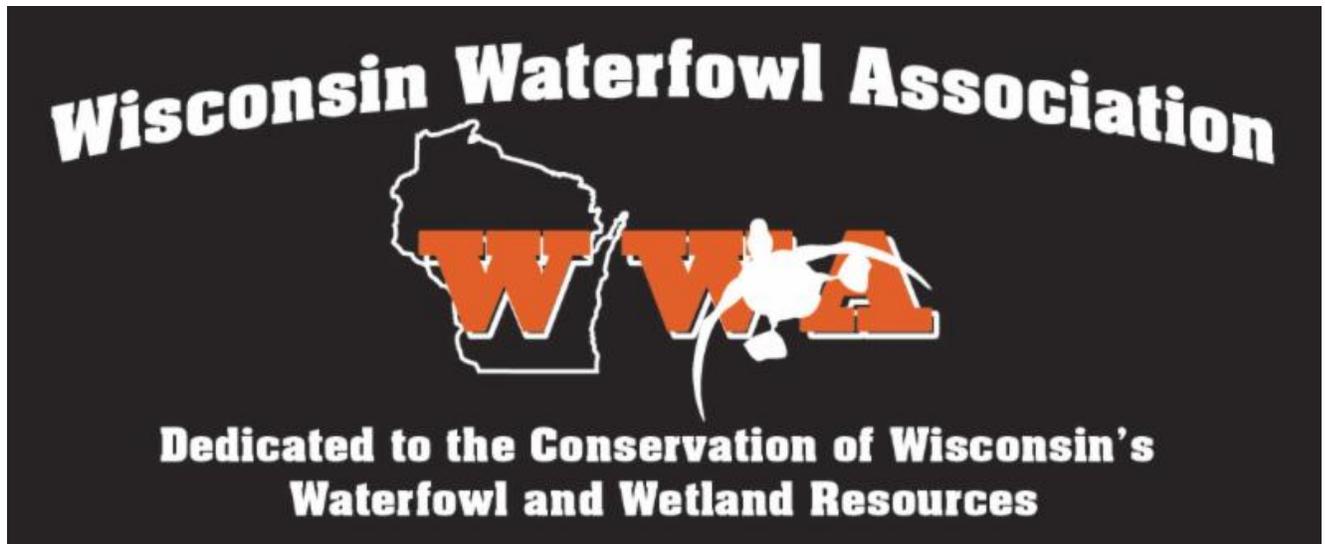


THIS IS A TEST VERSION OF THIS SURVEY
Responses will NOT be recorded.



2018 Survey of Wisconsin's Waterfowl Hunters

*Required Question(s)

With the 2017 seasons just behind us, its time to prepare for 2018 and beyond. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association works on behalf of its members, and all waterfowl hunters, here in the state. Our last survey was completed in 2011, and the near-term future has several new opportunities, which will require decisions and direction. The responses received from your participation will help determine the positions that WWA advocates on behalf of our members, and will be shared with regulatory agencies, as opportunities arise. In each section with specific questions, there may be some supporting information, to assist you in understanding the topic in question. Thank you for taking a moment to share your opinions. This survey should be able to be completed, within ten minutes, for most folks.

Please note: The survey questions were developed based upon currently relevant issues, which are being discussed by waterfowlers, as well as potential future opportunities, that are known to WWA staff & volunteers. The questions attempt to discern the opinions of the people who answer, but due to its means of distribution, it would not be considered a "scientifically valid" survey, statistically speaking. The broader the response, the more valid the answers will be. Tell your friends, your hunting partners, and others you know, who are interested in waterfowl issues in Wisconsin, to take a few minutes, and participate. **Thank you!**

Don Kirby - Executive Director - WWA

This first section helps us understand your connections to waterfowl conservation in Wisconsin.

Note: we welcome input from WWA members AND those who are not members, we are seeking to know "who's who", as we sort through responses.

***1. Please indicate, by checking the box, if you are a current member of these organizations:**

Note: placing a check in the box means yes - current member

- WI Waterfowl Association
- Ducks Unlimited
- Delta Waterfowl
- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Other

Comment:

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The next section asks about your duck and goose hunting experiences in Wisconsin:

***2. In which of the past five years did you hunt ducks in Wisconsin?
(Check all that apply)**

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015

- 2014
- 2013
- I did not hunt ducks in Wisconsin during the past five years

Comment:

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- *3. In which of the past five years did you hunt geese in Wisconsin?
(Check all that apply)**

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013
- I did not hunt geese in Wisconsin during the past five years

Comment:

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- 4. Please indicate the top THREE Wisconsin COUNTIES where you have spent the most days duck hunting during the past THREE years.**

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5. **Please indicate the top THREE Wisconsin COUNTIES where you have spent the most days goose hunting during the past THREE years.**

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The next series of questions relate to Wisconsin's duck hunting zones. These are subject to federal frameworks, and are set for five year periods. They were last changed for the 2011 season, and were reaffirmed, without changes, for 2017, a year delayed, due to the changes in the federal season-setting structure timeline. The next potential opportunity for change is 2021. Please carefully read the information on this page.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service allowed Wisconsin to increase the number of duck hunting zones, in 2011. The state could choose to have a maximum of 3 zones, with the opportunity to split each zone, or a maximum of 4 zones, with no opportunity to split the seasons. Following a lengthy feedback period, the state was broken into 3 zones - North, South, and Mississippi River, each with the opportunity for a split.

Note: split seasons are an important management tool, particularly when Federal season structures dictate a season which would be only 45 days, or even 30 days in length. Although this hasn't occurred since the early 1990's, that does not mean it could not happen again.

The current zone structure has been in effect for seven seasons, please share your experiences:

- *6. Please indicate in which zones you have hunted ducks, over the last three seasons:**

- North duck zone
- South duck zone
- Mississippi River duck zone

Did not hunt in Wisconsin the last three seasons

Comment:

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7. Please rank which zone you spent the most days hunting; 1 = most time, 3 = least time:

(1 = Most time)

North duck zone

South duck zone

Mississippi River zone

Comment:

▲

▼

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***8. Based on your experience over the last three seasons, are you happy with the current duck hunting zone structure in Wisconsin?**

Yes, I am satisfied with the current zone structure

No, I am not satisfied with the current zone structure, and desire change in 2021

Other

Comment:

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Possible season dates for 2018:

The exact duck hunting season dates and options for split seasons (closures) will be

decided later, but in a review of the calendar, one can begin to make some assumptions, based on past patterns. To aid your input on the configuration of duck seasons we construct the season dates for the three zones, based under a 60-day season format, as has already been approved for 2018's liberal season structure.

Note: As the seasons may begin no sooner than the Saturday nearest the 25th of September, in accordance with Federal rule, this year's earliest day will be September 22nd.

A topic discussed among hunters lately is the idea of "one state-wide opening day". Proponents of such a plan say this would minimize "zone hopping", and therefore reduce some crowding issues. Those opposed to such a plan might want a zone to open later than the others, or might enjoy participating in multiple "opening days". Please share your input:

***9. Should all 3 duck hunting zones open on the same day, for 2018?**

- Yes, open all 3 duck hunting zones on 9-22-18 for the coming season, using splits (closed season periods) to extend the season in some zones.
- Yes, open all 3 duck hunting zones on 9-29-18 for the coming season, using splits (closed season periods) to extend the season in some zones.
- Yes, open all 3 duck hunting zones on 10-6-18, the first Saturday in October, using splits (closed season periods) to extend the season for some zones.
- No, I don't want all 3 duck hunting zones to open on the same day in 2018.

Comment:

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***10. Based upon recent season structures, the **NORTH DUCK ZONE** would likely open Saturday September 22nd, and run for 60 days. In 2012 a short (5 day) split occurred in early November, to push back the last day of the season. No split has occurred in the north zone, since. **Please share your opinions on how the 2018 North Zone duck season should be structured.** (1 = most favored option, 7 = least favored)**

(1 = Most favored)

- Season opens on 9/22/18, and runs uninterrupted, through 11/21/18 (earliest possible open)
- Season opens on 9/29/18, and runs uninterrupted, through 11/28/18 (mid-open, no split)
- Season opens on 9/22/18, closes 11/17, reopens 11/22, and closes 11/26/18 (deer season split)
- Season opens on 9/22/18, closes 9/25, reopens 9/29, and closes 11/25/18 (early split)
- Season opens on 9/29/18, closes 11/17, reopens 11/22, and closes 12/3/18 (mid-open, deer split)
- Season opens on 10/6/18, and runs uninterrupted, through 12/4/18 (later opening)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/22/18, closes 9/25, re-opens 10/6, and closes 12/2 (earliest open, early split)

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- * 11. Based upon recent season structures, the **MISSISSIPPI RIVER DUCK ZONE** would likely open either in late September, or early October, and have a 7 day split sometime in October, with the season ending in the first week of December. Options for the length of a split in the River Zone or an opening date the Saturday nearest September 25 are likely to be discussed annually by duck hunters. **Please share your opinions on how the 2018 Mississippi River Zone duck season should be structured.** (1 = most favored option, 6 = least favored)

(1 = Most favored)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/22/18, closes 9/25, re-opens 10/6, and closes 12/2 (earliest open, early split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/29/18, closes 10/2, re-opens 10/13, and closes 12/9 (mid-open, Oct split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/29/18, closes 10/2, re-opens 10/6, and closes 12/2 (mid-open, mini split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 10/6/18, closes 10/9, re-opens 10/13, and closes 12/8 (later open, Oct split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 10/6/18, and runs uninterrupted, through 12/4 (later open, no split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 10/6/18, closes 11/17, re-opens 11/22, and closes 12/10 (later open, deer split)

Comment:

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- * 12. Based upon recent season structures, the **SOUTH DUCK ZONE** would likely open either Saturday the 29th of September, or Saturday the 6th of October, and have a short (5 day) split sometime in October, with the season ending in the first week of December. Options for the length of a split in the South Zone or an opening date the Saturday nearest September 25 are likely to be discussed annually by duck hunters. **Please share your opinions on how the 2018 South Zone duck season should be structured.** (1 = most favored option, 6 = least favored)

(1 = Most favored)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/22/18, closes 9/25, re-opens 10/6, and closes 12/2 (early open, early split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/29/18, closes 10/2, re-opens 10/6, and closes 12/2 (mid open, mini split)

-- ▼ Season opens on 9/29/18, closes 10/2, re-opens 10/13, and closes 12/9 (mid open, Oct split)

- ▼ Season opens on 10/6/18, closes 10/8, re-opens 10/13, and closes 12/10 (later open, mini split)
- ▼ Season opens on 10/6/18, and runs uninterrupted, through 12/4 (later open, no split)
- ▼ Season opens on 10/6/18, closes 11/17, re-opens 11/22, and closes 12/10 (later open, deer split)

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"Early Teal" Season:

Wisconsin, along with Iowa and Michigan, has had four years of experience (2014-2017) with an experimental season for shooting bluewing & greenwing teal, in early September, based upon USFWS standards. Following the end of the evaluation (2014-2016), Wisconsin and the partner states were granted "operational status", meaning that each year, we will now have the option to consider having a teal-only season, in September, ahead of our regular duck seasons. Please consider this as you answer the following questions:

* 13. Would you like to have an "early teal" season for 2018 in Wisconsin?

- Yes, I would like to continue to have a 7 day "early teal" season
- Yes, I would like to have a 16 day "early teal season, the maximum opportunity allowed
- No, I do not want Wisconsin to offer an "early teal" season during 2018

Comment:

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* 14. If Wisconsin has an "early teal" season in 2018, when would you want it to begin?

- September 1st - the earliest day it could begin, under USFWS rules...
- Starting the day after Labor Day - to stay off the holiday weekend...
- Starting as late in September as possible - based upon season length - to stay ahead of the regular opening day...

* 15. If an "early teal" season opportunity is offered in 2018, this might allow for the regular duck season openers to move back in the calendar, to later dates, offering a broader spread of hunting opportunity, from early seasons to later seasons. This could also potentially allow for an alignment of the opening days for the three hunting zones to "one state-wide opener". Please indicate if these ideas have appeal to you: (please indicate a "yes" or "no" for both concepts...)

- Yes, if we have an "early teal" season, I would like regular duck openers to move back in the calendar...
- No, I don't want regular duck openers to move back in the calendar, even with an "early teal" season
- Yes, I would like the duck zones to feature "one opening day", across all zones...
- No, I do not wish to have the duck zones features "one opening day", across all zones...

Comment:

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- * 16. **The "early teal" season structure has different hunting/shooting hours prescribed by the USFWS, to ensure good light for identification of your quarry. During the experimental period, the "opening day" shooting hours began at 9am, to align with regular season rules in place at that time. It is expected that will not carry forward, in any future season structure, if one is selected by hunters. Within the structure allowed by USFWS, what hunting/shooting hours would you like to have in place for an "early teal" season in 2018:**

- Opening at SUNRISE and closing at SUNSET (earliest & latest allowed times)
- Opening at SUNRISE and closing at 7:00 pm (the rule in place the past 4 "early teal" seasons, except opening days)
- Opening at SUNRISE and closing at 4:00 pm (allowing roosting activity)
- Opening at SUNRISE and closing at NOON (allowing more loafing/roosting activity)
- Other

Comment:

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Sandhill Crane Hunting Season:

There has been much discussion of having a Sandhill Crane hunt in Wisconsin, over the past several years. Sometimes referred to as "Ribeye in the Sky", by western hunters, this challenging game bird can provide a delicious feast for successful pursuants. This past spring, the concept was approved by voters for a 3rd time, with 52 of our 72 counties affirming a desire for a season. Any hunting season in Wisconsin must first start in the legislature. The last time a bill was introduced to begin a Sandhill Crane hunting season was 2012, which was subsequently withdrawn, due in part to distractions related to wolf population control debates at that time. The population of Sandhill Cranes which migrate through Wisconsin are hunted safely & successfully in several other states, and as stated by our current & former WDNR migratory bird ecologists, there is no biological reason why a hunt could not occur. See the management plan, [here](#). We would like to know your thoughts on this topic:

*** 17. Would you like the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, and other conservation groups, to work in earnest, to secure legislative support for, and introduction of, a bill authorizing the establishment of a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Wisconsin, within the framework detailed in the [plan](#), and in compliance with all related USFWS regulations?**

- Yes, I would like to see a Sandhill Crane hunting season, and will support these efforts...
- No, I do not want to see a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Wisconsin...
- Other

Comment:

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Finish