

RESULTS OF THE 2014 KANSAS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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Robin Jennison
Secretary

Prepared by

Tom Bidrowski
Migratory Game Bird Program Manager
&
Rich Schultheis
Migratory Game Bird Specialist

Joe Kramer, Director
Fisheries & Wildlife Division

Mike Mitchener, Chief
Wildlife Section



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INTRODUCTION

Individual states can select season dates for migratory game birds within the given frameworks derived by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The manner in which individual states set their season dates within the USFWS frameworks may not largely affect continental waterfowl populations, but it can greatly influence waterfowl hunter satisfaction. In 2010, Kansas modified its duck hunting zone boundaries, creating a 4th zone (See Appendix A for Kansas Duck Hunting Zones). Leading up to and since that change, there has been some contention in the selection of Kansas waterfowl hunting season dates, not only in the newly created zone but for all duck and goose season dates. To gather waterfowl hunters' preferences, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) conducted waterfowl hunter surveys in 2011, 2012, 2013, and again in 2014. The purpose of the 2014 survey was to garner Kansas waterfowl hunter's preferences for season dates for Kansas' 2014-15 duck and goose seasons. In combination with other data streams such as waterfowl migration, waterfowl harvest and hunter participation, this survey will be used to assist Kansas waterfowl hunting season dates. This report summarizes the results of the KDWP 2014 Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

METHODS

All Kansas hunters who are required to obtain a hunting license must possess an annual Kansas State Waterfowl Stamp before hunting ducks, geese or mergansers in Kansas (those that are not required to have a Kansas hunting license include people hunting their own land, residents 75 years and older and residents 15 and younger). The Kansas Waterfowl Stamp provided the sampling base for this survey. A random sample of 7,400 individuals was drawn from the 25,612 Kansas residents who purchased a 2013 Kansas Waterfowl Stamp. A modified Dillman Method was used for survey implementation. A postcard (Appendix B) was mailed at the end of April 2014 informing individuals that they had been selected for this survey and they could reply to the survey either online or through a paper version that they will be receiving via US mail. Two weeks later a paper survey (Appendix C) was sent to those who did not respond online to the initial contact. In mid-June a second paper survey was sent to non-respondents. The online survey form mirrored the paper survey provided in Appendix C.

RESULTS

Response Rate

A total of 2,139 surveys were returned by August 1, 2014 (73% returned via U.S. mail and 27% completed online). When adjusted for incorrect addresses and other non-participation factors, a response rate of 30% was achieved. This was lower than the 2011 survey (48%), 2012 survey (60%) and the 2013 survey (42%). The response rate was statistically adequate (95% CI) to garner attitudes from Kansas resident waterfowl hunters by zone (except for the High Plains Unit), but the declining response rate to KDWP waterfowl surveys may indicate survey and issue fatigue. Given the small portion of Kansas waterfowl hunters that hunt the High Plains Unit, it was not surprising that we are unable to meet sampling requirements to extrapolate conclusions about the preferences of those that hunted the High Plains Unit. To obtain a significant sample for High Plains Unit duck hunters, sample size would need to be doubled, which was not feasible. Given the similarity in the preference of all

respondents and those that hunted the remaining zones reported elsewhere in this report, however, it is unlikely that conclusions would differ for the High Plains Unit.

Hunter Residency and Activity

In order to provide proper management, it is important for KDWPT to have an understanding of how often and where waterfowl hunters hunt in Kansas. In question 1, respondents were questioned on which duck hunting zone they currently reside, which 1,957 respondents provided a response. Not surprisingly, the Late Zone had the highest residency rate (68%) of respondents (Figure 1). The highest percentage of respondents reported to have hunted (ducks and geese) in the Late Zone (Figures 2 and 3). Of the four duck hunting zones in Kansas, the Late Zone has the largest geographic area, and contains the 10 most populated cities in Kansas. These 10 cities account for 46% of Kansas' total population. As depicted in Table 1 and Table 2, the Late Zone had the greatest percentage of respondents who hunt (ducks- 69% and geese- 73%). In addition, the most hunter days, and the highest average days hunted occurred in the Late Zone. As expected, most duck and goose hunters hunt in the zone in which they reside (Figure 4 and Figure 5). Tables 3 to 6 provide duck and goose hunting activity by zone residency. Further information about residency and travel patterns of hunters for each zone can be gleaned from the figures of the distribution of hunters included in Appendix D.

Figure 1. Respondent residency by Kansas duck hunting zone.

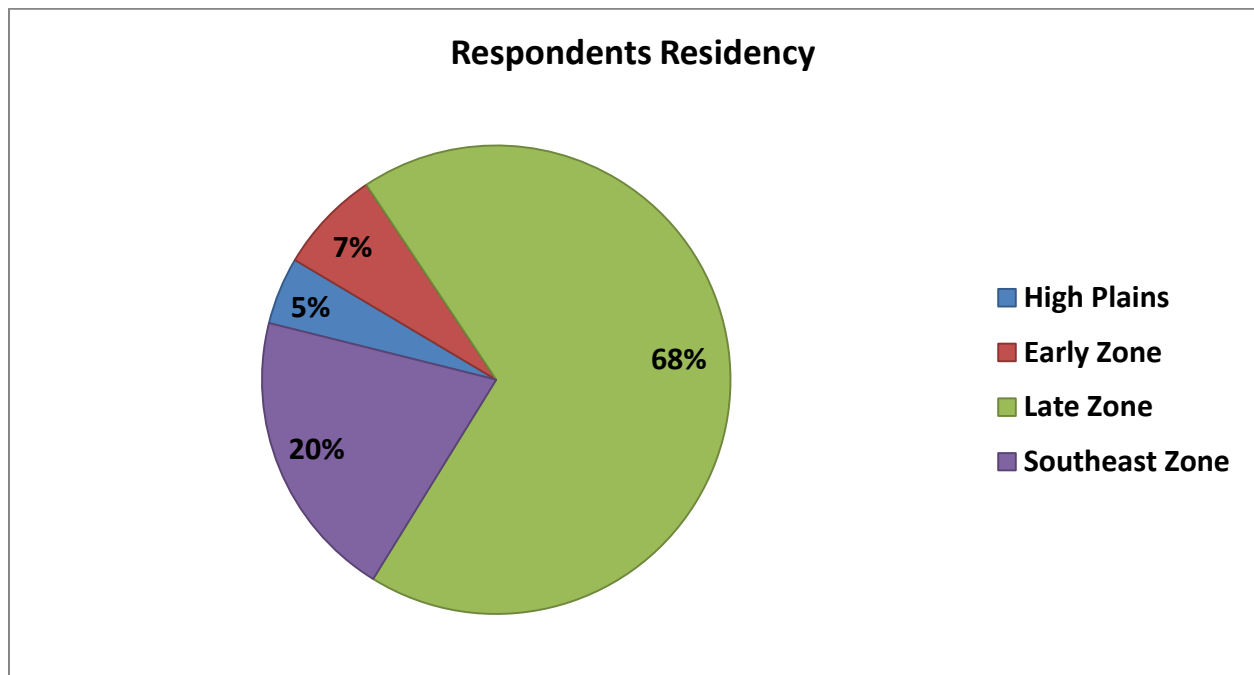


Table 1. Duck hunting activity by zone for all respondents.

Zone	# that hunted <u>ducks</u>	% that hunted <u>ducks</u>	# of days hunted <u>ducks</u>	% of days hunted	AVG # of days hunted <u>ducks</u>	Mode # of days hunted <u>ducks</u>
High Plains	73	4%	620	3%	8	1
Early Zone	382	23%	2,870	13%	8	2
Late Zone	1,121	69%	11,982	55%	11	10
Southeast Zone	581	36%	6,346	29%	11	10
Statewide	1,634		21,818		10	2

Table 2. Goose hunting activity by zone for all respondents.

Zone	# that hunted <u>geese</u>	% that hunted <u>geese</u>	# of days hunted <u>geese</u>	% of days hunted	AVG # of days hunted <u>geese</u>	Mode # of days hunted <u>geese</u>
High Plains	71	5%	569	4%	8	1
Early Zone	173	13%	1,355	9%	8	2
Late Zone	983	73%	10,175	64%	10	2
Southeast Zone	391	29%	3,701	23%	9	10
Statewide	1,352		15,800		10	2

Figure 2. Percentage of respondents that hunted ducks during Kansas 2013-14 duck season by zone.

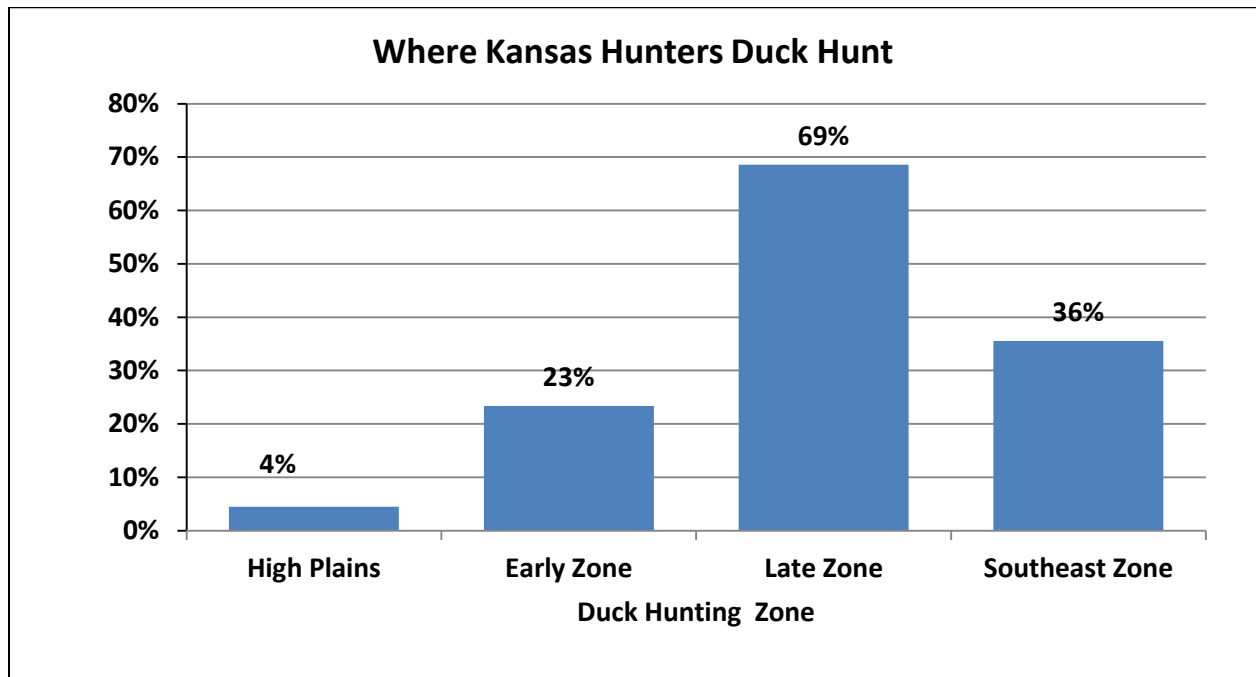


Figure 3. Percentage of respondents that hunted geese during Kansas 2013-14 goose season by zone.

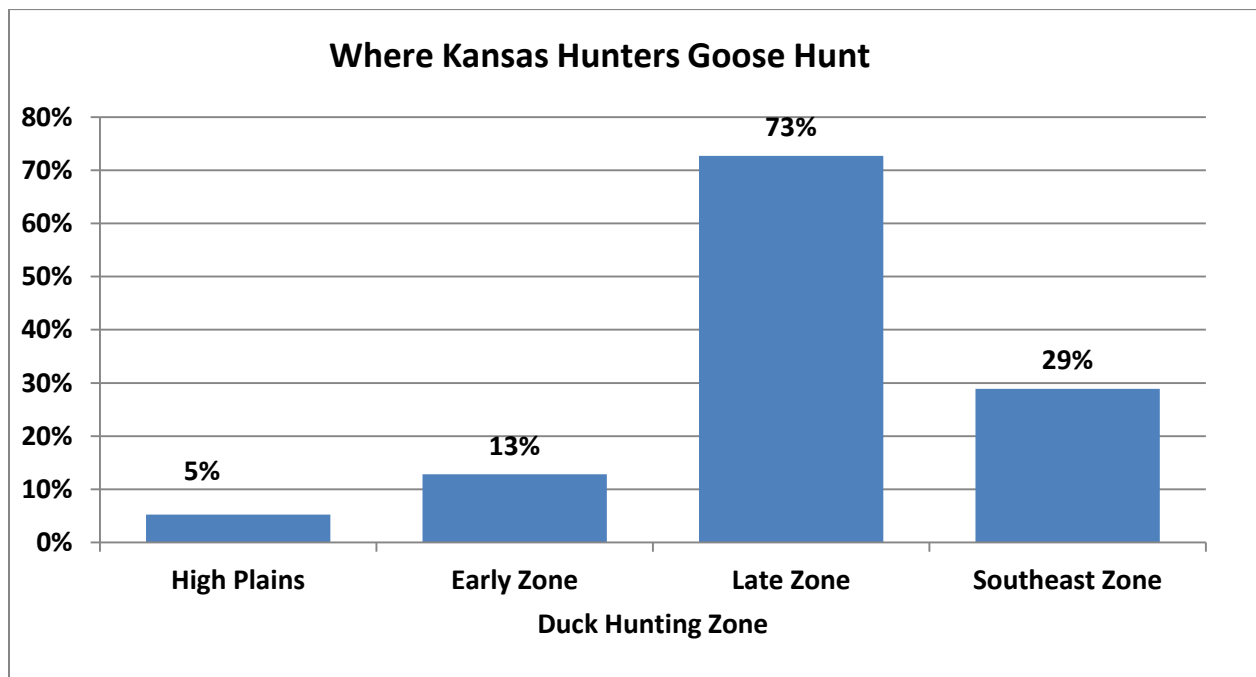


Figure 4. Duck hunter participation (hunted 1 or more days in the zone in 2013) by zone and residency.

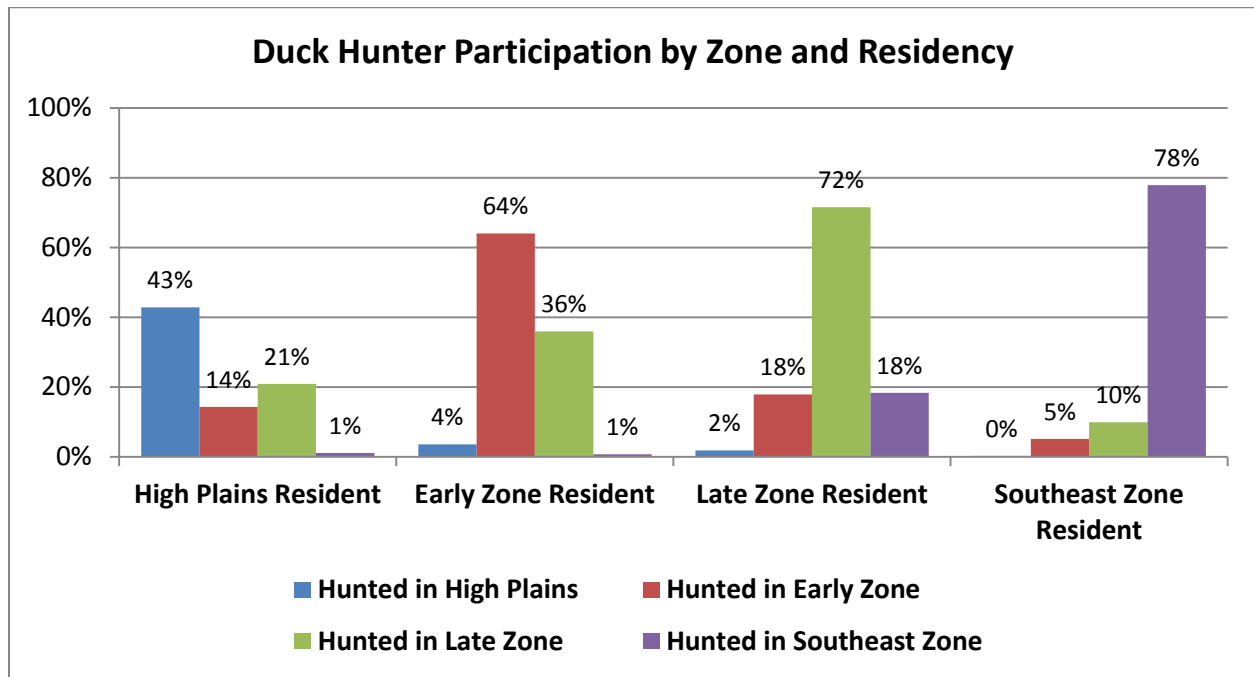


Figure 5. Goose hunter participation (hunted geese 1 or more days in 2013) by zone and residency.

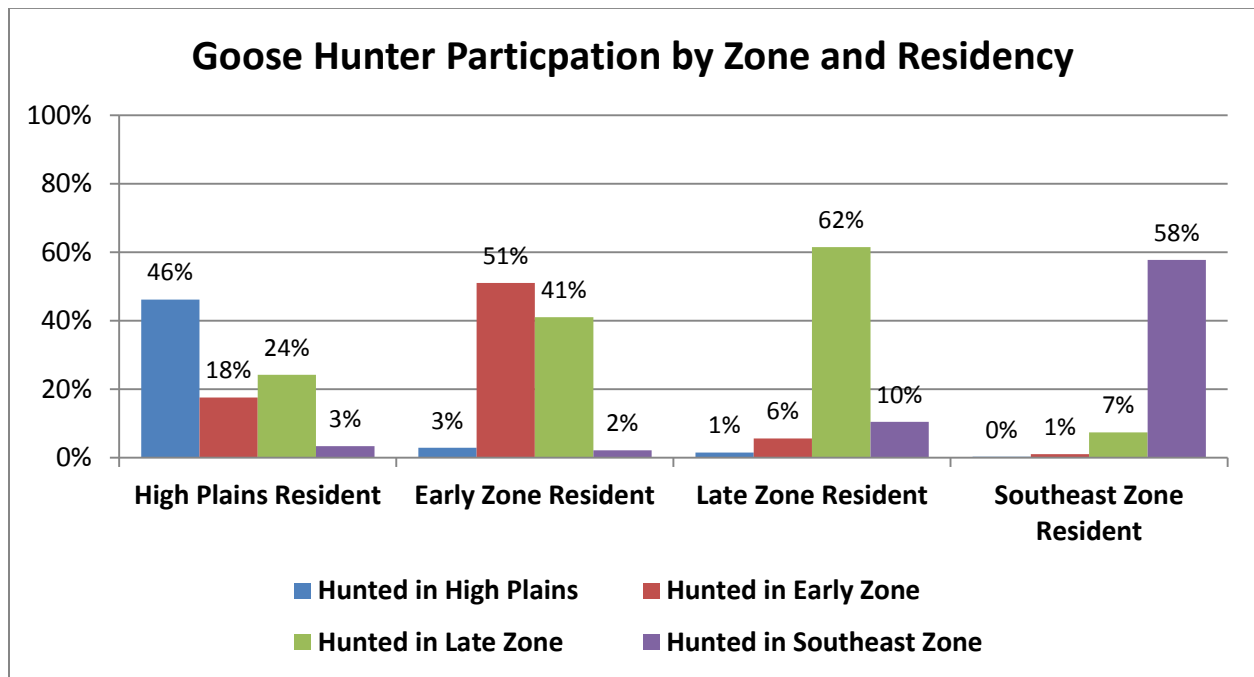


Table 3. High Plains resident hunter activity by zone.

Zone	# of <u>High Plains</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	% <u>High Plains</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of days <u>High Plains</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>High Plains</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of <u>High Plains</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	% <u>High Plains</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	# of days <u>High Plains</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>High Plains</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone
High Plains	39	43%	320	8	42	46%	335	8
Early Zone	13	14%	99	8	16	18%	110	7
Late Zone	19	21%	88	5	22	24%	201	9
Southeast Zone	1	1%	3	3	3	3%	12	4
Total HP Residents	91		510		91		658	

Table 4. Early Zone resident hunter activity by zone.

Zone	# of <u>Early Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	% <u>Early Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of days <u>Early Zone</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>Early Zone</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of <u>Early Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	% <u>Early Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	# of days <u>Early Zone</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>Early Zone</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone
High Plains	5	4%	31	6	4	3%	22	6
Early Zone	89	64%	1,008	11	71	51%	725	10
Late Zone	50	36%	537	11	57	41%	604	11
Southeast Zone	1	1%	6	6	3	2%	27	9
Total EZ Residents	139		1,582		139		1,378	

Table 5. Late Zone resident hunter activity by zone.

Zone	# of <u>Late Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	% <u>Late Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of days <u>Late Zone</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>Late Zone</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of <u>Late Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	% <u>Late Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	# of days <u>Late Zone</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>Late Zone</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone
High Plains	24	2%	195	8	20	1%	146	7
Early Zone	238	18%	1409	6	74	6%	414	6
Late Zone	955	72%	10,263	11	821	62%	8,505	10
Southeast Zone	244	18%	1,542	6	139	10%	825	6
Total LZ Residents	1,334		13,409		1,334		9,890	

Table 6. Southeast Zone resident hunter activity by zone.

Zone	# of <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	% <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of days <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents hunted <u>ducks</u> in zone	# of <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	% <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents that hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	# of days <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone	AVG # of days <u>Southeast Zone</u> residents hunted <u>geese</u> in zone
High Plains	1	0%	30	30	1	0%	30	30
Early Zone	20	5%	120	6	4	1%	28	7
Late Zone	39	10%	371	10	29	7%	271	9
Southeast Zone	306	78%	4,469	15	227	58%	2,668	12
Total SE Residents	393		4,990		393		2,997	

Duck Hunting Zone Boundaries

Question 3 was an open question posed to allow respondents to comment on how they would re-configure any of the duck zone boundaries. Seven hundred and sixty-eight respondents provided comments. This was the only open-ended question, so a variety of comments not directly related to duck zone boundaries were received (Table 7). Of the comments, 292 specified wanting a change Kansas duck hunting zone boundaries, with most relating to changing the Southeast Zone, and 390 suggested no changes to the boundaries. All comments are being reviewed by KDWPT staff and will be considered for future management considerations.

Table 7. Comments received from 2014 Kansas Waterfowl Survey by category.

No Boundary Changes	Boundary Change	Regarding Commission	Regarding KDWPT	Goose Regulations	Guiding	Regulation Complexity	Season Dates	Did Not Hunt	Other
390	292	10	3	6	2	5	25	50	20

Season Preferences

As the primary purpose of this survey was to ascertain preferences for the Kansas 2014-15 waterfowl season, the majority of the questioning related to season dates for each given waterfowl season. For each of the duck, goose, and youth waterfowl hunting seasons, an array of possible dates were presented. A 5-point Likert scale was used to allow respondents to rate their preference for each alternative. For each of the seasons, two tables and four figures are presented. The first table reports the results of all respondents and the second table is the result for those who reported to have hunted 1 or more days for that season in that zone in 2013-14. To make comparisons of preference among alternatives for each season, a score was calculated for each. The score was derived by multiplying each least preferred response by negative 2, less preferred by negative 1, no preference by 0, more preferred by 1, and most preferred by 2, then sum those preferences for each alternative and lastly divide by number of responses for each alternative. The formula is as follows:

$$\frac{(\# \text{ of least preferred responses} \times -2) + (\# \text{ of less preferred responses} \times -1) + (\# \text{ of no preference responses} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of more preferred responses} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of most preferred responses} \times 2)}{\# \text{ of responses for alternative}}$$

In the following tables, scores with negative values (in red) are less preferred alternatives, and scores with positive values (in black) are more preferred. To graphically represent the raw scores, two figures are presented for each season, again one for all respondents and the second for those who reported to have hunted 1 or more days in that zone in 2013-14. In each figure, values left of the Y-axis indicate a negative preference for that alternative and values right of the Y-axis indicate a positive preference for the alternative.

Season Preferences for the High Plains Unit

Question 4 presented six season date options for the 2014-15 duck season in the High Plains Unit. Tables 8 and 9 and Figures 6 to 9 present the preferred alternatives for season dates for the 2014-15 duck season in the High Plains Unit. For all respondents, no preference was the most common and majority response for all alternatives provided (67%-71% of responses). This is not surprising given the small percentage of hunters in Kansas that hunt this unit. For those that did have preferences, alternatives that had an opening date of October 11 were more preferred than those alternatives with an October 4 opening day. Alternative F was most preferred followed by alternative D for all respondents. Due to the low numbers of hunters that hunt in the High Plains Unit, a significant sample was not achieved to make a statistically strong conclusion from respondents that hunted the unit. As such, results for just those who duck hunted in the High Plains Unit should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the High Plains Unit. Positive values in black and negative values in red.

	A. Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 01 & Sat Dec 20-Sun Jan 25		B. Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 15 & Sat Jan 03-Sun Jan 25		C. Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 29 & Sat Jan 17-Sun Jan 25		D. Sat Oct 11-Mon Dec 01 & Sat Dec 13-Sun Jan 25		E. Sat Oct 11-Mon Dec 08 & Sat Dec 20-Sun Jan 25		F. Sat Oct 11-Mon Jan 05 & Sat Jan 17-Sun Jan 25	
Score	-0.12		-0.12		-0.01		0.11		0.07		0.12	
Least Preferred	223	14%	150	9%	119	8%	84	5%	93	6%	140	9%
Less Preferred	80	5%	151	10%	117	7%	94	6%	93	6%	59	4%
No Preference	1,066	67%	1,089	69%	1,110	71%	1,118	71%	1,099	70%	1,066	67%
More Preferred	94	6%	119	8%	105	7%	136	9%	186	12%	107	7%
Most Preferred	119	8%	70	4%	117	7%	146	9%	100	6%	211	13%

Table 9. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the High Plains Unit by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the High Plains Unit during the 2013-14 season. Positive values in black and negative values in red

	A. Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 01 & Sat Dec 20-Sun Jan 25		B. Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 15 & Sat Jan 03-Sun Jan 25		C. Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 29 & Sat Jan 17-Sun Jan 25		D. Sat Oct 11-Mon Dec 01 & Sat Dec 13-Sun Jan 25		E. Sat Oct 11-Mon Dec 08 & Sat Dec 20-Sun Jan 25		F. Sat Oct 11-Mon Jan 05 & Sat Jan 17-Sun Jan 25	
Score	-0.44		-0.24		0.15		0.00		0.07		0.15	
Least Preferred	19	29%	15	22%	12	18%	12	18%	9	13%	14	21%
Less Preferred	12	18%	14	21%	7	11%	12	18%	12	18%	6	9%
No Preference	20	30%	17	25%	20	31%	20	30%	21	31%	21	31%
More Preferred	9	14%	16	24%	11	17%	8	12%	15	22%	8	12%
Most Preferred	6	9%	6	9%	15	23%	14	21%	10	15%	18	27%

Figure 6. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas High Plains Unit 2014-15 duck season by all respondents.

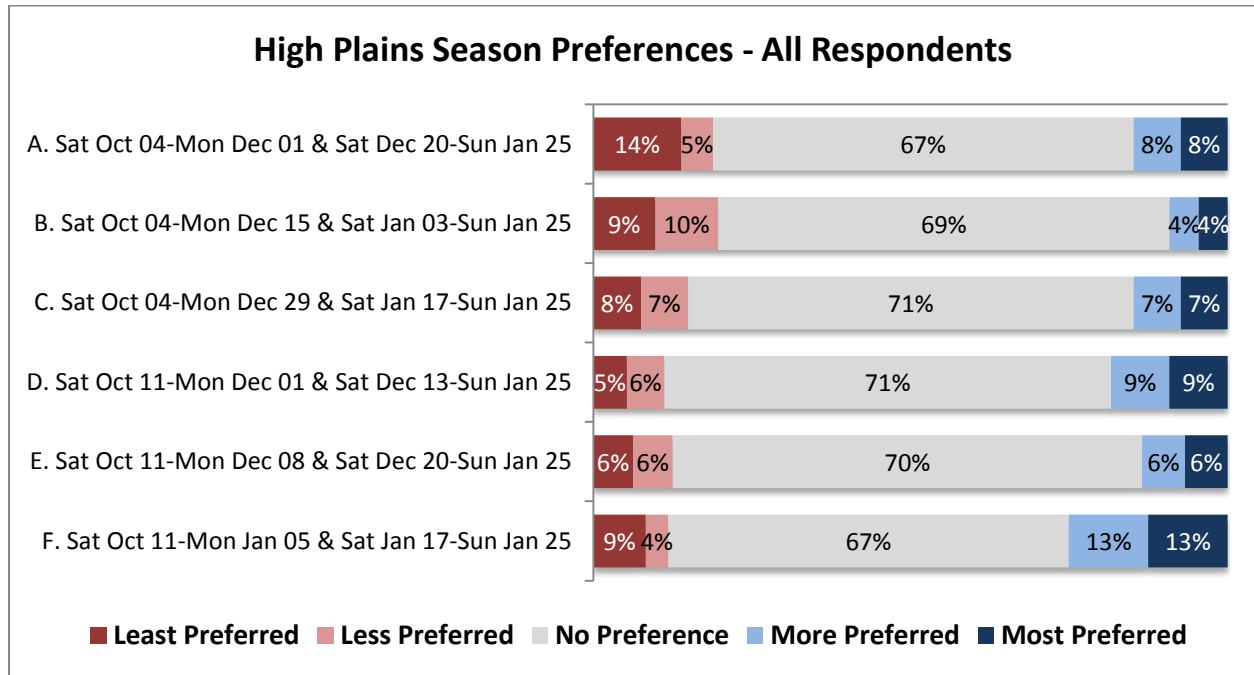


Figure 7. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the High Plains Unit by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the High Plains Unit during the 2013-14 season.

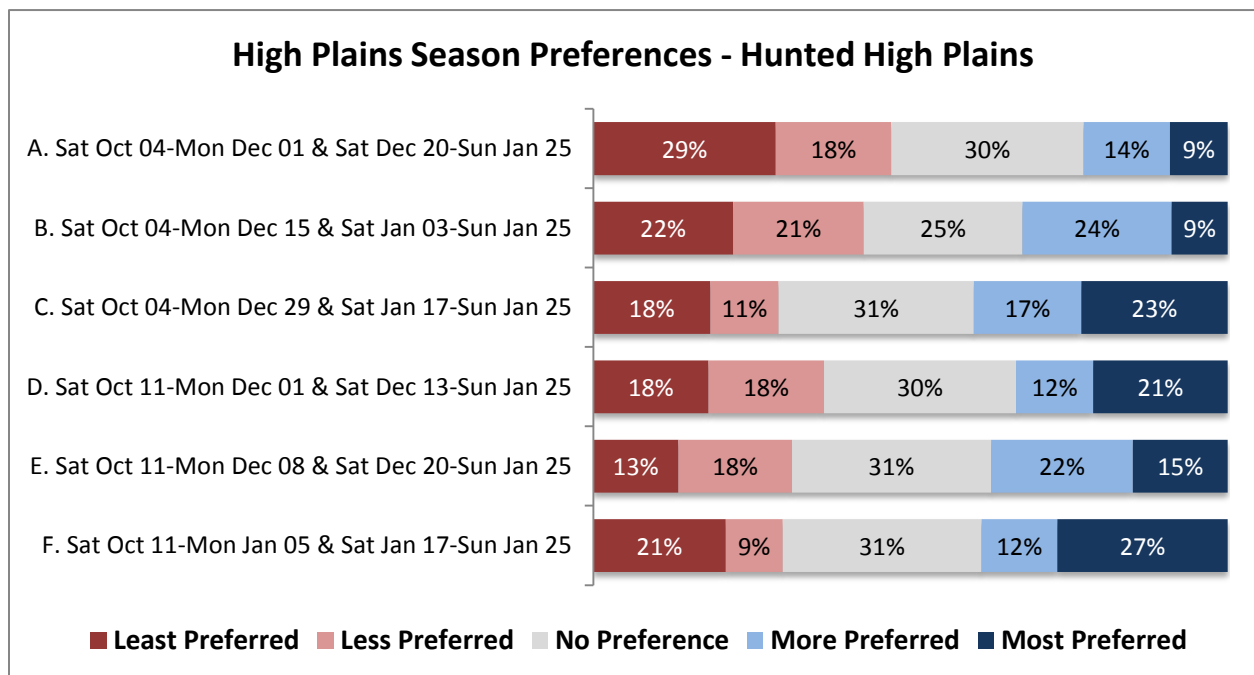


Figure 8. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas High Plains Unit 2014-15 duck season dates by all respondents.

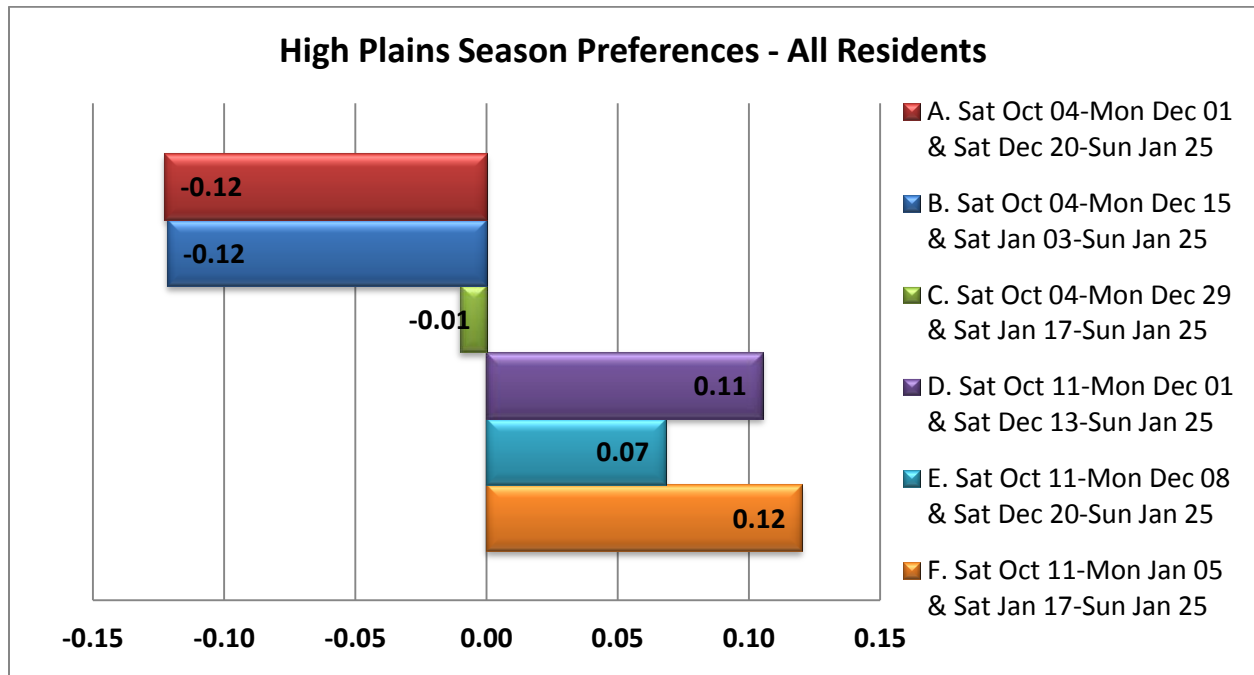
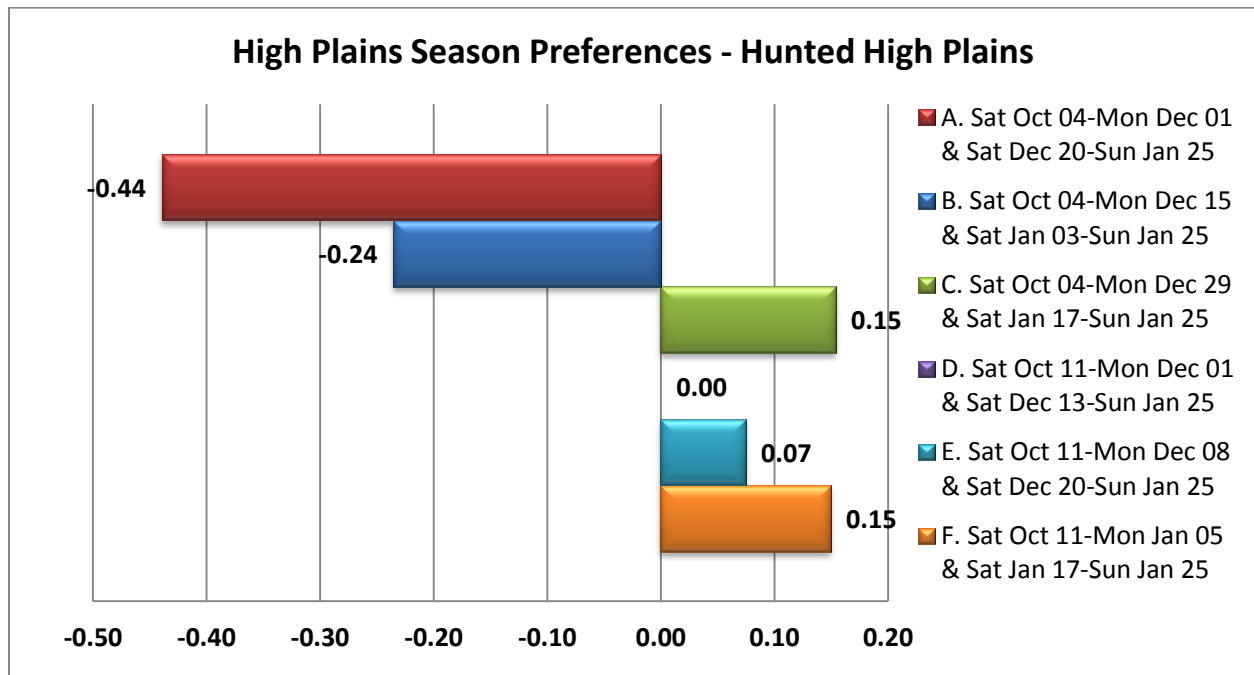


Figure 9. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas High Plains Unit 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the High Plains Unit during the 2013-14 season.



Preference of ending/opening of the Season Split for the High Plains Unit

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act limits the open season for any one species to 107 days. With a 9-day September Teal Season and a 2-day special youth season, only 96 duck hunting days (of the possible 97 duck hunting days) are available in the *High Plains Unit*. In recent years, Kansas has chosen to end the first season segment on a Monday. There is also an option to end the first segment on a Sunday and start the second segment on a Friday. Question 5 asked respondents to choose their preference for two options regarding the split, as well as a no preference option (Table 10). The small sample size for those who hunted ducks in the High Plains Unit during the 2013-14 season limits conclusions based only on the responses of that group of hunters.

Table 10. Preferences for split structure for Kansas High Plains Unit duck season.

	End the first segment of the High Plains Unit on a Monday	Begin the second segment of the High Plains Unit on a Friday	No Preference
All Residents	116 (6%)	359 (19%)	1,412 (75%)
Duck Hunted in High Plains	9 (24%)	9 (24%)	19 (51%)

Season Preferences for the Low Plains Unit Early Zone

Question 6 presented six season date options for the 2014-15 duck season in the Low Plains Unit Early Zone. Tables 11 and 12 and Figures 10 to 13 present the preferred alternatives for season dates for the 2014-15 duck season in the Low Plains Unit Early Zone. For all respondents, no preference was the most common and majority response. Of those that provided preferences, alternatives that had a starting date of October 11 were more preferred than those alternatives with an October 4 opening day. Alternative D was most preferred followed by alternative E, both of which were the only positively preferred seasons. For those who hunted in the zone, the no preference option was a smaller component of responses, but remained the most selected option. Of those that provide a preference, Alternative D was the most preferred alternative for those who duck hunted in the zone, again followed by alternative E. Alternatives B and C had positive reference scores. There was also some indication that respondents preferred alternatives which encapsulated the Holiday Season (December 20 to January 4).

Table 11. . Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the Low Plains Unit Early Zone. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Oct 04-Nov 30 & Dec 13- Dec 28		B. Oct 04-Nov 30 & Dec 20- Jan 04		C. Oct 04-Dec 07 & Dec 20- Dec 28		D. Oct 11-Nov 30 & Dec 13- Jan 04		E. Oct 11-Dec 07 & Dec 20- Jan 04		F. Oct 11-Dec 14 & Dec 20- Dec 28	
Score	-0.10		-0.01		-0.05		0.19		0.17		-0.01	
Least Preferred	232	15%	151	9%	143	9%	106	7%	113	7%	201	13%
Less Preferred	123	8%	166	10%	172	11%	112	7%	107	7%	108	7%
No Preference	953	60%	953	60%	1006	64%	965	61%	938	59%	962	60%
More Preferred	149	9%	185	12%	134	8%	176	11%	244	15%	143	9%
Most Preferred	136	9%	136	9%	126	8%	225	14%	180	11%	177	11%

Table 12. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates season dates for the Low Plains Unit Early Zone by those respondents who hunted ducks in the Low Plains Unit Early Zone during the 2013-14 season. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Oct 04-Nov 30 & Dec 13- Dec 28		B. Oct 04-Nov 30 & Dec 20- Jan 04		C. Oct 04-Dec 07 & Dec 20- Dec 28		D. Oct 11-Nov 30 & Dec 13- Jan 04		E. Oct 11-Dec 07 & Dec 20- Jan 04		F. Oct 11-Dec 14 & Dec 20- Dec 28	
Score	-0.02		0.05		0.03		0.20		0.12		-0.04	
Least Preferred	73	22%	52	16%	42	13%	40	12%	45	14%	73	22%
Less Preferred	43	13%	56	17%	63	19%	46	14%	51	16%	38	11%
No Preference	90	27%	102	31%	118	36%	117	36%	101	31%	106	32%
More Preferred	67	20%	67	20%	44	14%	57	17%	79	24%	58	18%
Most Preferred	58	18%	55	17%	57	18%	67	20%	50	15%	56	17%

Figure 10. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Early Zone 2014-15 duck season by all respondents.

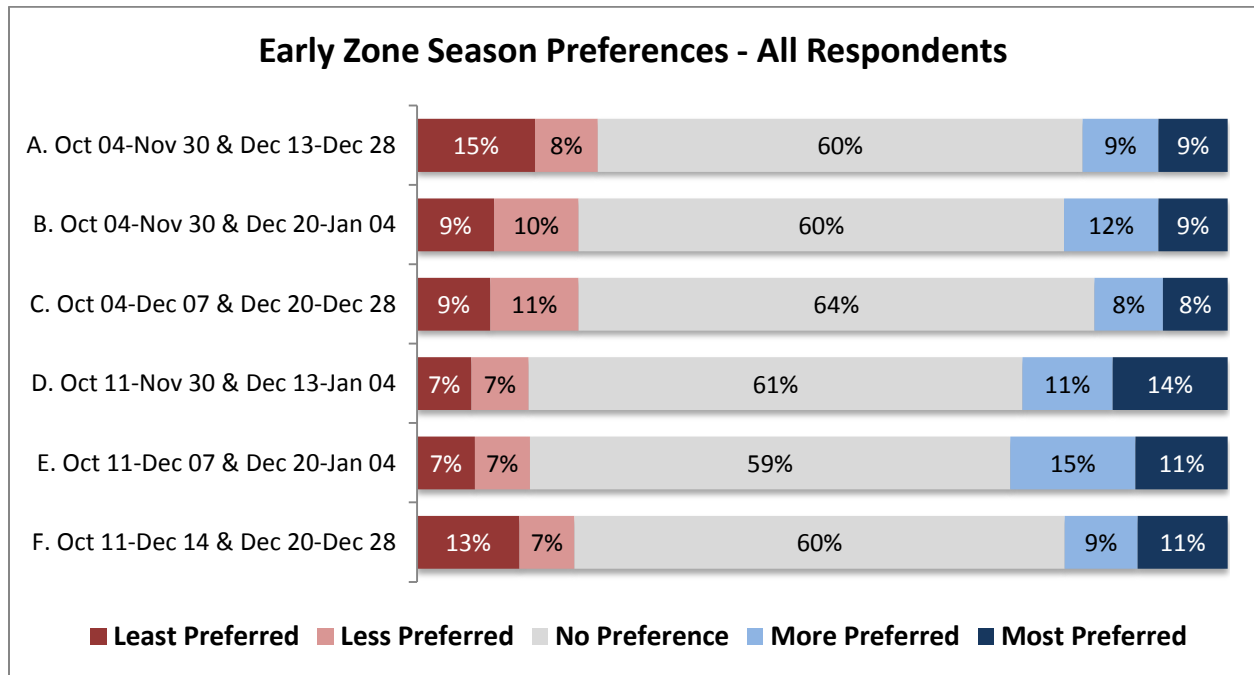


Figure 11. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Early Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Early Zone during the 2013-14 season.

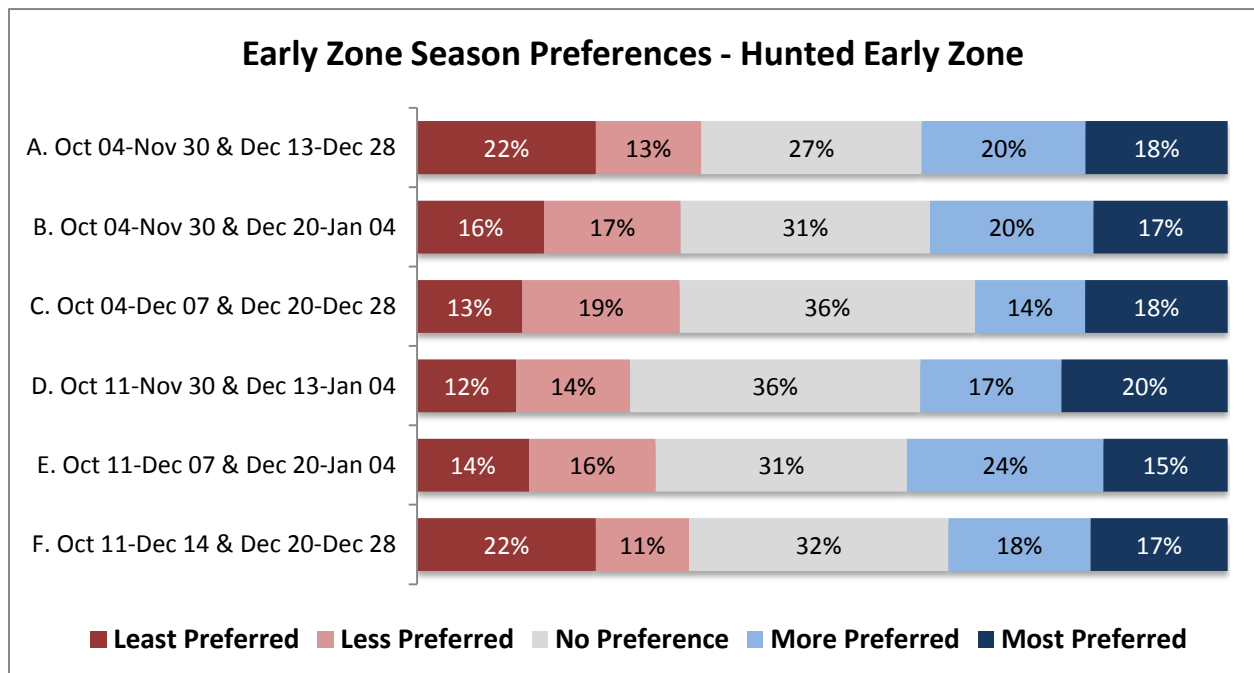


Figure 12. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Early Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by all respondents.

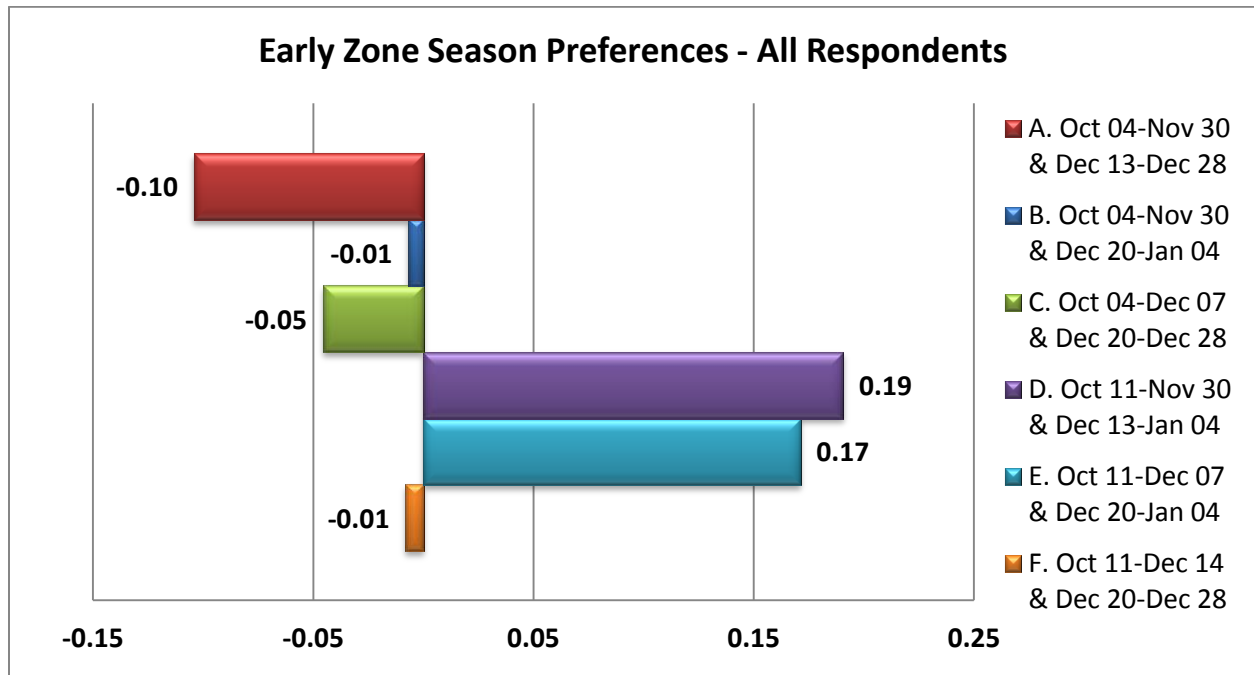
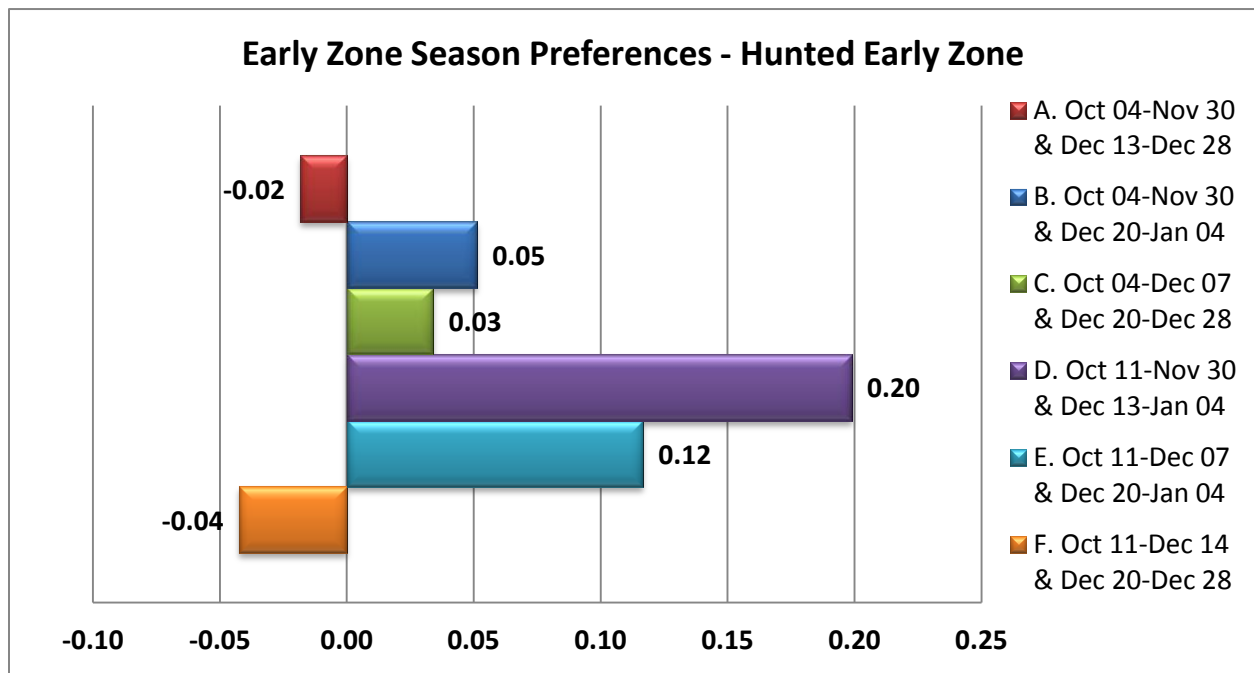


Figure 13. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Early Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Early Zone during the 2013-14 season.



Season Preferences for the Low Plains Unit Late Zone

Question 7 presented six season date options for the 2014-15 duck season in the Low Plains Unit Late Zone. Tables 13 and 14 and Figures 14 to 17 present the preferred alternatives for season dates for the 2014-15 duck season in the Low Plains Unit Late Zone. Similar to other zones, no preference was the most common response for all alternatives. However, the portion of no preference responses was lowest for this zone, and the majority of respondents had a positive or negative preference of the alternatives. For all respondents, options with a November 1st opening day were preferred to those with an October 25th opening day. Alternative D was the most preferred option, followed by Alternative F and E. The preferences of respondents who hunted the zone were similar to those of all respondents except Alternative F was the most preferred option.

Table 13. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the Low Plains Unit Late Zone. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Oct 25-Nov 30 & Dec 20-Jan 25		B. Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 03-Jan 25		C. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 17-Jan 25		D. Nov 01-Dec 07 & Dec 20-Jan 25		E. Nov 01-Dec 28 & Jan 10-Jan 25		F. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 17-Jan 25	
Score	-0.14		-0.15		0.02		0.19		0.09		0.17	
Least Preferred	370	22%	300	18%	227	14%	201	12%	205	12%	280	16%
Less Preferred	202	12%	267	16%	241	15%	193	11%	199	12%	152	9%
No Preference	647	38%	674	40%	717	43%	697	41%	690	41%	640	38%
More Preferred	233	14%	275	16%	207	13%	267	16%	400	24%	254	15%
Most Preferred	240	14%	168	10%	258	16%	322	19%	178	11%	374	22%

Table 14. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the Low Plains Unit Late Zone by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Late Zone during the 2013-14 season. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Oct 25-Nov 30 & Dec 20-Jan 25		B. Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 03-Jan 25		C. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 17-Jan 25		D. Nov 01-Dec 07 & Dec 20-Jan 25		E. Nov 01-Dec 28 & Jan 10-Jan 25		F. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 17-Jan 25	
Score	-0.20		-0.21		0.03		0.19		0.13		0.21	
Least Preferred	269	27%	218	22%	160	17%	149	15%	141	14%	194	19%
Less Preferred	139	14%	192	19%	171	18%	141	14%	140	14%	113	11%
No Preference	264	27%	272	28%	295	31%	284	29%	283	29%	257	26%
More Preferred	165	17%	189	19%	156	16%	188	19%	288	29%	170	17%
Most Preferred	157	16%	116	12%	180	19%	221	22%	133	14%	270	27%

Figure 14. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Late Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by all respondents.

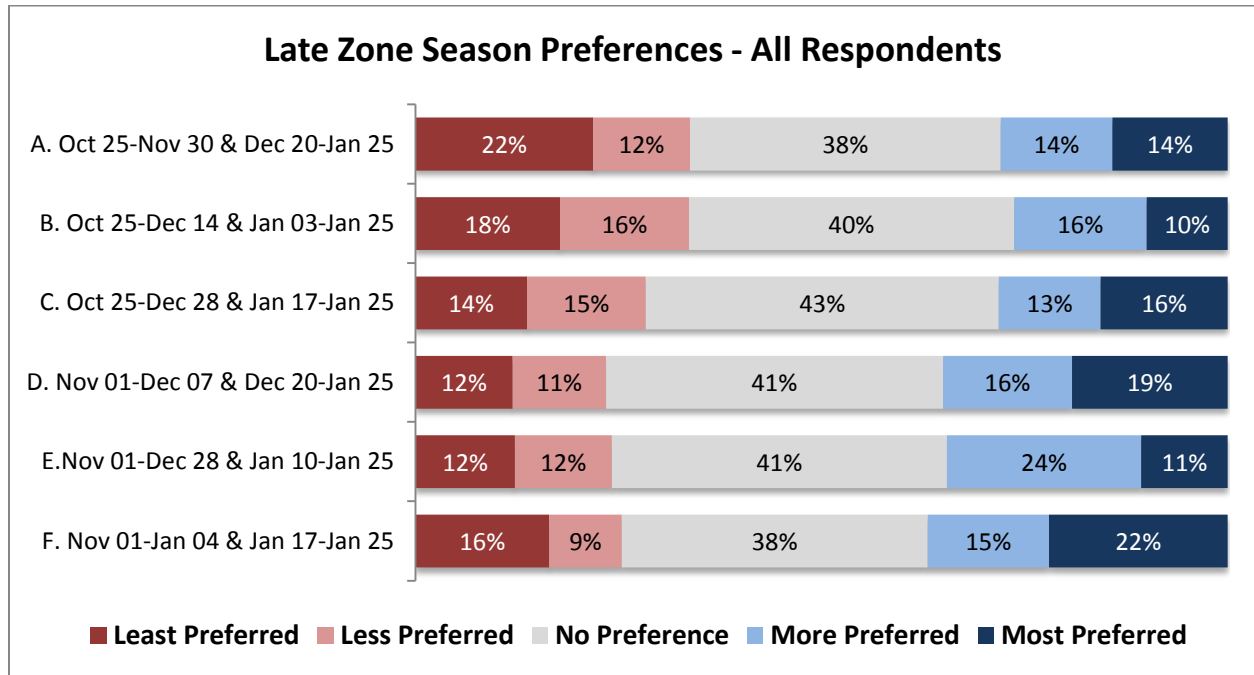


Figure 15. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Late Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Late Zone during the 2013-14 season.

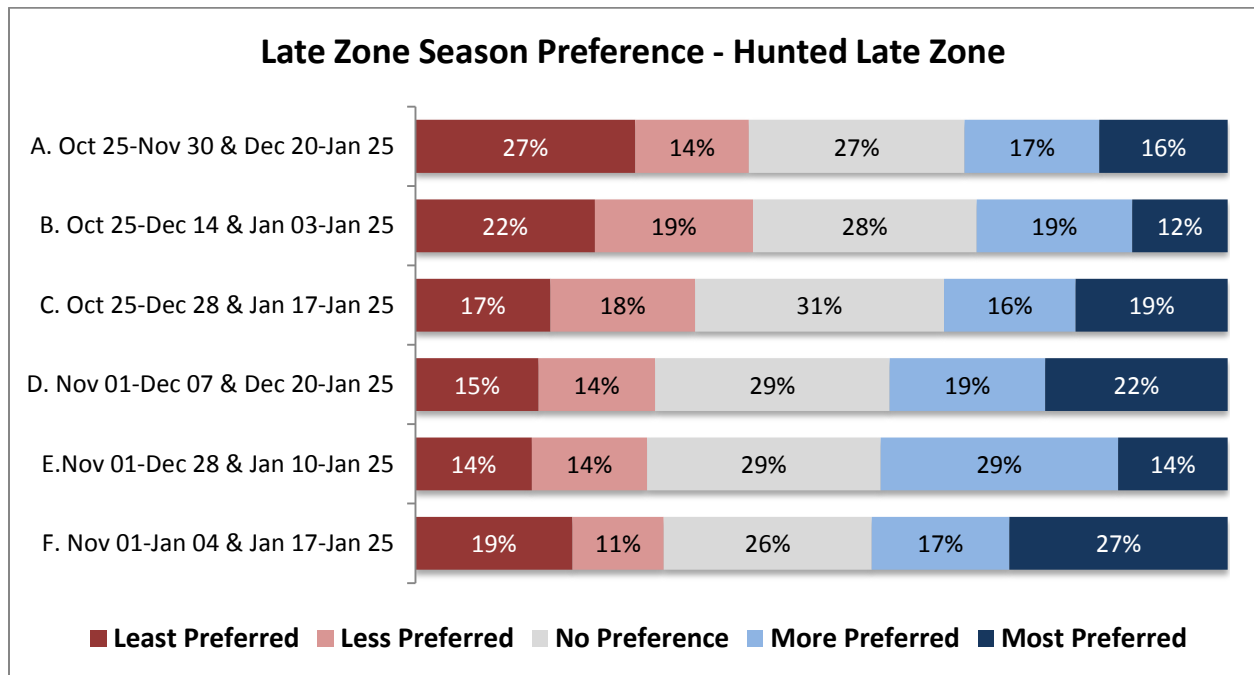


Figure 16. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Late Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by all respondents.

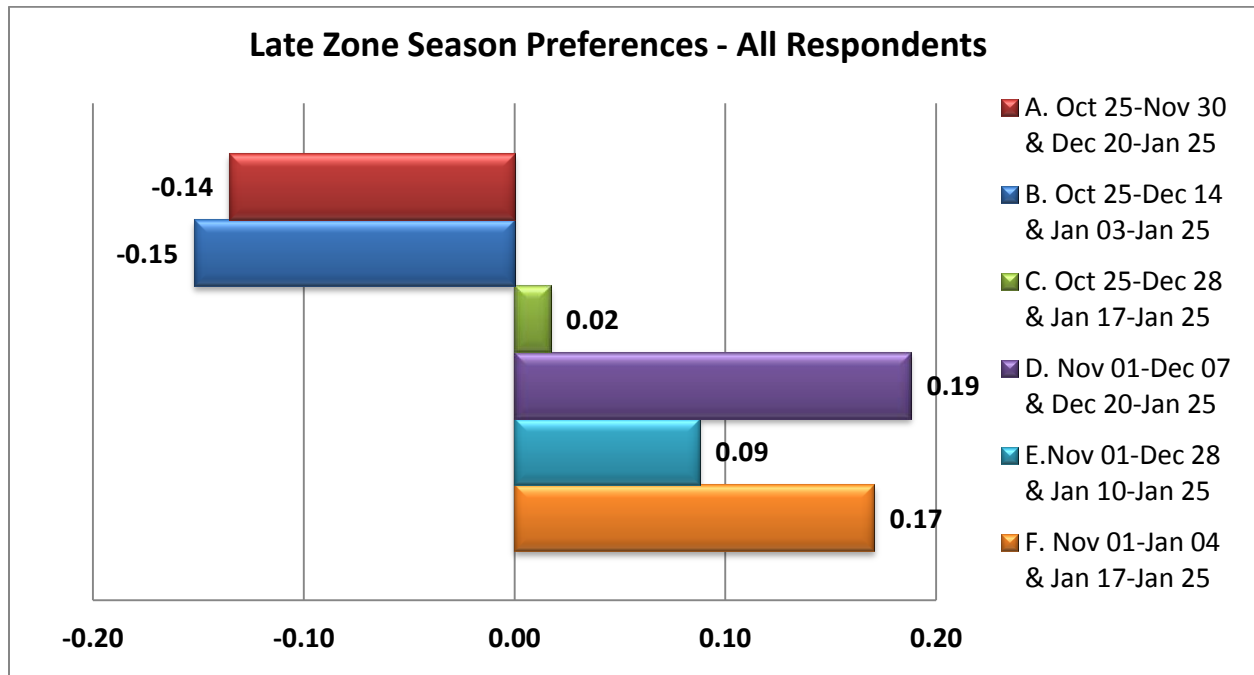
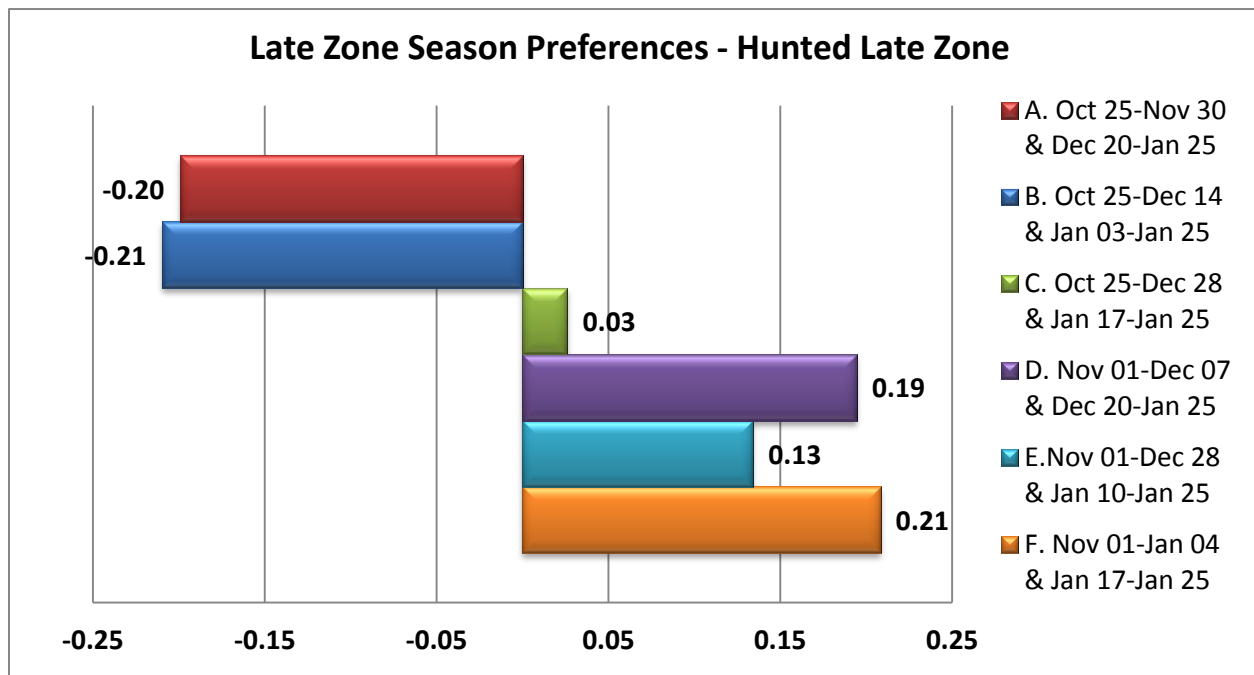


Figure 17. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Late Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Late Zone during the 2013-14 season.



Season Preferences for the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone

Question 8 presented six season date options for the 2014-15 duck season in the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone. Tables 15 and 16 and Figures 18 to 21 present the preferred alternatives for season dates for the 2014-15 duck season in the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone. For all respondents, no preference was again the most common and majority response for all alternatives. For those that provided a preference, Alternative F was strongly preferred, with Alternative E having the only other positive score by all respondents. For those who hunted in the zone, preferences were similar to those provided by all respondents, with the exception of a positive score for Alternative D.

Table 15. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

Southeast Zone Preferences	A. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 17-Jan 25		B. Nov 01-Nov 02 & Nov 15-Jan 25		C. Nov 01-Nov 9 & Nov 22-Jan 25		D. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 17-Jan 25		E. Nov 08-Jan 4 & Jan 10-Jan 25		F. Nov 13-Jan 25	
Score	-0.24		-0.13		-0.07		-0.01		0.09		0.38	
Least Preferred	375	23%	234	14%	175	11%	160	10%	144	9%	164	10%
Less Preferred	106	6%	158	10%	158	10%	148	9%	125	8%	60	4%
No Preference	910	55%	953	58%	1011	61%	988	61%	948	58%	874	52%
More Preferred	77	5%	211	13%	205	12%	213	13%	282	17%	138	8%
Most Preferred	189	11%	99	6%	97	6%	120	7%	139	8%	447	27%

Table 16. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 duck season dates for the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone during the 2013-14 season. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

Southeast Zone Preferences	A. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 17-Jan 25		B. Nov 01-Nov 02 & Nov 15-Jan 25		C. Nov 01-Nov 9 & Nov 22-Jan 25		D. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 17-Jan 25		E. Nov 08-Jan 4 & Jan 10-Jan 25		F. Nov 13-Jan 25	
Score	-0.48		-0.12		-0.07		0.02		0.11		0.63	
Least Preferred	221	44%	114	22%	93	18%	83	17%	78	15%	91	17%
Less Preferred	44	9%	84	17%	88	17%	89	18%	79	16%	37	7%
No Preference	92	18%	122	24%	143	28%	134	27%	127	25%	86	17%
More Preferred	45	9%	125	25%	126	25%	118	24%	153	30%	66	13%
Most Preferred	101	20%	64	13%	56	11%	74	15%	70	14%	241	46%

Figure 18. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by all respondents.

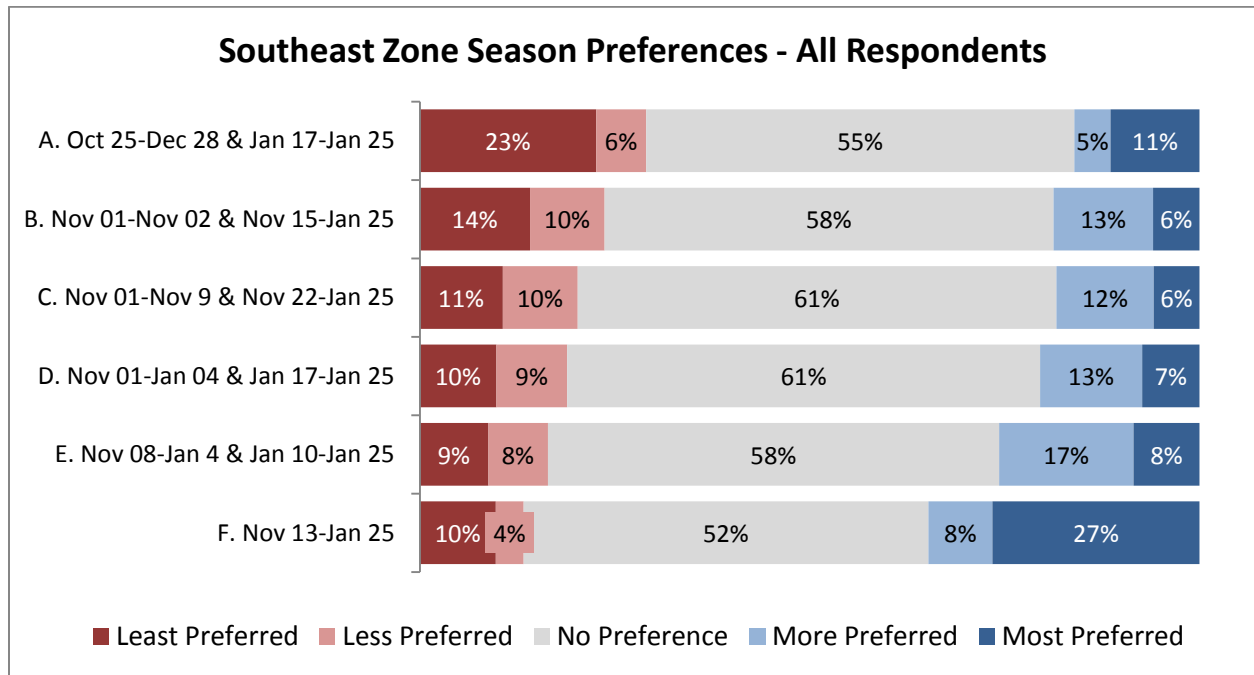


Figure 19. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone during the 2013-14 season.

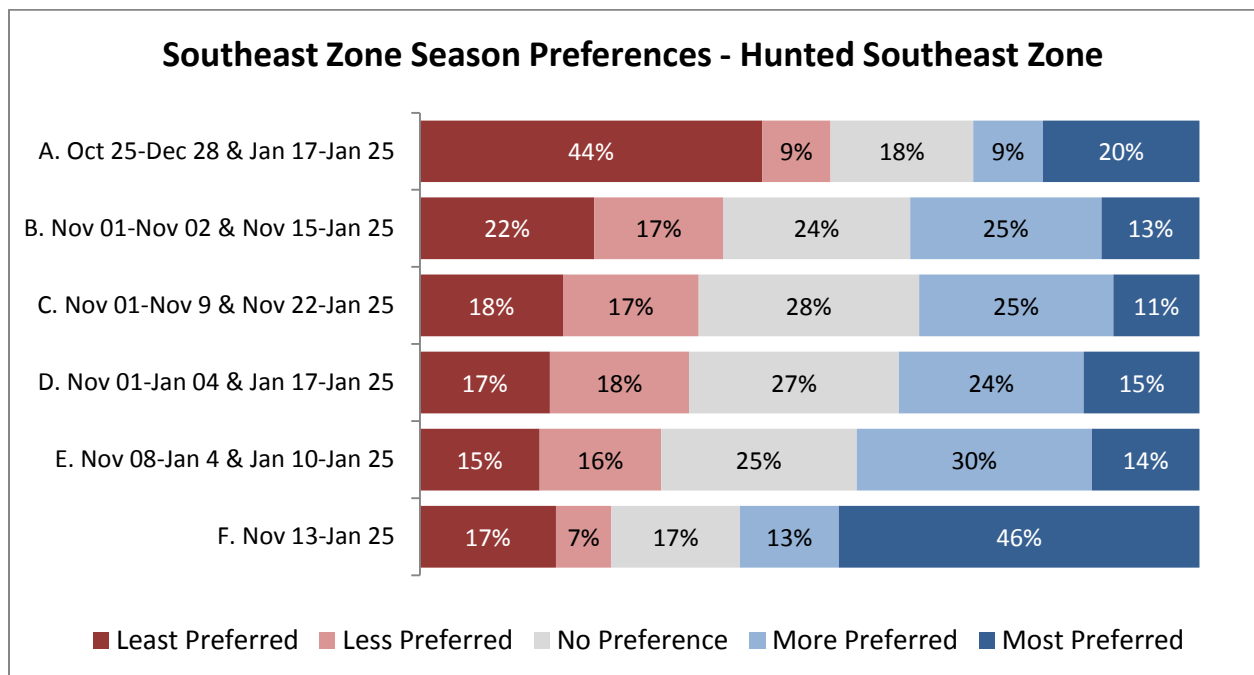


Figure 20. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by all respondents.

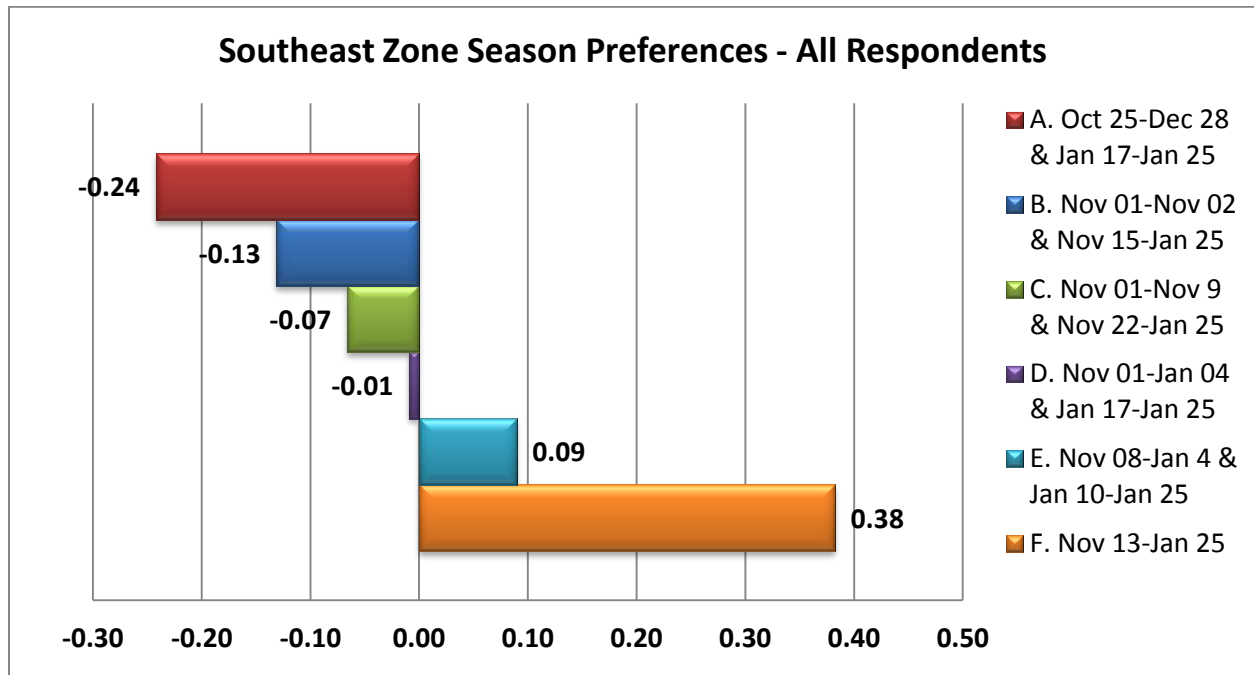
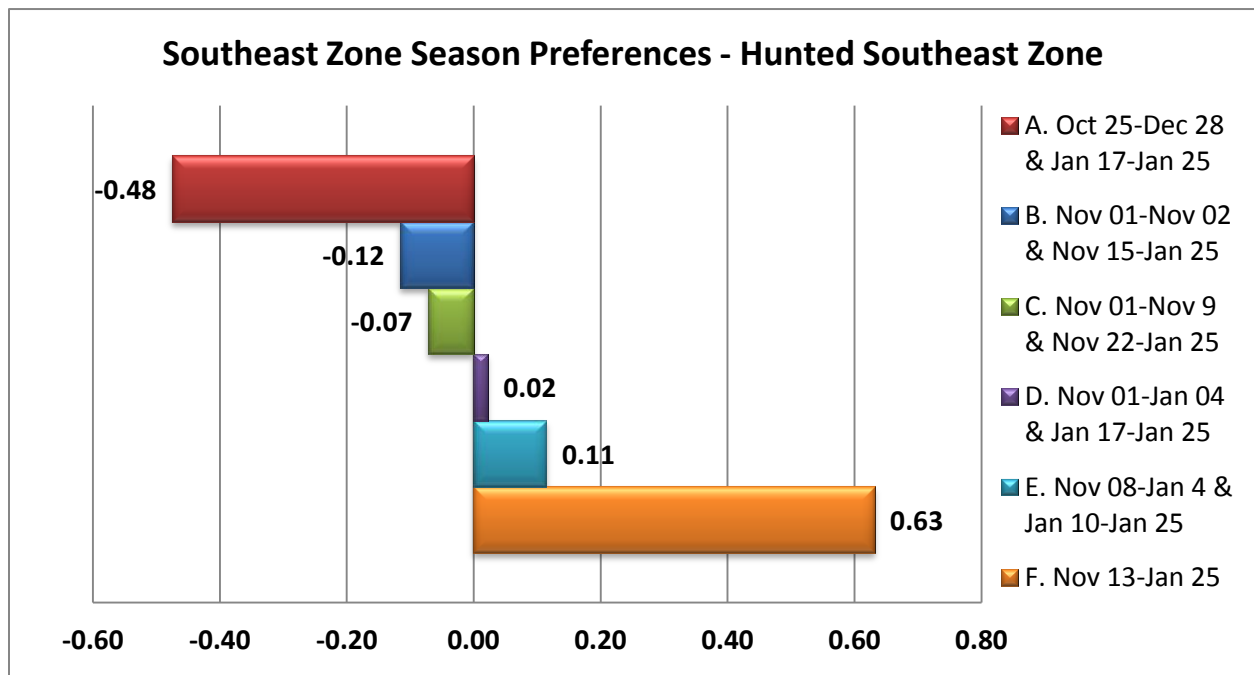


Figure 21. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone 2014-15 duck season dates by those respondents who hunted ducks 1 or more days in the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone during the 2013-14 season.



Season Preferences for the Canada and Light Goose Seasons

Question 9 presented six season date options for the 2014-15 Canada and light goose seasons. Tables 17 and 18 and Figures 22 to 25 present the preferred alternatives for season dates for the 2014-15 Canada and light goose seasons. For all residents, no preference was the most frequent and majority response for all alternatives. Alternative F was most preferred for both all residents and those that hunted geese, followed by Alternatives E and A. Only the alternatives that had the earlier February closure had negative scores. The timing of the Canada and Light goose season was one impetus for conducting the survey. The results of this question suggest a distinct preference for the closing day of these goose seasons to be held as late as the federal frameworks allow.

Table 17. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 Canada and light goose seasons dates by all respondents. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Sat Oct 25- Sun Oct 26 & Wed Nov 05- Sun Feb 15		B. Sat Oct 25- Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 05- Sun Feb 08		C. Sat Oct 25- Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 12- Sun Feb 15		D. Sat Oct 25- Wed Nov 05 & Sat Nov 08- Sun Feb 08		E. Sat Nov 01-Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 05-Sun Feb 15		F. Sat Nov 01-Sun Nov 09 & Wed Nov 12-Sun Feb 15	
Score	0.23		-0.24		0.04		-0.19		0.37		0.55	
Least Preferred	228	13%	303	18%	170	10%	251	15%	150	9%	135	8%
Less Preferred	147	9%	250	15%	222	13%	239	15%	128	8%	108	6%
No Preference	705	41%	795	48%	821	49%	837	51%	710	42%	669	39%
More Preferred	254	15%	199	12%	280	17%	180	11%	353	21%	296	17%
Most Preferred	373	22%	124	7%	173	10%	125	8%	346	21%	516	30%

Table 18. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 Canada and light goose season dates by those respondents who hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas during the 2013-14 season. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Sat Oct 25- Sun Oct 26 & Wed Nov 05- Sun Feb 15		B. Sat Oct 25- Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 05- Sun Feb 08		C. Sat Oct 25- Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 12- Sun Feb 15		D. Sat Oct 25- Wed Nov 05 & Sat Nov 08- Sun Feb 08		E. Sat Nov 01-Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 05-Sun Feb 15		F. Sat Nov 01-Sun Nov 09 & Wed Nov 12-Sun Feb 15	
Score	0.30		-0.33		0.03		-0.30		0.48		0.65	
Least Preferred	199	14%	309	23%	170	12%	264	20%	135	10%	128	9%
Less Preferred	138	10%	235	17%	221	16%	239	18%	106	8%	97	7%
No Preference	443	32%	529	39%	538	40%	562	42%	453	33%	401	28%
More Preferred	267	19%	177	13%	268	20%	155	12%	325	24%	298	21%
Most Preferred	344	25%	114	8%	165	12%	108	8%	358	26%	489	35%

Figure 22. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 Canada and light goose season dates by all respondents.

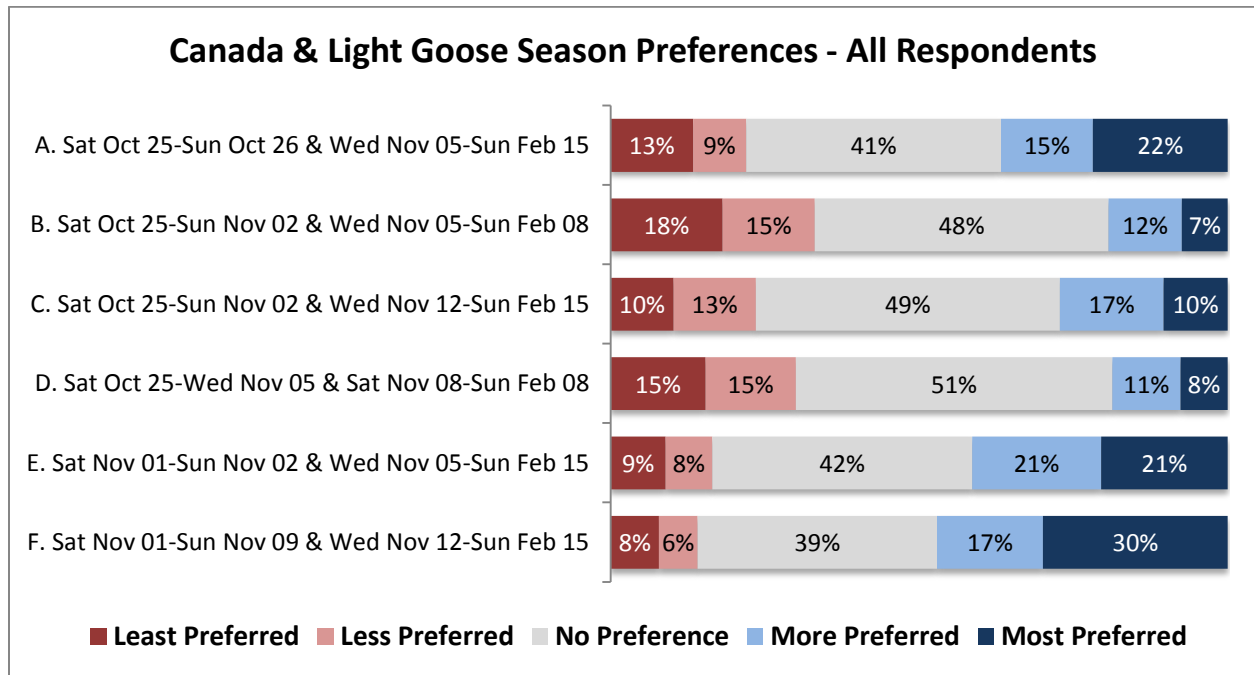


Figure 23. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 Canada and light goose season dates by those respondents who hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas during the 2013-14 season.

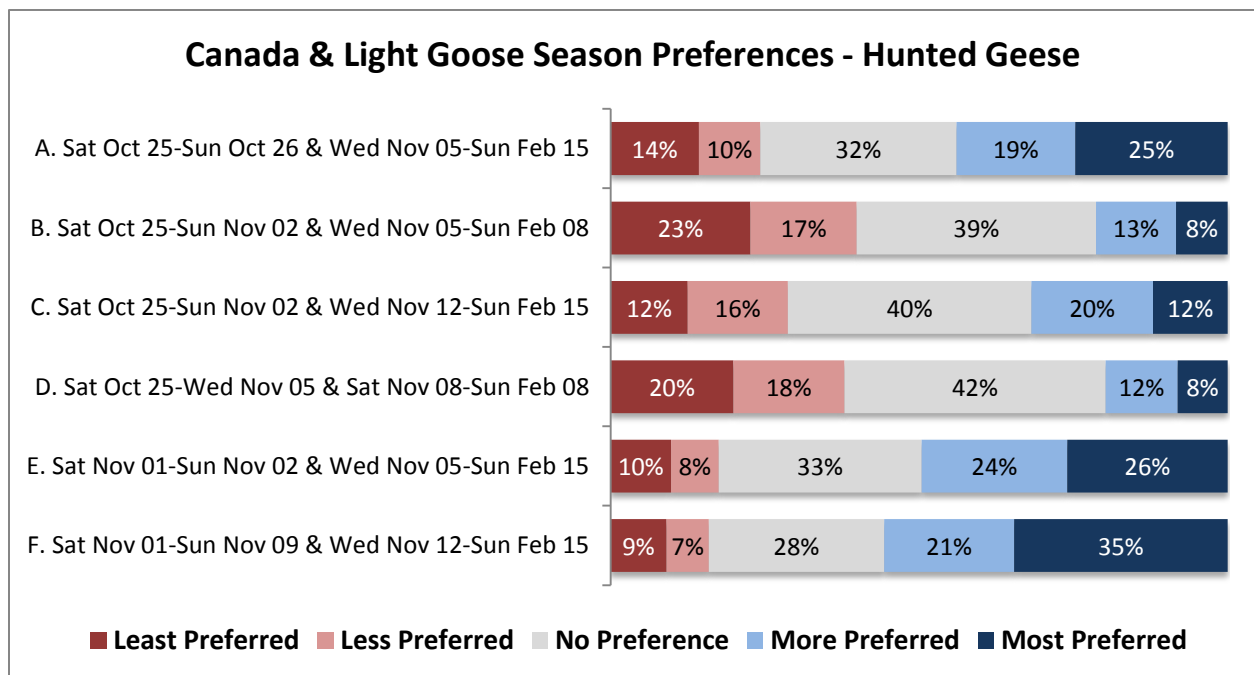


Figure 24. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 Canada and light goose season dates by all respondents.

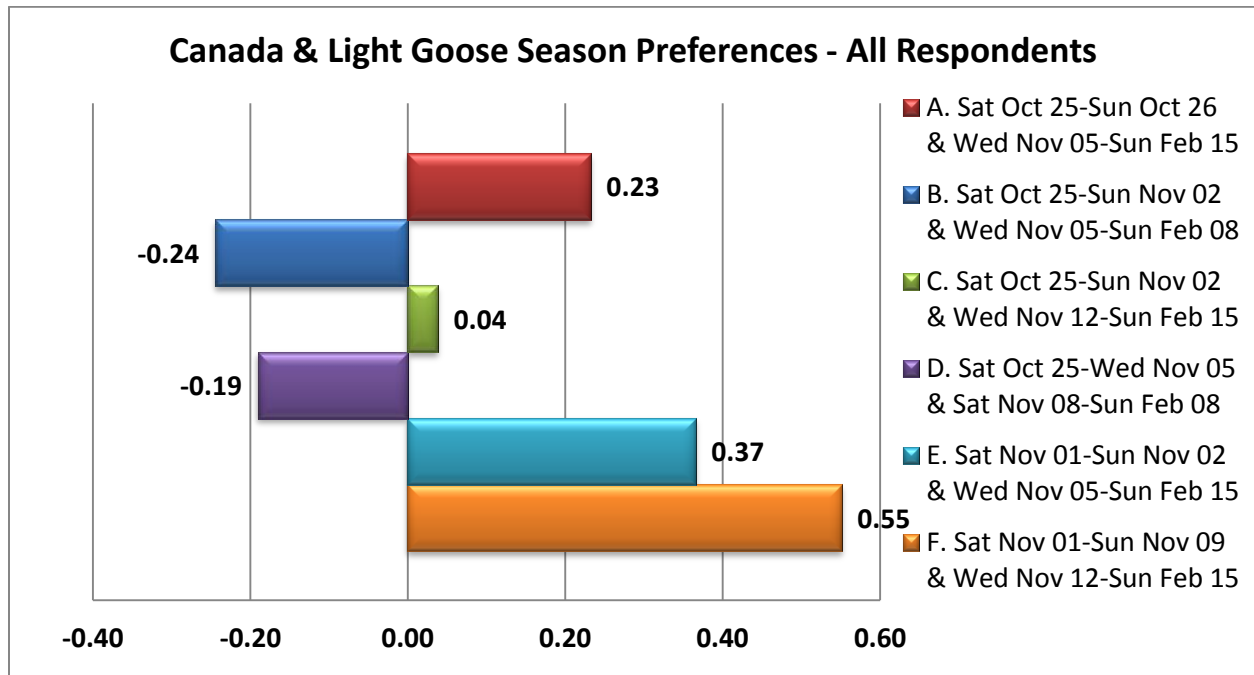
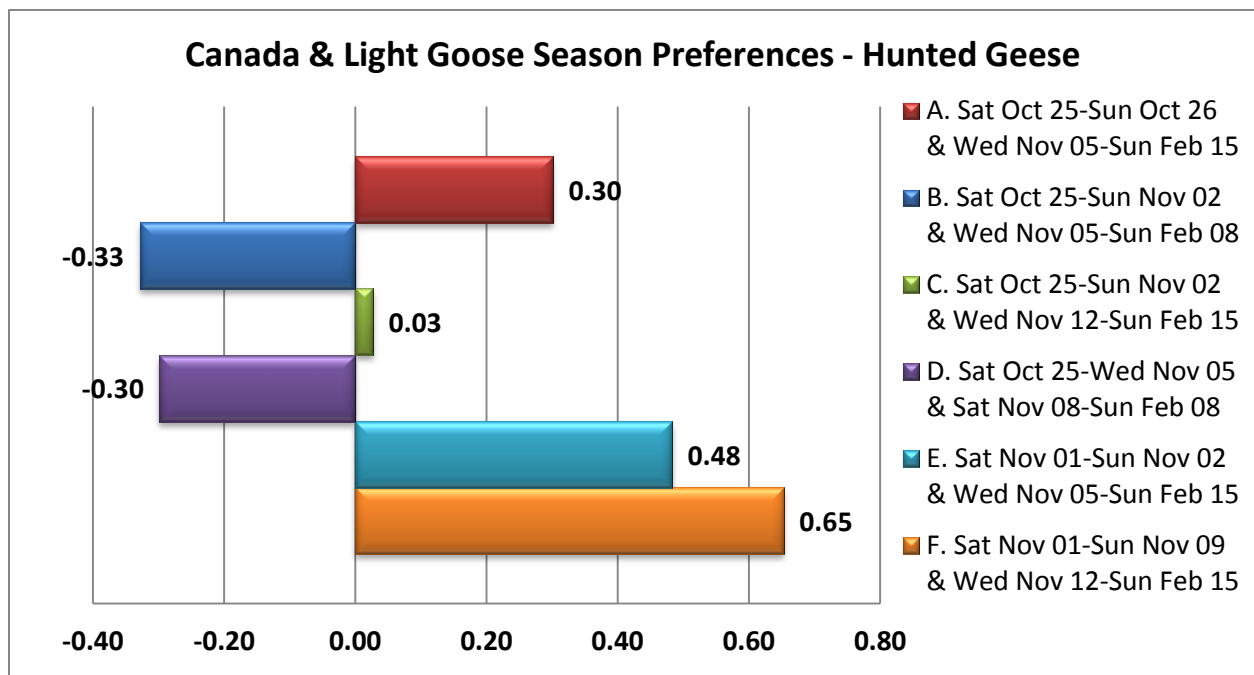


Figure 25. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 Canada and light goose season dates by those respondents hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas during the 2013-14 season.



Preferences for Linking Opening Day of the Low Plains Unit Late Zone with the Opening Day of Goose Seasons

Traditionally, the opening day of Kansas goose seasons has been the same day as the Low Plains Unit Late Zone opening day. In question 10, respondents were asked if they preferred to couple these opening days. Figures 26 and 27 suggest there are preferences to continue to have the Low Plains Unit Late Zone and the goose season open on the same day.

Figure 26. Preferences to have Kansas goose seasons open the same day as Kansas Low Plains Unit Late Zone opening day.

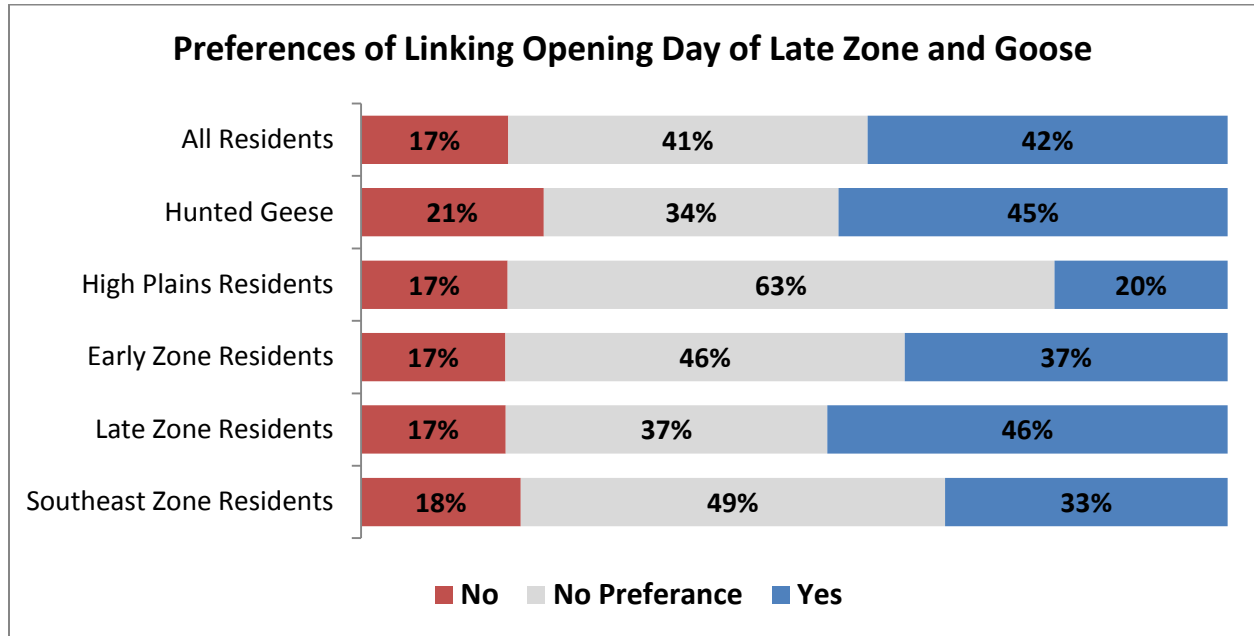
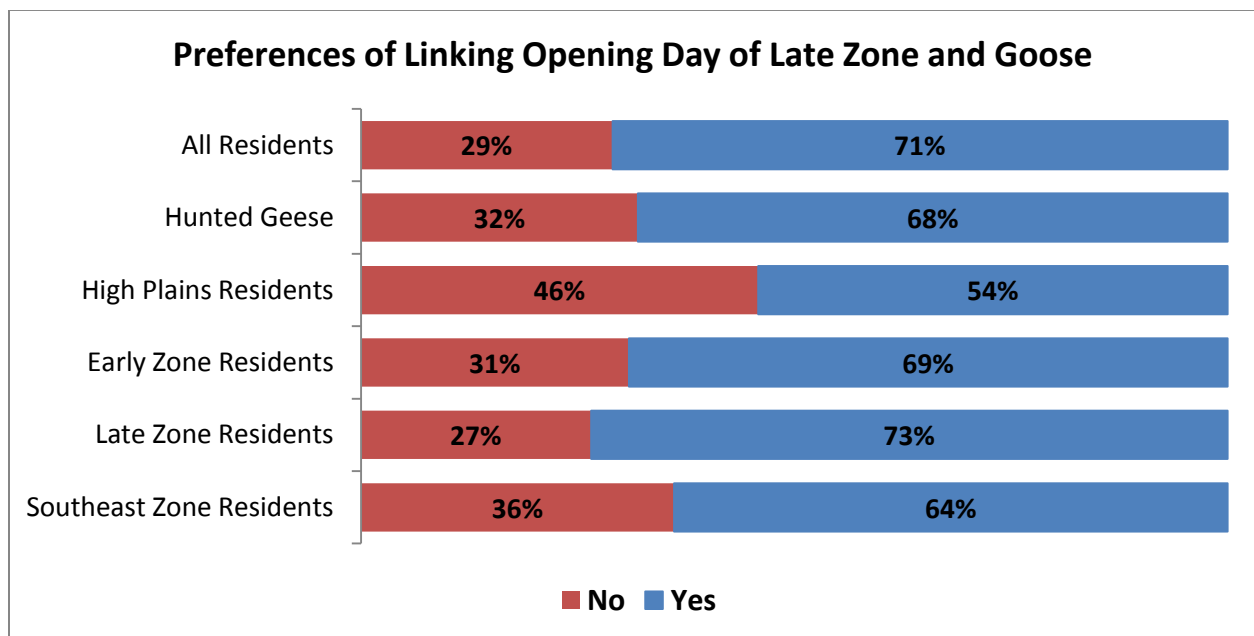


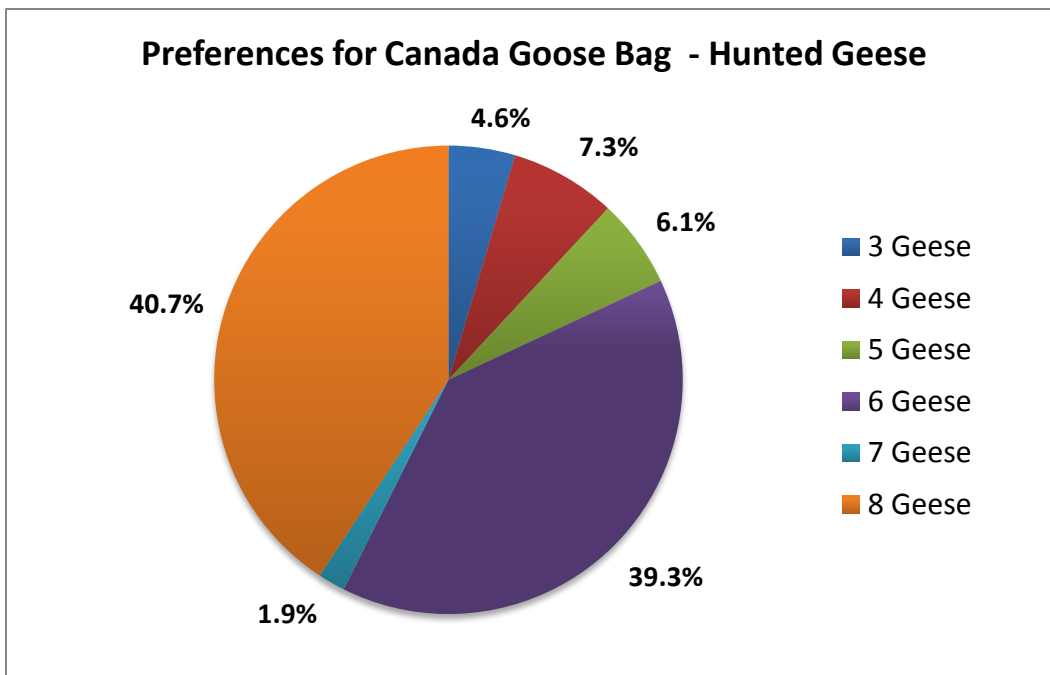
Figure 27. Preferences to have Kansas goose seasons open the same day as Kansas Low Plains Unit Late Zone opening day with no preference responses removed.



Preferences for Canada Goose Daily Bag Limit

In 2013, the federal framework raised the daily Canada goose bag limit from 3 geese-per-day to 8 geese-per-day. Kansas selected a daily bag limit for Canada goose in Kansas at 6 geese per day for the 2013-14 season. Question 11 asked respondents to indicate their preference for the Canada goose daily bag limit among 6 options ranging from 3 geese-per-day to 8 geese-per-day. For those who hunt geese, preference of the 6-geese and 8-geese daily bag limit is nearly the same. There is also a small contingent that would prefer a daily goose bag limit less than 6 geese.

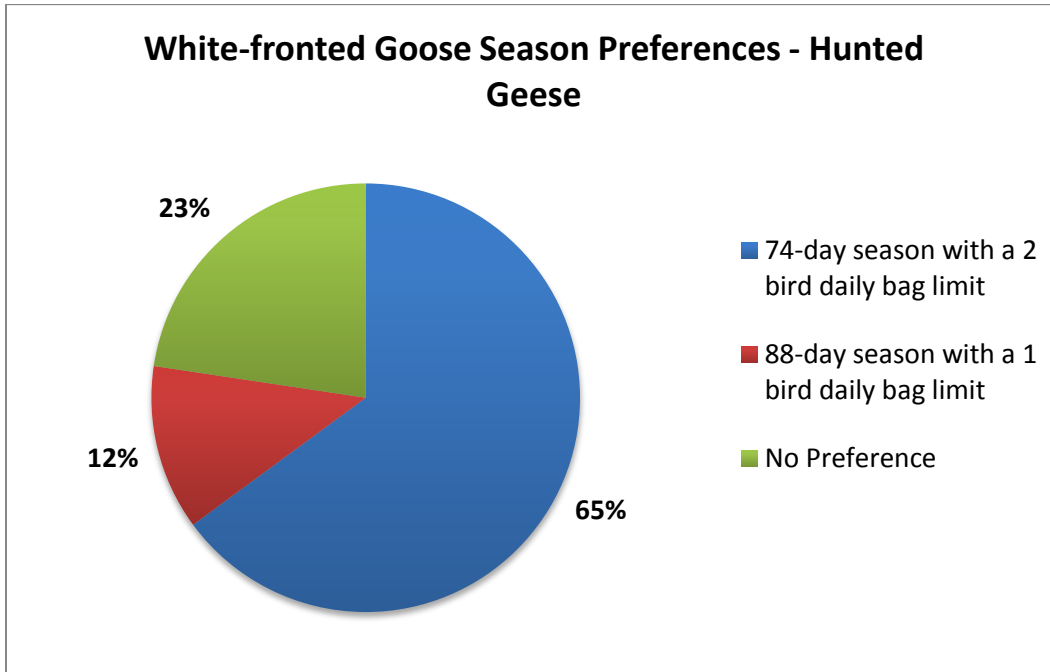
Figure 28. Respondents preferences for Kansas Canada goose daily bag limit by those who hunted geese in Kansas at least 1 day during the 2013-14 season.



Season Preferences for the White-fronted Goose Season

The federal framework for white-fronted geese allows for a choice of a 74-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit, or an 88-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit. Question 12 asked respondents of the two possible season structures (74-day, 2-bird or 88-day, 1-bird), which they preferred. For those who hunted geese, there is a strong preference to continue with 74-day, 2-bird season option.

Figure 29. Respondents preferences for Kansas white-fronted goose season structure by those who hunted geese in Kansas at least 1 day during the 2013-14 season.



Question 13 presented six season date options for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose seasons. Tables 19 to 22 and Figures 30 to 37 present the preferred alternatives for season dates for the 2014-15 white-fronted goose seasons. Season options were divided by those with an October 25th opening day and those with a November 1st opening day. For both options, no preference was the most frequent and majority response. For an October 25th opening day, Alternative C was the least preferred and the only option with a negative score for both all respondents and those that hunted geese. Alternative A was most preferred for the two groups, followed by Alternative F. Like Canada Geese, a preference to end the season as late as the frameworks allow was evident regardless of opening date. Both groups were also in agreement regarding preferences if the season opened the first Saturday in November. Alternative L was most preferred, followed by Alternatives J and H, and Alternative G and I received negative scores.

Table 19. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the last Saturday in October. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Oct 25- Nov 09 & Dec 20-Feb 15		B. Oct 25- Dec 07 & Jan 17-Feb 15		C. Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 17- Feb 08		D. Oct 25- Dec 14 & Jan 24-Feb 15		E. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 31- Feb 08		F. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Feb 07- Feb 15	
Score	0.16		0.02		-0.10		0.02		0.03		0.13	
Least Preferred	198	11%	143	8%	153	9%	123	7%	175	10%	181	11%
Less Preferred	90	5%	170	10%	178	11%	149	9%	134	8%	112	7%
No Preference	995	58%	1037	61%	1111	67%	1094	66%	1019	61%	986	58%
More Preferred	134	8%	189	11%	140	8%	177	11%	174	10%	165	10%
Most Preferred	310	18%	151	9%	85	5%	127	8%	177	11%	262	15%

Table 20. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the last Saturday in October by those who hunted geese at least 1 day in Kansas 2013-14 season. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	A. Oct 25- Nov 09 & Dec 20-Feb 15		B. Oct 25- Dec 07 & Jan 17-Feb 15		C. Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 17- Feb 08		D. Oct 25- Dec 14 & Jan 24-Feb 15		E. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 31- Feb 08		F. Oct 25-Dec 28 & Feb 07- Feb 15	
Score	0.20		0.03		-0.15		0.01		0.00		0.07	
Least Preferred	186	13%	139	10%	157	12%	126	9%	182	13%	202	14%
Less Preferred	78	5%	161	12%	180	13%	148	11%	128	9%	103	7%
No Preference	721	51%	763	55%	818	60%	805	59%	739	54%	717	51%
More Preferred	130	9%	184	13%	125	9%	164	12%	159	12%	155	11%
Most Preferred	305	21%	146	10%	82	6%	122	9%	166	12%	226	16%

Table 21. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the first Saturday in November. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	G. Nov 01- Dec 14 & Jan 10-Feb 08		H. Nov 01- Dec 14 & Jan 17-Feb 15		I. Nov 01- Dec 21 & Jan 17-Feb 08		J. Nov 01-Dec 21 & Jan 24- Feb 15		K. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 31- Feb 08		L. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Feb 07- Feb 15	
Score	-0.10		0.09		-0.11		0.09		0.04		0.16	
Least Preferred	237	14%	140	8%	149	9%	106	6%	165	10%	198	11%
Less Preferred	134	8%	144	9%	165	10%	130	8%	135	8%	90	5%
No Preference	1009	61%	1021	61%	1105	68%	1065	65%	996	60%	995	58%
More Preferred	124	7%	151	9%	146	9%	209	13%	194	12%	134	8%
Most Preferred	159	10%	211	13%	72	4%	141	9%	166	10%	310	18%

Table 22. Preferences for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the first Saturday in November by those who hunted geese at least 1 day in Kansas 2013-14 season. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	G. Nov 01- Dec 14 & Jan 10-Feb 08		H. Nov 01-Dec 14 & Jan 17- Feb 15		I. Nov 01-Dec 21 & Jan 17- Feb 08		J. Nov 01-Dec 21 & Jan 24- Feb 15		K. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 31- Feb 08		L. Nov 01-Jan 04 & Feb 07- Feb 15	
Score	-0.13		0.11		-0.16		0.09		0.00		0.20	
Least Preferred	232	17%	146	11%	158	12%	103	8%	170	12%	186	13%
Less Preferred	135	10%	127	9%	167	12%	134	10%	136	10%	78	5%
No Preference	740	54%	740	54%	822	61%	796	58%	729	53%	721	51%
More Preferred	111	8%	155	11%	123	9%	201	15%	184	13%	130	9%
Most Preferred	157	11%	209	15%	73	5%	131	10%	145	11%	305	21%

Figure 30. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the last Saturday in October by all respondents.

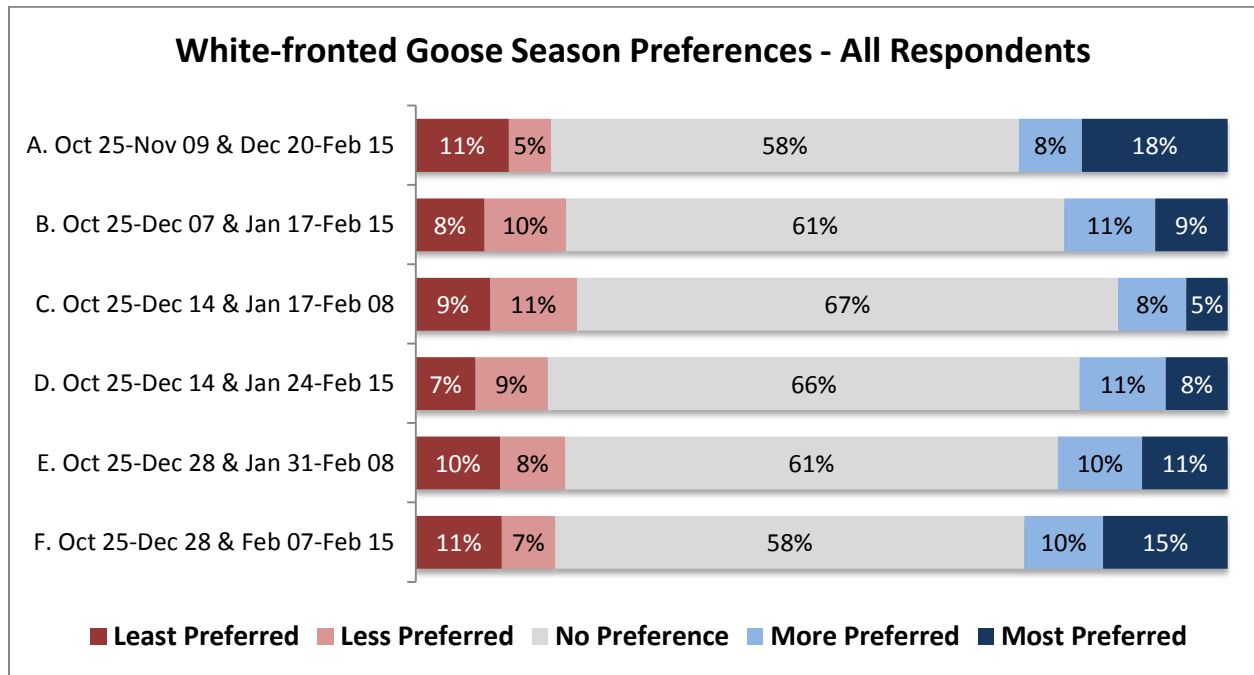


Figure 31. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the first Saturday in November by all respondents.

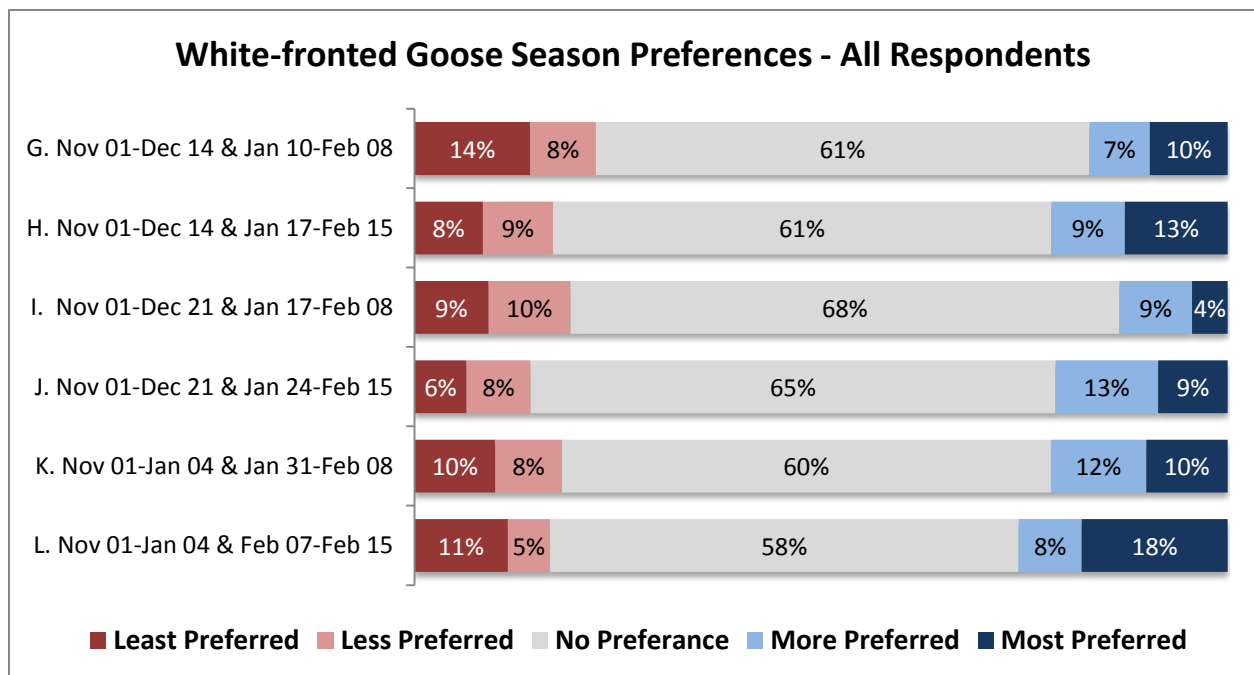


Figure 32. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the last Saturday in October by those respondents who hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas in 2013-14.

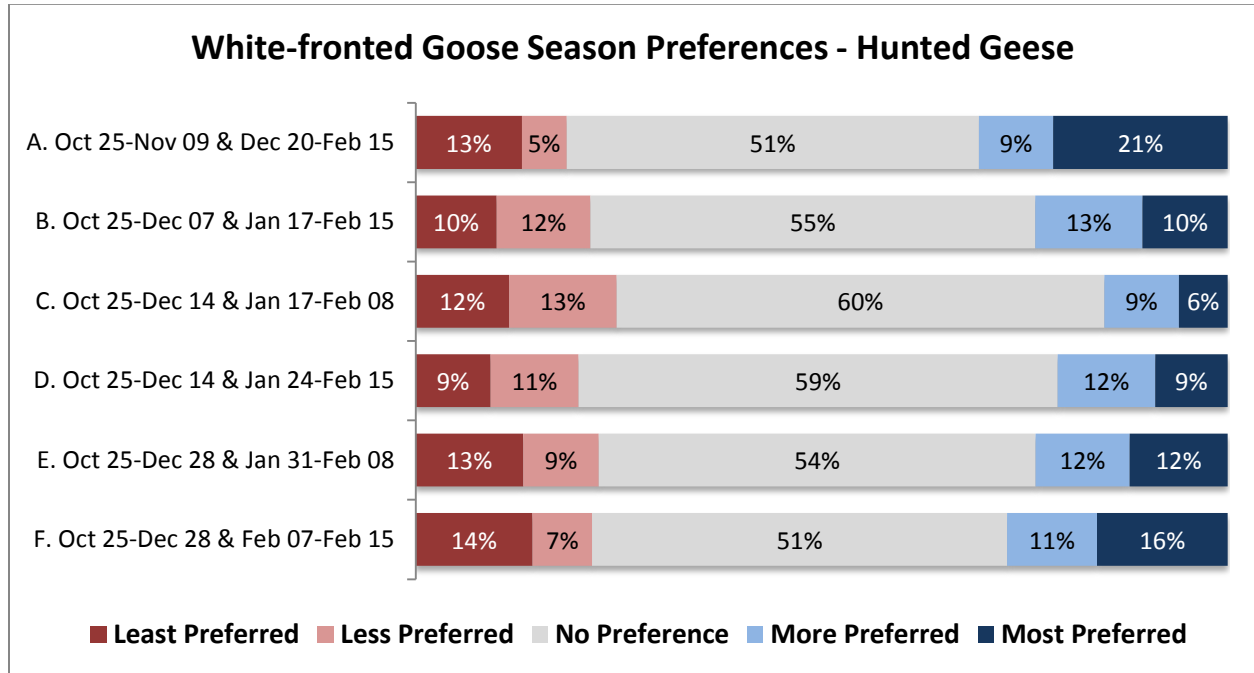


Figure 33. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the 2013-14 season was to open the first Saturday in November by those respondents who hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas in 2013-14.

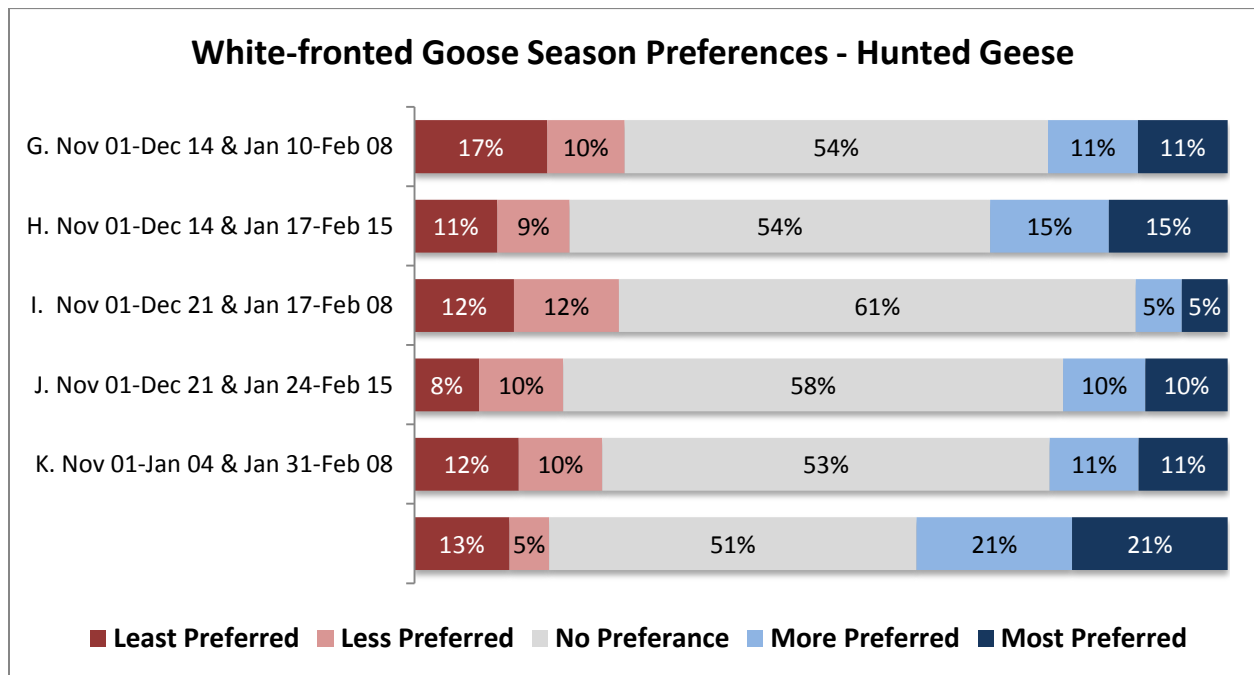


Figure 34. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the last Saturday in October by all respondents.

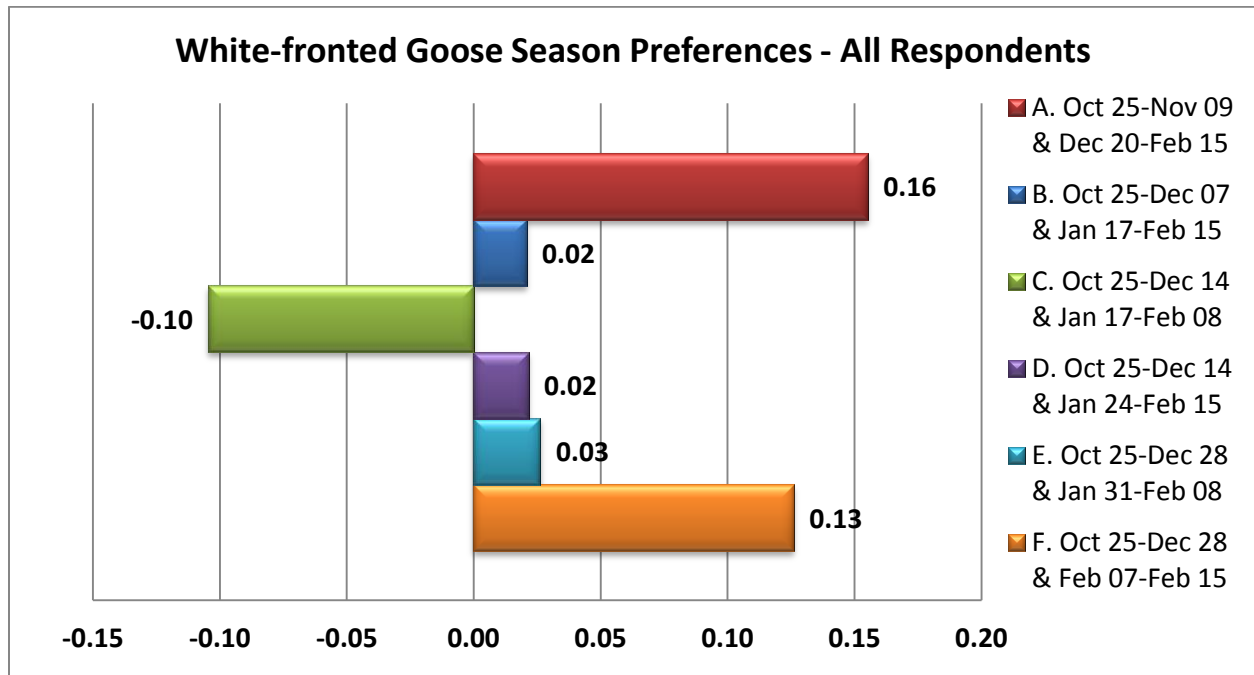


Figure 35. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the first Saturday in November by all respondents.

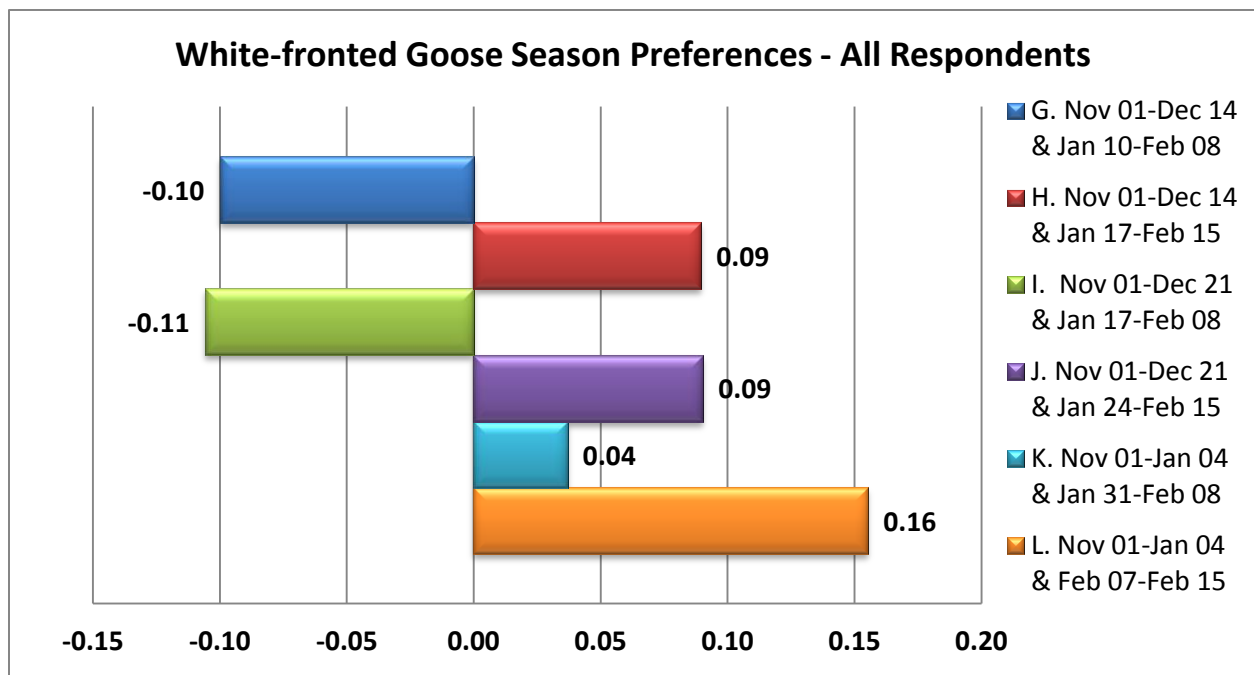


Figure 36. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the season was to open the last Saturday in October by those respondents who hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas in 2013-14.

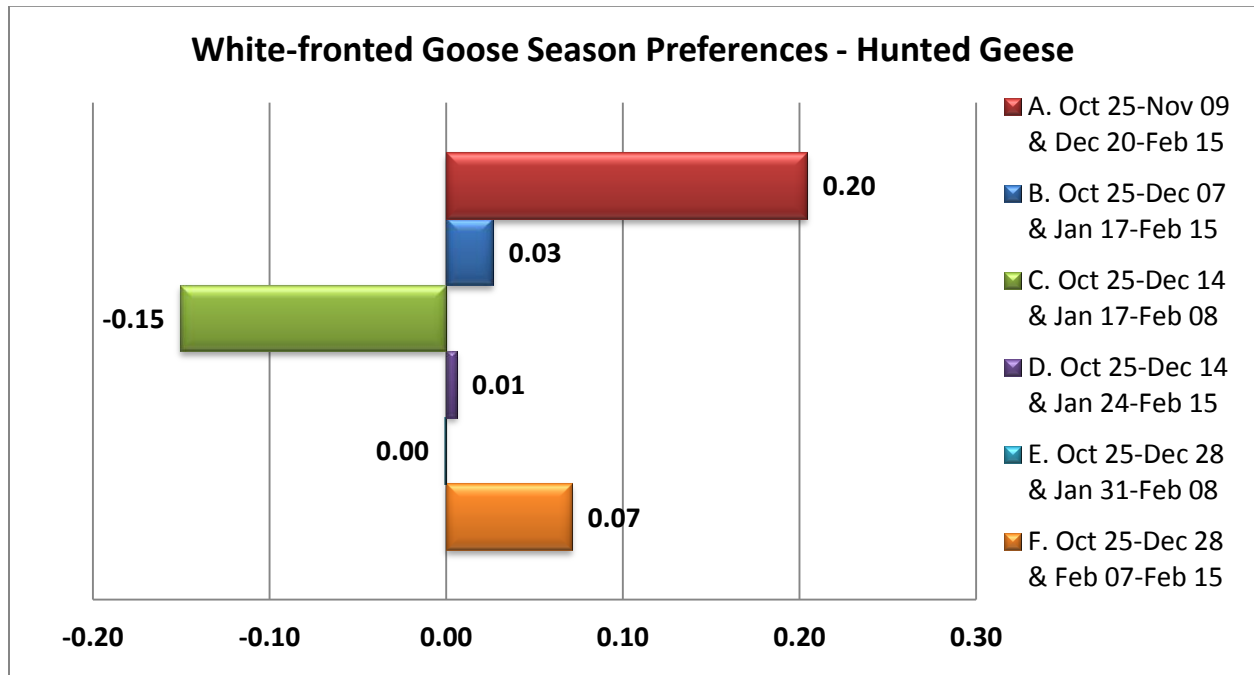
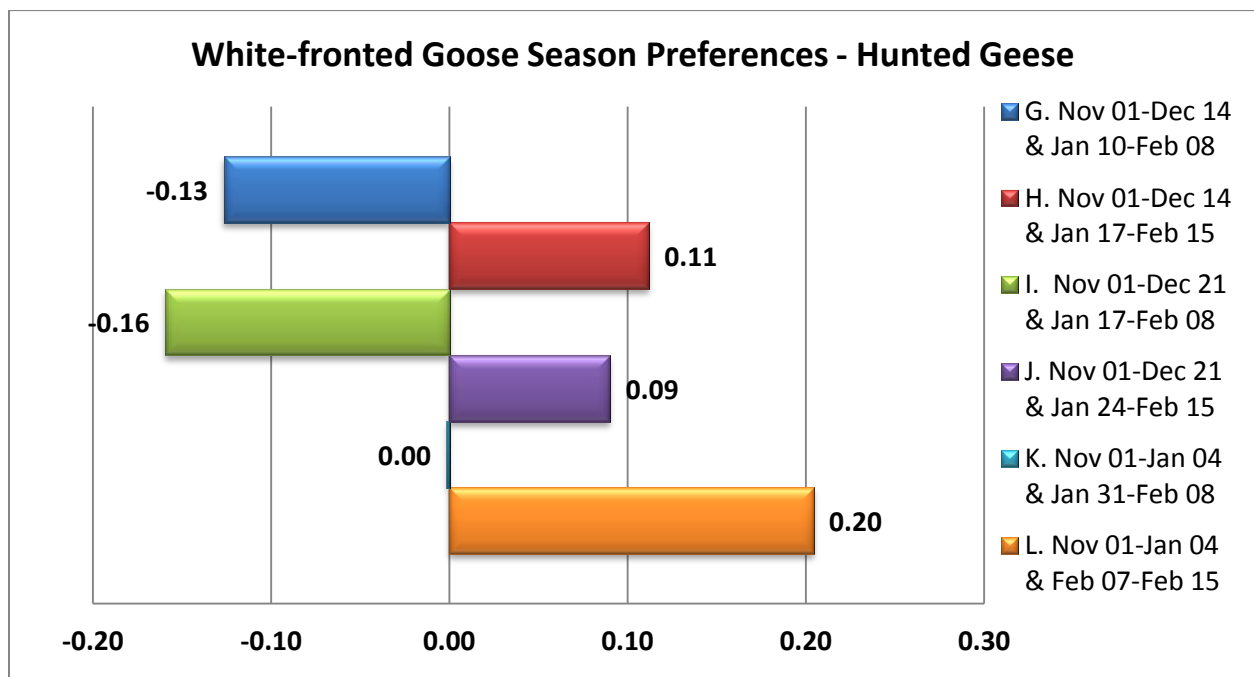


Figure 37. Preferences for season alternatives for Kansas 2014-15 white-fronted goose season dates if the 2013-14 season open the first Saturday in November by those respondents who hunted geese 1 or more days in Kansas in 2013-14.



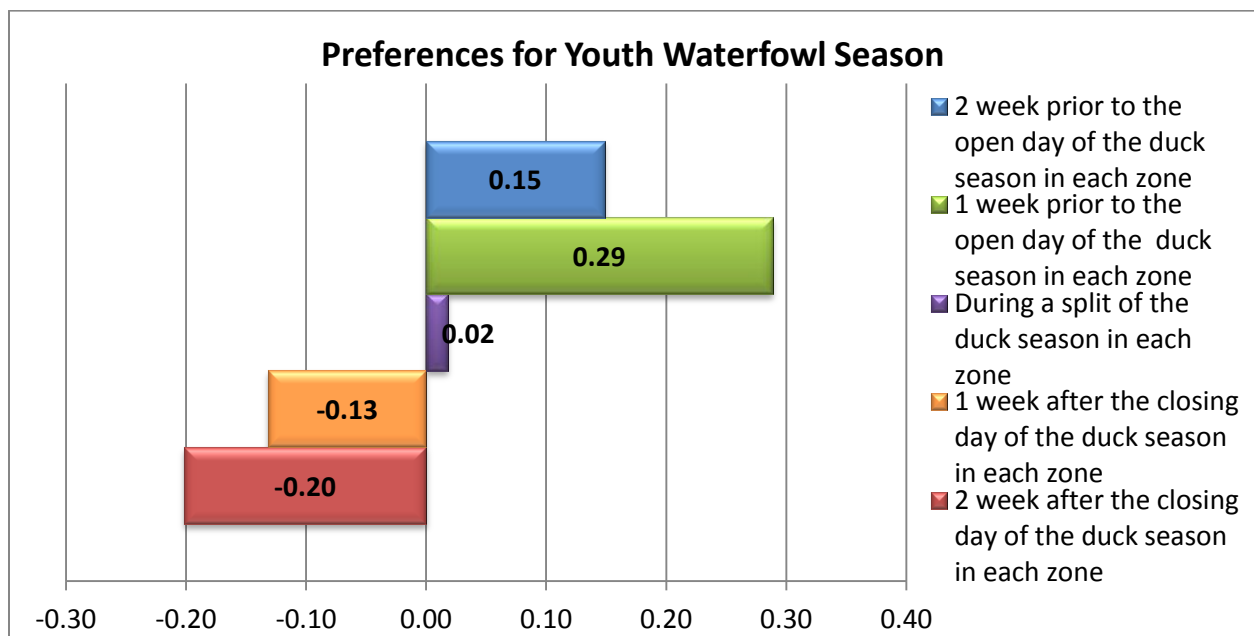
Preferences for the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

In addition to their regular duck seasons, federal frameworks allow states to select two consecutive days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.” Youth waterfowl hunting days take place: 1) outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate; and 2) up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season framework, within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds. Question 15 asked respondents to rate their preference for each of the 5 alternatives for holding Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. Table 23 and Figure 38 indicates there is a preference to continue holding the youth waterfowl hunting days 1 week prior to the opening day of the duck season in each zone.

Table 23. Preferences for Kansas youth waterfowl hunting days. Positive values are in black and negative values are in red.

	Least Preferred		Less Preferred		No Preference		More Preferred		Most Preferred		Score
2 week prior to the open day of the duck season in each zone	217	13%	128	7%	771	45%	246	14%	348	20%	0.15
1 week prior to the open day of the duck season in each zone	128	7%	114	7%	713	41%	293	17%	480	28%	0.29
During a split of the duck season in each zone	281	17%	138	8%	871	52%	149	9%	237	14%	0.02
1 week after the closing day of the duck season in each zone	389	23%	229	14%	788	47%	173	10%	84	5%	-0.13
2 week after the closing day of the duck season in each zone	506	30%	151	9%	794	48%	92	6%	124	7%	-0.20

Figure 38. Preferences for Kansas youth waterfowl hunting days.

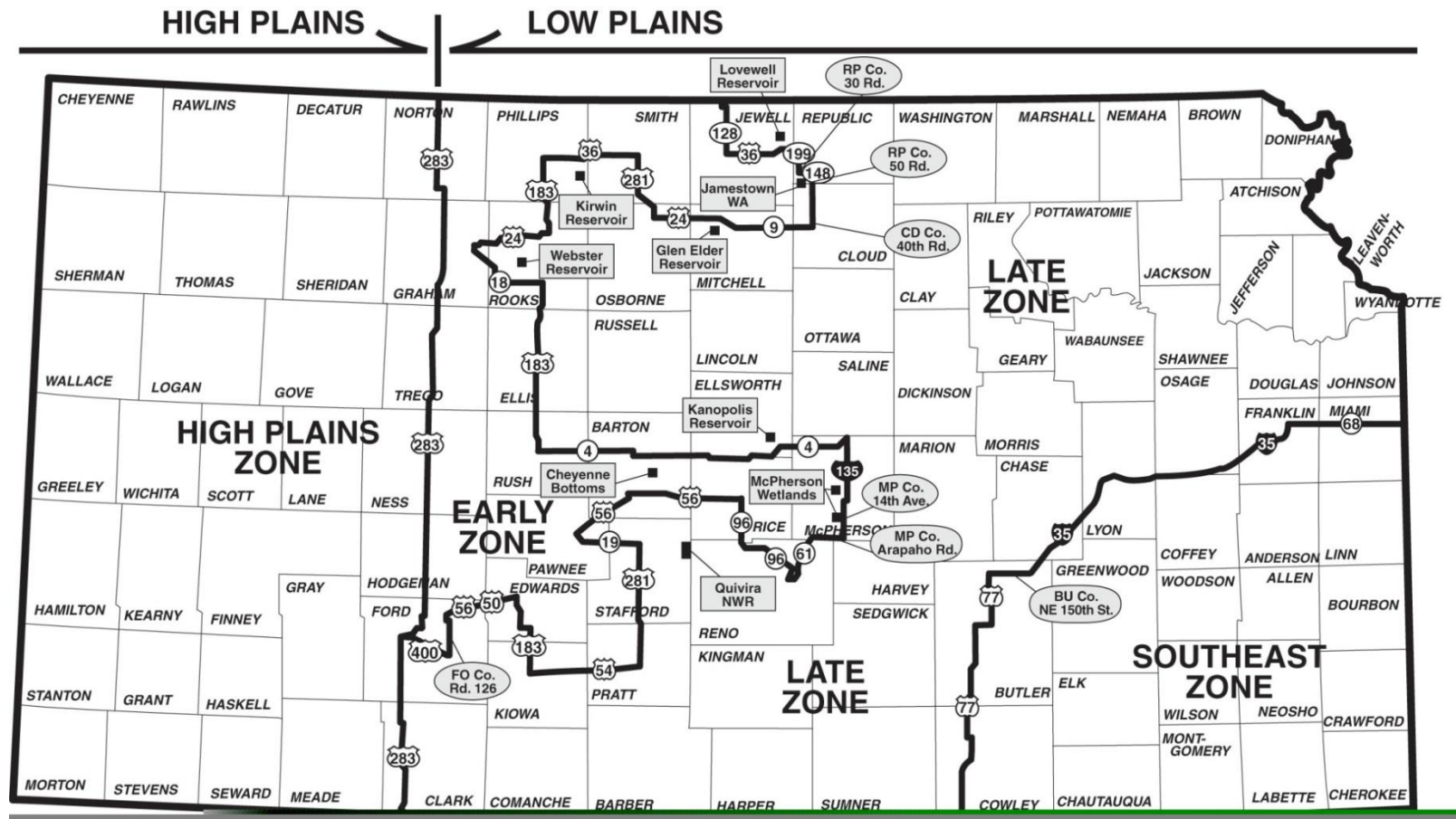


In addition to examining preferences for timing of designated youth waterfowl hunting days (Question 16), we posed additional questions not only on participation on the designated waterfowl hunting days but also how many respondents took a youth or an adult novice waterfowl hunter hunting during the 2013-14 regular duck and/or goose seasons (Question 17 and 18). Table 24 reports the frequency that a respondent took a youth (under 16 years of age) or an adult novice waterfowl hunter hunting. The percentage that took advantage of the youth waterfowl hunting days may seem low, but not when considering how few days of the hunting season 21% of waterfowl hunters in the state go afield. The greatest potential in recruiting and retaining new waterfowl hunters are with adults. Forty-four percent of respondents stated they had taken a novice adult waterfowl hunter afield during the 2013-14 waterfowl seasons.

Table 24. Number and percentage of respondents that took a youth (under 16 years of age) waterfowl hunting during the 2013-14 youth waterfowl days, during the 2013-14 regular duck and/or goose season or an adult novice (over 16 years of age) waterfowl hunting during the 2013-14 regular duck and/or goose season.

	N	Yes	%	No	%
Took Youth During Youth Season	2,003	415	21%	1,587	79%
Took Youth During General Season	2,005	678	34%	1,326	66%
Took Adult Novice	1,999	884	44%	1,114	56%

APPENDIX A. Kansas duck hunting zones.



APPENDIX B. Copy of the 2014 KDWPT Waterfowl Hunter Survey Postcard.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Emporia Research and Survey Office
1830 Merchant St, PO Box 1525
Emporia, KS 66801

Name
Address 1
Address 2
City, State, Zip

Survey ID:

Greetings fellow waterfowler, hopefully you had a memorable 2013-14 waterfowl season. As we look back on memories of the past season, it is time to start planning for next season. An important component of planning for the 2014 season for KDWPT is to obtain information on the preferences of Kansas waterfowlers. You have been randomly selected to participate in a KDWPT survey that focuses primarily on Kansas duck and goose season dates. Please take a moment to complete the survey at the web address below. A paper survey will be mailed to you in the coming weeks if you prefer to complete a paper survey. Thank you for your participation, your input is very important to waterfowl management in Kansas.

You will need the Survey ID found on the front of this postcard under your address to login to the survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/waterfowlseasons>

Sincerely,
Tom Bidrowski
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism



APPENDIX C. Copy of the 2014 KDWPT Waterfowl Hunter Survey Instrument.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM
WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY



Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Emporia Research and Survey Office

1830 Merchant, PO Box 1525

Emporia, KS 66801

(620) 342 – 0658

<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us>

Greetings fellow waterfowler, hopefully you had a memorable 2013-14 waterfowl season. As we look back on memories of the past season, it is time to start



planning for next season. An important component of planning for upcoming seasons for KDWPT is to obtain information on the preferences of Kansas waterfowlers. You have been randomly selected to participate in a KDWPT survey that focuses primarily on Kansas duck and goose season dates. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/waterfowlseasons or if you prefer you can complete this paper copy and return it using the pre-paid self-addressed envelope. Your prompt response will eliminate the need for additional mailings and hence save funds for other waterfowl initiatives. If completing online, you will need the Survey ID found on the front of the envelope below your name in order to login. Thank you for your participation, your input is very important to waterfowl management in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Tom Bidrowski

Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
tom.bidrowski@ksoutdoors.com (620) 566-1456

Information on Duck Hunting Units, Zones and Season Dates - Kansas has a diverse landscape that offers a variety of waterfowl hunting opportunities. Waterfowl hunters are passionate about their sport, and KDWPT typically receives strong – and often conflicting – opinions about season preferences. Many hunters prefer early season dates while others prefer later seasons. As Kansas waterfowl hunters are just as diverse as Kansas waterfowl hunting opportunities, it is challenging to create a season date package that works for all. KDWPT strives throughout its season setting process to include all perspectives and provide the greatest opportunity. Zones and splits are tools that help us serve a broad constituent base. Zoning and season splits benefit waterfowl hunting by matching season dates with available habitat types (shallow wetlands, reservoirs, rivers, or fields), waterfowl species (more than 27 species of ducks in Kansas with varying life history strategies and habitat needs), and season preferences of waterfowl hunters across the state (where they hunt, what they hunt, when they hunt and how they hunt).

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The USFWS frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within the frameworks when establishing state specific waterfowl seasons. The current USFWS framework allows states to choose duck seasons between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 20 in 2014) and the last Sunday in January (January 25 in 2015).

Kansas has two duck hunting units- the *High Plains Unit* (area west of Hwy 283) and the *Low Plains Unit* (area east of Hwy 283). **See page 2 for map.** The *High Plains Unit* is granted 97 days of duck hunting and each zone in the *Low Plains Unit* is allowed 74 days of hunting. In the *Low Plains Unit* there is an option to have up to 3 zones with 2-way splits (two season segments) in each zone, or 4 zones with no splits. Currently, Kansas has three zones in the Low Plains Unit: Early Zone, Late Zone, and the Southeast Zone. States are allowed to modify duck zone boundaries every 5 years. Season dates change annually but we cannot modify zones in Kansas until the 2016-17 season.

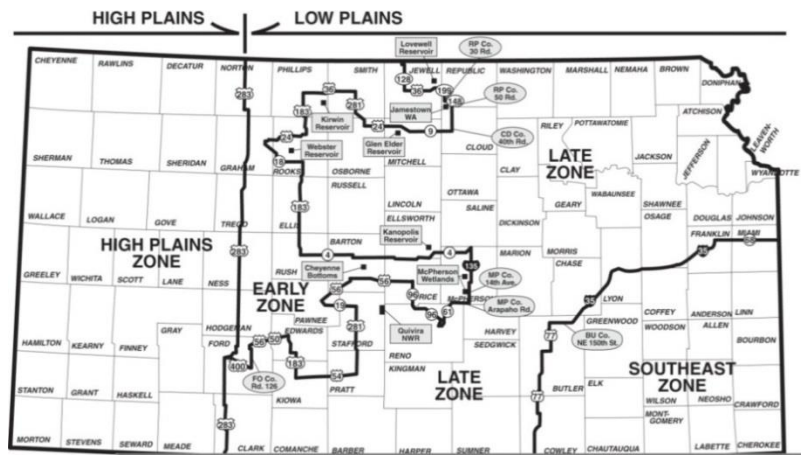
In order to provide proper management and focus efforts, it is important for KDWPT to have an understanding of how often and where waterfowl hunters hunt in Kansas. Please respond to the following questions regarding residency, where you hunt and how often.

Question 1. In which duck zone do you currently reside? (see map below)

- High Plains Unit Early Zone Late Zone Southeast Zone

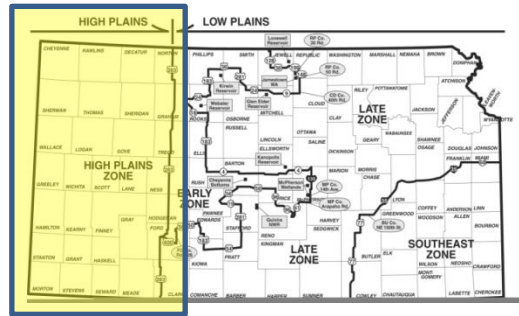
Question 2. For each of Kansas’s four duck hunting zones, please estimate how many days you hunted ducks and geese and the county you hunted in the most for each during last year’s 2013-14 season. (Please place a zero for each zone you did not hunt in).

Zone	Days Hunting <u>Ducks</u>	County Hunted <u>Ducks</u> in most	Days Hunting <u>Geese</u>	County Hunted <u>Geese</u> in most
High Plains				
Early Zone				
Late Zone				
Southeast Zone				



Question 3. If you could re-configure any of the duck zone boundaries, what changes would you make?

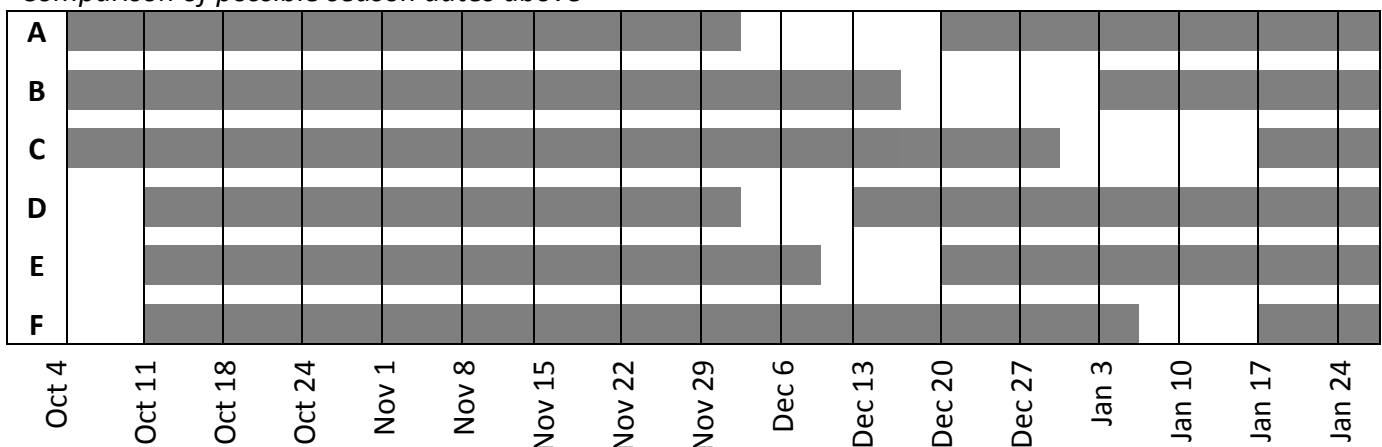
The **High Plains Unit** covers the western 1/3 of Kansas and offers a great variety of waterfowling opportunities from early migrants on the many small shallow wetlands (playas) to later opportunities on reservoirs and rivers. The current federal framework allows for a 97-day season, which may contain only one split in the season. The season must take place between September 20, 2014 and January 25, 2015. Traditionally, the *High Plains Unit* has opened either the first or second Saturday in October, continued through the end of December/ first week of January, and had a 9-day second segment at the end of January. The season was slightly modified in 2013-14 when the season was October 5 to December 2 and December 21 to January 26.



Question 4. For the following potential 2014-15 *High Plains Unit* season options, please circle your preference for **each option**.

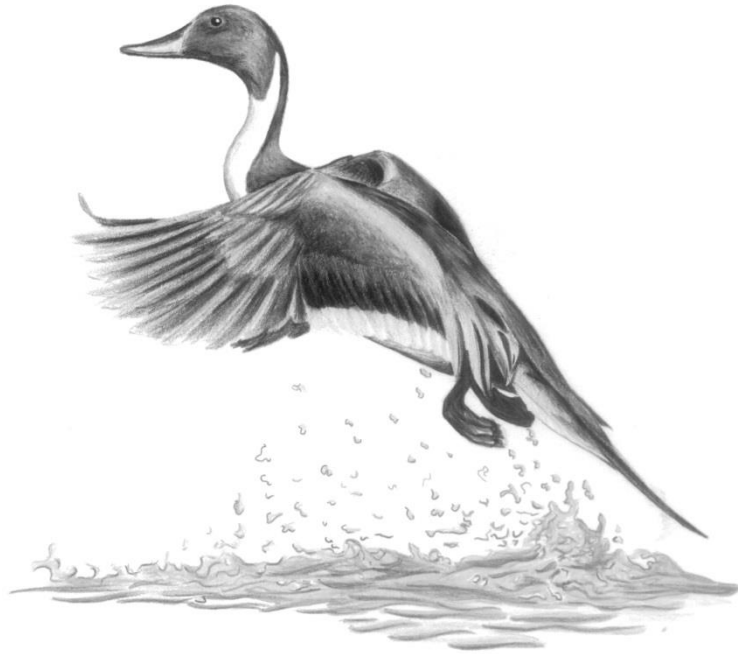
Season Options		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
A	Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 01 & Sat Dec 20-Sun Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
B	Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 15 & Sat Jan 03-Sun Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
C	Sat Oct 04-Mon Dec 29 & Sat Jan 17-Sun Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
D	Sat Oct 11-Mon Dec 01 & Sat Dec 13-Sun Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
E	Sat Oct 11-Mon Dec 08 & Sat Dec 20-Sun Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
F	Sat Oct 11-Mon Jan 05 & Sat Jan 17-Sun Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5

Comparison of possible season dates above

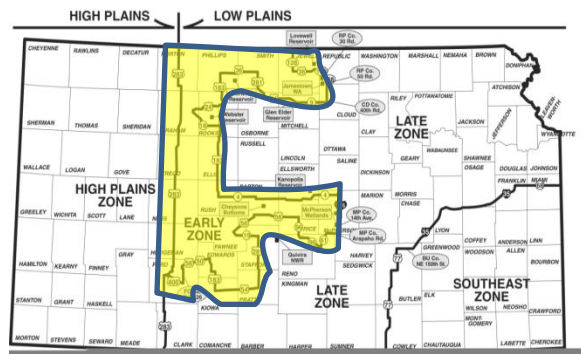


Question 5. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act limits the open season for any one species to 107 days. With a 9-day September Teal Season and a 2-day special youth season, only 96 duck hunting days (of the possible 97 hunting days) are available in the *High Plains Unit*. In the past, Kansas has chosen to end the first season segment on a Monday. There is also an option to end the first segment on a Sunday and start the second segment on a Friday. *Choosing only ONE, would you rather:*

- End the first segment of the High Plains Unit on a Monday
- Begin the second segment of the High Plains Unit on a Friday
- No Preference



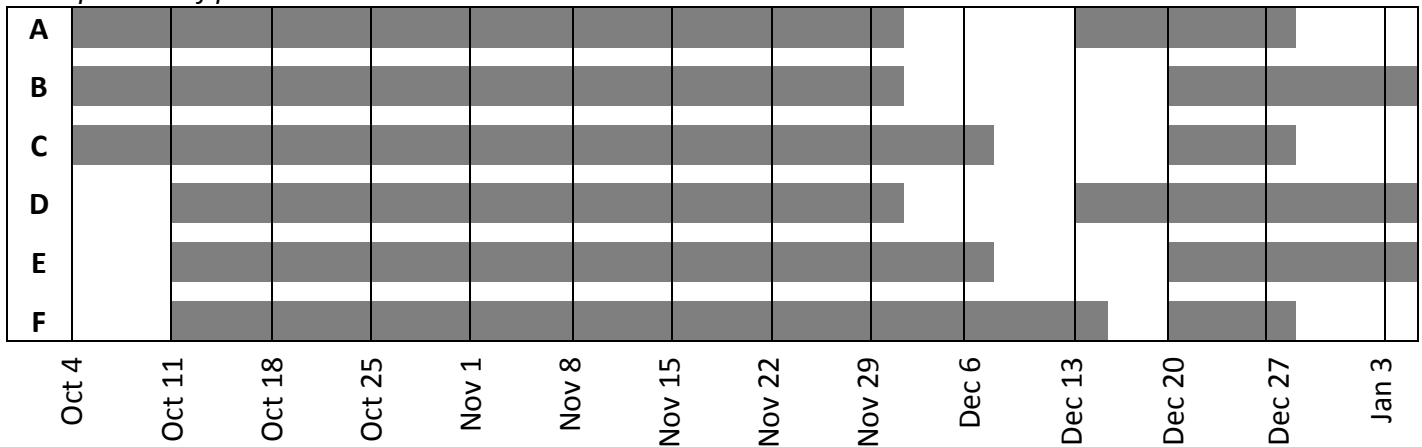
The **Low Plains Unit Early Zone** is designed to target early migrants that are attracted to the shallow wetlands like Jamestown Wildlife Area, McPherson Wetlands, Cheyenne Bottoms and the central playas that characterize this zone. The current federal framework allows for a 74-day season which may contain only one split. The season must take place between September 20, 2014 and January 25, 2015. Traditionally, the *Low Plains Unit Early Zone* has opened the first or second Saturday in October, run to early December, and had an 8 or 15 day second segment at the end of December / first week of January.



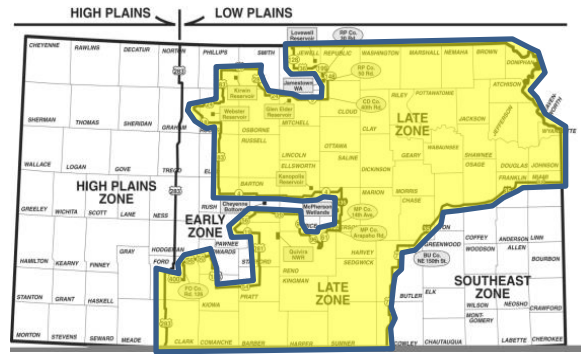
Question 6. For the following potential 2014-15 *Low Plains Unit Early Zone* season options, please circle your preference for **each option**.

Season Options		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
A	Oct 04-Nov 30 & Dec 13-Dec 28	1	2	3	4	5
B	Oct 04-Nov 30 & Dec 20-Jan 04	1	2	3	4	5
C	Oct 04-Dec 07 & Dec 20-Dec 28	1	2	3	4	5
D	Oct 11-Nov 30 & Dec 13-Jan 04	1	2	3	4	5
E	Oct 11-Dec 07 & Dec 20-Jan 04	1	2	3	4	5
F	Oct 11-Dec 14 & Dec 20-Dec 28	1	2	3	4	5

Comparison of possible season dates above



The **Low Plains Unit Late Zone** was separated from the early zone in 1997 to better align season dates with the migration patterns of waterfowl relative to its rivers and larger water bodies. The late zone covers more than 40% of the land area and contains more than 70% of Kansas resident hunters. Typically, the season is timed later than the Low Plains Unit Early Zone but earlier than the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone. The current federal framework

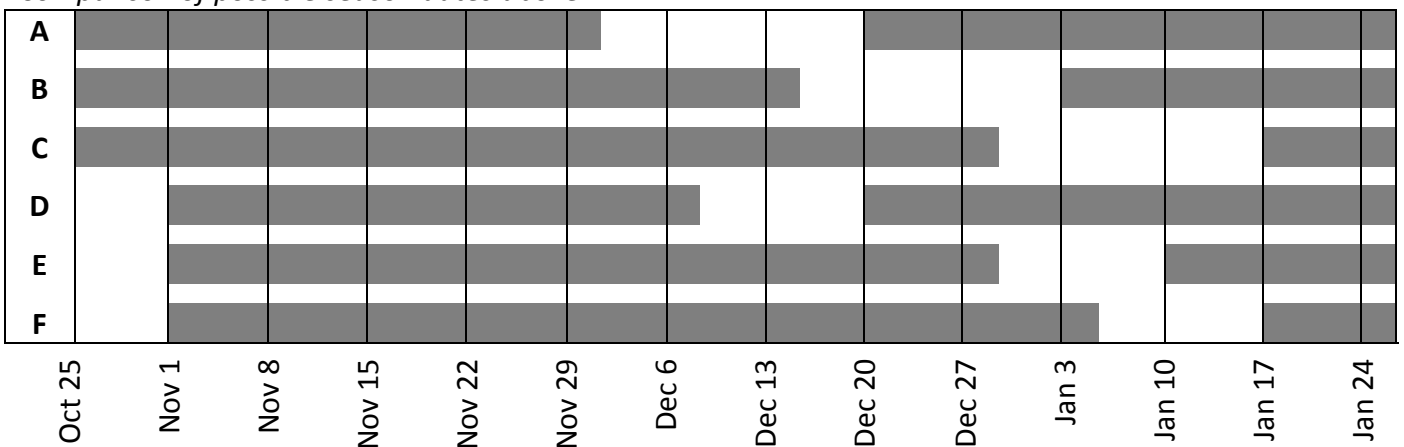


allows for a 74-day season which may contain only one split. The season must take place between September 20, 2014 and January 25, 2015. Traditionally, the **Low Plains Unit Late Zone** opened the last Saturday in October, continued until late December, and had a 15-day segment at the end of January.

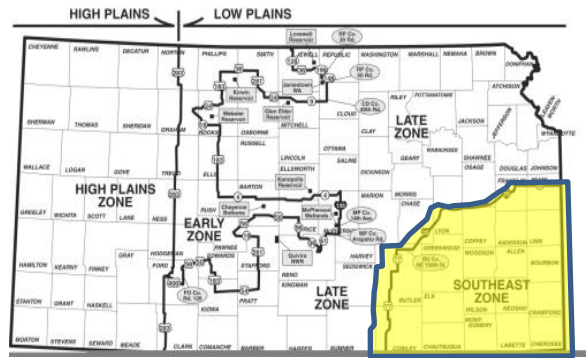
Question 7. For the following potential 2014-15 **Low Plains Unit Late Zone** season options, please circle your preference for **each option**.

Season Options		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
A	Oct 25-Nov 30 & Dec 20-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
B	Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 03-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
C	Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 17-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
D	Nov 01-Dec 07 & Dec 20-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
E	Nov 01-Dec 28 & Jan 10-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
F	Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 17-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5

Comparison of possible season dates above



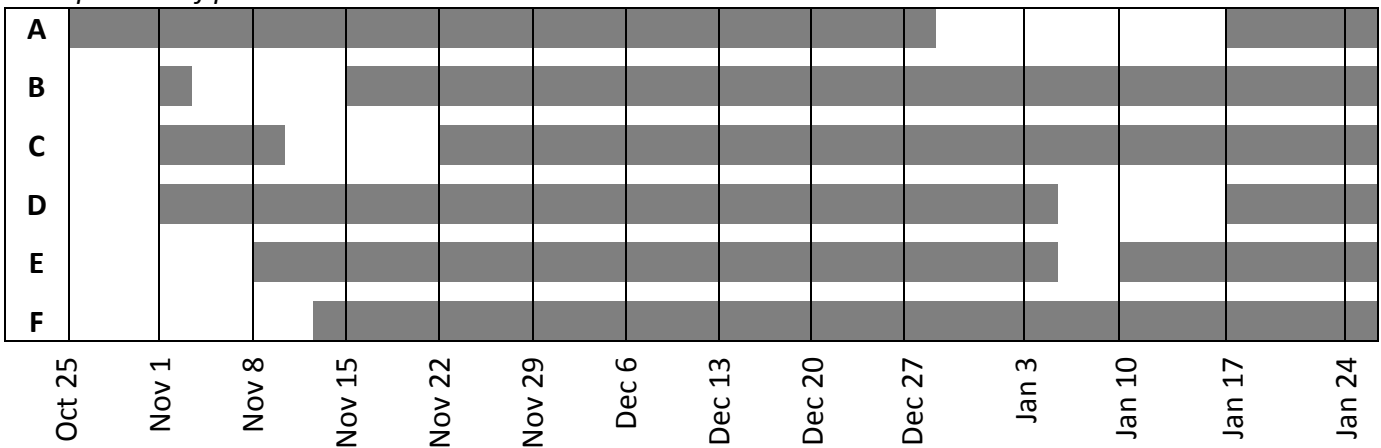
The **Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone** was created in 2011. It was separated from the late zone due to unique hunting opportunities, and to satisfy a segment of hunters in this portion of the state that prefer later season dates. Each of the past three seasons had slightly different season structures. In 2011, the season was a week later than the *Low Plains Unit Late Zone*. In 2012, the season was as late in the season framework as possible. In 2013, the season opened one week later than the *Low Plains Unit Late Zone* and was open for one weekend, closed for two weeks, then open as late as the framework allowed. The Federal framework allows for a 74-day season which may contain only one split. The season must take place between September 20, 2014 and January 25, 2015.



Question 8. For the following potential 2014-15 *Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone* season options, please circle your preference for **each option**.

Season Option		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
A	Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 17-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
B	Nov 01-Nov 02 & Nov 15-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
C	Nov 01-Nov 09 & Nov 22-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
D	Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 17-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
E	Nov 08-Jan 04 & Jan 10-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5
F	Nov 13-Jan 25	1	2	3	4	5

Comparison of possible season dates above

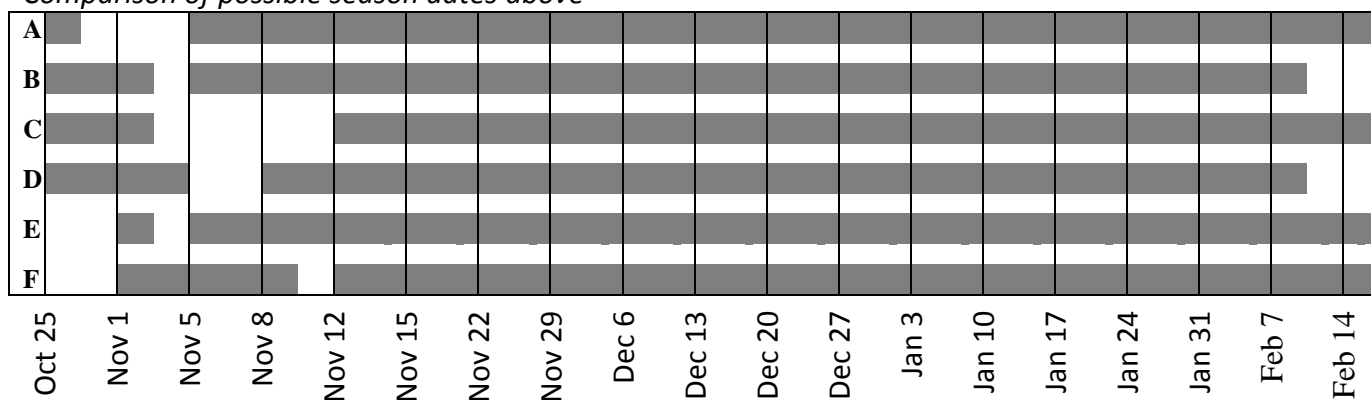


The federal framework for **Canada and Light geese** (Ross's and Snow) allows for a 107-day season, which is the maximum number of hunting days permitted by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. With two days used for the youth waterfowl season, 105 hunting days remain for the regular goose season in Kansas. There can be only one split in the season. The season can start no earlier than September 20, 2014 and end no later than February 15, 2015, for Canada geese and March 10th for Light geese. The Spring Light Goose Conservation Season cannot begin until the close of all other waterfowl seasons.

Question 9. For the following potential 2014-15 *Canada and Light* goose season options, please circle your preference for **each option**.

Season Options		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
A	Sat Oct 25-Sun Oct 26 & Wed Nov 05-Sun Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
B	Sat Oct 25-Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 05-Sun Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
C	Sat Oct 25-Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 12-Sun Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
D	Sat Oct 25-Wed Nov 05 & Sat Nov 08-Sun Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
E	Sat Nov 01-Sun Nov 02 & Wed Nov 05-Sun Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
F	Sat Nov 01-Sun Nov 09 & Wed Nov 12-Sun Feb 15	1	2	3	4 <td 5	

Comparison of possible season dates above



Question 10. Traditionally, the opening day of **Canada goose** and **Light goose** seasons has been coupled with the opening of the *Low Plains Unit Late Zone* duck season. *Do you prefer to have goose seasons open on the same day as the Low Plains Late Zone duck season? (Choose only one)*

- Yes, goose seasons should open the same day as *Low Plains Unit Late Zone* duck season.
- No, opening day of *Low Plains Unit Late Zone* duck season should not factor in deciding the opening day of goose season.
- No Preference

Question 11. In 2013, the federal framework raised the daily **Canada goose** bag limit from 3 geese per day to 8 geese per day. The current Canada goose daily bag limit in Kansas is 6 geese per day. *Please indicate your preference for the Canada goose daily bag limit. (Choose only one)*

- 3 geese
- 4 geese
- 5 geese
- 6 geese
- 7 geese
- 8 geese

The federal framework for **white-fronted geese** allows for a choice of a 74-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit, or an 88-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit. The season may have one split and must take place held between September 20, 2014, and February 15, 2015.

Question 12. Of the two possible season structures (74-day, 2 bird or 88-day, 1 bird), which do you prefer? *(Choose only one)*

- 74-day** season with a **2-bird** daily bag limit
- 88-day** season with a **1-bird** daily bag limit
- No Preference

Historically, Kansas has selected the 74-day **white-fronted goose** season that opened the same day as the Low Plains Unit Late Zone duck season and Canada/ Light goose season opening days. Traditionally, the white-fronted season has opened the last Saturday in October and continued until the end of December, then reopened for a 9-day segment in early February.

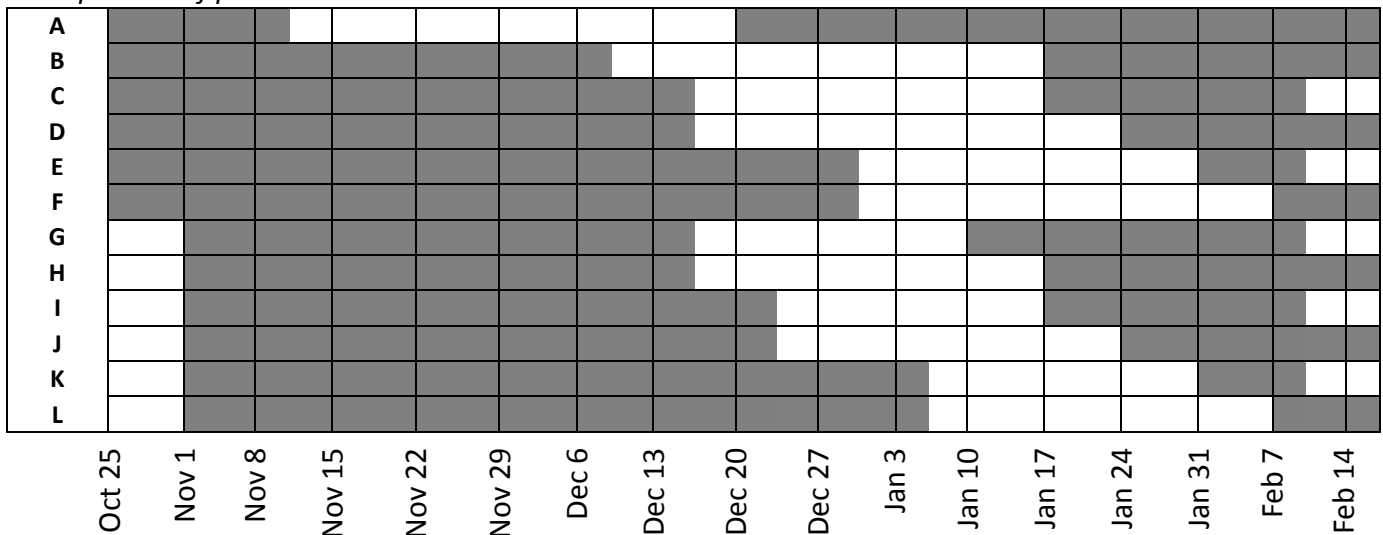
Question 13. If the **White-fronted goose** season continued to open the last Saturday of October, please circle your preference for each option.

Season Option		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
A	Oct 25-Nov 09 & Dec 20-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
B	Oct 25-Dec 07 & Jan 17-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
C	Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 17-Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
D	Oct 25-Dec 14 & Jan 24-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
E	Oct 25-Dec 28 & Jan 31-Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
F	Oct 25-Dec 28 & Feb 07-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5

Question 14. If the **White-fronted goose** season opened the first Saturday of November, please circle your preference for each option.

Season Option		Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
G	Nov 01-Dec 14 & Jan 10-Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
H	Nov 01-Dec 14 & Jan 17-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
I	Nov 01-Dec 21 & Jan 17-Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
J	Nov 01-Dec 21 & Jan 24-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5
K	Nov 01-Jan 04 & Jan 31-Feb 08	1	2	3	4	5
L	Nov 01-Jan 04 & Feb 07-Feb 15	1	2	3	4	5

Comparison of possible season dates above



In addition to their regular duck seasons, federal frameworks allow states to select two consecutive days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “**Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.**” Youth waterfowl hunting days take place: 1) outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate; and 2) up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season framework, within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Question 15. For the following potential *Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days* options, please circle your preference for **each option**.

Season Date	Least Preferred	Less Preferred	No Preference	More Preferred	Most Preferred
2 week prior to the open day of the duck season in each zone	1	2	3	4	5
1 week prior to the open day of the duck season in each zone	1	2	3	4	5
During a split of the duck season in each zone	1	2	3	4	5
1 week after the closing day of the duck season in each zone	1	2	3	4	5
2 week after the closing day of the duck season in each zone	1	2	3	4	5

Question 16. Did you take a youth (under 16 years of age) waterfowl hunting during the 2013-14 youth waterfowl season?

- No Yes

Question 17. Did you take a youth (under 16 years of age) waterfowl hunting during the 2013-14 regular duck and/or goose season?

- No Yes

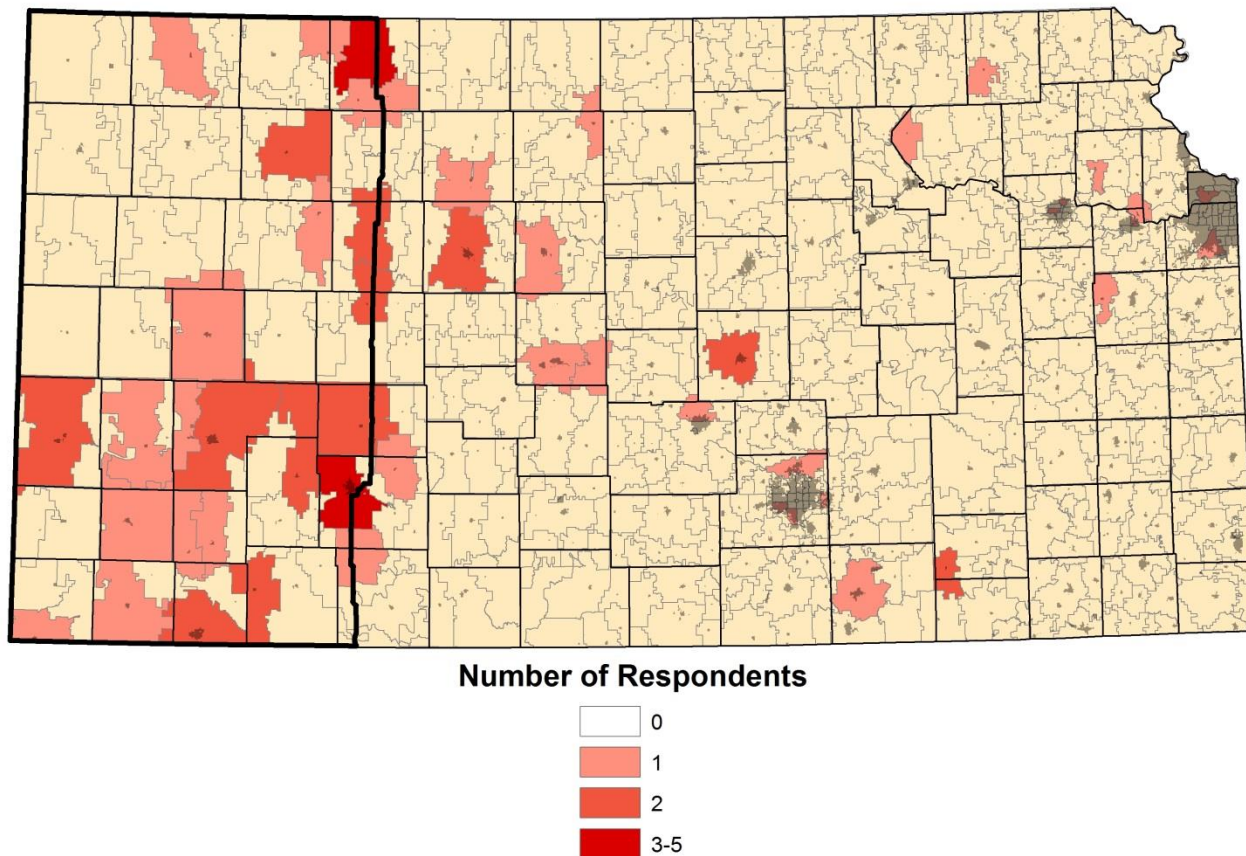
Question 18. Did you take an adult novice (over 16 years of age) waterfowl hunting during the 2013-14 regular duck and/or goose season?

- No Yes

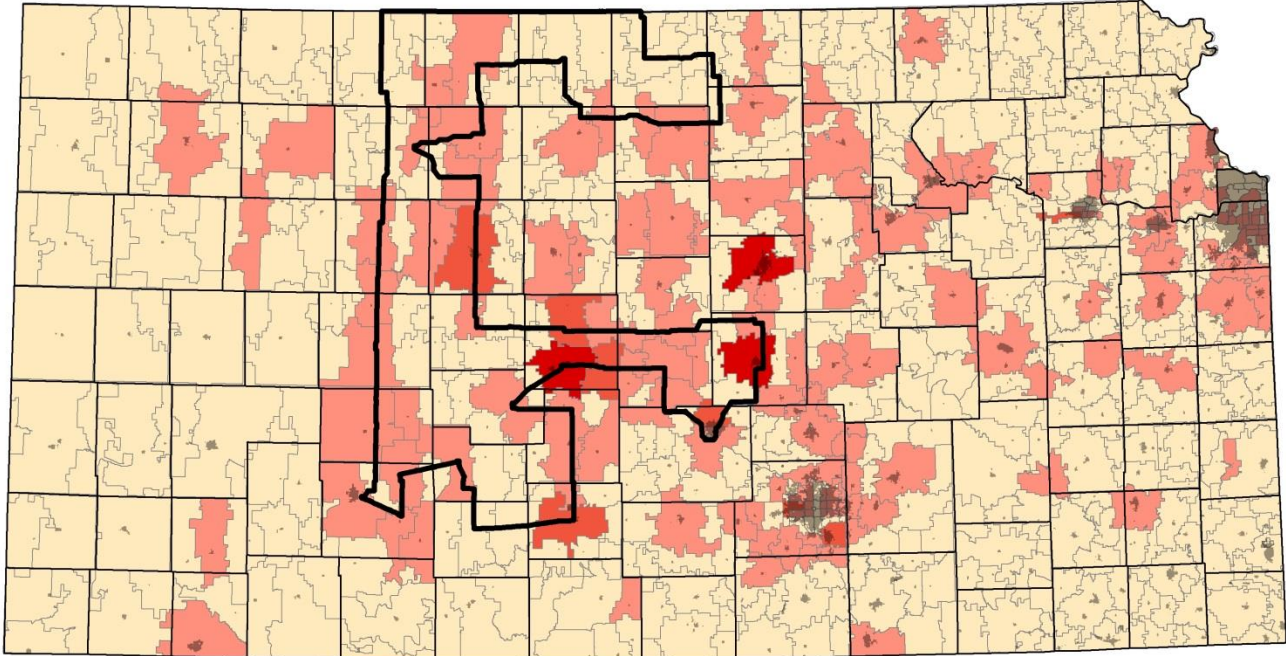
Thank you for your time and commitment to Kansas’ waterfowling heritage

APPENDIX D. Residency of respondents for each waterfowl zone in Kansas.

Distribution of High Plains Zone Hunters



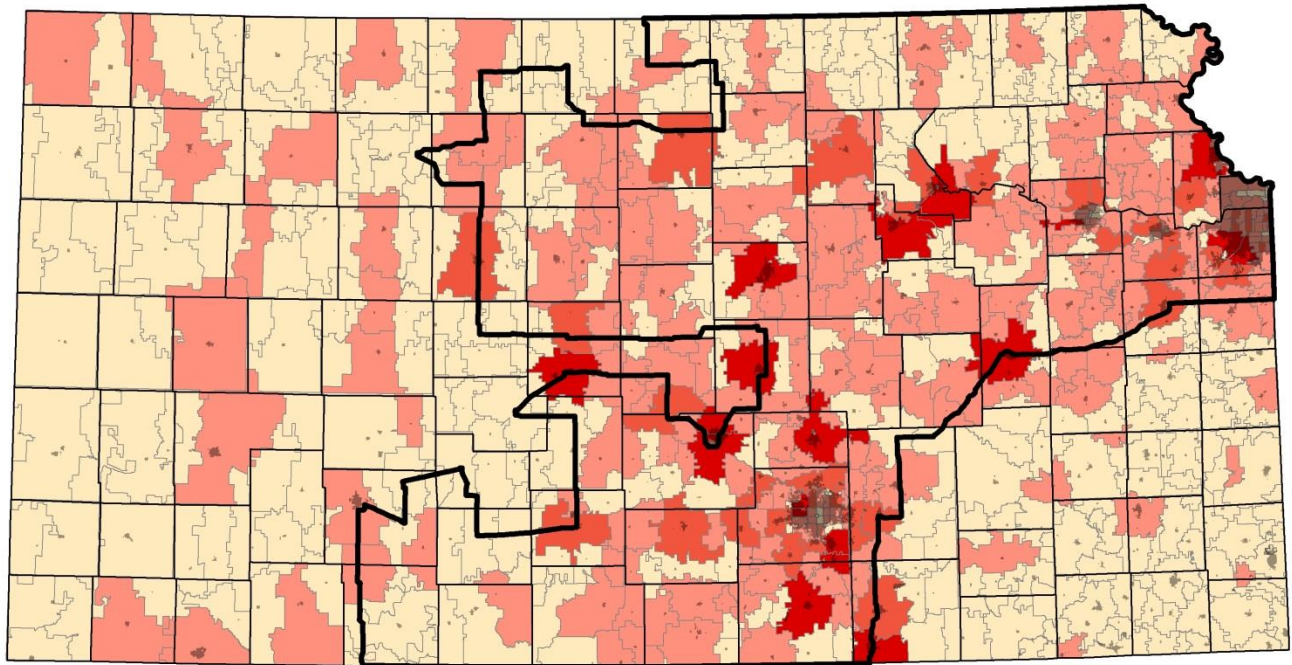
Distribution of Early Zone Hunters



Number of Respondents

- 0
- 1 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 or More

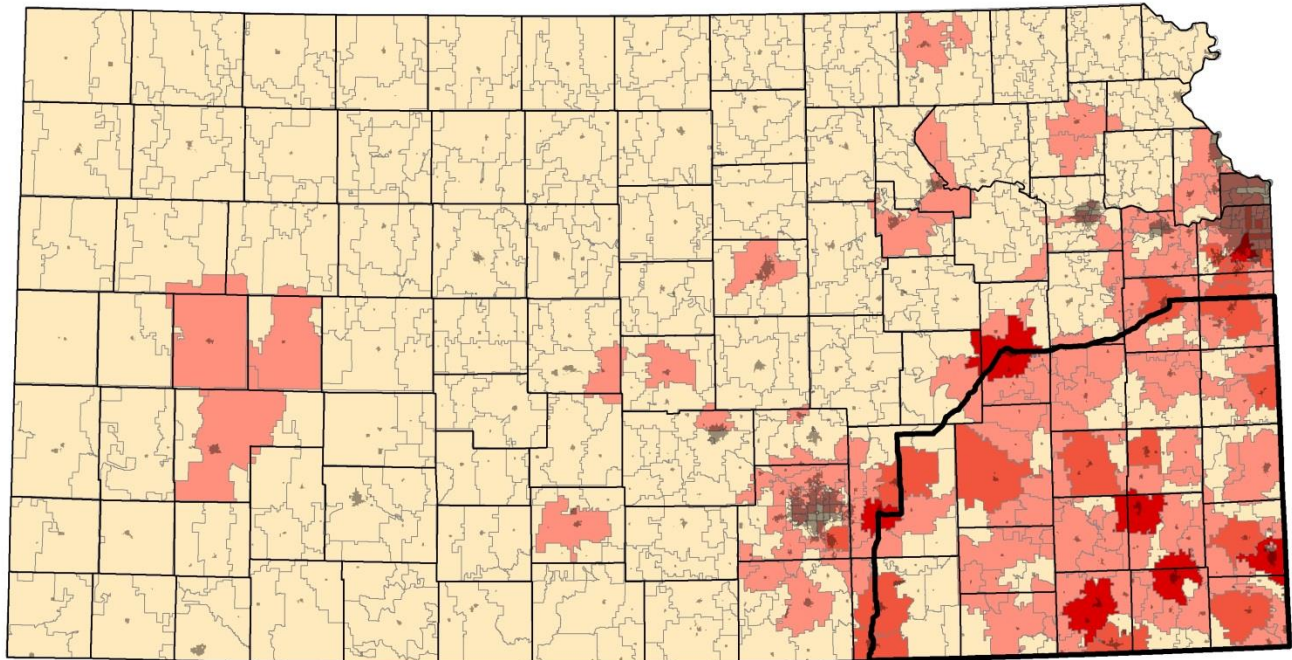
Distribution of Late Zone Hunters



Number of Respondents



Distribution of Southeast Zone Hunters



Number of Respondents

