

Landowner Appreciation Program

Report on public involvement conducted to support
Idaho Department of Fish and Game's
Negotiated Rulemaking Process

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Landowner Appreciation Program Public Involvement Summary Report

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission is authorized to establish seasons and rules. Setting the season includes setting season timing and length, species and sex of animal (or fish), size of animal, and number of animals. Season regulations do not require legislative approval. All other rules passed by the Commission, such as legal equipment definitions, controlled hunt requirements, allowable method of take, and tag quotas are considered rules and must be adopted following the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act, including approval by the Idaho Legislature whose guidance is that formal negotiated rulemaking should be followed whenever feasible.

In 2014, IDFG's embarked on a negotiated rulemaking process to consider changes to the Landowner Appreciation Program and conducted public participation activities in support of that process. Full documentation of the rulemaking process for the Landowner Appreciation Program is available at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/about/?getPage=33>

Following public comment in January 2014 on an initial proposed rule, IDFG staff revised the proposed rule and presented it to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. The Commission directed IDFG staff to conduct another round of public participation activities. IDFG:

- conducted public meetings in five locations throughout the state of Idaho
- provided an opportunity to comment on line, and
- conducted a follow-up survey allowing solicitation of feedback of suggestions submitted at the meetings and on-line.

This report summarizes the results of the survey conducted between July 10 and July 27, 2014. The survey was distributed to 181 people electronically and 7 people via US Mail (who had not provided an email address). Of that total of 188 people who were initially invited to participate in the survey, 79 had attended one or more of the five public meetings (held throughout the state of Idaho between May 22 and June 4, 2014), 108 had submitted comments on-line via Idaho Department of Fish and Game's website, and one had not previously commented.

A combined "Group Memory" from the public meetings is attached to this report.

The survey was conducted using the Survey Monkey® on-line platform. Distribution of the invitation to participate in the survey was handled through Survey Monkey using the email addresses provided by participants who attended the public comment meetings and the email addresses people used when they submitted their comments via IDFG's website.

A copy of the letter used to distribute the surveys that were mailed via US Mail is attached along with a hard copy of the survey instrument.

This report includes a discussion of the responses to the questions asked and includes overarching conclusions.

Who Responded to the Survey?

The first set of questions asked people to provide information about themselves and how they participated in the prior public comment period on the Landowner Appreciation Program. A total of 141 people participated in the survey during the survey response period which ended on July 27, 2014. This report includes the responses submitted.

Are you a landowner that is potentially eligible to participate in the Landowner Appreciation Program?

A total of 36 participants indicated they are potentially eligible to participate in the Landowner Appreciation Program; the other 105 indicated they are not.

Do you hunt?

Response options included not just yes and no but also “Yes, and I am also an outfitter or guide.” Only four participants responded “No” and a total of 137 of the survey participants hunt. One landowner responded that s/he is an outfitter or guide. One person that had stated s/he is not eligible to participate in the Landowner Appreciation Program responded that s/he is an outfitter or guide.

In which region of the state do you live?

Response options “None (I do not live in Idaho).” The following table summarizes the responses to this question.

Region	Participants who are Landowners	Participants who are Sportsmen
Region 1 Panhandle	0	2
Region 2 Clearwater	1	6
Region 3 Southwest	15	47
Region 4 Magic Valley	8	10
Region 5 Southeast	5	34
Region 6 Upper Snake	4	3
Region 7 Salmon	2	2
Do not live in Idaho	1	1
Total	36	106

Which public workshop did you attend?

Response options included the five workshops hosted by IDFG and “I did not attend a public workshop.” The following table summarizes the responses to this question. Please note that the totals do not equal 139 because four people attended two workshops each, including one who attended in both Idaho Falls and Pocatello and three that attended in both Jerome and Nampa. Of the four people who attended two meetings, one is a sportsman and three are landowners.

Workshop	Participants who are Landowners	Participants who are Sportsmen
Idaho Falls (May 22, 2014)	1	3
Pocatello (May 27, 2014)	2	16
Jerome (May 29, 2014)	12	3
Lewiston (June 3, 2014)	1	2
Nampa (June 4, 2014)	8	17
I did not attend a public workshop	15	67

Did you submit comments via the website?

A total of 111 people responded that they did provide comments via the website; another 30 did not. Of those that submitted comments via the website, 22 are landowners and 89 are sportsmen. Of those

who did not submit comments online, 14 are landowners and 16 are sportsmen.

Many of those who attended the workshops also submitted comments online. The following table summarizes the categories of people who attended workshops and submitted comments online.

Workshop	Submitted Comments online as well
Idaho Falls (May 22, 2014)	3
Pocatello (May 27, 2014)	10
Jerome (May 29, 2014)	3
Lewiston (June 3, 2014)	3
Nampa (June 4, 2014)	14

Of the 33 people who attended a workshop and submitted comments online, 9 were landowners and 24 were sportsmen.

Because a primary purpose of this survey was to understand how landowners and sportsmen view various options for the Landowner Appreciation Program, the balance of the questions will be analyzed separately. For the balance of this report, the two groups will be called landowners and sportsmen.

Responses to Suggestions Submitted during the Recent Public Comment Period

The bulk of the survey asked participants to respond to a series of statements about the Landowner Appreciate Program and potential changes to the program that could be considered. Several categories of statements were included, including statements about:

- Support for the Landowner Appreciation Program
- Eligibility to Participate in the Program
- Allocation of Tags to Program Participants
- Types of Tags
- Transfer of Tags
- Increased Access for Sportsmen
- Other Suggestions.

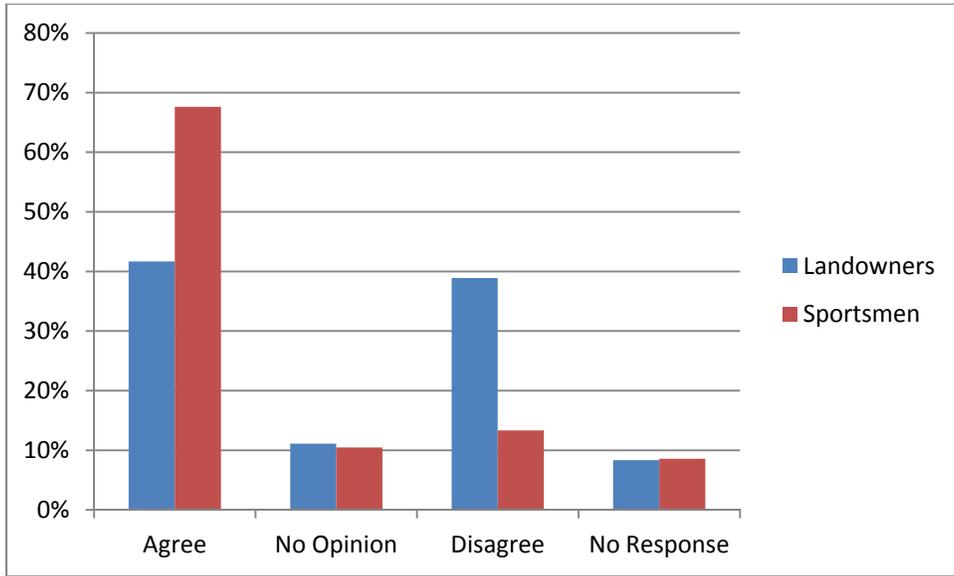
Support of the Landowner Appreciation Program

The first set of questions asked survey participants to indicate their level of agreement with statements about the Landowner Appreciation Program.

The existing program is better than the proposed program released by IDFG in May 2014

Four of every ten landowners and two-thirds of the sportsmen agreed that the existing program is better than the program proposed in May for public review. Figure 1 illustrates the responses to this statement.

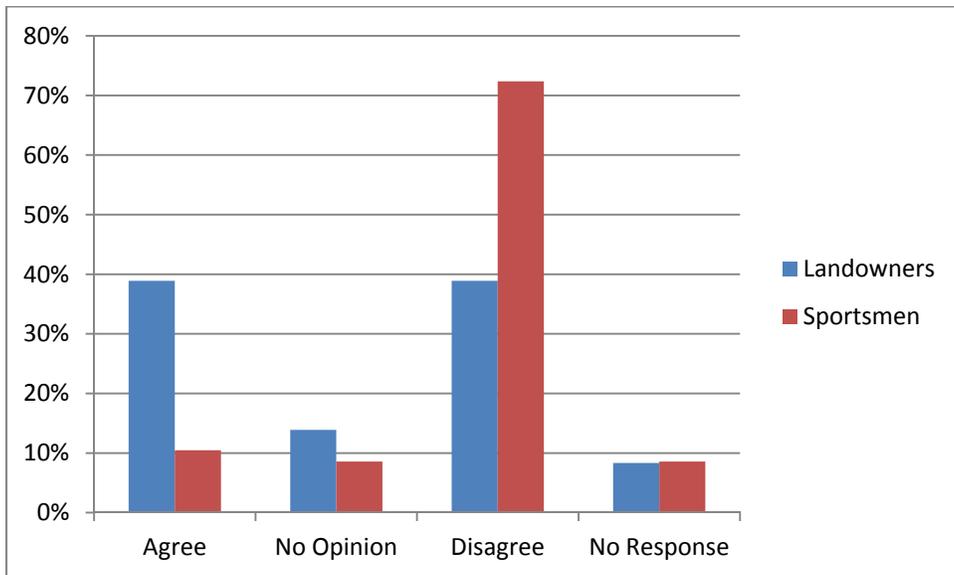
Figure 1. Responses to the statement "The existing program is better than the proposed program"



The proposed program is better than the existing program

Four out of ten landowners and more than seven out of ten sportsmen disagreed that the proposed program is better than the existing program. Figure 2 illustrates the responses to this statement.

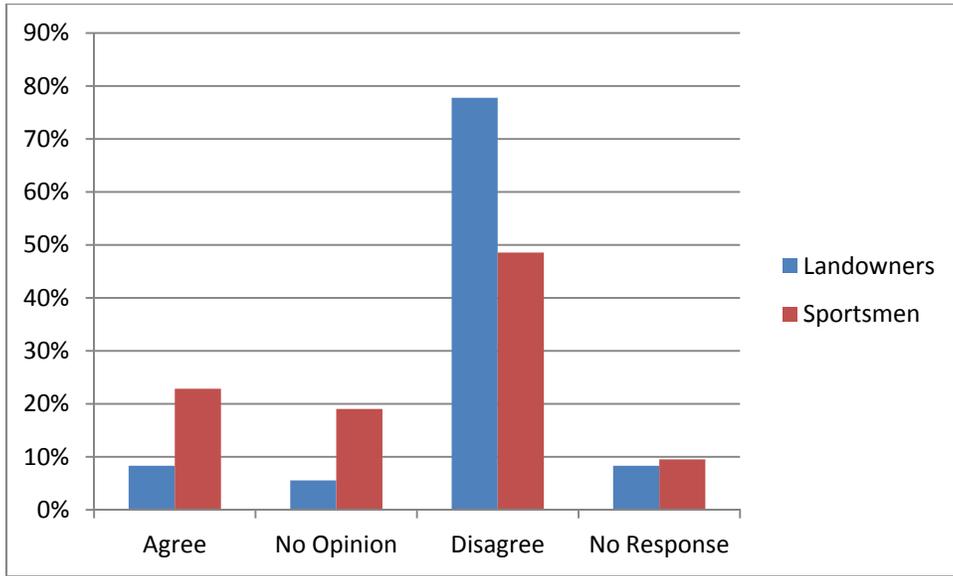
Figure 2. Responses to "The proposed program is better than the existing program"



I do not support continuation of a landowner appreciation program

More than 75% of the landowners and nearly half of the sportsmen disagreed that the landowner appreciation program should be discontinued. Figure 3 illustrates the responses to this statement.

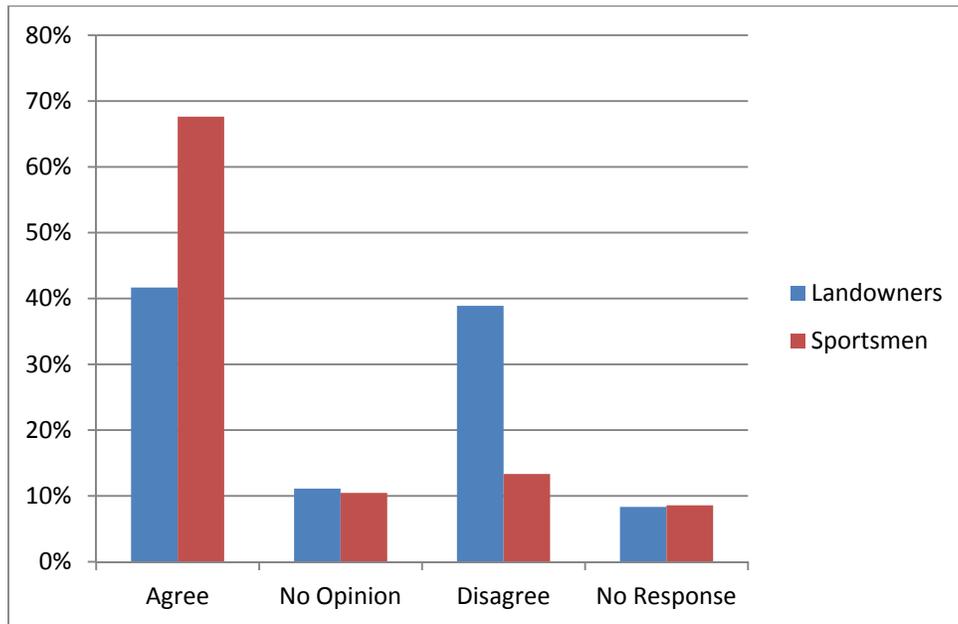
Figure 3. Responses to "I do not support continuation of the LAP"



I think a landowner appreciation program is important, but additional effort should be put into perfecting the program design before moving forward

Four out of ten landowners and more than ¾ of the sportsmen agreed that the program is important, but that more effort should be put into perfecting the program design before moving forward with program changes. Figure 4 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 4. Responses to "I think the LAP is important, but additional effort should be put into perfecting the program design before moving forward"



Eligibility to Participate in the Program

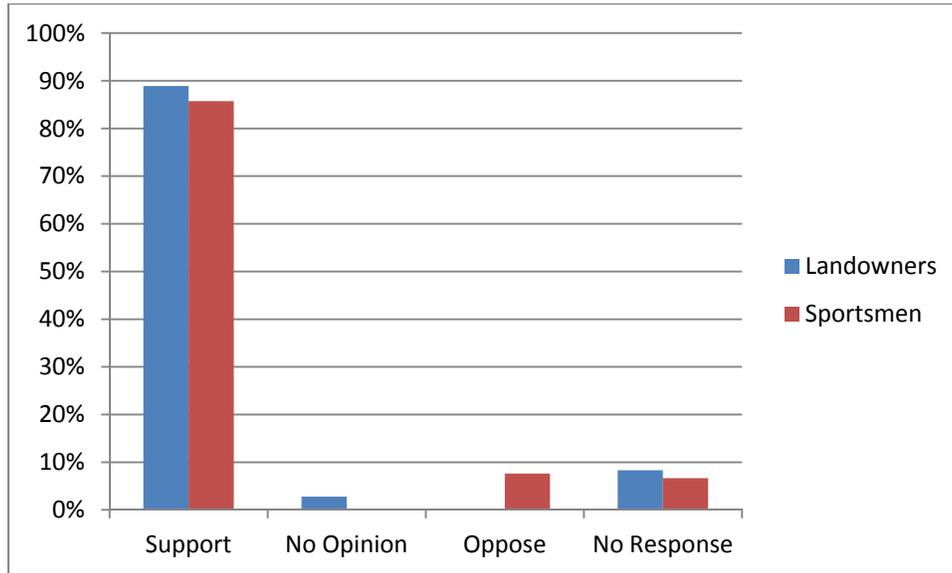
The next set of questions asked survey participants to indicate their level of support for statements about the potential eligibility requirements for landowners participating in the Landowner Appreciation

Program.

Landowners that provide quality habitat should be eligible to participate in the program

This statement garnered the highest level of support and the lowest level of opposition of any statement in the survey. Figure 5 illustrates the responses to this statement.

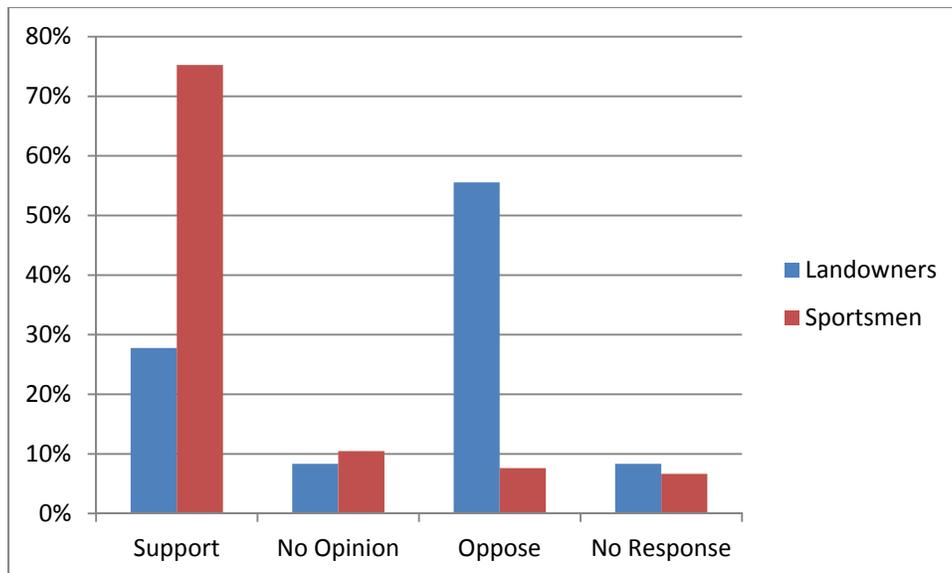
Figure 5. Responses to "Landowners that provide quality habitat should be eligible to participate"



Landowners should be required to enter into wildlife habitat management agreements in order to participate

Landowners and sportsmen did not agree with each other about this statement. While more than 70% of the sportsmen feel that participating landowners should be required to enter into habitat management agreements, less than three in ten of the landowners agreed with that idea. Figure 6 illustrates the responses to this statement.

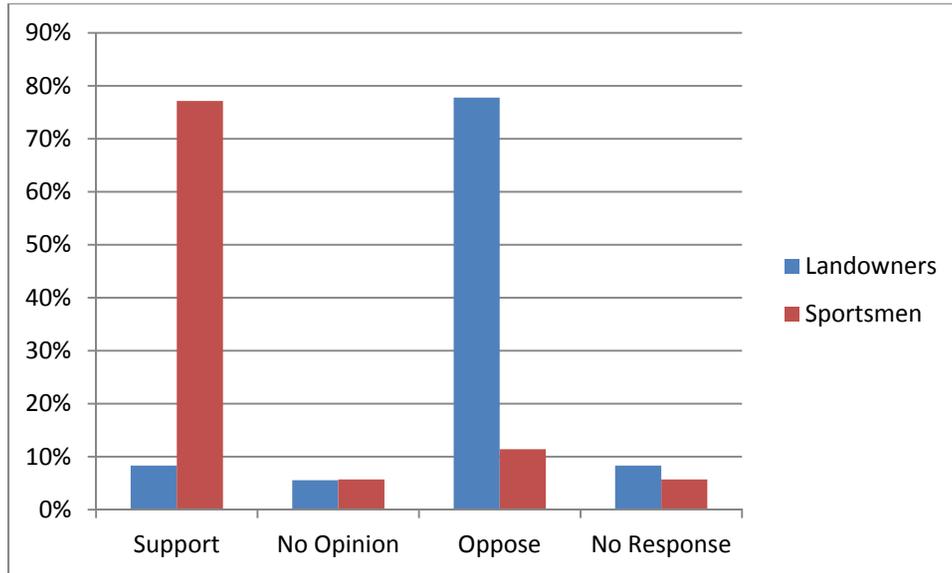
Figure 6. Responses to "Landowners should be required to enter into habitat management agreements"



Landowners should be required to enter into access agreements in order to participate

The results for this statement are very similar than for the prior statement, although the difference between the two groups is even more pronounced. Less than 10% of landowners could support this idea, although nearly 80% of the sportsmen supported the concept. Figure 7 illustrates the responses to this statement.

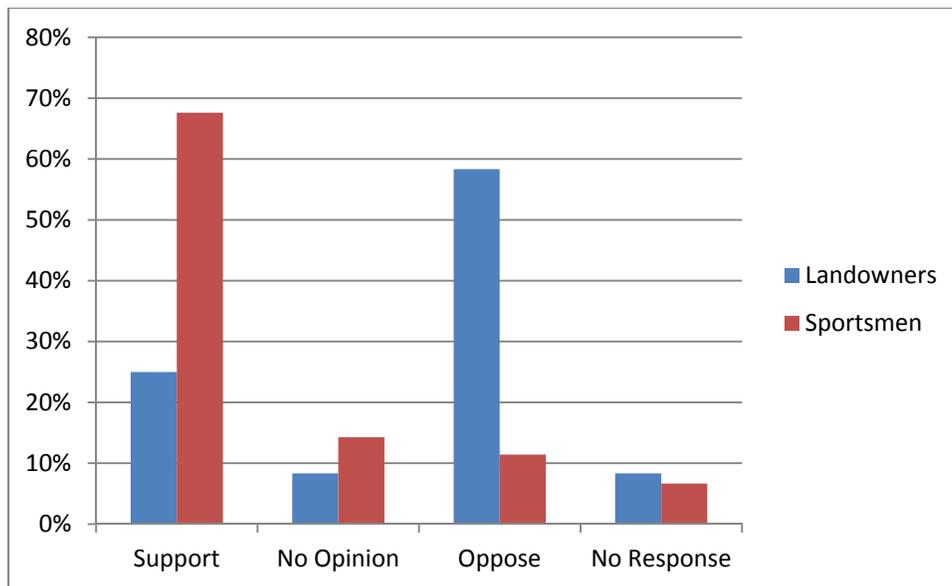
Figure 7. Responses to "Landowners should be required to enter into access agreements"



Landowners should be required to enter into depredation release agreements in order to participate

The pattern from the two prior statements continued for this third idea about requirements that could be imposed on participating landowners. Nearly seven in ten sportsmen supported the idea but well over half of the landowners opposed the idea. Figure 8 illustrates the responses to this statement.

Figure 8. Responses to "Landowners should be required to enter into depredation release agreements"



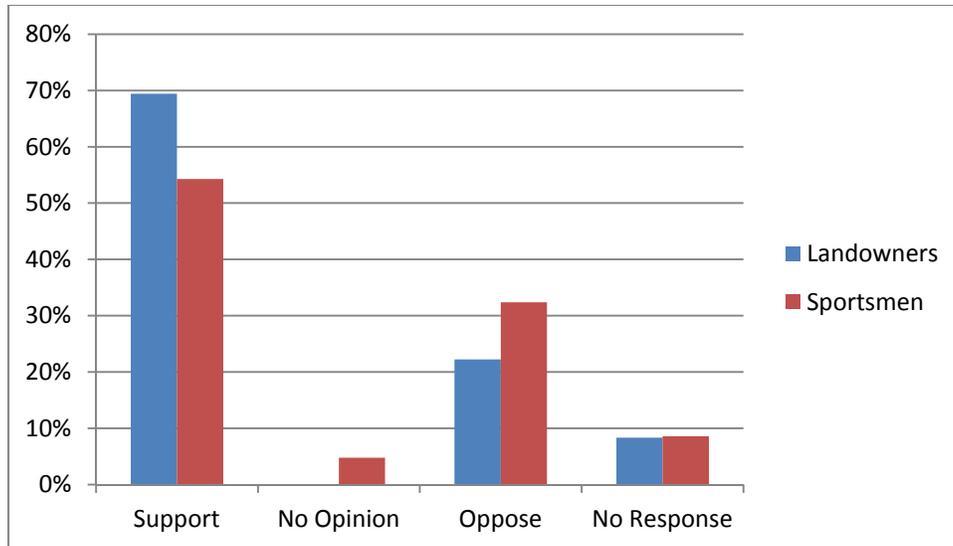
Allocation of Tags to Program Participants

The next set of questions asked participants to indicate their level of support for statements about how tags should be allocated to landowners who participate in the Landowner Appreciation Program.

Allocation should be based on the size of their property

Most survey participants support the concept that tag allocation should be based on the size of deeded property. Nearly 70% of the landowners and over half of the sportsmen agreed with that concept. Figure 9 illustrates responses to this statement.

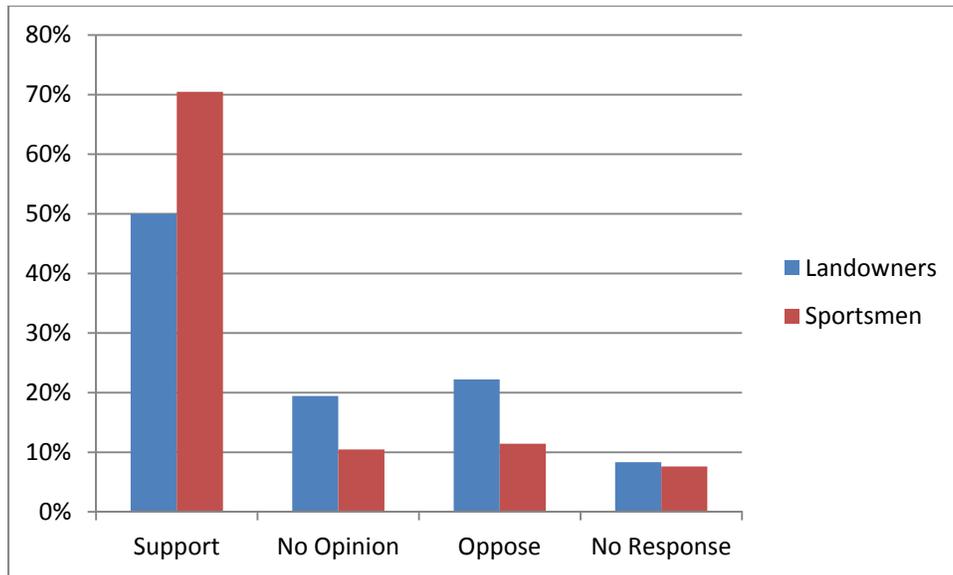
Figure 9. Responses to "Allocation should be based on the size of the property"



Allocation should be based on the duration of time that animals use the property as habitat

This statement asked for reactions to the idea that allocation should be based on the duration of time that animals use the property. There was considerably less support for the idea among landowners than among sportsmen, although one in five landowners responded that they had no opinion on the concept. Figure 10 illustrates responses to this statement.

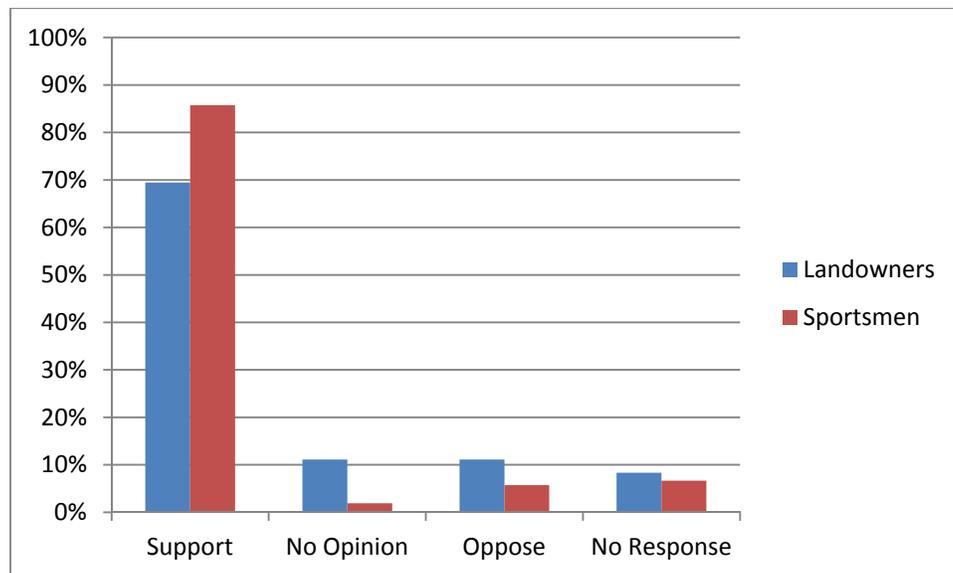
Figure 10. Responses to "Allocation should be based on the duration of time animals use the property as habitat"



Allocation should be based on an evaluation of the quality of habitat

The concept that allocation of tags could be based on an evaluation of the quality of habitat was met with a high level of support. Nearly seven in ten of the landowners and nearly 90% of the sportsmen found this idea worthy of support. Figure 11 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 11. Responses to "Allocation should be based on the quality of habitat"

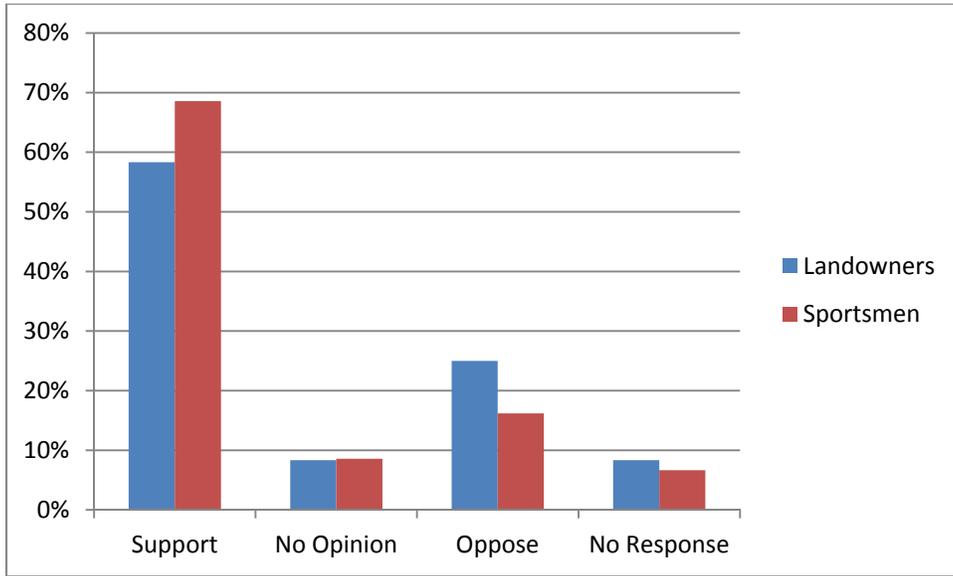


Additional questions were asked about potential options for the program that relate to how tags would be allocated to program participants. Participants were invited to indicate their level of support for the following statements.

The controlled hunt draw should continue

There was a lot of support among both groups for continuing the draw. Figure 12 illustrates responses to this statement.

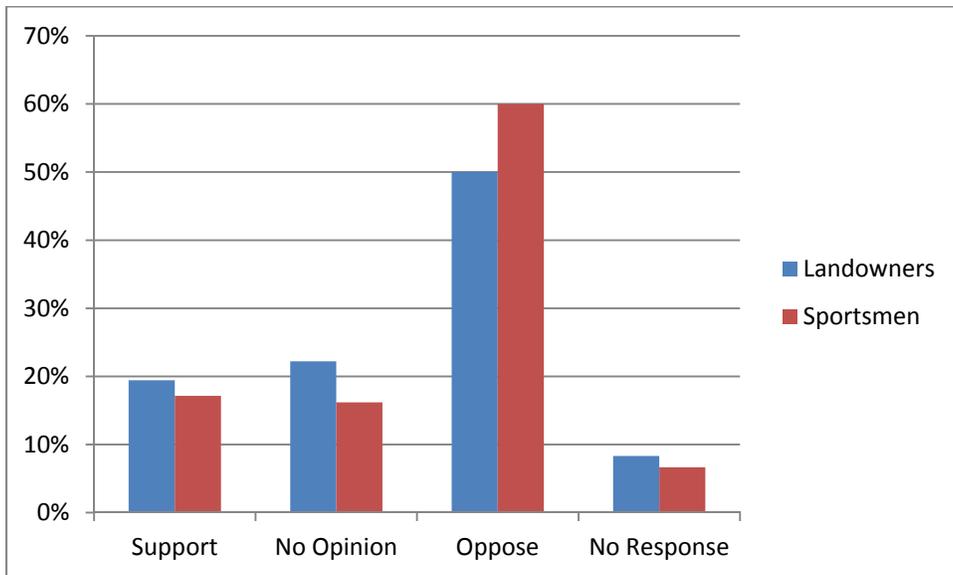
Figure 12. Responses to "The controlled hunt draw should continue"



Program participants should be assured tags EVERY OTHER year

Fewer landowners and sportsmen supported and more of each group opposed the concept of awarding tags every year. Figure 13 illustrates responses to this statement.

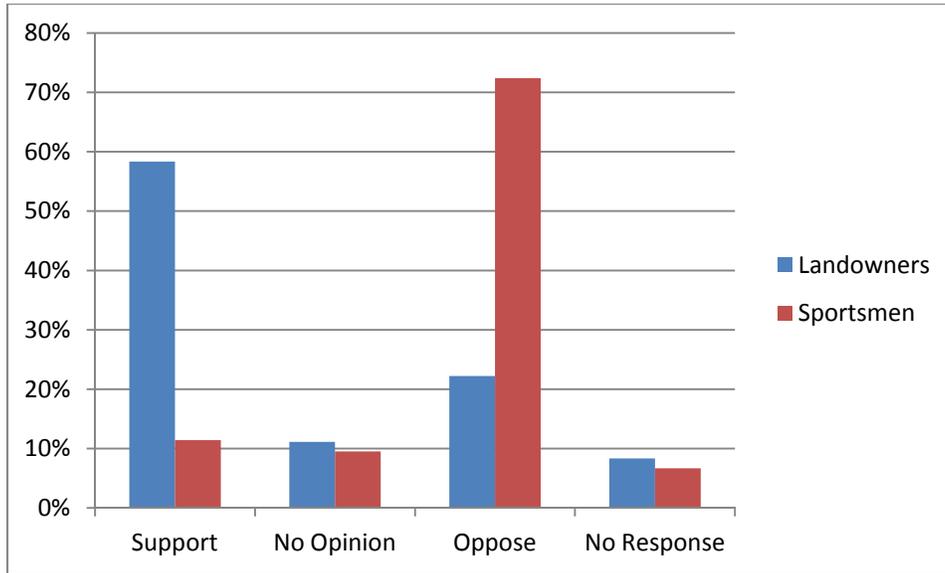
Figure 13. Responses to "LAP participants should be assured tags EVERY OTHER year"



Program participants should be assured tags EVERY year

The responses to this statement reveal that landowners favor the assurance of getting tags every year, but seven out of ten sportsmen opposed this idea. Figure 14 illustrates responses to this statement.

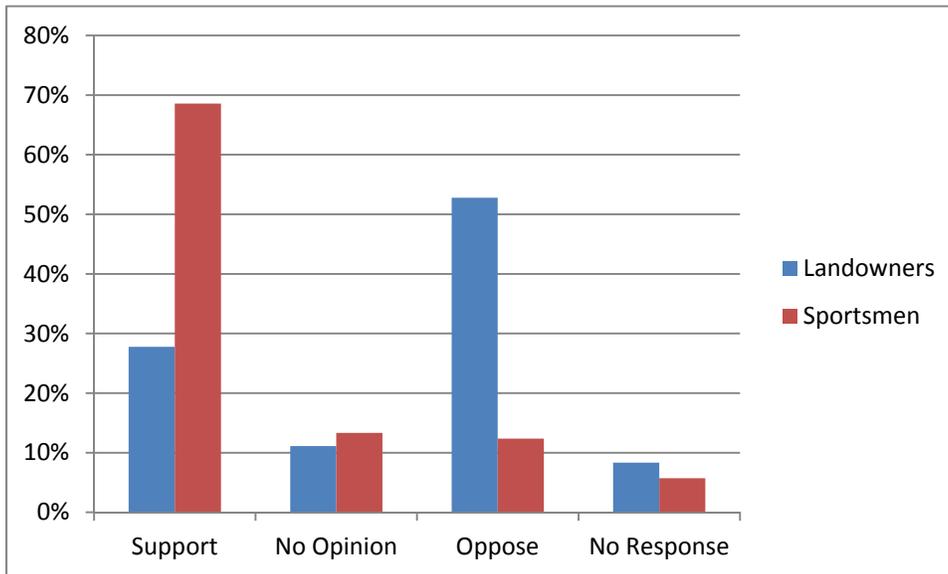
Figure 14. Responses to "LAP participants should be assured tags EVERY year"



Program participants should have a rotating opportunity based on the number of eligible landowners and the availability of landowner tags

The final idea related to allocation of tags was preferred by sportsmen; nearly seven in ten supported a more flexible approach. Over half of the landowners opposed the idea, however. Figure 15 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 15. Responses to "Program participants should have a rotating opportunity based on the number of LAP participants and the availability of landowner tags"



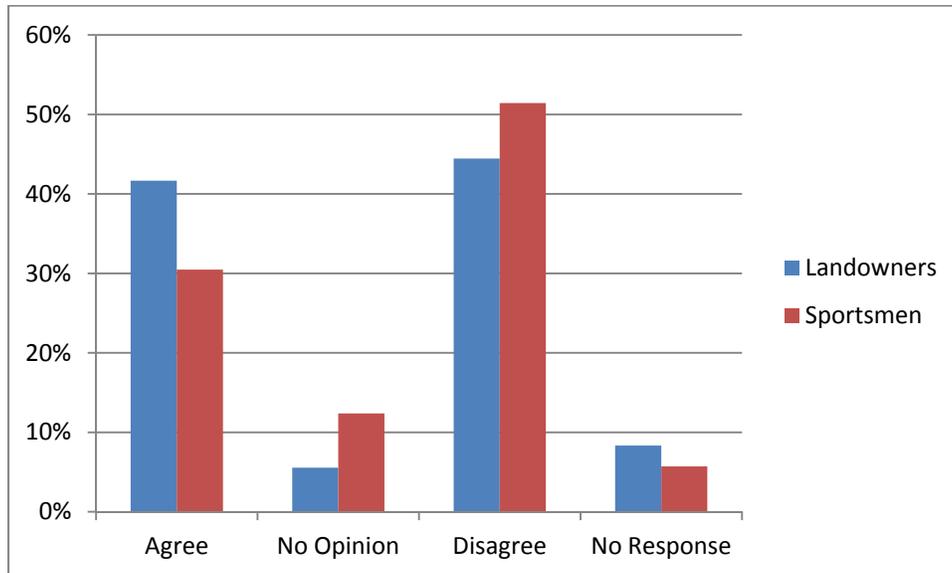
Types of Tags

The proposed new program (under consideration during the public comment period in May-June 2014) distinguished between base tags (to be awarded based on the size of deeded property) and stewardship tags (to be awarded to those landowners willing to enter into stewardship agreements. The next set of questions asked survey participants to indicate their level of agreement with statements related to the types of tags that might be made available to landowners.

The proposed two types of tags make sense

This statement faced more opposition than support. Figure 16 illustrates responses to this statement.

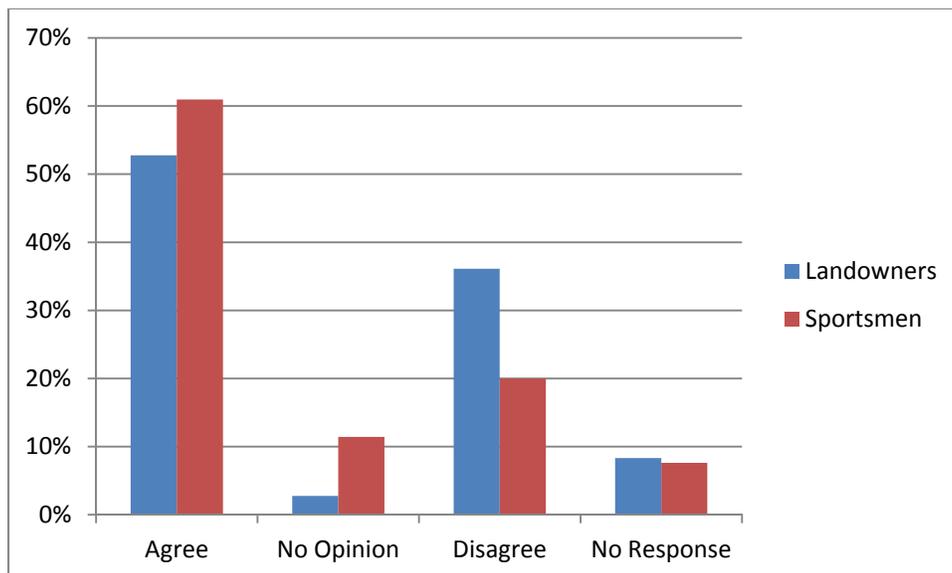
Figure 16. Responses to "The proposed two types of tags make sense"



The proposed two types of tags would make the program overly complex

There was agreement between the two groups that the proposed two types of tags would make the program overly complex. Figure 17 illustrates responses to this statement.

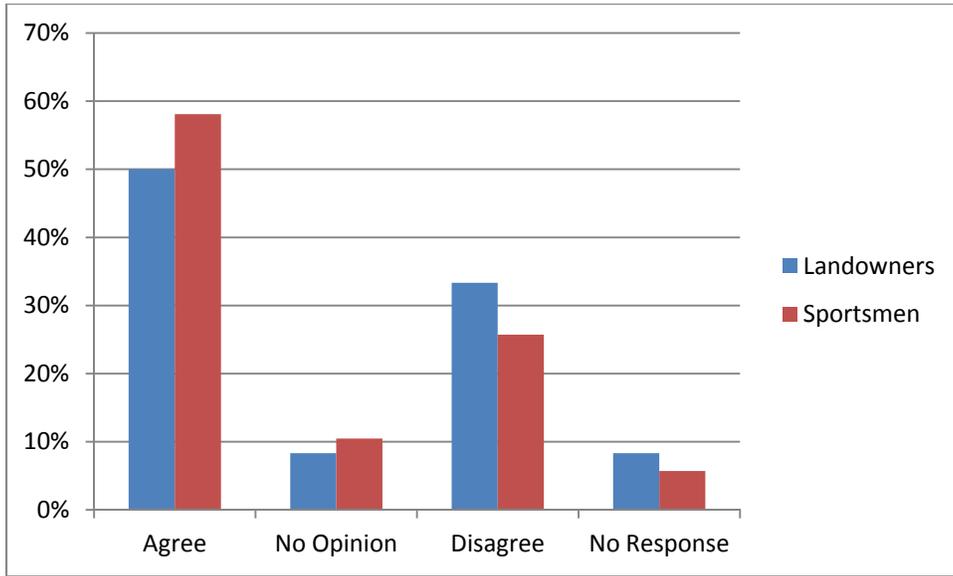
Figure 17. Responses to "The proposed two types of tags would make the program overly complex"



The minimum size for base tags (640 acres) makes sense

More people support the concept of using 640 acres as the minimum size in the program than that concept. Figure 18 illustrates responses to this statement.

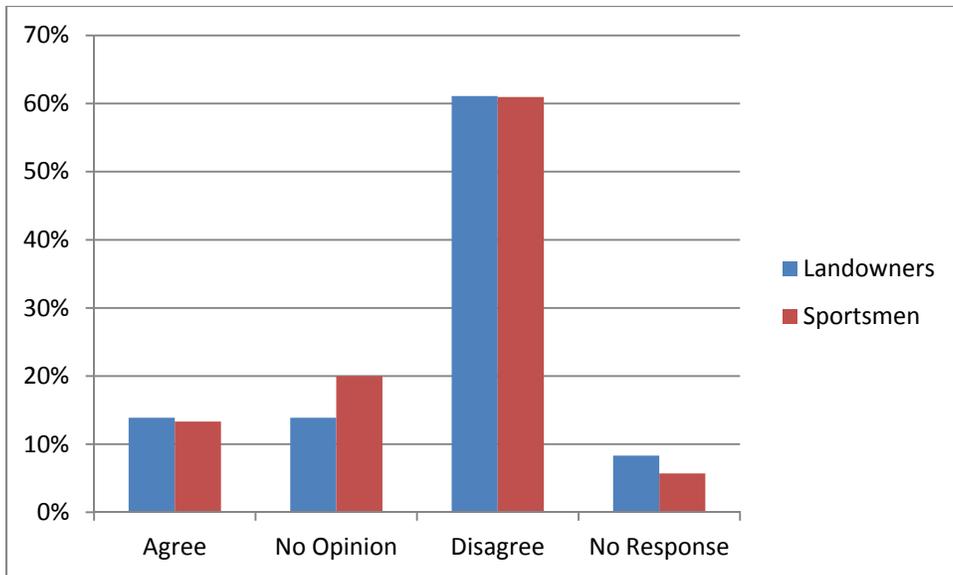
Figure 18. Responses to "The minimum size for base tags (640 acres) makes sense"



The minimum size for base tags should be smaller

The two groups agreed with each other in responding to this statement and more than six in ten people disagreed that the minimum size for base tags should be smaller. Figure 19 illustrates responses to this statement.

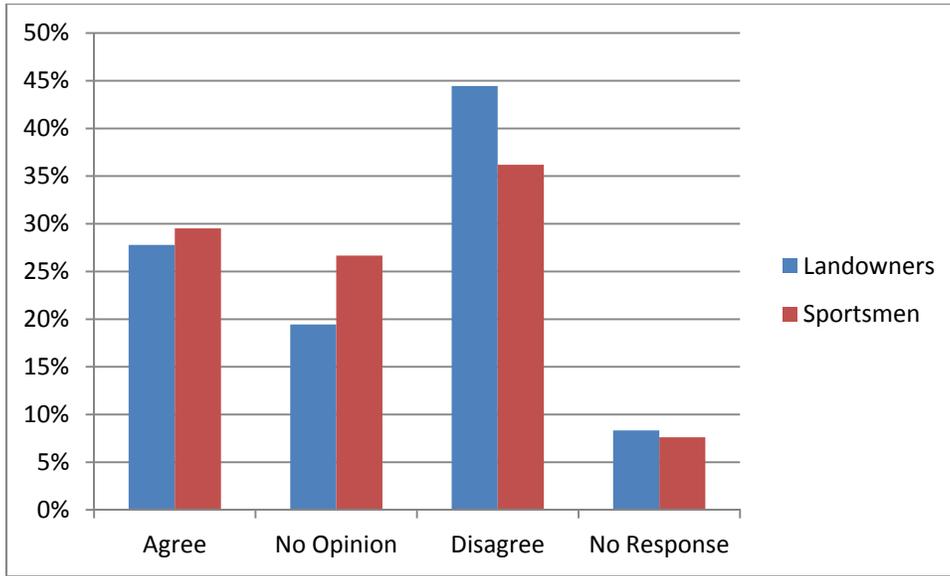
Figure 19. Responses to "The minimum size for base tags should be smaller"



The minimum size for base tags should be larger

Both groups were much more divided in their responses to the concept of increasing the minimum size for the base tags. Figure 20 illustrates responses to this statement.

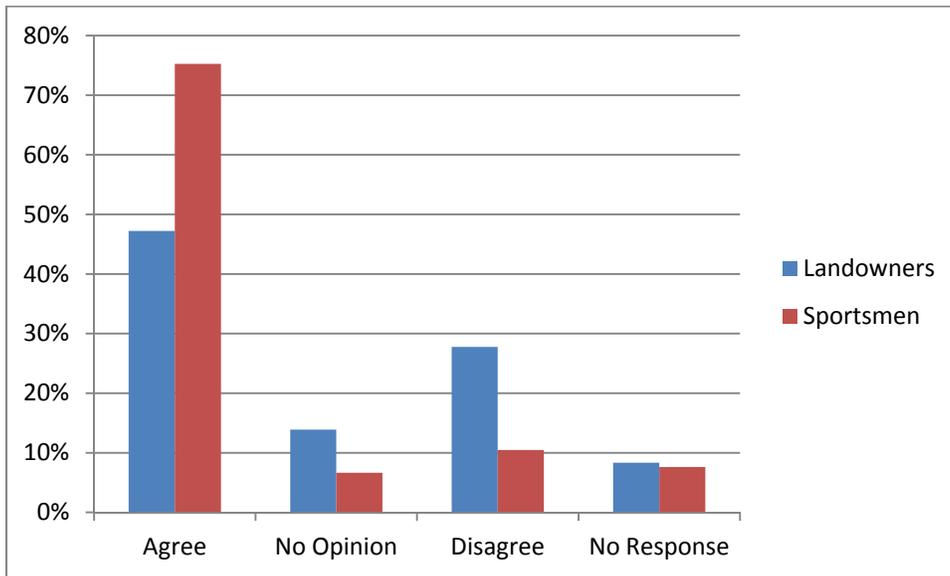
Figure 20. Responses to "The minimum size for base tags should be larger"



It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to accomplish Improvement in wildlife habitat

Nearly half of the landowners and about 3/4 of the sportsmen agreed that it would make sense for the LAP to be designed to incentivize agreements that would accomplish improvements in wildlife habitat. Figure 21 illustrates responses to this statement.

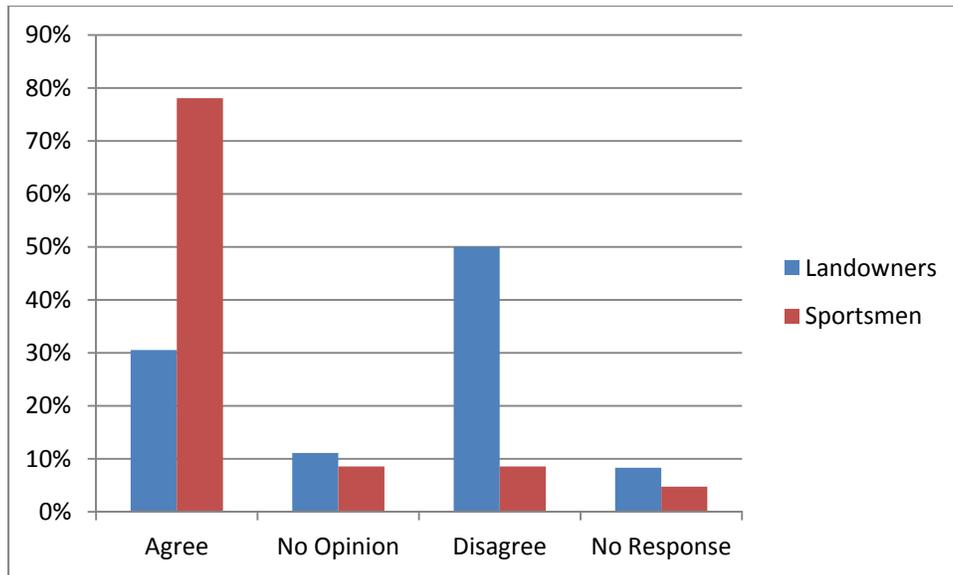
Figure 21. Responses to "It makes sense for the LAP to incentives agreements to accomplish improvement in wildlife habitat"



It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to accomplish increased access for sportsmen

Landowners and sportsmen did not agree with each other in responding to this statement. Nearly 80% of the sportsmen support the concept of including incentives to increase access for sportsmen in the program design. Over half of the landowners disagree with that concept. Figure 22 illustrates responses to this statement.

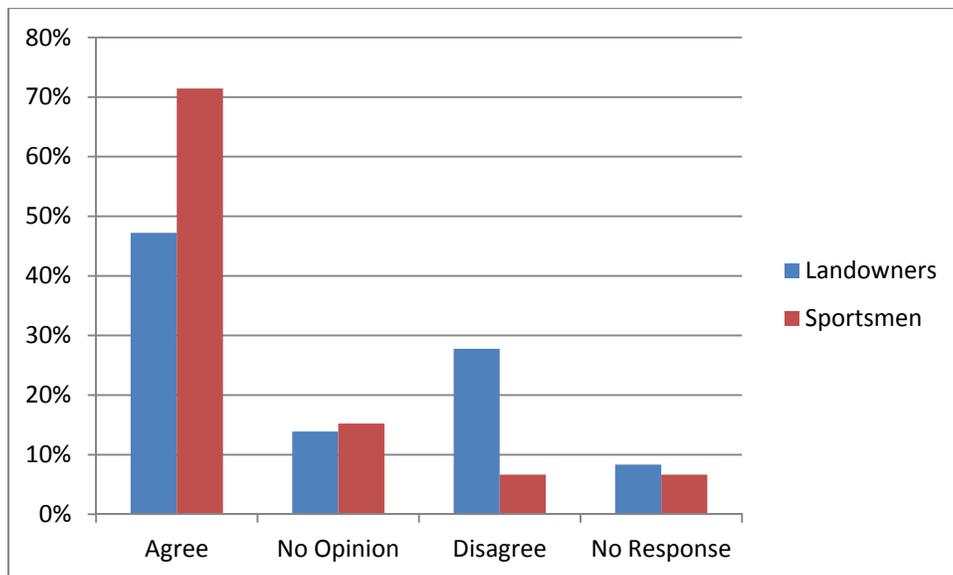
Figure 22. Responses to "It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to accomplish increased access for sportsmen"



It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to decrease the filing of deprecation claims

Sportsmen also support the concept of including agreements to decrease filing of deprecation claims in the LAP design, but not quite half of the landowners agree with that idea. Figure 23 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 23. Responses to "It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to decrease the filing of deprecation claims"



Transfer of Tags

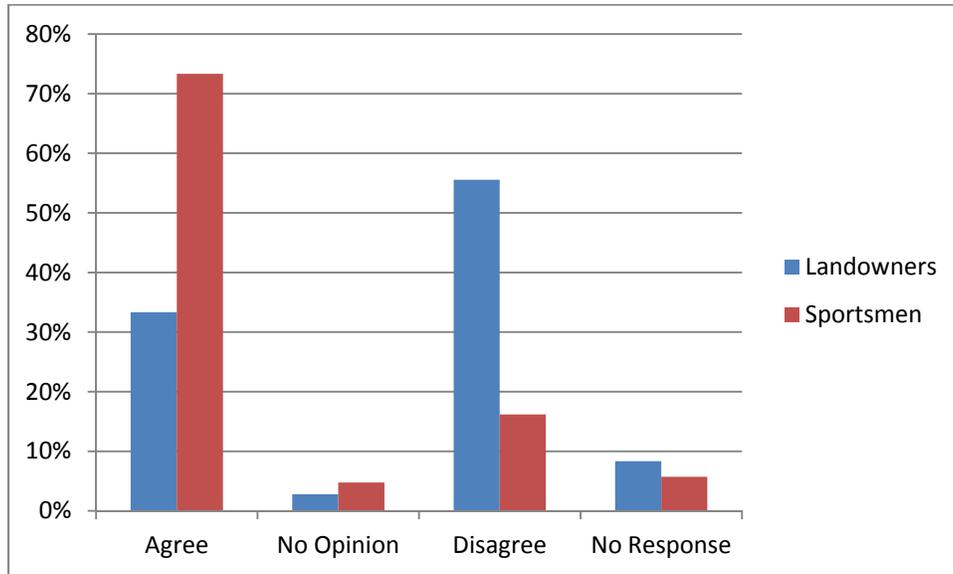
The next set of questions asked survey participants to indicate their level of agreement with statements about the transfer of tags

Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to family members only

Landowners and sportsmen had opposite reactions to the idea of restricting the transfer of tags to

family members. Sportsmen supported the idea, but over half of the landowners opposed it. Figure 24 illustrates responses to this statement.

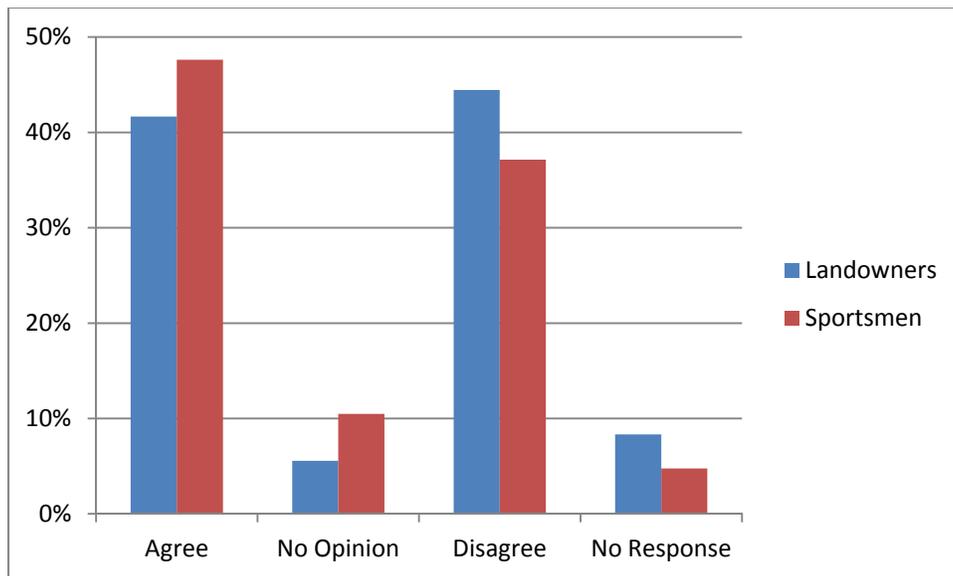
Figure 24. Responses to "Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to family members only"



Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to employees as well as family

Both groups were closely divided in responding to the concept of allowing transfer to employees as well as family members. Figure 25 illustrates responses to this statement.

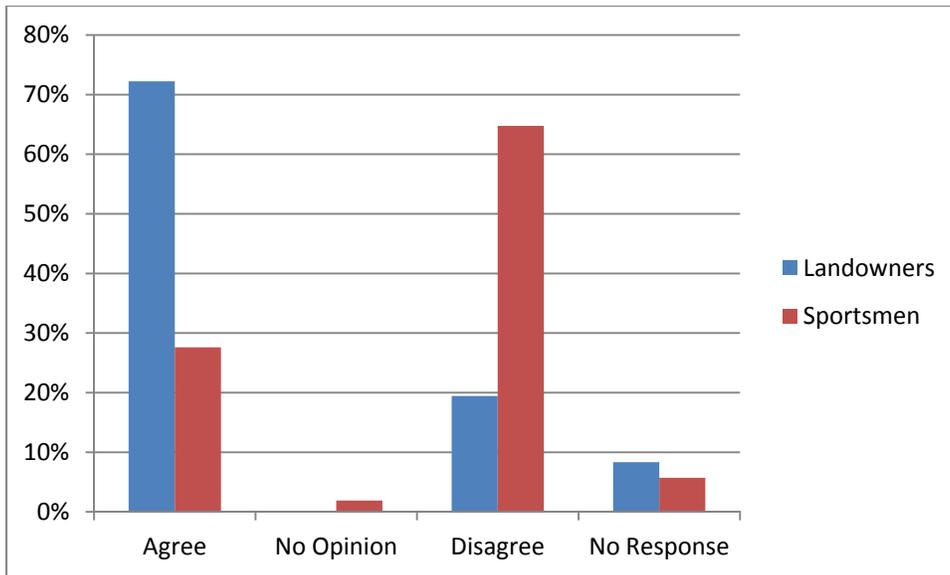
Figure 25. Responses to "Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to employees as well as family"



Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to anyone they want

Division between the two groups was even more pronounced regarding the concept of allowing LAP participants to transfer tags to anyone they want. Over 60% of sportsmen opposed the concept while over 70% of the landowners supported the idea. Figure 26 illustrates responses to this statement.

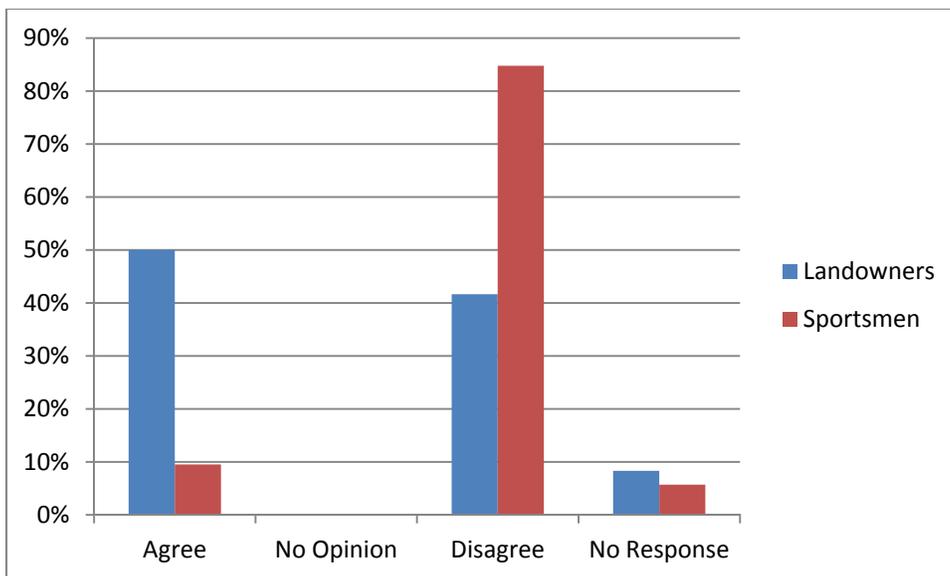
Figure 26. Responses to "Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to anyone they want"



Landowners should be allowed to sell tags to anyone they want

This concept met with the highest level of opposition of any suggestion addressed in the survey. Fully 86% of the sportsmen were opposed to the idea of allowing the sale of tags. Slightly more than half of the landowners supported the idea, but almost as many opposed the idea. Not one participant chose not to express an opinion on the idea. Figure 27 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 27. Responses to "Landowners should be allowed to sell tags to anyone they want"



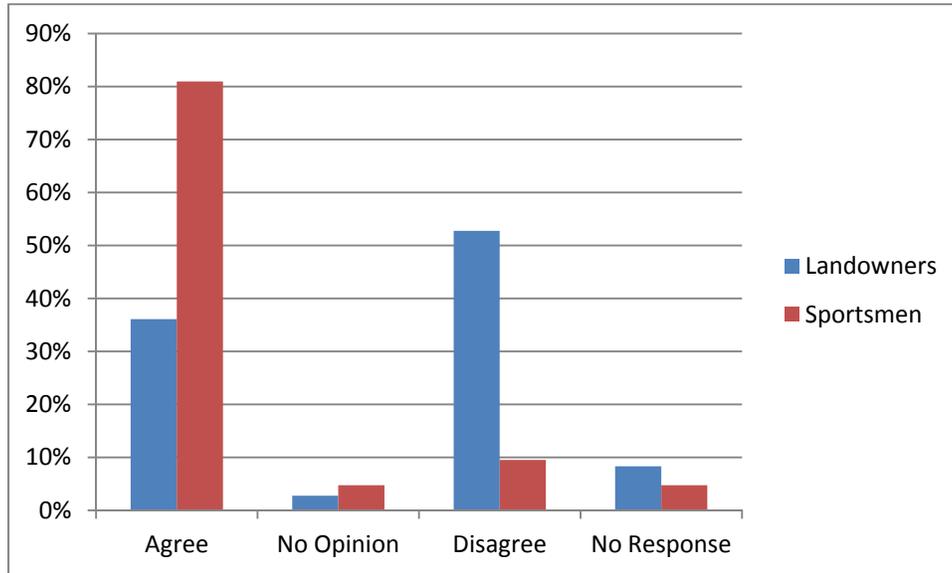
Additional questions were asked about potential options if landowners are allowed to transfer or sell tags. Participants were invited to indicate their level of support for the following statements.

Tag holders should be restricted to hunting on the landowner's private property

The two groups did not agree with each other in responding to the concept of restricting tag holders to hunt on the landowner's private property. Although more than eight in ten sportsmen supported the

idea, over half of the landowners opposed it. Figure 28 illustrates responses to this statement.

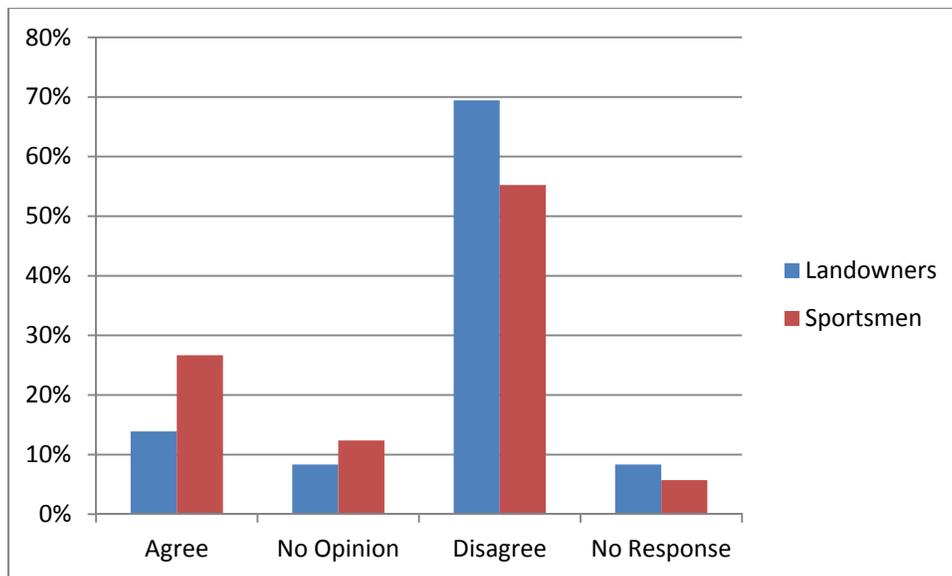
Figure 28. Responses to "Tag holders should be restricted to hunting on the landowner's private property"



Tag holders should be restricted to hunting on any private land within the hunt area

Both groups opposed the idea of restricting tag holders to hunting on any private land in the hunt area. Figure 29 illustrates responses to this statement.

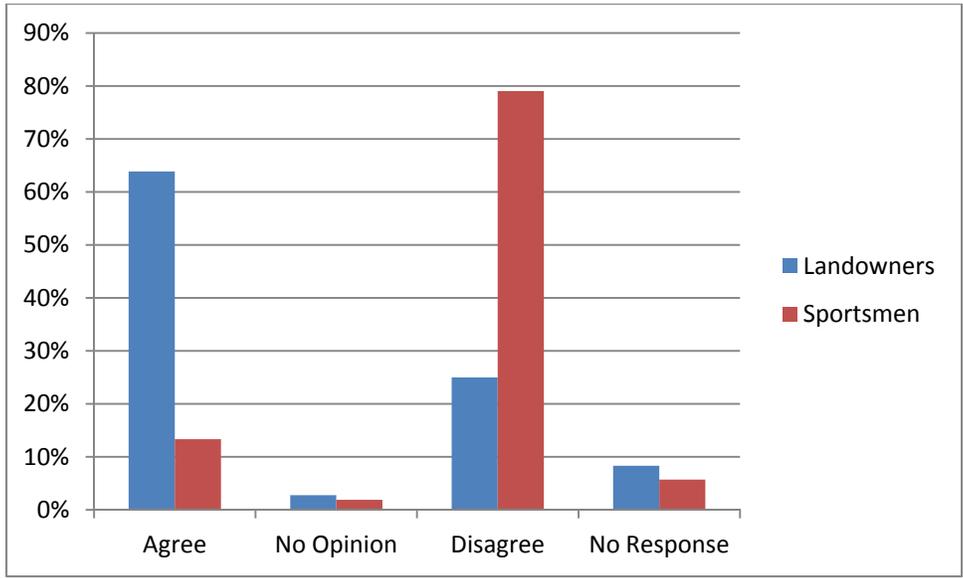
Figure 29. Responses to "Tag holders should be restricted to hunting on any private land within the hunt area"



Tag holders should be allowed to hunt in the entire hunt area

Landowners supported the idea that tag holders should be allowed to hunt in the entire hunt area. This idea was opposed by eight in ten sportsmen. Figure 30 illustrates responses to this statement.

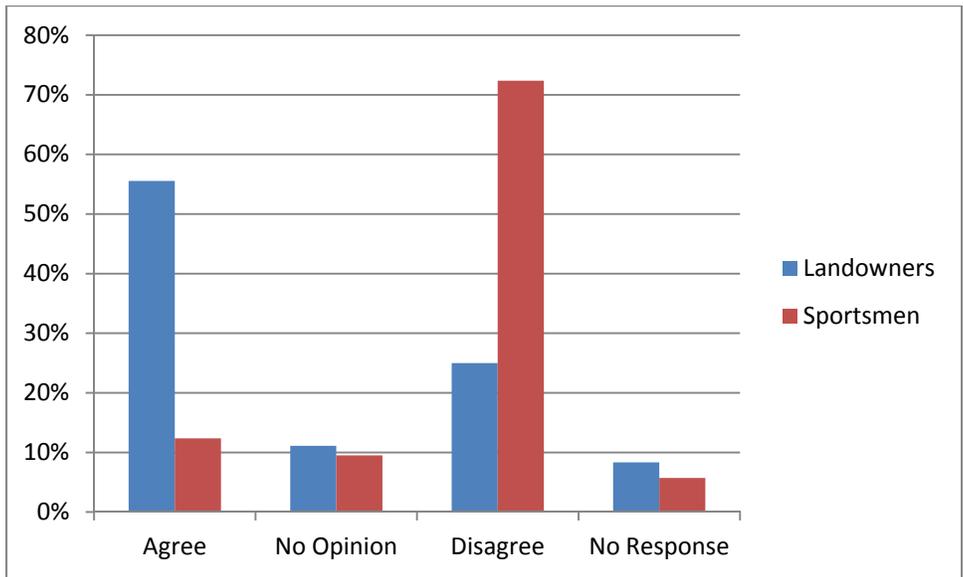
Figure 30. Responses to "Tag holders should be allowed to hunt in the entire hunt area"



If tag holders are limited to private land, the season should be extended to assure that animals are present during the season

This idea addresses the challenge that animals may not be present during hunting seasons for the hunt area. Slightly more than half of the landowners supported the idea, but over seven in ten sportsmen opposed it. Figure 31 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 31. Responses to "If tag holders are limited to private land, the season should be extended to ensure that animals are present during the season"



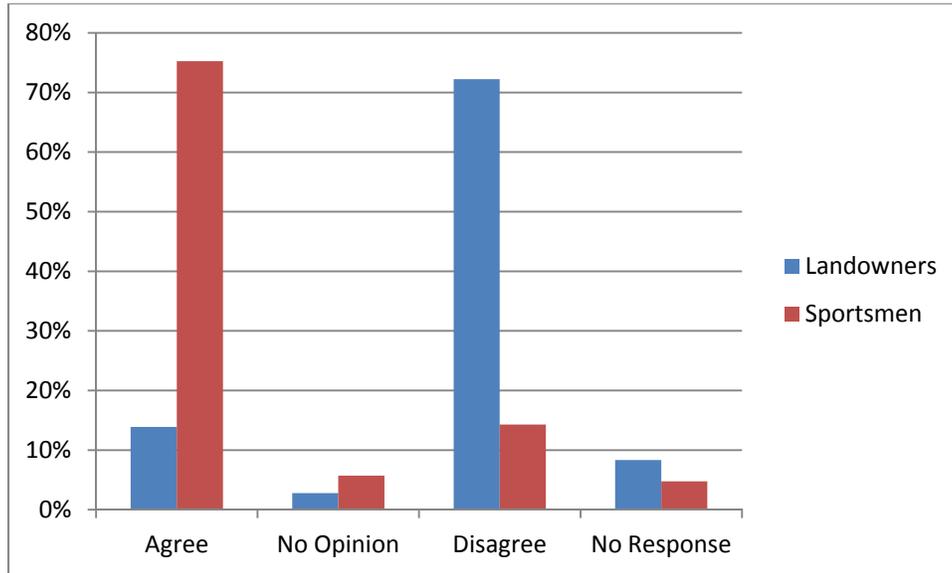
Increased Access for Sportsmen

The next set of questions asked survey participants to indicate their level of support for statements about incentives for landowners to provide sportsmen with access to private property into the LAP program design.

Landowners should be required to provide increased access as a condition for participating in the program

Landowners and sportsmen had nearly the opposite reaction to the idea of requiring landowners to provide increased access as a condition for participating in the program. Figure 32 illustrates responses to this statement.

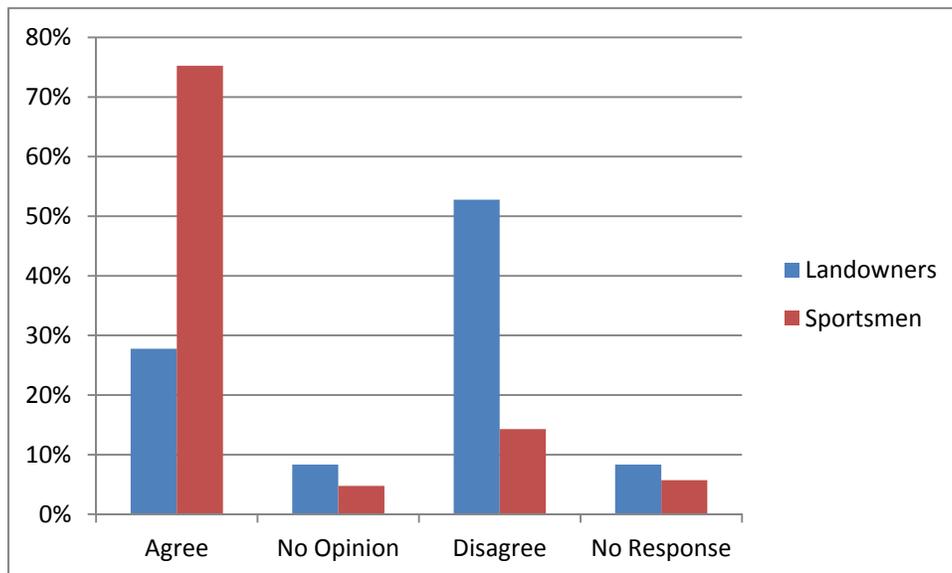
Figure 32. Responses to "Landowners should be required to provide increased access as a condition for participating"



It is appropriate to incentivize increased access

This statement is very similar to the statement illustrated in Figure 22 above. In that case, survey participants were being asked to reflect on how sensible it is to include incentives in the design of the program. This question asked about the appropriateness of increasing access (in comparison with requiring increased access). Responses are very consistent with the prior question. Sportsmen support the concept and landowners oppose it. Figure 33 illustrates responses to this statement.

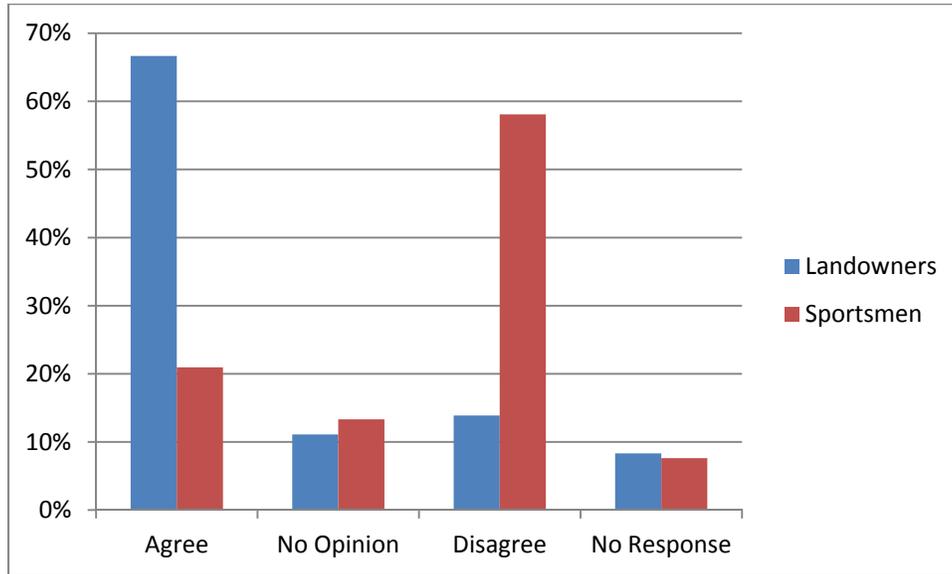
Figure 33. Responses to "It is appropriate to incentivize increased access"



The LAP should not be designed to address access to private lands

Finally, this statement asked participants to consider avoiding access to private lands in the design of the LAP. Landowners support the statement; sportsmen oppose it. Figure 34 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 34. Responses to "The LAP should not be designed to address access to private lands"



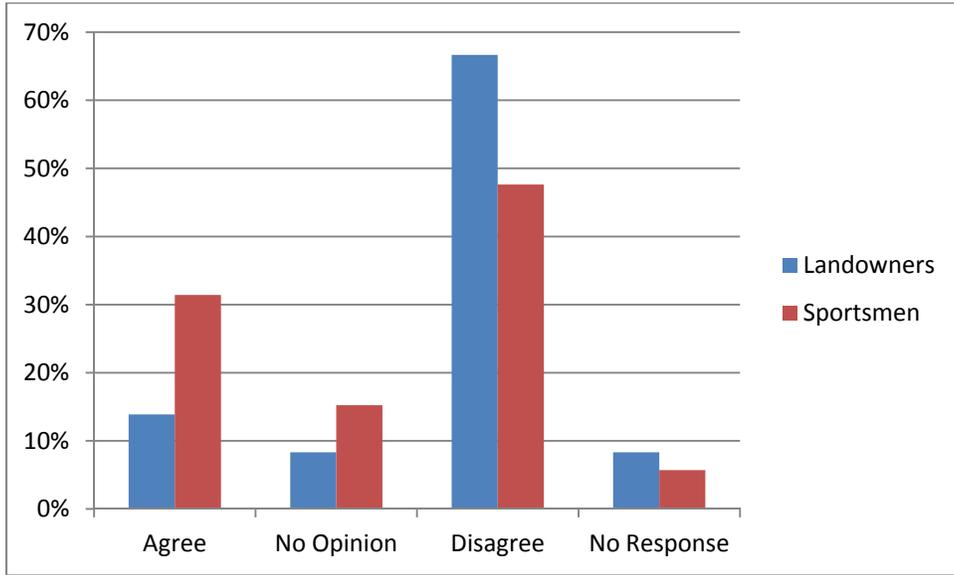
Other Suggestions

The final set of questions asked survey participants to indicate their level of support for two more suggestions.

IDFG should charge higher fees for landowner tags and pass the earnings along to landowners to compensate for depredation

Neither group demonstrated much support for the idea of charging higher fees for tags under the LAP and the passing the earnings along to landowners to compensate for depredation, although the landowners were more opposed to the idea than the sportsmen were. Figure 35 illustrates responses to this statement.

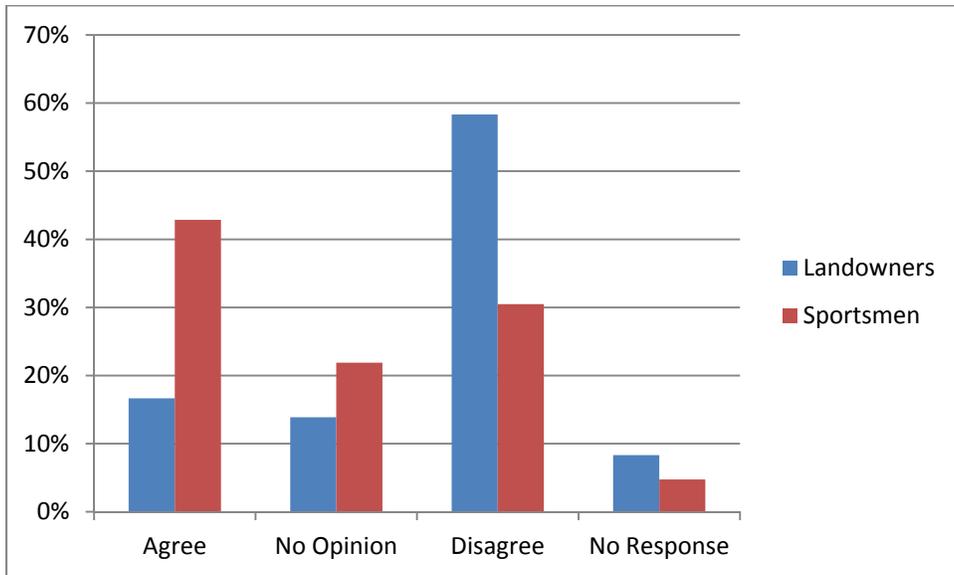
Figure 35. Responses to "IDFG should charge higher fees for landowner tags and pass the earnings along to landowners to compensate for depredation"



IDFG should offer the LAP tags at a higher price and provide the additional revenue to the Access Yes program

The final statement in the survey addressed the possibility that LAP tags could be sold at a higher price, but the revenue would be provided to the Access Yes program. Sportsmen were nearly split in their reaction to the concept, but six in ten of the landowners were opposed to the idea. Figure 36 illustrates responses to this statement.

Figure 36. Responses to "IDFG could offer LAP tags at a higher price and provide the additional revenue to the Access Yes program"

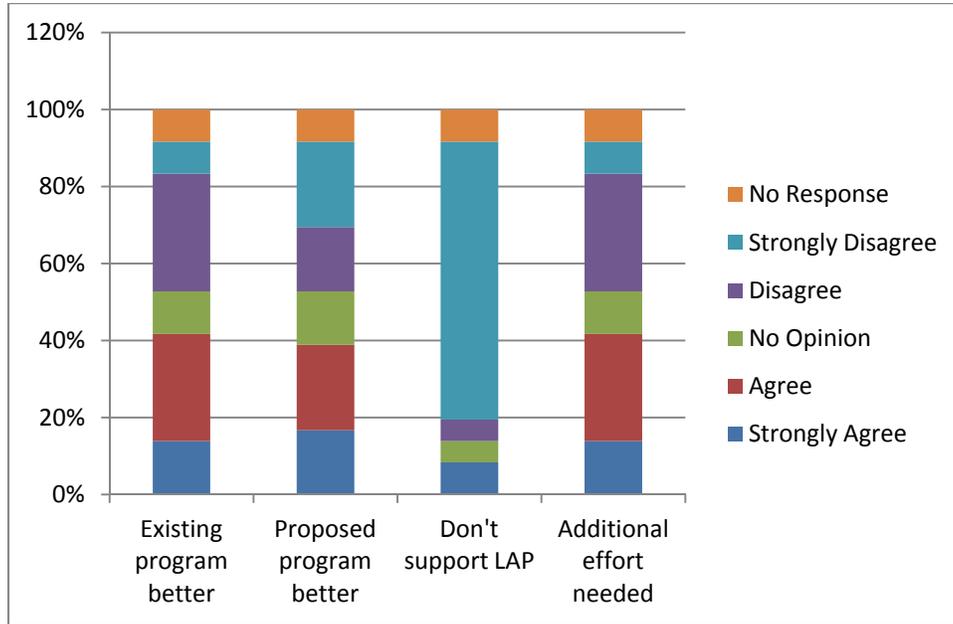


A Deeper Look at the Results

Support for the LAP

Looking at responses to the four statements about support for the LAP among landowners reveals a very slight preference for the existing program over the proposed program. Fewer than 10% don't support the program. Slightly more than four in ten agreed that the program design could use additional effort. Figure 37 illustrates responses to four statements about support for the LAP among landowners.

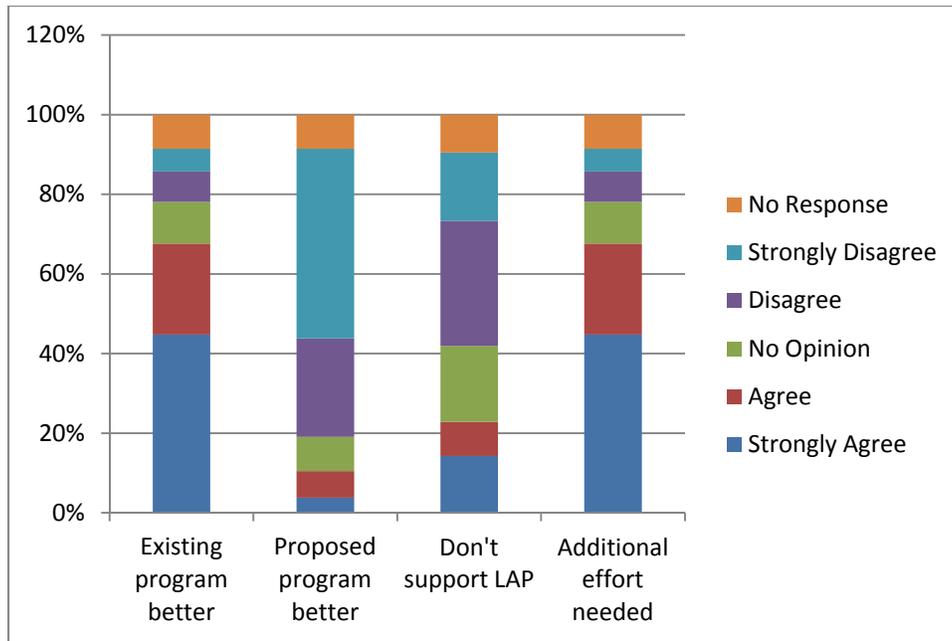
Figure 37. Landowners' Support for the LAP



Responses to those same four statements by sportsmen reveal considerably more support for the existing program than for the proposed program. Slightly more than 20% don't support the program.

Well over half agreed that additional effort should be put into perfecting the program design. Figure 38 illustrates responses to four statements about support for the LAP among sportsmen.

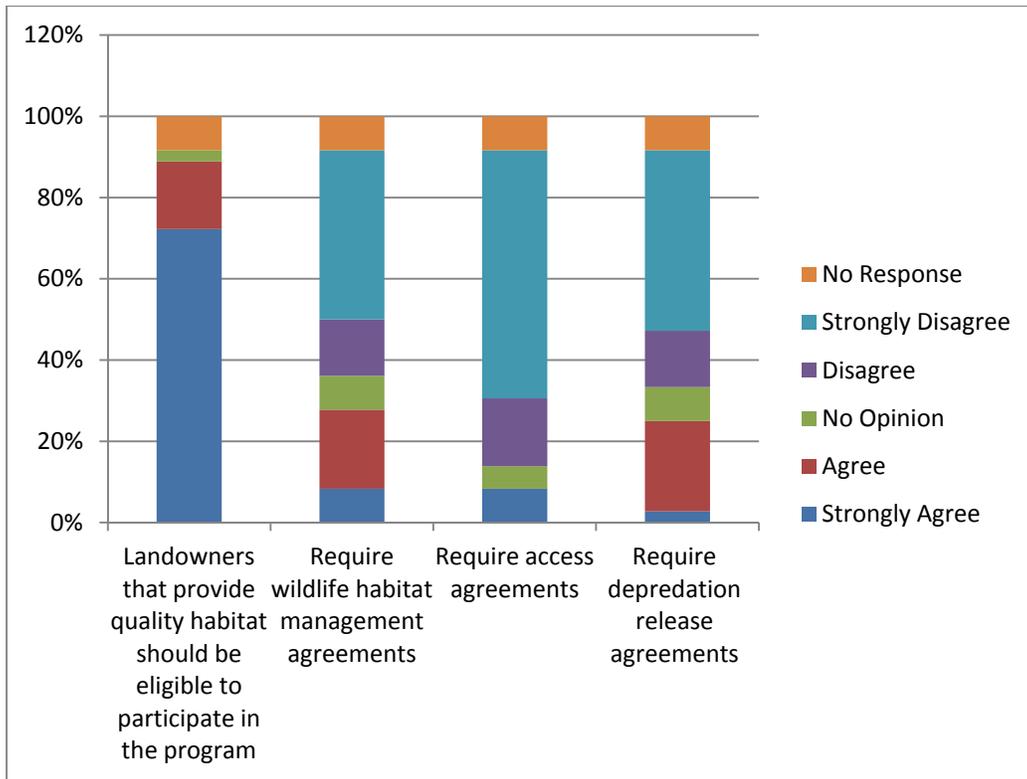
Figure 38. Sportsmen's support for the LAP



Eligibility to Participate in the Program

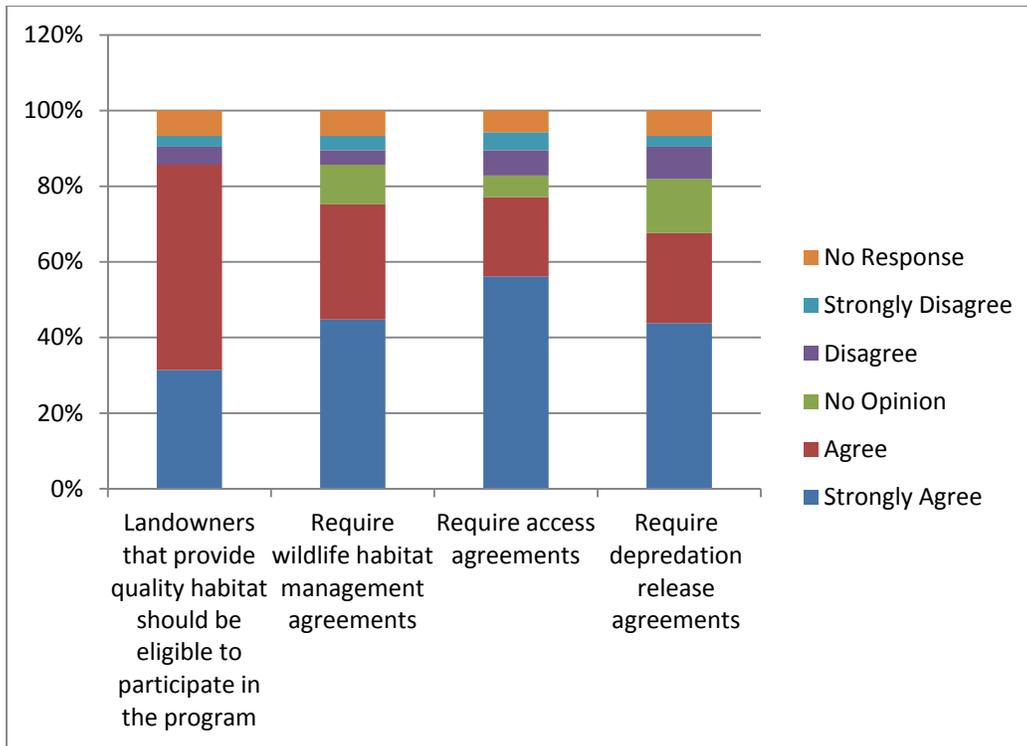
Four statements explored survey participants' responses regarding eligibility to participate in the LAP. Among landowners, well over 80% believe that landowners who provide quality habitat should be eligible to participate. As a group, they are much less supportive of requiring any agreements as a condition for participation. Providing increased access to sportsmen is the possibility that met with the most opposition among landowners. The other two possible requirements (habitat management agreements and depredation release agreements) are both perceived as slightly less objectionable than requiring access agreements. Figure 39 compares responses to all four statements about program eligibility among landowners.

Figure 39. Landowners' responses to statements about eligibility to participate in the LAP



A similar proportion of sportsmen supported the statement that any landowner providing quality habitat should be eligible to participate in the program. They differed significantly from the landowners in that they supported the concept of placing requirements on LAP participants. All three types of agreements would be supported by sportsmen. Figure 40 compares responses to all four statements about program eligibility among sportsmen.

Figure 40. Sportsmen’s responses to statements about eligibility to participate in the LAP

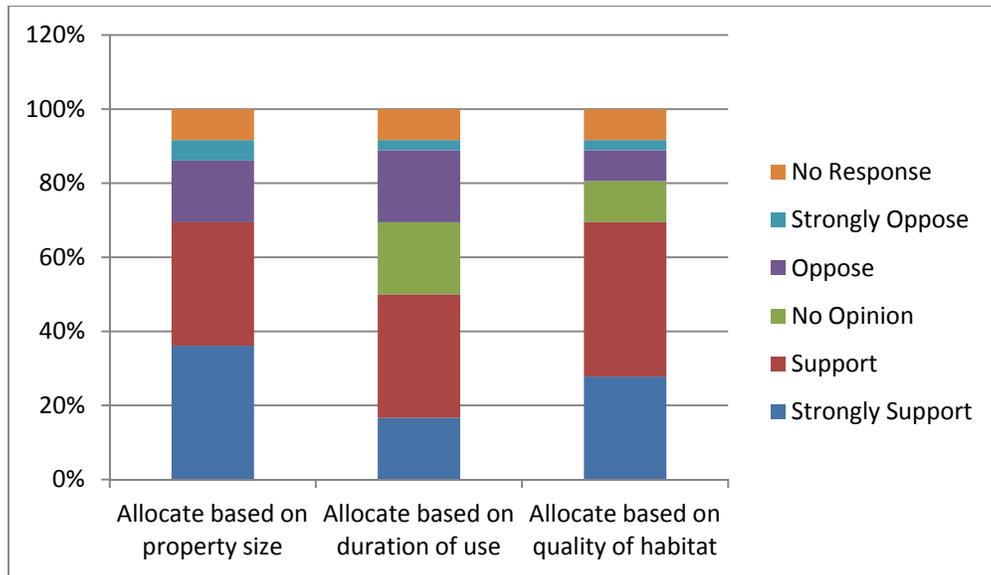


Allocation of Tags to Program Participants

Three options were explored with survey participants for how tags should be allocated to program participants, including based on the size of the property, the duration of time animals use the property as habitat, and the quality of the habitat provided.

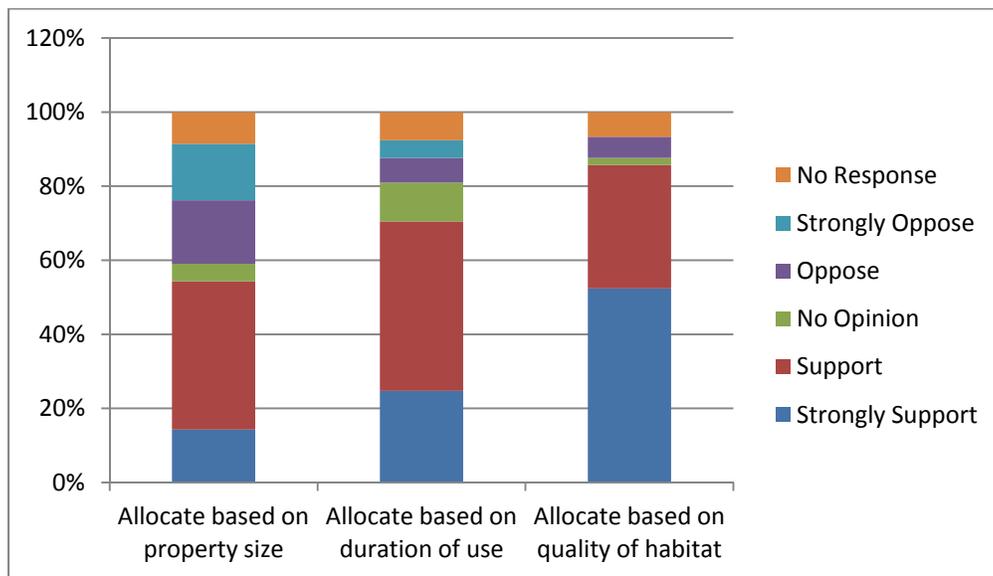
Among landowners, nearly the same level of support was expressed for allocating based on property size as on quality of habitat. Both ideas enjoyed more support than the idea of allocating based on the duration that animals use the property. Figure 41 compares responses to the three options among landowners.

Figure 41. Landowners' responses to options for allocation of tags to LAP participants



Sportsmen responded more favorably to the concept of allocating tags based on quality of habitat and on the duration of use than the landowners were and less favorable to using the size of property to base allocations. Figure 42 compares responses to the three options among sportsmen.

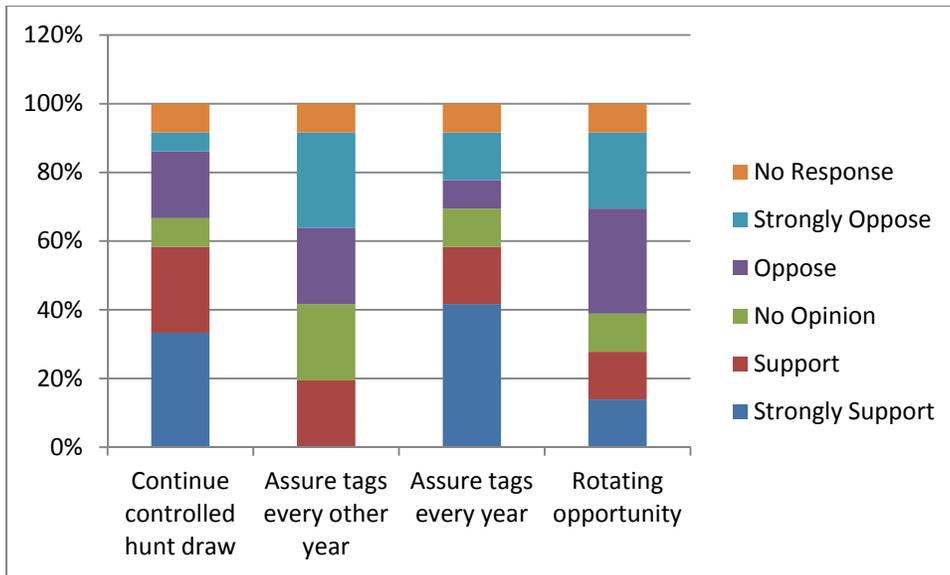
Figure 42. Sportsmen's responses to options for allocation of tags to LAP participants



Four additional statements queried survey participants about the assurances given to LAP participants about getting tags. Options included continuing the controlled hunt draw, assuring tags every other year, assuring tags every year, and a rotating opportunity based on the number of eligible landowners and the availability of landowner tags. The last concept was an idea that was suggested to allow flexibility from one year to the next.

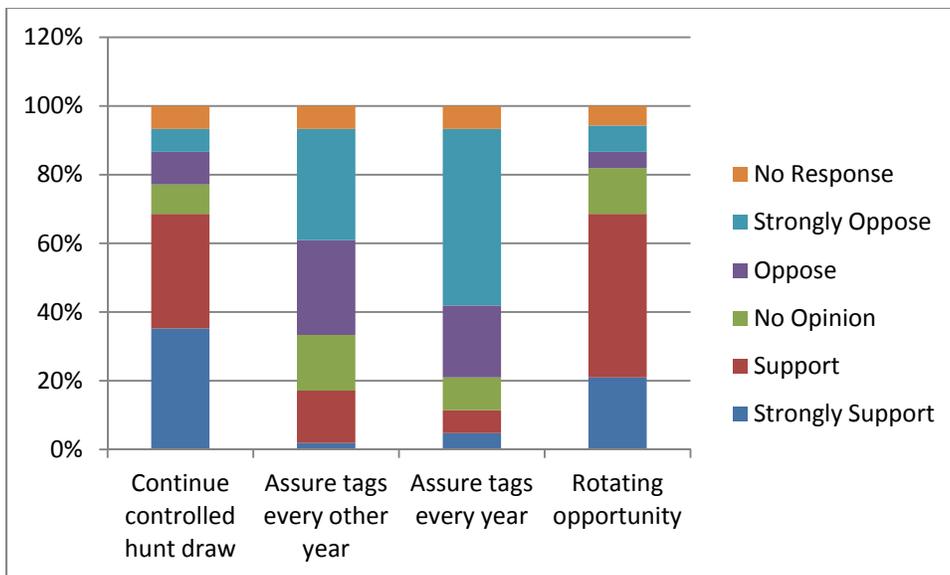
Among landowners, there was approximately the same level of support for continuing the controlled hunt draw as there was for assuring tags on an annual basis. The every other year option faced significant opposition and the rotating opportunity fared only marginally better among landowners. Figure 43 compares responses to the four options among landowners.

Figure 43. Landowners' responses to options for assurances for getting tags



Among sportsmen, continuing the controlled hunt draw was supported similarly to the landowners. Likewise, the sportsmen reacted similarly to the option of assuring tags every other year. As a group, they were much more opposed to the concept of assuring a tag every year than the landowners were, however. And they were twice as supportive of the more flexible approach of rotating opportunity. Figure 44 compares responses to the four options among sportsmen.

Figure 44. Sportsmen's responses to options for assurances for getting tags

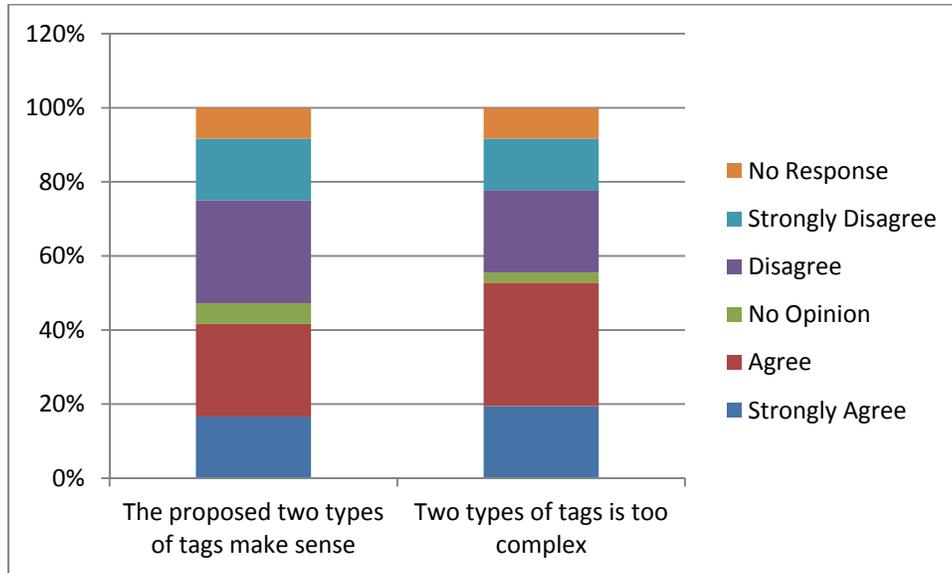


Types of Tags

The proposed new LAP included two types of tags, base tags available to all participating landowners, and stewardship tags available to those landowners willing to enter into agreements to improve the management of habitat, to increase access for sportsmen, and to sign depredation releases. The survey asked participants whether the two types of tags make sense, or if having two types would make the program overly complex.

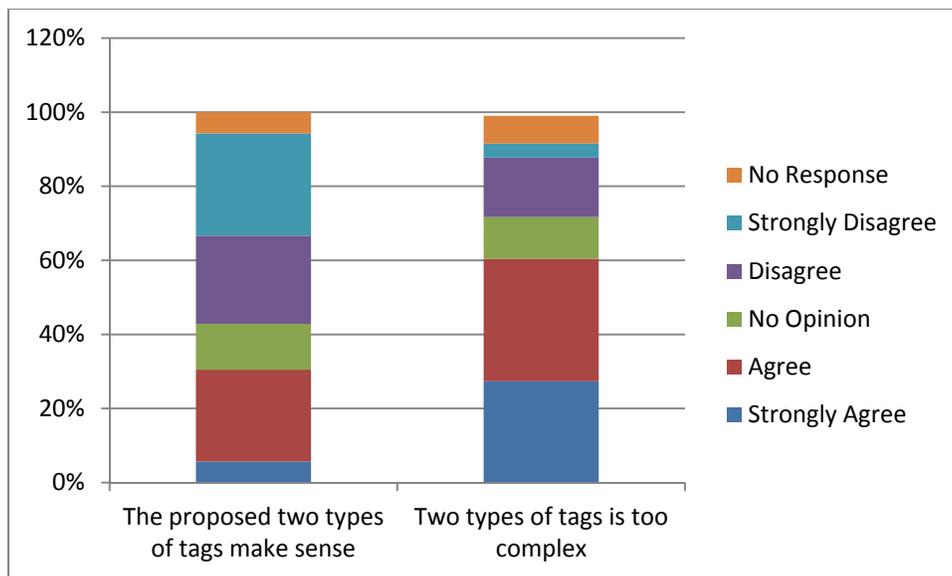
Although four in ten landowners supported the idea of having two types of tags, six in ten thought having two types of tags would make the program overly complex. Figure 45 compares their responses to the two statements.

Figure 45. Landowners' responses to the concept of having two types of tags



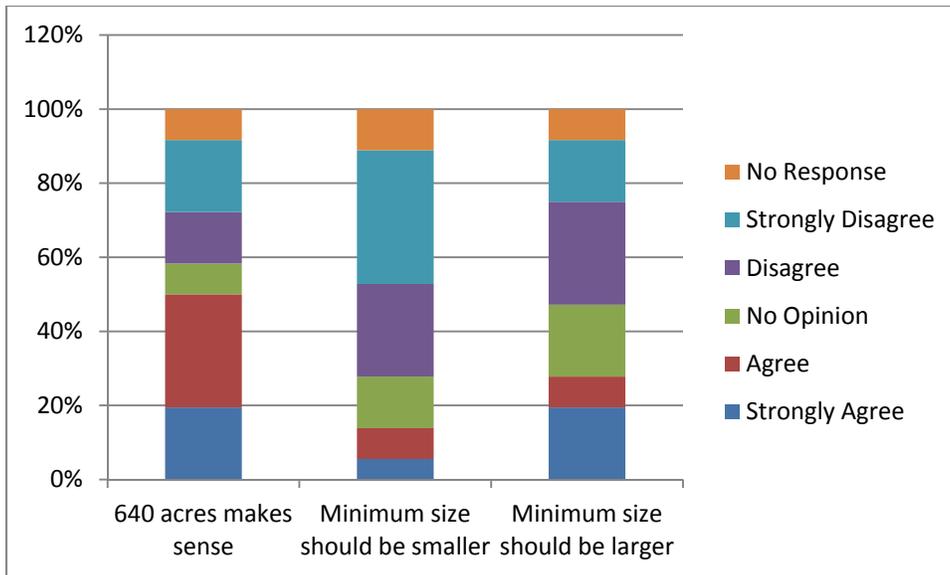
Sportsmen were even less agreeable to having two types of tags. Figure 46 illustrates their responses to the two statements.

Figure 46. Sportsmen's responses to the concept of having two types of tags



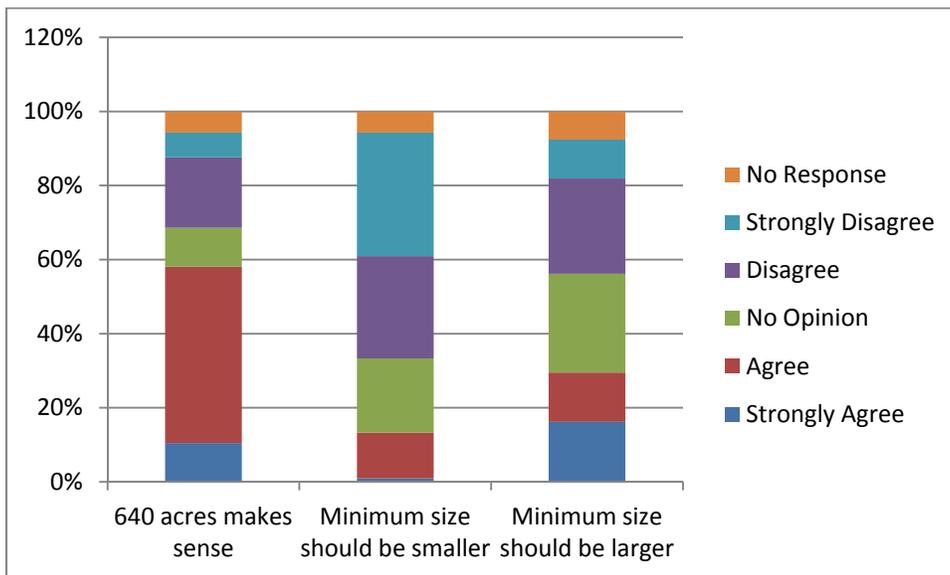
Survey participants were asked to consider whether the minimum size of land for participation in the program should be 640 acres versus a smaller size or a larger size. Nearly half of the landowners who participated in the survey supported the minimum size being 640 acres. Much smaller proportions of landowners supported the idea of increasing or decreasing the minimum. Figure 47 illustrates landowners' responses to the options posed.

Figure 47. Landowners' responses to options for the minimum size of property for participating



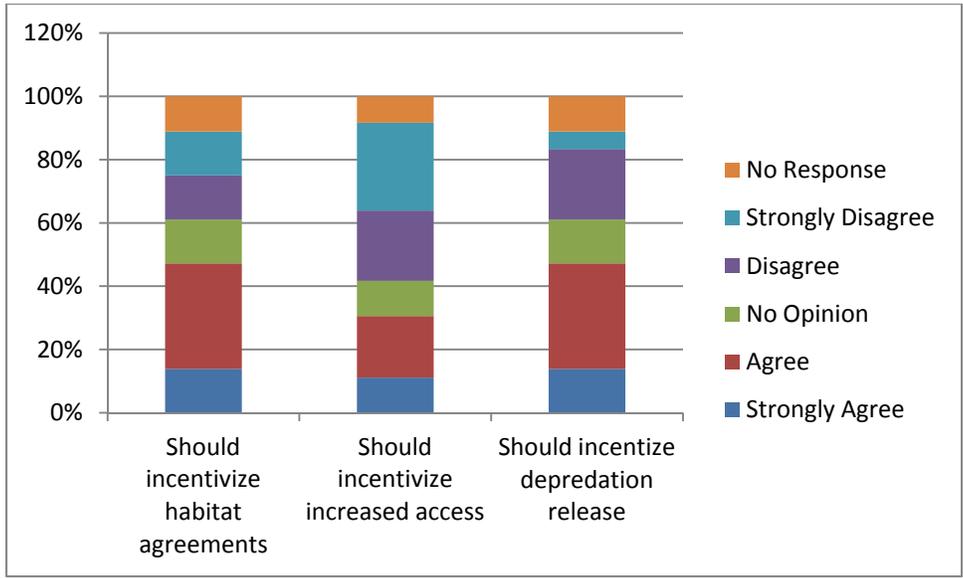
Sportsmen similarly supported the concept of the minimum size being 640 acres. Their responses to the three options are illustrated in Figure 48.

Figure 48. Sportsmen's responses to options for the minimum size of property for participating



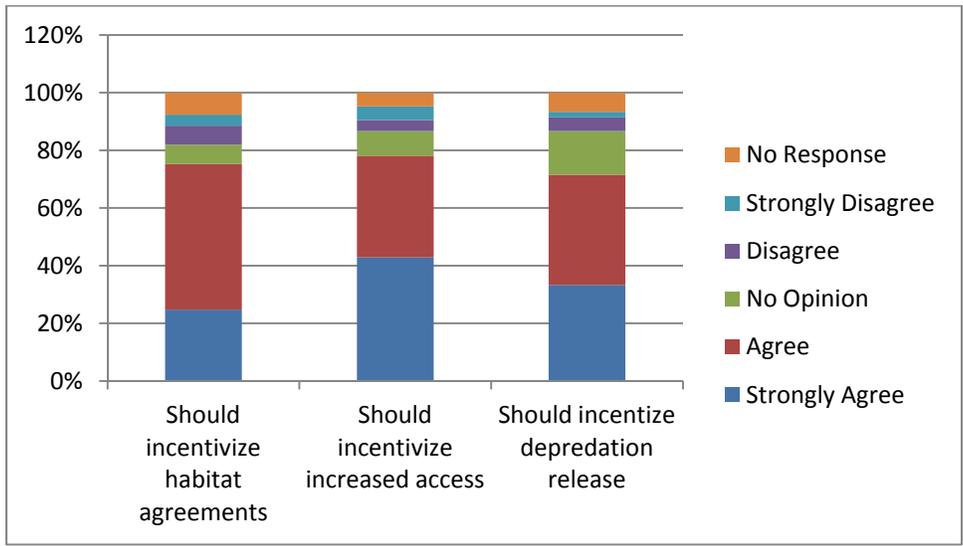
Finally, the survey asked participants about the possibility of incentivizing the LAP with agreements for improving wildlife habitat, to increase access for sportsmen, and to sign depredation releases. Among landowners, incentivizing through habitat improvement agreements and depredation release agreements were more favorably received than agreements to increase access. Figure 49 allows comparison of landowners' responses to the three types of incentives that could be added to the program design.

Figure 49. Landowners' responses to possible incentives that could be included in the design of the LAP



By contrast, sportsmen responded much more favorably to the idea of including incentives in the design of the LAP program. Between 70% and 80% supported each of the ideas. Figure 50 allows comparison of sportsmen's responses to the three types of incentives that could be added to the program design.

Figure 50. Sportsmen's responses to possible incentives that could be included in the design of the LAP

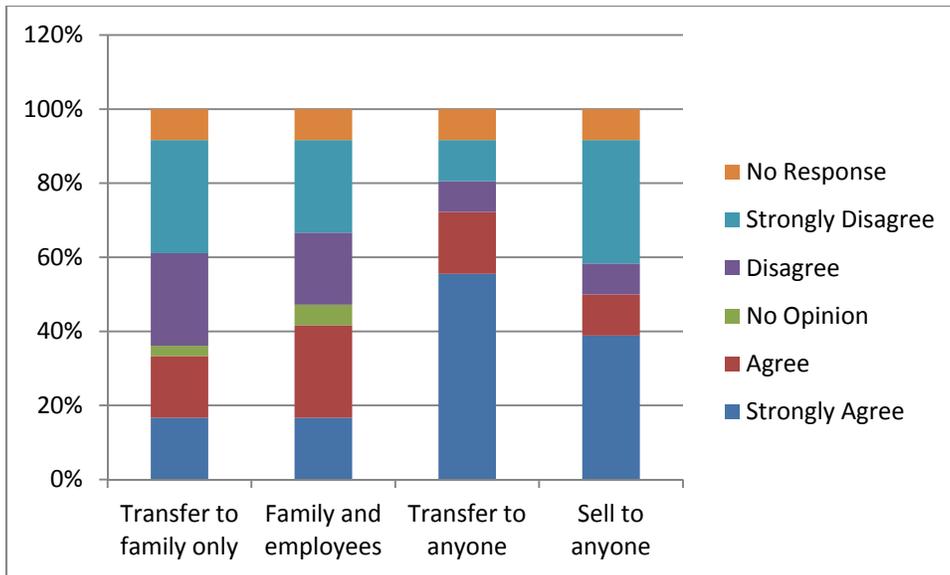


Transfer of Tags

This group of survey questions invited survey participants to respond to options regarding how tags under the LAP might be transferable. Participants were invited to consider whether landowners should be allowed to transfer tags only to family members, to family members and employees, or to anyone they would like. In addition, the concept of allowing the sale of tags was tested.

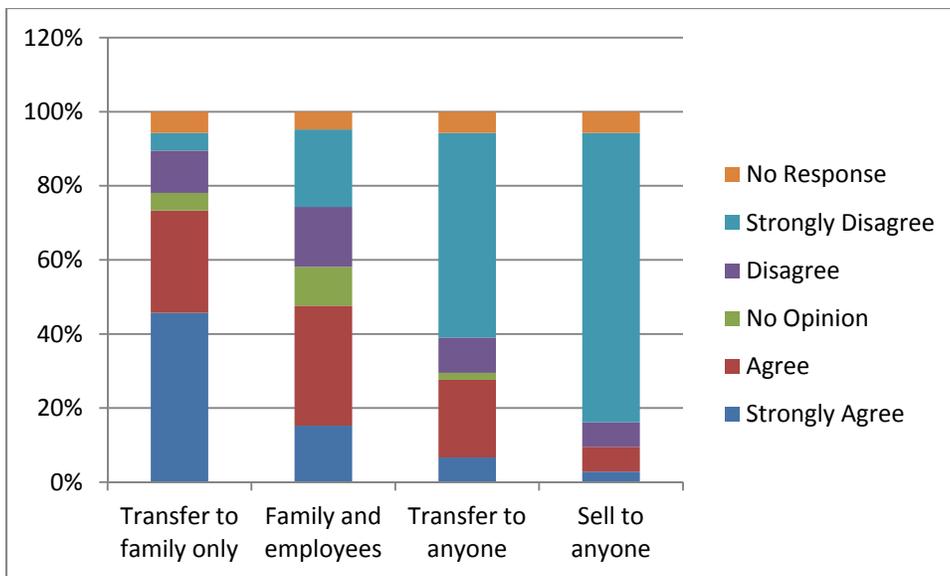
Landowners greatly preferred the possibility of latitude in transferring tags, and well over seven in ten thought tags should be transferrable to anyone. Close to half of the landowners supported the idea that tags could be sold. Figure 51 illustrates their responses to options for transferring tags.

Figure 51. Landowners' responses to options related to the transfer of tags



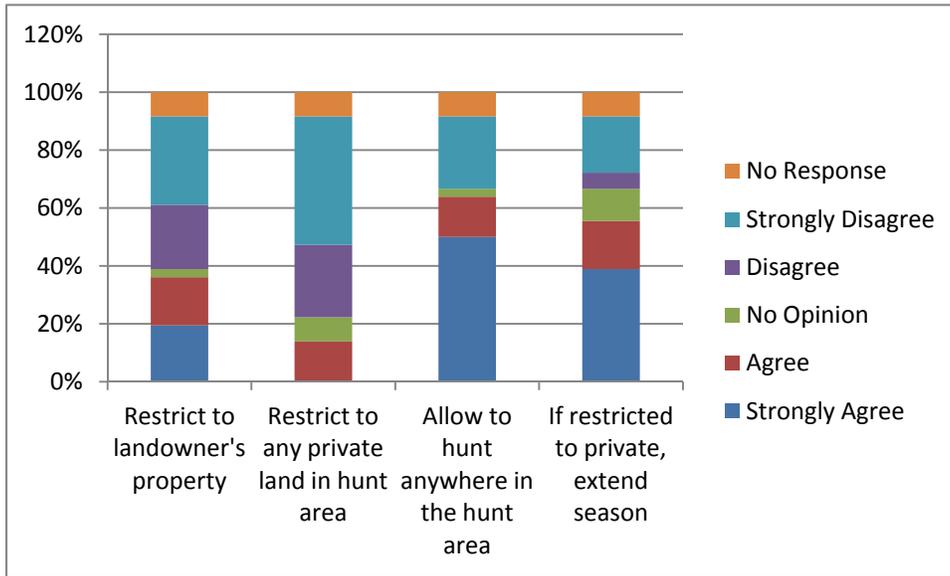
By contrast, sportsmen were much less favorable to the idea of allowing LAP participants to transfer tags beyond family and employees. And they were extremely opposed to the idea of allowing the sale of tags. Nearly 80% indicated strong disagreement with the possibility of allowing the sale of tags. Figure 52 illustrates their responses to options for transferring tags.

Figure 52. Sportsmen's responses to options related to the transfer of tags



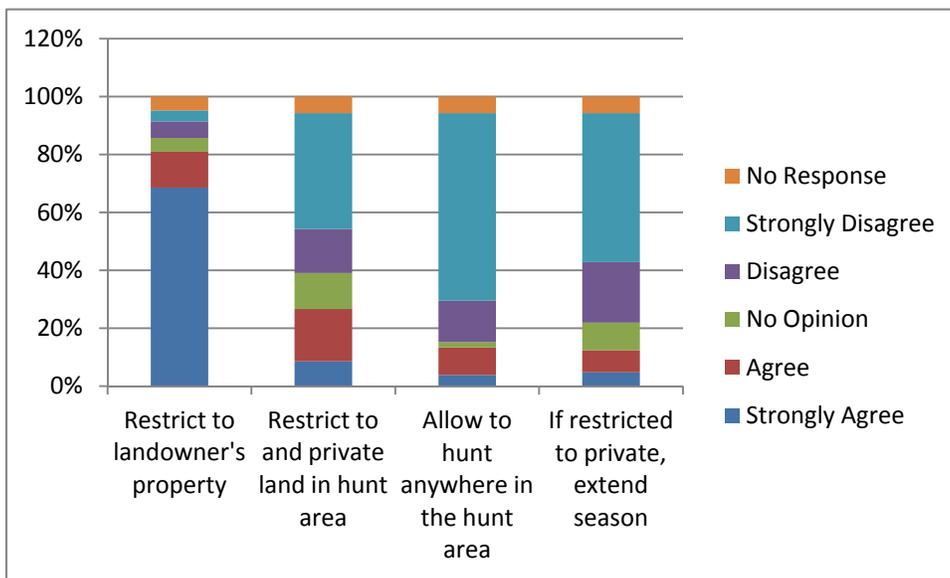
Because it is possible the LAP will be designed to allow the transfer of tags, consideration was given to whether the recipient of a LAP tag should be restricted to the private landowner's property, or if other options should be considered. Among landowners, restriction to the private landowner's property, or to any private land within the same hunt area, were not well received. They were much more supportive of allowing the tag holder to hunt anywhere in the hunt area. And nearly six in ten agreed that if the tag holder is restricted to private ground, then the season should be extended to include times when wildlife are present. Figure 53 illustrates their responses to ideas about restrictions that could be imposed on those who receive transferred tags under the LAP.

Figure 53. Landowners' responses to possible restrictions on where tag holders could hunt



By contrast, three times as many sportsmen supported the idea of restricting tag holders to the private landowner's property. Nearly eight in ten opposed allowing tag holders to hunt anywhere in the hunt area. Seven in ten were opposed to the idea of allowing an extended season for tag holders restricted to private ground. Figure 54 illustrates their responses to ideas about restrictions that could be imposed on those who receive transferred tags under the LAP.

Figure 54. Sportsmen's responses to possible restrictions on where tag holders could hunt



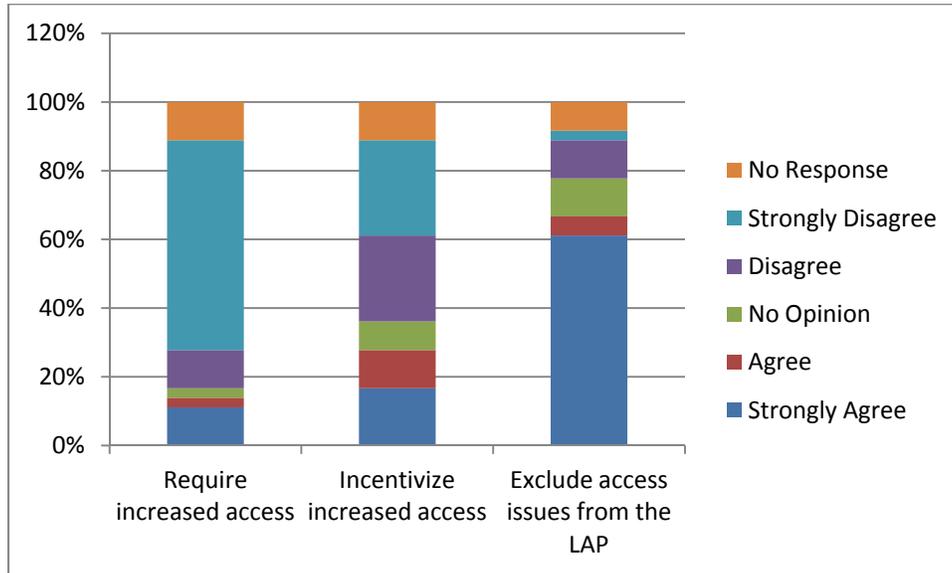
Increased Access for Sportsmen

Because of the interest in increasing access to private property for sportsmen expressed at the public meetings, the survey included three options related to access – including requiring increased access, incentivizing increased access, and excluding access from the design of the LAP.

Landowners demonstrated a lack of support for using the LAP to increase access. Six out of ten

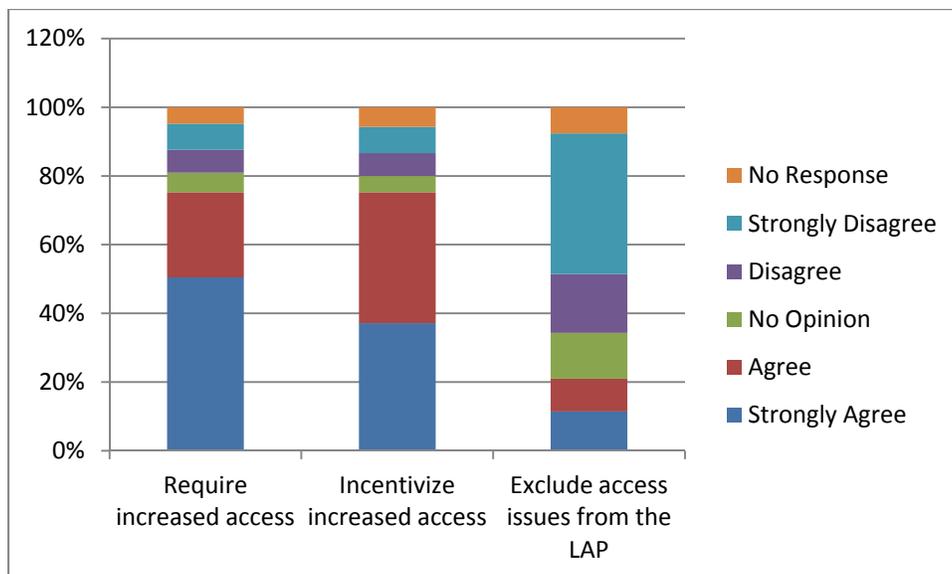
landowners indicated strong disagreement with requiring access and more than one in four indicated strong disagreement with including incentives in the LAP for increasing access. Six in ten indicated strong agreement with excluding access issues from the design of the LAP. Figure 55 illustrates landowners responses related to the various options related to increasing access for sportsmen.

Figure 55. Landowners' responses to options for addressing access within the design of the LAP



By contrast, sportsmen appreciate the two options for addressing access within the design of the program. Fully one half indicated strong support for requiring increased access in the program and close to four in ten for incentivizing increased access. Four in ten strongly disagreed with excluding access for the design of the LAP. Figure 56 illustrates sportsmen's responses to the various options related to increasing access.

Figure 56. Sportsmen's responses to options for addressing access within the design of the LAP



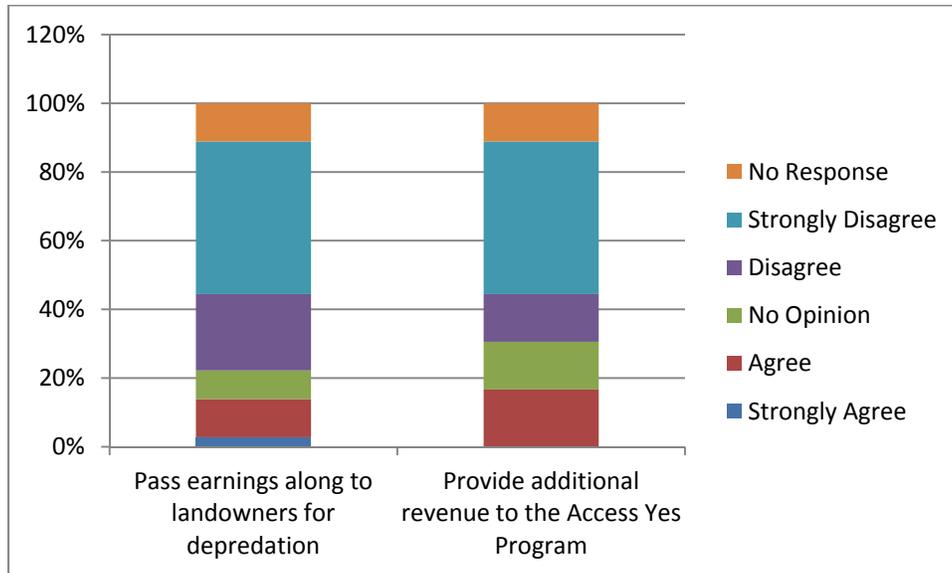
Other Suggestions

Two final suggestions were expressed at the public meetings and were included in the subsequent survey. One suggestion was for IDFG to charge higher fees for landowner tags and to pass the earnings

along to landowners to compensate for deprecation. The other was for IDFG to offer LAP tags at a higher price and provide the additional revenue to the Access Yes Program.

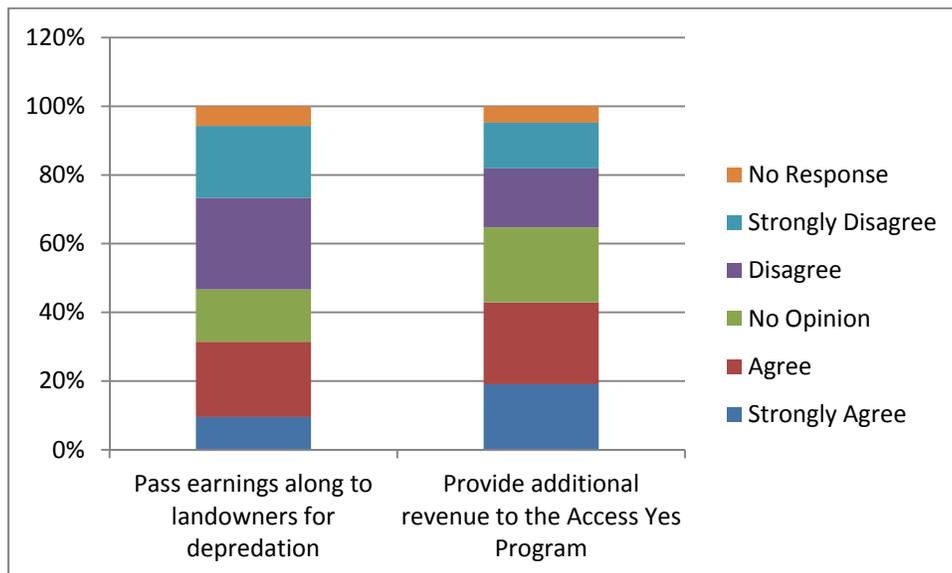
Landowners did not support either idea. Figure 57 illustrates their responses to both ideas.

Figure 57. Landowners' responses to ideas for using higher tag fees from LAP tags to generate revenue for other purposes



Sportsmen indicated more agreement towards the two options than the landowners, but the two ideas were supported by fewer than half of the survey participants. Figure 58 illustrates their responses to the two ideas.

Figure 58. Sportsmen's responses to ideas for using higher tag fees from LAP tags to generate revenue for other purposes



Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn from the survey results.

- Both groups support the LAP. While sportsmen prefer the existing program and landowners prefer the proposed program, a significant proportion of both groups think additional effort should be put into perfecting the program design.
- Both groups believe that landowners who provide quality habitat should be eligible to participate in the program.
- While the idea of placing requirements on participating landowners to enter into agreements (for habitat management, increasing access for sportsmen, or depredation releases) enjoys support among sportsmen, that concept is not supported by landowners.
- There is support among both groups for continuing to allocate tags based on the size of a landowner's property, or alternatively, based on an evaluation of the quality of habitat.
- Similarly, there is support among both groups for continuing to offer tags through a controlled hunt draw. Other options considered in this survey faced opposition with one group or the other.
- Most landowners and sportsmen agree that two types of tags makes the program overly complex.
- Both groups support using 640 acres as the minimum size for the program
- Both landowners and sportsmen agree that the program could be designed to incentivize habitat agreements and depredation release agreements – but the two groups disagree about the possibility of incentivizing access agreements
- There was little agreement between the two groups regarding the transfer of tags
- There was little agreement between the two groups regarding the possibility of restricting where LAP tags can be used
- Landowners oppose addressing access in the LAP; sportsmen support the concept
- Landowners oppose charging higher fees for landowner tags and passing the additional revenue along to other programs; sportsmen support the concept.

Landowner Appreciation Program Public Meetings

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) hosted five public meetings to discuss the Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP):

- The meeting in **Idaho Falls**, Idaho was held on May 22, 2014. Participants included: Kenny Anderson, Todd Christiansen, Robby Denning, JC Siddoway, Jim Vincent, and Jim Warner.
- The meeting in **Pocatello**, Idaho was held on May 27, 2014. Participants included: David Ashby, Tom Burkhart, Steve Deeg, Dan Duggan, Mike Ewing, Dustin Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Aaron Herdt, Geoff Hogander, Dave Hunter, Larry Lathen, Brett Leyshon, Greg McReynolds, Steve Miller, Dexter Pitman, Jeff Stewart, Coby Tigert, Jim Vincent, Lin Whitworth.
- The meeting in **Jerome**, Idaho was held on May 29, 2014. Participants included: Doug Albright, Chris Alzola, Steve Aslett, Brian Bean, Tom Billington, Bert Brackett, Jared Brackett, Walter Bradshaw, Daniel Butler, Darrell Funk, Hoby Gartner, Gordy Gates, Byrd Golay, Rod Gonsales, Mike and Sondra Grimmitt, Darcy Helmick, Neil Helmick, Robert Henneter, Eugene Hruza, Shane Hufstetler, Bob Jost, Seth Larson, Herb Meyr, Bill Mulder, Clare Olson, David Oneida, Tom Peavey, Lee Presley, Jeff Schroeder, Bill Simon, Mark Toone, Rex Williams, and Darwin Yoder.
- The meeting in **Lewiston**, Idaho was held on June 3, 2014. Participants included: Jack Hutson, Joseph Peterson, Pat Samsel, and Fred Trevey.
- The meeting in **Nampa**, Idaho was held on June 4, 2014. Participants included: Cherie Barton, Mark Bell, Allison Briggs, Brian Burge, Justin Burge, Doug Burgess, Blake Fischer, Nate Fowler, Mike Gann, Scott Harris, Jim Holland, Vernon Kanshne, Kenny Kershner, Chris Loomis, Deb Lord, Bob Minter, Jim Nunley, Nathan Ohler, and Shane Stanford.

Wendy Lowe facilitated the conversation and recorded suggestions for consideration at all five meetings. This document serves as a group memory of the resulting discussions.

IDFG staff provided a presentation that:

- described the history of the landowner appreciation program (including IDFG's rationale for having the program)
- explained the negotiated rule-making process
- reviewed comments received to date
- outlined the current proposal for the program – which is still being developed.

Following the workshops, IDFG will compile the suggestions and allow participants to react to suggestions received at all meetings. Based on those reactions, IDFG plans to refine the proposal and submit a proposed rule to the Fish and Game Commission for consideration.

The Commission will take the proposal into consideration. The Commission will choose between:

1. retaining the existing rule
2. promoting the proposed rule as submitted by the department, and
3. modifying the proposed rule.

Options 2 and 3 would result in the Commission making a recommendation to the Idaho Legislature for changes to the existing program. The Legislature will then decide whether to take the recommendation under consideration. Of course, regardless of what is submitted by the Commission, the Legislature has the authority to make whatever changes it deems appropriate.

Suggestions submitted by the participants in **Idaho Falls** included the following:

- Keep the current Landowner Appreciation Program for family members only
- Tags are worth a lot of money and the program will be hard to control once their worth is known
- The proposed changes will result in opening a big can of worms
- All tags should be unit-wide and none should be restricted to private land. Landowners who sell the LAP tags must be willing to provide access to their own land to whoever buys their tags.
- The landowner who gets one tag will feel appreciated. The landowner who gets a lot of tags will sell them.
- The higher the value of the tag, the greater the incentive will be to the landowner to manage the private land for habitat values
- The public is going to be opposed to this when they find out about it
- Eliminate the tag categories; it will be too hard to enforce
- I would object less if it were still a lottery situation – that would be more acceptable to the public
- There must be a strict qualification process to make sure the land is truly serving as habitat
- Consider restricting the number of tags on controlled hunts
- Allow the sale of tags, but require landowners to provide some proportion (say 30%) of the proceeds to IDFG
- The program should be simple – it should focus on the quality of the habitat rather than on increasing access to sportsmen. Otherwise it is not a landowner appreciation program (it is an access program).
- I know of landowners who would be willing to provide access in exchange for a high quality tag (if could sell the tag) – even if it were a lottery tag
- All controlled hunts should be designated by the commission for LAP tags
- I would support increased tag fees
- There should be consistency statewide: 10% statewide or another proportion – but it should be fair regardless of what portion of the state the landowner’s property is in
- Keep the program simple so the public can understand it
- I’d like to see more control so people can’t abuse the situation
- In Idaho Falls, all participants agree that the lottery should continue

Suggestions submitted by the participants in **Pocatello** included the following:

- The proposed rule should provide a rotation for all landowner/family so they all have an equal opportunity to participate
- All landowners that participate should be required to provide access to everyone (to their property)

- Prefer no change to current program. Wildlife belongs to the state of Idaho and that fact should not change regardless of where an animal is during hunting season
- Landowners should not get tags every year
- Private landowners should only be allowed to hunt on their own property – unless they are willing to provide access to all sportsmen
- It may not even be legal to sell tags
- Idaho should ask other states that have gone this route for advice
- Should not allow sale of tags and landowners should be restricted to hunting on their own property
- There should be a grandfather clause for landowners who have donated land to IDFG to continue as they have previously
- If require to hunt on own property, may have to extend the season as the animals may not even be present during hunting season
- If proposal to sell tags goes forward, and later there is a need to rescind the rule (because populations can no longer sustain that level of harvest), then the landowners may lose the tags later
- The program is unfair if only large landowners get to participate
- If a landowner's designated tag goes to a resident (it will count against the non-resident tag quota), there will be a loss of revenue to the State)
- Idaho residents are not wealthy. Allowing landowners to sell tags will make the tags very expensive. This program will effectively reduce opportunity for Idaho residents
- It is not fair that landowners can sell their tags but other sportsmen cannot
- Consider all units and try to predict problematic hunt areas. Calculate a fair system to assure that the sportsmen to landowner ratio will maintain the public's interest in hunting
- Develop a system that would be fair within each unit
- There will be a need to re-examine the program periodically to adjust to inequities that will develop over time (perhaps every five years)
- The program could be designed to go away if IDFG believes it is not working anymore (or there could be an automatic sunset)
- Based on other state's experiences, I don't believe the program will go away.
- Don't allow the sale of tags and don't allow the transfer of tags outside family/employees
- It's a bad idea to allow the sale of tags
- Landowners should have the opportunity to get tags every year. It costs me something as a landowner to provide habitat for wildlife
- As a landowner, I am opposed to being blackmailed into providing access; I already provide access to people I know and trust

- 640 acres is a good limit; if the program is dropped to include people with 320 acres, the public will lose too many tags
- The wildlife does belong to the public but private landowners feed them all summer
- Leave the program alone
- Program should be capped so that no more than a specific proportion (25% or 10%) would be provided to landowners with the balance going to sportsmen
- Idaho is a fence-out state for livestock; allowing landowners to sell tags that are hunted on public land does not seem consistent
- Can't have landowner tags and depredation. Landowners are effectively being paid twice for depredation and that not right
- The current proposal seems to go well beyond landowner appreciation – it allows for private profit from a public good
- There needs to be a lot more public education about the program
- Do away with the tags that are given to outfitters. No one assures my ability to make a living
- Public will object to the sale of tags, but if that is to be part of the new rule, maybe IDFG should get a portion of the proceeds
- On new hunts, give the hunt a few years to get going first to make sure the population can sustain the level of harvest before putting the program under the Landowner Appreciation Program

Suggestions submitted by the participants in **Jerome** included the following:

- Landowners should be able to sell tags
- I think tags should go to wildlife groups. Split the proceeds so that some money stays in Idaho
- Sportsmen could help reduce the damages caused by wildlife on private property by hunting animals for landowners
- In exchange for tags, private landowners should be obligated to provide access to sportsmen
- The timing of the hunt should be consistent with when the animals are actually on my ground
- Need to tighten the definition of employee so not a loophole
- All tags under the landowner appreciation program should be available for sale (don't have two types of tags) and all should be unit-wide (not restricted to private ground)
- Use data to determine which animals use which properties and allocate based on actual use
- Should be consideration given to the number of animals using property and the number of tags allocated
- There may not be enough officers to police that suggestion – unless people take pictures to document actual presence
- Hunting season is when landowners are busy – the tags need to be flexible. We need to be able to use the tags during times when they are deprecating our land

- If tags can be sold, there should be limitations on the price allowed to sell them for. Otherwise, the sale will result in limiting opportunity for Idaho residents
- If public land were better managed, there wouldn't be so much use of private land by wildlife
- Increase tag fees and pass the additional earnings along to landowners
- I am worried about the possible loss of my property rights. IDFG will need to be very clear what will happen if I sign an agreement to participate in the program
- Whose animals are these? What numbers are there? How many can we stand? Populations should be managed at appropriate levels
- Elk are very mobile. Recent very large wildfires have resulted in doubling elk numbers. IDFG needs to be flexible to changing numbers based on an assessment of populations
- The tag categories are too complicated. Eliminate the categories and don't allow the open sale of tags
- Cap the number of buck mule deer tags on Unit 45
- Sale of tags could result in a situation where wolves jeopardize the commodity; IDFG also needs to control wolf populations
- Should get one tag for each species on private ground; should be able to do whatever we want with the tags we get
- Landowners should broadcast the opportunity to hunt on their private ground; if they are suffering depredation, hunters should be able to help
- It is very hard to know property lines in some areas. IDFG should consider using drainages to delineate hunt areas. Conservation officers don't know the ownership boundaries well enough to enforce
- On access issues, we don't want to open up to people we don't know and trust. We don't mind opening up to people we trust. We shouldn't be forced to open access to just anyone
- The tag should be applied to the entire hunting unit, not just to deeded ground
- Animals migrate long distances. Some ranches are located within migration corridors. This is a problem
- Wildfires have changed where animals go in the winter. They are ending up on private ground
- The presence of wolves is also changing where elk are. Both wildfire and wolves need to be taken into consideration in designing the program
- The landowner appreciation program should include free wolf tags for private landowners
- Animals are crossing the boundaries of hunting units
- Sometimes it is easier (for landowners) to put up with wildlife than it is to put up with hunters
- Keep the program simple
- There is data available. IDFG should help provide that data to landowners and adjust the program, and staffing, based on data

- If the tag categories (in the current draft proposal) are not eliminated, then private land tags should be flexible for use when the animals are actually present
- IDFG conservation officers should write litter tickets
- IDFG should let sportsmen know how many pronghorn we have here
- Landowners should get tags as appreciation for providing habitat
- Even if I could sell a tag for \$30,000, that would not fully compensate me for the true cost of providing wildlife habitat
- The LAP tags should be independent of the controlled hunt tags
- Depredation response needs to be proactive rather than reactive. The LAP program should be quickly responsive
- It still doesn't seem equitable to me: one tag for 640 acres and only three for 10,000 acres
- Depredation actions should be taken before September
- Have a planned depredation hunt, responsibly developed
- Because the new proposal would entail evaluation of habitat values, why the proposed size categories? I suggest 640, 3000, 5000, and more than 5000 acres. Those increments would incentivize managing private ground for habitat values for the entire acreage of the deeded land
- Add elk and pronghorn to the LAP program
- Could also consider adding the opportunity for hosting a youth hunt, etc.
- IDFG could cap the number of tags that can be sold
- IDFG should consider how to address wildlife congregating in specific areas. Elk know where to go; they naturally know where to go
- Keep the program as simple as possible
- Idaho needs to get in line to take advantage of the market like other states are
- IDFG should identify a staff person to help landowners understand the impact of wildlife on their private property
- IDFG could also help hunters know where to hunt (whose private ground might be a good place to go)
- I think the proposal is pretty good
- This proposal is a good start
- Depredation complicates the LAP
- IDFG should consider how to manage the gender balance
- Landowners should not be allowed to sell more than two tags.

Suggestions submitted by the participants in **Lewiston** included the following:

- It seems like the proposal will make the relationship with landowners more adversarial and less cooperative

- Sportsmen would appreciate increased access to private land
- Increased access should be a requirement for participation in the land owner appreciation program
- Should the landowner provide access for the same species as designated for tags (or required for all game species?)
- It's getting very hard for sportsmen to access private ground to hunt
- If the program is implemented, it will increase access because whoever gets the tag will be able to hunt that land
- Sale of tags will result in a loss of opportunity for sportsmen
- It is not equitable to allow the sale of landowner tags and not for sportsmen to be able to sell tags
- Landowners should not be allowed to sell tags
- The program should go back the way it was designed before and require access in exchange for the tags
- If it keeps going this way, it will become impossible for sportsmen to hunt
- Wildlife should be managed – not marketed – in the public's interest. The concept of market value is inappropriate
- Wildlife is not a commodity
- I do like the incentives for habitat improvement and the possibility of increasing access for sportsmen.

Suggestions submitted by the participants in **Nampa** included the following:

- NRCS approved habitat improvement projects should be considered eligible for stewardship designated tags
- Try to identify a mechanism for allowing IDFG to sell foregone tags (those left on the table by landowners) and provide access to a super tag
- Instead of allowing the sale of tags, landowners should continue to be allowed to sell trespass privileges; that would diminish the appearance of allowing private sale of public good (wildlife)
- We need to get the leftover tags on the market (to reduce depredation), particularly elk
- The state could lose money (because the sale of the tags will be off the books); there would be no documentation of this income to private landowners
- Consider allowing successful controlled hunt applicants who are not able to hunt after all permission to sell their tags as well
- Consider allowing easements (across private ground) to allow access to "land-locked" public land as a condition for awarding base tags
- There should be only one category not restricted to private ground. If that is not the case, then the stewardship tags should be made unit-wide

- The department should establish the number of tags that will be provided to landowners in any given unit and tell the public about it. (Some people “calculate their odds” based on the number of tags available, so they need that information)
- Total tag allocation should be driven by resource impact
- IDFG should compile statistics for the LAP program like it does for other programs
- Tags should not be allowed to be sold
- All elk tags sold for Unit 40/42 should be unit wide and not restricted to private ground
- LAP program should also award wolf tags to LAP participants
- LAP tag holders should be allowed tags only every other year to allow improvement in the quality of the hunting experience
- I’d like to see improved access through private ground (to get to land locked public land) more than to improved access to private ground
- I’d scrap this proposal, but if that is not done, then IDFG should cap the number of tags available to private landowners through LAP and award based on demonstrated value to wildlife/habitat improvement
- If landowners can’t sell tags, neither should outfitters be allowed to sell tags
- If a qualified landowner is not able to get a tag because an inadequate number are available, then they should be eligible for full compensation for depredation
- Of there are leftover LAP tags under the current program and it continues, IDFG should put those tags up for sale
- If we continue to allow LAP tags to be used, I don’t mind them being sold, but if a hunter takes an animal on public land, then the proceeds from the sale of the tag should be split – although the enforcement would be difficult
- Keep the existing program and allow leftover tags to go back up for sale to the general public (allow them to hunt unit wide)
- Could do first come, first served off a waiting list
- Penalties should be considered if agreement are broken
- Scrap this proposal but restrict LAP tags to private ground
- Could IDFG increase the depredation fund to fully compensate landowners for full losses attributable to wildlife?

Landowner Appreciation Program Background

The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) was initiated in 1986. Originally, landowner tags were made available as a mechanism to allow landowners providing valuable habitat an opportunity to hunt their own land in areas where hunting was restricted to controlled hunts. Later, the Commission philosophy shifted toward offering landowner tags as a form of appreciation for supporting wildlife on private land. Land held privately totals over 16 million acres in Idaho and comprises approximately 36% of the total land area.

The current Landowner Appreciation Program has been functioning since 1998. Large landowners that provide valuable habitat for deer, elk, or pronghorn are eligible to participate. Currently, a total of 1,118 active landowners with 2,673,767 acres are registered in the program. Program participants are eligible for a separate controlled hunt process.

Last year, several landowners requested that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) investigate options within the Landowner Appreciation Program to provide more consistent allocation of tags and more tags to landowners owning larger acreage. Under state law, IDFG is engaged in the Negotiated Rule Making Process to consider making changes in the LAP.

In early 2014, a draft proposal was published requesting public comment. Based on those comments, a second version was proposed in May, 2014. The Department just concluded a public comment period during which five regional workshops were held and interested parties were invited to submit comments via the Internet. Quite a number of suggestions were made during the comment period, and this survey is being conducted to allow those who participated to consider suggestions that were made by the workshop and on-line participants.

Additional program background.

Since inception, there have been numerous changes, including:

- Implemented acreage weighting factor to give preference to larger landowners (1998)
- Transferability of tags to any eligible licensed hunter (1999)
- Reasonable access requirement eliminated (2001)
- Magic Valley pilot project evaluated the use of tags for access (2003)
- Commission clarified rule prohibiting selling or marketing of tags (2010)
- Modified drawing; all applicants have a chance at 1 tag before any gets a 2nd tag (2010)
- Redefined "eligible landowner" to address related LLCs receiving multiple tags (2010)
- Landowners with 320 - 639 acres of valuable wildlife habitat eligible for leftover tags (2010)
- Establish a 1-year waiting period in high-demand hunts (2012, failed in legislature)
- Cap all landowner hunts at 10% tag allocation (2012, failed in legislature)
- Limit tag designation to family members, youth, direct employees, or veterans (2012, failed in legislature)

Who are you?

***1. Are you a landowner that is potentially eligible to participate in the Landowner Appreciation Program?**

- No
 Yes

***2. Do you hunt?**

- Yes
 Yes, and I am also an outfitter or guide
 No

***3. In which region of the state do you live?**

- Region 1 Panhandle
 Region 2 Clearwater
 Region 3 Southwest
 Region 4 Magic Valley
 Region 5 Southeast
 Region 6 Upper Snake
 Region 7 Salmon
 None (I do not live in Idaho)

***4. Which public workshop did you attend?**

- Idaho Falls (May 22, 2014)
 Pocatello (May 27, 2014)
 Jerome (May 29, 2014)
 Lewiston (June 3, 2014)
 Nampa (June 4, 2014)
 I did not attend a public workshop

***5. Did you submit comments via the website?**

- Yes
 No

Suggestions submitted during the recent public comment period

6. SUPPORT FOR THE LANDOWNER APPRECIATION PROGRAM. Please indicate your level of agreement with statements comparing the existing program with the program proposed by IDFG in May/June, 2014.

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The existing program is better than the proposed program released by IDFG in May 2014	<input type="radio"/>				
The proposed program is better than the existing program	<input type="radio"/>				
I do not support continuation of a landowner appreciation program	<input type="radio"/>				
I think a landowner appreciation program is important, but additional effort should be put into perfecting the program design before moving forward	<input type="radio"/>				

7. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Landowners that provide quality habitat should be eligible to participate in the program	<input type="radio"/>				
Landowners should be required to enter into wildlife habitat management agreements in order to participate	<input type="radio"/>				
Landowners should be required to enter into access agreements in order to participate	<input type="radio"/>				
Landowners should be required to enter into depredation release agreements in order to participate	<input type="radio"/>				

8. ALLOCATION OF TAGS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. Please indicate your level of support for the following statements

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Allocation should be based on the size of their property	<input type="radio"/>				
Allocation should be based on the duration of time that animals use the property as habitat	<input type="radio"/>				
Allocation should be based on an evaluation of the quality of habitat	<input type="radio"/>				

9. The current program allows eligible landowners to participate in a controlled hunt draw for tags. The proposed program would assure tags to eligible participants. Please indicate your level of support for the following statements.

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
The controlled hunt draw should continue	<input type="radio"/>				
Program participants should be assured tags EVERY OTHER year	<input type="radio"/>				
Program participants should be assured tags EVERY year	<input type="radio"/>				
Program participants should have a rotating opportunity based on the number of eligible landowners and the availability of landowner tags	<input type="radio"/>				

10. TYPES OF TAGS. The current program offers one type of tag to participating landowners. The proposed new program distinguished base tags (to be awarded based on the size of the deeded property) and stewardship tags (to be awarded to those landowners willing to enter into stewardship agreements). Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The proposed two types of tags make sense	<input type="radio"/>				
The proposed two types of tags would make the program overly complex	<input type="radio"/>				
The minimum size for base tags (640 acres) makes sense	<input type="radio"/>				
The minimum size for base tags should be smaller	<input type="radio"/>				
The minimum size for base tags should be larger	<input type="radio"/>				
It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to accomplish improvement in wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>				
It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to accomplish increased access for sportsmen	<input type="radio"/>				
It makes sense for the LAP to incentivize agreements to decrease the filing of depredation claims	<input type="radio"/>				

11. TRANSFER OF TAGS. Please indicate your level of support for the following statements

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to family members only	<input type="radio"/>				
Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to employees as well as family	<input type="radio"/>				
Landowners should be allowed to transfer tags to anyone they want	<input type="radio"/>				
Landowners should be allowed to sell tags to anyone they want	<input type="radio"/>				

12. If landowners are allowed to transfer or sell tags to others, it has been suggested that use of those tags should be restricted to specified locations. Please indicate your level of support for the following statements

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Tag holders should be restricted to hunting on the landowner's private property	<input type="radio"/>				
Tag holders should be restricted to hunting on any private land within the hunt area	<input type="radio"/>				
Tag hunters should be allowed to hunt in the entire hunt unit	<input type="radio"/>				
If tag holders are limited to private land, the season should be extended to assure that animals are present during the season	<input type="radio"/>				

13. INCREASED ACCESS FOR SPORTSMEN. It has been suggested that requiring private landowners to provide access to sportsmen would erode private property rights. IDFG has considered incorporating incentives for landowners to provide sportsmen with access to their private property into the program design. Please indicate your level of support for the following statements

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Landowners should be required to provide increased access as a condition for participating in the program	<input type="radio"/>				
It is appropriate to incentivize increased access	<input type="radio"/>				
The LAP program should not be designed to address access to private lands	<input type="radio"/>				

14. OTHER SUGGESTIONS. Please indicate your level of support for these additional suggestions

	Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly oppose
IDFG should charge higher fees for landowner tags and pass the earnings along to landowners to compensate for depredation	<input type="radio"/>				
IDFG could offer the LAP tags at a higher price and provide the additional revenue to the Access Yes program	<input type="radio"/>				

Thank you

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to this survey and for participating in the previous public comment period. Making changes to this complex program will be challenging and we appreciate the opportunity to bring you into the process. Our goal is to find improvements that can be broadly supported and meet program objectives.

Please be aware that only those people who have already participated in our public comment opportunities for the Landowner Appreciation Program will be able to participate in this survey.



P.O. Box 3869

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July 10, 2014

Address block

Hello again.

You will recall that I facilitated a public meeting for Idaho Department of Fish and Game that you attended about the Landowner Appreciation Program.

Enclosed is a “group memory” that documents all of the suggestions we received at the five meetings.

Also enclosed is a survey, which is the next step in the process. It asks for your reactions to various suggestions that were submitted during the public meetings as well as on-line via IDFG’s website. We are hopeful that the survey will help IDFG craft a proposal that can be broadly supported by the citizens of Idaho. Thank you for helping us in that effort. Thanks so much for your ongoing participation in this effort.

Please complete the survey and return it using the stamped and addressed envelope that is enclosed. We will need to receive your response before Monday, July 28, 2014.

Please be aware that only people who participated in the public comment period are being invited to participate in the survey.

Thank you so much, in advance, for your participation!

Warmest regards,

Wendy Green Lowe