

EST.  2015

WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE®

QUARTERLY UPDATE

•
DECEMBER 2022



*We are Delighted to
Welcome the San
Angelo Chapter of
Safari Club
International to the
WHI® Partnership
Alliance!*

In 2020-21, Nevada's Hunters shared 222,000 lbs of wild meat with 44,000 thousand people living outside their own households!

WILD MEAT SHARING AND CONSUMPTION INDEX SURVEY: NEVADA

Introduction/Methodology

Recreational hunting is an important source of food for many people in North America, including those that do not hunt. The food generated through recreational hunting is not consumed only by the hunter, or the hunter's family, but is shared with many other community members, including through charitable donations. Until now, however, there has been little effort to quantify how

much food is shared and how many people benefit.

Conservation Visions, in partnership with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, recently administered the Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey in the state of Nevada. This survey assessed wild-meat consumption and the sharing tendencies of Nevada's hunters, focusing on the 2020–21 hunting season.

We provided the survey questionnaire to a random sample of 16,000 hunters that obtained hunting licenses in 2019 or 2020. All types of

hunters (i.e., big game, small game, upland bird, and waterfowl hunters) were included.

The effective response rate was 14.8%, which is sufficient to ensure robust and reliable analyses. Where applicable, data were scaled so results are representative of Nevada's total hunter population.

Results: Hunter Profile

Most hunters in Nevada targeted big game species: 79.2% of successful hunters harvested a big game species, while only 39.6% harvested a small game species. The top 5 most

harvested species included mule deer (harvested by 48.1% of hunters), chukar, elk, pronghorn, and ducks.

Hunters primarily harvested animals on public land: 77.5% of hunters harvested animals only on public land, while 2.8% of hunters harvested animals only on private land. This is unsurprising, considering that Nevada boasts the largest percentage of federally administered public land in the United States, with public land accounting for 86% of Nevada’s land area. Small game hunters tended to harvest more animals on private land than big game hunters, although virtually all game (excepting geese) tended to be harvested mostly on public land.

Each hunter, on average, spent 13.2 days hunting. While afield, each hunter harvested, on average, 7.4 animals. This resulted in approximately 72.4 lbs. of wild meat per hunter, and each hunter consumed 6.1 meals that contain wild meat per month, on average.

Results: Wild-Meat Sharing

Of the hunters in Nevada that were successful in obtaining wild meat, 93.5% shared their harvest with someone else, 91.4% shared wild meat inside the household, and 74.5% shared wild meat outside of their household.

On average, each hunter shared their meat with 2.4 people inside of the

household and 3.7 people outside of the household. Scaling this data to represent all hunters in Nevada, we found that hunters, in 2020-21, shared their food with 28,000 people inside of their households and 44,000 people outside of their households.

Hunters shared approximately 222,000 lbs. of wild meat outside of their household (Figure 1)! Most hunters reported sharing their wild meat with family, friends, and neighbors; additionally, 0.5% of hunters donated their wild meat to charity (Figure 2).

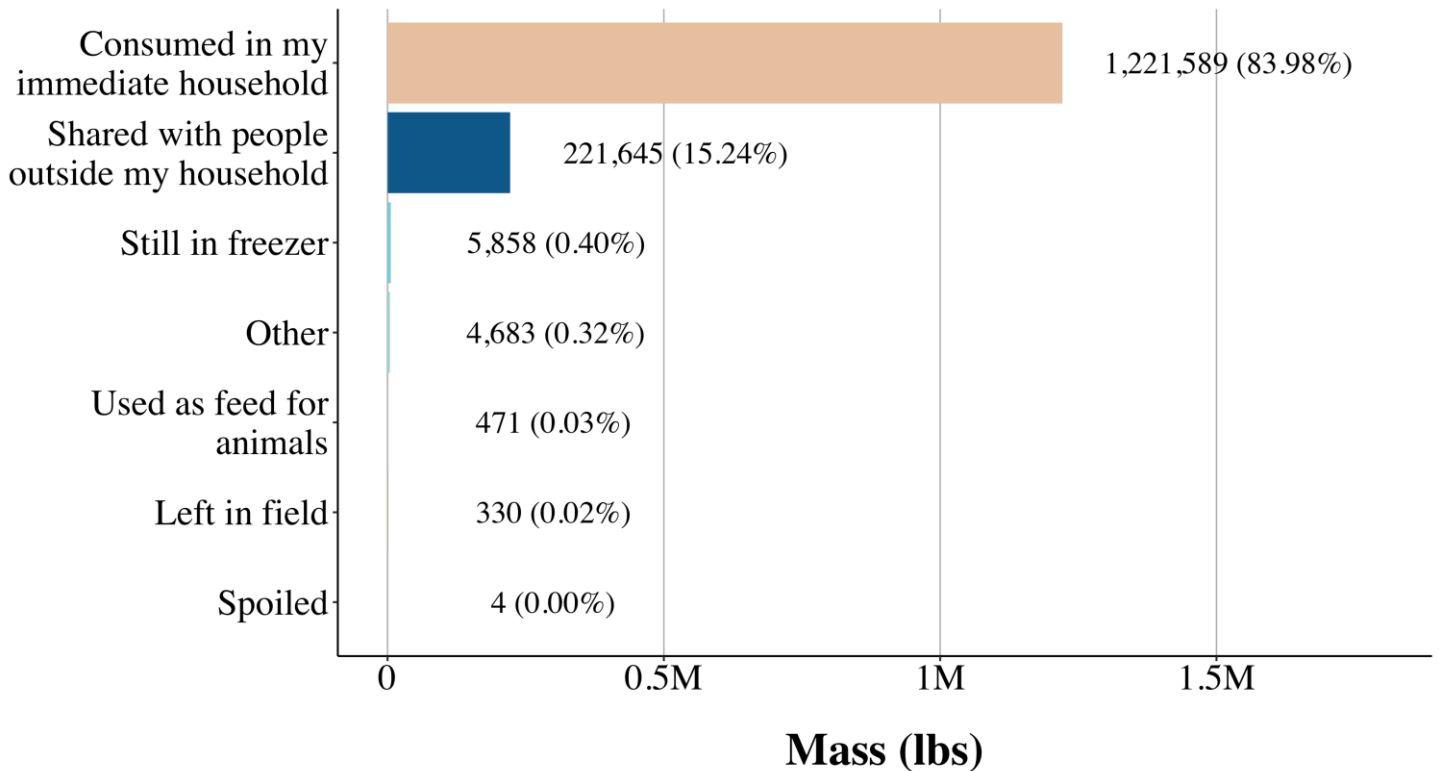


Figure 1. What was done with the wild meat obtained by Nevada’s hunters during the 2020-21 hunting season?

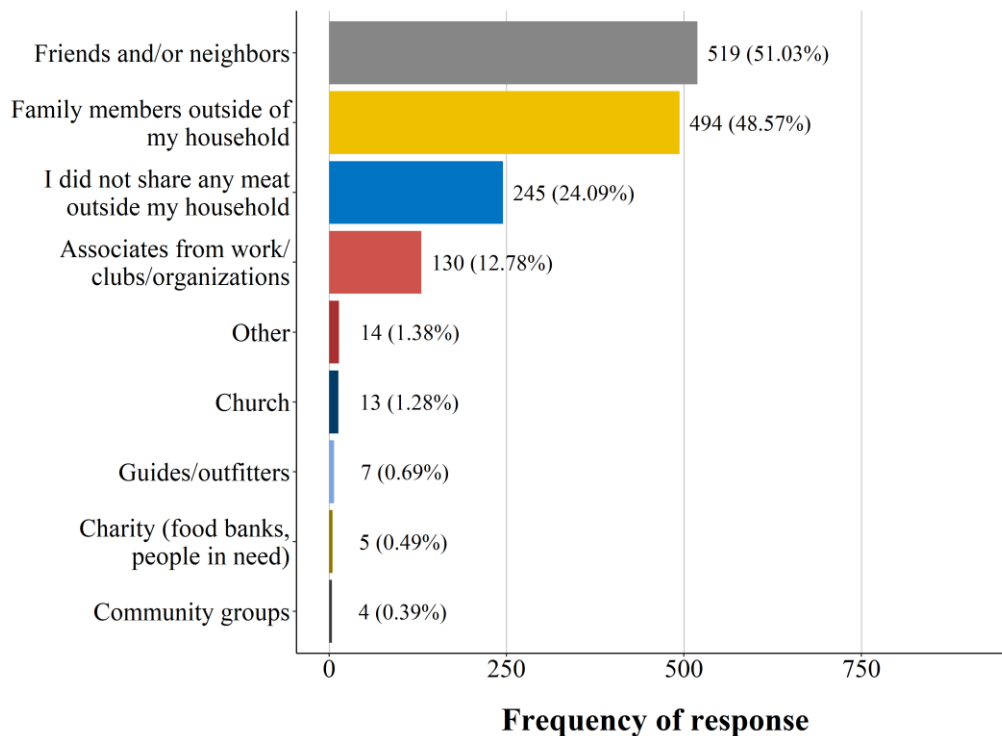


Figure 2. With whom did Nevada’s hunters share wild meat during the 2020-21 season?

Results: Human Dimensions

Hunting is very important to hunters in Nevada. 56.2% of hunters either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that wild meat was a crucial part of their household’s food supply. 91.0% either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that the freedom to harvest wild meat was very important to their quality of life.

The most common motivations for hunting in Nevada included outdoor recreation and spending time with friends/family, which were cited by 84.4% and 74.2% of hunters, respectively. Many people, however,

also cited conservation benefits (47.3% of hunters), a preference for wild meat due to its health benefits (62.3% of hunters), or a preference for wild meat because of its ethical/human properties (39.4% of hunters), as motivations for hunting.

In contrast, no barrier to hunting was reported by the majority of hunters. This suggests that barriers to hunting are more variable than motivations. The most common barrier cited was a lack a free time, which was reported by 33.7% of hunters.

PROGRESS REPORTING

Recreational Fishing in Canada

The second draft of a technical paper focusing on the food value of Canada’s recreational fishery is now complete. This draft incorporates feedback provided by an external review process. The revised draft also includes analyses of trends in catch and release frequency, catch per unit effort, and angling time per angler. The paper contains novel analyses and will offer important conclusions regarding the relevance of recreational fishing as a food provisioning system.

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

While most people are motivated to hunt for recreational purposes, hunting stands out from other recreational activities, due to its unique ability to provide a vast amount of food. Our results emphasizing the importance of hunting as a food-provisioning system, especially for hunters of lower socioeconomic status in Nevada.

For example, wild meat was more important to hunter households making <\$100,000 a year than hunter households making >\$200,000 a year; wild meat was more important to hunters without any post-secondary education than it was to hunters with a Master’s or PhD; lastly, hunters with an annual household income of <\$100,000 were more likely to report “save money on food” as a motivation for hunting than hunters with an annual household income of >\$200,000.

Wild Harvest Initiative® Database

Wild Harvest Data Collection

Our latest round of data collection, focused on the 2016-2019 period, is complete. In the last quarter, we sent Jurisdictional Harvest Verification Forms to all state, provincial and territorial wildlife agencies to ensure that the data we have collected are accurate and comprehensive. We have now received verification from 57 jurisdictions and are awaiting verification from 6. We are continuing to communicate and work with these remaining jurisdictions to complete the quality assurance process as quickly as possible. While we address these outstanding verification requests, we have also begun the process of data integration and upload into the cloud-based Wild Harvest Initiative Database.

Economic Valuation — Hunting

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

Database Updates

TriWare Technologies, an industry leading technology and business support provider based in St. John's, Newfoundland continued their work in the last quarter to update the cloud-based Wild Harvest Initiative® Database. This update will enable data files to be uploaded directly into the database, which will significantly reduce the time needed to integrate new harvest data into the database.

Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index

The Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey report is now complete for Nevada. 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. Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey Reports for both Arizona and Alaska will be released in early 2023.

Once analyses for Arizona and Alaska are complete, we will commence comparative analyses, which will also include Texas, to determine how wild-meat sharing compares among states and to derive general conclusions on wild-meat sharing in the United 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 aim to launch a Canadian survey in 2023.

Additionally, we continue to investigate 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 San Angelo Chapter of Safari Club International into the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance! The San Angelo Chapter of SCI is deeply committed to helping Safari Club International protect the freedom to hunt and promote wildlife conservation worldwide. It raises money not just to contribute to SCI, but also to help local organizations and fund community needs, benefiting wildlife and those that depend on wildlife resources for food and livelihoods.

Conservation Visions has joined the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) as a Contributing Member. AFWA, of course, serves as the collective voice of North America's fish and wildlife agencies. It represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies on Capitol Hill and before the Administration to promote favorable fish and wildlife conservation policy and funding; and advance sound, science-based management for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. As a contributing member, Conservation Visions will engage with AFWA, and utilize its voice to share the importance of wild-harvested food, and other Wild Harvest Initiative research outcomes, with decision-makers to positively influence conservation policy in North America.

Other partnership discussions, i.e., with state agencies, an alternative energy company, and a land trust, remain ongoing.

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 the importance of hunting to food security. These factsheets will also be updated to reflect the latest data collection of 2016-2019.

Press Releases

In the last quarter, we issued press releases to announce the results of the Wyoming Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey and the Nevada Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey:

<https://www.huntingwire.com/releases/5c90490a-bfba-4db5-b8c9-c979a5082175>

<https://www.wfla.com/business/press-releases/ein-presswire/606090231/wild-harvest-initiative-releases-results-of-nevada-wild-meat-sharing-survey/>

We also distributed press releases to announce our new partners, the Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Chapter and the San Angelo Chapter of Safari Club International:

https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/597755006/wild-sheep-foundation-midwest-chapter-partners-with-wild-harvest-initiative-to-evaluate-benefits-of-wild-harvested-food.

https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/597762945/san-angelo-chapter-of-safari-club-international-partners-

[with-wild-harvest-initiative-to-support-wildlife-conservation](#)

Podcasts

Last quarter, Shane Mahoney was featured on CBC, the Canadian public broadcasting service, discussing the importance of the sustainable harvest of seals, especially regarding the species' contribution to food security.

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-122-the-broadcast/clip/15948992-ways-feed-hungry-planet-conservationist-shane-mahoney-seals>

Shane also presented a virtual seminar at Texas A&M University, as part of its "Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management's Fall Seminar Series." The seminar focused on the Wild Harvest Initiative® and the relevance of wild and natural harvests in modern North America.

<https://calendar.tamu.edu/live/files/1153-rwfmfallseminarshanemahoneyoct13pdf>

Social Media

In the last quarter, we released a new installment 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. This latest installment discusses the 7 pillars of the North American Model of Conservation in North America, from the dire need for conservation reform in the 19th century, to the

establishment of one of the world's most effective conservation systems:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShaneMahoneyConservationVisions/videos/834802724195027>

Wild Harvest Relevant Conferences and Global Conservation Outreach

In September, Shane participated in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Annual Meeting, where he gave a presentation on the importance of implementing a One Health Approach in wildlife conservation, emphasizing the interlinkages between human, wild animal, and ecosystem health.

In November, Shane Mahoney participated, as part of the IUCN Delegation, in the Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as part of the IUCN Delegation.

He is currently participating (also, as part of the IUCN Delegation) in the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) 5th Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, which is focused on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and CoP15. During the CoP, he is responsible for the agenda items pertaining to the GBF and, more generally, to sustainable wildlife management.

THE WILD HARVEST INITIATIVE® PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE



Not pictured is Richard A. "Dick" Corbett