

**Results of a Yukon small  
game hunter effort survey**

March 2021



[This page intentionally left blank]

# Results of a Yukon small game hunter effort survey

Government of Yukon  
Fish and Wildlife Branch  
**SR-21-01**

## Authors

Thomas S. Jung, Piia M. Kukka, and Robert F. Florkiewicz

## Acknowledgements

Foremost, we are indebted to the 2,754 Yukon hunters that completed the survey. Lindsay Beal and Rachel Westfall (Yukon Bureau of Statistics) did the 'heavy lifting' of delivering the survey, and we thank them for doing so. We also thank them and Carol Foster for critical discussions on the design of the survey. Funding was provided by the Yukon Department of Environment.

© 2021 Government of Yukon

## Copies available from:

Government of Yukon  
Fish and Wildlife Branch, V-5  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6  
Phone 867-667-5721  
Email: [environmentyukon@gov.yk.ca](mailto:environmentyukon@gov.yk.ca)  
Online: [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca) and [open.yukon.ca](http://open.yukon.ca)

## Suggested citation:

T.S. Jung, P.M. Kukka, and R.F. Florkiewicz. 2021. Results of a Yukon small game hunter effort survey. Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch Report SR-21-01, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

---

## Abstract

---

- Small game hunting is an important subsistence and recreational activity in Yukon. However, the number of Yukon hunters that participate in small game hunting is not known because license holders are not required to report their small game hunting activity. (First Nations and Inuvialuit do not require a licence to hunt in their Traditional Territories.)
- The purpose of this survey was to gain information on small game hunters and their harvest patterns. This survey is the first survey of small game hunters in Yukon since 1994. We focused on providing an opportunity for hunters to share their thoughts on small game hunting, with specific focus on their motivations, effort, satisfaction and ethics.
- The intent of this report is to provide a timely summary of ‘what we heard’ for survey respondents and other interested Yukoners.
- Our survey was delivered to 4,425 hunters that obtained a big game or small game license in 2019, and we received 2,754 responses to the survey (62% response rate).
- Survey respondents hunted mostly grouse (58%; n = 1,611), followed by snowshoe hare (22%; n = 603) and ptarmigan (22%; n = 601). Few respondents hunted ground squirrels (5%; n = 139) or porcupine (4%; n = 118), within the last 5 years.
- Here, we provide the results of respondents’ answers to our survey questions on their effort, satisfaction, motivations, and ethics, regarding small game hunting in Yukon.
- Additionally, the survey itself and abridged final comments by respondents are available as appendices.

---

# Contents

---

<b>Abstract</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Methods</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Survey design.....	3
Survey delivery.....	4
Data analyses.....	5
<b>Results</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Respondents.....	6
Snowshoe hare.....	7
Ground squirrels.....	15
Porcupine.....	15
Upland game birds.....	16
Grouse.....	23
Ptarmigan.....	25
<b>References</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendices</b> .....	<b>29</b>
Appendix 1. Small game hunter survey.....	29
Appendix 2. Comments by small game hunters.....	38

---

## Introduction

---

Small game hunting is an important subsistence and recreational activity in northern Canada and Alaska, particularly when other subsistence species are scarce (e.g., Hansen et al. 2013). Ten species are designated as ‘small game’ under the Yukon Wildlife Act including, snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), arctic ground squirrel (*Urocitellus parryii*), porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), as well as four species of grouse (spruce grouse [*Falcipennis canadensis*], ruffed grouse [*Bonasa umbellus*], sharp-tailed grouse [*Tympanuchus phasianellus*], and dusky grouse [*Dendragapus obscurus*]), and three species of ptarmigan (willow ptarmigan [*Lagopus lagopus*], rock ptarmigan [*Lagopus muta*], and white-tailed ptarmigan [*Lagopus leucura*]). With the exception of sharp-tailed grouse and dusky grouse, these species are widely distributed across much of the territory, and available to hunters.

Many small game populations are cyclic; that is, populations increase and decrease in regular cycles (e.g., 8-10 years for snowshoe hare; Krebs et al. 1995, Krebs 2011, Oli et al. 2020). Population cycles are triggered by various factors including predator-prey relationships or food availability. For example, the snowshoe hare cycle is a major driving force of the boreal forest food web, with effects on many other species (Boutin et al. 1995, Boonstra et al. 2018). When hare populations are low, their predators may shift to alternative prey, such as grouse, ptarmigan, ground squirrel, or red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*). Small game populations are affected by food supply and reproductive success, which may be linked to weather. Climate change is also likely to have an impact on small game populations. For instance, changes in fire regimes (Strong and Jung 2012), or winter snow conditions (Peers et al. 2020), are likely to influence the abundance of snowshoe hare. Local landscape change through logging, for example, may also effect hare habitat use (Thomas et al. 2019).

To hunt small game in Yukon, either a small game licence or big game license is required. However, information on hunter participation in small game hunting in Yukon has not been gathered since multi-species mail out harvest surveys were discontinued after 1994. Since that time, the number of hunters that participate in small game hunting is not known because license holders are not required to report their small game hunting activity and First Nations and Inuvialuit do not require a licence to hunt in their Traditional Territories.

The harvest of small game in Yukon is managed by the timing and length of the hunting season, and in many cases, by bag and possession limits (Table 1). While snowshoe hare populations are regularly monitored in Yukon no small game species are monitored specifically for harvest.

The purpose of this survey was to gain current information on small game harvest. This is the first survey of hunters focused on harvesting small game in Yukon that we are aware of. Yukon included small game hunting questions in annual harvest and effort reporting between 1973 and 1993 (Mossop 1994). Detailed data on small game hunting was gathered annually similar to neighboring jurisdictions (British Columbia, Northwest Territories) or Alaska (Merizon and Carson 2013). Our survey provides a snapshot of current small game hunting in Yukon and based on a statistically robust sampling design that lends itself to comparison with future periodic surveys. We focus on providing an opportunity for Yukon hunters to share their thoughts on small game hunting, with a specific focus on their motivations, effort, satisfaction, and personal ethics. Understanding the attitudes and behaviour of hunters can help inform harvest management (e.g., Nugent 1992, Radder and Bech-Larsen 2008, Kaltenborn et al. 2012). Surveys such as ours can provide information to guide management approaches and potential regulations for small game hunting in Yukon.

**Table 1.** Current season dates and bag limits for small game in Yukon.

Species		Season dates		Bag limits	
		Zone 6 and subzone 4-03	All other zones	Daily	Possession
Small Game	Snowshoe Hare	Closed	Apr 1 – Mar 31	No Limit	
	Arctic Ground Squirrel				
	Porcupine				
Game Birds	Spruce/Ruffed Grouse (combined limit)	Closed	Sept 1 – Nov 30	10	30
	Dusky Grouse		Sept 1 – Nov 30	5	15
	Sharp-tailed Grouse		Sept 1 – Nov 30	5*	15*
	Ptarmigan (all species)		Sept 1 – Mar 15	10	30

\* except Zone 5: Daily – 2. Possession – 6.

This report provides a summary of ‘what we heard’ to survey respondents and other interested Yukoners. We outline our survey design and delivery, and summarize the responses received for questions posed in the survey. Responses are provided in aggregate, with

respondent confidentiality maintained throughout. Similar to other Yukon hunter surveys or those related to wildlife management planning initiatives (e.g., Jung et al. 2018), we do not provide a detailed interpretation of these data at this time.

---

## Methods

---

### Survey design

Our survey was limited to Yukon hunters that held a license for either big game or small game in the year preceding our survey (2019), as small game can be legally hunted with either license. Given that this survey was focussed on the motivations, effort, and satisfaction of small game hunters we did not ask non-hunters their opinions regarding small game hunting.

In cooperation with the Yukon Statistics Bureau, we designed a survey that could be delivered online and by telephone. For the latter, our survey delivery time was limited to approximately 10 minutes. The survey questions were broken into seven sections (Appendix 1) that were asked following an initial question on respondents' small game hunting activity. The initial question asked if hunters had attempted to harvest small game in the last five years (2015-2019), and if so, which species. We used skip logic to increase efficiency and save time. That is, if hunters did not hunt a particular species or type of small game then they were not asked questions pertaining to those species in the survey. Respondents that did not hunt small game in the past five years were thanked for their time and their survey ended. For respondents indicating they hunted, we limited their questions only to those species they actually hunted. For example, if a respondent noted that they hunted ptarmigan and ground squirrels in the past five years, but not other species, their questions were limited to those two species and not questions regarding others (for example, snowshoe hare).

Following the initial question, the remaining survey consisted of sections for each species or type of small game. Section 1 was focused on snowshoe hare, and had 22 questions (Appendix 1). Given time constraints in delivering a telephone survey to a large number of hunters, we could only ask a limited number of questions. Therefore, we focused on snowshoe hare because we considered that this species would give us a reasonable snapshot of those hunters that target small game specifically, rather than incidentally, while doing other outdoor activities. We also focused on snowshoe hare because of their cyclic nature and our interest in knowing how that may influence motivations, effort, and satisfaction of Yukon hunters.



Sections 2 to 4 (Appendix 1) were specific to the seven species of upland game birds available to hunters in Yukon (Table 1). These species were grouped because we did not have time to ask questions specific to each species, and we believed that some hunters would incorrectly identify some of the species they harvested, particularly for ptarmigan. We first asked 13 questions that encompassed all species of upland game birds (Section 2), followed by four questions each specific to grouse (Section 3) and ptarmigan (Section 4; Appendix 1).

Ground squirrels and porcupine were not anticipated to be targeted by many small game hunters, so they represented a minor part of our survey. Regardless, they were important to consider so that we had a complete snapshot of species being harvested and why. As such, we asked hunters specifically about their motivations and number harvested for hunting ground squirrels (Section 5) and porcupine (Section 6; Appendix 1).

Section 7 questions explored the value orientations of respondents. Questions of this type are common in public surveys about environmental and natural resource management issues, including those pertaining to hunting (e.g., Zinn et al. 2002; Kaltenborn et al. 2012). They are asked because different segments of the public hold different values and motivations, including hunters (e.g., Brinkman 2018, Aastrup et al. 2020). Moreover, values may change over time (Manfredo et al. 2003). We used a subset of three questions taken from a broader suite of 12-15 questions used as part of the New Environmental Paradigm scale, which is widely used globally to assess environmental value orientations (Dunlap et al. 2000). The questions chosen were used in similar hunter surveys and found to accurately reflect hunter motivation and behaviour (e.g., Zinn et al. 2002; Clark et al. 2017). Finally, we provided an opportunity for respondents to offer any comments or suggestions regarding small game hunting in Yukon, or our survey (Appendix 1).

Age, gender, and town of residence was included after the survey based on information from each respondents' hunting license.

## Survey delivery

Although our survey was focussed on small game hunters, we attempted to contact all Yukon residents that held a big game or small game hunting license in 2019 to invite them to participate in the survey. We included all hunters because a Yukon big game license permitted hunters to also hunt small game and, unlike that for big game species, there is no requirement to report small game harvest. As such, we did not know which hunters intended to hunt small game.

The survey was delivered first by email to licensed hunters that asked to complete their survey online. The collection period for online surveys began on 13 January 2020 and ended on

2 February 2020. Subsequently, professional interviewers from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics attempted to contact all non-respondents and deliver the survey by telephone interview. The telephone interview period began on 10 February 2020 and was completed on 24 August 2020 (note that the telephone collection was on hold from 23 March 2020 to 26 July 2020 due to COVID-19 work stoppage). All results were entered by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics.

## Data analyses

Here, we provide basic analyses of survey results. We supply the number of respondents answering each question (i.e., sample size) and the percentage for each response option. Although the survey asked respondents three questions related to their values pertaining to small game hunting, based on the widely used New Environmental Paradigm Scale (Questions 7.1 to 7.3; Appendix 1; Dunlap et al. 2000), we do not present these data because it was clear from comments provided by a number of respondents that they were not well understood within the context of this survey; thus, the data were not considered to be reliable. Finally, we supply abridged comments submitted by respondents that pertain to small game hunting in Appendix 2.

---

## Results

---

### Respondents

Overall, we received 2,754 responses to the survey, representing approximately 62% of all licenced hunters in 2019.

All respondents were Yukon residents. Most respondents were from Whitehorse (72%), followed by communities in Southern Lakes area (8%), Liard region (6%), northern Yukon (6%), Kluane region (5%) and the central region (3%; Table 2). The average age of respondents was 50 years and the majority of respondents were male (83%; Table 3). The female respondents were younger on average (46 years old) than male respondents (51 years old).

More than a third of respondents (39%) had not hunted small game in the last five years (Q1; Figure 1). From those respondents that hunted small game ( $n = 1,686$ ), 47% hunted just one type of small game and 32% hunted two types of small game. Only 1% of respondents hunted all five types of small game in the last five years.

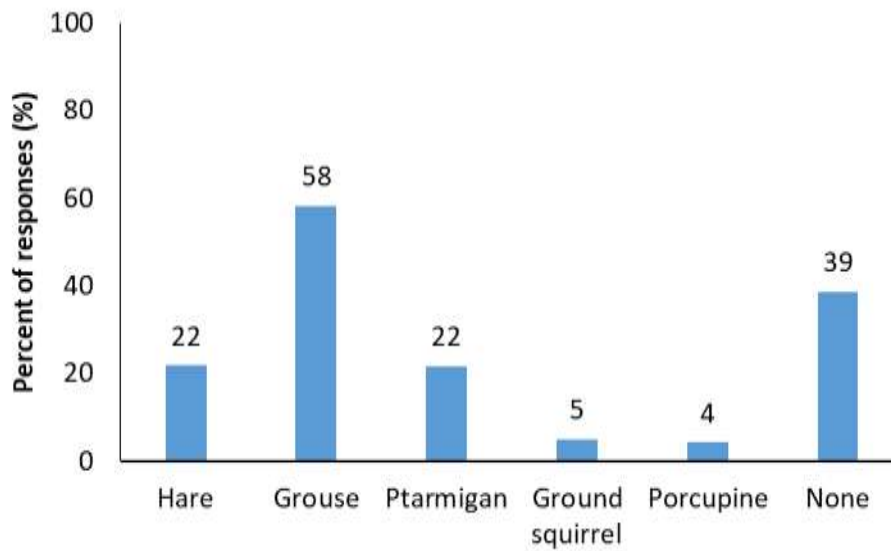
Survey respondents hunted mostly grouse (58%;  $n = 1,611$ ), followed by snowshoe hare (22%;  $n = 603$ ) and ptarmigan (22%;  $n = 601$ ). Few respondents hunted ground squirrels (5%;  $n = 139$ ) or porcupine (4%;  $n = 118$ ).

**Table 2.** Respondents by location.

Region	Communities	Number	Per cent
Whitehorse	Whitehorse	1,987	72%
Southern Lakes	Teslin, Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake	208	8%
Liard	Watson Lake, Faro, Ross River	169	6%
North Yukon	Dawson, Old Crow	175	6%
Kluane	Beaver Creek, Destruction Bay, Burwash Landing, Haines Junction	125	5%
Central Yukon	Mayo, Keno, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing, Carmacks	86	3%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,750</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3.** Respondents by gender and age.

Age Group	Female		Male	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
< 25 years old	17	4%	72	3%
25-34 years old	97	21%	331	15%
35-44 years old	118	26%	474	21%
45-54 years old	93	20%	369	16%
55-64 years old	74	16%	456	20%
≥65 years old	62	13%	562	25%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>100%</b>



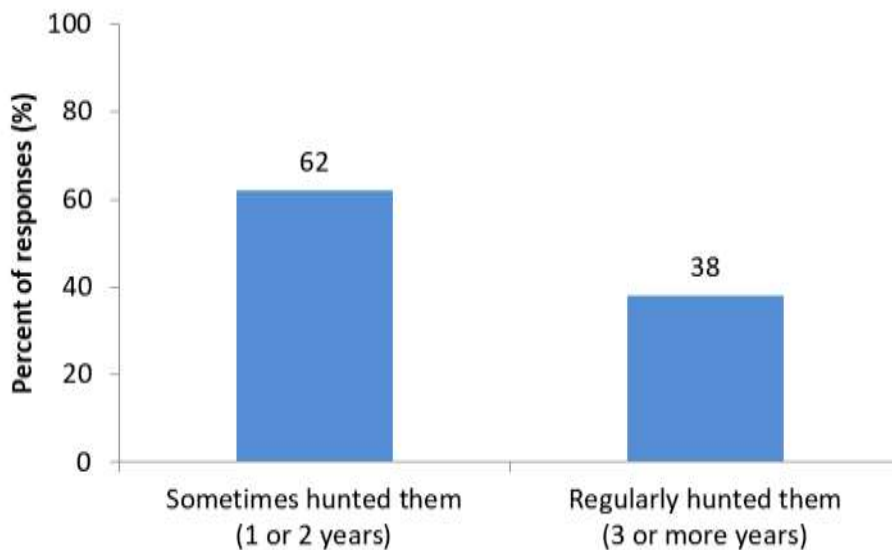
**Figure 1.** Results from question 1. **Have you hunted any of the following small game species in the last 5 years? Check all that apply.** Sample size = 2,754.

## Snowshoe hare

Of the 2,754 licensed hunters that responded to our survey, 603 (22%) indicated that they had hunted snowshoe hare in the past 5 years. These hunters were subsequently invited to answer questions specific to hunting hare (Q2 to Q24; Appendix 1).

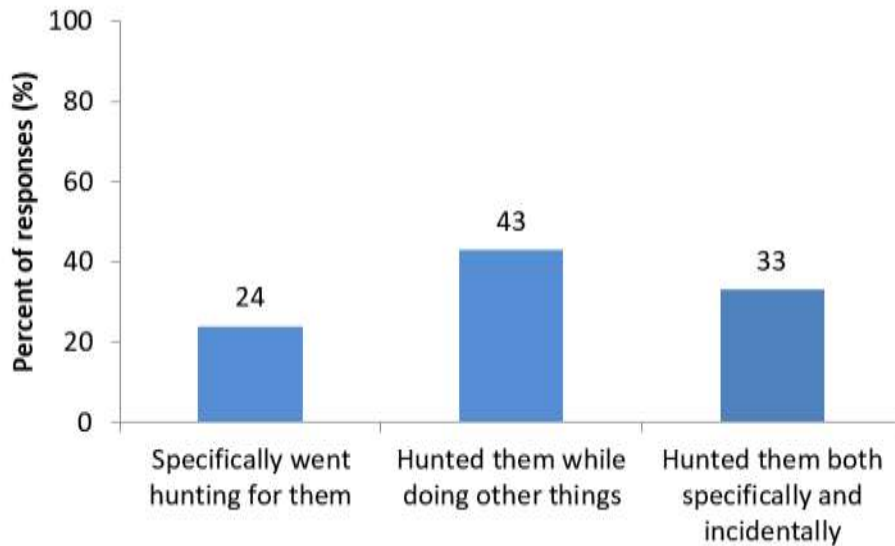
Most respondents that indicated they had hunted hare in the past 5 years were from Whitehorse ( $n = 406$ , 67%), while the rest were from the various communities ( $n = 197$ , 33%). Average age of respondents that hunted hare ( $n = 603$ ) was  $45.3 \pm 14.5$  years old (SD; range = 14-84; median = 43). Our sample of respondents that hunted hare in the past 5 years was largely male (86%).

In response to Question 2, most hare hunters (62%) had hunted them sometimes (1 or 2 years in the past 5 years; Figure 2). A smaller percentage (38%) of hare hunters harvested them more regularly (3 or more years in the past 5 years).



**Figure 2.** Results from question 2. – Which choice best describes your hare harvesting activities in the past five years (2015-2019)? Sample size = 601.

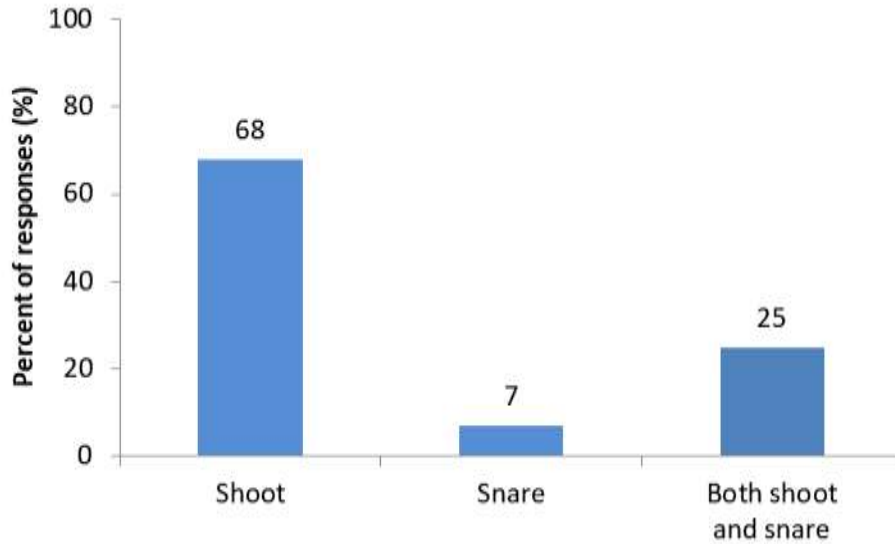
In response to Question 3, hare hunters were divided as to whether they hunted them specifically (24%; i.e., targeted hunting trips for hare), incidentally (43%, hunted hare while doing other activities, such as moose hunting), or both (33%; Figure 3).



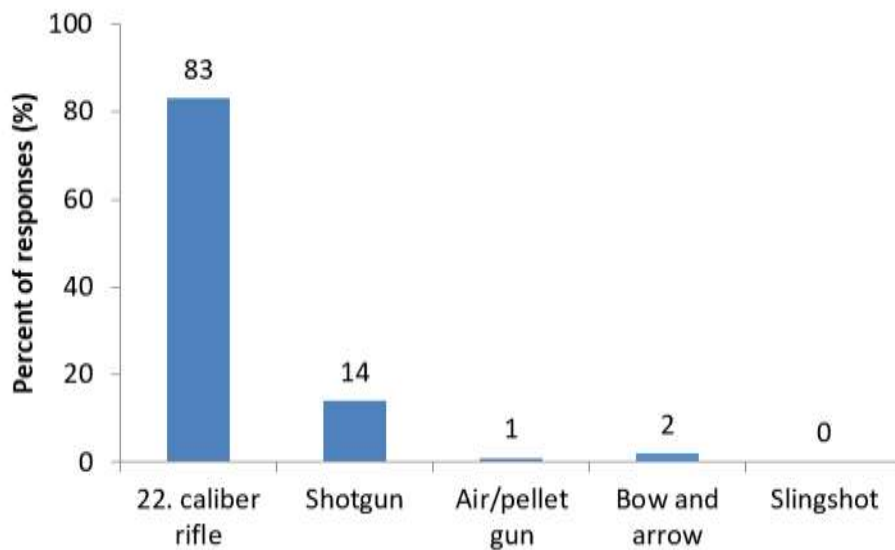
**Figure 3.** Results from Question 3. – **Which choice best describes how you harvest hare?** Sample size = 603.

Little information was previously available regarding the methods used to harvest snowshoe hare in Yukon, which include shooting or snaring. The majority of respondents that hunted hare (68%) did so only by shooting them (Figure 4). Only 7% of respondents snared hares, but 25% of them both shot and snared hares as a harvest method.

For respondents that shot hare as a harvest method, an overwhelming number of them (83%) used a .22 caliber rifle (Figure 5). Shotguns were also used a bit (14%), while pellet guns, bows and arrows, and slingshots were rarely (<4%) used as a primary weapon for shooting hares.

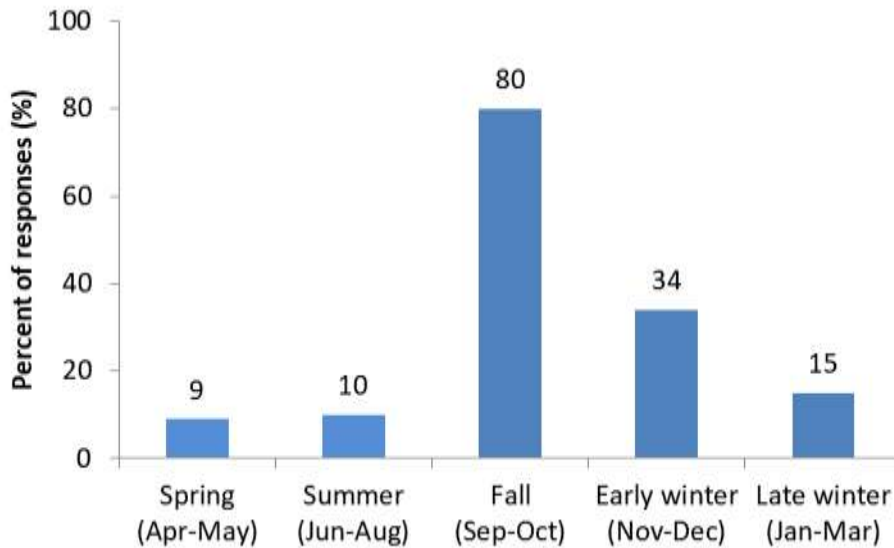


**Figure 4.** Results from Question 4. – **What method(s) have you used to harvest hare?** Sample size = 603.



**Figure 5.** Results from Question 5. – **What means do you primarily use when hunting (shooting) hare?** Sample size = 562.

In the past 5 years, respondents hunted hare most frequently in the fall (80%; September and October), followed by early-winter (34%; November and December), late-winter (January to March). Few respondents hunted hare in late-winter (January to March) or spring (9%; April and May; Figure 6).

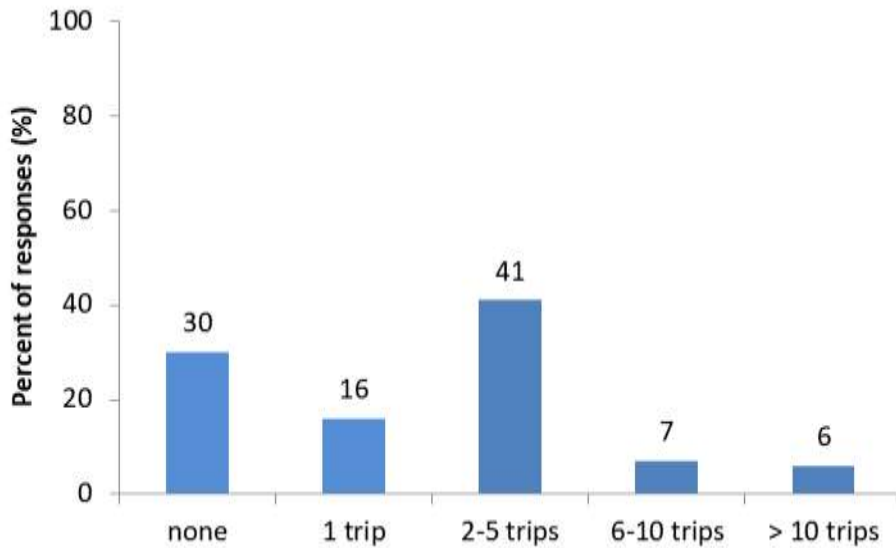


**Figure 6.** Results from Question 6. — **In what seasons did you go hare hunting/snaring in the past five years (2015-2019)?** Sample size = 596.

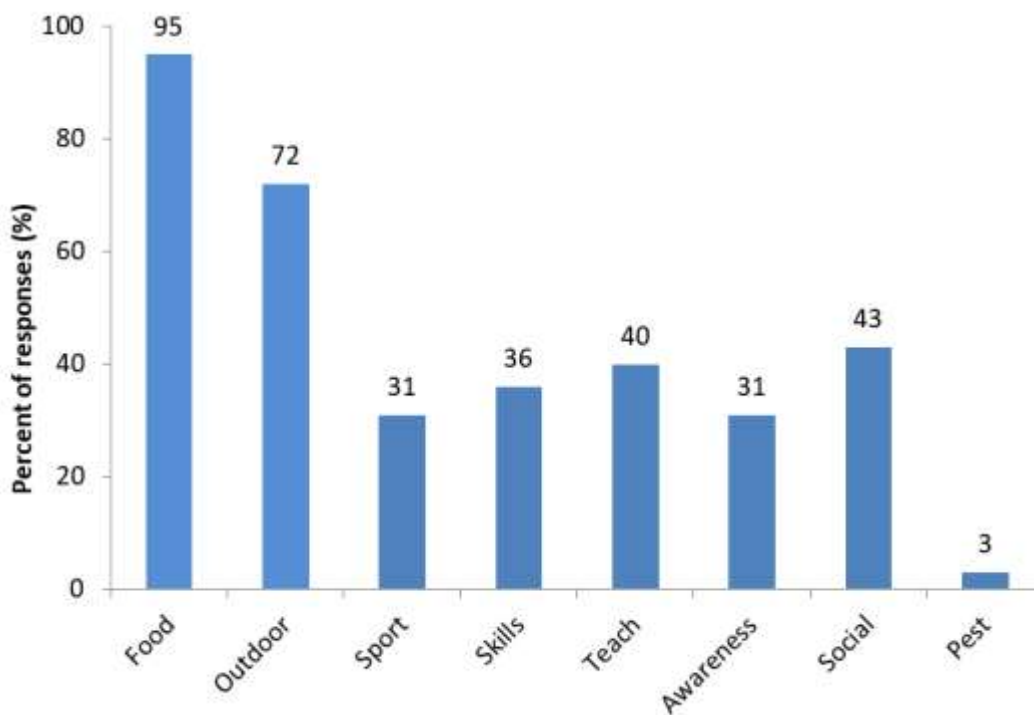
For the next three questions we asked respondents whether they hunted hare in 2019 (last season before the survey). Of the 603 self-identified hare hunters, 268 (44%) of them attempted to hunt hare in 2019 (Question 7). In 2019, 57% of respondents that attempted to hunt hare typically made 1 to 5 trips to do so, with some taking 6 or more trips (Figure 7). The average number of hares harvested by shooting in 2019 was  $2.8 \pm 5.7$  (SD; range = 0–50,  $n = 261$ ). The number of hares taken by snaring in 2019 was lower than shooting, with an average  $1.6 \pm 5.5$  (SD; range = 0–36;  $n = 199$ ; Questions 9 and 10).

Questions 11 and 12 in our survey aimed to assess the motivations for hunting hare, with the first asking all of the motivations and the latter the primary motivation. Respondents that hunted hare reported multiple motivations for engaging in the activity, ranging from obtaining healthy food to controlling pest problems (Figure 8). However, most stated that food (95%) and outdoor recreation (72%) were the most common motivations selected by respondents. When asked to list the main motivation only, food (69%) and outdoor recreation (14%) were the most selected; but, other motivations such as teaching others how to hunt (7%) and social time with family and friends (7%) were also identified as strong primary motivations (Figure 9).



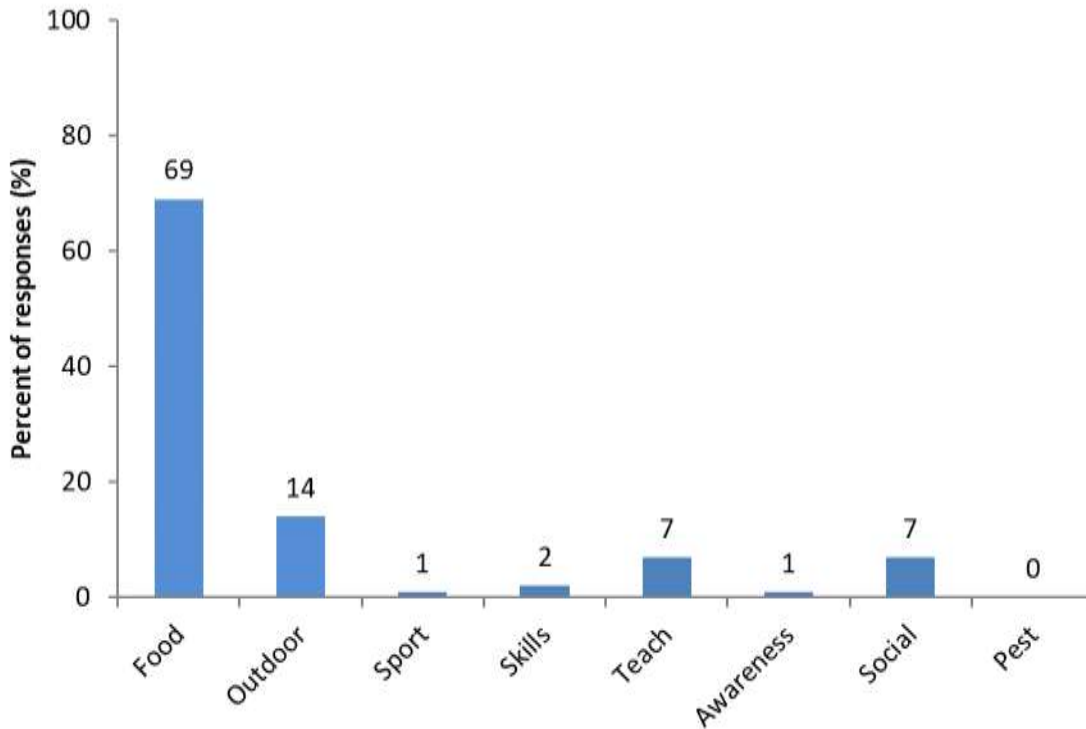


**Figure 7.** Results from Question 8. — **How many times (trips) did you go out specifically to hunt hare in 2019?** Sample size = 268.



**Figure 8.** Results from Question 11. — **Which of the following are reasons why you harvest hare?** **Check all that apply.** (Food = to obtain healthy food; Outdoor = as an enjoyable outdoor activity; Sport = for the sport/challenge of it; Skills = to improve my hunting/snaring skills; Teach = to teach others how to hunt/snare animals; Awareness = it makes me more aware of the environment; Social = as a social

activity with family and friends, and Pest = to control pest problems (e.g., eating gardens). Sample size = 603.



**Figure 9.** Results from Question 12. — **Which of the following is main reason why you harvest hare? Select only one.** (Food = to obtain healthy food; Outdoor = as an enjoyable outdoor activity; Sport = for the sport/challenge of it; Skills = to improve my hunting/snaring skills; Teach = to teach others how to hunt/snare animals; Awareness = it makes me more aware of the environment; Social = as a social activity with family and friends, and Pest = to control pest problems (e.g., eating gardens). Sample size = 603.

Our final series of questions (Q13 to Q24) probed respondents' thoughts about their satisfaction, effort, and personal ethics, regarding hare hunting in Yukon. We report the median response, as well as the frequency distributions of those that agreed or disagreed, with each question in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Summary of results from likert-style questions posed to snowshoe hare hunters with respect to their satisfaction, effort, and personal ethics. Included are the sample size (n), median, and frequency distribution of responses by respondents. The “disagree” category includes “strongly disagree” and “disagree”, and the “agree” category includes both “strongly agree” and “agree” responses by respondents to the questions, to improve interpretation.

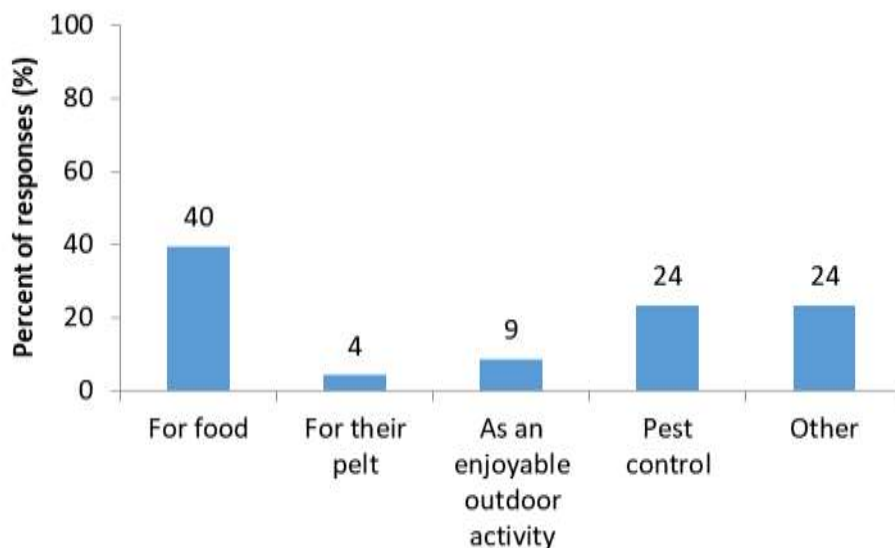
Theme / Question	Sample Size	Median Response	Frequency Distribution		
			Disagree	Neutral	Agree
<b>Hunter Satisfaction</b>					
Q13. Overall, I am satisfied with hare hunting opportunities in Yukon.	594	Agree	6%	7%	87%
Q14. I am not satisfied with a hare-hunting trip unless I harvest at least one hare.	592	Disagree	74%	16%	9%
Q15. The more hare I get the more satisfied I become.	595	Disagree	54%	29%	17%
Q17. I can be satisfied with a hunting trip even if I do not harvest any hare.	599	Agree	3%	6%	91%
<b>Hunting Effort</b>					
Q18. I increase my effort in years when hares are difficult to find.	589	Disagree	67%	24%	10%
Q19. I decrease my effort in years when hares are very easy to find.	586	Neither	43%	36%	21%
Q16. I would be willing to harvest fewer hare if it strengthens the hare population.	587	Agree	11%	16%	74%
<b>Hunting Ethics</b>					
Q20. There should be limits to the number of hare a hunter can harvest when hare numbers are low.	577	Agree	21%	19%	60%
Q21. The bag limit for hare should be dependent on hare numbers.	575	Agree	20%	19%	61%
Q22. I would support closing the hare hunting season when most young are being born.	581	Agree	12%	14%	74%
Q23. I am okay with hare being hunted all times of the year.	581	Neither	29%	27%	44%
Q24. Hare harvesting should be done with the same amount of respect given to other wild animals, such as moose.	592	Strongly Agree	6%	6%	88%

## Ground squirrels

Only 139 of 2,754 licensed hunters that responded to our survey (5%) indicated that they had hunted ground squirrels in the past 5 years. Ground squirrel hunters were invited to respond to two questions specific to ground squirrel hunting (Q54 and Q54; Appendix 1).

Of these hunters, 37% did not harvest a ground squirrel last year (2019), while 63% harvested at least one. Almost half (47%) of those hunters that reported harvest a ground squirrel took 1 to 5 animals. The remainder harvested 6 to 10 (26%), 11 to 25 (19%), or more than 25 (8%) ground squirrels. The average number of ground squirrels harvested in 2019 by all hunters that indicated they hunted them in the last five years was  $6.6 \pm 9.5$  (SD; range = 0-50).

Motivations for hunting ground squirrels by survey respondents were mixed, with food being the main reason (40%), but pest control was also identified as an important motivation (24%;Figure 10).



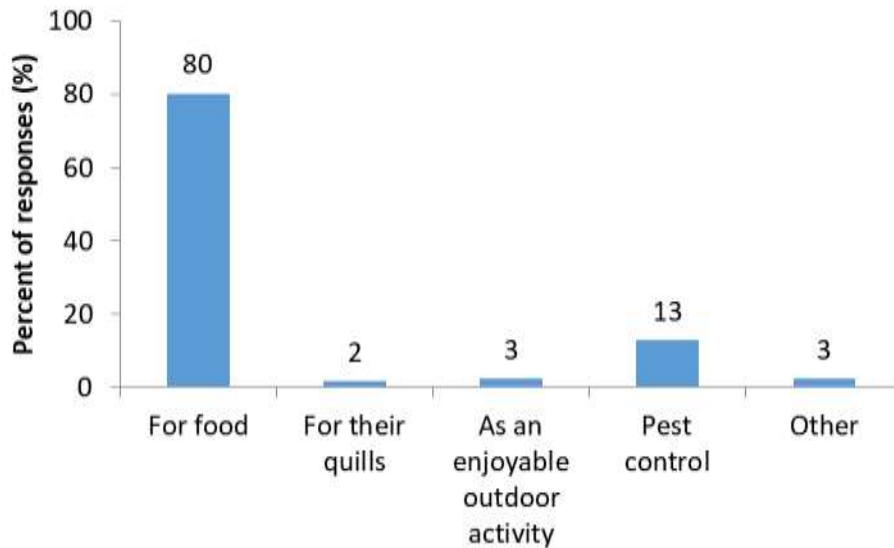
**Figure 10.** Results from Question 53. — Which choice best describes why you harvest ground squirrels? Sample size = 136.

## Porcupine

Of the 2,754 licensed hunters that responded to our survey, 118 (4%) indicated that they had hunted porcupine in the past 5 years. Porcupine hunters were invited to respond to two questions specific to porcupine hunting (Q55 and Q56; Appendix 1).

Of these hunters, most (58%) did not harvest a porcupine last year (2019), while 25% harvested one. The remainder (17%) harvested 2-6 porcupines last year. The average number of porcupines harvested in 2019 by all hunters that indicated they hunted porcupine in the last five years was  $0.9 \pm 2.8$  SD.

Motivations for hunting porcupine by survey respondents were largely for food (80%). However, pest control was also reported as a notable motivation (13%; Figure 11).



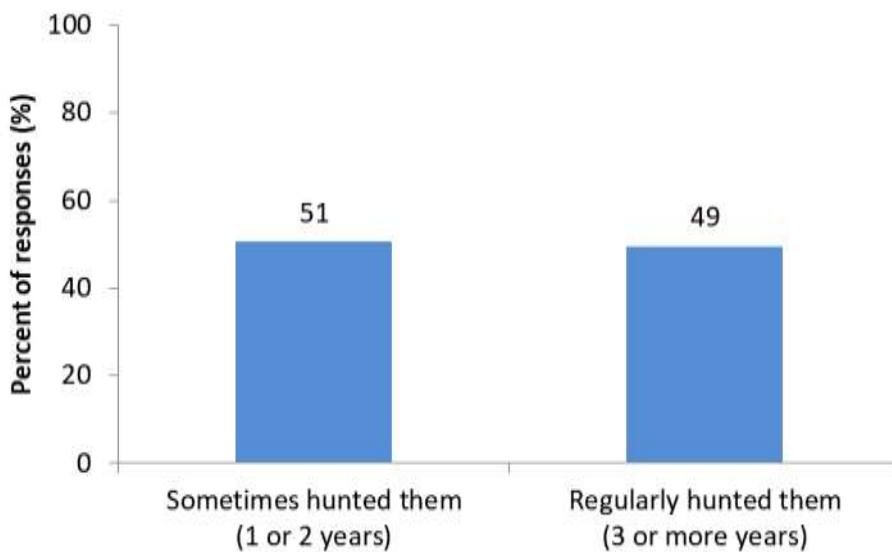
**Figure 11.** Results from Question 55. – Which choice best describes why you harvest porcupine? Sample size = 117.

## Upland game birds

Of the 2,754 licensed hunters that responded to our survey, 1,639 (60%) indicated that they had hunted upland game birds (either grouse or ptarmigan, or both) in the past 5 years. These hunters were subsequently invited to answer a small number of questions specific to hunting upland game birds (Q25 to Q37; Appendix 1). Additionally, those hunters that hunted grouse were invited to answer questions specifically regarding their grouse hunt (Q38 to Q45; Appendix 1). Similarly those hunters that hunted ptarmigan were invited to answer questions specific to ptarmigan (Q46 to Q52; Appendix 1).

Most respondents that indicated they had hunted upland game birds in the past 5 years were from Whitehorse ( $n = 1,175, 72\%$ ), while the rest were from the various communities ( $n = 459, 28\%$ ). Average age of respondents that hunted upland game birds was  $47 \pm 15$  years old (SD; range = 12-87; median = 44). Our sample of respondents that hunted upland game birds in the past 5 years was largely men (83%).

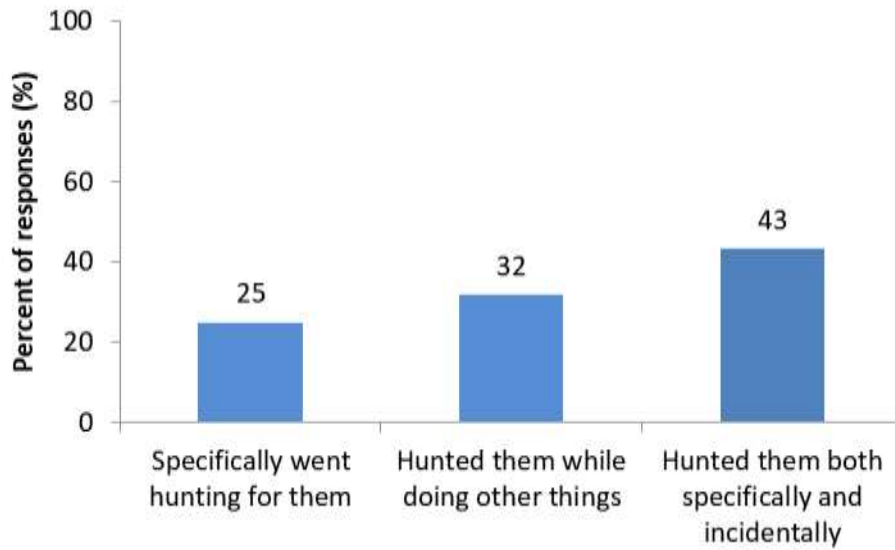
In response to Question 25, approximately half of the hunters (51%) had pursued upland game birds sometimes (1 or 2 years in the past 5 years; Figure 12). A similar percentage (49%) of hunters harvested them more regularly (3 or more years in the past 5 years).



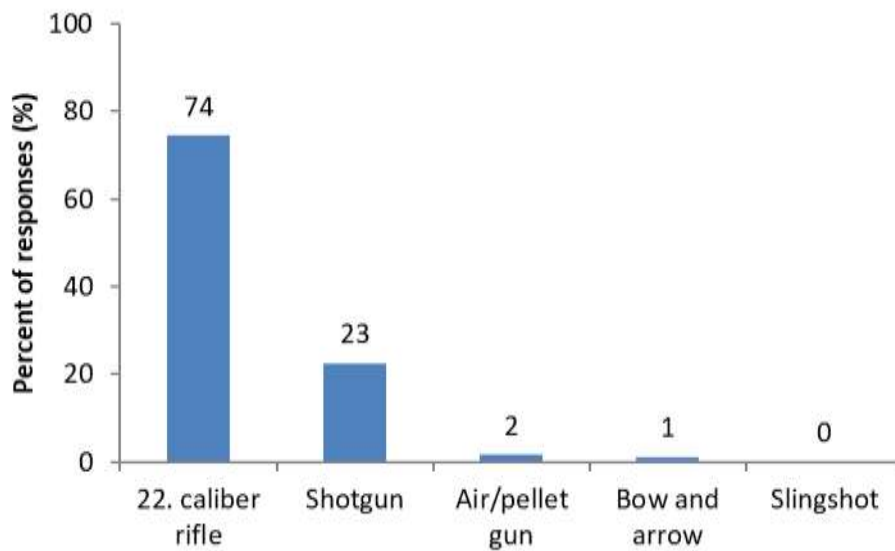
**Figure 12.** Results from Question 25. — **Which best describes your upland game bird harvesting activities in the past 5 years (2015-2019)?** Sample size = 1,637.

In response to Question 26, upland game bird hunters were divided as to whether they hunted them specifically (25%; i.e., targeted hunting trips for birds), incidentally (32%, hunted birds while doing other activities, such as moose hunting), or both (43%; Figure 13).

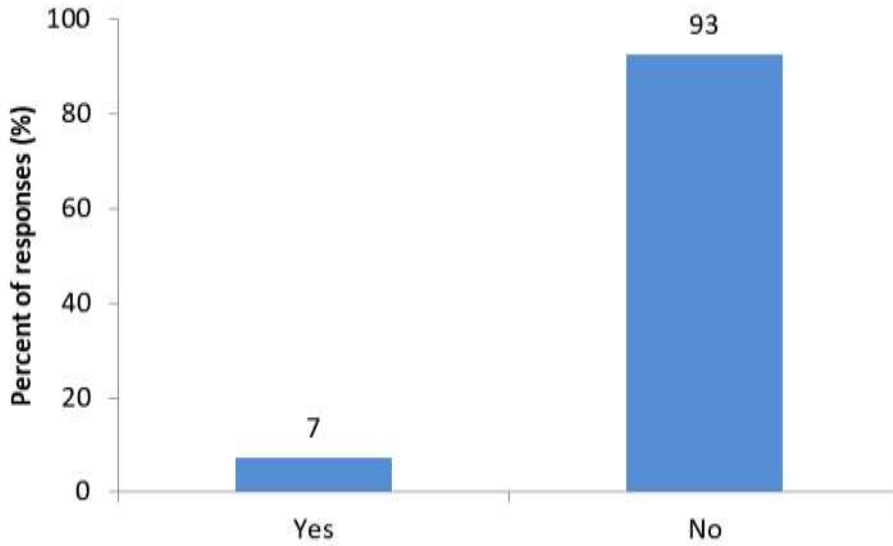
The majority of game bird hunters used .22 caliber rifle to hunt (74%). Nearly a quarter of respondents used a shotgun (23%), while pellet guns, bows and arrows, and slingshots were rarely (<4%) used as a primary weapon for shooting game birds (Figure 14). Few respondents used dogs to hunt game birds (7%; Figure 15).



**Figure 13.** Results from Question 26. — Which best describes how you hunt upland game birds? Sample size = 1,636.

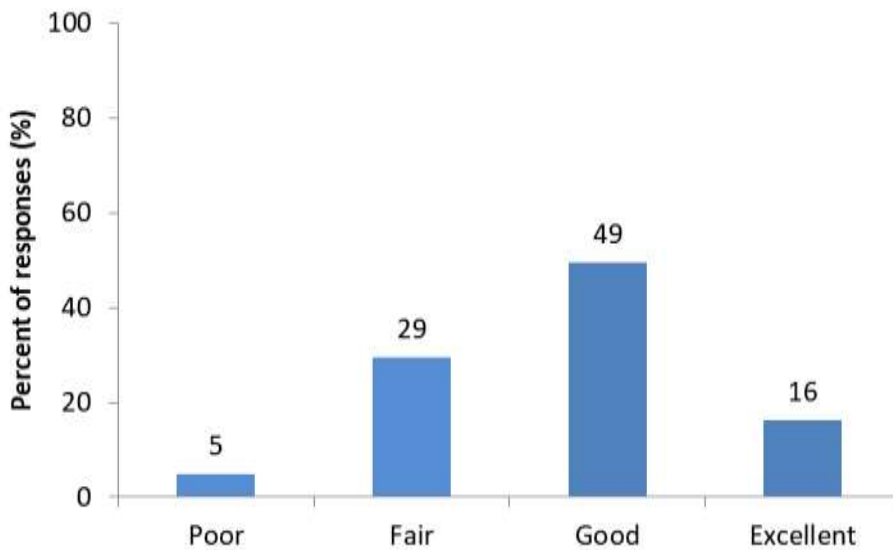


**Figure 14.** Results from Question 27. — What means do you primarily use when hunting upland game birds? Sample size = 1,635.



**Figure 15.** Results from Question 28. — **Do you use dogs to hunt upland game birds?** Sample size = 1,637.

The majority of respondents (78%) rated their ability to identify Yukon’s seven upland game species as fair or good. Only 5% of respondents rated their identification skills as poor, whereas 16% rated their skills as excellent (Figure 16).

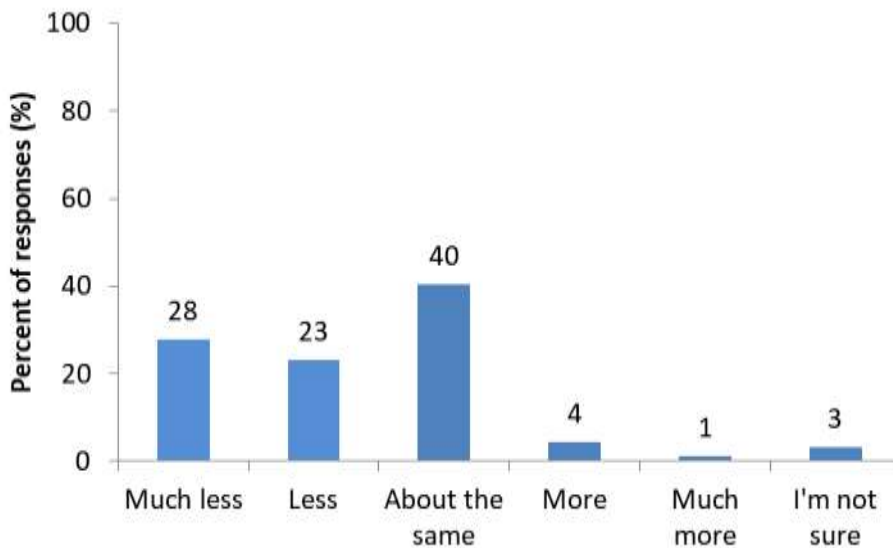


**Figure 16.** Results from Question 29. — **How would you rate your ability to identify Yukon’s 7 species of upland game birds in the field?** Sample size = 1,632.

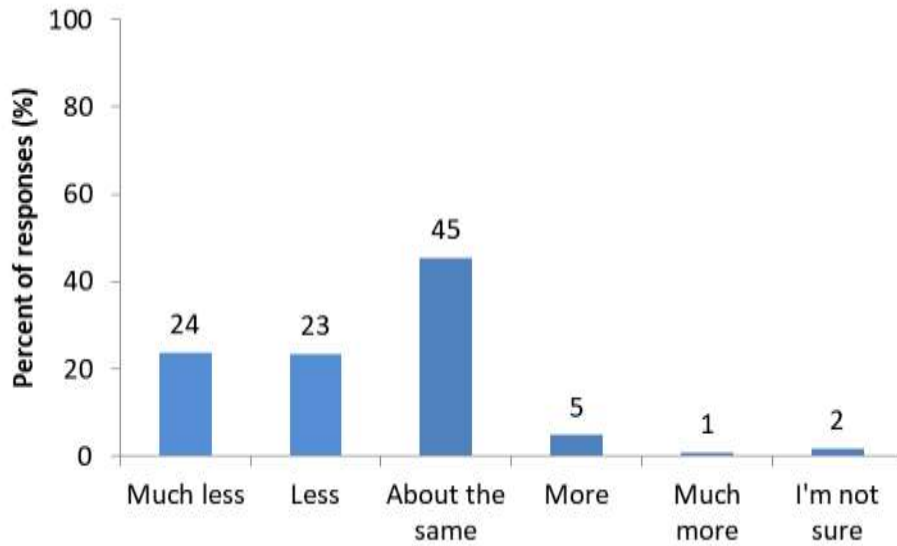


Upland game bird hunting success in 2019 was reported mostly as fewer birds (51%), or the same number of birds (40%), when compared to previous years. Only 5% reported that they harvested more birds in 2019 than in previous years (Figure 17). The reported hunting effort showed similar patterns. Most respondents reported less effort (47%) or the same amount of effort (45%) in 2019, when compared to previous years. Only 6% reported that they put in more effort in 2019 than in previous years (Figure 18).

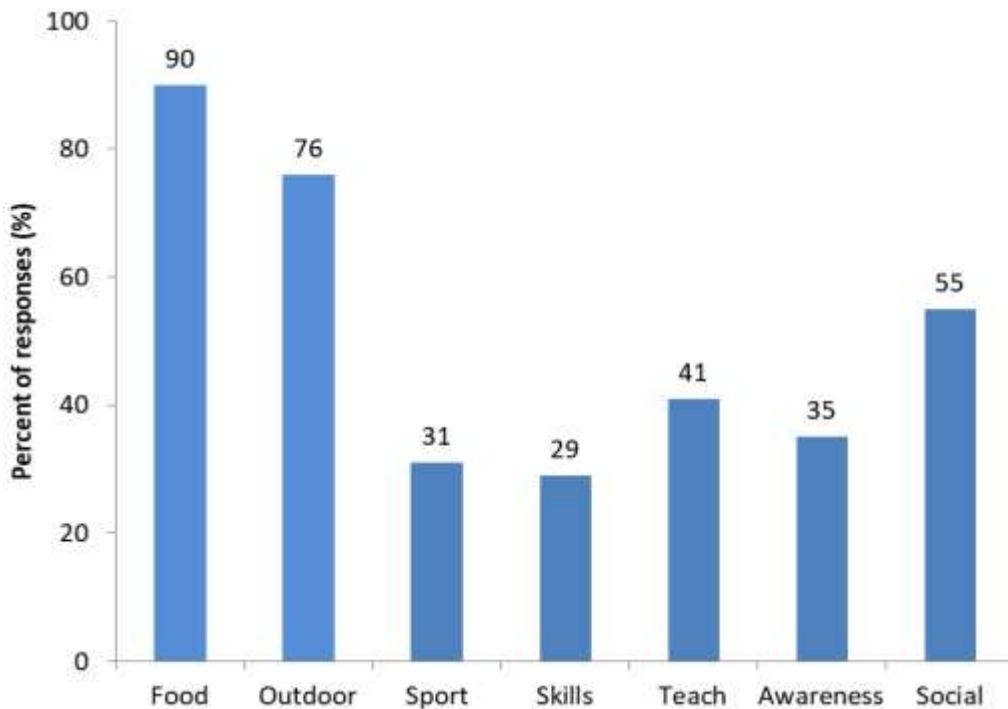
Hunters were motivated to hunt upland game birds for various reasons, but mostly for healthy food (90%), and for outdoor recreation (76%), while social, learning, environmental awareness, skill development, and sport were also indicated as motivations to hunt game birds (Figure 19). When asked to provide the primary motivation to hunt birds, the majority of respondents indicated food (57%), followed by outdoor recreation (20%), and socializing (13%; Figure 20).



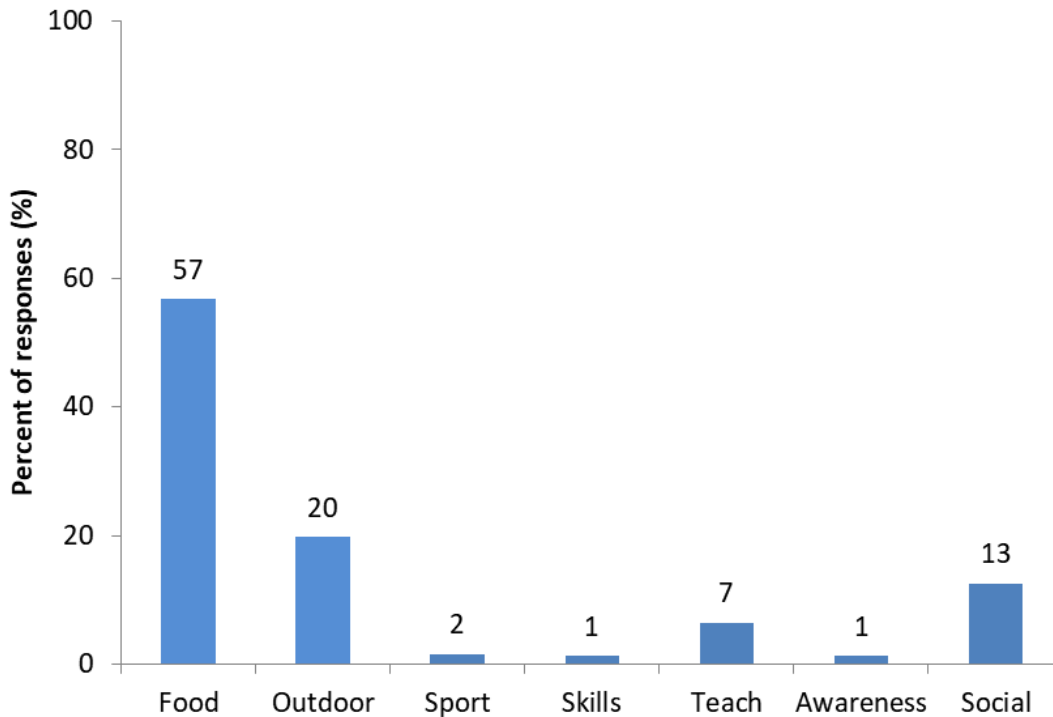
**Figure 17.** Results from Question 30. — How did the number of upland game birds you harvested in 2019 compare with that from previous years? Sample size = 1,616.



**Figure 18.** Results from Question 31. — **How did your effort to harvest upland game birds in 2019 compare with that from previous years?** Sample size = 1,619.



**Figure 19.** Results from Question 32. — **Please indicate which of the following motivate you to hunt upland game birds. Check all that apply.** (Food = to obtain healthy food; Outdoor = as an enjoyable outdoor activity; Sport = for the sport/challenge of it; Skills = to improve my hunting/snaring skills; Teach = to teach others how to hunt/snare animals; Awareness = it makes me more aware of the environment; and Social = as a social activity with family and friends. Sample size = 1,639.



**Figure 20.** Results from Question 33. — **Which of the following is your primary motivation for hunting upland game birds?** (Food = to obtain healthy food; Outdoor = as an enjoyable outdoor activity; Sport = for the sport/challenge of it; Skills = to improve my hunting/snaring skills; Teach = to teach others how to hunt/snare animals; Awareness = it makes me more aware of the environment; and Social = as a social activity with family and friends.) Sample size = 1,626.

Our final series of questions (Q34 to Q37) probed respondents' thoughts about their satisfaction regarding game bird hunting in Yukon. We report the median response, as well as the frequency distributions of those that agreed or disagreed, with each question in Table 5. Most respondents indicated satisfaction with game bird hunting opportunities, regulations for grouse and ptarmigan hunting, and the availability of information from the Department of Environment regarding hunting upland game birds.

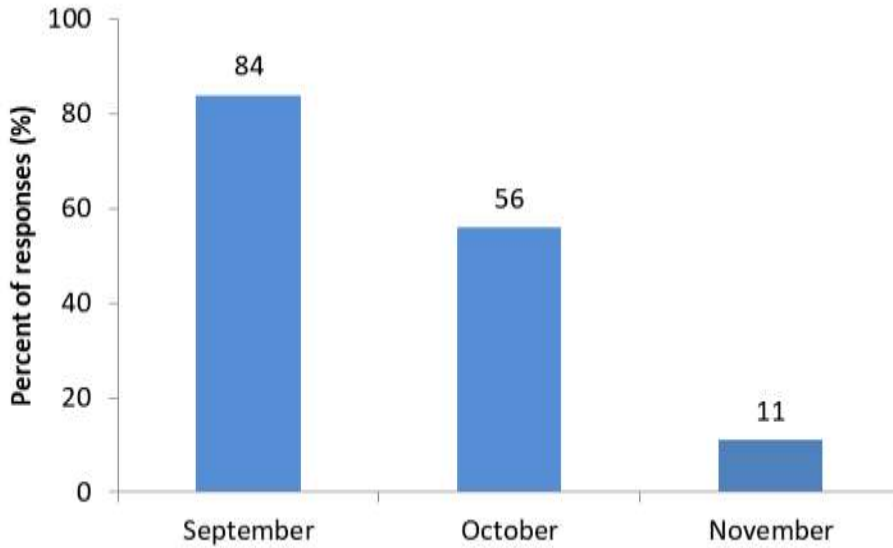
**Table 5.** Summary of results from likert-style questions posed to upland game bird hunters with respect to their satisfaction with game bird hunting opportunities, regulations for grouse and ptarmigan hunting, and the availability of information from the Department of Environment regarding hunting upland game birds. Included are the sample size (n), median, and frequency distribution of responses by respondents. The “disagree” category includes “strongly disagree” and “disagree”, and the “agree” category includes both “strongly agree” and “agree” responses by respondents to the questions, to improve interpretation.

Question	Sample Size	Median Response	Frequency Distribution		
			Disagree	Neutral	Agree
<b>Q34.</b> Overall, I am satisfied with upland game bird hunting opportunities in Yukon.	1,618	Agree	3%	7%	90%
<b>Q35.</b> I am satisfied with the regulations for grouse hunting in Yukon.	1,605	Agree	4%	8%	90%
<b>Q36.</b> I am satisfied with the regulations for ptarmigan hunting in Yukon.	1,379	Agree	3%	11%	86%
<b>Q37.</b> I am satisfied with the information provided by the government about upland game bird hunting.	1,560	Agree	5%	14%	81%

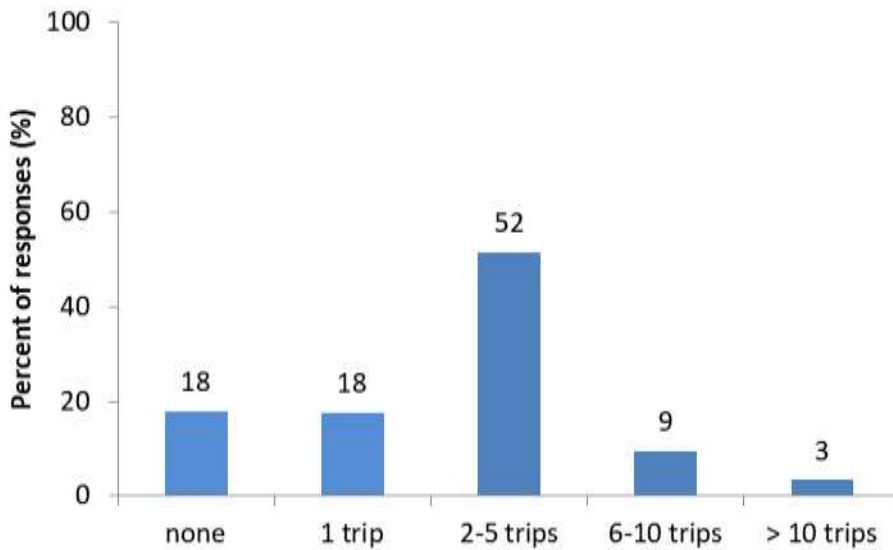
## Grouse

We invited those respondents that had hunted grouse in the past 5 years to answer specific questions regarding their grouse hunt in 2019 (Q38 to Q45). Of the 1,611 respondents that had hunted grouse in the past 5 years, 1,108 (69%) indicated that they had hunted grouse in 2019 (Q38; Appendix 1).

In 2019, most hunters went grouse hunting in September (84%), followed by October (56%) and November (11%; Figure 21). During that time, most hunters went on 2 to 5 grouse hunting trips (52%), whereas 18% of respondents went only once, and 18% of respondents not at all. Twelve per cent of respondents went for 6 or more trips to hunt grouse in 2019 (Figure 22).



**Figure 21.** Results from Question 39. — **In what months did you hunt grouse in 2019? Check all that apply.** Sample size = 1,108.



**Figure 22.** Results from Question 40. — **How many times (trips) did you go out specifically to hunt grouse in 2019?** Sample size = 1,085.

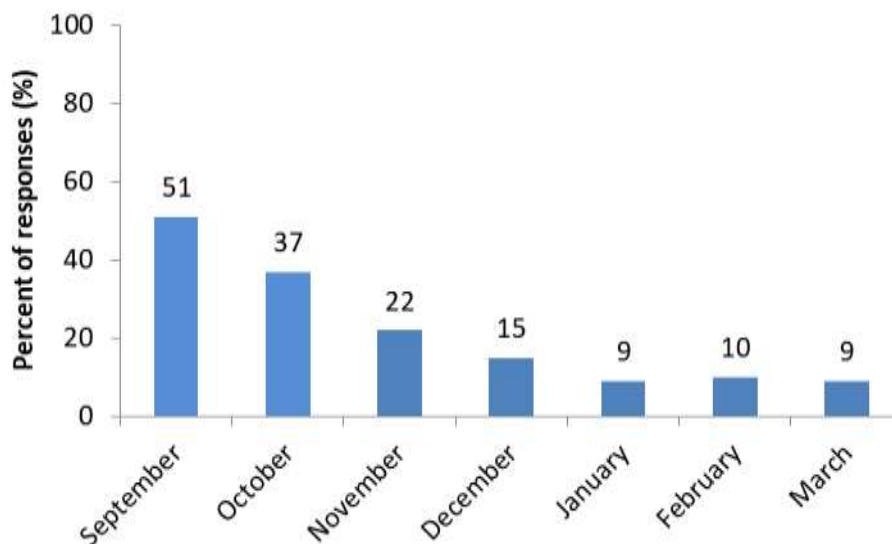
Questions 41 to 45 (Appendix 1) asked grouse hunters to estimate the number of birds harvested in 2019. The average number of grouse harvested (all species combined) in 2019 was  $5.9 \pm 7.6$  (SD; range = 0–65,  $n = 1108$ ). The most common species harvested was spruce

grouse. 790 respondents reported a total harvest of 4,268 spruce grouse (mean  $5.4 \pm 5.5$ ; range = 1–50 per hunter). The second most common species harvested was ruffed grouse. 495 respondents reported a total of 1,782 ruffed grouse (mean  $3.6 \pm 3.3$ ; range = 1–30 per hunter). Relatively few hunters reported harvest of blue grouse or sharp-tailed grouse. 56 respondents reported a total harvest of 166 blue grouse (mean  $3.0 \pm 4.4$ ; range = 1–30 per hunter), and 69 respondents reported a total harvest of 177 sharp-tailed grouse (mean  $2.6 \pm 2.5$ ; range = 1–16 per hunter).

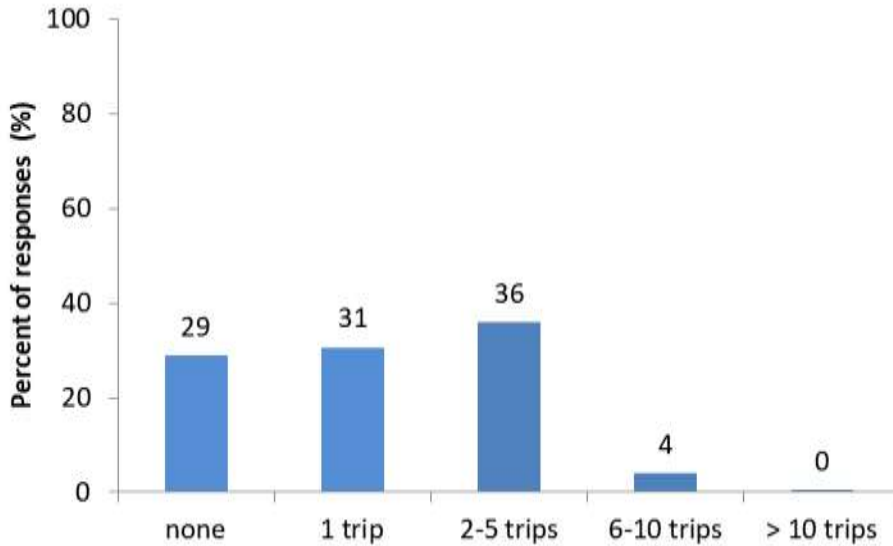
## Ptarmigan

We invited those respondents that had hunted ptarmigan in the past 5 years to answer specific questions regarding their ptarmigan hunt in 2019 (Q46 to Q52). Of the 601 respondents that had hunted ptarmigan in the past 5 years, 229 (38%) indicated that they had hunted ptarmigan in 2019 (Q46; Appendix 1).

Majority of the hunt took place in the fall, particularly during September (51%). Ptarmigan hunting activity decreased toward the end of the hunting season. Only 10% of ptarmigan hunters went out in January, February or March (Figure 23). Thirty-six per cent of hunters went for 2 to 5 trips specifically to hunt ptarmigan. Thirty-one per cent of respondents hunted ptarmigan only once, and 29% of respondents not at all. Four per cent of respondents went for 6 or more trips to hunt ptarmigan (Figure 24).



**Figure 23.** Results from Questions 47. — **In what months did you hunt ptarmigan in 2019? Check all that apply.** Sample size = 229.



**Figure 24.** Results from Questions 48. — **How many times (trips) did you go out specifically to hunt ptarmigan in 2019?** Sample size = 225.

Questions 49 to 52 (Appendix 1) asked ptarmigan hunters to estimate the number of birds harvested in 2019. The average number of ptarmigan harvested (all species combined) in 2019 was  $6.0 \pm 6.4$  (SD; range = 0–40 per hunter,  $n = 140$ ). The most common species harvested was willow ptarmigan. The average number of willow ptarmigan harvested by 80 respondents was  $5.1 \pm 5.3$  (SD; range = 1–40 per hunter). The second most common species harvested was rock ptarmigan. 50 respondents reported an average of  $5.3 \pm 5.1$  (SD; range = 1–30 per hunter). Relatively few white-winged ptarmigan were harvested. 23 hunters reported an average harvest of  $4.0 \pm 3.2$  (SD; range = 1–10 per hunter).

---

## References

---

- Aastrup, M.L., E.D. Doney, C.C. Sponarski, C.T. Seaton, A.J. Bath, and B.R. Downer. 2020. The influence of self-assessed skill level on segmented hunting motivations in Alaska. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 25: in press.
- Boutin, S., C.J. Krebs, R. Boonstra, M.R.T. Dale, S.J. Hannon, K. Martin, A.R.E. Sinclair, J.N.M. Smith, R. Turkington, M. Blower, A. Byrom, F.I. Doyle, C. Doyle, D. Hik, L. Hofer, A. Hubbs, T. Karels, D.L. Murray, V. Nams, M. O'Donoghue, Ch. Romer, and S. Schweiger. 1995.

- Population changes of the vertebrate community during a snowshoe hare cycle in Canada's boreal forest. *Oikos* 74:69-80.
- Boonstra, R., S. Boutin, T.S. Jung, C.J. Krebs, and S. Taylor. 2018. Impact of rewilding, species introductions and climate change on the structure and function of the Yukon boreal forest ecosystem. *Integrative Zoology* 13:123-138.
- Brinkman, T.J. 2018. Hunter acceptance of antlerless moose harvest in Alaska: importance of agency trust, proximity of hunter residence to hunting area, and hunting experience. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 23:129-145.
- Clark, K.E., K. Cupp, C.L. Phelps, M.N. Peterson, K.T. Stevenson, and C. Serenari. 2017. Household dynamics of wildlife value orientations. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 22:483-491.
- Dorendorf, R.R., P.J. Fix, and L.R. Prugh. 2016. Motivations of fur trappers in interior Alaska. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 21:522-537.
- Dunlap, R.E., K.D. Van Liere, A.G. Mertig, and R.E. Jones. 2000. New trends in measuring environmental attitudes: measuring endorsement of the new ecological paradigm: a revised NEP scale. *Journal of Social Issues* 56:425-442.
- Hansen, W.D., T.J. Brinkman, F.S. Chapin III, and C. Brown. 2013. Meeting Indigenous subsistence needs: the case for prey switching in rural Alaska. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 18:109-123.
- Jung, T.S., J.P. Thomas, F. Thomas, R. Chambers, D.A. Clark, S. Dar, D. Doran-Myers, J. King, T.S. Kuhn, N.A. Mccutchen, R. Osborne, A.L. Schmidt, M. Sicotte, T. Van Bussel, G. Van Tighem, and R.E. Westfall. 2018. Results of a public survey about grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and their management in Yukon, Canada. Government of Yukon MR-18-01. 132pp.
- Kaltenborn, B.P., O. Andersen, J. Vittersø, and T.K. Bjerke. 2012. Attitudes of Norwegian ptarmigan hunters towards hunting goals and harvest regulations: the effects of environmental orientation. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 21:3369-3384.
- Krebs, C.J. 2011. Of lemmings and snowshoe hares: the ecology of northern Canada. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 278:481-489.
- Krebs, C.J., S. Boutin, R. Boonstra, A.R.E. Sinclair, J.N.M. Smith, M.R.T. Dale, K. Martin, and R. Turkington. Impact of food and predation on the snowshoe hare cycle. *Science* 269:1112-1115.
- Manfredo, M.J., T.L. Teel, and A.D. Bright. 2003. Why are public values toward wildlife changing? *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 8:287-306.



- Merizon, R.A., and S.J. Carson. 2013. Statewide small game hunter survey, 2012. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Wildlife Management Report ADF&G/DWC/WMR-2013-2, Anchorage, Alaska.
- Mossop, D.H. 1994. Trends in Yukon Upland Gamebird Populations for Long-term Harvest Analysis. Trans. 59<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Pp449-456.
- Nugent, G. 1992. Big-game, small-game, and gamebird hunting in New Zealand: hunting effort, harvest, and expenditure in 1988. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 19:75-90.
- Oli, M.K., C.J. Krebs, A.J. Kenney, R. Boonstra, S. Boutin, and J.E. Hines. 2020. Demography of snowshoe hare population cycles. *Ecology* 101:e02969.
- Peers, M.J.L., Y.N. Majchrzak, A.K. Menzies, E.K. Studd, G. Bastille-Rousseau, R. Boonstra, M. Humphries, T.S. Jung, A.J. Kenney, C.J. Krebs, D.L. Murray, and S. Boutin. 2020. Climate change increases predation risk for a keystone species of the boreal forest. *Nature Climate Change*
- Radder, L., and T. Bech-Larsen. 2008. Hunters' motivations and values: a South African perspective. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. 13:252-262.
- Stong, W.L., and T.S. Jung. 2012. Stand-level attributes of snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) habitat in a post-fire trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) chronosequence in central Yukon. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 126:295-305.
- Thomas, J.P., M.L. Reid, R.M.R. Barclay, and T.S. Jung. 2019. Salvage logging after an insect outbreak reduces occupancy by snowshoe hares (*Lepus americanus*) and their primary predators. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 17:e00562.
- Zinn, H.C., M.J. Manfredo, and S.C. Barro. 2002. Patterns of wildlife value orientations in hunters' families. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 7:147-162.

---

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 1. Small game hunter survey



We are conducting the 2020 Small Game Hunting Survey on behalf of the Department of Environment.

The purpose of the survey is to get a better understanding of small game hunter effort, success, and motivations, as well as your satisfaction with small game regulations. Your responses will help YG better manage small game resources and shape harvest regulations in the future.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and your responses are confidential. The information is being collected by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, and your individual responses will be shared with the Department of Environment for its internal use. Individual respondents will not be identified in any reports, and your anonymized responses will be combined with others for reporting purposes. The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

Have you hunted any of the following small game species in the last 5 years? Check all that apply.

- 1 Hare
- 2 Grouse
- 3 Ptarmigan
- 4 Ground Squirrel
- 5 Porcupine
- 6 None of the above

#### Snowshoe Hare

**Q1.1.** Which choice best describes your hare harvesting activities in the past five years (2015-2019)?

- 1 Sometimes hunted them (1 or 2 years)
- 2 Regularly hunted them (3 or more years)

**Q1.2.** Which choice best describes how you harvest hare? Select only one.

- 1 I went hunting/snaring specifically for hare

<p>2 I hunted hare while doing other things (for example, moose hunting)</p> <p>3 I hunted hare both specifically and incidentally</p>
<p><b>Q1.3.</b> What method(s) have you used to harvest hare?</p> <p>1 Hunting (shooting)</p> <p>2 Snaring</p> <p>3 Both hunting and snaring</p>
<p><b>Q1.4.</b> What means do you <u>primarily</u> use when hunting (shooting) hare?</p> <p>1 Slingshot</p> <p>2 Bow and arrow</p> <p>3 Air gun (pellet gun)</p> <p>4 Shotgun</p> <p>5 22 caliber rifle</p>
<p><b>Q1.5.</b> In what seasons did you go hare hunting/snaring in the past five years (2015-2019)?</p> <p>1 spring (April-May)</p> <p>2 summer (June-August)</p> <p>3 fall (September-October)</p> <p>4 early-winter (November-December)</p> <p>5 late-winter (January-March)</p>
<p><b>Q1.6.</b> Did you attempt to harvest hare in 2019?</p> <p>1 Yes</p> <p>2 No</p>
<p><b>Q1.7.</b> How many times (trips) did you go out specifically to hunt hare in 2019? This does not include trips where you hunted hare while doing other things (i.e. moose hunting).</p> <p>1 0</p> <p>2 1 time</p> <p>3 2-5 times</p> <p>4 6-10 times</p> <p>5 More than 10 times</p>
<p><b>Q1.8.</b> What is the number of hare you harvested by method?</p> <p>1 Shooting</p> <p>2 Snaring</p>
<p><b>Q1.9.</b> Which of the following are reasons why you harvest hare? Check all that apply.</p> <p>1 To obtain healthy food</p> <p>2 As an enjoyable outdoor activity</p> <p>3 For the sport/challenge of it</p> <p>4 To improve my hunting/snaring skills</p> <p>5 To teach others how to hunt/snare animals</p> <p>6 It makes me more aware of the environment</p>

- 7 As a social activity with friends and family
- 8 To control pest problems (e.g. eating gardens or lawns)

**Q1.10.** Which of the following is main reason why you harvest hare? Select only one.

- 1 To obtain healthy food
- 2 As an enjoyable outdoor activity
- 3 For the sport/challenge of it
- 4 To improve my hunting/snaring skills
- 5 To teach others how to hunt/snare animals
- 6 It makes me more aware of the environment
- 7 As a social activity with friends and family
- 8 To control pest problems (e.g.eating gardens or lawns)

**Q1.11.** Overall, I am satisfied with hare hunting opportunities in Yukon.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.12.** I am not satisfied with a hare-hunting trip unless I harvest at least one hare.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.13.** The more hare I get the more satisfied I become.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.14.** I would be willing to harvest fewer hare if it strengthens the hare population.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.15.** I can be satisfied with a hunting trip even if I do not harvest any hare.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.16.** I increase my effort in years when hares are difficult to find.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.17.** I decrease my effort in years when hares are very easy to find.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.18.** There should be limits to the number a hunter can harvest when hare numbers are low.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.19.** The bag limit for hare should be dependent on hare numbers.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.20.** I would support closing the hare hunting season when most young are being born.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree

- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.21.** I am okay with hare being hunted all times of the year.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q1.22.** Hare harvesting should be done with the same amount of respect given to other wild animals, such as moose.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Upland Game Birds**

**Q2.1.** Which best describes your upland game bird harvesting activities in the past 5 years (2015-2019)?

- 1 Sometimes hunted them (1 or 2 years)
- 2 Regularly hunted them (3 or more years)

**Q2.2.** Which best describes how you hunt upland game birds?

- 1 I went hunting specifically for them
- 2 I hunted them while doing other things (for example, moose hunting)
- 3 I hunted them both specifically and incidentally

**Q2.3.** What means do you primarily use when hunting upland game birds?

- 1 Slingshot
- 2 Bow and arrow
- 3 Air gun (pellet gun)
- 4 Shotgun
- 5 22 caliber rifle

**Q2.4.** Do you use dogs to hunt upland game birds?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**Q2.5.** How would you rate your ability to identify Yukon's 7 species of upland game birds in the field?

- 1 Poor
- 2 Fair
- 3 Good
- 4 Excellent

Q2.6. How did the number of upland game birds you harvested in 2019 compare with that from previous years?

- 1 Much less
- 2 Less
- 3 About the same
- 4 More
- 5 Much more
- 6 I'm not sure

Q2.7. How did your effort to harvest upland game birds in 2019 compare with that from previous years?

- 1 Much less
- 2 Less
- 3 About the same
- 4 More
- 5 Much more
- 6 I'm not sure

Q2.8. Please indicate which of the following motivate you to hunt upland game birds. Check all that apply.

- 1 To obtain healthy food
- 2 As an enjoyable outdoor activity
- 3 For the sport/challenge of it
- 4 To improve my hunting/snaring skills
- 5 To teach others how to hunt/snare animals
- 6 It makes me more aware of the environment
- 7 As a social activity with friends and family

Q2.9. Which of the following is your primary motivation for hunting upland game birds?

- 1 To obtain healthy food
- 2 As an enjoyable outdoor activity
- 3 For the sport/challenge of it
- 4 To improve my hunting/snaring skills
- 5 To teach others how to hunt/snare animals
- 6 It makes me more aware of the environment
- 7 As a social activity with friends and family

Q2.10. Overall, I am satisfied with upland game bird hunting opportunities in Yukon.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree

- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q2.11.** I am satisfied with the regulations for grouse hunting in Yukon.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q2.12.** I am satisfied with the regulations for ptarmigan hunting in Yukon.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q2.13.** I am satisfied with the information provided by the government about upland game bird hunting.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Grouse**

**Q3.1.** Did you attempt to harvest grouse in 2019?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**Q3.2.** In what months did you hunt grouse in 2019? Check all that apply.

- 1 September
- 2 October
- 3 November

**Q3.3.** How many times (trips) did you go out specifically to hunt grouse in 2019?

- 1 0
- 2 1 time
- 3 2-5 times
- 4 6-10 times



5 More than 10 times

**Q3.4.** How many of each species of grouse did you harvest in 2019?

- 1 Spruce grouse
- 2 Ruffed grouse
- 3 Blue grouse
- 4 Sharp-tailed grouse
- 5 I don't know the species

#### Ptarmigan

**Q4.1.** Did you attempt to harvest ptarmigan in 2019?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

**Q4.2.** In what months did you hunt ptarmigan in 2019? Check all that apply.

- 1 September
- 2 October
- 3 November
- 4 December
- 5 January
- 6 February
- 7 March

**Q4.3.** How many times (trips) did you go out specifically to hunt ptarmigan in 2019?

- 1 0
- 2 1 time
- 3 2-5 times
- 4 6-10 times
- 5 More than 10 times

**Q4.4.** How many of each species of ptarmigan did you harvest in 2019?

- 1 Willow ptarmigan
- 2 Rock ptarmigan
- 3 White-winged ptarmigan
- 4 I don't know the species

#### Ground Squirrels

**Q5.1.** Which choice best describes why you harvest ground squirrels? Select only one.

- 1 For food
- 2 For their pelt/hide
- 3 As an enjoyable outdoor activity
- 4 To control pest problems
- 5 Other

**Q5.2.** How many ground squirrels did you harvest in 2019? Please estimate if you cannot recall precisely.

### Porcupine

**Q6.1.** Which choice best describes why you harvest porcupine?

- 1 For food
- 2 For quills
- 3 As an enjoyable outdoor activity
- 4 To control pest problems
- 5 Other

**Q6.2.** How many porcupines did you harvest in 2019? Please estimate if you cannot recall precisely.

### General Questions and Final Comments

We are interested in your thoughts on the value of wildlife. Please indicate your level of support for the following statements.

**Q7.1.** Wildlife populations should be used for human benefit.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q7.2.** Wild animals should have rights similar to the rights of people.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q7.3.** Hunting is a positive and humane activity.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither agree or disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly agree
- 6 Don't know / prefer not to say

**Q7.4.** Please leave any comments you may have about small game hunting in Yukon.

## Appendix 2. Comments by small game hunters

Abridged comments submitted by respondents to a survey on small game hunting in Yukon. Only those comments that were specific or applicable to small game are included. Comments on wildlife value orientations questions, or complaints about the survey in general, are not included.

FORM	Abridged Comment
10065	Be respectful of the land and the harvest.
10031	I do not agree that tourists are able to purchase a small game hunting license.
10037	I'm very concerned about the steep decline in the number of grouse over the past decade, particularly in the Southern Lakes area. For years I have hunted on the 10 Mile Road and it was quite common to see flocks of 12 or 20 birds but lately that has become quite rare. I blame this on commercial development and loss of habitat. In 2018 I harvested 5 spruce grouse. In 2019 I saw 8 birds and harvested 6. Depressing!
10049	Fortunately people don't fill their quote for small game. There should be a lower quote especially for birds.
10053	I only take what I need, and I use every bit of it. I don't waste anything.
10056	Some people take too many. There should be stricter enforcement of the limits.
10059	There is 95 percent of the Yukon where a grouse will never meet a human in its life. Human impact on small game in the Yukon is minimal. Let's not get crazy here. The areas that are impacted are back filled from the millions of acres of land where these animals live and see almost zero human hunting pressure. Foxes, owls kill many times more grouse and small game animals than humans.....that's a fact. This whole questionnaire worries me about regulators taking away another healthy food source while not thinking that trucking chicken up the Alaska highway has more negative impact on this planet than grouse hunting.
10082	I don't really go specifically hunting small game. If see some as moose hunting then might try, enjoy grouse and or rabbit once or twice but not a regular eater of them.
10088	Strongly believe all wildlife should be regulated in a sustainable way. Taking into consideration hunting pressures and development pressures and natural pressures (weather changing, other wildlife, etc). There is a sense of entitlement when it comes to wildlife and hunting in the Yukon. Generally speaking, hunters will have their spot, or HAVE to get "their" moose etc.
10098	Small game is a natural resource and as long as it's not abused it should be there for the people.

10117	There is no mention or acknowledgment of Traditional use or values.
10118	If you hunt any wildlife at all it should be utilized for human food, or the furs should be preserved.
10134	its good to see people out there properly hunting small game.
10135	It is also a great way for kids to learn about hunting, how to properly harvest and prepare an animal for food, and to see how natural food is better for you, as well as learn about wildlife and the respect we should all have for it.
10176	I am happy with the opportunities here. I believe people should take only what they need and practice conservation at all time.
10177	Adding grouse and rabbit to our diet varies our food sources. We don't depend on getting these each year.
10207	It is a great way to get out onto the land and bring home some delicious healthy food. It is one of my favorite things about living in the Yukon.
10223	Personally, I think it's in all of our best interests to approach hunting in a way that allows this activity to continue for generations to come, and it not a free for all. It's a privilege and a right, depending on how you look at it, and it needs to be done respectfully and with the future as well as respect towards the animals in mind.
10225	Some areas are better than others for grouse or ptarmigan, but the land is getting harder to get access to due to First Nations restrictions and mining.
10234	Wish there was more ruffed grouse. Maybe I am hunting in the wrong places. In general I support any regulation that increases sustainability of wildlife.
10252	I'd like a longer season but I understand that it's part of population control.
10259	it should be mandatory to use non-toxic shot for gamebirds.
10264	It would be nice to open bird season a little earlier, especially farther north.
10278	Grouse numbers were generally down in the central Yukon in 2019. That did affect my harvest pressure which I scale based on abundance. With respect to hare, it is not necessary or even plausible to scale to abundance or the cycle for numerous reasons. Primarily harvest is scaled by availability. It is highly unlikely that licensed harvest pressure impacts hare populations even at low numbers. It would also be problematic as hare populations as they decrease can be extra patchy likes it's been this past year or two in the central Yukon. Some areas have lots while others have very few. More resources and efforts

	are needed with respect to grouse and ptarmigan in the Yukon. There is virtually no monitoring or current information. Alaska has a lot of great info.
10284	As there is less intensity as there is for big game, fundamentally there should be leniency in regulations. One note of concern though is that there is definitely a reduction in flocks as well as well as the numbers in the flock size in the past 40 years.
10285	I hunt big game too, but the small game is more important as an outdoor activity whereas big game is more important as a food source.
10286	My response in regards to regulations is due to the fact that I wish Yukon youth could legally hunt small game without being required to obtain HEED, if under the supervision of a licensed adult.
10304	The use of non-toxic shot should be mandatory when hunting game birds.
10325	People who are new to the territory seem to go absolutely crazy with the over-abundance. There should be some kind of education to teach them about taking animals wisely.
10358	I grew up in the city. I love hunting small game since I am new to hunting and it gives me some experience before going after larger game. I think small game should be respected as much as any animal.
10378	Would like to see Ptarmigan season to go to end of March to match Bison season.
10397	Small game hunting for us is to have the children out and practice their hunting skills. It's usually done when out moose hunting, but occasionally we go out specifically for grouse if moose has been taken already. We find it an enjoyable activity for the whole family and it teaches the children the value and respecting this food source. We also give some grouse to the elders in the community.
10403	BAGLIMITS ARE TOO HIGH.
10427	I hunt for food only, agree generally that hunting should be closed if it impacts population BUT I also feel like the government is out of touch with SUBSISTENCE FOOD hunters who TAKE ONLY WHAT THEY NEED (regardless of racial background) and that these regulations should really apply to the more aggressive (usually white but not always) hunters that are usually overweight, always take the bag limit (or more), drive long distances in giant fossil fueled trucks to hunt for their food instead of locally using foot and non fossil fuel travel, buy expensive hunting gear that gets made in Asian sweatshops, and are very lazy (use shotguns and game calls and such instead of more traditional methods like bows). I feel angry that these people are forcing Government to adopt regulations that affect people like myself who have high respect for animals, take only what we need (not the bag limit), hunt barefoot with a compound bow and snares, and that really WE should

	be allowed to hunt small game year round and the aggressive redneck type (usually white) men should be restricted in some other way.
10439	Hunting is a right that we have allowing us access to alternative meat sources than store bought meats. When done responsibly it can be a great experience. I personally enjoy hunting with my family.
10528	I feel like people who over hunt should be disciplined. Lots of people go out every day and kill way more than the daily limit and fill their freezers and it is not fair to the animal or other hunters.
10532	Small game rules and regs are ok.
10543	I'd like to see an extended season for grouse.
10544	Coyotes, red squirrel and fox should be classified as small game.
10563	Non-resident bag limits should be lower, because food requirements for residents should be considered as food, not entertainment. It's important.
10590	The regulations are good as they are.
10611	I would like to see the season for grouse hunting extended into December or the winter months, as there are many opportunities to harvest them in the colder months while engaged in other activities, and outside of mating or young-rearing times of year, and populations seem to remain at healthy levels from my anecdotal observations across much of the territory.
10635	Populations are down for grouse in the bear creek area north of Haines Junction.
10644	In my area, there are limited roads so there is heavy hunting pressure. In the first few weeks of hunting most birds are taken. Need more roads. Children under the age of 12 should be allowed to hunt small game with an adult present.
10648	The First Nations people have depended upon all of the species of wild life and fish for their livelihoods for time immortal, I find this questionnaire to be leaning towards a Green Peace effort. The rabbits go through a life cycle, when the #'s were down (usually every 4th year), the FN people did not harvest, where there's lynx - there's rabbits.
10654	Generous season and limits with apparently healthy populations. We're lucky!
10662	Small game populations are cyclic in nature, and not influenced by hunting at all. They come and go over time, and if anything predation by owls, hawks, coyotes, foxes, lynx, wolves etc. plays a far more significant role in populations than hunting!
10668	Weather changes make them starving; birds can't get to their food.

10678	Small Game hunting should be for Yukon Residents only.
10679	Populations were low last year. No grouse is previous are that always went. No bunnies.
10700	We only hunt grouse when populations are doing well. This year ruffed grouse population was high in our area.
10705	Small game should only be taken when needed and used for food.
10740	I'm satisfied with the opportunities.
10778	A lot more hunting is showing an effect on the population. You don't see as many grouse as we used to. The season for ptarmigan is too long. People are going out late in the winter, and they're hunting for sport or fun, past the point when the quality of the meat for eating is past its prime.
10789	The main problem with grouse hunting is sparse populations due to an environment that provides limited food for the birds. There are small grouse populations where I live (Marsh Lake), and I don't hunt them because they are small populations. Populations along the South Canol road, for example, are denser, so I'll hunt there if I happen to be driving that road.
10793	Like it, but do not hunt every year.
10847	Grouse and all animals that are hunted are a gift for us to harvest and eat, never shoot if you don't plan to eat it!
10872	If a species like ours wants to survive in a setting where grocery stores aren't available, hunting is almost a necessity. Growing food during winter is extremely difficult and practically impossible if you have a large family and/or lack an enormous amount of money to build green houses. We cannot depend on grocery stores always being available as the potential for the disruption of services in these times is high. Hunting is a skill that needs to be practiced, among other skills, if survival is something that is important to you.
10873	It appears the YTG is creating an artificial scarcity of small game in order to regulate human wildlife interaction. This is not management of the species as described in the final agreement. Short story in the past wives and family were left at home to fend for themselves while the man was out hunting for game to feed family/ community. It was common practice by these to have a snareline out your back to door to make it through tough times.
10884	Don't try to over regulate everything. Be realistic.
10921	Should make it legal for trappers to hunt small game on their trap line sept to April.

10928	The game birds should be left for those under 16 to hunt.
10939	Why do you need to keep the legs of game birds. Only the breast is edible.
10942	It should be strongly emphasized that red squirrels are not small game.
10947	Poor year for grouse hunting. Not much more upland game birds. Weather conditions.
10949	Over my 30 years in this area I have noted all small game species have declined in numbers. Observation tells me this is due to excessive hunting, toxic shot or bullets, loose household animals (cats, dogs etc.) overhunting and hunting by non-residents (unnamed but heard bragging). I suggest periods of non-hunting (year or two) to allow the species to rebuild numbers. Species like hare should be allowed to reproduce during local areas recently found to have declined. In Tagish, hare nearly vanished completely, should have been protected!
10974	I'd like to see being able to hunt closer than the 1km from your home even if you do not live close to anyone.
10983	Traditional First Nations Ways of Doing i.e., harvesting are very humane. Unwritten Law: to leave the birds alone when they are nesting & raising young. Other cultures do not respect the animal/bird as much.
10985	I usually give the porcupine I harvest to elders.
11011	Shouldn't have a bag limit on birds based on education. Surveys should be based on First Nation or non-status. These permits and licenses are not required. Things are different for FN and non FN people. The rules for overlapping zones should be more clear. More education is required about hunting locations and FN lands.
11016	The government should have more studies on small game, some back roads are overhunted. The birds and animals have a harder time to live because of climate change. No snow for insulation and too dry in summer. Less berries for the birds to eat. Rabbits have a 7 year cycle. It's good for the lynx when the cycle is high.
11041	Local Conservative Officers should be out monitoring for reporting.
11052	Way too many foxes, coyotes, wolves. Old timers are no longer living on land and trimming their populations down. You need to start worrying about the vermin that are killing all your small game. It's not people. It's the fleabags. Start programs to trim them down or you will have nothing left very soon.
11054	We should be able to hunt other species, like beaver and muskrat, for food.



11063	It's important that it's available to people. Some people are dependent on hunting to live. re regulations on canol road - a draw would be a mistake in that area. It should remain open to everyone. First nations can limit use in their areas.
11094	The Yukon has some of the best small game hunting I have seen. There are plenty of birds out there and we enjoy getting out there exploring new areas. Thank You.
11133	It would be nice to see the grouse hunting season expanded a little more into the winter.
11148	If I feel that there is sufficient numbers of grouse then I may take a few. If I was in dire need of food I would take all that I saw.
11218	Overall the Yukon has excellent hunting regs and opportunities. My girlfriend has never hunted before and now enjoys going for upland game birds while we hunt big game. She loves it :)
11221	Very satisfied at present and nothing should change.
11233	Food free of pesticides and understanding where food comes from connects family and soul.
11242	In my area it seems like hunting pressure on upland game birds is very low, and the hunting season could extend for more months of the year.
11258	The small game season this year was really good to me and my family I hope there are more years like this to come.
11263	Small game hunting opportunities should be maximized for RESIDENT hunters, not used as a tourist activity.
11314	I usually hunt hare with a weapon not listed as an option (.17 hmr) and getting the hide is one of my motivations. Harvesting fur was not listed as a reason to hunt hare. My family welcomed a new child recently, so my hunting effort has been way down. I would usually go small game hunting a couple times a month during grouse season and probably get about 15 grouse and 5 ptarmigan in a year.
11323	Conservation is necessary, and being mindful of appropriate quotas, oversight, and enforcement.
11338	I eat what I take from the land.
11404	I think the daily possession limit for grouse is too high. No-one needs to have seven or 10 birds and it's hard on the population.
11409	I am an awful hunter and despite going hunting a few times, I have never harvested an upland game bird so my answers to this questionnaire likely hold very little weight...

11476	It's part of the way of life for people who've lived here a long time.
11487	I appreciate the opportunity. I take just a few, which is what I need.
11493	Keep doing what you all can to keep our game birds sustainably and ethically hunted. Thank you for your work!
11514	I think it should be promoted more as a good alternative source of food and social activity for Yukoners.
11515	I think that there should be a limit on the harvest of Porcupine, Snowshoe hare and gophers to prevent hunters from just shooting them for sport and wasting the meat. All animals need to be respected and not wasted when they are harvested. Not having limits on these animals promotes meat wastage and people just shooting them for fun.
11525	Grouse numbers are lower than they were. I know they go in cycles and I don't know where they are in the cycle.
11526	When my family hunts we only take what we need immediately and we never freeze any of the meat.
11536	It's a very enjoyable family activity and it adds a lot to our fall to do bird hunting, and the food is delicious.
11558	If it's not broken let's not fix it.
11564	Small game hunting is a valuable part of the wilderness experience in the Yukon. It helps establish the connection between people and the land.
11611	I like the meat and the activity. I don't over hunt. I have mixed feelings on hunting and no longer hunt big game.
11613	I'm thankful to have the option to do it.
11620	I'd like to see smaller bag limits.
11648	I hunt small game so that I'm connected/responsible for the meat I consume. I'd like to be able to hunt as ethically and sustainably as possible. Therefore, I would like the regulations to reflect ethical and sustainable hunting practices.
11650	Cranberry cooked grouse. Yum!
11660	For everything, the residency requirement needs to go up to at least five years. The opportunities aren't there because there are too many people out there. People who are non-resident get small game too, and it's not right. I've seen whole flocks of ptarmigan in August and in September you go back and the field is full of feathers and no birds. Game

	numbers significantly declined with the advent of quads and it would be better if conservation, as discussion in Article 16, included limiting land dispositions and numbers for harvest.
11713	Please leave the regulations alone. Hunting is part of the culture here. I am more concerned about outfitter and first nation big game overharvesting.
11726	Game management studies and implementation should be strongly encouraged in the future.
11778	Hope to do more in the future and haven't harvested a blue grouse so it's a bucket list thing.
11788	Would be nice if grouse season started in August, even if it ended sooner.
11810	There are more and more people in the Yukon, and everything is crowded and there are too many people in the field. Some of them are unsafe too.
11812	I think it was the right thing to combine spruce and ruffed grouse into the same bag limit.
11841	I think it's important for people to do this with their kids as a learning experience. I think the rules are fine, but you should make sure you are properly valuing small game. All big game seasons open August 1, and it might be good to align small game seasons so they open at the same time, even if it closes earlier.
11857	Any and all folks that have hunted grouse and hares in Yukon are aware of cycles in the populations. When lots,... hunt. When few, hunt,... with lower expectations. The challenge with hunting small game is the loss of opportunity by land dispositions along highways and roads in and around communities. Having to travel an hour to find a spot to shoot a grouse or two with your child is terribly unfortunate and contributes to the loss of hunting, and wilderness time, for young kids.
11862	Why is the grouse hunting season different than the ptarmigan season?
11871	If we are becoming concerned about small game numbers, perhaps we should close small game hunting to non-Yukon residents.
11878	I find that if I go out grouse hunting, and there are less grouse in areas than I would normally expect there to be, my effort decreases as a result of this. This coupled with other factors such as a poor berry crop or grouse that have only spruce in their crops will contribute to my stopping grouse hunting for that season.
11884	In years that hare population falls, I do not harvest as many hares, nor in the spring when the babies are born, also do not hunt, that is common sense. I am so happy to have hares and grouse for a couple of meat pies, as we so enjoy it. I stop hunting when either is scarce, as other wildlife needs to eat as well. I follow use not abuse, the wildlife population rule.

11894	Small game is a good start for first time hunters.
11903	There ought to be access roads into hunting areas you can use, that aren't restricted because they're FN land, especially around Whitehorse.
11961	Over the years I have realized that while I love grouse hunting, I don't love eating grouse. I now still go out to hunt them with friends, but rarely shoot them as I know that if I shoot one, I have to eat it.
11975	It is very important to allow for hunting and outdoor activities. Our children become better people when they spend time in the woods. They appreciate food more when they harvest and process it themselves.
11976	I like the regulations here. They limit the harvest every year and that allows for conservation of animals.
11984	As a fairly inexperienced hunter I would like GPS coordinates for the zones, because if I'm not sure I don't try to harvest anything. It would also help to have traditional lands marked on the map.
12001	We need the numbers of First Nation harvest for small game, big game and fishing to be able to know what is going on with population, w/o there number imputes, we can't have a real management!! And I would go as far as limiting non-resident hunters more, they are just trophy hunters that takes the best animal out of the gene pool!!
12029	Hunting is for food, keeps people engaged in the environment, and is a family activity (social aspects).
12034	Drop the bag limit for grouse a little, because there aren't so many numbers. People don't seem to understand the regulations about the season, etc. They're taking the limit when the birds are little. Maybe we should close the Scout Lake Road for a couple of years.
12038	More restrictions for game birds, because the populations seem to be dropping.
12079	Upland game bird hunting: I didn't hunt much last year because the populations seemed low. Southern Lakes ptarmigan were very low.
12100	Limits and closed seasons need to be for both First Nations and resident hunters especially in areas that are not a category settlement lands. Also non-residents should be the ones to go without if changes are being made. For both small and large game quotas!!! We live here for the clean outdoor life and clean wild game resident hunters should take priority ( both First Nations and those who are residents ) I have harvested carefully and responsibly since I was a child of 5years old so did my father and my grandfather both him and now so do my daughters and our friends we never take more than needed. If populations are dropping

	harvest numbers should reflect that in the zones. This has failed in other areas of Canada where First Nations groups move outside there area and take too many fish and animals decimating the population I am fearful this will happen here too. As it has in Ontario Alberta and Saskatchewan. Non-residents hunters also who have the money to go where we are being stopped going due to crazy restrictions on trails. If everyone has to hunt in small zones these get stressed more quickly than if we can spread out and hunt without damaging the countryside. Trails promote careful travel especially if they are too narrow for truck access. And promote hiking and biking and children's closeness to nature encouraging the care for it.
12110	Wish there were more ruffed grouse.
12112	Mostly hunt small game to eat while hunting big game.
12114	Grouse hunting should be opened until December 31 as in other provinces. It limits my outdoor recreation opportunities in the shortest daylight month of the year. I do not hunt grouse in September as I am too busy with work and the weather is often too warm to pack harvested meat around for a full day of hiking. I would like the opportunity to hunt grouse in December.
12125	I'd like to see the season for grouse expanded.
12127	Don't overlook the impacts that small game animals have on the eco system. Thank you for the survey.
12199	It's quite enjoyable, social and a great way to spend time on the land and enjoy the beautiful territory. Small game often gets overlooked by hunters looking for trophy animals such as moose. I hope that small game hunting can continue to be as good as it is through proper conservation efforts by hunters and YTG.
12213	There should be more guides to help identify the species.
12234	I am concerned about the sustainability of hare being hunted year round.
12237	I think small game is a great introduction to future big game hunting. I have small game hunted in the same area for 5 years and have noticed some years I see less. It would be good to see something about cycles in the regulations.
12246	Most of the small game that I got came from fresh roadkill snared some to supplement low food in the Bush.
12249	Only take what you will eat that day no waste.

12251	Things could be a little more simple in the regulations. It's 5 hours of research before you can go out hunting. I don't think you should need permission to hunt small game on first nation land.
12264	I think the bag limits for grouse and ptarmigan are too high -- not everyone hunts to the limit, but if they did, we would be in trouble. And I don't think any wild animal should be hunted at the time of year when they are having and raising their young.
12270	Need more information made available about sharp-tailed grouse.
12288	I'm happy with the support with small game hunting in the Yukon. This is a great place to learn how to hunt.
12300	Maybe the government could inform people about the different birds and rabbits, and that they are for food, survival food, and not everyone seems to understand that we shouldn't be wasting them by shooting for fun.
12331	Detailed regulations for small game are difficult to find.
12397	I would attend a small game course, identification, harvest, and cooking small game.
12407	As with all wild life it is essentially important that it's regulated and managed in a professional manner at all levels. Must not be managed by any sort small vocal groups who have a tendency to make a lot of noise and a direct line to a political friend or friends! While bypassing a science base approach. Thanks.
12411	Lower limits of game birds for non-residents.
12412	I don't think regulations are the answer to improving hunting ethics. For example, I feel that people should be able to identify when hare numbers are low and not hunt them. We should be able to do this with education and social pressure. I also strongly disagree with the government's stance to use hunter management as the only tool to manage wildlife populations. Our landscapes are going through massive change and there may be much more effective strategies to assist wildlife in adapting. For a hypothetical example, not harvesting caribou in the southern lakes doesn't make a hill of beans difference if the winter habitat burns in a massive fire. Maybe we could look at some prescribed burns to have forest types in various successional stages so one fire is not catastrophic? We can have a positive impact on the environment - let's figure out how. I bet our First Nation's traditional knowledge would be a good place to start.
12438	Please don't restrict any more. It's how I teach my children how to hunt and spend time on the land.

12440	I noticed the lodges in the area of my cabin tend to take a lot of small game. I think tourism hunting should be tightened up.
12441	Number of grouses seem to diminish year after year but don't know if that is from natural cause or other.
12447	I got stopped last fall. There was an officer who complained I hadn't left the wing on. That is not in the handbook which was given out.
12451	As far as bird hunting goes, as long as bird numbers remain healthy, there should be no need for change, other than having more Conservation Officers in the field, in the fall to check ALL HUNTERS.
12473	It's an enjoyable thing to do.
12502	I believe grouse hunting should be opened earlier. August 1 would be better.
12523	Grouse season should be longer.
12553	I'm not convinced that hunting has a meaningful impact on hare populations.
12564	We need to control wolves so the small game can recover.
12565	In Yukon, hunting is more of a harvest and sport orientated. It's more important we gather food in the correct seasons. We shouldn't hunt young or during the birthing season. We cannot pursue animals in areas where there are none. Whether there are a lot or few, a lot depends on the area you hunt and no factor. When in competition with predators, luck is present if the numbers of game are present. It has nothing to do with bag limits if an area is devoid of game.
12641	It would be nice if the season was a bit longer.
12645	Hare populations fluctuate based on natural cycles - why are we asking questions about changing bag limits based on population numbers... the two are not related!
12674	The population of grouse in the Carmacks area is very low. Birds in certain areas which are low because of over hunting need to be better monitored. The bag limit should be lower: about 3 per day.
12694	In the Whitehorse area the ruffed grouse are much fewer whereas in Mayo there seem to be lots of them. You should be asking where I have hunted the grouse and hare.
12700	I think hunting should stay the same.

12703	Please keep it available for all Yukon hunters. It's part of the reason why people live in the Yukon. I'd hate to see that diminish. I'd like younger generations to know how things work, like food production.
12740	Need to ensure over-harvest does not happen. People need to be educated.
12769	I think we have ample opportunity and I enjoy doing it. I don't see a lot of enforcement though.
12777	Certain areas should be closed because of the cycle of rabbits. Road corridors are over hunted. There should be restrictions on hunting on/near roadway corridors. Bag limits should be strongly enforced. For those who are subsistence hunters, they should have a different type of permit with a mechanism to test it and the hunter should be able to prove they are subsistence hunters. Use either location or income.
12794	I believe small game hunting is abused. I have seen hunters with a pile of birds in the back of a truck not gutted or anything.
12822	As a born in Yukon person I respect the fact that we have wildlife both to view and harvest but it must be regulated for everyone and not one specific group should only be allowed to do so.
12862	There should be a limit to number of rabbits killed and they should need to report them.
12865	Its fun and delicious.
12882	It's good because if you're not able to do a large animal hunt, then you have the opportunity to go small game hunting, so it's a great thing because it gives people who can't go out for big game the opportunity to go hunting.
12937	Yukon need to enact the recommendation of the TRC and include a stronger Yukon First Nation ways of knowing doing and being in the way we teach and manage game.
12938	There should be a smaller bag limit and possession limit for Non-resident small game hunters in the Yukon.
12947	Not enough available information to allow hunters to make sustainable/ethical decisions when it comes to small game hunting. Liberal bag limits and no population information. Yet for some species, like ptarmigan, I often hear of depleted populations.
12965	I like the opportunity to go small game hunting, it is a great way to engage kids and those new to hunting. However I do find it difficult to find game to hunt, which can make it hard to get excited about.



12982	I would have no problem at all if you made it harder or more expensive to hunt small game, or large game, or increased the prices for campgrounds. You've been good stewards, and it wouldn't hurt to charge more.
12990	Not enough rabbits.
13005	I love grouse ptarmigan and rabbit meat. Nothing better really than fresh game bird or rabbit. Regardless of how many you can harvest I only harvest what I will eat within a few days. I only take what I need and am very grateful for the opportunity and chance to do so. Small game hunting is a great introduction for people who are interested in getting into hunting. Start small and work your way up.
13011	Personally I harvest small game (rabbit & grouse) with the same respect, honor and ethics as I do big game (moose & caribou). Small game are wild creatures of this earth that deserve the same respect as large game. I sometimes worry that others (especially new hunters to Yukon who relocate from the south) do not share the same hunting ethics. I believe education is the best tool to manage small game hunting. If populations are being affected, I would support tighter hunting seasons/limits to protect these species.
13013	We have to make sure there's enough enforcement. I have the idea that there are those out there who take advantage of a lack of enforcement to harvest beyond what they should be.
13041	We are fortunate to have the ability to do that in the Yukon.
13073	Moved from BC nice opportunity to learn and hunt.
13082	Some more hunter education specific to small game (species and habitat identification, cooking, etc.) would be appreciated.
13097	Rights to hunt anything should have the same requirements as hunting large game. Regarding time as resident and required education.
13099	Would be nice to see more information about the seasons for types of birds to hunt specifically in Yukon. Would be nice to have the bird license included with my other hunting licenses (e.g. moose, bison). would be nice to have ability to hunt with birds of prey (e.g. hunting with trained falcons, hawks and owls).
13113	Any studies regarding other grouse numbers.
13115	I feel that the Whitehorse area is harder to find small game. I have to drive far to find them.
13141	Leave regulations the way it is.
13173	Small game hunting in smaller communities are easier to access compared to living in the city.

13178	We have it good in the Yukon in regards to season and regulations and access to lands for hunting. I feel that most hunters I run into refer to all species as "grouse" perhaps limiting to a select overall harvest opposed to limits on species? Yukon's wildlife are managed well by those who do it! Thank you.
13195	If they could do informative days with fishing, like a family day. A learning day for people who are new at hunting and fishing.
13224	Small game hunting is a way of life for us who live remotely. Not everyone has easy access to a grocery store.
13251	Small game hunting is pretty well regulated up here.
13282	Small game hunting is a great way for new hunters to learn and experience hunting before moving onto big game. It is an enjoyable side benefit to being out on the land to come back with small game. It is also an important survival skill (more likely to obtain small game than big if surviving on the land for any period of time).
13317	I don't think our small game populations are under any threat and I think it's a good thing that we allow licensed foreigners to come here and hunt in season. I've seen discussion that the bag limits are so high, but no-one seems to be filling the bag limits.
13334	There is insufficient management of game birds. No reporting and no statistics on harvest
13352	I rarely hunt small game.
13360	Grouse population seems to be less than years past as our territory human population increases. Perhaps conservation courses should be required for new residents prior to them being issued hunting licenses.
13376	We're in one of that last places with animals. I hunt and I enjoy it. I'm worried that our habits will eradicate all animals from this world. I'm worried my children will grow old in a dying world.
13393	Why does grouse hunt season start in September and not August? I would do more grouse hunting if it were available in August or even July or spring.
13405	My main interest is being out in the bush with my trained hunting dog (Hunt/Point/Retrieve), collaborating with him on the hunt, watching him work, and bringing something home for the dinner table.
13433	It is a great time to spend in the Yukon.
13455	Need more clear rule regulations on keeping legs from grouse.

13464	Opening up the harvest to more people has dropped the numbers available and it affects the numbers of lynx and wolves too.
13468	Over all in 2019 there seems to be a decrease in grouse and hare, esp in the areas outside of Whitehorse.
13469	Grouse limits are too low! Especially possession limits are too low. Should be able to hunt enough in fall to eat year round. 60-100 ruff/spruce in possession would be more adequate for larger family with only one hunter.
13471	Any game close to centres (Whitehorse) should have protection such as only one per person.
13522	Very important to have youth learn hunting skills. This might help young people to learn about and respect wildlife.
13536	Grouse hunting seasons should be extended - Sept 1 -March 31.
13539	Road hunting for grouse is an issue in accessible areas.
13563	Regulations and bag limits do not reflect the significance and value of the animal. They may be small, but it is not a game or toy to be played with. Ground squirrels being shot and wasted and grouse being processed in a manner that wastes all but the breast meat is disrespectful and should be illegal and enforced. Alaskans and other non-residents should have significantly reduced bag limits as their harvest can be excessive.
13574	Hunting is probably the most important thing we have here. It needs to be managed properly but why else would you live here?
13580	I think it should be extended, because it's a very narrow window.
13613	Appreciate the opportunity to hunt small game. Encourage conservative limits to keep it sustainable.
13621	THEY ARE CALLED DUSKY GROUSE, NOT BLUE GROUSE. PTARMIGAN ARE GROUSE!!! YOU HAVE LEFT OUT HUGE AMOUNT OF DATA AVAILABLE ON THE VALUE OF RECREATIONAL HUNTING....DOLLARS SPENT, DOG USE, VALUE OF FIELD EQUIPMENT ETC. SMALL GAME RECREATIONAL VALUE IN MOST STUDIES FAR EXCEEDS RECREATIONAL BIG GAME HUNTING....THE YUKON SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT...AND THE VALUE OF CRITICAL HABITATS SUPPORTING THOSE SPECIES THROUGH PROTECTED AREA LEGISLATION.
13624	As opportunities for hunting big game diminish owing to increasing human population and habitat reduction, small game hunting should be promoted more as a hunting option.

13627	I think people should be educated better on how to treat small game with respect as to other game.
13635	It is a great social activity.
13639	It's a great way to get out with the family, and especially to get some food in your freezer, especially in times like this when the grocery stores are empty. It helps relieve stress on society at times. Small game is how we get the next generation involved.
13665	Stop Americans from destroying our ptarmigan population in the Haines pass. These illegal hunting practices are destroying our bird population. Now I realize some of these activities are taking place in BC but it still affects the Yukon population.
13697	We need to ensure there's no overhunting.
13700	I would like to see it continue.
13786	I also hunt grouse and ptarmigan for Taxidermy and also utilize the meat as well.
13789	Small game hunting is important. Animal populations and habitat are important to people, so if the habitat is protected that's a good thing for all wildlife.
13808	I don't believe we should be issuing small game licences to non-Canadian tourists.
13831	Shotguns destroy upland birds. We found shot up grouse in garbage cans in YTG campsites because they were shot up too much. There should be a short grouse season for non-First Nations to reduce the waste and shooting them for sport and not eating them. First Nations do not hunt wildlife during mating and nesting times. Gophers are not hunted during June-August until the young are bigger in late August/Sept. October they are too fat to eat.
13844	It's a great way for kids to get out in the bush and learn survival skills and things.
13856	When me and my son hunt for partridge and find a group, we only take one or two and leave the rest to populate their habitat and leave opportunities for other hunters.
13889	Up by Haines Summit there are a lot of Alaskans who come specifically to hunt ptarmigan and they take a LOT of ptarmigan.
13908	Suggest more liberal regulations allowing discharge of shotguns with birdshot closer to buildings (perhaps within 1/2 km, or near unoccupied buildings) and roadways. I don't believe in "road hunting" from a motorized vehicle, but upland birds are often attracted to edges of cover adjacent to roadways and private lands.
13961	Didn't hunt upland birds much in 2019 as truck broke. Some concern with regulations being put in place during times of scarcity and then extended into times of abundance. All upland

	birds are occasionally abundant and occasionally rare & generally somewhere in between. Management should acknowledge this.
13996	I only hunt small game when I go big game hunting. Whether I am successful or not doesn't really matter, I mostly do it to get away from cell phone, television ... I hunt for what my family and I can consume from one hunting season to the next. I don't like to waste food and really don't agree with the practice of giving the remainder of a 2019 moose to the dogs so I can get a fresh one in 2020. I have tried and successfully packaged and froze wild meat for more than a year. Again if the general population of hunters would practice the simple way of my and others ancestors of HARVEST ONLY WHAT YOU NEED the wild life population in the Yukon would be in a much better state than what it is now.
14048	It's a good family friendly activity, especially for introducing small children to hunting opportunities.
14087	Every hunting zone will need a break from harvesting, depending on a wet cold spring which is not good for upland birds. It's always good practice to leave single and double birds alone. Take a few out of a group and leave the rest.
14106	I used to hunt ptarmigan in several different areas, but because of land claims, even though some are B areas so you're allowed, I don't do it anymore, because I find the boundaries confusing.
14156	Good source of food. Usually just hunt small game when out hunting larger animals. Eat them that night.
14175	Keep it about the way it is.
14182	Fewer and fewer road hunting opportunities now than previous, around Whitehorse area. Residential development and 1 km no hunting buffers have limited opportunities here.
14205	I think 10 grouse is too many for bag limit.
14223	Never use dogs to hunt birds. Never allow big game outfitter hunters to hunt small game. Never allow hunting for sport. If you don't eat it don't hunt it.
14244	They used to collect the harvest data and you could get that information. You would fill out information on grouse on your Hunter Return Form. They don't do that anymore.
14255	I enjoy outdoor "bush training" sessions with my grandchildren, their cousins & friends. Please don't spoil that with "OVER REGULATIONS"! Hunting (harvest) 2019 displaced by other family related priorities. One exception...a ground squirrel which developed an excessive fondness to our vegetable patch. So much so it wound up in the stew pot along with the vegetables it so enjoyed.

14277	I only hunt small game when I'm out hunting Moose for a treat. Each year I get two rabbit and two grouse in the two weeks I go hunting.
14299	Listening to older people who have been hunting here for 40 years or more, the populations of grouse and ptarmigan have drastically declines.
14323	The season for small game is great it bridges the gap between big game seasons. I wish that the season for upland birds was longer.
14347	The limits and regulations should be better reflecting the year to year populations of small game.
14353	It is very difficult to find good information on how to ID the different upland game species, even on the internet. More details in the hunting regs would be helpful. Hares seem to be in sharp decline the last few years, and so I have hunted less. Presumably, they will rebound on the cycle and I would plan to hunt more if there are more hares.
14384	I wish I had more time to go out and do it.
14403	I grew up hunting and learning how to process what we killed. I still do this every year. Our family takes great pride in providing ourselves healthy wild game every year. I have never bought beef from the store and I don't intend to do so. Hunting has been my way of life since I can remember and I want my kids to have the same opportunity. When hunting laws are changed arbitrarily based on political gain and emotion that takes away a little bit of our way of life each time.
14408	Is the open season for upland game birds long enough?