A.19**). Respondents who hunted on the coast were more likely to indicate they mowed their private land ($\chi^2 = 12.75$, $p = 0.01$), disced their land ($\chi^2 = 18.95$, $p < 0.01$), used herbicide ($\chi^2 = 11.49$, $p = 0.01$), and prescribed fire ($\chi^2 = 8.77$, $p = 0.03$). Respondents who hunted in multiple regions were more likely to use timber management ($\chi^2 = 13.20$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to indicate they remove nest predators from their property ($\chi^2 = 10.93$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents over 61 were more likely to indicate they use prescribe fire ($\chi^2 = 5.91$, $p = 0.05$).

Next, respondents were asked what weapons they used to hunt turkeys (**Figure 13**). Nearly all respondents indicated they used a shotgun to hunt turkeys. Less than ten percent of respondents indicated they used a bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzle-loading shotgun.

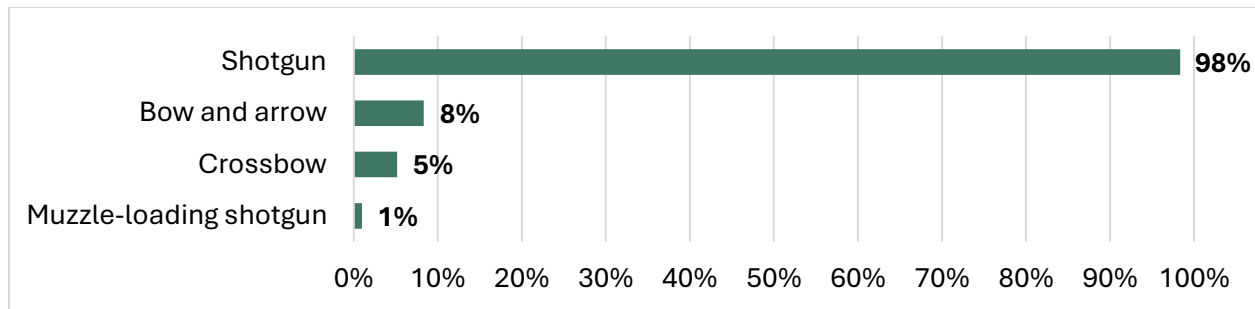


Figure 13. Weapons respondents use to hunt turkey (n = 1,142)

The weapons respondents used were compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.20**) and age category (**Appendix A.21**). Respondents who hunted in the mountains were less likely to indicate they hunted with a shotgun ($\chi^2 = 12.03$, $p = 0.01$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to indicate they hunted with a bow and arrow ($\chi^2 = 5.87$, $p = 0.05$). Respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to indicate they hunted with a crossbow ($\chi^2 = 9.10$, $p = 0.01$) and a muzzle-loading shotgun ($\chi^2 = 7.08$, $p = 0.03$).

If respondents used a shotgun, they were asked to report what type of shot they used (**Figure 14**). The largest proportion of respondents reported using #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot and #5 lead shot. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in what other types of shot they used, and they reported turkey shot (n = 15), hevi shot (n = 10), and number 9 TSS (n = 7, **Appendix A.22**).

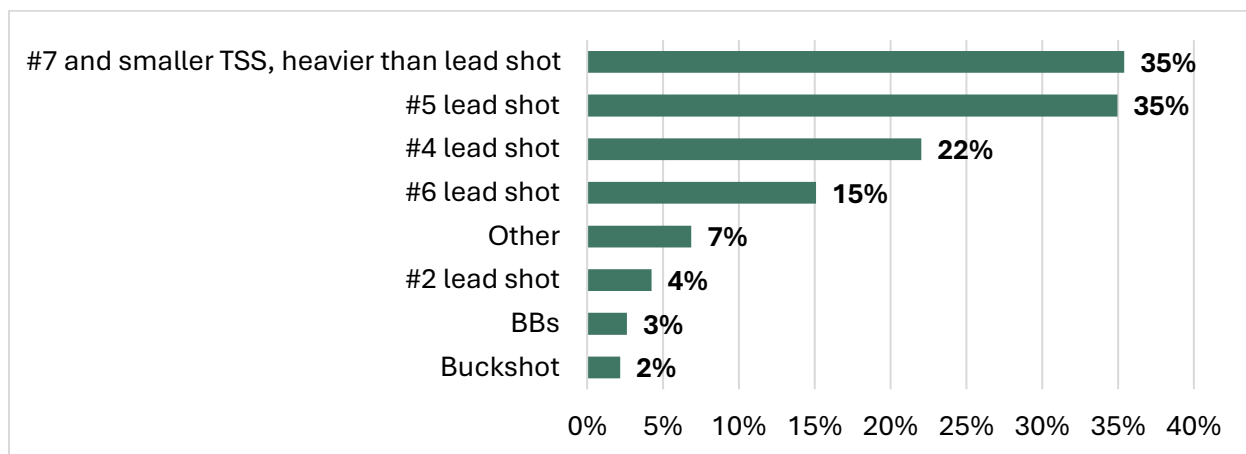


Figure 14. Types of shot respondents reported using (n = 1,107)

There were no statistically significant differences in types of shot used and region hunted. Types of shot used was compared to age category, and there were statistically significant differences (**Appendix A.23**). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to indicate they used #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot ($\chi^2 = 20.44$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents who were 61 years or older were more likely to use #4 lead shot ($\chi^2 = 10.30$, $p = 0.01$).

Respondents who used shotguns were asked to report approximately how many shells they used during the 2025 turkey season, and the average was 1 shell (range: 0 – 60, n = 1,047). This question was compared with multiple other variables. First, number of shells was compared to region hunted (**Table 7**). All regions matched the overall average, except for the hunters who hunted the coastal region which had an average of 2 shells. There were no statistically significant differences in number of shells used and region hunted ($F(3, 983) = 2.10, p = 0.10$).

Table 7. Number of shells used by region hunted

Region	Average Number of Shells Used	n
Coastal	1.54	360
Piedmont	0.98	389
Mountains	1.15	144
Multiple Regions	1.48	94

Next, respondents were asked what time of day they hunted turkeys this season (**Figure 15**). Most respondents reported both in the morning and afternoon, followed by hunting in the morning only.

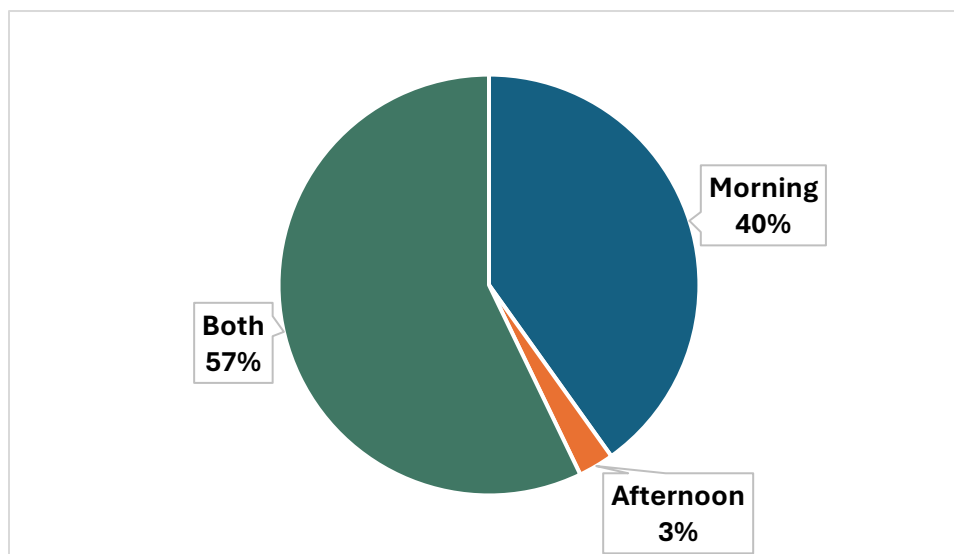


Figure 15. What time of day respondents hunted (n = 1,134)

Time of day hunted was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.24**) and age (**Appendix A.25**). Respondents who hunted in multiple regions reported hunting in both the morning and afternoon more than respondents who hunted in any of the three single regions ($\chi^2 = 18.09, p = 0.01$). Respondents who hunted in the piedmont were more likely to indicate they hunted in the morning only. Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to indicate they hunted both in

the morning and afternoon ($\chi^2 = 12.52$, $p = 0.01$), and respondents 61 years or older were more likely to indicate they hunt in the morning only.

Then, respondents were asked how many turkeys they harvested during the 2025 season (**Figure 16**). Most respondents reported not harvesting any turkeys.

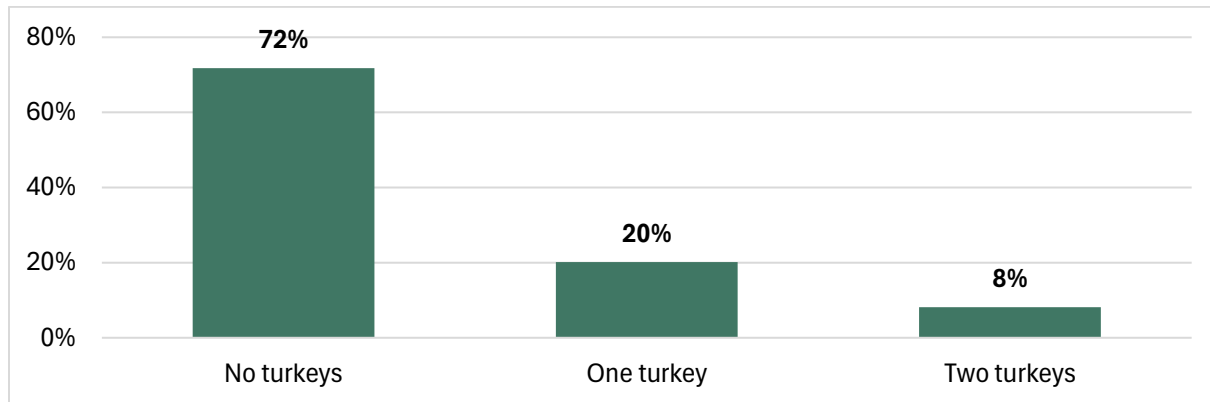


Figure 16. How many turkeys respondents harvested during the 2025 season ($n = 1,133$)

How many turkeys respondents harvested during the 2025 season was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.26**) and age category (**Appendix A.27**). Respondents who hunted in the piedmont and mountains were more likely to report they did not harvest a turkey ($\chi^2 = 18.09$, $p = 0.01$), while respondents who hunted on the coast were more likely to report they harvested a turkey, and respondents who hunted in multiple regions were more likely to report they harvested two turkeys. Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to report they harvested one or two turkeys ($\chi^2 = 17.92$, $p < 0.01$).

Next, respondents reported what time of day they harvested their turkeys (**Figure 17**). Most respondents reported harvesting their turkeys in the morning, followed by the afternoon.

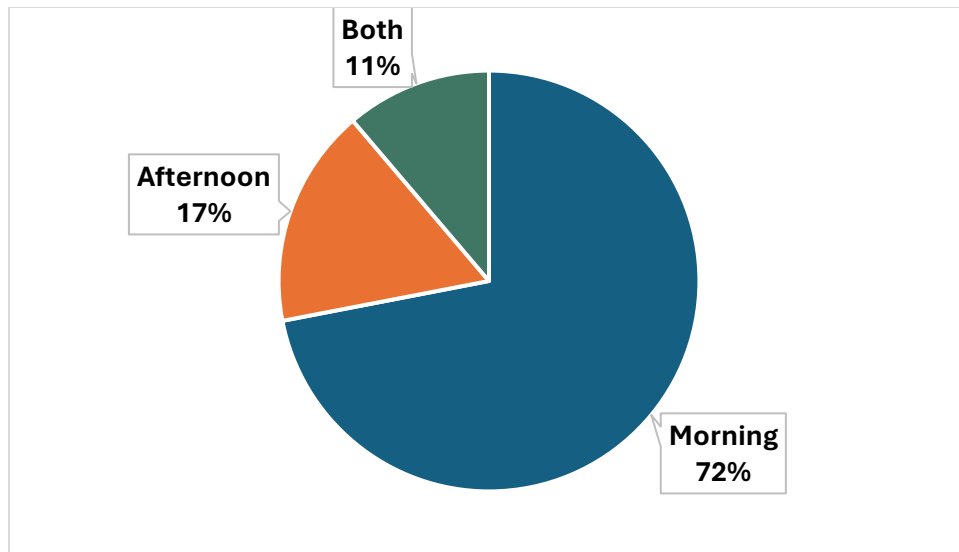


Figure 17. What time of day respondents harvested their turkeys (n = 321)

There were not significant differences in times of day turkey harvested and region hunted, however, there were when compared to age category (**Appendix A.28**). Respondents between 41 and 60 years old were less likely to report they harvested a turkey in both the morning and afternoon ($\chi^2 = 9.78$, $p = 0.04$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to report a harvest in the afternoon, and respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to report a harvest in the morning.

Respondents were then asked to share how far away the turkeys they harvested were (**Figure 18**). As the bag limit for turkeys is two, respondents were able to select two distances. The largest proportion of respondents reported they harvested a turkey between 21 and 30 yards away, followed by between 11 and 20 yards.

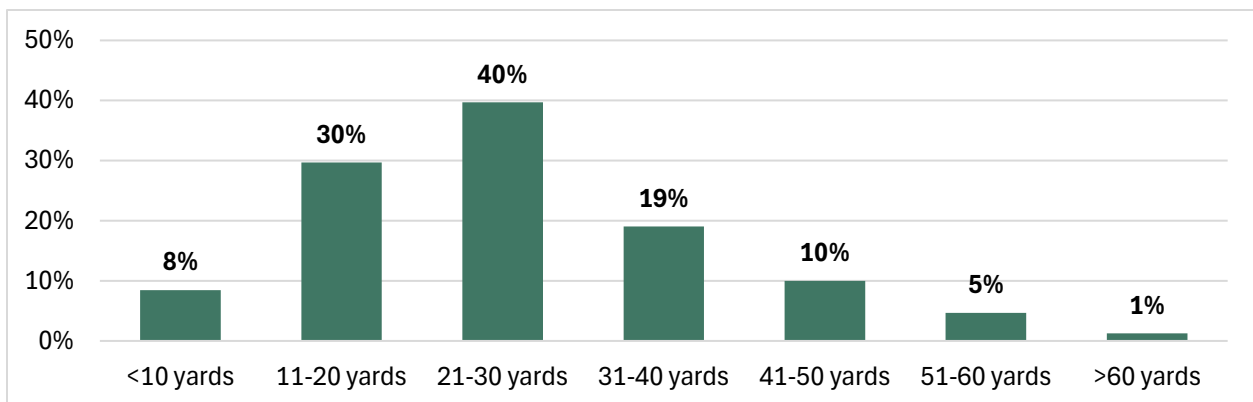


Figure 18. How far away respondents reported harvest was (n = 320)

Each distance was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.29**) and age category (**Appendix A.30**). The only statistically significant differences were for distances of less than 10 yards. Hunters who hunt on the coast were more likely to report harvesting a turkey less than 10 yards away ($\chi^2 = 12.88$, $p = 0.01$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were also more likely to report harvesting a turkey less than 10 yards away ($\chi^2 = 7.66$, $p = 0.02$).

Next, respondents were asked how often they use tools like decoys, blinds, reaping and fanning while they're turkey hunting in North Carolina (**Figure 19**). The largest proportion of respondents reported using decoys and blinds at least sometimes and never use fanning or reaping.

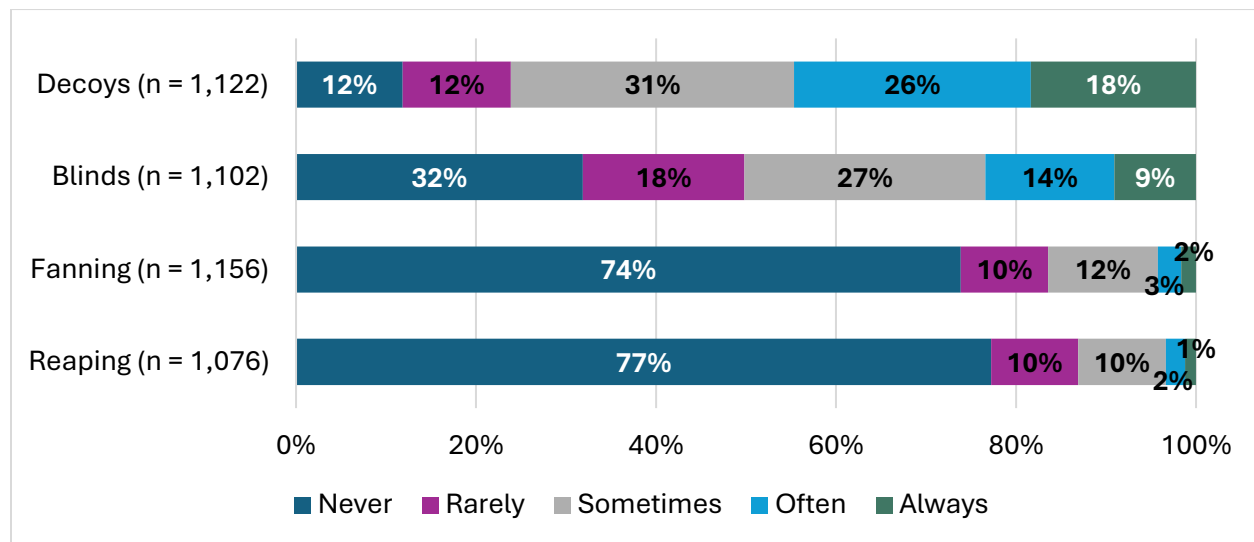


Figure 19. Frequency of use of tools while turkey hunting in North Carolina

Use of tools during turkey hunting was compared to region hunted, and age category, and there were statistically significant differences with each tool and region hunted and age category. Respondents who hunted on the coast were more likely to report using decoys ($\chi^2 = 36.85$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.31**), blinds ($\chi^2 = 24.89$, $p = 0.02$, **Appendix A.32**), reaping ($\chi^2 = 29.71$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.33**) and fanning ($\chi^2 = 30.64$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.34**) more often than other regions. Respondents 61 years or older were more likely to report using decoys ($\chi^2 = 16.74$, $p = 0.03$, **Appendix A.35**) and blinds ($\chi^2 = 86.76$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.36**) more frequently than younger respondents. However, respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to report using reaping ($\chi^2 = 15.54$, $p = 0.05$, **Appendix A.37**) and fanning ($\chi^2 = 31.08$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.38**) than older respondents.

Respondents were asked to list what conservation groups they were a member of (**Table 8**). Only 158 individuals listed a conservation group (~15% of respondents), and most respondents were a member of a chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, or the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Table 8. Respondent membership in conservation groups (n = 158)

Conservation group	n
National Wild Turkey Federation	93
Ducks Unlimited	42
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	13

Respondents were asked how crowded the area where they turkey hunted most often was during the 2025 season (**Figure 20**). Most respondents indicated it was not at all crowded.

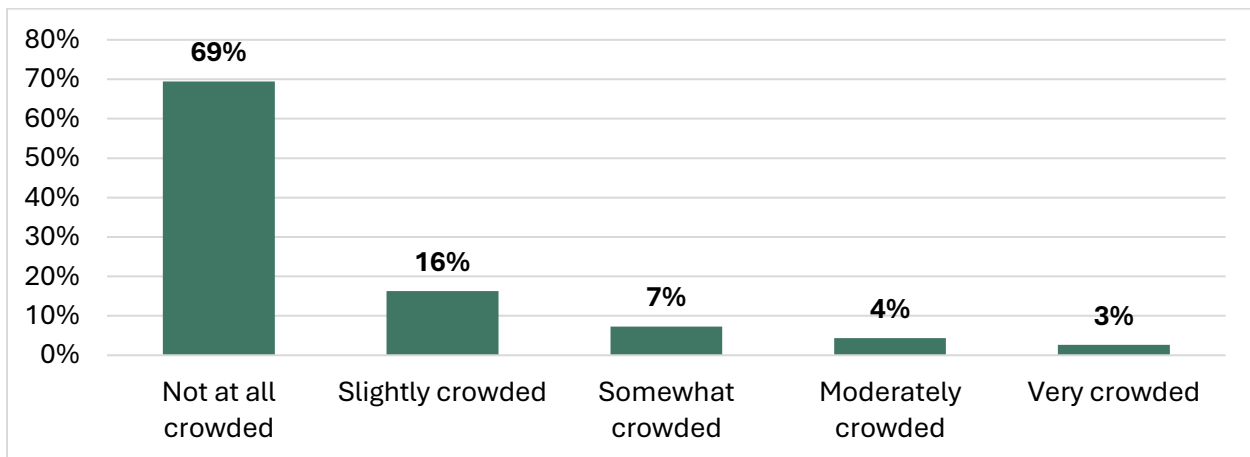


Figure 20. Level of crowding where respondents went hunting the most (n = 1,124)

Perception of crowding was compared to age (**Appendix A.39**) and the kind of land (public vs. private) respondents hunted on (**Appendix A.40**). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to indicate where they hunted was crowded ($\chi^2 = 29.82$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents who only hunted on public lands were more likely to indicate where they hunted was crowded ($\chi^2 = 162.10$, $p < 0.01$).

Next, respondents were asked to share how many other hunters they saw on the most crowded day while they were hunting this season, and the average number was two other hunters on the most crowded day (range: 0-50, n = 928).

A one-way ANOVA was performed to compare the effect of region hunted on the average number of other hunters respondents say on their most crowded day (**Table 9**). There was a statistically significant difference in number of hunters seen on their most crowded day between region hunted ($F(3,869) = 3.18$, $p = 0.02$). Specifically, average number of hunters seen on most crowded day was different between coastal hunters and piedmont hunters ($p = 0.02$). However, there were no statistically significant differences between mountain hunters or hunters that hunted in multiple regions with either coastal or piedmont hunters.

Table 9. Average number of hunters seen on most crowded day by region hunted

	Coastal	Piedmont	Mountains	Multiple Regions	F
Average number of hunters seen	2.31 ^a	1.51 ^b	1.93 ^{a,b}	2.22 ^{a,b}	10.12 ^{**}
n	310	347	139	77	
Notes: *p < .05 **p<.01; means with different subscripts are statistically different (Bonferroni's post-hoc test)					

Respondents were then asked how often they experienced competition from other hunters where they hunted most often (**Figure 21**). The largest proportion of respondents indicated they never experienced competition from other hunters.

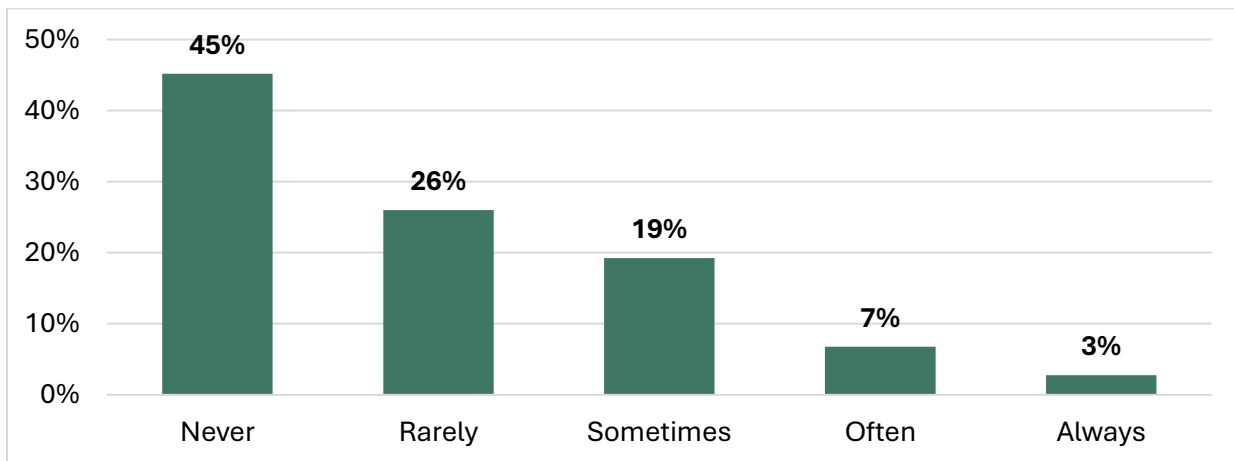


Figure 21. How often respondents experience competition from other hunters (n = 1,122)

How often respondents experience competition from other hunters was compared to age category (**Appendix A.41**). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to report higher frequency of competition from other hunters ($\chi^2 = 16.51$, $p = 0.04$). How often respondents experience competition from other hunters was also compared to region hunted, and there was not a statistically significant difference.

If respondents reported experiencing any competition from other hunters, they were then asked what kind of disruptions they experienced during turkey hunting in North Carolina in 2025 (**Figure 22**). The largest proportion of respondents reported interference by other hunters, followed by dogs and other people, who were not hunters. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in other disruptions they experienced, and they said coyotes (n = 21), farming and logging operations (n = 9), and other wild animals, including deer, bobcats, and feral hogs (n = 6, **Appendix A.42**).

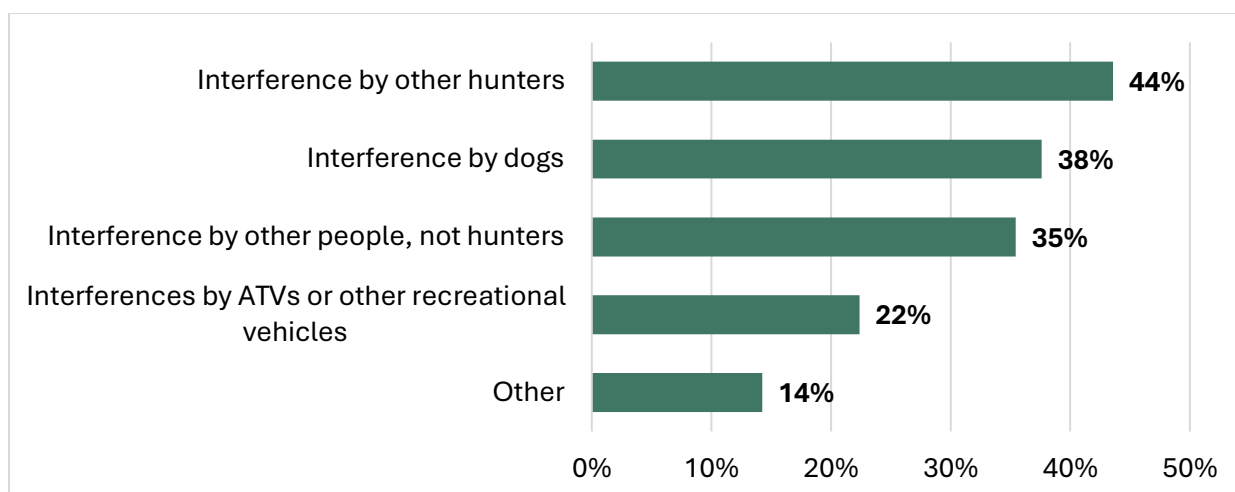


Figure 22. Disruptions respondents experienced while turkey hunting (n = 505)

Disruptions were compared to age category, and there was only one statistically significant difference (**Appendix A.43**). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to experience interference by other people who are not hunters than older hunters ($\chi^2 = 6.92$, $p = 0.03$).

Respondents were then asked if they saw any illegal hunting or rules violations, and nearly all respondents said they had not (96%, **Appendix A.44**). There were no significant differences between seeing illegal hunting or rules violation with age category or region hunted.

Respondents were also asked if they hunted turkeys in states other than North Carolina (**Appendix A.45**). Only 13% of respondents reported hunting turkeys in another state, and there were no significant differences with region hunted or age category. Respondents harvested, on average, one turkey in another state (range 0 – 7, $n = 135$). Respondents were asked to list the other states they hunted in and the most popular other states were Virginia, South Carolina and Florida (**Table 10**).

Table 10. Other states where respondents hunt (n = 139)

State	n
Virginia	42
South Carolina	25
Florida	11

The last question in this section asked respondents how satisfied they were with their turkey hunting experience in North Carolina in general (**Figure 23**). The majority of respondents were at least satisfied with their experience.

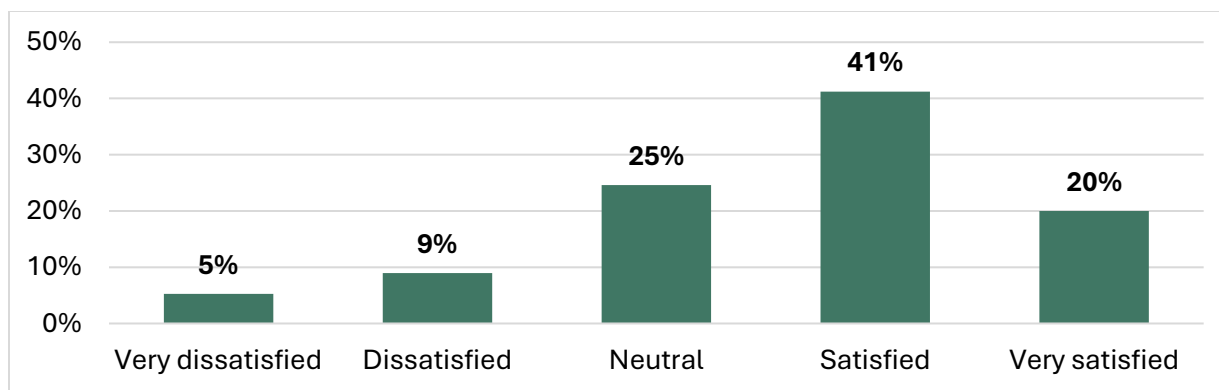


Figure 23. Respondent satisfaction with their overall turkey hunting experience in North Carolina (n = 1,119)

Overall satisfaction was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.46**), what kind of land respondents hunted on (**Appendix A.47**), and reported harvest (**Appendix A.48**). Respondents who hunted in the mountain region were more likely to be less satisfied with their turkey hunting experience, and respondents who hunted in the coastal region were more likely to be more satisfied with their turkey hunting experience ($\chi^2 = 54.46$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents who hunted on public land were more likely to report neutral, and respondents who hunted on private land only were more likely to be more satisfied with their turkey hunting experience ($\chi^2 = 37.15$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents who didn't harvest any turkeys were more likely to be less satisfied than hunters who harvested at least one turkey ($\chi^2 = 73.69$, $p < 0.01$).

Opinions on Turkey Management

Respondents were asked a series of questions on their opinions on turkey management, the NCWRC and current regulations. The first question asked respondents to report their level of trust in the NCWRC to manage and conserve turkeys and their habitats in North Carolina (**Figure 24**). Most respondents reported having at least somewhat high trust in the NCWRC.

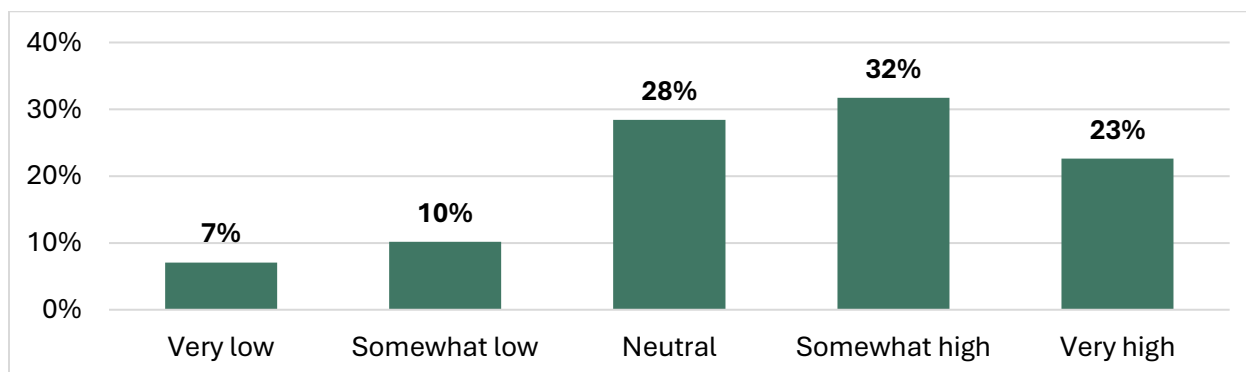


Figure 24. Respondent trust in NCWRC to manage and conserve turkeys and their habitats (n = 1,062)

Trust in the NCWRC to manage turkeys was compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.49**) and age category (**Appendix A.50**). Respondents who hunted in the coastal region were more likely to have high trust in the NCWRC, while respondents who hunted in the mountains were more likely to have lower trust in the NCWRC ($\chi^2 = 26.75$, $p = 0.01$). Respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to report higher trust in the NCWRC than younger respondents ($\chi^2 = 19.40$, $p = 0.01$).

Next, respondents were asked how familiar they were with the turkey harvest summaries and trends reported by the NCWRC (**Figure 25**), and most respondents were at least somewhat familiar. Familiarity with turkey harvest summaries and trends were compared to region hunted and age category, and there are no statistically significant differences.

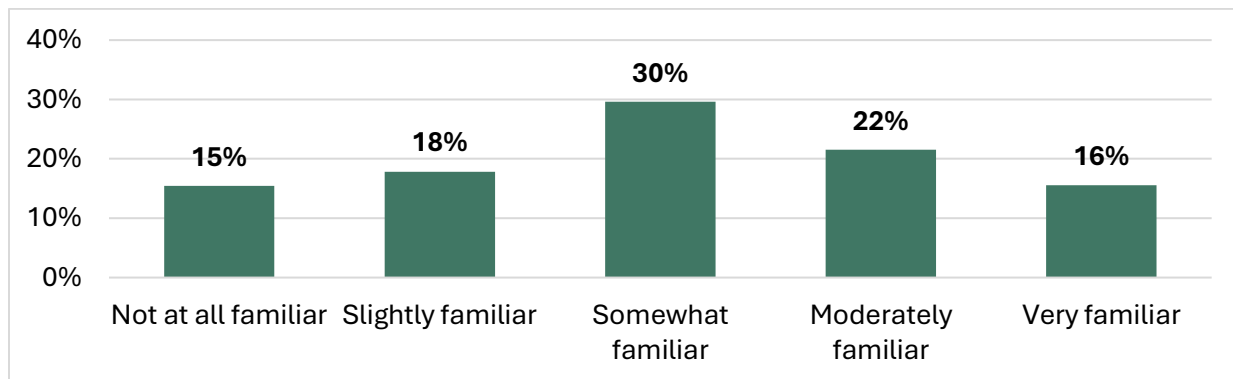


Figure 25. Respondent familiarity with NCWRC turkey harvest summaries and trends (n = 1,054)

Respondents were also asked to rate their agreement with four statements regarding the NCWRC's turkey management (**Figure 26**). While there were similar rates of disagreement (10-13% strongly disagree or disagree), the statement that had the highest agreement was that the NCWRC has appropriate regulations for turkey hunting in North Carolina. The statement with the lowest agreement and highest neutral reports was that the NCWRC incorporates hunters' input into turkey management decisions.

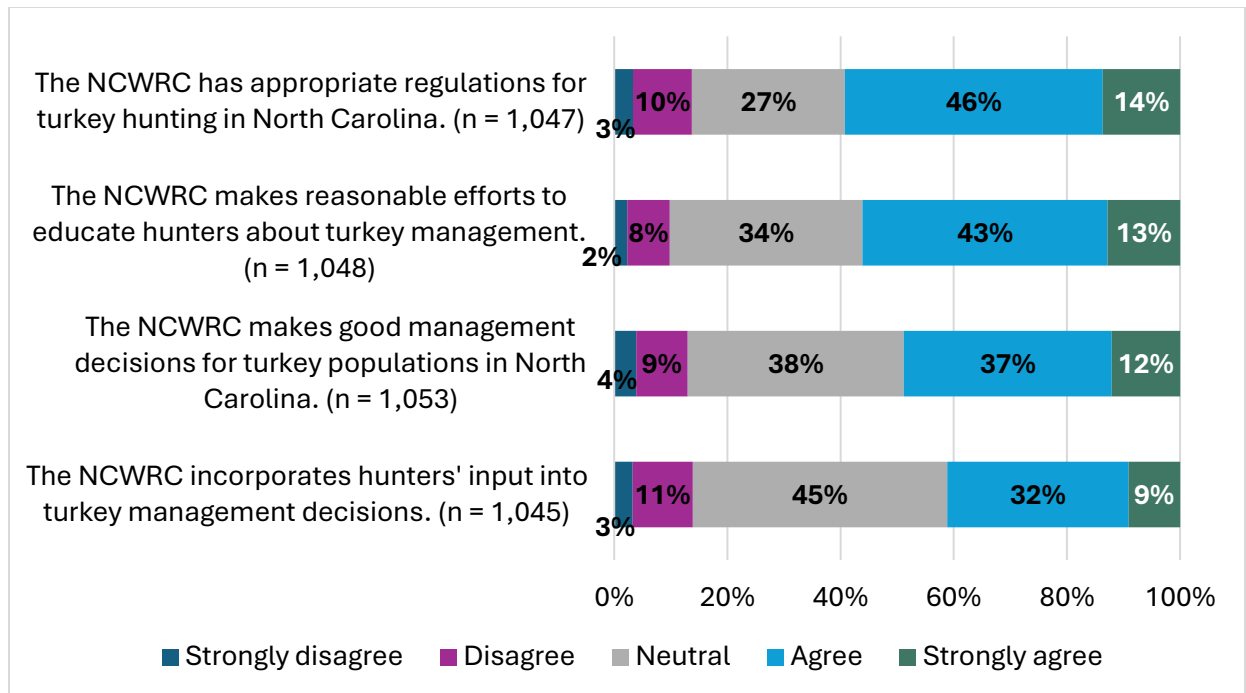


Figure 26. Respondents' agreement with statements on the NCWRC's turkey management

Respondents' agreement with each of the previous statements were compared to age category. Respondents 61 years or older were more likely to agree that the NCWRC has appropriate regulations for turkey hunting in North Carolina ($\chi^2 = 16.70$, $p = 0.03$, **Appendix A.51**), makes reasonable efforts to educate hunters about turkey management ($\chi^2 = 32.12$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.52**), makes good management decisions for turkey populations ($\chi^2 = 25.98$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.53**), and the NCWRC incorporates hunters' input into turkey management decisions ($\chi^2 = 21.67$, $p = 0.01$, **Appendix A.54**).

Respondents' agreement with each of the previous statements was also compared to years turkey hunted. There was not a significant difference between agreement on the NCWRC having appropriate regulations for turkey hunting in North Carolina and year turkey hunted. Respondents who have been turkey hunting five years or less (2025 being their first year or hunted 2-5 years) were more likely to agree with the NCWRC makes reasonable efforts to educate hunters about turkey management ($\chi^2 = 44.76$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.55**), makes good management decisions for turkey populations ($\chi^2 = 39.34$, $p = 0.01$, **Appendix A.56**), and that the NCWRC incorporates hunters' input into turkey management decisions ($\chi^2 = 49.31$, $p < 0.01$, **Appendix A.57**).

Next, respondents were asked their perception of how the turkey population has changed in the last five years (**Figure 27**). While the largest proportion of respondents indicated the population was about the same, more respondents said the population had decreased rather than increased.

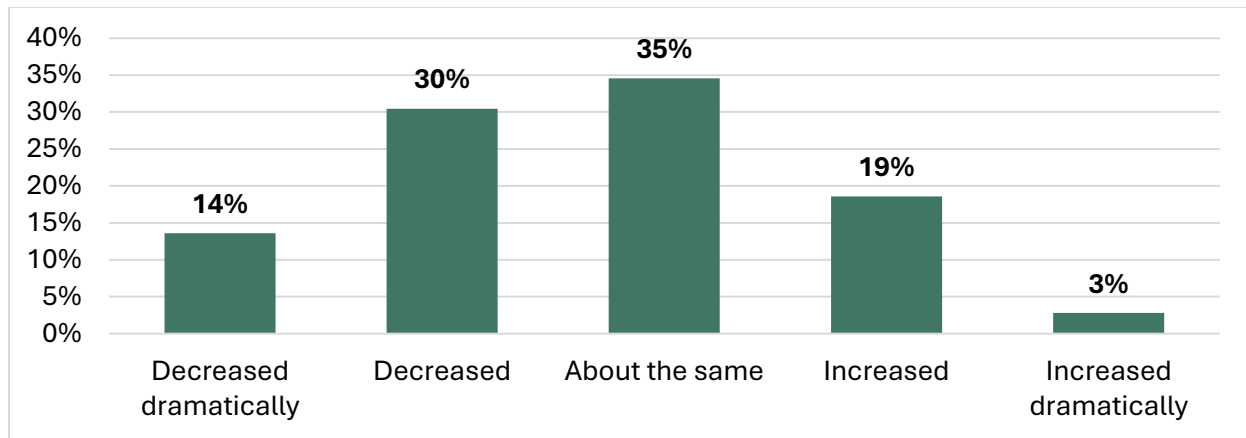


Figure 27. Respondents’ perception of how the turkey population where they hunt has changed over the last five years (n = 1,067)

Respondents’ perceptions of how the turkey population has changed was compared to how long they have been turkey hunting (**Appendix A.58**). In general, the longer respondents have been turkey hunting, the more likely they are to indicate the turkey population has decreased ($\chi^2 = 50.34$, $p < 0.01$). Particularly, respondents who have been turkey hunting longer than 25 years were more likely to report the turkey population has decreased dramatically. Conversely, respondents who indicated 2025 was the first year they went turkey hunting were more likely to report the turkey population has increased. This may be because individuals who have been turkey hunting longer saw the restoration of the turkey populations in North Carolina.

Respondents’ perceptions of how the turkey population has changed was also compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.59**). Respondents who hunt in the mountain region were more likely to indicate the turkey population has decreased dramatically, while respondents who hunt on the coast were more likely to indicate the turkey population has stayed the same, or increased ($\chi^2 = 84.46$, $p < 0.01$).

Next, respondents were asked to indicate how important and how satisfied they were with attributes of turkey hunting (**Table 11**). “Spending time outdoors” had both the highest average importance and average satisfaction. “Feeling safe while hunting” was the second highest average importance and average satisfaction. However, “Hearing turkeys gobbling” was the third highest average importance but “Hunting with friends and family” was the third highest average satisfaction. Interestingly, “Harvesting a turkey” was the lowest average importance and average satisfaction.

Table 11. Importance and satisfaction rankings for attributes of turkey hunting

Attribute	Importance		Satisfaction	
	Average	n	Average	n
Spending time outdoors	4.64	1,053	4.54	1,026
Feeling safe while hunting	4.61	1,054	4.38	1,023
Hearing turkeys gobbling	4.19	1,057	3.42	1,038
Seeing turkeys	4.06	1,056	3.43	1,041
Hunting with friends and family	3.95	1,053	4.15	1,030
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.90	1,050	3.38	1,032
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	3.84	1,053	4.05	1,025
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.78	1,052	3.39	1,037
Mentoring new hunters	3.74	1,046	3.87	1,027
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.72	1,051	3.40	1,034
Harvesting a turkey	3.21	1,049	3.32	1,031
Note: Importance was ranked on a scale from 1 (Not at all important) to 5 (Extremely important); Satisfaction was ranked on a scale from 1 (Very dissatisfied) to 5 (Very satisfied)				

A series of ordered logistic regressions were run to determine if there were differences with importance and satisfaction and region hunted, age category, land type hunted and years turkey hunted. Tables outlining the results of these regressions can be found in **Appendix A.60-A.67**.

Average satisfaction and importance were plotted against each other in a Satisfaction-Importance Matrix (**Figure 28**). While there are four quadrants on the graph, all attributes fell within the top right quadrant. This is the “Keep up the good work category” with attributes that have high satisfaction and high importance (Wade and Eagles 2003).



Figure 28. Satisfaction – Importance Matrix for attributes of turkey hunting

Due to all items falling in the “Keep up the good work” category, the data are alternatively presented in **Figure 29, with the median ratings for importance and satisfaction used as the midpoint rather than the scale midpoint.** With this adjustment, the items that respondents place the highest satisfaction with, and importance on, but had the least satisfaction with were hearing turkeys gobbling and seeing turkeys. This indicates that knowing turkeys are in the area without intervention by the hunter is important but may not be happening as often as the average hunter would like.

Respondents placed the highest importance on spending time outdoors, and feeling safe while hunting. Hunting with friends and family and hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting had relatively high satisfaction, but low importance, meaning these items do not necessarily need to be focused on. Items that were on the lower end of satisfaction, but also had lower importance were harvesting a turkey, harvesting a mature turkey, mentoring new hunters, having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling, and calling a turkey into shooting range. Four of these five items are related to the activity of, or activities surrounding harvest of a turkey. This indicates harvest may not be as high of a priority for the average turkey hunter.

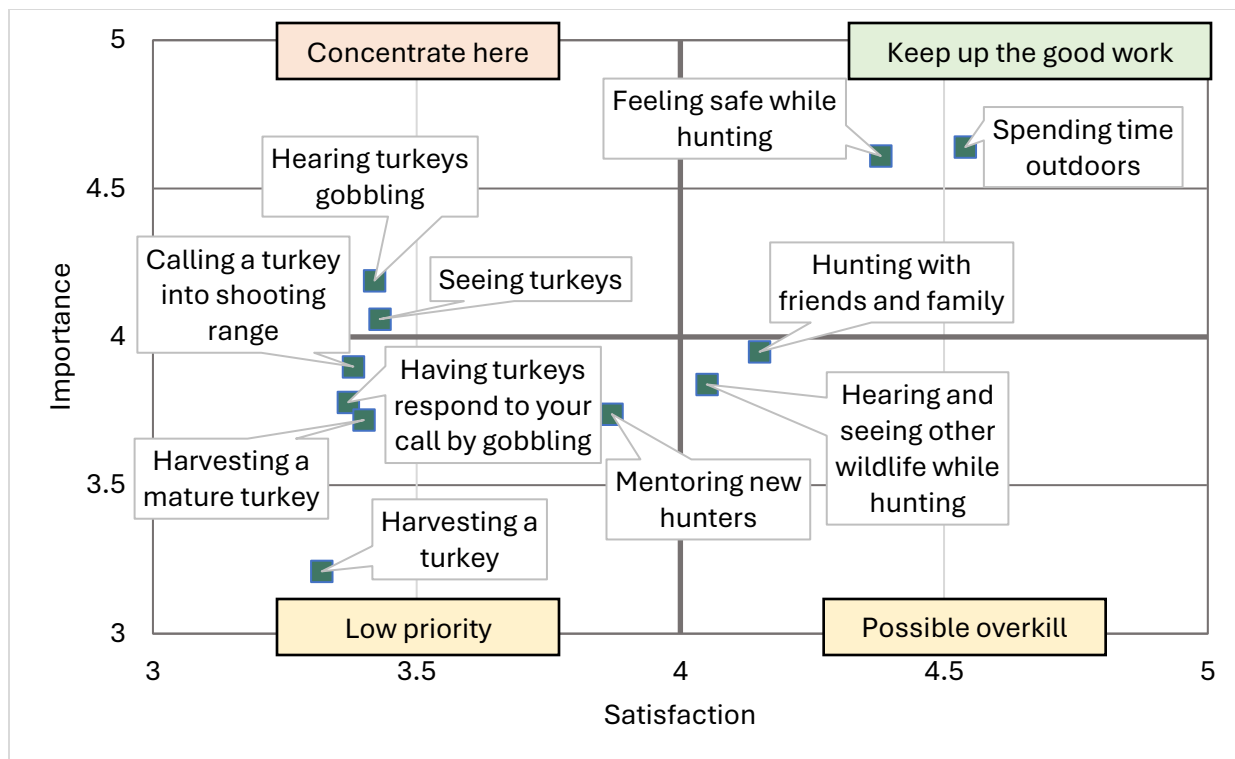


Figure 29. Satisfaction – Importance Matrix for attributes of turkey hunting if only the top right quadrant is considered

The next three questions asked respondents to consider their opinion of a quality hunt. For that hunt, they were asked about aspects of that ideal hunt. First, respondents were asked how many turkeys they would hear gobbling, on their idea of a quality hunt (**Figure 30**). Most respondents indicated they would hear between one and four turkeys on a quality hunt. This was compared to region hunted and age category, and there were no significant differences.

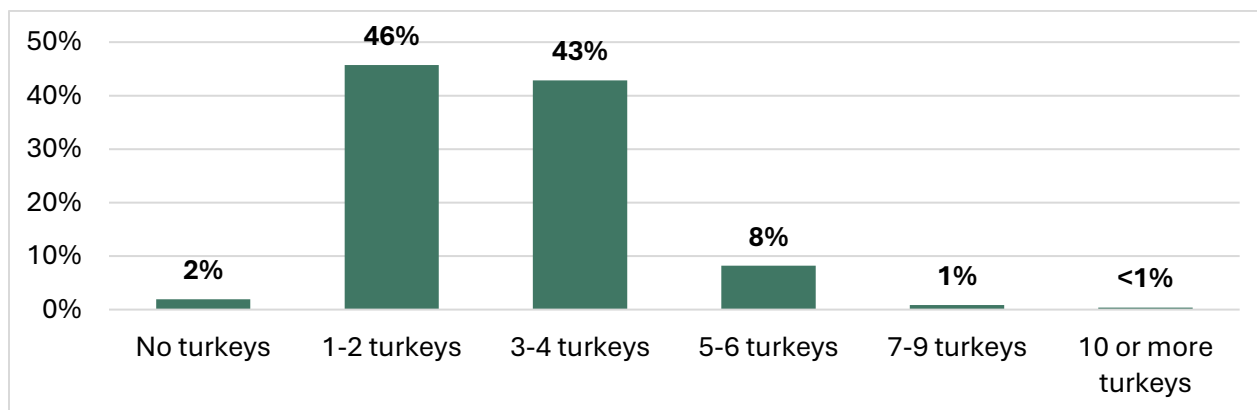


Figure 30. Number of turkeys heard on a quality hunt (n = 1,045)

The next question pertained to how many acres should there be per hunter, on their idea of a quality hunt (**Figure 31**). The category selected the most was 50 acres per hunter.

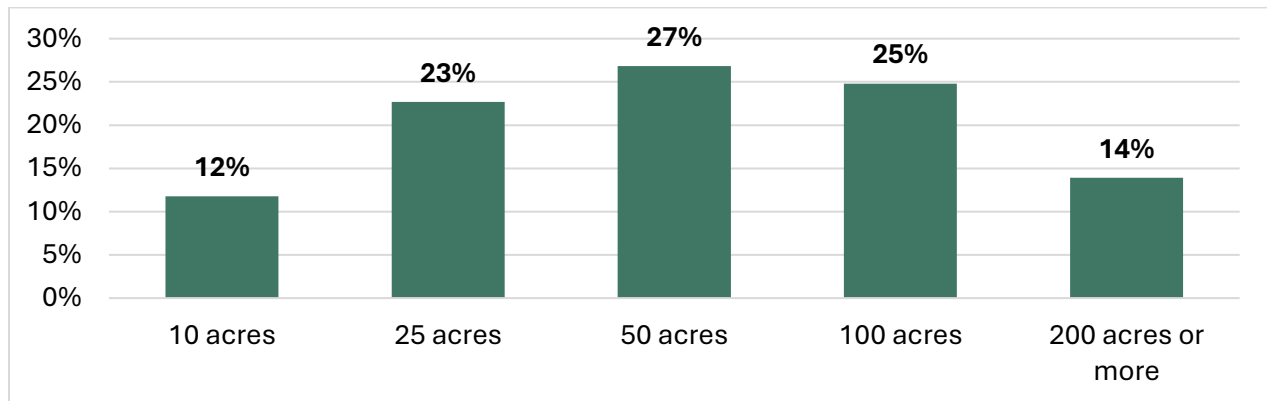


Figure 31. Acres per turkey hunter on a quality hunt (n = 1,036)

Perceptions of appropriate acres per turkey hunter on a quality hunt were compared to age category and region hunted, neither of which produced significant differences. However, perceptions were compared to land type hunted, and there was a significant difference (**Appendix A.68**). Respondents who hunted on both public and private land were more likely to select more acres per hunter ($\chi^2 = 17.45$, $p = 0.03$).

As crowding may be a concern, respondents were asked what an acceptable number of other hunters to see in one day was while they are hunting (**Figure 32**). Most respondents indicated it was acceptable to see one or two other hunters, followed by seeing no other hunters. Less than ten percent of respondents indicated it was okay to see more than three other hunters in one day.

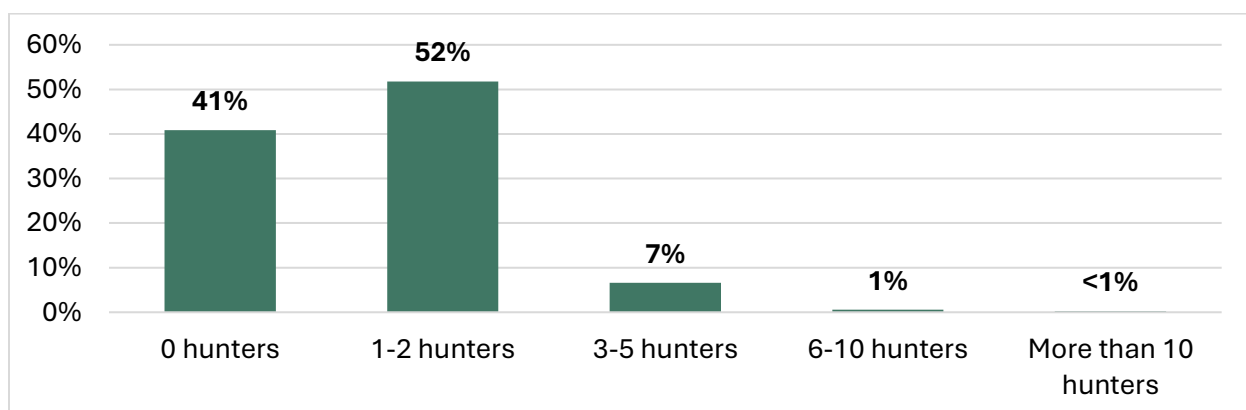


Figure 32. Acceptable number of other hunters seen in one day while hunting (n = 1,029)

Acceptable number of other hunters seen was compared to region hunted, and there were no statistically significant differences. However, acceptable number of other hunters seen was also

compared to age (**Appendix A.69**) and land type hunted (**Appendix A.70**). Respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to select seeing no other hunters was acceptable, while respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to indicate seeing one or two other hunters was acceptable ($\chi^2 = 30.67$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents who only hunted on private land were more likely to indicate seeing no other hunters was acceptable than hunters who hunted only on public land, or hunters who hunted both public and private land ($\chi^2 = 57.89$, $p < 0.01$).

Respondents were given a list of potential changes the NCWRC may consider should the turkey population decline in North Carolina and asked to rank each potential change with 1 being most preferred to 6 being the least preferred. Respondents rated lowering the bag limit as the most preferred, indicating that would be the most acceptable change (**Table 12**).

Table 12. Respondents' ranking of their preference of potential changes to turkey regulations should the turkey population decline (n = 930)

Regulation Change	Average Ranking
Lowering the bag limit	2.2
Shortening the season	3.1
Limiting hunting to morning hours only	3.2
Placing limitation on methods or weapons for take	3.3
Implementing a lottery for turkey tags	4.4
Other	4.9
<i>Note: Options ranked from 1 – 5 (1 = most preferred, 5 = least preferred)</i>	

Respondents were given the opportunity to write in what other regulation changes they felt could be an option (**Appendix A.71**). Respondents listed requiring increasing predator hunting (n = 46), a change in the season timing (n = 37), shortening the youth season (n = 21) and restricting jake harvest (n = 11). A series of ordered logistic regressions were run to compare rankings of potential regulation change to region hunted (**Appendix A.72**), age (**Appendix A.73**), and number of turkeys harvested (**Appendix A.74**).

Next, respondents were asked to share how satisfied they were with aspects of turkey hunting, primarily pertaining to regulations, and conditions of their hunt (**Figure 33**). Respondents were most satisfied with options to report a harvest and season bag limit. Most aspects had over 50% satisfaction rate, but there were three that did not, which were gobbler behavior where they hunt most often, the timing of season opening date and the number of turkeys heard where they hunt most often.

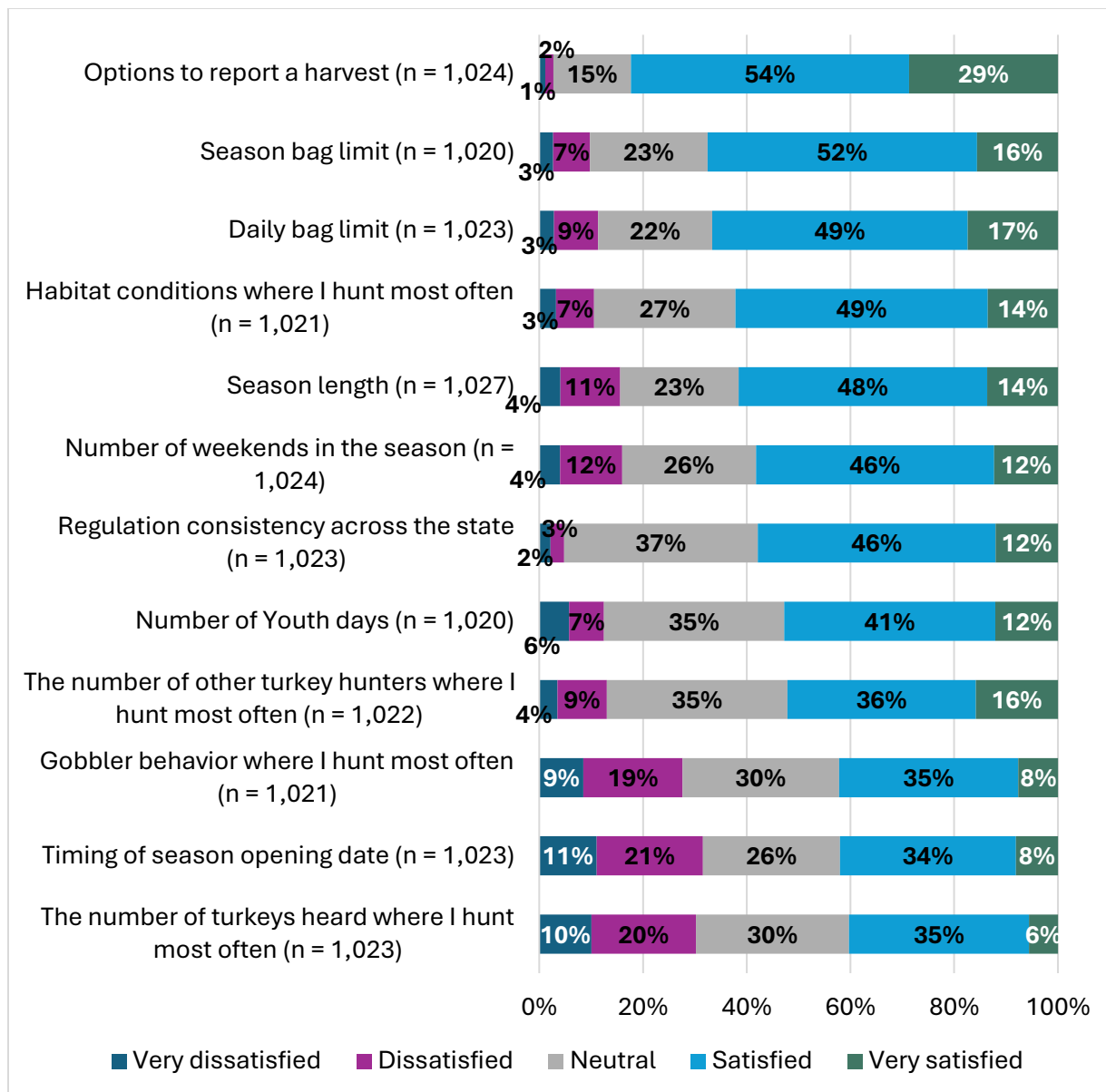


Figure 33. Respondent satisfaction with aspects of turkey hunting

A series of ordered logistic regressions were run to compare satisfaction with aspects of turkey hunting and region hunted (**Appendix A.75**), age category (**Appendix A.76**), land type hunted (**Appendix A.77**), and years turkey hunted (**Appendix A.78**).

Next, respondents were asked their thoughts on the opening date of turkey season in North Carolina (**Figure 34**). Just over half of respondents thought the season dates were about right, but slightly less thought the season opened too late. Perspectives on season timing were compared to region hunted, age and reported harvest, and there were no significant differences.

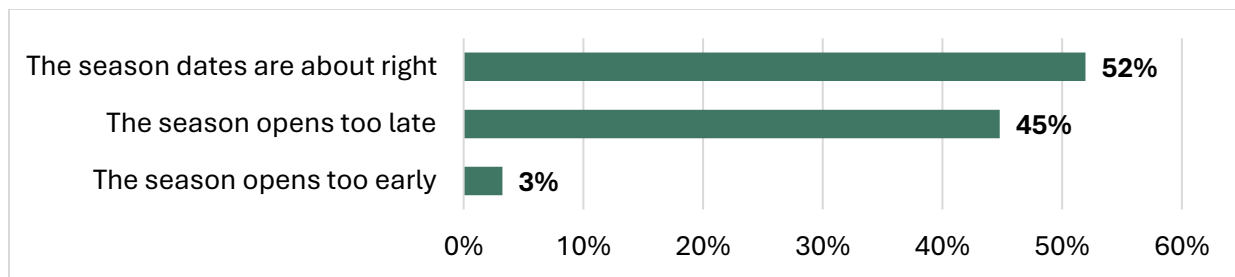


Figure 34. Respondent thoughts on timing of turkey hunting opening day (n = 1,018)

Respondents were then asked to share their agreement with four statements on the utilization of decoys while turkey hunting (**Figure 35**). Most respondents agreed that stationary decoys were both appropriate and safe to use. However, there was no consensus for stalking with decoys being appropriate or safe.

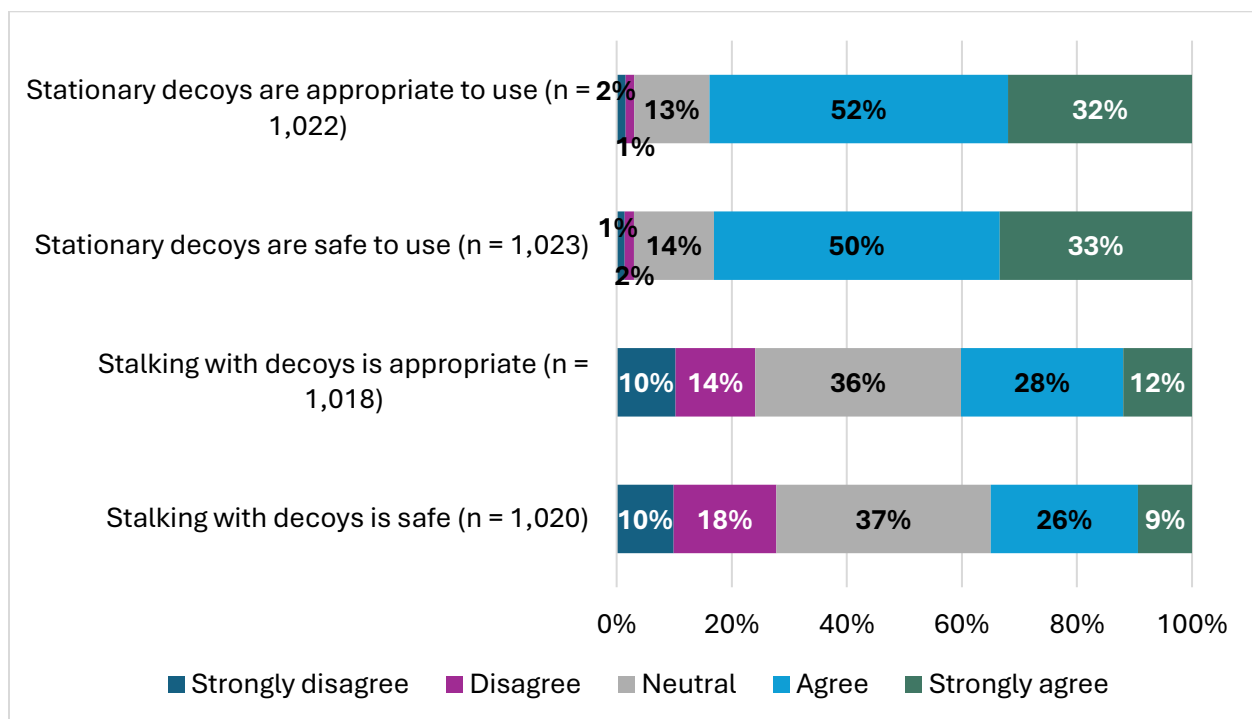


Figure 35. Respondent agreement on statements pertaining to decoy use

A series of ordered logistic regressions were run to determine to compare agreement on statements pertaining to decoy use and region hunted (**Appendix A.79**), and age category (**Appendix A.80**).

Communication Preferences for Turkey Information

Respondents were asked to select how they would like to prefer to receive information about turkey hunting in North Carolina (**Figure 36**). Most respondents selected NCWRC emails, the regulations digest, and the NCWRC website, indicating they would go to a NCWRC publication or resource for turkey hunting information. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in what other kind of communication channels they would like to get turkey hunting information from, and they wrote in through the mail or in print (n = 10), the GoOutdoors app (n = 6), emails (n = 3), and text messages (n = 3, **Appendix A.81**).

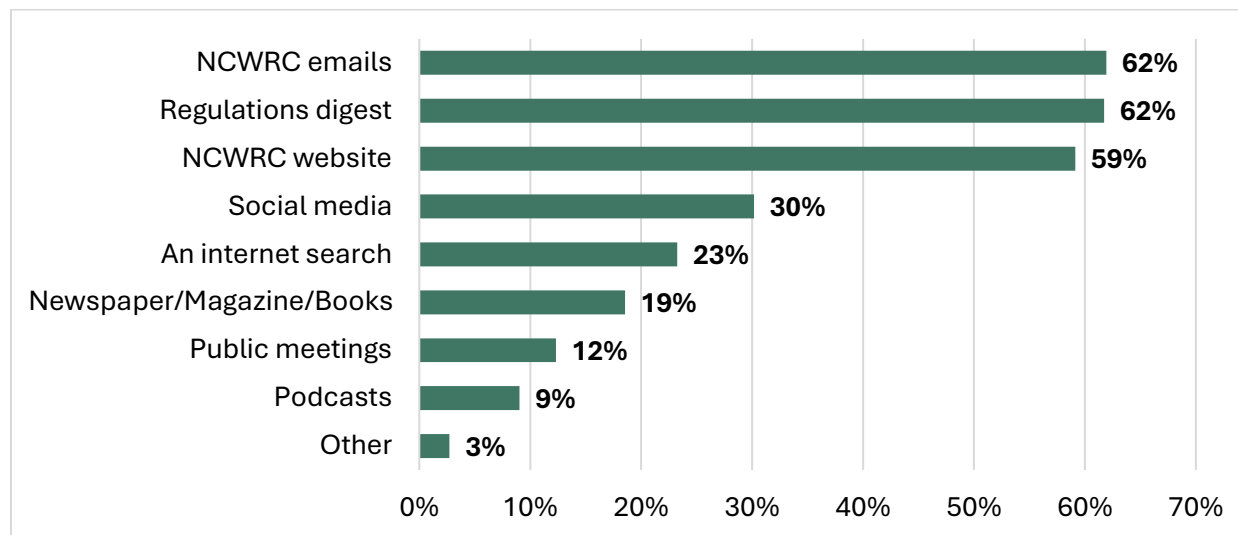


Figure 36. Respondent preference for receiving turkey information (n = 998)

Selection of communication channels were compared to region hunted (**Appendix A.82**) and age category (**Appendix A.83**). Respondents who hunted in the piedmont and in multiple regions were more likely to select NCWRC emails ($\chi^2 = 10.90$, $p = 0.01$). Respondents who hunted in the mountains and multiple regions were more likely to select public meetings ($\chi^2 = 11.34$, $p = 0.01$). When considering age, respondents between 18 and 40 years old were less likely to select regulations digest ($\chi^2 = 37.81$, $p < 0.01$). Conversely, respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to select social media ($\chi^2 = 77.62$, $p < 0.01$), an internet search ($\chi^2 = 6.63$, $p = 0.04$), newspaper, magazine or books ($\chi^2 = 17.55$, $p < 0.01$), and podcasts ($\chi^2 = 25.16$, $p < 0.01$).

Respondents were also asked to share what kind of information they would like to receive from the NCWRC about turkey hunting and management (**Table 13**). Respondents said they would like information on regulation changes, turkey population and health, harvest reports, management efforts from the NCWRC, and what hunters can do to help the population.

Table 13. Information respondents want from the NCWRC about turkey hunting and management (n = 390)

Theme	n
Regulation changes	157
Turkey population and health	82
Harvest reports	76
NCWRC management efforts	58
How hunters can help the population	44

Previous Turkey Hunters

Respondents who reported they have turkey hunted in North Carolina previously, but not this season were asked why they chose not to hunt turkeys this season (**Figure 37**). The most common reason was that they did not have time to hunt turkeys. The next most popular answer was “other,” in which respondents were given the opportunity to share why they did not hunt turkey this year, and they wrote in personal reasons (n = 80), they would rather do something else (n = 7), didn’t draw a permit (n = 7), the current rules (n = 6), they had nowhere to hunt (n = 5), and the weather was an issue (n = 5, **Appendix A.84**).

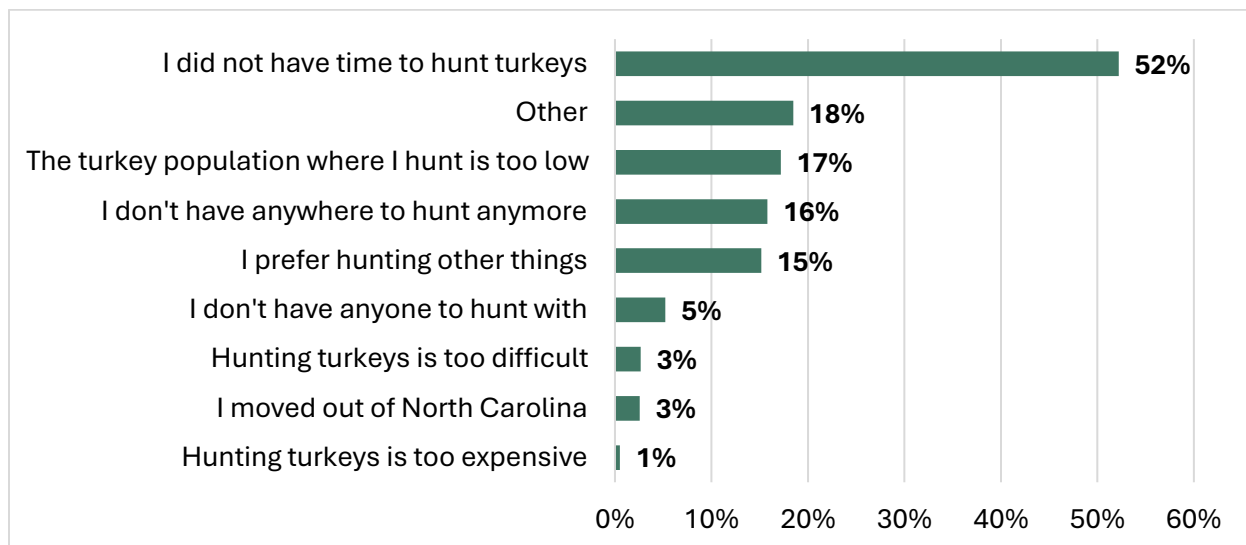


Figure 37. Reasons respondents did not hunt turkeys this year (n = 785)

Reasons respondents did not hunt turkeys this year were compared to age category (**Appendix A.85**). Respondents over the age of 61 were less likely to select they did not have time to hunt turkeys ($\chi^2 = 34.43$, $p < 0.01$) but were more likely to select other and write in another reason ($\chi^2 = 26.73$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents between the ages of 18 and 40 were more likely to select they prefer hunting other things ($\chi^2 = 6.44$, $p = 0.04$).

Individuals Who Have Never Turkey Hunted

Respondents who had reported they had never turkey hunted were asked to select options explaining why (**Figure 38**). The most commonly selected options were that they prefer hunting other game, followed by indicating they did not have anywhere to hunt turkeys. Respondents were given the opportunity to write in another reason they have never hunted turkeys, and they said they never wanted to (n = 25), personal reasons (n = 17), the weather was an issues (n = 6), and they would rather do other things (n = 6, **Appendix A.86**).

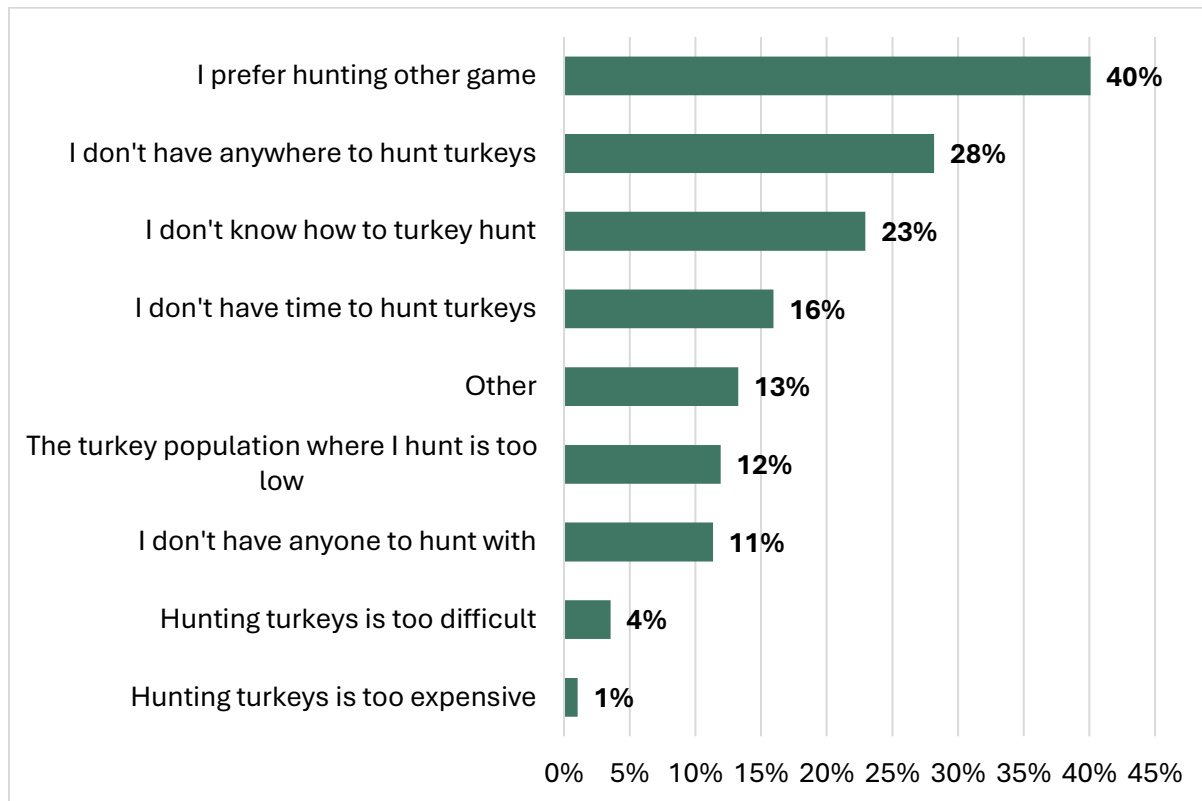


Figure 38. Reasons respondents have never hunted turkeys (n = 671)

Reasons respondents have never turkey hunted were compared to age category (**Appendix A.87**). Respondents over the age of 61 were more likely to select they prefer hunting other game ($\chi^2 = 13.59$, $p < 0.01$). Conversely, respondents over the age of 61 were less likely to indicate they did not have enough time to turkey hunt ($\chi^2 = 12.80$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents between 18 and 40 years old were more likely to select they had no where to hunt ($\chi^2 = 16.65$, $p < 0.01$), that they did not know how to turkey hunt ($\chi^2 = 19.69$, $p < 0.01$), that they did not have enough time to turkey hunt ($\chi^2 = 12.80$, $p < 0.01$), and that they did not have anyone to hunt with ($\chi^2 = 17.48$, $p < 0.01$).

Additional Analyses of Turkey Hunters

Respondents' average trips were compared to the region they hunted (**Table 14**). Turkey hunters who only hunted in one region took, on average, three trips while turkey hunters who hunted in multiple regions took, on average, four trips away from their home to turkey hunt.

Table 14. Average trips taken by turkey management region hunted

Region	Average Trips Taken	n
Coastal	2.69	330
Piedmont	2.59	355
Mountains	3.05	142
Multiple Regions	4.41	88

How many days respondents spent turkey hunting was compared to multiple factors. The first compared days spent hunting to age (**Table 15**). The overall average was seven days, but respondents between 18 and 40 years old, and respondents who were 61 years or older had averages of 8 days.

Table 15. Average days spent turkey hunting by age

Age Category	Average Days Spent Turkey Hunting	n
18 – 40 years old	8.04	303
41 – 60 years old	7.08	378
61 years or older	7.52	291

Next, days spent turkey hunting was compared to the region hunted (**Table 16**). Respondents who hunted in the piedmont and the mountains spent seven days hunting on average, which was consistent with the overall average. Respondents who hunted in the coastal region spent an average of eight days turkey hunting, and respondents who hunted in multiple regions hunted nine days, on average.

Table 16. Average days spent turkey hunting by region hunted

Region	Average Days Spent Turkey Hunting	n
Coastal	7.65	359
Piedmont	7.22	380
Mountains	7.13	148
Multiple Regions	8.68	92

Days spent turkey hunting was also compared to satisfaction with their overall turkey hunting experience (**Table 17**). Respondents who were very dissatisfied or dissatisfied spent ten days turkey hunting, while respondents who reported they were satisfied or very satisfied spent seven days hunting turkeys on average.

Table 17. Average days spent turkey hunting by satisfaction level

Satisfaction Level	Average Days Spent Turkey Hunting	n
Very dissatisfied	9.90	52
Dissatisfied	9.94	97
Neutral	6.93	260
Satisfied	6.96	427
Very satisfied	7.36	207

Next, days spent turkey hunting was compared to what kind of land respondents hunted (**Table 18**). Respondents who only hunted on private land hunted for seven days on average, followed by public land hunting for eight days on average. However, respondents who hunted on both public and private lands reported hunting for nine days on average.

Table 18. Average days spent turkey hunting by land type hunted

Land Type Hunted	Average Days Spent Turkey Hunting	n
Private land	7.08	815
Public land	8.36	53
Both private and public land	9.01	172

The days respondents spent turkey hunting was also compared to the importance of harvesting a turkey (**Table 19**). There were no statistically significant differences between the means ($F(4, 1,008) = 1.16, p = 0.33$), indicating no statistically significant differences between the average days spent turkey hunting and their rating of importance of harvesting a turkey.

Table 19. Average days spent turkey hunting and importance of harvesting a turkey

Rating of Importance of Harvesting a Turkey	Average Days Spent Turkey Hunting	n
Not at all important	7.61	76
Slightly important	6.86	170
Moderately important	7.56	392
Very important	7.29	219
Extremely important	8.15	156

Finally, days spent turkey hunting was compared to number of turkeys harvested (**Table 20**). Respondents who harvested one turkey spent eight days turkey hunting on average, and respondents who harvested two turkeys spent ten days turkey hunting on average. Conversely, respondents who did not report a harvest hunted for seven days, on average.

There was a statistically significant difference in days spent turkey hunting between reported turkey harvest ($F(2, 1,039) = 13.93, p < 0.01$). Specifically, average days spent turkey hunting was statistically significant between respondents who did not harvest a turkey and respondents who harvested one turkey ($p < 0.01$) and respondent who harvested two turkeys ($p < 0.01$). However, there was not a statistically significant difference in the days spent turkey hunting between respondents who harvested one turkey and respondents who harvested two turkeys ($p = 0.28$).

Table 20. Average days spent turkey hunting by number of turkeys harvested

	No turkeys harvested	One turkey harvested	Two turkeys harvested	F
Average days hunted	6.91 ^a	8.48 ^b	9.68 ^b	13.93 ^{**}
n	745	212	85	
Notes: * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$; means with different subscripts are statistically different (Bonferroni's post-hoc test)				

How old respondents were when they started turkey hunting was compared to region hunted (**Table 21**). A one-way ANOVA was performed to compare the effect of region hunted on the average age respondents started turkey hunting. This revealed there was a statistically significant difference in average age respondents started turkey hunting and region hunted ($F(3, 1,056) = 10.12, p < 0.01$). There was a statistically significant difference in age respondents started turkey hunting between coastal hunters and mountain hunters ($p < 0.01$), coastal hunters and hunters who hunt in multiple regions ($p < 0.01$), and piedmont hunters and hunters who hunt in multiple regions ($p < 0.01$). There was not a statistically significant difference in age respondents started turkey hunting between coastal hunters and piedmont hunters ($p = 0.45$), piedmont hunters and mountain hunters ($p = 0.09$), and mountain hunters and hunters who hunt in multiple regions ($p = 1.00$).

Table 21. Average age when respondents started turkey hunting by region hunted

	Coastal Region	Piedmont	Mountains	Multiple Regions	F
Average age respondents started hunting	30.92 ^a	28.89 ^{a,b}	25.40 ^b	22.69 ^c	10.12 ^{**}
n	388	409	160	103	
Notes: * $p < .05$ ** $p < .01$; means with different subscripts are statistically different (Bonferroni's post-hoc test)					

Selection of barriers to beginning to turkey hunt were compared with how long respondents have been turkey hunting in North Carolina (**Appendix A.88**). Respondents that have been hunting either 19-25 years or more than 25 years were more likely to indicate that there being no or few turkeys in the area they were hunting was a barrier ($\chi^2 = 25.55$, $p < 0.01$). This may be explained by the timeline of the restoration of the turkey population. Respondents that either hunted for the first time in 2025, have been hunting for 2-5 years or 6 – 12 years were more likely to indicate not having anywhere to hunt was a barrier ($\chi^2 = 27.52$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents that either hunted for the first time in 2025 or have been hunting for 2 – 5 years were more likely to indicate they didn't have anyone to show them how to turkey hunt ($\chi^2 = 28.15$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents that hunted for the first time in 2025 were more likely to indicate they didn't have anyone to go turkey hunting with ($\chi^2 = 42.24$, $p < 0.01$). Respondents that have been hunting for more than 25 years were more likely to select another barrier, and write in a response ($\chi^2 = 33.25$, $p < 0.01$).

The average property size respondents hunted on was compared to region hunted (**Table 22**), age category (**Table 23**), and land type hunted (**Table 24**).

Table 22. Average property size by region hunted

Region	Average Property Size	n
Coastal	806.52	368
Piedmont	371.41	398
Mountains	244.51	141
Multiple Regions	807.49	92

Table 23. Average property size by age category

Age Category	Average Property Size	n
18 – 40 years old	591.84	286
41 – 60 years old	385.46	364
61 years or older	694.33	280

Table 24. Average property size by land type hunted

Land Type Hunted	Average Property Size	n
Private land	473.23	873
Public land	854.71	24
Both private and public land	832.28	160

Next, average number of shells was compared to the number of turkeys harvested (**Table 25**). Unequal variance does not allow for further statistical comparisons, but anecdotally, respondents

who harvested at least one turkey used more shells than respondents who didn't harvest any turkeys.

Table 25. Average number of shells used compared to reported turkey harvest

Number of Turkeys Harvested	Average Number of Shells Used	n
No turkeys harvested	1.03	740
One turkey harvested	1.71	214
Two turkeys harvested	2.34	90

Number of shells used was also compared to the type of shot used and there were no statistically significant differences in means between any of the shot types.

The shot type hunters used to hunt turkey was compared to their report of turkey harvest (**Appendix A.89**). The only statistically significant differences between shot type and harvest occurred in #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot and #4 lead shot. Respondents that harvested one or two turkeys were more likely to indicate they used #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot ($\chi^2 = 34.76$, $p < 0.01$). Conversely, respondents that reported they did not harvest a turkey this season were more likely to indicate they used #4 lead shot ($\chi^2 = 13.06$, $p < 0.01$).

Days spent turkey hunting was also compared to shot type used (**Appendix A.90**). In general, respondents who used #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot, #6 lead shot and BBs spent more days turkey hunting.

What time of day respondents hunted was compared to what time of day respondents harvested a turkey (**Appendix A.91**). There is an insufficient sample size to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence level, but regardless of when respondents hunted, the majority of harvest is occurring in the afternoon.

Finally, trust in the NCWRC to manage and conserve turkeys and their habitats in North Carolina was compared to how long respondents have been turkey hunting (**Appendix A.92**). In general, the longer respondents have been turkey hunting, the less trust they have in the NCWRC ($\chi^2 = 51.00$, $p < 0.01$).

Conclusion

Results from this project suggest that approximately half of big game report card holders in North Carolina hunt turkeys, spending on average seven days turkey hunting in the 2025 season. Considering how respondents began turkey hunting, most began due to encouragement and introduction from other hunters in their lives. While only about half of respondents had participated

in a youth turkey season of some kind, younger hunters were more likely to report hunting during the youth season.

Most hunters did not harvest a turkey last season, but they were still satisfied with their turkey hunting experience. However, satisfaction rates increased for those who harvested a turkey. Fanning and reaping were not common hunting practices in North Carolina. While only 35% of hunters reported using #7 or smaller TSS or heavier than lead ammunition, hunters who used that type of shot were more likely to have reported harvesting a turkey in the 2025 season. In general, hunters trusted the NCWRC to make good decisions for turkey populations in North Carolina.

While most turkey hunters hunted on private lands, 22% of hunters used game lands at least sometimes. As game lands make up approximately 5% of North Carolina's available land, highlighting the importance of public land hunting opportunities. Considering private land management, two important techniques include discing and burning, but those are only used by 22% and 10% of hunters, respectively. While removing nest predators was only selected by 33% of hunters, it was more common to younger hunters.

In thinking about the satisfaction-importance matrix, all possible items were included in the "keep up the good work" category. This is a positive outcome as this indicated above-average satisfaction and importance for all possible attributes. Notably, harvesting a turkey is the attribute with the relative lowest satisfaction and importance of all attributes. This highlights that while harvesting a turkey is important, and respondents are relatively satisfied with it, it is not the most important part of their turkey hunting experience.

Considering communication to hunters, there was a relatively low familiarity with the harvest reports the NCWRC publishes annually. This highlights a need to tell hunters what resources are available, and through varied methods, as younger hunters are more apt to prefer digital communication while older hunters tended to prefer print methods.

Respondents were asked to rank potential regulation changes should the turkey population decrease to a point where regulation changes needed to be made, and the most acceptable change would be lowering the bag limit, followed closely behind by shortening the season, limiting hunting to the morning only and placing a limitation on the methods or weapons for take. An interesting difference in rankings when comparing to age is that older hunters rated implementing a lottery for turkey tags second, while younger hunters rated the same option fifth.

Depending on the region respondents hunted, there were differences in experience. Hunters in the coastal region were more likely to be more satisfied with their turkey hunting experience, as well as harvesting turkeys in closer range. There were also notable instances where there were no differences between regions, such as in the level of crowding hunters experience, and how often hunters experience crowding from other hunters.

Type of land respondents hunted (private land or game lands) also impacted hunter experience. Hunters on public land experienced crowding more often than hunters on private land. Hunters who hunted on private land only were more likely to be more satisfied with their overall turkey hunting experience.

Future research may include consistent turkey specific surveys, as well as considering additional topics into shot selection and harvest. Additionally, future research may consider the popularity of removing nest predators and asking more questions on species targeted, frequency and motivation.

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Appendix

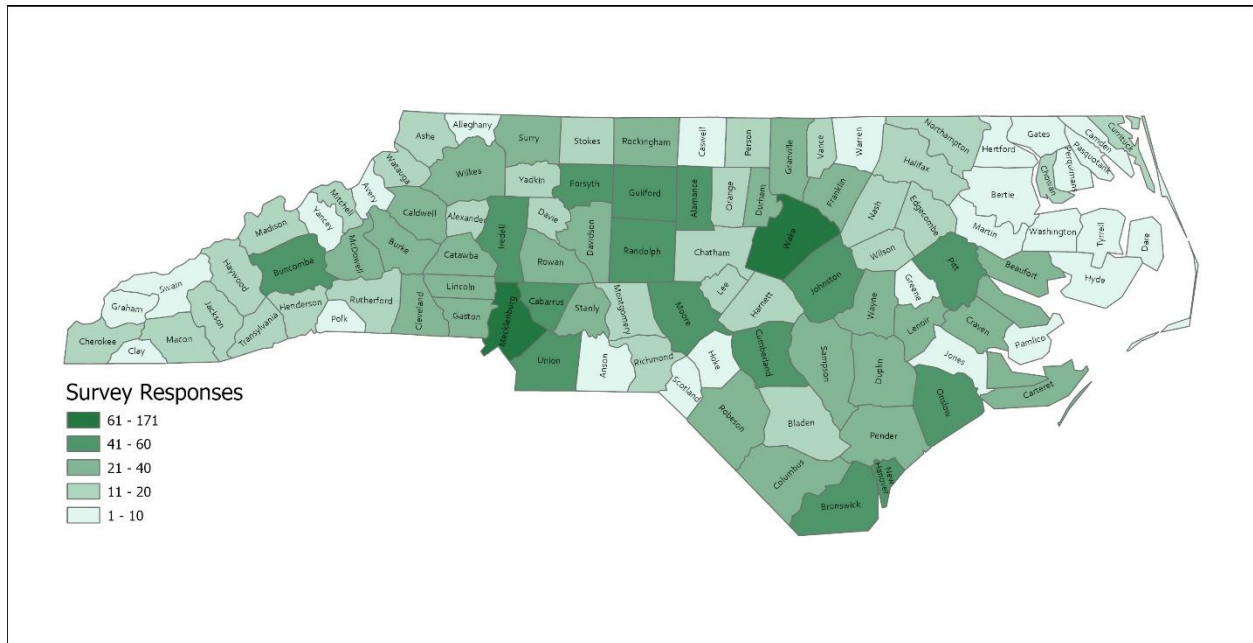
Appendix A: Selected Tables and Figures

Appendix A.1: Demographic characteristics of survey respondents

		Turkey Hunters n (%)	Non-turkey Hunters n (%)	Overall Respondents n (%)
Gender*	Male	1,144 (96%)	1,120 (92%)	2,299 (94%)
	Female	44 (4%)	100 (8%)	150 (6%)
Race	White*	1,148 (97%)	1,163 (96%)	2,350 (96%)
	American Indian or Alaska Native*	19 (2%)	38 (3%)	57 (2%)
	Black or African American	11 (1%)	22 (2%)	34 (1%)
	Hispanic or Latino/a*	17 (1%)	7 (1%)	24 (1%)
	Asian	6 (1%)	9 (1%)	16 (1%)
	Another race and/or ethnicity	5 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	9 (<1%)
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0 (0%)	3 (<1%)	3 (<1%)
	Middle Eastern or North African	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	3 (<1%)
Age*	18 – 40 years old	364 (31%)	245 (20%)	611 (25%)
	41 – 60 years old	452 (39%)	423 (35%)	882 (37%)
	61 years or older	353 (30%)	531 (44%)	915 (38%)
Education	Less than high school	23 (2%)	41 (3%)	65 (3%)
	High school diploma	349 (30%)	364 (30%)	723 (30%)
	Post-secondary vocational training	161 (14%)	151 (12%)	321 (13%)
	Associates degree	192 (16%)	212 (17%)	410 (17%)
	Bachelors degree	299 (25%)	284 (23%)	591 (24%)
	Graduate or professional degree	158 (13%)	158 (13%)	331 (14%)

Employment*	Full-time	716 (61%)	601 (50%)	1,327 (55%)
	Part-time	28 (2%)	48 (4%)	82 (3%)
	Retired	288 (25%)	408 (34%)	719 (30%)
	Self-employed	110 (9%)	99 (8%)	209 (9%)
	Unemployed	18 (2%)	14 (1%)	32 (1%)
	Other	10 (1%)	36 (3%)	47 (2%)
Income*	Less than \$30,000	55 (5%)	91 (8%)	150 (7%)
	\$30,000 - \$59,999	154 (14%)	206 (18%)	366 (16%)
	\$60,000 - \$89,999	219 (20%)	254 (22%)	479 (21%)
	\$90,000 - \$119,999	171 (16%)	205 (18%)	383 (17%)
	\$120,000 - \$149,999	160 (15%)	128 (11%)	290 (13%)
	\$150,000 - \$179,999	126 (12%)	87 (8%)	214 (9%)
	\$180,000 - \$209,999	66 (6%)	54 (5%)	120 (5%)
	\$210,000 or more	144 (13%)	118 (10%)	263 (12%)
Home Area Description	Rural area	474 (40%)	503 (42%)	996 (41%)
	Small town	343 (29%)	330 (28%)	683 (28%)
	Small city	185 (16%)	180 (15%)	369 (15%)
	Urban Area	180 (15%)	187 (16%)	376 (16%)
Note: *difference between turkey hunters and non-turkey hunters ($p \leq 0.05$)				

Appendix A.2: Map of respondent home counties



Appendix A.3: Other outdoor activities respondents participate in (n = 145)

Outdoor activity	n
Farming	22
Camping	21
Target shooting	17

Appendix A.4: Results of chi-square test on outdoor activities and whether respondents are turkey hunters or not

	Turkey Hunters (n = 1,225)	Non-turkey Hunters (n = 1,185)
Hunted something other than turkeys	1,113 (94%)	1,063 (87%)
$\chi^2 = 35.11, p < 0.01$		
Fished	1,031 (87%)	968 (79%)
$\chi^2 = 27.14, p < 0.01$		
Boated	704 (59%)	611 (50%)
$\chi^2 = 22.07, p < 0.01$		
Wildlife watched	700 (59%)	599 (49%)
$\chi^2 = 25.09, p < 0.01$		
Hiked	601 (51%)	568 (46%)
$\chi^2 = 4.56, p = 0.03$		
Went kayaking/paddling	325 (27%)	269 (22%)
$\chi^2 = 9.69, p < 0.01$		

Appendix A.5: Results of chi-square test on how long respondents have been turkey hunting and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 393)	Piedmont (n = 415)	Mountains (n = 161)*	Multiple Regions (n = 103)*
2025 was my first year	32 (8%)	29 (7%)	9 (6%)	1 (1%)
2 - 5 years	100 (25%)	107 (26%)	24 (15%)	16 (16%)
6 – 12 years	84 (21%)	84 (20%)	31 (19%)	20 (19%)
13 – 18 years	62 (16%)	60 (14%)	21 (13%)	18 (17%)
19 – 25 years	61 (16%)	48 (12%)	32 (20%)	19 (18%)
More than 25 years	54 (14%)	87 (21%)	44 (27%)	29 (28%)
$\chi^2 = 39.97, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.6: Results of chi square test between how long respondents have hunted for turkeys and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 299)
2025 was my first year	36 (11%)	18 (5%)	8 (3%)
2 - 5 years	107 (34%)	75 (19%)	41 (14%)
6 – 12 years	69 (22%)	68 (18%)	54 (18%)
13 – 18 years	48 (15%)	63 (16%)	39 (13%)
19 – 25 years	40 (13%)	76 (20%)	48 (16%)
More than 25 years	17 (5%)	85 (22%)	109 (36%)
$\chi^2 = 130.28, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.7: Other things that encouraged respondents to begin turkey hunting (n = 36)

Theme	n
Hunt with family	8
Previously turkey hunted in another state	7
Turkey population increased	5
Have always hunted turkeys	4

Appendix A.8: Results of chi-square test between what encouraged respondents to start turkey hunting and region hunted

	Coast (n = 393)	Piedmont (n = 415)	Mountain (n = 161)*	Multiple Regions (n = 103)*
Family introduced them	102 (26%)	141 (34%)	50 (31%)	46 (45%)
$\chi^2 = 15.02, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.9: Results of chi-square test between what encouraged respondents to start turkey hunting and age

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 299)
Was already a hunter	164 (52%)	224 (58%)	195 (62%)
$\chi^2 = 11.50, p < 0.01$			
Family introduced them	154 (49%)	97 (25%)	59 (20%)
$\chi^2 = 69.65, p < 0.01$			
Wanted eat wild turkey meat	110 (35%)	104 (27%)	67 (22%)
$\chi^2 = 11.86, p < 0.01$			
Read something or watched a show	70 (22%)	70 (18%)	39 (13%)
$\chi^2 = 8.60, p = 0.01$			
Another reason	10 (3%)	9 (2%)	20 (7%)
$\chi^2 = 9.19, p = 0.01$			

Appendix A.10: Results of chi-square test between youth season participation and region hunted

	Coast (n = 387)	Piedmont (n = 410)	Mountain (n = 160)*	Multiple Regions (n = 103)*
Never participated in youth turkey season	194 (50%)	228 (56%)	74 (46%)	36 (35%)
Has participated in youth turkey season	193 (50%)	182 (44%)	86 (54%)	67 (65%)
$\chi^2 = 15.38, p < 0.01$				
Took a youth hunter hunting	167 (43%)	151 (37%)	74 (46%)	57 (55%)
Has not taken a youth hunter hunting	220 (57%)	259 (63%)	86 (54%)	46 (45%)
$\chi^2 = 13.33, p < 0.01$				
Hunted youth turkey season	30 (8%)	37 (9%)	20 (13%)	19 (19%)
Did not hunt youth turkey season	357 (92%)	373 (91%)	140 (88%)	84 (82%)
$\chi^2 = 11.88, p = 0.0$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.11: Results of chi-square test between youth season participation and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 315)	41 – 60 years old (n = 382)	61 years or older (n = 293)
Never participated in youth turkey season	161 (51%)	168 (44%)	179 (61%)
Has participated in youth turkey season	154 (49%)	214 (56%)	114 (39%)
$\chi^2 = 19.45, p < 0.01$			
Took a youth hunter hunting	107 (34%)	204 (53%)	107 (37%)
Has not taken a youth hunter hunting	208 (66%)	178 (47%)	186 (63%)
$\chi^2 = 32.28, p < 0.01$			
Hunted youth turkey season	70 (22%)	14 (4%)	6 (2%)
Did not hunt youth turkey season	245 (78%)	368 (96%)	287 (98%)
$\chi^2 = 11.86, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.12: Other barrier respondents had to start hunting turkey (n = 55)

Barrier	n
Not enough turkeys	10
No time to hunt	10
No interest or motivation	9
Nowhere to hunt	6

Appendix A.13: Results of chi-square test between barriers to start turkey hunting and region hunted

	Coast (n = 275)	Piedmont (n = 307)	Mountain (n = 117)*	Multiple Regions (n = 68)*
Didn't have anyone to show them how to hunt	93 (34%)	92 (30%)	29 (25%)	12 (18%)
$\chi^2 = 8.35, p = 0.04$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.14: Results of chi-square test between barriers to start turkey hunting and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 223)	41 – 60 years old (n = 276)	61 years or older (n = 220)
Didn't have anywhere to hunt	86 (39%)	103 (37%)	44 (20%)
$\chi^2 = 22.36, p < 0.01$			
Didn't have anyone to show them how to hunt	84 (38%)	87 (32%)	52 (24%)
$\chi^2 = 10.24, p = 0.01$			
Didn't have anyone to go hunting with	56 (25%)	43 (16%)	24 (11%)
$\chi^2 = 16.49, p < 0.01$			
Another barrier	23 (10%)	29 (11%)	40 (18%)
$\chi^2 = 8.25, p = 0.02$			

Appendix A.15: Results of chi-square test between land type hunted and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 392)	Piedmont (n = 414)	Mountains (n = 161)*	Multiple Regions (n = 103)*
Private land only	332 (85%)	358 (86%)	93 (58%)	58 (56%)
Public land only	15 (4%)	18 (4%)	13 (8%)	2 (2%)
Both private and public land	45 (11%)	38 (9%)	55 (34%)	43 (42%)
$\chi^2 = 114.38, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.16: Results of chi-square test between land type hunted and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 296)
Private land only	225 (71%)	304 (79%)	248 (84%)
Public land only	23 (7%)	19 (5%)	9 (3%)
Both private and public land	69 (22%)	62 (16%)	39 (13%)
$\chi^2 = 15.63, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.17: Other land management practices respondents use on their land (n = 36)

Management Practice	n
Maintaining agricultural fields	18
Trapping	3
Limiting harvest	3

Appendix A.18: Results of chi-square test between land management techniques and region hunted

	Coast (n = 276)**	Piedmont (n = 311)**	Mountain (n = 115)*	Multiple Regions (n = 74)*
Mowing	176 (64%)	162 (52%)	57 (50%)	35 (47%)
$\chi^2 = 12.75, p < 0.01$				
Timber management	100 (36%)	97 (31%)	27 (23%)	35 (47%)
$\chi^2 = 13.20, p < 0.01$				
Discing	78 (28%)	58 (19%)	11 (10%)	17 (23%)
$\chi^2 = 18.95, p < 0.01$				
Herbicide use	44 (16%)	34 (11%)	7 (6%)	4 (5%)
$\chi^2 = 11.49, p = 0.01$				
Prescribed fire	34 (12%)	32 (10%)	3 (3%)	8 (11%)
$\chi^2 = 8.77, p = 0.03$, **Coastal and piedmont regions were analyzed at a 90% confidence interval for this question, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.19: Results of chi-square test between land management techniques and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 224)	41 – 60 years old (n = 272)	61 years or older (n = 230)
Selected removing nest predators	87 (39%)	102 (38%)	59 (26%)
$\chi^2 = 10.93, p < 0.01$			
Selected prescribed fire	25 (11%)	19 (7%)	31 (13%)
$\chi^2 = 5.91, p = 0.05$			

Appendix A.20: Results of chi-square test between weapons used and region hunted

	Coast (n = 393)	Piedmont (n = 413)	Mountain (n = 161)*	Multiple Regions (n = 103)*
Uses a shotgun	389 (99%)	410 (99%)	154 (96%)	102 (99%)
$\chi^2 = 12.03, p = 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.21: Results of chi-square test between weapons used and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 298)
Uses bow and arrow	36 (11%)	28 (7%)	19 (6%)
$\chi^2 = 5.87, p = 0.05$			
Uses a crossbow	7 (2%)	23 (6%)	22 (7%)
$\chi^2 = 9.10, p = 0.01$			
Uses a muzzle-loading shotgun	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	6 (2%)
$\chi^2 = 7.08, p = 0.03$			

Appendix A.22: Other shot respondents used to hunt turkeys (n = 65)

Shot	n
Turkey shot	15
Hevi shot	10
Number 9 TSS	7

Appendix A.23: Results of chi-square test between kind of shot used and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 309)	41 – 60 years old (n = 376)	61 years or older (n = 291)
Uses #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot	141 (46%)	137 (36%)	81 (28%)
$\chi^2 = 20.44, p < 0.01$			
Uses #4 lead shot	49 (16%)	89 (24%)	76 (26%)
$\chi^2 = 10.30, p = 0.01$			

Appendix A.24: Results of chi-square test between time of day hunted and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 389)	Piedmont (n = 411)	Mountains (n = 161)*	Multiple Regions (n = 103)*
Morning only	147 (38%)	185 (45%)	67 (42%)	26 (25%)
Afternoon only	10 (3%)	13 (3%)	3 (2%)	1 (1%)
Both	232 (60%)	213 (52%)	91 (57%)	76 (74%)
$\chi^2 = 18.09, p = 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.25: Results of chi-square test between time of day hunted and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 384)	61 years or older (n = 297)
Morning only	103 (32%)	161 (42%)	132 (44%)
Afternoon only	6 (2%)	7 (2%)	9 (3%)
Both	208 (66%)	216 (56%)	156 (53%)
$\chi^2 = 12.52, p = 0.01$			

Appendix A.26: Result of chi-square test between number of turkeys harvested and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 390)	Piedmont (n = 410)	Mountains (n = 161)*	Multiple Regions (n = 102)*
No turkeys harvested	262 (67%)	313 (76%)	117 (73%)	68 (67%)
One turkey harvested	88 (23%)	78 (19%)	32 (20%)	19 (19%)
Two turkeys harvested	40 (10%)	19 (5%)	12 (7%)	15 (15%)
$\chi^2 = 18.09, p = 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.27: Results of chi-square test between number of turkeys harvested and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 297)
No turkeys harvested	203 (64%)	282 (73%)	220 (74%)
One turkey harvested	70 (22%)	81 (21%)	55 (19%)
Two turkeys harvested	44 (14%)	22 (6%)	22 (7%)
$\chi^2 = 17.92, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.28: Results of chi-square test between time of day respondents harvested their turkey and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 114)	41 – 60 years old (n = 102)	61 years or older (n = 77)
Morning only	75 (66%)	82 (80%)	56 (73%)
Afternoon only	22 (19%)	16 (16%)	10 (13%)
Both	17 (15%)	4 (4%)	11 (14%)
$\chi^2 = 9.78, p = 0.04$			

Appendix A.29: Results of chi-square test between distance of harvest and region hunted

	Coast (n = 127)*	Piedmont (n = 91)*	Mountain (n = 44)*	Multiple Regions (n = 35)*
Harvested a turkey less than 10 yards away	20 (16%)	4 (4%)	1 (2%)	2 (6%)
$\chi^2 = 12.88, p = 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.30: Results of chi-square test between distance of harvest and age

	18 – 40 years old (n = 114)	41 – 60 years old (n = 103)	61 years or older (n = 76)
Harvested a turkey less than 10 yards away	17 (15%)	7 (7%)	3 (4%)
$\chi^2 = 7.66, p = 0.02$			

Appendix A.31: Results of chi-square test between frequency of decoy use and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 384)	Piedmont (n = 404)	Mountains (n = 158)*	Multiple Regions (n = 102)*
Never	39 (10%)	51 (13%)	21 (13%)	7 (7%)
Rarely	31 (8%)	50 (12%)	27 (17%)	20 (20%)
Sometimes	106 (28%)	139 (34%)	52 (33%)	33 (32%)
Often	116 (30%)	93 (23%)	38 (24%)	31 (30%)
Always	92 (24%)	71 (18%)	20 (13%)	11 (11%)
$\chi^2 = 36.85, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.32: Results of chi-square test between frequency of blind use and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 376)	Piedmont (n = 402)	Mountains (n = 153)*	Multiple Regions (n = 100)*
Never	102 (27%)	140 (35%)	58 (38%)	31 (31%)
Rarely	67 (18%)	59 (15%)	35 (23%)	25 (25%)
Sometimes	100 (27%)	119 (30%)	36 (24%)	24 (24%)
Often	67 (18%)	52 (13%)	16 (10%)	14 (14%)
Always	40 (11%)	32 (8%)	8 (5%)	6 (6%)
$\chi^2 = 24.89, p = 0.02$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.33: Results of chi-square test between frequency of reaping use and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 363)*	Piedmont (n = 393)	Mountains (n = 151)*	Multiple Regions (n = 99)*
Never	258 (71%)	318 (81%)	125 (83%)	71 (72%)
Rarely	36 (10%)	41 (10%)	10 (7%)	10 (10%)
Sometimes	47 (13%)	29 (7%)	12 (8%)	10 (10%)
Often	14 (4%)	4 (1%)	2 (1%)	3 (3%)
Always	8 (2%)	1 (<1%)	2 (1%)	0 (0%)
$\chi^2 = 29.71, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.34: Results of chi-square test between frequency of fanning use and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 361)*	Piedmont (n = 388)	Mountains (n = 147)*	Multiple Regions (n = 99)*
Never	247 (68%)	302 (78%)	110 (75%)	68 (69%)
Rarely	35 (10%)	35 (9%)	14 (10%)	18 (18%)
Sometimes	51 (14%)	42 (11%)	20 (14%)	9 (9%)
Often	15 (4%)	6 (2%)	2 (1%)	4 (4%)
Always	13 (4%)	3 (1%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)
$\chi^2 = 30.64, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.35: Results of chi-square test between frequency of decoy use and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 295)
Never	35 (11%)	44 (12%)	39 (13%)
Rarely	47 (15%)	52 (14%)	17 (6%)
Sometimes	100 (32%)	116 (30%)	87 (29%)
Often	81 (26%)	104 (27%)	98 (31%)
Always	54 (17%)	66 (17%)	62 (21%)
$\chi^2 = 16.74, p = 0.03$			

Appendix A.36: Results of chi-square test between frequency of blind use and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 374)	61 years or older (n = 284)
Never	139 (44%)	108 (29%)	62 (22%)
Rarely	72 (23%)	67 (18%)	36 (13%)
Sometimes	66 (21%)	112 (30%)	76 (27%)
Often	32 (10%)	54 (14%)	61 (21%)
Always	8 (3%)	33 (9%)	49 (17%)
$\chi^2 = 86.76, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.37: Results of chi-square test between frequency of reaping use and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 367)	61 years or older (n = 268)
Never	227 (72%)	290 (79%)	221 (82%)
Rarely	42 (13%)	35 (10%)	17 (6%)
Sometimes	37 (12%)	31 (8%)	23 (9%)
Often	9 (3%)	5 (1%)	5 (2%)
Always	2 (1%)	6 (2%)	2 (1%)
$\chi^2 = 15.54, p = 0.05$			

Appendix A.38: Results of chi-square test between frequency of fanning use and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 316)	41 – 60 years old (n = 366)	61 years or older (n = 261)
Never	204 (65%)	293 (80%)	195 (75%)
Rarely	49 (16%)	22 (6%)	27 (10%)
Sometimes	43 (14%)	40 (11%)	32 (12%)
Often	14 (4%)	4 (1%)	4 (2%)
Always	6 (2%)	7 (2%)	3 (1%)
$\chi^2 = 31.08, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.39: Results of chi-square test between perception of crowding and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 384)	61 years or older (n = 297)
Not at all crowded	193 (61%)	278 (72%)	222 (75%)
Slightly crowded	58 (18%)	58 (15%)	44 (15%)
Somewhat crowded	25 (8%)	28 (7%)	20 (7%)
Moderately crowded	24 (8%)	12 (3%)	9 (3%)
Very crowded	17 (5%)	8 (2%)	2 (1%)
$\chi^2 = 29.82, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.40: Results of chi-square test between perception of crowding and land type hunted

	Hunted private land only (n = 876)	Hunted public land only (n = 55)*	Hunted both private and public land (n = 188)*
Not at all crowded	664 (76%)	14 (25%)	100 (53%)
Slightly crowded	124 (14%)	10 (18%)	47 (25%)
Somewhat crowded	52 (6%)	8 (15%)	21 (11%)
Moderately crowded	26 (3%)	14 (25%)	9 (5%)
Very crowded	10 (1%)	9 (16%)	11 (6%)
$\chi^2 = 162.10, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.			

Appendix A.41: Results of chi-square test between frequency of experiencing competition and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 384)	61 years or older (n = 297)
Never	135 (43%)	162 (42%)	141 (47%)
Rarely	77 (24%)	107 (28%)	84 (28%)
Sometimes	58 (18%)	85 (22%)	49 (17%)
Often	32 (10%)	22 (6%)	17 (6%)
Always	15 (5%)	8 (2%)	6 (2%)
$\chi^2 = 16.51, p = 0.04$			

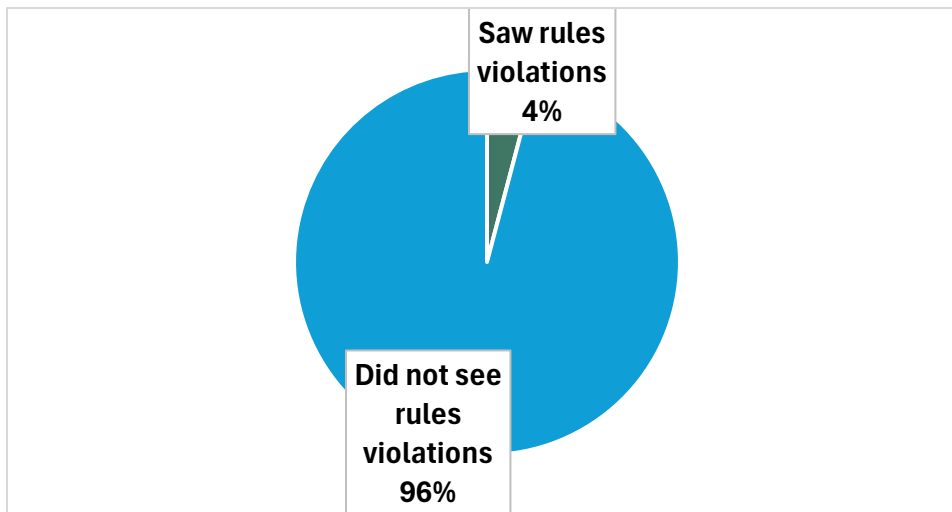
Appendix A.42: Other disruptions respondents experienced while turkey hunting (n = 60)

Disruption	n
Coyotes	21
Farming and logging	9
Other wild animals	6

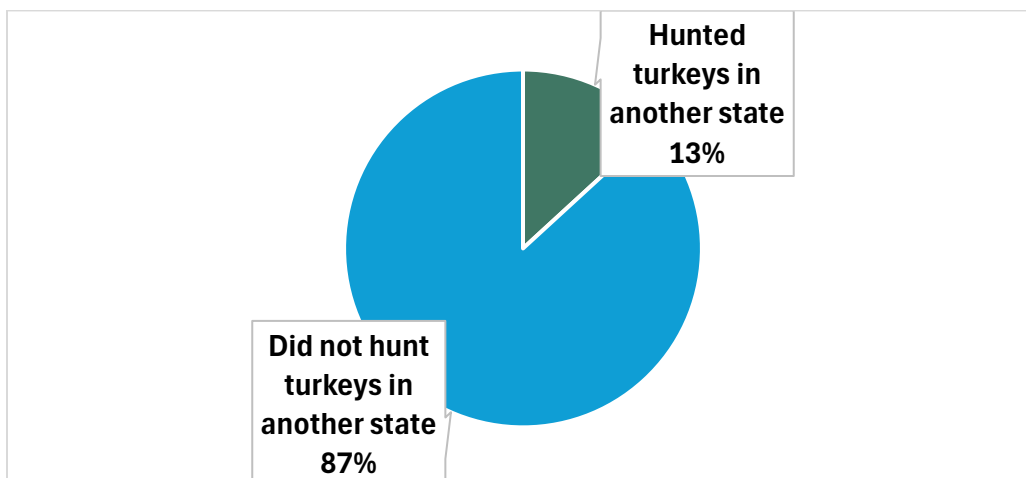
Appendix A.43: Results of chi-square test between experiencing interference while hunting and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 159)	41 – 60 years old (n = 183)	61 years or older (n = 119)
Experienced interference with other people, not hunters	69 (43%)	56 (31%)	38 (32%)
Did not experience interference with other people, not hunters	90 (57%)	127 (69%)	81 (68%)
$\chi^2 = 6.92, p = 0.03$			

Appendix A.44: How many respondents saw any illegal hunting or other rules violations while they were turkey hunting (n = 1,119)



Appendix A.45: How many respondents hunted turkeys in other states other than North Carolina (n = 1,122)



Appendix A.46: Results of chi-square test between overall satisfaction and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 383)	Piedmont (n = 407)	Mountains (n = 160)*	Multiple Regions (n = 97)*
Very dissatisfied	9 (2%)	27 (7%)	11 (7%)	5 (5%)
Dissatisfied	23 (6%)	32 (8%)	26 (16%)	14 (14%)
Neutral	68 (18%)	121 (30%)	44 (28%)	23 (24%)
Satisfied	185 (48%)	153 (38%)	53 (33%)	39 (40%)
Very satisfied	98 (26%)	74 (18%)	26 (16%)	16 (16%)
$\chi^2 = 54.46, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.47: Results of chi-square test between overall satisfaction and land type hunted

	Hunted private land only (n = 873)	Hunted public land only (n = 55)*	Hunted both private and public land (n = 187)*
Very dissatisfied	42 (5%)	7 (13%)	10 (5%)
Dissatisfied	66 (8%)	4 (7%)	30 (16%)
Neutral	206 (24%)	24 (44%)	45 (24%)
Satisfied	370 (42%)	16 (29%)	73 (39%)
Very satisfied	189 (22%)	4 (7%)	29 (16%)
$\chi^2 = 37.15, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.			

Appendix A.48: Results of chi-square test between overall satisfaction and reported harvest

	Harvested no turkeys (n = 797)	Harvested one turkey (n = 227)*	Harvested two turkeys (n = 91)*
Very dissatisfied	52 (7%)	4 (2%)	2 (2%)
Dissatisfied	82 (10%)	17 (7%)	1 (1%)
Neutral	226 (28%)	35 (15%)	14 (15%)
Satisfied	320 (40%)	100 (44%)	40 (44%)
Very satisfied	117 (15%)	71 (31%)	3 (37%)
$\chi^2 = 73.69, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.			

Appendix A.49: Results of chi-square test between trust in NCWRC to manage and conserve turkeys and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 362)	Piedmont (n = 380)	Mountains (n = 154)*	Multiple Regions (n = 95)*
Very low	18 (5%)	26 (7%)	12 (8%)	10 (11%)
Somewhat low	25 (7%)	35 (9%)	30 (19%)	11 (12%)
Neutral	107 (30%)	111 (29%)	42 (27%)	24 (25%)
Somewhat high	123 (34%)	120 (32%)	40 (26%)	33 (35%)
Very high	89 (25%)	88 (23%)	30 (19%)	17 (18%)
$\chi^2 = 26.75, p = 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.50: Results of chi-square test between trust in NCWRC to manage and conserve turkeys and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 384)	61 years or older (n = 299)
Very low	32 (10%)	26 (7%)	11 (4%)
Somewhat low	32 (10%)	48 (13%)	25 (8%)
Neutral	92 (29%)	113 (29%)	80 (27%)
Somewhat high	100 (32%)	120 (31%)	99 (33%)
Very high	61 (19%)	77 (20%)	84 (28%)
$\chi^2 = 19.40, p = 0.01$			

Appendix A.51: Results of chi-square test between agreement on “The NCWRC has appropriate regulations for turkey hunting in North Carolina” and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 315)	41 – 60 years old (n = 379)	61 years or older (n = 297)
Strongly disagree	9 (3%)	14 (4%)	9 (3%)
Disagree	39 (12%)	43 (11%)	23 (8%)
Neutral	94 (30%)	101 (27%)	68 (23%)
Agree	132 (42%)	181 (48%)	141 (47%)
Strongly agree	41 (13%)	40 (11%)	56 (19%)
$\chi^2 = 16.70, p = 0.03$			

Appendix A.52: Results of chi-square test between agreement on “The NCWRC makes reasonable efforts to educate hunters about turkey management” and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 315)	41 – 60 years old (n = 379)	61 years or older (n = 298)
Strongly disagree	7 (2%)	6 (2%)	8 (3%)
Disagree	29 (9%)	36 (10%)	11 (4%)
Neutral	124 (39%)	131 (35%)	84 (28%)
Agree	123 (39%)	169 (45%)	137 (46%)
Strongly agree	32 (10%)	37 (10%)	58 (19%)
$\chi^2 = 32.12, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.53: Results of chi-square test between agreement on “The NCWRC makes good management decisions for turkey populations in North Carolina”

	18 – 40 years old (n = 315)	41 – 60 years old (n = 379)	61 years or older (n = 299)
Strongly disagree	17 (5%)	12 (3%)	9 (3%)
Disagree	31 (10%)	42 (11%)	21 (7%)
Neutral	129 (41%)	153 (40%)	96 (32%)
Agree	107 (34%)	140 (37%)	119 (40%)
Strongly agree	31 (10%)	32 (8%)	54 (18%)
$\chi^2 = 25.98, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.54: Results of chi-square test between agreement on “The NCWRC incorporates hunters’ input into turkey management decisions”

	18 – 40 years old (n = 314)	41 – 60 years old (n = 379)	61 years or older (n = 296)
Strongly disagree	14 (4%)	8 (2%)	9 (3%)
Disagree	40 (13%)	46 (12%)	20 (7%)
Neutral	133 (42%)	189 (50%)	125 (42%)
Agree	99 (32%)	113 (30%)	105 (35%)
Strongly agree	28 (9%)	23 (6%)	37 (13%)
$\chi^2 = 21.67, p = 0.01$			

Appendix A.55: Results of chi-square test between agreement on “The NCWRC makes reasonable efforts to educate hunters about turkey management” and years turkey hunted. The sample size for all levels is insufficient to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.

	2025 was my first year (n = 67)	2 – 5 years (n = 239)	6 – 12 years (n = 204)	13 – 18 years (n = 152)	19 – 25 years (n = 165)	More than 25 years (n = 218)
Strongly disagree	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	4 (2%)	7 (5%)	1 (1%)	9 (4%)
Disagree	5 (8%)	7 (3%)	19 (9%)	18 (12%)	11 (7%)	19 (9%)
Neutral	21 (31%)	81 (34%)	65 (32%)	49 (32%)	72 (44%)	69 (32%)
Agree	23 (34%)	111 (46%)	93 (46%)	64 (42%)	66 (40%)	94 (43%)
Strongly agree	17 (25%)	38 (16%)	23 (11%)	14 (9%)	15 (9%)	27 (12%)
$\chi^2 = 44.76, p < 0.01$						

Appendix A.56: Results of chi-square test between agreement on “The NCWRC makes good management decisions for turkey populations in North Carolina” and years turkey hunted. The sample size for all levels is insufficient to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.

	2025 was my first year (n = 67)	2 – 5 years (n = 240)	6 – 12 years (n = 205)	13 – 18 years (n = 152)	19 – 25 years (n = 166)	More than 25 years (n = 219)
Strongly disagree	2 (3%)	5 (2%)	7 (3%)	11 (7%)	2 (1%)	14 (6%)
Disagree	1 (1%)	16 (7%)	16 (8%)	17 (11%)	21 (13%)	25 (11%)
Neutral	26 (39%)	92 (38%)	88 (43%)	57 (37%)	70 (42%)	69 (32%)
Agree	23 (34%)	93 (39%)	71 (35%)	54 (35%)	60 (36%)	83 (38%)
Strongly agree	15 (22%)	34 (14%)	23 (11%)	14 (9%)	13 (8%)	28 (13%)
$\chi^2 = 39.34, p = 0.01$						

Appendix A.57: Results of chi-square test between agreement on ‘The NCWRC incorporates hunters’ input unto turkey management decisions” and years turkey hunted. The sample size for all levels is insufficient to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.

	2025 was my first year (n = 67)	2 – 5 years (n = 238)	6 – 12 years (n = 202)	13 – 18 years (n = 152)	19 – 25 years (n = 165)	More than 25 years (n = 218)
Strongly disagree	1 (1%)	5 (2%)	4 (2%)	9 (6%)	1 (1%)	14 (6%)
Disagree	3 (4%)	19 (8%)	16 (8%)	18 (12%)	24 (15%)	30 (14%)
Neutral	29 (43%)	104 (44%)	93 (46%)	67 (44%)	83 (50%)	94 (43%)
Agree	20 (30%)	81 (34%)	75 (37%)	49 (32%)	48 (29%)	50 (28%)
Strongly agree	14 (21%)	29 (12%)	14 (7%)	9 (6%)	9 (5%)	20 (9%)
$\chi^2 = 49.31, p < 0.01$						

Appendix A.58: Results of chi-square test between perception of how the turkey population has changed and years turkey hunted. The sample size for all levels is insufficient to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.

	2025 was my first year (n = 67)	2 – 5 years (n = 245)	6 – 12 years (n = 209)	13 – 18 years (n = 154)	19 – 25 years (n = 167)	More than 25 years (n = 222)
Decreased dramatically (1)	3 (4%)	21 (9%)	26 (12%)	21 (14%)	28 (17%)	46 (21%)
Decreased	10 (15%)	67 (27%)	64 (31%)	58 (38%)	60 (36%)	65 (30%)
About the same	1 (46%)	98 (40%)	71 (34%)	50 (32%)	52 (31%)	65 (29%)
Increased	21 (31%)	52 (21%)	40 (19%)	20 (13%)	26 (16%)	39 (18%)
Increased dramatically (5)	2 (3%)	7 (3%)	8 (4%)	5 (3%)	1 (1%)	7 (3%)
Mean	3.13	2.82	2.71	2.55	2.49	2.53
$\chi^2 = 50.34, p < 0.01$						

Appendix A.59: Result of chi-square test between perception of how the turkey population has changed and region hunted

	Coastal (n = 366)	Piedmont (n = 380)	Mountains (n = 154)*	Multiple Regions (n = 95)*
Decreased dramatically	21 (6%)	60 (16%)	42 (27%)	14 (15%)
Decreased	90 (25%)	124 (33%)	50 (32%)	36 (38%)
About the same	140 (38%)	124 (33%)	45 (29%)	34 (36%)
Increased	95 (26%)	67 (18%)	14 (9%)	11 (12%)
increased dramatically	20 (5%)	5 (1%)	3 (2%)	0 (0%)
<i>$X^2 = 84.46, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.</i>				

Appendix A.60: Importance of attributes of turkey hunting by region hunted

	Coast	Piedmont			Mountains			Multiple Regions		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.64	4.63	-0.03 (0.16)	0.87	4.66	0.15 (0.21)	0.48	4.74	0.50 (0.28)	0.07
Feeling safe while hunting	4.60	4.60	0.04 (0.16)	0.81	4.66	0.22 (0.21)	0.30	4.62	0.10 (0.25)	0.71
Hearing turkeys gobbling	4.13	4.26	0.29 (0.14)	0.04*	4.26	0.26 (0.18)	0.16	4.09	-0.06 (0.22)	0.80
Seeing turkeys	4.13	4.03	-0.21 (0.14)	0.12	4.11	-0.04 (0.18)	0.83	3.95	-0.40 (0.22)	0.07
Hunting with friends and family	4.06	3.85	-0.32 (0.14)	0.02*	3.95	-0.17 (0.18)	0.33	4.04	-0.02 (0.22)	0.94
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.89	3.89	-0.00 (0.13)	0.97	4.06	0.32 (0.18)	0.07	3.80	-0.21 (0.21)	0.32
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	3.88	3.79	-0.15 (0.13)	0.27	3.95	0.22 (0.17)	0.53	3.83	-0.01 (0.21)	0.95
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.75	3.78	0.05 (0.13)	0.72	3.88	0.21 (0.18)	0.23	3.81	0.09 (0.21)	0.67
Mentoring new hunters	3.71	3.70	0.02 (0.13)	0.90	3.82	0.17 (0.17)	0.33	3.85	0.24 (0.21)	0.25
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.73	3.66	-0.13 (0.13)	0.34	3.80	0.05 (0.17)	0.77	3.70	0.01 (0.22)	0.95
Harvesting a turkey	3.16	3.21	0.07 (0.13)	0.58	3.43	0.45 (0.17)	0.01*	3.06	-0.18 (0.21)	0.40
<i>Note: Respondents that hunted in the coastal region were the reference type for analysis. * = P > 0.05</i>										

Appendix A.61: Importance of attributes of turkey hunting by age category

	18 – 40 years old	41 – 60 years old			61 years or older		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.70	4.65	-0.32 (0.17)	0.06	4.62	-0.36 (0.18)	0.04*
Feeling safe while hunting	4.66	4.57	-0.32 (0.17)	0.06	4.65	-0.21 (0.18)	0.23
Hearing turkeys gobbling	4.21	4.19	-0.10 (0.14)	0.48	4.20	-0.05 (0.15)	0.72
Seeing turkeys	4.04	4.08	0.04 (0.14)	0.76	4.07	0.06 (0.15)	0.70
Hunting with friends and family	4.13	4.06	-0.09 (0.14)	0.54	3.64	-0.74 (0.15)	<0.01*
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.89	3.82	-0.14 (0.14)	0.32	4.03	0.20 (0.15)	0.19
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	3.87	3.82	-0.16 (0.14)	0.24	3.85	-0.07 (0.15)	0.62
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.70	3.71	0.01 (0.14)	0.94	3.98	0.51 (0.15)	<0.01*
Mentoring new hunters	3.85	3.82	-0.13 (0.14)	0.33	3.50	-0.59 (0.15)	<0.01*
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.83	3.59	-0.36 (0.14)	0.01*	3.77	-0.06 (0.15)	0.70
Harvesting a turkey	3.32	3.13	-0.31 (0.14)	0.02*	3.22	-0.14 (0.15)	0.33
<i>Note: Hunters between 18 and 40 years old were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.62: Importance of attributes of turkey hunting by land type hunted

	Private land only	Public land only			Both public and private land		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.64	4.65	0.16 (0.31)	0.61	4.68	0.25 (0.19)	0.19
Feeling safe while hunting	4.60	4.78	0.65 (0.36)	0.07	4.60	0.05 (0.18)	0.77
Hearing turkeys gobbling	4.19	4.35	0.45 (0.27)	0.10	4.16	-0.02 (0.16)	0.90
Seeing turkeys	4.09	4.20	0.41 (0.27)	0.13	3.90	-0.38 (0.16)	0.01*
Hunting with friends and family	3.95	3.72	-0.53 (0.23)	0.02*	4.01	0.06 (0.15)	0.70
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.91	4.04	0.21 (0.25)	0.42	3.77	-0.23 (0.15)	0.13
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	3.82	3.85	0.02 (0.25)	0.94	3.94	0.25 (0.15)	0.10
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.78	3.72	-0.14 (0.26)	0.60	3.80	0.04 (0.15)	0.81
Mentoring new hunters	3.73	3.56	-0.34 (0.25)	0.17	3.85	0.18 (0.15)	0.22
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.73	3.72	-0.12 (0.24)	0.60	3.62	-0.18 (0.15)	0.22
Harvesting a turkey	3.21	3.56	0.49 (0.24)	0.04*	3.15	-0.09 (0.15)	0.54
<i>Note: Hunters who only hunted on private land were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.63: Importance of attributes of turkey hunting by years spent turkey hunting

	2025 – 1 st year	2 – 5 years			6 – 12 years			13 – 18 years			19 – 25 years			More than 25 years		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.66	4.61	0.01 (0.30)	0.97	4.70	0.18 (0.31)	0.57	4.58	-0.24 (0.31)	0.44	4.68	0.01 (0.31)	0.99	4.64	-0.04 (0.30)	0.91
Feeling safe while hunting	4.60	4.66	0.21 (0.30)	0.49	4.55	-0.03 (0.30)	0.93	4.60	0.01 (0.31)	0.96	4.64	0.15 (0.31)	0.64	4.60	0.09 (0.30)	0.77
Hearing turkeys gobbling	4.01	4.22	0.42 (0.26)	0.11	4.20	0.43 (0.27)	0.11	4.22	0.39 (0.28)	0.15	4.15	0.24 (0.27)	0.37	4.21	0.39 (0.27)	0.14
Seeing turkeys	4.01	4.10	0.05 (0.26)	0.85	4.13	0.15 (0.27)	0.58	3.97	-0.19 (0.28)	0.50	4.02	-0.14 (0.28)	0.62	4.07	0.01 (0.27)	0.97
Hunting with friends and family	3.97	3.92	-0.06 (0.25)	0.80	3.82	-0.19 (0.26)	0.46	3.99	0.06 (0.27)	0.82	4.07	0.14 (0.26)	0.59	3.98	0.03 (0.25)	0.90
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.86	3.89	-0.04 (0.26)	0.88	3.97	0.16 (0.27)	0.55	3.86	-0.09 (0.28)	0.76	3.86	-0.09 (0.27)	0.75	3.89	-0.06 (0.26)	0.82
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	3.94	3.98	0.02 (0.25)	0.94	3.87	-0.12 (0.26)	0.3	3.62	-0.53 (0.27)	0.05*	3.82	-0.24 (0.27)	0.36	3.82	-0.22 (0.26)	0.39
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.61	3.76	0.28 (0.26)	0.28	3.90	0.58 (0.27)	0.03*	3.70	0.17 (0.28)	0.53	3.73	0.22 (0.27)	0.43	3.84	0.42 (0.26)	0.11
Mentoring new hunters	3.71	3.76	0.02 (0.25)	0.92	3.74	0.02 (0.26)	0.5	3.66	-0.14 (0.27)	0.59	3.81	0.09 (0.26)	0.74	3.75	-0.04 (0.25)	0.87
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.58	3.69	0.09 (0.25)	0.72	3.77	0.29 (0.26)	0.27	3.79	0.33 (0.27)	0.22	3.72	0.17 (0.26)	0.52	3.68	0.15 (0.26)	0.56
Harvesting a turkey	3.29	3.42	0.23 (0.26)	0.36	3.24	-0.07 (0.26)	0.80	3.26	-0.06 (0.27)	0.81	3.11	-0.31 (0.27)	0.25	3.00	-0.44 (0.26)	0.09
Note: Respondents hunted turkey for the first time in 2025 was the reference type for analysis. * = $P > 0.05$																

Appendix A.64: Satisfaction of attributes of turkey hunting by region hunted

	Coast	Piedmont			Mountains			Multiple Regions		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.54	4.58	0.06 (0.15)	0.70	4.52	-0.08 (0.20)	0.68	4.59	0.16 (0.24)	0.50
Feeling safe while hunting	4.40	4.40	0.06 (0.14)	0.65	4.38	0.02 (0.19)	0.93	4.29	-0.16 (0.22)	0.48
Hearing turkeys gobbling	3.70	3.35	-0.56 (0.14)	<0.01*	3.11	-0.96 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.09	-1.03 (0.21)	<0.01*
Seeing turkeys	3.78	3.28	-0.87 (0.14)	<0.01*	3.09	-1.16 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.24	-0.94 (0.21)	<0.01*
Hunting with friends and family	4.24	4.12	-0.27 (0.14)	0.05*	4.09	-0.37 (0.18)	0.05*	4.17	-0.13 (0.21)	0.53
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.57	3.27	-0.57 (0.14)	<0.01*	3.24	-0.61 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.28	-0.54 (0.21)	0.01*
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	4.11	4.05	-0.14 (0.14)	0.31	4.03	-0.17 (0.18)	0.36	4.03	-0.15 (0.22)	0.49
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.58	3.32	-0.42 (0.13)	<0.01*	3.23	-0.55 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.18	-0.64 (0.21)	<0.01*
Mentoring new hunters	3.84	3.87	0.05 (0.14)	0.73	3.96	0.23 (0.18)	0.19	3.92	0.23 (0.21)	0.28
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.63	3.23	-0.70 (0.13)	<0.01*	3.24	-0.68 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.48	-0.30 (0.21)	0.17
Harvesting a turkey	3.52	3.20	-0.60 (0.14)	<0.01*	3.14	-0.70 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.30	-0.39 (0.21)	0.07
<i>Note: Respondents who hunted in the coastal region were the reference type for analysis. * = P > 0.05</i>										

Appendix A.65: Satisfaction of attributes of turkey hunting by age category

	18 – 40 years old	41 – 60 years old			61 years or older		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.52	4.57	0.12 (0.15)	0.40	4.57	0.25 (0.17)	0.13
Feeling safe while hunting	4.32	4.38	0.11 (0.15)	0.48	4.47	0.34 (0.16)	0.03*
Hearing turkeys gobbling	3.34	3.39	0.07 (0.14)	0.59	3.52	0.34 (0.15)	0.02*
Seeing turkeys	3.37	3.40	0.05 (0.14)	0.70	3.51	0.26 (0.15)	0.08
Hunting with friends and family	4.21	4.21	0.01 (0.14)	0.96	4.06	-0.34 (0.15)	0.02*
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.23	3.34	0.14 (0.14)	0.33	3.55	0.53 (0.15)	<0.01*
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	4.04	4.05	0.01 (0.14)	0.96	4.09	0.12 (0.15)	0.43
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.25	3.38	0.19 (0.14)	0.16	3.51	0.48 (0.15)	<0.01*
Mentoring new hunters	3.88	3.95	0.10 (0.14)	0.48	3.75	-0.35 (0.15)	0.02*
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.36	3.34	-0.08 (0.14)	0.54	3.53	0.24 (0.15)	0.10
Harvesting a turkey	3.29	3.28	-0.08 (0.14)	0.59	3.39	0.11 (0.15)	0.45
<i>Note: Hunters between 18 and 40 years old were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.66: Satisfaction of attributes of turkey hunting by land type hunted

	Private land only	Public land only			Both public and private land		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.56	4.55	-0.08 (0.28)	0.77	4.45	-0.22 (0.17)	0.20
Feeling safe while hunting	4.44	4.26	-0.45 (0.27)	0.10	4.11	-0.83 (0.16)	<0.01*
Hearing turkeys gobbling	3.50	2.91	-0.95 (0.26)	<0.01*	3.18	-0.46 (0.15)	<0.01*
Seeing turkeys	3.51	3.02	-0.82 (0.25)	<0.01*	3.15	-0.57 (0.15)	<0.01*
Hunting with friends and family	4.18	4.08	-0.27 (0.26)	0.30	4.07	-0.20 (0.16)	0.21
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.44	2.81	-1.18 (0.26)	<0.01*	3.26	-0.28 (0.15)	0.07
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	4.09	3.85	-0.40 (0.27)	0.14	3.98	-0.19 (0.16)	0.22
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.45	2.87	-1.02 (0.26)	<0.01*	3.27	-0.24 (0.16)	0.12
Mentoring new hunters	3.88	3.68	-0.50 (0.27)	0.06	3.87	0.02 (0.15)	0.92
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.46	2.85	-1.03 (0.25)	<0.01*	3.31	-0.21 (0.15)	0.17
Harvesting a turkey	3.37	2.70	-1.17 (0.25)	<0.01*	3.26	-0.16 (0.15)	0.31
<i>Note: Hunters who only hunted on private land were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.67: Satisfaction of attributes of turkey hunting by years spent turkey hunting

	2025 – 1 st year	2 – 5 years			6 – 12 years			13 – 18 years			19 – 25 years			More than 25 years		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Spending time outdoors	4.63	4.55	-0.30 (0.30)	0.31	4.55	0.34 (0.30)	0.26	4.53	-0.37 (0.31)	0.23	4.55	-0.24 (0.31)	0.43	4.48	-0.41 (0.30)	0.17
Feeling safe while hunting	4.46	4.41	-0.22 (0.28)	0.43	4.36	-0.39 (0.29)	0.17	4.36	-0.40 (0.29)	0.17	4.38	-0.31 (0.29)	0.30	4.32	-0.41 (0.28)	0.15
Hearing turkeys gobbling	3.57	3.56	-0.04 (0.26)	0.87	3.48	-0.16 (0.27)	0.56	3.27	-0.49 (0.28)	0.08	3.30	-0.46 (0.27)	0.09	3.34	-0.32 (0.27)	0.23
Seeing turkeys	3.70	3.56	-0.26 (0.26)	0.32	3.48	0.36 (0.26)	0.16	3.23	-0.78 (0.27)	<0.01*	3.36	-0.55 (0.27)	0.04*	3.31	-0.61 (0.26)	0.02*
Hunting with friends and family	4.31	4.16	-0.42 (0.27)	0.12	4.09	-0.59 (0.28)	0.03*	4.16	-0.43 (0.29)	0.14	4.22	-0.26 (0.28)	0.37	4.10	-0.49 (0.28)	0.08
Calling a turkey into shooting range	3.25	3.23	0.07 (0.26)	0.79	3.44	0.44 (0.26)	0.09	3.36	0.26 (0.27)	0.33	3.37	0.30 (0.27)	0.26	3.53	0.64 (0.26)	0.02*
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	4.32	4.12	-0.57 (0.28)	0.04*	4.04	-0.81 (0.28)	<0.01*	3.98	-0.94 (0.29)	<0.01*	3.99	-0.89 (0.29)	<0.01*	4.00	-0.77 (0.28)	<0.01*
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	3.32	3.40	0.19 (0.26)	0.47	3.49	0.38 (0.27)	0.15	3.28	-0.01 (0.27)	0.96	3.31	0.04 (0.27)	0.87	3.43	0.30 (0.26)	0.25
Mentoring new hunters	3.95	3.82	-0.30 (0.27)	0.26	3.86	-0.24 (0.27)	0.37	3.79	-0.35 (0.28)	0.21	3.98	0.04 (0.27)	0.89	3.87	-0.18 (0.27)	0.50
Harvesting a mature turkey	3.12	3.26	0.30 (0.25)	0.23	3.39	0.50 (0.26)	0.05*	3.38	0.48 (0.27)	0.07	3.54	0.71 (0.26)	0.01*	3.56	0.86 (0.26)	<0.01*
Harvesting a turkey	3.12	3.21	0.23 (0.26)	0.37	3.31	0.40 (0.27)	0.14	3.36	0.45 (0.28)	0.10	3.38	0.48 (0.27)	0.08	3.41	0.61 (0.26)	0.02*
Note: Respondents who hunted turkey for the first time in 2025 was the reference type for analysis. * = $P > 0.05$																

Appendix A.68: Result of chi-square test between acceptable acres per hunter and land type hunted

	Private land only (n = 803)	Public land only (n = 53)*	Both public and private land (n = 175)*
10 acres	101 (13%)	6 (11%)	15 (9%)
25 acres	181 (23%)	12 (23%)	41 (23%)
50 acres	227 (28%)	18 (34%)	32 (18%)
100 acres	194 (24%)	10 (19%)	51 (29%)
200 acres or more	100 (12%)	7 (13%)	26 (21%)
$\chi^2 = 17.45, p = 0.03$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.			

Appendix A.69: Results of chi-square test between acceptable number of other hunters seen and age

	18 – 40 years old (n = 311)	41 – 60 years old (n = 379)	61 years or older (n = 293)
0 hunters	94 (30%)	163 (43%)	145 (50%)
1 – 2 hunters	189 (61%)	191 (50%)	131 (45%)
3 – 5 hunters	26 (8%)	23 (6%)	13 (4%)
6 – 10 hunters	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)
More than 10 hunters	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)
$\chi^2 = 30.67, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.70: Results of chi-square test between acceptable number of other hunters seen and land type hunted

	Private land only (n = 797)	Public land only (n = 52)*	Both public and private land (n = 175)*
0 hunters	365 (46%)	6 (12%)	46 (26%)
1 – 2 hunters	384 (48%)	36 (69%)	111 (63%)
3 – 5 hunters	45 (6%)	9 (17%)	14 (8%)
6 – 10 hunters	3 (<1%)	1 (2%)	2 (1%)
More than 10 hunters	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)
$\chi^2 = 57.89, p < 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.			

Appendix A.71: Other regulation changes respondents would be open to (n = 175)

Regulation change	n
Require increasing predator hunting	46
Change season timing	37
Shorten youth season	21
Restrict jake harvest	11

Appendix A.72: Rankings of potential regulation changes compared to region hunted

	Coast	Piedmont			Mountains			Multiple Regions		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Lowering the bag limit	2.35	2.09	-0.31 (0.14)	0.03*	2.08	-0.32 (0.19)	0.10	2.52	0.22 (0.22)	0.32
Shortening the season	3.03	3.11	0.07 (0.14)	0.63	3.04	-0.06 (0.19)	0.77	3.05	0.07 (0.21)	0.74
Limiting hunting to morning hours only	3.10	3.22	0.15 (0.14)	0.27	3.52	0.49 (0.18)	0.01*	3.28	0.22 (0.22)	0.30
Placing limitations on methods or weapons for take	3.18	3.30	0.17 (0.14)	0.23	3.42	0.23 (0.19)	0.07	3.02	-0.22 (0.22)	0.31
Implementing a lottery for turkey tags	4.34	4.40	0.10 (0.14)	0.46	4.26	-0.07 (0.19)	0.70	4.46	0.20 (0.22)	0.36
Other	5.04	4.91	-0.13 (0.17)	0.45	4.79	-0.23 (0.22)	0.29	4.67	-0.31 (0.26)	0.23
<i>Note: Respondents who hunted in the coastal region were the reference type for analysis. * = $P > 0.05$</i>										

Appendix A.73: Rankings of potential regulation changes compared to age category

	18 – 40 years old	41 – 60 years old			61 years or older		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Lowering the bag limit	2.42	2.09	-0.45 (0.14)	<0.01*	2.14	-0.37 (0.16)	0.02*
Shortening the season	3.36	2.94	-0.62 (0.14)	<0.01*	2.84	-0.74 (0.16)	<0.01*
Limiting hunting to morning hours only	3.17	3.22	0.07 (0.14)	0.60	3.32	0.20 (0.15)	0.18
Placing limitations on methods or weapons for take	3.00	3.40	0.54 (0.14)	<0.01*	3.36	0.51 (0.15)	<0.01*
Implementing a lottery for turkey tags	4.50	4.34	-0.29 (0.14)	0.04*	2.24	-0.43 (0.16)	0.01*
Another regulation change	4.55	4.97	0.37 (0.16)	0.02*	5.25	0.80 (0.19)	<0.01*
<i>Note: Hunters between 18 and 40 years old were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.74: Rankings of potential regulation changes compared to number of turkeys harvested

	No turkeys harvested	One turkey harvested			Two turkeys harvested		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Lowering the bag limit	2.16	2.15	0.02 (0.15)	0.92	2.72	0.68 (0.21)	<0.01*
Shortening the season	3.09	3.03	-0.05 (0.15)	0.71	2.91	-0.18 (0.20)	0.37
Limiting hunting to morning hours only	3.32	3.08	-0.27 (0.14)	0.06	3.00	-0.39 (0.21)	0.06
Placing limitations on methods or weapons for take	3.26	3.31	0.05 (0.15)	0.74	3.02	-0.35 (0.21)	0.09
Implementing a lottery for turkey tags	4.26	4.50	0.37 (0.15)	0.01*	4.78	0.73 (0.21)	<0.01*
Another regulation change	4.97	4.92	-0.10 (0.17)	0.54	4.52	-0.49 (0.23)	0.03*
<i>Note: Hunters who did not harvest a turkey were the reference type for analysis. * = $P < 0.05$</i>							

Appendix A.75: Satisfaction with aspects of turkey hunting compared to region hunted

	Coast	Piedmont			Mountains			Multiple Regions		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Options to report a harvest	4.04	4.13	0.16 (0.14)	0.27	4.03	-0.05 (0.19)	0.78	4.16	0.28 (0.23)	0.22
Season bag limit	3.78	3.64	-0.34 (0.14)	0.02*	3.66	-0.27 (0.19)	0.15	3.69	-0.26 (0.22)	0.23
Daily bag limit	3.70	3.70	-0.06 (0.14)	0.65	3.66	-0.10 (0.18)	0.59	3.79	0.08 (0.22)	0.72
Habitat conditions where I hunt most often	3.75	3.62	-0.27 (0.14)	0.05*	3.43	-0.60 (0.19)	<0.01*	3.51	-0.41 (0.23)	0.07
Season length	3.62	3.56	-0.13 (0.14)	0.35	3.45	-0.30 (0.18)	0.10	3.62	-0.07 (0.21)	0.75
Number of weekends in the season	3.53	3.50	-0.05 (0.14)	0.70	3.51	-0.05 (0.18)	0.78	3.54	0.02 (0.22)	0.93
Regulation consistency across the state	3.64	6.65	-0.03 (0.14)	0.85	3.55	-0.20 (0.18)	0.27	3.70	0.24 (0.23)	0.28
Number of Youth days	3.47	3.44	-0.04 (0.14)	0.79	3.57	0.19 (0.18)	0.28	3.38	-0.11 (0.22)	0.61
The number of other turkey hunters where I hunt most often	3.49	3.58	0.14 (0.14)	0.29	3.56	0.08 (0.18)	0.63	3.38	-0.26 (0.22)	0.24
Gobbler behavior where I hunt most often	3.36	3.03	-0.55 (0.14)	<0.01*	2.95	-0.70 (0.18)	<0.01*	3.13	-0.35 (0.22)	0.10
Timing of season opening date	3.09	3.09	0.01 (0.13)	0.94	3.02	-0.06 (0.18)	0.72	3.10	0.02 (0.21)	0.93
The number of turkeys heard where I hunt most often	3.29	2.99	-0.52 (0.13)	<0.01*	2.82	-0.79 (0.18)	<0.01*	2.96	-0.52 (0.22)	0.02*
<i>Note: Respondents who hunted in the coastal region were the reference type for analysis. * = $P > 0.05$</i>										

Appendix A.76: Satisfaction with aspects of turkey hunting compared to age category

	18 – 40 years old	41 – 60 years old			61 years or older		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Options to report a harvest	4.14	4.07	-0.15 (0.15)	0.31	4.03	-0.24 (0.16)	0.12
Season bag limit	3.71	3.67	-0.04 (0.14)	0.81	3.74	0.12 (0.15)	0.43
Daily bag limit	3.76	3.64	-0.16 (0.14)	0.27	3.69	-0.08 (0.15)	0.58
Habitat conditions where I hunt most often	3.54	3.59	0.08 (0.14)	0.60	3.74	0.38 (0.15)	0.01*
Season length	3.40	3.56	0.30 (0.14)	0.03*	3.73	0.63 (0.15)	<0.01*
Number of weekends in the season	3.32	3.52	0.35 (0.14)	0.01*	3.71	0.71 (0.15)	<0.01*
Regulation consistency across the state	3.60	3.64	0.06 (0.14)	0.68	3.67	0.10 (0.15)	0.53
Number of Youth days	3.40	3.50	0.22 (0.14)	0.12	3.50	0.10 (0.15)	0.51
The number of other turkey hunters where I hunt most often	3.41	3.51	0.15 (0.14)	0.27	3.68	0.49 (0.15)	<0.01*
Gobbler behavior where I hunt most often	3.15	3.07	-0.14 (0.14)	0.32	3.21	0.11 (0.15)	0.47
Timing of season opening date	2.94	3.03	0.13 (0.14)	0.33	3.26	0.50 (0.15)	<0.01*
The number of turkeys heard where I hunt most often	3.02	3.04	0.03 (0.14)	0.81	3.10	0.14 (0.15)	0.36
<i>Note: Hunters between 18 and 40 years old were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.77: Satisfaction with aspects of turkey hunting compared to land type hunted

	Private land only	Public land only			Both public and private land		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Options to report a harvest	4.09	4.11	-0.01 (0.27)	0.98	3.95	-0.23 (0.16)	0.16
Season bag limit	3.72	3.89	0.31 (0.27)	0.25	3.57	-0.32 (0.16)	0.05*
Daily bag limit	3.69	3.91	0.34 (0.27)	0.20	3.68	-0.04 (0.16)	0.81
Habitat conditions where I hunt most often	3.71	3.38	-0.63 (0.27)	0.02*	3.27	-0.83 (0.16)	<0.01*
Season length	3.58	3.45	-0.29 (0.26)	0.27	3.47	-0.23 (0.16)	0.13
Number of weekends in the season	3.53	3.38	-0.33 (0.26)	0.20	3.43	-0.22 (0.15)	0.16
Regulation consistency across the state	3.63	3.83	0.43 (0.27)	0.11	3.55	-0.15 (0.16)	0.34
Number of Youth days	3.51	3.45	-0.21 (0.25)	0.39	3.29	-0.41 (0.15)	0.01*
The number of other turkey hunters where I hunt most often	3.63	2.72	-1.73 (0.27)	<0.01*	3.23	-0.77 (0.16)	<0.01*
Gobbler behavior where I hunt most often	3.20	2.60	-0.97 (0.24)	<0.01*	3.02	-0.28 (0.15)	0.07
Timing of season opening date	3.07	3.09	< 0.01 (0.24)	0.99	3.10	0.04 (0.15)	0.78
The number of turkeys heard where I hunt most often	3.13	2.70	-0.70 (0.25)	0.01*	2.80	-0.54 (0.15)	<0.01*
<i>Note: Hunters who only hunted on private land were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.78: Satisfaction of aspects of turkey hunting compared to years turkey hunted

	2025 – 1 st year	2 – 5 years			6 – 12 years			13 – 18 years			19 – 25 years			More than 25 years		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Options to report a harvest	4.17	4.10	-0.14 (0.27)	0.61	4.18	0.04 (0.27)	0.88	4.11	-0.11 (0.29)	0.71	4.06	-0.26 (0.28)	0.36	3.90	-0.55 (0.27)	0.04*
Season bag limit	3.78	3.65	-0.22 (0.26)	0.41	3.74	-0.003 (0.27)	0.99	3.65	-0.17 (0.28)	0.55	3.87	0.25 (0.27)	0.36	3.64	-0.17 (0.26)	0.51
Daily bag limit	3.73	3.69	-0.07 (0.26)	0.80	3.79	0.19 (0.26)	0.48	3.69	-0.02 (0.27)	0.94	3.74	0.15 (0.27)	0.58	3.58	-0.18 (0.26)	0.50
Habitat conditions where I hunt most often	3.66	3.70	0.14 (0.26)	0.58	3.75	0.29 (0.27)	0.28	3.41	-0.39 (0.28)	0.16	3.66	0.11 (0.27)	0.68	3.51	-0.14 (0.27)	0.61
Season length	3.36	3.40	0.12 (0.26)	0.64	3.59	0.54 (0.26)	0.04*	3.59	0.45 (0.27)	0.10	3.69	0.63 (0.27)	0.02*	3.62	0.61 (0.26)	0.02*
Number of weekends in the season	3.25	3.31	0.20 (0.26)	0.44	3.57	0.70 (0.27)	0.01*	3.45	0.42 (0.27)	0.13	3.69	0.90 (0.27)	<0.01*	3.62	0.82 (0.26)	<0.01*
Regulation consistency across the state	3.61	3.59	-0.11 (0.26)	0.68	3.73	0.26 (0.27)	0.34	3.62	-0.04 (0.28)	0.90	3.68	0.11 (0.28)	0.70	3.55	-0.08 (0.27)	0.76
Number of Youth days	3.63	3.52	-0.13 (0.25)	0.61	3.54	-0.06 (0.26)	0.82	3.34	-0.34 (0.27)	0.21	3.51	-0.03 (0.27)	0.90	3.34	-0.35 (0.26)	0.18
The number of other turkey hunters where I hunt most often	3.45	3.54	0.13 (0.27)	0.64	3.58	0.21 (0.27)	0.44	3.41	-0.13 (0.28)	0.65	3.52	0.13 (0.28)	0.64	3.51	0.10 (0.27)	0.72
Gobbler behavior where I hunt most often	3.22	3.15	-0.07 (0.25)	0.79	3.21	0.08 (0.26)	0.75	2.95	-0.39 (0.27)	0.15	3.13	-0.09 (0.26)	0.75	3.18	0.04 (0.26)	0.88
Timing of season opening date	3.33	3.13	-0.23 (0.25)	0.36	2.99	-0.45 (0.25)	0.07	2.99	-0.48 (0.26)	0.07	3.07	-0.35 (0.26)	0.17	3.08	-0.30 (0.25)	0.23
The number of turkeys heard where I hunt most often	3.14	3.17	0.08 (0.25)	0.75	3.08	-0.06 (0.26)	0.82	2.91	-0.34 (0.27)	0.21	3.04	-0.13 (0.26)	0.63	3.00	-0.17 (0.26)	0.51
<i>Note: Respondents who hunted turkey for the first time in 2025 was the reference type for analysis. * = P > 0.05</i>																

Appendix A.79: Agreement on decoy use during turkey hunting compared to region hunted

	Coast	Piedmont			Mountains			Multiple Regions		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Stationary decoys are appropriate to use	4.20	4.12	-0.27 (0.14)	0.06	4.01	-0.51 (0.19)	0.01*	4.04	-0.40 (0.23)	0.08
Stationary decoys are safe to use	4.24	4.14	-0.31 (0.14)	0.03*	3.97	-0.68 (0.19)	<0.01*	4.02	-0.48 (0.23)	0.04*
Stalking with decoys is appropriate	3.34	3.08	-0.32 (0.14)	<0.01*	3.15	-0.35 (0.18)	0.05*	3.09	-0.45 (0.21)	0.04*
Stalking with decoys is safe	3.25	2.96	-0.49 (0.14)	<0.01*	2.99	-0.46 (0.18)	0.01*	3.02	-0.42 (0.21)	0.05*
<i>Note: Respondents who hunted in the coastal region were the reference type for analysis. * = $P > 0.05$</i>										

Appendix A.80: Agreement on decoy use during turkey hunting compared to age category

	18 – 40 years old	41 – 60 years old			61 years or older		
	Mean	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z	Mean	Coeff (SE)	P>Z
Stationary decoys are appropriate to use	4.11	4.15	0.06 (0.15)	0.69	4.11	<0.01 (0.16)	0.99
Stationary decoys are safe to use	4.15	4.13	-0.13 (0.14)	0.36	4.13	-0.10 (0.15)	0.52
Stalking with decoys is appropriate	3.27	3.21	-0.11 (0.33)	0.41	3.07	-0.33 (0.15)	0.03*
Stalking with decoys is safe	3.12	3.09	-0.08 (0.14)	0.58	3.01	-0.19 (0.15)	0.19
<i>Note: Hunters between 18 and 40 years old were the reference type for analysis. * = P < 0.05</i>							

Appendix A.81: Other communication channels respondents want to receive turkey hunting information from (n = 23)

Communication channel	n
Print/Mail	10
GoOutdoors App	6
Emails	3
Text messages	3

Appendix A.82: Results of chi-square test between selection of communication channels and region hunted

	Coast (n = 334)	Piedmont (n = 364)	Mountain (n = 146)*	Multiple Regions (n = 87)*
NCWRC emails	199 (60%)	247 (68%)	80 (55%)	60 (69%)
$\chi^2 = 10.90, p = 0.01$				
Public meetings	30 (9%)	46 (13%)	29 (20%)	13 (15%)
$\chi^2 = 11.34, p = 0.01$, *Indicates the sample size was insufficient to achieve generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.				

Appendix A.83: Results of chi-square test between selection of communication channels and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 317)	41 – 60 years old (n = 385)	61 years or older (n = 299)
Regulations digest	148 (49%)	24 (6%)	210 (72%)
$\chi^2 = 37.81, p < 0.01$			
Social media	145 (48%)	105 (28%)	43 (15%)
$\chi^2 = 77.62, p < 0.01$			
An internet search	88 (29%)	80 (21%)	62 (21%)
$\chi^2 = 6.63, p = 0.04$			
Newspaper/magazine/books	79 (26%)	50 (13%)	53 (18%)
$\chi^2 = 17.55, p < 0.01$			
Podcasts	48 (16%)	30 (8%)	12 (4%)
$\chi^2 = 25.16, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.84: Other reasons respondents did not hunt turkeys this year (n = 134)

Reason	n
Personal reasons	80
Rather do something else	7
Didn't draw permit	7
Because of current rules	6
Nowhere to hunt	5
Weather	5

Appendix A.85: Results of chi-square test between reasons respondents did not hunt for turkeys this season and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 167)	41 – 60 years old (n = 293)	61 years or older (n = 304)
Did not have enough time to hunt turkeys	104 (62%)	177 (60%)	120 (39%)
$\chi^2 = 34.43, p < 0.01$			
Another reason	19 (11%)	40 (14%)	84 (28%)
$\chi^2 = 26.73, p < 0.01$			
Prefers hunting other things	34 (20%)	34 (12%)	46 (15%)
$\chi^2 = 6.44, p = 0.04$			

Appendix A.86: Other reasons respondents have never hunted turkeys (n = 85)

Reason	n
Never wanted to hunt turkeys	25
Personal reasons	17
Weather	6
Rather do other things	6

Appendix A.87: Results of chi-square test between reasons respondents have never hunted turkeys and age category

	18 – 40 years old (n = 126)	41 – 60 years old (n = 211)	61 years or older (n = 313)
Prefers hunting other game	44 (35%)	68 (32%)	148 (47%)
$\chi^2 = 13.59, p < 0.01$			
Doesn't have anywhere to hunt	53 (42%)	63 (30%)	71 (23%)
$\chi^2 = 16.65, p < 0.01$			
Does not know how to turkey hunt	44 (35%)	57 (27%)	51 (16%)
$\chi^2 = 19.69, p < 0.01$			
Does not have enough time to turkey hunt	31 (25%)	37 (18%)	35 (11%)
$\chi^2 = 12.80, p < 0.01$			
Does not have anyone to hunt with	28 (22%)	19 (9%)	28 (9%)
$\chi^2 = 17.48, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.88: Results of chi-square test between barriers to start turkey hunting and years turkey hunted. The sample size for all levels is insufficient to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence interval.

	2025 was my first year (n = 68)	2 – 5 years (n = 207)	6 – 12 years (n = 162)	13 – 18 years (n = 121)	19 – 25 years (n = 103)	More than 25 years (n = 163)
There were no or few turkeys in the area I was hunting	23 (34%)	93 (45%)	83 (51%)	62 (51%)	69 (67%)	96 (59%)
$\chi^2 = 25.55, p < 0.01$						
I didn't have anywhere to hunt	30 (44%)	78 (38%)	63 (39%)	35 (29%)	29 (28%)	29 (18%)
$\chi^2 = 27.52, p < 0.01$						
I didn't have anyone to show me how to turkey hunt	25 (37%)	82 (40%)	43 (33%)	30 (25%)	24 (23%)	28 (17%)
$\chi^2 = 28.15, p < 0.01$						
I didn't have anyone to go with	26 (38%)	48 (23%)	25 (15%)	15 (12%)	11 (11%)	13 (8%)
$\chi^2 = 42.24, p < 0.01$						
Other	8 (12%)	22 (11%)	14 (9%)	17 (14%)	5 (5%)	42 (26%)
$\chi^2 = 33.25, p < 0.01$						

Appendix A.89: Results of chi-square test between shot type used and number of turkeys harvested. The sample sizes for one bird and two birds harvested are insufficient to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence level.

	No turkeys harvested (n = 786)	One turkey harvested (n = 225)	Two turkeys harvested (n = 92)
#7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot	237 (30%)	105 (47%)	49 (53%)
$\chi^2 = 34.76, p < 0.01$			
#4 lead shot	195 (25%)	37 (16%)	11 (12%)
$\chi^2 = 13.06, p < 0.01$			

Appendix A.90: Average days spent turkey hunting by shot type used. As shot type was a select all that apply, the groups are not exclusive. Only the top two shot types received a sufficient sample size to make generalizable conclusions at the 95% confidence level.

Shot type used	Average Days Spent Turkey Hunting	n
#7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot	8.87	371
#5 lead shot	7.46	359
#4 lead shot	6.68	222
#6 lead shot	8.39	148
Other	7.07	67
#2 lead shot	7.72	43
BBs	8.2	20
Buckshot	6	20

Appendix A.91: Results of chi square test between what time of day hunters spent turkey hunting and what time of day hunters harvested a turkey. There is an insufficient sample size to make generalizable results at the 95% confidence level.

	Hunted in the morning (n = 100)	Hunted in the afternoon (n = 4)	Hunted in the morning and afternoon (n = 217)
Harvested a turkey in the morning	98 (98%)	---	133 (61%)
Harvested a turkey in the afternoon	2 (2%)	3 (75%)	49 (23%)
Harvested a turkey in the morning and afternoon	---	1 (25%)	36 (16%)

Appendix A.92: Results of chi square test between years turkey hunted and trust in the NCWRC to manage and conserve turkeys and their habitats in North Carolina

	2025 was my first year (n = 67)	2 – 5 years (n = 244)	6 – 12 years (n = 207)	13 – 18 years (n = 154)	19 – 25 years (n = 167)	More than 25 years (n = 220)
Very low	2 (3%)	8 (3%)	14 (7%)	16 (10%)	12 (7%)	23 (10%)
Somewhat low	1 (1%)	13 (5%)	24 (12%)	16 (10%)	26 (16%)	28 (13%)
Neutral	18 (27%)	68 (28%)	61 (29%)	48 (31%)	50 (30%)	57 (26%)
Somewhat high	20 (30%)	86 (35%)	69 (33%)	39 (25%)	53 (32%)	68 (31%)
Very high	26 (39%)	69 (28%)	39 (19%)	36 (23%)	26 (16%)	44 (20%)
$\chi^2 = 51.00, p < 0.01$						

Appendix B: Survey Instrument



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) 2025 Turkey Hunter Survey

Please complete the following turkey hunter survey and return it in the enclosed business reply envelope or complete the survey online at <https://bit.ly/turkeyhuntersurvey> or by scanning the QR code below

SCAN ME

to take survey online



Enter this code when prompted:

<<Survey Access Code>>

Before continuing, please know that your participation is voluntary. You may choose to skip any questions or end the survey at any point. The information you provide will only be used for research and will not be shared with anyone outside the NCWRC. **By completing the survey, you agree that you are over 18 years of age and understand the voluntary nature of your participation.**

If you would like to be entered into a prize drawing for one of five \$50 Cabela's gift cards, please provide a valid email address so that we may contact you if your name is drawn: _____

SECTION A: Hunting in North Carolina

1. In the last 12 months, what species did you hunt for in North Carolina? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Turkey
- ☐ Deer
- ☐ Black Bear
- ☐ Small game (Squirrel, rabbit, quail, etc.)
- ☐ Migratory Birds/Waterfowl (Ducks, doves, woodcock, etc.)
- ☐ Nongame species (Coyotes, feral hogs, etc.)

2. Have you ever hunted for turkeys in North Carolina?

- ☐ Yes, I hunted turkeys in the 2025 season → **CONTINUE TO PAGE 2**
- ☐ Yes, but not during the 2025 season → **SKIP TO PAGE 10, SECTION F**
- ☐ No, I've never hunted or harvested a turkey in North Carolina → **SKIP TO PAGE 10, SECTION G**

SECTION B: Turkey Hunting in North Carolina

1. How long have you been turkey hunting in North Carolina?

- ☐ 2025 was my first year ☐ 2-5 years ☐ 6-12 years ☐ 13-18 years ☐ 19-25 years ☐ More than 25 years

2. What encouraged you to begin turkey hunting? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Someone in my family was a turkey hunter and they introduced me.
☐ A friend was a turkey hunter and they introduced me.
☐ I was already a hunter of other game species and decided to turkey hunt also.
☐ I wanted to harvest a turkey to eat wild turkey meat.
☐ I read about turkey hunting/watched a hunting show on TV and wanted to give it a try.
☐ I attended a NCWRC turkey hunting workshop and began turkey hunting because of it.
☐ Other, please describe: _____

3. How old were you when you started turkey hunting? _____ years

4. Which of the following best describes your participation in North Carolina's **youth** turkey season? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ I hunted youth turkey season
☐ I participated in an organized youth turkey hunt
☐ I took a youth hunter hunting during the youth turkey season
☐ I have never participated in a youth turkey season

5. Were any of the following barriers to you starting to turkey hunt? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ I didn't have anywhere to hunt
☐ I didn't have anyone to go hunting with
☐ I didn't have anyone to show me how to turkey hunt
☐ There were no or few turkeys in the area I was hunting
☐ I was unable to purchase/borrow a legal weapon with which to turkey hunt
☐ Other, please describe: _____

6. During the 2025 season, in which North Carolina counties did you turkey hunt... *Write NA in the space provided if you only hunted one or two counties.*

...the most? _____	... the second most? _____	...the third most? _____
--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------

7. Approximately, how many total acres is the property where you turkey hunted most often? _____

8. When turkey hunting in North Carolina during the 2025 season, did you hunt on private lands, game lands, or both private land and game lands?

- ☐ Only hunted on private lands
- ☐ Only hunted on game lands
- ☐ Most often hunted on private lands, but also hunted on game lands
- ☐ Most often hunted on game lands, but also hunted on private land
- ☐ Hunted on private land and game lands about the same amount of time

9. If you hunt on private land, do you use any of the following management practices on that land? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Food plots
- ☐ Timber management
- ☐ Prescribed fire
- ☐ Herbicide use
- ☐ Mowing
- ☐ Discing
- ☐ Removing nest predators
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

10. What weapons do you use to hunt turkeys? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Shotgun
- ☐ Crossbow
- ☐ Muzzle-loading shotgun
- ☐ Bow and arrow

11. *If you have used a shotgun, what type of shot did you use? Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Buckshot
- ☐ BB's
- ☐ #2 lead shot
- ☐ #4 lead shot
- ☐ #5 lead shot
- ☐ #6 lead shot
- ☐ #7 and smaller TSS, heavier than lead shot
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

12. *If you used a shotgun, approximately, how many shells did you use during the 2025 turkey season?* _____

13. What time of day did you hunt turkeys this season?

- ☐ Morning
- ☐ Afternoon
- ☐ Both

14. How many turkeys did you harvest in North Carolina during the 2025 turkey season?

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2

15. If you harvested a turkey during the 2025 season, what time of day was the harvest?

- ☐ Morning
- ☐ Afternoon
- ☐ Both

16. *If you harvested a turkey in the 2025 season, how far away was the turkey that you harvested? Select all that apply.*

- ☐ <10 yards
- ☐ 11-20 yards
- ☐ 21-30 yards
- ☐ 31-40 yards
- ☐ 41-50 yards
- ☐ 51-60 yards
- ☐ >60 yards

17. When you're hunting turkeys in North Carolina, how often do you use the following tools or techniques?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Decoys	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Blinds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reaping - using a real or fake turkey fan while stalking a turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fanning – using a real or fake turkey fan while in a stationary position	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

18. If you're a member of a conservation group, please list the groups here:

19. Where you turkey hunted most often in 2025, how crowded was the area where you hunted?

- ☐ Not at all crowded
 ☐ Slightly crowded
 ☐ Somewhat crowded
 ☐ Moderately crowded
 ☐ Very crowded

20. On the most crowded day while you were turkey hunting, how many other hunters did you see? _____

21. How often did you experience competition from other hunters where you hunted most often?

- ☐ Never
 ☐ Rarely
 ☐ Sometimes
 ☐ Often
 ☐ Always

22. Which of the following disruptions did you experience during your turkey hunting in North Carolina in 2025? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Interference by dogs
☐ Interference by other people, not hunters
☐ Interference by ATVs or other recreational vehicles
☐ Interference by other hunters
☐ None of the above
☐ Other, please specify: _____

23. Did you observe any illegal hunting or other rules violations while you were turkey hunting in North Carolina in 2025?

- ☐ Yes
 ☐ No

24. In general, how satisfied are you with your overall turkey hunting experience in North Carolina?

- ☐ Very dissatisfied
 ☐ Dissatisfied
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Satisfied
 ☐ Very satisfied

25. Did you hunt turkeys in states other than North Carolina in 2025? ☐ Yes ☐ No **(Skip to page 5)**

26. In which other states did you hunt? Please list them here: _____

27. How many turkeys did you harvest in other states in 2025? _____

SECTION C: Turkey Hunting Expenditures

1. In the 2025 season, how many trips away from your home did you take to hunt turkeys in North Carolina? (Count individual trips away from home, which could be one day or several days long) _____ trips
2. In the 2025 season, how many days did you spend turkey hunting in North Carolina? _____ days
3. Approximately how far did you travel from your residence to the place in North Carolina you turkey hunted MOST OFTEN in the 2025 season? _____ miles
4. On one typical turkey hunting trip away from home, in North Carolina, how much do you spend for the following? [Include the amount that you spent on all persons for whom you covered the costs for or shared the costs with (e.g. children, spouse etc.)] *If you did not have expenses, write "0."*

ITEM	SPENDING/TRIP
Food & Lodging:	
Food & drinks at restaurants	\$ _____
Food & drinks purchased at convenience/grocery stores	\$ _____
Lodging at hotels, lodges, cabins, or campgrounds	\$ _____
Transportation to and from where you hunt:	
Gasoline	\$ _____
Vehicle rental	\$ _____
Other transportation costs (Please specify): _____	\$ _____
Activity Expenses	
Ammunition	\$ _____
Equipment rentals (boats, ATV, tent, etc.)	\$ _____
Guide/outfitter or tour fees	\$ _____
Camping supplies	\$ _____
Boating expenses	\$ _____
Other expenses (please specify): _____	\$ _____

5. About what percentage of your spending took place in the county where you turkey hunted the most? ____%
6. How many people did you typically pay for, including yourself? _____
7. What was the total cost for the following items you purchased primarily for turkey hunting in North Carolina in the last 12 months? *If you did not purchase an item, write "0."*

Shotgun(s) \$ _____	Gear (clothes, boots, etc.) \$ _____
Game calls \$ _____	Leased land \$ _____
Scopes and other optics \$ _____	Blinds and/or tree stands \$ _____
Decoys \$ _____	Camping equipment \$ _____
Archery equipment (bows, arrows, etc.) \$ _____	Adaptive hunting gear (track chair, archery mouth tab, etc.) \$ _____
Processing and taxidermy costs \$ _____	

SECTION D: Your Opinion on Turkey Management

1. Overall, please rate your level of trust in the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to manage and conserve turkeys and their habitats in North Carolina.

- ☐ Very low ☐ Somewhat low ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat high ☐ Very high

2. How familiar are you with the turkey harvest summaries and trends reported by the NCWRC?

- ☐ Not at all familiar ☐ Slightly familiar ☐ Somewhat familiar ☐ Moderately familiar ☐ Very familiar

3. Please rate your agreement with the following statements on the NCWRC's turkey management.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
The NCWRC makes good management decisions for turkey populations in North Carolina.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The NCWRC has appropriate regulations for turkey hunting in North Carolina.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The NCWRC makes reasonable efforts to educate hunters about turkey management.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The NCWRC incorporates hunters' input into turkey management decisions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. In the last five years, do you think the number of turkeys where you hunt has:

- ☐ Decreased dramatically ☐ Decreased ☐ About the same ☐ Increased ☐ Increased dramatically

5. If you feel turkey populations have decreased, what do you believe is the **main** reason for the population decline? **Choose one.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Habitat loss | ☐ Disease |
| ☐ Poor nesting and brood rearing | ☐ Weather changes |
| ☐ Predators | ☐ Other, please specify: _____ |
| ☐ Overharvest | |

6. How important are the following things to you while you're turkey hunting?

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Seeing turkeys	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hearing turkeys gobbling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Calling a turkey into shooting range	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Harvesting a turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Harvesting a mature turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hunting with friends and family	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mentoring new hunters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spending time outdoors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feeling safe while hunting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

7. How satisfied are you with the following things about turkey hunting in North Carolina?

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Seeing turkeys	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hearing turkeys gobbling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Having turkeys respond to your call by gobbling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Calling a turkey into shooting range	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Harvesting a turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Harvesting a mature turkey	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hunting with friends and family	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mentoring new hunters	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hearing and seeing other wildlife while hunting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spending time outdoors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feeling safe while hunting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. When you think of a quality hunt, how many turkeys do you hear gobbling?

☐ No turkeys
 ☐ 1-2 turkeys
 ☐ 3-4 turkeys
 ☐ 5-6 turkeys
 ☐ 7-9 turkeys
 ☐ 10 or more turkeys

9. When you think of a quality hunt, how many acres should there be per turkey hunter?

- ☐ 10 acres ☐ 25 acres ☐ 50 acres ☐ 100 acres ☐ 200 acres or more

10. What is an acceptable number of other turkey hunters, not from your hunting party, to see in one day while you are hunting?

- ☐ 0 hunters ☐ 1-2 hunters ☐ 3-5 hunters ☐ 6-10 hunters ☐ More than 10 hunters

11. If the turkey population decreases in North Carolina, regulation changes may be discussed as management actions. Please rank the following potential changes from 1 (most acceptable) to 6 (least acceptable).

- _____ Lowering the bag limit
 _____ Shortening the season
 _____ Implement a lottery for turkey tags
 _____ Placing limitations on methods or weapons for take
 _____ Limiting hunting to morning hours only
 _____ Other, please specify: _____

12. How satisfied are you with the following matters related to turkey hunting?

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Season length	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Number of weekends in the season	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Season bag limit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Daily bag limit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Regulation consistency across the state	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Options to report a harvest	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Number of Youth Days	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Timing of season opening date	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Habitat conditions where I hunt most often	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The number of turkeys I see where I hunt most often	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The number of turkeys heard where I hunt most often	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gobbler behavior (gobbling, strutting, responding to calls, etc.) where I hunt most often	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The number of other turkey hunters where I hunt most often	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. How do you feel about the opening date of the turkey season in North Carolina? (Regular season currently opens the Saturday on or after April 11th)

- ☐ The season opens too early
- ☐ The season dates are about right
- ☐ The season opens too late

14. Please rate your agreement with the following statements on the utilization of decoys while turkey hunting.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Stationary decoys are safe to use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stalking with decoys (tail fans or full strut) is safe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stationary decoys are appropriate to use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stalking with decoys is appropriate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION E: Communication preferences

1. How would you prefer to receive information about turkey hunting in North Carolina? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Regulations Digest
- ☐ Newspaper/Magazine/Books
- ☐ Public meetings
- ☐ An internet search
- ☐ NCWRC website
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ NCWRC emails
- ☐ Podcast
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

2. What kind of information would you like to receive from the NCWRC about turkey hunting and management?

SKIP TO PAGE 11, SECTION H

SECTION F: Previous turkey hunters

1. Which of the following reasons describe why you chose not to hunt turkeys in North Carolina in 2025?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ I moved out of North Carolina
- ☐ I don't have anywhere to hunt anymore
- ☐ I don't have anyone to hunt with
- ☐ I did not have time to hunt turkeys
- ☐ I prefer hunting other things
- ☐ Hunting turkeys is too difficult
- ☐ Hunting turkeys is too expensive
- ☐ The turkey population where I hunt is too low
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

SKIP TO PAGE 11, SECTION H

SECTION G: Never turkey hunted

1. Which of the following reasons describe why you have never hunted for turkeys in North Carolina? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ I prefer hunting other game
- ☐ I don't have anywhere to hunt turkeys
- ☐ I don't have anyone to hunt with
- ☐ I don't have time to hunt turkeys
- ☐ Hunting turkeys is too difficult
- ☐ Hunting turkeys is too expensive
- ☐ The turkey population where I hunt is too low
- ☐ I don't know how to turkey hunt
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

SECTION H: Demographics

This last set of questions will help us get to know the people we have the privilege of serving. This information will only be used for internal research purposes and will not be shared with anyone. Your responses are voluntary and confidential.

1. In which of the following outdoor activities have you participated in the last 12 months? (select all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Hiking | ☐ Wildlife watching | ☐ Bicycling or Mountain biking |
| ☐ Fishing | ☐ Boating | ☐ Gardening |
| ☐ Hunting (other than turkeys) | ☐ Kayaking/paddle sports | ☐ Other, please specify: _____ |

2. In what year were you born? _____

3. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

4. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

- ☐ Less than a high school diploma
☐ High school graduate
☐ Post-secondary vocational training
☐ Associate's degree
☐ Bachelor's degree
☐ Graduate or professional degree

5. What is your current employment status?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Full-time | ☐ Self-employed |
| ☐ Part-time | ☐ Unemployed |
| ☐ Retired | ☐ Other |

6. Please select the race(s) or ethnicity(ies) with which you identify. *Select all that apply.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native | ☐ Middle Eastern or North African |
| ☐ Asian | ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| ☐ Black or African American | ☐ White |
| ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a | ☐ Another race and/or ethnicity |

7. Which of the following represents your gross household income before taxes last year?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Less than \$30,000 | ☐ \$120,000-\$149,999 |
| ☐ \$30,000-\$59,999 | ☐ \$150,000-\$179,999 |
| ☐ \$60,000-\$89,999 | ☐ \$180,000-\$209,999 |
| ☐ \$90,000-\$119,999 | ☐ \$210,000 or more |

8. In what zip code is your primary residence? _____

9. Which of the following best describes where you currently live?

- ☐ Rural area (less than 2,500 people)
- ☐ Small town (2,500-9,999 people)
- ☐ Small city (10,000-49,999 people)
- ☐ Urban area (50,000 or more people)

If you have any questions about the survey, contact: surveys@ncwildlife.gov

Thank you for your participation!

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