

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



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

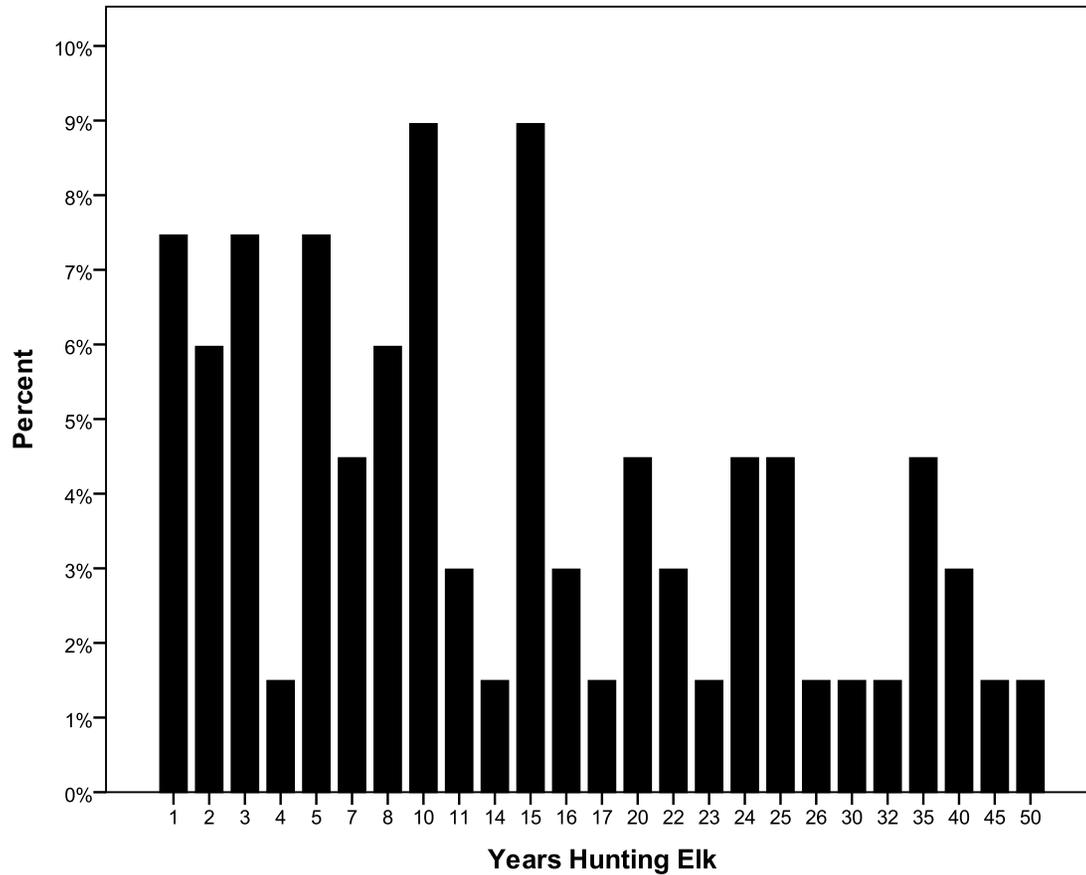
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

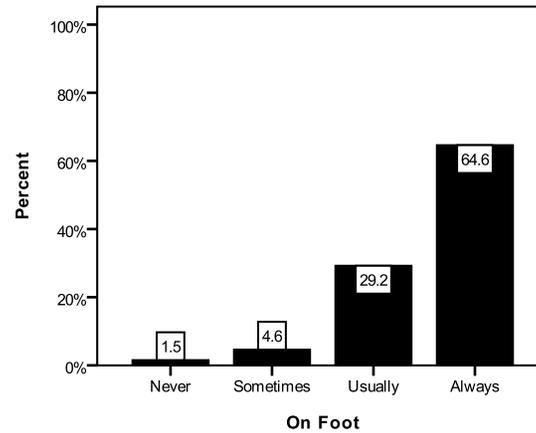
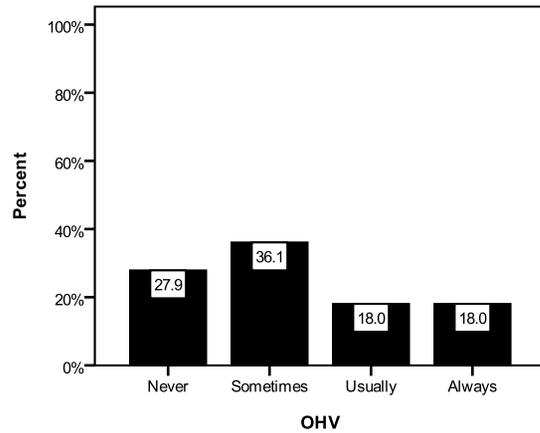
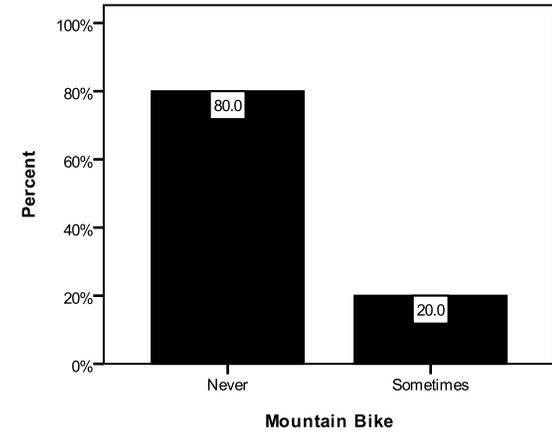
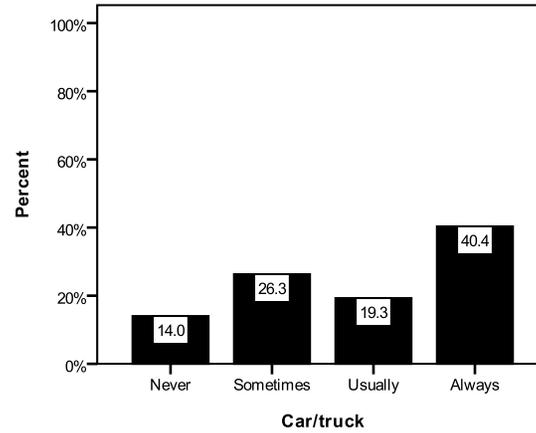
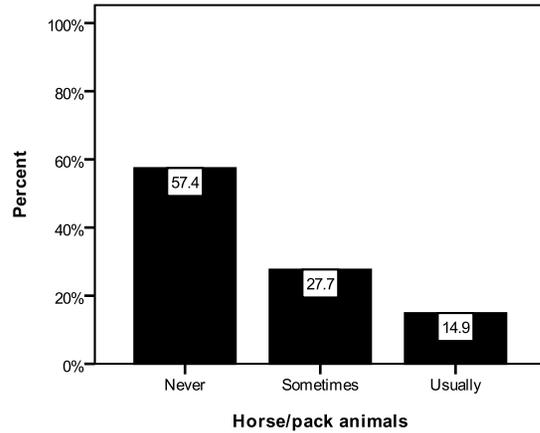
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



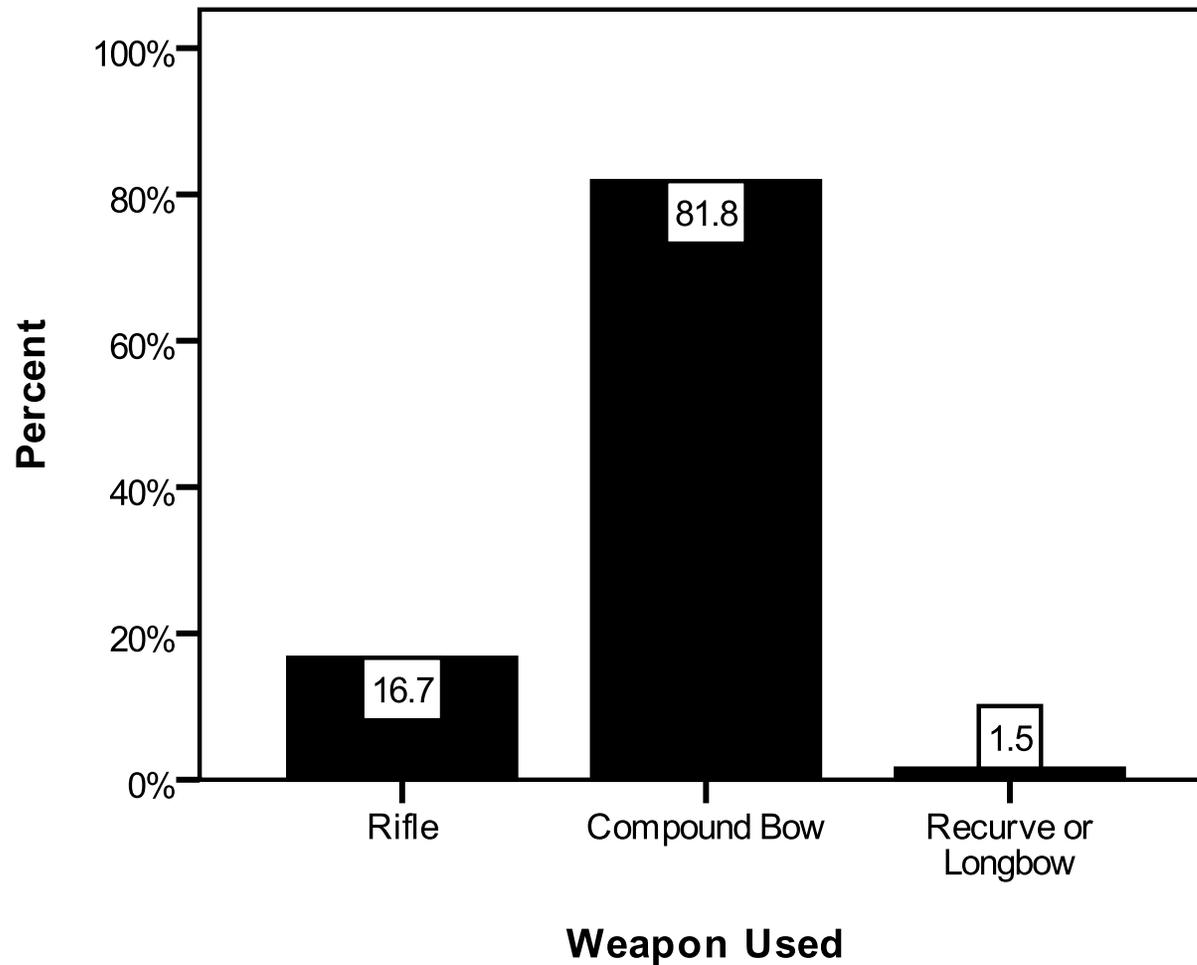
Q3: The distribution of responses is similar between the Brownlee zone and the state average.

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?



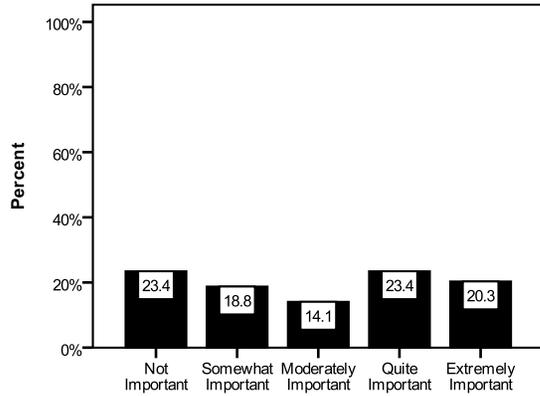
Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone. Hunters in the zone use OHVs slightly more often than other hunters in the state.

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

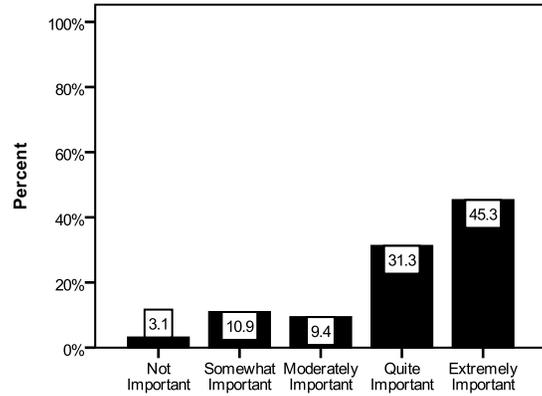


Q8: Although rifle and compound bow are the most typically used weapons as well among the state average, almost 50% more hunters in the Brownlee zone use compound bows, in comparison with the average. Rifles are also used 40.5% less among hunters in this zone.

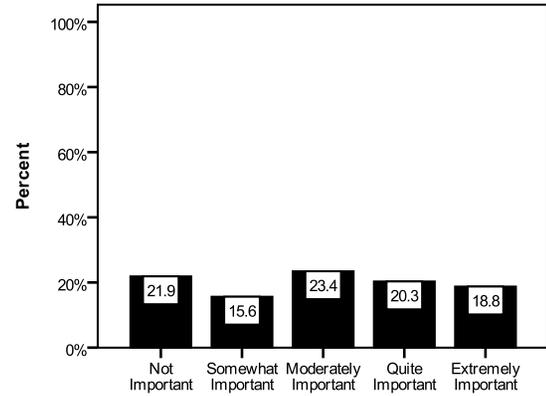
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



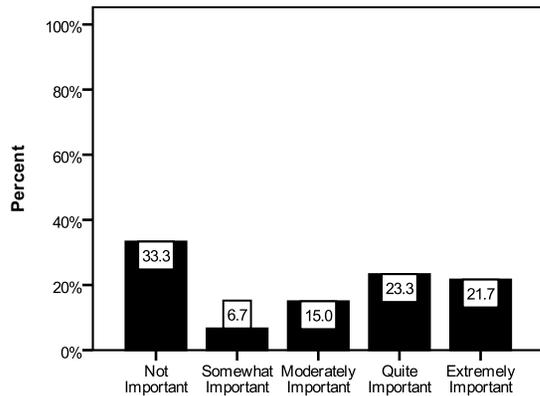
Increase Challenge



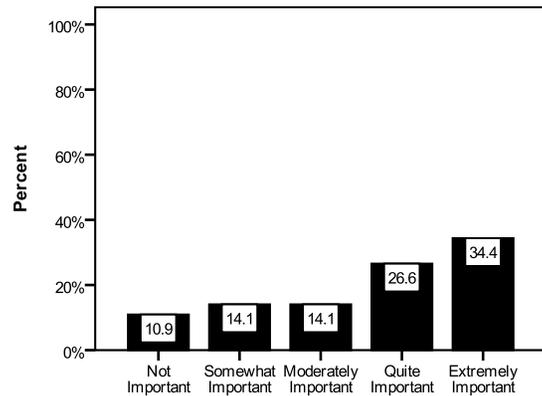
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



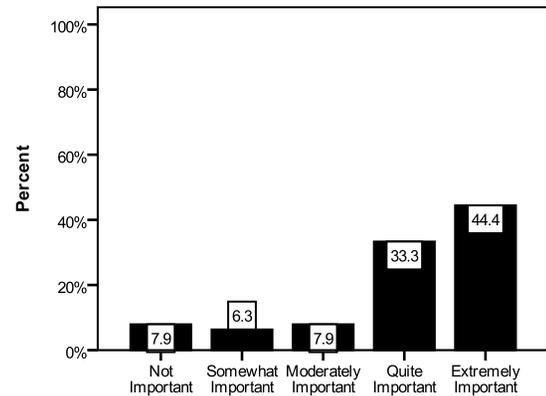
Improve Chance of Harvesting



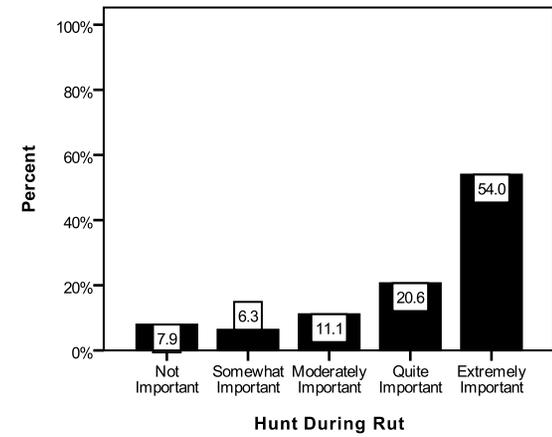
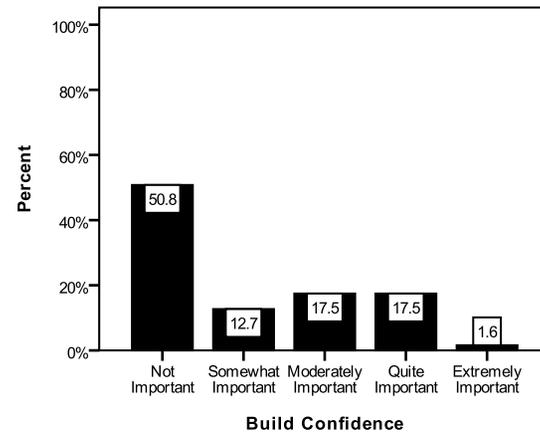
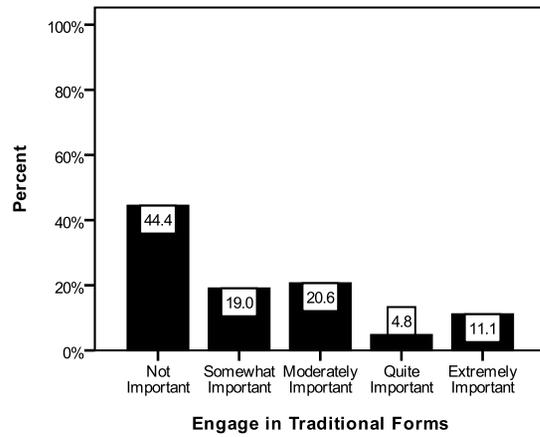
Expand Hunting Season



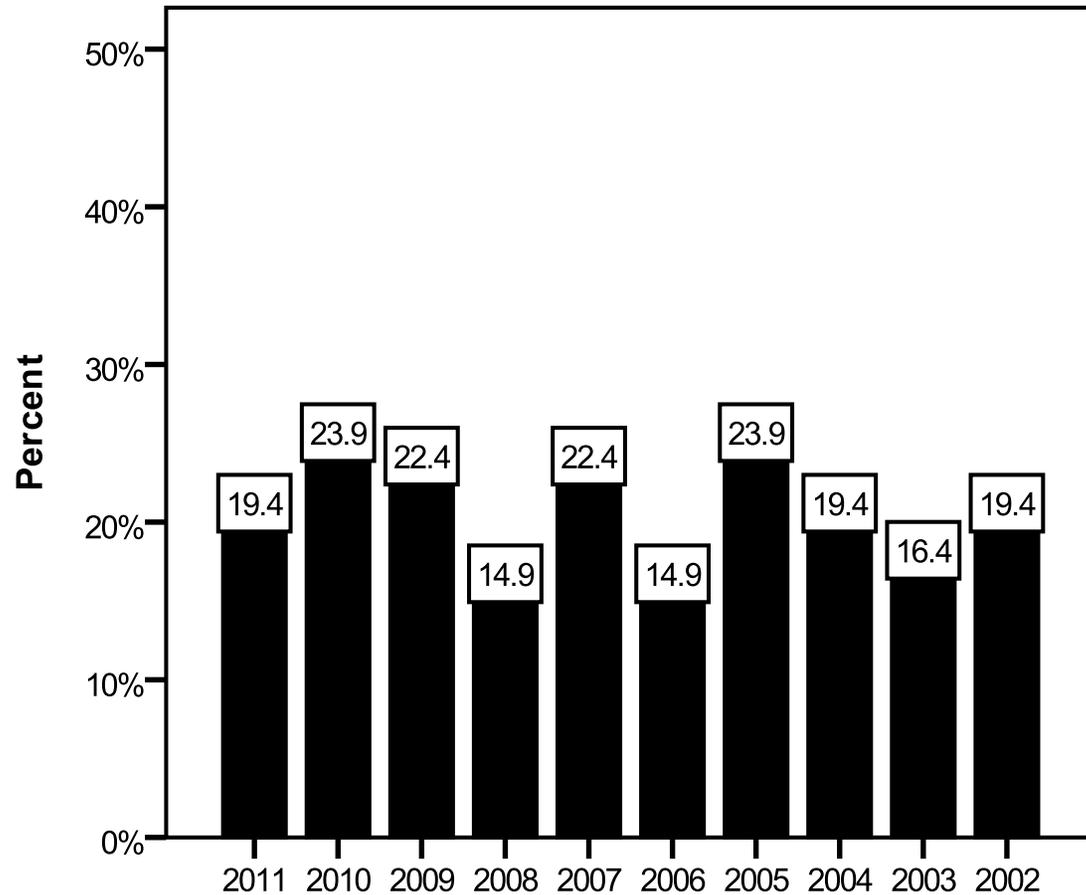
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

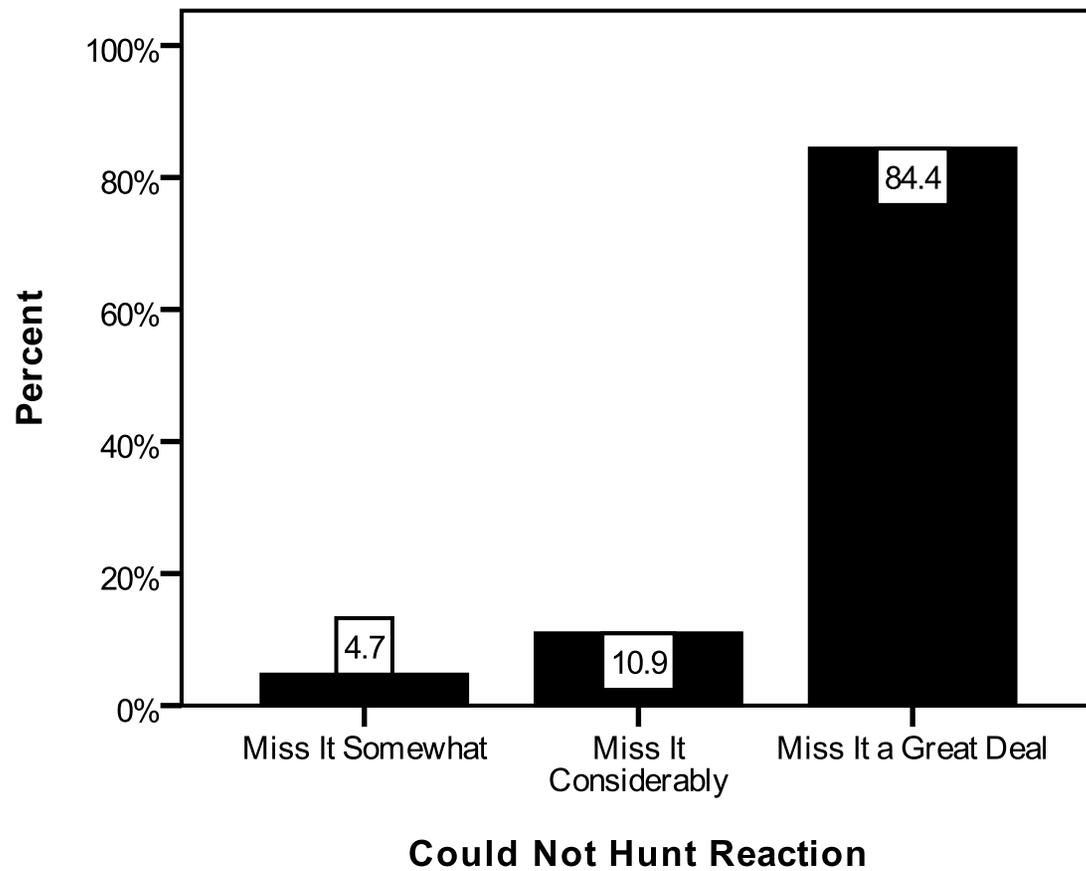


Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone, but hunters in this zone most choose to hunt during these seasons to hunt in zones where rifles are limited.

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

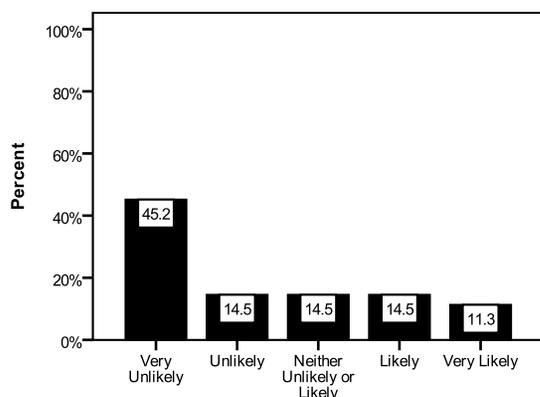
Q11: Harvest rates in the Brownlee zone have been traditionally lower most years than the average rate of the state in the past 10 years.

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

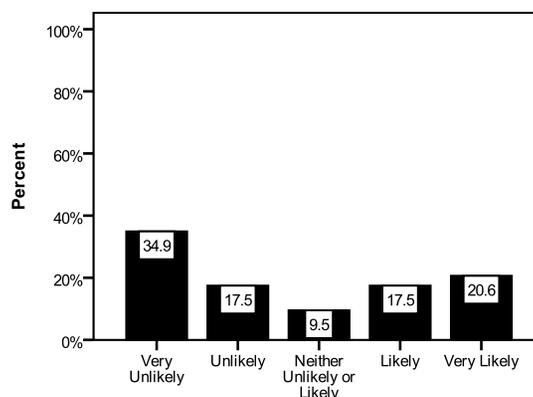


Q12: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone.

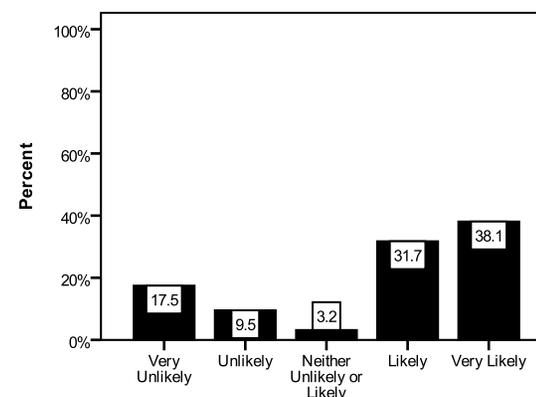
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



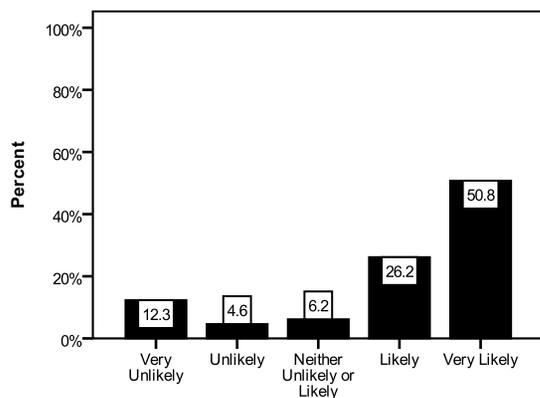
Hunt Waterfowl More



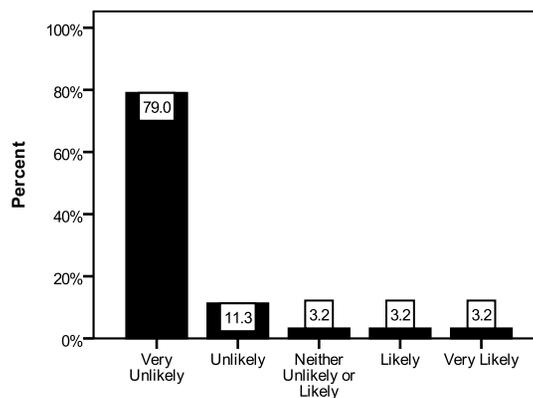
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



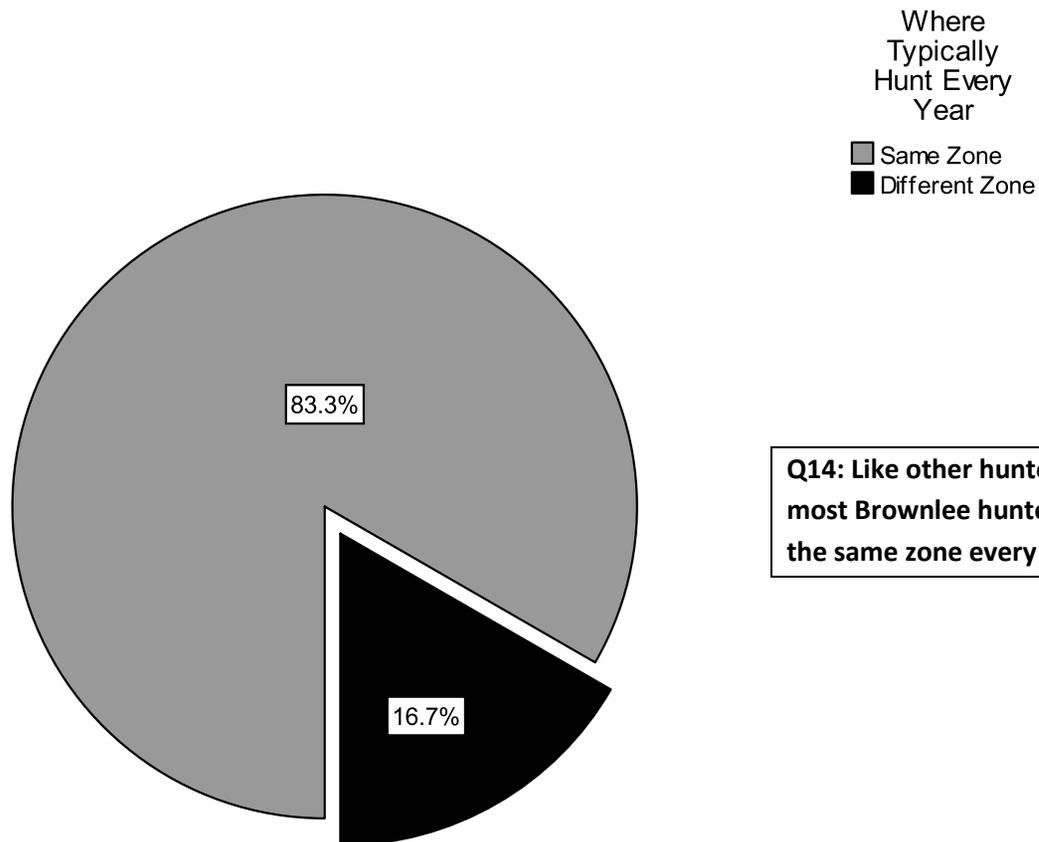
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

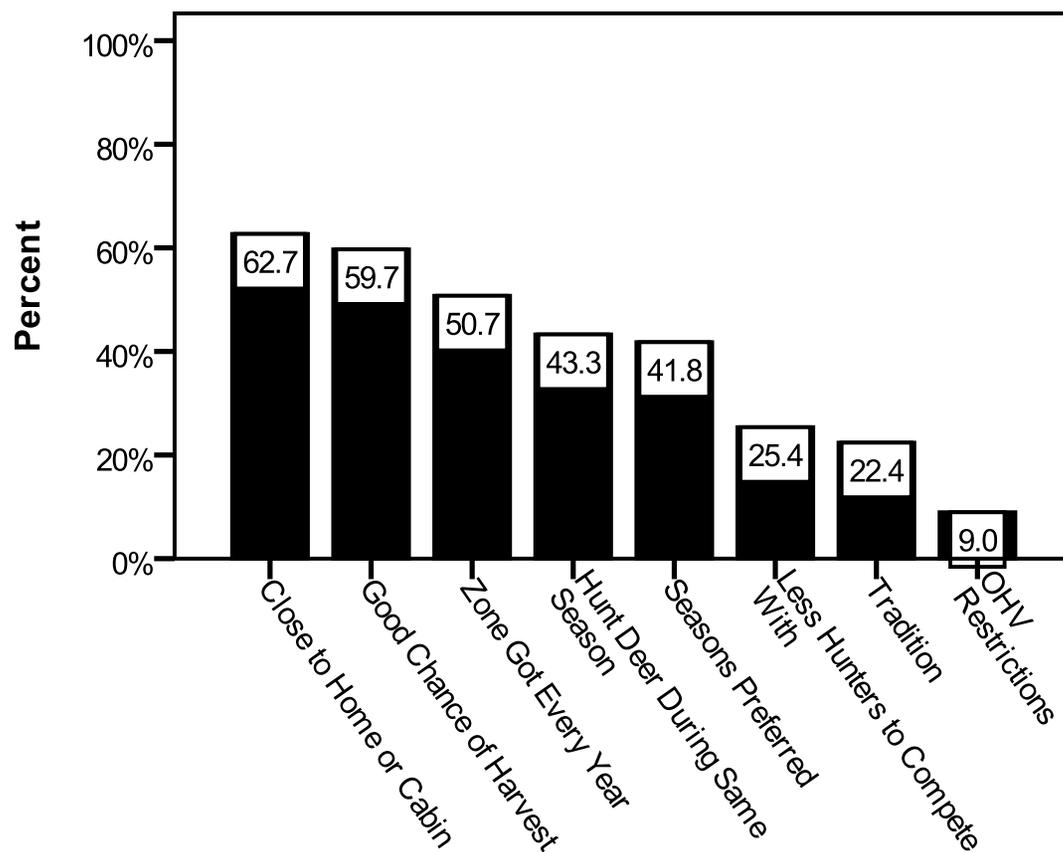
Q13: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone. Hunters in this zone are more likely to spend more time hunting other game or to hunt Elk in other states

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



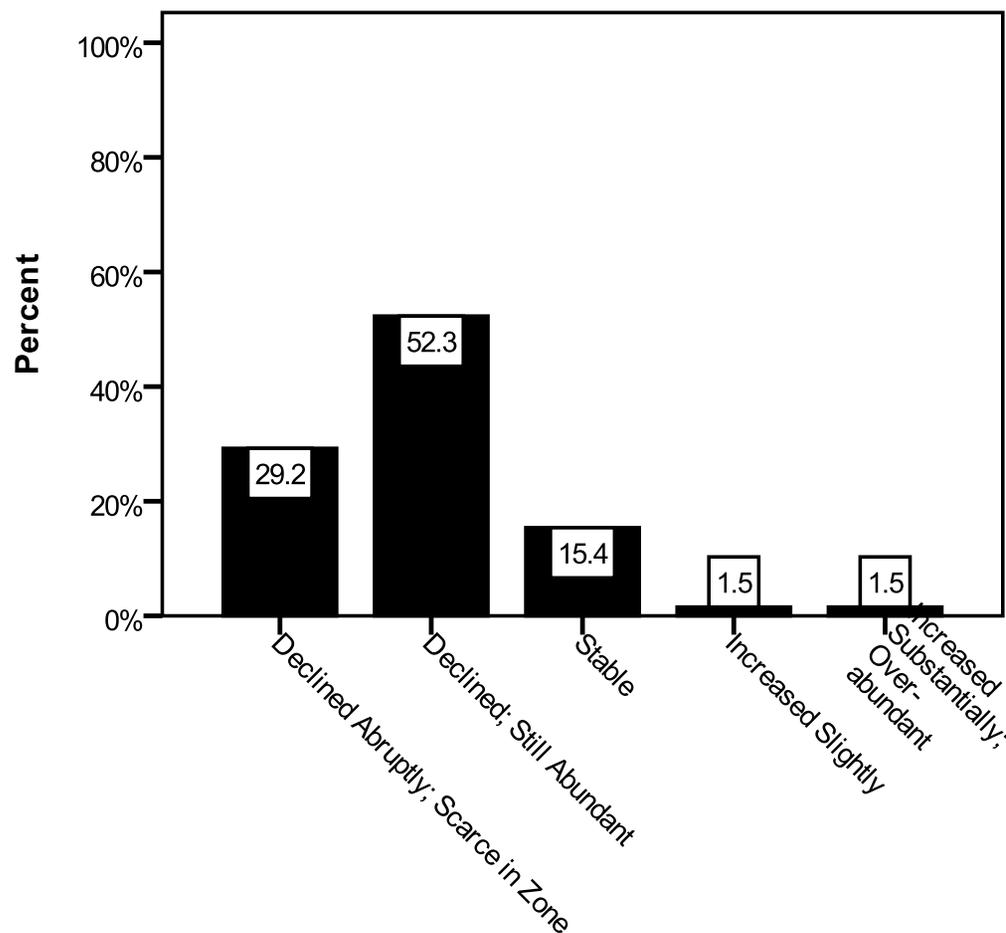
Q14: Like other hunters in the state, most Brownlee hunters typically hunt in the same zone every year.

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



Q16: The response distribution is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone. Over half of Brownlee hunters feel that a good chance of harvest makes a zone more desirable, which is shared with only about a third of hunters among 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)

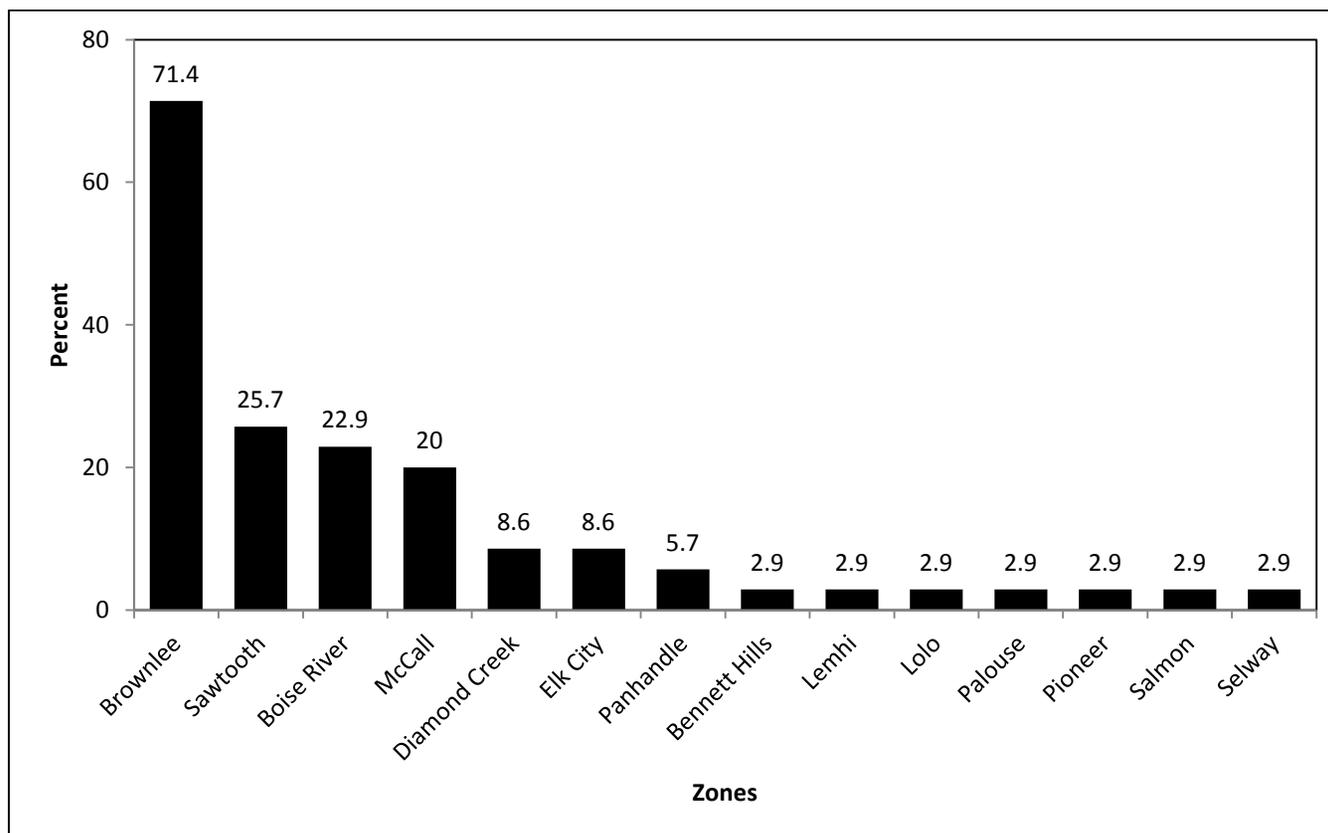


Q17: Like the state average, Brownlee hunters perceived that Elk numbers had declined in 2011, but 21.6% more feel that Elk are still abundant, as opposed to being scarce in the zone.

Perceptions of Elk Numbers

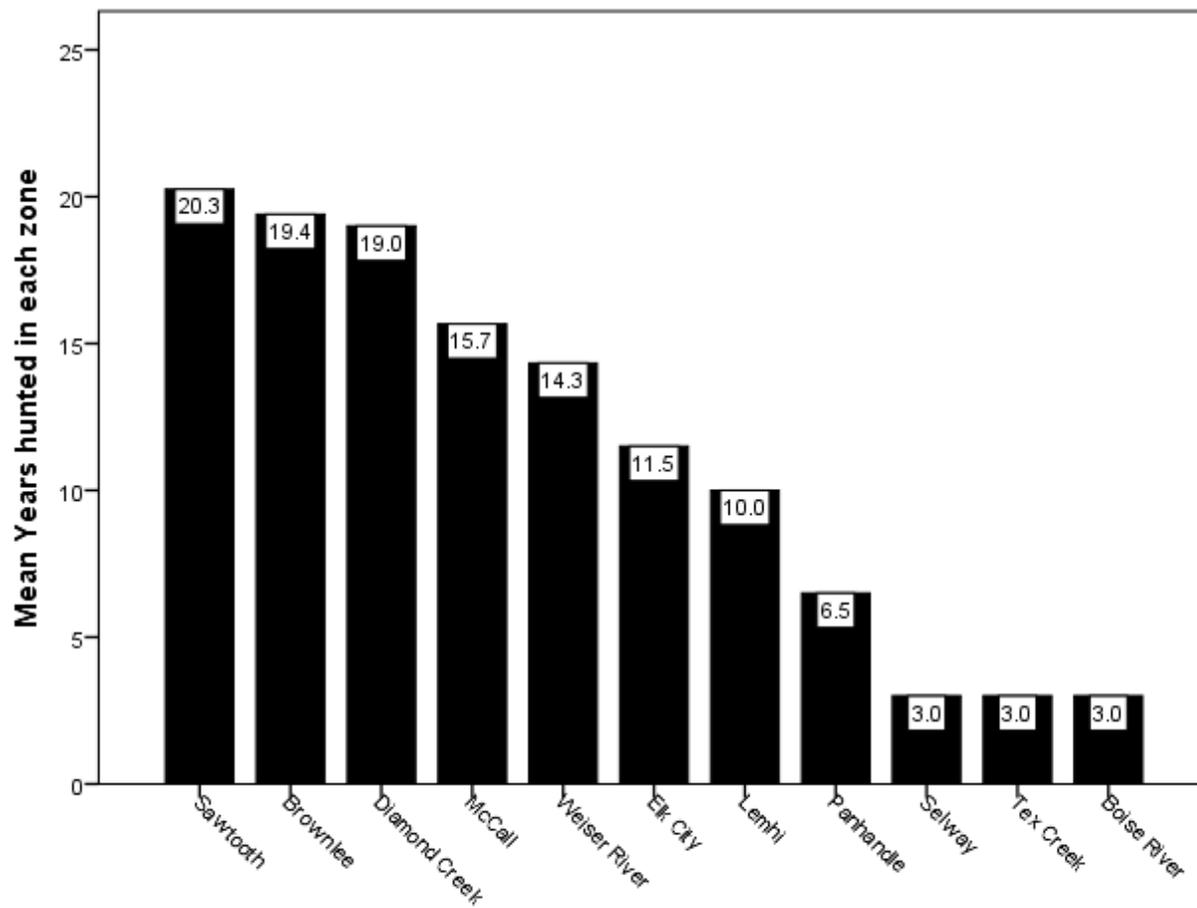
18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years, please list them below.

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



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

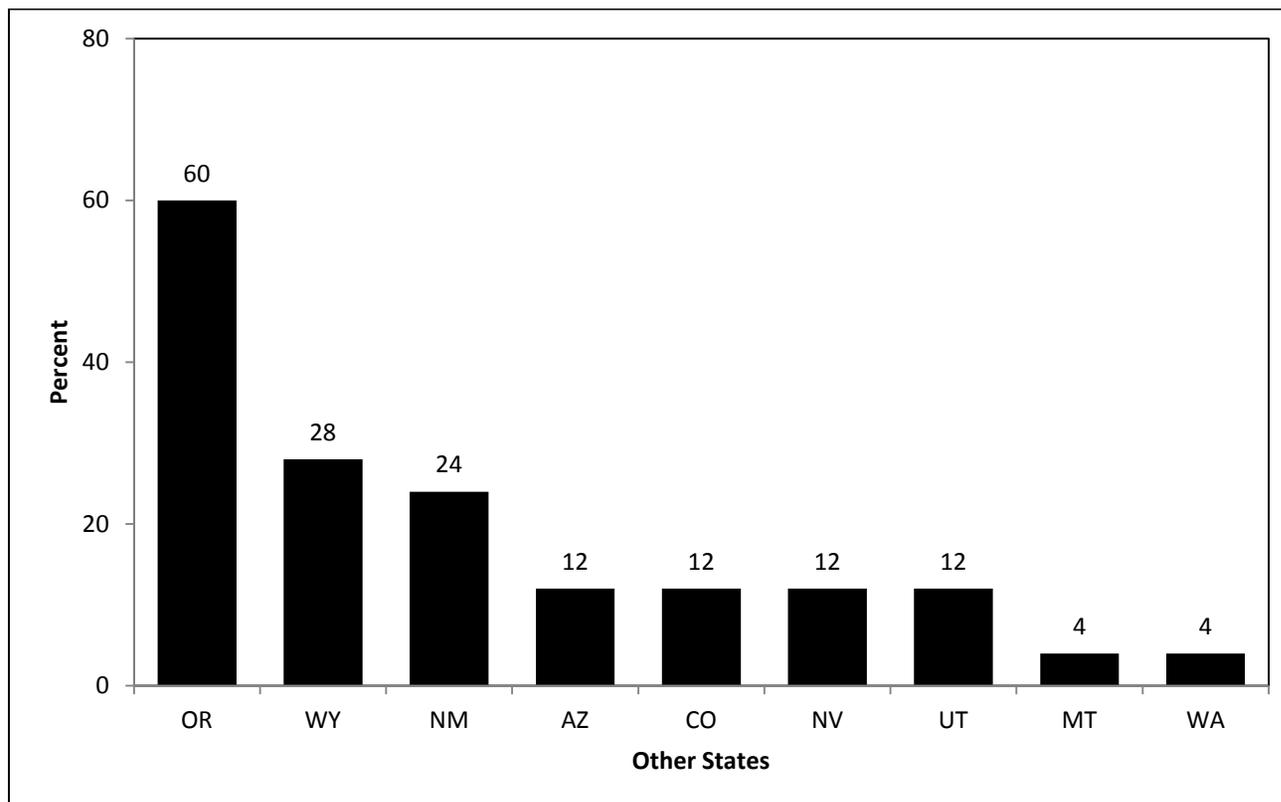
20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: The Sawtooth, Brownlee, and Diamond Creek zones have been hunted the longest among respondents.

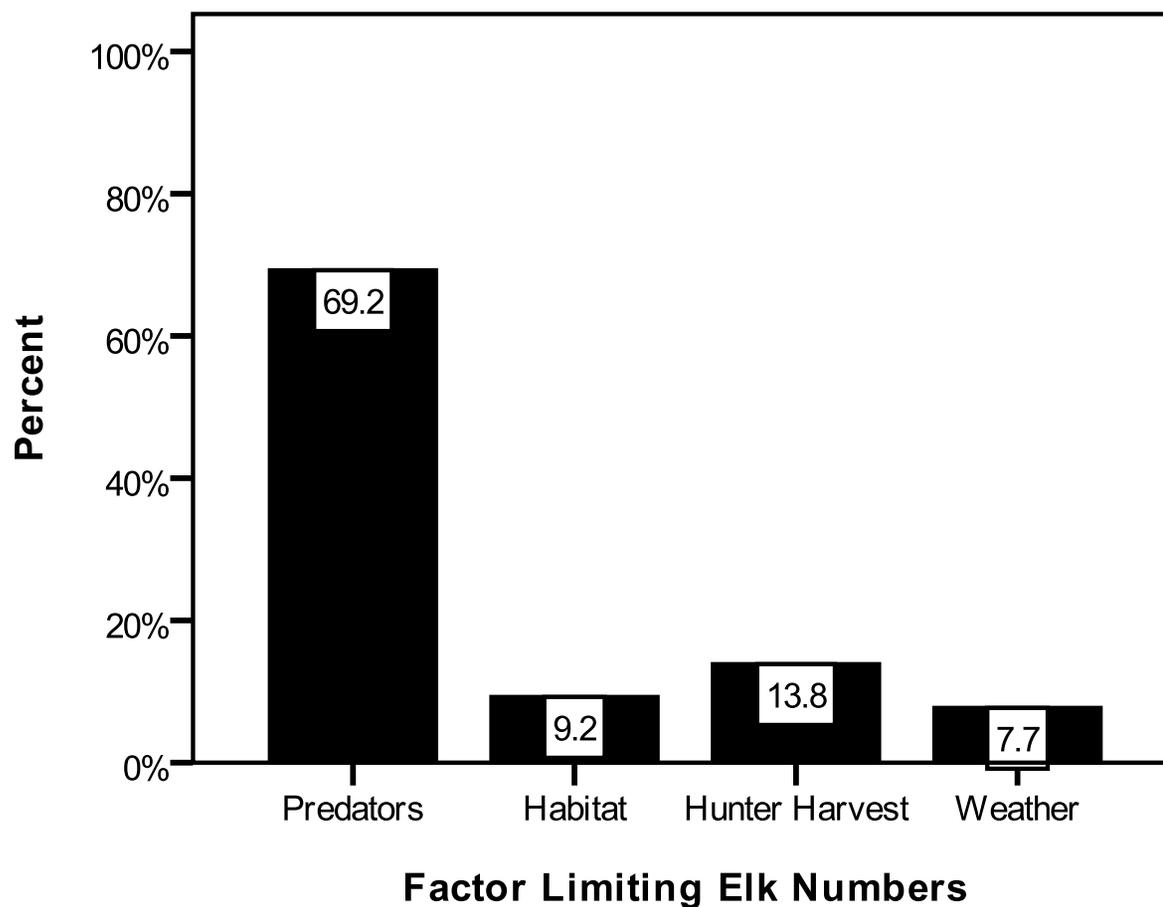
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: Oregon has been the most popular location to hunt. Almost two-thirds of Brownlee hunters who hunt out-of-state have hunted there.

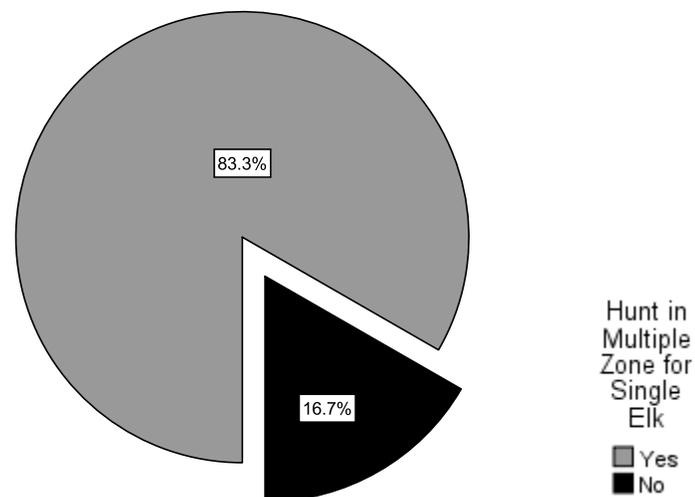
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



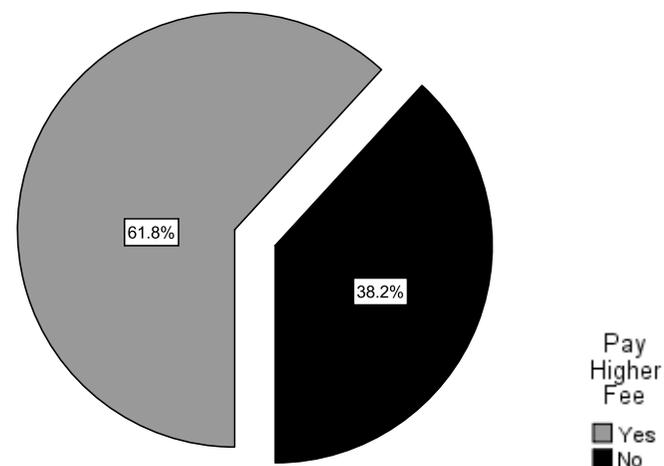
Q22: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Brownlee hunters attribute limited Elk numbers to being caused by predators.

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

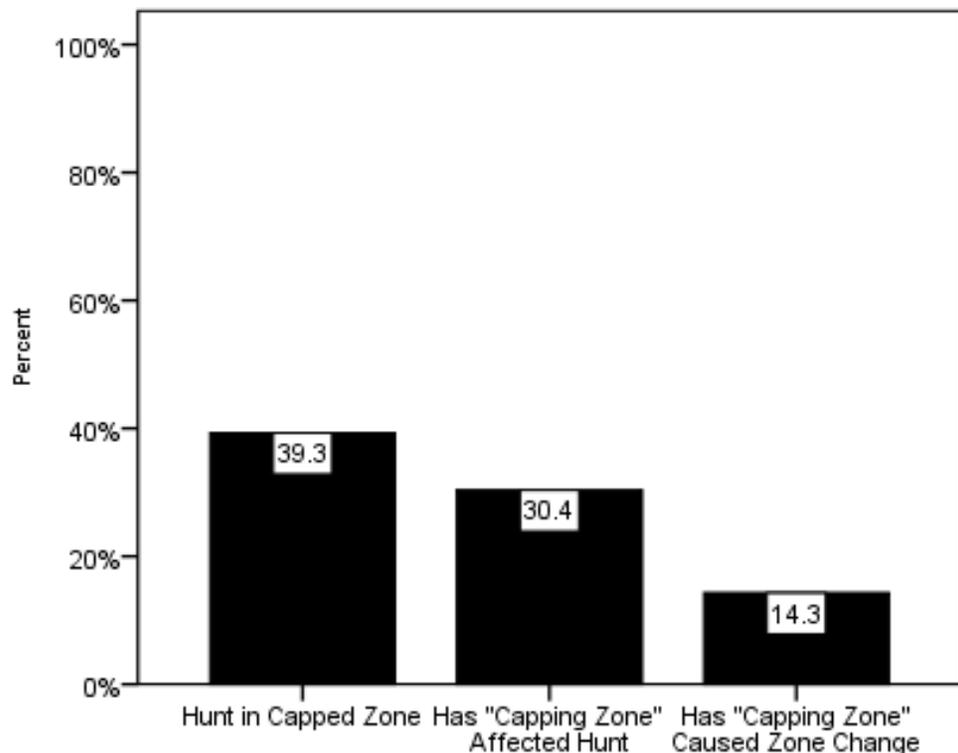
Like other hunters in the state, a large majority of hunter in the Brownlee zone would like to be able to hunt in multiple zones for a single Elk in a year. Also, almost two-thirds would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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)

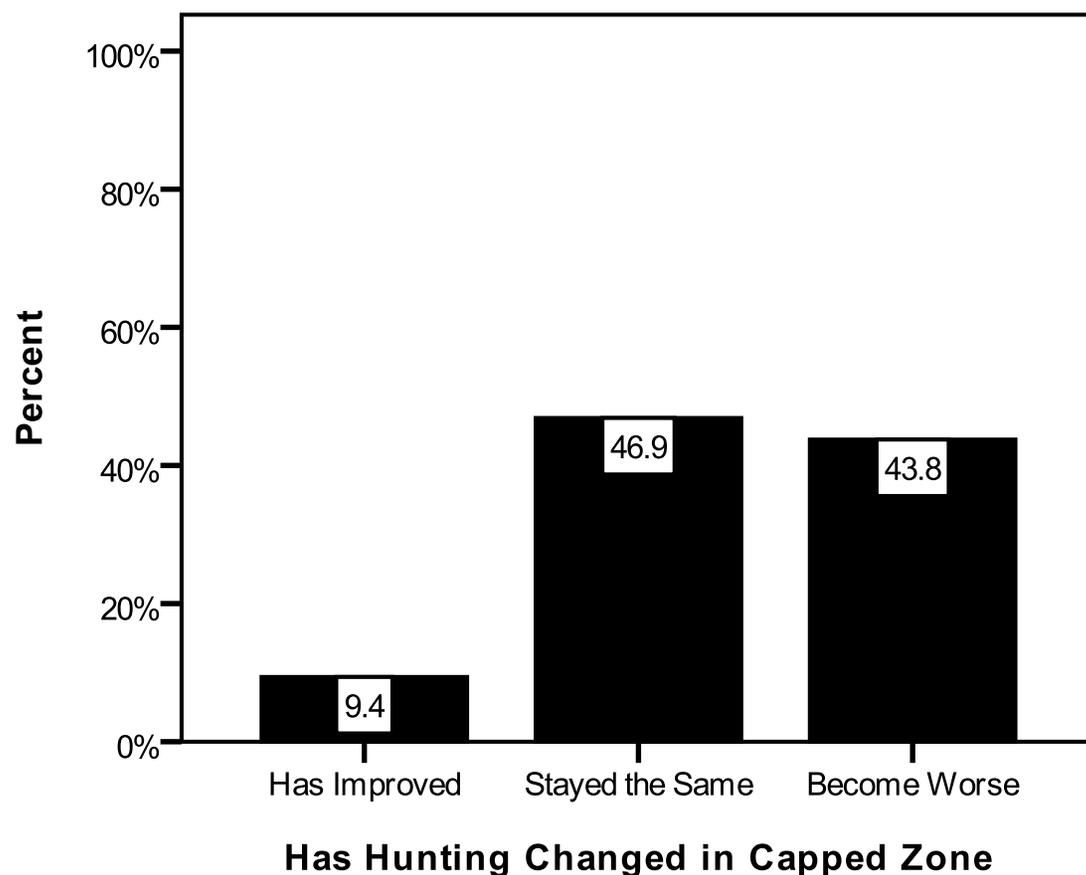


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone.

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

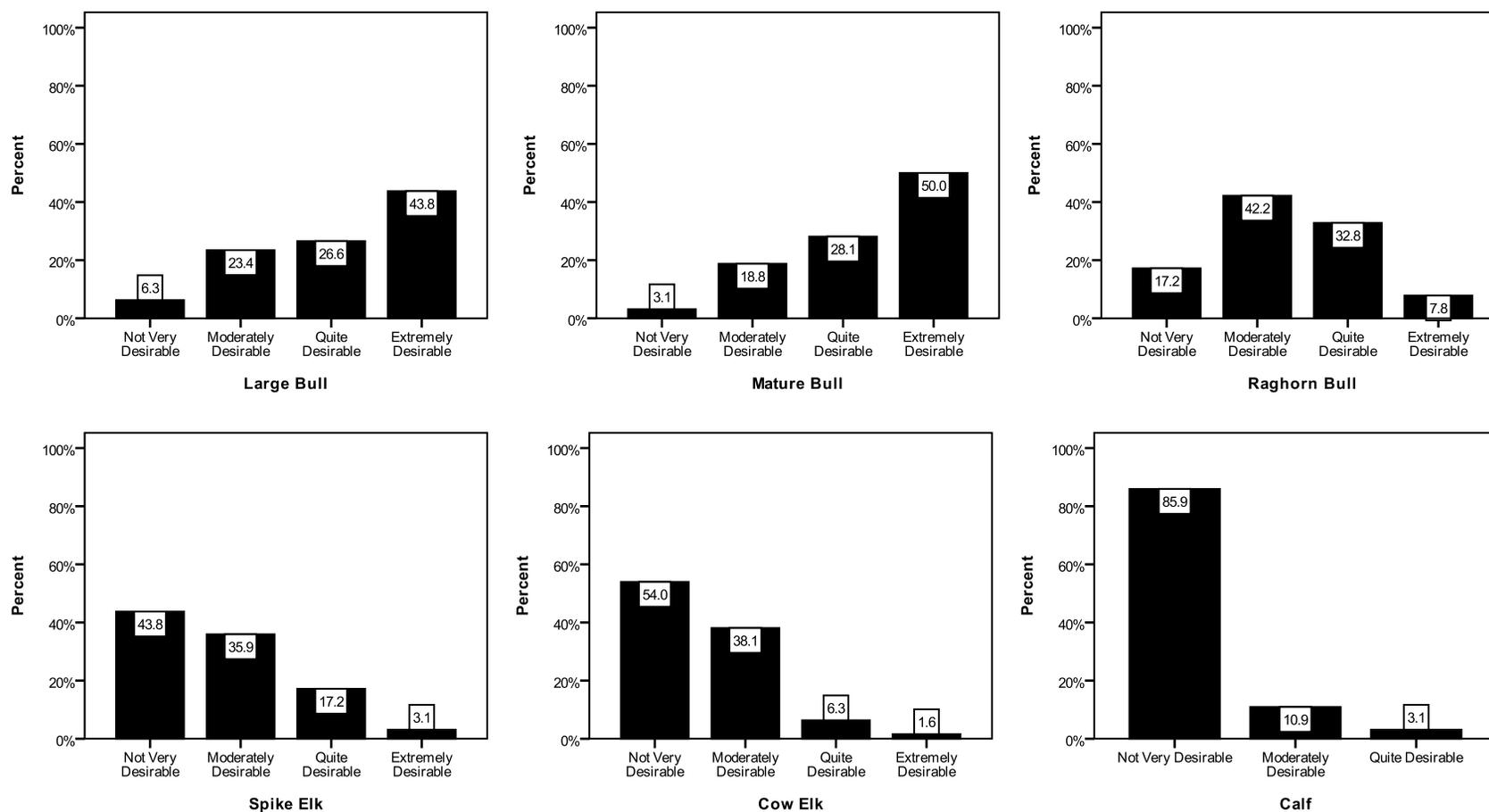


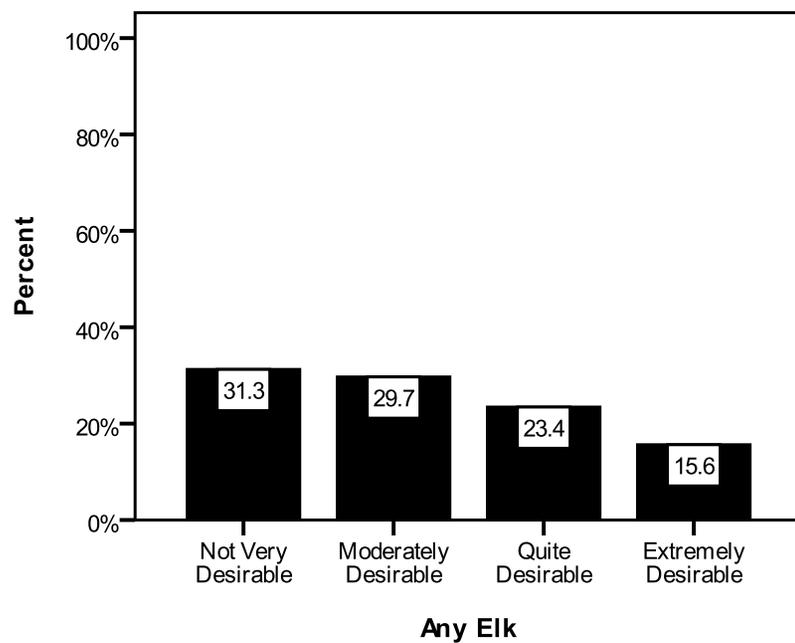
Q26: Compared to the state average, slightly more Brownlee hunters feel that hunting has stayed the same in capped zones, though many feel that it also has become worse.

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.

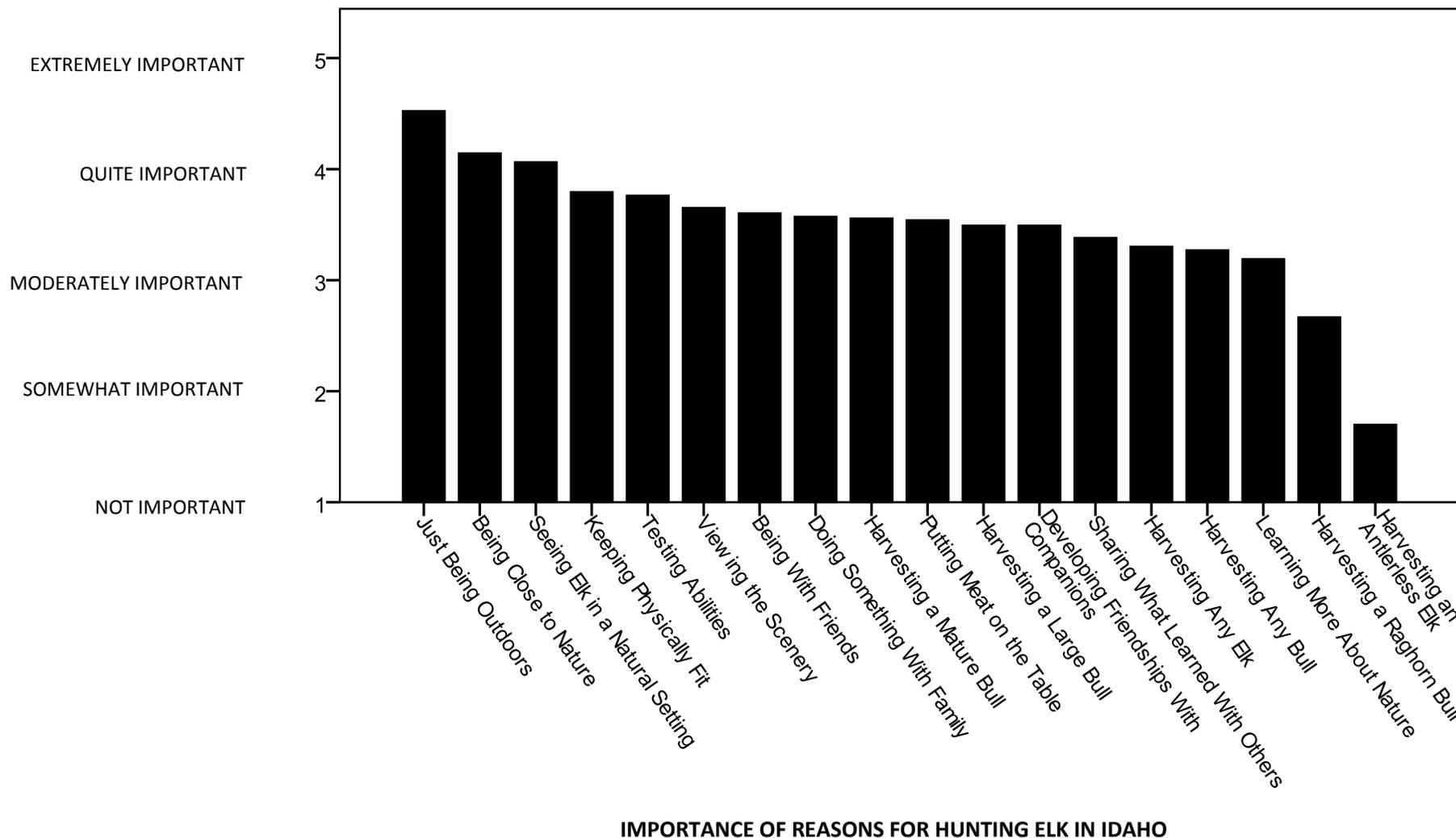
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?

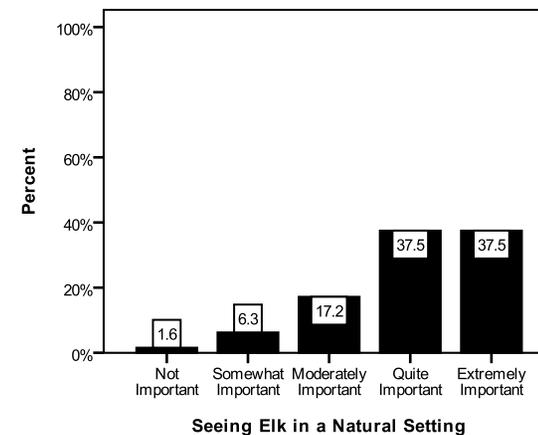
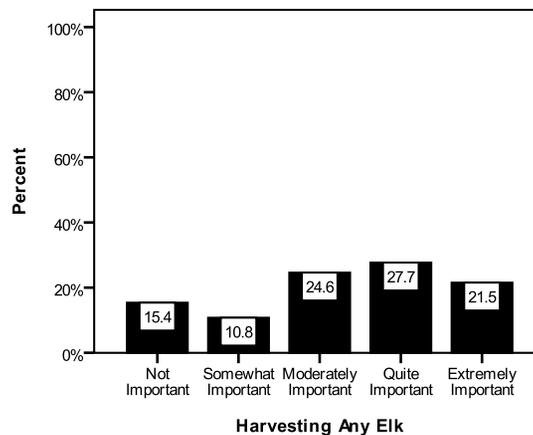
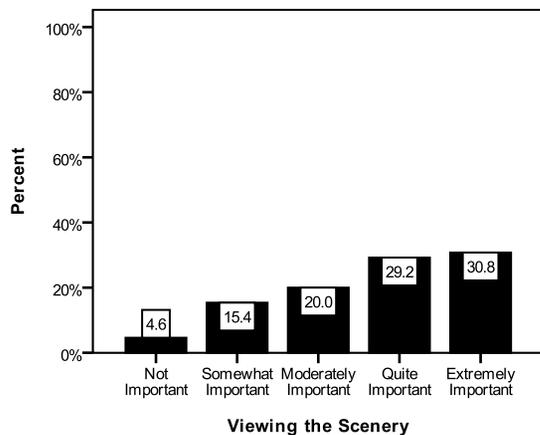
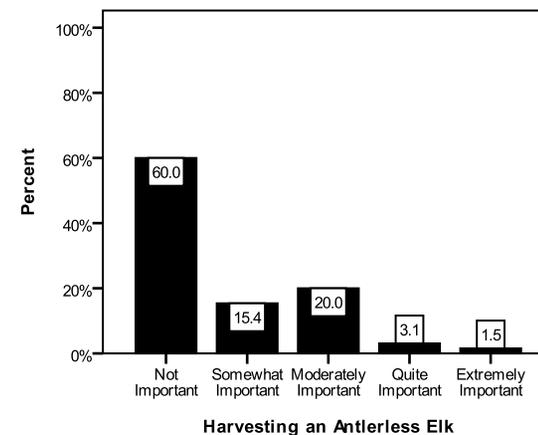
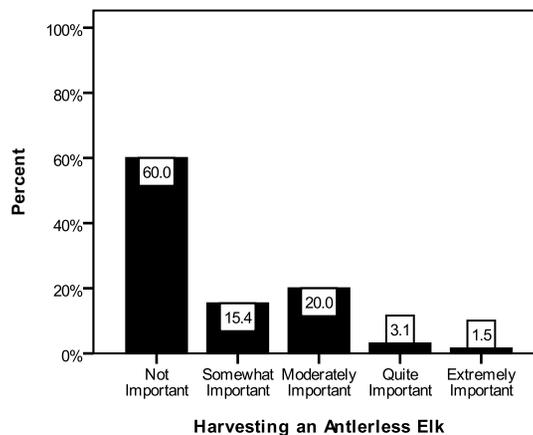
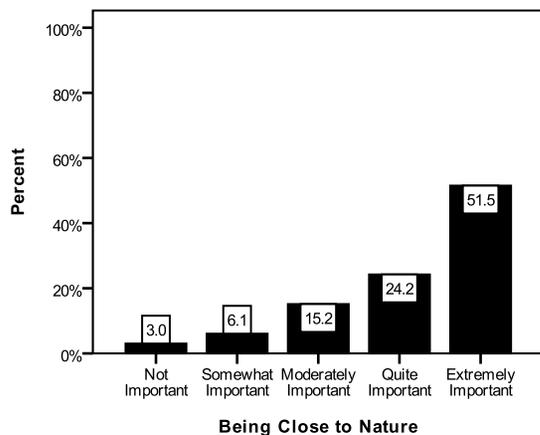


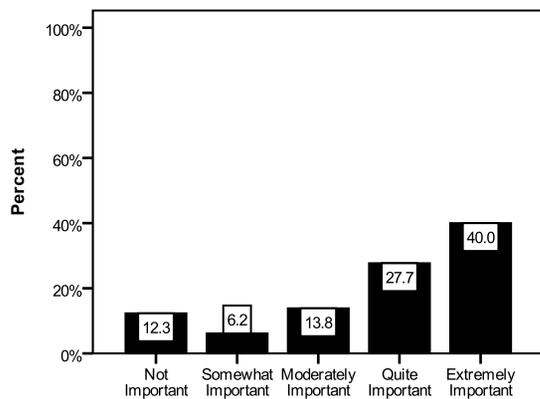


Q27: Similar to the state average, hunters in the Brownlee zone reported that it is more desirable to hunt larger and more mature Elk rather than just any Elk (including spikes and cows).

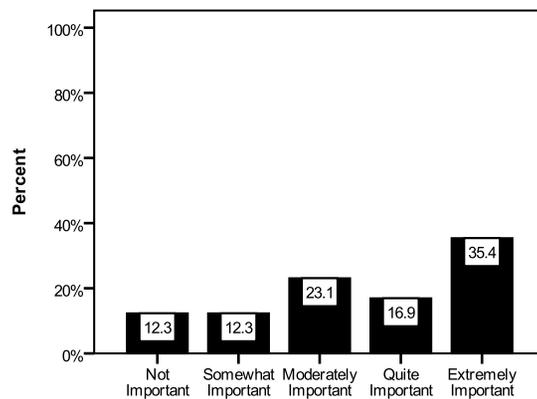
28. Below is a list of possible reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho. How important to you is each of the following reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho?



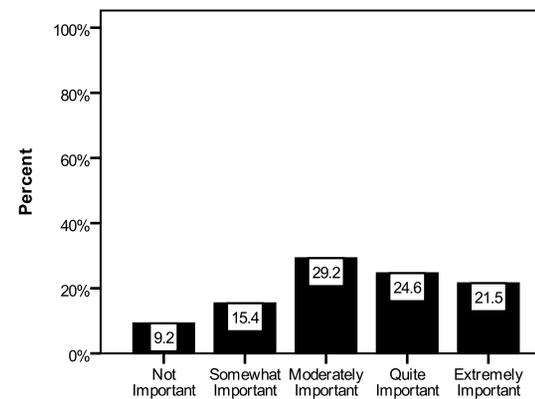




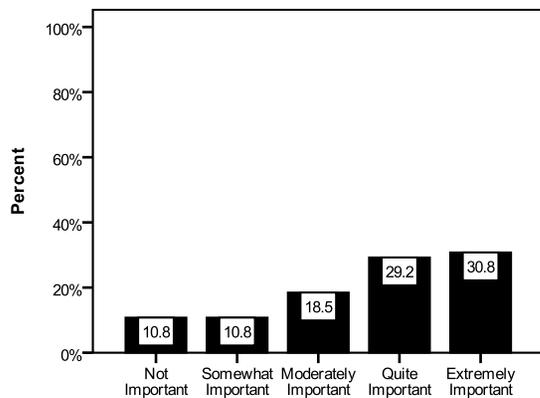
Testing Abilities



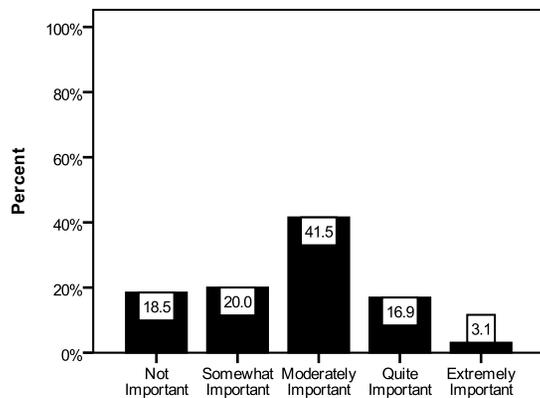
Harvesting a Large Bull



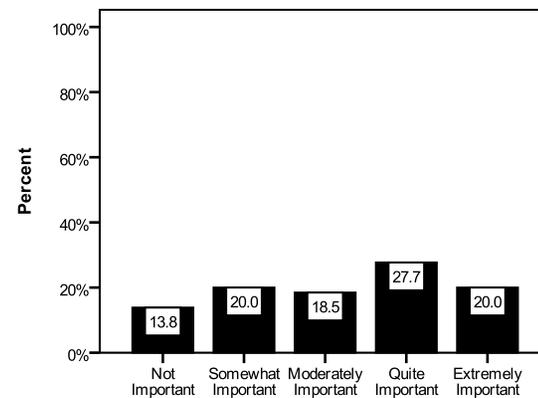
Sharing What Learned With Others



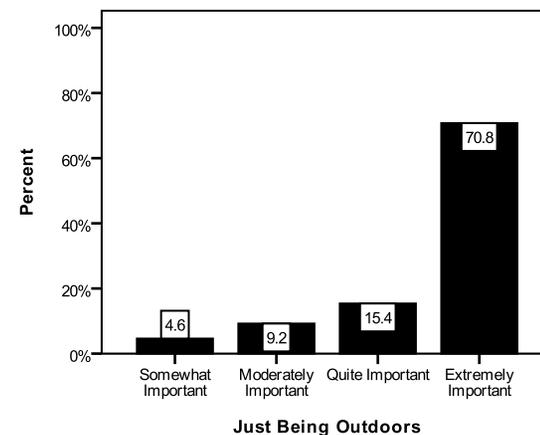
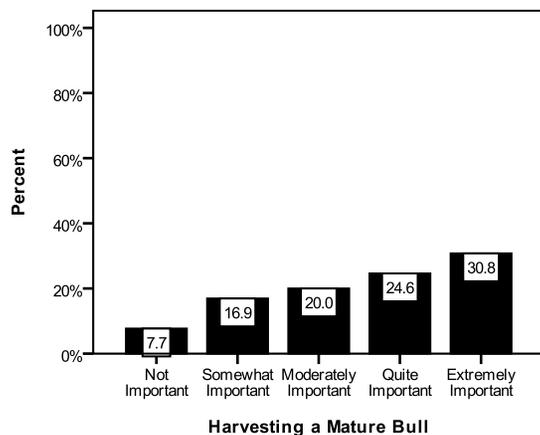
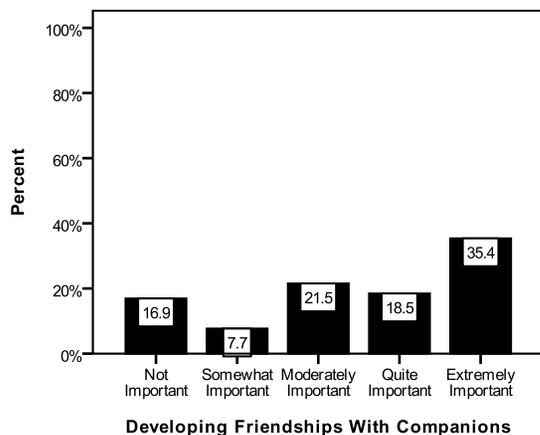
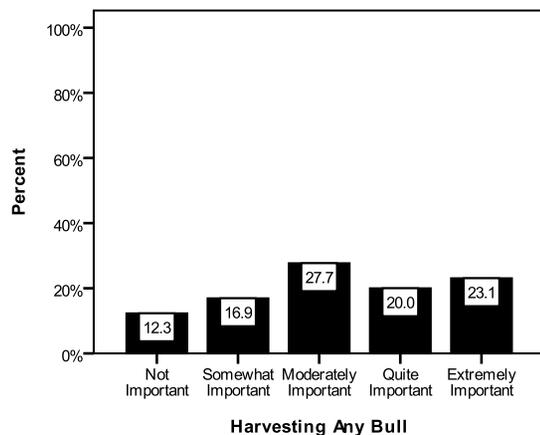
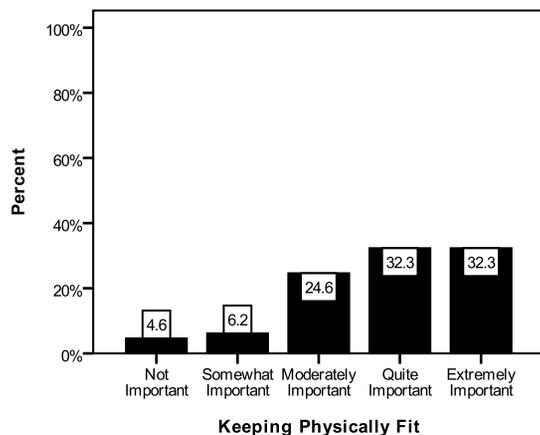
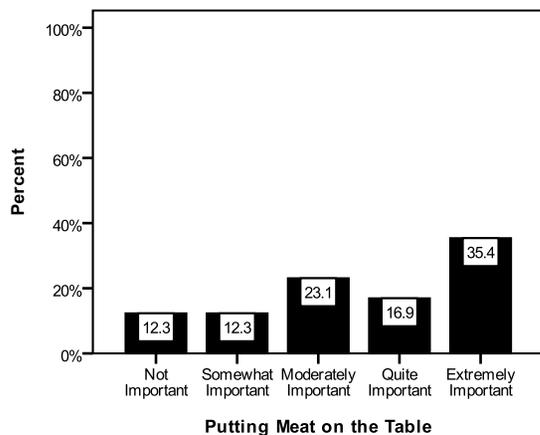
Being With Friends



Harvesting a Raghorn Bull



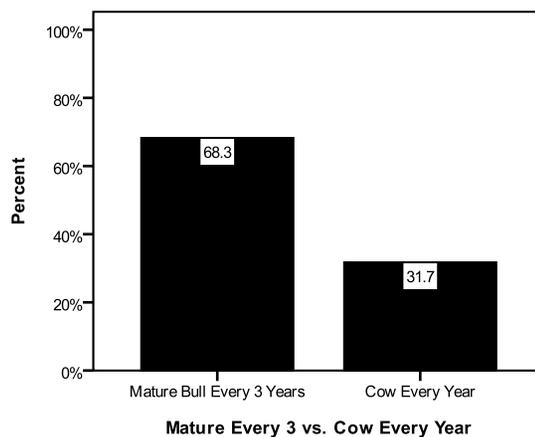
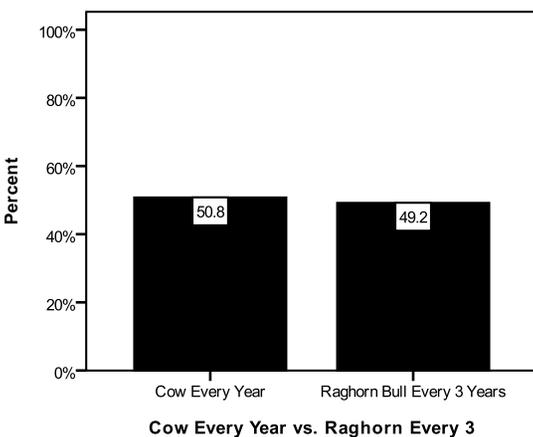
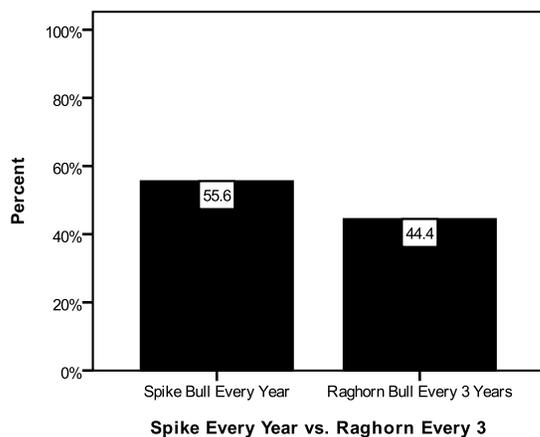
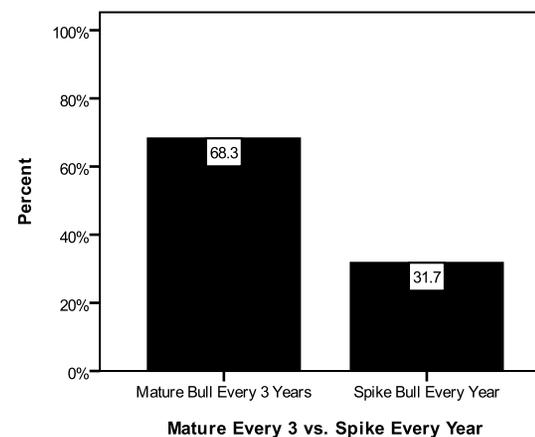
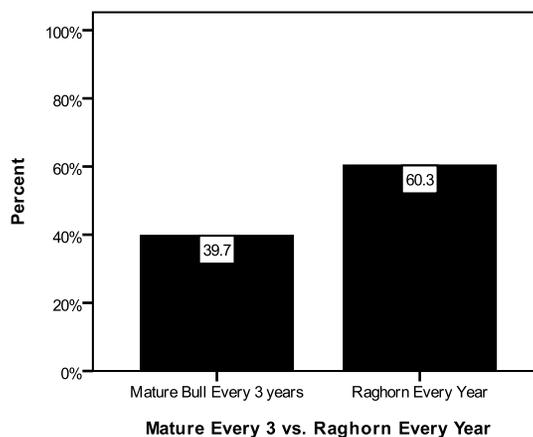
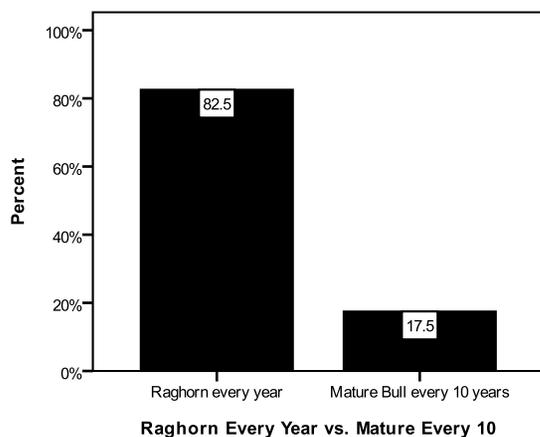
Learning More About Nature

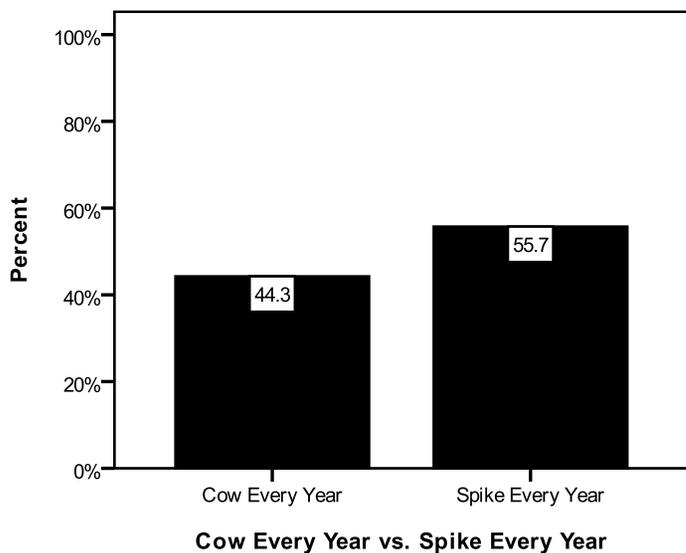


Q28: Although the top three reasons for Brownlee hunters to hunt Elk in Idaho were the same as the state average, they rounded out their top five with keeping physically fit and testing abilities, as opposed to viewing the scenery and being with friends.

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.

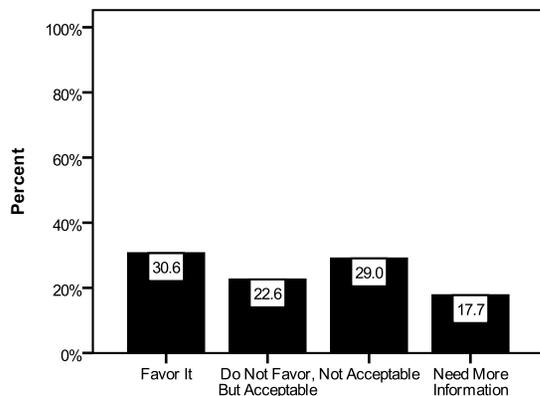




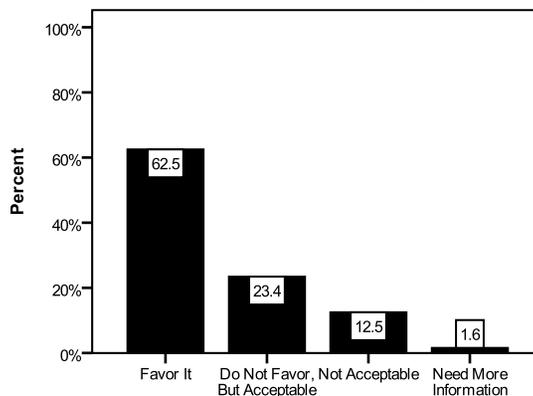
Q32: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone.

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

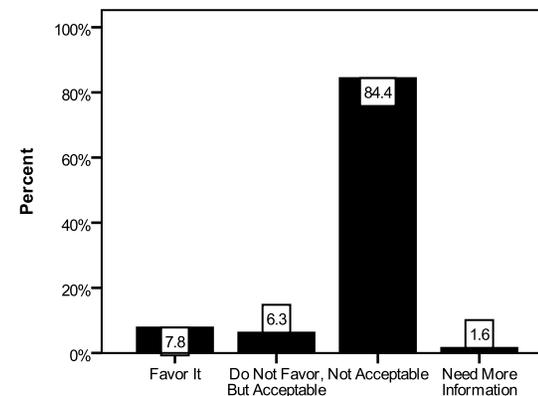
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?



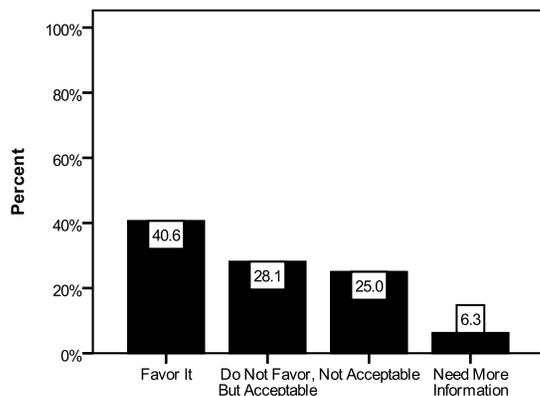
Longer Seasons



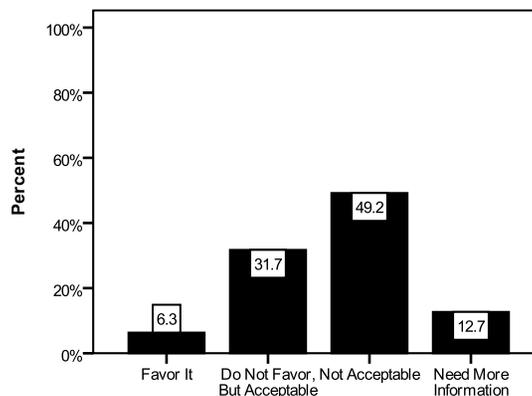
Choose Only One Weapon



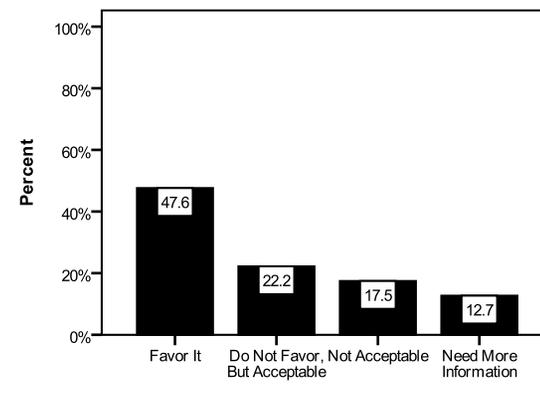
Choose Only One Species



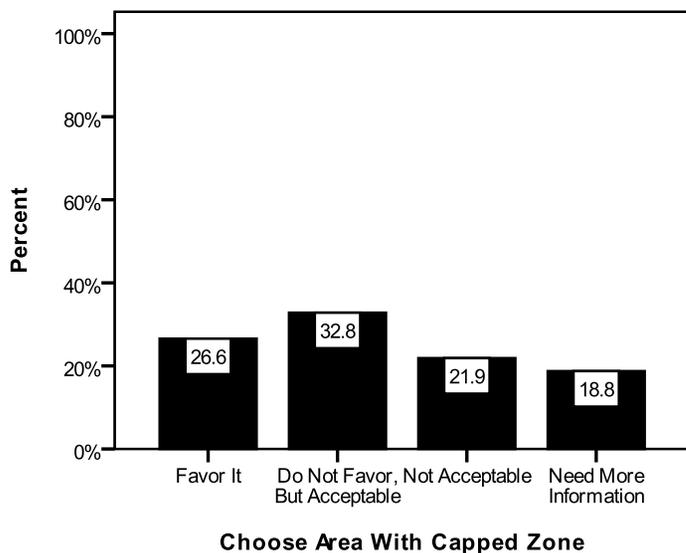
Controlled Hunts



Stratified Hunts

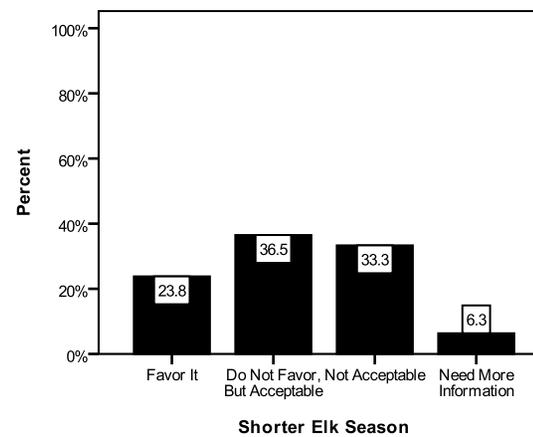
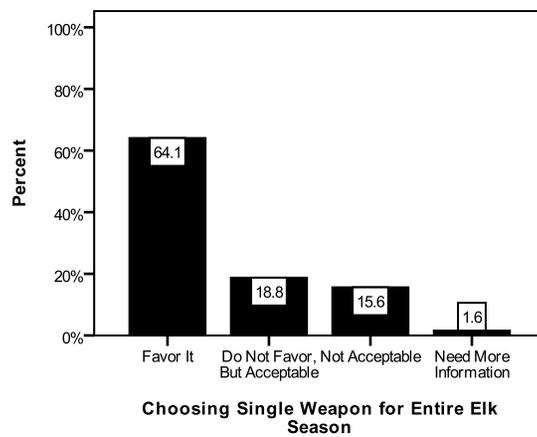
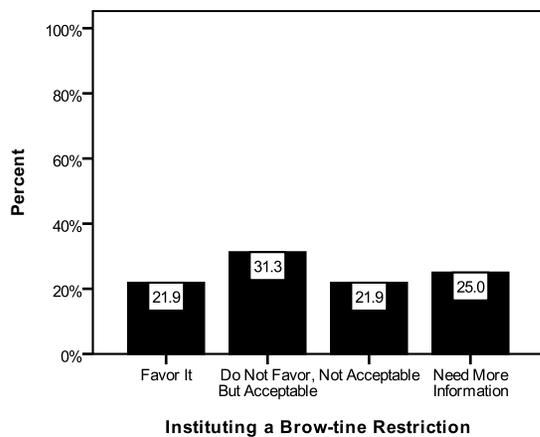
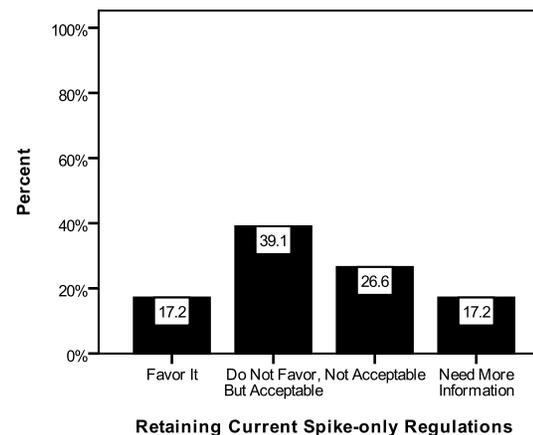
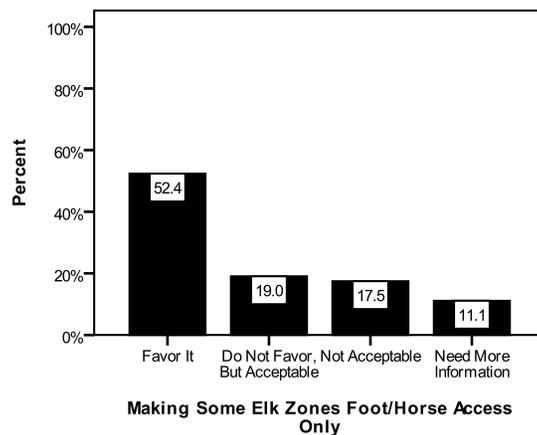
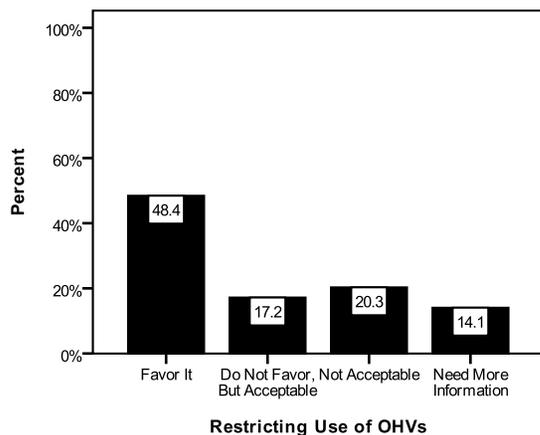


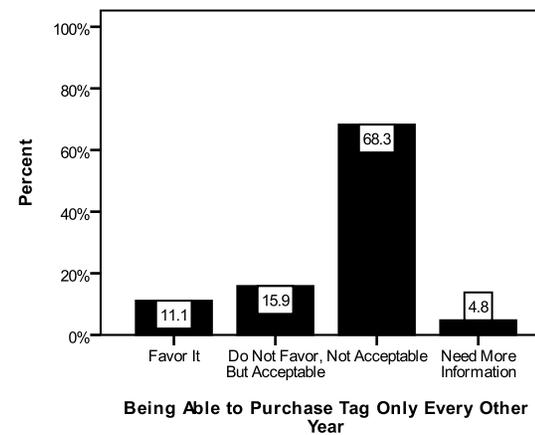
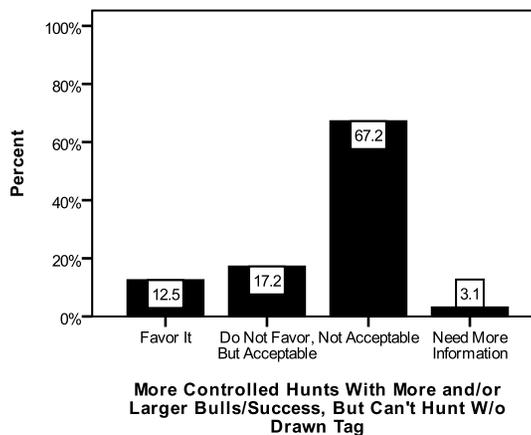
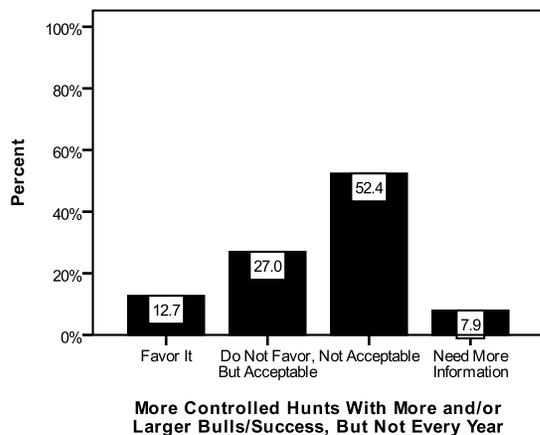
Choose Area With Motorized/Travel Restrictions



Q34: The response distribution is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone. However, more hunters in this zone find longer season not acceptable and favor controlled hunts slightly more than the average.

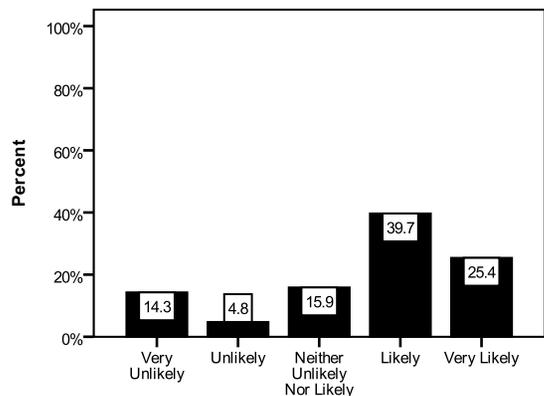
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



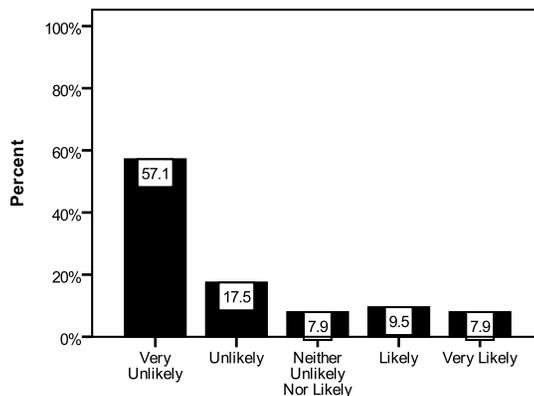


Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone.

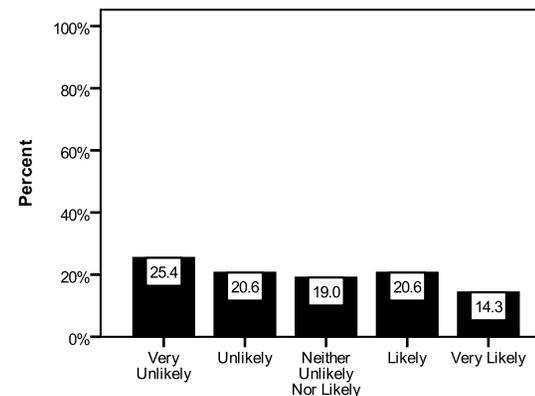
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



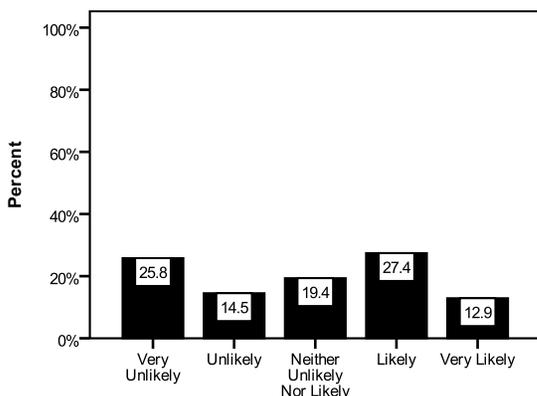
Hunt in Different Zones



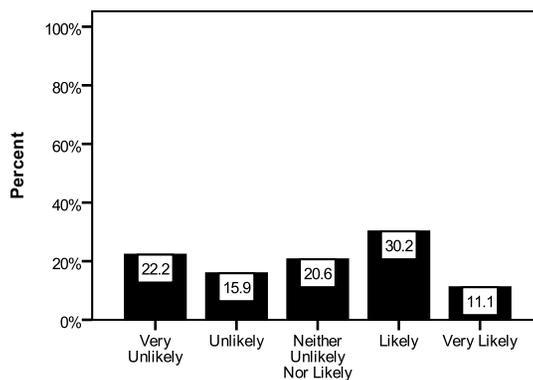
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



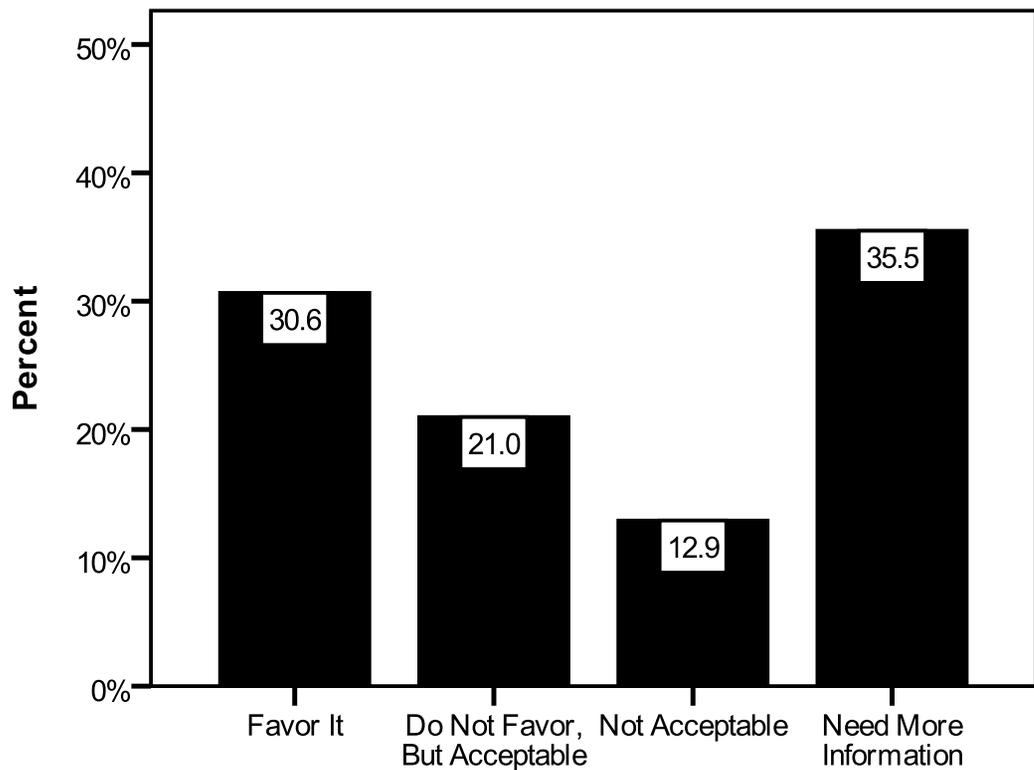
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

Q36: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee 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)*

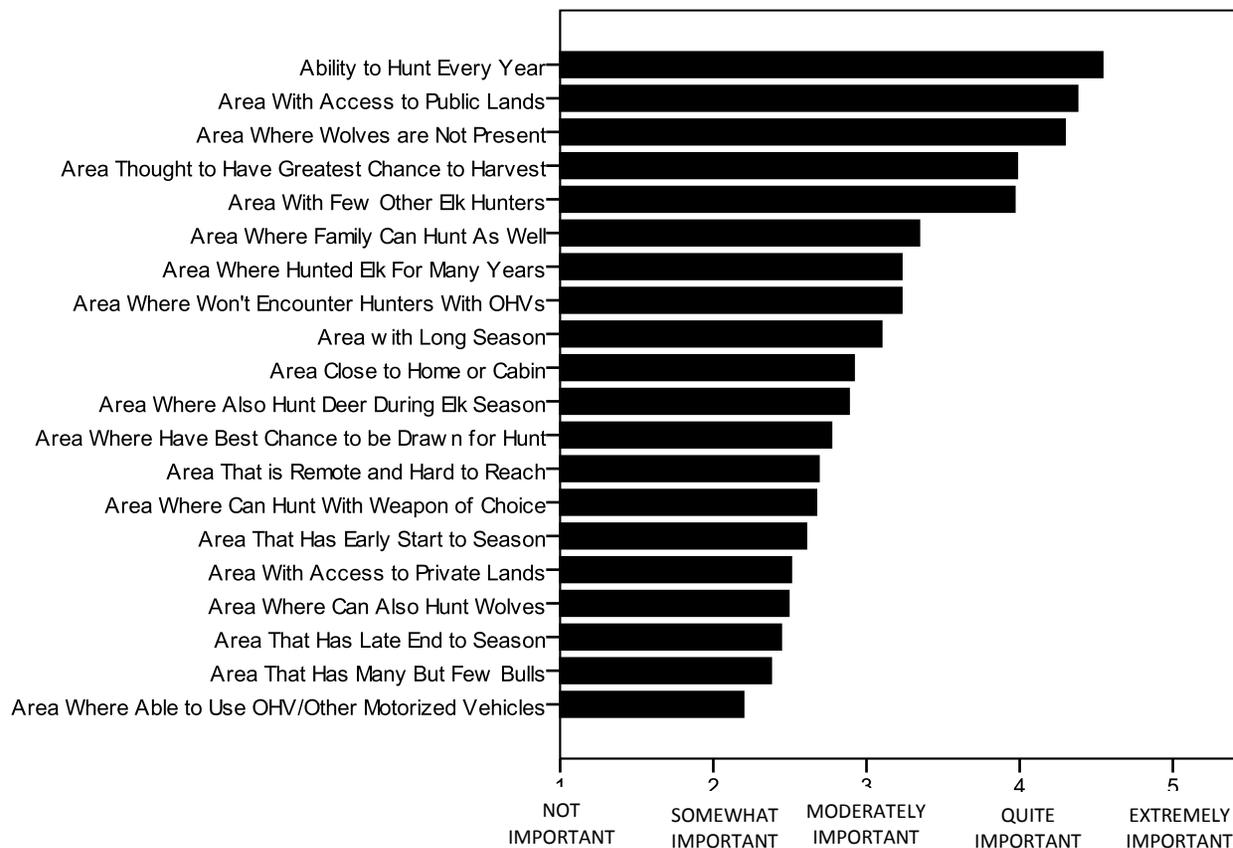


Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

Q38: The response distribution is similar between the Brownlee zone and the state average, though slightly more hunters in this zone need more information on this regulation.

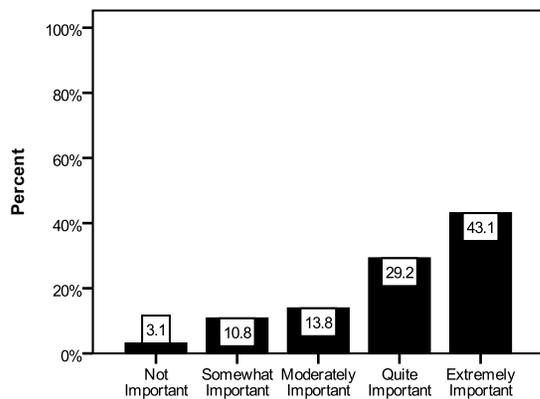
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

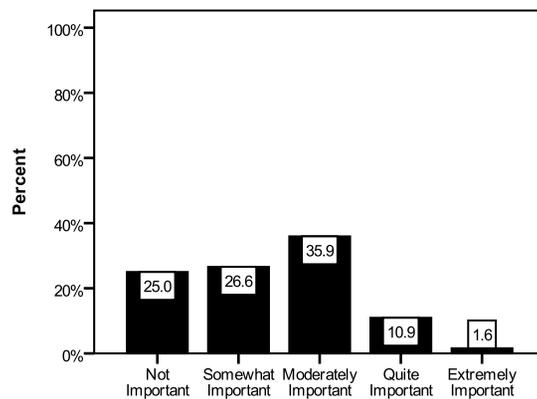


Q29: The top five characteristics are the same for the state average and the Brownlee zone.

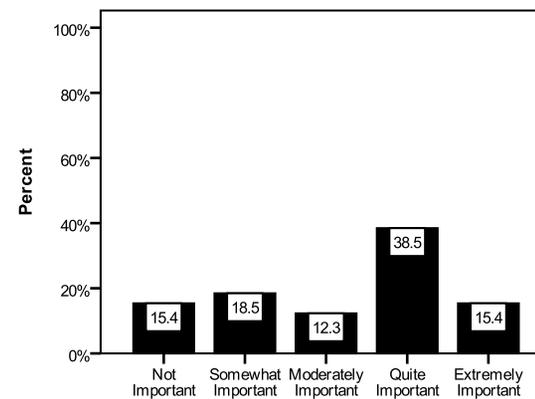
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



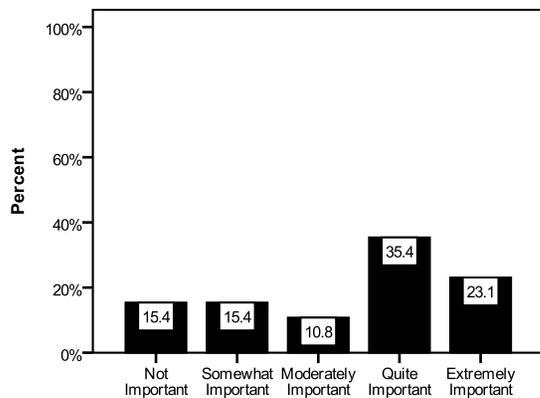
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



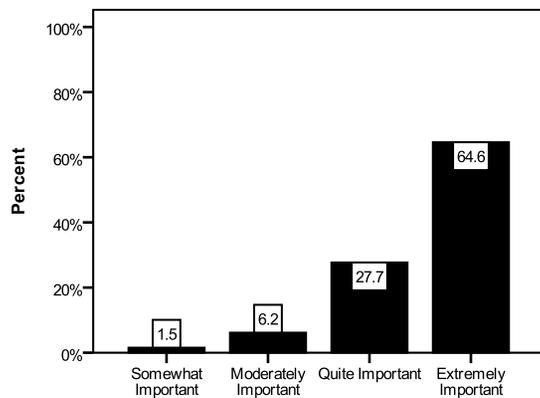
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



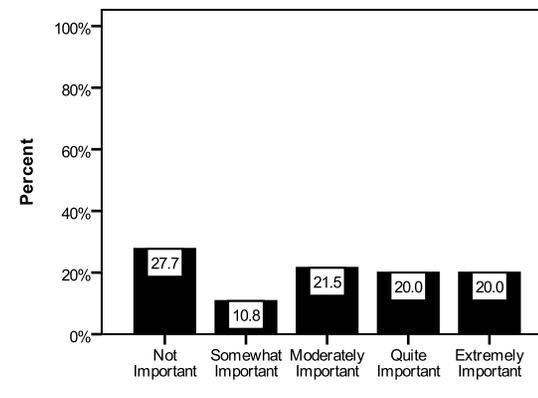
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



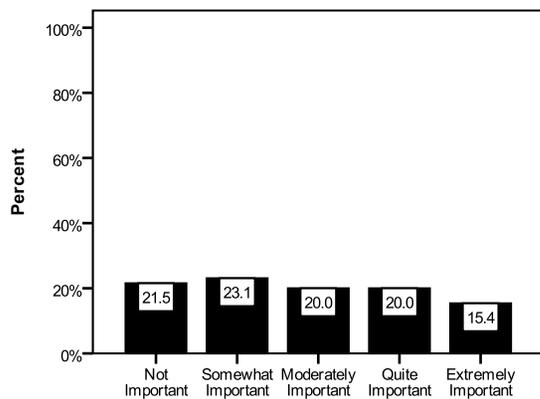
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well



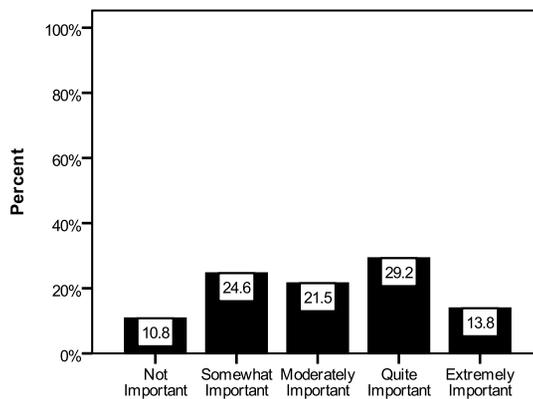
Ability to Hunt Every Year



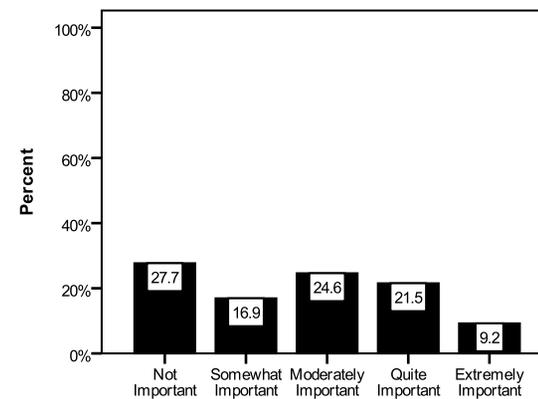
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season



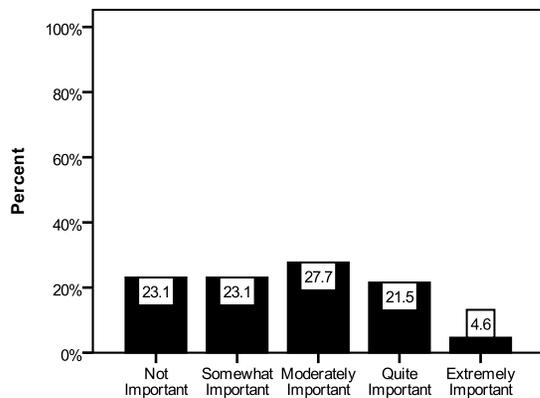
Area Close to Home or Cabin



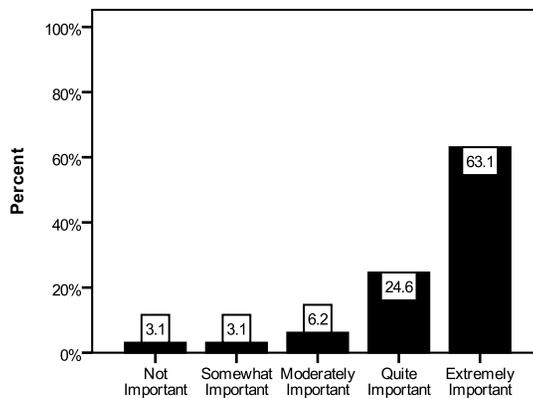
Area with Long Season



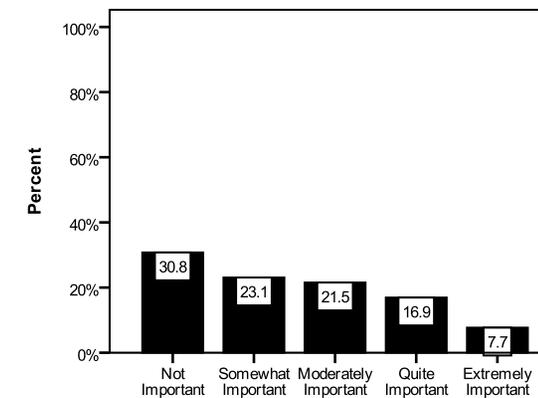
Area That is Remote and Hard to Reach



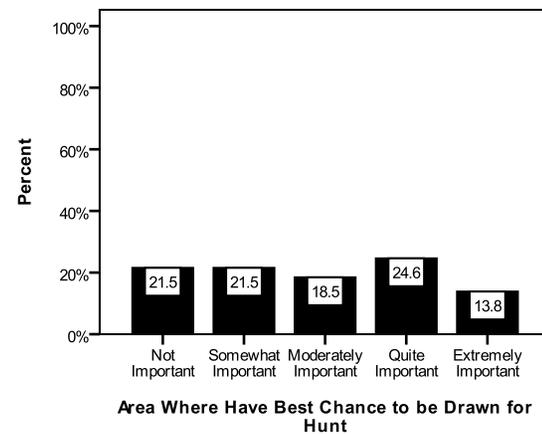
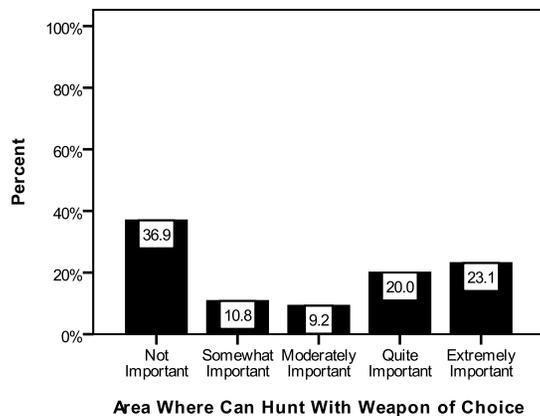
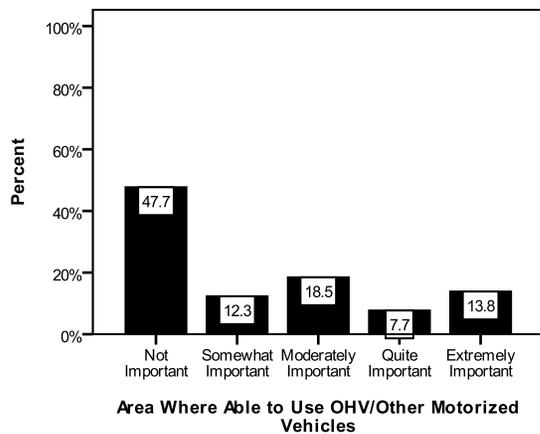
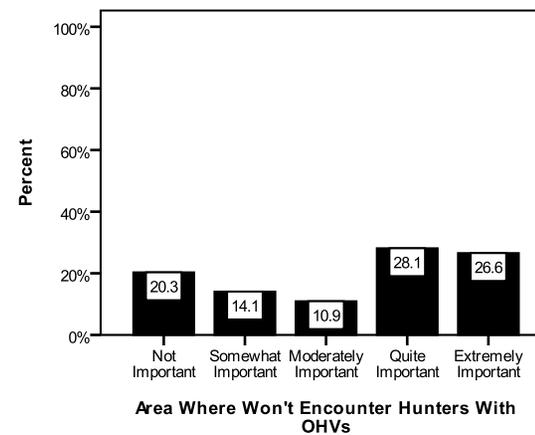
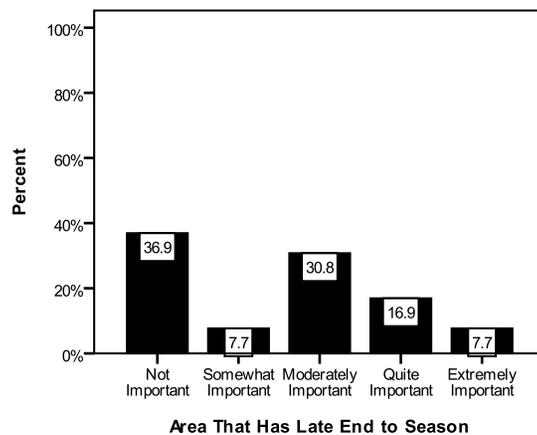
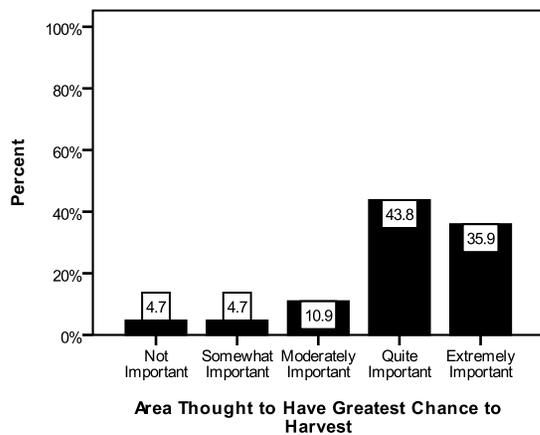
Area That Has Early Start to Season

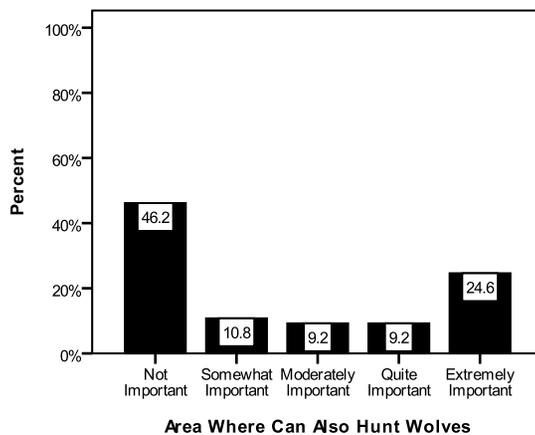
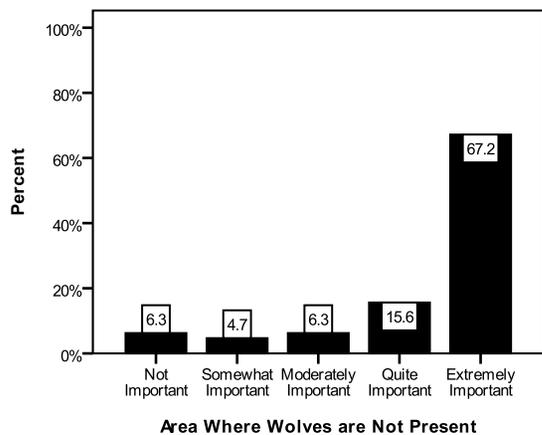


Area With Access to Public Lands

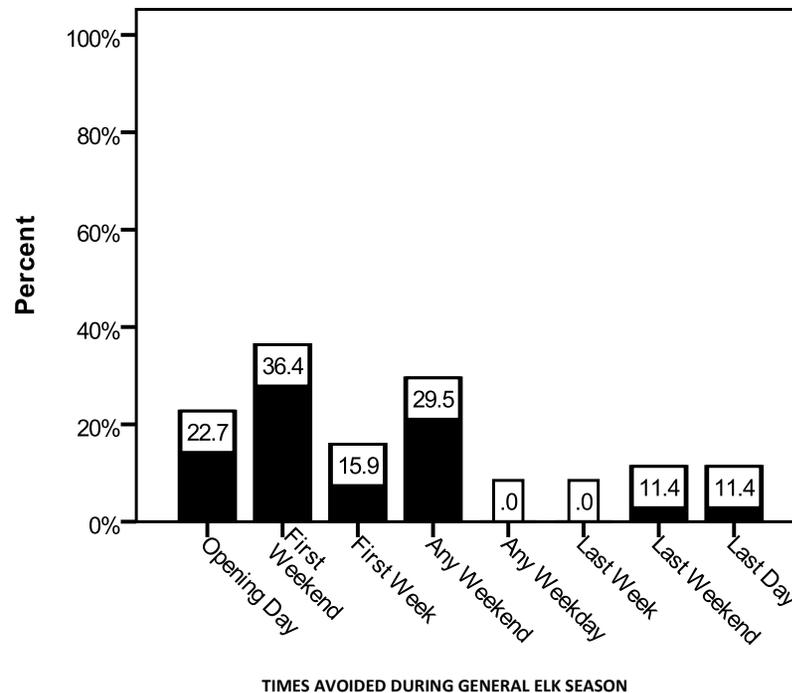
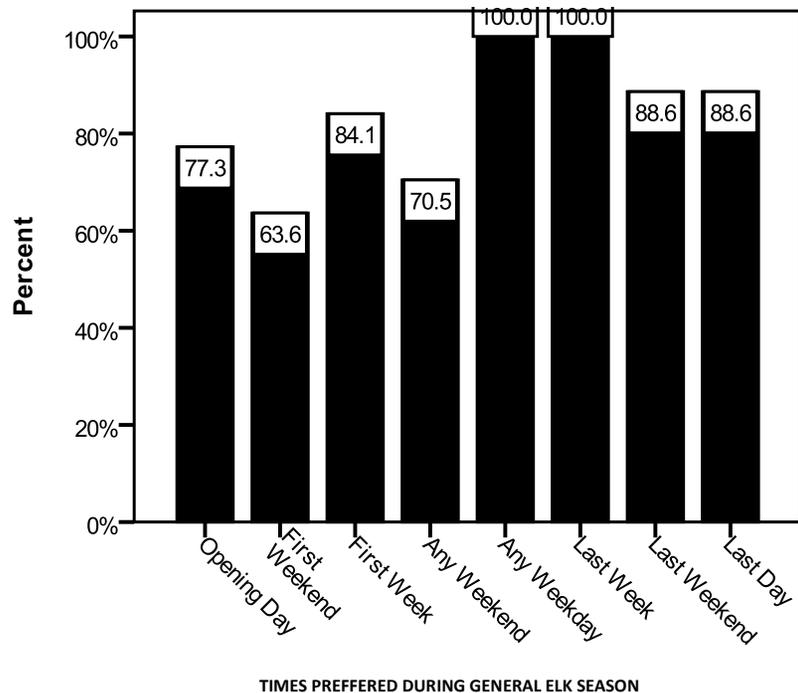


Area With Access to Private Lands





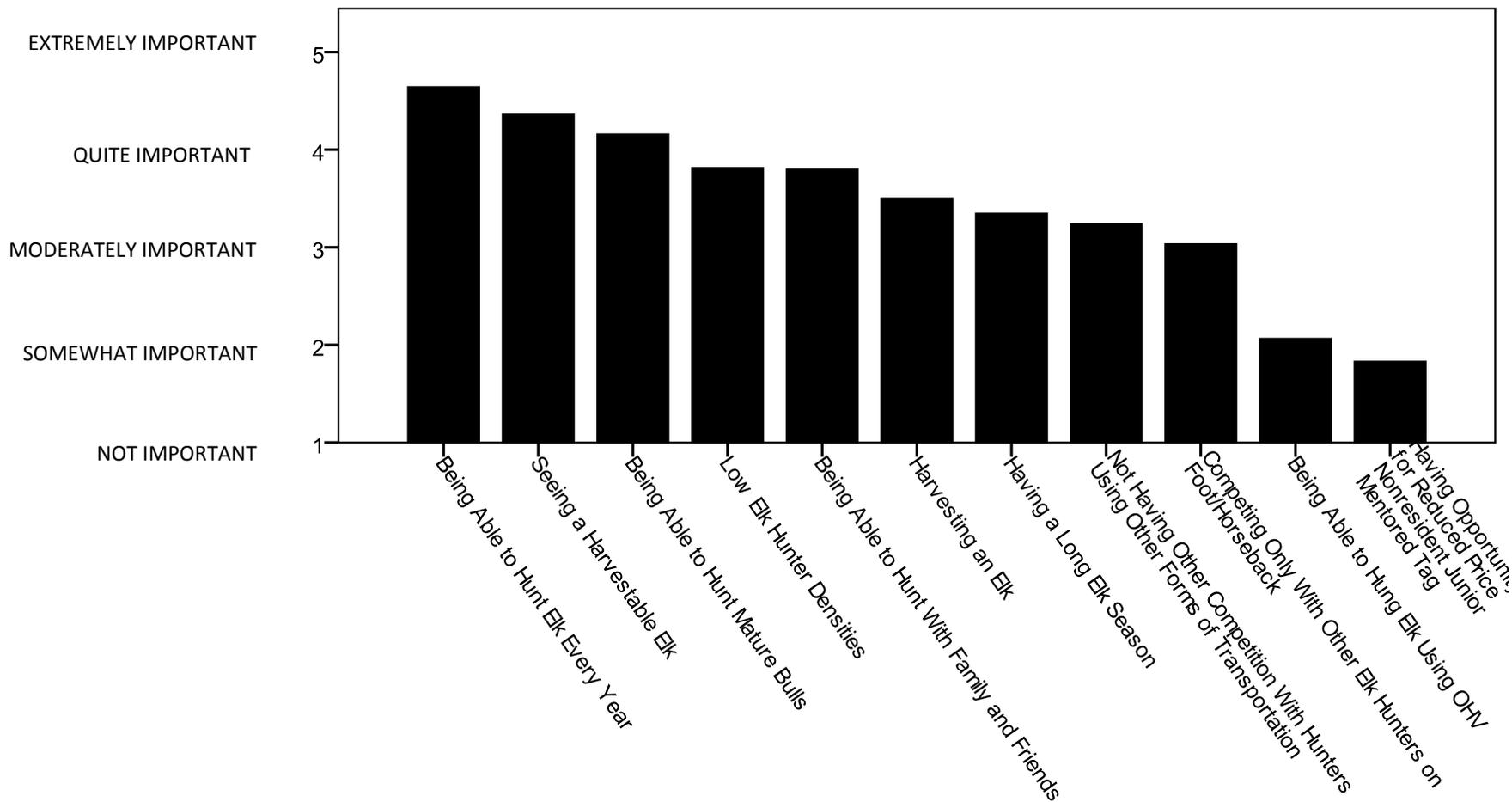
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



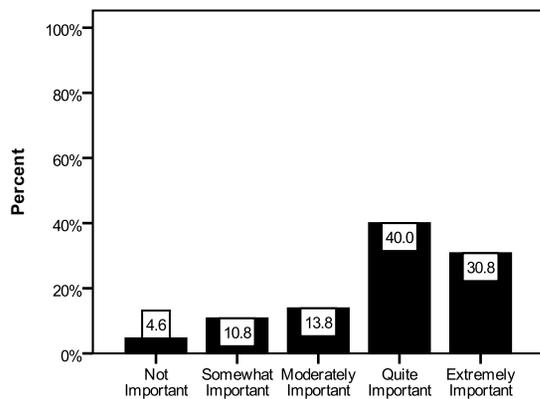
Q30: Like many hunters in the state, hunters in the Brownlee zone tend to avoid hunting on weekends. 100% of hunters in this zone prefer to hunt during any weekday or the last week of the season.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

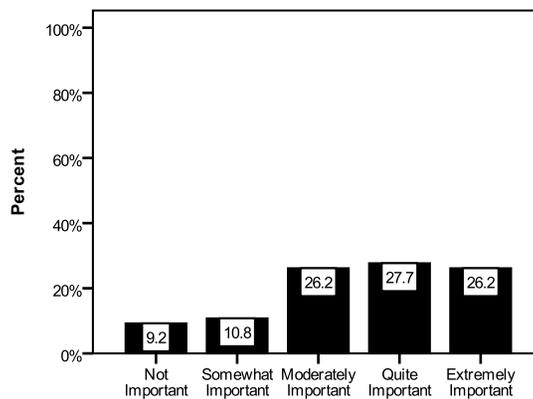
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



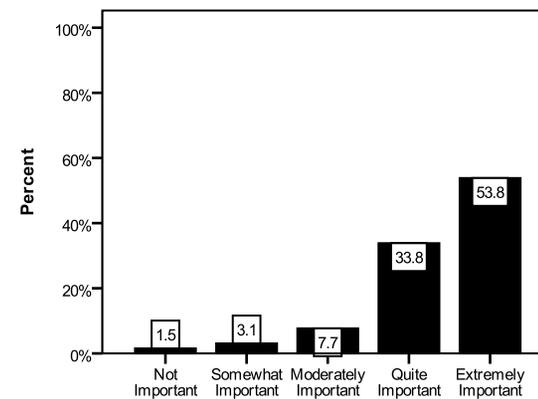
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



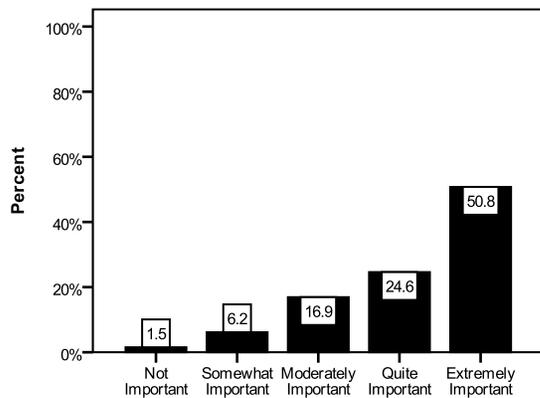
Low Elk Hunter Densities



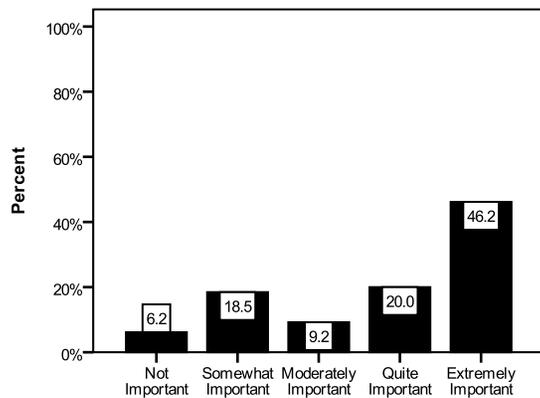
Harvesting an Elk



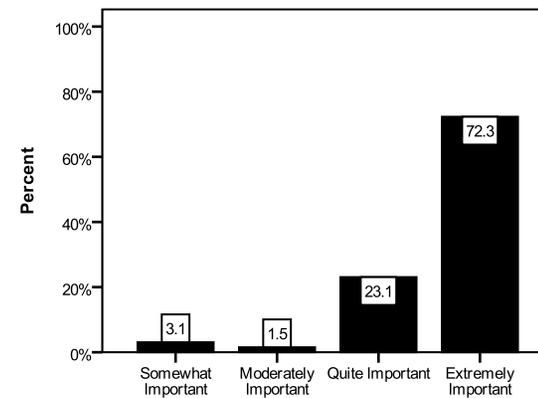
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



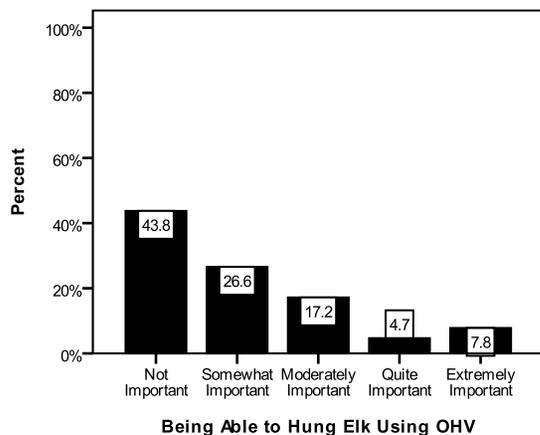
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



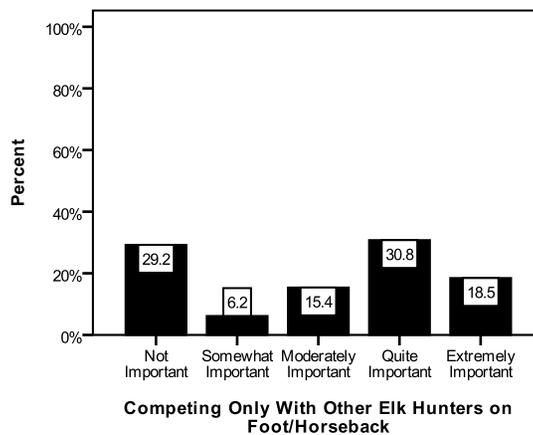
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



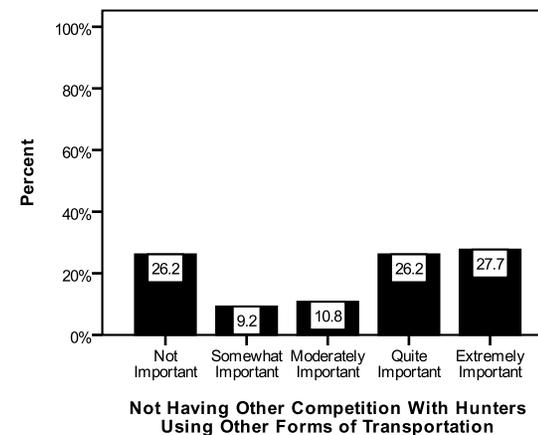
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



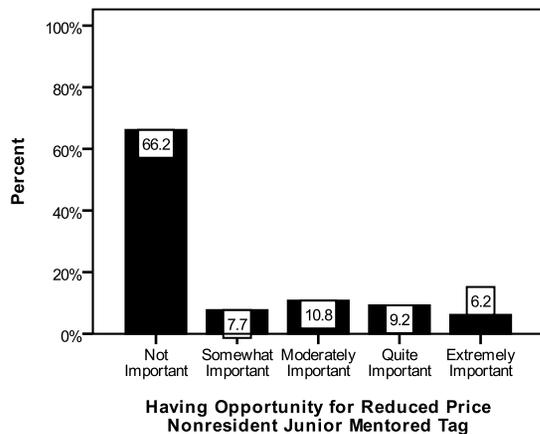
Being Able to Hung Elk Using OHV



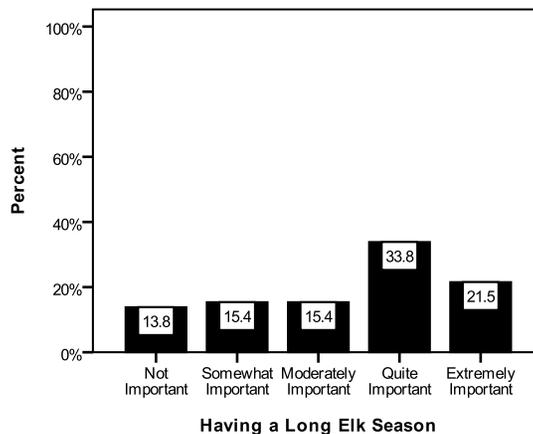
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

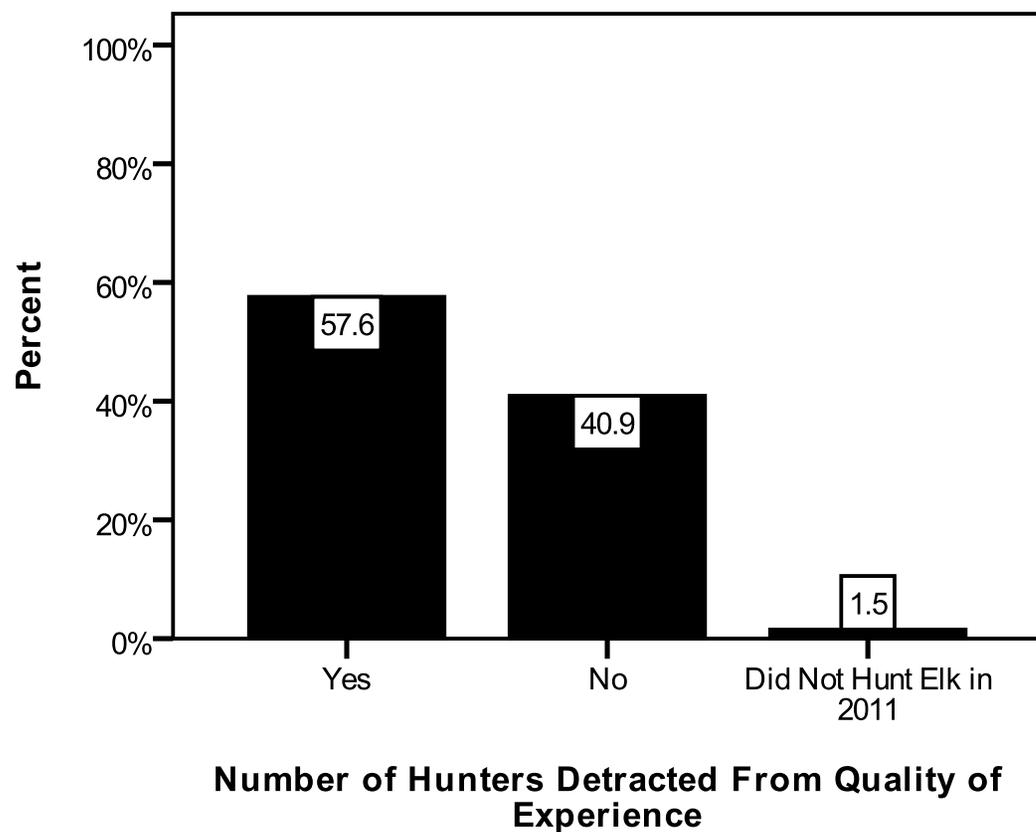


Having a Long Elk Season

Q31: Hunters in the Brownlee zone and the state average share the same top six important attributes that make a quality Elk hunting experience.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

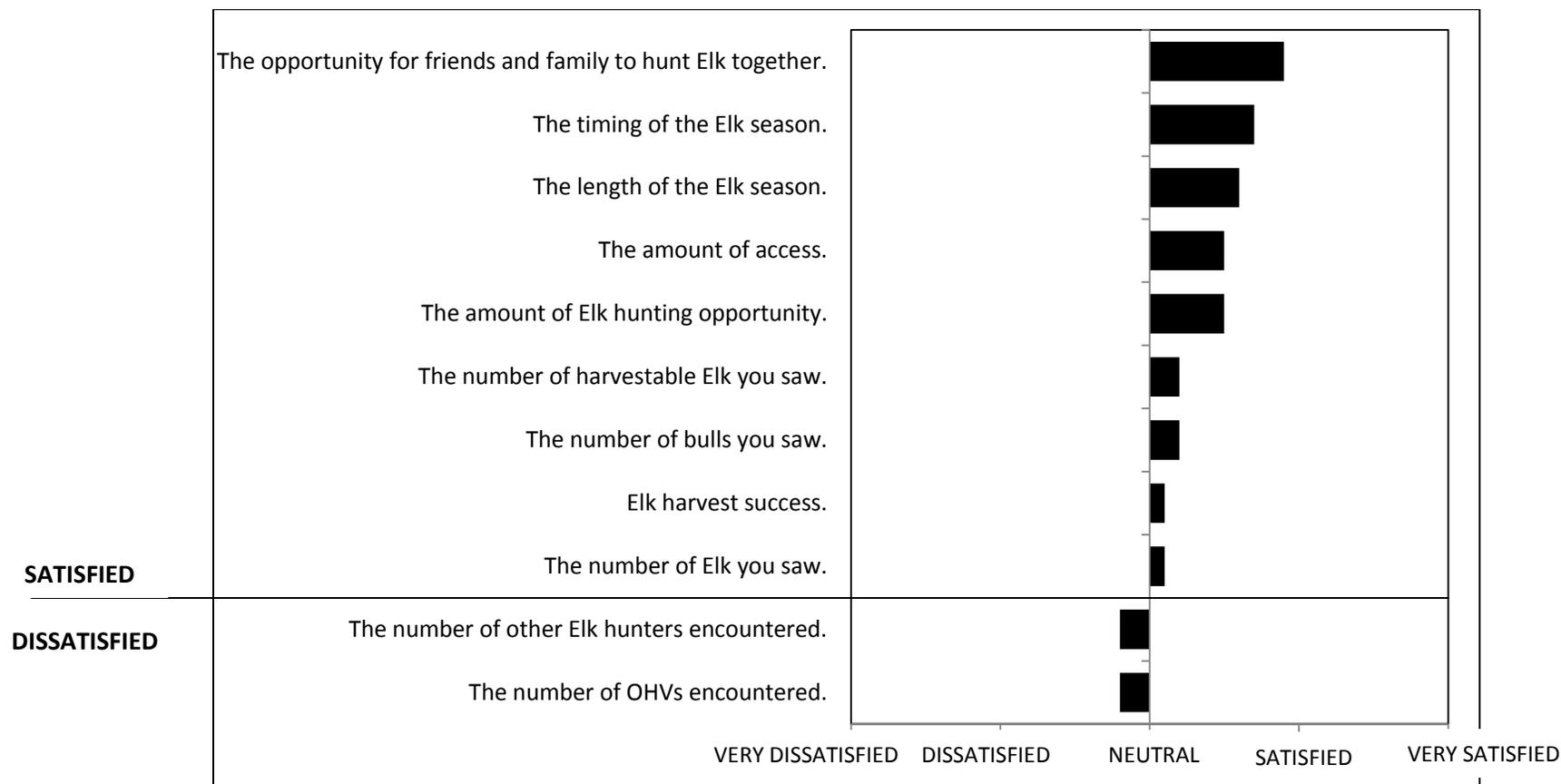
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



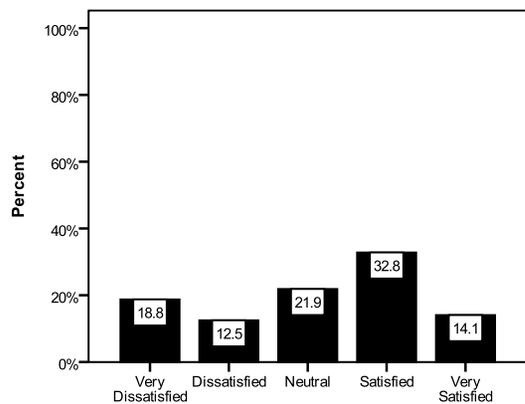
Q33: Unlike other hunters in the state, over half of Brownlee respondents reported that the number of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of their hunting experienced, 24.5% more than the state average.

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

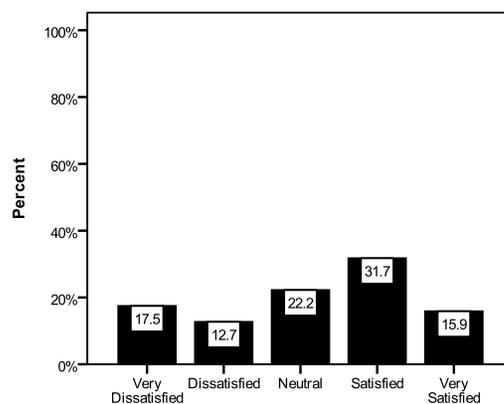
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



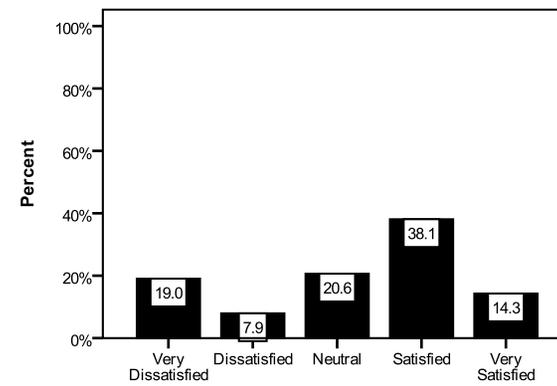
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



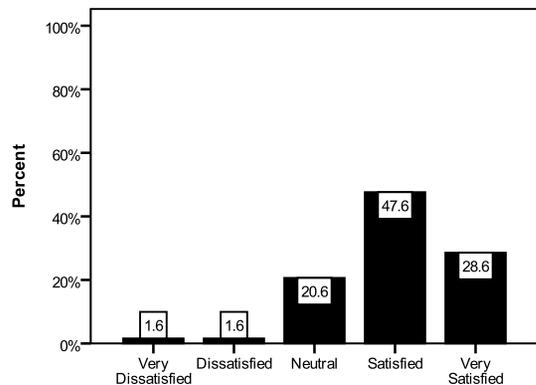
Number of Elk Seen



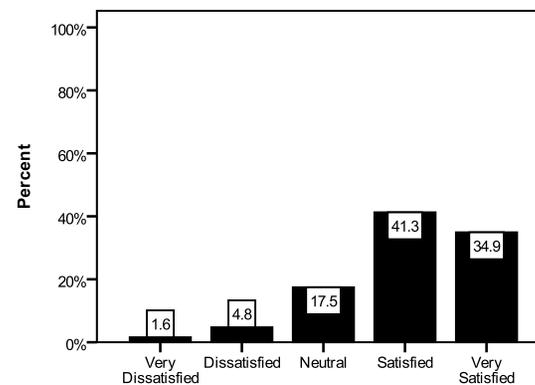
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



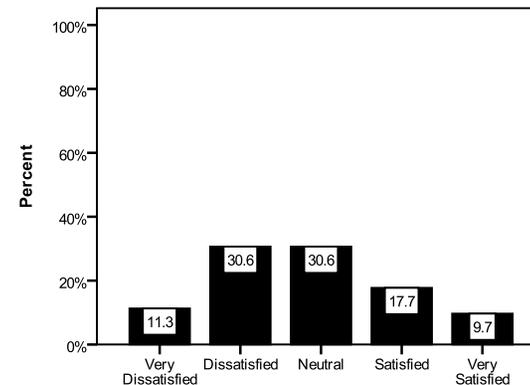
Number of Bulls Seen



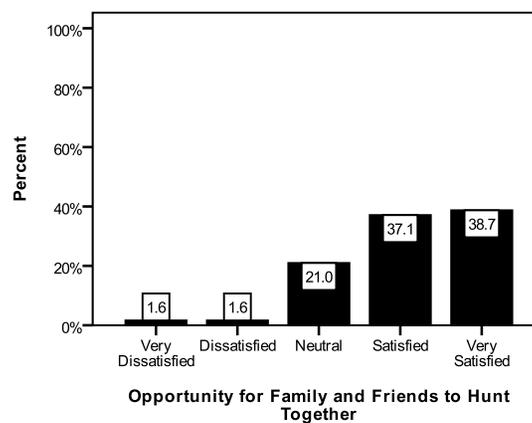
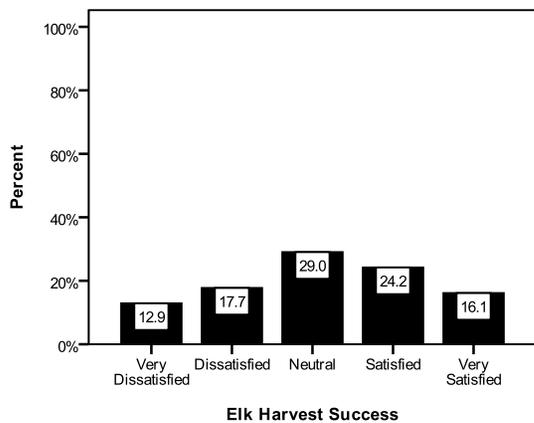
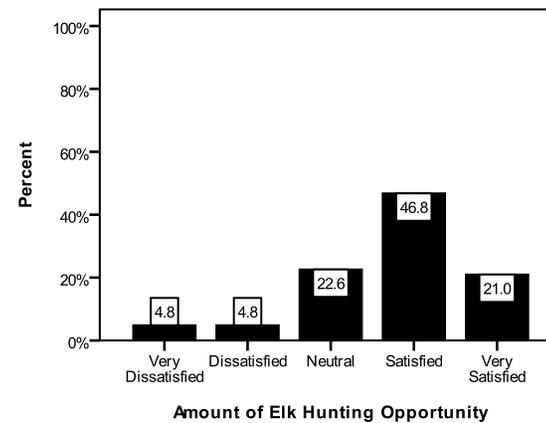
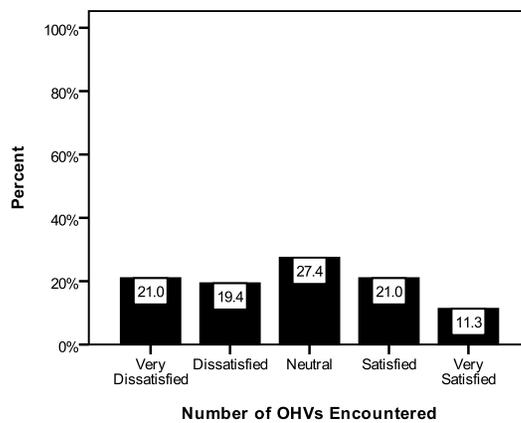
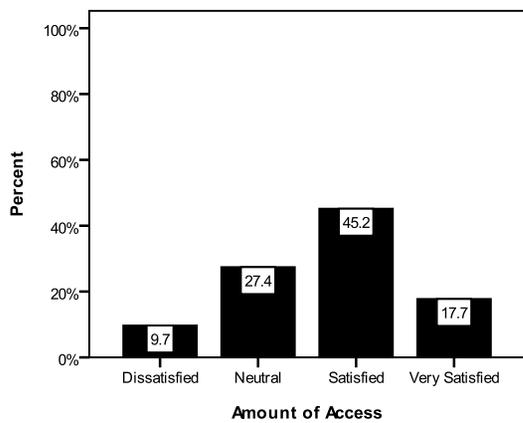
Length of Elk Season



Timing of Elk Season



Number of Elk Hunters Encountered

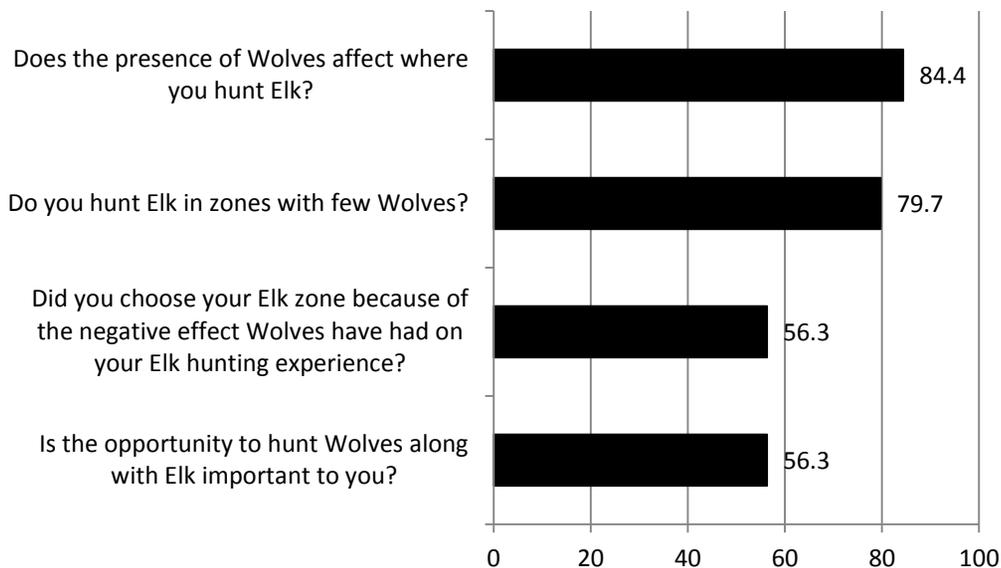


Q37: Unlike the state average, hunters in the Brownlee zone were dissatisfied with the number of OHVs and other hunters they encountered, not Elk numbers or harvest.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

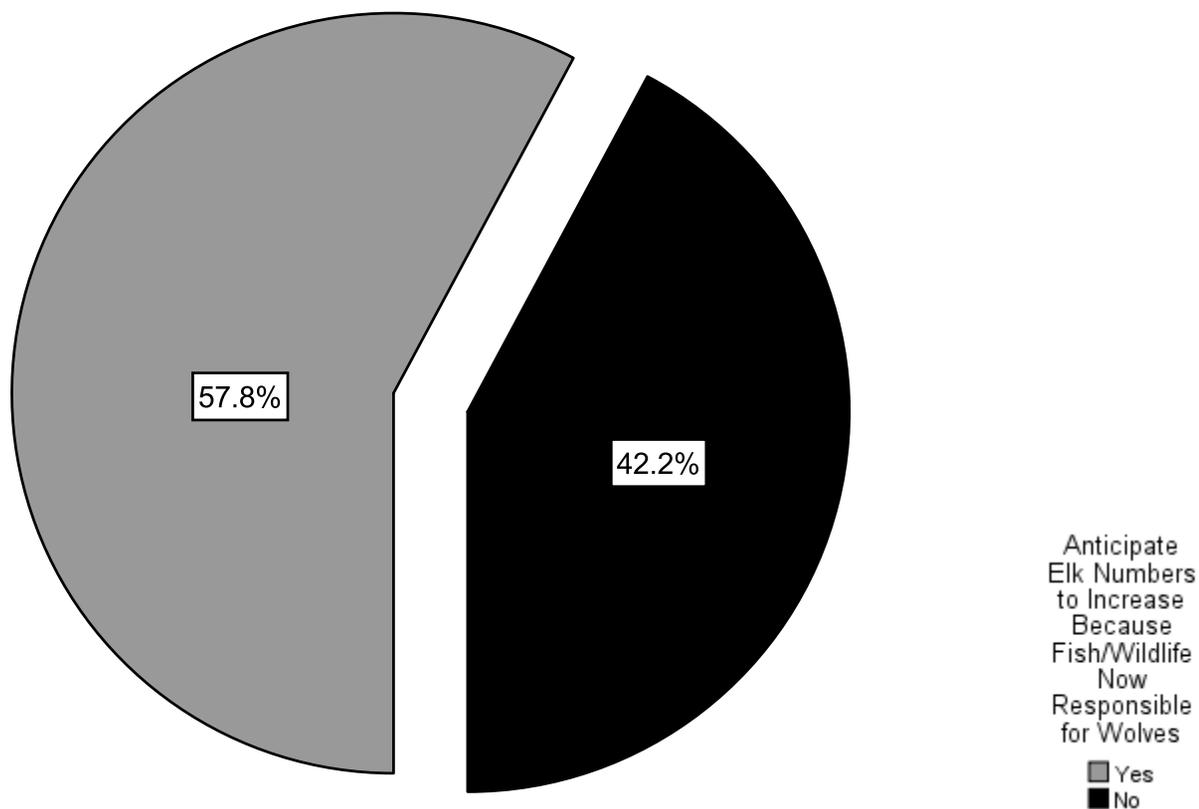
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: Unlike the state average, about 40% more hunters in the Brownlee zone hunt in zones with few Wolves. The distribution of responses for the other items is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone.

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



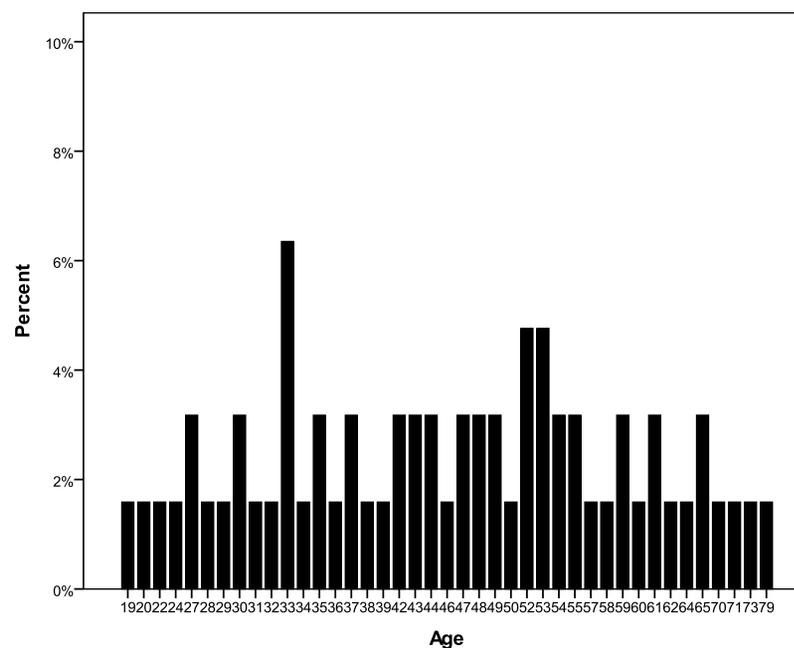
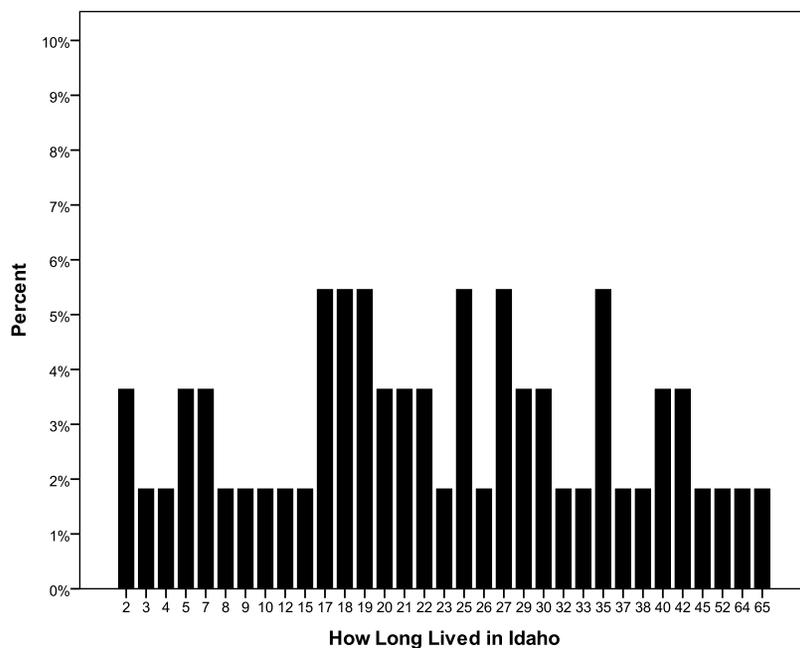
Q40: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Brownlee zone.

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 Brownlee zone and the state average for both Q42 and Q43.