

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



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

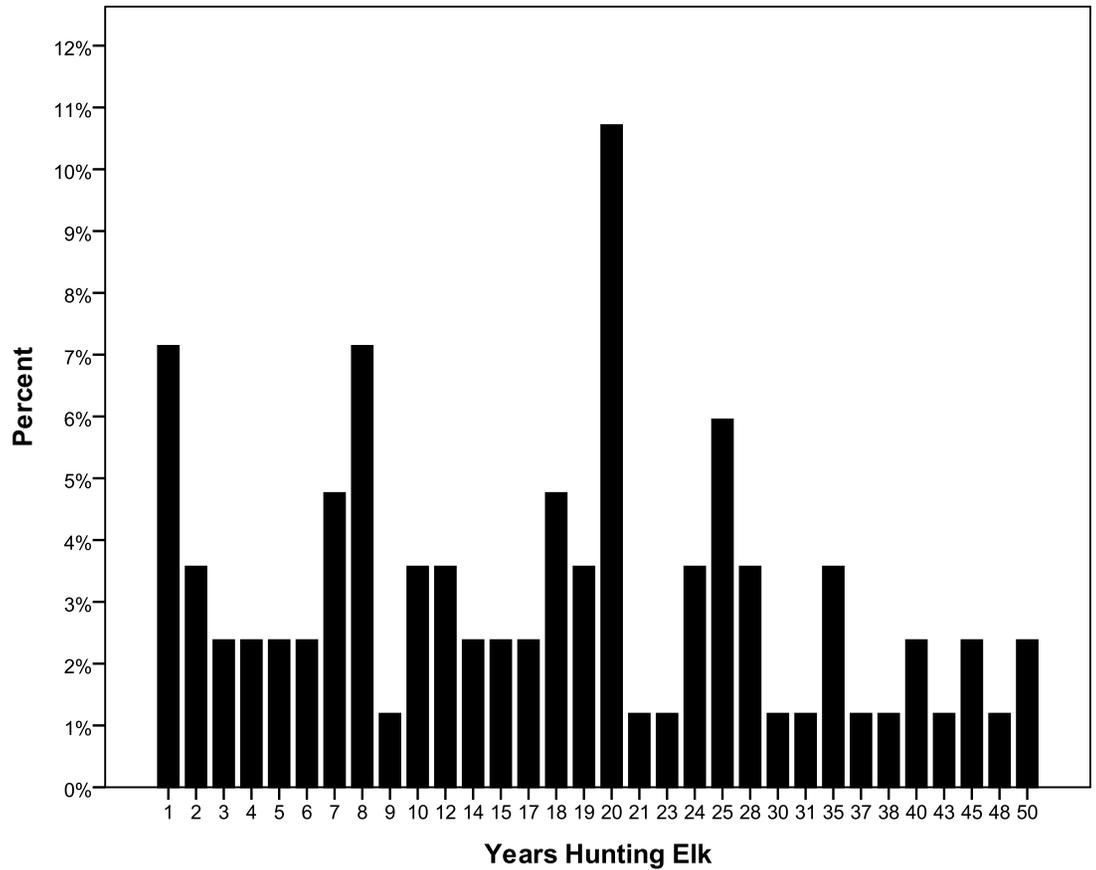
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

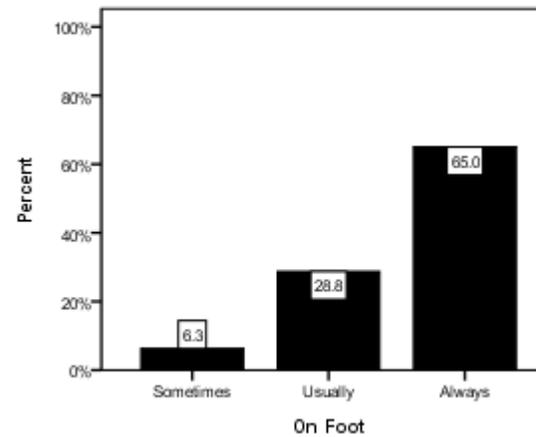
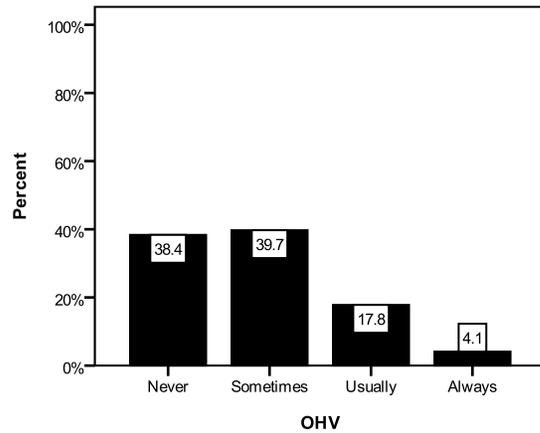
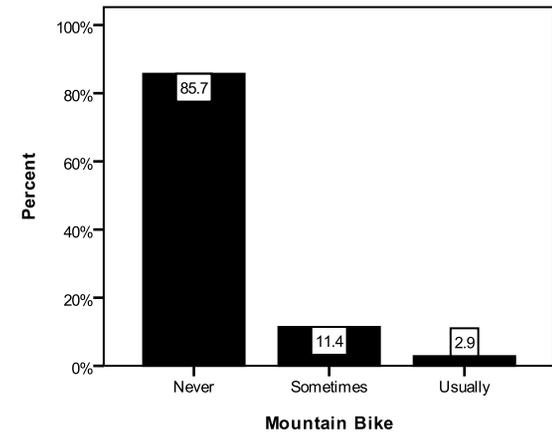
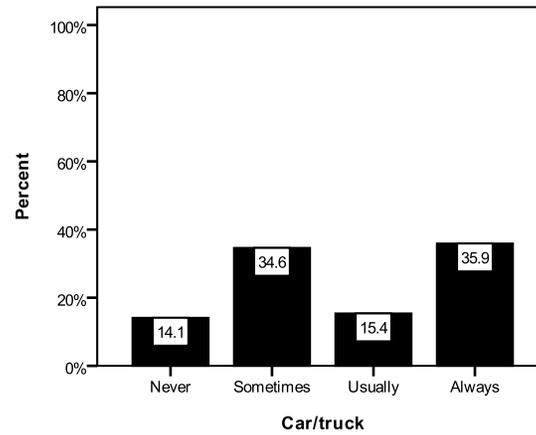
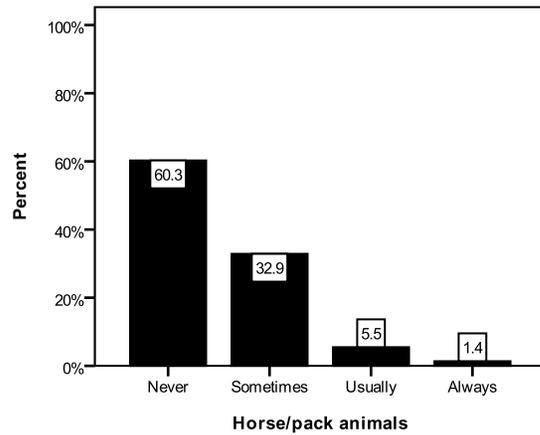
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



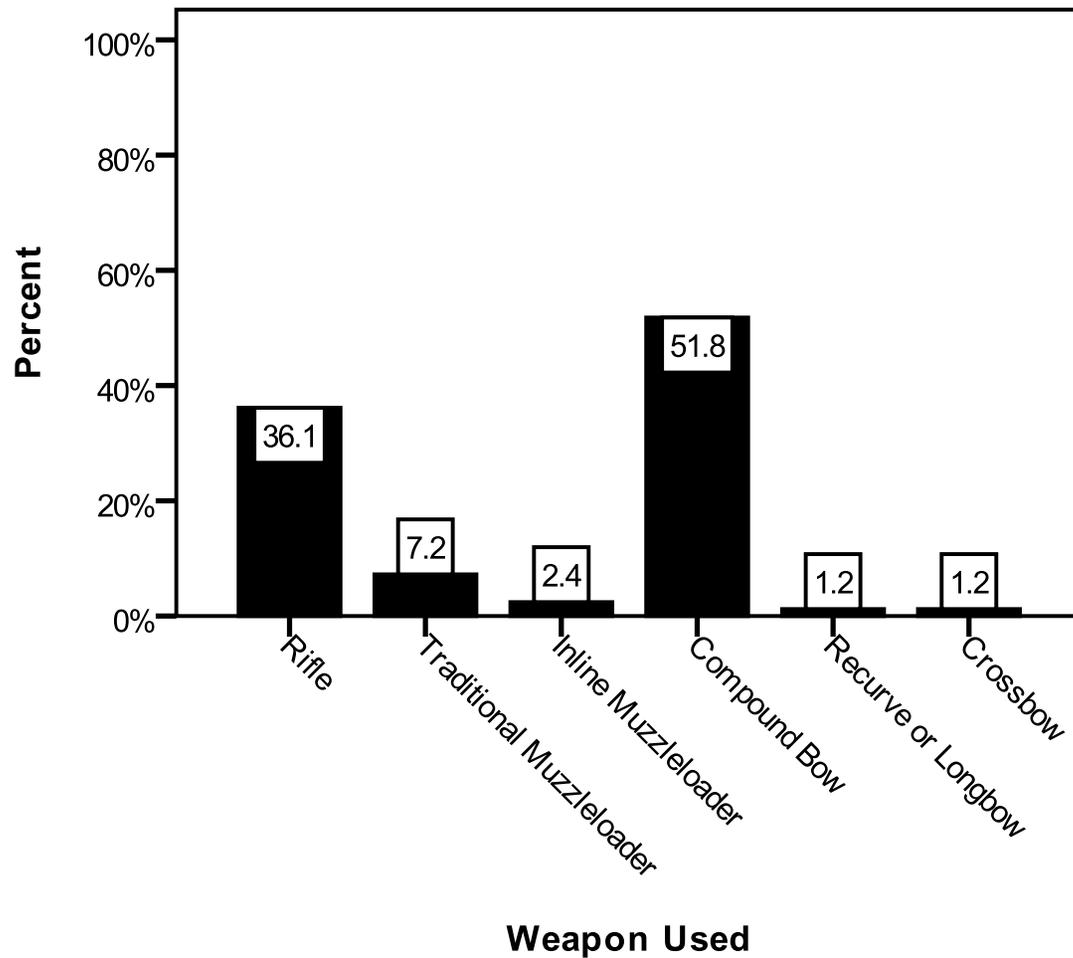
Q3: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average.

7. Excluding your travel to and from your home, how often do you use the following mode of transportation when you hunt Elk in Idaho?



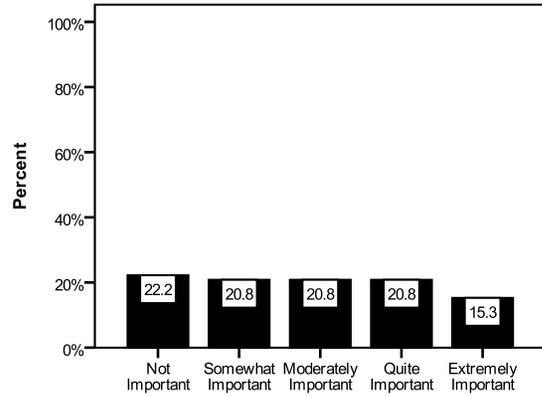
Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average.

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

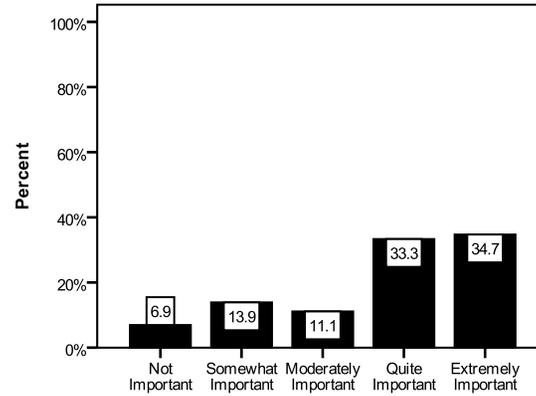


Q8: Unlike other hunters in the state who favor rifles, over half of hunters in the state average typically use a compound bow to hunt Elk. However, over a third of hunters still choose a rifle.

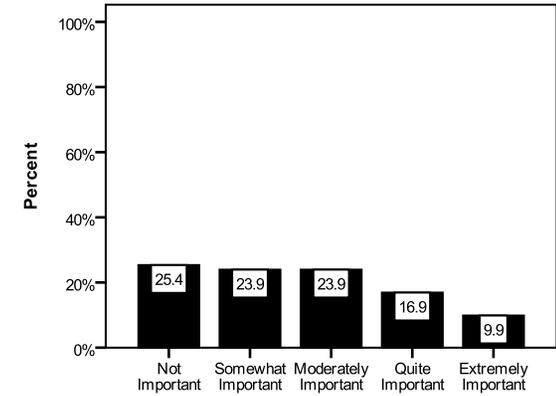
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



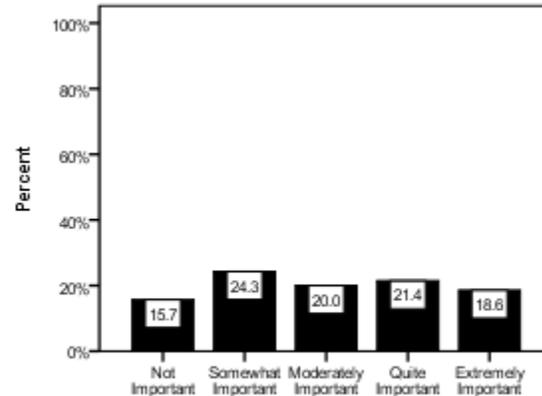
Increase Challenge



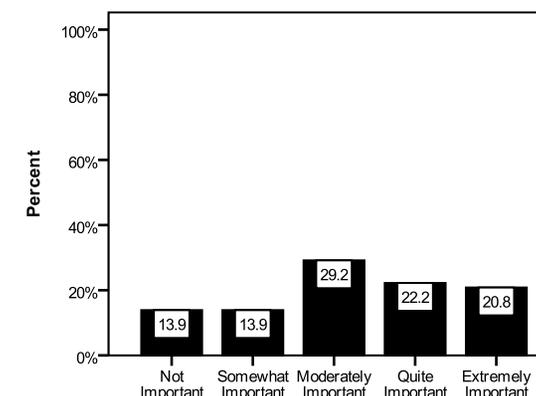
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



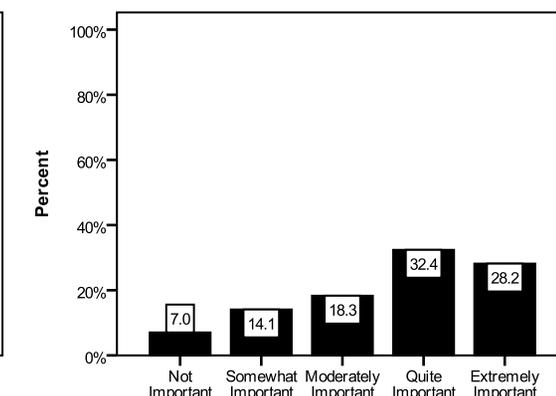
Improve Chance of Harvesting



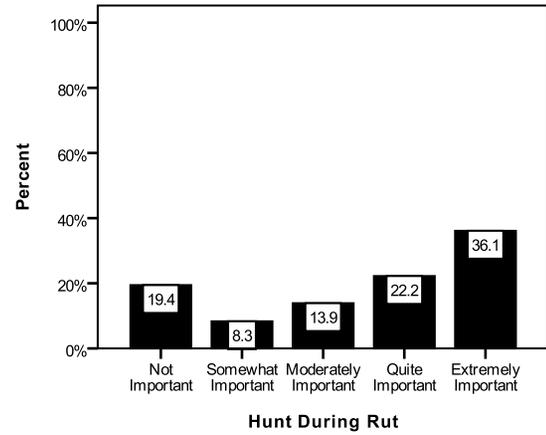
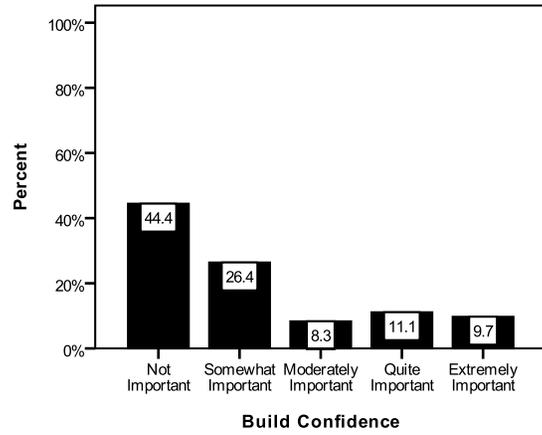
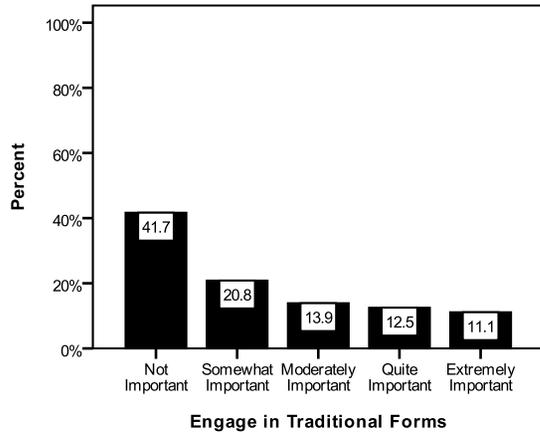
Expand Hunting Season



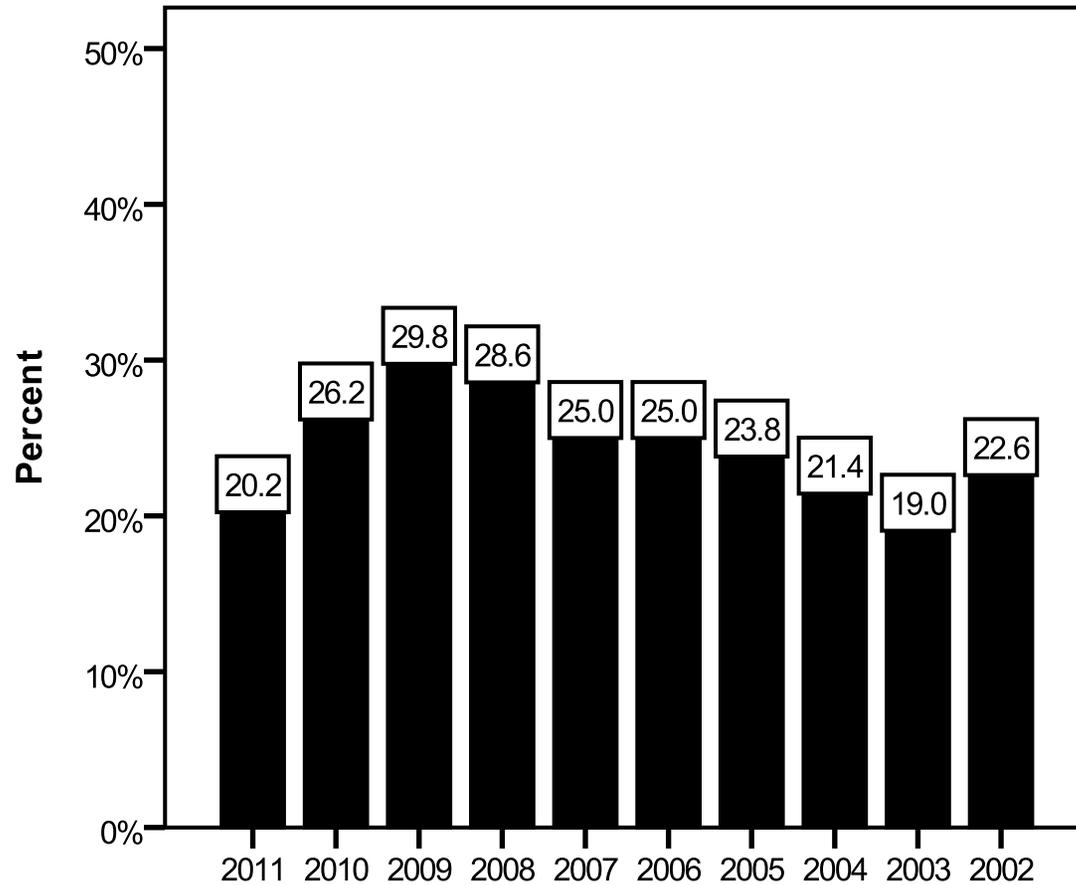
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

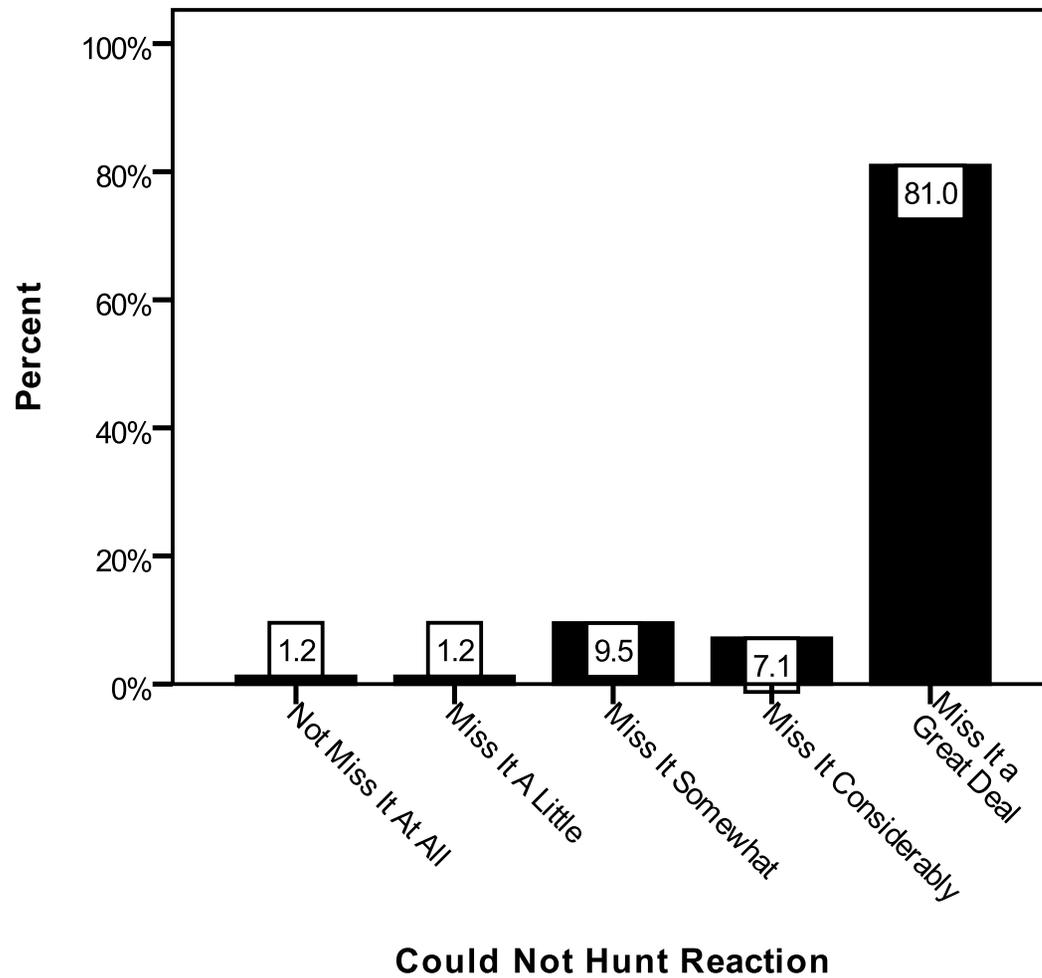


Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average. However, hunting in a zone where rifles are limited is more important to hunters in this zone than others.

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

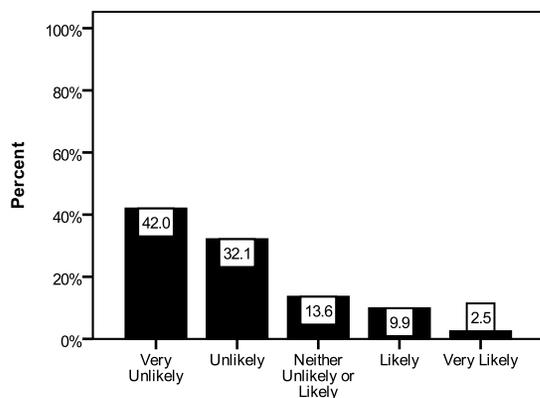
Q11: Harvest success rates are similar for Lemhi hunters and the state average. Rates were slightly higher than the average for Lemhi hunters in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

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

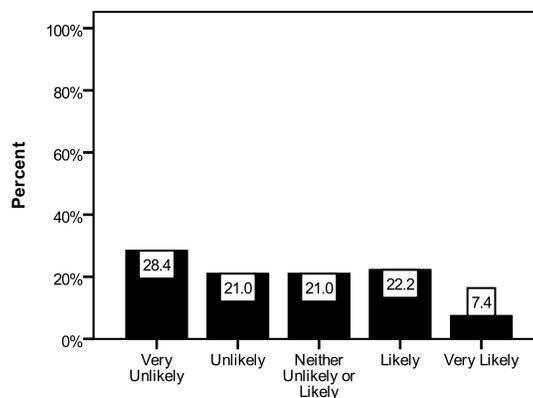


Q12: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Lemhi hunters would miss hunting Elk a great deal if they could no longer do so.

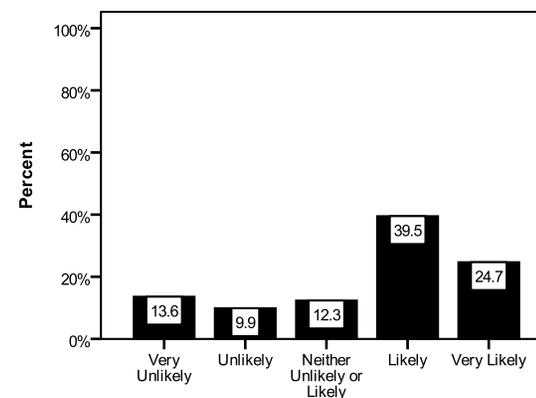
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



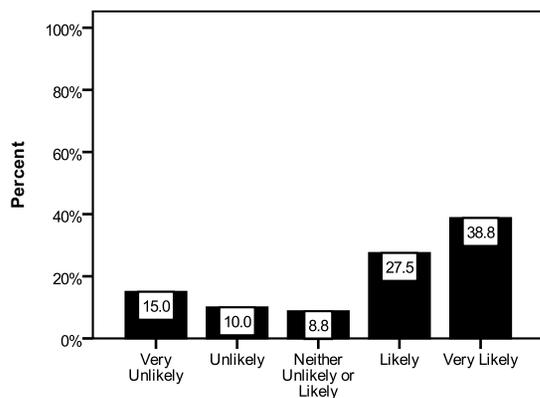
Hunt Waterfowl More



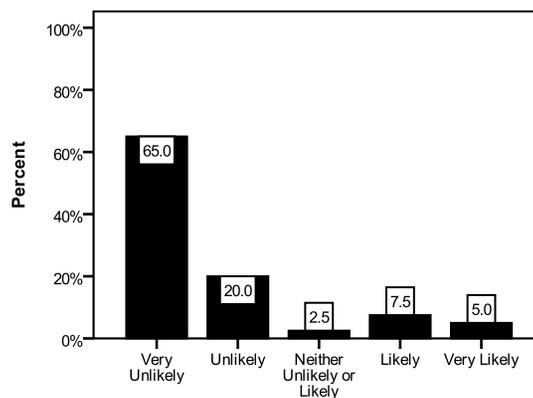
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



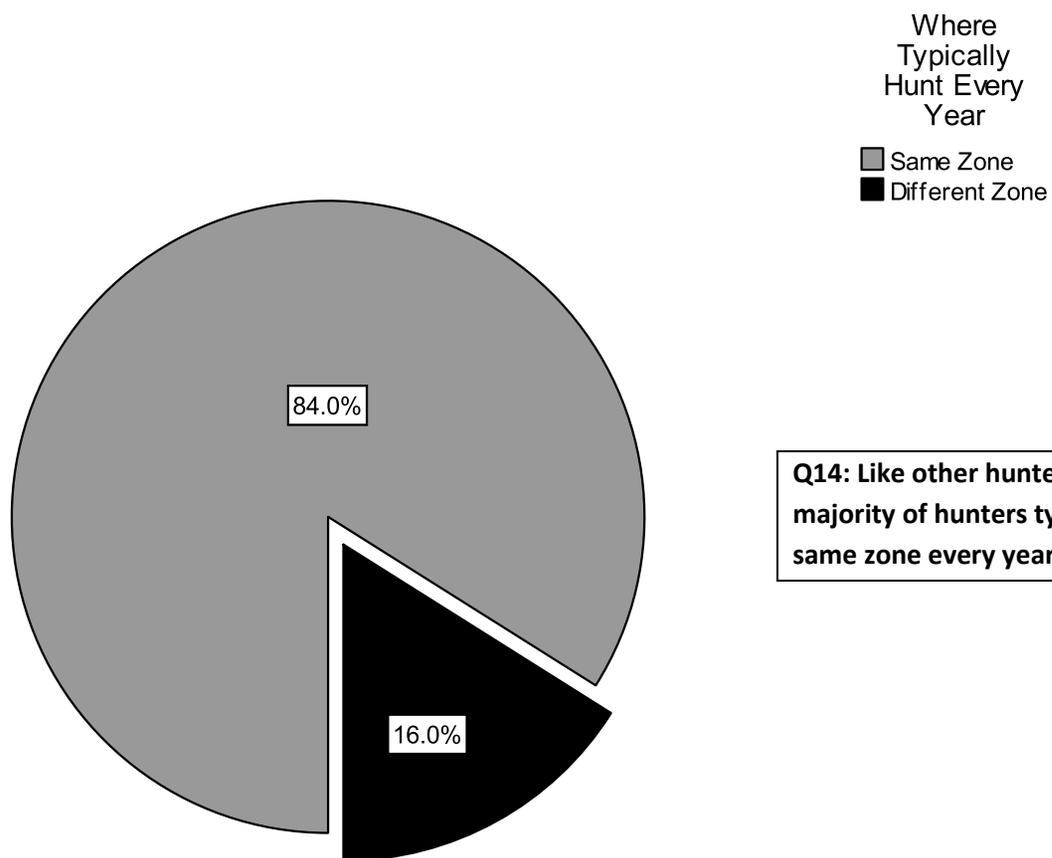
Hunt Elk in Other States



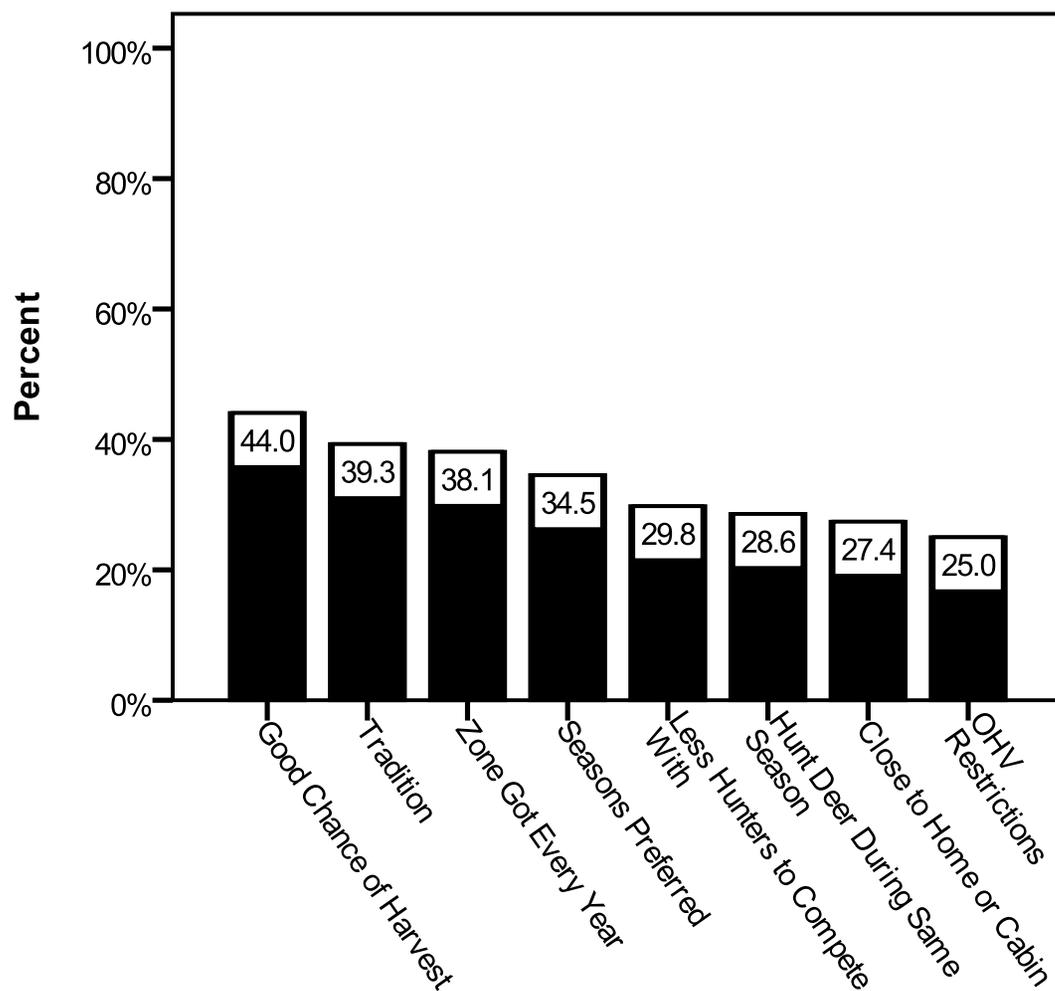
Not Hunt At All

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

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

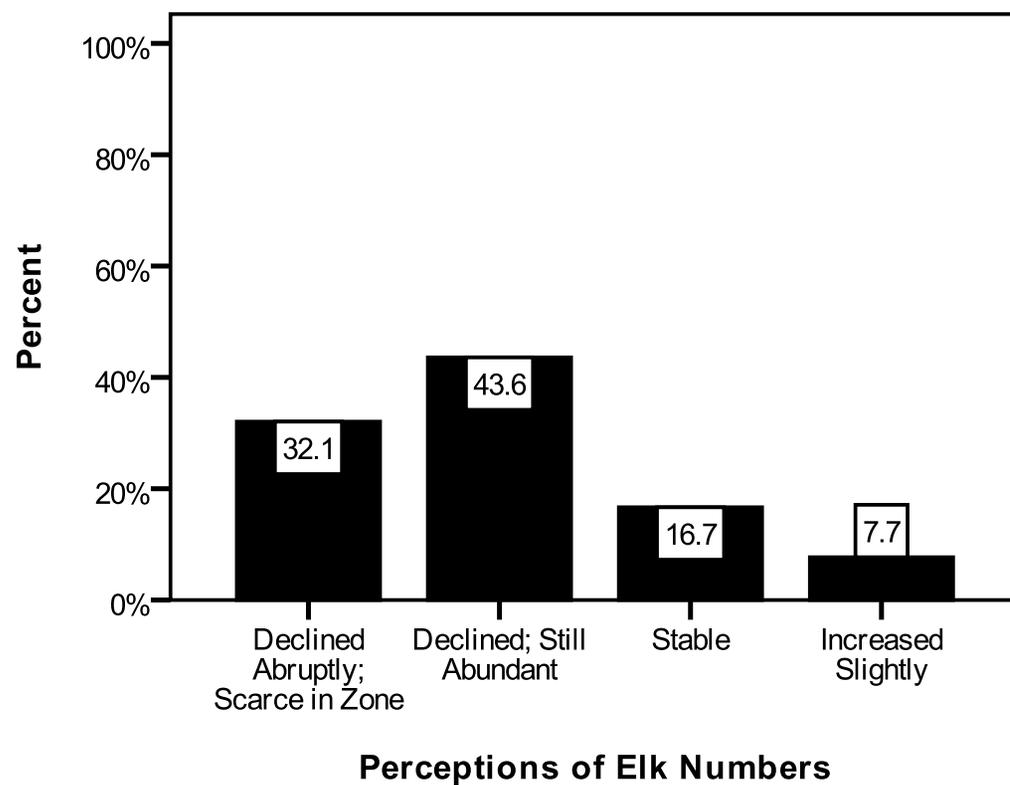


16. What makes the zone(s) you marked in Q-15 desirable to hunt Elk? (Please check all that apply)



Q16: Unlike the state average who reported that a zone that was close to home or cabin was most desirable (54%), only 27.4% of Lemhi hunters agreed. Hunters in this zone find zones with a good chance of harvest and tradition as most desirable.

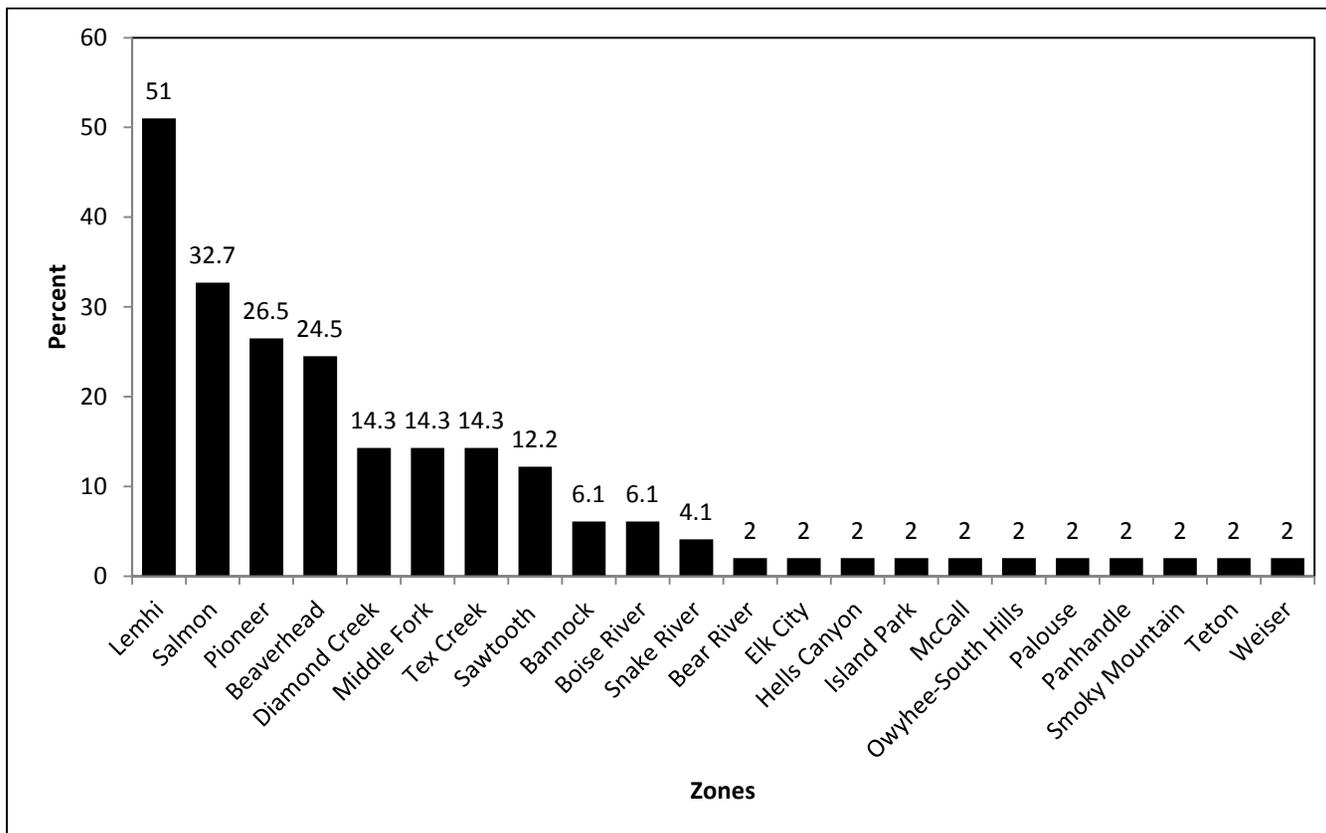
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: Unlike the state average, almost half of Lemhi hunters perceive Elk numbers to have declined but still remain abundant, rather than scarce.

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

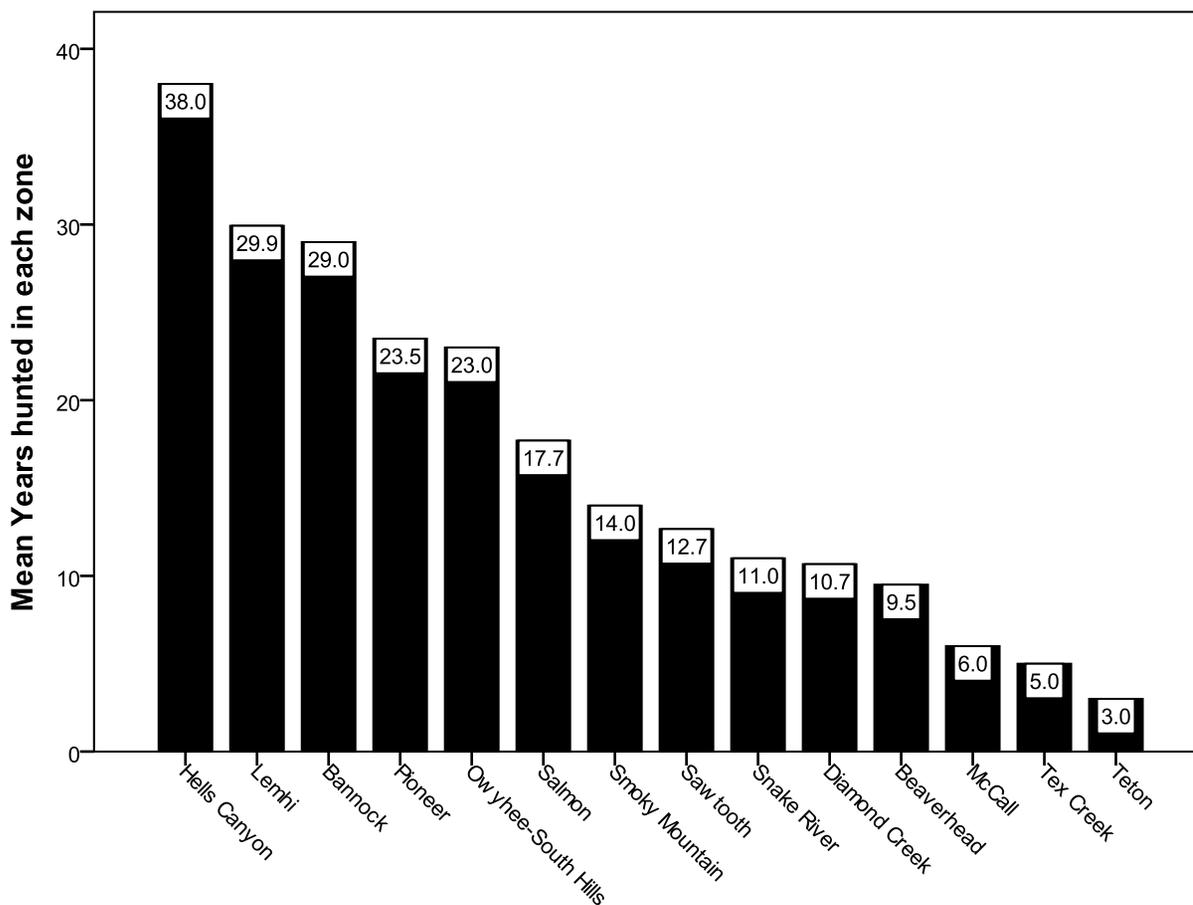
(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q18: The Salmon, Pioneer, and Beaverhead zones are the most popular zones for respondents to hunt in besides Lemhi itself.

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

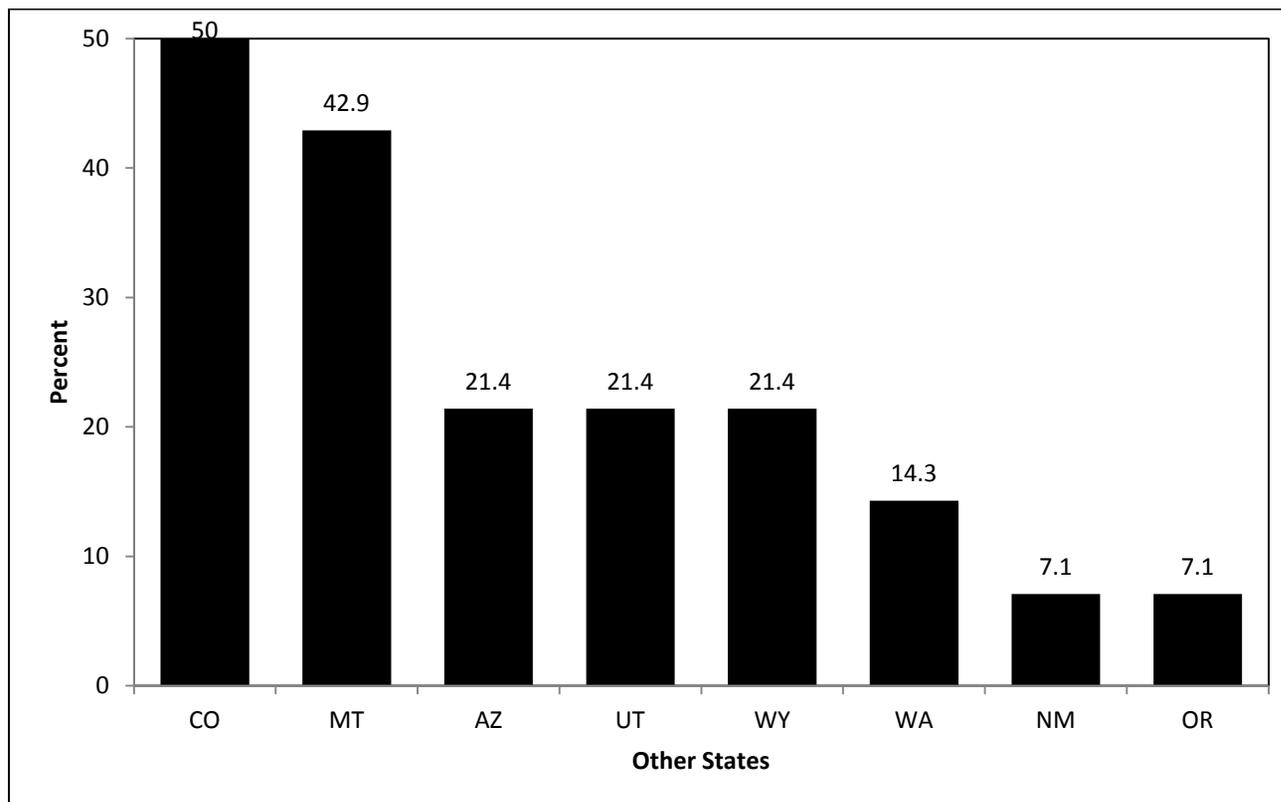
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: The Hells Canyon zone has been hunted the longest among respondents. The Lemhi zone itself ranks second in duration.

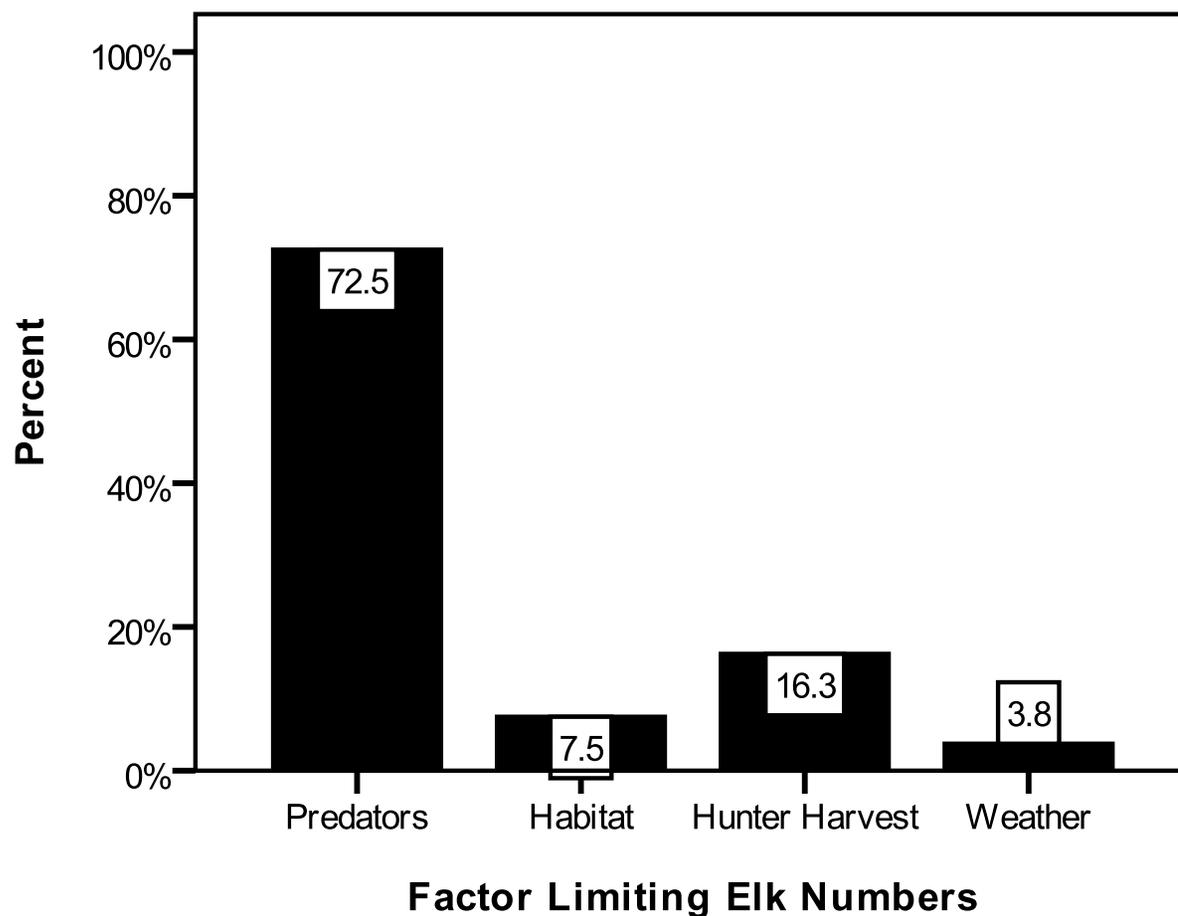
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: Almost half of Lemhi hunters who hunt out-of-state choose to visit Colorado, followed closely by Montana.

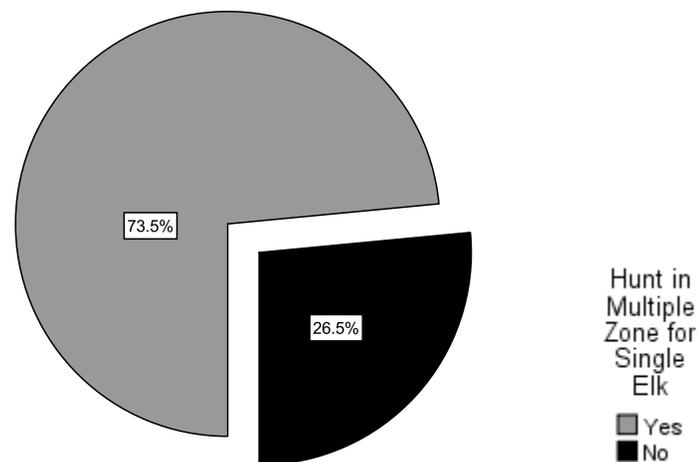
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



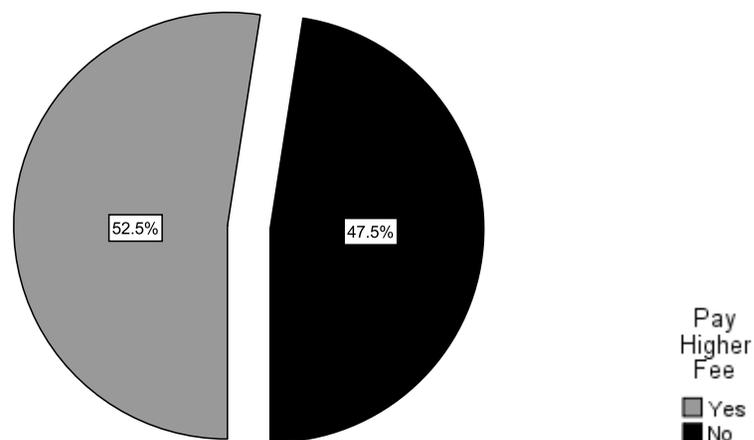
Q22: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Lemhi hunters perceive predators to be the primary factor for limiting Elk numbers.

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

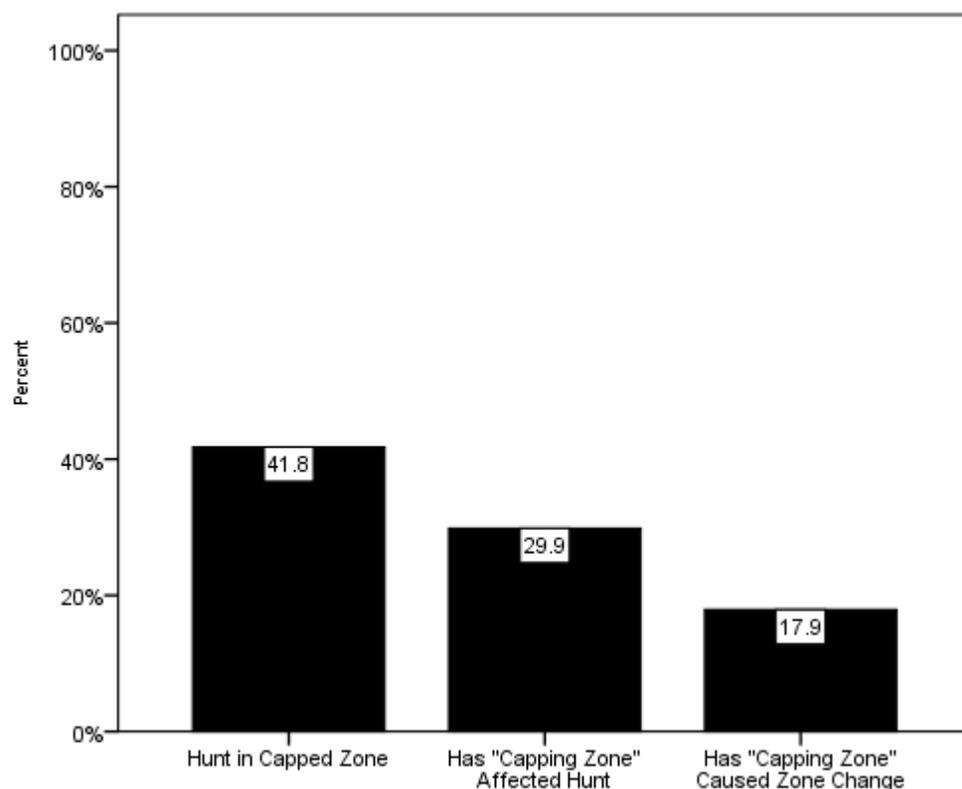
Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Lemhi hunters would also like to be able to hunt for a single Elk in multiple zones in a year. Over half would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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

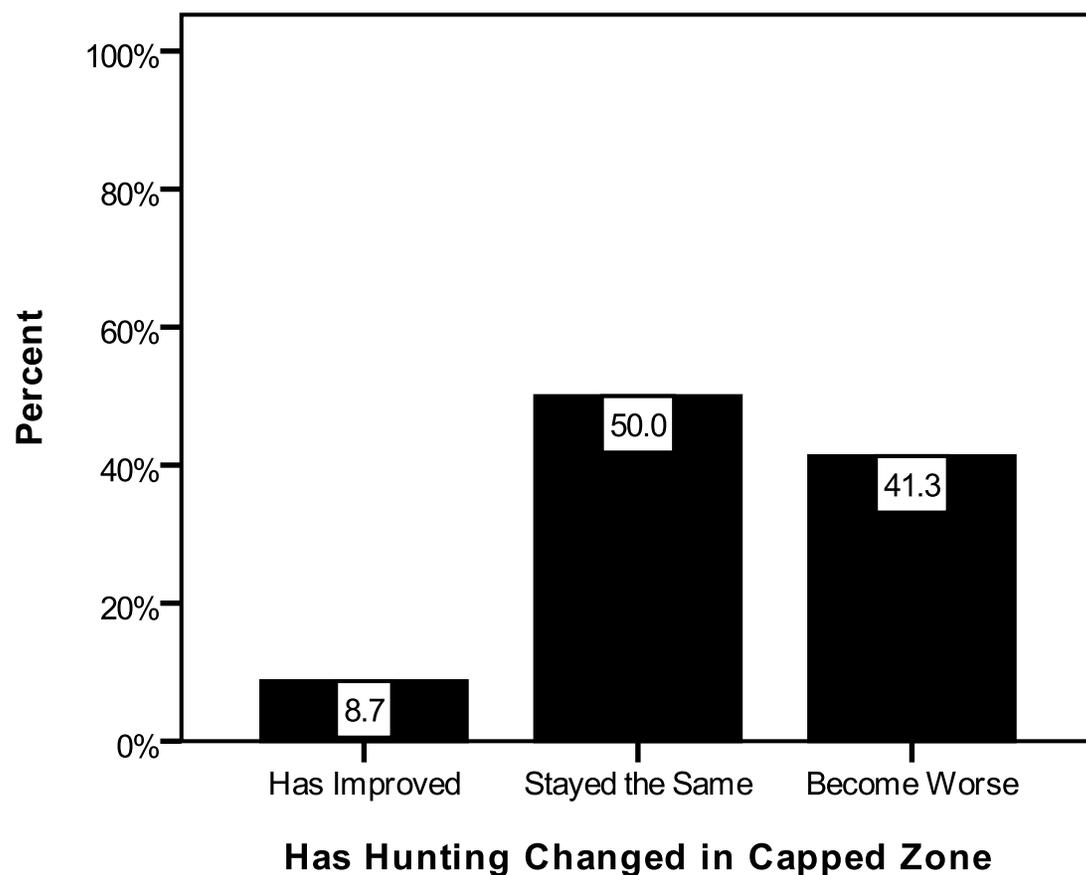


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters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



Q25: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average.

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

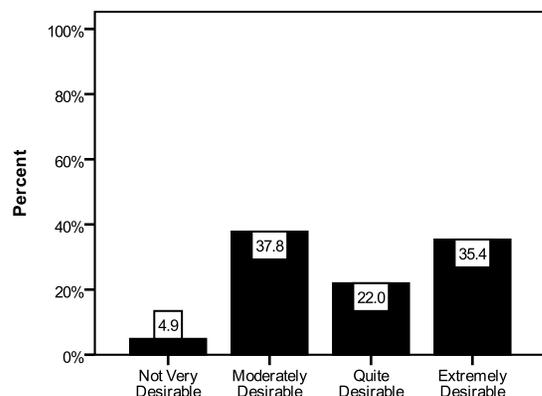


Q26: Unlike the state average, half of Lemhi hunters reported that Elk hunting has stayed the same, though only 9.7% fewer reported that it has become worse.

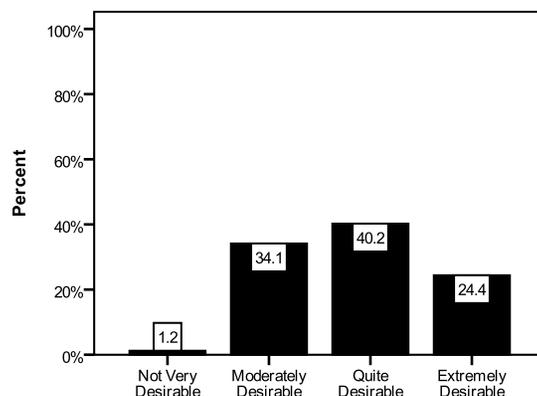
ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

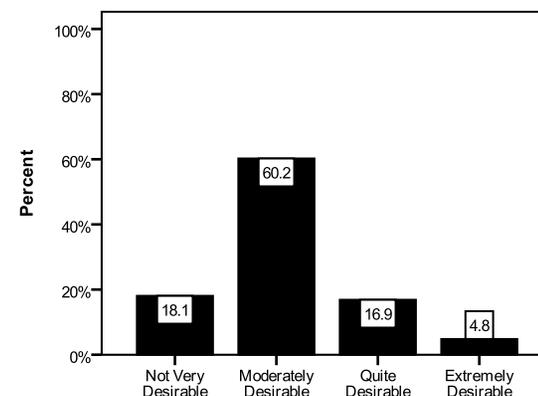
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



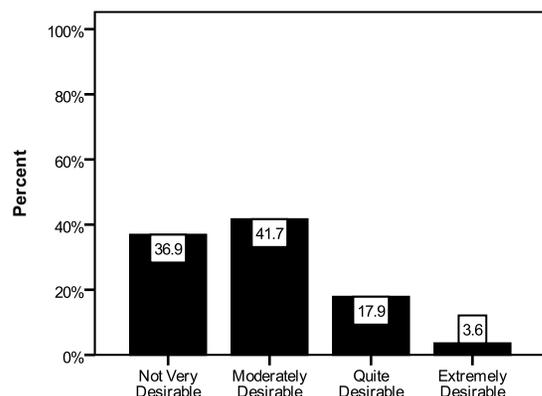
Large Bull



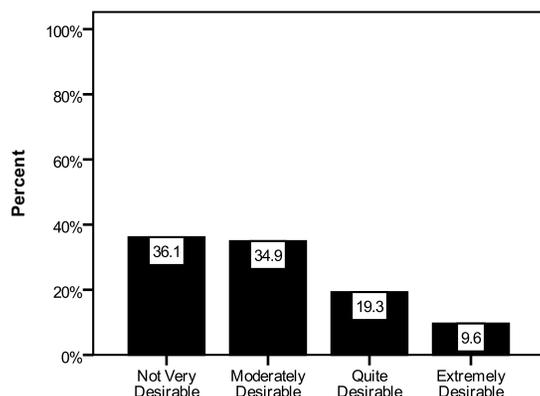
Mature Bull



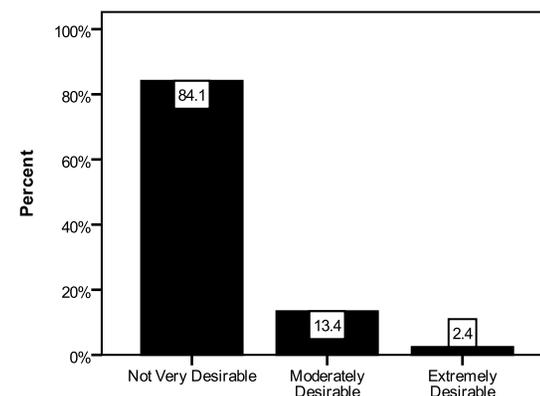
Raghorn Bull



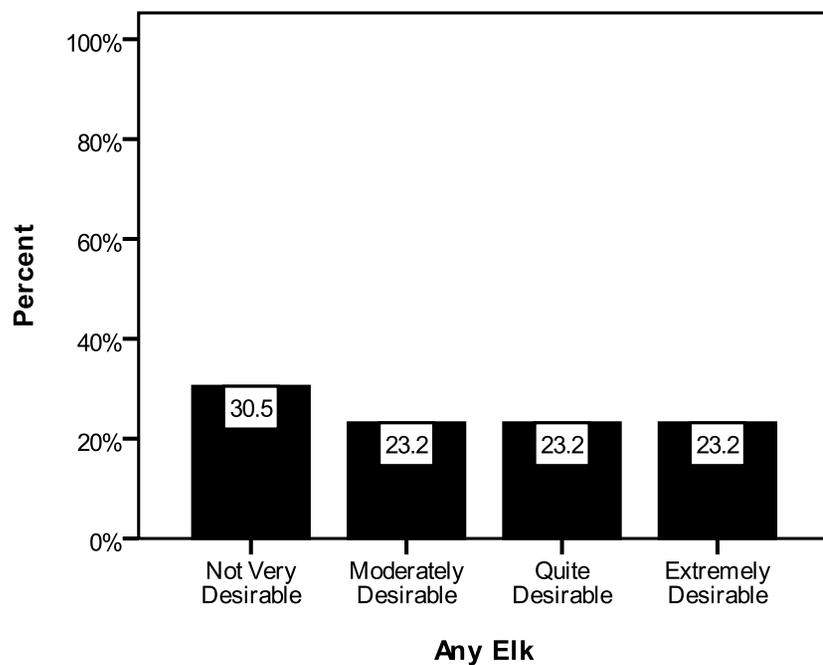
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

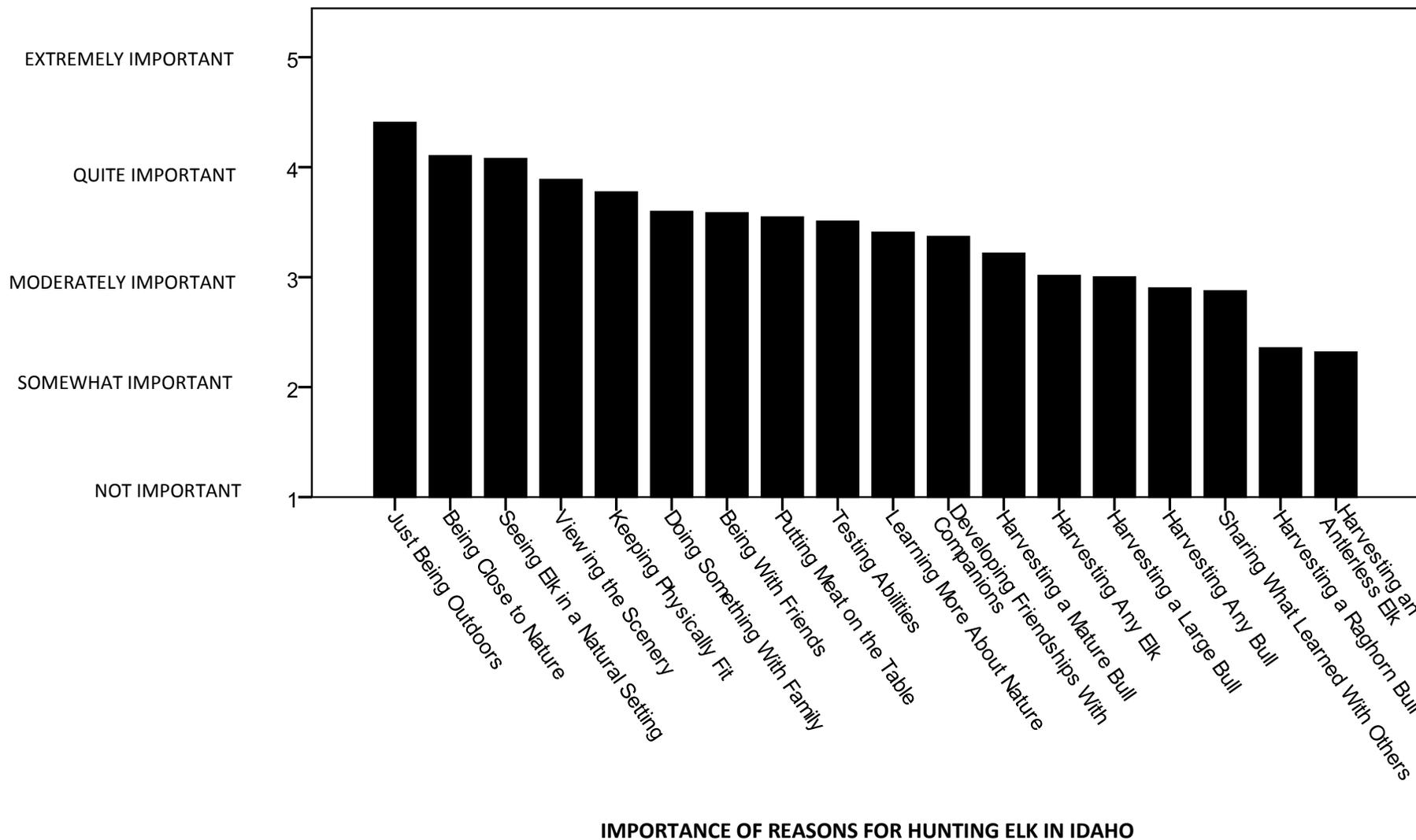


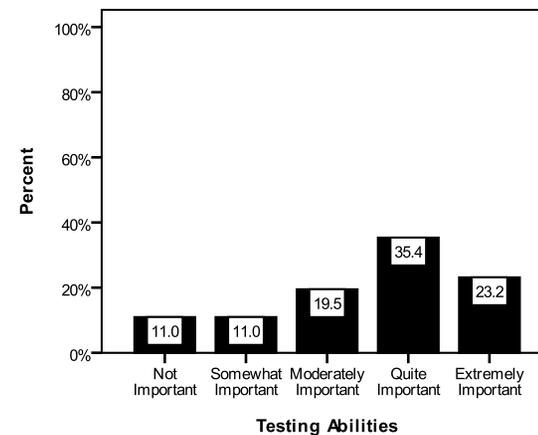
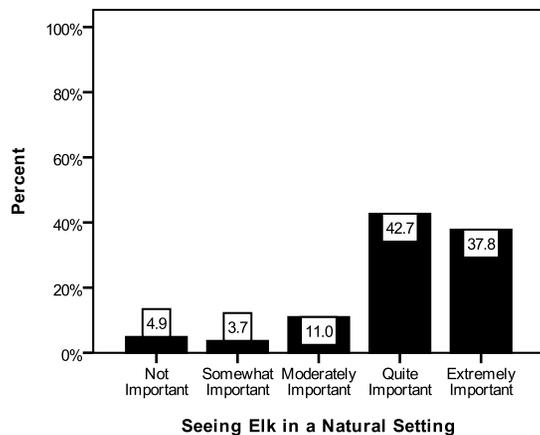
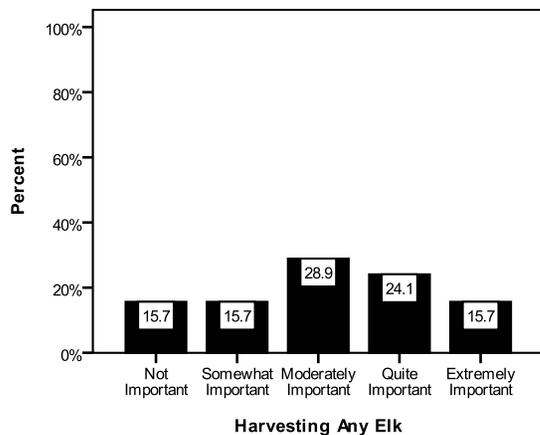
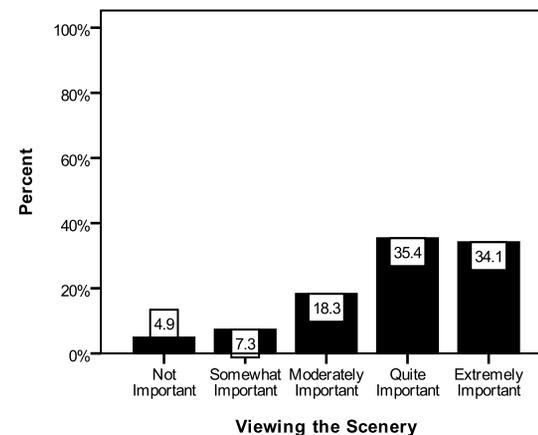
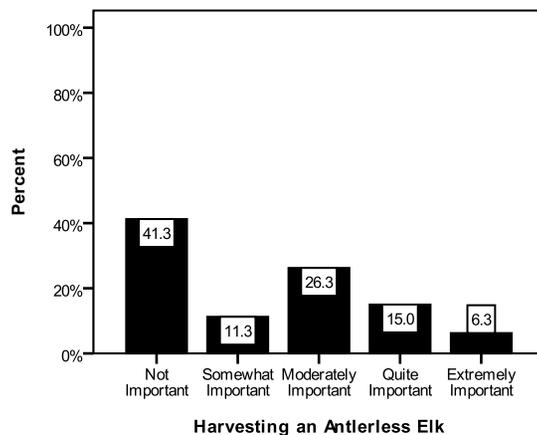
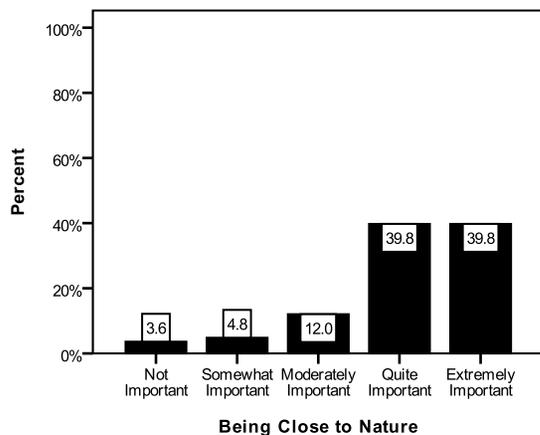
Calf

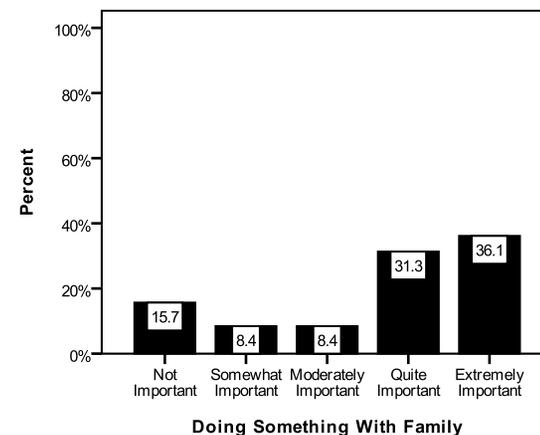
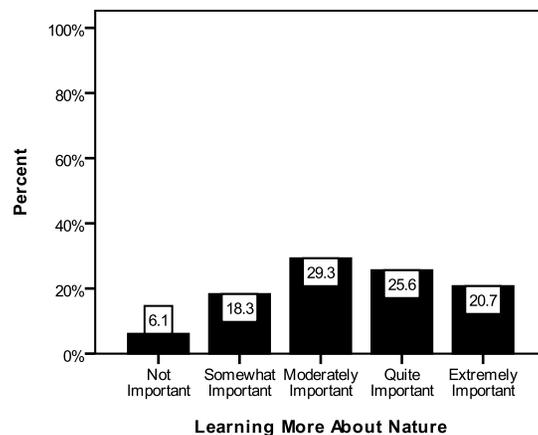
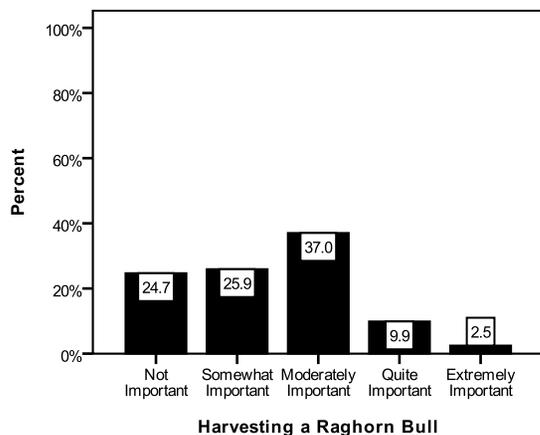
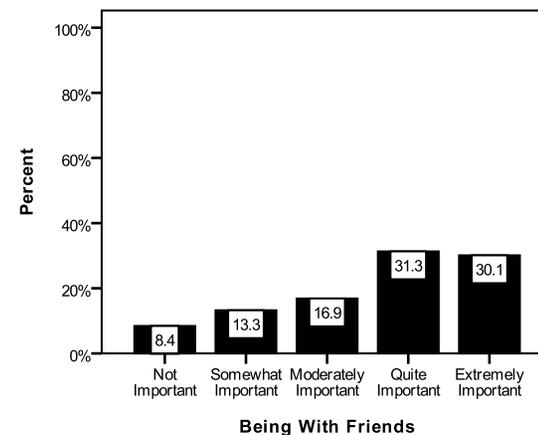
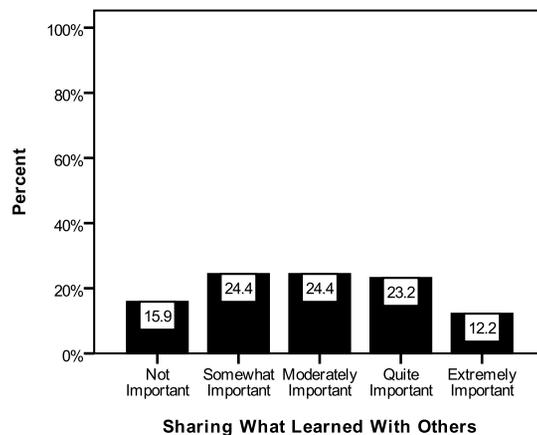
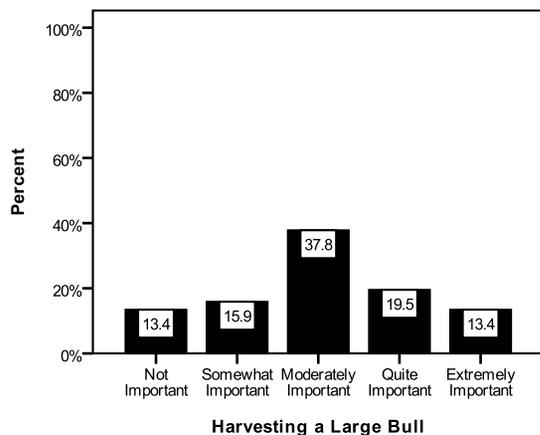


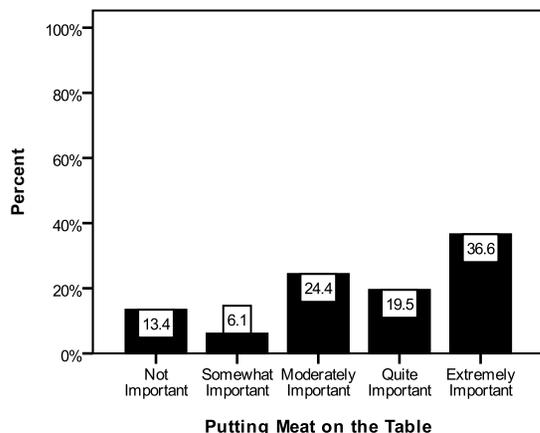
Q27: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average. Hunters in this zone slightly prefer Elk of larger size and maturity.

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?

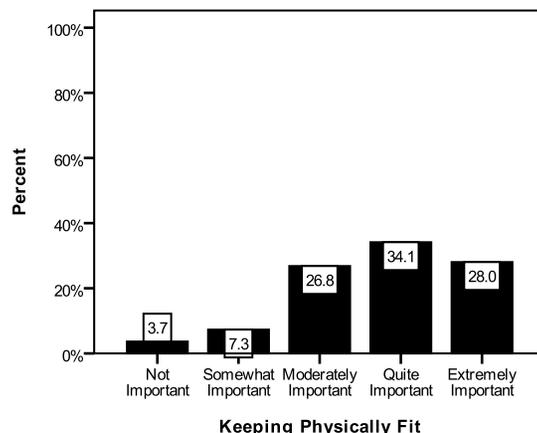




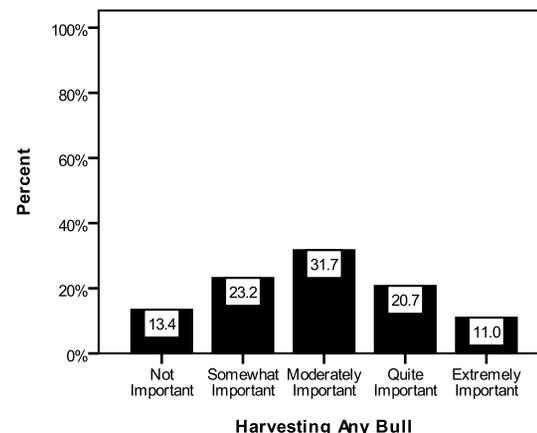




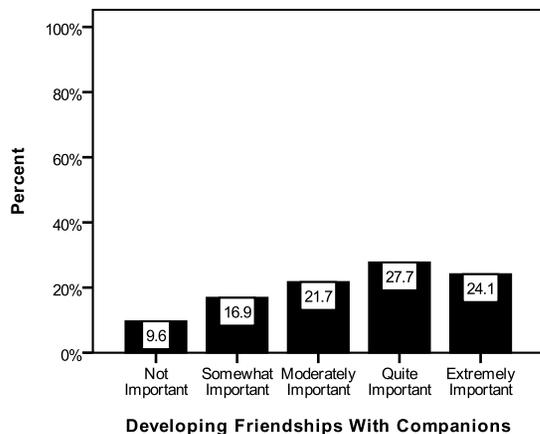
Putting Meat on the Table



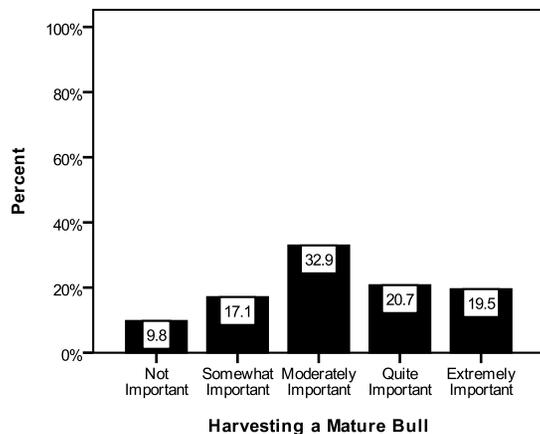
Keeping Physically Fit



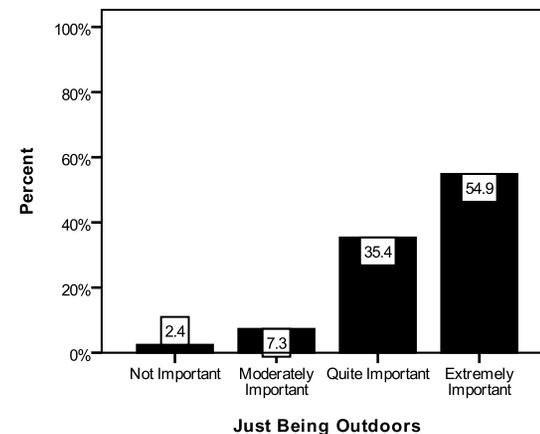
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

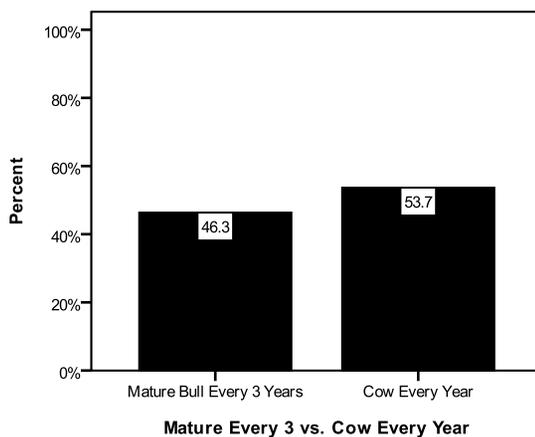
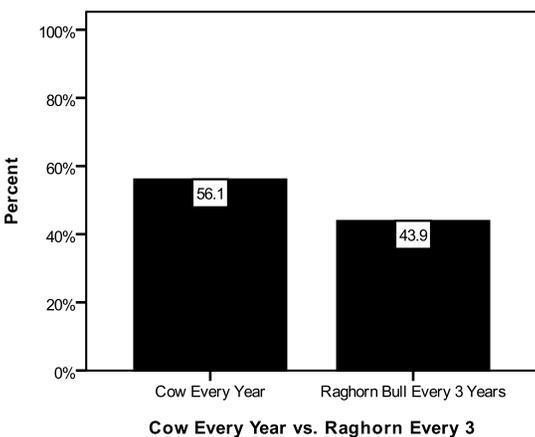
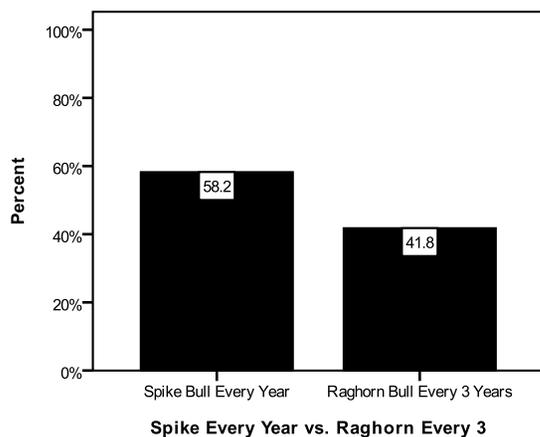
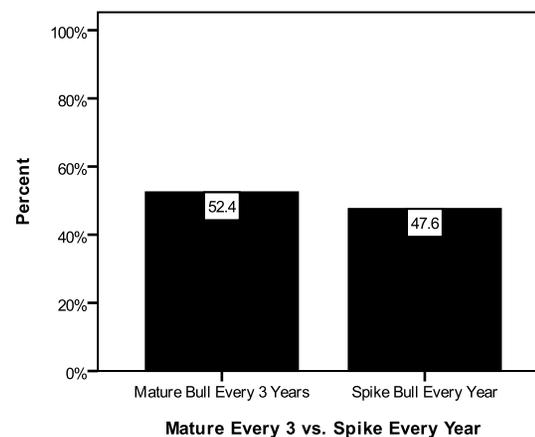
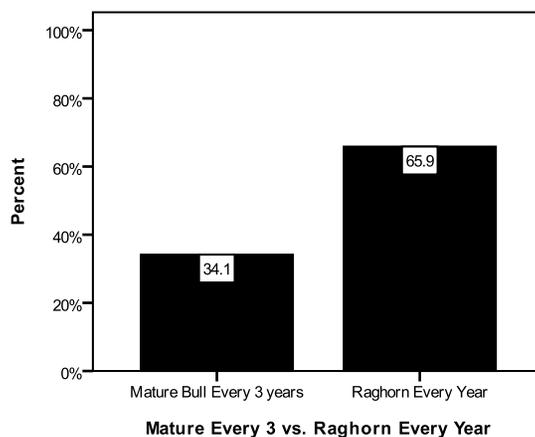
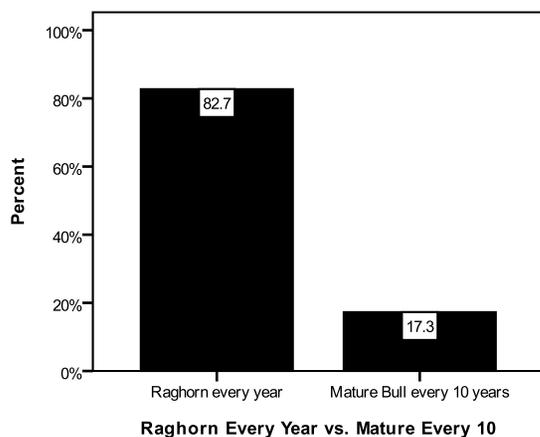


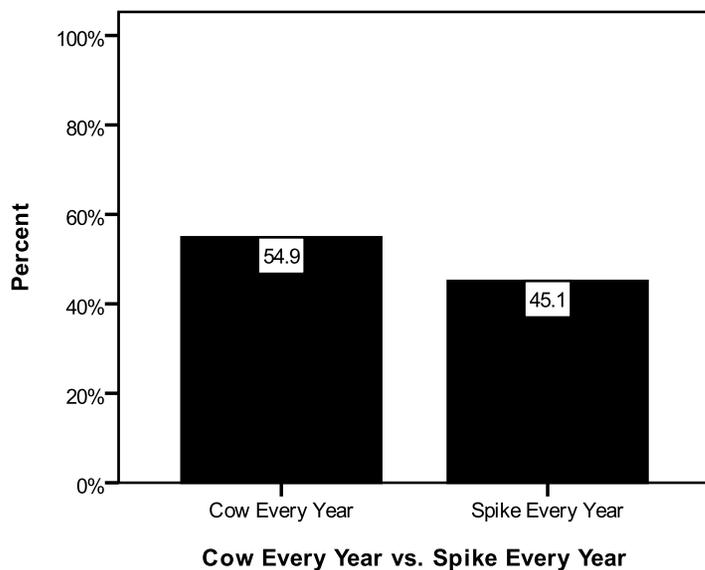
Just Being Outdoors

Q28: The top four reasons are the same for the Lemhi zone and the state average. Hunters in this zone reported that keeping physically fit is important to why they hunt Elk in Idaho.

Next, your opinions about some possible management options.

32. Managing to produce more large bull Elk would require reductions in bull harvest. Managers need to know whether hunters are willing make trade-offs between the size of bulls and the amount of opportunity to hunt. (For each of the following pairs of opportunity choices please indicate which one is most favorable to you by circling the appropriate letter) Please answer every one, even if you do not like either option.

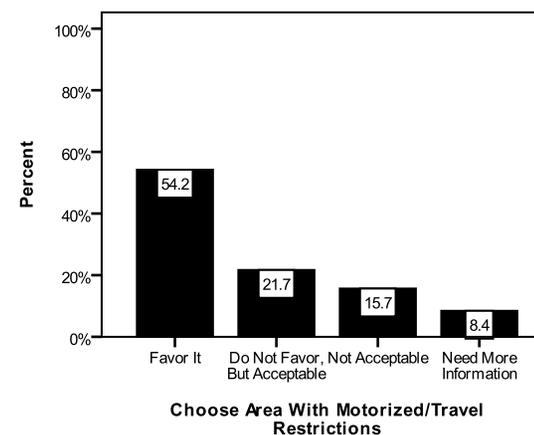
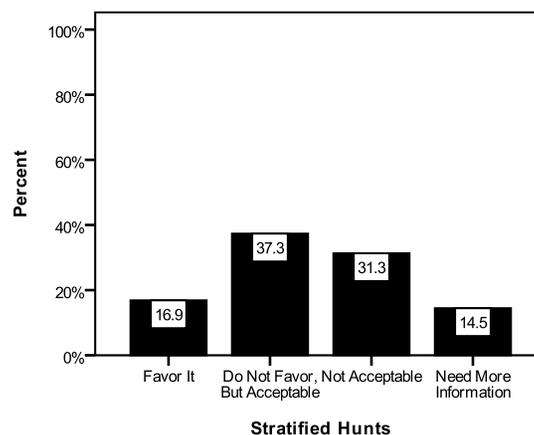
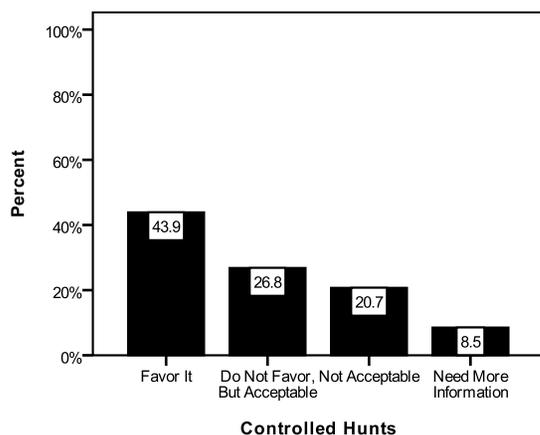
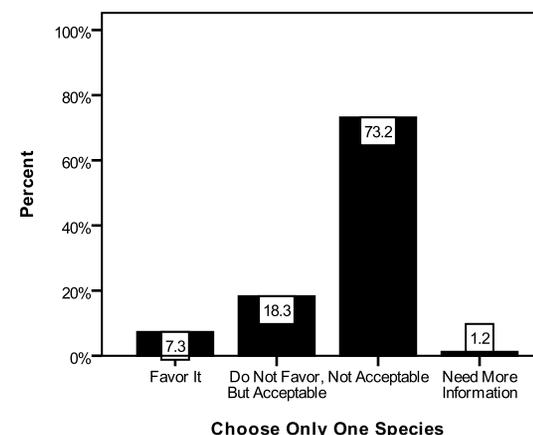
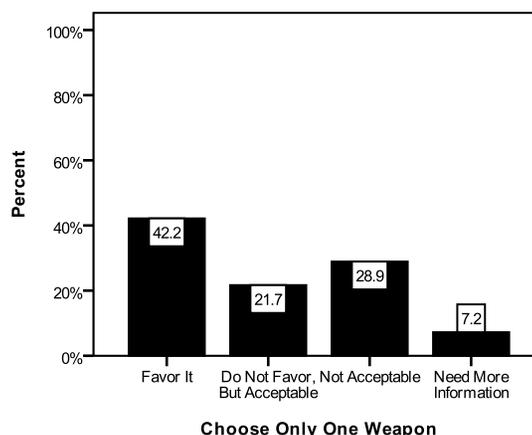
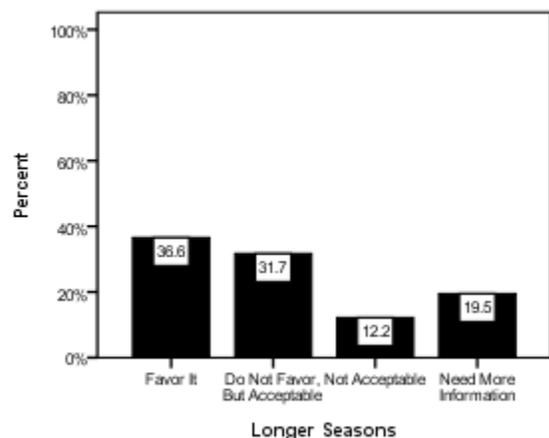


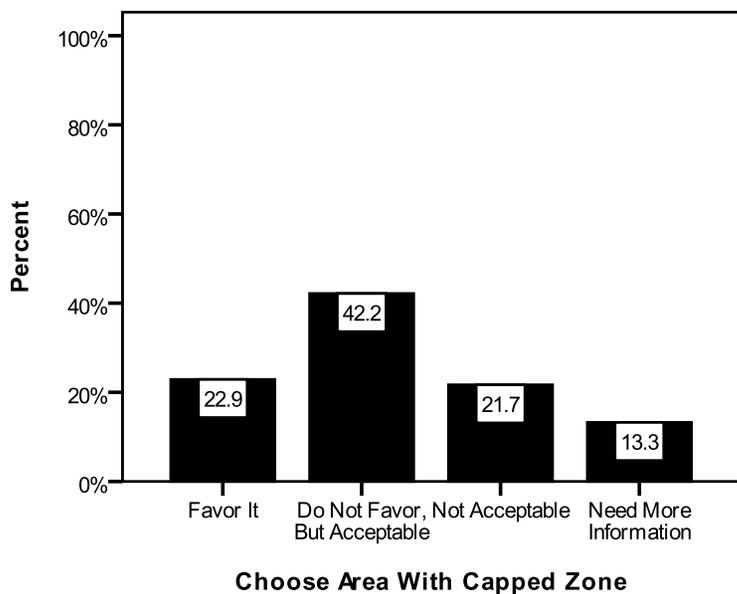


Q32: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average.

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

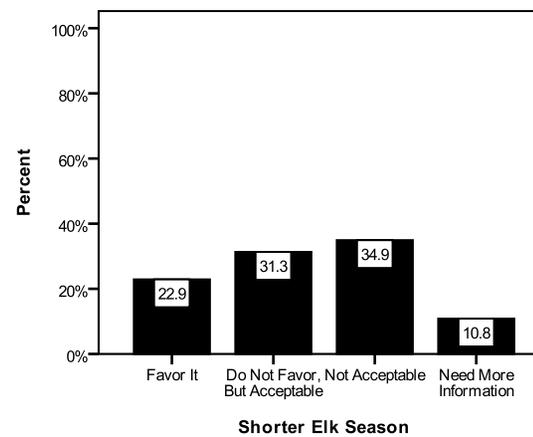
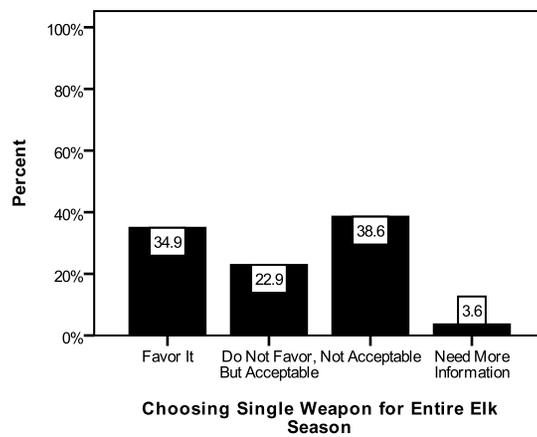
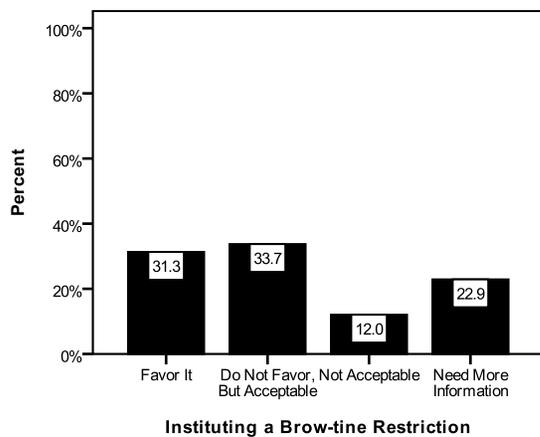
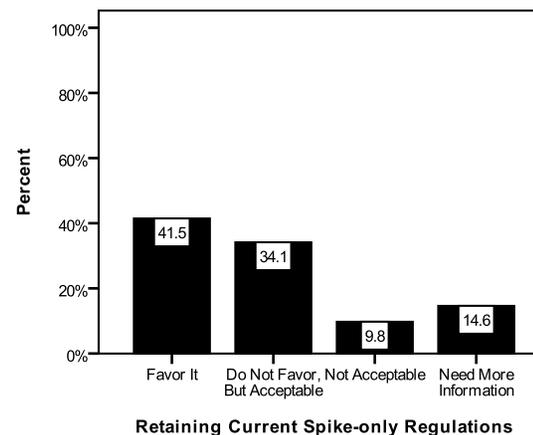
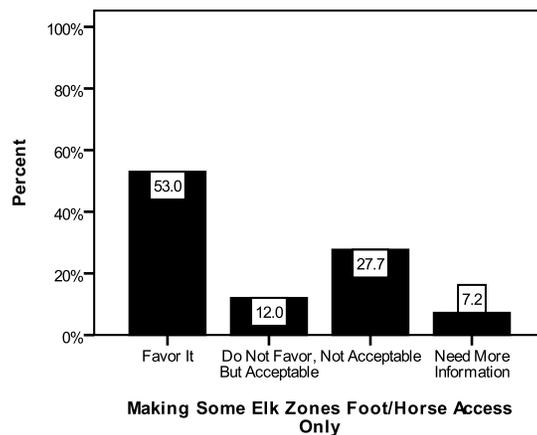
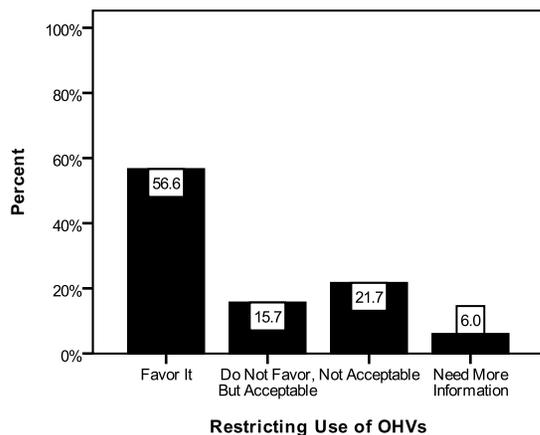
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

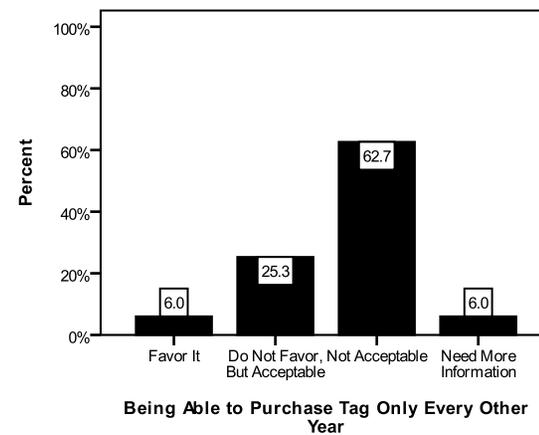
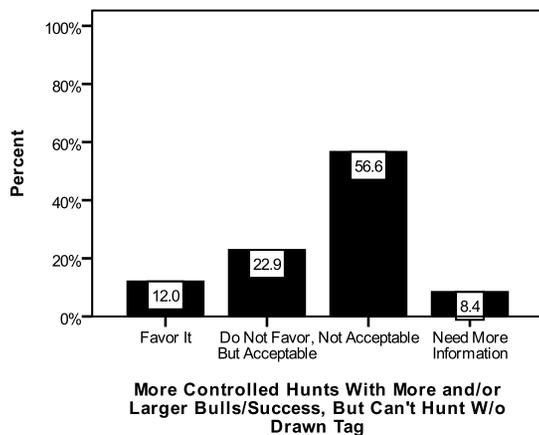
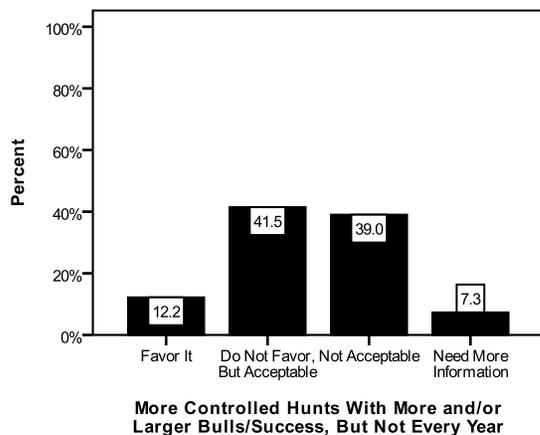




Q34: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average. However, more hunters in this zone favor controlled hunts.

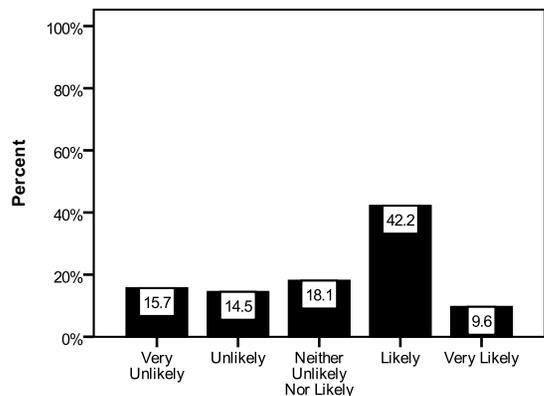
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



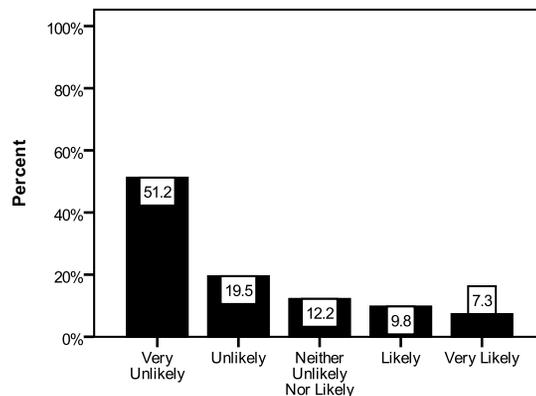


Q35: The distribution of responses is fairly similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average. However, more hunters in this zone favor retaining current spike-only regulations and find more controlled hunts with more and/or larger bulls/success, but not every year more acceptable. More hunters from this zone also reported that they find choosing a single weapon for an entire Elk season not acceptable.

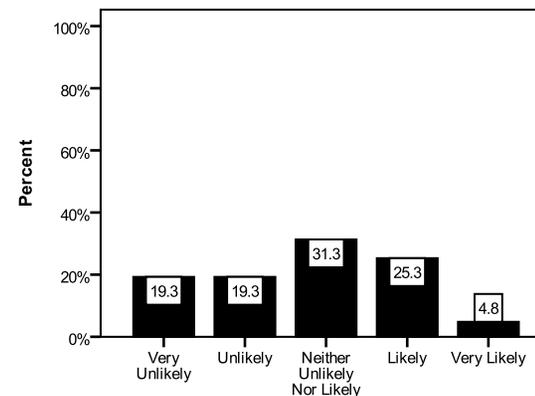
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



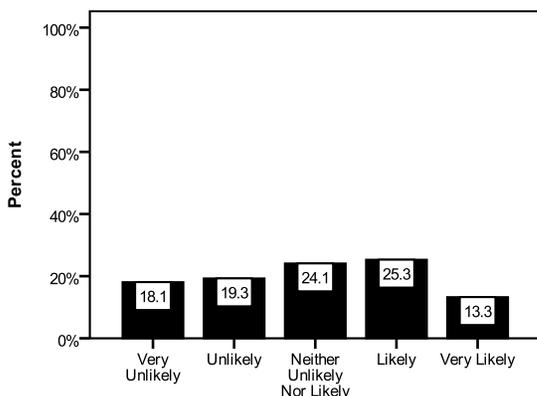
Hunt in Different Zones



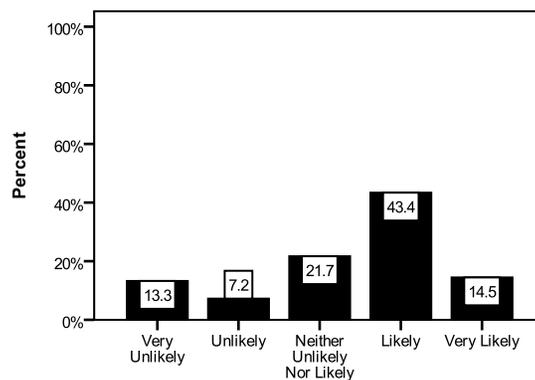
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



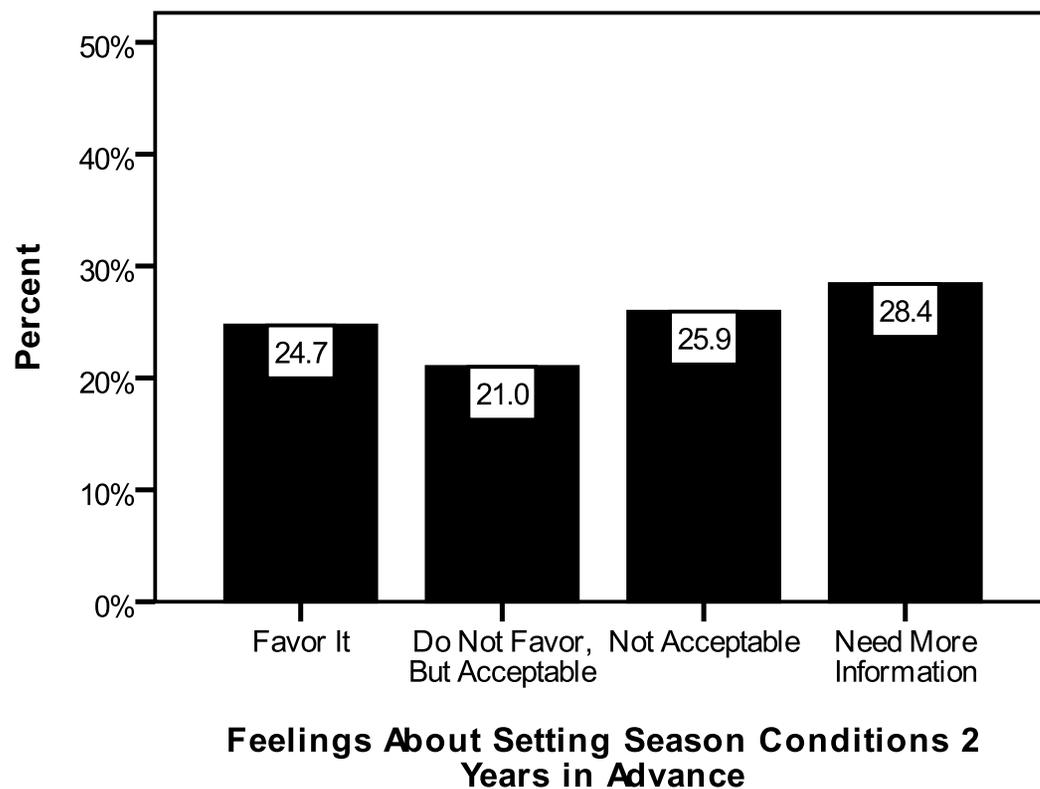
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

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

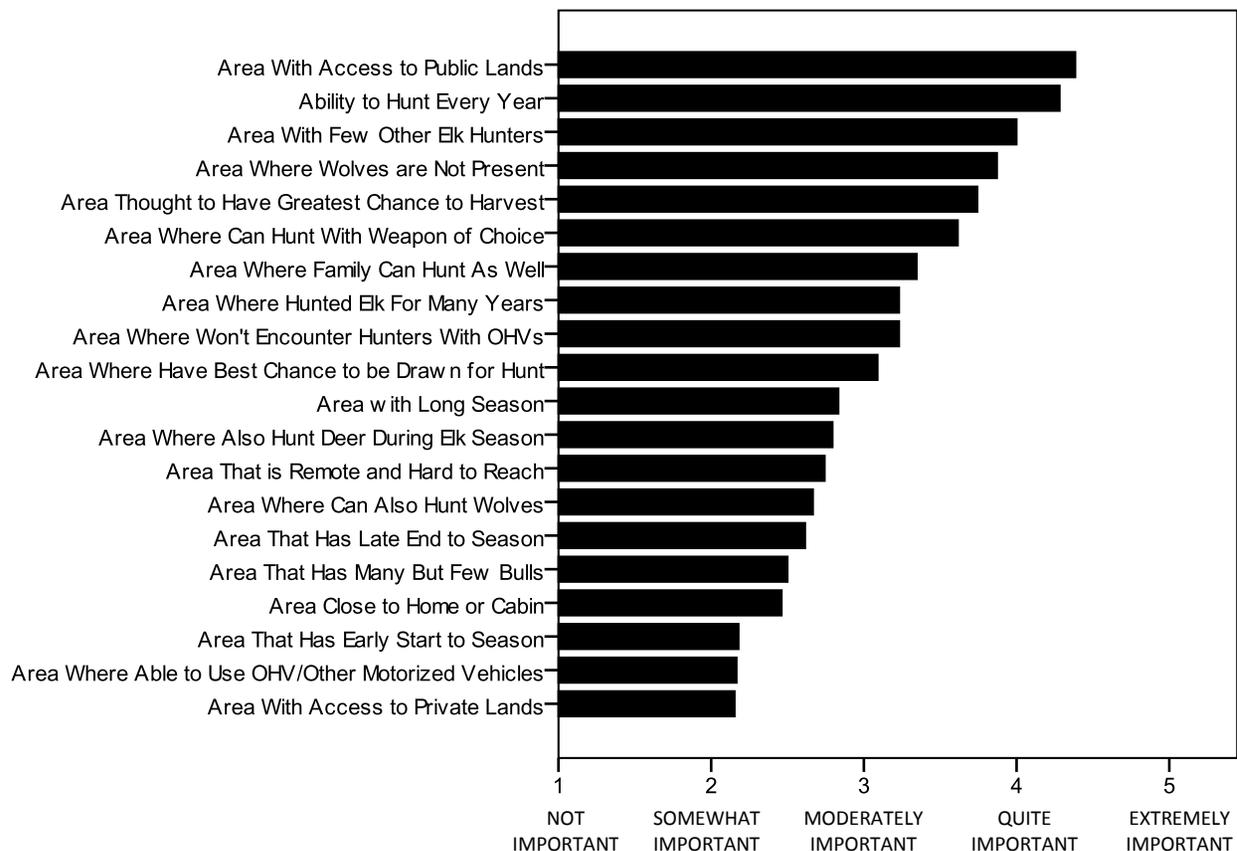
38. How would you feel about a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, just like the current Moose, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Upland Game, Turkey and Fishing regulations? (Please check one response)



Q38: Unlike the state average, about 10% more Lemhi hunters find this regulation not acceptable.

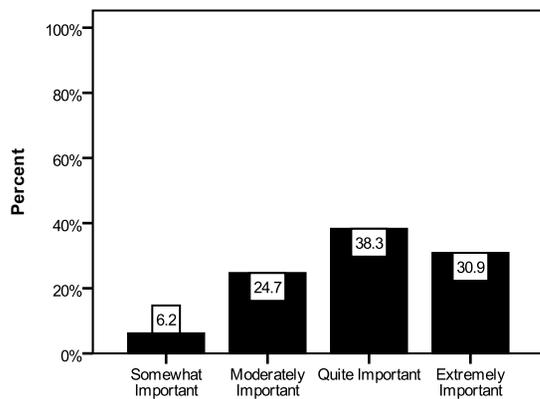
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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

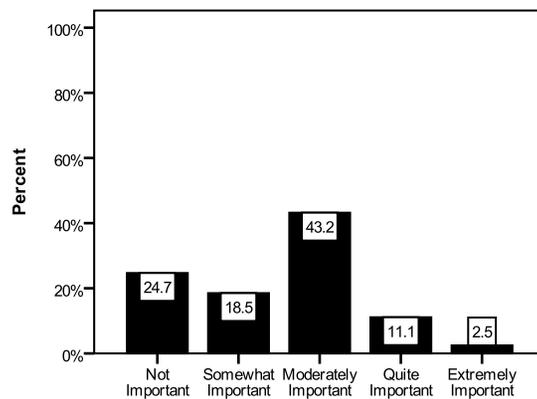


Q29: The top five characteristics are the same for the Lemhi zone and the state average.

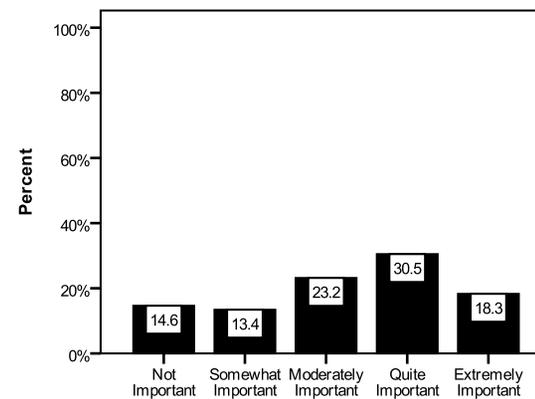
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



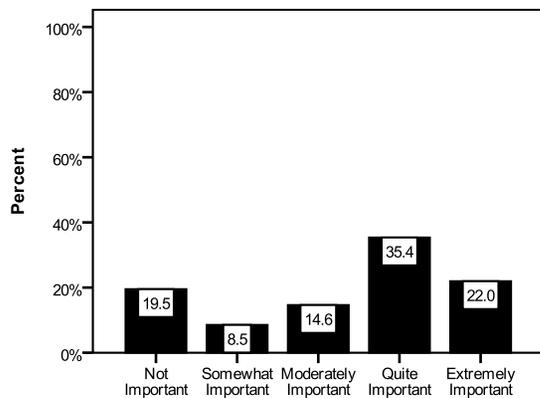
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



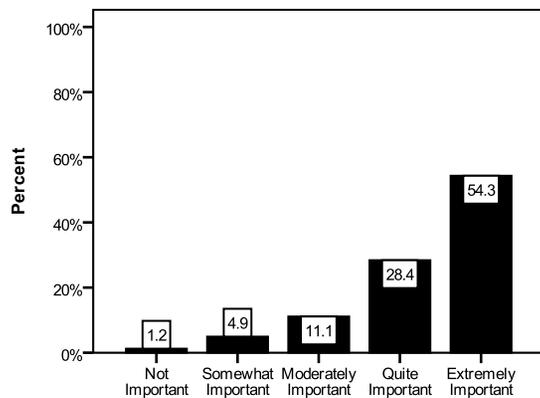
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



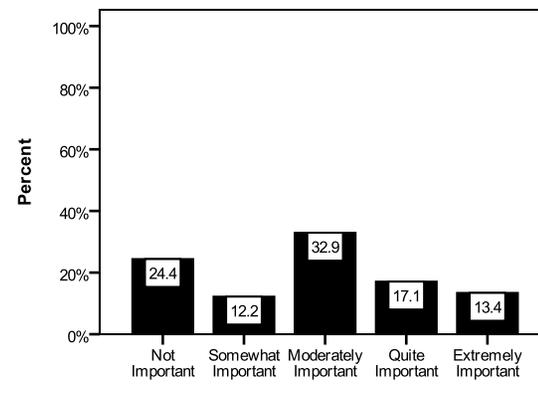
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



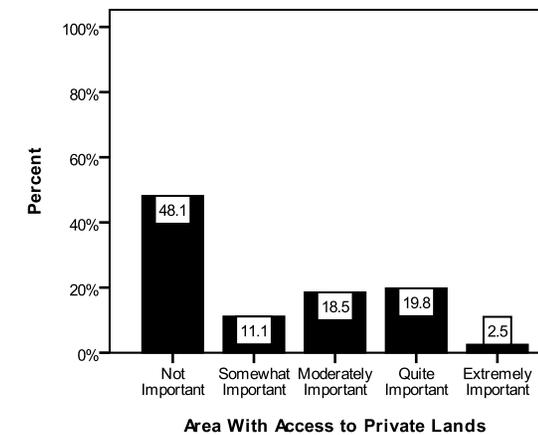
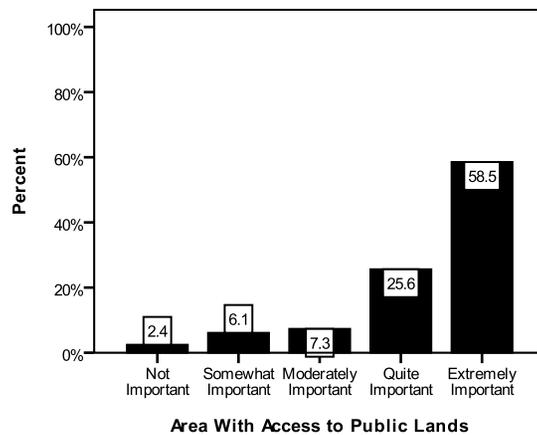
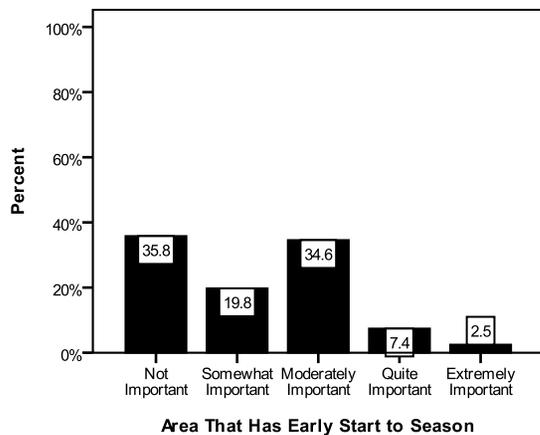
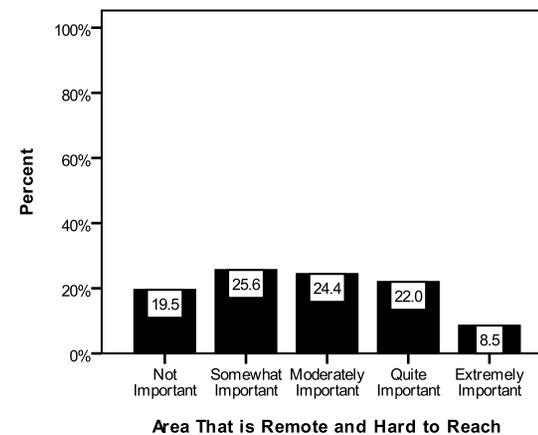
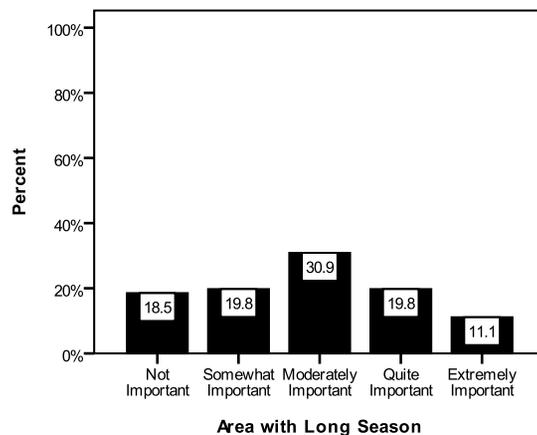
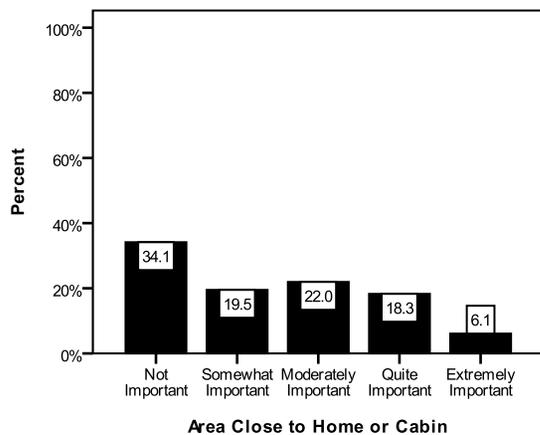
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

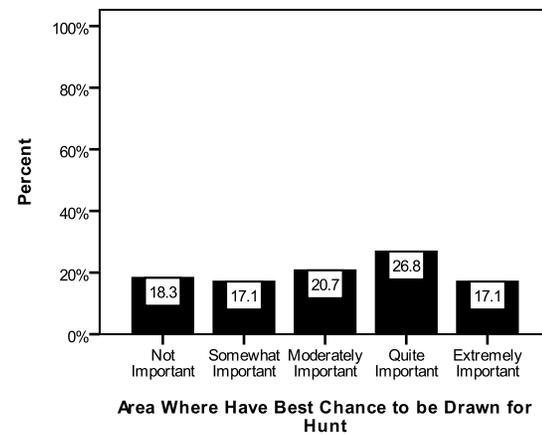
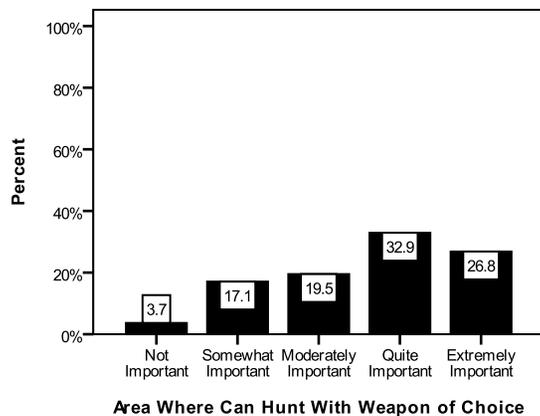
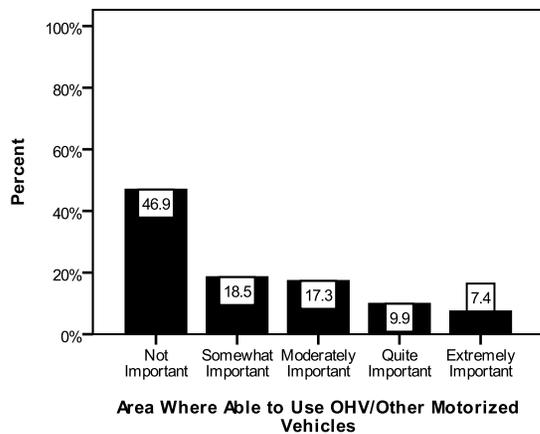
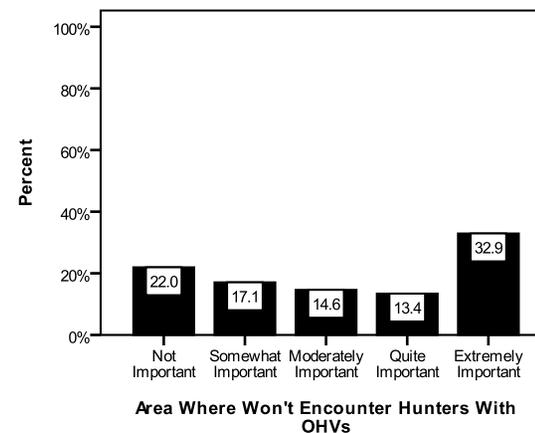
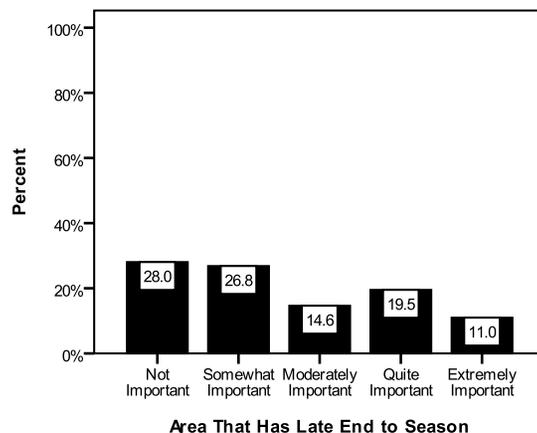
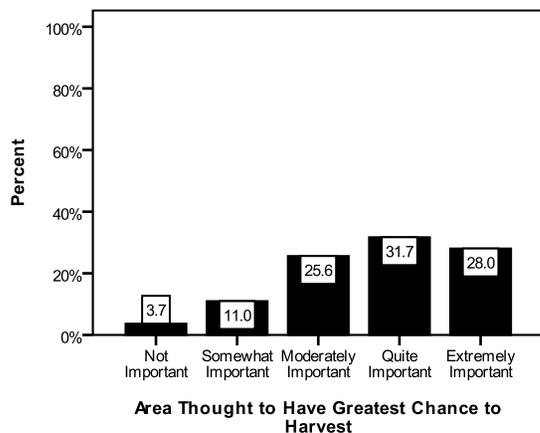


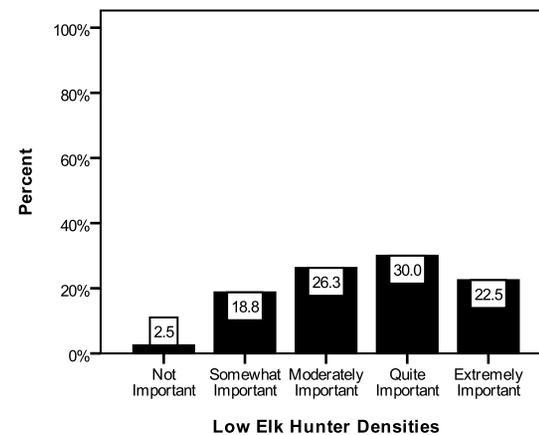
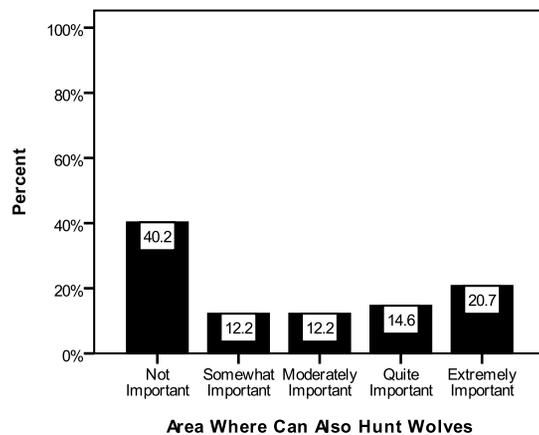
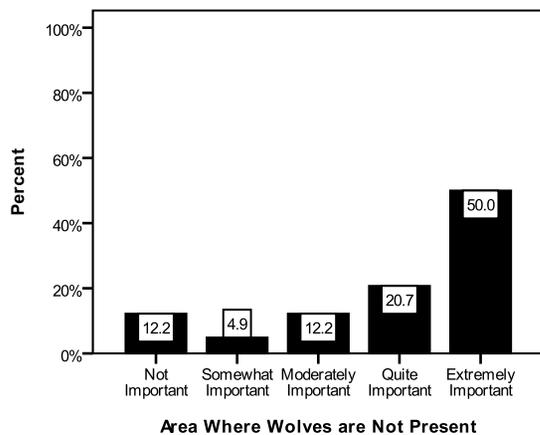
Ability to Hunt Every Year



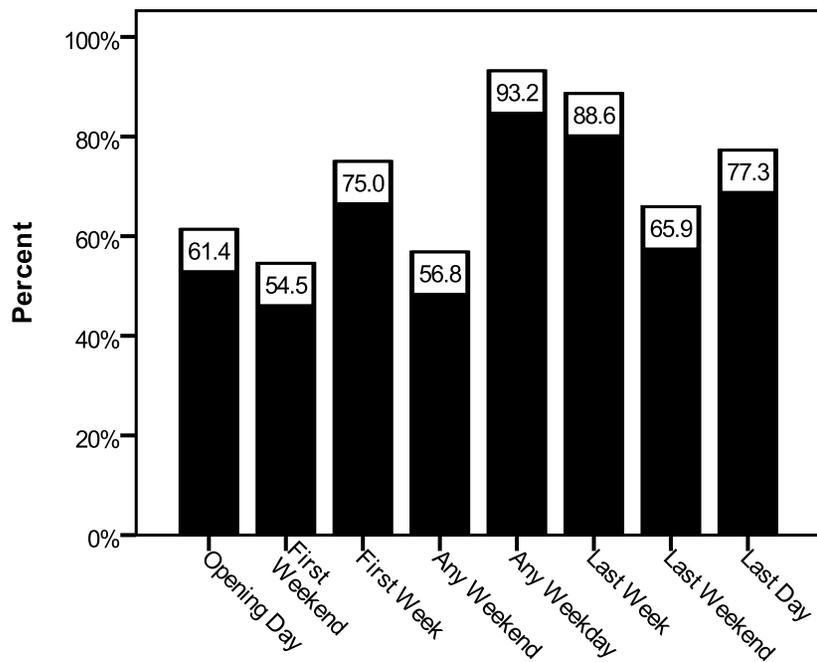
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season



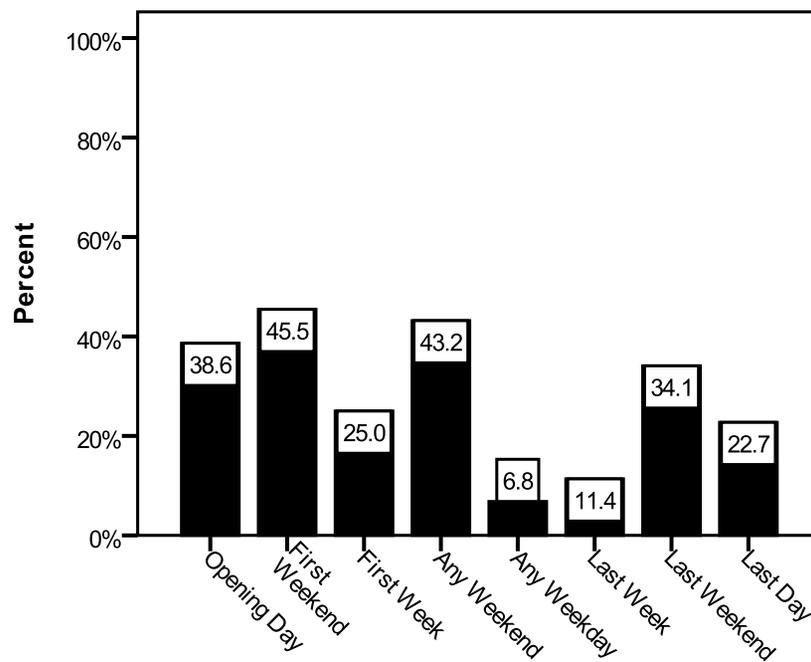




30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



TIMES PREFERRED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

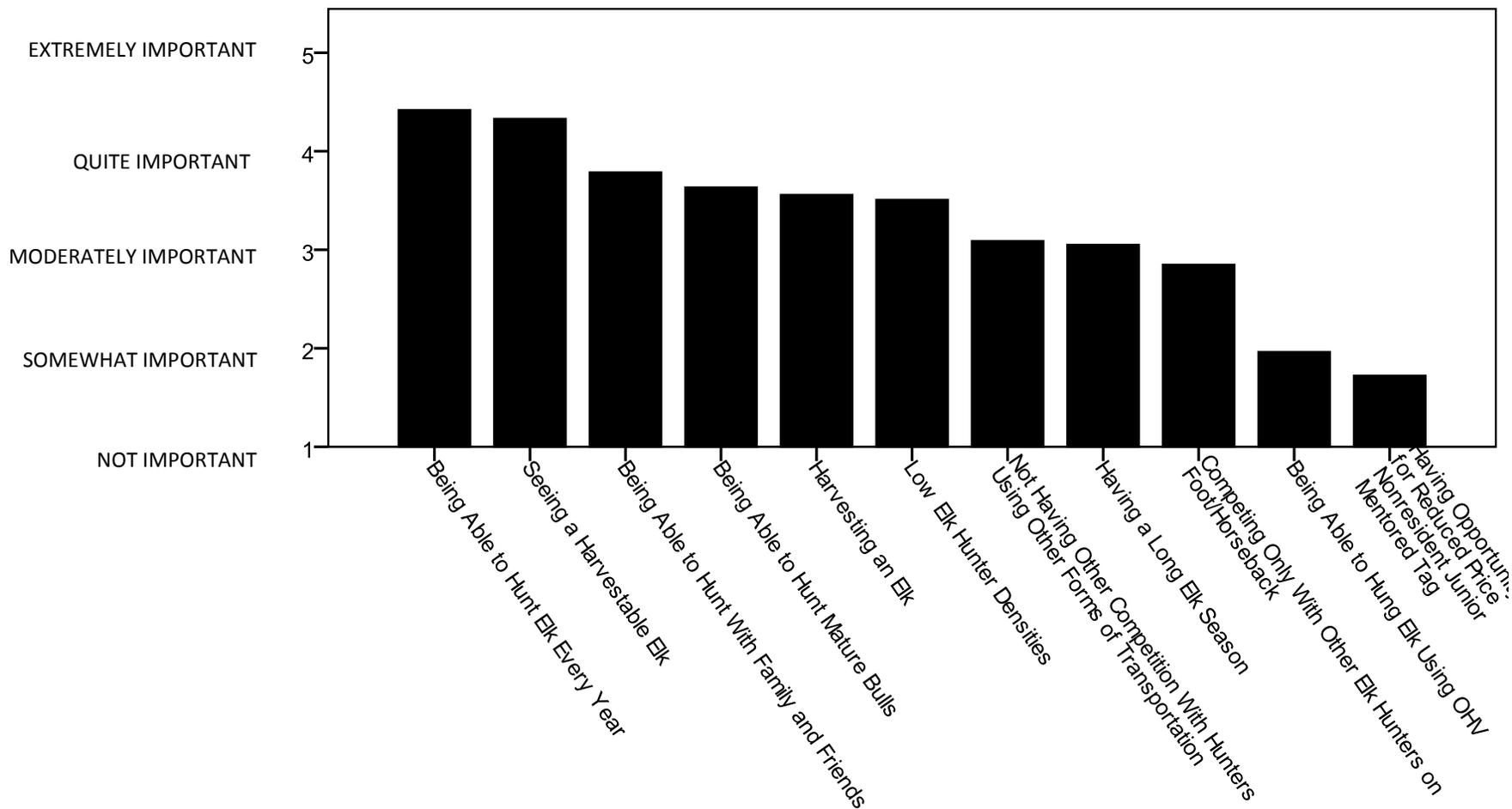


TIMES AVOIDED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

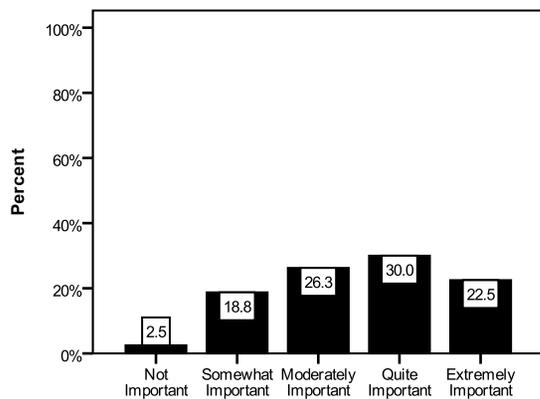
Q30: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average. Weekdays are more preferred for both groups.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

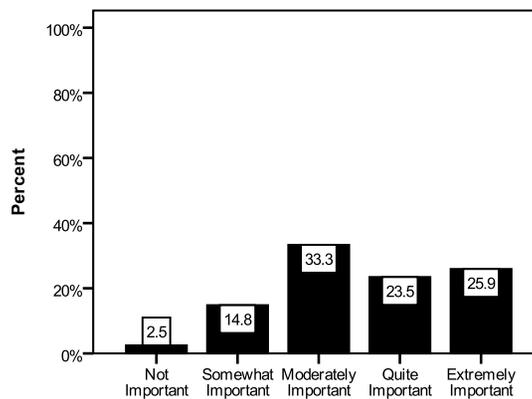
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



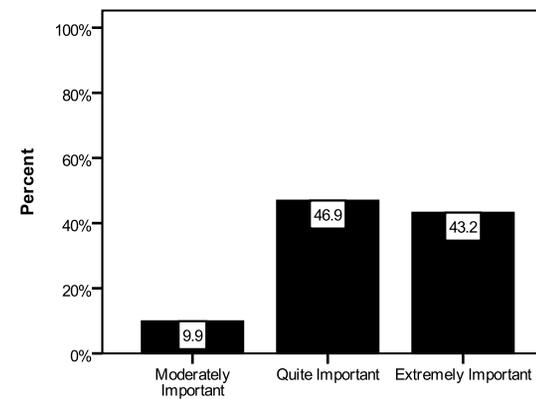
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



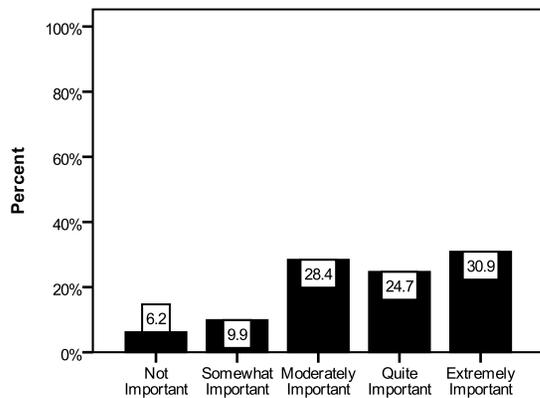
Low Elk Hunter Densities



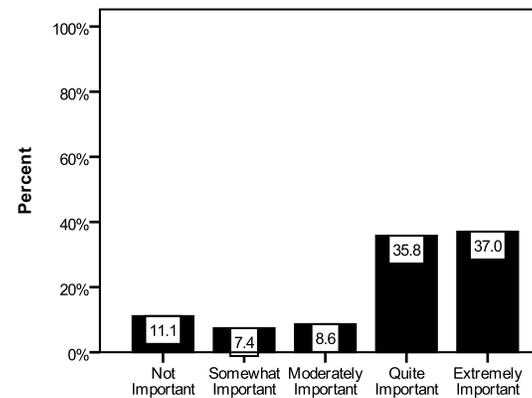
Harvesting an Elk



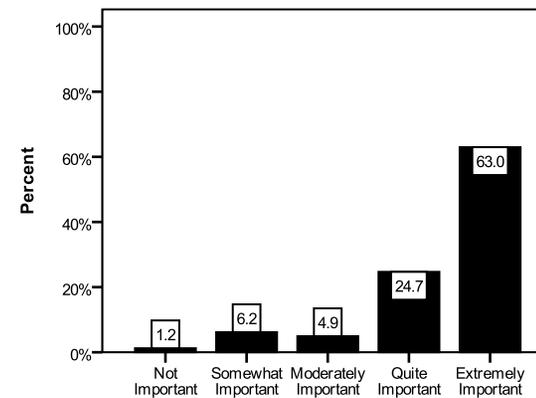
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



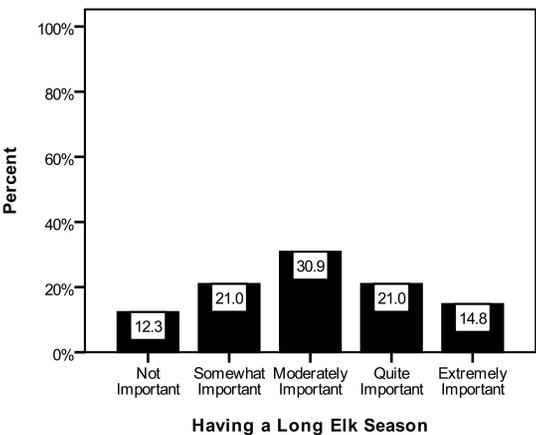
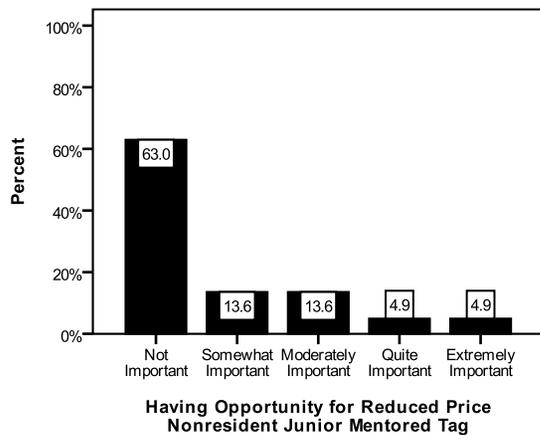
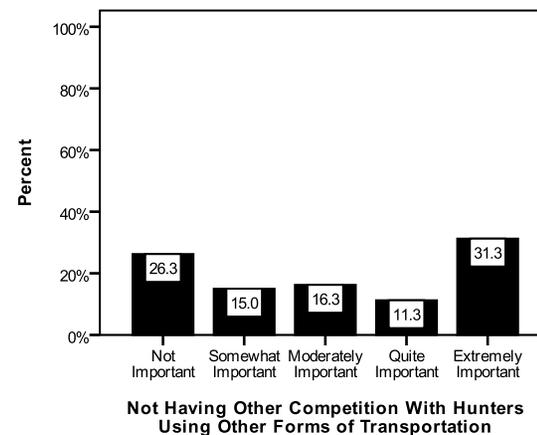
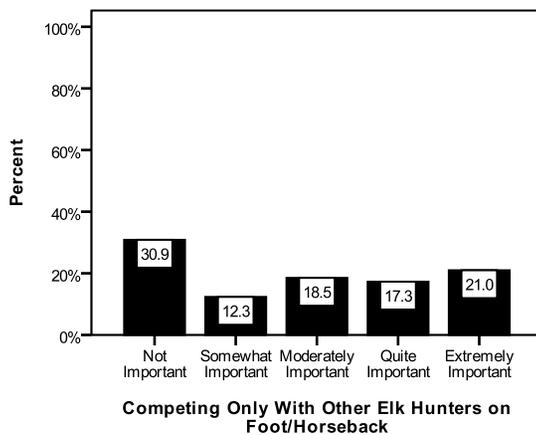
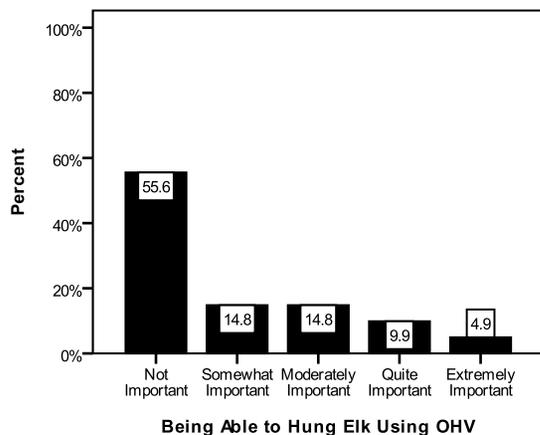
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



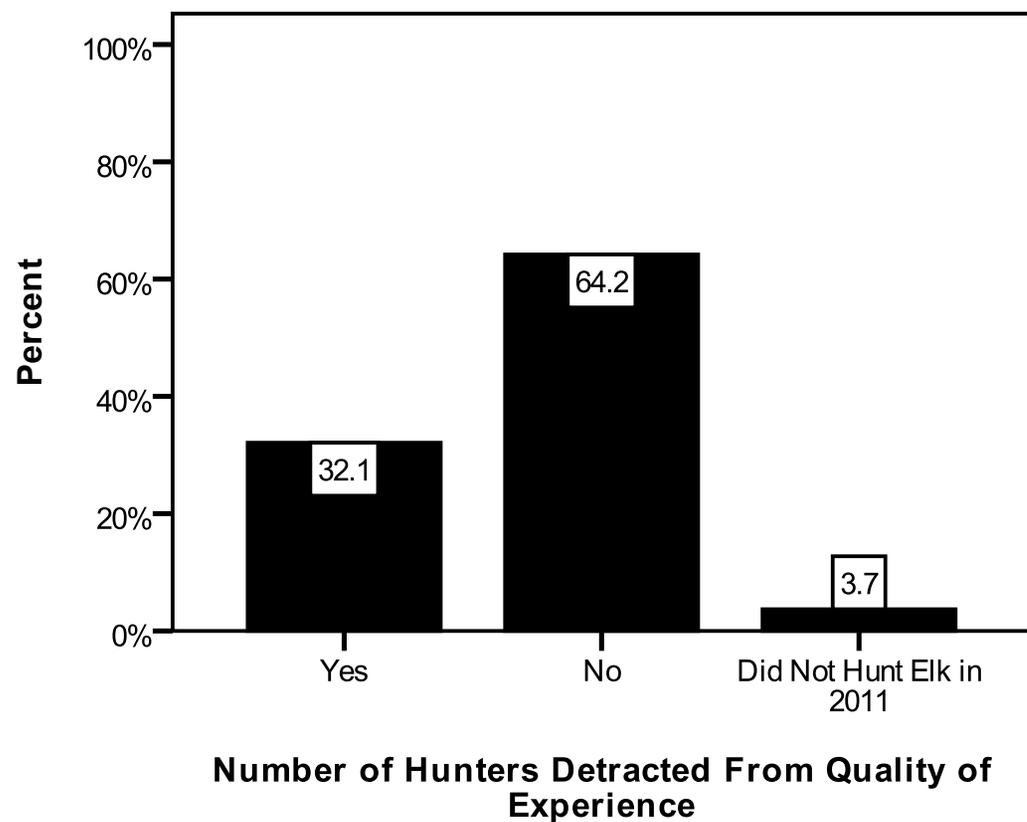
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



Q31: The top five attributes are the same for the Lemhi zone and the state average.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

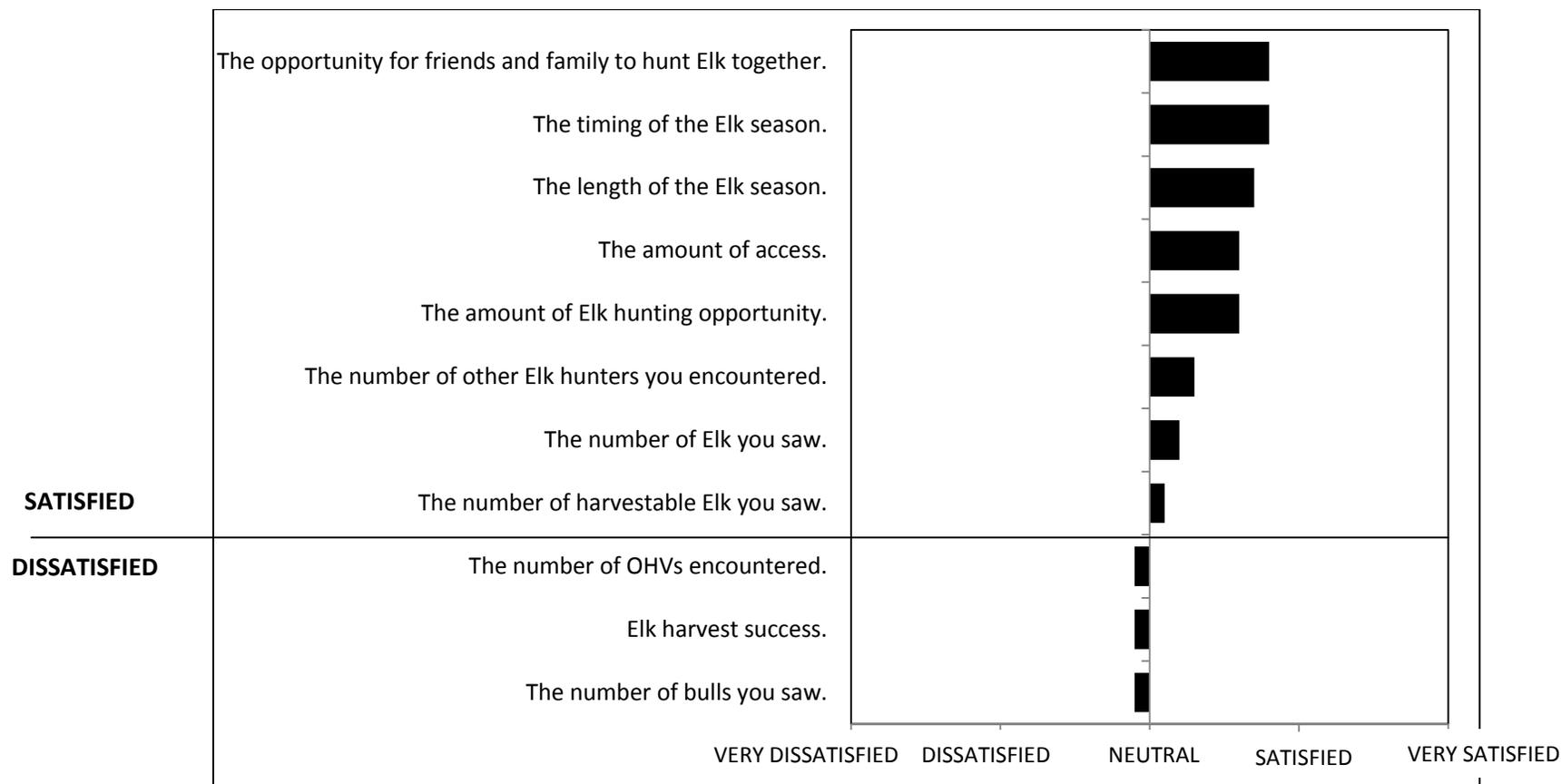
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



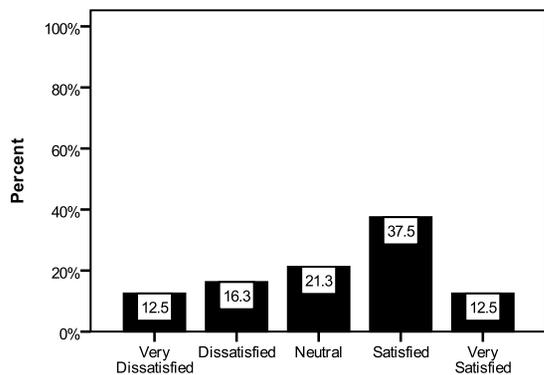
Q33: The distribution of responses is similar between the Lemhi zone and the state average.

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

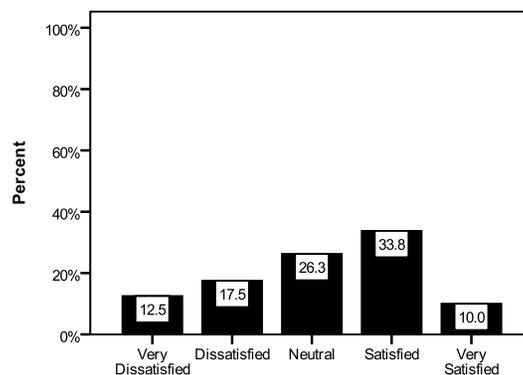
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



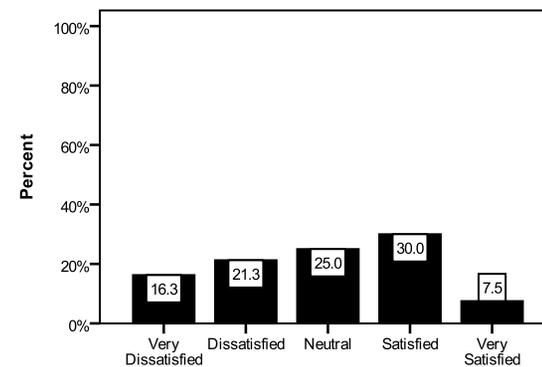
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



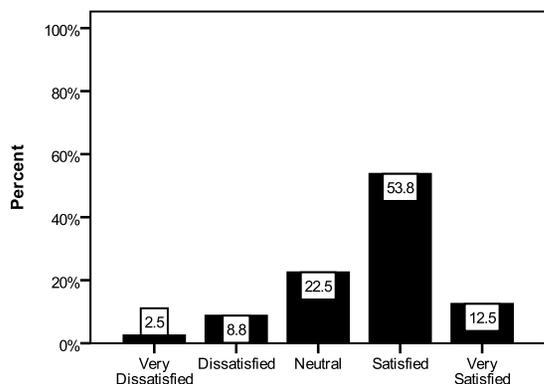
Number of Elk Seen



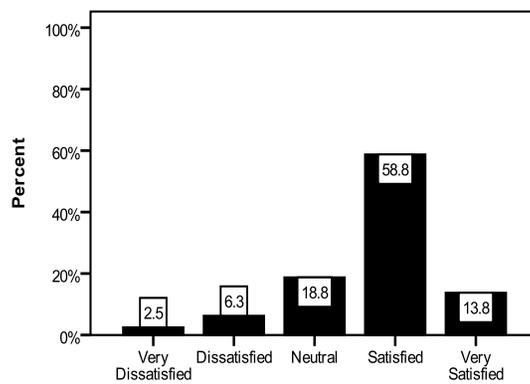
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



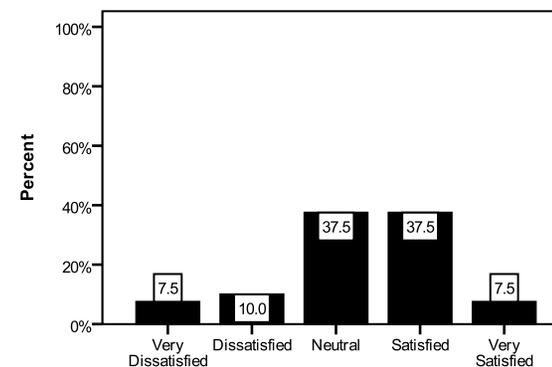
Number of Bulls Seen



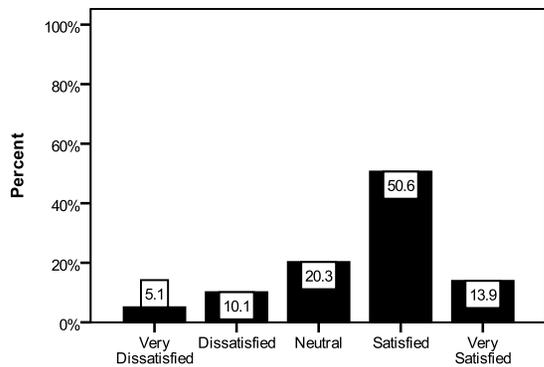
Length of Elk Season



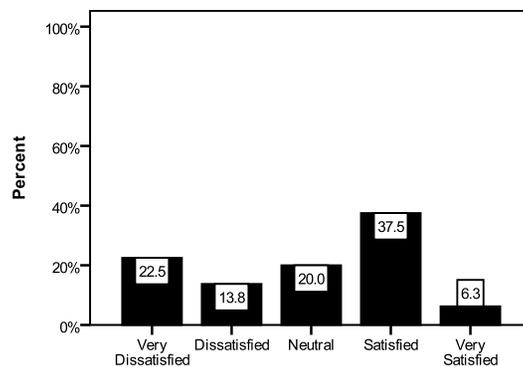
Timing of Elk Season



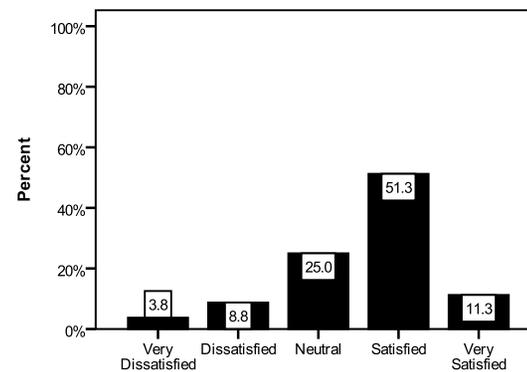
Number of Elk Hunters Encountered



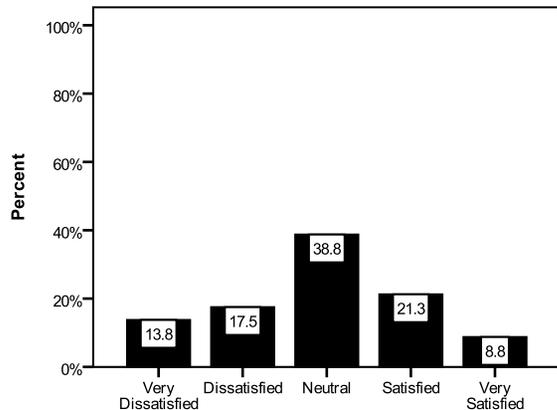
Amount of Access



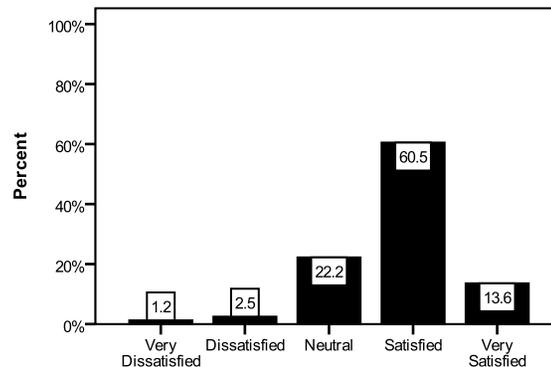
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



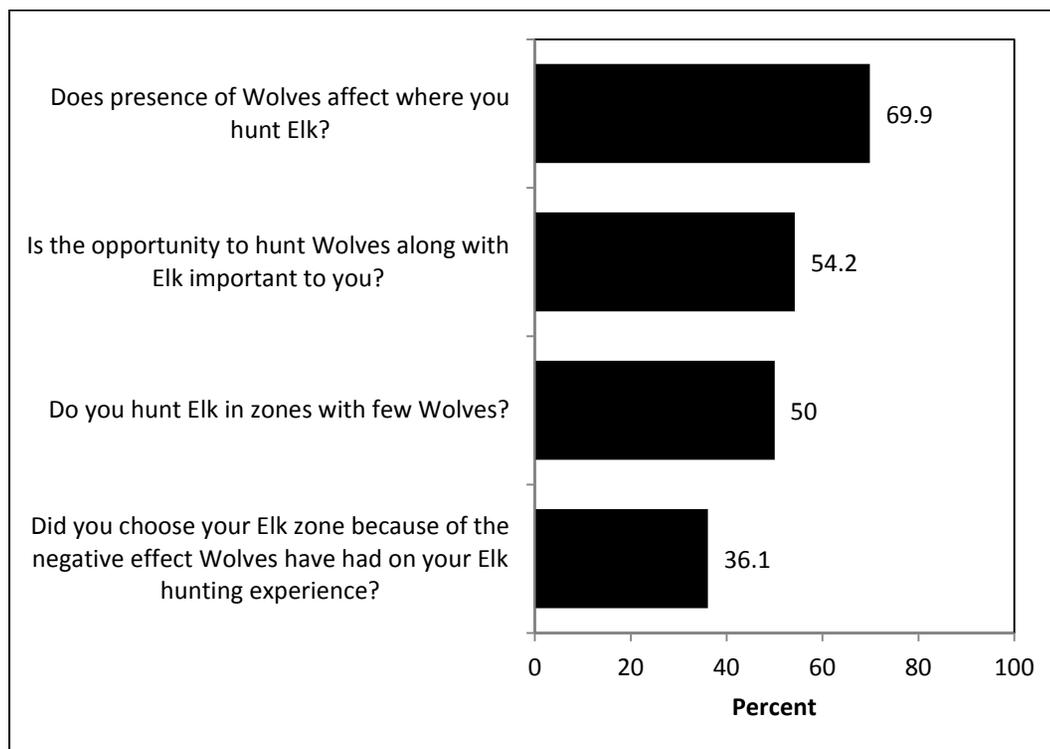
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

Q37: Unlike the state average, Lemhi hunters were dissatisfied with the number of OHVs they encountered. Similarly, they were also dissatisfied with their harvest success and the number of bulls they saw.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

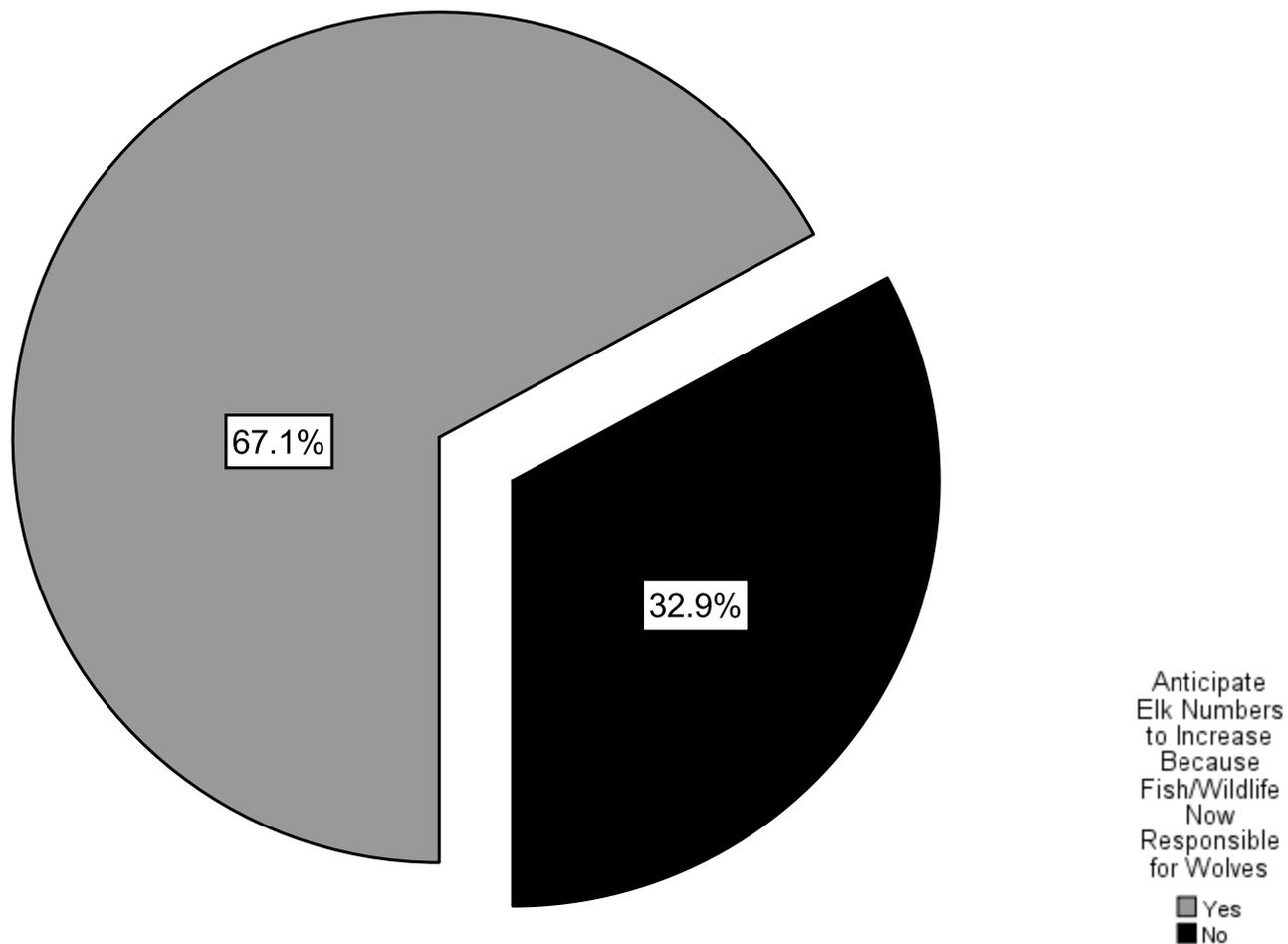
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: More hunters in this zone hunt Elk in zones with few Wolves 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)



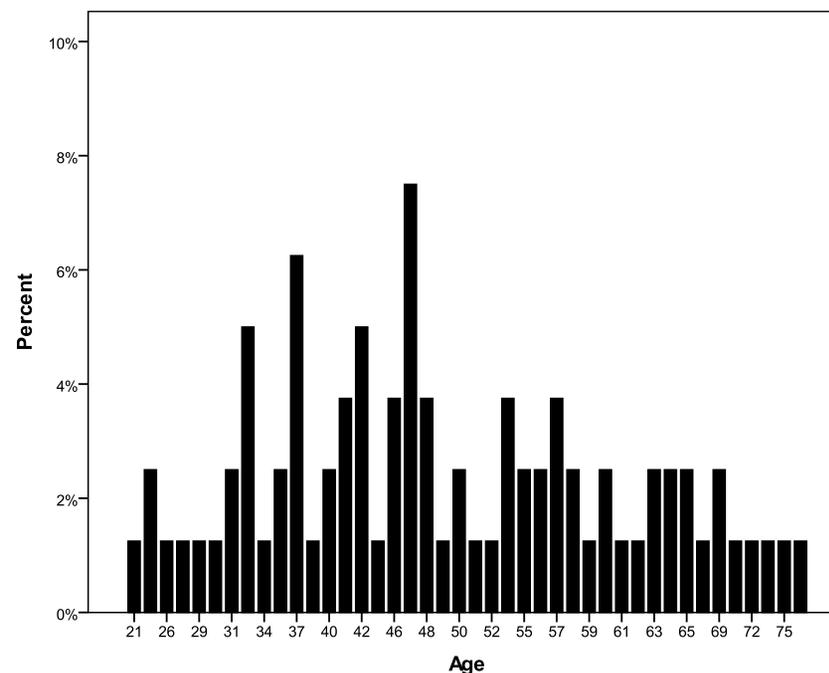
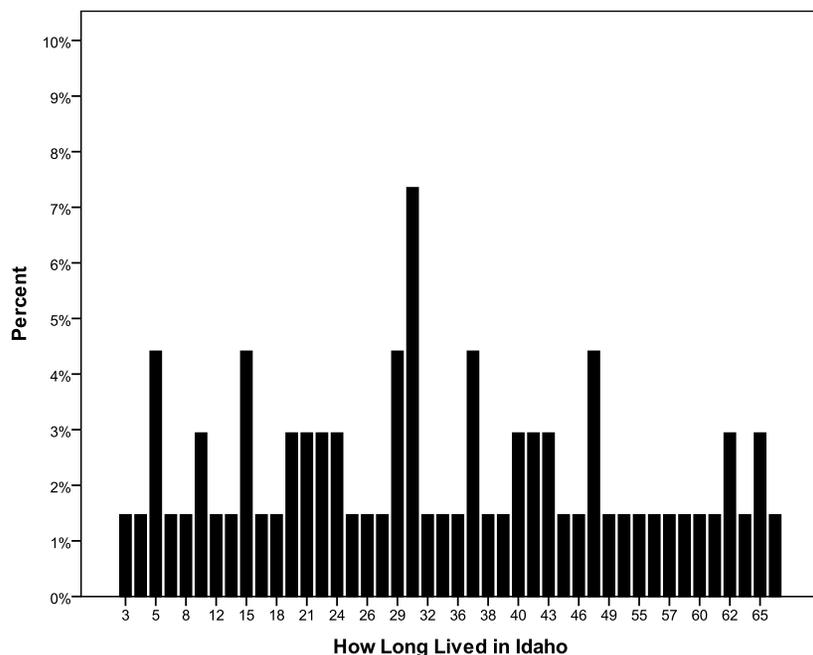
Q40: Like other hunters in the state, Lemhi hunters also anticipate Elk numbers to increase with IDFG management of Wolves.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, some questions about you!

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

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



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