



Roger Smith  
123 Main Street  
South Dakota

Dear South Dakota Waterfowl Hunter:

I am writing to ask for your help in a study of waterfowl hunters in South Dakota. The general purpose of the study is to learn more about waterfowl hunting patterns so we can provide specific information to wildlife managers and landowners to improve hunting opportunities and the quality of hunting in the state of South Dakota. The study is being supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, who has asked us here at Colorado State University to help conduct the survey. This survey effort is separate from other surveys conducted by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, & Parks (ex. harvest surveys). We would greatly appreciate you filling this survey out even if you have filled out a harvest report for the season. Answering the survey will only take a few minutes, but it has the potential to improve your hunting experience.

Your responses are important to us whether this is the first time you bought a hunting license or the twentieth time. For our sample to represent hunters in your state, it is important that we hear from all different types of hunters, including you (even if there is a more active waterfowl hunter in your household). The survey is voluntary, and the results of this survey will be held strictly confidential.

When you have completed the survey please mail it back to us in the enclosed postage paid stamped return envelope. If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact me by calling 970-491-7307 or emailing me at [John.Loomis@colostate.edu](mailto:John.Loomis@colostate.edu)

Thank you for helping us with this important study and we look forward to receiving your completed survey.

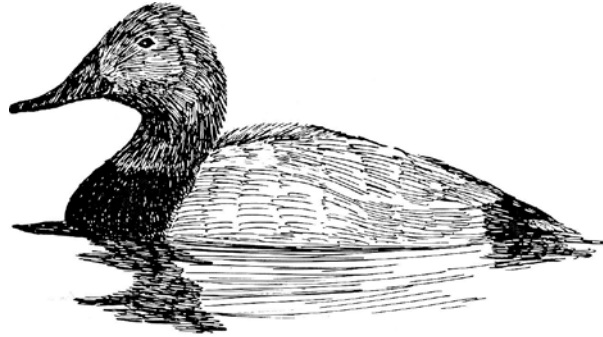
Sincerely,

Dr. John Loomis, Project Manager  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

*This voluntary survey contains information collections that are covered by the Office of Management and Budget clearance number 0560-XXXX, which expires XX/XX/XXXX. The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing and submitting the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Skip Hyberg, Stop 0508, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, or by email to [skip.hyberg@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:skip.hyberg@wdc.usda.gov).*

# WATERFOWL HUNTING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

## A survey of individuals who hunted waterfowl in South Dakota in the 2014/2015 season



A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, being carried out by Colorado State University. This survey is conducted under authorities provided by Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99–198), as amended.

Under Title 7 of the U.S. Code and CIPSEA (Public Law 107-347), facts about your operation are kept **confidential** and used only for statistical purposes. Your help on this study is greatly appreciated!

*Please return your completed questionnaire in the self-addressed pre-paid envelope included. Thanks!*

### **PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT**

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Cover Illustration: Tom Kelly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



## I. YOUR 2014/2015 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON IN SD



You have been contacted because you purchased a waterfowl hunting license in 2013. The information you provide will help the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, & Parks, farmers/ranchers as well as U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service agency to improve hunting opportunities for you.

1. Did you hunt waterfowl during the 2014/2015 hunting season in South Dakota? Circle one:

Yes (please continue with the survey)

No (please return the uncompleted survey in the postage paid envelope. ***Returning the envelope provides essential information even if you did not hunt***)

When we ask about your South Dakota **Hunting Season** in the following questions we mean just your waterfowl hunting activity in early, regular and late seasons (ducks, geese, and other migratory waterfowl) combined during the 2014/2015 season.

When we talk about a **Hunting Trip**, we mean a trip taken for the primary purpose of hunting waterfowl.

2. How many waterfowl hunting trips did you make during this 2014/2015 Hunting Season?

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Trips

3. In total, about how many days of waterfowl hunting did you take this Hunting Season?

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Days

4. During the hunting season what percent of your time waterfowl hunting was spent on:

Private Lands (including Walk-In Areas \*) \_\_\_\_\_% Public Lands \_\_\_\_\_% Right of Ways \_\_\_\_\_% = 100%

\*Walk-In Areas are privately owned acres with public hunting access.

**5. If you did NOT hunt waterfowl on Private Lands go to II. YOUR WATERFOWL HUNTING EXPERIENCE on page 2.**

**IF you DID hunt waterfowl on Private Lands** please tell us about the type of lands you hunted. This will help farmers, ranchers, other landowners and SD Game, Fish & Parks better manage for waterfowl.

5a. Percent of your time this hunting season spent waterfowl hunting on each of the following land cover types:

Cropland \_\_\_\_\_% (Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_) Grassland \_\_\_\_\_% Wetland \_\_\_\_\_% Other \_\_\_\_\_% = 100%

5b. Percent of your time this season spent waterfowl hunting on private land enrolled in the state Walk-In Areas Program? \_\_\_\_\_%

6. Did you hunt waterfowl on lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)\* lands during the 2014/2015 waterfowl hunting season? (check one) \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No \_\_\_Unsure

\*CRP land typically resemble tracts of perennial grasses and/or wooded shelter belts occasionally with wetlands intermixed

If **No** or **Unsure** please go to Question #7.

If **Yes**,

6a. What percent of your time spent waterfowl hunting this season was spent:

**Directly on** lands enrolled in CRP \_\_\_\_\_% **Lands adjacent** to CRP \_\_\_\_\_%

7. Is the availability of CRP lands an important factor in your decision of **where to hunt waterfowl**? Circle one:

Not at all      Slightly                      Very      Extremely  
 Important      Important      Important      Important      Important

8. Is the availability of CRP lands an important factor in the **quality of waterfowl hunting** in the county you hunt most often? Circle one:

Not at all      Slightly                      Very      Extremely  
 Important      Important      Important      Important      Important

## II. YOUR WATERFOWL HUNTING EXPERIENCE

Please tell us what factors influence your decisions on how often you hunt waterfowl.

<i>Please circle one number for each item</i>	<b>Would the following factors increase the amount of waterfowl hunting you do in a season?</b>			
	No Change	Not Likely	Likely	Very Likely
1. More free time	1	2	3	4
2. Higher waterfowl populations/success rates	1	2	3	4
3. More areas to hunt & greater access	1	2	3	4
4. Less hunters & fewer crowds	1	2	3	4
5. Lower cost	1	2	3	4
6. Longer hunting seasons	1	2	3	4
7. Other reason (Please list)_____	1	2	3	4



### III. YOUR TYPICAL WATERFOWL HUNTING TRIP IN SOUTH DAKOTA

A typical hunting trip is a trip to go waterfowl hunting where you go most often.

1. In which county did you hunt most frequently during the 2014/2015 season? (See map)

County Name \_\_\_\_\_

In answering these next few questions, please answer with waterfowl hunting trips to this county in mind.

2. How many **trips** did you take to this county to hunt waterfowl? \_\_\_\_\_ # of trips

3. About how many **days** did you spend waterfowl hunting on a typical trip? \_\_\_\_\_ # of days per trip

4. Roughly how many of each major category of waterfowl did you harvest throughout the course of the 2014/2015 waterfowl hunting season in this county?

# of Ducks \_\_\_\_\_ # of Geese \_\_\_\_\_ # Other Waterfowl \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your one-way **travel time** from your home on a typical hunting trip? \_\_\_\_\_ # of hours

6. What is your one-way **travel distance** from your home on a typical hunting trip? \_\_\_\_\_ # of miles

7. On a typical trip to this county, how many hunters were in your party? \_\_\_\_\_ # of hunters.

*The number of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program has been declining in South Dakota since 2007. CRP declined by nearly 500,000 from 2007 to 2012; a 28 percent decline. Additional CRP acres are set to expire in the next few years, and if not re-enrolled, could be converted back to crop production.*

8. If CRP acres were to decline by an additional 50% in the county you hunt most frequently, would you expect the number of waterfowl hunting trips you take over the course of the season to this county to change in some way?

No Change in Trips

Yes, Fewer Trips---> \_\_\_\_\_ # of fewer waterfowl hunting trips each season

Yes, More Trips--> \_\_\_\_\_ # of additional waterfowl hunting trips each season

#### IV. SEASONAL WATERFOWL HUNTING EXPENDITURES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

To understand the economic impact that hunting has on the state, it is important we have an idea of what you spent on waterfowl hunting during the 2014/2015 hunting season **in the state of South Dakota ONLY**.

Please estimate the expenditures you made for only for yourself, not for others.

	<b>\$ Spent in the County Where you Hunted Most Frequently</b>	<b>\$ Spent in Rest of State of South Dakota</b>
1. Gasoline/travel costs		
2. Restaurants/Bars/Taverns		
3. Grocery stores/liquor stores		
4. Rental Car		
5. Lodging		
6. Access/leasing fees		
7. Guns purchased for waterfowl hunting		
8. Ammunition		
9. Hunting License & "Duck Stamp"		
10. Taxidermy		
11. Repairs to equipment		
12. Dog gear/vet care specific to waterfowl hunting		
13. Special clothing and gear used for waterfowl hunting		
14. Non-clothing waterfowl hunting gear (decoys, blinds, calls, etc.)		
15. Other? Please List: _____		

16. Were there any other items purchased out of state specifically for hunting waterfowl in North Dakota? (such as catalog, internet, out of state travel en route, etc.)

Yes → \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please list item \_\_\_\_\_)

Yes → \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please list item \_\_\_\_\_)

Yes → \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please list item \_\_\_\_\_)

No

**V.  
VI.**

## VII. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please tell us a little something about yourself. These last few questions will help us in evaluating how well our sample represents hunters in the state. **Your answers will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used for the analysis of this study. Statistics will only be reported as an average of overall responses, and you will not be identified in any way.**

1. Are you?     Male     Female
  
2. In what year were you born?    \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Are you employed?     Yes (Go to #3a.)  No (Skip to #3d.)
  - 3a. Do you work part time or full time?     Full-time     Part-time
  
  - 3b. Do you take time off from work to participate in hunting?     Yes     No
  
  - 3c. How many weeks of paid vacation do you receive each year?    # \_\_\_\_\_ of weeks (Go to #4.)
  
  - 3d. Are you retired?     Yes     No
  
4. What is the zip code in which you live? \_\_\_\_\_ County Name \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Are you a member of a hunting or sportsman's organization?     Yes     No
  
6. Are you a member at a Private Hunting Club?     Yes     No
  - 6a. If you belong to a hunting club(s) or sportsman's organization(s) what is the sum of your annual dues?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annually
  
7. Your highest level of formal education completed? (Please circle one)

<b>High School Or Less</b>	<b>Associates Degree</b>	<b>College (B.S./B.A) or Technical School</b>	<b>Graduate or Professional School</b>
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8. Was **your** own income from all sources (before taxes) last year?

<input type="checkbox"/> less than \$19,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000-\$29,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000-\$39,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000-\$59,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000-\$79,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000-\$99,999
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000-\$149,999	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000-\$299,999	<input type="checkbox"/> more than \$300,000

**Thank you for completing the survey!**  
**If you have any comments please write them on the back of the survey.**  
**Please return in the postage paid return envelope we provided.**



**COMMENTS?**

**Please feel free to write any comments you have about wildlife management in ND. When you are finished, please place the survey in the stamped return envelope and mail it back to us.**