

Gray Wolf Hunter / Trapper Questionnaire 2014

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Abstract

Wisconsin held its third wolf harvest season starting on October 15th 2014. A questionnaire was sent to wolf harvesters' who received a notification they were authorized to purchase a license. The questionnaire asked questions about the season and their activities. Sixty-six percent of those authorized to purchase a license actively pursued wolves during the 2014 season. Active Wolf harvest license holders were more likely to trap than hunt (71% vs. 53%), and trappers were much more successful with success rates of 27% for trappers and 4% of hunters; 18% success for those that did both. Most wolf pursuers "Strongly support" or "Moderately support" leaving the wolf permitting system and season structure as they are now. Wolf pursuers were not interfered with by other hunters and/or trappers (70%). Of the wolves harvested, most kept and tanned the hide or made it into a taxidermy mount (99%). Those receiving a wolf license this year said they would apply for another wolf license in 2015-16 68% of the time, 13% said no, and 18% were unsure.

Methods

The wolf season start date is the 15th of October and the season was to continue until the harvest quota of 150 wolves was met or till midnight on the 28th of February, whichever came first. A total of 1,500 wolf harvest licenses were issued to achieve this quota. A survey (Fig 1.) was sent to 1,200 of the 1,500 license winners after the close of the wolf season on 5 December. Youth and those that had received a citation during the wolf season were removed from the survey pool. All those surveyed received a letter explaining the survey, the survey, and a postage paid return envelope. A reminder letter was sent about 3 weeks after the initial survey, and a second survey mailing was done 5 weeks after the initial contact. All surveys were entered into Microsoft Access and stored on the DNR production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 904 of the 1,200 hunters/trappers surveyed. After removing duplicates, the corrected response rate was 75%.

Most who had received notification that they had been selected to purchase a wolf harvest license had intended to "Both Hunt /Trap" (40.5%). This was followed by those that had intended to "Hunt Only" (35.8%), "Trap Only" (23.3%), and lastly "No Intention to Hunt or Trap" (0.5%; Table 1 Sec 1 Q1). The intentions of those that actually purchased a wolf license differed ($P < .0001$) from those that were granted permission to purchase a license but did not. Those that did not purchase a license had intended to "Hunt" more than "Trap" or "Both".

"Wanting to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals" and "An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped" were the two most important reasons for applying for a wolf license (Table 1 Sec 1 Q3). There were many "other" reasons stated for applying for a wolf license, but wanting to reduce the impacts of wolves was often mentioned.

Overall, 66% of those that been selected to purchase a wolf license were active. Of those that did purchase a license, 81 percent actively pursued wolves (Table 1 Sec 1 Q5). Among those that did not hunt or trap, "The zone I wanted to hunt/trap in closed before I could hunt/trap" was the most stated reason for not participating.

Wolf license purchasers trapped 71.3% of the time. Most of those that trapped were an active trapper prior to receiving a wolf tag, 78.3%. Trappers average 9.8 days afield, most did not use exposed bait (94.8%) (setting back at least 25 feet (Table 1, Sec 2 Q1-5)).

Fifty-three percent of wolf license purchasers said they hunted for wolves. Hunters averaged 5.5 days afield where wolves were their primary target, and averaged 9.5 days where wolves were their secondary target (Table 1, Sec 3 Q3). Rifles were used 84.7% of the time, followed by shotgun 9.0%, bow 2.9%, handgun 2.6%, muzzleloader 0.4%, and crossbow 0.4% respectively (Table 1, Sec 3 Q4). Ten percent of hunters hunted with the aid of dogs, and averaged 3.19 wolves run using dogs (Table 1, Sec 3 Q5-6). Hunting with calls only, and incidental to other hunting were the two most common techniques (Table 1, Sec 3 Q7). Eighty-three percent of hunters that were presented an opportunity to shoot at a wolf did not, the most common reason was "Waiting for a better shot", 89%. One percent of the hunters said that they hit a wolf they were unable to retrieve (Table 1, Sec 3 Q9-11).

Most hunters and trappers "went to familiar places that I hunt/trap" when deciding where to pursue wolves; 56.8%. Of the folks that hunted/trapped land they own or were familiar with, "wanted to reduce wolf predation on wildlife in the area" was the most stated reason; 32.6%. Of those that "went to a new area", "sought out areas with high amounts of wolves and wolf sign", was the most stated reason; 29.7% (Table 1, Sec 4 Part 1-2). The mean start date for hunting and trapping was 17 October, hunters and trappers "wanted to start as soon as I could to ensure I got to hunt/trap before the wolf zone closed" 28.4%. Ninety-four percent of active wolf pursuers thought "The wolf season was too short", 93.6% (Table 1, Sec 4 Q1-3). Most wolf pursuers (52.3%) "Strongly support" or "Moderately support" to "Leave the wolf permitting system and season structure as they are currently composed".

"Trapping/cable restraints" and "Predator Calling/howling" were the two most popular harvest techniques used (Table 1 Sec 4 Q5). Mean percent of time pursuing wolves was highest on "public land" 68% (Table 1 Sec 4 Q6). Hunters and Trappers moved their hunting/trapping activities due to an early wolf zone closure from their preferred wolf zone 45% of the time (Table 1 Sec 4 Q7). Of those that moved, more felt that the zone they moved to was "about the same" or "stopped pursuing". Hunter/trappers felt the Wisconsin DNR was "Very effective" or "Fairly effective" at alerting them of wolf zone closures (Table 1 Sec 4 Q8-9).

Crowding by other hunters or trappers was not an issue, as 55% of active wolf pursuers stated they were "Not at all crowded". Also they were not interfered with while pursuing, or with their chance to harvest a wolf (Table Sec4 Q10-11). There was little difference between the hunter/trappers rating the quality of the wolf season as "very high" or "fairly high" vs. "fairly low" or "very low"; 31.5% vs. 29.0%. Very few hunters or trappers (10.9%) encountered someone that purposely wanted to observe their activity (Table 1 Sec 4 Q14).

Eighteen percent of the active wolf pursuers said they registered a wolf in 2014. Most successful wolf pursuers kept it as a taxidermy mount or tanned and kept the hide, 99%, and wolves were reported to have had either "between poor and prime" fur at time of harvest (Table 1 Sec5 Q1-Q3). Of those reporting a harvest, many felt that it was either "very easy" or "fairly easy" to report their harvest with the state, 79.9% (Table 1 Sec 5 Q4).

Sixty-eight percent of those surveyed said that they would apply for another wolf license in 2015-16. The most stated reason for not applying was "The wolf season closes too quickly" (Table 1 Sec 6 Q1-Q2). Questions about hunters/trappers values of wolves, fears, and likeability can be found in Section 6 questions 3. The average wolf pursuer in Wisconsin was male, 48.5 years old and a Wisconsin resident (Table 1 Sec 6 Q4-Q6).

1. When you received notification that you had been selected to hunt and/or trap wolves during the 2013-14 season, what did you intend to do? **(Check one)**

License Type	Both Hunt/Trap	Trap Only	Hunt Only	I had no intention to hunt or trap
Authorized / No License purchased	55 (31.6%)	14 (8.1%)	104 (59.8%)	1 (0.6%)
Licensed Resident	302 (43.1%)	190 (27.1%)	206 (29.4%)	3 (0.4%)
Licensed Non-resident	0 (0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	5 (83.3%)	0 (0%)
Total	357 (40.5%)	205 (23.3%)	315 (35.8%)	4 (0.5%)

No Answer = 19

2. Did you have any wolf hunting/trapping experience before you applied for a wolf permit?

Experience	Frequency	Percent
Yes	228	26.1
No	645	73.9

No Answer = 27

3. What were the reasons you applied for a wolf hunting/trapping license?

Reason for applying	Frequency	Percent
An opportunity for me to spend time outdoors by myself or with friends or family	598	13.0%
An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped	689	14.9%
An opportunity for me to use my outdoor skills to pursue a challenging game animal	677	14.7%
I wanted to harvest a wolf in order to have a wolf taxidermy mount or tanned fur for display	609	13.2%
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals	764	16.6%
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on dogs	450	9.8%
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on livestock	443	9.6%
I was concerned about human safety with the current wolf populations	316	6.9%
I wanted to get a wolf harvest authority to transfer to someone else	6	0.1%
I wanted to prevent others from access to a wolf harvest permit	3	0.1%
Another reason	59	1.3%

4. What were the two most important reasons you applied for a wolf hunting/trapping license?
Write a **1** next to your most important and a **2** next to your second most important reasons.

Reason for applying	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #1 or #2
An opportunity for me to spend time outdoors by myself or with friends or family	80 (9.0%)	37 (4.2%)	117 (6.7%)
An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped	202 (22.9%)	133 (15.2%)	335 (19.0%)
An opportunity for me to use my outdoor skills to pursue a challenging game animal	103 (11.7%)	150 (17.1%)	253 (14.4%)
I wanted to harvest a wolf in order to have a wolf taxidermy mount or tanned fur for display	96 (10.9%)	170 (19.4%)	266 (15.1%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals	308 (34.8%)	210 (24.0%)	518 (29.4%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on dogs	41 (4.6%)	78 (8.9%)	119 (6.8%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on livestock	10 (1.1%)	35 (4.0%)	45 (2.6%)
I was concerned about human safety with the current wolf populations	18 (2.0%)	42 (4.8%)	60 (3.4%)
I wanted to get a wolf harvest authority to transfer to someone else	0 (0.0%)	1(0.01%)	1 (0.1%)
I wanted to prevent others from access to a wolf harvest permit	1 (0.1%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Another reason	25 (2.8%)	17 (1.9%)	42 (2.4%)
Totals	884 (50.2%)	875 (49.7%)	1,759 (100%)

5. Did you do any wolf hunting and/or trapping during the 2014-15 wolf season?

Yes → skip to Section 2, Question 1 No

License Type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / No License	4 (2.2%)	176 (97.8%)	180 (20.2%)
Licensed Resident	574 (81.3%)	132 (18.7%)	706 (79.1%)
Licensed Non-resident	7 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	7 (0.86%)
Total	585 (65.5%)	308 (34.5%)	893 (100%)

No Response = 7

6. What are some of the reasons you did not hunt and/or trap for wolves? (Check all that apply)

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Too busy to go	103	21.6%
Too far to travel	13	2.7%
License cost was too high	14	2.9%
I wasn't confident that I knew how to hunt/trap wolves	11	2.3%
I wasn't confident in where to hunt/trap	20	4.2%
I wanted to pursue wolves with dogs but the zone I preferred closed before it was allowed	61	12.8%
The zone I wanted to hunt/trap in closed before I could hunt/trap	196	41.1%
Another reason	59	12.4%

Section 2: Participation in Wolf Trapping

1. Did you attempt to harvest a wolf by **TRAPPING**?

Yes No → skip to Section 3, Question 1

License Type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / No License	2 (16.7%)	10 (83.3%)	12 (2.0%)
Licensed Resident	419 (73.0%)	155 (27.0%)	574 (96.8%)
Licensed Non-resident	2 (28.6%)	5 (71.4%)	7 (1.2%)
Total	423 (71.3%)	170 (28.7%)	593 (100%)

No Response = 307

2. Which of the following statements best describes your trapping experience.

Statement	Frequency	Percent
I was an active trapper prior to receiving a wolf tag	778	78.3
I was trapper certified but not actively trapping prior to receiving a wolf tag	160	16.1
I got trapper certified in order to pursue wolves by trapping	56	5.6

No Answer = 275

3. How many **other** people were with you on a typical wolf trapping day? If you were alone, please enter 0.

Number of others typically with me while trapping _____

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean	N	N Miss
0.80	0	12	0.05	0.7	0.9	400	23

Assistants	Frequency	Percent
0	177	44.3%
1	160	40.0%
2	46	11.5%
3	11	2.8%
4	2	0.5%
4+	4	1.0%

4. In the table below, first please tell us which zone(s) you attempted to trap a wolf during the 2013-14 season. Then for each zone, please complete the requested information. **(Zone map on back of letter)**

Mean trapping effort – statewide

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std error	Lower 95% CL for mean	Upper 95% CL for mean
# of days trapped	383	9.84	1.00	90.00	0.57	8.73	10.96
# of foothold sets made	391	15.97	1.00	120.00	0.76	14.47	17.48
# of cable restraint sets made	4	6.5	6.00	8.00	0.5	4.91	8.09
# of wolves seen	118	2.45	1.00	23.00	0.26	1.94	2.96
# of wolves restrained	63	1.33	1.00	6.00	0.11	1.12	1.55
# of wolves released	20	1.7	1.00	6.00	0.32	1.04	2.36
# of radio-collared wolves restrained	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
# of radio-collared wolves released	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other species captured & released	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mean trapping effort - by wolf zone

Zone	N Obs	Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
1	161	# of days	156	3.84	1	8	0.1	3.64	4.04
		# of foothold sets made	157	13.45	1	120	1.11	11.26	15.63
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	6	6	6	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	42	2	1	7	0.21	1.58	2.42
		# of wolves restrained	18	1.17	1	3	0.12	0.91	1.42
		# of wolves released	5	1.8	1	3	0.37	0.76	2.84
2	103	# of days	101	3.28	1	15	0.18	2.92	3.63
		# of foothold sets made	102	14.48	2	75	1.53	11.45	17.51
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	6	6	6	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	25	2.32	1	7	0.37	1.56	3.08
		# of wolves restrained	12	1.75	1	6	0.43	0.81	2.69
		# of wolves released	3	3	1	6	1.53	-3.57	9.57
3	87	# of days	84	12.44	1	48	0.97	10.52	14.36
		# of foothold sets made	84	10.65	1	75	1.04	8.58	12.73
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	8	8	8	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	18	2.28	1	9	0.57	1.07	3.48
		# of wolves restrained	14	1.29	1	4	0.22	0.81	1.76
		# of wolves released	5	1.6	1	3	0.4	0.49	2.71
4	26	# of days	24	3.46	1	7	0.33	2.78	4.14
		# of foothold sets made	25	8.32	1	27	1.14	5.98	10.66
		# of cable restraint sets made	0	.	.	.	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	4	1.75	1	2	0.25	0.95	2.55
		# of wolves restrained	2	1.5	1	2	0.5	-4.85	7.85
		# of wolves released	2	1	1	1	0	.	.
5	54	# of days	48	4.77	1	14	0.35	4.07	5.47
		# of foothold sets made	54	12.02	2	45	1.01	10	14.04
		# of cable restraint sets made	0	.	.	.	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	15	1.6	1	4	0.21	1.14	2.06
		# of wolves restrained	5	1.2	1	2	0.2	0.64	1.76
		# of wolves released	3	1	1	1	0	.	.
6	86	# of days	78	17.22	1	60	1.47	14.29	20.15
		# of foothold sets made	82	10.3	1	75	1.09	8.15	12.46
		# of cable restraint sets made	1	6	6	6	.	.	.
		# of wolves seen	20	2.9	1	23	1.11	0.58	5.22
		# of wolves restrained	11	1.18	1	2	0.12	0.91	1.45
		# of wolves released	2	1	1	1	0	.	.

5. Did you trap wolves using exposed bait (setting back at least 25 feet)?

Bait	Frequency	Percent
Yes	21	5.2
No	380	94.8

No Response = 22

6. On or after December 1st you could use foothold traps with a maximum spread up to 8 inches for wolves. Did you use traps larger than 7 inches on or after December 1st?

8" Trap Size	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	0.3
No	384	99.7

No Response = 38

Section 3: Participation in Wolf Hunting

1. Did you do any wolf **HUNTING**?

Yes No → skip to Section 4, Question 1

License Type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized/No License purchased	4 (33.3%)	8 (66.70%)	12 (2.1%)
Licensed Resident	305 (53.8%)	262 (46.2%)	567 (96.8%)
Licensed Non-resident	4 (66.7%)	2 (33.3%)	6 (1.0%)
Total	313 (53.4%)	272 (46.4%)	586 (100%)

No Response = 314

2. How many **other** people were with you on a typical wolf hunting day? If you were alone, please enter 0.

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean	N	N Miss
0.70	0	6.00	0.06	0.57	0.82	305	8

Others	Frequency	Percent
0	171	56.1
1	95	31.1
2	21	6.9
3	6	2.0
4	6	2.0
4+	6	2.0

3. In the table below, first please tell us which zone(s) you hunted wolves during the 2012-13 season. Then for each zone, please complete the requested information. **(Zone map on back of letter)**

Mean Hunting Effort by wolf zone

zone	N	Obs Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
1	126	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	100	3.24	1.00	20.00	0.24	2.76	3.72
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	9	2.22	1.00	3.00	0.32	1.48	2.97
		# of wolves seen	23	3.78	1.00	20.00	0.93	1.84	5.72
2	71	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	58	2.83	1.00	10.00	0.20	2.43	3.23
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	8	2.13	1.00	3.00	0.35	1.3	2.95
		# of wolves seen	14	3.93	1.00	15.00	1.14	1.46	6.39
3	150	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	82	5.73	1.00	30.00	0.7	4.35	7.12
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	20	10.05	1.00	30.00	1.51	6.88	13.22
		# of wolves seen	21	3.71	1.00	11.00	0.82	2.0	5.42
4	28	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	17	2.53	1.00	8.00	0.52	1.42	3.64
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	2	6.00	2.00	10.00	4.0	-44.82	56.82
		# of wolves seen	3	6.00	1.00	10.00	2.65	-5.38	17.38
5	42	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	30	3.03	1.00	5.00	0.28	2.46	3.61
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	6	7.17	1.00	20.00	2.87	-0.21	14.54
		# of wolves seen	7	1.14	1.00	2.00	0.14	0.79	1.49
6	46	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	68	6.84	1.00	40.00	0.85	5.15	8.53
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	39	10.62	1.00	30.00	1.08	8.42	12.81
		# of wolves seen	17	1.88	1.00	6.00	0.32	1.21	2.56

Mean Hunting Effort –Statewide-

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	283	5.55	1.00	44.00	0.36	4.83	6.26
# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	77	9.48	1.00	45.00	0.91	7.67	11.29
# of total days	313	7.35	0.00	75.00	0.54	6.29	8.41
# of wolves seen	74	3.76	1.00	33.00	0.68	2.40	5.11

4. What type of weapon(s) did you use while hunting wolves? **(Check all that apply)**

Weapon	Frequency	Percent
Rifle	1,505	84.7%
Shotgun	159	9.0%
Handgun	47	2.6%
Muzzleloader	7	0.4%
Bow	51	2.9%
Crossbow	7	0.4%

No Response = 102

5. Did you hunt wolves with the aid of dogs?

Yes No → skip to Question 7

	Yes	No
Response	30 (9.8%)	277 (90.2%)

No Response = 6

6. What was the number of dogs you typically used to run wolves: _____

Mean = 3.19 dogs used

7. Please tell us the number of days of hunting using each technique?

Variable	N	N Miss	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
# of days hunting with BOTH Calls & Bait	46	267	3.91	1.00	12.00	0.38	3.15	4.68
# of days hunting with Bait Only	15	298	5.47	1.00	20.00	1.36	2.56	8.37
# of days hunting with Calls Only	207	106	5.00	1.00	43.00	0.36	4.30	5.71
# of days of hunting with the aid of dogs	28	285	2.07	1.00	8.00	0.28	1.49	2.65
# of days hunted incidental to other hunting	56	257	8.20	1.00	30.00	0.89	6.42	9.97

8. Did you shoot at the first wolf which presented an opportunity?

Yes → skip to Question 10 No

	Yes	No
	35 (16.4%)	179 (83.6%)

No response = 99

9. What was your reason for passing up a wolf? **(Check all that apply)**

Reason for passing	Frequency	Percent
Waiting for a Larger Wolf	9	5.7
Waiting for a Better Shot	141	88.7
Wanted to Hunt Longer	1	0.6
Waiting for wolf with a better coat / different color	6	3.8
Another reason	2	1.3

10. Did you hit any wolves you were unable to retrieve?

Yes → How many were you unable to retrieve? _____

No

	Yes	No
	2 (1.1%)	186 (98.9%)
Frequency Missing = 125		

Section 4: General Wolf Hunting and/or Trapping Questions

Two part question on where and how they selected a place to hunt/trap

Part 1. When it came time to decide where to go wolf hunting/trapping, which of the following statements describes what you did? (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
(A) I went to land that I own	255	21.7%
(B) I went to familiar places that I hunt/trap	668	56.8%
(C) I went to a new area that I have never hunted/trapped before	254	21.6%

Part 2. Answer this section if you Checked A or B above: What influenced you to try wolf hunting/trapping here? (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
I have seen wolves and wolf sign here in the past	744	20.7%
I wanted to reduce wolf predation on wildlife in the area	1,169	32.6%
It was easier than finding a new place to hunt/trap	235	6.6%
I had a place to stay near by	578	16.1%
I Wanted to reduce the depredation threat to dogs (hunting and pet)	395	11.0%
I wanted to reduce the depredation htreat to livestock	396	11.0%
I know I could run dogs there	58	1.6%
Other	12	0.3%

Answer this section if you Checked C above: What influenced you to try wolf hunting/trapping here? (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
I sought out areas with high amounts of wolves and wolf sign	683	29.7%
I sought out areas where wolves had killed livestock	160	7.0%
I went to an area that had large areas of open public land	497	21.6%
I sought out areas where wolves had killed dogs (hunting/pets)	166	7.2%
I sought an area where I didn't think I would run into other wolf hunters/trappers	243	10.6%
I went to an area with a high wolf harvest quota	111	4.8%
I went to an area where I could hunt with dogs	7	0.3%
I went to an area that was still open to wolf harvest	236	10.3%
I went to an area at the request of a landowner	185	8.1%
Other	8	0.3%

1. On what date did you start your wolf hunting/trapping? _____ / _____ / _____
 Month Day Year

Mean Starting Date for hunting/trapping was: **17 October 2014**

2. What was your motivation for starting hunting/trapping on the date you did? **(Check all that apply)**

	Frequency	Percent
It was the first day of the season	377	24.9
I wanted to start as soon as possible to ensure my best chance at a wolf	411	27.2
I wanted to wait until the wolves' fur was more prime	23	1.5
I wanted to start as soon as I could to ensure I got to hunt/trap before the wolf zone closed	429	28.4
I noticed that my preferred wolf zone was getting close to its quota and I wanted to ensure I got a chance to pursue wolves in it before it closed	72	4.8
It was my first period of free time that I could pursue wolves	159	10.5
I wanted to wait until the start of the dog use period	23	1.5
I wanted to wait until the start of the cable restraint period	2	0.1
I wanted fresh snow cover to make it easier to locate a wolf	13	0.9
Other	3	0.2

3. What was your impression on the length of the wolf season? (Check one)

Response	Frequency	Percent
The wolf season was too short	1,571	93.6%
The wolf season length was about right	103	6.1%
The wolf season was too long	4	0.2%

No Response = 68

4. The following statements pertain to the current permitting system and season dates. For each statement please choose your best response. **(Select one response for each statement)**

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Neither support nor oppose	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose
Issue fewer wolf permits to achieve the harvest quota in an effort to have a longer season. (Note: fewer people would be allowed to participate in the wolf season)	106 (18.7%)	78 (13.7%)	82 (14.4%)	61 (10.7%)	241 (42.4%)
Leave the wolf permitting system and season structure as they are currently composed (Note: All permits valid for any zone statewide)	177 (31.6%)	116 (20.7%)	100 (17.9%)	53 (9.5%)	114 (20.4%)
Issue the same number of permits but make them specific to a single wolf zone; this may increase the length of the season in some wolf zones but would limit your ability to move once your preferred zone closed	95 (16.9%)	99 (17.7%)	102 (18.2%)	70 (12.5%)	195 (34.8%)

5. Which, if any, of the following harvest techniques did you use? **(Check all that apply)**

	Predator Calling/Howling	Stalking / Tracking	Trapping / Cable	Aid of Dogs	Incidental	Stand Hunting	Bait/Scent	Other
Total	255 (26.2%)	64 (6.6%)	383 (39.3%)	30 (3.1%)	61 (6.3%)	119 (12.2%)	62 (6.4%)	1 (0.1%)

6. What percent of your time pursuing wolves did you spend on each land ownership type? **(Total should equal 100%)**

Variable	N	Mean % of time	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
Private land I own	184	58.4%	5	100	2.63	53.19	63.57
Private land I do not own	314	61.2%	5	100	1.87	57.50	64.84
Industrial land	42	44.7%	5	100	4.21	36.20	53.23
Public land	378	68.0%	1	100	1.69	64.64	71.30

7. Did you have to move your hunting and/or trapping activities due to an early closure of your preferred wolf zone?

Yes No → skip to Question 9

Yes	No
257 (45.3%)	310 (54.7%)
No Response = 15	

8. How would you compare the area you moved to with the area of your preferred wolf zone?

Much Better	Somewhat better	About the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Stopped pursuing
4 (1.7%)	2 (0.9%)	70 (30.3%)	43 (18.6%)	47 (20.4%)	65 (28.1%)
No Response = 26					

9. How would you rate the Wisconsin DNR's effectiveness of alerting you of wolf hunting/trapping zone closures (news releases, toll free number, web page, emails)? **(Circle one number)**

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Never aware of closures Very effective Fairly effective Unsure Fairly ineffective Very ineffective

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2 (0.4%)	227 (39.6%)	67 (11.7%)	130 (22.7%)	16 (2.8%)	35 (6.1%)	13 (2.3%)	25 (4.4%)	13 (2.3%)	46 (8.0%)

No response = 8

Mean rating of WDNR zone closures alerts

N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
574	3.07	0.00	9.00	0.11	2.86	3.27

10. Thinking about the number of other hunters and/or trappers you may have seen during your hunting and/or trapping days, how crowded did you feel during your 2014-15 wolf season?
(Circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all crowded		Slightly crowded		Unsure		Moderately crowded		Extremely crowded
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
251 (43.7%)	63 (11.0%)	79 (13.8%)	12 (2.1%)	35 (6.1%)	13 (2.3%)	61 (10.6%)	18 (3.1%)	42 (7.3%)
No Response = 8								

11. Other **wolf hunters or trappers** may have affected your wolf season. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2014-15 wolf season.

Response	Not at all	A little	Some	A great deal
How much, if at all, did other wolf hunters and/or trappers keep you from pursuing wolves where you wanted?	336 (58.2%)	94 (16.3%)	98 (17.0%)	49 (8.5%)
How much competition from other wolf hunters and/or trappers did you experience?	258 (44.9%)	131 (22.8%)	110 (19.1%)	75 (13.0%)
Overall, how much did other wolf hunters and/or trappers interfere with your chance to harvest a wolf?	305 (53.0%)	108 (18.8%)	90 (15.7%)	72 (12.5%)

12. While you were afield this fall, did the presence of other hunters interfere with your wolf hunting/trapping?

Yes No → Go to Question 13.

Yes	No
175 (30.5%)	399 (69.5%)
No Response = 8	

If **YES**, what were the other hunters hunting? (Check all that apply)

- Archery Deer hunting Small Game hunting Turkey hunting
 Gun Deer hunting Hiking / sight-seeing Unknown
 Other: _____

Archery Deer	Gun Deer	Small Game	Hiking/sight-seeing	Turkeys	Unknown	Other
205 (24.1%)	63 (7.4%)	392 (46.1%)	81 (9.5%)	21 (2.5%)	37 (4.4%)	52 (6.1%)
No Response = 374						

13. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2013-14 wolf harvest season?

Very high	Fairly high	Neither high nor low	Fairly low	Very low
66 (12.9%)	95 (18.6%)	202 (39.5%)	81 (15.9%)	67 (13.1%)
No Response = 14				

14. While you were afield this fall, did you encounter anyone that purposely wanted to observe your wolf hunting/trapping activities?

- Yes No → Go to Question 14.

Yes	No
62 (10.9%)	508 (89.1%)
No Response = 12	

If Yes, did they interfere with your activities either intentionally or unintentionally?

Yes	No
30 (49.2%)	31 (50.8%)
No Response = 1	

Section 5: Wolf Harvest Registration

1. Did you register a wolf during the 2014-15 wolf season

- Yes No → skip to Question 6, Question1

Yes	No
102 (18.4%)	452 (81.6%)
No response = 1	

2. What did do you do with the hide? (Check one)

Sold	Taxidermy	Tanned & Kept	Tanned & Sold	Something Else
1 (1.0%)	54 (52.9%)	44 (43.1%)	3 (2.9%)	0 (0.0%)
No Response = 3				

3. How would you describe the fur condition of the wolf? (Check all that apply)

Rating	Frequency	Percent
1 (Poorly furred)	9	9.1%
2	10	10.1%
3 (Between poor and prime)	36	36.4%
4	32	32.3%
5 (Fully prime)	12	12.1%

Mean rating: **3.28**

4. How easy or difficult was it to use the DNR's wolf harvest reporting system? (Circle one number)

1 Very easy	2	3 Fairly easy	4	5 Neither easy nor difficult	6	7 Fairly difficult	8	9 Very difficult
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
36 (36.4%)	8 (8.1%)	35 (35.4%)	5 (5.1%)	11 (11.1%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (2.0%)
No response = 4								

Section 6: Background Questions

These last few questions will help us compare your answers to those of other wolf hunters and trappers.

1. Do you think you will apply for another wolf license in 2015-16?

Yes	No	Unsure
588	114	157 (18.3%)

No response = 41

2. What are some of the reasons you are unlikely to apply for another wolf license?
(Check all that apply)

Reasons you are unlikely to apply for another wolf license	Frequency	Percent
This year's hunt was too costly	80	3.7
The wolf season closes too quickly	989	46.0
The dog pursuit season closes too quickly and/or isn't open often enough	336	15.6
I did not have (or do not think I will have) enough time	345	16.0
I was not satisfied with my wolf hunting/trapping experience	314	14.6
I did not see enough wolves or wolf sign this past year	58	2.7
I harvested a wolf and do not need or want to harvest a second wolf	15	0.7
I am not a hunter or trapper	0	0.0
Another reason	13	0.6

3. People have different opinions about wolves. Circle the number on each row that best represents your opinion about wolves. (Circle one number for each pair of opposite words)

Wolves are... frequency (percent)

	Extremely	Moderately	Slightly	Neither	Slightly	Moderately	Extremely	
Harmful	370 (43.5%)	237 (27.9%)	93 (10.9%)	65 (7.6%)	42 (4.9%)	28 (3.3%)	15 (1.8%)	Beneficial
Bad	279 (33.2%)	178 (21.2%)	106 (12.6%)	184 (21.9%)	37 (4.4%)	37 (4.4%)	19 (2.3%)	Good
Unlikeable	246 (30.3%)	133 (15.9%)	99 (11.8%)	224 (26.7%)	55 (6.6%)	52 (6.2%)	30 (3.6%)	Likeable
Threatening	269 (31.9%)	180 (21.3%)	150 (17.8%)	129 (15.3%)	41 (4.9%)	44 (5.2%)	31 (3.7%)	Non-threatening
Worthless	208 (24.6%)	95 (11.2%)	73 (8.6%)	252 (29.8%)	91 (10.8%)	72 (8.5%)	54 (6.4%)	Valuable
Pests	239 (28.3%)	119 (14.1%)	73 (8.6%)	136 (16.1%)	72 (8.5%)	85 (10.1%)	121 (14.3%)	Trophy animal

4. You are?

Male = **94.9%** Female = **5.1%**

5. What is your age? I am _____ years old.

Mean age of wolf permit holder = 48.5

6. Are you a Wisconsin resident?

- Yes No → skip to Question 8

Yes	No
865 (99.0%)	9 (1.0%)

No response = 26

7. In which Wisconsin county is your primary residence? _____

8. Please use the space below to describe how future wolf harvest seasons could be improved, or to comment on any other aspects of the wolf harvest season.

- There were 717 comments left by wolf hunter/trappers. Summary was too long for this report