
**AN ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC AND HUNTER OPINIONS
AND THE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO NORTH CAROLINA
OF HUNTING ON SUNDAY**

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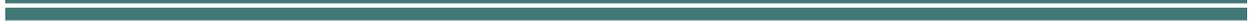
Prepared for the
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

.....

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November 28, 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Carolina is one of only 8 states, all east of the Appalachian Mountains, in which hunting on Sunday is not legal (with the exception of limited hunting on some federal installations). In response to the considerable interest expressed in changing North Carolina law to allow hunting on Sunday, the General Assembly considered three bills in 2005 related to the topic. Although none of the bills passed, the General Assembly and the Governor instructed the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to study the issue, assess public opinion and report back to the 2007 General Assembly. This report describes the results of a study conducted on behalf of the Wildlife Resources Commission by Responsive Management, Virginia Tech and Southwick Associates between January and August, 2006. Objectives of the study included:

1. Identify all stakeholder groups relevant to the issue of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.
2. Conduct a series of stakeholder meetings with representatives from groups identified in #1 above which may have an interest in Sunday hunting to gather views of these groups on Sunday hunting in order to facilitate additional qualitative and quantitative assessments.
3. Qualitatively gather public views on Sunday hunting by conducting a series of focus groups throughout North Carolina.
4. Qualitatively gather hunter views on Sunday hunting by conducting a series of focus groups throughout North Carolina.
5. Develop and conduct a phone survey of North Carolina citizens to gather quantitative data on public views on Sunday hunting.
6. Develop and conduct a mail survey of North Carolina hunters to gather quantitative data on hunter views of Sunday hunting.
7. Estimate the possible impacts of Sunday hunting on hunting participation, such as numbers of hunters, number of days hunted, hunter recruitment and hunter retention.
8. Estimate the possible impacts of Sunday hunting on the North Carolina economy.
9. Estimate the real fiscal costs and benefits to the Wildlife Resources Commission on implementing Sunday hunting, such as changes in costs for law enforcement and check station management activities, impacts on game lands infrastructure, and changes in license sales revenue and federal aid.
10. Prepare a written final report of study findings before the 2007-2008 session of the North Carolina General Assembly and present the findings in person to the Wildlife Resources Commission.

The telephone survey of North Carolina citizens showed that opinions of hunting on Sunday are strongly polarized. Sixty-five percent of North Carolina citizens opposed legalizing hunting on Sunday, with the majority of those strongly opposing legalization. Twenty-five percent of North Carolina citizens supported legalizing hunting on Sunday. Few people were undecided about the issue and levels of support and opposition were consistent across all regions of the state. Although 65% of North Carolina citizens opposed hunting on Sunday, citizens of the state overwhelmingly approved (81%) of hunting overall.

Opponents of hunting on Sunday most often cited religious reasons for their opposition. People who attended church on a frequent basis were more likely to oppose hunting on Sunday than those who attended less frequently or not at all. Supporters of hunting on Sunday most often cited additional opportunities to hunt and separation of church and state, i.e., the decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a government decision. Fifty-eight percent of survey respondents said the personal choice argument was the most convincing reason to support hunting on Sunday. The most convincing reasons to oppose hunting on Sunday included consideration of Sunday as a day for other outdoor recreationists to enjoy the woods without worrying about the presence of hunters (77%), Sunday as a day of rest (70%), interference with church activities (65%) and concern that hunting on Sunday would strain the resources and personnel of the Wildlife Resources Commission (63%).

Hunters were equally polarized on the issue of Sunday hunting and slightly more supportive of legalization of hunting on Sunday overall than North Carolina citizens in general. Although licensed resident hunters who responded to both the telephone survey of citizens and the mail survey of hunters were about evenly split on the issue, adjusting the data to account for nonresponse bias resulted in 38% of hunters expressing support for legalizing hunting on Sunday and 53% of hunters opposing legalization. Older hunters and hunters who attended church more frequently were more likely to oppose hunting on Sunday than younger hunters and hunters who attended church less frequently. Hunters cited essentially the same reasons for either supporting or opposing hunting on Sunday that other North Carolina citizens did. Seventy-seven percent of hunters cited the personal choice aspect (rather than a government decision) as a major reason to support hunting on Sunday and 75% of supportive hunters cited the additional opportunities that Sunday hunting would provide for working people. Sixty-eight percent of hunters who opposed hunting on Sunday cited religious reasons, while 62% cited conflicts with other recreationists.

Hunters were even less supportive of scenarios for limited hunting on Sunday than they were for unlimited hunting on Sunday. Only 4% of hunters who opposed hunting on Sunday overall said that they would support hunting on Sunday with some limitations. Nineteen percent of hunters who supported hunting on Sunday overall said they opposed hunting on Sunday with various limitations. Landowners who currently allow hunting on their lands were approximately evenly split on the issue.

Approximately one-half of hunters in both the telephone survey of citizens and the mail survey of hunters said they would be likely to hunt on Sunday if it was legalized. Twenty-five percent of hunters responding to the telephone survey and 37% of hunters responding to the mail survey said they would hunt more days each year if hunting on Sunday was legalized. Hunters currently hunt an average 24 days that do not involve an overnight stay each year and on average, they

would hunt 7 more days each year if hunting on Sunday was legal. In addition, hunters currently average 2.2 overnight trips for hunting each year. They indicated they would take an average of 1.9 more overnight hunting trips if hunting on Sunday was legal. Twenty percent of hunters hunted outside of North Carolina (hunters in the mountain region were most likely to hunt out of state, hunters in the coastal region were least likely to hunt out of state). Of those who hunted outside of North Carolina, 29% said the ability to hunt on Sunday was very important in their decision to leave the state. Sixteen percent of hunters who hunted outside of North Carolina said they were likely to take fewer out of state trips if hunting on Sunday was legal in North Carolina.

Hunters spent an estimated \$484 million in North Carolina in 2005, creating a ripple effect that generated \$946 million in total economic activity. Responses to the telephone and mail surveys suggested that hunting participation could increase by 1.9 million days (28%) if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The economic impact of increased hunting participation would rise by an estimated 17% in the first year following legalization of hunting on Sunday, 22% in the second year and level off at 28% in the third year.

The Wildlife Resources Commission generated \$7,606,848 in revenue from the sale of hunting licenses and permits in 2006. The agency also received \$4,160,586 in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds (federal funds that are based 50% on the size of the state compared to the rest of the states and 50% on the number of licenses sold compared to all licenses sold nation wide). Although it is not possible to determine with certainty how many more licenses the Wildlife Resources Commission might sell if hunting on Sunday was legalized, we can project the financial impact of various license sale scenarios. The combined effect of revenue from increased license sales and the associated increase in Federal Aid funds is \$102,119 for a one percent increase in sales, \$510,416 for a 5% increase and \$2,039,008 for a 20% increase.

Personnel of the Wildlife Resources Commission estimated that at least 36 new game wardens would be needed state wide to maintain current levels of enforcement if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The estimated first year cost of hiring, training, equipping and supporting the operations of a new warden is \$99,657. That cost drops to \$52,457 in the second year, for a two-year total of \$152,114 per warden (\$5,476,104 for 36 wardens). If license sales increased by 20% as a result of legalization of hunting on Sunday (an unlikely scenario), the additional revenue and Federal Assistance funding would still be \$1,398,088 short of covering the cost of the new officers. However, the Wildlife Resources Commission would also have the option of redirecting the effort of existing officers, paying overtime to existing officers, or hiring fewer new wardens to provide additional enforcement capability in specific areas or to relieve other officers as needed.

Over 10,000 comments on Sunday hunting were posted on the World Wide Web site of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Fifty-five percent of those comments were in support of legalizing hunting on Sunday, while 43% were in opposition. Other avenues of input to the process of evaluating the Sunday hunting issue included 12 public meetings (9 meetings conducted throughout the state by the Wildlife Resources Commission and one conducted in each region of the state by the research team), 6 focus groups with hunters (2 in each region of the state) and 6 focus groups with North Carolina citizens (1 with identified stakeholders in each region of the state and 1 with a random sample of citizens in each region of the state).

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1. INTRODUCTION

Background

Seven states entirely prohibit hunting on Sunday and 4 states, including North Carolina, allow hunting on Sunday with some restrictions (National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action n.d.). Hunting on Sunday is allowed in North Carolina on some federal installations. Prohibition of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina dates back to 1869. The current regulation that prohibits hunting on Sunday, General Statute 103-2, states, “If any person shall...hunt on Sunday, having with him a shotgun, rifle, or pistol, he shall be guilty of a Class 3 Misdemeanor” (North Carolina General Assembly n.d.:230). Seeing that hunters in other states are allowed to hunt on Sunday, some hunters in North Carolina question why their weekend hunting opportunities are limited only to Saturdays. Members of the General Assembly, other elected officials, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) staff often receive questions and requests from constituents regarding this issue (WRC 2005). However, other members of the public, including many hunters, strongly oppose the concept of hunting on Sunday. Prior to this report, no definitive study had been conducted in North Carolina regarding the attitudes of potential stakeholders, the financial costs and benefits of hunting on Sunday, or the potential impacts of hunting on Sunday on hunter recruitment and retention.

For these reasons, and in response to increasing legislative interest, the North Carolina General Assembly and North Carolina Governor Mike Easley requested in 2005 that the WRC coordinate a study investigating issues related to hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. Consequently, the WRC issued a request for proposals during August of 2005 seeking a contractor to explore stakeholder views on hunting on Sunday, estimate potential impacts of hunting on Sunday on hunter recruitment and retention, and estimate the costs and benefits of hunting on Sunday for the WRC and the North Carolina economy.

The WRC selected a proposal submitted by Responsive Management, Inc., a public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues located in Harrisonburg, VA. The proposal outlined a cooperative effort between Responsive Management, the Virginia Tech Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Tech’s Conservation Management Institute, and Southwick and Associates (a research firm specializing in natural resource economics) to complete the study.

This report summarizes the results of this cooperative effort. The study entailed a process of identifying and collecting preliminary information from stakeholders (conducted by Virginia Tech), focus groups of North Carolina residents and stakeholders such as hunters and clergy (conducted by Responsive Management and Virginia Tech), a survey of hunters (conducted by Virginia Tech), a telephone survey of North Carolina residents (conducted by Responsive Management), an economic analysis (conducted by Responsive Management/Southwick and Associates), and an assessment of the potential impacts to the Commission itself (conducted by Virginia Tech). Information gathered from the investigation will be used by the Governor and the General Assembly to determine an appropriate course of action on whether to adopt some form of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.

Project Scope & Report Outline

This project consisted of 10 tasks requested by the WRC. These tasks, along with the chapter/appendix of this report where each task is discussed, are listed below.

1. Identify all stakeholder groups relevant to the issue of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. (Chapter 2, Appendix A)
2. Conduct a series of stakeholder meetings with representatives from groups identified in #1 above which may have an interest in hunting on Sunday to gather views of these groups on hunting on Sunday in order to facilitate additional qualitative and quantitative assessments. (Chapter 2, Appendix A)
3. Qualitatively gather public views on hunting on Sunday by conducting a series of focus groups throughout North Carolina. (Chapter 3, Appendix B)
4. Qualitatively gather hunter views on hunting on Sunday by conducting a series of focus groups throughout North Carolina. (Chapter 4, Appendix C)
5. Develop and conduct a phone or mail survey of North Carolina citizens to gather quantitative data on public views on hunting on Sunday. (Chapter 5, Appendices D & F)
6. Develop and conduct a phone or mail survey of North Carolina hunters to gather quantitative data on hunter views of hunting on Sunday. (Chapter 6, Appendices E & G)
7. Estimate the possible impacts of hunting on Sunday on hunting participation, such as numbers of hunters, number of days hunted, hunter recruitment and hunter retention. (Chapter 7, with data drawn from Appendices F & G)
8. Estimate the possible impacts of hunting on Sunday on the North Carolina economy. (Chapter 8, with data drawn from Appendices F & G)
9. Estimate the real fiscal costs and benefits to the WRC on implementing hunting on Sunday, such as changes in costs for law enforcement and check station management activities, impacts on game lands infrastructure, and changes in license sales revenue and federal aid. (Chapter 9, with some data drawn from Appendices F & G)
10. Prepare a written final report of study findings before the 2007-2008 session of the North Carolina General Assembly and present the findings in person to the WRC. (Chapters 1-10, Appendixes A-G)

Literature Cited

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National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action. n.d. The truth about Sunday hunting: why hunters shouldn't be treated as second-class citizens.
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2. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The first step of this hunting on Sunday study was to identify the stakeholders that need to be considered and involved in the assessment during the remaining tasks (e.g., focus groups). We began this process by working with WRC personnel to identify stakeholder types, specific groups, and specific people. Those contacts then were asked to expand on our list if needed. Two types of stakeholders were identified and were involved in the initial round of stakeholder meetings. External stakeholders (those external to the WRC itself) and internal stakeholders (WRC staff) were both deemed critical components of this exploratory phase.

To address both sets of stakeholders, 2 sets of 3 stakeholder meetings were coordinated and facilitated – 1 of each type (public, internal) in each WRC administrative region (Coast, Piedmont, and Mountain). The purpose of these stakeholder meetings was to ensure that the research team was aware of as many issues and stakeholders surrounding hunting on Sunday as possible so that these ideas and groups could be incorporated into the qualitative and quantitative phases of the this study. These meetings were strictly exploratory, and thus, the descriptions given here are brief and meant simply to introduce the issues and familiarize the reader with the concerns of stakeholders.

The stakeholder meetings took place Tuesday, January 24, 2006, in Asheville, Wednesday, January 25, 2006, in Raleigh, and Thursday, January 26, 2006, in Greenville. In each case, the internal stakeholder meeting was held in the afternoon (1:30-4pm), and the public stakeholder meeting was held that evening (7-9pm). The specific locations of each meeting are listed in Appendix A.

In addition to the stakeholder meetings conducted by the research team, the WRC solicited input on the issue of hunting on Sunday at 9 public meetings held at various locations around the state in mid-January, 2006.

Public Stakeholder Meetings

After identifying the types of public stakeholders that needed to be included (e.g., federal agencies, hunting groups, religious groups), we worked with WRC staff and others to identify specific groups that represented each stakeholder type. Where personal contact information for each group was not available, we relied on Internet searches to obtain this information for needed groups. Representatives from each stakeholder group identified were contacted either via phone or email (if needed, with a fax follow-up) about a stakeholder meeting to be held in their region and asked to send a representative from their group (or attend themselves/suggest an alternative if an individual) to participate.

We invited individuals representing groups within various types of stakeholders. Groups were contacted, given background information about the project and the purpose of the meetings, and asked to send a representative from their group to the meeting scheduled in their region. The list below shows the types of stakeholders invited, lists sample groups that were contacted within each stakeholder group, and the number of people (underlined) that were actually present at one or more meeting within each stakeholder type (some individuals fit into more than one category).

Over the course of the three public stakeholder meetings, we had a total of 32 people in attendance (8-13 at each meeting), which is considerably fewer than were invited and had indicated their intent to participate. A full list of stakeholder types and groups invited for each meeting is given in Appendix A.

- 1) State agencies (e.g., State Parks, Trails Coordinators, Tourism, Forest Resources, NC Natural Heritage) - 4,
- 2) Federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service (Blue Ridge Parkway), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (national wildlife refuges), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, military installations, Cherokee Indian Reservation) - 9,
- 3) Landowners (both industrial and nonindustrial as well as Farm Bureau officials) – 6,
- 4) Hunting groups (clubs, associations, DMAP) - 10,
- 5) Other recreational groups (e.g., NC Horse Council, Carolina Bird Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy) - 3,
- 6) Conservation groups (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, NC Wildlife Federation) - 3,
- 7) Religious organizations (e.g., Interfaith Alliance, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, NC Council of Churches) - 0, and
- 8) Economic interests (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, gun/pro shops, game preserves) - 1.

The agenda for each meeting (provided in Appendix A) was prepared in conjunction with the WRC. Objectives of the meetings were to 1) gather the qualitative information from stakeholder groups on hunting on Sunday 2) obtain guidance for the development of focus group agendas and survey instruments, 3) identify any additional stakeholder types and/or groups to be contacted for the focus groups. Qualitative information gathered during the stakeholder meetings (including both those conducted by the research team and the WRC) was not representative of all North Carolina hunters or North Carolina citizens in general. Information collected by the research team during stakeholder meetings and focus groups served to provide guidance for development of both the public and hunter surveys. Tallies of “votes” taken at the meetings conducted by the WRC indicated how many supporters (259) and opponents (122) of hunting on Sunday attended the meetings but they did not provide an objective, unbiased assessment of public opinion on the issue. Only the surveys provided objective, unbiased assessments of public and hunter opinions.

Issues of Concern

Public Stakeholder participants were asked to brainstorm and then list on a flip chart the issues that they perceived to be associated with hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, both positive and negative. The following is a pooled listing of the issues raised at one or more meeting, paraphrased for clarity and to encompass the range of participant intentions. Items are presented in no particular order, and many have both positive and negative (and neutral) implications. The number of issues listed for or against hunting on Sunday is not a reflection of the strength of any one argument over another.

Recreational Issues:

- 1) Providing increased hunting opportunities for youth hunters and working public; Potential to retain and recruit more youth and other (especially working) hunters.

- 2) Providing increased opportunities for families to spend time together outdoors (hunting).
- 3) Potential for conflicts between user groups (hunters and other users) on Sunday. A perceived decrease in recreational opportunities for non-hunters and a decrease in non-hunting use of public lands.
- 4) Concern about safety among other recreationists as well as hunters (more accidents?).
- 5) Potential impacts to hunter success/satisfaction (and hence participation) as a result of continuous hunting pressure and resulting animal behavior changes.
- 6) Concern that hunting on Sunday would restrict opportunities for horseback riding and decrease use of lands by equestrians (and bike riders, hikers, etc.).
- 7) Potential for conflicts related to still hunting versus dog hunting (deer and bear). Perception that the ban on hunting on Sunday allows a “break in the action” from running dogs for communities, landowners, other recreationists.
- 8) Concern that hunting on Sunday may cause/increase conflicts between resident and non-resident (local and non-local, state and out-of-state) hunters due to an increased willingness to travel farther.
- 9) Possibility for hunting on Sunday to cause a decrease in Sunday fishing.
- 10) Perceived inequality in hunting opportunities in North Carolina versus other states that allow hunting on Sunday.
- 11) Perception of inequality because other recreational activities can occur 365 days a year, but hunting is limited to a few months.
- 12) Potential conflicts with natural surveys and scientific studies – Sunday as a typical field day.
- 13) Concern that providing more hunting opportunities is not compatible with the urbanization trends.

Economic Issues:

- 14) Hunting on Sunday as a possible opportunity to market and/or increase fee hunting (on preserves and private leases).
- 15) Potential to increase in-state and out-of state license sales (for WRC) and revenue (for NC through merchandise sales and other economic activity). Some participants stated that out-of-state license sales would increase more than in-state license sales. Other participants suggested that hunting on Sunday may cause a decrease in economic activity associated with other recreational groups.
- 16) Potential impacts on number of deer/vehicle collisions (could increase if deer are disturbed more often, could decrease if more deer are harvested).

Religion-based & Traditional Use Issues:

- 17) Potential for a decrease in church attendance (others said church attendance would likely be affected very little because church-goers would hunt before/after church, and non-church-goers would still not attend church).
- 18) Concern about a loss of rest day for hunters and their families.
- 19) Religious conflicts in general (conceptual, physical); Anticipated opposition from religious groups.
- 20) Hunting on Sunday as a way to provide a hunting day for religious groups whose Sabbath is Saturday and currently cannot hunt at all on weekends.

21) Perceived conflict with traditional views that “We just don’t hunt on Sundays.”

Land Management/Accessibility Issues:

- 22) Concern for an increased workload on law enforcement with hunting on Sunday as well as an increased manpower demand for border watches. (not just within WRC)
- 23) Perception that landowners would likely be strongly opposed to hunting on Sunday; possibility of losing hunting lands and/or Sunday hunting being concentrated on public lands. Concern about trespassing and permission to hunt on Sunday becoming a new concern for landowners/hunters.
- 24) Possibility for public/federal land agencies to continue to restrict hunting on Sundays if the state ban is lifted in response to conflicts with other recreations.
- 25) Concern that hunting on Sunday may increase demand for hunting lands, but decrease the supply.
- 26) Potential for hunting on Sunday to require increase management and more restrictions – could lead to better management overall.
- 27) Potential for increased costs to land management agencies and landowners (other than WRC) for road maintenance etc. due to the extra day of use.
- 28) Perception that access issues for both game and private lands will still exist without or without hunting on Sunday.
- 29) Potential for environmental impacts due to increased use (roads, trails, campsites) – who will be responsible for repairing, maintaining, staffing? Could cause tension between state and federal agencies
- 30) Potential for increased conflicts (e.g., trespassing, noise) with landowners bordering public lands.

Ecological Issues:

- 31) Anticipated need to change season lengths (e.g., for waterfowl).
- 32) Potential to negatively impact wildlife and habitat. Concern about a possible reduction in hunting opportunities in the future. Others expressed an alternate view that, as long as total harvest is controlled, then the number of hunting days is insignificant from a wildlife impacts standpoint.
- 33) Concern about potential impacts to nongame species.

Internal Stakeholder Meetings

The other major type of stakeholder in the hunting on Sunday issue is the WRC agency itself, particularly the staff whose work would be affected by a change in hunting on Sunday regulations. In order to involve these staff, WRC senior management provided us with a list of individuals from each division that should be included in a series of internal stakeholder meetings. These contacts included people from each region within the wildlife (game and nongame), fisheries, law enforcement, and conservation education divisions. Invitations to each regional meeting were sent out to these individuals by WRC staff, and nearly all invitees (or their designated substitutes) were in attendance (17-21 at each meeting, 58 total). A complete list of attendees for each meeting is included in Appendix A

The agenda for these meetings (provided in Appendix A) was prepared in conjunction with the WRC. Objectives of the meetings were to 1) gather general views of internal stakeholders on hunting on Sunday, 2) determine the perceived impacts of hunting on Sunday on WRC programs, budgets, and staff workloads, 3) obtain guidance for the development of focus group agendas and survey instruments, and 4) identify any additional stakeholder types and/or groups to be contacted for the focus groups. The notes from each meeting also are included in Appendix A.

Issues Affecting the WRC

Most WRC staff saw hunting on Sunday as potentially recruiting more hunters (primarily youths), providing existing hunters with an extra day of recreation (and improving retention), and increasing the economic impact of hunting through license sales (and associated Federal Aid funds), tourism expenditures, and higher private land leases. However, not all participants agreed that these benefits would occur or even that they would be positive outcomes if they did occur. While an increase in hunting opportunities is possible, some participants thought that a decrease in opportunities was also possible (e.g., if seasons have to be shorter, bag limits decline, landowners refuse access, etc.). There was also some skepticism about the economic benefits and whether they would outweigh the increased costs for land management and enforcement.

One of the biggest ways that WRC staff saw hunting on Sunday as potentially impacting the agency was through an increased need for law enforcement personnel. There were concerns about how game warden effort would be spread to cover both fishing and hunting on Sunday, with some worried that the level of enforcement would decline while hunting-related calls, accidents, and violations increased. Law enforcement officers present described Sunday as being the one day during the weekends when they are able to rotate days off for their officers. They were concerned that the level and quality of law enforcement would decrease due to officer fatigue and a reduction in morale if this option were removed.

Another concern that WRC staff expressed was regarding the potential for conflicts with and a reduction in participation in other forms of recreation including fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, etc. Fisheries staff mentioned the possibility for a reduction in participation in fishing events, which generally are scheduled on Sundays, and direct conflicts between hunters and anglers in areas where boat ramp congestion and boat traffic would be high (e.g. places used for both fishing and waterfowl hunting). Staff also mentioned possible conflicts between hunters and non-hunters and a reduction in use (or at least a shift in days of use) by non-hunters. Finally, the potential conflicts with landowners (e.g., trespassing issues) was mentioned at each meeting.

The third major concern mentioned by WRC staff was a public relations/image concern. Staff were concerned that hunting on Sunday would bring hunting “into the spotlight” of the public and encourage the anti-hunting segment of the public to become more vocal and even increase in size. This may be especially problematic, some said, among the religious community and in areas directly surrounding churches where shots and/or dogs could be heard and may require special regulations in those areas (e.g., safety zones or time limitations). Some staff were concerned that simply raising the issue would cause increased opposition to hunting in general. Others mentioned that because hunting on Sunday would increase conflicts and complaints in

general, it could lead to a more negative opinion of hunting on Sunday among the general public in that way. There was a general agreement that careful public relations would be critical to the success of hunting on Sunday as well as the continued success of hunting in general if the decision was made to instead maintain the ban on hunting on Sunday.

Finally, WRC staff expressed some concerns over the logistics of hunting on Sunday and what that might mean for their work units. For instance, they thought that hunting on Sunday may require more personnel hours to staff check stations and game lands and to patrol borders (e.g., around fish hatcheries). All staff recognized the need to change and/or redesign the hunting regulations/seasons/bag limits if hunting on Sunday were to be legalized, and it was recognized that this process could take a significant amount of personnel time the first year. Further, hunting on Sunday could add a layer of complexity to scheduling the hunting days for Game Lands. However, adding a weekend day would allow them to free up another week day for maintenance and management activities. From an enforcement standpoint, hunting on Sunday could cause problems of confusion, particularly if special regulations for Sunday are set or if individual jurisdictions handle it differently. Finally, many staff members were concerned that hunting on Sunday would require them to update and reprint some of their existing publications (such as the trails guidebooks) and that they would likely spend more time fielding calls for complaints and conflicts.

Although several WRC participants suggested that hunting on Sunday may have ecological impacts (e.g., by increasing harvest too much, increasing trail usage), there was a general consensus that these concerns are minor compared to the law enforcement, recreation conflicts, and public image issues and that the ecological concerns could easily be monitored and mitigated through changes in regulations and schedules. There was also the perception that the extra available day of harvest may help to better manage some wildlife populations and better distribute hunter effort. Some staff mentioned that hunting on Sunday would bring more applicants for and allow for better use of permit hunts (which currently are Friday-Saturday or Thursday-Friday-Saturday) while others were concerned that the increased harvest associated with hunting on Sunday may mean that fewer permits are offered for these hunts to begin with.

Necessary Response from WRC Work Units

Fisheries staff within the WRC generally perceived the impacts of hunting on Sunday on their work unit and responsibilities to be fairly minor and limited to managing increased boat ramp usage on Sundays, absorbing a possible decrease in fishing (and participation in fishing events) on Sundays, and mitigating for a possible decline in law enforcement effort (especially for Sunday fishing events where wardens typically participate). Fisheries staff noted that fishing events during the hunting season are typically scheduled around hunting (particularly season opening days), and that this would be more difficult if hunting on Sunday is legalized. Overall, however, fisheries staff saw the impact of hunting on Sunday on them to be low.

Law enforcement staff perceived their division as being the most directly and financially impacted by hunting on Sunday, due to the need to provide the same level of enforcement on Sunday as they currently do on Saturday. They anticipate that along with hunting on Sunday would come an increase in hunting-related violations and accidents. Because Sunday currently

provides a day off for officers (each gets one weekend plus one additional Sunday off per month during the hunting season), hunting on Sunday would eliminate this provision unless additional wardens are hired. Further, if additional wardens are not hired, then other aspects of the division would be impacted. For instance, court appearances (which would increase with the number of violations) would be harder to schedule because wardens would work fewer weekdays (and more weekends); and this would also mean less coverage by enforcement personnel during the week. Officers would likely spend more of their time responding calls and dealing with illegal activity than on routine patrols. In addition, officer morale and retention would decline due to fewer days off, family dynamics for officers would erode, and officer fatigue would increase (causing an increase in on-the-job accidents and reduced quality of protection). Law enforcement staff estimated their increase in personnel needs (and associated equipment) to be anywhere between 2 additional wardens per patrol area (8 per district, 72 statewide) for maintaining current levels of operations to doubling the workforce with 5 additional wardens per patrol area (20 per district, 180 statewide) to compensate for both hunting on Sunday and current shortages. Staff also mentioned the need to provide field supervisors with increased training for managing the additional personnel.

Wildlife personnel were broken down into regional/state program biologists or private lands/public lands personnel depending on the participant breakdown and preferences at the meetings. In general, the wildlife management staff saw impacts due to a necessary adjustment of the hunting seasons and regulations (a short-term, but intense, time commitment); to an increased use of state lands by hunters and the resultant need for increased maintenance of those facilities; and to the need to respond to an increased call volume and resolve conflicts (on what is typically a “day off” off for many of these staff) between hunters, landowners, and other recreationists. To respond to these circumstances, staff would adjust their schedules to compensate for increased weekend work (for check station personnel, etc.) or weekday work (for grounds maintenance), hire new technical staff as needed for these purposes, and update the regulations as needed. Most staff saw these impacts (except for the increased call volume and need for conflict resolution) to be minor adjustments (though overtime expenses/allowances were uncertain), with some additional equipment budget possibly needed due to higher use rates.

Other direct impacts to the wildlife programs would be the need to update and reprint many publications (such as the birding trail books) with changes in the recommended dates, days, and locations for various recreational activities. In general, the wildlife staff recognized a need to plan ahead for how hunters and nonhunters can co-recreate. This may include educational material, schedules for access to lands for various recreational pursuits, or other programs. Finally, some staff were concerned that hunting on Sunday may weaken the multiple use justification of new lands acquisition and other new funding proposals.

Perceived Overall Impact on the Agency

WRC staff had mixed opinions on whether hunting on Sunday would be good or bad, overall, for the agency. Fisheries staff at two of the three meetings stated that hunting on Sunday could be a good thing overall as long as the public relations and increased law enforcement needs were adequately addressed. The third fisheries group felt that it would be generally negative for the

agency, based on apprehension about the public relations needs, an uncertainty about the impacts on wildlife populations, and a perceived imbalance in the costs and benefits.

Law enforcement staff at all three meetings were generally skeptical about the potential benefits of hunting on Sunday. One group considered hunting on Sunday to be bad for the WRC, the wildlife resources, the non-hunting public, and the state of North Carolina. Others saw possible positives for hunters and the state economy, but maintained that the negatives associated with hunting on Sunday were “sure things” while the positives were “wishful thinking.” One group of law enforcement officers did concede that if the manpower and potential resource impact issues were addressed adequately, that hunting on Sunday be a positive influence overall.

Wildlife personnel in general saw hunting on Sunday as potentially having a positive impact on the agency and the state, though there were concerns that the public relations and recreational conflicts could negate the positive aspects if not handled adequately.

3. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS – GENERAL PUBLIC

Six hunter focus groups were conducted throughout the state during March, 2006 to qualitatively gather information on general public views of hunting on Sunday. The purpose of these focus groups was to 1) provide a qualitative assessment of general public views (the variety of views and concerns), 2) explore these views through discussions and personal interactions, and 3) provide guidance to the development of the telephone survey instrument.

Focus groups entail an in-depth, structured discussion with a small group of participants (10 to 12) about select subjects. The use of focus groups is an accepted research technique for qualitative explorations of attitudes, opinions, perceptions, motivations, constraints, participation, and behaviors. Focus groups provide researchers with insights, new hypotheses, and understanding through the process of interaction. One stakeholder and one general population focus group were conducted in Durham, Hickory, and Clinton, North Carolina for a total of six focus groups.

Focus Group Location and Facilities

Responsive Management selected focus group locations based on both the geographic dispersion across the Wildlife Commission's Regions and avoiding locations too close to those already planned for the stakeholder meetings. Dinner was provided for focus group participants attending an early evening discussion and refreshments were provided for groups scheduled for late evening.

Sample Group Acquisition

A commonly encountered question about qualitative techniques and focus groups is one of sample size, and most qualitative techniques call for small sample sizes. The conclusions rest on face validity and rely on the depth of analysis rather than breadth of analysis. Focus group research, as does all qualitative research, sacrifices reliability or the ability to replicate results for the sake of increased validity.

Focus Group Recruiting

Stakeholders were recruited statewide from among: landowner records; conservation groups, religious organizations, outdoor recreation organizations including 4-H clubs and Boy Scouts, commercial entities including retreat centers and campgrounds, chambers of commerce, hunt club owners, and also from various groups who had emailed the Commission with their opinions on hunting on Sunday. Groups that were underrepresented at the stakeholder meetings were targeted to participate in the stakeholder focus groups. Outdoor recreation groups represented included mountain bikers, hikers/backpackers, horseback riders, wildlife watchers, and anglers. Stakeholders were contacted from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by email, telephone, mail and fax.

General population participants were recruited using internal software that randomly extracts samples of residents within a 20 – 25 mile radius of each focus group facility location. General population residents were recruited by telephone. Responsive Management contacted potential respondents by telephone Sunday – Saturday after 4:00 p.m. local time. Potential participants

that were contacted were given a brief summary concerning the focus group subject matter and asked if interested in participating.

To ensure a successful discussion, Responsive Management screened all interested individuals to determine whether or not they met the established guidelines set for the group by establishing a screener questionnaire. Screener questions for the general population group included questions to determine that the individual was not a hunter, did not consider themselves to be a hunter, and did not work for an advertising, market research or media firm. After determining that the respondent was eligible to participate, he/she was informed of the focus group date, time, and location and mailed or e-mailed (whichever method they preferred) a confirmation letter. Participants were also asked if they wanted to receive a reminder call the day before the focus group to ensure that at that time they had everything they needed to attend the discussion such as directions, time, etc. To encourage participation, a monetary incentive of \$50 was offered to all participants.

Focus Group Moderation

Marty Jones and Mark Damian Duda, both experienced and trained moderators, conducted each 1½- to 2-hour discussion. The role of the moderator was to keep the discussion within design parameters using a discussion guide, without exerting a strong influence on the discussion content. In this sense, focus groups are non-directive group discussions and expose spontaneous attitudes of small groups. The moderator led the focus groups, as unobtrusively as possible, using a discussion outline approved by the Commission that allowed for consistency in data collection. New insights were sought through discussions to determine participants' knowledge level and opinions, characteristics of their lifestyle, and personal experiences that had affected their views.

The moderator ensured that the focus group room was set-up appropriately, including furniture, recording equipment, and food arrangements. The moderator tested all audio equipment for functionality prior to the group to ensure that all participants could be heard. After the discussion ended the moderator distributed incentive checks to participants. All focus group discussions were recorded on audiotape and at the professional facility in Durham, also recorded on videotape for further analysis.

Focus Group Discussion Topics

Focus group participants were asked about their opinions and attitudes toward hunting and their experiences with hunting. They were then asked if they were aware of the hunting on Sunday issue in North Carolina and that the current law was being reviewed. If they had heard about it, they were asked what exactly they had heard and where they had heard it. The hunting on Sunday research project was then described to them, and they were asked their opinion on allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.

The impacts of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina were discussed in terms of how individual residents, families, stakeholder groups, and businesses would be affected. Participants were asked if allowing hunting on Sunday would impact their normal Sunday routine and their recreation-related activities. The economic impact of allowing hunting on Sunday was also discussed, with discussion questions addressing recreation-related expenditures. Business

owners discussed the impact allowing hunting on Sunday would or would not have on their businesses. Discussions many times included hypotheses as to how hunting on Sunday in North Carolina would affect the state's economy overall or within local regions such as near the state's borders or near urban areas.

The discussion guide also covered questions related to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and other hunting organizations. Participants were asked if a change in the law, allowing hunting on Sunday, would alter their views toward hunting or towards an agency or organization.

The next section of the discussion guide included a series of statements representing arguments for and against hunting on Sunday, and the statements were separated according to whether it was a typical argument for or a typical argument against hunting on Sunday. Arguments for hunting on Sunday included: the separation of church and state/individual rights; hunting as a family tradition; hunting as promoting interactive family time; the positive benefits for hunter recruitment and retention; hunters go out of state to hunt and North Carolina loses money; local economies that depend on hunting would benefit from allowing hunting on Sunday; and forty-two other states allow it. Participants were asked if there were any other arguments for allowing hunting on Sunday.

Arguments against hunting on Sunday included: Allowing hunting on Sunday would interfere with church activities; Sunday is a "day of rest" for people, land, and/or wildlife; it would negatively impact wildlife populations; and it is the one day of week that other outdoor enthusiasts, such as hikers, bikers, and horseback riders, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters or being injured by hunters. Participants were asked if there were any other arguments against hunting on Sunday.

The last section of the discussion guide covered a sampling of hunting on Sunday variations including: hunting only on private land; only on public land; only in certain counties; only for specific species (e.g., birds but not big game); with specific weapons and/or methods (e.g., bow only, no dogs, etc.); only after 1 p.m.; only on a few specified Sundays; and for youth only

Focus Group Results – Summary of the General Public

Attitudes toward Hunting

All but two focus group participants supported legal hunting in North Carolina. Of the two that did not support legal hunting, one would not give a specific reason and the other had had many problems with unwelcome hunters on her property. Focus group participants supported legal hunting as a form of recreation or sport, for food, and for wildlife management. Only one female did not support legal hunting for sport. Group participants in Clinton had detailed discussions of the need for hunting to control populations.

Awareness of and Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

All focus groups were opposed to hunting on Sunday for different reasons, except for Durham general population participants. Durham general population participants were supportive on hunting on Sunday but would not support a “blanket” law that would apply to all areas of the state year-round. This group was confident that the Commission would account for all necessary variables including hunting season lengths, weapon types, and other outdoor recreational land usage. Durham stakeholder group participants opposed hunting on Sunday because of the conflict of interest with other recreationists as well as a perceived and unwanted breach between church and state. The only circumstance in which Durham stakeholders approved of hunting on Sunday was for deer population control in certain areas. Hickory general population participants were opposed to hunting on Sunday primarily due to the perceived negative impact on other outdoor recreationists. Half of this group supported hunting on Sunday if it were restricted to private lands. Hickory stakeholder group participants were opposed to hunting on Sunday because of safety concerns, a belief in a needed day of general rest for people and wildlife, and a need to protect hunting’s image. This group did not agree with any of the proposed restrictions on hunting on Sunday but were split on allowing it on private lands only. The Clinton general population group opposed hunting on Sunday largely because Sunday was a sacred day as well as a day designated for stillness and rest for people and wildlife. Most in this group were concerned about hunter behavior and the safety of others, particularly those attending church in rural areas. Overall, Clinton general population group participants were opposed to hunting on Sunday for the protection of other outdoor recreationists and a belief that wildlife needed a day of rest.

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors

Focus group participants who participated in outdoor activities were extremely concerned about allowing hunting on Sundays and the affect it would have on their participation in outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and biking. Others in more rural areas were extremely concerned about the safety of church attendees and related Sunday outdoor church events. Stakeholders in Durham were very concerned about being heard by the Commission and protecting their sport on Sunday. One member of the National Rifle Association and pastor of the United Methodist Conference expressed his concern over not being able to have one “free” day to scout out new and unfamiliar lands in a nearby national forest for he and his family to horseback ride. There was focus group participants who came to the focus groups in support of hunting on Sundays and left the focus group opposed after hearing the concerns of others at the group. Hunters in the groups who also participated in other outdoor recreational activities opposed hunting on Sunday mostly for safety reasons and for respect of other outdoor recreationists.

Opinions of Hunting and the Wildlife Resources Commission

If hunting on Sunday were allowed, group participants were asked if there opinion of the Commission would change. For the most part, focus group participants indicated that allowing hunting on Sunday would not affect their views of the Commission. Durham stakeholders were most sensitive to fostering a positive relationship with the Commission and having their voice heard.

Arguments For and Against Hunting on Sunday

There was very mixed agreement on the argument that hunting on Sunday would interfere with traditional church activities. Participants in Clinton were more likely to agree that hunting on Sunday would interfere with church activities. The Durham general population group held the opposite opinion and disagreed that hunting on Sunday would interfere with church activities. They believed that individual rights were important, that not everyone practices the same religion, and that there were plenty of other activities that kept people away from church on Sundays. The Baptist State Convention member in the Durham group upheld that Sunday was a sacred day, and that although politically and theoretically church and state should be separate, the populous that comprised the political views was the same populous that comprised the state (they are inherently one in the same and therefore, inseparable).

There was some indecisiveness regarding any possible local and state economic impacts of allowing hunting on Sundays because most participants needed more information to make an informed decision. Overall, it seemed that most participants believed that the economic gain would not override their other objections to allowing hunting on Sunday. Tying into economic considerations, there was some concern expressed that allowing hunting on Sunday would overly tax the already burdened Commission's personnel and resources. Some participants realized that many variables would need to be considered including the net gains and losses as a result of negative changes in participation in other outdoor recreational activities. One participant believed that the economic impact could very well be a negative one if other outdoor recreationists traveled to other states with bans on hunting on Sunday in order to participate in their outdoor activity. A few of the participants who had businesses or knew of businesses that might be affected by allowing hunting on Sundays stated that they would not open for business even if hunting on Sunday were allowed. When considering economics and potential increases in business, some participants believed that the negative affects on the safety and peace of other outdoor recreationists would far outweigh any economic benefits.

Opinions on Hunting on Sunday with Restrictions

There was minor support for restricting hunting on Sundays to private lands, although participants acknowledged that enforcement would be very difficult if hunting on private lands were allowed on Sundays. Participants unanimously agreed that allowing hunting on Sundays only in certain counties would be very difficult, if not impossible, to enforce. Some believed that a restriction to hunting on Sundays for only certain species or only if certain weapons or methods could be used would cause conflicts among sportsmen because of perceived favoritism of certain groups. The proposed restriction that hunting on Sunday is allowed only after 1 p.m. met with disapproval and criticism. Many felt that if there were any restriction to the times of day, the restriction should be for early morning and not the afternoon and that prime hunting activity took place in early morning. Many participants believed that this restriction to hunting on Sunday was worse for other recreationists and church attendees because after 1 p.m. is when they would be likely to be outside. The proposed restriction for hunting on Sunday for youth only also met with disapproval for varying reasons such as the state's recruiting programs are already good enough, that there were many other ways for recruiting youth such as target practice, and that enforcement would be a problem.

Focus Group Results of Individual Focus Groups

Summary of Hunting on Sunday General Population Focus Group: Monday, March 27; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.; Durham, North Carolina

Group Profile

Five Caucasian males and one Caucasian female from the general population participated in the focus group. All were nonhunters, forty-two years of age and older.

Attitudes Toward Hunting

A couple of participants had family members who hunted and no one in the group was opposed to hunting. The female participant acknowledged that she did not know what was considered legal hunting because she was not familiar with all of the hunting laws. Her support of legal hunting depended on where the hunting was taking place; she was concerned primarily with the safety of others.

Attitudes Toward Hunting on Sunday

When asked what they thought about the idea of hunting on Sundays in North Carolina, the group responded initially with a mix of opinions, ranging from safety concerns for other land users to a need for compromise between various user groups, such as campers and mountain bikers. There were no strong objections to hunting on Sunday. In fact, the group agreed that they would not support what they termed a "blanket" law that would apply to all areas of the state year-round.

A female participant responded with a quick "no" to hunting on Sundays, but then added that it would depend on where the hunting took place. She was most concerned with the Boy Scouts' camping in the fall. A male participant whose father hunted was in immediate support of hunting on Sunday but soon realized the concern for the safety of others. He would later maintain that there should be specific areas of land managed according to the current recreational demands of land use, such as mountain biking or hunting. He believed in sharing the public resource among user groups, and that the Wildlife Resources Commission should be responsible for managing and balancing land use. There were moments when the group discussed various hunting laws and regulations in order to form an educated opinion on the hunting on Sunday issue: hunting season lengths, locations and boundaries of hunting lands, and hunting seasons for various species were all discussed under the context of the proposed hunting on Sunday.

Yes, [I agree hunting on Sunday is okay] as long as it is responsible. You've got anything where people can be irresponsible...I don't see the down side. People are busy. I stay so busy on Saturday with my kids and soccer and stuff. Why don't they have a referendum and just put it on the ballot?

If you are out with Scouts in the woods...are they going to be safe? Not all hunters are responsible...It would all depend on where it was [allowed].

Even responsible hunters can make a mistake. [Supports hunting on Sunday and would travel to another area if he knew hunting was permitted at that point in time.] The lands are public and I won't begrudge hunters their time on that land. It has to be shared.

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors

When asked if hunting on Sunday would affect the activities that they would normally do on a Sunday, those who answered said that hunting on Sunday would not affect their normal activities at all. One participant asked why hunting on Sunday would affect his lifestyle on Sundays when hunting had not changed his lifestyle Monday through Saturday.

When asked if hunting on Sunday would have an impact on recreation-related expenditures, the group indicated that it would not. One participant said that he did not think that hunting was allowed anyway in the areas he frequented. At the very beginning of the focus group discussion, one participant questioned the economic impacts of allowing hunting on Sunday and the potential money lost because of non-hunters not going to the woods.

Opinions of Hunting and the Wildlife Resources Commission

If hunting were legalized on Sundays, the group responded unanimously that their general opinions of hunting, would not change. When asked if hunting on Sunday would change their views of and support for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, a couple of responses indicated that the group either did not know of the Wildlife Resources Commission or that they did not know them by name. One participant knew their name because he worked for the Department of Transportation. A couple of others recognized the Wildlife Resources Commission name when someone mentioned that the Wildlife Resources Commission was on the bird impoundment signs posted on roadsides. With this question, the group began to support more positively the amending of "a law that had been instituted for a long time without a good reason."

I'd be surprised if anyone noticed [if the ban on hunting on Sunday were lifted].

It's an old and arcane law.

I'm opposed to any blue law.

The moderator asked the group if keeping the ban on hunting on Sunday would negatively affect perceptions of the Wildlife Resources Commission. A participant asked the moderator to clarify who had the final say in the matter, and the moderator responded that the legislature did. The respondent then stated that keeping the ban would reflect negatively on the legislature, but would also reflect negatively on the Wildlife Resources Commission if the Wildlife Resources Commission did not recommend lifting the ban.

A question arose as to how the Wildlife Resources Commission is funded. The moderator informed the group that the Wildlife Resources Commission is funded by sportsmen's licenses

and excise taxes on equipment such as rifles, ammunition, and fishing poles. An ensuing discussion between participants attempted to define the economic costs and benefits of allowing hunting on Sundays. The impacts of the Wildlife Resources Commission's human resources, state hunting license sales, and the effects of out-of-state hunters traveling to North Carolina were discussed. No conclusions could be reached about the true costs or benefits, but it was noted by participants that these topics were considerations for the Wildlife Resources Commission to address. Any impact of these economic variables did not affect the group's support for some form of hunting on Sunday being legalized in North Carolina.

Arguments For and Against Hunting on Sunday

The first argument presented to the group was that "Hunting on Sunday would interfere with traditional church activities." The group agreed unanimously that hunting on Sundays would not interfere with church activities. There were objections to the religious community being able to dictate what residents could and could not do on Sundays, and the group conceded that hunting was the right of the individual.

I don't think being allowed to hunt on Sundays would have a very big effect on church-goers – faithful church-goers.

There were a lot of other things they could have made a better argument for not doing, besides hunting.

I was not a religious person, and I've got a religious group telling me what I cannot do on Sunday. I would take strong objection to that.

The argument that "Sunday is a 'day of rest' for people, land, and/or wildlife," was not at all favored by the group, and initially drew laughter. Most agreement with this argument was concentrated around having a day of rest. The group could relate to the positive aspects of having a day of rest, agreeing that everyone needs a day of rest, but that religion did not have to determine the particular day of the week that was labeled as such. Doctor's office hours, store business hours, and weekly closings were given as examples of closings that occurred but that were unrelated to religion. One participant acknowledged that an argument could be made for giving wildlife a day of rest, but no one else in the group expressed support for it.

The argument that "Hunting on Sunday would negatively impact wildlife populations," was poorly received by the group. Participants saw no strength in the argument, as they seemed confident in the Wildlife Resources Commission's ability to manage populations by determining bag limits and hunting season specifics.

How? One day?

There's bag limits isn't there? They can adjust the bag limits.

You can only shoot so much.

They need a bigger doe season. They had a buck season that is continuous, and not enough does are being taken, and that is why we have an overpopulation. Just simple wildlife management...and by not hunting on Sunday...it doesn't help.

There was some agreement with the statement, "Sunday is the one day a week that other outdoor enthusiasts, such as hikers, bikers and horseback riders, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters or being injured by hunters." There was an extensive discussion on what the current hunting regulations were, such as where it was legal to hunt and how long the hunting season was. There was also discussion about the types of firearms that would be used during the hunting season, and if these would affect whether or not other users could share the land simultaneously. There was agreement that other outdoor enthusiasts would not want to share land at the same time hunters were hunting during deer season, because of a rifle's range. One participant made an argument that when shotguns were used, it was safer to share the woods, because a shotgun's range is 50 yards and within a hunter's sight.

The group came to the conclusion that they could not make an informed decision about hunting on Sunday unless they knew all of the facts related to current hunting regulations. Half the group expressed concern for other public land users such as campers and mountain bikers. One of the concerned, originally a supporter of hunting on Sunday, without restriction, discovered that hunting lands were sometimes shared with other outdoor recreationists – before, he had thought the lands were indeed completely separated for different uses. The other half of the group believed that hunting could be separated enough from the other activities taking place on the land and would not make a difference, or they believed that the season and number of days did not constitute enough time to adversely affect nonconsumptive users.

Again, the female participant acknowledged that local and regional differences needed to be taken into account when considering whether or not other outdoor enthusiasts would be negatively affected. She suggested having a referendum. She also noted that if the hunting season were to last longer than six weeks and were to include October and November, hunting on Sundays would be a problem because these were the best times of year to be outdoors in North Carolina. She suggested that hunting on Sunday be allowed in the winter, when the leaves had fallen, and with the hunters' field of vision extended for the safety of others. Another participant maintained that specific areas of land needed to be managed by the Wildlife Resources Commission according to current levels of activity on each respective land area.

I think this would almost be better county-by-county.

Depends on length of the hunting season. Mountain bikers are feeling a pinch during a good time of year to go mountain biking. Wildlife managers need to look at public land and what groups use the land and try to balance it out.

Why don't they do it [allow hunting on Sunday] into the winter? You wouldn't have as many people complaining. Bikers may go out in cold weather, but the campers in October, like for the Scouts in particular, it is a big, big camping season.

If people were hunting out there when people are hiking, and they are sharing the same area, that is like drinking and driving...It's just not a good idea. You are just asking for trouble... That kind of changes everything.

The same participant would be okay with hunting on Sundays as long as he knew where to go.

There are so many [other] things to do [with my son].

There was agreement among participants that "the Church and state should be separate and that any arguments against hunting on Sunday should not be based on religious beliefs." One participant stated that although the argument was true, it was not a very strong one, and not the primary justification a person would want to hear.

This is not a southern state anymore...it is more a Midwestern or northeastern state [because of an influx of outsiders] What went on in 1868 or 1818 does not hold up in 2006.

It is an arbitrary law, and it has no basis from a wildlife management standpoint, and we of course, then we pick on several of the other things – but there are economic considerations, whether it is to the hunters themselves, or the areas they are hunting in. But it puts North Carolina at a disadvantage.

The group disagreed with the argument that "Hunting on Sunday provides additional time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting," and likewise did not agree that "Hunting on Sunday encourages spending interactive time together outdoors."

The group responded with uncertainty to the economic arguments, "Hunting on Sunday would provide additional days for hunting and help out local economies that depend on hunting," and "Because hunting on Sundays is currently not allowed, some hunters go to other states to hunt. The state loses money that these hunters would have generated for the state by purchasing hunting licenses." Prior discussions on the economic impacts of the state were inconclusive. Although there were a couple of participants that recognized the possibility of economic impacts early on in the discussion, nothing could be concluded to form a solid foundation of support either for or against the stated economic arguments.

The argument that "Forty-two other states allow hunting on Sunday – what makes North Carolina different?" fell on deaf ears; a joke was offered.

Is it in the Bible?

When prompted to offer reasons why they might be opposed to the idea of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, participants responded that it should be an individual's decision, not a law. One person stated mockingly that hunting on Sundays was no more dangerous than teenagers driving on Sundays or any other day. Another participant brought up the issue of private property as being a strong argument against the current statewide ban on hunting on Sunday.

It is an arbitrary law.

Hunters only have the weekend to hunt and I think two days is important, especially if you are going to travel.

The issue of private property is a big one...That is an important one. I'm amazed this hasn't come up already.

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday With Restrictions

Only on private land, or only on public land?

The group was unanimously in favor of allowing hunting on Sunday on private lands. One participant stated that he would like to ban All Terrain Vehicle use because of the noise and pollution they create, but stated that was not possible. There were more discussions on hunting season lengths and local and regional differences, but all were in favor of leaving the issue of hunting on Sunday to the discretion of private property owners. One participant suggested that the Wildlife Resources Commission ought to take a leadership role with hunting on Sunday, looking at regional differences, and balancing the needs of land users for the benefit of everyone.

I do not have any issue with private land – even if it is a large piece of property and they are bringing people in [to hunt on their land].

It doesn't make sense to me. What difference is the day of week? What is the down side? If it is private property... Who cares?

There should not be a ban [for private property owners]. I don't like a complete ban on Sundays. I would like something a little more intelligently done. Some of these areas are remote. You need time to get there.

If you are going to target areas, where there is a shared area, maybe every other weekend [could be] for hunters and other uses such as mountain biking...depending on the hunting season.

Nobody should be able to tell you which day you can or can't hunt on your own property...or invite people to come along and hunt on it.

Feds will do what they will. The state of North Carolina has a silly law. Let the Wildlife Resources Commission adjudicate between people who are using...however many properties there are.

Most people do not distinguish between state and federal lands so consistency is more important here.

If it were allowed only in counties that had approved it?

Even though it had been suggested as a solution at the beginning of the focus group, there was agreement that management and enforcement issues would arise if there were county-by-county laws for hunting. People would have trouble recognizing where the borders existed and it would be difficult to enforce a county-specific law.

You will have enforcement issues if you go county-by-county.

You need to have certain game lands and a published rule that there are certain days you can or can't – as opposed to all of these counties.

If only certain species could be hunted (e.g., birds but not big game), or only if certain weapons/methods could be used (e.g., bow only, or no dogs, etc.)?

The idea of sharing land during particular seasons arose earlier in the discussion; the group believed that this came down to a management issue and that it was not a legal issue. They believed that with proper management from the Wildlife Resources Commission, any restrictions on hunting on Sunday deemed necessary by the Wildlife Resources Commission would work. Again, the group supported hunting on Sundays, and believed in stronger leadership and management of state lands.

Mountain bikers don't want to be out when hunters are out with rifles.

That is a management issue – not a law issue.

If it were allowed only after 1 p.m.?

This variation on hunting on Sunday was received with a firm negative and was not accepted by the group.

If it were allowed only on a few specified Sundays?

Discussions of this variation focused again on particular hunting seasons and weapons and the Wildlife Resources Commission's management of specific areas of land. The group indicated that they supported hunting on Sundays, but yielded to the Wildlife Resources Commission to determine what days, for how long, and in what areas hunting would be allowed, based on all of the information the Wildlife Resources Commission had, including demand from other outdoor recreationists.

There should be no blanket ban on Sunday hunting...they should be more sophisticated.

There is a management aspect to this. A legislative thing. Get rid of that and allow the Wildlife Resources Commission to manage it. The Wildlife Resources Commission should deal on a county or multi-county basis, but it should not be on a referendum.

Maybe there is an argument for saying rifle hunting is restricted on certain weekends on certain [land areas] at certain times... There may be issues with safety with multiple users at the same time, but it is a management issue.

If it were youth hunting only?

There was laughter and joking at this variation on hunting on Sunday, as most participants did not understand the reasoning behind it.

That is not enforceable.

When asked for final comments, one participant responded:

We are still dealing with the "Bible Belt Syndrome" in North Carolina, and it is still very, very strong.

Summary

The general population participants in Durham were supportive of hunting on Sunday, given that the Wildlife Resources Commission managed the regulations by areas of land, based on current recreational use patterns. This group largely defaulted to the Wildlife Resources Commission's judgment of hunting laws and regulations. Season lengths, weapon types, and all outdoor recreational uses would need to be considered. They would not support a "blanket" law that would apply to all areas of the state year-round. The group was unanimously in favor of allowing hunting on Sunday on private lands.

Summary of Hunting on Sunday Stakeholder Focus Group: Monday, March 27; 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; Durham, North Carolina

Group Profile

Boy Scout leader/sporting good store owner/hunter
 Two hunting guides
 Representative of Progress Energy/hunter
 North Carolina Sea Grant representative/North Carolina Birding Trail coordinator/hunter
 Landowner/hunter
 Baptist State Convention member
 Carteret Wildlife Club member/hunter
 Carteret Wildlife Club member
 International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) member/hunter
 North Carolina Horse Council member
 New Hope Audubon Society member
 The Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC)member
 Wake Audubon Society member

It is important to note that although some of the participants made efforts to speak with their members about hunting on Sunday before the focus group, most did not, and came to the discussion with their own personal views and opinions. Unless otherwise specifically noted in this report, an organization's name is used to refer to comments of the individual, and not necessarily to represent the organization's point of view.

Attitudes toward Hunting

There were not any participants who were opposed to hunting, but there were groups with members who were against hunting, such as the North Carolina Horse Council and the Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC). The majority of the Carteret Wildlife Club's members are hunters. In fact, a majority of the participants were hunters, or were lapsed hunters.

Prior Knowledge of the Hunting on Sunday Issue and Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

Before the focus group, the group had not heard anything at all about the consideration of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina with the exception of a Carteret Wildlife Club member who had heard a lot of talk about hunting on Sunday in Brunswick County. About 40% of the club's members were hunters and had not expressed a need for hunting on Sunday. The Club understood the importance of passing down the hunting tradition, but wanted the religious element left out of the final decision, and did not take a position for or against hunting on Sunday during the focus group. One landowner from the Raleigh area stated that he had asked a group of landowners if they would be interested in hunting on Sundays, and that they had answered in the negative, citing tradition as the reason they would not. This contrasted with another landowner who participated in the focus group, who said that he would not mind taking his son out on a Sunday.

The IMBA, the Boy Scout leader, and one of the hunting guides were very surprised by the idea of hunting on Sunday being brought to discussion. TORC said that for the most part, their group would be against hunting on Sunday because they only have access to public land on Sundays and the mountain bikers view themselves as taxpayers with rights to the land. The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) representative asked a few times throughout the discussion what the purpose of considering hunting on Sunday was, and what science existed behind considering it as an option; he wanted to know if there was a scientific reason for considering hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.

It doesn't seem they [the Wildlife Resources Commission] were really ready to bring this to the public. (IMBA)

The North Carolina Horse Council representative mentioned a concern for the Wildlife Resources Commission staffing levels. The North Carolina Birding Trail representative (also a hunter) stated that the Wildlife Resources Commission is viewed as a hook and bullet organization and that therefore, birding programs were short-changed. Most everyone in the group, especially those that were not only representatives of nonconsumptive user groups, but had also been or still were hunters, believed in a compromise on the issue between hunters and nonconsumptive user groups.

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors and Arguments for and Against Hunting on Sunday

Although a list of arguments were written into the focus group discussion outline, most were brought up by participants on their own throughout the discussion.

Impact of Hunting on Sunday on the religious community

The religious argument came up at the very start of the discussion. A couple of participants were concerned about putting a strain on relationships between the church and state, recognizing the religiousness of North Carolina residents. In one case, a hunting guide who stood to benefit from allowing hunting on Sunday, stated that he would not like to see hunting on Sundays if it caused a huge rift between hunters and the religious community; he also believed that the animals needed a day of rest.

The Baptist State Convention had taken a web poll and found that 70% of those polled would be opposed to hunting on Sunday (less than 100 responded).

We have eroded the special nature of Sunday so much and here is another thing that erodes the nature of Sunday...Sunday needs to be kept holy. Allowing the hunting is just one more erosion of our culture – saying Sunday is not any more special than any other day of the week. (Baptist State Convention)

Twenty percent of those polled did not care one way or another if people hunted on Sundays, and 5% said to lift the ban.

God gave us this land, let's use it wisely. (Baptist State Convention)

Regarding an argument that the church and state should be kept separate, The Baptist State Convention representative stated that the church and state could not be separated; the very people who made up the church were the same general public that helped to create policy. The opinions of the public were reflected in policy and, therefore, they were not two separate institutions.

It should not say you have to keep it holy by making laws up...if people want to choose to make it holy, fine, but the state should have no investment in it. (Baptist State Convention)

Avid hunters... who are born, and bred as, part of the culture of our state don't want to go there...and that is the state intersecting with the church. The church is the people who make up our populous...They are certainly not pushing it. Yes, in a policy kind of thing you are going to separate the church and state, but you do not separate church and state within the opinions and attitudes of the people who are stakeholders in it. (Baptist State Convention)

Impact of Hunting on Sunday on other forms of recreational activities

In summary, most representatives at the focus group believed that other nonconsumptive wildlife recreation activities would be negatively affected by hunting on Sunday. The general consensus was that other recreationists would like a day in the woods during which they would not have to worry about their safety. The Wake Audubon Society expressed clear concern for having their time in the woods to safely go birding and maintain trails. The Wake Audubon Society was overwhelming against hunting on Sunday.

We would like one day we can go to the woods. Hunters would force us to have to take a day off during the week and why shouldn't they have to take off a day during the week?... We feel like we need the time [to spend on the trails]. (Wake Audubon Society)

The North Carolina Horse Council stated that they had established private trails that bordered on private lands. If hunting on Sunday was legalized, they would not ride on Sundays because of the possibility of being in harm's way, and because horses become nervous around gunfire.

The Boy Scouts leader – who was also a hunter – said that he would prefer not to have hunting on Sundays because he enjoyed doing other activities with his son on Sundays, such as hiking, camping, and using All Terrain Vehicles. He added that most Scouts are avid hunters, and that they would feel the same way he did.

The Progress Energy representative (also a hunter) believed that Sundays should be shared with other resource users, and that he would not be for hunting on Sunday. He had witnessed conflicts between hunters and recreational boaters on a reservoir and could see the impact hunting on Sunday would have on others.

With my company and the game lands we've got, there are issues. At the Harris lands in Wood County when the hunting season is on, there are still a lot of recreational boat users on the reservoir, and fisherman, and occasionally we hear issues...we have conflicts. (Progress Energy)

Impact on the state's economy

There seemed to be a great awareness of hunting's contribution to the economy, but many stakeholder groups were ready to make the argument that their activity, or that nonconsumptive type activities in general, contributed more to the state's economy than did hunting.

The IMBA expressed concern over their organization's status with the Wildlife Resources Commission, and also with having trails to ride on. They recognized that although IMBA had not contributed to conservation dollars, the organization was still new. Mountain biking was a "new, organized recreation," and they wanted to be represented by the state, the parks, and by the Wildlife Resources Commission. There was concern that the mountain bikers' opinions did not carry weight with the Wildlife Resources Commission.

There are more than just ten of us. We speak for 1,400 members... We are trying to create new relationships and new places to go. [Hunting on Sunday] ends arguably one of the best trail systems for us that there is in the triangle area. We are coming into it as the new kids on the block trying to gain access. We may not lose as much as others, but we gain absolutely nothing. (IMBA)

Both Carteret Wildlife Club members were opposed to hunting on Sunday, though one member could clearly see economic benefits for the state for allowing it. The second member of the Cateret Wildlife Club expressed that she was against hunting on Sunday because of the need to share the land for different uses. The North Carolina Birding Trail representative was against it because of its interference with birding activities; he noted the importance of birding to the eastern part of the state. He cited expenditure numbers and statistics from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, including the finding that although hunters spend more money annually than do birders and wildlife observers but that birders spend more on trip-related expenditures. He stated that an argument could be made that birders were better for the state's economy because birders more widely distributed their dollars amongst different industries, that more money is spread into the economy (on local arts and crafts, hotels, etc. versus guns and hunting guides) as opposed to being concentrated into one industry. The TORC representative said that ecotourism brings in more money to the state than hunting.

One of the major reasons we [agencies and groups] are working so hard on this is that, especially in many of the eastern parts of the state that are natural resource rich, lots of bird diversity, lots of great habitat, are very economically depressed...so one of the reasons for this whole effort is to create some economic opportunities within these communities, and the people who are going there to bird will primarily be able to go there on the weekends; and if they were not able to do it on a Sunday there would be an economic impact – a negative economic impact for those communities and businesses. It [Hunting on Sunday] would absolutely impact birders. (Birding Trail Coordinator)

The Wake Audubon Society representative also stated that she would not object to buying a permit to use game lands, and that she would like to see this option considered as an alternative to raising revenue for land maintenance. One of the hunting guides commented that people do have to pay \$15 to be on a game land, but another participant corrected him by adding that this was not necessarily true on all game lands and that national forests were different.

The hunting guide acknowledged that he stood to gain a lot of money from hunting on Sundays but that he would not necessarily agree with allowing it. He had mentioned at the very beginning of the group that he did not want hunting on Sunday if it negatively affected other recreationists, or if it caused a great divide with the church, citing the importance of religion to North Carolina. The hunting guide said that he would not need hunting on Sunday if the Wildlife Resources Commission would improve the trails and access on current game lands. He also said that hunting on Sunday would not be needed if the bear season could be extended to six days per week.

It is a rather universal ethic that there are other bottom lines besides economic bottom lines that need to be brought to the table when you are discussing the rightness or wrongness of something. (Baptist State Convention)

A couple of participants mentioned the importance of family-time on Sundays and both the Progress Energy representative and the landowner stated that their marriages were better off for not having hunted on Sundays because their wives see them more due to the ban on Sundays. The Progress Energy representative emphasized that this was a real consideration.

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday with Restrictions

The only variation on hunting on Sunday that was acceptable at all was the consideration of hunting only on private lands and in order to assist with deer population control in certain areas. The Progress Energy representative and the IMBA representative said that this idea seemed worthy of further discussion and exploration.

Summary

Everyone in the Durham stakeholder focus group was opposed to hunting on Sunday. The two largest objections were that hunting on Sunday would create an unwanted division between the church and the state, and that hunting on Sunday would not be fair to other outdoor recreationists. The only restricted form of hunting on Sunday that was supported was hunting on private lands to assist with deer populations in certain areas.

Summary of Hunting on Sunday General Population Focus Group: Tuesday, March 28; 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.; Hickory, NC

Group Profile

Eight participants were recruited randomly from the general population. All were Caucasian, thirty-three years of age and older, three females and five males. All but one had lived in North Carolina their entire lives, and more than half of the participants had lived in the Hickory area for most of their lives. All but one participant were nonhunters, with one lapsed hunter.

Attitudes toward Hunting

When asked whether or not they supported or opposed legal hunting in North Carolina, all approved of legal hunting except for one female nonhunter. She had had negative experiences with hunters and her personal experiences were clearly reflected in her attitudes toward hunting overall. She seemed to have trouble with keeping hunters off of her property. Another female respondent approved of legal hunting only when the animal was going to be used for food; she did not approve of hunting for sport. One participant was a hunter and hunted from his camper. Another used to hunt but now defined himself as a hiker.

I don't like to hunt. I don't like to fish. The only thing I like to kill are ants and roaches. If it pleases them [hunters], I think they should be able to hunt any day that they want to.

I don't hunt, but I think it's fine. (Female nonhunter)

I ain't no hunter. I've got a lot of friends that do hunt. They ask me, what's the difference? Sundays or Monday...I could live with it or not live with it [hunting]. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

I don't hunt, but as far as I understand that, if they didn't hunt the population of deer would starve. If they go out and hunt, and then utilize the meat – I approve of that, but not for sport. I think six days a week ought to be enough for hunting. (Female nonhunter)

I don't hunt and don't approve – not in my backyard. [Moderator – do you approve in general?] If they would act like they would be dependable. A lot of them are not. (Female nonhunter)

There are fields all around me, and when they take the harvest in, then they dove hunt. It's been about ten years ago – One Saturday I was outside, and the pellets were hitting my roof – right over my head. There is a wildlife place over on [Road] sixteen, and the hunter was bragging about the place to hunt. He shot 35 doves, piled them up in a pile, and left them – and that is why I am against hunting altogether – cause it's in my backyard, and I can't even get out of my house on a Saturday. (Female nonhunter)

I am not a hunter. I am a hiker, and for that reason I am a little wary about allowing hunting on Sunday. If I take one of my dogs out and we go for a walk on a Sunday during hunting season, I still put blaze orange on them because I know there are people out there hunting on Sunday illegally now...I'm concerned there would be more of them. We already give them Saturdays, so let them give us Sunday. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Wildlife provided nutrition for our ancestors that developed this county. That's how long it's been in operation. They hunted on Sunday also. They eat. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

When asked what kinds of experiences participants had with hunting in North Carolina, the only response came from the hunter in the group.

I hunted because it gives you time to be by yourself and meditate...until you saw an animal. (Hunter)

Awareness of and Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

When asked if participants had heard anything about the hunting on Sunday issue in North Carolina before being contacted about the focus group, two had heard something about it from different news sources: one from National Public Radio and another from his Wildlife Resources Commission magazine subscription. A third had heard hunters in a campground he worked at talk about how hunting on Sundays would be good for them.

Yes, there was a story on the NPR station out of Charlotte...about eight weeks ago.
(Hiker/lapsed hunter)

I know a lot of people who hunt and I showed them that letter, and they said vote 'yes.' I work at a little camp out here, a lot of people in and out, a lot of hunters in there. They all talk about going hunting...Sunday would be a good day for them because they are going to have to have their regular jobs. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

Yes, I had heard about it from the Wildlife Resources Commission magazine I have subscribed to for 25 years. (Nonhunter/angler)

The hunting on Sunday research project was described to the group, which was then asked what they thought about the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. Six were opposed. Two were in support of the idea: the participant who had many friends that were hunters, and the hunter of the group. Two of the female nonhunters opposed the idea, one expressing concern over animal welfare and populations, and the other concerned with hikers. One female nonhunter was uncertain because she did not know a lot about hunting or where hunters were allowed to hunt. She and her family went hiking on Saturdays in state parks, and she was not sure how she might be affected by hunting. One male participant opposed the idea from the start, agreeing with a female that the animals needed a day of rest. Two of the males discussed the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday, speaking about the economic effects, individual rights, the safety of nonhunter outdoor recreationists, and work schedules. These two participants would later take a stand in opposition to the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.

I support it. If the guys want to hunt, I think they should be able to hunt. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

More money. More money in the state of North Carolina...If it would bring more money into the state, I would be for it. [Moderator asks if he would still be for it even if the state didn't make more money.] Yes, I would still be for it. (Hunter)

I used to hike a lot. I think the animals need a break, too. (Female nonhunter)

I agree. The opportunity to have a day would probably be good for the animals and us as well. (Nonhunter/angler)

I live on the edge of the Pisgah Forest, and it is so crowded on weekends you need a traffic cop during deer season because of the number of deer hunters up there; and if we have that on Sunday, the people who are using those areas for recreational purposes – North Carolina would lose those visitors to Tennessee or somewhere else. North Carolina would lose that revenue. I don't know if it would be a gain or a loss, but my guess is that it would be a loss overall. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Some hunters may work six days a week, and Sunday may be the only day they have to hunt. (Nonhunter)

The two biggest days of absenteeism at Drexill Heritage was the first day of deer season and the first day of trout season...so I think the people who really want to go are going to find a way to go during the week or on Saturday. To play devil's advocate – we do allow people to go fishing on Sundays...but they aren't fishing with a rifle. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors

When asked if hunting on Sunday would impact their normal routines and the activities they normally would do on Sunday, the majority of the group responded that they would not be affected. Of the two participants who responded that hunting on Sunday *would* affect them, one was a hiker and the other a member of a gem and mineral society that went searching for rocks on Sundays.

I would not hike Sunday if Sunday hunting were allowed. I do my hunting with a camera now. I've quit shooting a gun. I enjoy my camera hunting. If I went out in the woods during hunting season, I would wear an orange vest. Because I know people get shot. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

I belong to a Catawba Valley Gem and Mineral Society, and we do a lot of collecting on Sunday. If they allowed deer hunters out in the woods that would stop us. And it would really hurt. (Female nonhunter)

I don't think it would change our routine at all. We go to church in the morning. If we are going to do any kind of outdoor stuff, it would be in the afternoon. I have never run across a hunter on any day so it hasn't affected us one way or the other, regardless of the day of week. (Female nonhunter)

Probably not [wouldn't impact his normal routine and the activities he normally does on Sunday]. I often hike in an area on Sunday that might be more risky or more likely to have a hunter, but that is a risk I am going to take. [Moderator - Would you wear orange?] I have not in the past. I might would. (Nonhunter/angler)

Not at the present time [wouldn't impact her normal routine and the activities she normally does on Sunday] because I don't go hiking. If I still went during hunting season, I would not go. I wouldn't want to take the chance. (Female nonhunter)

I am not interested in hunting. On a Sunday I would probably just watch a movie and practice the guitar. It wouldn't affect me a bit. I'm not interested in going into the woods. (Nonhunter)

I do two things on Sunday – go to church and watch racing. It wouldn't bother me at all. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

One of the participants asked what the Wildlife Resources Commission's magazine had to say about the issue, and if it was known who was pushing the issue. The participant who had been subscribing to the magazine for 25 years answered that he believed the Wildlife Resources Commission was concerned with the decline in the number of hunters. There was also further discussion among participants about which locations and land-types allowed hunting in the state.

I think the idea is because hunting is declining largely in this state, and they are trying to open it up to encourage more people to hunt. My impression is that they are concerned about the overall decline, they are trying to enroll more women in hunting, trying to get other groups, that maybe traditionally did not hunt – urban groups into hunting.
(Nonhunter/angler)

Granted, I've got some bias against it, and I am trying hard to see what the benefits might be, and it seems to me that what benefits there may be are very, very limited, and so I don't really understand why there would be a push for it; but maybe there are some benefits that I am not realizing. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

But the biggest state park locally is almost surrounded completely by game lands – the South Mountain game lands. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Opinions of Hunting and the Wildlife Resources Commission

Participants were asked, if their opinions of hunting in general would change if hunting on Sunday was legalized, and a male participant responded that it would change his opinion of hunting, but not about hunters. The female nonhunter agreed with him. For the rest of the group, their overall opinions of hunting would not change if hunting on Sunday was legalized.

As long as it is within the law, it doesn't bother me. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

I don't think the day of the week changes how I would feel about hunters – as long as the hunter is following the law and being careful. (Female nonhunter)

I probably would oppose it. I think most people in the state, because of religious reasons, would prefer not to have it on that day. It probably [would affect] the way I feel about hunting but not about hunters. I just think there ought to be a day and Sunday is the traditional day not to, and I favor that. (Nonhunter/angler)

It wouldn't change how I felt about the hunters, but I agree with X...They have enough time six days a week, and those that have to work six days a week – they can take vacation days to hunt. (Female nonhunter)

What about in our area there are too many deer...Would people think twice about Sunday hunting then? (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

Participants were then asked if hunting on Sunday would change their views of and level of support for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. There were two participants

who answered that it would negatively affect their opinion of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

I don't have a negative opinion of them now. [Sunday] is the Lord's day. [Moderator asks if a change in the law would create a negative view of the Wildlife Resources Commission.] Yes. (Female nonhunter)

We all saw recently how dangerous it is with our VicePresident. It is a very dangerous sport and he is supposedly a fairly intelligent man. (Nonhunter)

Accidents happen. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

All hunters are not sportsmen. They can be completely irresponsible or completely responsible. I am not in favor of Sunday hunting. Because there would be maybe eight to ten more weekends per year that I cannot go hiking, if that is what I want to do, or I'll have to go to a different place that I would not have gone to otherwise, just to stay safe. It would be hard for that not to color your opinion of those out in the woods, even for those who are behaving; and it would be hard for it to not color your opinion of any regulatory group or legislative group who allowed that to happen. It would be for me. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

When I was a young man I used to hunt with a BB gun and I thought nothing about going out and shooting birds, other people's yards – anywhere – and I thought that was fine; and I had people get mad at me. And now if someone come into my yard and shot one of my birds I'd be on them like they was on me. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

Yes [I have heard shots on Sundays and it has made me nervous]. We barely have enough wildlife enforcement officers to keep after things that are going on during the week, we are going to add another day, that is going to stretch them even further than they are already stretched. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

If for some reason it is allowed, can you imagine what some of the religious leaders in this state are going to have to say; and what they have to say will not be said softly. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Arguments For and Against Hunting on Sunday

The participants were presented with several arguments for and against hunting on Sunday, and asked their opinions of each. The first argument against hunting on Sunday was that "Hunting on Sunday would interfere with traditional church activities." There was only person in the group that said she would be *personally* affected by having hunting on Sundays, because she believed there would be additional traffic on country roads during early morning services. There were four others who indicated they understood that religious groups would probably agree with the argument. One of those mentioned the rural churches and seemed to believe that churches in such locations could have a safety problem. The same participant said that he would be truly afraid to voice his opinion because he knew the religious leaders would be very upset by

allowing hunting on Sunday. Two of the female nonhunters believed that people were going to do what they wanted to do, and if it meant worshipping on Sundays, they would worship regardless of the hunting laws.

Well, I think that is probably true for a lot of people, but it is such a generalization. I think most people in this state are generally religious. (Nonhunter/angler)

I know enough people who skip church to go play golf. (Female nonhunter)

Yes, it will [affect traditional church activities]. The traffic – I go to the early service and all of the hunters get out early and I live out in the country, and that makes a difference out there. (Female nonhunter)

As a general rule, I don't think it would. The people who are going to worship, they are going to go to church. Even the hunters, they would go to church first, I believe. People are going to do what they are going to do. (Female nonhunter)

I don't think it would have a huge impact, but some impact, certainly. You have golfing, fishing, now one more thing to do – something other than go to church. The church groups will be most vocal against it. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Not being a religious person, I still think you have to respect people's rights to have services if they want them, and not interfere with them. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

Well, I know that out where I'm at in Burke County you've got churches sitting back in the woods, and I hope the parishioners aren't going to have to be ducking bullets. (Nonhunter)

For some people it would [affect traditional church activities] and for some it would not. If I was a hunter, I'd like to hunt on Sundays. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

We are a country that has many different religious beliefs – some worship on Saturdays, such as Seventh Day Adventists. A lot of your religious leaders are really going to be pissed if it is allowed on Sundays...I'd be afraid to voice my opinion, really. I'd be afraid what retribution might come from it. (Nonhunter)

In response to the argument that "Hunting on Sunday is a 'day of rest' for people, land, and/or wildlife," a couple of respondents agreed that animals needed a day to rest. One female nonhunter thought the animals should have a day without stress, especially while foraging for their food. The hunter in the group commented that the animals did not know which day was which. A female nonhunter connected this argument to the fact that animals could in fact be "killed" on Sundays, and she did not agree with "killing" animals on Sundays.

I don't think animals know that Sunday is Sunday. I think it is just another day for them, just another time. (Hunter)

I think they don't know it is Sunday, but I think they should have that day to not be under stress...they have to get out there and forge for their meals, and they should have one day where they don't have to worry about it...I mean, they don't worry, but they are under stress, I'm sure, when they hear gun shots. (Female nonhunter)

As much as I do not know much about hunting, and I don't have a whole lot of opinions about hunters in general, there is something that just kind of sticks in the back of my mind that killing on Sunday just doesn't seem right...Hunting is a choice, not a necessity, and killing on Sundays does not leave a great taste in my mouth – when I think about that aspect of it. (Female nonhunter)

I think, especially on the game lands, there is probably a good amount of pressure throughout the week, and it is probably reasonable to give the animals a break one day a week. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

In response to the argument that "Sunday is the one day of the week that other outdoor enthusiasts, such as hikers, bikers and horseback riders, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters or being injured by hunters," most agreed and no one disagreed. Even for those who would not be personally affected, most participants knew someone who would be affected, or could see a truth in this statement. One participant who had previously expressed concern with stretching the power of law enforcement also worried about the current enforcement, and said there was already illegal hunting happening. A participant who had originally been in support of hunting on Sunday stated that he was now opposed to hunting on Sunday after listening to others in the group discussing their viewpoints.

Yes, that it is a valid argument. We rock hunt on Sundays and if they have the hunters out there, we can't go. I oppose it. (Female nonhunter)

I think it is valid because a lot people, it's the only day that they can get away, get out in the country and do things, that they should not have to be worrying about hunters that one day. (Female nonhunter)

I walked into this room with a smuck attitude that everyone should be able to hunt on Sundays, but since I have listened to all of these people's different opinions, I have just about changed. I just about believe now that it should be banned on Sunday. (Nonhunter)

I hadn't thought about horseback riding, and that was mentioned, and my mom has horses – and it reminded me that when we lived in Texas, she was shot at by hunters. (Female nonhunter)

They shoot cows in Sparta so they put the orange over the cows because they'll shoot the cows in deer season. (Female nonhunter)

I think my mom would agree that it would be nice to have a day to not be shot at...I think if you are going to go in an area where...the places I go, or my mom goes – there should not be hunters regardless of the day of the week...I'm not thrilled with it [hunting on Sunday] – limiting my options, but I have not explored many options where there could be legal hunters. I haven't gone to many places where there could be legal hunters. I haven't lived here more than three years. (Female nonhunter)

Well, you know hunters are just like cigarette smokers, and hunters get very upset over not being able to hunt, just like some people get very upset over not being able to smoke cigarettes. (Nonhunters with friends that hunt)

I fish at the coast or at the lakes, so it's really not a risk for me as far as endangerment. I can see where a lot of people would feel that risk. (Nonhunter/angler)

That is my major objection to it. I feel like, even during hunting season, the hunters have six days. Can't the hikers have one day? It seems to me that that is not unreasonable...Right now there are people hunting on Sundays, and out of season, and hunting with spotlights, and a law that says they cannot hunt on Sundays is not going to stop that. What is going to stop that is enforcing the law and that is what we already have problems with, I think...Essentially, we are taking something here that really isn't broken, and we are trying to fix it; and if we allow the Sunday hunting that puts more people, in my opinion, out in the woods and potentially more people in harms way that want to use the woods for other purposes. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

The first argument posed in support of hunting on Sunday was that "The church and state should be separate and any arguments against allowing hunting on Sunday should not be based on religious beliefs." Most of the participants believed that this was a weak argument in support of hunting on Sunday, and not a basis for making a final decision on hunting on Sunday. However, one participant stated that he thought North Carolina would have no problem enacting laws based on the state's majority held religious beliefs.

If that were the only reason you banned it, you'd have problems defending that in the courts. However, the court of public opinion in North Carolina would have no problem with a religious argument against it because of the strong religious background of so many people in the state. I think if you asked a majority of the people, Evangelical Christians, if it would be okay if Sunday blue laws were reenacted, most would have no problem with that: 'I can go to Belk's, or Wal-Mart, or whatever Monday through Saturday.' (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

I don't really think it is a valid argument. Part of the country was built on certain beliefs and ideals, and I've never really bought into that argument too much. (Nonhunter/angler)

I agree with X. I don't think that would be the main reason that it would be banned. I don't think that would be a valid reason to ban it. I don't think you should dictate to someone if they go to church or not, or whether or not they can go hunting, and whether

or not that is a religious issue. I don't think it really comes into play in this [issue of] Sunday hunting. I mean, there is public opinion about it, but I don't think it would be a reason for banning it or not banning it. (Female nonhunter)

Yes, I would say that it could probably offend them [the Seventh Day Adventist] if you didn't ban it [hunting] on Saturday...Actually it would be nice if the government would go pick everybody's gun up out of their house and make everybody not have a gun. We'd see a whole lot less murders. (Nonhunters)

The group did not see a strong argument for allowing hunting on Sunday because "Hunting on Sunday provides additional time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting." The group suggested other options for teaching children hunting, such as extending opening day and target practicing at home. When asked, the group was unsympathetic to work schedules that could possibly limit a hunter's time to hunt or to teach children to hunt.

Let's just say on opening day, instead of the hunting day ending at sundown, let's just say they can hunt until midnight and that would give more time for families to be together and experience hunting. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

You can target practice at home on Sunday, right? You don't have to go hunting to learn hunting skills. (Female nonhunter)

They can always take vacation time. They don't have to have Sunday to hunt. (Female nonhunter)

Hunting is not a necessity. It would be different if they had one day a week to provide for their family, and they were not allowed. There are all kinds of things that I want to do, but my schedule does not allow me. So I don't think it is a valid argument. (Female nonhunter)

It's not a big part of my life, so I don't worry about it. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

There was some, albeit weak support for the argument that "Hunting on Sunday would provide additional days for hunting and help out local economies that depend on hunting." One participant believed that there could, in fact, be positive economic effects, especially in certain areas of the state. It seemed that even if participants were provided with statistically proven figures showing positive economic effects, those whose Sunday activities were personally affected by hunting on Sunday were not going to change their opposition to it. There was a lot of discussion about how the Wildlife Resources Commission was funded: participants addressed where the Commission's money came from and how it was distributed in the budget.

In certain areas of the state – in the mountains, it would help them. (Hunter)

Yes, you might see some sort of economic bump, but you would see some economic losses that would more than offset any gain that you might make. I have no scientific evidence to back that up – that is just an emotional reaction. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

If there were scientific evidence that it would help the economy, then it would be a valid argument...I think it would have to be a pretty big economic gain. (Female nonhunter)

"Because hunting on Sundays is currently not allowed, some hunters go to other states to hunt. The state loses money that these hunters would have generated for North Carolina by purchasing hunting licenses." There were a couple of participants who believed that this statement was a valid argument, but it did not change their opposition to hunting on Sunday.

Are there that many hunters out there in North Carolina that it would make that much of an impact on the restaurants? (Nonhunter)

If it [hunting on Sunday] were allowed, it would be. (Female nonhunter)

I think it is a valid argument. To say that if a hunter may go out of state to hunt – it still does not persuade me that we should allow it. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

In response to the argument for hunting on Sunday that "Forty-two other states allow hunting on Sunday –what makes North Carolina different?" participants were not bothered by being different, and seemed to accept religion as part of their culture, whether they held the same faith or not.

Baptists. This is the Bible Belt. (Nonhunter)

What is wrong with being different? What if all of the surrounding states decide to have Sunday hunting, then maybe all of the hikers will come to North Carolina, and we will see an increase in the economy from that. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Opinions on Hunting on Sunday with Restrictions

Participants were asked if their opinions of hunting on Sunday would change if it were allowed only under certain circumstances.

If it were allowed only on private land, or only on public land?

There were four participants in favor of this variation on hunting on Sunday. Two were still opposed, and these two participants both had had negative experiences with hunters. One who did not feel affected by hunting on Sunday said that he could see problems with enforcement of this variation. He questioned how the Wildlife Resources Commission would be able to enforce the law if a deer was shot and then crossed property boundaries. The female nonhunter who opposed hunting on Sunday agreed with this variation of hunting on Sunday.

If someone owned acres and acres of woodland – private – and they wanted to go out and hunt, I think they should be able to do that – as long as it was on their own property. (Female nonhunter)

I'm still against it [hunting on Sunday]. That is how it will pass, if you allow it on private land. (Female nonhunter)

It doesn't really [make a difference]. There is a hunt club that has about 100 acres, within a mile of where I live, and I don't want guys over there shooting on Sunday. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

If it is their private land and it is their friends, go at it – as long as they are being very safe and cautious. (nonhunter)

I agree that private hunting should be allowed. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

It wouldn't make a difference for me. (Female nonhunter)

I have my land posted and I can't keep the signs up because the hunters take them down. They are on my land day and night and take the signs down. They will not listen. (Female nonhunter)

If it were allowed only where counties that approved of it?

There was no support for this variation on hunting on Sunday. The most common reason for opposition was a foreseen enforcement problem and a confusion among land users as to where the boundaries lay.

That would be a mess for enforcement. As a hunter that would be confusing and as a hiker that would be confusing. (Female nonhunter)

I thought they did that anyway.

Too hard to enforce. Enforcement would be impossible. (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

If only certain species could be hunted (e.g., birds but not big game), or only if certain weapons/methods could be used (e.g., bow only, no dogs, etc.)?

The group fell silent on this variation.

If it were allowed only after 1 p.m.?

This variation provoked laughter from the group and a couple of participants mentioned that if a time variation was set, it should be before one o'clock so that hunters could get out earlier when the hunting was better.

That is almost worse because nonhunters will be leaving church and going out to the woods. It would make more sense to have it earlier. (Female nonhunter)

If it were youth hunting only?

No one agreed with this variation on hunting on Sunday and again, one person mentioned possible problems with enforcement of this variation.

A hunter who had proposed that, I wonder how he or she would think if we said, okay, if you want youth hunting day, youth hunting day will always be Saturday and only youth can hunt on Saturday, accompanied by an adult, but the adult can't hunt. I think that youth hunting day would go away pretty quickly if that were the case. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

And once again, how do you enforce it? You hear gunshots, how do you know it is a youth shooting and not the adult? If you are going to ban it, you need to ban it, and if you are not going to ban it, then you need to not ban it. (Female nonhunter)

I think that argument seems like another attempt to try to get it in, but I don't think it is a valid point. (Nonhunter/angler)

When asked if the group had any final thoughts, only one participant had changed his opinion since the beginning of the group (he now opposed hunting on Sunday).

I can go either way. I don't hunt. It wouldn't bother me. I know people that do hunt. They tell me vote 'yes.' (Nonhunter with friends that hunt)

The only thing I can say is that I'm happy with the law the way it is. (Female nonhunter)

Well, I came in the room for it, and now these people have changed my mind. (Nonhunter)

I think it is a legislative thing, and they should decide it for us after discussions. (Hunter)

Having been a hunter in the past and now I'm a fisherman, I am sympathetic of the Wildlife Resources Commission's objectives in managing the resource and having to do it with limited amounts of money, and having to look anywhere and everywhere for additional revenue. Certainly they are going to be under pressure from the hunting community, or the part of it that favors this...Having said all that, I have not come up with a single reason that I can wrap my arms around this concept and endorse it. I don't think I'm going to change my mind regardless of what other evidence comes forward. I hope they and the legislature will look long and hard at it and make a decision that keeps me happy. (Hiker/lapsed hunter)

Summary

The general population focus group in Hickory was opposed to hunting on Sunday, with the exception of the hunter in the group. The group's strongest objection to hunting on Sunday was the perceived negative effect on other outdoor recreationists. Some in the group had had

negative experiences with regard to hunter conduct in the past. There was some weak support for hunting on Sunday as a means of helping local economies. Half of the group supported hunting on Sunday if it were restricted to private lands. One female who had opposed hunting on Sunday agreed with this restriction.

Summary of Hunting on Sunday Stakeholder Focus Group: Tuesday, March 28; 5:30 –7:30 p.m.; Hickory, North Carolina

Group Profile

Allegheny Baptist Association member
 Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club member
 Carolina Mountain Club member (hiking organization)
 Abernathy Memorial United Methodist Church member/hunt club member
 Landowner, Burke County/lapsed hunter
 Landowner/hunter
 Landowner, Catawba County/nonhunter
 Rutherford Outdoor Coalition member
 Bostic Gun Club/sporting good store owner
 Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council/Ruffed Grouse Society member
 Biologist, Duke Energy/hunter
 Pastor, United Methodist Conference/National Rifle Association (NRA) member

It is important to note that although some of the participants had made efforts to speak with their members about hunting on Sunday before the focus group, most did not do this and came to the discussion with their own personal views and opinions about it. Unless otherwise specifically noted in this report, an organization's name is used to refer to comments of the individual, and not necessarily to represent the organization's point of view.

Attitudes toward Hunting

When asked whether they supported or opposed legal hunting in North Carolina, everyone in the group expressed their support for hunting. They expressed their support for hunting as a legitimate recreational activity, for wildlife management, and as a food source. Half of the focus group participants were hunters and the other half were not. There was no opposition to legal hunting in North Carolina.

Hunters are the biggest conservationists in the U.S. (Gun club member)

We have a massive deer population in Charlotte city limits. It is hard to be opposed to hunting if you've ever been hit by a deer. (Abernathy Memorial United Methodist Church/hunt club member)

When asked if there was any reason to be opposed to hunting, the one response the moderator received was a vote of further support for controlled hunting. The representative from the Rutherford Outdoor Coalition explained that it was rare to see a deer when he was a teenager

because more people then had depended on hunting for food. Yet with controlled hunting, the state was able to bring populations back.

As long as it is controlled, I think it is a good thing. (Rutherford Outdoor Coalition)

When asked about their experiences with hunting in North Carolina, the group responded with their own reflections as to why they went hunting: most agreed, in one form or another, that hunting was relaxing and healthy for the mind and body.

It is not so much about the game, it's just a pastime you can enjoy. It's not so much about firing a rifle, but about enjoying outdoors. It's more the people I associate with – some camaraderie, not only the sport, but the conservation of it, too. (Landowner)

You get exercise. If you go at it like you should. (Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council/ Ruffed Grouse Society member)

Awareness of and Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

The group was asked if they had heard anything about the hunting on Sunday issue in North Carolina before being contacted about the focus group. The National Rifle Association (NRA) member had received an email from the NRA requesting members to contact the Wildlife Resources Commission by using the Wildlife Resources Commission website. Seven of the twelve participants had heard others mention hunting on Sunday before being contacted about the focus group. Two participants attended Wildlife Resources Commission hearings on a regular or fairly regular basis, and they said that someone inevitably mentioned hunting on Sunday at the hearings and asked why North Carolina did not have it. One landowner heard about the hunting on Sunday issue through her son, a hunter, and another from a friend. The Allegheny Baptist Association representative had not heard anything about hunting on Sunday and neither had the Carolina Mountain Club. The Duke Energy biologist had heard frequently about the hunting on Sunday issue due to his work with the Wildlife Resources Commission; he stated that it had been a recurring issue over the 25 years he had lived in North Carolina, but he did not know it was going to be considered now. One landowner was not aware that hunters could not hunt on Sundays in North Carolina.

I have heard other states allow it and every year [in North Carolina] the number of hunters becomes a smaller percentage of the population, and there are less than the year before. [She hears from her son and his friends.] Those that would hunt on Sunday can't hunt any other day of the week because of work. (Landowner)

Maybe it is time to push the General Assembly to see if they [hunters] could get Sunday hunting in North Carolina. (Gun club member)

Focus group participants were asked what they thought about the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. Four of the participants were supportive of hunting on Sunday, one was undecided, and the remaining seven were opposed to allowing hunting on Sundays. Most

opposition was due to safety concerns and the perceived benefits of allowing a general day of rest. There were also concerns about protecting the public image of hunting.

The Rutherford Outdoor Coalition representative, who likely got outside on Sundays more than any other day of the week, did not feel safe hiking in the woods. He brought to the group's attention the fact that hunters may be more empathetic to the needs of other outdoor recreationists if they realized that nonhunters, like hunters, also go outside to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

We [hikers] like to get out there without guns. We don't feel too safe if we think there are other people out there with guns. (Rutherford Outdoor Coalition)

The same participant suggested that hunting on Sunday could be restricted to private lands.

I would think that hunting is more tightly controlled on private lands where the landowner has an interest. If Sunday hunting is still considered, I would still propose that it not be allowed on public lands, to allow those who don't hunt at least...a place of refuge on Sundays. (Rutherford Outdoor Coalition)

When asked if the participant had ever been nervous hiking on Sundays, the participant responded in the affirmative, saying that a deer had been shot, and that had seen the blood and who he believed to be the hunter.

Two other participants believed that hunting on Sundays could be good for the economy. One of these participants indicated that he felt North Carolina was losing hunters to South Carolina and other places and added that he also sold guns and bullets. One of the landowners who lived close to South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia addressed the economic issue of North Carolina hunters traveling out of state and spending substantial amounts of money elsewhere.

If you are going to spend \$1,000 or \$1,500, would you do it in a place where you can hunt one day or two days? (Landowner)

Safety was a big concern for this individual as well. Horseback riding with his family was a major pastime on Sundays, which was the only day he and his family could go riding together, especially in the Uwharrie National Forest. Sunday was a perfect day to scout out new, unfamiliar land.

I know if they open up Sunday hunting I am going to be scared to death to go into the woods to scout or to look at new land. (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

If you open up Sunday hunting, you are taking away time from horseback riders and hikers. ...Give the game a Sabbath. The people need a Sabbath as well...I will stay an NRA member, but I am opposed to it...The main thing to me is a safety thing. (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

The Abernathy Memorial United Methodist Church/hunt club member participant who was also a self-described avid hunter, was concerned that hunting had a bad enough image. He had family members with land on which the neighbors ran their dogs after rabbits seven days a week, and he said it was annoying. Although he was not sure what advantage there was for hunters, he stated that the game needed a rest.

The Allegheny Baptist Association was opposed to the idea of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. According to the participant, there were a lot of tourist-hunters in his part of the state and he thought everyone in that area would be glad if the out-of-state hunters did not hunt there, because it would bring peace of mind and safety. He speculated that, in his area, there would be a lot of stores closed on Sundays meaning that if hunters killed a deer on Sundays, they would likely be inconvenienced by having to drive further to register the deer.

The Carolina Mountain Club takes 116 hikes each year, (not always on Sundays), and stated that their group was opposed to the idea of hunting on Sunday because of the safety aspect. Currently the group hikes on public lands.

We do hike in some of the game lands which are official hunting areas, and we do it only on Sundays...Once we ran into a couple of squirrel hunters who told us the law doesn't count for squirrel hunters. (Carolina Mountain Club)

One landowner expressed his love of watching the deer and waterfowl on his property and was opposed to hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. Another landowner, whose son was a hunter, had somewhat mixed feelings on the topic. Although her son would be in favor of hunting on Sunday, the sounds of gun shots from the hunting club across from her property irritated her.

I am opposed to Sunday hunting because it is one day less the game will be endangered. (Landowner)

Some members of the Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council were opposed to hunting on Sundays, but the representative that attended the focus group supported it. His opinion was that it should be a personal choice, that no other recreational activities are limited by legislation, and that the state was probably losing more money than anyone thought by not having hunting on Sunday. He mentioned the Mattamuskeet on the eastern side of the state, which previously drew in hunters from all over the eastern United States, but that, because of the ban on hunting on Sunday, no longer attracted out-of-state hunters to the area. He explained that many hunters in the western area of North Carolina owned property out-of-state so they could go hunting.

A member of the Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club supported hunting on Sunday and explained fallacies in the keeping of the Sabbath arguments. He stated that people make the time to do what they want and that opening hunting on Sunday would not keep those who want to go to church from going to church.

I feel like the hunters in North Carolina have been discriminated against for years because of no hunting on Sundays. You can do anything on Sunday in North Carolina that you want to do, except hunt. (Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club)

The Catholic church makes room for people to come to church on Saturdays so that would eliminate that argument right there... Gun season in his county is only four to five weeks in this western part of the state so if four to five weeks is going to hurt your attendance at church, then I kind of have a problem with that. (Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club)

I think Sunday hunting is absurd. North Carolina has one of the longest hunting seasons. We get to start in September and hunt all the way through January, and that is a whole lot of hunting. I know a lot of people who are obsessed with it, and they will hunt on Sunday just as much as any other time. And I think it pulls people from church and other things. You can take a camera on Sundays and still go into the woods. You don't have to take a gun on Sundays to enjoy seeing game. (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

The Duke Energy biologist had mixed feelings on the issue of hunting on Sunday, and although he acknowledged the importance of debating the issue, he decided that the final decision was dependent upon heavy lobbying. Safety was an important issue for him, though hunting on Sundays did not seem to affect his own overall concern for safety when he was in the woods. He also expressed some concern for wildlife populations and how they could be negatively affected, were hunting on Sunday to be instituted.

I struggle with these issues a lot – whether the Wildlife Resources Commission in their deliberations of these things should legislate morality on these things...I am not sure that if a person is going to go to church, they will go to church anyway [if there were hunting on Sunday]. There is fishing on Sundays. You can fish all you would like. (Duke Energy)

Safety is a big issue to me. I am in the woods all the time (at work and not at work) and wear orange whether it is January 1st or December 31st, and I have encountered some unscrupulous hunters, and I have also encountered some unscrupulous fisherman, and other recreationists-kayakers and canoers...The Wildlife Resources Commission will get lobbied intensely on this issue. (Duke Energy)

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors

When asked if hunting on Sunday would impact their Sunday activities, two people indicated that it would, five indicated that it would not, one was unclear, and the rest of the group did not specifically say. For the Carolina Mountain Club, hunting on Sunday would negatively impact their hiking because they hiked on game lands. The Rutherford Outdoor Coalition would avoid areas with hunters. The Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council indicated that they did hunt on Sundays, and that currently they went out of state to Tennessee to hunt on Sundays, or to the Great Lakes to hunt for birds. The pastor and NRA member from the United Methodist Conference who was opposed to hunting on Sunday said he would not be personally affected, that it was going to come down to personal choice, and finally joked about going into the woods himself once a year. The two landowners said they would not personally be affected because they had their own private land. The Duke Energy biologist said it would not affect his routine.

We would definitely wear orange and not hunt on the game land. (Carolina Mountain Club)

Yes, I would be affected. I usually avoid places where I expect there to be hunters. Yes, I would modify my behavior somewhat. (Rutherford Outdoor Coalition)

One Sunday a year when the rut is going on I may have to get someone to preach for me. I think the reason the state legislates this is because firearms are involved and there is more risk than if you go fishing on Sunday. It is going to be personal choice anyway, and it is not going to affect me either way. (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

I doubt if it would impact me greatly. I may have to do a little more babysitting. (Landowner whose son hunts)

When asked if hunting on Sunday would affect business operations, the sporting good store owner responded that his business would not be affected because he would not open on Sundays. He thought that the biggest issue for businesses would be keeping hunters in North Carolina on weekends. Another respondent who ran a propane gas business also indicated that his business would not be affected by a change in the law, and he pondered whether campgrounds and lodges (particularly in the Hickory Nut Gorge area) would be affected by lost business from nonhunters.

Opinions of Hunting and the Wildlife Resources Commission

When asked if legalized hunting on Sundays would change their opinions of hunting, four participants expressed a clear concern for the public image of hunting. These participants felt that hunting on Sunday would give the anti-hunters a strong point to use in weakening the image of hunting, especially considering the growing influx of people from outside of North Carolina who did not come from hunting backgrounds. The potential strain with the religious community was recognized as a possible negative as a possible negative factor to the public image of hunting.

A landowner brought up the importance of preserving the hunting tradition and the potential for Sundays to offer more time to pass the tradition on to youth. His comments emphasized the importance of preserving the image of the sport, because one irresponsible hunter would lead to automatic stereotyping of all hunters. The protection of the hunting image would be crucial for current and future hunters.

The general image, the only things you hear about hunting are the bad things. This decision to do this in the state of North Carolina will not be based on data. This won't be a scientific basis where you can do a study, and even though your focus group work will influence it, this will come down to lobbying in the state of North Carolina. And unfortunately, it may pit the religious community against the rest of the community, which I really hate to see. That does no one any good. (Duke Energy)

If they do promote Sunday hunting... will this give them [anti-hunting groups like PETA] more fuel? (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

The anti-hunters are getting stronger in Charlotte. (Duke Energy)

Hunting in North Carolina, I'm not sure about the numbers, but it has declined rapidly. If Sunday allowed a chance for another child to enjoy hunting and the principals of it, and the fact that you take another life, not necessarily human, but an animal's life, and the respect for it, than I think that is good in the long run for saving the art, or sportsmanship of hunting. (Landowner)

Hunters will suffer [from the lobbying] because of the hunters who hunt already on Sunday. Hunters will get a black eye from it...That's [stereotyping] what happens a lot of time in the hunting aspect, and if you are hunting, you've got to be a renegade, or an outlaw, or a redneck at least, and it is very untrue. I know folks who do it as a true form of recreation and for nothing else, and they probably don't [even] shoot their limit. (Landowner)

Arguments For and Against Hunting on Sunday

The moderator read several arguments for and against hunting on Sunday. The first was that "Hunting on Sunday would interfere with traditional church activities." A few responded that while this statement may be true, they did not know how much of an effect it would have on church activities. One participant stated that the effects may be measurable in the long-term.

It will have some effect, but I don't know how much. (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

A lot of people are influenced on Sundays...by golf. (Landowner)

I'm influenced by football.

When asked if hunting on Sunday would negatively impact wildlife populations, those that responded were confident that the Wildlife Resources Commission could manage the state's wildlife populations. At this point in the discussion one participant asked whether hunting on Sunday would be for all species or just deer.

The Wildlife Commission monitors that very closely...The population versus season lengths and so forth, and I think they are at the stage where they have enough information where they can make calls annually as to the length of the seasons and so forth for population controls. I don't think that has any regards for whether you have Sunday hunting or not. I don't think it's going to make any difference.

The wildlife biologists have a real good handle on what is going on in the state of North Carolina, and they know what the populations are. (Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club)

The moderator read the first argument for legalizing hunting on Sundays: "The church and state should be separate and any arguments against allowing hunting on Sunday should not be based on religious beliefs." The group did not believe this was a very strong argument.

I am not sure it is a valid argument for it. I have friends that hunt on at least one Seventh Day Adventist land, and they don't hunt on Saturdays out of respect for her. (Abernathy Memorial United Methodist Church/hunt club member)

It is good now more because of the tradition of so many years of not hunting Sunday, more so than it is a religious reason. (Allegheny Baptist Association)

I strongly believe in separation but even the strongest atheist probably thinks it is a good idea to have a day or two off a week. A day of hunting ought to go along with that too, maybe. I can separate it totally from any religious beliefs and say it is not a bad idea to have a day that is different.

The argument that "Hunting on Sunday provides additional time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting" resonated well with the group.

Good reason for those who are for it. (Duke Energy)

Very valid.

Most valid out of the ones we've touched on.

"Hunting on Sunday would provide additional days for hunting and help out local economies that depend on hunting." This argument provoked a lot of discussion, indicating its validity as a reason, given that some hard numbers were put in place to make the case. A participant asked if a contingent valuation was being conducted, another asked if other outdoor recreationists would decrease; another, how many hunting clubs there were. There was speculation that timber company lease values would go up and that the hunting guide and outfitter industry would increase dramatically.

To some it will be very strong. A cost analysis is amazing when you find out how much people spend on golfing, Nascar, fishing, in this case, hunting...it's shocking. Some businessmen and entrepreneurs would see some increase in their business. It could spike to begin with for the first couple of years and then reach a steady level. (Duke Energy)

Very valid.

Good argument to keep hunters in state. (Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club)

"Forty-two other states allow hunting on Sunday, what makes North Carolina different?"

It's hard to see how 43 other states are wrong. Are we the only seven that's got it right?

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday with Restrictions

Only on private land, or only on public land?

The group was split as to whether or not a variation on hunting on Sunday to be allowed only on private or only on public land would work. There was some agreement regarding the individual rights of private property owners. However, one landowner, was concerned with hunting on private property because she already had trouble with her neighbors shooting onto her property. For another participant, the loss of private property to elite developers was a problem for hunters, who in trying to gain access to hunting lands could cause crowding on public lands. The Duke Energy participant mentioned that some hunters could be discriminated against if they did not have access to private property. The same participant thought enforcement would become a problem if the warden did not know where the game had been shot. The Carolina Mountain Club indicated that hunting on private land would not affect their group because they hiked on public lands.

I could accept it more. Some private landowners would be much more resistant to Sunday hunting – a lot don't welcome hunters, but they are tolerant of hunters. Some people might resent Sunday hunters more – even if it is legal.

If I was going to take the lesser of two evils, I would think the private landowner has the right to say no to Sunday hunting if he wants to. The lesser of two evils would be private land – give it a try, but public land, keep it off on Sunday...But I am totally opposed to Sunday hunting on public land. (United Methodist Conference/NRA member)

We are being squeezed gradually onto hunting on public lands, national forest land.

If it were allowed only where counties approved of it?

The group unanimously agreed that allowing each county to decide its own laws on hunting on Sunday would be impossible to enforce and impossible for hunters to follow during one year, as well as from year to year.

You'd open up a big can of worms.

Everyone would have something different.

That would be a mess. (Landowner)

If you were a hunter you'd have to take an attorney with you too just to figure out...and a surveyor.

If they'd let each individual county decide whether they were going to have Sunday hunting or not, you would not have any earthly idea of what you were going to do.

If only certain species could be hunted (e.g., birds but not big game) or only if certain weapons/methods could be used (e.g., bow only, no dogs, etc.)?

I don't think the sportsmen in general would be in favor of that. Again, you are getting into discrimination. I hunt birds. (Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council/Ruffed Grouse Society member)

If it were allowed only after 1 p.m.?

No one was in favor of this variation of hunting on Sunday, which seemed at once unfair to other recreationists as well as poorly planned with regard to prime hunting hours of the day.

No, it is not fair to other recreationists.

If it were youth hunting only?

No one favored this variation on hunting on Sunday, because the current state youth hunts were deemed as being already productive enough in giving youth hunting opportunities, and having youth hunts prior to opening day was the safest policy. A participant who was also a hunter safety instructor acknowledged the importance of teaching youth the sport of hunting, but believed that hunting on Sunday should be for everyone, for all species, during all seasons.

We already have those, and I think they are well managed. We have those before the regular season begins...I would hate to see it on Sundays during open season for everyone – the youth need more time practicing and honing skills. (Duke Energy)

We need more of these [recruitment and retention] programs. If there is Sunday hunting it should be for everyone all the time. You can have a youth hunt before regular seasons – in designated areas...you can have youth hunts. (Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club)

I am for Sunday hunting for everybody, for all species, all of the time. (Catawba Valley Rifle and Pistol Club)

Summary

The stakeholders in the Hickory focus group opposed hunting on Sunday because of safety concerns, a belief in a needed day of general rest (for people and wildlife), and a need to protect the image of hunting. The group responded most favorably to the argument regarding the providing of more time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting. The group did not agree with any restrictions on hunting on Sunday but was split on a restriction to private versus public land; some favored allowing it on private land but foresaw enforcement problems, and also problems with a negative effect on the image of hunting.

Summary of Hunting on Sunday General Population Focus Group: Wednesday, March 29; 7:30 –9:30 p.m.; Clinton, North Carolina

Group Profile

All participants were recruited randomly from the general population, including an African-American female, an African-American male, a Native American male, four Caucasian females and two Caucasian males. There were three lapsed hunters, four nonhunters, and two hunters. All participants had lived in North Carolina their entire lives, with the exception of one female who had lived in Missouri for about eight years. Participants were between eighteen and sixty-two years of age.

Attitudes toward Hunting

When asked whether or not they supported legal hunting in North Carolina, eight participants supported it and one did not. Of those who supported legal hunting, one female moderately supported it because she was concerned with animal welfare. The female who did not support hunting also did not have any family members that hunted. Of those who supported legal hunting, two were hunters and three were lapsed hunters. The lapsed hunters cited most often relaxation as their reason for hunting. Other reasons for supporting hunting included hunting for the sport, for the meat, and hunting to be with friends. A female participant who was a nonhunter had a husband who hunted and took their son and daughter hunting with him.

I support legal hunting. I don't have any problems with it. (Male hunter)

I support it. I usually went out with buddies, and it was time to spend with them – plus, the relaxation and the sport. (Male lapsed hunter)

I support it because I love the deer meat. If we didn't have hunting we'd have no crops, because they'd eat it up. (Female nonhunter)

I don't. I don't like it at all. (Female nonhunter)

I support it. I like the deer meat and rabbits and squirrels and all that stuff, so I really support it. I have hunted, but don't now. I hunted for enjoyment. I like the different types of meat. I love deer meat. Just like when I go fishing – when I get enough, I quit. I love to be out in nature. It does relax you. (Male lapsed hunter)

I'm semi on it. I don't unsupport legal hunting, but I'm an animal lover. But I don't have a problem with other people hunting. (Female nonhunter)

I used to hunt...just for relaxation, sport. (Male lapsed hunter)

Awareness of and Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

When asked if participants had heard anything about the hunting on Sunday issue in North Carolina before being contacted about the focus group, one male had heard his friends talking about it within the past couple of months and another had read about it in the newspaper a couple of years back; he remembered reading something about the hunting on Sunday issue within the legislature.

I had [heard about the hunting on Sunday issue] a little bit, just from friends discussing [it], and what they thought about it...probably within the last couple of months. (Male hunter)

[I had heard] something in the legislature a couple years back...through the newspaper. (Male lapsed hunter)

I have not heard about it. Why did the issue of Sunday hunting come up? (Male lapsed hunter)

The hunting on Sunday research project was described to the group, and they were asked what they thought about the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. All but one participant was opposed to the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. Three based their opposition on the religious argument that Sunday was a sacred day and should remain as such. Two participants believed that six days a week to hunt was enough time to harvest any meat that was needed. There was an extensive discussion on the overpopulation of deer in North Carolina, and some discussion on potential hunting on Sunday with restrictions, such as still hunting for deer. A female participant suggested that hunters simply get a special permit to kill deer in overpopulated areas. The one participant who did not oppose hunting on Sunday was an occasional hunter, and had a difficult time understanding why anyone should not have the liberty to hunt on Sunday.

The reason the issue is on the table is that certain groups have asked for Sunday hunting; it is not for trying to reduce the wildlife. (Male lapsed hunter)

I oppose. I think you can hunt six days a week and be able to get what you need. I don't believe in hunting just for the fun of it. If you are not going to eat it, you shouldn't kill it. (Female nonhunter)

To me Sunday is a sacred day, and it should be kept sacred. (Female nonhunter)

I think Monday through Saturday is enough. He [my husband] probably would agree because he kinda thinks Sunday is his holiday. He does nothing. He is just lazy that day. (Female nonhunter)

I'm generally opposed to Sunday hunting; but at the time, you've got a group that is asking to have Sunday hunting, and the state is facing a situation with overpopulation of wildlife; so there is a twofold purpose. (Male lapsed hunter)

[I am] opposed. Sunday is a sacred day. You've got people going to church, and people don't want to hear gunshots going off. (Male hunter)

I agree. I think Monday through Saturday is enough. You need to keep Sunday sacred. A majority of the people go to church on Sunday, and you don't want to have people sitting in church and hearing gunshots going off. You don't want that. My suggestion for that, overpopulation, like he said, would be to increase the season. (Male lapsed hunter)

What is the reason that you are focusing on Sunday? Are you trying to decrease the population? If it is, then Sunday is not the answer to the question. The answer to the question is [to] extend the season. (Male lapsed hunter)

I wouldn't do it. I've always considered Sunday a sacred day; but who are we to tell somebody that does want to hunt on Sunday that they can't? (Male hunter)

Even in any type of agreement, that maybe it would be in the afternoon, after 12 o'clock on Sunday, or maybe limiting it to just still hunting deer – I don't agree to be in church or anywhere else and there'd be 49 pickups flying up and down the road, and 50 dogs running everywhere that bark. I think there are some things that could be restricted [if hunting on Sunday were allowed]. (Male lapsed hunter)

I don't think that one more day is going to thin them out that much – you just need to hunt more during the week. And I don't want to hear gunshots all day Sunday. (Female nonhunter)

That's true, but some people's schedule might not allow them to hunt Monday through Saturday. Sunday might be the only day they could hunt. (Male lapsed hunter)

I asked one individual who has done some hunting in the past...they did still hunting. The individual works a five-day workweek. If I put the stand up Friday, I have Saturday, and then I have to take it down. If I had Sunday, it would make it worthwhile to put the stand up, but the majority that were going still hunting said it wasn't worth the effort to put the thing in on Friday to have to take it out on Saturday afternoon. (Male lapsed hunter)

During that time of year, you don't have any daylight at all through deer hunting time – in the weekdays. (Female nonhunter)

I hate all of them trucks up and down the road all the time. They don't know how to hunt. They couldn't hunt without dogs. The dogs do the work. (Female nonhunter)

I'm totally against it from dawn to dusk on Sunday. That is the day of worship. I don't want to hear guns shooting all around me. I live out in the country, and I don't like to hear guns period. A lot of hunters, not all of them, don't respect – flying up and down – or even using high-powered rifles in our area. I just think Sunday is a no-no. (Female nonhunter)

I tend to agree with what she is saying but knowing I'm sitting out on a farm, and I'm seeing what is happening to the wildlife population. Now, if you went out to 50 houses in the country you might find one or two that hunt. If there is an extension of the season, or...more stamps to be able to take more deer – whether you live in town, or whether you live in the country where I am, you are eventually going to be run over by wildlife. (Male lapsed hunter)

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors

When asked if hunting on Sunday would impact their normal routine and the activities that participants normally did on Sundays, the majority responded that their normal routine or activities would not be affected. Three of the four females responded that their routine and activities would be affected because they feared for their safety, and two of these had had negative experiences with hunters shooting onto their property.

No, I wouldn't be concerned when hiking. I'm never too concerned with that. It wouldn't alter anything else I would do on Sundays. (Male hunter)

I don't think I'd like to be walking in the woods with people out their shooting guns on Sundays. (Female nonhunter)

Me neither. I love to fish, and I wouldn't want to be out there. People get shot in their backyard now from hunting – anytime. (Female nonhunter)

What's the difference between Sunday and Saturday, when there is concern in hiking or fishing or anything else? (Male hunter)

If I was going to fish in a pond that was the woods, I wouldn't go during the week when the hunters were out, because I respect their hunting time. (Female nonhunter)

Well, Sunday is a day we just get out as a family. Saturday we don't. Yeah, I stand in fear of being shot. It sure would [change my routine]. (Female nonhunter)

No, I don't fish on Saturday or Sunday. I fish mostly at the coast. It wouldn't change my routine. (Female nonhunter)

I go hunting some with my husband. You know if they're hunting, the precautions to take. I don't think so. [Hunting on Sunday wouldn't change her routine.] (Female nonhunter)

I know the precaution to take, but is that hunter going to follow those guidelines? You got some good hunters and you got some bad hunters...There are some of them that shoot at everything that moves, and they don't even see what they are shooting at, and they shoot it anyway. (Female nonhunter)

I don't think it would change mine either. Most of the things I do on the weekend. I'm working five days a week, and have things to do on the sixth day, so I don't think on the seventh day it would change my routine of what I do – basically, go to church and go

visit and stuff like that. If I go fishing, I'm like X, and I go to the coast to do that. (Male lapsed hunter)

We grow sweet potatoes and the farmers leave when they are done picking up the sweet potatoes. Then the deer come to get them, and I'm afraid to go out there and pick up the sweet potatoes, because the hunters are there after the deer – shooting...If they see a deer, they don't care what else is out there, they shoot at the deer. (Female nonhunter)

Opinions of Hunting and the Wildlife Resources Commission

The group was asked whether the legalization of hunting on Sundays would change their opinions of hunting in general. Those who responded stated that it would not change their opinion of hunting overall.

No, I'm going to put up with it anyway. (Female whose husband is a hunter)

I still like the deer meat, but I don't want them doing it on Sunday. (Female nonhunter)

Participants were asked if hunting on Sunday would change their views of and level of support for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Two of the lapsed hunters already held negative opinions of the Wildlife Resources Commission because of perceived reintroduction efforts headed by the Wildlife Resources Commission, including coyotes, wolves, beavers, and alligators. Another participant was concerned with the Wildlife Resources Commission's staffing levels.

Maybe from an enforcement standpoint, I think they try to do a fairly good job of enforcement...I was talking with an individual from Bladen County where a lot of stuff had been released to repopulate coyotes...and now the farmers there are having an extreme difficult time with the coyotes, especially people that have breeding stocks – the cows are being killed when they are born. I have an interest because I have breeding stocks...I don't want them up here. I heard the Wildlife Resources Commission released in my area two wolves. I haven't seen them, don't know if it is true. I don't understand why they keep releasing all this stuff – to control one problem. For example, the wolf...the wolves are going to be worse than the deer. Yeah [it's given me a negative view of the Wildlife Resources Commission]. I don't think Sunday hunting is going to change my perspective of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Beavers were reintroduced up here, and I've got acres of land that is underwater that used to not be underwater; and there is no reason for it. (Male lapsed hunter)

Yeah, I don't agree with Sunday hunting at all. I am probably one of the biggest hunters, used to be, of anybody in this room; and I did it with respect, for others and wildlife also. Yes, [I have an] unfavorable [opinion of the Wildlife Resources Commission]. They brought in the beavers, and now they brought in the coyotes, and I've heard about the wolf, and I've heard about the alligators to get rid of the beavers. Somebody's got to put their head on their shoulders and start thinking about the surroundings. (Male lapsed hunter)

I don't think they have enough staff to check the counties. They have one or two game wardens for so many counties to check the hunters to make sure they are obeying the laws. I think they should put more staff on. (Female nonhunter)

Arguments For and Against Hunting on Sunday

The participants were presented with several arguments for and against hunting on Sunday and asked their opinions of each. The first argument against hunting on Sunday was that, "Hunting on Sunday would interfere with traditional church activities." Five of the nine participants agreed with this argument; several cited late-afternoon and early-evening church activities as the reason for their agreement with the argument.

A lapsed hunter concerned with an overpopulation of deer agreed that if hunting on Sunday were not restricted, it would likely interfere with church activities. However, if hunting on Sunday were limited to still hunting for deer, it could be acceptable. Others in the group counteracted his statements by suggesting alternatives to controlling the deer population, such as increasing bag limits, requiring that two does be taken for every buck, and increasing season lengths. A male hunter who was not opposed to hunting on Sunday seemed to believe that lawmakers did not have the right to tell residents what they could and could not do on Sundays, and that the individual would act as he pleased, regardless.

I'm going to continue going to church like I do now. It could cause some hunters to start staying out of church to hunt. (Female nonhunter)

Like he said earlier, if it was set on a certain time, nine times out of ten church is done by twelve or twelve-thirty, at the latest... You are going to have people skipping church. I don't see how it would interfere with the church, but I don't agree with it anyway. I wouldn't do it myself. Not everyone is on the same level as far as religion, and what they want to do on a Sunday morning, and you can't expect them to. (Male hunter)

A lot of church activities last after twelve noon – homecomings and weddings, and all kinds of things. Sometimes it's not just mornings. (Female nonhunter)

And children's outings. It would alter a lot of things. I don't think anybody in our church would support Sunday hunting. (Male lapsed hunter)

Probably so [it would interfere]. The neighborhood I stay in, they hunt around our house a lot, and we have a little country church right, not even half a mile from my house. So yeah, probably so. Yeah, I think it really would. (Female nonhunter)

Oh, yes [it would interfere]. We have some hunters in my church, and they are just itching to get out there anyway, and I think it would interfere. And I just don't agree with Sunday hunting. Like X, we have children's activities in the evening. A lot of times we have church activities in the evenings after that – twelve or one o'clock, on into the evening, and I think that would interfere with that. (Male lapsed hunter)

I tend to think that Sunday hunting...if you left hunting...Sampson County still allows dog hunting. We all focus down to the deer side of this thing versus all types of activities out there. If Sampson County left their current situation where there is dog hunting allowed for deer, and it was not restricted on Sundays, there would probably be some problems with church activities. You could be having youth groups, and you got fourteen dogs that come flying through, because you can't stop the dog once you turn him out. He doesn't have a boundary that says, this is a church and I've got to go around it. Any county that still allows dog hunting, yes, it should have an impact – less of an impact if the county still hunts. There needs to be more hunters, and then we wouldn't have the problem we have with wildlife. (Male lapsed hunter)

*The hunters multiply, too, in our neighborhood. (Female nonhunter)
If it is down to a population issue, and you couldn't get enough of them out six days a week, I don't think one more would help. (Male lapsed hunter)*

Just give them more stickers and lengthen the time to hunt. (Female nonhunter)

That is some of the answer to the thing – is to not do a Sunday hunting issue – extend the season, no reason the season cannot be extended. Give them more stickers, require them to shoot two does for every buck or something. I don't know. (Male lapsed hunter)

With regard to the argument that, "Hunting on Sunday is a 'day of rest' for people, land, and/or wildlife," one female agreed with the statement. A lapsed hunter agreed with the statement according to Christian beliefs. Another female who occasionally accompanied her husband hunting restated her opposition to hunting on Sunday, even though it would provide more opportunities to hunt.

I think they should let them rest too. (Female nonhunter)

I am not for the Sunday hunting, but there are people who would say Saturday and Sunday would be my only hunting days. (Female nonhunter)

This part of the county is a Bible Belt, and Sunday is a very important thing for all Christians; and it should be for everybody, a day off for everybody and every thing; and that is the way it ought to be. (Male lapsed hunter)

In response to the argument that, "Sunday is the one day a week that other outdoor enthusiasts, such as hikers, bikers and horseback riders, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters or being injured by hunters," one nonhunter agreed and one hunter disagreed. The nonhunter was a female and believed that hunting would take away from time spent together as a family. A couple of people restated the importance of the "day of rest" aspect with regard to the argument against hunting on Sunday.

I think so, because the family wants to spend as much time with their family, and a lot of people, that's the only day they have to spend with their family; and they would take that time away from their children and family to hunt. (Female nonhunter)

I don't see [the argument]. The only reason that Sunday is an issue is for religious purposes. You'd have your same outdoor activities on Saturday that you can have on Sunday. A lot of people have more activities on Saturday than they do on Sunday, so I don't see where the...the only reason we are having this issue is because of religious purposes. (Male hunter)

Not necessarily, some people just likes to rest that day, some people don't even go to church on Sunday; they don't want to hear those gunshots all day long. (Female nonhunter)

The first argument in support of hunting on Sunday presented to the group was, "Some people work Monday through Saturday. Sunday is their only day to hunt." This argument did not resonate with the group. The participant whose husband hunted stated with confidence that her husband would still do nothing on Sundays except rest.

My husband doesn't have vacation time, and a lot of his days are working until dark. I don't think he'd hunt on Sunday because he'll sleep until twelve or one. (Female nonhunter)

Sims Springs, those men down there – when it came to hunting season, they don't know what work was – they took vacation. May not be [fair to those who don't have vacation]. Make the seasons longer. Everybody don't work until sundown. Most of the hunters are going to get off at a reasonable time. (Female nonhunter)

According to the Bible, the seventh day is a day of rest. (Female nonhunter)

The second argument in support of hunting on Sunday presented to the group was that, "The church and state should be separate and any arguments against allowing hunting on Sunday should not be based on religious beliefs." Three of the respondents defended the idea that the church and state were inherently one entity, since the state represented the voters. Most voters, they argued, were Christian citizens. Participants felt that a fusing of church and state was not a bad thing.

Moderator: Is it involving government in religion by having a Sunday hunting ban?

Yes, I would say it is. But our country was founded on Christianity. Well, I see that the government is getting into religion if they stop it on Sunday, but I think they should get into it. I think this nation should get more about God. Right now that is what is wrong with our world now. Like they took prayer out of the schools and brought guns in. (Female nonhunter)

She's right about that. I was reading an article that said that 86% of people in the U.S. are Christians; but we are letting that 14% rule. It's time for Christians to stand up and say 'enough is enough.' Problems happened when they took prayer out of school. The

government is involved in religion because when you can't pray where you want to, and the government says you can't do that – then the government is already involved.

Well, we the people are the government. We are the ones who put our leaders in.
(Female nonhunter)

They should put that on the voting, and then let the state vote. I don't think there is as many hunters as there are Christians. (Female nonhunter)

I think the state has a lot to do with it. I have family in Missouri, and they are totally different from North Carolina where I was raised the majority of my life. I think this is a state issue. (Female nonhunter)

The argument in support of hunting on Sunday that read, "Hunting on Sunday provides additional time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting" did not resonate with the group. In particular, this argument failed to persuade the male hunter in the group who supported hunting on Sunday. There was a consensus that hunting instruction required much greater involvement than did a shooting lesson: hunting instruction for the group implied safety rules, gun handling specifics, and issues of respect for nature and wildlife to teach to beginning hunters.

You can get out and work, but you don't have to put a bullet in the gun. (Female nonhunter)

I kinda agree with that. You can still teach them how to use a gun and aim and stuff like that without doing the shooting. (Female nonhunter)

I tend to agree with that, too. My boyfriend hunts, and he has kids; and he takes up time with them on Sundays but doesn't hunt. He doesn't believe in it. (Female nonhunter)

If you are going to not hunt on Sundays, you can do so much more other than actually shooting a gun when it comes to teaching a child how to hunt. It is not all about shooting the gun. There is a whole lot more to it. (Male hunter)

You can teach them the safety rules on Sunday and how to respect the animals and other people. (Female nonhunter)

Two arguments that addressed state economics were presented to the group: "Hunting on Sunday would provide additional days for hunting and help out local economies that depend on hunting," and "Because hunting on Sundays is currently not allowed, some hunters go to other states to hunt...the state loses money that these hunters would have generated by purchasing hunting licenses." No participants agreed with these statements. Further, a couple of participants believed that it would not be good for North Carolina residents if out-of-state hunters came to North Carolina to hunt.

I think if we tallied that up it wouldn't be very much. (Male lapsed hunter)

You talking about two drinks and a six-pack of beer? (Male hunter)

They [hunters] mostly go out of state to hunt bear, and elk, and big game. (Female nonhunter)

I agree. I don't think that many people are going out of state to hunt. A lot of them have started hunting bear here too, you know. (Male lapsed hunter)

Moderator: Do you think more hunters would come to North Carolina if they allowed Sunday hunting?

That could be a problem. Because they would come into hunt and that would mess up the people here – the way they do things. (Male lapsed hunter)

In response to the argument that, "Forty-two other states allow hunting on Sunday; what makes North Carolina different?" participants either did not have an opinion or found fault in the generalization. Participants acknowledged that they did not have all the information about the other states and their respective hunting laws and restrictions.

It's the best place to live, and maybe we don't want it. I like being different. (Female nonhunter)

I don't have an opinion on that. (Male hunter)

We stick to our guns and stick to what we believe. (Female nonhunter)

I agree. Just because 42 states did it doesn't mean it is right. Why are you going to do something because 42 other people did it? (Male lapsed hunter)

Maybe the other 42 other ones are wrong. (Male lapsed hunter)

They don't tell us what the restrictions are in those other states. (Male lapsed hunter)

I guarantee most of them is not dog hunting or using high-powered rifles. (Female nonhunter)

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday with Restrictions

Participants were asked if their opinions of hunting on Sunday would change if it were allowed only under certain circumstances.

If still hunting were allowed on Sundays, but not dog hunting?

Even though this variation on hunting on Sunday had been mentioned by a participant earlier in the group, no one agreed with it when it was later posed. The participant who had suggested this variation maintained that if wildlife overpopulation was the reason for the Wildlife Resources

Commission's researching of hunting on Sunday, then the solution should be an extended hunting season, not hunting on Sundays. Others in the group agreed.

Not me because I think they should not have dogs period. (Female nonhunter)

I say no, too; but it is the lesser of two evils. (Female nonhunter)

I go back to what I said earlier. Sunday is not the answer to the problem. I think the Wildlife Commission needs to know that an extension of the season is the answer. I don't agree that they should do Sunday. It ought to be an extension of the season... Obviously, what we think isn't going to be what the crowd up in Raleigh thinks anyway. I'll guarantee you that the 14% non-Christian will be in Raleigh every one of them, and the other 86% will be at home. (Male lapsed hunter)

Like the lady said, it's a lesser of two evils. [It doesn't change his mind.] (Male lapsed hunter)

A lot of times if you are going to still hunt, deer are not going to walk until three, or four, or five o'clock in the afternoon. Chances are if you have the still hunt from the middle of the day on, you are not going to kill anything anyway. I think the numbers raised on what they can kill, and extend the time. (Female nonhunter)

If it were allowed only on private land, or only on public land?

No one in the group agreed with hunting on Sunday being restricted to either private or public lands. Participants were concerned about adjoining lands, and the problems of one neighbor allowing hunting on Sunday which would disturb other landowners as a result. Additionally, a few participants expressed concern for their own safety as well as the safety of others because of irresponsible behavior by some hunters.

If you left it intact [allowed dog hunting], I could agree on my property, and they turn the dogs loose, and they are four more properties down. (Male lapsed hunter)

Moderator: What if the restriction included no dog hunting?

Assuming we are still talking about deer – why don't they just address the Sunday issue because certainly if someone is going to hunt on property, I'm going to know that they are there [hunters are obligated to ask permission]. To me, that is a cop-out for the state to get out of making some kind of decision. They need to decide yes or no. (Male lapsed hunter)

We've got one person says 'alright,' – and about 40 are going to hunt, because they have nowhere else to hunt – and it's right next to me. You are disturbing me. (Male lapsed hunter)

Someone will get killed like that. (Female nonhunter)

I think some of the reasons people have all of the negative feelings they have in relation to deer hunters is because the majority have no respect for life nor property when season is in session. If that deer runs across the road – I know you are not supposed to fire from the road – But, I will assure you that if you are coming down the highway, and there is a group of them down there, and that deer runs out there – if you don't want to see the bullet coming to you, you'd better pull off, or you'd better duck. They're going to shoot. (Male lapsed hunter)

On a Sunday the kids are out of school. A lot of them like to walk, ride their bikes along the roads and highways and things. And if it was cut loose on Sunday, that would be another situation for the government to start facing. People would be shot or run over, because a lot of people, when they see a deer, they go wild. (Male lapsed hunter)

If only certain species could be hunted (e.g., birds but not big game), or if only certain weapons/methods could be used (e.g., bow only, no dogs, etc.)?

No one agreed with this variation on hunting on Sunday. All but one participant opposed hunting on Sunday from the beginning of the discussion, and the proposed variations on hunting on Sunday did not affect their opinions.

Them things [bows] would kill you just as fast as a gun, if they went through you. (Female nonhunter)

I just don't think they should allow it. (Male hunter)

I don't think Sunday hunting should be allowed under any circumstances. If they have a problem with the deer population, or any population, they should increase the stamps, and I also think they could increase the season. Sunday should be kept sacred. The government is already involved in the religious aspect of it. (Male lapsed hunter)

I tend to agree with what X is saying. There are less and less people hunting today than there were 30 years ago, and that is going to get less and less. (Male lapsed hunter)

I agree there shouldn't be any Sunday hunting. They should allow more tags and extend the season. (Female nonhunter)

Absolutely no hunting on Sunday under any circumstance. We need more officers out there to enforce the rules of hunting the other six days. (Female nonhunter)

If the state is going to recognize any rule...it should be by the majority, and I believe we hold it, as Christians. No hunting on Sunday. (Male lapsed hunter)

If it is not broke, don't fix it. (Female nonhunter)

They do need more people out there to tell them about the rules. (Female nonhunter)

Sunday is for Christians, the day of Sabbath, but it is not for everybody. It should be up to [the individual]. (Male hunter)

Summary

All but one participant in the Clinton general population focus group opposed hunting on Sunday, as well as any restricted forms of hunting on Sunday. Most opposition concentrated on the need to hold Sunday apart as a sacred day, as well as a day designated for stillness and rest for people and wildlife. There were concerns for the safety of Sunday church attendees, particularly those in rural areas. Most participants were concerned with hunter behavior, and a perceived lack of respect from hunters with regard to property, safety, and boundaries. The hunter that supported hunting on Sunday believed that hunting was the right of the individual, not something to be decided by state law.

There was speculation that the hunting on Sunday issue was being researched as a possible solution to help control the deer population. The group suggested as alternative solutions to the overpopulation issue: a lengthening of the deer season, an increase in the number of tags issued, and a requirement of harvesting more does. With the exception of the one hunter, the Clinton focus group absolutely did not want any hunting on Sundays.

Summary of Sunday Hunting Stakeholder Focus Group: Wednesday, March 29; 5:30 –7:30 p.m.; Clinton, NC

Group Profile

Landowner/nonhunter

North Carolina Horse Council member/nonhunter

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources employee/hunter

Landowner/hunt club member and manager/hunter

Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter

North Carolina Family Policy Council member/nonhunter

Lower Cape Fear Bird Club member/Carolina Bird Club member/lapsed hunter

Landowner/hunter/retired

Attitudes toward Hunting

Every focus group participant supported legal hunting in North Carolina. Although the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources representative stated that the Division had no opinion about it, he personally supported legal hunting. The North Carolina Family Policy Council said initially that the organization did not have an official position on legal hunting, but shortly thereafter stated that it did support hunting. The North Carolina Horse Council supported legal hunting and added that many of its members participated in hunting. All but two participants referred to the importance of hunting as a wildlife management tool and as a needed activity to manage animal populations.

I support legal hunting in North Carolina. It is a heritage and it is a way to help maintain a balance of our wildlife, to make sure we preserve it, and also the enjoyment of activities together with our families and stuff. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

The Horse Council supports legal hunting in North Carolina. We have a lot of members that participate in that sport as well as equestrian activities.

I am not a hunter myself but I do support the sport of legalized hunting. And I'm not only a landowner, but I'm a farmer, and if somebody didn't control the population of the deer – it's pretty tough as it is, but it would be without it. (Landowner/nonhunter)

The Division of Forest Resources doesn't regulate hunting and we oftentimes get confused with that. But as a Division, we basically have no opinion of the legalization of hunting. Personally, I do support legal hunting.

I personally do support it. I farm and I have deer that eat – Well, you just can't have soybeans, you have to plant corn because if you plant soy beans, you won't have a crop, because they will keep it eat down. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

The Family Policy Council doesn't have an official position on hunting, but in our context we do support legalized hunting as a way to regulate and preserve our wildlife and as a way of enjoyment and family activity also.

I grew up in Eastern North Carolina, and early on I was a hunter and absolutely support it; And most of the people I talk to within our Bird Clubs and other conservation groups support it fully. As far as I can tell, you can't take too many deer. And I know bear populations are up some, and I think as long as it is regulated correctly, we would always be supporting hunting. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

When asked about their experiences with hunting in North Carolina, the hunters had nothing but favorable things to say. According to the hunters, harvesting animals was not the most important part about hunting, but rather being outdoors, relationships with other hunters, and gaining a respect for wildlife. One participant, whose father had not hunted, tried hunting in high school with his friends, but said that he never had the patience for it. The same participant allowed hunters onto his farm to help control the number of deer on his property.

The parts of hunting I enjoyed while I was a kid, and I probably hunted up through high school, was being out in the fresh air with a gun and a dog at my side, walking down a path on Thanksgiving Day. If we killed something, a bird was all we were hunting for, that was beside the point. The experience was something else. Now, let me say at the same time, that is why I like to go birding. I am also a wildlife photographer; so I go out in the field, and I'm doing the same thing a hunter is doing, I just have a better chance of finding something rare like a bird from the west coast – or take a pic of something that's rare that is stopping over from migration from the tundra. That is the excitement to me, and that was what was true of hunting. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

Well, I just started hunting when I was a boy. My dad, he run a dairy farm, and he owned about 1,000 acres there, and I grew up hunting. He bought me a little 20 gauge shotgun and I squirrel hunted, quail hunted. He got me a bird dog, he got me a squirrel dog, and I just enjoyed myself hunting. And over the years I took up deer hunting, and when I first started there was no deer in our community, and now there is just more deer than we'd ever need –oversupplied – and same with turkeys. I don't turkey hunt, but I've farms that have flocks of 50 to 75 turkeys on, and they are going to get to be a nuisance, too, I'm afraid. I enjoy the fellowship – that means a lot to me, fellowship with other hunters and other people I meet. I just enjoy it. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

My father did not hunt, and I was introduced to it by my neighbor. I remember getting up a three in the morning and going off squirrel hunting...have an enjoyable day walking through the woods...As I started getting older, I started getting into more types of hunting like deer hunting and one of the things about it was the respect for the wildlife, and also the teaching of the safe use of firearms, and just having respect for the wildlife. And any time I take a living thing, there is a little bit of sadness at that time, but there is also a good feeling too, because I know I have contributed to helping maintain a balance. The natural predators are not here as much as they used to be, and then we do have some small predators that are coming back. Most of the hunting has been for game that is consumable or the meat, and some hunting for predators like coyote, or some of the things which are detrimental to quail, which we are trying to get established back. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

My father didn't hunt, but when I was in high school or so my friends seemed to be enjoying it, so I tried it, but didn't have the patience for it. (Landowner/nonhunter)

Awareness of and Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

Participants were asked if they had heard anything about the hunting on Sunday issue in North Carolina before being contacted about the focus group, and everyone in the group responded that they had. A couple of people had heard about it from the Wilmington newspaper, *Star-News*. Two participants had heard about it through the Internet while visiting the Wildlife Resources Commission's web page for hunting information. One had heard about it through a statewide birding listserv, and another through the local paper, *The Duplin Times*. The North Carolina Family Policy Council representative had heard about it while working on legislation during the last General Assembly, and the North Carolina Horse Council had been contacted previously and participated in the stakeholder meeting in January as part of this study.

I read in the newspaper [Wilmington Star-News] at least a year ago and hadn't thought much about it. (Landowner/nonhunter)

The [North Carolina Family Policy] Council became aware of a House Bill that never made it through the legislature last year, to consider Sunday hunting on a few game lands, and they became interested in the issue then. This year, I believe, the Wildlife

Resources Commission has recognized us as a stakeholder, and we participated in the stakeholder discussions earlier this year in January.

My brother-in-law told me about it, and he saw it on the Internet about a month ago. [He saw it on the] North Carolina Wildlife state website and saw the poll questions. (North Carolina Division of Forest Resources)

[I heard about hunting on Sunday in the] local newspaper and [at] ncwildlife.org. [I saw it] back in December, in the Duplin Times, and it was also in the Star-News. I visit that website frequently looking for upcoming changes in hunting laws, bag limits, the hunting seasons, so I can keep everyone in my organization abreast of what is going on.

(Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

I heard it from people in our hunt club. I think they read it in Star-News paper. They've been talking about it over a year. We have 45 members in our hunt club, and they discuss a lot of stuff. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

I became aware of it when I was lobbying at the General Assembly this session, and the House Bill 505 was proposed for this study bill from the legislature that never actually passed. It passed the house, but it never actually got through there. It got incorporated within a larger study bill, but the Family Policy Council, we actually opposed that study bill. We spoke on this issue during the session when they were considering proposing this study bill – which is interesting, because the email I received about the focus group indicated that the legislature was seeking information. However, it never actually passed – a bill to do this study. It seems to be through the Wildlife Resources Commission. It had kind of indicated the legislature was directing it, but it did not actually – through that session.

[I had seen something about hunting on Sunday around the] end of January. We have a listserv for Carolina birds, and someone started bringing it up then...There was probably another 20 emails that discussed parts of it. Everybody got some things wrong, and it was just a mess, but I picked through it, and I got some pretty good ideas of what the people I would be representing - I think I got the right things after all of the misinformation was taken out of it. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

New York State has allowed it for quite a while – I lived up there for a while. I know even up in New York, if you went out on Sunday, it was a bad deal. We were hunting small game down in a field. Shots were coming over us...I go to Maine to hunt each year. It has nothing to do with religion, it's just...give the animals a break one day. When I'm out there, it's not just shooting, but I run the dogs, with small game, and I encourage the dogs, yelling to them, trying to head off the rabbit...I don't feel that we need to hunt seven days a week, whether it is a Sunday, a Wednesday, or a Thursday. I think one day to give the animals a break from being harassed...or shot or brought in. Do you need the game? Are we hungry? If we are not hungry, we are not needing it... We can get our resources today from any grocery store in town, so it is not a matter of meat. It used to be a matter of meat, but now it is a matter of sport, and since it is a

matter of sport, let's be sporting about it and give the animals one day to take a break before we shoot at them again. (Landowner/hunter/retired)

Participants were asked what they thought about the idea of allowing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. Six were opposed, one was in favor, and the North Carolina Horse Council did not take a position. Three believed that the wildlife needed a day of rest. One landowner who was opposed to hunting on Sunday was primarily concerned about the safety of his two young children; he had had negative experiences with hunters in the past. A landowner and hunt club owner initially supported it, but after hearing others speak about their outdoor interests and safety concerns, agreed that wildlife needed a day of rest.

The one landowner that supported hunting on Sunday owned about 20,000 acres. He brought up the point that the unethical hunters who rode by shooting would do that any day of the week, regardless of the law. (There were two other landowners in the group that had mentioned people riding down the roads, shooting their guns.) He believed that he and his family should be able to go out hunting on Sunday if they wanted. The issues of wildlife populations and over-hunting land areas were, for this landowner, more issues of ethical, responsible hunting; if hunting were done properly, the day of the week should not matter.

Although the North Carolina Horse Council did not take an official position on the issue, its representative expressed not only safety concerns but worried as well about the loss of land and places to go horseback riding on Sundays. She explained that a lot of the Council's available land was leased private land and that the organization often shared the leased land with hunt clubs. She feared that the Council might lose the leased land to hunters, altogether.

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources stated that the Division did not have a position on the issue, but did point out that the number of fire occurrences on Sundays could go up with additional people in the woods. The representative was personally concerned with the effects that hunting on Sunday would have on the waterfowl season; he did not want to see the season shortened as a result of having to add Sundays.

The Lower Cape Fear Bird Club-Carolina Bird Club representative expressed concerns throughout the group about his safety while in the woods for birding and wildlife photography. He also saw problems with hunting on Sunday because he believed that wildlife needed a day of rest and also that law enforcement would be a problem.

The North Carolina Family Policy Council represented citizens concerned with maintaining their day to safely engage in nonhunting outdoor activities. The North Carolina Family Policy Council also had concerns with outdoor Sunday church activities that commonly lasted past one o'clock in the afternoon on Sundays. The Council also wished to promote the ideal of husbands staying at home with their families on Sundays.

I don't support it. I have two little girls, that are eight and ten years old; and even though I'm not a hunter, I do like to go out into the woods with my kids, and I don't feel safe the other six days of the week. My farm is on 421, a major highway, and even though the people who hunt on my farm are responsible, people just stop driving down

the road and just start shooting – So, I like at least one day a week where I can go out and do things with my kids on the outside. (Landowner/nonhunter)

The Division [of Forest Resources] has no position on that. As a fire manager though, I can say that it puts more people in the woods on the one day that we typically don't have that many fires. Sunday is a very slow day for fire occurrence even during very dry periods, and a big reason for that is because people are in church and are not out in the woods hunting or doing other things; and that is the only concern that I can come up with from a Division standpoint. If you want my personal view on it, I'm also a hunt club president. I would be against it, and the reason is because I feel that everything needs a break; the people in the surrounding communities need a break from hunting, such as dog hunting. As a waterfowler, I personally prefer the season that we currently have, and that it stretches over a very long period of time; But we are only allocated a certain number of days per year, and if you take those same number of days and do it seven days a week, it shortens the season as far as from month to month. And also the deer need a break; they need one day, the deer, the birds, whatever, need a day to rest. I hunt basically every day that it's open and you over pressure when you try to hunt in the same area too much – any good hunter knows that – and by adding that day in then you are just putting that much more pressure and the rewards will eventually be less.

I think the wildlife needs to have a day off. If you are out there on other days of the week, you understand the skittishness...there is just a difference. Personally, for me there are places where I like to go birding, or hiking, or taking wildlife photography like Holly Shelter, Croatan National Forest, and some other places like that, and that I do not feel safe except on Sundays. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

I believe that the enforcement division for Wildlife Resources is undermanned and overworked. I've had some good hunters tell me that. How are they going to enforce another day, and who is going to pay for it? The way our budget is in North Carolina and what seems to be across the country there is just no money left for anything. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

Well, the Policy Council is in opposition and its basis is that this law has been in place since 1868 and for many reasons that it was put in place being discussed here today by hunters...we are not sure of the motivation as to why it is being looked at. It is unclear as to who is wanting this change in the law and why. We can't figure out where it is coming from...who is initiating the change. Our constituents and family like the law the way it is and there is really not a clear reason why it needs to be changed – because of all of the positive things it does bring, such as the rest for animals, and for families, and rural churches being able to worship without fear of people running across their lands – hunting causing disruption; and also because it promotes hunters, primarily husbands, to be at home with their families on Sunday...and the only thing that has at least come to our attention as to why is, they say it is a discriminatory matter that people who work six days a week can only hunt on Sundays; and that seems a rather weak argument to pose to overturn a law that has been in place since 1868 – Because of the fact that people with birding interests, family picnicking, canoeing, horseback riding – There is a lot of other

sports and entertainment and activity that wants to take place on that one day, that they can do it safely without fear of any hunters or bullets going astray. Those are the reasons this law was put in place, and the North Carolina Family Policy Council would like to see it stay that way because many families have expressed that to us; and we are just representing their voice in the matter.

I have mixed emotions. I am for it in a way, but I see where he is coming from. On Sundays I take my family, and we shoot skeet, and we really enjoy it. If you had Sunday hunting, it is kind of – people ride by and shoot that is the problem I see with it. Or even with dog hunting – in our hunt club, we have a couple of churches, and they wouldn't take too kindly to us to be hunting around them on Sunday. I could see still hunting. I think that would be nice...But if you put it in effect, you are still going to have people riding by shooting, and it wouldn't be safe in the woods—no where, hardly. If you want to do something with your family, maybe it would be best to do without it. I know there's only seven states that don't have it. I was all for it when I come up here. I ride horses too, and I enjoy riding, and I'd hate to be riding my horse and thinking somebody was going to be shooting at a deer down the road and not know where I'm at. (Moderator: Would you hunt on Sunday if it were legal?) My wife said I wouldn't. We have three preachers in our hunt club and they are against it and the rest of our members - They love to go and some of them went out day and night – every day, I think. Just like he said, the wildlife needs a break and probably, maybe we'd be better off without it. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

I would be in favor of it as a representative landowner of possibly 20,000 acres. The ability on a Sunday afternoon, if I wanted to take my family out, and go out and enjoy the hunting – I would like that opportunity. I do not know all the facts of what the economic impact is, being one of the few states that does not allow Sunday hunting – what that does to the state's economy, or other outfits coming in doing guided hunts, controlled hunts. I understand everyone has this concern; it is a day where people would like to have a day where they know that they could walk through the woods safely; but when you have ethical hunters doing legitimate hunting, I don't think that's a problem. It's the other population that rides by and shoots and they are going to do that any day of the week. I think it could promote, instill some family values, for those people who do it in a family atmosphere. Pressure – that gets back to the hunting ethics of how you are hunting – that is not controlled the same across the state. (Landowner/hunt club member/manager/hunter)

The Horse Council has not taken a position yet. When House Bill 505 was introduced last year we decided as a group to gather the facts and participate in the studies...and I am getting the feeling that most of the membership are against Sunday hunting for a variety of reasons. The concerns we have expressed are the recreational concerns. We have a lot of common ground with, particularly, deer hunting. Our hobby takes place over large pieces of land. We trail several hundreds or thousands of acres. It's the same setting or environment that is conducive to deer hunting. And that one day...where we can get out, whether it is private or public land, it is also open to hunting, we are able to get out and pursue our hobby and feel safe about doing that. There is a lot of diversity in

the state, in terms of land, in terms of hunting laws from county to county and region to region, and in some of the more densely populated areas of the state. It's one thing if you have your own farm, and you can control what goes on, and it is several thousands of acres, and you can chose whether you are going to allow someone to hunt on Sunday or not...closer to the Triangle and areas around Charlotte, it's a lot more subdivided, and it's a lot more smaller pieces of land that people are hunting – particularly the private lands, and it is pretty hairy on Saturdays... We lock up our horses until about noontime and bring them back in at around 3 o'clock because it is just kind of nuts out there in the woods; there are shots going off all of the time...There will be a piece of land surrounded by houses, and you hope the hunters are doing the right thing.

Impacts of Hunting on Sunday on Attitudes and Behaviors

When participants were asked if hunting on Sunday would impact their normal routine and the activities they normally did on Sundays, five responded that it would and three stated it would not. One landowner and hunt club owner suggested variations on hunting on Sunday such as still hunting, quail hunting, and the prohibiting of dog hunting.

I think the people I speak for generally have more than one interest, because they are kayakers and birders or horseback riders or hikers; and they are birders...Partly, I am going to have much less success if there is hunting; but also there is danger. I know it's there. I do this all around the country...in wildlife management areas all over the country, and it is dangerous – so it would impact me. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

Personally, [hunting on Sunday would] not [impact my Sunday routine or activities] a lot because we hike in Goldsboro. For the Policy Council and some of the families that have expressed their interests to us, and some in the more rural communities, they said they wouldn't feel safe about going for a family hike or a picnic. And there are some that maybe would go out for a family hunting trip; but there is a balance for the diversity of interests and having some time for those families that want to do other activities together safely. Some families wouldn't feel safe on their own land because boundaries are not clear; some wear vests all other days, except Sundays, on their own property. Also pastors and leaders of congregations have expressed that the services – they schedule things following services on Sunday, and they oftentimes have all day family picnics afterwards; and they know their lands would be imposed upon if hunters were out on Sundays.

It's obvious my recreation would change. There are very few areas, public lands, where you can ride horses...like a state park. A lot of our members share with hunt clubs – private lands...[Fall] is the nicest time of year in North Carolina. It's cool, the tics are down. Deer season is a long stretch of time.

Sundays I like to get out and jog and walk, and areas I do that in, during hunting season, I won't. If Sunday hunting was established, that is one activity I wouldn't do on Sundays. (Landowner/hunt club member/manager/hunter)

Hunting on Sundays would be a plus, quail hunting would be a plus; but dog hunting with deer does not have no place on Sunday, and that is just a fact. I don't hunt on Sunday. (Moderator: Would you?) My wife and I get along really well. If my wife wanted to go still hunting, then I might go; but if not, that is my family day. It wouldn't change my routine at all, but I can see where a lot of people who would enjoy it. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

With my two young daughters, I wouldn't feel safe, just wandering around the farm if there was...so, my routine would change. (Landowner/nonhunter)

No, my Sunday would not change. I'd still take the day off. I wouldn't hunt Sundays. (Landowner/hunter/retired)

When asked if hunting on Sunday would have an impact on participants' recreation-related expenditures, no one responded that it would.

Well, that would be small [impact] – the cost of what I would spend. Well, it may go down a little bit, but we are talking about mileage. The stuff that I buy is going to be sitting at the house, so it's not like there is going to be major expenses; but there is the enjoyment, and that is priceless. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club/Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

When asked if hunting on Sunday would change their views of and level of support for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, participants made a distinction between the state legislature, which they held responsible for enacting the law, and the Wildlife Resources Commission, which they viewed as merely the enforcers of said law.

From the [North Carolina Family] Policy Council's standpoint the opinion would just be, understanding why it was done – a burden of proof should be shown to overturn a current law that has been on the books for 150 years; and that burden has not been shown whatsoever, and not even come close to showing why its justified in changing that – with the balance of interests beyond the hunters.

No, I don't think it would [change my opinion of the Wildlife Resources Commission] because they have a responsibility to manage the resources of the state, and the best way that they see fit in accordance with state law and public opinion at times. I would hope that they would not change it if the public opinion that they solicit through the survey shows that it is not favorable, and I don't think that the legislature would either. If it were to change, there would have to be public opinion to support it. There would have to be legislative movement to support it, and therefore, my opinion of them would not change. (North Carolina Division of Forest Resources)

The opinion of the Wildlife Resources Commission would not change, because they are merely the enforcers of the law. The law would have to be changed by the legislature. (North Carolina Family Policy Council)

Wouldn't change my opinion. They are the managers of the wildlife. They make their suggestions on harvests and that. (Landowner/hunt club member/manager/hunter)

Arguments For and Against Hunting on Sunday

The focus group discussion had addressed the arguments against hunting on Sunday outlined for the discussion, participants were next asked their opinions on various arguments in support of hunting on Sunday. The first argument read, "The church and state should be separate and any arguments against allowing hunting on Sunday should not be based on religious beliefs." In response to this argument, participants referred back to their main objections to hunting on Sunday: the safety concerns for other outdoor recreationists, and the need for wildlife to be afforded a day of rest. Consequently, the aforementioned argument failed to resonate with the participants because hunting on Sunday was not, as they saw it, a matter of religion.

Originally, yeah, I'm sure it was. I think the reason more people would have the opinion to keep it the way it is would not be a reflection totally of religious views, although there would be a certain segment; but I think a larger segment would be people who want to spend time with their families and do other type of recreation without fear or burden of the hunters being around them. A lot of hunters, like myself, need a break. I get run down. I lose weight during hunting season, and I need a day off; and if I need a day off, I know everything else I'm chasing probably needs a day off too. (North Carolina Division of Forest Resources)

I agree that the church was the originator that Sunday is a day of rest. I agree with that. Meat was a factor. Now it is not a factor. I don't need it. I want it. Give them a break. Churches wouldn't have any bearing on it at all. It is just strictly selfish guys. It could be someone that is challenging it because it is Sunday, and Sunday being the Christian holiday – and you have various religions now who take Saturday because it is the seventh day. (Landowner/hunter/retired)

Even if this was considered a blue law, for a moral-issue law versus a recreational or safety issue – They have been held constitutional, and there has been no prohibition from that view... (North Carolina Family Policy Council)

When asked if "Hunting on Sunday provides additional time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting," or whether "Hunting on Sunday encourages spending interactive time together outdoors," only one person seemed to agree with the arguments. Other participants offered alternative solutions such as designated youth hunts, already-existing mentor programs, and target practice. Other, nonhunting outdoor recreational activities were offered as additional means of spending time outdoors with family on Sundays

You can teach them to go six days. You don't need Sundays. (Landowner/hunter/retired)

But again, there is still the same people six days a week who could be enjoying horseback riding or enjoying hiking or picnicking. (North Carolina Family Policy Council)

If the person wants to shoot, they can go to the shooting range for skeet shooting and teach a child how to handle a weapon without having to shoot an animal – and under better supervision. (Landowner/hunter/retired)

About three or four weekends, we have youth hunts. We have kids that are from single-parent households who have kids, where the weekend is the only time that they have to spend with someone. There is the opportunity on a Sunday afternoon that you have more time to develop with that person and try to mentor them. Hunting is teaching them about discipline, ethics, caring for our natural resources and our wildlife. Hunting is about fellowship, enjoying the creation that is here. With the deer population and the management principles I'm working towards, and my club is working towards – if there is an opportunity to take that animal out, we can take that animal out. To have time to spend with less fortunate children who wouldn't have any other time to be introduced to that. (Landowner/hunt club member/manager/hunter)

Participants were asked to evaluate economic arguments in support of hunting on Sunday, such as, “Hunting on Sunday would provide additional days for hunting and help out local economies that depend on hunting,” and, “Because hunting on Sundays is currently not allowed, some hunters go to other states to hunt. The state loses money that these hunters would have generated for the state by purchasing hunting licenses.” Most participants believed that any positive effects of allowing hunting on Sundays would negate any possible economic benefits to the state or localities, because most believed that the Commission’s budget was already strained. The North Carolina Horse Council representative said that she thought some people would be forced to give up their equestrian hobbies altogether if they did not have the opportunity to ride on Sundays. She recognized that while economic impacts could be positive, gains would be needed to balance the economic losses, such as those associated with horseback riding.

Losing that day for such an extended period of time – deer season – would make some people turn the other way and if that opportunity was gone, they will probably just give up that hobby...to feed the animals 365 days a year and lose a good chunk of time out of that year to be able to ride. So, I think there would be an economic impact, possibly positive, due to Sunday hunting; but it would have to be balanced against the loses that may occur in other recreational activities. (North Carolina Horse Council)

Most of our country stores would be closed anyhow. It would have a big economic impact if these stores stayed open, but I don't think there is many – most of them is family and church going people. They aren't going to be open on Sunday. (Landowner/hunt club owner/hunter)

They are understaffed and overworked based on who I've talked to. I'm sitting here thinking that the economic benefits are almost a wash. (Lower Cape Fear Bird Club and the Carolina Bird Club/lapsed hunter)

Opinions on Hunting on Sunday with Restrictions

Participants were asked their opinions on a few variations of hunting on Sunday; that is, allowing it only under certain circumstances. No participants agreed with any of the variations. In fact, the landowner who had previously stated that he would like to be able to hunt on his 20,000-acre tract, now opposed the variation of private land-only hunting because of perceived law enforcement difficulties.

If it were allowed only on private land?

That gets back to enforcement. The land has to be posted on both sides of the highway so, it comes back to enforcement. I would like to say yes, that would be nice; but there are other aspects. (Landowner/nonhunter)

It wouldn't change my opinion. It would create more problems because most of the land in this part of the state is privately owned anyway and if you get landowner 'A' says 'yes,' and landowner 'B' says 'no,' an enforcement officer isn't going to know the difference. (Landowner/hunt club member/manager/hunter)

If it were allowed only after 1 p.m.?

I wouldn't limit it to a certain timeframe except sunrise and sunset. Any other time doesn't make any sense. (Landowner/hunter/retired)

And it if it to avoid church activities, like someone mentioned earlier, church activities oftentimes last beyond just one o'clock. (Landowner/nonhunter)

Summary

With the exception of one member, all participants in the Clinton stakeholder focus group were opposed to hunting on Sunday. The majority of opposition was due to safety concerns for other residents and outdoor recreationists, and also a belief that wildlife needed a day of rest. One landowner wanted to support restricted hunting on Sunday on private lands but shortly thereafter changed his mind after considering issues of law enforcement. Some participants were already concerned with Wildlife Resources Commission staffing levels. One landowner and hunt club owner supported hunting on Sunday if restricted to still hunting for deer, and emphasized that dogs should not be allowed on Sundays. He also mildly suggested opening quail hunting on Sundays.

4. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS – HUNTERS

To qualitatively gather information on hunter views of Hunting on Sunday, we conducted 6 hunter focus groups throughout the state during February and March, 2006. The purpose of these meetings was to 1) provide a qualitative assessment of hunter views (the variety of views and concerns), 2) explore these views through discussions and personal interactions, and 3) provide guidance to the development of the mail survey instrument (the quantitative assessment)

In order to ensure involvement by the major hunting interests in the state as well as a broad “general hunter” perspective, we conducted 3 of these focus groups with representatives from selected hunting groups (groups were identified and asked to designate representatives for 1 or more focus group) and the other 3 with randomly selected licensed hunters (see Appendix C for the listing of hunting interests represented). All participants were provided with \$30 to cover their travel expenses and time. A total of 74 individuals participated in these focus groups (10-15 at each location).

A discussion guide (also in Appendix C) for these focus groups was developed using the notes from the stakeholders meetings and in conjunction with the WRC. The same discussion guide was used for all 6 meetings. Topics covered included attitudes towards hunting on Sunday, potential impacts of hunting on Sunday on participation, reasons for opposing or supporting, perceptions of landowner issues, and responses to a variety of ways of implementing hunting on Sunday (under different levels and types of restrictions.) Each meeting was audio-taped, and we used these tapes to prepare a summary of each meeting, including many direct quotations from participants. These meeting summaries are included here as Appendix C. This section of the report provides an overall summary of the focus groups.

Group Profile

The 74 hunters that participated in the hunter focus groups represent a wide range of hunting interests. Participants were all Caucasian, and all but one was male. Ages ranged from approximately 30 years old to nearly 80 years old. In attendance at each meeting were a number of bow, muzzleloader, and gun hunters (including rifle, shotgun, and handgun). Both still and dog hunters were well represented. Finally, a wide range of hunting interests participated, including several who reported that they hunt “everything” as well as individuals who reported themselves as deer hunters, bear hunter, turkey hunters, grouse/quail hunters, waterfowl hunters, coon hunters, fox hunters, squirrel hunters, rabbit hunters, dove hunters, boar hunters, coyote hunters, bobcat hunters, and trappers. Two participants mentioned their work as hunting preserve operators (upland game and waterfowl), several talked about their work as hunter safety educators, and one reported that he owned a local sporting goods store. Finally, several participants talked about their work as church officials, and several at each meeting were landowners.

Though the comments made during the focus group and summarized in this report do not reflect the views of any person or group other than the individuals present, it is informative to know the breadth of interests involved. Stakeholder groups with which participants were affiliated include the NC Bear Hunters Association, the NC Coon Hunters Association, the NC Trappers

Association, the NC Bowhunters Association, the NC Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Quail Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, the Quality Deer Management Association, Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) clubs, local hunt clubs, and the North Carolina Taxidermists Association.

Attitudes toward Hunting on Sunday

One of the first questions asked of focus group participants was whether they supported or opposed hunting on Sunday, and what were the major reasons behind their attitudes. In general, the levels of support for and opposition toward hunting on Sunday varied by region. Most of the participants in the two Coastal region meetings opposed hunting on Sunday; 15 out of 24 participants opposed it, 8 supported it, and 1 remained neutral. Participants in the Piedmont and Mountain regions were much more supportive of hunting on Sunday. In the Piedmont, 17 of 23 participants supported hunting on Sunday, 1 was opposed, and 5 were neutral. In the Mountain region, 23 of the 27 participants supported hunting on Sunday, 2 opposed it, and 2 remained neutral.

The major reasons listed by participants for supporting hunting on Sunday included having more days to hunt and giving youth hunters and “working” hunters an extra day to hunt. Several participants mentioned that they supported hunting on Sunday, but only if it were “done right” (e.g., with or without certain restrictions).

“Kids that are involved in school projects and stuff like that, they don’t get to hunt on Saturdays because most of your school functions are going on Saturday, so it takes children away from hunting.”

“I support it because, nowadays, people have to work all the time. I know I do. Sunday would allow people more time to hunt, families to get together, it would allow children and kids to not miss school and be exposed to hunting. This is the Bible Belt South, and I’m just as religious as anybody. Preachers say ‘You can’t hunt on Sunday,’ but you can leave church and go start that 200 Evinrude up and pollute the whole county with noise.”

“I support it... On weekends, young people have to be supervised, and they can’t lay out of school unless their parents are laying out of work... It would help the carrying on of the heritage, the tradition, instead of [people] thinking that it’s a bad thing – cause that’s what it sounds like when you can’t do it on Sundays. It sounds like [hunting] is a bad thing.”

“I was raised in a family where Sunday was respected – you don’t hunt, it’s a family day... But again, I have an issue where I’ve got a child that Saturday is the only time I get to take him. Even if I could get home early enough in the afternoon, he’s generally got so much school work, he can’t go. The opportunity on a Sunday afternoon to possibly get out and rabbit hunt or something – I’d like the opportunity.”

Another major reason that supporters gave for their response was personal “freedom of choice”. They felt that individuals should have the right to choose how to spend their time, that landowners should have the right to decide when hunting takes place on their land, and that hunting was as legitimate an activity as any other activity that currently takes place on Sundays. Several

participants expressed the attitude that, although they would choose not to hunt on Sundays because of personal and/or religious reasons, or that hunting on Sunday would inconvenience them as landowners, they still believe that it should be an option available to other hunters. Potential economic impacts for North Carolina and local communities through increased license sales and increased hunting-related expenditures were also mentioned as a reason to support hunting on Sunday.

“I fully support Sunday hunting. I don’t know if I’d ever hunt on Sunday or not myself, but I think that everybody ought to have that choice if they want to.”

“We have the freedom to choose a lot of things. Why shouldn’t we also have the opportunity to choose to hunt?”

“It’s legal to trap and legal to fish on Sundays... And you can use a firearm for dispatch on Sunday... Why can’t we hunt?”

“Everybody’s got a choice. You could go to church on Sunday morning. And then, if you want to go hunt in the afternoon, that’s fine. If you work six days a week, that may be the only time you got. People do everything else in the world on Sunday.”

“I would vote for it. I wouldn’t participate as a matter of conviction, but I could not criticize anybody else for doing it because of my beliefs. I can’t see anything wrong with it as far hunting itself.”

Opponents to hunting on Sunday also listed their reasons for doing so, and even many of the supporters qualified their support or expressed some reservations with concerns that matched those of opponents. Many of the concerns about hunting on Sunday included family-, recreation-, and church-based concerns; participants feared that it may make existing family and recreation-related conflicts worse. The often described Sunday as the “Lord’s day” or a “family day”—a day of rest for hunters and families that needed to keep its traditional role. Some participants believed that the concept of hunting on Sunday conflicts with the traditions of the “Christian state of North Carolina” and was simply inappropriate.

“I wouldn’t support Sunday hunting. I think men should be at home with their families at least one day a week, and I believe that the Lord put that day for rest. That’s what he tells us.”

“I wouldn’t support it for the wildlife as well as tradition. This being traditionally a Christian state, and respect for the Sabbath. If we hunt on Sundays, we’re going to have to let people target practice and whatever. It goes back to what I was saying about discharging firearms. I think that’s an inappropriate thing to do on Sundays.”

Other concerns included hunting’s public image and private lands concerns. Some participants opposed hunting on Sunday because they were afraid of the possible effects hunting on Sunday might have on public attitudes toward hunting in general. They expressed concerns that hunting on Sunday would place a spotlight on hunting as a public policy issue and open hunting in general up for increased criticism and debate (especially among church members and especially for dog hunting). Landowner rights issues motivated some participants to oppose hunting on

Sunday on the grounds that already unacceptable trespassing issues would become worse (or at least become a problem on Sunday where there otherwise was less of a problem). There was also some concern that hunting on Sunday would increase costs for private property hunting leases and jeopardize local hunters' ability to afford the leases, allowing out-of-town or nonresident hunters to crowd out local hunters on prime hunting land.

“We’re all fighting an image problem, and we really don’t need any more strikes against us. There could be people sitting on the fence that are really apathetic about hunting one way or the other. This could push them towards the negative side. All they have to have is one negative experience, and that’s what they are going to remember.”

“We just have to be careful. Do we gain one extra day of hunting, and turn the public against hunting, and end up losing the right to hunt, period?. We don’t want to go for short term gain and long term lose, but in the court of public opinion, you just don’t know.”

“Hunting has changed from a sport to a big business, and Sunday hunting is going to be shoved down our throat, gentlemen. No matter what we say here tonight, it’s coming because of what I call ‘contract hunting’. The people from the cities, from out of state who are taking land from us right here, right now, to hunt - they are going to be here on Sunday to hunt. My issue is not really about Sunday hunting, it’s about the locals.”

It would help the carrying on of the heritage, the tradition, instead of [people] thinking that it’s a bad thing – cause that’s what it sounds like when you can’t do it on Sundays. It sounds like [hunting] is a bad thing.”

“I don’t think any of us would want to do anything that would want to hurt hunting. We do have an image, some’s good, some’s not so good, and I don’t think we want to push anything down anybody’s throat... I wouldn’t want to tarnish anybody’s attitude towards it, because if we did, they’d come back with lobbying forces that may be stronger than ours since we are on the decline.”

Finally there were concerns expressed over the recreation of hunting itself. Some participants were concerned that hunting on Sunday would have negative impacts on wildlife populations in general (“a day of rest for wildlife”) as well as the quality of deer populations (giving hunters more opportunities to harvest young juvenile bucks). Concern about a possible increase in the cost to hunt and changes to season lengths bag limits was expressed by some, and the potential for conflicts with other recreationists was also mentioned.

“The Wildlife Commission refuses to protect our young juvenile bucks, and the majority of the bucks that are killed every year are 2.5 year old bucks. They’re not reaching the maturity level. Sunday hunting would provide 10 more days of the season, giving hunters the opportunity to harvest even more of those juvenile animals. If the Commission would do something to protect our young bucks, it may influence my opinion somewhat.”

Potential Impacts on Participation, Retention, and Recruitment

Participants had mixed predications about how they saw hunting on Sunday affecting their hunting participation. Slightly more than half overall (percentages were slightly lower at Coastal

meetings) said that, given the chance, they probably would hunt on at least some Sundays (with some saying it would double or triple their opportunities due to conflicts on Saturdays). A few of these individuals noted that their increased days would primarily fall occur during certain times of the year (e.g., bow season, “peak of the rut,”), and many also indicated that they would spend more time hunting with their children. It was also mentioned by several that, while hunting on Sunday may increase the time they spend hunting a little bit, it would primarily take the pressure off of the need to hunt on Saturday (especially for working hunters and youth). One participant noted that he would hunt on Sunday instead of fish. Finally, one participant stated that he knows some people that have stopped buying licenses due to a lack of time to hunt, and indicated that some of these people would start buying licenses again if hunting on Sunday was legalized.

“I know guys that have actually stopped buying their hunting license because they don’t have but one day out of the week to hunt. That’s part of your hunter decline... I think probably some of them would [start buying again if Sunday hunting were legalized].”

“It sure would take the pressure off of having to go Saturdays. How many times do you have social events come up that you could really get some domestic brownie points if you could hunt on Sunday instead?”

The remaining participants predicted that hunting on Sunday would have no impact on the number of days they spend hunting, because either 1) religious and/or family obligations and traditions would prevent them from hunting Sundays or 2) they currently spend Sundays scouting, moving stands, resting their dogs, or participating in another form of recreation and would not change this pattern. In general, participants saw it as providing additional opportunities for children and the working public. One participant (a waterfowl hunter) said that they would actually hunt less than they do now because they usually hunt only during the week to avoid “the fishing crowd.”

Participants generally agreed that hunting on Sunday would provide additional opportunities for youth and working opportunities, and many participants believed that legalizing hunting on Sunday was a critical step in maintaining the hunting tradition given increasing demands on an individual’s time. However, they did not all agree that hunting on Sunday was necessary for, or even related to, retention and recruitment. Some participants noted that, while they understood (and even experience) time limitations for hunting opportunities, they thought that hunting on Sunday would not help that situation (e.g., if they don’t find time to get out there and hunt now, Sunday is not going to make a difference). They stated that lack of interest and lack of access to land were bigger issues than hunting on Sunday. These participants participant suggested that a better way to improve recruitment and retention would be to extend the seasons rather than allow hunting on Sunday.

“You can make time if you want to get out there... I’m a father, I’ve got kids, and sometimes I have to cancel out hunting. But as far as being able to bring more kids into hunting – I’ve got four, and at one time or another they all go with me...If you’re committed to your sport, and you want to involve your family in it, then you’ll do it whether you can hunt on Sunday or not.”

Several participants at each meeting (except for in Lumberton) stated that they would be more likely to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina to hunt if they could also hunt on Sunday. Others said it would have no impact on their travel, and some (particularly in the Coastal region) worried that hunting on Sunday would instead encourage others from out-of-town to travel to their local area for hunting, crowd out local hunters, and increase competition for land access.

“I would [travel more in North Carolina]. I’ve been invited to go up to the mountains deer hunting, bear hunting, with my buddies, and just for one day, it’s not really worth it to me to try to do it.”

Other states that participants traveled to hunt in included Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. However, very few participants (only 2) stated that hunting on Sunday was the primary reason they chose to travel, though it did factor into some other participant’s decisions as a less critical consideration. Most participants agreed that hunting on Sunday would not affect their out-of-state hunting patterns. Participants explained that many hunters who leave the state do so because vacations are already scheduled, for the unique experience, or in order to obtain quality animals (which they said are difficult to find in North Carolina), not because of the chance to hunt on Sundays. However, several predicted that they might take fewer out-of state trips (e.g., swap them for in-state trips to the Coast for waterfowl).

“It might mean a trip to the coast rather than a trip to Arkansas. We cancelled out, this year, going to the coast duck hunting because our only opportunity was one day rather than two. If we could have hunted twice, we’d have gone.”

“I think more hunters are leaving the state for that quality animal (than because they can hunt Sundays). And that’s the reason I went to Canada, because the quality animal that I’m seeking is few and far between here in North Carolina. A lot of my friends are starting to hunt out of state [for that reason].”

“I go to South Carolina and Mississippi. If I have a whole weekend off, I’m better off going to Mississippi to hunt if that’s what that weekend is for... I’d absolutely be more likely to stay in North Carolina [if I could hunt Sunday]. I think a lot of people would.”

Response to Arguments for and against Hunting on Sunday

Respondents were next asked to give feedback to a variety of potential arguments for and against hunting on Sunday. The first set of arguments presented was faith-based. Some participants stated that conflicts with church activities (e.g., due to noise from guns, dogs, safety issues) and with church-centered traditions of Sunday as a day of rest were the primary reasons they opposed hunting on Sunday, though most participants agreed that hunting on Sunday would have little or no impact on the level of church attendance. Participants feared that hunting on Sunday would be “another thorn in the side” of family members and church-goers that currently “put up with” hunting and harm the public image of hunting in the future. Others, however, doubted that conflicts with church would actually happen (particularly if hunters practiced safe, ethical hunting and certain restrictions, such as safety zones or “no dogs,” were implemented) and held that hunting on Sunday should be a matter of “personal choice,” not a government decision.

They believed that hunting was compatible with religious beliefs and activities, regardless of the day of the week. When the issue of separation of church and state was posed, a few participants voiced their agreement with that argument, though it was not strong overall and many participants were strongly against that argument, stating that society had already moved too far away from traditional beliefs.

“This country was built on the foundation that you should be able to worship where you want to... When it comes to Sunday, it’s just a quiet day. And I would take it personally, too, when somebody else goes. It’s just the way life is for me. I can’t tell you not to go, but I wish you wouldn’t.”

“I’m a pastor for a little church, so I’m not going to hunt on Sunday. But when you examine the legalities of it, tradition and how you feel spiritually is really not going to have much weight in the courtroom.”

“I also am a bi-vocational minister, and Sunday has always been a family day. I think that Sunday not being a legal hunting day has salvaged a lot of marriages. I feel like it would be bad for the family.”

“I’d hunt a whole lot more, I’d have more time to be in the woods with my kids. Now, let me do say I am a faithful church member, and I will be in church when the time comes – Sunday school every Sunday morning at 10:00, preaching at 11, afternoon service at 7. I will still be in church, but I’d get some time on the water or in the woods in the morning and also in the afternoon... It would really be a blessing to have a more time with my children, hunting with them, and also as a working class hunter.”

“I can see a problem maybe with a dove hunt. Because there’s a lot of shots fired, and if you had a corn field next to a church, I can maybe see that being a problem. But deer hunting, any other kind, I don’t see it affecting a church.”

“Since there’s a lot of rural churches out in hunting areas, that a lot of people sitting in church would be – maybe not worried to death – but they would be uneasy as to whether or not a bullet was going to come flying through the window from somebody in the distance shooting... “

“Has anybody done a study about how many bullet holes are in the churches from the other 6 days of the week? People go to church on Wednesday; they have church functions on Saturday. Our church does all the time. I’ve never heard of any problems with that. But when it comes to Sunday, everybody goes ballistic! What about the other days?”

“I think there needs to be safety zones set up so many yards away from churches. I just don’t see people setting right out to hunt behind a church and fire their guns when a service is going on. Dogs running through the yards or whatever.”

“I agree. It is a family day. It is God’s day. But hunting doesn’t take away from that. You go after church.”

“A lot of that would be outrage from where I live. There’s some people that tolerate hunters because they have family members that hunt. If it went on Sundays, it’d be like

another thorn in the side. I know that they'd be against it. Of the club I'm in I only know one guy that would probably hunt [on Sundays]. I know the church would be real against it – the church I go to. There'd be a lot of strife between the ones that do hunt and the ones that don't."

This country was founded on Christian beliefs, and that is going against everything this country stands for. I just totally cannot back up [the separation of church and state argument]. If you read the Declaration of Independence, our founding fathers based this country on that belief. Of God. What's wrong with our country today is we're getting away from that faith in God."

"I think it's a matter of each individual. It's a personal opinion or belief. You're not supposed to work on Sunday per se, but I think everyone here would agree hunting is not work. It's enjoyment."

"Hunting is where you go for spiritual renewal in a lot of cases. When you're sitting in that tree is when you're getting that spirit renewed."

"Whether it's an appropriate activity for Sunday, only an individual can answer that... And if you're Jewish, Saturday's your Sunday. It's a Christian-type thing and it's not respectful of all religions to even ban it on Sundays."

When asked about potential for conflicts between hunters and other recreationists, results were mixed. A few participants believed that Sunday, being a "family day" and a "day of rest" should be set aside for families to spend time outdoors without worrying about their safety. Most participants believed that concerns for conflicts with other recreationists were inflated and not as major as the public believed them to be. They also defended hunting on Sunday from an equity standpoint, stating that hunters had as much right to be outdoors as any other type of recreation – especially since they often had to pay for their access and only participate in hunting during part of the year. One participant noted that many recreationists are probably not even aware that hunting is not allowed on Sundays or that hunters are there on other days of the week, and feared that simply bringing it to their attention with this hunting on Sunday issue could cause problems.

"Per 100,000 people, that number of people that get shot by other than hunters is .001%."

"When you hunt on Game Land in North Carolina, you have to buy a permit. Do you have to buy a permit to ride a horse? To hike? None of those things. All of those people get to use the area for free. And they're the one's causing the erosion problems on Game Lands."

"I think that a lot of your hikers on some of the National Forest land – they're not even aware whether there's hunting going on or not. If you make them aware of it, they might start [protesting]."

"A lot of kids like to ride ATVs. That's the day we used to go out and ride ATVs. On Sundays. A lot of times I do bait my deer stands on Sundays. It would be a lot safer for your kids riding around on Sundays and you, too, if a guy didn't have a chance to shoot a rifle half a mile down the road."

Some participants thought that hunting on Sunday had the potential to possibly harm some wildlife populations, and they were generally ok with the Commission adjusting bag limits and seasons to prevent these negative impacts. Others didn't see how hunting on Sunday would make a difference on the total harvest. Some participants talked specifically about the waterfowl season, and it was suggested by a couple of participants that the Commission consider cutting out waterfowl hunting on one or more other days during the week in order to keep as many weekend days as possible.

“If the Commission thinks that the population is too low, they can change bag limits, regulations.”

“The state can set that duck season any way they want to (within the federally granted number of days)... Basically, what it boils down is if we get Sunday hunting, we'll lose our two early seasons. Or, they could allow some days off here in the week.”

The “day of rest” arguments were met with very mixed attitudes. While some participants stated that the animals' need for a day of rest might be a valid argument against hunting on Sunday (especially for waterfowl and small game), others saw no valid reason why wildlife would need a day of rest. From a hunter's perspective, some participants were adamant that Sunday should be a day to spend with family, and that hunting on Sunday would take away from that and degrade family structure and community values. Others were just as adamant that, yes, hunters do need to rest, but 1) hunting is the preferred form of rest for many, and 2) it should “not be the state's decision to make about when and how I ‘rest.’”

“I already let [the wildlife] rest five days a week... If a day of rest is needed, let's make it Wednesday, then.”

“As far as the hunter needing a day of rest, that's not the state's decision to make.”

There was an overall agreement (with some dissent) at each meeting that if hunting on Sunday did indeed lead to an increase in days hunted, there also would be an economic benefit (the expected size of which varied greatly) due to additional gas and meal purchases for local hunts and the additional longer in-state trips they may take to other parts of the North Carolina (lodging, etc.). Other economic benefits mentioned were an increase in business opportunities for hunting preserves and sporting goods stores (one of each was represented at the meetings) and an increase in general hunting-related expenditures (e.g., equipment – “you lose more arrows”, “extra set of camos”). Some participants also predicted an increase in license sales, some believing that this increase would be concentrated among out-of-state licenses for coastal bear hunting, others believing new license sale would come from resident working hunters. Finally, some hunters were concerned about a potential increase in the costs to hunt due to anticipated license fees for game warden salaries and increased costs to lease private lands; one participant even predicted a decrease in license sales if this occurred. While some participants agreed that this was needed and acceptable, others stated that they didn't think there would be any additional costs to the Commission and that there should be no impact on license fees.

“I can't say that it would give me more money to spend in the state, but I know first hand that [within a 45 minute drive from here], we've got five different shooting preserves... I would guarantee they would be full on Sunday. When I say full, that means probably at

least 8-10 hunters paying \$500 a day to be down there shooting. And that is a pretty good impact.”

“I think we’d probably draw people from other states like Florida and Georgia. They’ll be able to come up here and bear hunt on Sunday. I think it would have a great impact on our license sales.”

“People done bought their license, their clothes, their guns, the shells. They won’t be doing that on Sunday. I’d say it won’t make fifty cents difference either way.”

“The resources officers have to work on Sunday now anyway, so I don’t see how there’d be any more costs for them. And I’d like to point that every violation that the Wildlife Commission writes in North Carolina...The money for the fees goes to the school systems.”

“Across the board, it would increase revenue. If you stay in a motel, and you’re hunting on your lease, yeah, you’d spend another night in that hotel, eat in a restaurant once or twice more, spend more in gas getting back and forth between your hotel and your hunting lease.”

“I asked a friend of mine, and he was telling me that after they legalized it in South Carolina, land leases went up because people that have more money than they know what to do with all of a sudden can hunt Friday, Saturday, ad Sunday, and they can get a three day weekend. Before you know it, people who work for a living don’t have enough money to compete. They ended up losing land just based on that.”

We finally asked if there was something that might make North Carolina different from the other states that currently allow hunting on Sunday that would justify the current regulation. Three major themes emerged for this question. First, many participant expressed the belief that North Carolina is no different from other states (just “slow to change”) and should adjust their regulations accordingly. Second, some participants referenced the higher human population density in North Carolina compared to other non-eastern states and the resultant rate of habitat loss. Thirdly, some participants identified North Carolina as more of a religion- or faith-based state than other states where hunting on Sunday is permitted and noted North Carolina’s place as one of the original 13 colonies – most of which still prohibit hunting on Sunday.

“I think the whole trend in the South changed except hunting. We’d be mad as a hornet if the whole state was shut down [on Sunday]. I think everything else has moved forward except hunting. And a lot of people would be better off in the woods with their kids than maybe they would be in a bar on Sunday night.”

“The main difference that I see is that we’re more populated than Colorado or Canada or Nebraska. In some of these places, you can drive for 10 miles and never see a house. You can’t drive for 30 seconds here and not see a house. That may be one thing that will hurt us as far as getting [Sunday hunting] is the number of people that live in an area.”

“We’re losing habitat. That’s the bottom line. Every year I lose ground. Our loss of habitat is accelerating, from the coast to the mountains.”

“They’re just as Southern Baptist in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, as they are here in Morganton, North Carolina. They believe in God just like we do. The only difference is that nobody has dared to challenge it.”

“This state is more of a religious, faith-based state... Those states that don’t allow it are all on the eastern seaboard, part of the original thirteen colonies. When you get to the Western states, I remember 20-30 years ago, Sunday you’d have tractors plowing. You wouldn’t see that here. Some of the states that were founded out West, the people that founded them, they just have a different attitude. The eastern seaboard states were founded first, they were under a different circumstance.”

Perception of Landowner Response to Hunting on Sunday

Participants were next asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of hunting on Sunday. Participants (many of whom were landowners themselves) were particularly concerned with this and indicated that many landowners would be against the idea of hunting on Sunday and would likely disallow hunting on Sunday on their land, which would decrease opportunities and increase competition for hunting land access. Some participant stated that, out of respect for the landowner, they probably would not even ask to hunt on Sunday on lands where they suspected the landowner might be sensitive about it. All participants thought it was crucial to include a statement in any new legislation (and ensure that landowners are aware) that hunting on Sunday is at the discretion of the landowner. Participants also felt that trespassing, which is already a problem for landowners, would become even more of a problem. Finally, there was also a concern that hunting on Sunday could potentially increase the price to hunt by raising leases – either because out-of-town hunters can afford to pay more to lease land or because landowners would see the extra hunting day as an opportunity for and justification for increasing leases accordingly.

“They will be divided a little bit, but I think that overall it will win over with them because of simple money. They’ve got to lease their land to pay the taxes.”

“The landowner does have the right to forbid you to hunt on his land on Sunday if he don’t want you there.”

“If I was going to be selfish, I’d be against it because I’m a landowner too, and I’d just as soon not have people around there on Sunday. But in principle, I have to be for it.”

“I’d like [the legislation] to specifically identify that the landowner can limit the hunting – either no hunting on Sunday, or only hunting after 1:00 or something like that. If it’s not in there specifically, you can run into problems there.”

“I’ve talked to a lot of [landowners in my area] that like to get out on Sundays, walk over the land and through their orchards, and they let people hunt... Honestly, they don’t want Sunday hunting. I’ve talked to one lady said that if there’s Sunday hunting, she would stop hunting [on her land] completely.”

“If somebody tells you now you can’t hunt on Monday, you don’t hunt on Monday if you’re hunting on private land. Landowners control it now, so it wouldn’t change anything if you had Sundays. If a landowner said, ‘I do not want you hunting on Sundays,’ and you want to keep hunting that land, you wouldn’t hunt on Sundays.”

“They won’t like it. I wouldn’t ask.”

Effect of Potential Hunting on Sunday Scenarios on Attitudes

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how hunting on Sunday might be implemented. In general, respondents believed that hunting on Sunday should either be legalized entirely (like any other day of the week) or that it should be banned entirely, though a few participants noted either that certain restrictions may make them more likely to support hunting on Sunday or that they would rather have hunting on Sunday with some limitations than none at all.

“I’m ambivalent [about Sunday hunting], but I’m strongly against any kind of private land, public land [restrictions]. It’s all or nothing. Don’t make it where you’ve got to have a Master’s degree to figure out where you can hunt. We’ve got enough of that already... Either say ‘Yes, you can do all hunting,’ or ‘No, you can’t do none at all.’”

“As license holders, they ought to be able to hunt on whatever they want and [can get access to]. Do it or don’t. That shouldn’t be an issue.”

“Not everybody has access to both. If you didn’t get this law to cover public land, I don’t really think it would benefit the majority of people in North Carolina. That would really discriminate.”

First, we asked them for their thoughts on the possible legalization of hunting on Sunday on only public or only private lands. Participants were split on which would be better. There was some limited support for allowing it only on public game lands, but participants anticipated that conflicts would occur on both private lands (especially where landowners chose to not allow hunting on Sunday, but hunters ignore their wishes) and on public lands (where other recreationists currently go on Sunday). The points were made that 1) certain areas of the state have very little public land and public-land-only hunting on Sunday would be unfair to hunters in those areas, 2) public-land-only hunting would put too much pressure on Game Lands on Sundays, and 3) it would not be fair for landowners to not be able to hunt on their own land on Sunday. Many participants saw both scenarios (only public and only private) as bad because it would divide hunters and present inequalities in the hunting opportunities available. This was especially a concern for dog hunting, which they said is forbidden on many public lands and would be a problem with law enforcement if the dogs ran onto private property. However, there was some discussion about public lands possibly being better than private lands if the choice had to be made because it would be less hassle for the landowner and the public would be less likely to oppose it if the state only allowed it on their own lands. There was also some concern from those that opposed hunting on Sunday that these types of restrictions were really just one step in the process of legalizing it entirely, and they did not want to see that happen.

No support was expressed for county-level decisions regarding hunting on Sunday, though several participants were convinced that county-based restrictions would be made. They said that county commissioners would either stop hunting on Sunday altogether, or put restrictions on it as to where, when, and how hunting on Sunday could take place – both of which would increase the complexity of hunting regulations and the burden placed on law enforcement, crowd

hunters into counties that allowed it, and raise prices for hunting leases in less restrictive counties. One participant said that “a state hunting license should be governed by the state,” and others stated that the legislature would be neglecting their responsibility if the decision were passed on to the counties.

“It would overload certain counties. If Caswell or Orange said, ‘OK, we can hunt on Sunday,’ I’m going to find me some land in Orange county... It would drive up lease prices, too, in those counties.”

“It would give us a mish-mash of regulations that you would have to be a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out.”

“It would allow the legislature to cop out... I just think that’s ducking the issue. They’re not fulfilling their constitutional responsibility to citizens.”

“It’s a statewide hunting license. I know there’s a county license available, but if I’m buying a state license, I want to be governed by the state.”

“It would be such an inefficient way to do it. It would drive up costs to the wildlife commission trying to keep track of it all. I hunt down where Edgecombe and Pitt come together. We stand in the front yard we’re in Edgecombe; we go in the backyard we’re in Pitt County.”

Other scenarios were also regarded negatively. If hunting on Sunday were allowed only for certain species or during certain seasons, participants felt that it would discriminate against many hunters and thought it was important for hunters to remain united. The same was expressed regarding the option to allow hunting on Sunday only for certain species, weapons (e.g., bow), or methods (e.g., still vs. dogs). While participants thought that restricting dog hunting and/or the use of guns on Sunday would be the restriction(s) most wanted by the public (and some opponents of hunting on Sunday saw this as the only way it would work), they also explained that it would not be fair to dog and gun hunters, would increase the public image problem that these hunters are already facing, and would cause conflicts and division among hunters. Participants thought that it was important for hunters to remain united and that Sunday be “all or nothing” from this standpoint.

“If you take the dogs out of hunting, I care nothing about it. That’s all I enjoy. I don’t think you could do anything that would end dog hunting in North Carolina quicker than hunting on Sundays because of people running around churches.”

“[No dog hunting] would probably be the number one restriction that people would want... I don’t dog hunt, but I got respect for him... Who am I to say we just cut him out? That kind of atmosphere would just cause infighting. We got enough obstacles from anti-hunting groups.”

“That’s division between hunters. I want us all to start together, end together, and be together. At some point in time, dog hunting is going to be over with anyway. This kind of restriction will just make it happen faster.”

“That’s not fair to everybody here. That man buys his license and pays his money to coon hunt, and these people that pay theirs to waterfowl hunt, these pays theirs to quail hunt, and the deer hunters get to do it? I don’t think that’s right.”

If hunting on Sunday were allowed only after a certain time on Sundays (e.g., after 1pm), participants first noted that conflicts with church activities might be avoided and that this may be an acceptable limitation. However, the discussion then brought up the fact that many church services and activities take place in the afternoon and evenings, and that this still would interfere with traditional family time and cause conflicts with other recreational uses (e.g., horseback riding). Finally, participants were concerned that if hunting were allowed only on a few specified Sundays that it would cause regulations to be too confusing and would also discriminate against some hunters for whom the chosen Sundays are inconvenient and/or not applicable (depending on the species and type of hunting preferred). Participants mentioned that if restrictions were needed, the best place to start would be to place safety zones around churches for Sunday mornings, similar to safety zones around schools. They felt that this distance might satisfy some of the public’s safety- and noise-related objections and help to lessen the public’s opposition to hunting on Sunday. However, some participants were opposed to this concept as well.

“If [time restrictions] is what it takes to be able to get hunting on Sunday, I’d rather go with half a day than no day.”

“I think the fear about the church thing is just that. It’s a scare tactic. I think it’s going to resolve itself. It’s going to prove to not be an issue for the most part.”

“If that’s the only way it was to pass, I’d be happy with it. I’d rather have half a Sunday than no Sunday. Also, if they would just offer an experimental season and do it half a day four or five years down the road and gauge it then.”

“Again, that’s Christian-centric.”

“I think they could always do safety zones around churches or something to that effect.”

“I think [safety zones] would be discriminatory, because I border a church. But if we only got half a day to start with, I’d take it.”

“Most legislation does have compromises, but I sure would hate to see it, and I would hate personally to be reported that we were in favor of half day Sundays.”

“Tell bass fisherman they can’t hit the lake ‘til 2:00. Now there’s some noise pollution.”

5. PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD HUNTING ON SUNDAY – PHONE SURVEY RESULTS

Methods

For the survey, the research team selected telephones as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. In addition, a central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management developed the telephone survey questionnaire cooperatively with the Commission and Virginia Tech. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire and made revisions to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. The final questionnaire was approved by the Commission prior to training survey interviewers on the study.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Interviewers were instructed by Survey Center managers and other professional staff on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. The survey was thoroughly pretested before data collection took place. The Survey Center Manager had interviewers read through the survey questions individually in order to become familiar with pronunciations, wording, and skip patterns. Interviewers performed internal mock interviews by entering all positive responses to survey questions, all negative responses to survey questions, and a combination of both positive and negative responses. After one hour of mock testing, the interviewers met with the Survey Center Manager and program coder to discuss necessary changes in grammar or wording and/or coding errors. Minor grammatical edits were made to the file used for data collection and calls were then made to survey respondents in the sample for one hour. The program coder and statistician reviewed the data from the pretest and found that no additional changes were necessary.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians edited each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Responsive Management conducted the interviews Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time, using a five-callback design to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, interviewers placed subsequent calls on different days of the week and at different times of the day. Responsive Management conducted the survey in June and July 2006 and obtained a total of 1,212 completed interviews.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1 (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted. The

survey instrument was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The research team analyzed the data using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

Throughout the telephone survey report, findings are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of North Carolina residents, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.815 percentage points. Sampling error was calculated using the formula that follows, with a sample size of 1,212 and a population size of 6,291,182 North Carolina residents 16 years old and older. Additionally, the data were weighted by age, gender, and region of the state so that the sample matched the actual population of North Carolina. Responsive Management tested for nonresponse bias by using a technique known as analysis of waves. Using that method Responsive Management determined a bias in support/opposition to hunting on Sundays associated with difficulty in reaching respondents. This bias was also significantly related to age and gender. Responsive Management weighted the data to match North Carolina age and gender to the US 2000 Census. After weighting the survey result to match age and gender from the 2000 census, there was no longer a significant nonresponse bias. This finding remedied the problem and simultaneously validated the method used for the correction.

The tabulation that follows the sampling error formula shows the weighting factors.

Sampling error equation:

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

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
 N_p = pop. size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
 N_s = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the *maximum* sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

Weighting Factors

Region	Population	Sample	Weight	Sampling Error
East Region female 16-24 years old	121,722	14	1.67	4.857
East Region female 25-34 years old	130,126	20	1.25	
East Region female 35-44 years old	142,854	20	1.38	
East Region female 45-54 years old	122,287	37	0.64	
East Region female 55-64 years old	87,680	50	0.34	
East Region female 65 years old or older	128,319	89	0.28	
East Region male 16-24 years old	149,127	17	1.69	
East Region male 25-34 years old	137,931	10	2.66	
East Region male 35-44 years old	137,742	18	1.47	

Region	Population	Sample	Weight	Sampling Error
East Region male 45-54 years old	114,765	36	0.61	
East Region male 55-64 years old	78,416	41	0.37	
East Region male 65 years old or older	88,217	55	0.31	
Central Region female 16-24 years old	247,160	17	2.80	4.875
Central Region female 25-34 years old	320,459	15	4.12	
Central Region female 35-44 years old	340,072	26	2.52	
Central Region female 45-54 years old	279,896	44	1.23	
Central Region female 55-64 years old	176,716	43	0.79	
Central Region female 65 years old or older	267,590	78	0.66	
Central Region male 16-24 years old	254,498	15	3.27	
Central Region male 25-34 years old	328,808	22	2.88	
Central Region male 35-44 years old	335,301	27	2.39	
Central Region male 45-54 years old	265,559	31	1.65	
Central Region male 55-64 years old	161,317	34	0.91	
Central Region male 65 years old or older	175,223	52	0.65	

Region	Population	Sample	Weight	Sampling Error
West Region female 16-24 years old	116,622	10	2.25	4.893
West Region female 25-34 years old	146,165	26	1.08	
West Region female 35-44 years old	166,893	30	1.07	
West Region female 45-54 years old	154,955	40	0.75	
West Region female 55-64 years old	114,856	34	0.65	
West Region female 65 years old or older	184,128	90	0.39	
West Region male 16-24 years old	123,608	12	1.98	
West Region male 25-34 years old	149,926	17	1.70	
West Region male 35-44 years old	164,258	18	1.76	
West Region male 45-54 years old	147,688	34	0.84	
West Region male 55-64 years old	104,727	37	0.55	
West Region male 65 years old or older	125,571	53	0.46	
Statewide Total	6,291,182	1,212	NA	

For this report, a nonparametric analysis examined how the various responses related to behavioral, participatory, and demographic characteristics. Responses for most questions in the survey were tested by means of z-scores for relationships to other questions in the survey. The analysis examined approximately 303 variables entailing 91,809 calculations.

Note that some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding. Additionally, rounding on the graphs displaying telephone survey data may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

Respondent Profile

The overwhelming majority of North Carolina residents identified themselves as Christian, with 2 in 5 Christians saying that they were evangelical Christians. Nearly all of those who said that

they have a religious affiliation said that their religious beliefs are an important part of their life, and nearly all of them attended a church or other place of worship.

- Most North Carolina residents resided in a rural area or a small town/small city.
 - Central Region residents were the most urban.
- A slight majority (51%) had at least some college or trade school course work; 27% had a Bachelor's degree, and 9% also had a higher degree. On the other end of the scale, 45% had gone no further than high school, with or without a diploma.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions.
- Pre-tax household incomes of North Carolina residents followed a bell curve, with the peak in the \$20,000 to \$39,999 income category.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions.
- The overwhelming majority of North Carolina residents identified themselves as Christian (86%). Of those who indicated that they were Christian (as well as the low percentage who indicated an "other" religion not listed in the survey), 41% considered themselves evangelical Christians.
 - Christians (and those few who indicated an "other" religion) in the Central Region were slightly less likely than those in the other regions to say that they are evangelical Christians.
- Of those who indicated a religious affiliation, nearly all (98%) said that their religious beliefs were an important part of their life, most of them saying *very* important. Furthermore, 83% of North Carolina residents attended a church or other place of worship, most typically 3 to 4 times per month.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions.

Participation in Outdoor Recreation

Avidity of Participation in Specific Activities

Avidity, as measured by the number of days in which recreationists participate, was high for hunting, wildlife viewing near home, and freshwater fishing.

- The survey asked North Carolina residents about their participation in eight outdoor activities: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, taking wildlife viewing trips, observing wildlife near home, freshwater fishing, and hunting. Observing wildlife near home, hunting, and freshwater fishing were the activities in which participants are most avid, measured by the number of days in which they participate in the activity. For hunting (54%) and observing wildlife near home (53%), a majority of those who participate in each activity did so for 20 days or more each year. Additionally, 39% of anglers participated in freshwater fishing for 20 days or more.
 - West Region residents were more avid than are those in other regions in observing wildlife near home, horseback riding, and hiking. Central Region residents showed

markedly less avidity, relative to those from other regions, in taking wildlife viewing trips and in hiking. East Region residents were more avid than are those from the other regions in hunting and mountain biking.

Times of the Week of Participation in Specific Activities

Not surprisingly, outdoor recreationists were most active on weekends, with large majorities of recreationists participating on Saturdays and Sundays. They were less active on weekdays, particularly campers and hikers. Nonetheless, those who observed wildlife near home and anglers were also quite active on weekdays as well as weekends.

- Large majorities of participants in the outdoor activities discussed in the survey participated during the weekends (Depending on the activity, from 84% to 95% participated on Saturdays; and from 66% to 85% participated on Sundays). The greatest Sunday participation was in camping and observing wildlife near home. Also shown was weekday participation, with those who observed wildlife near home and freshwater anglers being the most likely to participate on weekdays. Substantially less than a majority of hikers, campers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers participated on weekdays.

Location of Activities

Public lands were important for hiking, wildlife viewing trips, camping, freshwater fishing, and mountain biking. Private lands were important for hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing near home, and freshwater fishing. Note, however, that many participants used both public and private lands.

- Of the eight outdoor activities, five of them had large majorities of participants who engaged in the activity on public lands: hiking (85% hike on public lands), taking wildlife viewing trips (81%), camping (78%), freshwater fishing (76%), and mountain biking (75%). On the other hand, less than a majority of participants in horseback riding (30%), hunting (43%), and observing wildlife near home (47%) did so on public lands. Conversely, participation on private lands was highest for hunting (92% do so on private lands), horseback riding (91%), and wildlife viewing near home (77%). Nonetheless, except for mountain biking (36% on private lands), a majority of participants engaged in the activity on private lands (ranging from 52% up to 62% for taking wildlife viewing trips, hiking, camping, and freshwater fishing). Note that participants were *not* asked where they participated *most often*; rather, they were simply asked for any participation on public and private lands and could, therefore, have answered that they participated on both types of land.

Conflicts While Participating in Activities

Overall, low percentages of recreationists experienced conflicts with hunters. Horseback riders were the most likely to have had conflict with hunters, although only approximately 1 in 7 horseback riders experienced conflict. Of those recreationists who experienced conflicts, hikers and anglers were the most likely to say that the conflict had been a major problem. Typical

conflicts were that the recreationist wanted to be alone, that the recreationist felt unsafe, or that the recreationist simply did not like the presence of hunters.

- The outdoor activities in which participants experienced the most conflict with hunters were horseback riding (13% of participants experienced conflict with hunters at some time in the past) and wildlife viewers near home (7%). Interestingly, the third most interfered-with activity was hunting (6% of hunters experienced conflict with other hunters). Virtually none of the mountain bikers in the survey experienced conflict with hunters, and very low percentages of campers, freshwater anglers, those who took wildlife viewing trips, and hikers experienced conflicts with hunters.
 - Conflict was greater in horseback riding in the Central Region than elsewhere; conflict was markedly lower in the Central Region in wildlife viewing at home, and conflict was markedly lower in the West Region in hunting.
 - Of those who experienced a conflict, freshwater anglers and hikers were the most likely to say that the conflict had been a major problem.
 - Campers, wildlife viewers near home, hikers, and horseback riders were the most likely to say that the conflict they had experienced concerned safety. Freshwater anglers and those who took wildlife viewing trips were the most likely to say that the conflict they had experienced was simply the presence of hunters. Those who took wildlife viewing trips, campers, and hikers were the most likely to say that they had wanted to be alone. Those who took wildlife viewing trips and hikers were the most likely to say that the conflict had been that shots scared their children or companions. Finally, freshwater anglers and horseback riders were the most likely to say that the conflict had been that shots scared wildlife or fish.

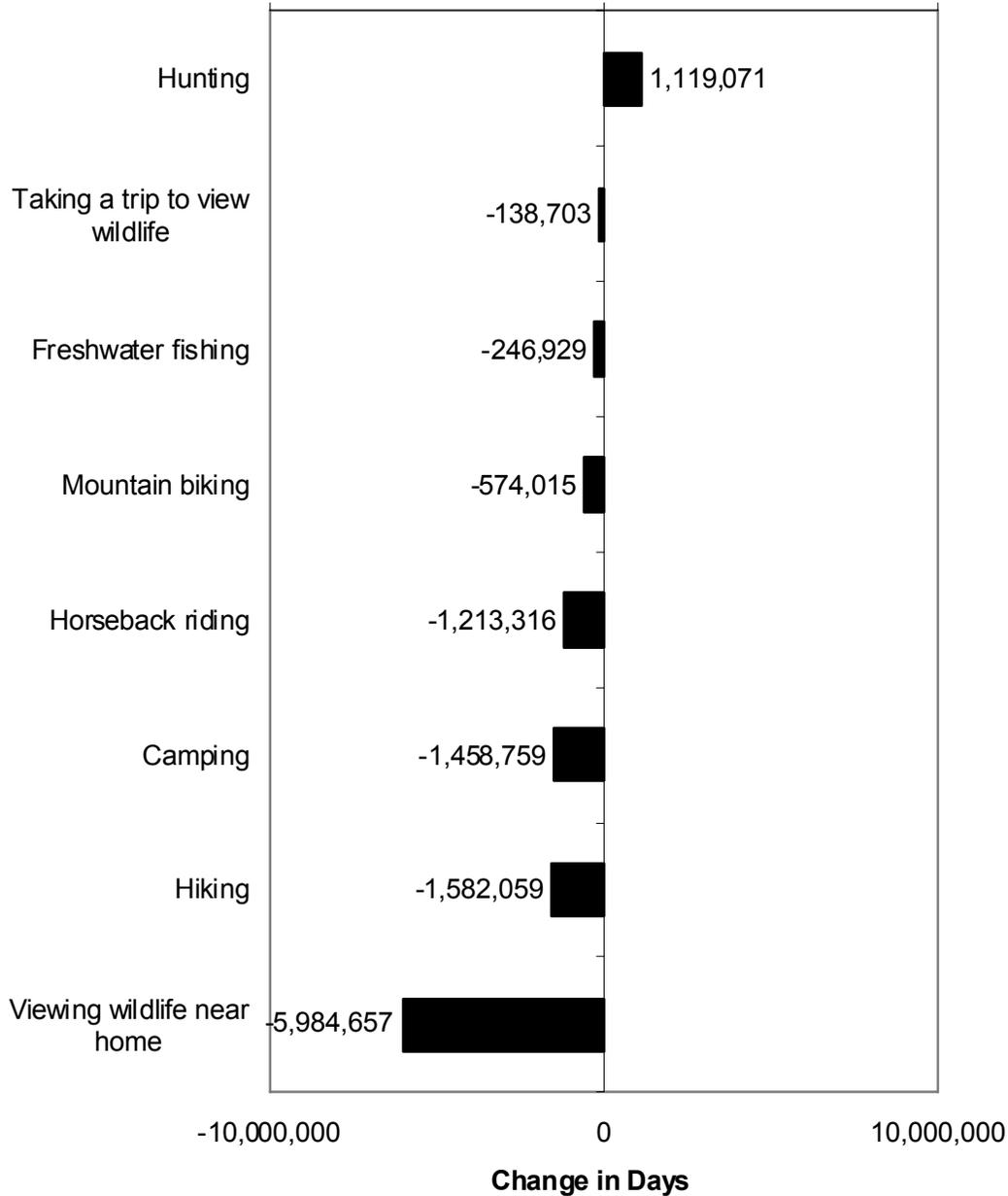
Effects of Sunday Hunting on Participation in Outdoor Activities (Other Than Hunting)

Horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, and taking wildlife viewing trips would be most affected by hunting on Sunday (as measured by the number of participants in these activities saying that they would decrease their participation). In a measure of lost days, the most affected activities would be wildlife viewing near home (accounting for nearly half the total of lost recreation days), hiking, camping, and horseback riding.

- Of the seven outdoor activities other than hunting discussed in the survey (hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, taking wildlife viewing trips, viewing wildlife near home, and freshwater fishing), horseback riding and mountain biking would be markedly affected by hunting on Sunday, as nearly a third of participants (31% for each) in those activities said that their number of days of participation would decrease if hunting on Sunday was legalized. Additionally, hiking and taking wildlife viewing trips would also be strongly affected, as nearly a quarter of participants (22% for each) in those activities would decrease participation. The least affected would be freshwater fishing (12%) and camping (13%).
 - West Region residents would be the least affected (21% or less for each activity would decrease participation); Central Region residents would be the most affected (15% to 46% would be affected).

- In follow-up questions of those who said that their number of days of participation would decrease, the survey asked them how many fewer days would they participate. In this measure, observing wildlife near home, camping, mountain biking, and horseback riding would experience fairly large decreases in days of participation.
- An analysis was run to estimate the number of “recreation days” (1 person participating in the activity for 1 day = 1 recreation day) that would be gained or lost in each outdoor activity if hunting on Sunday was legalized. This analysis was based on the percent of the population that engages in the activity, the percentage of those participants who would decrease or increase their participation if hunting on Sunday was legalized, their estimates of the decrease or increase in the number of days that they would participate in the activity, and the total number of participants in each outdoor activity. (Note that the percentage of the population engaging in the activity was taken from several sources: the *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*; a previous Responsive Management survey conducted for the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; and *Outdoor Recreation for 21st Century America*, by Ken Cordell and others. These sources were used instead of the participation percentages in the current survey because the current survey’s participation rates may be slightly inflated, most likely because those who engage in outdoor recreation may have been more willing to take the survey, and weighted data could not completely remedy some higher numbers in activities. The most conservative approach to deal with seemingly high numbers was to use trusted, valid external sources and independent study. This analysis found that there would be a gain of 1.1 million hunting days, but there would be losses in all other activities discussed in the survey totaling 11.2 million recreation days. The greatest loss would be in wildlife viewing near home, which would lose 6.0 million days. Hiking and camping would also lose many recreation days (1.6 million days for hiking; 1.5 million days for camping).

Projected change in days participating in outdoor recreation activities if Sunday hunting were legalized.



Opinions on and Knowledge of Hunting

Approval of Hunting

Most North Carolinians approved of hunting, and most approval was *strong* approval.

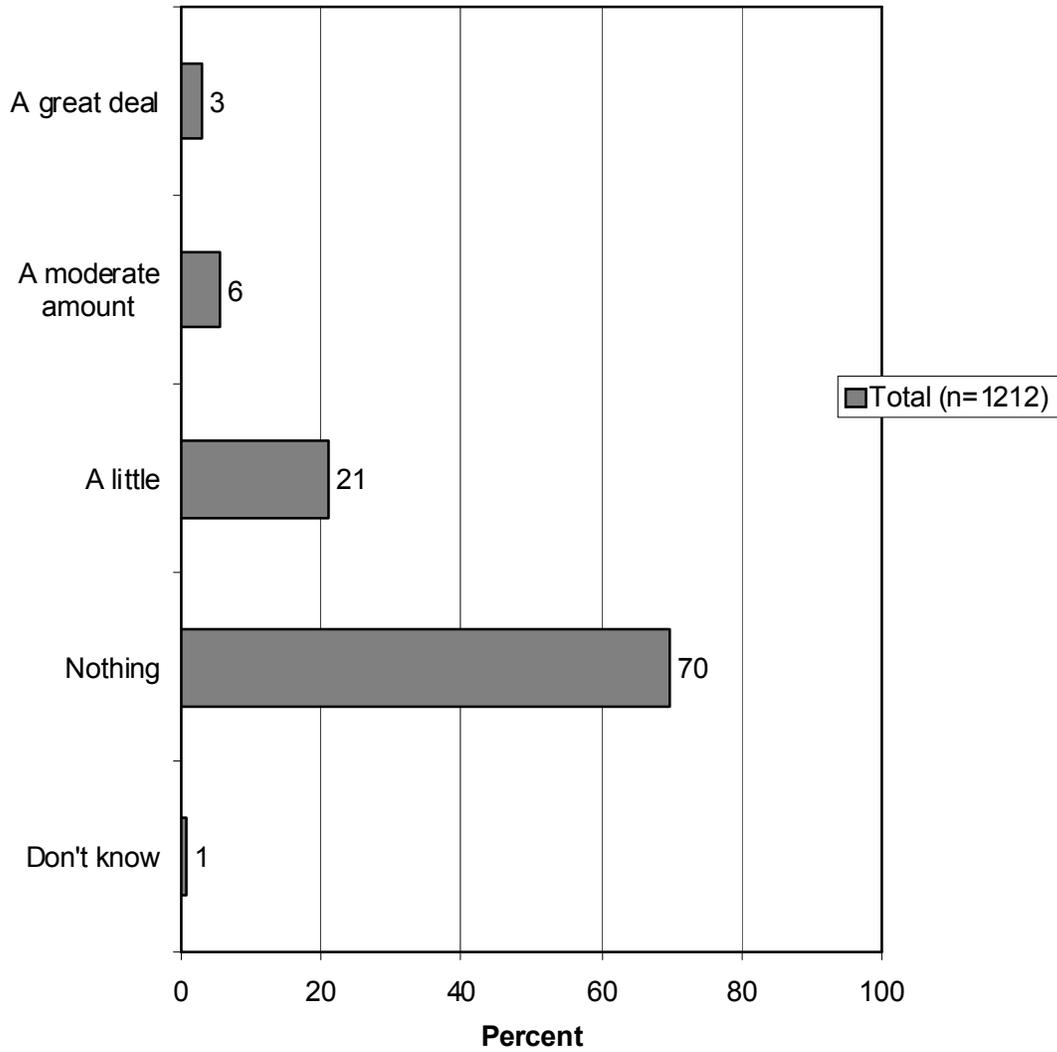
- A majority of North Carolina residents (81%) approved of hunting (with a majority of 53% that *strongly* approved), and only 13% disapproved.
 - There were no marked differences in approval of hunting among the regions.

Knowledge and Awareness of the Hunting on Sunday Issue

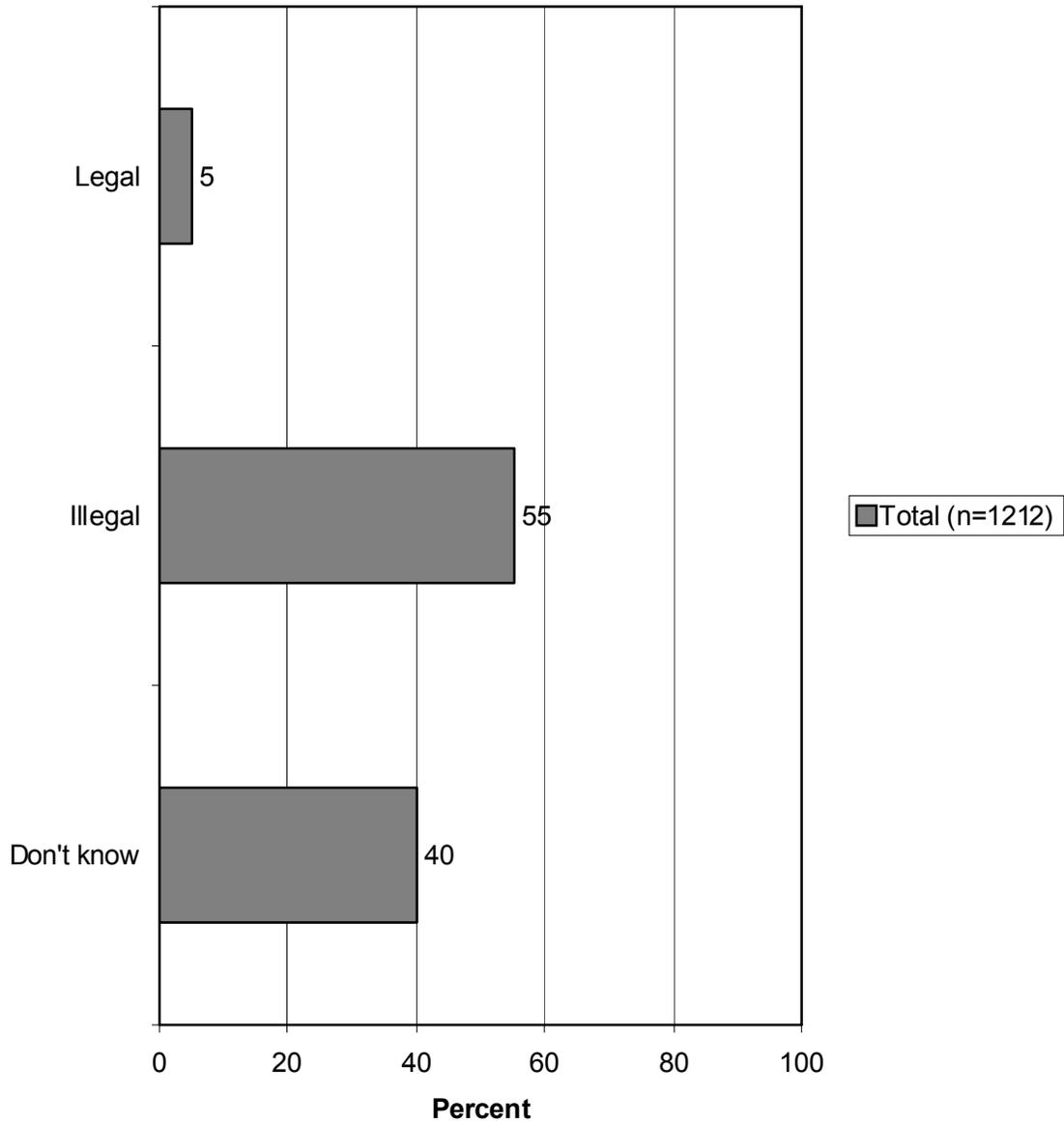
Most North Carolinians had not heard or seen much about the hunting on Sunday issue; indeed, nearly half did not know that hunting on Sunday was illegal.

- A large majority of North Carolina residents (70%) had heard or seen nothing about the hunting on Sunday issue in North Carolina; however, 9% had heard or seen a great deal or moderate amount.
 - There was little marked variation among regions.
 - Nonparametric analyses conducted on Question 138 regarding how much the respondent had seen or heard about the hunting on Sunday issue were run to examine correlations to other answers in the survey. Among the findings, those who had seen or heard a great deal or moderate amount about the hunting on Sunday issue were more likely than were those who had seen or heard a little or nothing:
 - To be likely to hunt in the future in North Carolina, regardless of whether hunting on Sunday is legal or not.
 - To have freshwater fished, hiked, viewed wildlife near home, or hiked in the past 12 months.
 - To have any or all of the following characteristics: being male, living on a farm, and being from 16-34 years old.
 - Conversely, those who had seen or heard only a little or nothing about hunting on Sunday were more likely:
 - To be unlikely to hunt in the future.
 - To have not hunted in the past 12 months.
 - To have any or all of the following characteristics: being female and 65 years old or older.
- Just more than half of North Carolina residents (55%) correctly said that it is illegal to hunt on Sundays in North Carolina. Note, however, that only 5% incorrectly said it is legal, but a substantial percentage (40%) answered, “Don’t know.”
 - East Region residents gave the correct answer (illegal) at a slightly higher rate than did residents of the other regions.

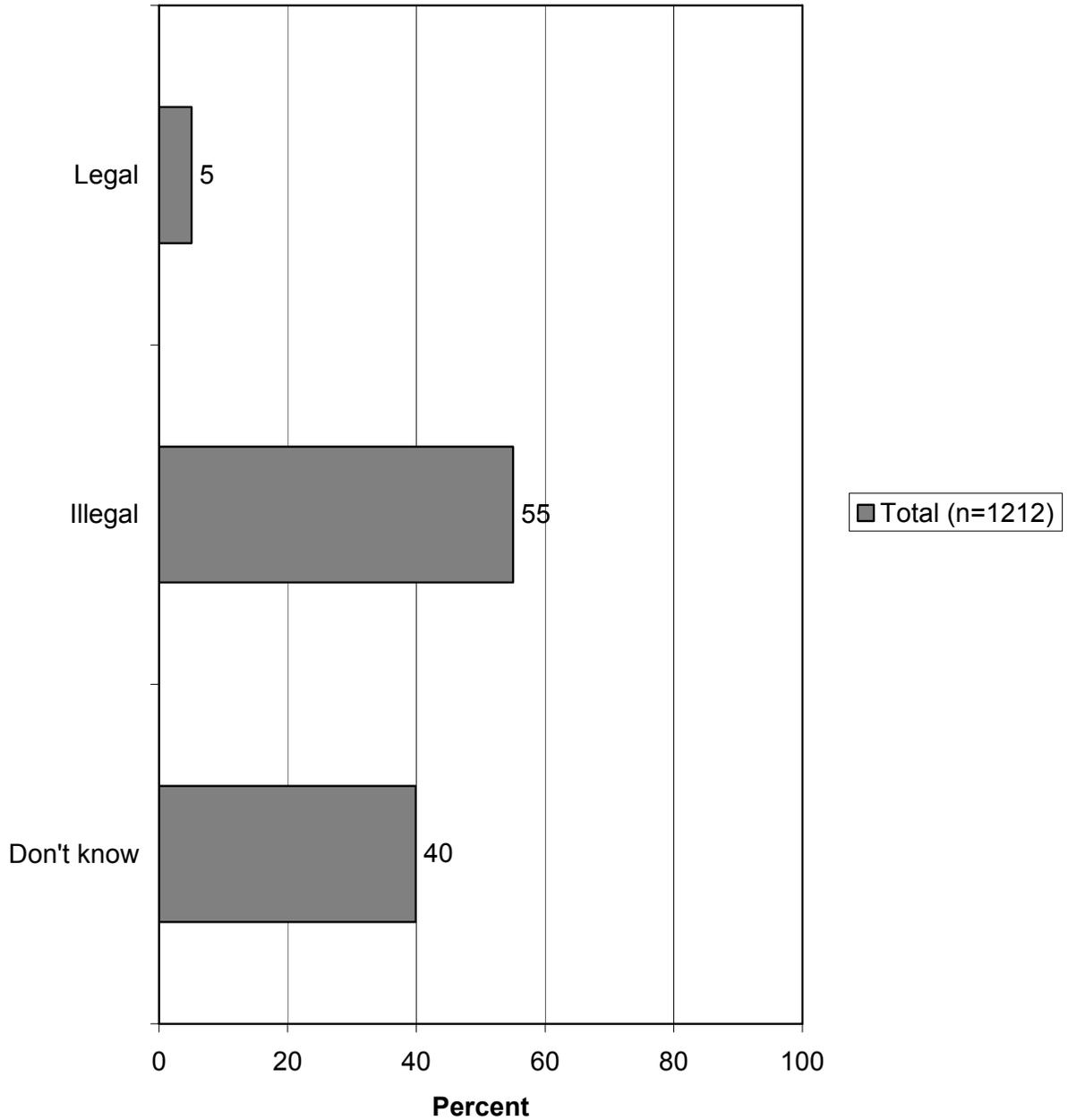
Q138. Prior to this survey, would you say you have heard or seen a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Sunday hunting issue in North Carolina?



Q136. Would you say that currently in North Carolina it is legal or illegal to hunt on Sundays during hunting seasons, or do you not know?



Q136. Would you say that currently in North Carolina it is legal or illegal to hunt on Sundays during hunting seasons, or do you not know?



Support or Opposition to Hunting on Sunday

The majority of North Carolina residents opposed the legalization of hunting on Sunday in the state, with most *strongly* opposed. Opposition was most commonly based on religious reasons. Conversely, most support concerned the separation of church and state or simply having more days to hunt. Males and younger residents were more likely than were females and older residents to support hunting on Sunday.

When asked about their support for hunting on Sunday under specific conditions, the most support (although well short of a majority) was for hunting on Sunday on private lands only. On the other hand, opposition was high for all conditions (the lowest opposition, although still with a majority in opposition, was for hunting on Sunday on private lands only). In short, for the most acceptable condition—hunting on Sunday on private lands only—opposition was much greater than support.

When asked how convincing specific reasons were for supporting or opposing hunting on Sunday, the separation of church and state/it should be a personal decision not a government decision was the most convincing reason to support, closely followed by that hunting on Sunday would provide more days for hunters. However, with the exception of the first reason, less than a majority thought that any of the reasons for supporting hunting on Sunday were convincing. On the other hand, most of the reasons to oppose hunting on Sunday had a large majority who thought the reason was convincing. The reasons for opposing that resonated most forcefully related to interference with other recreationists, religion, or the potential strain on the personnel resources of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

- Opposition to hunting on Sunday was high among North Carolina residents: a large majority opposed (65%), with most of those *strongly* opposed; only 25% supported. This question was asked near the beginning of the survey. A follow-up question was asked near the end of the survey to gauge support or opposition, based on all the respondent heard in the survey: the results were nearly the same, again with 65% who opposed, but with a slight increase in support to 30%.
 - There was little marked variation among regions on these questions.
 - In a follow-up question, those who supported legalization of hunting on Sunday were asked for their reasons for supporting: the most common reasons related to having more time to hunt (Sundays are good times to hunt, to have more days to hunt) or related to separation of church and state/that it should be a personal choice. The results among the regions were nearly identical to each other.
 - In a follow-up question, those who opposed legalization of hunting on Sunday were asked for their reasons for opposing: the most common reason by far was strictly religious (Sunday is a day of rest/the Ten Commandments/religious reasons in general) (62%), and the next most common reason was also religious (that hunting on Sunday would interfere with church activities) (21%). The next four reasons, however, were not strictly religious but concerned interference with other recreation (9%), opposition to hunting in general (8%), hunting on Sunday's potentially negative impact on wildlife (7%), and simply that there was no reason to change the status quo (6%). Again, the results among the regions were nearly identical to each other.

- An additional analysis was run to examine those who changed their mind during the course of the survey. An overwhelming majority of those who strongly supported the legalization of hunting on Sunday at the beginning of the survey (88%) continued to strongly support it at the end of the survey; only 3% of these respondents moved their position to opposition. Likewise, 89% of those who strongly opposed at the beginning of the survey continued to strongly oppose, while only 3% changed their position to support. Finally, those who at first answered “neither” or “don’t know” ended up in three fairly even camps of support (40%), same answer (29%), and opposition (31%).
- In another crosstabulation, support or opposition to the legalization of hunting on Sunday was examined among those who hunted only outside of North Carolina: 67% strongly opposed.
- Crosstabulations of the results of Question 139 regarding support or opposition to legalizing hunting on Sunday were run on various demographic characteristics, such as gender and religious affiliation. In these analyses, the following differences in support and opposition were found:
 - Males were more likely to support legalization of hunting on Sunday than were females (35% of males support; 18% of females support).
 - Younger residents were more likely to support legalization of hunting on Sunday than were older residents (31% of 16-34 year olds support; 30% of 35-49 year olds; 19% of 50-64 year olds; and only 10% of 65+ year olds).
 - Not surprisingly, hunters were more likely to support legalization of hunting on Sunday than were non-hunters (48% of hunters support; 20% of non-hunters support). Nonetheless, 46% of hunters in this sample opposed.
 - Interestingly, hunters who hunted in *and* outside of North Carolina were much more likely to *strongly* support legalization of hunting on Sunday than were hunters who hunted only in North Carolina or only outside of North Carolina (59% of those who hunted in *and* outside of North Carolina *strongly* supported, compared to 28% of those who hunted only in North Carolina and 26% of those who hunted only outside of North Carolina).
 - Hunters were more likely to support legalization of hunting on Sunday than were other recreationists (48% of hunters supported, compared to 38% of freshwater anglers, 36% of campers, 39% of hikers, 33% of those who took wildlife viewing trips, 32% of horseback riders, 26% of mountain bikers, 29% of wildlife viewers at home, and 13% of those who did none of the listed outdoor activities).
 - There was a correlation found regarding support of legalization of hunting on Sunday and the number of church services the respondent attended each month: the more services at church (or other place of worship) one attended, the less likely one was to support legalization of hunting on Sunday. Those who attended 5 or more services per month had a rate of support of 18%; those who attended 3 or 4 services per month had a rate of support of 26%; and those who did not attend any services had a rate of support of 34%.
 - Christians were more likely to *oppose* hunting on Sunday than were those from another religion or who did not have a religious affiliation (66% of Christians opposed, compared to 52% of those who had another religious affiliation and 59% of those without a religious affiliation). Interestingly, however, Christians were not *less* likely to support.

- Those without a Bachelor's degree were more likely to *strongly oppose* legalization of hunting on Sunday than were those who had a Bachelor's degree (55% of those without a Bachelor's degree *strongly* opposed; 44% of those with a Bachelor's degree *strongly* opposed).
- Those with a pre-tax household income of \$40,000 or greater were more likely to support legalization of hunting on Sunday than were those with a household income of less than \$40,000 (34% of those in the higher income bracket supported; 25% of those in the lower income bracket supported).
- Nonparametric analyses conducted on Question 139 regarding support or opposition to legalizing hunting on Sunday were run to examine correlations to other answers in the survey. Among the findings, those who supported the legalization of hunting on Sunday at the beginning of the survey were more likely than were those who opposed hunting on Sunday:
 - To think that most reasons for supporting the legalization of hunting on Sunday were convincing.
 - To think that most reasons for opposing the legalization of hunting on Sunday were *not* convincing.
 - To support hunting on Sunday under many of the conditions about which the survey asked.
 - To say that they are likely to hunt in North Carolina in the future, regardless of whether hunting on Sunday was legal or not.
 - To allow hunting on their land.
 - To have hunted in the past 12 months, both in and outside of North Carolina.
 - To *strongly* approve of hunting.
 - To be willing to pay more for a license to pay for the implementation of hunting on Sunday.
 - To have freshwater fished, hiked, and taken wildlife viewing trips in the past 12 months.
 - To have any or all of the following characteristics: being male, being the median age or younger, and living in a rural area.
- Another finding of the nonparametric analyses is that those who opposed hunting on Sunday because they thought that Sunday is a day of rest and/or for religious reasons in general are positively correlated with strongly approving of legal hunting, suggesting that their opposition to hunting on Sunday was very much that it was on Sunday, not because of antipathy to hunting in general. Indeed, they (those who opposed hunting on Sunday because they thought that Sunday is a day of rest and/or for religious reasons in general) thought religion-related reasons to oppose hunting on Sunday were convincing (they opposed hunting on Sunday because Sunday is a day of rest, because it would interfere with church activities), they said that religion is a very important part of their lives, and they attended church (or other place of worship) 4 or more days per month.
- On the other hand, nonparametric analyses found that those who did not consider themselves as having a religious affiliation or considered themselves agnostic or atheist are positively correlated with opposing hunting on Sunday *because they are opposed to hunting in general*. For these people, the religious aspect is not important, and they would likely oppose Wednesday hunting, for example, if asked about that. Indeed, other positive correlations with having no religious affiliation or being agnostic/atheist include

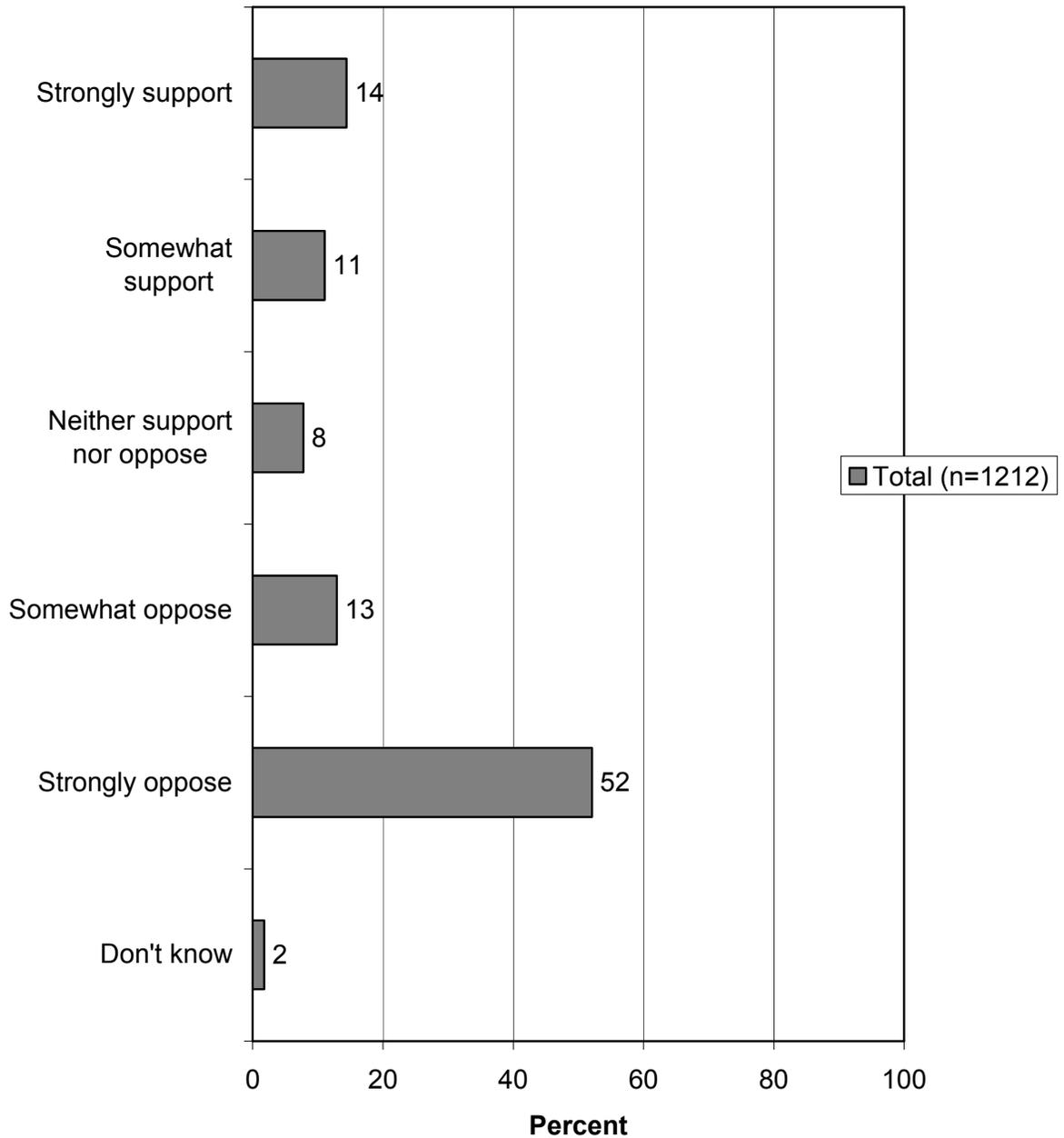
thinking that opposition to hunting on Sunday because it would interfere with church activities or because Sunday is a day of rest was *not* convincing. In other words, religious aspects were not important to them, regardless of the fact that some of this non-religious group opposed hunting on Sunday.

- The survey asked about support or opposition to hunting on Sunday under twelve conditions. The greatest support for hunting on Sunday (although only just over a third supported it under the condition) is for hunting on Sunday only on private lands (37% strongly or moderately supported it under this condition), closely followed by hunting on Sunday only during the regular gun season (35%). Support for hunting on Sunday only on public lands was at 22%. On the other hand, opposition was high for all conditions named: a majority (54%) opposed hunting on Sunday only on private lands, and opposition was greater for all other conditions named, up to 79% who strongly or moderately opposed allowing only youth to hunt on Sundays. In short, for the most acceptable condition—hunting on Sunday only on private lands—opposition (54%) was much greater than support (37%).
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions on these questions.

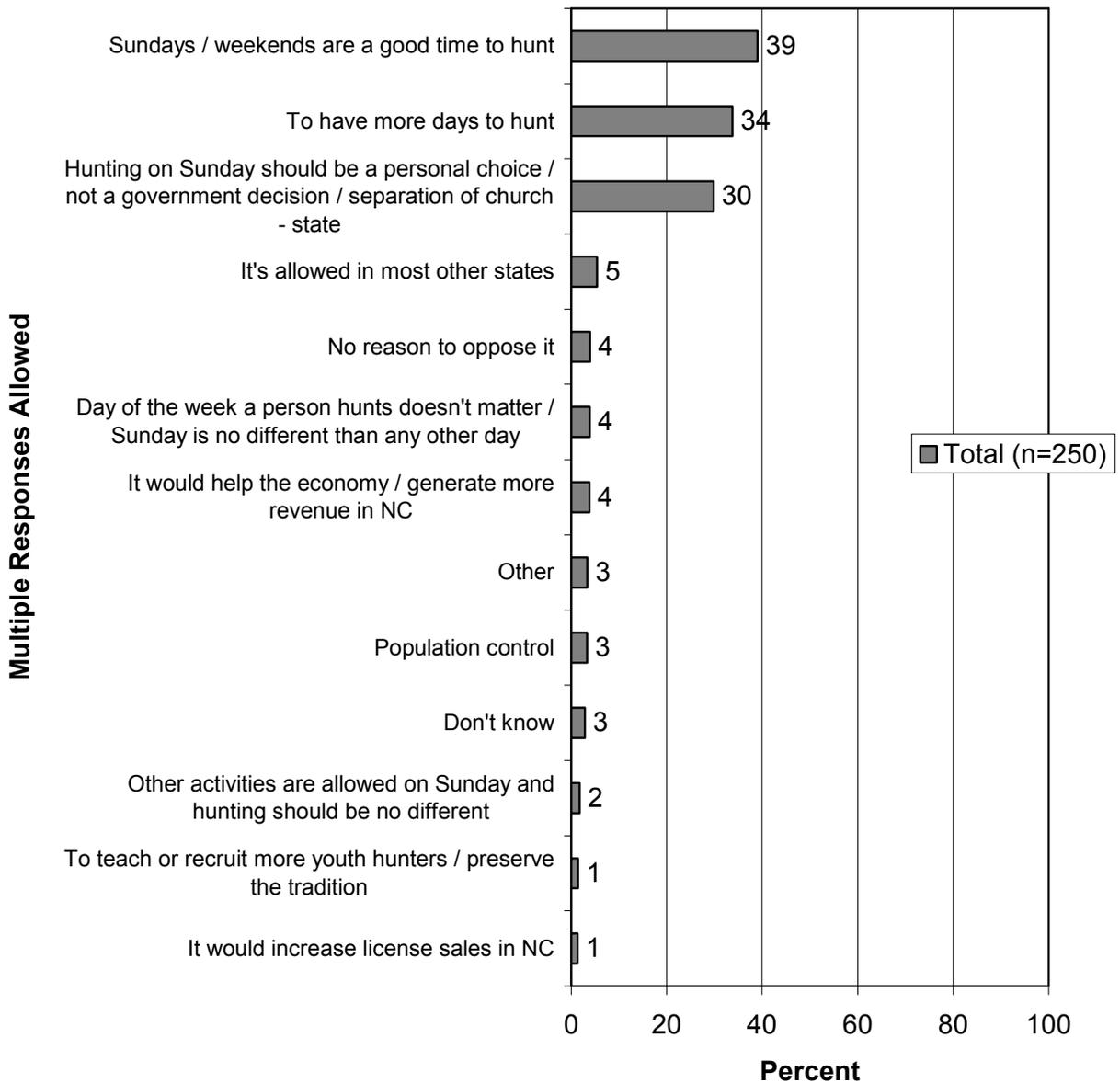
- The survey asked how convincing were six reasons for supporting the legalization of hunting on Sunday. Only one (the decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a government decision) had a majority of North Carolina residents saying it was a convincing reason to support the legalization of hunting on Sunday (58% thought it was very or somewhat convincing as a reason to support hunting on Sunday). Nearly a majority of North Carolina residents (48%) thought that “Sunday hunting provides additional days for hunting” was very or somewhat convincing as a reason for supporting the legalization of hunting on Sunday. Otherwise, no more than 41% thought any of the other reasons were convincing for supporting hunting on Sunday. The lowest reason on the ranking was that “Most other states allow Sunday hunting, and North Carolina should be no different” (32%).
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions on these questions.

- The survey also asked how convincing were six reasons for opposing the legalization of hunting on Sunday. For four of the six reasons, large majorities said the reason was very or somewhat convincing for opposing hunting on Sunday: Sunday is the day for other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters (77% said this was very or somewhat convincing as a reason for opposing hunting on Sunday), Sunday is a day of rest (70%), hunting on Sunday would interfere with church activities (65%), and hunting on Sunday would strain the personnel resources of the Wildlife Resources Commission (63%). The two reasons that directly concerned the quality of hunting (hunting on Sunday would negatively impact wildlife populations; without a day of rest for animals, hunters would have more difficulty finding game later in the season) had less than a majority thinking these reasons were convincing for opposing hunting on Sunday.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions on these questions.

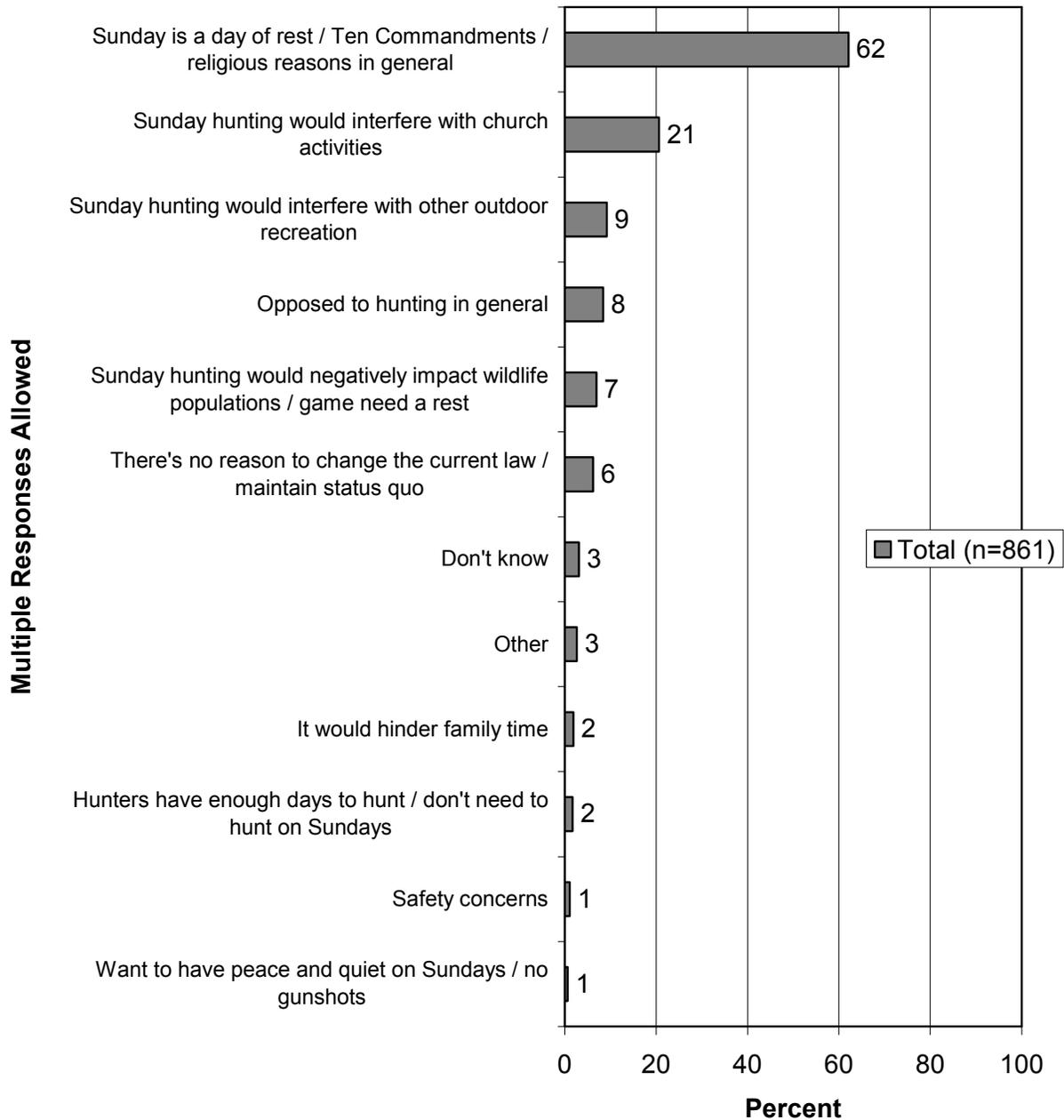
Q139. In general, do you support or oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina?



Q142. Why do you support the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina? (Asked of those who support the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina.)



Q146. Why do you oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina? (Asked of those who oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina.)



Hunting-Related and Outdoor Recreation-Related Businesses

A low percentage of North Carolinians owned a business dependent on hunting or other outdoor recreation, and most of them did not expect that the legalization of hunting on Sunday would affect their revenue stream.

- Although the overwhelming majority of North Carolina residents did *not* own a business that was dependent on hunting and/or outdoor recreation, 2.4% did. Among those who owned a hunting-related and/or outdoor recreation-related business, most did not expect that the legalization of hunting on Sunday would affect their revenue stream. There were no marked differences in results among the regions on these questions.

Funding Issues Related to Hunting on Sunday

Slightly more hunters were *not* willing than were willing to pay more for a hunting license to help pay for the costs of implementing hunting on Sunday.

- Just more than half of those who hunted in the past 12 months (53%) said that they were not willing to pay more for their North Carolina hunting license to help pay for the costs of implementing hunting on Sunday; 40% said that they were willing.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions.

Constraints to Hunting Participation and Likelihood to Hunt in the Future

Constraints to Hunting Participation

Although a fourth of hunters who hunted out-of-state said that the ban on hunting on Sunday in North Carolina influenced them to hunt out-of-state, none of those hunters who hunted *only* outside of North Carolina said that the hunting on Sunday ban influenced their decision to hunt out-of-state. For hunters who hunted out-of-state, it appeared that the hunting on Sunday ban was not an important constraint to hunting participation in North Carolina. Indeed, only a very small percentage of the general population said that they knew a hunter who hunted only outside of North Carolina because of the hunting on Sunday ban. Similarly, a low percentage of hunters (11%) knew a hunter who hunted only outside of North Carolina because of the ban.

- Among hunters who hunted outside of North Carolina in the past 12 months, just more than a fourth (26%) said that the inability to hunt on Sunday in North Carolina influenced their decision to hunt out-of-state. A crosstabulation found that those who said that lack of hunting on Sunday influenced them to hunt out-of-state most commonly hunted in South Carolina or Arkansas. However, none of those who hunted *only* outside of North Carolina said that the inability to hunt on Sunday in North Carolina influenced their decision to hunt outside of North Carolina.
 - East Region respondents to this question were slightly more likely to say that the lack of hunting on Sunday influenced them to hunt out-of-state.

- A very small percentage of North Carolina residents (4%) said that they know at least one North Carolina resident who hunts outside of but not in North Carolina because of the hunting on Sunday ban. Typically, they knew four or fewer hunters that fit this description. The median number that they knew was 4. Even among hunters, only a small percentage (11%) knew at least one North Carolina hunter who hunted outside of but not in North Carolina because of the hunting on Sunday ban.
 - There were no marked differences among regions in whether respondents knew such a hunter; East Region residents typically knew fewer such hunters than did residents from the other regions.

Hunting in Other States

Most commonly, those hunters who hunted out-of-state did so in South Carolina or Virginia.

- South Carolina and Virginia were the most common out-of-state destinations for North Carolina hunters, although substantial percentages hunted in New York, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and Arkansas. In general, Southern states predominated as hunting destinations.

Hunting Companions

Two-thirds of hunters have taken an adult friend or family member hunting, and about half have taken a youth under age 16 hunting. The most typical youth to have taken hunting is the hunter's son.

- Two-thirds of hunters within the general population sample (67%) took an adult friend or family member hunting in North Carolina in the past 12 months.
 - East Region respondents were slightly more likely than were West and Central Region respondents to have taken an adult friend or family member hunting in the state.
- Nearly half of hunters within the general population sample (46%) took a youth under age 16 hunting in North Carolina in the past 12 months. By far, the most common youth that the hunter took hunting was his or her son (47% of those who had taken a youth hunting), distantly followed by his or her daughter (15%). Family far outweighed non-family in this question, as the top answers were sons, daughters, nephews, and cousins. Central Region respondents were slightly less likely to have taken a youth hunting. West Region respondents took sons hunting more often than did East Region respondents.

Effects of Hunting on Sunday on Hunting Participation

About half of hunters said that they would hunt on Sundays if permitted to do so. Also, less than half of hunters said that they would take an adult friend or family member hunting whom they otherwise would not take hunting, if hunting on Sunday was legalized (although slightly more would not), and about a third of hunters said the same thing about youth (although a majority

would not). Landowners who currently allowed hunting on their land were about evenly split regarding allowing or prohibiting hunting on Sunday on their land.

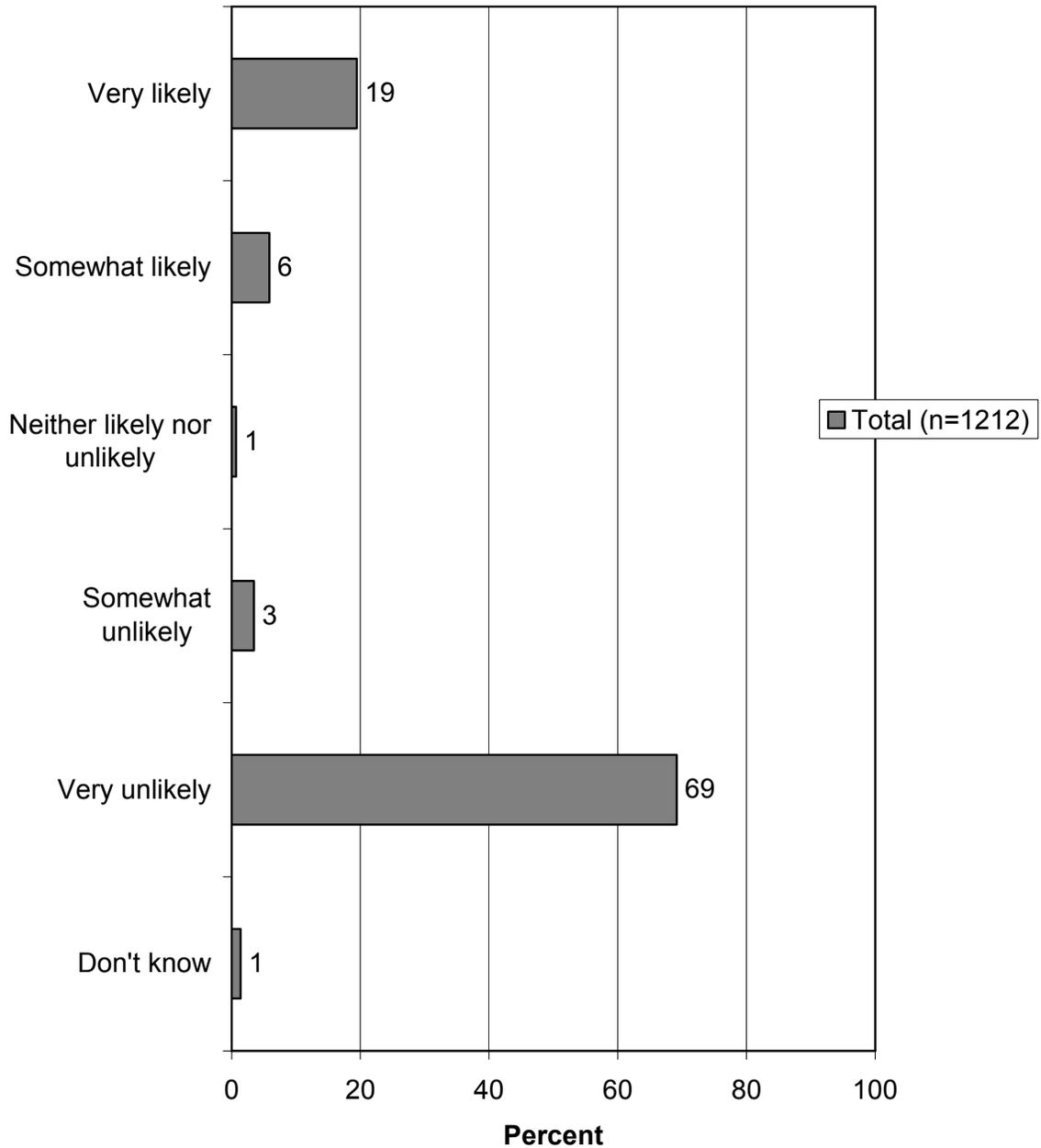
While most hunters said that their frequency of participation in hunting would remain about the same if hunting on Sunday was legalized, about a quarter of hunters said their frequency of participation would increase—both participation in day trips to hunt and in overnight trips to hunt.

- The survey asked respondents about their likelihood to hunt in North Carolina if hunting on Sunday continued to be illegal and if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The results were about the same, with about a quarter of the general population having said that they would be likely to hunt.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions.
- Those who had hunted in the past 12 months and those who had not hunted but expressed a likelihood to go hunting were asked if they would hunt on Sunday in North Carolina if it were legal to do so. Half of these respondents (50%) said that they would hunt on Sunday if permitted to do so.
- Those who had hunted in the past 12 months and those who had not hunted but expressed a likelihood to go hunting were asked about their likelihood to take an adult friend or a family member hunting, whom they would not otherwise take hunting, if hunting on Sunday was legalized: 41% said that they would be likely to do so, but 47% said that they would be unlikely, and most of that was *very* unlikely. They were asked the same question about taking a youth hunting: 31% said that they would be likely to take a youth hunting, whom they otherwise would not take hunting, if Sunday were legalized, but a large majority (63%) would be unlikely, mostly *very* unlikely.
 - Those who indicated that they would take an adult friend or family member hunting were asked how many they would take hunting. The mean was 4.4 adult friends or family members; the median was 3 adult friends or family members. The same question was asked of those who would take a youth hunting. The mean was 2.5 youth; the median was 2 youth.
- Of those who currently allowed hunting on their land, just more than half (52%) said that they would *not* allow hunting on Sunday; 45% would allow hunting on Sunday.
 - There were no marked differences in results among the regions.
- While most hunters in the general population sample (63%) said that their number of days of hunting *not* involving an overnight stay would remain about the same as it presently is, if hunting on Sunday was legalized, about a quarter of those hunters (24%) said their number of hunting days would increase.
 - Among the regions, West Region hunters were slightly less likely than were those in the other regions to say that the number of their hunting days would decrease.
- Similar to the comparison above, most hunters in the general population sample (71%) said their number of overnight trips to hunt would remain about the same as it presently is, if

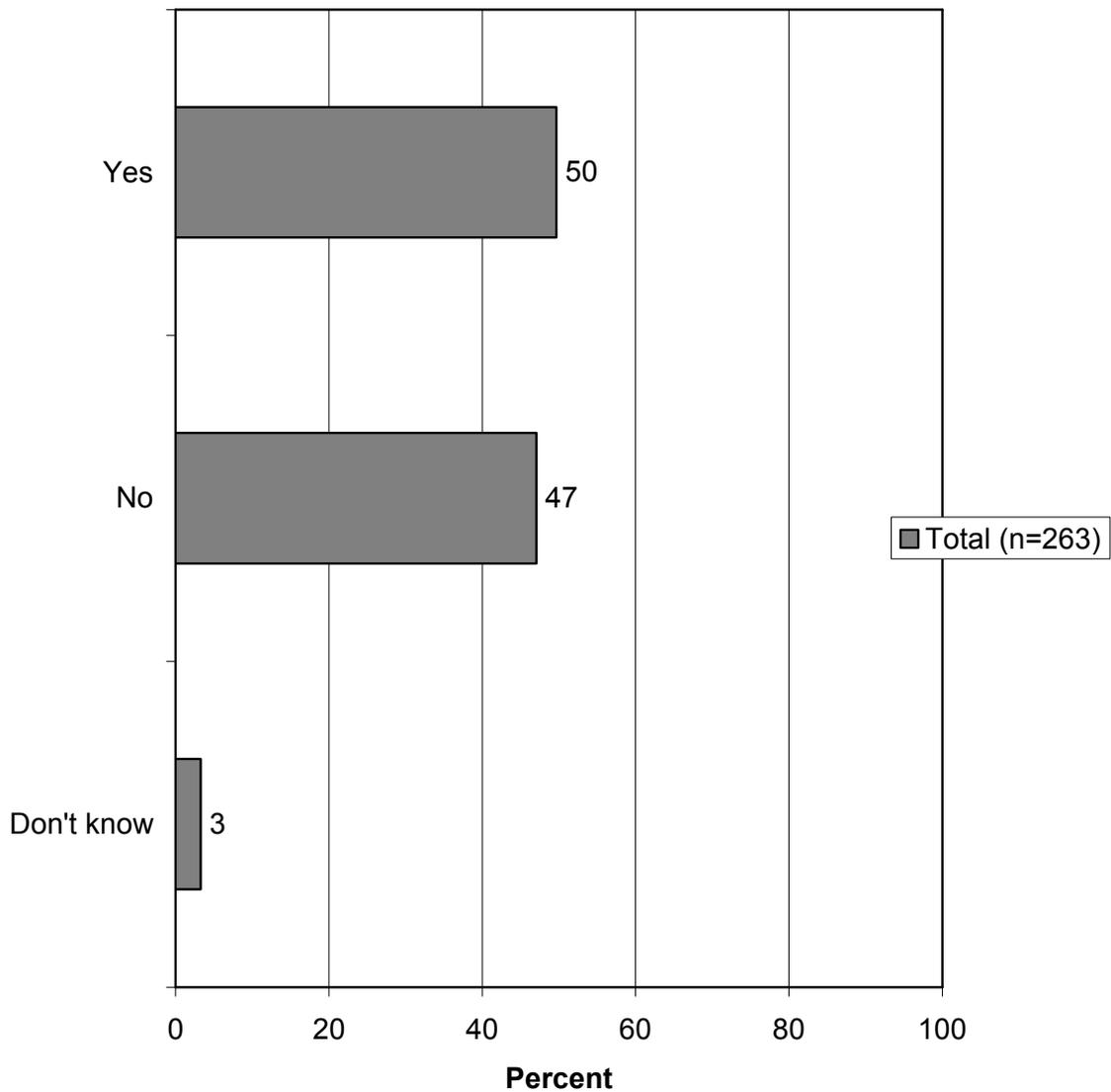
hunting on Sunday was legalized, but a quarter (25%) said their number of overnight trips would increase.

- There were no marked differences in results among the regions.

Q174. Would you be likely or unlikely to hunt in North Carolina in the next 2 years if Sunday hunting were legalized?



Q177. If Sunday hunting were legalized, would you hunt on Sunday in North Carolina? (Asked of those who hunted in the past 12 months or those who did not hunt in the past 12 months but would be likely to hunt in North Carolina if Sunday hunting were legalized.)



6. HUNTER OPINIONS OF HUNTING ON SUNDAY–MAIL SURVEY

Methods

Survey Design and Sampling

Using information gathered from the focus groups (Chapters 3 and 4), we designed a questionnaire to assess and characterize hunter opinions of hunting on Sunday in NC in coordination with the WRC. The questionnaire utilized support/opposition scales (1 = strongly support, 5 = strongly oppose) and importance scales (1 = very important, 5 = very unimportant) to assess strength of support for and opposition to hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. We also assessed support and opposition to hunting on Sunday under several hypothetical scenarios (e.g., Hunting should be allowed only on a few Sundays), and to determine the importance of various reasons in shaping these opinions.

Additional questions focused on determining the potential impacts of legalizing hunting on Sunday on hunter participation in North Carolina and determining demographics of the North Carolina hunter population. We designed these questions to determine participation within hunt clubs, involving adult friends and family members, and involving youth (under 16 years of age) in North Carolina. Standard demographic questions (e.g., gender, age) completed the questionnaire. We also included a question to determine how many days per month respondents attended church or other place of worship.

After development of a draft questionnaire, but prior to implementation of the survey, we tested the questionnaire with a small focus group of North Carolina hunters (n = 10) selected from a random sample of hunters from the North Carolina electronic license database. The purpose of this focus group was to identify necessary survey revisions related to unclear questions or scales or formatting problems. Individuals were contacted by phone, and those who agreed to participate in the pre-test were asked to review the draft survey and participate in a focus group the following week. Information gathered from this focus group was used to revise the questionnaire (Appendix E).

The target population for our survey included licensed resident hunters of North Carolina. In May, 2006, WRC staff drew a random sample (n = 2400) of resident hunters with valid licenses during the previous 12 months. The sample included 800 contacts (names, addresses, phone numbers where available, and date of birth) from each of North Carolina's 3 administrative regions (Coast, Piedmont, and Mountain). The sample also included the percentages of each hunting license type within both the total North Carolina licensed hunter population and the sample drawn.

We administered the mail survey using a modified Dillman (2000) Tailored Design Method, which included a series of 4 mailings. The sequence of mailings was a questionnaire (mailed May 22, 2006), a reminder postcard (mailed May 31, 2006), a replacement questionnaire (mailed June 13, 2006), and a final replacement questionnaire (mailed July 17, 2006). The outer envelopes for the last two questionnaire mailings had colored, high visibility stickers to inform recipients of the purpose of the mailing and to encourage their response. A personalized cover letter was included in the final replacement package in an attempt to increase the final response rate. The personalized cover letter in the final mailing also included information on a \$1,000

prize package sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and the WRC that was to be awarded to one respondent drawn at random from the pool of all respondents (regardless of support/opposition to hunting on Sunday or the mailing to which the respondents responded).

Data Weighting

We weighted the data prior to conducting data analysis. The distribution of hunting license sales was not equal across administrative regions; therefore, we weighted the data to reflect the actual distribution of licenses sales in each of North Carolina's 3 administrative regions (Table 6.1). The age distribution of respondents significantly differed from the age distribution of the original sample ($\chi^2 = 35.614$, $df = 5$, $P < 0.0001$). We weighted data to reflect the age distribution of the original sample of licensed hunters within in each region (Table 6.2).

In addition to weighting, we adjusted the general opinion of hunting on Sunday because significantly more nonrespondents than respondents opposed hunting on Sunday. This adjustment was only used for Question 22 of the hunter survey. The adjustment calculations include the following:

- 1) WEIGHTED SUPPORT = questionnaire response rate (.416) * respondent support (.493) + questionnaire nonresponse rate (.584) * nonrespondent support (.297); and
- 2) WEIGHTED OPPOSITION = questionnaire response rate (.416) * respondent opposition (.447) + questionnaire nonresponse rate (.584) * nonrespondent opposition (.589).

Data Analysis

The questionnaire (Appendix E) was designed using Survey Pro software (V.3.0, Apian Software), which also provides an interface for data entry. Once all data were entered, the database was converted to SPSS 14.0 (SPSS 14.0, SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL) format for analysis. We categorized respondents into hunter types using responses to questions 4-13 (number of days hunted for particular species). Categories included: big game (deer, turkey, and bear days hunted), small game (birds, small mammals, and furbearer days hunted), waterfowl (waterfowl days hunted), and mixed. To be placed into a category, respondents had to indicate $\geq 80\%$ of their total days hunted (the sum of days hunted in questions 4-13) involved only the species within one category. We categorized respondents into a mixed category when $\geq 80\%$ of total days hunted did not involve the species within a single category. We also classified respondents into relative avidity categories using total number of days hunted (the sum of days hunted in questions 4-13). Respondents placed in the "low (≤ 15 days)" category ($n = 183$) included respondents in the lower quartile (roughly the bottom 25%) Respondents in the "intermediate (16-53 days)" ($n = 369$) included respondents within the interquartile range (roughly the middle 50%) The "high (≥ 54 days)" ($n = 205$) included respondents in the upper quartile (roughly the top 25%).

Two demographic variables were recoded for analysis as well. We constructed a hunter age scale (question 41) to be compatible with the categories used by the US Census Bureau. Age categories included 18-24 years old, 25-34 years old, 35-44 years old, 45-54 years old, 55-64 years old, and 65+ years old. We also created a church attendance scale by collapsing responses

to question 44 the following categories: 0 days per month, 1-2 days per month, 3-5 days per month, and 6+ days per month.

To analyze opinions of hunting on Sunday, we present the frequency distributions to present descriptive findings about general support for and opposition to hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. We constructed contingency tables to examine relationships between opinions of hunting on Sunday, respondent demographics, and hunter characteristics. We explored relationships between variables using the chi-square test of homogeneity, collapsing the categories if >20% of cells in any given table had expected counts < 5. When analyses of 2 variables produced significant *P*-values, we used gamma to measure the strength and direction of association. Gamma ranges from -1.00 (perfect negative association) to 1.00 (perfect positive association) with 0 indicating no association (Babbie et al. 2003). We also used 2-way analyses of variance (ANOVA) to explore differences in variable means among regions, demographics, and hunter characteristics.

Response Rate & Respondent Profile

Response Rates

Nine hundred seventeen respondents returned completed surveys. The sample was adjusted to remove 183 surveys returned with undeliverable addresses, 12 returned from families where the contact was deceased, and 1 hard refusal (*n* = 196), resulting in a final response rate of 41.6%. Our overall sampling error was $\pm 3.24\%$. Response rates within administrative regions mirrored the overall final response rate (Coast response rate = 42.0%, *n* = 308, sampling error = $\pm 5.58\%$; Piedmont response rate = 42.4%, *n* = 313, sampling error = $\pm 5.54\%$; and Mountain response rate = 40.5%, *n* = 296, sampling error = $\pm 5.70\%$).

Nonresponse Analysis

Due to the lower than anticipated response rate, we conducted a nonresponse analysis (Dolsen and Machlis 1991). We contacted 445 nonrespondents before completing 60 interviews. We concluded respondents' and nonrespondents' opinions of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina differed significantly ($\chi^2 = 9.586$, *df* = 2, *P* = 0.008, $\gamma = 0.301$) (Figure 6.1; Table 6.3).

Description of Respondents

Nearly all mail questionnaire respondents were male (95.6%, *n* = 855), and respondents averaged 49.3 years old (*n* = 917). The largest age group included respondents between 45-54 years old (22.1%, *n* = 203). The smallest age group included respondents between 18-24 years old (7.6%, *n* = 70) (Table 6.2).

More than half of respondents indicated they currently lived in a rural area either on a farm or not on a farm (53.9%, *n* = 475). Only a small percentage of respondents indicated that they lived in a large city (>100,000 people) (9.1%, *n* = 80). Thirty-nine percent of respondents (*n* = 349) had a high school education or less, while 40% of respondents (*n* = 355) had completed some college (including Associate's degree) or trade school as their highest level of education (40.0%, *n* = 355), and 21% (*n* = 183) held college degrees (including advanced degrees).

Forty-two percent of respondents ($n = 365$) indicated that they typically attend church or another place of worship ≤ 2 days per month. More respondents (57.2%, $n = 488$) attended 3-6 days per month. Income levels appeared to be equally distributed among respondents, where 12.7% ($n = 106$) of respondents selected $\leq \$25,000$ as representing their total household income (before taxes) last year. Fifteen percent of respondents ($n = 130$) selected $\$25,000-\$34,999$, 16.3% ($n = 136$), selected $\$35,000-\$49,999$, and 25.4% ($n = 212$) selected $\$50,000-\$74,999$. Very few respondents selected $\$75,000-\$99,999$ (14.9%, $n = 124$) or $\geq \$100,000$ (15.1%, $n = 126$).

The majority of respondents were placed into the mixed hunter category (50.2%, $n = 379$); $\geq 80\%$ of their total days hunted did not fall into a single category. Forty-one percent of respondents ($n = 311$) fell into the big game category. Very few respondents fell into the small game category (7.3%, $n = 55$) and waterfowl category (1.3%, $n = 10$). Forty-nine percent of respondents (49.1%, $n = 371$) fell into the intermediate (16-53 days) category. Equal percentages of respondents were placed into the low (≤ 15 days) category (25.3%, $n = 191$) and high (≥ 54 days) category (25.6%, $n = 193$).

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday

Respondents were polarized in their opinions of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. However, after adjusting for nonresponse bias, fewer respondents supported the legalization of hunting on Sunday, while more respondents opposed (Table 6.4). The nonresponse analysis suggested respondents with an interest in the issue and respondents who supported hunting on Sunday were more likely to complete and return the survey.

Opinions of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina significantly differed among 4 demographic categories (age, community type, income, and church attendance) (Table 6.5). A moderate positive association between opinion of hunting on Sunday and respondents' age existed ($\chi^2 = 98.690$, $df = 20$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.254$; Figure 6.2). Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to oppose hunting on Sunday. Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to support hunting on Sunday. No clear relationship existed between opinion of hunting on Sunday and community type, as suggested by a significant P -value and an insignificant gamma value ($\chi^2 = 51.179$, $df = 16$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.072$, $P = 0.065$; Figure 6.3). However, respondents residing in rural areas were more likely than respondents residing in urban areas to oppose hunting on Sunday in North Carolina. No clear relationship existed between opinion of hunting on Sunday and respondents' household income ($\chi^2 = 32.559$, $df = 20$, $P = 0.038$, $\gamma = -0.059$).

A significant relationship also existed between opinion of hunting on Sunday and frequency of church attendance ($\chi^2 = 159.026$, $df = 12$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.462$) (Figure 6.4). More than 50% of respondents ($n = 210$) who indicated they attend church or another place of worship ≤ 2 days per month strongly supported hunting on Sunday. Forty-five percent of respondents ($n = 138$) who typically attend church or another place of worship 3-5 days per month and 67.0% ($n = 122$) of respondents who attend ≥ 6 days per month strongly opposed hunting on Sunday. Opinions of hunting on Sunday did not differ significantly by region ($\chi^2 = 2.335$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.969$), gender ($\chi^2 = 5.414$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.247$), and education ($\chi^2 = 28.638$, $df = 20$, $P = 0.095$).

Opinion of hunting on Sunday also differed among hunter types ($\chi^2 = 18.320$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.019$) (Table 6.6). Only 18.4% ($n = 9$) of respondents categorized as small game hunters strongly supported hunting on Sunday, while 41.6% ($n = 131$) of big game hunters and 45.9% ($n = 175$) of mixed hunters strongly supported hunting on Sunday. A majority of respondents categorized as small game hunters opposed hunting on Sunday (63.2%, $n = 31$).

Opinion of hunting on Sunday differed among levels of hunter avidity ($\chi^2 = 23.239$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.003$, $\gamma = -0.021$). Avid hunters were more likely to strongly support hunting on Sunday, whereas less avid hunters were more likely to oppose (Figure 6.5). The majority of avid respondents (53.7%, $n = 110$) strongly supported hunting on Sunday. Almost half of respondents (45.1%, $n = 82$) who indicated they hunted ≤ 15 days strongly opposed hunting on Sunday.

Opinions of hunting on Sunday significantly differed due to land ownership status ($\chi^2 = 39.603$, $df = 8$, $P < 0.0001$) (Table 6.7). More than a third of landowners (37.7%, $n = 125$) who currently allow hunting on their land strongly supported hunting on Sunday, whereas 41.9% ($n = 139$) strongly opposed hunting on Sunday. A smaller percentage of respondents (23.0%, $n = 31$) who currently do not allow hunting on their land strongly supported hunting on Sunday, while 54.1% ($n = 73$) strongly opposed hunting on Sunday. Forty-six percent of respondents ($n = 189$) who did not own land in North Carolina strongly supported hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.

Sixty-eight percent of respondents ($n = 212$) who responded that work commitments were very important in explaining constraints to their hunting activity supported hunting on Sunday, compared to only 25% ($n = 79$) who responded that work commitments were very important and opposed hunting on Sunday ($\chi^2 = 66.726$, $df = 16$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.270$; Table 6.8). The majority of respondents ($n = 75$) who responded that work commitments were either very unimportant or somewhat unimportant in explaining constraints to their hunting activity strongly opposed hunting on Sunday. Although almost half of the respondents (45.6%, $n = 78$) who indicated that family commitments were very important in explaining constraints to their hunting activity strongly supported hunting on Sunday, the overall relationship between family commitments and support for hunting on Sunday was not significant ($\chi^2 = 23.246$, $df = 16$, $P = 0.107$). No significant differences existed between opinions of hunting on Sunday and satisfaction with hunting experiences in North Carolina during the last year ($\chi^2 = 24.677$, $df = 16$, $P = 0.076$) or the last 5 years ($\chi^2 = 13.247$, $df = 16$, $P = 0.655$).

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday with Some Limitations

Hunter opinions of hunting on Sunday with some limitations were strongly polarized, with 41% ($n = 361$) supporting and 51% ($n = 453$) opposing. Of the respondents who previously indicated strong support for hunting on Sunday, overall, 19.1% ($n = 62$) opposed hunting on Sunday with some limitations. Less than 4% ($n = 7$) of respondents who previously opposed hunting on Sunday supported hunting on Sunday with some limitations.

Opinion of hunting on Sunday with some limitations significantly differed among 4 demographic categories (age, community, income, and church attendance) (Table 6.9). Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to oppose, whereas younger respondents were more likely to support hunting on Sunday with some limitations in North Carolina ($\chi^2 = 76.339$, $df = 20$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.205$). Although opinion of hunting on Sunday with some limitations significantly differed by the community in which a respondent lived, no clear relationship

between the two existed among respondents ($\chi^2 = 39.695$, $df = 16$, $P = 0.001$, $\gamma = 0.050$). Nearly 58% of respondents ($n = 105$) who lived in rural areas and 43% of respondents ($n = 122$) who lived in rural areas but not on farms strongly opposed hunting on Sunday with some limitations. Similarly, the relationship between opinions of hunting on Sunday with some limitations and income, although significant, showed no clear pattern ($\chi^2 = 36.223$, $df = 20$, $P = 0.014$, $\gamma = -0.036$). A strong positive association between church attendance and opinions of hunting on Sunday with some limitations existed ($\chi^2 = 108.629$, $df = 12$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.347$). Sixty-nine percent of respondents ($n = 125$) who indicated they attend church or another place of worship ≥ 6 days per month strongly opposed hunting on Sunday with some limitations. In contrast, a majority of respondents (53.7%, $n = 100$) who indicated they attend church or another place of worship ≤ 2 days per month strongly supported hunting on Sunday with some limitations. Gender ($\chi^2 = 4.740$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.315$), education ($\chi^2 = 26.527$, $df = 20$, $P = 0.149$), hunter type ($\chi^2 = 10.340$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.242$) and hunter avidity ($\chi^2 = 10.927$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.206$) all had no significant effect on opinions of hunting on Sunday with some limitations.

Opinions of Hunting on Sunday under Different Scenarios

Most respondents strongly opposed hunting on Sunday under all but 3 scenarios (Table 6.10). Less than half of respondents (46.7%, $n = 413$) strongly opposed hunting on Sunday only if pursuit dogs are not used. One-third of respondents ($n = 294$) supported hunting on Sunday under this scenario. Fewer respondents (43.0%, $n = 378$) strongly opposed hunting on Sunday only if safety zones are created around churches. Only 39% ($n = 340$) supported this scenario. An even smaller percentage of respondents strongly opposed hunting on Sunday if it is treated like any other day of the week (38.7%, $n = 342$), while 46.5% of respondents ($n = 409$) supported hunting on Sunday under this scenario.

A majority of respondents who opposed hunting on Sunday with some limitations strongly opposed each scenario (Table 6.11). Respondents most strongly opposed the following scenarios: hunting on Sunday only on public lands (87.6%, $n = 391$) and hunting on Sunday only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age) (87.6%, $n = 390$). The least strongly opposed scenario proposed hunting on Sunday only if treated like any other day of the week (69.3%, $n = 308$).

A majority of respondents who supported hunting on Sunday with some limitations strongly supported only 2 scenarios: hunting on Sunday if treated like any other day of the week (55.5%, $n = 265$) and hunting on Sunday only if safety zones are created around churches (51.7%, $n = 184$) (Table 6.12). The least strongly supported scenario advocated hunting on Sunday only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age) (2.7%, $n = 7$).

Importance of Reasons in Shaping Opinions of Hunting on Sunday

A majority of respondents who opposed hunting on Sunday cited 6 reasons as most important to them in shaping their opinion. The most frequently cited reason was that hunting on Sunday should not be allowed because Sunday is a holy day (67.7%, $n = 262$), followed by Sunday as providing a day that other recreationists such as hikers, horseback riders, and wildlife viewers, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters (61.8%, $n = 239$) (Table 6.13).

Respondents who supported hunting on Sunday most frequently cited the decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a governmental decision (77.1%, n = 341) as very important in shaping their opinion. Seventy-five percent of supporters (n = 290) cited hunting on Sunday may provide additional hunting opportunities for working people as a very important reason (Table 6.14).

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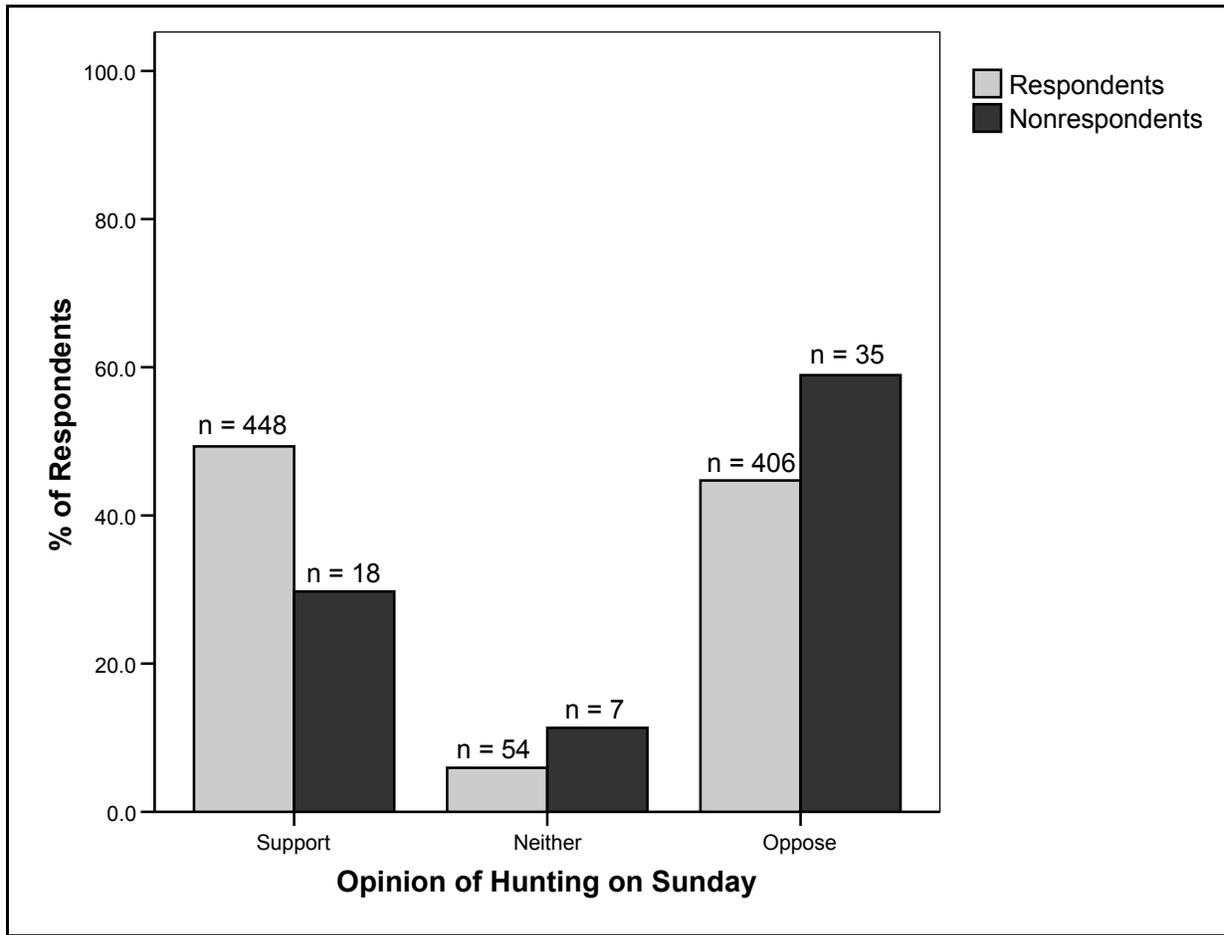


Figure 6.1. Respondents’ and nonrespondents’ opinions of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 9.586$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.008$, $\gamma = 0.301$). (Scale collapsed for comparative analysis of respondents and nonrespondents: 1= Support, 2 = Neither Support nor Oppose, 3 = Oppose).

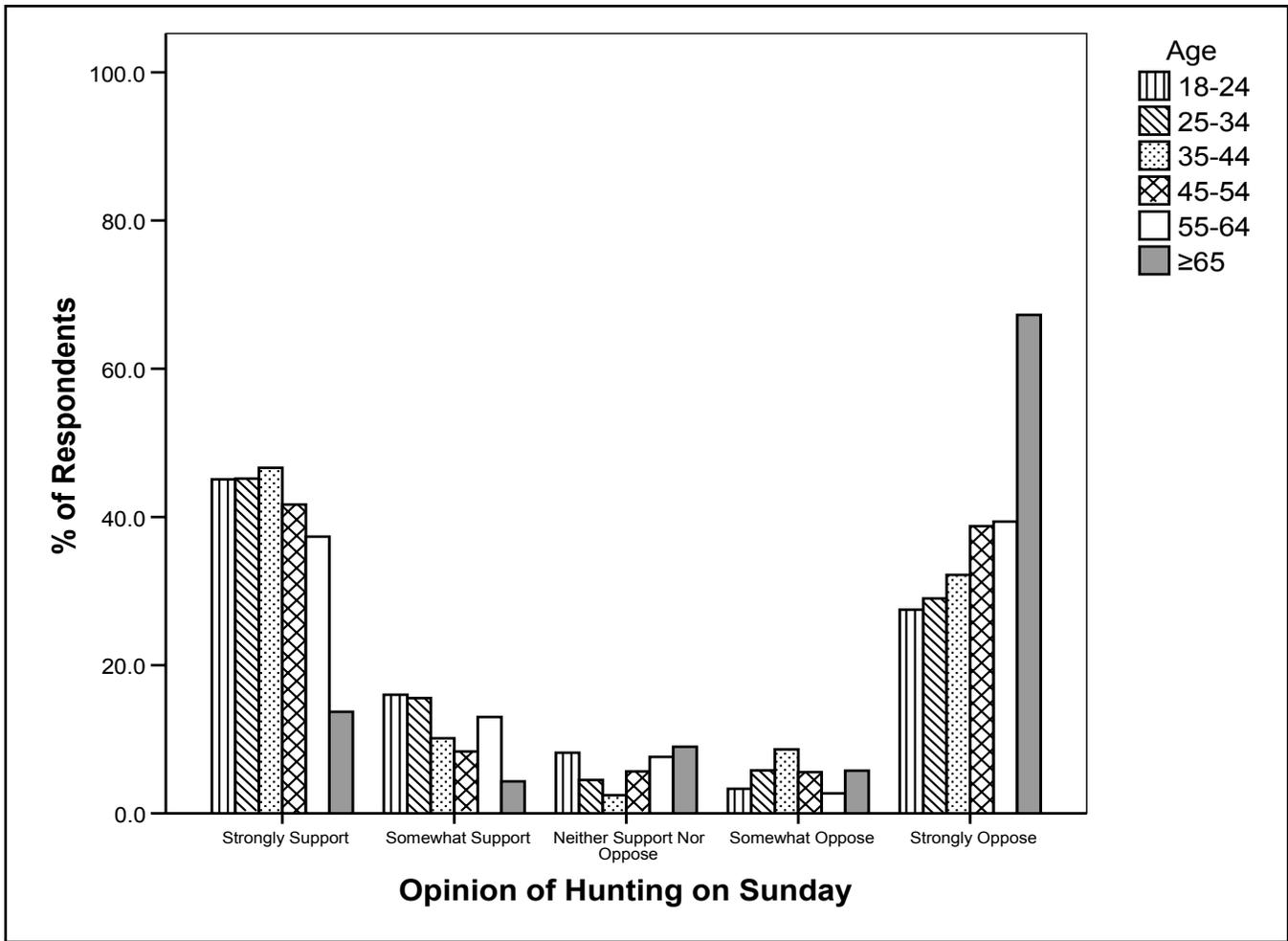


Figure 6.2. Effect of respondent age on opinion of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina conducted in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 98.690$, $df = 20$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.254$).

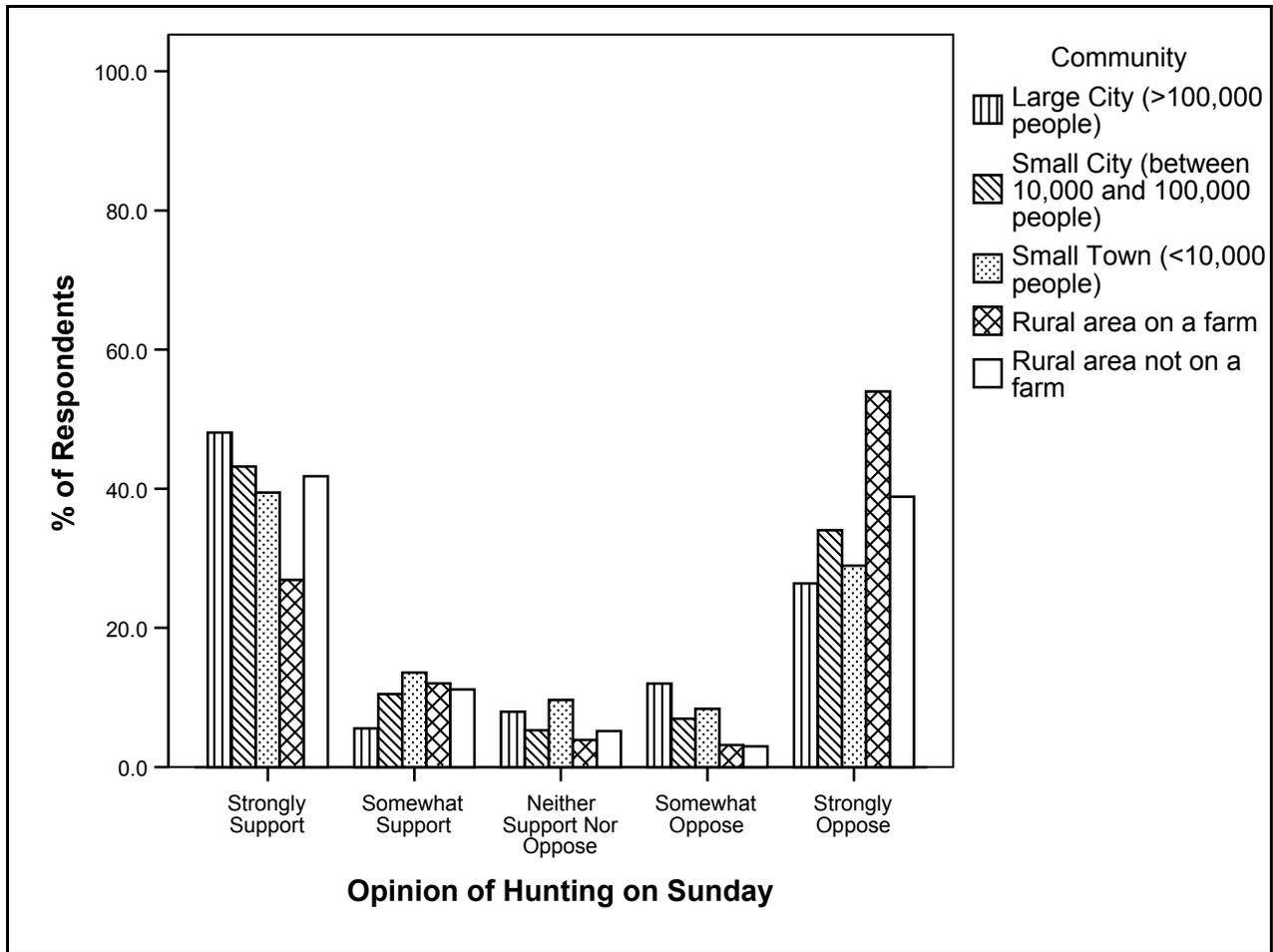


Figure 6.3. Effect of community in which respondents lived on opinion of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina conducted in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 51.179$, $df = 16$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.072$).

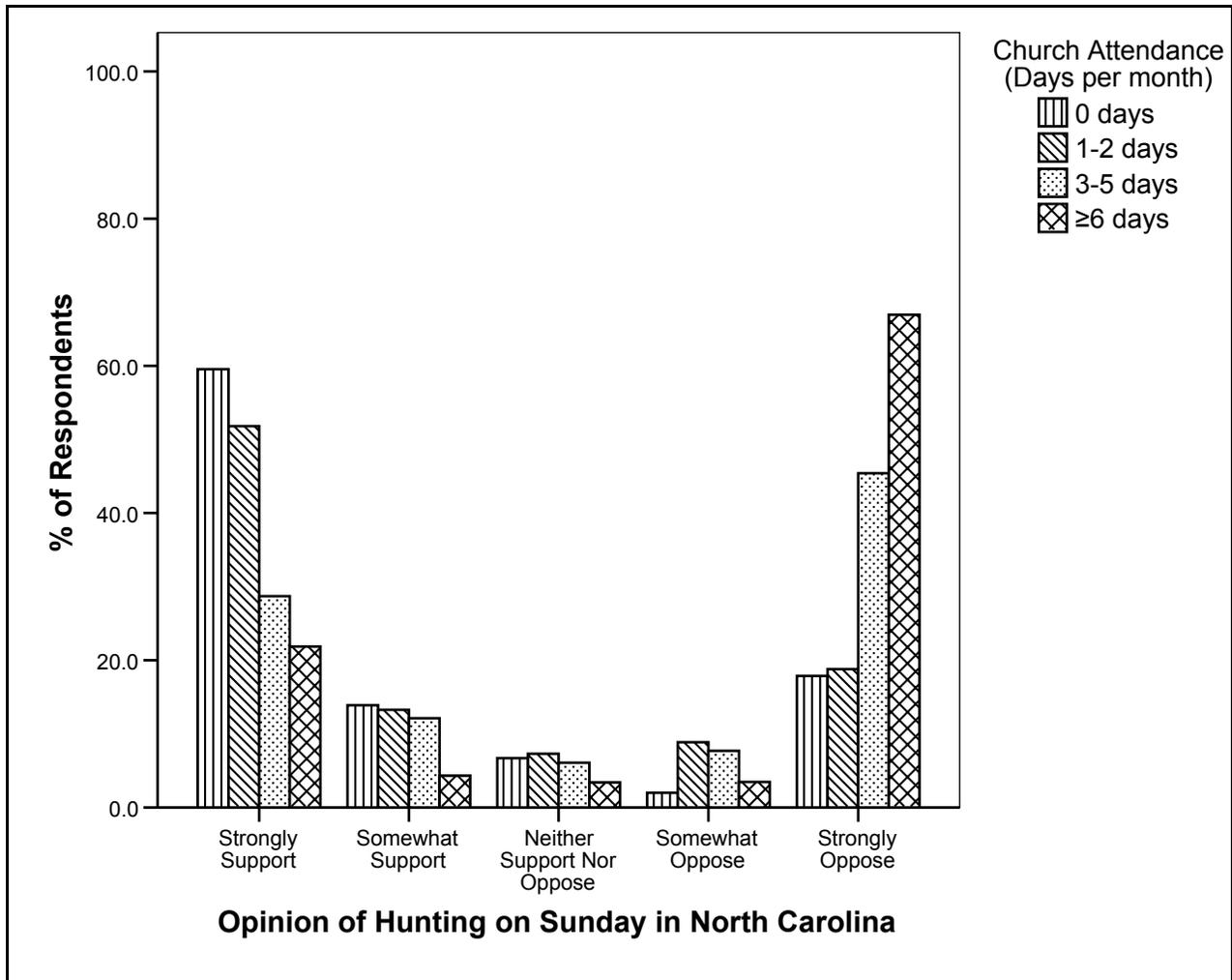


Figure 6.4. Effect of church or other place of worship attendance on opinion of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina conducted in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 159.026$, $df = 12$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.462$).

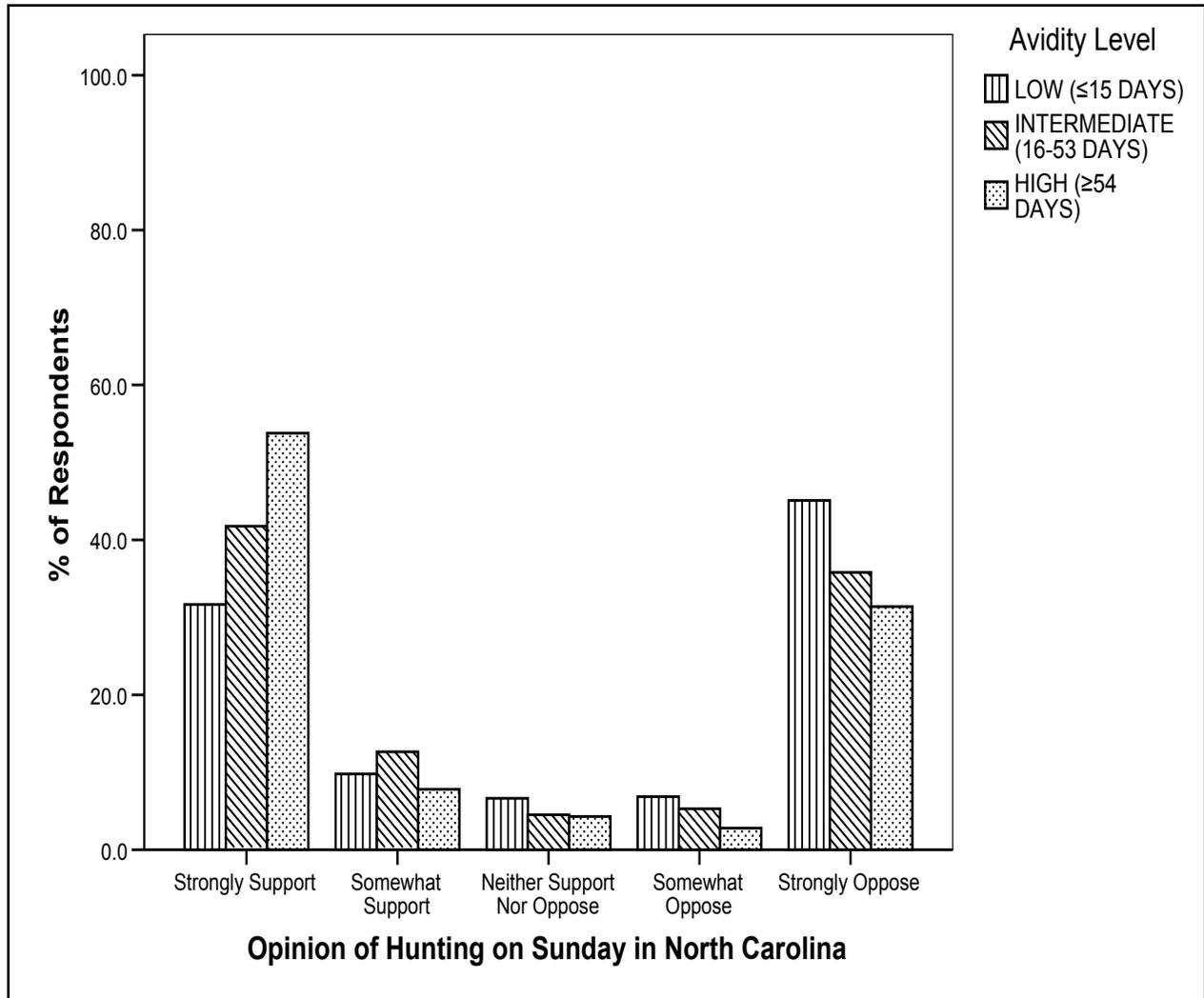


Figure 6.5. Effect of respondent avidity level on opinion of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina conducted in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 23.239$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.003$, $\gamma = -0.021$).

Table 6.1. Number of respondents in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006 in each of North Carolina's 3 administrative regions before and after weighting to reflect the licenses sales distribution in each region.

Region	Respondents Unweighted	Percent (%)	Respondents Weighted	Percent (%)
Coastal	308	33.6	248	27.1
Piedmont	313	34.1	369	40.3
Mountain	296	32.3	299	32.6
Total	917 ^a	100.0	916 ^a	100.0

^a Difference attributed to rounding during weighting process.

Table 6.2. Age distribution of respondents to a survey of North Carolina licensed hunters about hunting on Sunday in North Carolina conducted during summer 2006, before and after weighting data to reflect age distribution of original sample.

Age	Region	N (Unweighted)	% of Respondents (Unweighted)	N (Weighted)	% of Respondents (Weighted)
18-24	Overall	70	7.6	107	11.7
	Coastal	28	9.1	31	12.5
	Piedmont	26	8.3	46	12.4
	Mountain	16	5.4	30	10.0
25-34	Overall	112	12.2	160	17.4
	Coastal	40	13.0	47	19.0
	Piedmont	37	11.8	67	18.1
	Mountain	35	11.8	46	15.4
35-44	Overall	177	19.3	184	20.1
	Coastal	59	19.2	47	19.0
	Piedmont	56	17.9	76	20.5
	Mountain	62	20.9	61	20.4
45-54	Overall	203	22.1	165	18.0
	Coastal	66	21.4	45	18.1
	Piedmont	77	24.6	70	18.9
	Mountain	60	20.3	50	16.7
55-64	Overall	182	19.8	144	15.7
	Coastal	55	17.9	39	15.7
	Piedmont	61	19.5	54	14.6
	Mountain	66	22.3	51	17.1
≥65	Overall	173	18.9	157	17.1
	Coastal	60	19.5	39	20.4
	Piedmont	56	17.9	57	15.4
	Mountain	57	19.3	61	15.7

Table 6.3. Nonresponse analysis comparing mail and telephone respondents to a survey of North Carolina licensed hunters about hunting on Sunday in North Carolina conducted during summer 2006.

Question	Mailed (N=917)	Phone (N=60)	χ^2	df	P-value	Gamma
Did you hunt in North Carolina at any time since July 1, 2001 (in the past 5 years)? ^a	91.6	88.3	0.748	1	0.387	NA
Have you hunted in NC since July 1, 2005? ^a	93.9	90.7	0.192	1	0.660 ^d	NA
For the most recent season, did you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days as you did during the previous four seasons? ^b	18.2	30.6	5.881	2	0.053	NA
Do you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina? ^c	49.3	30.0	9.586	2	0.008	0.301

^a Percent indicating “Yes.”

^b Percent indicating “Fewer Days.”

^c Percent indicating “Support.”

^d Fisher’s exact test used because >20% of cells had expected counts <5.

Table 6.4. Support for and opposition to hunting on Sunday before and after adjusting for nonresponse bias, based on mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006.

	Opinion Prior to Adjustment	Opinion After Adjustment
Support for (%)	49.3	37.9
Opposition to (%)	44.7	53.0

Table 6.5. Significant relationships between opinion of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina and respondent demographics, based on mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Demographic Characteristics	Values ^a					N	χ^2	df	P-value	γ
	1	2	3	4	5					
Age						910	98.690	20	<0.0001	0.254
	18-24	44.9	15.9	8.4	3.7	27.1				
	25-34	45.3	15.7	4.4	5.7	28.9				
	35-44	46.7	10.3	2.2	8.7	32.1				
	45-54	41.7	8.6	5.5	5.5	38.7				
	55-64	37.2	13.1	7.6	2.8	39.3				
	≥65	13.8	4.6	9.2	5.9	66.4				
Community						881	51.179	16	<0.0001	0.072
	Large City	48.1	6.2	7.4	12.3	25.9				
	Small City	42.8	10.6	5.6	7.2	33.9				
	Small Town	39.5	13.2	9.9	8.6	28.9				
	Rural area on a Farm	27.2	12.0	3.8	3.3	53.8				
	Rural area not on a farm	41.5	11.3	5.3	3.2	38.7				
Income						836	32.559	20	0.038	-0.059
	<\$24,999	35.2	6.7	8.6	2.9	46.7				
	\$25,000-\$34,999	43.5	14.5	1.4	5.8	34.8				
	\$35,000-\$49,999	41.4	9.0	6.0	5.3	38.3				
	\$50,000-\$74,999	34.4	14.6	8.0	6.1	36.8				
	\$75,000-\$99,999	36.0	10.4	4.0	8.8	40.8				
	≥\$100,000	51.2	9.8	7.3	4.9	26.8				
Church Attendance						857	159.02	12	<0.0001	0.462
	0 days	59.8	13.7	6.8	1.8	17.8				
	1-2 days	52.0	13.2	7.2	8.6	19.1				
	3-5 days	28.6	12.2	6.3	7.6	45.4				
	≥6 days	22.0	4.4	3.3	3.3	67.0				

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 6.6. Relationships between opinion of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Hunter Characteristics	Values ^a					N	χ^2	df	P-value	γ
	1	2	3	4	5					
Hunter Type ^b						745	18.320	8	0.019	NA
Big game	41.6	11.4	4.1	5.4	37.5					
Small game	18.4	12.2	6.1	12.2	51.0					
Waterfowl	60.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	20.0					
Mixed	45.9	9.7	5.5	3.9	34.9					
Avidity						757	23.239	8	0.003	-0.201
Low (≤ 15 days)	31.9	9.9	6.6	6.6	45.1					
Intermediate (16-53 days)	41.6	12.7	4.6	5.4	35.7					
High (≥ 54 days)	53.7	7.8	4.4	2.9	31.2					

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

^b Removed waterfowl category from analysis due to small sample size (n = 10).

Table 6.7. Relationship between opinion of hunting on Sunday and land ownership, as reported by respondents in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 39.603$, $df = 8$, $P < 0.0001$). (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Land Ownership	N	Values ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
I own land on which I allow hunting to occur.	332	37.7	9.9	6.6	3.9	41.9
I am a landowner, but I do not allow hunting.	135	23.0	13.3	4.4	5.2	54.1
I am not a landowner.	405	46.7	11.6	4.9	7.4	29.4

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 6. 8. Relationship between opinion of hunting on Sunday and constraints to hunting activity, as reported by respondents in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Importance of Statements in Explaining Constraints to Hunting Activity	N	Values ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
Work commitments limit my time to hunt. ^b	816					
Very Important		55.9	12.2	3.5	2.9	25.4
Somewhat Important		34.2	16.0	5.5	7.2	37.1
Neither Important Nor Unimportant		29.2	7.1	8.0	9.7	46.0
Somewhat Unimportant		25.0	7.5	5.0	7.5	55.0
Very Unimportant		37.4	7.8	4.3	4.3	46.1
Family commitments limit my time to hunt. ^c	820					
Very Important		45.6	11.7	4.1	3.5	35.1
Somewhat Important		35.1	16.3	4.3	8.0	36.2
Neither Important Nor Unimportant		42.2	8.7	6.8	5.8	36.4
Somewhat Unimportant		46.9	10.2	8.2	4.1	30.6
Very Unimportant		42.4	7.6	4.2	2.5	43.2

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

^b $\chi^2 = 66.726, df = 16, P < 0.0001 \gamma = 0.270$

^c $\chi^2 = 23.246, df = 16, P = 0.107$

Table 6. 9. Significant relationships between opinion of hunting on Sunday with some limitations in North Carolina and respondent demographics, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Demographic Characteristics	Values ^a					N	χ^2	df	P-value	Γ
	1	2	3	4	5					
Age						891	76.339	20	<0.0001	0.205
	18-24	26.9	19.2	12.5	4.8	36.5				
	25-34	20.8	29.6	10.1	5.0	34.6				
	35-44	24.9	23.2	4.9	10.8	36.2				
	45-54	21.1	19.9	6.2	7.5	45.3				
	55-64	22.9	17.9	10.7	5.0	43.6				
	≥65	4.9	9.2	9.2	10.6	66.2				
Community						871	39.695	16	0.001	0.050
	Large City	25.6	15.4	10.3	14.1	34.6				
	Small City	21.2	22.9	8.9	8.9	38.0				
	Small Town	20.0	22.7	11.3	12.0	34.0				
	Rural area on a Farm	15.9	17.0	6.6	2.7	57.7				
	Rural area not on a farm	22.0	21.6	7.8	5.3	43.3				
Income						831	36.223	20	0.014	-0.036
	≤\$24,999	17.5	13.6	11.7	3.9	53.4				
	\$25,000-\$34,999	30.4	20.3	5.1	10.1	34.1				
	\$35,000-\$49,999	15.9	22.7	10.6	4.5	46.2				
	\$50,000-\$74,999	17.9	24.1	9.4	9.0	39.6				
	\$75,000-\$99,999	16.1	21.8	8.9	5.6	47.6				
	≥\$100,000	28.7	19.7	9.0	8.2	34.4				
Church Attendance						850	108.629	12	<0.0001	0.347
	0 days	29.0	28.6	9.7	5.5	27.2				
	1-2 days	24.7	26.7	13.3	11.3	24.0				
	3-5 days	16.9	18.2	8.6	8.3	48.0				
	≥6 days	13.8	10.5	2.8	3.9	69.1				

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 6.10. Opinions of hunting on Sunday under different scenarios in North Carolina, as reported by respondents in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Support for and Opposition to Hunting on Sunday	Value ^a				
	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only if pursuit dogs are not used.	24.4	8.7	15.0	5.2	46.7
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on a few Sundays.	4.3	7.5	14.0	11.0	63.1
Only bowhunting should be allowed on Sunday.	5.9	5.7	16.4	8.8	63.3
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on private lands.	10.5	7.8	14.1	7.0	60.7
If hunting on Sunday is allowed, it should be treated like any other day of the week.	36.4	10.1	8.7	6.1	38.7
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on public lands.	4.1	1.9	15.4	8.4	70.2
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for small game.	2.2	2.0	15.4	7.8	72.6
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only safety zones are created around churches.	29.5	9.3	13.3	4.9	43.0
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for big game.	6.3	4.4	17.5	7.1	64.7
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only from a stand.	7.7	5.0	17.4	7.0	62.9
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only after a certain time (for example after 1:00 p.m.).	12.3	9.8	11.0	5.6	61.4
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age).	2.0	3.1	14.3	7.5	73.1

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 6.11. Scenarios for limited hunting on Sunday that are most strongly opposed by respondents who opposed hunting on Sunday with some limitations in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Scenario	N	Value ^a				
		5	4	3	2	1
...only on public lands.	445	87.6	5.2	5.2	0.0	2.0
...only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age).	446	87.6	5.0	4.3	1.5	1.6
...only for small game.	446	86.8	5.9	5.9	0.0	1.4
...only for big game.	445	86.0	5.1	5.9	1.2	1.9
...only on a few Sundays.	445	85.2	7.7	3.4	1.0	2.7
...only from a stand.	445	84.2	5.7	5.2	1.4	3.5
...only after a certain time (for example after 1:00 p.m.).	444	83.1	4.2	5.4	3.1	4.1
...only bowhunting.	445	82.2	7.7	5.2	1.5	3.3
...only on private lands.	442	81.9	6.3	4.4	4.0	3.3
...only if pursuit dogs are not used.	447	78.5	5.6	6.5	2.3	7.2
...only if safety zones are created around churches.	444	75.4	5.3	4.6	4.6	10.2
...only if treated like any other day of the week.	445	69.3	4.7	4.3	2.5	19.2

^a 5 = Strongly Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 2 = Somewhat Support, 1 = Strongly Support

Table 6.12. Scenarios of limited hunting on Sunday that were supported most strongly by respondents who supported hunting on Sunday with some limitations in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Scenario	N	Value ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
...only if treated like any other day of the week.	359	55.5	18.4	10.5	7.5	8.0
...only if safety zones are created around churches.	356	51.7	13.5	19.3	4.6	10.3
...only if pursuit dogs are not used.	360	44.8	17.4	20.0	4.3	13.6
...only after a certain time (for example after 1:00 p.m.).	358	23.0	16.3	12.7	7.3	40.7
...only on private lands.	358	18.7	10.8	20.4	8.1	42.0
...only from a stand.	357	14.2	9.6	25.1	8.9	42.2
...only for big game.	357	12.1	9.3	24.9	9.4	44.3
...only bowhunting.	355	8.5	10.7	23.9	10.5	46.4
...only on public lands.	357	7.3	3.9	21.4	12.4	54.8
...only on a few Sundays.	356	6.9	14.0	20.2	16.3	42.5
...only for small game.	353	3.5	4.7	20.0	10.0	61.7
...only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age).	357	2.7	4.5	19.6	9.9	63.3

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 6.13. Most important reasons shaping respondents' opinion of hunting on Sunday, as reported by opponents of hunting on Sunday in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Reasons	N	Value ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
Hunting on Sunday should not be permitted because Sunday is a holy day.	388	67.7	10.6	10.0	0.5	11.2
Sunday provides a day that other recreationists such as hikers, horseback riders, and wildlife viewers, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters.	386	61.8	14.8	8.1	2.2	13.0
Sunday provides a day of rest for animals.	380	57.6	11.6	15.0	2.7	13.1
Hunting on Sunday should not be permitted because Sunday is a family day.	382	57.5	14.2	15.1	2.8	10.3
Sunday provides a day of rest for hunters.	376	55.2	11.4	15.7	1.9	15.8
Noise associated with hunting activities may interfere with church activities.	381	52.1	19.1	12.8	1.9	14.0
Hunting on Sunday may strain the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's personnel resources because of additional required time on-duty for enforcement staff.	386	47.9	17.9	16.3	4.0	14.0
Hunting on Sunday may reduce church attendance.	382	44.3	12.2	20.7	2.7	20.2
Additional harvest caused by hunting on Sunday may require wildlife managers to shorten hunting seasons for some animals.	379	42.6	19.6	16.2	4.3	17.2
Without a day of rest for animals, my ability to find game may become more difficult later in the season.	379	37.2	13.9	19.6	5.8	23.5

^a 1 = Very Important, 2 = Somewhat Important, 3 = Neither Important Nor Unimportant, 4 = Somewhat Unimportant, 5 = Very Unimportant

Table 6.14. Most important reasons shaping respondents’ opinion of hunting on Sunday, as reported by supporters of hunting on Sunday in a statewide mail survey of North Carolina licensed resident hunters conducted during summer 2006. (Numbers under the value heading represent the percent of hunters that selected that response option).

Reasons	N	Value ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
The decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a governmental decision.	442	77.1	13.1	7.1	1.3	1.4
Hunting on Sunday may provide additional hunting opportunities for working people.	441	75.0	19.7	3.9	0.5	0.9
The hunting on Sunday ban limits opportunities for hunters who work the rest of the week.	442	65.6	20.9	9.2	1.0	3.4
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed because most other activities are allowed on Sunday.	441	59.8	18.0	17.1	1.0	4.1
Additional harvest caused by hunting on Sunday would help manage populations of wildlife such as white-tailed deer.	442	59.6	27.3	9.4	1.2	2.6
Hunting on Sunday should be allowed because 42 other states allow Sunday hunting.	442	51.5	18.7	22.4	1.6	5.8
Hunting on Sunday may increase revenue to NC Wildlife Resources Commission by increasing sales of resident hunting licenses	442	48.8	27.0	16.3	2.2	5.7
Hunting on Sunday may provide benefits for local and state economies.	442	48.1	32.6	13.2	1.0	5.1
Hunting on Sunday may increase hunting participation by youth in North Carolina.	441	46.8	30.2	15.5	1.9	5.6
Hunting on Sunday may increase revenue to NC Wildlife Resources Commission by increasing sales of non-resident hunting licenses.	442	37.6	29.1	23.9	3.9	5.5

^a 1 = Very Important, 2 = Somewhat Important, 3 = Neither Important Nor Unimportant, 4 = Somewhat Unimportant, 5 = Very Unimportant

7. SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF WEB PORTAL COMMENTS

Methodology

Public comments regarding hunting on Sunday were submitted to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission using an online form. The online form included an open-ended comment section in addition to questions about the respondent's residence, gender, land ownership, and hunting participation. Comments were submitted from January 31, 2006 to August 31, 2006. Additionally, hunting on Sunday comments were collected by email, telephone, and mail. All comments on hunting on Sunday by all modes of communication were categorized as responses in support of the legalization of hunting on Sunday in general, responses in opposition to the legalization of hunting on Sunday in general, and responses that expressed no clear opinion on the legalization of hunting on Sunday in general. Reasons given for respondent positions were also categorized.

The data submitted were thoroughly reviewed to ensure that a single respondent did not submit comments multiple times. A small percentage of submissions were deleted because of strong evidence of multiple submissions by the same respondent. A few submissions were deleted because they were completely unrelated to the topic. The results from the web portal comments are not representative of the views of the general population or hunters because only those who were aware of the hunting on Sunday issue submitted their comments through the web portal or in writing to the Commission. Thus, those who sent in comments via the web portal or in writing to the Commission cannot scientifically represent the views of the population.

Online Form, Email, Telephone, and Mail Comments

A majority of respondents (55%) support the legalization of hunting on Sunday; a substantial minority (43%) oppose. Calculating the results with mailed-in petitions counting as unique responses for each signature on the petitions, 53% support the legalization of hunting on Sunday and 45% oppose. The top reasons given for supporting the legalization of hunting on Sunday are to have more days to hunt (48%), and that Sundays/weekends are a good time to hunt (34%). The top reasons given for opposing the legalization of hunting on Sunday are that it would interfere with other outdoor recreation activities (42%), safety concerns (39%), and that Sunday is a day of rest / Ten Commandments / religious reasons in general (25%).

Online Form Comments

Nearly all comments (95%) were submitted via the online form. Overwhelmingly, respondents are hunters or other outdoor recreationists. Among online form respondents, 90% either consider themselves hunters (either in support or opposition to hunting on Sunday) or specifically name interference with outdoor recreation activities as a reason for opposing the legalization of hunting on Sunday.

A large majority of respondents (76%) consider themselves hunters. Most hunters (70%) support hunting on Sunday; 28% opposed. Only 9% of non-hunters support hunting on Sunday; 89% opposed. A large majority of respondents (76%) own land in North Carolina. A slight majority

(52%) of North Carolina landowners support hunting on Sunday; 46% oppose. A majority (68%) of those who do not own land in North Carolina support hunting on Sunday; 29% oppose.

A large majority of respondents (81%) are male. Most males (65%) support hunting on Sunday; 32% oppose. Only 13% of females support hunting on Sunday; 85% oppose. An overwhelming majority of respondents (98%) are North Carolina residents. A majority (55%) of North Carolina residents support hunting on Sunday; 43% oppose. A large majority (72%) of non-residents support hunting on Sunday; 26% oppose.

8. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF HUNTING ON SUNDAY ON HUNTER PARTICIPATION

Phone Survey Results

Effects of Hunting on Sunday on Hunting Participation

About half of hunters from the general population survey say that they would hunt on Sundays if permitted to do so. Also, less than half of hunters say that they would take an adult friend or family member hunting whom they otherwise would not take hunting, if hunting on Sunday was legalized (although slightly more would not), and about a third of hunters say the same thing about youth (although a majority would not). Landowners who currently allow hunting on their land are about evenly split regarding allowing or prohibiting hunting on Sunday on their land.

While most hunters say that their frequency of participation in hunting would remain about the same if hunting on Sunday was legalized, about a quarter of hunters say their frequency of participation would increase—both participation in day trips to hunt and in overnight trips to hunt.

- The survey asked respondents about their likelihood to hunt in North Carolina if hunting on Sunday continues to be illegal and if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The results are about the same, with about a quarter of the general population saying that they would be likely to hunt.
 - There are no marked differences in results among the regions.
- Those who had hunted in the past 12 months and those who had not hunted but expressed a likelihood to go hunting were asked if they would hunt on Sunday in North Carolina if it were legal to do so. Half of these respondents (50%) said that they would hunt on Sunday if permitted to do so.
- Those who had hunted in the past 12 months and those who had not hunted but expressed a likelihood to go hunting were asked about their likelihood to take an adult friend or a family member hunting, whom they would not otherwise take hunting, if hunting on Sunday was legalized: 41% said that they would be likely to do so, but 47% said that they would be unlikely, and most of that was *very* unlikely. They were asked the same question about taking a youth hunting: 31% said that they would be likely to take a youth hunting, whom they otherwise would not take hunting, if Sunday were legalized, but a large majority (63%) would be unlikely, mostly *very* unlikely.
 - Those who indicated that they would take an adult friend or family member hunting were asked how many they would take hunting. The mean is 4.4 adult friends or family members; the median is 3 adult friends or family members. The same question was asked of those who would take a youth hunting. The mean is 2.5 youth; the median is 2 youth.
- Of those who currently allow hunting on their land, just more than half (52%) said that they would *not* allow hunting on Sunday; 45% would allow hunting on Sunday.
 - There are no marked differences in results among the regions.

- While most hunters in the general population sample (63%) say that their number of days of hunting *not* involving an overnight stay would remain about the same as it presently is, if hunting on Sunday was legalized, about a quarter of those hunters (24%) say their number of hunting days would increase.
 - Among the regions, West Region hunters are slightly less likely than are those in the other regions to say that the number of their hunting days would decrease.
- Similar to the comparison above, most hunters in the general population sample (71%) say their number of overnight trips to hunt would remain about the same as it presently is, if hunting on Sunday was legalized, but a quarter (25%) say their number of overnight trips would increase.
 - There are no marked differences in results among the regions.

Mail Survey Results

General Impacts

Several questions on the mail survey of hunters evaluated potential impacts of legalizing hunting on Sunday in North Carolina on hunting participation. Almost half of respondents (47.1%, $n = 415$) indicated they would hunt on Sunday if it were legalized, while 40.4% ($n = 357$) indicated they would not. Only 4 respondents (6.1%) who had not hunted in North Carolina in the past 5 years indicated they would hunt on Sunday if it were legalized in North Carolina. One-third of respondents ($n = 20$) who had not hunted in North Carolina since July 1, 2005 indicated they would hunt on Sunday in North Carolina.

Younger respondents were more likely to hunt on Sunday if it were legalized in North Carolina; older respondents were more likely not to hunt on Sunday ($\chi^2 = 93.484$, $df = 10$, $P < 0.0001$). Overall, the more days per month a respondent attended church or another place of worship the more likely they were not to hunt on Sunday ($\chi^2 = 160.125$, $df = 6$, $P < 0.0001$).

Avidity also influenced one's decision to hunt on Sunday if it were legalized in North Carolina. Avid hunters were more likely to hunt on Sunday ($\chi^2 = 27.722$, $df = 4$, $P < 0.0001$). Although community type ($\chi^2 = 23.555$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.003$) and income ($\chi^2 = 25.897$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.004$) produced significant differences in the decision to hunt on Sunday, no clear pattern emerged (Table 8.1). Region ($\chi^2 = 6.818$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.146$), gender ($\chi^2 = 0.276$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.871$), education ($\chi^2 = 14.170$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.165$), and hunter type ($\chi^2 = 11.599$, $df = 6$, $P = 0.072$) produced no significant differences in potential participation on Sunday. Respondents who supported hunting on Sunday were more likely to hunt on Sunday than opponents ($\chi^2 = 821.125$, $df = 8$, $P < 0.0001$) (Table 8.2).

Level of Participation

Overall, less than half of respondents (36.9%, $n = 316$) indicated they would hunt more days, 60.2% ($n = 515$) indicated they would hunt about the same number of days, and 2.9% ($n = 25$) indicated they would hunt fewer days if hunting on Sunday was legalized in North Carolina.

Respondents who indicated they would hunt fewer days said would hunt an average of 10.3 fewer days per year ($n = 19$, $SD = 19.1$).

Younger respondents were more likely than older respondents to hunt more days ($\chi^2 = 99.119$, $df = 10$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.358$). A majority of respondents (54.7%, $n = 116$) who typically do not attend church indicated they would hunt more days if hunting on Sunday was legalized; 76.9% ($n = 133$) of respondents attending church or another place of worship ≥ 6 days per month indicated they would hunt about the same of number of days ($\chi^2 = 76.119$, $df = 6$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.439$). Avid hunters were more likely to hunt more days ($\chi^2 = 11.756$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.019$, $\gamma = -0.204$). Community type produced significant differences in level of participation, but no clear pattern emerged ($\chi^2 = 16.330$, $df = 8$, $P = 0.038$, $\gamma = 0.077$) (Table 8.3). Region ($\chi^2 = 1.431$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.839$), gender ($\chi^2 = 2.345$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.310$), education ($\chi^2 = 13.289$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.208$), income ($\chi^2 = 17.271$, $df = 10$, $P = 0.069$), and hunter type ($\chi^2 = 8.788$, $df = 6$, $P = 0.186$) had no effect on level of participation. Respondents who supported hunting on Sunday were more likely to hunt more days, whereas respondents who opposed were more likely to hunt about the same number of days per year ($\chi^2 = 407.911$, $df = 8$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.875$) (Table 8.4).

Change in Hunter Days and Hunter Trips

Overall, respondents averaged 23.7 days ($n = 768$, $SD = 29.4$) hunting in North Carolina that did not involve an overnight stay. Respondents in the Mountain region of North Carolina averaged fewer days of hunting than respondents in Coastal and Piedmont regions ($F = 5.321$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.005$; Table 8.5). Younger respondents hunted more days than days than older respondents ($F = 6.177$, $df = 5$, $P < 0.0001$; Figure 8.1), and males hunted more ($\bar{x} = 24.4$ days, $n = 720$, $SD = 29.8$) than females ($\bar{x} = 11.7$ days, $n = 38$, $SD = 18.0$). Respondents who lived in rural hunted more days than respondents who lived in urban areas ($F = 6.229$, $df = 4$, $P < 0.0001$). Respondents with less education hunted more days than respondents with more education ($F = 3.109$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.0009$). In addition, respondents who typically attended church ≤ 2 days per month hunted more days hunting if it did not involve an overnight stay than respondents who attended more often ($F = 3.438$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.017$). The average number of days hunted did not differ among hunter types ($F = 1.286$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.278$), but did among avidity categories ($F = 181.471$, $df = 2$, $P < 0.0001$; Table 8.6). Avid hunters averaged more days hunting per year that did not involve an overnight stay in North Carolina than less avid hunters.

On average, respondents said they would hunt 7.0 more days ($n = 772$, $SD = 12.8$, median = 20.0) per year that would not involve an overnight stay if hunting on Sunday was legalized in North Carolina. Respondents did not differ in the number of additional days they would hunt that did not involve an overnight stay when compared by region ($F = 0.118$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.889$), gender ($F = 2.981$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.085$), and community type ($F = 0.907$, $df = 4$, $P = 0.459$).

The youngest age group of respondents would hunt on average, almost twice as many additional days hunting per year as the 3 older age groups ($F = 2.929$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.013$; Figure 8.2; Table 8.7). Respondents who attended church or another place of worship ≤ 2 days per month said they would hunt more additional days than those who attended more often. As respondents' level of education increased, the average number of additional days hunted that would not involve an overnight stay decreased ($F = 2.350$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.039$). Respondents with lower income levels

averaged more additional days hunted than respondents with higher income levels ($F = 4.469$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.001$).

The number of additional days hunted did not differ significantly among hunter types, but the most avid hunters said they would hunt nearly 12 additional days ($n = 187$, $SD = 18.4$) per year, compared to about 3 days ($n = 155$, $SD = 7.1$) per year for the least avid hunters (Table 8.8).

Overall, respondents averaged 2.2 overnight hunting trips ($n = 775$, $SD = 5.4$) per year in North Carolina. The number of overnight trips did not differ among regions ($F = 1.875$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.154$) and among demographic parameters examined, except for a slight difference between age groups ($F = 2.267$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.046$). The most avid respondents said they took an average of 3.7 overnight hunting trips ($n = 186$, $SD = 8.0$) per year in North Carolina, compared to 1.2 trips ($n = 156$, $SD = 4.0$) for the least avid hunters (Table 8.9).

Overall, respondents said they would take 1.9 additional overnight hunting trips ($n = 772$, $SD = 4.7$) per year in North Carolina if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The number of additional overnight trips did not differ among regions ($F = 0.355$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.701$). The average number of additional overnight trips did not differ among demographic parameters, except for a slight difference between age groups ($F = 2.354$, $df = 5$, $P = 0.039$). Younger respondents said they would take more additional overnight trips than older respondents if hunting on Sunday was legalized in North Carolina.

Hunter types did not differ in the number of additional overnight trips they would take if hunting on Sunday was legalized ($F = 1.373$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.250$). The most avid respondents said they would take, on average, more than 3 additional overnight hunting trips ($n = 185$, $SD = 7.5$) per year if hunting on Sunday was legalized in North Carolina, compared to an average of one additional trip for the least avid hunters ($F = 10.494$, $df = 2$, $P < 0.0001$; Table 8.10).

Participation Outside of North Carolina

Since July 1, 2005, 20% of respondents ($n = 175$) hunted outside of North Carolina. Participation in hunting outside of North Carolina differed among North Carolina's 3 administrative regions ($\chi^2 = 13.037$, $df = 2$, $P = 0.001$). More respondents in the Mountain region (26.5%, $n = 75$) of North Carolina hunted outside of North Carolina, while respondents in the Coastal region (14.0%, $n = 34$) the least likely to hunt outside of the state.

Of those who hunted outside of North Carolina, 28.7% ($n = 50$) agreed the ability to hunt on Sunday was very important to their decision to hunt outside of North Carolina. However, 30.5% of respondents ($n = 53$) agreed it was very unimportant to their decision. Only 16.2% ($n = 28$) were likely to take fewer trips to hunt outside of North Carolina if hunting on Sunday was legalized, while 47.6% ($n = 82$) were not at all likely to take fewer trips.

Landowner Participation

Less than half of respondents (39.9%, $n = 332$) owned land in North Carolina on which they currently allow hunting to occur. A majority of respondents who owned land (71.5%, $n = 228$) allow hunters other than family members to hunt on their property. Forty-three percent of landowners ($n = 134$) indicated they would allow hunting on Sunday on their property. Forty-

eight percent of respondents (47.6%, n = 150) indicated they would not allow hunting on Sunday. Only 15.5% of respondents (15.5%, n = 136) who owned land in North Carolina did not allow hunting. Less than 10% of those landowners (n = 12) would allow hunting on Sunday on their property if it was legalized in North Carolina. Majority of respondents (86.5%, n = 109) would not allow hunting on Sunday on their property. The percentage of landowners allowing hunters other than family members to hunt on their land did not significantly differ between regions. Landowners, regardless of whether or not they currently allowed hunting did not differ by region in percentages of those who would or would not allow hunting on Sunday on their property.

Hunt Club Participation

Only 27.8% of respondents (n = 241) were members of hunt clubs that hunt in North Carolina. Significant differences occurred in hunt club participation between regions ($\chi^2 = 35.201$, $df = 2$, $P < 0.0001$). Nearly one-half of respondents (40.8%, n = 98) in the Coastal region, 27.1% (n = 94) of respondents in the Piedmont region, and only 17.5% (n = 49) of respondents in the Mountain region were members of hunt clubs that hunt in North Carolina. Only 6.0% of respondents (n = 35) who were not members of a hunt club, were very likely to join a hunt club in North Carolina to hunt on Sunday. Nearly one-half of respondents (49.6%, n = 118) who were members of a hunt club were very likely to participate in Sunday hunts in North Carolina with their hunt club if hunting on Sunday was legalized in North Carolina.

Adult Participation

Seventy-six percent of respondents (n = 667) had taken a friend or a family member hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005. Nearly one-half (47.1%, n = 313) who had taken a friend or family member were very likely to take a friend or family member hunting on Sunday in North Carolina if hunting on Sunday was legalized. Thirty-seven percent (n = 247) were not at all likely to take a friend or family member hunting on Sunday. Of those who had not taken a friend or family member hunting, less than 10% (n = 17) were very likely to take a friend or a family member hunting on Sunday.

Youth Participation

Fifty-four percent of respondents (n = 477) had taken a youth (under 16 years of age) hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005. Of those respondents who had taken a youth hunting, 51.0% (n = 243) indicated they had taken a son or a daughter, 18.4% (n = 88), a grandson or a granddaughter, 27.3% (n = 130) had taken another relative, and 32.0% (n = 153) indicated they had taken a youth of no relation. Nearly one-half of respondents (49.3%, n = 235) who had taken a youth hunting were very likely to take a youth hunting on Sunday if it was legalized in North Carolina, while 37.9% (n = 181) were not at all likely. Less than 10% (n = 33) of respondents who had not taken a youth hunting in North Carolina were very likely to take a youth hunting. Nearly 60% (n = 215) were not at all likely to take a youth hunting on Sunday if it were legalized.

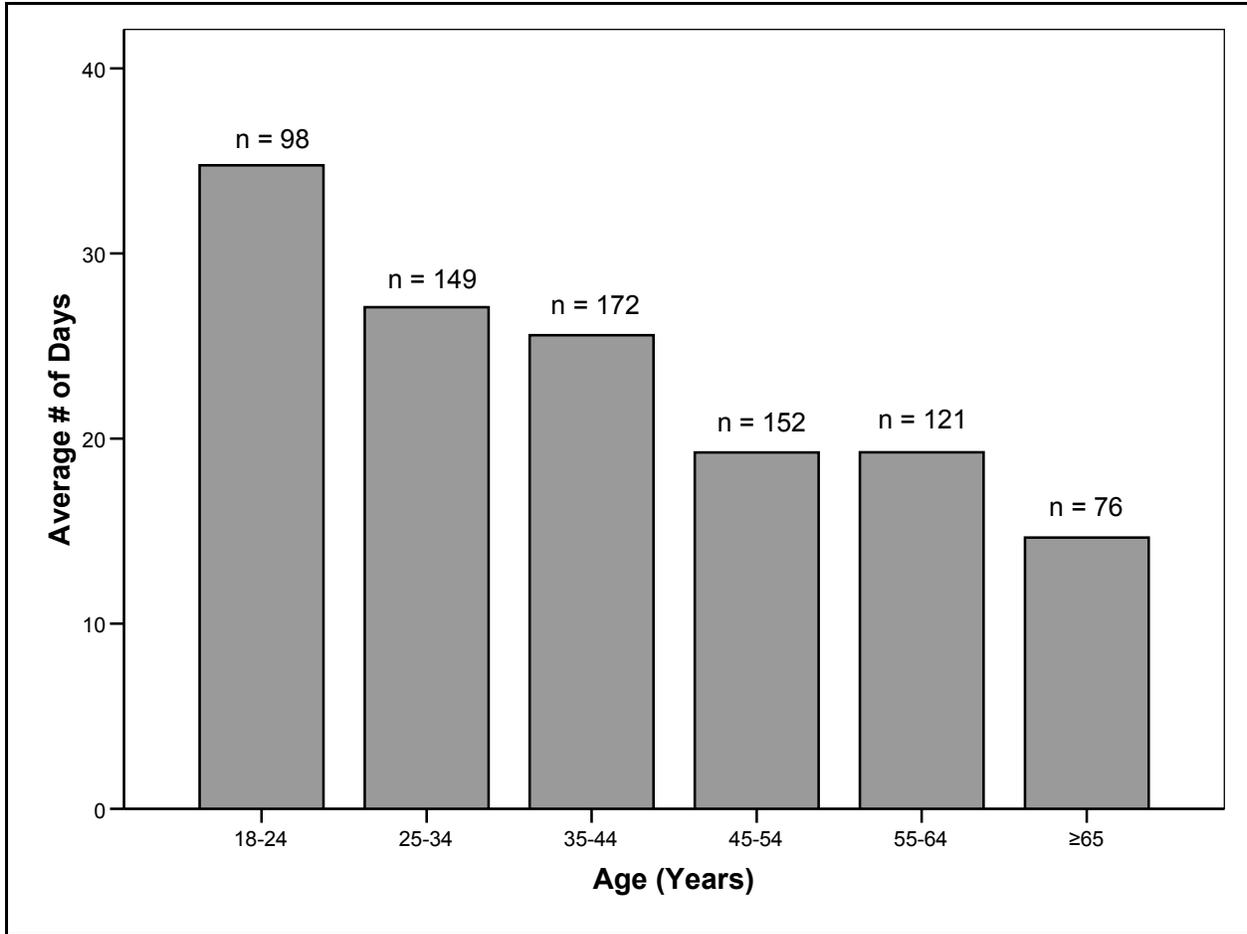


Figure 8.1. Effect of respondents' age on average numbers of days hunted in North Carolina that did not involve an overnight stay, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006 ($F = 6.177$, $df = 5$, $P < 0.0001$).

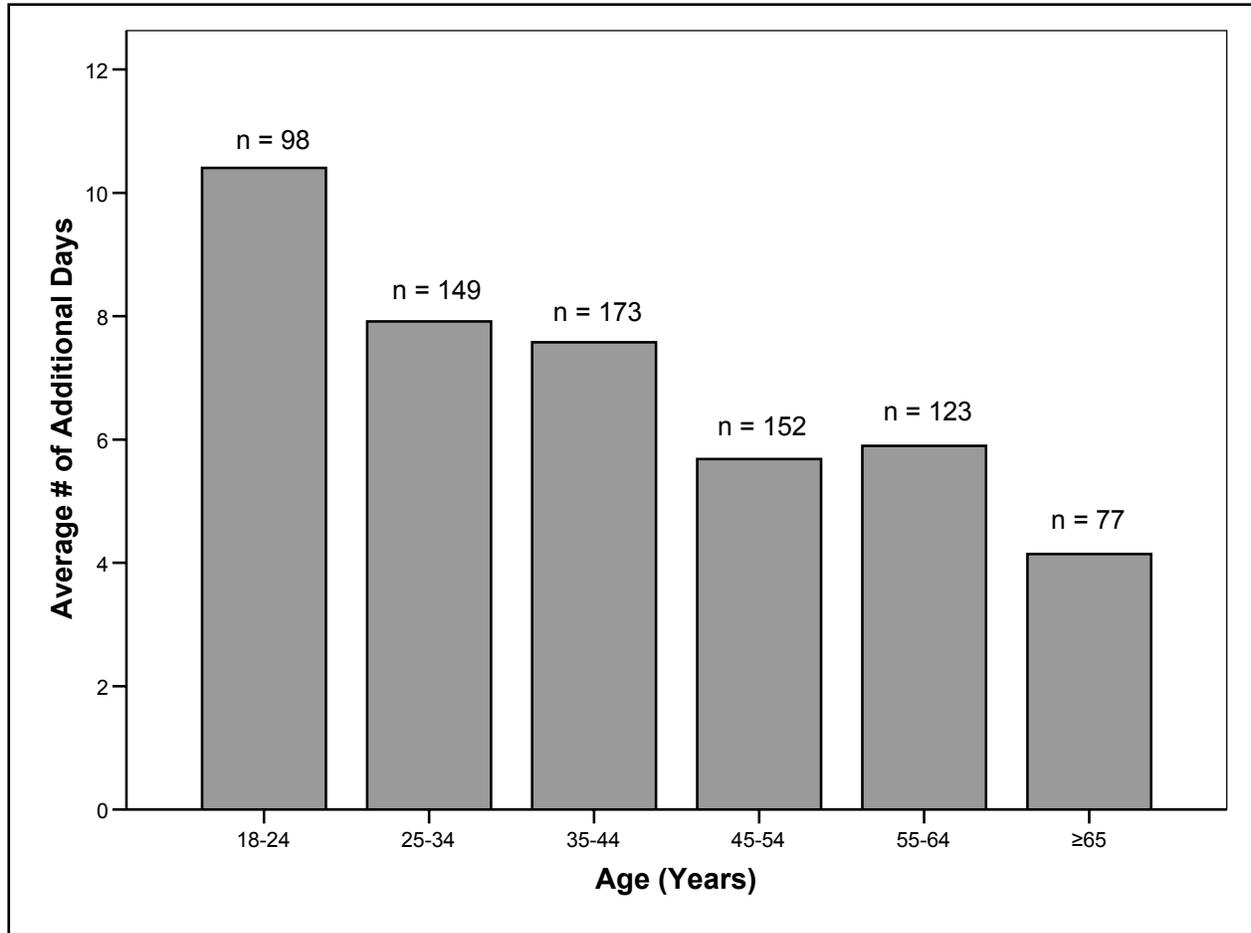


Figure 8.2. Effect of respondents’ age on average number of additional days hunted in North Carolina that did not involve an overnight stay if hunting on Sunday was legalized, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006 ($F = 2.929, df = 5, P = 0.013$).

Table 8.1. Significant relationships between respondent participation in hunting on Sunday in North Carolina, and demographics and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006.

Demographic Characteristics		% ^a	% ^b	N	χ^2	df	P-value
Age				882	93.484	10	<0.0001
	18-24	57.8	28.4				
	25-34	59.1	26.4				
	35-44	55.4	34.8				
	45-54	48.1	37.0				
	55-64	43.6	44.3				
	≥65	15.6	74.1				

Community				878	23.555	8	0.003
	Large City	54.5	26.6				
	Small City	51.1	34.8				
	Small Town	50.0	35.3				
	Rural area on a Farm	37.6	52.5				
	Rural area not on a farm	48.2	41.4				

Income				827	25.897	10	0.004
	≤\$24,999	40.2	52.0				
	\$25,000-\$34,999	52.9	36.8				
	\$35,000-\$49,999	49.6	38.9				
	\$50,000-\$74,999	42.9	40.1				
	\$75,000-\$99,999	49.2	42.7				
	≥\$100,000	58.2	25.4				

Church Attendance				850	160.125	6	<0.0001
	0 days	72.1	17.2				
	1-2 days	64.9	21.2				
	3-5 days	36.5	47.8				
	≥6 days	22.4	69.4				

Avidity				749	27.722	4	<0.0001
	Low (≤ 15 days)	40.9	33.9				
	Intermediate (16-53 days)	52.2	46.4				
	High (≥ 54 days)	61.9	19.7				

^a Percentage of respondents indicating they would hunt on Sunday if it was legalized

^b Percentage of respondents indicating they would not hunt on Sunday if it was legalized

Table 8.2. Relationship between opinions of hunting on Sunday and respondent participation in hunting on Sunday in North Carolina if legalized, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 821.125$, $df = 8$, $P < 0.0001$). (Numbers under the values heading represent the percent of hunters who selected that response option).

If hunting on Sunday were legalized, would you hunt on Sunday in North Carolina?	N	Values ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
Yes	415	78.8	15.4	3.1	0.5	2.2
No	354	2.0	1.7	4.2	7.3	84.7
Not Sure	111	10.8	25.2	19.8	19.8	24.3

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 8.3. Significant relationships between level of respondent participation in hunting on Sunday in North Carolina if legalized, and respondent demographics and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006.

Demographic Characteristics		% ^a	% ^b	N	χ^2	df	P-value	Gamma
Age				857	99.119	10	<0.0001	0.358
	18-24	51.5	47.5					
	25-34	46.3	53.1					
	35-44	41.5	58.5					
	45-54	41.5	56.1					
	55-64	28.5	68.6					
	≥65	7.9	79.8					
Community				843	16.330	8	0.038	0.077
	Large City	39.7	57.7					
	Small City	38.9	60.0					
	Small Town	47.5	50.4					
	Rural area on a Farm	27.8	67.6					
	Rural area not on a farm	36.4	60.4					
Church Attendance				821	76.119	6	<0.0001	0.439
	0 days	54.7	45.3					
	1-2 days	48.0	50.0					
	3-5 days	30.8	66.1					
	≥6 days	17.3	76.9					
Avidity				738	11.756	4	0.019	-0.204
	Low (≤ 15 days)	31.8	66.5					
	Intermediate (16-53 days)	40.8	58.1					
	High (≥ 54 days)	49.0	49.5					

^a Percentage of respondents indicating they would hunt more days if it was legalized.

^b Percentage of respondents indicated they would about the same number of days if it was legalized.

Table 8.4. Relationship between opinion of hunting on Sunday and respondent level of participation in hunting on Sunday in North Carolina if legalized, based on a mail survey of licensed resident hunters in North Carolina in summer 2006 ($\chi^2 = 407.911$, $df = 8$, $P < 0.0001$, $\gamma = 0.875$). (Numbers under the values heading represent the percent of hunters who selected that response option).

If hunting on Sunday were legalized, would you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days per year as you do now?	N	Values ^a				
		1	2	3	4	5
More Days	316	79.7	15.5	2.2	0.6	1.9
About the Same	515	17.5	9.1	7.4	8.9	57.1
Fewer Days	24	8.3	0.0	8.3	8.3	75.0

^a 1 = Strongly Support, 2 = Somewhat Support, 3 = Neither Support Nor Oppose, 4 = Somewhat Oppose, 5 = Strongly Oppose

Table 8.5. Significant relationships between average number of days hunted that did not involve an overnight stay and demographics, based on a mail survey of North Carolina hunters in summer 2006.

Demographics		Mean ^a	Median	N	F	df	P-value
Region				768	5.321	2	0.005
	Coastal	25.5 (35.1)	20.0				
	Piedmont	26.5 (35.1)	15.0				
	Mountain	18.7 (21.4)	11.1				
Age				767	6.177	5	<0.0001
	18-24	34.8 (38.8)	25.0				
	25-34	27.1 (32.4)	18.2				
	35-44	25.6 (32.5)	15.3				
	45-54	19.3 (20.4)	14.0				
	55-64	19.3 (23.4)	14.4				
	65	14.7 (19.5)	5.0				
Gender				766	6.687	1	0.010
	Male	24.4 (29.8)	15.0				
	Female	11.7 (18.0)	3.0				
Community				757	6.229	4	<0.0001
	Large City	10.6 (13.1)	5.0				
	Small City	23.4 (31.7)	15.3				
	Small Town	19.6 (24.0)	10.0				
	Rural area on a farm	29.44 (36.7)	19.8				
	Rural area not on a farm	26.4 (27.6)	18.2				
Education				763	3.109	5	0.009
	Some high school or less	28.9 (36.5)	20.0				
	High school diploma or GED	28.1 (32.5)	16.0				
	Some college or trade school	21.5 (24.6)	15.0				
	Bachelor's degree	20.0 (29.7)	12.3				
	Master's degree	24.6 (35.8)	9.8				
	Phd., M.D., J.D., or equivalent	8.2 (12.7)	1.0				
Church Attendance				742	3.438	3	0.017
	0 days	28.0 (32.8)	20.0				
	1-2 days	25.7 (37.7)	10.8				
	3-5 days	19.4 (23.6)	11.4				
	>6 days	24.6 (25.6)	16.0				

^a Means reported with standard deviations in parentheses.

Table 8.6. Relationships between average number of days hunted that did not involve an overnight stay and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of North Carolina hunters in summer 2006.

Hunter Characteristics	Mean^a	Median	N	F	df	P-value
Hunter Type			680	1.286	3	0.278
Big game	26.0 (28.3)	18.0				
Small game	24.3 (44.8)	7.3				
Waterfowl	10.3 (10.6)	7.6				
Mixed	27.7 (29.4)	20.0				
Avidity			681	181.471	2	<0.0001
Low (≤15 Days)	6.5 (7.5)	5.0				
Intermediate (16-53 Days)	20.5 (14.5)	20.0				
High (≥54 Days)	54.0 (41.6)	50.0				

^a Means reported with standard deviations in parentheses.

Table 8.7. Significant relationships between average number of additional days hunted that would not involve an overnight stay and respondent demographics, based on a mail survey of North Carolina hunters in summer 2006.

Demographics	Mean^a	Median	N	F	df	P-value
Age			771	2.929	5	0.013
18-24	10.4 (17.7)	5.0				
25-34	7.9 (11.6)	3.4				
35-44	7.6 (13.2)	3.0				
45-54	5.7 (9.7)	0.0				
55-64	5.9 (11.8)	0.0				
≥65	4.1 (12.5)	0.0				
Education			766	2.350	5	0.039
Some high school or less	10.2 (17.2)	3.3				
High school diploma or GED	8.2 (13.0)	3.1				
Some college or trade school	6.7 (12.5)	0.0				
Bachelor's degree	4.4 (29.7)	0.0				
Master's degree	7.2 (18.3)	0.0				
PhD., M.D., J.D., or equivalent	3.2 (5.0)	1.1				
Income			731	4.469	5	0.001
≤\$24,999	9.8 (17.3)	0.0				
\$25,000-\$34,999	11.2 (19.3)	4.5				
\$35,000-\$49,999	6.3 (9.5)	3.0				
\$50,000-\$74,999	5.3 (10.8)	0.0				
\$75,000-\$99,999	5.5 (8.3)	0.2				
≥\$100,000	6.6 (9.5)	4.4				
Church Attendance			745	3.042	3	0.028
0 days	9.3 (11.7)	7.0				
1-2 days	7.1 (9.6)	5.0				
3-5 days	5.8 (14.2)	0.0				
≥6 days	6.2 (14.2)	0.0				

^a Means reported with standard deviations in parentheses.

Table 8.8. Relationships between average number of additional days hunted that would not involve an overnight stay and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of North Carolina hunters in summer 2006.

Hunter Characteristics	Mean^a	Median	N	F	df	P-value
Hunter Type			682	0.957	3	0.413
Big game	6.9 (11.2)	3.0				
Small game	6.7 (12.6)	0.0				
Waterfowl	3.7 (4.4)	1.7				
Mixed	8.3 (14.8)	3.0				
Avidity			684	21.091	2	<0.0001
Low (≤ 15 Days)	2.9 (7.1)	0.0				
Intermediate (16-53 Days)	7.3 (11.0)	3.0				
High (≥ 54 Days)	11.9 (18.4)	9.4				

^a Means reported with standard deviations in parentheses.

Table 8.9. Relationships between average number of overnight trips taken to hunt in North Carolina and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of North Carolina hunters in summer 2006.

Hunter Characteristics	Mean^a	Median	N	F	df	P-value
Hunter Type			685	2.056	3	0.105
Big game	2.5 (7.1)	0.0				
Small game	0.5 (1.6)	0.0				
Waterfowl	4.0 (7.2)	0.0				
Mixed	2.1 (4.5)	0.0				
Avidity			687	9.284	2	<0.0001
Low (≤15 Days)	1.2 (4.0)	0.0				
Intermediate (16-53 Days)	1.9 (4.5)	0.0				
High (≥54 Days)	3.7 (8.0)	0.0				

^a Means reported with standard deviations in parentheses.

Table 8.10. Relationships between average number of additional overnight trips taken to hunt in North Carolina if hunting on Sunday was legalized and hunter characteristics, based on a mail survey of North Carolina hunters in summer 2006.

Hunter Characteristics	Mean^a	Median	N	F	df	P-value
Hunter Type			682	1.373	3	0.250
Big game	1.9 (3.9)	0.0				
Small game	0.8 (2.4)	0.0				
Waterfowl	2.4 (4.1)	0.0				
Mixed	2.3 (5.8)	0.0				
Avidity			683	10.494	2	<0.0001
Low (≤ 15 Days)	1.0 (2.5)	0.0				
Intermediate (16-53 Days)	1.8 (3.7)	0.0				
High (≥ 54 Days)	3.3 (7.5)	0.0				

^a Means reported with standard deviations in parentheses.

9. POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF HUNTING ON SUNDAY

The economic assessment of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina involved two separate analyses. The potential impacts of hunting on Sunday on the North Carolina economy was addressed by Southwick & Associates; the potential costs and benefits of hunting on Sunday to the WRC were assessed by Virginia Tech.

The Potential Economic Effects of Hunting on Sunday In North Carolina

This section estimates the potential changes in economic contributions North Carolina could experience by allowing hunting on Sunday. Economic contributions are estimated for all hunting and deer hunting.

Data Sources:

Two major data sources were used to produce these estimates. The first was an existing report on the economic contributions of hunting in North Carolina, The Economic Importance of Hunting in America. This report was produced by Southwick Associates on behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This document provided state by state economic impacts for different types of hunting and is based on the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation, conducted every five years by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The second source was a survey conducted in mid-2006 of North Carolina hunters by Virginia Tech's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. The survey, commissioned by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, examined hunters' opinions and potential response to opening Sundays to hunting. Included were questions regarding if they would hunt more or less if hunting on Sunday was permitted and how much their overall hunting activities would change.

Calculations:

The general steps used to estimate hunting on Sunday economic effects were:

- A. Identify the current economic contributions of hunting in North Carolina;
- B. Estimate the potential net changes in annual North Carolina hunting participation if hunting on Sunday was permitted; then
- C. Project how much the potential net changes in annual hunting participation will affect the annual economic contributions from hunting.

The three steps listed above are presented next in greater detail.

A. Identify the Current Economic Contributions of Hunting in North Carolina

The 2001 economic contributions of hunting were obtained from the AFWA report The Economic Importance of Hunting in America. These are listed in Table 9.1. Definitions for each type of impact are presented in Figure 9.1.

Table 9.1. Economic Contributions of Hunting, 2001

		Number of Hunting Days	Retail Sales	Total Ripple Effect	Earnings:	Jobs:	Sales Tax Revenues:	State Income Tax Revenues
All Hunting Activities:	Total:	7,526,009	\$458,008,129	\$896,002,783	\$223,508,461	9,485	\$22,228,780	\$10,666,001
	Per Day:	1	\$60.86	\$119.05	\$29.70	0.0013	\$2.95	\$1.42
Deer Hunting:	Total:	4,746,764	\$311,419,807	\$607,062,577	\$149,951,934	6,316	\$14,989,948	\$7,180,490
	Per Day:	1	\$65.61	\$127.89	\$31.59	0.0013	\$3.16	\$1.51

Figure 9.1: Definitions of Economic Terms.

Number of Hunting Days: the total days of hunting in North Carolina annually by resident and nonresident hunters. A day equals one period, sun-up to sundown. On an overnight trip when the hunter hunted both the day before and the day after would count as two days of hunting.

Retail Sales: the total dollars spent by hunters for all hunting-related products and services. This includes hunting equipment as well as support items such as travel, vehicles purchased specifically for the purpose of hunting, etc.

Total Ripple Effect: the total rounds of spending generated in the North Carolina economy as a result of hunters' expenditures. This involves the retailer buying more product and paying his employees, wholesalers and manufacturers buying more input and paying their bills and employees, etc. If hunters stop spending their money on hunting and did not spend their money anywhere else, the state economy would be expected to shrink by the amount reported under "total ripple effect." Economists often refer to this term as "output" or "total multiplier effect".

Earnings: the total salaries, wages, rents and business profits generated as a result of the total ripple effect.

Jobs: the total number of jobs, part-time and full-time, supported by the total ripple effect.

Sales Tax Revenues: the total sales tax revenues received by the state as result of hunter expenditures. This is a conservative number as the additional sales taxes generated by the total ripple effect are not included. These figures also include fuel tax revenues earned from the purchase of fuels by hunters.

State Income Tax Revenues: the total income tax revenues received by North Carolina as a result of the total ripple effect.

The next step was to update these numbers to reflect the latest year possible. This was done using a combination of inflation data and North Carolina hunting license sales data. Inflation data were obtained from the Consumer Price Index (CPI).¹ From 2001 to 2006, the CPI showed consumer prices increased 15%. Without an index specific to the cost of hunting-related goods and services, the assumption is made that prices paid by hunters increased at the same rate. Hunters' 2001 expenditures were increased by 15% to account for inflation.

¹ US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2006.

Hunting participation is not static from year to year. Factors such as the weather, economic conditions, perceived quality of hunting opportunities, and more, all affect annual hunting participation levels. To adjust for changes in hunting participation from 2001 to 2006, hunting license sales data were used. For fiscal year 2001, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) reported there were 328,747 annual hunting licenses sold. For fiscal year 2006, the WRC reported there were 301,795 annual licenses sold. This indicates that hunting participation decreased 8.2% from 2001 to 2006. Overall hunting activity is also impacted by the number of days hunters spend in the field each year. However, without such data available, adjustments reflecting changes in average days afield per hunter were not possible.

Table 9.2 presents the estimated 2006 economic contributions of hunting in North Carolina. These numbers reflect the 2001 contributions reported in Table 9.1 updated to reflect inflation and hunting license sales trends.

Table 9.2. Estimated 2006 Economic Contributions of Hunting in North Carolina.

	Number of Hunting Days	Retail Sales	Total Ripple Effect	Earnings	Jobs	Sales Tax Revenues	State Income Tax Revenues
All Hunting Activities:	6,908,997	\$483,527,600	\$945,926,606	\$235,961,990	10,013	\$23,467,332	\$11,260,294
Per day:	-	\$69.99	\$136.91	\$34.15	0.0014	\$3.40	\$1.63
Deer Hunting:	4,357,605	\$328,771,614	\$640,887,119	\$158,307,013	6,668	\$15,825,163	\$7,580,576
Per day:	-	\$75.45	\$147.07	\$36.33	0.0015	\$3.63	\$1.74

B. Estimate the Potential Net Changes in Annual North Carolina Hunting Participation If Sunday Hunting Was Permitted

The potential changes in annual hunting activity were estimated using data from a 2006 survey of North Carolina hunters commissioned by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. This survey was conducted by Virginia Tech’s Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. A companion survey was also commissioned and conducted by Responsive Management of Harrisonburg, Virginia. This survey examined the North Carolina public’s opinions regarding hunting on Sunday. Greater detail regarding hunters’ opinions was available from the Virginia Tech survey as it focused on hunters only.

The Virginia Tech survey presented a series of questions to hunters asking if they were likely to take more, fewer, or the same number of hunting trips annually if hunting was allowed on Sundays. They were also asked how many more or fewer days might they hunt annually if hunting on Sunday were allowed. Table 9.3 lists how hunters report their annual hunting activity will change if hunting on Sunday is permitted:

Looking at the differences between the mean, median and mode reported for each of the three groupings of hunters (those would hunt more, same, and less each year if hunting on Sunday was allowed), we see the mean responses are skewed towards those who hunt a large number of days annually. There may be an unknown level of survey bias or overestimation occurring in these data, which may be considered outliers. For this analysis, the median results are used as they adjust for the upper-end responses.

Table 9.3. How Hunters Report They Will Respond If Hunting on Sunday Is Allowed

A. The % of NC hunters who would hunt more if hunting on Sunday were allowed: 36.9%				
Of the hunters who report they would hunt more:				
	Average Day Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Day Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?	Average Overnight Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Overnight Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?
Mean:	29.9	12.7	2.4	3.4
Median:	20.0	10.0	0.0	2.0
Mode:	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
B. The % of NC hunters who report they would hunt the same amount annually: 56.2%				
Of the hunters who report they would hunt the same amount annually:				
	Average Day Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Day Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?	Average Overnight Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Overnight Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?
Mean:	19.7	3.3	1.8	0.9
Median:	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mode:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C. The % of NC hunters who would hunt less annually: 2.9%*				
Of the hunters who report they would hunt less:				
	How Many Fewer Days Per Year Would You Hunt if Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?			
Mean:	10.27			

* Hunters who indicated they would hunt fewer days per year if hunting on Sunday was legalized were asked to provide how many fewer days per year they would hunt in North Carolina. The skip pattern of the hunter survey excluded hunters who indicated they would hunt fewer days from questions to determine how many additional days or trips they would take as a result of legalizing hunting on Sunday.

The median results indicate that, for hunters who report they would hunt more if hunting on Sunday was allowed, they would take two additional overnight trips annually. Currently, the typical hunter reports taking zero overnight trips annually. In addition, they would increase their annual day hunts by 50% if hunting on Sunday was allowed. This makes sense considering most hunters only have the weekend to hunt after work, school and other demands. For hunters who report they would hunt the same amount annually or less, if hunting on Sunday was allowed, using the median calculations, there would be no increase in their overall hunting activity.

Using the data in Table 9.3, the potential change in hunting activity was calculated in percentage terms. The results are reported in Table 9.4.

Table 9.4. Potential Change (in % terms) in Hunting Activity

A. The % of NC hunters who would hunt more if hunting on Sunday were allowed: 36.9%				
Of these hunters who report they would hunt more:				
	Average Day Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Day Trips Would You Take If Hunting Sunday on Was Allowed?	Average Overnight Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Overnight Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?
Mean:	-	42.4%	-	142.4%
Median:	-	50.0%	-	*
Mode:	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
B. The % of NC hunters who report they would hunt the same amount annually: 56.2%				
Of these hunters who report they would hunt the same amount annually:				
	Average Day Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Day Trips Would You Take If Hunting Sunday on Was Allowed?	Average Overnight Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Overnight Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?
Mean:	-	16.8%	-	48.0%
Median:	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Mode:	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
C. The % of NC hunters who would hunt less annually: 2.9%				
Of these hunters who report they would hunt less:				
	Average Day Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Day Trips Would You Take If Hunting Sunday on Was Allowed?	Average Overnight Trips Taken Annually	How Many More Overnight Trips Would You Take If Hunting on Sunday Was Allowed?
Mean:	-	-	-	-
Median:	-	-	-	-
Mode:	-	-	-	-

* These hunters report they would take two overnight trips annually, compared to the current no hunting on Sunday scenario where they most often take none. This cannot be expressed in percentage terms.

Overall, 36.9% of hunters would increase their annual hunting activity if hunting on Sunday was permitted. Assuming there are no differences in the annual number of days hunted between hunters with differing opinions about hunting on Sunday, these 36.9% of North Carolina hunters represented 2,549,420 days of hunting in FY 2006. Table 9.4 tells us that these hunters would take 50% more day trips if hunting on Sunday was allowed. This amounts to an extra 1,274,710 day trips annually. These hunters reported they would take two overnight hunting trips annually, when before they did not take any, according to their survey responses. With 427,608 certified hunting license buyers in North Carolina², 157,787 (based on the 36.9% reported in Table 9.4) of whom may hunt more if allowed on Sunday, and allowing for two hunting days per overnight trip, this would equate to an additional 631,149 hunting days annually. Altogether, North Carolina would see a potential increase of 1,905,859 hunting days annually, if hunting on Sunday was allowed. This equates to an increase in hunting activity of 27.6%.

² This is the certified number of hunting license buyers in North Carolina, as reported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

C. Project how much the potential net changes in annual hunting participation will affect the annual economic contributions from hunting.

The next step is to apply the results of Table 9.4 to the current hunting economic contribution estimates (presented in Table 9.2). Several adjusting steps are required. The primary adjustment relates to equipment purchases. It is reasonable to assume travel costs remain the same per trip regardless of the number of trips taken. However, equipment such as firearms, camping gear, tree stands, etc., can be if used in many trips. Durable items, which represent 80% of annual hunting-related expenditures in North Carolina (Table 9.5), can last for years. While it is true that these items wear out with each successive use, this takes time. Therefore, equipment expenditures may not increase 27.6% in the first year or two when hunting on Sunday is allowed.³

Table 9.5. Annual hunting-related expenditures in North Carolina.

<u>Expenditure Category:</u>	<u>All Hunting:</u>	<u>Deer Hunting:</u>
Food, drink & refreshments	\$35,170,260	\$22,998,163
Lodging (motels, cabins, lodges or campgrounds, etc.)	\$12,257,798	\$9,366,093
Public transportation, including airplanes, trains, buses, & car rentals, etc	\$1,342,179	\$985,226
Transportation by private vehicle	\$26,213,024	\$15,963,004
Guide fees, pack trip or package fees	\$515,720	\$363,559
Public land use or access fees	\$353,253	\$213,655
Private land use or access fees (except leases)	\$14,427,438	\$12,490,027
Heating & cooking fuel	\$483,249	\$464,851
Equipment rental such as boats, hunting or camping equipment, etc.	\$0	\$0
Boat fuel	\$555,264	\$232,944
Boat launching fees	\$0	\$0
Boat mooring, storage, maintenance, insurance, etc.	\$421,295	\$421,295
Rifles	\$25,307,469	\$19,143,644
Shotguns	\$13,033,631	\$3,750,279
Muzzleloaders & other primitive firearms	\$3,327,139	\$2,920,551
Handguns	\$4,888,478	\$0
Bows, arrows & archery equipment	\$18,873,063	\$18,441,141
Telescopic sights	\$9,995,771	\$8,196,806
Decoys & game calls	\$6,404,740	\$1,305,003
Ammunition	\$20,287,723	\$6,663,668
Hand loading equipment & components	\$0	\$0
Hunting dogs and associated costs	\$9,720,234	\$0
Other hunting equipment (cases, knives, etc.)	\$9,051,467	\$3,247,340
Camping equipment	\$1,960,197	\$232,757
Binoculars, field glasses, telescopes, etc.	\$2,496,933	\$1,834,394
Special hunting clothes, foul weather gear, boots, waders, etc.	\$17,210,393	\$3,793,999
Processing and taxidermy costs	\$6,869,816	\$3,857,488
Books and magazines devoted to hunting	\$1,844,227	\$247,201
Dues or contributions	\$4,429,540	\$810,391
Other support items (such as snowshoes, ski, equipment repair, etc.)	\$516,759	\$471,231

³ The exception may relate to camping and other overnight equipment where new demand for such items may be immediately created as a result of more hunters taking overnight trips.

Boats	\$0	\$0
Pick-up, camper, van, travel tent trailer, motor home, house trailer	\$3,166,460	
Cabin	\$0	
Off-road vehicle: trail bike, 4x4 vehicle, 4-wheeler, snowmobile, etc.	\$179,277,786	\$156,582,766
Other special equipment (ice chests, airplane, etc)	\$337,036	\$337,036
Licenses, tags, permits and other similar fees	\$7,606,848	\$3,114,305
Land owned primarily for hunting, 2001 expenses and payments	\$5,485,881	\$0
<u>Land leased primarily for hunting, 2001 expenses and payments</u>	<u>\$14,177,055</u>	<u>\$12,970,991</u>
TOTAL:	\$458,008,129	\$311,419,808

Unlike equipment, travel-related expenses, which represent 20% of North Carolina's annual hunting-related expenditures, are expected to increase 27.6% in the first year. Table 9.6 presents the projected increase in economic contributions should hunting on Sunday be allowed. Data needed to estimate the annual growth rate in annual equipment-related expenditures were not available. Therefore, it is assumed that in the first year of hunting on Sunday, equipment expenditures will only increase at half the rate of travel-related expenditures. By the second year in the additional 25% of the overall increase will be realized, and by the third year, equipment expenditures will have caught up and increased by the full 27.6%.

The final economic estimates show that, should hunting on Sunday be allowed, the economic contributions from hunting to North Carolina's economy would increase 16.6% in the first year compared to current (2006) levels, by 22.1% in the second year, ultimately attaining a 27.6% increase by the third year. There are a number of major assumptions included with these estimates:

1. The annual days of hunting per hunter remains the same;
2. The number of hunters remains constant from year to year;
3. The average annual expenditure per hunter remains the same; and
4. Hunting on Sunday is allowed for all seasons currently available to North Carolina hunters and the length of each season remains the same.

This analysis only reports the changes in economic contributions from hunting. It is not a full cost-benefit study to the entire North Carolina economy. If hunting was available on Sundays, some hunters would likely shift their expenditures from one activity to hunting, thus causing decreases in economic contributions from those other activities. Which activities might be affected are not known. Recognizing the high cost of hunting (\$70-\$75 per day, per Table 9.2), it can be assumed that the new economic contributions from hunting on Sunday could be greater than the losses to other sectors of the state economy.

Potential Costs and Benefits of Hunting on Sunday to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, like nearly all state fish and wildlife agencies, derives a significant portion of its budget from sales of hunting and fishing licenses and other associated permits. Some of that license revenue is used to match federal funds (\$1 of state money for each \$3 of federal money) through the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program.

The amount of federal funds received by the state are determined by a formula that is based 50% on the state's land area in comparison to the rest of the country and 50% on the number of licenses sold in comparison to the rest of the country. In Fiscal Year 2006, the WRC sold 438,172 hunting licenses that generated \$7,606,848 in revenue. North Carolina's Wildlife Restoration apportionment was \$4,160,586.

Although it is not possible to determine with certainty how many more licenses the WRC might sell if hunting on Sunday was legalized, we can project the financial impact of various license sale scenarios. Table 9.7 shows the financial impact of increases in license sales of 1%, 2%, 5%, 10% and 20%. The combined effect of revenue from increased license sales and the associated increase in Wildlife Restoration funds is \$102,119 for a one percent increase in sales, \$510,416 for a 5% increase and \$2,039,008 for a 20% increase.

Personnel of the WRC estimated that at least 36 new game wardens (one per district) would be needed state wide to maintain current levels of enforcement if hunting on Sunday was legalized. The estimated first year cost of hiring, training, equipping and supporting the operations of a new warden is \$99,657. That cost drops to \$52,457 in the second year, for a two-year total of \$152,114 per warden (\$5,476,104 for 36 wardens). If license sales increased by 20% as a result of legalization of hunting on Sunday (an unlikely scenario), the additional revenue and Federal Assistance funding for the two-year period would still be \$1,398,088 short of covering the cost of the new officers. However, the WRC also would have the option of redirecting the effort of existing officers, paying overtime to existing officers, or hiring fewer new wardens to provide additional enforcement capability in specific areas or to relieve other officers as needed.

Legalization of hunting on Sunday also would create additional demand for use of State Gamelands. Although WRC personnel indicated that they would have to adjust schedules of when State Gamelands would be open or closed to accommodate hunting on Sunday, they did not believe that hunting on Sunday would generate significant new costs to the agency.

Willingness of Hunters to Pay for the Opportunity to Hunt on Sunday

Thirty-three percent of hunters responding to the survey indicated that they would be willing to pay more for their North Carolina hunting licenses to pay for the costs of implementing hunting on Sunday. A lower bound estimate of the mean willingness to pay for those hunters who indicated they would pay more was \$17.59, after adjustment for bias in a hypothetical market (Champ and Bishop 2001).

Table 9.6. Potential Economic Contributions if Hunting on Sunday was Allowed

		Number of Hunting Days	Retail Sales	Total Ripple Effect	Earnings	Jobs	Sales Tax Revenues	State Income Tax Revenues	% Increase over 2006 Impacts
All Hunting Activities:	Travel-related, Annual	8,815,880	\$123,396,243	\$241,400,470	\$60,217,500	2,555	\$5,988,863	\$2,873,627	27.6%
			\$440,203,527	\$861,171,582	\$214,819,796	9,116	\$21,364,659	\$10,251,371	13.8%
			\$466,894,250	\$913,386,731	\$227,844,898	9,669	\$22,660,056	\$10,872,940	20.7%
			\$493,584,974	\$965,601,879	\$240,870,000	10,222	\$23,955,452	\$11,494,508	27.6%
Deer Hunting:	Travel-related, Annual	5,560,304	\$83,902,516	\$163,554,393	\$40,399,950	1,702	\$4,038,582	\$1,934,563	27.6%
			\$299,313,678	\$583,463,634	\$144,122,704	6,071	\$14,407,228	\$6,901,356	13.8%
			\$317,461,871	\$618,840,603	\$152,861,251	6,439	\$15,280,777	\$7,319,804	20.7%
			\$335,610,064	\$654,217,572	\$161,599,798	6,807	\$16,154,326	\$7,738,252	27.6%
ANNUAL TOTALS:*									
(travel + equipment combined)	All Hunting Activities:								
	Year 1	8,815,880	\$563,599,770	\$1,102,572,052	\$275,037,296	11,672	\$27,353,522	\$13,124,998	16.6%
		8,815,880	\$590,290,494	\$1,154,787,201	\$288,062,398	12,224	\$28,648,919	\$13,746,567	22.1%
		8,815,880	\$616,981,217	\$1,207,002,349	\$301,087,500	12,777	\$29,944,315	\$14,368,135	27.6%
	Deer Hunting Only:								
	Year 1	5,560,304	\$383,216,193	\$747,018,026	\$184,522,654	7,773	\$18,445,810	\$8,835,919	16.6%
	Year 2	5,560,304	\$401,364,387	\$782,394,995	\$193,261,201	8,141	\$19,319,359	\$9,254,367	22.1%
	Year 3 and beyond	5,560,304	\$419,512,580	\$817,771,964	\$201,999,748	8,509	\$20,192,908	\$9,672,815	27.6%

* in 2006 dollars; assumes steady participation

Table 9.7. Revenue generated from the sale of licenses and permits and federal apportionment to North Carolina under the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration Program in FY 2006 and under scenarios of 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%, and 20% increases over 2006 totals in license sales.

Sales Increase Scenario	Projected License Revenue	Projected Wildlife Restoration Fund Allocation	Total Revenue	Increase in Revenue
Current (FY 2006)	\$7,606,848	\$4,160,586	\$11,767,434	--
1% increase	\$7,682,916	\$4,186,637	\$11,869,553	\$102,119
2% increase	\$7,758,985	\$4,212,664	\$11,971,649	\$204,215
5% increase	\$7,987,190	\$4,290,660	\$12,277,850	\$510,416
10% increase	\$8,367,533	\$4,420,295	\$12,787,828	\$1,020,494
20% increase	\$9,128,218	\$4,678,224	\$13,806,442	\$2,039,008

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10. EFFECTS OF RECENT CHANGES TO ALLOW HUNTING ON SUNDAY IN MARYLAND AND WEST VIRGINIA

The most recent changes in state laws affecting hunting on Sunday occurred in Maryland (2003) and West Virginia. In both cases, the state legislatures granted authority to county governments to allow hunting on Sunday if they chose to do so. In both states, some counties chose to allow hunting on Sunday, while others did not.

In Maryland, the Wildlife and Heritage Service proposed that counties allow deer hunting with archery equipment on the first Sunday in November and deer hunting with firearms on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. No other hunting on Sundays was proposed. Initially, 12 of Maryland's 23 counties chose to allow deer hunting on the two Sundays proposed, while the other 11 opted not to allow any hunting on Sunday. Counties that faced significant urban-suburban deer management issues are now more supportive of allowing hunting on Sunday than they were when the option was first presented 3 years ago. One of those counties expanded hunting opportunities to the last three Sundays in October and one additional Sunday in November for archery hunting, in addition to the two Sundays in November the other counties enjoy. Since 2003, two of the counties that initially opted not to allow hunting on Sunday have reversed that decision so that currently, 14 out of 23 counties allow deer hunting on Sunday.

Although no quantitative data have been collected to assess the effects of allowing hunting on Sunday on hunter participation in Maryland, anecdotal information collected at agency-run check stations suggests that participation on the Sunday after Thanksgiving has been substantial. Maryland has seen no noticeable effect of legalizing limited hunting on Sunday on sales of hunting licenses (information on hunting on Sunday in Maryland provided by Bob Beyer, Associate Director, Game Management Program, Maryland Wildlife & Heritage Service).

The 2001 West Virginia Legislature passed HB 2146, which authorized hunting on Sunday on private lands only. The statute directed county commissions to place a measure on the ballot giving citizens the opportunity to approve or disapprove hunting on Sunday in each county. Voters in 41 counties voted against hunting on Sunday, while 14 other counties never voted on the issue, thus approving hunting on Sunday by default. Members of a hunt club in one county that voted against hunting on Sunday filed a law suit against the county commission on the basis that the prohibition on hunting on Sunday unconstitutionally delegates authority to the county and restricts their rights to use of private property. The case is pending in the West Virginia legal system.

The West Virginia DNR has no quantitative data on hunter participation. Anecdotal evidence suggests that no significant changes in hunter effort have occurred as a result of legalization of hunting on Sunday in some counties. One group of four counties in southern West Virginia, where hunting with guns has been restricted for many years, has a reputation for producing large bucks. Anecdotal evidence suggests that area is receiving heavier pressure since hunting on Sunday became legal (information on hunting on Sunday in West Virginia provided by Paul Johansen, Chief of Wildlife Management, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources).

**APPENDIX A:
LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS INVITED TO STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS & MEETING NOTES**

**PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
(Stakeholders external to WRC)**

A G E N D A

Time	Agenda Item	Personnel
7:00	Welcome, statement of purpose, introductions	McMullin
7:10	Overview of project (presentation)	McMullin
7:25	Set up break out groups	Everyone
7:30	Begin break out groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions within break out groups (5 minutes) 2. Two minute silent brainstorming period to consider the question, “What are the major benefits and costs associated with allowing Sunday hunting in North Carolina?” (2 minutes) 3. Round robin capture of benefits and costs on flip charts (no discussion—18 minutes) 4. Discussion question—“Which of these costs and benefits are most important for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to quantify before a decision is made about Sunday hunting?” (15 minutes each on benefits and costs, total of 30 minutes) 5. Group chooses spokesperson to report to whole group (5 minutes) 6. Reassemble whole group for reports (5 minutes) 	Everyone facilitating * Too few people attended each meeting for break-out groups to work. As a result, each meeting was conducted with only one group.
8:35	Break out groups report to whole group (5 minutes each, total of 20 minutes)	McMullin, group spokespersons
8:55	Thank you and adjourn (reminder to sign up if participants want to receive further info)	McMullin

Meeting logistics:

1. As participants arrive, have them sign the attendance sheet (name, affiliation/interest, email, address—if no email).
2. Upon sign-in, give each participant a comment card with colored dot affixed.

List of Stakeholders Invited to Coastal Stakeholder Meeting in Greenville, NC
 (Representative groups/individuals from each identified stakeholder type
 were invited and asked to send a representative for their group.)

11 people attended

Stakeholder Type	Org. Name
Landowners	Weyerhaeuser Co
Landowners	International Paper
Landowners	Carolina Pine & Hardwood Corp.
Landowners	Travis Hudson
Landowners	Carlton Perry
Landowners	Billy Fisher
Landowners	Stacy Dail
Landowners	Jacob Turnage
Fed. Agencies	Croatan National Forest
Fed. Agencies	Roanoke River NWR
Fed. Agencies	Mattamusket NWR
Fed. Agencies	Alligator River NWR
Fed. Agencies	NRCS
St. Agencies	Division of Tourism
St. Agencies	Division of Forest Resources
Fed. Agencies	Fort Bragg
Fed. Agencies	Camp Lejeune
Hunter Org	NC Bowhunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Bear Hunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Coon Hunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Trappers Association
Hunter Org	NC Waterfowl Assoc.
DMAP	Camp Bryan Farms, Inc.
DMAP	Yankee Hall Gun Club
DMAP	Roanoke and Tar River Hunt Club
Cons. Groups	Quail Unlimited
Cons. Groups	NWTF
Cons. Groups	Trout Unlimited
Cons. Groups	NC BASS Federation
Cons. Groups	BASS Anglers Sportsman Society
Cons. Groups	Duck Unlimited
Cons. Groups	Audubon Society, NC
Cons. Groups	Sierra Club
Cons. Groups	NC Wildlife Federation
Cons. Groups	Carolina Bird Club
Cons. Groups	Blue Ridge Bird club
Clergy/Churches	Interfaith Alliance
Clergy/Churches	Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Clergy/Churches	NC Council of Churches
Business Community	Cataret COC (Croatan NF)
Business Community	Clinton COC
Business Community	Greenville-Pitt County COC

Farm Bureau	NCFB.org
Farm Bureau	NCFB.org
St. Agencies	DENR - Coastal Region Trails Coord.

Greenville Public Meeting Notes, 1/26/2006
7-9pm, Hilton Greenville

Issues of Concern:

1. Increased opportunities for youth hunters and working public; increased opportunities for family time to spend outdoors
2. Conflicts between user groups
3. Increase in noise levels around churches
4. Safety issues
5. Potential impacts to hunter success as a result of hunting pressure (animal behavior changes)
6. Opportunity to market and/or increase fee hunting
7. Restricted horseback riding opportunities
8. A decrease in church attendance?
 - a. Not necessarily a decrease. Hunting may occur before/after church, and those who attend church will continue to attend church.
9. Increase in license sales and revenue (economic impacts)
10. Increased workload for law enforcement
11. Landowners likely to be strongly opposed – may lose hunting lands, and Sunday pressure would be concentrated on public lands
12. Necessary changes to season lengths (e.g., waterfowl)
13. Increased economic activity (merchandise sales)
14. Increased economic impact (from Sunday hunting) could decrease economic impact from other recreation (horseback riding, hiking, etc)
15. Increased out-of-state license sales
16. Impacts to wildlife and habitat (could reduce hunting opportunities in the future)
17. Still hunting vs. dog hunting (deer and bear) – No Sunday hunting allows a “break in the action, particularly from running dogs (e.g., gives landowners, other recreationists a break)
18. If it passes, public land agencies may continue to restrict Sunday hunting
19. As long as total harvest is control, number of hunting days is insignificant
20. Increased hunting opportunities may decrease economic activity associated with other recreation groups
21. Issues/conflicts between resident hunters and nonresident hunters (e.g., private land leases, crowding)
22. May be a greater demand for hunting lands, but a more limited supply
23. Loss of a rest day for hunters and their families
24. Will require management and more restrictions – could lead to better management overall
25. Could change fishing participation on Sundays
26. Might increase out-of-state license sales more than resident license sales
27. How does Sunday hunting work in other states? Costs/benefits? Hunting participation? Impact on hunting seasons in terms of length, bag limits?

List of Stakeholders Invited to Piedmont Stakeholder Meeting in Raleigh, NC

(Representative groups/individuals from each identified stakeholder type were invited and asked to send a representative for their group.)

13 people attended

Stakeholder Type	Org. Name
Landowners	Squires Timber Company
Landowners	Canal Wood
Landowners	HW Culp Company
Landowners	East Coast Lumber
Landowners	Edwards Wood Product
Landowners	Curtis Farlow
Landowners	Don Reinner
Landowners	Ryan Jones
Fed. Agencies	Uwharrie National Forest
Fed. Agencies	PeeDee NWR
Fed. Agencies	Army Corps of Engineers (Falls Lake)
Fed. Agencies	Army Corps of Engineers (Jordan Lake)
St. Agencies	Division of Tourism
St. Agencies	Division of Forest Resources
St. Agencies	NC Natural Heritage
Hunter Org	NC Bowhunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Bear Hunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Coon Hunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Trappers Association
DMAP	Sassafras Fork Hunt Club
DMAP	Augusta Farms
DMAP	Johnston Community College
Cons. Groups	Quail Unlimited
Cons. Groups	NWTF
Cons. Groups	Trout Unlimited
Cons. Groups	NC BASS Federation
Cons. Groups	BASS Anglers Sportsman Society
Cons. Groups	Duck Unlimited
Cons. Groups	Audubon Society, NC
Cons. Groups	Sierra Club
Cons. Groups	NC Wildlife Federation
Cons. Groups	Carolina Bird Club
Cons. Groups	Blue Ridge Bird club
Clergy/Churches	Interfaith Alliance
Clergy/Churches	Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Clergy/Churches	NC Council of Churches
Business Community	Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
Business Community	Union County COC
Business Community	Franklin County COC

Business Community	Greensboro COC
Gun/hunting shops	Woodstock Guide Service
Gun/hunting shops	Bowhunter Pro Shop
Gun/hunting shops	East Carolina Outfitters
Gun/Hunting shops	Tucker Game Farm and Preserve
Gun/hunting shops	Bob's Sporting Goods
Gun/hunting shops	Sports Country
Farm Bureau	NCFB.org
Farm Bureau	NCFB.org
St. Agencies	DENR - State Trails Coordinator

Raleigh Public Stakeholder Meeting Notes, 1/25/2006
7-9 pm, Archdale Building

Issues of Concern:

1. Reduction in nonhunting use of public lands
2. Retention and recruitment of youth and other hunters with more weekend days
3. Overtax WRC enforcement personnel?
4. Extra day, especially for working hunters
5. Probably a reduction in equestrian use on Sunday (with recognition that it is not a primary WRC goal)
6. Provide a hunting day for religious groups whose Sabbath is Saturday and currently cannot hunt at all on weekends
7. Need to look at future trends, not just a snapshot in time.
8. Increases in sales of nonresident licenses (particularly from Virginia)
9. Increase revenue to NC (tourism, economic benefit)
10. Greater recreational opportunities for all hunting types (bowhunting, hunting with dogs)
11. Impacts on wildlife (game and nongame) and wildlife management (adjusting current regulations)
12. Increased issues with dog hunting (esp. deer and bear seasons)
13. Increased use of public lands (positive or a negative), particularly – what specific activities would increase? (e.g., camping and/or hunting on COE land? What will they need to do to respond?)
14. Potential impacts to nongame user expenditures – economic impacts
15. Conflicts with traditional view “we just don’t hunt on Sundays”
16. Concerns from adjacent and all private landowners
17. Opposition from religious groups
18. Sunday is a day where surveys and scientific studies are conducted – potential conflicts?
19. Increase deer harvest could decrease car/deer collisions
20. Safety issues with other outdoor recreationists
21. Impacts on all WRC resources (not just enforcement)
22. Additional issues with hunter safety (e.g., hunting accidents)
23. Conflicts resulting as a result of the increasing urbanization trend

Specific Stakeholders to Include:

1. County governments (would they want to set their own restrictions? Would they be able to?)
2. Timber companies, management groups (e.g., Plum Creek)
3. Paddle/canoe clubs
4. TNC
5. Triangle Land Conservancy
6. LTA – Southeastern (Chuck Roe)
7. American Tree Farm System
8. Universities with land holdings
9. NC Division of Coastal Management (DENR)
10. Progress Energy, Duke Energy

List of Stakeholders Invited to Mountain Stakeholder Meeting in Asheville, NC

(Representative groups/individuals from each identified stakeholder type were invited and asked to send a representative for their group.)

8 people attended

Stakeholder Type	Org. Name
Landowners	John Hancock Group
Landowners	Forest Land Group, LLC
Landowners	Forestland Group, LLC
Landowners	Biltmore Estate
Landowners	Biltmore Farms
Landowners	Green River Preserve
Landowners	Hungry River, LLC (Big Hungry Hunt Club)
Fed. Agencies	Pisgah National Forest
Fed. Agencies	Nantahala National Forest
Fed. Agencies	USFS - don't know which forest...
Fed. Agencies	No Specific Forest
Fed. Agencies	USFS - don't know which forest...
Fed. Agencies	Blue Ridge Parkway
Cherokee Indian Reservation	Cherokee Fish and Game
St. Agencies - St. Parks	Gorges State Park
St. Agencies - St. Parks	South Mountains State Park
St. Agencies - St. Parks	
St. Agencies	Division of Tourism
St. Agencies	Division of Forest Resources
Hunter Org	NC Bowhunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Bear Hunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Coon Hunters Assoc.
Hunter Org	NC Trappers Association
DMAP	Green River Buck Club
DMAP	Lake Tahoma Inc Hunt Club
DMAP	Western Carolina Quality III Hunt Club
Cons. Groups	Trout Unlimited
Cons. Groups	NC BASS Federation
Cons. Groups	BASS Anglers Sportsman Society

Cons. Groups	Ducks Unlimited
Cons. Groups	Audubon Society, NC
Cons. Groups	Sierra Club
Cons. Groups	NC Wildlife Federation
Cons. Groups	NC Horse Council
Cons. Groups	Carolina Bird Club
Cons. Groups	Blue Ridge Bird club
Cons. Groups	Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Clergy/Churches	Interfaith Alliance
Clergy/Churches	Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
Clergy/Churches	NC Council of Churches
Business Community	Asheville Chamber of Commerce
Business Community	Franklin Chamber of Commerce (Macon Co.)
Business Community	Boone Chamber of Commerce
Farm Bureau	NCFB.org
Farm Bureau	NCFB.org
St. Agencies	DENR - Mountain Region Trails Coordinator

Asheville Public Meeting, 1/24/2006
7-9pm, TC Roberson High School

Issues of Concern:

1. Impacts to other recreationists
2. User conflicts
 - a. For example – at Bent Creek, may force USFS to close area to hunting as a response to user conflicts
3. Religious conflicts
4. Why is Sunday hunting is good for 43 other states?
5. Economic impacts
6. Increased opportunities for working hunters
7. Decreased opportunities for nonhunters
8. Costs to other agencies and landowners (road maintenance, etc.) – not just to WRC
9. Manpower shortages (law enforcement, boundary watches)
10. Impacts on wildlife populations – hunted and nonhunted
11. Limited seasons for hunting – but other recreational activities can occur 365 days/year
12. Environmental impacts: Use impacts (roads, trails, campsites)
13. Access issues to both game lands and private property still exist
14. Landowner resistance
15. Tension between state and federal agencies – who pays for increased costs of maintenance, border patrols, etc?
16. Landowner issues – trespassing, permission on Sundays when it has not been a concern before.

Recreation Stakeholders to Include:

Horseback riders (equestrian groups)
Bicyclers

OHV users (esp. on Uwharrie NF)
Backpackers and hikers
Anglers
Boaters
Homeowners, NF inholdings
“Nature” groups, wildlife watchers, other wildlife-associated recreation

State Parks Stakeholders:

Mt. Mitchell (borders USFS lands - Pisgah)
Stone Mountain (borders Game Lands and Blue Ridge Parkway)

Specific Economic Interest Groups:

Blue Ridge Host (COC group)
High County Host (Boone COC group)
Advantage West (economic development)

Other Stakeholders to Include:

County Extension Agencies
WildLaw
Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project
North Carolina Land Conservancy (Land Trust)
North Carolina Trust for Conservation
SORBA (Southern Off Road Bicycle Assoc.)
(See to Mtn trails coordinator for contact info)

**WRC STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
(Stakeholders within WRC Staff)**

Time	Agenda Item	Personnel
1:30	Welcome, statement of purpose, introductions	McMullin
1:45	Overview of project (presentation)	McMullin
2:00	Over view of questions to address: 1) What are the issues (costs, benefits, problems, opportunities) surrounding Sunday hunting that affect the WRC? 2) What would be the potential impacts (both good and bad) to your specific work unit? 3) How would your work unit need to respond? 4) What do you see as the most important issues that we need to address in this study? 5) On the whole, do you believe that Sunday hunting would be a positive or a negative thing for the WRC? For the state of North Carolina? 6) Are there any specific stakeholder groups that we need to make sure to contact? (Some groups only listed ones that we hadn't already identified.)	McMullin
2:05	Discussion of how to address the questions – ask participants if they'd rather break out by division, have mixed groups, or work as one large group?	McMullin
2:20	Break and set up break-out groups	
2:30	Discussion within break-out groups about questions posed.	Everyone facilitates
3:30	Reconvene whole group, break groups report	McMullin, group spokespersons
4:00	Thank you and adjourn	McMullin

List of Stakeholders Invited to Coastal WRC Meeting in Greenville, NC
(Individuals/departments identified by WRC management)

Name	Division/Role
Kevin Dockendorf	District Fisheries Biologist
Justin Homan	Fisheries
David Rowe	Fisheries
James Turner	District Wildlife Biologist
Robert Norville	District Wildlife Biologist
David Allen	Faunal Diversity
Salinda Daley	Faunal Diversity
Jay Rivenbark	Law Enforcement
Charles Boahn	Law Enforcement
Eric Branson	Law Enforcement
Joe Fuller	Program Biologist

Mark Jones	Program Biologist
Evin Stanford	Program Biologist
Perry Sumner	Program Biologist
Doug Howell	Program Biologist
Jeremy McCargo	Fisheries
Tommy Hughes	Supervising Wildlife Biologist
Brent Wilson	Wildlife Forester
Rhonda Fish	Hunter Recruitment and Retention Coor.
Don Hayes	Program Biologist

WRC Stakeholder Meeting Notes, Greenville, 1/26/2006
1:30-4pm, Hilton Greenville

Fisheries Staff Group

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Increased boat ramp use
 - b. Shorter seasons (in calendar days) due to extra day during the week (esp. for waterfowl)
 - c. Increased hunting pressure – no day of rest for wildlife
 - d. Non-hunters would have to change their day of use without hunters
 - e. Working hunters and kids in school would have an extra day of recreation on the weekend
 - f. Potential increase in economic activity (guides, sporting goods stores, hotel)
 - g. Additional use by nonresident hunters
 - h. College students coming back from out-of state would have more opportunities
 - i. Need for increased enforcement.
 - j. Additional harvest – impacts on wildlife populations?
 - k. Decrease in fisheries enforcement due to shift to hunting enforcement on Sundays?
 - l. Religious issues – tradition of holy Sabbath
 - m. Public relations crisis for WRC – opponents will be upset
 - n. Sunday dog hunters (deer) would cause more rural road traffic and conflicts with churches
 - o. Access – more demand = more conflict, additional safety concerns (accidents), potential landowner resistance
 - p. Additional day increases the chance for having favorable weather for at least 1 day on the weekend

2. Impacts to the work unit?
 - a. Decrease in fishing effort as people hunt rather than fish on Sunday (Sunday normally a heavy day for fishing) (a negative impact for the unit)
 - b. Boat ramps – increased usage/congestion, fishing enforcement
 - c. Decreased fishing enforcement
 - d. Fishing derbies and clinics – lower attendance by anglers? Less participation by enforcement.

- e. Increased nonresident license sales, “cast and blast” trips, guides get an extra day, more guide income, other economic impacts (e.g., Roanoke River, stripers and turkeys)
3. How would the work unit respond?
 - a. Not a big issue, except for events generally planned around hunting (particularly season opening days).
 4. Imp. issues to address?
 - a. Public opinion (Yea or Nay)
 - b. Make sure info collected is defensible
 - c. Economic impacts
 - d. Are attendees of meetings public record? Representative of the different stakeholders? Representative geographically?
 5. Positive or negative?
 - a. Negative on balance – large percentage of folks in District 1 seem to be opposed. People/anglers will say to the fishery personnel “Why did you let this happen?” Both proponents and opponents will address their concerns with WRC staff in general.
 - b. Legislature will make the decision, WRC will get the blame.
 - c. Benefits do not balance out the cost.
 - d. In a choice between money and harming wildlife populations, we should side with wildlife.

Law Enforcement Group

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Increased conflicts between hunters and nonhunters.
 - b. Potential to increase negative opinion of hunting.
 - c. Increased opportunities for hunting?
 - d. Impact on certain wildlife resources?
 - e. Potential to decrease hunting opportunities due to shorter seasons.
 - f. Dog hunting issues (More negativity generated as it increases).
 - g. Landowner issues:
 - i. Additional trespassing laws/postings may be needed
 - ii. Decrease in landowner participation in allowing hunting on Sunday or any day
 - iii. Increase in fees to hunt
 - h. Safety issues
 - i. Simultaneous recreational activities; nonhunting activities
 - ii. Only day they feel safe
 - i. Day of rest for hunters and animals
 - j. A need to communicate with other states to determine potential problems and benefits they have witnessed.
 - k. Increase in deer/car collisions as a result of increased hunting (esp. dog hunting)
 - l. Will sale of licenses stay the same or decrease? (Will the decline continue?)

- m. Should re-evaluate this process 2-3 years down the road, whether or not it passes now – have situations changed? Did the benefits/costs actually happen?
 - n. Religious issues
 - i. Holy day for some is Saturday, can't hunt then either (7th Day Adventists)
 - ii. Some groups may find the concept offensive or disrespectful
 - o. More legislative action at the county level
2. Impacts to work unit?
- a. Time management, scheduling, manpower for enforcement and dispatchers
 - b. Increase in call volume
 - c. Create additional issues with officers' families
 - d. Compensatory time issues
 - e. Officer recruitment and retention
 - f. Equipment and budget – long term issues
 - g. Specific issues with scheduling (e.g., training, court, admin responsibilities, hunter ed classes, etc.)
 - h. Decrease in morale
 - i. Increase in caseload/courtload as a result of increased violations
 - j. Officer safety – fatigue, personal safety
 - k. Shift in coverage – would spend more time chasing calls, less on routine checks
3. How would unit respond?
- a. They'll deal with it the best they can, but will lose quality of enforcement and at the bare minimum to get the job done
 - b. Schedule changes for officers – officers will be off during the week.
 - c. More effort and teamwork among districts for scheduling will be needed, but ultimately will lead to a less organized work detail (coordinated officer efforts)
 - d. Will concentrate on illegal activity and reduce routine license checks
 - e. To maintain current level of operations will require minimum of two new officers per patrol area (8 per district, 72 statewide)
 - f. Ideally – double the workforce (5 per patrol area) to make up for both Sunday hunting and current shortages
4. Imp. issues to address?
- a. Landowner issues (trespassing, conflicts, loss of permission and opportunity)
 - b. Negative opinion of hunters and hunting (Will non-hunters who are neutral on hunting shift to anti-hunting?)
 - c. Religious issues – what conflicts will be created as a result
5. Positive or Negative?
- a. Negative for WRC, particularly law enforcement.
 - b. Positive for state economy and hunters.

Regional Program Personnel

- 1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Public and private lands – would it be allowed by legislature on one or both?

- b. Conflicts between hunting and nonhunting public (landowners and other users)
 - i. Intrusion (mode of hunting, number of hunters, timing)
 - ii. Different issues on public and private lands (private – trespassing, churches, dogs, edges or inholdings on public lands)
 - c. Increased hunting opportunities: Retention/recruitment – will it happen? More out-of-state licenses?
 - d. Budget increase for WRC as a result of license sales and Federal Aid?
 - e. Money decrease for WRC due to negative impact on infrastructure on public lands (e.g., maintenance)
 - f. Disturbance to other wildlife species
 - g. Can Sunday hunting occur for some species but not others?
 - i. A lot of regulatory changes/consideration
 - ii. Impacts to season lengths (e.g., waterfowl, bear, deer)
 - h. Resistance from hunters due to shortened seasons
 - i. Resistance from other user groups – increased tension
 - j. Increased hunter-hunter conflicts over views on Sunday hunting
 - k. Risk stirring up negative attitudes towards hunting and WRC from people who are happy or OK or neutral with how things are now (including hunters who do other things on Sunday)
 - i. Enflames the issue
 - ii. Impact on support from other users and other constituencies
 - l. Potential for local communities to put their own restrictions on Sunday hunting
 - m. Would facilitate data collection - increased opportunity if check stations are manned on Sundays (e.g., CWD monitoring)
2. Issues affecting the work unit?
- a. Game Lands operations – rescheduling personnel days for surveys, check stations, bag surveys
 - b. Most other work would still occur M-F (maintenance, habitat work)
 - c. Biologists – a couple of additional work days (e.g., bear)
 - d. Non-game program would see increased complaints – more need for conflict resolution.
 - e. Hunter calls on Sunday to biologists – increased hours on weekends.
3. How would the work unit respond?
- a. Personnel needs – maintenance and habitat work
 - b. Maintenance funding (equipment)
 - c. Innovative scheduling
 - i. Check station work to see impacts of Sunday hunting
 - ii. Paid OT?
 - d. Rewriting/printing Bird Trail book and other materials (updating dates/days, recommendations, etc.)
 - i. Increased communications and conflict resolution
 - e. Present it as an opportunity, not as an obligation
 - f. Regulation considerations – types of hunting, when, and where?

4. Imp. issues to address?
 - a. Impacts to the wildlife resource
 - b. Impacts to different user groups
 - c. Landowner/hunter issues – what do the landowners think?
 - d. Preference among hunters over weekend day (Sat vs. Sun) for Game Lands currently only open on Saturday.

5. Positive or negative?
 - a. Positive overall? But really unknown until it happens.
 - i. Difficulties, particularly for some programs (e.g., nongame)
 - ii. Economic benefits a positive
 - iii. Impact on other users and on support for hunting and WRC?
 - iv. If impacts to resource are addressed and more money is available to handle the negatives (PR, enforcement, conflict resolution, lands maintenance).

6. Stakeholders:
 - a. Friends of the Neusiok (trail in the Croatan)
 - b. Carteret Wildlife Club
 - c. Greenville and Cape Fear Bird Club
 - d. NC TWS
 - e. Coastal Land Trust
 - f. Conservation Trust for NC
 - g. NC Consulting Foresters Assoc.
 - h. County Extension Agents
 - i. NC Division of Forest Resources

State Program Personnel

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Impacts to the wildlife population
 - b. Retention/recruitment of hunters
 - c. Economic impacts
 - d. Other users (hikers, bikers, other recreational users)
 - e. Religious activities
 - f. Game Lands
 - i. Use (negative – wear and tear; positive – more users)
 - g. Regulations
 - i. Season timing/species specific
 - ii. Public lands
 - h. Commission image/Public relations/education
 - i. Contention, alienation, time frame (how fast a decision is made and implemented will affect the degree of this problem)
 - ii. Perceived control of decision (pubic will blame WRC)
 - iii. Conflicting messages from the NRA
 - iv. General knowledge
 - i. Staffing

-
- i. Scheduling, check stations, hours
 - ii. Job specific
 - j. Tradition – traditional day of rest
 2. Issues affecting the work unit?
 - a. Biological – low impact, species dependant, dependant on season timing
 - b. People – opinions of users is 20-50% of the job
 - c. Low impact: hours of monitoring, shift in effort and duties
 3. How would the unit respond?
 - a. Scheduling – check stations, more efficient, more work
 - b. Low impact overall?
 4. Imp. issues to address?
 - a. Participation – recruitment
 - b. Assess biology
 - c. Hunter knowledge and opinion
 - d. Public – how does it impact them?
 - e. Hunters – how does it impact them?
 5. Overall positive or negative?
 - a. Over the short term (?)
 - i. Negative - alienation
 - b. Long term – positive or neutral
 6. Stakeholders:
 - a. Audubon
 - b. Carolina Bird Club
 - c. Southern Baptist Convention
 - d. NC Wildlife Fed.
 - e. Retailers (e.g., Bass Pro Sports)
 - f. NC TWS
 - g. NC Bear Hunters, Bow Hunters, NWTF
 - h. USFWS
 - i. Forest Service
 - j. Sierra Club
 - k. Outdoor enthusiasts
 - l. Scout Groups (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts)
 - m. Minority groups
 - n. Disabled groups
 - o. Licensed hunters
 - p. National Hunter Ed Assoc.
 - q. 4-H
 - r. Trapping Assoc.

List of Stakeholders Invited to Piedmont WRC Meeting in Raleigh, NC
(Individuals/departments identified by WRC management)

RALEIGH, WRC

Name	Division/Role
Joseph Folta	District Wildlife Biologist
George Strader	District Wildlife Biologist
Ken Knight	District Wildlife Biologist
Jeffrey Marcus	Faunal Diversity
Brian McRae	Fisheries Biologist, District
Lawrence Dorsey	Fisheries Biologist, District
Anthony Mullis	Fishery Supervisor, Regional
Mark Bruton	Law Enforcement
Charles Haynes	Law Enforcement
Calvin Michael Lambert	Law Enforcement
Isaac Harold	Management Biologist
Terry Sharpe	Program Biologist
Scott Osborne	Program Biologist
Mike Seamster	Program Biologist
Brad Deen	Public Information Officer
Ginger Williams	Cons. Education
Harlan Hall	Supervising Wildlife Biologist
Chris Dawes	Wildlife Forester
Bill Parsons	Wildlife Forester
Wib Owen	Wildlife Section Manager
Brad Dunn	Wildlife Section Manager
Kirk Rundle	Fisheries
Scott Van Horne	Research and Survey Coordinator

WRC Stakeholder Meeting Notes, Raleigh, 1/25/2006

1:30-4pm, WRC Headquarters Auditorium

Fishery Staff

6. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Potential loss of fishing activity on Sundays
 - b. Enforcement (how will they spread their effort? Will we lose out on fishing enforcement on Sundays? e.g., spring turkey overlaps shad and striper runs)
 - c. Conflicts with church (personal time, hunting near churches)
 - d. Weekend fishing events (would participation drop?)
 - e. More check station work? Wildlife personnel time allocation.
 - f. Encroachment on hatchery – McKinney Lake
 - g. Sunday hunting pressure would be high – potential impacts to wildlife populations.
 - h. Potential hunter/angler conflicts (e.g., Harris Lake is good for both bass and waterfowl – potential boat ramp congestion)
 - i. Need for break for the animals and hunters

7. Impacts to the work unit?
 - a. Slight increase in license sales (sportsman license)
 - b. May need increase in hatchery personnel where affected by hunting
 - c. Collaborative efforts with wildlife and enforcement division (kids fishing events, permit reviews). Personnel in those divisions may have less time for this.
8. How would the work unit respond?
 - a. Reallocation of hatchery personnel time
 - b. Minor adjustments/changes in other divisions
 - c. May change distribution of angler effort (also affects expansion factors – creel survey statistics, extrapolation, comparability of data)
9. Imp. issues to address?
 - a. Where are the conflicts? Which groups, why?
 - b. Net financial gain or loss for WRC and NC?
 - c. Intermediate options – what are they, what are the impacts?
 - d. Opposition to Sunday hunting – why? Which issues drive it?
 - e. Age/gender specific issues (e.g., do older/younger people differ in their opinions?)
 - f. Changes in participation patterns – would participation follow opinion and how much?
 - g. Depth of conviction – if they oppose, how strongly?
10. Positive or negative?
 - a. Positive if workload issues can be addressed
 - b. Should have positive or neutral effect on license sales (no negative)
 - c. Getting people out more to hunt could lead to more fishing as well

Law Enforcement Staff

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Increase in complaints/conflicts, which could lead to a negative opinion of hunting.
 - b. You can do everything in NC but hunt on Sundays (e.g., fishing, gambling).
 - c. Church attendance – will it stay the same or decrease?
 - d. Would allowing Sunday hunting increase recruitment or participation?
 - e. Impact on the resource – wildlife populations
 - f. “Bible belt” issues: Would regulations have to change to accommodate those needs? (e.g., safety zones around churches)
 - g. Divorce rate would increase in the population, less family time
 - h. Economic benefits would increase, but cost of doing business will also increase
2. Impacts to work unit?
 - a. Time management – increased hours
 - b. Complaints will double on the weekend
 - c. Violations will increase (more court time)
 - d. Hunting accidents will increase

- e. Equipment cost and maintenance will increase
 - f. Conflicts/confusion with local ordinances – if local laws become more restrictive
 - g. Need to increase training for field supervisors to handle additional personnel
 - h. Morale issues among LE personnel – will decrease if no more officers are hired, could increase if OT granted or more officers hired
 - i. Safety issues with overworking LE personnel
 - i. Fatigue
 - ii. Complaints against officers
 - iii. Accidents (vehicle, boat) involving LE personnel
 - j. Decrease in opportunities/time for LE personnel to spend with family
 - k. Divorce rate will increase among LE personnel
 - l. Will lose officers (increased attrition rate), may not be able to recruit new officers – current officers may choose not to be promoted to avoid longer hours
 - m. Work activity will change (peak activity times)
3. How would unit respond?
- a. If no new officers are hired:
 - i. They “wave the white flag” – decreased resource protection, decreased effectiveness, decreased visibility, increased violations.
 - ii. Immediate schedule changes (Sat and Sun would be a minimum 10 hour workdays – half of the work week will be worked on the weekend, means a loss of coverage during the week and at night)
 - iii. Supervisors will work 50+ hours a week
 - iv. Will have to come up-to-date with wage hour laws to make sure they aren’t overworking field staff
 - b. If new officers are hired:
 - i. Ideally, 2 new officers per patrol area would be needed (8 per district, 72 statewide) to maintain current level of protection
 - ii. Schedule changes – still would have fewer Sundays off
4. Imp issues to address?
- a. Impacts on the resource?
 - b. Negative public opinion
 - c. Educational programs will increase, but ability to provide will decrease (time constraints – officers already spread thinner, scheduling obstacles)
 - d. Credits and debits will not balance (license sales vs. cost of operations)
 - e. Morale issues
5. Would Sunday hunting be positive or negative overall for the agency?
- a. Negative for WRC, resource, nonhunting public, and NC
6. Stakeholders:
- a. Additional wildlife clubs
 - b. Shooting preserves
 - c. Duke Power, Carolina Power

Private Lands Personnel

7. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Potential for additional harvest – impacts on wildlife populations (could be a positive or a negative, depending on the species)
 - b. Season length changes, bag limits, etc. (e.g., waterfowl)
 - c. Increased hunting opportunities – could result in increased retention and recruitment
 - d. Potential conflicts with other users (more on public lands than private lands); could negatively impact support of WRC by nonhunting constituents, or even hunting constituents that do not support Sunday hunting.
 - e. Conflict between waterfowl hunters and lake anglers
 - f. Private landowner issues:
 - i. Could be more conflicts (road maintenance, trespassing, etc.)
 - ii. Could be a positive if they can get more \$\$\$ for hunting rights leases (or a negative for the hunter who pays)
 - iii. Potential for conflicts between landowners who do vs. do not allow Sunday hunting
 - g. Increased complexity and confusion if individual counties decide on their own to restrict Sunday hunting.
 - h. Increased complexity in scheduling hunting days for Game Lands
 - i. Could impact permit hunts (+ and -)
 - i. more applicants and better use of permits/more harvest could result if Sundays were an option – currently Fri/Sat or Thur/Fri/Sat
 - ii. Increased harvest may mean fewer permits offered
 - j. A lot of regulations would need extensive revisions
 - k. Increased license sales could increase PR funds
 - i. Would it offset needs for lands maintenance?
 - ii. If it does not bring in new PR funds, could it prevent future decrease in PR funds as license sales decrease due to aging hunters?
 - l. Could raise questions – “Should we be charging other users to use Game Lands?”
8. Issues affecting the work unit?
 - a. Time demands for handling questions and explanations.
 - b. Initial time to determine needs for regulation changes and implement those changes.
 - c. Probably not a big impact on private lands personnel work schedule or work load.
9. How would the work unit respond?
 - a. Need to plan ahead for how hunters and nonhunters can co-recreate
 - i. Education
 - ii. Access scheduling
 - iii. Need to maintain the nonhunting constituency
 - iv. Need to consider nongame needs and the affect of Sunday hunting on new lands acquisition (based on multi-use assumption) and other new funding proposals
 - b. Impacts overall would be minor

10. Imp issues to address?
 - a. Will there be an increase in hunter numbers and hunter days? How will that affect wildlife populations?
 - b. Will that affect other recreationists?
 - c. Will it create more anti-hunting sentiment? (#'s and level of protest?)
 - d. How will religious groups respond?
 - e. Impacts to insurance industry (# of car/deer collisions)
 - f. Will it impact contributions to nongame programs?

11. Positive or negative?
 - a. Positive if it passes
 - i. Adds another non-working day for hunters
 - ii. Most lapsed hunters cite lack of time as the reason they stopped
 - b. Public relations will be an issue during the debate/decision-making process, especially if it doesn't pass in the end – could make everyone unhappy.
 - c. Need to think about and handle tactfully the potential conflicts with nonhunters.

12. Stakeholders:
 - a. Quail Unlimited, Quail Forever
 - b. Shooting preserves
 - c. Forest Landowners Assoc.
 - d. NC Herpetological Society
 - e. Fish groups
 - f. Insurance groups
 - g. County Extension Agents
 - h. Hunters for the Hungry
 - i. Local wildlife clubs
 - j. Business – guides, sporting good stores, license agents
 - k. Eastern and Western Conference of Methodist Churches
 - l. Duke University and Southern Baptist seminaries

Game Lands Personnel

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Potential for conflicts with other non-hunting related user groups.
 - b. Impacts to WRC personnel limited?
 - i. Survey/data collection (check stations, waterfowl surveys)
 - ii. Increased used may increase need/expense of general maintenance (equipment, man hours)
 - iii. Increased maintenance may reduce available manpower for management (decreased management effectiveness?)
 - c. Some impacts on how Game Lands are managed (this would be the biggest impact for this group)
 - i. Lands with 3 days/week of hunting – would they now have 4? (Impacts to species?) Would they alternate between Sat and Sun?
 - ii. All special hunt rules would need to change

- d. Possibly some impacts to particular species if we add another high use day
 - e. Impacts to the quality of specific hunts?
 - f. Required changes to programs would increase administrative time.
 - g. Regulations – all existing rules would potentially be open for modification.
 - h. Potential benefits to Game Lands: If Sunday replaced one of the mid-week hunting days on 3-day-week GL's, conflicts between hunters and maintenance/management activities could be reduced. (2 nonhunting days in the standard work week would increase to three)
 - i. Impacts to enforcement division?
 - j. Impacts to recruitment?
 - k. Impacts to fisheries? (Would it draw anglers away?)
 - l. Public perception questions:
 - i. Even if the change is made, local counties may still choose to restrict Sunday hunting (e.g., metropolitan areas – Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte)
 - ii. Public opinion that wildlife needs a “day off.” Would we exchange Sunday hunting for prohibition on another day of the week?
 - iii. How to mitigate public perception issues? Rules/Regs changes? PR campaign?
 - iv. Other recreational interests
 - m. Positive impact expected to economy: sell more licenses, merchandise plus the added option for longer trips.
2. Issues affecting the work unit?
- a. Will require a specific review and possible modification of existing regulations (short term impact).
 - b. Increased effort for surveys/data collection, causing the need to reschedule time and leave (low impact)
 - c. Public relations work:
 - i. Expect a greater percentage of time to deal with user conflicts from non-hunting related users (biking, hiking, watchers) that are displaced by Sunday hunting.
 - ii. Safety issues?
 - iii. Hidden/ripple effects are really unknown at this point.
 - iv. Survey should attempt to differentiate opinions of GL/public land users vs. private land users.
3. How would the unit respond?
- a. For Game Lands: Probably no additional personnel needs, but a shift in work responsibilities and schedules. Low impact.
 - b. Changes to the system: some significant initial short term impacts to deal with necessary changes to rules and special hunt provisions. Will we have time to assess needs and make these changes?
4. Imp issues to address?
- a. Acquisition funds – grants are based on multi-use principles that Sunday hunting may challenge

5. Overall positive or negative?
 - a. Potentially either way.
 - b. Alienation of non-hunting public is a real concern. Long-term result may be competition for the land and unknown results – users change over time?
 - c. Short-term impact positive
 - i. Increased opportunities
 - ii. increased hunter recruitment/retention
 - iii. Increased license sales/revenue
 - d. Consensus: Will be positive for the hunting public, others unknown.

6. Stakeholders?
 - a. Users: biking/riding orgs, hunting orgs (DU, QU, NWTf, NCBA), NC Wildlife Federation
 - b. Landowners: Game Land cooperators, USFS, Progress Energy, USACE, USFWS, private owners, timber companies (Weyerhaeuser, IP). (2 million ac of GL, 50% USFS)

List of Stakeholders Invited to Mountain WRC Meeting in Asheville, NC
(Individuals/departments identified by WRC management)

ASHEVILLE, WRC

Name	Division/Role
David Sawyer	District Wildlife Biologist
Jack Mason	District Wildlife Biologist
Mike Carraway	District Wildlife Biologist
Kin Hodges	Fisheries Biologist, District
Jacob Rash	Fisheries Biologist, District
Powell Wheeler	Fisheries Biologist, District
Stephen Fraley	Fisheries Biologist, nongame
Mallory Martin	Fishery Supervisor, Regional
Bill Townsend	Law Enforcement
Greg Daniels	Law Enforcement
Gary Broome	Law Enforcement
Joffrey Brooks	Management Biologist
Brad Howard	Program Biologist (for Don Hayes?)
Lindsay Green	Regional Education Specialist
Gordon Warburton	Supervising Wildlife Biologist
Dean Simon	Wildlife Forester
Michael Briggs	Hatchery Superintendent - Armstrong

WRC Stakeholder Meeting Notes, Asheville, 1/24/2006
1:30-4pm, Comfort Inn River Ridge

Fisheries Group

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
 - a. Youth participation/Participation in general
 - i. Extra day
 - ii. Recruitment
 - iii. Maximize participation overall
 - iv. Draw from other states (esp. bear hunters on the Coast)
 - v. Might draw from anglers
 - vi. Increased enforcement needs
 - vii. Bag limits/harvest rates – how would they change?
 - viii. Lose access to enforce (?)
 - ix. Competition to harvest
 - b. Access
 - i. Interactions with other activities and participants (conflicts)
 - ii. A change in traffic
 1. use of boat ramps – conflict with anglers?
 2. negative and positive impacts – more traffic on Sunday, but it may take some pressure off of Saturdays?
 - c. Safety (other users)
 - d. Public relations (how's it's handled could be positive or negative)
 - i. Anti-hunting segment of the population may increase
 - ii. Other activities – how can users co-exist?
 - iii. Public opinion
 - iv. Accommodations – what can we do to facilitate this?
 1. rules
 2. regulations
 3. flexibility
 - e. Rights/religion/convenience (?)
2. Impacts to work unit?
 - a. Low Impact/insignificant
 - b. Scheduling for Armstrong hatchery (?)
3. How would unit respond?
 - a. Low Impact, insignificant
4. Most important issue to address?
 - a. PR – could be positive or negative, need to be planned out in advance
5. Overall positive or negative
 - a. Overall positive so long as the PR is handled well and enforcement issues are taken care of

Law Enforcement Group

1. Issues affecting WRC?
 - a. Complaints/Conflicts

- i. Local laws (local ordinances could override state Sunday hunting), logistically difficult to enforce
 - ii. Potential conflicts in regulations on state game lands (may be inconsistent)
 - iii. Conflict with other recreationists
 - iv. Conflict within hunter groups (bear and deer hunters during season transitions – where would Sunday fall?)
 - b. Increased operating budget
 - c. Safety issues (one more weekend day would cause more hunter accidents)
 - d. Biological issues (increased harvest)
 - e. Loss of time off and benefits for agency personnel
 - f. Decreased protection level for species (same amount of enforcement power with an additional day equals less protection for wildlife)
 - g. Increased activity on public lands
 - h. Increased interest in hunting (new recruitment?)
 - i. Not likely to recruit nonresident hunters because deer population in western NC does not draw hunters from surrounding states
 - j. Landowner access issues (if Sunday hunting is legal, landowners may stop allowing any hunter access on any day)
 - k. Regulation changes (safety zones around churches, etc.)
2. How it affects work unit?
 - a. Increased number of violations
 - b. Increased number of hunting accidents
 - c. Manpower (scheduling conflicts to cover additional day of hunting)
 - d. Change in peak activity periods
3. How unit would respond?
 - a. Decreased coverage during the week days
 - b. Change priority from Thurs/Fri to Sat/Sun during fall/winter months
 - c. Change schedules to allow for time off during the week
 - i. Creates conflicts with court schedules and program schedules
 - ii. Officers would only be able to get 1 Sunday off per month (currently have 1 weekend plus 1 or 2 additional Sundays)
 - d. Need minimum of 4 additional wardens per district (1 per patrol area) to maintain current level of law enforcement operations
 - i. 36 total minimum additional wardens for the state
 - ii. 72 optimal
4. Important issues to address?
 - a. Conflicts/complaints
 - i. Hunters
 - ii. Other recreationists
 - iii. Church
 - iv. “Rest day” for wildlife and wardens
 - v. Noise/safety

- b. Migratory bird hunting (would have to reset the seasons – would be shorter) – does not affect Mtn area as much as coastal area
 - c. Manpower (adequate enforcement, no overtime currently allowed, brings up additional compensatory time issues)
 - d. Protection level of species (Can current populations handle one more day of hunting? “Will the Game Lands turn into Gameless Lands?”)
 - e. Loss of family time for officers
5. Overall Positive or Negative?
- a. Overall negative for the WRC
 - i. Negatives (“sure things”) outweigh the positives (“wishful thinking”)
 - ii. But if the manpower issues and resource impact issues are addressed adequately, it could be a positive

Wildlife Group

1. Issues affecting the WRC?
- a. Impacts to the resource (wildlife, disturbance, land, private landowners, roads, facilities, increased use on state lands)
 - b. Regulatory impacts (season length, bag limits, etc.)
 - c. Increased Hunting opportunities
 - i. changes in seasons/bag limits
 - ii. if you add Sundays, would seasons need to change?
 - iii. increase in opportunities is possible, but so is decreased hunting opportunities (if seasons are shorter, bag limits decline, landowners refuse access, etc.)
 - d. Increased conflict with other users (esp., mountain bikers, horseback riders, hikers – perceived safety issue and crowding)
 - e. Increased opportunity for youth hunting and general working public
 - f. More productive/enjoyable/efficient trips for traveling hunters (increased hunter satisfaction?)
 - g. Impact on data collection (increased weekend work for check stations, esp. on first two days of gun deer season and bear season)
 - h. Would meat processors and taxidermists be open on Sunday?
 - i. Could reduce hunter density on Saturday and result in better distribution of hunter use
 - j. Satisfaction – quality of experience could increase (if effort is distributed better) or decrease, conflict with other user groups would increase
 - k. Impact to wildlife? Do Sundays give wildlife a break, a chance for them to “come out of hiding”? (Not a realistic impact, but a perception.)
 - l. How to deal with public concerns and conflicts – need for conflict resolution.
 - m. NCWRC may lose a traditional “day off”
 - n. Will get more requests and calls from hunters
2. Impacts to the work unit?
- a. Increased use on state lands = increased maintenance
 - b. Regulatory impacts (may need to reset season length, bag limits, etc.)

- c. Impact on data collection (increased weekend work for check stations, esp. on first two days of gun deer season and bear season)
 - d. How to deal with public concerns and conflicts – need for conflict resolution
 - e. NCWRC may lose a traditional “day off”
 - f. Will get more requests and calls from hunters
3. How would the unit respond?
- a. Increased weekend work (check stations, hunter calls)
 - b. Regulations changes
 - c. Potential need for more technical staff (lands maintenance, data collection)
 - d. Most impacts would be simply handled under existing circumstances.
4. Important issues to address?
- a. Degree of increased hunting opportunities and hunting participation?
 - b. Increased out of state license sales?
 - c. Regulation changes – impact to wildlife populations?
 - d. Potential impacts to resource/infrastructure – Game Lands?
5. Overall Positive or Negative?
- a. Positive overall for WRC and state
 - i. youth hunting
 - ii. better use of working hunters days off
 - iii. economic benefits
 - iv. increased hunting opportunity and better distribution of hunter density
 - b. Negative impacts (outweighed by positive)
 - i. user conflicts
 - ii. increased maintenance on game lands
 - iii. opens up hunting for increased criticism, raises it to the spotlight.

Additional stakeholders identified by the groups:

Ruffed Grouse Society

NC Forest Landowners Association (landowners)

NC Forestry Association (landowners)

International Mountain Biking Assoc.

American Whitewater

Local hiking clubs

7th Day Adventists

Restaurants, sporting goods stores, hotels/motels, campgrounds, bait supply stores

NC Sheriff’s Assoc

Public Meeting Attendees

NASCAR

APPENDIX B:
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE AND SUMMARIES – GENERAL PUBLIC

**The Sunday Hunting Issue in North Carolina:
General Population and Stakeholder Focus Group Discussion Guide**

I. Introduction

1. Go over focus group rules.
2. Do round table introductions.

II. Attitudes toward Hunting

1. In general, do you support or oppose legal hunting in North Carolina? Why or why not?
2. What kinds of experiences have you had with hunting in North Carolina?

III. Awareness of and Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting

1. Before being contacted about this focus group, had you heard anything about the Sunday hunting issue in North Carolina? If yes, what had you heard?
2. Describe the overall Sunday hunting research project.
3. What do you think about the idea of allowing Sunday hunting in North Carolina?

IV. Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Attitudes and Behaviors

1. Sunday Activities
 - a) Would Sunday hunting impact your normal routine and the activities that you normally do on Sunday? If yes, how would it impact your normal routine and activities? If not, why not?
 - b) Would Sunday hunting have an impact on your recreation-related activities? Would you expect a high level of conflict? Why or why not?
 - i) How do you feel about hiking/biking/etc. when there may be hunters hunting?
 - c) Would Sunday hunting have an impact on your recreation-related expenditures?
2. Business Owners
 - a) For business owners, guides, etc.: Would Sunday hunting impact your business operation? If so, in what way would Sunday hunting impact your business?
3. Opinions of Hunting and Organizations
 - a) If hunting on Sunday were legalized, would it change your opinion of hunting in general? How?
 - b) Would Sunday hunting change your views on and level of support for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the state agency responsible for managing hunting in North Carolina? Why or why not?
 - c) Would Sunday hunting change your views on or level of support for any other governmental or private organization? Why or why not?

V. Arguments for and Against Sunday Hunting

1. Next, I am going to present you with several reasons why some people support Sunday hunting in North Carolina and several reasons why some people oppose Sunday hunting. I would like your opinion of each.

- a) Arguments against Sunday hunting:
 - i) Sunday hunting would interfere with traditional church activities.
 - ii) Sunday hunting is a “day of rest” for people, land, and/or wildlife.
 - iii) Sunday hunting would negatively impact wildlife populations.
 - iv) Sunday is the one day a week that other outdoor enthusiasts, such as hikers, bikers and horseback riders, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters or being injured by hunters.
 - b) Arguments for Sunday hunting:
 - i) The Church and state should be separate and any arguments against allowing Sunday hunting should not be based on religious beliefs. (The individual, and not the church or law, should decide whether or not he or she hunts on Sundays.)
 - ii) Sunday hunting provides additional time for family and friends to teach children and other adults the tradition of hunting. (This is positive for the recruitment and retention of hunters.)
 - iii) Sunday hunting encourages spending interactive time together outdoors. (Sunday hunting encourages family time and family values.)
 - iv) Sunday hunting would provide additional days for hunting and help out local economies that depend on hunting.
 - v) Because hunting on Sundays is currently not allowed, some hunters go to other states to hunt. The state loses money that these hunters would have generated for the state by purchasing hunting licenses.
 - vi) Forty-two other states allow Sunday hunting, what makes NC different?
2. Are there any other reasons not mentioned that you think people might support the idea of Sunday hunting in North Carolina?
 3. Are there any other reasons not mentioned that you think people might oppose the idea of Sunday hunting in North Carolina?

VI. Variations of Sunday Hunting

1. Would your opinion of Sunday hunting change if it were allowed only under the following circumstances?
 - a) If it were allowed only on private land, or only on public land?
 - b) If it were allowed only where counties approved of it?
 - c) If only certain species could be hunted (e.g., birds but not big game) or only if certain weapons/methods could be used (e.g., bow only, or no dogs, etc.)?
 - d) If it were allowed only after 1 p.m.?
 - e) If it were allowed only on a few specified Sundays?
 - f) If it were youth hunting only?

APPENDIX C:

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE AND SUMMARIES – HUNTERS

North Carolina Sunday Hunting: Hunter Focus Group Discussion Guide & Agenda

6:30 Introductions, Background, and Consent

6:45 DISCUSSIONS: Upon receipt of signed consent forms, a group discussion will be facilitated using the following guide (times are approximate):

1. (6:45) What kinds of hunting activities do you participate in? (e.g., species hunted for, weapons used, seasons participate in)
2. (6:55) Before we contacted you about attending this focus group, what had you heard (if anything) about the Sunday hunting issue in North Carolina?
3. (7:05) Do you support or oppose legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina? What are the most important reasons why you support or oppose Sunday hunting?
4. (7:20) If Sunday hunting was legalized, would it change your hunting activity?
 - a. Would you hunt more days than you do now? Fewer Days?
 - b. Would you be more likely to take longer trips within North Carolina to hunt?
 - c. Do you currently go to other states to hunt on Sunday? Would you stay in NC?
 - d. Would it affect how much money you spend to participate in hunting?
5. (7:30) If Sunday hunting was legalized, do you anticipate that it would have any effect on participation of other members of your family, or of your friends and their families? Do you know anyone who does not hunt now, or hunts only rarely, who would be more likely to hunt if it was legal to hunt on Sunday? Know you know anyone who would stop hunting or hunt less?
6. (7:45) How do you feel about each of the following reasons that some people have offered for opposing or supporting Sunday hunting?
 - a. Faith-based arguments (e.g.):
 - i. Sunday hunting would interfere with traditional church activities.
 - ii. Sunday is a “holy” day, the “Lord’s” day, other moral issues.
 - iii. Separation of church and state.
 - b. Additional opportunities for working or traveling hunters & families – recruitment/retention.
 - c. The animals/hunters need a day of rest.
 - d. It would impact wildlife populations (+/-) and/or require shorter seasons.
 - e. Sunday is the one day a week that other recreationists, such as hikers, bikers and horseback riders can enjoy the woods without worrying about being injured by hunters.
 - f. Potential economic aspects.
 - g. Geographic – 42 other states do it, what makes NC different?
7. (8:05) How do you think private landowners in your area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting?
8. (8:15) Would your opinion of Sunday hunting change if it were allowed only under the following circumstances?
 - a. If it were allowed only on private land, or only on public land?
 - b. If it were allowed only where counties approved of it?
 - c. If only certain species could be hunted (e.g., birds but not big game) or weapons/methods could be used (e.g., bow only, or no dogs)?
 - d. If it were allowed only after 1pm on Sunday?
 - e. If it were allowed only on a few specified Sundays?

8:30 Adjourn

Summary of Sunday Hunting Hunter Focus Group #1 February 20, 2006; Edenton, NC; 6:30-8:30

Group Profile (Selected Hunting Stakeholders):

Hunter focus group #1, which took place in Edenton, NC, was attended by 12 hunters selected to represent a range of hunting interests from the Coastal region. Participants were all Caucasian, and all male. In attendance were bow, muzzleloader, rifle, shotgun, and handgun hunters, with one hunter noting that he hunted exclusively with a bow. Also, both still and dog hunters were present. When talking about the species that they hunt, one participant said he hunts “everything from squirrels to bears.” Among the other participants were 7 deer hunters, 2 bear hunters, 5 turkey hunters, 3 grouse/quail hunters, 4 waterfowl hunters, 1 rabbit hunter, 3 dove hunters, and 1 trapper. During the introductions, 3 participants also mentioned their experience as hunter education instructors (2 currently teach, 1 taught in the past), and 1 participant mentioned his ownership of a local sporting goods store.

Though the comments made during the focus group and summarized in this report do not reflect the views of any person or group other than the individuals present, it is informative to know the breadth of interests involved. Stakeholder groups with which participants were affiliated include the NC Bear Hunters Association, the NC Trappers Association, the NC Bowhunters Association, the NC Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) clubs, and local hunt clubs.

Prior Knowledge of Sunday Hunting Issue:

Prior to being contacted about the focus group, 2 participants had not heard anything about the Sunday hunting issue. Among the other participants, 3 had attended the local public hearing in January, 2006, and learned about the issue there. One participant had learned about it at the hunter recruitment workshop in New Bern the previous fall; one had learned about it as a member of the Bear Hunters Association which had sent out a couple of surveys over the past few years on the topic; and 1 mentioned having heard about the Sunday hunting issue from other hunters during his interactions with local hunting clubs. In addition, 2 participants had received letters/alerts about the North Carolina Sunday hunting issue from the National Rifle Association and/or the North American Hunting Club, and 1 had read about it in NC Sportsman magazine and in the local newspaper.

Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting:

Participants were each asked to state whether they support or oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina and to give the major reasons why they held those attitudes. Of the 12 participants present, 7 opposed Sunday hunting (with one additional participant “leaning toward” opposition), 2 supported Sunday hunting (with one additional participant “leaning toward” support), and 1 participant remained neutral. Interestingly, we were told that the results of the recent statewide Bear Hunters Association surveys were approximately split 50% in support of Sunday hunting and 50% in opposition. Finally, one participant had been informally polling his store patrons as they bought hunting licenses over the past 6-7 months about their views on Sunday hunting. He explained that approximately 90% (out of an estimated 200) of the hunters he’d spoken to in his store were opposed to Sunday hunting, but that he remained neutral.

The major reasons listed by participants for supporting Sunday hunting included having more days to hunt and giving youth hunters an extra day to hunt. Two participants mentioned that they supported Sunday hunting, but only if it were “done right” (e.g., with appropriate restrictions).

“I basically could go either way. I’m a little more for it, because it will give me more time, or more days, during the hunting season to hunt... Kids that are involved in school projects and stuff like that, they don’t get to hunt on Saturdays because most of your school functions are going on Saturday, so it takes children away from hunting.”

“Yes, I feel Sunday hunting, if there are restrictions, would in the end be a good thing, if it’s done right... We need it to get new hunters in there and to get the experienced hunters out in the woods on the days that they don’t have to lose a day’s pay.”

The major reasons listed by participants for opposing Sunday hunting represented three major themes – 1) family-, recreation-, and church-based objections to Sunday hunting; 2) concerns about public views toward hunting, and 3) impacts of Sunday hunting on local hunters’ ability to afford land leases. Regarding the first set of objections, several participants noted that, while they understood (and even experience) time limitations for hunting opportunities, they thought that Sunday hunting would not help that situation and feared that it may make family and recreation-related conflicts worse.

“I just think it’s good for the wildlife to have a day to rest and for people to have a day to rest and spend some time with their family. I do understand that some people probably are busy during the week and that they don’t have time to hunt except on Saturdays. However, I work a 40-hour week and seem to squeeze in that time. I think, too, that Sunday’s a nice day for some people that want to get out and walk on some land and not have to worry about hunters... I think there’s some benefit to that.”

“People are afraid it’s going to do away with a lot of family structure. The way it is now, the father’s hunting on Saturdays. He’ll be in the woods all day Saturday – and then Sunday, it will take him away from [the family] again.”

“It just gives me a day that I can kind of rest. I can spend some time with my kids and my family, and if you want to go in the woods, you don’t have to worry about disturbing somebody in their hunting.”

“You can make time if you want to get out there. I can see where it would help the fellow who has some other obligation on Saturday – I’m a father, I’ve got kids, and sometimes I have to cancel out hunting. But as far as being able to bring more kids into hunting – I’ve got four, and at one time or another they all go with me.”

“I hunt a lot, and sometimes I look forward to being home Sundays. I need a break, and I’m ready for a break. And I know probably everybody who’s in here who’s married, their wives will say ‘no’ because they want them to have a day where they can’t go [hunting]. I’m fortunate enough that my wife and my kids like to hunt right beside of me.”

Others opposed Sunday hunting because they were afraid of the possible effects Sunday hunting might have on public attitudes toward hunting in general. They expressed concerns that Sunday

hunting would bring hunting into the spotlight and increase overall opposition to hunting (especially among church members and especially for dog hunting).

“If you take the dogs out of hunting, I care nothing about it. That’s all I enjoy. I don’t think you could do anything that would end dog hunting in North Carolina quicker than hunting on Sundays because of people running around churches. We’ve all seen some of these boys that aren’t very smart; some of them would pull up and shoot in the church yard... I just think it would bring an end to the dog hunting quicker.”

“I oppose it because of the general public outlook on it... There’s a lot of land being bought up and developed, and it’s pushing [hunters] into communities... You’re there hunting next to a community, and you would be in the public’s eye on Sunday. Just out of fear of what that would cause and the negative publicity out of that, I would have to say – I could go either way, but I’d have to vote ‘no’ for now.”

“Say if there’s 50% of the population that don’t want hunting at all. When you go hunting on Sunday, you’re going to turn 10 or 20 percent of these church members against hunting, and you’re going to have a lot of county laws passed where there won’t be any hunting in some counties.”

“We’re all fighting an image problem, and we really don’t need any more strikes against us. There could be people sitting on the fence that are really apathetic about hunting one way or the other. This could push them towards the negative side. All they have to have is one negative experience, and that’s what they are going to remember.”

“I think hunting’s got enough problems of its own right now. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. I think Sunday hunting would add to the problem. We’ve got enough to work with without putting Sunday in the mix.”

Finally, several participants were concerned that Sunday hunting would draw more people from out of town and/or out of state and crowd out local hunters.

“Hunting has changed from a sport to a big business, and Sunday hunting is going to be shoved down our throat, gentlemen. No matter what we say here tonight, it’s coming because of what I call ‘contract hunting’. The people from the cities, from out of state who are taking land from us right here, right now, to hunt - they are going to be here on Sunday to hunt. My issue is not really about Sunday hunting, it’s about the locals.”

At the end of this discussion, one participant relayed his experience on Sunday hunting regulation changes from another state.

“I was in New York when they went from not hunting on Sundays to hunting Sundays, and while I was teaching the hunter safety course, we asked. We got pretty much exactly what we got here. Everybody was afraid that we were going to have the worst case scenario because we’re all protecting our image, and that’s what we have to sell is the image of the ethical hunter. We were scared to death of the wrong guys doing the wrong thing and killing it for everybody. That didn’t happen... We did not have people complaining. We didn’t have anything bad happen other than we got more people signed up to hunt. We got an increase.”

Potential Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Participation/Retention/Recruitment:

Edenton participants were split nearly evenly on how they saw Sunday hunting affecting their hunting participation. Seven said that, given the chance, they probably would hunt on at least some Sundays (two of these said it would only affect them during bow season). Six participants said that Sunday hunting would have no impact on the number of days they spend hunting, because either 1) religious and/or family obligations would prevent them from hunting Sundays or 2) they currently spend Sundays scouting and moving stands or resting their dogs and would not change this pattern.

“I definitely would. You wouldn’t have to put a whole day into it. It’d be an extra chance to get out there, and you could always say, ‘Nope, I’m sleeping in.’”

“I usually use Sundays to move stands around and scout. I probably wouldn’t hunt then. And it wouldn’t be fair to the other fellows if somebody’s out there trying to hunt and somebody’s trying to move stands around, you’re going to have conflicts there.”

“I might possibly hunt a couple times on Sundays. My biggest concern would be that, running a gun and tackle store, I already work six days a week. Am I going to have to work seven days a week?”

“I’d probably be out hunting hunters more than I would be hunting something else because I have a terrible time with trespassers.”

Participants generally agreed that Sunday hunting would provide additional youth opportunities. (However, note on page 6 that they did not all agree that it was necessary for the recruitment of youth hunters.)

“Where I coach at Chincoteague, I have a lot of [youth hunters]. As soon as they’re done with practices, they’re gone, and so is the dad. They’re hitting the woods going after rabbits. So I’m pretty sure that most of them would do the same thing on Sundays after practices.”

“I don’t think it would affect as much deer hunting with the younger ones I’ve talked to, but small game – definitely. They would be out there [on Sundays] for small game.”

Four participants said that they would be more likely to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina to hunt if they could also hunt on Sunday. Others said it would have no impact on their travel. Several participants were concerned that Sunday hunting would instead encourage others from out-of-town to travel to their local area for hunting, crowd out local hunters, and raise land leases to a level where local hunters and hunt clubs could no longer afford to hunt.

“I would [travel more in North Carolina]. I’ve been invited to go up to the mountains deer hunting, bear hunting, with my buddies, and just for one day, it’s not really worth it to me to try to do it.”

“The local people are being pushed out by people coming in from [other areas] buying up hunting rights on lands and paying big dollars and pushing local people out. If you

legalize Sunday hunting, then it's going to put that much more pressure on the local hunters."

"Rent on land has jumped in this area from 50 cents an acre, to now prime hunting land is as much as 25 dollars an acre or more. It's already affected my business. I could probably name about 25 or 30 hunters in [my county] that have been forced to quit because of how much the cost of hunting has gone up. The state of NC, if they're going to allow this, needs to set some rules and some guidelines on the minimum and maximum you can charge by the day, by the weekend, by the week, and have some kind of form where all of this is not tax-free income. That's my biggest objection."

"The state needs to address [the increasing costs to lease lands and loss of hunting lands] more than they do Sundays. Sunday will gain nothing, and it's going to lose you something. Even if everybody loved it, it wouldn't gain them nothing. Not just that one day, by itself... The fact is, the club I belong to is down on land, while dues are up. I remember when we thought 40 cents an acre was a lot. Now, 5 dollars and 40 cents is a blessing. And we've lost some members, and we're going to lose some more."

Other states that participants traveled to hunt in included New York, Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma. One participant said that Sunday hunting was one factor in their decision to travel to New York to hunt, but others said Sunday hunting was not the primary reason they chose to travel. Participants agreed that Sunday hunting would not affect their out-of-state hunting patterns. Finally, there was a general agreement that if Sunday hunting did indeed lead to an increase in days hunted, that would there be an economic impact due to additional gas and meal purchases for local hunts and the additional trips they may take to western North Carolina (lodging, etc.).

"If you hunt on a Sunday, like any other day, if you're like most of the guys, you come out of the woods, you have dinner someplace. Peggy's Pantry or whatever gets your dollar when you're buying dinner or a cup of coffee and donuts on your way back out. You're definitely going to spend at least as much money on that day hunting as you do on any other day."

Response to Arguments for and against Sunday Hunting:

When participants were asked to respond to a variety of arguments for and against Sunday hunting, the arguments that participants in general most strongly identified with were the family/faith based arguments. However, one participant did express the opinion that Sunday hunting should be a matter of personal choice. When the issue of separation of church and state was posed, one participant voiced his agreement with that argument.

"I think for me it's partly my faith. I just feel like it's a nice day to just sit around the house, spend it with your family, and give the wildlife a chance to not put up with [hunting] for a day."

"The key point we have to realize is, if Sunday hunting is allowed, we don't have to go out there. It's just another day that would give us the opportunity to go if we wanted to."

"This country was built on the foundation that you should be able to worship where you want to... When it comes to Sunday, it's just a quiet day. And I would take it personally,

too, when somebody else goes. It's just the way life is for me. I can't tell you not to go, but I wish you wouldn't."

"We don't have any black people in here, but I can tell you that black people are totally opposed to it [for faith-based reasons]. The ones I've talked to, I'd say 80 percent or more are opposed... These days they're more religiously oriented than white people."

"In this day and age of laws and courts deciding, [separation of church and state] is unfortunately a valid point. I had not considered the Jewish faith until right now, yet when we taught hunter safety, we sometimes had to change from Friday-Saturday to Thursday-Friday because we had people coming in that couldn't be there on Saturday."

Another argument that participants identified with was the potential for conflicts between hunters and other recreationists.

"It's a day of rest, a day to do what you want to do. If you want to get up in the morning and walk around in the woods or let your kids go into the woods, it gives you a day to do that without having to worry about ducking bullets or messing somebody up."

"Right around here, we're having a lot of people buying horses for trail rides, and they look forward to that Sunday... If [Sunday hunting] was to happen, they'd be put out because a lot of the land they have permission to ride on, other clubs have it for hunting. So it would hurt some other activities."

Edenton participants in general, with the exception of one person, did not agree that Sunday hunting would result in increased youth recruitment.

"Most hunters that have kids are going to recruit their kids to hunt whether they can take them out on Sunday or not... I wouldn't think [Sunday hunting] would make that big of a difference to how many new hunters you're going to bring on."

"There are a lot of different ways to recruit them other than just hunting on Sundays. They've got these bow tournaments you can take them to. The majority of them are on Sundays... That's just as close to hunting as you can possibly get."

"If you're committed to your sport, and you want to involve your family in it, then you'll do it whether you can hunt on Sunday or not."

"Even if you're committed, and you're working 6 days out of 7, what if your son decides that today's the day that 'Dad, I want to go hunting'? All you can say now is, 'I'd love to take you tomorrow, Son, but we can't hunt on Sunday, and you've got school and I have to work on Monday.'"

Perception of Landowner Response to Sunday Hunting:

Participants were asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting. Participants at the Edenton meeting were particularly concerned with this and indicated that many landowners would be against the idea of Sunday hunting and would likely disallow Sunday hunting on their land, which would decrease opportunities and increase competition for hunting land access. There was also a concern, as noted previously, that

Sunday hunting could potentially increase the price to hunt by raising leases – either because out-of-town hunters can afford to pay more to lease land or because landowners would see the extra hunting day as an opportunity for and justification for increasing leases accordingly. Participants also felt that trespassing, which is already a problem for landowners, would become even more of a problem.

Affect of Potential Sunday Hunting Scenarios on Attitudes:

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how Sunday hunting might be implemented. First, we asked them for their thoughts on the possible legalization of Sunday hunting on only public or only private lands. There was some limited support for allowing it only on public game lands, but participants anticipated that conflicts would occur on both private lands (especially where landowners chose to not allow Sunday hunting, but hunters ignore their wishes) and on public lands (where other recreationists currently go on Sunday). Others saw both scenarios (only public and only private) as bad because it would divide hunters and present inequalities in the hunting opportunities available. This was especially a concern for dog hunting, which they said is forbidden on many public lands and would be a problem with law enforcement if the dogs ran onto private property. There was also some concern from those that opposed Sunday hunting that these types of restrictions were really just one step in the process of legalizing it entirely, and they did not want to see that happen.

“Game lands would be somewhere to maybe make a start on it if they had to do it. As far as private lands, we’re better of leaving them alone. I’d still be opposed to it, but I can see it more on Game Lands.”

“It’s the case of the elephant getting his trunk in the door. The rest of the elephant is going to come in easy.”

“You’re dividing hunters. We don’t need to do that. On a lot of the game lands, you can’t run dogs, so you’re eliminating the dog hunters.”

“If we did that – like just opened it to Game Lands – for instance in a dog hunting section... If you’re hunting on the Game Lands and you’re dog hunting, the first time you go out on the highway to pick your dogs up on private lands, you’re going to get a ticket. It would be more complex.”

No support was expressed for county-level decisions regarding Sunday hunting, though several participants were convinced that county-based restrictions would be made. They said that county commissioners would either stop Sunday hunting altogether, or put restrictions on it as to where, when, and how Sunday hunting could take place – both of which would increase the complexity of hunting regulations and the burden placed on law enforcement.

Other scenarios were also regarded negatively. If Sunday hunting were allowed only for certain species or during certain seasons, participants felt that it would discriminate against many hunters and thought it was important for hunters to remain united. The same was expressed regarding the option to allow Sunday hunting only for certain species, weapons (e.g., bow), or methods (e.g., still vs. dogs). While participants thought that restricting dog hunting on Sunday would be the restriction most wanted by the public, they also explained that it would not be fair

to dog hunters, would increase the public image problem that dog hunters are already facing, and would cause conflicts and division among hunters.

“I enjoy still hunting... I still respect the man with his dog and his rights to hunt. If we start trying to put restrictions on the dog hunter or still hunters, we’re going to lose some dog hunters. As hunters in general, we can’t afford to lose numbers.”

“[No dog hunting] would probably be the number one restriction that people would want... I don’t dog hunt, but I got respect for him... Who am I to say we just cut him out? That kind of atmosphere would just cause infighting. We got enough obstacles from anti-hunting groups.”

“That’s division between hunters. I want us all to start together, end together, and be together. At some point in time, dog hunting is going to be over with anyway. This kind of restriction will just make it happen faster.”

If Sunday hunting were allowed only after a certain time on Sundays (e.g., after 1pm), participants first noted that conflicts with church activities might be avoided. However, the discussion then brought up the fact that many church services and activities take place in the afternoon and evenings, and that this still would interfere with traditional family time and cause conflicts with other recreational uses (e.g., horseback riding). Finally, participants were concerned that if hunting were allowed only on a few specified Sundays that it would cause regulations to be too confusing and would also discriminate against some hunters for whom the chosen Sundays are inconvenient and/or not applicable (depending on the species and type of hunting preferred).

Summary:

Overall, most participants in the Edenton focus group were opposed to Sunday hunting, with a couple who were either neutral or supportive under certain conditions. Major concerns regarding Sunday hunting included conflicts with the traditional role of Sunday in family and church situations and the potential negative impacts of Sunday hunting on the public’s attitude towards hunting in general. Other concerns included the impact on already escalating costs to hunt (e.g., leases) and the impact of non-local hunters crowding out and/or out-competing local hunters. While some participants noted that Sunday hunting would provide additional opportunities for them to hunt and for youths, they generally agreed with one exception that Sunday hunting was not the best way to improve recruitment and retention (lengthening the seasons was cited as a preferred alternative). Finally, little support was expressed for any of the possible Sunday hunting restrictions that were discussed. There was a near unanimous agreement that legalizing Sunday hunting only with special regulations (e.g., still hunting only, only after 1pm) would divide hunters and weaken an already tenuous public image.

Summary of Sunday Hunting Hunter Focus Group #2 February 21, 2006; Albemarle, NC; 6:30-8:30pm

Group Profile (Selected Hunting Stakeholders):

Hunter focus group #2, which took place in Albemarle, NC, was attended by 13 hunters selected to represent a range of hunting interests from the Piedmont region. Participants were all Caucasian, and all male. In attendance were bow, muzzleloader, and gun hunters, with one hunter noting that he hunted exclusively with a bow and one other stating that he preferred bowhunting. Also, both still and dog hunters were present. When talking about the species that they hunt, 4 participants said they hunt “everything.” Among the other participants were 7 deer hunters, 1 bear hunter, 5 turkey hunters, 2 grouse/quail hunters, 3 waterfowl hunters, 1 coon hunter, 1 fox hunter, 1 squirrel hunter, and 1 rabbit hunter. During the introductions, 2 participants also mentioned their work as hunting preserve operators (upland game and waterfowl).

Though the comments made during the focus group and summarized in this report do not reflect the views of any person or group other than the individuals present, it is informative to know the breadth of interests involved. Stakeholder groups with which participants were affiliated include the NC Coon Hunters Association, the NC Trappers Association, the NC Bowhunters Association, the NC Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Quail Unlimited, the Quality Deer Management Association, Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) clubs, and local hunt clubs.

Prior Knowledge of Sunday Hunting Issue:

We asked participants what they had heard about the Sunday hunting issue prior to being contacted about the focus group. Four had not heard anything prior to being contacted. Among the other participants, 3 had attended the local public hearing in January, 2006, and learned about the issue there. One participant mentioned having heard about the Sunday hunting issue while interacting with other hunters during his field trials, 2 participants had heard about it while attending a Commission meeting, and 1 had learned about it at a National Wild Turkey Federation banquet. Finally, 4 participants reported that they’d been hearing about and/or following the Sunday hunting issue for years.

Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting:

Participants were each asked to state whether they supported or opposed the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina and to give the major reasons why they held those attitudes. Of the 13 participants present, 11 expressed varying degrees of support for Sunday hunting, and the remaining 2 were neutral/undecided.

The major reason listed by participants for supporting Sunday hunting was personal choice. They felt that individuals should have the right to choose how to spend their time, and that hunting was as legitimate an activity as any other activity that currently takes place on Sundays. Several participants expressed the attitude that, although they would choose not to hunt on Sundays because of personal and/or religious reasons, they still believe that it should be an option available to other hunters.

“I fully support Sunday hunting. I don’t know if I’d ever hunt on Sunday or not myself, but I think that everybody ought to have that choice if they want to.”

“We have the freedom to choose a lot of things. Why shouldn’t we also have the opportunity to choose to hunt?”

“It’s legal to trap and legal to fish on Sundays... And you can use a firearm for dispatch on Sunday... Why can’t we hunt? ”

“I hunt on Sunday now in North Carolina. I hunt fish. But that’s fishing. I shoot fish with a bow and arrow, and it’s legal. But I can’t shoot anything else.”

Other reasons mentioned for supporting Sunday hunting were the potential to increase recruitment of youth hunters and the opportunity for economic benefits to North Carolina and local communities through increased license sales and increased hunting-related expenditures.

“I’ve got two sons, and I think that’s very critical. If I can get out there on a Sunday or maybe two Sundays during the season, I think that’d be worth it. I’m not going to hunt every Sunday, but I’d like to have that available to them.”

“I’m for it for a number of reasons, and one is definitely for the youth. The average age of the hunter has been increasing for the last few decades... I started hunting when I was three years old. I’d walk out and get carried back. That doesn’t happen anymore... Also I have people flying in from all over the country to hunt waterfowl in [my town]. There is an economic impact as well. Thirdly, I believe it would also increase license sales, which is what pays for wildlife management, and they’re going down.”

While no one at the Albemarle focus group expressed overall opposition to Sunday hunting, there were some reservations expressed, and several said that their support depended upon how Sunday hunting was to be implemented. These reservations were based largely upon a concern for public attitudes toward hunting and the effects that Sunday hunting might have on that public image. Specifically, participants were concerned that the issue of Sunday hunting would 1) place a spotlight on hunting as a public policy issue and open hunting in general up for increased criticism and debate and 2) bring hunting more into the public’s view where it intersects with churches and church-based activities. However, participants felt these impacts could be mitigated or even made positive with good implementation and the passage of time.

“I think we need to worry about public image. Hunters have an image problem at times anyway. Is this going to impact the image of hunters with the general public?”

“We just have to be careful. Do we gain one extra day of hunting, and turn the public against hunting, and end up losing the right to hunt, period?. We don’t want to go for short term gain and long term lose, but in the court of public opinion, you just don’t know.”

Potential Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Participation/Retention/Recruitment:

Eight of the Albemarle focus group participants said that, given the chance, they probably would hunt on at least some Sundays. One of these said it would affect them primarily during bow season and the “peak of the rut,” and one other mentioned that they would spend more time

hunting with his children. In general, participants saw it as providing additional opportunities for children and the working public. One participant (a waterfowl hunter) said that they would actually hunt less than they do now because they usually hunt only during the week to avoid “the fishing crowd.”

“We put the largest youth hunt on anywhere in the nation. The North Carolina Coon Hunt. We put about 160-70 kids in the woods. We did a little thing a few years ago and asked them, ‘What would make you more interested’. I didn’t know then that schools are out so much on Mondays... That was one of the things that the kids brought up. They said, ‘It would be good if we could go hunting on Sunday nights when we didn’t have to go to school Monday morning.’”

“I bow hunt only. I’d probably bow hunt on Sunday during the peak of the rut. If I knew I was hunting a buck and I knew I had to be in the woods every minute to get that shot. But I’d still be going to church with my wife Sunday morning.”

“My daughter shows horses also. During turkey season, I lose two Saturdays for her horse shows that we could make up on Sundays. I usually lose two Saturdays during deer season, too.”

“My son-in-law would hunt. He loves to hunt, but he works six days a week and he doesn’t get off until after dinner on Saturday, and it’s sort of hard to go rabbit hunting then. He’d go rabbit hunting with me every Sunday that we went.”

Several participants said that they would be more likely to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina to hunt if they could also hunt on Sunday (especially for waterfowl hunting on the coast). Other states that participants currently travel to hunt in included Ohio, Wyoming, South Carolina, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas. No one said that they go out of state primarily because they can hunt on Sundays. One participant did say that he might not go out-of-state to hunt waterfowl if he were able to hunt on Sundays in North Carolina, and another mentioned that he might swap some (but not all) of his out-of-state trips for trips to the North Carolina coast. Finally, there was a general agreement that increased hunting activity due to Sunday hunting would lead to economic benefits from 1) normal travel expenses (e.g., gas, lodging) incurred by hunters taking more trips in North Carolina (and possibly fewer trips out-of-state) and 2) increased business opportunities for hunting preserves.

“As far as waterfowl hunting, I’d be more likely to go to the coast. Right now, you can hunt on Saturday, but you are basically sitting around doing nothing on Sunday.”

“It might mean a trip to the coast rather than a trip to Arkansas. We cancelled out, this year, going to the coast duck hunting because our only opportunity was one day rather than two. If we could have hunted twice, we’d have gone.”

“Kind of like the lottery. If you can’t buy tickets in North Carolina, you’re going to go to South Carolina and Virginia to buy them. If you can’t hunt, you’re going to go to South Carolina to hunt. I know people who do it.”

“I can’t say that it would give me more money to spend in the state, but I know first hand that [within a 45 minute drive from here], we’ve got five different shooting preserves... I

would guarantee they would be full on Sunday. When I say full, that means probably at least 8-10 hunters paying \$500 a day to be down there shooting. And that is a pretty good impact.”

Response to Arguments for and against Sunday Hunting:

When presented with a variety of potential arguments for and against Sunday hunting, participants centered the faith-based discussion on the need for choice and ethical behavior. Although participants did recognize potential conflicts with church activities (e.g., due to noise, etc.), they did not believe that it was a good reason to ban Sunday hunting.

“That’s one thing I could see an issue with... But with deer hunting, church starts 10:00 in the morning, or 11:00, well most of the prime time’s over and done with then anyway. I can see where it could be a little bit disturbing at times, especially for waterfowl hunting, and if there’s a church on the edge of the Pee Dee River, it could get interesting.”

“I’ve tried to live my life by a rule that I made for myself, and that’s that my rights stop when it steps on your toes, and your rights stop when it steps on my toes. If what I was doing was offending someone in the church, then I would move back, or I’d find me a different place to hunt where there was not a church. And that’s something that hunters can do.”

“But everybody’s not like that. We have a lot the others that don’t live like that. Those are the ones that cause the problems for the ones like us.”

Further, they did not feel that the traditional view of Sunday as a “holy day” (and therefore Sunday hunting as unethical) was a good reason for separating out hunting as a forbidden Sunday activity.

“If you’re not going to church, you’re not going to church. It doesn’t matter whether you go hunting or not. That’s a decision you’re going to make regardless of what the hunting laws allow... I don’t think it’s going to have any impact whatsoever on whether somebody goes to church or not.”

“This law is not going to make them hunt. That’s just like selling beer on Sunday. They can say that makes a man be an alcoholic, but that ain’t what this thing’s about. He can make a choice whether to buy that beer or not buy that beer, and he can make a choice to go hunting or not go hunting.”

“I think the whole trend in the South changed except hunting. We’d be mad as a hornet if the whole state was shut down [on Sunday]. I think everything else has moved forward except hunting. And a lot of people would be better off in the woods with their kids than maybe they would be in a bar on Sunday night.”

“Also, there are religions that their Sabbath is Saturday... I have heard of some individuals that say that they have the resources to test it as being a violation of church and state.” (response from another participant: “I think it would probably win, to be honest.”)

Some Albemarle participants expressed concern that Sunday hunting would require shorter seasons, especially for waterfowl, and that Sunday hunting may have a negative impact on some wildlife populations (e.g., on rabbits and/or squirrels). Others didn't see how Sunday hunting would make a difference on the total harvest.

“Allowing Sunday hunting would condense our waterfowl season in terms of time span. In some ways I feel ducks need a day to rest. They don't need to be hunted thirty days straight. We don't get influxes of ducks like you do in Arkansas... If those same ducks are hunted 20 days in a row, it'd be a worthless season...” (later on... “I could support closing the waterfowl season during another day of the week to keep the span of the season.”)

“I think you've got some idiots out there that are hunting. Not the guys that pass up bucks because they're not big enough or won't shoot a turkey because his beard's not over six inches long. But there's guys out there that rabbit hunt, and they don't think that they've had a good day unless they kill 25 or 30. They're going to be out there on Sunday too, so I know that you're going to have an impact.”

“My dad was a strong believer that the quail needed to rest to covey back up. I agree with him. I'm still overall for [Sunday hunting], but in the negative sense, there is a lot to be said about the impact.”

“There's no way you can regulate the renegades. I know guys that kill coons 12 months of the year, and there's nothing you can do about them. And you can put the game warden on them, he scouts them, and they're slick, and they get by with it. I know people that aren't happy if they don't bag 25 rabbits. Sunday hunting won't make a difference. But the conservation people are going to be conservationists, whether they hunt 7 days a week or 6 days a week.”

“I think the net number [harvest] is going to stay the same.”

While two participants stated that the animals' need for a day of rest might be a valid argument against Sunday hunting (especially for waterfowl and small game), no one felt that the hunters' need for a day of rest was a good argument.

“I think the argument saying that hunters need a day of rest is bogus. The idea that possibly game need a day of rest is probably a valid argument.”

Albemarle participants did not express concern about potential conflicts between hunters and other recreationists on private lands because hunters need permission to hunt and landowners can choose not to allow hunting on Sundays if they want that time for their own recreation. On public lands, however, participants felt that it may be an issue for other recreationists who generally avoid going out while hunters are present, but there was general agreement that this wasn't as issue of “equity” and that hunters had as much, if not more, right to be out there as other recreationists.

“That's a real sore subject with me. That is public land. Everybody else gets to use it 12 months out of the year, 365 days out of the year. We get to use it 4 months out of the

year. And then there's one day out of that week that we can't use it... And they don't have to buy a Game Lands use permit either."

Next, participants talked about potential economic benefits to North Carolina from Sunday hunting, primarily due to the sale of non-resident licenses and the associated economic activity generated by non-local hunters coming in to hunt. The hunting preserve operator, in particular, saw the economic benefits of Sunday hunting as a good argument for Sunday hunting.

"I think a lot of money is going to be spent on Sunday. A huge amount of money."

"I would have more hunters coming and spending more money in this community that would come and hunt Saturday and Sunday. If I had Sunday hunting here, I would be hiring one or two additional staff members to accommodate that."

We finally asked if there was something that might make North Carolina different from the other states that currently allow Sunday hunting that would justify the current regulation. The major differences mentioned primarily referenced the larger human population and resultant rate of habitat loss.

"The main difference that I see is that we're more populated than Colorado or Canada or Nebraska. In some of these places, you can drive for 10 miles and never see a house. You can't drive for 30 seconds here and not see a house. That may be one thing that will hurt us as far as getting [Sunday hunting] is the number of people that live in an area."

"We're losing habitat. That's the bottom line. Every year I lose ground. Our loss of habitat is accelerating, from the coast to the mountains."

Perception of Landowner Response to Sunday Hunting:

Participants were asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting. Participants at the Albemarle focus group discussed two general landowner issues: land leases and landowner rights. They stated that private landowners might view Sunday hunting as an opportunity to increase lease fees (which would be good for the landowner, but not so for the hunter). Participants did not believe that landowner rights would be impacted. Participants agreed that landowners could allow or disallow Sunday hunting in their agreements with hunters, so the impact to landowners from Sunday hunting would be under their control. It was recognized that some landowners would permit (or even encourage) Sunday hunting on their land, while other would not, but participants felt that in the local area, a lot of landowners would want hunters on their property on Sundays.

"I think they could capitalize on it, as far as turning quail lose and having a hunting preserve. They could make a lot of money."

"They will be divided a little bit, but I think that overall it will win over with them because of simple money. They've got to lease their land to pay the taxes."

"The landowner does have the right to forbid you to hunt on his land on Sunday if he don't want you there."

Affect of Potential Sunday Hunting Scenarios on Attitudes:

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how Sunday hunting might be implemented. During the initial introductions, one participant mentioned that he thought that regulations should be region-specific, while another participant was strongly against special Sunday restrictions.

“I support some kind of Sunday hunting laws, maybe not one blanket that covers the whole state but broken up into areas, regions, districts, as well as the type of hunting we’re doing. There are some areas because of the density of the population, because of local sentiment [where special regulations might be needed].”

“I’m ambivalent [about Sunday hunting], but I’m strongly against any kind of private land, public land [restrictions]. It’s all or nothing. Don’t make it where you’ve got to have a Master’s degree to figure out where you can hunt. We’ve got enough of that already... Either say ‘Yes, you can do all hunting,’ or ‘No, you can’t do none at all.’”

The first type of restriction we asked about was the possible legalization of Sunday hunting on only public or only private lands, and this was met with skepticism from all participants. Next, the idea that counties may regulate Sunday hunting was brought up for discussion, and again, no support was expressed for this type of implementation. Rather, concern was expressed that some people and hunters would not have a say in those decisions. Participants were concerned that if counties were able to disallow Sunday hunting, that it would cause hunters to crowd into counties where it was legal.

If Sunday hunting were allowed only for certain species or during certain seasons, participants felt that it would discriminate against many hunters and thought it was important for hunters to remain united. The same was expressed regarding the allowing of Sunday hunting only for certain weapons (e.g., bow) or methods (e.g., still vs. dogs). Participants thought that it was important for hunters to remain united and that Sunday be “all or nothing” from this standpoint.

“That’s not fair to everybody here. That man buys his license and pays his money to coon hunt, and these people that pay theirs to waterfowl hunt, these pays theirs to quail hunt, and the deer hunters get to do it? I don’t think that’s right.”

“I don’t think that we ought to start out with regulations and stipulations ourselves. I think we ought to go with it for the whole deal, and then if it is a problem, you can say we need to restrict it down here or refine it there... It’s harder to get [the restrictions] taken off you than it is to get them put on you.”

Two types of restrictions that participants were willing to consider were if Sunday hunting was allowed only after a certain time on Sunday (e.g., after 1pm) or if it were allowed only on a few specified Sundays (i.e., as a step to phasing Sunday hunting in). Two participants noted that they would rather have these restrictions and still have some opportunities to hunt on Sundays than to not have any Sunday hunting at all, while others were more opposed. Some concern was expressed that these time restrictions (particularly the “after 1pm” restriction) would not work for waterfowl, deer, or turkey hunting because the best time for hunting those species is early in the morning.

“If [time restrictions] is what it takes to be able to get hunting on Sunday, I’d rather go with half a day than no day.”

“I think the fear about the church thing is just that. It’s a scare tactic. I think it’s going to resolve itself. It’s going to prove to not be an issue for the most part.”

“I would say just go for all, and either do or don’t. I’m not going to die either way. I’d like to see the opportunity for the general public to hunt on Sunday and not have any regulations. If it’s a problem, we’ll regulate it down the road.”

Finally, participants mentioned that if restrictions were needed, the best place to start would be to place safety zones around churches for Sunday mornings, similar to safety zones around school that are currently in place.

Summary:

Overall, most participants in the Albemarle meeting supported Sunday hunting, with a couple who were either neutral or had some reservations but remained supportive overall. Major arguments made in favor of Sunday hunting revolved around a hunter’s right to choose how he/she spends time, but some participants were concerned about how to mitigate the potential negative publicity that the Sunday hunting issue might generate. Participants agreed that it would increase hunting activity and that it would be a positive thing for youth recruitment. They did not feel that the traditional arguments against Sunday hunting (faith-based, recreation-related, etc.) were strong arguments, and held that “freedom of choice” was the most defensible argument. Finally, there was a general lack of support for the range of possible ways to restrict Sunday hunting. Although a couple participants did say that a half day on Sunday or only certain Sundays would be “better than nothing,” everyone agreed that the “all or nothing approach” was preferable. The most favored Sunday hunting restriction was to place safety zones around churches for Sunday mornings and to not put time, weapon, or season limitations on it until the real impacts, if any, were documented.

Summary of Sunday Hunting Hunter Focus Group #3 February 22, 2006; Wilkesboro, NC; 6:30-8:30pm

Group Profile (Selected Hunting Stakeholders):

Hunter focus group #3, which took place in Wilkesboro, NC, was attended by 12 hunters selected to represent a range of hunting interests from the Mountain region. Participants were all Caucasian, and all male. In attendance were bow, muzzleloader, and gun hunters. Also, both still and dog hunters were present. When talking about the species that they hunt, 3 participants said they hunt “everything.” Among the other participants were 6 deer hunters, 3 bear hunters, 3 turkey hunters, 1 boar hunter, 3 “bird” hunters, 3 waterfowl hunters, 2 squirrel hunters, 2 rabbit hunters, and 3 “small game” hunters. During the discussions, 3 participants also mentioned that they were landowners, and 2 participants mentioned that they work as a church pastor or other church official.

Though the comments made during the focus group and summarized in this report do not reflect the views of any person or group other than the individuals present, it is informative to know the breadth of interests involved. Stakeholder groups with which participants were affiliated include the NC Bear Hunters Association, NC Bowhunters Association, the NC Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Quail Unlimited, the Quality Deer Management Association, Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) clubs, and local hunt clubs.

Prior Knowledge of Sunday Hunting Issue:

We asked participants what they had heard about the Sunday hunting issue prior to being contacted about the focus group. Three participants had not heard anything about the proposed legislation or the current study, but knew that Sunday hunting had been an issue for years. Four had learned about the current study at the local public hearing in January, 2006, and 4 had heard about it through word-of-mouth. Other sources of information about the Sunday hunting issue that participants mentioned included the Ducks Unlimited website (message board), the NC Bowhunters Association, National Wild Turkey Federation meetings/banquets, the NCDeer.com website (2 years ago), and attendance at a Commission meeting in October, 2005.

Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting:

Participants were each asked to state whether they supported or opposed the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina and to give the major reasons why they held those attitudes. Of the 12 participants present, 8 indicated that they supported Sunday hunting, 2 opposed it, and the remaining 2 were neutral/undecided.

The major reasons listed by participants for supporting Sunday hunting were “freedom of choice” and the additional opportunities it would provide for youth and working hunters. Potential economic impacts for North Carolina were also mentioned.

“I’m for it. I think that there are situations out there where guys that work 5 and a half days a week just don’t have the time to be outdoors. If you can take a Sunday and spend it with a kid... it’s better than him being out doing something he shouldn’t be doing.”

“Most hunters that I have talked with, probably 95% were for it. I know it’s controversial, but I think for youth it’s a good thing. That’s the future of hunting.”

“Everybody’s got a choice. You could go to church on Sunday morning. And then, if you want to go hunt in the afternoon, that’s fine. If you work six days a week, that may be the only time you got. People do everything else in the world on Sunday.”

“It should be a freedom of choice... It’s probably unconstitutional that we don’t get to hunt on Sunday... I have 4 kids, and the three oldest hunt. My daughter’s not old enough yet. I love spending time in the woods. I could care less if I harvest any game. As long as they’re harvesting game, it’s a real pleasure to share a duck blind or tree stand with one of my children... Also, I think a lot of people oppose Sunday hunting because they feel Sunday is the Sabbath. Sunday is not the Sabbath day. Saturday is. Sunday is a day of celebration. As far as revenue, there’s a lot of revenue that probably goes to South Carolina. A lot of hunters buy out-of-state licenses and travel down there”

“The current law is unfair. If Sunday hunting is to remain forbidden in the state, then I would suggest that, to bring things into balance and treat everyone equally, the state should also ban other sporting activities on Sunday such as NASCAR, golf, shooting matches, bowling, et cetera.”

Several participants expressed the attitude that, although they would choose not hunt on Sundays or that Sunday hunting would actually inconvenience them as a landowner, they still believe that it should be an option available to other hunters.

“If I was going to be selfish, I’d be against it because I’m a landowner too, and I’d just as soon not have people around there on Sunday. But in principle, I have to be for it.”

“I’m a pastor for a little church, so I’m not going to hunt on Sunday. But when you examine the legalities of it, tradition and how you feel spiritually is really not going to have much weight in the courtroom.”

Reasons that Wilkesboro participants mentioned for opposing Sunday hunting included landowner issues (primarily concerns for trespassing), the negative impacts that Sunday hunting would have on the quality of deer populations (giving hunters more opportunities to harvest young juvenile bucks), conflicts with other recreationists, and the interference of Sunday hunting with a traditional family day. One participant also qualified his support for Sunday hunting as depending on how it was implemented.

“I’ve talked to most of the hunters in our hunting group – about 50, and I talked to the majority of landowners in [my area]. I found out that the majority of landowners are against it. Of our group, there’s one that’s for it, the rest are against. I’m against it.”

“I oppose it for several reasons. The Wildlife Commission refuses to protect our young juvenile bucks, and the majority of the bucks that are killed every year are 2.5 year old bucks. They’re not reaching the maturity level. Sunday hunting would provide 10 more days of the season, giving hunters the opportunity to harvest even more of those juvenile animals. If the Commission would do something to protect our young bucks, it may influence my opinion somewhat. Also, when I was a kid, we always spent a lot of time Sundays walking in the woods – hiking, picnicking, out with the family. During

deer season, it's a beautiful time to get see the leaves, Sunday's the only day you can get out and walk in the woods without having to wear blaze orange... I also am a bi-vocational minister, and Sunday has always been a family day. I think that Sunday not being a legal hunting day has salvaged a lot of marriages. I feel like it would be bad for the family. Another reason is trespassers. I'm having a terrible time with trespassers. And they know that I would not be on the property on Sunday, at least not until after 2, because I'm in church. And if somebody is going to trespass on my property or hunt on my property or poach on my property, then Sunday hunting would give them a good opportunity to do so without me being present."

Potential Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Participation/Retention/Recruitment:

Wilkesboro participants were split on whether or not Sunday hunting would increase the number of days they spend hunting. Some said they would definitely hunt more, others said it would not change their hunting effort because they would not hunt on Sunday's either way. It was also mentioned that while Sunday hunting may increase the time they spend hunting a little bit, it would primarily take the pressure off of the need to hunt on Saturday. For other hunters, participants believe that that, although Sunday hunting would not pull people out of church, it would increase participation by working hunters and youth.

"I'd hunt a whole lot more, I'd have more time to be in the woods with my kids. Now, let me do say I am a faithful church member, and I will be in church when the time comes – Sunday school every Sunday morning at 10:00, preaching at 11, afternoon service at 7. I will still be in church, but I'd get some time on the water or in the woods in the morning and also in the afternoon... It would really be a blessing to have a more time with my children, hunting with them, and also as a working class hunter."

"It would probably increase my time a little bit. I know that it would relieve a lot of pressure I feel now to be out there on Saturday. That's mostly the only time I've got unless I take off work. I could do something else I might want to do on Saturday and then hunt Sunday afternoon or early Sunday morning."

"I think you'll be surprised at how many people that only have a handful of opportunities to hunt throughout the year because of work schedules that don't buy a license... If they get 3 opportunities to go hunting, and they buy a \$45 dollar sportsman license, that's just not real good economics. I think if Sunday hunting were in place, then it would open the doors for those people to buy that license."

"I don't think you would see a tremendous influx of people diving out there to go hunting, but I believe it would increase some."

"I've got 4 boys, and I'm sure all of them would be hunting Sundays."

Several participants said that they would be more likely to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina to hunt if they could also hunt on Sunday. Other states that participants currently travel to hunt in included Alabama, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and the opportunity to hunt on Sunday did provide some incentive for those trips for some participants. Several of the participants who do currently hunt out of state said that they would probably stay in North Carolina some of those times if Sunday hunting were allowed. On the other hand, it was mentioned that many hunters who leave the state do so in order to obtain

quality animals (which they said are difficult to find in North Carolina), not because of the chance to hunt on Sundays.

“I go to the Coast, and usually take off Thursday evening and go down and hunt Friday and Saturday and come back. I’d definitely hunt Sunday morning. Then catch a service, and head on home. I’d make more trips than I do now, too.”

“It would give the guys from maybe middle of North Carolina an opportunity to come up and hunt with us an extra day. It works both ways.”

“I think more hunters are leaving the state for that quality animal. And that’s the reason I went to Canada, because the quality animal that I’m seeking is few and far between here in North Carolina. A lot of my friends are starting to hunt out of state [for that reason.]”

“I would be more likely to drive 5 hours and spend that extra day, and I’m going to have to eat and do everything that extra day. I’m going to spend more money.”

Response to Arguments for and against Sunday Hunting:

When presented with a variety of potential arguments for and against Sunday hunting, participants agreed that it would have little or no impact on church attendance. Participants recognized that concerns about noise (guns and dogs) and safety issues (stray bullets) around churches were probably valid, primarily due to inconsiderate hunters. Some restrictions were suggested, such as safety zones around churches, to help mitigate these issues. A concern was also expressed by one participant that the Sunday was actually not the Sabbath, and that the current ban on Sunday hunting was misled. Overall, participants thought that it should be a freedom of choice.

“I’ve hunted in states out west where it’s legal to hunt, and seen multitudes of people going to church on Sunday. I hunted on Sunday up there, and went to church on Sunday up there. I don’t think it would be that big of an effect as far as church services go.”

“I don’t think it would affect significantly church attendance. Some of the most dedicated bear hunters I know are also devoutly religious, and they’ll leave the dog in the woods and go to church. Others wouldn’t go to church anyway. They might not be hunting, but they’ll be doing something else.”

“It wouldn’t sound good to be setting in church and a seven mag or a 30-ought-six start popping right there above the church. It just wouldn’t sound good.”

“Since there’s a lot of rural churches out in hunting areas, that a lot of people sitting in church would be – maybe not worried to death – but they would be uneasy as to whether or not a bullet was going to come flying through the window from somebody in the distance shooting... If hunters would use their head, if they would be considerate and courteous, they wouldn’t be hunting right around the church to interrupt services.”

“I can see a problem maybe with a dove hunt. Because there’s a lot of shots fired, and if you had a corn field next to a church, I can maybe see that being a problem. But deer hunting, any other kind, I don’t see it affecting a church.”

“As far as it being the Lord’s day, I think a lot of people are ignorant in their thinking that Sunday’s the Sabbath. Sunday’s not the Sabbath, Saturday is. The Lord rested on the 7th day of the week, which is Saturday... If people want to get so stringent on their restrictions about the Sabbath day, then they need to not be doing stuff on Saturday.”

“Has anybody done a study about how many bullet holes are in the churches from the other 6 days of the week? People go to church on Wednesday; they have church functions on Saturday. Our church does all the time. I’ve never heard of any problems with that. But when it comes to Sunday, everybody goes ballistic! What about the other days?”

“They could implement [a distance] restriction around churches – 150, 200 yards, 300 yards – whatever they wanted to do.”

Several participants believed that Sunday hunting would be helpful to get kids involved in hunting.

“One of the biggest things we face is getting kids out there in the outdoors. I read an article about a year ago that said kids involved in the outdoors were 90% less likely to get into adolescent trouble... That alone is worth this whole thing.”

Wilkesboro participants generally agreed that the wildlife/hunter day of rest argument was not a good argument against Sunday hunting. For the hunters, they felt that it should not be the state’s decision to make about when and how they “rest”. From a wildlife perspective, they agreed there was no good reason why wildlife would need a day of rest.

“I already let [the wildlife] rest five days a week... If a day of rest is needed, let’s make it Wednesday, then.”

“I think every study that’s been done has said that legal hunting has little or no effect on game populations. I just don’t think [the animals needing a day of rest] holds much water.”

“As far as the hunter needing a day of rest, that’s not the state’s decision to make.”

“If the Commission thinks that the population is too low, they can change bag limits, regulations.”

Some Wilkesboro participants thought that Sunday hunting had the potential to possibly harm some wildlife populations, and they were generally ok with the Commission adjusting bag limits and seasons to prevent these negative impacts. They also specifically talked about the waterfowl season, and it was suggested by one participant that the Commission consider cutting out waterfowl hunting on one or more other days during the week in order to keep as many weekend days as possible.

“The state can set that duck season any way they want to... Basically, what it boils down is if we get Sunday hunting, we’ll lose our two early seasons. Or, they could allow some days off here in the week.”

Albemarle participants did not express concern about potential conflicts between hunters and other recreationists, noting that it was largely a problem of perspective (e.g., recreationists perceive a safety threat, but one does not actually exist). Other arguments presented include the fact that most other users do not have to pay for access to the lands on which they recreate, and the fact that those other users have the ability to recreate every day for most of the year whereas hunting only takes place for a portion of that year. One participant noted that many recreationists are probably not even aware that hunting is not allowed on Sundays or that hunters are there on other days of the week, and feared that simply bringing it to their attention with this Sunday hunting issue could cause problems.

“Per 100,000 people, that number of people that get shot other than hunters is .001%.”

“I would like to maybe survey other recreationists and see how many mountain bikers or hikers do it on a Sunday because there’s not Sunday hunting. I’m just wondering how many conflicts we’re having on the National Forest between other recreationists and hunters on Saturday, for example.”

“When you hunt on Game Land in North Carolina, you have to buy a permit. Do you have to buy a permit to ride a horse? To hike? None of those things. All of those people get to use the area for free. And they’re the one’s causing the erosion problems on Game Lands.”

“They have other areas that they can do things. Bear sanctuaries and what not.”
(another participant) “On South Mountain State Park, for example, they have an area designated for horseback riding, for biking. No hunting.”

“Those people get to use the areas 9 months out of the year. We don’t. If you want to be balanced, how about giving us another couple of months?”

“I think that a lot of your hikers on some of the National Forest land – they’re not even aware whether there’s hunting going on or not. If you make them aware of it, they might start [protesting].”

Next, participants talked about potential economic benefits to North Carolina from Sunday hunting, primarily due to the sale of non-resident licenses (especially from bear hunters), and the associated economic activity generated by non-local hunters coming in to hunt. Several participants didn’t anticipate any significant economic benefits. One participant stated that he didn’t think there would be any additional costs to the Commission.

“The resources officers have to work on Sunday now anyway, so I don’t see how there’d be any more costs for them. And I’d like to point that every violation that the Wildlife Commission writes in North Carolina... The money for the fees goes to the school systems.”

“I personally don’t think it would affect the economics one way or another.”

“People done bought their license, their clothes, their guns, the shells. They won’t be doing that on Sunday. I’d say it won’t make fifty cents difference either way.”

“I would be more likely to take a 4 or 5 hour trip to hunt if I could hunt for 2 days. And I’m going to be spending money while I’m out there. I’m going to be spending money on gas getting there. And I don’t think I’m alone in that.”

“I think we’d probably draw people from other states like Florida and Georgia. They’ll be able to come up here and bear hunt on Sunday. I think it would have a great impact on our license sales.”

We finally asked if there was something that might make North Carolina different from the other states that currently allow Sunday hunting that would justify the current regulation. The only argument mentioned was that the density of the human population in the Piedmont region might make Sunday hunting less manageable.

“Unless you make an argument I think maybe for the densely populated Piedmont. Anywhere there’s an abundance of open land like the National Forest, some islands of Game Lands, I don’t see any real difference.”

Perception of Landowner Response to Sunday Hunting:

Participants were asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting. Most participants at the Wilkesboro focus group (including those who were landowners) believed that landowners in general would not support Sunday hunting (due to concerns for trespassers or personal recreation interests) and would disallow it in their leases and hunting agreements. One participant had spoken to one landowner before the focus group who said she would disallow all hunting (on all days) if Sunday hunting were legalized. One participant said that, out of respect for the landowner, he probably would not even ask to hunt on Sunday on lands where he suspected the landowner might be sensitive about it. One participant thought it was important to include in the legislation a statement about Sunday hunting being at the discretion of the landowner.

“I’ve talked to a lot of [landowners in my area] that like to get out on Sundays, walk over the land and through their orchards, and they let people hunt... Honestly, they don’t want Sunday hunting. I’ve talked to one lady said that if there’s Sunday hunting, she would stop hunting [on her land] completely.”

“The folks I’m having problems with on my property I don’t think are church-goers. So, there’s probably going to be a whole lot more poaching on my property on Sundays. Probably won’t be by hunting club members, but it will be my trespassers.”

“If you legalize Sunday hunting, you might have some hunters helping you out [with trespassers].”

“Out of the four places that I deer hunt, I know of only one that would probably not want me to, but would allow me to because I’m a friend. But I wouldn’t even ask them because of respect for them... As far as leases go, that would have to be in the lease contract.”

“I’d like [the legislation] to specifically identify that the landowner can limit the hunting – either no hunting on Sunday, or only hunting after 1:00 or something like that. If it’s not in there specifically, you can run into problems there.”

Affect of Potential Sunday Hunting Scenarios on Attitudes:

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how Sunday hunting might be implemented. First, we asked them for their thoughts on the possible legalization of Sunday hunting on only public or only private lands, and this was met with skepticism from all participants. Participants felt it was wrong to do it that way because 1) certain areas of the state have very little public land and public-land-only Sunday hunting would be unfair to hunters in those areas, 2) it would put too much pressure on Game Lands on Sundays, and 3) it would not be fair for landowners to not be able to hunt on their own land on Sunday. However, there was some discussion about public lands possibly being better than private lands if the choice had to be made because it would be less hassle for the landowner and the public would be less likely to oppose it if the state only allowed it on their own lands. No support was expressed for county-level decisions regarding Sunday.

“I think it’s wrong to do it that way, but I would understand them taking that first step. I think that’s most likely what’s going to happen.”

“For the people that oppose it, there would be less opposition if it was public Game Lands.”

“As far as public land, I don’t deer hunt on public land. I’ve been down that road, and it’s not a pretty sight. [It’s too crowded.]”

“There’s certain areas of the state where there’s very, very little public land at all. There’s very little public land in the Piedmont area... You’d restrict a lot of those hunters.”

“How can you tell a landowner he can’t hunt on his own land on Sundays if they’re going to open it?”

If Sunday hunting were allowed only for certain species, during certain seasons, or for certain weapons (e.g., bow) or methods (e.g., still vs. dogs), participants felt that it would discriminate against some hunters. Participants thought that it was important for hunters to remain united and that Sunday hunting be “all or nothing” from this standpoint. One participant, however, said that he’d rather have it that way than not at all.

“I think you’re discriminating. I’m not for Sunday hunting, but if you’re going to do it, why rule out one group? I don’t think that’s fair. Do it for all, or do it for none.”

“The Wildlife Commission may be looking for a way to do it piecemeal – take a step at a time and get part of it in and come back two years later and try to get some more of it in. If that’s the way it has to be, then I would support it. But overall, I don’t think that’s the best way to go.”

Again, when asked for responses to possibly restricting Sunday hunting to certain specified Sundays or to only after a certain time on Sundays (e.g., after 1pm), little support was expressed. In both cases, participants believed that it would not be fair to all hunters, it would complicate

regulations too much (especially only certain Sundays), and that hunting should be “all or nothing.” A couple of participants were undecided about these types of restrictions, and wavered between thinking that Sunday hunting under these conditions would be acceptable if that is what it would take to have some opportunities on Sunday (e.g., “better than nothing”) and being opposed to these restrictions as being unfair.

“It get’s so complicated, a fellow couldn’t keep up!”

“If that’s what it takes to start getting it in, I would be for it. But I’m sure the hunters, and I, would I’d like to have Sunday hunting now with no restrictions.

“Look at your seasons! Bow season. Turkey season, Bear season. If you’re going to put it in two or three Sundays, how are you going to put it in to work with all of these hunters? You’re going to have to either put it in, or not put it in.”

Finally, participants mentioned that if restrictions were needed, the best place to start would be to place safety zones around churches for Sunday mornings, similar to safety zones around schools. They felt that this distance might satisfy some of the public’s safety- and noise-related objections and help to lessen the public’s opposition to Sunday hunting.

“I don’t think it’d be fair to limit any certain thing, but I think you’d want to put a restriction on the area around [religious areas] where you can hunt. Safety zones just like they do with schools. ”

“I don’t have a problem with the distance that you’d be allowed to hunt from the church, 300 yards, whatever. That might satisfy some of those arguments.”

“I like the idea of a safety zone.”

Summary:

Overall, most participants in the Wilkesboro meeting supported Sunday hunting, with a couple who were neutral and a couple who opposed it (primarily from a landowner’s perspective). Major arguments made in favor of Sunday hunting revolved around a hunter’s right to choose how he/she spends time and the additional opportunities it would provide for youth and working hunters. Major arguments made against Sunday hunting included the potential impacts it would have on the ability to find a “quality” animal, the potential for increased problems experienced by landowners (e.g., trespassing), and the potential for conflicts between hunters and other recreationists. Participants indicated that Sunday hunting would increase hunting opportunities and activity for some hunters, that it would take the pressure off of Saturdays, and that it would be a positive thing for youth recruitment. They noted that the faith-based arguments against Sunday hunting (especially the noise and safety concerns) were valid; however, with the exception of two participants, they felt that the ethical arguments (Sunday is a “holy day”) were not good arguments against Sunday hunting. Finally, there was a general lack of support for the range of possible ways to restrict Sunday hunting, though several did say that a half day on Sunday or only certain Sundays would be “better than nothing.” The most favored Sunday hunting restriction was to place safety zones around churches for Sunday mornings.

**Summary of Sunday Hunting Hunter Focus Group #4
March 6, 2006; Morganton, NC; 6:30-8:30**

Group Profile (Randomly Selected Licensed Hunters):

Hunter focus group #4, which took place in Morganton, NC, was attended by 15 randomly selected hunters from Caldwell, Burke, and McDowell counties. Participants were all Caucasian, and included 14 males and 1 female ranging in age from 32 to 67. One attendee mentioned that they had just moved to North Carolina from Idaho about a year ago, and another said that they had grown up in Mississippi and moved to Virginia and then North Carolina in the past few years. In attendance were bow, muzzleloader, and gun hunters, with one hunter noting that they hunted mostly with a bow. Also, both still and dog hunters (rabbit, bear) were present. When talking about the species that they hunt, one participant said they hunt everything that “walks, flies, and swims,” and one indicated that they hunt everything depending on the season. Among the other participants were 12 deer hunters, 2 bear hunters, 4 turkey hunters, 3 grouse/quail hunters, 1 squirrel hunter, 2 waterfowl hunters, 1 rabbit hunter, 2 dove hunters, and 1 “small game” hunter. During the introductions, 6 participants also expressed strong interests and involvement in youth hunter recruitment either through teaching hunter education or taking youth out in the field (children, grandchildren, etc.). Finally, one participant mentioned his involvement with the North Carolina Taxidermy Association and that association’s interest in the Sunday hunting issue, and one participant brought an industry perspective as an employee of a firearms manufacturer.

Prior Knowledge of Sunday Hunting Issue:

After introductions were made, we asked participant what they had heard about the Sunday hunting issue prior to being contacted about the focus group. One participant had attended the local public hearing in January, 2006, and learned about the issue there, and 1 other participant heard about the events of the public hearing from family members but did not actually attend. Eight participants had heard about the bills that had been introduced into the state legislature, either through newspaper/magazine articles or through word of mouth, but had not heard anything else about what had happened to those bills and knew nothing about the current project. One participant noted that they had heard “not much” about the issue, and 3 participants had not heard anything before we contacted them about participating in the focus group.

Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting:

We next asked all participants to state whether they supported or opposed the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina and to give the major reasons why. All 15 of the participants in attendance in Morganton stated that they supported the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina, though a few qualified their support with some concerns about it as well.

The major reasons listed by participants for supporting Sunday hunting were personal choice, youth recruitment, and the extra opportunity it would provide to working hunters. They believed that individuals should have the right to choose how they spend their time, and that hunting was as legitimate an activity as any other activity that currently takes place on Sundays. Participants who mentioned that they would not hunt on Sundays themselves still believed that it should be an option available to other hunters.

“I support it because, nowadays, people have to work all the time. I know I do. Sunday would allow people more time to hunt, families to get together, it would allow children and kids to not miss school and be exposed to hunting. This is the Bible Belt South, and I’m just as religious as anybody. Preachers say ‘You can’t hunt on Sunday,’ but you can leave church and go start that 200 Evinrude up and pollute the whole county with noise.”

“I support it... On weekends, young people have to be supervised, and they can’t lay out of school unless their parents are laying out of work... It would help the carrying on of the heritage, the tradition, instead of [people] thinking that it’s a bad thing – cause that’s what it sounds like when you can’t do it on Sundays. It sounds like [hunting] is a bad thing.”

“I would vote for it. I wouldn’t participate as a matter of conviction, but I could not criticize anybody else for doing it because of my beliefs. I can’t see anything wrong with it as afar hunting itself.”

“The people that’s going to go to church are going to go to church, regardless of what we vote. The people that want to go hunting, they would appreciate the opportunity. If you work in a factory, you work 5.5 days, when are you going to deer hunt?”

“I was raised in a family where Sunday was respected – you don’t hunt, it’s a family day... But again, I have an issue where I’ve got a child that Saturday is the only time I get to take him. Even if I could get home early enough in the afternoon, he’s generally got so much school work, he can’t go. The opportunity on a Sunday afternoon to possibly get out and rabbit hunt or something – I’d like the opportunity.”

“I grew up hunting on Sunday... It wasn’t until I got to Virginia that I couldn’t even conceive of a world where Sunday hunting wasn’t allowed. It was just like cold water in my face. It just seems very restrictive and oppressive... And when I was growing up in Mississippi, we went to church, so I know personally that it’s not incompatible with whatever religion you have... I’m one of the people that work 6 days a week, and that’s just the way it is to make ends meet. That’s kind of hard. And I have a little girl, and of course I want to bring her up with the opportunity, and there’s just no time. I feel like it’s against working people, and it’s against kids.”

While no one at the Morganton focus group expressed overall opposition to Sunday hunting, there were some reservations expressed. These reservations were based largely upon a concern for public attitudes toward hunting, the effects that Sunday hunting might have on that public image, and some concern for the impacts of Sunday hunting on the costs to hunt and season lengths/bag limits.

“I don’t think any of us would want to do anything that would want to hurt hunting. We do have an image, some’s good, some’s not so good, and I don’t think we want to push anything down anybody’s throat... I wouldn’t want to tarnish anybody’s attitude towards it, because if we did, they’d come back with lobbying forces that may be stronger than ours since we are on the decline.”

“I wouldn’t do anything to bring a black eye to hunting, or to damage the sport, or to hurt our reputation as hunters... I would say that it would come down to the individual hunter having respect for the people around him.”

“I have no problem, unless the State comes up with all the economic deals where it costs so much more money for [them to have Sunday hunting] and then, too, if they start messing with the seasons and bag limits to restrict you like that.”

Potential Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Participation/Retention/Recruitment:

Eight of the Morganton focus group participants said that, given the chance, they probably would hunt on at least some Sundays and increase the number of total days that they hunt. Participants also noted that Sunday hunting would provide additional opportunities for other family members.

“If my brother was in from Alaska or I was out somewhere away from home hunting, it would [increase my days], but normally, it would not.”

“I’d probably hunt every Sunday afternoon. That’s my day off, and my wife – she goes with me sometimes.”

“I know I’d go with [my husband] on Sundays. You know after working all week and coaching every evening, getting home at 7:00 or even later, and then Saturday you have to get caught up with knocking a path through the house or mowing grass or whatever... But Sunday - you all know how calming [hunting] is, you can reflect on [your week], it gives you strength to get through what’s coming up the next week. It just fits in.”

“My daughter would most definitely hunt on Sunday. And my 2 son-in-laws, they probably would too, but I doubt if I would.”

Several participants said that they would be more likely to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina to hunt if they could also hunt on Sunday (especially for waterfowl hunting on the coast), and one participant stated the only time they would hunt on Sundays would be when they were traveling. One participant stated that he regularly travels to South Carolina and Mississippi to hunt, that Sunday hunting played a major role in his decision to go out-of-state, and that he would be more likely to stay in North Carolina if Sunday hunting were legalized. Participants also agreed that they would spend more money if they had another day to hunt.

“That’d be my one time where I would [hunt] more. If I go down East hunting.”

“I go to South Carolina and Mississippi. If I have a whole weekend off, I’m better off going to Mississippi to hunt if that’s what that weekend is for... I’d absolutely be more likely to stay in North Carolina [if I could hunt Sunday]. I think a lot of people would.”

“Across the board, it would increase revenue. If you stay in a motel, and you’re hunting on your lease, yeah, you’d spend another night in that hotel, eat in a restaurant once or twice more, spend more in gas getting back and forth between your hotel and your hunting lease.”

Response to Arguments for and against Sunday Hunting:

When presented with a variety of potential arguments for and against Sunday hunting, the faith-based discussion centered around the need for choice and ethical behavior. Although participants did recognize potential conflicts with church activities (e.g., due to noise, etc.), they

did not believe that it was a good reason to ban Sunday hunting. Safety zones were mentioned as a way to prevent these conflicts.

“I think there needs to be safety zones set up so many yards away from churches. I just don’t see people setting right out to hunt behind a church and fire their guns when a service is going on. Dogs running through the yards or whatever.”

“It’ll come back to the individual hunters taking responsibility for their actions, and for their dogs... If it’s 48 bear hunters ganged up trying to find their dogs in front of the church, no, that’s not going to be real good.”

“Coming from Mississippi, I don’t think I remember ever hearing a problem. I just don’t think it’s really that much of an issue. If they talk about attendance, I don’t think it’s an issue there. People that go to church, they’re still going to go to church. And people that aren’t, are going to still not.”

Further, they did not feel that the traditional view of Sunday as a “holy day” (and therefore Sunday hunting as unethical) was a good reason for separating out hunting as a forbidden Sunday activity. They believed that hunting was compatible with religious beliefs and activities.

“I agree. It is a family day. It is God’s day. But hunting doesn’t take away from that. You go after church.”

“I’m as devout a Christian as there is, but I don’t think this is a religious issue... We got other hurdles. We got PITA, and they’re organized to a hilt.”

“How much more could you be honoring the Lord than by going out into his perfect creation of wilderness and observing nature and taking your family out into nature? You can worship the Lord anywhere. It doesn’t necessarily have to be within the confines of a building.”

“It almost sounds like Sunday is the only day to [honor the Lord]. Just because hunting is allowed, that doesn’t mean that it’s a day that you shouldn’t be living like you’re supposed to and doing what you’re supposed to with your family. Every day should be that way. I don’t see that Sunday should be any different.”

“It’s not going to change nothing with the family. They are going to spend time with their family or do what they want to do anyhow. Fathers, mothers, kids, whatever.”

“There’s a difference between grace and legalism. That’s a spiritual concept... Those that may oppose may be not even ‘churched’ people. They may be legalistic about being there on Sunday, but not, by grace, have a personal relationship with our creator.”

“The Sabbath is actually on Saturday, so if it’s a legal issue with the Christians, we need to start there...”

“If you get right down to it, though, it is unconstitutional. It is. Because that is almost legislating that you should be in church instead of in the woods on Sunday.”

“I’ve been nagging my wife about this for about a year, and she’s scared to death that I might actually go get a lawyer someday and sue the state because I’ve threatened to do that. Not because I want to be a big thorn in anybody’s side, but I think it’s a fair question. Where did the law come from? Is it a religious-based law? Does it have any merit? I don’t think it does. I’ve asked a lawyer that, and he said it’s a fair question.”

Morganton focus group participants generally believed that Sunday hunting would not impact wildlife populations. When asked about potentially shorter seasons, participants believed that seasons were already shorter than the populations could sustain (particularly for deer), and that Sunday hunting would not make a difference.

“I don’t think there are that many hunters that tag out every year. Most true hunters are not going to take more than they can eat.”

“We have no idea what our population is...The day they stopped checking stations is the day they lost control.”

“What about kill permits? We had a permit in Montgomery County this year to kill 30 deer. Even at night.”

“I don’t think it would cause a short season. We have a real short season here in the Western part anyway.”

“They need to adjust their seasons here anyway. We’re so short.”

None of the Morganton participants identified with the arguments that hunters need a day of rest, and while they indicated that animals may need a day of rest, they didn’t think that Sunday was that critical.

“Hunters might need a day of rest, but once again, that’s a choice. The animals need a day of rest or you’re not going to see them. If you sit in there in the same stand every day, you’re going to ruin your own hunt.”

“The animals are resting during the week.”

Morganton participants recognized that there would be some perception of conflict between hunters and other types of recreation among other recreationists. Other participants noted that it was largely a problem of perspective, rather than an actual conflict and that there were times and places that others could still get out and recreate. However, the potential for conflict, especially for horseback riders on public land, and for opposition among other recreation types was noted.

“I think that’s a valid argument. I can see that. “

“There’s 43 states that have Sunday hunting. It works in the other states..”

“The hunting season is not so extensive that those people don’t have [the opportunity]. There’s still places a person can go – national parks, state parks, public and city parks. I think that’s one of those theoretical things that people will say and the anti-hunters will say that. A lot of people in the apathetic general public will vote based on that argument

because they'll say 'yeah, there might be a Sunday someday when I want to go hiking. I'd rather think that there's not going to be a hunter out there.' But I don't think it'll be a problem."

"You have people that group together and go and ride these trails in these mountains and ride all day. 8, 9 hours. And you can't ride 8,9 hours on a farm. There'll be some opposition that way, I'm sure. The hikers and other outdoor people – there'll be some opposition."

Next, participants talked about potential economic benefits to North Carolina from Sunday hunting. There was a general agreement that increased hunting activity due to Sunday hunting would lead to economic benefits from the normal expenses (e.g., gas, lodging) associated with hunting, the costs for associated travel, and an increase in license sales. However, participants were concerned with a potential increase in the costs to hunt due to the need to pay salaries for additional wardens.

"We were down 100,000 licenses this year over last year. If you have another day to hunt, sure, they're going to spend the money on the license where they can hunt... It's going to open the door for other things that need to be done in the state. If people had any idea of the amount of money that left the state from leases, licenses, lodging, they would absolutely pass out. By passing this, it's going to open some doors."

"That was part of North Carolina Taxidermists' argument. It would increase business for taxidermists."

"A couple of years ago, [Governor] Easley said each department has pretty much got to increase their revenues so it doesn't come out of the state coffers all the time. Now, if the legislature comes up and says 'We're going to do Sunday hunting, and we've projected with the addition of game wardens and things like that, we're going to have to go up on your fees, licenses, boat registrations, and things like that to accommodate Sunday hunting...' At what point would people that's for Sunday hunting think that's worth it?"

"That's an issue here to begin with. There's not enough wildlife officers in the field to begin with."

We finally asked if there was something that might make North Carolina different from the other states that currently allow Sunday hunting that would justify the current regulation. Participants saw no difference between North Carolina and other states that would justify a ban on Sunday hunting.

"They're just as Southern Baptist in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, as they are here in Morganton, North Carolina. They believe in God just like we do. The only difference is that nobody has dared to challenge it."

I think it goes back to the [people] with the loud voice. The squeaky wheel always gets the grease. The people like most of us in the room who really aren't strong about it -- we agree that people should have the choice to hunt on Sunday, but none of us are speaking out to stand up for it."

Perception of Landowner Response to Sunday Hunting:

Participants were asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting. Participants at the Morganton focus group expressed little concern that landowners would react negatively to Sunday hunting and generally were not concerned about losing access to land as a result. They noted that landowners could still regulate whether or not Sunday hunting took place on their lands, and concluded that effects on landowners would be minor and under their control.

“The ones that’ll let people hunt are going to let people hunt. The ones that don’t, won’t.”

“I’m not worried about where I’m at. They can regulate that themselves because you have to have a permission slip from them to hunt. They can do what they want to.”

Affect of Potential Sunday Hunting Scenarios on Attitudes:

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how Sunday hunting might be implemented. The first type of restriction we asked about was the possible legalization of Sunday hunting on only public or only private lands, and this was met with skepticism from all participants. Participants were concerned with the unequal distribution of public and private lands across the state and how that type of restriction wouldn’t be fair across the state.

“I wouldn’t want to enact Sunday hunting on private land only. If it’d be on public land, everybody’d have access.”

“Most of the large tracts of private land are down east. We just got mountain and Game Lands here and small farms. So if this goes by just private land only, the people from Charlotte and Raleigh on down, they’re going to benefit, and we just have the Game Lands here that we can’t hunt on.”

“As license holders, they ought to be able to hunt on whatever they want and [can get access to]. Do it or don’t. That shouldn’t be an issue.”

“Not everybody has access to both. If you didn’t get this law to cover public land, I don’t really think it would benefit the majority of people in North Carolina. That would really discriminate.”

No support was expressed for county-level decisions regarding Sunday, and some concern was expressed that some people and hunters would not have a say in those decisions and that they would be based on politics and power rather than biology and community needs. As one participant put it, “It should be left to people who understand; not local politicians.” Another participant expressed the concern that separate county regulations would “add to the confusion” of the hunting regulations. Overall, there was an agreement that Sunday hunting should be statewide or not at all (“pass it all or don’t, statewide”).

When presented with the option of having Sunday hunting only for certain species, during certain seasons, or for certain weapons or methods, participants again felt that it would be discriminatory and undesirable. One participant expressed frustration with the idea, asking “What’s the point of passing it all?” and another believed that these types of suggestions were

the result of “chipping away [from hunter rights] by anti-hunters.” Again, participants had an “all or nothing” attitude towards these types of Sunday restrictions.

Participants were next asked for their reactions to the possible legalization of Sunday hunting after a certain time on Sunday (e.g., after 1pm) or only on a few specified Sundays (i.e., as a step to phasing Sunday hunting in). No support was received for only allowing hunting on a few specified Sundays. One participant mentioned that the time-of-day restriction is currently done in other states and might work in North Carolina as well, but another mentioned that it would be preferable to allow hunting all day and set up safety zones around churches. Several other participants agreed with the concept of a safety zones, but one participant disagreed, explaining that hunters should have respect, shouldn't have to be regulated that way, and that safety zones are “none of [the legislature's] business.”

“I believe there'd be certain restrictions, as far as limitations on how close you can hunt to a church area. I think you ought to at least go off four or five hundred yards.”

“It ought to be far enough away where you still here somewhat of a shot, but nothing's going to just, you know, Boom. Or a pack of beagles won't run through a parking lot... And there ought to be some stiff fines for that.”

Summary:

Overall, all participants at the Morganton focus group supported Sunday hunting, though a few concerns were addressed regarding its impacts on public attitudes toward hunting, the costs to hunt, and season length/bag limits. Major arguments made in favor of Sunday hunting revolved around a hunter's right to choose how he/she spends time and the importance of Sunday hunting on bringing in youth hunters to maintain the hunting tradition. Participants agreed that it would increase hunting activity and that it would be a positive thing for recruitment. They did not feel that the traditional arguments against Sunday hunting (faith-based, etc.) were strong arguments, and held that “freedom of choice” was the most defensible argument. Finally, there was a general lack of support for the range of possible ways to restrict Sunday hunting, and participants agreed that they would rather not have Sunday hunting at all than to have these types of restrictions.

**Summary of Sunday Hunting Hunter Focus Group #5
March 7, 2006; Lumberton, NC; 6:30-8:30**

Group Profile (Randomly Selected Licensed Hunters):

Hunter focus group #5, which took place in Lumberton, NC, was attended by 12 randomly selected hunters from Robeson, Bladen, and Columbus counties. Participants were all Caucasian, and all male ranging in age from 33 to 63. In attendance were bow, muzzleloader, shotgun, and rifle hunters, with two hunters noting that they hunted primarily with a bow. Also, both still and dog hunters (rabbit, bear, deer) were present. When talking about the species that they hunt, participants included 12 deer hunters, 1 bear hunter, 4 turkey hunters, 2 grouse/quail hunters, 5 waterfowl hunters, 3 rabbit hunters, and 1 raccoon hunter.

Prior Knowledge of Sunday Hunting Issue:

After introductions were made, we asked participants what they had heard about the Sunday hunting issue prior to being contacted about the focus group. Six participants had not heard anything about the issue or the current study before being contacted. Two had heard about bills in the legislature, but were unaware of the current study, and 4 had heard about the issue from other hunters. None of the participants had attended the local public hearing in January, 2006.

Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting:

We next asked all participants to state whether they supported or opposed the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina and to give the major reasons why they held those attitudes. Of the 12 hunters in attendance, 5 supported Sunday hunting, and 7 opposed it.

The major reasons listed by participants for supporting Sunday hunting were personal choice and the extra opportunity it would provide to working and youth hunters. Two supporters noted that while they personally would probably not hunt on Sundays, they had no problem with it if others did. Two more participants noted that they worked many Saturdays and would appreciate being able to hunt on Sunday and/or spend the time hunting with their kids.

“I have no problem with Sunday hunting. I probably won’t ever do it. I go to church on Sunday, and that’s basically about it with me, but I don’t have no problem with it.”

“I support it. I work a lot of Saturdays, and so it would be an extra chance to hunt.”

“I wouldn’t have any problem with it. I probably wouldn’t [hunt]. I go to church on Sundays, and that’s the day I bait my stands. I go Sunday after church.”

“I would support it... I have two younger boys at home, and I work six days a week. That would give me time to bond with them, reel them in a little closer. I’d rather they went hunting with me on Sundays than have them walking around with their pants falling down listening to rap music.”

“I would support any chance to give somebody a chance to hunt.”

“I think in the end, hunting on Sunday, or fishing on Sunday, is a personal thing. Some people don’t eat meat, some people eat meat, and that’s a personal thing too. To me, Sunday hunting is a personal thing. I was not raised up to hunt on Sunday, so therefore I

don't feel comfortable doing it, and I won't be doing it, but I wouldn't have nothing against him if he was different and wanted to hunt on Sunday. That'd be fine with me. I'm not saying he's wrong to hunt on Sunday; it's just not right for me."

Major reasons that were listed by participants for opposing Sunday hunting included that Sunday is the "Lord's day" or a "family day", a day of rest for hunters and families, a day of rest for wildlife (and hunting dogs), and that Sunday hunting conflicts with the traditions of the Christian state of North Carolina and was therefore inappropriate to do. One participant mentioned that if Sunday hunting were passed, that there should not be dog hunting on Sunday.

"I wouldn't support Sunday hunting, because I think there at least should one day of the week that the animals should have the chance to rest, and they hunt 'em pretty hard Monday through Saturday. So I think that's the one day they need to take a break"

"I wouldn't support Sunday hunting. I think men should be at home with their families at least one day a week, and I believe that the Lord put that day for rest. That's what he tells us."

"I don't support it because deer and dogs need to rest one day a week, and I go to church and don't believe in it. I've been raised that way... I wouldn't hunt on Sunday."

"I wouldn't support it for the wildlife as well as tradition. This being traditionally a Christian state, and respect for the Sabbath. If we hunt on Sundays, we're going to have to let people target practice and whatever. It goes back to what I was saying about discharging firearms. I think that's an inappropriate thing to do on Sundays."

"I lean more towards opposition, strictly because of the church thing. I've been through South Carolina on Sunday and seen people stand on their dog boxes, and it just doesn't set well to see that on Sundays."

"I probably wouldn't support it. I know there are a lot of people that probably work, and that may be the only day they can go. I just think that's a day that needs to be set aside for rest. But if it were to pass, I think there should be some restrictions. The number one restriction should be no dog hunting on Sundays."

Potential Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Participation/Retention/Recruitment:

Four of the 12 Lumberton focus group participants said that, given the chance, they probably would hunt on at least some Sundays and increase the number of total days that they hunt. The majority of participants said that they would not hunt on Sundays. Some participants did note, however, that Sunday hunting would increase hunting days for family members and others that they know.

"Our club is mostly working people, usually Friday and Saturdays is about the only time we got a chance to hunt. Since you called me, I've talked to them all—we got 29 members, and I talked to all of them—and I have yet to talk to the first one that wants to hunt on Sunday."

"It would increase the days, but it wouldn't increase the days from lie 20 to 100. It would increase it from maybe 5 to 10. Just a couple of additional days."

“There would probably be a pretty large percentage of the population in North Carolina hunting on Sunday if they had the opportunity to hunt. I think the same people that fish on Sunday, if they had the opportunity, would hunt on Sunday. I don’t fish on Sunday, and fishing is authorized on Sunday. I don’t say it’s wrong to fish, it’s just wrong for me.”

“A lot of people I’ve talked to would hunt on Sunday. A lot. I mean a lot.”

In general, participants said that Sunday hunting would have no affect on their travel and that they would not be more likely to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina to hunt if they could hunt on Sunday. There was also a general agreement that Sunday hunting would not increase their hunting-related expenditures. Six participants currently take trips to other states to hunt, however Sunday hunting was not a factor in their decisions to take these trips and would not change the number of out-of-state trips that they take.

“I go to Georgia at least a couple times a year to hunt, and they have hunting on Sunday there, but we only hunt Friday and Saturday. We don’t hunt on Sunday.”

“Most of the people that live right around here, they can run right up the road – 95 – to Fort Bragg and hunt on Sundays if they want to.”

“I do know a lot of people that go to South Carolina to deer hunt because they have an earlier and longer season. Turkey hunting, too. I think that what would benefit North Carolina tremendously more than Sunday hunting would be just extending the season. Especially in the Eastern part of the state. We’ve got too many deer anyway. It would create more money for the state, and public support – you’d probably find very little opposition to that.”

Response to Arguments for and against Sunday Hunting:

When presented with a variety of potential arguments for and against Sunday hunting, the faith-based discussion centered around the potential for conflicts between hunting and church activities. Participants noted that Sunday hunting would be “another thorn in the side” of family members and church-goers that currently “put up with” hunting. Special concern for the potential affects of church-hunting conflicts on community hunt clubs was noted by one participant, and several other participants stated that restrictions would need to be in place (e.g., no dog hunting) if Sunday hunting were legalized.

“A lot of that would be outrage from where I live. There’s some people that tolerate hunters because they have family members that hunt. If it went on Sundays, it’d be like another thorn in the side. I know that they’d be against it. Of the club I’m in I only know one guy that would probably hunt [on Sundays]. I know the church would be real against it – the church I go to. There’d be a lot of strife between the ones that do hunt and the ones that don’t.”

“I think you’ve got places that it would interfere with churches more than others. If the church is in city limits, I don’t think it would bother them. But like going down 53, I think you got a couple churches right down that highway, and there’s big deer hunting clubs

down through there, and I think those churches would be bothered somewhat with dogs and stuff coming right out in their backyard.”

“There’s a lot of community hunt clubs, and those are the type it would impact. It wouldn’t have as great an impact on [large tracts of land and paper company lands]. . . That just wouldn’t go well in our community.”

“That’s where you need to have restrictions on it if there was Sunday hunting. I wouldn’t allow dog hunting on Sunday.

In addition, several Lumberton participants expressed a great deal of concern for the traditional role of Sunday as a holy day and the possible effect that Sunday hunting could have on that. While one participant believed that hunting should be a choice that individual hunters should be able to make on their own, others felt strongly that Sunday should be held sacred and that people have already moved too far away from traditional beliefs. The separation of church and state argument, in particular, was strongly opposed.

“If you believe in the holy Bible, that’s what it says. That’s God’s word. It is a day of rest. It’s God’s day.”

“To hunt, you have to have a license, and that’s given by the state... Going back to Declaration for example, it says, ‘We the people of North Carolina, being grateful to almighty God...’ We give him the credit for all our rights and privileges. For that state to turn around and license people to – to sanction – Sunday hunting... We’ve got freedom of religion, so if you want to hunt on Sunday you can, but the state’s giving you a license, so the state is sanctioning hunting on Sunday if they license you to do so. If I went somewhere that didn’t require a license, the state is not sanctioning that. The state’s not condoning that.”

The Sunday hunting is obviously an optional thing. If you’re a license holding in North Carolina and you want to hunt on Sunday you can. If you don’t want to, you don’t have to. They’re not selling a special Sunday license that you can only hunt Sundays. It’s a choice.”

This country was founded on Christian beliefs, and that is going against everything this country stands for. I just totally cannot back up [the separation of church and state argument]. If you read the Declaration of Independence, our founding fathers based this country on that belief. Of God. What’s wrong with our country today is we’re getting away from that faith in God.”

“I think that statement about separation of church and state – I think that’s erroneous. I don’t know who created that statement, but they’re using it to hide behind and do all kinds of things. There really should not be any separation of church and state. What was intended there was not to sanction different religions... They weren’t trying to have a nation alienated from God. It was just name brand churches they were trying to separate from.”

When asked about the argument that Sunday hunting may increase recruitment and retention of hunters, one participant indicated that Sunday would certainly provide additional opportunities for hunters, but others disagreed that it would have any effect on recruitment and/or retention and

cited lack of land access as the primary hurdle to recruitment/retention. A specific concern was expressed by one participant who noted that there are not enough local game wardens to support the additional hunter effort that Sunday hunting would bring. Another participant suggested that a better way to improve recruitment and retention would be to extend the seasons rather than allow Sunday hunting.

“Of course you’d have more hunting, but as far as my son, it’s not going to have one thing to do with that child going hunting... You’re going to bring them up in the woods, and Sunday hunting’s not causing my child to hunt or not to hunt.”

“If you don’t already hunt, I don’t think one extra day’s going to make you go. You got other reasons why you don’t go.”

“They don’t have enough wardens to check animals Monday through Saturday much less on Sunday.”

“There’s 43 states with Sunday hunting. It hasn’t helped them any.”

“From people that I’ve talked to, the main reason that hunting is dropping is you can’t get any land anymore. I know a lot of people that just quit hunting because they didn’t have anywhere to go.”

“That’s the main problem in North Carolina. You don’t have enough Game Lands, and the ones that are a lot of times are posted. So the public can’t hunt them anyway.”

“One thing I wish North Carolina would do is have what’s called a youth season that comes in earlier or whatever to give them an opportunity to hunt earlier and give Dad a chance to go with the son hunting. The Dad can’t shoot but the children can.”

Lumberton participants generally supported the idea that hunters and/or animals need a day of rest (and one participant added dogs to those groups that need a day of rest). Particular concern was addressed for hunters and the time they spend with their families. One participant noted that he may have supported Sunday hunting before he had a family, but now that he had a family, he was opposed to it because Sunday hunting would take hunters away from their families.

“I think the hunters [need a rest] more than the animals, because the daddies need to be home with their families. The Bible says that you’re the spiritual head of your household, and look at what’s going on in the world today. If everybody would just read that book and follow it, we wouldn’t have the violent world we have today... Five, ten years ago, I might have been for it, but now that I’ve got a family, I’m against it.”

“I’ve been there, and I’ve done it before. If they’d allowed it seven days a week, I’d be in there seven days a week. I’d run my dogs seven days a week, and if I’d had small children at that time, they wouldn’t have seen their daddy. A lot of people don’t realize that until it’s too late.”

When asked about potential impacts of Sunday hunting on wildlife populations, there was some concern expressed, particularly for turkey and duck populations (but not deer), but there was a

general consensus that this argument was not as strong as the faith-based arguments against Sunday hunting.

Potential conflicts between hunters and other recreationists were also identified by Lumberton focus group participants. Particular concerns were noted for the safety of children, conflicts with ATV users and horseback riders, and community impacts from early morning hunting activity. Another concern mentioned was the impact on hunting clubs that currently hold social events on Sundays (cookouts, etc.).

“I’ve got a creek behind my house... I don’t want to be woken up by them shooting wood ducks on Sunday morning. With two young kids, I just don’t want any guns going off around the house on Sunday.”

“A lot of kids like to ride ATVs. That’s the day we used to go out and ride ATVs. On Sundays. A lot of times I do bait my deer stands on Sundays. It would be a lot safer for your kids riding around on Sundays and you, too, if a guy didn’t have a chance to shoot a rifle half a mile down the road.”

Next, we asked participants for their perception of the potential economic benefits to North Carolina from Sunday hunting. One participant feared an increase in the costs of hunting licenses and predicted a negative impact when fewer licenses are sold, another participant mentioned that others may feel that hunting licenses are more economical if they are able to hunt on Sundays, and another mentioned possible economic gains for hunting preserves. In general, participants were most concerned about the potential impacts of Sunday hunting on the cost of hunting leases. One participant mentioned that leases in South Carolina (on paper company lands) increased when Sunday hunting was legalized, and others followed up with concerns about increased costs on their own hunting lands and the potential for local hunters to be out-competed for land leases by non-locals. Finally, the discussion settled on the concern for land access (e.g., not enough Game Lands, land leases too expensive) and the belief that land access is a bigger issue for recruitment/retention of hunters than is Sunday hunting.

“There are those people who are on preserves that hunt and that would allow them to gain some additional revenue if they had a Sunday hunt.”

“I asked a friend of mine, and he was telling me that after they legalized it in South Carolina, land leases went up because people that have more money than they know what to do with all of a sudden can hunt Friday, Saturday, ad Sunday, and they can get a three day weekend. Before you know it, people who work for a living don’t have enough money to compete. They ended up losing land just based on that.”

“More hunters might think they can get their money’s worth [for their licenses] if they can hunt on Sunday.”

“If the state wants to increase their revenue, the Sunday thing isn’t the way to go. What they need to do is increase the season length. Start it a little later, and end it a whole lot later. And the Game Land thing. The state needs to buy more Game Lands.”

We finally asked if there was something that might make North Carolina different from the other states that currently allow Sunday hunting that would justify the current regulation. Participants identified North Carolina as more of a religion- or faith-based state than the other states and noted North Carolina's place as one of the original 13 colonies – most of which still prohibit Sunday hunting. One participant went on to state that Sunday hunting has not helped the other states recruit/retain hunters, so North Carolina should not expect that result either.

“This state is more of a religious, faith-based state... Those states that don't allow it are all on the eastern seaboard, part of the original thirteen colonies. When you get to the Western states, I remember 20-30 years ago, Sunday you'd have tractors plowing. You wouldn't see that here. Some of the states that were founded out West, the people that founded them, they just have a different attitude. The eastern seaboard states were founded first, they were under a different circumstance.”

“I've hunted out there. You can drive for 100 miles, and you won't see a church. You can't drive for two miles without seeing a church around here.”

Perception of Landowner Response to Sunday Hunting:

Participants were asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting. Ten of the twelve participants at the Lumberton focus group were landowners, and expressed concern that many landowners (including some of the focus group participants) would post their land against hunting on Sundays. While they recognized that some landowners may restrict hunting altogether if Sunday hunting were legalized, they noted that most landowners who disagreed with Sunday hunting would restrict it just on Sunday. Again, it was mentioned as a preferred alternative to extend the hunting seasons rather than allow Sunday hunting.

“I know a couple farmers that let us lease their land. They'd take their land away from us if we hunt on Sunday.”

“I think you've got a pretty good sample of [private landowners] here tonight... I got about 15 acres that's on a swamp, and it has all kinds of ducks on it. I'm not a duck hunter, but I don't post my land. I let anyone that wants to duck hunt on it – they duck hunt. And during duck season, that's what wakes you up in the morning about 5:00 – a lot of 'em shooting. If they move it to Sunday, then I will post that swamp around my house because I don't want to be woke up Sunday morning.”

“We would actually lose land, because we have leased land and then we have farmers that donate their land to hunt, and some of them would probably pull it out if we were going to hunt on Sundays. Some may of them might say, 'No hunting on my land on Sunday,' and I know one in particular that would just wrap his up.”

Affect of Potential Sunday Hunting Scenarios on Attitudes:

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how Sunday hunting might be implemented. The first type of restriction we asked about was the possible legalization of Sunday hunting on only public or only private lands. Participants generally were not supportive of this idea, though several said that Sunday hunting only on public Game Lands

would be better than on private lands. Some participants were concerned that if Sunday hunting were legalized on private lands, that they would lose access.

No support was expressed for county-level decisions regarding Sunday. Participants stated that it would be “not fair,” and didn’t want to “leave it up to the politicians.”

When presented with the option of having Sunday hunting only for certain species, during certain seasons, or for certain weapons or methods, participants were somewhat divided. Several stated that this type of restriction would discriminate against other hunters and that it wouldn’t be fair, particularly to dog hunters (since that is the type of restriction they felt would be most likely). One participant noted that most hunt clubs already have certain days designated for still and dog hunting, and that bow hunters already get an advantage with earlier seasons. However, another participant mentioned that he’d spoken with a few people (including hunters who would hunt on Sunday) who said that a still-hunting-only restriction would be the only way they’d accept Sunday hunting.

“You’re discriminating against other hunters. I like to bow hunt, but it’s not fair for me to be able to go on Sunday and -- the man right there that likes to rifle hunt – and him not be able to go.”

“In this area, it’s particularly swampland in the woods, and it is very difficult to hunt without dogs. I can see where these folks were talking about where the dogs would be intrusive on Sunday. I personally don’t hunt with dogs, but I can see what they’re saying. But it wouldn’t be fair to the dog hunters if you said, ‘Well, you can only still hunt today.’”

“Most of the clubs I know have specific days they allow still hunting, and other days they allow dog hunting. And the bow hunters already get a break – they get to start way earlier than others.”

“I said earlier [that Sunday hunting would only work if there was no dog hunting], because I tried to talk to as many people as I could before we came to this meeting -- whether I agree with their opinion or not. And quite a few of them said that they wouldn’t have a problem with it as long as they weren’t hunting dogs... And most of them were people that went to more country-type churches. About 90% of them were hunters, and several of them said they’d love to be able to hunt on Sundays.”

Participants were next asked for their reactions to the possible legalization of Sunday hunting after a certain time on Sunday (e.g., after 1pm) or only on a few specified Sundays. There was a general consensus that either of these options would be undesirable and that Sunday hunting should either be legalized entirely or left as it is.

“[Sunday hunting only after a certain time] is like a Blue Law. It doesn’t work.”

“If you like to dog hunt, I don’t want to turn my dogs lose at twelve o’clock and hunt a half a day.”

“They’re going to have to go full steam ahead with it or drop it to the side and forget about it. There ain’t no way to patch it in.”

Summary:

Overall, participants at the Lumberton meeting were split between supporting and opposing Sunday hunting, although only two participants (who work on Saturday) said that they would actually hunt on Sundays if they had the opportunity. Others said that they would not hunt due to family needs and/or religious beliefs. Major arguments made in favor of Sunday hunting revolved around a hunter's right to choose how he/she spends time, and the additional opportunity it would give to working hunters. Major arguments made against Sunday hunting revolved around religious beliefs and traditions and the role that Sunday has traditionally played as a family day and a day of rest for the animals. While participants agreed that it would likely provide additional days for some hunters, they also believe that it would have no positive impact on recruitment or retention. Finally, there was a general lack of support for the range of possible ways to restrict Sunday hunting, though some saw possibilities if Sunday hunting were only on public lands.

**Summary of Sunday Hunting Hunter Focus Group #6
March 8, 2006; Graham, NC; 6:30-8:30**

Group Profile (Randomly Selected Hunter Stakeholders):

Hunter focus group #6, which took place in Graham, NC, was attended by 10 randomly selected hunters from Alamance, Guilford, and Orange counties. Participants were all Caucasian, and all male ranging in age from 38 to 76. In attendance were bow, muzzleloader, shotgun, and rifle hunters, with one participant stating that he mostly bow hunts. No participants mentioned that they hunt with dogs. When talking about the species that they hunt, participants included 9 deer hunters, 4 turkey hunters, 1 “bird” hunter, 4 waterfowl hunters, 4 squirrel hunters, 1 coyote hunter, and 1 bobcat hunter. One participant mentioned that, although he does not hunt much himself, he operates a tree farm facility that provides land for hunters.

Prior Knowledge of Sunday Hunting Issue:

After introductions were made, we asked participant what they had heard about the Sunday hunting issue prior to being contacted about the focus group. Of the 10 participants, 4 had not heard anything about the issue or the current study before being contacted. One had heard about it from his son, who works on a WRC Game Land. Other sources of information that participants mentioned included the NRA, an article in the Greensboro paper a couple months prior to the focus group, the NC Wildlife Federation, NC Sportsman Magazine, and NC Bowhunters Convention. Three participants stated that they had heard rumors about Sunday hunting in North Carolina for years, and 1 of these said that they’d lobbied legislators in previous years. None of the participants said that they had attended the local public hearing in January, 2006.

Attitudes toward Sunday Hunting:

We next asked all participants to state whether they supported or opposed the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina and to give the major reasons why they held those attitudes. Of the 10 hunters in attendance, 5 supported Sunday hunting, and 5 were neutral (1 leaned toward support, and 1 leaned towards opposition).

The major reasons listed by participants for supporting Sunday hunting were that hunters should have the right to choose when they hunt, that landowners should have the right to do what they want on their own land, and the extra opportunity it would provide to working and youth hunters. One participant stated that he believed the amount of gunfire on Sundays would actually go down because there is so much shooting already going on Sundays for other reasons. Two participants indicated that there is no difference between hunting and fishing on Sundays, and 3 specifically mentioned the implications Sunday hunting could have for youth recruitment. Finally, 1 participant expressed his belief that any downsides of Sunday hunting could be handled through regulations (e.g., no dog hunting) and other tools.

“I don’t think that I would do that much Sunday hunting, but I think that somebody should have the right to on their own private land.”

“I think if a man owns his own land, he should be able to do what he wants to do whether it’s Saturday or Sunday.”

“I think it would give kids who are in school five days a week another day to hunt. I’ve fished all my life on Sunday, and I don’t see much difference between that and hunting.”

“I’ve been a strong proponent of this for a long time. Don’t get me wrong, I’m chair of the board of deacons at my church and really involved in church, but fishermen can fish on Sunday, and when I was a fanatic golfer, I golfed on Sunday. And I should be able to hunt. It’s the only way we’re going to bring young people into it, if we can take them Sunday afternoon for a little while. It’s really important for the continuation of the sport.”

“If you think about people who don’t have a lot of time off, Sunday could double the amount of time they have to hunt. Secondly, the number of hunters is diminishing rapidly in the state. It just creates a lot more opportunity for younger folks to hunt.”

“The extra gunfire on Sunday would probably go down around my house, because there’s more people out [target shooting] on Sunday than there is when they’re hunting on Saturday.”

“I’ve got two young grandchildren. They’ve got their lifetime license, but we have to bring these kids up in hunting, and Saturday and Sunday are the only days I can hunt for the most part. I want to be able to take the kids out and break them in and teach them right and get them going. The cons of it – like we said, you know dog hunting on Sundays, interferences with services and family outings – I think that could all handled. It may be Sunday there’s no dog hunting. There’s ways to work with those issues.”

While no one at the Graham focus group strongly opposed Sunday hunting, several did express concerns about the potential for Sunday hunting to interfere with church activities (e.g., noise) and the possible implications for private landowners.

“Game Lands wouldn’t bother me, but I’m sort of a little bit opposed to it as far as private property.”

“I know it could cause problems especially in my community if you have a lot of hunting and shooting going on and you’re having a outdoor Sunday dinner. Also, probably in the areas that have dog hunting, it could really cause problems if people are sitting in church and the dogs come running through the church yard.”

“Things have gotten a little more complicated over the past 50 or 100 years. The population is so much denser now than it used to be. We’ve got air pollution, we’ve got water pollution, and we have noise pollution also. I’m not saying it shouldn’t happen, but it might ought to be restricted to public areas, or something like that.”

“I’m not opposed to hunting on Sunday, but I find myself asking the question: Why was Sunday hunting disallowed? If we start again, would we be giving up anything we shouldn’t be giving up?”

Potential Impacts of Sunday Hunting on Participation/Retention/Recruitment:

Five of the Graham focus group participants said that, given the chance, they probably would hunt on at least some Sundays and increase the number of total days that they hunt. Two participants said it would double or triple their hunting days (one referenced the activities his

kids are involved in on Saturday), and a third noted that he would have 15 extra opportunities to hunt. Two mentioned that they would hunt more with friends, family, or guests. One participant noted that he would hunt on Sunday instead of fish. While several participants believed that Sunday hunting would be good for getting kids and other family members involved in hunting, two mentioned possible detriments to the family unit. Finally, one participant stated that he knows some people that have stopped buying licenses due to a lack of time to hunt, and indicated that some of these people would start buying licenses again if Sunday hunting were legalized.

“I think it would [increase the number of days], for my son for example, it’s harder for him to get away during the week that it is for me, so we would probably hunt more.”

“[Kids] have got baseball, basketball, everything else on Saturday, so we don’t usually get to hunt with them until after Thanksgiving. If all of sudden we get another afternoon, that doubles our opportunities. Or even triples them.”

“My son’s a firefighter, and his schedule is such that his weekends fall about every fifth or sixth week. The way it falls, if he does get a Saturday off, he gets off at 8am, so that would open it up for him to hunt Sunday. There’s a lot of situations like that.”

“I don’t think I’d hunt on Sundays, but I’d like to have the right if I did want to. I may never exercise it, but it sure would be nice to have the choice.”

“I think my son and my nephew would probably go more. I also think that I would hunt with friends more like in eastern North Carolina.”

“I think it would actually cause problems in families. Especially between the older generation of people who think it’s not the thing to do and the younger generations might. It could cause tension between family members.”

“I know guys that have actually stopped buying their hunting license because they don’t have but one day out of the week to hunt. That’s part of your hunter decline... I think probably some of them would [start buying again if Sunday hunting were legalized].”

“I’ve got folks that work for me, and quite often we have to work on Saturdays. It’s construction. When you lose a day to weather, you try to make it up on Saturday. I think it would definitely benefit them, and they would probably do the Sunday hunting. They’re avid hunters.”

Eight Graham participants travel to other parts of North Carolina to hunt, and most of these said that Sunday hunting would encourage them to take more and/or longer trips within North Carolina. Three said that they currently do not take trips, and two of these would still not take trips if Sunday hunting were legalized. Four participants currently travel to other states to hunt as well, including South Carolina, Ohio, and Wyoming. One participant said that his trips to South Carolina were partially motivated by the ability to hunt on Sunday. However, Sunday hunting was not a factor in other participant’s decisions to take out-of-state trips, and legalizing Sunday hunting would not change the number of out-of-state trips that they take. There was, however, a general agreement that Sunday hunting would increase their hunting-related expenditures (e.g., equipment – “you lose more arrows”, hotels, meals, “extra set of camos”).

Response to Arguments for and against Sunday Hunting:

When presented with a variety of potential arguments for and against Sunday hunting, the faith-based discussion centered around the need for choice and ethical behavior. Participants did not recognize the potential for conflicts with church attendance or activities (e.g., due to noise, etc.) as a good reason to ban Sunday hunting.

“My land borders a church property. They have about 80 acres that join our farm, and I myself would be respectful of that church and not hunt until their services were over, which would allow me at least an afternoon. I think it would be respectful of any church in the country if hunters would abide by that.”

“We hear gunfire now at our church. That’s either people sighting in, or whatever. I still don’t think that’s going to hurt... It’s no worse than a jet airplane going over.”

“I’ve got a friend that’s a real estate agent. Sunday’s the only time that he really has some time in the country to show real estate without being worried about hunters out there in the woods. That’s the only argument that I’ve heard against it really.”

Further, they did not feel that the traditional view of Sunday as a “holy day” (and therefore Sunday hunting as unethical) was a good reason for separating out hunting as a forbidden Sunday activity. There was, however, some disagreement as to the “separation of church and state” issue and the role the state government can have in regulating activities.

“I think it’s a matter of each individual. It’s a personal opinion or belief. You’re not supposed to work on Sunday per se, but I think everyone here would agree hunting is not work. It’s enjoyment.”

“Hunting is where you go for spiritual renewal in a lot of cases. When you’re sitting in that tree is when you’re getting that spirit renewed.”

“Whether it’s an appropriate activity for Sunday, only an individual can answer that... And if you’re Jewish, Saturday’s your Sunday. It’s a Christian-type thing and it’s not respectful of all religions to even ban it on Sundays.”

“If you take it literally, the constitution says there will not be a state supported church. You have imposed a Christian requirement that Sunday’s Sabbath. That technically probably would not stand muster in a court case. It doesn’t change the fact for me that Sunday’s a very important day. If I choose to hunt, that’s between me and [God].”

“The constitution says that Congress shall pass no law [favoring any religion], but that doesn’t mean the states or local governments can’t. They can’t be active in promoting a certain religion, but it doesn’t have to be a separation from church itself. The separation of church and state has been misinterpreted.”

Graham focus group participants generally believed that Sunday hunting would not impact wildlife populations, and that there were few, if any, concerns about shorter seasons.

“There’s already bag limits and season limits set for populations. Regardless of what day you took them on, once you’re tags are filled, I don’t see any additional pressure.”

“The bag limits are a better solution. Change them if it was necessary. And enforce bag limits.”

“I think it would just spread [the harvest] out. I really don’t think it would hurt them.”

“If there’s more hunters because they can hunt on Sundays, the total kill might go up, but the state doesn’t issue [licenses on a lottery basis] here, so they’re evidently under the impression that we can withstand the additional hunting pressure.”

“Only if like there was an area of the state where turkeys, where the population was low, I can see where [those restrictions] might be ok. And they do that now, so that’s kind of an understood thing.”

None of the Graham participants identified with the arguments that hunters and/or wildlife need a day of rest as a reason for keeping the Sunday ban. They emphasized again that it should be the hunter’s choice, and that Sunday hunting would free up some time on Saturday.

“Everybody needs a days rest. What day they take is up to them, I think. It’s based on their family life, their work.”

“It depends on how you look at it. If there’s more pressure you won’t see game – I don’t know if that’s true or not.”

“It sure would take the pressure off of having to go Saturdays. How many times do you have social events come up that you could really get some domestic brownie points if you could hunt on Sunday instead?”

Graham participants did not express concern about potential conflicts between hunters and other recreationists. Counter-arguments were made that Game Lands (especially the 3 day lands) could just keep Sunday as a no-hunting day for use by other recreationists and private landowners could make a no-Sunday-hunting stipulation in their agreements with hunters. One participant noted that conflicts between hunters and other recreationists can happen any day of the week, and that Sunday is not unique in that.

“In a lot of the state wildlife lands, like Caswell, you can only go certain days of the week, and they can just not have Sunday as one of them.”

“It still comes down to the control of the individual landowner. If you don’t want people hunting on your land on Sundays, you simply don’t allow hunting. You let your friends who mountain bike or ride horses or whatever. I think it’s a non-issue.”

“I’ve hunted in Maryland on some public land quite a few times, and it had horse trails on it and hiking trails on it, and it didn’t make any difference. People were irate if it was a Monday or Sunday; they were just irate about it if you were in a tree stand. And the signs clearly say don’t come through there during the season. It didn’t make any difference. My point is that a lot of people are going to be irate no matter what day it is.”

“It still comes down to respect. We have to respect others, and others have to respect us. If you don’t have that, then nothing’s going to work.”

Next, participants talked about potential economic benefits to North Carolina from Sunday hunting, primarily due to the sale of additional licenses and the economic activity generated by additional travel. In general, they believed that positive economic impacts would occur, but that they would not be very large. Two participants did note, however, they would not object to an increase in license fees if Sunday hunting were implemented.

“It would just generate more revenue for the wildlife officers to maintain law and order if there was more money available through the sale of licenses. There could be additional officers if need be... If licenses keep declining, the payroll is going to start declining.”

“I think for the waterfowl and bear down east, [drawing hunters from other states] might be a probability. I don’t know that North Carolina is a terminal whitetail destination though.”

“The economic impact might be stronger with state residents than for out-of-staters, if you think about it – meals, gas, whatever.”

“It would be nice if we could package this into an overall reform. I think that our penalties for poaching and illegal hunting are way too light. The license fees are way too cheap.”

“If it came a point of actual funding – if it came down to, ‘Well, we’ll legalize Sunday hunting, but we’re going to raise fees by \$10 per man,’ or whatever, I would be more than happy personally to pay that extra.”

We finally asked if there was something that might make North Carolina different from the other states that currently allow Sunday hunting that would justify the current regulation. Participants saw no difference between North Carolina and other states that would justify a ban on Sunday hunting. They expressed the opinion that North Carolina has been “just slow to change.”

Perception of Landowner Response to Sunday Hunting:

Participants were asked how they thought private landowners in their area would react to the legalization of Sunday hunting (six participants at the Graham focus group indicated they also owned huntable land). One participant was concerned that landowners would not like Sunday hunting (but noted that timber companies would not care). Other participants indicated that landowner responses may not be negative, noting that landowners would still be able to regulate when hunting takes place on their land. One participant noted that some landowners would welcome Sunday hunting, especially large landowners and farmers. Two participants, said that in the area where they live (described as a Quaker community), landowners would not allow Sunday hunting, but wouldn’t stop it on other days.

“If somebody tells you now you can’t hunt on Monday, you don’t hunt on Monday if you’re hunting on private land. Landowners control it now, so it wouldn’t change anything if you had Sundays. If a landowner said, ‘I do not want you hunting on Sundays,’ and you want to keep hunting that land, you wouldn’t hunt on Sundays.”

“They won’t like it. I wouldn’t ask.”

“They wouldn’t allow me to hunt on Sunday. They wouldn’t stop me from hunting on other days, but not on Sunday. Just for their own personal reasons, and that would be fine with me.”

“It sill comes down to the individual landowner has the right to tell you whether you can hunt or you can’t. If you sign a lease, it’s still up to them.”

“A lot of the farmers wouldn’t have any objection to Sunday hunting. I think a lot of the large farms would be that way.”

Affect of Potential Sunday Hunting Scenarios on Attitudes:

Finally, participants were presented with a range of potential scenarios for how Sunday hunting might be implemented. The first type of restriction we asked about was the possible legalization of Sunday hunting on only public or only private lands, and this was met with skepticism from all participants. Concern was expressed for private landowner rights (e.g., not fair if they can’t decide for themselves whether or not to hunt on Sundays), for possibly overloading public lands, and for discriminating against hunters who don’t have access to one type of land. One participant thought it was important to include in the legislation a statement about Sunday hunting being at the discretion of the landowner.

“I would be really ticked if they allowed it on public land and not on private land, because I never hunt public land. That’s dangerous.”

“If you wanted to get that bill passed, you’d have to make it clear to the legislators that [it was at the landowner’s discretion]... and it would have to educate the landowners too, about the history and so they realize they have the option to disallow it.”

“There’s no need to make some guy that doesn’t have the opportunity to hunt private or public lands to not be able to hunt. The other thing it could possibly cause is an overloading of the public lands on Sunday.”

No support was expressed for county-level decisions regarding Sunday, and participants were concerned that it would cause hunters to crowd into counties that do allow it, drive up lease prices in those counties, and make regulations more difficult to understand and enforce. One participant said that a state hunting license should be governed by the state, and two other participants stated that the legislature would be neglecting their responsibility.

“It would overload certain counties. If Caswell or Orange said, ‘OK, we can hunt on Sunday,’ I’m going to find me some land in Orange county... It would drive up lease prices, too, in those counties.”

“It would give us a mish-mash of regulations that you would have to be a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out.”

“It would allow the legislature to cop out... I just think that’s ducking the issue. They’re not fulfilling their constitutional responsibility to citizens.”

“It’s a statewide hunting license. I know there’s a county license available, but if I’m buying a state license, I want to be governed by the state.”

“It would be such an inefficient way to do it. It would drive up costs to the wildlife commission trying to keep track of it all. I hunt down where Edgecombe and Pitt come together. We stand in the front yard we’re in Edgecombe; we go in the backyard we’re in Pitt County.”

When presented with the option of having Sunday hunting only for certain species, during certain seasons, or for certain weapons or methods, participants again felt that it would be both confusing and discriminatory.

“Make it consistent and simple where you don’t have to think ‘Well, the day starts with an R, so we can only hunt with a...’”

“It’s excessively restrictive. You’re eliminating people. Not every body has a black powder gun or a bow.”

“I don’t personally like [dog hunting], but that would be discriminatory.”

Participants were next asked for their reactions to the possible legalization of Sunday hunting after a certain time on Sunday (e.g., after 1pm) or only on a few specified Sundays (i.e., as a step to phasing Sunday hunting in). Three participants indicated that they’d rather have a half a day on Sundays than no hunting on Sunday at all, but others were hesitant to support that idea. Some concern was noted that such a regulation would still be based on religious issues and that it wouldn’t be fair (e.g., bass anglers can get on the lake any time). Several participants thought that safety zones might be a preferable solution to time-of-day restrictions, but another felt safety zones would be discriminatory because his land borders a church. No support was received for only allowing hunting on a few specified Sundays, with the concern that it would make regulations more confusing.

“If that’s the only way it was to pass, I’d be happy with it. I’d rather have half a Sunday than no Sunday. Also, if they would just offer an experimental season and do it half a day four or five years down the road and gauge it then.”

“Again, that’s Christian-centric.”

“I think they could always do safety zones around churches or something to that effect.”

“I think [safety zones] would be discriminatory, because I border a church. But if we only got half a day to start with, I’d take it.”

“Most legislation does have compromises, but I sure would hate to see it, and I would hate personally to be reported that we were in favor of half day Sundays.”

“Tell bass fisherman they can’t hit the lake ‘til 2:00. Now there’s some noise pollution.”

Summary:

Overall, participants at the Graham meeting were split between supporting Sunday hunting and being neutral (with one leaning towards opposing it). Major arguments made in favor of Sunday hunting revolved around a hunter's right to choose how he/she spends time and the importance of Sunday hunting to bringing in youth hunters to maintain the hunting tradition. Major concerns addressed were the potential conflicts with church activities. Participants agreed that it would increase hunting activity and that it would be a positive thing for recruitment. They did not feel that the traditional arguments against Sunday hunting (faith-based, etc.) were strong arguments, and held that "freedom of choice" and recruitment/retention were the most defensible arguments. Finally, there was a general lack of support for the range of possible ways to restrict Sunday hunting. Although a few participants indicated that half a day on Sunday would be better than no day, or that safety zones around churches would be a good idea, some opposition to each of these ideas was also expressed.

APPENDIX D:
PUBLIC PHONE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

OUTLINE FOR SURVEY OF NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS' OPINIONS ABOUT HUNTING ON SUNDAY

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling on behalf of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to ask your opinions on outdoor recreation issues and sportsmen issues in North Carolina, including the issue of Sunday hunting. You do not have to hunt to participate. Do you have time to answer some questions? (If yes: Are you at least 16?)

I. Participation in Outdoor Recreational Activities in North Carolina

A) First, I'm going to read a list of outdoor activities, and I would like to know if you've participated in each IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN NORTH CAROLINA. Have you participated in ...?

- i. Hiking?
- ii. Camping?
- iii. Mountain biking?
- iv. Horseback riding?
- v. Taking a trip or outing OF AT LEAST 1 MILE from home for the primary purpose of observing or photographing fish or wildlife, not including in zoos, aquariums, or circuses?
- vi. Observing or photographing fish or wildlife WITHIN A MILE of home?
- vii. Freshwater fishing?
- viii. Hunting?

B) FOR EACH ACTIVITY PARTICIPATED IN: How many days did you participate in [activity] in the past 12 months in North Carolina?

C) FOR EACH ACTIVITY PARTICIPATED IN: Do you typically participate in [activity] on weekdays or weekends? (If weekends: Saturdays? Sundays? — Do not ask for hunting)

D) FOR EACH ACTIVITY PARTICIPATED IN: Do you typically participate in [activity] on public lands, private lands, or both about equally?

E) (If participated in hunting) While participating in hunting, have you ever experienced any conflict with other hunters in North Carolina? (If yes: Was it in the past 12 months?)

F) (If experienced conflict with other hunters while hunting) Would you say the conflict was a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

G) (If participated in an activity other than hunting) While participating in [activity], have you ever experienced any conflict with hunters in North Carolina? (If yes: Was it in the past 12 months?)

H) (If experienced conflict with hunters while participating in another activity) Would you say the conflict was a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

I) (If experienced conflict with hunters while participating in another activity) What was the conflict you experienced?

II. Opinions and Knowledge of Hunting and Sunday Hunting

A) In general, do you approve or disapprove of LEGAL hunting in North Carolina?

Strongly approve

Moderately approve

Neither approve nor disapprove

Moderately disapprove

Strongly disapprove

Don't know

B) Would you say that currently in North Carolina it is legal or illegal to hunt on Sundays during hunting seasons, or do you not know?

Legal

Illegal

Don't know

For your information, Sunday hunting is currently illegal in North Carolina.

C) Prior to this survey, would you say you have heard or seen a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Sunday hunting issue in North Carolina?

D) In general, do you support or oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina?

Strongly support

Somewhat support

Neither support nor oppose

Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know

E) Why do you support the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina? (OPEN-ENDED)

F) Why do you oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina? (OPEN-ENDED)

G) I'm going to read some conditions for Sunday hunting, and I'd like to know if you would support or oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina for each condition.

(SCALE: Strongly support, somewhat support, neither support nor oppose, somewhat oppose, strongly oppose, don't know)

- i. What about legalizing Sunday hunting during the regular gun season only?

- ii. What about legalizing Sunday hunting if it were allowed only AFTER 1:00 p.m.?
- iii. What about legalizing Sunday hunting if it were allowed only BEFORE 9:00 a.m.?
- iv. What about legalizing Sunday hunting if it were allowed only on a few specified Sundays?
- v. What about legalizing Sunday hunting on private lands only?
- vi. What about legalizing Sunday hunting on public lands only?
- vii. What about legalizing Sunday hunting if pursuit dogs were NOT used?
- viii. What about legalizing Sunday hunting for big game hunting only?
- ix. What about legalizing Sunday hunting for small game hunting only?
- x. What about legalizing Sunday hunting for bowhunting only?
- xi. What about legalizing Sunday hunting if it were allowed only for youth hunters under the age of 16?
- xii. What about legalizing Sunday hunting if safety zones were created around churches?

III. Hunting Experiences Outside of North Carolina

A) You said that you [hunted / did not hunt] in North Carolina in the past 12 months. Did you hunt outside of North Carolina in the past 12 months?

B) (If yes, hunted outside of North Carolina) In what other states or foreign countries did you hunt? (OPEN-ENDED)

C) (If yes, hunted outside of North Carolina) Did the inability to hunt on Sunday in North Carolina have a major influence, a minor influence, or no influence in your decision to hunt outside of North Carolina?

Major influence

Minor influence

No influence

Don't know

IV. Responses to the Legalization of Sunday Hunting

A) Are you likely or unlikely to hunt in North Carolina if Sunday hunting continues to NOT be allowed?

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Neither likely nor unlikely

Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

Don't know

B) (If did not hunt in NC, but likely to hunt if Sunday hunting continues to NOT be allowed) About how many total days per year would you hunt in North Carolina if Sunday hunting continues to be illegal?

C) Would you be likely or unlikely to hunt in North Carolina if Sunday hunting were legalized?

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Neither likely nor unlikely

Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

Don't know

D) (If did not hunt in NC, but likely to hunt in NC if Sunday hunting legalized) About how many total days per year would you hunt in North Carolina if Sunday hunting were legalized?

E) (If hunted in NC or out-of-state or likely to hunt if Sunday hunting legalized) If Sunday hunting were legalized, would you hunt ON SUNDAY in North Carolina?

F) (If hunted in NC) If Sunday hunting were legalized, would your total days hunting in North Carolina increase, remain about the same, or decrease?

G) (If hunted in NC and would have increase or decrease in days hunting) About how many [more / fewer] days would you hunt in North Carolina per year if Sunday hunting were legalized?

H) (If hunted in NC) In the past 12 months, how many DAYS did you hunt in North Carolina that did NOT involve an overnight stay?

I) (If hunted in NC and would have increase or decrease in days hunting OR likely to hunt if Sunday hunting legalized) If Sunday hunting were legalized, how many [more / fewer / total] DAYS would you hunt in North Carolina that would NOT involve an overnight stay?

J) (If hunted in NC) In the past 12 months, how many OVERNIGHT TRIPS have you taken to hunt in North Carolina?

K) (If hunted in NC and would have increase or decrease in days hunting OR likely to hunt if Sunday hunting legalized) If Sunday hunting were legalized, how many [more / fewer / total] OVERNIGHT TRIPS would you take to hunt in North Carolina?

L) Do you personally know a North Carolina resident who hunts in other states or countries BUT DOES NOT hunt in North Carolina because they cannot hunt in North Carolina on Sunday? (If yes: How many North Carolina residents would you say you know who hunt in other states or countries BUT DO NOT hunt in North Carolina because they cannot hunt in North Carolina on Sunday?)

M) (If hunted in NC) Have you taken a friend or a family member at least 16 years old hunting in North Carolina in the past 12 months?

N) (If hunted in NC or out-of-state or likely to hunt if Sunday hunting legalized) If Sunday hunting were legalized, how likely would you be to take a friend or family member at least 16 years old hunting on Sunday in North Carolina that you would not otherwise take hunting in North Carolina?

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Neither likely nor unlikely

Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

Don't know

(If likely: How many friends or family members at least 16 years old ?)

O) (If hunted in NC) Have you taken a YOUTH under the age of 16 hunting in North Carolina in the past 12 months?

P) (If hunted in NC and took a youth) What relationship were the YOUTHS to you?

Q) (If hunted in NC or out-of-state or likely to hunt if Sunday hunting legalized) If Sunday hunting were legalized, how likely would you be to take a YOUTH under the age of 16 hunting on Sunday in North Carolina that you would not otherwise take hunting in North Carolina?

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Neither likely nor unlikely

Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

Don't know

(If likely: How many YOUTHS?)

AA) Do you own land in North Carolina on which you currently allow hunting to occur?

AB) (If own land on which hunting is allowed) Do you allow hunters other than family members to hunt on your land?

AC) (If own land on which hunting is allowed) If Sunday hunting were legalized in North Carolina, would you allow Sunday hunting on your land?

R) (If hunted in NC or out-of-state hunter likely to hunt in NC if Sunday hunting were legalized) If Sunday hunting were legalized, would you be willing to pay more for your North Carolina hunting licenses to help pay for the costs of implementing Sunday hunting?

(IF ASKED: A reasonable increase.)

S) FOR EACH OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATED IN: If Sunday hunting were legalized in North Carolina during hunting seasons, would your total days of participation in [activity] in North Carolina increase, remain about the same, or decrease as a direct result of the legalization of Sunday hunting?

T) FOR EACH OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATED IN WITH INCREASED OR DECREASED DAYS: About how many [more / fewer] days would you participate in [activity] in North Carolina per year as a direct result of the legalization of Sunday hunting?

U) Do you own a business that is either directly or indirectly dependent on either hunting or outdoor recreation in North Carolina?

Hunting

Outdoor recreation

Both hunting and outdoor recreation

V) (If respondent is an owner of a business dependent on hunting or outdoor recreation) Do you think your business would generate more revenue, about the same revenue, or less revenue if Sunday hunting were legalized in North Carolina?

W) (If respondent is an owner of a business dependent on hunting or outdoor recreation and said more or less revenue) How much [more / less] revenue do you project your business would generate if Sunday hunting were legalized in North Carolina? (OPEN-ENDED DOLLAR AMOUNT)

V. Reasons to Support and Reasons to Oppose Sunday Hunting

A) Next, I am going to read various reasons for support and opposition to the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina. I'll begin with reasons to OPPOSE the legalization of Sunday hunting. Please tell me if each of the following reasons is a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting.

(If respondent insists he/she supports the legalization of Sunday hunting, let him/her know we would still like his/her opinion on how convincing the reason is for opposing.)

- i. Sunday hunting would interfere with traditional church activities. Is this a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- ii. Sunday is a day of rest. Is this a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- iii. Sunday hunting would negatively impact wildlife populations. Is this a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- iv. Sunday is the one day a week that other outdoor enthusiasts, such as hikers, bikers, and horseback riders, can enjoy the woods without worrying about

- hunters or being injured by hunters. Is this a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- v. Sunday hunting would strain the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's personnel resources because of additional required time on-duty for enforcement staff. Is this a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
 - vi. Without a day of rest for animals, hunters would have more difficulty finding game later in the season. Is this a reason for you personally to oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)

B) Next, I'm going to read reasons to SUPPORT the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina. Please tell me if each of the following reasons is a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting.

(If respondent insists he/she opposes the legalization of Sunday hunting, let him/her know we would still like his/her opinion on how convincing the reason is for supporting.)

- i. Sunday hunting provides additional time to teach youth the tradition of hunting. Is this a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- ii.
- iii. Sunday hunting provides additional days for hunting . Is this a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- iv. Sunday hunting helps out local economies that depend on hunting. Is this a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- v. The ban on Sunday hunting costs the state money because North Carolina hunting license sales are reduced as a result of some North Carolina hunters choosing to hunt in other states. Is this a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- vi. Most other states allow Sunday hunting, and North Carolina should be no different. Is this a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)
- vii. The decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a government decision. Is this a reason for you personally to support the legalization of Sunday hunting? (If yes: Is it a very convincing reason or a somewhat convincing reason?)

C) Based on all that you have heard in this survey in addition to your prior knowledge, do you support or oppose the legalization of Sunday hunting in North Carolina?

Strongly support
Somewhat support
Neither support nor oppose
Somewhat oppose
Strongly oppose
Don't know

VI. Demographics

Great! We're just about through. The final few questions are for background information and help us analyze the results.

A) Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?

Large city or urban area
Suburban area
Small city or town
Rural area on a farm
Rural area not on a farm
Don't know
Refused

C) What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Not a high school graduate
High school graduate or equivalent
Some college or trade school, no degree
Associate's degree or trade school degree
Bachelor's degree
Master's degree
Professional or doctorate degree (e.g., M.D. or Ph.D.)
Don't know
Refused

E) Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

Under \$20,000
\$20,000-\$39,999
\$40,000-\$59,999
\$60,000-\$79,999
\$80,000-\$99,999
\$100,000-\$119,999
\$120,000 or more
Don't know
Refused

F) Do you consider yourself to have a faith or a belief in a religion? (If yes: Which one?)
(OPEN-ENDED)

G) (If named a religion) Would you say your faith or belief in [religion] is an important or unimportant part of your life?

Very important

Somewhat important

Neither important nor unimportant

Somewhat unimportant

Very unimportant

Don't know

H) (If respondent named Christianity) Do you consider yourself an evangelical Christian?

I) Do you ever attend a church or other place of worship?

J) (If attend church or place of worship) On average, how many days per month do you attend a church or other place of worship?

K) May I ask your age?

L) Gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer)

AA) ENTER COUNTY FROM CALL SHEET.

M) Region of residence (determined by county of residence)

Region 1

Region 2

Region 3

APPENDIX E:
HUNTER MAIL SURVEY INSTRUMENT

A Survey of North Carolina Hunters Regarding Hunting on Sunday



Conducted by Virginia Tech for
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
(NCWRC)
2006

Please place your completed questionnaire in the enclosed business reply envelope (no postage necessary) and mail it to:

Melissa Hooper
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences
Virginia Tech
100 Cheatham Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321

This number is used only to ensure that you do not receive duplicate mailings. Your name will not be connected to your answers once you return the survey to us.



Tracking Number

1. Did you hunt in North Carolina at any time since July 1, 2001 (in the past 5 years)? Yes No (If No, skip to #21, page 8)
2. Have you hunted in North Carolina since July 1, 2005 (the most recent season)? Yes No (If no, skip to #18, page 3)
3. For the most recent season (since July 1, 2005), did you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days as you did, on average, during the previous four seasons (July 1, 2001, to June 30, 2005)? (Please check only one box).
 More Days About the Same Fewer Days

Please estimate the number of days you hunted each of the following animals since July 1, 2005. Consider each partial day as 1 day hunted. Write that number in the space provided. If you did not hunt a particular animal, write a zero in the space.

4. Birds (Other than Waterfowl) Days Hunted: _____ Days
5. Waterfowl (Ducks, Geese, and Swans) Days Hunted: _____ Days
6. Small Mammals (Rabbits and Squirrels) Days Hunted: _____ Days
7. Deer (ARCHERY) Days Hunted: _____ Days
8. Deer (MUZZLELOADER) Days Hunted: _____ Days
9. Deer (REGULAR GUN) Days Hunted: _____ Days
10. Turkey (WINTER 2006) Days Hunted: _____ Days
11. Turkey (SPRING 2006) Days Hunted: _____ Days
12. Bear Days Hunted: _____ Days
13. Furbearer (Foxes, Raccoons, and Bobcats) Days Hunted: ... _____ Days

14. Using the map of the NCWRC Regions provided below, please indicate in the space provided the NCWRC region where you hunted most often since July 1, 2005. _____



15. Since July 1, 2005, did you hunt any of the following animals with dogs in North Carolina? (Check all that apply).

- Deer
- Raccoon
- Fox
- Waterfowl
- Bear
- Rabbit
- Upland Game Birds
- None of These

16. Please estimate the percentage of your hunting days in North Carolina that were spent on public vs. private land since July 1, 2005. In the boxes provided below, write the percentages. The percentages should total 100%.

Public Lands %

Private Lands %

		Poor		Adequate		Excellent
17. How would you rate your satisfaction with your hunting experiences in North Carolina since July 1, 2005? (Please circle a number from 1 to 5.)	1	2	3	4	5	
18. How would you rate your satisfaction with your hunting experiences in North Carolina over the last five years (since July 1, 2001)? (Please circle a number from 1 to 5.)	1	2	3	4	5	

19. Many factors may affect your satisfaction with your hunting experiences. Please indicate how important each of the following factors is in determining your satisfaction with your hunting experiences in North Carolina by checking one box for each item.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
A satisfying hunting experience is one where I...					
a. Obtain meat.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. Spend time with other hunters.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. Take a trophy animal.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. Do not see other hunters.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e. Take a full bag limit.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
f. Do not see other outdoor recreationists, such as hikers, horseback riders, or wildlife viewers.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
g. Have the opportunity to take a safe and legal shot.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
h. See wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
i. See signs that game animals are present.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
j. Hunt with members of my family.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
k. Spend time in the field/woods.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
l. Hunt with a preferred hunting companion.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
m. Take a game animal.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
n. Hunt with dogs.	<input type="checkbox"/>				



20. There are many reasons why you may hunt. Please indicate how important each of the following reasons for hunting is to you by checking one box for each item.

I hunt...	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important Nor Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. To experience natural surroundings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. To relax.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. To take a youth hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. To harvest a trophy animal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. To watch wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. To maintain a family tradition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. To obtain meat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. To test my hunting skills.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. To get away from my everyday routine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. To enjoy solitude.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. To spend time with friends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. To spend time with family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. To share my knowledge of hunting with others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. To enjoy the outdoors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. To help manage wildlife populations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



21. There are many reasons why you may not hunt or hunt less frequently than you may like. Please indicate how important each of the following statements is in explaining any **constraints to your hunting activity** by checking one box for each item.

If you are not a hunter, please check the box to the right and skip to #22 on page 7.

I am not a hunter.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important Nor Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. There are not enough game animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Hunting regulations are too confusing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. My hunting companions no longer hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I no longer have hunting dogs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Work commitments limit my time to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Family commitments limit my time to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I prefer to participate in other activities during my free time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Due to my advanced age, I am unable to hunt as much as I would like.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Due to my health, I am unable to hunt as much as I would like.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. I am concerned about my safety when hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Hunting equipment is too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. The cost of leasing private land for hunting is too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Hunting licenses are too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n. Traveling to hunt is too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Public lands are too crowded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. I have to travel too far to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. I do not have access to private land for hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. I do not know where to hunt in North Carolina.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s. I do not have access to public land for hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t. I moved away from the area where I used to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u. My favorite hunting spot is now posted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The next section focuses on whether you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support Nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
22. <u>In general</u> , do you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina? (Please check the appropriate box.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Do you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday with some limitations in North Carolina? (Please check the appropriate box.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Would you support or oppose limited hunting on Sunday under each of the scenarios described below? Please indicate your level of support for or opposition to each scenario by checking one box for each item.					

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither Support Nor Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
a. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only if pursuit dogs are not used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on a few Sundays.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Only bowhunting should be allowed on Sunday.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on private lands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. If hunting on Sunday is allowed, it should be treated like any other day of the week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on public lands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for small game.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only if safety zones are created around churches.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for big game.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only from a stand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only after a certain time (for example after 1:00 p.m.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. Please indicate how important each of the following reasons is to you in shaping, either positively or negatively, your opinion of hunting on Sunday.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. The hunting on Sunday ban is unfair to hunters for whom Sunday is not a day of worship.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. Sunday provides a day that other recreationists, such as hikers, horseback riders, and wildlife viewers, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. Hunting on Sunday may strain the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's personnel resources because of additional required time on-duty for enforcement staff.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed because 42 other states allow Sunday hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e. Hunting on Sunday may reduce church attendance.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
f. Hunting on Sunday may increase competition between local and non-local hunters for access to land to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
g. Hunting on Sunday may increase hunting participation by youth in North Carolina.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
h. Hunting on Sunday may provide benefits for local and state economies.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
i. Hunting on Sunday may increase revenue to NC Wildlife Resources Commission by increasing sales of resident hunting licenses.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
j. Additional harvest caused by hunting on Sunday would help manage populations of wildlife such as white-tailed deer.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
k. Hunting on Sunday may harm wildlife populations.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
l. The decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a governmental decision.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
m. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed because most other activities are allowed on Sunday.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

25. CONTINUED... How important are these in shaping your opinion of hunting on Sunday?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
n. Without a day of rest for animals, my ability to find game may become more difficult later in the season.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
o. The hunting on Sunday ban limits opportunities for hunters who work the rest of the week.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
p. Permitting hunting on Sunday may increase opposition to hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
q. Hunting on Sunday may increase revenue to NC Wildlife Resources Commission by increasing sales of non-resident hunting licenses.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
r. Sunday provides a day of rest for animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
s. Sunday provides a day of rest for hunters.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
t. Additional harvest caused by hunting on Sunday may require wildlife managers to shorten hunting seasons for some animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
u. Hunting on Sunday may provide additional hunting opportunities for working people.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
v. Permitting hunting on Sunday may improve the public's attitude toward hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
w. Hunting on Sunday should not be permitted because Sunday is a holy day.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
x. The hunting on Sunday ban violates my constitutional rights.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
y. Noise associated with hunting activities may interfere with church activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>				
z. Hunting on Sunday should not be permitted because Sunday is a family day.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

The next section focuses on possible changes in hunter participation if hunting on Sunday were legalized.

26. If hunting on Sunday were legalized, would you hunt on Sunday in North Carolina? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No Not Sure
- a. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days per year as you do now? (Please check only one box.)
- More Days (Skip to #27) About the Same (Skip to #27) Fewer Days (Continue to #26b)
- b. How many fewer days per year would you hunt in North Carolina? (Write a number in the space provided, then skip to #31.) _____ Days (Skip to #31)
27. Since July 1, 2005, how many days did you hunt in North Carolina that did not involve an overnight stay? (Write a number in the space provided. If you did not hunt, write a zero in the space.) _____ Days
28. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how many more days per year would you hunt in North Carolina that would not involve an overnight stay? (Write a number in the space provided.) _____ Days
29. Since July 1, 2005, how many overnight trips have you taken to hunt in North Carolina? (Write a number in the space provided. If you did not take any overnight trips, write a zero in the space.) _____ Trips
30. If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how many more overnight trips per year would you take to hunt in North Carolina? (Write a number in the space provided.) _____ Trips
31. Since July 1, 2005, did you hunt outside of North Carolina? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No (If no, skip to #32)
- a. If you hunted outside of North Carolina since July 1, 2005, please list all of the states or foreign countries where you hunted in the space below.
- _____
- b. How important was the ability to hunt on Sunday in your decision to hunt outside of North Carolina? (Please check only one box.)
- Very Important Somewhat Important Neither Important Nor Unimportant Somewhat Unimportant Very Unimportant
- c. If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how likely would you be to take fewer trips to hunt outside of North Carolina? (Please check only one box.)
- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not At All Likely Don't Know
32. Do you personally know a North Carolina resident who hunts in other states but does not hunt in North Carolina because of the hunting on Sunday ban?
- Yes No

33. Do you own land in North Carolina on which you currently allow hunting to occur? (Check only one box.)
- Yes (Continue to #33a)
 No. I am a landowner, but I do not allow hunting. (Skip to #33b)
 No. I am not a landowner. (Skip to #34)
- a. Do you allow hunters other than family members to hunt on your land? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No
- b. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you allow Sunday hunting on your land? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No Not Sure
34. Are you a member of a hunt club that hunts in North Carolina? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes (Continue to #34a) No (Skip to #34b)
- a. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to participate in Sunday hunts in North Carolina with your hunt club? (Please check only one box.)
- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not At All Likely Don't Know
- b. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to join a hunt club in North Carolina to hunt on Sunday? (Please check only one box and then skip to #35.)
- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not At All Likely Don't Know
35. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you be willing to pay more for your North Carolina hunting licenses to help pay for costs of implementing Sunday hunting? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No (If no, skip to #37)
36. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you be willing to pay \$1.00 more for the total costs of your North Carolina hunting licenses to help pay for costs of implementing Sunday hunting? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No
- Note – Six version of this question were sent to random hunters: \$1, \$2, \$5, \$20, \$20, and \$50
37. Have you taken a friend or a family member hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No Don't Know/Can't Remember
38. If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how likely would you be to take a friend or a family member hunting on Sunday in North Carolina? (Please check only one box.)
- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not At All Likely Don't Know
39. Have you taken a youth (under 16 years of age) hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005? (Please check only one box.)
- Yes No Don't Know/Can't Remember
- a. What relationship(s) were the youth(s) to you? (Check all that apply.)
- Son/daughter Grandson/granddaughter Other relative Youth(s) was not related to you
- b. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to take a youth hunting on Sunday in North Carolina? (Check only one box.)
- Very Likely Somewhat Likely Not At All Likely Don't Know

Finally, we would like to learn a little more about you. We use this information only to make general statements about broad categories of people who complete this survey. Your name will not be revealed or associated with your responses.

40. Are you? . . . Male Female
41. How old are you? _____ Years
42. In what type of community do you currently live? (Check only one box.)
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large city (more than 100,000 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural area on a farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small city (between 10,000 and 100,000 people) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural area not on a farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small town (less than 10,000 people) | |
43. What is your highest level of education? (Please check only one box.)
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> some high school or less | <input type="checkbox"/> some college (including Associate's degree) or trade school | <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high school diploma or GED | | <input type="checkbox"/> Master's degree |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D., M.D., J.D., or equivalent |
44. On average, how many days per month do you attend church or other place of worship? (Please provide the answer in the space provided.) _____ Days per month
45. Which of the following best represents your total household income (before taxes) last year? (Please check only one box.)
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$24,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000 to \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 to \$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 to \$34,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 to \$74,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 or more |

Thank you for completing this survey. Your opinions are very valuable to us and will help the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission understand North Carolina hunters.

If you have any additional comments, please write them in the space below or attach additional sheets.

Questions? Email Melissa at sundayhunting@vt.edu or call Melissa at 1-540-231-8847.

APPENDIX F:
ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is a nationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Its mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing its in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center with 45 professional interviewers, Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communications plans, needs assessments, and program evaluations on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Clients include most of the federal and state natural resource, outdoor recreation, and environmental agencies, and most of the top conservation organizations. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities, including the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Auburn, Texas Tech, the University of California—Davis, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Penn State, West Virginia University, and others.

Among the wide range of work Responsive Management has completed during the past 20 years are studies on how the general population values natural resources and outdoor recreation, and their opinions on and attitudes toward an array of natural resource-related issues. Responsive Management has conducted dozens of studies of selected groups of outdoor recreationists, including anglers, boaters, hunters, wildlife watchers, birdwatchers, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, and campers, as well as selected groups within the general population, such as landowners, farmers, urban and rural residents, women, senior citizens, children, Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans. Responsive Management has conducted studies on environmental education, endangered species, waterfowl, wetlands, water quality, and the reintroduction of numerous species such as wolves, grizzly bears, the California condor, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has conducted research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their memberships and donations. Responsive Management has conducted major agency and organizational program needs assessments and helped develop more effective programs based upon a solid foundation of fact. Responsive Management has developed Websites for natural resource organizations, conducted training workshops on the human dimensions of natural resources, and presented numerous studies each year in presentations and as keynote speakers at major natural resource, outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental conferences and meetings.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has also conducted surveys and focus groups in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

Responsive Management's research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN's *Crossfire*, ESPN, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front page of *USA Today*.

Visit the Responsive Management Website at:
www.responsivemanagement.com

APPENDIX G:
HUNTER MAIL SURVEY FREQUENCY TABLES

Frequency Tables for Hunter Mail Survey North Carolina Sunday Hunting Study

Region Legend:

- ALL: Statewide results
- CST: Coastal regional results
- PDM: Piedmont regional results
- MTN: Mountain regional results

All results are weighted to match the regional age and license distributions in the hunter license database. See below weighting scheme.

Region/Age Group	Regional Distribution of Licenses (%)	Age Distribution of Licenses w/in Region (%)	Proportion of Population for Group (%)	# Responses	Weight	Sampling Error
Coastal, 18-24	27.09%	12.63%	3.42%	28	1.12	
Coastal, 25-34	27.09%	19.00%	5.15%	40	1.18	
Coastal, 35-44	27.09%	19.00%	5.15%	59	0.80	
Coastal, 45-54	27.09%	18.13%	4.91%	66	0.68	
Coastal, 55-64	27.09%	15.50%	4.20%	55	0.70	
Coastal, 65+	27.09%	15.75%	4.27%	60	0.65	
Coastal Total	NA	100.00%	27.09%	308	NA	5.58
Piedmont, 18-24	40.33%	12.38%	4.99%	26	1.76	
Piedmont, 25-34	40.33%	18.13%	7.31%	37	1.81	
Piedmont, 35-44	40.33%	20.50%	8.27%	56	1.35	
Piedmont, 45-54	40.33%	19.00%	7.66%	77	0.91	
Piedmont, 55-64	40.33%	14.50%	5.85%	61	0.88	
Piedmont, 65+	40.33%	15.50%	6.25%	56	1.02	
Piedmont Total	NA	100.00%	40.33%	313	NA	5.54
Mountain, 18-24	32.58%	10.00%	3.26%	16	1.87	
Mountain, 25-34	32.58%	15.25%	4.97%	35	1.30	
Mountain, 35-44	32.58%	20.50%	6.68%	62	0.99	
Mountain, 45-54	32.58%	16.63%	5.42%	60	0.83	
Mountain, 55-64	32.58%	17.25%	5.62%	66	0.78	
Mountain, 65+	32.58%	20.38%	6.64%	57	1.07	
Mountain Total	NA	100.00%	32.58%	296	NA	5.70
Statewide Total	100.00%	NA	100.00%	917	NA	3.24

Q1. Did you hunt in North Carolina at any time since July 1, 2001 (in the past 5 years)?

	Region	n	% Yes	% No
	Did you hunt in North Carolina at any time since July 1, 2001 (in the past 5 years)?	ALL	837	97.1
	CST	234	99.1	0.9
	PDM	336	96.7	3.3
	MTN	267	95.9	4.1

Q2. Have you hunted in North Carolina since July 1, 2005 (the most recent season)? (If Yes to Q1.)

	Region	n	% Yes	% No
	Have you hunted in North Carolina since July 1, 2005 (the most recent season)?	ALL	812	92.7
	CST	231	93.9	6.1
	PDM	325	92.0	8.0
	MTN	256	92.6	7.4

Q3. For the most recent season (since July 1, 2005), did you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days as you did, on average, during the previous four seasons (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2005)? (If Yes to Q2.)

	Region	n	% of Respondents		
			More Days	About the Same	Fewer Days
For the most recent season, did you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days as in the previous 4 years?	ALL	740	19.3	62.4	18.2
	CST	213	13.1	68.1	18.8
	PDM	293	25.6	57.0	17.4
	MTN	234	17.1	64.1	18.8

Q4-13. Please estimate the number of days you hunted each of the following animals since July 1, 2005. Consider each partial day as one day hunting. Write that number in the space provided. If you did not hunt a particular animal, write a zero in the space. (If Yes to Q2, actual numbers appear in database.)

Statement	Region	n	Days Hunted in 2005-2006 Season (% of Respondents)				
			0	1-2	3-10	11-20	21+
4. Birds (Other than Waterfowl)	ALL	750	44.7	18.3	28.9	5.2	2.9
	CST	215	37.7	19.5	32.6	5.6	4.7
	PDM	299	40.5	19.7	33.1	5.4	1.3
	MTN	236	56.4	15.3	20.3	4.7	3.4
5. Waterfowl (Ducks, Geese, Swans)	ALL	752	43.9	7.0	12.2	4.4	2.4
	CST	216	61.6	8.8	17.1	6.9	5.6
	PDM	299	70.9	8.7	13.4	5.4	1.7
	MTN	237	89.0	3.4	6.3	0.8	0.4
6. Small Mammals (Rabbits and Squirrels)	ALL	751	38.9	13.6	31.7	9.2	6.7
	CST	217	45.2	17.1	27.6	5.1	5.1
	PDM	299	34.6	12.4	34.9	11.7	6.4
	MTN	236	38.6	11.9	31.4	9.7	8.5
7. Deer (Archery)	ALL	752	57.6	5.6	18.4	8.6	9.8
	CST	217	72.4	2.8	17.1	4.6	3.2
	PDM	299	51.2	7.7	19.1	10.0	12.0
	MTN	236	52.1	5.5	18.6	10.6	13.1
8. Deer (Muzzleloader)	ALL	753	49.0	15.3	34.5	1.2	0.0
	CST	217	66.8	11.1	21.7	0.5	0.0
	PDM	299	46.3	15.1	37.6	1.0	0.0
	MTN	238	36.1	19.3	42.4	2.1	0.0

Statement	Days Hunted in 2005-2006 Season (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	0	1-2	3-10	11-20	21+
9. Deer (Regular Gun)	ALL	750	10.3	5.1	32.3	26.7	25.7
	CST	216	13.0	5.1	20.4	24.1	37.5
	PDM	298	7.4	6.4	26.2	28.5	31.5
	MTN	236	11.4	3.4	50.8	26.7	7.6
10. Turkey (Winter 2006)	ALL	750	87.2	7.3	5.2	0.3	0.0
	CST	216	90.7	6.5	2.8	0.0	0.0
	PDM	298	91.0	5.0	3.7	0.3	0.0
	MTN	236	79.2	11.0	9.3	0.4	0.0
11. Turkey (Spring 2006)	ALL	753	62.4	12.0	20.3	4.8	0.5
	CST	217	74.2	9.2	13.4	2.8	0.5
	PDM	299	62.5	11.7	20.1	5.7	0.0
	MTN	237	51.5	14.8	27.0	5.5	1.3
12. Bear	ALL	753	89.1	4.5	3.9	1.5	1.1
	CST	217	81.6	7.4	9.2	1.4	0.5
	PDM	299	96.7	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.7
	MTN	236	86.4	5.9	2.1	3.4	2.1
13. Furbearer (Foxes, Raccoons, Bobcats)	ALL	752	85.1	4.9	6.0	2.0	2.0
	CST	217	81.6	7.4	6.9	1.8	2.3
	PDM	299	88.0	3.7	5.0	1.3	2.0
	MTN	236	84.7	4.2	6.4	3.0	1.7

Q14. Using the map of the NCWRC Regions provided below, please indicate in the space provided the NCWRC region where you hunted most often since July 1, 2005. (If Yes to Q2.)

	Region where hunted most often. (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Coastal	Piedmont	Mountain	Multiple
Please indicate the NCWRC region where you hunted most often since July 1, 2005,	ALL	661	31.0	41.3	25.0	2.7
	CST	191	90.1	6.8	0.0	3.1
	PDM	263	9.9	83.7	3.0	3.4
	MTN	207	3.4	19.3	75.8	1.4

Q15. Since July 1, 2005, did you hunt any of the following animals with dogs in North Carolina? (Check all that apply.) (If Yes to Q2.) (n=639, ALL; n=200, CST; n=245, PDM; n=194, MTN)

Species/Group	Region	% Yes
Deer	ALL	25.6
	CST	47.0
	PDM	21.6
	MTN	8.7
Bear	ALL	6.3
	CST	8.5

Species/Group	Region	% Yes
Fox	ALL	2.5
	CST	6.0
	PDM	1.2
	MTN	0.5
Upland Game Birds	ALL	10.8
	CST	12.5

	PDM	1.2		PDM	7.3
	MTN	10.3		MTN	13.3
Raccoon	ALL	8.0	Waterfowl	ALL	10.3
	CST	6.5		CST	17.0
	PDM	4.9		PDM	10.6
	MTN	13.3		MTN	3.1
Rabbit	ALL	24.1	None of These	ALL	46.9
	CST	21.0		CST	34.0
	PDM	28.2		PDM	51.8
	MTN	22.1		MTN	53.8

Q16. Please estimate the percentage of your hunting days in North Carolina that were spent on public vs. private land since July 1, 2005. In the boxes provided below, write the percentages. The percentages should total 100%. (If Yes to Q2.)

Land Type Hunted on	Region	n	% of Time (% of Respondents)				
			0	1-33%	34-66%	67-99%	100%
Public Lands	ALL	737	58.3	21.0	8.1	7.9	4.6
	CST	212	58.0	22.2	7.5	7.1	5.2
	PDM	295	61.4	22.0	5.4	8.5	2.7
	MTN	230	54.8	18.7	12.2	7.8	6.5
Private Lands	ALL	737	4.6	7.9	8.1	21.0	58.3
	CST	212	5.2	7.1	7.5	22.2	58.0
	PDM	295	2.7	8.5	5.4	22.0	61.4
	MTN	230	6.5	7.8	12.2	18.7	54.8

Q17-18. How would you rate your satisfaction with your hunting experiences in North Carolina? (If Yes to Q2.)

Statement	Region	n	Satisfaction (% of Respondents)				
			Poor 1	2	Adequate 3	4	Excellent 5
17. Since July 1, 2005? (If Yes to Q2.)	ALL	747	4.7	8.4	40.2	27.3	19.4
	CST	214	4.2	7.9	40.7	28.0	19.2
	PDM	297	1.7	7.1	41.8	27.3	22.2
	MTN	236	8.9	10.6	37.7	26.7	16.1
18. Since July 1, 2001 (the last 5 years)? (If Yes to Q1)	ALL	805	4.1	7.8	37.1	31.2	19.8
	CST	232	3.9	6.0	36.2	34.1	20.3
	PDM	318	0.7	7.2	40.6	29.9	21.7
	MTN	255	8.6	11.4	30.2	30.2	16.9

Q19. Many factors may affect your satisfaction with your hunting experiences. Please indicate how important each of the following factors is in determining your satisfaction with your hunting experiences in North Carolina by checking one box for each item. (If Yes to Q1.)

A satisfying hunting experience is one where I...	Level of Importance in Determining Satisfaction (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. Obtain meat.	ALL	798	32.2	37.8	19.2	5.8	5.0
	CST	226	29.2	41.6	19.9	5.8	3.5
	PDM	320	32.8	35.3	20.3	5.9	5.6
	MTN	252	34.1	37.7	17.1	5.6	5.6
b. Spend time with other hunters.	ALL	799	40.3	38.4	12.6	3.8	4.9
	CST	228	38.6	38.6	13.6	4.4	4.8
	PDM	319	43.9	39.2	9.4	3.1	4.4
	MTN	252	37.3	37.3	15.9	4.0	5.6
c. Take a trophy animal.	ALL	798	21.7	33.0	25.2	6.4	13.8
	CST	226	18.6	37.2	25.2	5.8	13.3
	PDM	321	19.6	35.2	22.7	6.9	15.6
	MTN	251	27.1	26.3	28.3	6.4	12.0
d. Do not see other hunters.	ALL	791	15.7	23.8	36.3	11.1	13.1
	CST	226	9.7	22.6	36.7	13.3	17.7
	PDM	317	16.4	20.5	39.7	11.4	12.0
	MTN	248	20.2	29.0	31.5	8.9	10.5
e. Take a full bag limit.	ALL	786	6.4	14.9	42.0	14.8	22.0
	CST	223	5.4	15.7	44.8	13.9	20.2
	PDM	318	5.7	13.5	40.3	17.3	23.3
	MTN	245	8.2	15.9	41.6	12.2	22.0
f. Do not see other outdoor recreationists, such as hikers, horseback riders, or wildlife viewers.	ALL	791	36.8	20.5	23.0	8.0	11.8
	CST	223	32.3	17.9	27.8	6.7	15.2
	PDM	316	40.5	21.2	19.0	8.5	10.8
	MTN	252	36.1	21.8	23.8	8.3	9.9
g. Have the opportunity to take a safe and legal shot.	ALL	803	84.7	11.0	3.2	0.2	0.9
	CST	228	86.8	9.2	2.6	0.0	1.3
	PDM	322	82.0	14.0	3.1	0.3	0.6
	MTN	253	86.2	8.7	4.0	0.4	0.8
h. See wildlife.	ALL	802	79.9	17.8	1.7	0.4	0.1
	CST	229	78.6	17.9	2.6	0.4	0.4
	PDM	320	79.4	17.8	2.2	0.6	0.0
	MTN	253	81.8	17.8	0.4	0.0	0.0
i. See signs that game animals are present.	ALL	801	76.3	21.0	2.4	0.1	0.2
	CST	228	76.3	21.1	2.2	0.0	0.4
	PDM	319	74.0	23.8	1.6	0.3	0.3
	MTN	254	79.1	17.3	3.5	0.0	0.0
j. Hunt with members of my family.	ALL	799	62.8	22.7	11.4	1.3	1.9
	CST	226	64.2	24.8	9.3	0.9	0.9
	PDM	319	63.0	19.7	13.8	0.9	2.5
	MTN	254	61.4	24.4	10.2	2.0	2.0
k. Spend time in the field/woods.	ALL	803	80.6	17.6	1.5	0.0	0.4
	CST	229	76.9	20.1	2.6	0.0	0.4
	PDM	231	81.6	16.5	1.2	0.0	0.6
	MTN	253	82.6	16.6	0.8	0.0	0.0

A satisfying hunting experience is one where I...	Level of Importance in Determining Satisfaction (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
l. Hunt with a preferred hunting companion.	ALL	798	52.4	30.5	13.4	2.1	1.6
	CST	228	52.2	32.5	11.8	2.6	0.9
	PDM	317	54.9	26.5	14.8	1.9	1.9
	MTN	253	49.4	33.6	13.0	2.0	2.0
m. Take a game animal.	ALL	795	27.2	38.0	24.3	5.4	5.2
	CST	227	24.7	35.2	30.8	4.4	4.8
	PDM	316	26.9	37.7	23.1	5.4	7.0
	MTN	252	29.8	40.9	19.8	6.3	3.2
n. Hunt with dogs.	ALL	797	14.8	13.0	25.3	10.0	36.8
	CST	227	21.6	16.3	21.6	6.6	33.9
	PDM	318	12.9	9.1	26.4	11.3	40.3
	MTN	252	11.1	15.1	27.4	11.5	34.9

Q20. There are many reasons why you may hunt. Please indicate how important each of the following reasons for hunting is to you by checking one box for each item. (If Yes to Q1.)

I hunt...	Level of Importance in Determining Satisfaction (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. To experience natural surroundings.	ALL	804	69.0	26.6	3.7	0.4	0.2
	CST	229	66.4	28.4	4.8	0.4	0.0
	PDM	322	71.1	24.5	3.7	0.0	0.6
	MTN	253	68.8	27.7	2.8	0.8	0.0
b. To relax.	ALL	803	74.3	23.3	1.6	0.6	0.1
	CST	228	73.2	24.1	2.2	0.4	0.0
	PDM	322	73.0	24.5	1.2	1.2	0.0
	MTN	253	77.1	20.9	1.6	0.0	0.4
c. To take a youth hunting.	ALL	791	45.8	31.0	16.9	2.9	3.4
	CST	224	49.1	32.6	13.8	2.2	2.2
	PDM	315	40.6	31.4	19.7	2.2	6.0
	MTN	252	49.2	29.0	16.3	4.4	1.2
d. To harvest a trophy animal.	ALL	792	21.6	33.5	26.9	7.6	10.5
	CST	224	21.0	30.8	33.0	6.3	8.9
	PDM	316	19.0	39.9	21.2	7.3	12.7
	MTN	252	25.4	27.8	28.6	9.1	9.1
e. To watch wildlife.	ALL	799	63.0	32.2	3.8	0.8	0.4
	CST	227	65.6	30.0	3.1	0.4	0.9
	PDM	319	60.8	34.5	3.4	0.9	0.3
	MTN	253	63.2	31.2	4.7	0.8	0.0
f. To maintain a family tradition.	ALL	796	40.7	24.2	25.4	3.4	6.3
	CST	224	44.2	26.8	24.1	0.4	4.5
	PDM	321	39.4	24.4	26.3	1.9	8.1
	MTN	252	39.3	21.8	25.4	7.9	5.6
g. To obtain meat.	ALL	796	30.5	36.6	20.9	5.2	6.9
	CST	227	28.2	40.5	21.1	5.7	4.4
	PDM	318	29.6	34.3	20.4	5.7	10.1
	MTN	251	33.9	35.9	21.1	4.0	5.2

I hunt...	Level of Importance in Determining Satisfaction (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
h. To test my hunting skills.	ALL	801	32.0	41.9	19.2	3.2	3.6
	CST	228	27.6	41.7	23.7	3.9	3.1
	PDM	320	30.9	44.7	15.6	3.4	5.3
	MTN	253	37.2	38.7	19.8	2.4	2.0
i. To get away from my everyday routine.	ALL	800	65.4	28.5	4.8	0.8	0.6
	CST	229	63.3	31.4	4.8	0.4	0.0
	PDM	319	65.8	27.3	5.0	1.3	0.6
	MTN	252	66.7	27.4	4.4	0.4	1.2
j. To enjoy solitude.	ALL	797	61.7	28.0	8.5	0.9	0.9
	CST	226	58.0	32.3	8.8	0.4	0.4
	PDM	320	62.5	27.8	7.8	1.3	0.6
	MTN	251	64.1	24.3	9.2	0.8	1.6
k. To spend time with friends.	ALL	799	44.3	37.3	14.4	2.0	2.0
	CST	227	47.6	36.1	13.7	2.2	0.4
	PDM	318	44.0	39.6	12.3	1.3	2.8
	MTN	254	41.7	35.4	17.7	2.8	2.4
l. To spend time with family.	ALL	797	50.9	29.2	14.7	2.5	2.6
	CST	227	54.6	30.4	12.3	1.8	0.9
	PDM	319	48.6	30.7	15.7	1.6	3.4
	MTN	251	50.6	26.3	15.5	4.4	3.2
m. To share my knowledge of hunting with others.	ALL	797	31.2	33.1	28.7	4.1	2.8
	CST	226	35.4	35.0	25.2	2.2	2.2
	PDM	320	31.3	31.6	28.8	5.0	3.4
	MTN	251	27.5	33.5	31.9	4.8	2.4
n. To enjoy the outdoors.	ALL	804	84.2	15.3	0.2	0.2	0.0
	CST	229	83.0	16.6	0.4	0.0	0.0
	PDM	322	82.6	16.8	0.0	0.6	0.0
	MTN	253	87.4	12.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
o. To help manage wildlife populations.	ALL	803	50.2	33.1	13.2	1.9	1.6
	CST	228	54.4	32.0	11.8	0.4	1.3
	PDM	321	48.6	33.6	13.1	2.2	2.5
	MTN	254	48.4	33.5	14.6	2.8	0.8

Q21. There are many reasons why you may not hunt or hunt less frequently than you may like. Please indicate how important each of the following statements is in explaining any constraints to your hunting activity by checking one box for each item.

Not a hunter (did not respond to other items in this section):

n = 54, Statewide

n = 11, Coastal

n = 21, Piedmont

n = 22, Mountain

Constraint	Region	n	Level of Importance as a Constraint (% of Respondents)				
			Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. There are not enough game animals.	ALL	822	23.2	33.0	27.4	6.9	9.5
	CST	228	22.8	31.6	28.5	7.9	9.2
	PDM	333	17.4	34.8	27.6	8.7	11.4
	MTN	261	31.0	31.8	26.1	3.8	7.3
b. Hunting regulations are too confusing.	ALL	814	13.0	23.6	36.2	9.8	17.3
	CST	227	15.0	27.3	26.9	11.0	19.8
	PDM	326	10.7	23.6	38.0	11.1	16.6
	MTN	261	14.2	20.3	42.1	7.3	16.1
c. My hunting companions no longer hunt.	ALL	810	6.3	13.0	43.0	10.5	27.3
	CST	228	7.0	14.9	39.5	9.2	29.4
	PDM	325	5.8	12.3	42.8	11.7	27.4
	MTN	257	6.2	12.1	46.3	10.1	25.3
d. I no longer have hunting dogs.	ALL	813	7.5	5.9	28.0	7.0	51.5
	CST	227	9.7	9.7	24.2	5.3	51.1
	PDM	327	7.3	2.4	26.9	9.2	54.1
	MTN	259	5.8	6.9	32.8	5.8	48.6
e. Work commitments limit my time to hunt.	ALL	815	38.0	29.1	13.7	5.0	14.1
	CST	228	35.5	30.3	14.0	5.3	14.9
	PDM	326	35.9	27.9	16.3	4.6	15.3
	MTN	261	42.9	29.5	10.3	5.4	11.9
f. Family commitments limit my time to hunt.	ALL	818	21.0	33.6	25.1	6.0	14.3
	CST	230	23.5	32.2	23.9	4.8	15.7
	PDM	328	19.2	33.2	26.3	6.1	16.2
	MTN	260	21.2	35.4	25.8	6.9	10.8
g. I prefer to participate in other activities during my free time.	ALL	814	2.8	13.3	37.1	13.9	32.9
	CST	229	3.5	14.8	37.1	10.9	33.6
	PDM	326	3.1	12.9	35.9	13.5	34.7
	MTN	259	1.9	12.4	38.6	17.0	30.1
h. Due to my advanced age, I am unable to hunt as much as I would like.	ALL	823	9.7	10.6	25.3	7.2	47.3
	CST	228	7.5	10.5	26.8	7.0	48.2
	PDM	332	7.2	11.1	23.5	6.9	51.2
	MTN	263	14.8	9.9	26.2	7.6	41.4
i. Due to my health, I am unable to hunt as much as I would like.	ALL	824	10.8	8.6	25.5	6.2	48.9
	CST	230	8.7	10.0	23.9	7.0	50.4
	PDM	330	9.7	6.7	25.5	5.5	52.7
	MTN	264	14.0	9.8	26.9	6.4	42.8
j. I am concerned about my safety when hunting.	ALL	821	32.9	18.8	18.5	7.8	22.0
	CST	231	31.2	16.9	19.9	7.4	24.7
	PDM	329	33.4	17.9	18.2	7.9	22.5

Constraint	Level of Importance as a Constraint (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
	MTN	261	33.7	21.5	17.6	8.0	19.2
k. Hunting equipment is too expensive.	ALL	820	9.8	20.4	33.2	10.6	26.1
	CST	229	9.6	19.2	36.7	6.1	28.4
	PDM	329	8.5	16.1	34.7	12.2	28.6
	MTN	262	11.5	26.7	28.2	12.6	21.0
l. The cost of leasing private land for hunting is too expensive.	ALL	823	34.1	22.5	20.2	5.5	17.7
	CST	228	33.8	19.3	21.1	6.1	19.7
	PDM	330	34.5	23.3	18.2	5.5	18.5
	MTN	265	34.0	24.2	21.9	4.9	15.1
m. Hunting licenses are too expensive.	ALL	818	8.1	16.4	37.5	6.7	31.3
	CST	229	7.9	16.2	37.6	6.6	31.9
	PDM	326	8.3	14.4	37.1	6.4	33.7
	MTN	263	8.0	19.0	38.0	7.2	27.8
n. Traveling to hunt it too expensive.	ALL	821	17.3	24.2	28.0	6.7	23.8
	CST	229	15.7	18.3	31.0	7.4	27.5
	PDM	330	18.2	25.8	24.8	7.6	23.6
	MTN	262	17.6	27.5	29.4	5.0	20.6
o. Public lands are too crowded.	ALL	823	32.3	24.5	23.6	3.5	16.0
	CST	228	24.1	23.7	28.9	3.9	19.3
	PDM	331	36.0	23.0	20.8	2.7	17.5
	MTN	264	34.8	27.3	22.3	4.2	11.4
p. I have to travel too far to hunt.	ALL	822	10.9	17.8	35.2	7.1	29.1
	CST	230	7.8	12.2	35.7	8.7	35.7
	PDM	331	12.4	21.1	31.4	6.3	28.7
	MTN	261	11.9	18.4	39.5	6.5	23.8
q. I do not have access to private land for hunting.	ALL	820	16.0	15.1	27.4	6.0	35.5
	CST	230	12.2	15.2	26.1	7.4	39.1
	PDM	328	16.8	15.5	26.2	4.0	37.5
	MTN	262	18.3	14.5	30.2	7.3	29.8
r. I do not know where to hunt in North Carolina.	ALL	816	6.9	8.8	30.5	8.1	45.7
	CST	229	4.4	7.4	28.8	8.3	51.1
	PDM	327	7.3	10.7	28.1	8.0	45.9
	MTN	260	8.5	7.7	35.0	8.1	40.8
s. I do not have access to public land for hunting.	ALL	813	9.1	10.6	33.1	8.1	39.1
	CST	230	7.0	13.0	30.9	7.0	42.2
	PDM	326	9.2	8.6	34.4	6.7	41.1
	MTN	257	10.9	10.9	33.5	10.9	33.9
t. I moved away from the area where I used to hunt.	ALL	815	4.9	6.5	29.6	6.1	52.9
	CST	228	5.7	7.0	26.8	5.3	55.3
	PDM	327	5.5	6.7	31.2	4.0	52.6
	MTN	260	3.5	5.8	30.0	9.6	51.2
u. My favorite hunting spot is now posted.	ALL	821	17.5	11.1	26.1	4.9	40.4
	CST	230	11.7	14.3	22.2	5.7	46.1
	PDM	327	19.0	11.0	26.0	4.3	39.8
	MTN	264	20.8	8.3	29.5	4.9	36.4

QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO SUNDAY HUNTING:

Q22 & 23. Do you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina? (Please check the appropriate box)

	Level of Support (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
22. In general, do you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina?	ALL	907	38.4	10.9	6.0	5.5	39.3
	CST	245	38.4	11.0	6.9	4.5	39.2
	PDM	366	39.1	11.7	5.2	5.7	38.3
	MTN	296	37.5	9.8	6.1	6.1	40.5
23. Do you support or oppose the legalization of hunting on Sunday in North Carolina with some limitations?	ALL	890	20.3	20.2	8.5	7.4	43.5
	CST	243	23.9	19.8	8.2	5.8	42.4
	PDM	357	19.0	21.0	8.4	7.0	44.5
	MTN	290	19.0	19.7	9.0	9.3	43.1

Q24. Would you support or opposed limited hunting on Sunday under each of the following described below? Please indicate your level of support or opposition to each scenario by checking one box for each item.

Constraint	Level of Support (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
a. Hunting on Sunday should only be allowed if pursuit dogs are <u>not</u> used.	ALL	885	24.4	8.7	15.0	5.2	46.7
	CST	244	23.0	10.2	13.9	4.1	48.8
	PDM	353	26.6	10.2	13.9	4.2	45.0
	MTN	288	22.9	5.6	17.4	7.3	46.9
b. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on a few Sundays.	ALL	878	4.3	7.5	14.0	11.0	63.1
	CST	243	4.9	9.9	14.0	7.4	63.8
	PDM	349	4.3	8.0	14.6	12.0	61.0
	MTN	286	3.8	4.9	13.3	12.9	65.0
c. Only bowhunting should be allowed on Sunday.	ALL	879	5.9	5.7	16.4	8.8	63.3
	CST	243	3.7	4.5	16.0	7.4	68.3
	PDM	350	8.0	6.6	14.6	8.6	62.3
	MTN	286	5.2	5.6	18.9	10.1	60.1
d. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on private lands.	ALL	877	10.5	7.8	14.1	7.0	60.7
	CST	243	9.1	7.0	14.0	6.2	63.8
	PDM	350	11.1	10.9	13.1	6.6	58.3
	MTN	284	10.9	4.6	15.5	8.1	60.9
e. If hunting on Sunday is allowed, it should be treated like any other day of the week.	ALL	883	36.4	10.1	8.7	6.1	38.7
	CST	243	33.7	10.3	9.9	8.2	37.9
	PDM	354	35.9	10.2	10.5	6.2	37.3
	MTN	286	39.2	9.8	5.6	4.2	41.3

Constraint	Level of Support (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neither	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
f. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only on public lands.	ALL	882	4.1	1.9	15.4	8.4	70.2
	CST	243	2.9	2.5	13.6	8.2	72.8
	PDM	353	4.2	1.4	16.4	8.5	69.4
	MTN	286	4.9	2.1	15.7	8.4	68.9
g. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for small game.	ALL	879	2.2	2.0	15.4	7.8	72.6
	CST	244	1.6	3.3	12.7	7.4	75.0
	PDM	349	2.9	1.4	16.6	8.0	71.1
	MTN	286	1.7	1.7	16.1	8.0	72.4
h. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only if safety zones are created around churches.	ALL	879	29.5	9.3	13.3	4.9	43.0
	CST	242	32.2	9.1	12.0	2.9	43.8
	PDM	352	24.1	9.7	15.9	5.7	44.6
	MTN	285	33.7	9.1	11.2	5.6	40.4
i. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for big game.	ALL	879	6.3	4.4	17.5	7.1	64.7
	CST	243	6.6	3.7	15.6	6.6	67.5
	PDM	351	5.4	4.0	19.4	6.6	64.7
	MTN	285	7.0	5.6	16.8	8.1	62.5
j. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only from a stand.	ALL	881	7.7	5.0	17.4	7.0	62.9
	CST	244	9.4	4.9	16.0	5.7	63.9
	PDM	351	9.4	6.3	15.7	6.6	62.1
	MTN	286	4.2	3.5	20.6	8.7	62.9
k. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only after a certain time (for example, after 1:00pm).	ALL	881	12.3	9.8	11.0	5.6	61.4
	CST	244	12.3	13.1	9.0	5.3	60.2
	PDM	352	11.1	10.8	11.1	3.7	63.4
	MTN	285	13.7	5.6	12.6	8.1	60.0
l. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed only for youth hunters (under 16 years of age).	ALL	882	2.0	3.1	14.3	7.5	73.1
	CST	244	2.5	3.7	13.5	7.4	73.0
	PDM	352	1.4	3.1	14.8	8.5	72.2
	MTN	286	2.4	2.4	14.3	6.3	74.5

Q25. Please indicate how important each of the following reasons is to you in shaping, either positively or negatively, your opinion of hunting on Sunday.

Constraint	Level of Importance in Shaping Opinion on Sunday Hunting (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
a. The hunting on Sunday ban is unfair to hunters for whom Sunday is not a day of worship.	ALL	870	19.8	12.4	23.4	4.7	39.7
	CST	239	19.7	13.4	23.0	3.3	40.6
	PDM	346	18.2	13.6	24.9	5.2	38.2
	MTN	285	21.8	10.2	22.1	5.3	40.7
b. Sunday provides a day that other recreationists, such as hikers, horseback riders, and wildlife viewers, can enjoy the woods without worrying about hunters.	ALL	876	32.6	15.1	20.1	6.7	25.5
	CST	241	33.2	15.4	23.7	6.6	21.2
	PDM	350	33.1	14.9	20.3	6.9	24.9
	MTN	285	31.6	15.1	16.8	6.7	29.8

Constraint	Level of Importance in Shaping Opinion on Sunday Hunting (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
c. Hunting on Sunday may strain the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's personnel resources because of additional required time on-duty for enforcement staff.	ALL	880	25.9	19.0	24.0	6.8	24.3
	CST	242	25.2	19.8	25.6	5.0	24.4
	PDM	352	27.0	19.3	23.3	6.8	23.6
	MTN	286	25.2	17.8	23.4	8.4	25.2
d. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed because 42 other states allow Sunday hunting.	ALL	875	27.2	10.9	19.2	3.2	39.5
	CST	239	24.7	12.1	19.2	2.9	41.0
	PDM	349	27.2	9.7	21.8	3.2	38.1
	MTN	287	29.3	11.1	16.0	3.5	40.1
e. Hunting on Sunday may reduce church attendance.	ALL	872	25.0	13.3	29.5	4.9	27.3
	CST	240	26.7	11.7	30.8	5.0	25.8
	PDM	347	20.2	14.4	32.0	3.7	29.7
	MTN	285	29.5	13.3	25.3	6.3	25.6
f. Hunting on Sunday may increase competition between local and non-local hunters for access to land to hunt.	ALL	868	15.0	13.9	34.0	6.8	30.3
	CST	237	14.3	13.1	32.9	5.5	34.2
	PDM	349	12.3	13.8	35.0	8.6	30.4
	MTN	282	18.8	14.9	33.7	5.7	27.0
g. Hunting on Sunday may increase hunting participation by youth in North Carolina.	ALL	873	28.4	19.1	22.1	5.2	25.2
	CST	240	28.8	19.6	22.9	4.2	24.6
	PDM	349	25.8	21.2	22.6	5.7	24.6
	MTN	284	31.3	16.2	20.8	5.3	26.4
h. Hunting on Sunday may provide benefits for local and state economies.	ALL	874	26.3	19.1	19.8	4.3	30.4
	CST	240	24.6	20.8	20.4	1.7	32.5
	PDM	349	24.6	20.1	20.6	6.9	27.8
	MTN	285	29.8	16.5	18.2	3.5	31.9
i. Hunting on Sunday may increase revenue to NC Wildlife Resources Commission by increasing sales of resident hunting licenses.	ALL	878	27.1	16.5	21.1	4.8	30.5
	CST	240	25.8	18.3	19.2	3.3	33.3
	PDM	352	24.7	16.5	24.4	6.0	28.4
	MTN	286	31.1	15.0	18.5	4.5	30.8
j. Additional harvest caused by hunting on Sunday would help manage populations of wildlife such as white-tailed deer.	ALL	877	34.4	18.6	17.8	4.6	24.6
	CST	241	32.4	19.1	17.8	5.0	25.7
	PDM	352	34.7	20.5	17.3	4.3	23.3
	MTN	284	35.9	15.8	18.3	4.6	25.4
k. Hunting on Sunday may harm wildlife populations.	ALL	878	19.9	15.6	27.0	7.7	29.7
	CST	241	19.1	17.4	24.5	8.7	30.3
	PDM	352	17.0	15.9	29.5	6.5	31.0
	MTN	285	24.2	13.7	26.0	8.4	27.7
l. The decision to hunt on Sunday should be a personal choice rather than a governmental decision.	ALL	877	46.1	11.4	13.8	3.4	25.3
	CST	240	44.2	12.5	13.8	4.6	25.0
	PDM	352	45.7	13.9	12.2	3.4	24.7
	MTN	285	48.1	7.4	15.8	2.5	26.3
m. Hunting on Sunday should be allowed because most other activities are allowed on Sunday.	ALL	876	32.4	11.3	19.1	3.0	34.2
	CST	240	31.7	11.3	19.6	3.3	34.2
	PDM	352	30.4	13.1	20.7	3.1	32.7
	MTN	284	35.6	9.2	16.5	2.5	36.3

Appendix G: Frequency Tables for Hunter Mail Survey

Constraint	Level of Importance in Shaping Opinion on Sunday Hunting (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
n. Without a day of rest for animals, my ability to find game may become more difficult later in the season.	ALL	869	21.2	15.7	31.1	7.1	25.0
	CST	240	34.2	13.6	23.8	6.7	25.8
	PDM	349	18.1	19.6	34.7	7.7	24.9
	MTN	280	22.5	14.6	32.9	6.8	24.3
o. The hunting on Sunday ban limits opportunities for hunters who work the rest of the week.	ALL	867	36.7	14.9	17.1	4.7	26.6
	CST	238	32.8	18.9	17.6	4.2	26.5
	PDM	347	37.8	14.1	17.3	5.2	25.6
	MTN	282	38.7	12.4	16.3	4.6	28.0
p. Permitting hunting on Sunday may increase opposition to hunting.	ALL	868	23.4	18.2	27.4	7.6	23.4
	CST	239	23.8	20.9	25.5	6.3	23.4
	PDM	348	23.6	19.0	26.1	7.8	23.6
	MTN	281	22.8	14.9	30.6	8.5	23.1
q. Hunting on Sunday may increase revenue to NC Wildlife Resources Commission by increasing sales of non-resident hunting licenses.	ALL	870	21.1	16.8	28.6	5.4	28.0
	CST	239	22.6	19.7	24.7	3.8	29.3
	PDM	348	19.5	16.7	31.6	4.9	27.3
	MTN	283	21.9	14.5	28.3	7.4	27.9
r. Sunday provides a day of rest for animals.	ALL	871	29.5	12.2	28.4	6.2	23.8
	CST	240	34.2	17.1	23.3	5.4	20.0
	PDM	349	27.2	9.7	30.9	7.4	24.6
	MTN	282	28.4	11.0	29.4	5.3	25.9
s. Sunday provides a day of rest for hunters.	ALL	858	27.7	11.5	27.5	4.3	28.9
	CST	237	30.4	13.1	24.1	4.6	27.8
	PDM	344	25.9	10.2	28.5	4.9	30.5
	MTN	277	27.8	11.9	29.2	3.2	27.8
t. Additional harvest caused by hunting on Sunday may require wildlife managers to shorten hunting seasons for some animals.	ALL	867	27.6	21.7	24.0	6.7	20.1
	CST	240	26.7	25.4	22.9	7.5	17.5
	PDM	347	26.2	22.2	25.4	5.5	20.7
	MTN	280	30.0	17.9	23.2	7.5	21.4
u. Hunting on Sunday may provide additional hunting opportunities for working people.	ALL	872	40.7	14.6	15.7	4.7	24.3
	CST	239	40.2	16.7	14.2	4.2	24.7
	PDM	349	42.4	13.8	16.9	4.3	22.6
	MTN	284	39.1	13.7	15.5	5.6	26.1
v. Permitting hunting on Sunday may improve the public's attitude toward hunting.	ALL	867	18.6	11.8	31.9	6.2	31.5
	CST	239	18.4	12.6	31.0	6.3	31.8
	PDM	346	18.2	11.0	33.5	6.4	30.9
	MTN	282	19.1	12.1	30.9	6.0	31.9
w. Hunting on Sunday should not be permitted because Sunday is a holy day.	ALL	877	34.0	12.4	23.4	3.4	26.8
	CST	241	34.9	10.4	23.2	2.5	29.0
	PDM	350	31.4	13.4	21.7	3.1	30.3
	MTN	386	36.4	12.9	25.5	4.5	20.6
x. The hunting on Sunday ban violates my constitutional rights.	ALL	867	23.8	9.8	30.0	3.8	32.6
	CST	238	22.3	9.2	29.4	3.8	35.3
	PDM	346	26.0	11.3	30.3	4.3	28.0
	MTN	283	22.3	8.5	30.0	3.2	36.0
y. Noise associated with hunting activities may interfere with	ALL	873	28.1	20.2	24.2	5.5	22.1
	CST	240	27.1	19.2	25.8	5.4	22.5

Constraint	Level of Importance in Shaping Opinion on Sunday Hunting (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very	Somewhat	Neither	Somewhat	Very
			Important	Important		Unimportant	Unimportant
church activities.	PDM	350	24.6	23.1	21.7	4.3	26.3
	MTN	283	33.2	17.3	25.8	7.1	16.6
z. Hunting on Sunday should not be permitted because Sunday is a family day.	ALL	876	28.3	12.4	25.5	6.2	27.6
	CST	241	30.3	12.4	23.7	7.1	26.6
	PDM	350	24.6	14.0	26.0	6.0	29.4
	MTN	285	31.2	10.5	26.3	5.6	26.3

Q26. If hunting on Sunday were legalized, would you hunt on Sunday in North Carolina?

	% of Respondents				
	Region	n	Yes	No	Not Sure
If hunting on Sunday were legalized, would you hunt on Sunday in North Carolina?	ALL	882	47.1	40.4	12.6
	CST	243	46.5	39.9	13.6
	PDM	354	48.3	37.0	14.7
	MTN	285	46.0	44.9	9.1

Q26a. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days per year as you do now?

	%				
	Region	n	More Days (Skip to #27)	About the Same (Skip to #27)	Fewer Days (Cont. to #26b)
If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you hunt more days, fewer days, or about the same number of days per year as you do now?	ALL	856	36.9	60.2	2.9
	CST	237	35.0	61.6	3.4
	PDM	347	38.6	59.1	2.3
	MTN	272	36.4	60.3	3.3

Q26b. How many fewer days per year would you hunt in North Carolina? (Write a number in the space provided, and then skip to #31.) (If “Fewer Days” to Q26a; actual numbers reported appear in database.)

Statement	Fewer Days of Hunting if Sunday Were Legalized (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	0	1-2	3-10	11-20	21+
How many fewer days per year would you hunt in North Carolina?	ALL	18	44.4	5.6	33.3	5.6	11.1
	CST	5	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
	PDM	5	40.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	0.0
	MTN	8	62.5	0.0	25.0	0.0	12.5

Q27-30. The potential impact of Sunday hunting on number of hunter days. (Actual numbers reported appear in database.)

Statement	Region	n	Number of Days/Trips per Year (% of Respondents)				
			0	1-2	3-10	11-20	21+
27. Since July 1, 2005, how many days did you hunt in North Carolina that did not involve an overnight stay?	ALL	767	19.8	4.7	20.3	15.8	39.4
	CST	211	17.1	2.4	20.4	15.6	44.5
	PDM	310	22.3	6.1	16.8	12.6	42.3
	MTN	246	19.1	4.9	24.8	24.8	19.9
28. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how many more days per year would you hunt in North Carolina that would not involve an overnight stay?	ALL	771	48.9	3.8	28.7	11.5	7.1
	CST	213	50.7	1.4	29.6	11.3	7.0
	PDM	311	48.9	4.8	27.3	12.2	6.8
	MTN	247	47.4	4.5	29.6	10.9	7.7
29. Since July 1, 2005, how many overnight trips have you taken to hunt in North Carolina?	ALL	777	67.8	12.6	15.3	2.6	1.7
	CST	215	74.9	10.2	12.1	1.4	1.4
	PDM	315	67.3	11.4	16.2	3.5	1.6
	MTN	247	62.3	16.2	17.0	2.4	2.0
30. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how many more overnight trips per year would you take to hunt in North Carolina?	ALL	772	68.9	9.1	18.9	2.5	0.6
	CST	214	75.7	3.7	17.3	1.9	1.4
	PDM	313	66.5	11.2	19.2	2.9	0.3
	MTN	245	66.1	11.0	20.0	2.4	0.4

Q31. Since July 1, 2005, did you hunt outside of North Carolina?

	Region	n	% of Respondents	
			Yes	No
Since July 1, 2005, did you hunt outside of North Carolina?	ALL	875	20.1	79.9
	CST	243	14.0	86.0
	PDM	349	19.2	80.8
	MTN	283	26.5	73.5

31a. If yes to 31: If you hunted outside of North Carolina since July 1, 2005, please list all of the states or foreign countries where you hunted in the space below.

Species/Group	Region	# Yes	Species/Group	Region	# Yes
Alabama	ALL	7	Montana	ALL	4
	CST	1		CST	1
	PDM	1		PDM	2
	MTN	5		MTN	1
Alaska	ALL	2	Nebraska	ALL	1
	CST	0		CST	1
	PDM	1		PDM	0
	MTN	1		MTN	0
Arizona	ALL	0	Nevada	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	0

	MTN	0		MTN	0
Arkansas	ALL	6	New Hampshire	ALL	1
	CST	2		CST	0
	PDM	4		PDM	0
	MTN	0		MTN	1
California	ALL	0	New Jersey	ALL	1
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	1
	MTN	0		MTN	0
Colorado	ALL	6	New Mexico	ALL	2
	CST	2		CST	0
	PDM	1		PDM	2
	MTN	3		MTN	0
Connecticut	ALL	0	New York	ALL	3
	CST	0		CST	1
	PDM	0		PDM	0
	MTN	0		MTN	2
Delaware	ALL	0	North Carolina	ALL	---
	CST	0		CST	---
	PDM	0		PDM	---
	MTN	0		MTN	---
District of Columbia	ALL	0	North Dakota	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	0
	MTN	0		MTN	0
Florida	ALL	2	Ohio	ALL	8
	CST	0		CST	2
	PDM	0		PDM	3
	MTN	2		MTN	3
Georgia	ALL	18	Oklahoma	ALL	0
	CST	2		CST	0
	PDM	4		PDM	0
	MTN	14		MTN	0
Hawaii	ALL	0	Oregon	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	0
	MTN	0		MTN	0
Idaho	ALL	1	Pennsylvania	ALL	5
	CST	0		CST	1
	PDM	0		PDM	2
	MTN	1		MTN	3
Illinois	ALL	2	Rhode Island	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	1		PDM	0
	MTN	1		MTN	0
Indiana	ALL	1	South Carolina	ALL	63
	CST	1		CST	8
	PDM	0		PDM	27
	MTN	0		MTN	28
Iowa	ALL	3	South Dakota	ALL	4
	CST	0		CST	1
	PDM	2		PDM	2
	MTN	1		MTN	2
Kansas	ALL	4	Tennessee	ALL	11

Appendix G: Frequency Tables for Hunter Mail Survey

	CST	1		CST	1
	PDM	0		PDM	1
	MTN	3		MTN	9
Kentucky	ALL	8	Texas	ALL	4
	CST	2		CST	1
	PDM	0		PDM	1
	MTN	6		MTN	2
Louisiana	ALL	0	Utah	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	0
	MTN	0		MTN	0
Maine	ALL	3	Vermont	ALL	1
	CST	1		CST	0
	PDM	1		PDM	0
	MTN	1		MTN	1
Maryland	ALL	2	Virginia	ALL	48
	CST	0		CST	11
	PDM	1		PDM	20
	MTN	1		MTN	17
Massachusetts	ALL	0	Washington	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	0
	MTN	0		MTN	0
Michigan	ALL	2	West Virginia	ALL	17
	CST	2		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	9
	MTN	0		MTN	8
Minnesota	ALL	0	Wisconsin	ALL	6
	CST	0		CST	1
	PDM	0		PDM	2
	MTN	0		MTN	3
Mississippi	ALL	3	Wyoming	ALL	0
	CST	0		CST	0
	PDM	0		PDM	0
	MTN	3		MTN	0
Missouri	ALL	2	Other (non U.S.)	ALL	16
	CST	0		CST	5
	PDM	1		PDM	4
	MTN	1		MTN	7

31b. If yes to 31: How important was the ability to hunt on Sunday in your decision to hunt outside of North Carolina? (If Yes to Q31)

	Level of Importance (% of Respondents)						
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
How important was the ability to hunt on Sunday in your decision to hunt outside of North Carolina?	ALL	175	28.6	18.3	21.1	1.7	30.3
	CST	34	47.1	11.8	11.8	2.9	26.5
	PDM	66	13.6	19.7	30.3	1.5	34.8
	MTN	75	33.3	20.0	17.3	1.3	28.0

31c. If Yes to 31: If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how likely would you be to take fewer trips to hunt outside of North Carolina?

	Likelihood of Fewer Out-of-State Trips (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Likely	Not at all Likely	Don't Know
If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how likely would you be to take fewer trips to hunt outside of North Carolina?	ALL	173	16.2	30.3	47.4	11.6
	CST	33	21.2	20.0	42.4	6.1
	PDM	65	10.8	26.7	50.8	18.5
	MTN	75	18.7	24.9	46.7	8.0

32. Do you personally know a North Carolina resident who hunts in other states but does not hunt in North Carolina because of the hunting on Sunday ban?

	Region	n	% Yes	% No
	Do you personally know a North Carolina resident who hunts in other states but does not hunt in North Carolina because of the hunting on Sunday ban?	ALL	869	14.7
CST		241	8.7	91.3
PDM		344	213.7	86.3
MTN		284	21.1	78.9

Q33. Do you own land in North Carolina on which you currently allow hunting to occur?

	% of Respondents				
	Region	n	Yes	No, I am a landowner, but I do not allow hunting	No, I am not a landowner.
Do you own land in North Carolina on which you currently allow hunting to occur?	ALL	875	37.9	15.5	46.5
	CST	240	35.4	11.7	52.9
	PDM	351	44.0	17.1	48.1
	MTN	284	37.9	16.9	39.1

	Region	n	% Yes	% No	% Not Sure
	33a. If yes to 33: Do you allow hunters other than family members to hunt on your land?	ALL	318	71.7	28.3
CST		84	78.6	21.4	---
PDM		112	65.2	34.8	---
MTN		122	73.0	27.0	---
33b. If yes to 33: Do you allow hunters other than family members to hunt on your land?	ALL	443	33.0	58.7	8.4
	CST	110	31.8	56.4	11.8
	PDM	168	33.9	57.7	8.3
	MTN	165	32.7	61.2	6.1

Q34. Are you a member of a hunt club that hunts in North Carolina?

Region	n	% Yes	% No
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Are you a member of a hunt club that hunts in North Carolina?	ALL	867	27.8	72.2
	CST	240	40.8	59.2
	PDM	347	27.1	72.9
	MTN	280	17.5	82.5

	Likelihood of Hunt Club Participation (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Likely	Not at all Likely	Don't Know
34a. If yes to 34: If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to participate in Sunday hunts in North Carolina with your hunt club?	ALL	239	49.8	13.4	32.6	4.2
	CST	97	42.3	16.5	35.1	6.2
	PDM	92	57.6	13.0	26.1	3.3
	MTN	50	50.0	8.0	40.0	2.0
34b. If no to 34: If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to join a hunt club in North Carolina to hunt on Sunday?	ALL	585	5.8	15.6	65.5	13.2
	CST	135	5.9	15.6	68.1	10.4
	PDM	235	6.4	16.2	63.8	13.6
	MTN	215	5.1	14.9	65.6	14.4

Q35. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you be willing to pay more for you North Carolina hunting licenses to help pay for costs of implementing Sunday hunting?

	Region	n	% Yes	% No
	If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you be willing to pay more for you North Carolina hunting licenses to help pay for costs of implementing Sunday hunting?	ALL	874	35.0
CST		240	35.0	65.0
PDM		351	37.3	62.7
MTN		283	32.2	67.8

Q36. (If Yes to Q35) If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, would you be willing to pay [AMOUNT] more for the total costs of your North Carolina hunting licenses to help pay for the costs of implementing Sunday hunting?

Amount of increase	Region	n	% Yes	% No
	\$1.00 more	ALL	72	98.6
CST		20	100.0	0.0
PDM		34	97.1	2.9
MTN		18	100.0	0.0
\$2.00 more	ALL	73	100.0	0.0
	CST	20	100.0	0.0
	PDM	32	100.0	0.0
	MTN	21	100.0	0.0
\$5.00 more	ALL	54	98.1	1.9
	CST	18	100.0	0.0
	PDM	12	100.0	0.0
	MTN	24	95.8	4.2
\$10.00 more	ALL	42	97.6	2.4
	CST	15	100.0	0.0

	PDM	18	94.4	5.6
	MTN	9	100.0	0.0
\$20.00 more	ALL	32	68.8	31.3
	CST	6	66.7	33.3
	PDM	16	75.0	25.0
	MTN	10	60.0	40.0
\$50.00 more	ALL	32	46.9	53.1
	CST	5	40.0	60.0
	PDM	18	50.0	50.0
	MTN	9	44.4	53.1

Q37. Have you taken a friend or family member hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005?

	Region	n	% of Respondents		Don't Know
			Yes	No	
Have you taken a friend or family member hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005?	ALL	877	76.1	22.9	1.0
	CST	241	78.0	20.7	1.2
	PDM	350	76.3	23.1	0.6
	MTN	286	74.1	24.5	1.4

Q38. If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how likely would you be to take a friend or a family member hunting on Sunday in North Carolina?

	Likelihood of taking friend/family member on Sunday (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Likelihood			
			Very Important	Somewhat Likely	Not at all Likely	Don't Know
If hunting on Sunday were legalized, how likely would you be to take a friend or a family member hunting on Sunday in North Carolina?	ALL	876	38.0	12.8	44.3	4.9
	CST	243	36.2	13.6	43.6	6.6
	PDM	350	40.9	13.1	42.0	4.0
	MTN	283	36.0	11.7	47.7	4.6

Q39. Have you taken a youth (under 16 years of age) hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005?

	Region	n	% of Respondents		Don't Know
			Yes	No	
Have you taken a youth (under 16 years of age) hunting in North Carolina since July 1, 2005?	ALL	879	54.3	44.6	1.1
	CST	242	60.3	38.0	1.7
	PDM	351	52.1	47.0	0.9
	MTN	286	51.7	47.2	1.0

Q39a. If yes to 39: What relationship(s) were the youth(s) to you? (Check all that apply)

	Relationship of youth hunters (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Relationship			Not related
			Son or Daughter	Grandson/ Granddaughter	Other relative	
What relationship(s) were the	ALL	475	51.6	18.3	27.8	32.4

	Relationship of youth hunters (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Son or Daughter	Grandson/ Granddaughter	Other relative	Not related
youth(s) to you?	CST	145	46.9	20.7	28.3	40.0
	PDM	184	53.8	16.3	31.0	34.5
	MTN	146	53.4	18.5	23.3	31.5

Q39b. If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to take a youth hunting on Sunday in North Carolina?

	Likelihood of taking youth on Sunday (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	Very Important	Somewhat Likely	Not at all Likely	Don't Know
If hunting on Sunday were legalized in North Carolina, how likely would you be to take a youth hunting on Sunday in North Carolina?	ALL	850	31.8	15.4	47.1	5.8
	CST	232	29.7	17.7	44.4	8.2
	PDM	339	33.6	15.3	45.4	5.6
	MTN	279	31.2	13.6	51.3	3.9

DEMOGRAPHICS

Q40. Are you male or female?

	Region	n	% Male	% Female
	Are you male or female?	ALL	894	95.0
	CST	246	96.3	3.7
	PDM	358	94.7	5.3
	MTN	290	94.1	5.9

Q41. How old are you? (n=917, ALL; n=248, CST; n=370, PDM; n=299, MTN)

Age	Region	% of Respondents	Age	Region	% of Respondents
18-24	ALL	11.7	45-54	ALL	18.0
	CST	12.5		CST	18.1
	PDM	12.4		PDM	18.9
	MTN	10.0		MTN	16.7
25-34	ALL	17.4	55-64	ALL	15.7
	CST	19.0		CST	15.7
	PDM	18.1		PDM	14.6
	MTN	15.4		MTN	17.1
35-44	ALL	20.1	65+	ALL	17.1

	CST	19.0		CST	20.4
	PDM	20.5		PDM	15.4
	MTN	20.4		MTN	15.7

Q42. In what type of community do you currently live? (n=882, ALL; n=243, CST; n=355, PDM; n=284, MTN)

Type of Community	Region	% of Respondents
Large city (>100,000 people)	ALL	9.2
	CST	6.6
	PDM	14.9
	MTN	4.2
Small city (10,000-100,000 people)	ALL	20.4
	CST	18.5
	PDM	23.9
	MTN	17.6
Small town (<10,000 people)	ALL	17.2
	CST	18.1
	PDM	13.0
	MTN	21.8

Type of Community	Region	% of Respondents
Rural area on a farm	ALL	21.0
	CST	24.3
	PDM	16.6
	MTN	23.6
Rural area not on a farm	ALL	32.2
	CST	32.5
	PDM	31.5
	MTN	32.7

Q43. What is your highest level of education? (n=886, ALL; n=244, CST; n=354, PDM; n=288, MTN)

Education Level	Region	% of Respondents
Some high school or less	ALL	8.4
	CST	8.6
	PDM	6.8
	MTN	10.1
High school diploma or GED	ALL	30.9
	CST	29.5
	PDM	33.7
	MTN	30.9
Some college (incl. Assoc. degree) or trade school	ALL	40.5
	CST	43.4
	PDM	40.1
	MTN	38.5

Education Level	Region	% of Respondents
Bachelor's degree	ALL	13.7
	CST	13.5
	PDM	14.7
	MTN	12.5
Master's degree	ALL	4.7
	CST	3.3
	PDM	6.5
	MTN	3.8
Ph.D., M.D., J.D., or equivalent	ALL	1.8
	CST	1.6
	PDM	2.3
	MTN	1.4

Q44. On average, how many days per month do you attend church or other place of worship? (Actual numbers reported appear in database.)

	Days per Month of Church Attendance (% of Respondents)					
	Region	n	0 Days	1-2 Days	3-5 Days	6+ Days
On average, how many days per month do you attend church or other place of worship?	ALL	859	25.5	17.7	35.5	21.3
	CST	233	27.5	20.6	33.0	18.9
	PDM	350	27.4	17.4	36.0	19.1
	MTN	276	21.4	15.6	37.0	26.1

Q45. What was your total household income before taxes last year? (n=836, ALL; n=234, CST; n=334, PDM; n=268, MTN)

Income Level	Region	% of Respondents	Income Level	Region	% of Respondents
\$25,000 or less	ALL	12.6	\$50,000-\$74,999	ALL	25.5
	CST	13.7		CST	24.8
	PDM	10.5		PDM	25.1
	MTN	14.2		MTN	26.5
\$25,000-\$34,999	ALL	16.5	\$75,000-\$99,999	ALL	15.1
	CST	16.7		CST	15.4
	PDM	12.9		PDM	18.0
	MTN	20.9		MTN	11.2
\$35,000-\$49,999	ALL	15.8	\$100,000 or more	ALL	14.6
	CST	17.1		CST	10.8
	PDM	14.4		PDM	19.2
	MTN	16.4		MTN	12.4

If you have any additional comments, please write them in the space below or attach additional sheets. (A listing of all comments received appears below. Comments are unedited.)

- In my opinion Sunday hunting should not be allowed - Just another excuse for both man and women to not attend church - or other family events as stated in my answers I strongly apose Sunday hunting.
- When I was younger, I hunted as often as possible. Not being able to hunt on Sundays allowed me to spend time with my young family. I would not have done so if the opportunity to hunt on Sunday had existed. Young men with families need to spend at least Sunday with their families. Hunting is not everything in life but at times I made it so. I used Sunday to get ready for my next hunting trip. Six days a week is ample time to hunt. Let's reserve Sunday for peaceful pursuits and spending time with family. I love hunting but Sunday hunting is a bad idea. We all lived with restrictions of jobs and other obligations. Why can't people do it today?
- I strongly oppose Sunday hunting on religious grounds. Sunday is the Lord's Day, a day of worship and a day of rest. The Lord gave Sabbath principle in the Old Testament for both man and animals. Let's trust our Creator's wisdom and keep it that way for hunting in NC.
- I do not want to allow hunting on Sunday
- I do not have a problem with not being able to hunt on Sunday. If we are going to increase hunting lets extend the seasons by starting them on a Saturday and ending them on Saturday. E.G. "Deer Gun Season 2nd Saturday in October opens and closes on the 1st Saturday in January after New Years."
- I strongly oppose hunting on Sunday because that is the one day of the week that I can wander around in the woods and be relatively sure I won't be shot. Sunday is a good day to scout game and generally enjoy the outdoors and I don't feel I need to wear blaze orange to do so now. No Hunting on Sunday!!!
- Church does not take up an entire Sunday.

-
- There is enough game in N.C. to fill your bag limit for whatever game you are hunting. We don't need Sunday hunting, It would be just one more reason for non-hunters to hate hunters more!
 - I oppose hunting on Sunday.
 - Many other states already allow this. This is legal in N.C. on any of the bases (ex: Ft. Bragg) already. I see no difference in being allowed to hunt on Sunday as opposed to being able to fish on Sunday. This is a personal decision that should be left to the individual.
 - My sister loves to take nature walks. She is only allowed to walk with her dog on Sundays. My Dad is the same. He only gets out in the woods on Sunday afternoons due to the fact he knows he is much safer on Sundays. I just feel six days for the hunters is enough.
 - Legalized hunting on Sunday would greatly increase the amount of time that I, and most of the people I know, could enjoy hunting. Due to work and family commitments I can usually only hunt weekends. Since most states allow hunting on Sunday I feel that it is right, and sensible that North Carolina do likewise.
 - I believe Sunday is the Lords day and no hunting should be allowed at all. Sunday hunting in my opinion is not appropriate. Sundays should be set aside for worship and family time. If Sunday hunting is passed in North Carolina, I would lose all respect for the sport and not sure if I would hunt at all.
 - Absolutely opposed to Sun. hunting! Those of us that live in rural areas need a break from the hunters!
 - You should ask: Why is hunting on Sunday different than fishing on Sunday?
 - At least Sunday should be a day that people could enjoy the Forests, without worrying about guns being fired by hunters. The Forests are for everyone's enjoyment, at least give non-hunters one day.
 - Hunting has six days in the week. The public in which take photo's, eye shoots, scouting for game, location of game trails and routes. Bottom line there is more to keeping up hunting than just going out 7 days a week killing something.
 - The only limitations on hunting on Sunday I feel are necessary are as marked as designated recreation or hiking trails. Boundaries; zones around churches, or no hunting between time 10 and 1. We should have the right to hunt 2 day in row especially now that transportation is so expensive; but it should not interfere with other people's activities
 - PLEASE Enact Sunday hunting!
 - I own several 100 acres in North and South Carolina for timber production. Sunday after church is the day I use to manage my N.C. timber land. Hunters are in the woods on Sunday in SC.
 - I would like to see the season extended in Lincoln and Gaston Counties to January 1 so that when our youth get out for the Christmas holidays they would have a place to hunt.
 - Please BAN hunting deer with dogs. Please do NOT allow hunting on Sunday.

- Not enough game animals (deer) in region 3 to justify an annual hunting license. 2. Private property owners-posting property surrounding public game land. (No access)! 3. Hunting season is too short. 4. Have been hunting in South Carolina for past 15 years for reasons listed above.
- Hunters do not need another reason to be gone from home and family on Sunday. For many years I was an avid hunter who was in the woods every day off, Sunday was the lone day I could be found at home. Work and age have slowed my hunting but younger friends and family still feel the pull, these guys need Sunday to be at home with family.
- I work 6 days a week, and Sunday is the only day I can hunt. It is a shame I can't take my children hunting on Sundays! Families do everything else, why not hunt - I don't golf, boat etc.
- There is enough craziness that surrounds the six days per week that goes on during a hunting season. Sunday should be a day where hunting is not allowed.
- I feel like Sundays are a day of rest for hunters spend time with their smaller children and wife. The dogs need rest. Many hunters may spend time away from for church when normally would go. Some hunters use this for family day. The game wardens also need time off or may want to go to church also I am against hunting on Sundays. Thanks.
- I have run Barnes Hunting Lodge on Knotts Island NC for over 50 years. We hunt ducks, grouse, and swan, you have to have rest day. Please do not hunt on Sunday. Thanks
- For many years my family has been very strong members of a freewill Baptist Church my grandfather a deacon and my grandmother the thresher and a small boy I attended church by there side now as a father I have taken on that same responsibility of showing my children the greatness of our lord and savior. But at the same time being a Christian and a father and husband I was also an avid hunter and fisherman. But in being all of those I also had to hold down a job as a utility worker "powerlines" and the job keeps me gone from home and church also limiting my free time I mostly have to work 5 days sometimes 6 days a week leaving only a few hours through Sunday for free time for myself. So for me and the millions of hard working men and women like I believe we should have the right to be able to enjoy what free time I get to do as I wish under the laws of our great country and I believe this law saying that I cannot take my 5 year old son hunting for a few hours on Sunday between morning and evening service's of church is wrong and has taken very many important days for a father and son could have shared together and memories that would have lasted a life time. So I ask you fix this damaging law before any other damage is done to other young children but at the same time there is a right way and a wrong way to do anything like church zones make 5 square mile zones around the church's and give the children there memory's and hard working Americans there freedom.
- Sunday hunting should be up to each individual.
- We hunters are the managers of game populations. We need to have an ethical standard by which to manage wildlife. I strongly feel that animals need one day of the week where they are not pressured and pursued. Six days a week with the long seasons we have in North Carolina gives everyone plenty of opportunities to hunt. In states where the season only lasts a couple of weeks I can understand Sunday hunting, but not here in NC. If complaining hunters can't find opportunities to hunt in NC then it says more about their commitment to hunting than a lack of opportunities!!
- Va. should allow Sunday hunting! Please send me a copy of the summary results.

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- NC hunting has gotten much worse then when I was a child in the 70's. The quail are almost entirely gone. Turkeys have improved but not on public land. I've considered relocating to another state primarily for better hunting. Thank you for your efforts in this much needed survey.
 - I don't know if I should be part of this representative group. My son whom was my hunting partner, died 8 years ago, and I have not hunted like I use to before his death.
 - Need to kill out more deer in our county, but not on Sunday
 - Strongly support - Hunting on Sunday after 1:00 pm.
 - I do not hunt anymore, I am 80 yrs old. I do not walk. Thank you.
 - I personally would probably not hunt on Sunday, but my husband, son, and grandson would hunt some. I think hunting on Sunday is up to the individual and it should be allowed.
 - I have a farm I hunt on in S.C. and since hunting on Sunday was allowed I have seen a decrease in big bucks. But most of all, Sunday is the Lords Day, and it would keep people out of church, and if you believe in God you know he would not be very pleased with hunting on Sunday. You are welcome for my time, you probably won't read it anyway. Thank you
 - Sorry I had to be reminded to do this survey!
 - Please don't allow Sunday hunting! I'm a Christian and don't want this going on on the Lord's Day. Also, I think it will only give the anti-gun crowd and the animal activists more ammunition to use to further their cause against us as hunters. Thank you!
 - The Lord created the Heavens and Earth and everything in it in 6 days - We call all fill our tags in 6 as well. Even animals need to rest.
 - Thank you for an opportunity to be a voice in this decision. I have hunted in other states on Sunday. To me it's not a day of the week issue it's merely the fact that most licensed hunters I know work typical M-F jobs allowing nothing but 1 day (Saturday) weekly to hunt. To me this is a major unfairness towards the people who are the majority, not the exception. NCWRC should consider selling discounted licenses to these hunters if the ban is not lifted. You should be able to save man power (enforcement) money during the week. The flipside of the issue is the NCWRC decides not to lift as they want to increase fees if it is. I am, as well as any 70 year old Lifetime sportsman lifetime subscriber to NC Wildlife (a NCWRC publication) and a strong supporter of NCWRC But in closing it's time to do the right thing. I want to hunt with my family on Sundays.
 - The Holy Bible tells you Sunday is the Sabbath Day, and that's why I'm not for any hunting on Sunday and never will be. Thank you.
 - I think hunting should not be allowed on Sunday because hunting is already way too dangerous for non hunters in the wood today.
 - I would love to see Sunday hunting. As some people work late and after the time changes evening is out except for Saturdays. The game moves well around her in the evenings.
 - Hunting on Sunday should be any decision, to much control now, too many deer on roads now, this would help a lot, also hunting through Jan. each yr.

- If I have not made my opinion clear I do not want hunting to be allowed in North Carolina.
- With work and school @ 5 days a week, more family outings would occur (2 day vs. one) 2. With Sat and Sun to hunt, less crowding on Saturdays would be safer!!! 3. Laws should favor ""personal"" choice. 4. You can fish on Sunday! Strongly support Sunday hunting!
- Sundays should be a day for worship and rest. Hunting should never be allowed on Sunday.
- There is no need for hunting on Sunday. Most hunters now kill only for sport and it is unfair to the deer and others around, Not only do they kill just to kill they kill way to young a animal and there are no more big game in this area. If you want do something help catch the ones that are fire lighting and killing just for fun and you want Sunday hunting. No we do not want Sunday hunting.
- Dog hunting should be banned.
- Please do not make Sunday into a hunting day. I know people make their own choices. But this is the Lord's day. A day of rest don't destroy it. Why can't N.C. have season til January instead of hunting on Sunday thats what people are asking. Then N.C. won't have to pay for someone on Sunday because (wildlife managers) they work year around so just let hunters hunt until January.
- Bow Season 7 day a week Add 14 days and muzzleloader with Sunday 7 days of steal hunting with Sundays Reg. Gun seasons 6 days a week
- Make hunting classes more available to public.
- Wildlife officers, hunters, and animals deserve a day of rest
- Hunting on Sunday would be wonderfull. I have 6 friends that hunt with me. Please send more surveys for them to send out to support Sunday hunting. Thank you
- I attend church 2-3 times a year.
- I feel big game, such as, deer, bear, etc., could be hunted for sure. Shots are fewer and more wide spread. I am open to rules regarding times to hunt.
- Obviously, I am opposed to all hunting on Sunday.
- I work 2 jobs Sunday hunting would be great. We stay by the limit so no more deer would be taken. My dogs would enjoy the running. It might get me a big buck, before the still hunters get him while I'm working during the week.
- Due to bad knee I about quit hunting. I had total knee replacement 3-7-06. I hope to coon and squirrel hunt again with dogs and deer and turkey hunt on stand or ground. Sunday's I go to church but would hunt late Sat. and Sun. evening. Thanks When I was well I leased land in S.C. and G.A. years ago.
- Most game animals breed or give birth to young during hunting season. One day per week gives them time to rest breed care comfortably for themselves purpose of hunting is not to run the animal till it drops from fatigue but to skillfully hunt the game. I hunt for meat on my table an animal run to death is bitter - tuff whngie in odour.

- I really hate to see a tradition that this state has had for so many year dissapper like so many other already have, but I really have had many times I wish I had the chance to hunt when I had the chance but could not because of the Sunday band. So I am torn between the two. Good luck and I will support either.
- Bear hunting should be done without dogs Hunting over bait, will give the hunter a choice what to shoot, or not to shoot. Dog's don't know one bear from another size doesn't matter. This will keep people from other area's, with dog's from coming to our area's, an just wippeing out, our population of bear in a few days - it take's a while to set them back - year's- Thanks
- I as a hunter and fisherman do not feel that the N.C. WRC should allow itself to be "bullied" into Sunday hunting. We have six days to catch or kill something. Even God rested on the seventh day.
- Thank you for sending me this survey. I love my family and my church. Both of my 2 sons and 3 nephews all hunt on a 200 ac farm owned by my family. We also have access to another 100 ac. We are blessed. We also let uncles and friends to hunt with us on the farm. If this passes we will still not allow hunting on Sunday, that is our day with family, god and to give the wildlife a day of rest.
- I believe hunting on Sunday will hurt hunting in NC. Because it will stop land lease for public hunting from farmers. Most public land is leased from farmers.
- Retired Limit bowhunting to "one" week like muzzleloading!
- Overall, I would most likely not hunt on Sundays due to personal choice. I do no see anything wrong with hunting on Sundays. I believe we should have that option and then the hunt clubs and individuals of North Carolina make the final decision.
- I can not relay any personal feelings concerning hunting on Sunday by just answering these questions. I personally feel that such would be to a sin (of not keeping the Sabbath holy). 2. If this is suppose to be representative of all hunters why "of all I know" I am the only one to receive an survey? (all of these are sportsmen life time holders)."
- Sunday hunting should be left up to the hunters on whether to hunt or not and a limit should be put on how close a person can hunt around a church during church hours
- Thanks for creating such a professional survey, it was interesting. One note - you may want to consider varmit hunting as it seems to be the fastest growing segment.
- Please turn more raccoons loose in Chatham County for the coon hunters.
- I feel that Sunday hunting shouldn't be allowed This is still the Lords day and more and more we take him out of America. Its time we as hunters help put the Lord back in America and to teach our kids the same as we were taught.
- I strongly and sincerely request and urge that Sunday hunting not be allowed in North Carolina. My family farm is overrun already with unauthorized users. Most are in violation of one or more laws, but violation is not incentive to correct their behavior. I do not want to add Sunday hunting to their perceived entitlements. I hunt but not on Sunday, and I do enjoy the break from partrolling against poachers on one day a week. The arguements for it are all self-serving. In my opinion the rights of land-owners are more valid than those of the hunters who see our property as their entitlement. I do

not want more responsibilities for owning and preserving the private use of my land. Sunday hunting is a mistake!

- Sunday, always has and should remain to be the LORD's DAY. We should respect those with the same values; even if this rule doesn't apply to the particular individual in question. More and more society is pushing to get away from the basics that this country was founded upon and I fear that may be our ultimate downfall. Each time a group determines that GOD be taken out of our schools, business, and everyday life; we jeopardize the future of our children and good ol' USA!!!
- I'm a tradesman, a working man. I have been my whole life. I live for the weekends. I also live for hunting season. To have only one day of my weekend for hunting makes no sense to me. If you ask for volunteer, if needed for Sunday hunting I'm sure most sportsman would gladly volunteer. I'm very happy to fill out this survey. I hope this will help in getting us Sunday hunting.
- Every thing and every needs a day of rest, this should apply to hunting as well
- Thank you for asking me about Sunday hunting.
- Retired You can go to ball games on Sunday or most anything you want to so why not be able to go hunting if you desire. Most folks could hunt early or evening and still worship as they please.
- Laws are to confusing to read! To much land leased by huntclubs! To much church involvement! Need separation of church and state! I thought we had that in the constitution.
- I have hunted mostly in S.C. for the last 8 years because of the longer gun season for big game and Sunday hunting even though I have Life Time NC Sportsman Licenses.
- My only comment - that I have always thought - is that we can all fish on Sunday, so why can't we hunt on Sunday as well?
- To make things simple I wouldn't change my way of hunting.
- Sunday was ment for a day of rest. I feel that we are changing our laws to quick and too often, getting away from the ideals of our for fathers. If there is any Hunting on Sunday in should be for food only. Not for Sport. For Food only For Consumption that Day!!! With the mindset of the population today is greed, take what they want when they want. They brag about sitting by there bedroom window waiting for a deer inside the city limits of a large residential area. this is the main reason I oppose this. Because these kind of people kill for sport. I see the incrochment of big city's expanding and taking away habitat. Deer and other animals dead on the side of the road. That is sick.
- "Sir, Its urgent to provide opportunities for disabled, handicapped and youths to hunt, fish, mount...wildlife management...youth programs. I provide free youth and handicapped classes for wildlife management in N.C. which put law in schools, abuse task force, and disabled sportsman program in law in this state which cost me 26,760 in 3 years and 2 months...March 3, 1990 to May 3, 1992...5 night weekly. If I could afford it I'll do it again. Please help place it in every high school in N.C. Fish and wildlife is N.C. way of life in every family...always has been and always will be. God's Grace! Thank you..."
- Sunday hunting should not be permitted. Law Enforcement since 1968.

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- Please don't allow Sunday hunting.
 - I have just retired and am hopeful that I can hunt more days per year from now on.
 - Have been disabled since early 2001 and so far haven't been able to do a lot of things I used to do - walking on soft ground or standing especially. Also can't sit for long periods of time. I know Sunday is the only time a lot of people may be able to hunt without missing work - I feel in my heart that the only way or reason hunting should be allowed on Sunday - is for the need of food.
 - I do not think Sunday hunting should happen! I do alot other activities like horse back riding with young children on Sundays and don't want to be worried about hunters in neighboring forests! It is a day of rest and family fun.
 - I strongly support Sunday hunting. However, I strongly oppose day hunting for white tail deer. I would give up Sunday hunting in order to ban dog hunting! We have more problems with dogs trespassing on leased land than any other hunting problems.
 - The main reason I approve of Sunday Hunting because it will give people who have a full 5 day a week job and possible 6 days a chance to enjoy the sport of hunting more.
 - I do not want Sunday hunting permitted!
 - I would not hunt any in North Carolina if Sunday hunting was legalized. I would quit hunting.
 - I think the hunting on Sunday would benefit us hunters that work Monday - Friday and therefore only have Saturday to hunt, this it would give us an extra day of hunting, and a better chance of bagging more game and trophy animals like the rest of our hunting buddies.
 - I know a lot of hunters that work 6 days/wk and don't get a chance to hunt. This is a lot of lost revenue for the state.
 - Where I hunter it end December 12 it need to last till January 1 like every where we have to go to other place's to hunt til January. Like South Carolina, Georgia or North Carolina,
 - Every year on our land there is at least 20 deer dumped off a bridge on our road. I have taken pictures of this and sent to our wildlife resources commission. In talking on the phone with them they say it is like this all through our state. Wildlife needs 1 day a week without so much hunting pressure. Thanks
 - I think N.C. Wildlife Commission does an extremely good job in all areas. I do think N.C. could/should have more Wildlife Officers. PS I am 66 yrs. old, born and raised in N.C. I have hunted/fished ever since I was old/big enough to carry a shot-gun (7 yrs) and enjoyed every minute 99.9%. Thanks for you concern and including me in your survey.
 - Some of your questions seem to be phrased wrong for the answer choices, that, I had to pick from. Sunday hunting will remain the same for me. If a hunter wants to hunt on Sunday let him or her do so. I'm going to church if "God" permits me to do so. Thank you.
 - No hunting on Sunday!

- As a Christian, I would never participate in Sunday hunting. I also feel it would have a negative effect on private land availability because of Christian land owners who are opposed to Sunday hunting. (They may not lease their land at all) In general, I see no need for Sunday hunting at all! I would be very much in favor of longer seasons in some N.C. counties.
- I do not believe in hunting on Sunday. It is a day of worship.
- Yes, I am 100% for hunting on Sunday in N.C.
- The only day of the week that is safe to walk in the woods during deer season is Sunday. More than anything I think this is a safety issue more than religious. I'm against hunting on Sunday but if it passes, "bow only"
- My hunting is mostly deer hunting on my own land. I am very much opposed to hunting on Sunday.
- I think if the cost of hunting licenses go up the bag limits should go up as well.
- I believe you should be able to hunt on any day of the week you choose. I wish bear hunting with dogs would be stopped. Bear hunters with dogs give other dogs hunters a bad rap.
- I think a lot of thought needs to go into how to structure Sunday hunting so that both hunters and none hunters are satisfied. *I think a bigger problem in N.C. is the reckless firing of high powered rifles. Deer hunters who use dogs fire high powered rifles from trucks and ground levels with no thought on where the bullet will go if it misses. Regulations on safe shooting need to be enforced. ***High powered rifles need to be a minimum of 10 to 15 feet off the ground.
- Dog hunting is a very bad problem in the areas we/I hunt in Caswell Co. A lot of the blocks of land are too small to contain dogs and hunters leave them (dogs) out for weeks at a time due to not being able to find them, or they trespass a lot of times to get them. They will run packs of dogs thru small blocks of land and ruin hunting for most still hunters from the beginning of gun season till the end of it. Thank you!
- If Sunday hunting is allowed, it should be done with certain time restraints to assure church activities are not hindered, mainly morning worship service. For example, hunting could be allowed from sunrise to 9:00 am and 3:00 pm to sunset. If Sunday hunting is approved, it should be "still hunting" only (no dogs and chasing trucks). I don't know how you would implement it but hunting should not be allowed within a mile of an active church. I attend church every Sunday morning but I am not opposed to Sunday hunting. However, I believe worship services should be respected and undisturbed. If worship services suffer because of hunting activities I would keep the ban on Sunday hunting. Sounds like a "logistics nightmare" to me. "Have fun"
- I'm a female who only usually hunts the first 2 days of dove season. I don't understand why this survey was not sent to my husband who hunts dove, deer, ducks, rabbits (pretty much anything he can hunt)! I (and some of my female friends) are against Sunday hunting because it's the one day a week that our husbands can't go and can spend time at home!
- Sabbath rest is a scriptural and Godly principal. Rest for people and creation are a part of this doctrine. History and immoral and sinful. Greed is the motivator here. Many friends are dropping NRA connections over this.

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- Q33. I would allow hunting, and would hunt myself on my land but due to my area I am not legally allowed. 25c. There is too much time and tax money wasted on government agencies already. We need less governmental control and less staffing as well. Thank you.
 - I do not want to hunt on Sunday in N.C. Do not contact me again.
 - No Sunday hunting
 - I would like to know if it is passed to be able to hunt on Sunday
 - I hunt on my own land mostly, and I buy hunting licenses to help Wildlife Resources. I hunt for my own meat and I don't keep taking more than I need, so I would rather see a longer 6 day per week hunting rather than 3 weeks of gun and 1 one week of primitive weapons.
 - Sundays should be a time to spend with family and friends; a day of rest people as well as animals.
 - N.C. Should Never Have Hunting on Sunday!
 - Let us hunt on Sunday make it where we can hunt on Sunday if we want to
 - I'm in favor of hunting on Sunday after 1:00 pm. It gives you the chance to introduce more people (anyone) to the joys of hunting and companionship and the great outdoors.
 - I don't understand why Sunday hunting would cost the Wildlife Service more money to have Game Wardens working. I thought they worked on Sunday anyway. I have seen them checking fishermen on Sundays.
 - When my wife Sheleud permits we go hunting together deer and turkey. If Sunday hunting was permitted we would have more days to hunt together. My wife would like a chance at this survey. Thank you.
 - I work 12 hour shifts 3 and 4 days a week. Plus the house and yard work do be done. Hunting on Sundays would give me more time with my family doing what we most enjoy. We never hunt near Church during the week days and wouldn't on Sunday either.
 - I would like to see more ATV access on Public lands, Sell permits for Forest Service Roads Only. As they do in Colorado. This could produce revenue for additional staff, and game improvement programs
 - I support legalization of hunting on Sunday for all hunting "with dogs." Don't rule no one hunter out if you pass it.
 - We don't need deer hunting on Sunday passed. 2. Church is more important for our children and grown ups. 3. I am 74 yrs old, no hunting on Sunday Lord's Day.
 - I'm disabled and don't hunt anymore, but I enjoy fishing.
 - I am vehemently opposed to any regulations seeking to limit the hunting of big game with hounds in N.C. I also believe that Sunday hunting would cause public opinion to shift negatively toward hunting. I have hunted most of the fifty states and in 3 countries outside the U.S. and have never seen a real benefit to Sunday hunting. Thanks.

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- The deer population is getting out of control there needs to be a limit increase to thin out the population because there are many wrecks because of deer.
 - Being a disabled vet I hunt some on Ft. Bragg on Sundays, because I enjoy it. But the reg's and restrictions are a major hassel signing in and out etc. but I like that Sunday option.
 - I think only question 22 was needed in this survey.
 - I strongly support hunting on Sunday, because most hunter unless retired work during the week. Sunday hunting would give us with limited days a few more opportunities. Furthermore if religion is a deciding factor what about some religions that hold services and worship on Saturdays. Those hunters that attend Sunday Services are still going to attend, the fact that you could hunt wouldn't change anyone's beliefs. I've also heard the argument that hikers, bikers, and horseback riders wouldn't feel safe if Sunday hunting was allowed. Most hunting takes place in the cooler months when other outdoor activities are at their lowest time of year as far as the amount of people enjoying them. Besides, hunters and other outdoor recreationists have enjoyed the woods together for years on end with very few accidents. Yes, they do happen but so do auto accidents, plane crashes, boating, and cycling, and industrial accidents. Almost all of these with a much greater percentage than hunting accidents. So in closing please don't base the decision of Sunday hunting on a few biased hiking associations that want the outdoors to themselves, and let's face it without funds from hunters and fisherman would be thousands, probably millions of acres less of. Thank You Concerned Hunter
 - I am 80 years old and do not hunt and certainly not on Sunday.
 - I strongly oppose hunting on Sundays. This is a day of rest not only for the hunter but also for the game. If we as hunters and fishermen do not take care of our resources that God has entrusted to us we will not have animals to hunt or fish to catch in a few years.
 - No Sunday hunting!
 - Observance of religious convictions should not, by government edict, be permitted to restrict other activities people choose to pursue.
 - I don't think deer hunting should be permitted on Sunday and particularly on game lands. Particularly late in the season when hunters are tired I am extremely concerned about hunting accidents and hunter incidents.
 - I hunt 40 - 50 days/year in Virginia. The seasons are too long and wildlife needs a break. I am against Sunday hunting.
 - I would like a copy of the results. Thank you
 - Sunday being a family day ha - I know meaning families that a family active is hunting.
 - Need to provide some foodplots in the Region 3 to help manage the deer herd and help make the does have more fawns and stay healthy and keep the wild dogs away such as wolfs and coyotes and get rid of the elk They are hurting the deer herd just look at Catalochee Ranch you don't see any deer no more.

- Thanks for conducting this survey. It is long over do.
- Hunters should be in church on Sunday!
- Thanks for sending out a survey that could possibly spark some interest in Sunday hunting. In my area we have Bingo, Beer sales, and drag races on Sunday. I guess it's alright to knock a few back and speed to the gambling hall but it's no O.K for my son and I to spend a few hours together in the woods doing what we enjoy on a Sunday. Thank you
- Hunting on Sunday is a horrible idea. The only reason the state is considering this is to make more money. Hunting on Sunday will negatively affect families. Fathers need to spend time with their families and Sunday is typically the only day this happens for avid hunters. Don't hurt NC families to raise more funds!
- I would just like to say that I am over worked and under payed. P.S. Jesus loves you yes you Have a great day
- Hunting on Sunday should not be legalized at all in N.C. because hunt clubs already take more than their legal bag limit as is it now. Game wardens need to keep a closer check on clubs - Sunday hunting would only increase the number of illegal kills by clubs. People that don't hunt need this day to enjoy public lands. Also during the hunting season for big game horses, motorcycles, 4-wheelers and hikers should not be allowed in the woods on public land. They have Sundays and 8 other months to enjoy these areas without interfering with hunters that get to use the land for 4 months.
- I moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina for military purposes. Hunting in NC is quite different and the deer are smaller and less populous. Hunting on Sundays would give me (a member of the military) one more day to attempt to get a deer. Thank you
- NC Wildlife works on Sundays. They have checked me when fishing. Would hunt more if Sunday was allowed working for a hospital we have to work some Sat. Sunday is a day of worship, so are other days of the week, (Wed.) (Sat. youth night). To respect the people that are opposed Sun. hunts should be still hunting only it's a lot quieter. (Big game hunting)
- Sunday hunting in North Carolina is very important to the working families for Sundays are the only day off for working families. Our hunting clubs and families have turned to South Carolina to hunt because of easy access to game lands and Sunday hunting. North Carolina really needs to improve access to its hunting lands. There are thousands of hunters from North Carolina hunting other states because of no Sunday hunting and poor game lands in North Carolina.
- Thanks for the opportunity to take this survey and give opinion. An additional survey should be considered w/ re: to the season lengths for primitive weapons vs gun for deer. S.C. allows gun and primitive weapon use from the first day. More white tail deer could be harvested and more easily managed if the season was opened as it is in S.C. The management of white tail is extremely important to our state. Gun hunters are that management tool. Please lengthen the gun season for us all, even if Sunday hunting is not allowed.
- If hunting is allowed on Sundays A- Game wardens must give up their church activities and family time B- Sunday pay is 1 1/2 x's normal wages C- Too many families like to hike and do family activities on Sundays. 2- We live at the entrance to a national forest love to be out with the family, and not dodging hunters while on a picnic

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- I feel that hunters and game animals should have a day of rest from hunting or being hunted. I also feel that nonhunters who live in or near hunting areas should have a day without concern with hunters or gunfire in their area.
 - I think hunting should be allowed in NC on Sunday. One of the main reasons is, like myself, many hunters work Mon - Fri and some on Sat. This would give those hunters more of a chance for a harvest. It would also give them more of a chance to take youth into the field. Thanks.
 - Although I have a license, I haven't hunted in N.C. Only been in NC for 2 years.
 - Why is a study for NCWRC being done by Va. Tech? Has this turned into a doctoral thesis or is no one at NCSU or any other in state campus competent enough for it?
 - I don't believe you should hunt on Sundays. I think the bag limits should be raised to cut down on white tail population. Because they cause alot of damage to cars and trucks and to farmers crops."
 - I am opposed to any increase in license fees to support hunting on Sundays.
 - Sunday is day for worship. (But everybody does not worship)
 - I'm retired so I can hunt when ever I please. But for hunters who work, I see no reason they couldn't hunt on Sunday after 1:00 p.m. Church is very important to me, I'm a Christian and I don't want any thing to lead a young person, not to except Jesus as their savior. May God bless you and all hunters. Thank you.
 - We need hunting on Sunday's. It would give everybody more time to enjoy the outdoors.
 - No hunting on Sunday.
 - Duck hunting and bird hunting is different type of dog hunting than open chase for deer, bear and small game.
 - I am against Sunday hunting in any shape fashion or form for any reason. Animals need a day of rest. People need a day of rest. God created six days and rested the seventh day and hallowed it. It seems that all laws that are past now try to leave God out of every thing. I think that if nation wants to continue to be blessed by God and do well, we need to start to reverse this trend
 - Also I would like some information on how to get a lifetime sportsman sticker for my vehickel. Thanks.
 - I think dog hunting should be banned all together in counties that don't have contiguous tracts of 50 acres or more. I would also pay \$5.00 more for licenses to increase the number of wildlife officers for North Carolina and to offset the Sunday duties for enforcement. But legalizing Sundays to hunt I would strongly support and think it would be better for the working community as well as local economies.
 - Your questions 24 a - 1 are somewhat hard to answer - I might favor them if they are the only alternative, is w/ restrictions. However my preference is Sunday hunting without restrictions!

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- Your question should also ask about population of game and forget church. Yes we attend church but it can not dictate our activities. Those days are long gone.
 - I do not agree to hunting on Sundays. Sunday is a day of rest, church, and family. It also gives game animals a day of rest.
 - Like to hunt on Sunday. The way I work. I can only hunt on Sat. evenings.
 - If Sunday hunting is allowed, I believe we will have a sharp increase in accidents and deaths and hunters or gun owners will get a lot of negative criticism. I believe the game will suffer due to added pressure.
 - Stop all net fishing and shrimping within 3 mile limit from our shoreline. Allow no shrimping in bays or where fish spawn and raise. You idiots know what kind of damage it does. You only need to go to other states along the east coast and see how it helps to ban it.
 - Totally against hunting on Sundays Thanks for the survey
 - I believe hunting should be allowed as fishing is allowed. I really don't like deer hunting with dogs. But if dog hunting continues and/or is allowed on Sundays, there should be a large restriction and/or buffer zone around churches. In our country the dog hunters are all over the place with trucks, C.B. Radios and a pile of hunters. So please restrict the dogs and hunter cause dogs can't manuals or not trespassing signs.
 - There are many fine wildlife officers, but in my opinion, Officer Eddie Alston needs psychological evaluation.
 - Regardless of religious faith, Sunday should still be a day when (even me as a hunter) should be made to rest. As stated in this survey, other outdoorsmen should not have to worry about hunters. Also, I do not like the idea of having to pay extra for a day I will not hunt on.
 - Based on this survey you will notice a few things about me. I'm opposed to Sunday hunting. Yes it's because it's a time to worship and be with family. Our country was built on both of these (family and Jesus Christ). Don't forget that. 2nd - I don't hunt small game much. I grew up on small game but the game mainly quail are not worth the time it takes to find them (need some help here). Private land to hunt on has become as hard to find as quail. 3rd - I'm a deer hunter, my wife and oldest daughter (15 yrs old) are also deer hunters. NC has a great population of whitetail. No complaints there. My wife and daughter are able to hunt and take a deer on most hunts if they choose to. Key words (a deer). I travel to other states because our quality of deer will not compare to Kentucky Ohio, and West V. I would like to see that change.
 - Please, if at all possible, keep the ban on hunting on Sunday. It is the only day of rest and one of the great traditions we have left. Be fair to the workers of NC State Dept and let them rest also. If people can't give up one day. They need to find time during the week.
 - We have taken prayer out of schools, and God's name out of everything around us and look what our world has come to. God gives up his undivided attention all day every day, we need to at least give him one day. Please send me all the info you have. I want to help!!
 - Should allow crossbow hunting also.

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- I and my other family members would love to hunt Sundays. I hope this will help some.
 - Sunday hunting is very dangerous because to much activities people hiking, riding bicycles to many people out in the woods along roads. Me and my family hunts for meat. Not for fur. To many people drinking and taking drugs. Hunting with dangerous weapons, way to big calibers weapons. Shooting at target.
 - I think shooting guns and hunters running up and down the roads on Sunday is stupid, an something that doesn't need to be. (Longer seasons maybe not Sundays)
 - If this were your last day on earth, where would you spend eternity? Don't let hunting send us the wrong way.
 - I think that hunting should be allowed on Sunday so that we can take our kids hunting on Sunday. And it should be for kids or youth's only in the mornings and grown ups in the evening.
 - In North Carolina, most factories or companies work on Saturdays. That limits hunters who don't get additional vacation time, which is my reason for wanting Sunday to be additional hunting days.
 - Questions #35-36 N.C. already saves money by going to the call in check in system. This should never have been started. If they want to bring back the check in system, I would gladly pay more for my licenses. Thanks
 - Shorten the season in far western N.C. on big game or reduce the take. Close the deer season in Graham County (no deer).
 - Do no legalized hunting on Sunday It is no good for anyone
 - Survey is too long!
 - I think Sunday hunting would be good to help control the whitetail deer population because there are a lot of deers and more get hit by cars than are killed by hunters. Something needs to be done to balance the population of the deers.
 - It should be a person's choice. Sunday is supposed to be a day to relax. And hunting relaxes many people. Most people who oppose it because they say Sunday is supposed to be a day of rest. Do not mind going to there local Wal-Mart or favorite restaurant and causing others to have to work.
 - My main concern about Sunday hunting is the impact on waterfowl seasons. The total number of days allowed to hunt migratory gamebirds is federally mandated. Sunday hunting would effectively shorten the season because Sundays would be included in the total allotment.
 - I would like archery hunting cut back and more muzzleloader days
 - Hunting on Sunday is wrong. It is a day of worship
 - Just to let the guys know what a great job they are doing. And I am willing to pay more for license to finance the commission's continued enforcement and management!
 - I maintain a hunting/fishing license but do not hunt. I have no opinions so am not completing the survey.

- Some questions I left remarks. In general, the state want me (forcing) to be religious or to be holy for one day? State does not have a say in my individual beliefs or rights. They adopt and pass laws for which we abide by because of protection or rights of the majority of populace. To pass laws strictly based on "religious" or "holy day" is unconstitutional! That title is a "right" (Bill of Rights) of the individual, not state! It's called freedom of choice.
- I feel that if go to church that you will pattern your hunts around that. I feel with school kids it is advantageous to allow Sunday hunts, so the kids have a few more days to spend with the parents.
- I strongly oppose changing existing laws to permit Sunday hunting in North Carolina.
- Hunting with dogs causes the most problems for hunters with landowners. Dog hunting should be restricted.
- I strongly oppose hunting on Sunday under any circumstances. I hope this helps your survey.
- Sunday is the only day the Lord told us to rest and to worship him in church. America is turning its back on the Lord little by little do you all want to be apart of that. I pray not please respect the Lord and his word. I love to hunt, but I love the Lord more! After all he is the one who gave use everything that we hunt!!
- I am for Sunday hunting and I would like to see North Carolina have more gamelands for hunting in piedmont region.
- p.8 #25b This is the main questions of the survey. What is fair for all. At this time hunters get 6 days of the week for the sport.
- Sunday is just another day. People that go to church have no more right then people that want to hunt on Sunday. The bad part is that it only takes a few bad people to end a good thing for so many good people."
- I approve Sunday hunting due to increase hunting times for those who work. The ability to hunt on Sunday only affects those who want to hunt on Sundays. No one forces people to hunt on Sundays.
- I have noticed there were several questions regarding the ethics of a day of rest for the animals. I don't believe hunting on Sunday would be any different than fishing on Sunday.
- The length of the season should be longer. Deer season in McBee, S.C. from Sept. 1 - Jan. 1.
- It is in my opinion that hunting should not be allowed on Sunday. I would imagine that there will be more hunters for it than against it, but I believe that when this happens the Wildlife Resources Commission will realize in the future that they have made a huge mistake. Thank you.
- Give the animals a rest and give God sometime. We're get less and less land to hunt, and more time to hunt that land is foolish.
- I would like to state, that you could attend church on Sunday, and still after church, go on an afternoon hunt. I don't think that if you could hunt on Sunday, that it would effect attendance at church. Thank you.

- #1 - NC should allow non residence hunters to buy a lic. for residence rates if they already have a lic in their home state and their home state does the same for our hunters. This would bring in out of state money going both ways - i.e. in and out of state that would not normally be spent on hunting - our hunters would hunt in other states spending money on everything involved and it would be the same coming into our state #2 - The counties should not be able to change or make local laws concerning hunting - the laws should be equal across the state - it is too confusing now!
- Note: Apology for misplacing my survey form. Hunting is my life's enjoyment. Due to a broken back my time hunting is limited for health reasons. I enjoy my lifetime hunting license (a gift) from my retired veteran father.
- What ever the cost, we owe it to the youth of tomorrow, the enjoyment that has been ours and previous generations, time spent in the fields chasing a dog (the master hunter).
- I am a strong believer that hunting on Sunday should not be allowed. This is a day of worship, fellowship with family and rest. I appreciate you contacting me for this survey.
- Please consider that hunting is a family tradition, so is going to church to worship God. Which is what this country was founded on. Remember in ""God we trust"". Hunting has become so commercialized like everything else. Its liberals like yourselves that will ruin this country with all this crap about whose rights are being violated. What about me the 41 yr old father of 3 tring to teach my kids right from wrong. But you'll change the laws to make more money and make some other reasons why. And I have to make my kids understand why they shouldn't hunt on Sunday when everyone else is Thanks for nothing
- Most Important: Hunting on Sunday would allow more youth hunters to learn a family tradition. School, band, sports occupy a large amount of time for kids today. My family will continue to go to church on Sat. or Sunday, church will not be missed to go hunting. We can attend Sat. or Sunday. Sunday hunting would allow me more time with my family to enjoy a tradition my parents passed on to me. Soon my sons will be eligible for military duty. If they can hunt for Osama on Sunday, why can't they hunt deer and doves on sunday now?
- I know several hunters who keep rabbit beagles and the trend is to actual run the rabbits but actually do not kill the animals so they will be there another day.
- I think the game population deserves a day of rest. Over hunting has seriously depleted some species of N.C. game. Please leave the law –
- I should be given the right to hunt seven days a week. Currently in western NC our hunting season is so short. Sunday hunting would allow me the opportunity to enjoy more wild game. I travel Mon. - Fri. and Saturday is the only day I have to hunt and that does take time away from my family. I encourage Sunday hunting!
- I only hunted one day in the past 5 years. My survey would be unfair. But I do think the animals have to have a day of rest. And a chance to eat at least one day a week.
- I would like for hunting season to start earlyer or last longer than Jan 1st. Not hunting on Sunday. I am talking about deer hunting. I think that a longer season would help control the number of deer so maybe there would be less killed by cars and farmer's that shoot them because they eat their crops. If I can help any further you can contact me.

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- Keep me informed on what is going on!! Let me know if I can be of further assistance.
 - I think that hunting on Sunday should be passed, because you have other sports on Sunday, and hunting is a sport. It should be left up to the person. Thank you!
 - I do not believe in Sunday hunting. I no longer do any hunting.
 - Yes, I am a hunter. No, I would not hunt on Sunday if it were allowed. I think we should keep Sunday as a day of worship. Why can't N.C. do its own survey?
 - Everyone and everything needs a day of rest. Thank you
 - Bow hunting season is too long. Deer season should start earlier, so as not to limit other hunting (rabbit hunters can't hunt while deer hunters are out).
 - I appreciate the chance to be a part of this survey. I very much enjoy hunting and fishing all across our beautiful state and am extremely thankful to have the privledge to do so. Hunting all type of game has been a staple in my family my entire life but, hunting can also play too big a role in many a life. As much as I enjoy hunting I am not in favor of it being legalized in N.C. Everyone needs a day of rest, from the deer to the dog to the hunter. Whether you attend church or not, your family should always be more important than a day in the stand. Even the Lord rested the 7th day.
 - My husband has had 5 by-passes My husband has had kidney failure 28% He cannot have red meat, cheese, beans, spicy food, etc. He can eat venison We hunt together
 - I think all of North Carolina game animal need a day of rest. I have hunted all my life and I vote NO to Sunday hunting.
 - I would like a copy of the survey results.
 - A day of rest and worship is very important to "those who believe" that Jesus Christ was "judged" and paid for our sins. To those who do not believe this, they probably have the right (constitutionally) to hunt on any day they desire. Even though I desire to rest or worship on Sunday. Some men and women do not have a spiritual love to obey the command to gather and worship on Sunday. I do not have the right to force this upon them. Some "esteem everyday alike." (Rom. 14:5)"
 - Unable to hunt now.
 - I think hunting on Sunday is fine as long as u put God 1st like go hunting after church. Just put GOD 1st
 - It would be unfair for the hunters that go to church on Sundays.
 - I do not believe hunting on Sunday will directly affect the % of animals killed, I just have people that live around me that do not like gun-fire or shooting on Sunday, so it's a respect issue for me. Also, I know it would increase hunting/fishing license fees. Respectfully submitted.
 - I would like a copy of the results. I have hunted all my life and never hunted on Sunday. I might, but it makes no difference to me.

- The animals need at least 1 day that they don't have to worry about being killed. I do not go to church any more but the Bible says Sunday is a day of rest. There are not enough small game now such as quail so I think hunting and additional day would only make the problem worse.
- Management is crucial as it is in anything. A good business is properly managed, a good home is properly managed, so forth and so on. Whether we hunt on Sunday or not is relatively unimportant. Our thoughts and energy would be well used if applied more toward management issues. It should be illegal to kill an immature animal of any kind unless it simply can't be detected as in dove hunting. These types of laws require hunters to be knowledgeable and disciplined and after all isn't that the type of person that should carry a firearm anyway. We harvest too many bucks and in some cases too many or not enough does. The ability to hunt is a privilege and we should protect that by creating laws that force weekend warriors to learn how to act and stop killing anything that moves and standing on the highway with orange hats on scaring innocent drivers. It's time to grow up and allow the animals to do the same, a 2 yr. old deer is not a grown up and if you as a hunter can't tell roughly how old the animal is that your shooting then you need to not shoot and educate yourself by observing more than shooting. I personally don't mind if we hunt on Sunday or not but we need to hunt responsibly. Let's create laws that steer us in that direction.
- In our region (3) we only have about 23 days of gun season. Hunting on Sundays would give only 3 or maybe 4 more days of hunting. That would really help our region (3). And it would not extend it that much. In region (1) they have a much longer season, it may not help that region as much.
- I am a avid sportsman, but I am very much against Sunday hunting. I am also a farmer-landowner. Go fishin instead! or better yet to church.
- We need more deer in Madison County.
- I oppose any hunting on Sunday.
- I think hunting on Sunday should be a personal decision, but with some restrictions with regards to churches.
- Most people work all week and only have Sundays to hunt! Thank you
- I love wildlife. I bought hunting senior license when available to me but have never been a hunter. I don't believe in hunting on Sunday.
- I hope that Sunday hunting is passed.
- Wildlife needs a break. Weather conditions, feeding may be the only day they can. Safety concerns for others to enjoy the outdoors who do not hunt
- Here is why I am not going to take the time to do this survey. The N.C. Wildlife Division is a bunch of assholes. If you step in the woods you are treated like a criminal first and foremost. I.e., In Croatan forest Gestapo Agent McKinney recently regularly wrote tickets to people going through a so called closed road - the road was marked about 1/2 miles in from only 1 direction- now many young people have a "Federal Crime" on the record which has prevented 2 young people I know from joining the Airforce- Another officer stopped a jeep full of teenagers and told them they could put up signs or get a tickets for "going off road." Don't even mention fishing regulations, etc. Go to the wildlife office on Hwy 70 E New Bern and see how you get ignored/talked down to and generally treated like crap.

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- I think hunting should be on Sunday to see how it would go for a while and go from there.
 - I am opposed to hunting on Sunday in any way shape or form. My suggestions and recommendation is to lengthen the hunting season to satisfy the need.
 - I am sorry but my hunting days are over. I'm an old World War II vet and 83 years old.
 - I think if Sunday hunting was available there would be less deer killed in our area. The deer end up as road kill, I know last fall to the end of our short deer season at least 12 to 15 deer were hit by vehicles in N. Iredell County. Iredell County season is 3 to 4 weeks. Sunday hunting is very welcome in my opinion.
 - I do think it should be legal to hunt on Sunday, it should be a choice. Thanks Have a great day
 - I would vote no for Sunday hunting. But if it passes, I would hunt sometimes during deer season.
 - Sunday hunting would take valuable time away from working families, and give anti-hunting activists another area and more ammunition to use against the legal hunters in North Carolina. My personal opinion is hunting with dogs isn't hunting (just running and killing) and illegal hunting should be viewed even more harshly in our courts. Thanks.