

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project №: W-15-R
Title of Job: Spring 2021 Turkey Hunter Survey

Job: E2



Dr. Jeffrey J. Lusk
Data and Biometry Program Manager
16 July 2021

The spring turkey hunter survey is conducted each year at the end of the spring season. In 2021, the spring season closed on 31 May. The objective of the survey is to obtain information on the spring turkey harvest and success, to determine age and sex of the harvest, and to assess characteristics of the hunt and hunters (e.g., satisfaction). This year's survey was available to hunters from 11-28 June 2021, inclusive. A summary of estimated harvest and success is available in a separate report, *2021 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest*.

Caveats. The spring Wild Turkey Hunter Survey samples spring turkey hunters who provided valid email addresses at the time they purchased their permit(s). As such, the sample frame may be biased and not strictly generalizable to the population of all spring turkey hunters. For the spring 2021 season, however, 76.8% of unique, individual permit buyers provided an email address. A reminder email was sent to all non-respondents one week after the initial invitation was sent, but no further attempts were made to contact hunters who failed to respond to the survey. Therefore, results might be biased toward successful hunters if successful hunters respond more readily to harvest surveys. There is some evidence that responses were biased with respect to residency, sex, and age (see 2021 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest report); residents and men were over-represented among respondents and were older compared to all permit buyers or the survey sample.

Interpretations. Non-resident hunters during the spring 2021 season came largely from Colorado and Minnesota, and residents from Lancaster, Douglas, and Sarpy Counties. Most resident hunters did not hunt in other states (94%), but the majority of non-residents (78%) had hunted in other states, including Kansas and Missouri. Spring 2021 turkey hunters spent an average of 4.85 days afield hunting turkeys. Dawes, Lincoln, and Cass Counties were reported as being hunted in most frequently. Whereas residents were not pursuing a specific subspecies (78%), non-residents reported pursuing Merriam's more than other subspecies (50%). Almost all resident (97%) and non-resident (92%) hunters would hunt Nebraska again based on their experiences in the spring of 2021. In general, most hunters did not think they saw too many hunters, but hunters in the Northwest region may be beginning to see some crowding. Among resident hunters, availability of permits and having family in the state were most important in their decision to hunt in Nebraska. Among non-residents, subspecies available, the number of permits allowed per hunter, and turkey abundance were important.

Take-home Message. Spring turkey hunting continues to be a popular and satisfying experience for turkey hunters. Although crowding is not generally an issue in Nebraska, hunters in the Northwest appeared less comfortable with the number of hunters they encountered compared to other regions.

Methods. This year's survey was composed and administered in-house using Snap Survey development software (Snap v11) and Snap Webhosting service. An initial invitation to participate in the survey for the spring 2021 season was sent to 27,969 permit buyers (76.8% of unique permit buyers), but 708 were bounced back as undeliverable, giving an effective sample size of 20,784 permitted hunters. Initial invitations were emailed on 11 June 2021, and a reminder email was sent to all non-responding hunters on 18 June 2021. The survey was closed on 28 June 2021. The survey was also available on the NGPC website for hunters who did not have valid emails associated with their permits. The website survey was open over the same period as the invitation-only version. At the end of the survey period, responses had been received from 4,972 spring turkey hunters, representing 7,128 individual permits for the spring 2021 season. The raw response rate was, therefore, 18.6% and the permit response rate was 26.8%. Each survey respondent represented 7.4 spring 2021 permit buyers.

Results. Below are figures and tables that summarize hunter responses to survey questions. In most cases, the results are presented for residents, non-residents, and all hunters combined.

Table 1. Statistics on time respondents spent (in minutes) taking the 2021 survey.

Duration of interview	Descriptive Statistics					
	Total	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
	4972	0.4	4340.5	5.8	7.9	61.9

Table 2. Top ten states in which spring 2021 non-resident turkey hunters ($n = 3,144$) resided and raw number of respondents from each.

State of residence		
Colorado	542	17%
Minnesota	254	8%
Missouri	241	8%
Arkansas	212	7%
Mississippi	152	5%
Illinois	134	4%
Wisconsin	134	4%
Iowa	132	4%
Indiana	105	3%
Alabama	102	3%

Table 3. Number and percent of non-residents who reported having been a Nebraskan at some point in the past.

Have you ever been a resident the state of Nebraska?	
Yes	193 6%
No	2,883 94%

Table 4. Among Nebraska residents ($n = 1,828$), top 10 counties of residence and raw number of respondents from each for the spring 2021 turkey season.

County		
Lancaster	289	16%
Douglas	236	13%
Sarpy	135	7%
Buffalo	87	5%
Hall	62	3%
Madison	55	3%
Platte	40	2%
Seward	40	2%
Cass	37	2%
Adams	36	2%

Table 5. Resident, non-resident, and total number of hunters reporting hunting wild turkey in states other than Nebraska during the spring 2021 season.

Did you hunt turkeys during the spring 2021 season in any state other than Nebraska?	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Yes	2555 51%	115 6%	2440 78%
No	2414 49%	1712 94%	702 22%

Table 6. State most frequently hunted by resident, non-resident, and all hunters who indicated that they hunted in states other than Nebraska during the spring 2021 turkey season.

Total			Resident			Non-resident		
Kansas	501	20%	Kansas	23	43%	Kansas	478	20%
Missouri	366	15%	South Dakota	7	13%	Missouri	360	15%
South Dakota	239	10%	Missouri	6	11%	South Dakota	232	10%
Colorado	221	9%	Iowa	5	9%	Colorado	221	9%
Mississippi	219	9%	Wisconsin	5	9%	Mississippi	217	9%
Minnesota	211	9%	Georgia	3	6%	Minnesota	209	9%
Florida	206	8%	Texas	3	6%	Florida	204	8%
Arkansas	182	7%	Florida	2	4%	Arkansas	181	7%
Wisconsin	177	7%	Maine	2	4%	Wisconsin	172	7%
Iowa	176	7%	Minnesota	2	4%	Iowa	171	7%

Table 7. Number of resident, non-resident, and total respondents who indicated whether they hunted turkeys in Nebraska during the spring 2021 spring turkey season.

Did you hunt turkeys in Nebraska during the spring 2021 season?	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Yes	4843 97%	1743 95%	3100 99%
No	129 3%	85 5%	44 1%

Table 8. Total and average number of days afield during the 2021 spring turkey season reported by resident, non-resident, and total hunter respondents who hunted.

How many days did you hunt turkeys during the 2019 spring season?	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Total	23,505	10,515	12,990
Days per hunter	4.85	6.03	4.19

Table 9. Top 10 counties resident, non-resident, and all hunters reported hunting in most frequently during the 2021 spring turkey-hunting season.

Total			Resident			Non-resident		
Dawes	398	8%	Lancaster	95	6%	Dawes	363	12%
Lincoln	260	5%	Cass	70	4%	Lincoln	199	7%
Knox	203	4%	Knox	63	4%	Custer	157	5%
Custer	198	4%	Lincoln	61	4%	Cherry	147	5%
Cherry	167	4%	Buffalo	56	3%	Knox	140	5%
Holt	150	3%	Otoe	50	3%	Sioux	131	4%
Sioux	139	3%	Gage	46	3%	Sheridan	114	4%
Sheridan	126	3%	Holt	45	3%	Holt	105	3%
Frontier	114	2%	Saunders	45	3%	Scotts Bluff	87	3%
Scotts Bluff	114	2%	Custer	41	2%	Frontier	85	3%

Table 10. Turkey sub-species resident, non-resident and total hunters reported pursuing during the 2021 spring turkey season. The sub-species with the greatest share of hunters is highlighted.

Subspecies	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Eastern	401 8%	190 11%	211 7%
Merriam's	1792 37%	258 15%	1534 50%
Rio Grande	469 10%	41 2%	428 14%
No particular subspecies	2646 55%	1344 78%	1302 42%

Table 11. Top 10 counties of harvest for the first turkey harvested for resident, non-resident, and total hunters during the 2021 spring turkey season.

Total			Resident			Non-resident		
Dawes	194	7%	Lancaster	44	5%	Dawes	182	9%
Lincoln	175	6%	Knox	34	4%	Lincoln	142	7%
Custer	171	6%	Lincoln	33	4%	Custer	140	7%
Knox	132	5%	Custer	31	4%	Cherry	105	5%
Cherry	121	4%	Otoe	28	3%	Knox	98	5%
Holt	110	4%	Holt	27	3%	Holt	83	4%
Keya Paha	74	3%	Gage	24	3%	Sioux	65	3%
Frontier	72	3%	Buffalo	23	3%	Keya Paha	63	3%
Sioux	71	3%	Cass	23	3%	Sheridan	57	3%
Boyd	67	2%	Saunders	19	2%	Frontier	55	3%

Table 12. Top 10 counties of harvest for the second turkey harvested for resident, non-resident, and total hunters during the 2021 spring turkey season.

Total			Resident			Non-resident		
Custer	68	7%	Knox	9	4%	Custer	62	8%
Dawes	66	7%	Lincoln	9	4%	Dawes	61	8%
Knox	62	6%	Cass	8	4%	Knox	53	7%
Lincoln	56	6%	Frontier	8	4%	Lincoln	47	6%
Holt	52	5%	Otoe	8	4%	Holt	46	6%
Cherry	45	5%	Buffalo	7	3%	Cherry	39	5%
Frontier	42	4%	Hall	7	3%	Frontier	34	5%
Keya Paha	30	3%	Lancaster	7	3%	Keya Paha	28	4%
Boyd	26	3%	Cherry	6	3%	Boyd	26	3%
Red Willow	25	3%	Custer	6	3%	Red Willow	22	3%

Table 13. Top 10 counties of harvest for the third turkey harvested for resident, non-resident, and total hunters during the 2021 spring turkey season.

Total			Resident			Non-resident		
Custer	21	8%	Buffalo	4	6%	Custer	21	11%
Knox	19	7%	Cass	3	4%	Knox	17	9%
Dawes	15	6%	Holt	3	4%	Dawes	13	7%
Holt	14	5%	Seward	3	4%	Holt	11	6%
Lincoln	10	4%	Sheridan	3	4%	Keya Paha	9	5%
Frontier	9	3%	Butler	2	3%	Lincoln	9	5%
Keya Paha	9	3%	Cherry	2	3%	Boyd	7	4%
Cherry	8	3%	Dawes	2	3%	Frontier	7	4%
Boyd	7	3%	Dixon	2	3%	Cherry	6	3%
Harlan	7	3%	Frontier	2	3%	Harlan	5	3%

Table 14. Reported hunting activity and timing of reported harvest by week of season for resident, non-resident, and total hunters during the 2021 spring turkey season.

Week of season	Total		Resident		Non-resident	
	Hunted	Harvested	Hunted	Harvested	Hunted	Harvested
Archery & Youth Archery (25 March-10 April)	803 10%	771 10%	404 9%	100 11%	367 10%	171 9%
Youth Shotgun/Archery (11 April-31 May)	518 6%	501 6%	344 8%	81 9%	157 4%	70 4%
Week 1, any weapon (18-20 April)	1407 17%	1352 17%	760 17%	160 17%	592 16%	315 17%
Week 2, any weapon (21-27 April)	1413 17%	1359 17%	758 17%	175 18%	601 17%	303 17%
Week 3, any weapon (28 April-4 May)	1303 15%	1262 16%	697 16%	146 15%	565 16%	294 16%
Week 4, any weapon (5-11 May)	1170 14%	1125 14%	577 13%	98 10%	548 15%	258 14%
Week 5, any weapon (12-18 May)	953 11%	919 11%	488 11%	97 10%	431 12%	209 11%
Late Season, any weapon (19-31 May)	847 10%	808 10%	437 10%	90 10%	371 10%	204 11%

Table 15. Number of turkeys harvested by age and sex by resident, non-resident, and total hunters during the 2021 spring turkey season. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding errors.

Age/Sex Class	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Adult Tom	17949 86.4%	6870 80.1%	10854 89.0%
Juvenile Male (Jake)	2545 12.2%	1513 17.6%	1224 10.0%
Bearded Hen	198 1.0%	127 1.5%	90 0.7%
Unknown Sex/Age	89 0.4%	70 0.8%	33 0.3%

Table 16. Allocation of harvest by residents, non-residents, and total hunters between private land where permission was required to hunt and public lands during the 2021 spring season. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding errors.

Land Type	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Private land where permission was required	17178 82.7%	7496 87.4%	9859 80.8%
Land open to public hunting (including OFW)	3604 17.3%	1085 12.6%	2342 19.2%

Figure 1. Overall rankings of the number of turkeys and hunters seen by respondents during the 2021 spring turkey season.

Overall rating of the number of turkeys and hunters seen

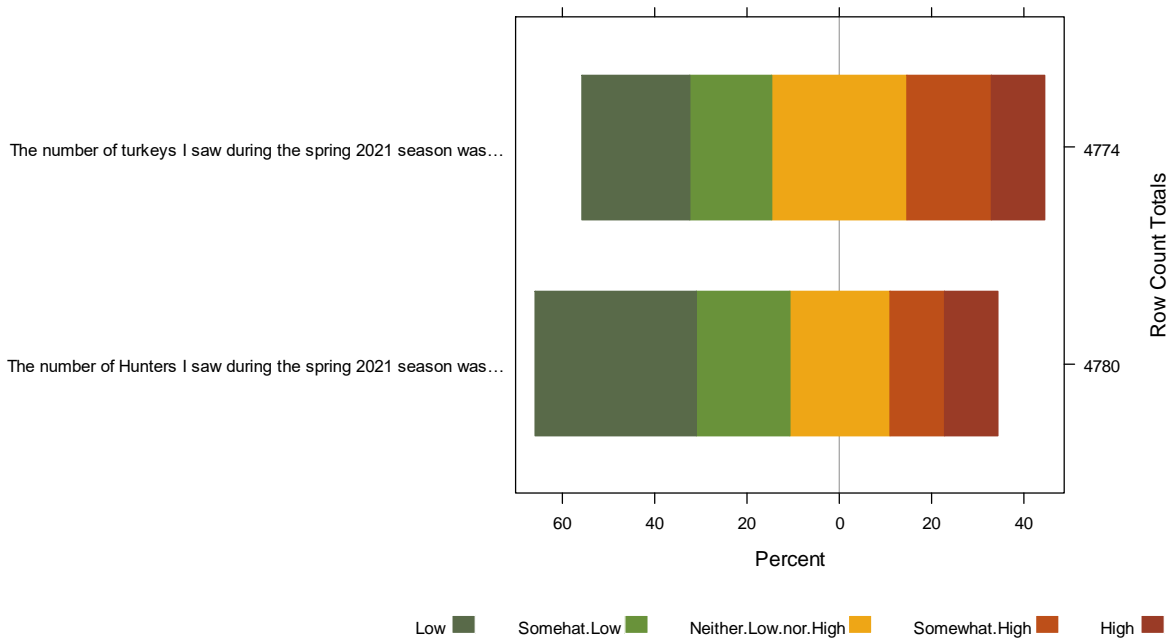


Figure 2. Resident rankings of the number of turkeys and hunters seen by respondents during the 2021 spring turkey season.

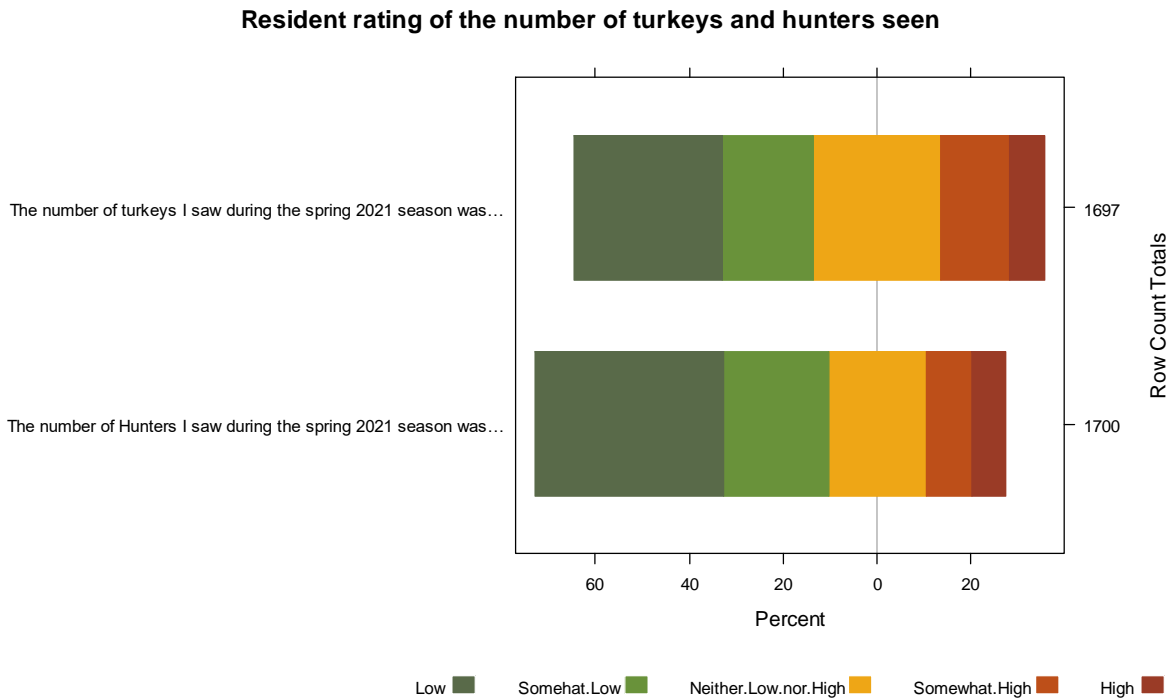


Figure 3. Nonresident rankings of the number of turkeys and hunters seen by respondents during the 2021 spring turkey season.

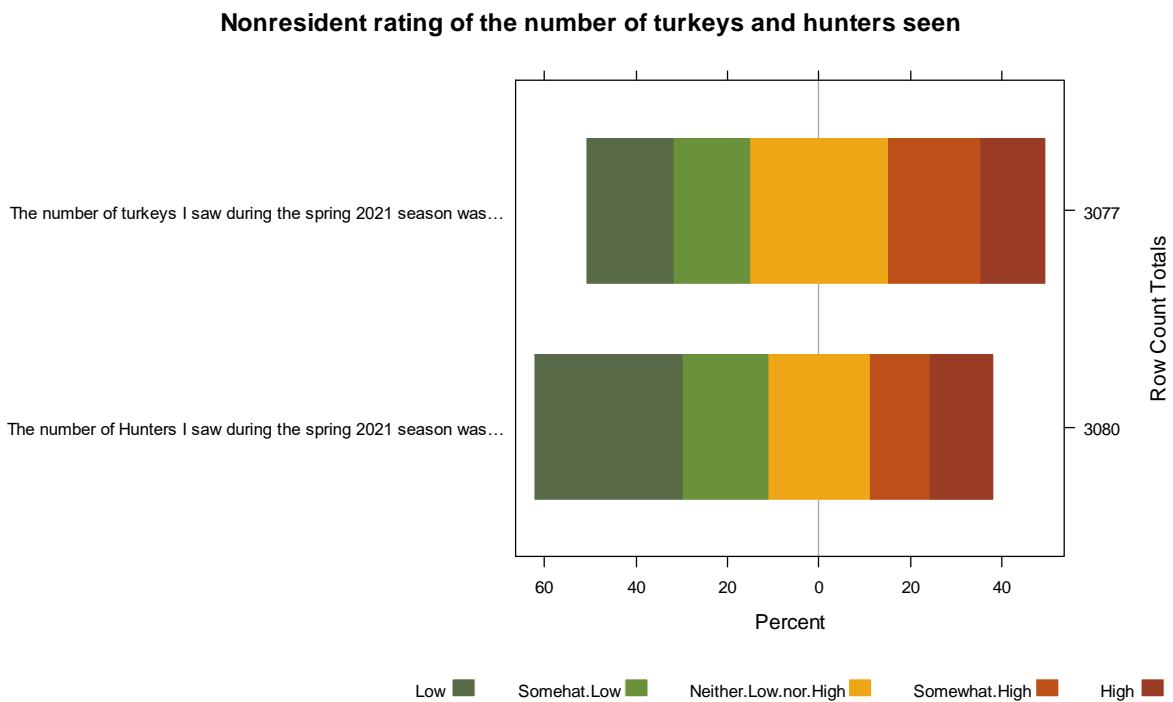


Table 17. Resident and non-resident agreement with statements related to their hunting experiences in Nebraska during the 2021 spring turkey season. The agreement scores for each item with the highest frequency of selection by respondents is highlighted.

	Total					Resident					Non-resident				
	Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree		Neutral		Strongly Agree
"I saw too many hunters"	1740	1129	1158	395	409	635	423	453	107	120	1105	706	705	288	289
	36%	23%	24%	8%	9%	37%	24%	26%	6%	7%	36%	23%	23%	9%	9%
"I was satisfied with the number of turkeys seen"	855	958	1118	1084	822	408	401	398	324	208	447	557	720	760	614
	18%	20%	23%	22%	17%	23%	23%	23%	19%	12%	14%	18%	23%	25%	20%
"I was satisfied with the amount of land open to public hunting"	492	703	2070	896	594	267	297	768	253	128	225	406	1302	643	466
	10%	15%	44%	19%	12%	16%	17%	45%	15%	7%	7%	13%	43%	21%	15%
"Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of my hunting experience"	319	619	1112	1458	1324	142	294	477	480	344	177	325	635	978	980
	7%	13%	23%	30%	27%	8%	17%	27%	28%	20%	6%	11%	21%	32%	32%

Table 18. Resident, non-resident, and total number of hunters who would hunt turkeys in Nebraska again in the future given their experiences during the 2021 spring season. See Appendix 1 for a list of responses to the question, "If no, why?"

Response	Yes	Total	Resident	Non-resident
		4531 94%	1684 97%	2847 92%
No	304 6%	53 3%	251 8%	

Table 19. Respondents' agreement with the statement, "I saw too many hunters," by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission administrative districts. Agreement was measured on a 5-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree), and is based on 4,734 responses. Determination of which district to assign a respondent to was made based on the county the respondent reported they hunted in the most. The most frequent selections are in highlighted. The mean agreement score across regions was 2.29.

"I saw too many hunters."							
District	Number of Respondents	Average Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Northeast	1222	1.99	542 44.4%	296 24.2%	278 22.7%	62 5.1%	44 3.6%
Northwest	1086	2.80	282 26.0%	194 17.9%	250 23.0%	165 15.1%	195 18.0%
Southeast	883	2.15	336 38.1%	229 25.9%	213 24.1%	52 5.9%	53 6.0%
Southwest	1533	2.25	541 35.3%	380 24.8%	393 25.6%	109 7.1%	108 7.0%

Table 20. Respondents' agreement with the statement, "I was satisfied with the number of turkeys I saw," by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission administrative districts. Agreement was measured on a 5-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree), and is based on 4,734 responses. Determination of which district to assign a respondent to was made based on the county the respondent reported they hunted in the most. The most frequent selections are in highlighted. The mean agreement score across regions was 3.00.

"I was satisfied with the number of turkeys I saw."							
District	Number of Respondents	Average Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Northeast	1224	3.18	167 13.6%	230 18.8%	288 23.5%	292 23.9%	247 20.2%
Northwest	1091	3.05	172 15.5%	215 19.7%	268 24.6%	251 23.0%	183 16.8%
Southeast	883	2.77	206 23.3%	190 21.5%	213 24.1%	150 17.0%	124 14.0%
Southwest	1553	2.97	293 19.1%	311 20.3%	326 21.3%	356 23.2%	246 16.0%

Table 21. Respondents’ agreement with the statement, “I was satisfied with the amount of land open to public hunting,” by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission administrative districts. Agreement was measured on a 5-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree), and is based on 4,734 responses. Determination of which district to assign a respondent to was made based on the county the respondent reported they hunted in the most. The most frequent selections are in highlighted. The mean agreement score across regions was 3.03.

“I was satisfied with the amount of land open to public hunting.”							
District	Number of Respondents	Average Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Northeast	1191	2.88	126 106%	178 14.9%	602 50.5%	180 15.1%	105 8.8%
Northwest	1070	3.32	75 7.0%	130 12.1%	383 35.8%	267 25.0%	215 20.1%
Southeast	874	2.84	130 14.9%	153 17.5%	377 43.1%	124 14.2%	90 10.3%
Southwest	1515	3.05	151 10.1%	225 14.9%	660 43.6%	303 20.0%	176 11.6%

Table 22. Respondents’ agreement with the statement, “Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of my turkey hunting experience,” by Nebraska Game & Parks Commission administrative districts. Agreement was measured on a 5-point scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree), and is based on 4,734 responses. Determination of which district to assign a respondent to was made based on the county the respondent reported they hunted in the most. The most frequent selections are in highlighted. The mean agreement score across regions was 3.57.

“Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of my turkey hunting experience.”							
District	Number of Respondents	Average Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Northeast	1222	3.71	73 6.0%	119 9.7%	263 21.5%	385 31.5%	382 31.3%
Northwest	1087	3.57	77 7.1%	137 12.6%	255 23.5%	312 28.7%	306 28.2%
Southeast	882	3.37	71 8.0%	150 17.0%	228 25.9%	243 27.6%	190 21.5%
Southwest	1532	3.59	92 6.0%	203 13.3%	348 22.7%	485 31.7%	404 26.4%

Figure 4. Overall agreement of respondents with statements related to satisfaction with their hunting experiences during the spring 2021 turkey season.

Overall respondent disagreement/agreement with the following statements.

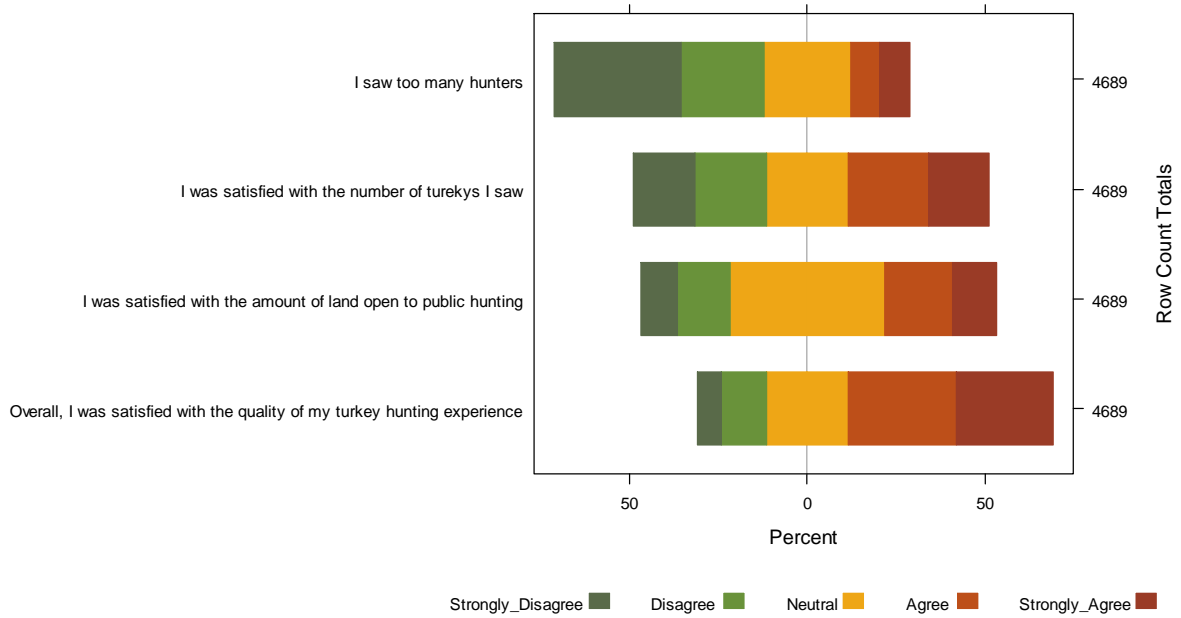


Figure 5. Resident respondent agreement with statements related to satisfaction with their hunting experiences during the spring 2021 turkey season.

Resident respondent disagreement/agreement with the following statements.

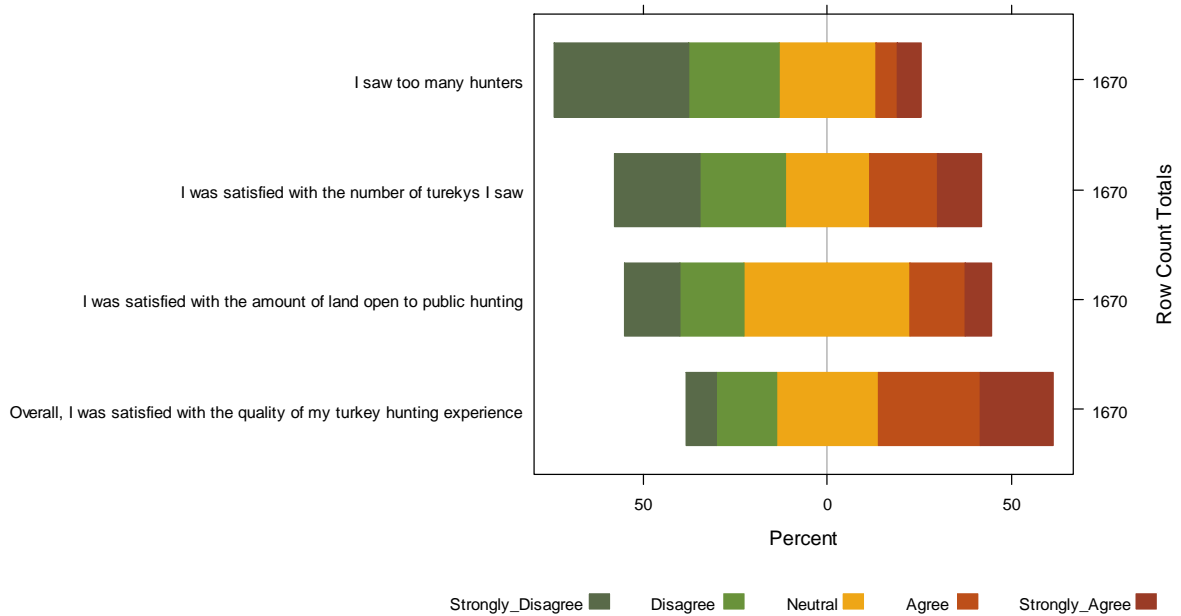


Figure 6. Nonresident respondent agreement with statements related to their hunting experiences during the spring 2021 turkey season.

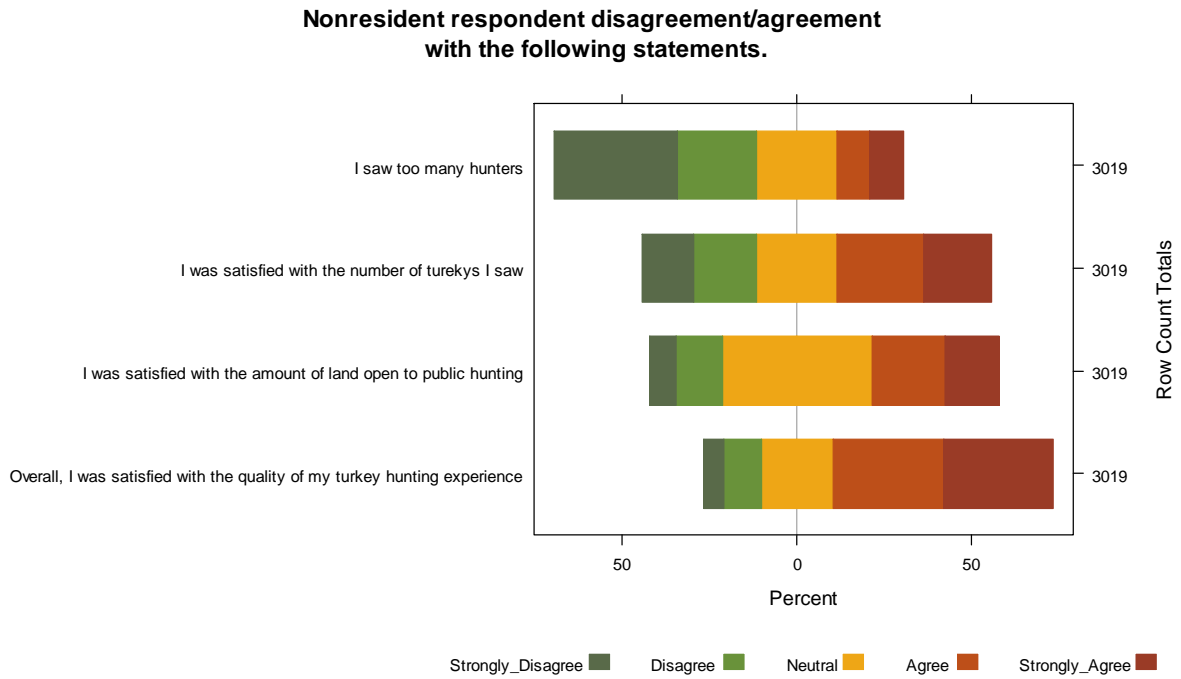


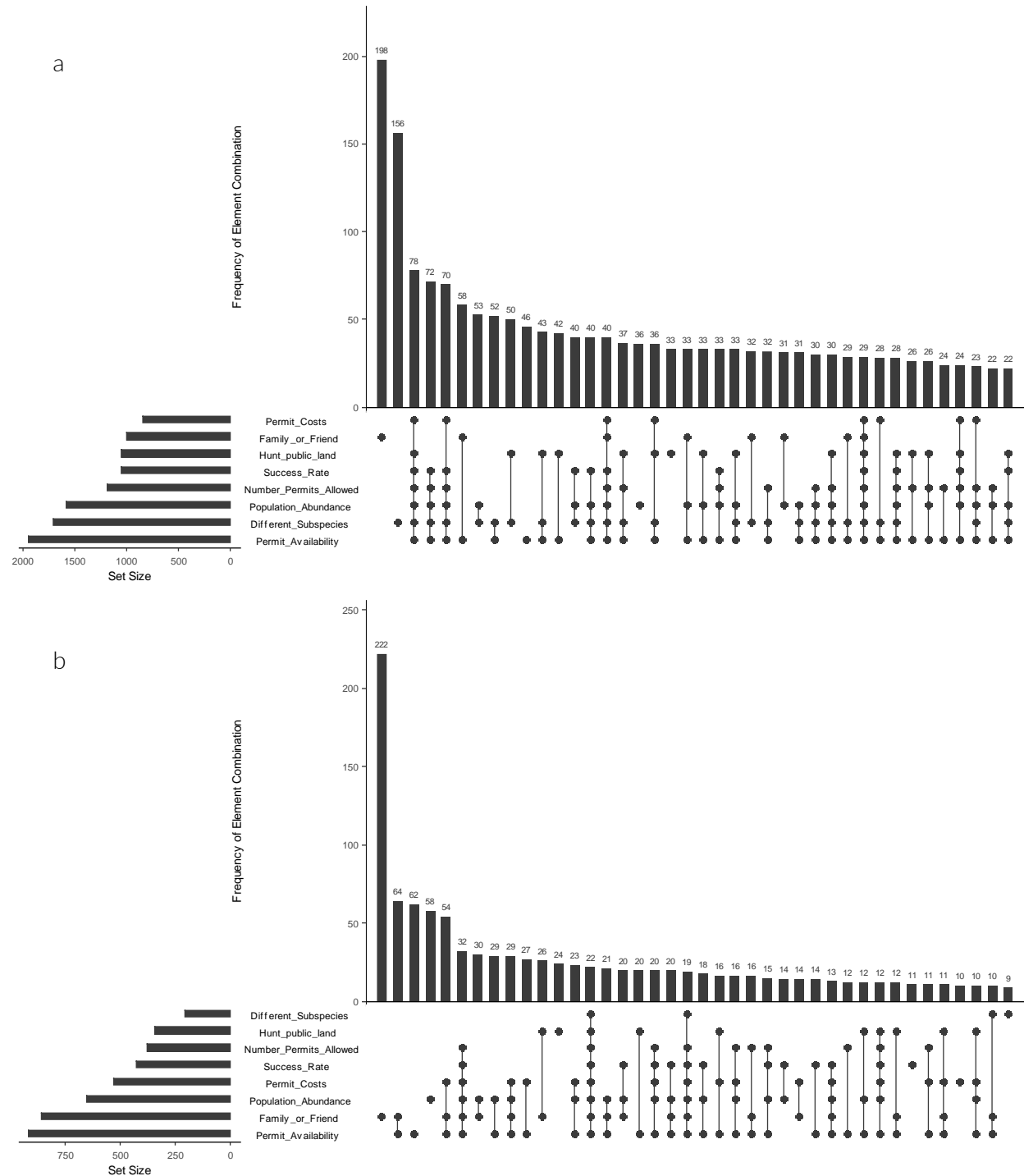
Figure 7. Total number of years of experience hunting turkeys reported by hunters who hunted during the 2021 spring turkey season.



Table 23. Factors influencing resident, non-resident, and total hunters’ decisions to hunt turkeys in Nebraska during the 2021 spring season. (Choices with ≥40% selection are in bold. See Appendix 2 for responses provided as “Other.”)

	Total	Resident	Non-resident
Availability of public land to hunt	1415 29%	358 21%	1057 34%
Family and/or friends who live in state	1883 39%	874 51%	1009 33%
Ability to hunt a different or particular subspecies of turkey	1924 40%	212 12%	1712 55%
Availability of permits	2889 60%	934 54%	1955 63%
Permit costs	1395 29%	545 32%	850 27%
Number of permits allowed per hunter	1591 33%	389 23%	1202 39%
Hunter success rate	1489 31%	436 25%	1053 34%
Turkey population abundance	2260 47%	668 39%	1592 51%
Other	656 14%	357 21%	299 10%

Figure 8. Set figure showing frequency of combinations of selections made by resident (a) and non-resident (b) respondents when indicating which factors determined why they hunted in Nebraska during the 2021 spring turkey season. The bar chart in the lower left shows overall frequencies of options. The dot-and-line figure to the right of this bar chart indicates the possible combinations of selections made by respondents. The column chart at the top indicates the frequency of each of the combinations.



Appendix 1. Unedited text responses from hunters who indicated that they would not hunt in Nebraska again to the question, "Why not?"

<p>Came here to mark another state off for my U.S. Slam. Hunted 1 day in the pine ridge area and had my bird busted by another group of hunters that knew we were set up on said bird. My friends I was with had the exact same thing happen at another location. Eastern Nebraska was very nice with a lot of birds. It was exceptional hunting, however, the state, in general, doesn't possess what I like in turkey hunting. For Rios, Kansas seems to have better hunting at a much lower cost; Marriam's hunting was ridiculous in the pine ridge area and better suited in Wyoming/Montana; and for easterns, I would much rather hunt Missouri/Tennessee/Kentucky. The state has a lot of turkeys with ample public land, but as for me returning, if I ever do, it will be years down the road. I am appreciative for the opportunity though and had a wonderful time.</p>
<p>Hunting pressure was the worst I have ever seen, and I have hunted 12 different states. Fellow hunters were generally very inconsiderate, and the WMA I hunted (Medicine Creek) was far too small to sustain that kind of pressure.</p>
<p>Possibly but I will be more educated about things before I do.</p>
<p>Low bird numbers. Low public land access.</p>
<p>Turkey population seems to be way down in the NW corner while the hunting pressure is abundant.</p>
<p>Too many hunters in the pine ridge area. I saw trucks from 20 different states. In 5 days of hunting I walked over 100 miles and never had a bird reply to my calls even when I was within 150 yds of them. The birds are there but they are extremely pressured and won't respond to calling.</p>
<p>Waaaaaaay to much pressure. Local land owners told the numbers are not what yall are pushing.</p>
<p>I am working to harvest a wild turkey in every state. I have now done that in Nebraska and do not need to return.</p>
<p>too many hunters</p>
<p>While try other states and species. Great experience in NE.</p>
<p>Atleast not for a couple years. Or if I gain permission on private land.</p>
<p>More hunters than turkeys. Way too much pressure on the birds. Worst turkey hunt I've ever had.</p>
<p>Overload of hunters</p>
<p>Cost to high for licenses and poor numbers of game</p>
<p>Not many turkeys and a lot of hunters on a small amount of public land all over the state just kind of made the hunt difficult I would say that I'm an avid hunter and still could not get within 100 yards of these super pressured turkeys</p>
<p>A great deal of time and effort was put into the week of hunting and VERY few birds were seen. It would be much better if there was more public land across the state rather than most in the NW corner. There were no turkeys seen anywhere across the state on our way back home but once back in WI there were turkeys in fields all along the roads. In other words there are not many turkeys in Nebraska. Give out less permits and improve the hunt.</p>
<p>Too many hunters, too few birds left after 1st half of season</p>
<p>Got my merriam</p>
<p>I typically hunt public lands, and the blocks of public land in the southeast portion of the state are not big enough to hunt effectively.</p>
<p>Too many hunters not enough birds</p>

I specialize in late-season hunting and am very successful hunting Eastern gobblers in Arkansas. I hunted very hard in Nebraska. I covered a LOT of ground and explored a lot of habitat on public and private ground. I finally called up a gobbler that I did not kill on May 15, in Custer County. It's a significant investment of time and money to travel so far to a place where the number of gobblers and amount of gobbling is so-so.
If I hunted NE turkey again, I'd try other areas in hopes of less pressure. I'd likely try other states for Merriam.
Too many hunters
Too much pressure for such small number of birds. Seem to have been over hunted based on talking with other hunters I met and other hunters in my group that have hunted Nebraska for 20+ years.
Not enough birds to travel the distance from TN. I've purchased four Nebraska Turkey Permits and have only harvested one bird. I've harvested 57 birds in Tennessee since 2012. I'm also a disabled veteran and the price of permits is too expensive. There needs to be a cost break for disabled veterans that have served our country
Too few turkeys on the open access ground for the number of hunters.
Too many hunters on all the public land we hunted. Turkeys were spooked and would run from a call. Was invited by a close friend who hunts Nebraska every year with great success and he said it was way, way more hunters than he had ever seen.
The number of turkey seen has greatly reduced in and around Chadron (National Forest) over the last few years. We only saw 1 turkey in 4 full days of hunting. (Group of 4 hunters).
The birds just weren't around.
Turkey numbers are WAY down, and the cost per tag is now prohibitive.
All birds were on private land not public
Initially planned on hunting public but the WMA was very pressured with hunters at every access point. I was fortunate to obtain permission from a land owner but heard few birds overall and was lucky to harvest the bird I did get.
Not worth the time and money
So few Turkeys, local land owners I have hunted on in the past, were not willing to allow hunting this year. Nebraska has to cut back on number of permits allowed.
To many hunters for the available birds on public lands. It would be nice to go back to a one Tom limit in the North west corner of the state.
I realize I was there in May but there were very few birds in the areas I hunted, heard very little gobbling and saw very few birds even riding around the county I hunted in.
Didn't see enough turkeys to bring me back
It appeared that wildfires had destroyed too much habitat. There were very few birds to be found. The turkeys we were finding were mostly on private land. It was too accessible by vehicle so it was difficult to get away from other hunters even though there weren't that many hunters compared to the acreage available. I think limited turkey habitat and it being late season resulted in poor hunting. Not a bad place to hunt, but just too many better places to hunt to come back again.
Too many hunters.
Killed a merriam. Completed Grand Slam. Too far away.
Over marketed and too little public land. One landowner said there was a lot of road hunting going on.
Not enough turkeys. Limited public land. Overpressured birds

Way too many hunters. We consistently hiked miles away from roads and had other hunters walk through our set ups. 4 days in a row. All in different areas
Public land too concentrated in pine ridge, bird numbers vs hunters hunting here too low. Please reduce # of birds allowed in pine ridge - even if state quota stays same - pine ridge bag limit is too aggressive
Too far away and a bit costly to harvest no bird
Alot of money for someone like me to spend to not even get on a bird much less hear one gobble....
Too far for not enough turkeys
Might consider a different location. The location we hunted seemed to have been over hunted by the time we arrived...or their just aren't any birds there. Was pretty rough trying to find birds.
Bird population where I have permission to hunt has been declining drastically over the last few years. Not even seeing very many birds.
I would hunt Nebraska again, but not with the same outfitter that I used on this trip.
Area burned out. No birds.
Saw many fewer turkeys than in the previous 10 years. Sad.
Too little public land, too many hunters, too few birds by middle season
There should be a maybe in this question. Maybe i would hunt in a earlier season.
To much pressure from other hunters.
Far to travel
Trying for super slam
Turkey population has been getting worse the past few years there is to many people killing to many turkeys now ! Lower the limit and lower the length of season
Price of tags for non residents.
Drive is long and second tags are to high in cost especially for archery.
Take the time and travel to a new location
I have traveled a lot the last 15 years hunting Thayer and Jefferson counties. There has been a steady decline in the population over the last 5-7 years maybe more. I know there is more hunters nowadays but limits of 3 birds seems absurd. The price increase each year with no change in helping maintain population is also disheartening. I also don't understand why turkey in Nebraska can be hunted almost 8 months out of the year, with fall season harvest being either sex (no beards required). Doesn't seem like the state is taking action like all the other states that have dealt with decline. Therefore I will spend my money elsewhere.
Lack of access
Was my last hunting , age and health
The price is way too high for one turkey...and there are better states to hunt now, even though a bit further away.
Population numbers seemed down compared to previous spring seasons and compared to last fall. Pressure was high as expected but the number of hunters with a blatant lack of respect for others made for a frustrating experience.
Too many hunters and not enough turkeys. I've hunted neb for a lot of years not any more.
Birds too heavily hunted.
Low number of birds:
Too many hunters and not enough turkeys

Way too many hunters. Extremely disappointed in how the state was marketed to non-res hunters. Would suggest a draw AND a season limit of one for non-res license. Have no plans or desire to ever hunt the state again
It's too crowded now
Hunter density at Harry Strunk is too high, I've hunted there before and have been successful and not successful. However, this time I noticed there's VERY few birds in comparison to years past. Turkeys need to be managed better on all public lands in Nebraska and I wouldn't mind seeing a harvest quota or tag quota for the area. The bird numbers just aren't there anymore and if you want to keep the reputation as one of the best turkey hunting states in the nation you need to do better. I wasn't selfish and didn't over hunt or over harvest the area and only killed one bird because of it. If I would've known numbers were that bad down there I wouldn't have even bothered hunting.
Ticks were horrible. Too many hunters for public hunting areas.
Number of turkeys way down compared to previous years never even saw a single male turkey in 5 days and we hunted from sun up to sun down. Also saw way more hunters than i have in last 5 yrs. My opinion over advertised too many hunters now and numbers of birds have s ignificant pleasely dropped last 2 yrs. We will be hunting kansas next year because of the amount of public land available. Hoping to get away from people.
Way to much hunting pressure on public land
Too many hunters. You have over sold your product!!!
Way to many people hunting on public lands, borderline dangerous. On multiple occasions saw people chase them down on the road and jump out and start shooting them
Not enough birds and to many people.
tired of hunting same grounds and the effort to hunt,. I fly from SC, drive 4 hours from Omaha, hunt two 1/2 days, drive back to Omaha and the flights coming and going are very early. I return home exhausted. If more Toms, I would come again.
Not enough birds and too many hunters.
Saw 1 mature bird Tom on public land. Tried multiple times to contact a biologist, game warden or anyone at NE game and parks and 0 people returned my call. I started calling months in advanced because of COVID. Even tried the NWTF person to only get multiple callbacks. I work for the public sector here in AL and it should be a disgrace for the person in charge of this department. The landowner we rented a house from even apologized for his state's government lack of response. He went as far as saying we could come back and stay at his rental house for free next year and I said I won't be returning but thanks for the offer. Horribly run state department.
Too many hunters on too small tracts of public land
Need more public access.
Harvested my bird,moving on toward my super slam
I wanted a Merriam and there were very few available in an area that should have had plenty of birds. You need to reduce the number of birds allowed until the population recovers. If you don't, you won't have any birds left to hunt.
Distance. Likely a one-time trip to hunt Merriams with my son.
Like to try another area
Way too many hunters for the available public land.
Because govener shut turkey season down ,because of covid and I lost 1200.00 to outfitter because of this.

I'll try other states before I come back. I don't believe the number of birds lived up to what was portrayed in your advertising.
Not enough places to hunt
Was specifically hunting Merriam turkey and was able to fill tag on first trip.
It's just far to travel for me.
Not on public land numbers down and seems hinting pressure was high.
Health reasons , getting to old to chase this grand bird
Permits have gotten way too expensive. Taking advantage of non resident hunters
To many hunter and not the turkey population you make it out to be . We still have a good time but the turkeys but it's not a good state to turkey hunt in for my group .
Long drive, few turkeys, heard zero gobbles
You have promoted turkey hunting so much that you have lost the quality of hunting turkey in Nebraska. I came over later in the season thinking there be less pressure. Every spot I hunted had hunters. Very disappointing. I have hunted turkeys for 43 years and this had to be the disappointing state I've hunted in. I never seen so many hunters.
Not enough public ground and no Ranching for wildlife/block management like other states near by. I'll stay in Colorado or go to Kansas or head north.
Too far
Too far from Florida. And flying with hunting equipment (gun and bow) is a hassle
Virtually all of the turkeys had moved to private land. In the future, I will be forced to hunt on private land to be successful. Way too many hunters.
My mother and I have gone out four times in two years counting my mom and I with our bows and have yet to harvest a turkey. Even paid a guide. Had two chances out of the four times but couldn't get one with the bow.
They need a chance to re-populate. There is 1/10 of the bird numbers or less on my case county farm, I found the same thing when I went out to Dunning near the National Forrest.
Bird numbers too low, hunter numbers too high
Low turkey numbers and high hunter numbers on public ground! Not worth it anymore.
Passed thru many states with better hunting.
Farm sold where I was hunting.
Did not see any turkeys or any sign. Will not hunt again until the population increases.
The numbers are so low. On the stretch of creek we hunt there used to be over a hundred birds in a 3 mile stretch. There was 1 Tom, 3 Jake's, and 7 hens there this year. It has been rapidly declining the last few years. Something needs to change or we will soon have no turkeys.
This state is a joke when it comes to hunting. We pay out the ass for permits. And have very little access to land. I will never hunt in this state again.
Because there are no turkeys in my area anymore. Stop giving out so many permits per person
To many hunters
too old

<p>It's just too far to drive from Arkansas. The only reason we hunted Nebraska was because we traded a duck hunt (in Arkansas) for a turkey hunt (in Salina, KS). Nebraska was too close not to turkey hunt so my son and I hunted Nebraska. Everyone we spoke to about getting permission was very friendly and didn't care if we hunted in their property. Our strategy was to drive around until we saw turkeys and then knock on doors or farm shops and ask permission.</p>
<p>NGP due paid hunting and outfitters buying up all leases on private land . Public land being over hunted by out of state hunters. This is the same issue with all species and especially big game species. As it stands now if things keep going the way they are in the state Hunting will be the privilege of the rich. Twenty years ago I could 90 percent of private property just by asking. Not so anymore same land owners but outfits by up the leases and often times never use the land to hunt just to keep other hunters off of it. Its not the land owner to blame with property tax being what they are it just part of survival. I hold your Organization responsible for turning what was a family recreation and legacy in to the Sport of the rich and elite. This has been done through promoting out of state use of our wildlife resources. In order to bring more money in. I understand the money part. When my children were in school 80% of the boys and some of the girls we're hunters. Now with my grandchildren it is closer to 20% are hunting. If you have nowhere to hunt or shoot One of the greatest things about the state will perish. I believe you need a new mindset .</p>
<p>Population too low</p>
<p>Lack of turkeys</p>
<p>Out of staters shot small Tom's, and the already declined turkey population due to overpopulated raccoons. Custer, Hall and Buffalo counties that I farm and or hunt the Turkey populations are way way down and Raccoons are everywhere the out-of-staters just want to fill there tags and don't care about letting them grow. It was very very disappointing to see the turkey numbers so low! Farming/hunting along the Platte River and hunting in Custer county so far this year my estimate is the Turkey population is 1/3 what it was last year! I am VERY VERY concerned! Plus it does not look like the fur market is going to help thin the raccoons. If you have any questions here is my # (402) 705-0074 Chad Wagoner</p>
<p>I would much rather hunter deer. This was my first year hunting turkey and it just was as exciting to me a deer season</p>
<p>Cost of permit.</p>
<p>Not enough birds. Expense of travel and lodging. Tag price high.</p>
<p>Turkey population in Holt and Boyd counties is declining at an rapid rate WHY?</p>
<p>it's too far to travel to hunt turkeys. Also, I was disappointed that Nebraska did not give out of state seniors a discounted price on the permit. In PA and other eastern states, seniors, both in and out of state, receive a discounted price on a senior hunting license.</p>
<p>I was told Nebraska had lots of turkeys and was very disappointed. The state needs to cut the number of tags a hunter gets especially residents in the fall so the numbers will come back.</p>

<p>State employees that I talked to prior to our trip to Gilbert Baker WMA did not mention the extensive wildlife restoration work currently in progress before and during our stay. I talked to a game warden specifically about Gilbert Baker, when we were going to be there and for how long. I believe he should have known about the work being done and advised me to try another area. The heavy machinery, chain saws and workers had an impact on the number of turkeys we encountered. We had a group of 3 over 3 full days hunting and no encounters or even signs indicating turkeys were in the area. The primitive camp sites were great and we had a good time camping!! After 3 days we headed east hunting near Valentine and O'Neil. Thanks for the survey!</p>
<p>Since I was lucky enough to harvest a nice Meriam bird I will concentrate on Rio and Osceola next. I will primarily hunt my home state going forward.</p>
<p>Permits are to expensive. Lack of birds and lack of hunting land</p>
<p>Too many people</p>
<p>Too much hunting pressure</p>
<p>This was a special trip to take grandkids turkey hunting. Probably won't do it again</p>
<p>I have hunted turkeys nearly 20 years. This was the worst year I've ever had hunting. By area has been over taken by walk in hunting lands and the birds are non existent due to this. Public access has ruined the hunting all together in my area. Deer and turkey hunting is complete junk. Will be looking to hunt other areas of the state moving forward.</p>
<p>Permit fee too high for odds of success.</p>
<p>Will most likely go to another state to hunt turkeys. The amount of public land that we have access, to the number of hunters that hunt those lands is just to many. Our public lands are over hunted. Our Turkey population is way down. So unfortunately, if you dont have money you will not get onto private land anymore. Its sad that this sport that I love so much has come to; how much money do you have. And alot of it, is out of state hunting clubs being able to lease land to sell hunts. Since a majority of our tags are OTC, if people dont get a tag in other states that require a draw they just come to Nebraska. I'm glad elk and antelope are still for residents for the most part. But I'm sure that will change as well. The more money that can be made let's do it seems to be the motto for our Nebraksa Game and Parks.</p>
<p>Nebraska advertised as turkey hunting destination state. Everyone coming to hunt turkeys and deer.</p>
<p>Bird density was too low and hunter numbers too high</p>
<p>Plan on hunting a few new states each year</p>
<p>WAY TOOOOOOOOOO MANY hunters in the pine ridge area!! We hunted the area for 4 days and counted plates from 25 other states!!!! That alone will cause me to look for other areas to hunt turkeys!! Completely unacceptable!!</p>
<p>During our 3 day trip we only see 5 toms and approximately 15 hens and no jakes. Ten years ago we would 100 birds a day on the same farms and now we saw 20 birds over three days. If something does not change there won't be birds to hunt.</p>
<p>Not worth the effort. Permit cost too high for a single bird.</p>
<p>Not in that part of state</p>
<p>Population has dropped notably since we started hunting fifteen years ago. A noticeable increase in predators: coyotes, raccoon and bobcats, also turkey vultures. Noticed Kansas hunters in most public areas and at times they lowered fence gates and drove in to walk in only land.</p>
<p>To many people social media ruined it</p>
<p>It was once a lifetime experience for me</p>

Not enough access to public land and number of turkeys that I saw.
Nebraska for its size has the least public hunting land
I have better hunting in the Black Hills SD.
It's not likely at this time. It was a nice experience but most all the huntable birds were seen on private land and access was not granted. I may hunt again in Nebraska some day but it would be in a different area with more accessible public and private land. The scenery and camping experience was enjoyable though.
Not enough birds on public land and to many hunters per acre
Hunted in 2021 based on invite from a friend. I had a good time, but don't care if I hunt again
Too many people Jackass "horn hunter" blew my stand"
Low turkey population. Perhaps turkey season should be canceled for a few years to allow them to possibility repopulate.
This was my 4th year hunting turkeys in Nebraska . The first 3 years were great , plenty of turkeys and I didn't run into a lot of hunters . This year , few turkeys and a lot of hunters . i was surprised when I went for the archery opening and ran into hunters on every public hunting area . I have some friends that shotgun hunted that had the same experience . I came back the last week of season to find hunters everywhere I went . I believe the birds had been chased off the public ground due to the hunting pressure. I might return if I can get a land owners permission to hunt . I enjoyed the area , the people and game wardens were friendly .
Public land is too far away from York
Not near the turkey population the state claims to have.
The numbers are extremely low. In addition to hunting there I guided for 6 weeks and saw SIXTEEN bobcats during daylight hours, two attacking dead birds or decoys. Also we found lesions on the heads of some birds and tumor filled livers, which indicates viral disease. Between these two issues I will be surprised if there will be huntable numbers in the coming years, especially with the liberal limits. In my opinion investigations should begin immediately into season length modifications and harvest cutbacks.
The price of a resident turkey tag is ridiculous.
I hunted with Gobble n Grunt outfitters and it was a bad experience. Did not see a lot of turkeys on the land they had leased or on any other land. Maybe other areas of Nebraska has better numbers. It was my first time hunting in Nebraska so maybe I should give it another shot when I get the bad taste out of my mouth from the last hunt. Nebraska is a beautiful state and I will come back to do some upland bird hunting.
To many people
I may do it again, but definitely not during late season. The turkeys were completely done breeding.
The trip was a graduation present to my niece. 3 of us hunted 3 days from daylight to dark, never even came close to working or harvesting a bird. Extremely disappointed. Personally it appears Nebraska has a predator problem.
Not enough turkeys
I saw several turkeys on private land while driving, but the number of hunters on public land was tremendous. Hunted Piney Ridge some, but Mainly hunted Gilbert-Baker WMA. I heard less than a handful of birds the week I hunted and saw 1 hen on public land.

<p>There are too many hunters to start with compared to the number of turkey. I spoke with several locals and they all stated that there are not the number of turkey that are being advertised. Mountain lions are killing them!!</p>
<p>Maybe</p>
<p>Lack of birds by late in season. May try earlier in season and different area.</p>
<p>I did not hunt where I had planned to hunt because of the high number of hunters and the very low number of turkeys being seen. I harvested my turkey on a different place and one I had never been on before but did see turkeys and harvested a bird. Every one we talked to could not explain why they were not seeing turkeys and most said there had been plenty of birds just a few months before. I had hunted Ne. several times before over the years and had enjoyed good experiences there but this year was completely different from my previous times there.</p>
<p>Not enough turkeys</p>
<p>Too many hunters on public land! Too few turkeys on public lands. Too many ticks got on me.</p>
<p>Too many hunters</p>
<p>Not enough timbered public land and too few turkeys on what timbered public land was available.</p>
<p>Numbers werenw low. Too many coyotes, raccoons.</p>
<p>Bird numbers were extremely low in my opinion. Hunter numbers were high. I feel that the state of NE needs to evaluate the population and make changes accordingly.</p>
<p>In my opinion the turkey hunting in Nebraska is vastly overhyped in your promotional efforts. In four days of hunting in what should have been prime weather and habitat in the early part of the season, I heard a total of 1 turkey and saw none while actually hunting. I only saw two other birds in miles of scouting. What I did see was way too many hunters for the area. Most every spot scouted had multiple vehicles parked there from many different state. In the many hunters I talked to in the almost week that I was there, only one had shot a bird. I would not come back to hunt public land again.</p>
<p>there is no turkeys on public land</p>
<p>Turkey numbers seem to be dwindling over the past few years. May be time for us to back off and let the population heal up somewhat.</p>
<p>Not enough time off work in the spring</p>
<p>There were too many hunters for the number of turkeys to make it a quality hunt. I will choose somewhere that isn't excessively over hunted next time.</p>
<p>lack of turkeys and places to hunt.</p>
<p>Unless I have access to private land where they seem to flock, I am pretty sure NE turkey is done for me.</p>
<p>Too much pressure and hunters on public land. Very few birds on public land. Seems to be birds on private because its regulated more. You can shoot to many birds which is killing your population. This was my 3rd trip to nebraska with zero shot opportunities. I hunt Missouri and Indiana every year and always get birds there.</p>
<p>hunted with a guide called balancing arrow outfitters and i was a joke.</p>
<p>Too many hunters in this area. Need more public ground to get spaced out</p>

<p>Over the last 5 years, the numbers of turkeys has declined dramatically in Nebraska. Not sure of the reason but the population is dropping and there simply just aren't the numbers there used to be. I feel the Game and Parks is not "coming forth" with the reason and unfortunately still allowing 3 birds to be taken on a rapidly declining population. Is it greed or total disregard for the species, I doubt it is either but as a long time resident of Nebraska and now a long time non-resident hunter, I am disappointed with the handling of this game bird.</p>
<p>No turkeys on public ground!</p>
<p>Is really a maybe. Didn't have a good hunt. Heard several but couldn't get them to work. Best chance was blown by another hunter.</p>
<p>Too many hunters, not as much of a quality hunt as it used to be. I have been going to that area (Fort Robinson State Park) for 21 years. This year my have been my last because its over populated with hunters.</p>
<p>I forgave you for your ridiculous 2020 COVID response (stopped selling tags). This year you burned the area I was hunting on the last day of April??? Who does that? I was actually concerned about my safety and equipment at one point. You guys aren't really in it for conservation - more about revenue...</p>
<p>I believe I was fortunate in the area I hunted to not deal with much other hunting pressure. Overall I think Nebraska is highly pressured and a place many out of state hunters will visit to shoot their three birds. I don't want to be apart of the problem so for the time being I will hunt other states to help even if it is only sacrificing my 3 birds I could potentially harvest. I just feel like that is me doing my part for the state of Nebraska.</p>
<p>Will have to think about returning. Too many hunters and not many turkeys due to pressure on them.</p>
<p>Bird count was way too low with pressure and high cost for out of state</p>
<p>To many hunters, not enough open land for recreation</p>
<p>hunting quality is not what it was 10 years ago.</p>
<p>Hunted Bessey forest most of the time. Near zero bird sightings. Too many hunters.</p>
<p>Outfitter was not honest about the number of turkeys he harvests. Outfitter did not allow me to hunt the last 2 hours of the day</p>
<p>to far away</p>
<p>Barely seen any turkeys for that long of a drive</p>
<p>I will not hunt in that area for sure. Population of turkeys were way down. The bird I killed was not in good shape, only weighed about 18 pounds and typically would have been 22-24 pounds. Not sure but I assume the extreme cold weather this year had an impact. The overall gobbling activity was very low. Not the normal turkey hunting in Nebraska.</p>
<p>Unfortunately I had hunters walk in on my hunts every weekend I hunted. I understand that it's public land - but unfortunate to pay so much for a tag and travel and fuel etc - and have guys come in and spook my turkeys every hunt I was on. My sentiment may be different had the folks been more polite but thats the future of hunting in Nebraska I suppose.</p>
<p>After many years of turkey hunting Nebraska, with great success, the number of birds is so low it is not worth hunting there. We literally went from seeing hundreds of birds to not seeing one bird. Seems a consistent opinion from most we spoke too. Not sure why numbers have crumbled, but they are not there.</p>

to many hunters to few turkeys .turkeys didnt gobbel due high presure on them. hunted lake endures area will not go back there..
Tags are too expensive, too many turkey hunters, and poor camping availability/services on public hunting areas.
Have allready killed all species.
The Turkey population in Nebraska is getting worse every year while the hunters are increasing
waste of money, no turkeys to harvest, i can sit in the woods for free
Will try some other states before returning to Nebraska.
Turkeys seam to be on private land
The price of a tag, I did not see many turkeys, the amount of hunters was very high
Sucks
Too many other States to experience before I die.
Have not harvested a turkey in two years during Nebraska hunt
The public hunting area were heavily hunted and turkey's were displaced
Almost all the birds we saw were on private land
Not very good public land management very thick no open areas birds all on agriculture spots on private. I know I was hunting the last week but the birds I saw not many where still doing there thing.
I personally feel as though the management system for turkeys in the state of Nebraska is very poor. i saw very very few turkeys while i was there and the many many hunters i spoke to talked about how bad it's been over the last 10 or so years and that's it's not been improving just steadily getting worse.
Outfitters had all the land locked up and were charging outrageous fees.
Two seasons without even seeing a strutting tom during the hunt and zero harvest opportunities does not encourage me to hunt this place again.
Too many people. Way overhunted. 3 over the counter tags sounds all great but in reality that's doing nothing but hurting the Turkey population on public land. The few birds I did see wouldn't respond due to over pressured. Would come and run the opposite way once they see a decoy. Campgrounds were packed with hunters, the public land was worse. Limit it back to 2 birds, if not one. Otherwise make it one bird a week allowed, 2 birds max per season would be best.
Almost all the birds seen on the trip save two were on private land.
Too many hunters in woods at same time. Earlier time periods birds were all on private adjoining land and no one will give permission. Birds were split up more later season however. I would personally recommend splitting full season like Wisconsin does into 6 or 7 separate weeks n give the hunters flexibility to choose which 2 time periods they want to hunt. Spread hunting pressure out more
NE charges too much for a turkey tag with too little access to good hunting habit. What habitat that is available has entirely too many hunters utilizing it. Also it is what \$163.00 for one non resident turkey tag? You should discount additional tags though I haven't had a need to buy more than one. I've turkey hunted the last 15-20 years in Kansas and have harvested a turkey every year. I have hunted NE twice in the last 5 years and have not fired a shot. NE should provide more access to private land via a walk in hunting program. As it is, it really isn't worth the time and expense to hunt turkeys in NE in my opinion.

The turkey population in your state is decreasing. You need to restrict the number of birds you can harvest. I know several people who are coming up there and killing three birds each. They've been doing this for several years and it's starting to become apparent. I'm not coming back up there to hunt until the population rebounds.
Only because I like to hunt different states
No turkey.
Maybe. My first year turkey hunting on WMA land around the Lincoln area I saw, heard, and interacted with turkey 90% of my days out. This year it was probably closer to 5%.
Turkeys are far too pressured on public land and always traveling in huge groups
Land to spread out
Way to many hunters and way to few turkey's on public land.
It's really a maybe. To high of cost for low amount of birds.
Too many hunters.
Did not see enough turkeys to justify the trip from Indiana
Military, travel to much
No Turkeys
too many hunters
Declining birds in the last 8 years we've hunted there
Too many chasing turkeys on public grounds
no turkeys. only coons coons coons and mic in a few stray cats, skunks and possums. oh yeah a bob cat and a fox looked at our decoys too, How can any ground nesting bird pull off a success.
to many hunters
Will try some other states before returning to Nebraska.
cost too much money for me.
Turkeys had stopped breeding, so could not call Toms in.
The number of gobblers has decreased every year since 2010. Really wondering what our poult per hens are? If we allow hunter to harvest 5 gobblers per year I wonder if we are producing enough to cover that. The other hunter I ran into were disappointed along with both of the game wardens in the the area. They agreed and have expressed the decrease in the population. If the issue isn't the 3rd permit then it's the 2nd. We better get ahead of this problem before we can't come back from it. It will be I treating to see the recommendation of the biologist to the commission We can't be that much different than. Kansas amd South Dakota. Good Luck Scott Croner. 4023041192
The quantity and availability of turkeys didn't justify the 10 hours of driving it took me to get there. I will stay closer to home in the future.
Not enough turkeys and too far to drive
Getting too old
Not many turkeys where I hunted
Didn't see many turkeys on public land.
To many hunters walking around conservation openly in stupid clothes not knowing how to hunt
No birds population very low for the last 4 years. Habitat trees have been burn down or bulldozed down no place for birds to roost.

<p>The habit was destroyed. Trees were pretty much all cut down and bulldozed out. Everything was burned off. No habit to sustain turkeys. Talking to several other hunters they have not seen a turkey to shoot in 4 years. I quit hunting turkeys 4 years ago. I decided to try it again. I saw one. The last time I hunted I saw close to a 100. Population on public ground does not exist anymore. I work with several people who turkey hunt that don't hunt them anymore because they can't find any.</p>
<p>I think based on my observations and the response of turkeys accross the US where I hunted there is a severe decline in Vocalization and it turkey numbers. I am concerned of the decline and am not sure if it's due to hunters, predators, or poor habitat. With the vast majority of CRP ground going back into crop fields I have realized that the loss of cover has been devastating to both deer and turkeys. I once thought it would improve numbers with the additional food sources but I was never so wrong. There was adequate food all along and more cover. Browse and native grasses along with lots of bugs are what turkeys need combined with cover and nesting sites. I'm no biologist but I've been hunting since I was 8 and I'm 55 now. I've hunted all over this country and I promise you something is going on with turkeys not just in your state but all over. I'm concerned we are opening the season to early across the country and allowing to many birds to be harvested. I can't really speak to Nebraska that was my only trip there.</p>
<p>To few birds to many hunters</p>
<p>Not on public land no bird to many hunters</p>
<p>Nebraska needs to manage population better. Hunted a huge piece of public and never seen or heard a turkey or seen any sign. Locals say they have not seen hardly any around anymore</p>
<p>A one time only opportunity</p>
<p>Permit prices have got way out of hand. I enjoy Turkey hunting but the price is just too high.</p>
<p>undecided, limited time, turkeys were quiet and not responding to calls, may have too many coyotes right now</p>
<p>Blocks of public land are too small.</p>
<p>No turkeys was around all the people</p>
<p>too many hunters, too few turkeys, too much posted land</p>
<p>Not see any birds and hard to get on land when I did see some birds.</p>
<p>the outfitter over stated the number of birds onhis leases and not enough public land</p>
<p>I probably will but by selecting yes, no comment box was given. I tried to purchase a landowner permit at a visitor center but the agent was unable to figure out how so I was forced to pay extra for the regular permit. Not happy about that. I guess I can use the online app to purchase future licenses and will go that route if I choose to hunt here again.</p>
<p>Turkey hunting got to easy and just not much fun any more.</p>
<p>Low numbers</p>
<p>Not enough turkeys. Didn't see enough turkeys.</p>
<p>Too many people in public.</p>
<p>It's too far to travel for me.</p>
<p>Too far from home</p>
<p>Though state offers public lands for hunting, seems private land offers better opportunity to be successful</p>
<p>Not enough turkeys. Since their are low numbers the people that do have them charge to much to hunt.</p>

too many out of state hunters

There are a ridiculous number of hunters, especially on public land in Northwest Nebraska. There is no need for three turkey permits per person in the spring and 2 permits with 4 turkey in the fall. Turkey populations are not sustainable when an individual can get so many permits and the total number of permits given in the state is unlimited. The number of permits should be reduced for each individual and permits should be limited statewide. If revenue is all that is considered, and not the turkey population, there won't hardly be any turkey to hunt or make money off of in the future.

The state over sells tags. The wardens are dramatically UNDERSTAFFED! I've hunted turkeys since the 80's and Nebraska is rapidly headed BACKWARDS with their turkey management. You can't sell 3 permits to anyone who wants them. They non residents are destroying the resource with the blessing of the ngpc for money. I refuse to pay for a tag till something is Donets correct the incompetence from you're horrible game management for a dollar .

Too many hunters and too few public land birds left for late season. Over half of the public land where I hunted had been thru extreme fires and will never support turkey habitat again Need a draw to limit turkey hunters.

Appendix 2. Unedited text responses from hunters indicating “other” factors that influenced their decision to hunt turkeys in Nebraska during the spring turkey season in 2021.

U.S. Super Slam
hunting lodge
Turkey hunting in years past was very good, keep hoping it will come back. just not seeing as many.
Family has good hunting land
Hunted there several times in the past but always due to the early archery opener
My good friend lives south of the NE/KS line.
Season is open for a month after Arkansas closes
Private land
Late dates of NE season. Still open after my state closed.
There was an outfitter that offered two states (Kansas and Nebraska) in one trip with archery gear.
Outfitter recommendation.
Deceiving marketing by State if NE.
Private land
I own property in Nebraska.
brother ,lives in colorado.....8hours for him 12 hours for me.....
Was selected for the Wounded Warriors Guide Service for a Guided Hunt.
prior family success/accessibility
My season closed on May 1st. By hunting Nebraska, I was able to extend my season.
Being able to hunt public land without lots of other hunters around (in past seasons)
Friend does not live in state but he owns land there
Species
Preferred hunting guide offers service there.
Archery Season Opens prior to Gun Season
The beautiful countryside
A friend who was hot to kill a Merriam's talked me into coming with him.
Proximity to Colorado
Familiar with the land due to Deer hunting season.
Access to Private Land to Hunt
Group I hunted with have been going to Nebraska for the past 20+ years.
Have a lease to hunt.
Friends invited us.
Close to home
Damn nice folks!
invited on trip with others
Merriams subspecies
Out of state hunting

The opportunity to hunt river bottom birds because in CO the opportunity to do so is very limited
I believed there was lots of birds in NE. However many farmers said numbers were way down
Working on u.s. super slam
Private land available to hunt as well as public.
The hunting public hunting media group
Early archery season
We were hunting Kansas and had a couple of extra days and decided to hunt Nebraska
Invited
Veterans hunting organization
Friend's suggested trip
Private ranch
Family owned land
Length of season.
Friend recommendation
Proximity to my state and friendliness toward nonresidents
Early opening of the season is a huge positive
SD closed shotgun down for hunting so we went to NE because its the next closest state to us to hunt
We had a lease.
My outfitter backed out at the last minute and I had two tags.
I hunt a new state each year
Previous experience previous experience
The beauty of northern Nebraska that was unknown to me.
Guide had access to private land
Was hunting KS and this was a convenient hunt to add onto our trip. Tagged out in KS btw ;)
Looking for merriams for a grandslam
friends who go to state
Previous success
Having access to the private land I hunted
Other members of hunting party had experience hunting in Nebraska at same location.
Tagged out in Kansas and still had days to hunt, so It was closest state with OTC tags.
Travel accommodations
Friends who had been there before when Numbers were up
Friend referral
I own land in Nebraska
We stay here 6 months out of the year
private property with no competition
Son lives in CO and we can hunt NE together with more turkeys available then in CO
Trying to complete the Super Slam with a muzzle loading shotgun

Outfitters
access to private land
Chasing 49
My location in Wyoming -- Hillsdale -- allows me to travel into Nebraska with some ease.
Scenery/terrain
Used a guide who had access to private property.
Friends who hunted NE
Early archery season
Close enough state for me to drive for another subspecies of turkey
Early Archery season
Permission on private property
Was looking for a place to hunt on public land with my dad that would be a challenge
I live here
Relatives hunt in the state
I live here
Went with a friend, my first year and didnt get out till wat late on season.
My friend wanted to go. Liked the idea of the youth hunt for my daughter
Different terrain
Family tradition and to get out in the woods with family & friends
I like being in the outdoors during the spring
It was a chance to hunt with my daughter
I like to hunt.
Resident
Guide Service
Availability of permissible private land within easy driving distance of my home.
I can hunt close to home
Where I have private ground access.
Taking my kids
I live here
My brother harassed me until I got a permit.
Resident state
Enjoy hunting
It's an annual thing that I do with my dad
Tradition
Local availability
I live here
The challenge involved in trying to call a turkey in, plus being out in nature.
Want to provide food for my family
Oppertunity to hunt on pvt land.
Local
Just to get outdoors and enjoy the outing. Observe way more than turkeys.

Opportunity to hunt private land.
Usde to be the Lack of Other Hunters in Woods. SAW WAY TOO MANY OUT OF STATE HUNTERS
I enjoy hunting in Nebraska which is very different from hunting Eastern birds in North Carolina.
First time hunting in Nebraska
convenience, cost of hunting out of state
Because i live here. I own the farms i hunt on. What about farmer/hunters who like wildlife?
I live here and I hunt where I live.
We found some great people that has private land that let us hunt.
I live in Nebraska so this is where I'll hunt.
Something to do on my land
I can hunt them on my property
It is my state of residency, so it is simply more convenient to hunt in Nebraska.
Good turkey population on father in law's ranch
I usually hunt with friends, i don't turkey hunt alone much.
I reside here
No additional comments section?? Come on. You guys are a joke
My family has land with turkeys on it.
Familiarity of the country. Been hunting this area forty years.
I live at n Dawes county
Cultural tradition
Hunted private land with my grandson.
im a resident
Proximity
Opportunity to be outdoors hunting after deer season. Spring bear hunt to Canada cancelled
We can hunt on our own land, and I like to eat them.
I live in state, why go elsewhere
I live here
The early archery season allowed for a trip prior to other states seasons.
Late season
Availability of rental cabins with access to private ranch land.
We own the land that I hunted. Saw a lot of turkeys prior to season, then they seemed to disappear
Time with my dad
Guide suggested hunting in Wyoming and Nebraska
10 year old son made me
I live here, Why don't you give the residents a chance to hunt the first week of season ?
live in the state
home

I have turkeys on my place, they taste good, so I hunt them. That's all there is to it.
i live here
Private land available to hunt.
Take my boys hunting
I'm a resident
Live here
Different experience to visit another state.
Guide service is outstanding. Gobble N Grunt exceeds expectations.
Friends private land
To go hunting with my son
Something to hunt
I live in Nebraska & hunt on my own land.
Early start date
Hunt my own newly purchased property
Easy way too get my kids into hunting and it was a new challenge for me
Access to private land
Love to hunt and be outdoors
outfitter was good
Just a simple interest in trying to learn to hunt a new animal in Nebraska
Opportunity to get in the field and spend time with friends and nature.
I live in Nebraska
Just wanted to try something new
I feel like this question is directed towards non-residents. I hunt Nebraska because I live here.
Youth season
Lots of turkey hunting experience in the area (20+ yrs)
It's my home state didnt want to travel out of state.
My son wanted to go out and hunt turkeys with me
I'm a resident
I just like to hunt turkeys.
Hunt my dads place
Food
Kid wanted to hunt with me.
I live here
merriam turkey
This survey was sent to a 4 year old.... first season of "hunting". \$8 is a cheap experience
Good hunting land
Family land
Never hunted turkey before and was excited to hear the toms answer a call. Love being outdoors
The out of state license cost is way too high!
Landowners

Season started earlier than Iowa.
My fiancé is an avid hunter. He bought me a bow for Christmas last year. So tried hunting.
guys getaway
Have a friend that has hunted Nebraska several times, meet him there
Going and spending time with my son and son-in-law
I Hunt turkey only because I'm a resident of NE
Hunt on my land and I am somewhat crippled and enjoy not having to walk much to hunt Turkeys.
went with friend
I got permission to hunt on private land
Own land
Invited to go hunt with family
We hunt to manage our family ground, enjoy the wildlife and just being outside.
The enjoyment
Residency
I live here
Land Ownership
I wanted to hunt turkeys in a new area earlier than our Wisconsin season.
access to private hunting grounds, not over crowded with hunters
Love the state of Nebraska
It's where we live duh
Just like hunting turkey
Time spent with my son hunting
Land available
I live there and want to hunt
new state
my dad owns land with strong turkey populations
Get outdoors
I live here
Land access
Closest state with a season open
I live here
Ability for young hunters to be able to hunt the youth season.
Ability to hunt with my daughter during the youth only season.
a new state to hunt
Was traveling thru the state
Opportunity to hunt in the spring.
enjoy hunting
I just like to hunt turkeys.
Youth session and cost
hunt on private land

my son wanted to hunt turkeys
This is the state I live in
chance to hunt with my dad
Access to private land
I live here
Convenience in location. I live here.
Another opportunity to be in the field.
land owner
Gives me an early archery season to hunt before I get into my busy season where I may not have much
Just moved to state.
The fact that I live here
Taking my son hunting and camping out during season
I enjoy hunting turkeys
Have the equipment and can still get out
Friend recommended
The length of the season allowed us to hunt this season. Not passing up my state (MO)
Friends property
Friend has been doing it for years so I joined him
I live here.
Have land
Wanted to give it a try.
I enjoy spring turkey hunting because because of the overall experience, not just the hunting.
Meat
Family and a friend wanted to hunt turkeys so we tried it. Enjoyed it
Friends lined up the trip.
I farm the land and wanted to hunt the turkeys there
This is where I live so this is where I hunt.
Well I live here so if I want to Turkey hunt that is my option
Own land that I hunt in Nebraska
I own a farm in Nebraska that has turkeys.
I was selected to participate in a mentored hunt.
a continuation of something I have done and enjoyed since I retired in 2004
A friend wanted to kill a Merriam so I went to help during early season and I bought a permit
Resident so hunting the turkeys closest to home
Preferred outfitter availability
Nothing else to hunt in the spring.
Because I live here and know people with land.
Available private land to hunt.
Crossbow allowed for archery

X
Proximity to Colorado
I enjoy getting out into the field, setting up my decoy and listening to the Toms gobble.
Location of my residence
access to land to hunt
It's a tradition
Hunting Merriam turkeys private land and public. Lots more turkeys on private lands.
State of residence
Offered free guide
Outfitter relationship
My son has been hunting there successfully for a few seasons.
Family members hunting in Nebraska
Access to private land and previous success of hunting turkeys there. Turkey pop appears to be down
Had not been able to hunt SE NEBRASKA for 16 years because of my job in Wyoming
Observation of the wild bird and taste.
I live here.
family and friends outing
The area where I hunted is beautiful and rich in history.
I own 60 acres of landi
Family Farms
Annual get together with the landowner where I hunt. I've become quite good friends with them.
Be out side
where I live
I like to hunt
Resident of NE
I like to hunt turkeys and I am a resident of Nebraska.
Time spent hunting with friends. Just getting outdoors.
I just like hunting Nebraska
Enjoy the beauty of the state.
I hired an outfitter.
I am a resident
family wanted me to join in
Invited by a friend in Colorado to go with him to hunt in turkeys in Nebraska.
Sons first hunt of any kind, liked the controlled situations that turkey hunting provides for that.
I hunt and wanted to try it.
I'm from here and own land here - Convenience.
Good private land to hunt
went with friend
Affordably priced outfitter for private land.

Because I love hunting turkeys with good friends on different property
We live here
The Hunting Public
Meat and fun
of out of state hunters in area
access to private land
good outfitter,reasonable cost for me
Took a trip with family. Thought I would get a permit for me.
For the experience and being out in nature.
location of NE, relative to other states that I hunt
Good success in prior years was the most significant factor in my decision
I just love to hunt!
Just love the outdoors!
private land and beautiful country
my brother researched the state and planned the trip
I'm a hunter
Food
Because I live in Nebraska and I have limited days to hunt. So I hunt turkeys in Nebraska.
Tradition with a group of good guys all going for many years.
Friend recommendation
I enjoy getting out and hunting
I live here and there are turkeys here.
Family bonding time
I live here
Hunt with same outfitter year after year
I live here and have family that I hunt with.
access to private farms
Friend from Michigan that loves to hunt here
We knew of an outfitter there that a friend hunted whitetails with
I live in the state, resident.
Bow hunting turkeys is my favorite pass time
available time
Land owned by a good friend and have been hunting there for years.
The opportunity to hunt the same private land for the last 21 years
I live here, I'll always hunt here and love it.
Fun
a buddy wanted me to go with him
first time I hunted turkeys, recently moved from Washington state and never had the opportunity to h
Private land access and friends to hunt with
Ability to hunt different terrain and using different methods than we use at home.

Live in Nebraska
Hunted private land with permission
Just like to hunt turkeys and have the flexibility to obtain a tag.
Family bought land that had turkeys using it
Because I live here. Question directed at non-residents, don't ask this of residents, if no choices
My state of residence
private land available to hunt
Pine ridge is beautiful
Close to home and access to some private ground
A friend that quail hunts NE, said he sees many during the winter.
Came with friend and his daughter for her to complete slam.
I'm a hunter that loves to eat wild game and it was turkey season
I just like to hunt
I like to hunt, side note ever since the floods Turkey hunting in our area around Has been bad....
Lucky to have permission on a prime piece of private land
I just like hunting turkeys in my home state.
My cousins own land for me to hunt on, the cost of tags are just keep going up!
i live here
I live here. Too expensive to buy out of state license.
It was the closest state too us with an early enough season that lined up with my time off.
Family lives in SD near the border
Despite the very high cost for a resident turkey tag, i hunt for the tradition and taste
I got to introduce my daughter to turkey hunting, and able to enjoy the harvest of her 1st turkey.
Home state, hunting to hunt and teach kids, etc
own land in NE
Hunting private land
Private Land We Had Access To
Hunted with outfitter
Private land availability. Your permit costs are too high (side note)
own land in Nebraska
Friend has hunted in Nebraska (on Family's Ranch) for 10+ Years and recommended a Trip out there.
paid landowner for access
The US Super Slam
Given the hunt buy and organization
I hunted my own farm that I own.
we run a Christian camp.
We own 160 acres. Spend a lot of time cutting cedars while fitting in some hunting.
Land owned in Nebraska

The availability of lodging at the area where we hunted
Neighboring state
Opportunity for a different hunting experience
guide relationship there
Meet relatives from other states to archery hunt turkeys
private land hunt was great experience
I wanted to try something different.
All the wild life, very nice public land, and the nature itself
Quality of outfitter
Ownership interest in a ranch in NE that has a lot of Turkey habitat
Friend had access to private land.
Fiance was going; pandemic remote worj
Private property
Private land to hunt
Having a separate archery season
Available lodging close to hunting areas
Resident
Past experience.
Outfitter recommendation (Herritage) and met friend from another state.
Quality and price of outfitter
Going for all 3 of the Turkey slams
Early Archery
Close to ks
Season length I am a coach.
Outfitter location
Access to private land with an individual we've worked with for several years.
Fit our spring travel plans.
Just wanted to shoot a turkey
Friend invited me to hunt
New access to private land
Outfitter
State is close to state I live in
Because I enjoy it and being outdoors.
Closeness of state
I'm disappointed that the turkey numbers seem to be decreased significantly.
I enjoy all hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation
I live here
I hunt nebraska turkeys because I live in Nebraska.
I was able to hunt with my grandson and get him his turkey.
Live in Nebraska

Love to hunt turkeys and seem to have a good number in the area. Also, land owners that let you hunt
Landowner hunting
Past years have been great but in the recent years, the population has significantly reduced!
Born and raised here. Know the land well. No reason to hunt them anywhere else.
a family affair - used to be anyway.
I love to be in the woods hearing the thunder of gobbles. Love turkey hunting!
First time turkey hunter, Friend has hunted here for years, encouraged me to take up archery.
availability of private land
availability of private land
availability of private land
I have permission on some good private land
I live here
I'm a Nebraska resident, and am getting into hunting.
Youth permit is affordable. Give a good reason to go try.
Nebraskans are welcoming, generous, and friendly. The food is good. Turkeys are abundant.
My clients have harvested 1148 in 17 yrs revenue / \$110k plus to NGPC
Family who lives out of state was going.
enjoying the outdoors
chance to kill a Merriams
Ability to begin hunting experience
The rush of hearing gobbles is why I hunt. The price of permits is too high
Family live in South Dakota along the boarder
I live in Nebraska
I live in Nebraska
Hunt on private property.
Landowner
My neighbor
I live here.
Private Property to hunt.
I quit hunting turkeys because they all disappeared. Bird numbers super low.
I live here
Live here
I hunted with a lodge that had leased private farms
My private land
I like hunting new places with friends and family.
close to home
Land owner
It the only place I can hunt financially

I live in Nebraska.
Live in Nebraska
Shitty turkey hunting in Colorado.
Hunting on my own land
I thought I would have more time to hunt than I actually had this season.
I live here
I live here
Now that I am stationed in Nebraska, I will hunt here as long as I live here.
The Season Opens March 25 so its the earliest one in the Midwest, thats why I love NE it starts 1st
Hunting because I have access to private land with turkeys
Where I reside
I live in Nebraska and I wanted turkey meat.
Where I live and hunt locally.
I REALLY LIKE TO HUNT TURKEYS, WEATHER IS NICE
Permission to hunt on private land
Opportunity provided by my employer, ALPS & Colby Kerber from Pheasants Forever, mentor/mentee hunt
Great lodge and outfitter
Comstock Lodge and owners are great!!
Its where I live
Invited by friends to join them
i hunt for the enjoyment of being in the outdoors
My brother lives in Cheyenne, WY. We met in Nebraska for a hunt.
Take the kids out
I enjoy it.
Stationed here at Offutt
brining my 6 year old out for his first hunting experince
took my son,
Early season opening date.
I love going with daddy and mommy and Channing
availablity of Merriam turkeys
It's where I live
Wanted to get out after covid
Another opportunity to get out, spend time with family and pursue a wild game bird.
I am a teacher, so I always go somewhere when school is out, and it is an easy trip from Missouri.
I live here and have turkeys on our property
I enjoy the early archery season, being able to begin hunting in March each year.
dad introduced hunting turkeys to me
I OWN 2599 ACRES OF LAND ON THE NIOBRARA RIVER IN HOLT CO. THAT IS WHERE I HUNT WITH FRIENDS

Private land that usually holds turkey.
Own land with an abundant population.
Nebraska resident
We won a trip in a raffle
Have a friend that invited me.
Areas close to where I live and typical turkey populations. This year population numbers were low.
Was on the way home to Mississippi from Wyoming
the chance to share the experience with my children, to experience the outdoors
Took grandchildren
Landowner
was a guided hunt
The early archery season is the earliest dates I can hunt within reasonable driving distance.
The early archery season intrigued me.
Change to get kids involved in hunting.
I live in Nebraska
My son likes to turkey hunt
I live here, so I hunt here
I live here.
I always hunt turkeys
I just love hunting and turkeys are a challenge
kid wanted to go
Close to home, ease of buying permits
I just love hunting. I hunted pretty close to home this year, wish there was more access.
I'm a natl champion turkey caller. Y'all couldn't possibly understand.
Nebraska resident
Fairly new to hunting and Ive never turkey hunted before and it sounded like a fun experience!