

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



Prepared by:

Alexandria Middleton, Research Assistant

Nick Sanyal, Ph.D., Associate Professor

&

Ed Krumpke, Ph.D., Professor

For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

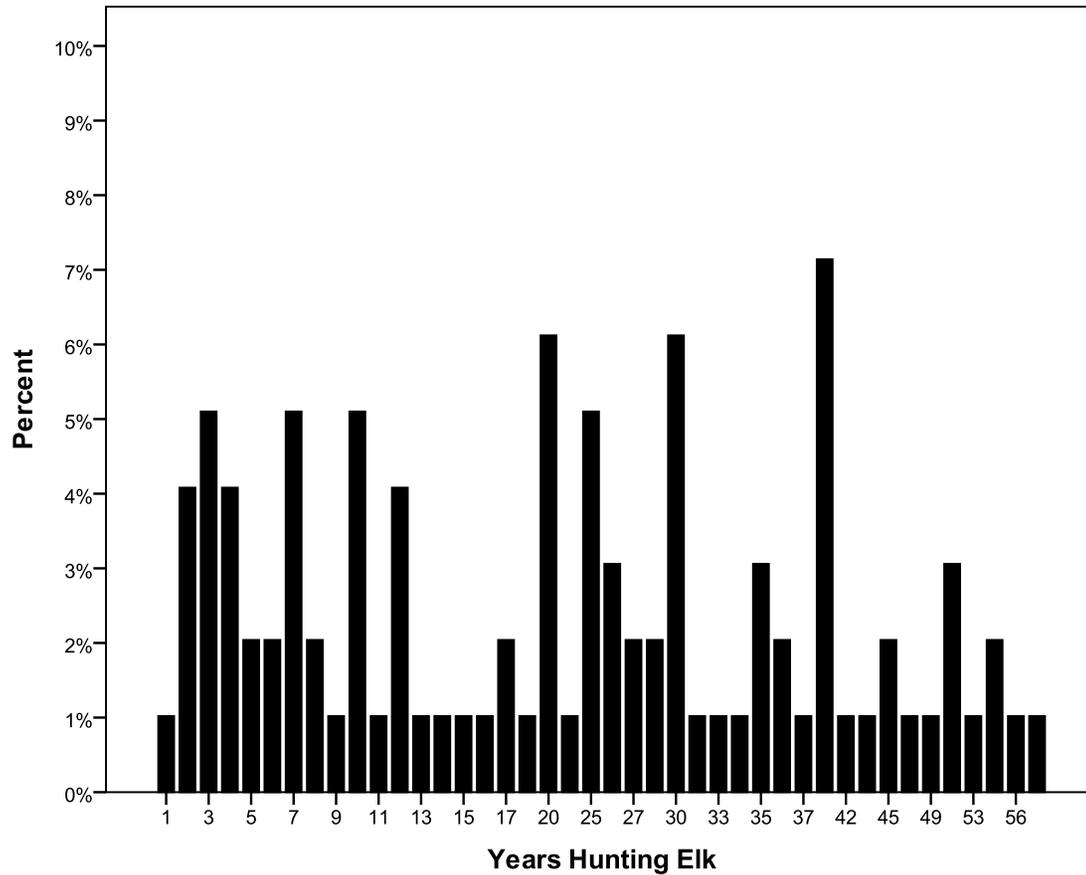
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

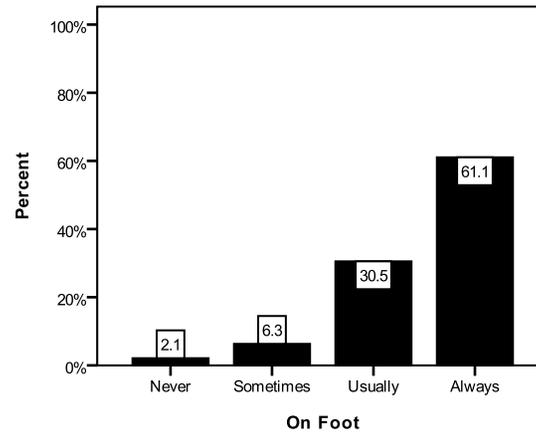
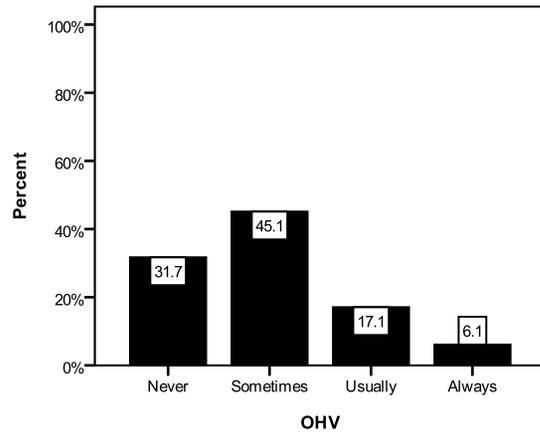
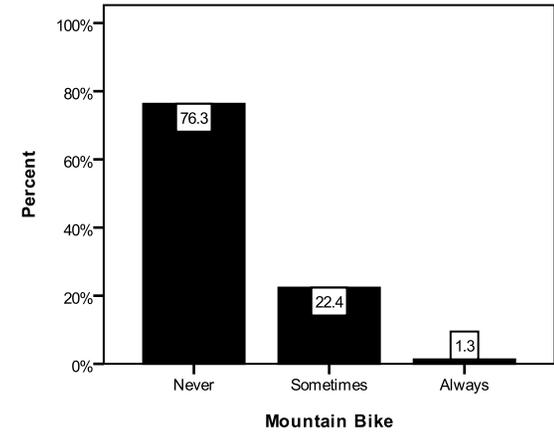
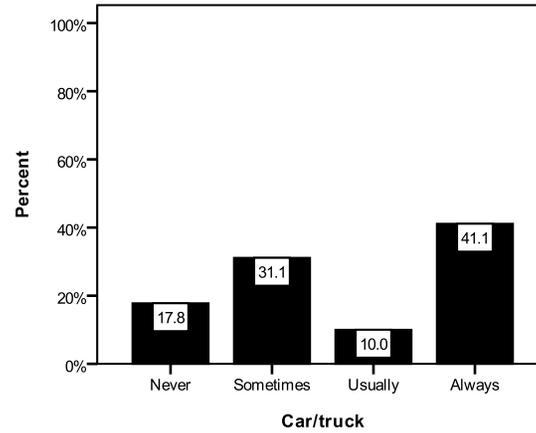
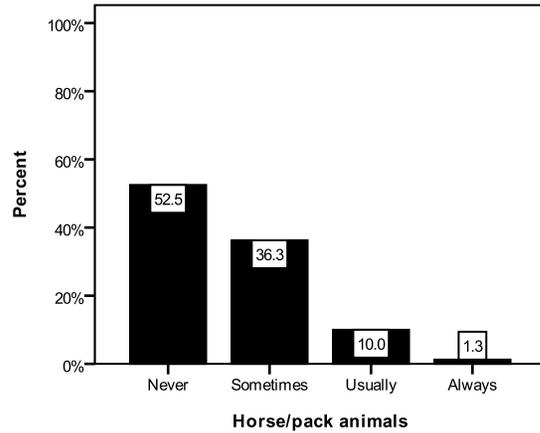
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



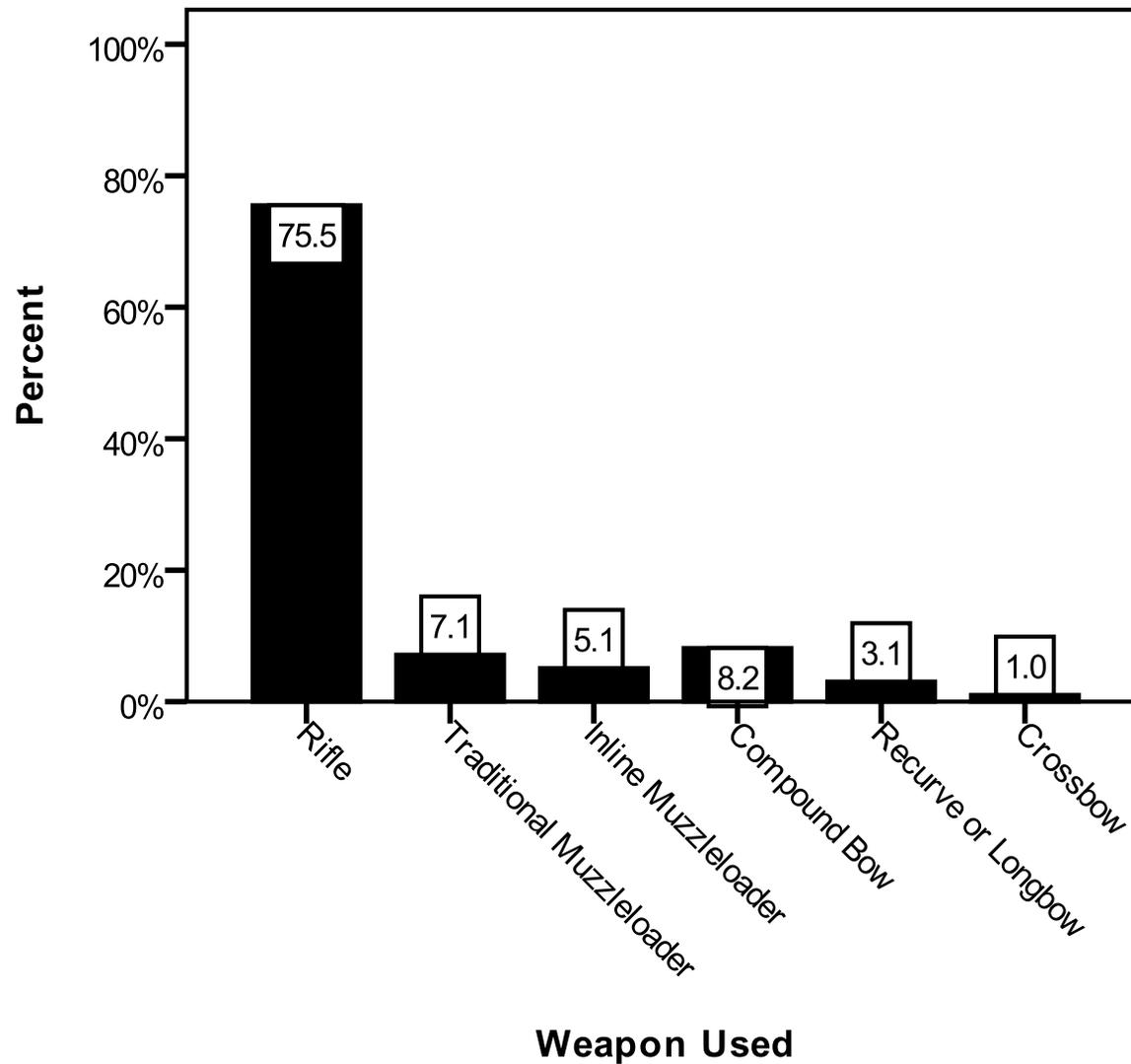
Q3: The range of years hunting Elk in the Elk City zone is about half as large as the state average.

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?



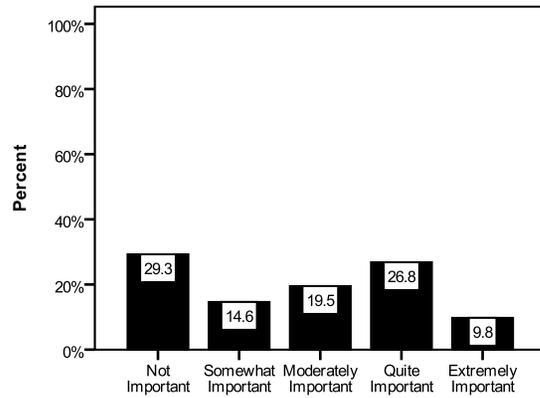
Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Elk City zone. Hunters in this zone reported that they sometimes use OHVs slightly more than the state average.

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

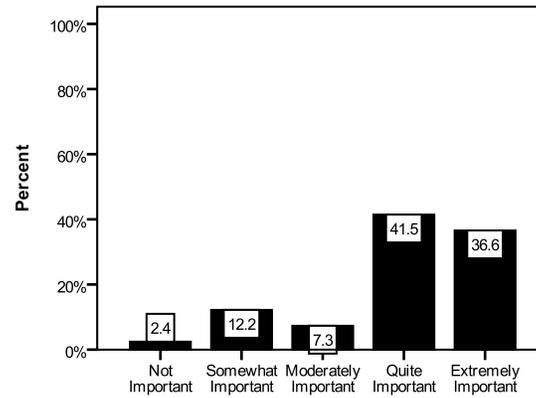


Q8: Similar to the state average, the rifle is the most popular weapon choice for hunters in the Elk City zone. Almost 25% more hunters from this zone use rifles than the average.

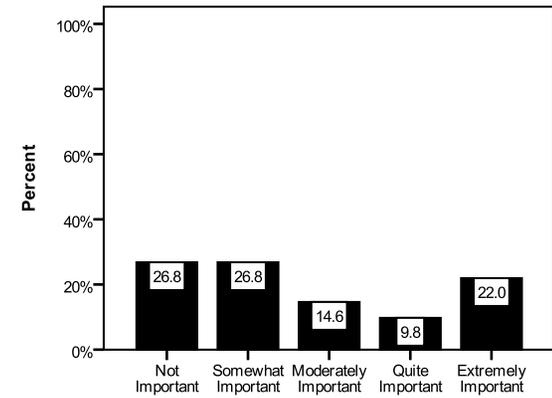
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



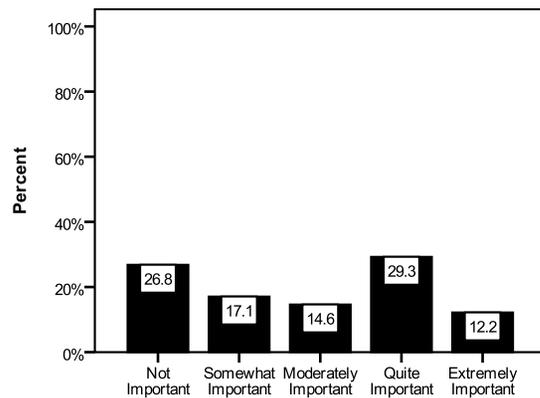
Increase Challenge



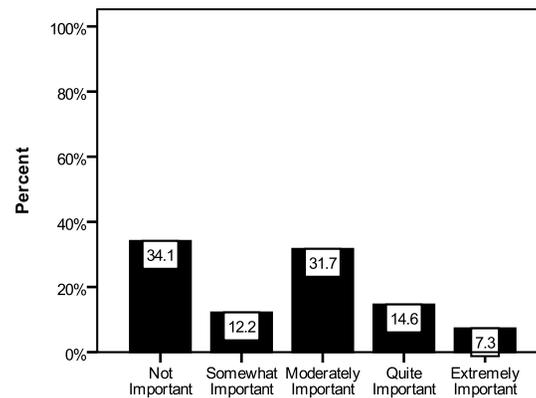
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



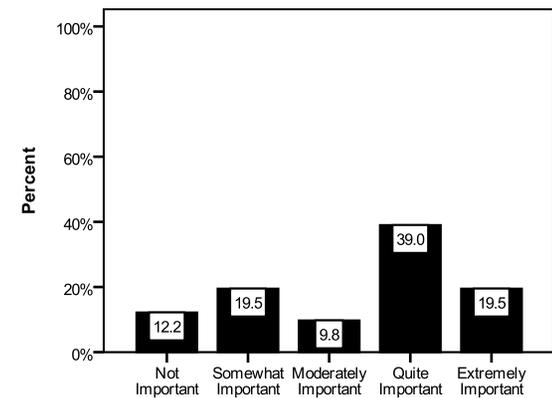
Improve Chance of Harvesting



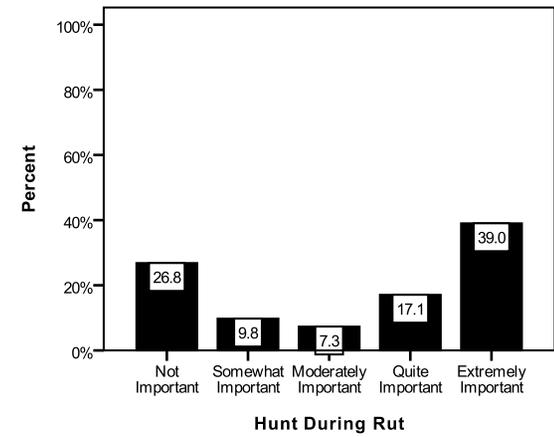
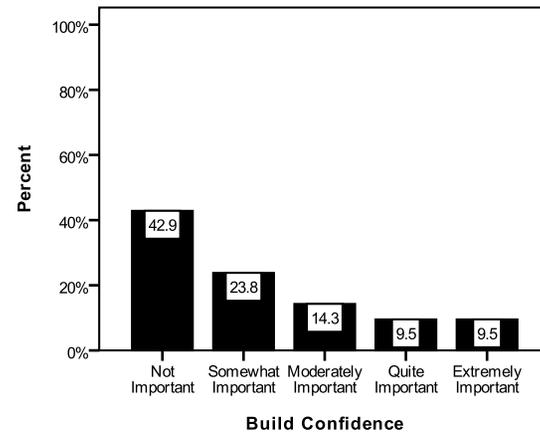
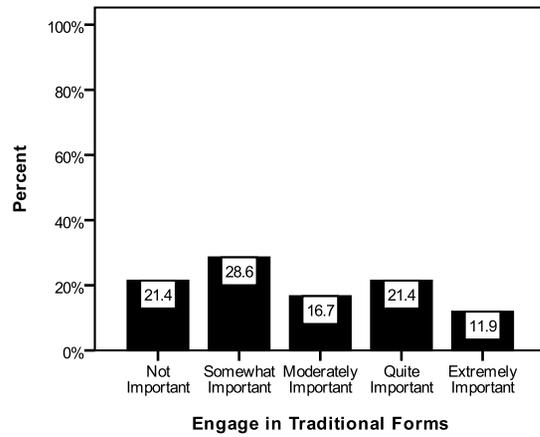
Expand Hunting Season



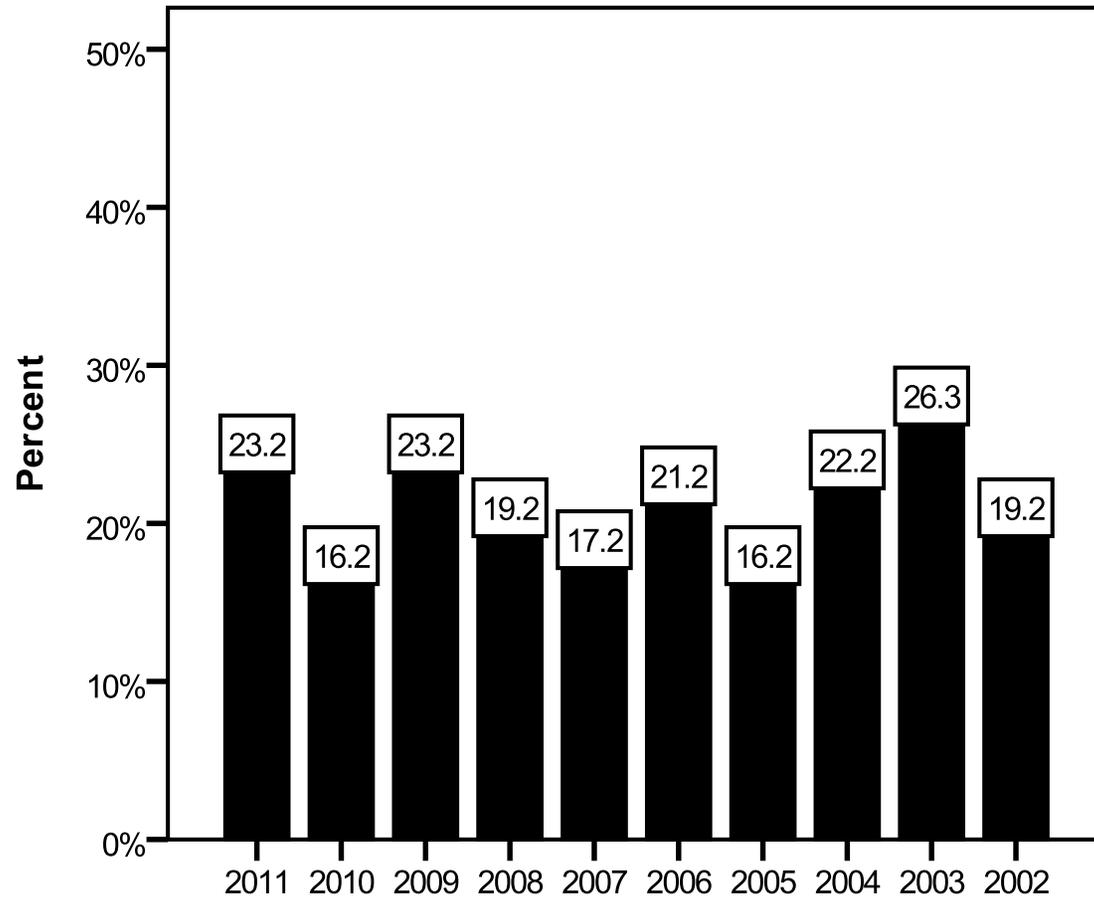
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

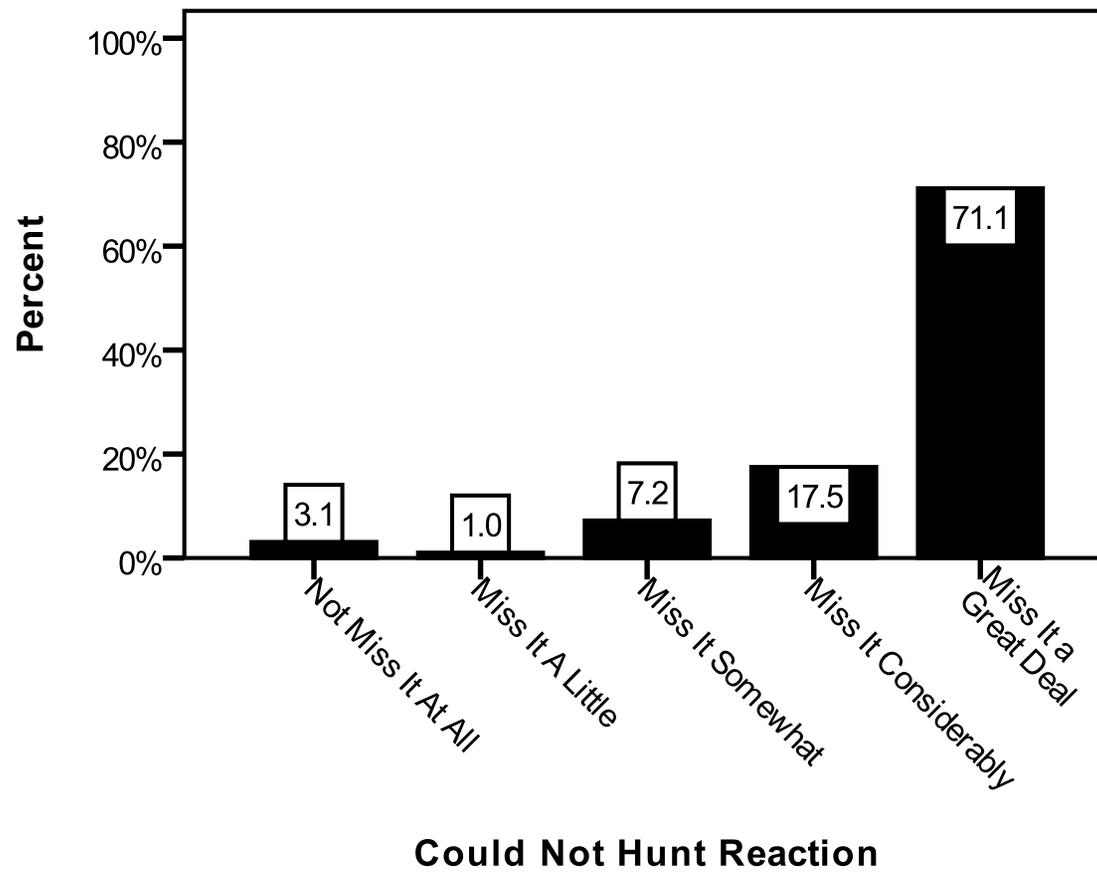


Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the Elk City zone and the state average.

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

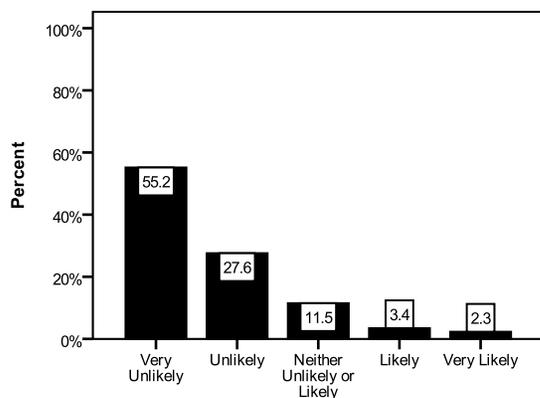
Q11: Elk City hunters reported lower harvest success rates than the state average most seasons over the past ten years. Only in 2003 and 2011 were higher harvest rates reported.

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

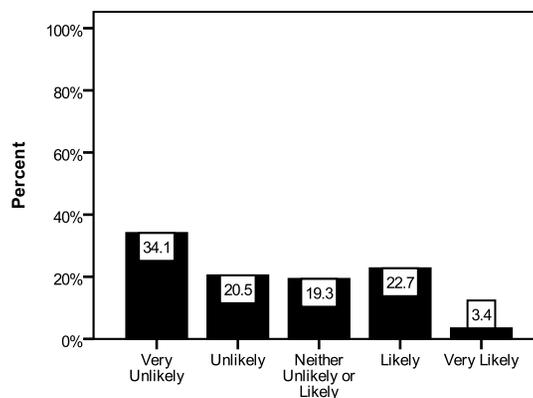


Q12: Like other hunters in the state, Elk City hunters would miss Elk hunting a great deal if they were not able to hunt Elk in Idaho.

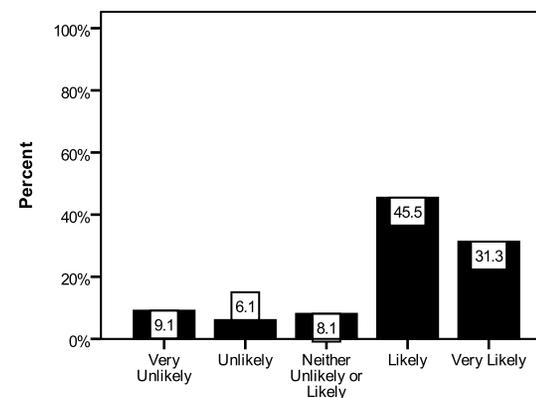
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



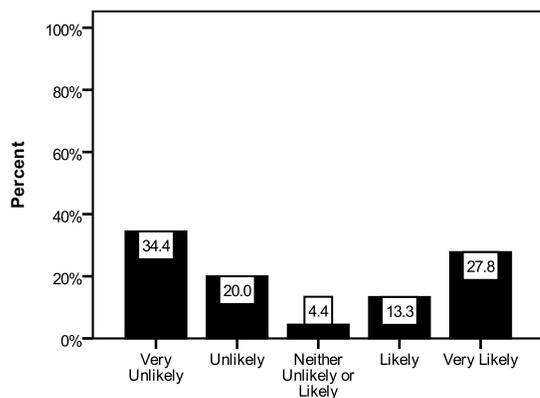
Hunt Waterfowl More



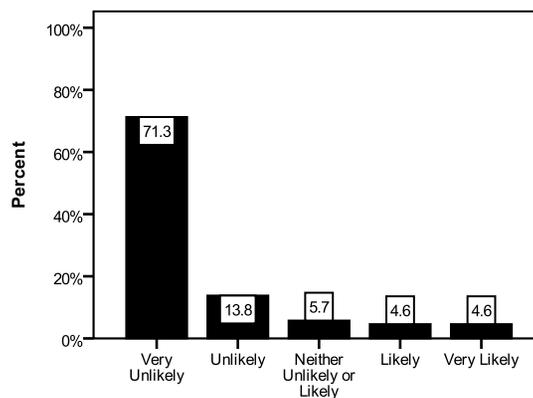
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



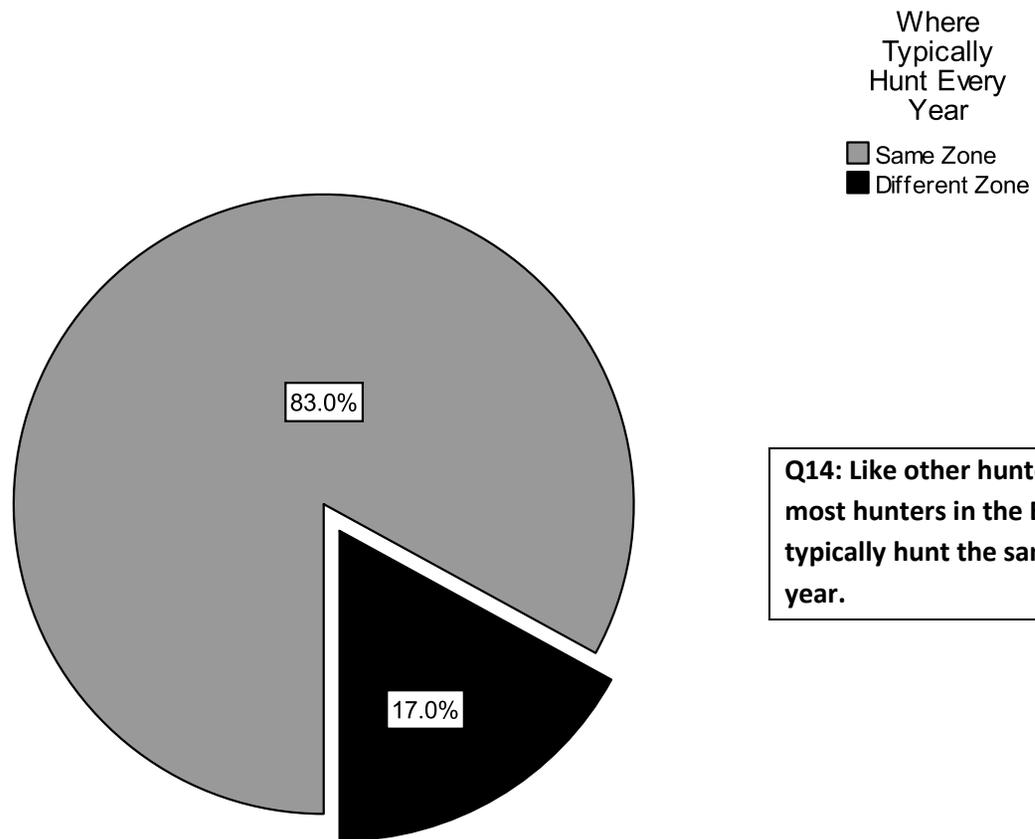
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

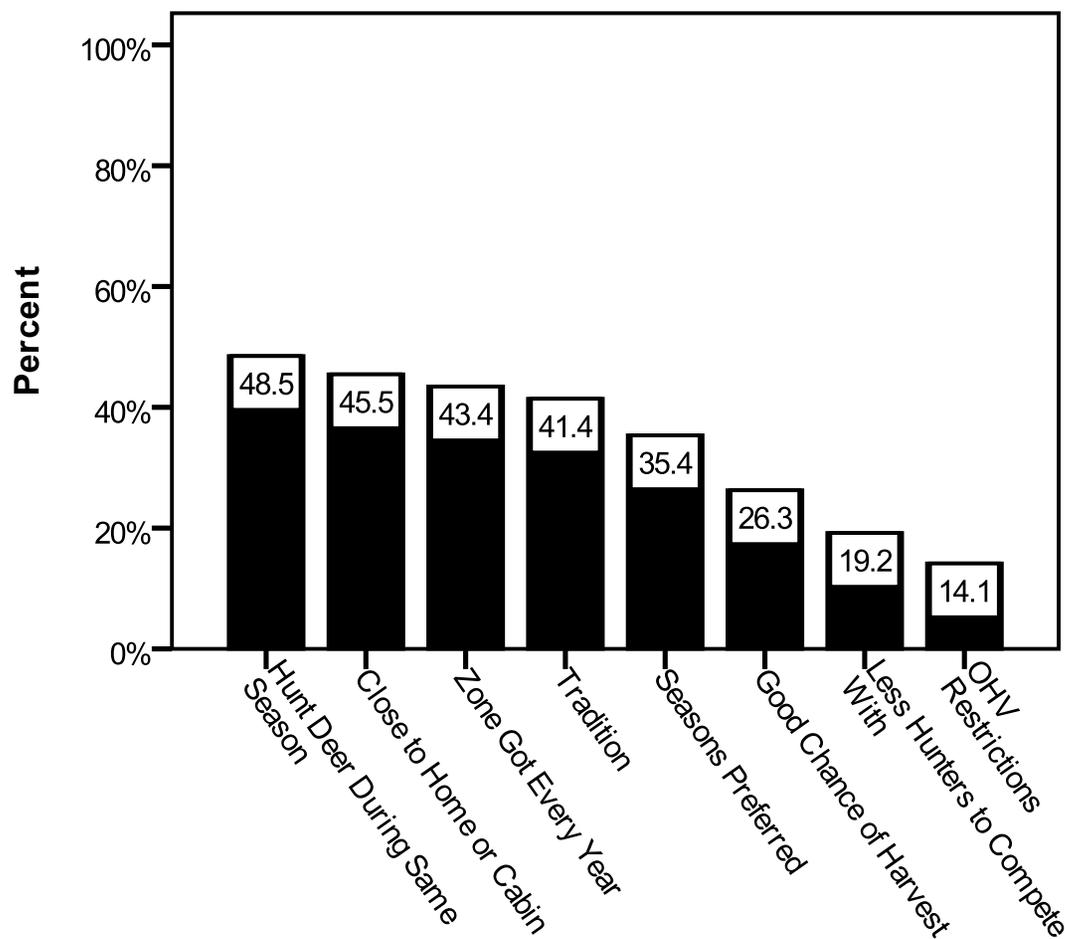
Q13: The distribution of responses is similar between the Elk City zone and the state average.

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



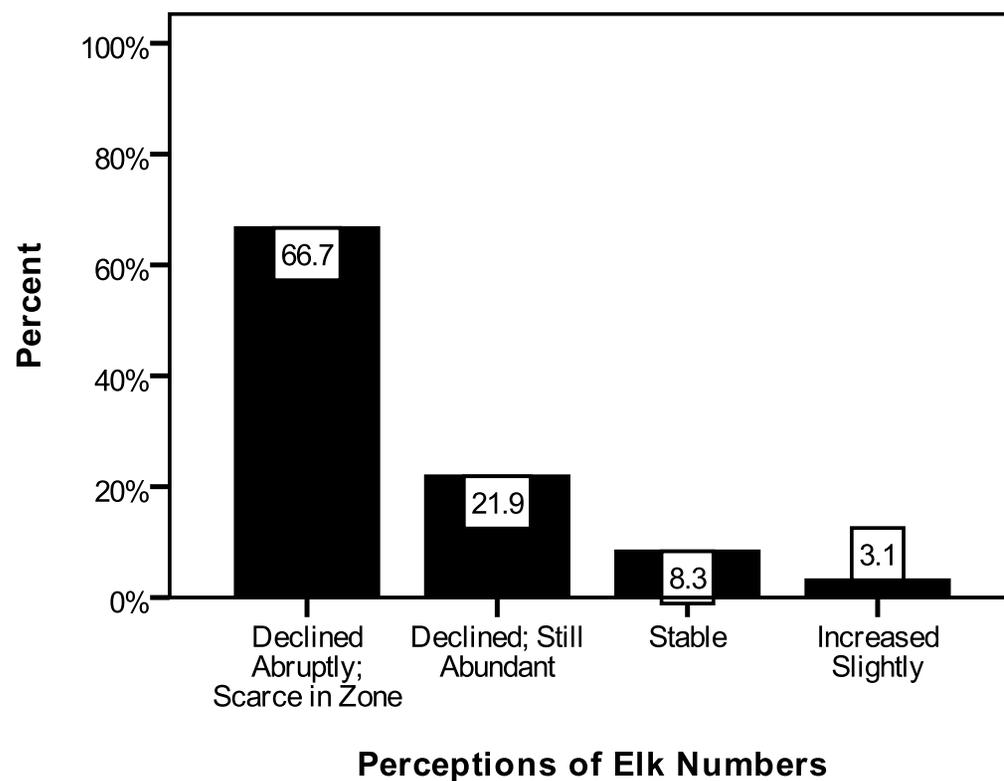
Q14: Like other hunters in the state, most hunters in the Elk City zone typically hunt the same zone every year.

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



Q16: Unlike the state average, being able to hunt Deer during the same season is what Elk City hunters find most desirable in choosing their zone.

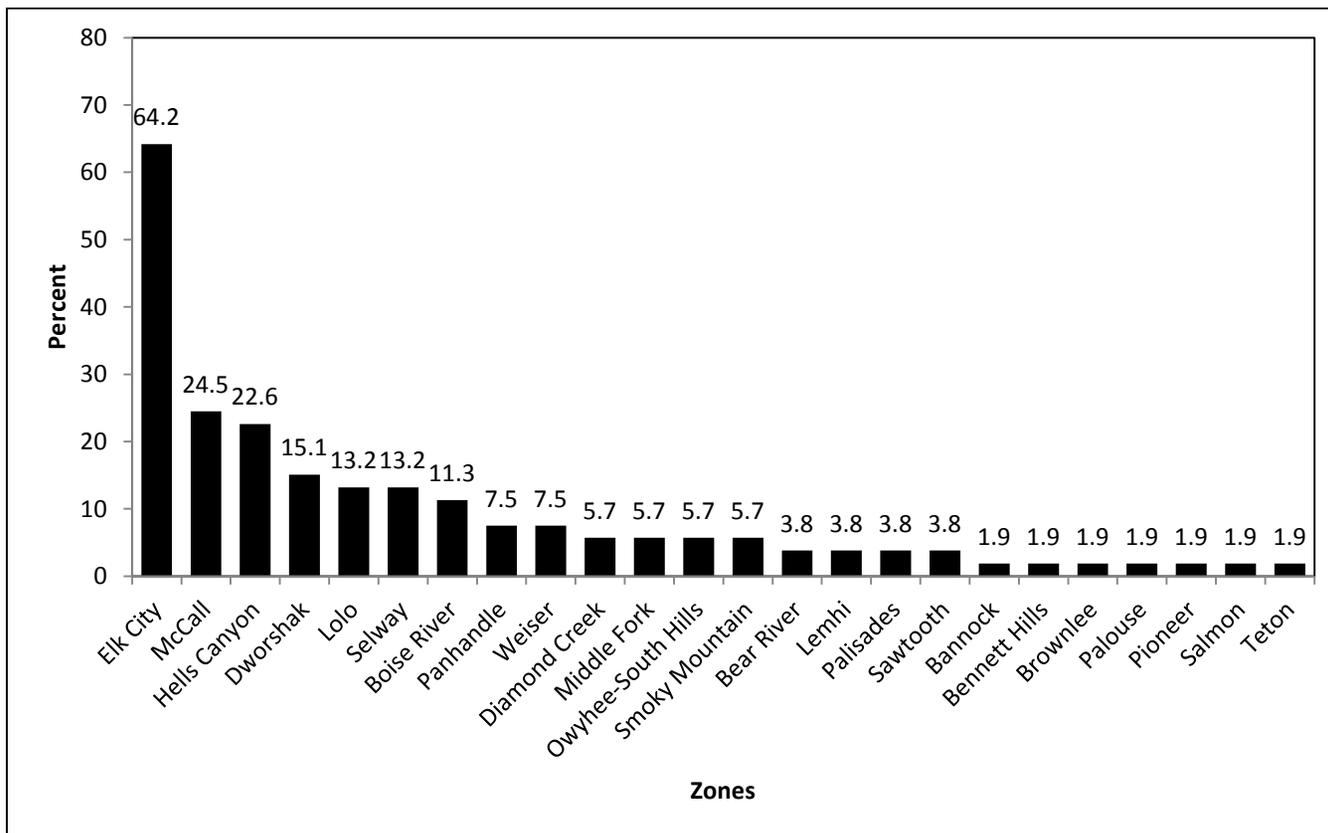
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: Similar to the state average, a majority of Elk City hunters perceive Elk numbers to have declined abruptly, resulting in scarcity 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.

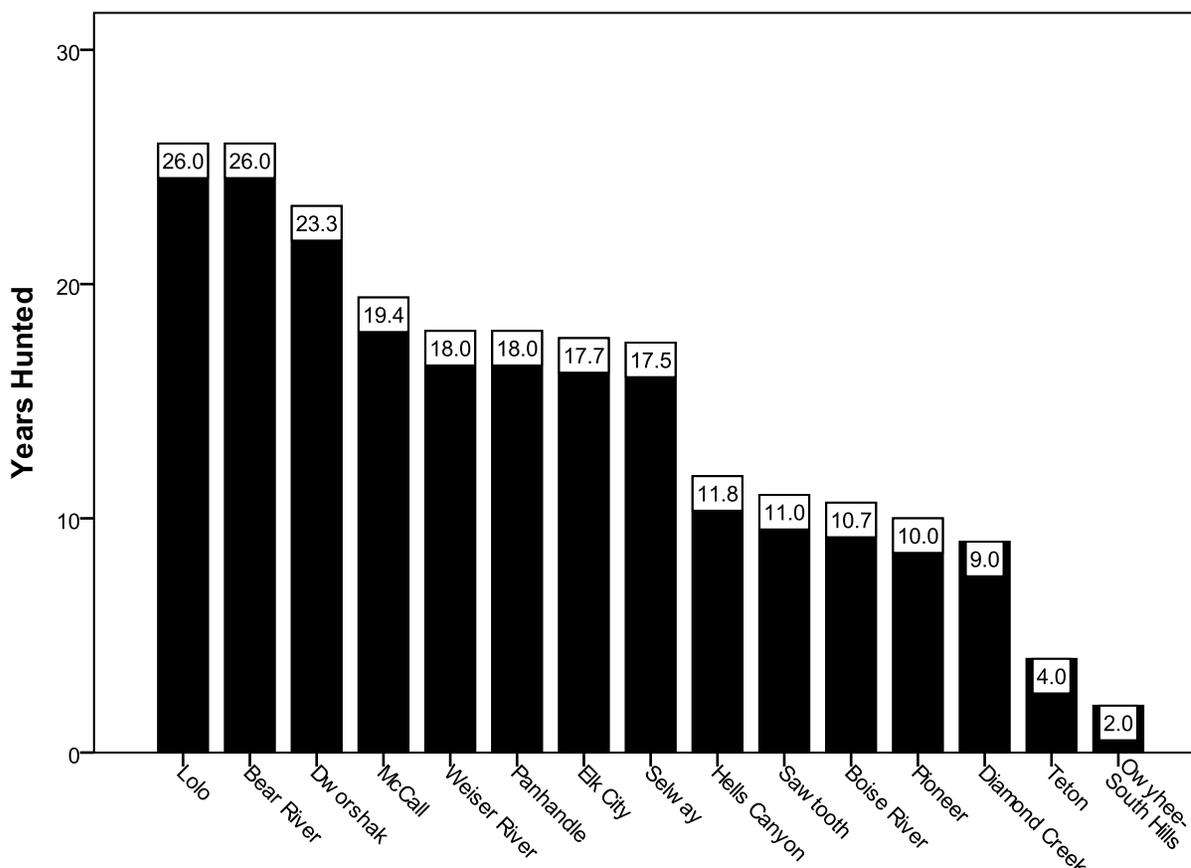
(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q18: The McCall and Hells Canyon zones are other popular zones to hunt for Elk City hunters.

20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?

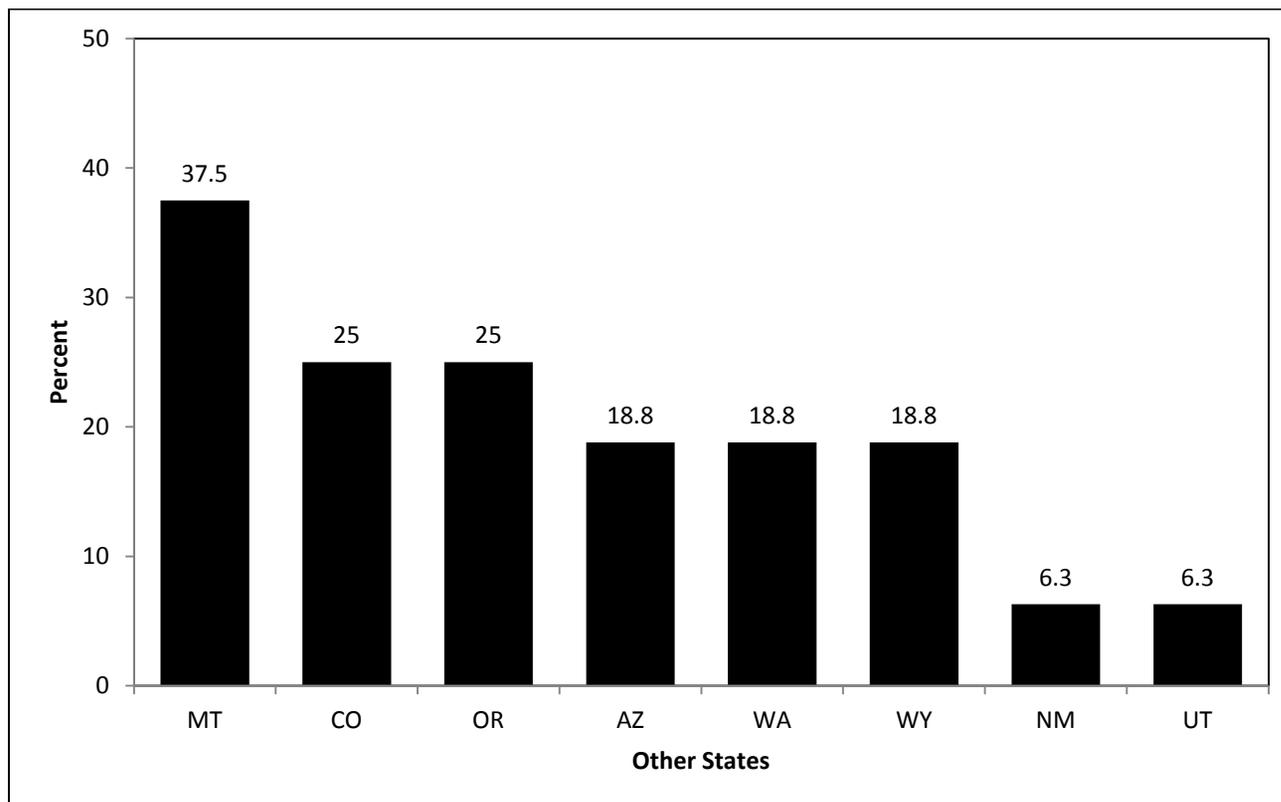
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: The Lolo and Bear River zones have been hunted the longest among respondents. The Elk City zone itself ranks sixth in duration.

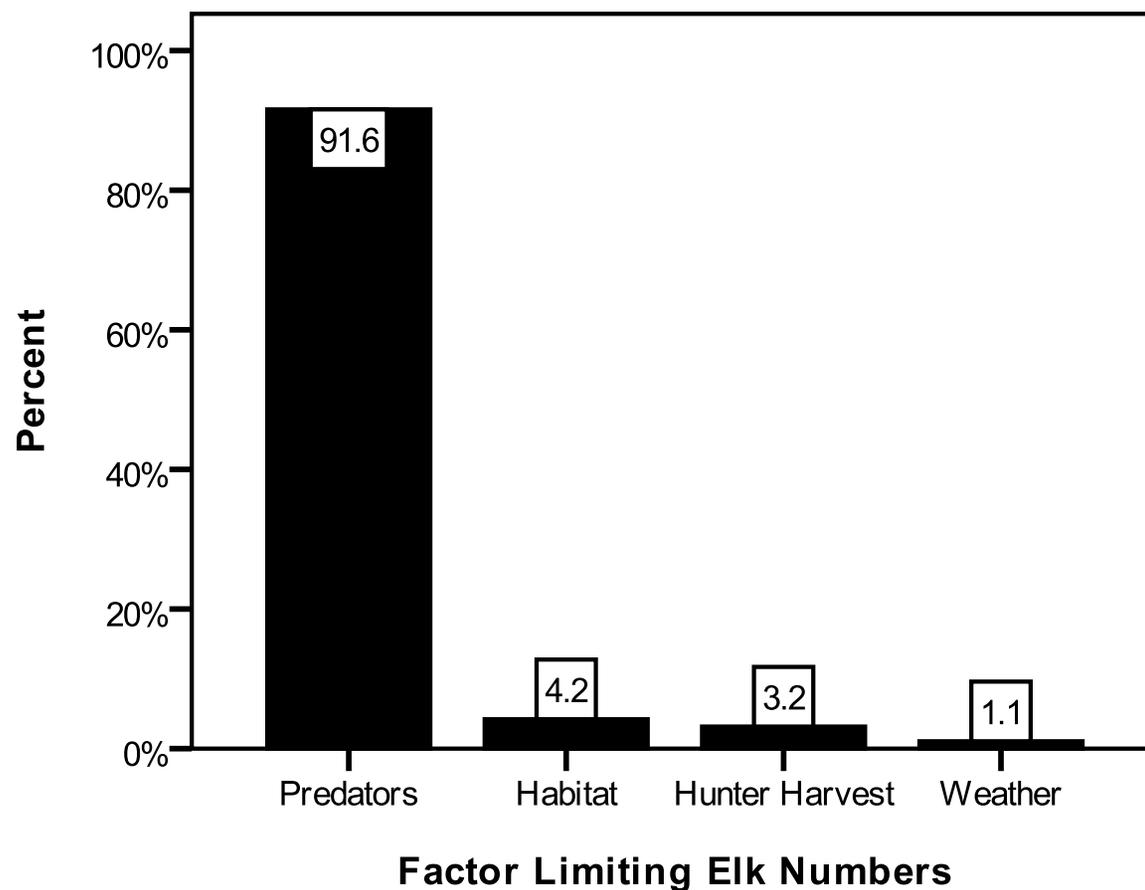
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: For Elk City hunters who hunt out-of-state, Montana is the most popular state to visit.

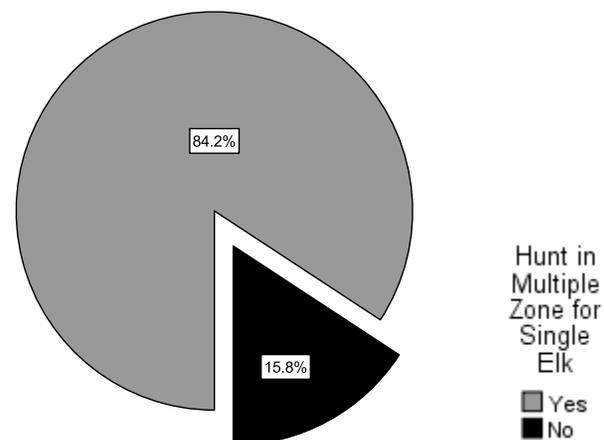
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



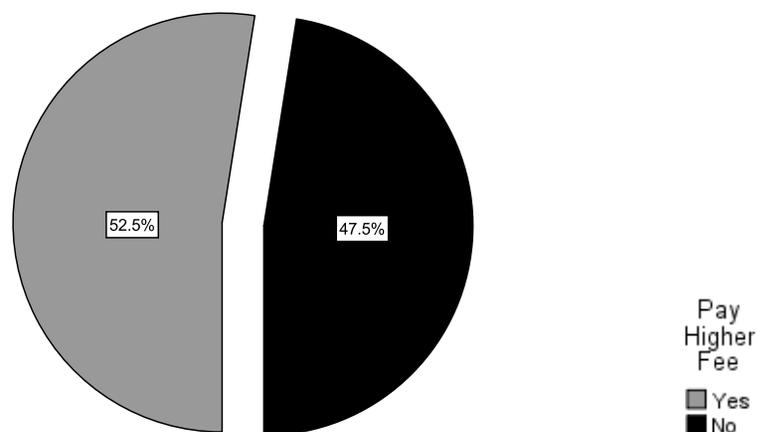
Q22: Similar to the state average, a vast majority of Elk City hunters believe that predators are the primary limiting factor for Elk numbers in 2011.

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

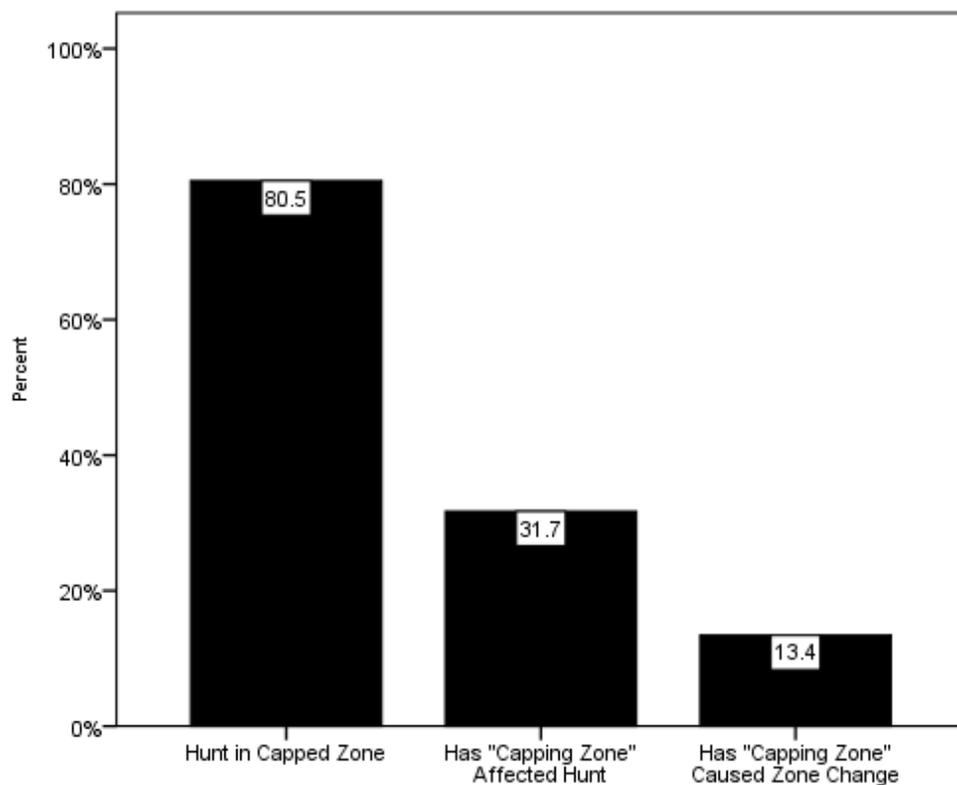
Like other hunters in the state, Elk City hunters would also like to be able to hunt for a single Elk in multiple zones in a year. About half of respondents would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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)

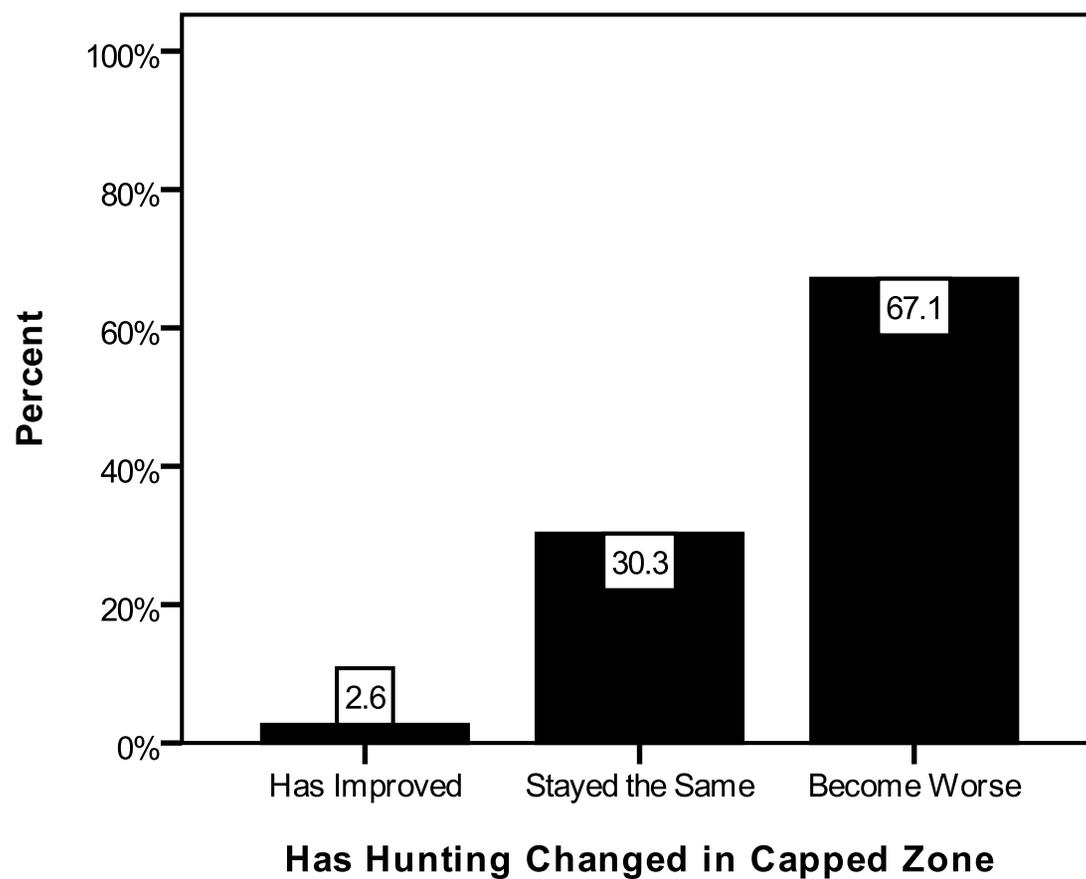


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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: About twice as many Elk City hunters hunt in a capped zone than the state average. Both groups feel similarly about how capping a zone has affected where one hunts or if it has caused respondents to change zones.

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

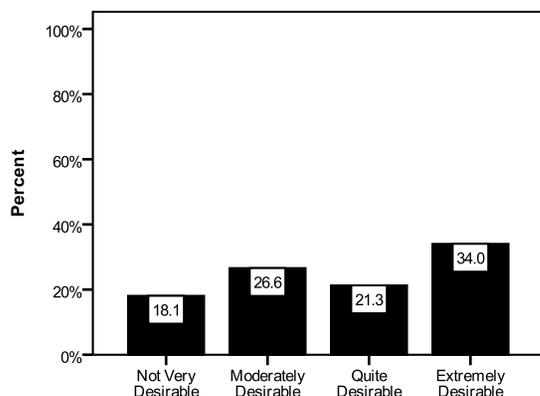


Q26: The distribution of responses is similar between the Elk City zone and the state average.

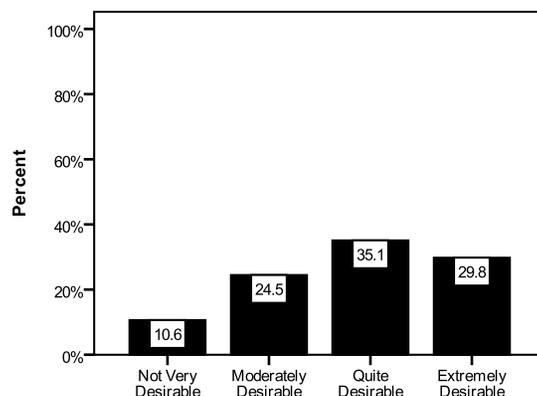
ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

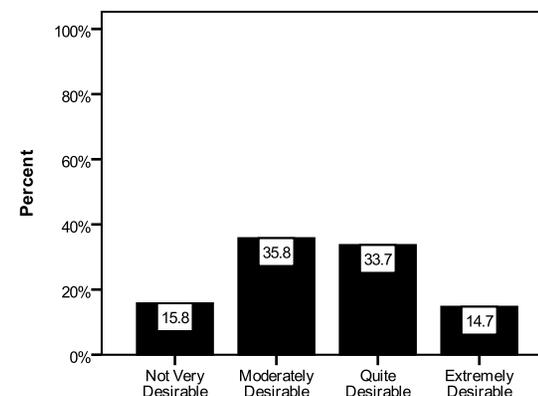
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



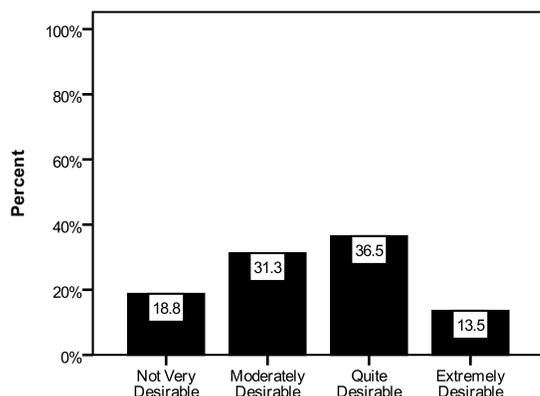
Large Bull



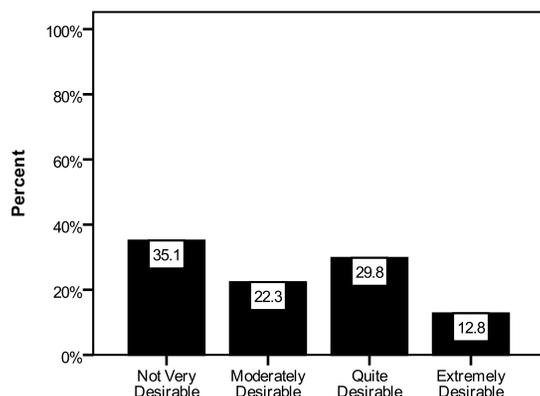
Mature Bull



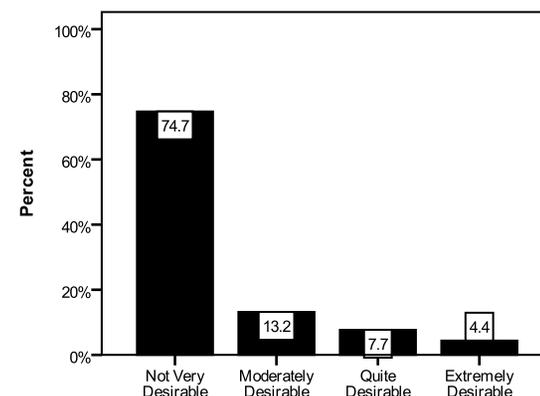
Raghorn Bull



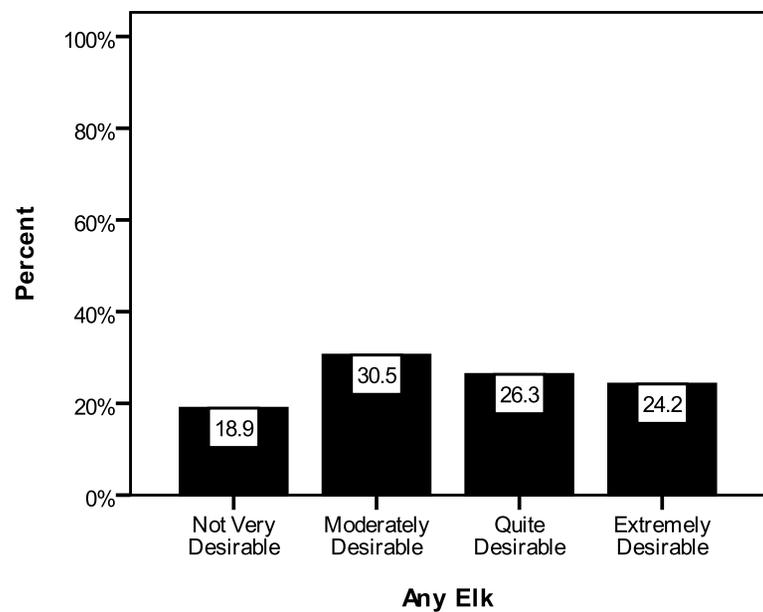
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

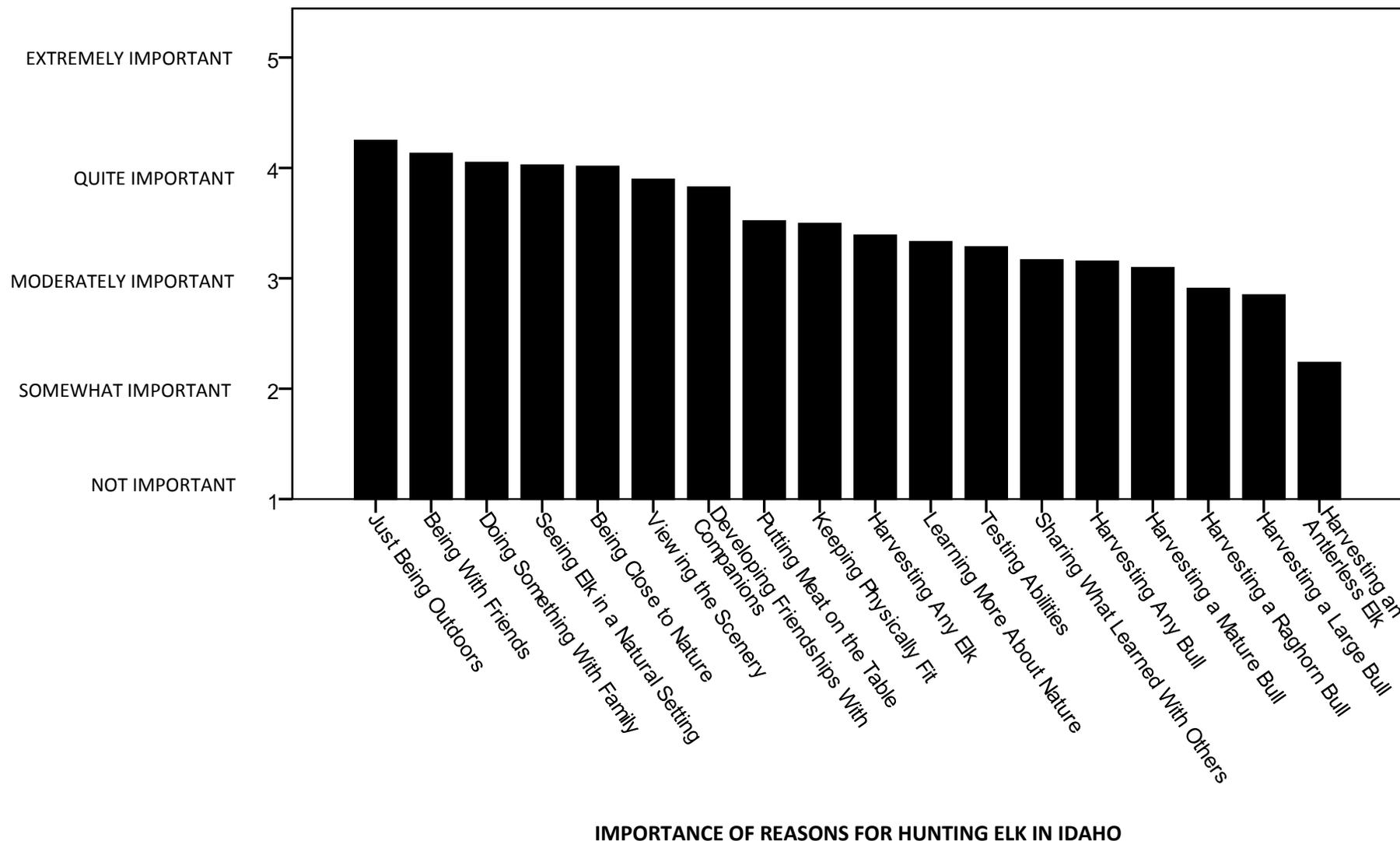


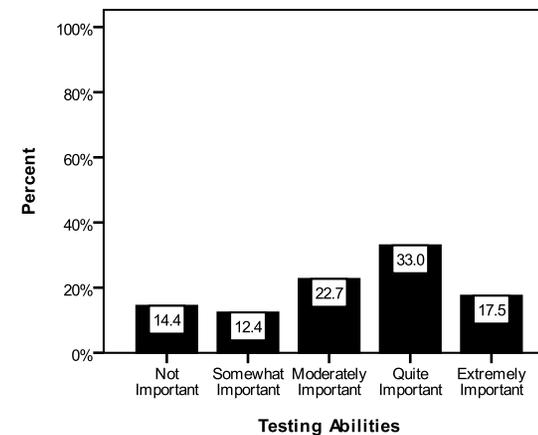
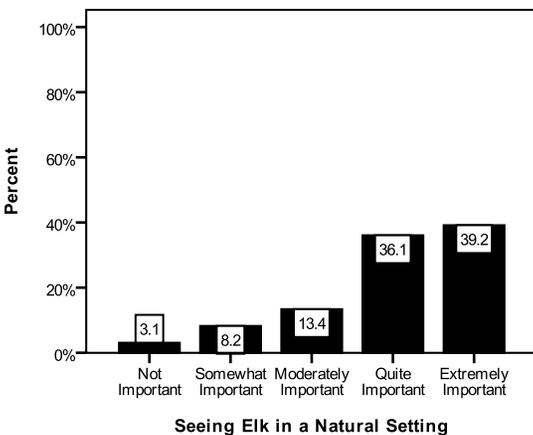
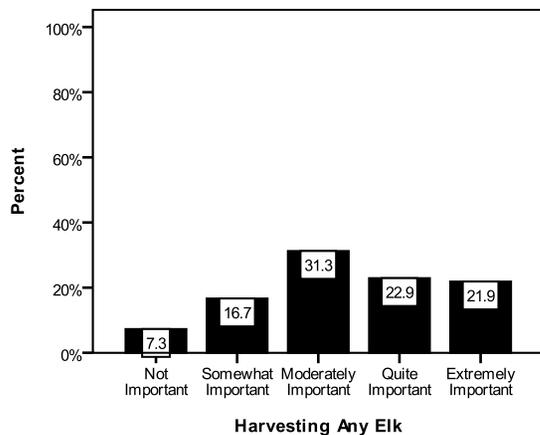
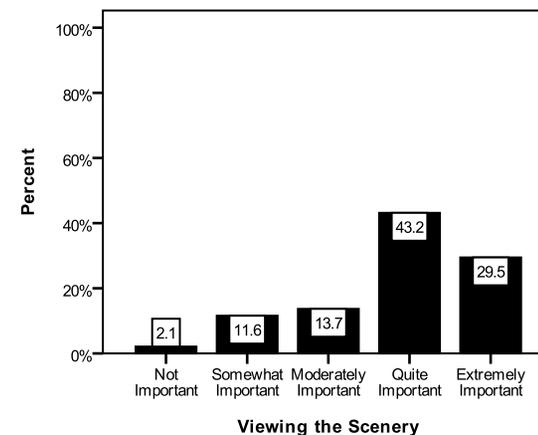
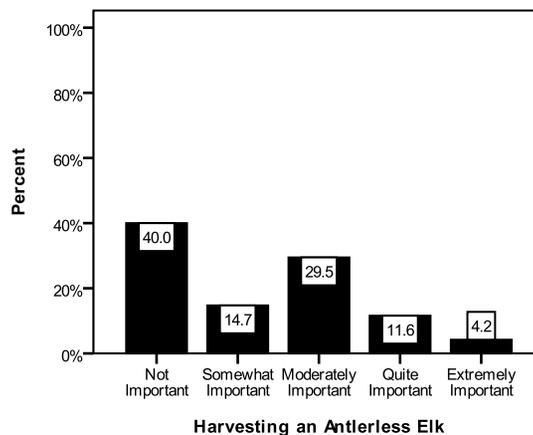
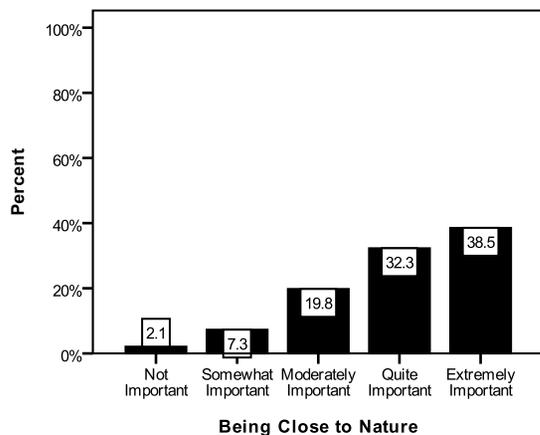
Calf

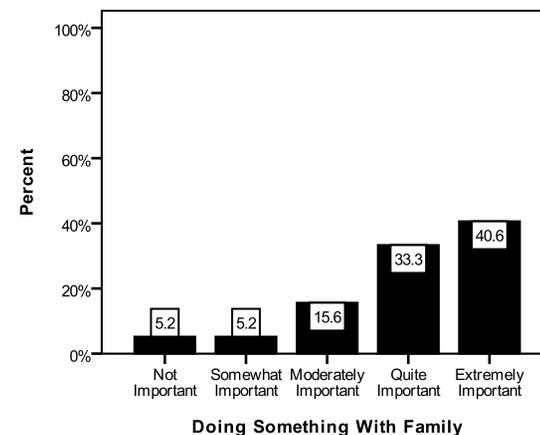
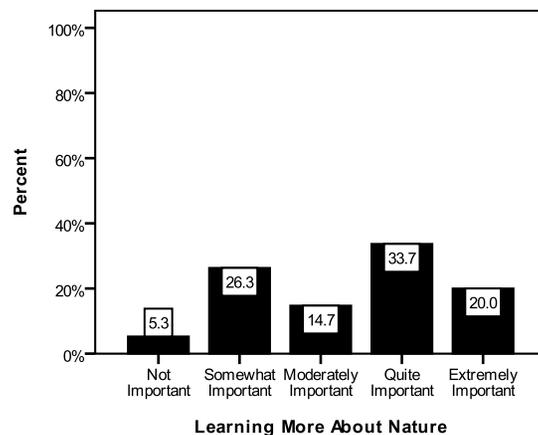
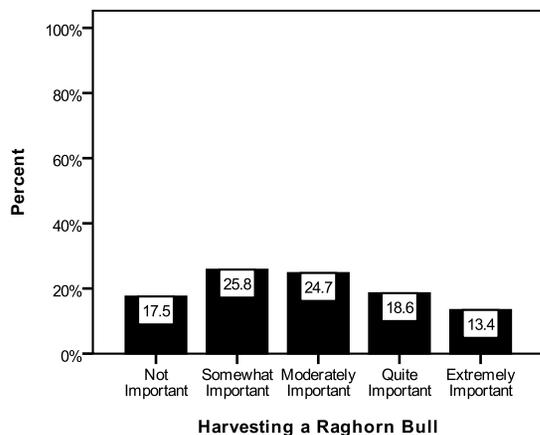
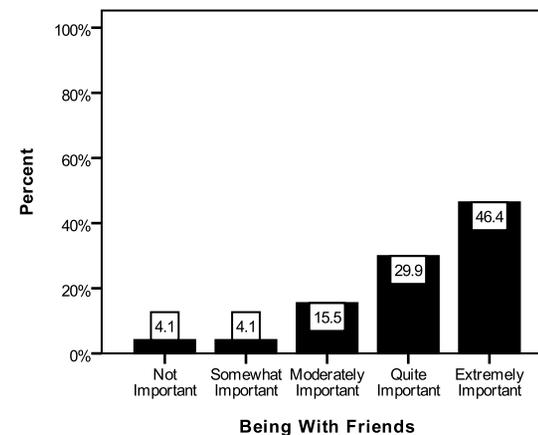
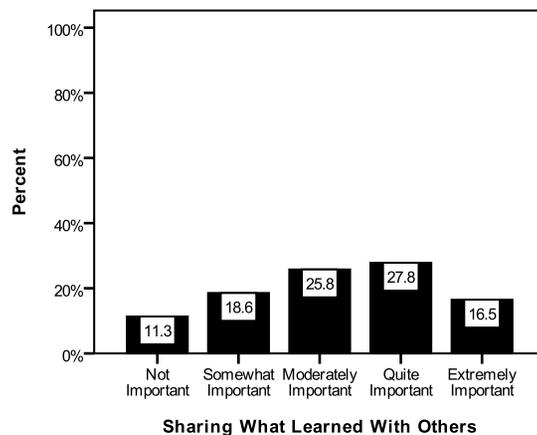
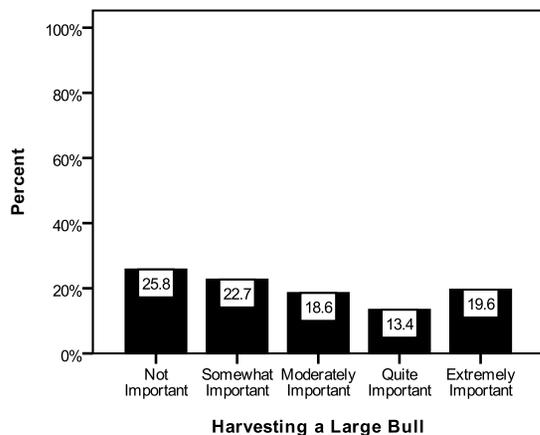


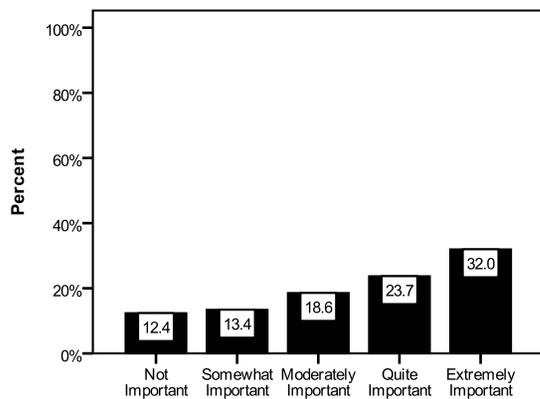
Q27: The distribution of responses is similar between the Elk City zone and the state average.

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

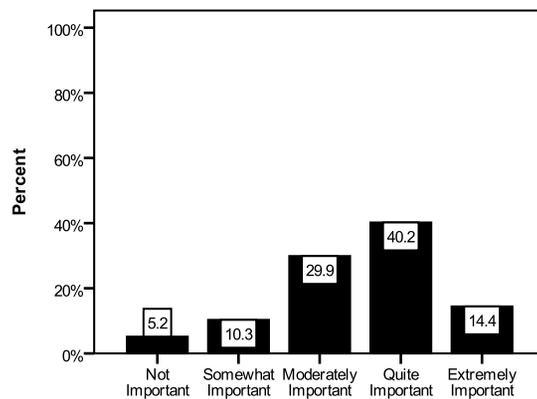




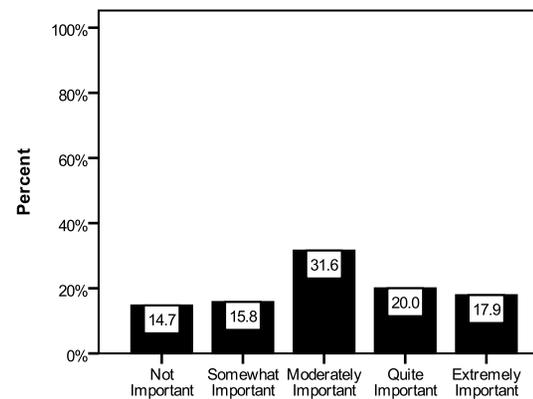




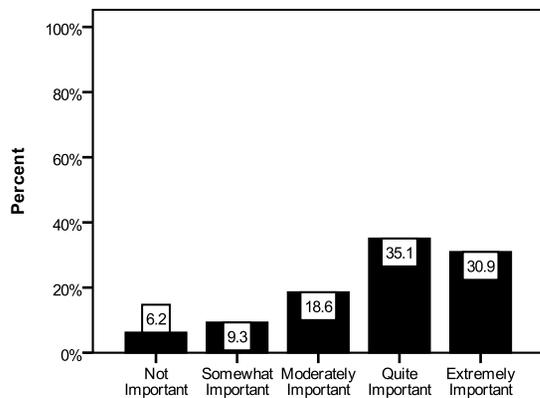
Putting Meat on the Table



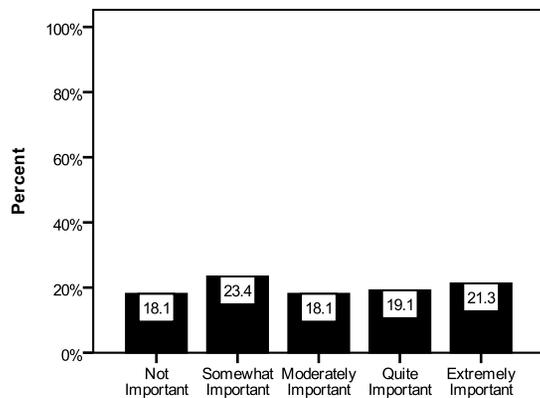
Keeping Physically Fit



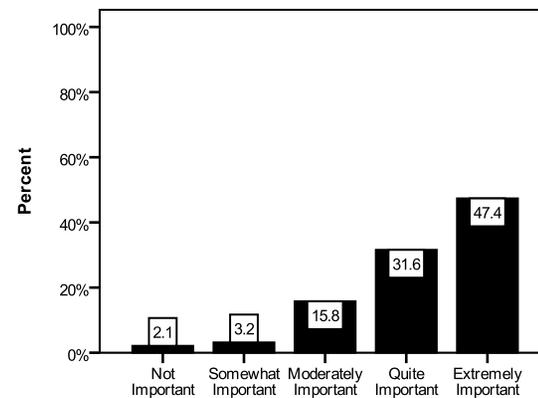
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

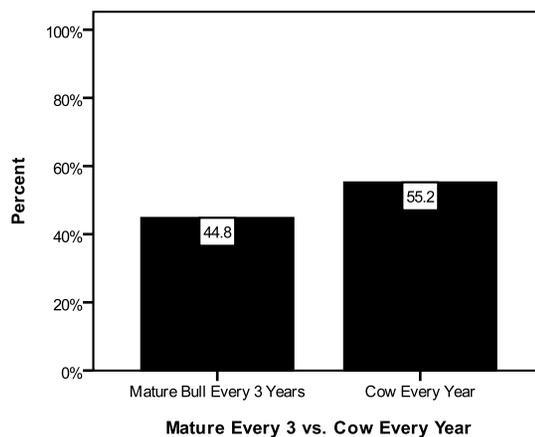
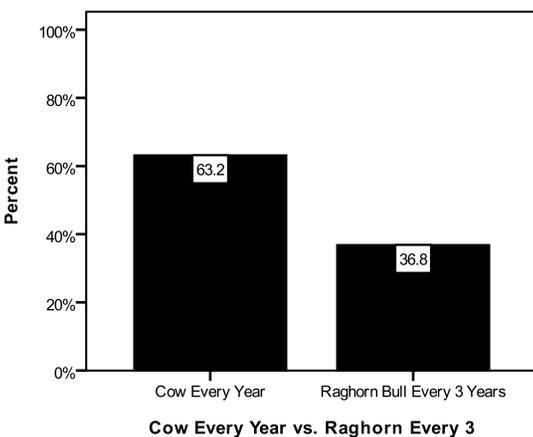
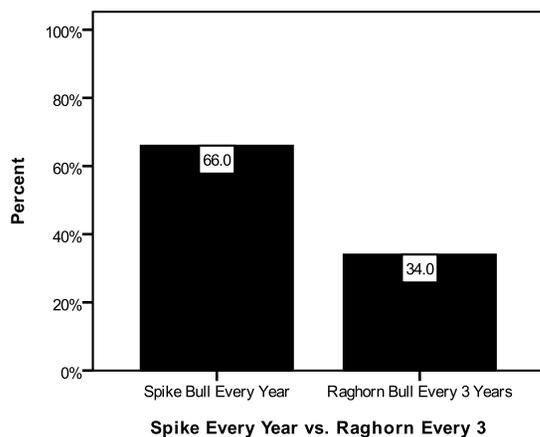
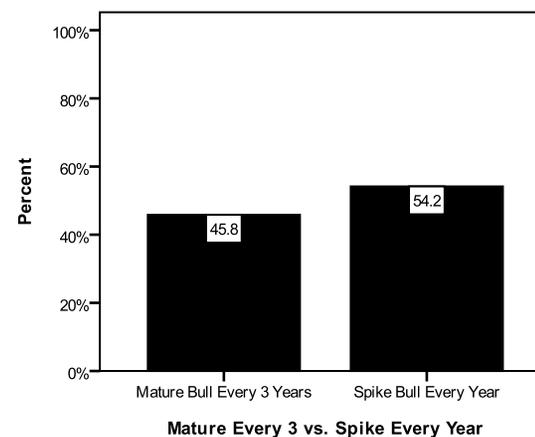
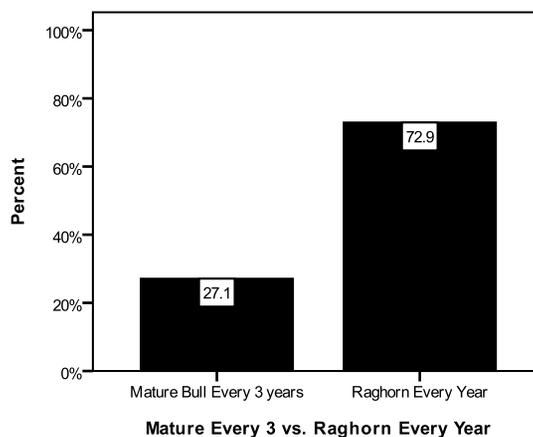
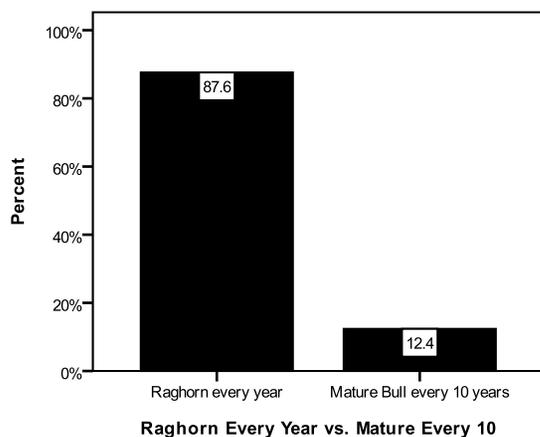


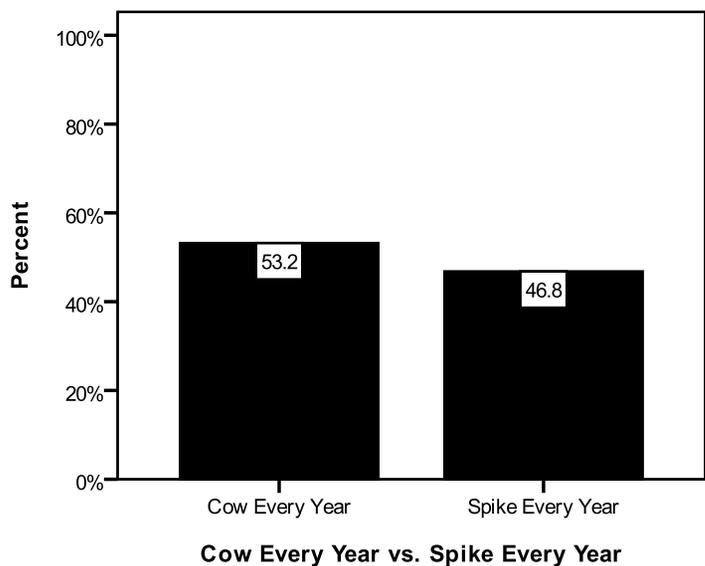
Just Being Outdoors

Q28: The top six reasons for Elk hunting in Idaho are the same between Elk City hunters and the state average.

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.

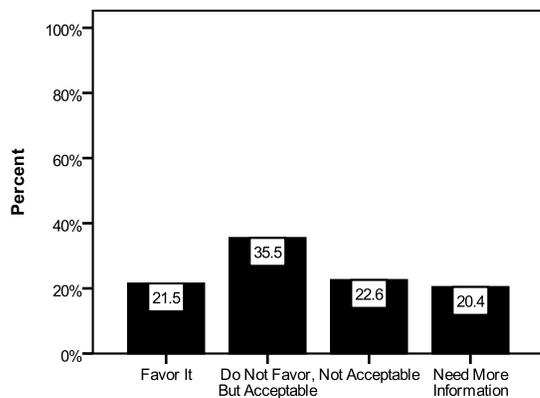




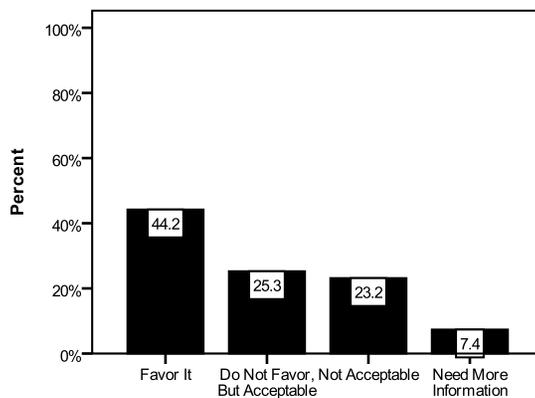
Q32: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Elk City zone.

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

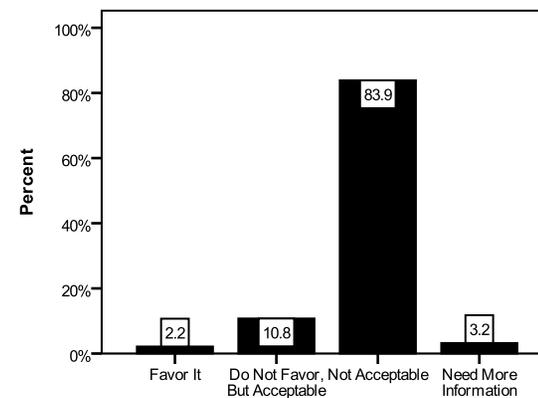
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?



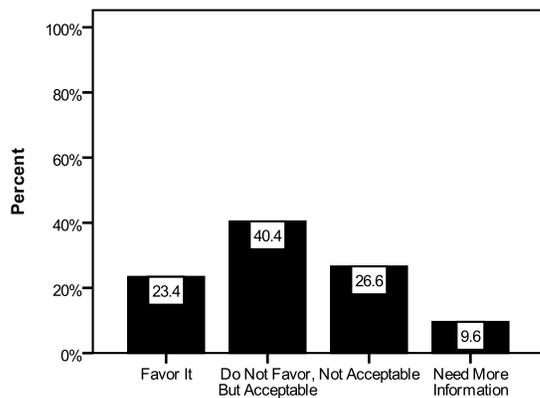
Longer Seasons



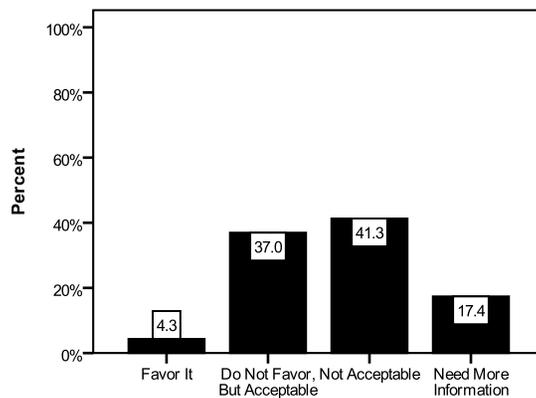
Choose Only One Weapon



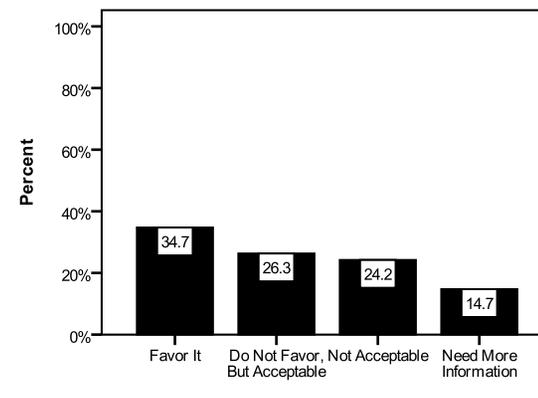
Choose Only One Species



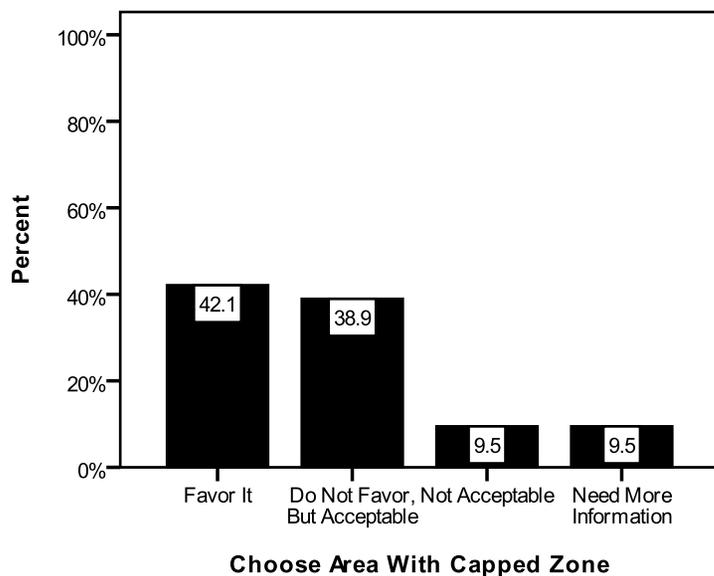
Controlled Hunts



Stratified Hunts

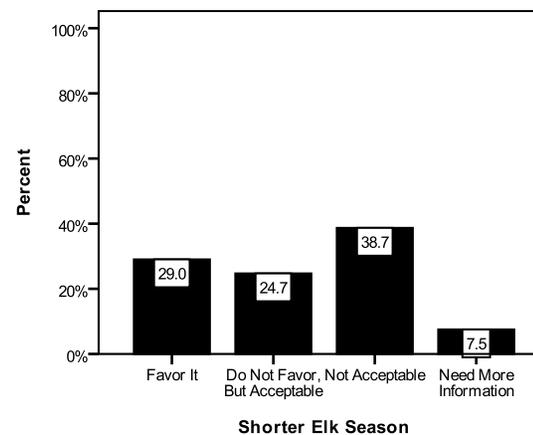
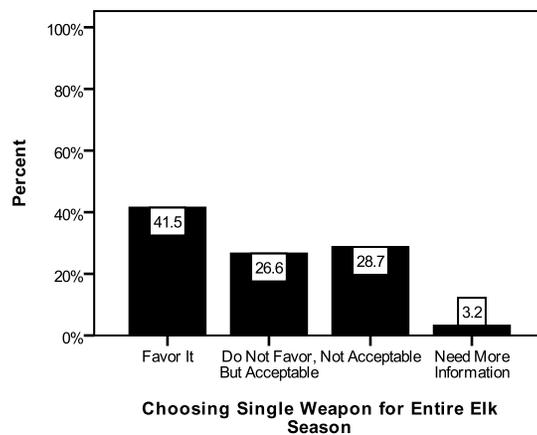
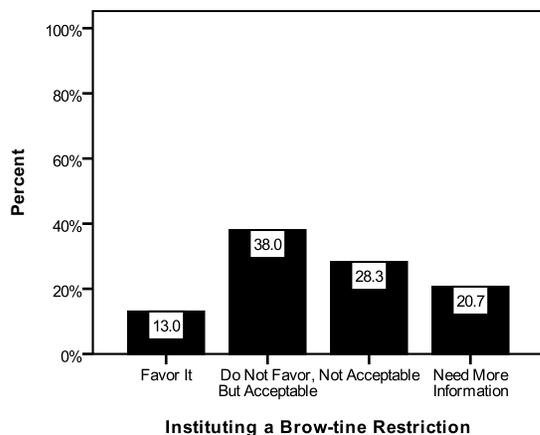
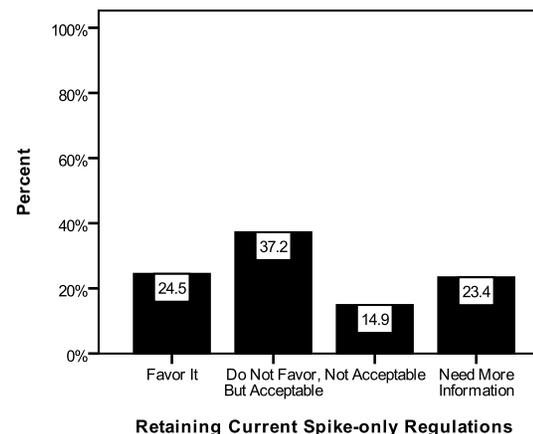
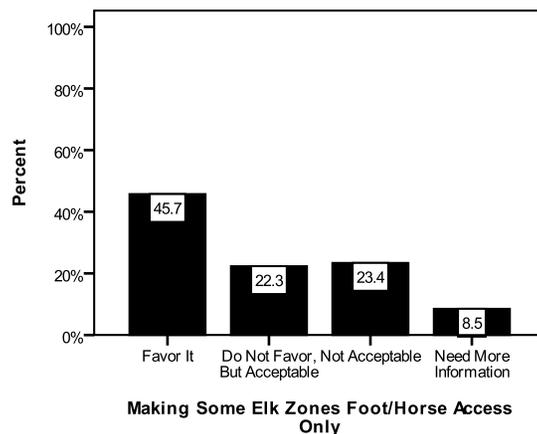
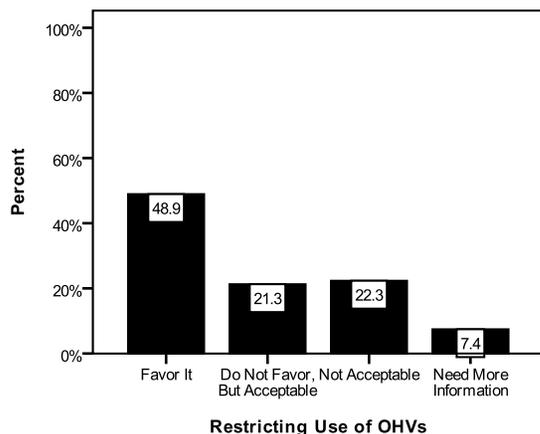


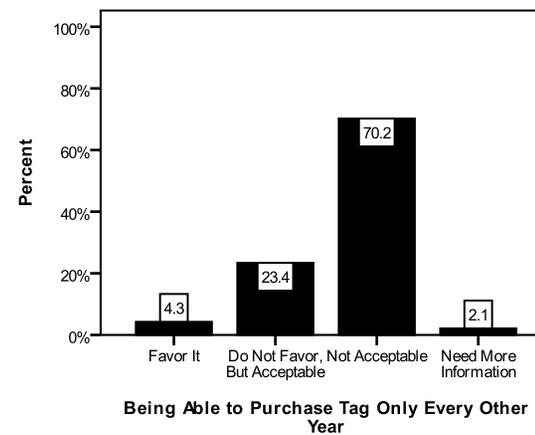
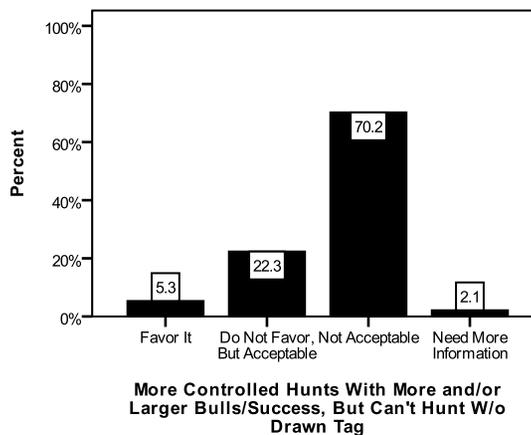
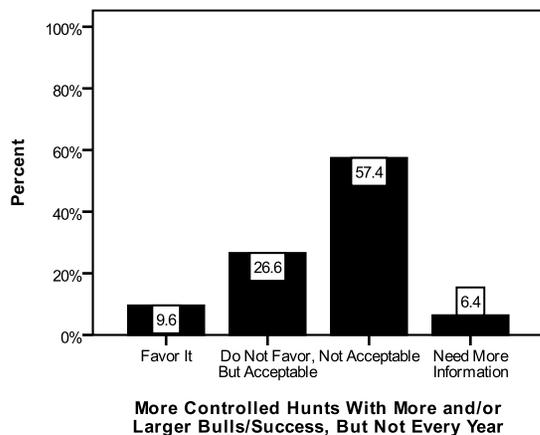
Choose Area With Motorized/Travel Restrictions



Q34: The distribution of responses is similar between Elk City hunters and the state average. However, more hunters in this zone favor choosing an area with a capped zone (14.3% difference) and do not favor longer seasons but still find them acceptable (7.1% difference).

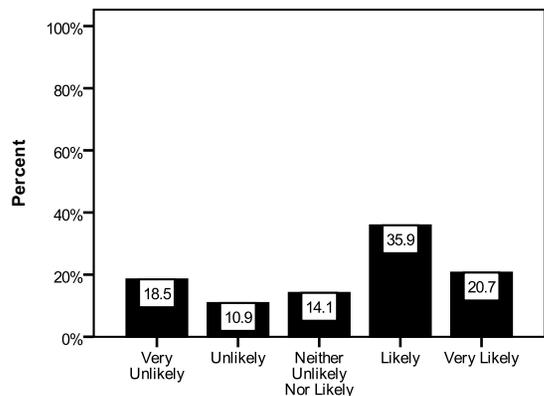
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



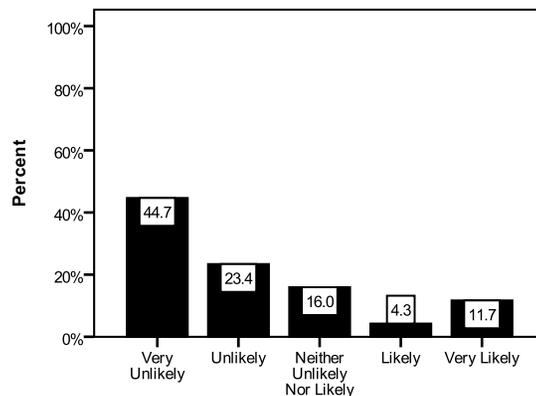


Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the Elk City zone and the state average.

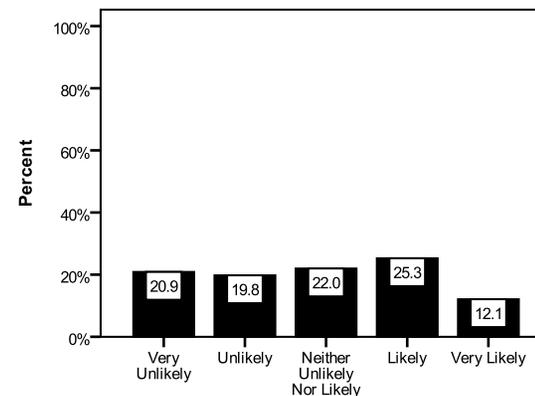
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



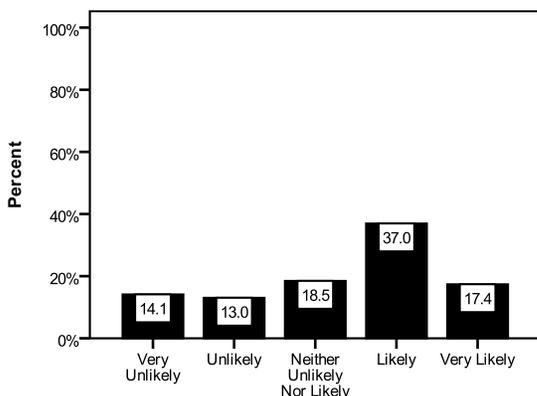
Hunt in Different Zones



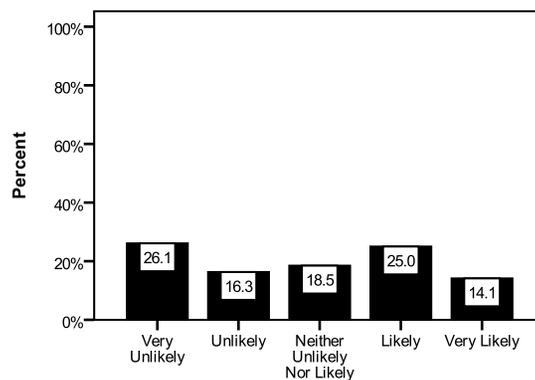
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



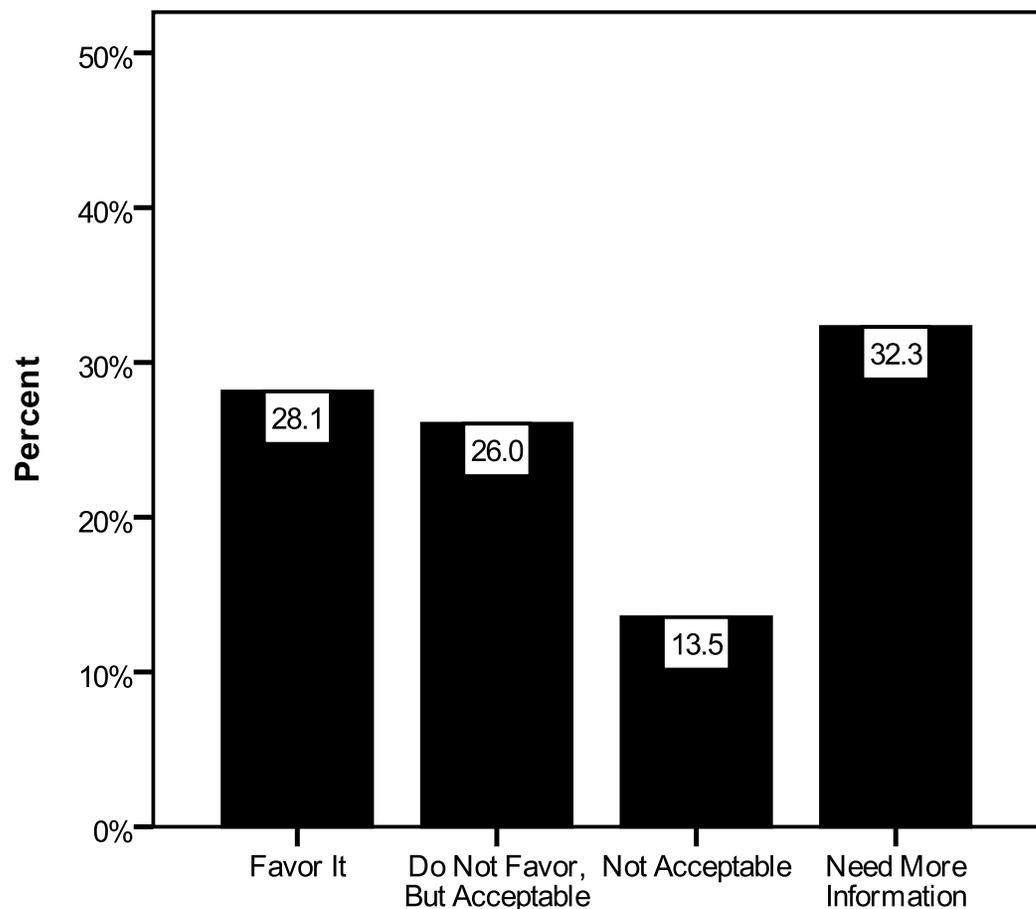
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

Q36: The distribution of responses between the Elk City zone and the state average is similar.

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

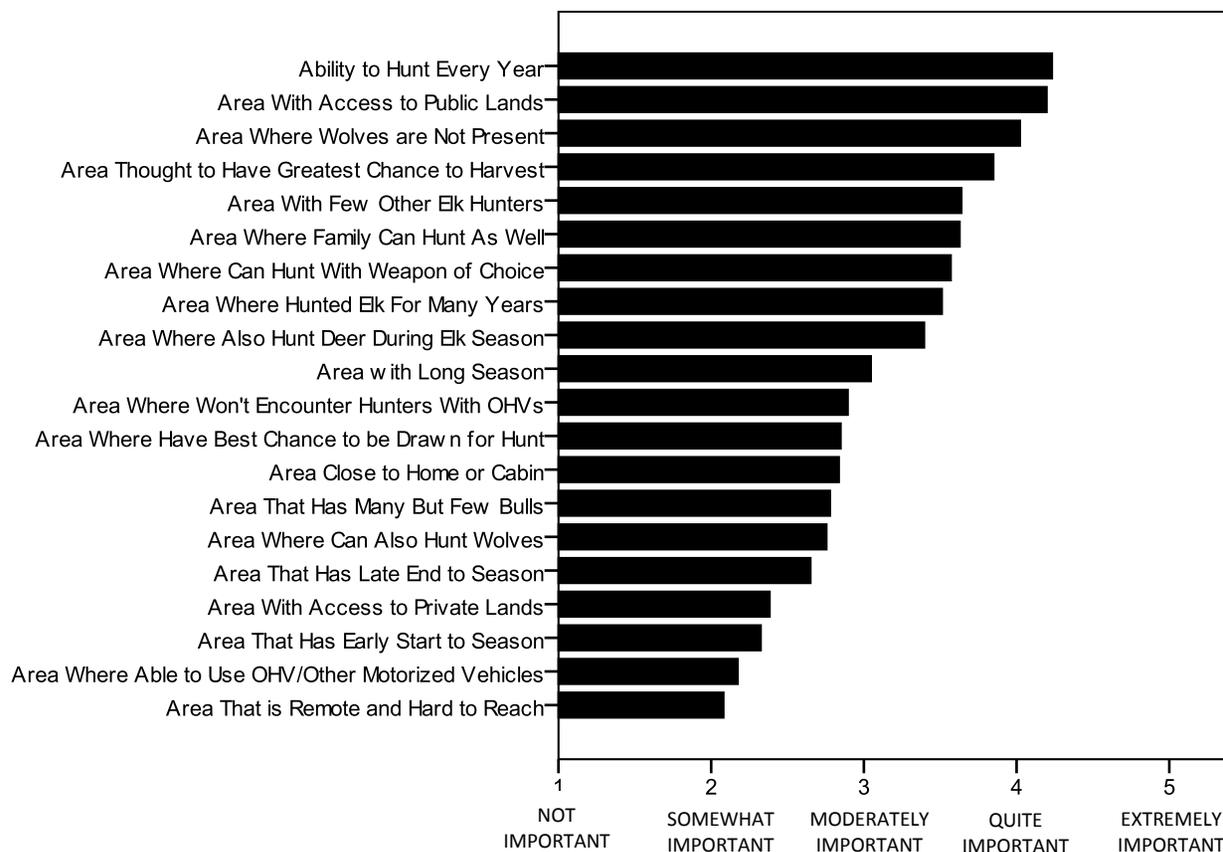


Q38: The distribution of responses is similar between the Elk City zone and the state average.

Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

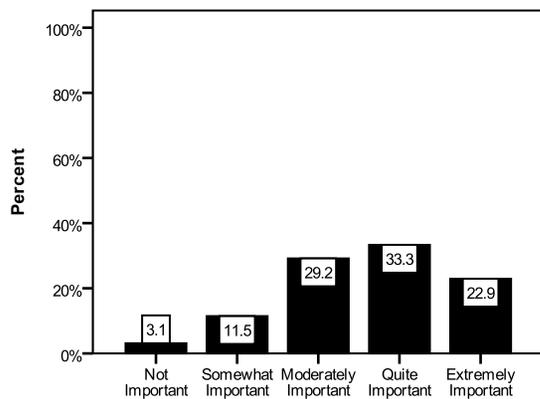
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

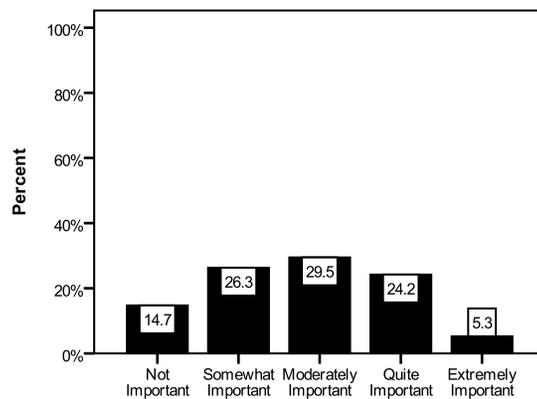


Q29: The top five characteristics is the same for the Elk City zone and the state average.

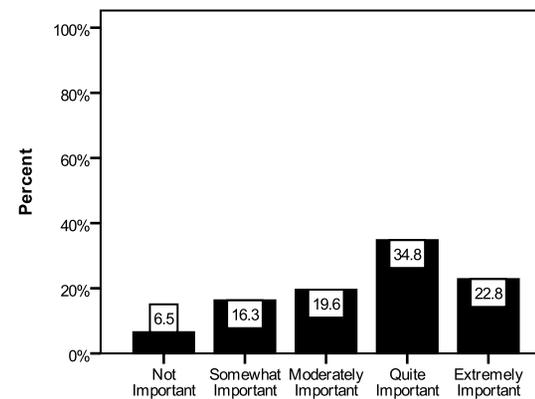
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



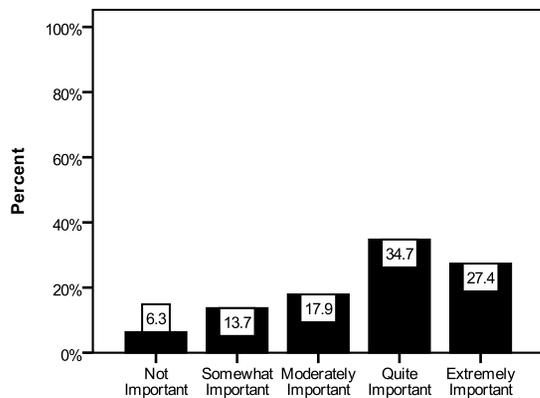
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



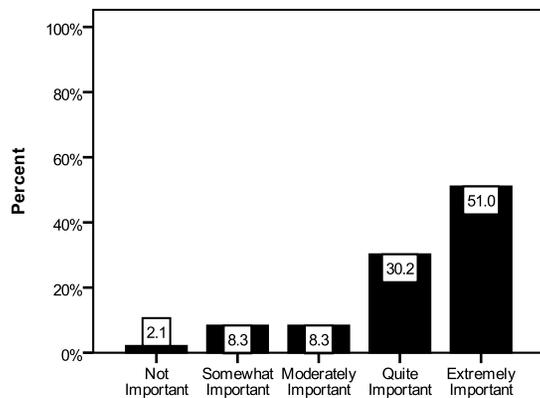
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



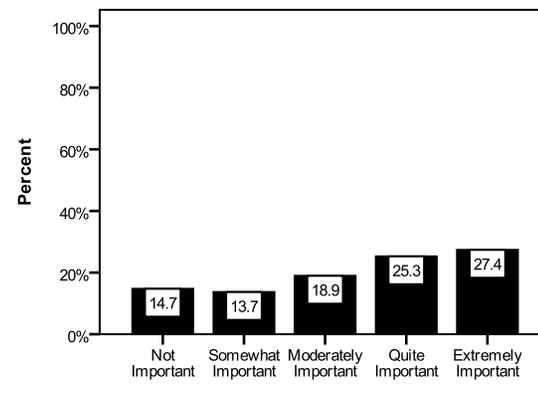
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



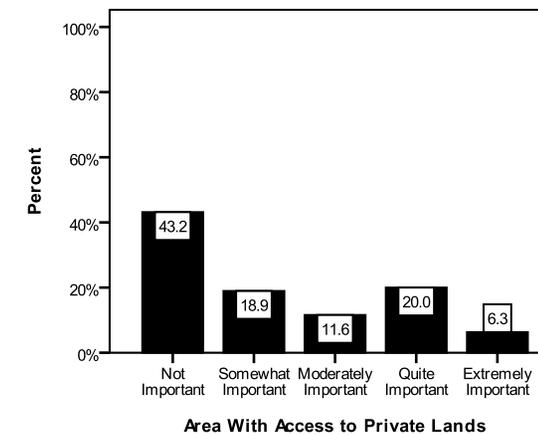
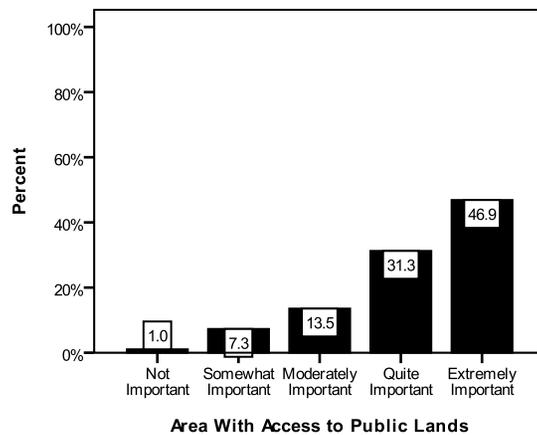
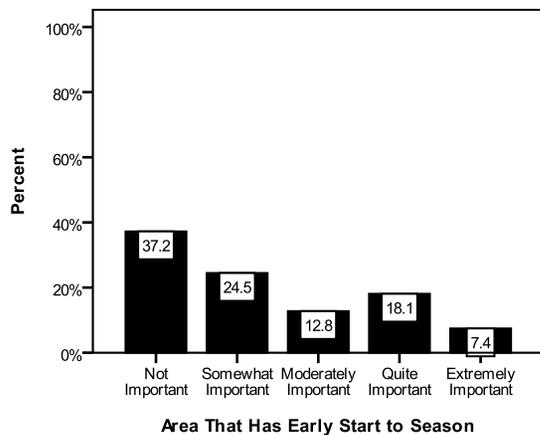
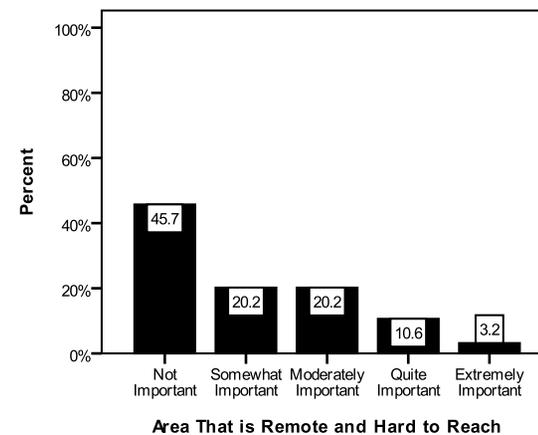
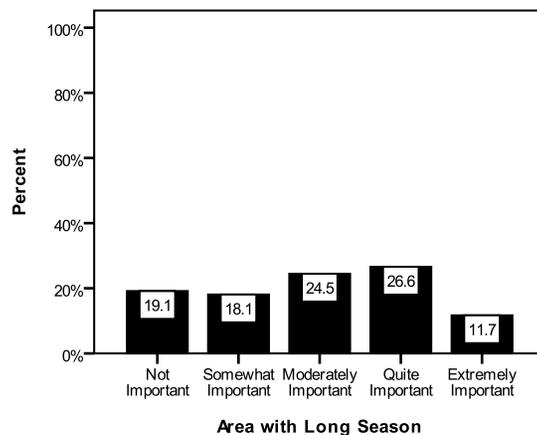
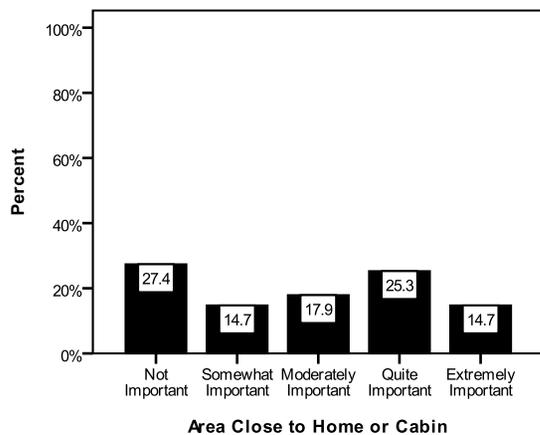
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

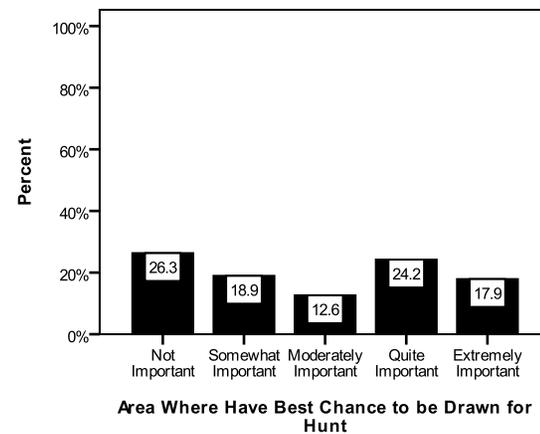
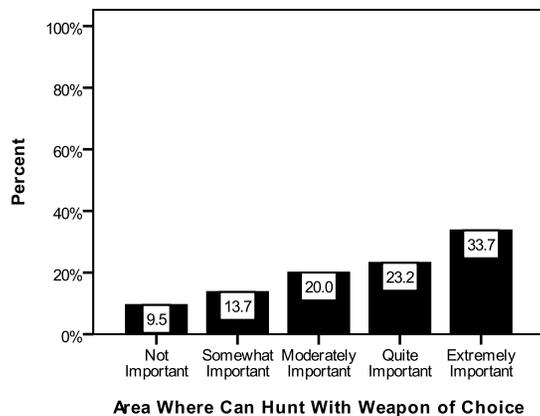
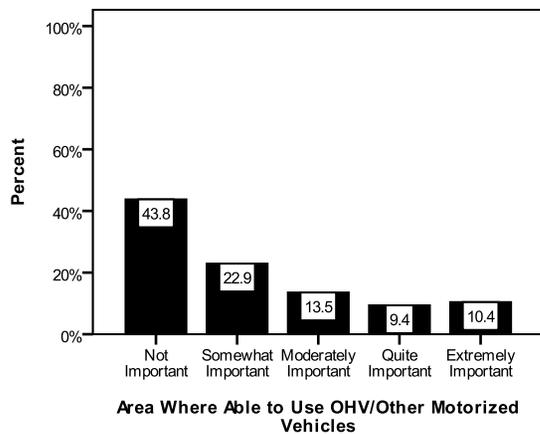
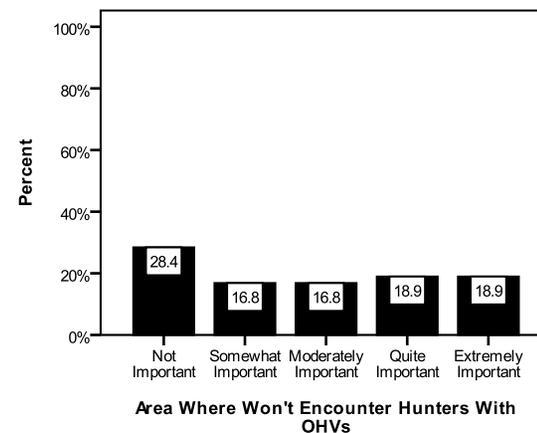
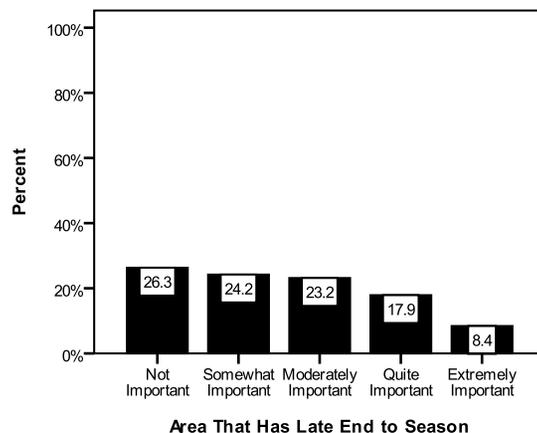
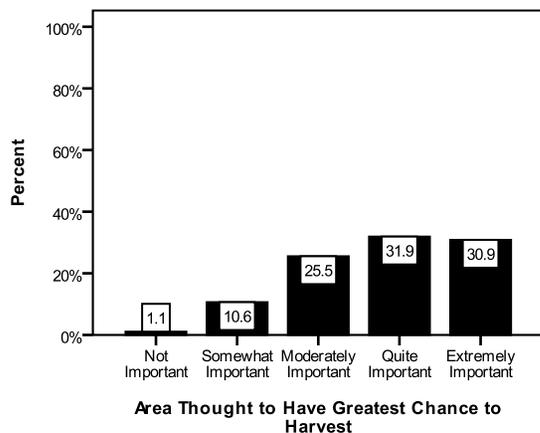


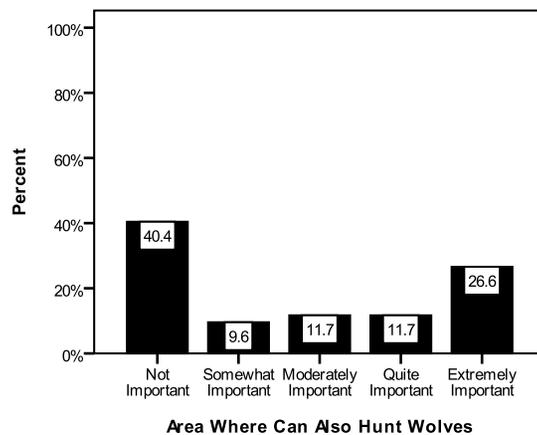
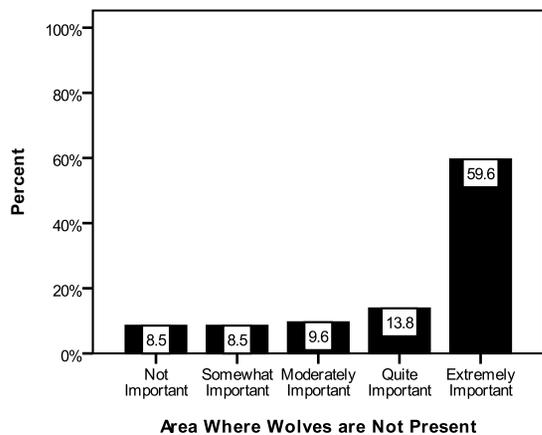
Ability to Hunt Every Year



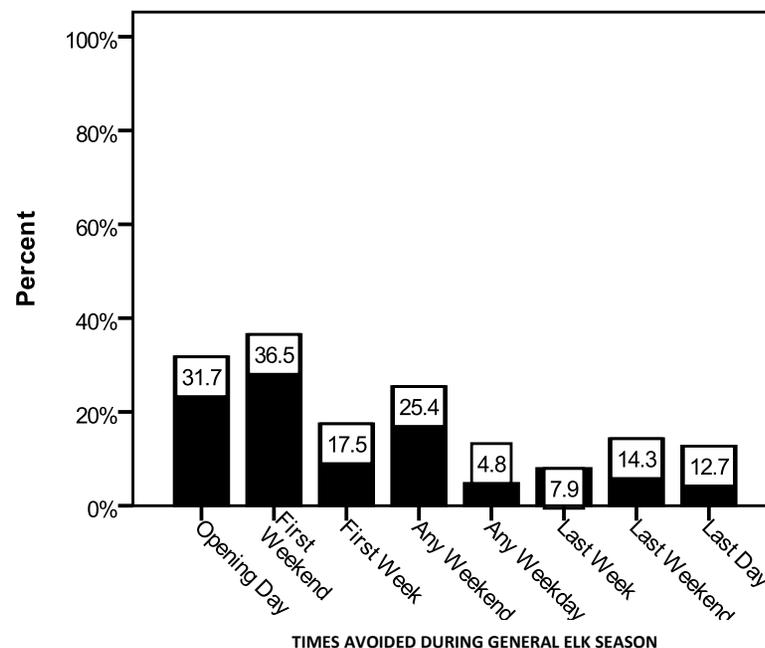
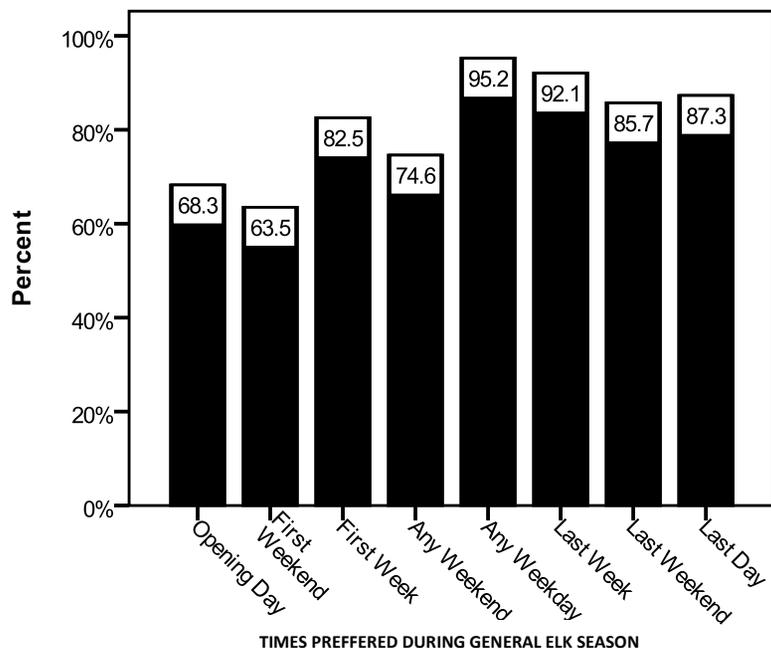
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season







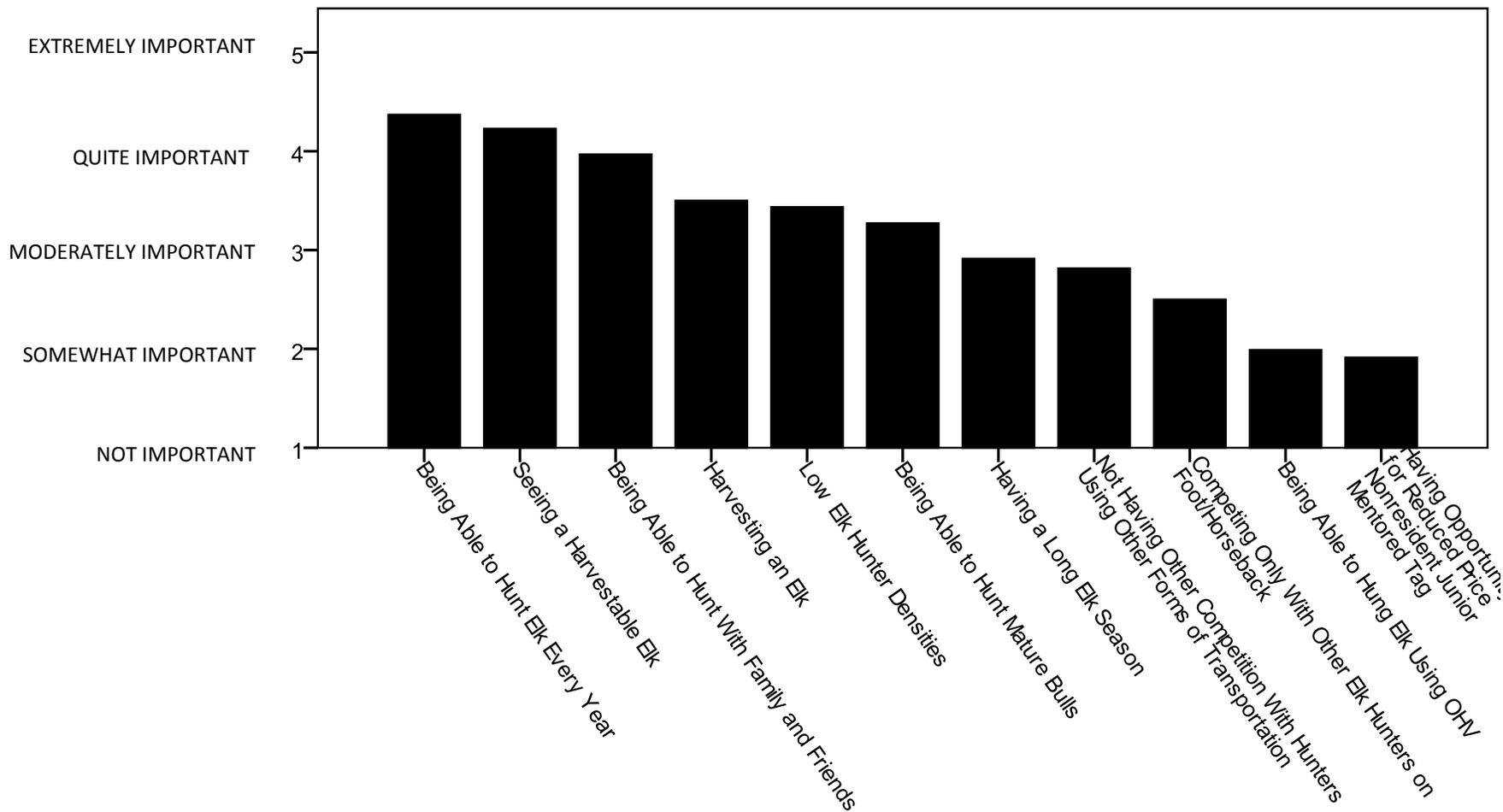
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



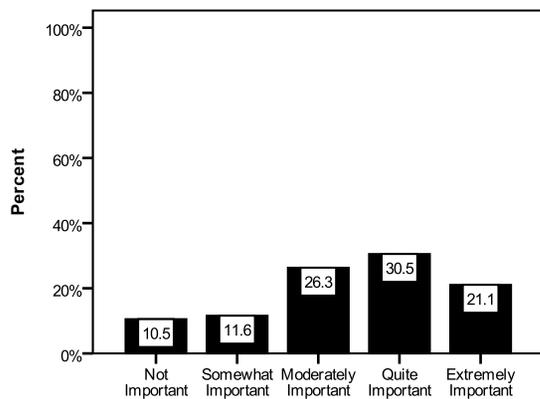
Q30: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Elk City zone. Weekdays are the most preferable time for hunting among respondents.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

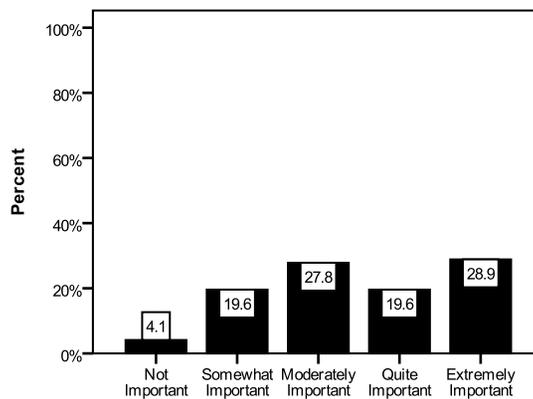
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



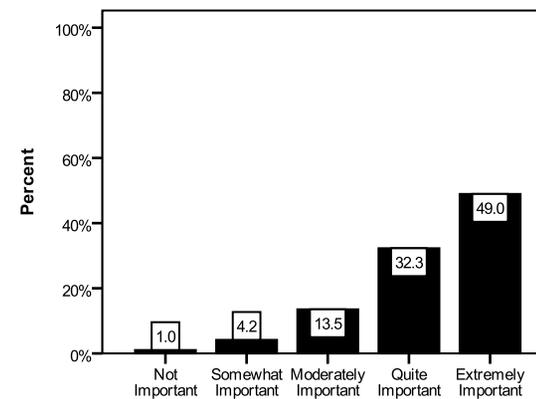
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



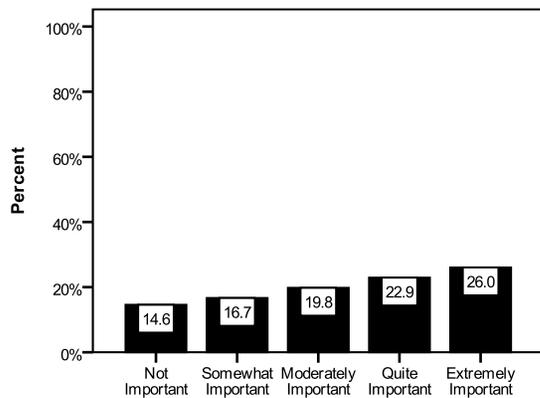
Low Elk Hunter Densities



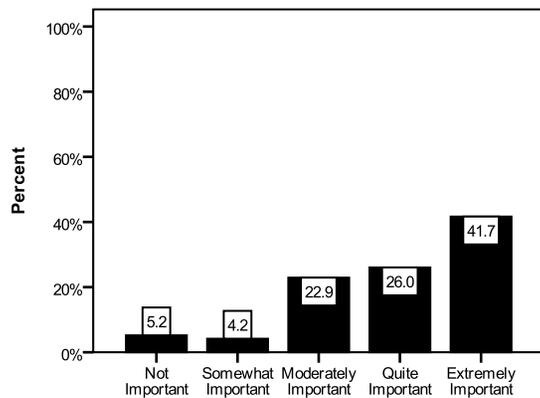
Harvesting an Elk



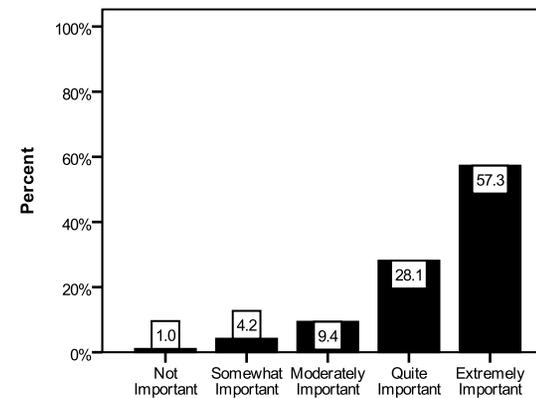
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



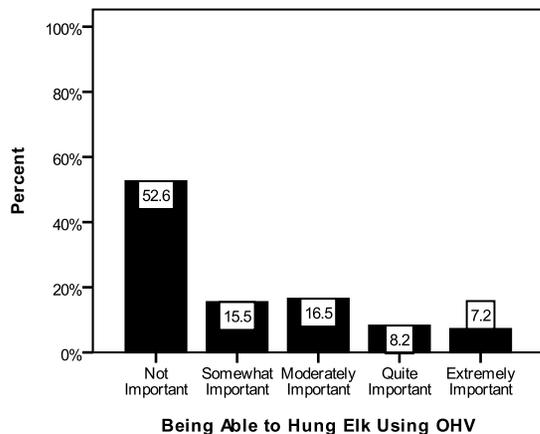
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



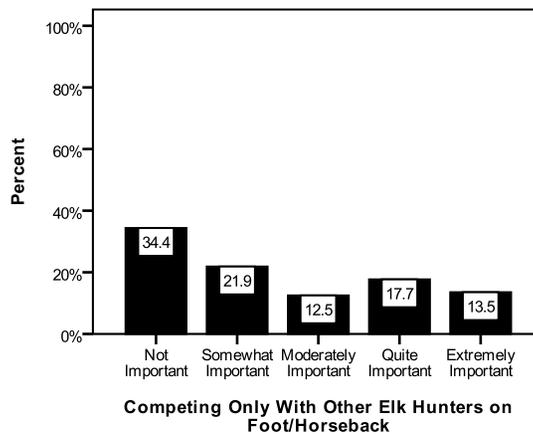
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



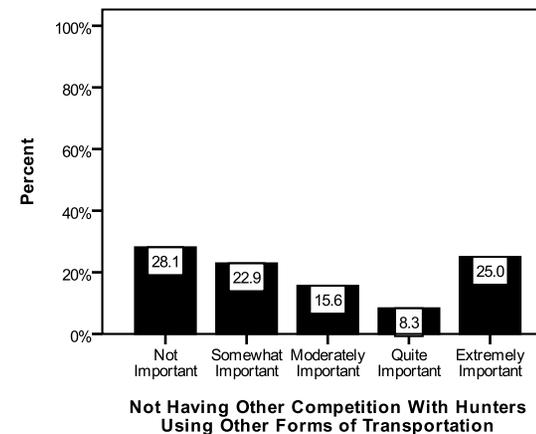
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



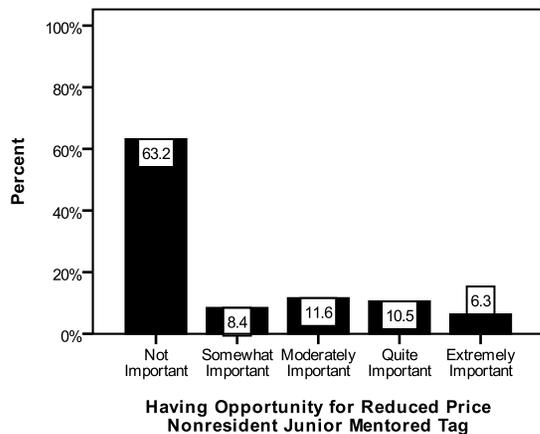
Being Able to Hunt Elk Using OHV



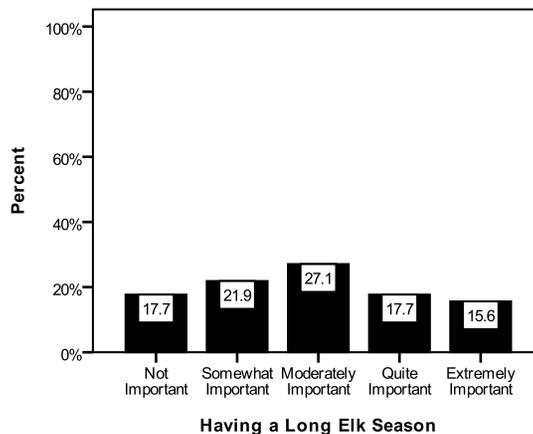
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

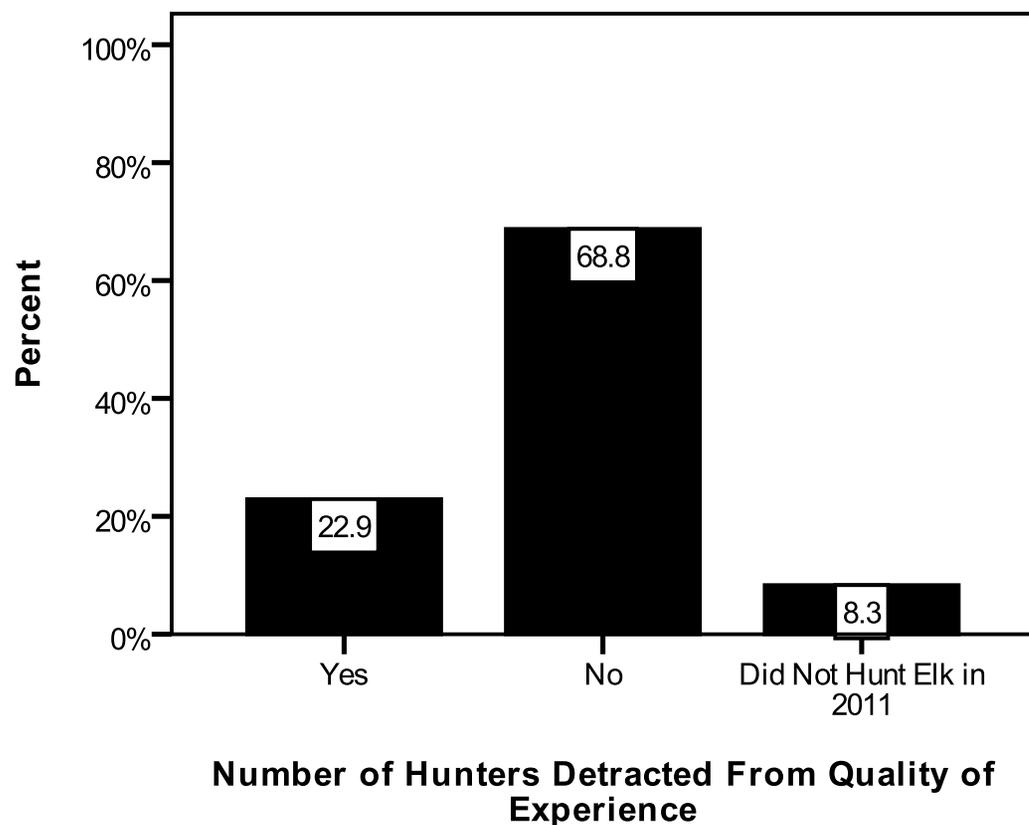


Having a Long Elk Season

Q31: The top four attributes are the same for the Elk City zone and the state average.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

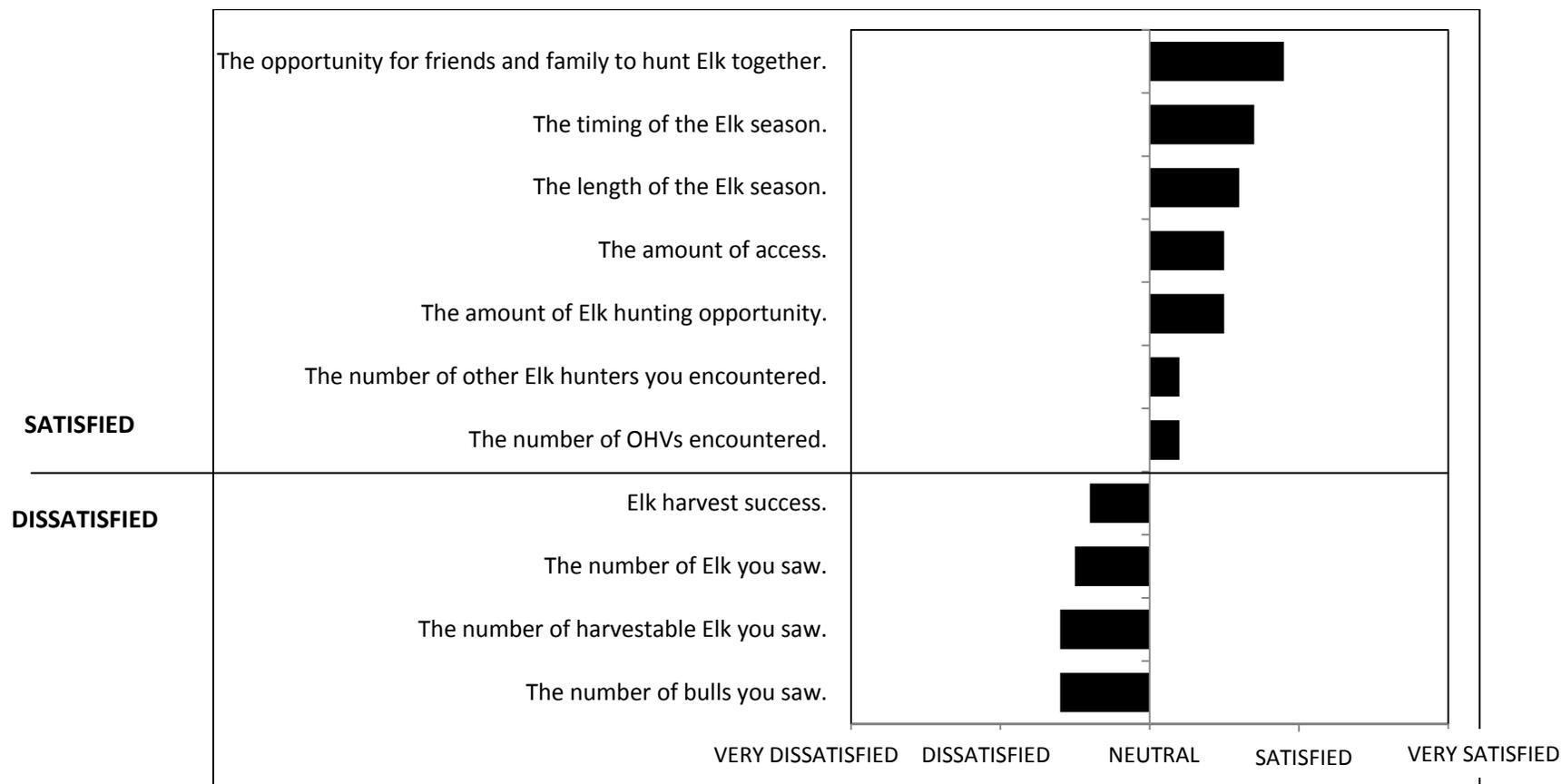
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



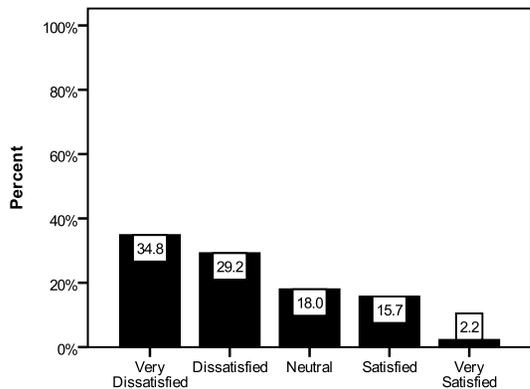
Q33: Like other hunters in the state, most Elk City hunters felt that the numbers of other hunters did not detract from their 2011 Elk hunting experience.

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

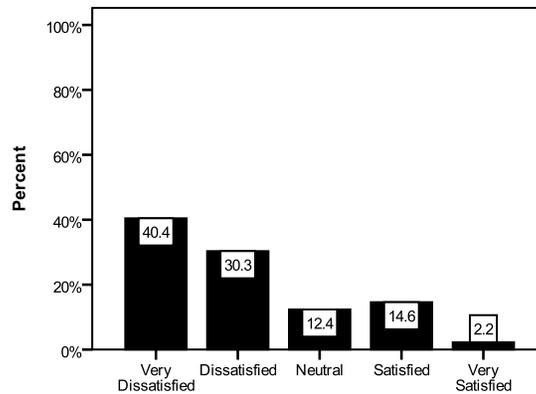
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



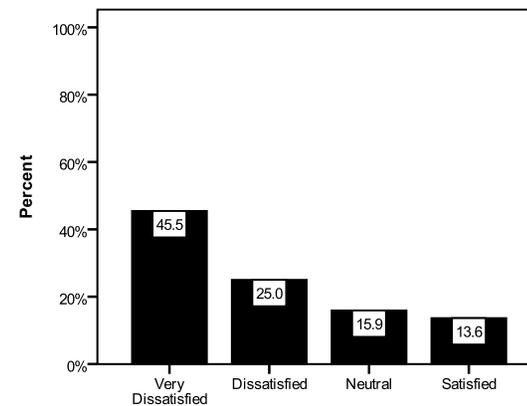
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



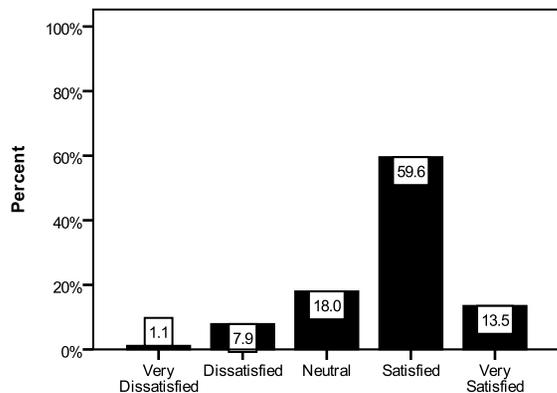
Number of Elk Seen



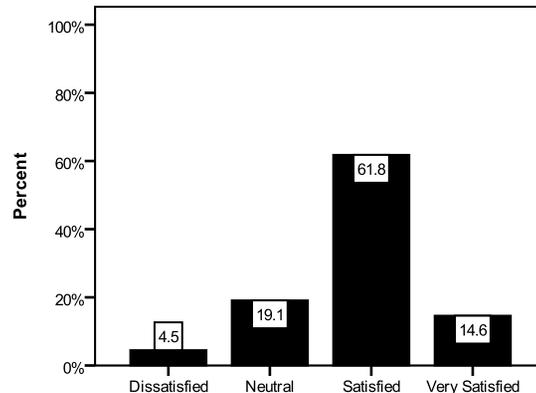
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



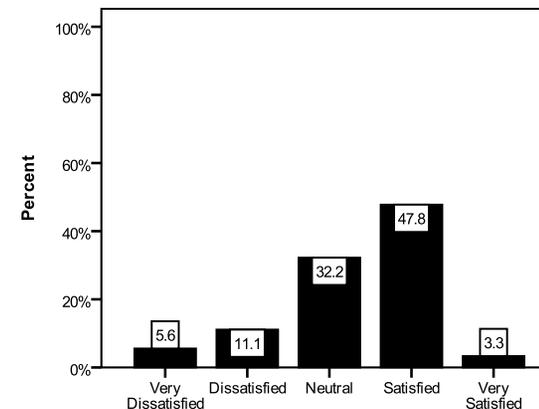
Number of Bulls Seen



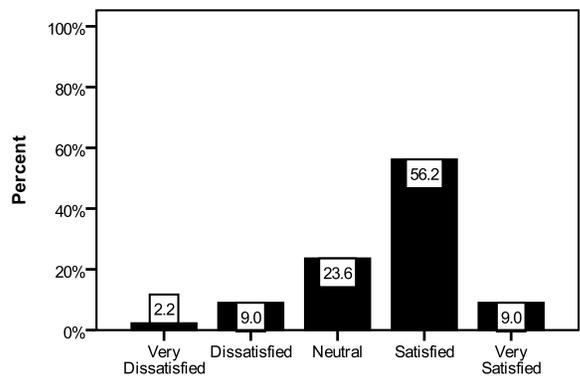
Length of Elk Season



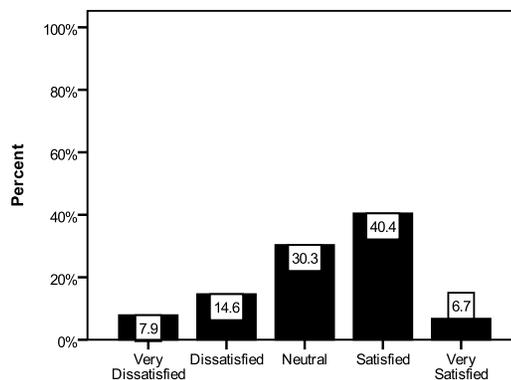
Timing of Elk Season



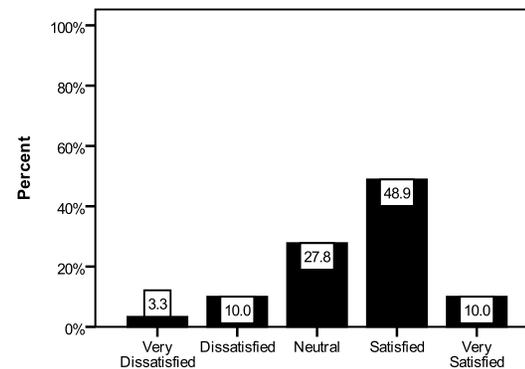
Number of Elk Hunters Encountered



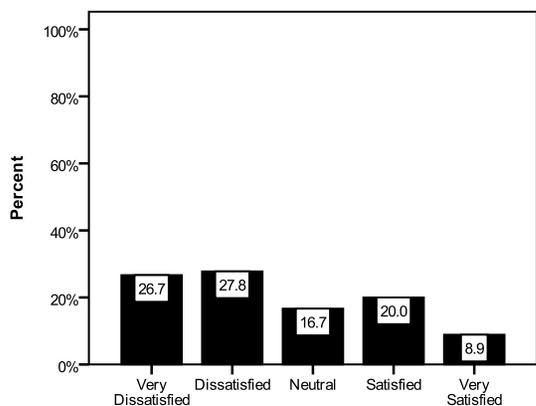
Amount of Access



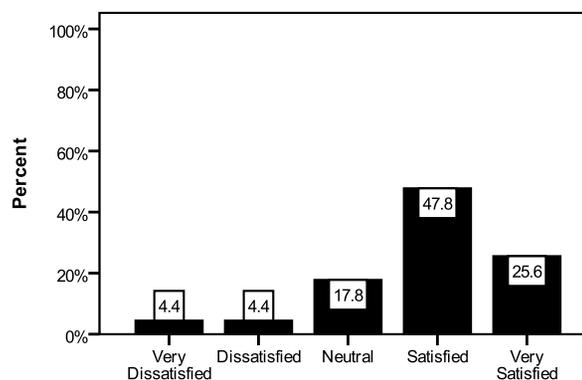
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



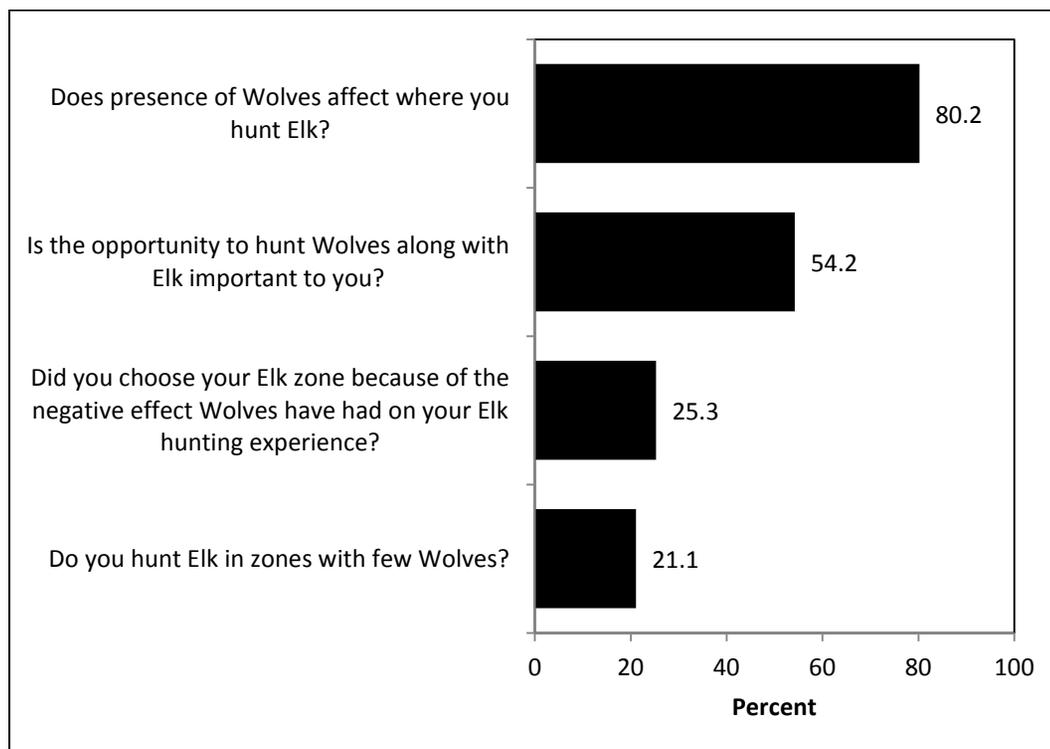
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

Q37: Similar to the state average, Elk City respondents reported that they were dissatisfied with the number of Elk they saw and their harvest success.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

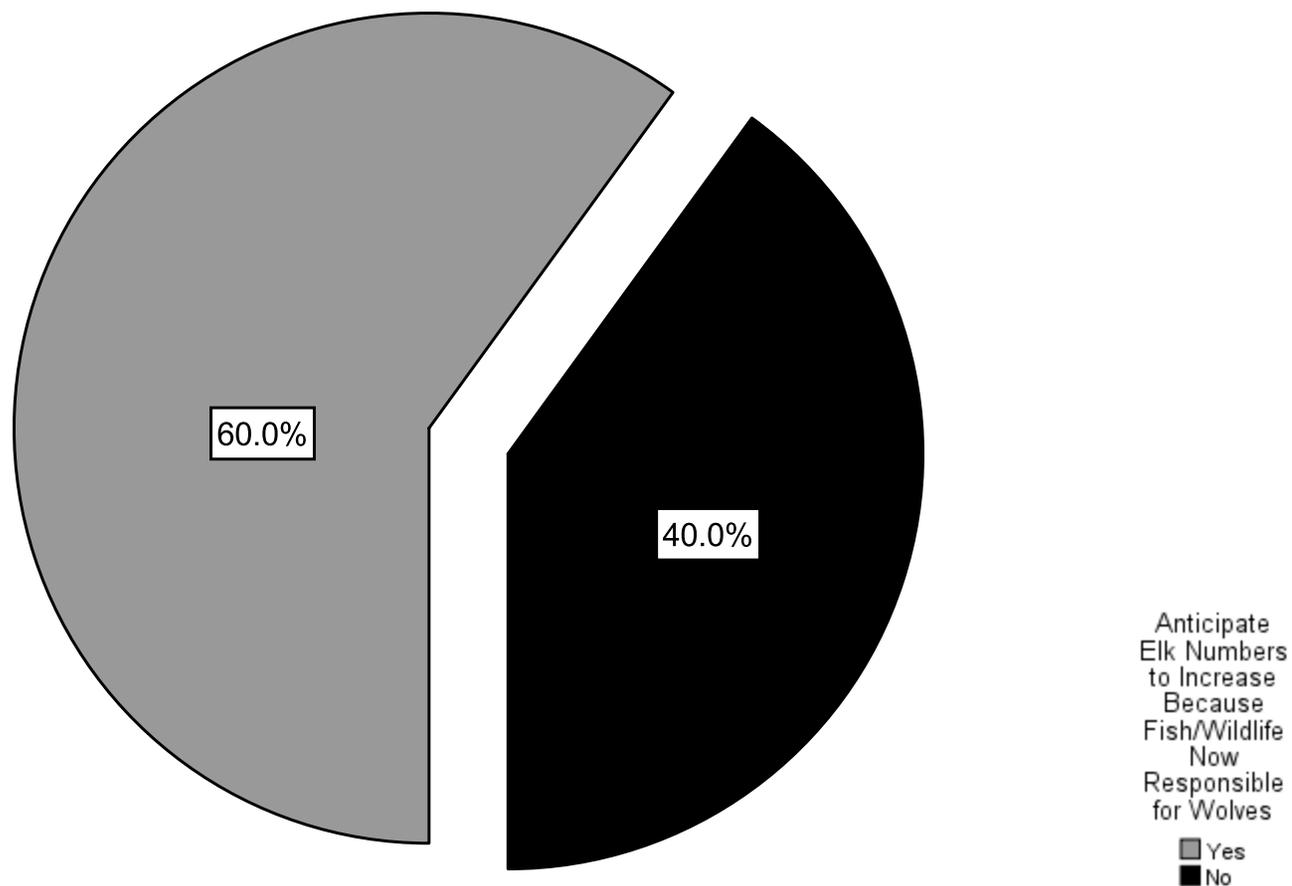
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: The distribution of responses between the Elk City zone and the state average is similar.

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



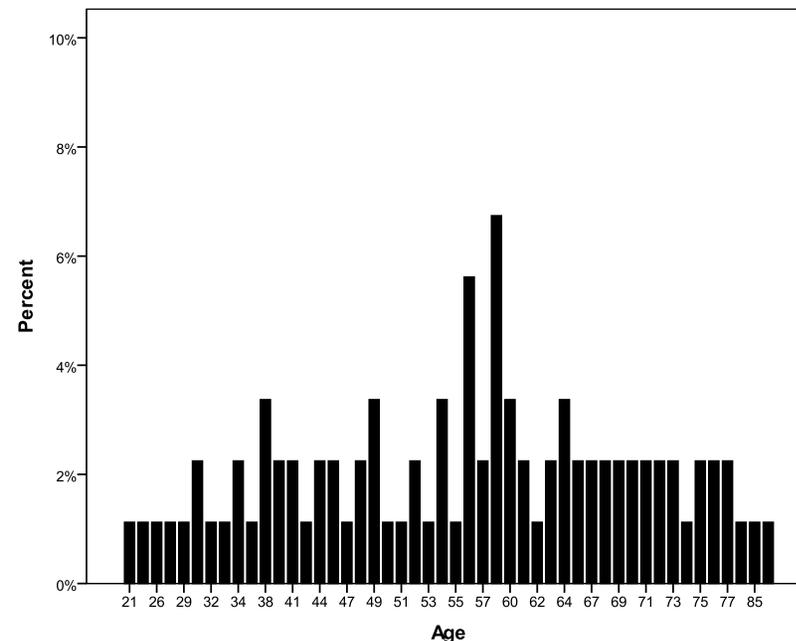
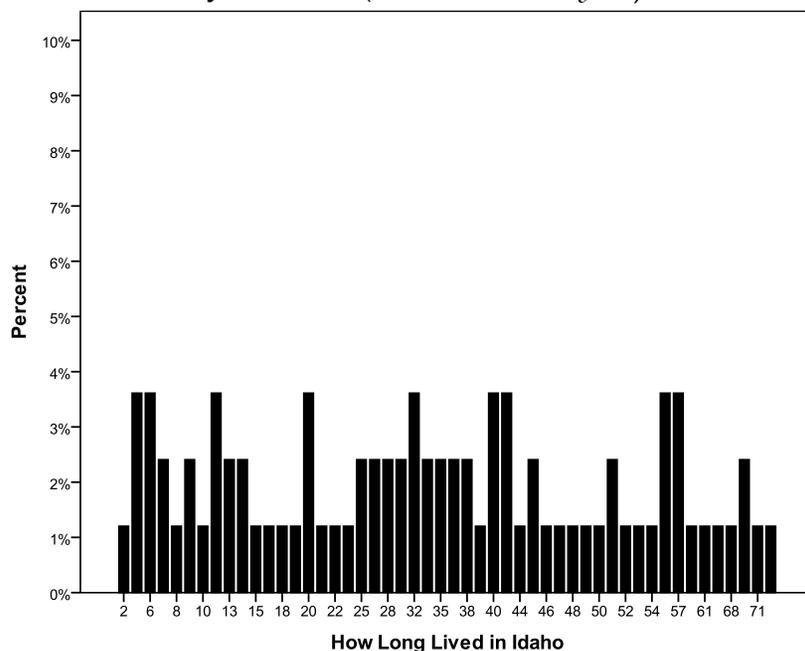
Q40: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Elk City hunters anticipate increased Elk numbers with IDFG management of Wolves.

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 responses for Q42 is more evenly distributed for Elk City hunters than the state average. The distribution for Q43 is similar between this zone and the state average.