Key findings of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Open Fields and Waters use and satisfaction survey.

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Open Fields and Waters
Sampling

- 62,190 permit holders were sent a survey
- 59,690 had valid email addresses
- 2,500 were sent postcards
- April 4, 2013 advance notification emails and postcards were sent
- Survey sent April 29, 2013

Methods

- 40 question web survey consisting of 10 steps
- Covering satisfaction, use, economic and motivation questions.
- The final step included asking participants to register for a drawing for a $100 sporting goods store gift card
Methods – Interactive Map

- **49 Map regions**
- **732 map sections (12 x 17 miles)**
Results
Demographics

- 8,181 hunters participated
- 14% response rate
- 57% were resident hunters, 43% non-resident
- 97% male
- 75% 40 years old or older
- 80% married
- 30% had children under 18 at home
Respondents who hunted on OFW private land in 2012.

- Yes: 25%
- No: 62%
- Not sure: 13%

n= 8181.
Key Findings
## Resident and Non-Resident Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Reasons (top 3)</th>
<th>Non-Resident Reasons (top 3)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Close proximity to home</td>
<td>• Good hunting on these lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Good hunting on these lands</td>
<td>• Do not have access to private lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Do not have access to private lands</td>
<td>• Just happened to come across the land</td>
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## Resident and Non-Resident Differences

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- **Resident Group**
  - Deer
  - Pheasant
  - Quail

- **Non-Resident Group**
  - Pheasant
  - Deer
  - Quail
Overall Findings

• 28% of hunters using OFW sites were hunting with youth
• 17% were hunting with a new adult hunter
• 52% agreed that they increased their days hunting due to OFW lands
• 79% would still hunt if OFW land was not available
Respondents’ satisfaction with their experience on OFW private lands

¹Response on a 7-point Likert scale was collapsed into 3-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = ‘not satisfied’ to 3 = ‘satisfied.’
Regional Findings
North Panhandle OFW Region
South Panhandle OFW Region
Predicted and Actual Visits - Residents

Predicted based on 2012 hunting license data.

Actual visits per county based on the 2013 survey respondents.
Predicted and Actual Visits - Non-Residents

Predicted based on 2012 hunting license data.

Actual visits per county based on the 2013 survey respondents.
Conclusions

- Overall not too different from predictions
- Most of the Resident use is in the East, Non-resident use in the Southwest/southern panhandle
- Many significant differences between how, where, and why residents and non-residents are using the sites
- Sites are being used for recruitment of youth and beginning hunters (by residents)
- OFW sites are important, but only a piece of the hunting access puzzle
Management Implications

- Continue to enroll as much land as possible in the East and Southwest/Southern Panhandle
- Continue to encourage enrollment of high quality properties
- Provide technical and financial assistance if needed on habitat management of properties
More Research Needed

- Need to know more about actual site use. What are they hunting? How are they using the individual sites and site groups?
- What attributes about the site are the most important to the hunter, and how do those attributes relate to each other?
- Are we providing what the hunters really need/want?
Thank You