

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



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

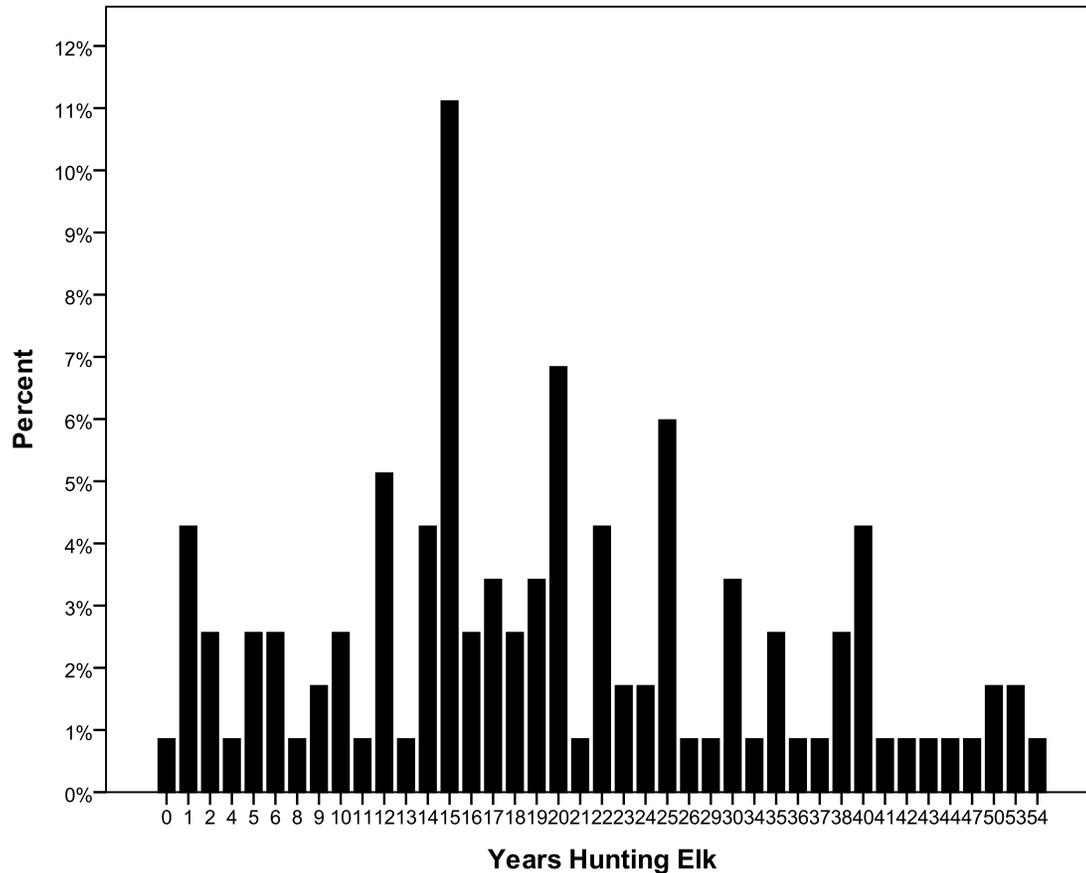
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

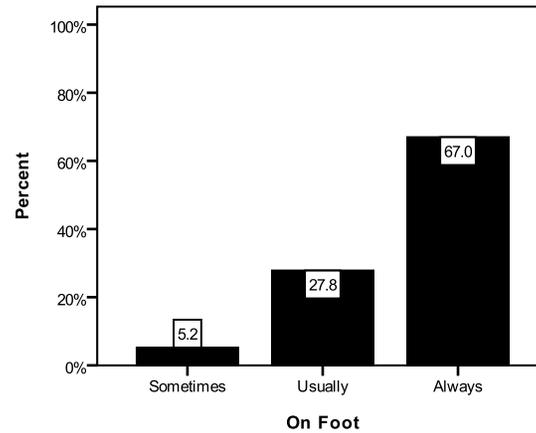
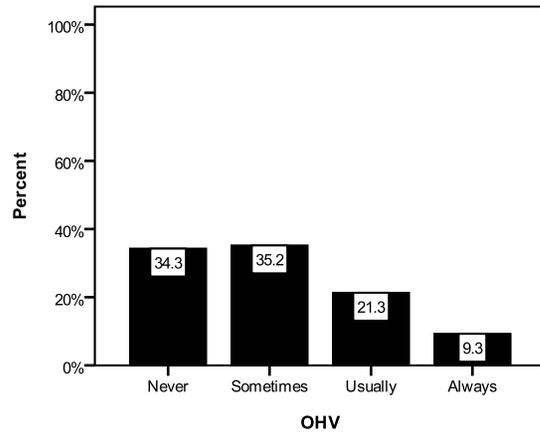
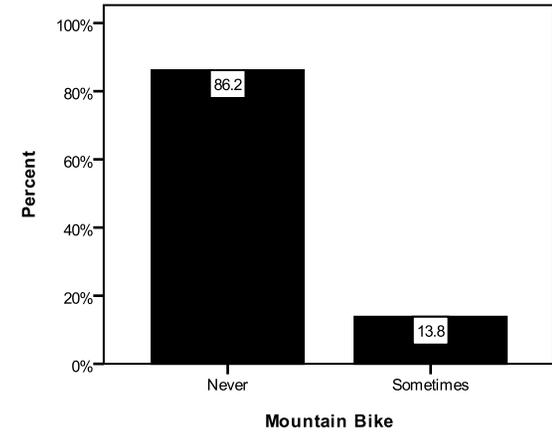
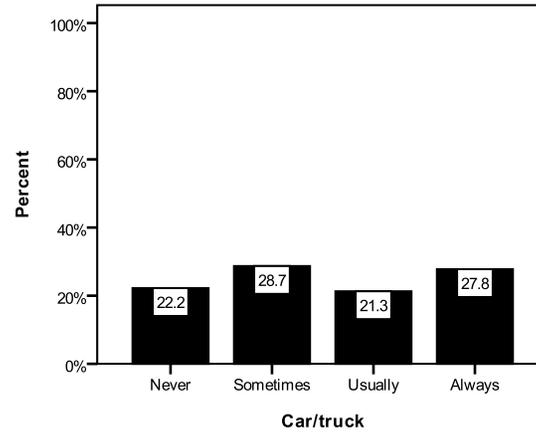
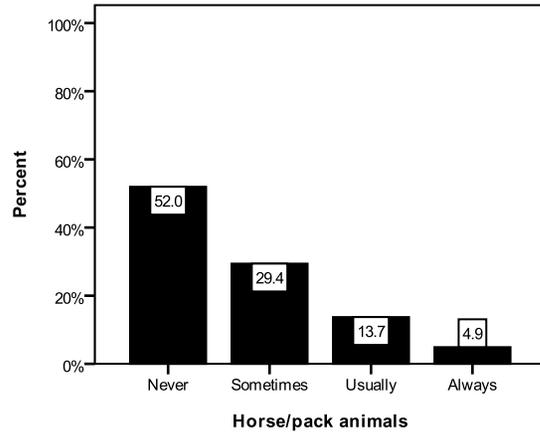
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



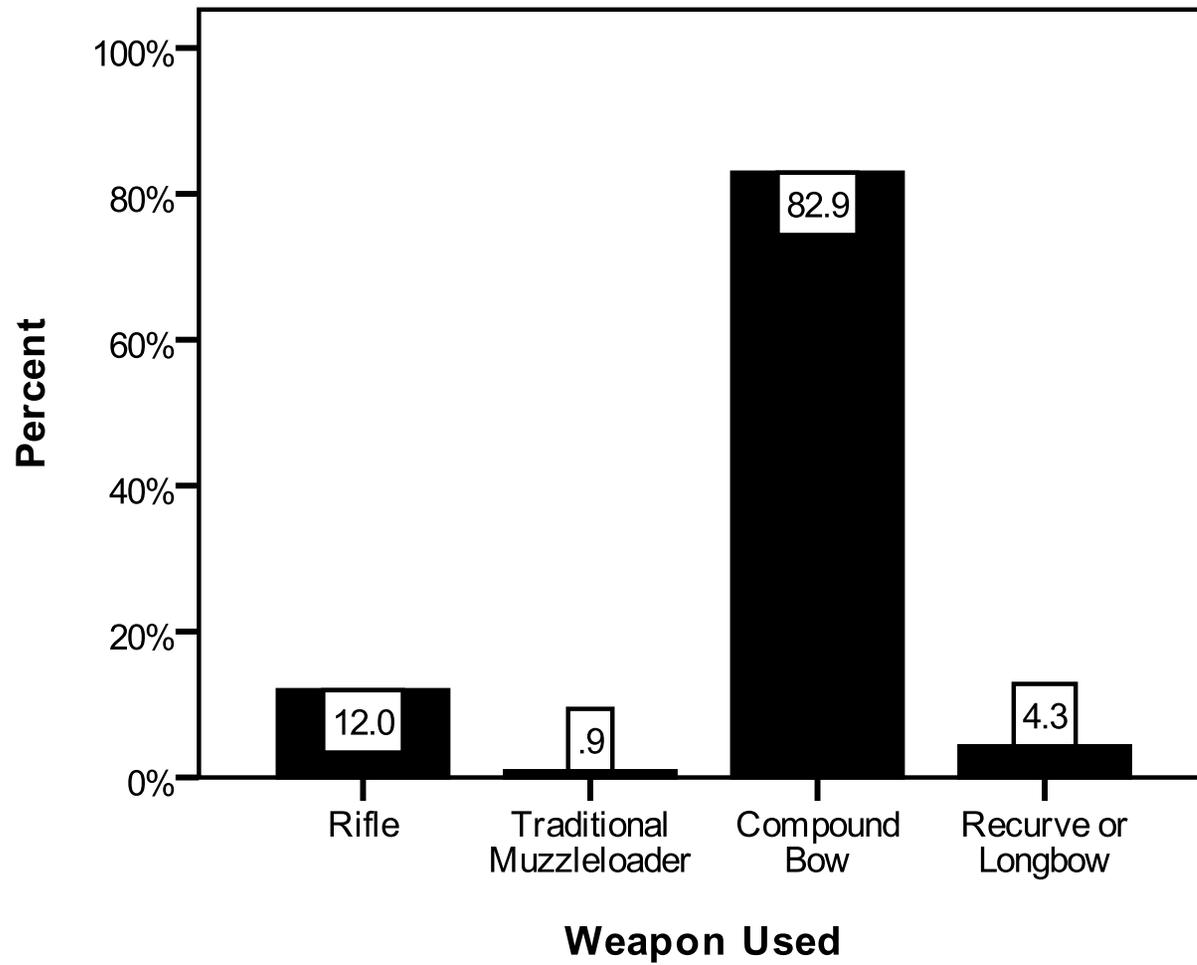
Q3: The distribution of responses for how many years of Elk hunting in Idaho is similar between the Diamond Creek zone and the state average.

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?



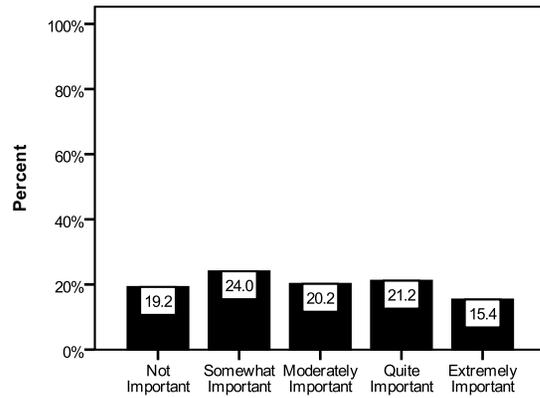
Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between respondents in the Diamond Creek zone and the state average.

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

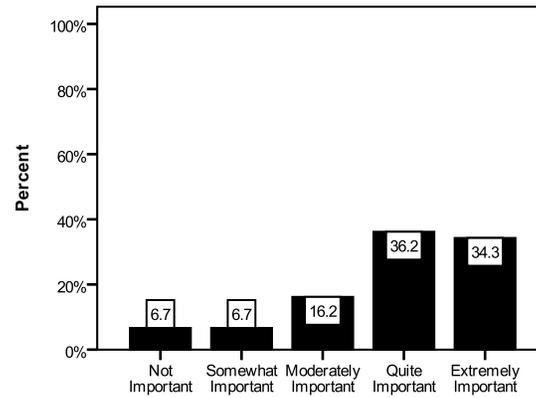


Q8: Unlike the state average, the weapon most typically used by respondents is the compound bow. Diamond Creek hunters use rifles 45% less than other respondents in the state do.

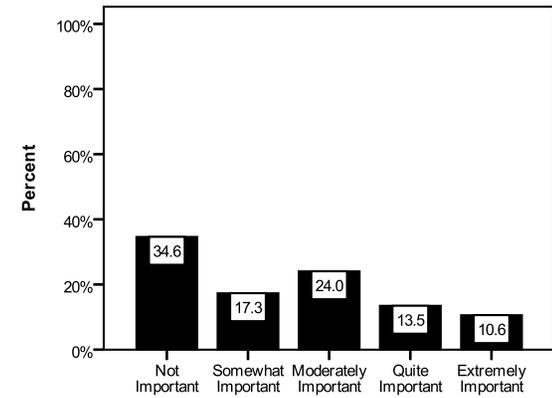
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



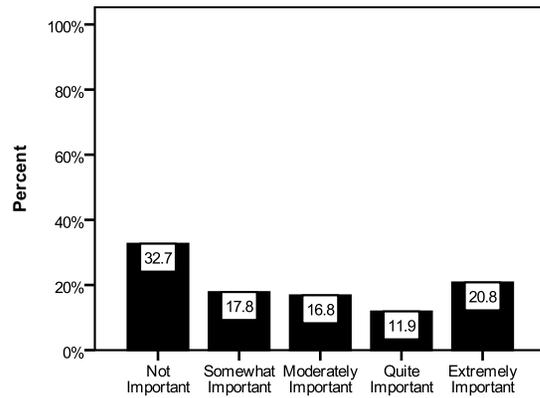
Increase Challenge



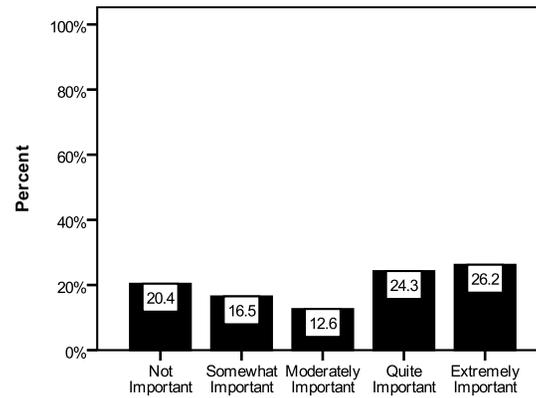
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



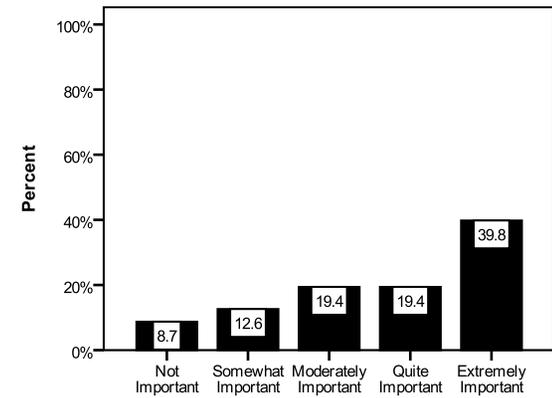
Improve Chance of Harvesting



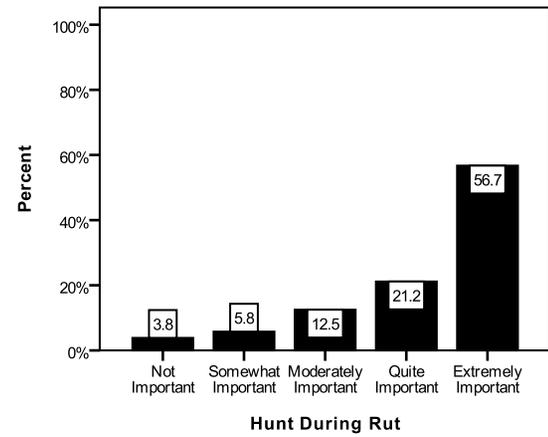
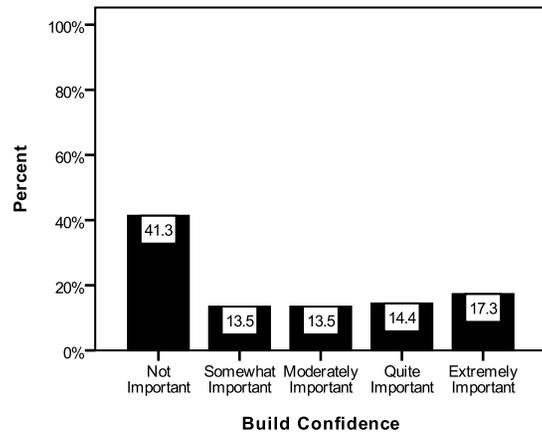
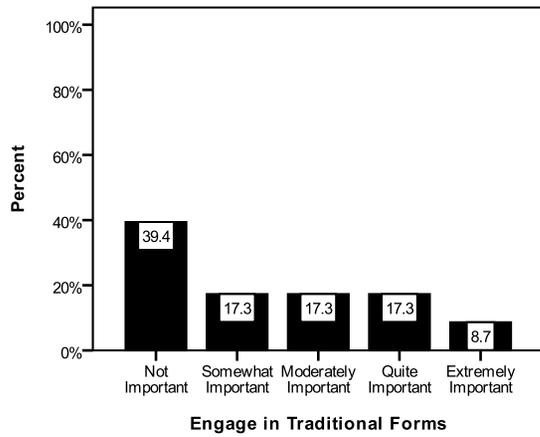
Expand Hunting Season



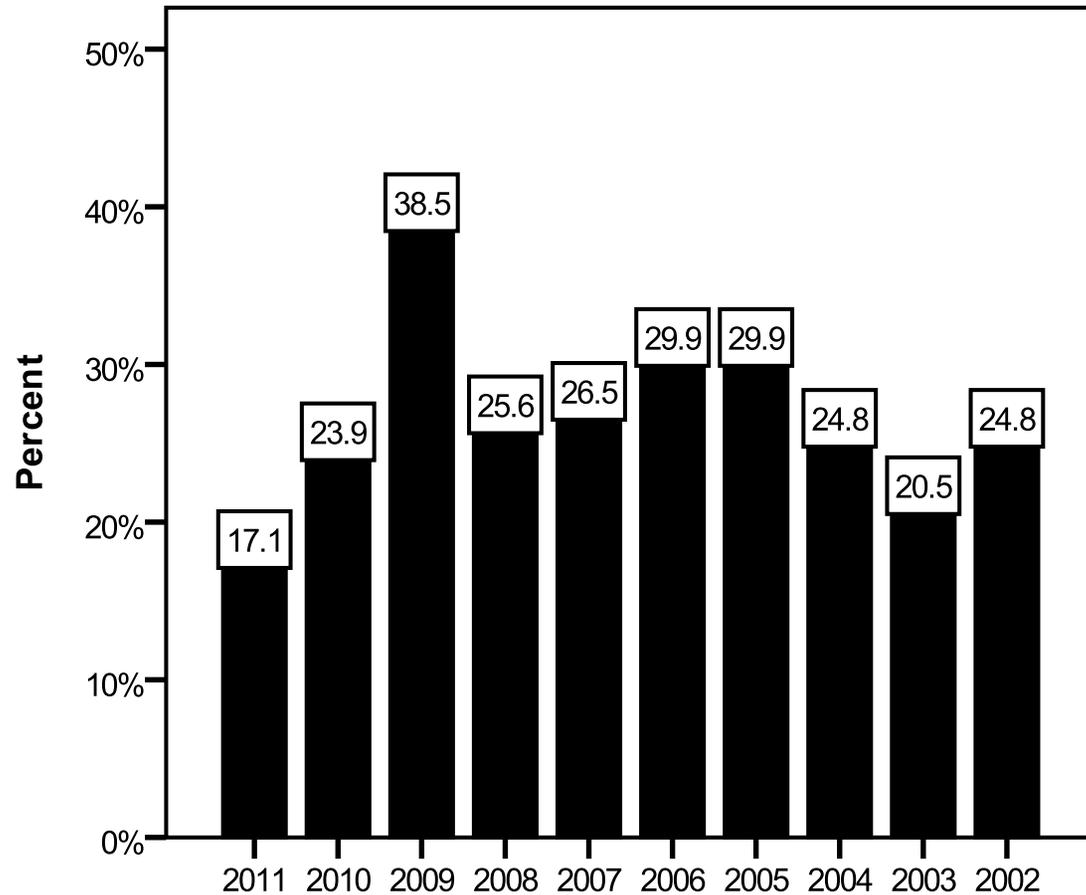
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

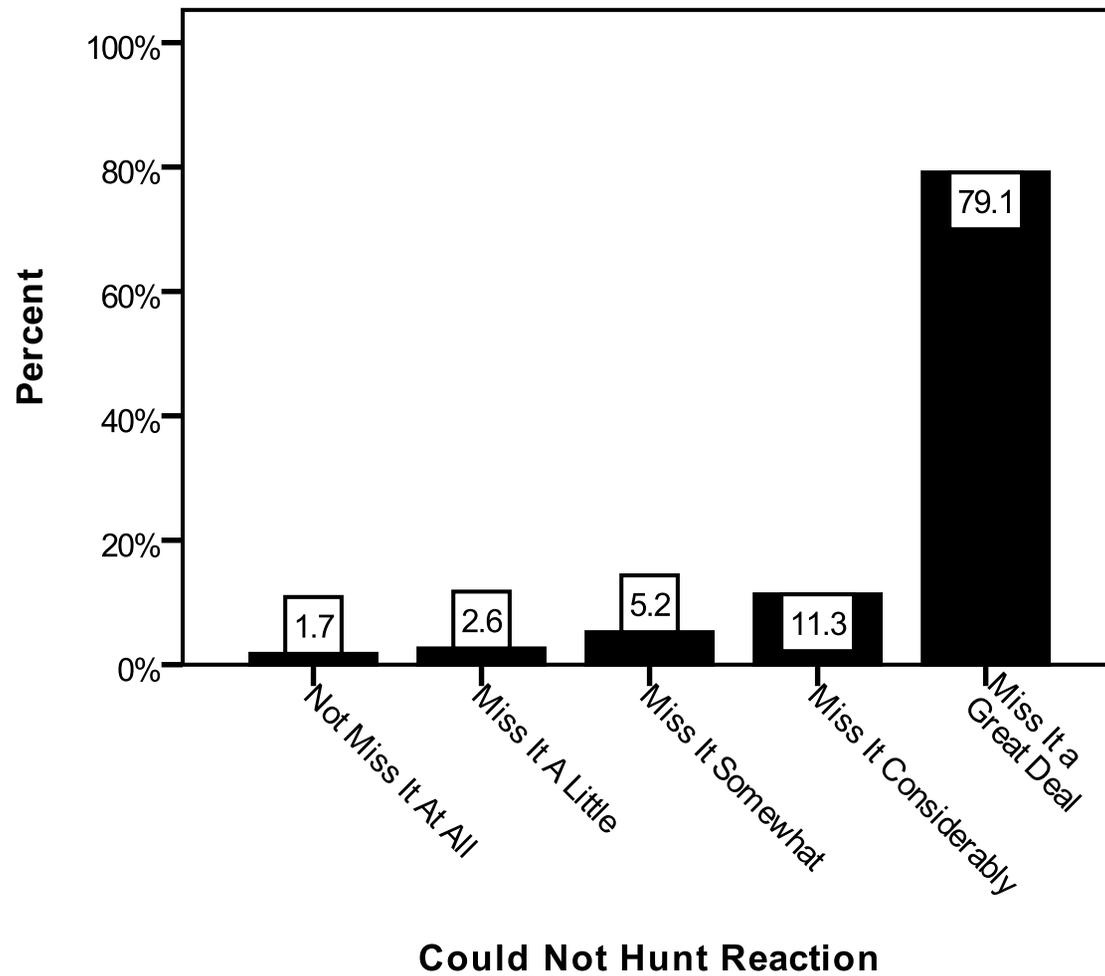


Q10: Like other respondents in the state, Diamond Creek hunters hunt in these seasons for the adventure, to hunt during the rut, and to hunt with fewer hunters afield. More hunters in this zone choose these seasons to hunt where rifle limited than the state average.

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

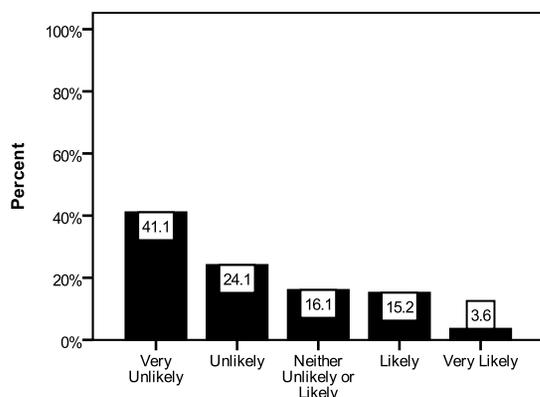
Q11: Respondents in the Diamond Creek zone reported more yearly harvest success than the state average, particularly in 2009 with over a 10% increase. Rates were similar to the state average in 2003, 2010, and 2011.

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

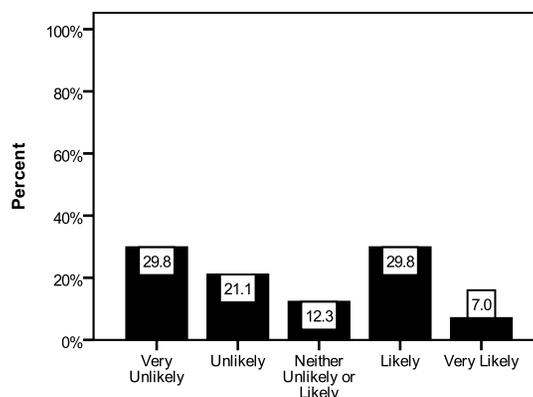


Q12: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Diamond Creek hunters would also miss Elk hunting in Idaho a great deal if they were unable to do so.

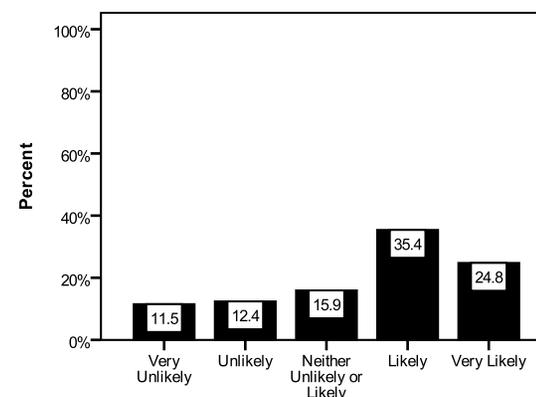
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



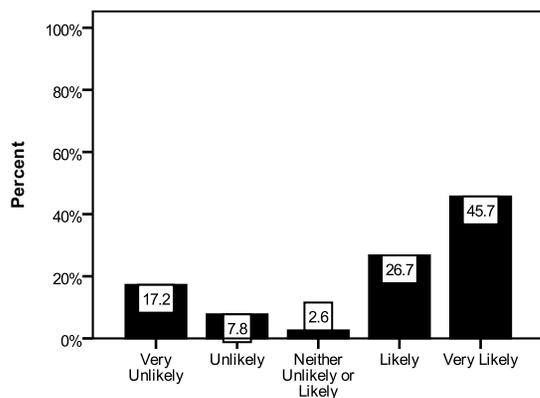
Hunt Waterfowl More



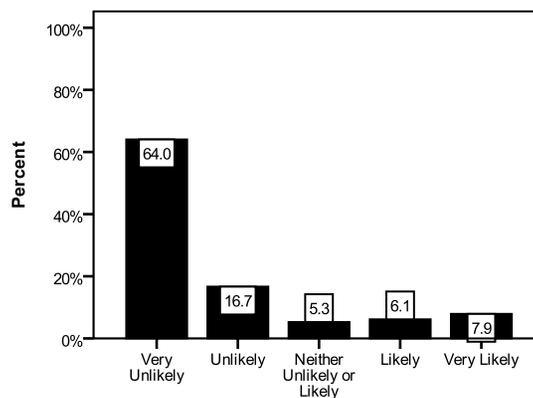
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



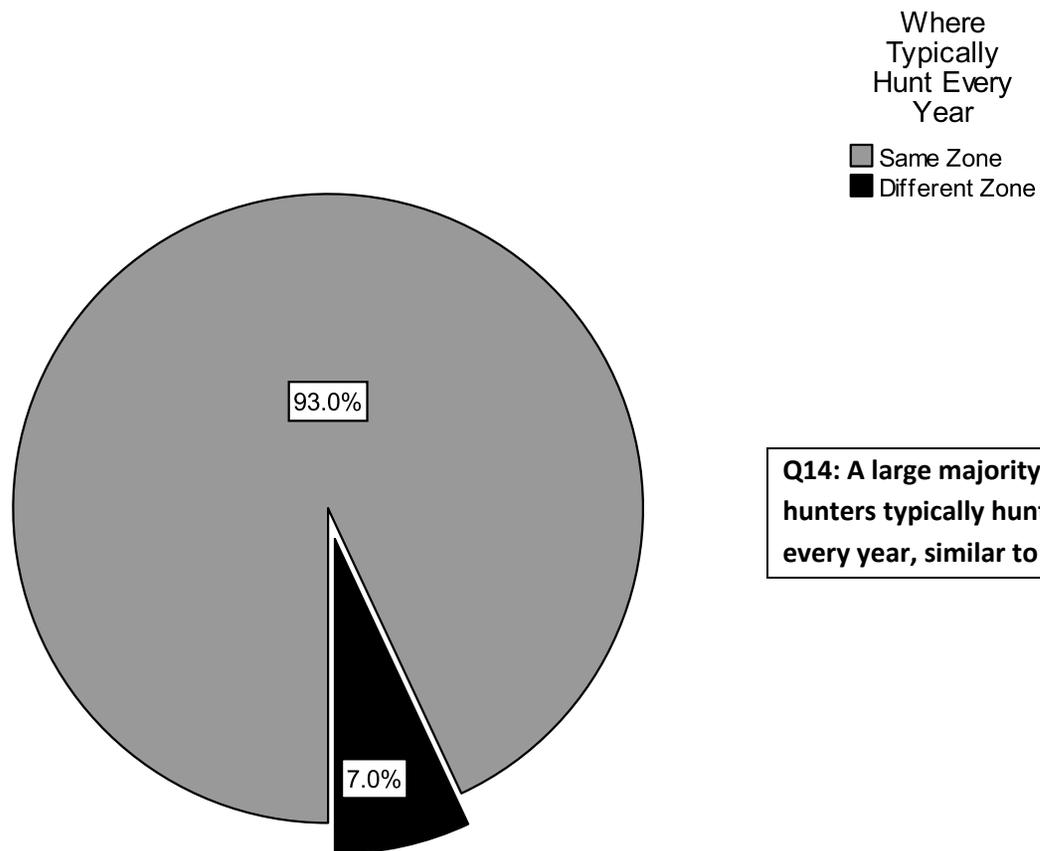
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

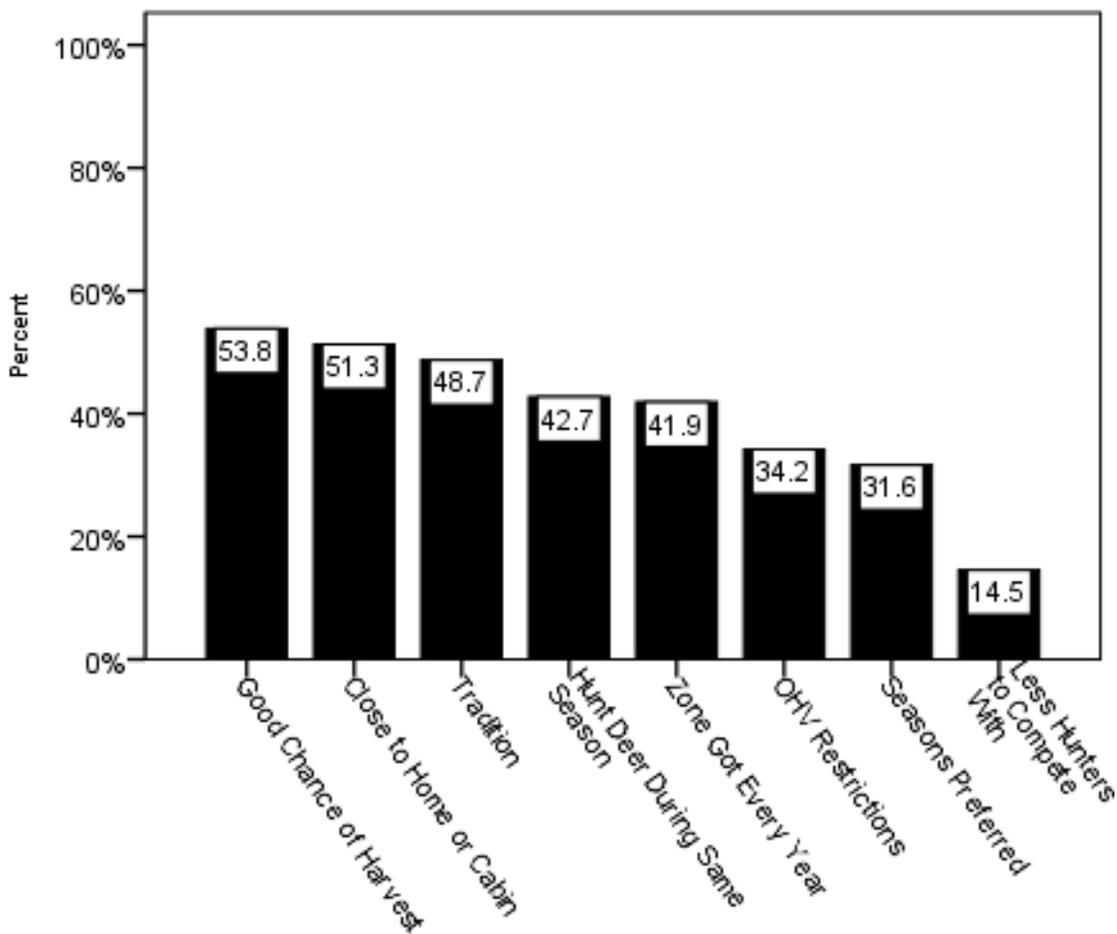
Q13: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Diamond Creek zone.

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



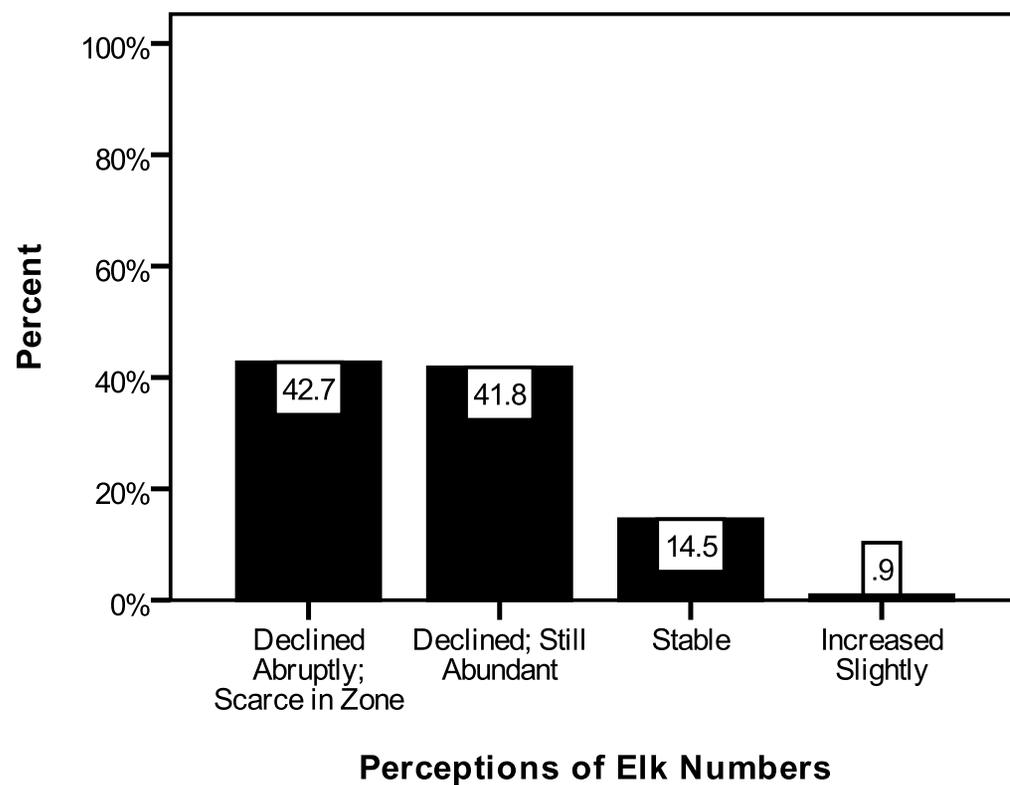
Q14: A large majority of Diamond Creek hunters typically hunt in the same zone every year, similar to the state average.

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



Q16: Diamond Creek hunters reported that good chance of harvest made a zone most desirable, unlike the state average which reported close to home or cabin as the most desirable. They also consider tradition more important than other hunters in the state.

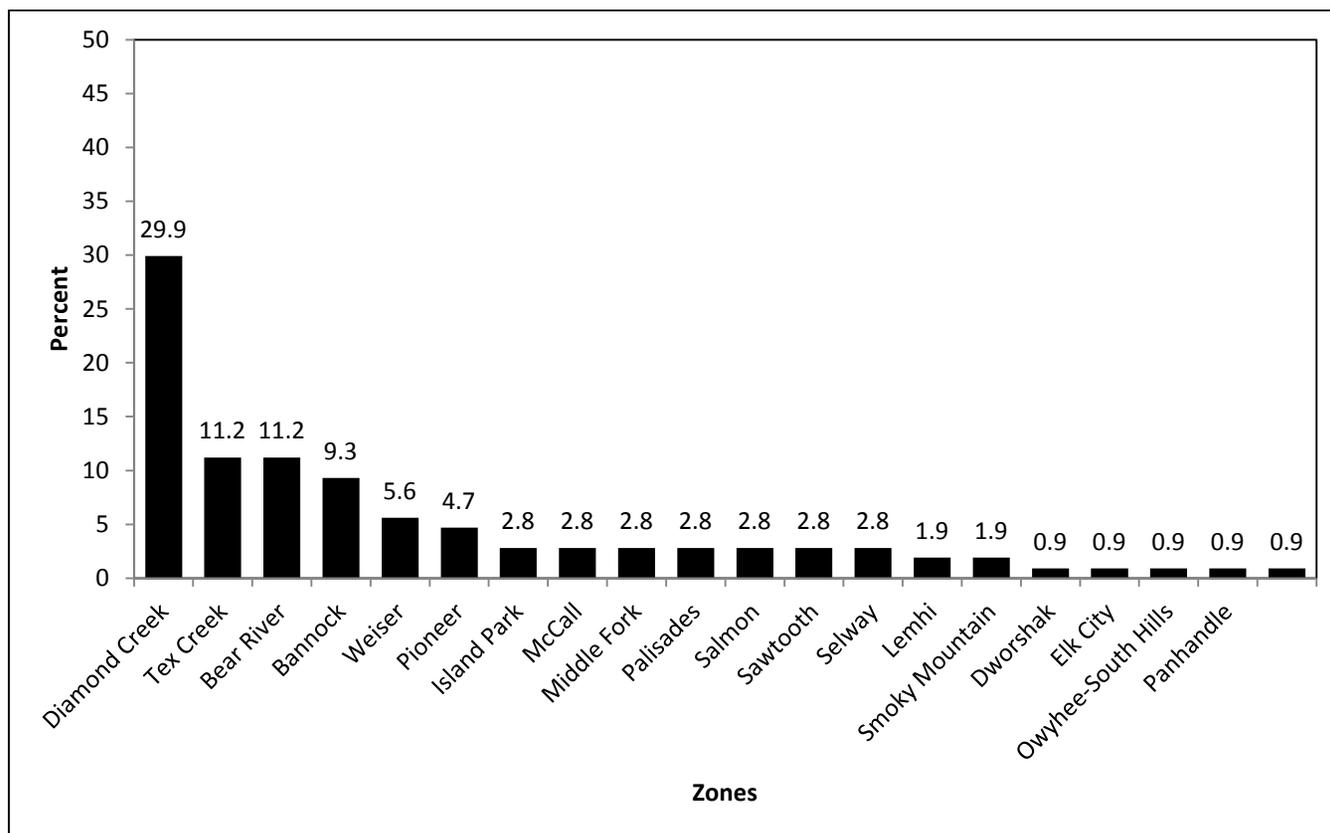
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: Similar to the state average, Diamond Creek hunters perceive Elk numbers to have declined. However, over 10% more than the state average reported that numbers, though declined, have remained abundant in the zone they hunted in 2011.

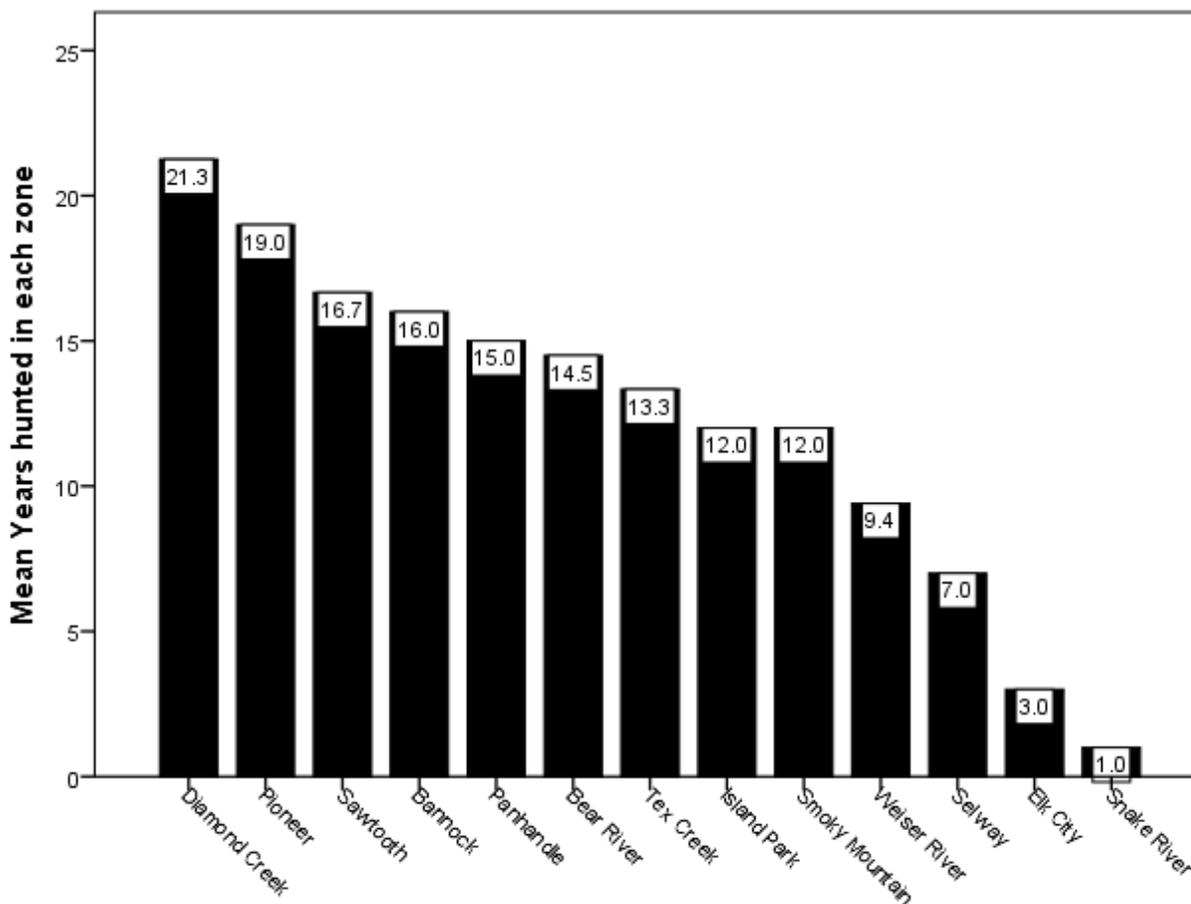
18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years, please list them below.

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



Q18: Besides the Diamond Creek zone, respondents also reported Tex Creek and Bear River to be other popular zones to hunt in.

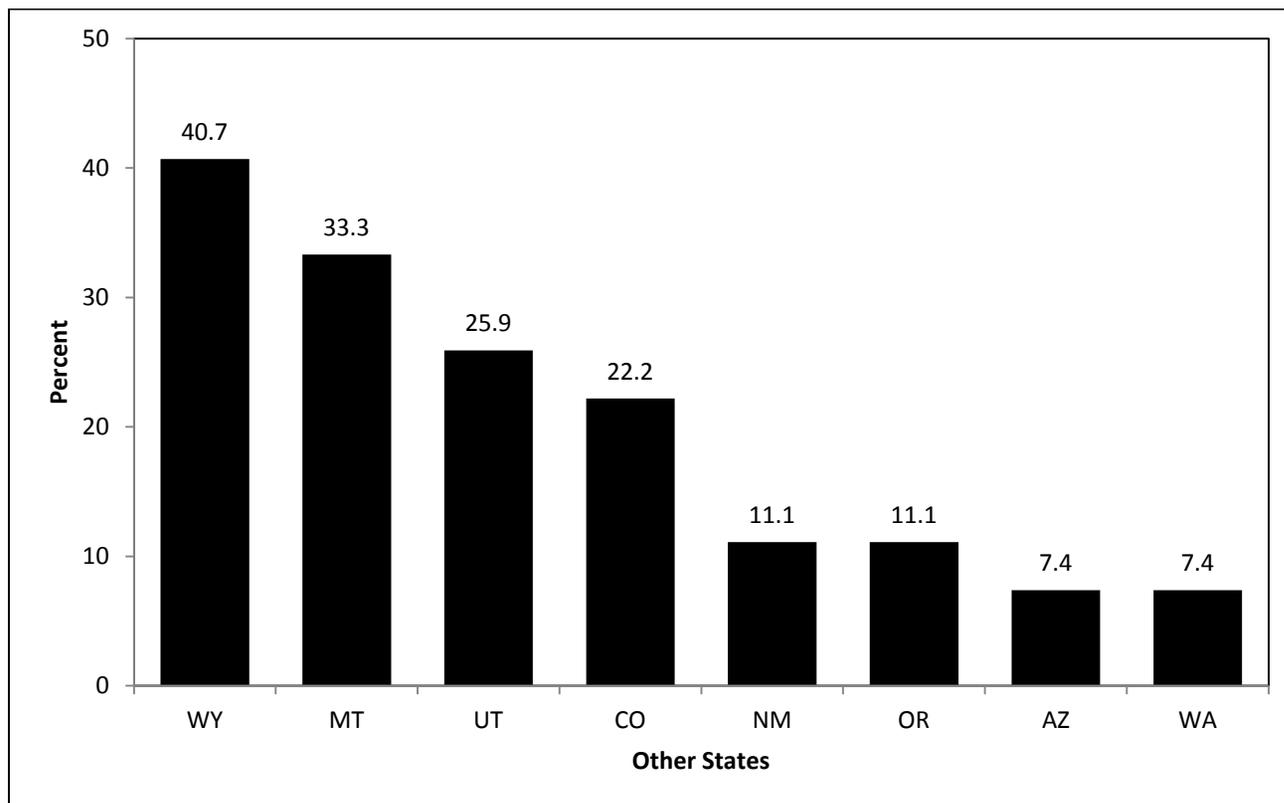
20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: The Diamond Creek zone has been hunted the longest among respondents. Hunters have also hunted the Pioneer zone for almost 20 years on average.

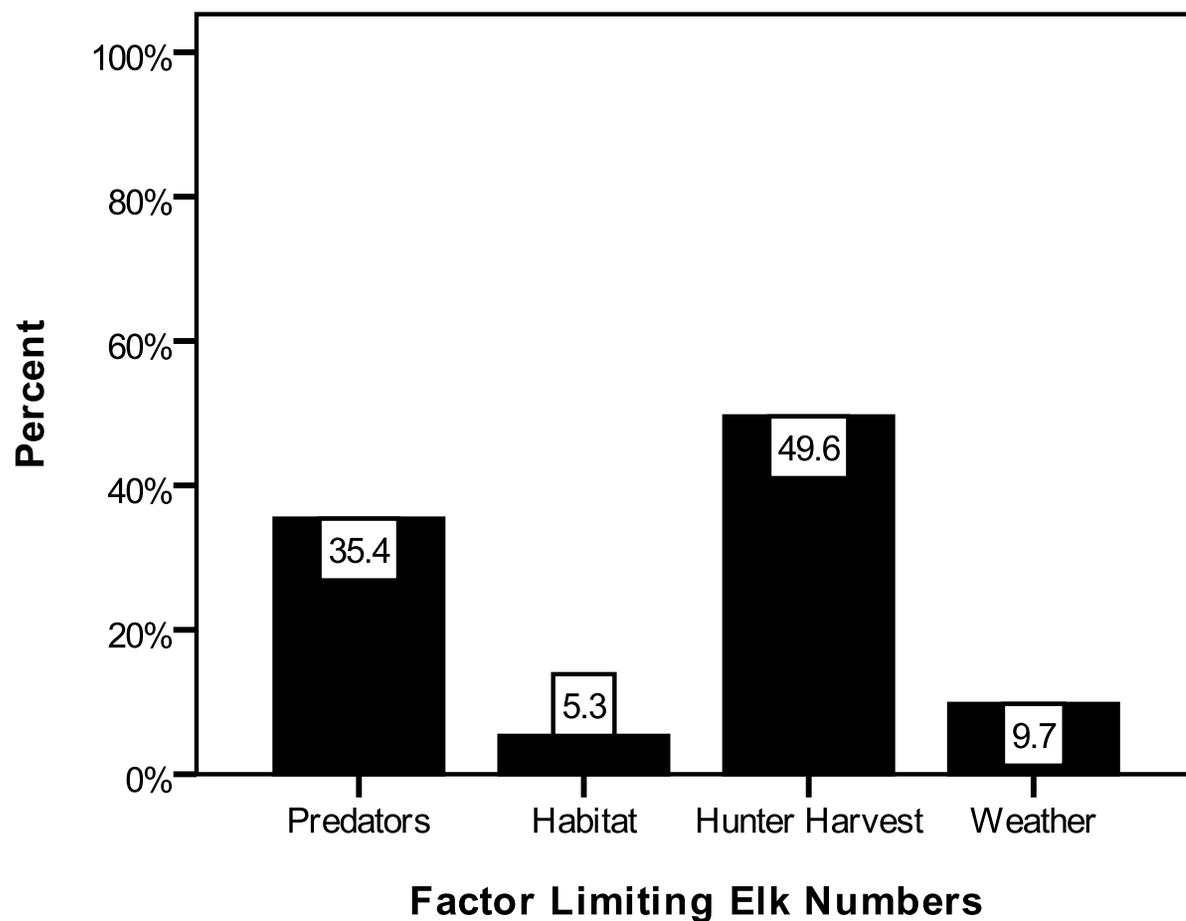
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: Diamond Creek hunters that hunt out-of-state prefer hunting in Wyoming, but a third also have hunted in Montana.

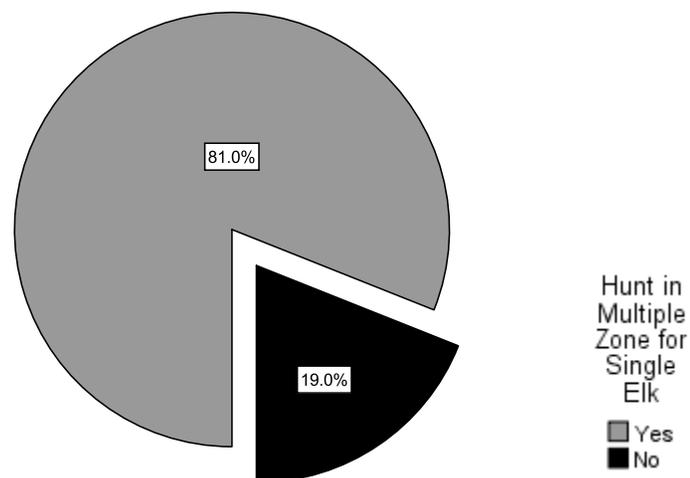
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



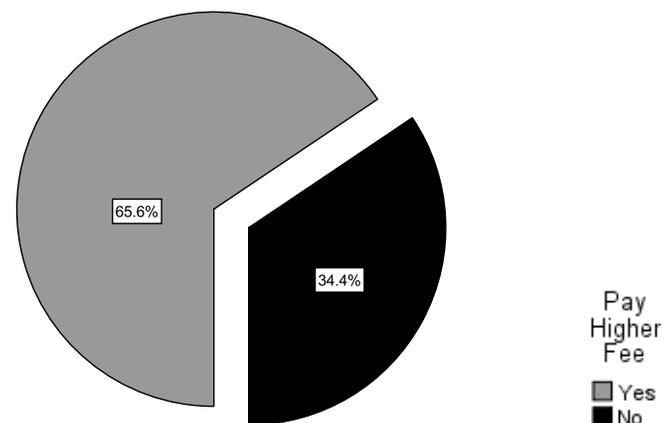
Q22: Unlike the state average, almost half of Diamond Creek hunters attribute limiting Elk numbers to hunter harvest. Over a third believe it to be predators.

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

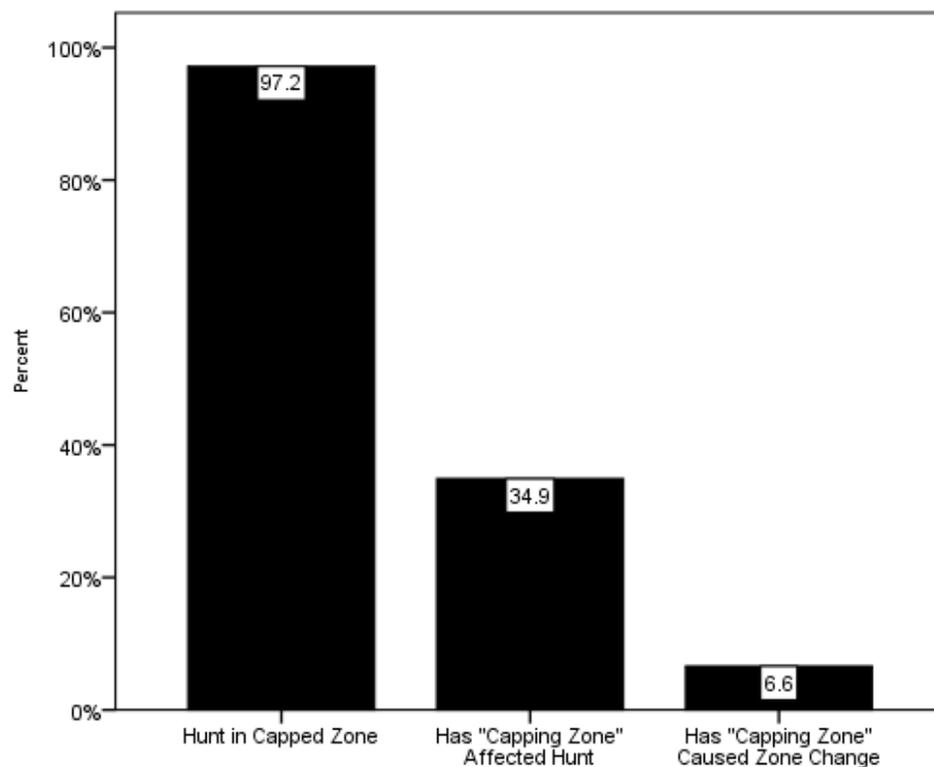
Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Diamond Creek hunters would also like to be able to hunt in multiple zones for a single Elk in a year. Almost two-thirds would also be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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

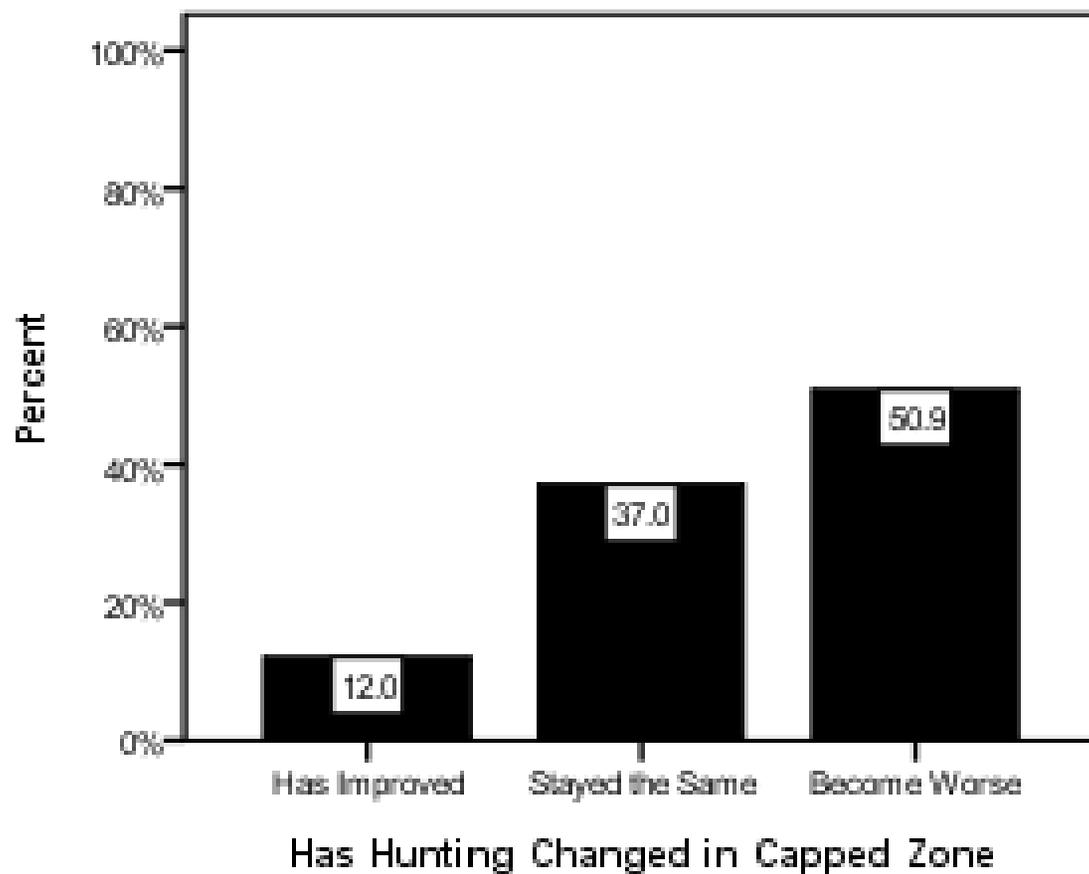


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called “capping the zone” was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This “capping the zone” is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters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



Q25: Almost 100% of Diamond Creek respondents hunt in a capped zone, over 50% more than the state average. About one in three respondents reported that capping the zone has affected where they hunt.

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

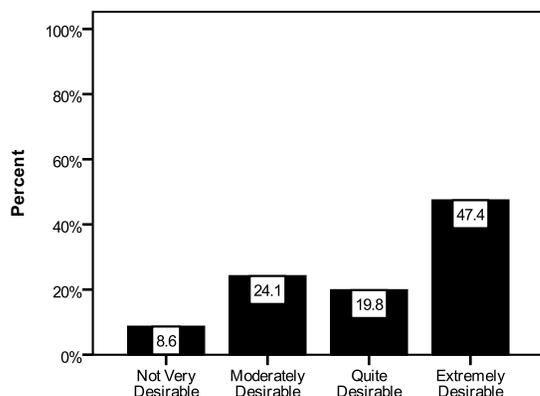


Q26: The distribution of responses is similar between the Diamond Creek zone and the state average.

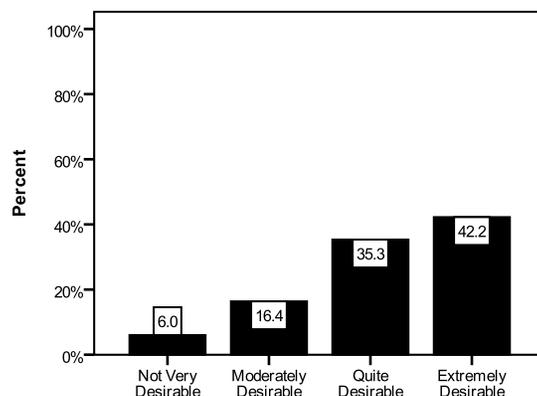
ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

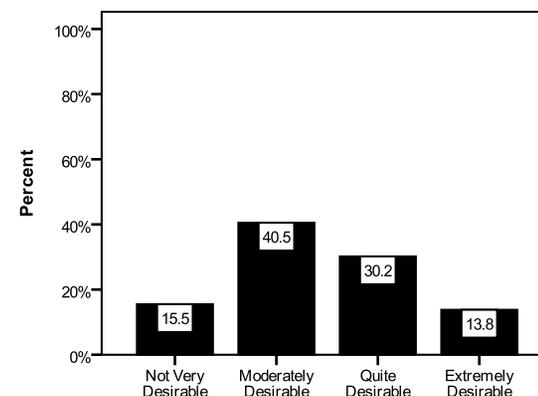
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



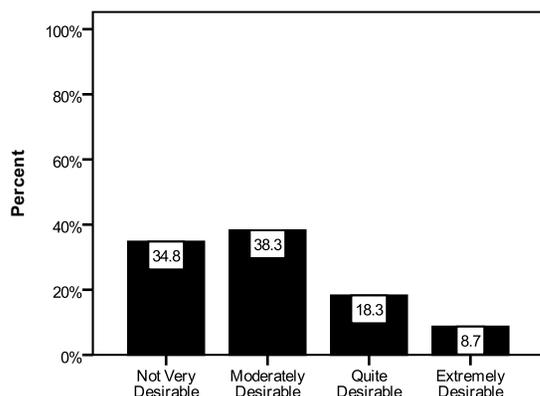
Large Bull



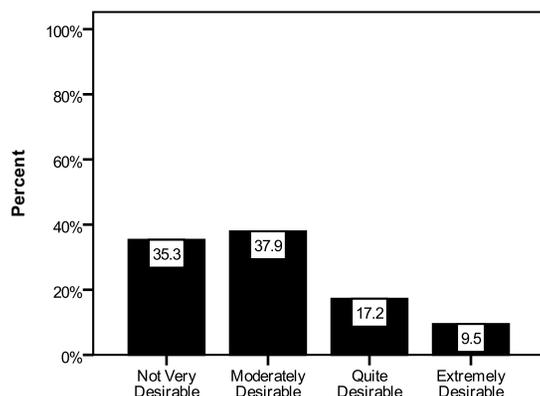
Mature Bull



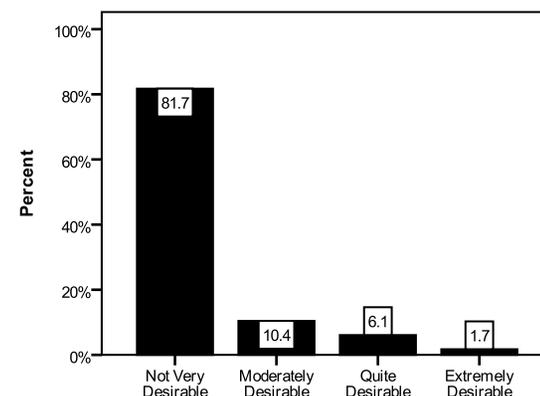
Raghorn Bull



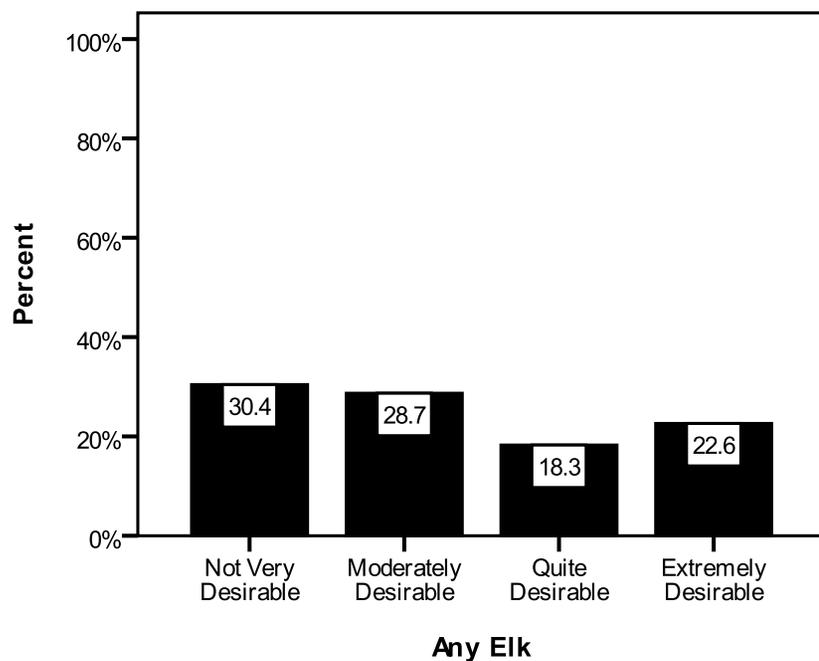
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

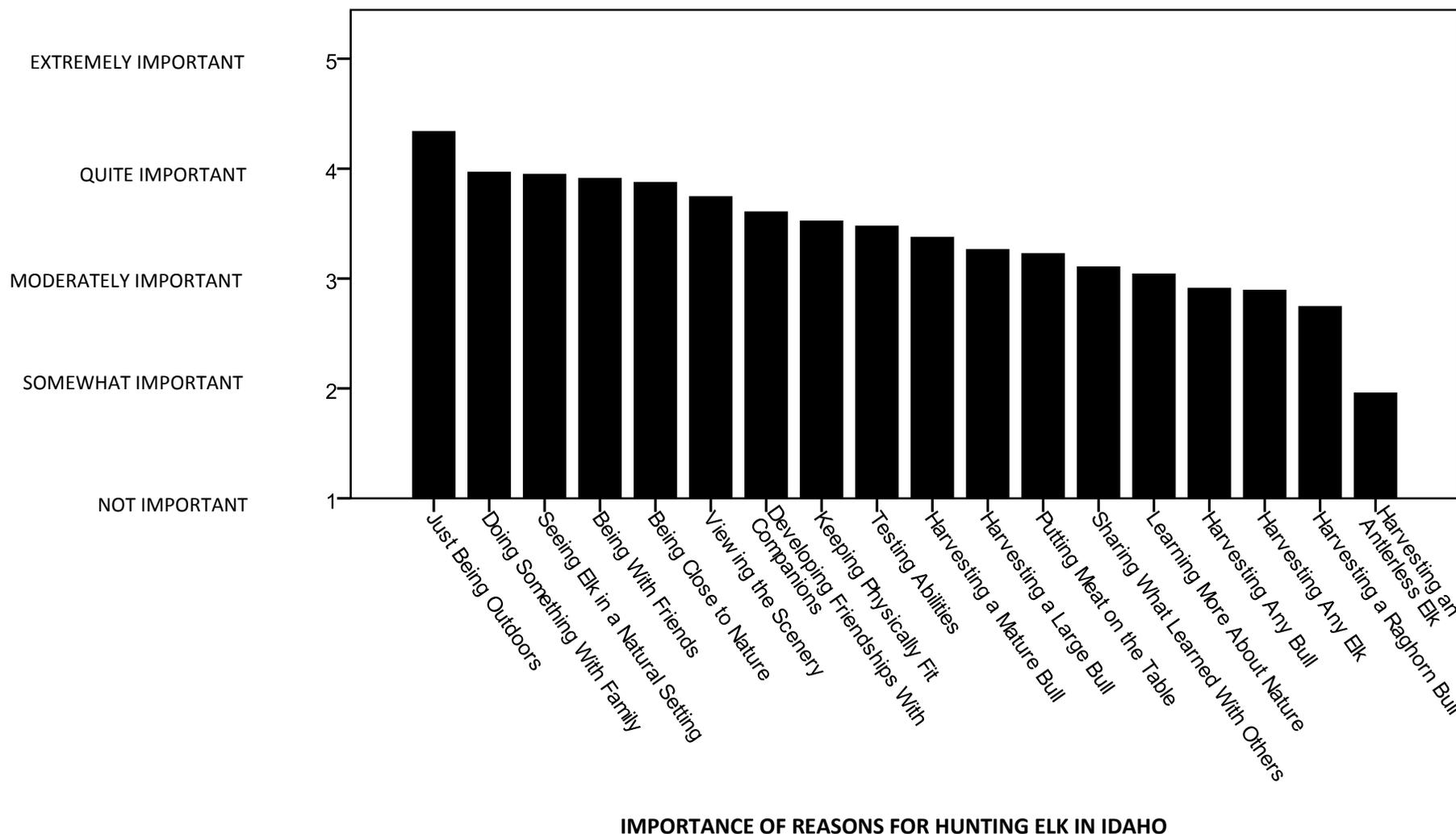


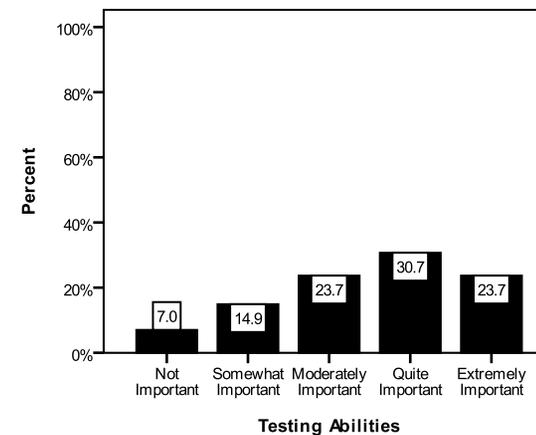
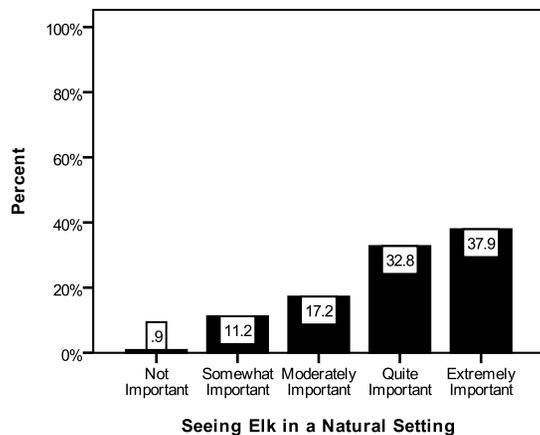
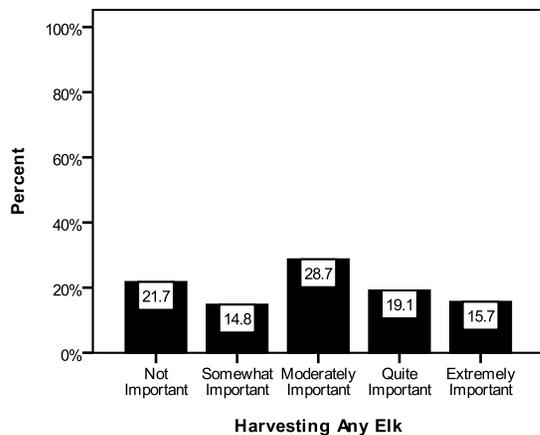
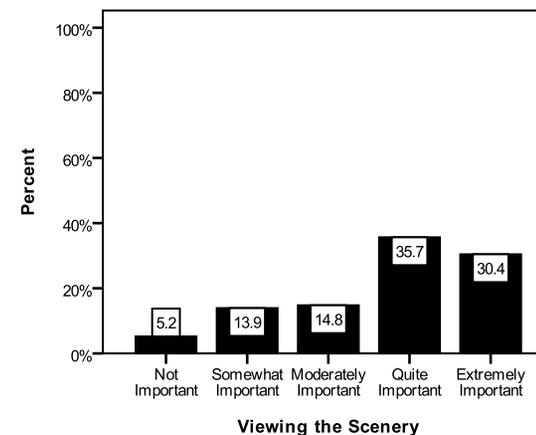
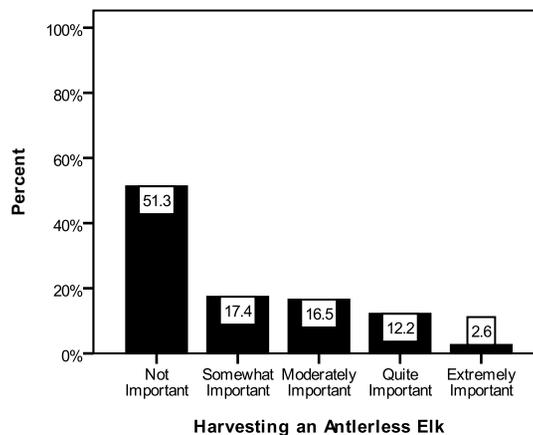
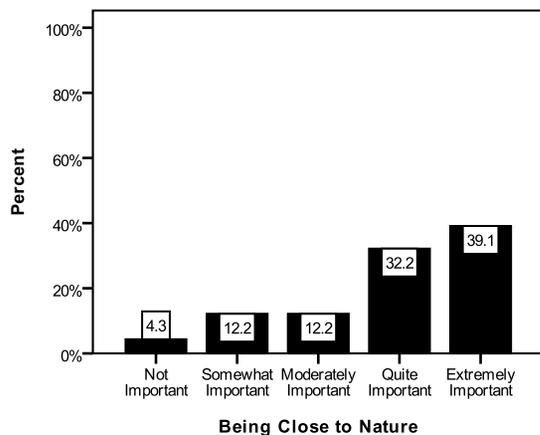
Calf

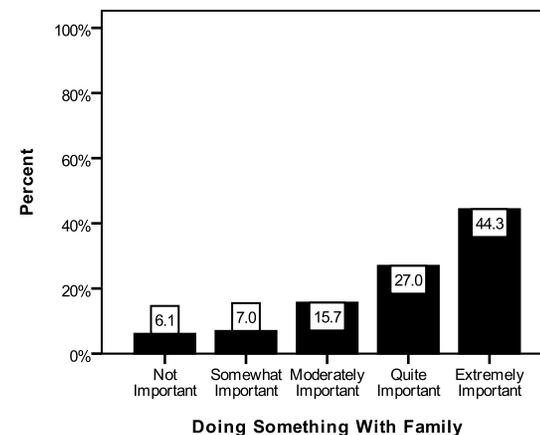
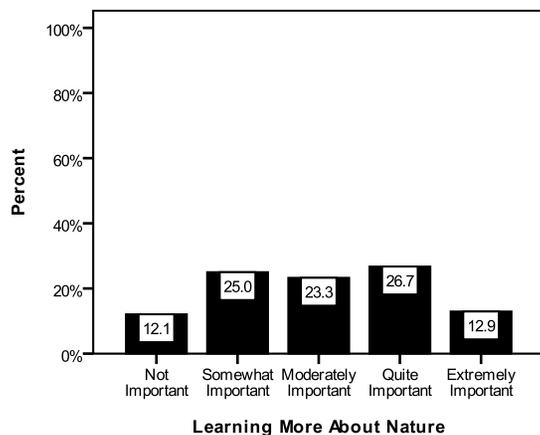
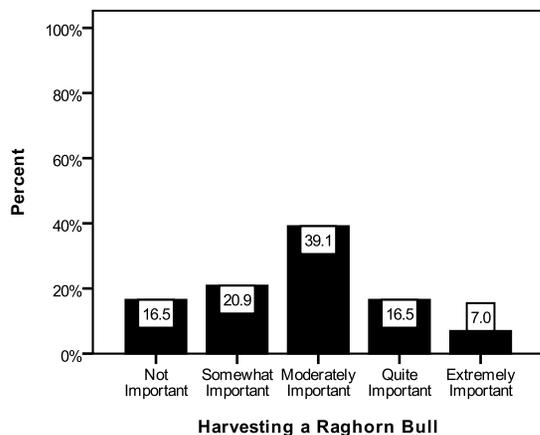
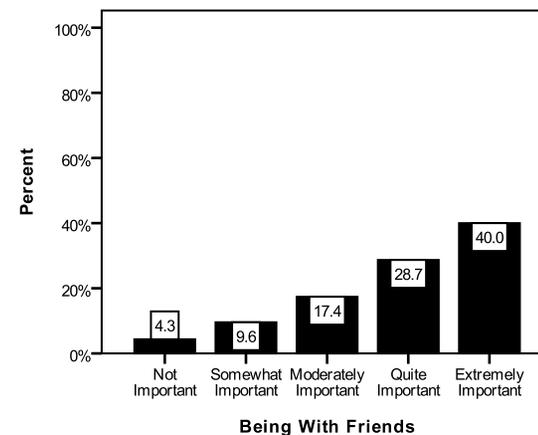
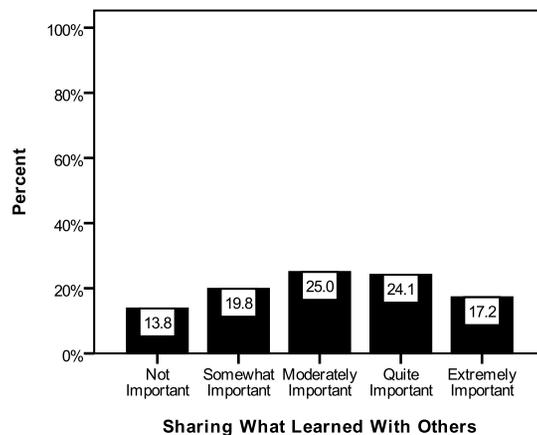
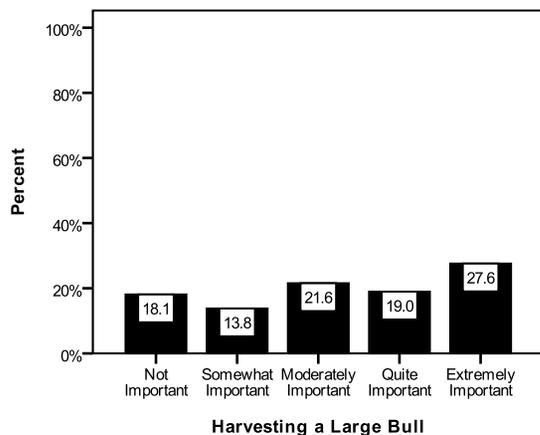


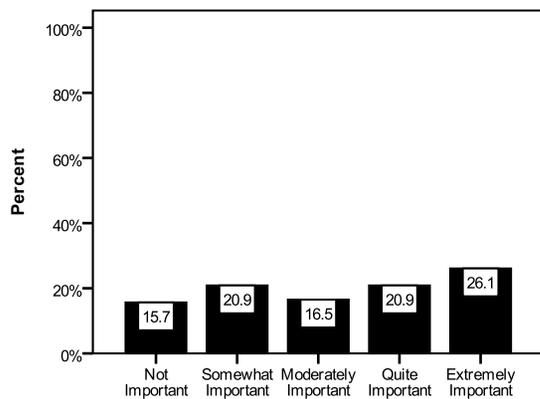
Q27: The distribution of responses is similar between the Diamond Creek zone and the state average. Hunters larger size more desirable.

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?

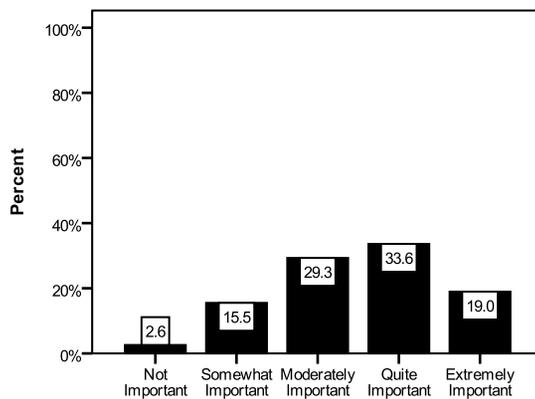




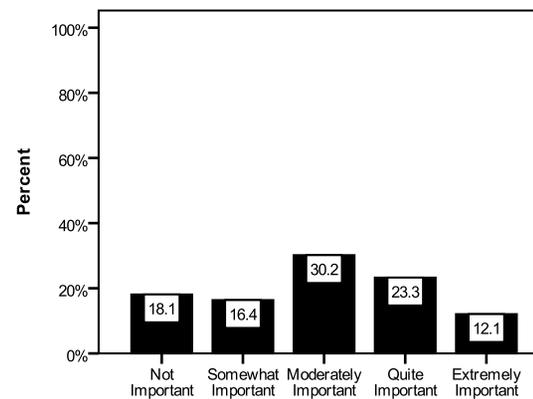




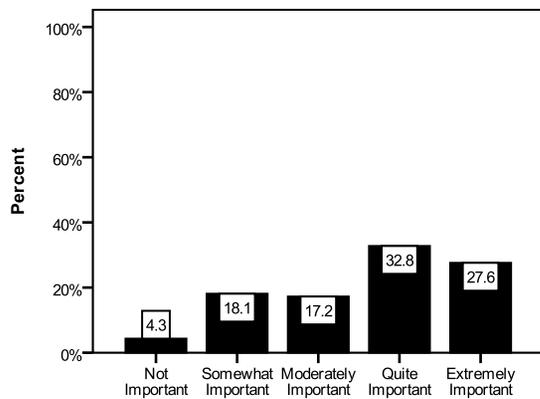
Putting Meat on the Table



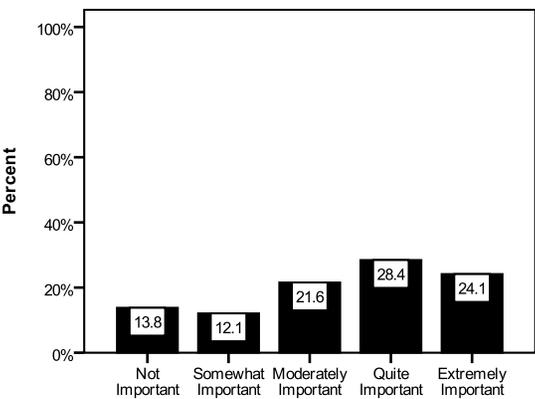
Keeping Physically Fit



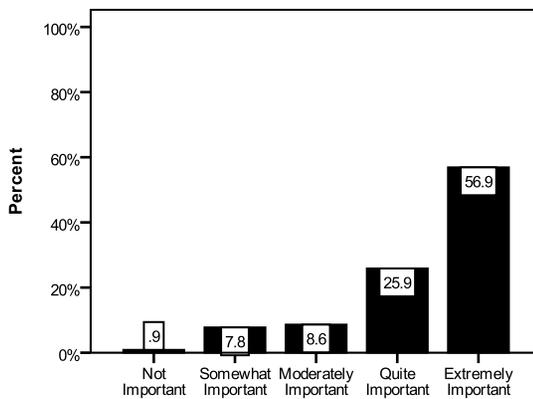
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

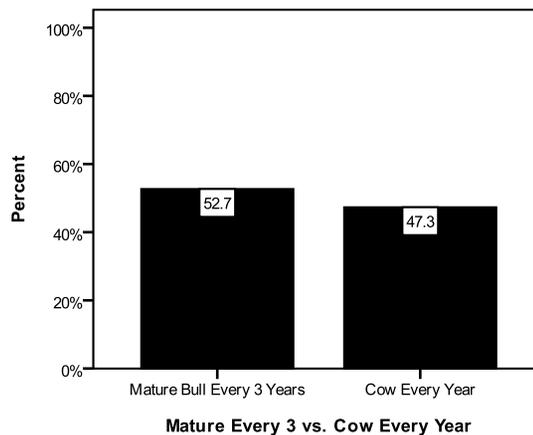
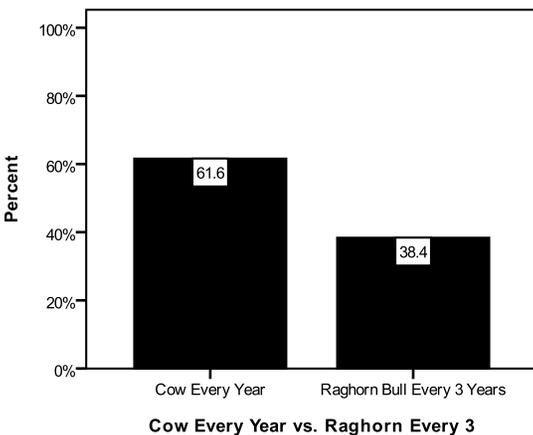
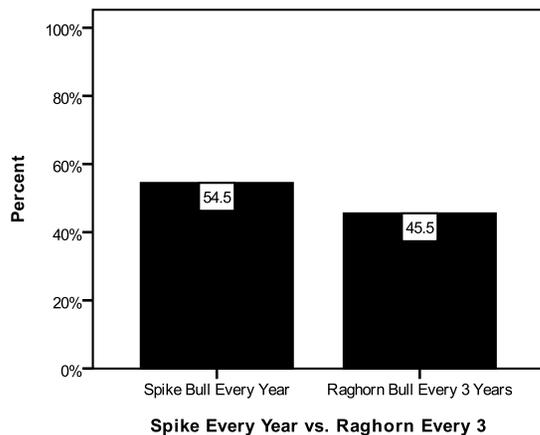
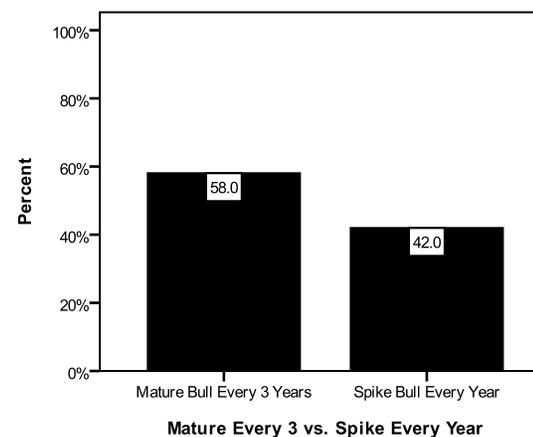
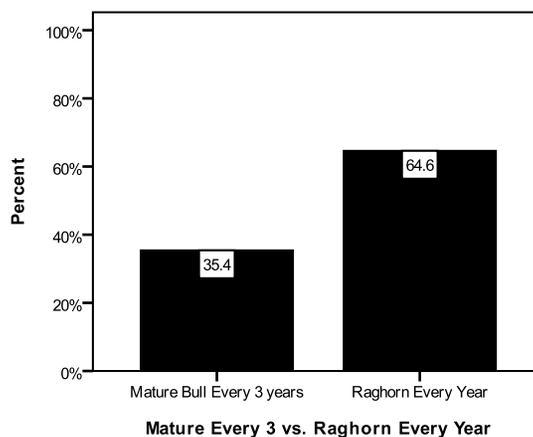
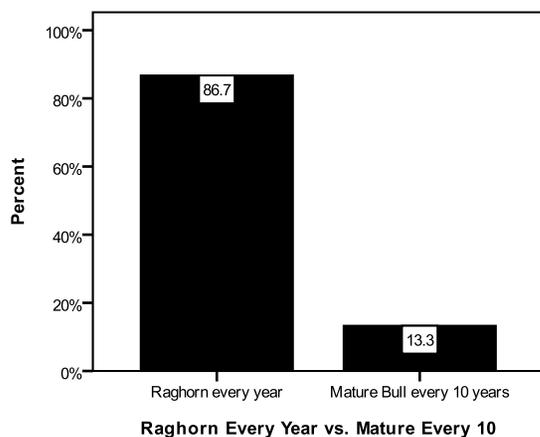


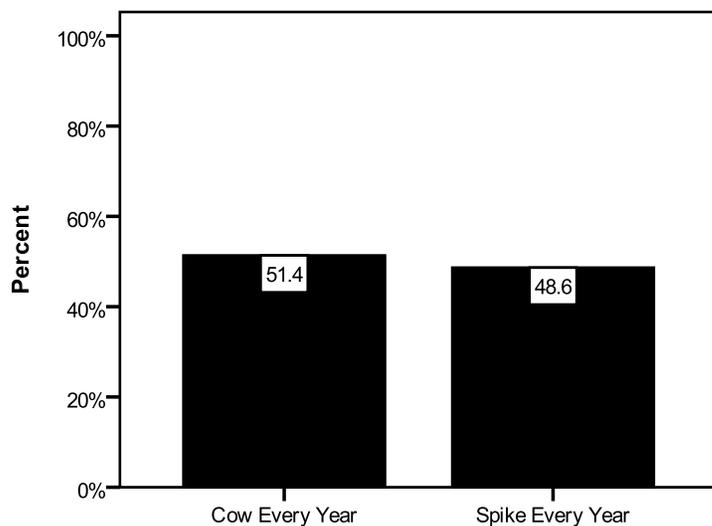
Just Being Outdoors

Q28: Diamond Creek hunters and the state average find the same six reasons important for hunting Elk in Idaho.

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.



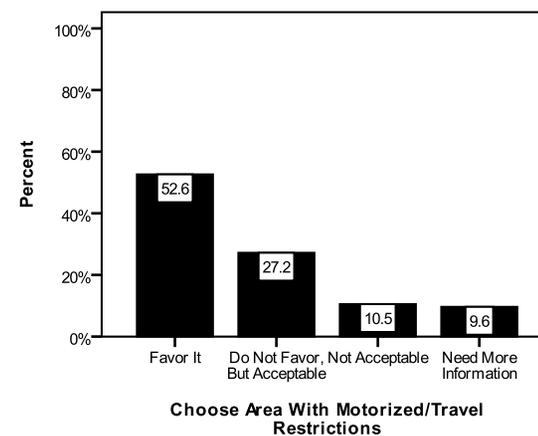
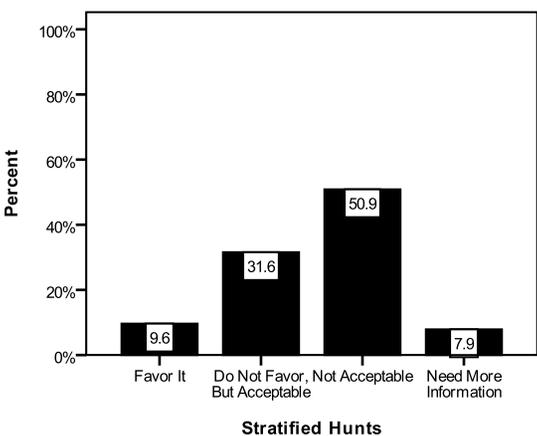
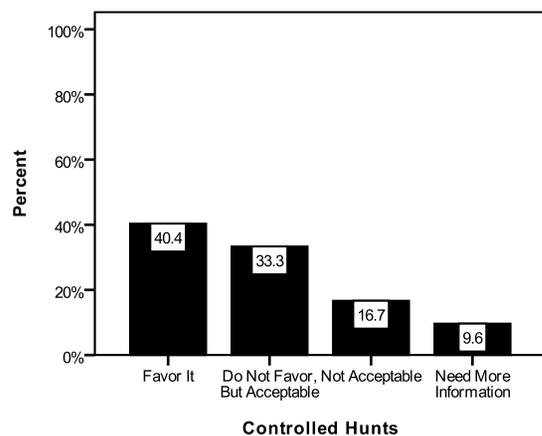
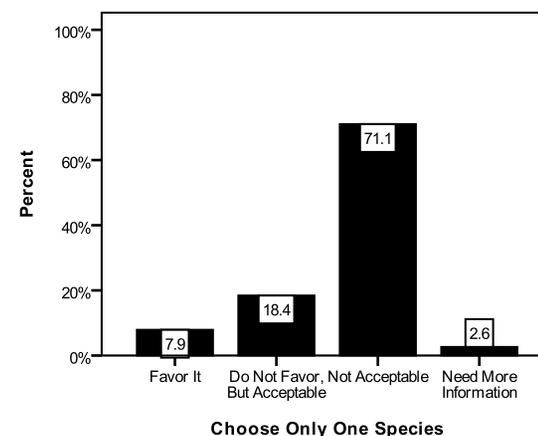
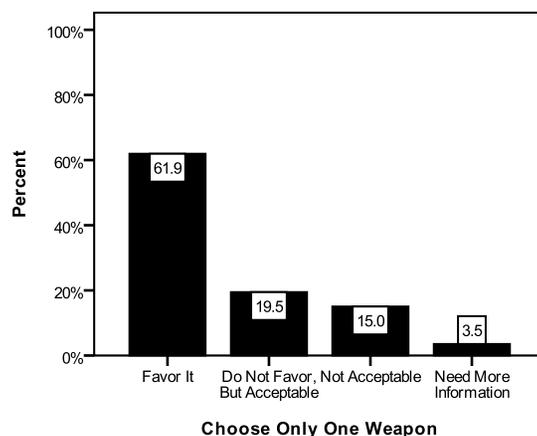
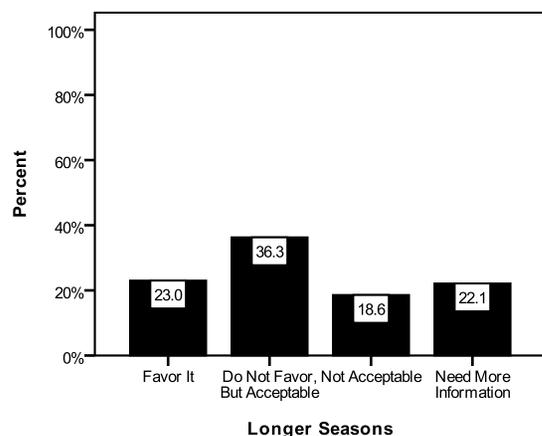


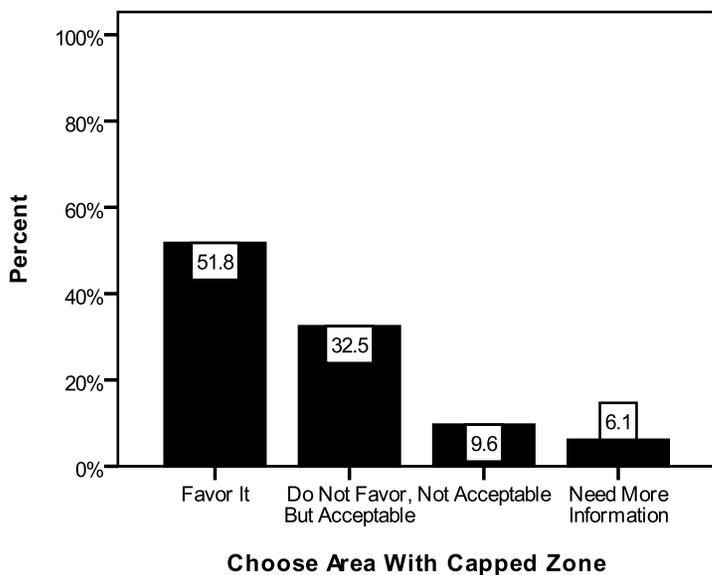
Cow Every Year vs. Spike Every Year

Q32: The distribution of responses is similar between hunters in the Diamond Creek zone and the state average.

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

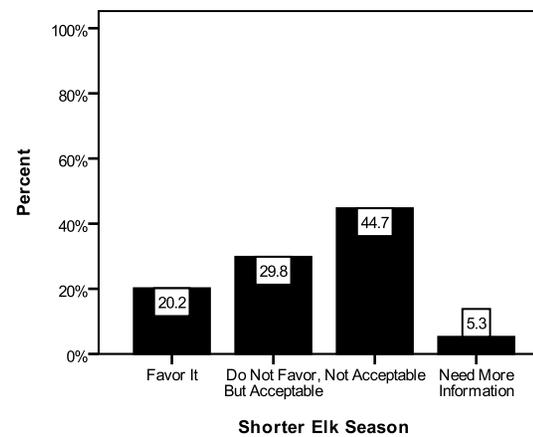
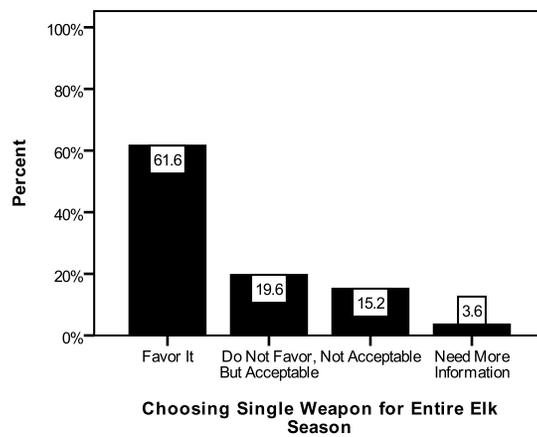
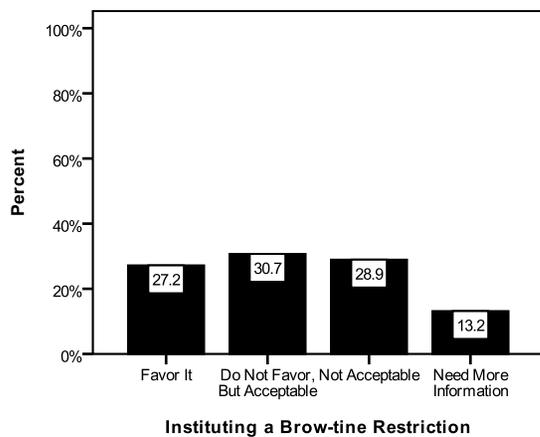
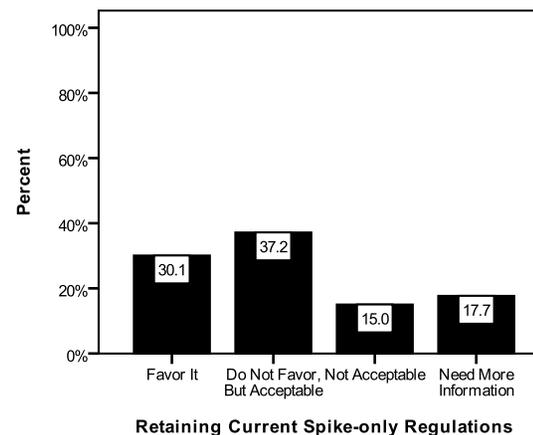
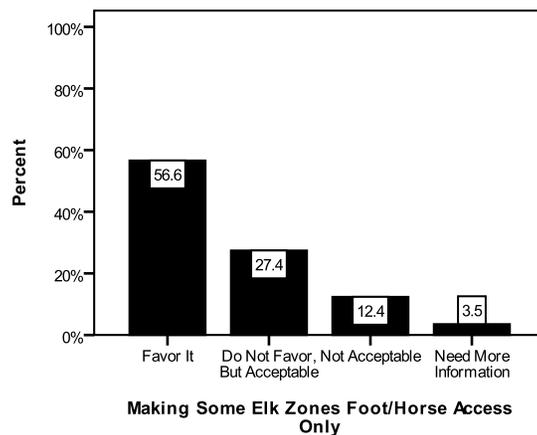
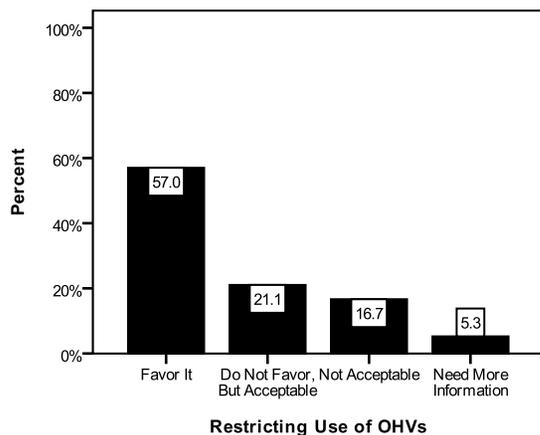
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

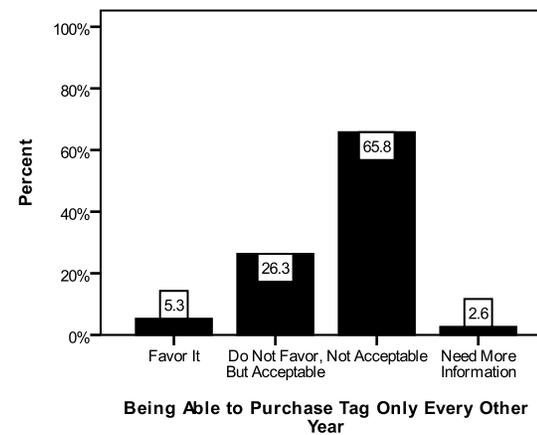
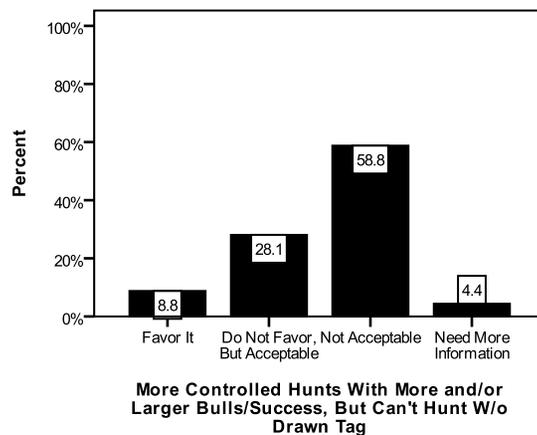
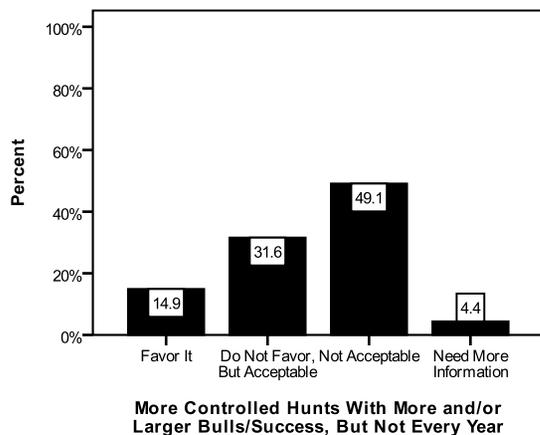




Q34: Responses are similar between the state average and the Diamond Creek zone. However, hunters in this zone find controlled hunts, choosing only one weapon, and choosing an area with a capped zone more favorable than other hunters in the state. Also, fewer hunters in this zone do not favor longer seasons but still find them acceptable.

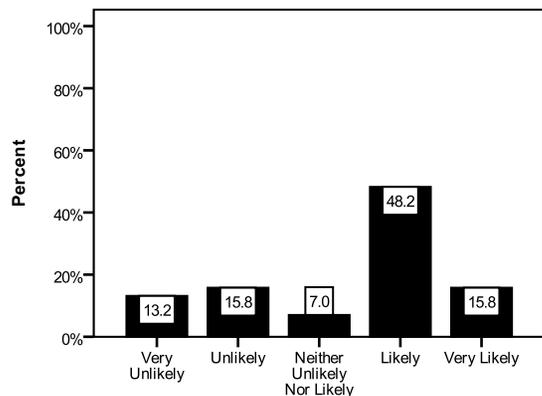
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



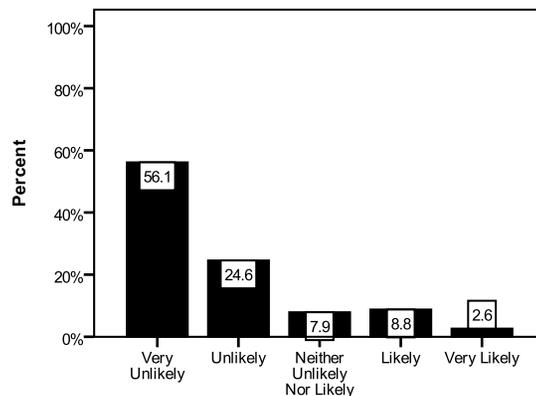


Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Diamond Creek zone. Hunters in this zone slightly favor choosing only one weapon for an Elk season slightly more than other hunters.

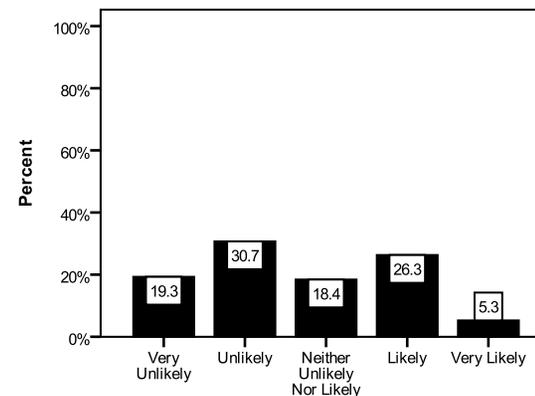
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



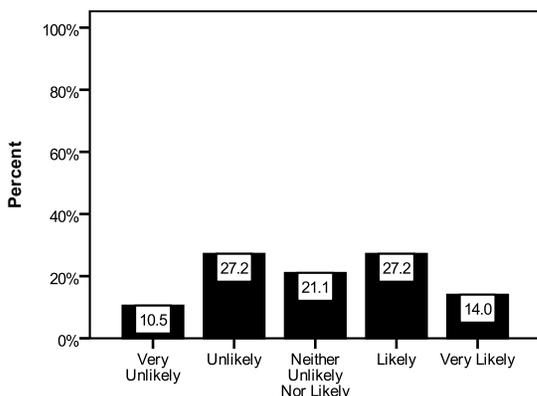
Hunt in Different Zones



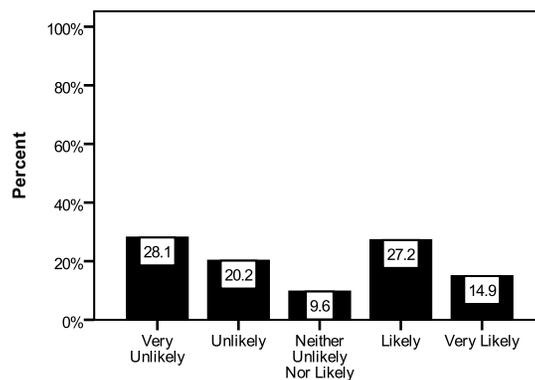
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



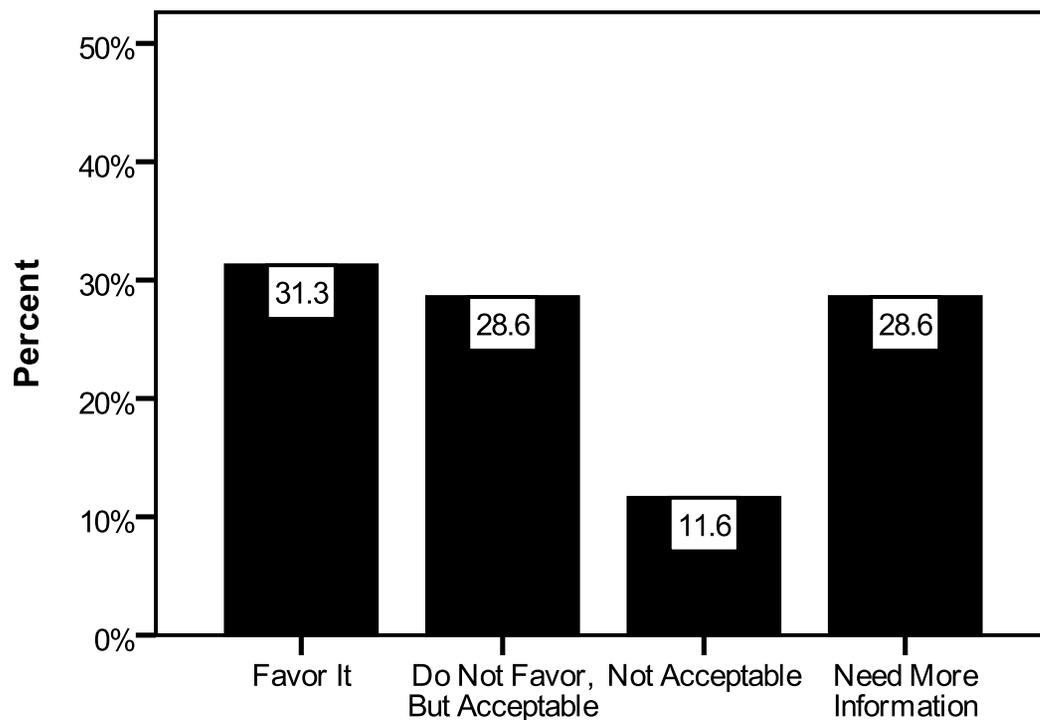
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

Q36: The distribution of responses is similar between the Diamond Creek zone and the state average, though hunters in this zone are slightly less likely to change their behaviors.

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

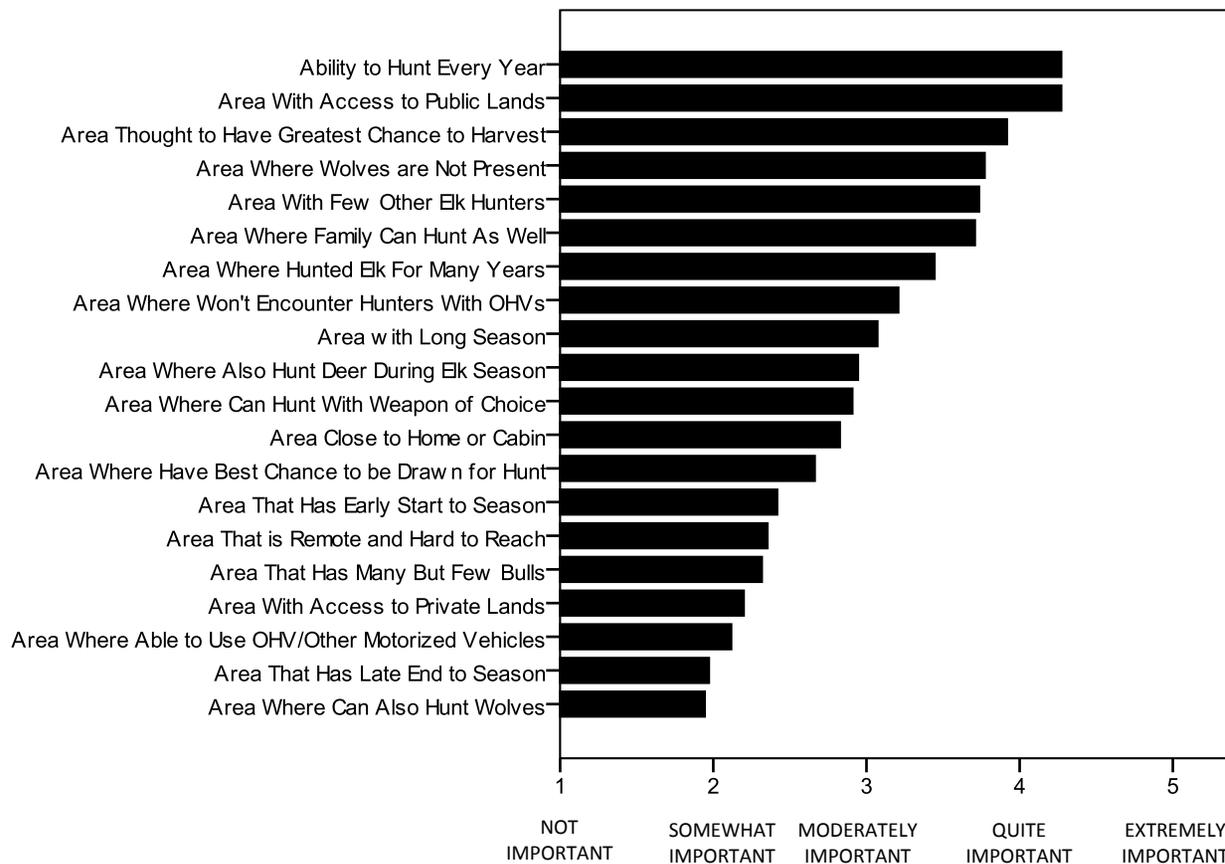


Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

Q38: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Diamond Creek zone.

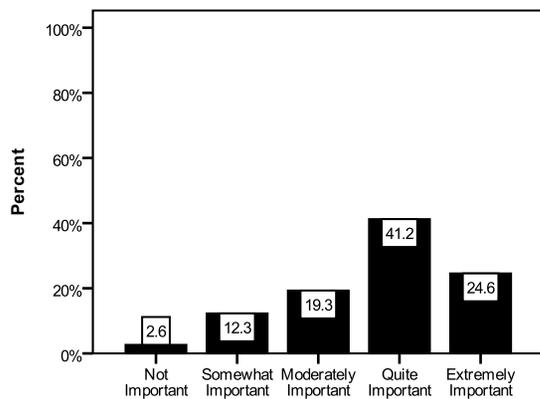
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

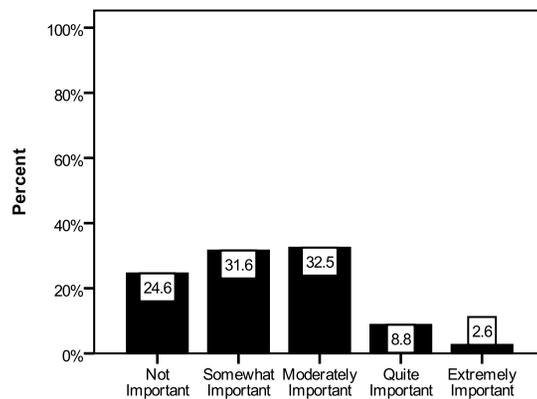


Q29: Hunters in the Diamond Creek zone and the state average find the same five characteristics as most important.

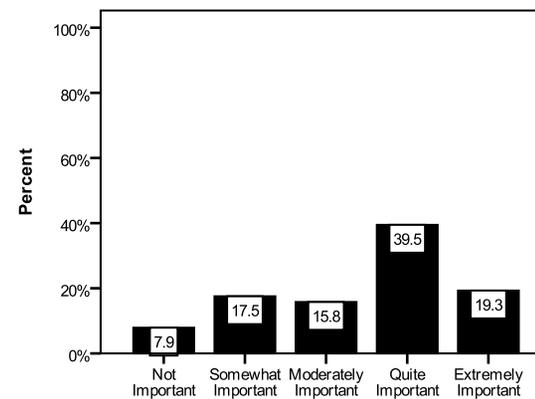
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



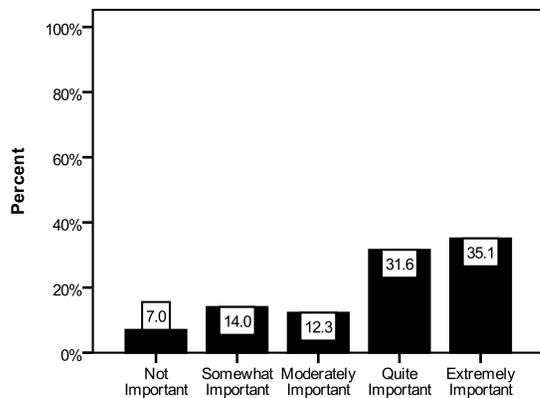
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



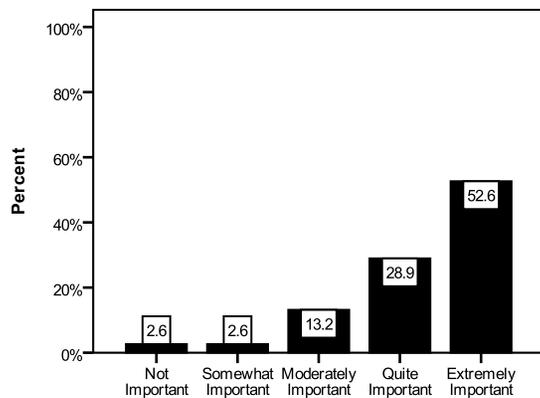
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



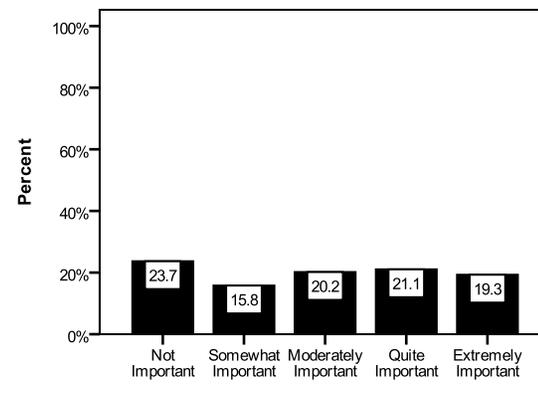
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



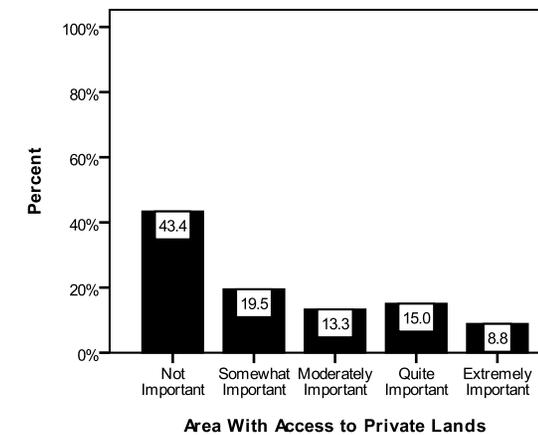
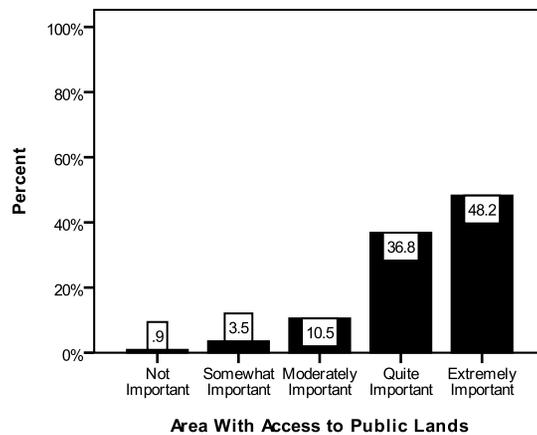
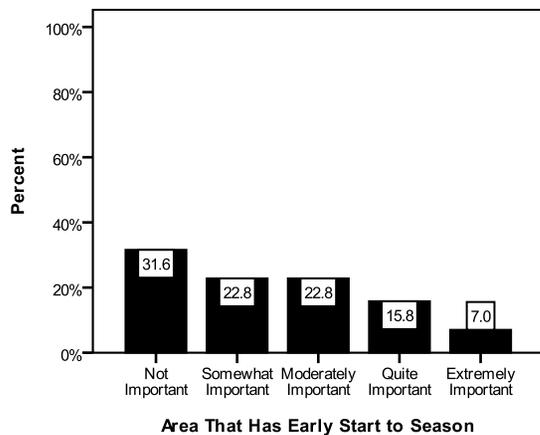
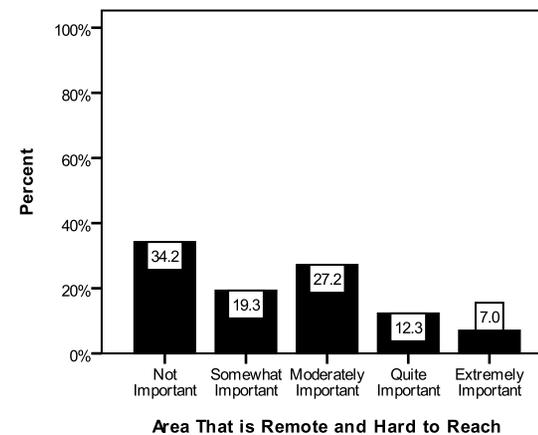
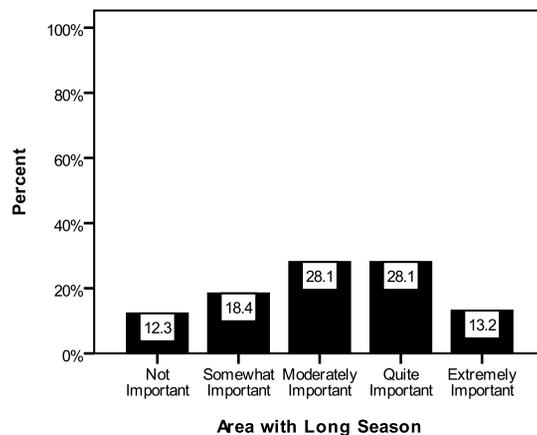
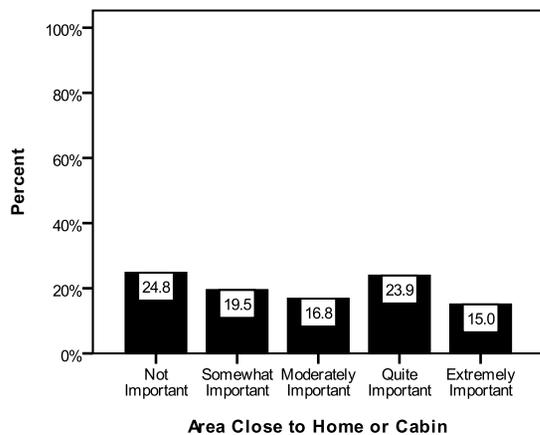
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

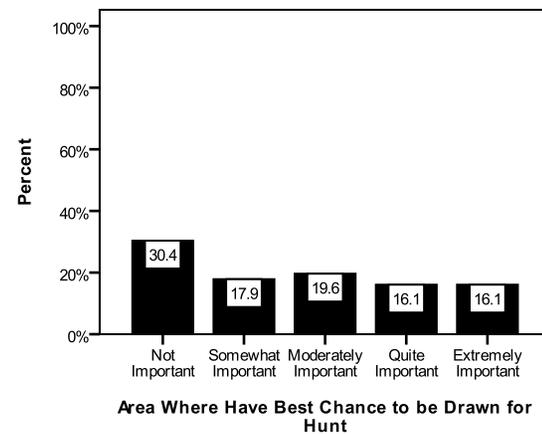
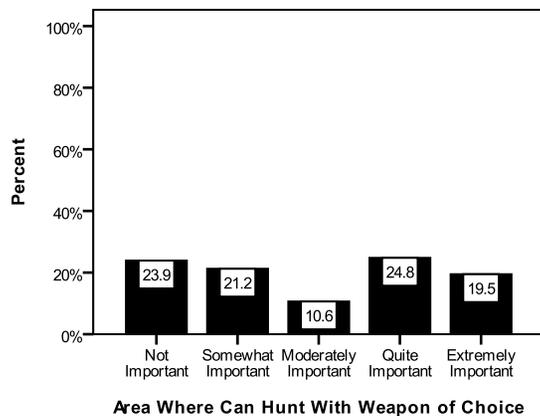
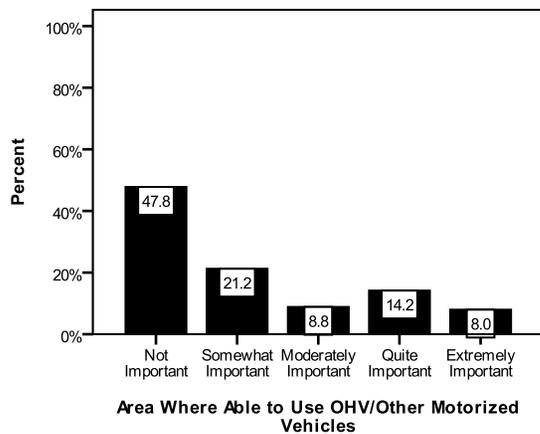
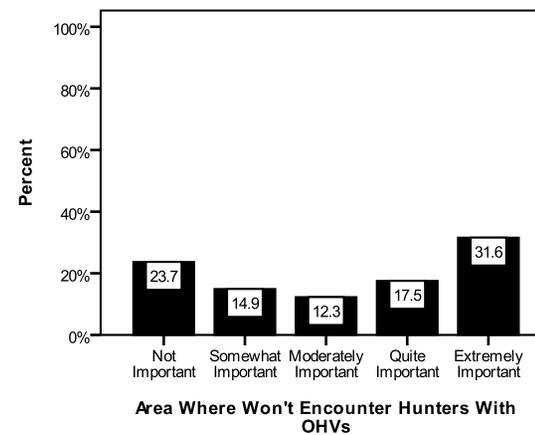
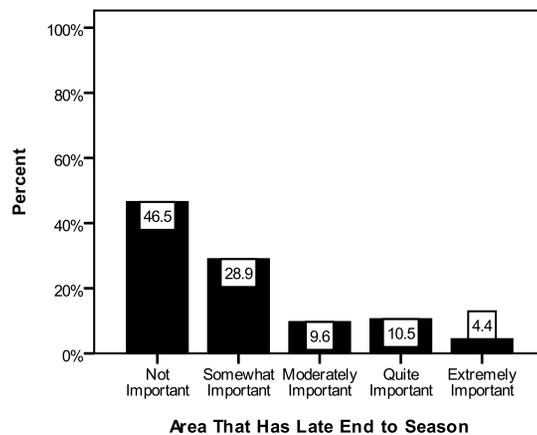
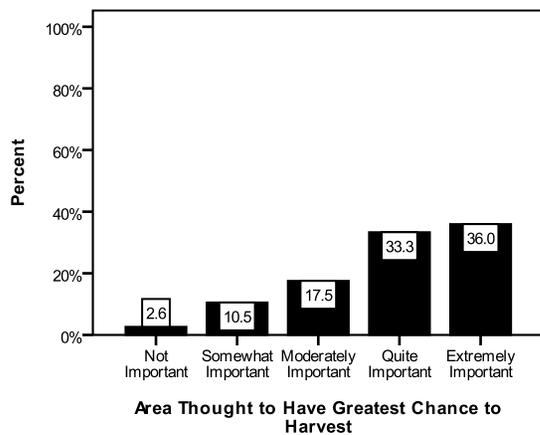


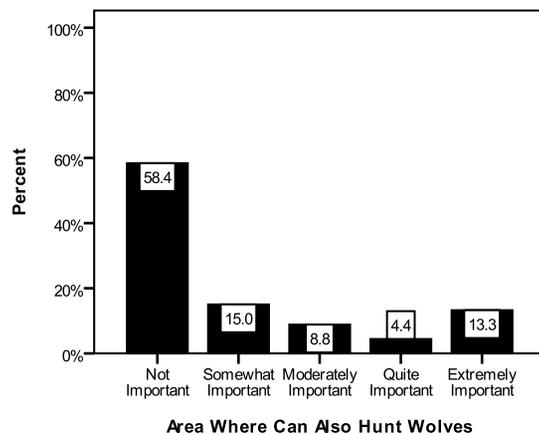
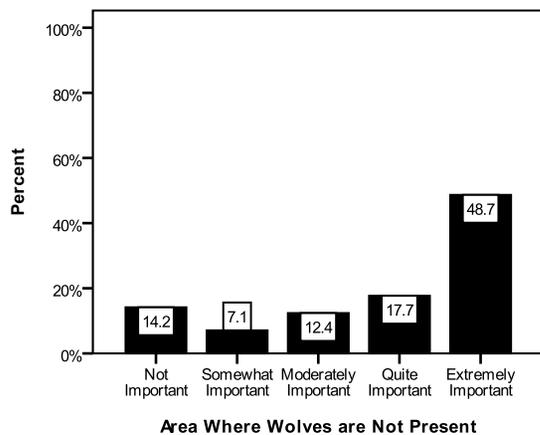
Ability to Hunt Every Year



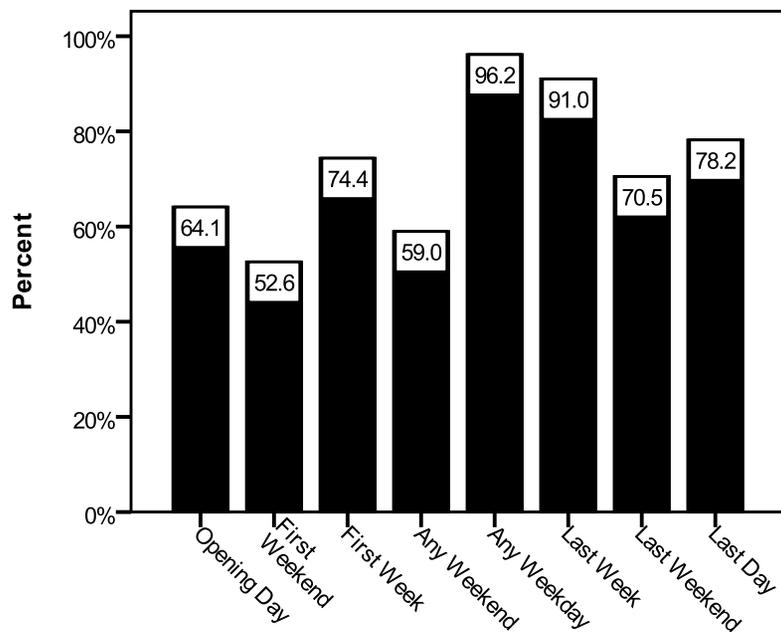
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season



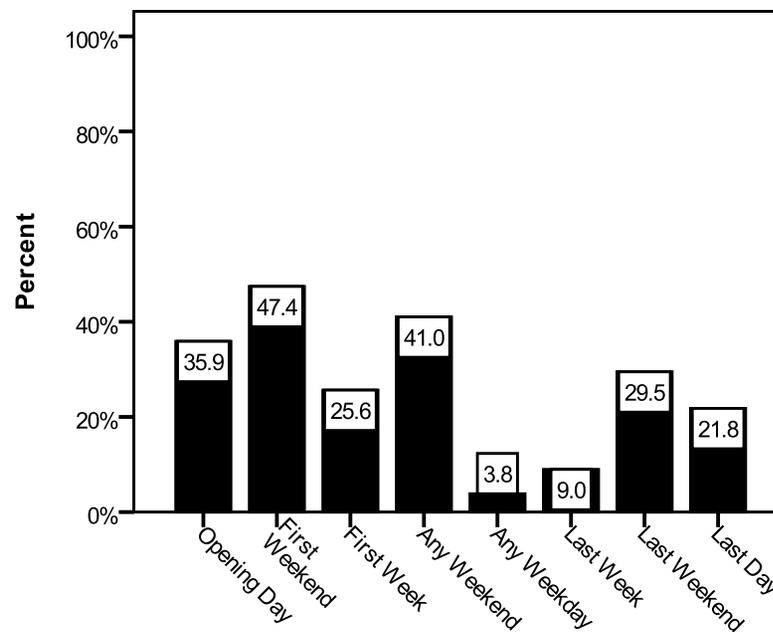




30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



TIMES PREFERRED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

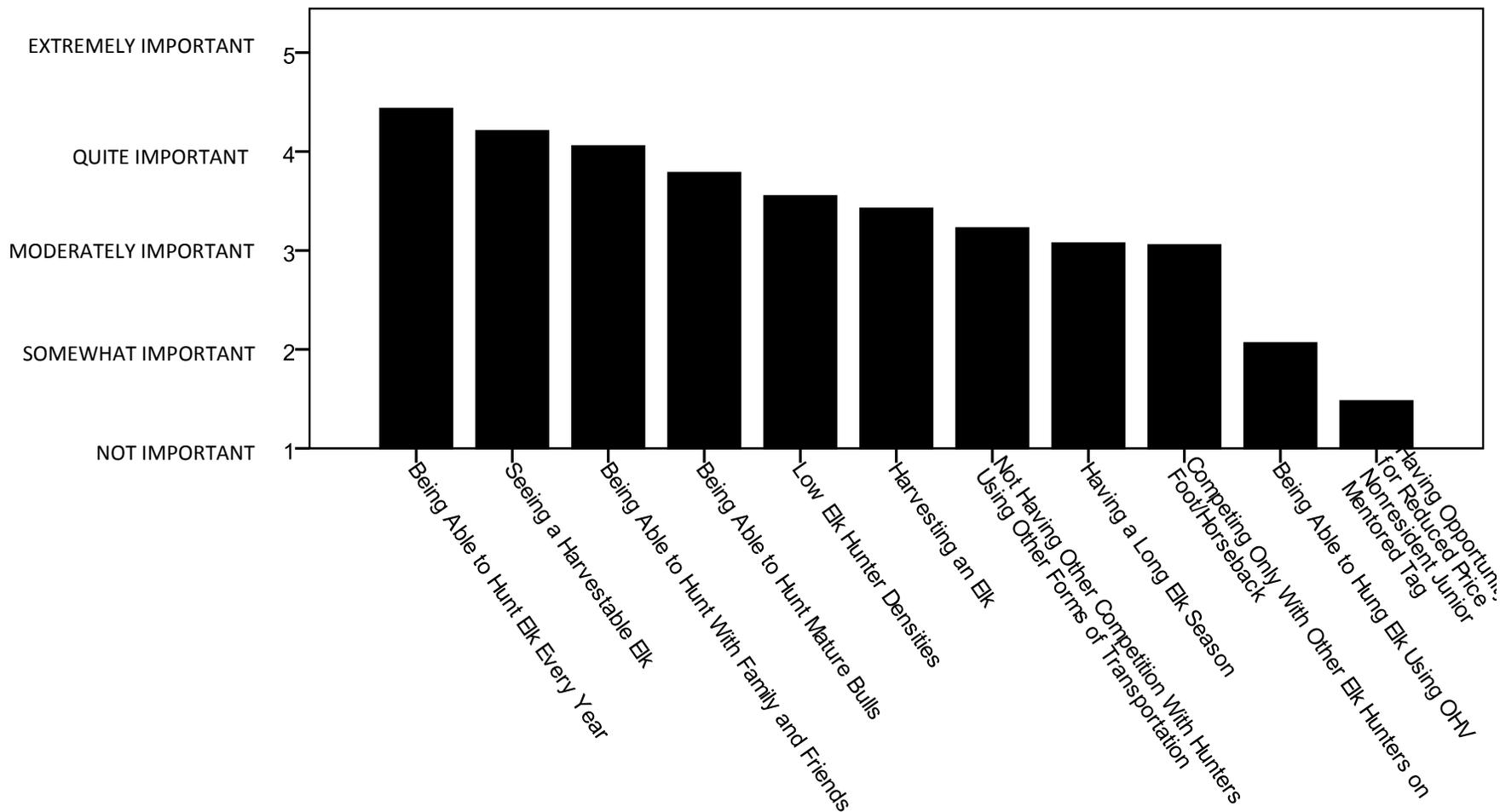


TIMES AVOIDED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

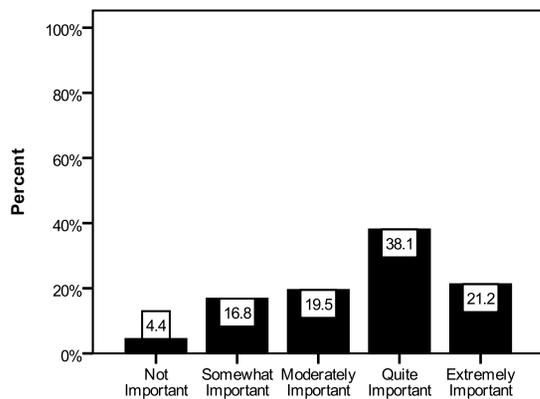
Q30: The distribution of responses is similar between Diamond Creek hunters and the state average.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

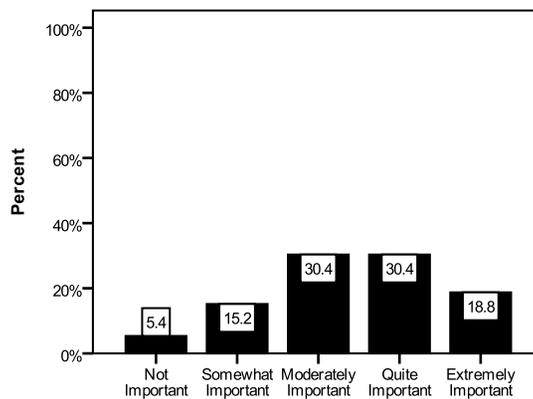
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



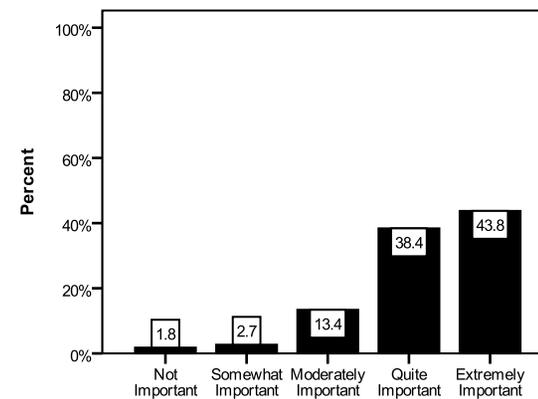
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



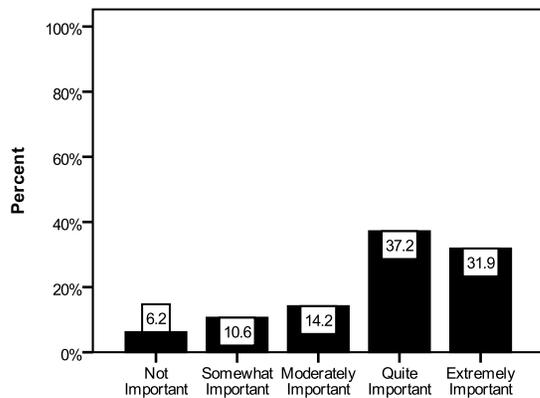
Low Elk Hunter Densities



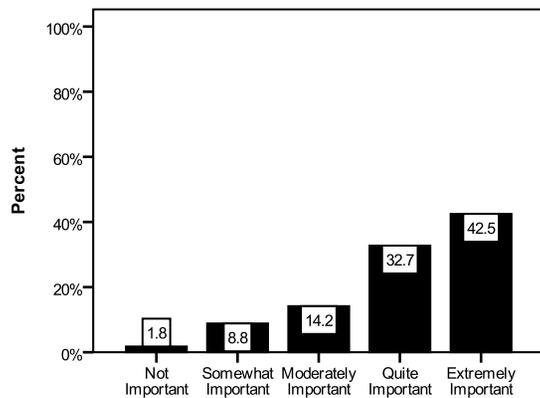
Harvesting an Elk



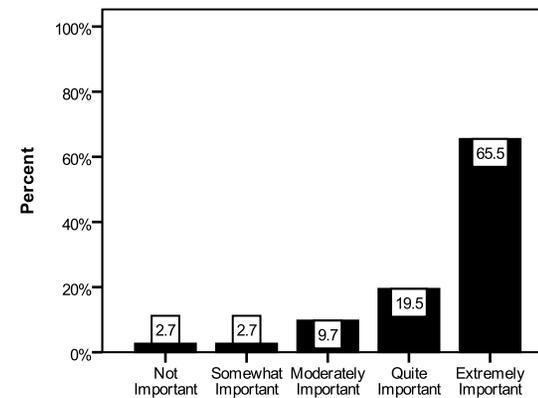
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



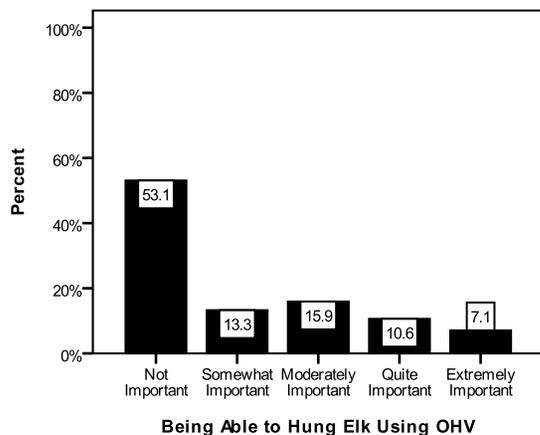
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



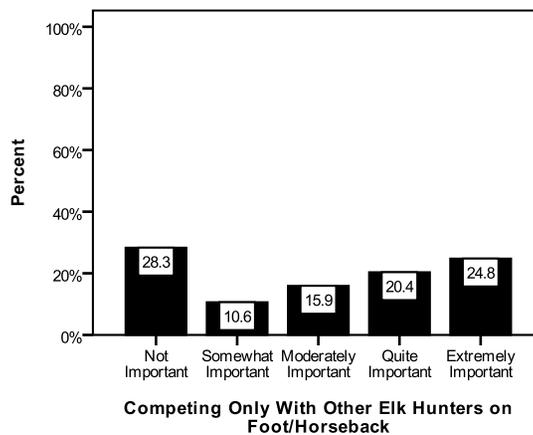
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



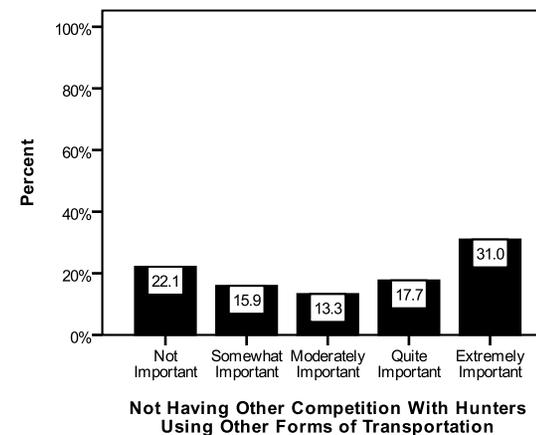
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



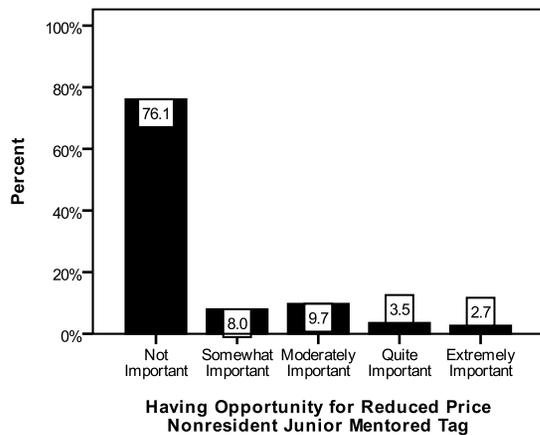
Being Able to Hung Elk Using OHV



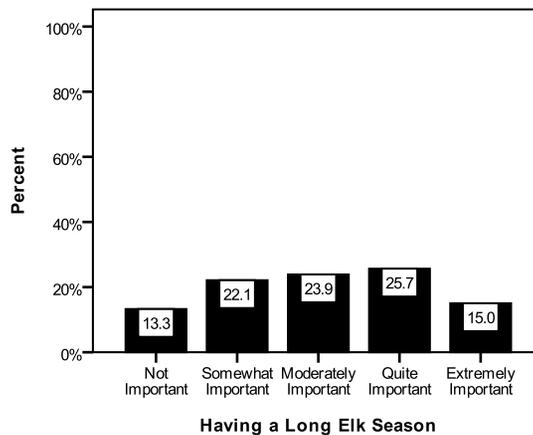
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

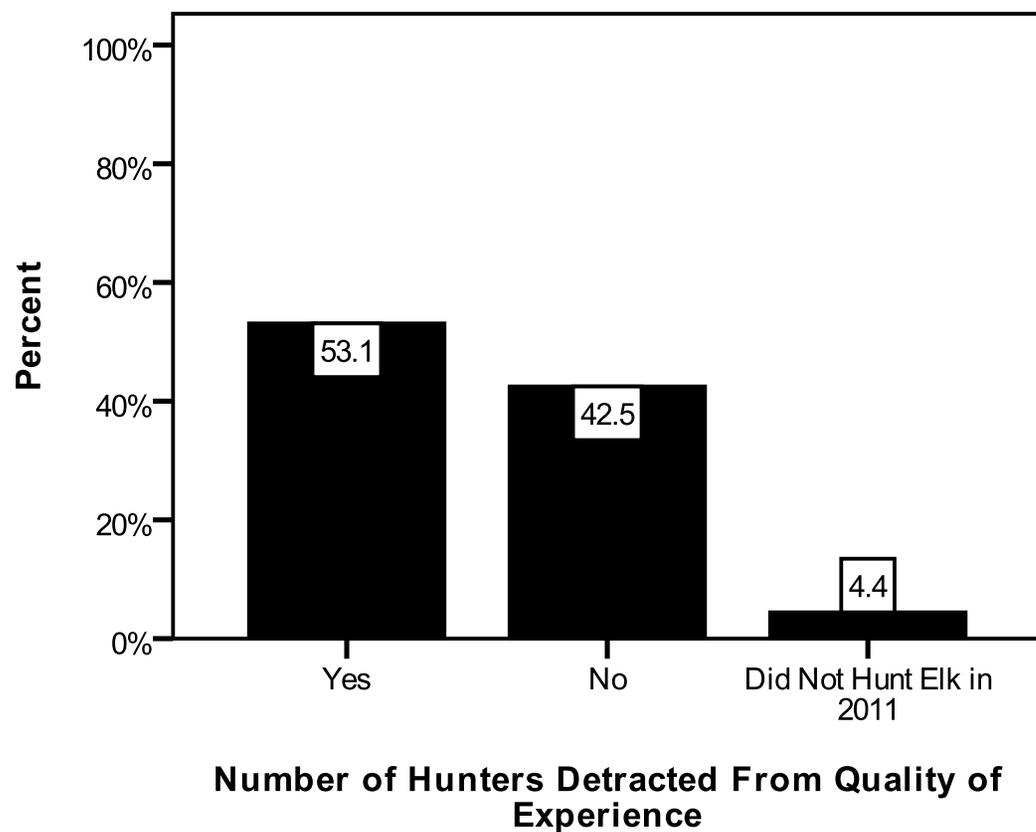


Having a Long Elk Season

Q31: The six most important attributes for a quality Elk hunting experience are the same between the Diamond Creek zone and the state average.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

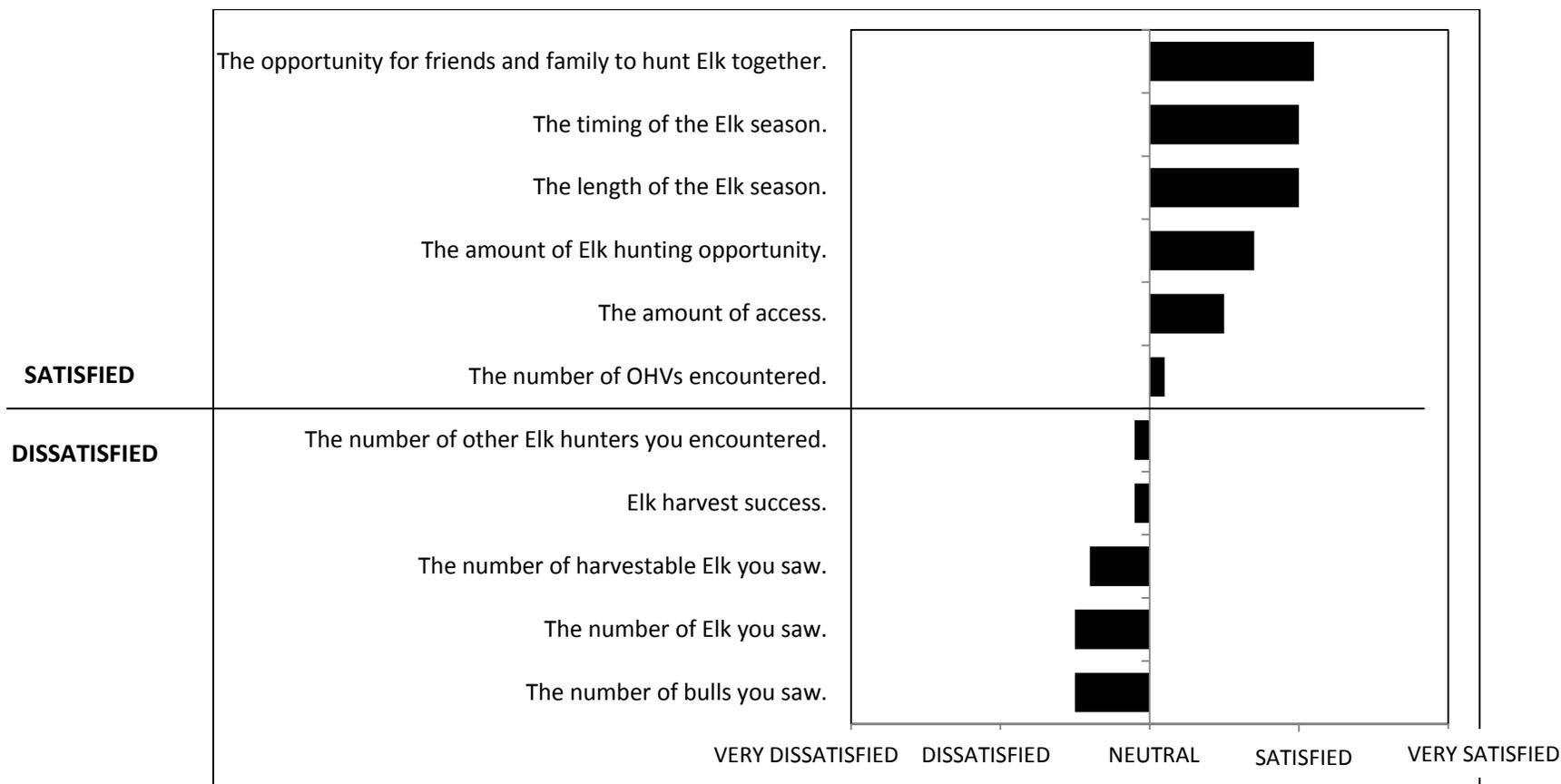
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



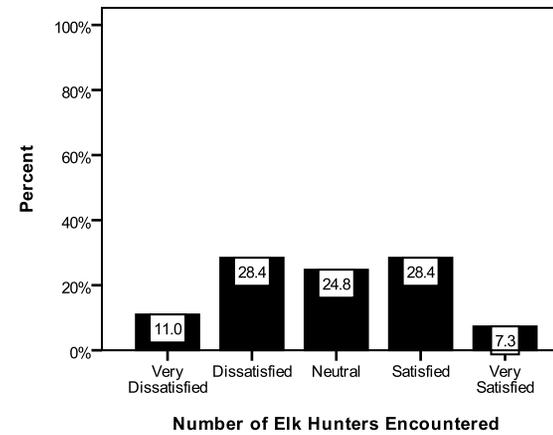
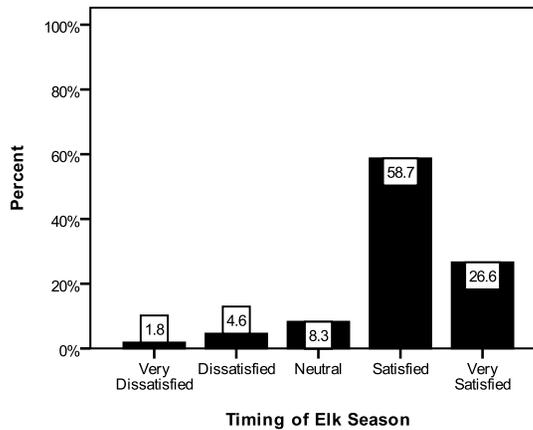
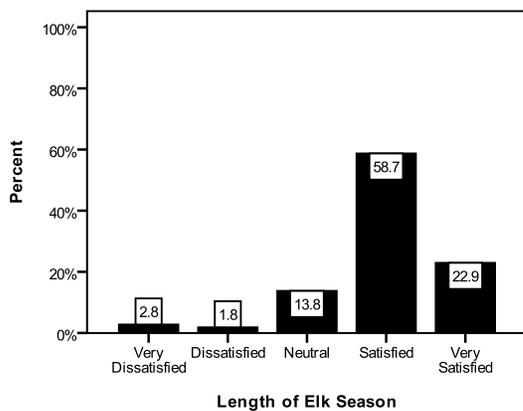
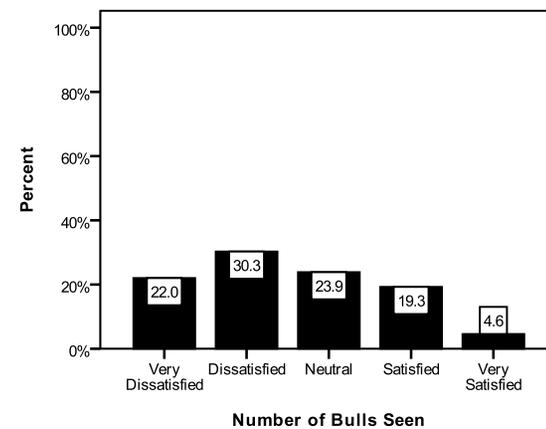
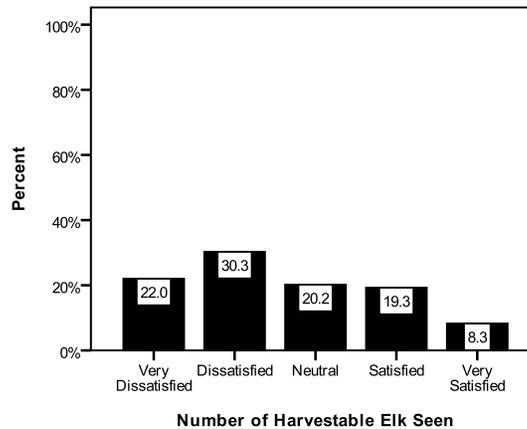
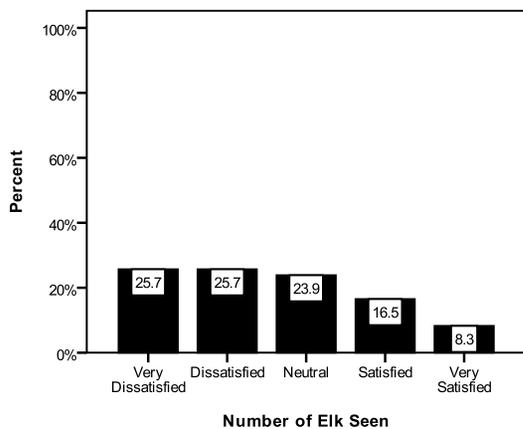
Q33: Unlike other hunters in the state, over half of Diamond Creek respondents reported that the number of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of their 2011 hunting experience, 20% more than the state average.

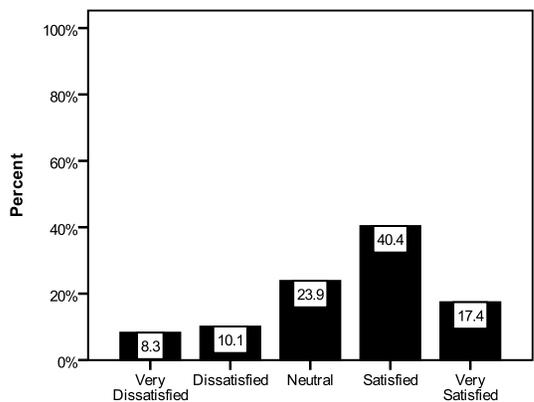
Now, some questions about the satisfaction you experienced with Elk hunting in Idaho in 2011.

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

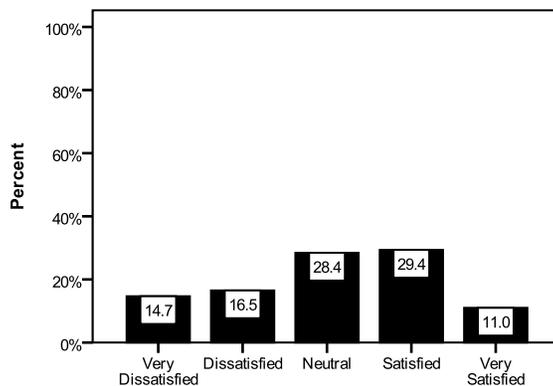


SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

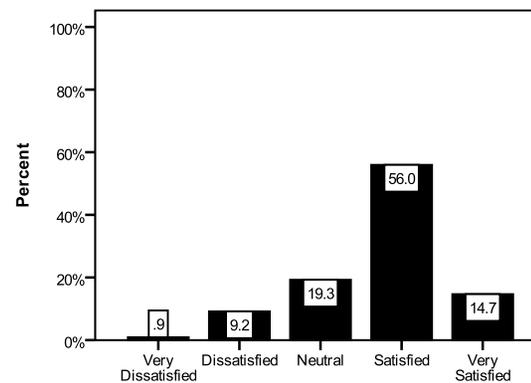




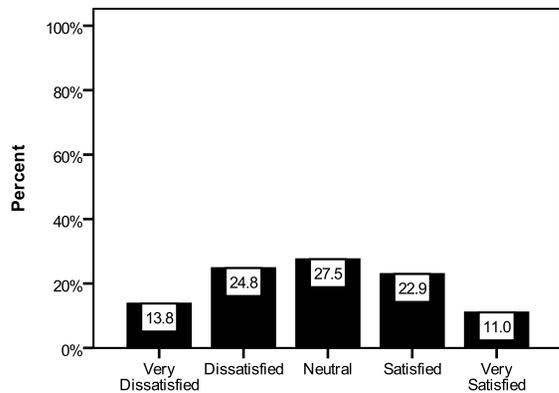
Amount of Access



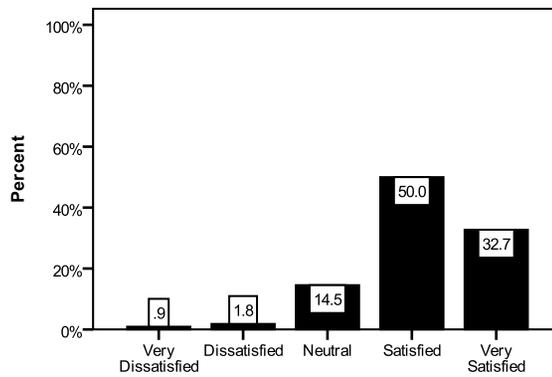
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



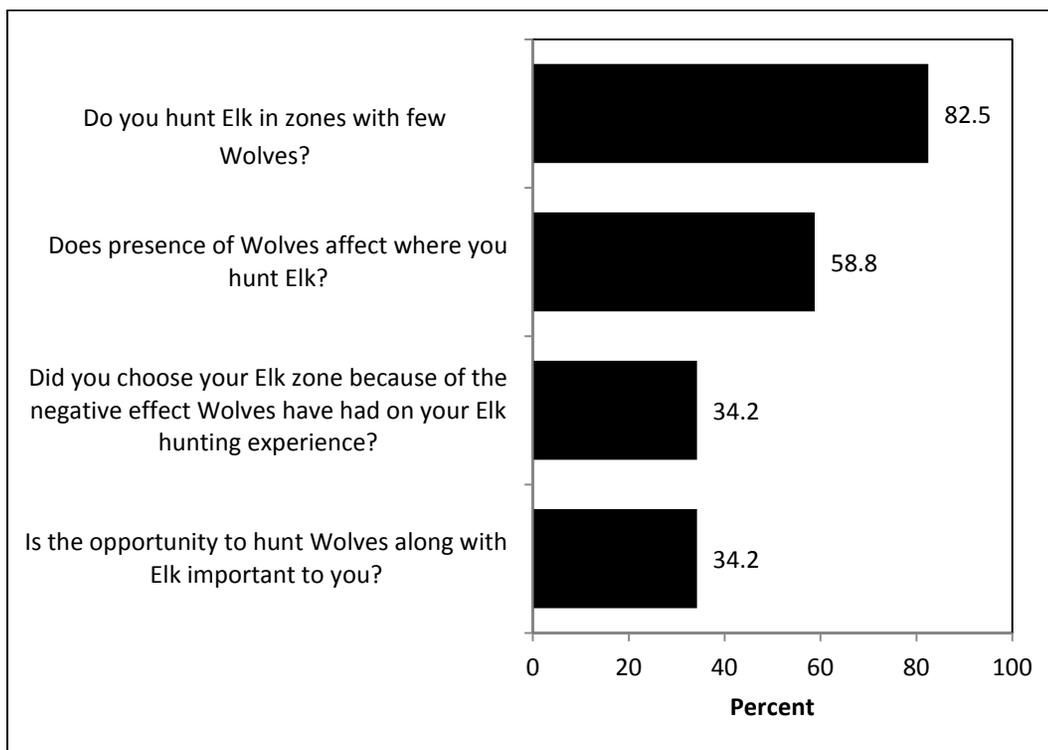
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

Q37: Similar to the state average, Diamond Creek hunters were dissatisfied with the harvest success and the number of Elk they saw. However, they were also dissatisfied with the number of other hunters they encountered.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

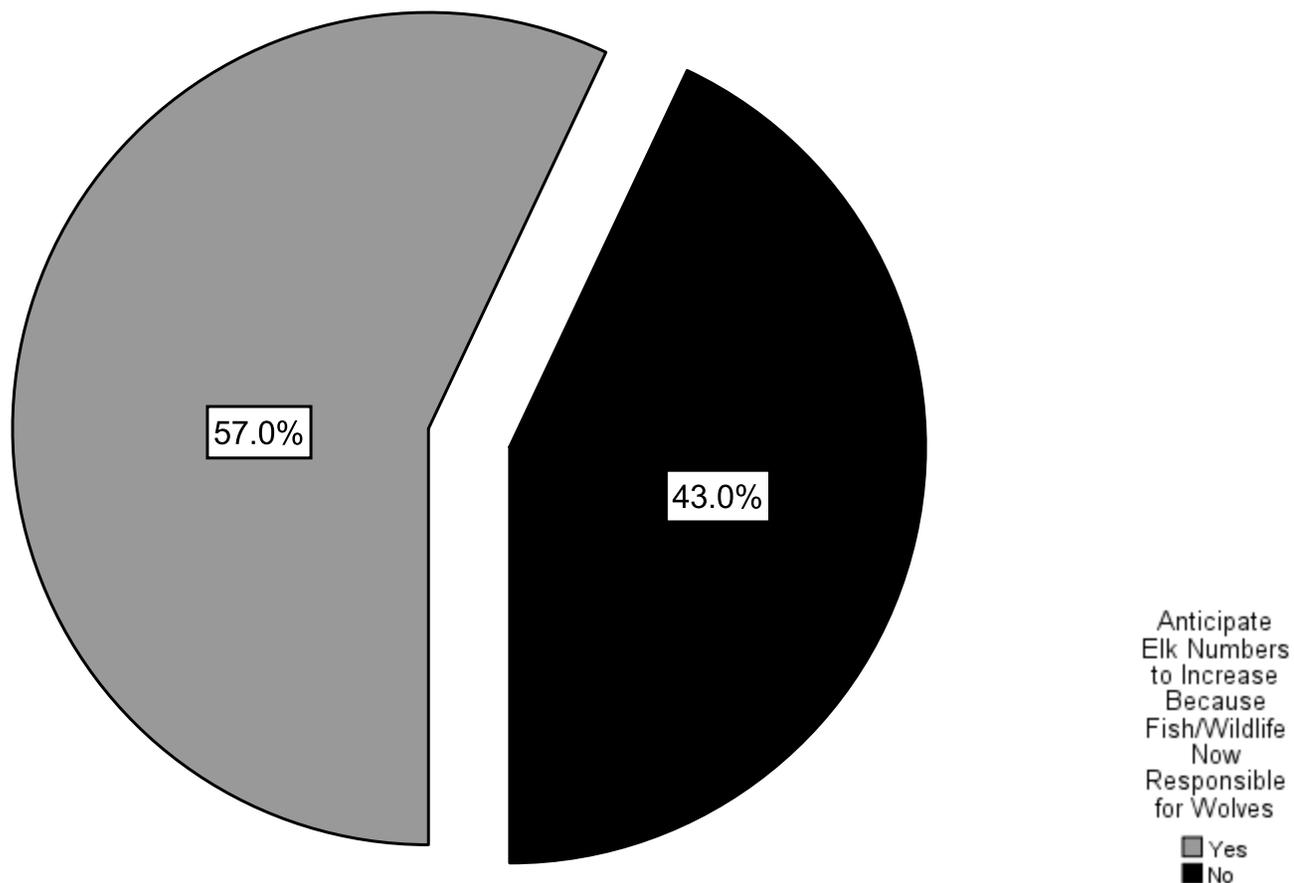
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: About 50% more hunters in this zone hunt in zones with few Wolves than the state average. About a 20% fewer hunters in this zone reported that the presences of Wolves affect where they hunt and that the opportunity to hunt Wolves along with Elk was important to them.

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



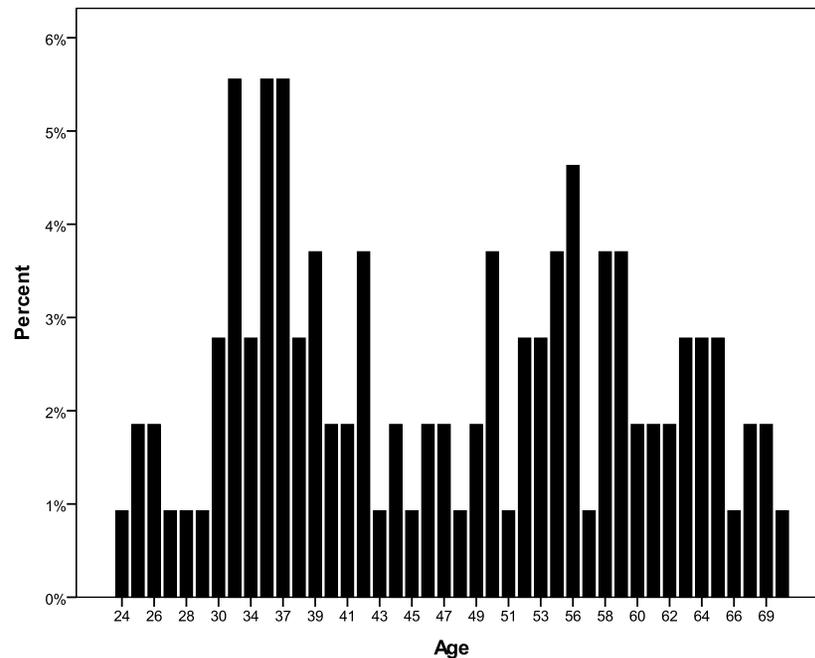
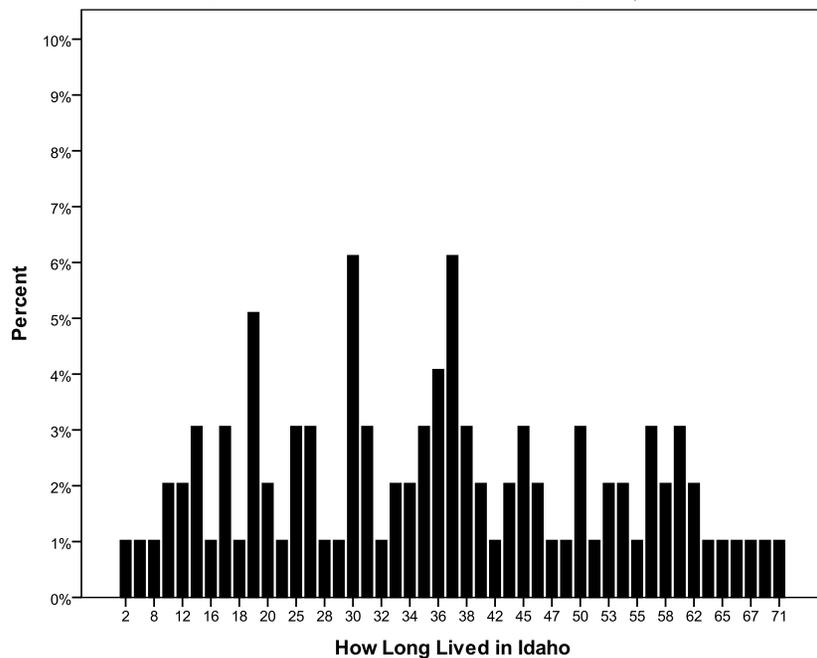
Q40: Similar to the state average, over half of respondents said that they anticipated Elk numbers to increase with IDFG management of Wolves.

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 Diamond Creek hunters and the state average for both Q42 and Q43.