

Public Views on Hunting on Sunday in North Carolina

Introduction

- Hunting on Sunday in North Carolina is prohibited by state statute.
- Hunting on Sunday has been prohibited since 1869.
- Any action to change the statute to allow hunting on Sunday must be taken by the General Assembly.
- The Wildlife Resources Commission does not currently have the authority to allow hunting on Sunday.

2006 Study of Hunting on Sunday

- In 2005, the Wildlife Resources Commission was asked to conduct a study to evaluate the attitudes and opinions of North Carolina's citizens regarding hunting on Sundays.
- The Wildlife Resources Commission contracted the Responsive Management, Inc. in conjunction with Virginia Tech to conduct the study.
- Researchers used scientifically-based telephone and mail surveys to assess the views of North Carolinians on the issues surrounding hunting on Sunday.
- In December 2006, the final report from the study was presented to the Wildlife Resources Commission and then transmitted to the Governor and General Assembly.

Some selected results of the study include:

- 81% of the general population in North Carolina approve of hunting.
- 65% of the general population oppose legalizing hunting on Sunday; 25% support legalization
- 62% of opponents of hunting on Sunday cite religious reasons for their opposition.
- 58% of supporters cite the belief that hunting on Sunday should be a personal choice as their primary reason for support.
- 53% of hunters oppose legalizing hunting on Sunday; 38% support legalization.
- 68% of hunters who oppose hunting on Sunday cite religious reasons for their opposition.
- 77% of hunters who favored hunting on Sunday cite the belief that hunting on Sunday should be a personal choice as their primary reason for support.
- 51% of hunters oppose legalizing hunting on Sunday even if done so with some limitations.
- Survey results indicate that hunting participation could increase by 1.9 million days (28%) if hunting on Sunday is legalized.

For complete study results, visit the Wildlife Resources Commission website at www.ncwildlife.org.

2007 Study of Hunting on Sunday on State-owned Game Lands

During the 2006 legislative session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1723, *The Studies Act of 2006*, which includes Part XIII directing the Wildlife Resources Commission to study numerous issues related to hunting on Sunday at a limited number of State-owned game lands. The legislation requires the Commission to consider: the suitability of individual game lands for hunting on Sunday, allowable human activities, limiting hunting privileges to avoid personal conflict with religious services, and the needs of persons pursuing nonhunting outdoor recreational activities. The legislation also requires that the Commission obtain input from representatives of interested parties and conduct at least one public hearing in all nine administrative districts. We welcome your comments on this topic.