

**Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project №: W-15-R****Title of Job: 2015 Grouse Wing Cooperator Survey**

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12 July 2016

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 38 wing envelopes was returned by cooperators in 2015 in the west zone, containing 104 wings (Table 1). Approximately 50% of the 24 sharp-tail wings returned were juvenile, whereas 55% of the 80 prairie chicken wings were juvenile (Figure 1). Overall hunting success was 1.19 grouse per hunter-day, lower than in 2014. Harvest occurred mostly in September, declining monthly thereafter, with no harvest reported for December (Figure 1).

**Table 1.** Results of the 2015 prairie grouse cooperator survey (West Zone).

Month	Wings Returned		Grouse/ Hunter-day*
	Sharptails (% juvenile)	Prairie Chicken (% juvenile)	
September	7 (57)	48 (60)	2.34
October	12 (50)	25 (48)	2.17
November	5 (40)	4 (75)	1.80
December	0 (NA)	0 (NA)	0.00
January	0 (NA)	3 (0)	0.75
Total	24 (50)	80 (55)	1.19

\* Based on reported harvest rather than on wing sample.

**Figure 1.** Production indices for grouse harvested by hunter-cooperators in the Grouse Cooperator Survey, 1996-2015.

