

WBH Archery Hunting Questionnaire 2009

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Abstract

The average Wisconsin Bowhunters Association member/bowhunter is male, 54 years old, has 26.3 years of archery hunting experience, Bowhunted 19 days in 2009, hunts private land and uses a compound bow, camouflage, a tree stand, bow sights, Mechanical release, and a grunt call and has concerns over declining deer numbers.

Methods

Six Thousand, five hundred questionnaires were mailed to WBH members in February, after the close of all archery seasons. WBH members were asked specific questions about their bowhunting season and asked to mail the questionnaire back. WBH did not provide the return postage or the envelope. **No** reminders to complete the survey were sent. Questionnaires were sent on colored paper with a unique mark allowing WBH to know if the questionnaire was copied and distributed to non-WBH members. Only original surveys, sent by WBH were returned to the WBH office.

Results

Responses were received from 1,910 WBH members. No duplicate or photocopied responses were returned. The 1,910 responses were used in summarizing this survey. The response rate was 29.4%. 77 of the respondents did not bow hunt in 2009 meaning 96% bow hunted.

The most common types of licenses purchased were archery (32.6%) and gun deer (23.2%). The mean age of WBH members is 53.8 years. There were more respondents over the age of 66 than all the respondents between the ages of 12 to 30 combined. Respondents have 26.3 years of archery hunting experience, and are predominantly male (96.6%). Bowhunters used a compound bow, camouflage, a tree stand, bow sights, mechanical release, and a grunt call (Table 1; Questions 1-4, 21 and 22).

Survey participants were asked for their level of support for the 4 day October antlerless only gun hunt in units 20% or more above goal; 85.1% oppose this hunt with the most common response being "Strongly oppose" (62.4%). Only 2.3% of WBH members "Strongly support" the October antlerless only (herd control) gun hunt. When asked how the October herd control and CWD gun hunts affected their archery deer season, the most common response was that it "Removed too many does and affected breeding activity" (25.5%). The next most common answer was that it made deer nocturnal (24.3%) (Questions 5 and 6).

Most respondents (79.4%) were **not** in favor of the legalization of crossbows in Wisconsin (Questions 7). 96% of respondents reported archery hunting during the 2009-10 season. Of the archers that hunted, 63.6% reported hunting deer. The next most frequently hunted animal was turkey (24.2%) (Questions 8 and 9). Most WBH members (84.7%) **did not** purchase an additional antlerless tag in 2009 while 9.1% purchased one additional antlerless tag. When asked about the number and types of deer registered, (Buck, Adult doe, Doe fawn, Buck fawn) in all cases, the most common response was "none" 73%, 81.8%, 95.9% and 96.3% respectively. (Questions 10 and 11).

The most common type of land hunted by WBH members was "Private" land (84.7%), the second most common response was "Public" (11.8%). 57.3% of respondents did not pass up a "Good" shot at a doe, hoping to shoot a buck later. 8.9% of respondents hit a deer they were unable to retrieve. (Questions 13 - 15).

56.9% of respondents hunted in a unit where baiting was legal while 38.1% did not. Of those that hunted where baiting is legal, 45.7% baited deer in 2009-2010. (Questions 18A - 18B).

69.3% of respondents rated the quality of the 2009 archery deer season as "Very Low" or "Fairly Low". The factor that respondents indicated as being the most important for a "quality" deer hunt was "Seeing deer". When asked about the level of confidence in the DNR's ability to estimate deer populations, 89.1% indicated that they had "Little" or "No confidence" in the DNR's estimate, while 0.9% indicated a "Great deal of confidence" (Questions 19-21).

When asked about their level of satisfaction in regards to the number of deer seen during the 2009-10 archery deer season; 79.1% were "dissatisfied". The most common response was "Very Dissatisfied" (39.6%). The factor that WBH members listed as having the greatest effect on the number of deer seen was "Declining deer populations" (41.8%) followed by "increased hunting pressure" (13.3%).

When asked how satisfied they were with the total number of deer seen during the 2009 season, most (79.7%) expressed some level of dissatisfaction. The most common response was "very dissatisfied" (39.6%) (Question 22 - 23). Of all the factors that may have limited the amount of time WBH members spent deer hunting in 2009, the most selected response was "Other time commitments (work and family)" (18.38%) followed by "Not enough deer in my area to hunt" (17.86%). (Questions 24).

Table 1. Responses to 2009 WBH Archery Hunting Questionnaire

Question 1. What type of license did you buy for the 2009-10 hunting seasons? (Check all that apply.)

Response	Frequency	Percent
1. I did not buy a license	25	0.7%
2. Sportsman	348	10.9%
3. Small game	263	8.2%
4. Bear	105	3.3%
5. Deer	742	23.2%
6. Archery	1,045	32.6%
7. Patron	673	21%

Question 2. What is your age? Mean age = 53.8

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
12 - 18	12	0.65%
19 - 30	54	2.9%
31 - 45	346	18.9%
46 - 65	1,140	62.1%
66+	283	15.4%

No Answer: 75

Question 3. What is your sex?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	1,778	96.5%
Female	64	3.6%

No Answer: 68

Question 4. How many years have you archery hunted? Mean experience = 26.3

Experience Group	Frequency	Percent
0 - 7	53	2.8%
8 - 15	108	5.7%
16 - 22	154	8.2%
23 - 30	384	20.3%
30+	1,188	63%

No Answer: 23

Question 5. How strongly do you oppose or support a 4 day antlerless-only hunt in mid-October for management units 20% or more over goal? (Select only one)

Level of support	Frequency	Percent
1 Strongly oppose	1,185	62.4%
2	277	14.6%
3	154	8.1%
4 Neither support nor oppose	140	7.3%
5	66	3.5%
6	34	1.8%
7 Strongly support	43	2.3%

No Answer: 11

Question 6. If your unit was a herd Control or CWD unit with an Oct. gun hunt in 2009, which of these options best explains how the Oct. antlerless only hunt affected your archery deer hunting (check only one)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Limited my time in the woods	390	20.5%
Limited my opportunity to kill a buck	173	9.1%
Made deer nocturnal	463	24.4%
Limited my deer hunting during the early rut period	212	11.1%
Removed too many does and affected breeding activity	484	25.5%
No significant effect on my deer hunting	179	9.4%

No Answer: 9

Question 7. Do you support making the crossbow a legal weapon for use during the archery deer season for and Wisconsin archery hunter?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	376	20.6%
No	1,445	79.4%

No Answer: 89

Question 8. Did you hunt with archery equipment during the 2009 season?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1,812	96%
No	77	4%

No Answer: 21

Question 9. If you archery hunted during the 2009 season, what did you hunt? Check all that apply.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Deer	1,822	63.6%
Bear	91	3.2%
Small Game	230	8%
Turkey	700	24.4%
Waterfowl	20	.7%

**** The remainder of the survey does not include the 77 respondents that did not archery hunt in the 2009-10 season ****

Question 10. How many additional antlerless permits did you purchase this season?

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	1,550	84.7%
1	167	9.1%
2	87	4.8%
3 or more	26	1.4%

Question 11. How many and what type of deer did you register during the 2009 archery deer season?

Bucks

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	1,341	73.2%
1	466	25.4%
2 or more	26	1.4%

Adult Doe

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	1,499	81.8%
1	267	14.5%
2 or more	67	3.7%

Doe Fawn

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	1,758	95.9%
1	69	3.8%
2 or more	6	0.3%

Buck Fawn

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	1,764	96.2%
1	67	3.6%
2 or more	2	0.1%

Question 12. Please list the deer management units you hunted in and give your best estimate of the number of days you hunted deer in each unit listed.

Unit	# of responses	Unit	# of responses	Unit	# of responses
01	7	54B	18	76	34
1M	2	54BCWD	20	76A	50
02	15	54C	15	76M	15
03	17	55	58	77A	30
04	10	56	28	77B	22
06	15	57	4	77C	27
07	2	57A	6	77C-CWD	20
08	17	57B	8	77D	5
09	14	57C	14	77E	3
10	4	57D	0	77M	50
11	4	58	28	78	1
12	8	59A	20	79A	0
13	3	59B	18	80A	4
14	10	59C	52	80B	18
15	15	59D	28	80C	0
16	10	59E	0	81	0
17	3	59M	5	82	0
18	10	60A	5		
19	17	60B	7		
20	13	60M	8		
21	13	61	63		
22	14	61A	0		
22A	12	62A	30		
23	17	62B	96		
23A	1	63A	80		
24	14	63B	33		
25	20	64	43		
26	16	64A	0		
27	14	64M	11		
28	12	65A	28		
29A	3	65B	71		
29B	5	66	34		
30	8	67A	60		
31	16	67B	42		
32	21	68A	35		
33	11	68B	46		
34	10	69	93		
35	25	69C	0		
36	19	70	35		
37	20	70A	26		
38	7	70B	28		
39	15	70C	2		
40	25	70D	1		
41	13	70E	21		
42	13	70F	0		
43	16	70G	24		
44	21	71	56		
45	31	72	44		
46	20	72A	1		
47	42	73A	1		
48	0	73B	17		
49A	23	73C	3		
49B	17	73D	13		
50	17	73E	17		
51A	13	74A	14		
51B	24	74B	17		
52	13	75A	22		
52A	3	75B	0		
53	47	75C	8		
54A	71	75D	14		

Question 13. On what type of land did you do most of your hunting during the 2009 archery deer season (check only one)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Private	1,597	84.7%
Public	223	11.8%
Industrial Forest	36	1.9%
Private Forest tax law	29	1.5%

No Answer: 25

Question 14. Did you pass up a "good" shot at an antlerless deer hoping to shoot a buck later?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	812	42.7 %
No	1,090	57.3%

No Answer: 8

Question 15. Did you hit a deer that you were unable to retrieve?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	170	9.9%
No	1,740	91.1%

No Answer: 21

Question 16. Please check all the following methods and equipment that you used during the deer season.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Camouflage	1,804	98.6%
Treestand	1,649	90.1%
String Tracker	31	1.7%
Bow Sights	1,678	91.7%
Deer Scent (attractant)	1,107	60.5%
Grunt call	1,387	75.8%
Rattling	734	40.1%
Mech. Release	1,573	85.9%
Ground Blind	1,231	67.3%

Question 17. What type of bow did you use most this past season? (Check only one)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Longbow	48	2.5%
Recurve	95	5%
Compound	1,663	87.4%
Crossbow	96	5%

No Answer: 8

Question 18 A. Did you hunt in a unit where baiting was legal?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1,030	56.9%
No	690	38.1%
Unsure	91	5%

No Answer: 98

Question 18 B. If yes, did you bait for deer?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	474	45.7%
No	563	54.3%

Question 19. Overall, how would you rate the quality of you 2009 archery deer hunt? (Check only One)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Very High	65	3.4%
Fairly High	146	7.6%
Average	376	19.7%
Fairly Low	708	37.1%
Very Low	615	32.2%

Question 20. How much confidence do you have in the DNR's estimate of the deer herd in Wisconsin (check only one)

Response	Frequency	Percent
A great deal of Confidence	17	.9%
Some Confidence	164	8.6%
Little Confidence	641	33.8%
No Confidence	1,050	55.3%
Unsure	27	1.4%

No Answer: 11

Question 21. Please rank the factors that most influence your perception of a "Quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 through 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most value and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience.

Response	% that rated it #1
An opportunity to shoot a deer	23.1%
See deer	45.9%
Seeing bucks	30.4%
Weather	7.2%
Not seeing other hunters	24.3%
Spending time with family and friends	36.5%
Killing a deer	13.3%

Question 22. Think about the number of deer you saw during the ENTIRE Archery season. How satisfied are you with the number of deer you saw? (Circle ONE number)

Level of support	Rank	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	1	720	39.6%
	2	461	25.3%
	3	270	14.8%
Neutral	4	145	7.9%
	5	116	6.4%
	6	75	4.1%
Very satisfied	7	33	1.8%

No Answer: 10

Question 23. Many factors can affect the number of deer you see while hunting. Please check all of the factors below that you believe affected the number of deer you saw during your 2009 archery deer hunt (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent	Rank
Increased Deer sanctuary on the landscape	315	7.8%	6
Baiting/feeding causing reduced deer movements	428	10.7%	4
Declining local deer populations	1,672	41.8%	1
Increased hunting pressure	534	13.3%	2
Decreased hunting pressure	153	3.8%	7
Change in Hunting strategies that don't move deer	436	10.9%	3
Increasing local deer populations	56	1.4%	8
Weather events caused reduced deer movements	411	10.3%	5
Total:		4,005	100%

Continued.....

Question 24. Please check all of the factors that may have limited the amount of time you spent deer hunting this fall. (Check all that apply)

Response	Frequency	Percent
Limited access to a place to hunt	222	5.26%
Other interests or hobbies	279	6.61%
Not enough deer in my area to hunt	753	17.86%
Other time commitments (work and family)	776	18.38%
Length of season	48	1.13%
Cost of transportation /lodging	173	4.11%
Cost of licenses	78	1.85%
Cost of deer processing	33	0.78%
Not enough freezer space	12	0.28%
Did not want to shoot any more deer	180	4.27%
No place to donate deer	21	0.49%
Wanted to save deer till next year	408	9.67%
Deer harvest was limited by the landowner	47	1.12%
Weather conditions during the season	246	5.84%
Limited number of permits available (all tags were filled)	9	0.21%
Other concurrent hunting seasons	367	8.69%
No one to hunt with	48	1.13%
Health related issues	93	2.22%
Deer registration too inconvenient	30	0.71%
Nothing limited my time hunting	395	9.36%
Total:	4,218	100%

13. On what type of land did you do most of your hunting during the 2009 archery deer season? (Check ONLY one)

- 1 Private Land
- 2 Public Land
- 3 Industrial Forest Land
- 4 Private land "Forest Tax Law"

14. Did you pass up a "good" shot at an antlerless deer hoping to shoot a buck later?

- Yes No

15. Did you hit a deer that you were unable to retrieve?

- Yes No

16. Please check all the following methods and equipment that you used during the deer season.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Camouflage | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Grunt call |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Tree stand | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Rattling |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> String tracker | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Release |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Bow sights | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Blind |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Deer Scent (attractant) | |

17. What type of bow did you use most this past season? (Check ONLY one)

- 1 Longbow
- 2 Recurve
- 3 Compound
- 4 Crossbow

18. Did you hunt in a unit where baiting was legal?

- Yes No Unsure

If YES, did you bait for deer?

- Yes No

19. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2009 archery deer hunt? Please check only one.

- 1 Very High
- 2 Fairly High
- 3 About Average
- 4 Fairly Low
- 5 Very Low

20. How much confidence do you have in the DNR's estimate of the deer herd in Wisconsin? (Check ONLY one)

- 1 A great deal of confidence
- 2 Some confidence
- 3 Little confidence
- 4 No confidence
- 5 Unsure

21. Please rank the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" deer hunt. Enter a value of 1 through 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience.

- _____ An opportunity to shoot a deer
- _____ Seeing deer
- _____ Seeing bucks
- _____ Weather
- _____ Not seeing other hunters
- _____ Spending time with friends and family
- _____ Killing a deer

22. Think about the number of deer you saw during the ENTIRE Archery season. How satisfied are you with the number of deer you saw? (circle ONE number)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very Dissatisfied			Neutral			Very Satisfied

23. Many factors can affect the number of deer you see while hunting. Please check all of the factors below that you believe affected the number of deer you saw during your 2009 archery deer hunt. (Check all the apply)

- 1 Increased deer sanctuary on the landscape
- 2 Baiting and/or feeding causing reduced deer movements
- 3 Declining local deer populations
- 4 Increased hunting pressure
- 5 Decreased hunting pressure
- 6 Change in hunting strategies that don't tend to "move" deer
- 7 Increasing local deer populations
- 8 Weather events caused reduced deer movement

24. Please check all of the factors that may have limited the amount of time you spent deer hunting this fall. (Check all that apply)

- A. Limited access to a place to hunt
- B. Other interests or hobbies
- C. Not enough deer in my area to hunt
- D. Other time commitments (work and family)
- E. Length of season
- F. Cost of transportation and/or lodging
- G. Cost of licenses
- H. Cost of deer processing
- I. Not enough freezer space
- J. Did not want to shoot any more deer
- K. No place to donate deer
- L. Wanted to save deer till next year
- M. Deer harvest was limited by the landowner
- N. Weather conditions during the season
- O. Limited number of permits available (all tags were filled)
- P. Other concurrent hunting season
- Q. No one to hunt with
- R. Health related issues
- S. Deer registration is too inconvenient
- T. Nothing limited my time deer hunting

25. If any of the above factors limited your deer hunting this fall, which TWO factors were most influential in limiting the amount of time you hunted?

List the letters: 1) _____ 2) _____