

2010 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest Report

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Minnesota's fall turkey hunting season is managed with a quota system similar to the spring turkey hunting season. Permits are allocated across 67 permit areas (PAs; Figure 1). In 2010, the fall season was expanded from 2, 5-day time periods to 1, 30-day time period in all PAs.

Three types of permits were available to hunters: (1) general lottery permits in which applicants or parties of up to 4 hunters applied for a specific PA, (2) landowner permits in which up to 20% of permits for each PA were reserved for landowners or tenants who lived on 40 acres or more of land within the PA, and (3) surplus permits which were offered in under-subscribed PAs. General lottery and landowner permits were made available based on a system of preference, which was determined by the number of years applicants submitted a valid, but unsuccessful application since last receiving a permit. Surplus permits could be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis. Permit holders were allowed to harvest 1 turkey of either sex during the fall season.

Fall turkey hunting opportunity has increased significantly since 2007 with the addition of 5,940 available permits (132% increase), 35 new permit areas, and the extension of the season from 2, 5-day time periods to 1, 30-day time period (October 2-31). In 2010, over 6,500 permits were issued, and hunters registered 1,353 turkeys, a 16% increase from the 2009 season (Table 1; Figure 2). Hunter success averaged 20%, below the 5-year average (23%), and success varied among PAs from 0% in PAs 183, 446, 451, and 458 to 63% in PA 431 (Table 2). The majority of permits issued were general lottery (69%), followed by surplus permits (28%), and landowner (3%; Table 3). Compared to 2009, the number of general lottery permits issued declined by 25% while the number of surplus permits issued increased by an equivalent amount, indicating that some hunters may be opting to purchase a surplus permit rather than apply for a permit through the general lottery system.

Overall weather conditions for the 2010 fall wild turkey season were favorable across much of the turkey range. After a record-setting wet September, much of October received little or no precipitation during the first 3 weeks (Minnesota Climatology Working Group 2010). Regional mean temperatures for October were generally 3 to 5° F above average (Minnesota Climatology Working Group 2010). Although favorable weather conditions contribute to increased harvest and participation, the continued increase in harvest can be partially attributed to the greater number of permits available (132% increase since 2007), 35 new PAs open to fall hunting since 2007, and the extension of the season from 2, 5-day time periods to 1, 30-day season. Favorable weather, more permits, and a longer season all combined to provide more opportunities for hunters to harvest turkeys.

Literature Cited

Minnesota Climatology Working Group. 2010. Climate journal. <http://climate.umn.edu/>
 Accessed 15 November 2010.

Table 1. Permits available and issued, applicants, registered harvest, and hunter success rates for fall wild turkey seasons 1990 – 2010, Minnesota.

Year	Permits available	Applicants	Permits issued	Registered harvest	Hunter success (%) ^a
1990	1,000	4,522	951	326	34
1991	2,200	2,990	2,020	552	27
1992	2,200	2,782	2,028	588	29
1993	2,400	3,186	2,094	605	29
1994	2,500	3,124	2,106	601	29
1995	2,500	3,685	2,125	648	30
1996	2,500	4,453	2,289	685	30
1997	2,580	4,574	2,378	698	29
1998	2,710	4,526	2,483	828	33
1999	2,890	5,354	2,644	865	33
2000	3,090	5,263	2,484	735	30
2001	2,870	4,501	2,262	629	28
2002	3,790	5,180	2,945	594	20
2003	3,870	5,264	2,977	889	30
2004	4,380	5,878	3,277	758	23
2005	4,410	4,542	2,978	681	23
2006	4,290	4,167	2,802	618	22
2007	4,490	4,464	2,837	695	24
2008	7,560	5,834	4,981	1,187	24
2009	9,330	7,738	5,019	1,163	23
2010	10,430	6,869	6,607	1,353	20

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation.

Table 2. Permits available and issued, registered harvest, and current and historic success by permit area for the 2010 fall wild turkey season, Minnesota.

Permit area	Permits		2010		Historic mean ^b	
	Available	Issued	Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a	Success (%)	<i>n</i>
156	20	18	4	22	13	2
157	100	78	20	26	23	3
159	20	17	1	6	7	2
183	10	5	0	0	0	2
213	200	161	19	12	16	3
214	200	168	30	18	26	3
215	300	246	50	20	24	3
218	200	159	45	28	27	2
219	100	82	21	26	18	2
221	200	147	34	23	22	3
222	200	120	16	13	21	3
223	200	139	16	12	16	3
225	200	150	22	15	15	2
227	300	236	52	22	24	4
229	50	41	7	17	19	3
235	20	15	2	13	8	2
236	300	244	45	18	24	8
239	300	239	63	26	26	3
240	200	157	42	27	28	3
241	20	14	3	21	31	2
243	20	15	4	27	29	2
244	40	35	12	34	40	2
248	100	78	20	26	25	3
249	100	76	22	29	24	3
262	40	21	4	19	31	3
338	200	164	45	27	25	8
339	200	169	27	16	19	8
341	500	400	97	24	25	8
342	350	190	50	26	23	8
343	300	252	64	25	27	8
344	200	144	21	15	20	8
345	200	98	11	11	17	8
346	300	145	18	12	22	8
347	200	149	24	16	24	8

Table 2. Continued.

Permit area	Permits		2010		Historic mean ^b	
	Available	Issued	Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a	Success (%)	<i>n</i>
348	250	177	29	16	24	8
349	450	144	27	19	22	8
412	40	30	7	23	31	3
416	20	12	1	8	19	2
417	30	25	10	40	31	2
420	40	17	3	18	31	5
422	50	40	13	33	40	5
425	40	28	7	25	24	5
427	20	15	4	27	24	2
428	30	26	9	35	28	3
431	20	16	10	63	35	5
433	20	16	1	6	19	5
440	20	19	6	32	36	3
442	250	198	42	21	26	8
443	100	89	18	20	17	8
446	20	18	0	0	22	5
447	20	15	4	27	16	5
448	30	25	5	20	22	8
449	30	21	5	24	28	7
450	20	14	3	21	14	5
451	20	4	0	0	11	2
454	20	14	3	21	33	2
457	20	15	1	7	5	2
458	20	3	0	0	0	2
459	20	19	1	5	4	3
461	250	192	51	27	29	8
462	240	196	37	19	24	8
463	30	24	1	4	21	3
464	80	40	8	20	24	8
465	80	39	5	13	23	8
466	160	129	29	22	27	8
467	100	84	26	31	21	8
601	2,000	531	76	14	20	8
Total	10,430	6,607	1,353	20	-	

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation.

^b Mean success rates (%) over all fall turkey seasons (*n*) between 2003 – 2010 or since a permit area opened for fall turkey hunting.

Table 3. Permits available and issued by type, registered harvest, and success by permit area for the 2010 fall wild turkey season, Minnesota.

Permit area	Permits available	Permits issued by type				Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a
		General	Landowner	Surplus	Total		
156	20	14	4	0	18	4	22
157	100	75	3	0	78	20	26
159	20	16	1	0	17	1	6
183	10	4	1	0	5	0	0
213	200	117	5	39	161	19	12
214	200	87	5	76	168	30	18
215	300	161	2	83	246	50	20
218	200	138	5	16	159	45	28
219	100	78	4	0	82	21	26
221	200	82	3	62	147	34	23
222	200	61	1	58	120	16	13
223	200	135	2	2	139	16	12
225	200	76	2	72	150	22	15
227	300	120	5	111	236	52	22
229	50	41	0	0	41	7	17
235	20	15	0	0	15	2	13
236	300	162	2	80	244	45	18
239	300	159	5	75	239	63	26
240	200	123	3	31	157	42	27
241	20	13	1	0	14	3	21
243	20	15	0	0	15	4	27
244	40	32	3	0	35	12	34
248	100	32	4	42	78	20	26
249	100	47	2	27	76	22	29
262	40	11	0	10	21	4	19
338	200	121	6	37	164	45	27
339	200	112	3	54	169	27	16
341	500	267	5	128	400	97	24
342	350	117	6	67	190	50	26
343	300	222	9	21	252	64	25
344	200	116	1	27	144	21	15
345	200	60	3	35	98	11	11
346	300	95	5	45	145	18	12
347	200	88	2	59	149	24	16

Table 3. Continued.

Permit area	Permits available	Permits issued by type				Registered harvest	Success (%) ^a
		General	Landowner	Surplus	Total		
348	250	124	3	50	177	29	16
349	450	105	0	39	144	27	19
412	40	27	3	0	30	7	23
416	20	12	0	0	12	1	8
417	30	24	1	0	25	10	40
420	40	3	3	11	17	3	18
422	50	27	0	13	40	13	33
425	40	26	2	0	28	7	25
427	20	14	1	0	15	4	27
428	30	23	3	0	26	9	35
431	20	15	1	0	16	10	63
433	20	16	0	0	16	1	6
440	20	15	4	0	19	6	32
442	250	188	10	0	198	42	21
443	100	65	1	23	89	18	20
446	20	7	0	11	18	0	0
447	20	11	1	3	15	4	27
448	30	17	5	3	25	5	20
449	30	17	1	3	21	5	24
450	20	5	0	9	14	3	21
451	20	3	0	1	4	0	0
454	20	14	0	0	14	3	21
457	20	10	1	4	15	1	7
458	20	2	0	1	3	0	0
459	20	12	1	6	19	1	5
461	250	183	9	0	192	51	27
462	240	146	6	44	196	37	19
463	30	22	2	0	24	1	4
464	80	26	0	14	40	8	20
465	80	24	0	15	39	5	13
466	160	82	1	46	129	29	22
467	100	62	7	15	84	26	31
601	2,000	251	0	280	531	76	14
Total	10,430	4,590	169	1,848	6,607	1,353	20

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation

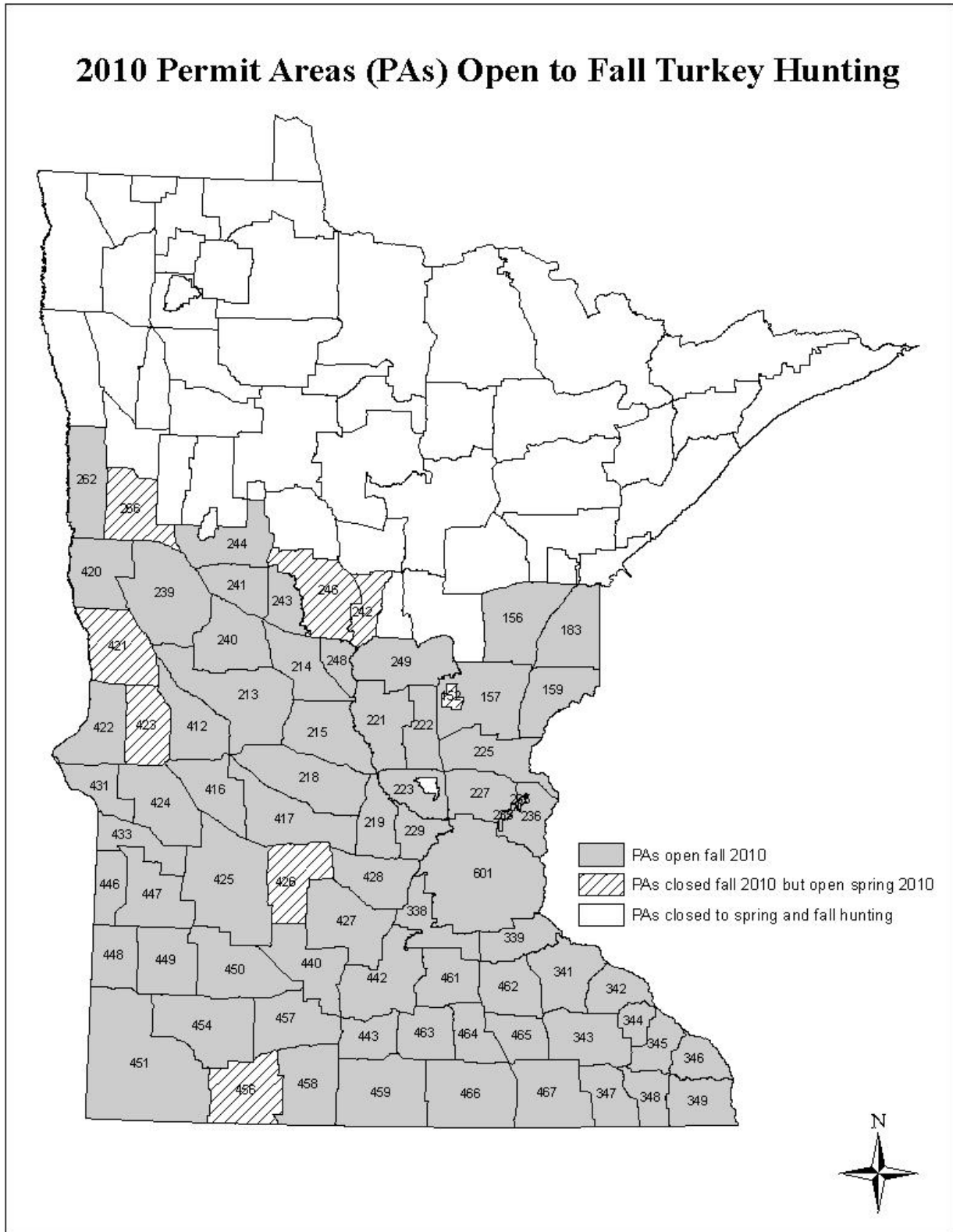


Fig. 1. Permit areas (PAs) open for the 2010 fall wild turkey hunting season, Minnesota.

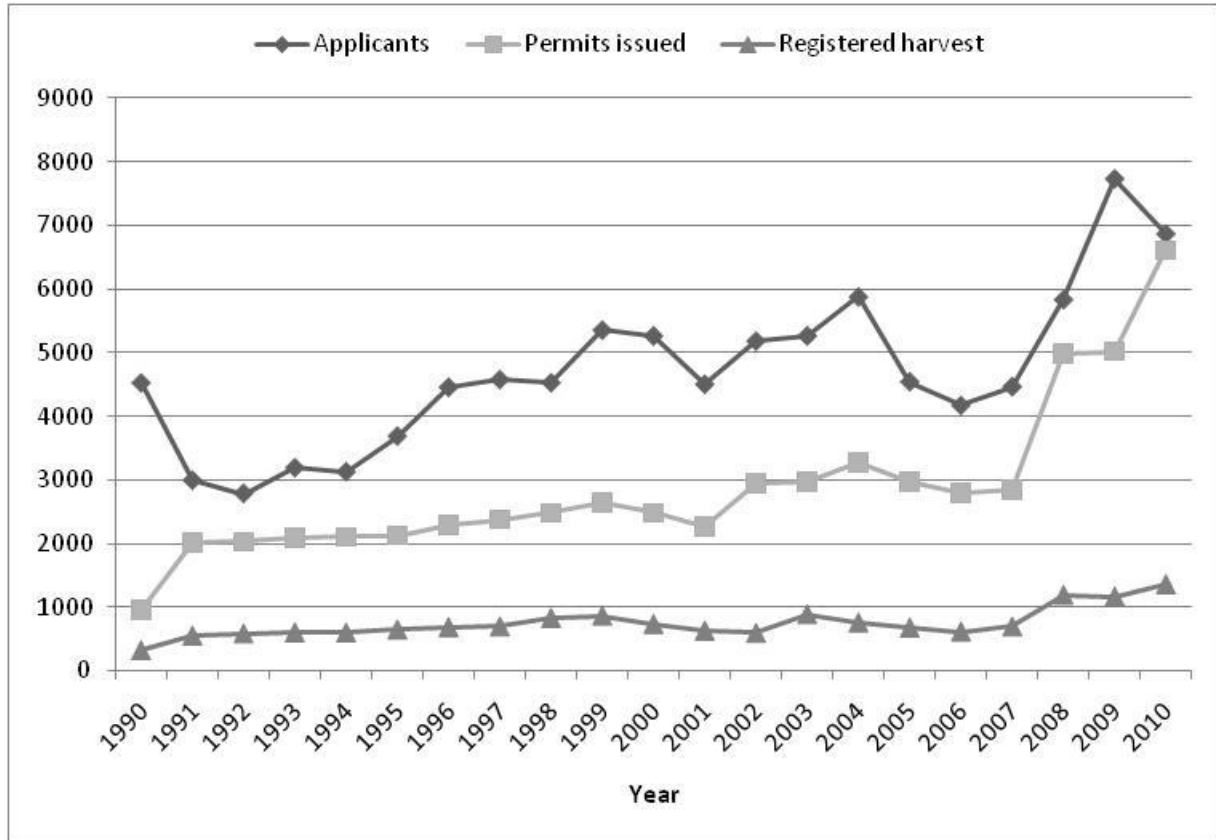


Fig. 2. Applicants, permits issued, and registered harvest for fall wild turkey seasons 1990 – 2010, Minnesota.