

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project No: W-15-R**Title of Job: 2013 Grouse Wing Cooperator Survey**

Dr. Jeffrey J. Lusk
Upland Game Program Manager
30 May 2014

Postage-paid wing envelopes were mailed to 22 avid grouse hunters (“cooperators”) and all hunters with East-Zone grouse permits prior to the hunting season. Data recorded for each envelope includes date, hours hunted, county hunted, number of hunters in the party, grouse bagged, and one wing from each bird harvested by the party.

A total of 25 wing envelopes was returned by cooperators in 2013 in the west zone, containing 34 wings (Table 1). Approximately 33% of the 3 sharp-tail wings returned were juvenile, whereas 71% of the 34 prairie chicken wings were juvenile (Figure 1). Overall hunting success was 0.59 grouse per hunter-day, lower than in 2012. Harvest occurred mostly in September, declining monthly thereafter, with no harvest reported for January (Figure 1).

Table 1. Results of the 2013 prairie grouse cooperator survey (West Zone).

Month	Wings Returned		Hunter-days	Grouse/ Hunter-day ^a
	Sharptails (% juvenile)	Prairie Chicken (% juvenile)		
September	2 (50)	26 (69)	20	1.40
October	0 (NA)	5 (100)	9	0.56
November	1 (0)	1 (100)	2	1.00
December	0 (NA)	1 (0)	1	1.00
January	0 (NA)	1 (0)	2	0.50
Total	3 (33)	34 (71)	34	0.59

* Based on reported harvest rather than on wing sample.

Figure 1. Production indices for grouse harvested by hunter-cooperators in the Grouse Cooperator Survey, 1996-2013.



