

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



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

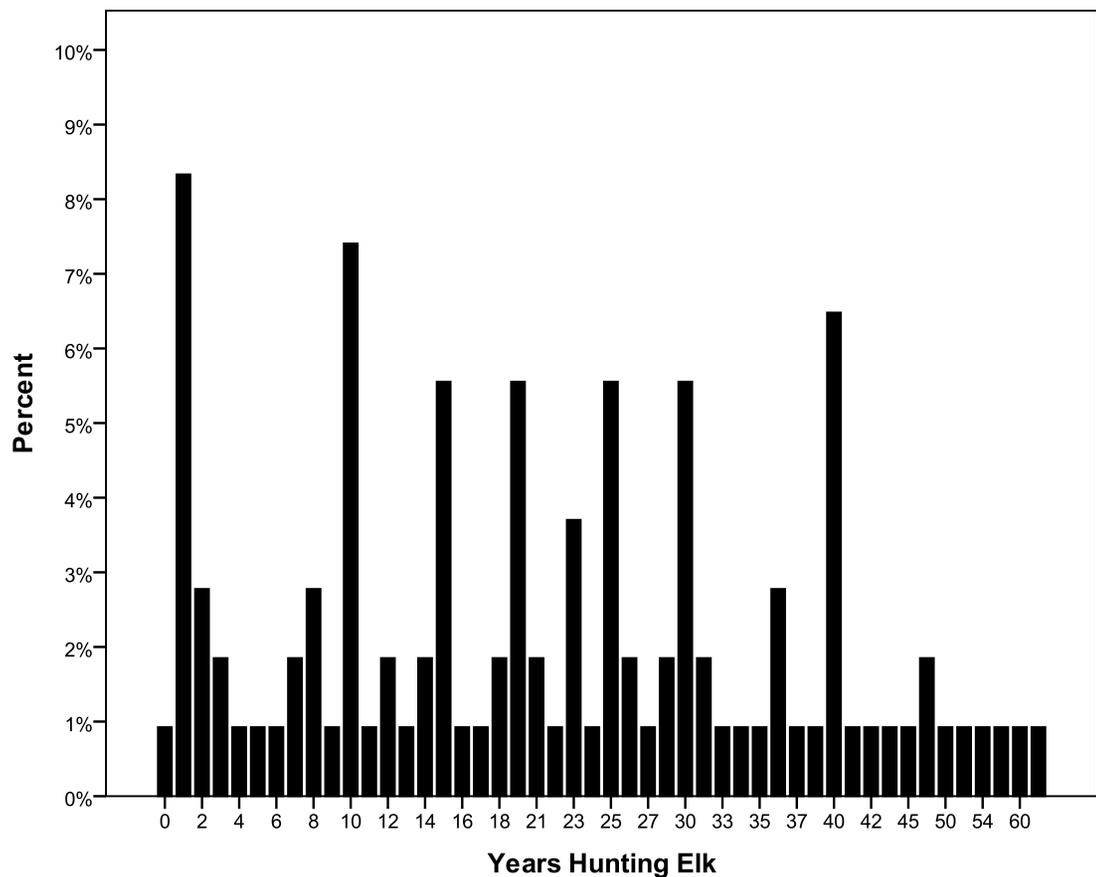
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

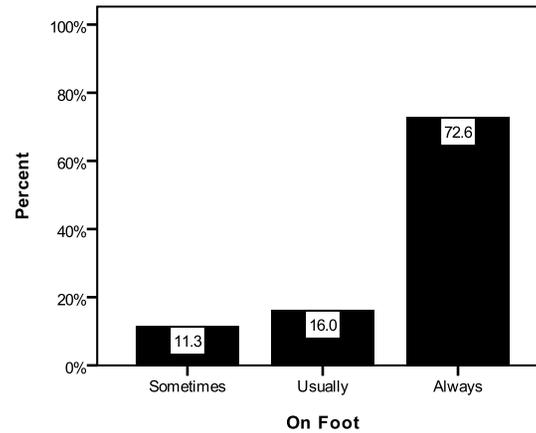
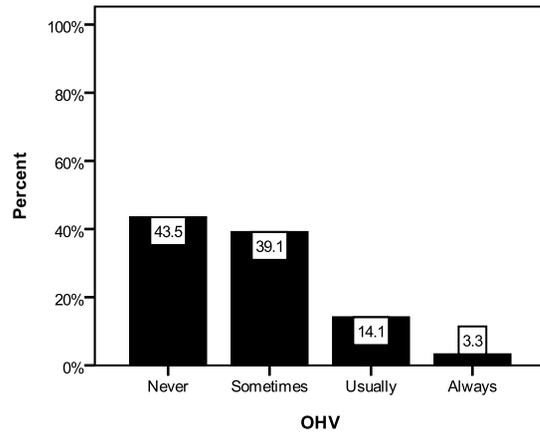
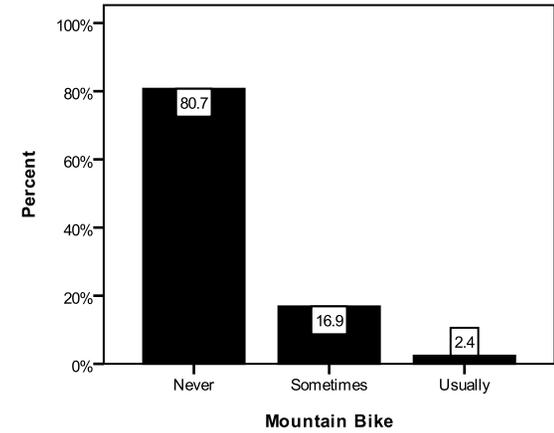
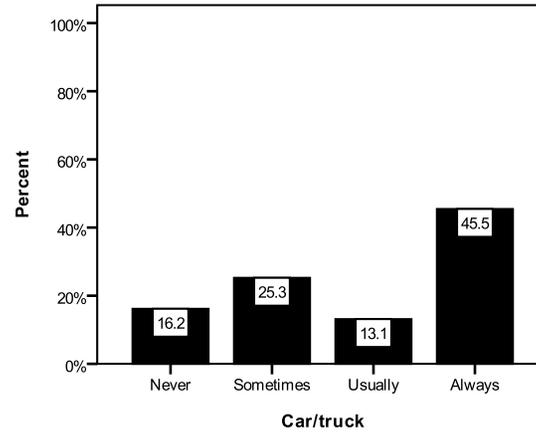
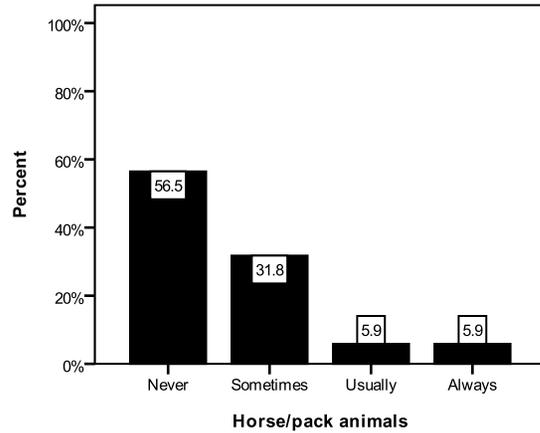
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



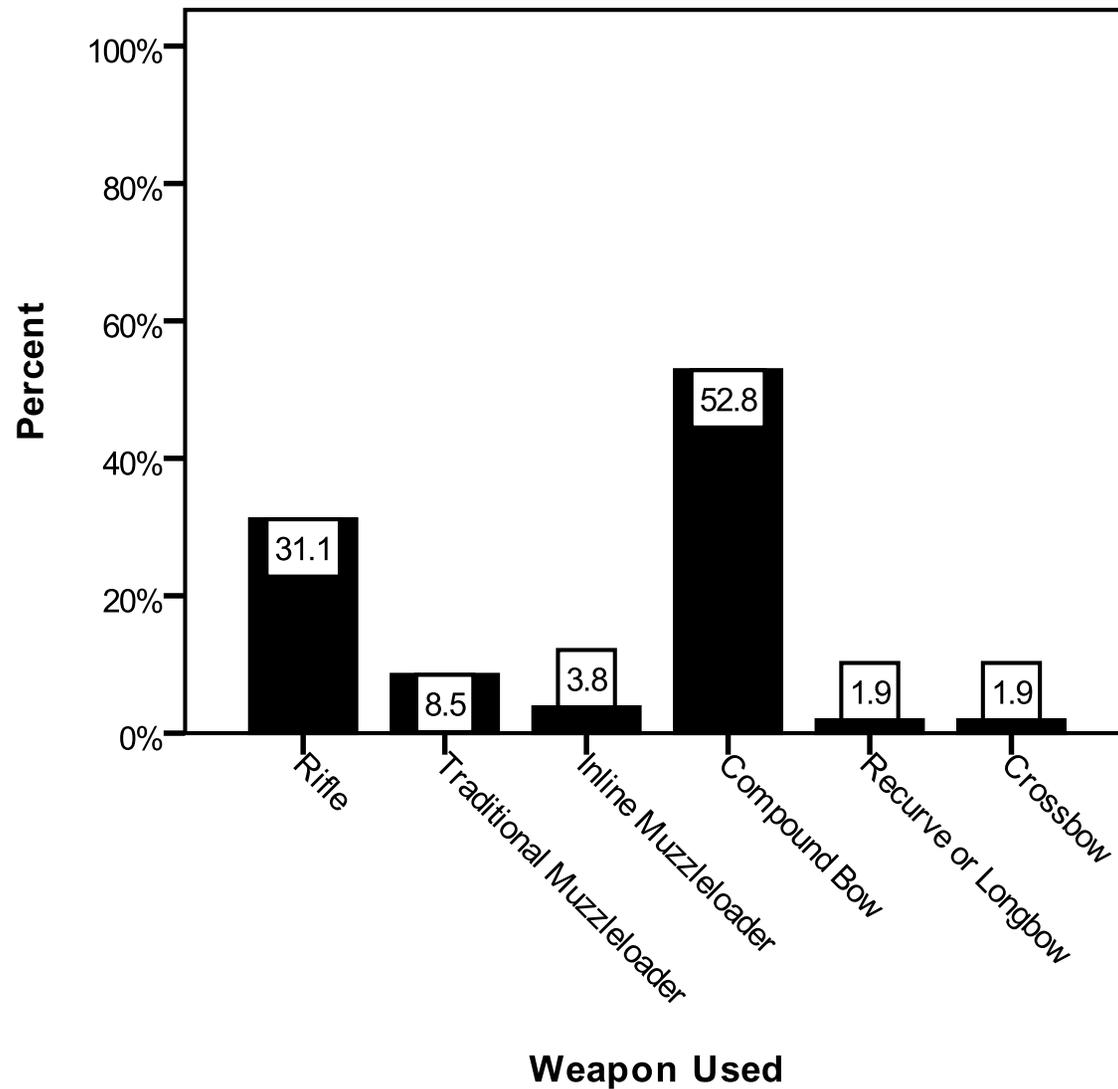
Q3: Unlike the state average, respondents in the Island Park zone report a larger percentage of hunters hunting for 10 years or less.

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?



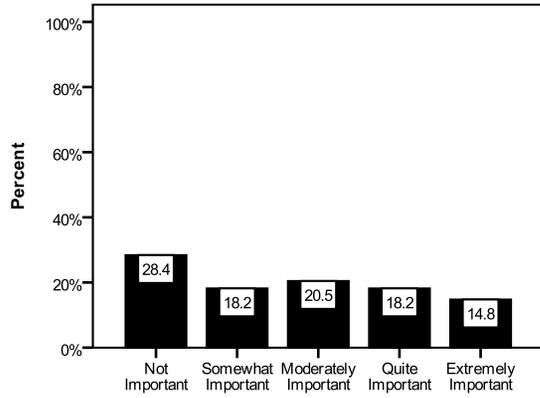
Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average.

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

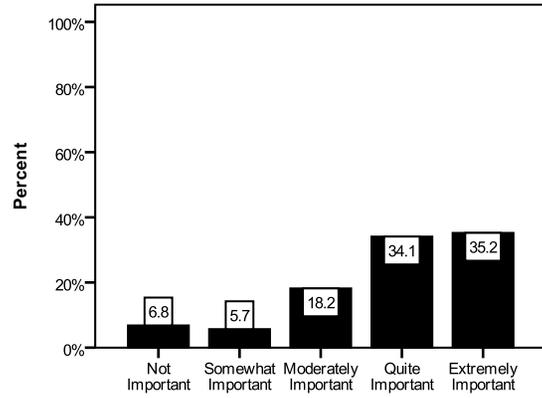


Q8: Unlike other hunters in the state who favor rifles, over half of Island Park hunters typically use a compound bow to hunt Elk. Rifles are still used by about a third of respondents.

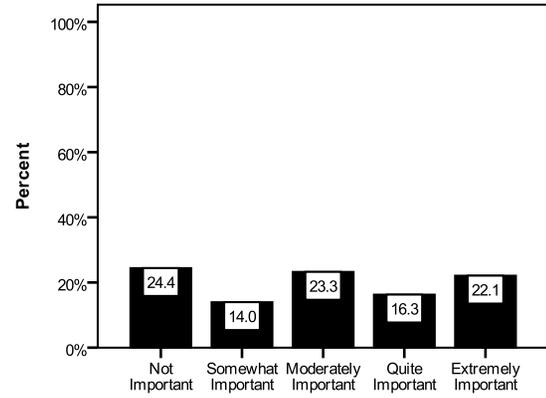
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



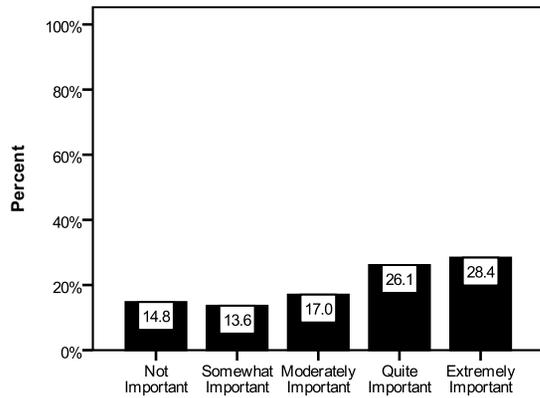
Increase Challenge



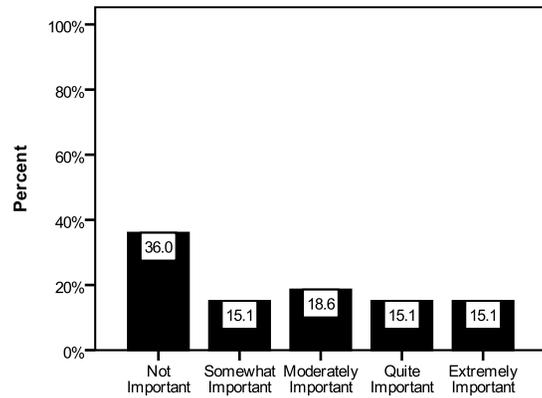
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



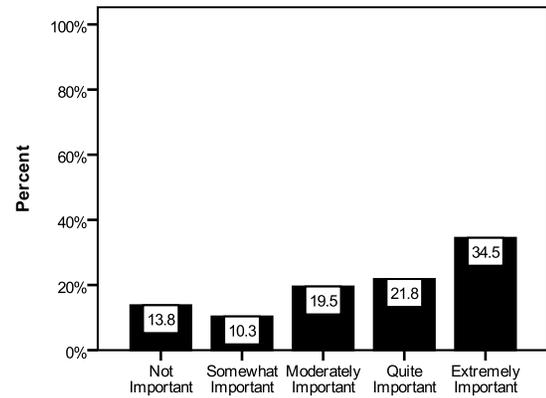
Improve Chance of Harvesting



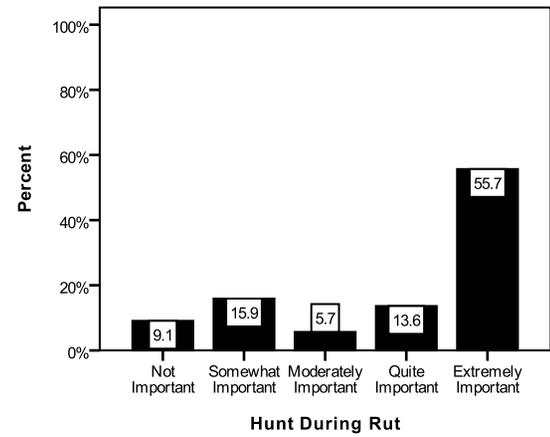
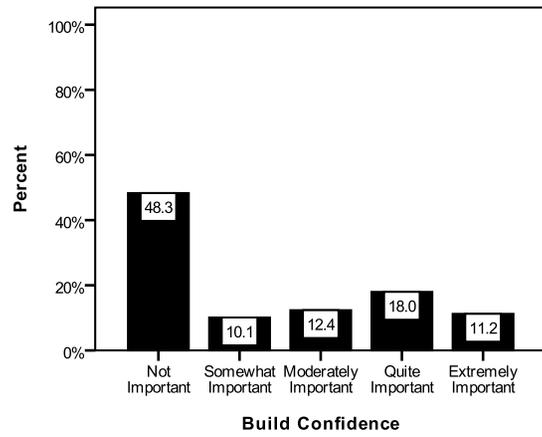
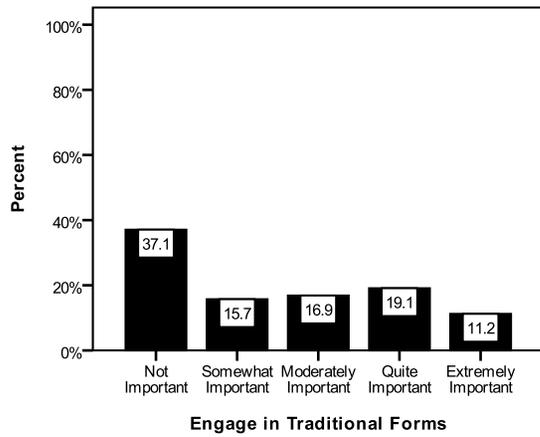
Expand Hunting Season



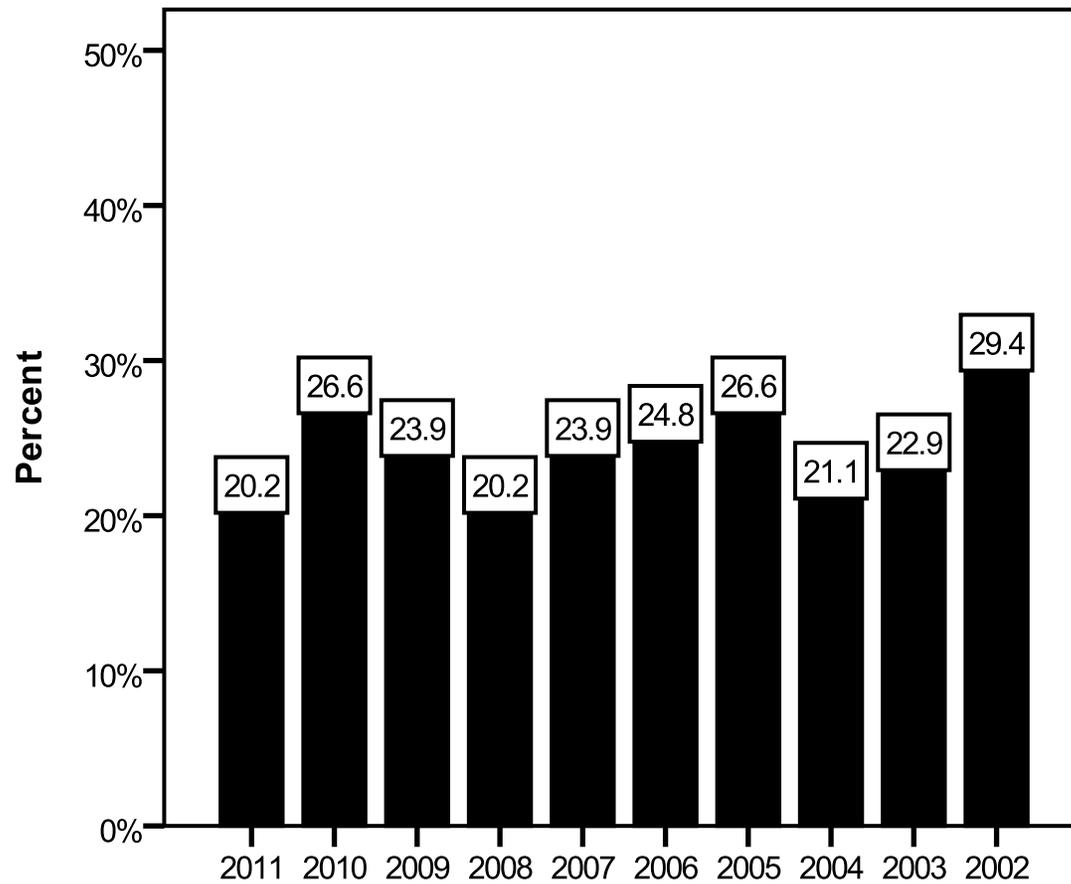
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

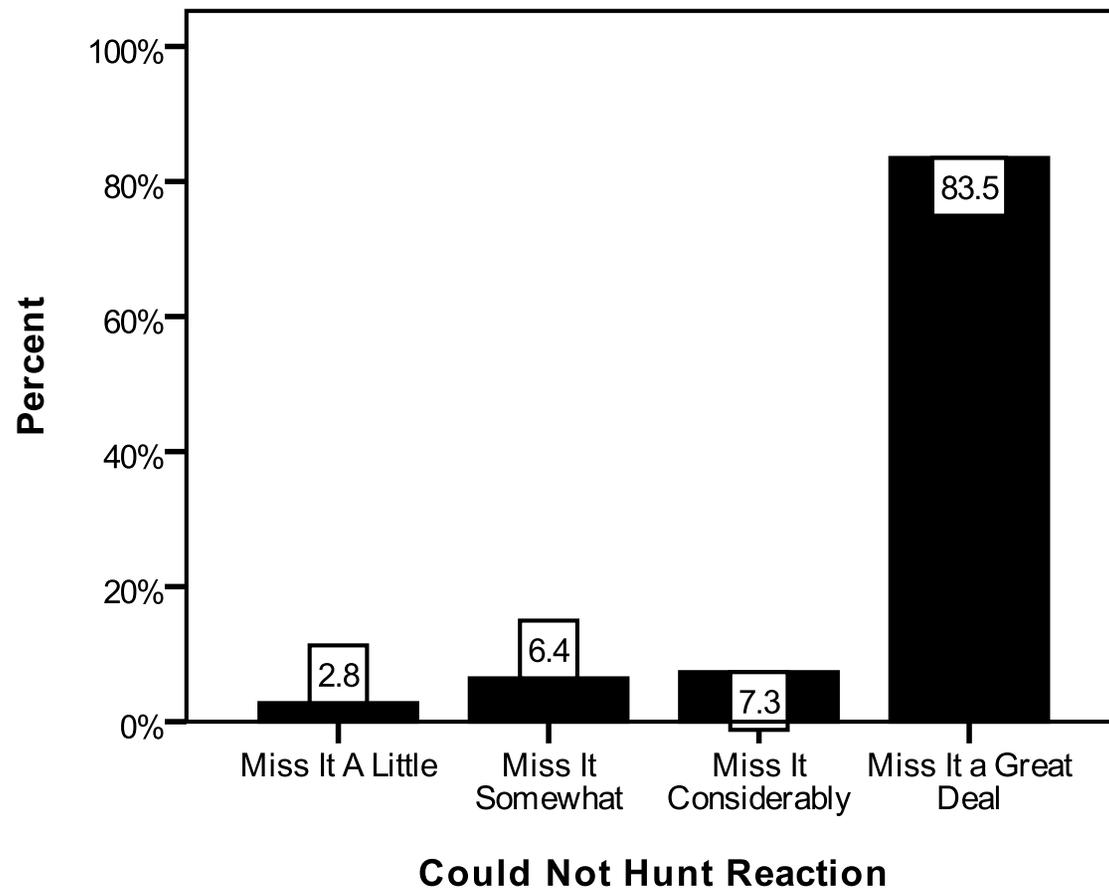


Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average. Hunting during these seasons to expand the hunting season is slightly more important to hunters in this zone.

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

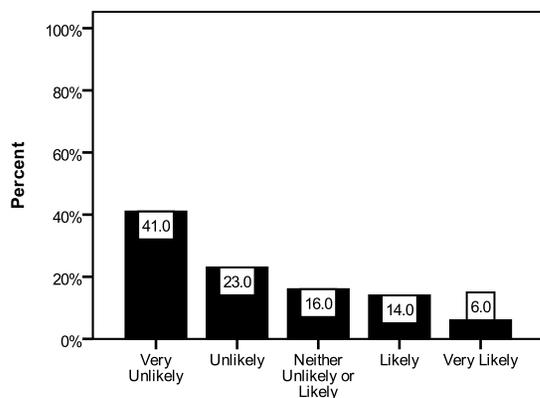
Q11: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Island Park zone.

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

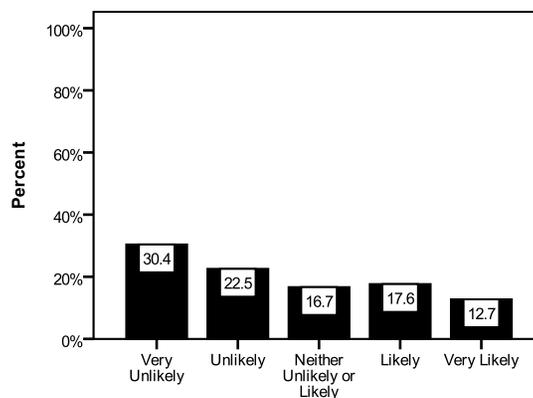


Q12: Like other hunters, a majority of hunters in the Island Park zone would miss Elk hunting a great deal, if they could not hunt in Idaho.

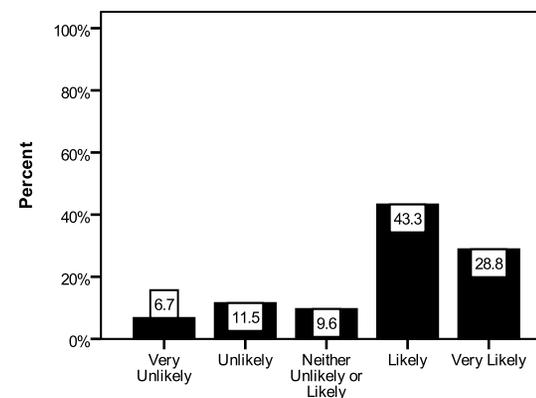
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



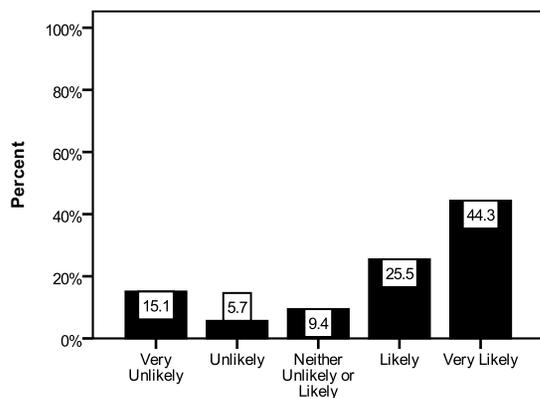
Hunt Waterfowl More



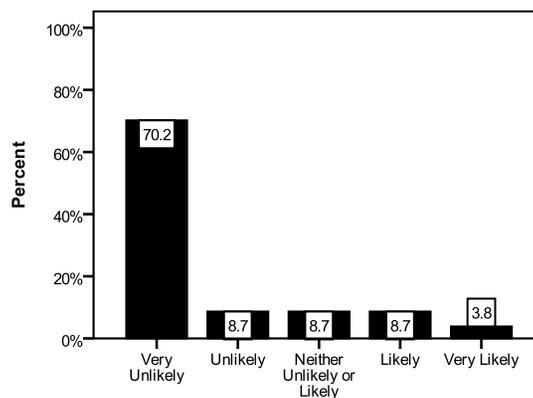
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



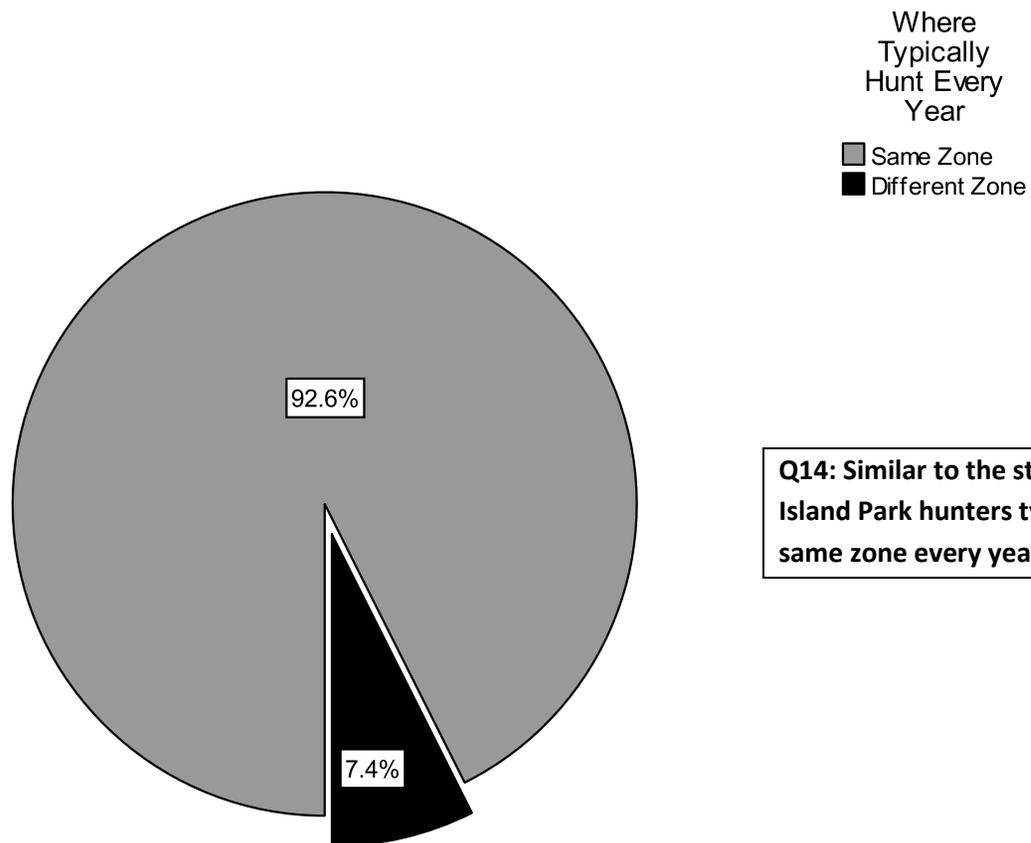
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

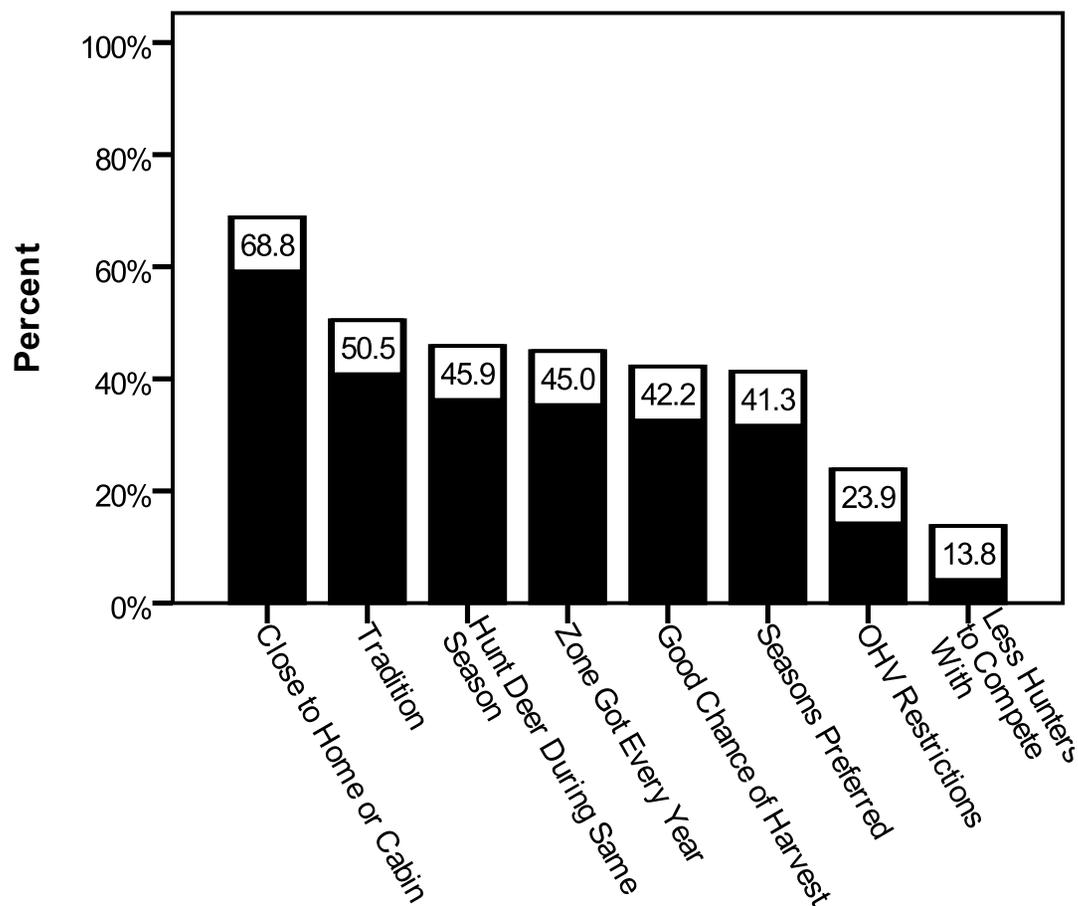
Q13: The distribution of responses between the Island Park zone and the state average is similar.

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



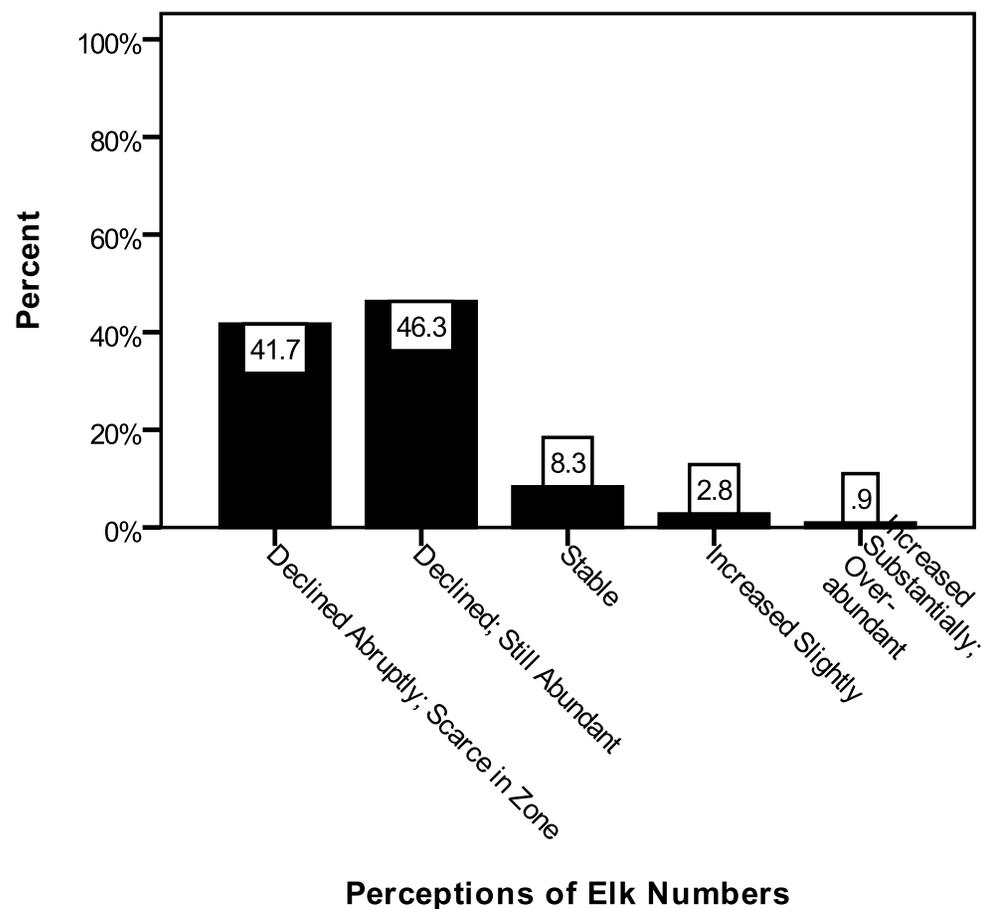
Q14: Similar to the state average, most Island Park hunters typically hunt in the same zone every year.

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



Q16: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Island Park zone. More hunters in this zone feel that tradition makes a zone more desirable.

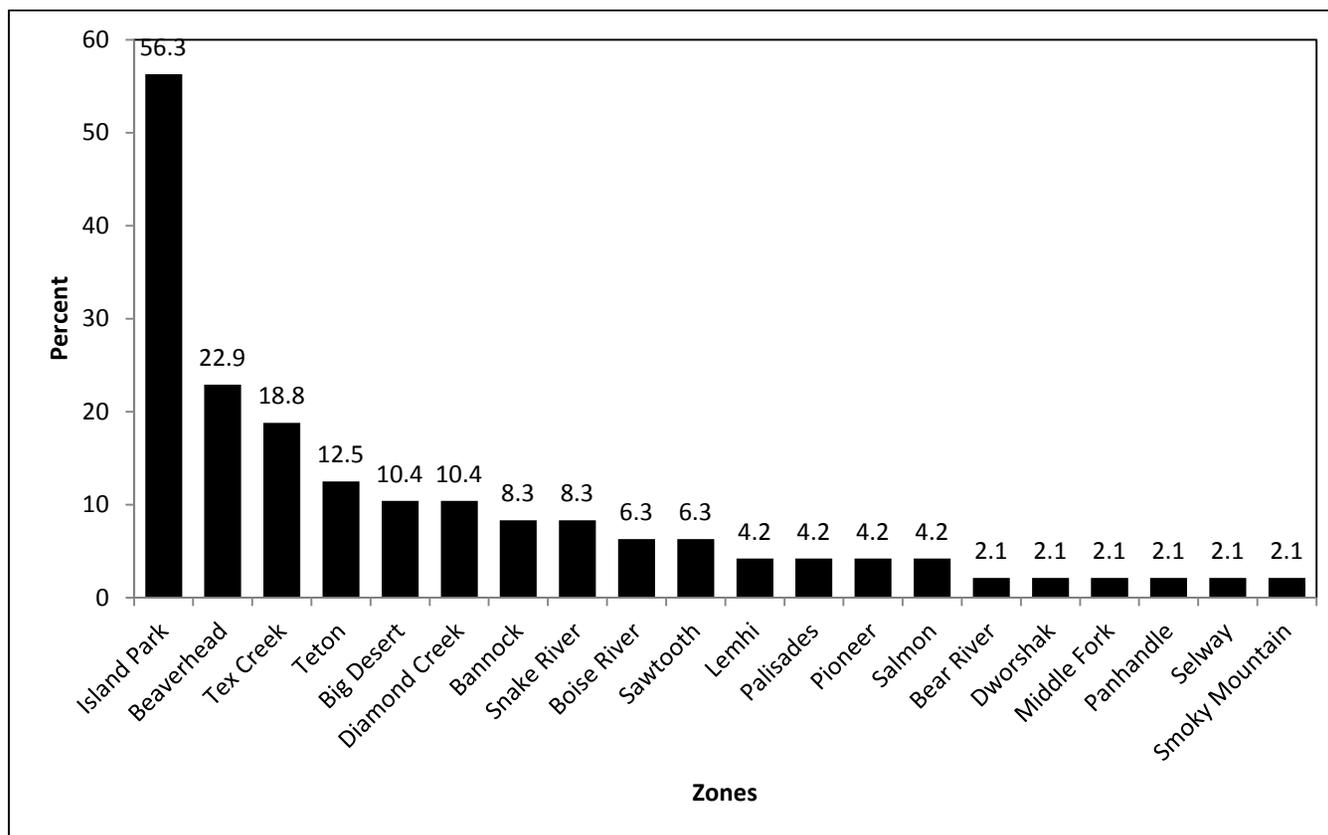
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: Unlike the state average, almost half of Island Park hunters perceive Elk numbers to still be abundant, though they have declined. About 10% less than the state average report that Elk are scarce in the zone.

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

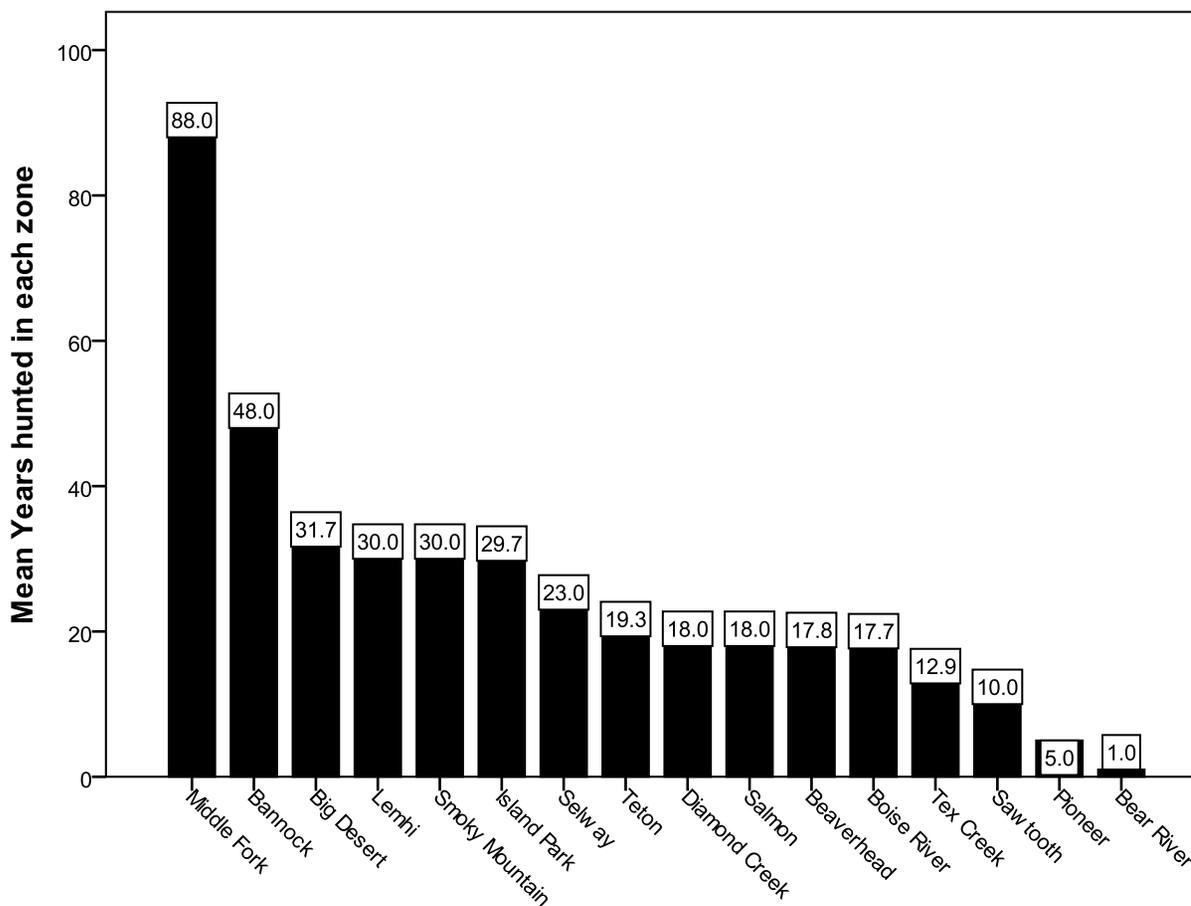
(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q18: The Beaverhead and Tex Creek zones are the most popular zones to hunt in for respondents besides the Island Park zone itself.

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

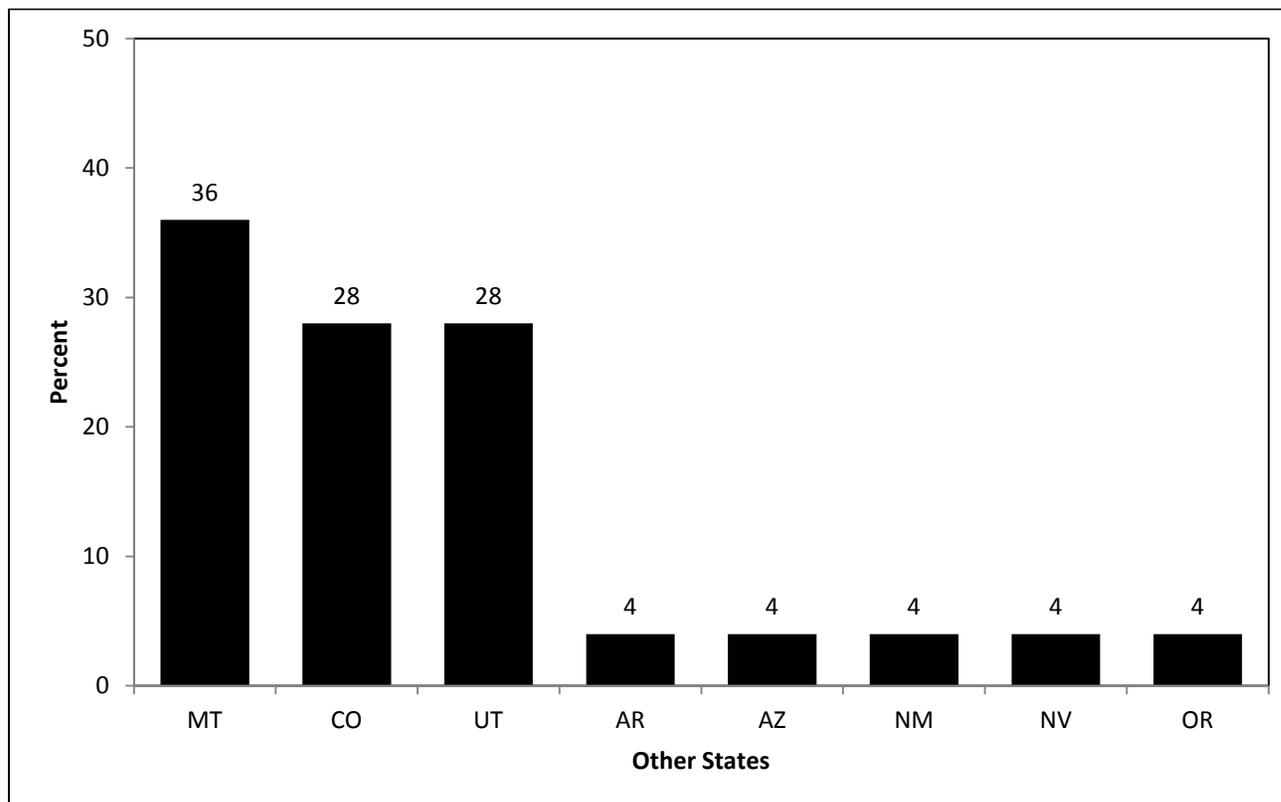
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: The Middle Fork zone has been hunted the longest among respondents, followed by the Bannock zone. The Island Park zone itself ranks sixth in duration.

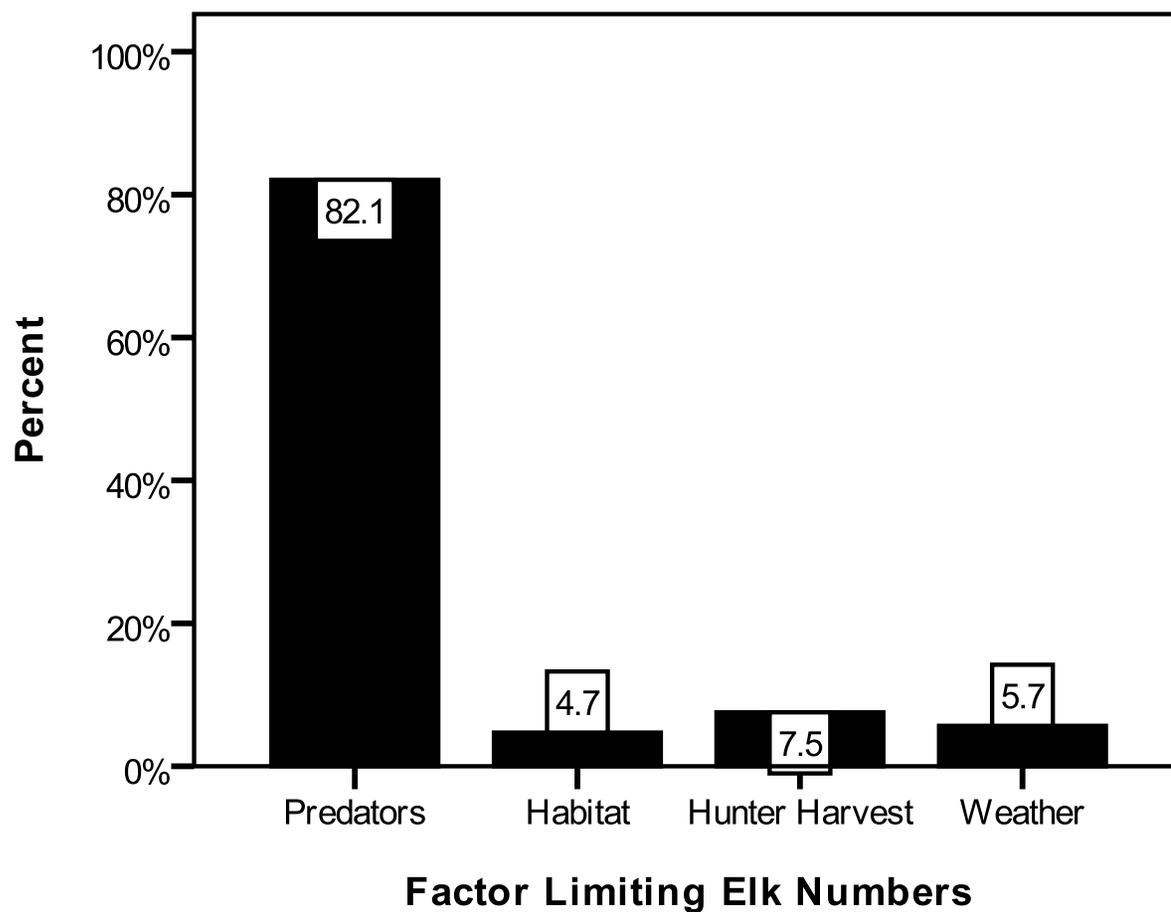
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: Island Park hunters who hunt out-of-state tend to hunt primarily in Montana, Colorado, and Utah.

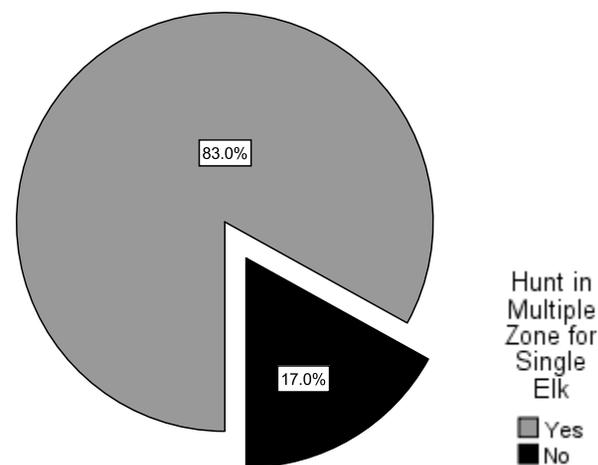
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



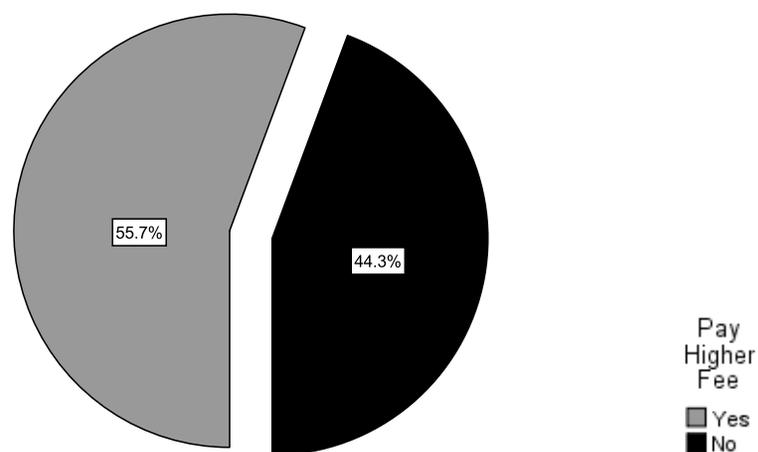
Q22: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Island Park hunters believe predators to be the primary limiting factor for Elk numbers.

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

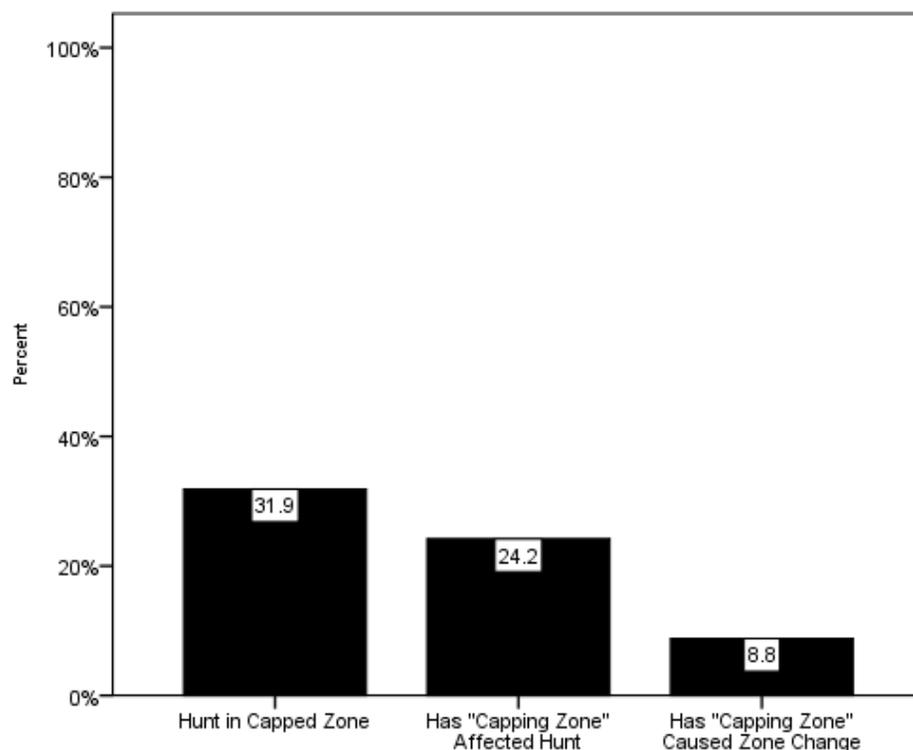
Like other hunters in the state, most Island Park hunters would also like to be able to hunt for a single Elk in multiple zones in a year. Over half of respondents would be willing to pay a higher fee to be able to do so.



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)

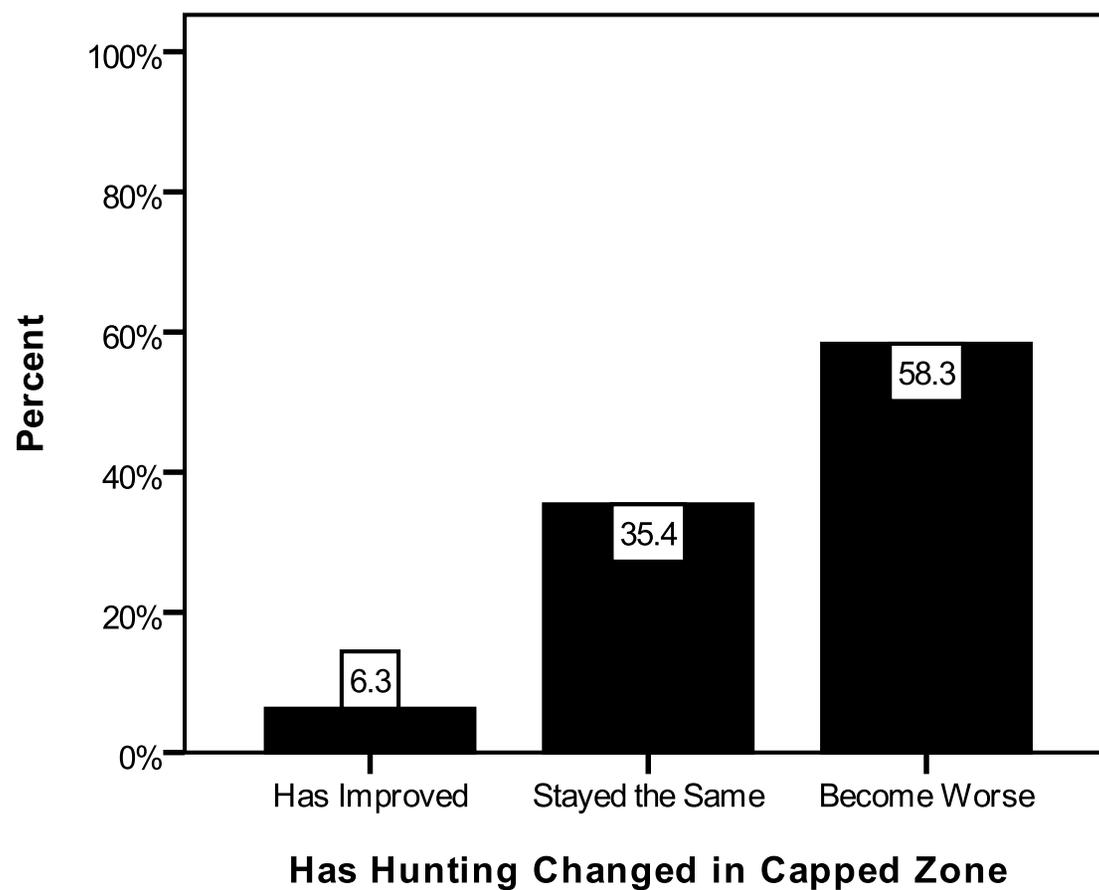


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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: Fewer hunters in the Island Park zone hunt in a capped zone compared to the state average (12.6% less).

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

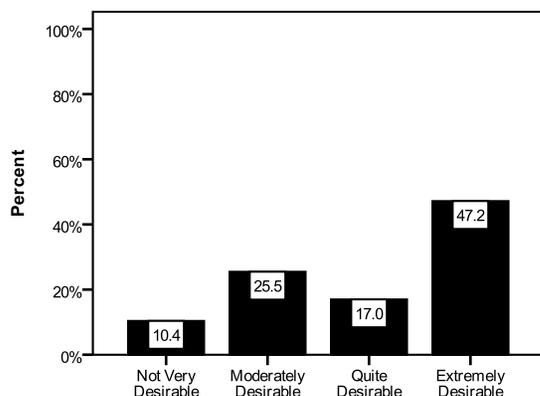


Q26: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average.

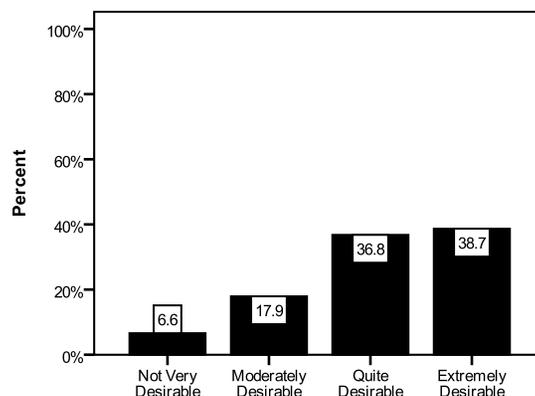
ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

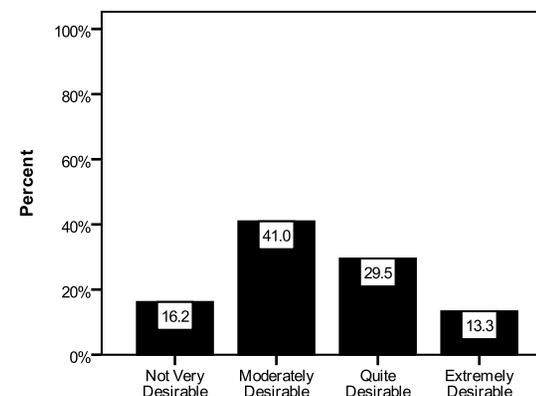
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



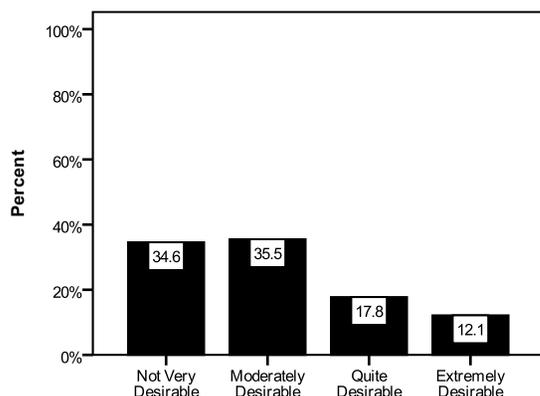
Large Bull



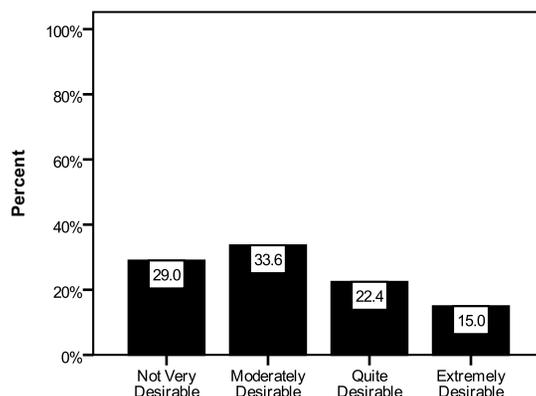
Mature Bull



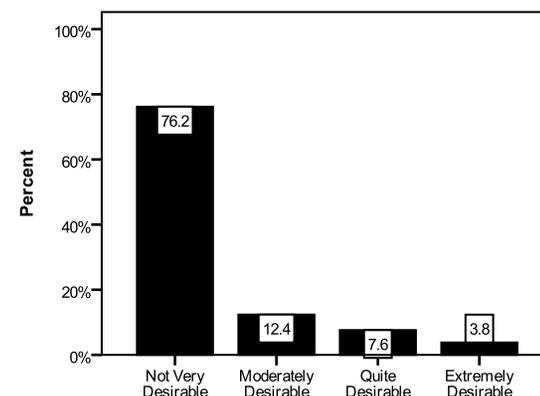
Raghorn Bull



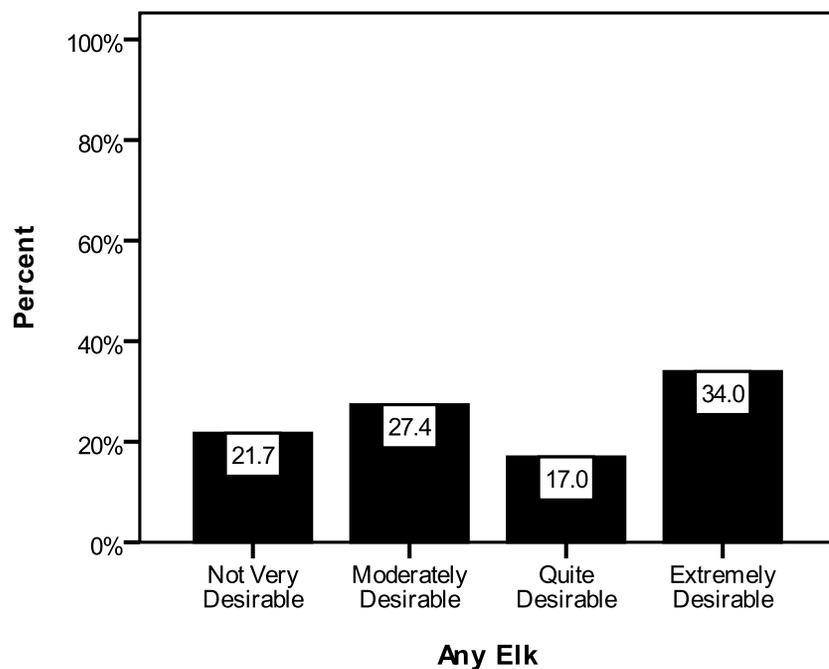
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

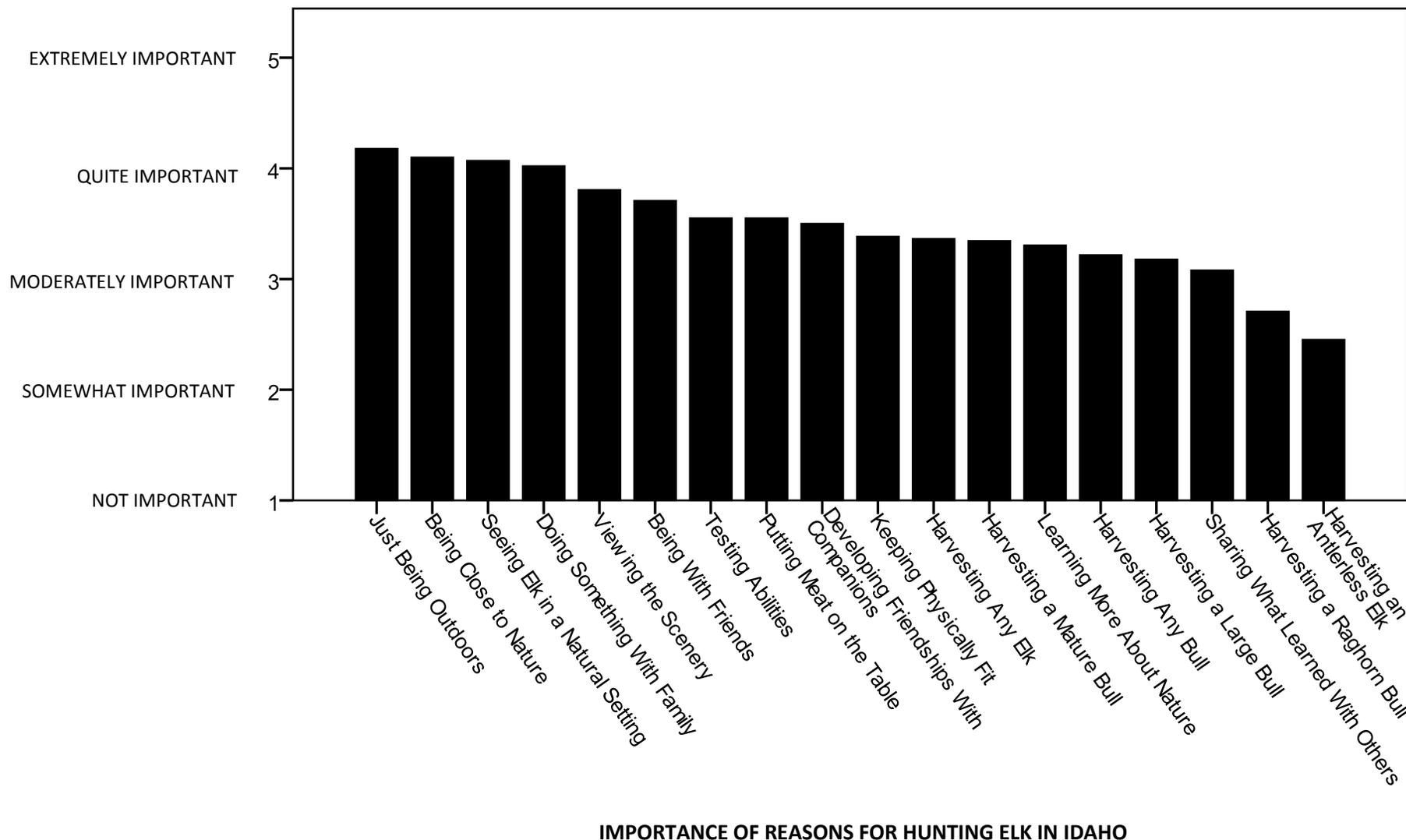


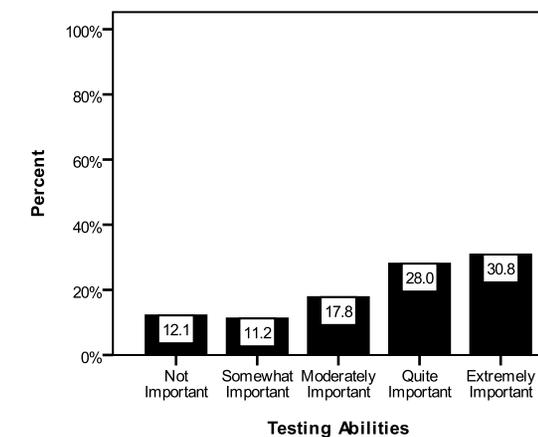
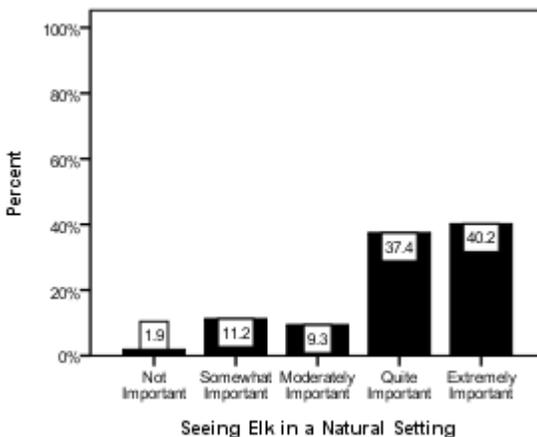
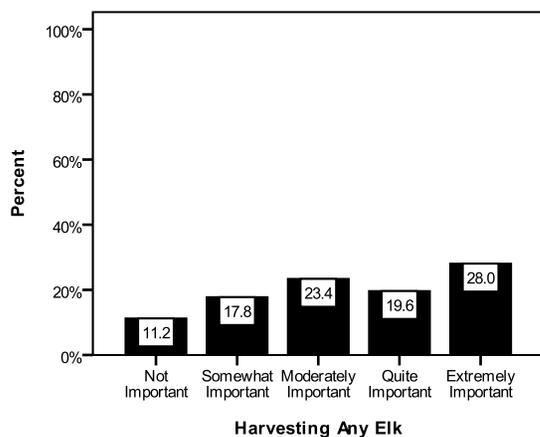
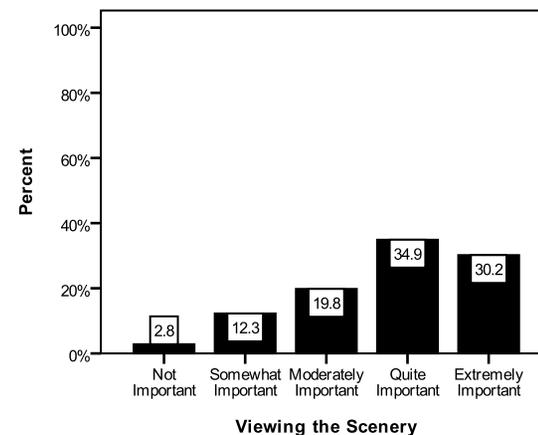
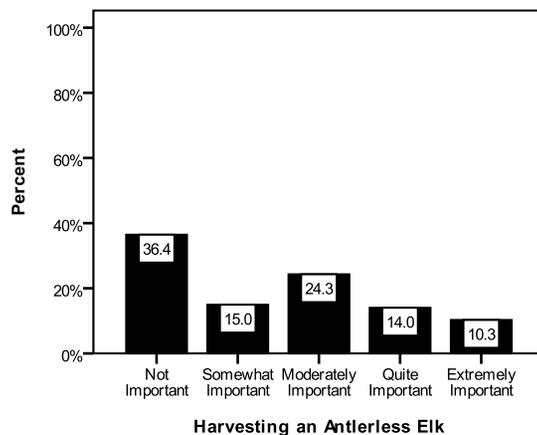
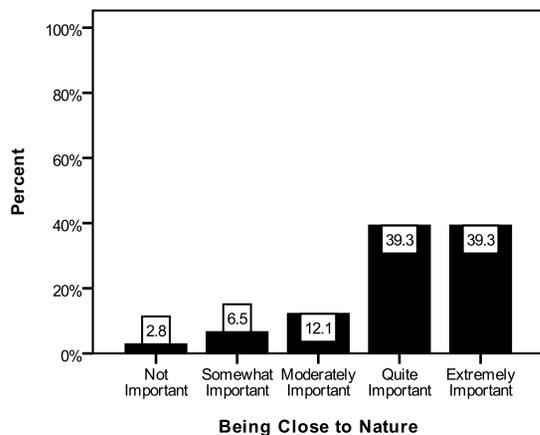
Calf

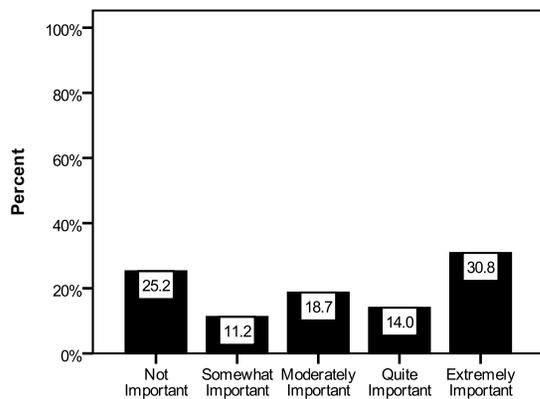


Q27: The distribution of responses between the Island Park zone and the state average is similar.

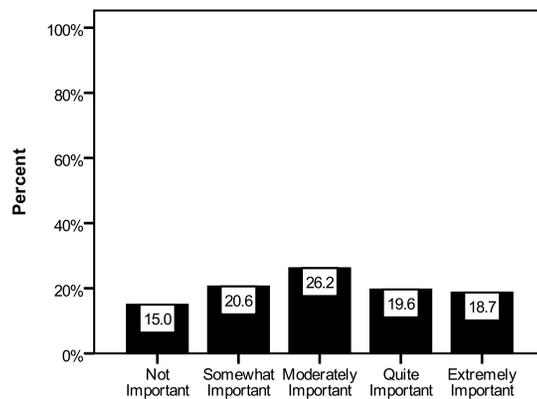
28. Below is a list of possible reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho. How important to you is each of the following reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho?



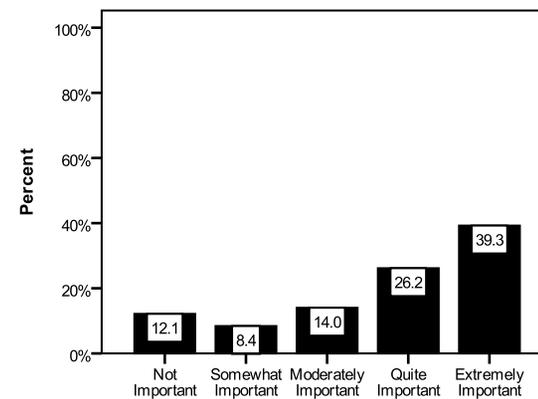




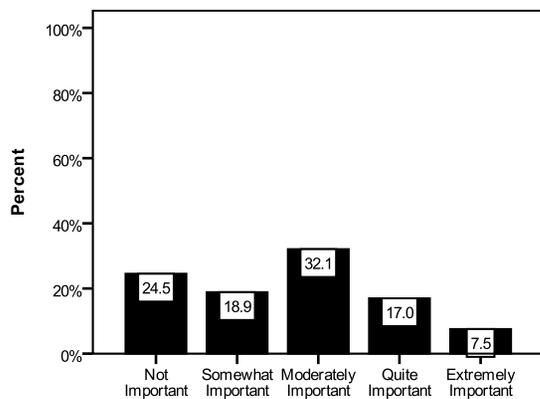
Harvesting a Large Bull



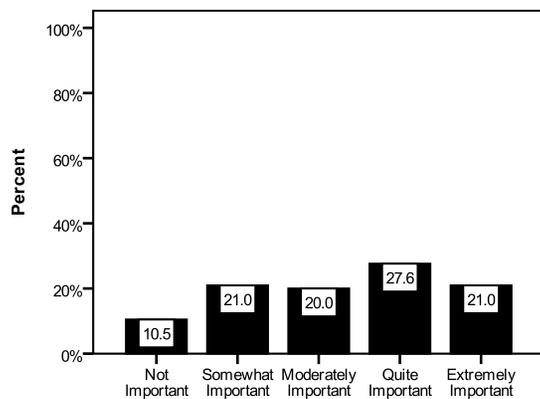
Sharing What Learned With Others



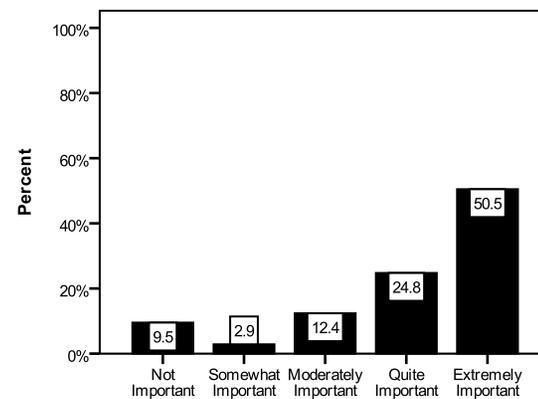
Being With Friends



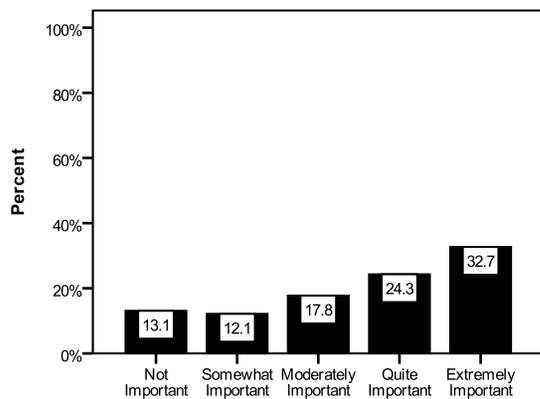
Harvesting a Raghorn Bull



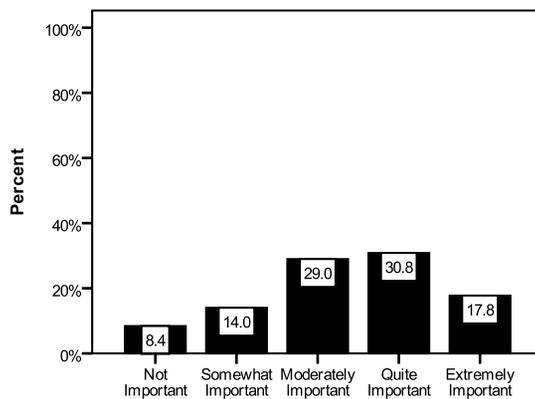
Learning More About Nature



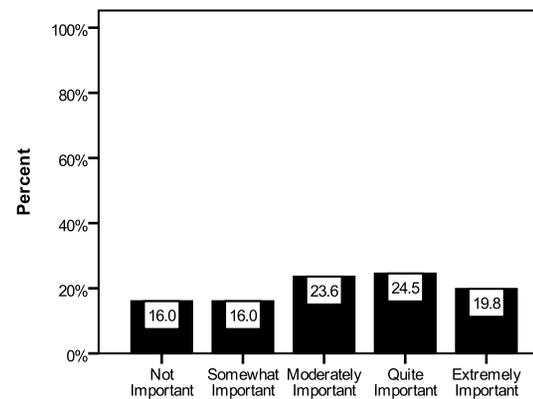
Doing Something With Family



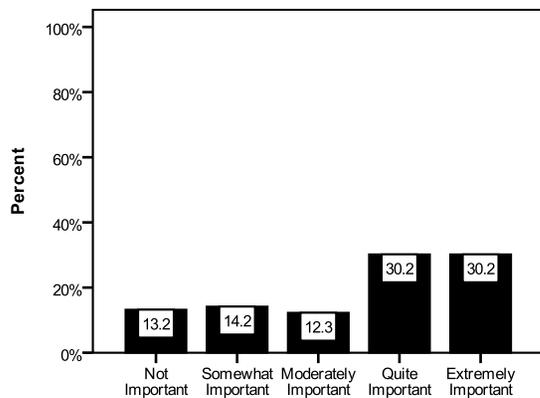
Putting Meat on the Table



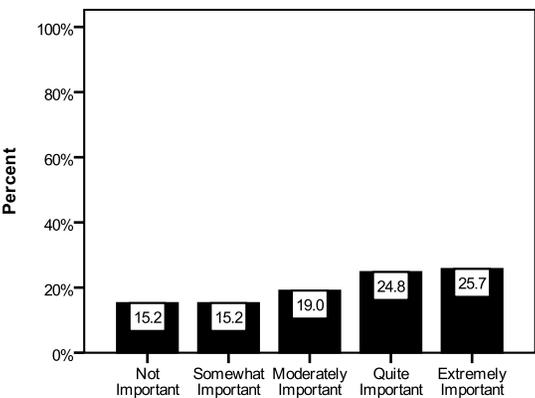
Keeping Physically Fit



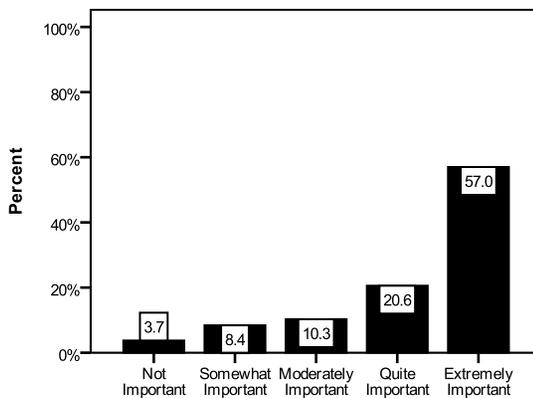
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

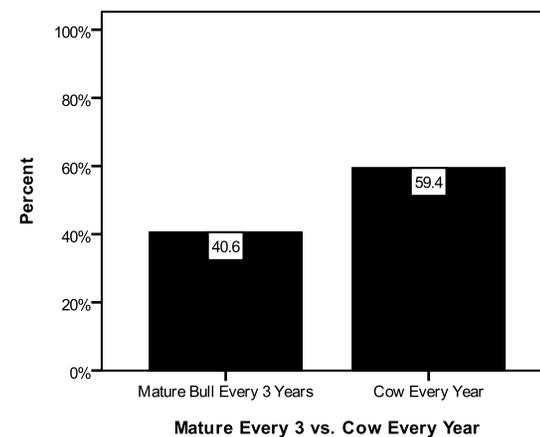
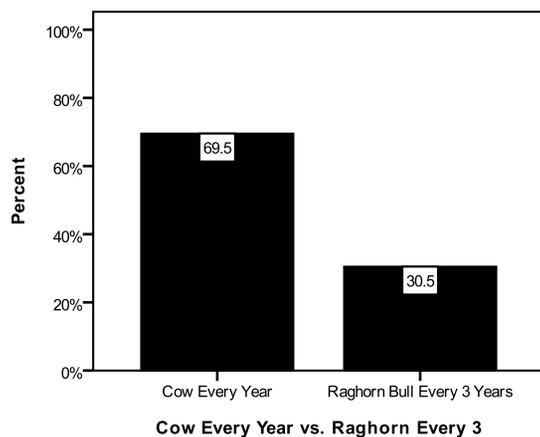
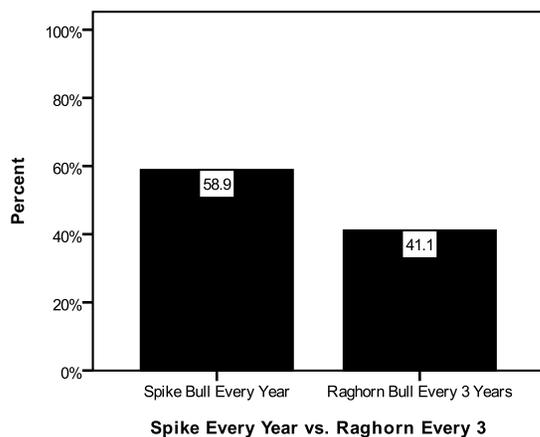
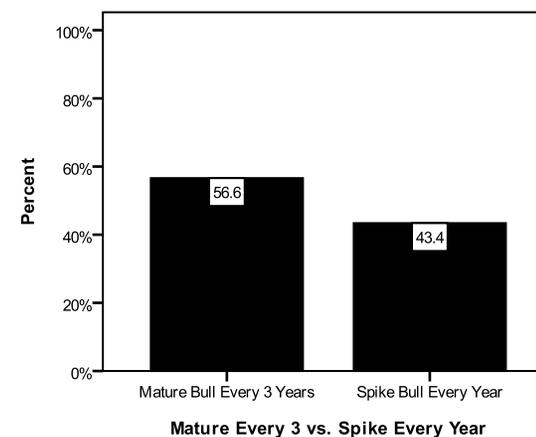
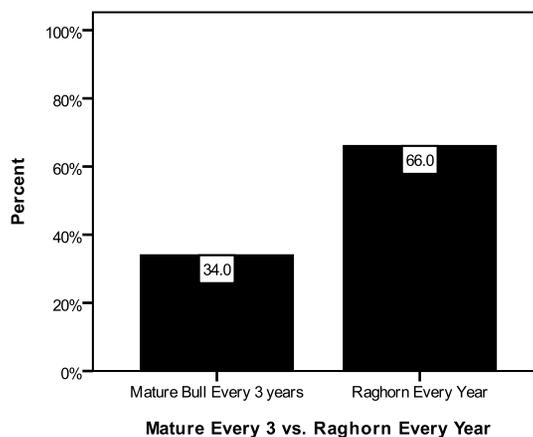
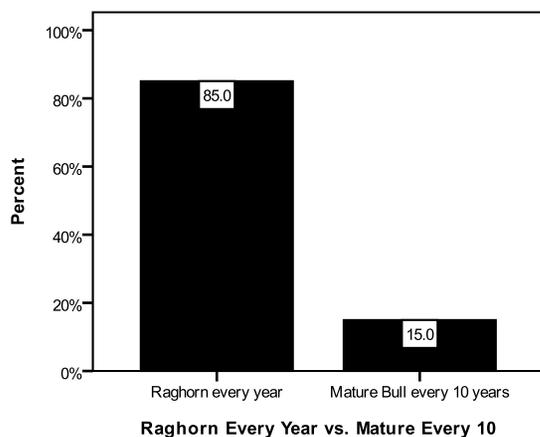


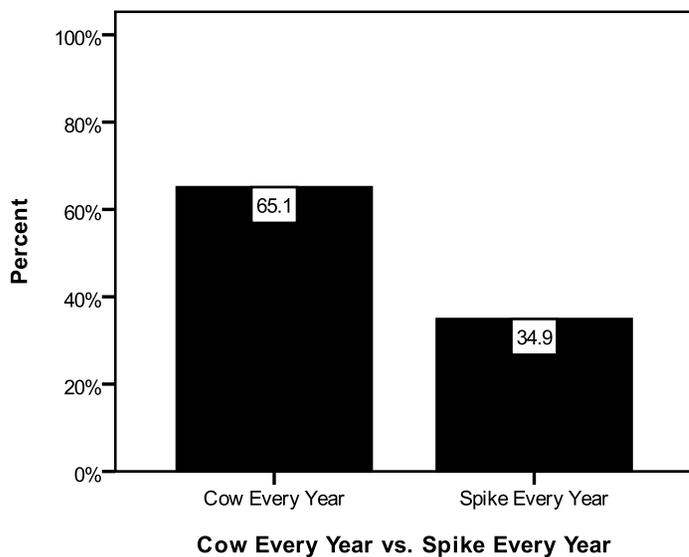
Just Being Outdoors

Q28: The top six reasons are the same for Island Park hunters and the state average. Hunters in this zone rank doing something with family more important than the 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.

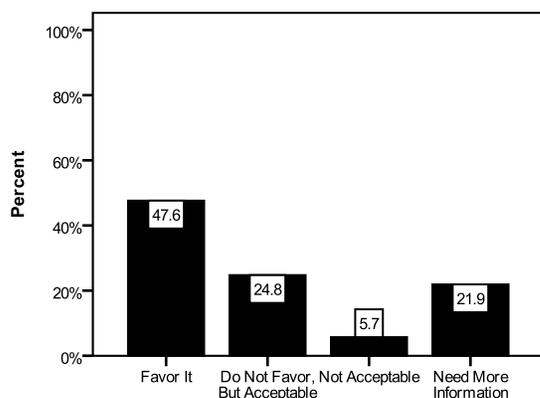




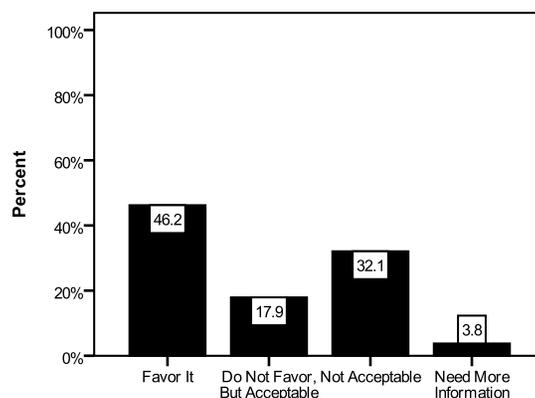
Q32: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average.

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

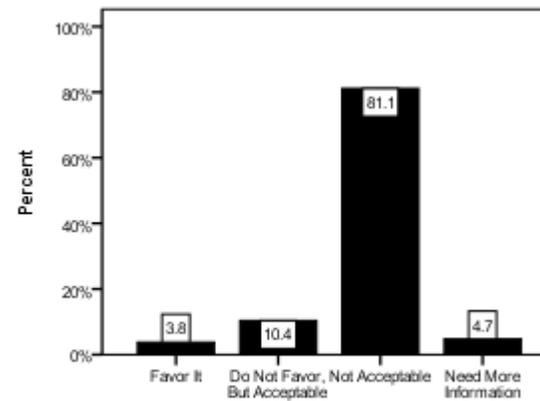
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?



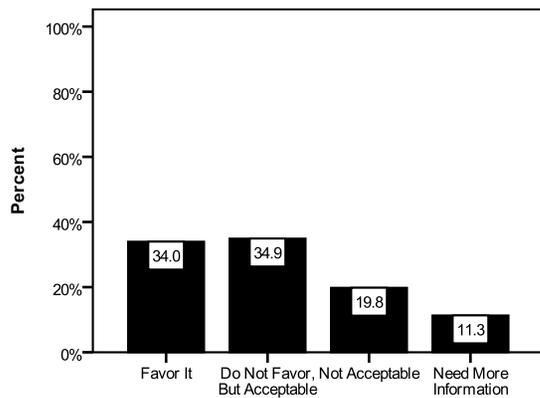
Longer Seasons



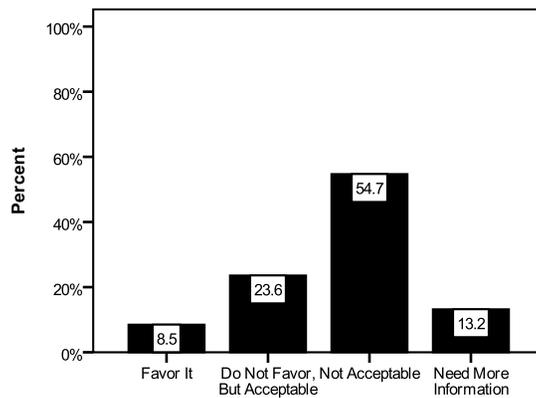
Choose Only One Weapon



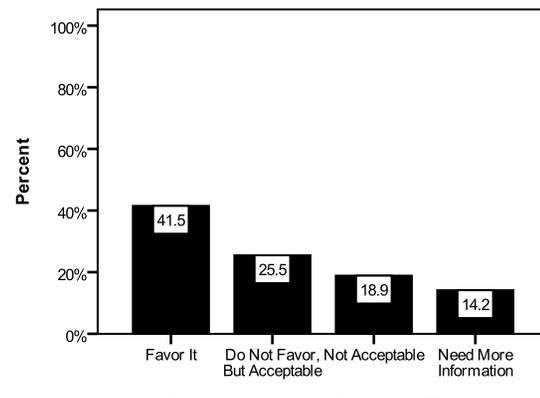
Choose Only One Species



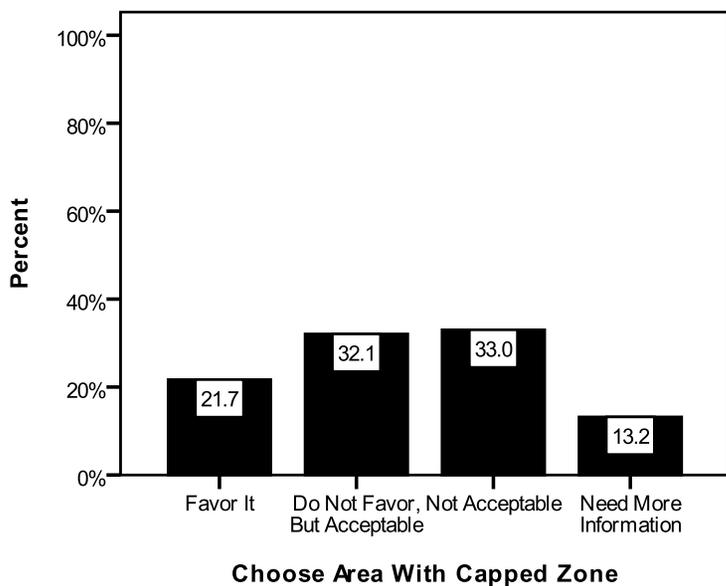
Controlled Hunts



Stratified Hunts

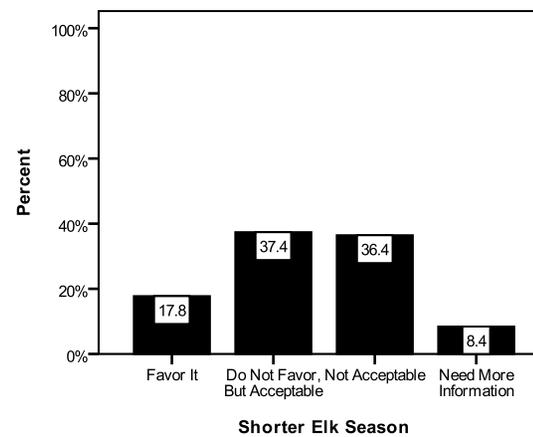
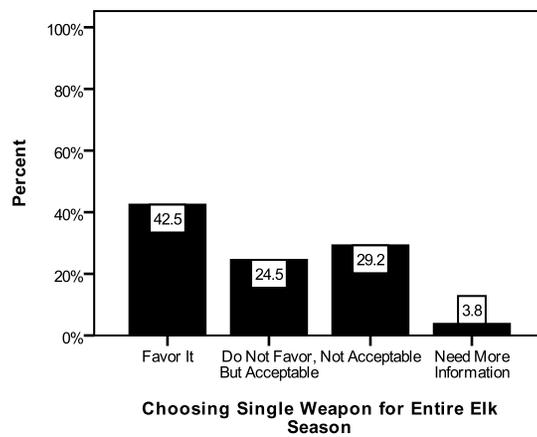
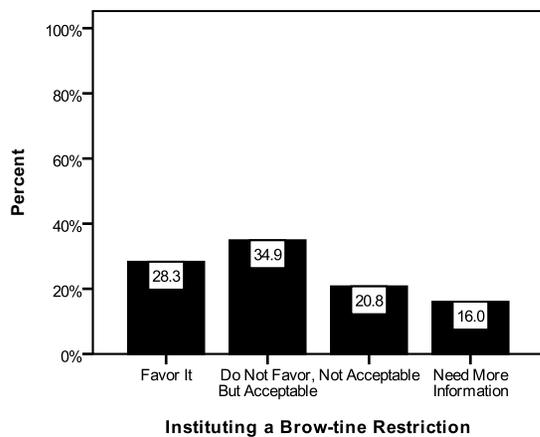
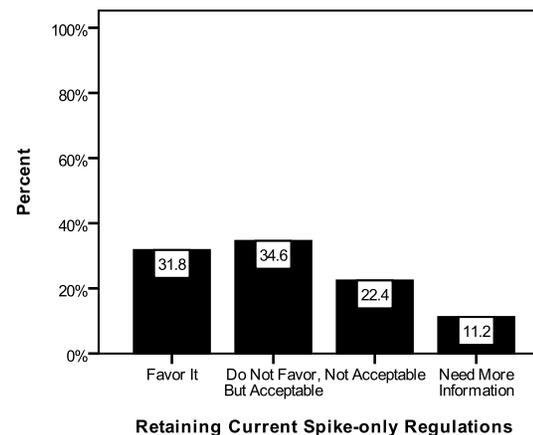
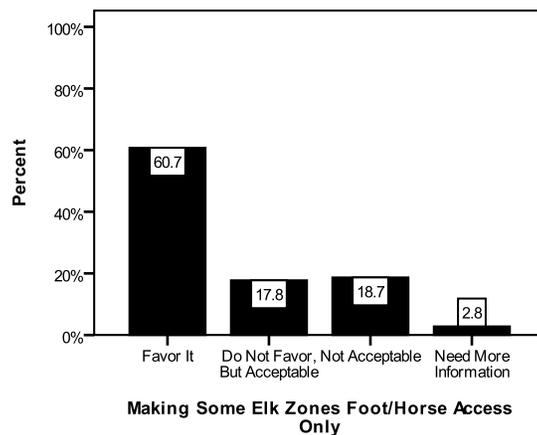
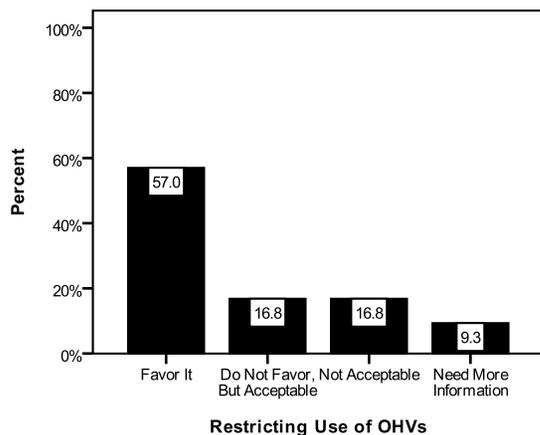


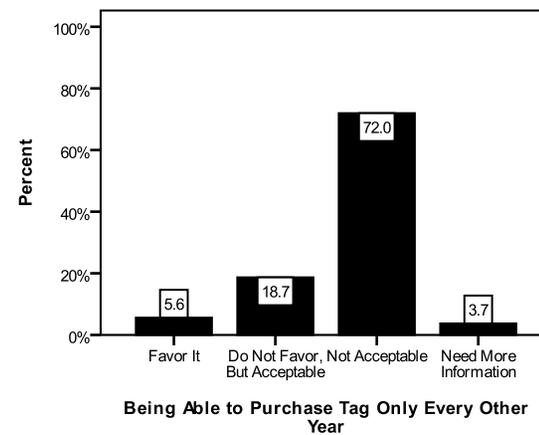
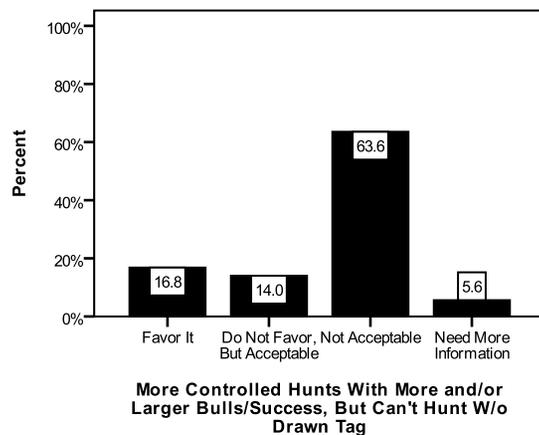
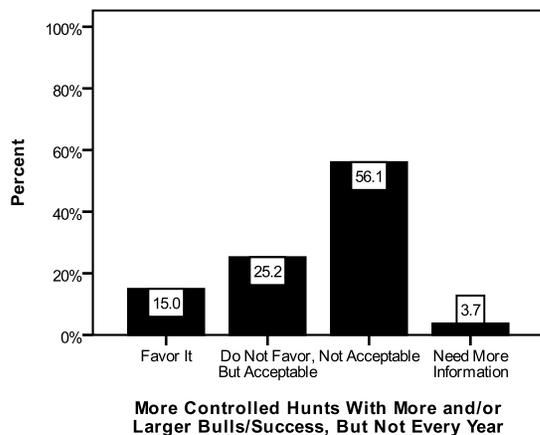
Choose Area With Motorized/Travel Restrictions



Q34: The distribution of responses is fairly similar between the Island Park zone and the state average. More hunters in this zone find choosing an area with a capped zone and choosing only one weapon as unacceptable.

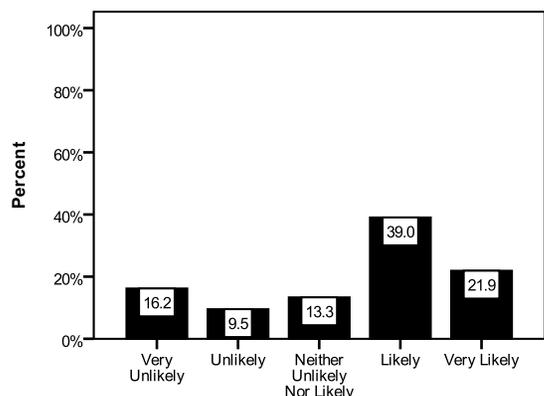
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



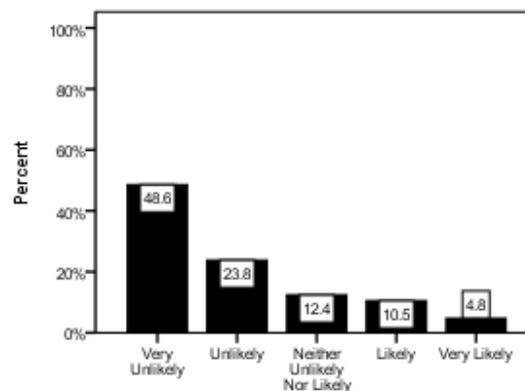


Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Island Park zone.

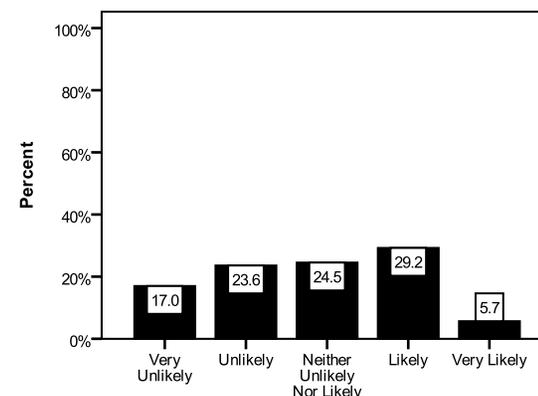
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



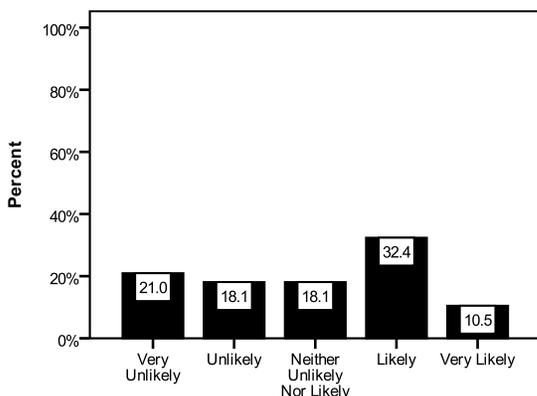
Hunt in Different Zones



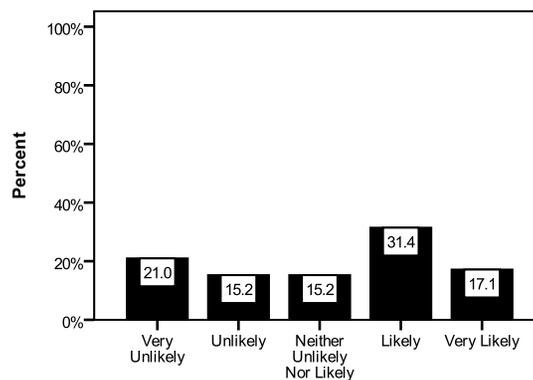
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



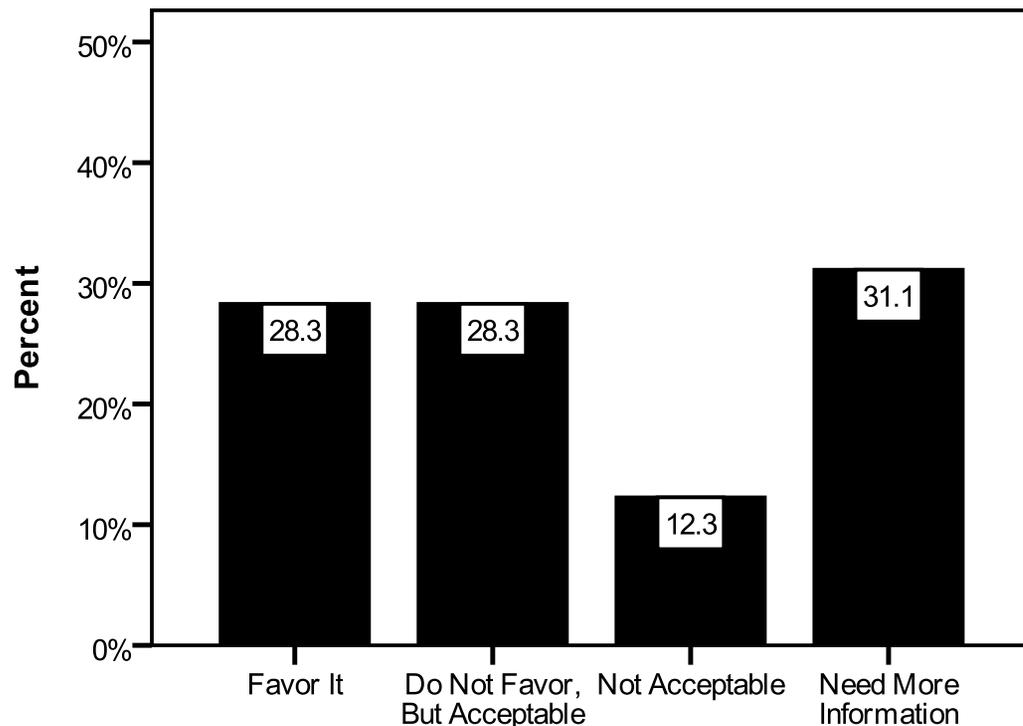
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

Q36: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average.

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

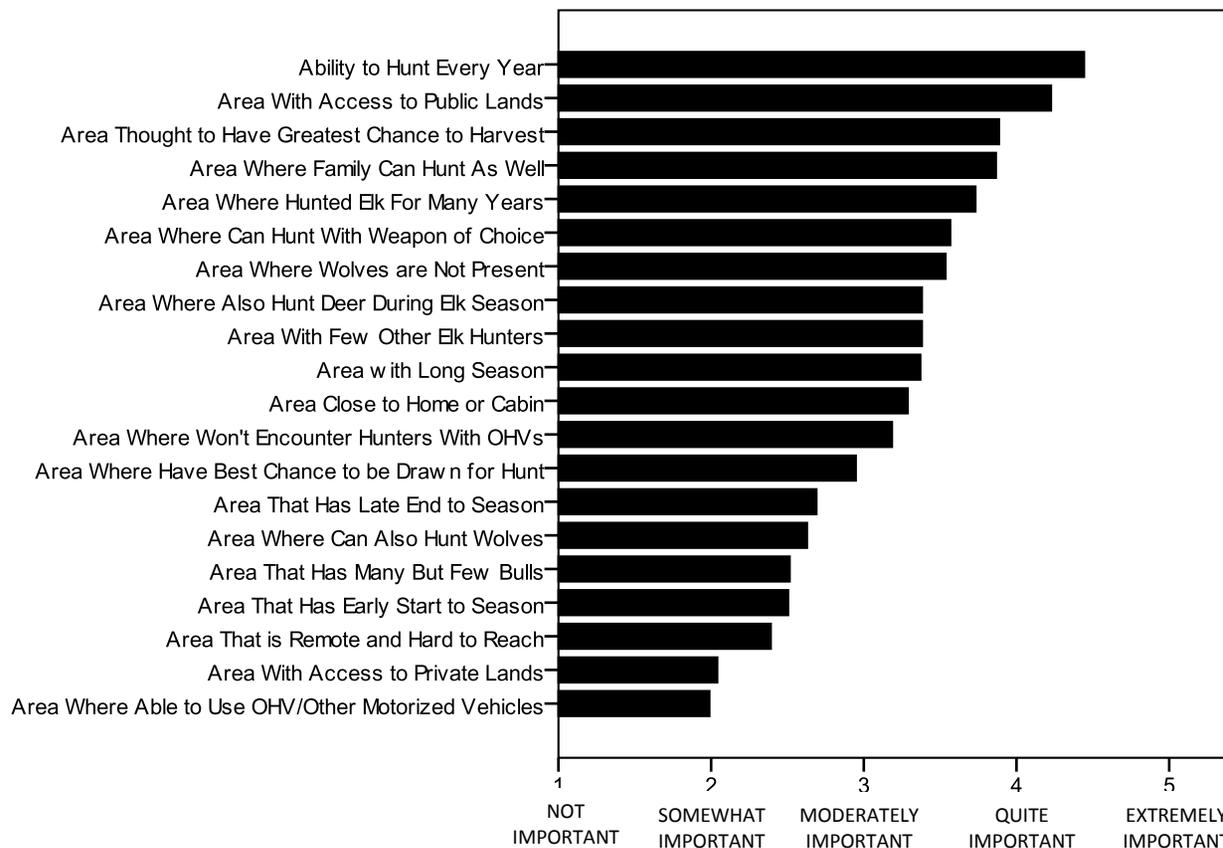


Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

Q38: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average.

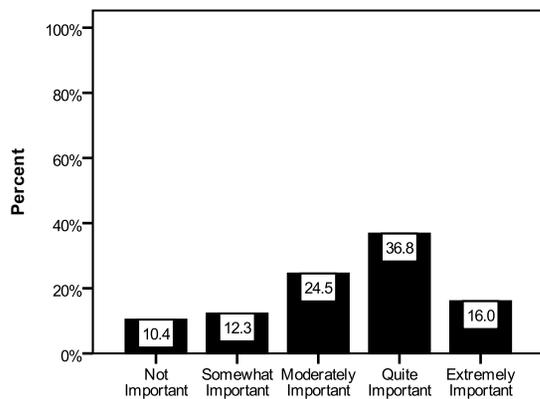
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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

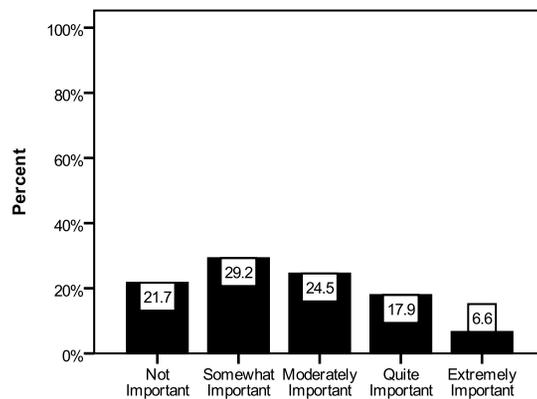


Q29: The top three characteristics are the same between for the Island Park zone and the state average. Hunters in this zone rate an area where family can hunt as well and an area where they have hunted Elk for many years as quite important to round out the top five.

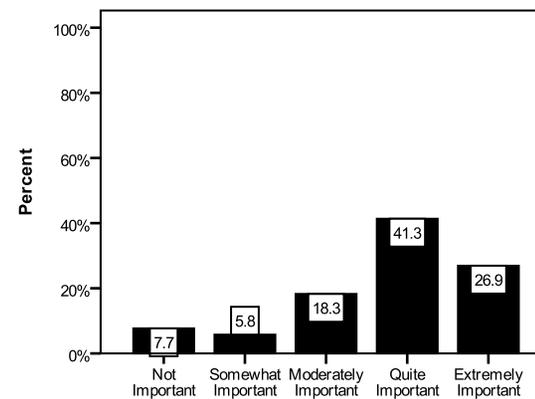
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



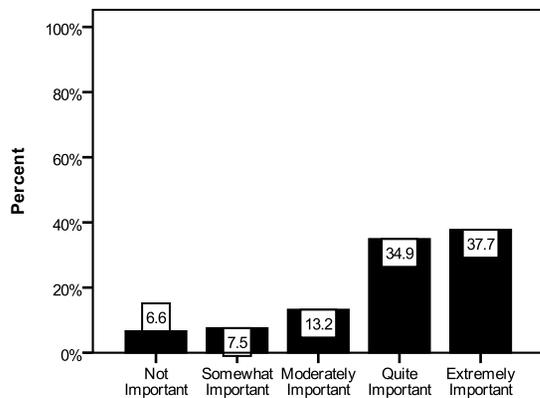
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



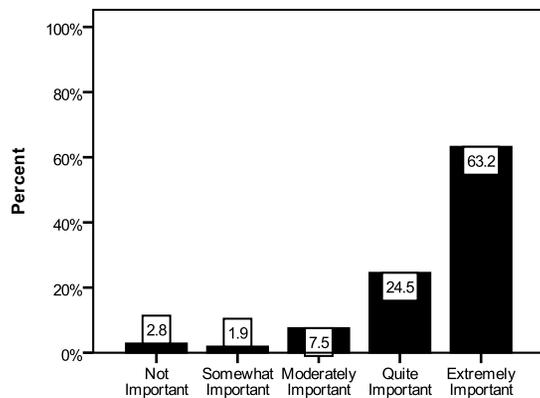
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



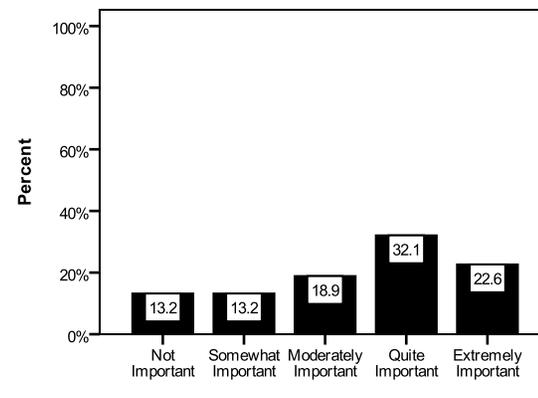
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



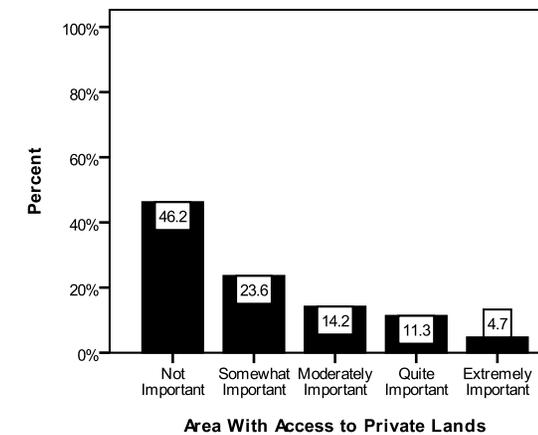
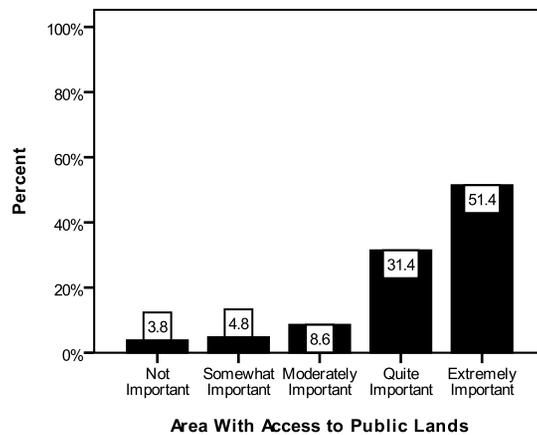
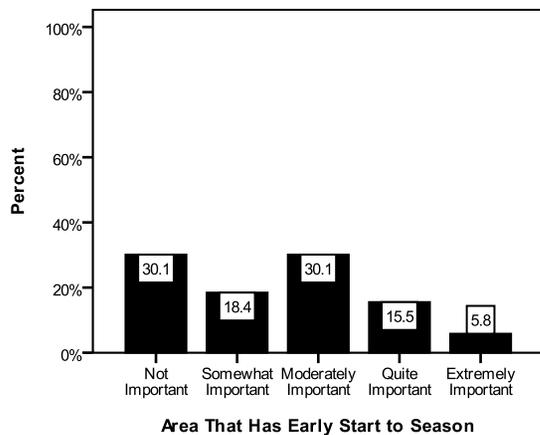
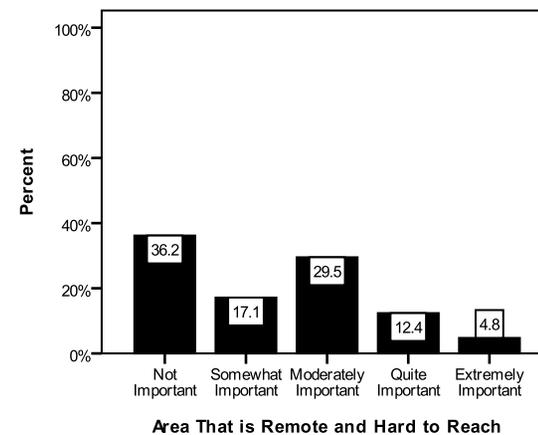
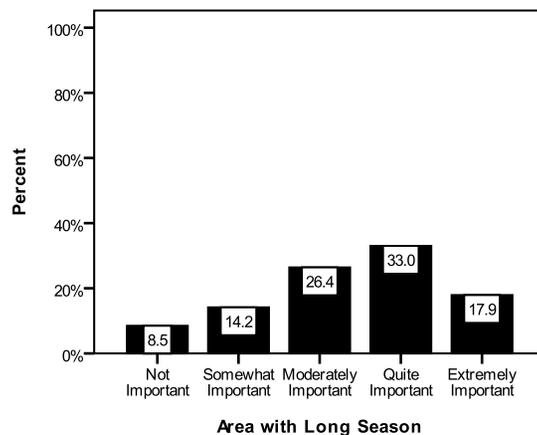
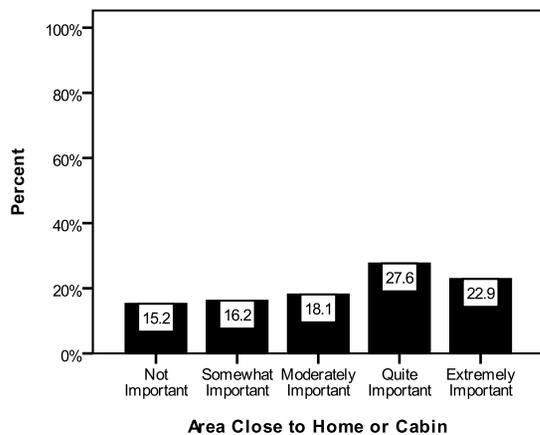
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

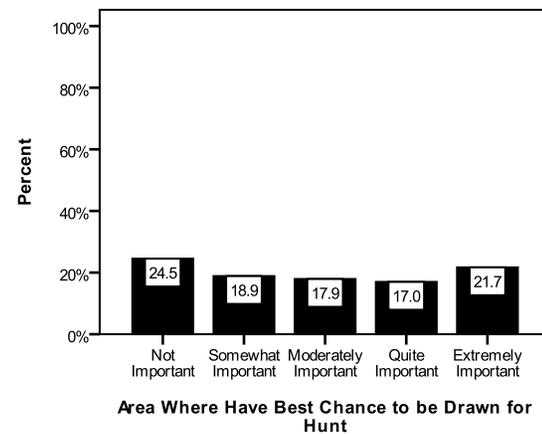
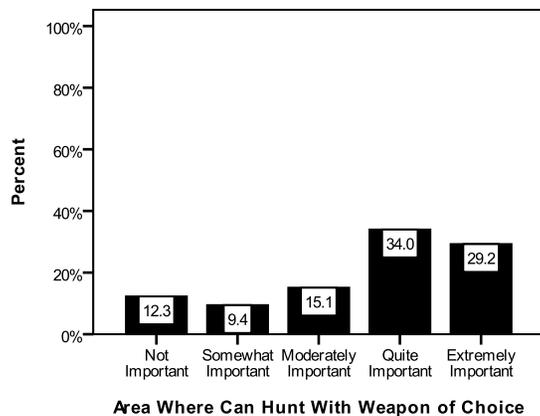
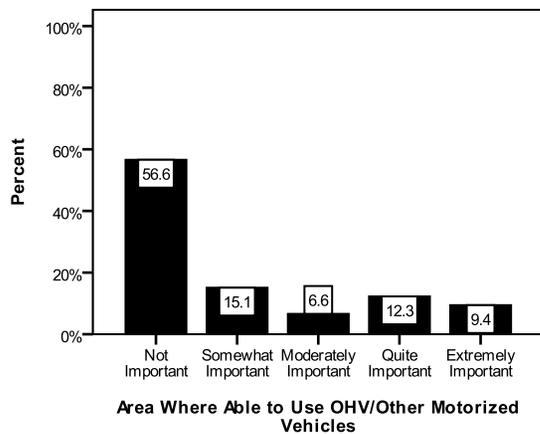
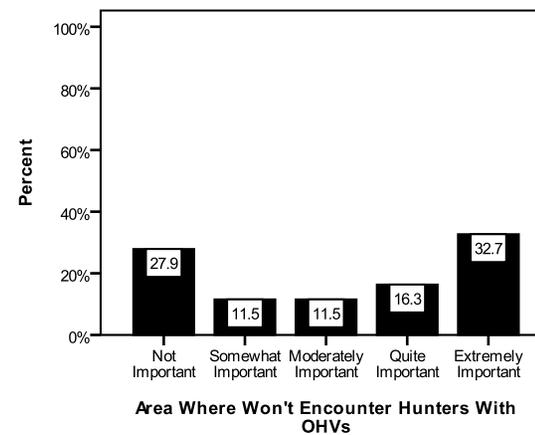
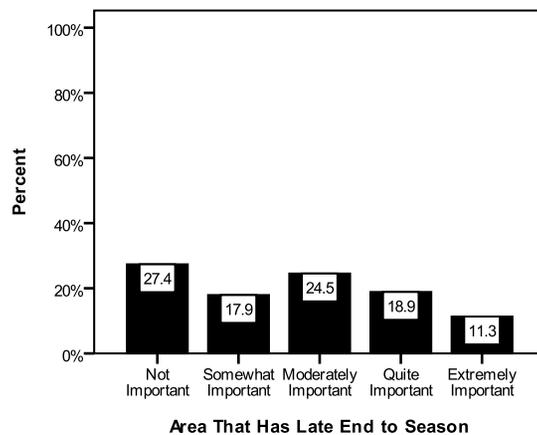
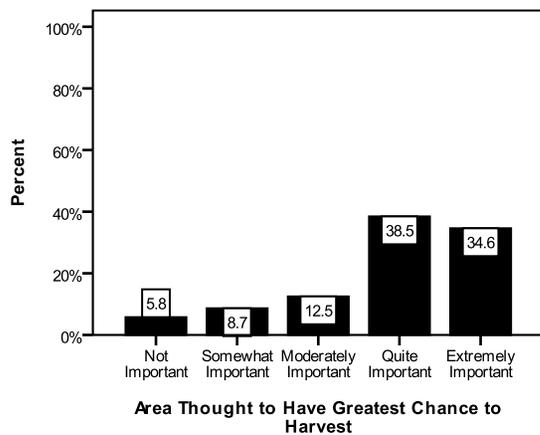


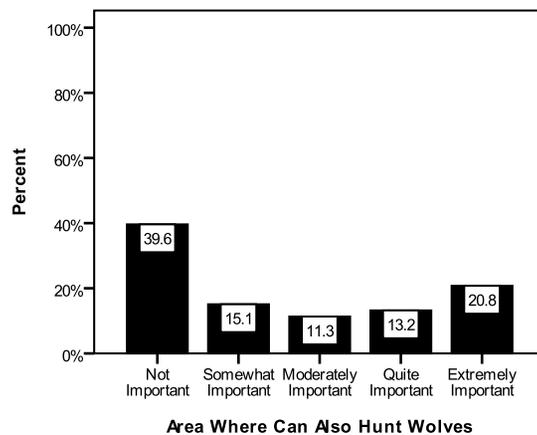
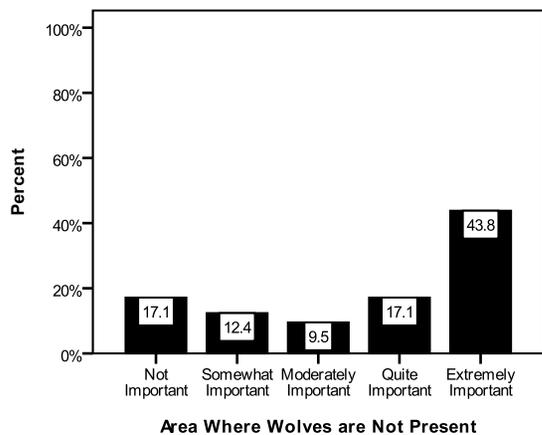
Ability to Hunt Every Year



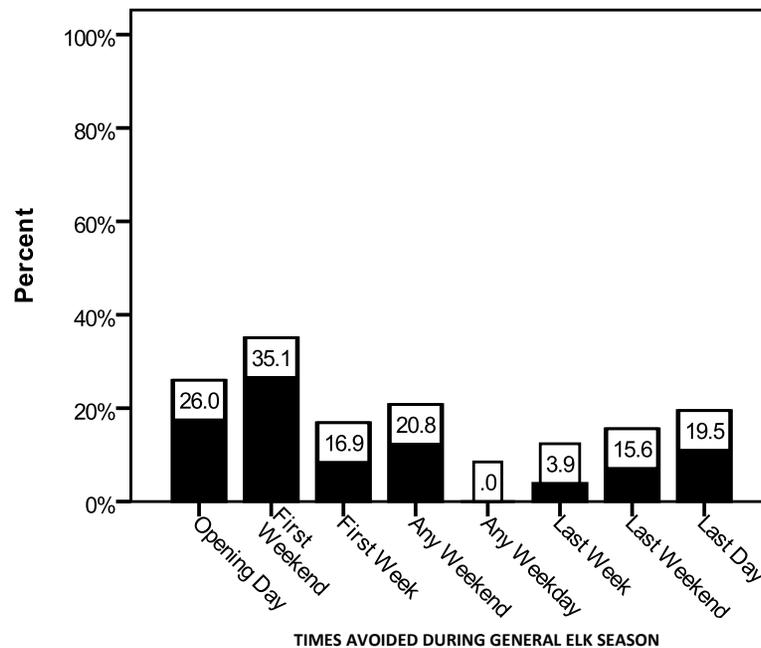
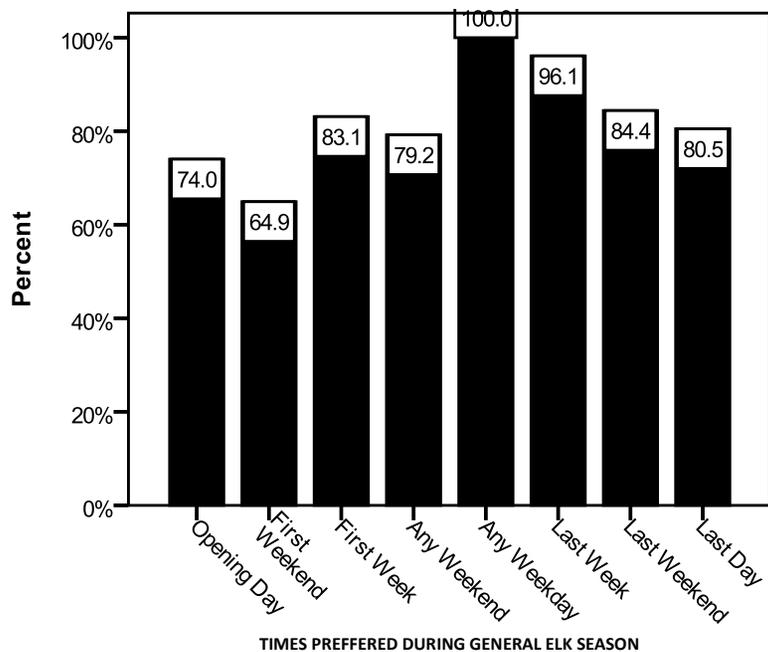
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season







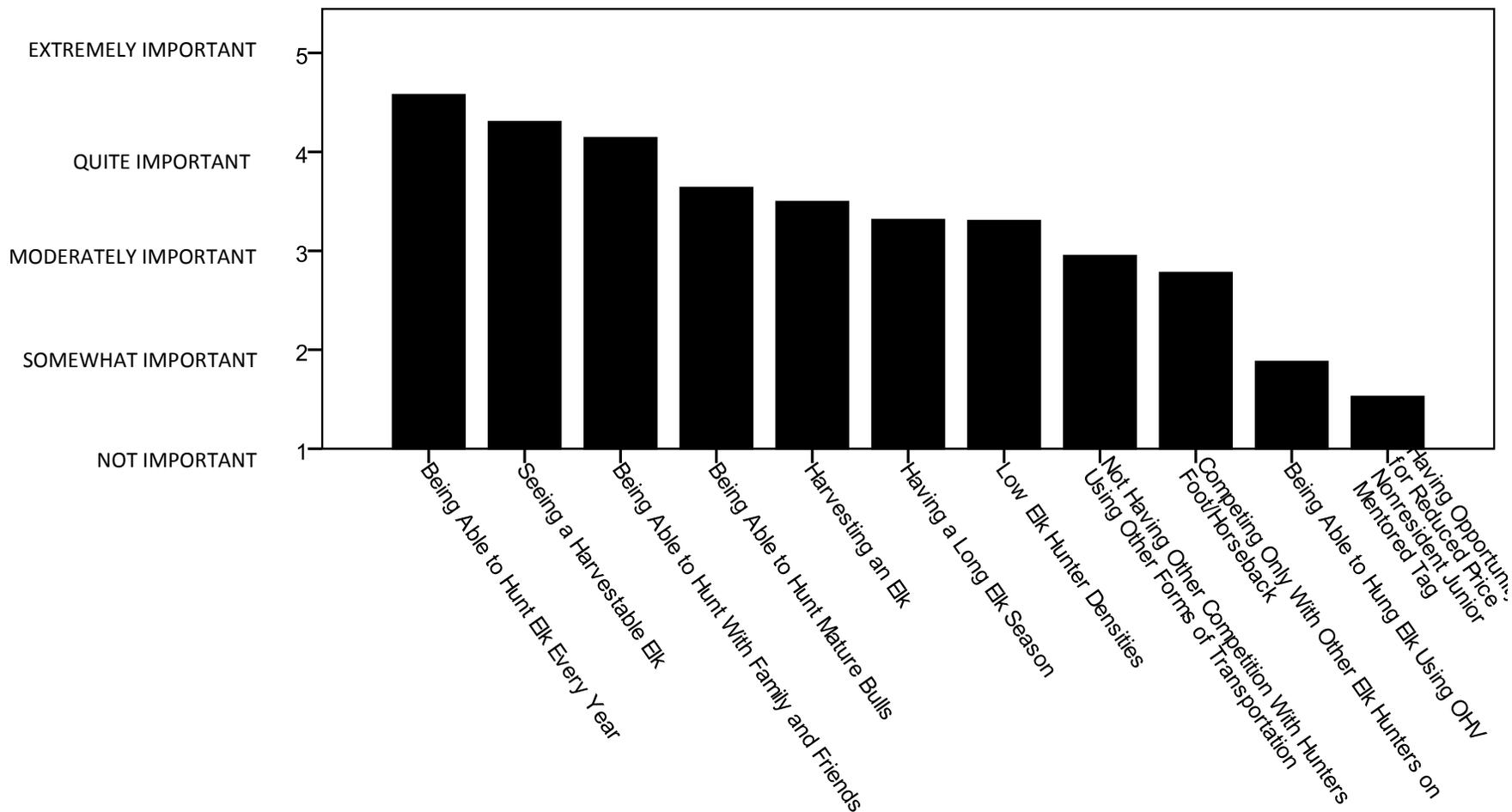
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



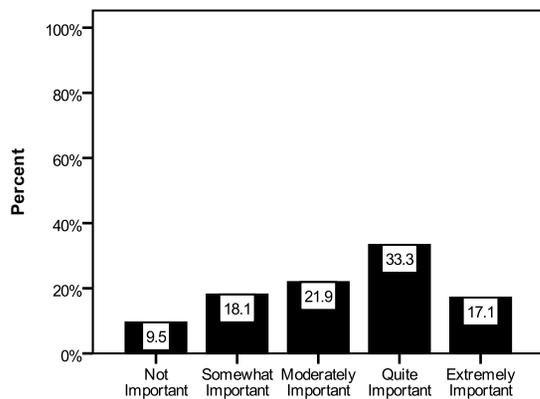
Q30: The distribution of responses is similar between the Island Park zone and the state average. 100% of hunters in this zone reported that they would prefer to hunt any weekday.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

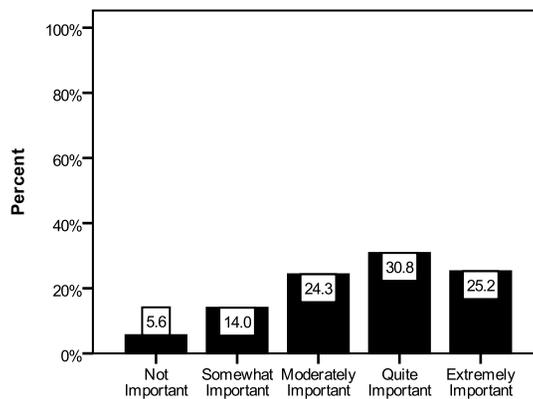
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



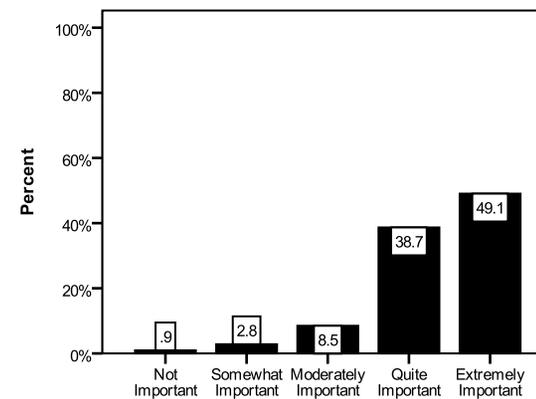
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



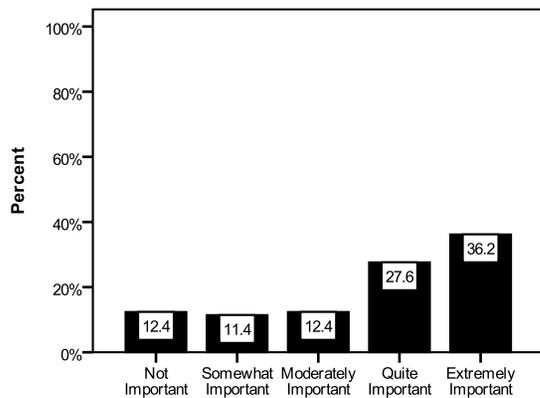
Low Elk Hunter Densities



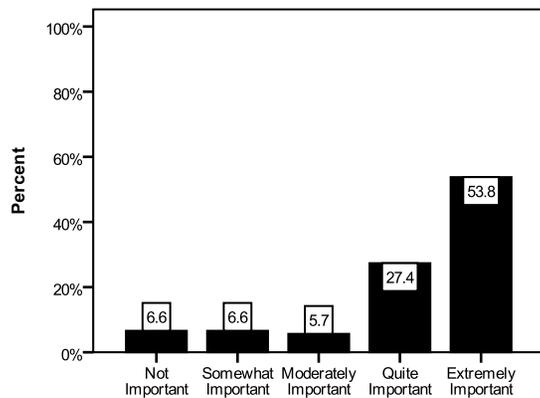
Harvesting an Elk



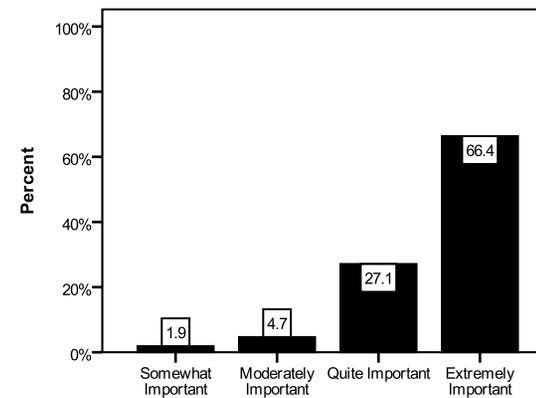
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



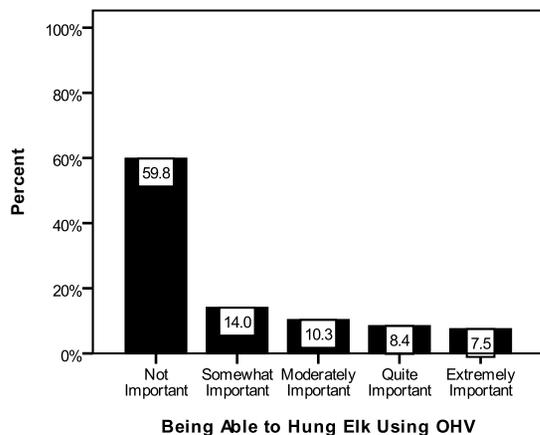
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



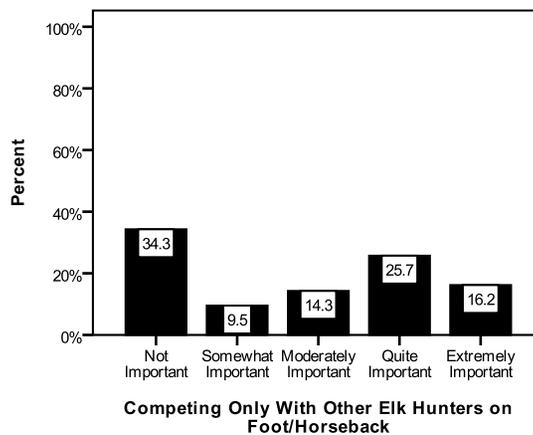
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



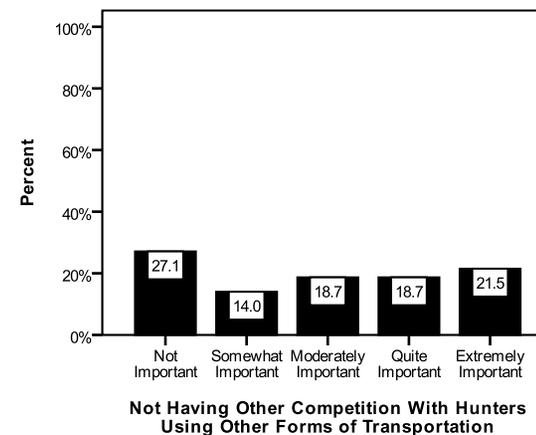
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



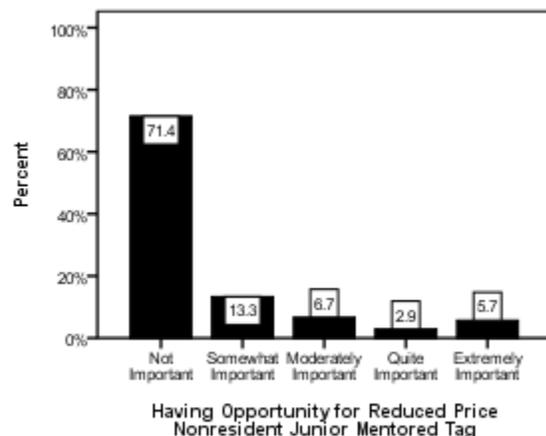
Being Able to Hunt Elk Using OHV



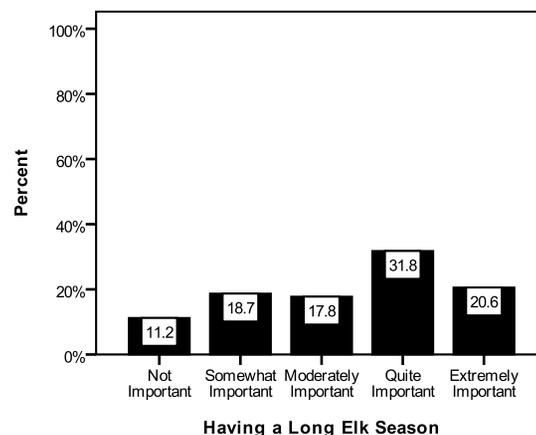
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

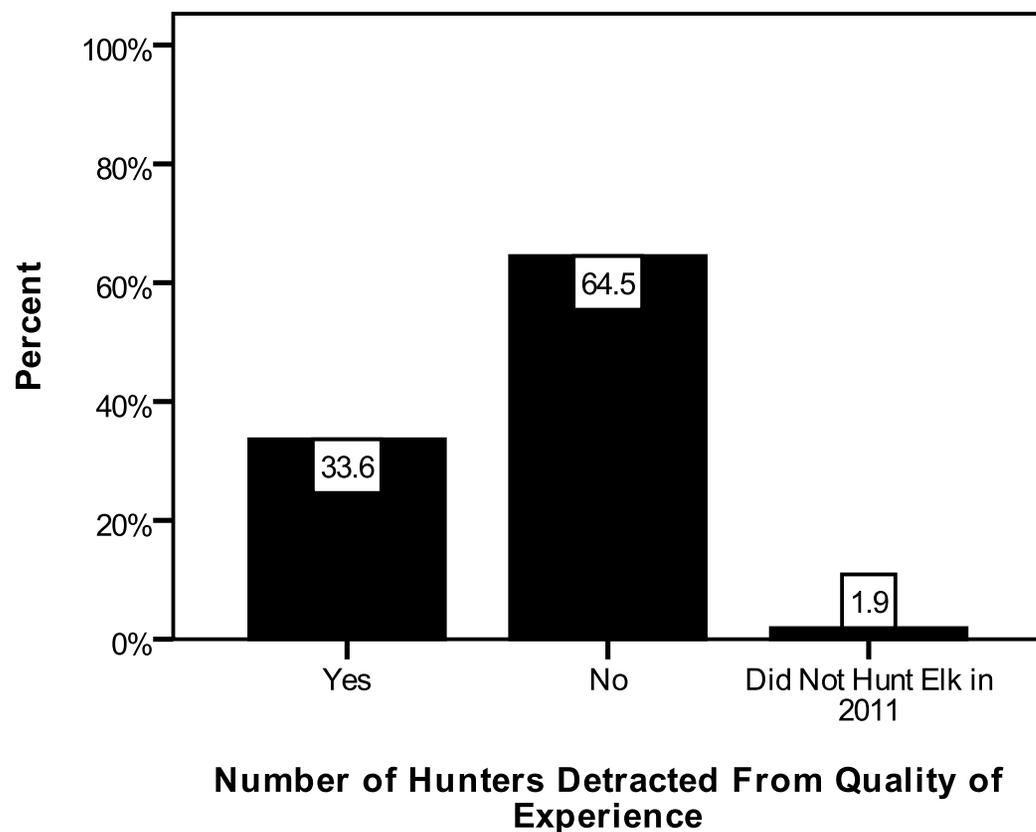


Having a Long Elk Season

Q31: Top five attributes were the same for the Island Park zone and the state average.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

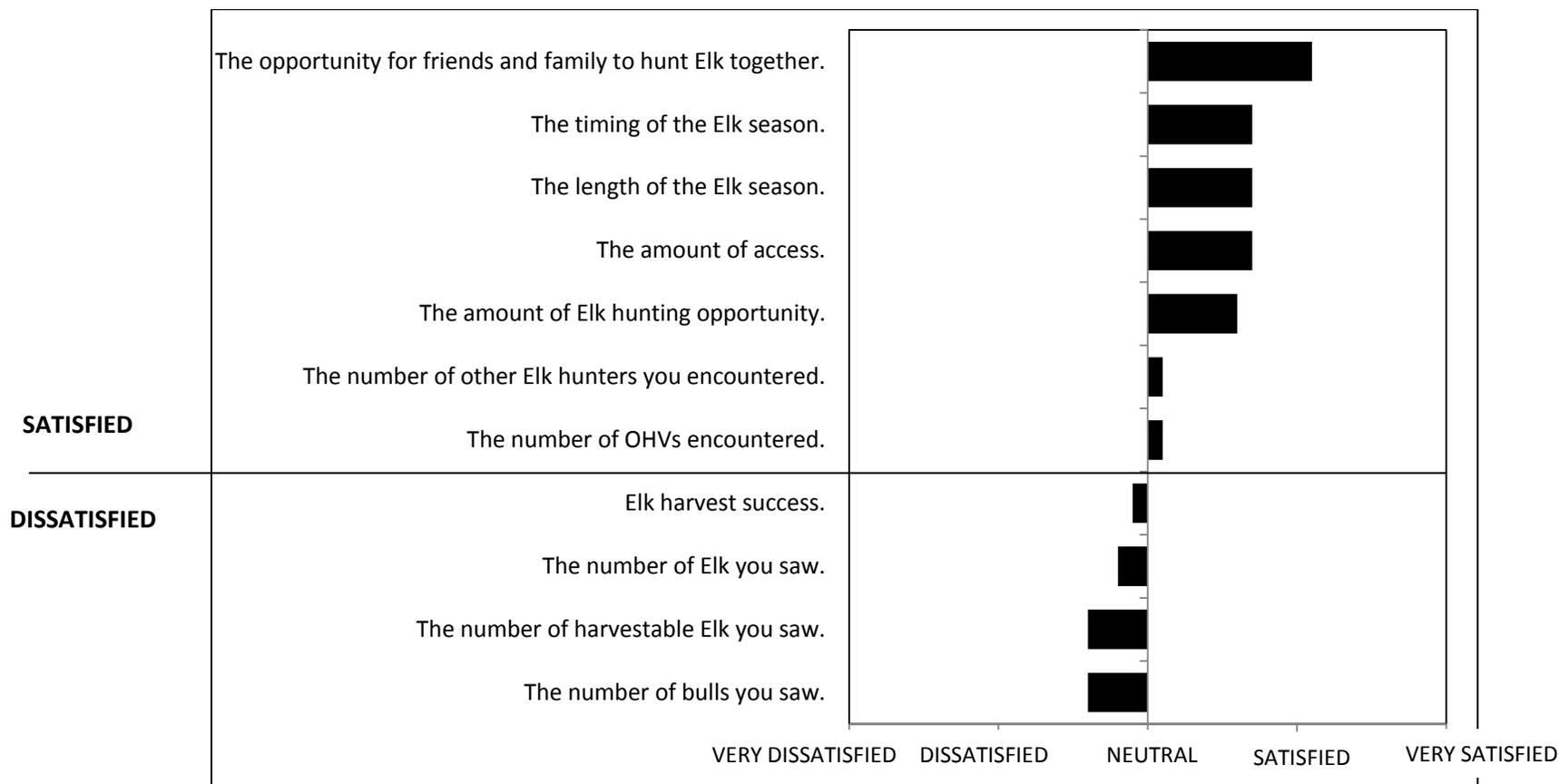
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



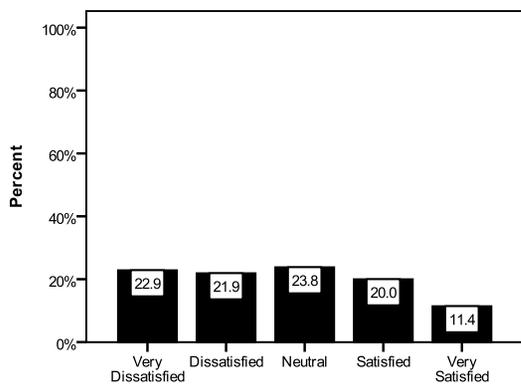
Q33: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Island Park hunters reported that the number of other hunters did not seriously detract from the quality of their 2011 hunting experience.

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

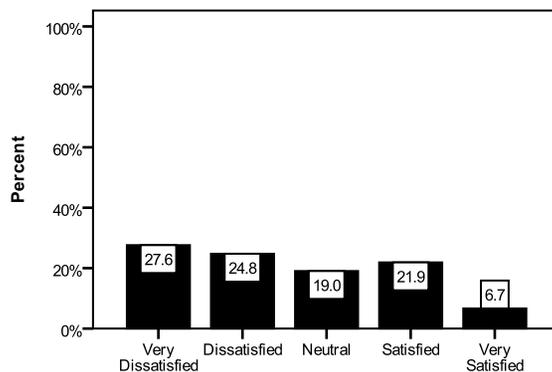
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



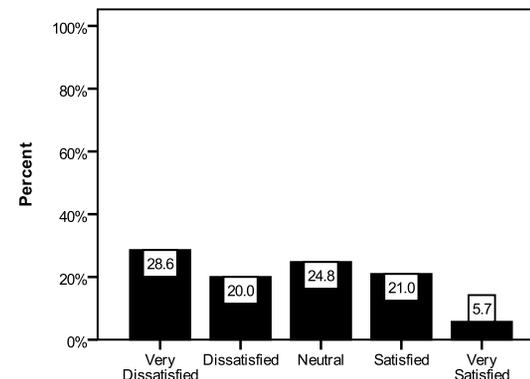
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



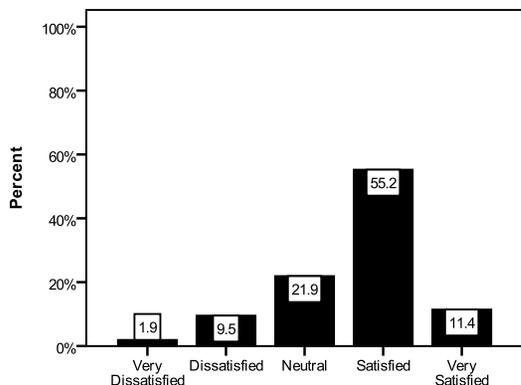
Number of Elk Seen



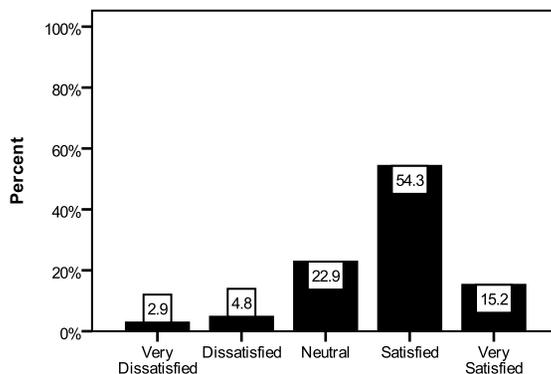
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



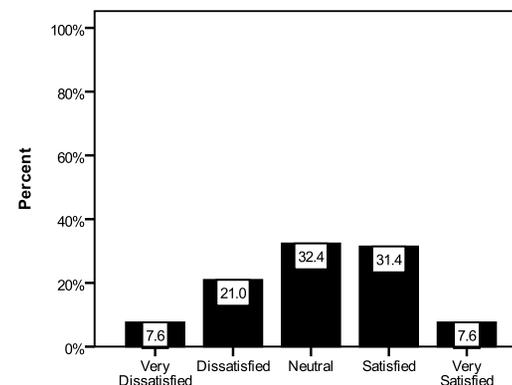
Number of Bulls Seen



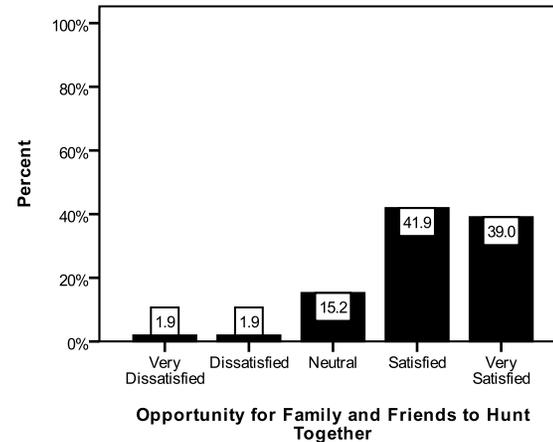
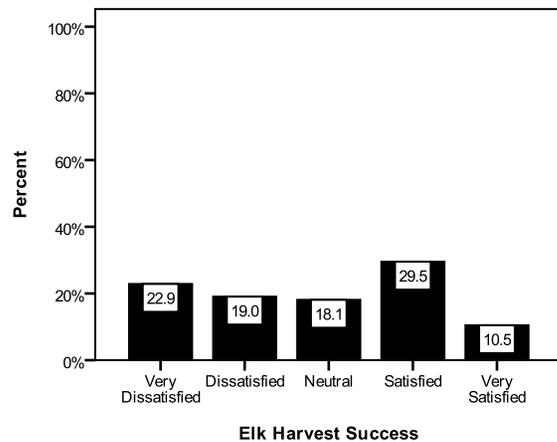
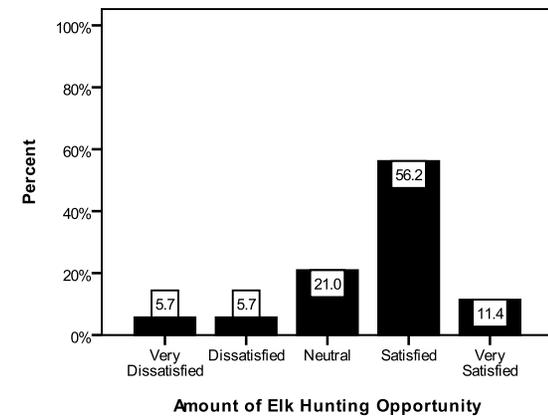
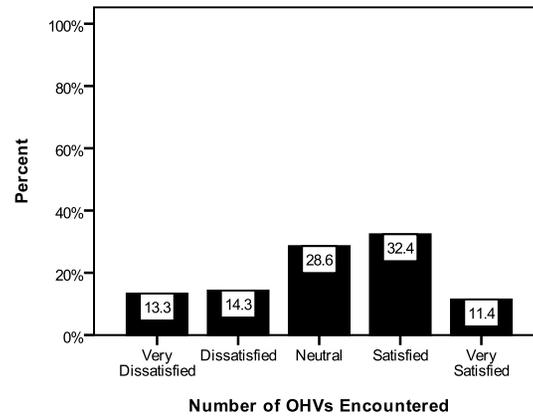
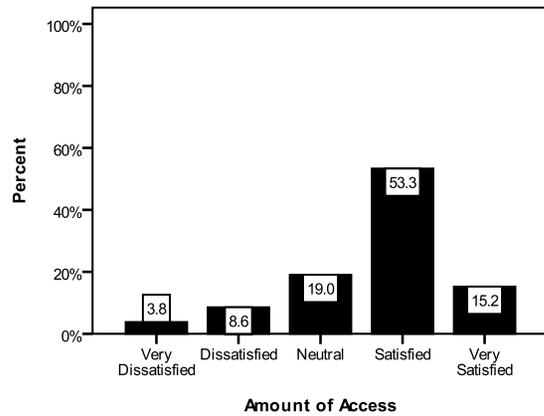
Length of Elk Season



Timing of Elk Season



Number of Elk Hunters Encountered

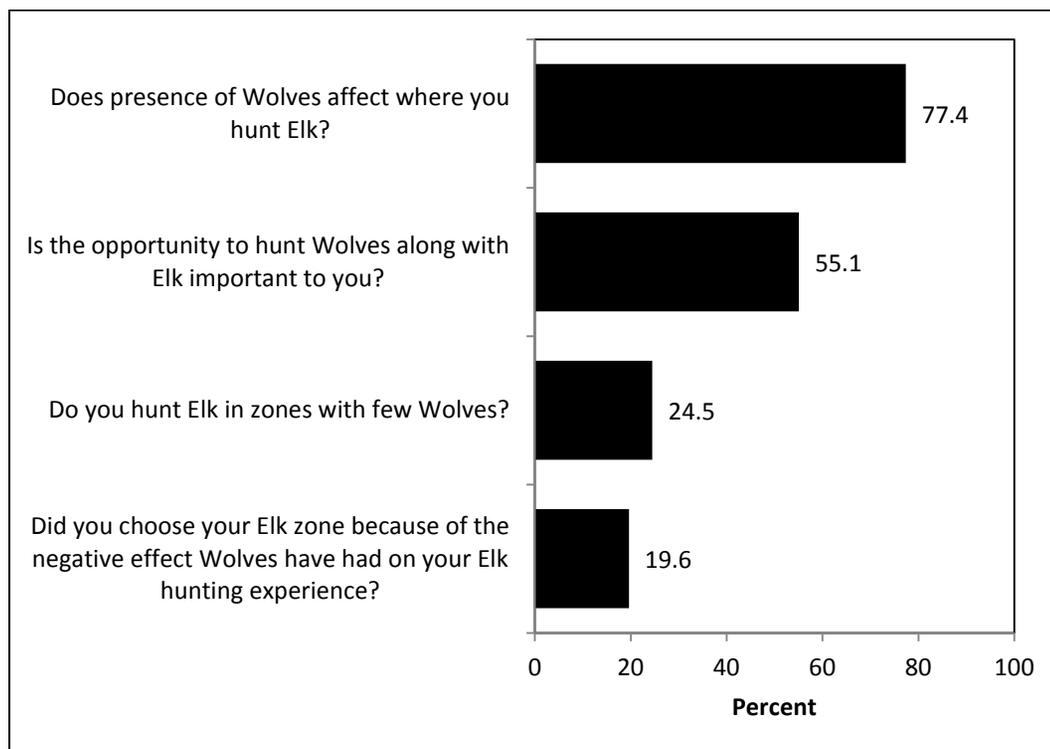


Q37: Similar to the state average, Island Park hunters were dissatisfied with the number of Elk they saw and their harvest success in 2011.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

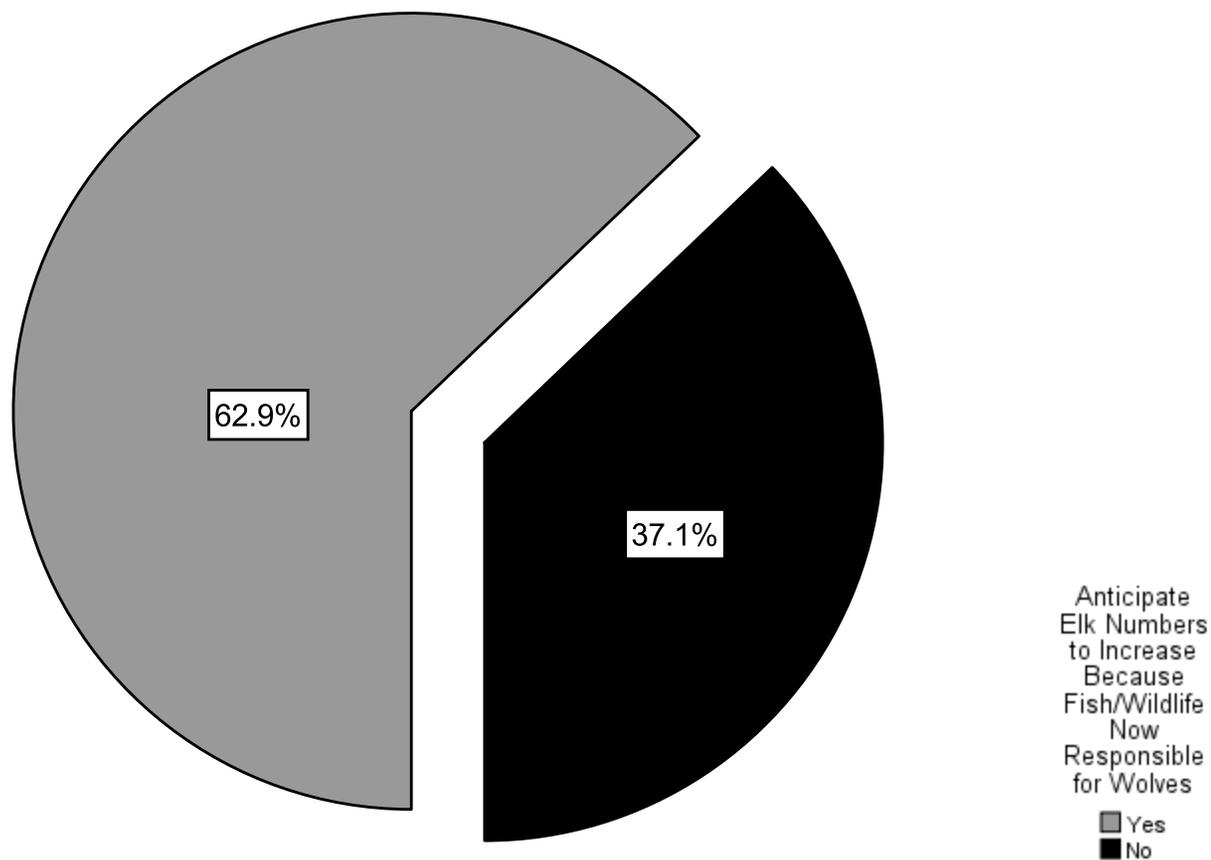
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: Fewer Island Park hunters said they choose an Elk zone based on the negative effect Wolves have had on their Elk hunting experience compared to the state average.

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



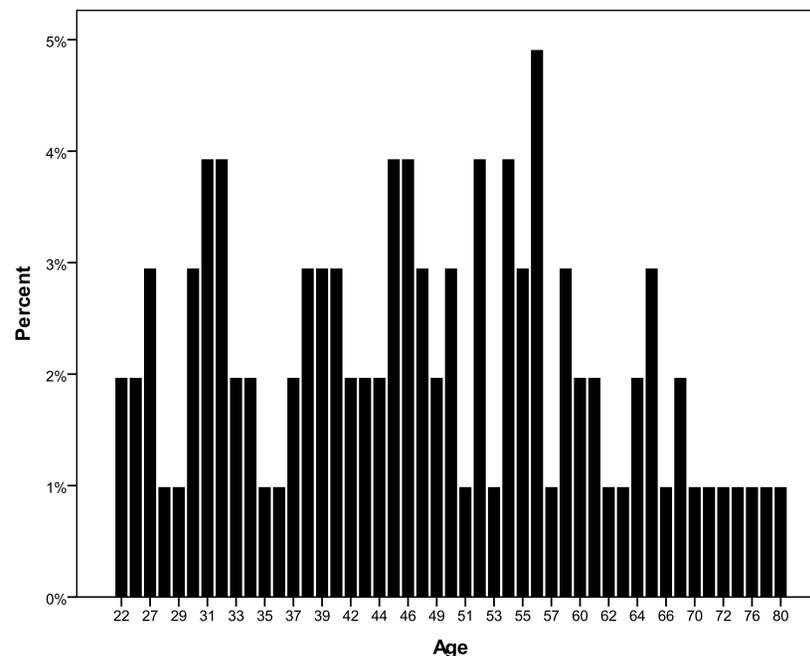
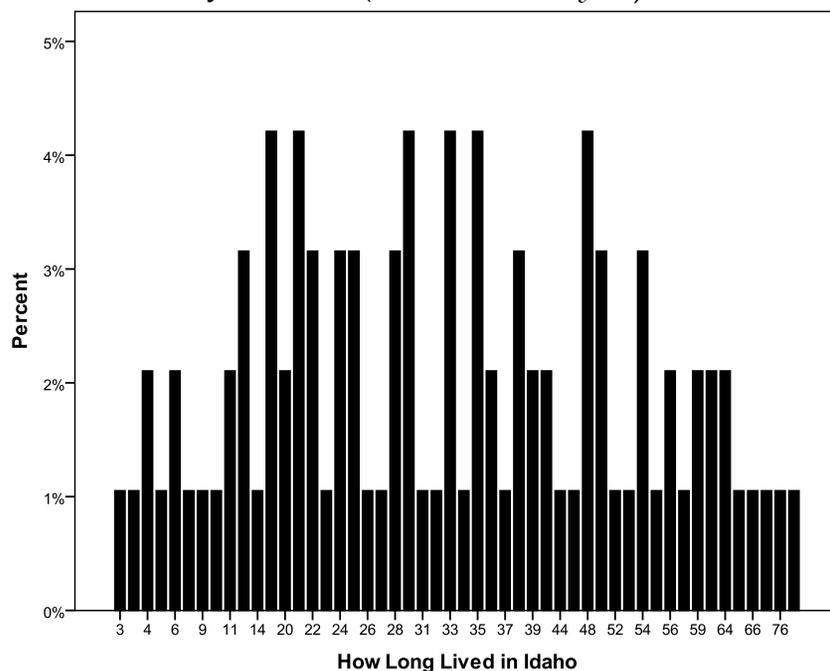
Q40: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of hunters from the Island Park zone said they anticipated Elk numbers to increase with the IDFG management of Wolves.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, some questions about you!

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

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



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