

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey



WYOMING



93.5% of Hunters in Wyoming Share their Harvest!

Introduction/Methodology

Recreational hunting is an important source of food for many people in North America. Of course, wild meat is not only consumed by hunters — it is also shared with many other people. However, there has been little effort to characterize how much food is shared, and the number of people with whom food is shared.

As part of the Wild Harvest Initiative®, Conservation Visions and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department implemented a survey to assess wild meat consumption and sharing in Wyoming. The survey was administered to a random sample of 44,000 hunters that hunted in 2019 or 2020. We received 4877 responses to the survey and scaled the results to represent all hunters in Wyoming based on the total number of resident hunters that harvested pronghorn, deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and black bear.

Wild Meat Sharing: Social Aspects

Of the successful hunters in Wyoming...

93.5% shared wild meat with someone else

90.3% shared wild meat inside the household

68.9% shared wild meat outside the household

5.4% shared their entire harvest!

On average, hunters shared wild meat with...

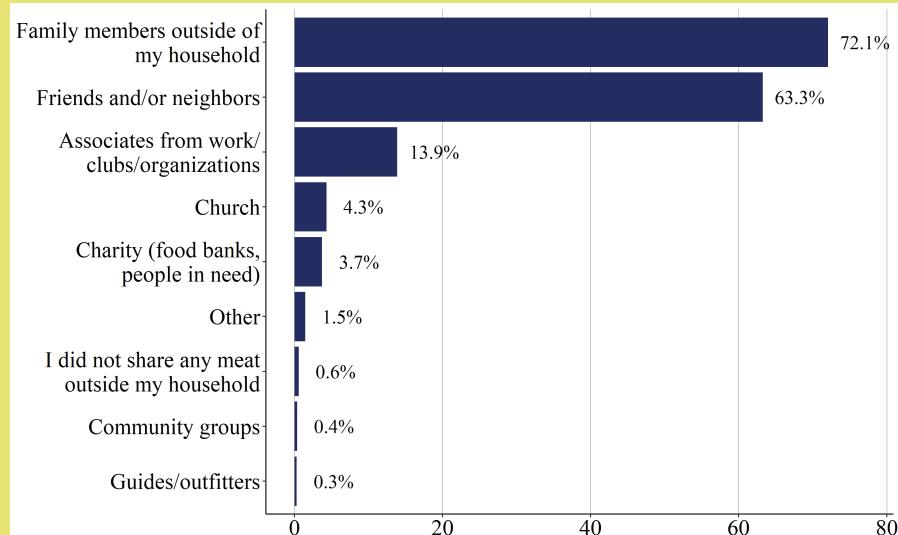
2.3 people inside the household



3.5 people outside the household

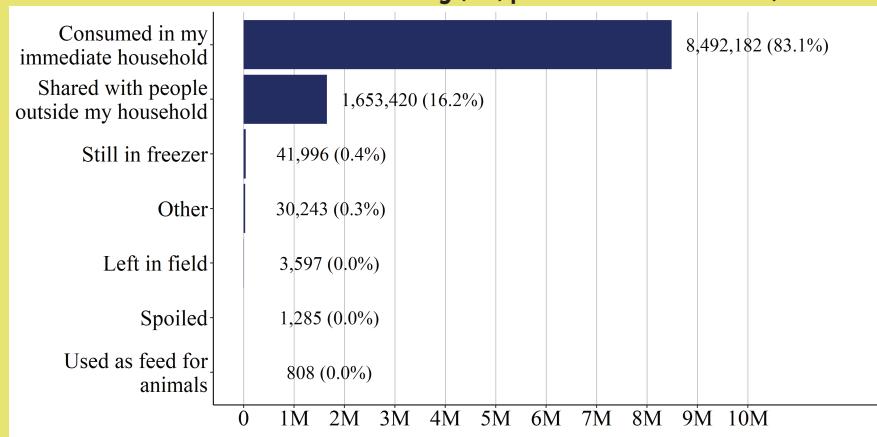


With whom hunters shared wild meat outside of the household (% of hunters)



How Much Wild Meat is Shared?

Meat derived from recreational hunting (lbs, percent of total harvest)



In the 2019–2020 hunting season...

Hunters in Wyoming shared wild meat with **109,000 people** inside of their households and **168,000 people** outside of their households.

In total, **16.2%** of all meat derived from hunting, **1.7 million pounds**, was shared outside of hunters' households.

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Hunter Profile: Wyoming

On average, each hunter in the 2019–2020 hunting season...

Spent just over **2 weeks** hunting

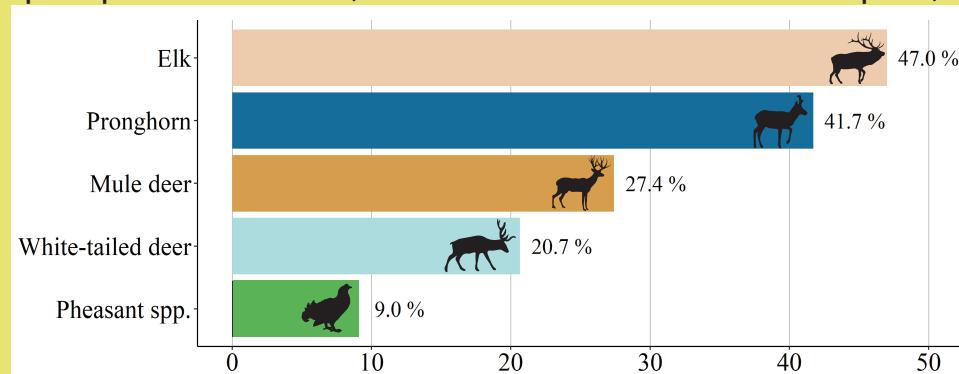
Harvested **3.2 animals**

Obtained **153.7 pounds** of wild meat

Consumed **10.8 meals** that include wild meat per month



Species preference of hunters (% of successful hunters that harvested each species)



Of the successful hunters in Wyoming...

93.7% harvested big game

24.7% harvested small game

47.7% harvested animals only on public land

17.2% harvested animals only on private land

Human Dimensions of Hunting In Wyoming

Of the hunters in Wyoming...

73.9% either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that **wild meat was a crucial part of their household food supply**

94.2% either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that **the freedom to harvest wild meat was very important for their quality of life**



Most common barrier to hunting: a **lack of free time** (reported by 38.5% of hunters)

Most common motivation for hunting: **outdoor recreation** (cited by 82.9% of hunters)

Hunters in rural communities and of lower socioeconomic status consumed wild meat more often and were more likely to report **wild meat is a crucial part of household food supply**.

Conclusion

These results indicate that hunters share a significant amount of the food generated through recreational hunting with many people, both inside and outside of their households. This demonstrates that recreational hunting is an important food provisioning strategy that extends well beyond those who participate.

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