



## Survey specifics

**Region:** All Yukon

**Survey respondent target:** 4,425 Yukon hunters that held a big game or small game license in 2019.

**Survey time period:** 2019 hunting season, and previous 5 years.

**Survey responses received:** 2,754

**Response rate:** 62%

**Survey partners:**

- Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Government of Yukon

**For more information, please contact:**

Thomas Jung - 867-667-5766  
Senior wildlife biologist

# Small game hunter survey 2020

## Survey objectives

The purpose of this survey was to gain information on small game hunters and their harvest patterns. This survey is the first survey of small game hunters in Yukon since 1994. We focused on providing an opportunity for hunters to share their thoughts on small game hunting, with specific focus on their motivations, effort, satisfaction and ethics.

## Survey background

Small game hunting is an important subsistence and recreational activity in Yukon. However, the number of Yukon hunters that participate in small game hunting is not known because license holders are not required to report their small game hunting activity. Ten species are designated as “small game” under the Yukon *Wildlife Act* including: snowshoe hare, arctic ground squirrel, porcupine, four species of grouse (spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and dusky grouse), and three species of ptarmigan (willow ptarmigan, rock ptarmigan, and white-tailed ptarmigan). With the exception of sharp-tailed grouse and dusky grouse, these species are widely distributed across much of the territory, and available to hunters.

## Survey design

The survey was delivered by email to licensed hunters that asked to complete their survey online. Subsequently, professional interviewers from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics attempted to contact all non-respondents and deliver the survey by telephone interview. Surveys were completed during January to August 2020.

The survey focused on snowshoe hare to give us a reasonable snapshot of those hunters that target small game specifically, rather than incidentally, while doing other outdoor activities. We also focused on snowshoe hare because of their cyclic nature and our interest in knowing how that may influence motivations, effort and satisfaction of Yukon hunters.

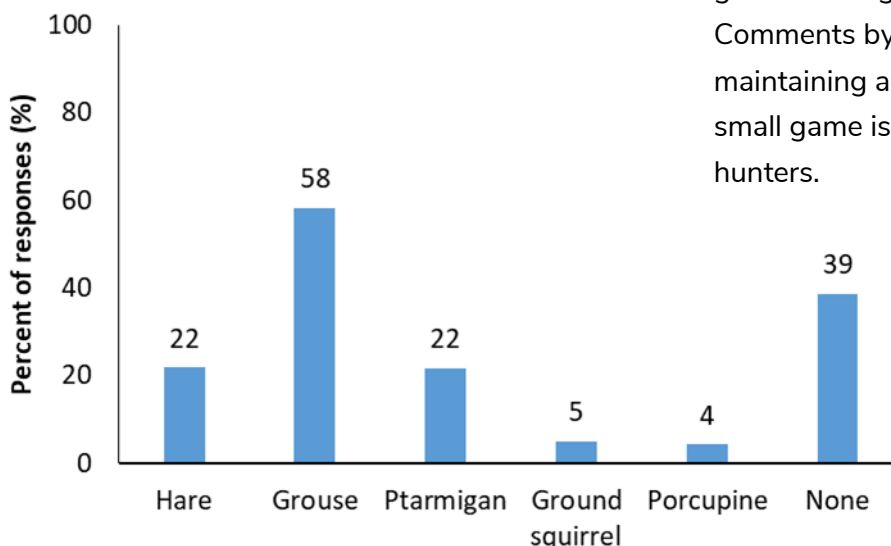
## Key findings

Survey respondents hunted mostly grouse, followed by snowshoe hare and ptarmigan. Few respondents hunted ground squirrels or porcupine within the last 5 years.

To obtain healthy food was the main reason for hunting small game. Small game hunting took place mostly in the fall, even for those species that have open hunting season extending to winter or year-around.

Hunters typically went out two to five times to hunt small game in 2019. Hunters were divided as to whether they hunted small game specifically (i.e., targeted hunting trips for a species of smallgame), incidentally (i.e. hunted small game while doing other activities, such as moose hunting), or both.

Generally, hunters were satisfied with small game hunting opportunities in Yukon. Comments by respondents indicate that maintaining a sustainable and ethical hunt of small game is an important value for Yukon hunters.



Results from question 1. **Have you hunted any of the following small game species in the last 5 years? Check all that apply.**