

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



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**For:**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

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**INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES**

**METHODS**

**SAMPLING**

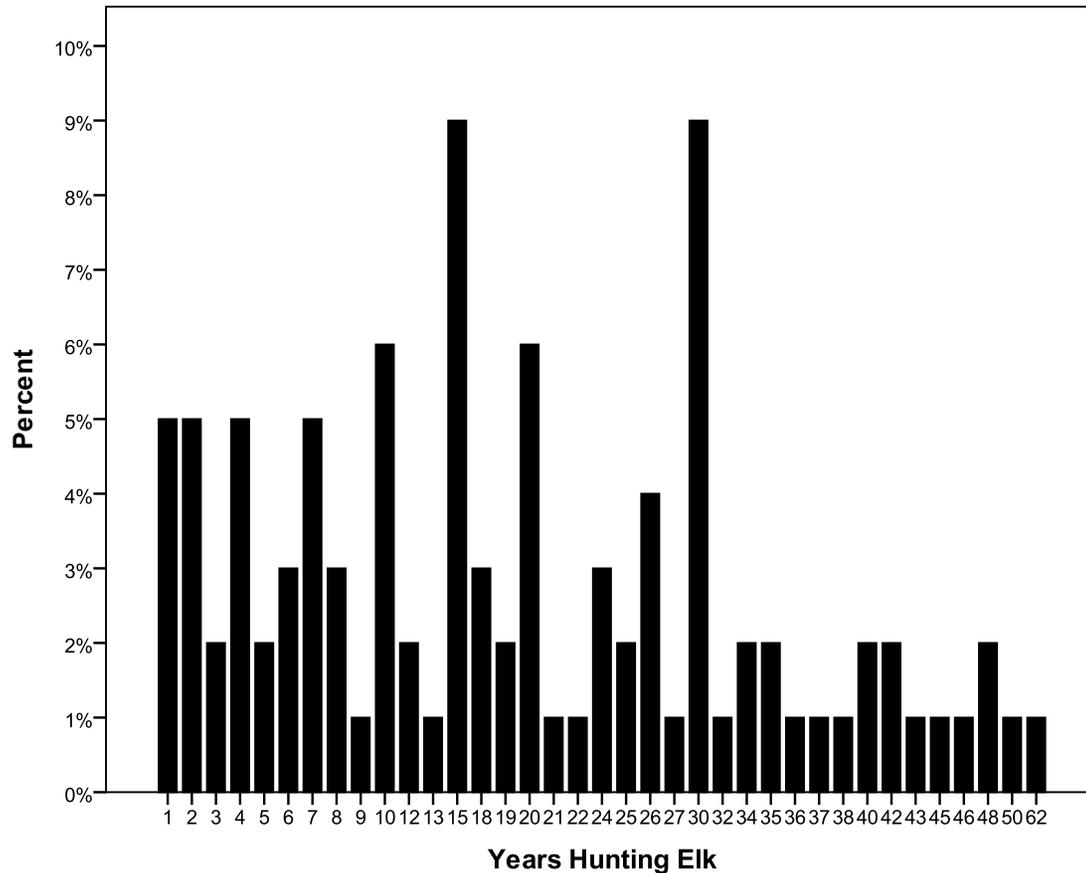
**RESPONSE RATE.**

# ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

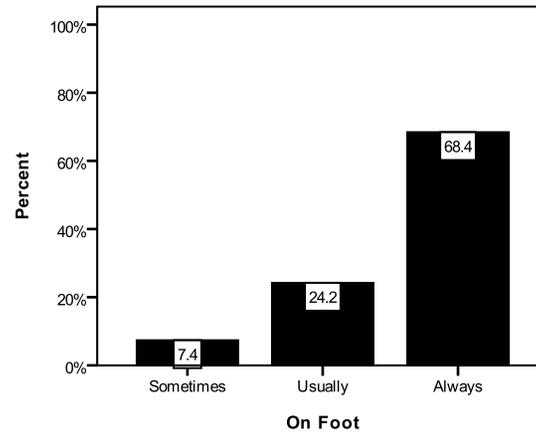
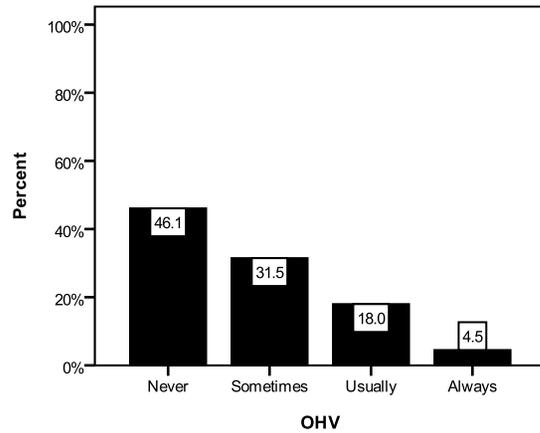
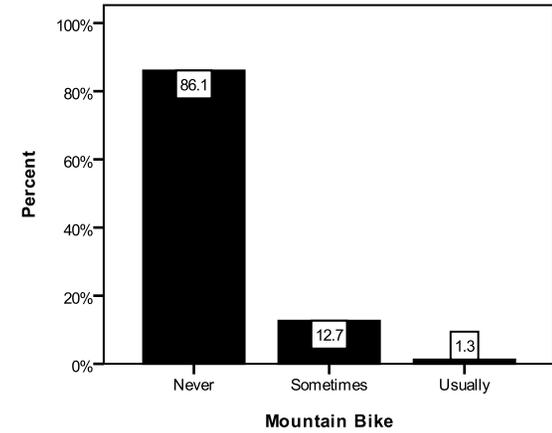
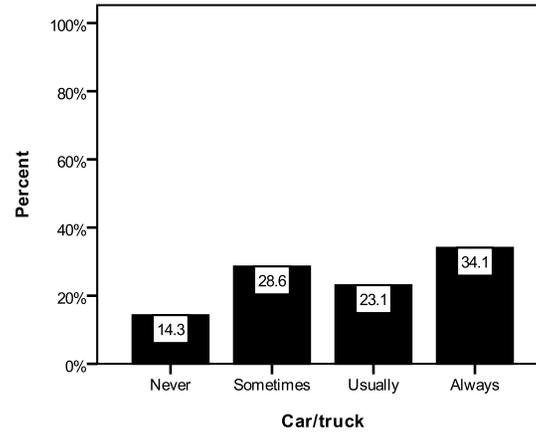
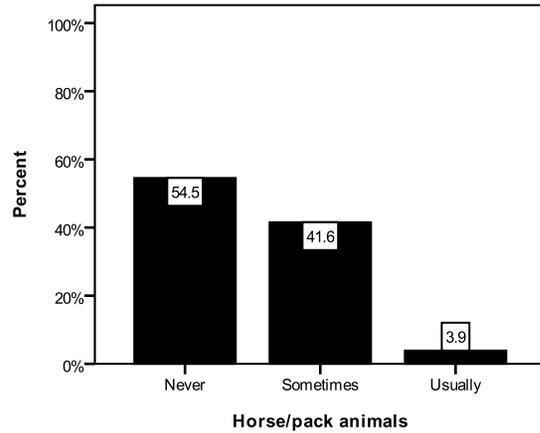
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



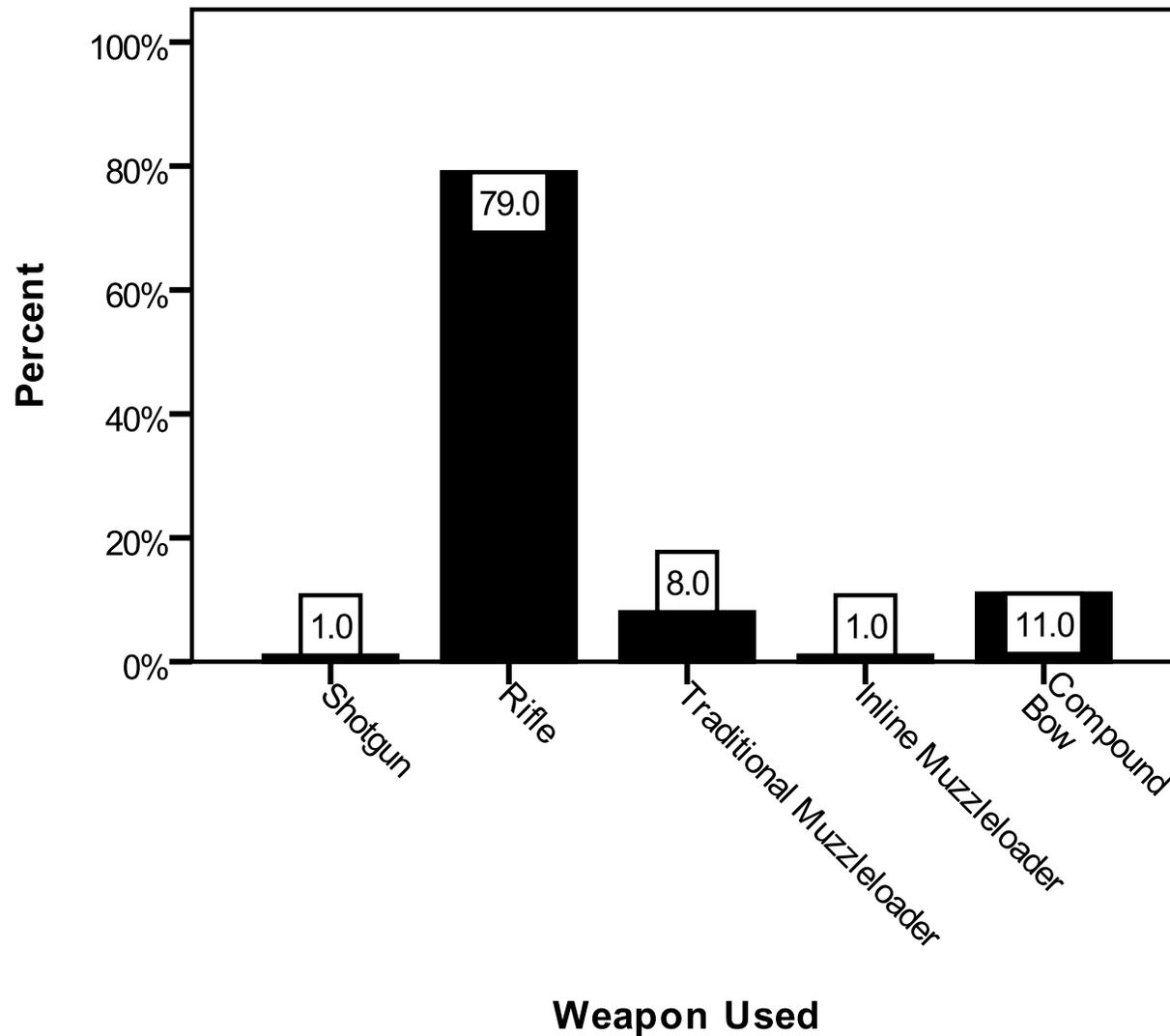
Q3: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone. In this zone, most hunters have hunted in Idaho for less than 30 years.

**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?**



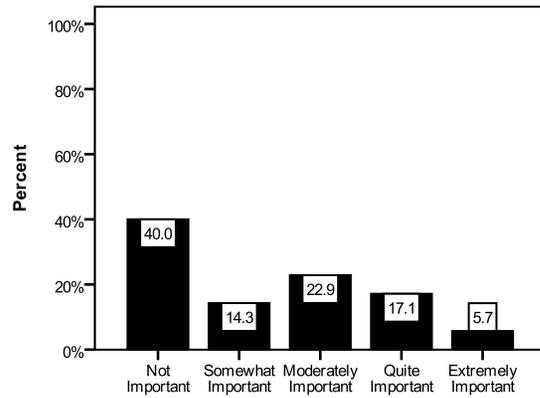
**Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the Boise River zone and the state average. Slightly more hunters in this zone never use OHVs, compared to other hunters in the state.**

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

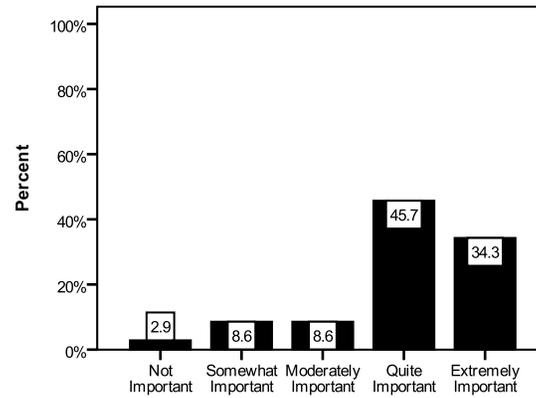


**Q8: A majority of hunters in the Boise River zone typically use a rifle when hunting. This is 21.8% more than the state average.**

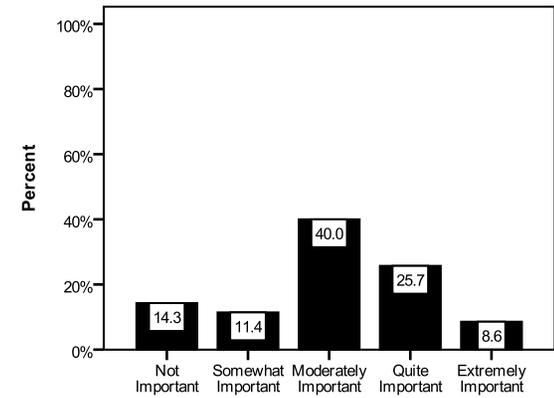
**10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?**



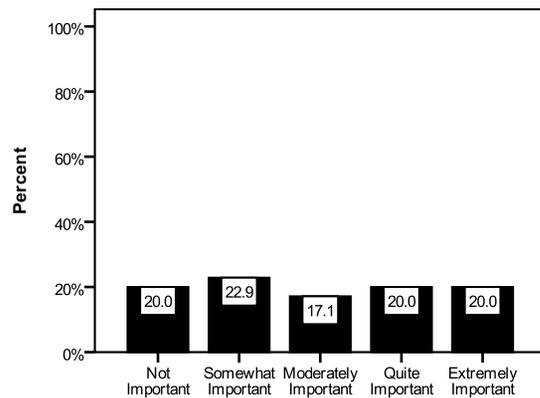
**Increase Challenge**



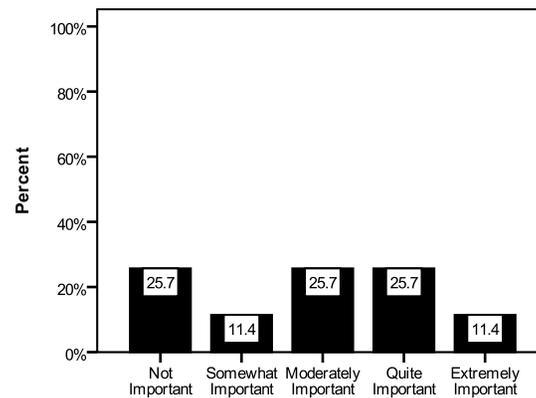
**Hunt With Few Hunters on Field**



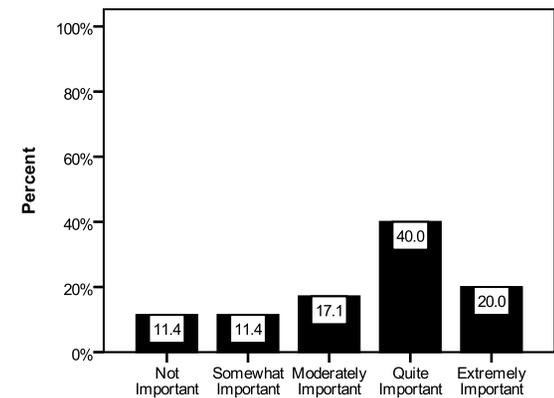
**Improve Chance of Harvesting**



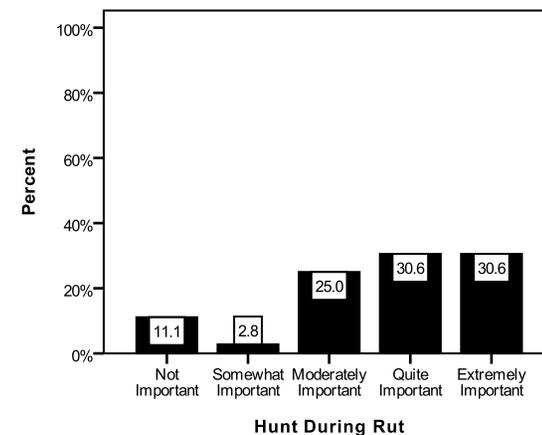
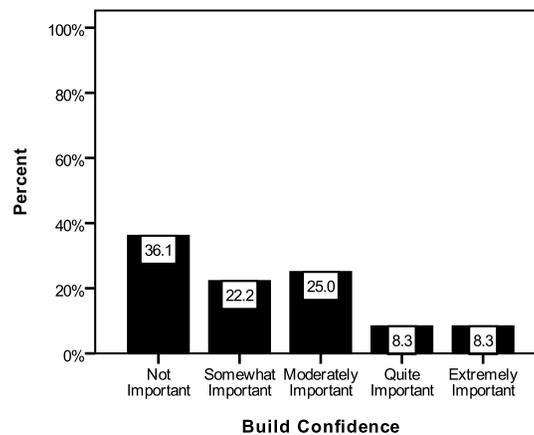
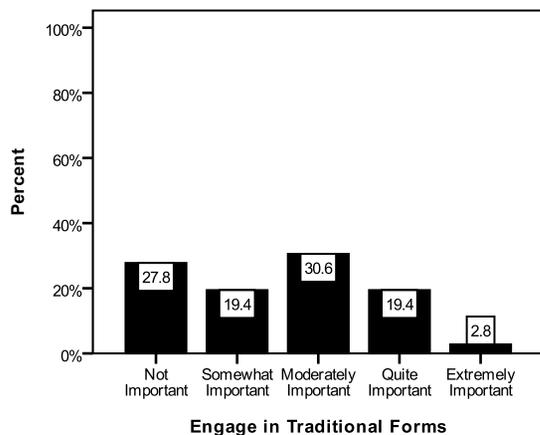
**Expand Hunting Season**



**Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited**

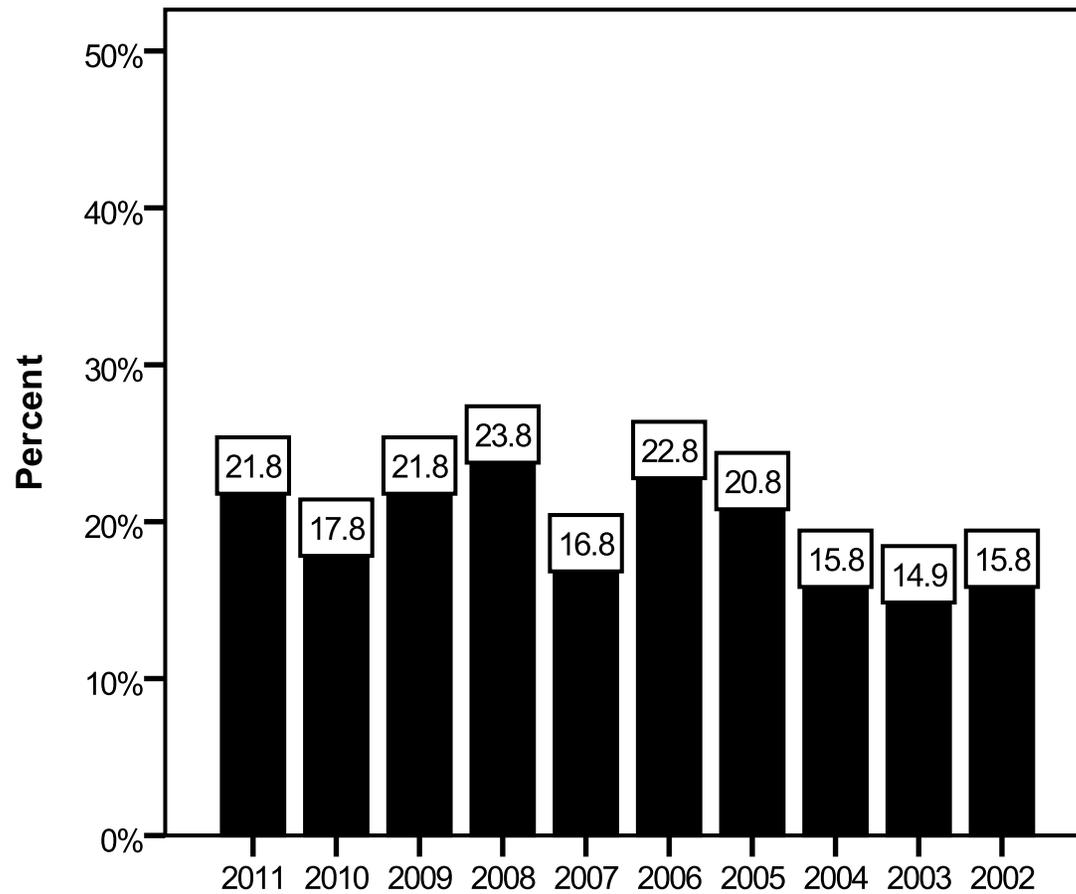


**Adventure**



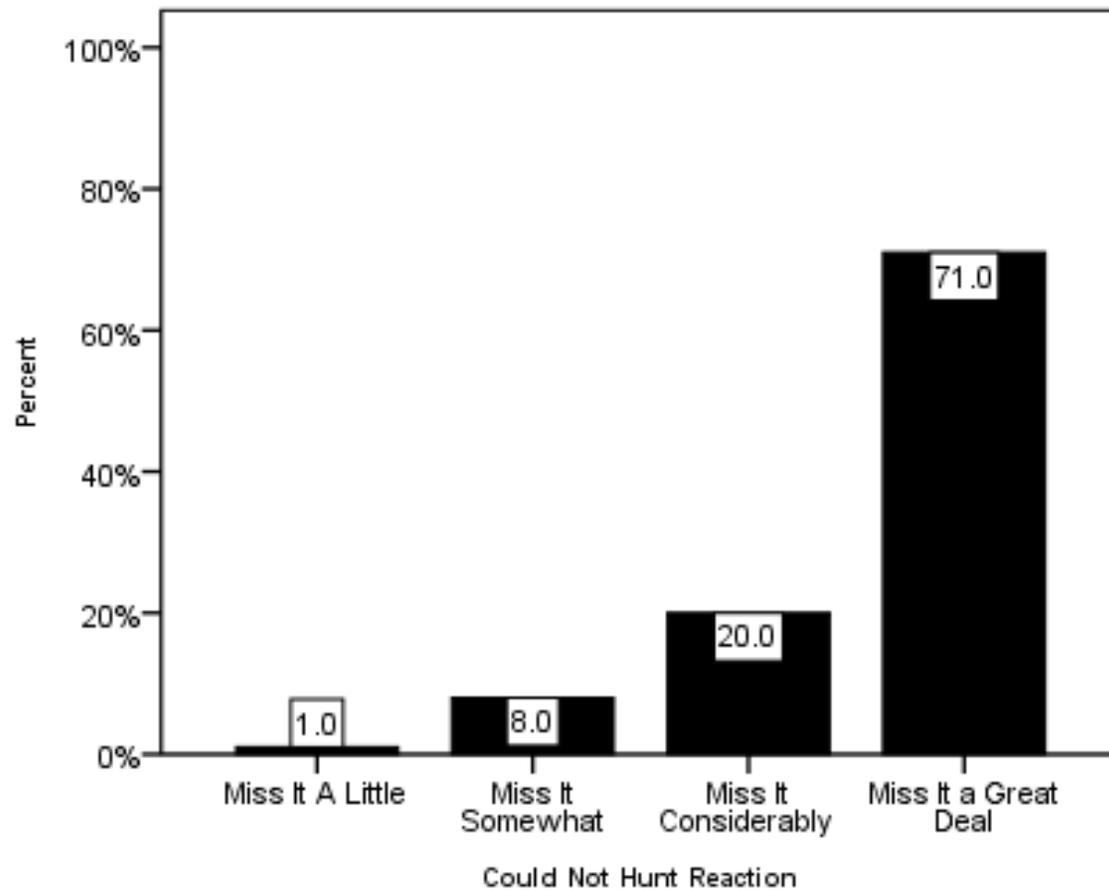
**Q10: The response distribution is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone. However, hunters in this zone choose to hunt during these seasons more to engage in tradition forms and to improve their chance of harvest, compared to other hunters in the state.**

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



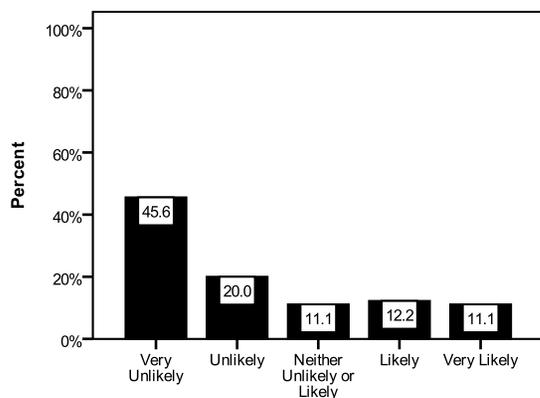
Q11: Compared to the state average, harvest rates in the Boise River zone tend to be lower, except in 2011, with a slightly higher rate.

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

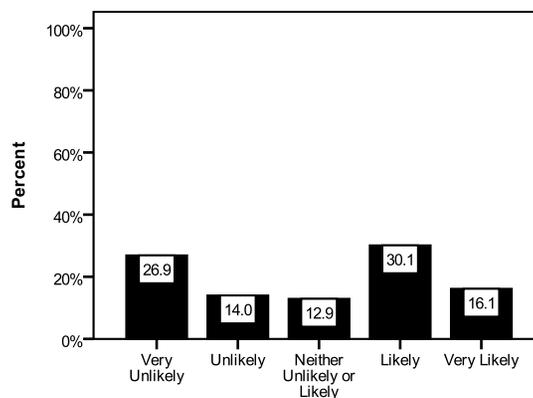


Q12: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone.

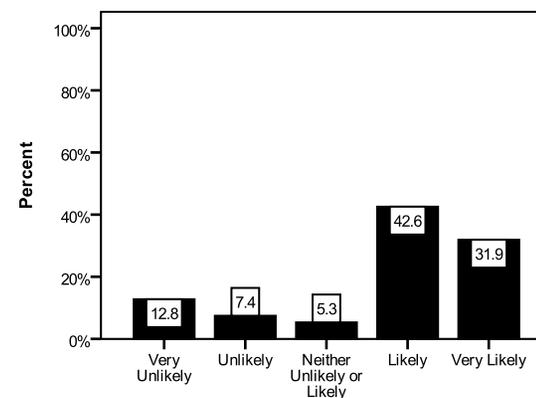
### 13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



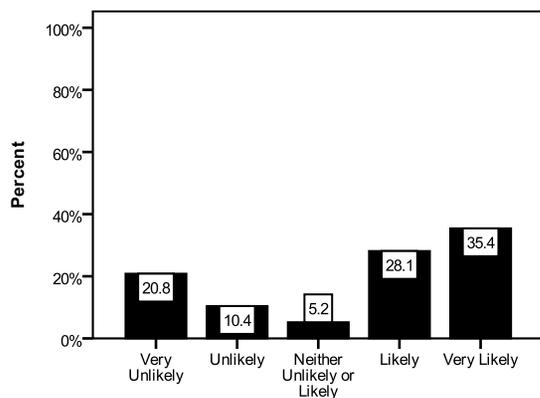
Hunt Waterfowl More



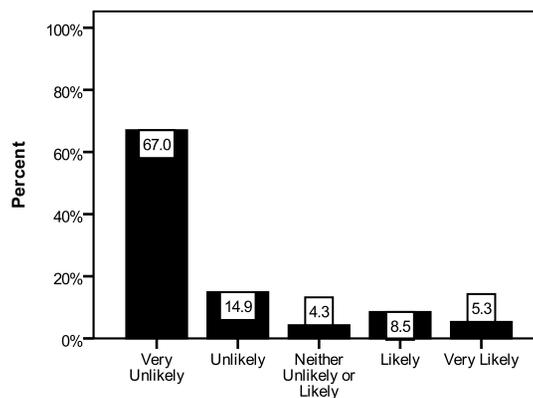
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



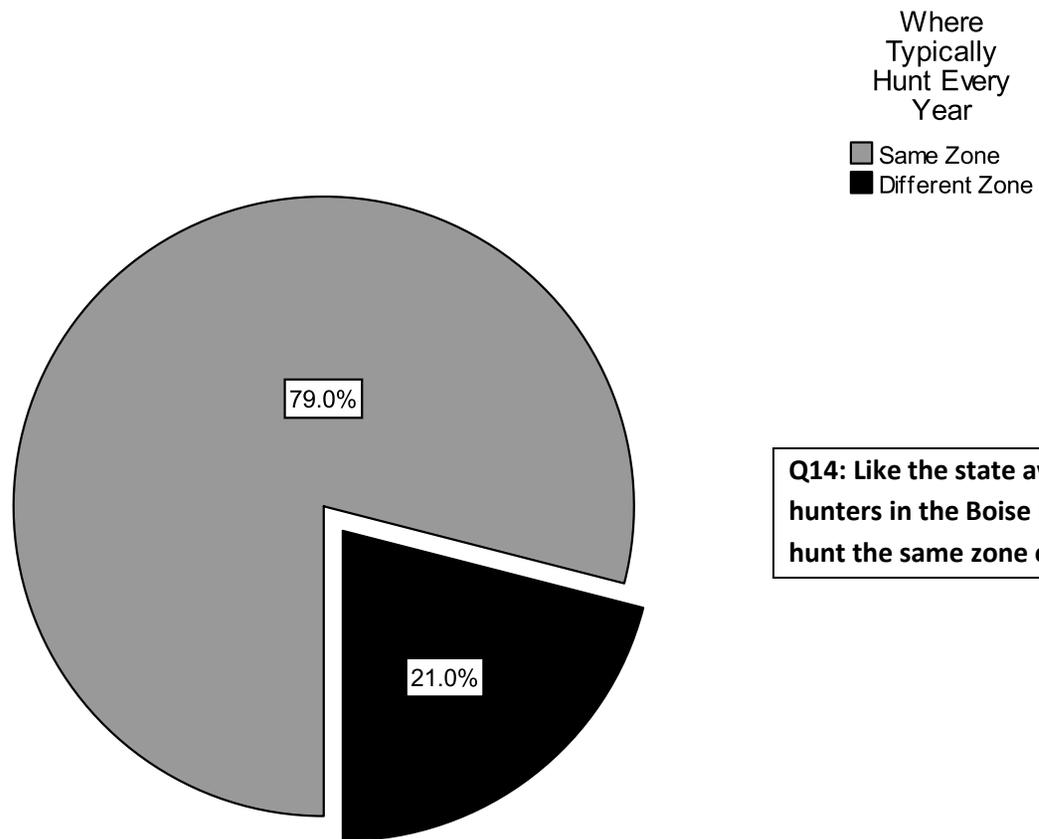
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

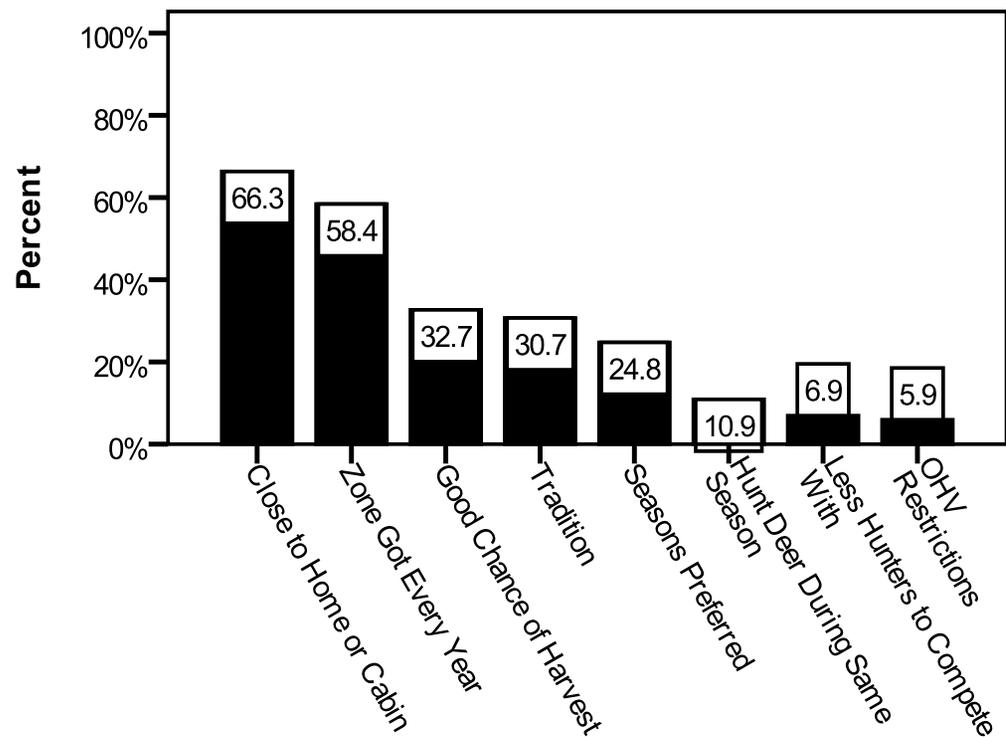
**Q13: The response distribution is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone.**

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



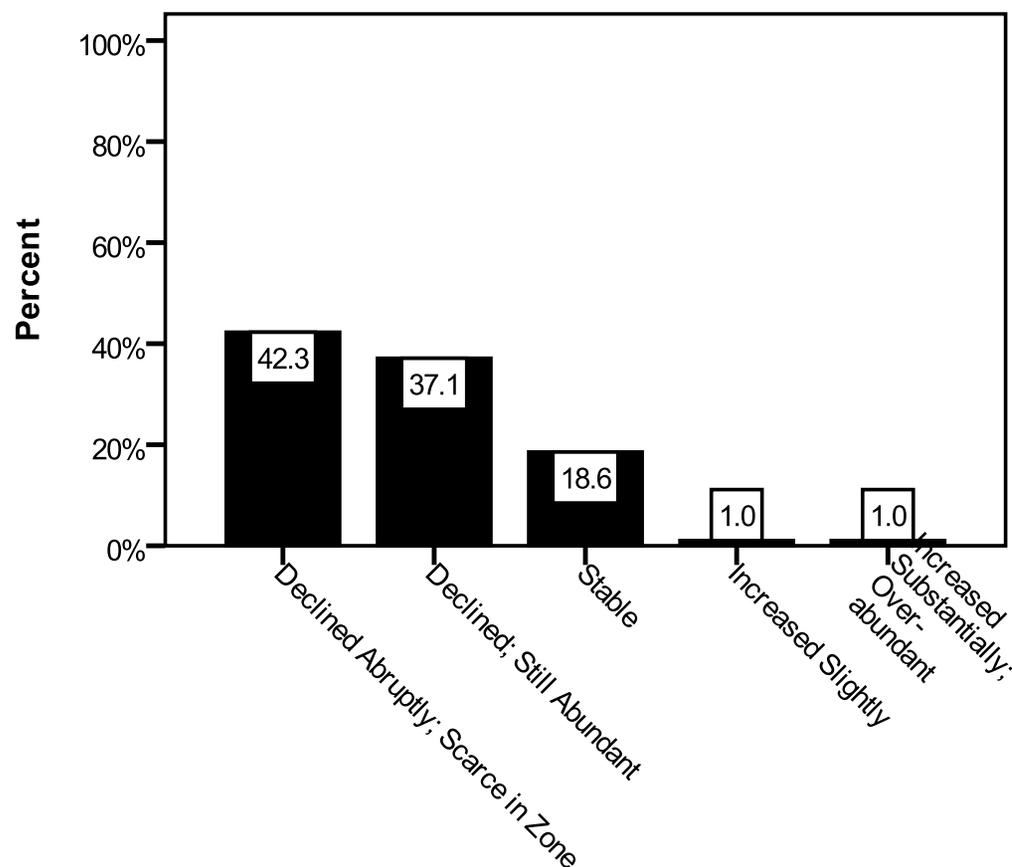
**Q14: Like the state average, most hunters in the Boise River zone typically hunt the same zone every year.**

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



**Q16:** The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone. However, not many hunters in this zone do not feel that being able to hunt Deer during the season makes a zone any more desirable, unlike the state average.

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)

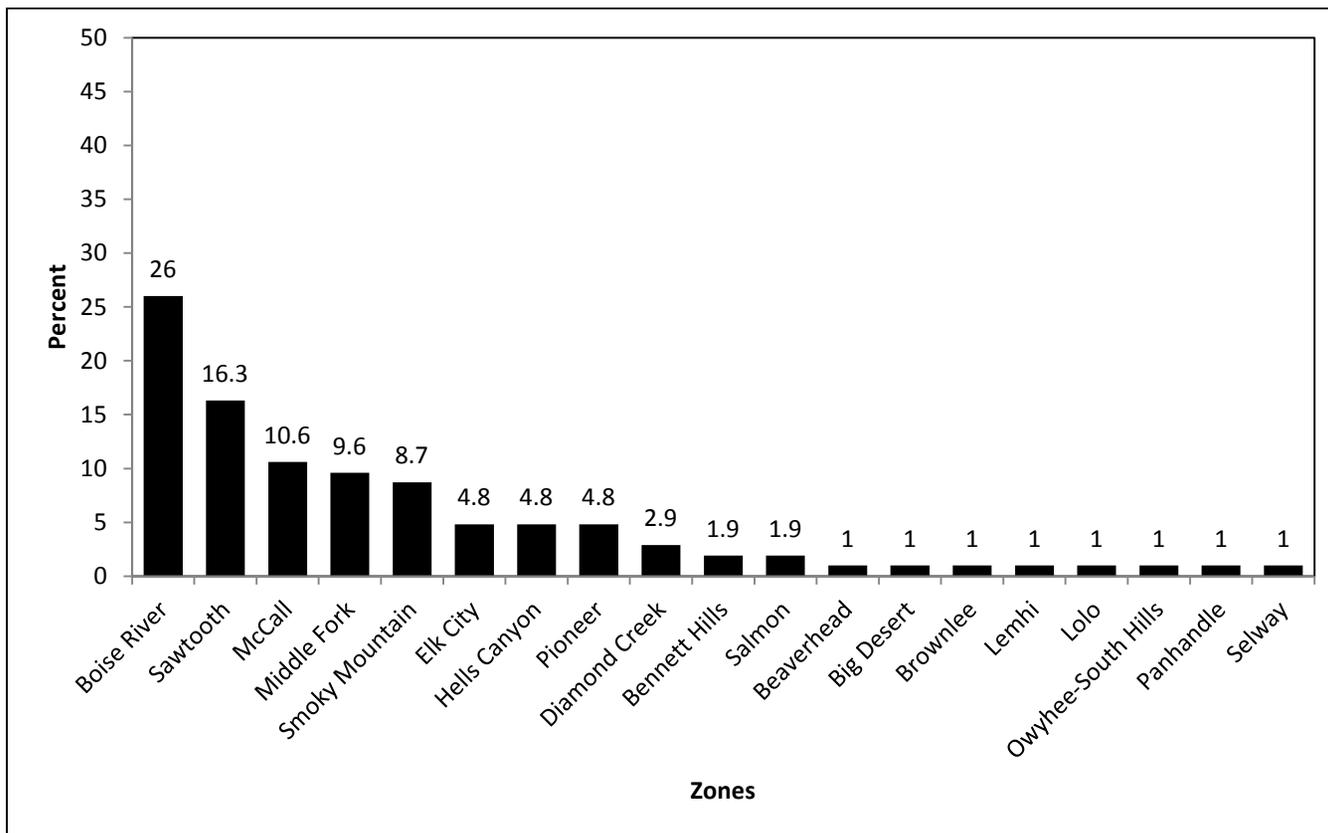


Q17: The distribution of responses is similar between the Boise River zone and the state average.

Perceptions of Elk Numbers

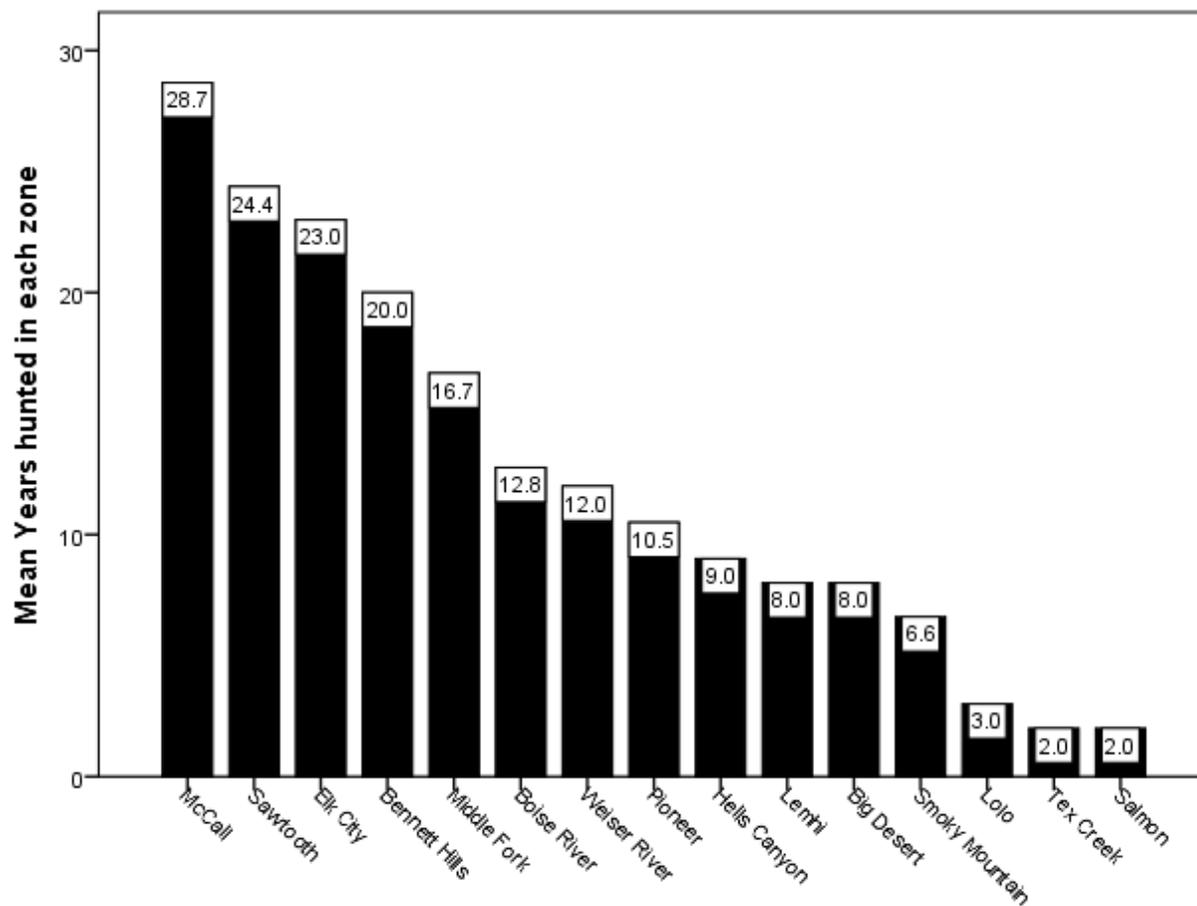
**18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years, please list them below.**

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



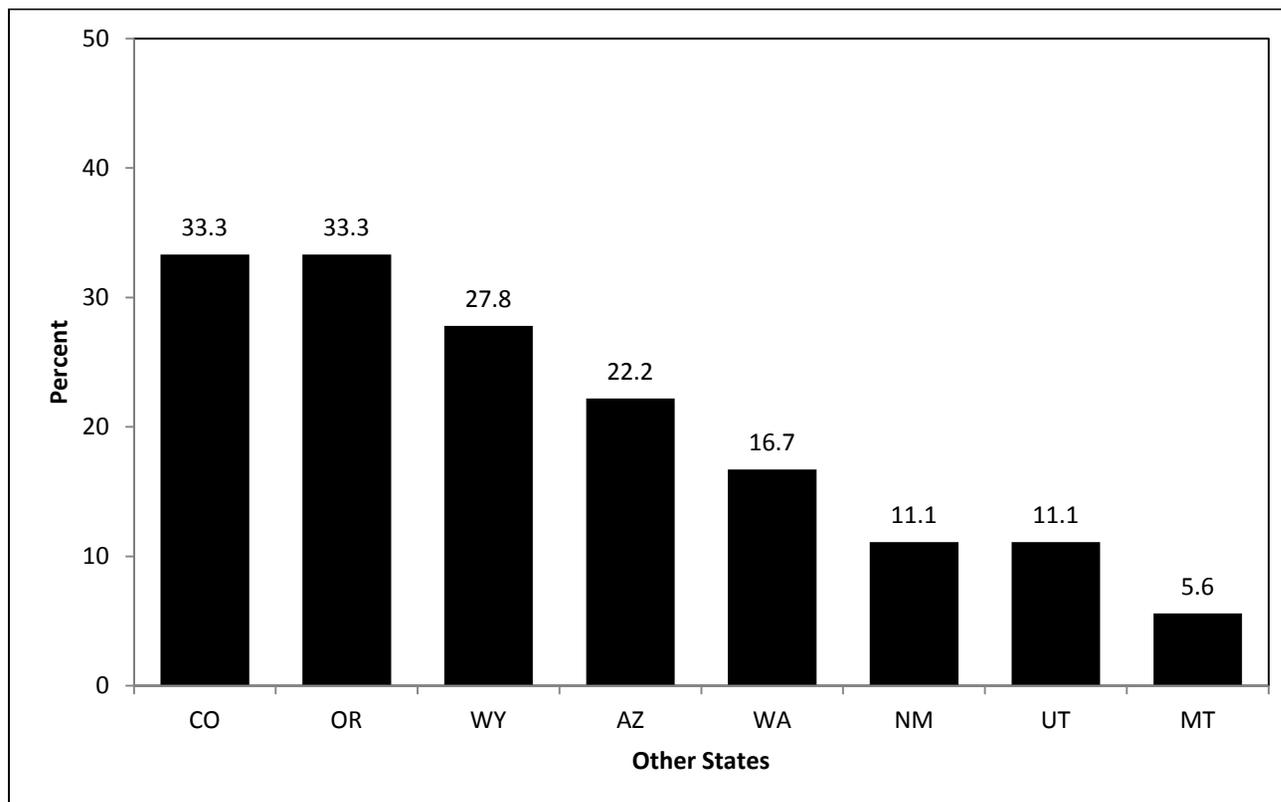
**Q18: The Sawtooth and McCall zones are the most popular zones for respondents to hunt in besides the Boise River zone itself.**

**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)*



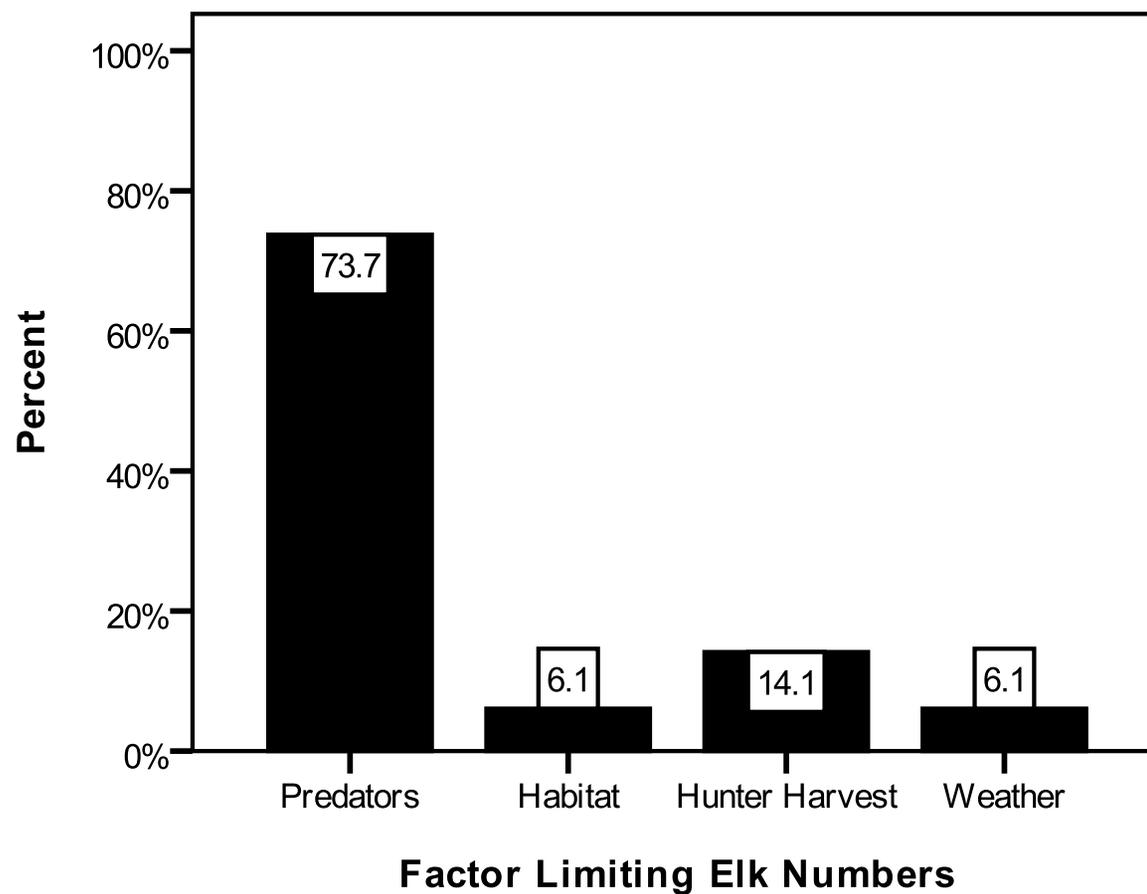
**Q20: The McCall, Sawtooth, Elk City, and Bennett Hills zones have been hunted the longest among respondents, more than 20 years. The Boise River zone itself ranks sixth in duration.**

**Other Zones in Past 10 Years**

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

**Q21: Colorado and Oregon have been hunted by a third of Boise River hunters who have hunted out-of-state. Wyoming has been popular for about a quarter of hunters.**

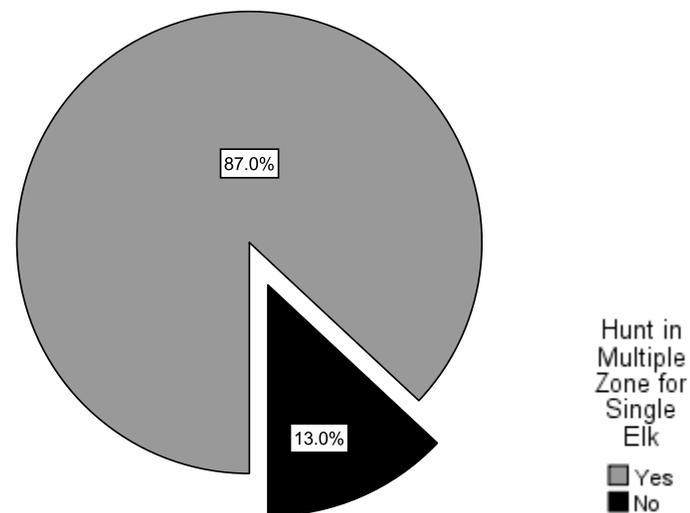
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



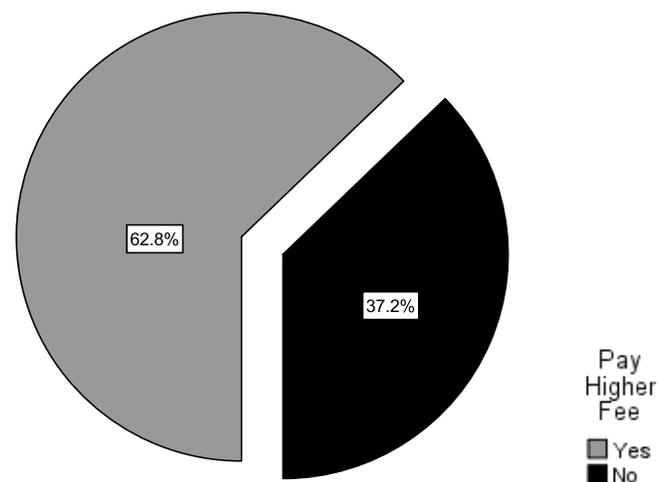
Q22: The distribution of responses is similar between Boise River respondents and the state average. Predators are seen by the majority to be the primary limiting factor for Elk numbers.

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

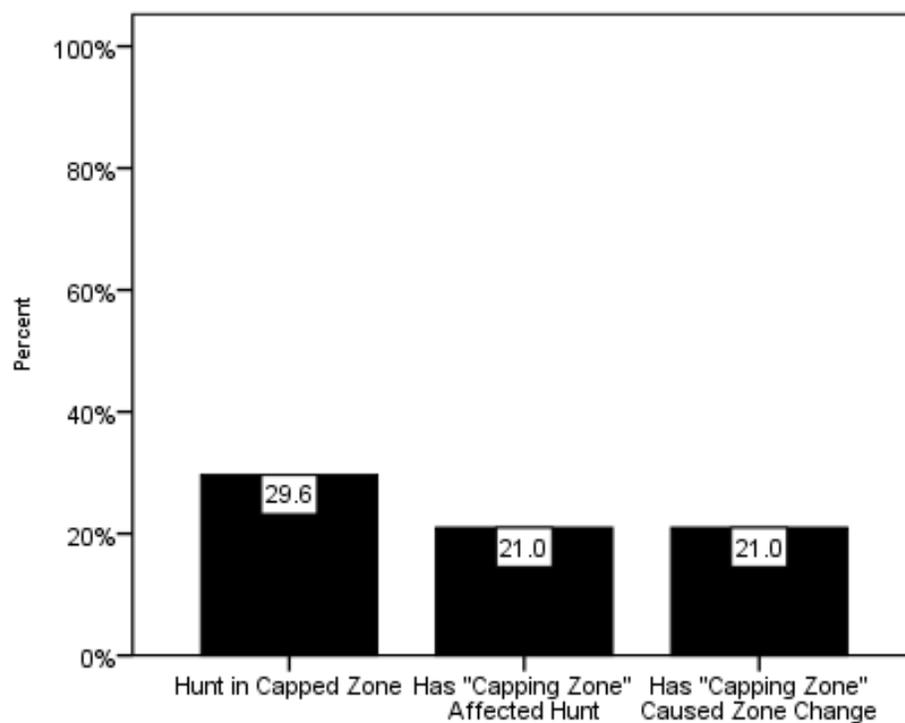
Like the state average, a majority of hunters in the Boise River zone would like to be able to hunt for a single Elk in multiple zones in a year. Also, a majority would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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)

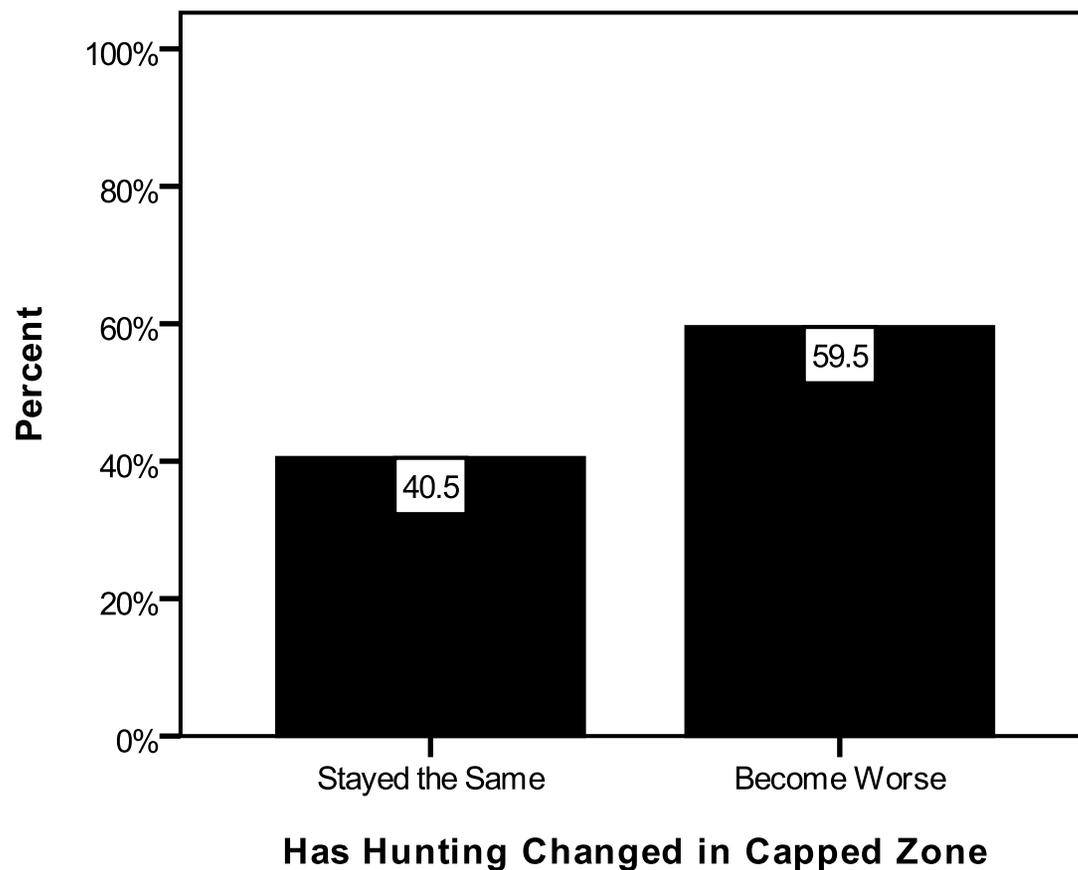


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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: Almost a third of Boise River hunters hunt in a capped zone. Like other hunters in the state, about one in five reported that zone caps have affected where they hunt, and for Boise River hunters, this has caused a zone change.**

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

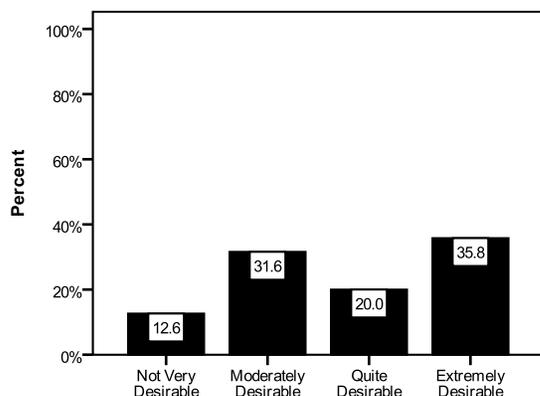


Q26: Like the state average, more than half of Boise River hunters feel zone capping has made Elk hunting worse.

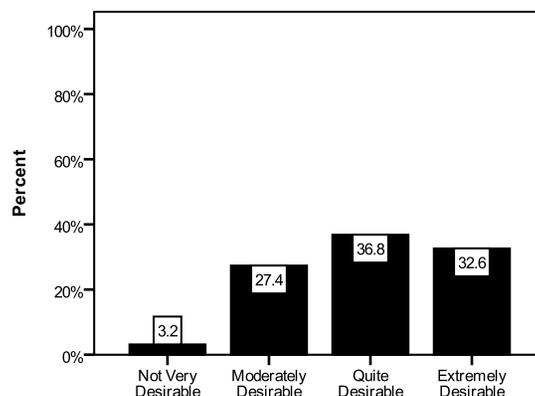
# ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

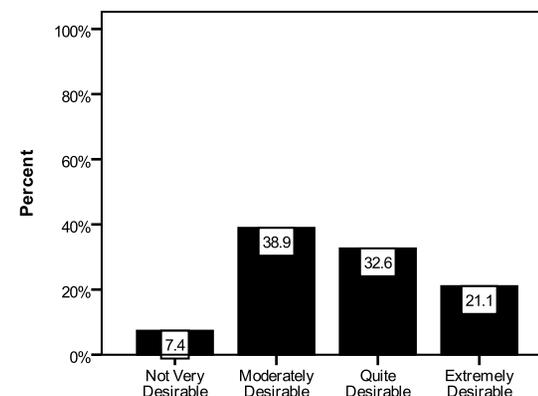
## 27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



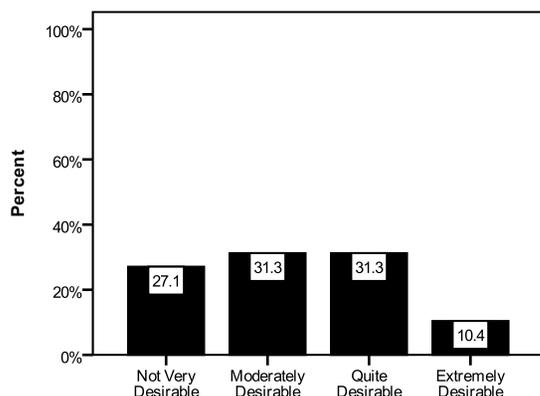
Large Bull



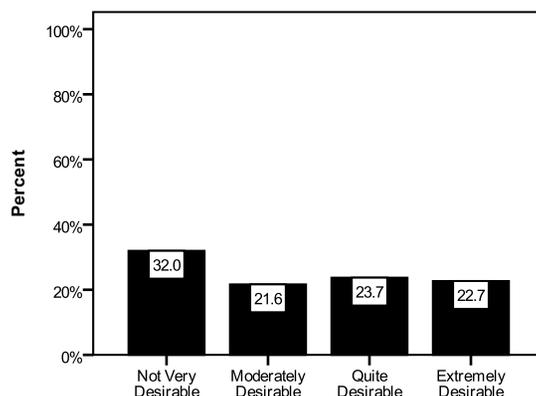
Mature Bull



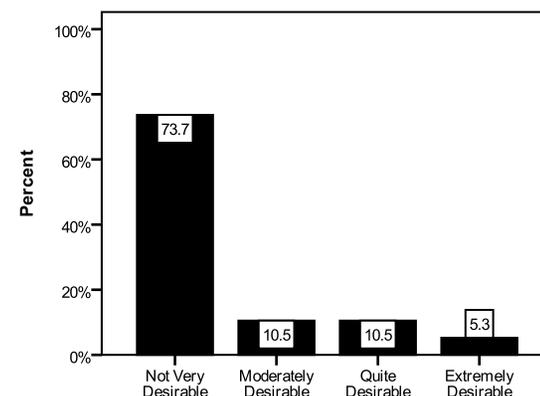
Raghorn Bull



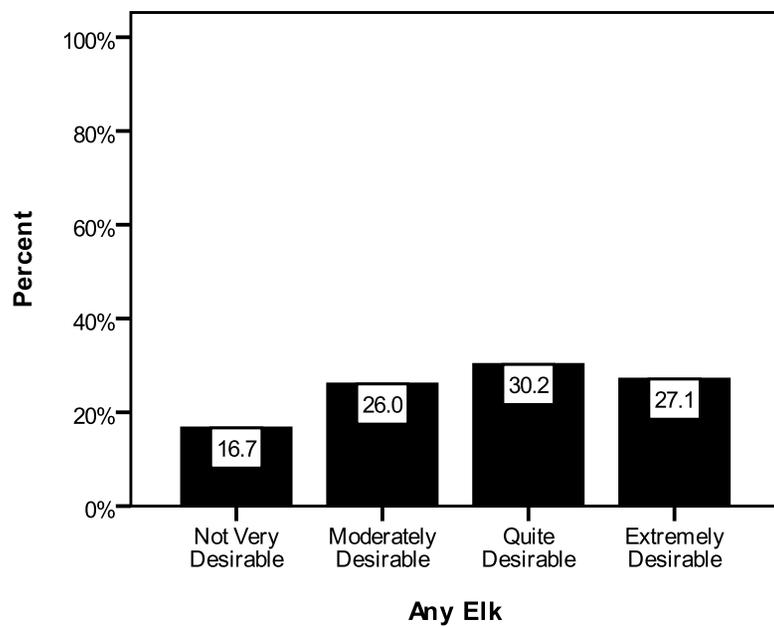
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

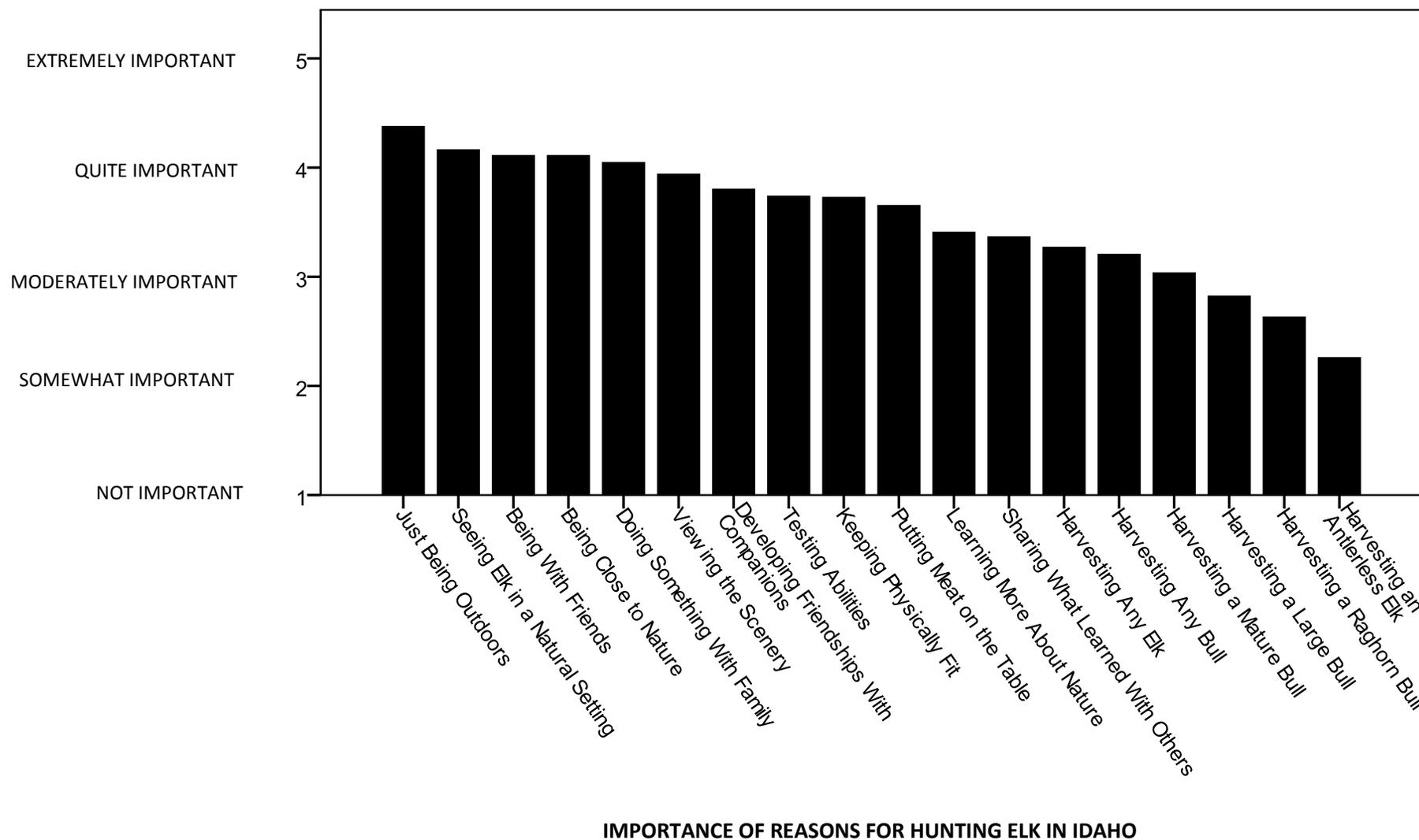


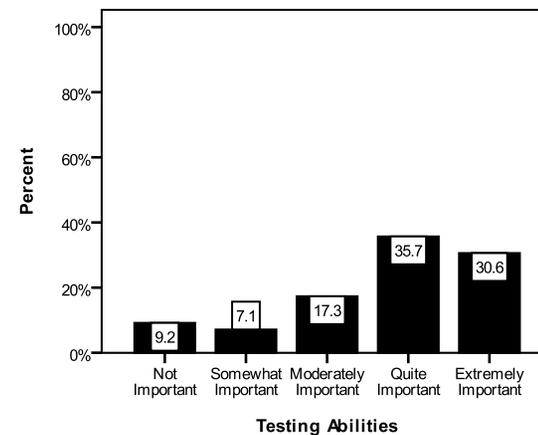
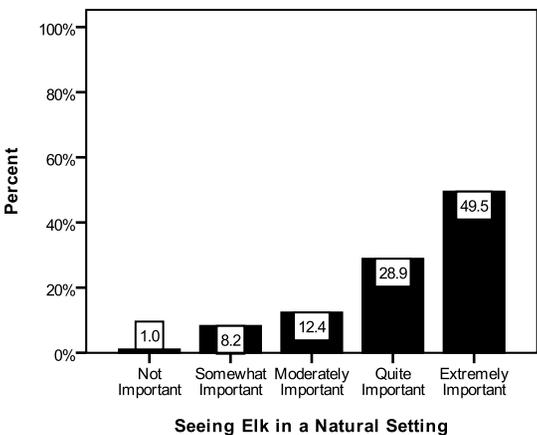
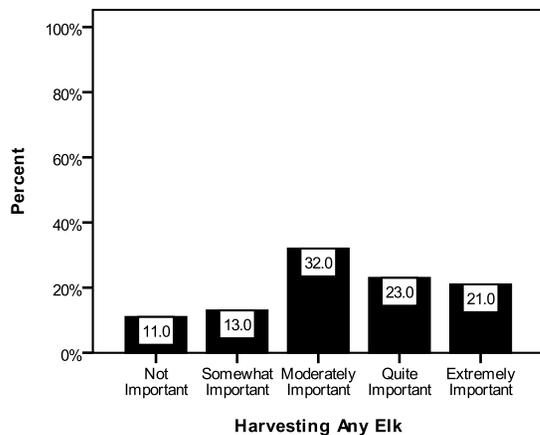
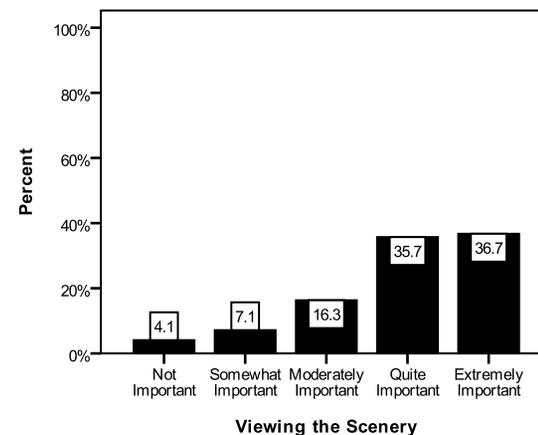
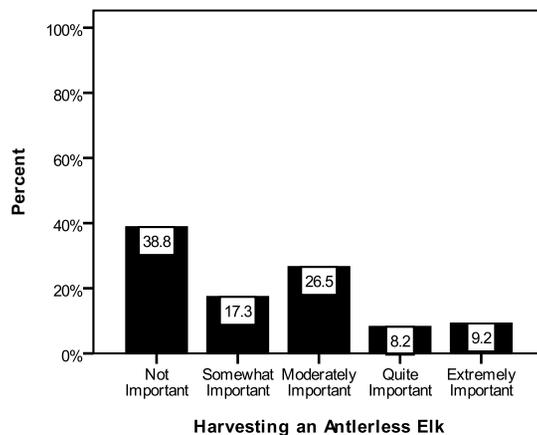
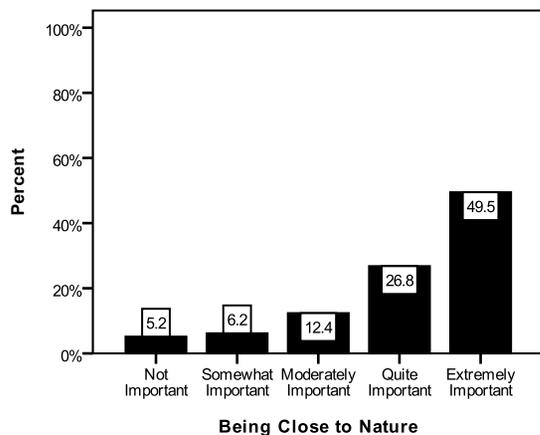
Calf

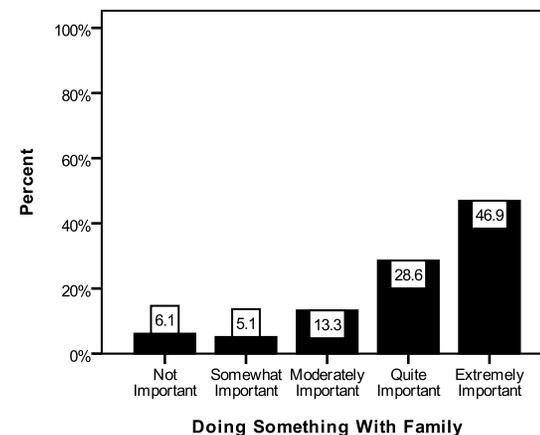
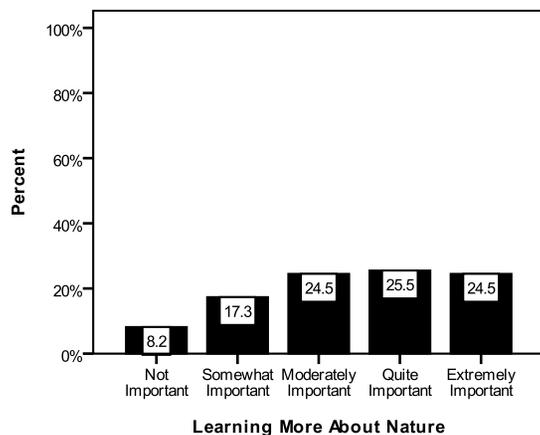
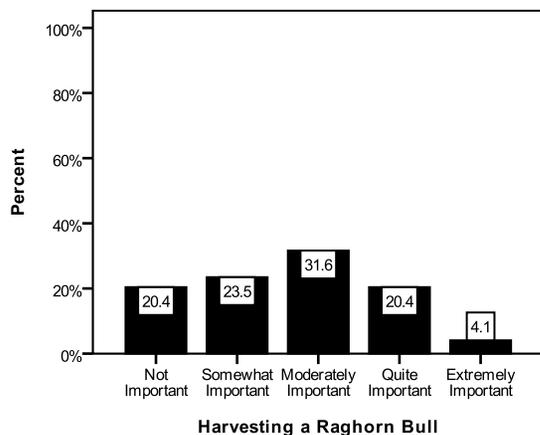
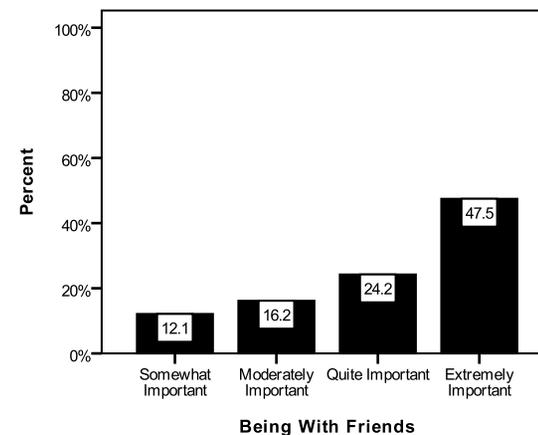
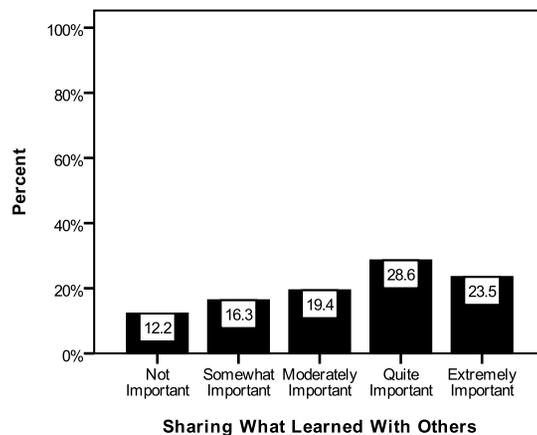
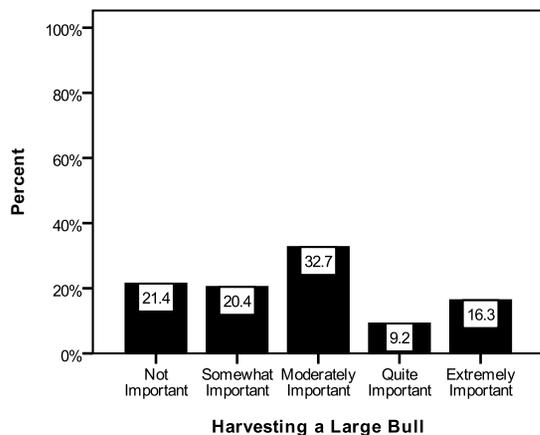


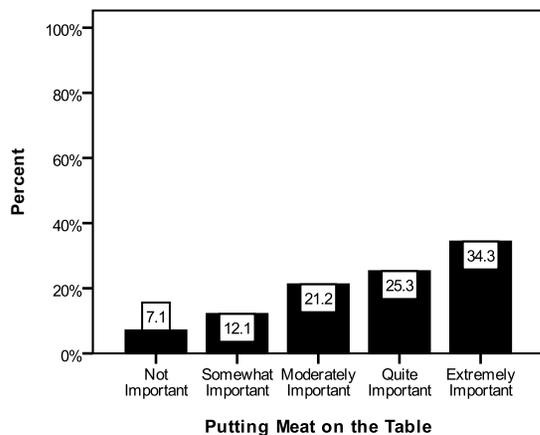
**Q27: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone.**

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?

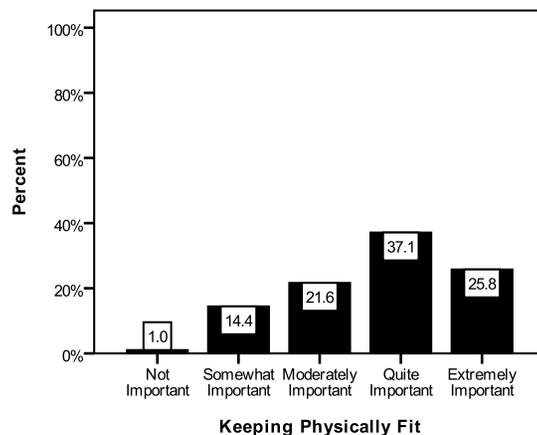




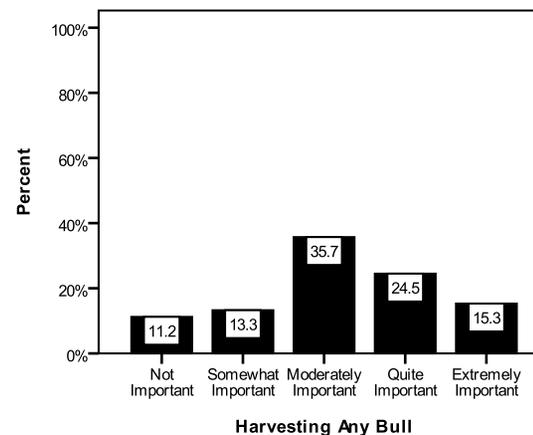




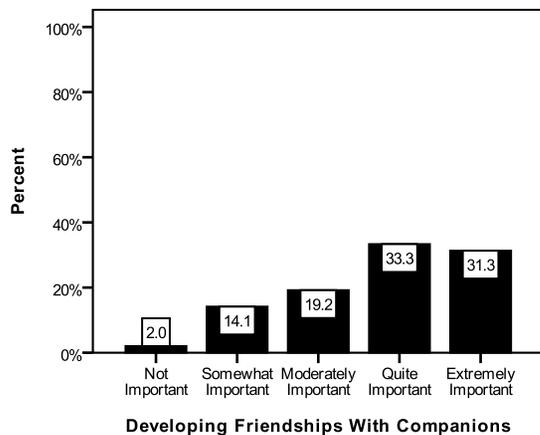
Putting Meat on the Table



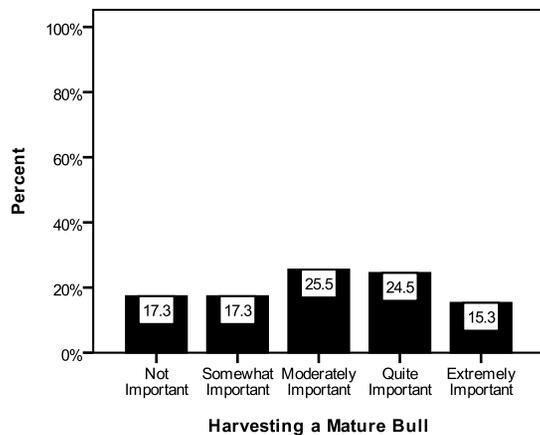
Keeping Physically Fit



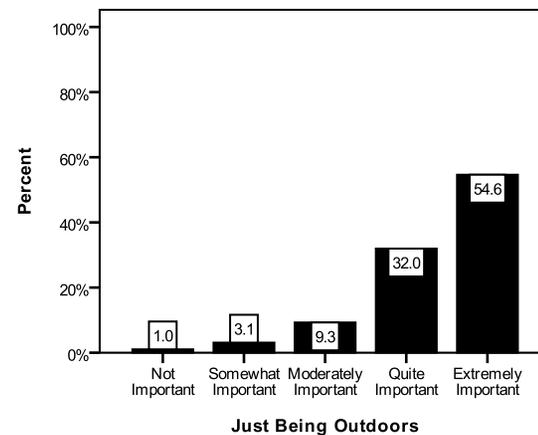
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

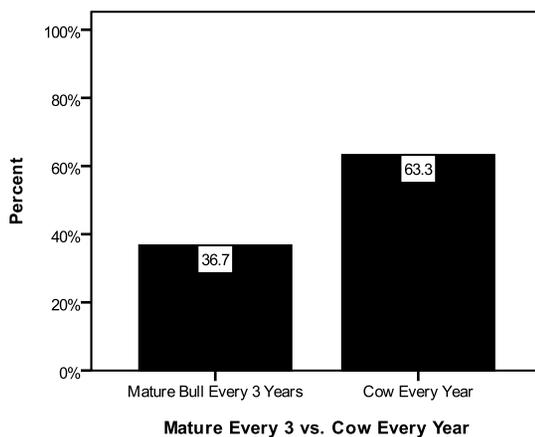
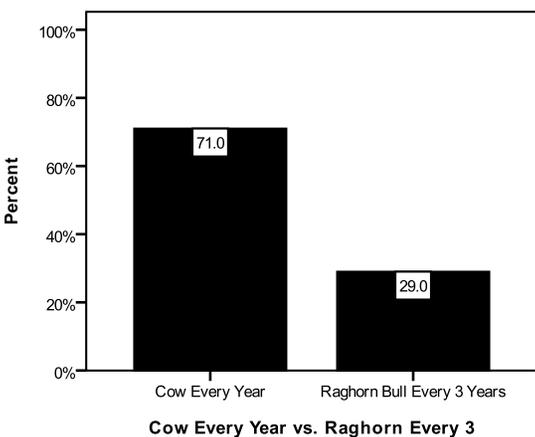
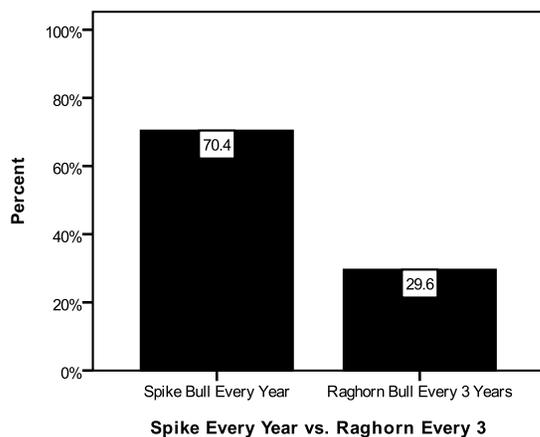
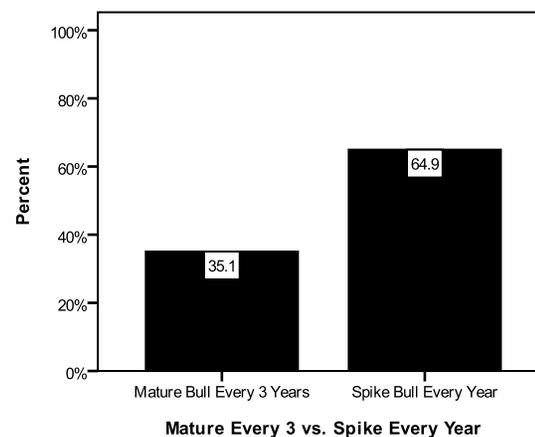
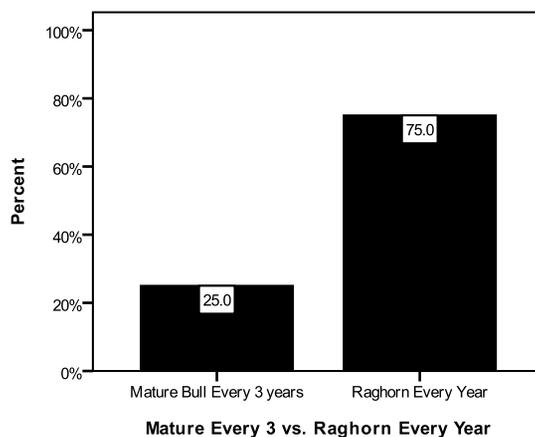
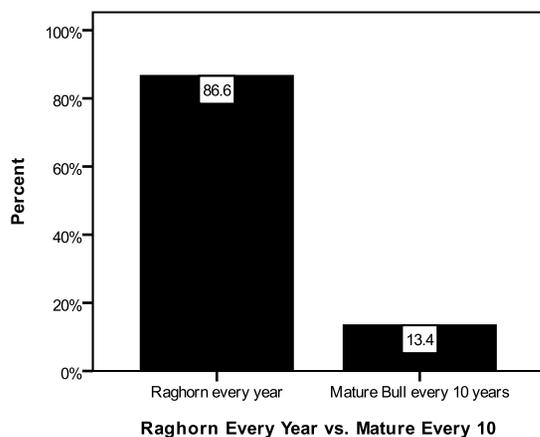


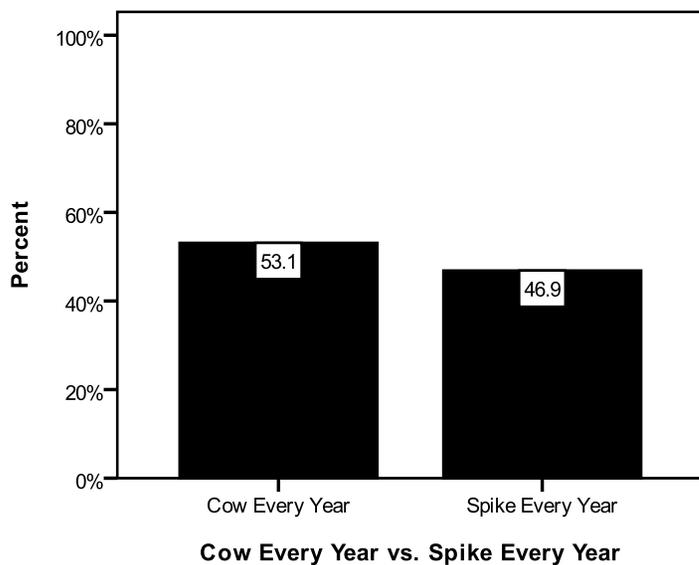
Just Being Outdoors

**Q28: The six most important reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho are the same between the state average and Boise River hunters.**

**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.**

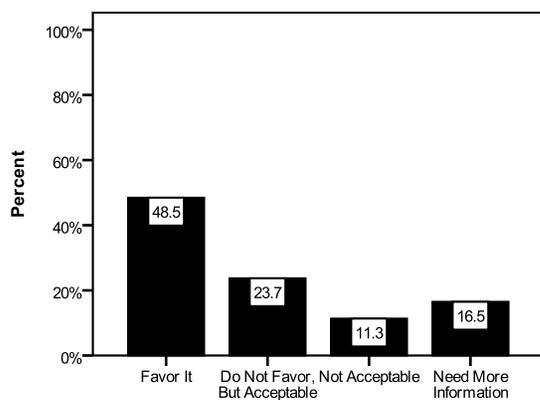




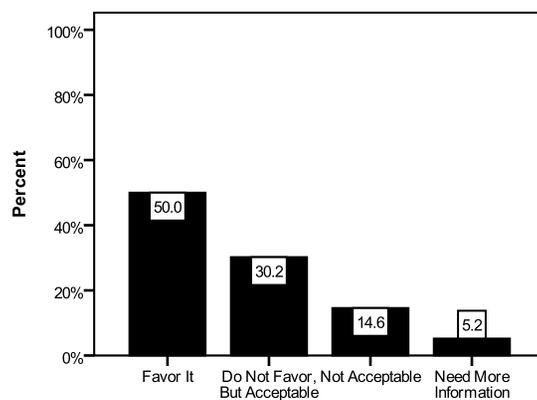
**Q32: Though the distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Boise River zone, hunters in this zone are slightly more willing to hunt/harvest preserve their opportunity to hunt over being able to hunt for larger Elk less frequently.**

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

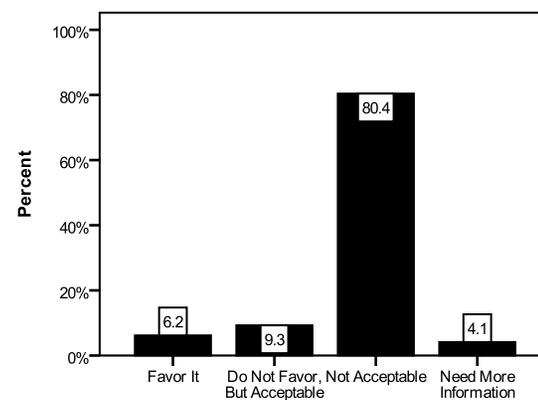
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?



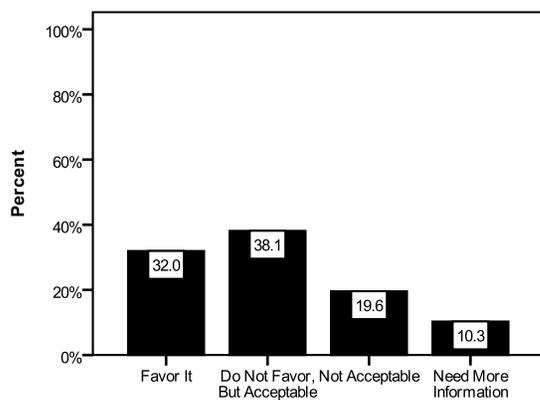
Longer Seasons



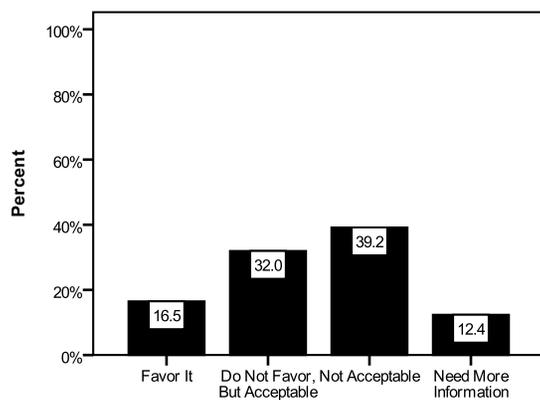
Choose Only One Weapon



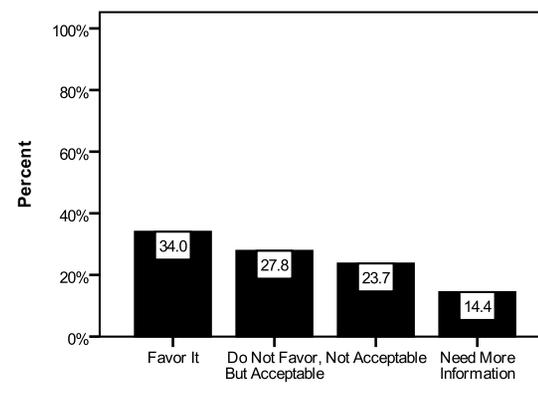
Choose Only One Species



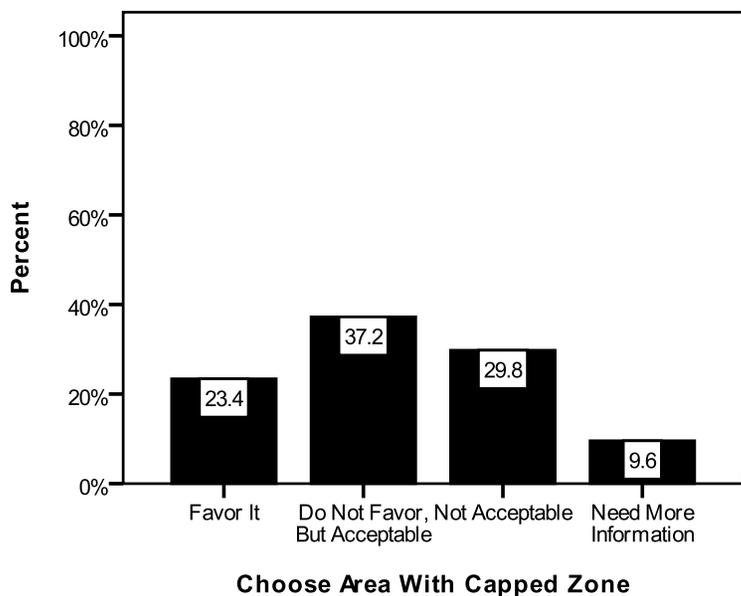
Controlled Hunts



Stratified Hunts

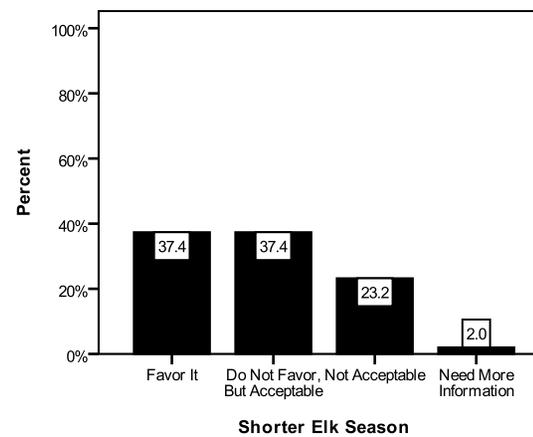
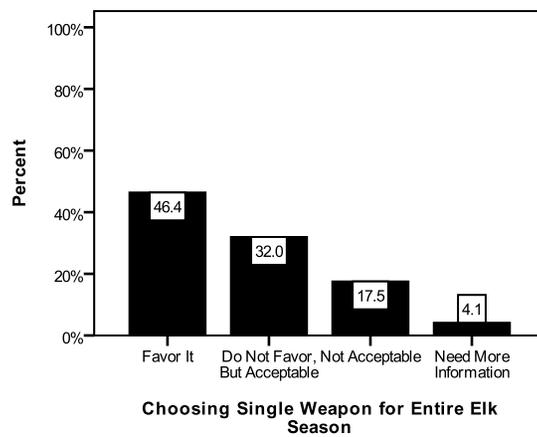
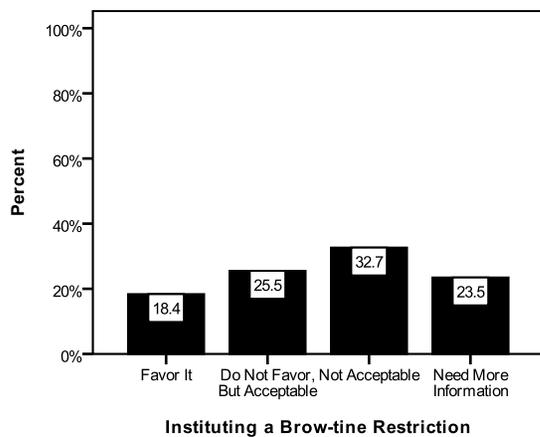
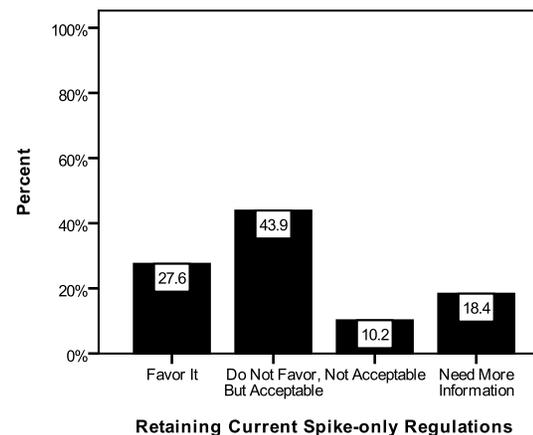
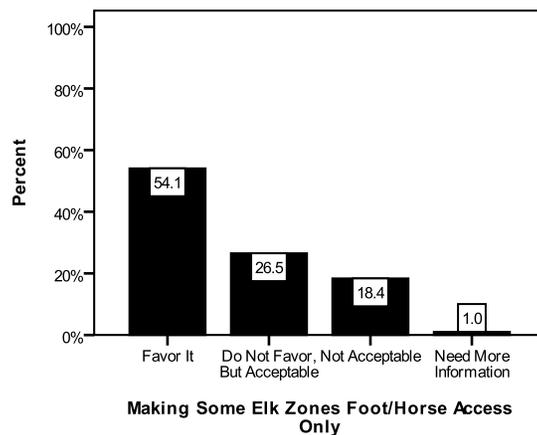
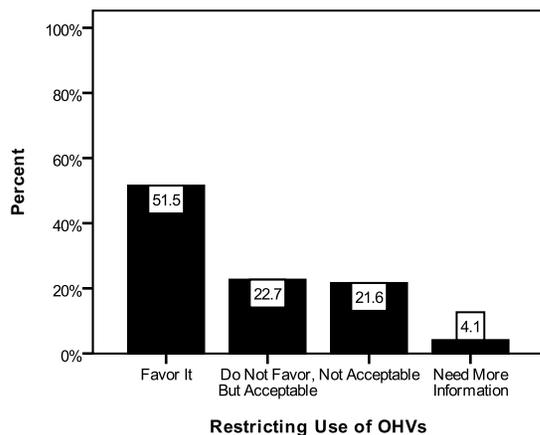


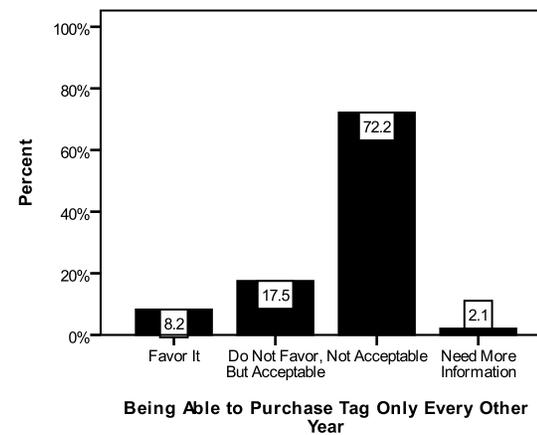
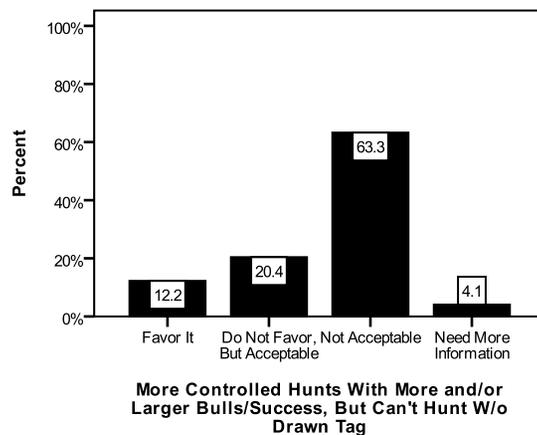
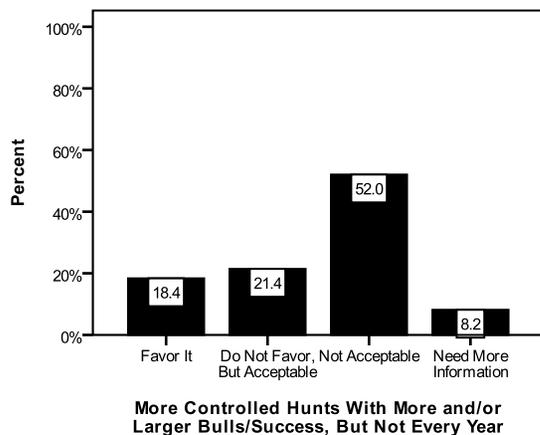
Choose Area With Motorized/Travel Restrictions



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

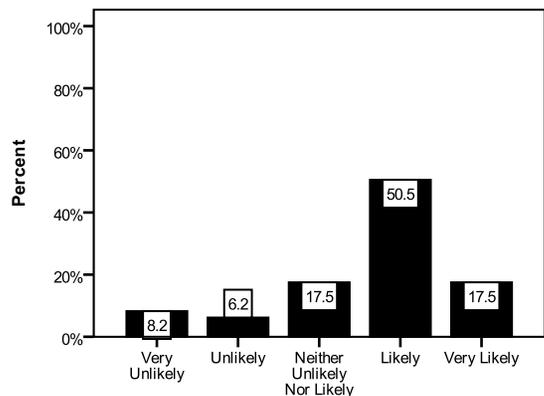
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



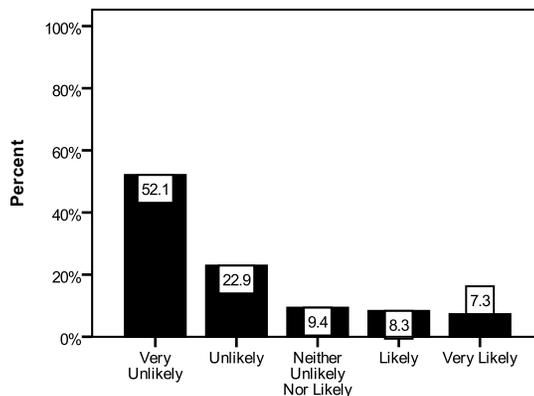


**Q35: The distribution of responses between the state average and the Boise River zone are similar. Hunters in this zone are slightly more favorable towards a shorter Elk season than other hunters in the state.**

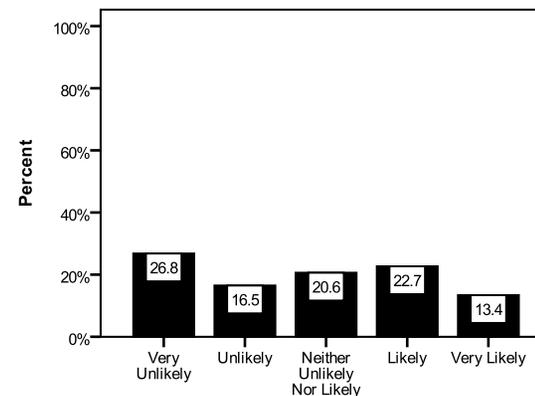
**36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?**



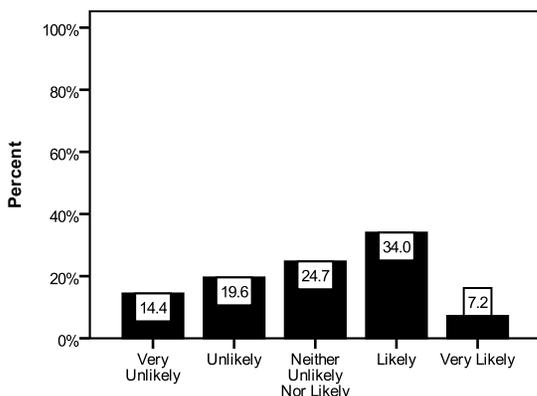
**Hunt in Different Zones**



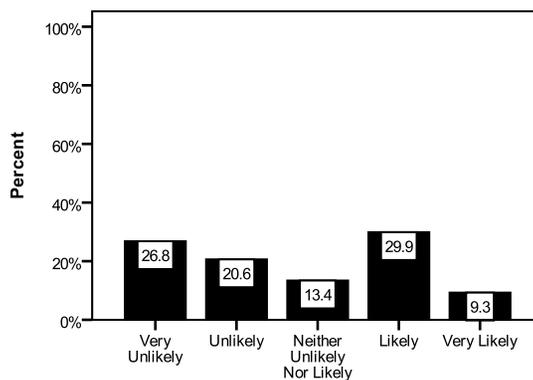
**Quit Hunting Elk**



**Shift to Hunt Other Species**



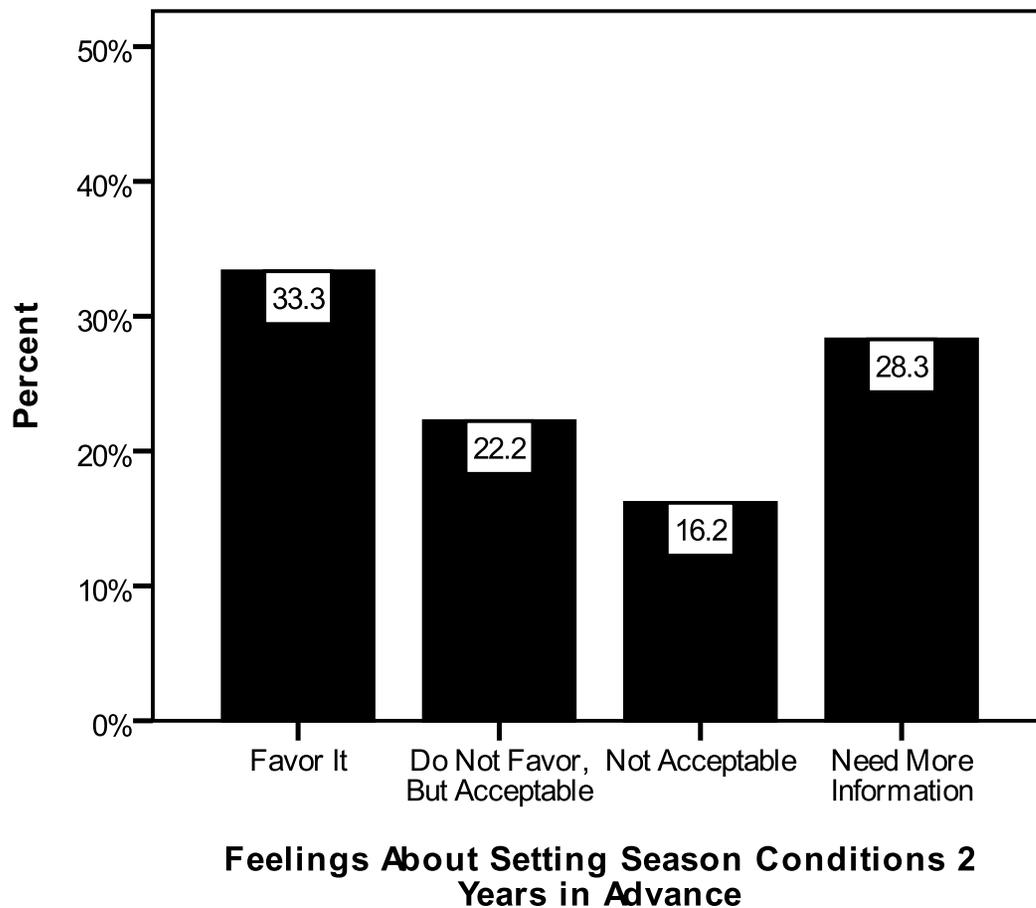
**Not Change Hunting Behavior**



**Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity**

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

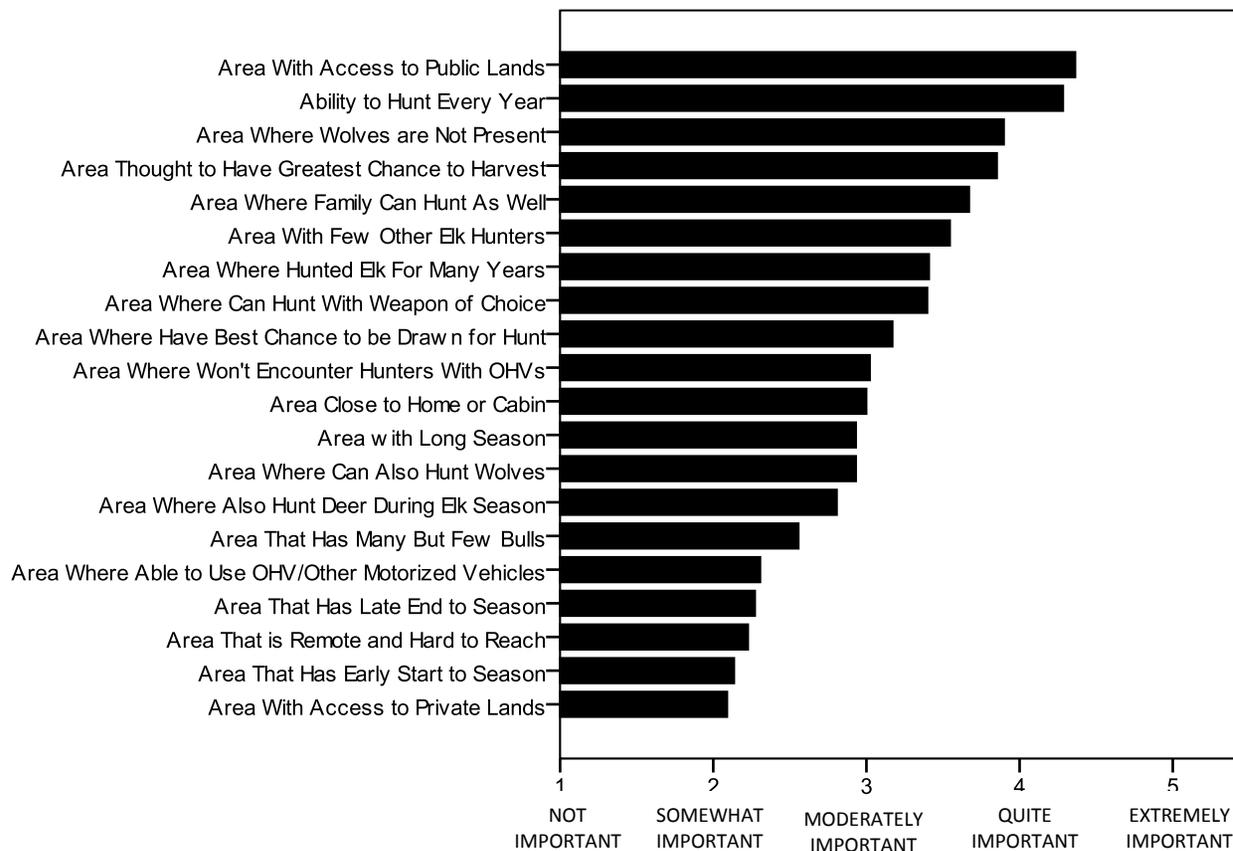
38. How would you feel about a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, just like the current Moose, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Upland Game, Turkey and Fishing regulations? *(Please check one response)*



Q38: Slightly more Boise River hunters are favorable of this regulation than the state average.

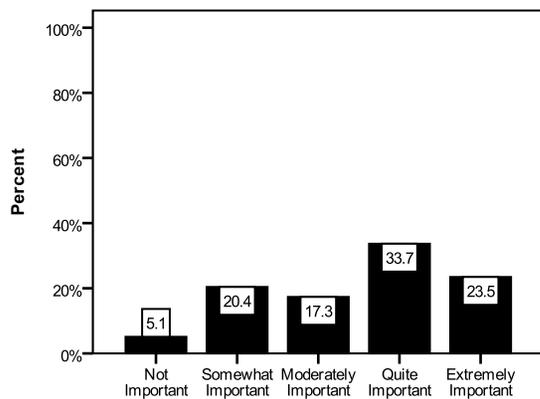
## WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

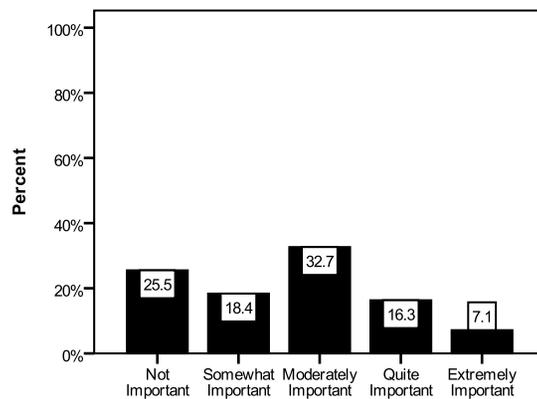


**Q29: The top six characteristics are the same for the Boise River zone and the state average.**

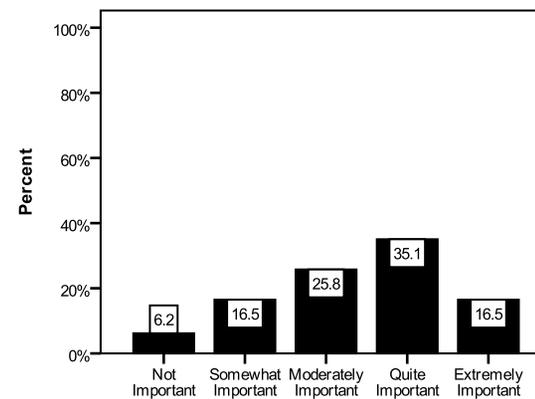
**CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO**



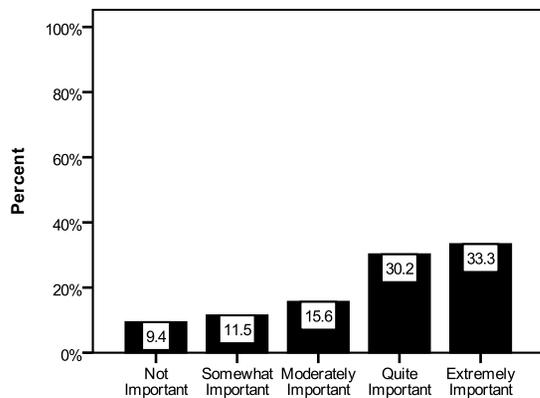
**Area With Few Other Elk Hunters**



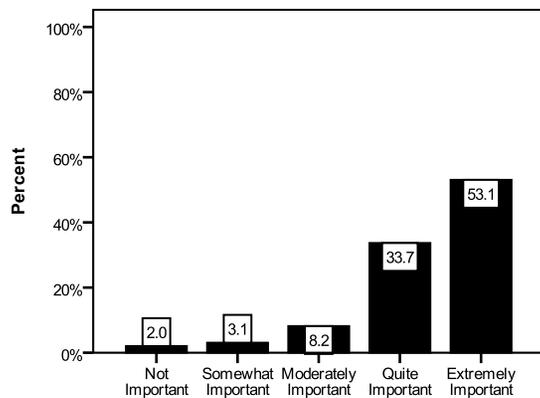
**Area That Has Many But Few Bulls**



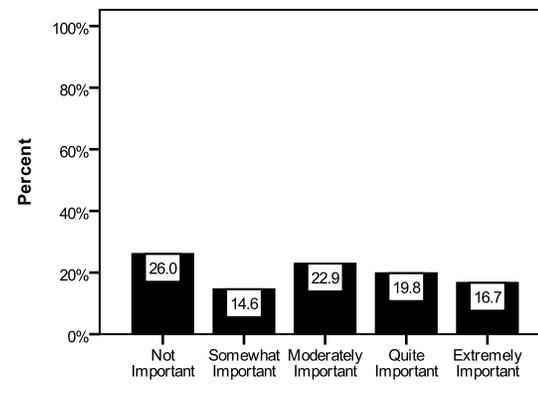
**Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years**



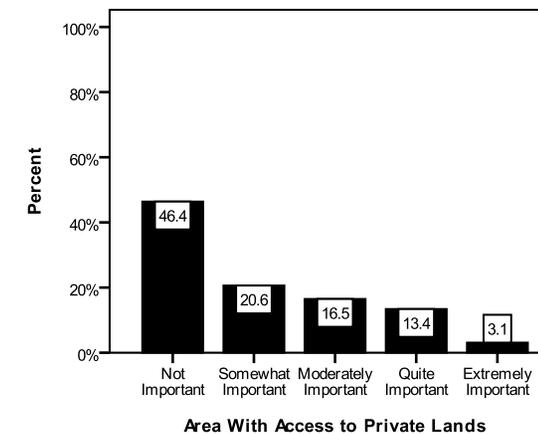
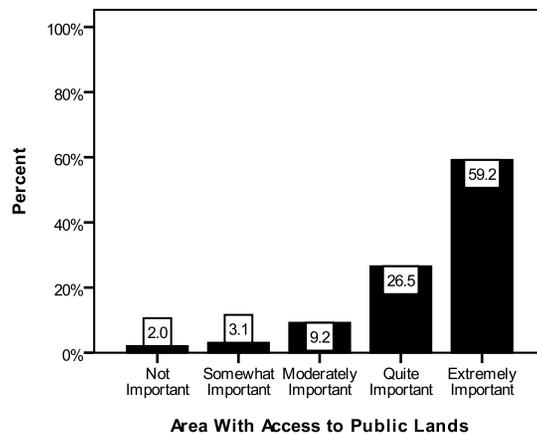
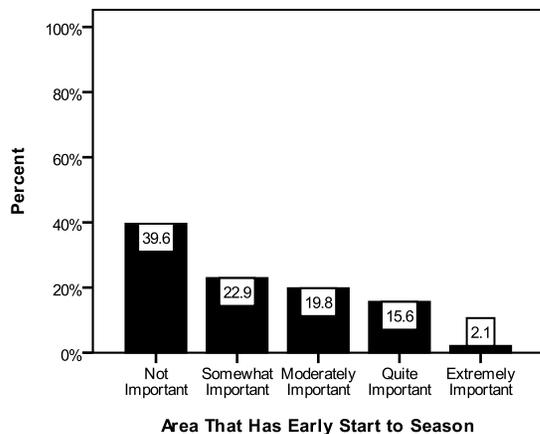
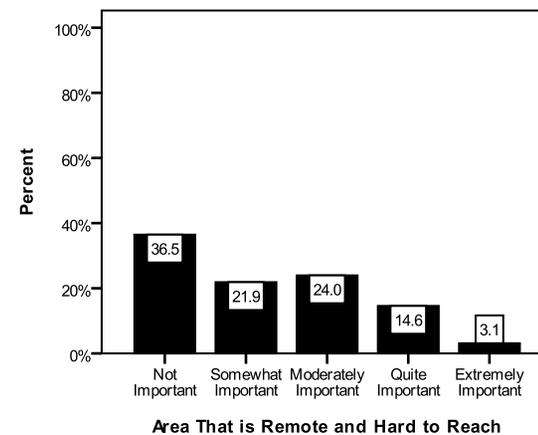
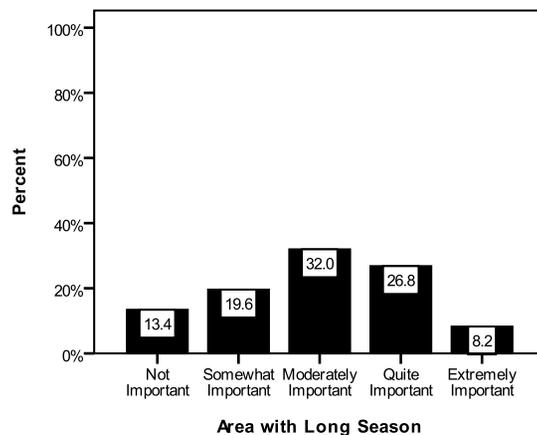
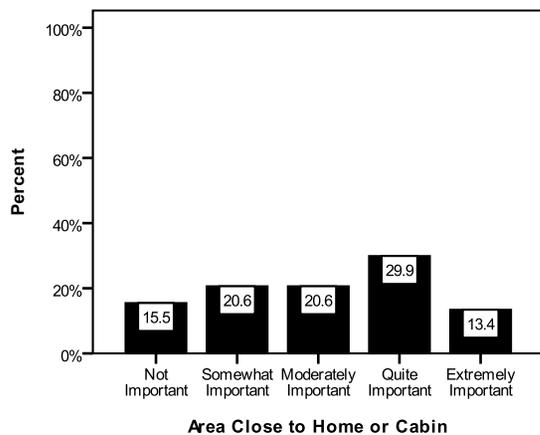
**Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well**

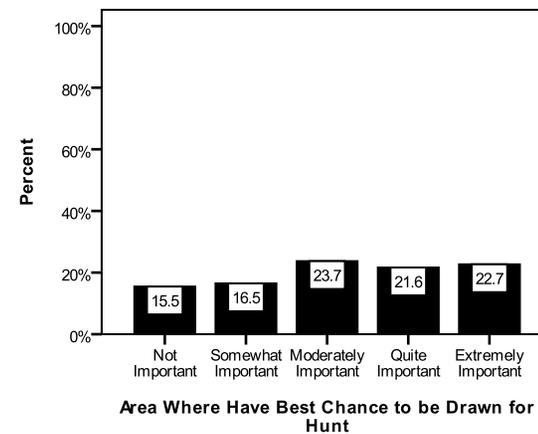
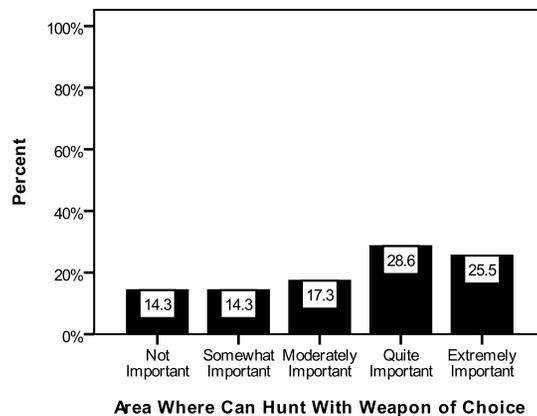
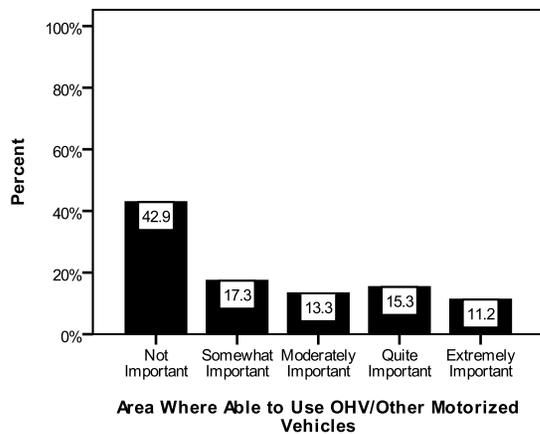
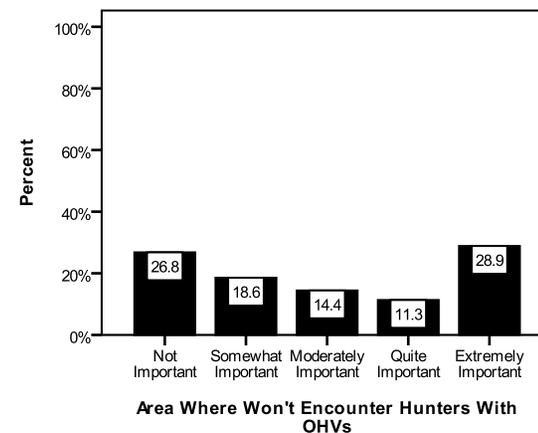
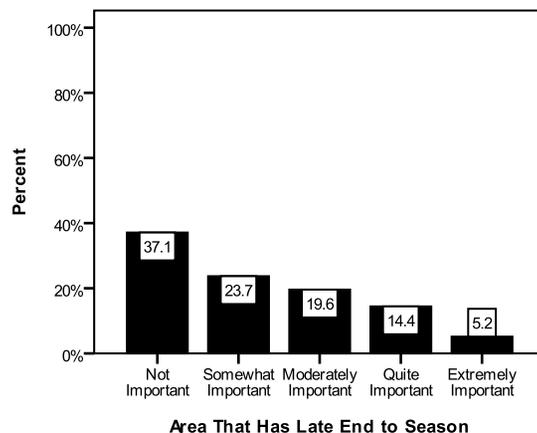
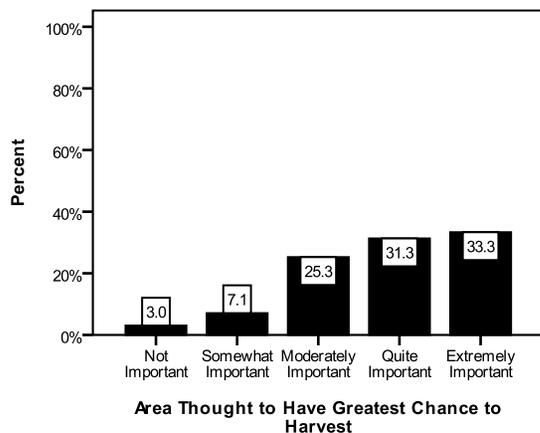


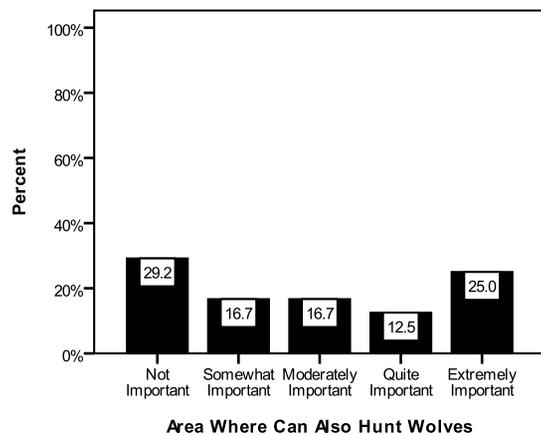
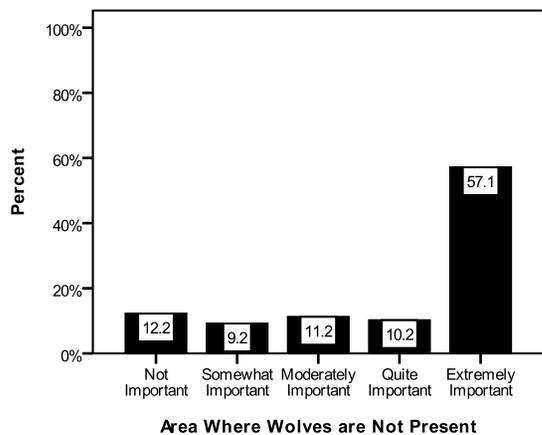
**Ability to Hunt Every Year**



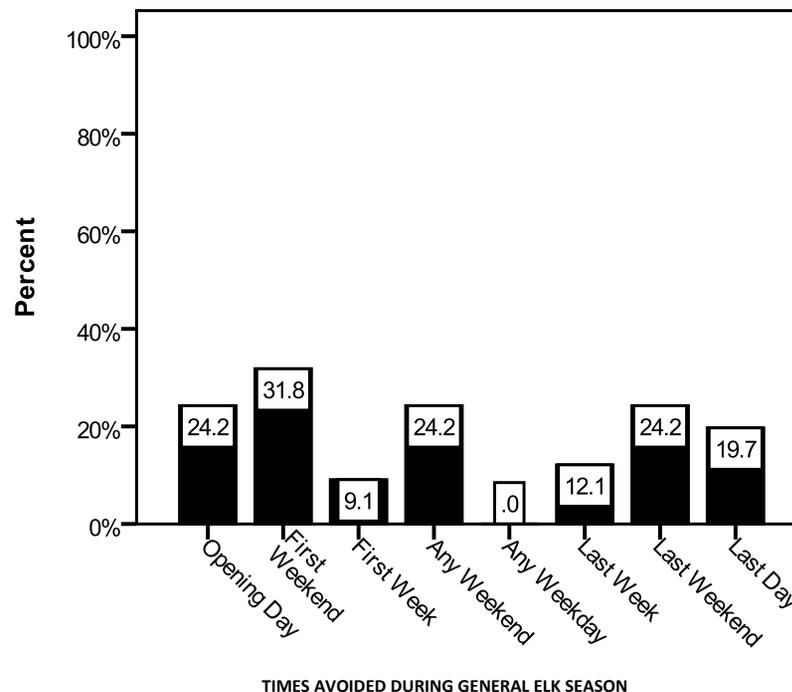
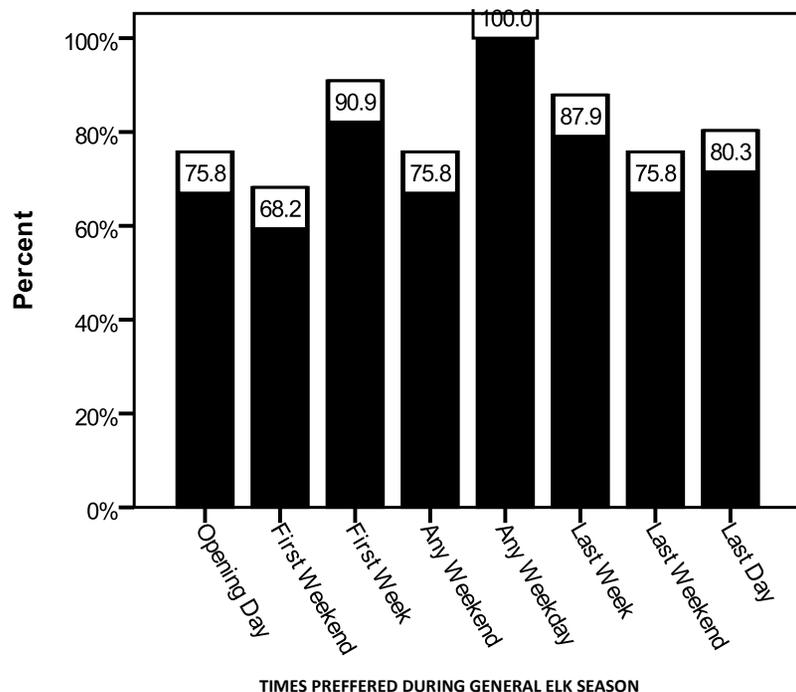
**Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season**







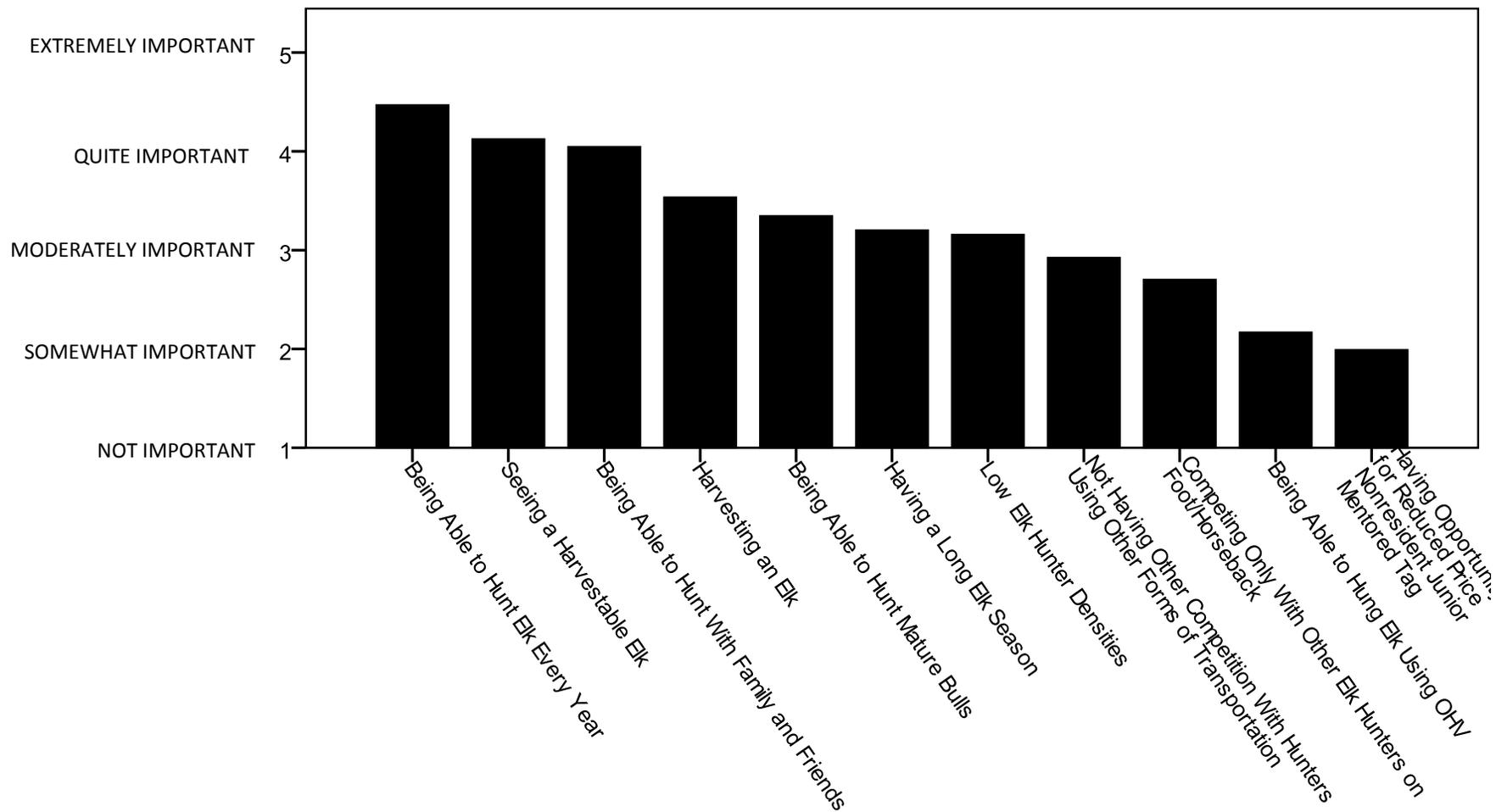
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



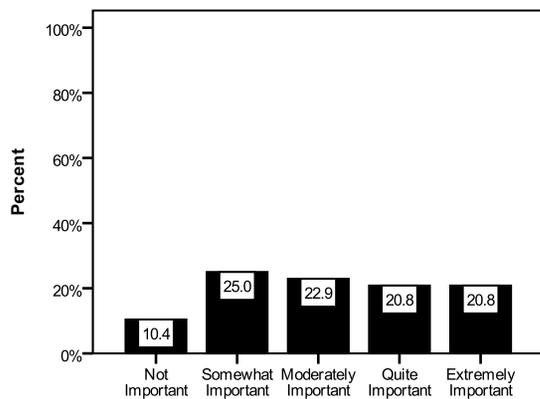
**Q30: Like the state average, Boise River hunters most often avoid hunting on weekends during the Elk season. 100% of Boise River respondents prefer to hunt on any weekday.**

# ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

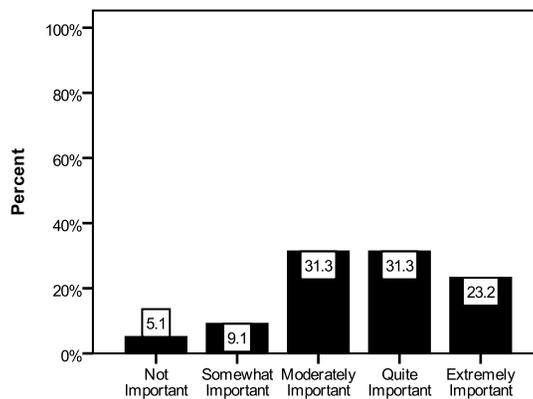
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



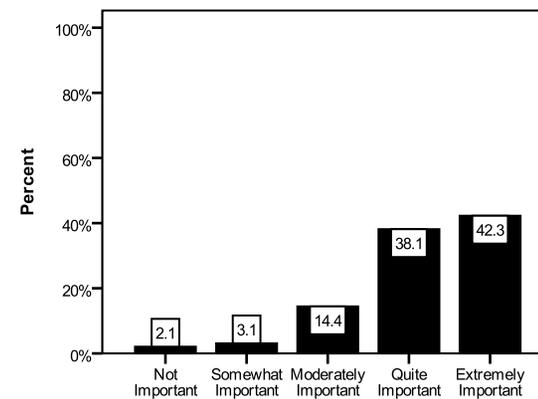
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



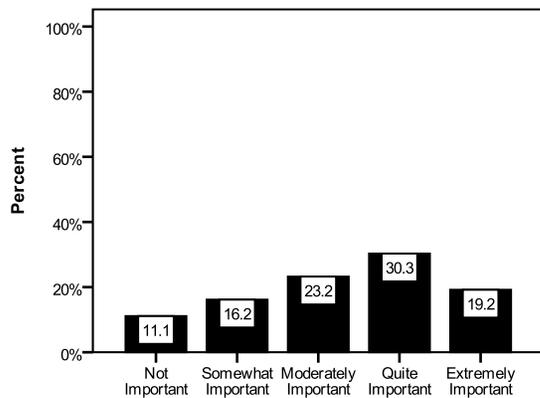
Low Elk Hunter Densities



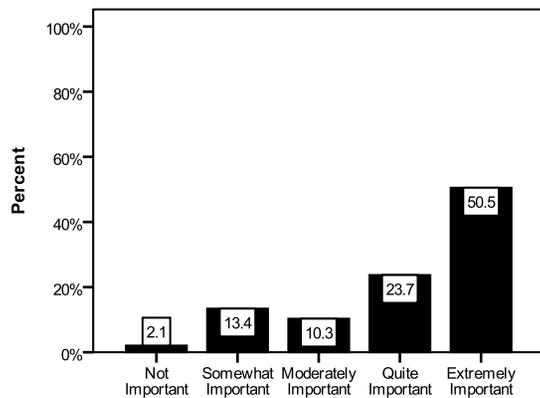
Harvesting an Elk



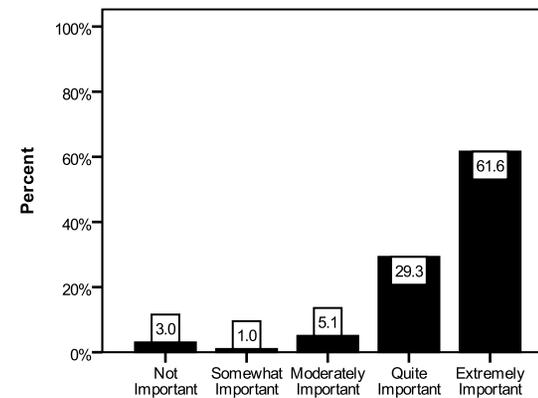
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



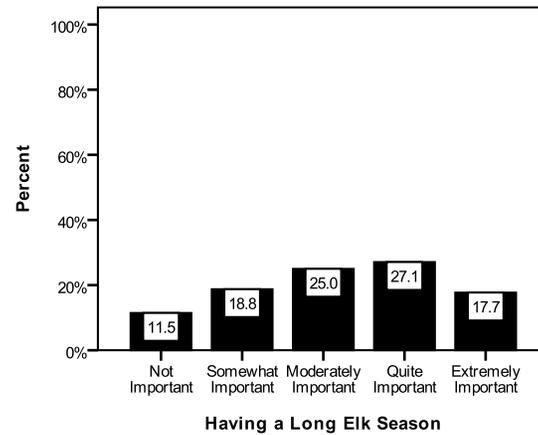
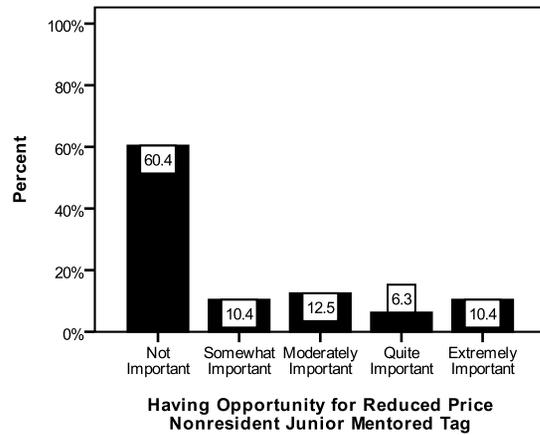
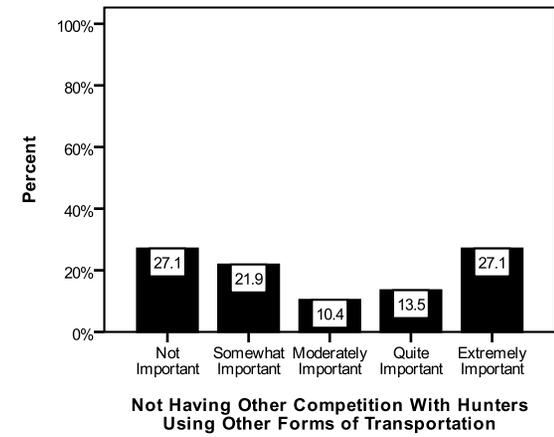
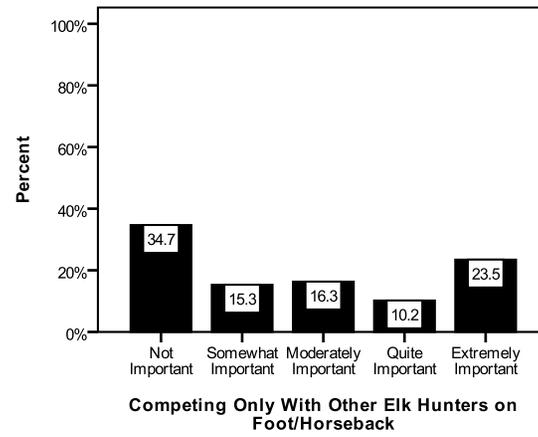
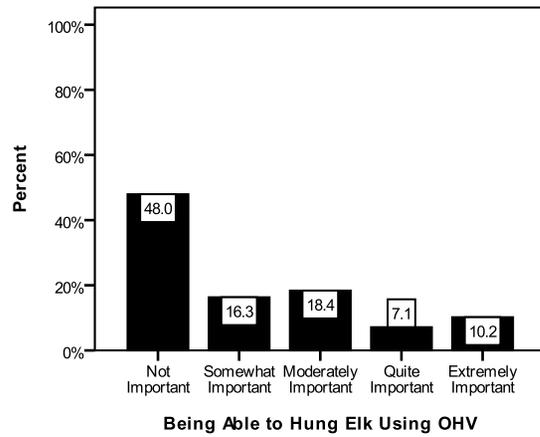
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



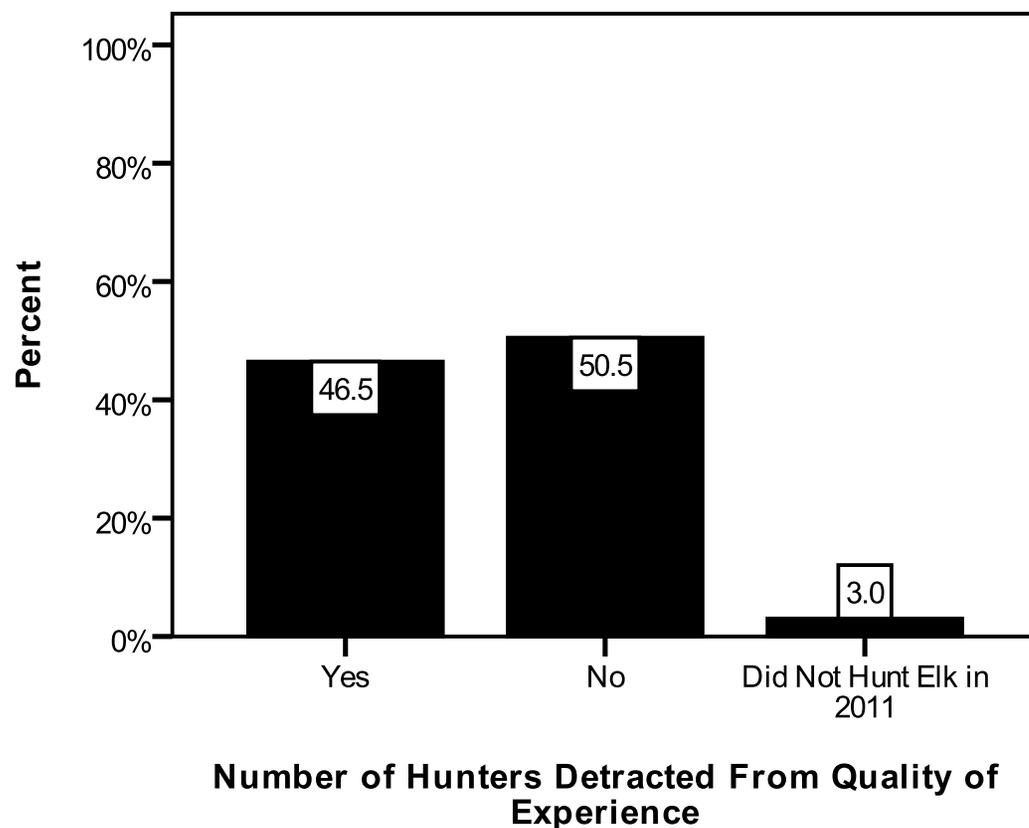
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



**Q31: The top five attributes are the same for both the state average and the Boise River zone.**

## HUNTING SATISFACTION

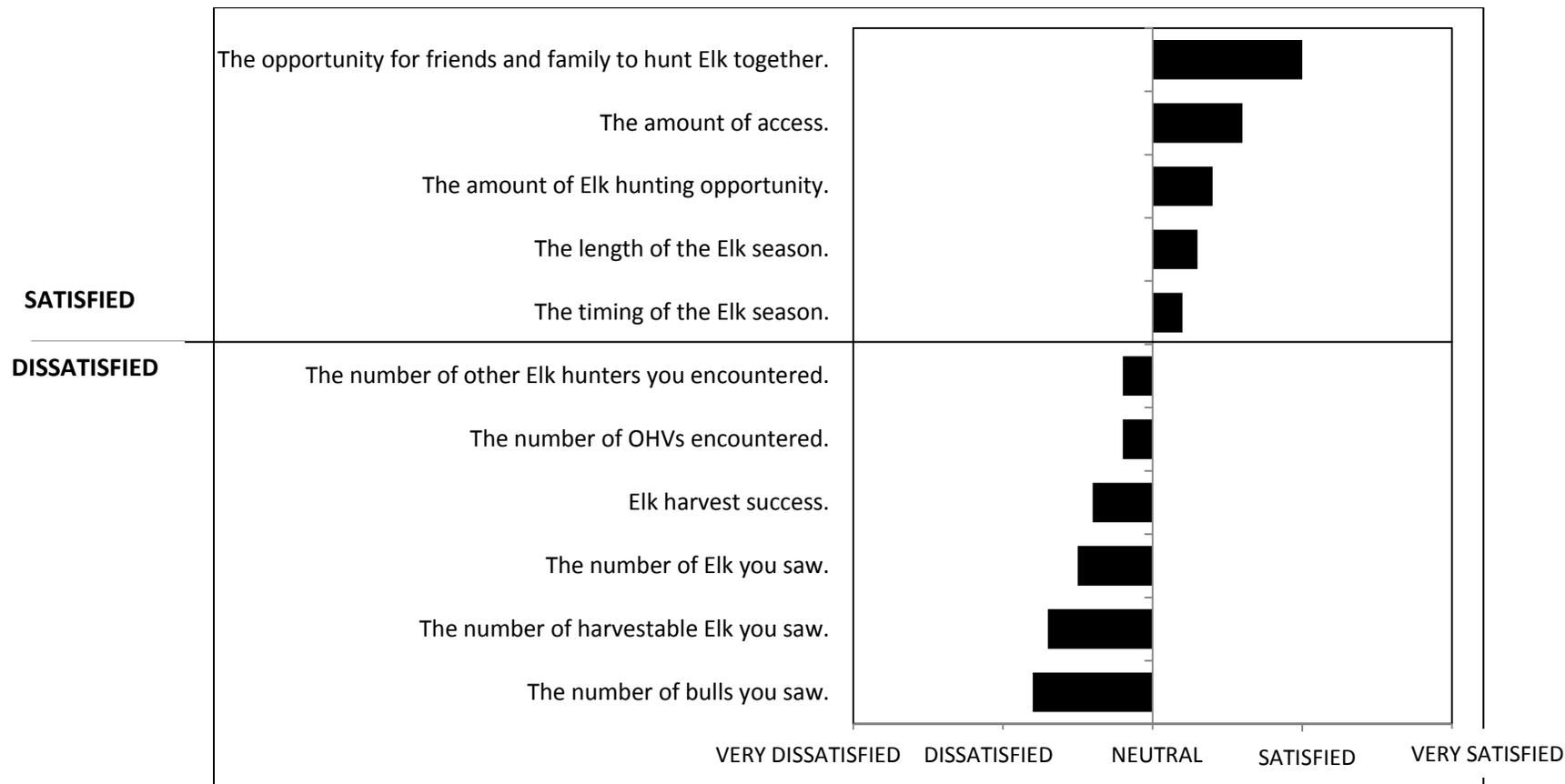
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



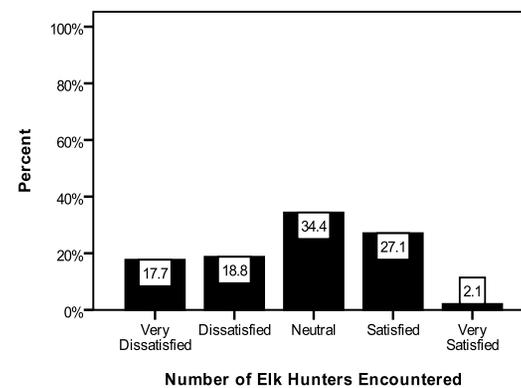
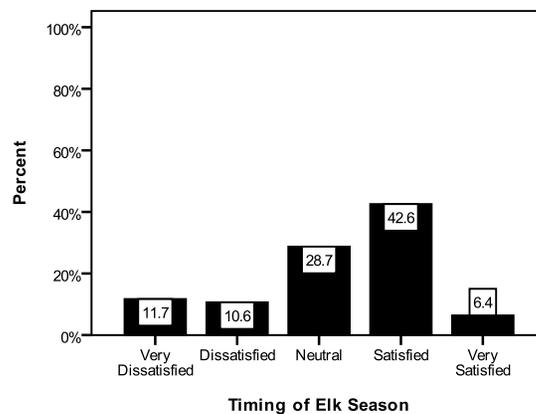
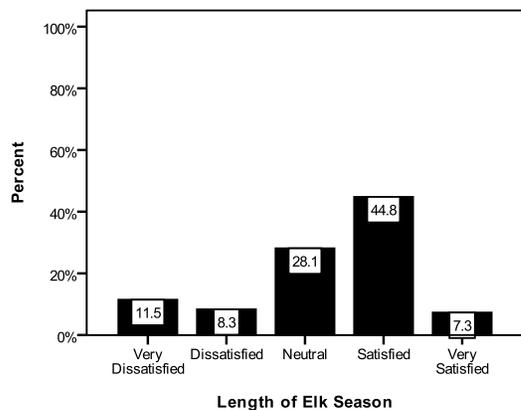
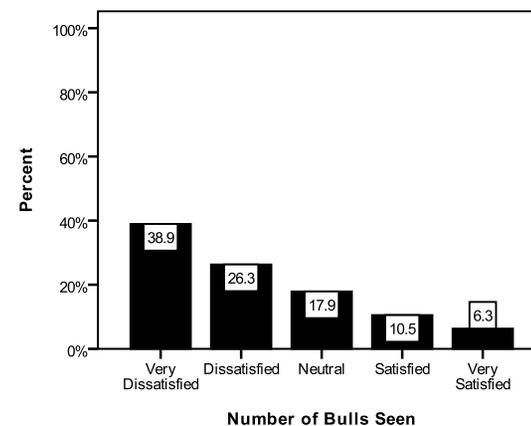
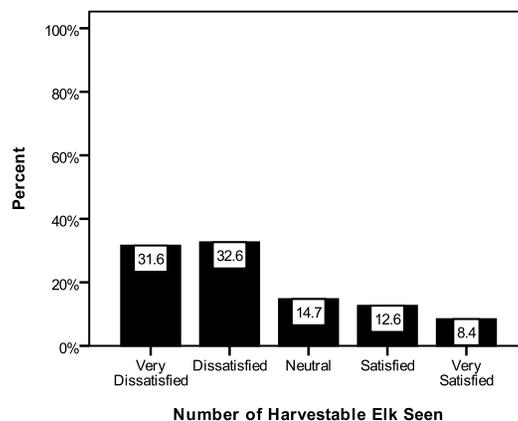
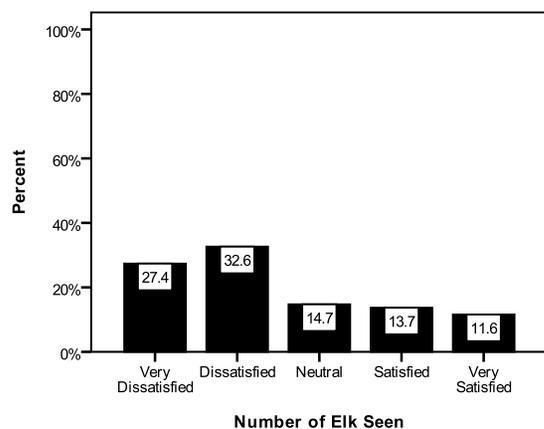
Q33: Slightly more respondents from the Boise River zone felt that the numbers of other hunters did seriously detract from a quality Elk season in 2011, compared to the state average.

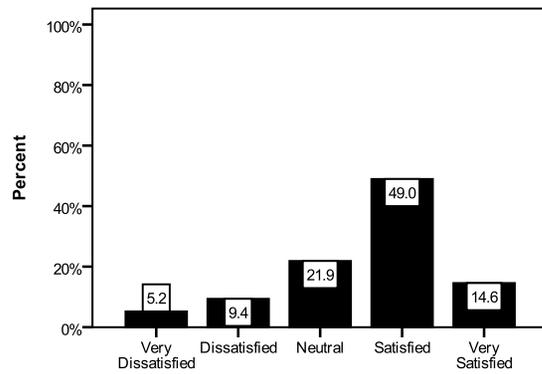
**Now, some questions about the satisfaction you experienced with Elk hunting in Idaho in 2011.**

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

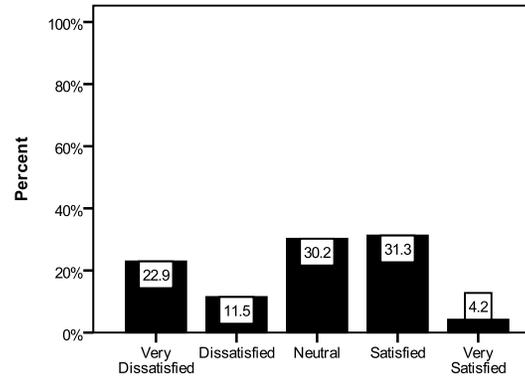


**SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE**

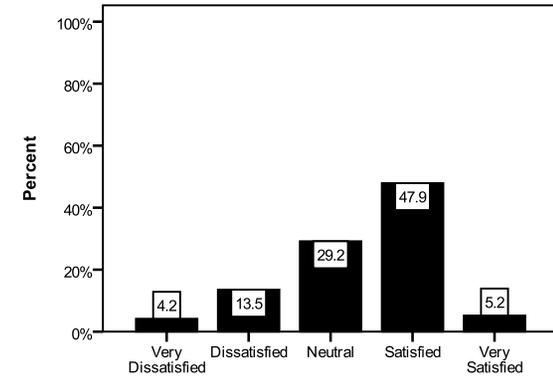




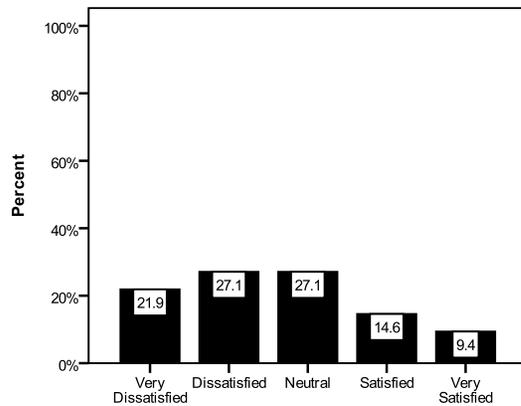
Amount of Access



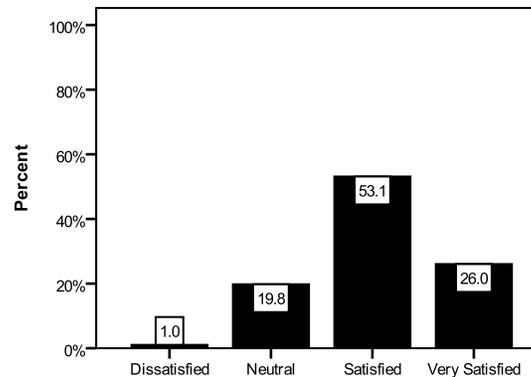
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



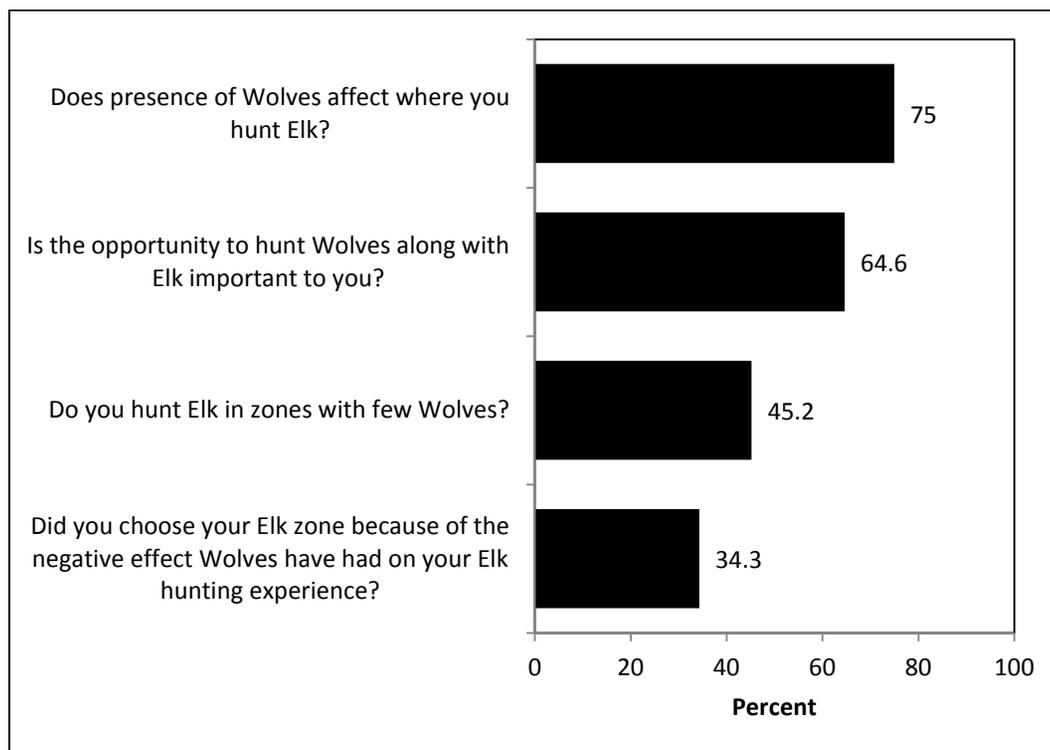
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

**Q37: Like other hunters in the state, Boise River hunters were dissatisfied with Elk numbers and harvest in 2011. However, hunters from this zone were also dissatisfied with the number of other hunters and OHVs they encountered.**

## PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

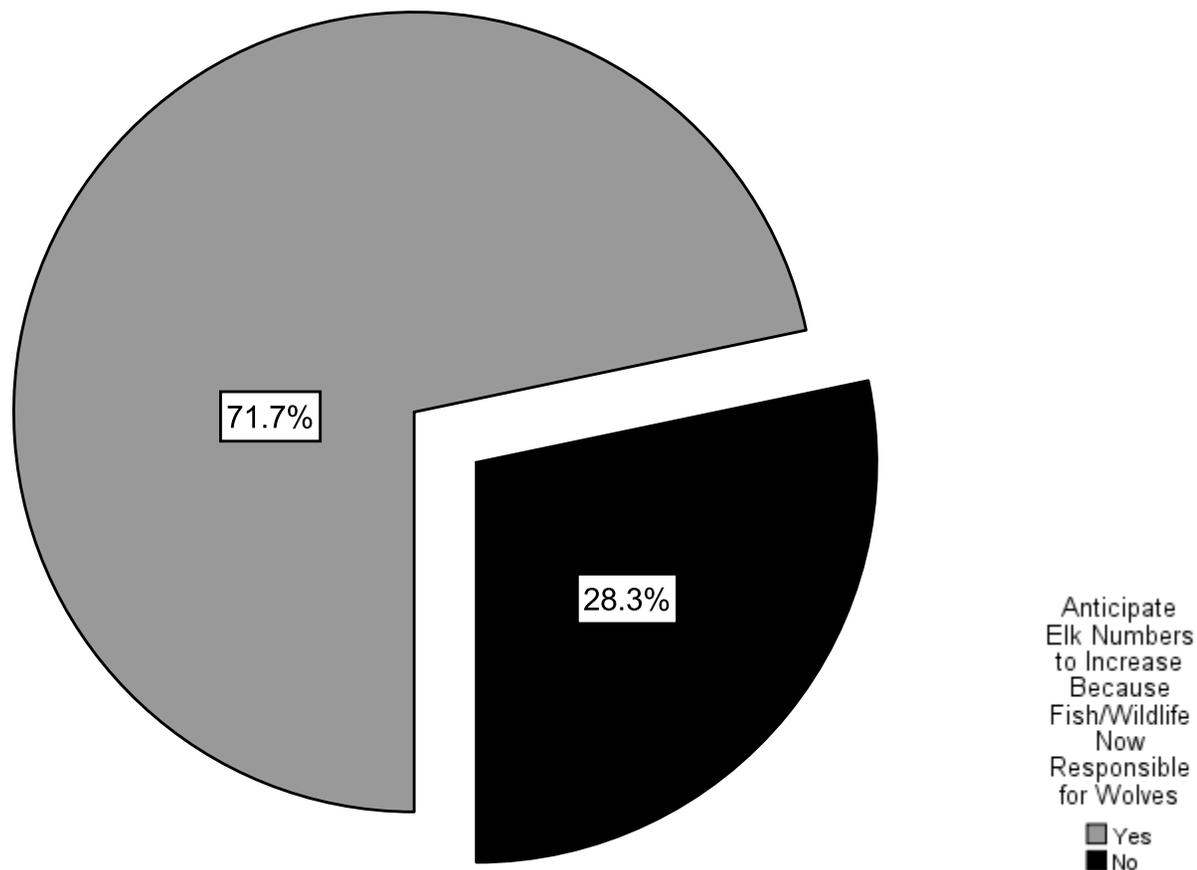
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



**Q39: The distribution of responses is fairly similar between the state average and the Boise River zone.**

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



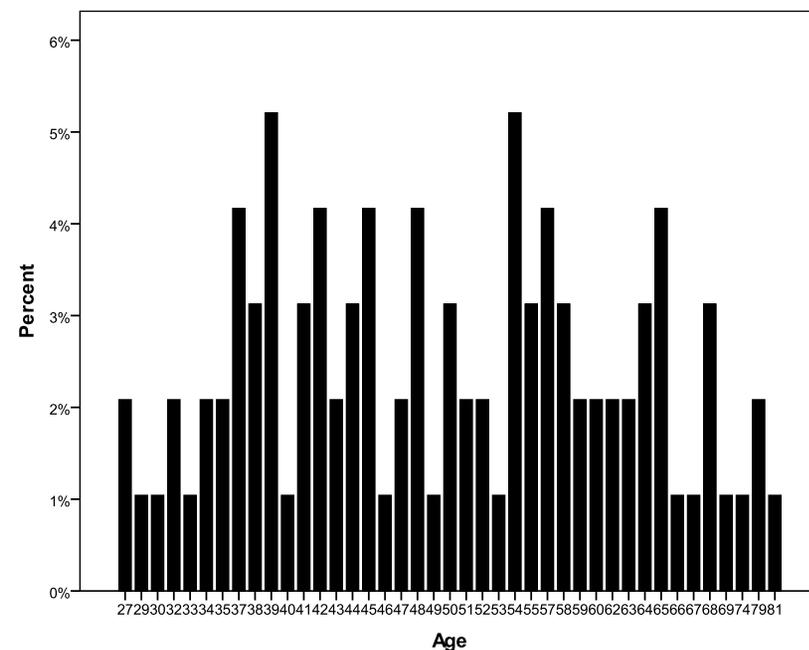
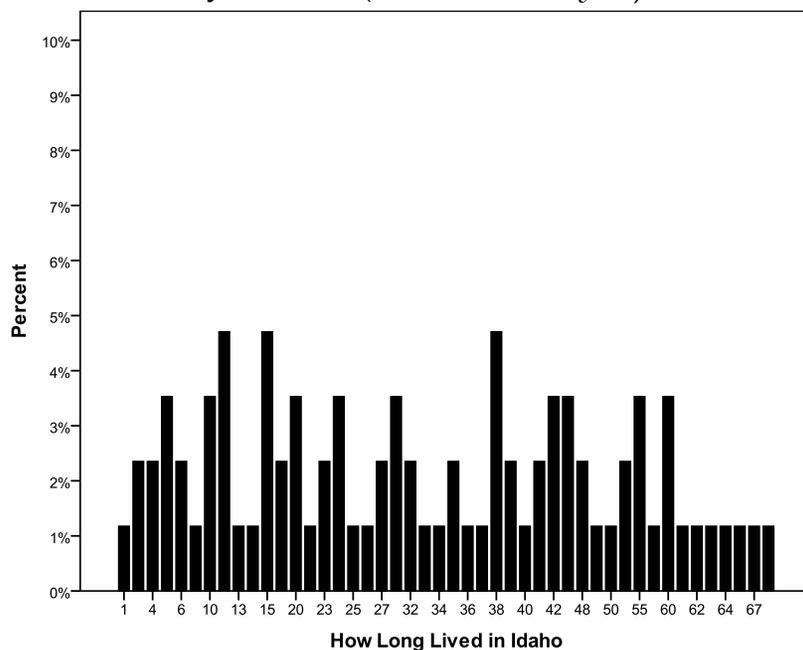
**Q40: Similar to the state average, a majority of Boise River hunters anticipate Elk numbers to increase with IDFG management of Wolves.**

# 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 state average and the Boise River zone for both Q42 and Q43.