

**ELK HUNTING IN IDAHO:  
UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF  
HUNTERS  
[BEAVERHEAD ZONE]**



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**For:**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

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**INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES**

**METHODS**

**SAMPLING**

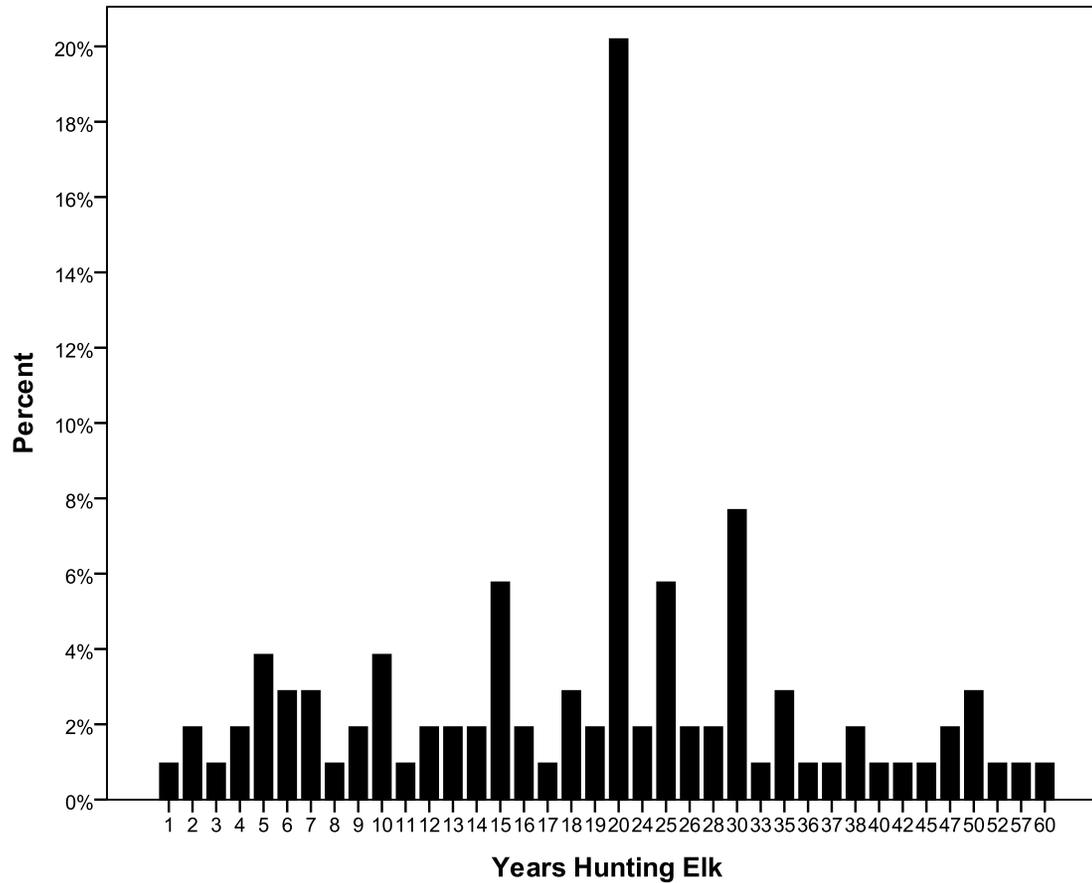
**RESPONSE RATE.**

# ELK HUNTER PROFILES

## (TRAVEL PATTERNS, HUNTING HISTORY, HARVEST SUCCESS, ZONE USE)

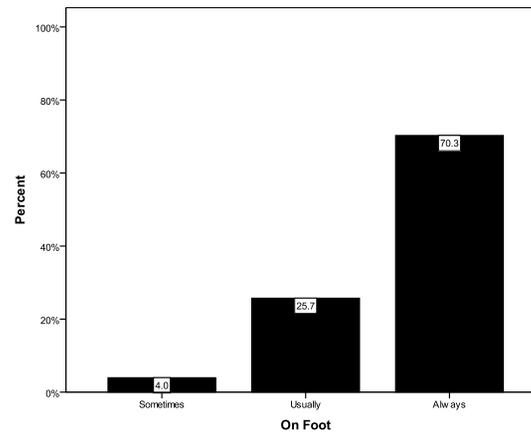
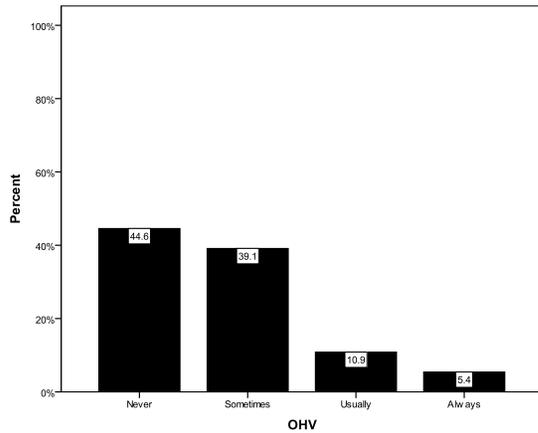
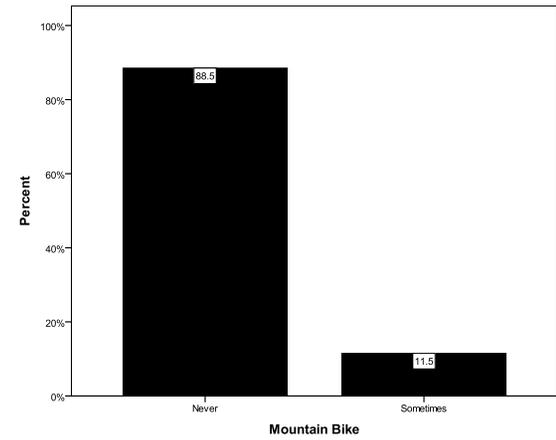
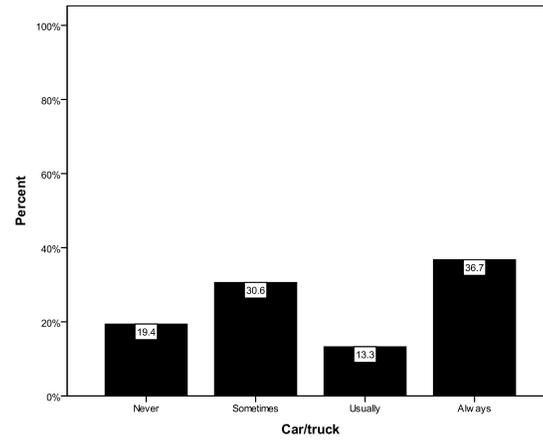
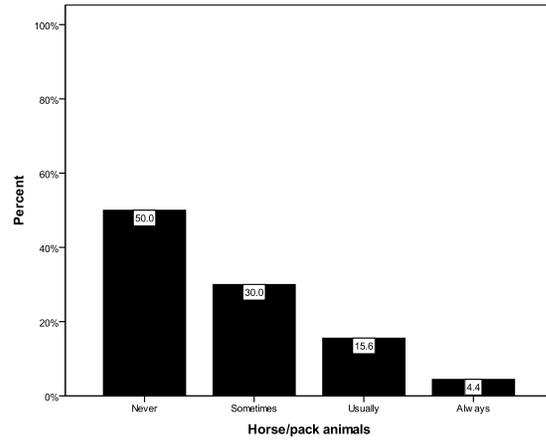
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

3. About how many years have you hunted Elk in Idaho? *(Please enter the number of years)*



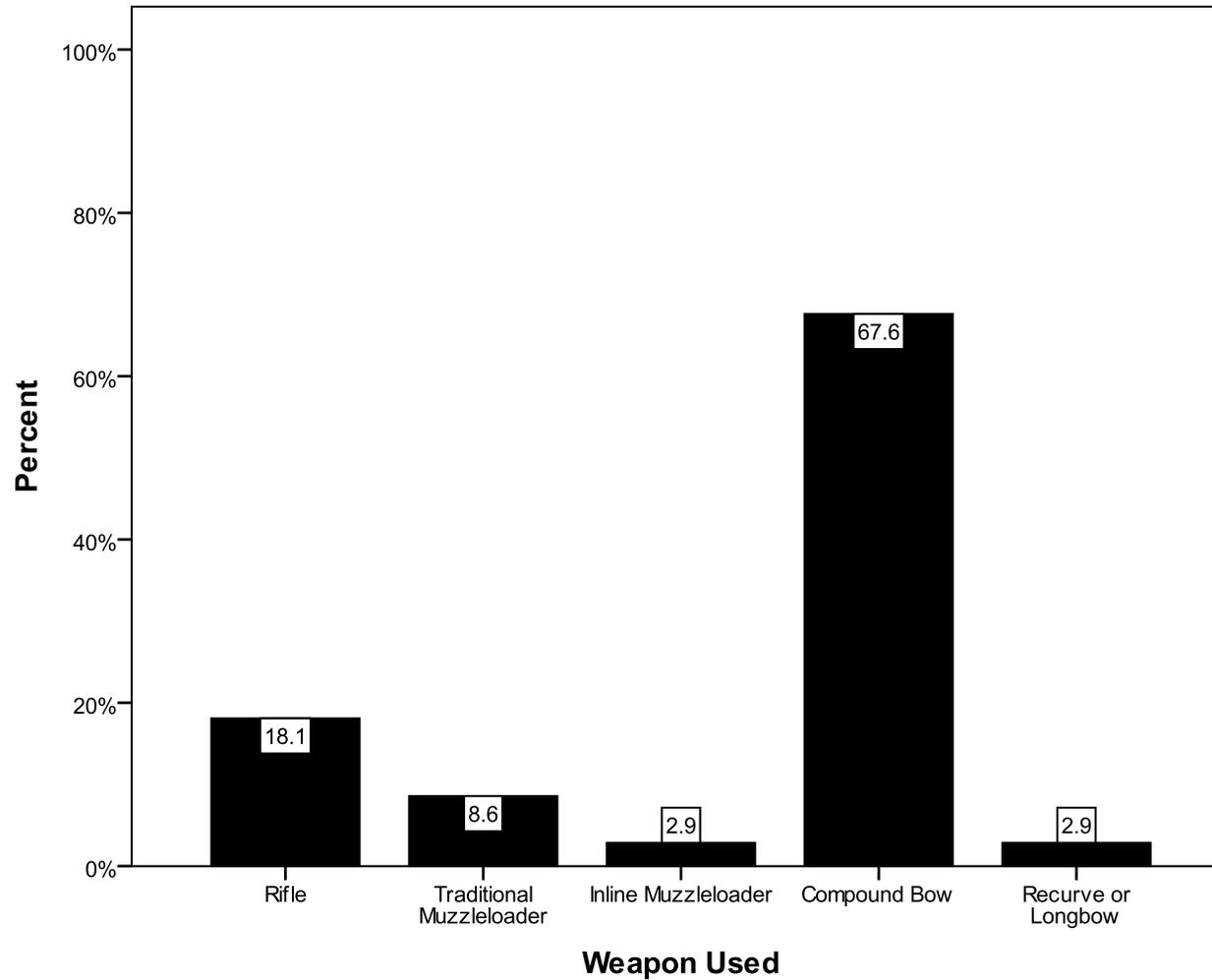
**Q3:** The distribution of years Elk hunting in Idaho among hunters in the Beaverhead zone is similar to that of the state average. About one in five respondents in the Beaverhead zone have hunted Elk in Idaho for 20 years.

**7. Excluding your travel to and from your home, how often do you use the following mode of transportation when you hunt Elk in Idaho?**



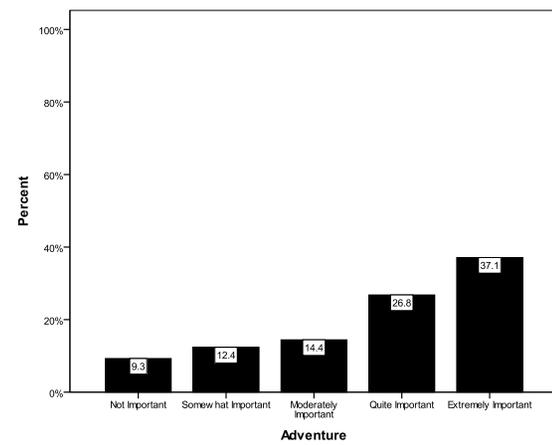
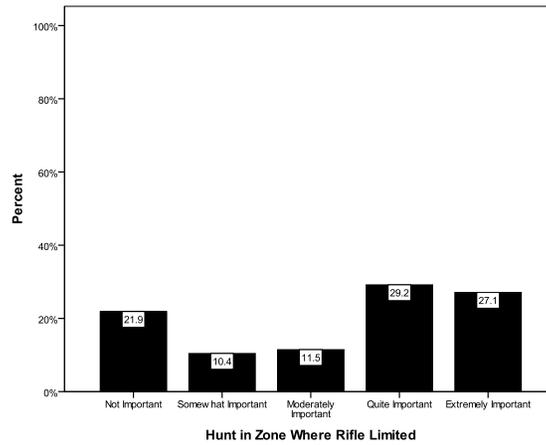
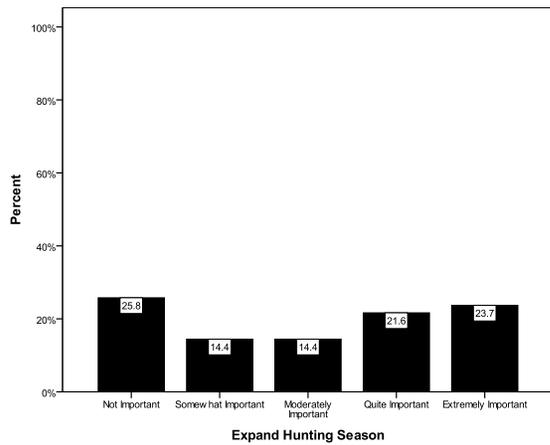
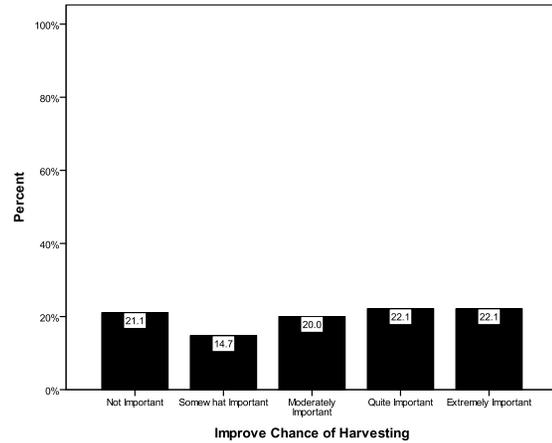
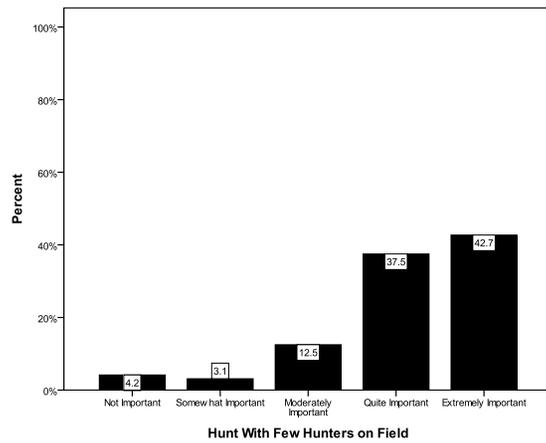
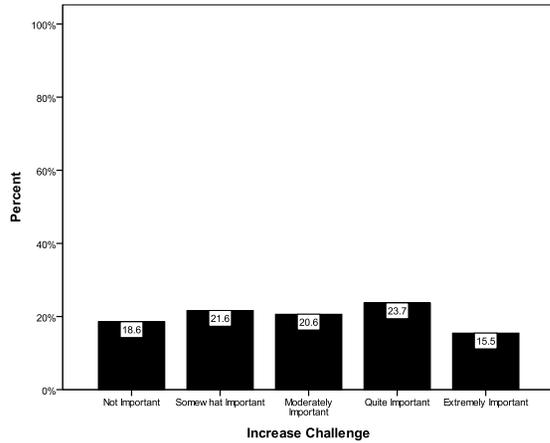
**Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and respondents for the Beaverhead zone.**

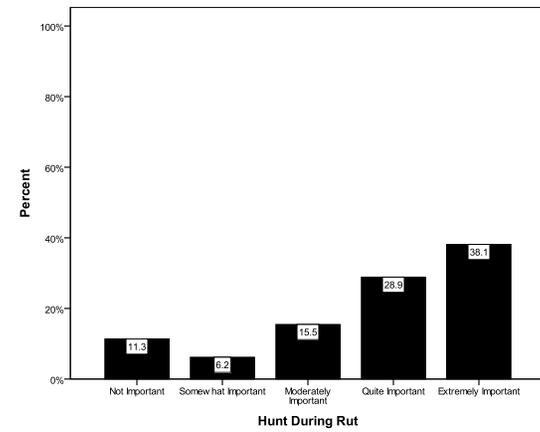
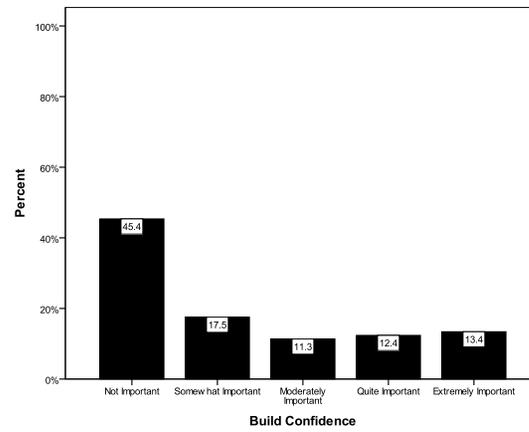
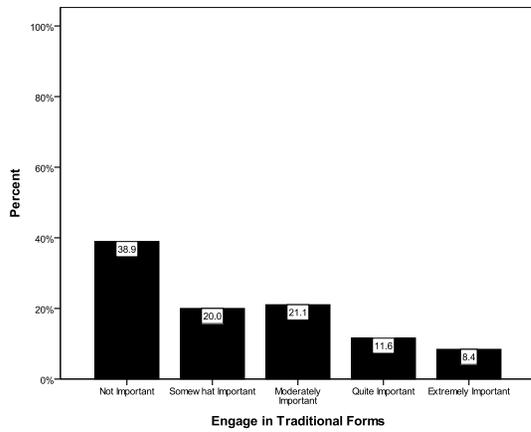
8. What type of weapon do you typically use to hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)



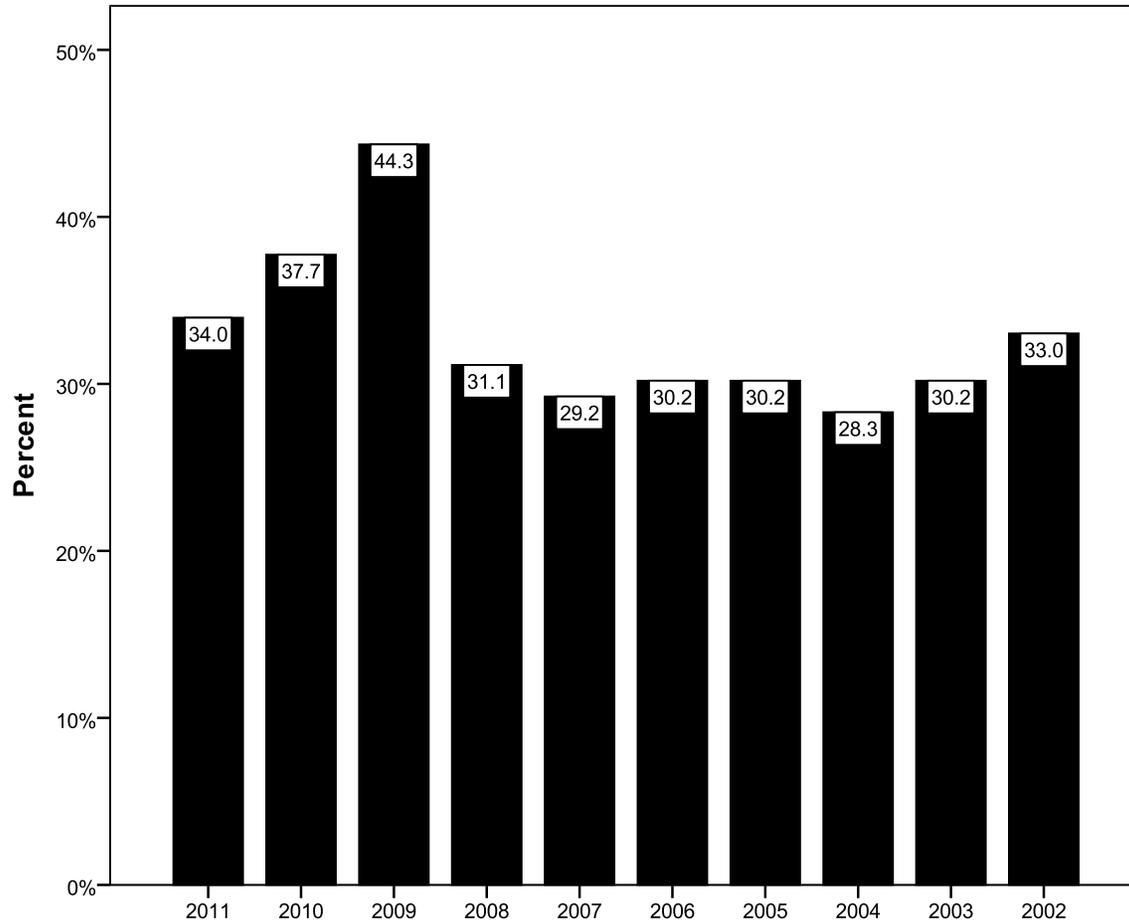
**Q8: Unlike other hunters in the state who typically use rifles the most, a majority of Beaverhead hunters use compound bows, double the responses of the state average.**

10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



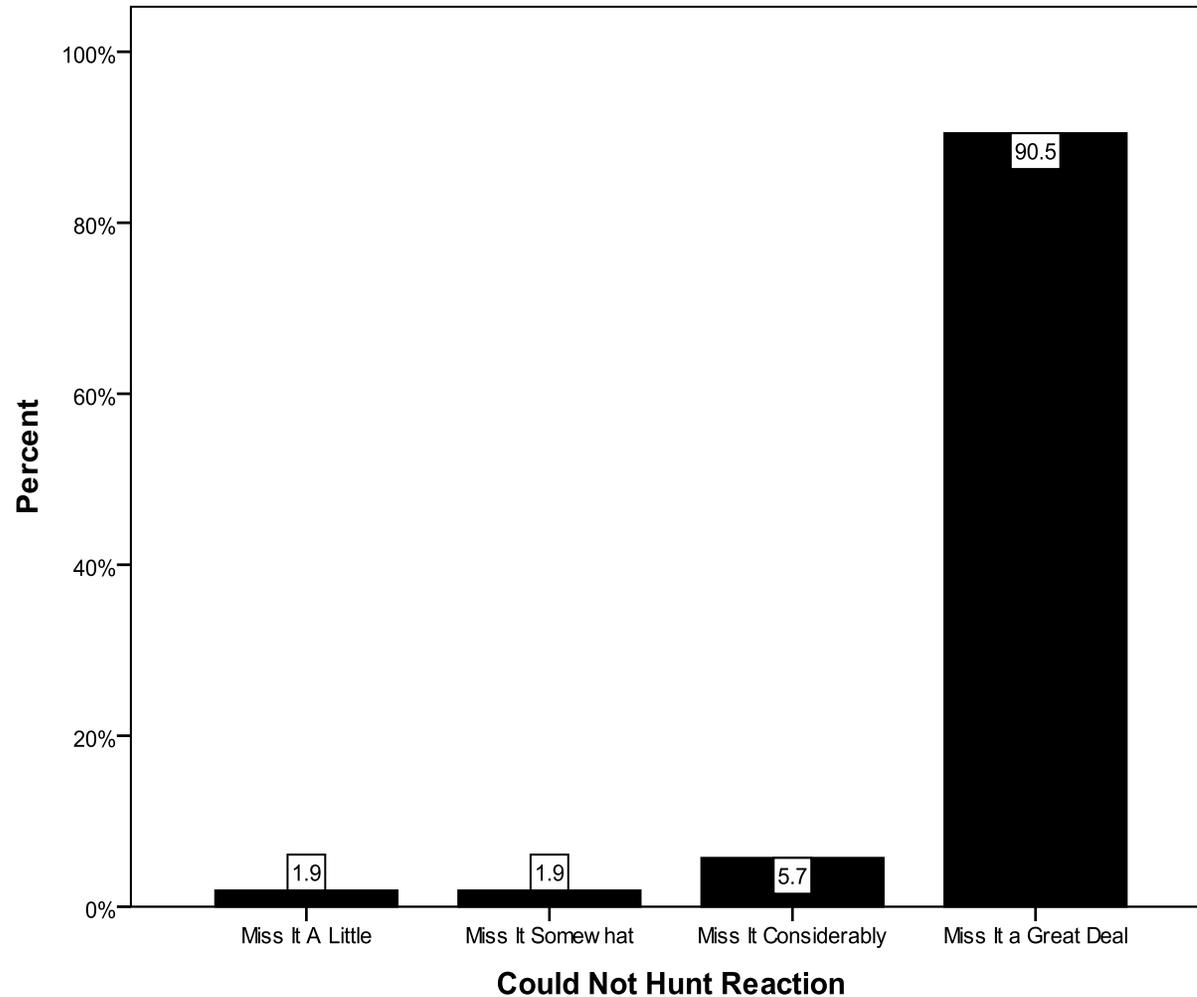


**Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between Beaverhead respondents and the state average.**

**11. What has been your Elk harvesting success in Idaho? (Please check all that apply)**

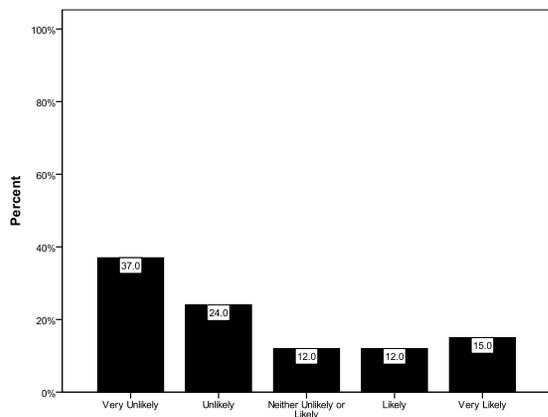
**Q11: Overall, the harvesting success in the past 10 years has been greater every year in the Beaverhead zone than the state average. In 2009, 19.2% more hunters reported a successful harvest than the state average. In 2011, about one in three hunters in the Beaverhead zone reported harvest success compared to one in five at the state level.**

12. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would you react? (Please check only one response)

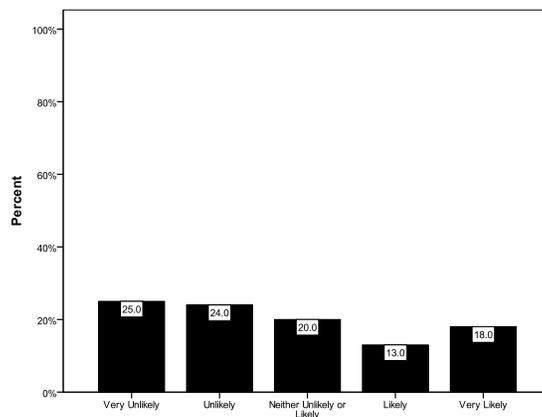


**Q12: The distribution of responses between the Beaverhead zone and the state average is similar. Hunting would be missed a great deal by hunters if they could not hunt.**

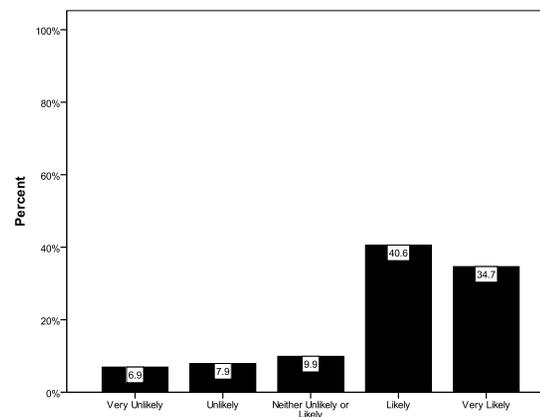
### 13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



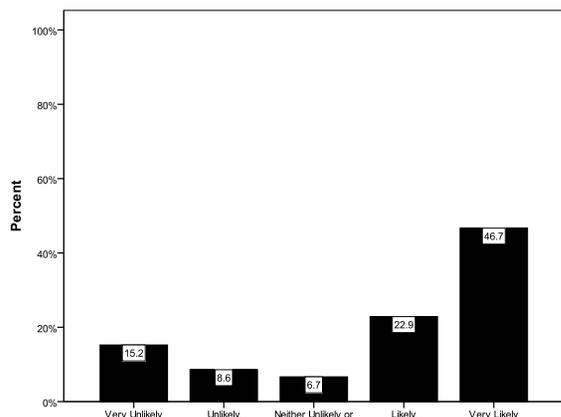
Hunt Waterfowl More



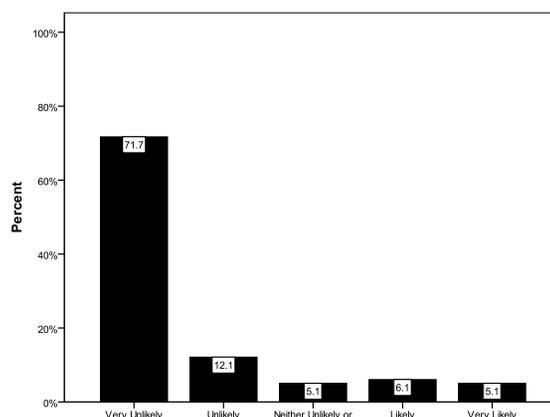
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



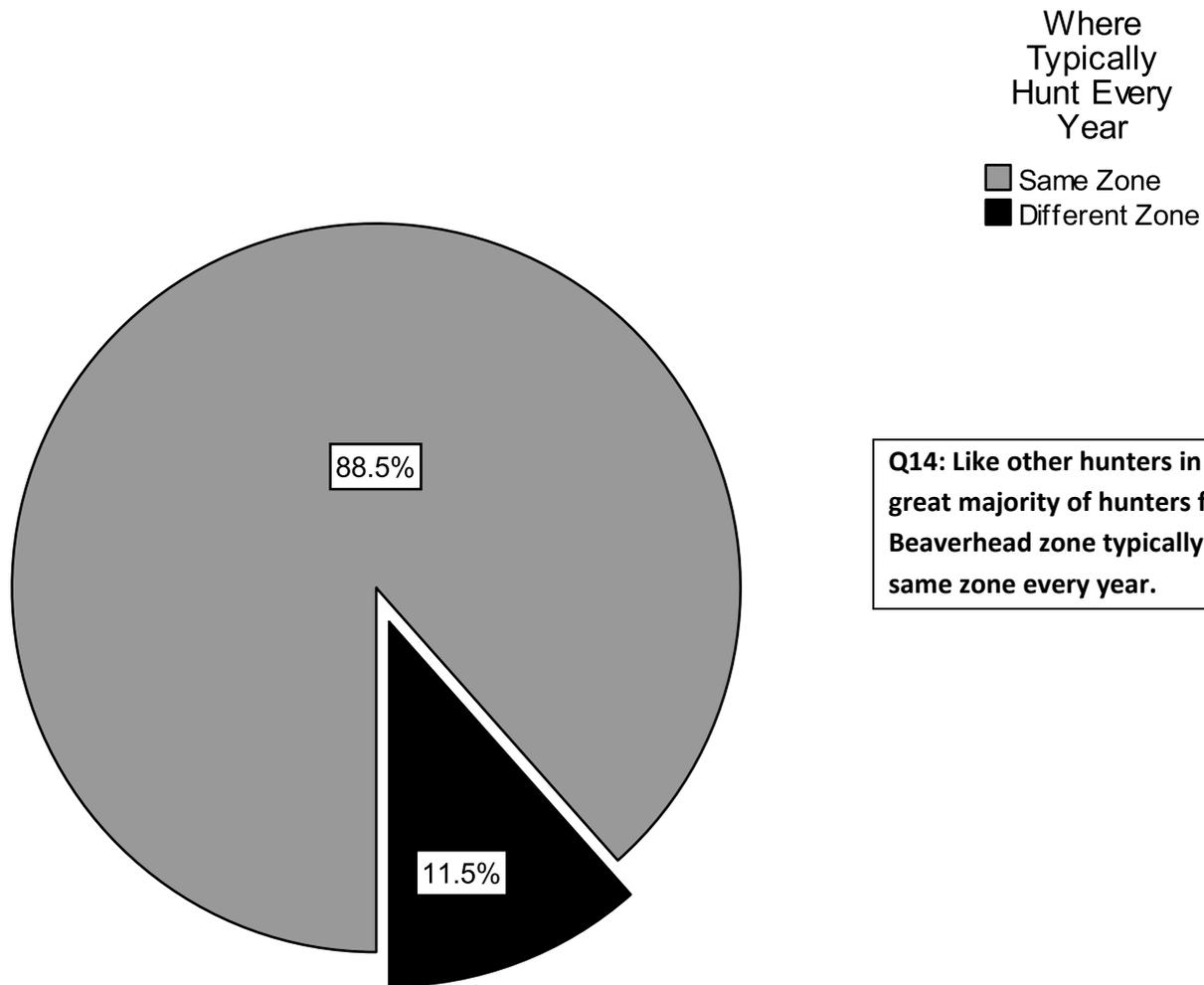
Hunt Elk in Other States



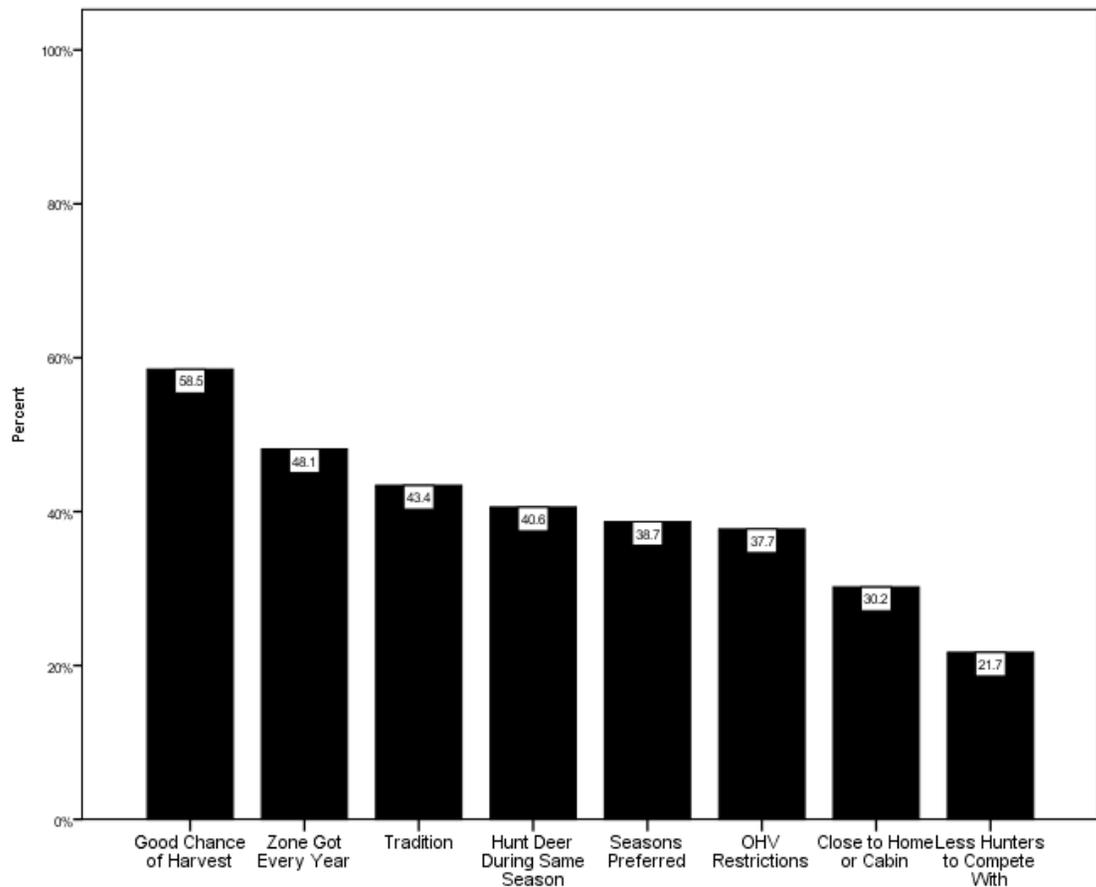
Not Hunt At All

**Q13: The changes in hunting if hunters could not hunt Elk are similar between Beaverhead hunters and other hunters in the state.**

14. Which of the following best describes where you typically hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)

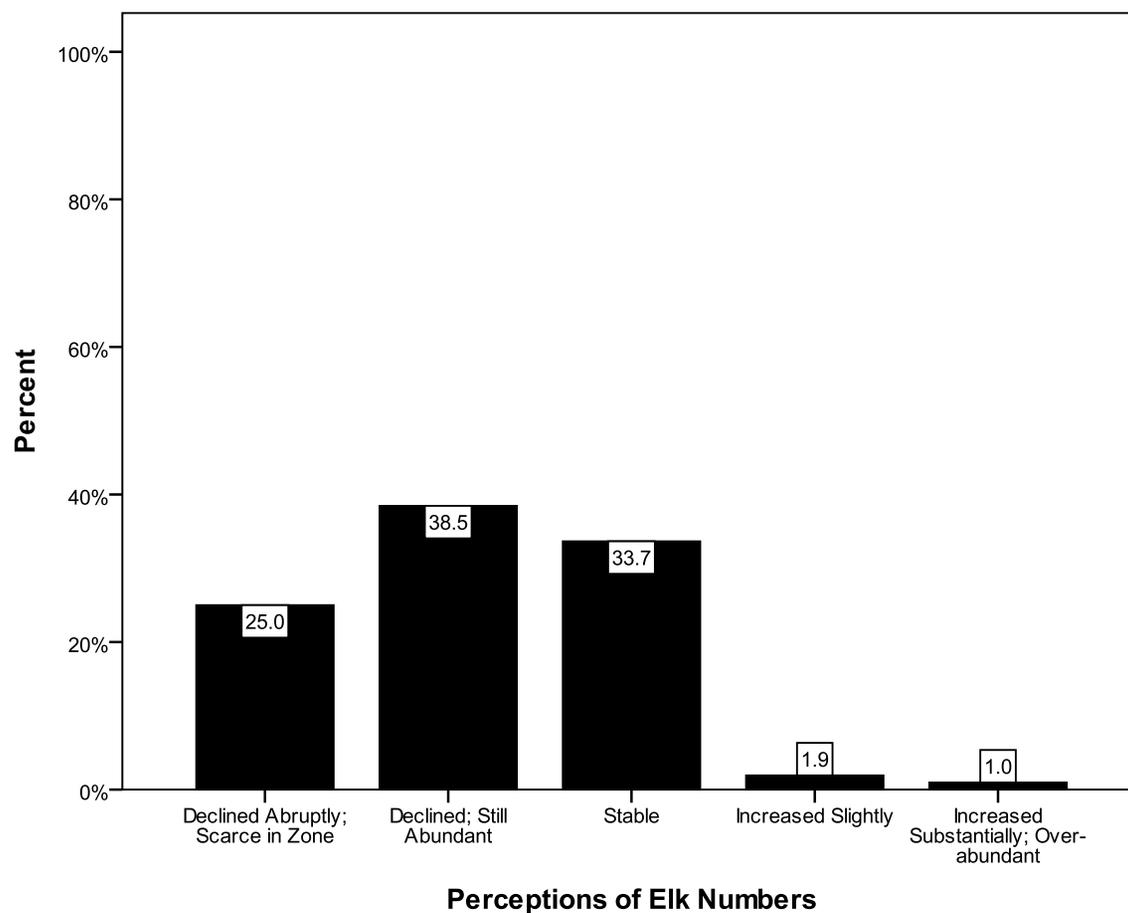


16. What makes the zone(s) you marked in Q-15 desirable to hunt Elk? (Please check all that apply)



**Q16: Responses of what makes a zone desirable differ greatly between Beaverhead hunters and other hunters in the state. Good chance of harvest is the most desirable quality to most Beaverhead hunters, while a zone being close home/cabin ranks number one for the state average. Beaverhead hunters also ranked tradition and OHV restrictions higher. Getting the same zone every year and being able to hunt deer during the same season is highly desirable for both groups.**

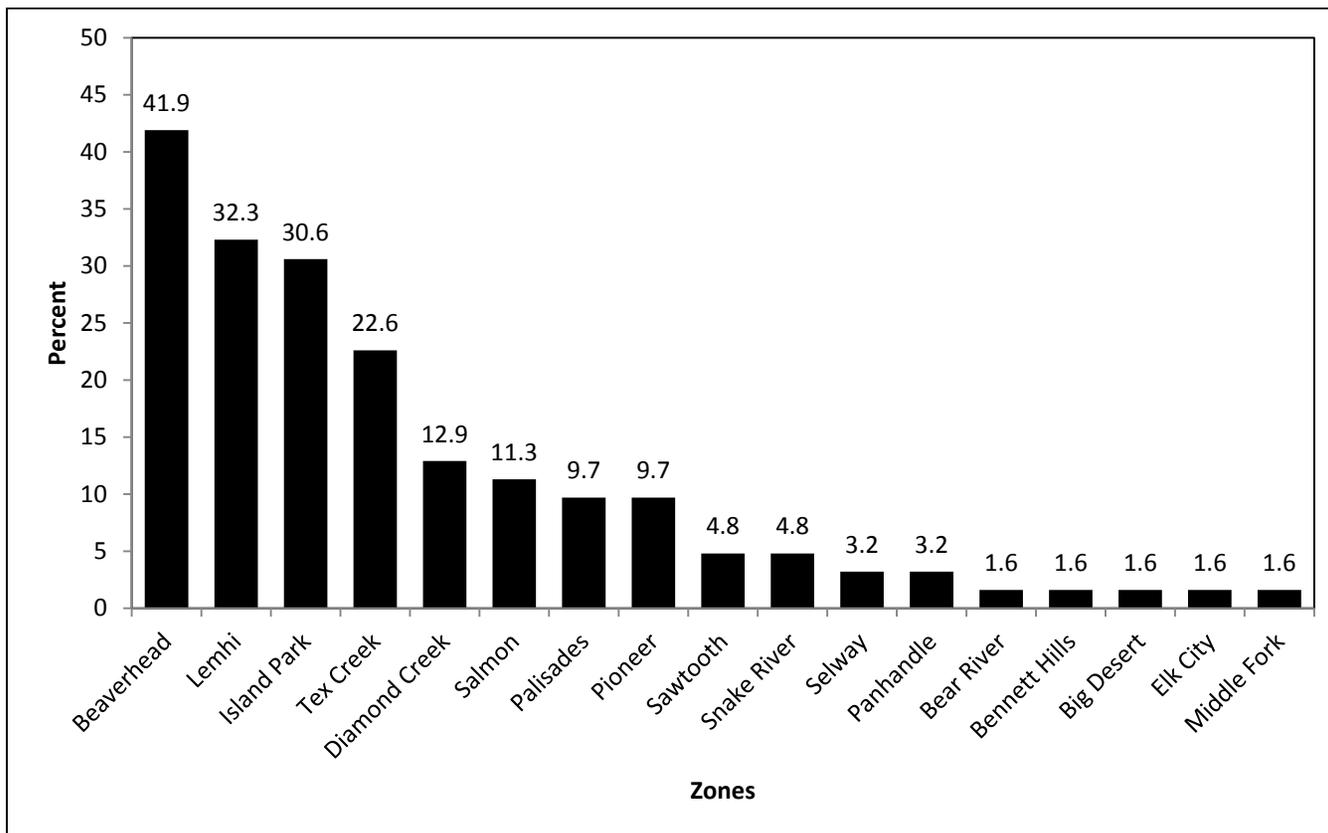
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



**Q17: Beaverhead hunters perceive Elk numbers to be greater than other hunters in the state do. 20.1% more hunters in the Beaverhead zone perceive Elk numbers to be stable, as compared to the state average. However, about a third still perceive numbers to have declined some.**

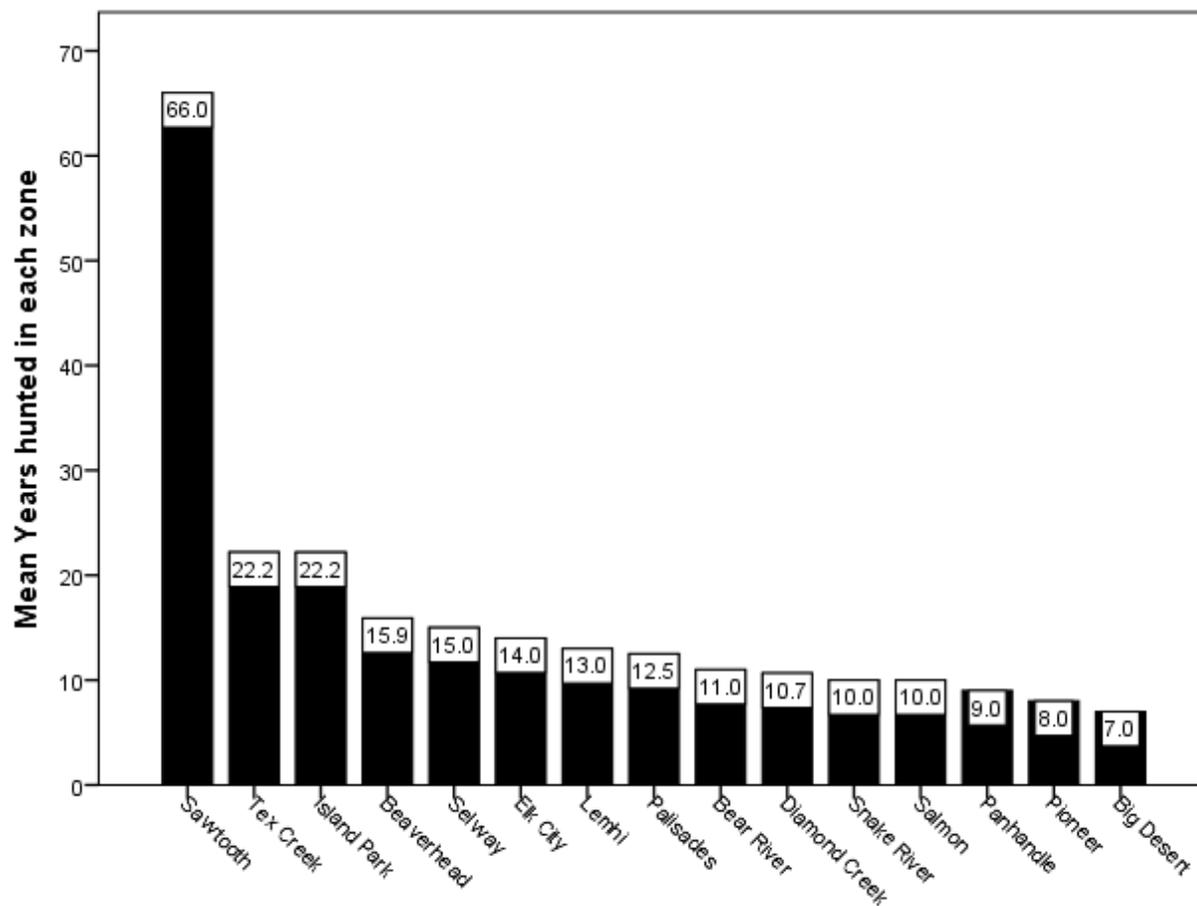
**18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years, please list them below.**

*(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)*



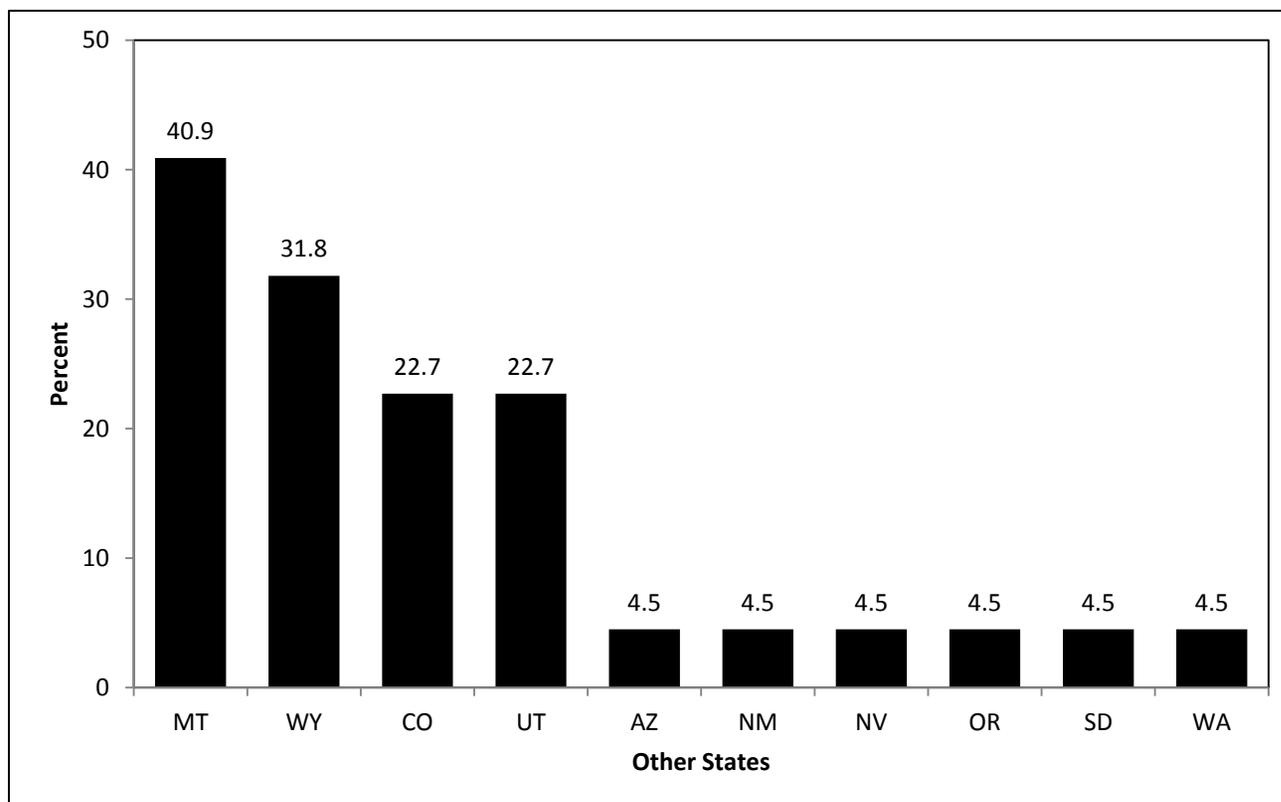
**Q18: The Lemhi, Island Park, and Tex Creek are the most popular zones for hunters to hunt in besides Beaverhead.**

**20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?**  
*(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)*



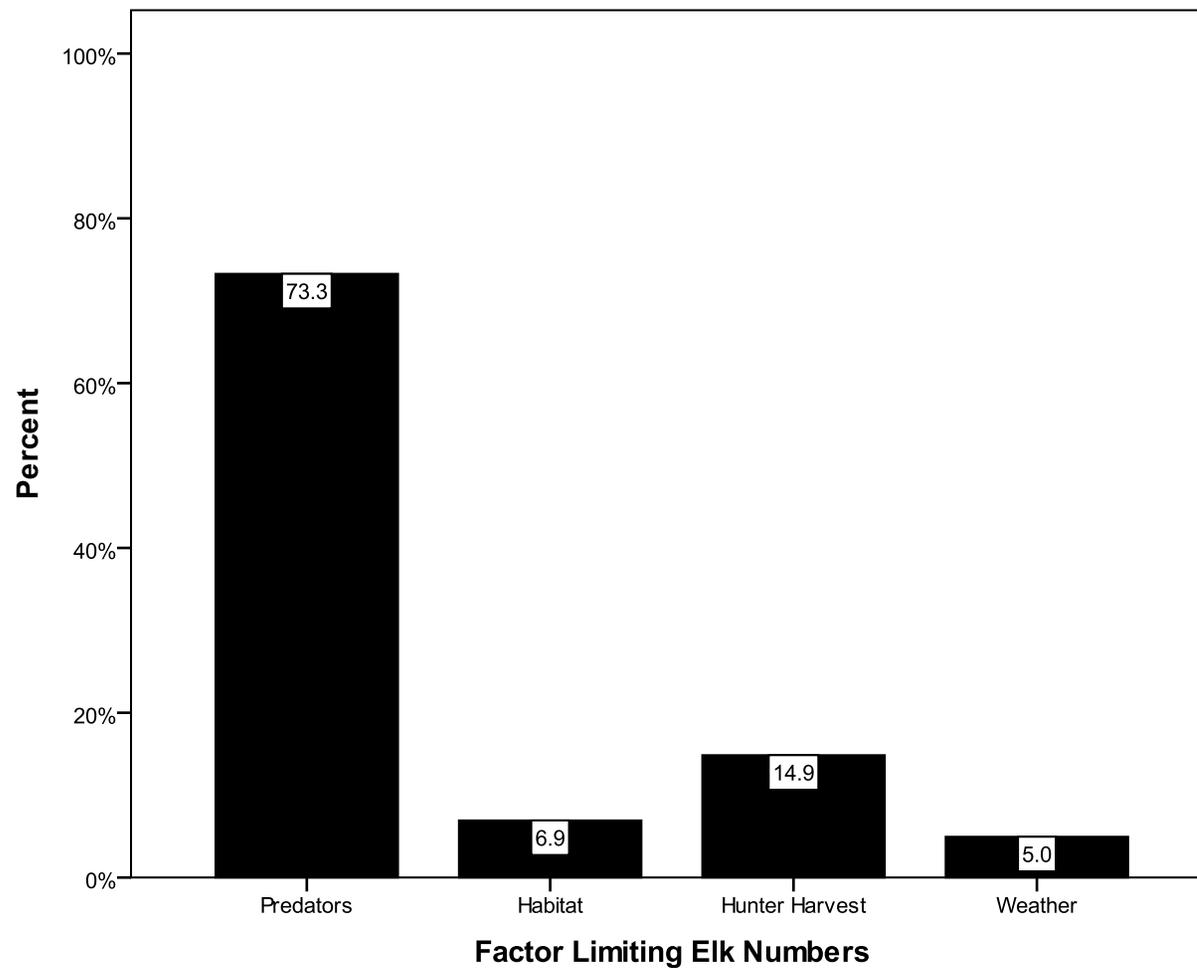
**Q20: The Sawtooth zone has been hunted the longest among respondents. The Beaverhead zone itself ranks fourth in duration.**

**Other Zones in Past 10 Years**

**21. Do you also hunt for Elk in other states? (Please check one response)**

**Q21: Montana and Wyoming are the most frequented states for Beaverhead hunters that hunt out of state. Colorado and Utah were also visited by about one fifth of those who have hunted out of state.**

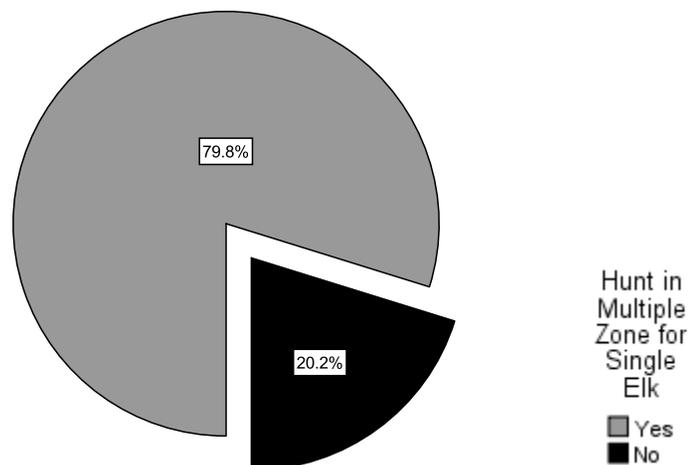
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



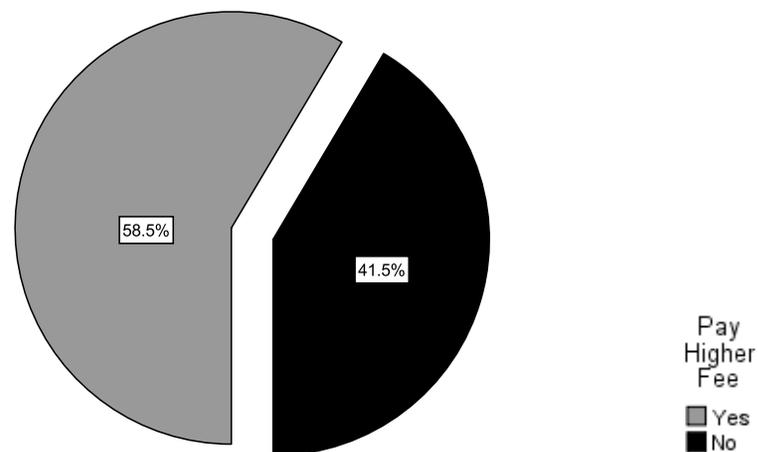
**Q22: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and Beaverhead hunters. Predators are believed to be the primary factor for limited Elk numbers.**

23. Would you like to be able to hunt in multiple zones in a year for a single Elk? (Please check one response)

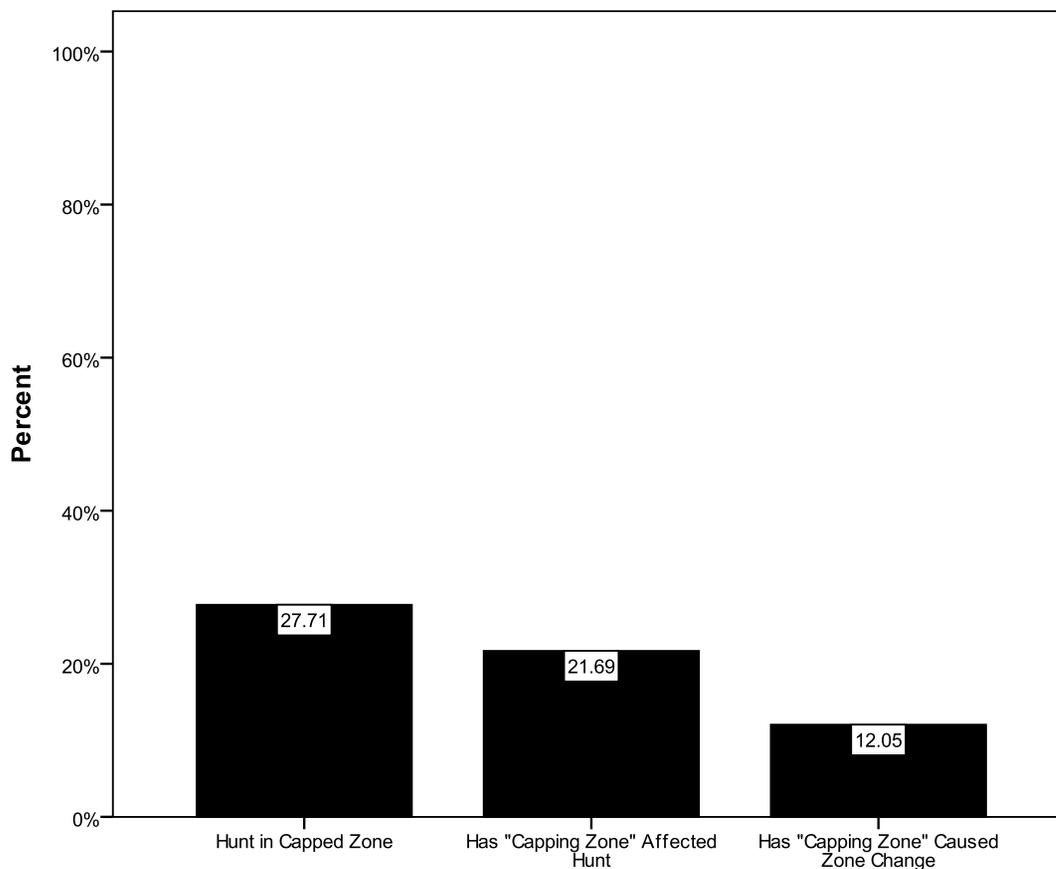
Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Beaverhead hunters would like to hunt in multiple zones in a year for a single Elk. Over half would also be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



24. If YES, would you be willing to pay a higher fee (\$100 more for non-residents; \$30 more for residents) to do so? (Please check one response)

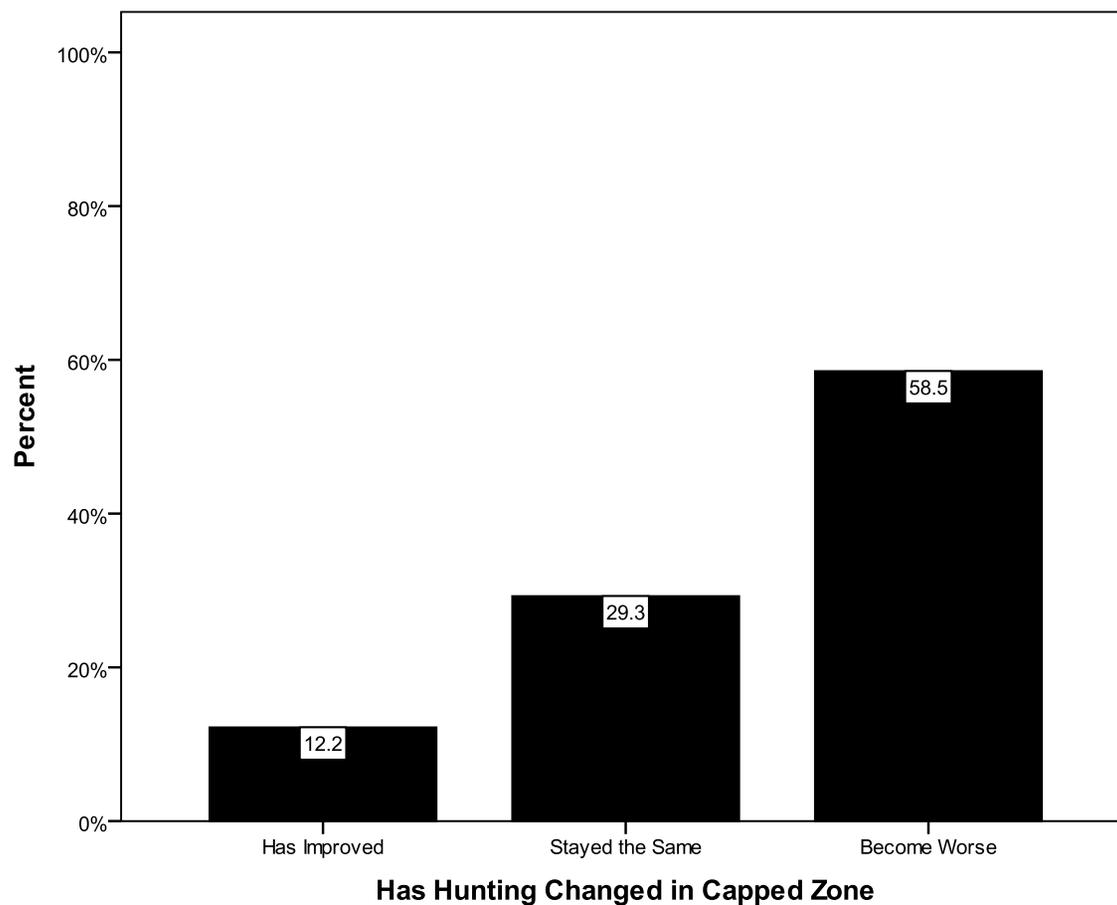


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called “capping the zone” was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This “capping the zone” is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (residents, nonresidents and outfitted residents) based on the historical use of the previous 5 years. What has been your experience with this management strategy? *(Please circle one response for each question)*



**Q25: Less than the state average (44.6%), about one in four Beaverhead respondents said they hunt in a capped zone. Similar to other hunters in the state, about a fifth of respondents believed that capping the zone has affected their hunt and also a small amount said that zone caps have caused them to change zones.**

26. If you hunt in a “capped zone” has the Elk hunting changed since it was capped? (Please check one response)

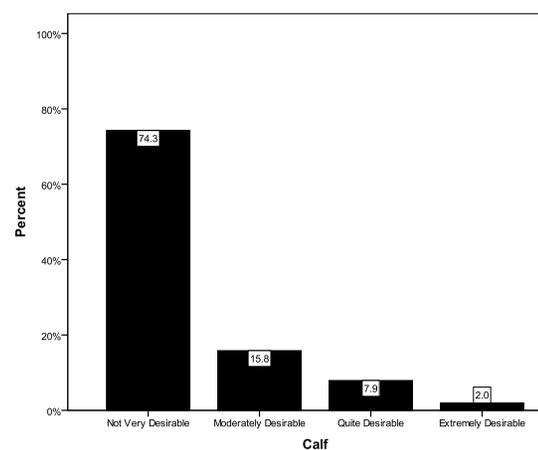
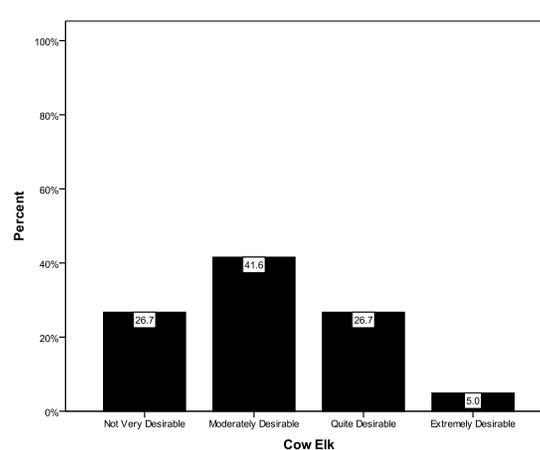
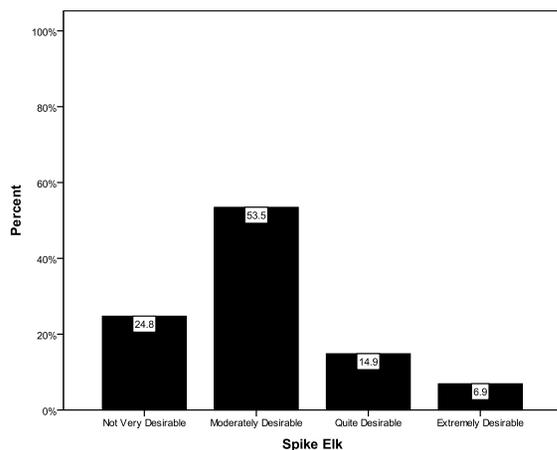
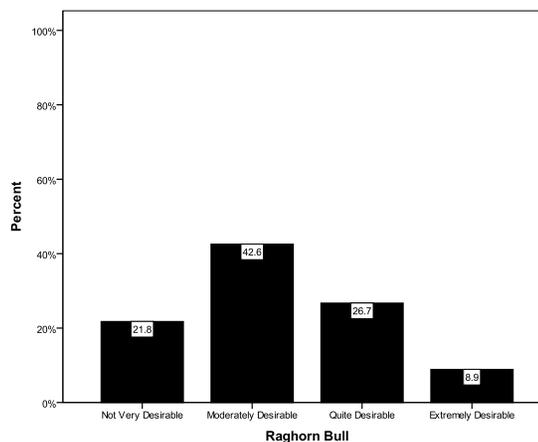
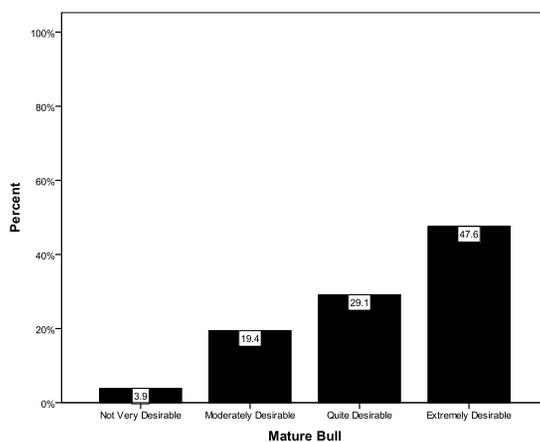
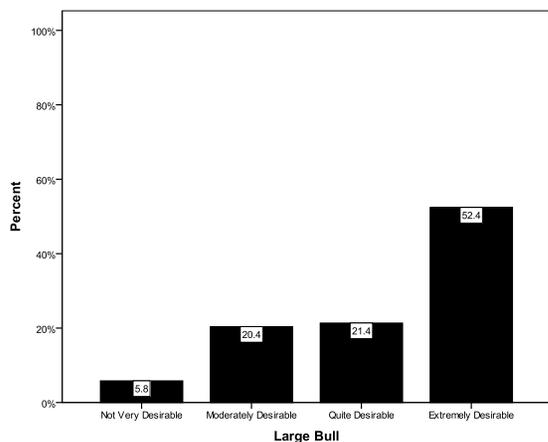


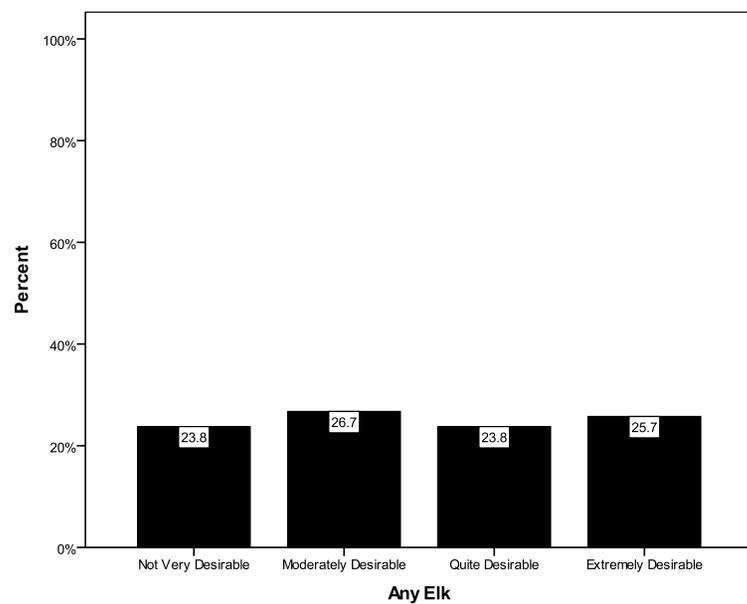
**Q26: The distribution of responses is similar between Beaverhead hunters and the state average.**

# ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

In this section we seek an understanding of what you consider when deciding what kind of Elk to hunt and where to hunt them.

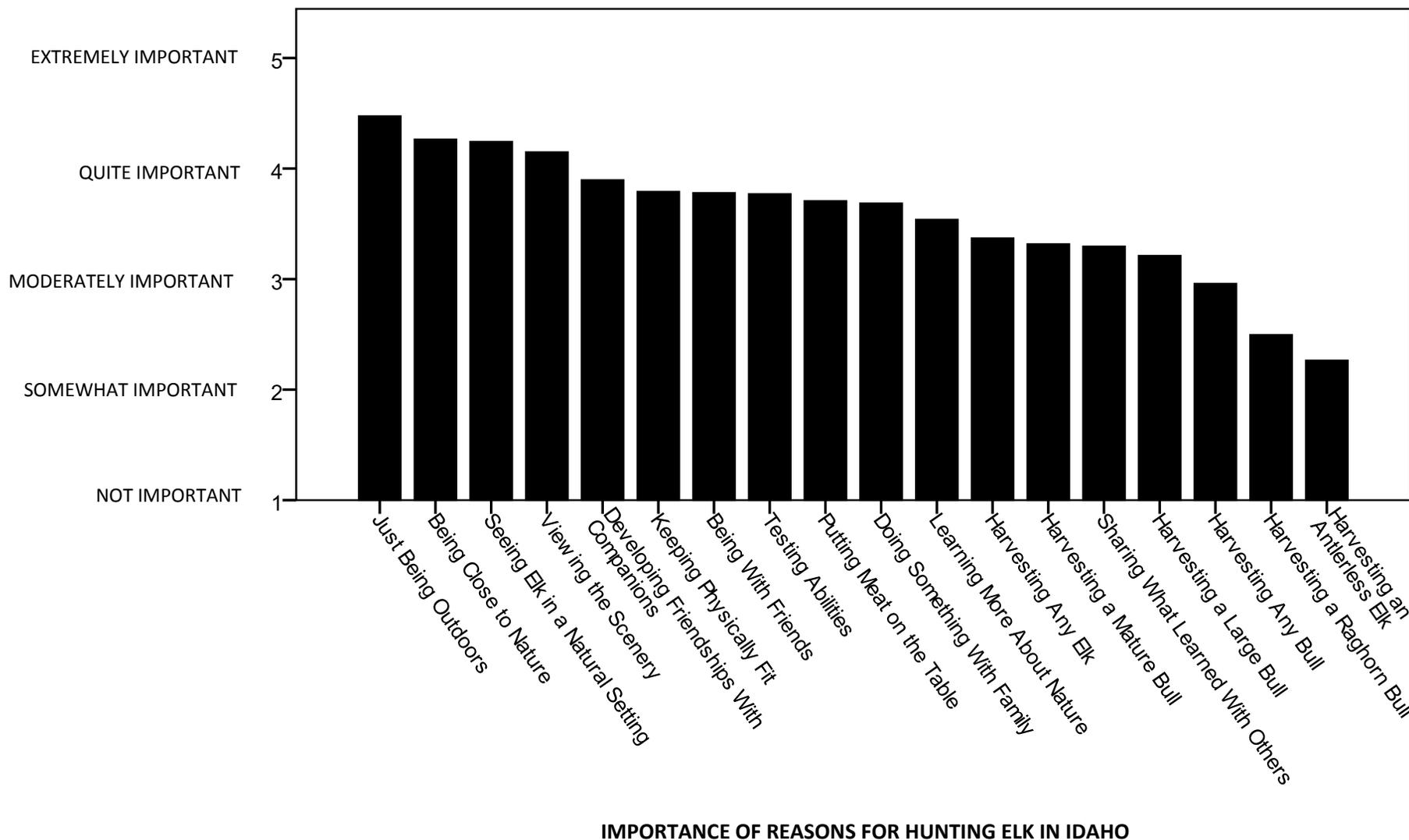
## 27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?

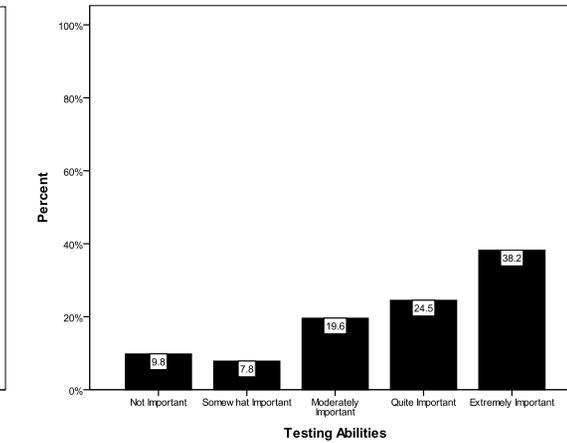
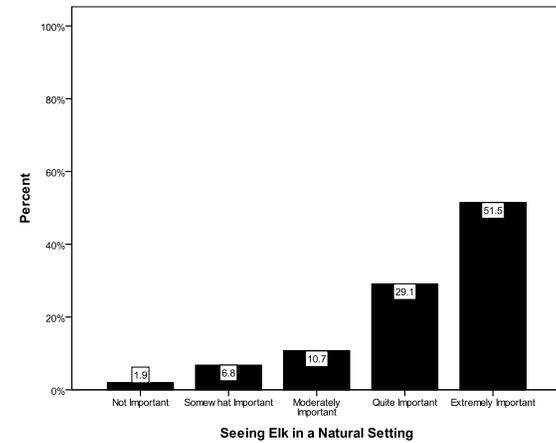
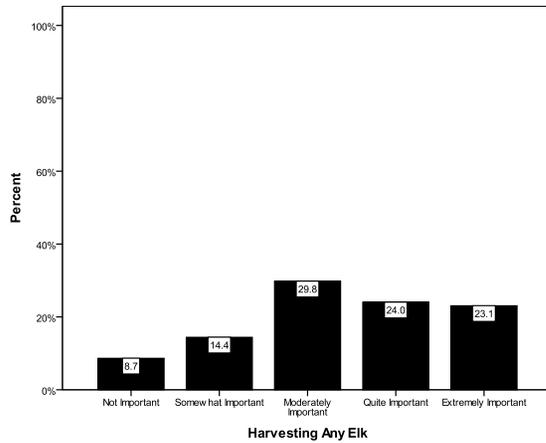
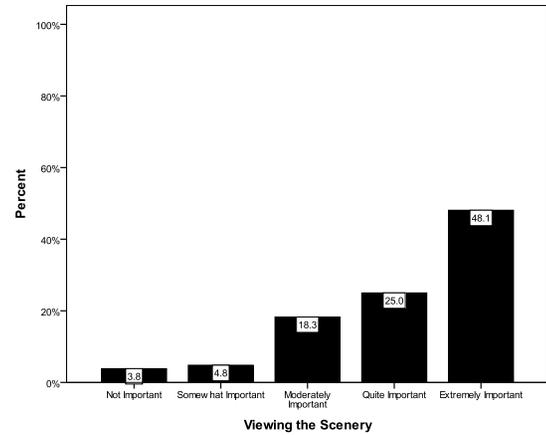
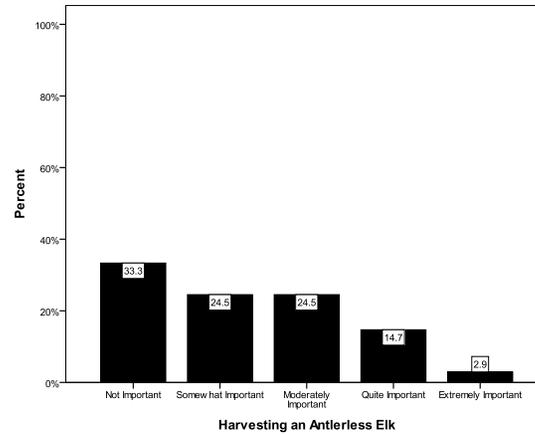
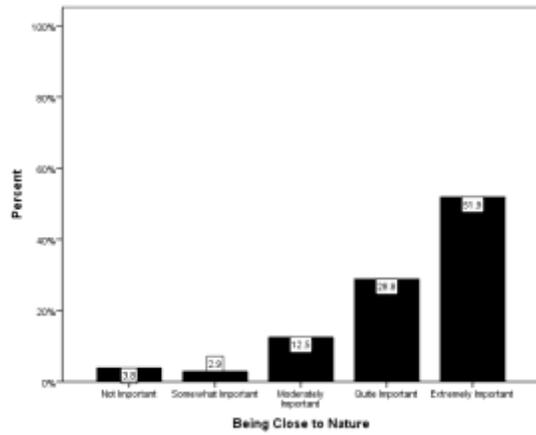


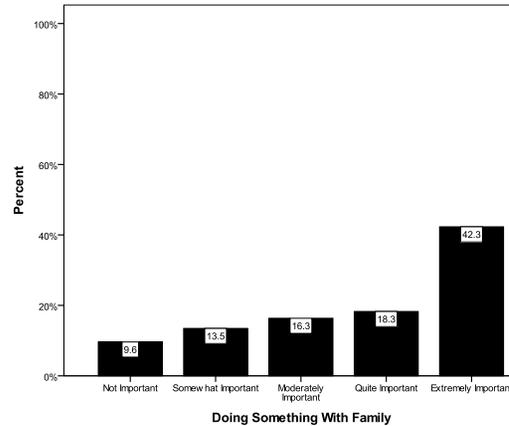
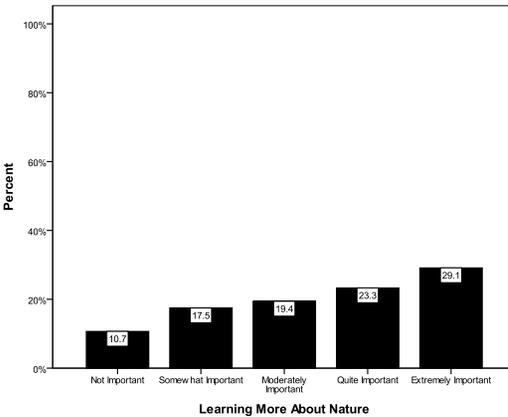
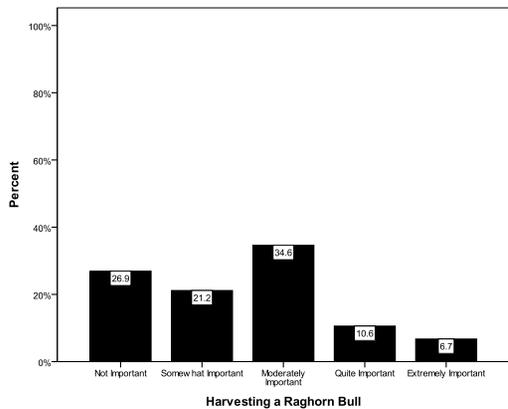
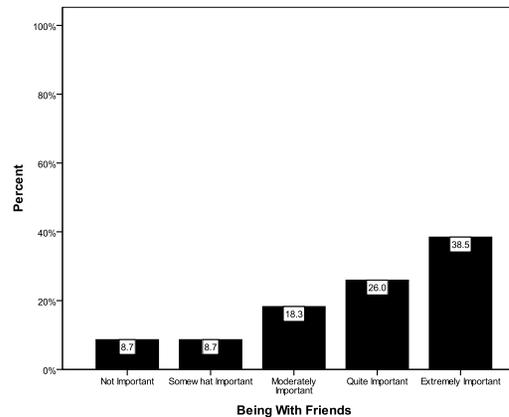
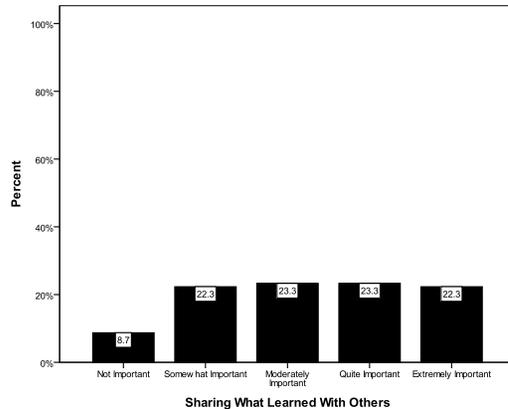
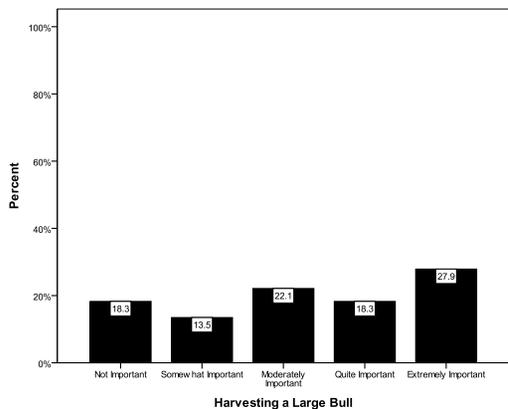


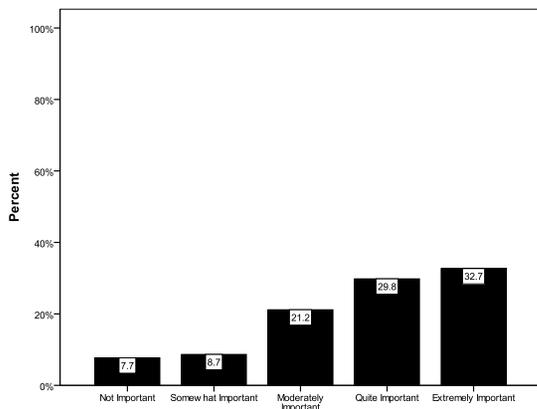
**Q27: Like other hunters in the state, hunters in the Beaverhead find size and maturity most desirable in their harvests.**

28. Below is a list of possible reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho. How important to you is each of the following reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho?

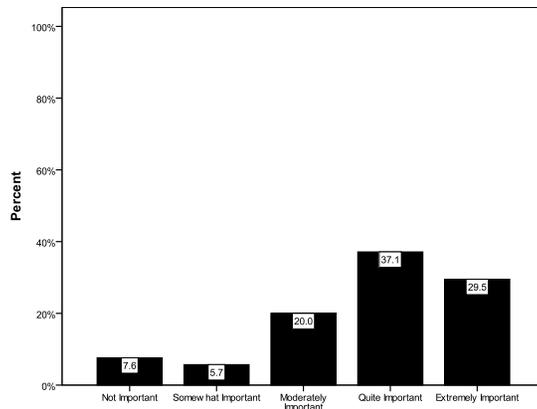




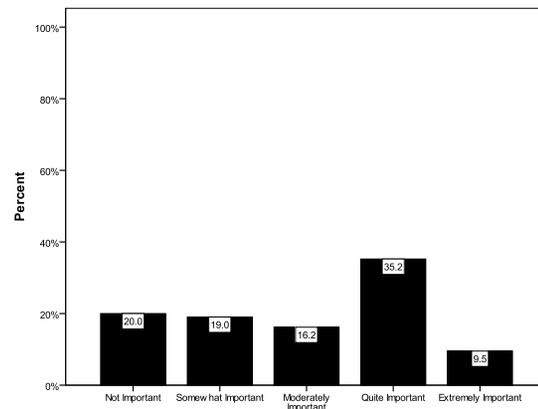




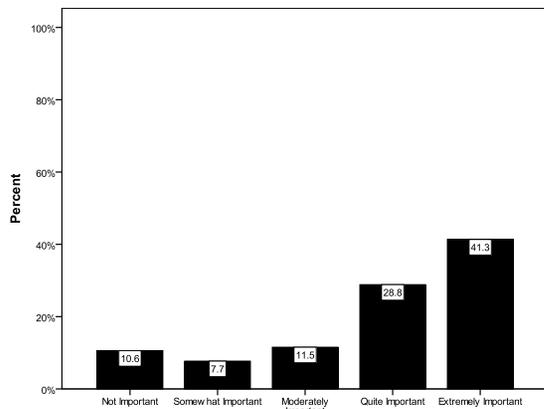
Putting Meat on the Table



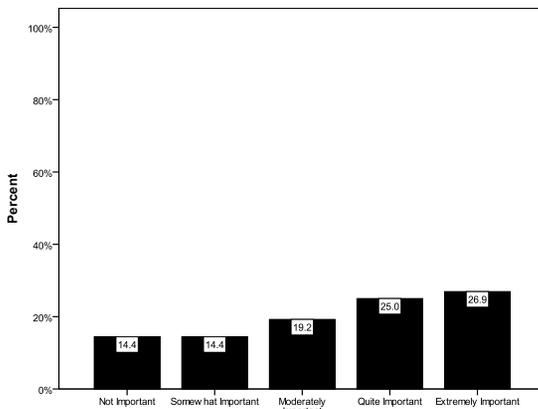
Keeping Physically Fit



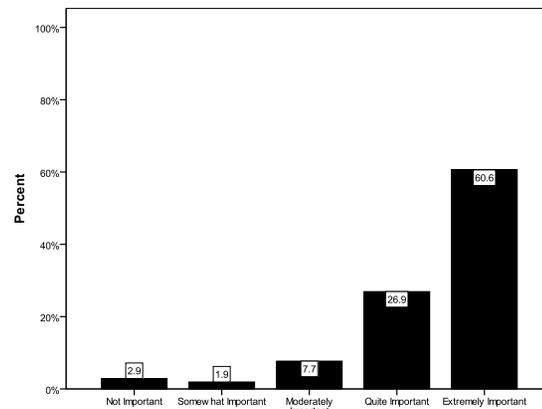
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

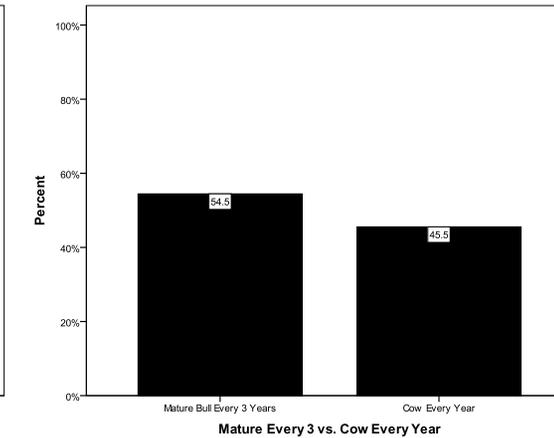
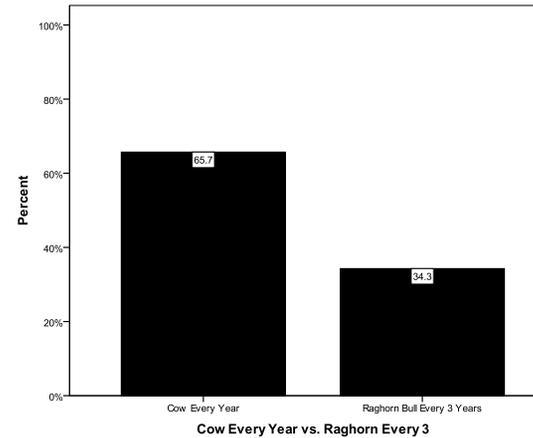
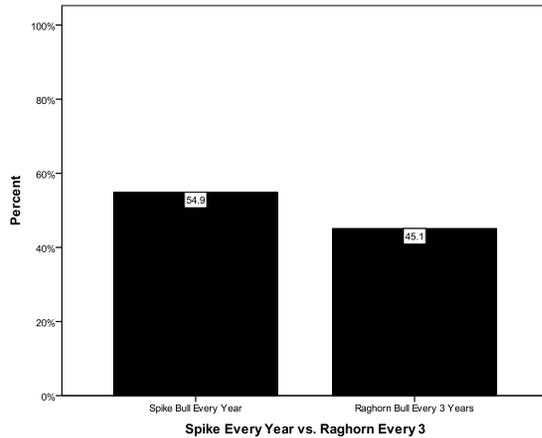
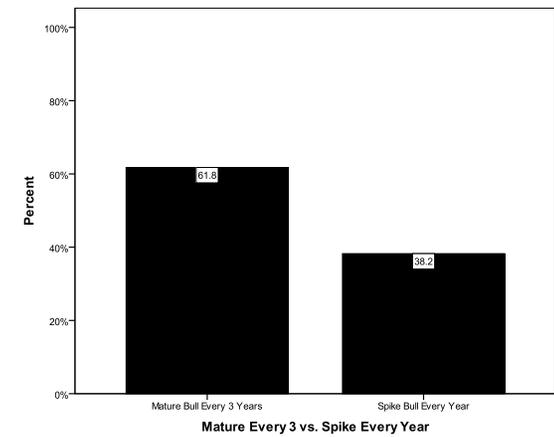
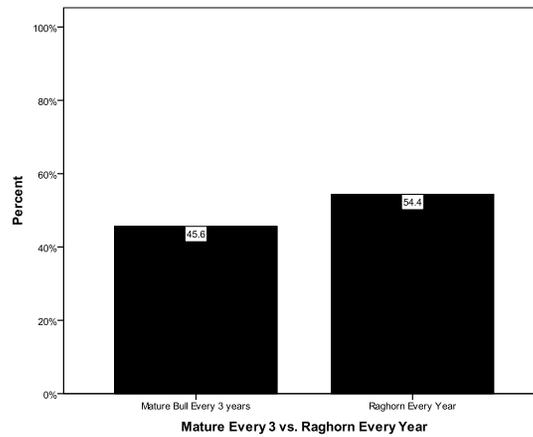
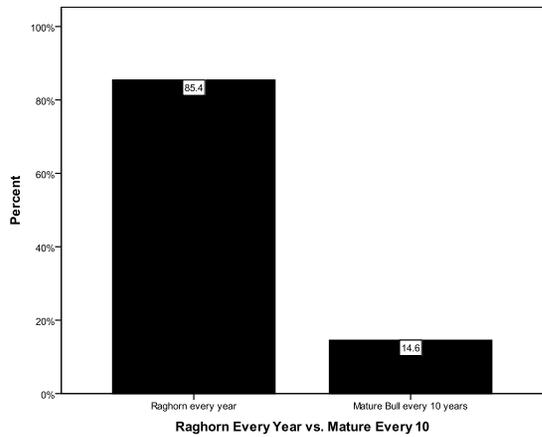


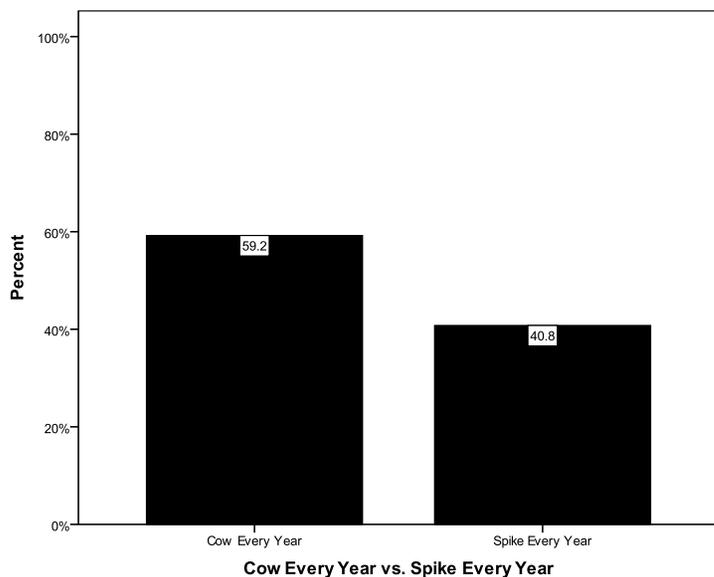
Just Being Outdoors

**Q28: The top four reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho were the same between the state average and the Beaverhead zone. To round out the top five, Beaverhead respondents said developing friendships with companions was more important than being with friends (the state average's fifth reason).**

**Next, your opinions about some possible management options.**

**32. Managing to produce more large bull Elk would require reductions in bull harvest. Managers need to know whether hunters are willing make trade-offs between the size of bulls and the amount of opportunity to hunt. (For each of the following pairs of opportunity choices please indicate which one is most favorable to you by circling the appropriate letter) Please answer every one, even if you do not like either option.**

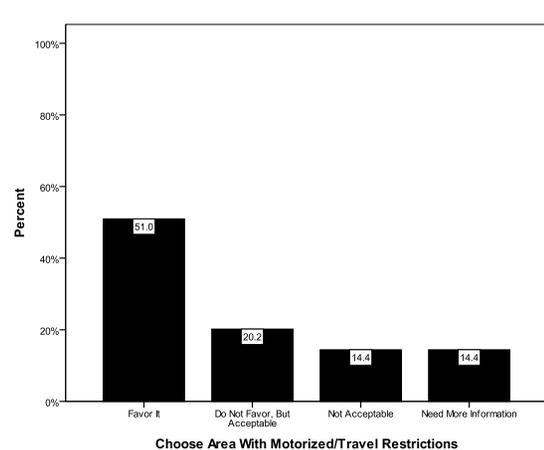
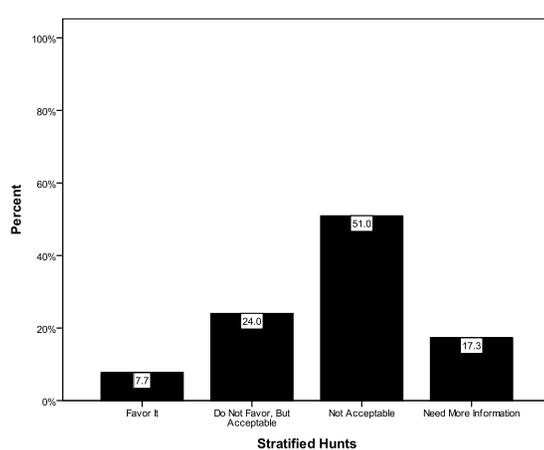
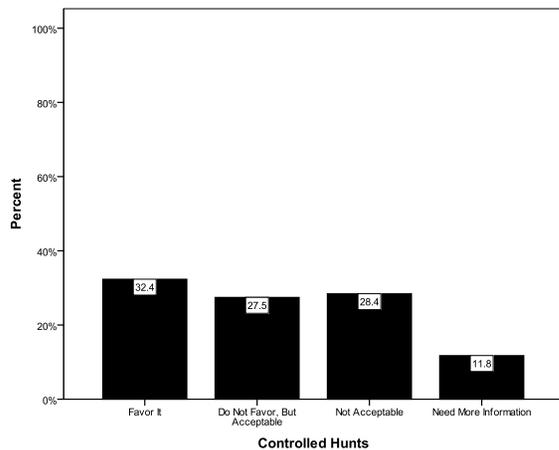
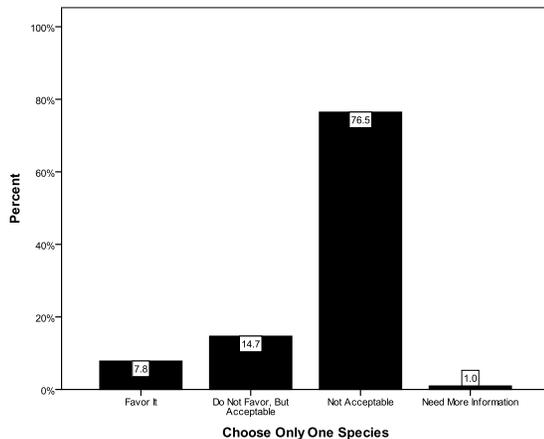
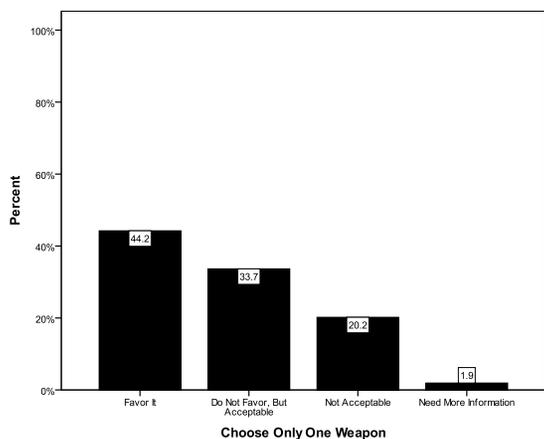
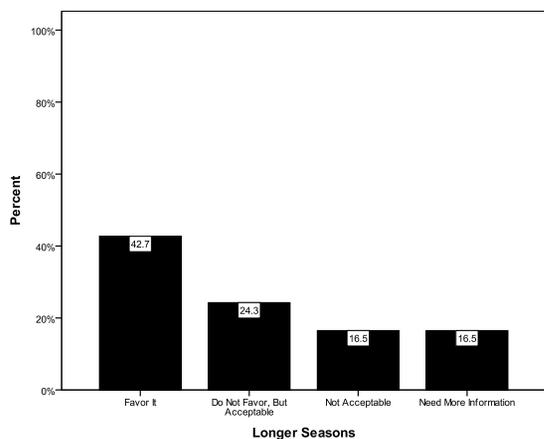


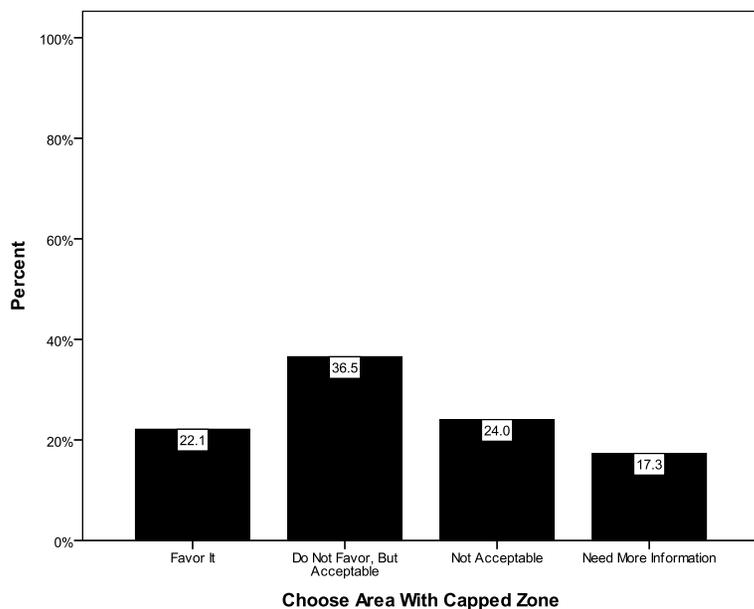


**Q32: Like other hunters in the state, Beaverhead hunters would prefer to preserve their opportunity to hunt for a smaller Elk rather than preserving size and less hunting opportunity.**

# ACCEPTABILITY OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND THE TRADE-OFFS INVOLVED

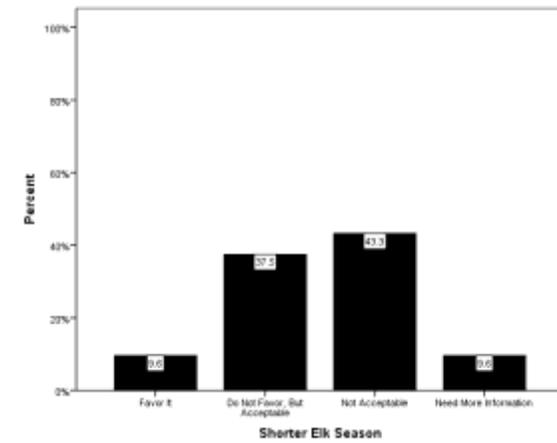
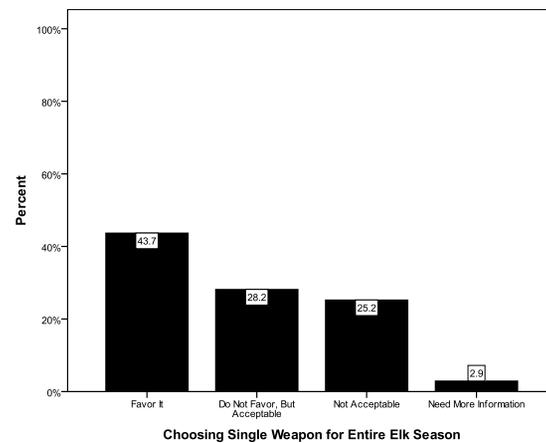
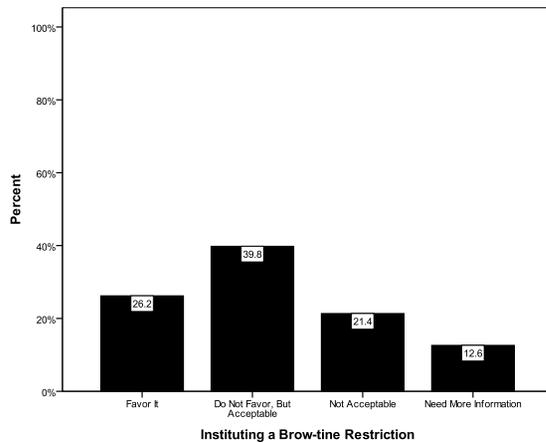
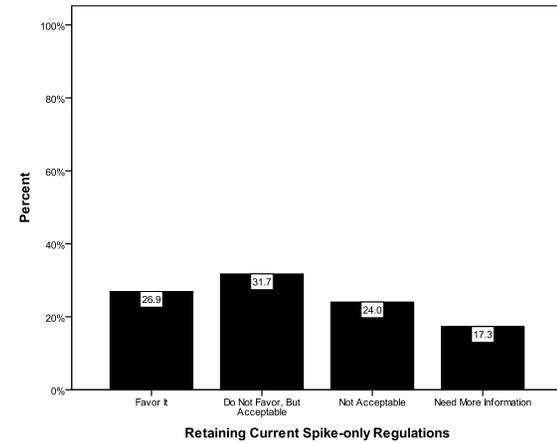
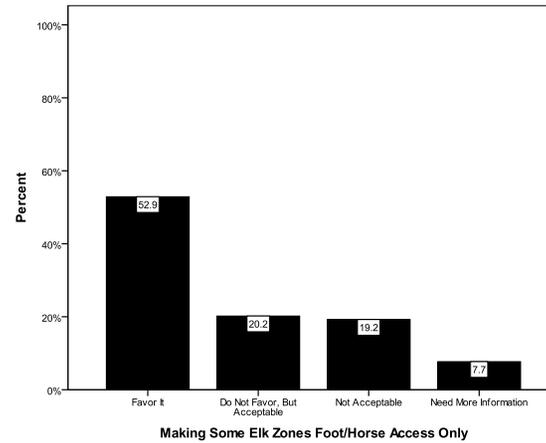
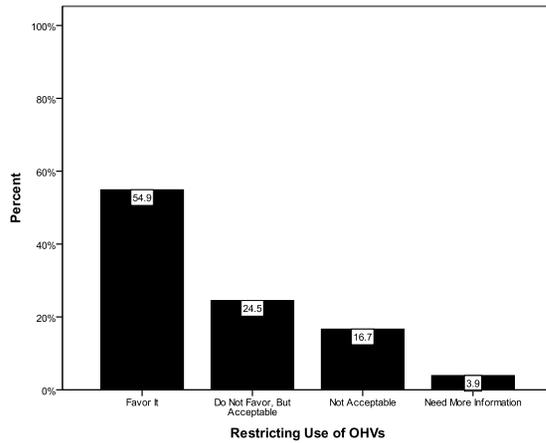
## 34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

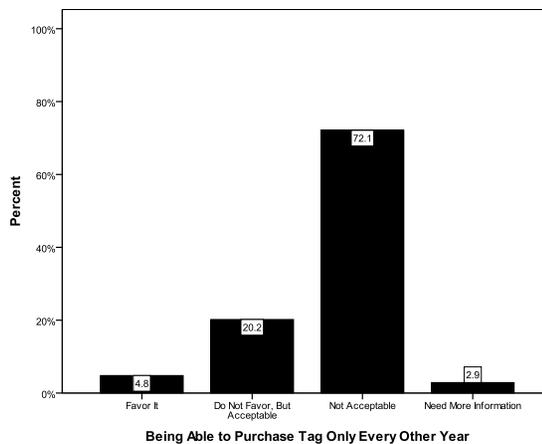
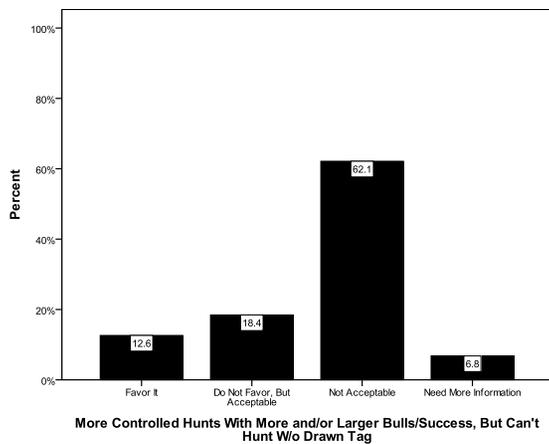
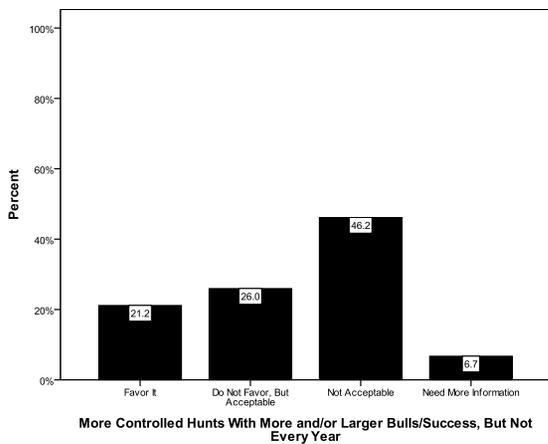




**Q34: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Beaverhead zone.**

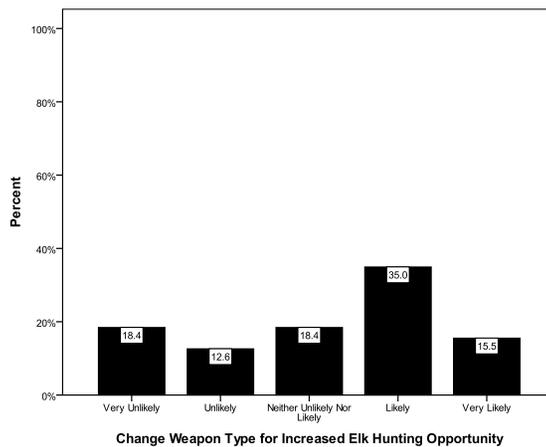
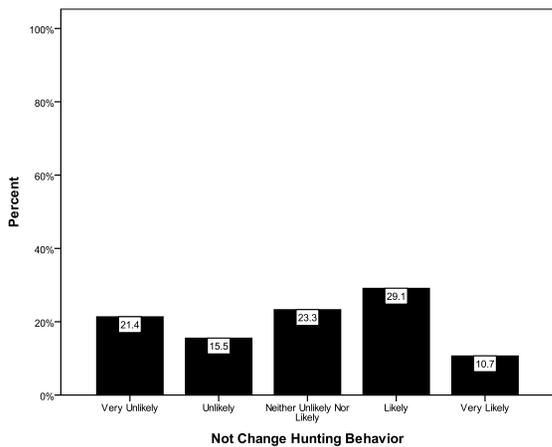
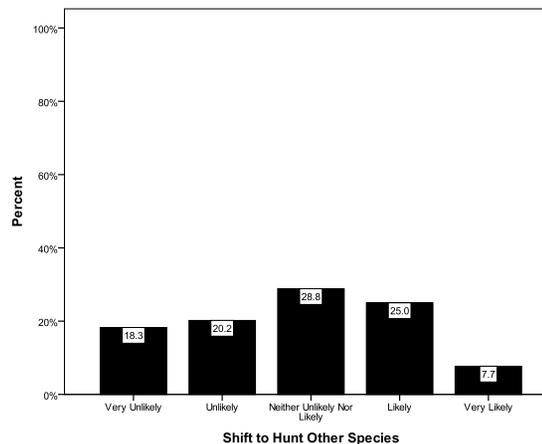
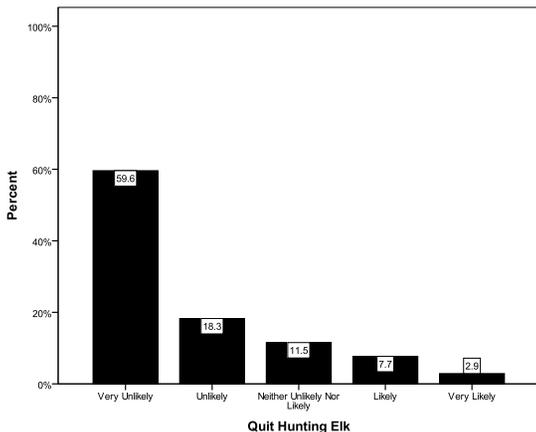
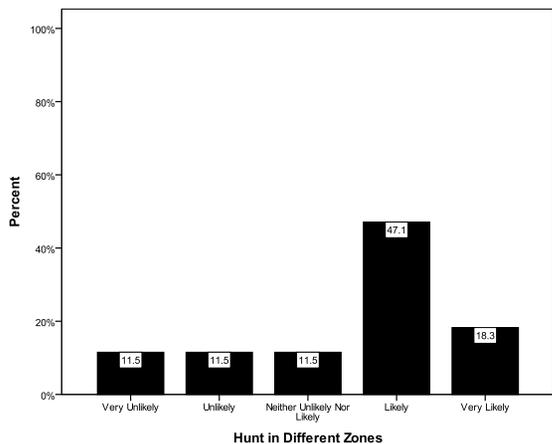
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.





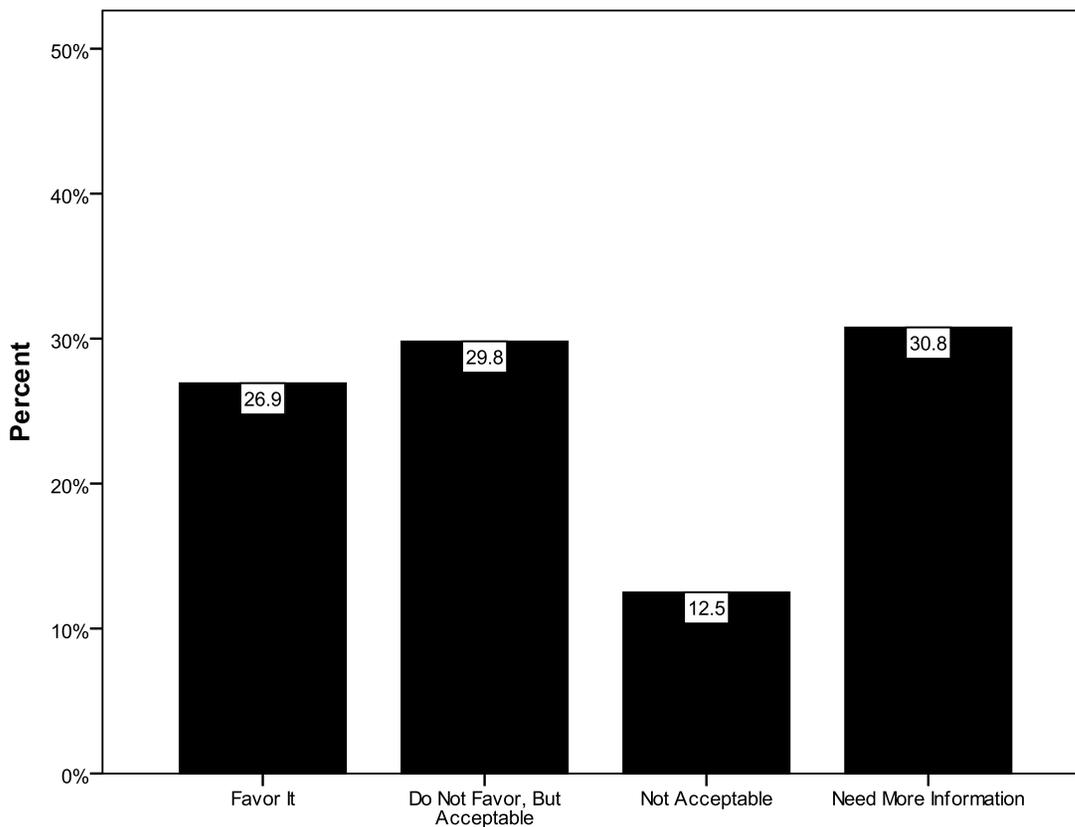
**Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the Beaverhead zone and the state average.**

**36. IF Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?**



**Q36: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the respondents of the Beaverhead zone.**

**38. How would you feel about a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, just like the current Moose, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Upland Game, Turkey and Fishing regulations? (Please check one response)**

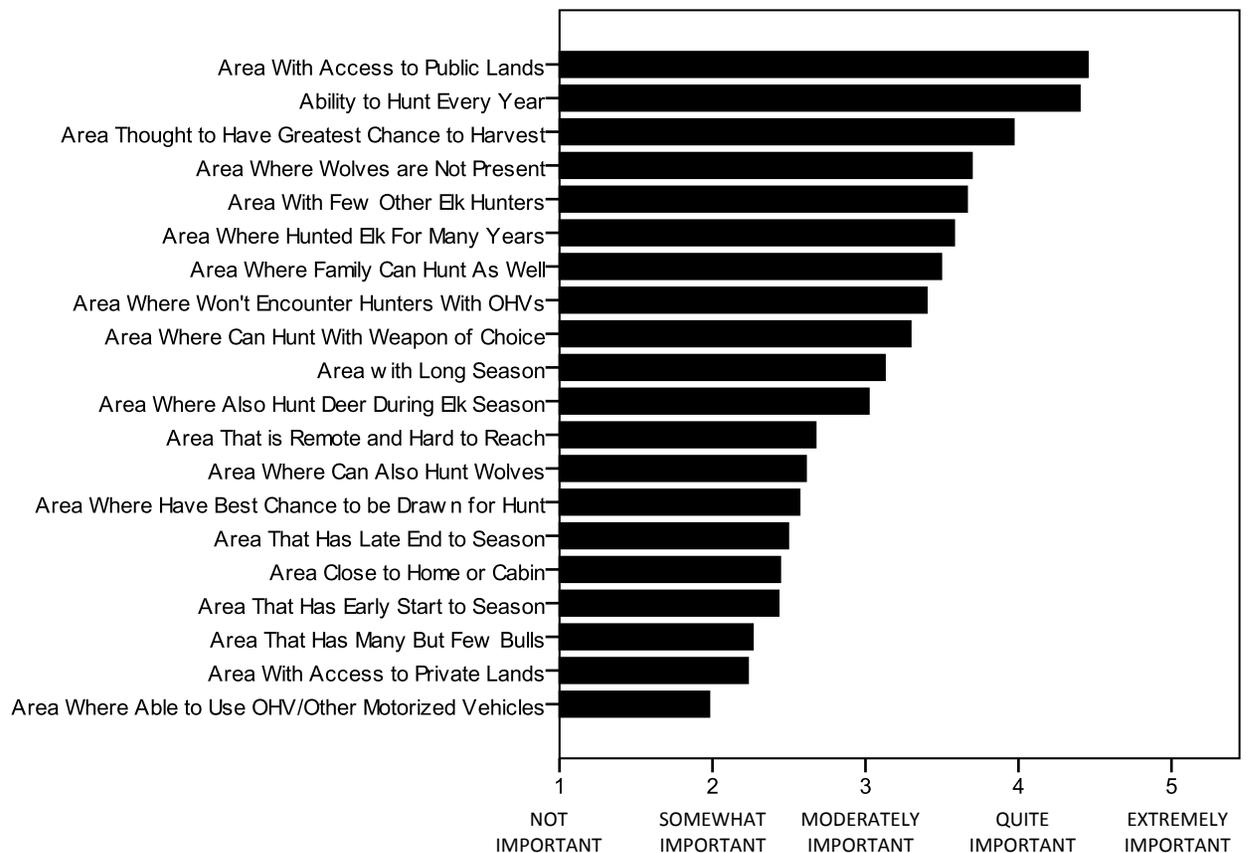


**Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance**

**Q38: The distribution of responses is similar between Beaverhead respondents and the state average. However, slightly more Beaverhead hunters find this potential regulation as acceptable but still do not favor it.**

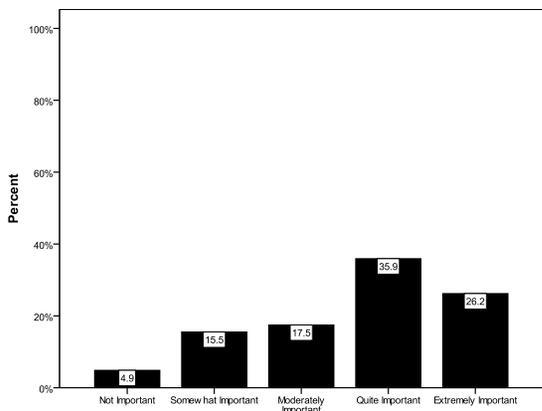
## WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

29. Each of the following characteristics may be things you consider when deciding where to hunt Elk in Idaho. How does each characteristic affect your choice of where to hunt Elk in Idaho?

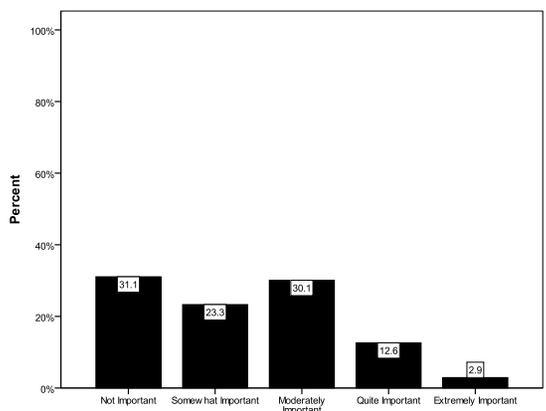


**Q29: Beaverhead hunters and the state average rank the same five characteristics as most important in considering where to hunt.**

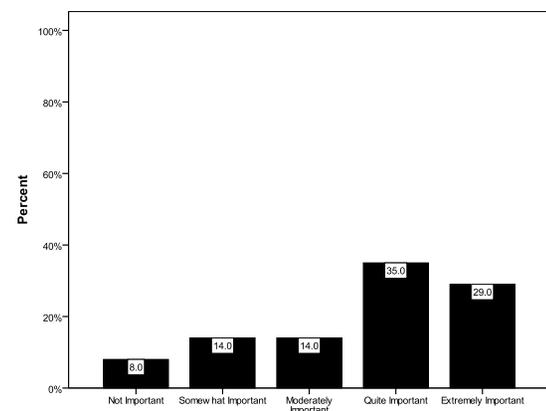
**CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO**



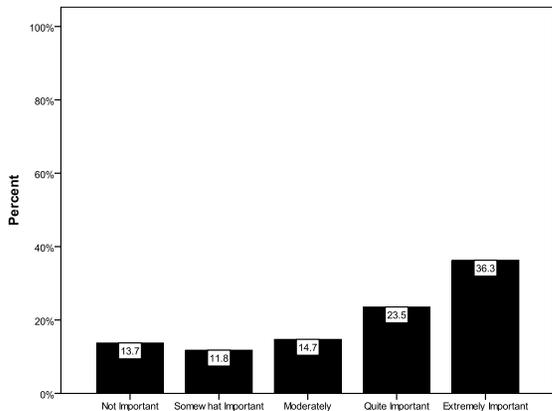
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



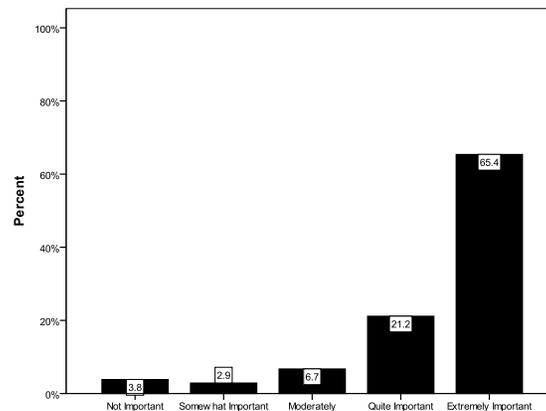
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



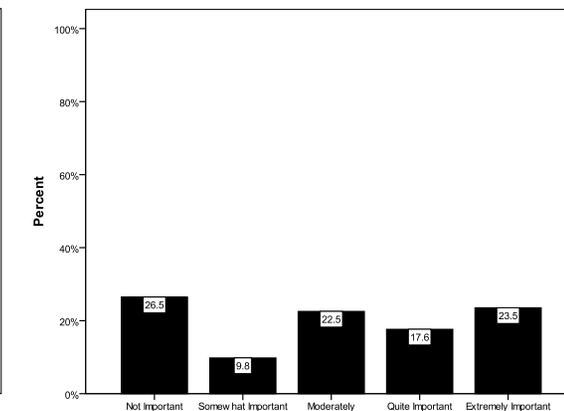
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



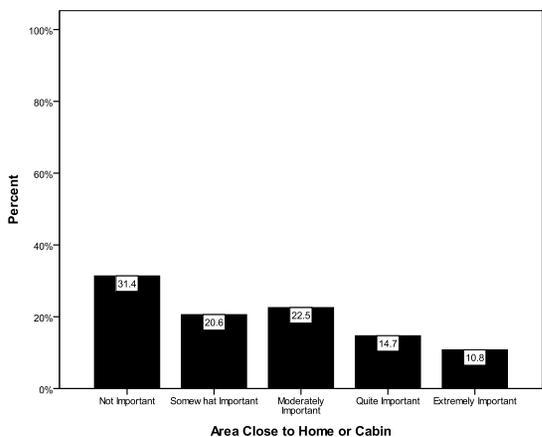
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well



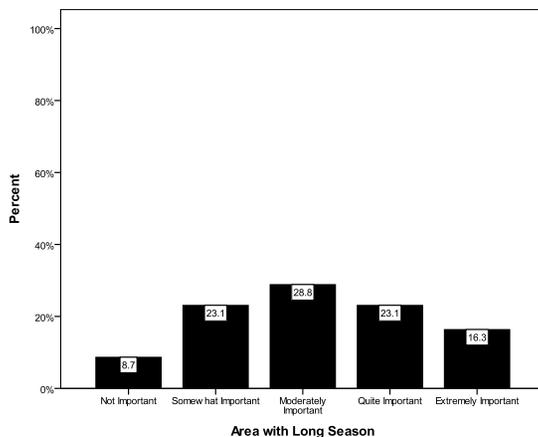
Ability to Hunt Every Year



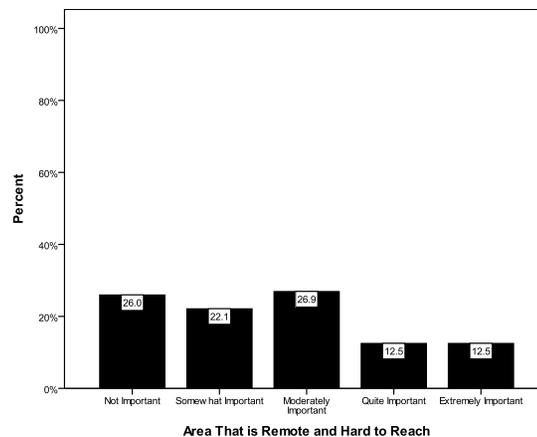
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season



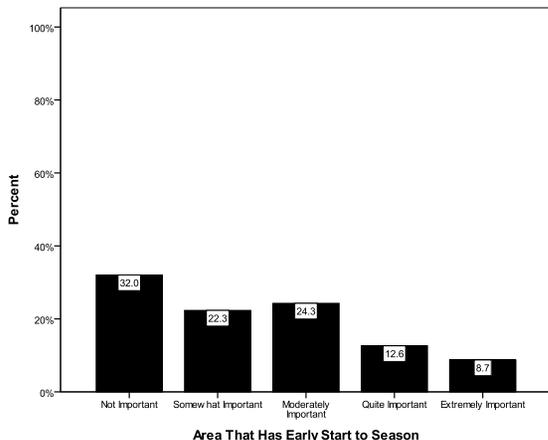
Area Close to Home or Cabin



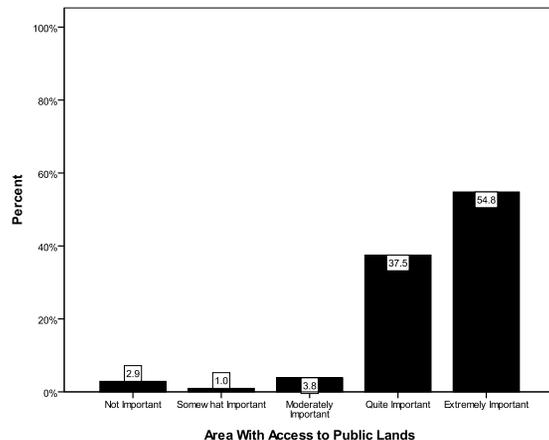
Area with Long Season



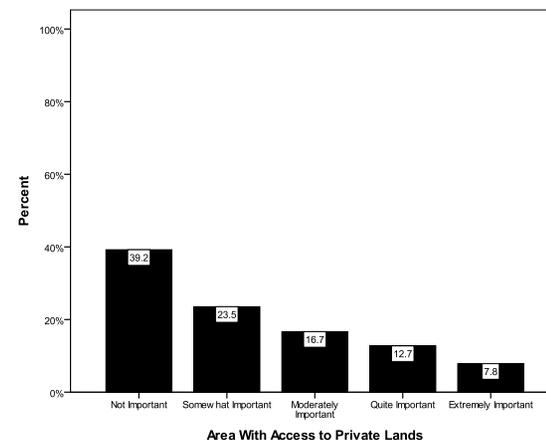
Area That is Remote and Hard to Reach



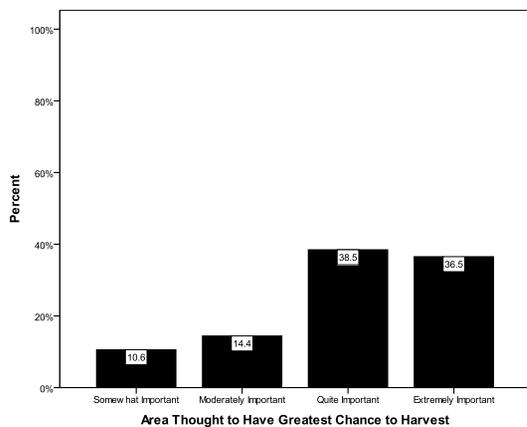
Area That Has Early Start to Season



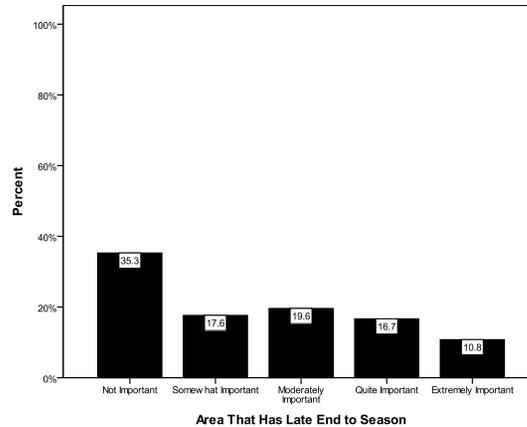
Area With Access to Public Lands



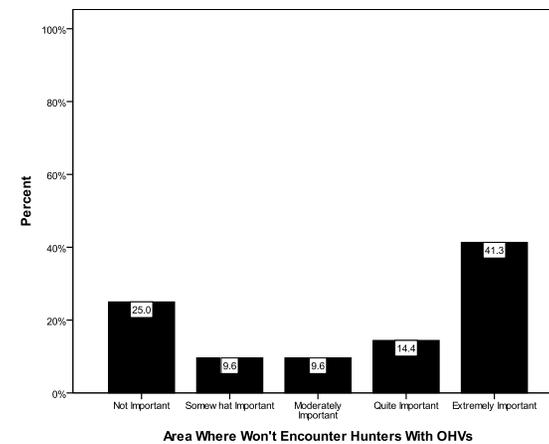
Area With Access to Private Lands



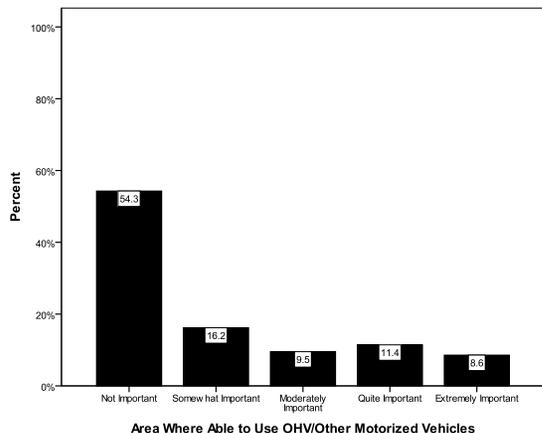
Area Thought to Have Greatest Chance to Harvest



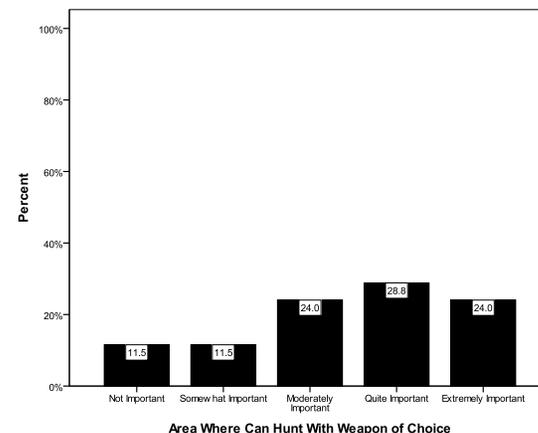
Area That Has Late End to Season



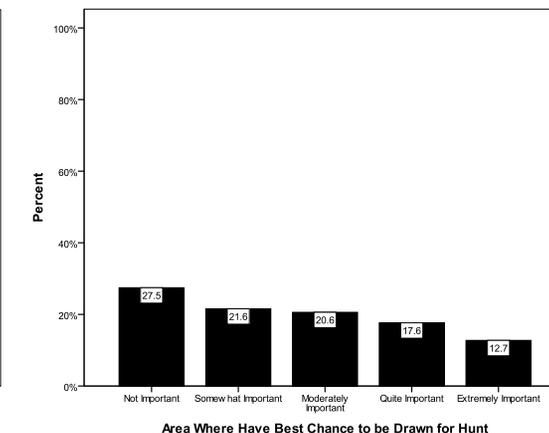
Area Where Won't Encounter Hunters With OHVs



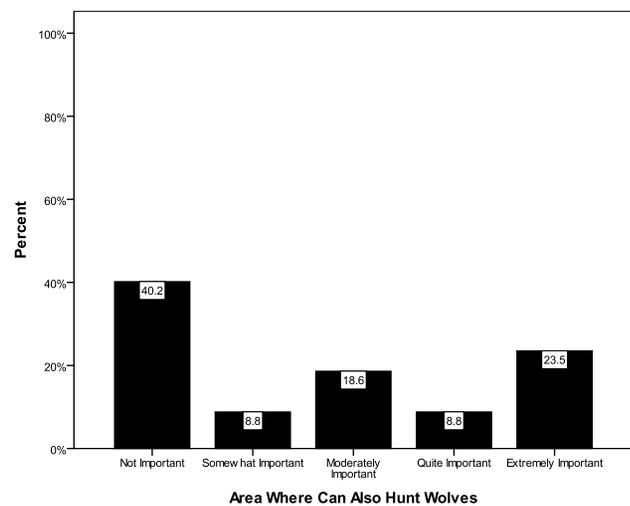
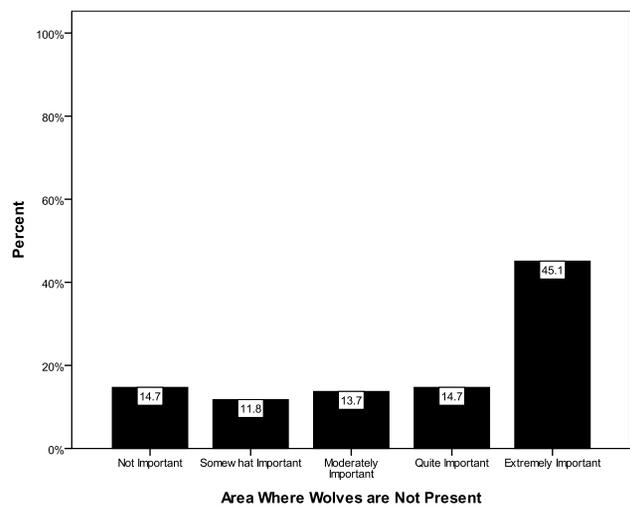
Area Where Able to Use OHV/Other Motorized Vehicles



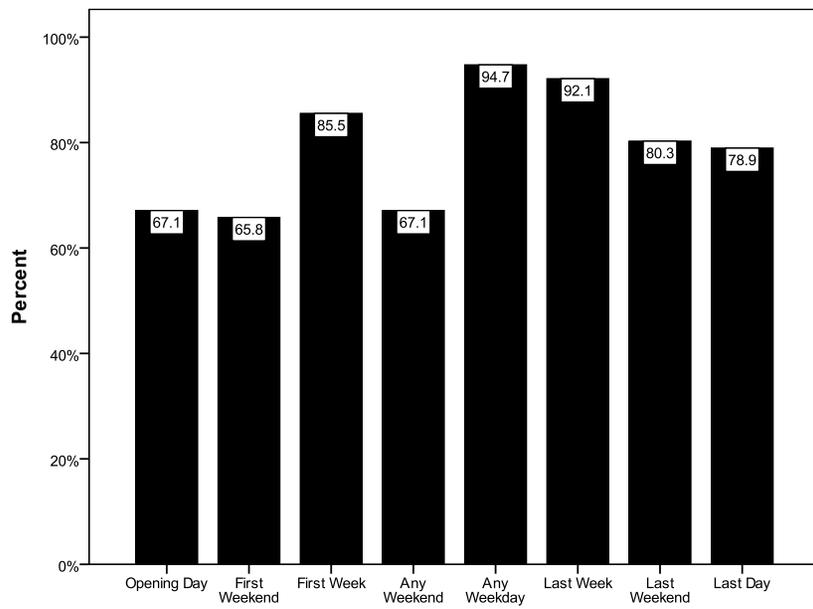
Area Where Can Hunt With Weapon of Choice



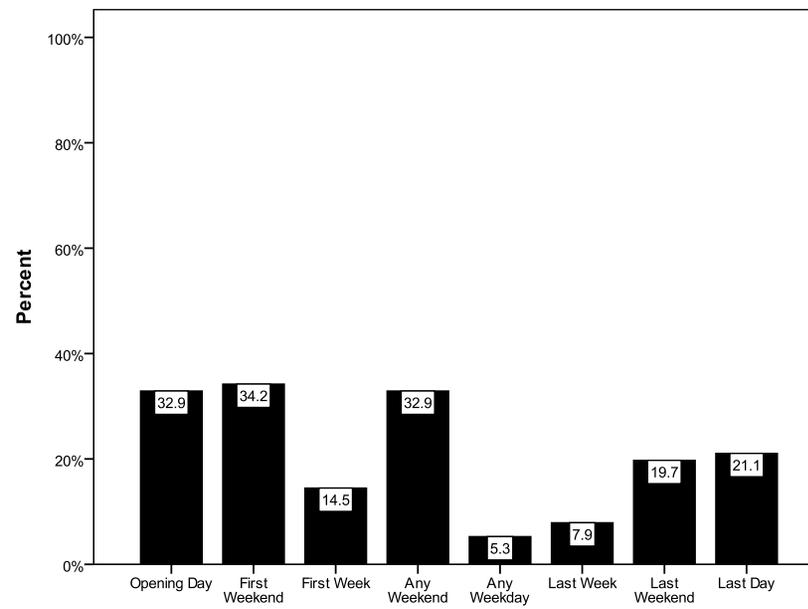
Area Where Have Best Chance to be Drawn for Hunt



30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



TIMES PREFERRED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

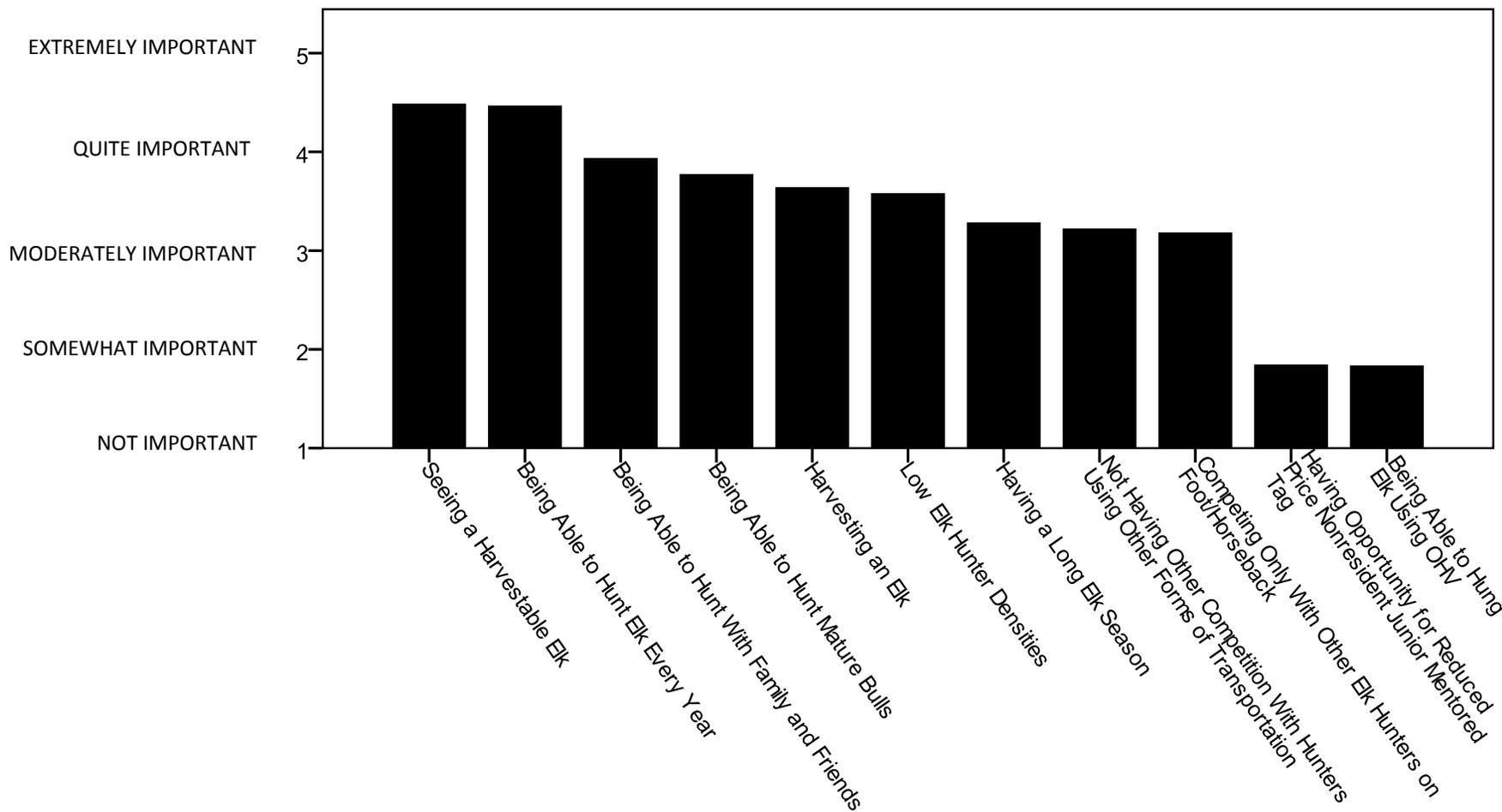


TIMES AVOIDED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

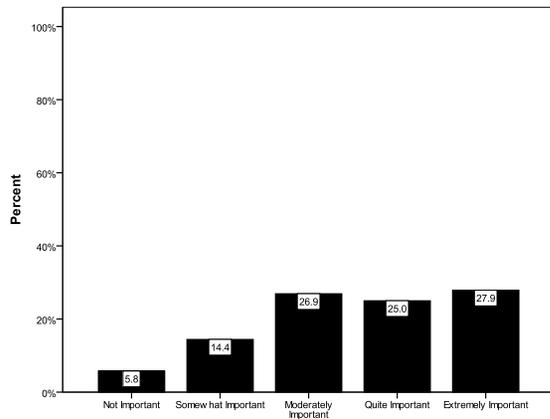
**Q30: Similar times are preferred and avoided between Beaverhead hunters and other hunters in the state.**

# ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

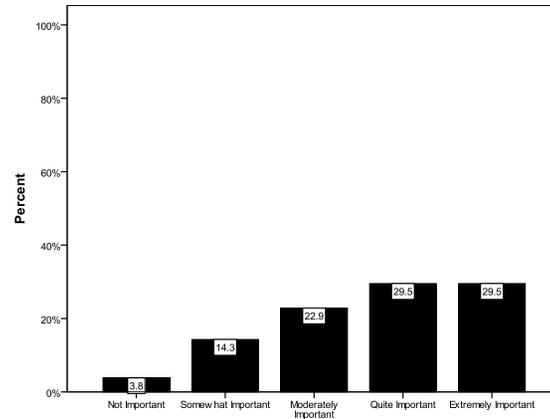
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



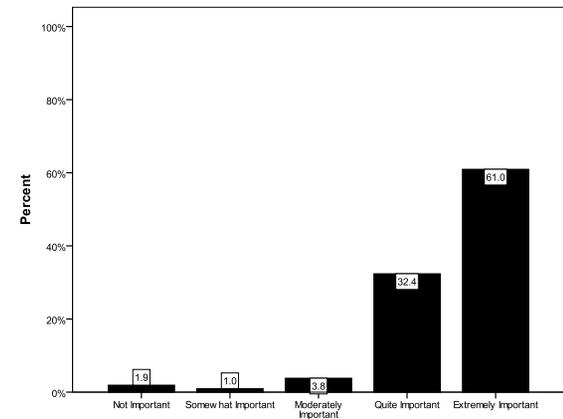
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



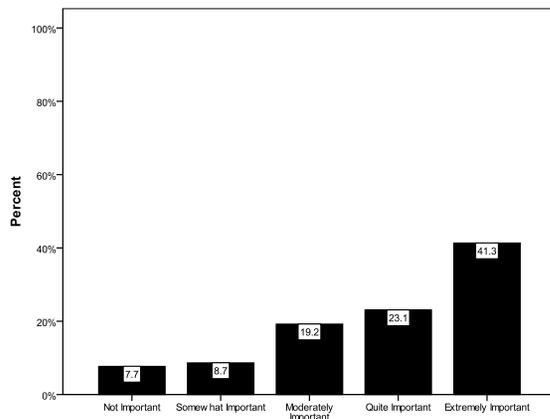
Low Elk Hunter Densities



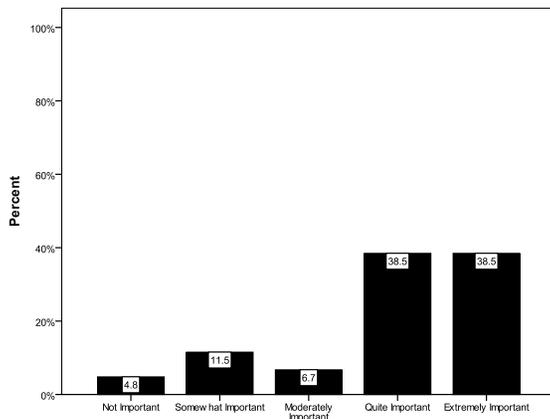
Harvesting an Elk



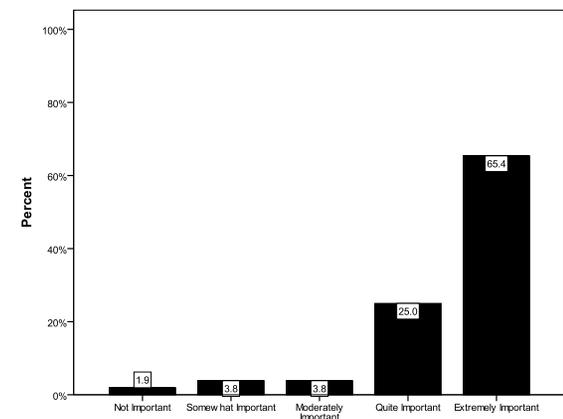
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



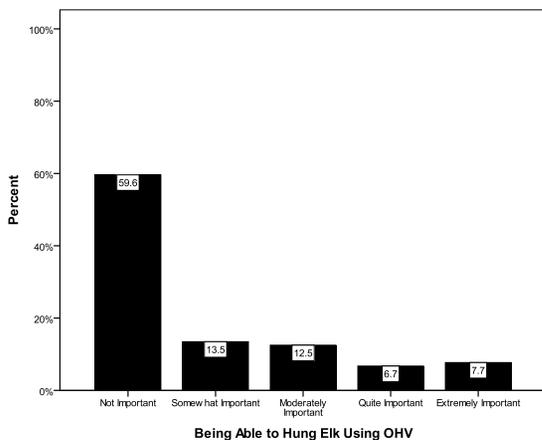
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



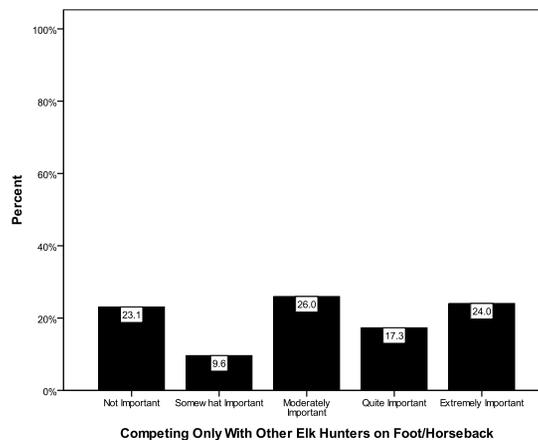
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



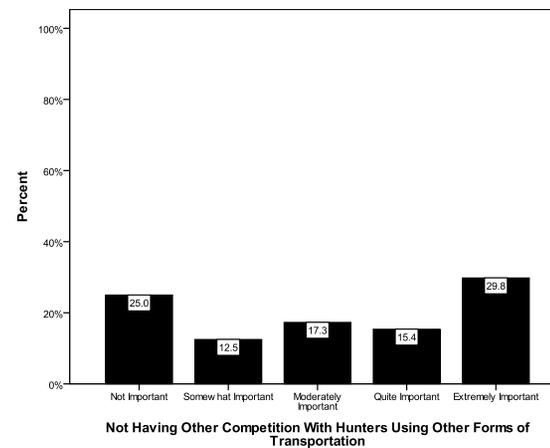
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



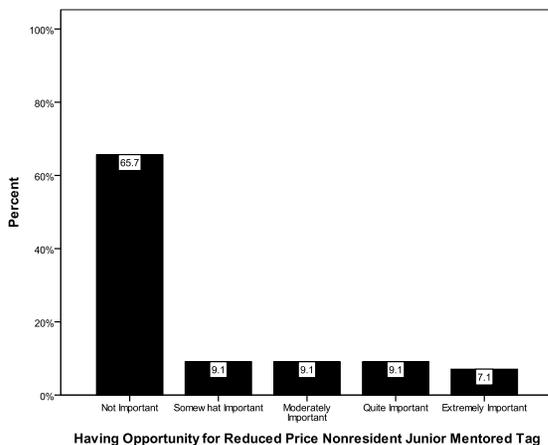
Being Able to Hunt Elk Using OHV



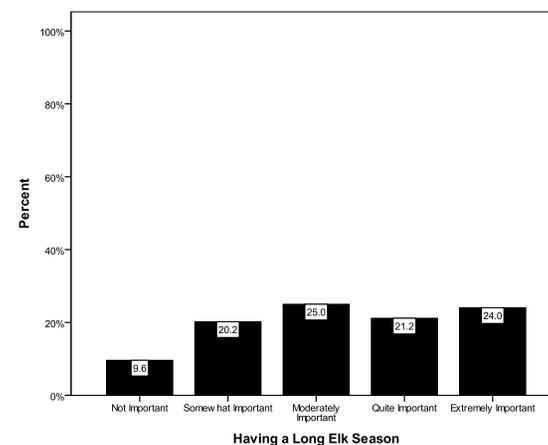
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

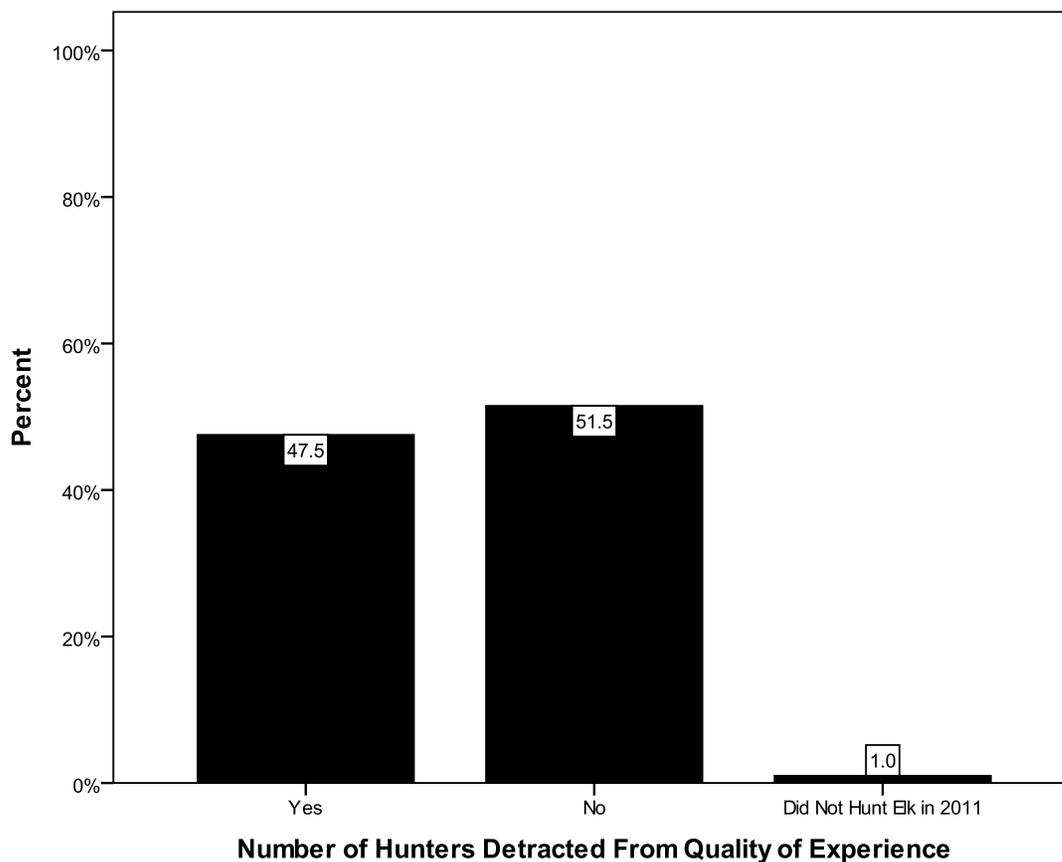


Having a Long Elk Season

**Q31: Hunters in the Beaverhead zone and the state average consider the same five attributes as most important to determining a quality Elk hunting experience.**

## HUNTING SATISFACTION

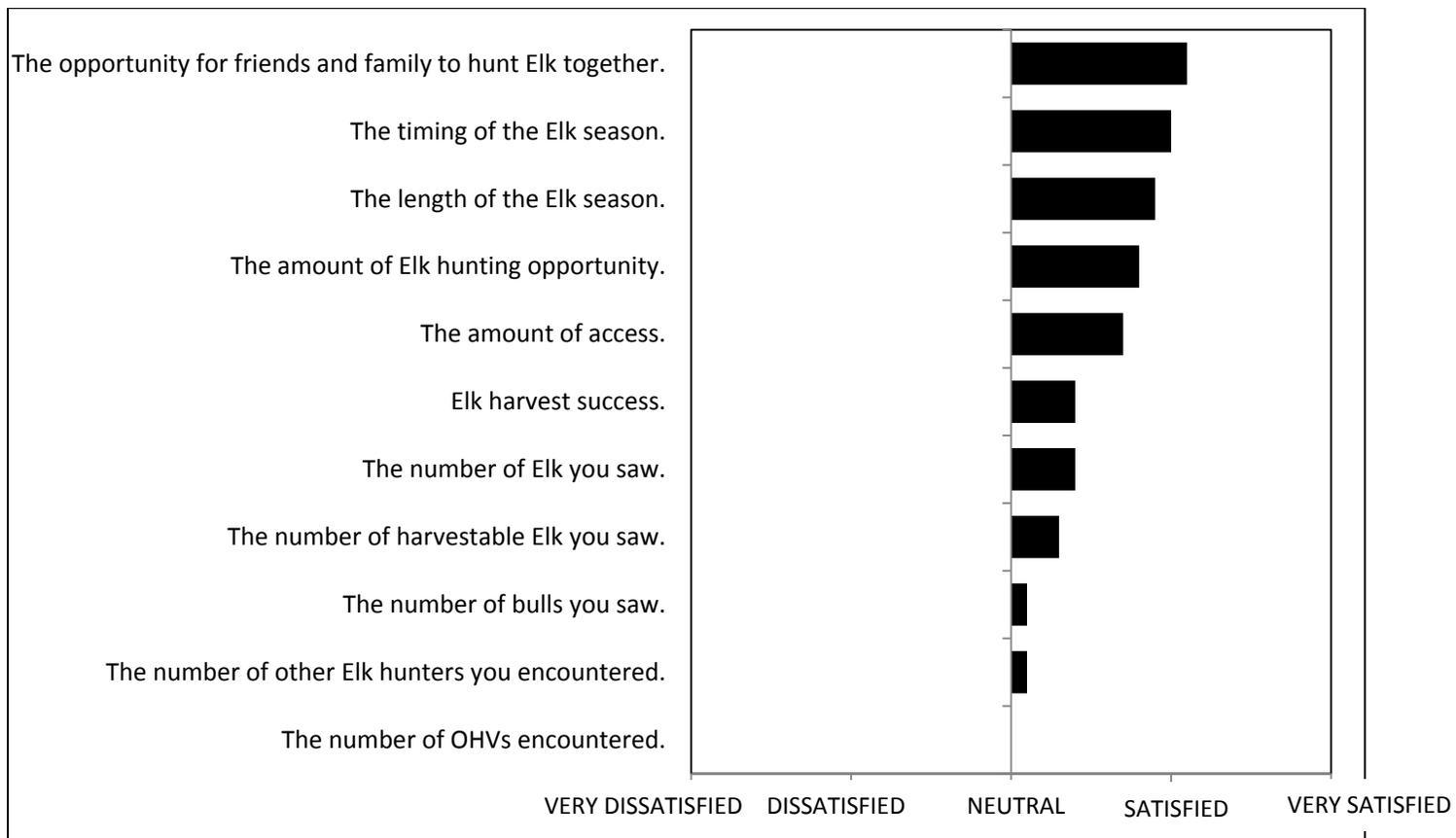
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



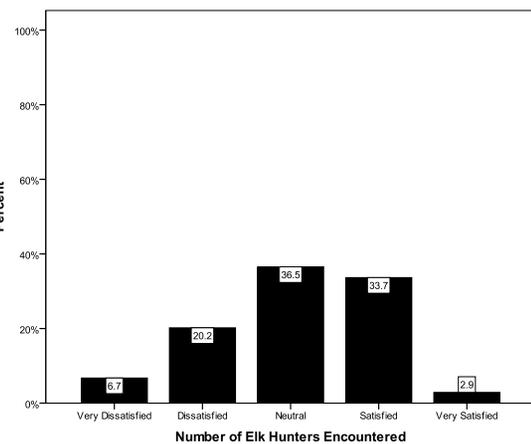
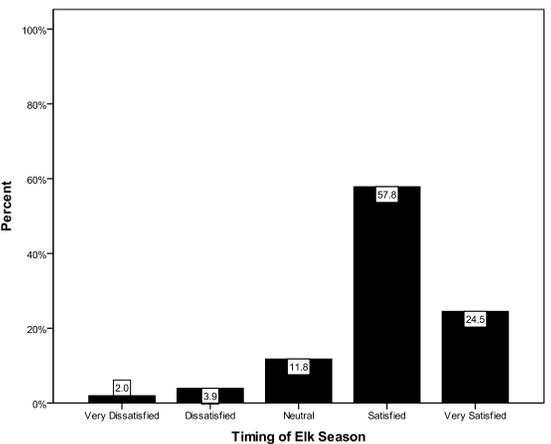
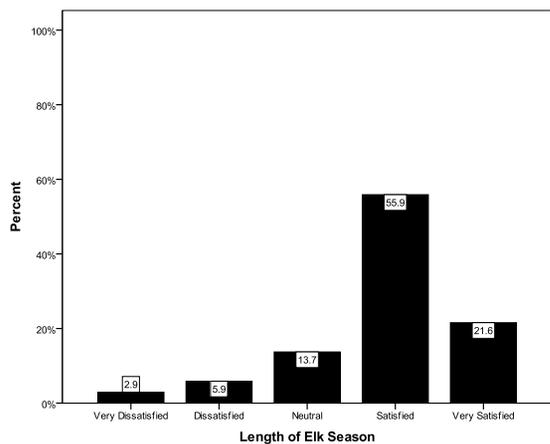
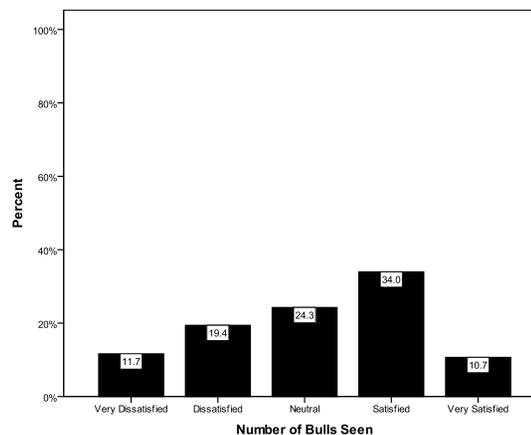
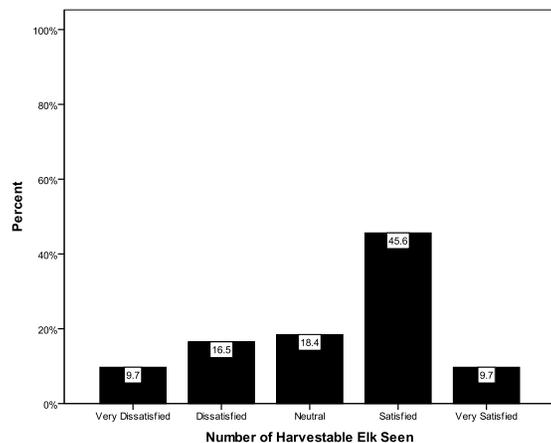
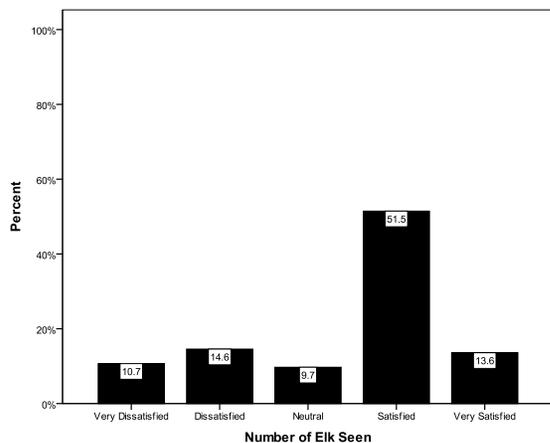
**Q33: Over half of respondents for both the Beaverhead zone and the state average thought that the number of hunters did not detract from their hunting experience in 2011. However, 14.4% more Beaverhead hunters thought that numbers did detract from their experience.**

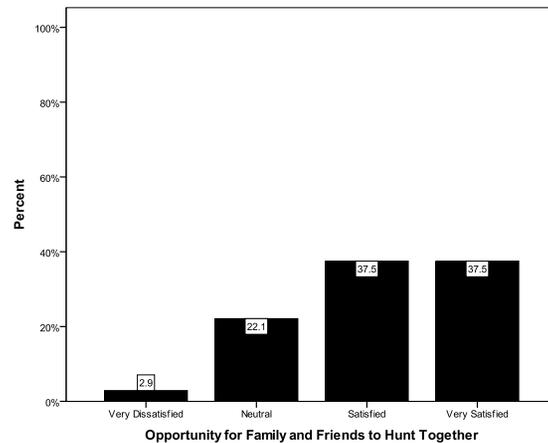
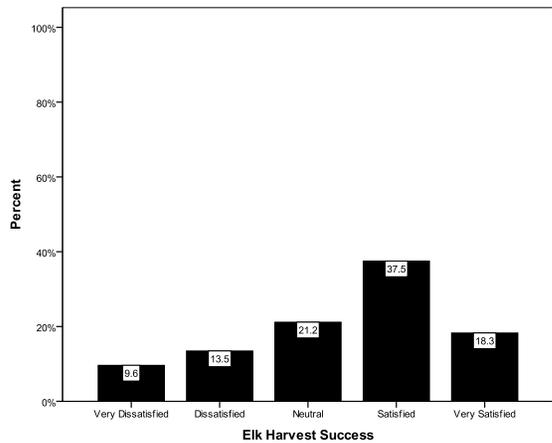
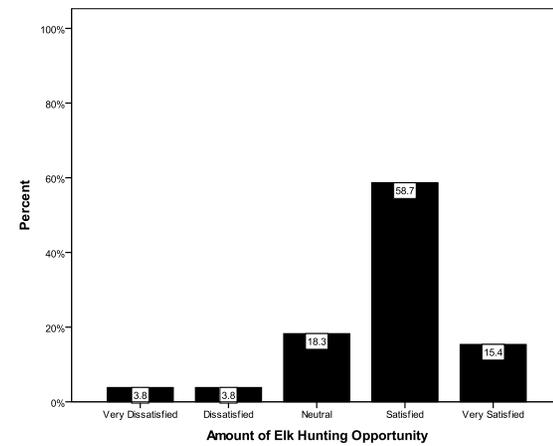
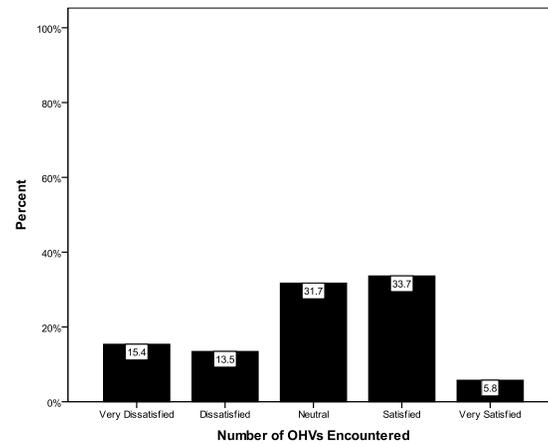
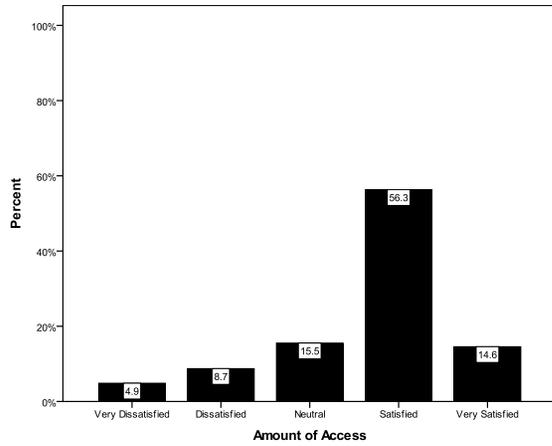
**Now, some questions about the satisfaction you experienced with Elk hunting in Idaho in 2011.**

**37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?**



**SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE**



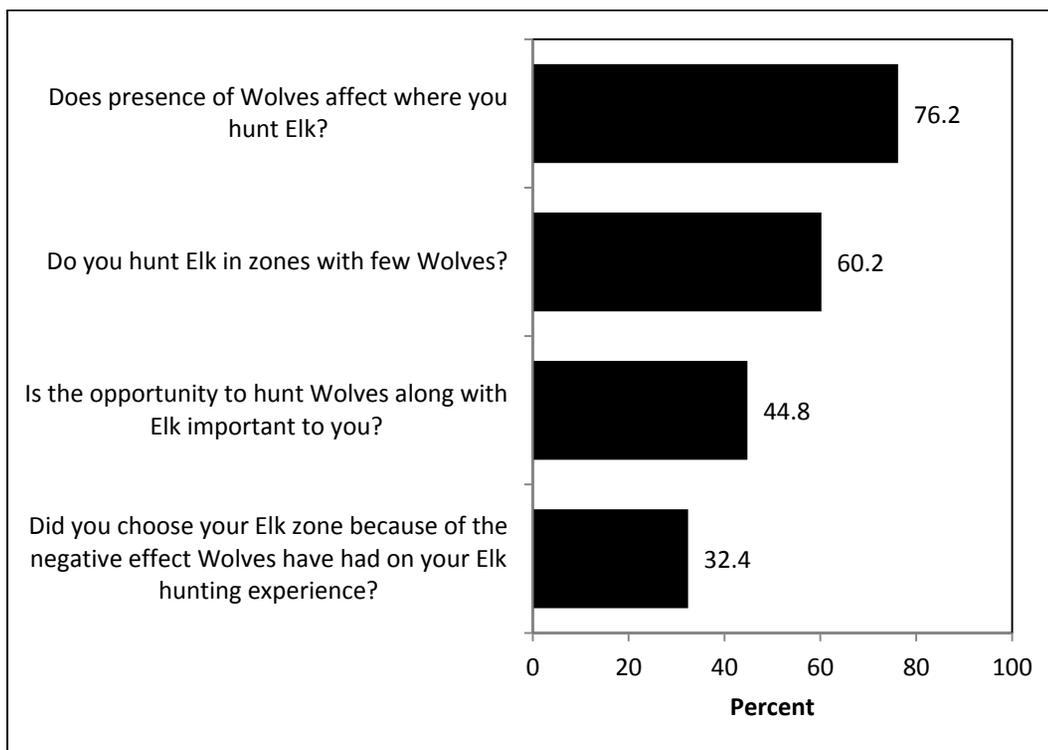


**Q37: Unlike the state average, who found Elk numbers and success to be dissatisfying, Beaverhead hunters were satisfied, to an extent, with all aspects of their 2011 Elk hunting experience.**

## PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

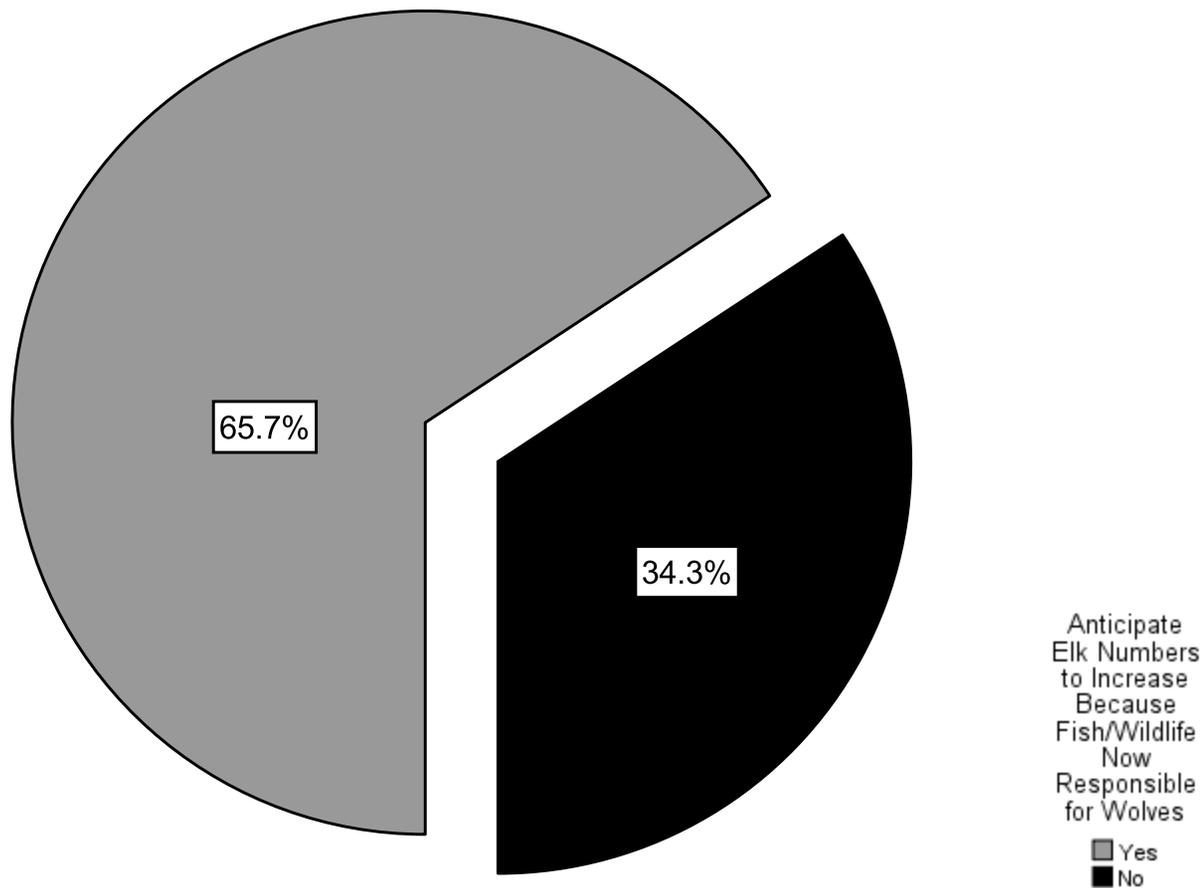
### Two questions about predators in Idaho.

39. How do Wolves affect your Idaho Elk hunting experience? *(Please circle one response for each item)*



**Q39: About 30% more hunters in the Beaverhead zone, compared to the state average, reported hunting in zones with few Wolves. Slightly more hunters in this zone also chose their zone because of the negative affect Wolves have had on their Elk hunting experience.**

40. Do you anticipate Elk numbers to increase now that Idaho Fish and Game is responsible for managing wolves?  
(Please check one response)



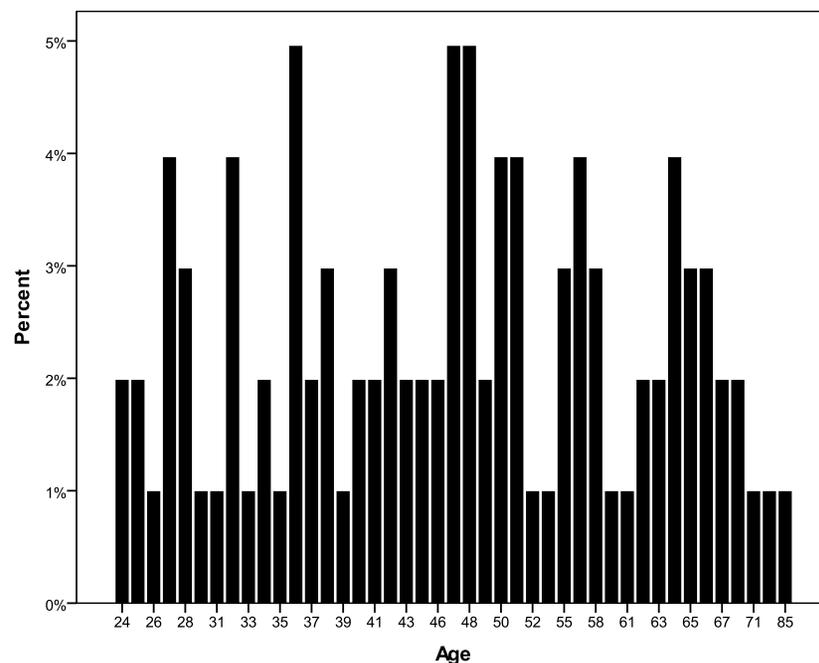
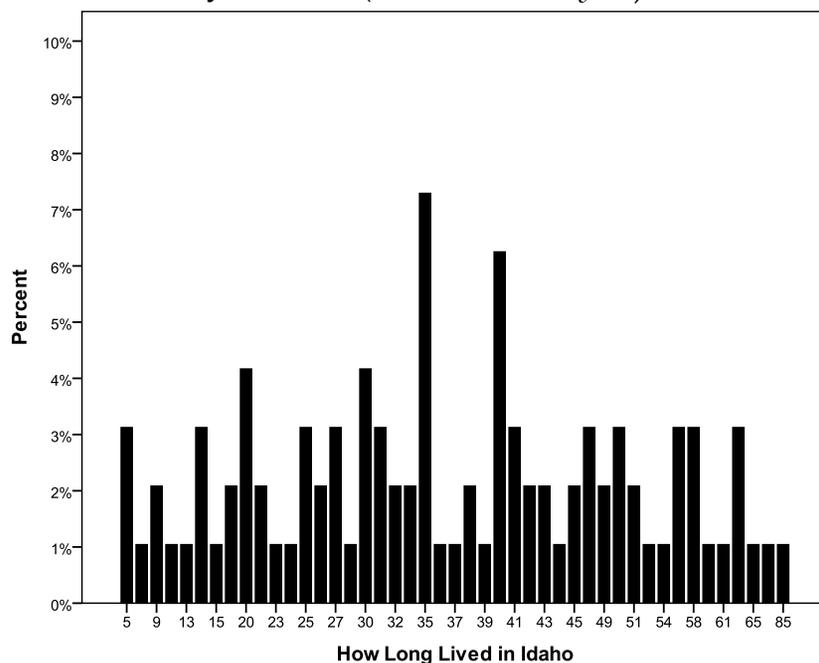
**Q40: The distribution of responses is similar between Beaverhead respondents and the state average.**

# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Finally, some questions about you!**

42. How long have you lived in Idaho? *(Please enter the number of years)*

43. When were you born? *(Please enter the year)*



The distribution of responses is similar between the Beaverhead zone and the state average for both Q42 and Q43.