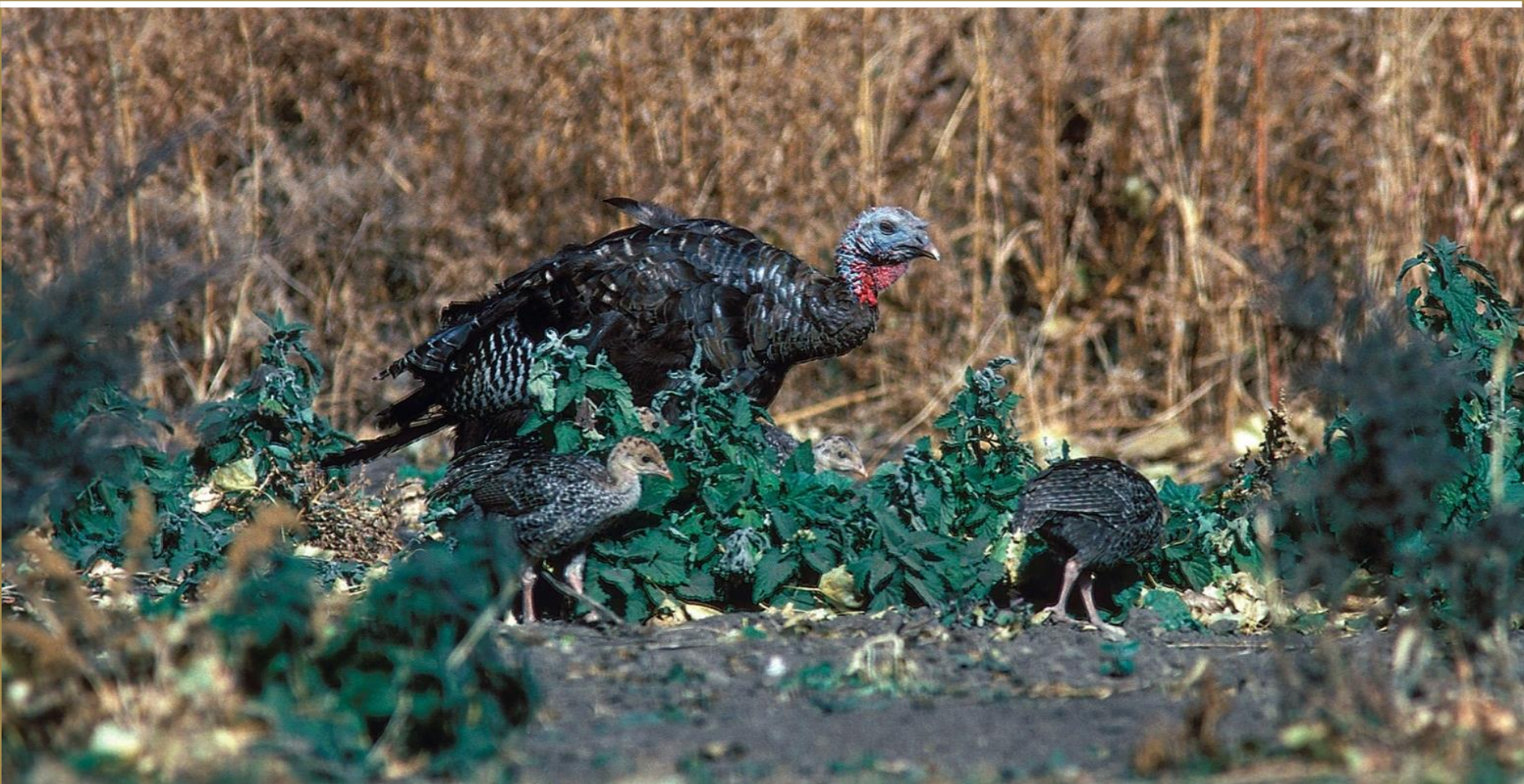




2017 Turkey Update



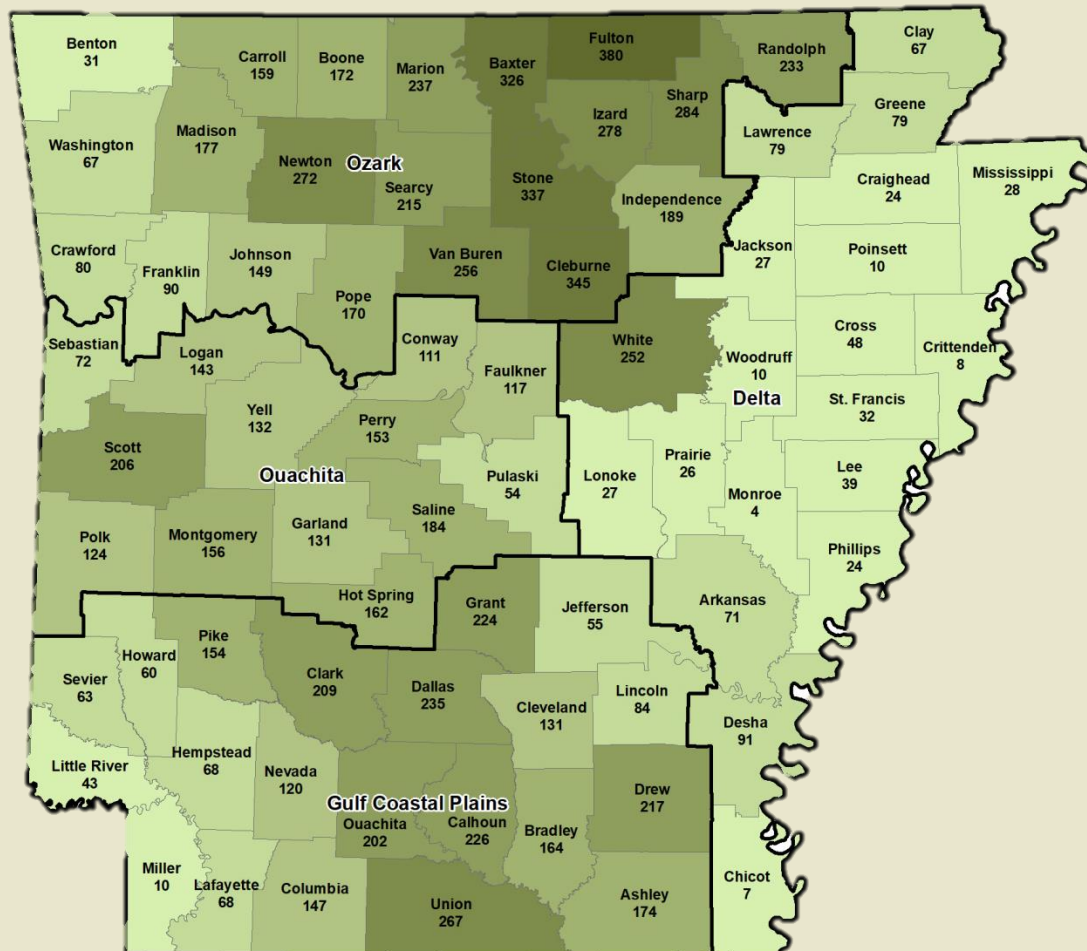


2017 Turkey Harvest

- 10,066 turkeys checked in 2017 (11,864 in 2016)
- 958 turkeys checked during 2-day youth hunt (1,336 in 2016)
- Fulton County was the leading county with 380 turkeys checked.
- Ozark National Forest WMA was the leading WMA harvest with 155 turkeys checked.

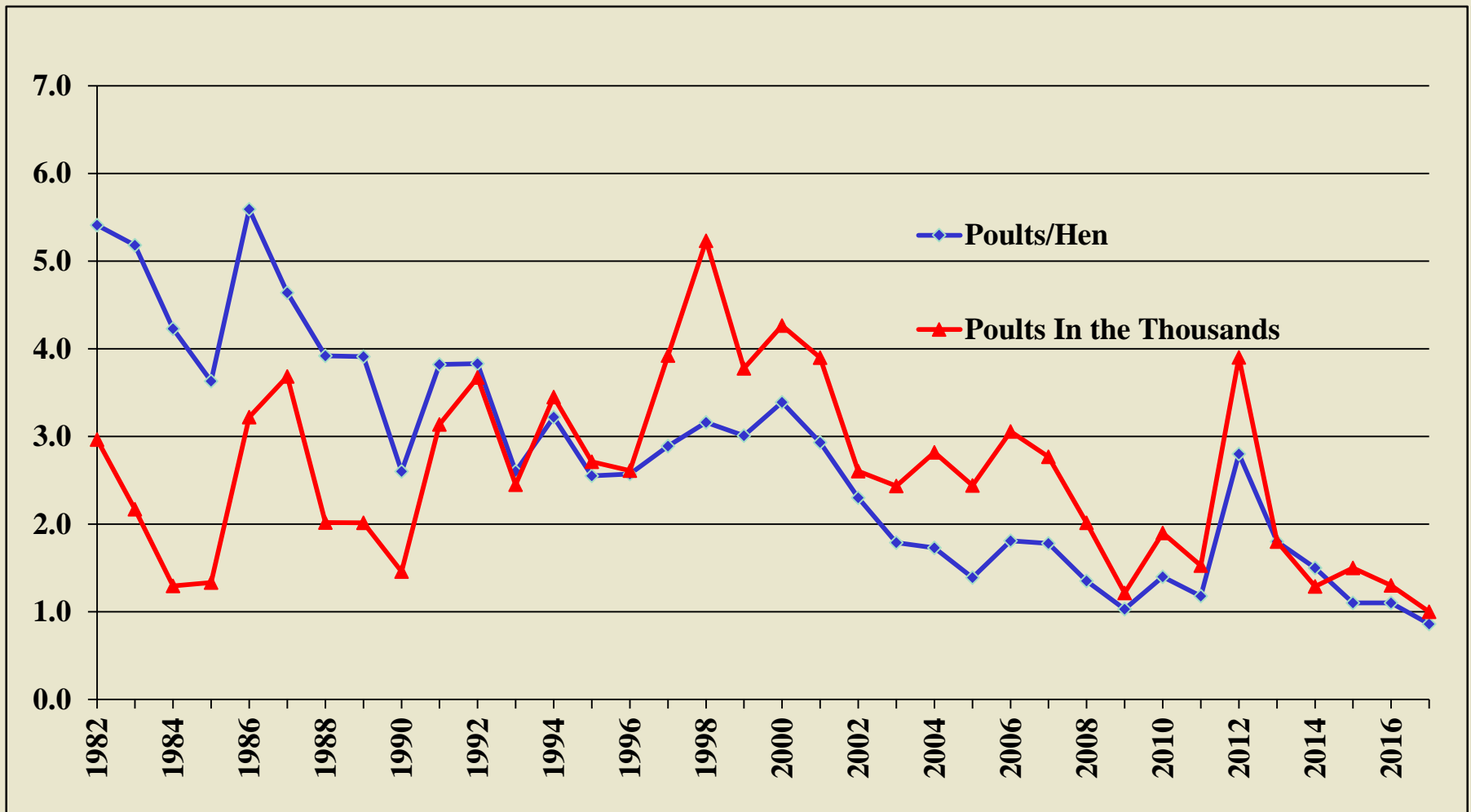


2017 Turkey Harvest by County





Statewide Brood Survey (1992-2017)





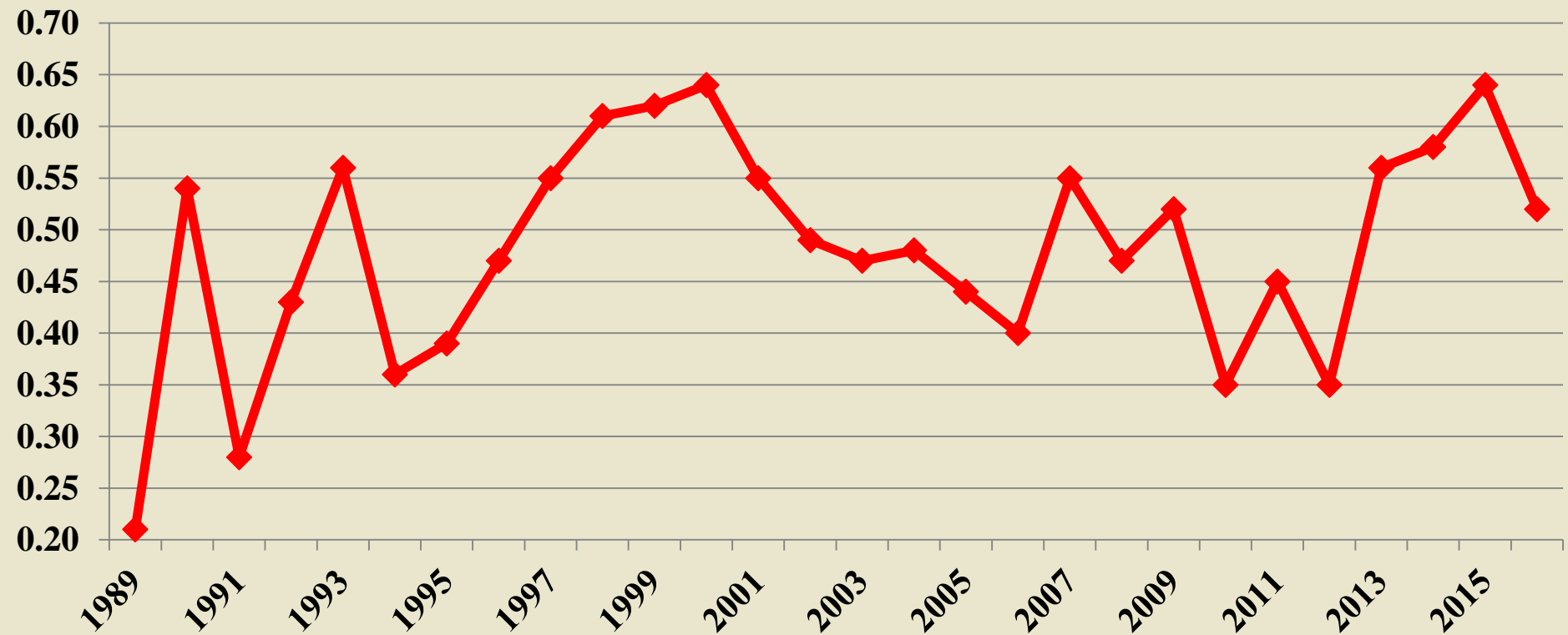
Wild Turkey Brood Survey

Results by Physiographic Region

	Gobblers	Hens With Poults	Hens W/O Poults	Number of Poults	Number of Broods	Poults/ Hen	Gobbler/ Hen
Ozark	192	65	369	288	65	0.66	0.44
Ouachita	110	57	161	270	57	1.2	0.5
GCP	161	37	160	194	38	1	0.81
Delta	52	20	117	105	20	0.76	0.37
State	515	179	807	857	180	0.86	0.52



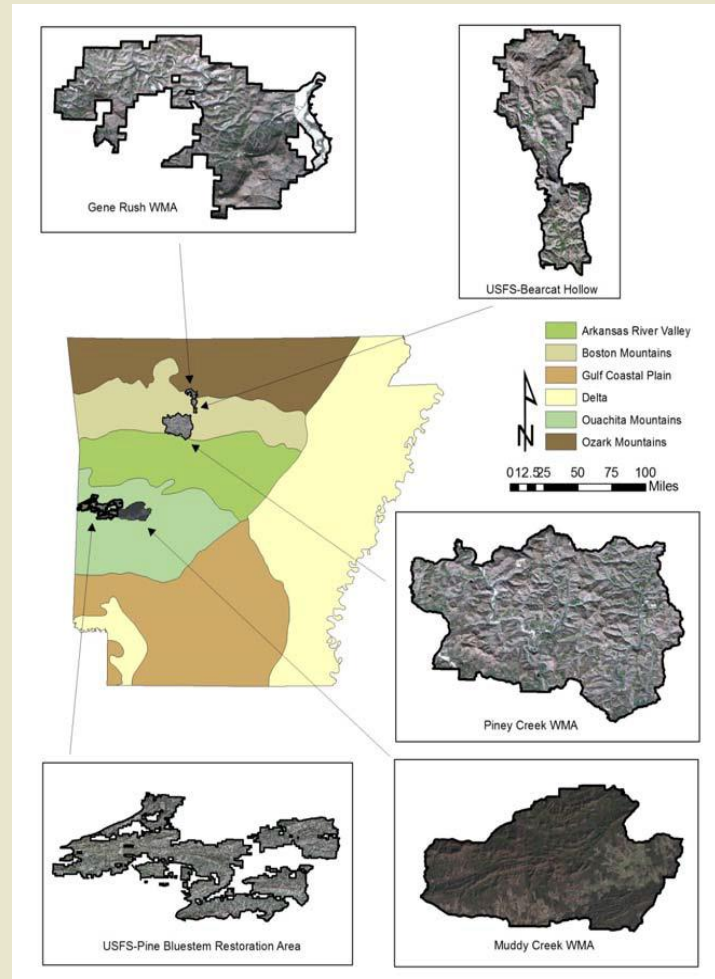
Statewide Gobbler/Hen Trends in Arkansas from the Wild Turkey Brood Survey, 1989-2016





Survival and Recruitment of Male Turkeys: Phase I Objectives

- Determine the annual survival rates of jakes and gobblers in the Ozarks and Ouachita Mountains;
- Estimate seasonal survival probabilities for jakes and gobblers during hunting and non-hunting seasons;
- Investigate the influence of patch-level and landscape-level patterns on jake and gobbler survival;





Survival and Recruitment of Male Turkeys: Field Objectives

- Deploy satellite transmitters to assess survival rates (\hat{S})



- Band additional males to assess harvest rates (\hat{H})

Ozarks and Ouachitas
~200 bands / yr. for 3yrs.



Survival and Recruitment of Male Turkeys: Current PTT Status

<u>REGION</u> / Site	Marked 2016		Marked 2017		Active as of 2 August 2017	
	Jakes	Gobblers	Jakes	Gobblers	Jakes	Gobblers
<u>OZARKS</u>						
Gene Rush WMA	5	5	5	5	3	1
Bearcat Hollow WMA	11	4	5	2	4	4
Piney Creek WMA	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
Total for Ozark	16	17	16	7	12	8
<u>OUACHITAS</u>						
Mgmt. Areas 21 & 22	3	12	14	3	8	5
Muddy Creek WMA	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
Total for Ouachita	3	22	17	12	11	12
Subtotal	19	39	33	19	23	20
		N = 58			N = 52	N = 43



Survival and Recruitment of Male Turkeys: Preliminary Results

- Harvest rate calculated from direct band recoveries
- Diefenbach. 2010. Annual survival and spring harvest rates of male wild turkeys in NY, OH, and PA
 - 36 of 124 adult males banded during 2017 were harvested in Arkansas

$$\hat{H} = ((36/124) / (0.82)) * 100$$

$$\hat{H}_{2017} = 35.4\%$$

- Stevens et al. 2017-harvest beyond 30% is not sustainable

“I do not hunt turkeys because I want to. I hunt them because I have to. I really would rather not do it, but I’m helpless in the grip of my compulsion.”

--Tom Kelly (Tenth Legion)

