

# **2010 Fall Turkey Hunter Survey Update**

**Mary Jo Casalena, Wild turkey biologist**

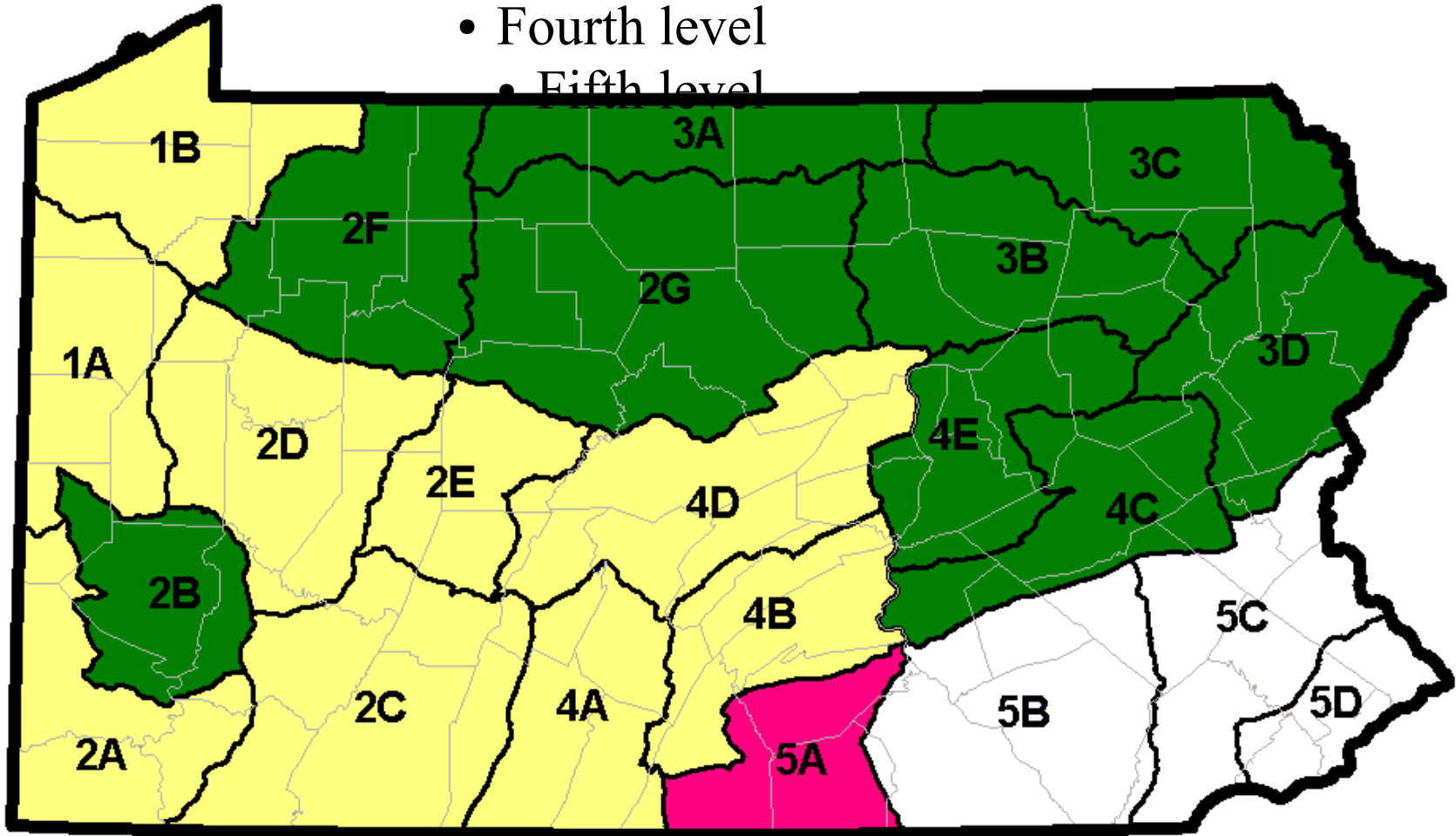
# 2010 Fall Turkey Seasons



Second level

Third level

• Fourth level

• Fifth level



 6 + 3 days  
 12 + 3 days

 3 days, mid-week  
 Closed

# Fall Harvest & Survival Rates of Female Wild Turkeys in PA

## Objectives:

1. Estimate female

Fall harvest rate

Annual survival

1. Determine how fall season structure affects harvest rate

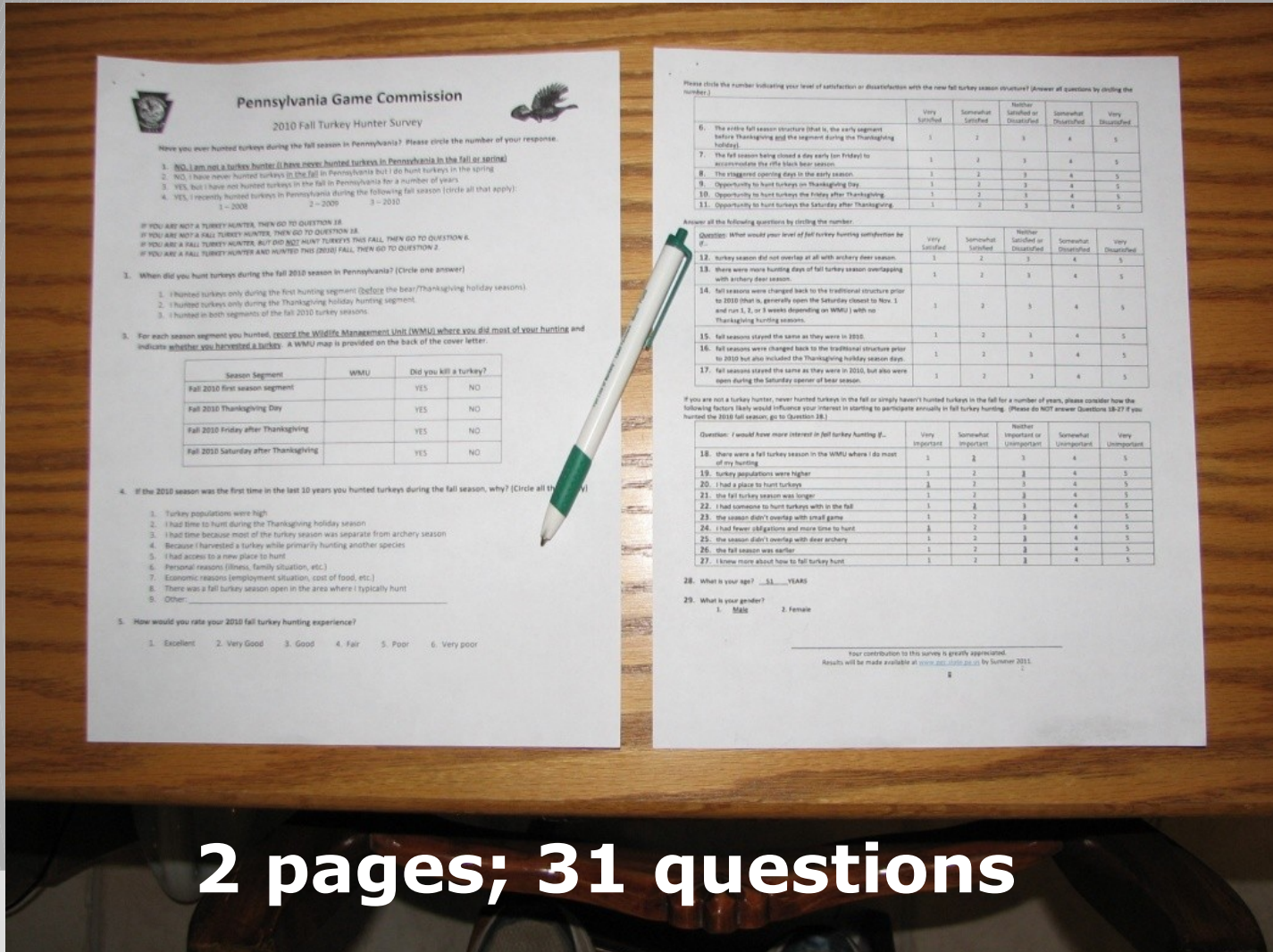
2. Determine hunter

Participation/Recruitment

Satisfaction



# Fall Turkey Hunter Survey



2 pages; 31 questions



# Survey Methods

Mailed to 10,000 general license holders

Determine recruitment from non-turkey hunters

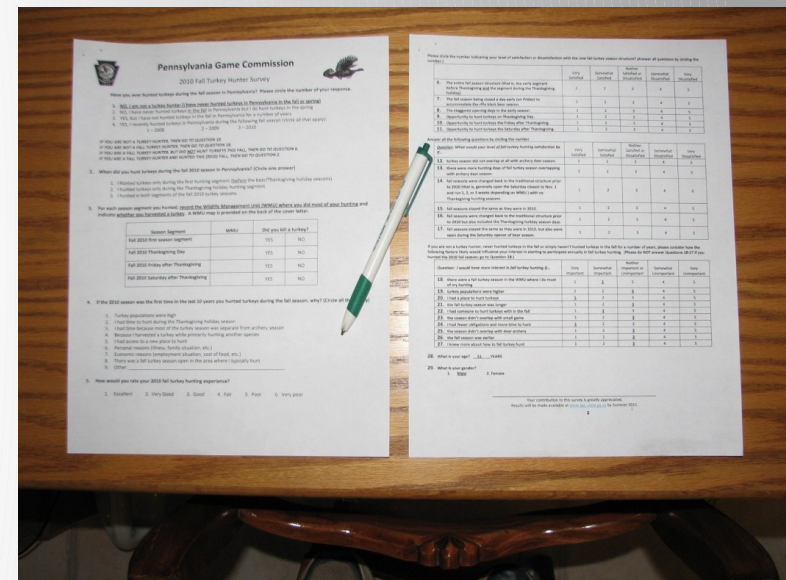
Standard mail survey protocols

Pre-survey postcard

Survey

Post-survey reminder

postcard



# Survey Results

Response Rate = 46%

Margin of Error:  $\pm 1\%$

e.g., 60% translates to 59 – 61% with 95% confidence

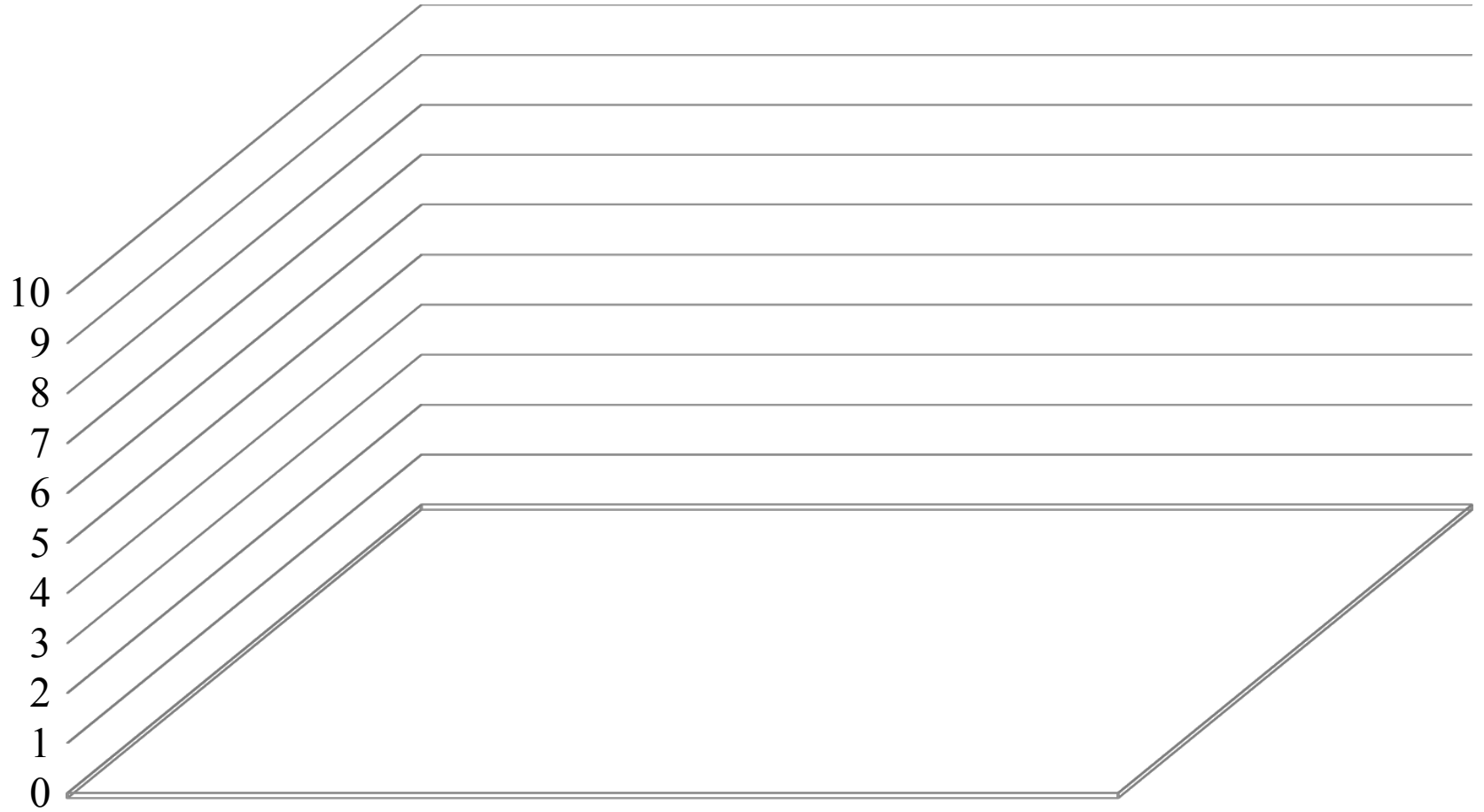
Avg. Age = 48

95% PA residents

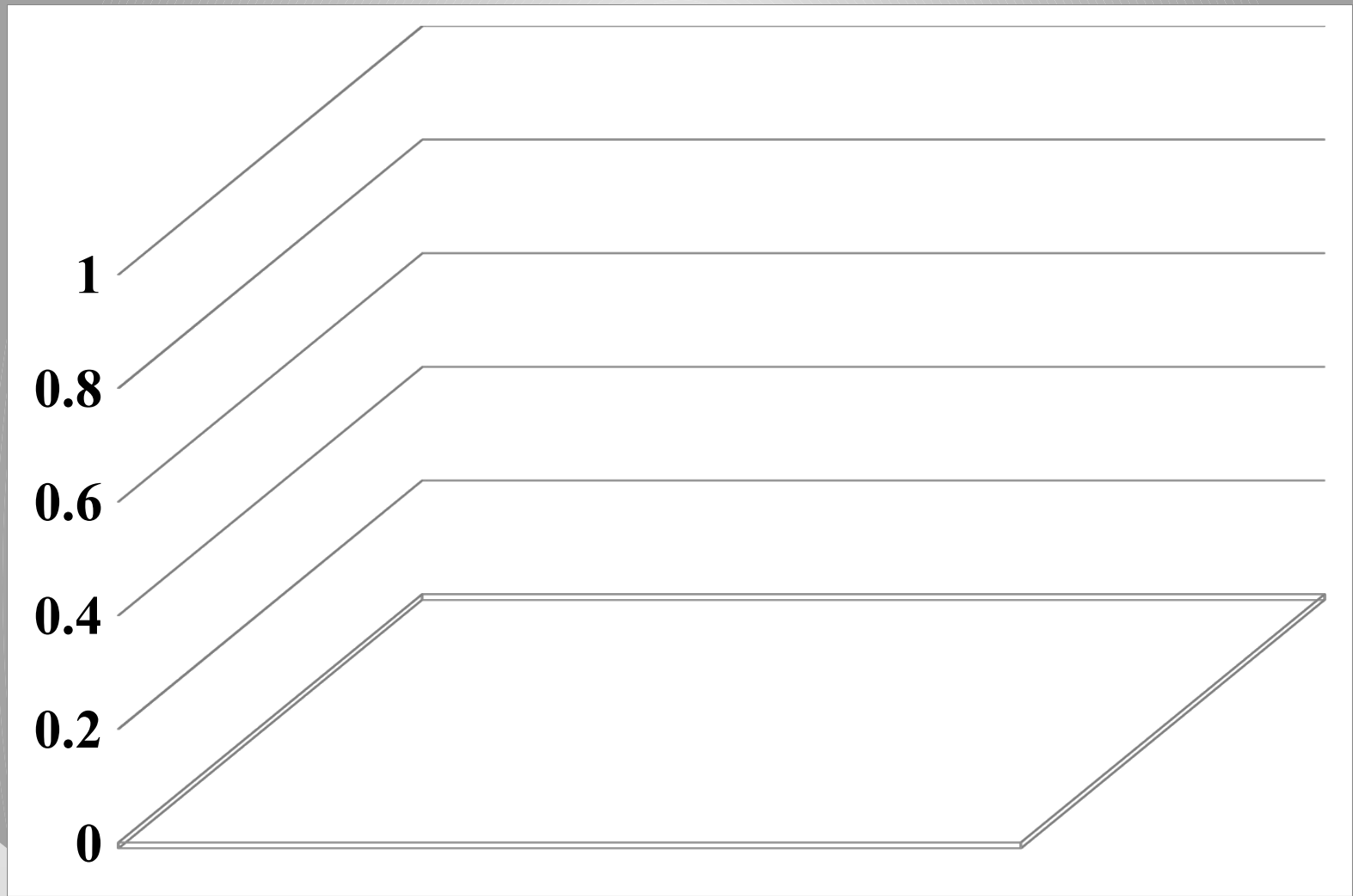
93% Male



# Ever hunted fall turkey?



# Participation by year





## What segment did you hunt?

- 1st Segment = before Bear & Thanksgiving holiday season.
- Thanksgiving Holiday Segment = Thanksgiving Day, Friday & Saturday after Thanksgiving.
- Both Segments.



**How do you rate your 2010 experience?**



<b>Satisfaction Level</b>	<b>Somewhat -V. Satisfied</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Somewhat -V. Dissati.</b>
<b>2 Season Segments</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Close Friday – before Bear Season</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Opportunity to Hunt Thanksg.</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Opportunity to Hunt Friday after Thanksg.</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Opportunity to Hunt Sat. after Thanksg.</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>10%</b>

<b>Satisfaction if...</b>	<b>Somewhat -V. Satisfied</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Somewhat -V. Dissati.</b>
<b>No overlap with archery</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>More overlap with archery</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Old season, no Thanksg.</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Same as 2010</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Old season, with Thanksg.</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Same as 2010, + Satur. of Bear</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>32%</b>

<b>If not T. Hunter, I would have more interest if:</b>	<b>Somewhat -V. Important</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Somewhat -V. Unimportant</b>
<b>Population Higher</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Place to hunt</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Longer Season</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Someone to hunt with</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Didn't overlap with sm.game</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Fewer oblig, more time to hunt</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Didn't overlap with archery</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Earlier Season</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Knew more about fall turkey hunting</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>33%</b>



# Summary

No evidence of recruitment or reactivation

Provided additional opportunities for existing fall turkey hunters

The majority were satisfied with 2010 fall turkey hunting experience

Available time, higher turkey populations and places to hunt are more important factors influencing fall turkey hunting participation than season structure

## Percent 2010 fall turkey harvest by day and week for short (9-day) & long (15-day) WMUs.

WMUs	First season segment				Second season segment		
	1st Sat.	M - F	2nd Sat.	M - F	25-Nov	26-Nov	27-Nov
Short Season	1% Season NOT Open		32%	37%	5%	11%	15%
Long Season	19%	32%	10%	20%	5%	7%	9%

**Previous 2-week WMUs: Sat. = 19 – 26% harvest.**

## Leg-band returns – hen study



For the first year of the study, sample sizes of fall harvested leg-banded and transmittered hen turkeys were low ( $n=11$ ).

Timing of harvest was similar to report card data

73% of the harvested hens were taken during the first season segment & 27% were harvested during the Thanksgiving segment.

# Questions?

Click to edit Master text styles  
Second level

- Third level
- Fourth level
- Fifth level

