

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



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

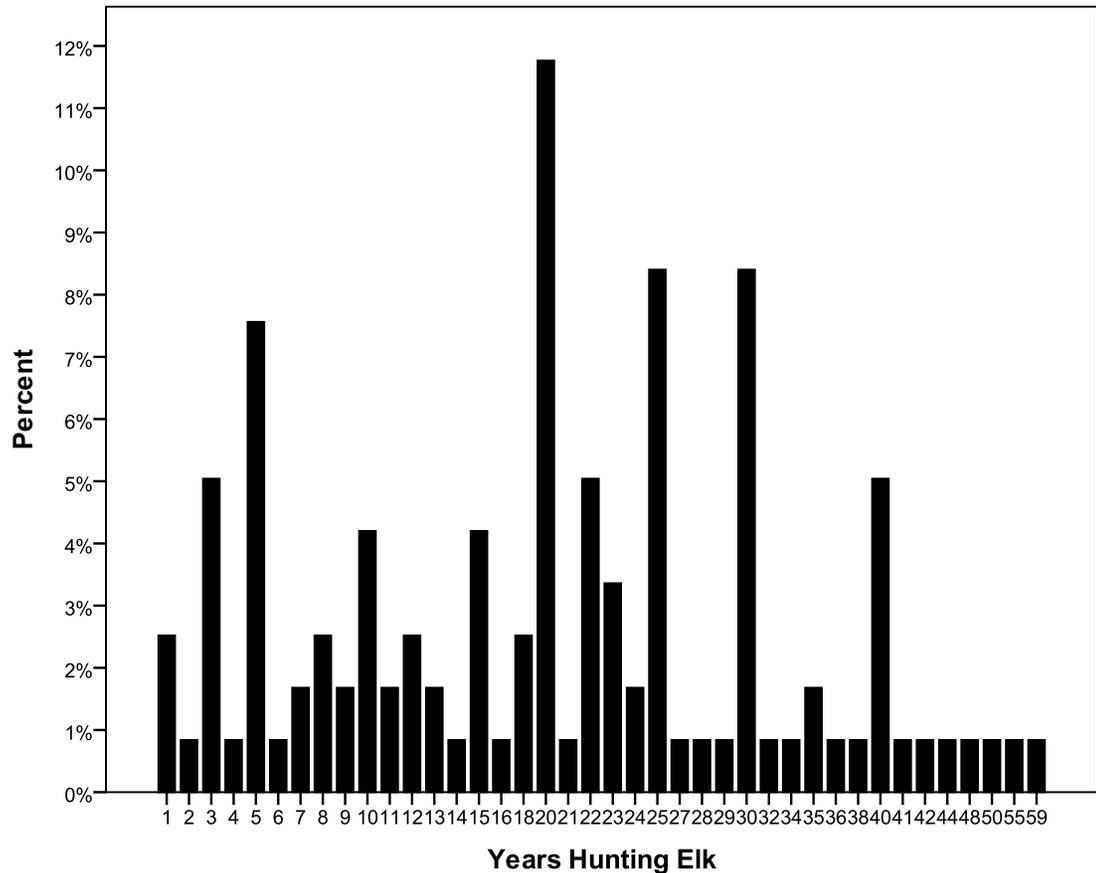
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

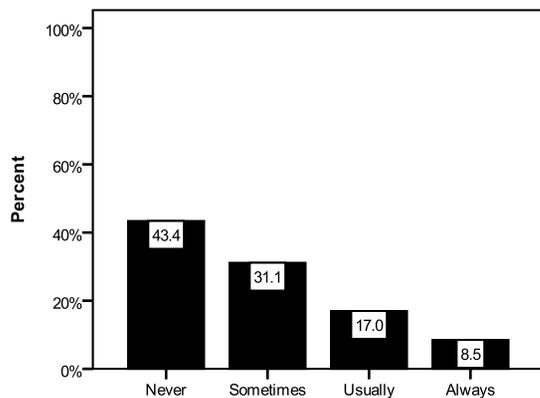
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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

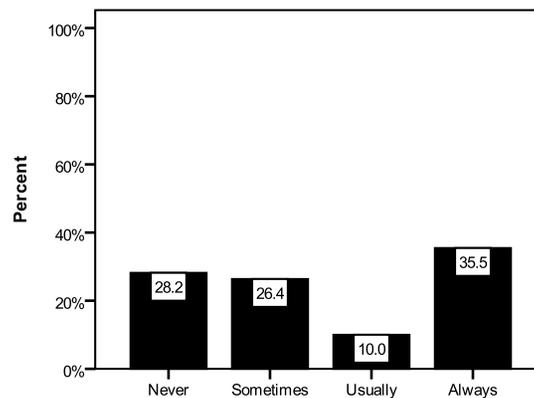


Q3: The Pioneer zone has a similar distribution of elk hunting experience among respondents as compared to the state average.

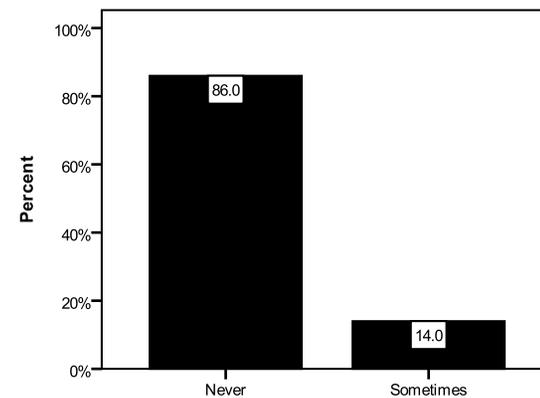
7. Excluding your travel to and from your home, how often do you use the following mode of transportation when you hunt Elk in Idaho?



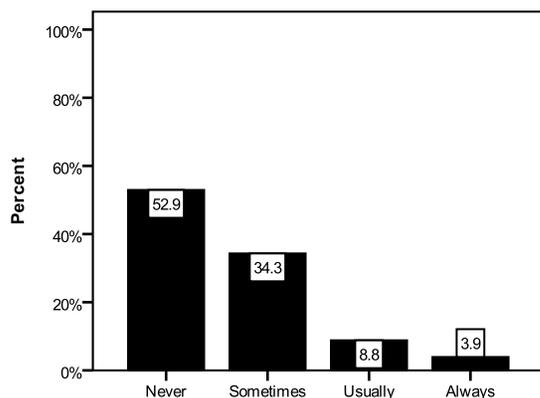
Horse/pack animals



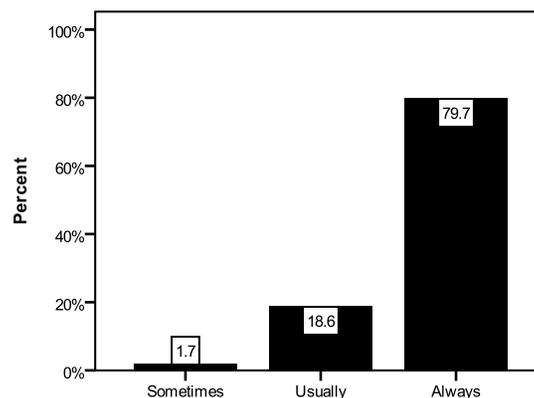
Car/truck



Mountain Bike



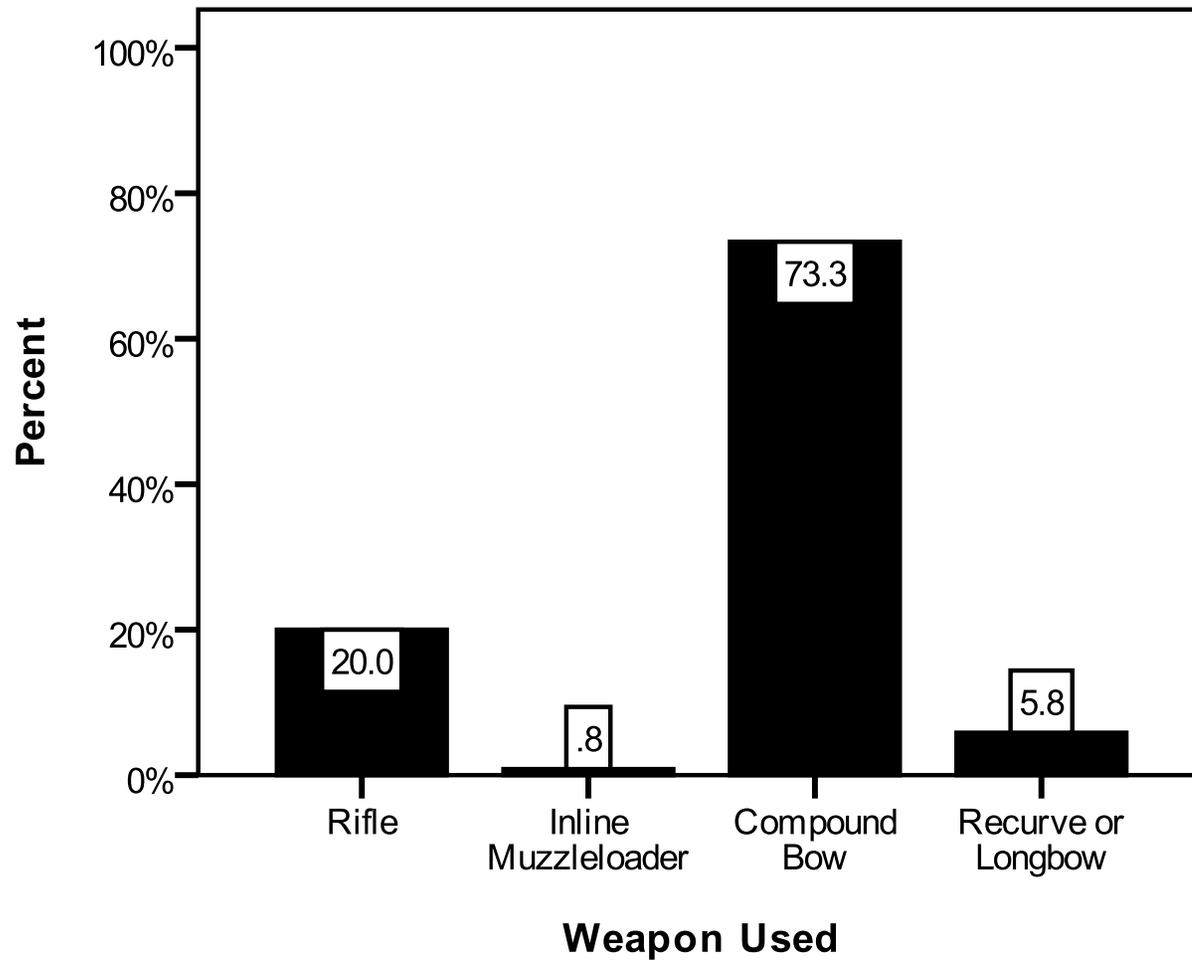
OHV



On Foot

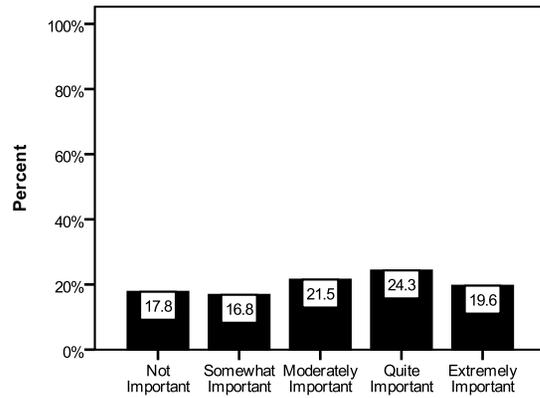
Q7: Pioneer zone respondents tend to use similar modes of transportation as the state average. Most hunters use a car/truck to hunt or hunt on foot. However, twice as many respondents than the state average say they never use OHVs. More respondents also report never using a car/truck and always hunting on foot.

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

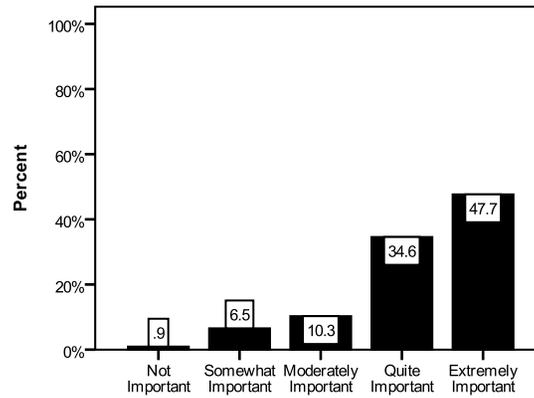


Q8: Unlike the state average which favors rifle use, Pioneer zone respondents overwhelmingly reported using a compound bow, a 40% increase over the total population. Their rifle use was also 37.2% lower than the state average.

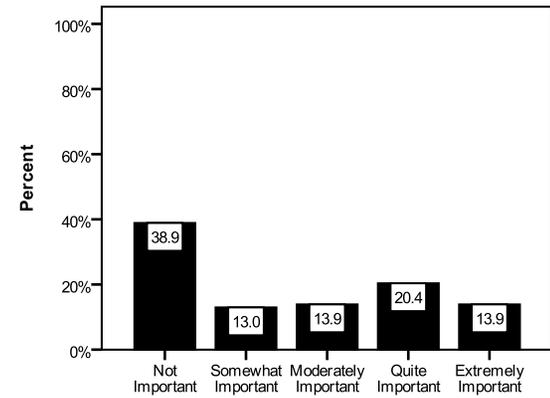
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?



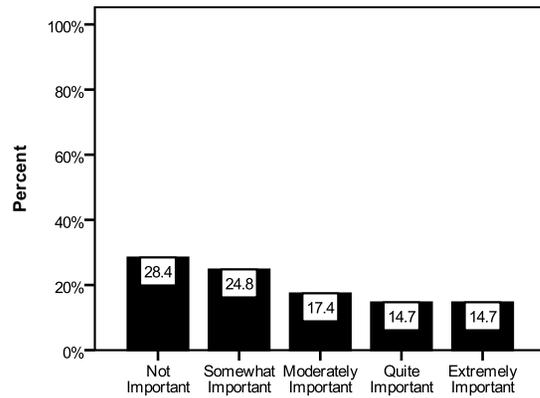
Increase Challenge



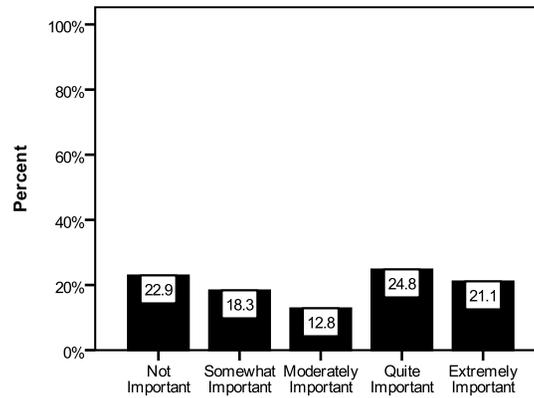
Hunt With Few Hunters on Field



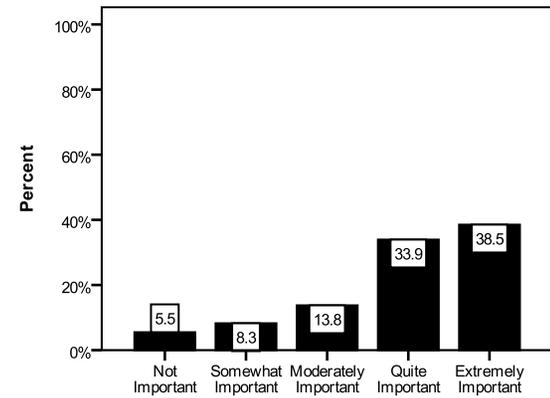
Improve Chance of Harvesting



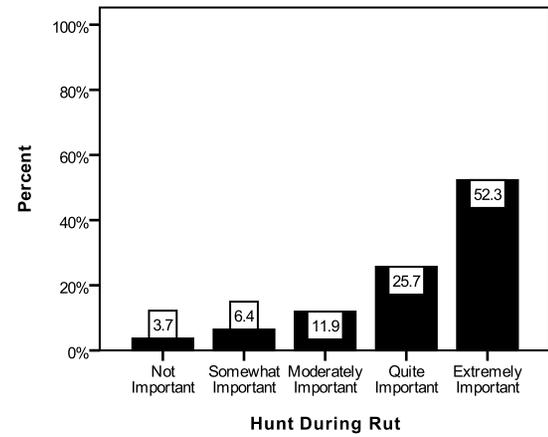
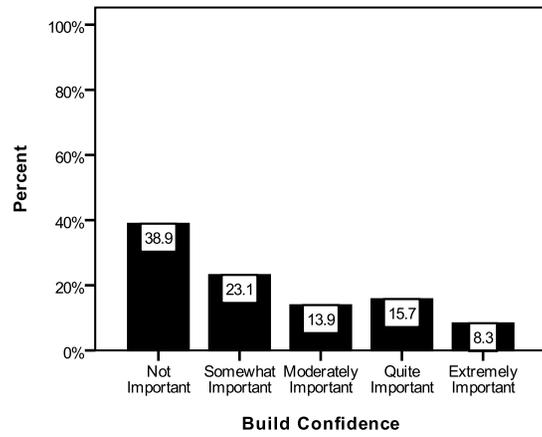
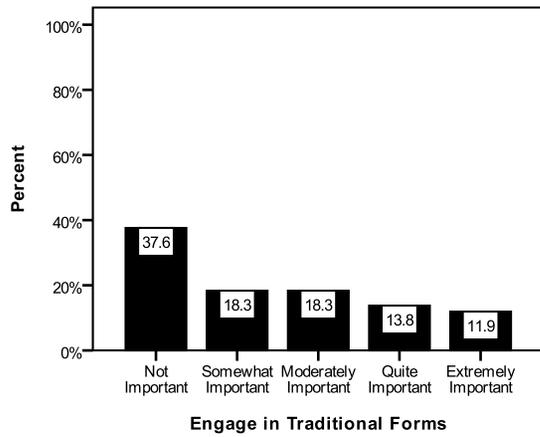
Expand Hunting Season



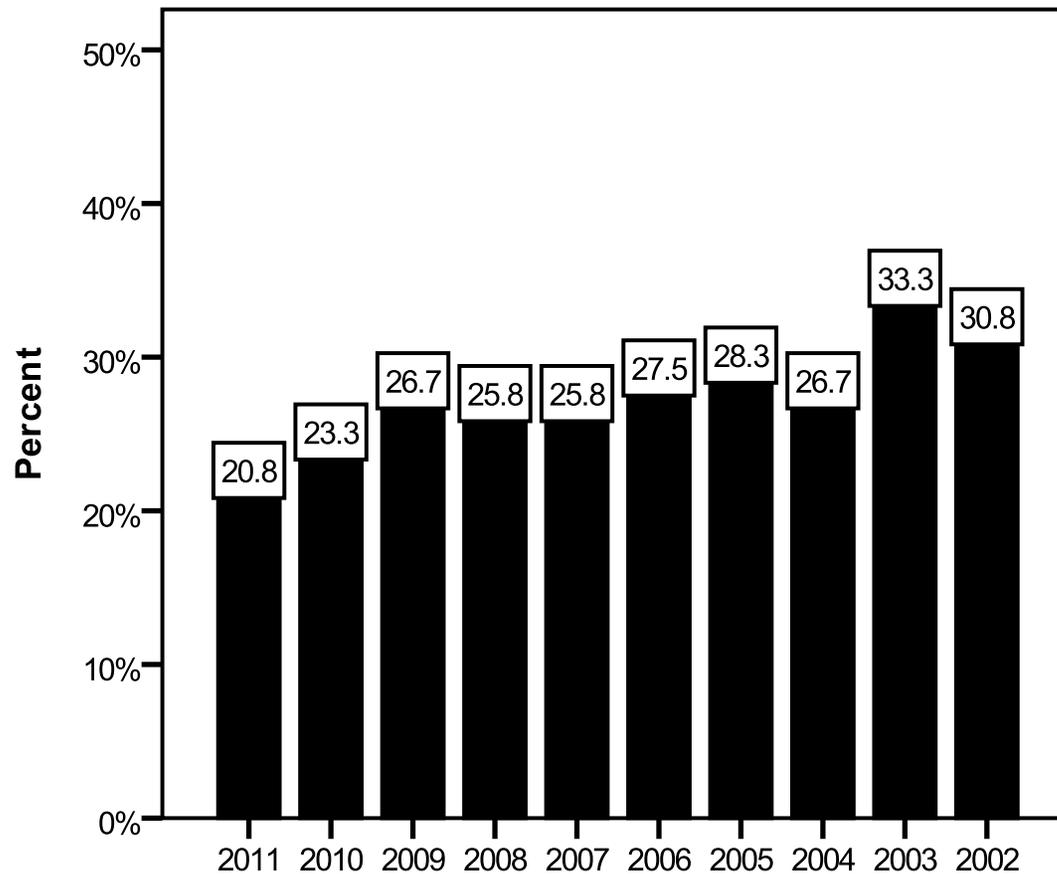
Hunt in Zone Where Rifle Limited



Adventure

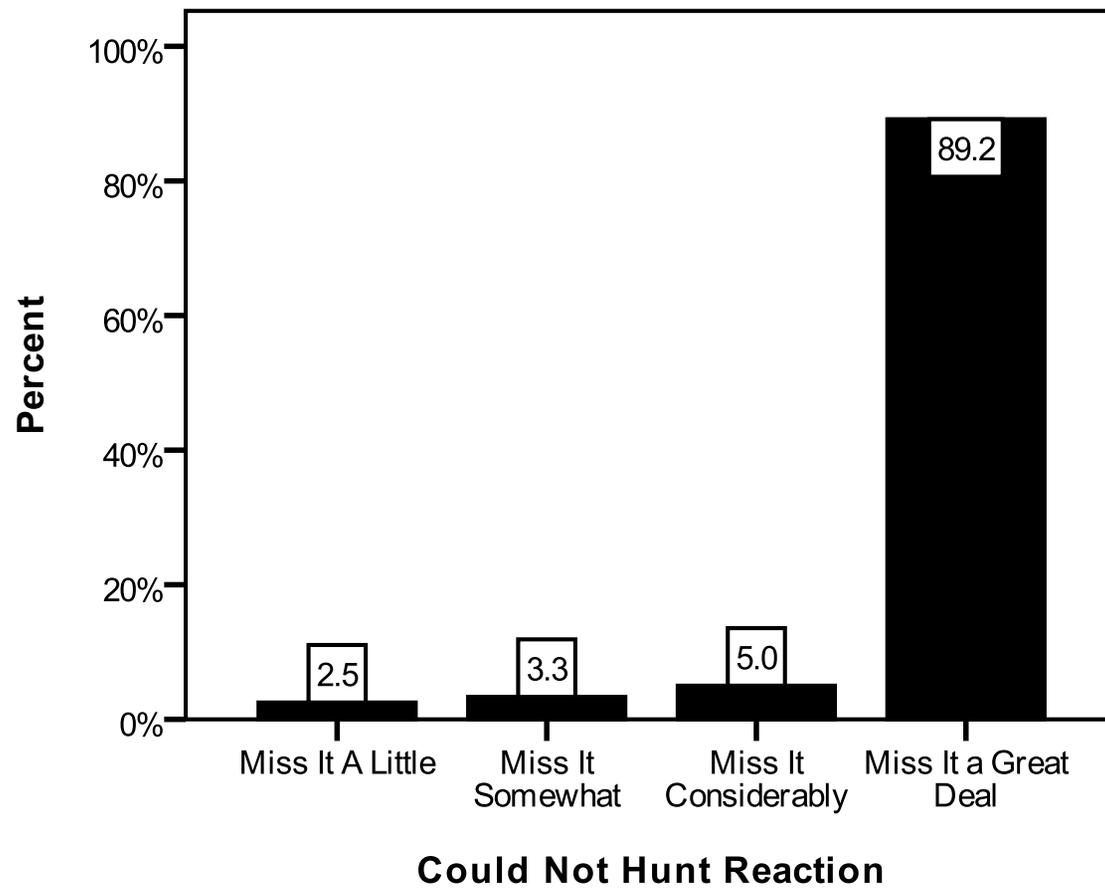


Q10: Similar to the state average, respondents from the Pioneer zone also said that the three most important factors in choosing to hunt in the Elk archery, muzzleloader, short-range weapons seasons were to hunt with fewer hunters afield, to hunt during the rut and for the adventure. However, the increase in challenge was more important to them, while improving their chance of harvest and to expand their hunting season was less important than the state average.

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

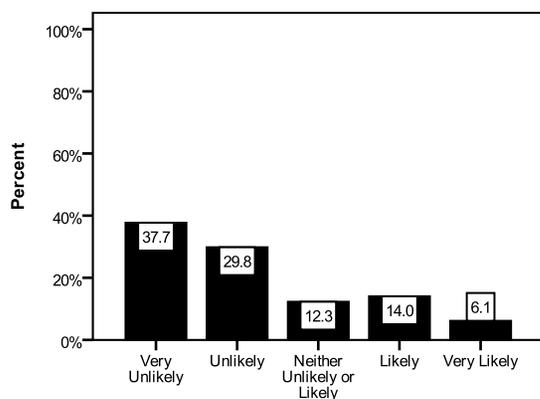
Q11: Hunters in the Pioneer zone reported a slightly higher harvest success rate than the state average. Success rates were higher by more than 10% in 2003. Similarly to other zones in the state, success rates have also declined in the past 10 years in this zone.

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

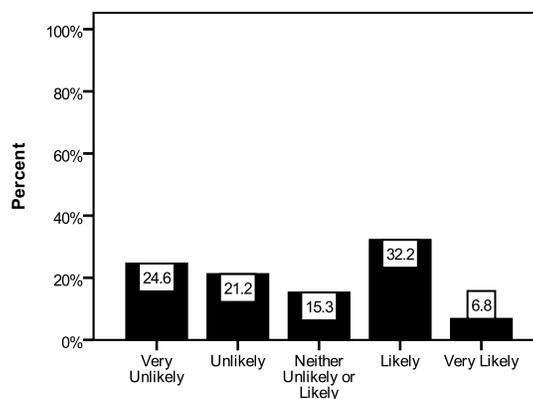


Q12: Similarly to hunters across the state, if Pioneer hunters could not hunt Elk in Idaho, they would miss it a great deal.

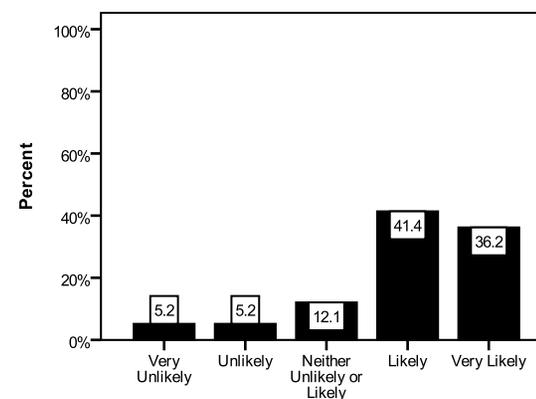
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



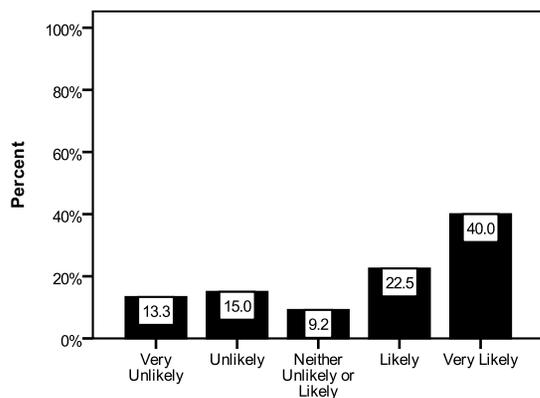
Hunt Waterfowl More



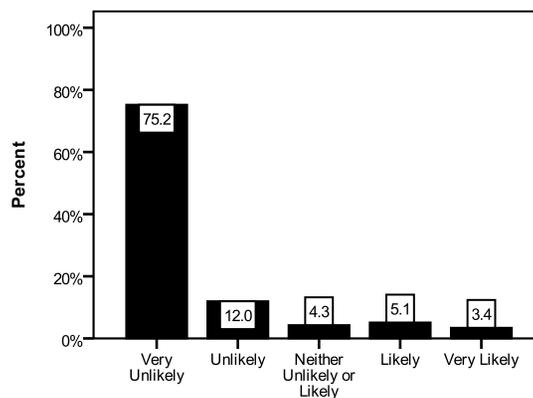
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



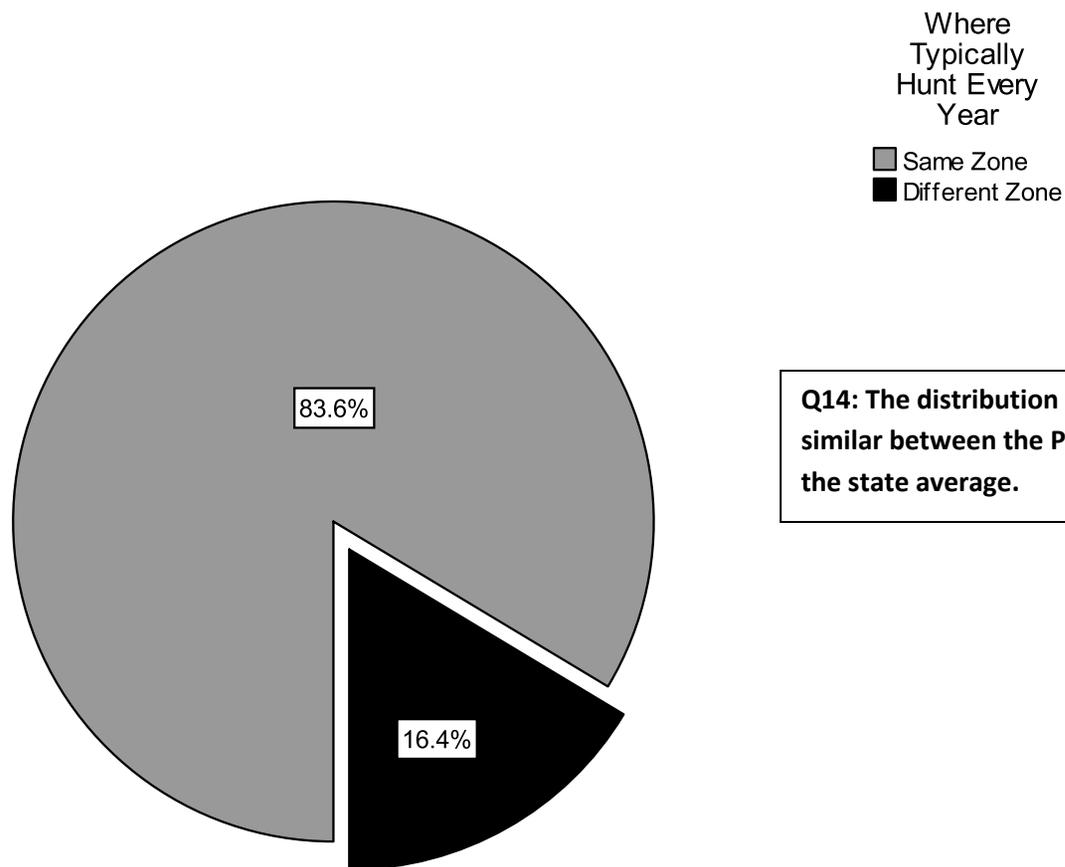
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

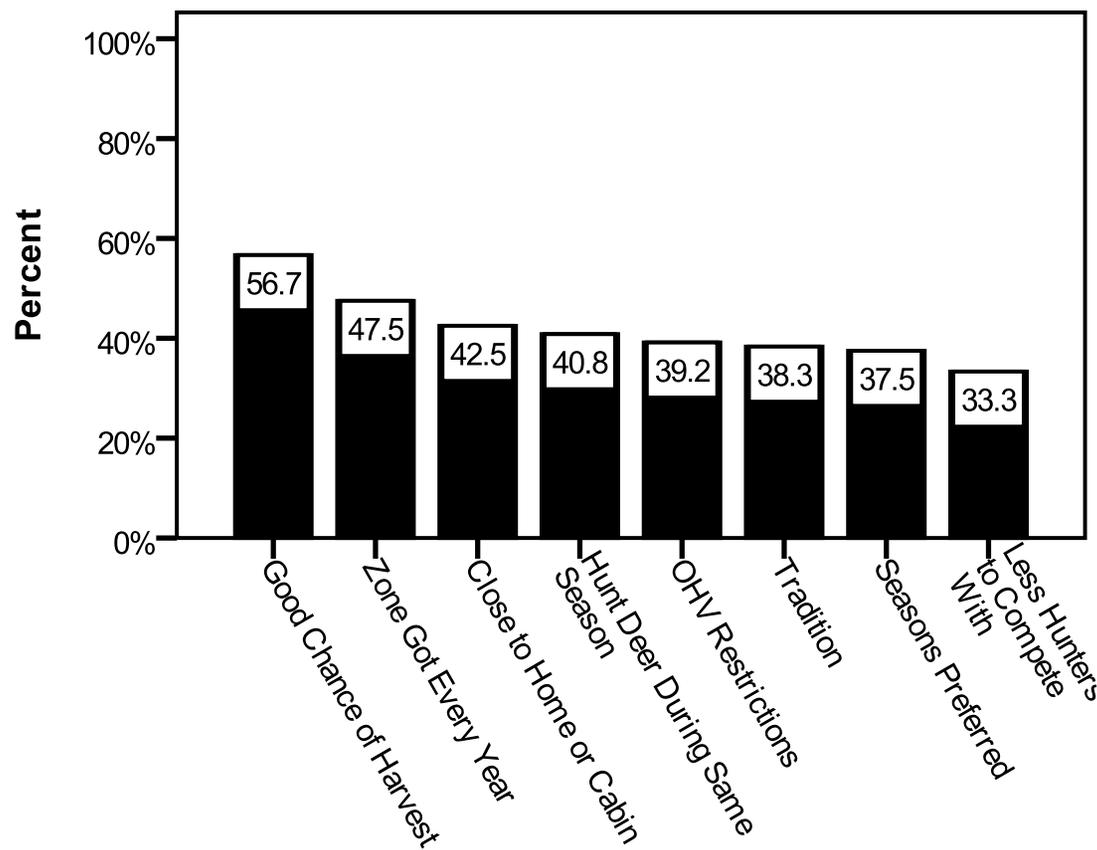
Q13: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. Pioneer hunters were more likely to hunt upland game more than other respondents in the state.

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



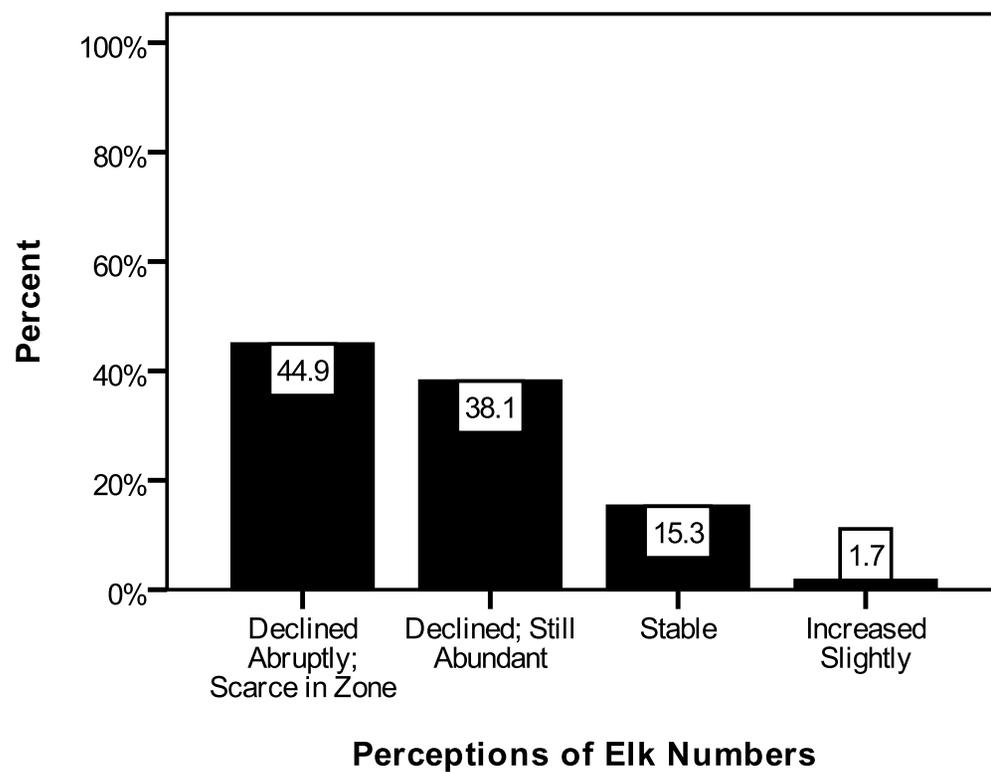
Q14: The distribution of responses are similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average.

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



Q16: Pioneer hunters value good chance of harvest in a zone 19.5% more than other state respondents. A zone with OHV restrictions was also more desirable to Pioneer hunters than the state average.

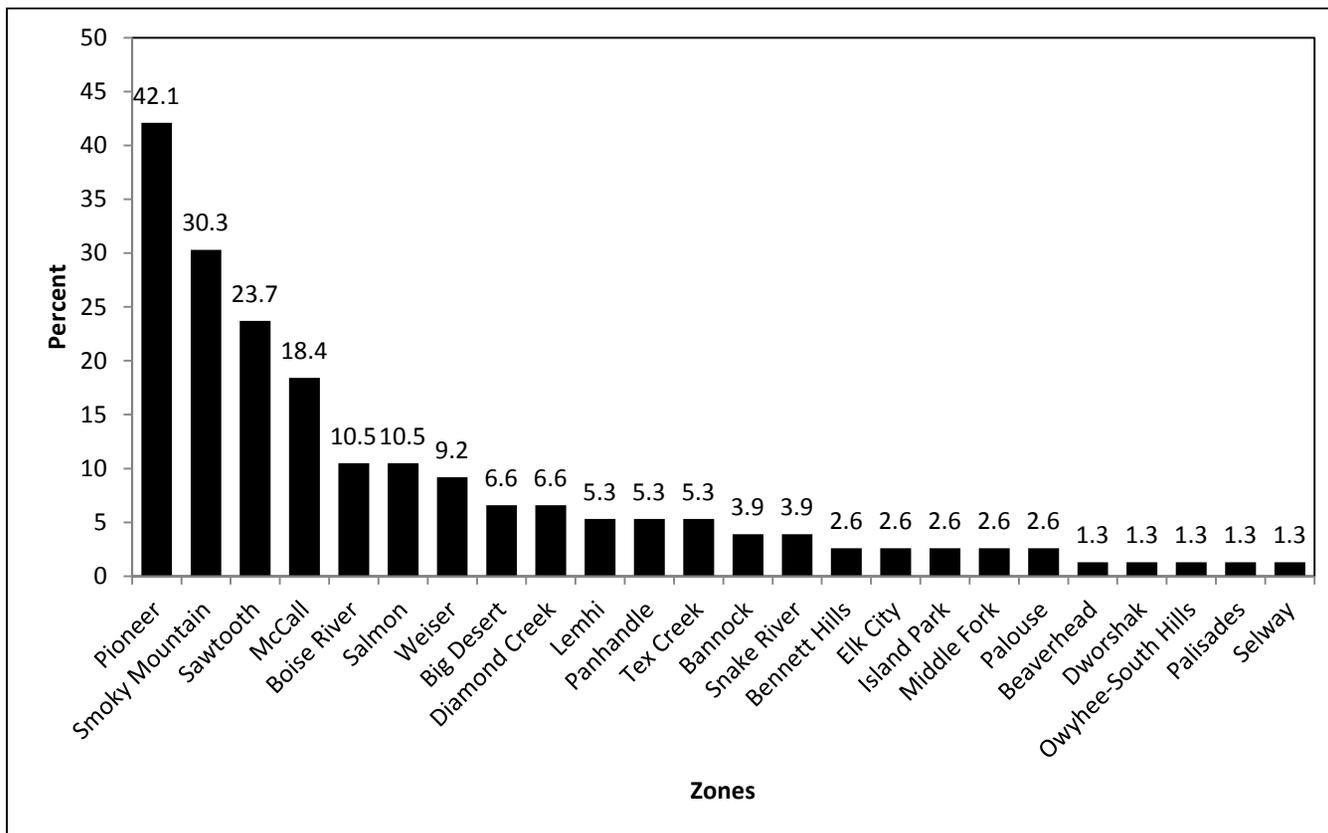
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. Elk numbers are perceived to have declined by over three quarters of both groups of respondents.

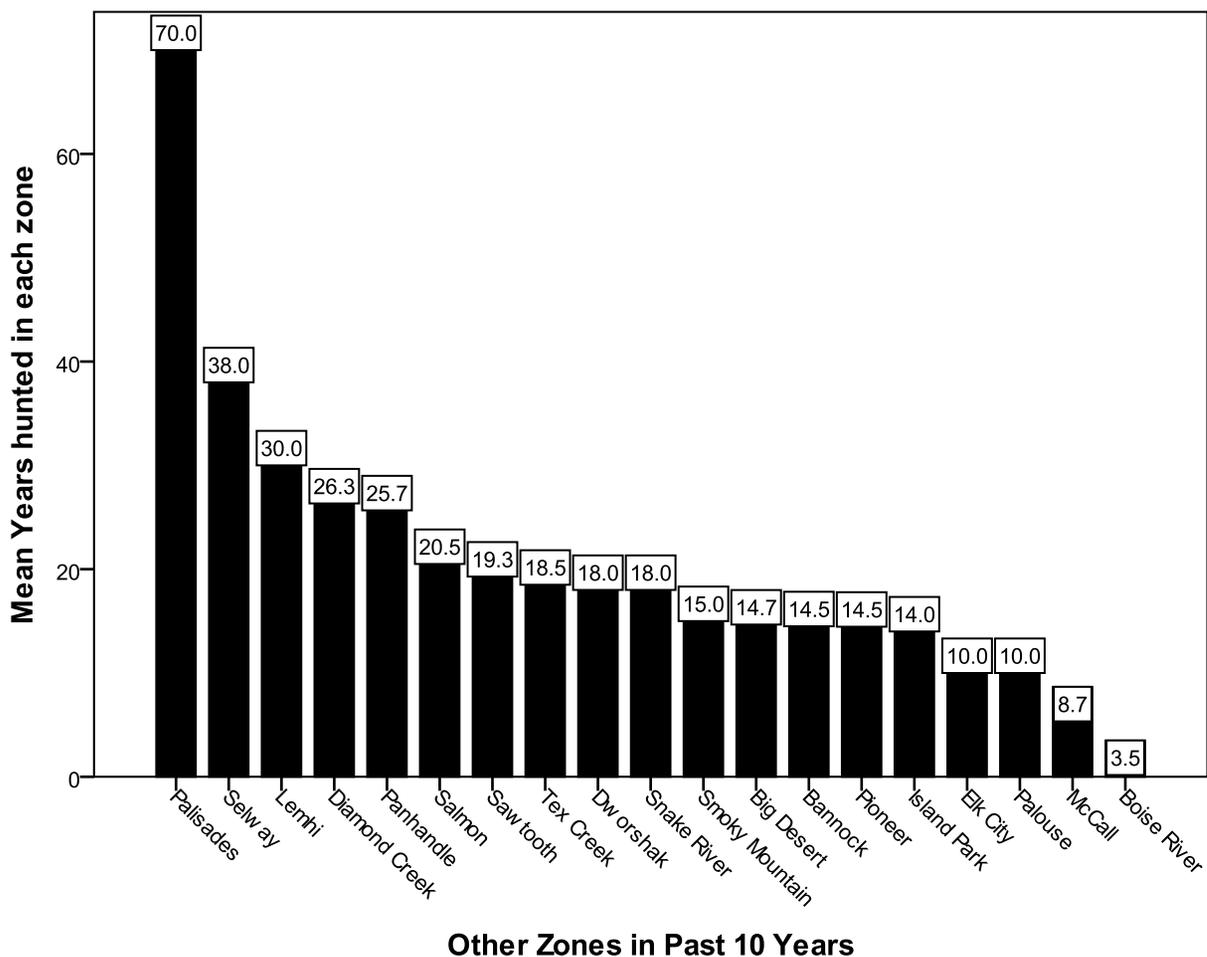
18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years, please list them below.

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

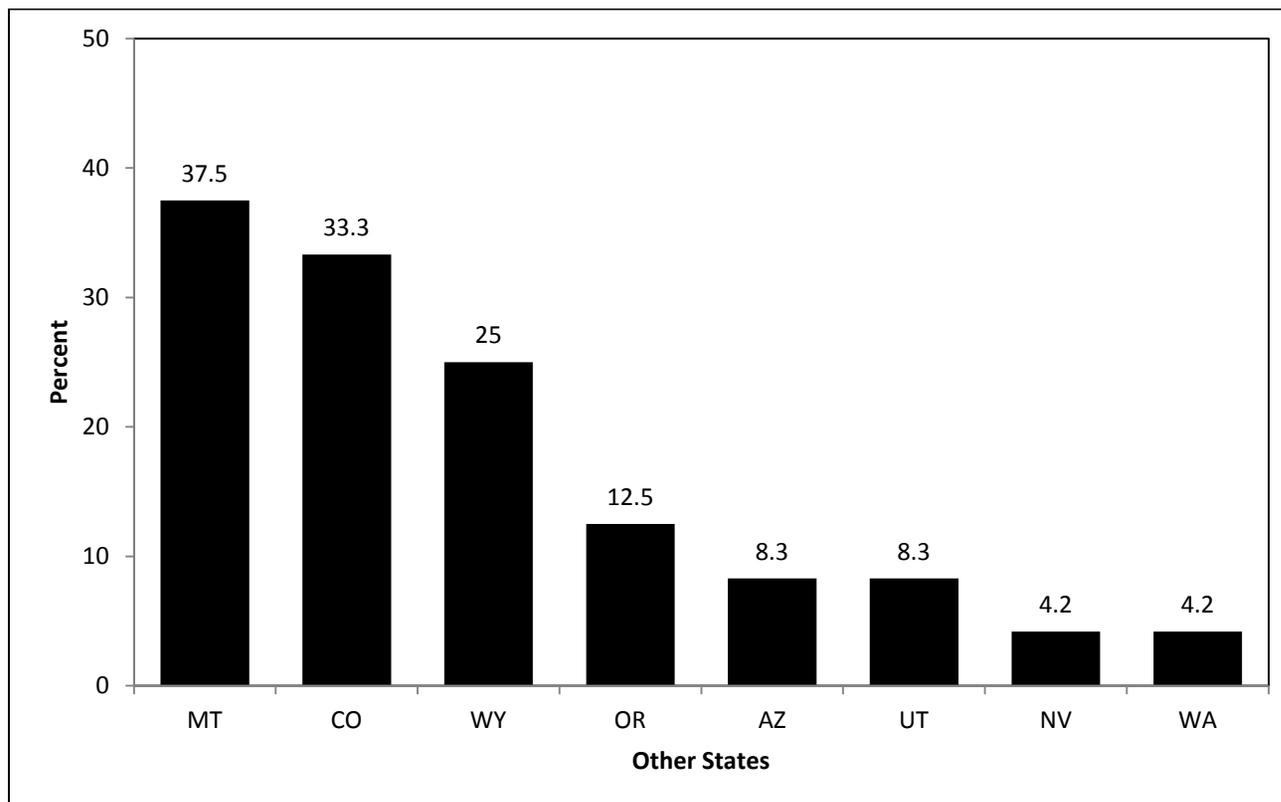


Q18: The Smoky Mountain, Sawtooth, and McCall zones are the three most popular zones to hunt in outside of the Pioneer zone.

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)

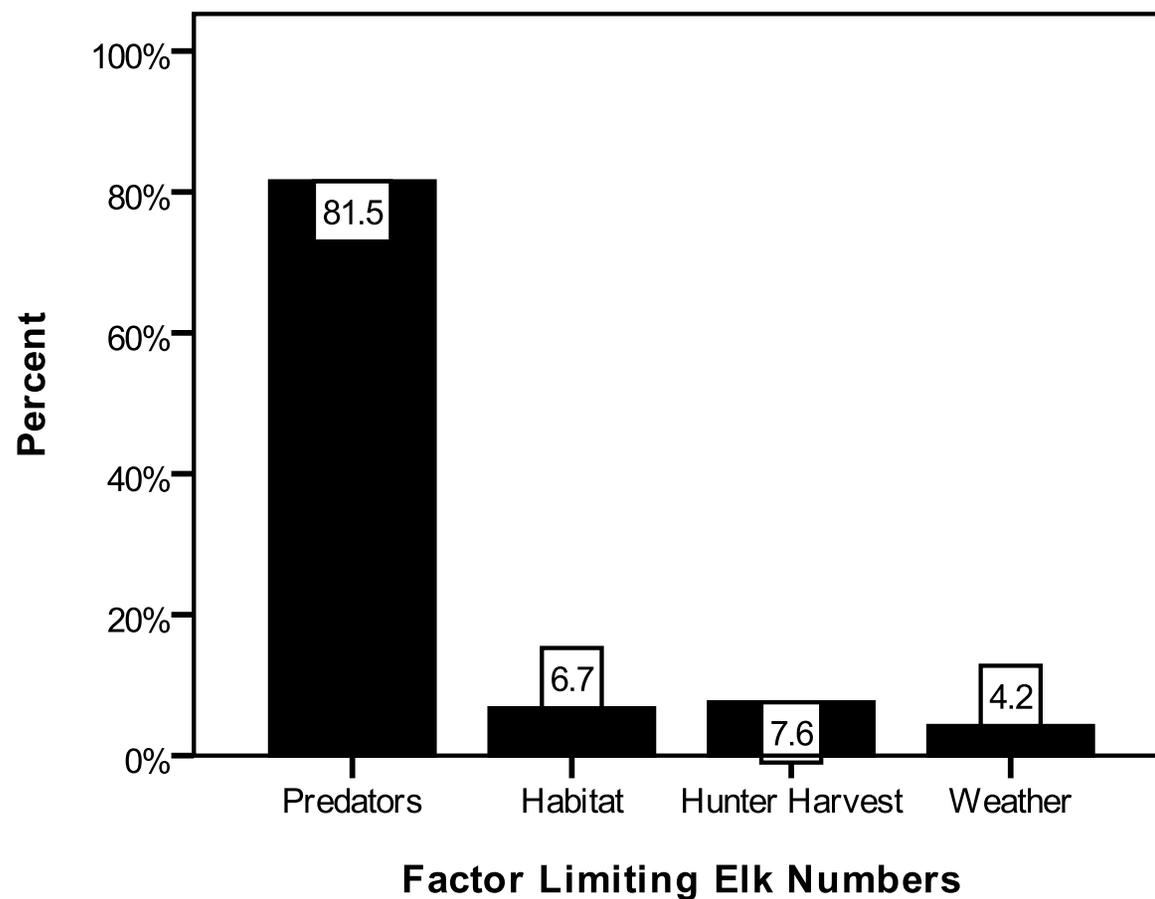


Q20: Those who have hunted in the Palisades zone have done so for an average of 70 years. The Selway and Lemhi hunters have hunted in the zones for over 30 years. The hunters of the Diamond Creek and Panhandle zones have hunted there over 25 years, on average.

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

Q21: Over one-third of Pioneer hunters who have hunted out of state have hunted in either Montana or Colorado.

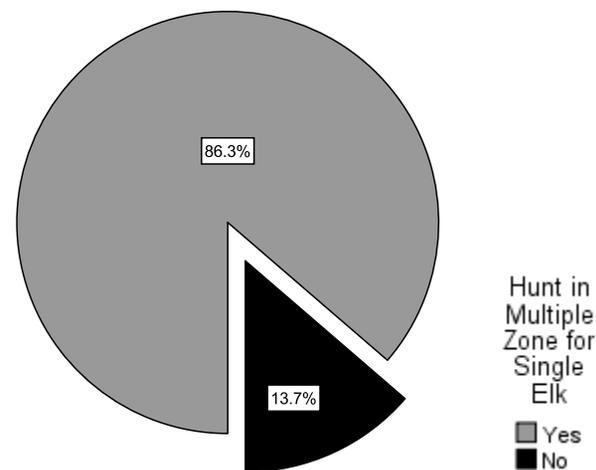
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



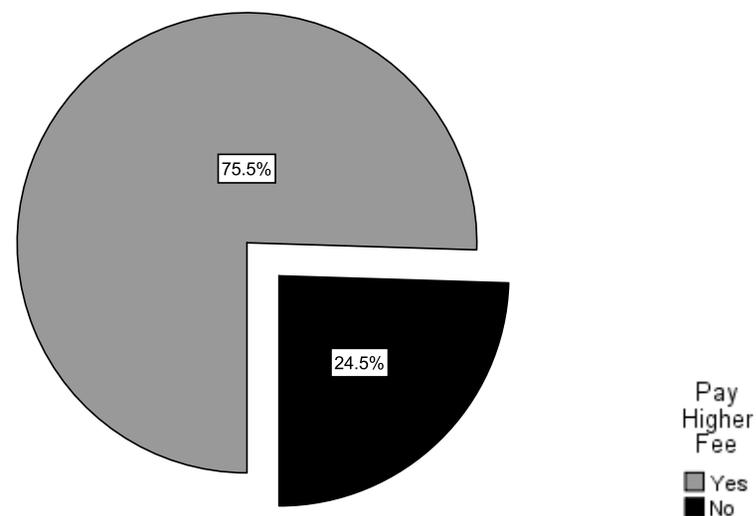
Q22: Like other hunters in the state, hunters in the Pioneer zone believe predators to be the primary limiting factor to Elk numbers in their zone.

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

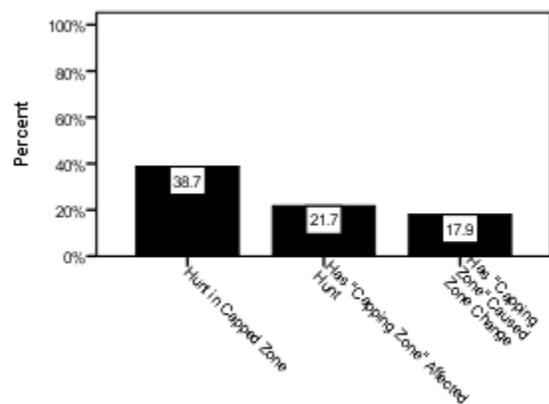
The large majority of those in the Pioneer zone and the rest of the state would like to hunt in multiple zones in a year for a single Elk. However, 15.3% more hunters in the Pioneer zone would be willing to pay a higher fee than the state average.



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)

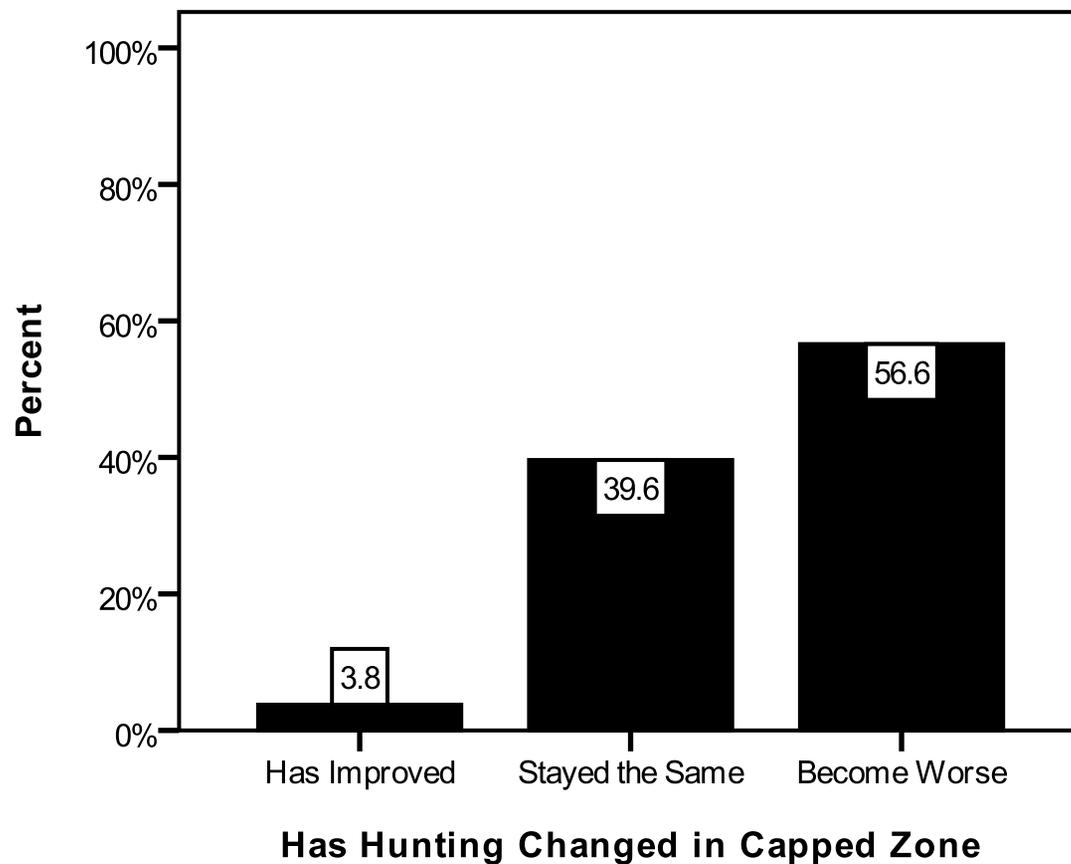


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called “capping the zone” was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This “capping the zone” is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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 Pioneer 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)

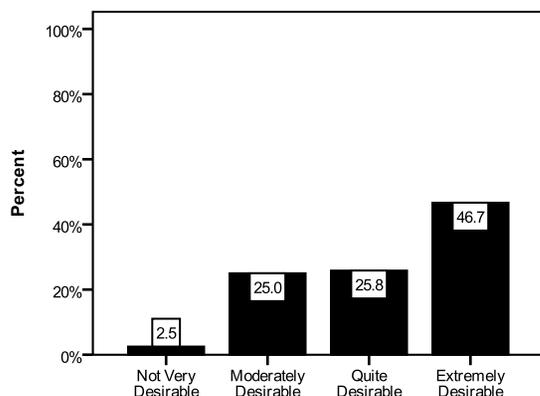


Q26: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average

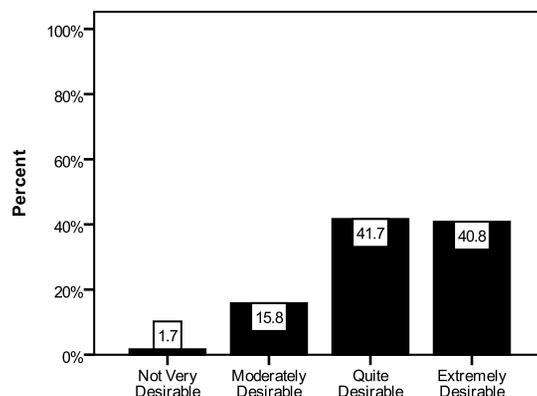
ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

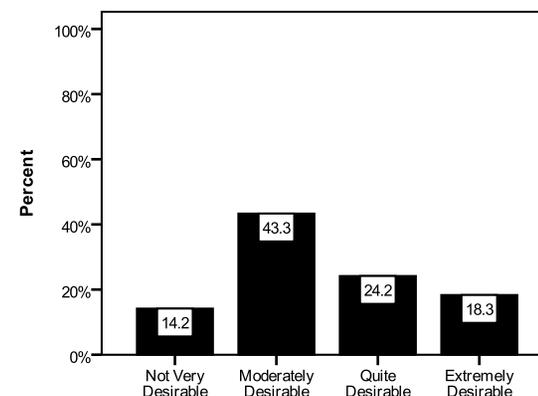
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



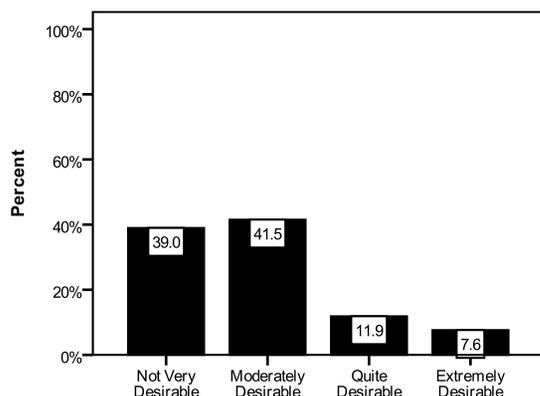
Large Bull



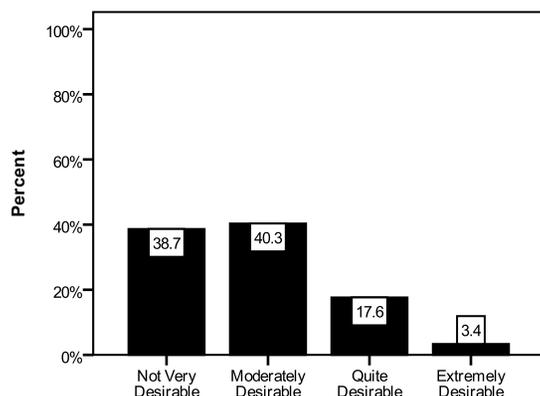
Mature Bull



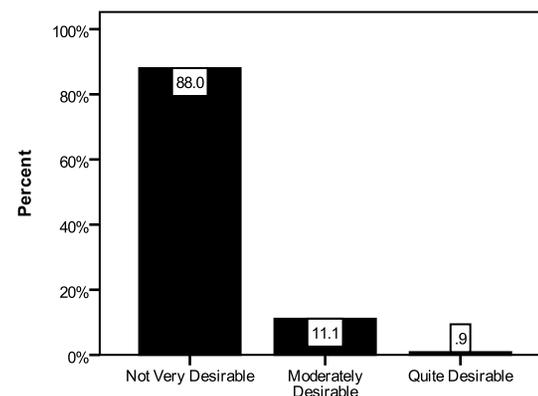
Raghorn Bull



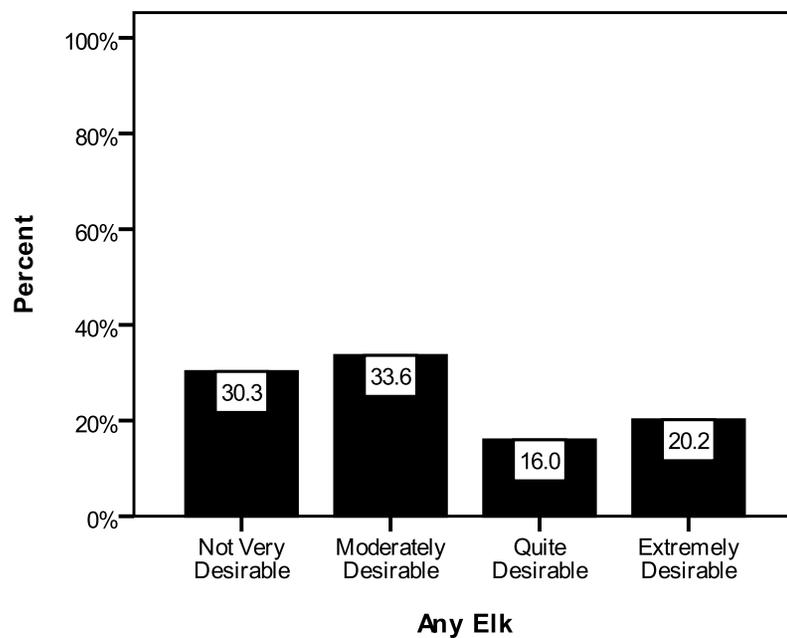
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

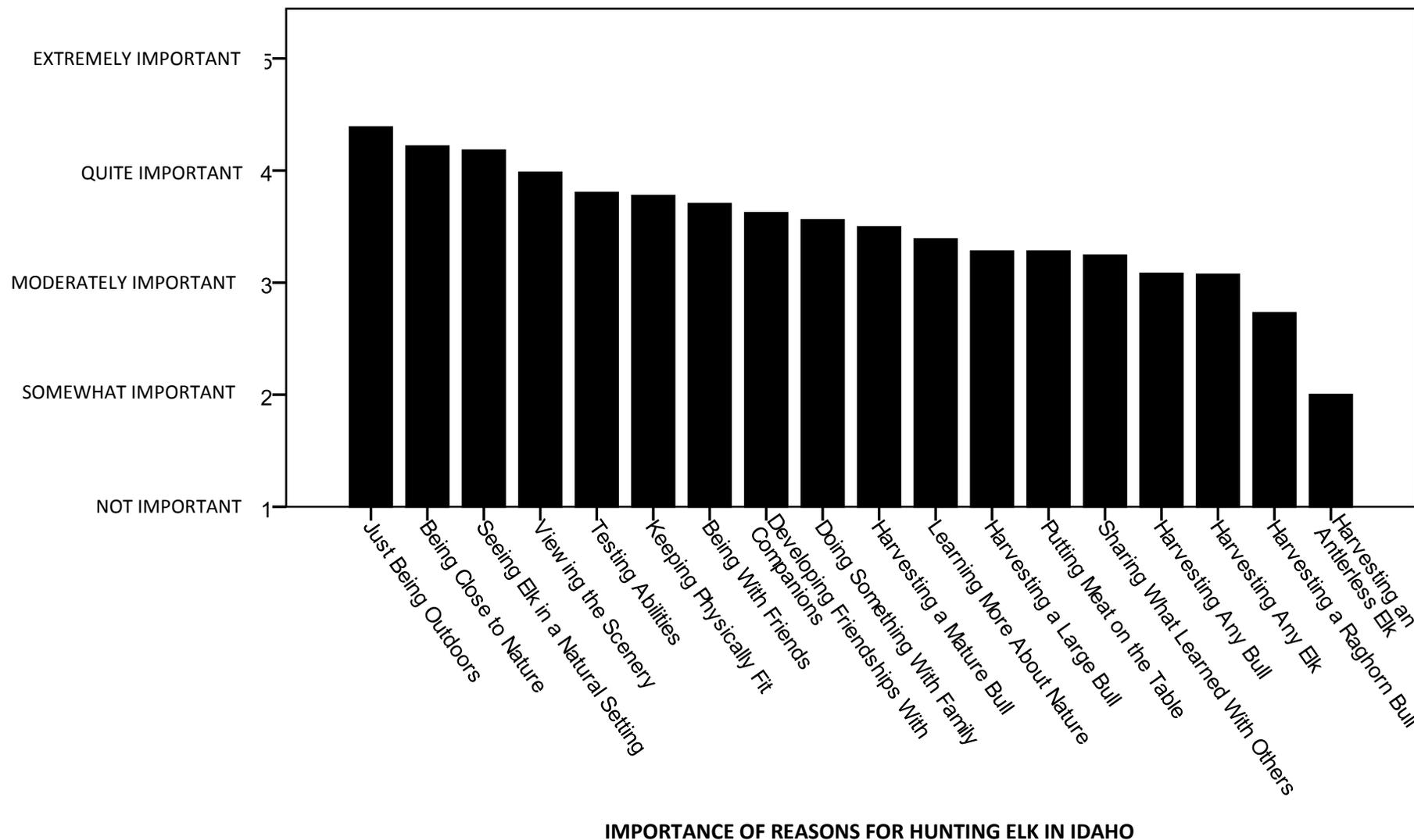


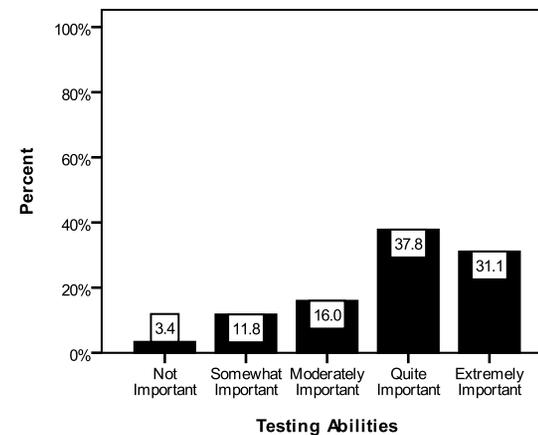
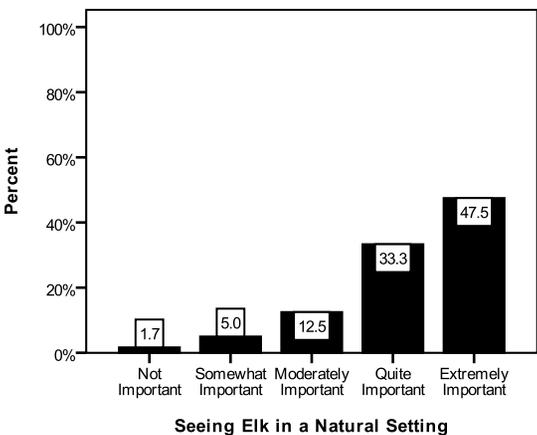
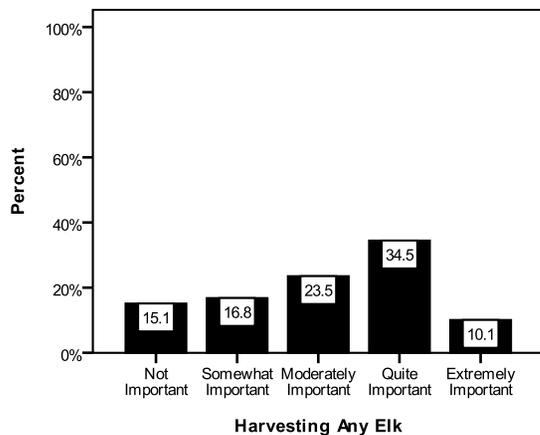
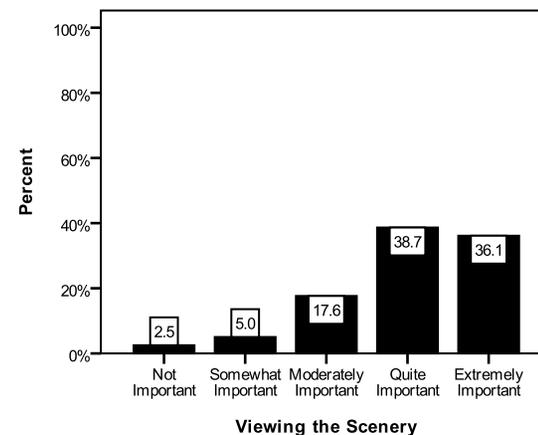
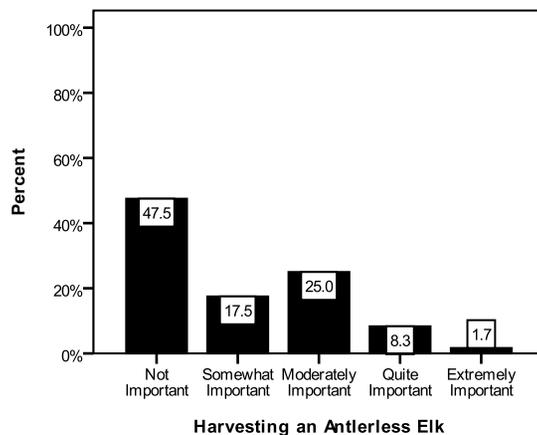
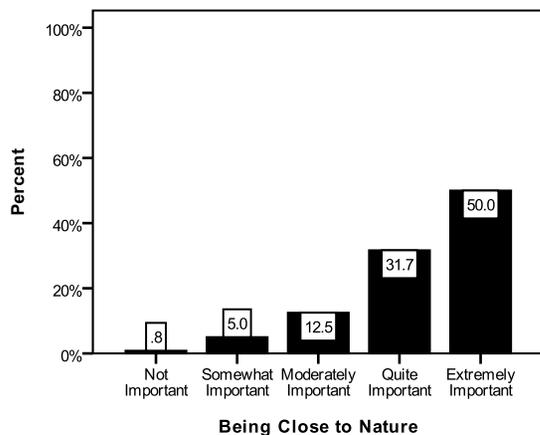
Calf

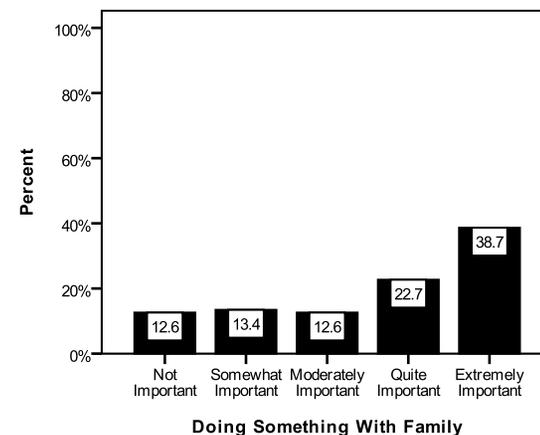
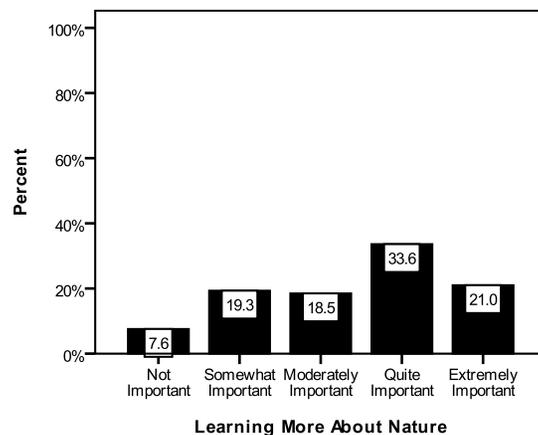
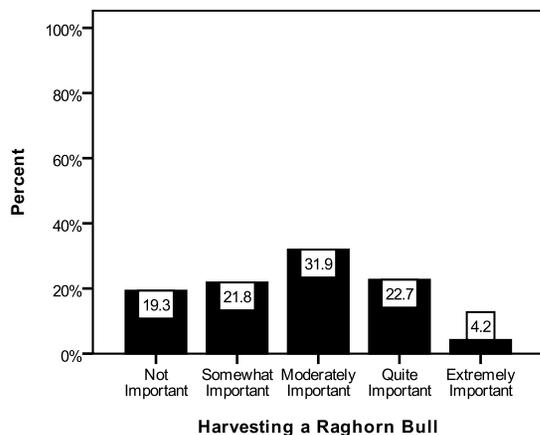
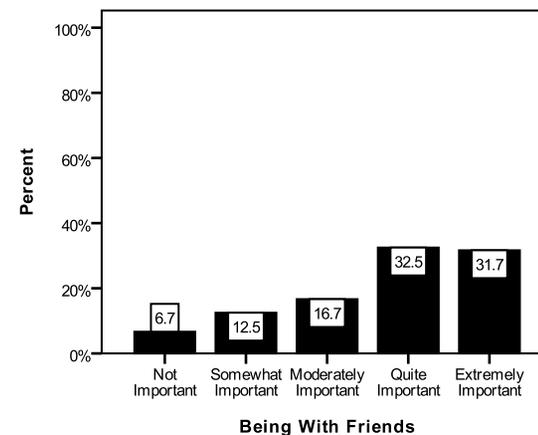
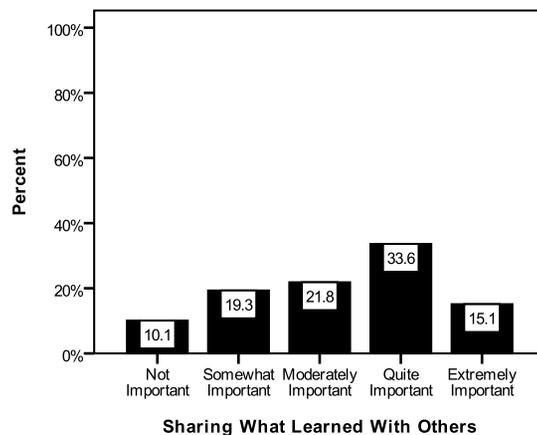
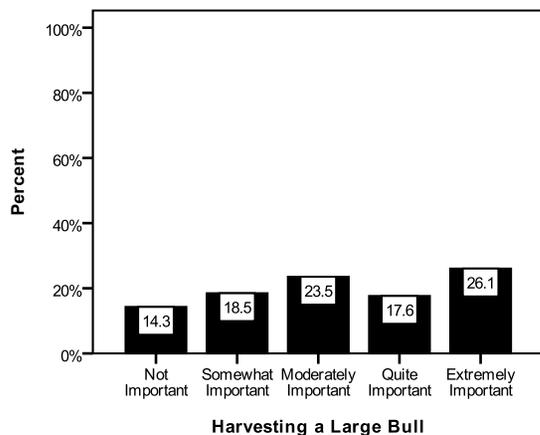


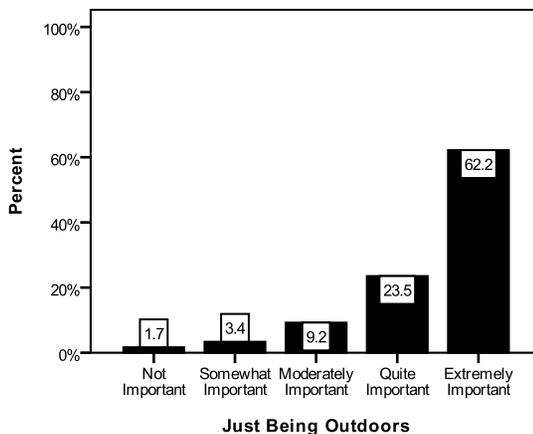
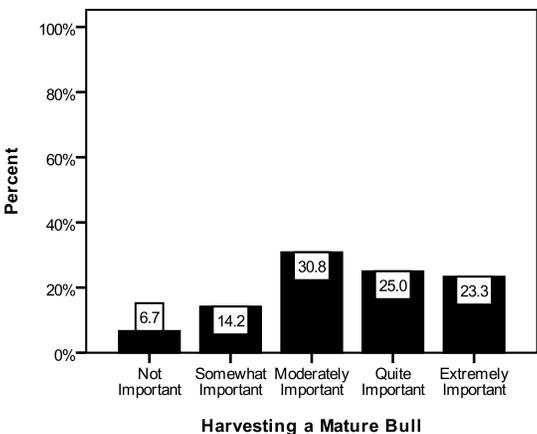
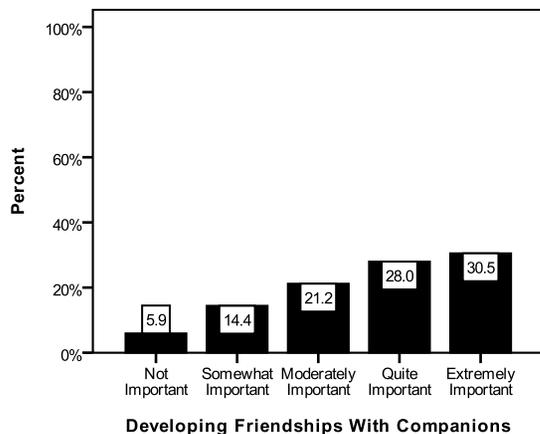
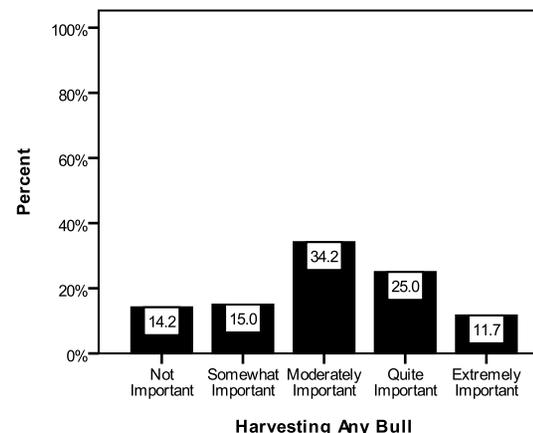
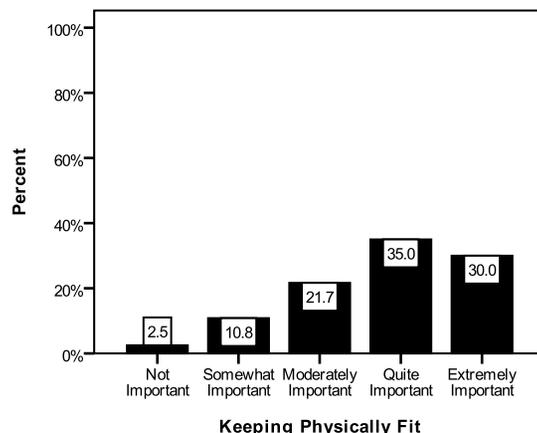
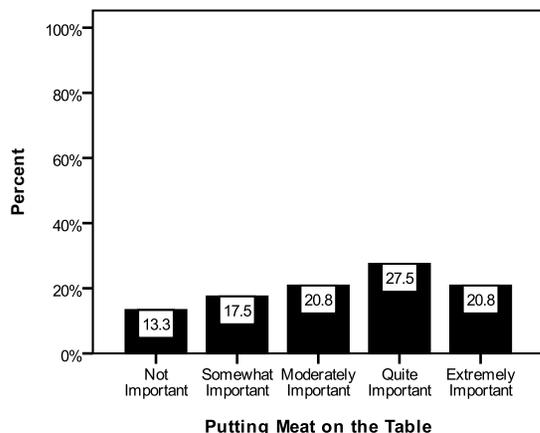
Q27: Like other hunters in the state, Pioneer hunters find large bulls (greater than 350 Boone & Crockett points) and mature bulls (6 points a side) as the most desirable kinds of Elk to harvest. The desirability of other kinds of Elk are consistent with the state average.

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





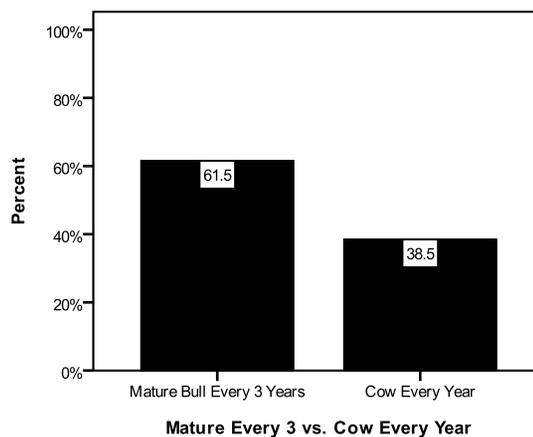
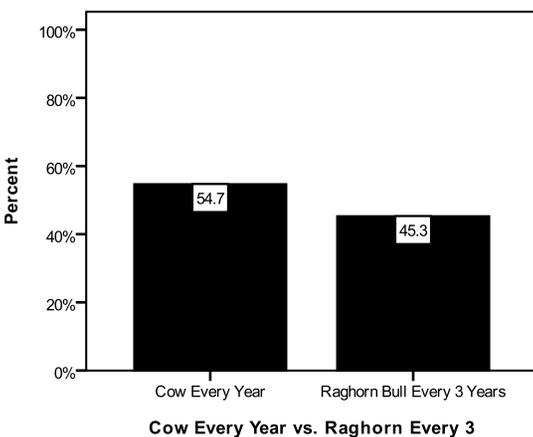
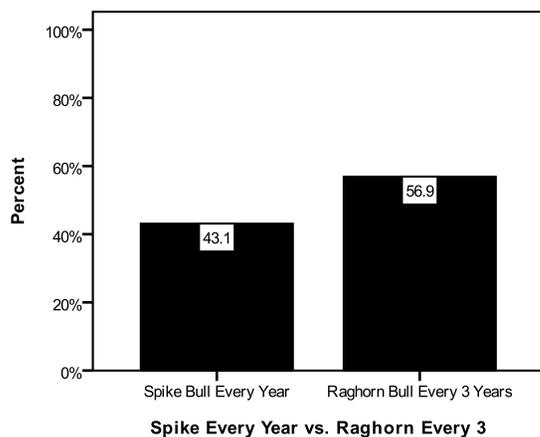
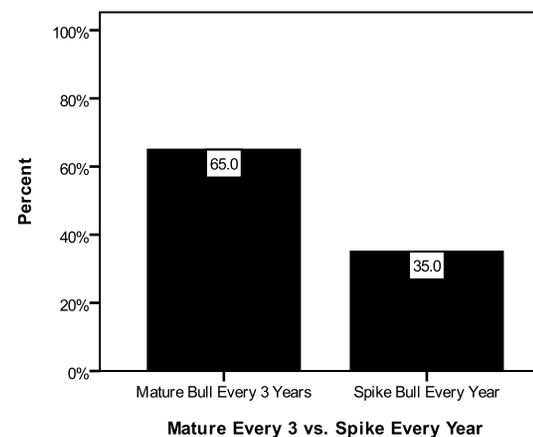
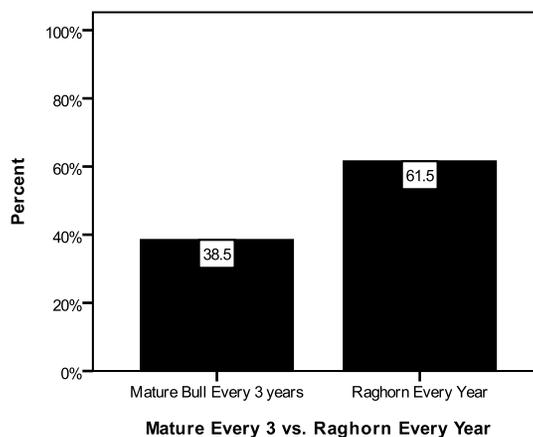
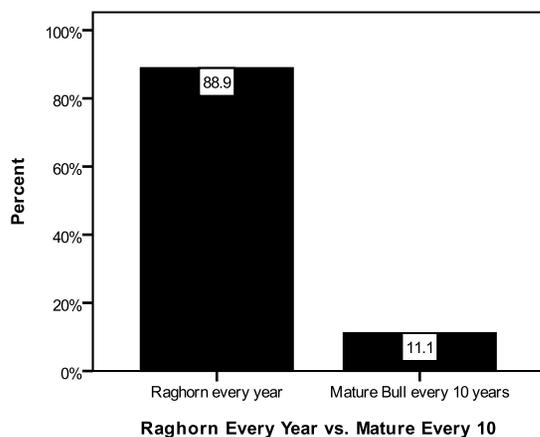


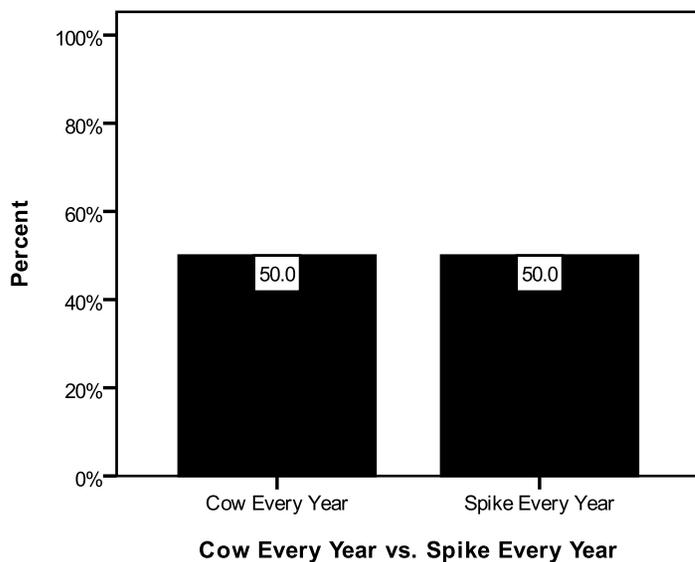


Q28: The reasons to hunt Elk are similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. However, testing abilities and keeping physically fit are more important to Pioneer hunters than others. They place a higher importance on harvesting a large or mature bull than other hunters in the state.

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.

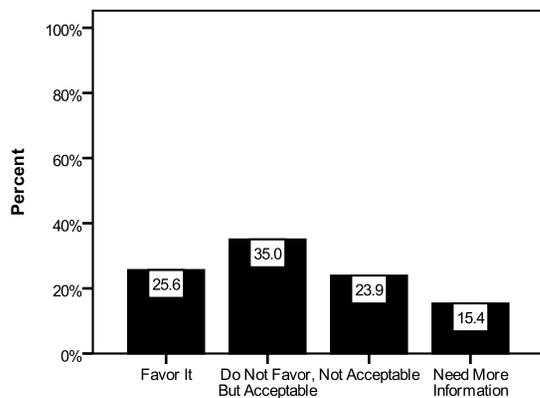




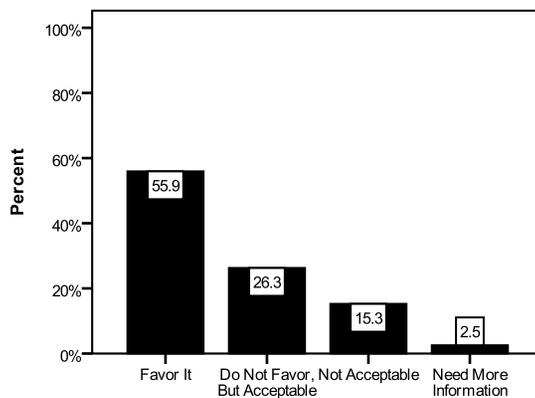
Q32: Pioneer hunters put a higher value of harvest size than the opportunity to harvest than other hunters in the state. Hunters in this zone would much rather harvest a mature bull every 3 years than a spike every year (an almost even split amongst the state average). They would also much rather harvest a raghorn bull every 3 years than a spike every year, and Pioneer hunters would much rather harvest a mature bull every 3 years (a 18.5% increase from the state average) than harvest a cow every year.

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

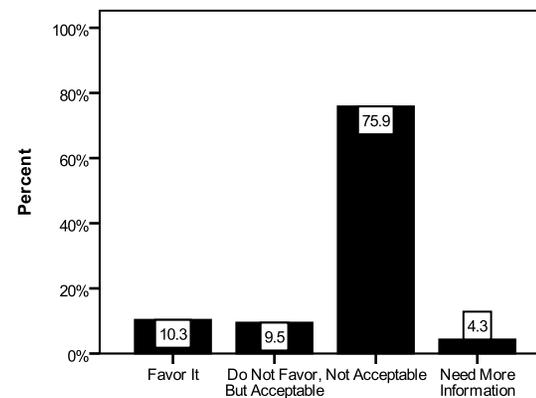
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?



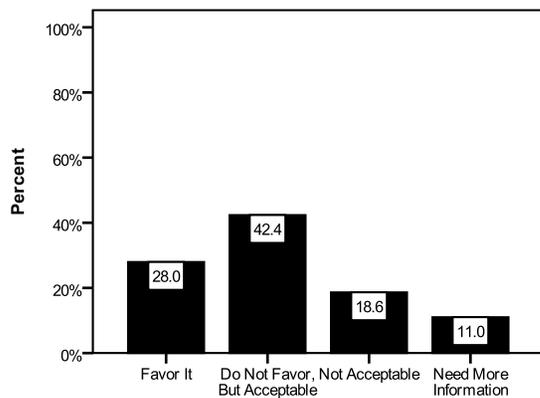
Longer Seasons



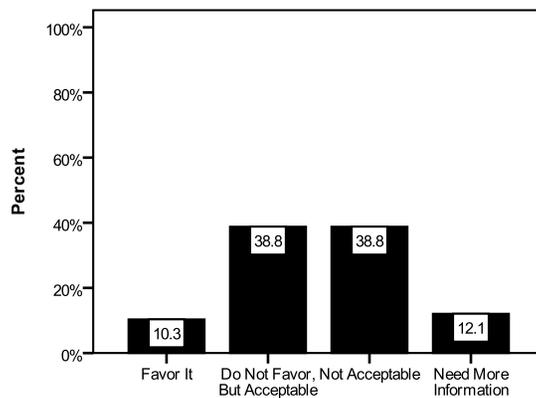
Choose Only One Weapon



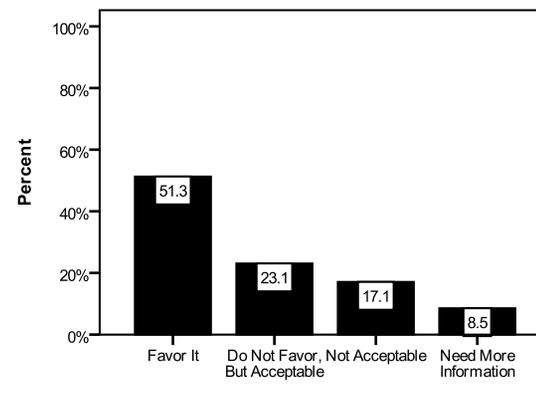
Choose Only One Species



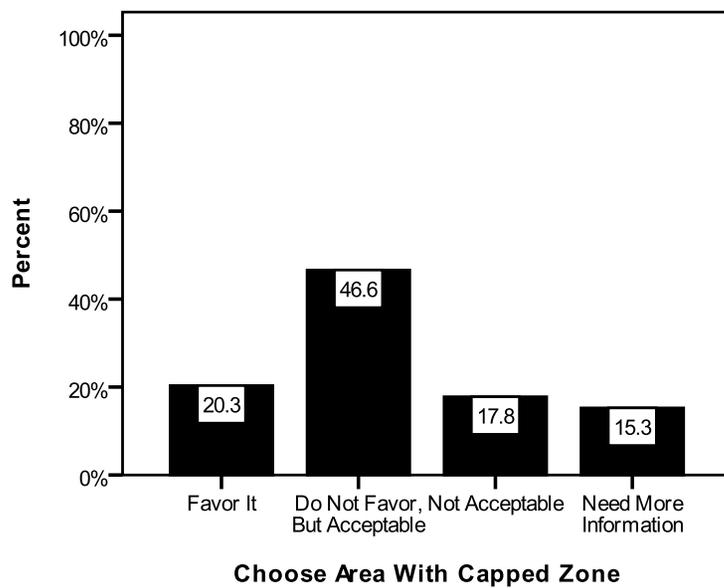
Controlled Hunts



Stratified Hunts

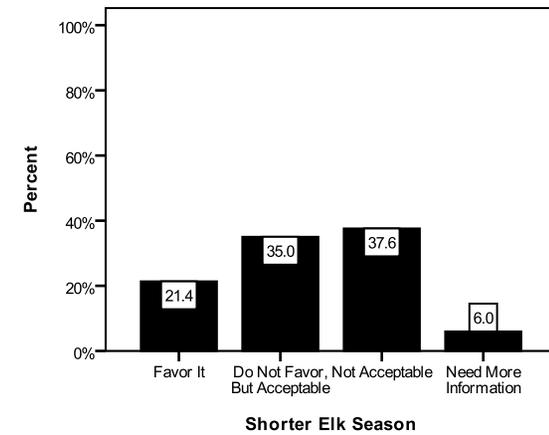
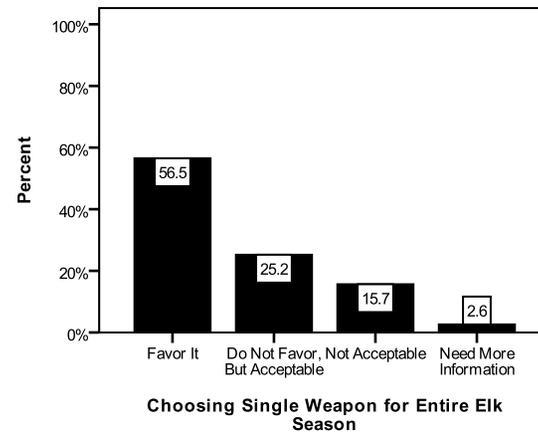
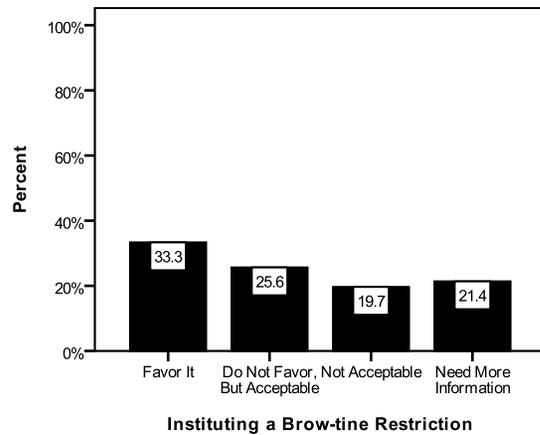
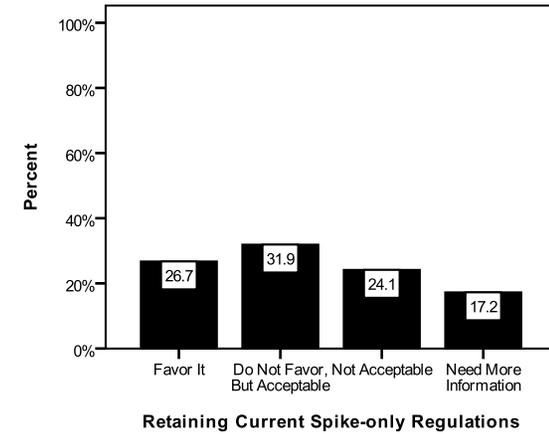
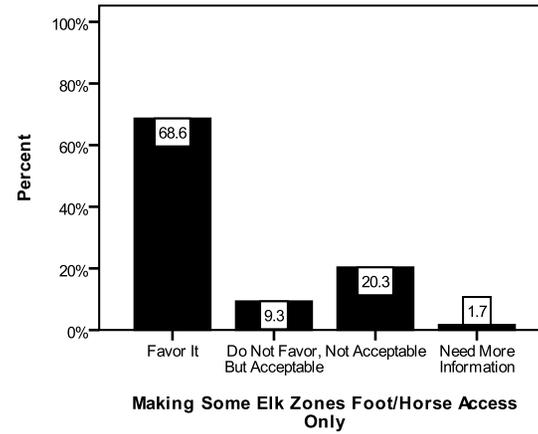
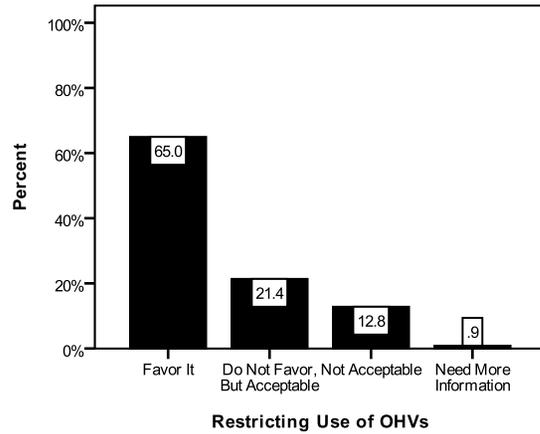


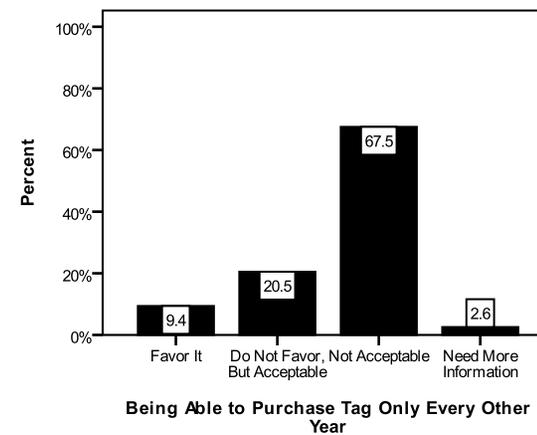
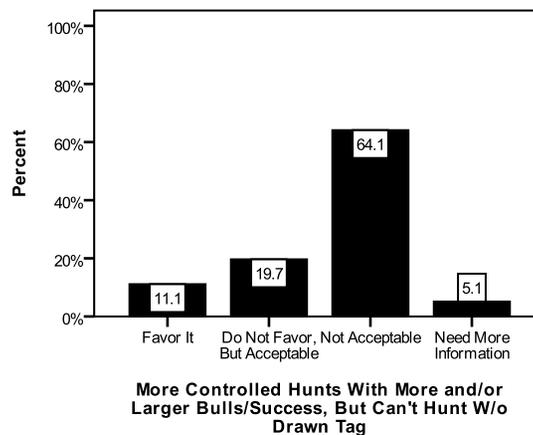
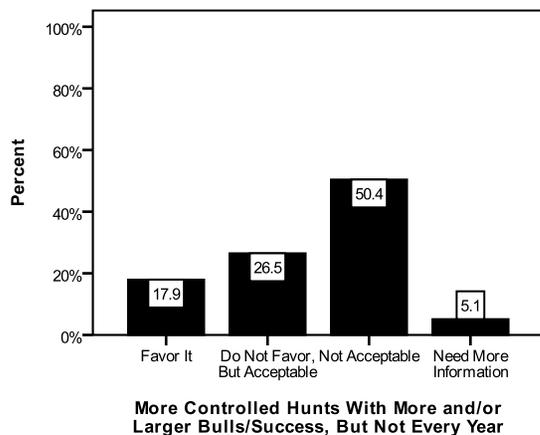
Choose Area With Motorized/Travel Restrictions



Q34: The reactions to possible management options were similar between Pioneer hunters and others in the state. However, hunters in this zone favored longer seasons far less than the state average, but still found them acceptable. They also favored stratified hunts more than other hunters.

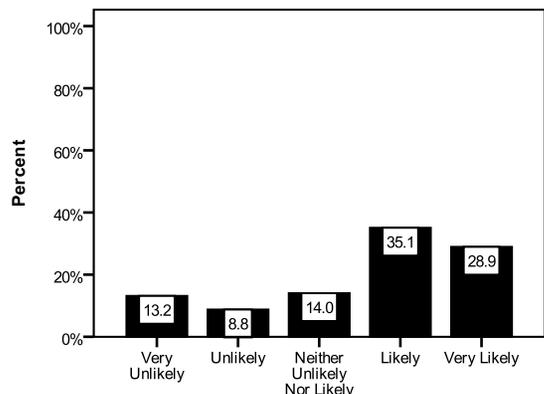
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



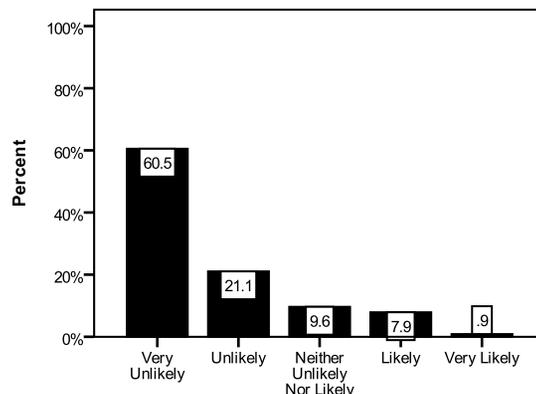


Q35: Hunters in the Pioneer zone favored potentially making some Elk zones foot/horse access only 15.6% more than other hunters in the state. Also, more hunters in this zone favored instituting a brow-tine restriction.

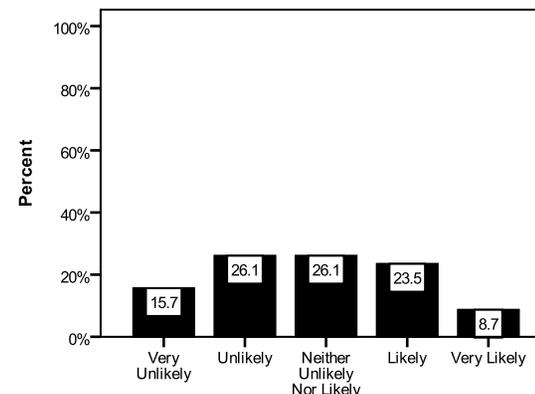
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



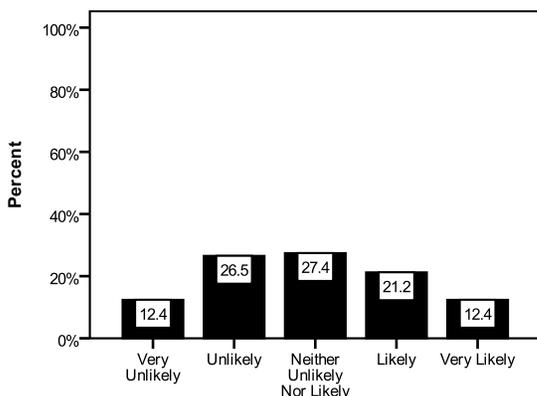
Hunt in Different Zones



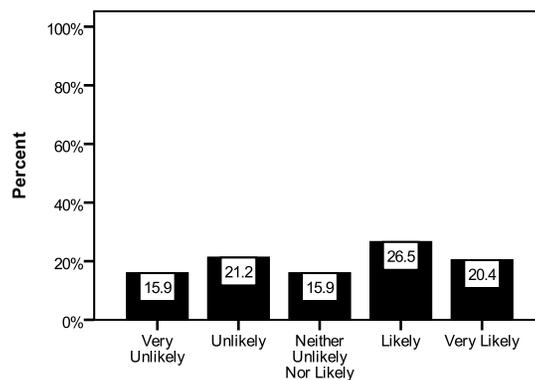
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



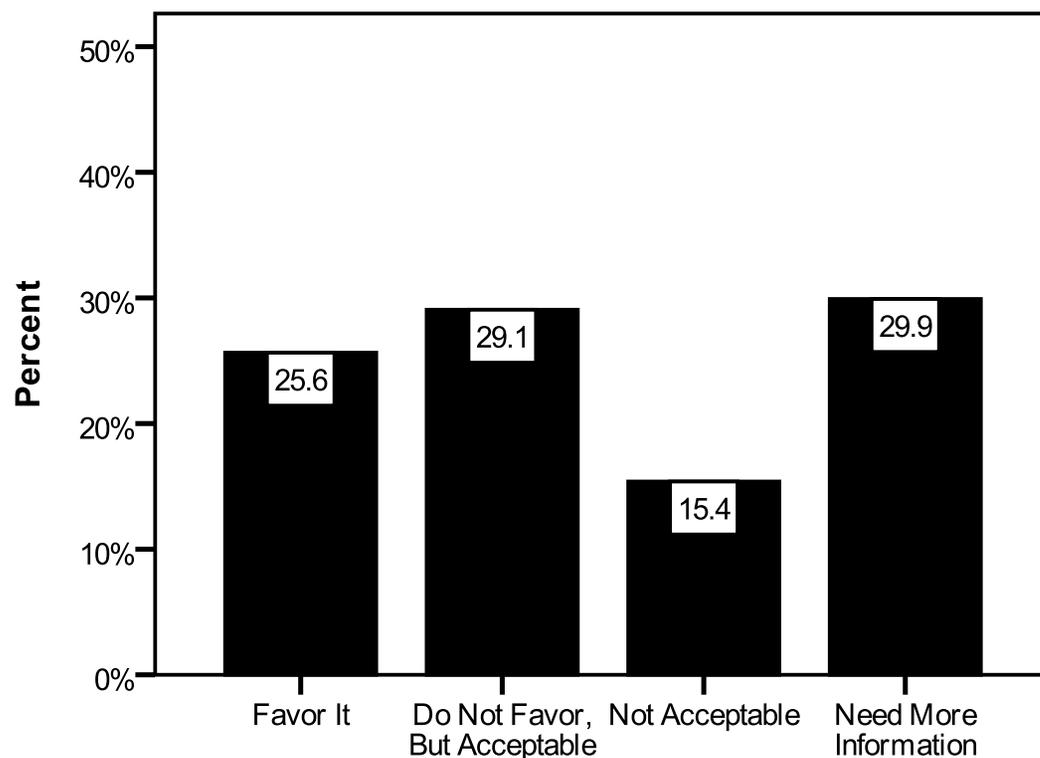
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

Q36: Hunters in the Pioneer zone were more unlikely to shift to hunting other species and to not change their hunting behavior if restrictions were introduced, in comparison to the state average.

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

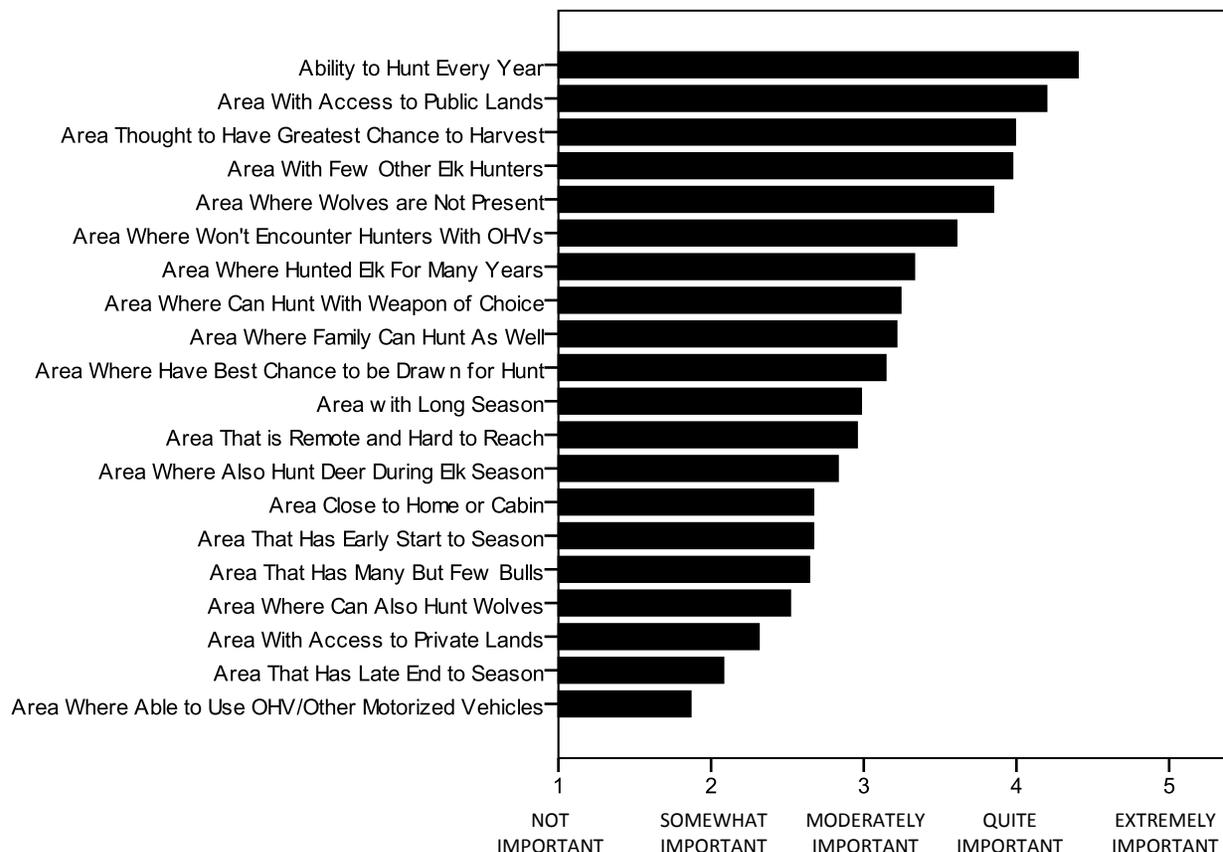


Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

Q38: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. Hunters in this zone do not favor but accept this regulation slightly more than others.

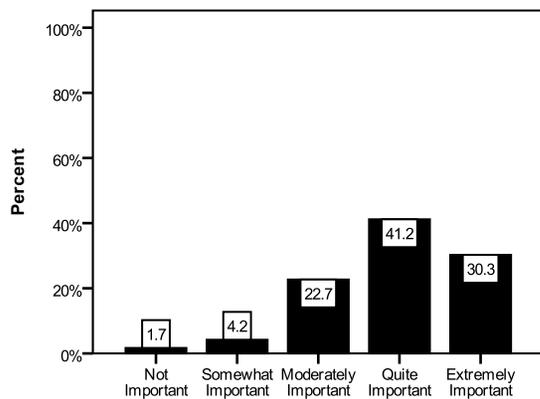
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

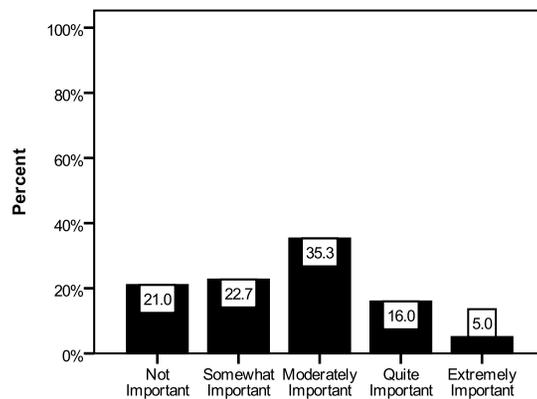


Q29: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. The top five characteristics were the same.

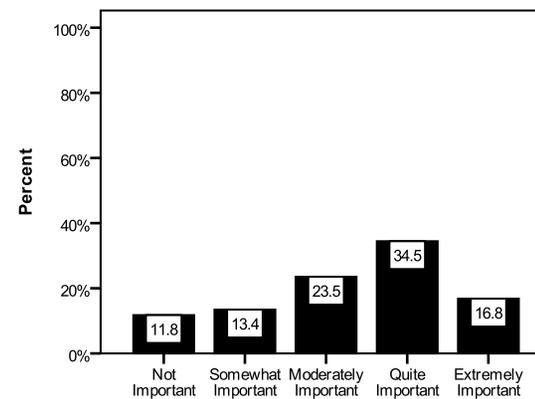
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



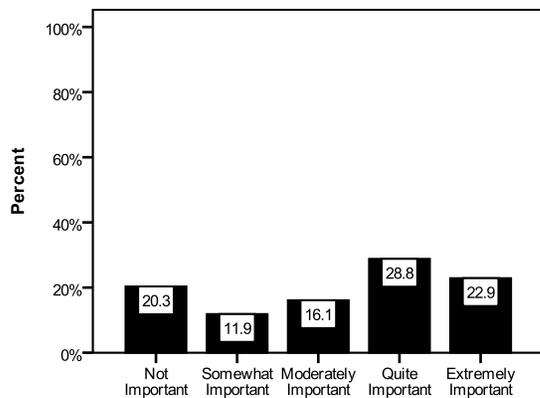
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



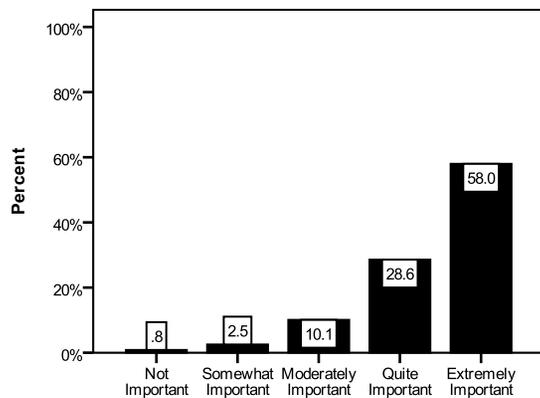
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



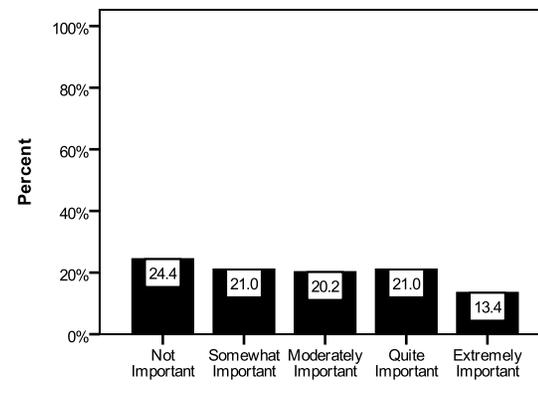
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



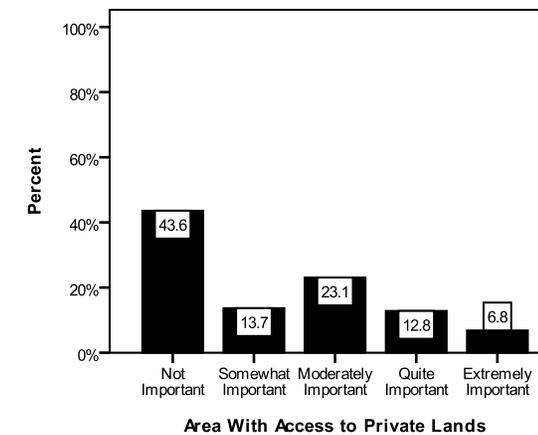
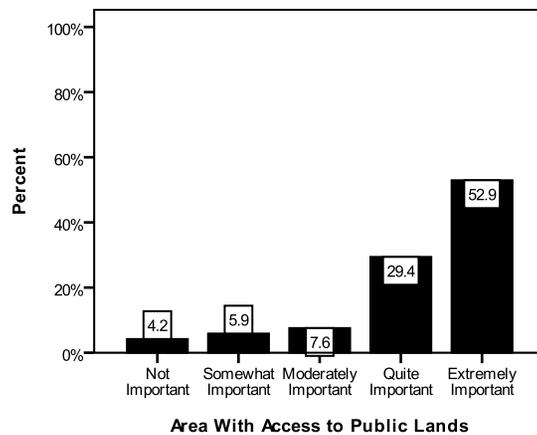
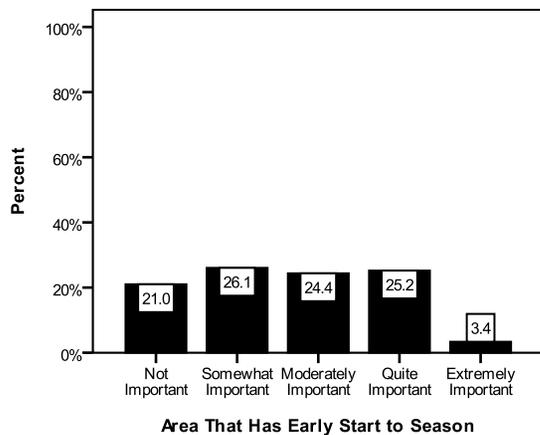
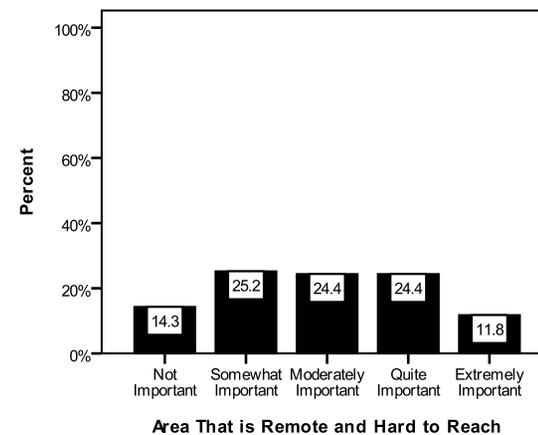
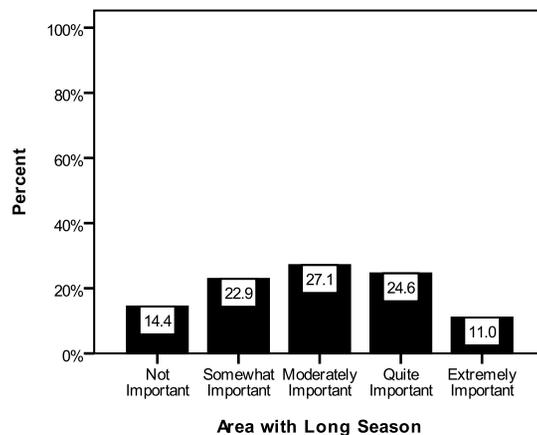
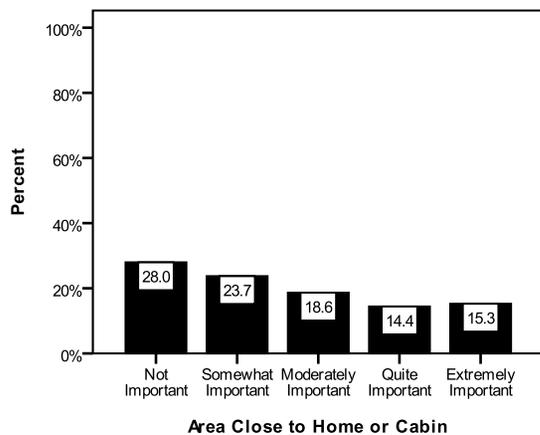
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

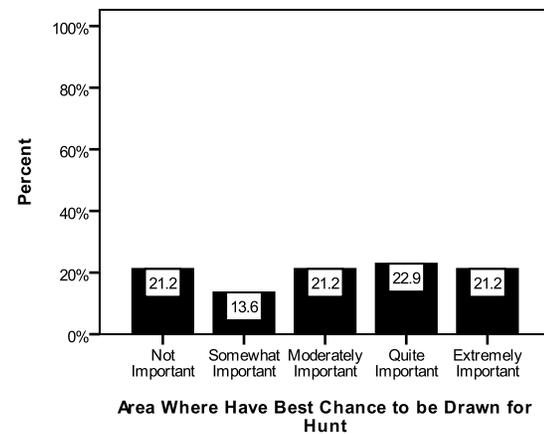
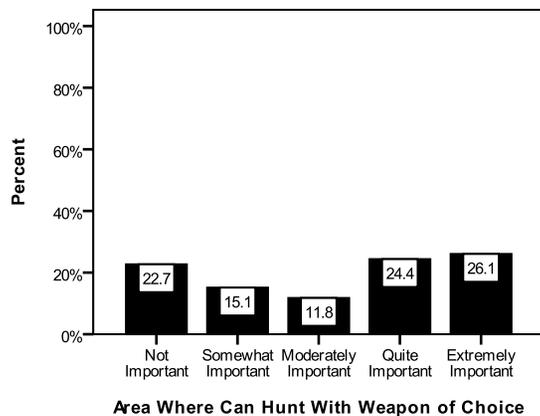
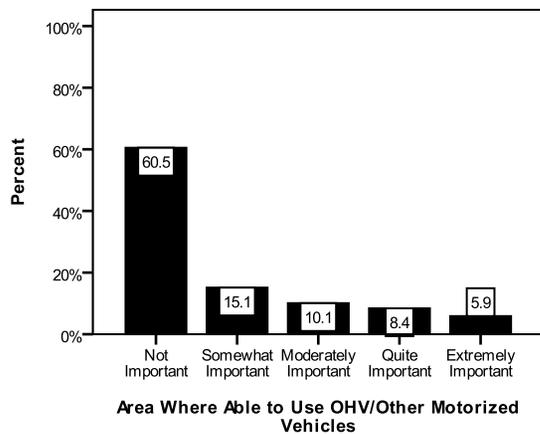
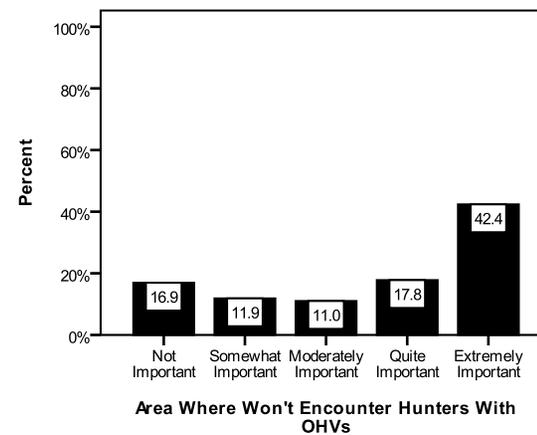
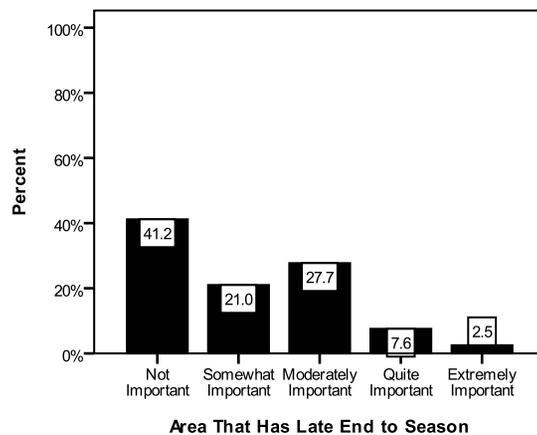
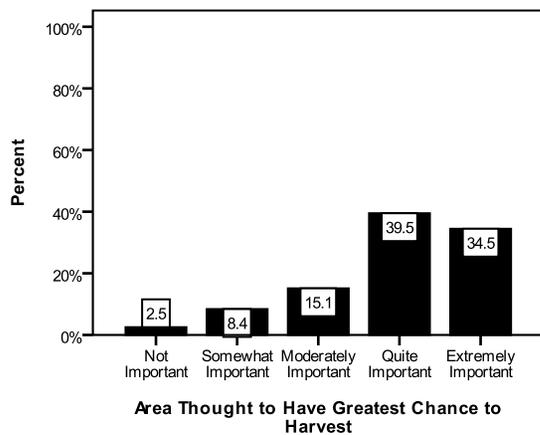


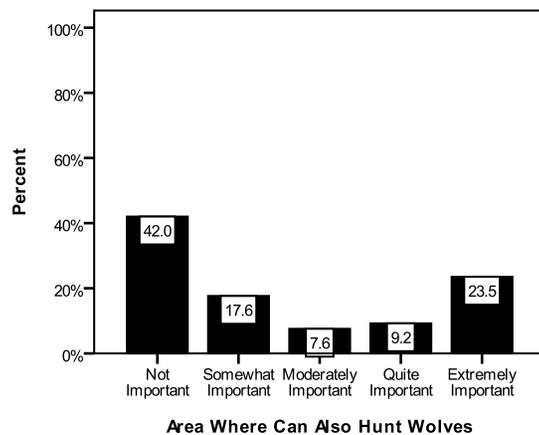
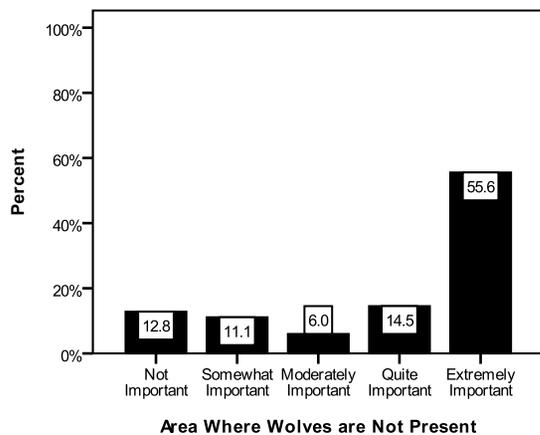
Ability to Hunt Every Year



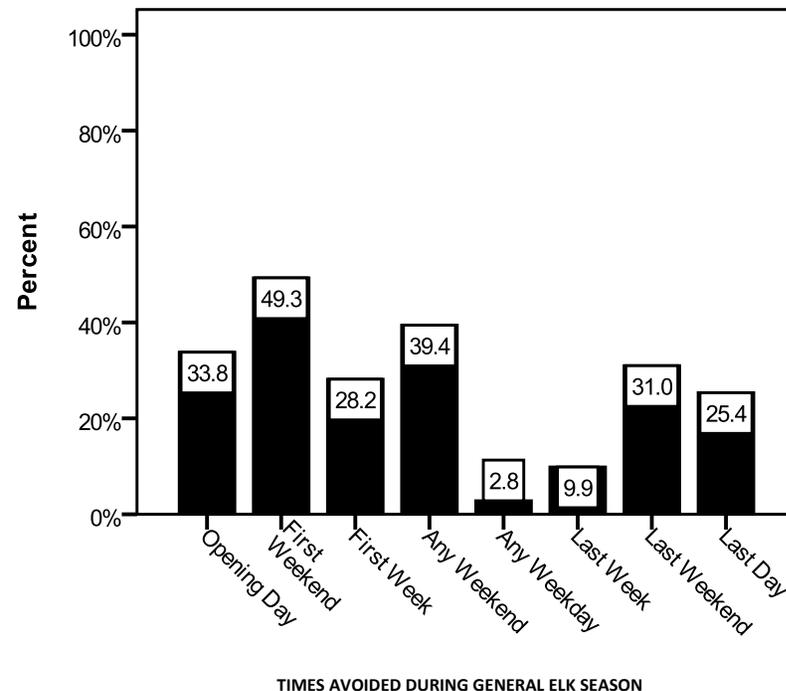
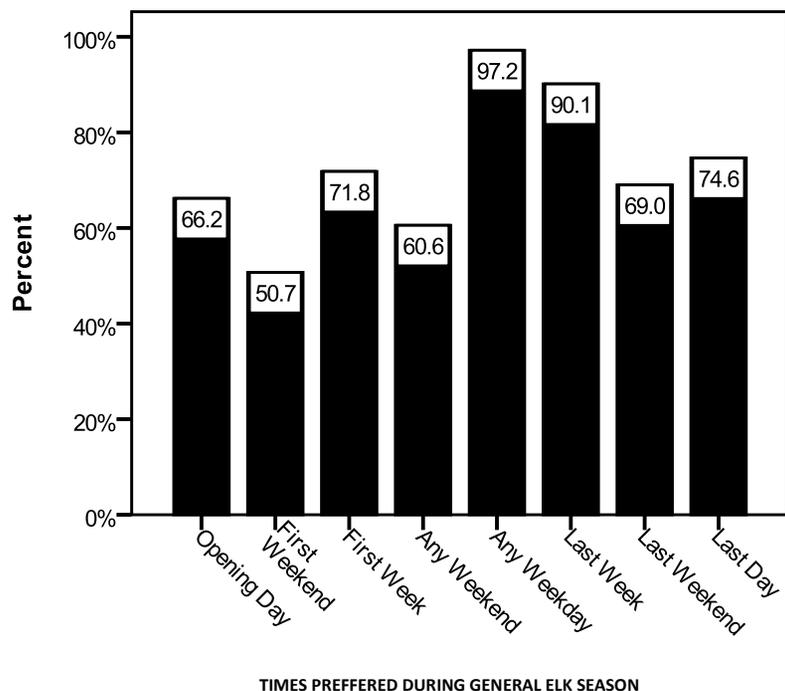
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season







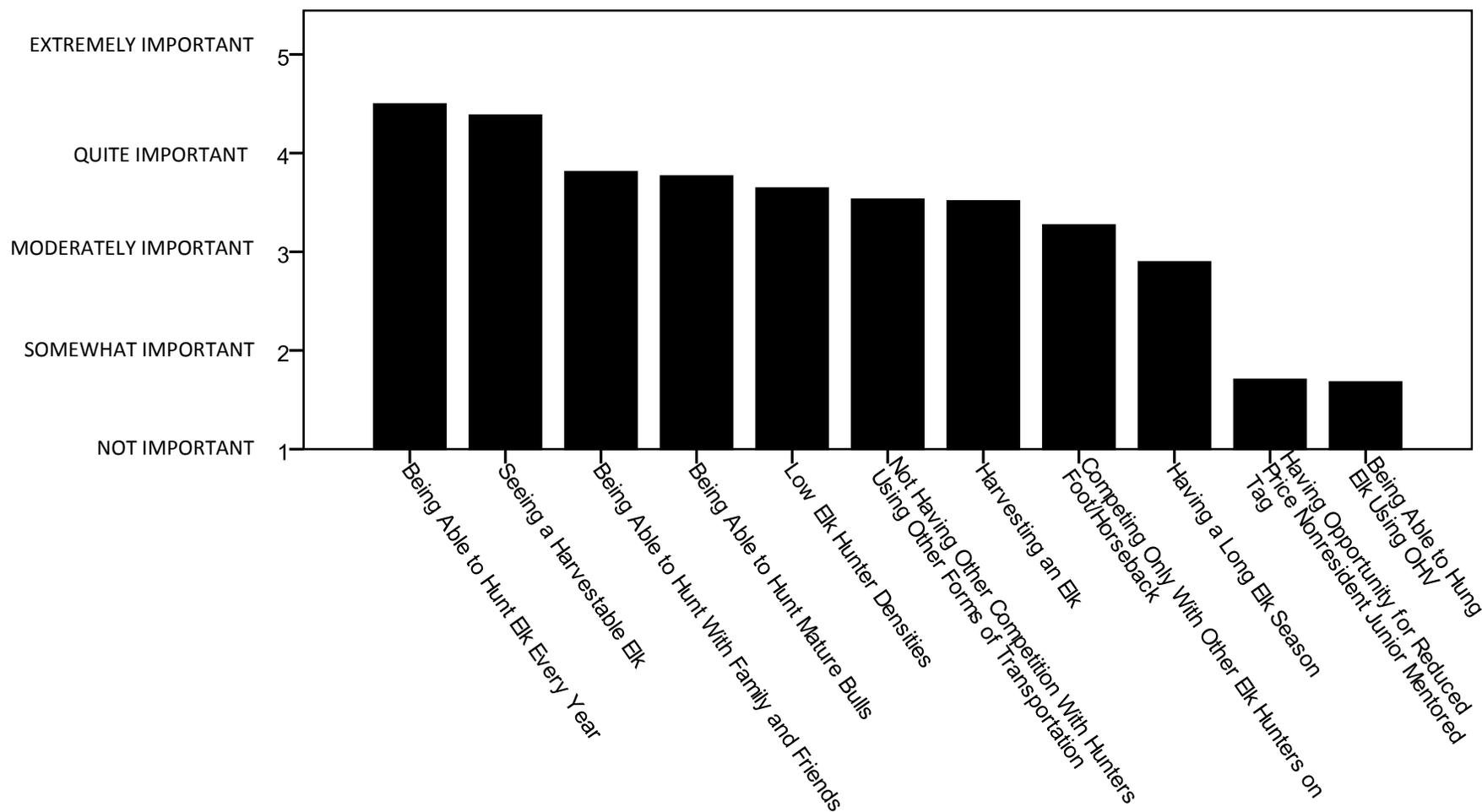
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



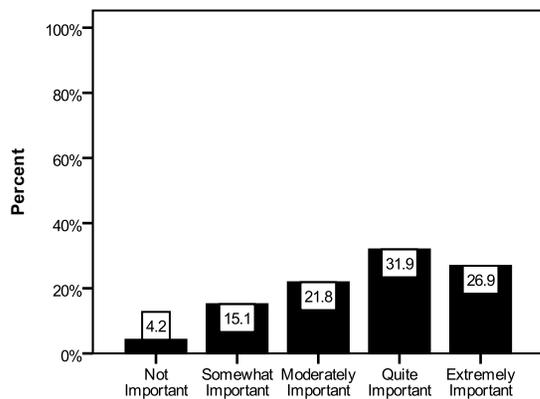
Q30: The preferences and distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

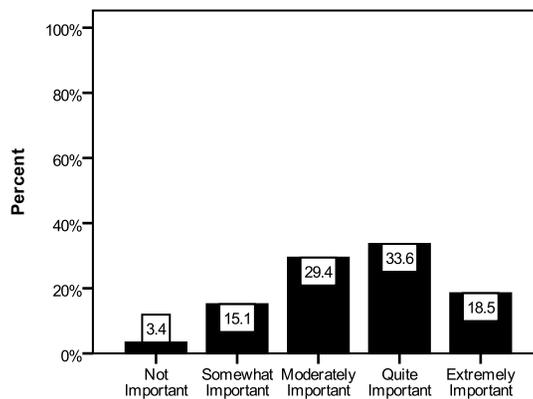
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



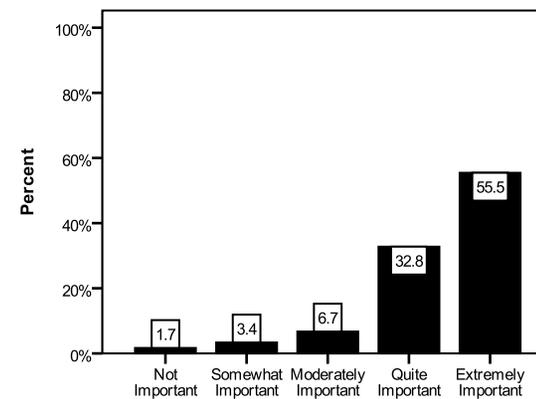
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



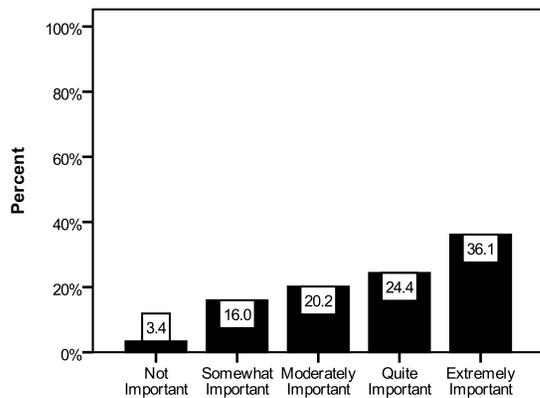
Low Elk Hunter Densities



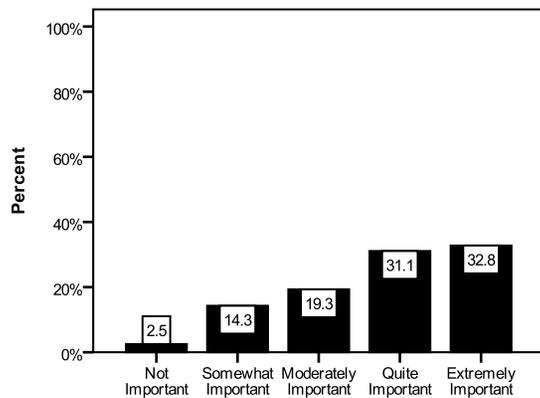
Harvesting an Elk



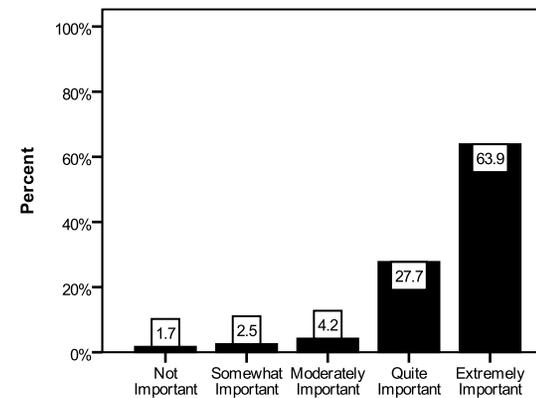
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



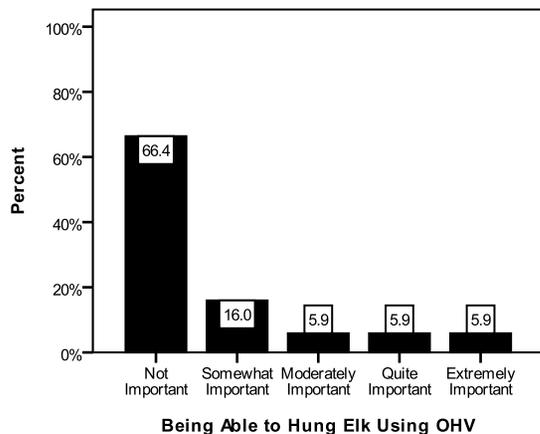
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



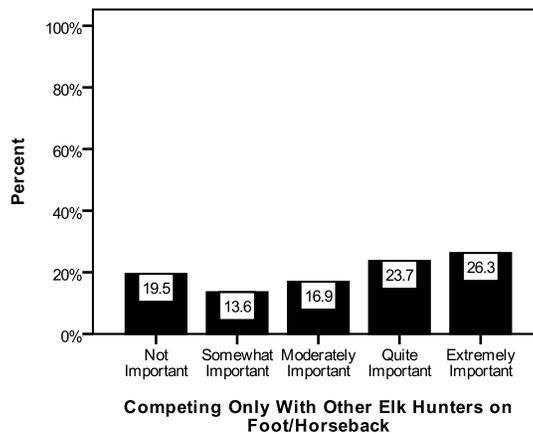
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



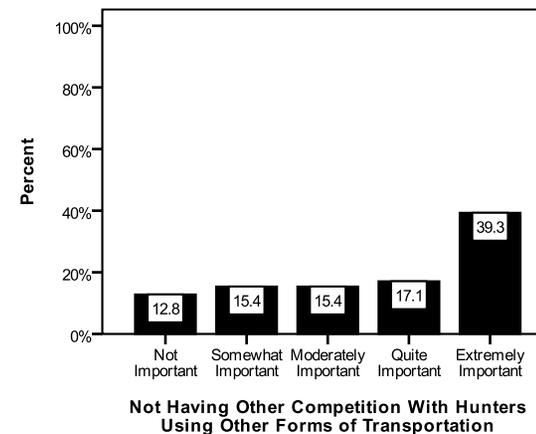
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



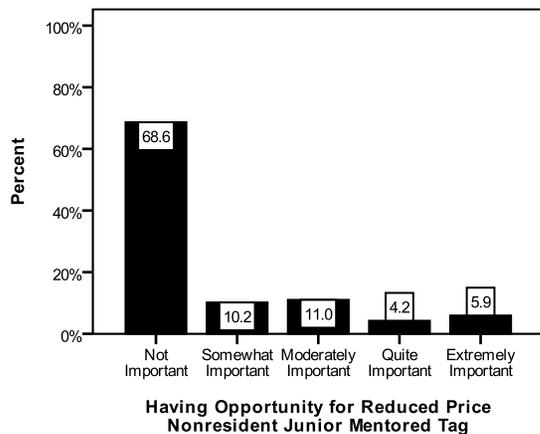
Being Able to Hunt Elk Using OHV



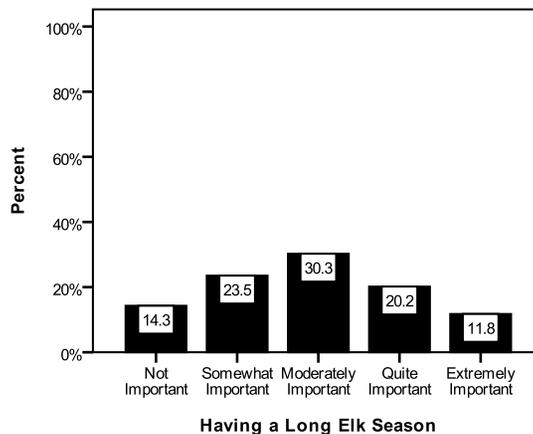
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

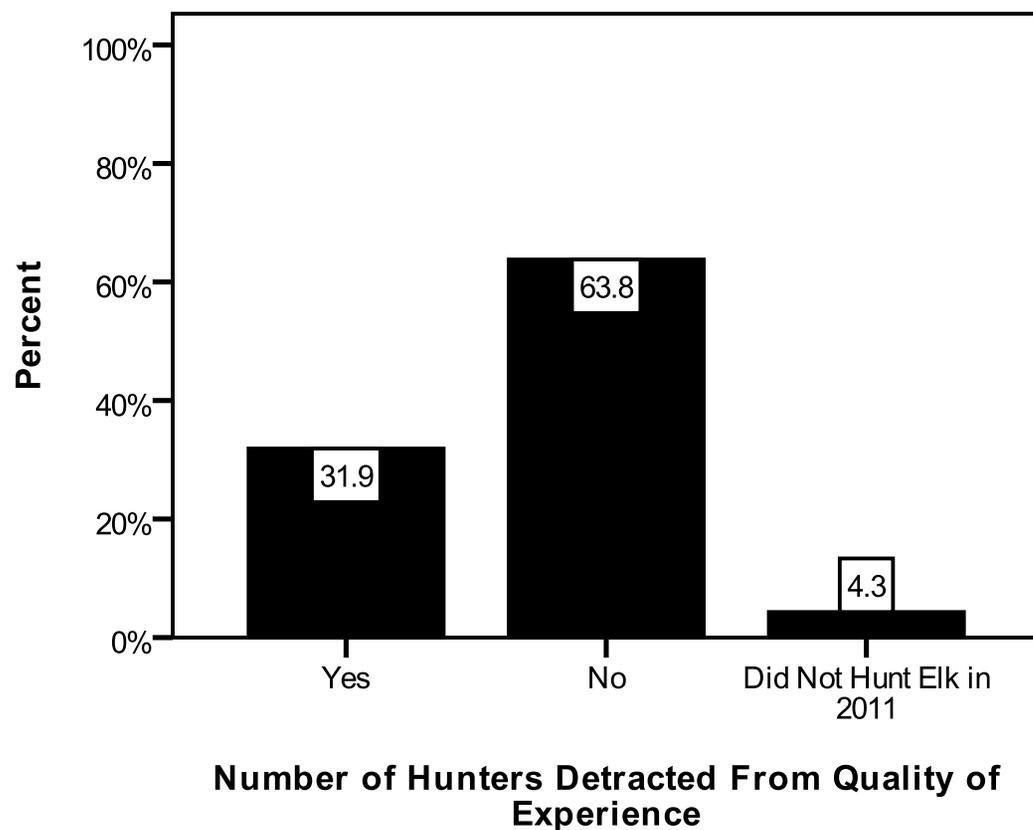


Having a Long Elk Season

Q31: The importance of attributes and distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. Pioneer hunters report that having a long Elk season is less important to them than the state average does.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

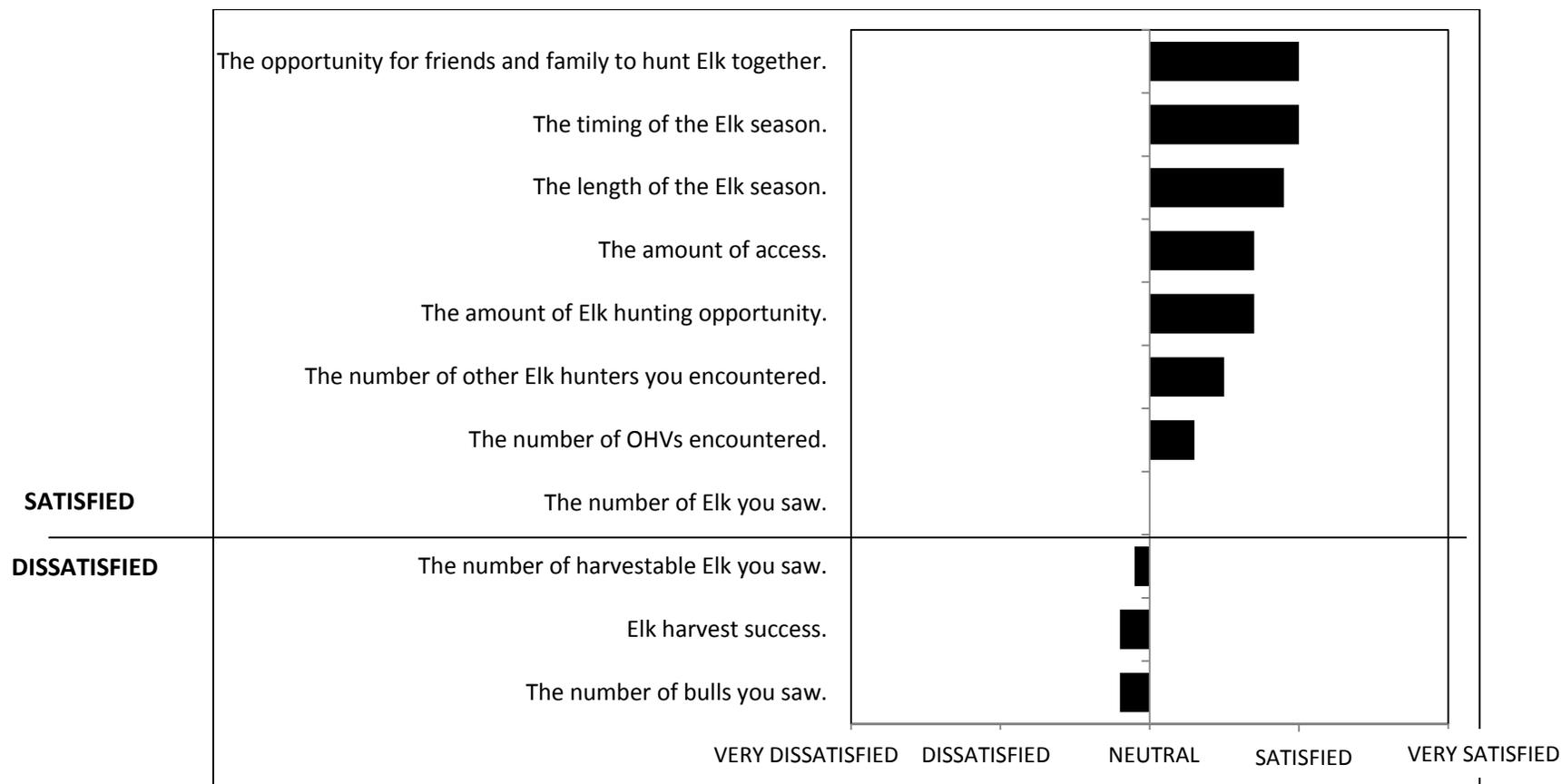
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



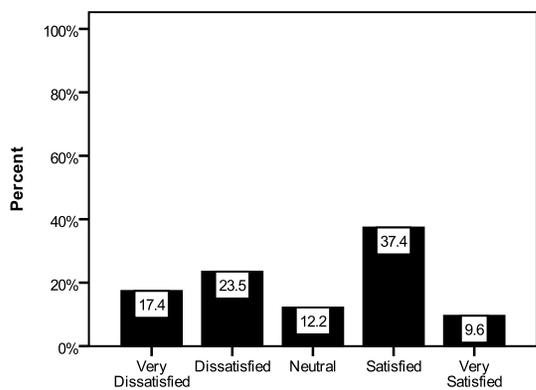
Q33: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average.

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

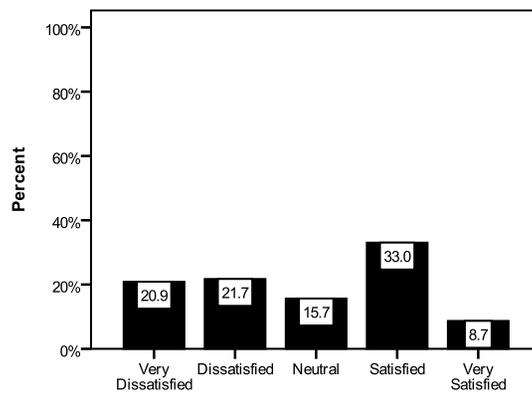
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



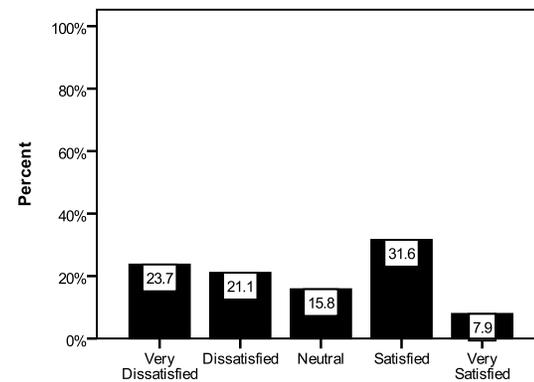
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



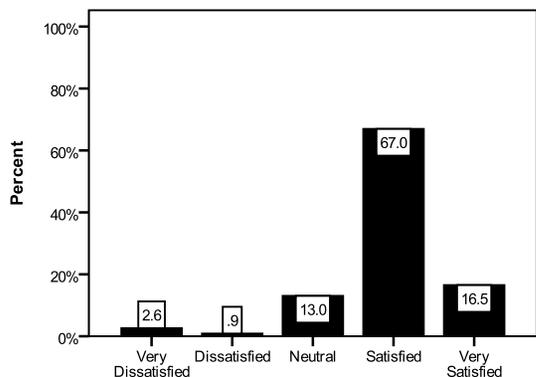
Number of Elk Seen



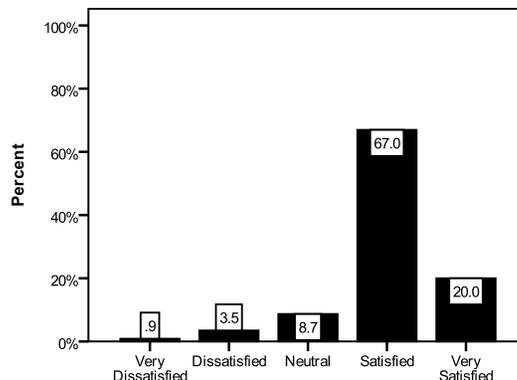
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



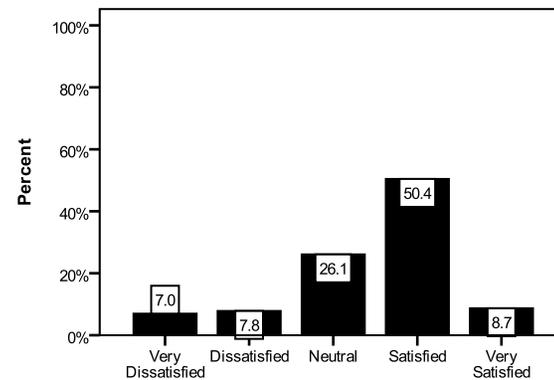
Number of Bulls Seen



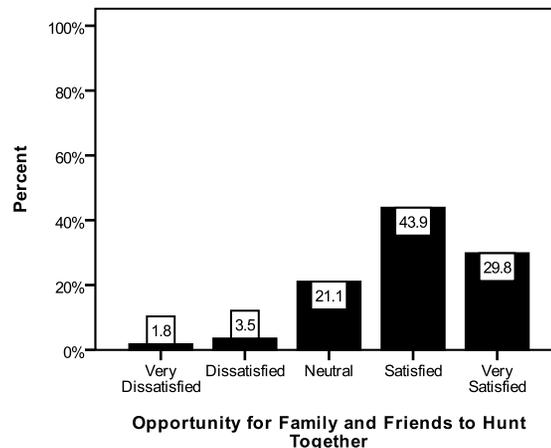
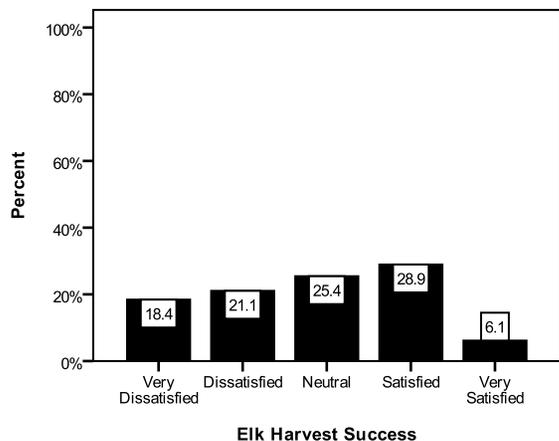
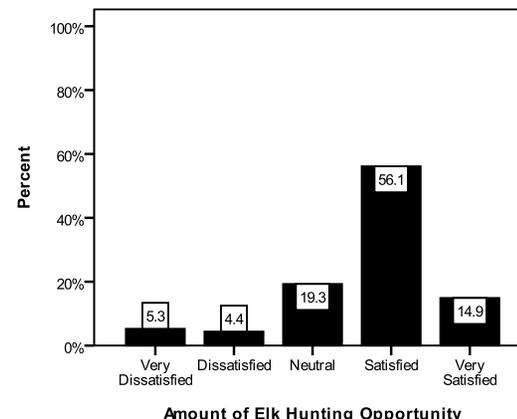
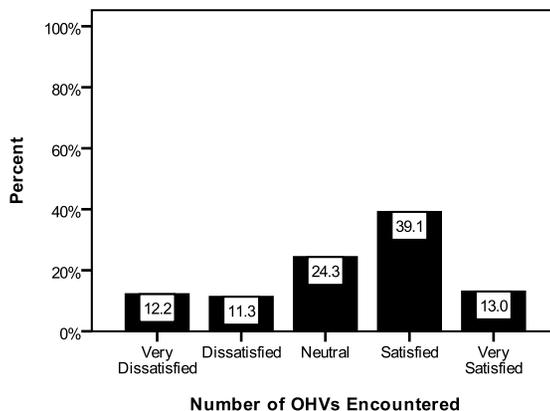
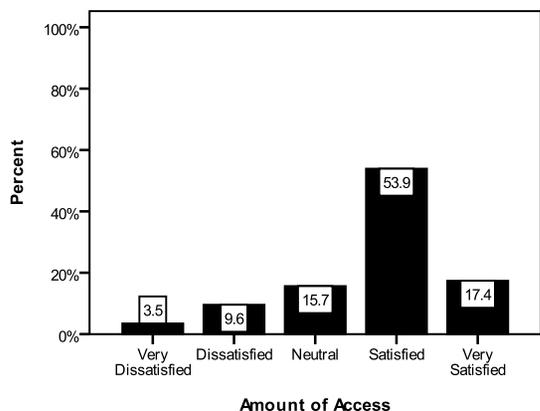
Length of Elk Season



Timing of Elk Season



Number of Elk Hunters Encountered

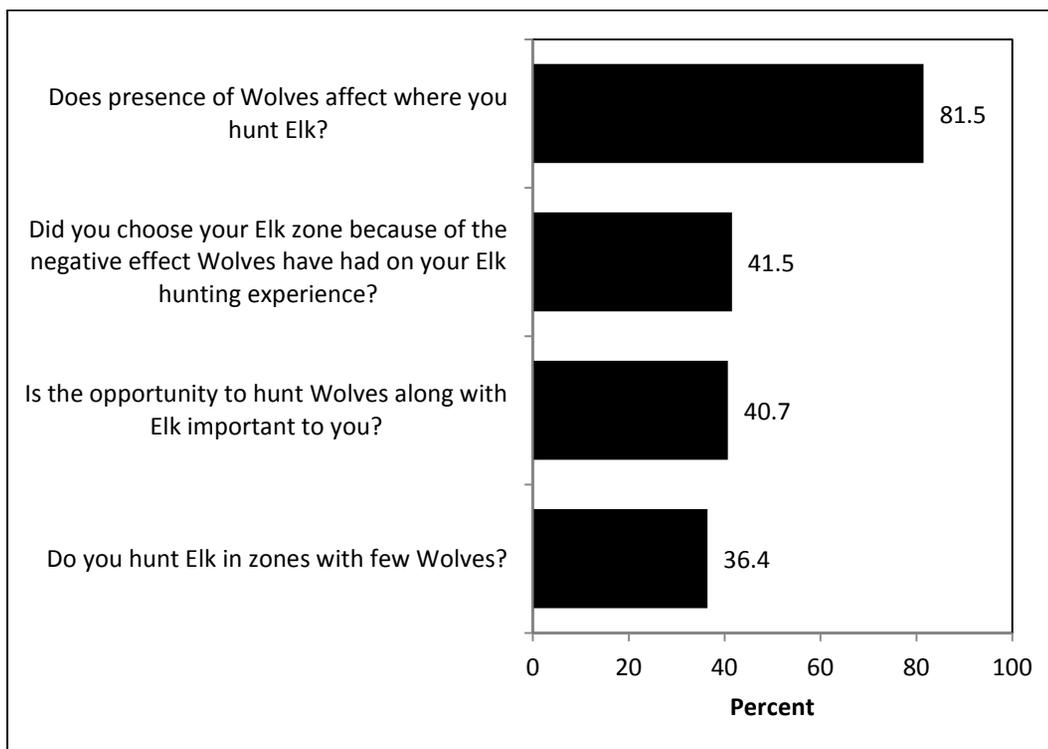


Q37: The level of satisfaction is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average. Pioneer hunters found the number of Elk they saw unsatisfactory, which was unlike the state average.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

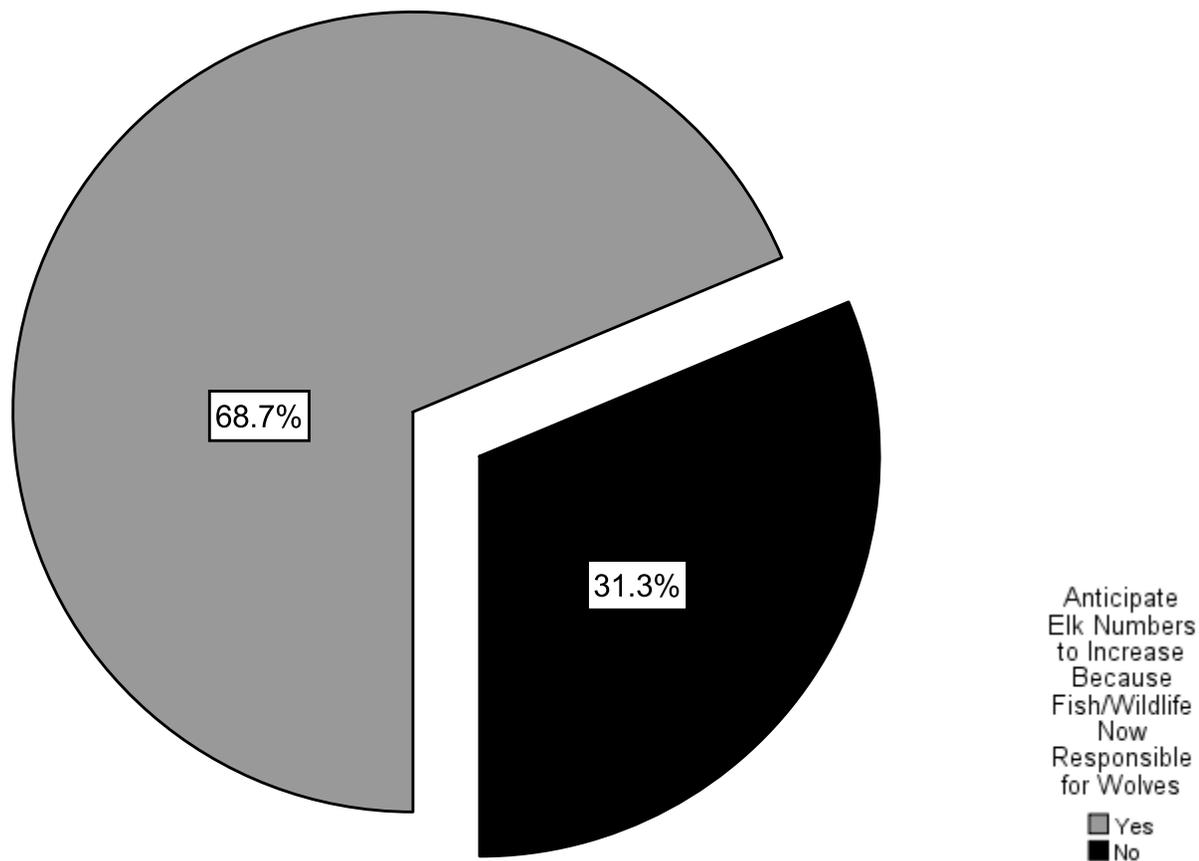
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: More hunters in the Pioneer zone reported that they chose to hunt in this zone because of the negative affect Wolves have had on their hunting experience than other hunters in the state.

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



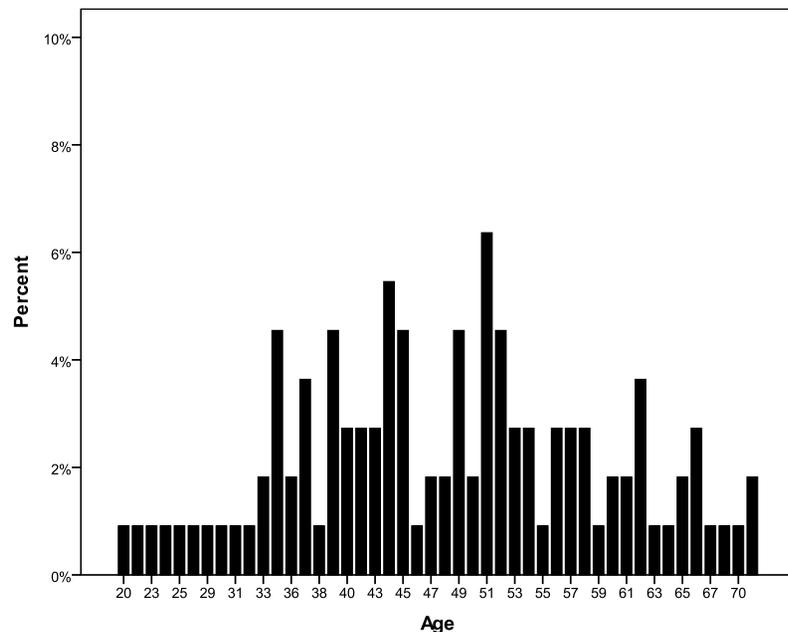
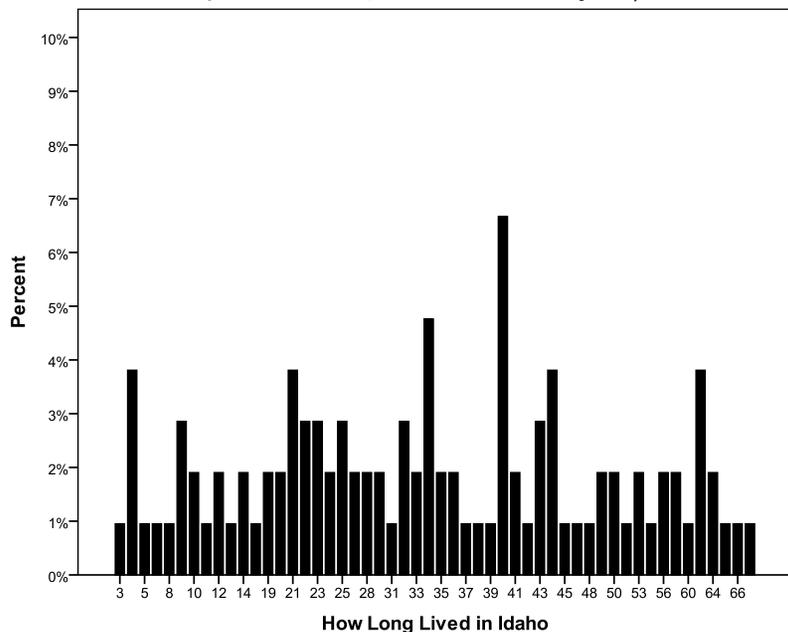
Q40: The distribution of responses is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average.

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 for both Q42 and Q43 is similar between the Pioneer zone and the state average.