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WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE[®]

QUARTERLY UPDATE

•
SEPTEMBER 2022



*We are Delighted to
Welcome **Wild Sheep
Foundation Midwest
Chapter** into the Wild
Harvest Initiative[®]
Partnership Alliance!*

In the 2019-2020 hunting season, hunters in Wyoming shared 1.7 million lbs of wild meat with 168,000 people outside of hunters' households!

WILD MEAT SHARING AND CONSUMPTION INDEX SURVEY: WYOMING

Introduction/Methodology

Recreational hunting is an important source of food for many people in North America, including those who do not hunt. The food generated through recreational hunting is not consumed solely by the hunter, but is shared with many other people, including extended family, friends, neighbors, and those who receive charitable donations. Unfortunately, there has been little effort to date to

quantify how much food is shared and the number of people who benefit from this unique sharing tradition. The Wild Harvest Initiative[®] is addressing this knowledge vacancy.

Conservation Visions, in partnership with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, has recently implemented the Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey in the state of Wyoming. This is our second such effort, with the first having occurred in Texas. Like the Texas survey, the Wyoming effort assessed wild-meat consumption and evaluated sharing tendencies of the

hunter population in Wyoming during the 2019–2020 hunting season.

We administered the Wyoming survey to a random sample of 44,000 hunters that either successfully drew, or purchased, a hunting license in 2019 or 2020. License holders of all types of hunting licenses (e.g., bird/small game license, elk license, turkey license, etc.) were included in the sample. We received 4,877 usable responses to the survey (effective response rate = 11.1%). Where appropriate, data were scaled based on the number of resident hunters that harvested pronghorn, white-

tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, bison, and black bear in the 2019–2020 season.

Results: Hunter Profile

Hunters in Wyoming demonstrate a preference for big game species. 93.7% of successful hunters harvested a big game species while only 24.7% harvested a small game species. The 5 most commonly harvested species for the 2019-2020 season include elk, pronghorn, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and pheasant.

The majority of survey respondents (47.7%) reported harvesting animals only on public land, while a significantly smaller percentage

(17.2%) harvested animals solely on private land. Notably, small game animals were more frequently harvested on private land than big game animals. Additionally, geese, sandhill crane, dove, wild turkey, and white-tailed deer were also more frequently harvested on Wyoming’s private lands.

Each hunter, on average, spent about 15 days hunting and harvested 3 animals. This resulted in hunters obtaining an average of about 154 lbs. of wild meat during the season through their own hunting activity. Survey respondents also reported eating approximately 11 meals each month that feature wild meat.

Results: Wild Meat Sharing

We found that 93.5% of survey respondents who harvested at least 1 animal shared their harvest with someone else. 90.3% shared wild meat with at least 2 people in their immediate households, while 68.9% shared this food with at least 3 people living outside their household who, themselves, may or may not hunt. 3.7% of hunters donated their wild meat to charity (Figure 1).

Final data analyses show that Wyoming’s hunters harvested more than 10 million pounds of wild meat (Figure 2) and shared this nutrient-dense food with a total of 277,000 citizens during the 2019-2020 hunting season.

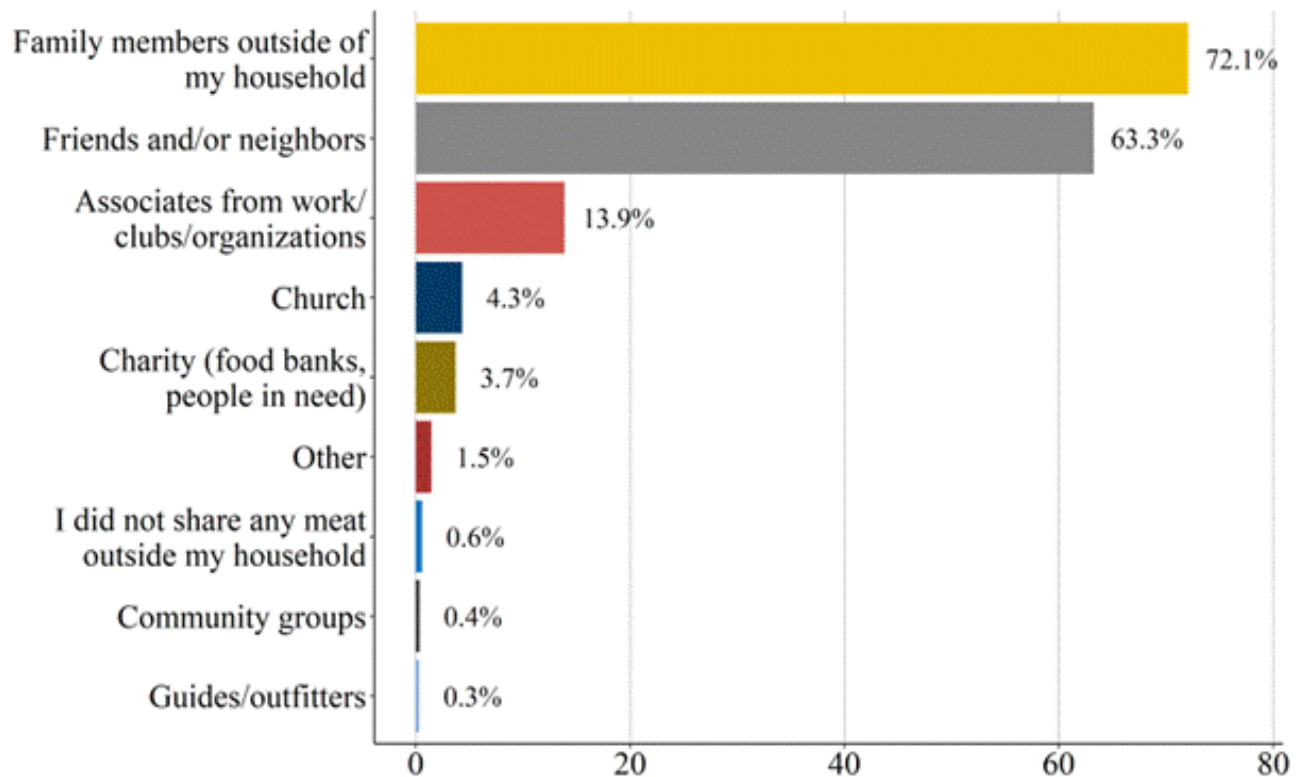


Figure 1. With whom hunters shared wild meat outside of their household. Bars denote the percentage of hunters that indicated they shared wild meat to the group.

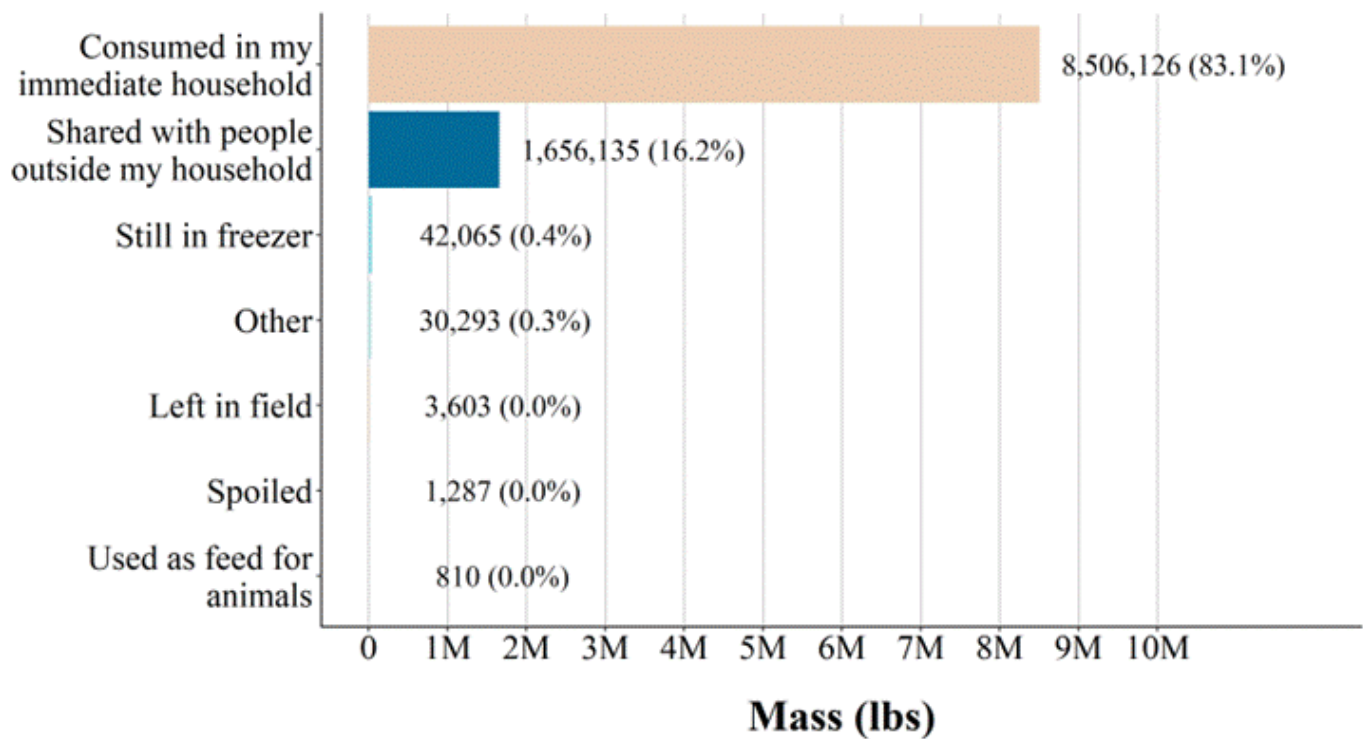


Figure 2. With whom hunters shared wild meat outside of their household. Bars denote the percentage of hunters that indicated they shared wild meat to the group.

Recreational hunting — a valuable source of food for those who need it

Hunting stands out from other recreational activities due to its unique ability to provide a vast amount of food. Our survey results are emphasizing the importance of hunting as a food-provisioning system, especially for hunters of lower socioeconomic status.

For example, in the case of Wyoming, survey respondents reporting annual household incomes of <\$100,000 were more likely to place a higher value on wild meat as an outcome of hunting than their counterparts reporting household incomes of >\$100,000. Respondents reporting an annual household income of <\$50,000 were significantly more likely to report “save money on food” as a motivation for their hunting.

Notably, respondents living in rural areas and small towns reported consuming up to twice as much wild meat per month than respondents living in cities.

Results: Human Dimensions

Hunting is very important to hunters in Wyoming and highly valued by the community. 73.9% of survey respondents agreed that wild meat is a crucial part of their household food supply, while 94.2% agreed that the freedom to harvest wild meat is very important to their quality of life.

Our survey shows the most common motivations for hunting in Wyoming to be outdoor recreation, and time with friends/family, which were cited by 82.9% and 72.9% of respondents, respectively. Many people, however, also cited conservation benefits (47.9%), a preference for wild meat due to its health benefits (69.3%) and a

preference for wild meat because of its ethical/humane properties (36.9%) as motivations for hunting. In contrast, no barriers to hunting were reported by the majority of respondents, suggesting that barriers to hunting are more variable than motivations. The most common barrier cited was a lack a free time (38.5%).

PROGRESS REPORTING

Recreational Fishing in Canada

A technical paper focusing on the food value of Canada's recreational fishery has been subjected to review by an external expert. During the last quarter, we made significant progress in revising the paper, including analyses of trends in catch and release frequency, catch per unit effort, angling time per angler, and more. In this report, we summarize new findings surrounding recreational fishing in Canada and draw important conclusions regarding the relevance of recreational fishing as a food provisioning system.

Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

Wild Harvest Data Collection

Our latest round of data collection, focused on the 2016-2019 period, is complete. Quality assurance testing, which requires engagement with each of the 63 state, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies in its initial stages, began during the last quarter. The process is complete for 35 jurisdictions.

Economic Valuation — Hunting

Research and consultations needed to derive domestic economic and environmental replacement costs are ongoing.

Database Updates

TriWare Technologies, an industry leading technology and business support provider based in St. John's, Newfoundland continued their work

during the last quarter to update the cloud-based Wild Harvest Initiative® Database. Now under review, this piece of work is scheduled for completion by the end of the next quarter. The update will enable data files to be uploaded directly into the database, which will significantly reduce the time needed to integrate new harvest data.

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

The Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey report is now complete for Wyoming. This represents an important accomplishment for the Wild Harvest Initiative®, as a critical step in documenting the wild-meat sharing phenomenon in North America and demonstrating the importance of recreational hunting as a food-provisioning system. Surveys in Nevada and Arizona are in the final stages. Analyses and reporting for these states will be completed during the next quarter. We have also begun analyses for the Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey in Alaska.

Next steps include comparative analysis (also encompassing the Texas survey results) to determine how wild-meat sharing compares among states. This information will be presented in a separate document that will include a review of relevant academic and grey literature.

We remain in discussions with other US States concerning subsequent surveys and also hope to launch a

Canadian survey in 2023.

Additionally, we continue to explore the possibility of expanding this program to administer surveys in other parts of the world, thus potentially documenting the true universality of the wild meat sharing phenomenon.

Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance

Exploring New Partnerships

We are excited to welcome the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) Midwest Chapter into the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance!

The WSF Midwest Chapter aims to promote and enhance increasing populations of indigenous wild sheep on the North American continent, to safeguard against the decline or extinction of such species, and to fund programs for professional management of these populations, keeping all administrative costs to a minimum.

We remain engaged in partnership discussions with several organizations, including state agencies, an alternative energy company, and a land trust.

Communications

Fact Sheets

We are currently in the process of reformatting all existing factsheets to put a greater emphasis on wild-animal harvesting as a food-provisioning strategy, and to highlight the

importance of hunting to food security.

Podcasts

Last quarter, Shane Mahoney was featured on WHI Partner Wild Sheep Foundation's Sheep Fever Podcast. The episode provided an opportunity for Shane to discuss the Wild Harvest Initiative®, focusing on how much wild meat is humanely and ethically harvested by sportsmen and women in the US and Canada each year, how many meals this represents, and how many people this feeds: https://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/podcasts?fbclid=IwAR0d5AxTEuXtkBKfASbBr8aVwaixSxj7b3M2wG5k0pSrL-8i2gX_Y2ZwFo

Shane was also recently featured on episode 148 of WHI Partner Dallas

Safari Club's Campfires with Larry Weishuhn Outdoors Podcast. Here, Shane discussed the Wild Harvest Initiative®, as well as the broad importance of hunting, wild meat, and wild-meat sharing. <https://traffic.megaphone.fm/WPCM8949957461.mp3?updated=1656095410>

Social Media

During the last quarter, we released two new installments in our Fireside Chats series. This series includes a collection of short videos of Shane Mahoney answering a variety of wide-ranging questions relating to hunting, sustainable use, conservation, animal welfare, and more: <https://www.facebook.com/ShaneMahoneyConservationVisions/videos/1184084942352431>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShaneMahoneyConservationVisions/videos/752773629102190>

Wild Harvest Relevant Conferences and Global Conservation Outreach

Shane Mahoney attended the Texas Wildlife Association's 37th Annual Conference, where he was the Speaker Spotlight at the 9th Annual Private Lands Summit: Today's Wild West of Ecosystem Services. During this presentation, Shane discussed the importance of hunting, wild meat, and the Wild Harvest Initiative®.



THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured is Richard A. "Dick" Corbett