



No.	AUTHOR: Steven E. Backs, Wildlife Research Biologist	Date
973	TITLE: 2007 Wild Turkey Hunter Questionnaire Survey Results	3/3/2009

Abstract: A hunter questionnaire was conducted following the 2007 spring wild turkey season. The overall estimated success rate for 53,402 hunters was 20.9%, 25% less than estimated 27.9% success in 2002. Non-resident turkey hunters had the highest success (30.2%) but accounted for only 2% of the total harvest. Lifetime license holders had a combined mean success of 23.9% and accounted for 51% of the harvest. Total hunter effort increased 38% with a mean 23.6 hunter efforts/bird harvested in 2007, a 31% increase over 2002. The mean effort (trips)/hunter/season remained at 5. Overall in 2007, approximately 1 bird was harvested for every 3 mi² of hunting range and 1.62 birds/mi² of forest cover. Hunter density estimates increased, although slightly less than the 41% increase in hunters. The average daily hunter density was 0.43 hunters/mi² of hunting range and 2.04 hunters/mi² forestland; roughly a 35% increase over 2002. Hunter effort and density estimates in 2007 increased substantially more than the birds harvested/mi². Cumulative hunter efforts during the 2007 season were highest in Harrison, Perry, Brown, Franklin, Orange, Pike, Parke, Owen, and Monroe counties. Ohio County had the lowest hunter efforts/bird harvested (8.9) for counties harvesting ≥ 100 birds. Private lands continue to support more of the total hunter effort (75%) while public lands were used proportionally more than their availability (≥ 5 times). Most hunters hunt in their county of residence or adjacent counties, but counties with high annual harvests attract a wider hunter interest. Overall, most hunters thought turkey populations in their primary county hunted were either stable (47%) or increasing (31%) with 12% indicating a decline. Differences in hunter satisfaction were apparent between successful and unsuccessful hunters, with unsuccessful hunters less satisfied. Overall, 76% of 2007 hunters responded that their spring hunt was satisfactory compared to 83% in the 2002 season when the estimated hunter success was higher.

PS # 300FW0BIRD07523 (Formerly WP # 200290; Federal Aid Study/Job No.: W-26-R-33 Job 16-G-5)

METHODS

A pre-addressed, return postage-paid questionnaire was sent immediately following the regular spring turkey season to a stratified, random sample of license holders (5 license types; 5,000 questionnaires; 7.3% of the potential licensed hunters). The 10-question survey requested information from both successful and unsuccessful turkey hunters not obtainable from check stations. Responding 2007 spring hunters were asked if they had participated in the 2006 fall turkey season. Fall participation data was analyzed and presented in a separate report (Backs 2009). A second "reminder" questionnaire was sent 30 days after the initial questionnaire mailing to delinquent respondents. All questionnaires received by October (~150 days postseason) were included in the analysis. Corrections were made for non-response bias and response totals were expanded by the proportion each license type represented in the turkey hunter population. Non-response bias was determined by comparing the percentages computed from first and second questionnaire returns and extrapolating to non-respondents, assuming similar trends in percent changes. The successful hunter response bias was proportionally adjusted against the reported 2007 harvest from check stations (Backs 2007a). A hunter effort was defined as one trip per day by a hunter and was generally equivalent to 4 gun-hours (Backs 1996: 247), although this may be a minimum figure since all-day turkey hunting was implemented in 2002. Results of the 2002 survey (Backs 2004) were used for several comparisons with the 2007 results.

RESULTS

The 38th regular spring turkey season occurred 25 April to 13 May 2007 (19 days) in 91 counties with a "youth only" season on 21 and 22 April. A 47% questionnaire response rate after 2 mailings provided 2,357 usable responses for the analysis (**Table 1**). Of the response sample, 1,928 (82%) hunted ≥ 1 day and represented approximately 3.3% of the estimated 53,402 hunters afield during the 2007 season. Respondents who harvested a turkey made up 31% (593) of the sample that hunted and 5% of the harvest reported at check stations ($n = 11,163$). A problem affecting the response rate and the overall questionnaire analysis is the outdated nature of the address list for lifetime license holders, resulting in high proportion ($> 50\%$) of "undeliverable" questionnaires sent to lifetime licensees. The time between surveys (5 yr) and the wider margin of estimate error due to the small sample sizes, limits the interpretation of the survey results to general comparisons between 2002 and 2007.

An estimated 48,594 licensed hunters harvested 10,158 birds with 1,005 birds taken by licensed-exempt landowners/military. After correcting for the non-response bias, non-resident hunters had the highest hunting success (30.2%) followed by both types of lifetime hunters (22 and 25%), resident turkey license holders (18.5%), and youth hunters (15.3%). Lifetime license holders, as a group, made up 50% of the hunters afield with mean success of 23.9% and accounted for 51% of the harvest. Resident turkey license holders made up the largest single portion of the licensed hunters afield (34%) with 18.5% success accounting for 27% of the harvest. The weighted mean hunting success rate for licensed hunters (20.9%) was used with the reported harvest by exempt landowners/active military at check stations (9%) to “back-estimate” the number of license-exempt hunters (4,808) who participated in the 2007 spring turkey season. Overall, an estimated 53,402 hunters harvested 11,163 birds for a mean success rate of 20.9% in 2007. Compared to the 2002 season, youth hunters increased 128% in 2007, possibly reflecting the increased hunting opportunities provided by the new youth-only season (2007) and the implementation of “all-day” turkey hunting beginning in 2002 (Bucks 2008).

The estimated number of turkey hunters afield increased to 53,402 hunters, a 41% increase in the 5 years (**Table 2**). Prior to 2002, hunter numbers increased 1 to 20% annually, depending on the amount of newly opened hunting range and the relative hunter success of previous seasons. The amount of hunting range increased only 3.3% since 2002 with the same proportion of forest cover. Overall, the harvest per mi² of hunting range and forest cover increased 4% and 2% respectively over 2002, with approximately 1 bird harvested for every 3 mi² of hunting range and 1.62 birds/mi² of forest cover. Hunter density estimates increased, although slightly less than the 41% increase in hunters. The average daily hunter density was 0.43 hunters/mi² of hunting range and 2.04 hunters/mi² forestland; roughly a 35% increase over 2002. Hunter effort and density increased substantially more than the birds harvested/mi² in 2007.

In 2007, hunting success was 7 percentage points less than in 2002 (21% versus 28%; 25% decrease). However, hunters did not increase their individual effort (trips) reporting a mean 5 efforts/hunter/season as in 2002. Total hunter effort increased 38% due to the increased number of 2007 hunters resulting in a mean of 23.6 efforts (trips)/bird harvested; 31% more effort/bird harvested than in 2002. In general, all hunter effort parameters increased 34 to 37% across the hunting range in 2007. Private lands continue to support most of the total hunter effort (75%) while public lands were still used proportionally more than available (≥ 5 times). Hoosier National Forest received the most public land use (6%) and a slightly higher proportion of hunters utilize the private/public land interface (7.4%).

Cumulative hunter efforts during the 2007 season were highest in Harrison, Perry, Brown, Franklin, Orange, Pike, Parke, Owen, and Monroe counties (**Table 3**). Ohio County had the lowest hunter efforts/bird harvested (8.9) for counties harvesting ≥ 100 birds. Counties harvesting > 300 birds with lower than average efforts/bird harvested were Switzerland (13.7), Dearborn (15.1), Jefferson (16.0) and Greene (17.5). The highest effort to success ratios in counties harvesting ≥ 1 bird occurred in Delaware (287.1), Carroll (106.7), and Porter (93.2). The cumulative efforts per mi² of hunting range were highest in Brown (30.5) and Switzerland (28.9) counties. The lowest cumulative efforts per mi² for counties harvesting ≥ 100 birds occurred in Davies (5.5), LaGrange (6.6), and Fountain (6.8).

Most hunters perceived turkey populations, in the primary county they hunted, to be either stable (47%) or increasing (31%) with 12% indicating a decline (**Table 4; Figure 1**). While unsuccessful and successful hunters had varied opinions on population growth, 47% of both groups thought populations were stable. Opinions about hunt satisfaction were different between successful and unsuccessful hunters, with unsuccessful hunters less satisfied (**Figure 2**). Harvesting a bird is an important factor in satisfaction opinions indicated by the 10-fold difference in the “Poor” rating between successful and unsuccessful hunters. However, 67% of the unsuccessful hunters in 2007 still rated their hunting experience as satisfactory (Index = Excellent + Good + Fair). Overall, 76% of 2007 hunters responded that their spring hunt was satisfactory compared to 83% in the 2002 season when the estimated hunter success was much higher.

The response sample included ≥ 1 resident from each of Indiana’s 92 counties even though $> 20\%$ of the respondents did not indicate their county of residence. Marion County had the highest representation with 4% of the response sample (**Table 5**). When county residence was compared to the primary county hunted, most hunters hunted their “home” or adjacent counties with the exception being hunters from the Indianapolis metropolitan area (e.g., Marion, Hendricks, Madison, and Hamilton counties) who traveled greater distances to their primary hunting destinations. The primary sources of hunters in counties with high cumulative hunting efforts ($> 5,000$ efforts) were similar to the hunter residence comparison with the source of hunters in a county coming from the respective county or adjacent counties (**Table 6**). Exceptions to the proximate source of hunters were counties with high annual harvests (e.g., Brown, Pike, and Switzerland) that drew hunters from counties with large metropolitan human populations. Overall, in comparison to 2002 and previous years, 2007 hunters generally traveled less than in previous decades when the turkey hunting range was less distributed across the state.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Trends in turkey harvests and hunter numbers have generally followed increases in the amount of hunting range and opportunities that increased steadily subsequent to restoration efforts (**Table 7**). Wild turkey hunter success remained above 20% during the last decade, but has varied considerably from 21% to 28%. Spring turkey hunter numbers are still increasing and the amount of hunter effort per mi² of hunting range is increasing as less new hunting range is available. Private land supported most of the turkey hunter effort and harvest while public lands were utilized greater than their availability with higher hunter effort per mi² than private land. Based on comparisons to the 2002 survey, hunter effort in 2007 is increasing faster than the birds harvested/mi².

Hunters were generally satisfied with their hunting experiences in 2007, but it was apparent that hunter success is a key factor in satisfaction. The 2002 survey was conducted when the turkey hunting range expanded from 74 to 90 counties, following 3 consecutive seasons of relatively high hunter success with a 6% increase in harvest, and it was the 21st consecutive season of increased harvests. The 2007 survey followed a spring season when there was less new hunting range, a significant drop in hunter success, 15% drop in the harvest from 2006 (only the second decline in harvest in 25 years), abnormally inclement weather, and significantly reduced gobbling activity related to poor production in 2005 (Bucks 2006, 2007a, 2007b). If the questionnaire survey had been conducted in 2006 when hunters experienced higher success (26%; record harvest of 13,193 birds), hunters would likely have expended less effort/bird harvested and their opinions about turkey population levels and satisfaction would have been higher.

Most turkey hunters hunt in their county of residence or adjacent counties, although counties with high annual harvests tend to attract a wider hunter interest. Wild turkey populations are expected to continue to grow for several more years but the rate of growth is already leveling off and so will the annual spring harvests. Annual fluctuations in the statewide harvests and hunter success will influence hunter satisfaction as turkey population growth levels off.

Literature Cited

- Bucks, S. E. 1996. 1996. Twenty-five years of spring wild turkey hunting in Indiana, 1970-94. National Wild Turkey Symposium Proceedings 7:245-251 2004.
- _____. 2002 Wild turkey hunter questionnaire survey results. Management and Research Note No. 869. Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indianapolis.
- _____. 2006. Wild turkey brood production - summer 2005. Management and Research Note No. 910. Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indianapolis.
- _____. 2007a. Spring wild turkey harvest - check station results. Management and Research Note No. 934. Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indianapolis.
- _____. 2007b. Wild turkey population indices - spring, 2007. Management and Research Note No. 931. Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indianapolis.
- _____. 2008. Comparisons between half-day and all-day spring turkey hunting in Indiana. National Wild Turkey Symposium Proceedings 9:331-336. *Also see: IDFW's Management & Research Note No. 908. 2006. Same title.*
- _____. 2009. Hunter participation and success during the 2006 fall turkey season estimated from the 2007 spring turkey hunter questionnaire. Management and Research Note No. 974. Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, Indianapolis.

Table 1. Indiana Wild Turkey Hunter Questionnaire Survey - 2007.

License Type	No. of Potential Hunters	No. Sampled % of Potential % of Sample	Overall Response		Percent That Hunted *	Est. No. Hunters Afield *	% of Licensed Hunters	Estimated Adjusted % Success **	Estimated Adjusted Harvest **	Estimated Percent of Harvest	
			No.	%							
Resident Turkey	17,101	2,600 15% 52%	1,398	54%	97%	16,537	34%	18.5%	3,061	27%	
Lifetime Hunt	25,144	1,100 4% 22%	375	34%	60%	15,011	31%	24.9%	3,737	33%	
Lifetime Hunt/Fish	17,927	1,000 6% 20%	421	42%	51%	9,053	19%	22.3%	2,020	18%	
Youth	8,927	200 2% 4%	101	51%	81%	7,231	15%	15.3%	1,110	10%	
Non-Resident	762	100 13% 2%	62	62%	100%	762	2%	30.2%	230	2%	
Subtotal	69,861	5,000	2,357	47%	82%	48,594	100%		10,158		
Non-licensed Landowners and Military @						4,808		20.9%	1,005	9%	
						Total	53,402		20.9%	11,163	

* Based only on those who hunted at least one day.

** Estimated percent success adjusted based on a reported check station kill of 11,163 birds and response bias.

@ Estimated number of non-licensed hunters assumes weighted mean success rate for licensed hunters; percent of harvest by non-licensed hunters as reported at check stations.

Table 2. Indiana spring wild turkey hunter effort and success, 2007*

Category	2002		2007			
	No.	Change from 1999 **	No.	Change from 2002 **		
<u>Hunter Density and Harvest</u>						
No. of Hunters	37,919	39.0%	53,402	40.8%		
Reported Harvest	10,575	61.5%	11,163	5.6%		
Counties Open	90		91			
Sq. Mi. Hunt Range	31,918	23.75%	32,353	1.36%		
Sq. Mi. Forest in Hunt Range	6,662	8.08%	6,882	3.30%		
Total Hunters/sq. mi range	1.2	12.3%	1.7	38.9%		
Total Hunters/sq. mi forest	5.7	28.6%	7.8	36.3%		
Birds Harvested/sq. mi range	0.33	30.5%	0.35	4.1%		
Birds Harvested/sq. mi forest	1.59	49.4%	1.62	2.2%		
<u>Turkey Hunter Success and Effort</u>						
Estimated Success	27.9%	16.3%	20.9%	-25.1%		
Total Hunter Effort	190,539	31.5%	263,767	38.4%		
Mean Efforts/Hunter	5.0	-5.8%	4.9	-1.2%		
Mean Efforts/Bird Harvested	18.0	-18.6%	23.6	31.1%		
Cumulative Efforts/sq. mi range	6.0	6.3%	8.2	36.6%		
Cumulative Efforts/sq. mi forest	28.6	21.7%	38.3	34.0%		
Daily Hunters (Efforts)/sq. mi range	0.31	6.3%	0.43	36.6%		
Daily Hunters (Efforts)/sq. mi forest	1.51	21.7%	2.02	34.0%		
<u>Efforts by Land Ownership</u>						
	<u>Efforts</u>	<u>Category</u> <u>Proportion</u>	<u>% Land</u> <u>Available #</u>	<u>Efforts</u>	<u>Category</u> <u>Proportion</u>	<u>% Land</u> <u>Available #</u>
HNF - USFS	13,263	7.0%		15,327	5.81%	
USFWS - Military	1,510	0.8%		1,943	0.74%	
FWA - IDNR	---	Not Surveyed		12,629	4.79%	
Forestry - IDNR	10,471	0		9,795	3.71%	
Reservoir - IDNR	4,111	0		5,691	2.16%	
Private Only	142,268	74.7%	[96.6]	199,302	75.56%	[96.6]
Private/Public	18,916	9.9%		19,402	7.36%	
Total Public Land	28,643	15.0%	[3.4]	45,017	17.07%	[3.4]

* Figures adjusted for non-respondents, "non-licensed" military and landowners, and reported kills from check stations.

** Proportional changes from previous survey.

Approximate percent [%] of acreage available within hunting range.

Table 3. Indiana wild turkey harvest and effort by county, spring 2007

County	Reported Effort *	Percent of Effort	Reported Harvest **	Percent of Harvest	Efforts Per Turkey Harvested	Cumulative Efforts per mi ² Hunting Range #
Adams	0	N/A	2	0.0%	----	----
Allen	82	0.03%	14	0.1%	5.9	0.1
Bartholomew	2,133	0.81%	88	0.8%	24.2	5.5
Benton	308	0.12%	5	0.0%	61.5	0.8
Blackford	0	N/A	3	0.0%	----	----
Boone	103	0.04%	3	0.0%	34.2	0.3
Brown	8,779	3.33%	187	1.7%	46.9	30.5
Carroll	533	0.20%	5	0.0%	106.7	1.4
Cass	800	0.30%	30	0.3%	26.7	2.0
Clark	6,461	2.45%	309	2.8%	20.9	18.5
Clay	5,763	2.19%	107	1.0%	53.9	16.8
Clinton	0	N/A	0	0.0%	----	----
Crawford	7,076	2.68%	264	2.4%	26.8	23.2
Daviess	2,297	0.87%	107	1.0%	21.5	5.5
Dearborn	5,907	2.24%	391	3.5%	15.1	20.2
Decatur	1,620	0.61%	48	0.4%	33.8	4.4
DeKalb	2,195	0.83%	75	0.7%	29.3	6.3
Delaware	287	0.11%	1	0.0%	287.1	0.8
Dubois	4,923	1.87%	205	1.8%	24.0	12.0
Elkhart	1,374	0.52%	40	0.4%	34.4	3.3
Fayette	1,579	0.60%	40	0.4%	39.5	8.2
Floyd	1,641	0.62%	69	0.6%	23.8	13.9
Fountain	2,646	1.00%	144	1.3%	18.4	6.8
Franklin	8,081	3.06%	285	2.6%	28.4	21.1
Fulton	1,169	0.44%	58	0.5%	20.2	3.2
Gibson	4,861	1.84%	114	1.0%	42.6	10.1
Grant	123	0.05%	4	0.0%	30.8	0.4
Greene	6,194	2.35%	354	3.2%	17.5	11.5
Hamilton	0	N/A	1	0.0%	----	----
Hancock	0	N/A	0	0.0%	----	----
Harrison	10,419	3.95%	402	3.6%	25.9	23.3
Hendricks	595	0.23%	7	0.1%	85.0	1.7
Henry	Not Open	----	Not Open	----	----	----
Howard	369	0.14%	11	0.1%	33.6	1.5
Huntington	697	0.26%	17	0.2%	41.0	2.0
Jackson	6,051	2.29%	224	2.0%	27.0	12.4
Jasper	4,082	1.55%	68	0.6%	60.0	7.5
Jay	0	N/A	6	0.1%	----	----
Jefferson	6,379	2.42%	399	3.6%	16.0	19.6
Jennings	3,959	1.50%	255	2.3%	15.5	10.7
Johnson	964	0.37%	46	0.4%	21.0	3.6
Knox	3,466	1.31%	80	0.7%	43.3	7.0
Kosciusko	1,436	0.54%	45	0.4%	31.9	2.8
Lagrange	2,482	0.94%	101	0.9%	24.6	6.6
Lake	287	0.11%	9	0.1%	31.9	1.2
LaPorte	4,389	1.66%	173	1.5%	25.4	11.3
Lawrence	5,374	2.04%	279	2.5%	19.3	12.6

continued next page

Table 3. Indiana wild turkey harvest and effort by county, spring 2007

County	Reported Effort *	Percent of Effort	Reported Harvest **	Percent of Harvest	Efforts Per Turkey Harvested	Cumulative Efforts per mi ² Hunting Range #
Madison	21	0.01%	0	0.0%	----	0.1
Marion	82	0.03%	0	0.0%	----	1.4
Marshall	3,302	1.25%	222	2.0%	14.9	7.7
Martin	4,615	1.75%	221	2.0%	20.9	15.2
Miami	779	0.30%	13	0.1%	60.0	2.2
Monroe	7,138	2.71%	197	1.8%	36.2	21.3
Montgomery	943	0.36%	67	0.6%	14.1	1.9
Morgan	3,159	1.20%	63	0.6%	50.1	8.8
Newton	3,138	1.19%	72	0.6%	43.6	7.9
Noble	656	0.25%	26	0.2%	25.2	1.7
Ohio	1,374	0.52%	155	1.4%	8.9	15.8
Orange	7,548	2.86%	275	2.5%	27.4	19.3
Owen	7,343	2.78%	246	2.2%	29.8	19.5
Parke	7,404	2.81%	333	3.0%	22.2	16.8
Perry	9,209	3.49%	349	3.1%	26.4	24.4
Pike	7,466	2.83%	306	2.7%	24.4	22.4
Porter	1,026	0.39%	11	0.1%	93.2	5.5
Posey	1,764	0.67%	99	0.9%	17.8	4.5
Pulaski	1,866	0.71%	87	0.8%	21.5	4.4
Putnam	5,435	2.06%	149	1.3%	36.5	11.7
Randolph	0	N/A	3	0.0%	----	----
Ripley	3,528	1.34%	219	2.0%	16.1	8.1
Rush	62	0.02%	1	0.0%	61.5	0.2
St. Joseph	3,323	1.26%	114	1.0%	29.1	9.0
Scott	3,302	1.25%	166	1.5%	19.9	18.2
Shelby	82	0.03%	5	0.0%	16.4	0.2
Spencer	4,164	1.58%	277	2.5%	15.0	12.1
Starke	4,287	1.63%	236	2.1%	18.2	14.3
Steuben	4,553	1.73%	234	2.1%	19.5	15.7
Sullivan	5,456	2.07%	242	2.2%	22.5	12.4
Switzerland	6,399	2.43%	467	4.2%	13.7	28.9
Tippecanoe	1,661	0.63%	34	0.3%	48.9	3.9
Tipton	0	N/A	0	0.0%	----	----
Union	2,215	0.84%	62	0.6%	35.7	14.0
Vanderburg	164	0.06%	19	0.2%	8.6	1.2
Vermillion	2,318	0.88%	124	1.1%	18.7	9.2
Vigo	3,466	1.31%	189	1.7%	18.3	10.1
Wabash	1,313	0.50%	63	0.6%	20.8	3.5
Warren	2,995	1.14%	115	1.0%	26.0	8.3
Warrick	5,148	1.95%	293	2.6%	17.6	13.8
Washington	4,758	1.80%	255	2.3%	18.7	9.4
Wayne	841	0.32%	35	0.3%	24.0	2.4
Wells	123	0.05%	4	0.0%	30.8	0.4
White	1,456	0.55%	34	0.3%	42.8	3.0
Whitley	0	N/A	6	0.1%	----	----
Total	263,767	100.00%	11,163	100.0%	23.6	8.2

* Reported Effort values derived from turkey hunter questionnaire survey. Zero "0" values may have resulted because either no hunters hunting a particular county were in the survey sample or no responses were received for a particular county.

** Reported Harvest values from check station logs.

Total cumulative hunter efforts during the 2-day youth and 19-day regular spring turkey season.

Table 4. Turkey hunter opinions of turkey population trends and hunting satisfaction, 2002 and 2007.

	<u>Successful Hunters</u>		<u>Unsuccessful Hunters</u>		<u>All Hunters</u>	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Wild Turkey Population Trends *						
Increasing - 2007	238	40%	354	27%	592	31%
<i>Increasing - 2002</i>	504	49%	520	34%	1,024	40%
Stable - 2007	278	47%	619	47%	897	47%
<i>Stable - 2002</i>	437	42%	675	44%	1,112	43%
Decreasing - 2007	45	8%	180	14%	225	12%
<i>Decreasing - 2002</i>	37	4%	128	8%	165	6%
No Opinion - 2007	29	5%	161	12%	190	10%
<i>No Opinion - 2002</i>	59	6%	210	14%	269	10%
Total Responses - 2007	590		1,314		1,904	
% of Sample - 2007	31%		69%		100%	
<i>Total Responses - 2002</i>	1,037		1,533		2,570	
<i>% of Sample - 2002</i>	40%		60%		100%	
Hunter Satisfaction *						
Excellent - 2007	271	46%	92	7%	363	19%
<i>Excellent - 2002</i>	573	55%	153	10%	726	28%
Good - 2007	192	32%	341	26%	533	28%
<i>Good - 2002</i>	328	32%	499	32%	827	32%
Fair - 2007	91	15%	453	35%	544	29%
<i>Fair - 2002</i>	116	11%	493	32%	609	23%
Poor - 2007	37	6%	388	30%	425	22%
<i>Poor - 2002</i>	22	2%	326	21%	348	13%
No Opinion - 2007	1	2%	40	3%	41	2%
<i>No Opinion - 2002</i>	1	0%	83	5%	84	3%
Total Responses -2007	592		1,314		1,906	
% of Sample - 2007	31%		69%			
<i>Total Responses - 2002</i>	1,040		1,554		2,594	
<i>% of Sample -2002</i>	40%		60%			

* Based on respondent's opinion on the primary county the respondent hunted.

Fig. 1. 2007 Hunter Opinions on Wild Turkey Population Trends

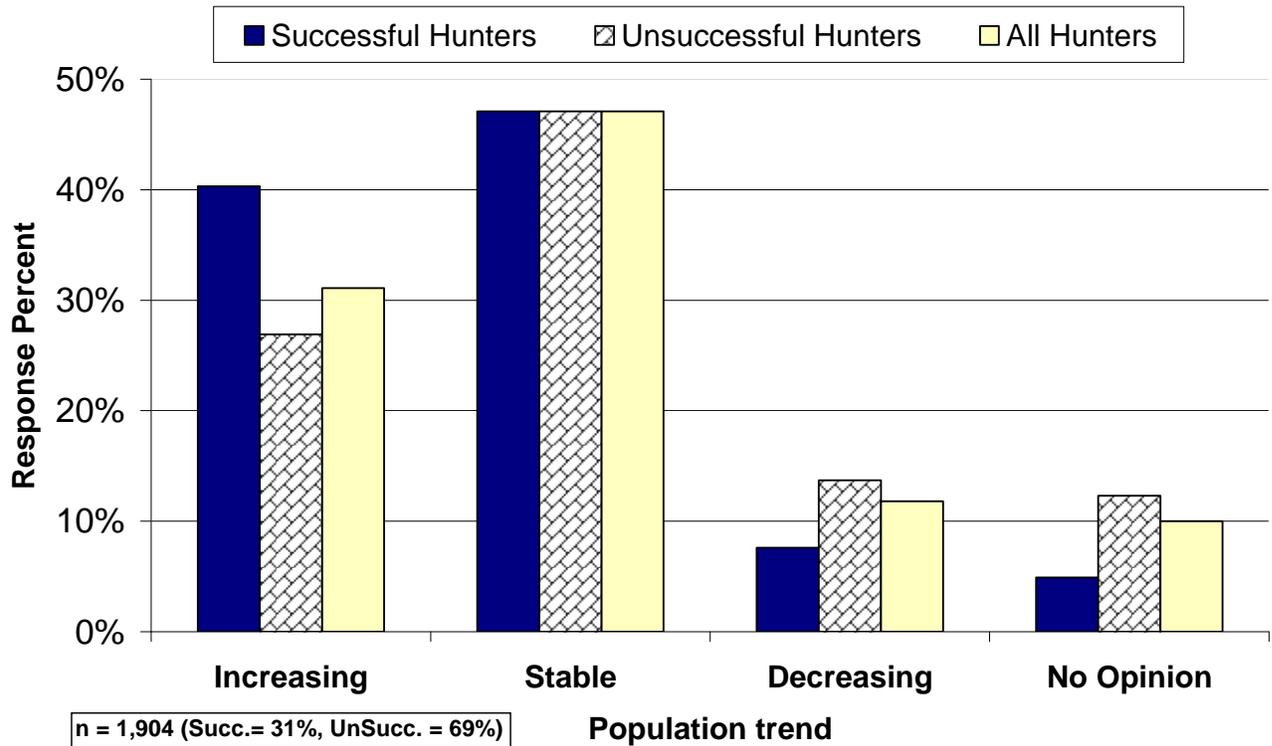


Fig. 2. 2007 Indiana Hunter Satisfaction Ratings

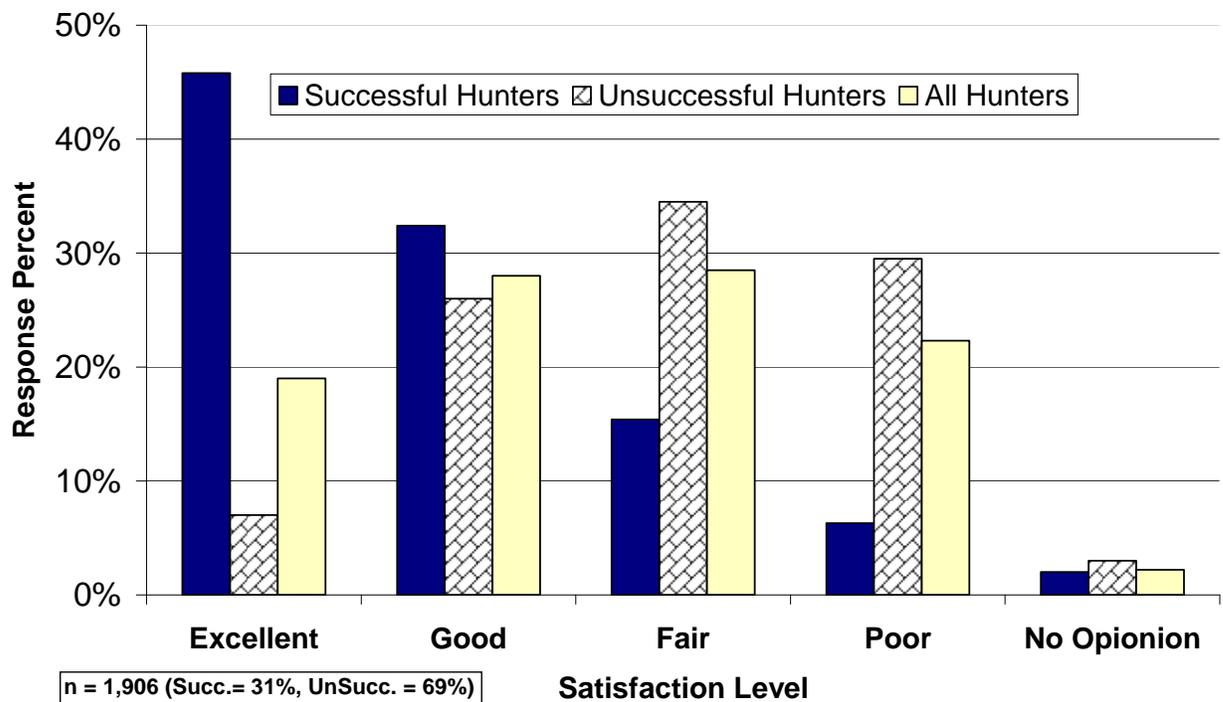


Table 5. Primary county hunted by county residence (> 30 respondents) during the 2007 spring turkey season.

County of Residence	No. of Respondents	% of Respondents	Primary County Hunted (3 most frequent choices)					
			County	%	County	%	County	%
Marion	94	4.0%	Brown	17.0%	Owen	11.7%	Switzerland	7.4%
Clark	71	3.0%	Clark	57.7%	Harrison	9.9%	Jefferson	5.6%
Lake	59	2.5%	Newton	20.3%	Starke	15.0%	Jasper	13.6%
Dubois	55	2.3%	Dubois	32.7%	Pike	25.5%	Martin	14.5%
Vanderburg	45	1.9%	Warrick	20.0%	Pike	20.0%	Spencer	15.6%
Vigo	45	1.9%	Vigo	57.8%	Sullivan	13.3%	Vermillion	4.4%
Floyd	44	1.9%	Harrison	36.4%	Clark	20.5%	Floyd	15.9%
Harrison	43	1.8%	Harrison	79.1%	Crawford	7.0%	Perry	4.7%
Hendricks	43	1.8%	Putnam	16.3%	Parke	9.3%	Owen	7.0%
Monroe	42	1.8%	Monroe	73.8%	Owen	14.3%	Lawrence	4.8%
Madison	38	1.6%	Switzerland	23.7%	Jefferson	13.2%	Orange	10.5%
Morgan	37	1.6%	Morgan	22.0%	Brown	13.5%	Lawrence	10.8%
Dearborn	35	1.5%	Dearborn	77.1%	Switzerland	8.6%	Ohio	5.7%
Hamilton	34	1.4%	Jackson	11.8%	Brown	8.8%	Orange	8.8%
Allen	33	1.4%	Steuben	15.2%	DeKalb	15.2%	Brown	9.1%
St. Joseph	33	1.4%	St. Joseph	54.5%	Marshall	18.2%	LaPorte	12.1%
Bartholomew	32	1.4%	Bartholomew	37.5%	Brown	21.9%	Jackson	15.6%
Knox	32	1.4%	Knox	65.6%	Greene	12.5%	Sullivan	9.4%
Porter	32	1.4%	LaPorte	28.1%	Porter	22.0%	Starke	18.8%
Jackson	31	1.3%	Jackson	71.0%	Washington	9.7%	Jefferson	6.5%

Table 6. Source of hunters for county hunted (> 5,000 cumulative efforts), 2007spring turkey season.

County Hunted*	Reported Cumulative Hunter Effort	Percent of Total Hunter Effort	Top 3 Source Counties					
			County of Residence	%	County of Residence	%	County of Residence	%
Harrison	10,419	3.95%	Harrison	47.2%	Floyd	22.2%	Clark	9.7%
Perry	9,209	3.49%	Perry	32.9%	Vanderburg	6.8%	Dubois	5.5%
Brown	8,779	3.33%	Marion	22.9%	Brown	12.9%	Johnson	11.4%
Franklin	8,081	3.06%	Franklin	41.5%	Wayne	11.3%	Fayette	7.5%
Orange	7,548	2.86%	Orange	20.7%	Floyd	6.9%	Madison	6.9%
Pike	7,466	2.83%	Dubois	30.4%	Pike	23.9%	Vanderburg	19.6%
Parke	7,404	2.81%	Parke	33.9%	Hendricks	6.8%	Vigo	8.5%
Owen	7,343	2.78%	Owen	22.4%	Marion	22.4%	Monroe	12.2%
Monroe	7,138	2.71%	Monroe	60.8%	Johnson	7.8%	Marion	5.9%
Crawford	7,076	2.68%	Crawford	44.4%	Dubois	6.7%	Harrison	6.7%
Clark	6,461	2.45%	Clark	78.8%	Floyd	17.3%	Scott	13.5%
Switzerland	6,399	2.43%	Madison	15.8%	Switzerland	14.0%	Marion	12.3%
Jefferson	6,379	2.42%	Jefferson	28.6%	Madison	10.2%	Clark	8.2%
Greene	6,194	2.35%	Greene	36.2%	Marian	8.5%	Knox	8.5%
Jackson	6,051	2.29%	Jackson	47.8%	Bartholomew	10.9%	Hamilton	8.7%
Dearborn	5,907	2.24%	Dearborn	58.7%	Ripley	6.5%	Hamilton	2.9%
Clay	5,763	2.19%	Clay	58.3%	Vigo	13.9%	Sullivan	5.6%
Sullivan	5,456	2.07%	Sullivan	54.5%	Vigo	18.2%	Greene	9.1%
Putnam	5,435	2.06%	Putnam	39.5%	Hendricks	18.4%	Morgan	7.9%
Lawrence	5,374	2.04%	Lawrence	43.8%	Morgan	12.5%	Monroe	6.3%
Warrick	5,148	1.95%	Warrick	51.4%	Vanderburg	25.7%	Warren	8.6%

* Based on respondents' indicated primary county choice.

Table 7. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2009.

Year	Regular Season Dates	Season Length (Days)	No. of Counties	No. of Permits Sold*	Est. No. of Hunters**	Reported Harvest	Hunter Success
1970	5/2-5/5	4	3	75	62	6	9.7%
1971	5/1-5/5	5	9	298	224	11	4.9%
1972	4/26-4/30	5	9	585	422	12	2.8%
1973	4/25-4/29	5	11	625	503	27	5.4%
1974	4/24-4/28	5	11	665	496	26	5.2%
1975	4/29-5/5	7	11	722	501	15	3.0%
1976	4/29-5/5	7	13	666	500	32	6.4%
1977	4/28-5/5	8	16	668	520	46	8.8%
1978	4/26-5/7	12	18	852	619	33	5.3%
1979	4/25-5/6	12	19	932	860	48	5.6%
1980	4/23-5/4	12	17	706	670	54	8.1%
1981	4/22-5/3	12	18	922	814	90	11.1%
1982	4/21-5/2	12	18	1,125	696	73	10.5%
1983	4/20-5/1	12	18	1,218	984	93	9.5%
1984	4/25-5/6	12	18	1,320	1,205	104	8.6%
1985	4/24-5/5	12	25	1,882	1,302	255	19.6%
1986	4/23-5/4	12	25	2,523	1,648	293	17.8%
1987	4/22-5/6	15	33	3,348	2,619	741	28.3%
1988	4/27-5/11	15	33	10,894	4,677	905	19.4%
1989	4/26-5/10	15	39	11,442	6,068	1,359	22.4%
1990	4/25-5/9	15	39	14,379	7,860	1,505	19.1%
1991	4/24-5/8	15	43	16,387	9,643	2,318	24.0%
1992	4/22-5/6	15	43	18,735	13,110	2,531	19.3%
1993	4/28-5/16	19	48	21,078	15,673	3,500	22.3%
1994	4/27-5/15	19	48	23,357	18,622	3,741	20.1%
1995	4/26-5/14	19	52	28,858	20,861	4,706	22.6%
1996	4/24-5/12	19	52	28,733	21,442	4,859	22.6%
1997	4/23-5/11	19	74	32,703	23,085	5,790	25.1%
1998	4/22-5/10	19	74	32,889	22,876	6,384	27.9%
1999	4/21-5/9	19	74	38,730	27,285	6,548	24.0%
2000	4/26-5/14	19	74	40,801	28,615	7,822	27%
2001	4/25-5/13	19	74	43,815	36,103	9,975	28%
2002	4/24-5/12 [†]	19	90	44,333	37,919	10,575	28%
2003	4/23-5/11	19	90	48,857	40,110	10,366	26%
2004	4/21-5/9	19	90	50,839	41,996	10,765	26%
2005	4/27-5/15	19	88	50,839	49,684	11,159	22%
2006	4/26-5/14	19	88	67,290	50,880	13,193	26%
2007	4/25-5/13 ^{††}	19	91	69,861	53,402	11,163	21%
2008	4/23-5/11	19	91	68,381	57,869	12,204	21%
2009	4/22-5/10	19	92	72,889	61,406		

* After 1986, totals include lifetime licenses. After 1987, total includes youth licenses sold from Jan-May.

** No. of hunters includes those permit holders who hunted ≥ 1 day and since 1986 has been adjusted for non-licensed landowners or military hunters

[†] "All-day" turkey hunting initiated; 1/2 hr prior to sunrise to sunset.

^{††} Beginning with the spring 2007 season, a special 2-day youth-only season is held the weekend prior to the regular season opening.

Bold italics = preliminary estimates based on projecting previous years' trends or means