

Project №: W-15-R**Job №:** E2**Title of Job:** 2008 Prairie Grouse Cooperator Survey

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We received 145 wing envelopes from 76 cooperating hunters in the East and West grouse zones in 2008, containing 418 grouse wings. Hunters reported harvesting 460 grouse wings during the 2008 season (13 September-31 December 2008), for an average of 1.69 grouse harvested per hunter day. The wing sample contained 245 sharp-tailed grouse wings (68.6% of which were juveniles) and 173 greater prairie-chicken (60.7% of which were juveniles) wings. Statewide, there were 2.18 juvenile sharp-tails and 1.54 juvenile prairie chickens per adult.

We received 60 wing envelopes from 53 hunters in the East Zone, containing 83 greater prairie-chicken wings (54.2% of which were juveniles). Hunters in the East Zone reported harvesting 115 prairie chickens. The East-Zone age ratio was 1.18 juveniles per adult. From the West Zone, we received 85 wing envelopes from 23 cooperating hunters, containing 335 grouse wings. Hunters reported harvesting 345 grouse in the West Zone. Of the 90 greater prairie-chicken wings returned from the West Zone, 66.7% were juveniles (2.0 juveniles per adult).

Table 1. Results of the 2008 Grouse Hunter Cooperator Survey (West Grouse Zone).

Month	Wings Returned		Hunter-days	Grouse per Hunter-day*
	Sharp-tails (% juveniles)	Prairie-chicken (% juveniles)		
September	109 (62.4)	59 (64.4)	82	2.15
October	94 (67.0)	28 (75.0)	71	1.75
November	30 (86.7)	3 (33.3)	13	2.54
December	12 (91.7)	0 (0.0)	7	1.71
Total	245 (68.6)	90 (66.7)	173	1.94

*Based on reported harvest, rather than returned wings.

Figure 1. Monthly distribution of harvest based on cooperator reports and annual production estimates based on wing samples, 1996-2008.