



Minnesota's Wild Turkey Harvest – 2014

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This report summarizes the fall 2013 and spring 2014 wild turkey harvest information. The fall turkey season was 30 days in length (September 28- October 27) and allowed for an unlimited number of hunters to take one wild turkey of either sex. The spring turkey season regulated harvest and distributed hunting pressure by allocating permits across 12 permit areas (PAs; Figure 1) and 8 time periods using a quota system for the first 3 time periods. During spring, adult hunters interested in pursuing turkeys for the first 3 time periods were required to apply for a permit through a lottery system but youth hunters were able purchase a permit over-the-counter, and hunt in any permit area. Preference for this lottery system was determined by the number of years a valid but unsuccessful application had been submitted since last receiving a permit. Hunters could apply individually or in a group of up to 4 hunters. Successful applicants were notified through U.S. Mail and unsuccessful applicants were awarded a preference point. Hunters could simply purchase a permit for the last 5 seasons. Persons with an archery turkey license could hunt the last 5 time periods in their entirety. The goal of this system was to provide quality turkey hunting opportunities by managing hunter interference rates while allowing hunters to take the harvestable surplus of turkeys.

Fall 2013 Turkey Season – The number of permits issued to hunters declined from 10,779 permits in 2012 to 8,193 in 2013 (Table 1, Figure 2). Hunters still needed to select and hunt within one of the twelve permit areas. There were 1,078 turkeys harvested during Fall 2013, which was a 38 percent decline from 2012 (Table 1). Hunter success rates averaged 13.2%, which was below the 5-year average (18%). Fewer hunters contributed in part to the lower harvest, however the lower hunter success rates are likely due to fewer hatch-year turkeys in the population, and perhaps a lower total turkey population due to 2 consecutive years of inclement weather during the nesting/brood periods.

Spring 2014 Turkey Season – There were 48,204 permits issued during the spring season, including 14,003 general/landowner permits, 12,179 youth permits, 4,899 archery permits, and 17,123 surplus permits (Table 6). Hunters registered 11,447 turkeys (Table 3 and 5), which was the third highest harvest recorded and near the 5-year average (Figure 3). Success rates by license type are found in Table 5. The winter of 2013-14 saw deep snow and extreme cold in portions of the turkey range. The impact of the extended winter weather on turkey populations is unknown, but some winter losses were reported. For the second year in a row snow remained on the ground during the first or second seasons in some portions of the turkey range, and it is again reasonable to believe that the weather likely affected hunter effort and turkey activity.

Table 1. Permits available and issued, applicants, registered harvest, and hunter success rates for fall wild turkey seasons 1990 – 2013, 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
2012	Unlimited	N/A	10,779	1,753	16
2013	Unlimited	N/A	8,193	1,078	13

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation.

Table 2. Permits issued, registered harvest, and hunter success during the 2014 Minnesota spring wild turkey season.

Permit Area	Regular Permits Issued ^a	Total Harvest
501	8319	3,084
502	706	236
503	3545	1,313
504	794	315
505	2864	1,033
506	1114	398
507	7898	2,875
508	3463	1,140
509	222	106
510	2404	903
511	124	36
512	39	8

^a Permits issued for the Camp Ripley disabled veterans hunt, archery, and youth permits were not included.

^b Success rates were not adjusted for non-participation, and do not include youth or archery licenses.

Table 3. Permits available, permits issued, and registered harvest from 1978 – 2014 for all spring wild turkey hunting seasons in Minnesota.

Year	Permits			Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a
	Available	Issued	Issued (%)		
1978	420	411	97.9	94	23
1979	840	827	98.5	116	14
1980	1,200	1,191	99.3	98	8
1981	1,500	1,437	95.8	113	8
1982	2,000	1,992	99.6	106	5
1983	2,100	2,079	99.0	116	6
1984	3,000	2,837	94.6	178	6
1985	2,750	2,449	89.1	323	13
1986	2,500	2,251	90.0	333	15
1987	2,700	2,520	93.3	520	21
1988	3,000	2,994	99.8	674	23
1989	4,000	3,821	95.5	930	24
1990	6,600	6,126	92.8	1,709	28
1991	9,170	8,607	93.9	1,724	20
1992	9,310	9,051	97.2	1,691	19
1993	9,625	9,265	96.3	2,082	23
1994	9,940	9,479	95.4	1,975	21
1995	9,975	9,550	95.7	2,339	25
1996	12,131	10,983	90.5	2,841	26
1997	12,530	11,610	92.7	3,302	28
1998	14,035	13,229	94.3	4,361	33
1999	18,360	16,387	89.3	5,132	31
2000	20,160	18,661	92.6	6,154	33
2001	22,936	21,404	93.3	6,383	30
2002	24,136	22,607	93.7	6,516	29
2003	25,016	22,770	91.0	7,666	34
2004	27,600	25,261	91.5	8,434	33
2005	31,748	27,638	87.1	7,800	28
2006	32,624	27,876	85.4	8,241	30
2007 ^b	33,976	28,320	83.4	9,412	33
2008 ^b	37,992	31,942	84.1	10,994	34
2009 ^b	42,328	36,193	85.5	12,210	34
2010 ^b	55,982	46,548 ^c	83.0	13,467	29
2011 ^b	Unlimited	43,521 ^c	N/A	10,055	23
2012 ^b	Unlimited	38,906 ^c	N/A	11,325	29
2013 ^b	Unlimited	34,281 ^c	N/A	10,390	30
2014 ^b	Unlimited	43,305 ^c	N/A	11,447	25

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation

^b Youth hunt data included

^c Permits issued to archery hunters were not included. There were 2,462, 3,911, 4,550, and 4,899 permits issued to archers in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 respectively.

Table 4. Permits available and issued by license type (resident and non-resident) and time period for the spring 2014 wild turkey season, Minnesota.

Time period	Permits available	Permits issued		
		General lottery ^a	Surplus	Youth ^b
A	5,921	4,927	4	NA
B	5,921	4,084	1,052	NA
C	5,921	4,977	3	NA
D	Unlimited	5	8,253	NA
E	Unlimited	3	2,397	NA
F	Unlimited	0	1,213	NA
G	Unlimited	1	2,777	NA
H	Unlimited	6	1,385	NA
Total ^a	Unlimited	14,003	17,123	12,179

^a includes landowner licenses.

^b Youth permits were good for all time periods.

Table 5 Total harvest by time-period, spring 2014 wild turkey season, Minnesota.

Time period	Total Harvest	Percent Harvest
A	2631	23.0
B	2143	18.7
C	1701	14.9
D	2450	21.4
E	816	7.1
F	428	3.7
G	795	6.9
H	482	4.2
Total	11,447	100

Table 6. 2014 Total permits sold, harvest and success rate by type of license.

	Total Permits Sold	Harvest	Success Rate
Lottery	14,003	4,769	34
Surplus	17,123	3,917	23
Youth	12,179	2,206	18
Archery	4899	504	10
Total	48,204	11,447	24

2012 Spring Wild Turkey Permit Areas

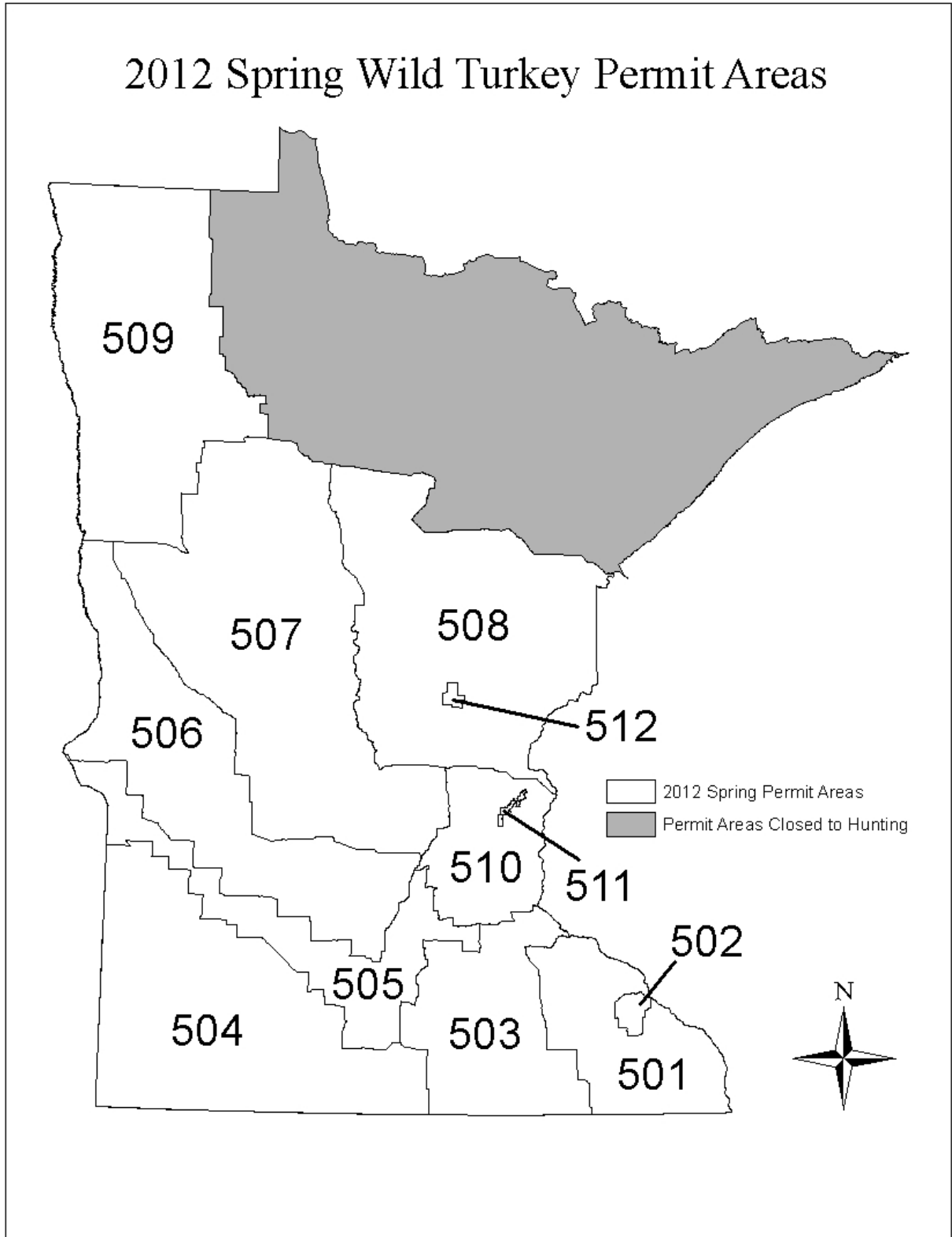


Figure 1. Permit areas open for hunting during the 2014 spring turkey hunting season, Minnesota.

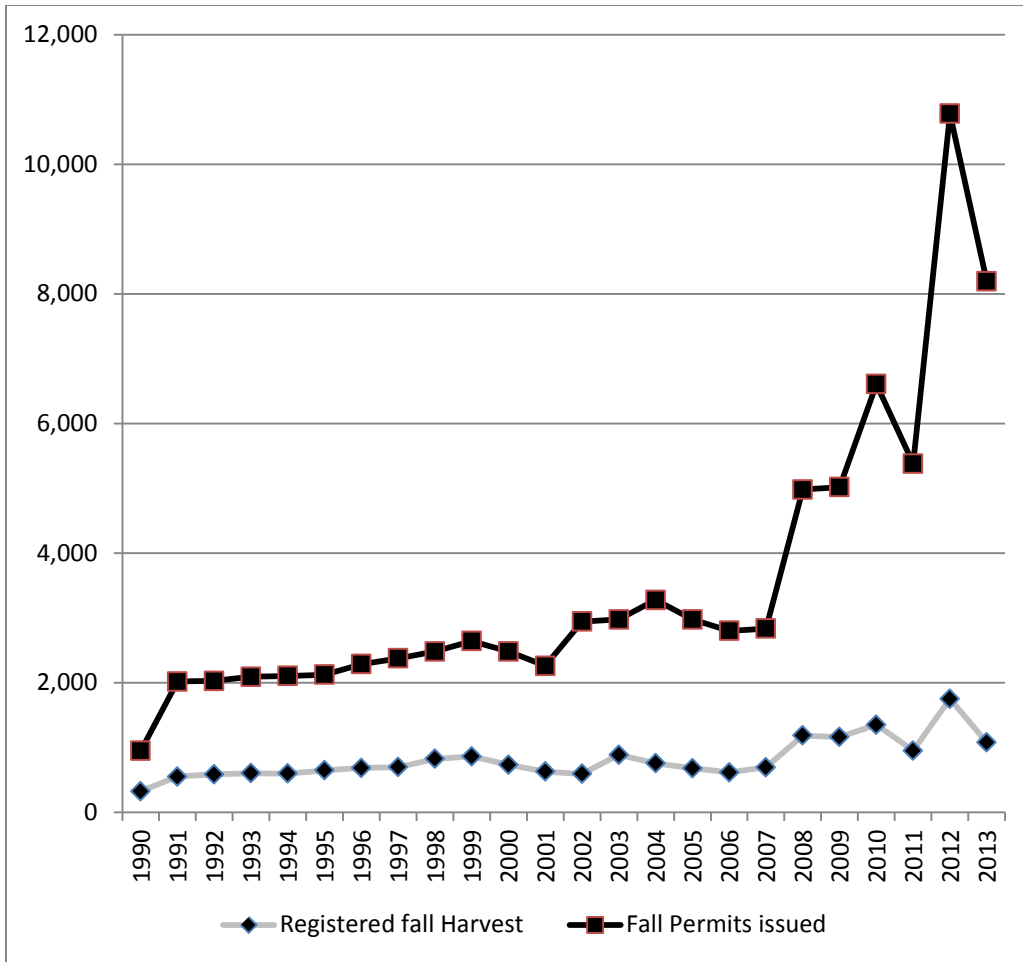


Figure 2. Permits issued and registered harvest for fall wild turkey seasons, 1990-2013, Minnesota.

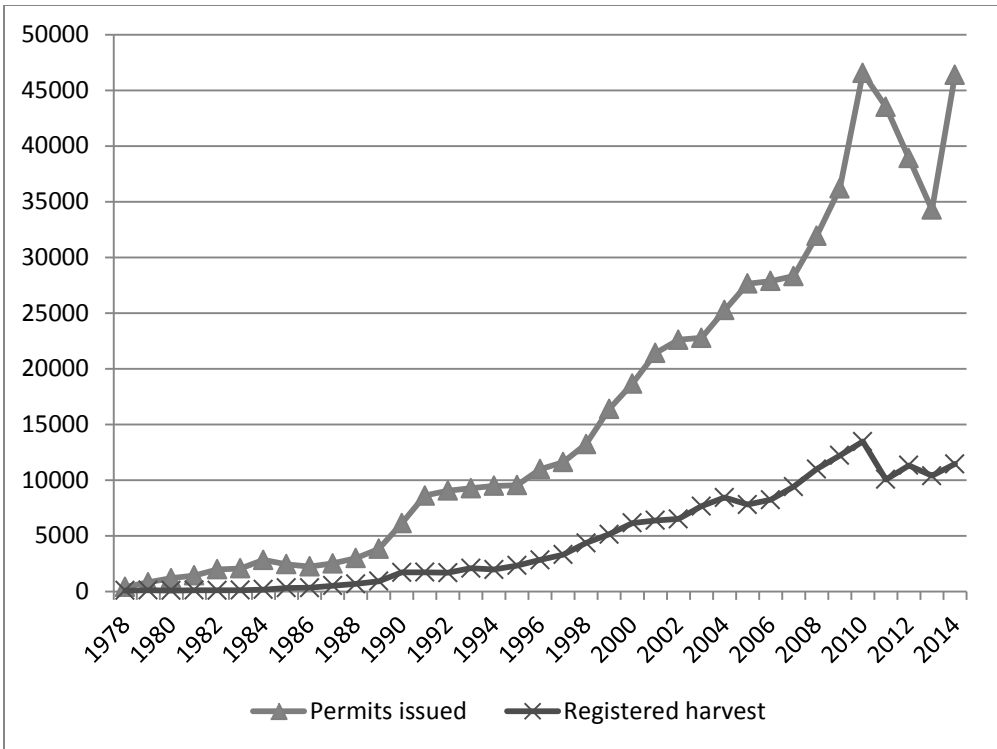


Figure 3. Permits issued and registered harvest for spring wild turkey seasons, 1978-2014, Minnesota.