2020 Prairie Chicken Hunter Activity Survey

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Executive Summary

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism conducts an online survey of prairie chicken hunters each year to estimate number of hunters, days hunted, and harvest. During the 2020-2021 season, 1,452 hunters were estimated to have gone afield a total of 6,961 days to hunt prairie chickens. An estimated 966 prairie chickens were harvested during an open prairie chicken season, with a hunter success rate of 37.3%.

Introduction

Kansas has two species of prairie grouse: the greater prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) and lesser prairie-chicken (*T. pallidicinctus*). Although both species are present in Kansas, the greater prairie-chicken is more abundant than its slightly smaller relative and has a larger range across Kansas. The greater prairie-chicken predominately utilizes tallgrass and mixed-grass prairie in eastern and northern Kansas, with large populations in the Flint Hills and Smoky Hills. Lesser prairie-chickens are primarily found in mixed-grass and sand sagebrush prairies in southwestern Kansas, but their range is expanding into west-central Kansas.

Two distinct units are designated for hunting greater prairie-chickens in Kansas: an east and southwest unit (see Figure 1). In the east unit, hunters can take prairie chickens during an early season, which runs from September 15 through October 15, and a regular season, which extends from the third Saturday of November through January 31. The southwest unit remains closed to hunting of prairie chickens, as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering the legal status of the lesser prairie-chicken. Hunters can harvest greater prairie-chickens during an open season and must adhere to a two-bird daily bag limit and an eight-bird possession limit.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) conducts a survey of license buyers that purchased a Prairie Chicken Stamp following the completion of greater prairie-chicken hunting seasons to obtain biological and social data needed for informed management. Based on data from the survey, KDWPT estimates prairie chicken harvest and hunter activity in Kansas.

Methods

A random sample of hunter names from the 2020-2021 season was obtained from the KDWPT database of resident and non-resident Prairie Chicken Stamp purchasers. The $2.50 Prairie Chicken Stamp allows KDWPT to identify all potential prairie chicken hunters during the season. As hunters were surveyed via email, only hunters with a valid email address were considered for inclusion in the online survey. Providing an email address is optional, thus not all hunters purchasing a prairie chicken stamp could be randomly surveyed by email. However, most hunters use email, with 85% of hunters voluntarily providing an email address. From the available pool of hunters, approximately 30% were chosen to receive the survey.

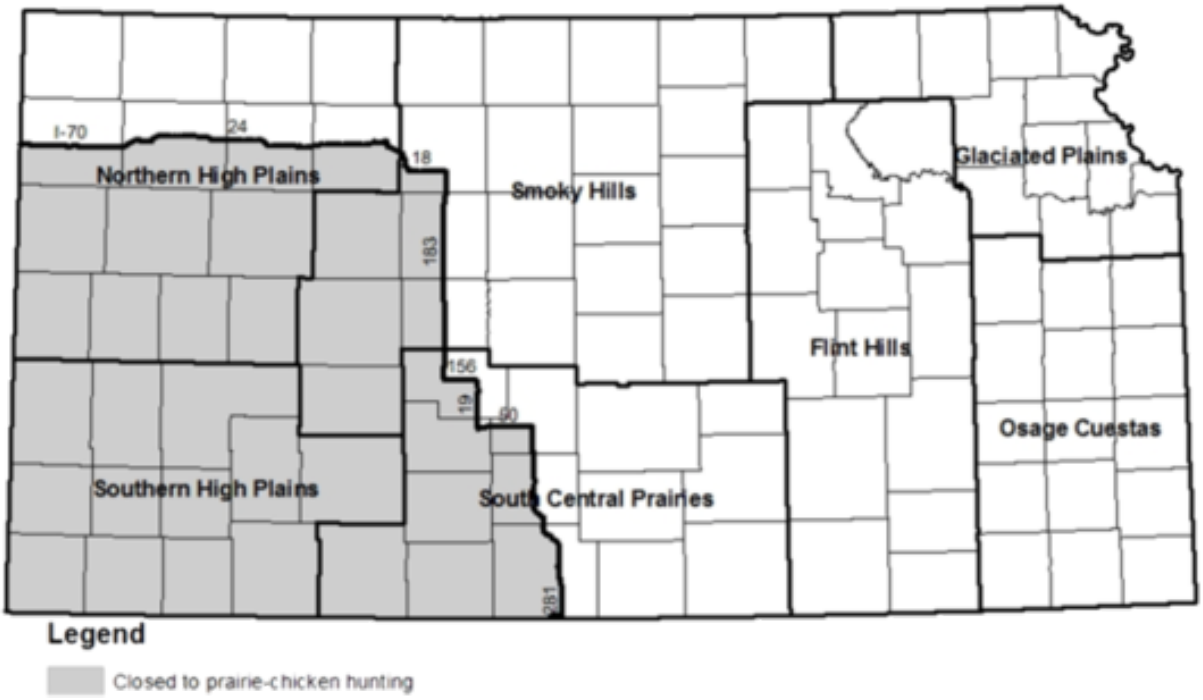

Figure 1: Map of small game management regions and unit closed to prairie chicken hunting in Kansas.

After the prairie chicken season ended, selected recipients were sent an email containing a link to the online survey. When recipients did not respond to the initial survey request, they received follow up requests one and two weeks apart.

The harvest survey was designed to be concise, with questions limited to days hunted and primary county of hunting of upland gamebirds, days spent hunting prairie chickens during the early and regular season in each county utilized, and the number prairie chickens harvested by county and season. Depending on respondents' answers, a maximum of 27 questions were asked, with questions consisting of multiple choice, open-ended, and clickable maps. The 2020-2021 survey contained four special topic questions pertaining to proposed changes to season dates of prairie chicken hunting.

All survey summarization and statistical analysis was completed using the statistical program R. To estimate harvest and activity statistics, a result weight (total permits/usable survey responses) was used to extrapolate the raw numbers reported by hunters. Harvest and hunter activity statistics were compiled based on small game management regions (Figure 1) and at the statewide level.

Results

Licenses sold and survey responses
Hunters purchased a total of 6,259 prairie chicken stamps in Kansas for the 2020-2021 prairie

chicken season, of which 33.68% (n=2,108) were residents of Kansas and 66.32% (n= 4,151) were non-residents.

A sample of 1,878 hunters (30%) purchasing the prairie chicken stamp were randomly selected to receive the Kansas Prairie Chicken Hunter Activity Survey. The Department obtained a 54.15% response rate, consisting of 1017 responses with usable data for estimation of prairie chicken harvest and hunter activity during the 2019-2020 season. Respondents took NA minutes on average to complete the survey.

Of the survey respondents, 85.74% (n=872) reported hunting upland game birds, excluding turkeys, and 14.26% (n=145) did not hunt any upland game bird during the 2020-2021 season. Of the hunters that reported hunting upland gamebirds, including prairie chicken, quail, and pheasant, 28.44% (n=248) specifically hunted for prairie chickens.

Upland hunters numbers across Kansas
Prairie chicken hunters used the small game management units to varying degrees (Table 1). The primary region both resident and non-resident hunters utilized was the Smoky Hills. Fifty-one percent of hunters utilized the Smoky Hills region for hunting upland gamebirds, including pheasants, quail, and prairie chicken. Although 28% of active hunters utilized the Northern High Plains, Southern High Plains, and South Central Prairies for hunting of upland gamebirds, portions of these regions are closed to prairie chicken hunting (see Figure 1).

Days spent hunting upland birds
Upland gamebird hunters reported hunting from 1 to 120 days during an open prairie chicken season and hunted an average of 7 days. Mean number of days spent hunting by active hunters was similar across management regions (Table 2).

Prairie chicken hunters across Kansas
Similar numbers of non-resident and resident hunters targeted prairie chickens (Table 3, residents: 49.19%, non-residents 50.81%). Among active hunters, Kansas residents appeared more interested in targeting prairie chickens than non-residents, with 45% of resident hunters specifically hunting prairie chickens compared to 21% of non-resident hunters. Hunters targeted prairie chickens for an average of 6 days, but resident hunters generally spent more days hunting prairie chickens than non-residents (Table 3).

Hunter participation by prairie chicken season
Of the two seasons available to hunt prairie chickens (Early, Regular), the majority of hunters targeting prairie chickens participated in the Regular season (73.39%). A smaller proportion of hunters participated in the Early season (41.13%). Although participation in the Early season was moderately high, a limited number of hunters did all of their prairie chicken hunting during the Early season (21.77%). A higher proportion of hunters targeting prairie chickens did all of their hunting during the regular season (54.03%). Additionally, hunters utilized both seasons to a limited degree (19.35%). In general, Kansas residents hunted more days during the Early and Regular seasons than non-residents (Table 4).

Prairie chicken harvests across Kansas
An estimated 966 prairie chickens were harvested statewide. Active hunters, both those specifically targeting and opportunistically harvesting prairie chickens, averaged 0.57 birds

and had a success rate of 32.12%. Resident hunters harvested slightly less of the total prairie chicken harvest than non-resident hunters, 44.59 versus 55.41% of total harvest, but had similar average harvests (Table 5). For estimated prairie chicken harvests by season in each county, see Table 6.

Special Topic: Potential Season Date Change

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is considering changes to the open dates of the prairie chicken hunting season. Currently, the season is split between an early (September 15 - October 15) and regular (third Saturday in November - January 31) season. Rather than a split season, KDWPT is exploring the possibility of a continuous open prairie chicken season from September 15 - January 31. To determine hunters' level of support for the change, survey recipients in the 2020 Prairie Chicken Hunter Activity survey were asked their level of support for the potential change. Most hunters supported a change to a continuous prairie chicken season (Figure 2).

The majority of individuals in support of a continuous prairie chicken season indicated two primary reasons for support 1) they would either like the opportunity to harvest prairie chickens during opening weekend of pheasant and quail season, and 2) they could take advantage of more days in October and November. In contrast, the primary reason indicated for respondents' opposition of a continuous prairie chicken season was that a longer season would negatively affect the population (Figure 3). Other factors affecting a respondent's support or opposition to the proposed season change appear in Table 7 and 8.

Table 1: Prairie chicken hunter activity in Kansas, 2019-2020.

Statistic	Flint Hills	Glaciated Plains	Northern High Plains	Osage Cuestas	Smoky Hills	South Central Prairies	Southern High Plains	Statewide
Resident								
Est Sample Size[1]	114	9	36	18	131	17	4	333
Active Upland Hunters[1,4]	94 (82.5)	7 (77.8)	30 (83.3)	15 (83.3)	108 (82.4)	14 (82.4)	3 (75.0)	274 (82.3)
Est Inactive Upland Hunters[1,2,4]	20 (17.5)	2 (22.2)	6 (16.7)	3 (16.7)	23 (17.6)	3 (17.6)	1 (25.0)	59 (17.7)
Specifically Pursued Chickens[3,4]	54 (57.4)	2 (28.6)	4 (13.3)	6 (40.0)	47 (43.5)	6 (42.9)	1 (33.3)	122 (44.5)
Non-resident								
Est Sample Size[1]	57	2	154	5	383	47	26	684
Active Upland Hunters[1,4]	50 (87.7)	2 (100.0)	136 (88.3)	4 (80.0)	337 (88.0)	41 (87.2)	23 (88.5)	598 (87.4)
Est Inactive Upland Hunters[1,2,4]	7 (12.3)	0 (0.0)	18 (11.7)	1 (20.0)	46 (12.0)	6 (12.8)	3 (11.5)	86 (12.6)
Specifically Pursued Chickens[3,4]	15 (30.0)	0 (0.0)	24 (17.6)	2 (50.0)	78 (23.1)	4 (9.8)	2 (8.7)	126 (21.1)
Overall								
Est Sample Size[1]	169	10	191	23	513	65	30	1017
Active Upland Hunters[1,4]	146 (86.4)	9 (90.0)	165 (86.4)	20 (87.0)	443 (86.4)	56 (86.2)	26 (86.7)	872 (85.7)
Est Inactive Upland Hunters[1,2,4]	23 (13.6)	1 (10.0)	26 (13.6)	3 (13.0)	70 (13.6)	9 (13.8)	4 (13.3)	145 (14.3)
Specifically Pursued Chickens[3,4]	69 (47.3)	2 (22.2)	28 (17.0)	8 (40.0)	125 (28.2)	10 (17.9)	3 (11.5)	248 (28.4)

Note:
Some active hunters did not specify the primary region they hunted and are therefore only included in the satewide total. Additionally, statewide and overall totals may not equal sums of regional totals because of rounding errors.

[1] Because inactive hunters did not hunt in a specific region, region-specific counts are estimates using proportional methods.

[2] Denominator is the region sample size.

[3] Denominator is the number of active hunters for the region.

[4] Numbers in parentheses represent percentages.

Table 2: Average number of days hunted by upland gamebird hunters within small game management units, 2020-2021.

Statistic	Flint Hills	Glaciated Plains	Northern High Plains	Osage Cuestas	Smoky Hills	South Central Prairies	Southern High Plains	NA	Statewide
Resident									
Sample Size	92	7	29	15	105	14	3	2	267
Mean (SD)	8.76 (9.16)	8.43 (8.46)	10.38 (8.58)	9.87 (9.79)	8.96 (8.74)	8.29 (6.57)	2.33 (2.31)	30.5 (7.78)	9.13 (8.92)
Median	5	6	8	8	6	8	1	30.5	6
Min, Max	1, 50	1, 26	1, 34	1, 32	1, 34	1, 20	1, 5	25, 36	1, 50
95% CI	6.86, 10.66	0.61, 16.25	7.12, 13.64	4.45, 15.29	7.27, 10.65	4.5, 12.08	-3.41, 8.07	-39.4, 100.4	8.06, 10.2
Non-resident									
Sample Size	47	2	128	4	317	39	22	2	561
Mean (SD)	7.13 (17.36)	12.5 (0.71)	5.74 (4.66)	3.75 (1.26)	4.98 (4.03)	4.74 (3.33)	9 (20.83)	12.5 (10.61)	5.52 (7.57)
Median	3	12.5	4	4	4	4	3	12.5	4
Min, Max	1, 120	12, 13	1, 25	2, 5	1, 30	1, 15	1, 100	5, 20	1, 120
95% CI	2.03, 12.23	6.12, 18.88	4.92, 6.56	1.75, 5.75	4.53, 5.43	3.66, 5.82	-0.24, 18.24	-82.83, 107.83	4.89, 6.15
Overall									
Sample Size	139	9	157	19	422	53	25	4	828
Mean (SD)	8.21 (12.5)	9.33 (7.55)	6.6 (5.84)	8.58 (9.02)	5.97 (5.83)	5.68 (4.62)	8.2 (19.62)	21.5 (12.87)	6.69 (8.2)
Median	5	6	5	5	4	4	3	22.5	4
Min, Max	1, 120	1, 26	1, 34	1, 32	1, 34	1, 20	1, 100	5, 36	1, 120
95% CI	6.11, 10.31	3.53, 15.13	5.68, 7.52	4.23, 12.93	5.41, 6.53	4.41, 6.95	0.1, 16.3	1.02, 41.98	6.13, 7.25

Note:
Although hunters may have hunted gamebirds in multiple units, total days hunted by individual hunters only appear in the primary region of use, regardless of whether all hunting occured in that region. Additionallly, some active hunters might not have specified the primary region they hunted or the number of days hunted during an open prairie chicken seasons and therefore are not included in table. Thus sample size may differ from that reported in Table 1.

Table 3: Number of active hunters targeting prairie chickens and average number of days hunted within small game management units by residency status, 2020-2021.

Statistic	Flint Hills	Glaciated Plains	Northern High Plains	Osage Cuestas	Smoky Hills	South Central Prairies	NA	Statewide
Resident								
Survey Responses	65	NA	6	2	52	2	1	113
Estimated Hunters	400	NA	37	12	320	12	6	695
Avg Days Hunted (SD)	6.52 (13.01)	NA	2.33 (1.37)	2.5 (0.71)	7.35 (9.34)	1 (0)	5 (NA)	7.36 (11.81)
95% CI	3.3, 9.74	NA	0.89, 3.77	-3.88, 8.88	4.75, 9.95	1, 1	NA, NA	5.16, 9.56
Non-resident								
Survey Responses	21	2	22	3	87	2	NA	123
Estimated Hunters	129	12	135	18	535	12	NA	757
Avg Days Hunted (SD)	8 (21.64)	1.5 (0.71)	5.41 (5.49)	2.33 (1.53)	4.18 (5.15)	2.5 (0.71)	NA	5.41 (10.3)
95% CI	-1.85, 17.85	-4.88, 7.88	2.98, 7.84	-1.47, 6.13	3.08, 5.28	-3.88, 8.88	NA	3.57, 7.25
Overall								
Survey Responses	86	2	28	5	139	4	1	236
Estimated Hunters	529	12	172	31	855	25	6	1452
Avg Days Hunted (SD)	6.88 (15.43)	1.5 (0.71)	4.75 (5.05)	2.4 (1.14)	5.37 (7.15)	1.75 (0.96)	5 (NA)	6.35 (11.07)
95% CI	3.57, 10.19	-4.88, 7.88	2.79, 6.71	0.98, 3.82	4.17, 6.57	0.22, 3.28	NA, NA	4.93, 7.77

Note:
Some hunters might have utilized multiple small game management units while pursuing prairie chickens. Hunters counted in each management unit utilized, however hunters included only once in statewide totals. Thus, statewide totals may not be equivalent to that across management units.

Table 4: Number of active upland gamebird hunters targeting prairie chicken in the early and regular prairie chicken seasons.

	Statistic	Flint Hills	Glaciated Plains	Northern High Plains	Osage Cuestas	Smoky Hills	South Central Prairies	Statewide
Early								
Resident								
	Sampled Hunters (%)	40 (3.9)	NA	1 (0.1)	0 (0.0)	36 (3.5)	1 (0.1)	73 (7.2)
	Est Total Hunters	246	NA	6	0	222	6	449
	Avg Days Hunted (SD)	2.45 (1.65)	NA	1 (-)	- (-)	3.31 (3.14)	1 (-)	3.05 (2.6)
	95% CI	1.92, 2.98	NA	NA, NA	-, NA	2.25, 4.37	NA, NA	2.44, 3.66
	Est Days Hunted	603	NA	6	0	732	6	1372
Non-resident								
	Sampled Hunters (%)	8 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	17 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	29 (2.9)
	Est Total Hunters	49	0	31	0	105	0	178
	Avg Days Hunted (SD)	6.88 (9.42)	- (-)	2.8 (1.92)	- (-)	4.41 (4.93)	- (-)	4.97 (6.19)
	95% CI	-1, 14.76	-, NA	0.42, 5.18	-, NA	1.88, 6.94	-, NA	2.62, 7.32
	Est Days Hunted	338	0	86	0	462	0	886
Overall								
	Sampled Hunters (%)	48 (4.7)	0 (0.0)	6 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	53 (5.2)	1 (0.1)	102 (10.0)
	Est Total Hunters	295	0	37	0	326	6	628
	Avg Days Hunted (SD)	3.19 (4.27)	- (-)	2.5 (1.87)	- (-)	3.66 (3.79)	1 (-)	3.6 (4.03)
	95% CI	1.95, 4.43	-, NA	0.54, 4.46	-, NA	2.62, 4.7	NA, NA	2.81, 4.39
	Est Days Hunted	942	0	92	0	1194	6	2259
Regular								
Resident								
	Sampled Hunters (%)	37 (3.6)	NA	5 (0.5)	2 (0.2)	39 (3.8)	1 (0.1)	73 (7.2)
	Est Total Hunters	228	NA	31	12	240	6	449
	Avg Days Hunted (SD)	8.81 (16.69)	NA	2.6 (1.34)	2.5 (0.71)	6.74 (8.18)	1 (-)	8.34 (13.26)
	95% CI	3.25, 14.37	NA	0.94, 4.26	-3.88, 8.88	4.09, 9.39	NA, NA	5.25, 11.43
	Est Days Hunted	2006	NA	80	31	1619	6	3748
Non-resident								
	Sampled Hunters (%)	18 (1.8)	2 (0.2)	20 (2.0)	3 (0.3)	76 (7.5)	2 (0.2)	109 (10.7)
	Est Total Hunters	111	12	123	18	468	12	671
	Avg Days Hunted (SD)	6.28 (16.47)	1.5 (0.71)	5.25 (5.11)	2.33 (1.53)	3.8 (3.52)	2.5 (0.71)	4.79 (7.83)
	95% CI	-1.91, 14.47	-4.88, 7.88	2.86, 7.64	-1.47, 6.13	3, 4.6	-3.88, 8.88	3.3, 6.28
	Est Days Hunted	695	18	646	43	1779	31	3213
Overall								
	Sampled Hunters (%)	55 (5.4)	2 (0.2)	25 (2.5)	5 (0.5)	115 (11.3)	3 (0.3)	182 (17.9)
	Est Total Hunters	338	12	154	31	708	18	1120
	Avg Days Hunted (SD)	7.98 (16.51)	1.5 (0.71)	4.72 (4.7)	2.4 (1.14)	4.8 (5.69)	2 (1)	6.21 (10.47)
	95% CI	3.52, 12.44	-4.88, 7.88	2.78, 6.66	0.98, 3.82	3.75, 5.85	-0.48, 4.48	4.68, 7.74
	Est Days Hunted	2702	18	726	74	3397	37	6961

Note:
Some hunters might have utilized multiple small game management units while pursuing prairie chickens or hunted during one or both seasons. Hunters counted in each season utilized. Hunters counted in each management unit utilized, but only included once in statewide totals. Thus, statewide totals may not be equivalent to that across management units.

Table 5: Number of prairie chickens harvest by active hunters within the small game management units by residency status.

Statistic	Flint Hills	Northern High Plains	Osage Cuestas	Smoky Hills	Statewide
Resident					
Total Harvest (%)[1]	34 (21.7)	3 (1.9)	1 (0.6)	31 (19.7)	70 (44.6)
Avg Harvest (SD)	1.62 (0.8)	1.5 (0.71)	1 (-)	1.72 (1.13)	0.56 (1)
95% CI	1.26, 1.98	-4.88, 7.88	NA, NA	1.14, 2.3	0.24, 0.88
Est Harvest[2]	209	18	6	191	431
Est Successful Hunters[2,3]	129	12	6	105	240
Non-resident					
Total Harvest (%)[1]	3 (1.9)	25 (15.9)	1 (0.6)	57 (36.3)	87 (55.4)
Avg Harvest (SD)	0.75 (0.5)	2.5 (3.06)	1 (-)	1.58 (1.57)	0.58 (1.39)
95% CI	-0.49, 1.99	0.31, 4.69	NA, NA	1.05, 2.11	0.18, 0.98
Est Harvest[2]	18	154	6	351	535
Est Successful Hunters[2,3]	18	62	6	222	302
Overall					
Total Harvest (%)[1]	37 (23.6)	28 (17.8)	2 (1.3)	88 (56.1)	157 (100)
Avg Harvest (SD)	1.48 (0.82)	2.33 (2.81)	1 (0)	1.63 (1.43)	0.57 (1.23)
95% CI	1.13, 1.83	0.54, 4.12	1, 1	1.24, 2.02	0.31, 0.83
Est Harvest[2]	228	172	12	542	966
Est Successful Hunters[2,3]	148	74	12	326	542

Note:

When small game management unit for harvest was unknown, harvest only included in statewide total.

[1] Proportion calcuated using overall statewide harvests.

[2] Estimates calculated using a result weight (number of permits purchased divided by usable survey responses).

[3] Successful hunters were those that harvested at least 1 prairie chicken during an open season.

Table 6: Estimated number of prairie chicken stamp buyers targetting prairie chickens in each county, the estimated effort expended by hunters, and the estimated prairie chicken harvests by prairie chicken stamp buyers targetting or oppuntistically hunting prairie chickens during the 2020-2021 early and regular season.

County	Early Season			Regular Season		
	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest
Barton	12	18	0	43	172	12
Butler	37	86	18	62	425	12
Chase	68	123	12	43	117	6
Chautauqua	0	0	0	6	12	0
Cherokee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheyenne	12	49	31	37	123	37
Clay	6	12	0	25	222	0
Cloud	31	98	6	55	394	6
Coffey	0	0	0	18	49	6
Decatur	0	0	0	12	12	6
Dickinson	12	25	0	12	98	0
Elk	12	18	0	18	31	0
Ellis	6	25	0	18	43	12
Ellsworth	31	37	6	68	258	0
Geary	6	12	0	12	215	12
Graham	12	18	0	49	246	37
Greenwood	25	62	0	31	215	0
Harper	0	0	0	6	6	0
Jackson	0	0	0	6	12	0
Jewell	12	37	0	25	117	18
Lincoln	68	154	37	74	222	0
Lyon	18	55	0	25	49	0
Marion	12	18	0	12	55	0
McPherson	0	0	0	12	18	0
Mitchell	31	92	6	98	252	18
Morris	18	203	0	31	702	0
Nemaha	0	0	0	6	6	0
Norton	0	0	0	37	129	18
Osage	0	0	0	12	18	0
Osborne	68	246	12	166	437	62
Ottawa	18	25	0	18	80	0
Pawnee	0	0	0	6	18	6

Table 6: Estimated number of prairie chicken stamp buyers targetting prairie chickens in each county, the estimated effort expended by hunters, and the estimated prairie chicken harvests by prairie chicken stamp buyers targetting or oppuntistically hunting prairie chickens during the 2020-2021 early and regular season. *(continued)*

County	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest
Phillips	18	74	0	49	252	6
Pottawatomie	25	43	6	31	123	12
Rawlins	0	0	0	18	43	0
Reno	6	6	0	6	12	0
Republic	0	0	0	6	18	0
Riley	25	43	12	25	62	0
Rooks	12	68	25	43	105	37
Russell	68	154	0	148	400	55
Saline	18	49	0	49	185	12
Sheridan	6	18	0	18	111	18
Sherman	6	6	0	12	43	0
Smith	18	105	0	80	332	0
Thomas	0	0	0	6	18	0
Trego	0	0	0	0	0	12
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wabaunsee	86	240	31	74	375	31
Washington	12	12	6	18	111	0
Woodson	0	0	0	6	6	0
NA	6	25	0	6	6	0

Note:
Estimates calculated using a result weight (number of permits purchased divided by usable survey responses).

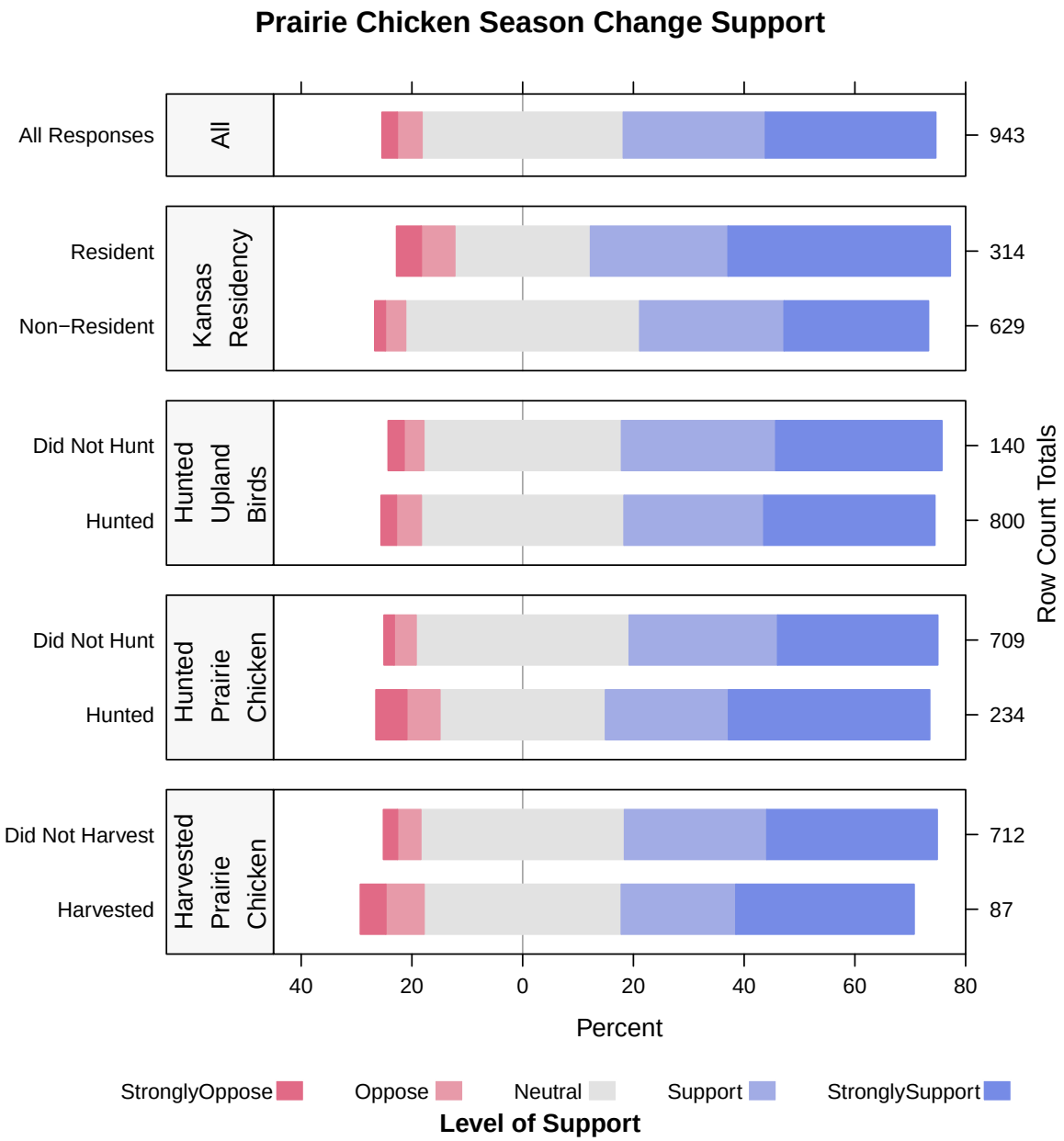

Figure 2: Respondents' level of support for a continuous open prairie chicken season from September 15 - January 31.

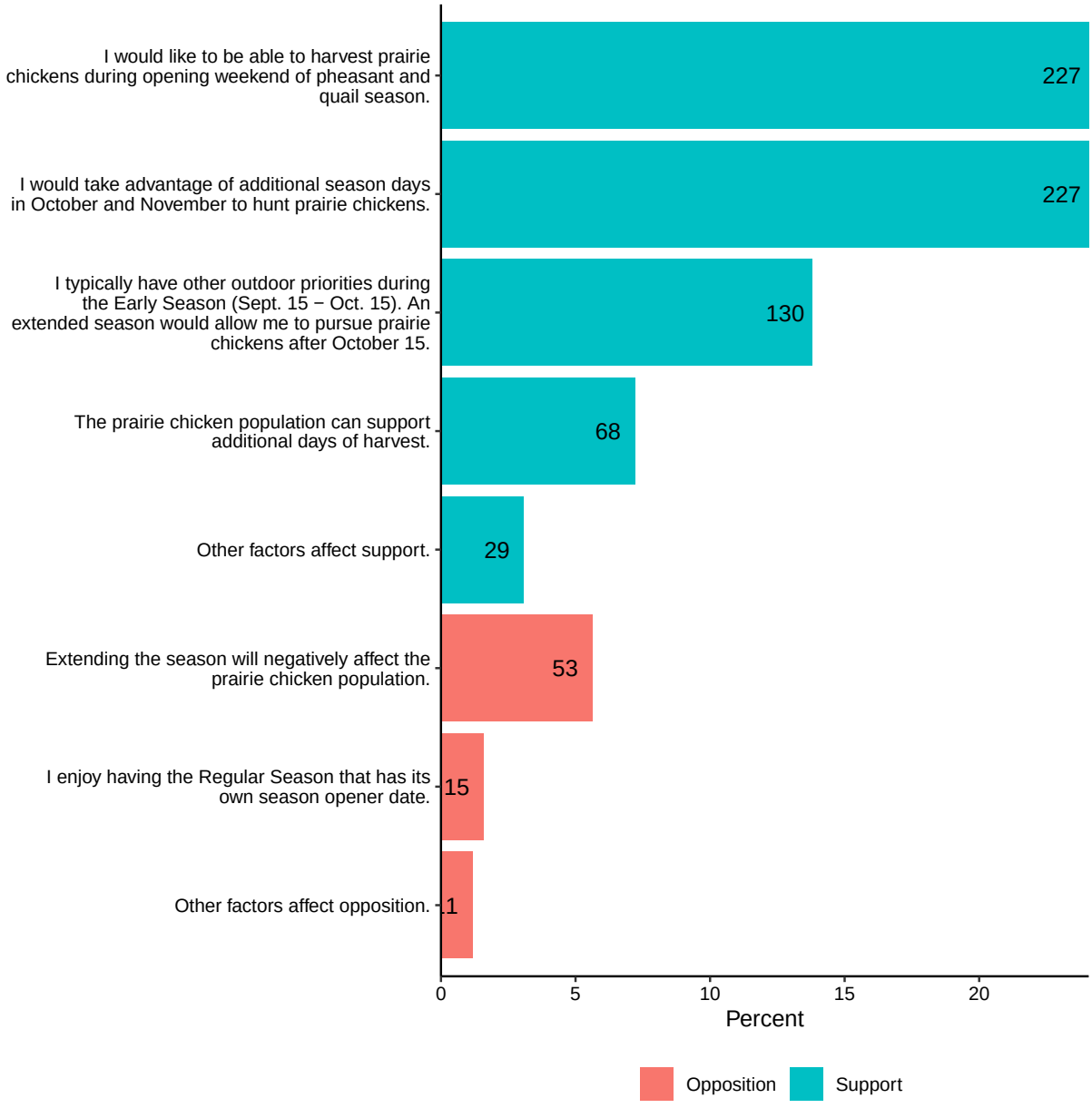

Figure 3: Indicated reasons for support or opposition of a continuous prairie chicken open season. Sample size for reasons are included inside bars.

Table 7: List of additional reasons affecting support of a continuous prairie chicken open season supplied by respondents.

Reason For Support
-I would only like the extension in the season if the chickens can handle it. I am afraid they are getting more and more pressure each year. -There are so many days in early season that are too hot for dogs. The extra days between 10/15 and upland opener might provide me with some additional chances to get out in more favorable weather. -split season really fouls things up. BUT it is better than no season at all -If the population can sustain more hunting, I support more opportunities -I belive the predation of game birds is for more threat than human hunting season. You can hunt for two or three days in many areas with out seeing a bird. until hawks and other birds of pray are taken notice of and dealt with, the length of season for man doesnt matter.
-I don't believe hunter harvest would impact populations -There are so many days in early season that are too hot for dogs. The extra days between 10/15 and upland opener might provide me with some additional chances to get out in more favorable weather. -I dont believe there is a great amount of hunting for prairie chickens only. I believe most like to have a license so if they run into or across some they can hunt them. The early season is mostly doves, ducks. -I don't anticipate harvesting many chickens but this would simplify the regulations. -Only in Kansas for one week - normally the week after Thanksgiving.
-Greater flexibility due to lengthy travel for me -More opportunities for out of state hunters -I support what science says the species can support. -It is easier for planning hunts, knowing there is a larger window of days, rather than having to pick and choose what days to hunt -Usually weather is too hot to run my dog in September I would be okay if it was closed for opening weekend of pheasant and quail.
-For locals it would give more opportunities to hunt prairie chickens -NONE -Easier game laws to follow -I travel from out of town so if the season could be continuous I would have a better chance to harvest one, depending on when my trip can be scheduled for -Regulation simplification
-Unsure -it would allow greater flexibility of trip planning -Continuous season minimizes confusion on open dates. -If the population can support a continuous season, then it provides more harvest opportunities and is easier for hunters to remember.

Note:
Reasons may contain spelling or grammatical errors, as they appear exactly how entered on survey.

Table 8: List of additional reasons affecting opposition of a continuous prairie chicken open season supplied by respondents.

Reason For Opposition
-I feel the break gives the birds a good chance to rest and also helps hunters by not educating the birds as much
-If there are birds I am for a longer season, if not no
-Numbers in my area have diminished substantially. A closed season for several counties including Saline and adjacent counties would be more sensible.
-To many young birds have been killed during the early season
-Too many hen pheasant will be shot
-Early season during deer muzzleloader season is a waste. Should open after it a run thru Octobet
-I think the WIHA are extremely pressured as it is, adding a continuous season would increase the pressure to the point that bird numbers will be extremely low by the time the regular upland season starts
-less birds than ever before and longer season doesn'tmake sense
-Usually too hot so the split is a non factor - most folks will hunt them with pheasant/quail season
-To many young birds have been killed during the early season
-We came in from out of state. the longer season was the reason we came to Kansas

Note:
Reasons may contain spelling or grammatical errors, as they appear exactly how entered on survey.