

RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTER ATTITUDES IN NORTH DAKOTA

A Thesis
Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
of the
North Dakota State University
of Agriculture and Applied Science

By

Tina Diane Lewis

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE

Major Program:
Natural Resources Management

Major Department:
Agricultural Economics

April 1998

Fargo, North Dakota

ABSTRACT

Lewis, Tina Diane, M.S. Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, North Dakota State University, April 1998. Resident and Nonresident Hunter Attitudes in North Dakota. Major Adviser: Dr. Jay A Leitch.

Resident hunter complaints have led to concerns that hunters are unsatisfied with their hunting experiences in North Dakota due to the actions or presence of other hunters, particularly nonresidents. Hunter attitudes about their fellow hunters were assessed using a mail survey of 11,855 North Dakota hunters with a response rate of 51 percent. Responses were screened using chi-square tests and analyzed using descriptive statistics. Questions concerning nonresident hunters solicited the most disagreement among hunting license types and hunter types. A small group of resident hunters, primarily local resident upland game hunters, are responsible for most of the complaints against nonresident hunters. Many respondents felt that nonresident and non-local resident hunters are to blame for increases in fee hunting. Managers might want to focus their information and education efforts toward local resident upland game hunters so that their limited resources are put to best use.