

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



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

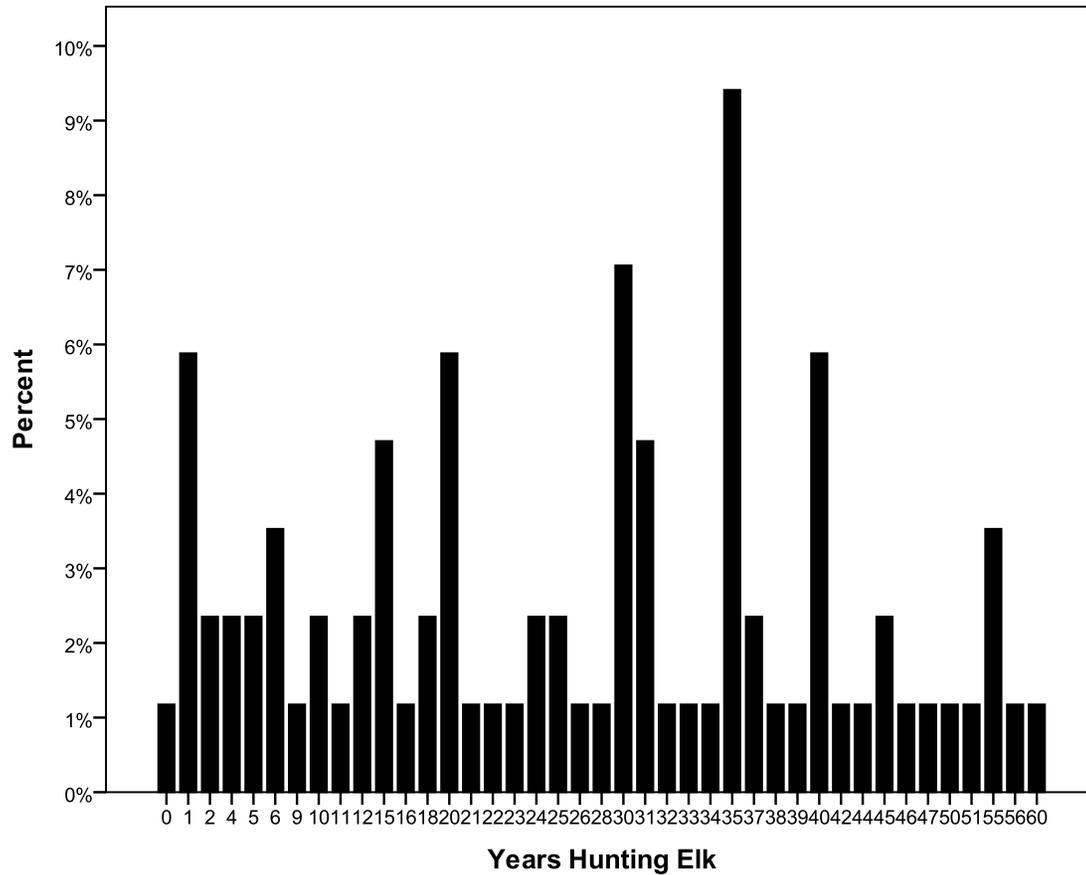
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

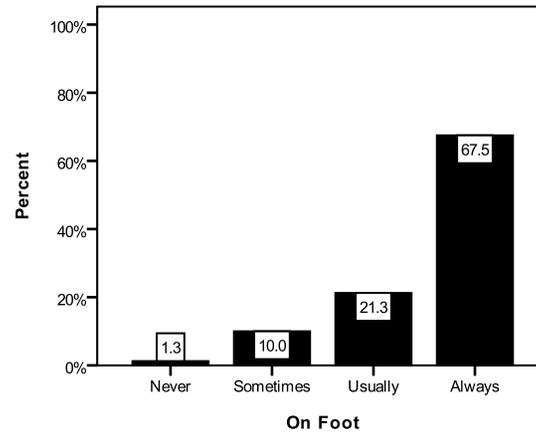
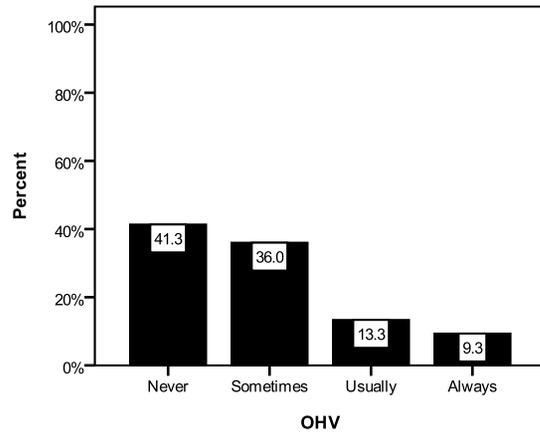
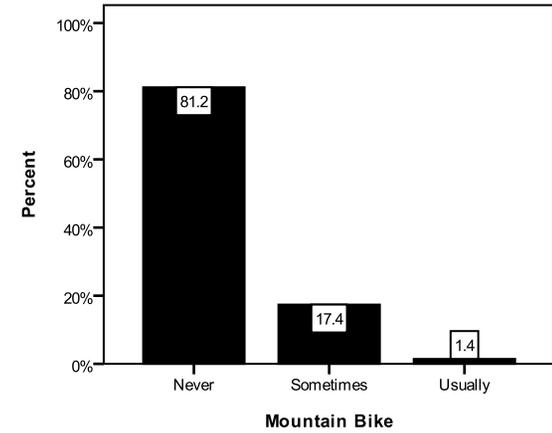
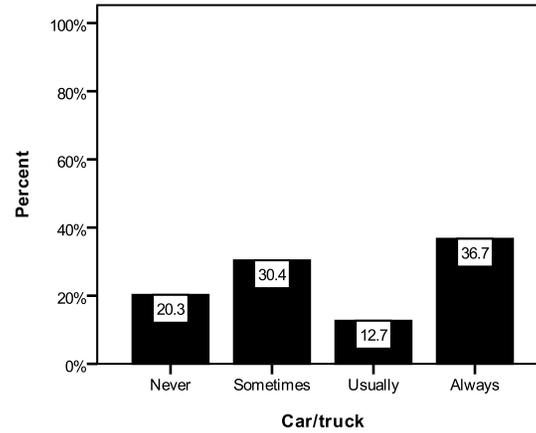
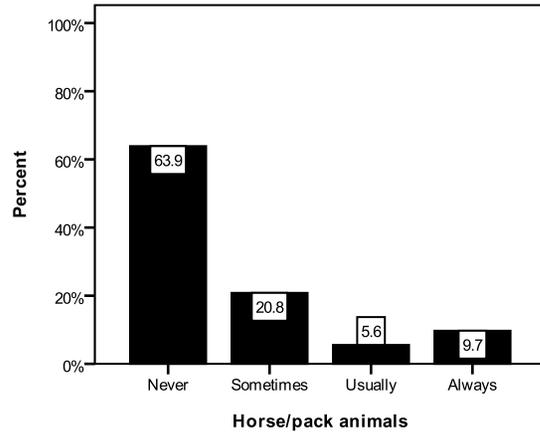
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



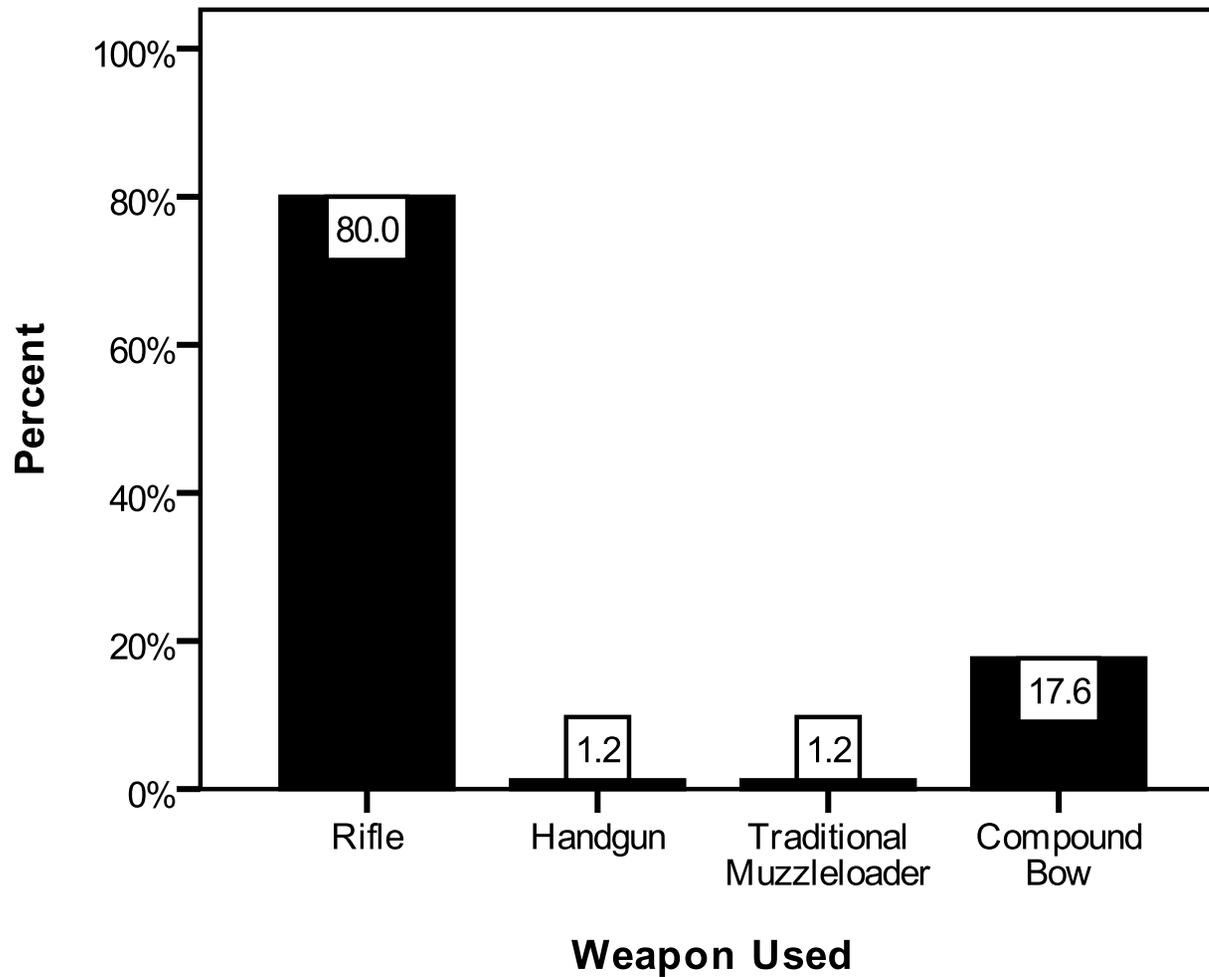
Q3: Lolo hunters who have hunted Elk in Idaho have done so slightly longer than the state average.

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



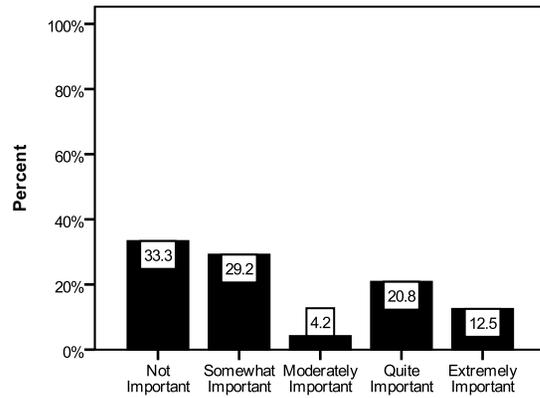
Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone.

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

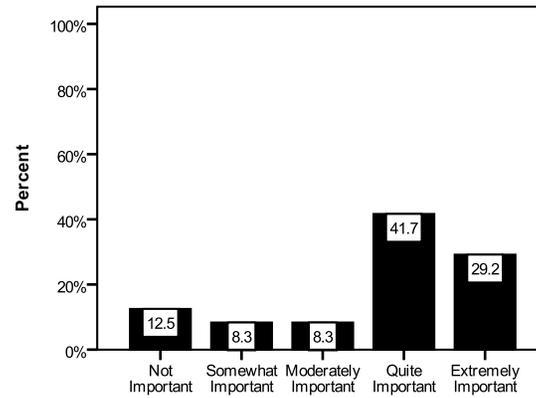


Q8: Similarly to the state average, most Lolo hunters typically use rifles. About 25% more hunters from this zone do than the state average.

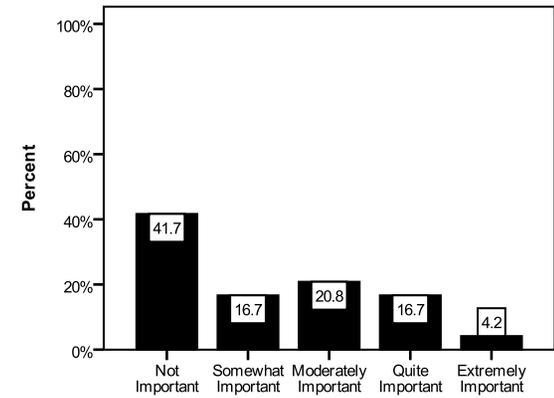
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



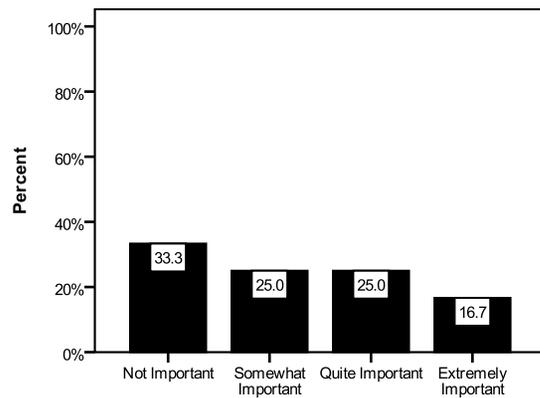
Increase Challenge



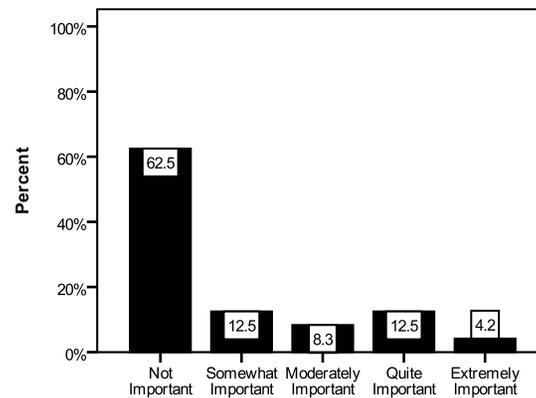
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



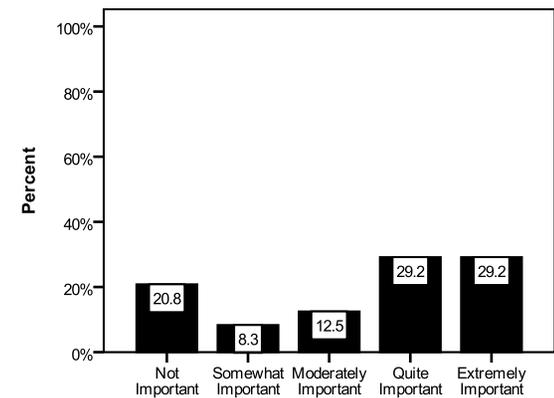
Improve Chance of Harvesting



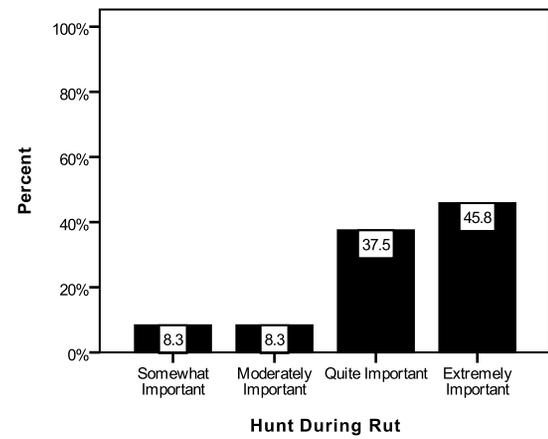
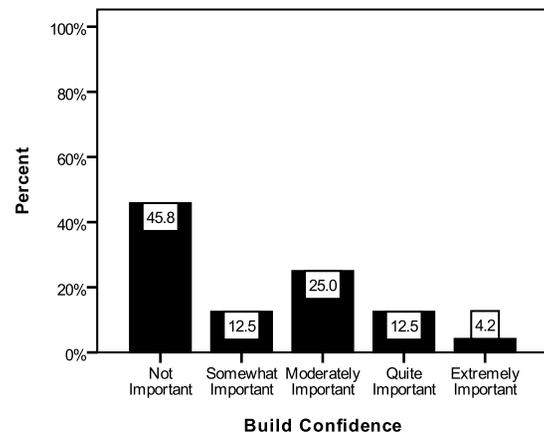
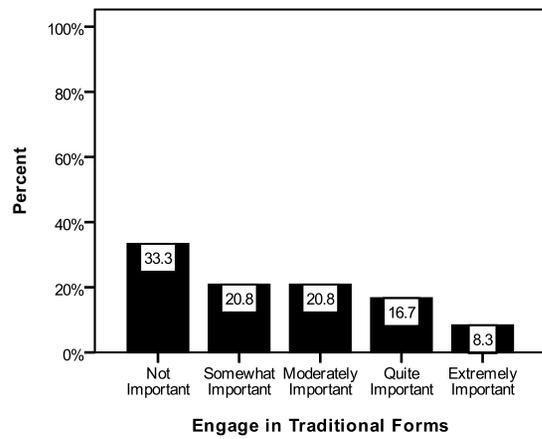
Expand Hunting Season



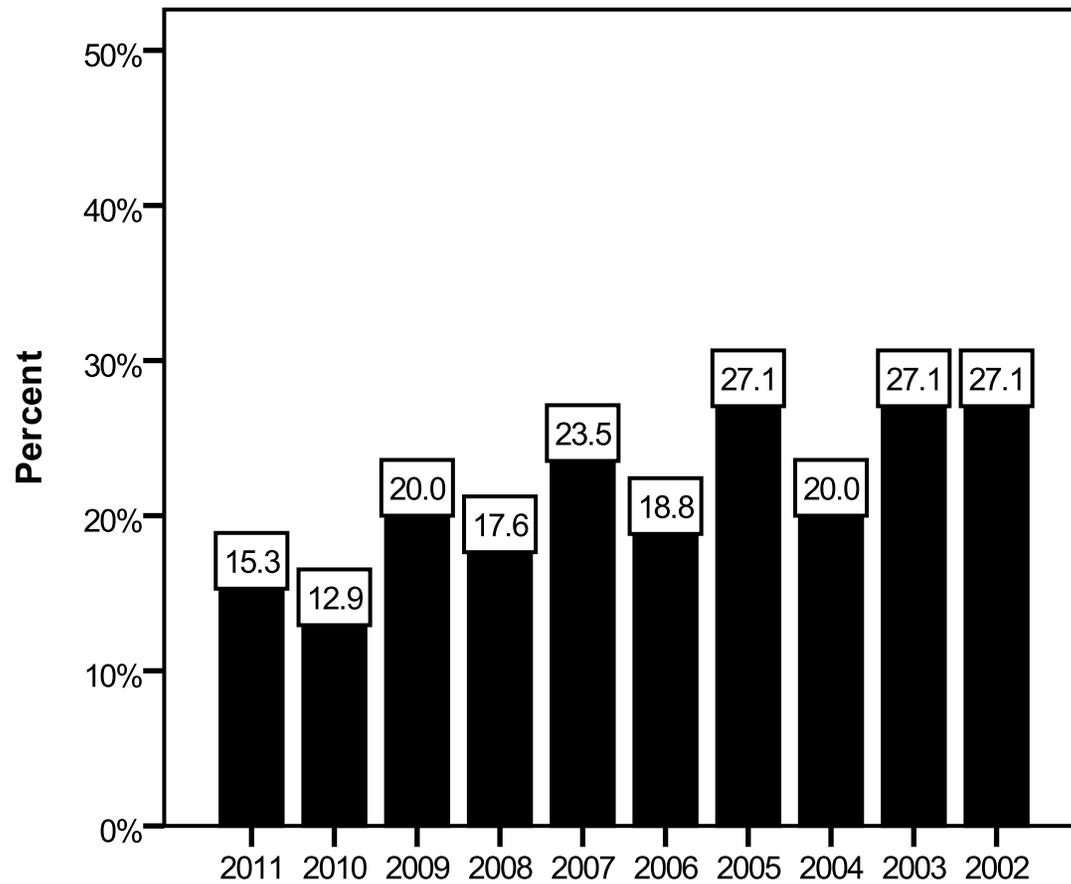
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

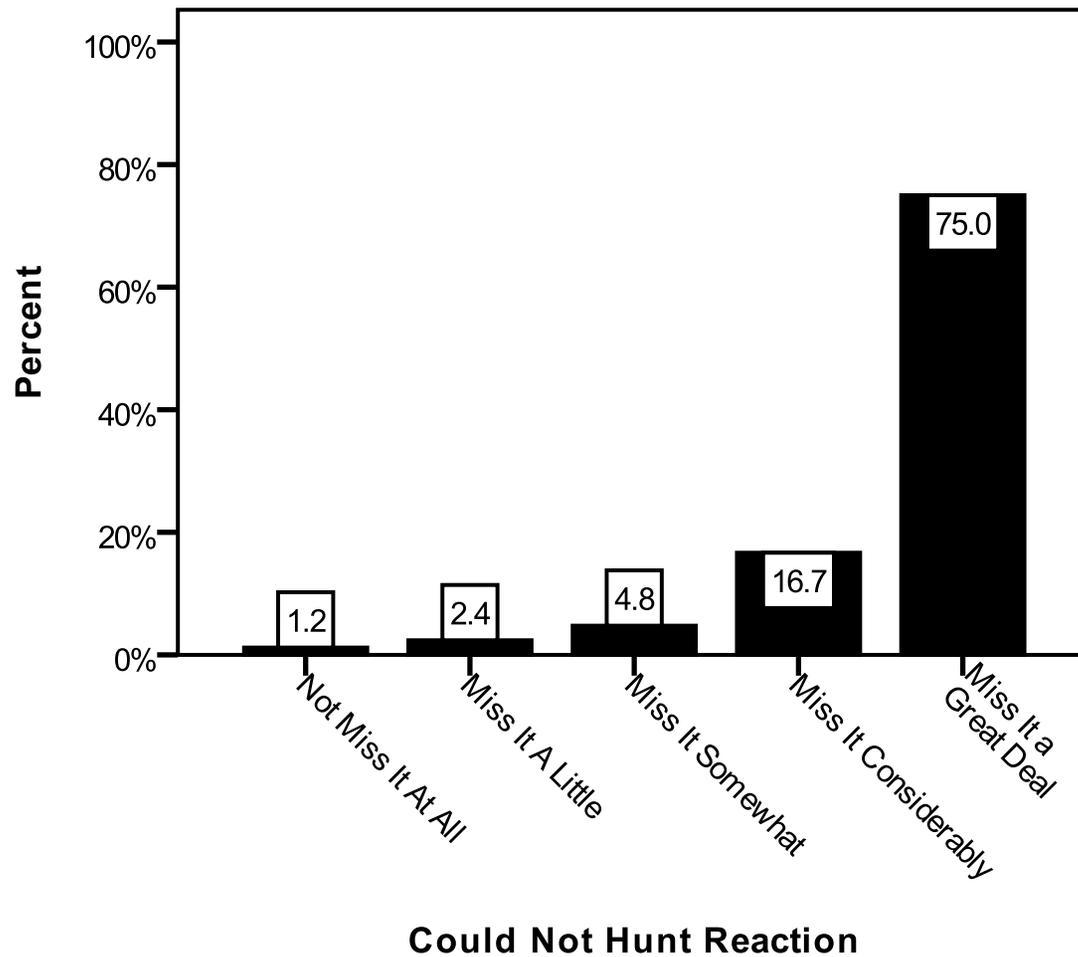


Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone. However, slightly more hunters in this zone hunt during these seasons to build confidence.

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

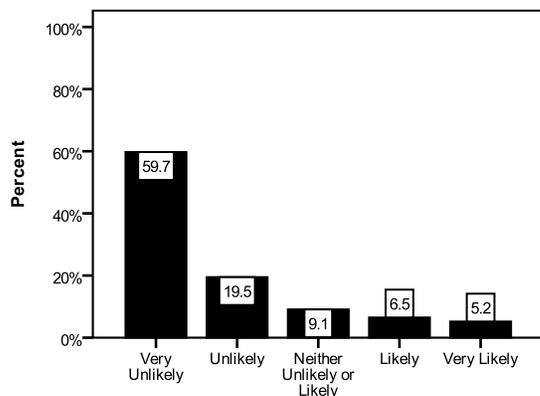
Q11: Except in 2002, 2003, and 2005, Lolo hunters tend to have lower harvest success than the state average.

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

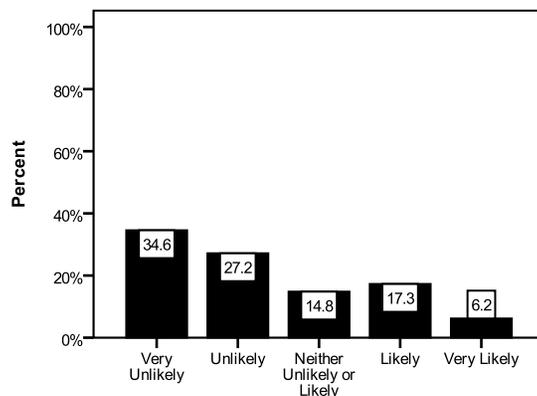


Q12: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of Lolo hunters would miss Elk hunting a great deal if they could no longer do so in Idaho.

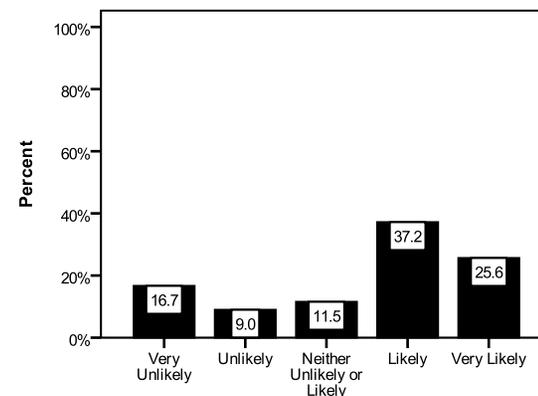
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



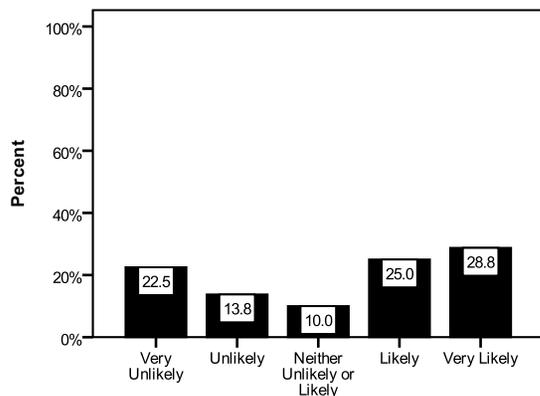
Hunt Waterfowl More



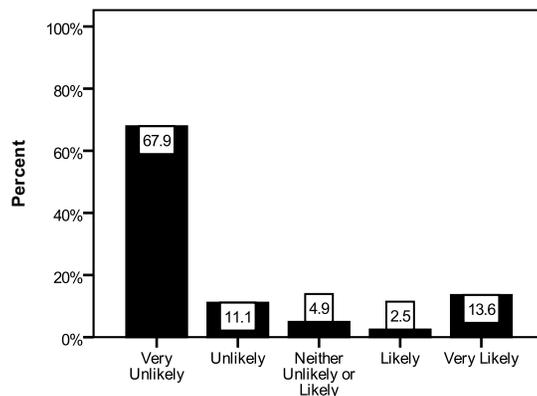
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



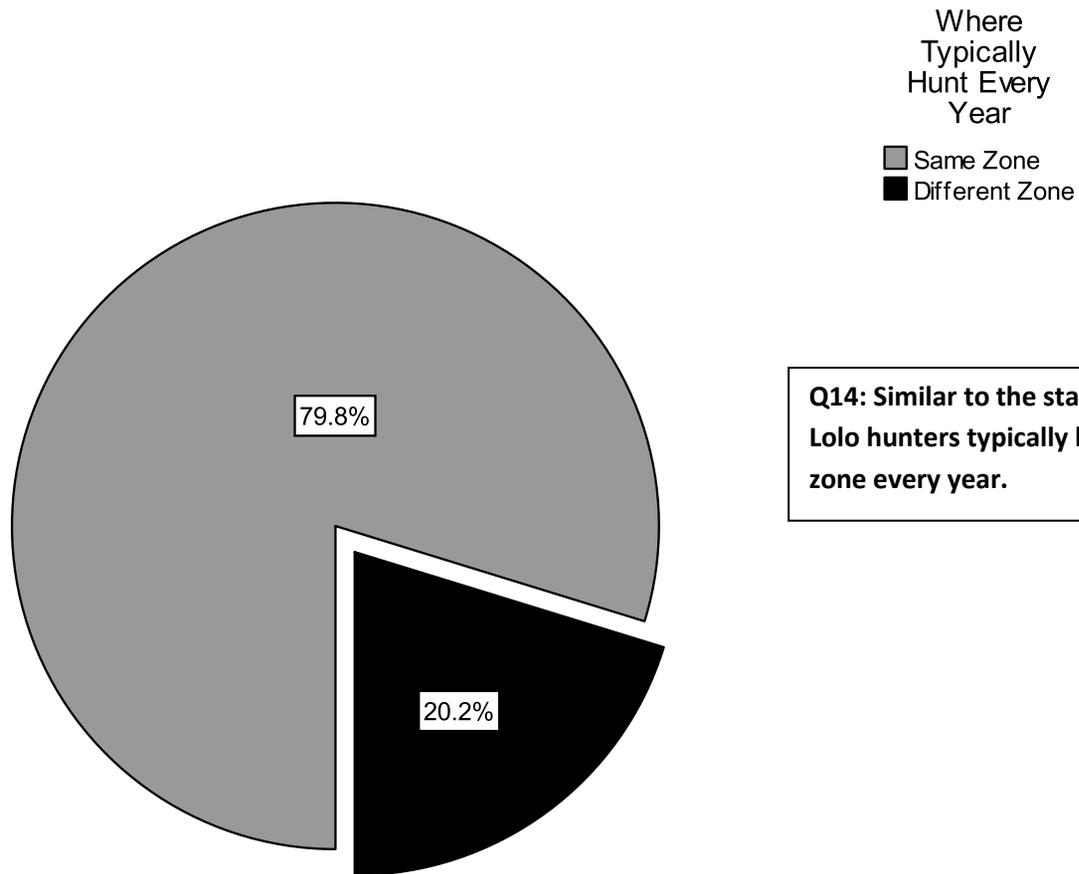
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

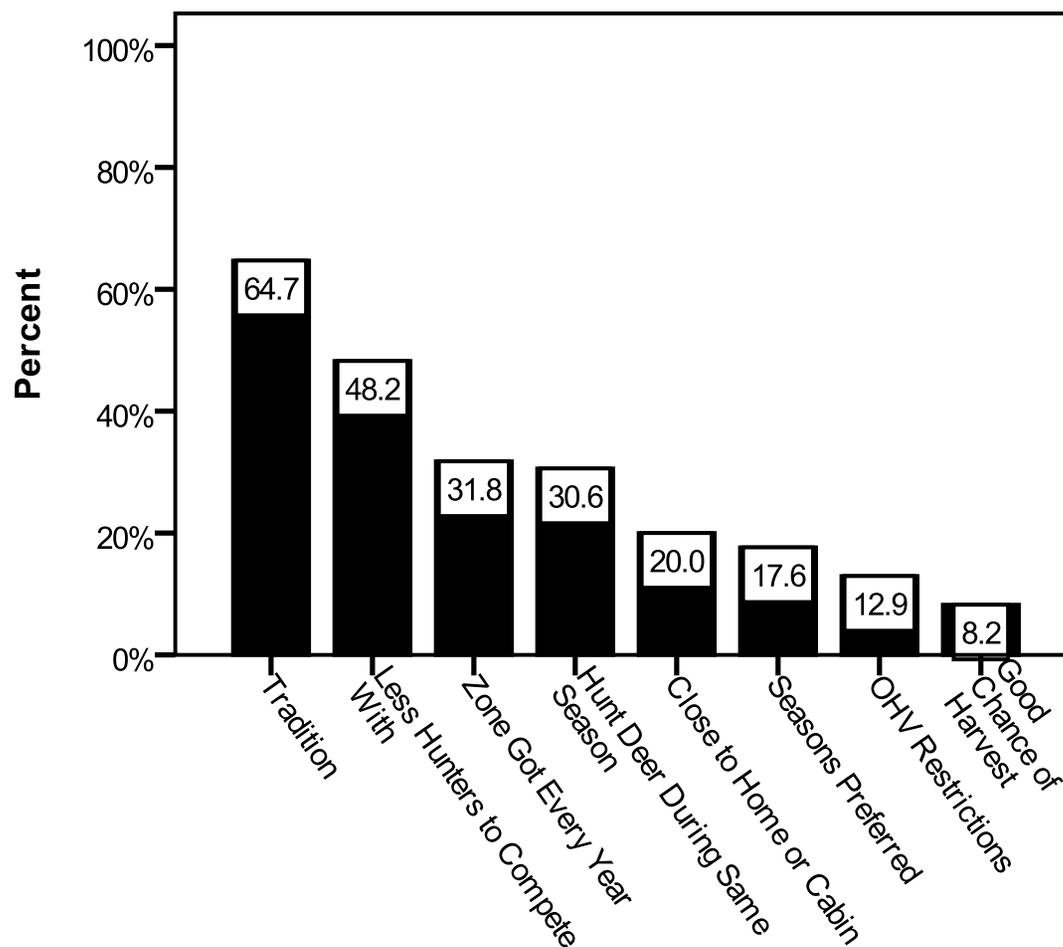
Q13: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone.

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



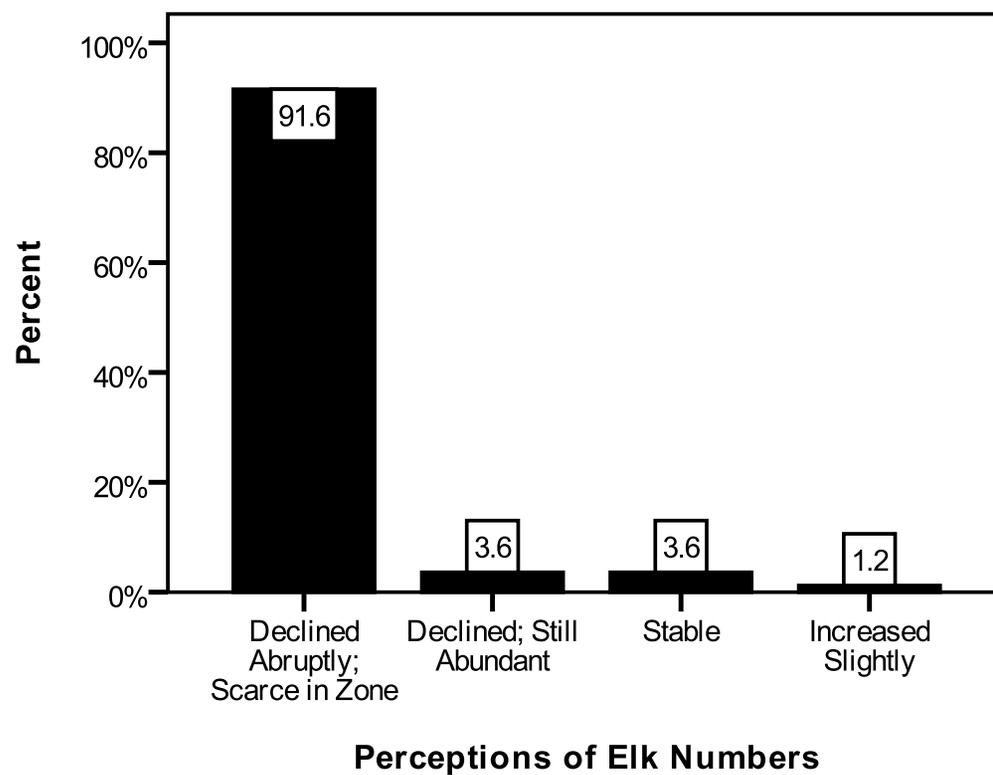
Q14: Similar to the state average, most Lolo hunters typically hunt in the same zone every year.

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



Q16: Lolo hunters find different aspects desirable for a zone than the state average does. Hunters in this zone reported that tradition and a zone with less hunters to compete with makes a zone most desirable.

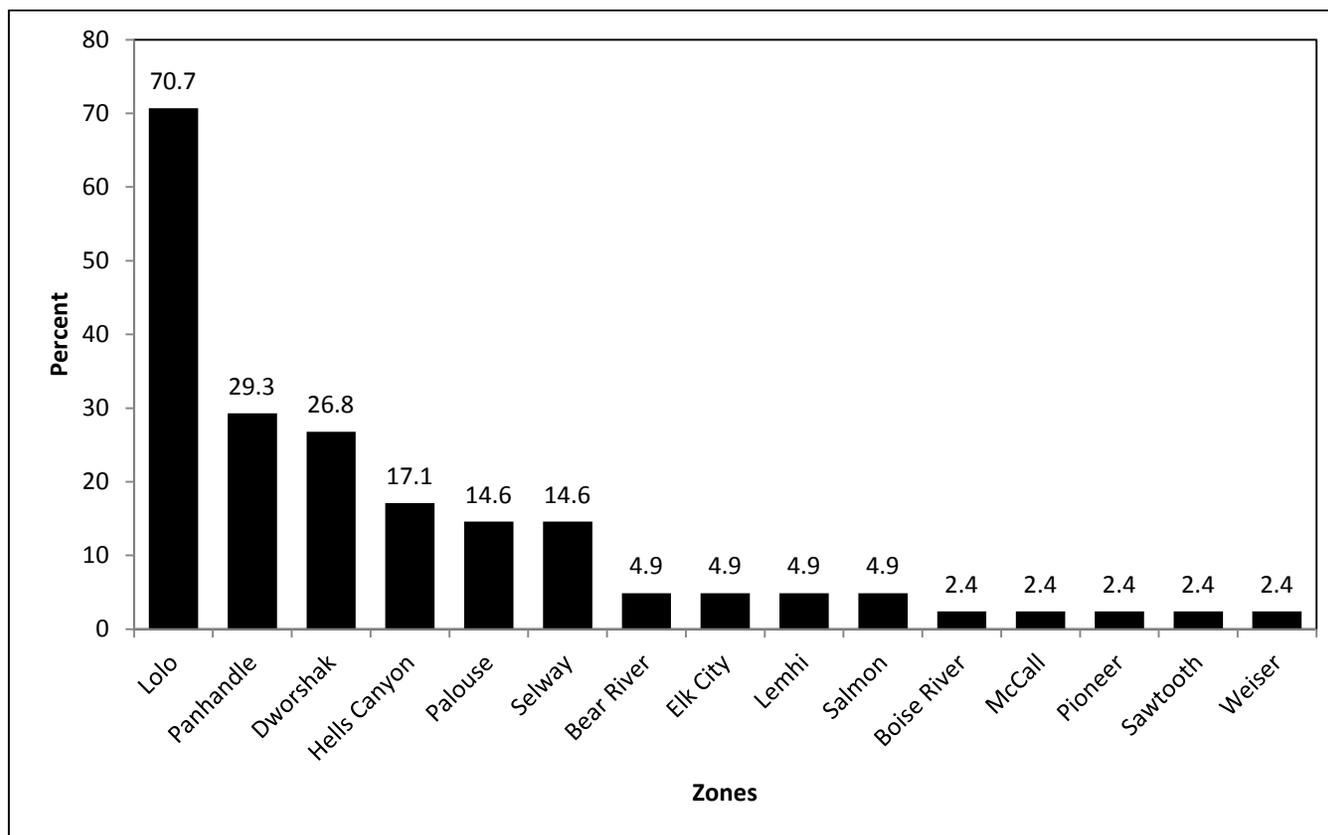
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: Similar to the state average, a majority of Lolo hunters perceive Elk numbers to have declined abruptly, causing scarcity in the zone they hunted in 2011.

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

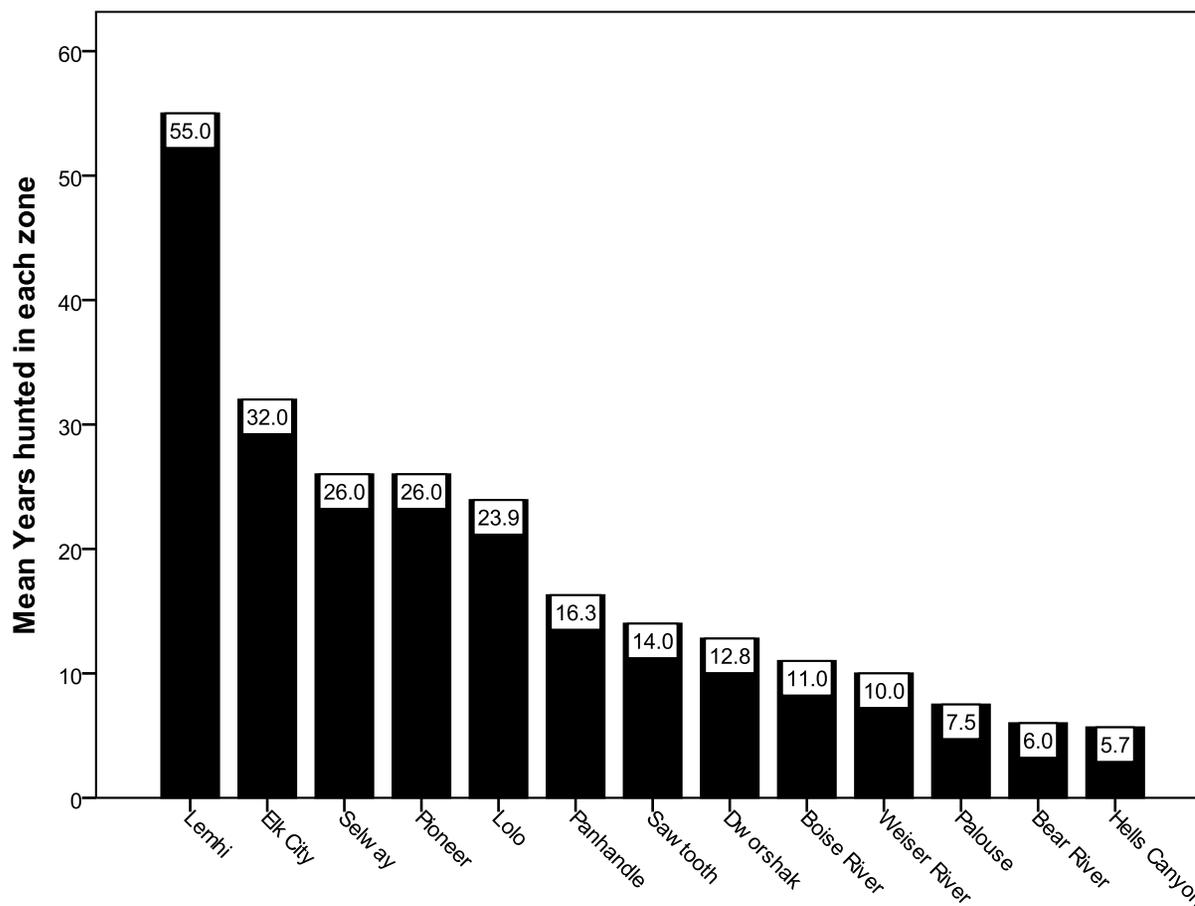
(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q18: The Panhandle and Dworshak zones are the most popular zones for respondents to hunt in besides the Lolo zone itself.

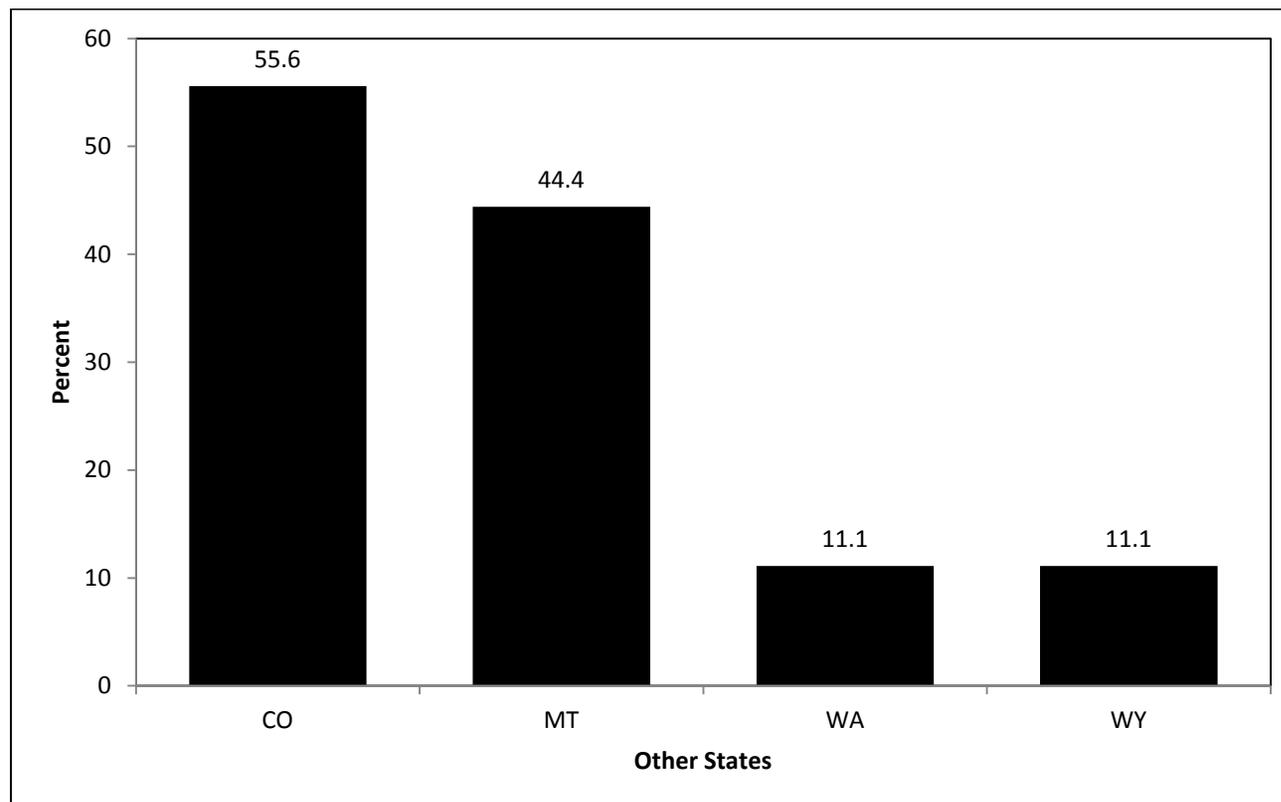
20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?

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



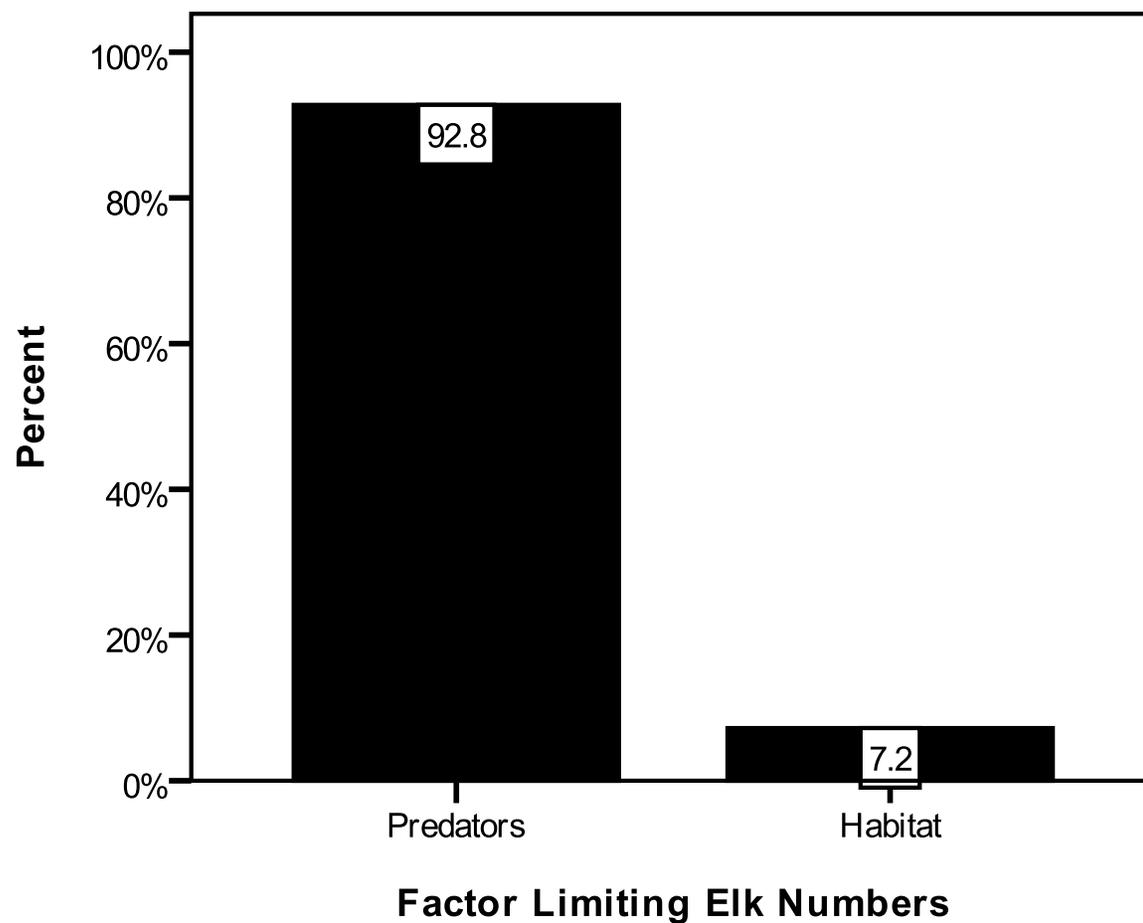
Q20: The Lemhi zone has been hunted the longest among respondents. The Lolo zone itself ranks fifth in duration.

Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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

Q21: More than half of Lolo hunters who hunt out-of-state hunt in Colorado, closely followed by Montana.

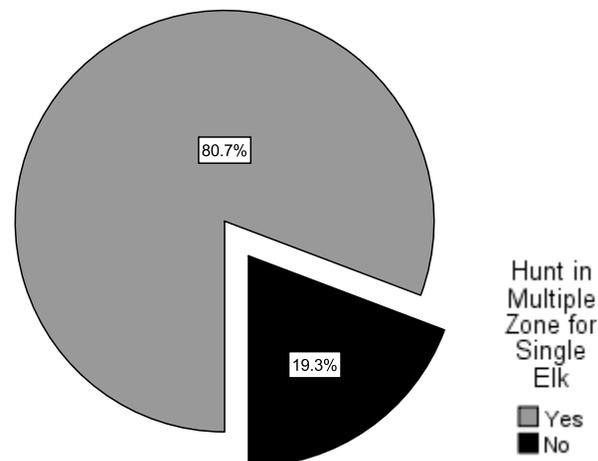
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



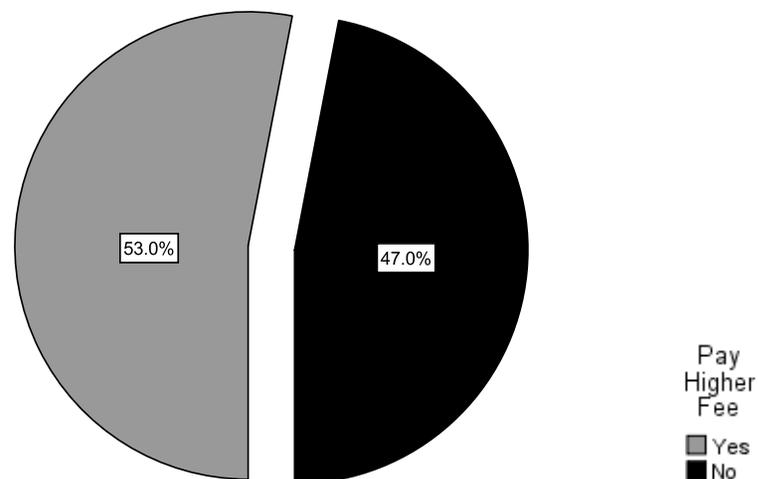
Q22: Similar to the state average, a majority of Lolo hunters believe that predators are the primary factor for limiting Elk numbers.

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

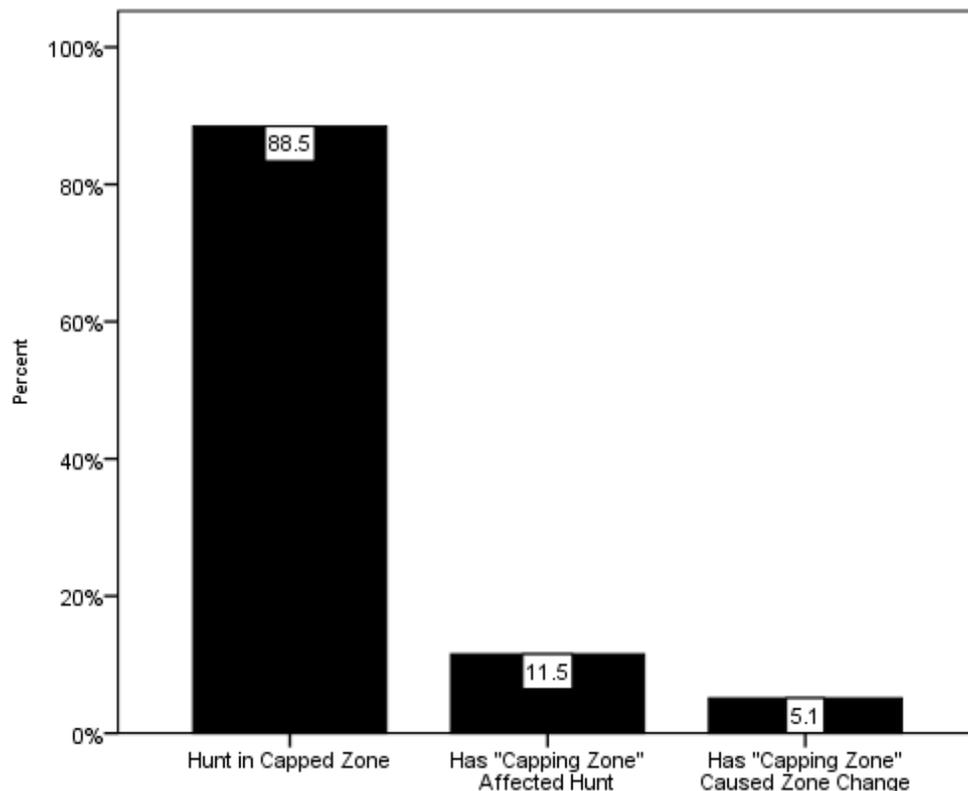
Like other hunters in the state, most Lolo hunters would also like to be able to hunt for a single Elk in multiple zones in a year. Over half would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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)

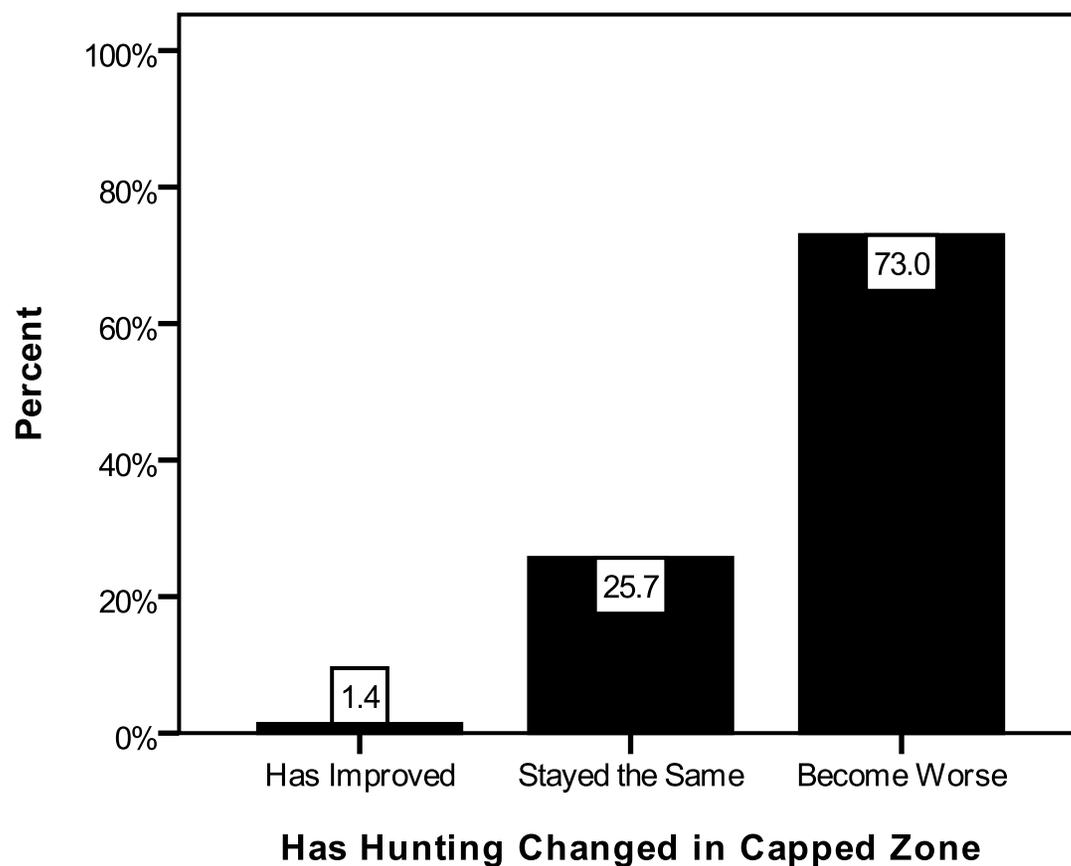


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called “capping the zone” was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This “capping the zone” is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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 number of Lolo hunters who hunt in a capped zone almost doubles the state average.

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

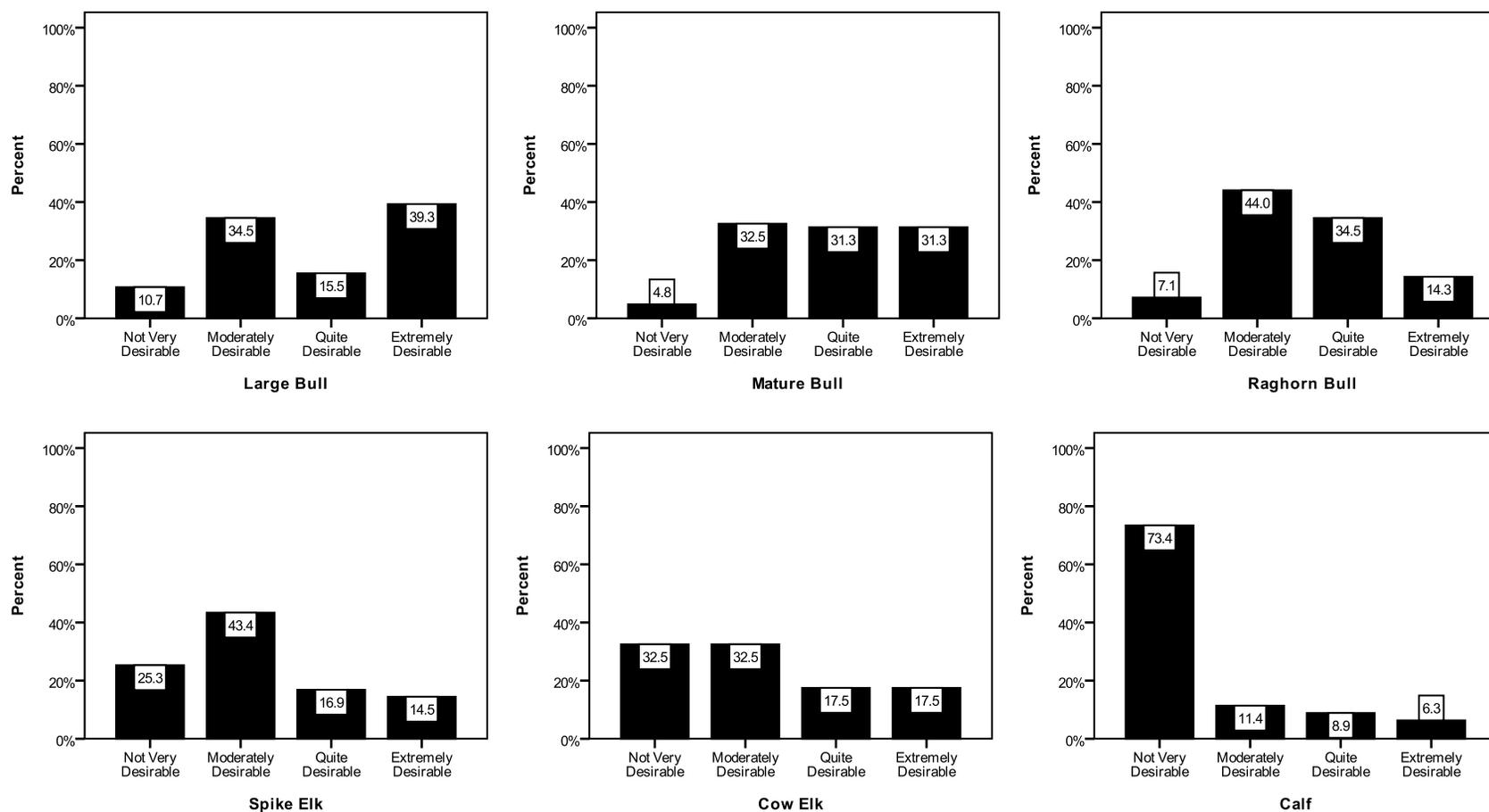


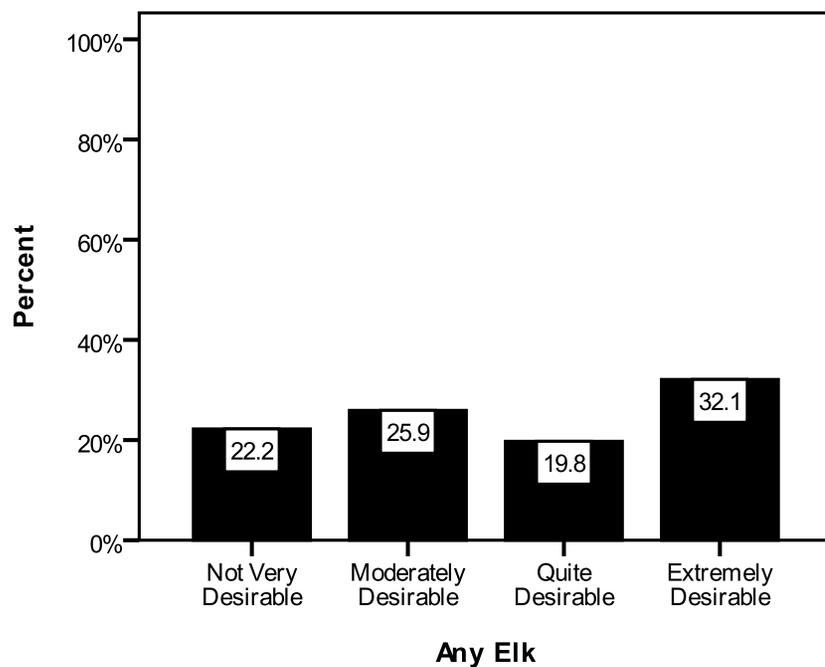
Q26: Similar to the state average, about three-quarters of Lolo hunters feel that capping a zone has made Elk hunting worse.

ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

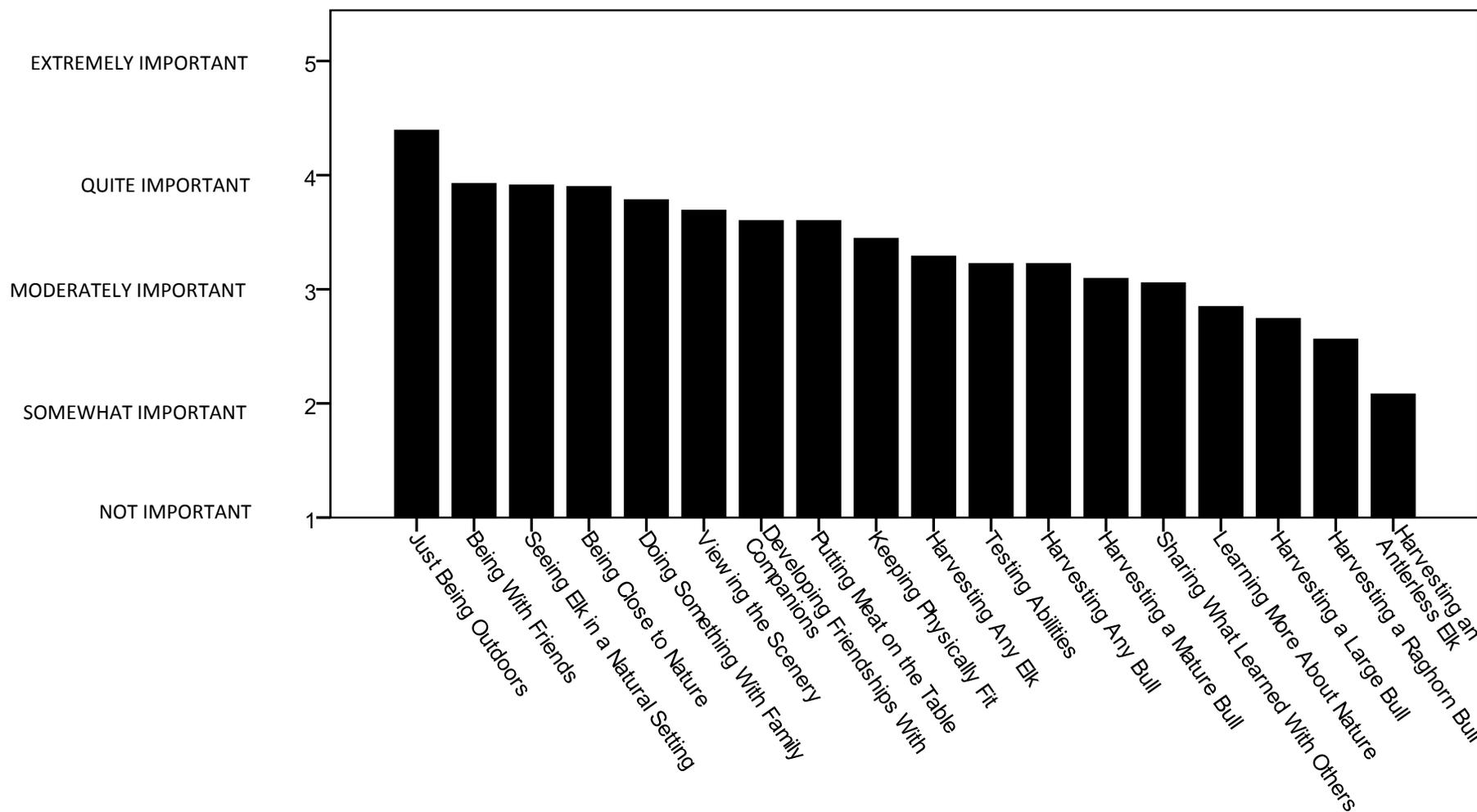
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



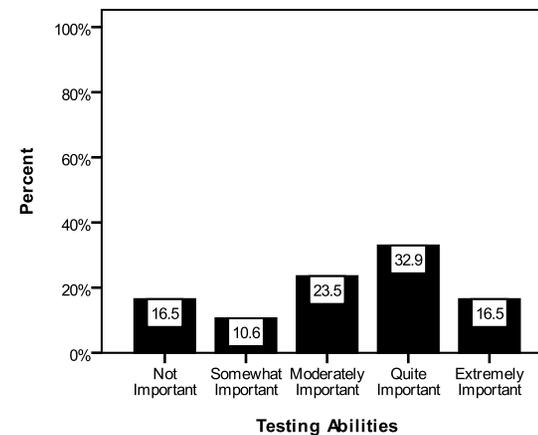
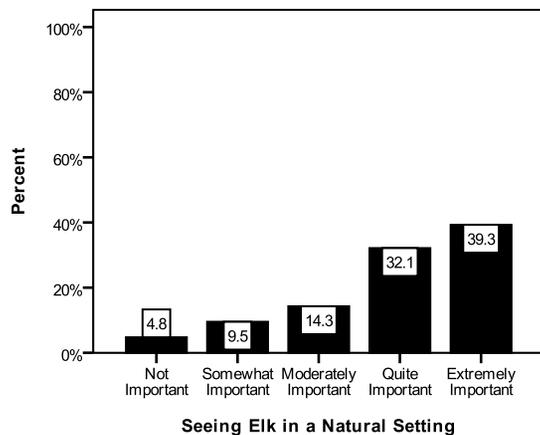
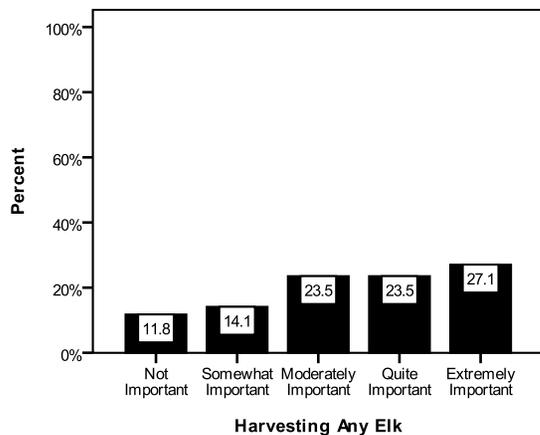
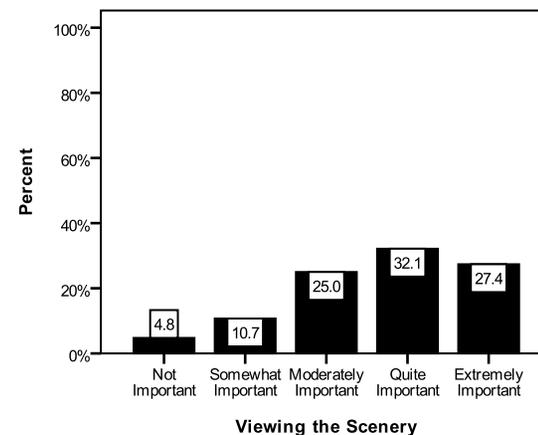
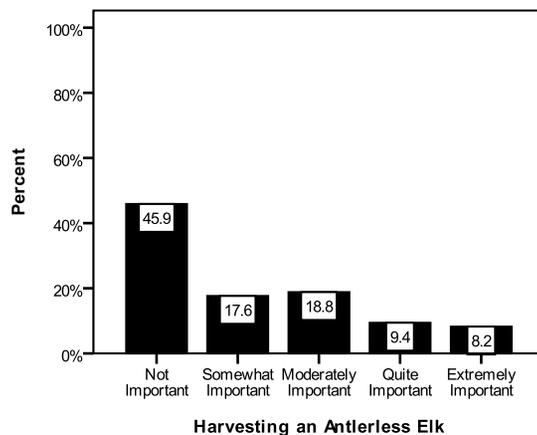
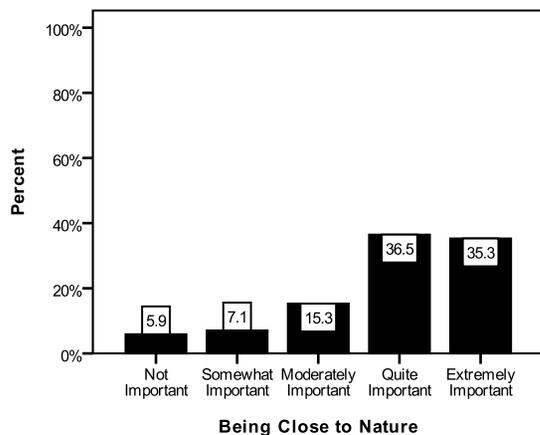


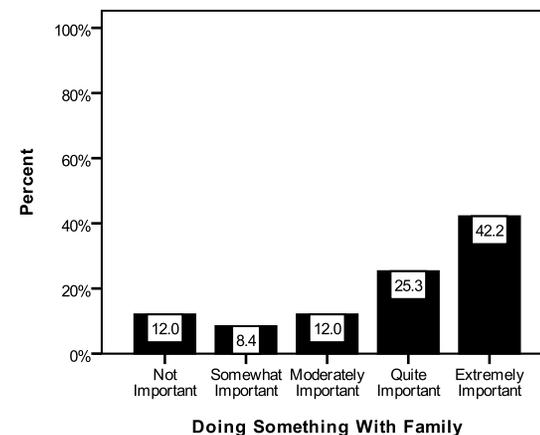
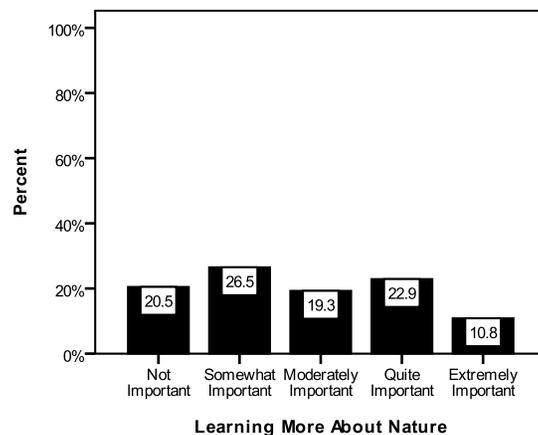
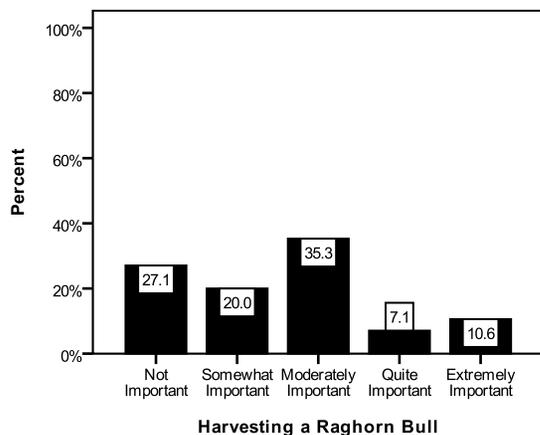
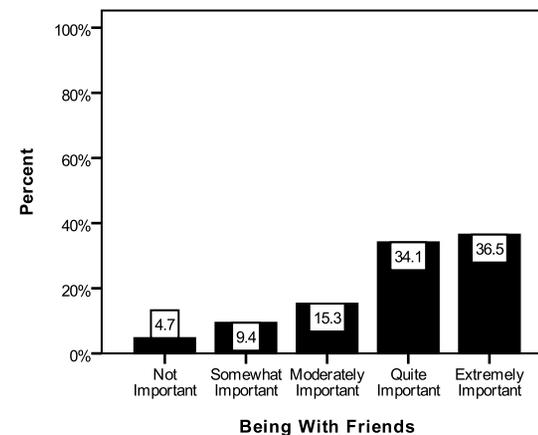
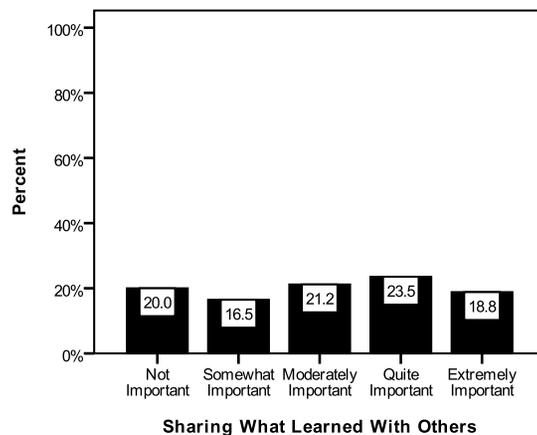
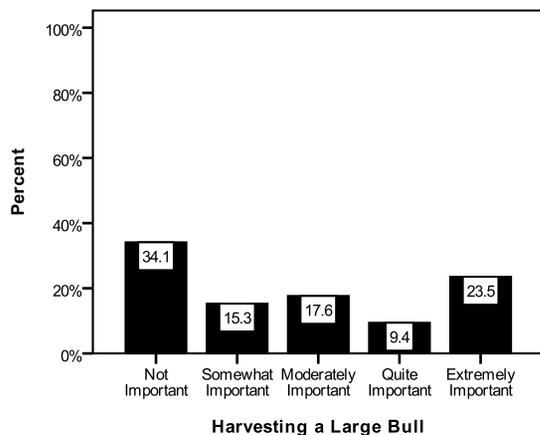
Q27: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone.

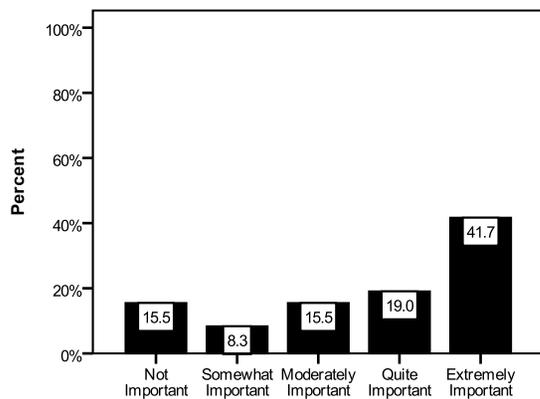
28. Below is a list of possible reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho. How important to you is each of the following reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho?



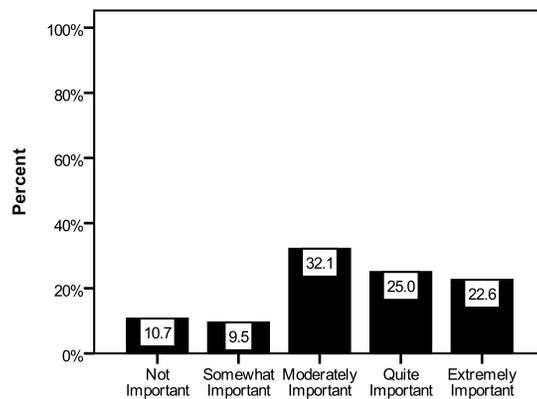
IMPORTANCE OF REASONS FOR HUNTING ELK IN IDAHO



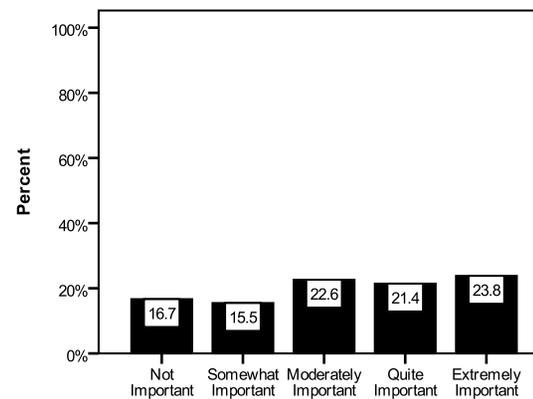




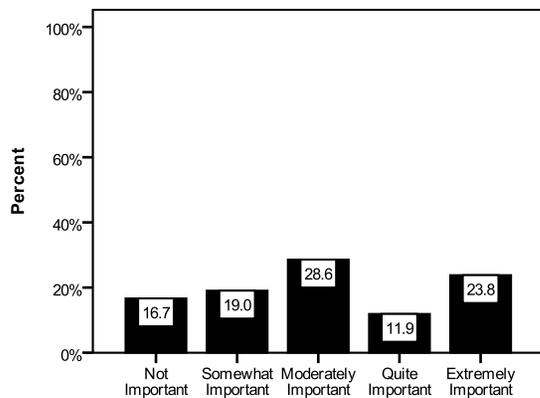
Putting Meat on the Table



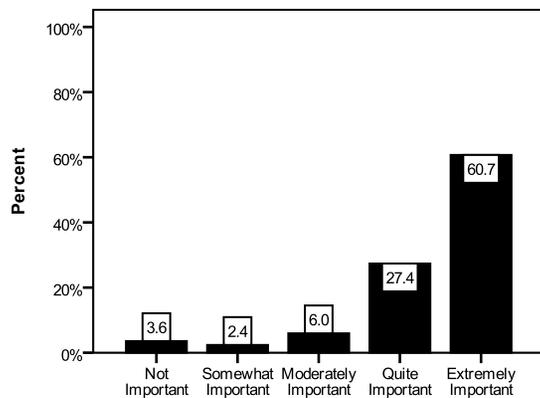
Keeping Physically Fit



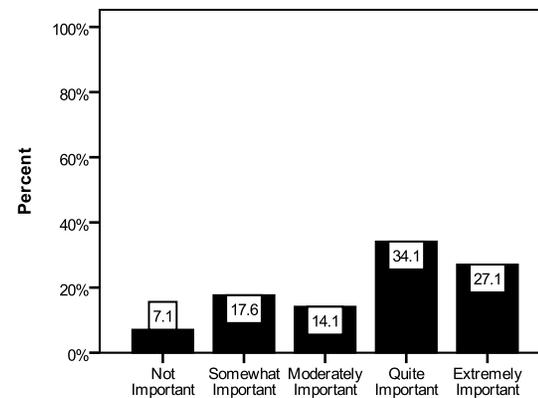
Harvesting Any Bull



Harvesting a Mature Bull



Just Being Outdoors

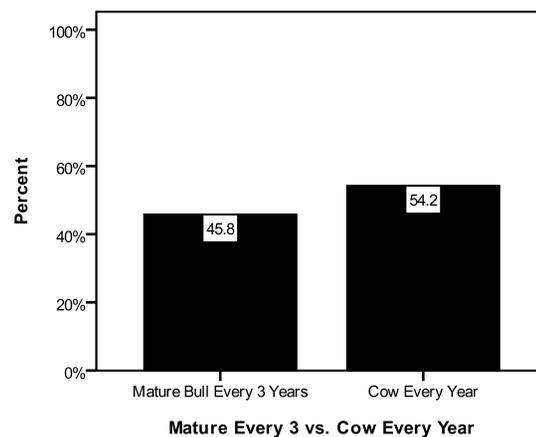
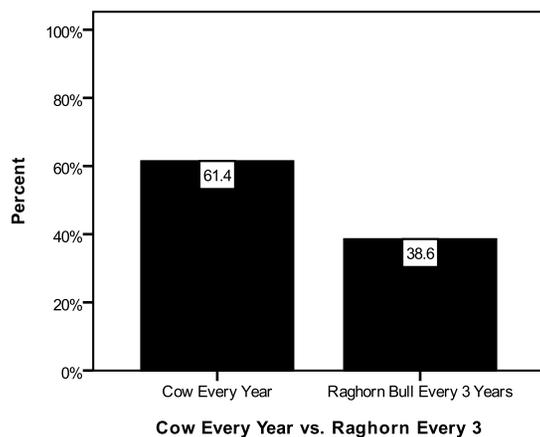
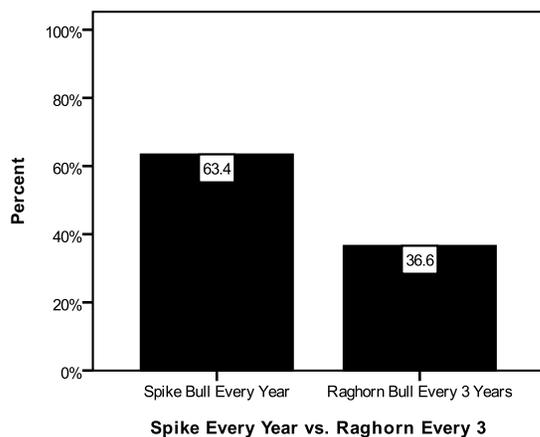
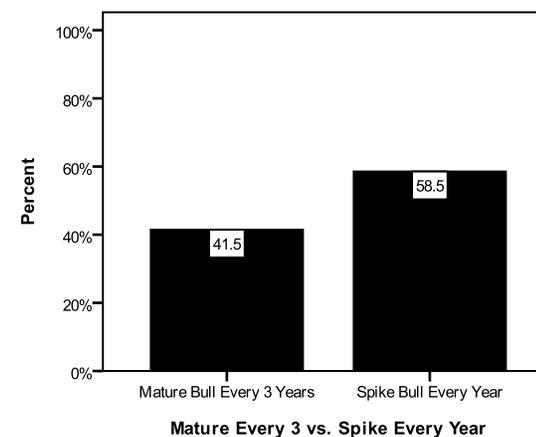
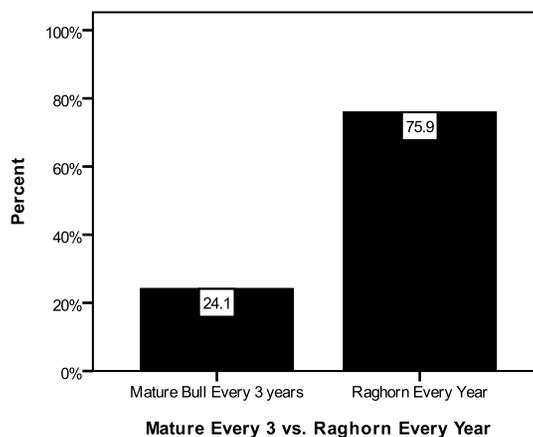
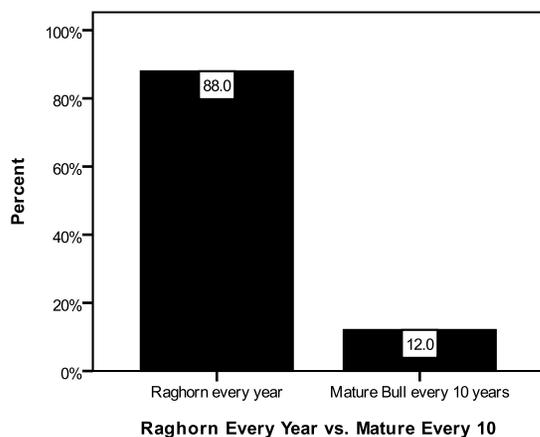


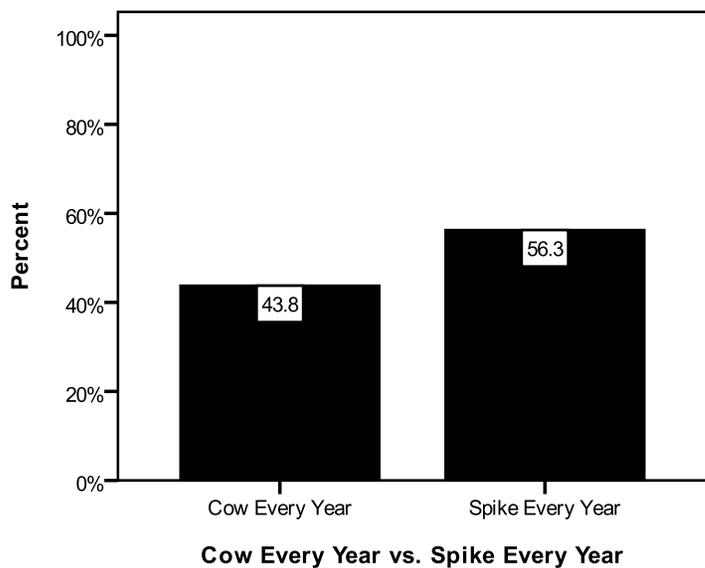
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters

Q28: The top six reasons are the same between the Lolo zone and the state average.

Next, your opinions about some possible management options.

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

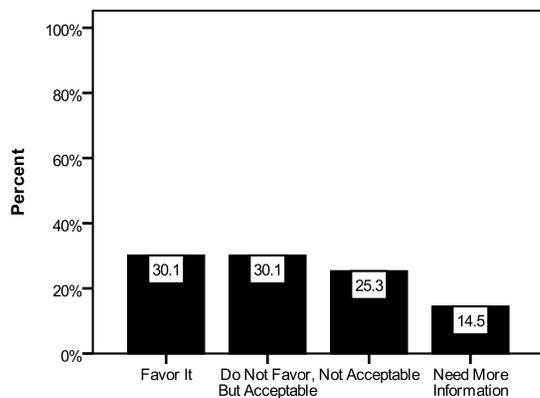




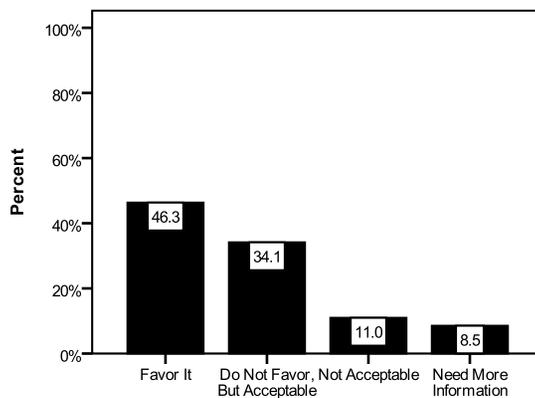
Q32: The distribution of responses is fairly similar between the state average and the Lolo zone.

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

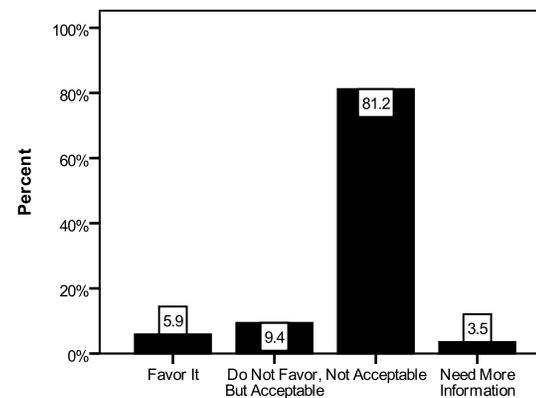
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?



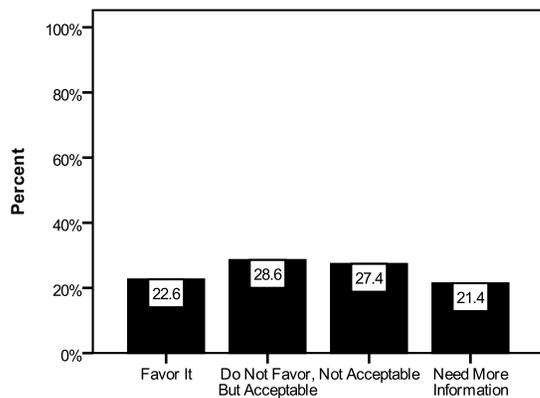
Longer Seasons



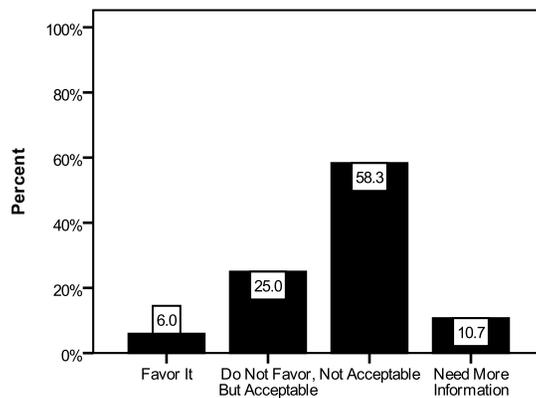
Choose Only One Weapon



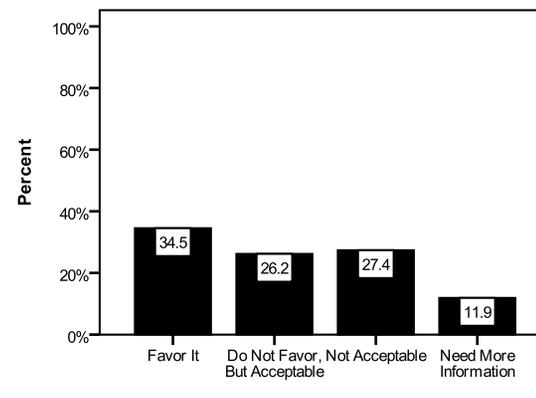
Choose Only One Species



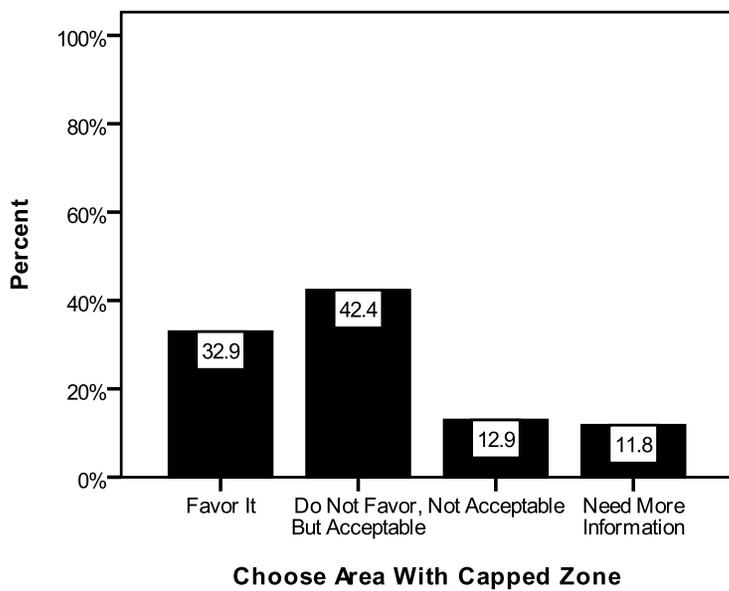
Controlled Hunts



Stratified Hunts

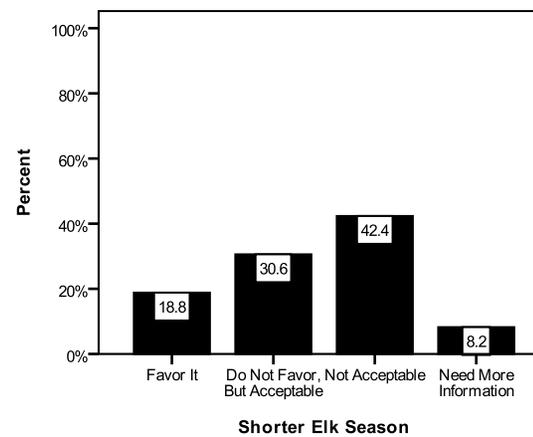
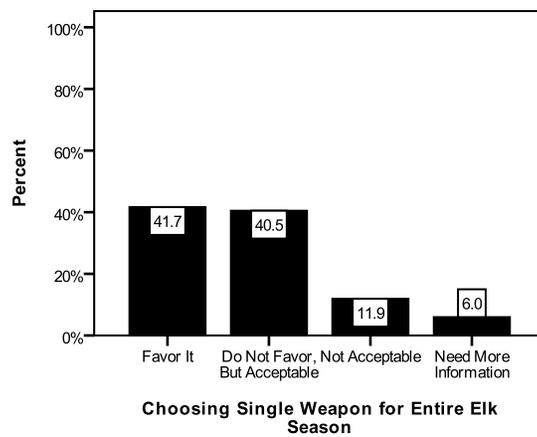
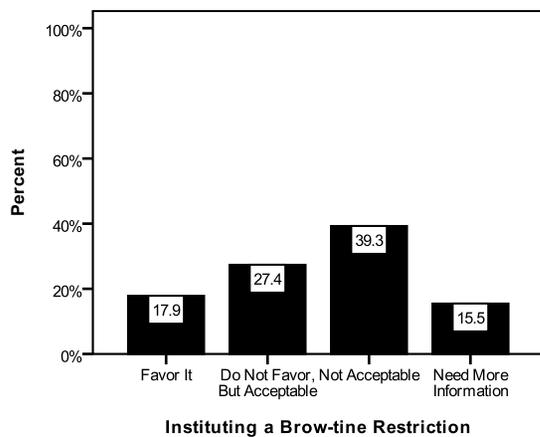
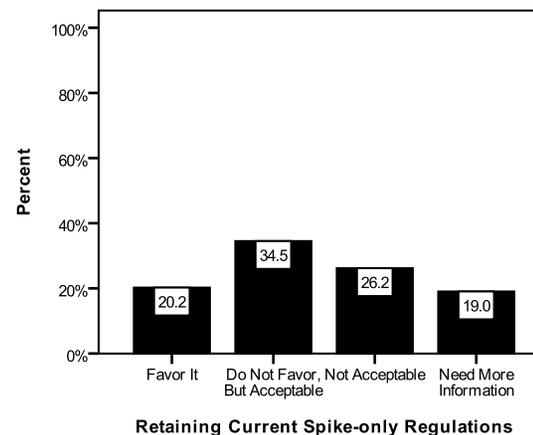
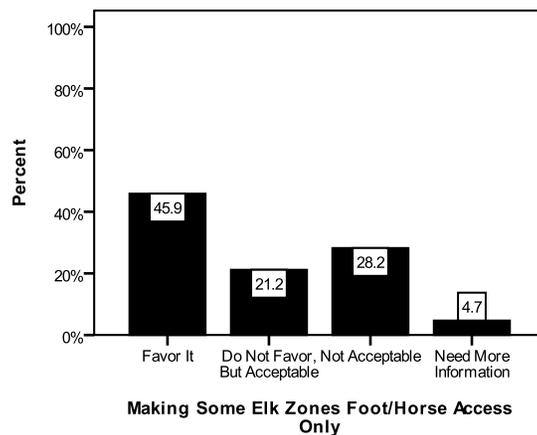
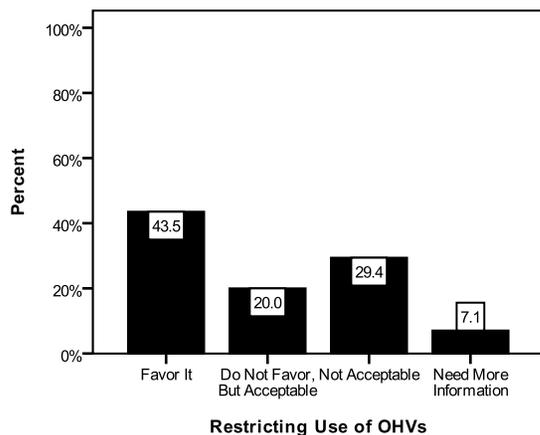


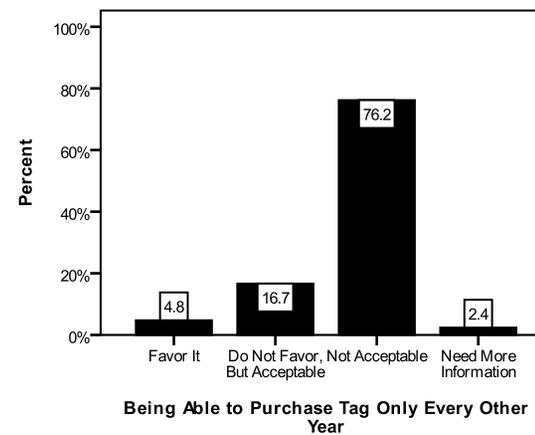
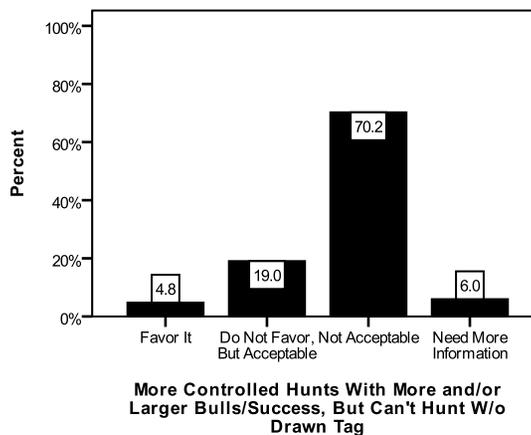
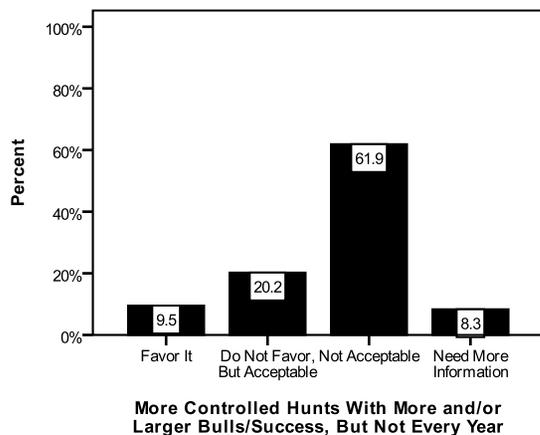
Choose Area With Motorized/Travel Restrictions



Q34: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone.

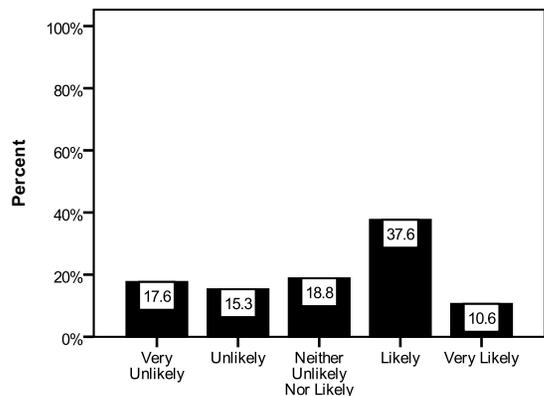
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



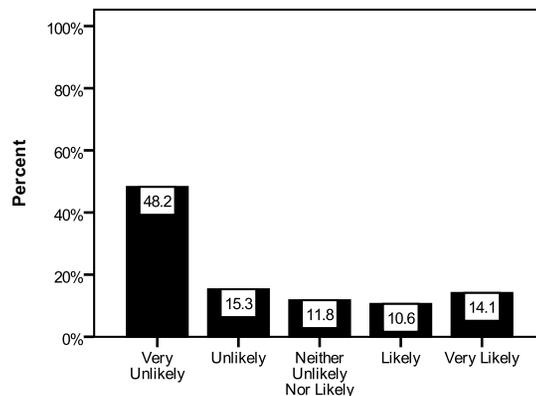


Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone. Slightly more hunters in this zone reported that instituting a brow-tine restriction would not be acceptable.

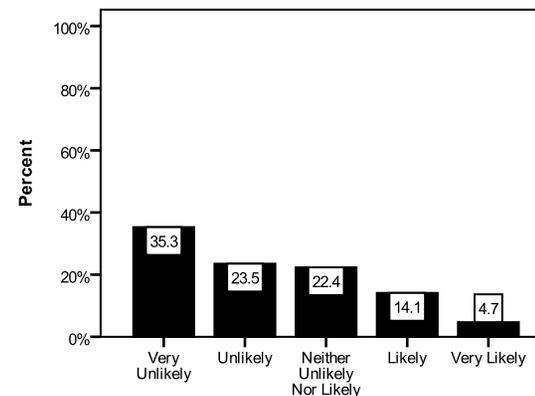
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



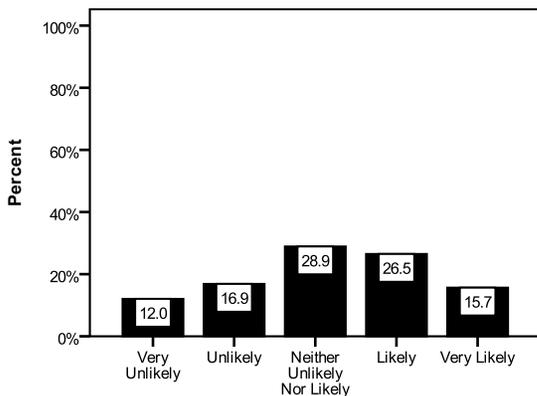
Hunt in Different Zones



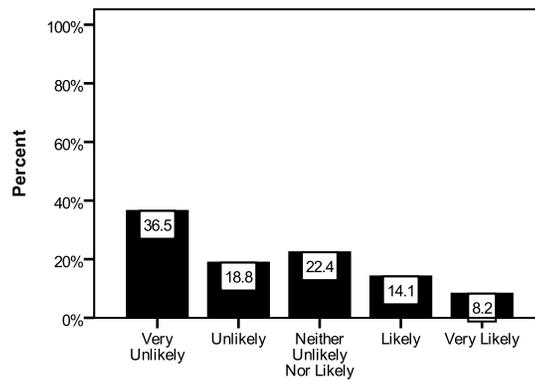
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



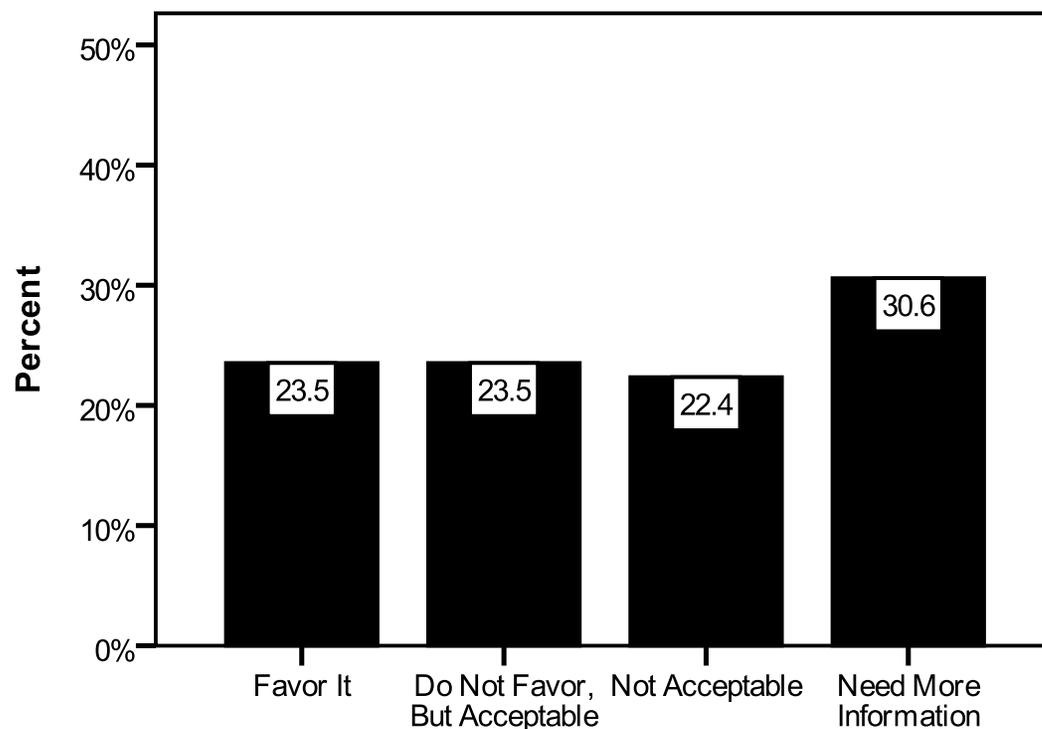
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

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

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

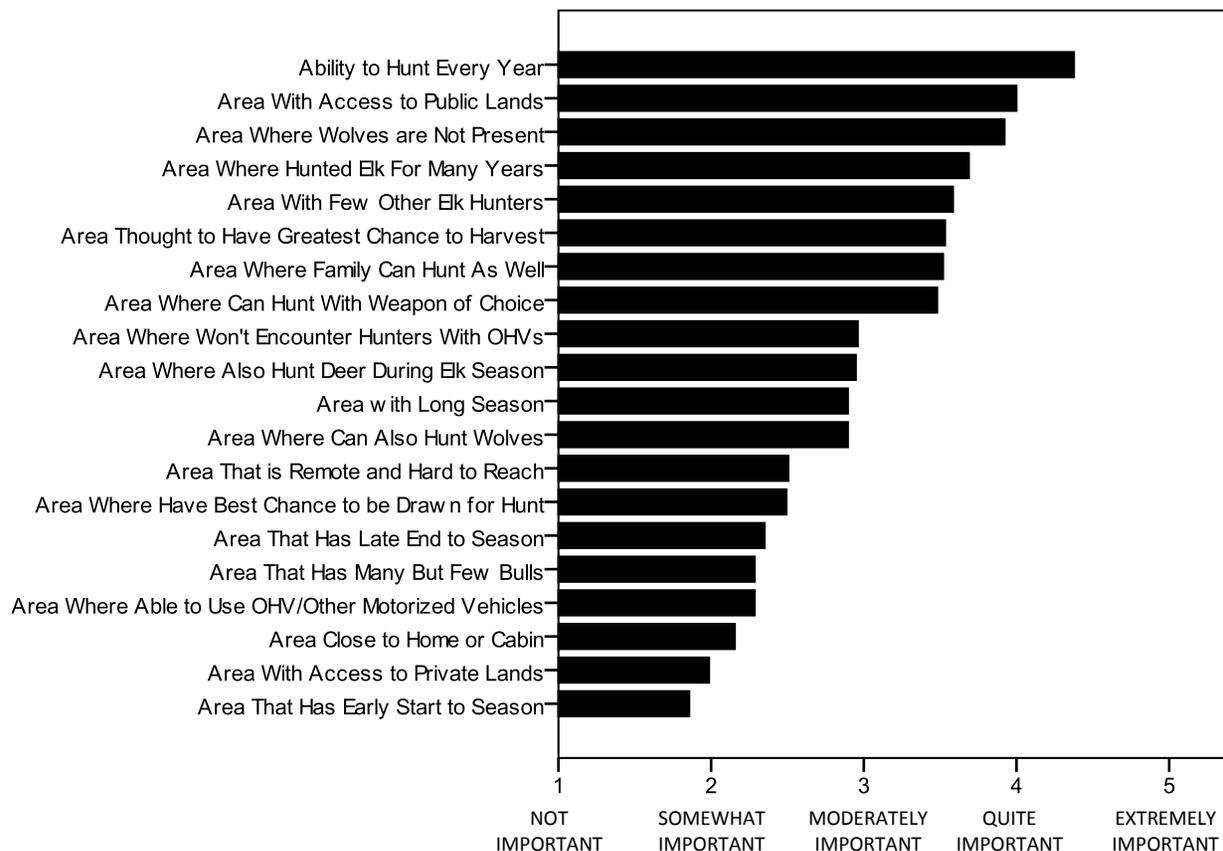


Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

Q38: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Lolo zone, but slightly more hunters in this zone find this regulation to not be acceptable.

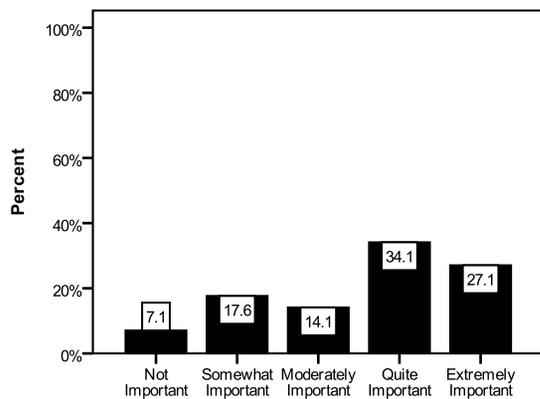
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

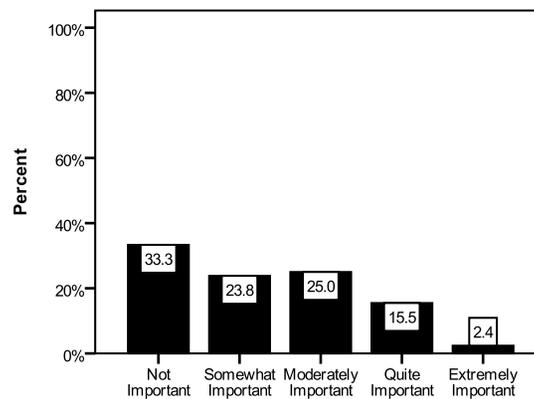


Q29: Like the state average, Lolo hunters also find the ability to hunt every year and an area with access to public lands as most important. They also rate areas where Wolves are not present, where they have hunted Elk for many years, and those with few other Elk hunters as highly important characteristics.

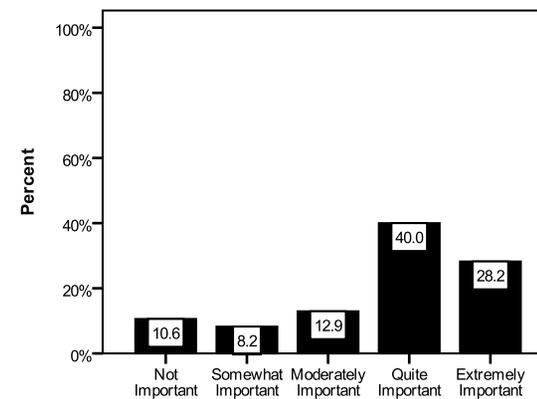
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



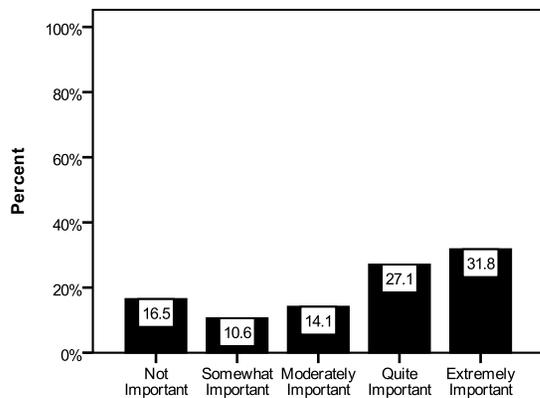
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



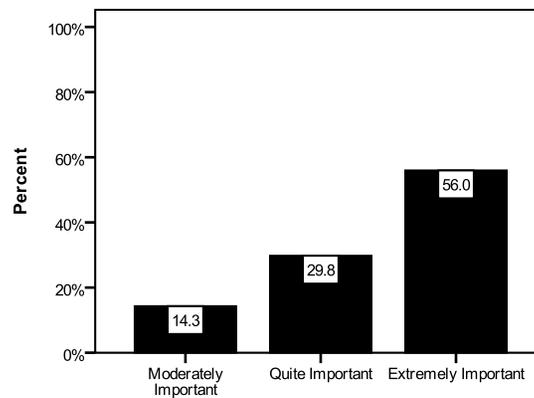
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



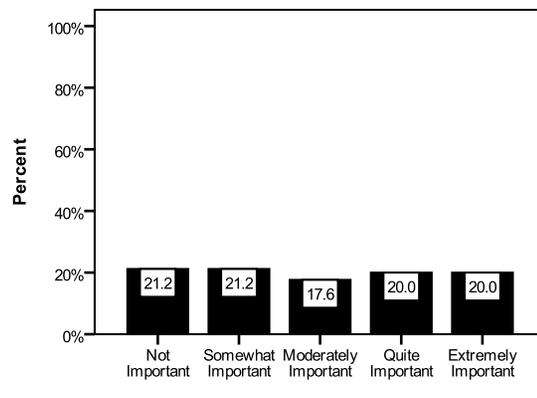
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



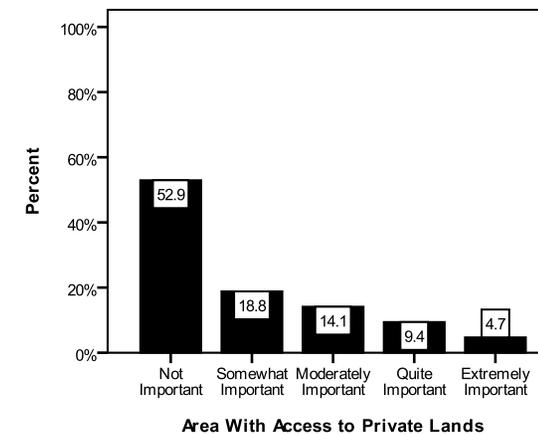
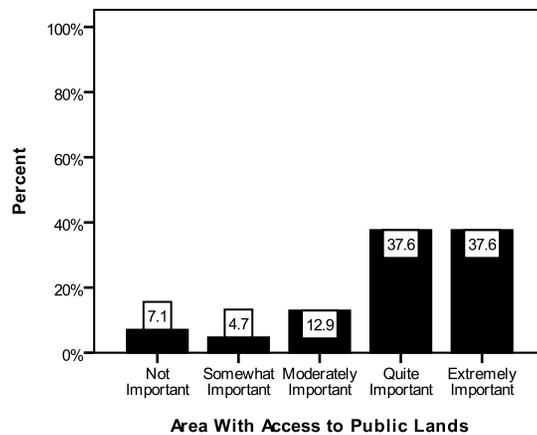
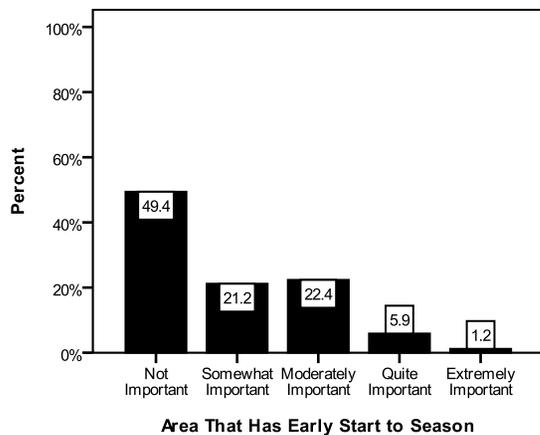
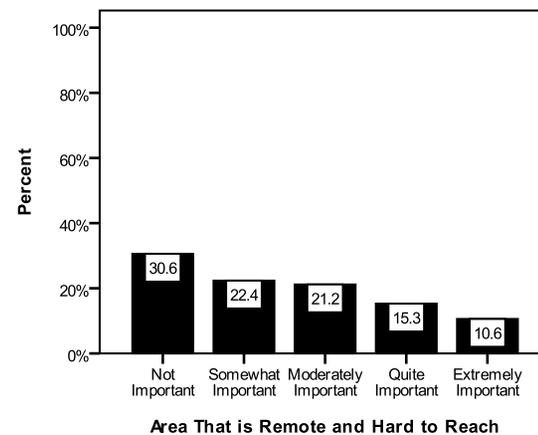
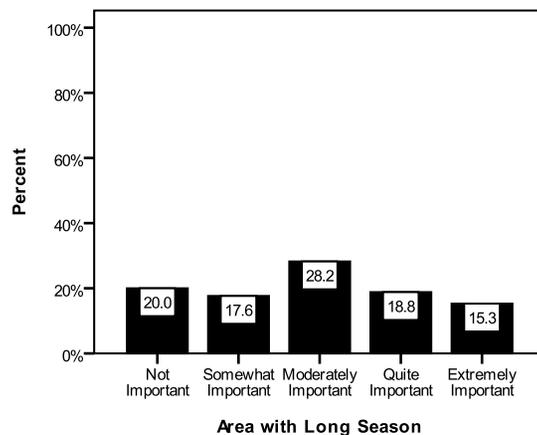
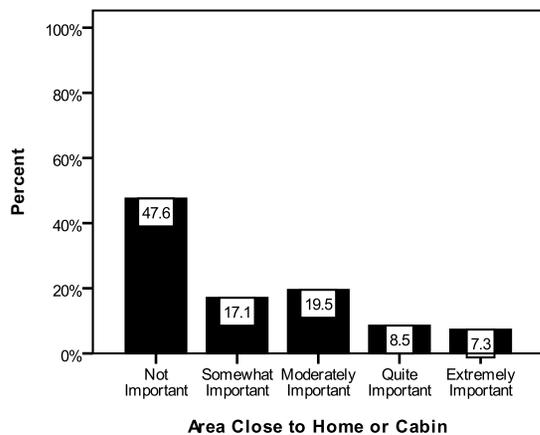
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

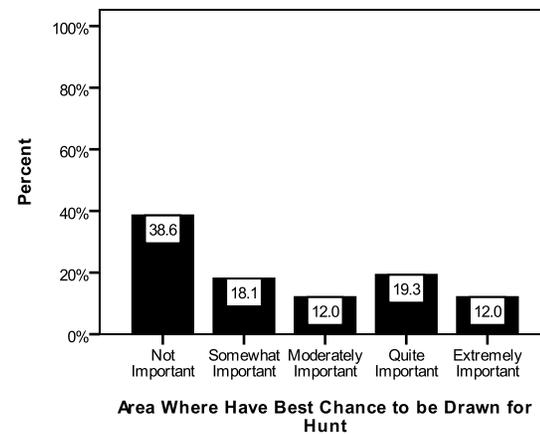
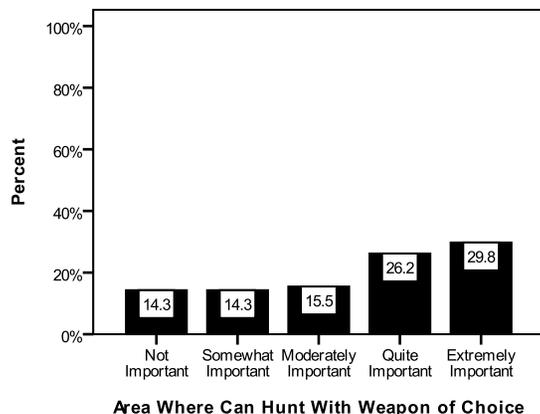
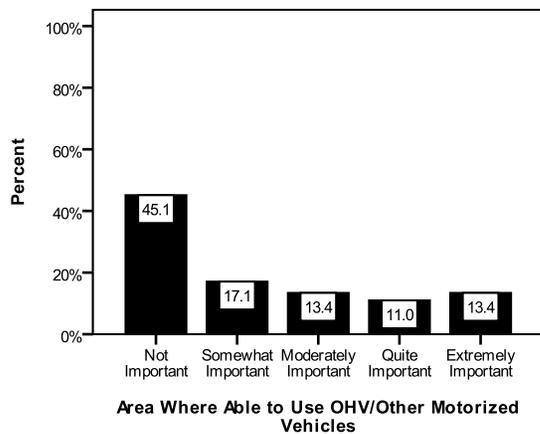
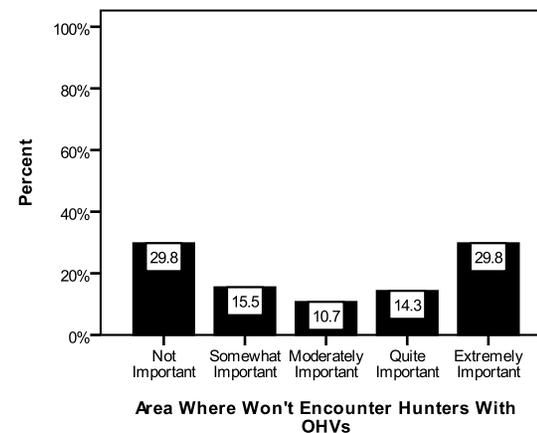
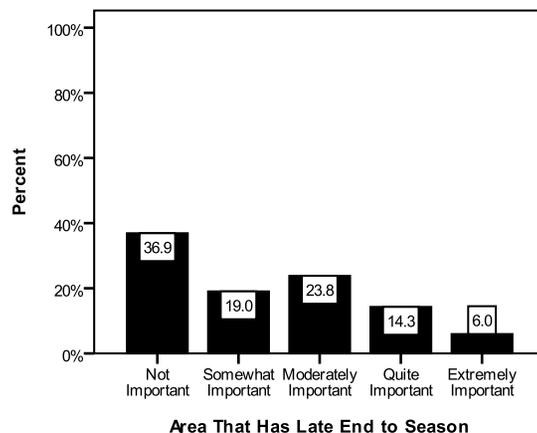
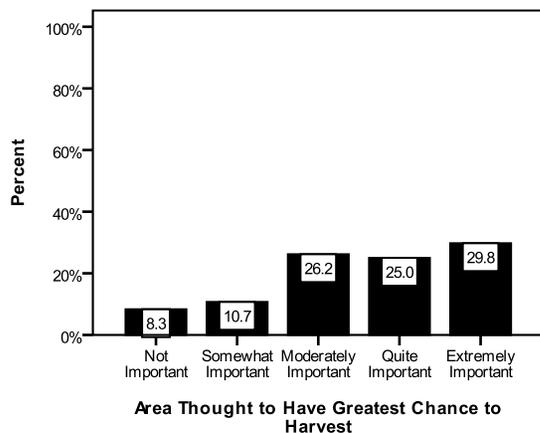


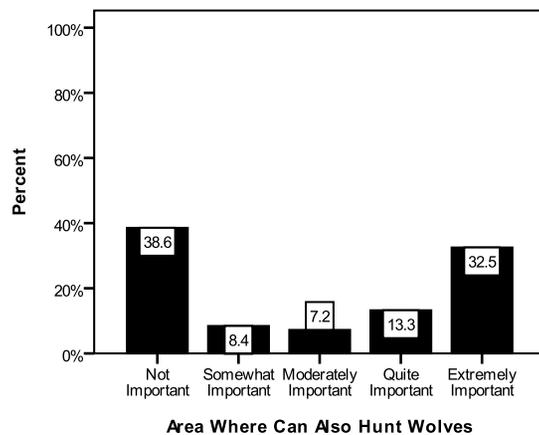
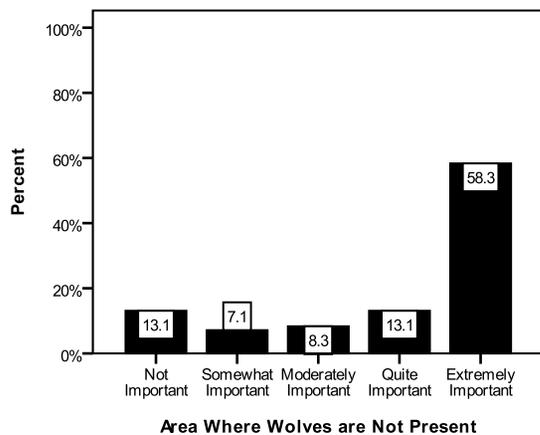
Ability to Hunt Every Year



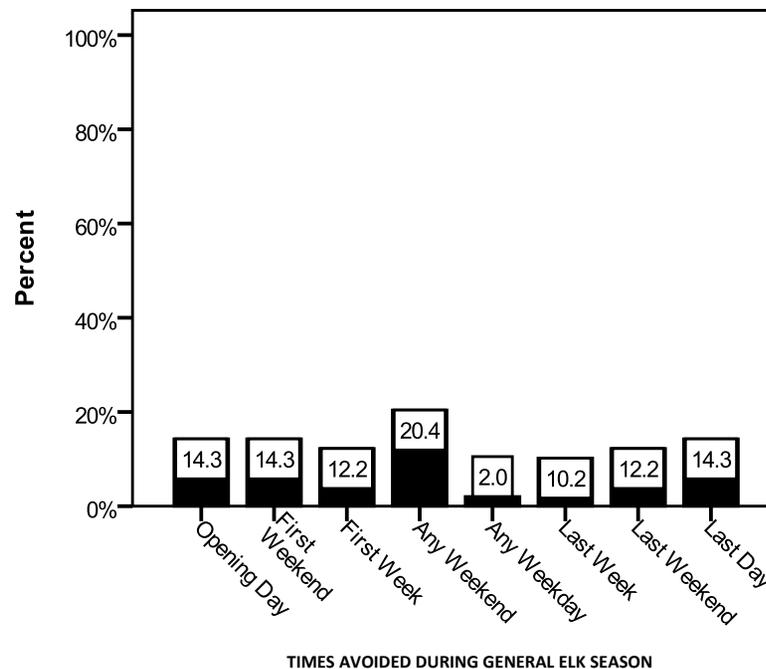
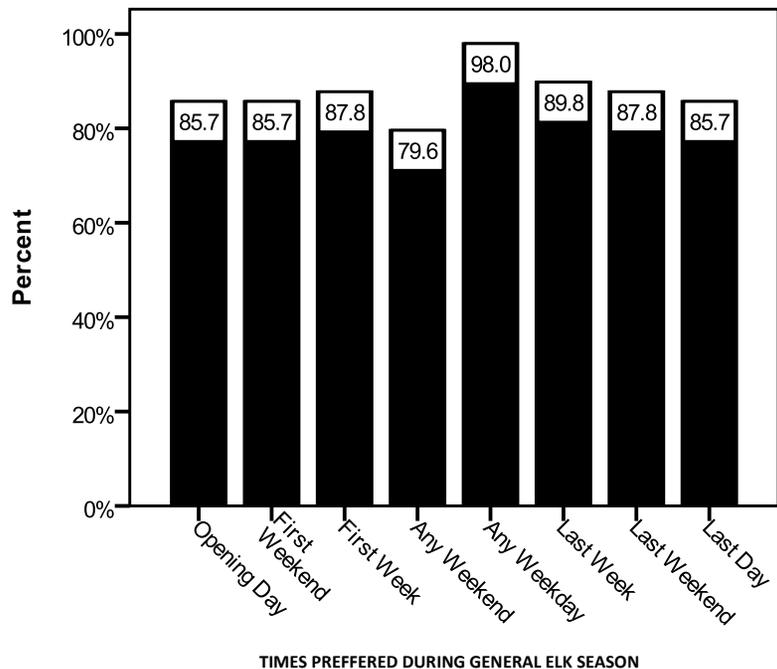
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season







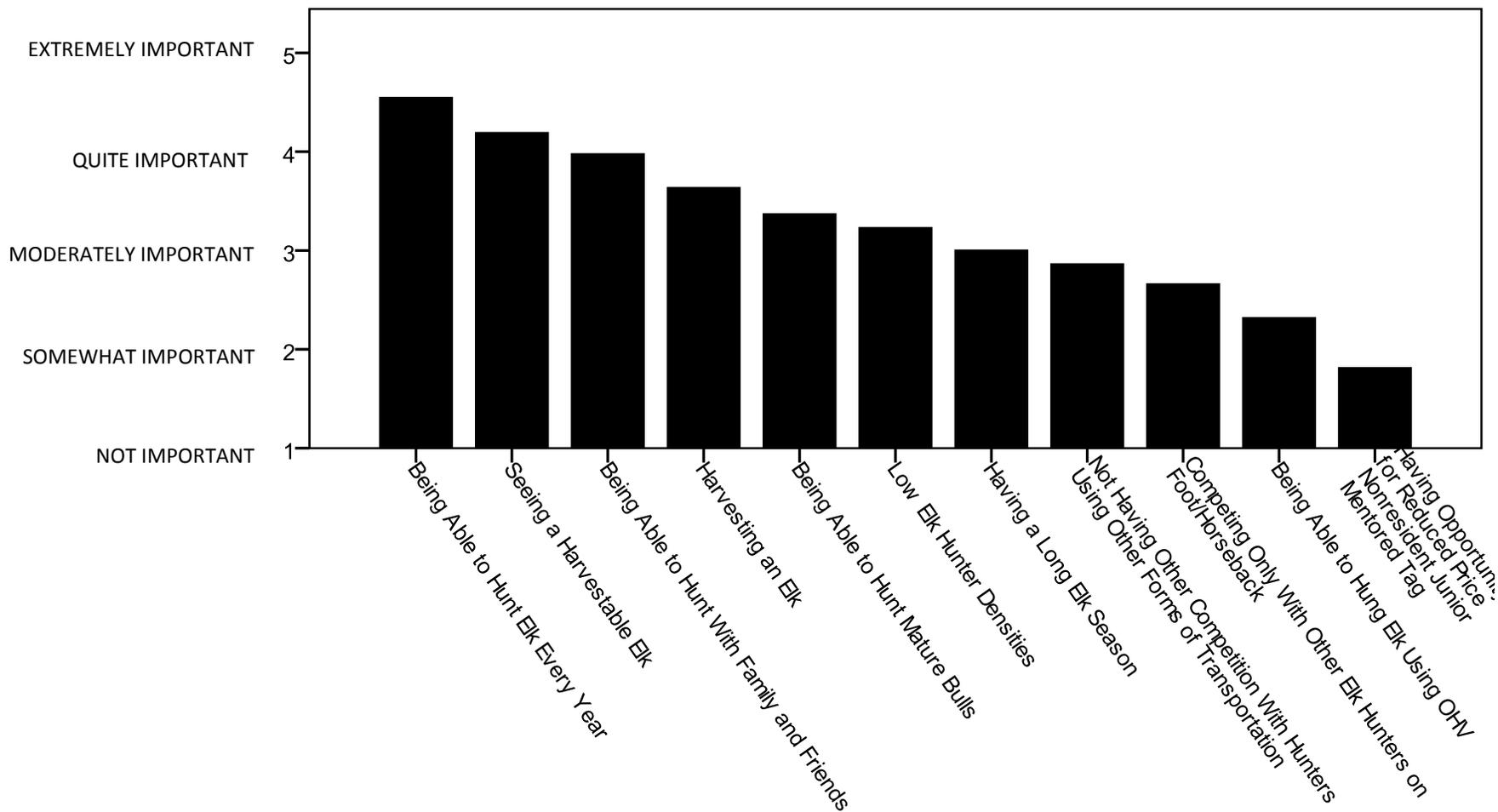
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



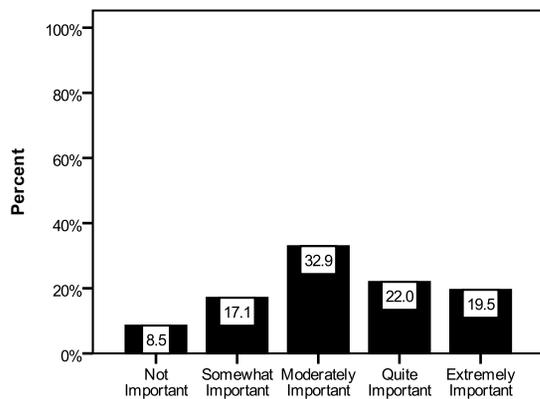
Q30: Unlike the state average, any time during the general Elk season is preferred by most Lolo hunters.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

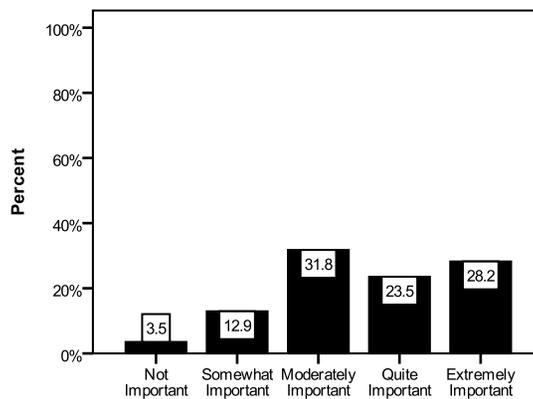
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



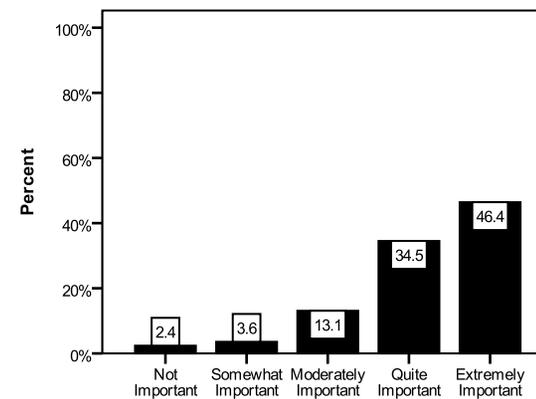
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



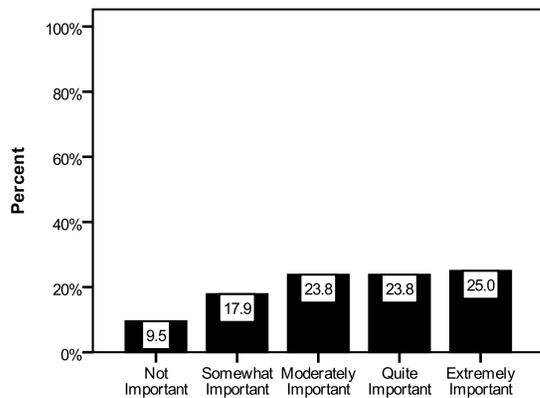
Low Elk Hunter Densities



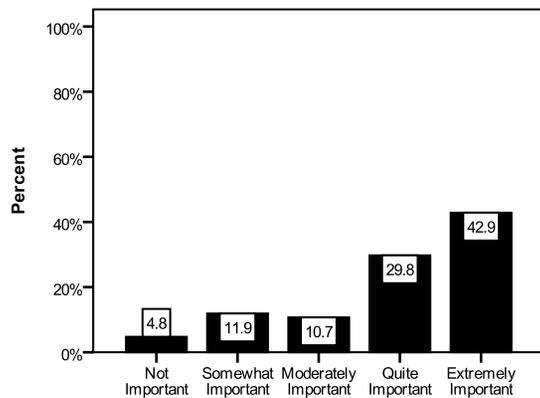
Harvesting an Elk



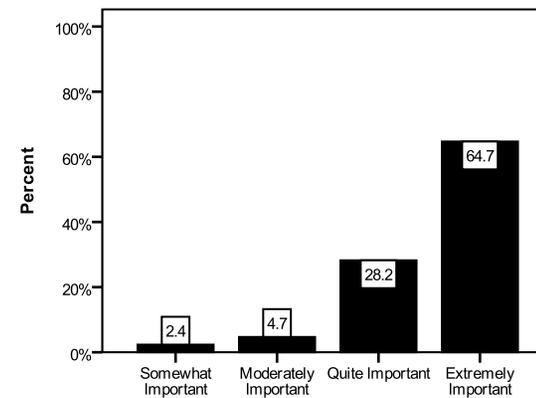
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



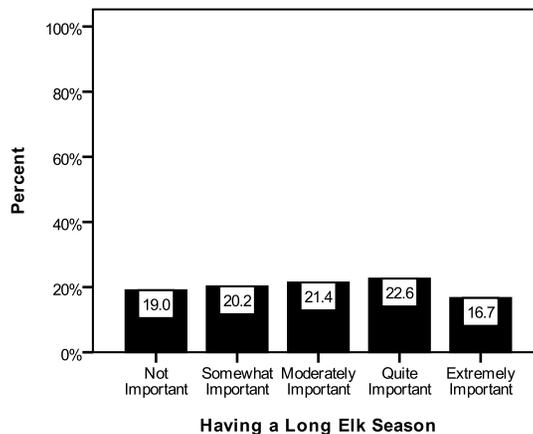
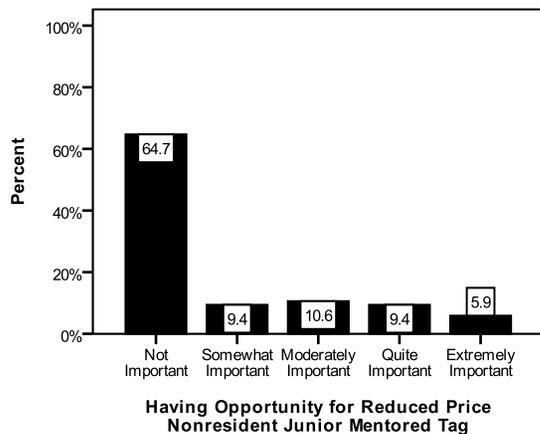
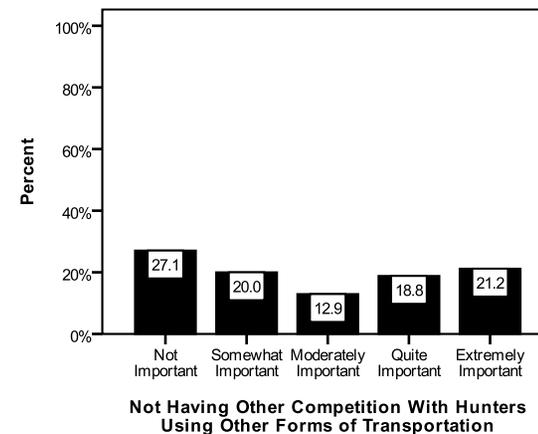
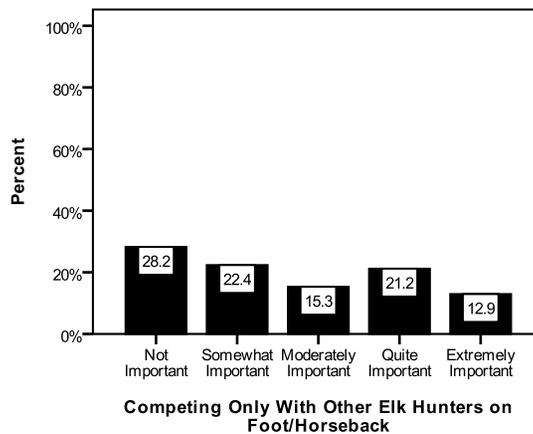
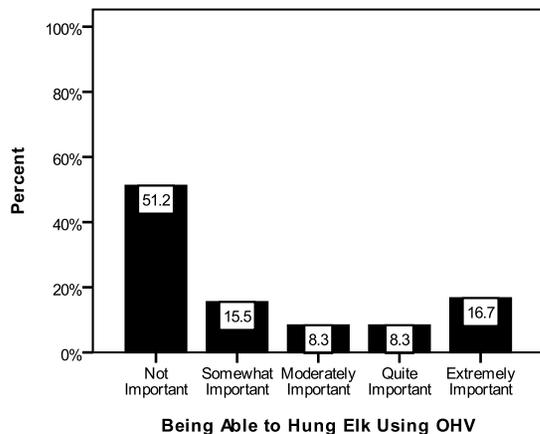
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



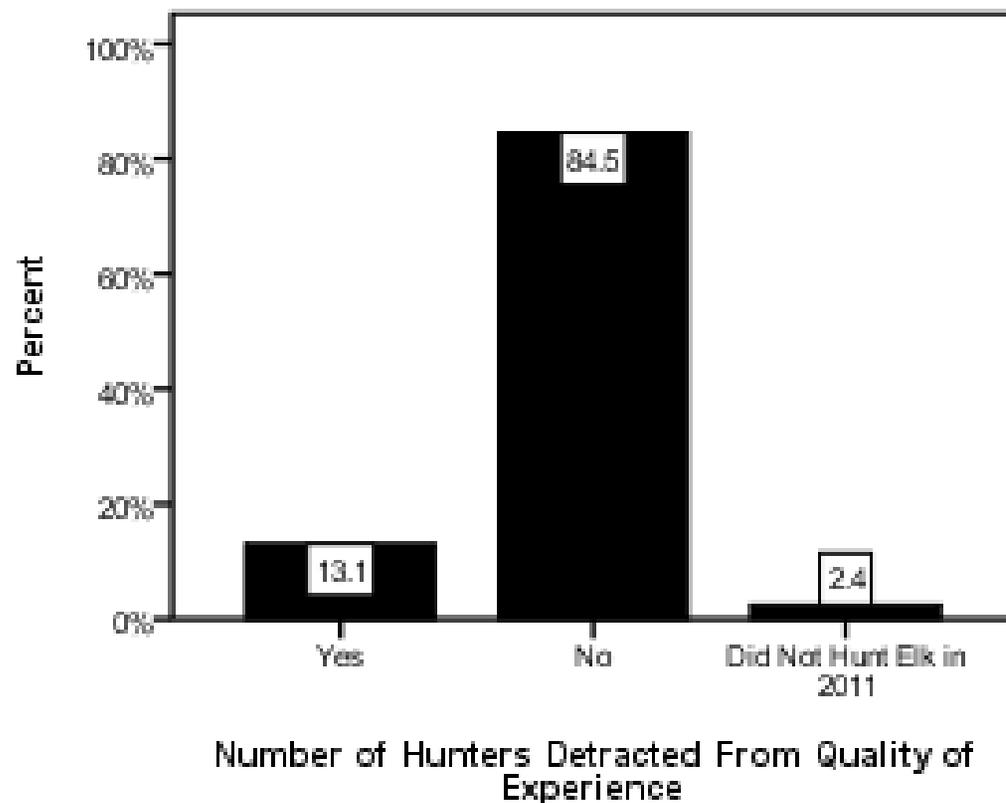
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



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

HUNTING SATISFACTION

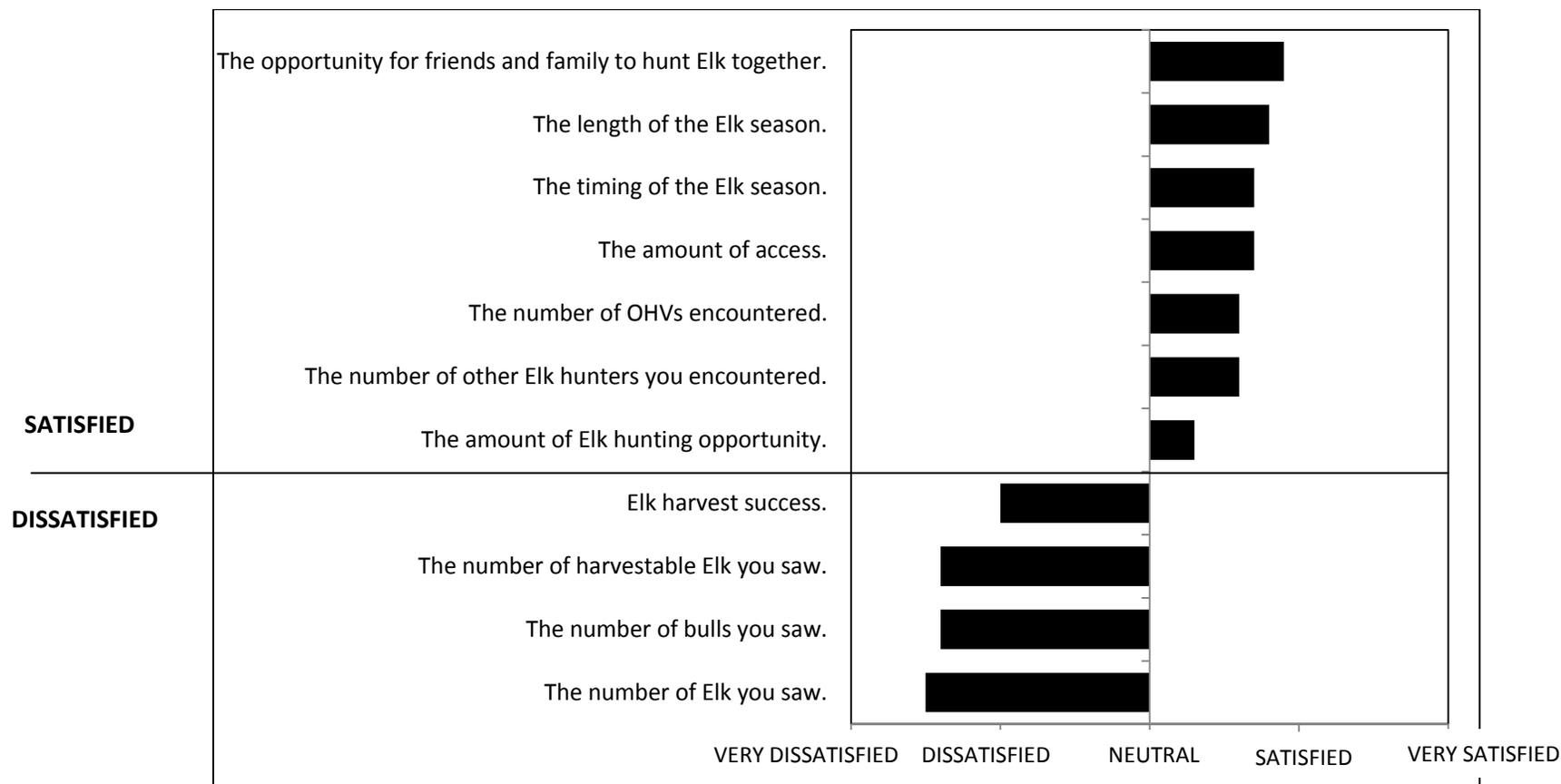
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



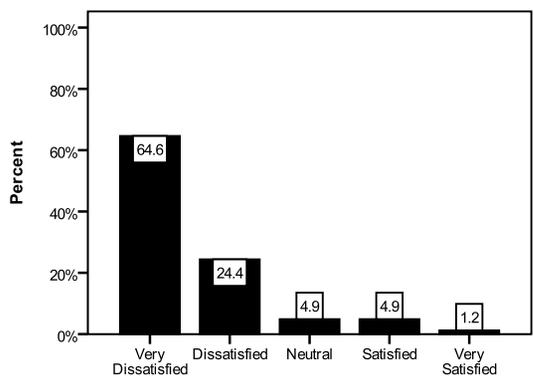
Q33: Similarly to the state average, a majority of Lolo hunters reported that the number of other hunters did not detract from the quality of their 2011 hunting experience.

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

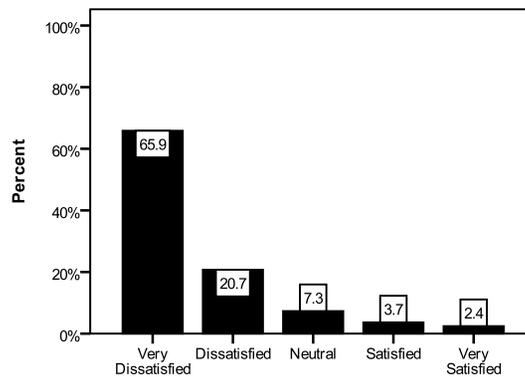
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



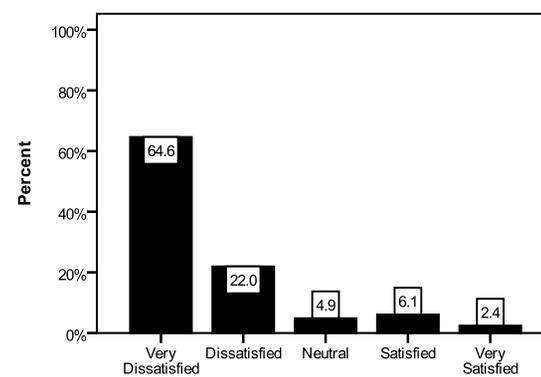
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



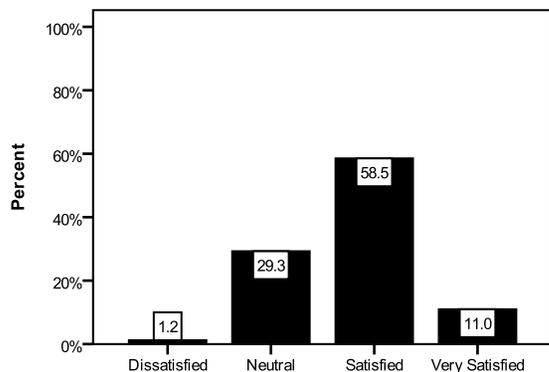
Number of Elk Seen



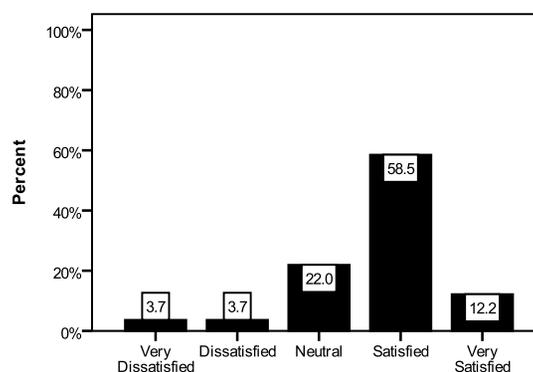
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



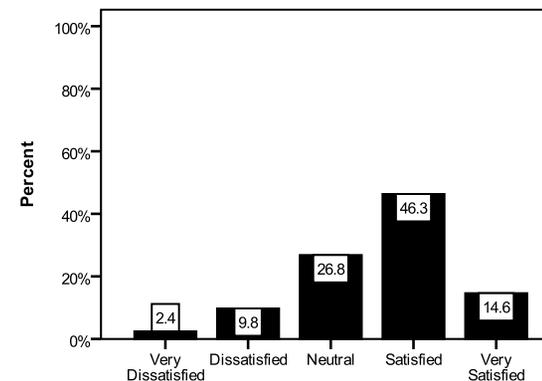
Number of Bulls Seen



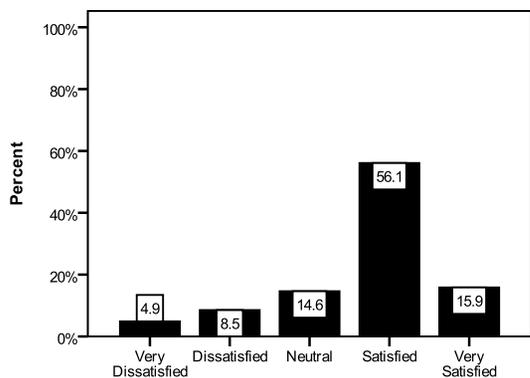
Length of Elk Season



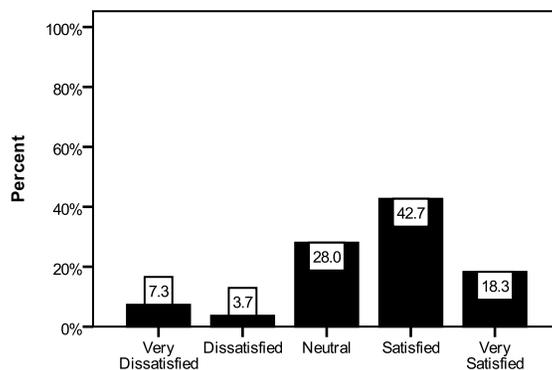
Timing of Elk Season



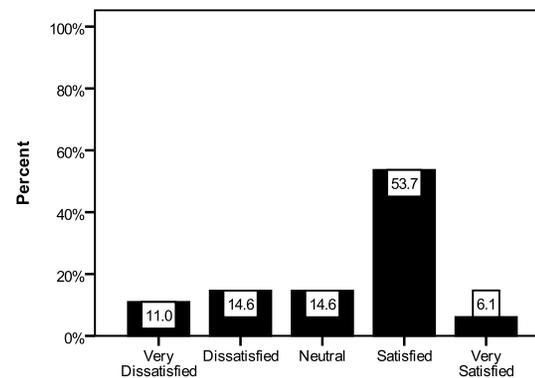
Number of Elk Hunters Encountered



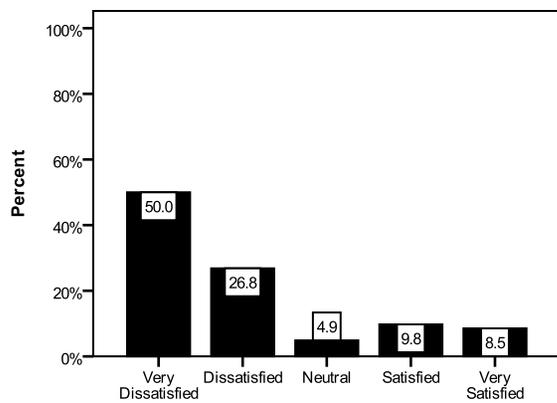
Amount of Access



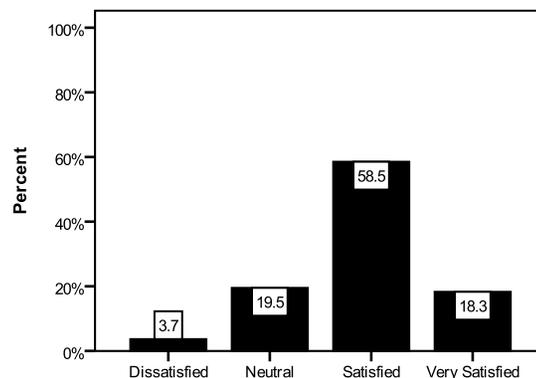
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



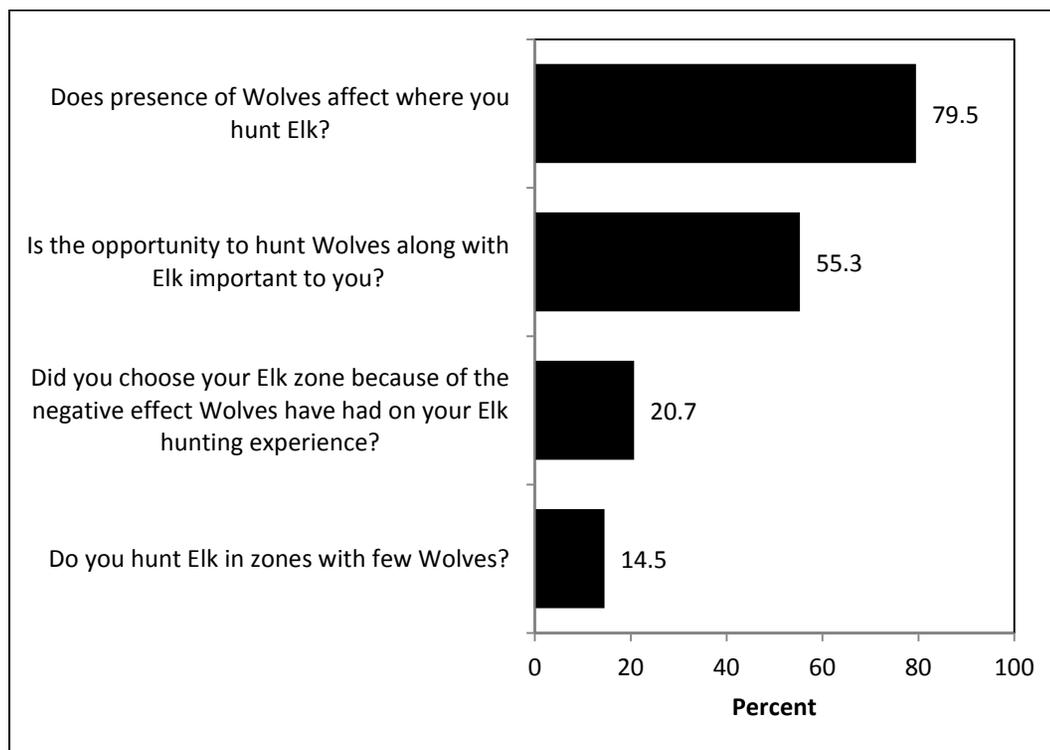
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

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

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

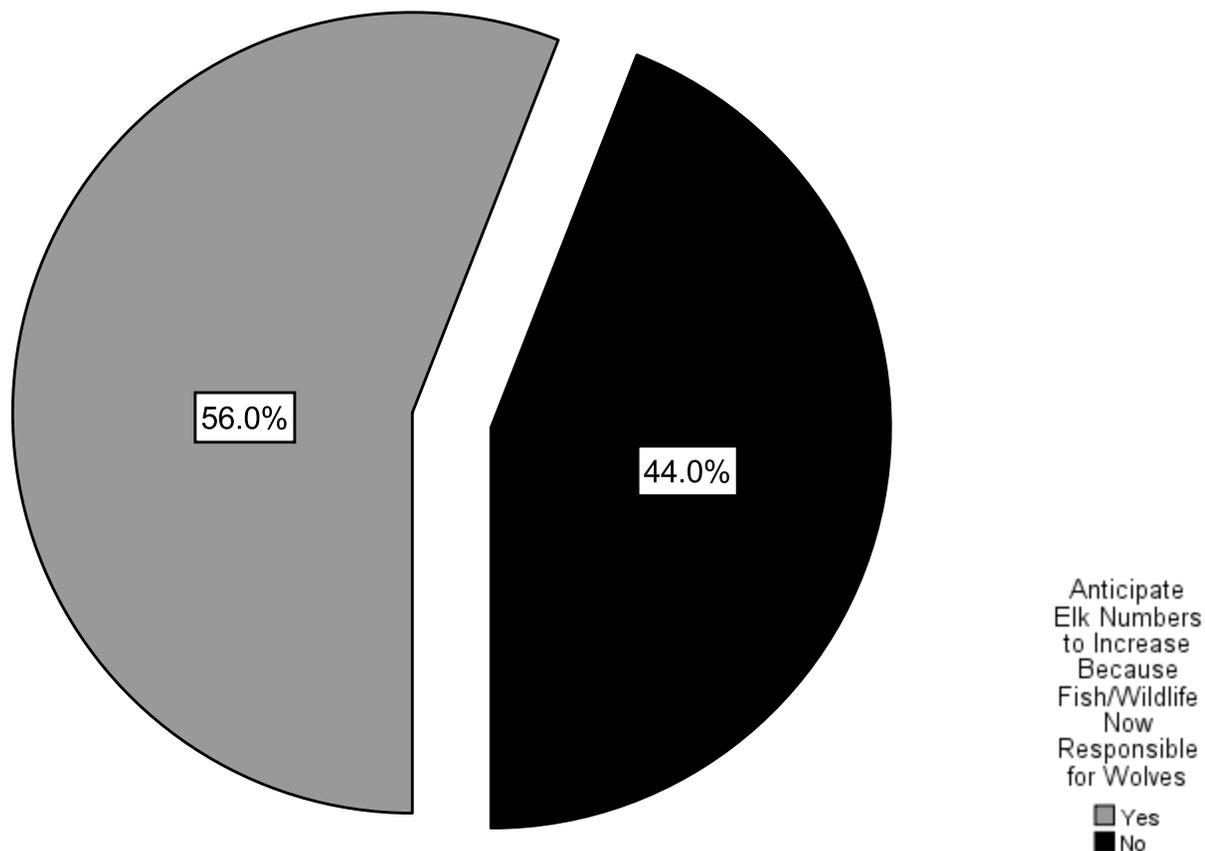
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



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

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



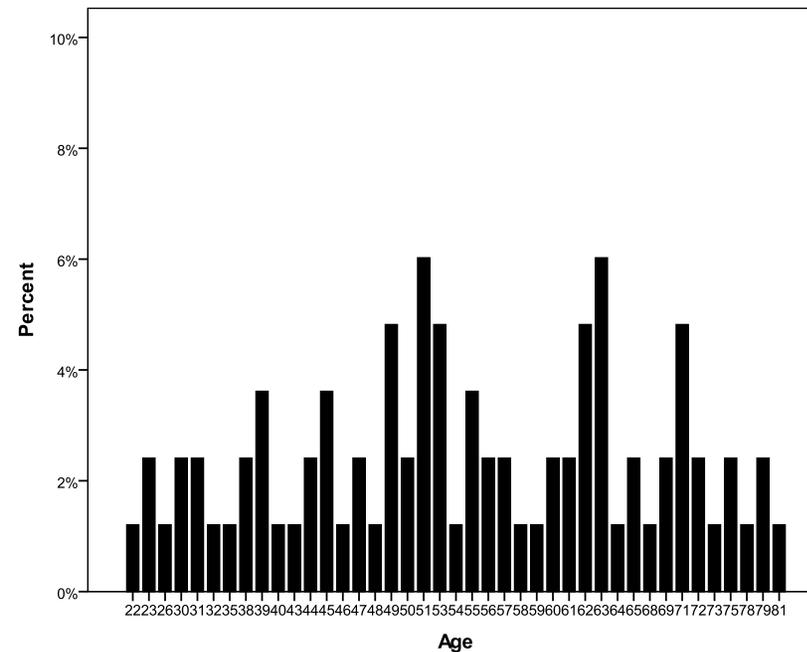
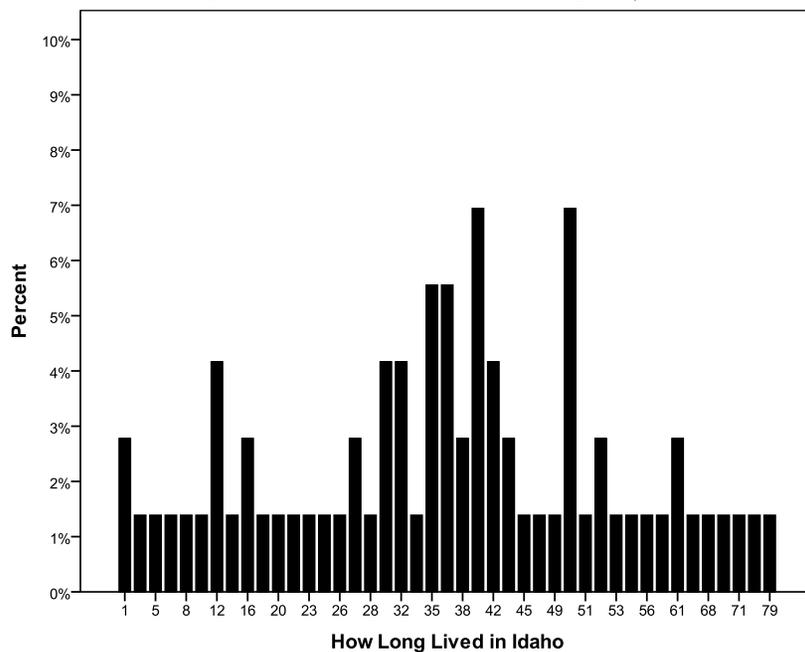
Q40: Like other hunters in the state, more than half of Lolo hunters anticipate an increase in Elk numbers with IDFG management of Wolves.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, some questions about you!

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

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



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