

# Tennessee Wild Turkey Management Program Status Report

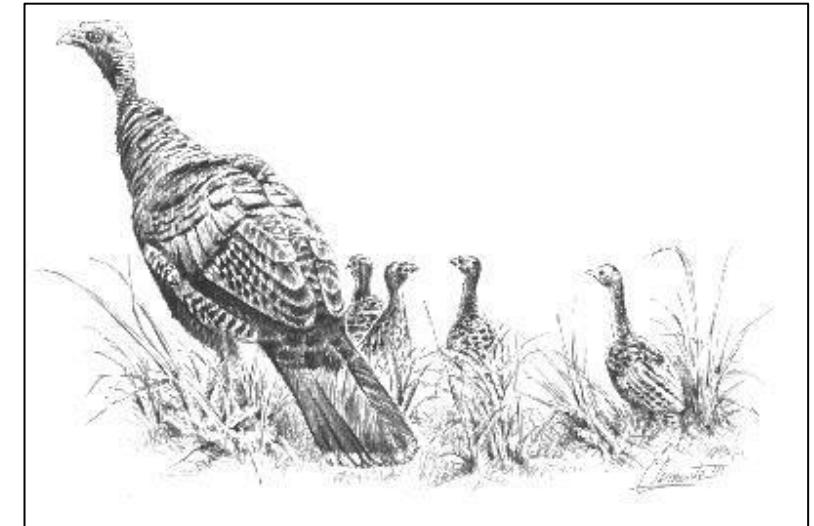


TN-NWTF State Board Meeting  
January 17, 2026

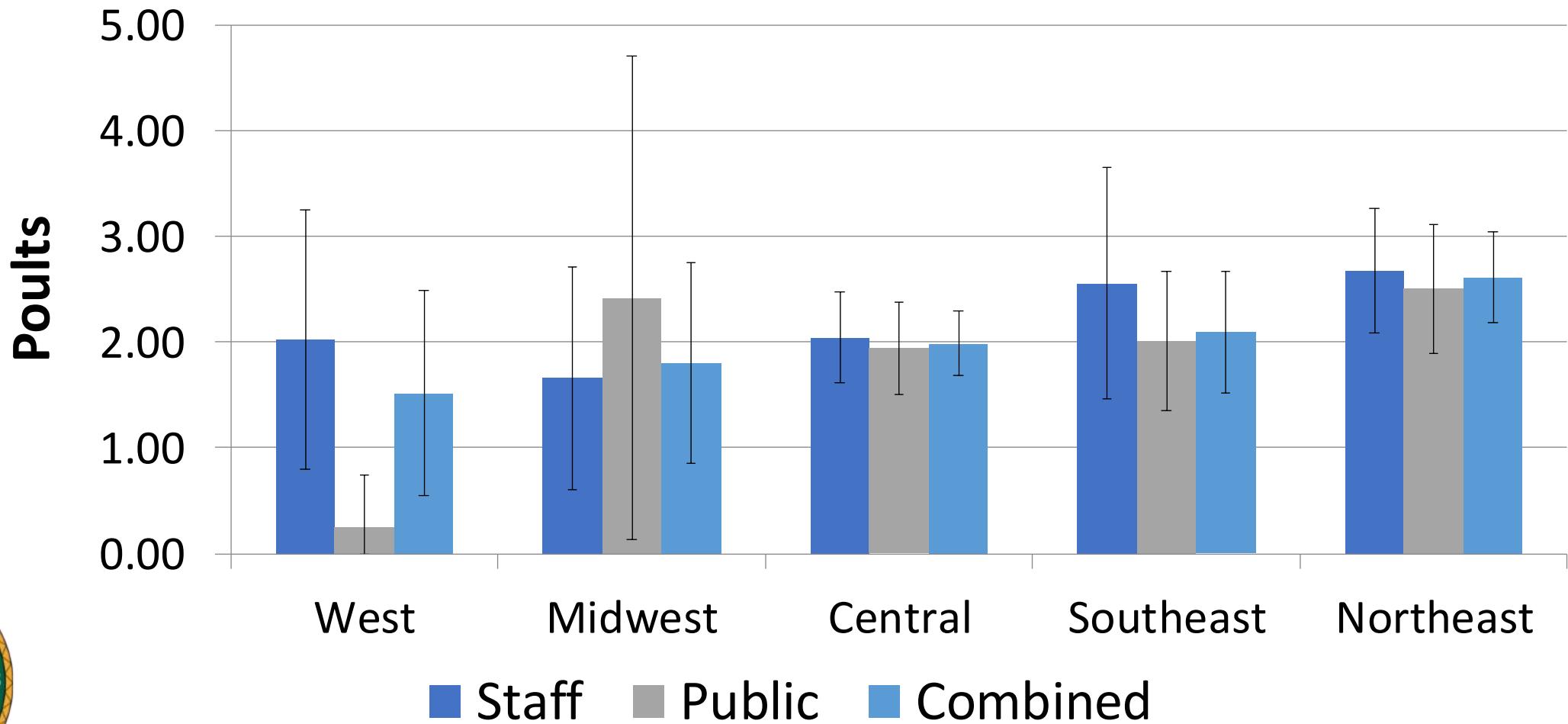
Roger Shields  
Wild Turkey Program Coordinator  
Wildlife and Forestry Division

# 2025 Summer Wild Turkey Survey

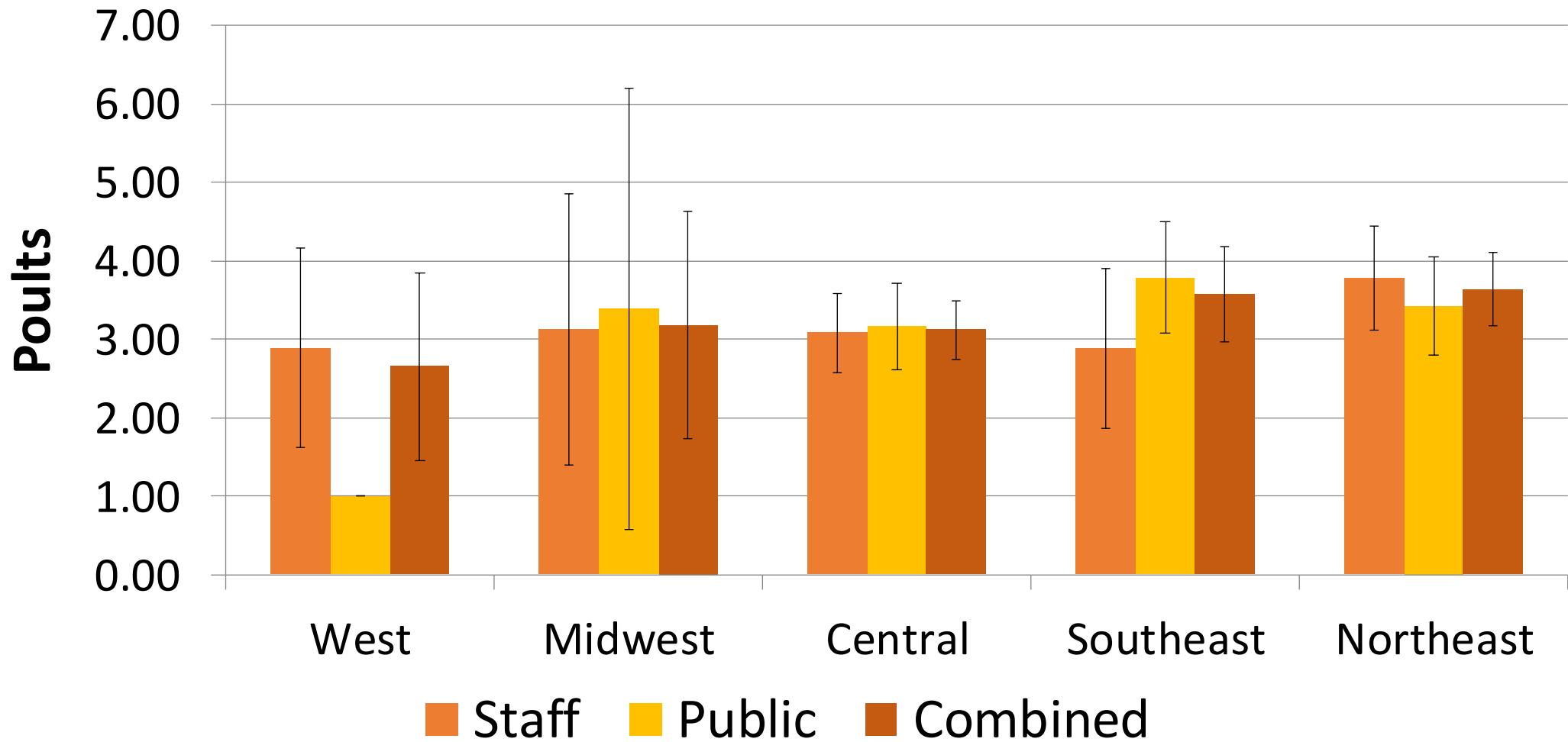
- Public participation down much from last year
  - ~460 unique public observers (vs 742 - 2,786 in '22-'24)
  - 1,002 observations (vs 1,333 - 4,217 in '22-'24)
  - From 88 counties
- Staff
  - 92 unique observers (152 in '24)
  - 942 observations
  - From 84 counties
- Estimates ~similar where high obs



# Regional PPH Ratio, 2025



# Regional PPB Ratio, 2025



# 2025 Statewide Wild Turkey Productivity

- Overall a below-average year
  - 2.2 PPH\*
  - 3.3 poult per brood\*
  - 60% of hens with broods
- Increasing West to East
- NE unit a fairly strong year
  - 17-yr Cicada hatch (brood XIV)??



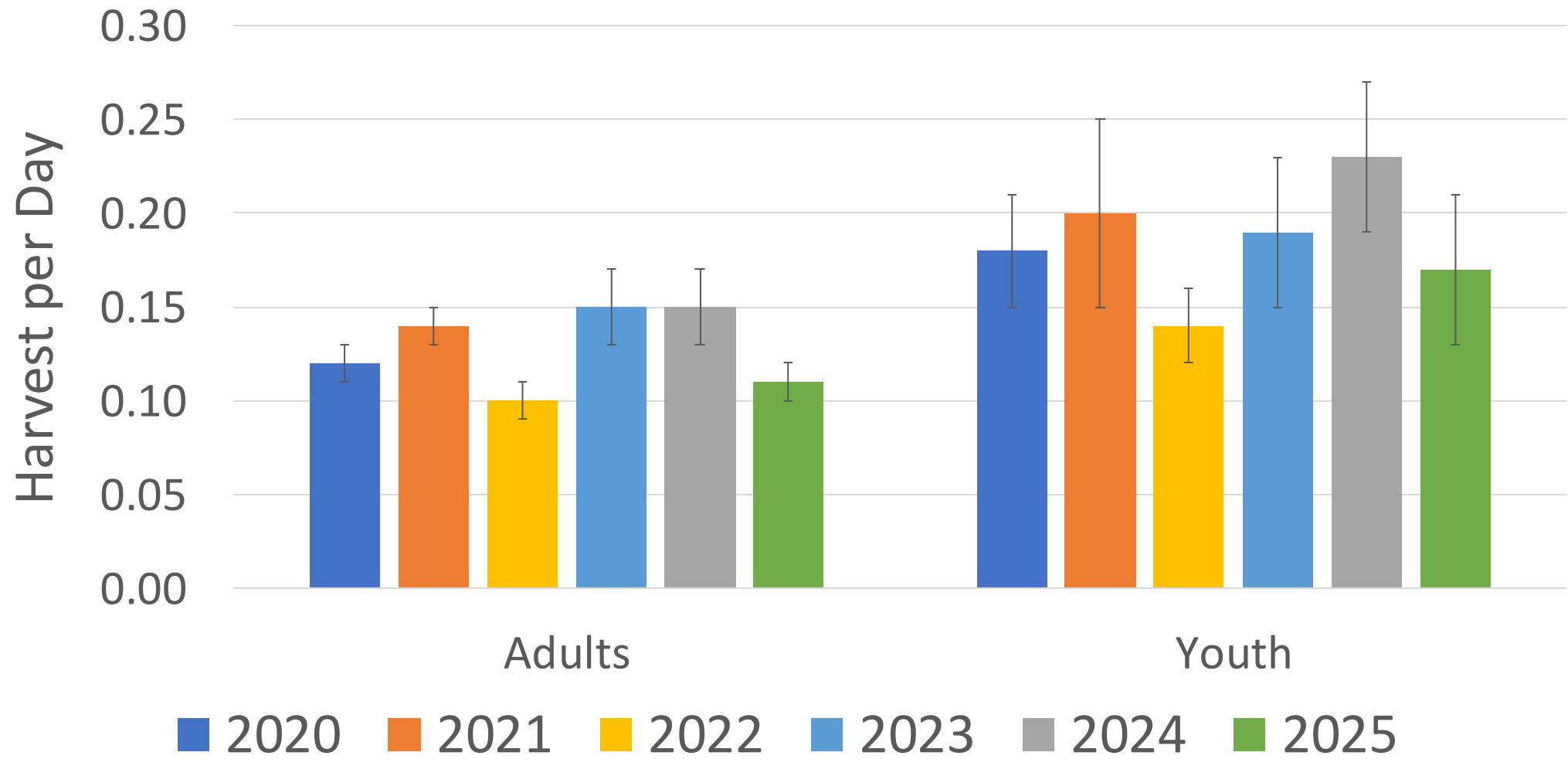
\*Based on new calculation method

# Post-season Hunter Harvest Survey, 2025

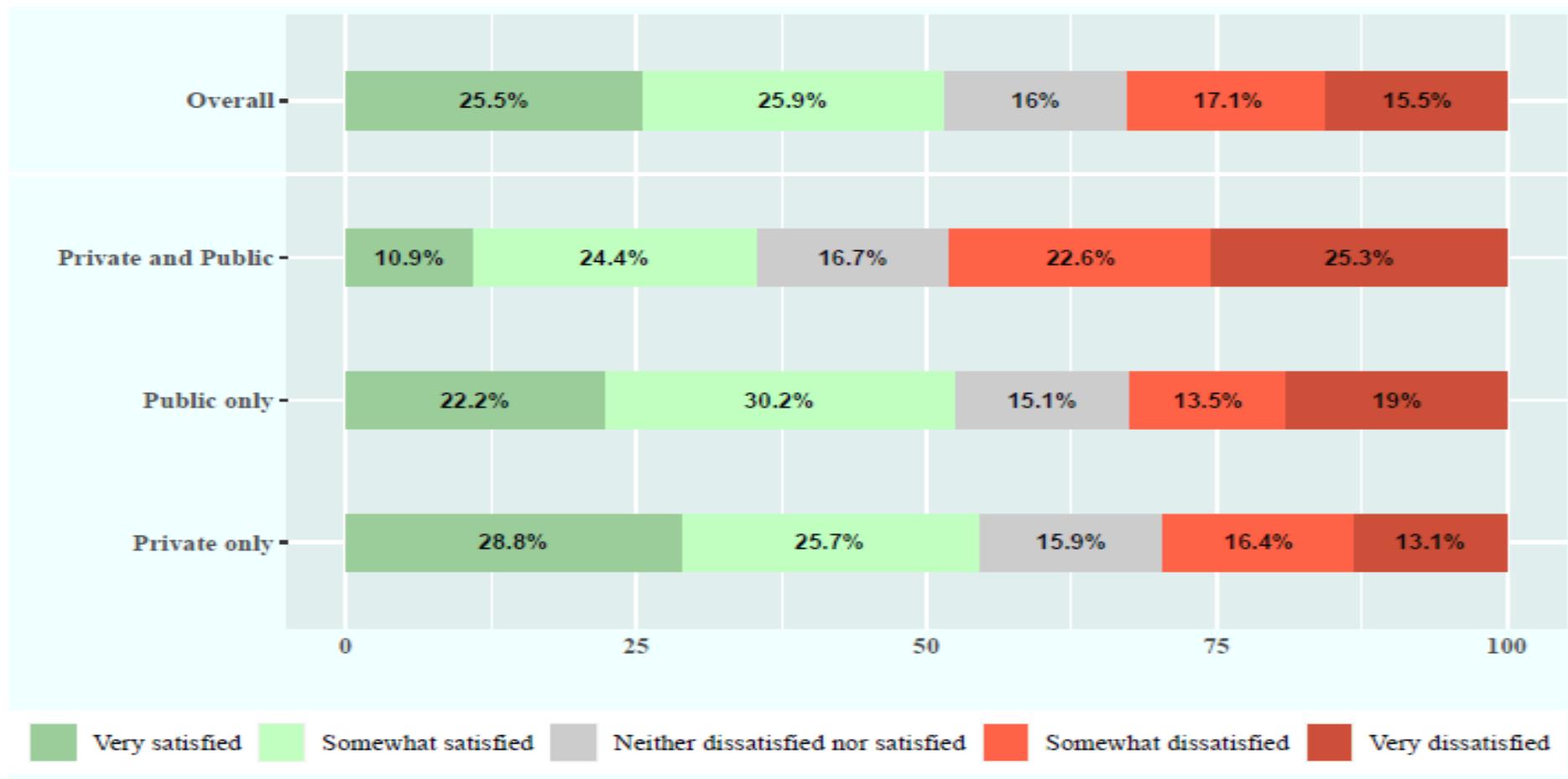
- *Preliminary results*
- 4,442 responses
- Overall, 45% of adults and 41% of youth harvested  $\geq 1$  turkey
- Average days afield up slightly from last year
  - Days afield averaged 7.8 (adults) and 3.8 (youth)
- Harvest rate down from past couple years
  - 0.11 birds/day for adult hunters; 0.17 for youth



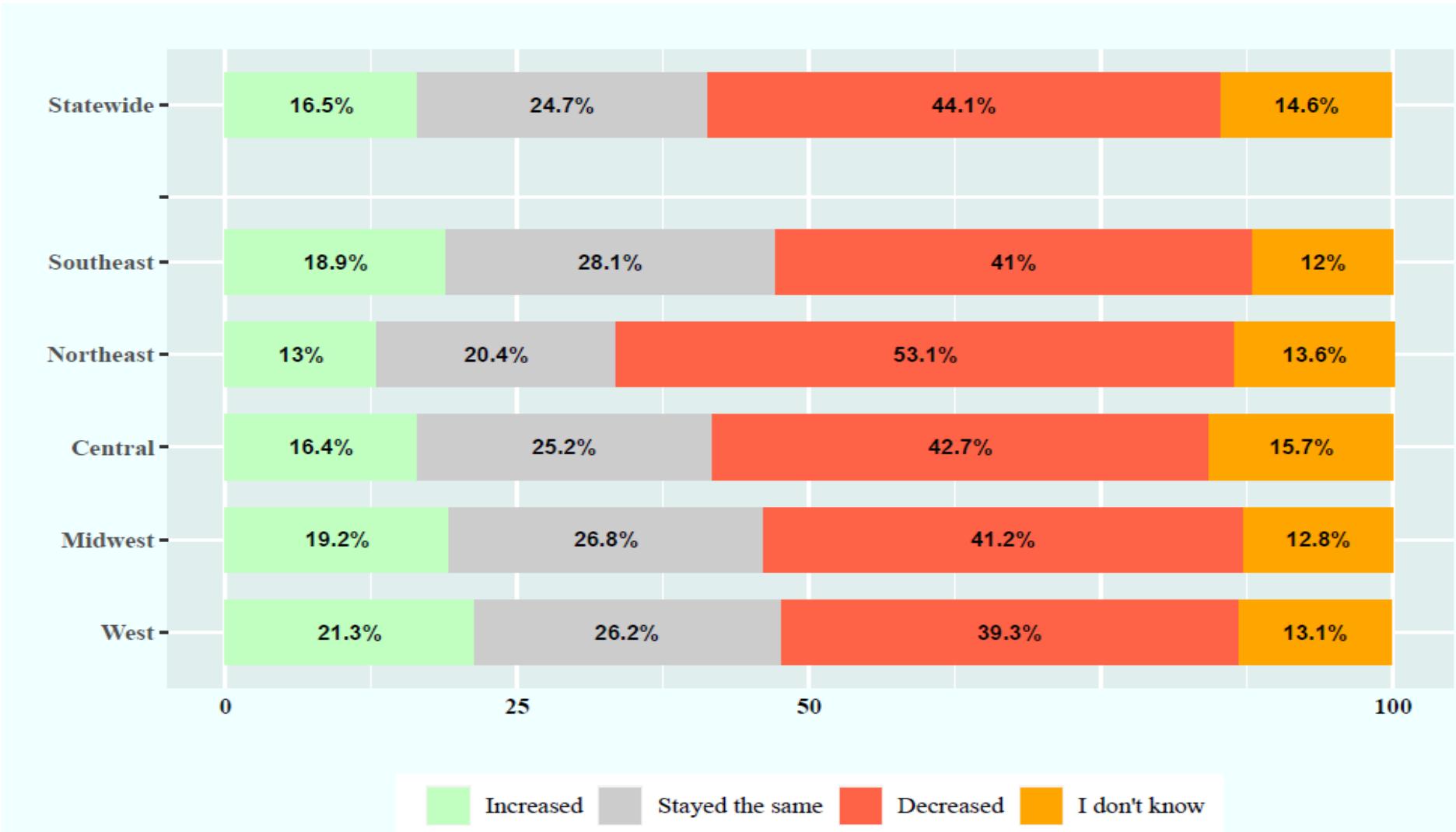
# Harvest Rate, 2020-2025



# Satisfaction with 2025 Hunting Experience



# Perceived Change in Population



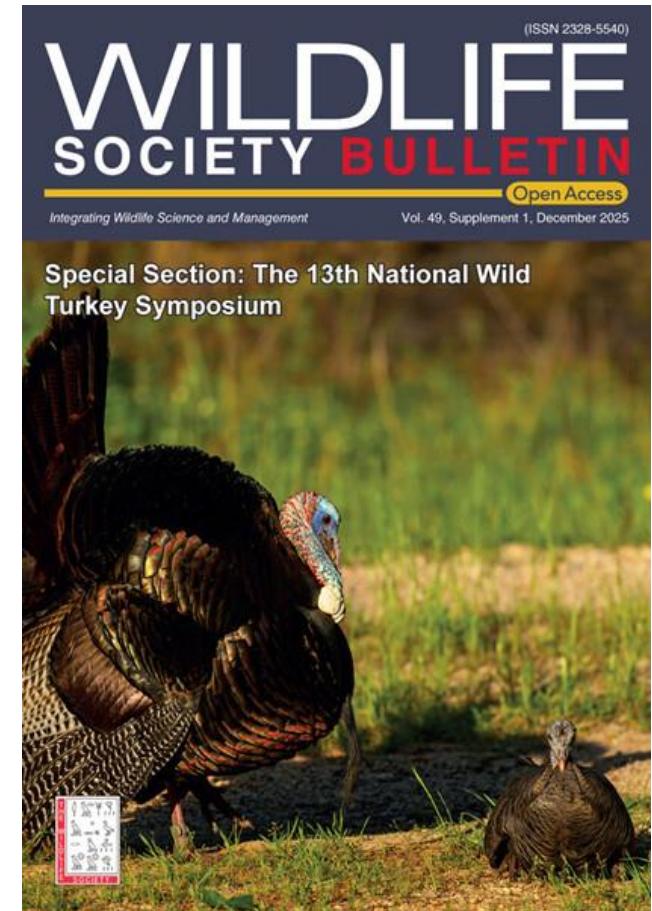
# Hatchie River WMA

- Commission approved designation and hunting seasons
- 7,400+ acres in Haywood, Hardeman, and Madison counties
- The only remaining unchanneled river in West Tennessee
- Statewide hunting and trapping regulations; exceptions include:
  - only temporary blinds allowed for waterfowl season
  - specific regulations for spring turkey hunting, consistent with other Region 1 WMAs (e.g., 4-week season; 1 bird limit)



# 13<sup>th</sup> National Wild Turkey Symposium

- Dec. 9-11 in Kansas City, MO
- Available on-line as a special issue of Wildlife Society Bulletin
  - Vol. 49, Issue S1



# THANK YOU !!!





Questions