

2011 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest Report

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Minnesota's fall turkey hunting season is managed with a quota system similar to the spring turkey hunting season. Permits are allocated across 67 permit areas (PAs; Figure 1). In 2011, the fall season was 30 days in length (October 1-30) and allowed permit holders to take one wild turkey of either sex.

Four types of permits were available to hunters: (1) general lottery permits in which applicants or parties of up to 4 hunters applied for a specific PA, (2) landowner permits in which up to 20% of permits for each PA were reserved for landowners or tenants who lived on 40 acres or more of land within the PA, (3) surplus permits which were offered in under-subscribed PAs, and (4) youth permits which were offered over the counter to all youth age 17 and younger on October 1, 2011. General lottery and landowner permits were made available based on a system of preference, which was determined by the number of years applicants submitted a valid, but unsuccessful application since last receiving a permit. Surplus permits could be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis. Youth permits were available without quota or preference for the first time in 2011.

Fall turkey hunting opportunity has increased significantly since 2007 with the addition of 5,940 available permits (132% increase), 35 new permit areas, and the extension of the season from two 5-day time periods to one 30-day time period. In 2011, 5,382 permits were issued (a 19% decrease from 2010), and hunters registered 953 turkeys, a 30% decrease from the 2010 season (Table 1; Figure 2). Hunter success averaged 18%, below the 5-year average (23%), and success varied among PAs from 0% in PAs 447, 457, and 458 to 42% in PA 183 (Table 2). The majority of permits issued were general lottery (47%), followed by surplus permits (39%), youth (13%), and landowner (2%; Table 3). Compared to 2009, the proportion of general lottery permits issued has declined dramatically (from 94% to 47%) while the number of surplus permits issued increased by a similar amount (from 1% to 39%), indicating that some hunters are opting to purchase a surplus permit rather than apply for a permit through the general lottery system.

Overall weather conditions for the 2011 fall wild turkey season were favorable across much of the turkey range, although the first week was unseasonably warm. Much of October received little or no precipitation (Minnesota Climatology Working Group 2011), and regional mean temperatures for October were generally 4 to 6° F above average (Minnesota Climatology Working Group 2011). Despite generally favorable weather conditions, hunter participation declined 19% from 2010, and harvest was 30% below that from 2010. Both the spring turkey harvest and the fall turkey harvest were lower than expected, which might reflect a smaller wild turkey population following the severe winter of 2010-11, during which hen survival was likely reduced. Further, the cold, wet spring of 2011, which likely reduced nest and poult survival, would also reduce fall turkey numbers. Reduced hunter participation may be a response to the expected smaller turkey population and a smaller proportion of hunters making their fall turkey hunting plans in July by applying for a permit through the lottery system. Participation in fall

turkey hunting has declined nearly 30% over the past 5 years in Wisconsin, so it is also possible that some hunters try out the sport but lack sufficient interest to continue participation.

Literature Cited

Minnesota Climatology Working Group. 2011. Climate journal. <http://climate.umn.edu/>
Accessed 22 November 2011.

Table 1. Permits available and issued, applicants, registered harvest, and hunter success rates for fall wild turkey seasons 1990 – 2011, Minnesota.

Year	Permits available	Applicants	Permits issued	Registered harvest	Hunter success (%) ^a
1990	1,000	4,522	951	326	34
1991	2,200	2,990	2,020	552	27
1992	2,200	2,782	2,028	588	29
1993	2,400	3,186	2,094	605	29
1994	2,500	3,124	2,106	601	29
1995	2,500	3,685	2,125	648	30
1996	2,500	4,453	2,289	685	30
1997	2,580	4,574	2,378	698	29
1998	2,710	4,526	2,483	828	33
1999	2,890	5,354	2,644	865	33
2000	3,090	5,263	2,484	735	30
2001	2,870	4,501	2,262	629	28
2002	3,790	5,180	2,945	594	20
2003	3,870	5,264	2,977	889	30
2004	4,380	5,878	3,277	758	23
2005	4,410	4,542	2,978	681	23
2006	4,290	4,167	2,802	618	22
2007	4,490	4,464	2,837	695	24
2008	7,560	5,834	4,981	1,187	24
2009	9,330	7,738	5,019	1,163	23
2010	10,430	6,869	6,607	1,353	20
2011	10,430	3,538	5,382	953	18

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation.

Table 2. Permits available and issued, registered harvest, and current and historic success by permit area for the 2011 fall wild turkey season, Minnesota.

Permit area	Permits		2011		Historic mean ^b	
	Available	Issued	Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a	Success (%)	<i>n</i>
156	20	21	7	33	21	3
157	100	89	18	20	22	4
159	20	18	1	6	7	3
183	10	12	5	42	19	3
213	200	136	30	22	18	4
214	200	103	22	21	25	4
215	300	145	25	17	23	4
218	200	168	25	15	22	3
219	100	97	16	16	17	3
221	200	79	10	13	20	4
222	200	52	11	21	21	4
223	200	147	28	19	17	4
225	200	98	12	12	14	3
227	300	180	28	16	21	5
229	50	41	5	12	17	4
235	20	18	2	11	9	3
236	300	192	32	17	23	9
239	300	195	38	19	25	4
240	200	95	24	25	28	4
241	20	20	2	10	22	3
243	20	26	8	31	30	3
244	40	39	11	28	35	3
248	100	47	10	21	24	4
249	100	86	10	12	19	4
262	40	8	1	13	28	4
338	200	158	28	18	24	9
339	200	134	14	10	18	9
341	500	304	70	23	25	9
342	350	145	21	14	22	9
343	300	216	42	19	26	9
344	200	82	6	7	19	9
345	200	58	6	10	16	9
346	300	113	16	14	22	9
347	200	122	25	20	23	9

Table 2. Continued.

Permit area	Permits		2011		Historic mean ^b	
	Available	Issued	Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a	Success (%)	<i>n</i>
348	250	130	16	12	23	9
349	450	105	21	20	22	9
412	40	37	5	14	25	4
416	20	20	5	25	22	3
417	30	29	8	28	30	3
420	40	12	3	25	30	6
422	50	46	5	11	31	6
425	40	32	10	31	26	6
427	20	19	3	16	20	3
428	30	29	6	21	26	4
431	20	18	5	28	33	6
433	20	24	4	17	18	6
440	20	21	2	10	28	4
442	250	177	29	16	25	9
443	100	65	9	14	17	9
446	20	10	1	10	20	6
447	20	7	0	0	14	6
448	30	12	3	25	22	9
449	30	16	3	19	27	8
450	20	3	1	33	15	6
451	20	7	2	29	19	3
454	20	21	3	14	25	3
457	20	13	0	0	3	3
458	20	3	0	0	0	3
459	20	12	2	17	7	4
461	250	198	41	21	28	9
462	240	129	28	22	24	9
463	30	31	7	23	22	4
464	80	47	12	26	24	9
465	80	38	8	21	22	9
466	160	106	19	18	26	9
467	100	109	22	20	21	9
601	2000	412	61	15	19	9
Total	10430	5382	953	18	-	-

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation.

^b Mean success rates (%) over all fall turkey seasons (*n*) between 2003 – 2011 or since a permit area opened for fall turkey hunting.

Table 3. Permits available and issued by type, registered harvest, and success by permit area for the 2011 fall wild turkey season, Minnesota.

Permit area	Permits available	Permits issued by type					Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a
		General lottery	Landowner	Surplus	Youth	Total		
156	20	16	1	0	4	21	7	33
157	100	49	1	31	8	89	18	20
159	20	14	0	3	1	18	1	6
183	10	10	0	0	2	12	5	42
213	200	52	4	60	20	136	30	22
214	200	37	1	52	13	103	22	21
215	300	47	2	72	24	145	25	17
218	200	76	3	60	29	168	25	15
219	100	58	2	22	15	97	16	16
221	200	24	2	43	10	79	10	13
222	200	12	1	32	7	52	11	21
223	200	64	0	64	19	147	28	19
225	200	36	2	43	17	98	12	12
227	300	66	2	88	24	180	28	16
229	50	12	0	23	6	41	5	12
235	20	12	0	4	2	18	2	11
236	300	89	1	75	27	192	32	17
239	300	79	0	94	22	195	38	19
240	200	42	0	38	15	95	24	25
241	20	6	0	10	4	20	2	10
243	20	15	1	0	10	26	8	31
244	40	30	3	0	6	39	11	28
248	100	13	2	28	4	47	10	21
249	100	41	1	35	9	86	10	12
262	40	4	0	3	1	8	1	13
338	200	65	4	76	13	158	28	18
339	200	37	1	66	30	134	14	10
341	500	130	4	130	40	304	70	23
342	350	81	4	47	13	145	21	14
343	300	126	4	65	21	216	42	19
344	200	44	0	35	3	82	6	7
345	200	23	2	27	6	58	6	10
346	300	61	4	36	12	113	16	14
347	200	59	1	43	19	122	25	20

Table 3. Continued.

Permit area	Permits available	Permits issued by type					Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a
		General lottery	Landowner	Surplus	Youth	Total		
348	250	69	1	50	10	130	16	12
349	450	53	1	40	11	105	21	20
412	40	14	3	14	6	37	5	14
416	20	9	0	6	5	20	5	25
417	30	24	3	0	2	29	8	28
420	40	3	1	6	2	12	3	25
422	50	30	0	8	8	46	5	11
425	40	28	2	0	2	32	10	31
427	20	10	0	7	2	19	3	16
428	30	21	3	1	4	29	6	21
431	20	5	0	9	4	18	5	28
433	20	12	0	8	4	24	4	17
440	20	18	0	0	3	21	2	10
442	250	120	6	40	11	177	29	16
443	100	35	0	18	12	65	9	14
446	20	5	0	5	0	10	1	10
447	20	3	0	4	0	7	0	0
448	30	8	0	2	2	12	3	25
449	30	11	0	5	0	16	3	19
450	20	1	0	2	0	3	1	33
451	20	4	0	2	1	7	2	29
454	20	9	0	11	1	21	3	14
457	20	9	0	3	1	13	0	0
458	20	0	0	3	0	3	0	0
459	20	7	0	2	3	12	2	17
461	250	99	4	71	24	198	41	21
462	240	76	5	40	8	129	28	22
463	30	24	1	1	5	31	7	23
464	80	15	0	21	11	47	12	26
465	80	20	0	12	6	38	8	21
466	160	41	1	53	11	106	19	18
467	100	50	0	39	20	109	22	20
601	2,000	147	0	195	70	412	61	15
Total	10,430	2,510	84	2,083	705	5,382	953	18

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation

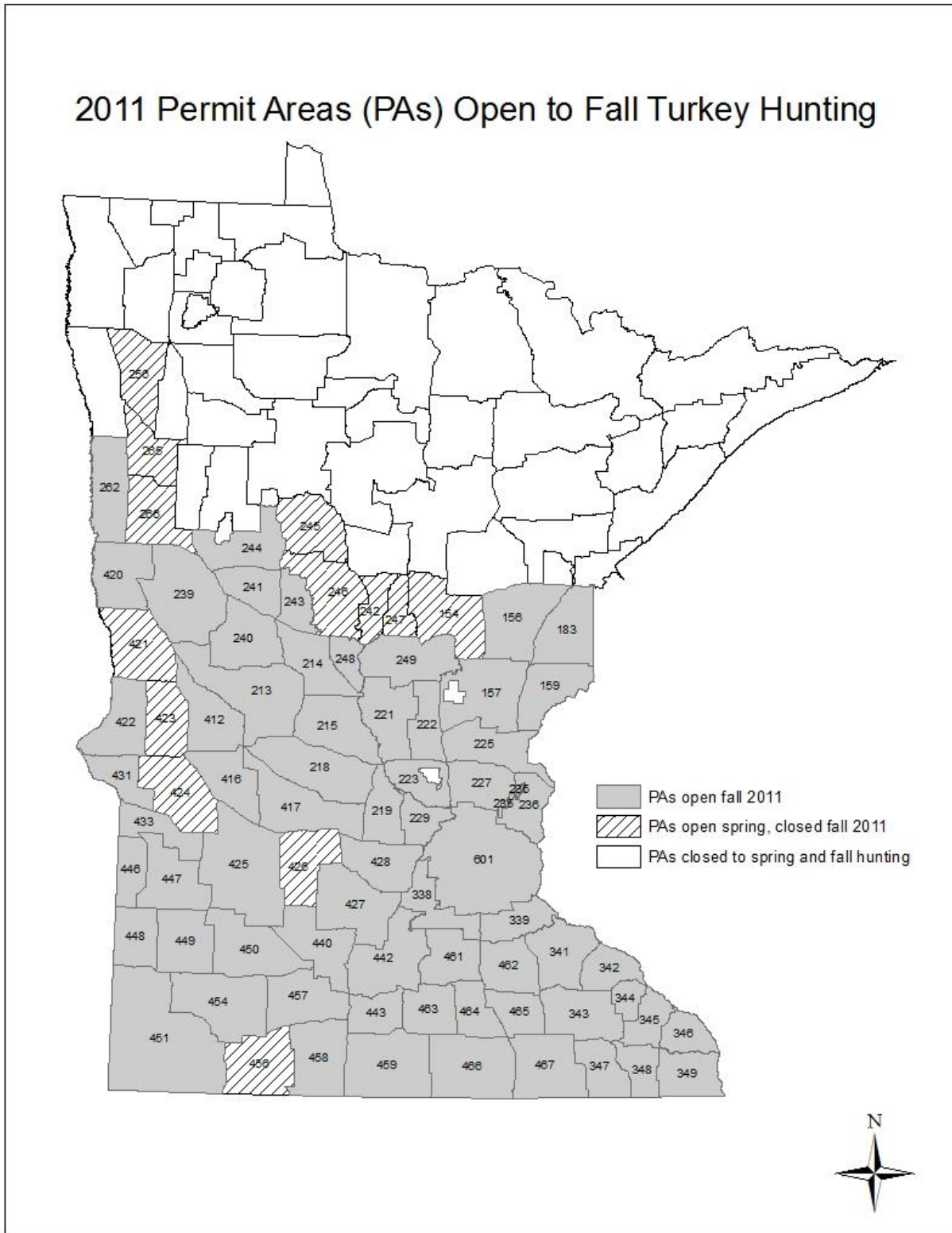


Figure 1. Permit areas (PAs) open for the 2011 fall wild turkey hunting season, Minnesota.

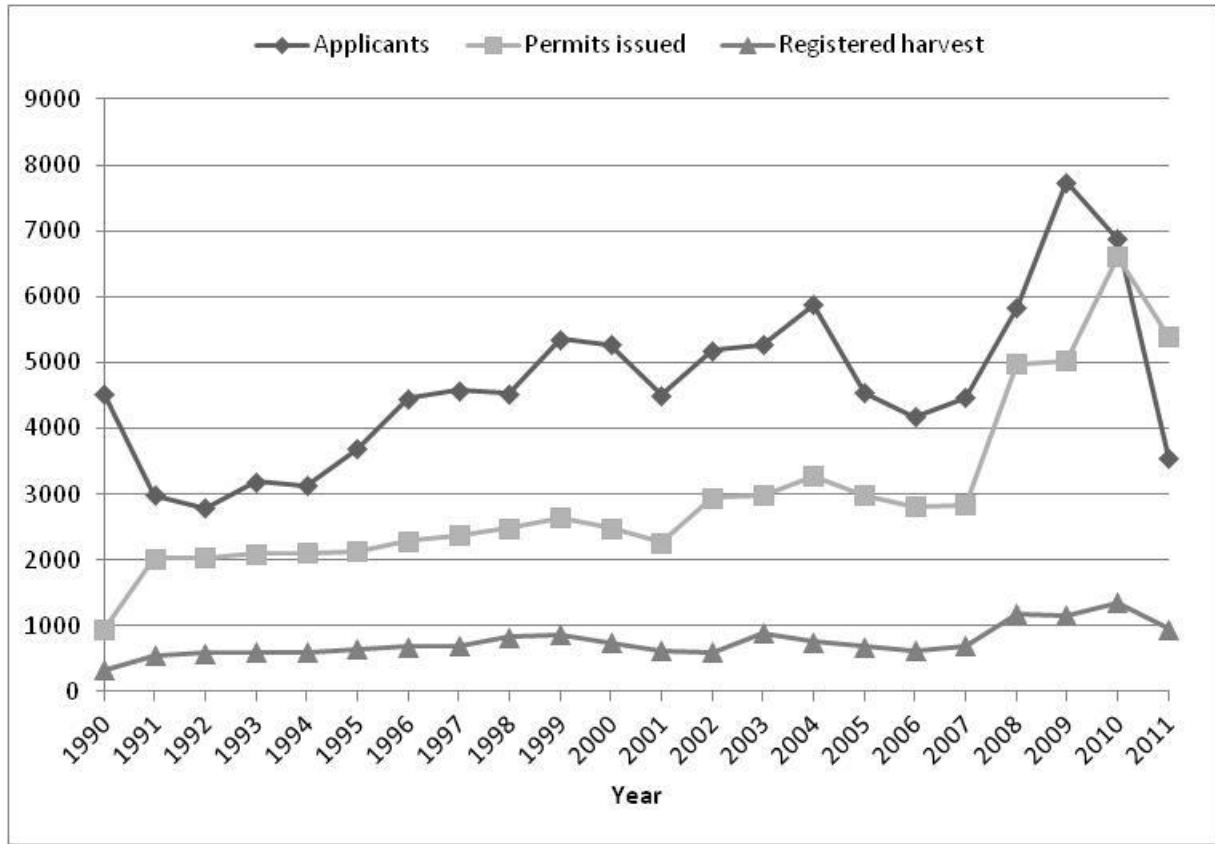


Figure 2. Applicants, permits issued, and registered harvest for fall wild turkey seasons 1990 – 2011, Minnesota.