

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2010 Colorado Duck Hunter Survey

Fact Sheet



Purpose of the study: To measure satisfaction with duck hunting season dates and structure among Colorado duck hunters, especially avid hunters and those who hunt in the Eastern Plains zone of the Central Flyway, and to measure support for a change to zone boundaries in the Eastern Plains zone in the Central Flyway.

Methods: Between Jan and March 2011, we mailed 5,000 surveys to individuals who had registered with HIP and reported hunting ducks in 2009. We targeted hunters who lived in the southeast quarter of Colorado and those who had harvested >10 ducks in 2009 to oversample hunters from southeast CO and avid hunters. We had a valid sample of 4,658 duck hunters and received a total of 2,190 responses to the survey (47% adjusted response rate).

Highlights of results: Key findings of this survey were as follows:

- 49% of hunters reported that it was unlikely that they would contact the CDOW to comment on duck hunting seasons or bag limits. 37% of avid hunters and 31% of hunters in the Southeast Eastern Plains were likely to contact DOW staff to express their opinions about season dates or bag limits.
- Survey respondents had hunted ducks in CO for an average of 18 years ($n=1,588$, range: 0-66) and a majority of respondents purchased a state waterfowl stamp at least 4 of every 5 years
- 44% of respondents hunted ducks in northeast CO, along the South Platte River corridor, 12% of hunters hunted in the Front Range corridor and 10% hunted in southeast CO, along the Arkansas River corridor.
- 30% of hunters hunted on public land most often and preferred to hunt small pond/marsh (33%) or river (33%) habitats.
- Hunters in the Pacific Flyway and Mountain/Foothills area of the Central Flyway most preferred to hunt ducks during the 1st week of October. Hunters in the Southeast Central Flyway preferred to hunt the 3rd and 4th weeks of December. Hunters in the Northeast Central Flyway showed a less clear pattern of preference for the week they most preferred to hunt ducks.
- 35% of hunters in southeast CO were unsatisfied with duck season dates in CO, while 37% of hunters from northeast CO were satisfied with season dates.
- 39% of northeast CO hunters preferred to maintain the current zone boundaries in the Eastern Plains zone of the Central Flyway. Hunters in both areas felt that the most important reason to set boundaries according to their preference was the likelihood that the season would be open when ducks are present.
- 49% of northeast CO and 54% of southeast CO hunters felt that setting zone boundaries according to their preferences would increase their satisfaction with duck hunting in CO.
- Hunters from northeast CO felt that changing the zone boundaries would not affect the number of days they spend hunting or their harvest. Hunters from southeast CO felt that changing zone boundaries would increase their days hunting and harvest.

For more information:

For full text of this and other Human Dimensions reports and surveys, please contact Stacy Lischka at stacy.lischka@state.co.us or (303) 291-7279.