

Ruffed Grouse Hunting Participation, Expenditures, and Economic Contributions

Key Points

Economic impact estimates indicate ruffed grouse hunting expenditures:

- » Generate approximately \$7.5 million in economic output in Wisconsin
- » Support about 63 jobs throughout the state
- » Contribute \$4.6 million in value added in Wisconsin

These findings demonstrate the recreational and economic importance of ruffed grouse hunting and provide information relevant to hunter engagement, habitat conservation, and management planning.

Project Background

- » This study used data collected from a survey of Wisconsin's ruffed grouse hunters during 2022.
- » The goal of this study was to estimate the economic contributions associated with ruffed grouse hunting. Additionally, we examined the factors influencing hunting participation, hunting intensity, expenditures, and support for habitat conservation funding.

Results Summary

- » The study found ruffed grouse hunting behavior is influenced by hunter experience, satisfaction, access to hunting opportunities, and travel costs. Although day-trip hunters are more numerous, overnight hunters spend substantially more per hunter.
- » The study also found hunters with higher expenditures and those who consider ruffed grouse a favorite hunting species are more likely to support habitat conservation programs.