

**ELK HUNTING IN IDAHO:
UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF
HUNTERS: TEX CREEK ZONE**



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

August 2012

INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

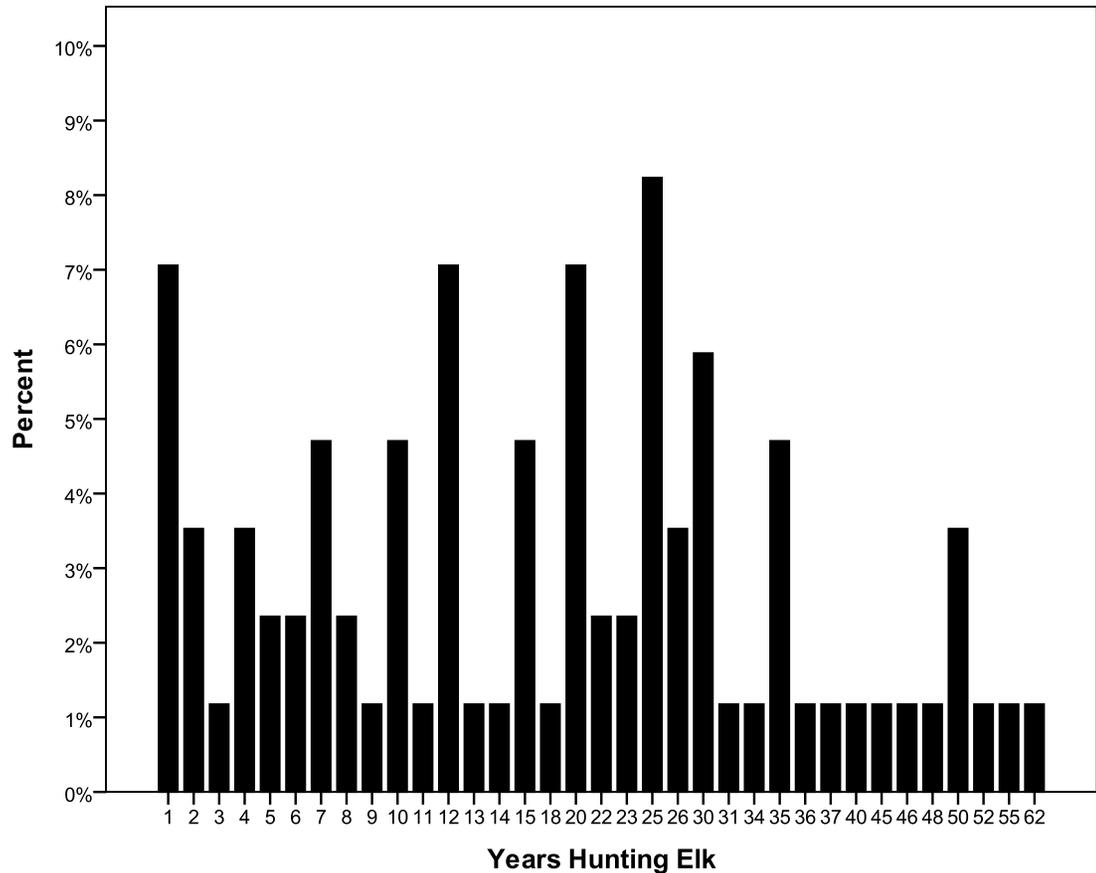
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

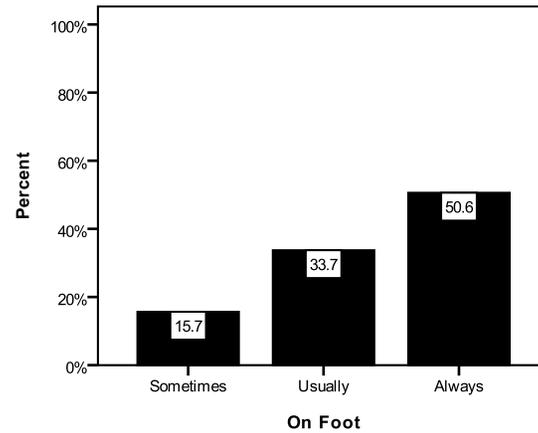
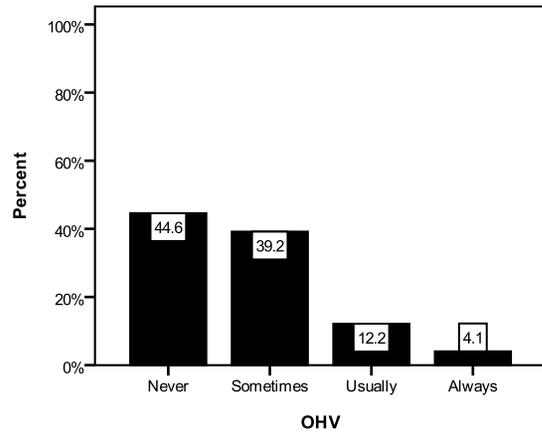
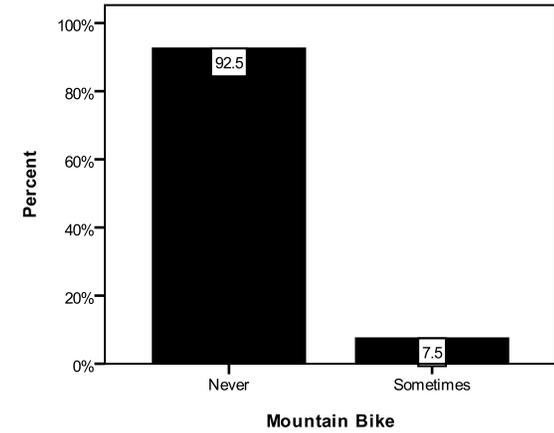
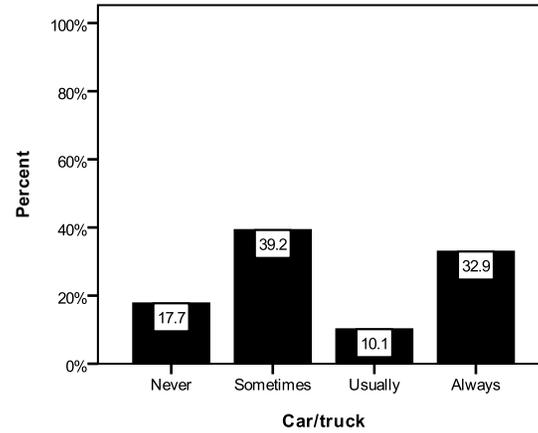
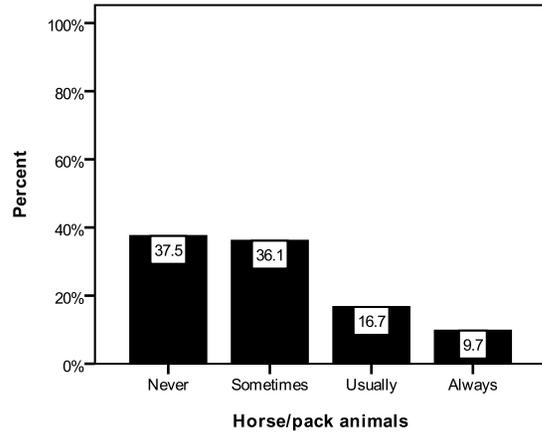
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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



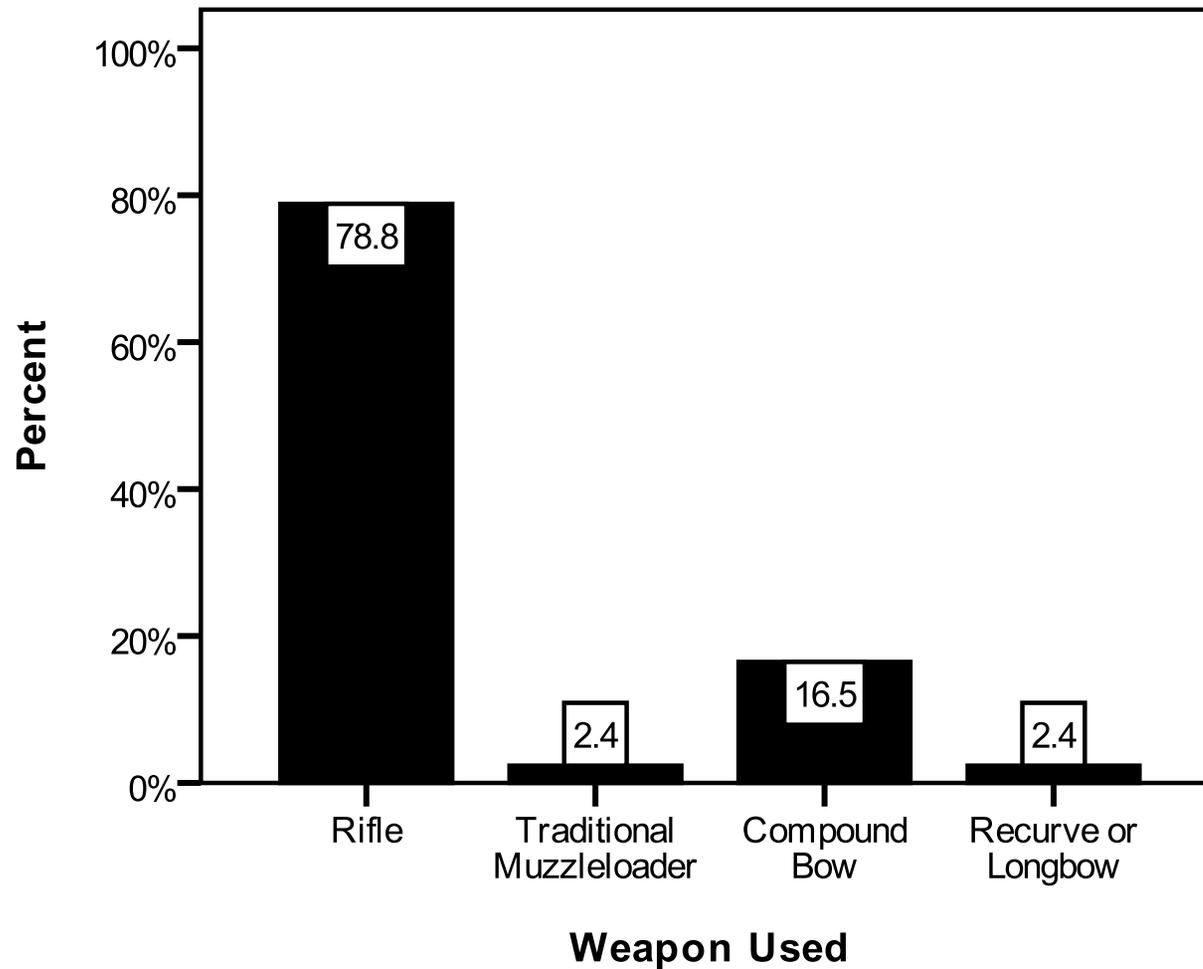
Q3: The distribution of responses for years hunting Elk in Idaho between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

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?



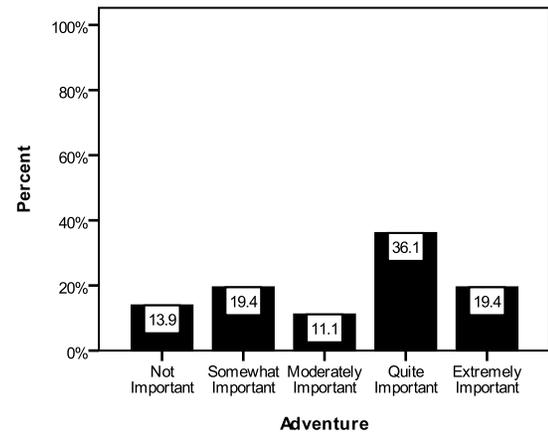
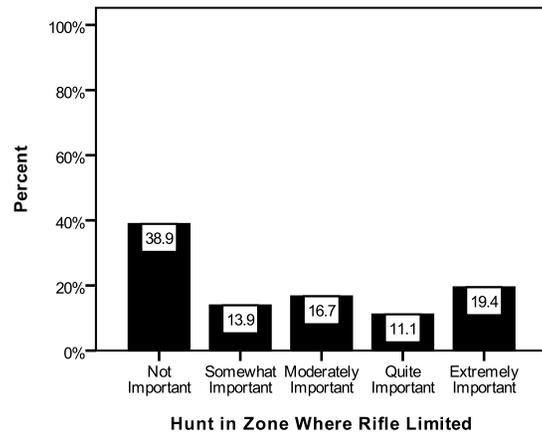
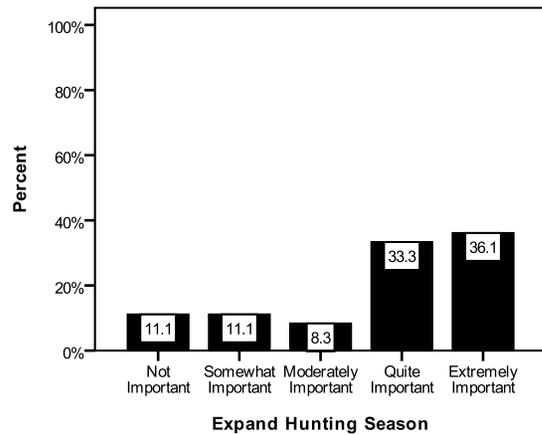
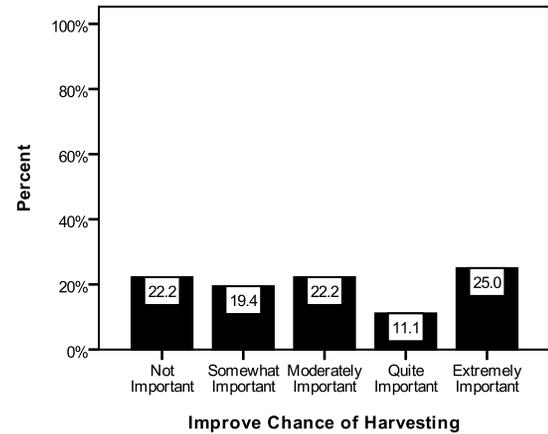
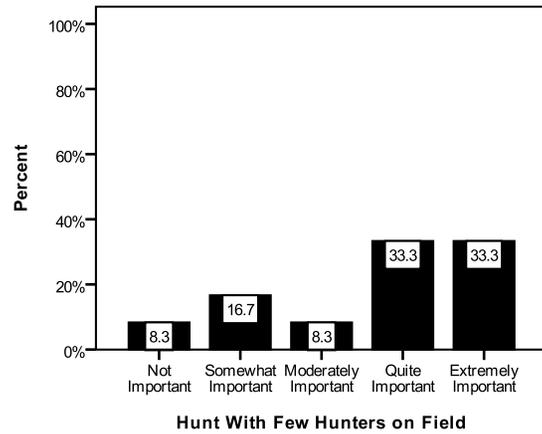
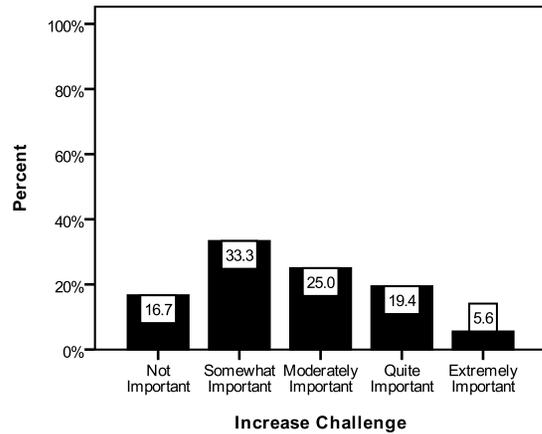
Q7: Respondents from the Tex Creek zone reported that they use horse/pack animals sometimes, usually, or always 14.6% more than the state average. Other modes of transportation distributions are similar between the two groups.

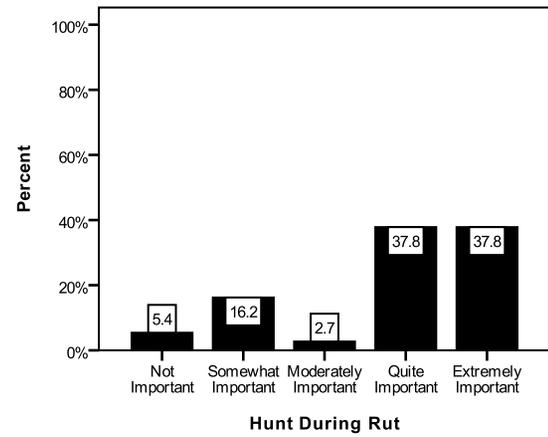
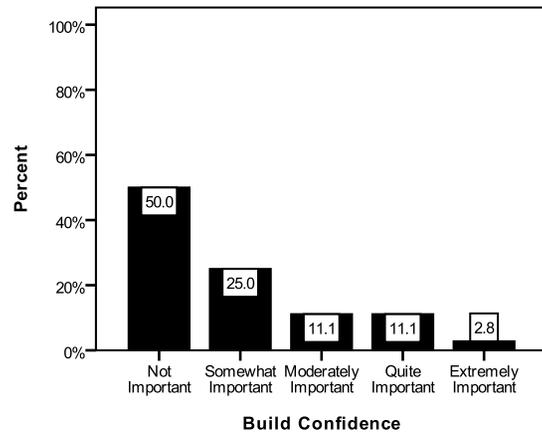
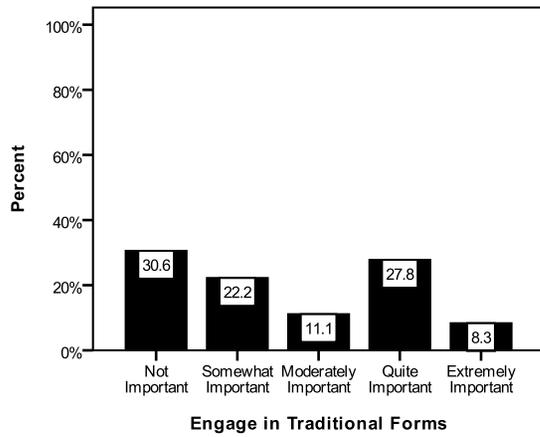
8. What type of weapon do you typically use to hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)



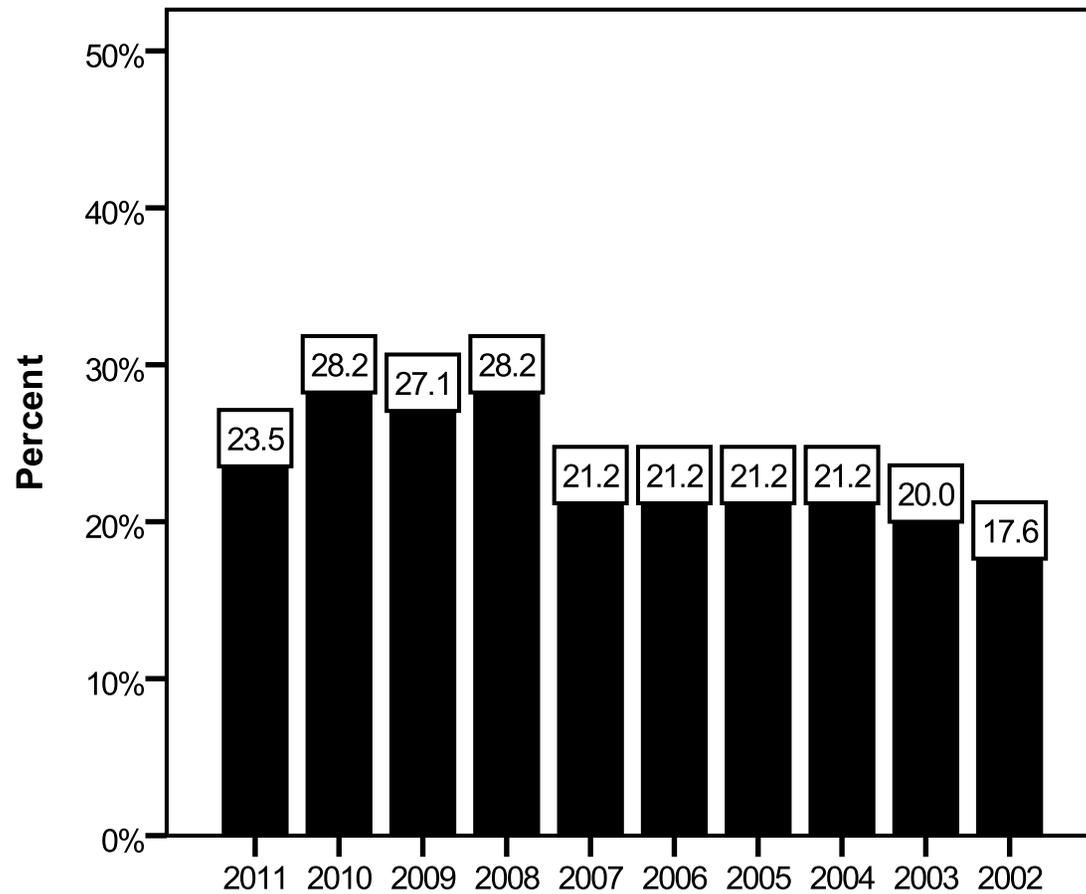
Q8: Hunters in the Tex Creek zone use rifles 21.6% more than other hunters in the state. Rifles and compound bows are the two most typically used weapons between the two groups.

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



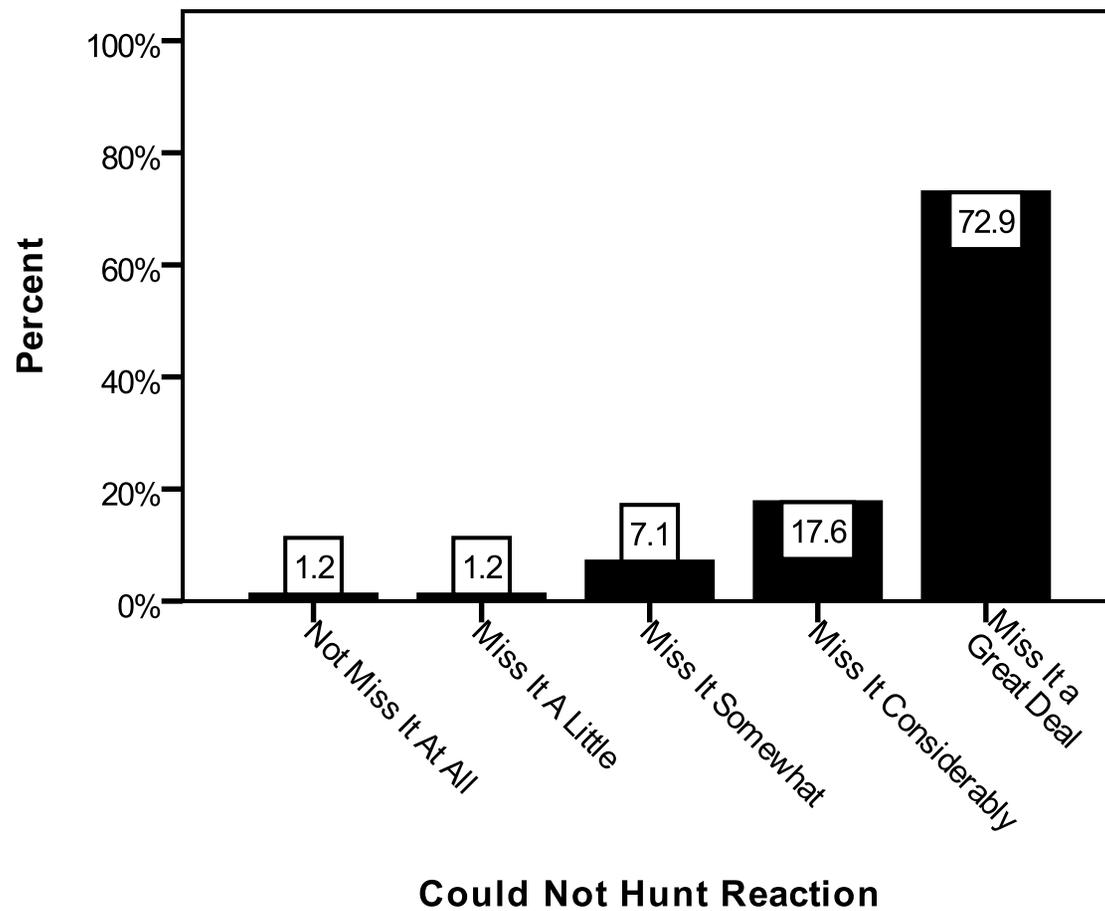


Q10: Expanding the hunting season and engaging in traditional forms are slightly more important reasons to hunt in the Elk archery, short-range weapon and muzzleloader seasons for Tex Creek respondents than the state average.

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

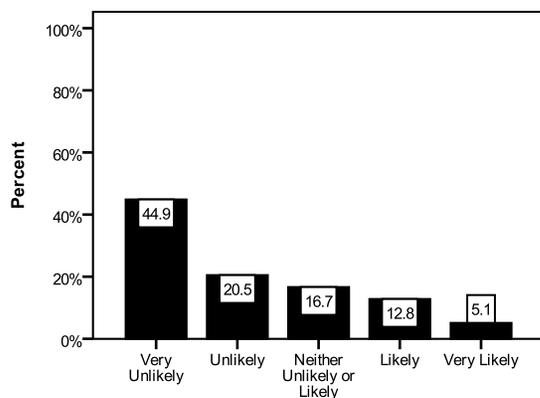
Q11: Though respondents in the Tex Creek zone reported being slightly less successful harvesters than the state average prior to 2008, Tex Creek hunters have been slightly more successful from 2008 to present than other hunters in the state.

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

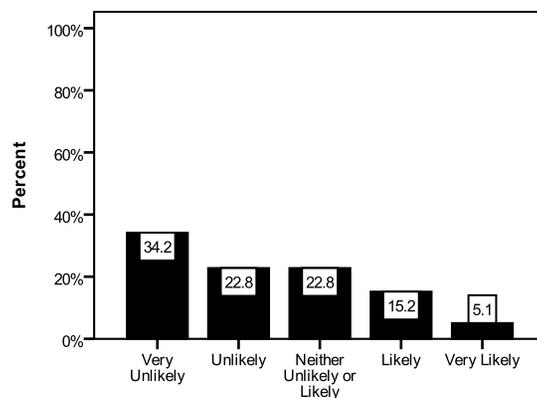


Q12: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

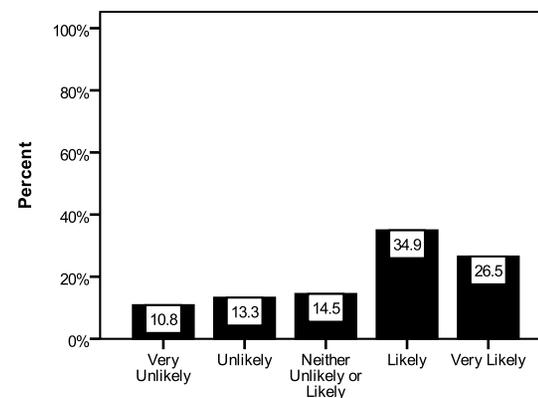
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



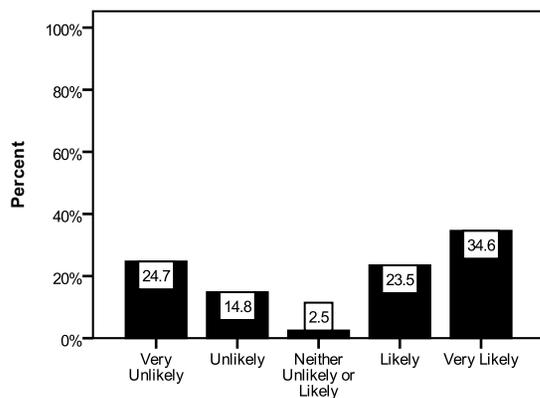
Hunt Waterfowl More



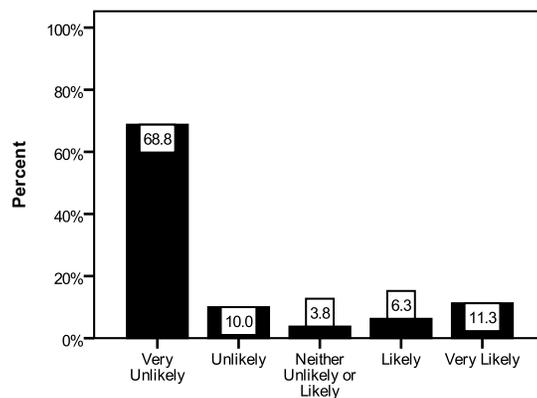
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



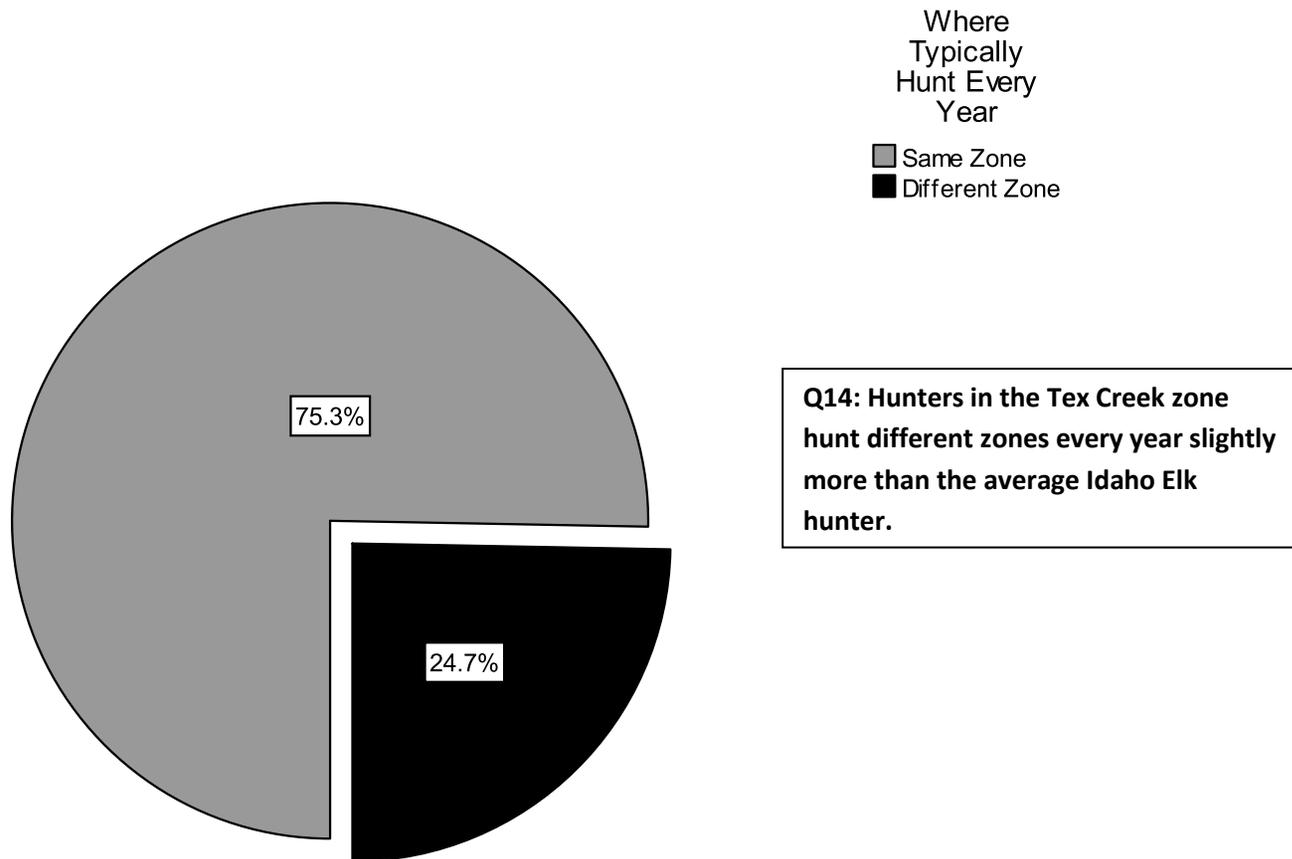
Hunt Elk in Other States



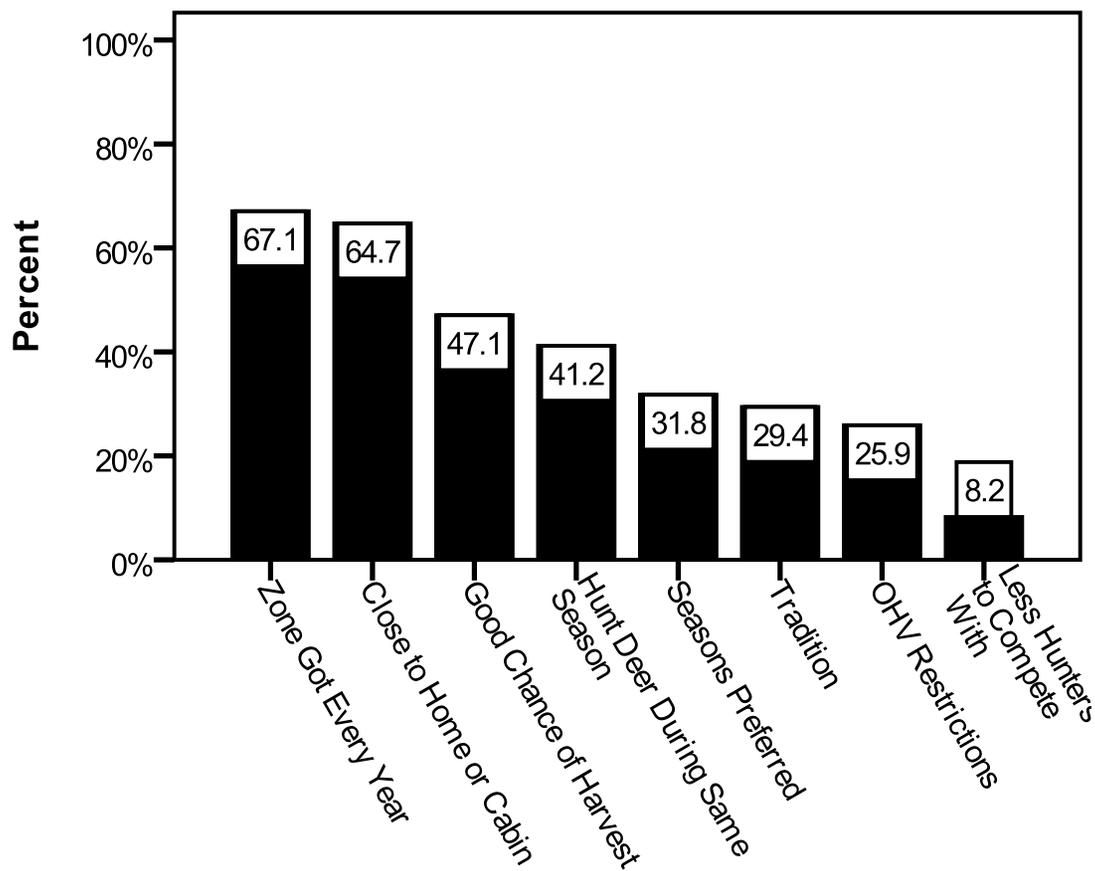
Not Hunt At All

Q13: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

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

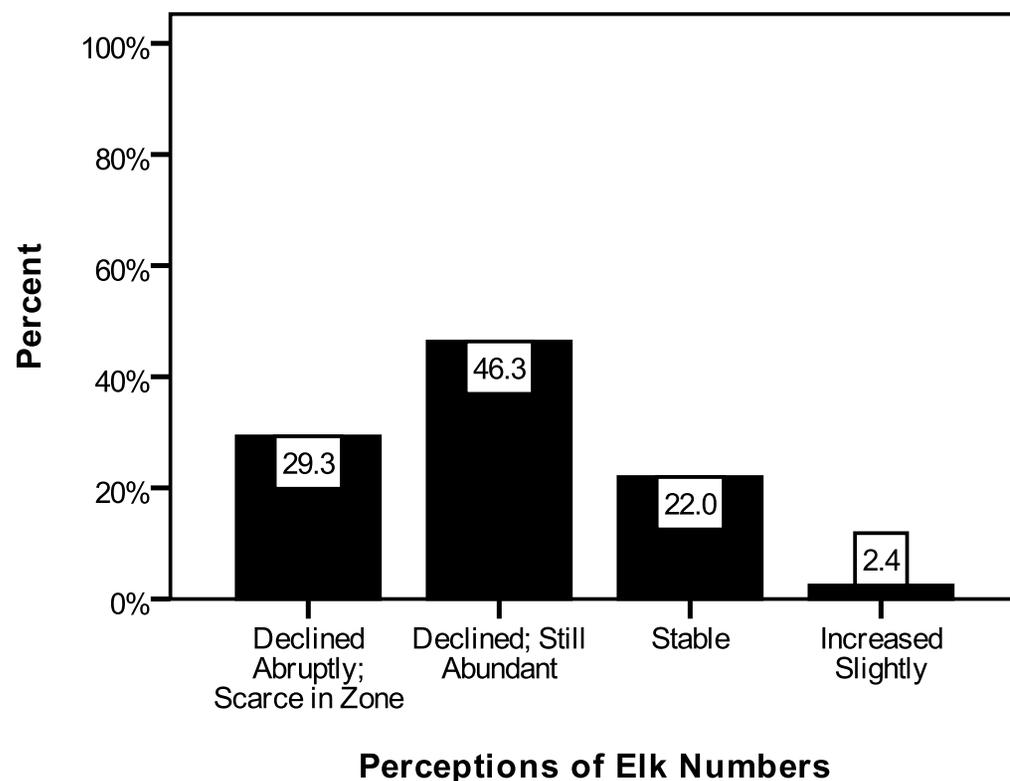


16. What makes the zone(s) you marked in Q-15 desirable to hunt Elk? (Please check all that apply)



Q16: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are slightly different. Respondents from Tex Creek find that having a zone they get every year is most important compared to proximity to home or cabin which the state average values more. They also desire a good chance of harvest over hunting deer during the same season, seasons preferred over tradition and OHV restrictions over less hunters to compete with.

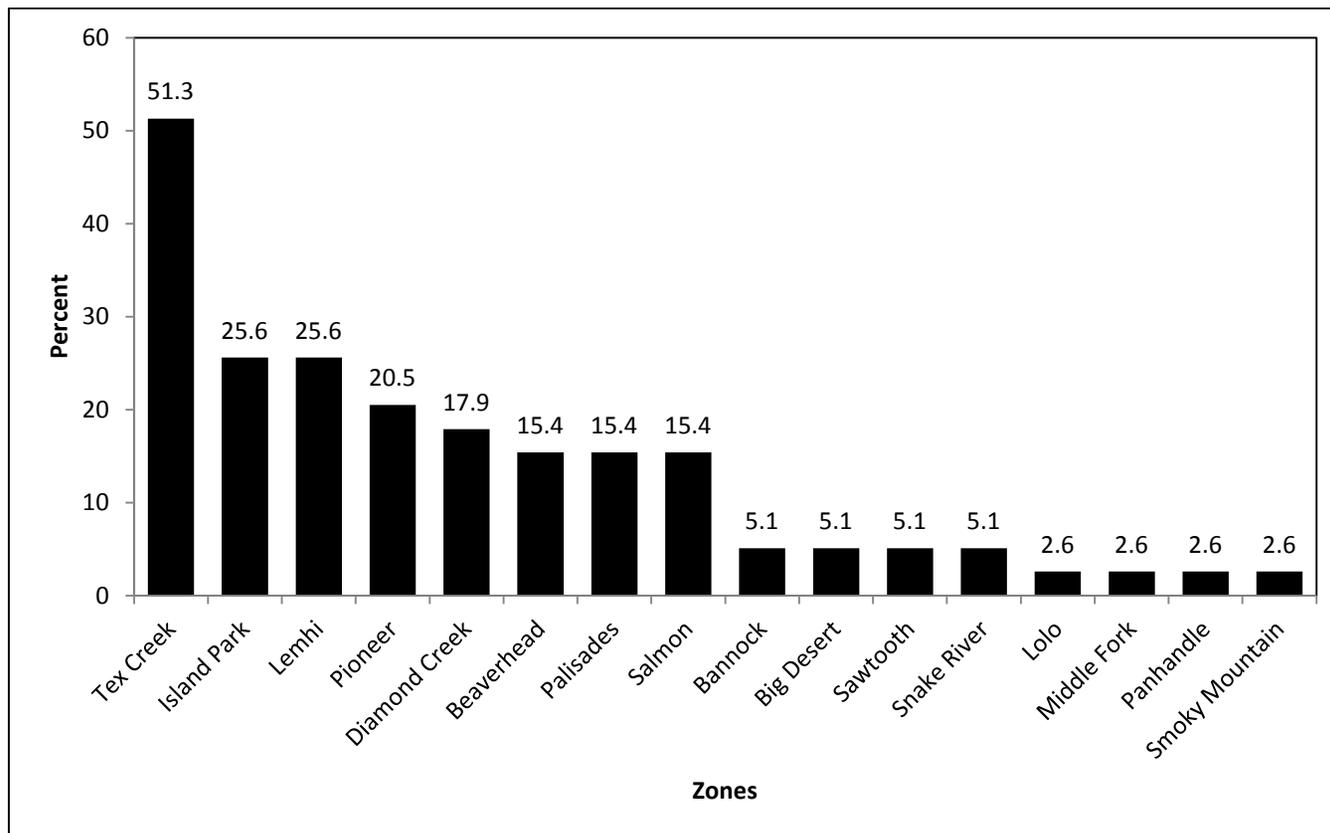
17. What are your perceptions of Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? Select the ONE statement from the list below that most closely matches your perceptions. (Please check only one response)



Q17: The state average perceived Elk numbers to have declined abruptly 22.2% more than Tex Creek respondents. Tex Creek hunters perceived numbers to have declined but remained abundant by 15.6% more than the average and also perceived the numbers to be more stable than other hunters.

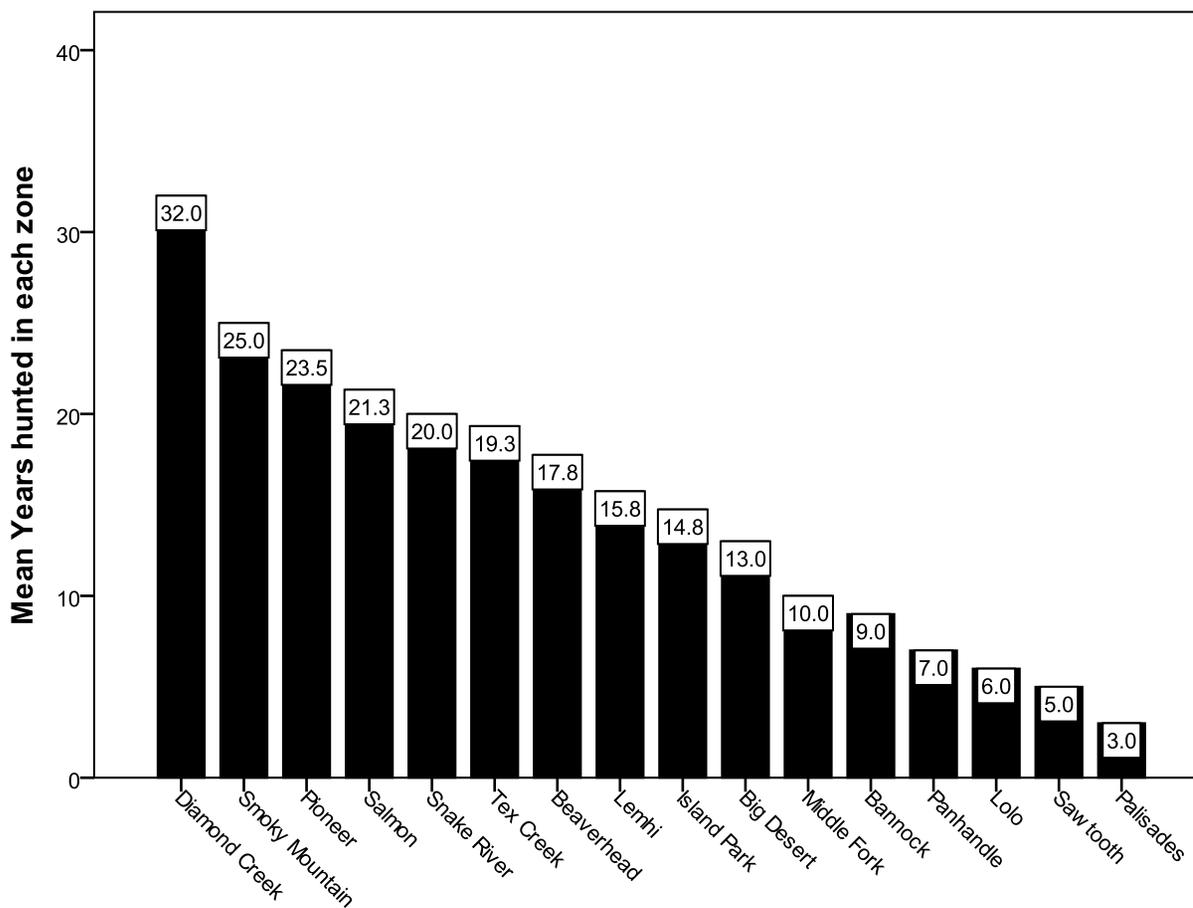
18. If you hunted in more than one zone in the past 10 years, please list them below.

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



Q18: Slightly over a quarter of Tex Creek hunters also hunt in the Island Park and Lemhi zones and a fifth in the Pioneer zone.

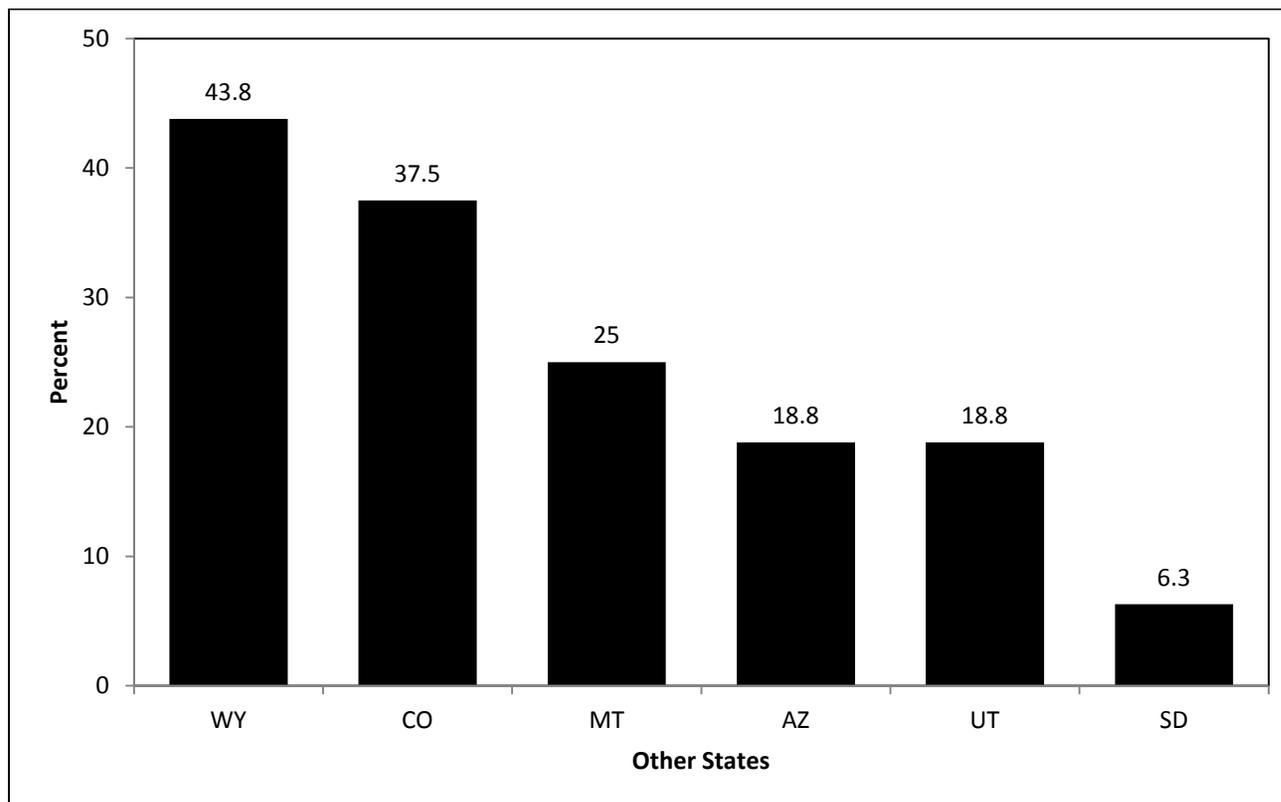
20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: Tex Creek respondents said that on average there are five zones that they have hunted in longer than Tex Creek.

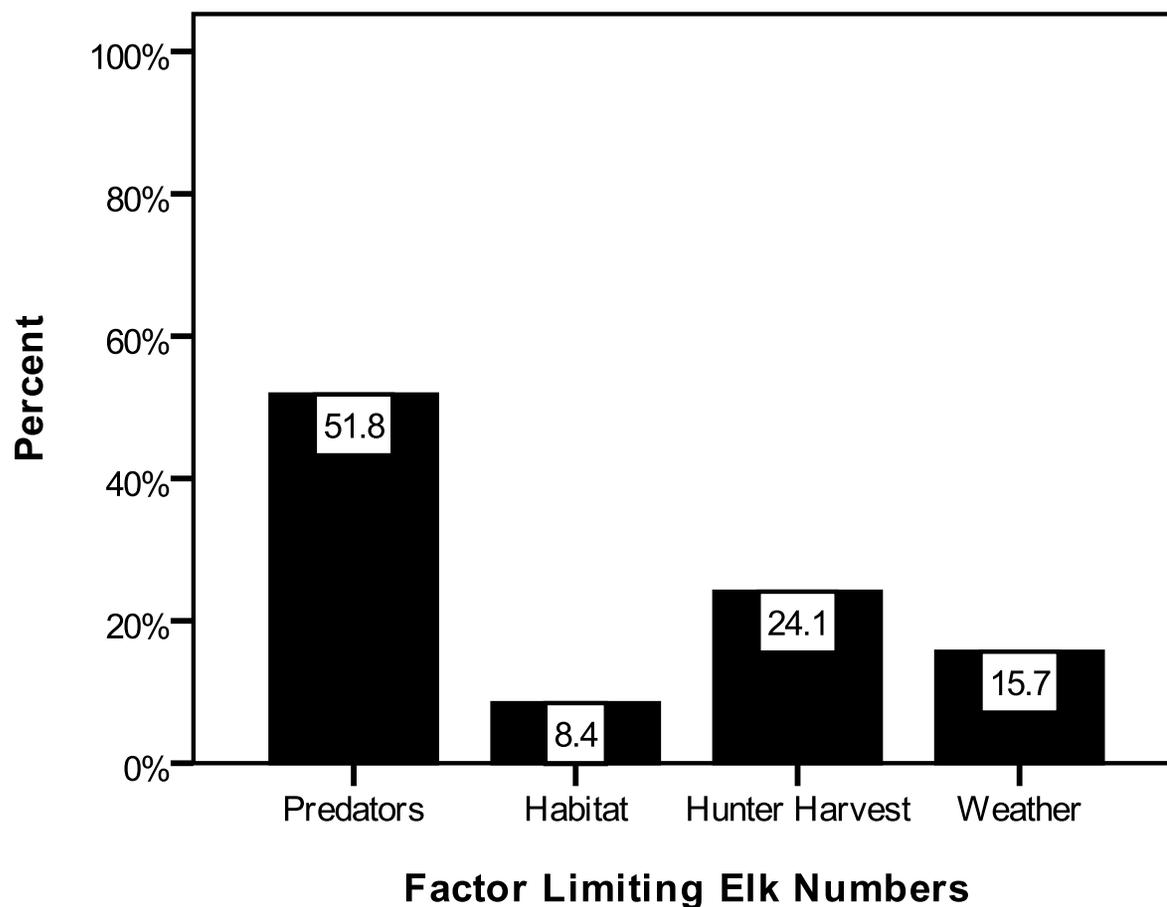
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana are the three most frequented states by hunters in Tex Creek and among the state average.

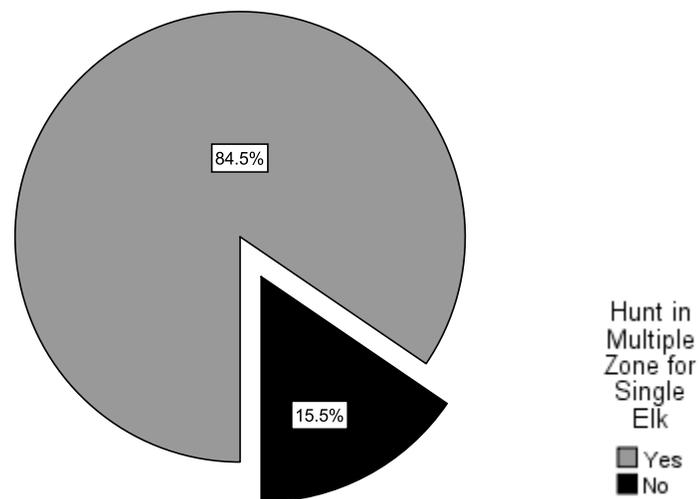
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



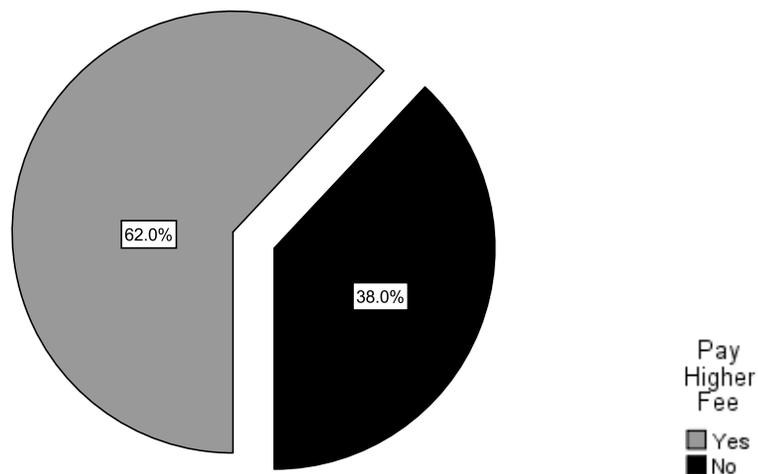
Q22: Tex Creek hunters perceive predators to be the primary limiting factor 22.8% less than the state average. Tex Creek respondents believe hunter harvest and weather to play a larger role in their zone than the state average.

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

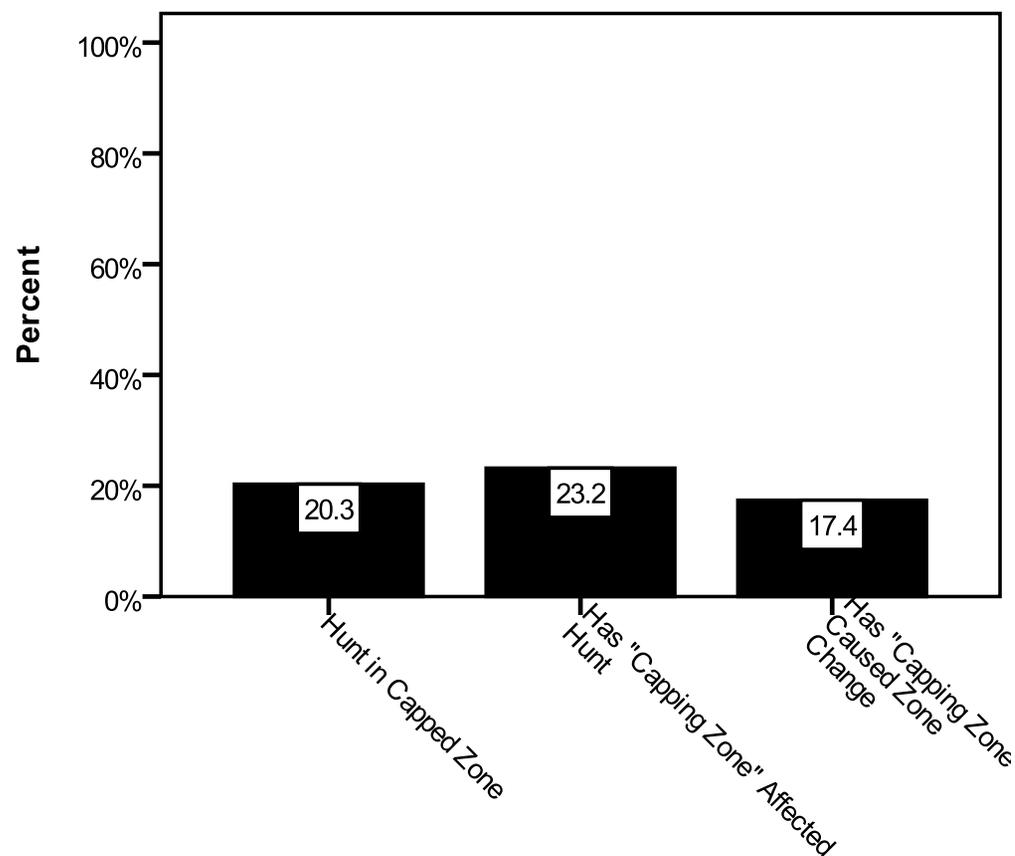
The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar for both Q23 and Q24.



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)

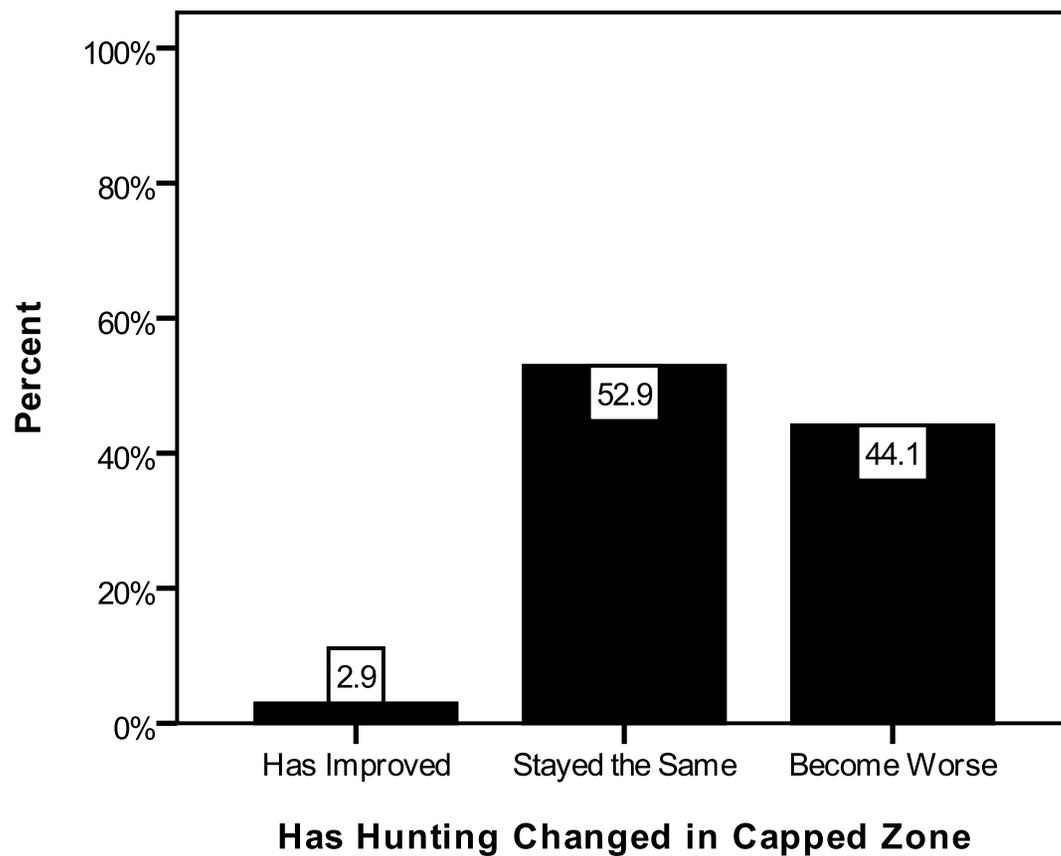


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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: Tex Creek respondents reported hunting in a capped zone 24.3% less than the state average.

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

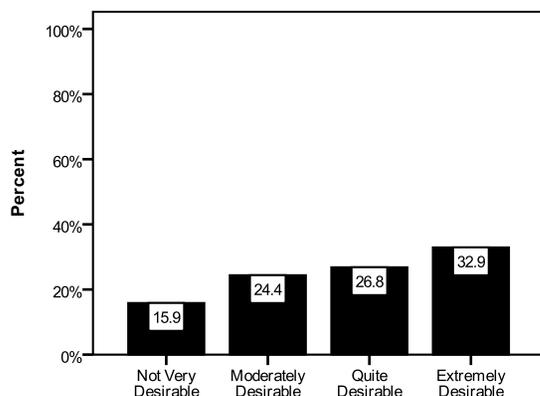


Q26: Although they have had less experience in capped zones than the state average, Tex Creek respondents said that they felt hunting had stayed the same 15.8% more.

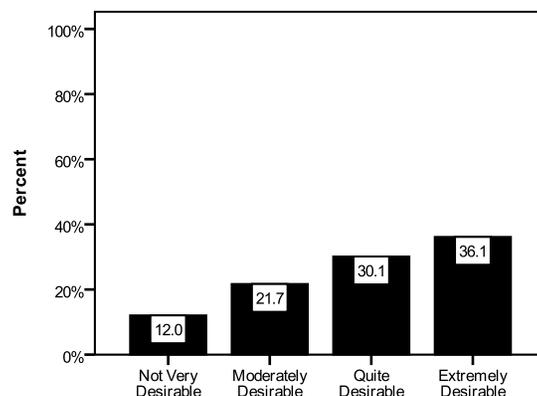
ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

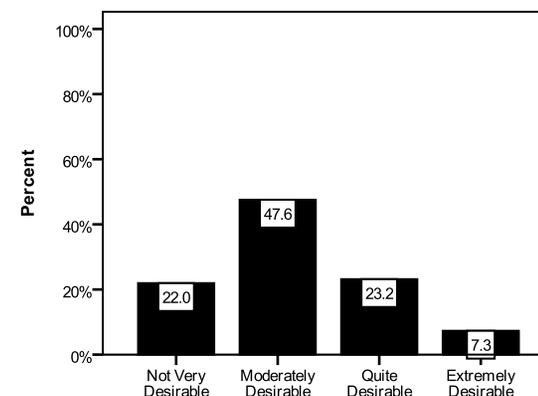
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?



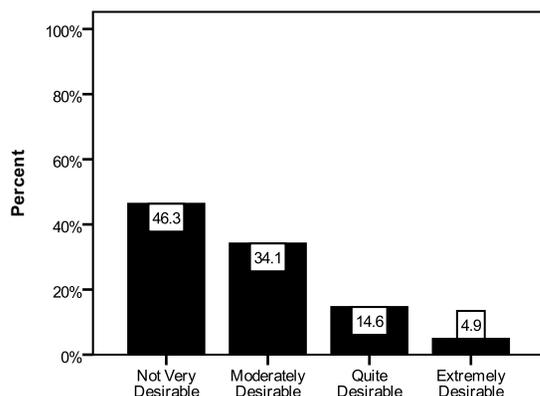
Large Bull



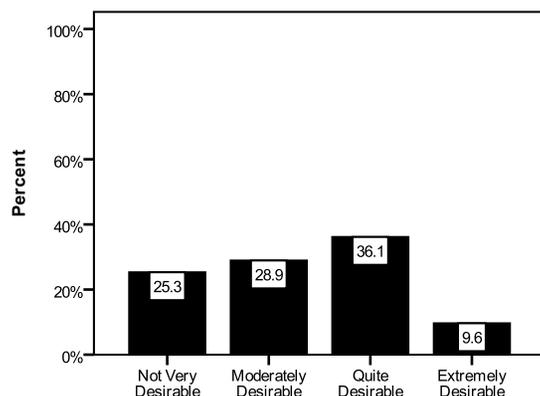
Mature Bull



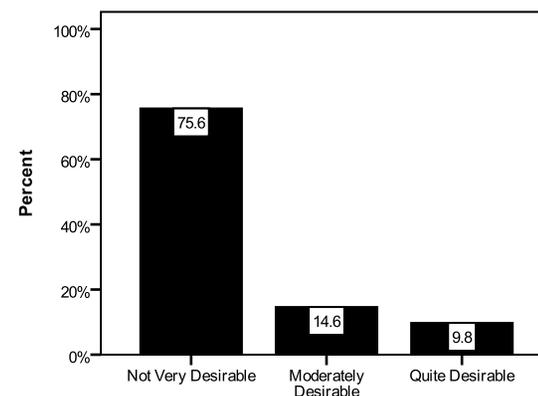
Raghorn Bull



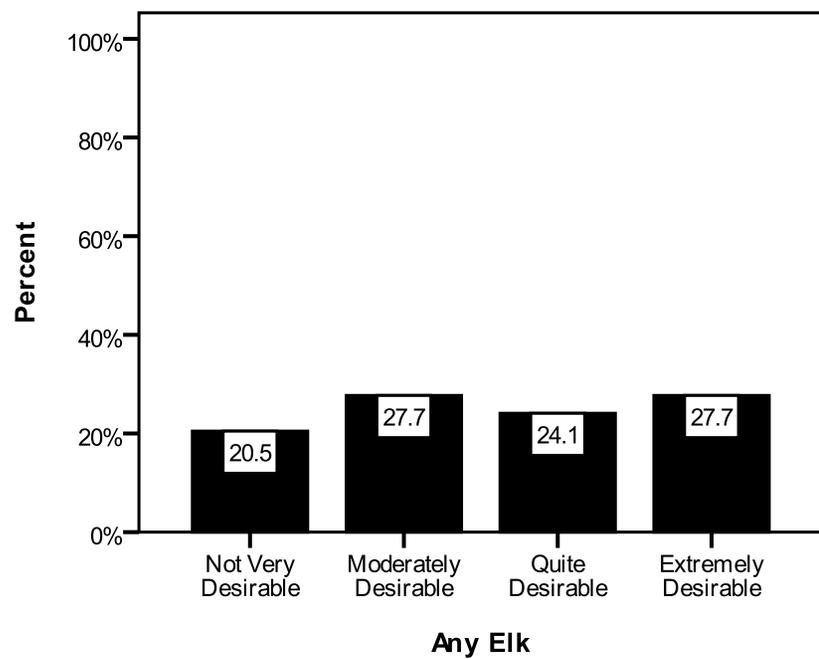
Spike Elk



Cow Elk

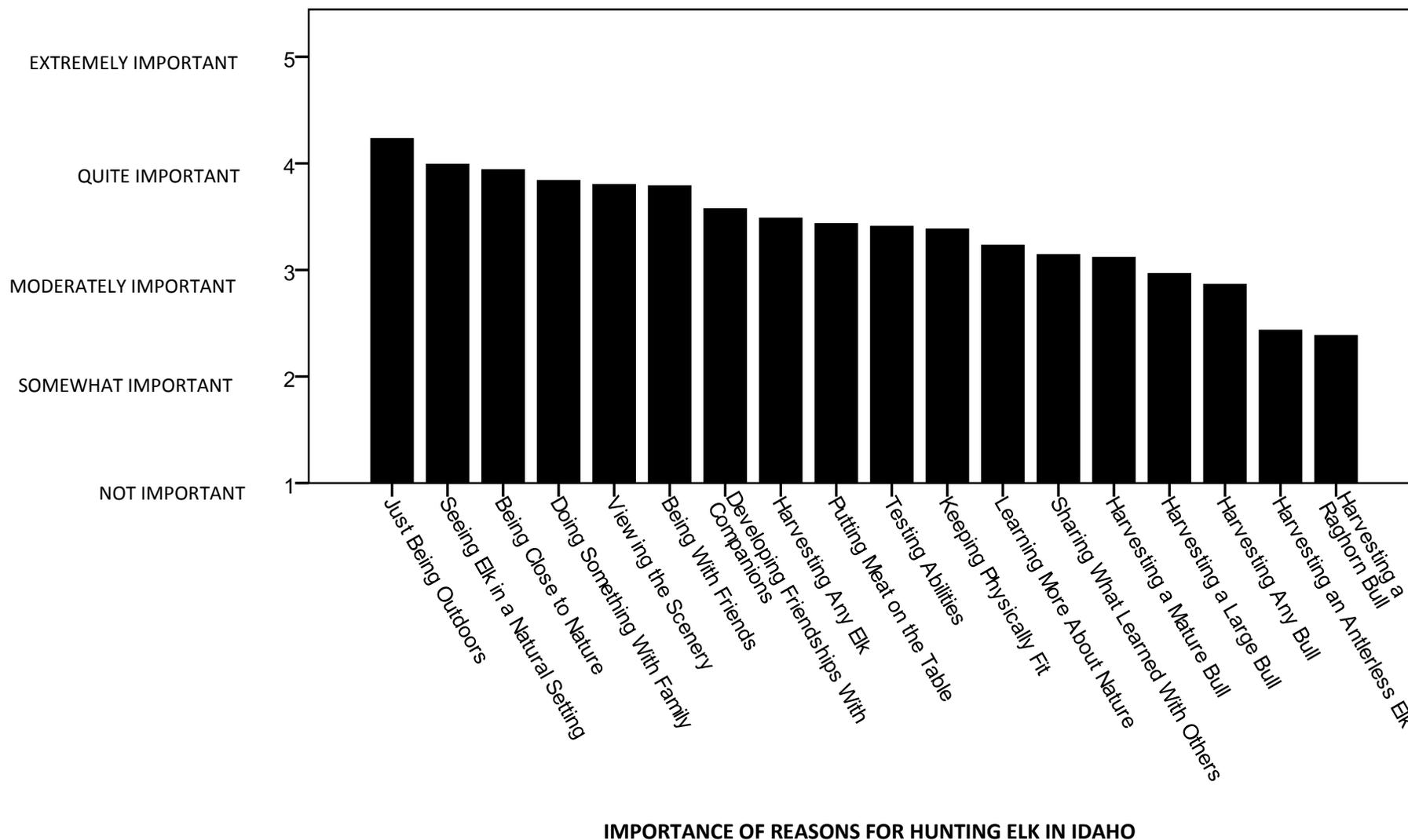


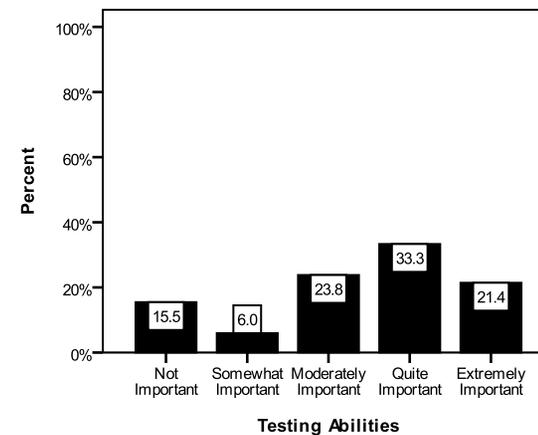
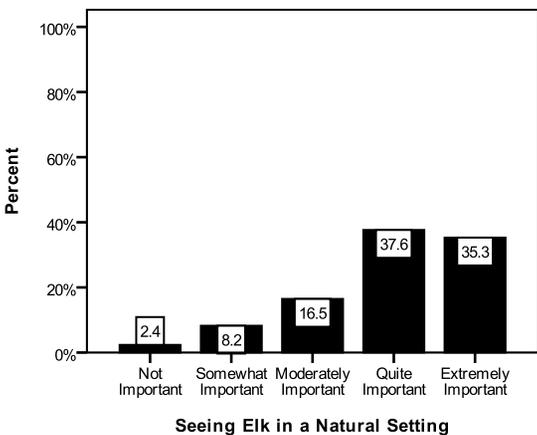
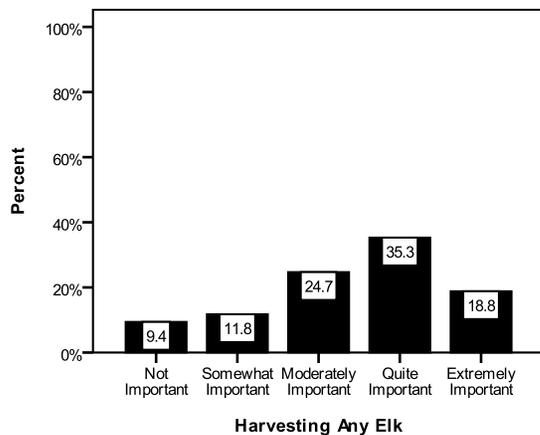
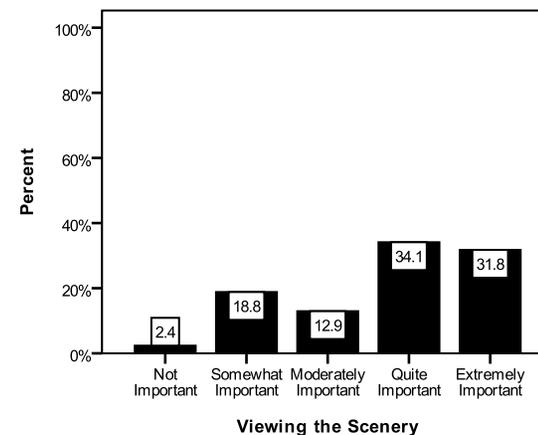
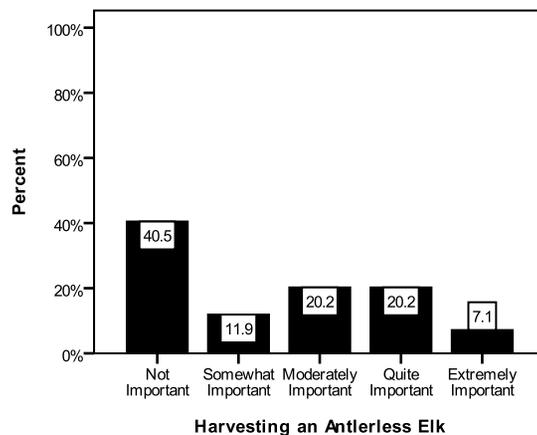
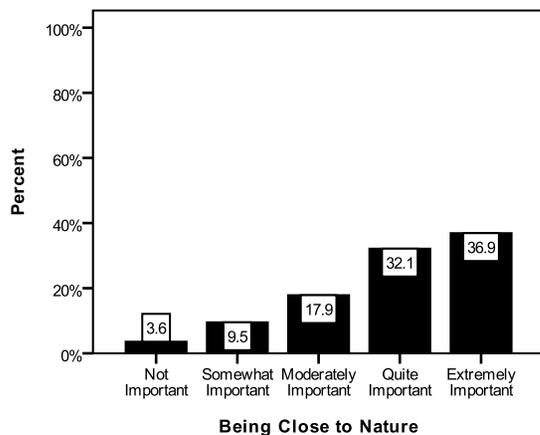
Calf

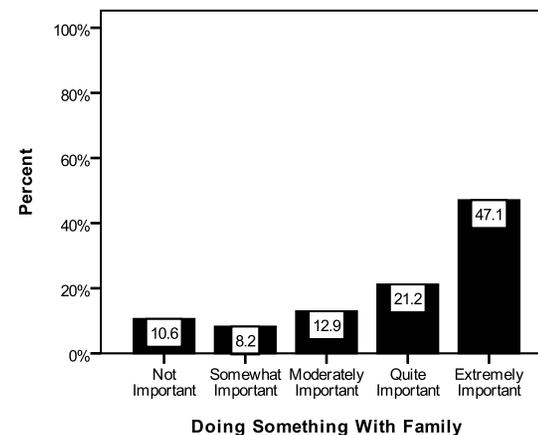
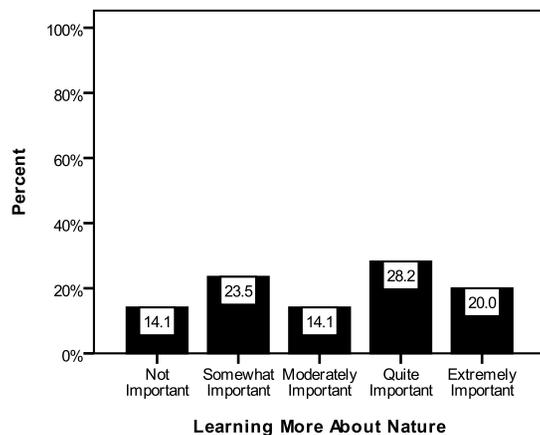
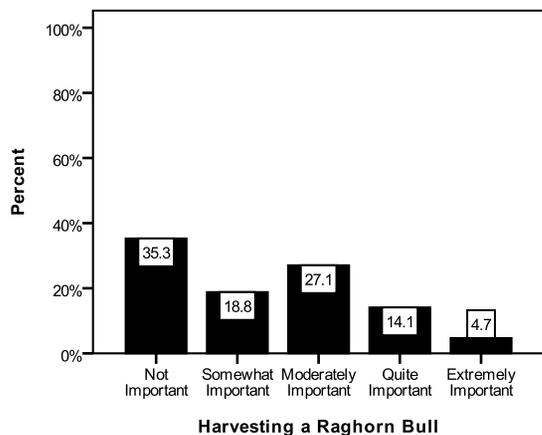
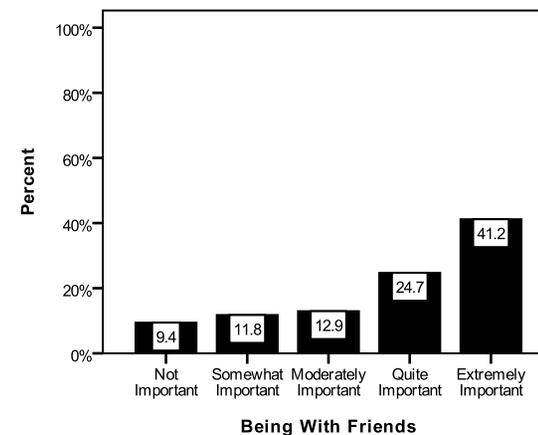
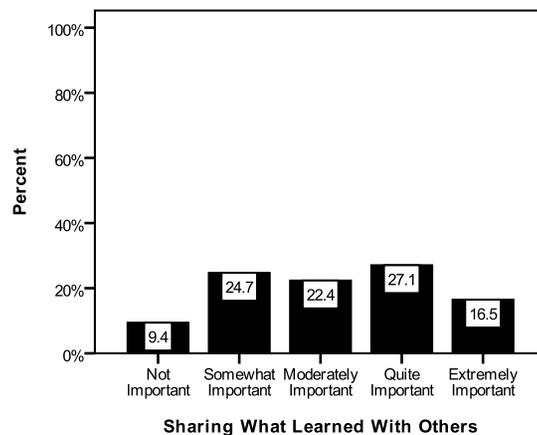
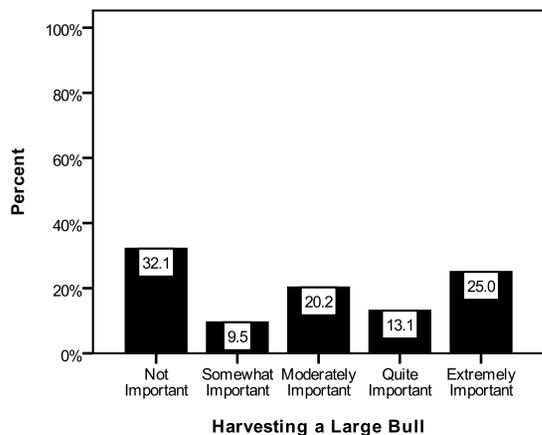


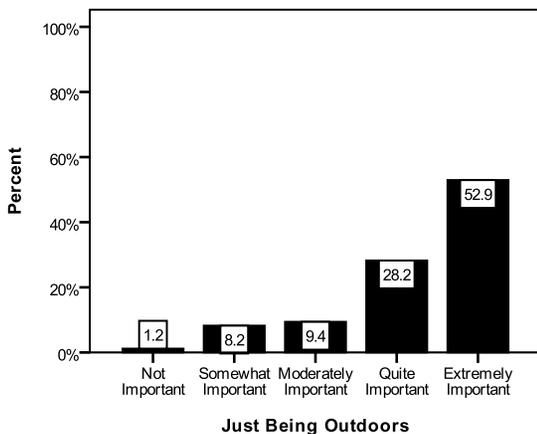
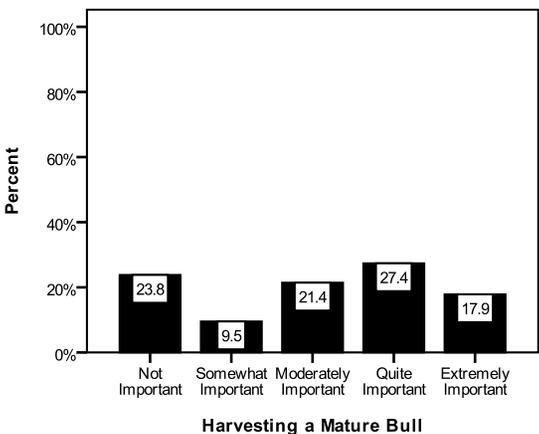
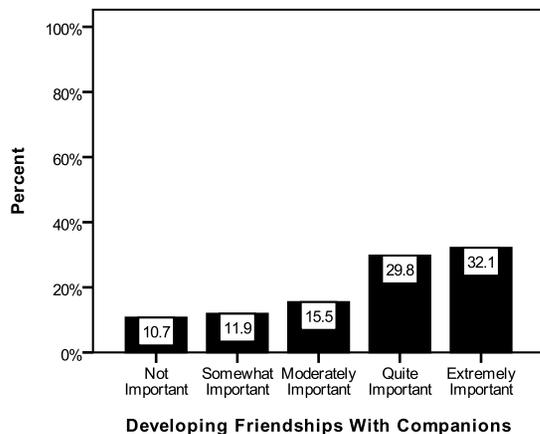
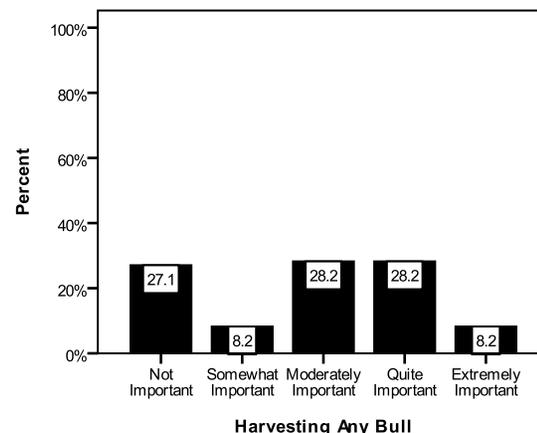
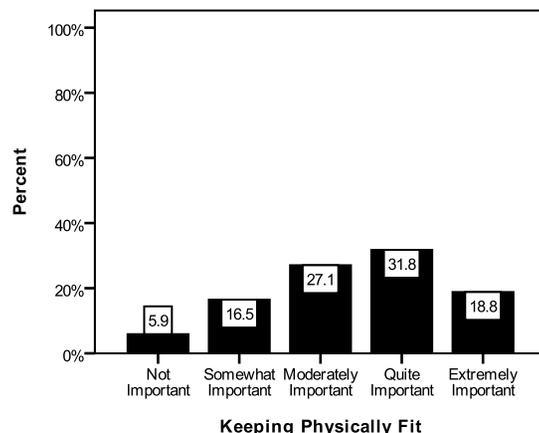
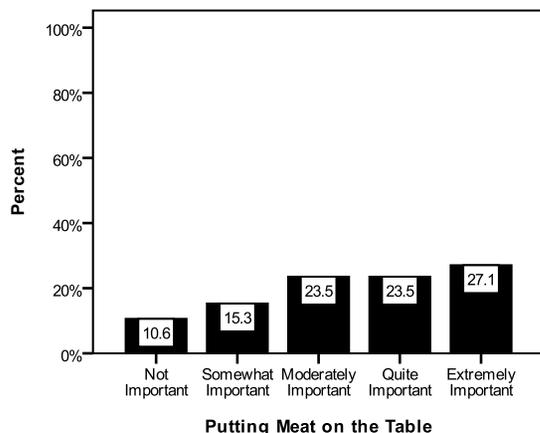
Q27: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are fairly similar.

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





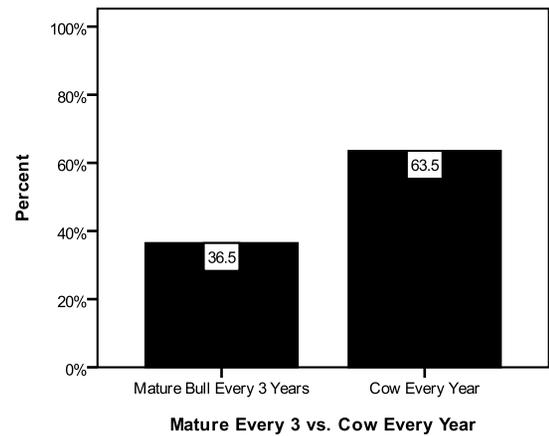
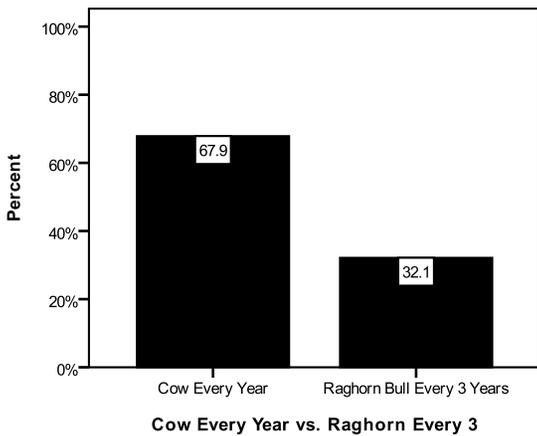
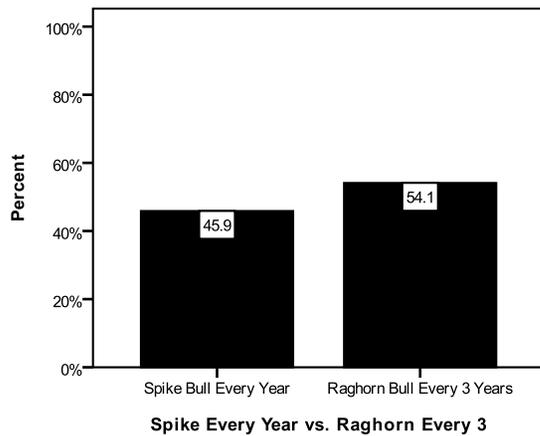
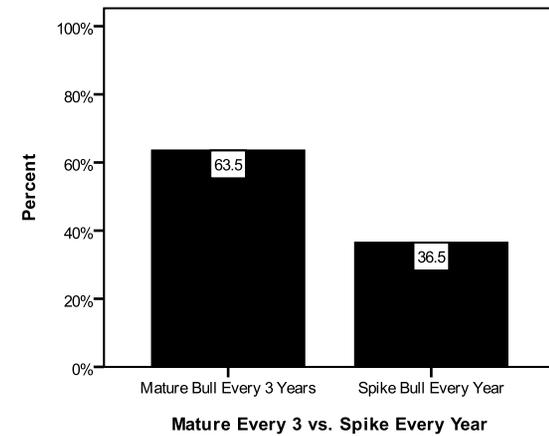
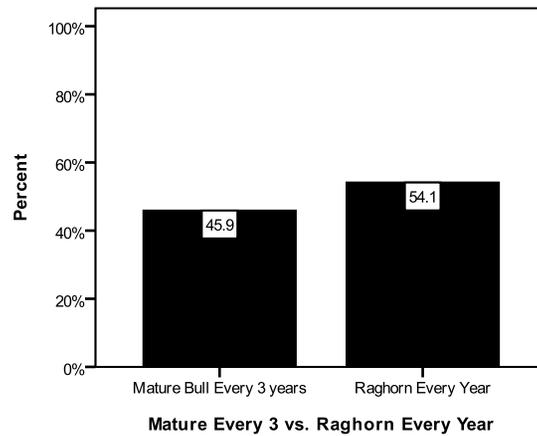
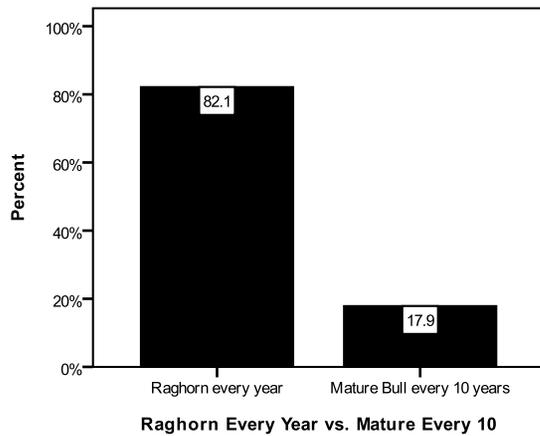


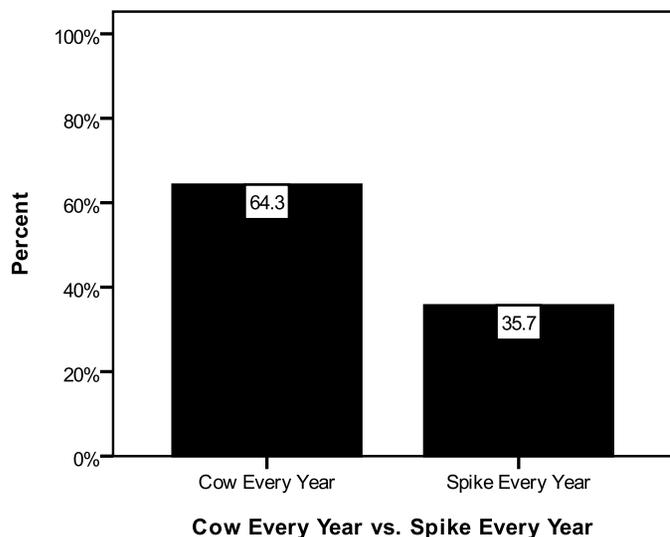


Q28: Tex Creek respondents said that developing friendships with companions and harvesting any Elk were more important than putting meat on the table, compared to the state average.

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.

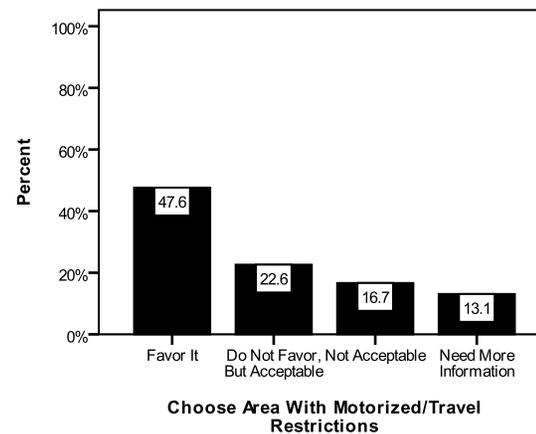
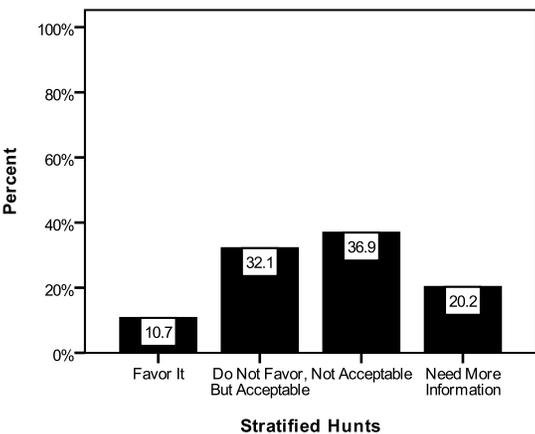
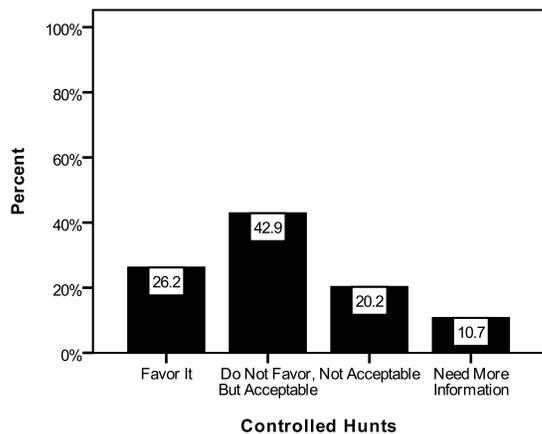
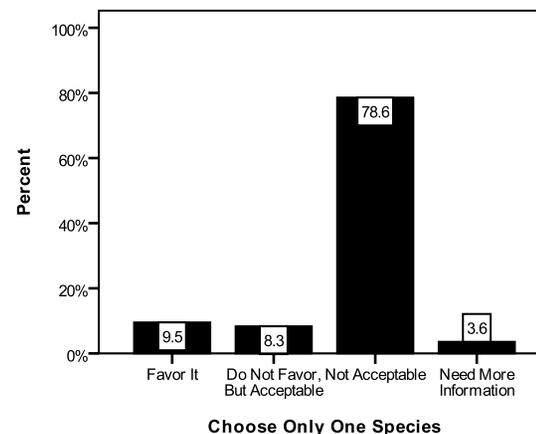
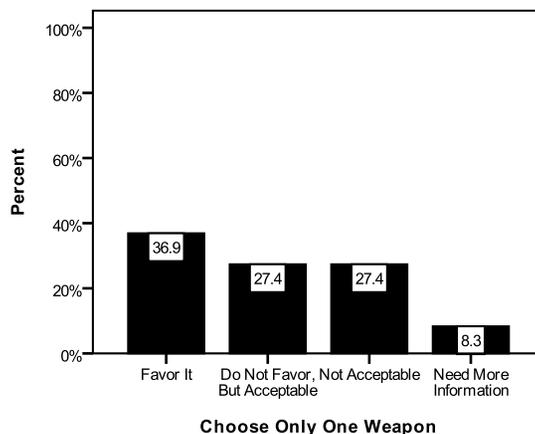
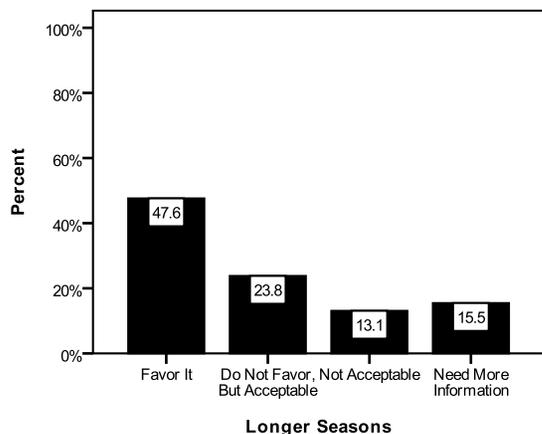


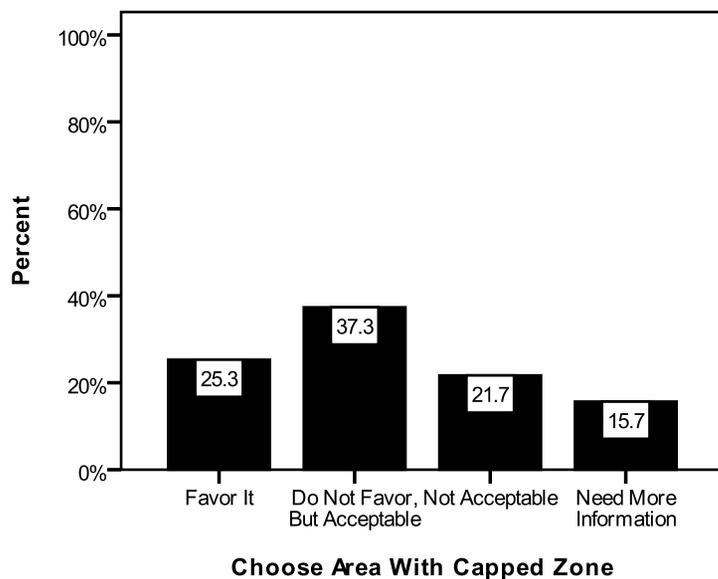


Q32: Like the state average, respondents from Tex Creek tend to value opportunity to hunt over size of Elk. However, when the trade-off is a spike Elk, respondents chose the other choice no matter the opportunity available.

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

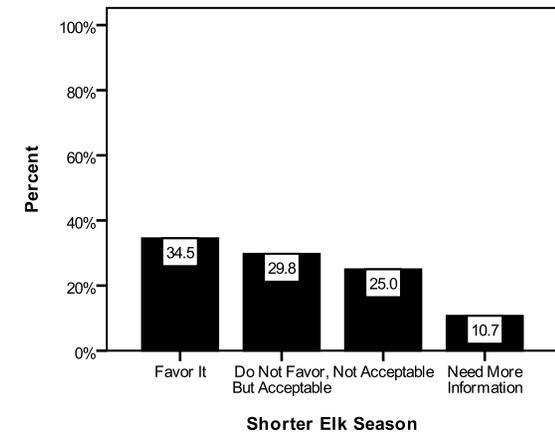
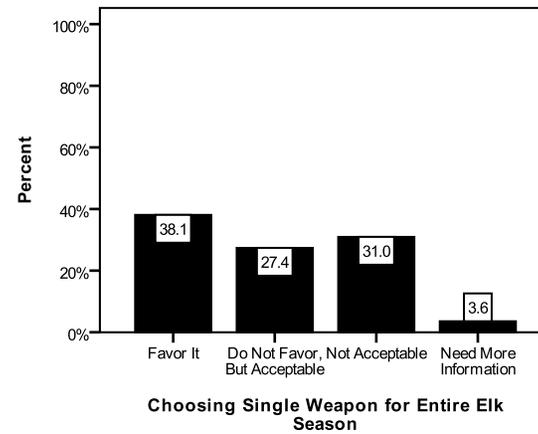
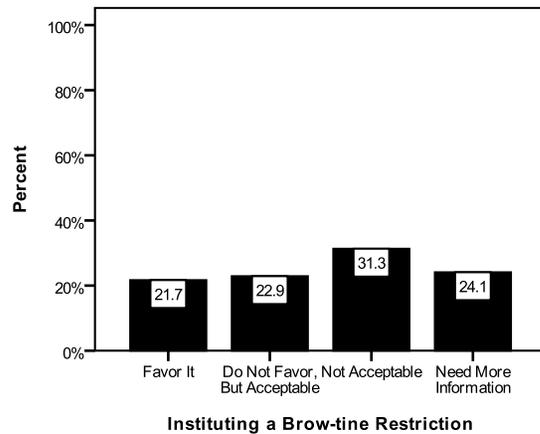
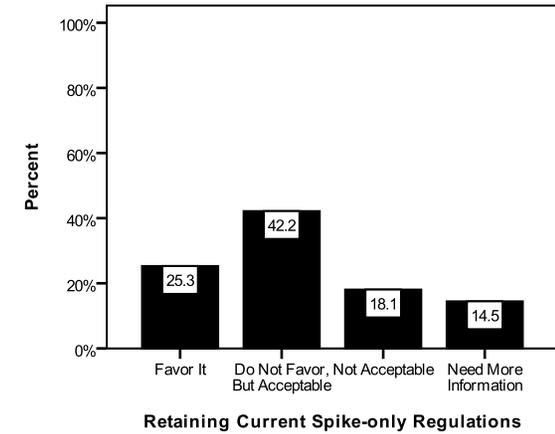
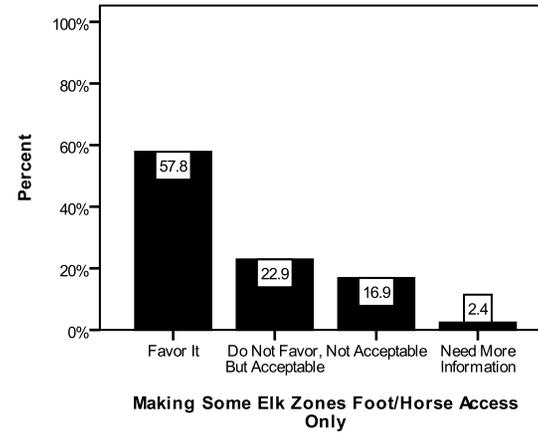
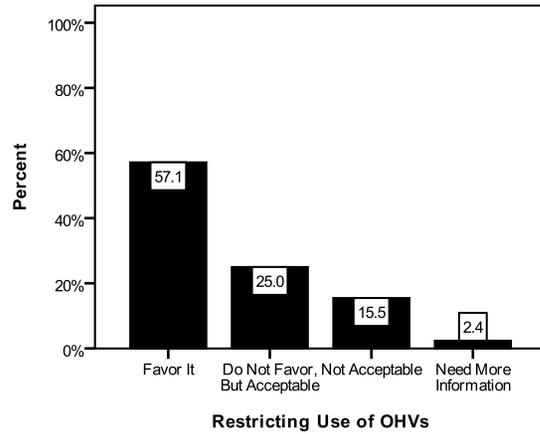
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

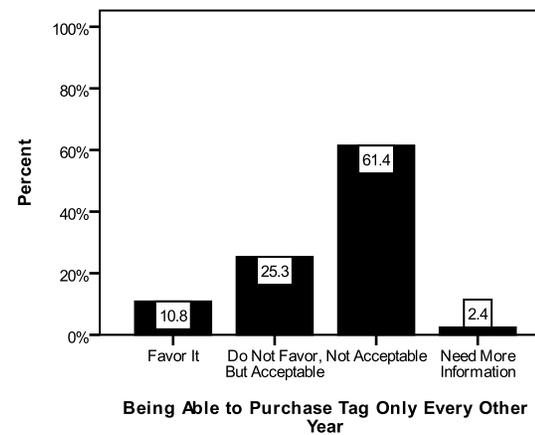
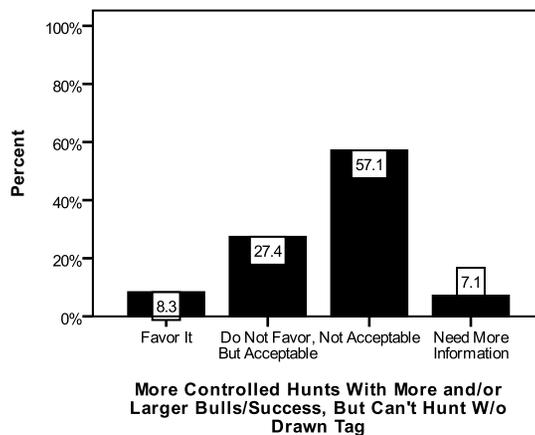
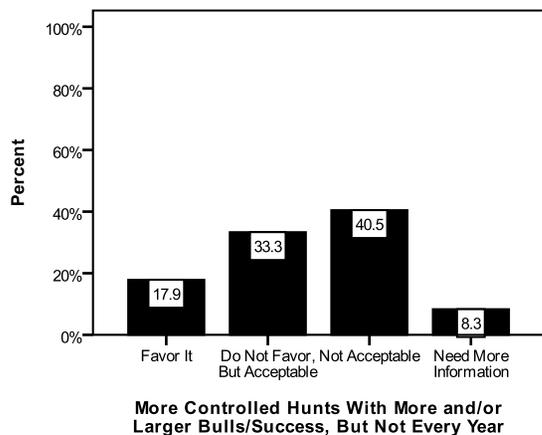




Q34: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are fairly similar, but Tex Creek respondents found choosing only one weapon slightly more favorable.

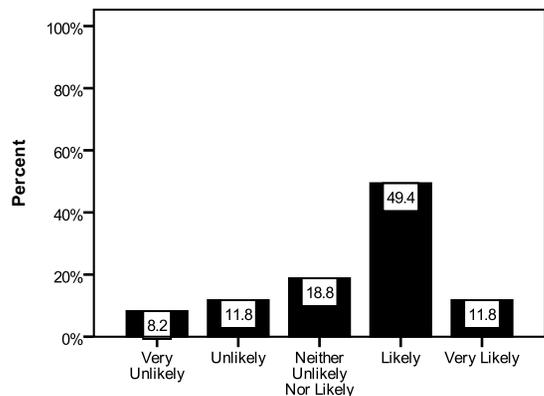
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



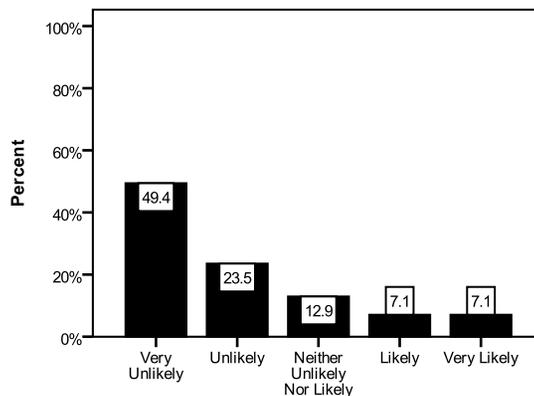


Q35: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are fairly similar, but Tex Creek hunters favor a shorter Elk season slightly more than the average.

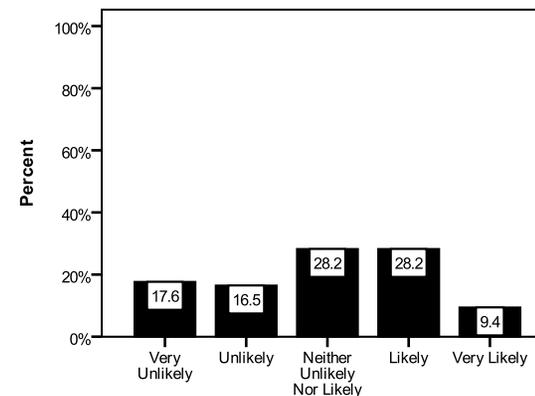
36. *IF* Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



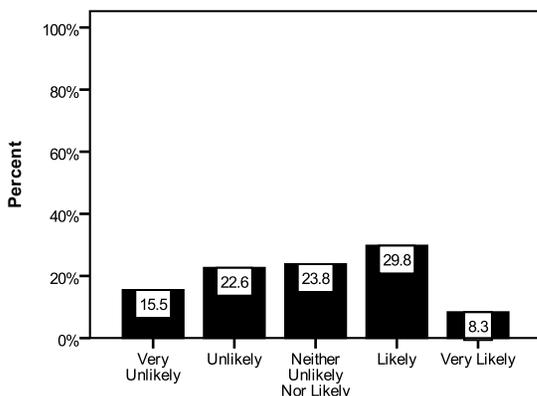
Hunt in Different Zones



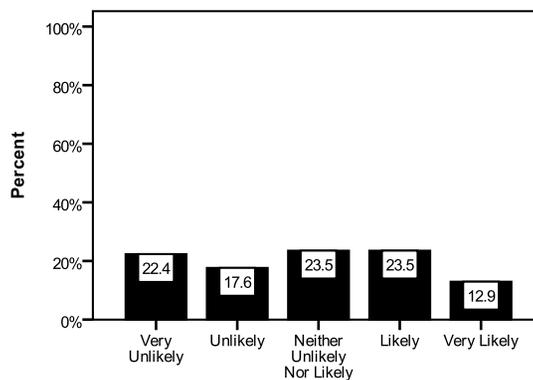
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



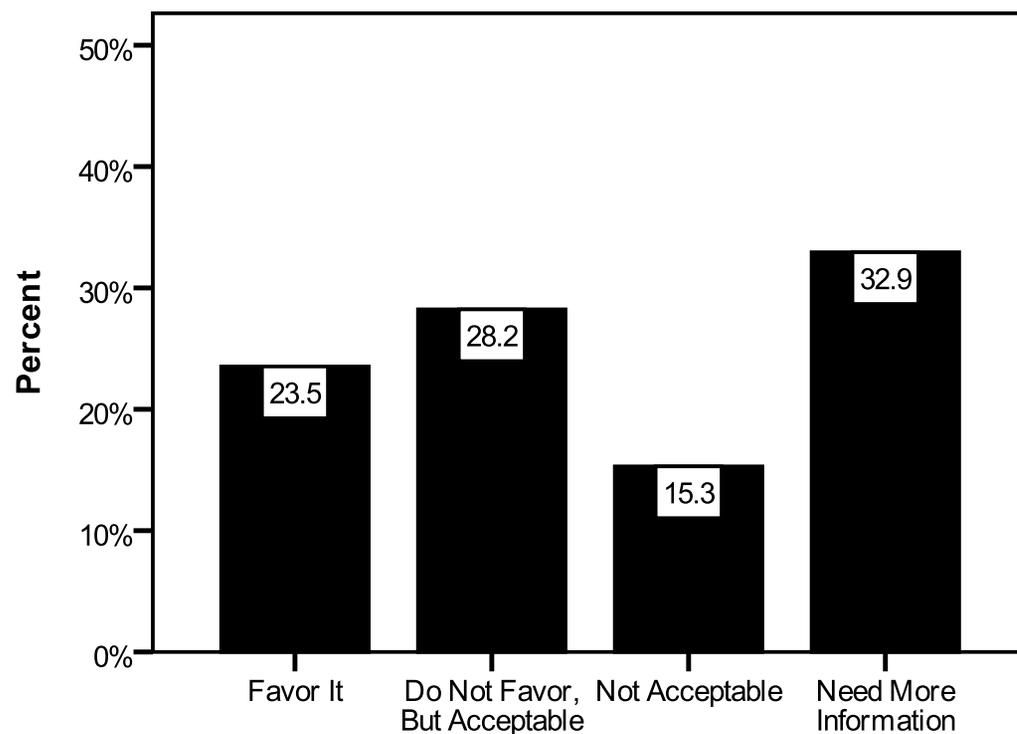
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

Q36: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

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

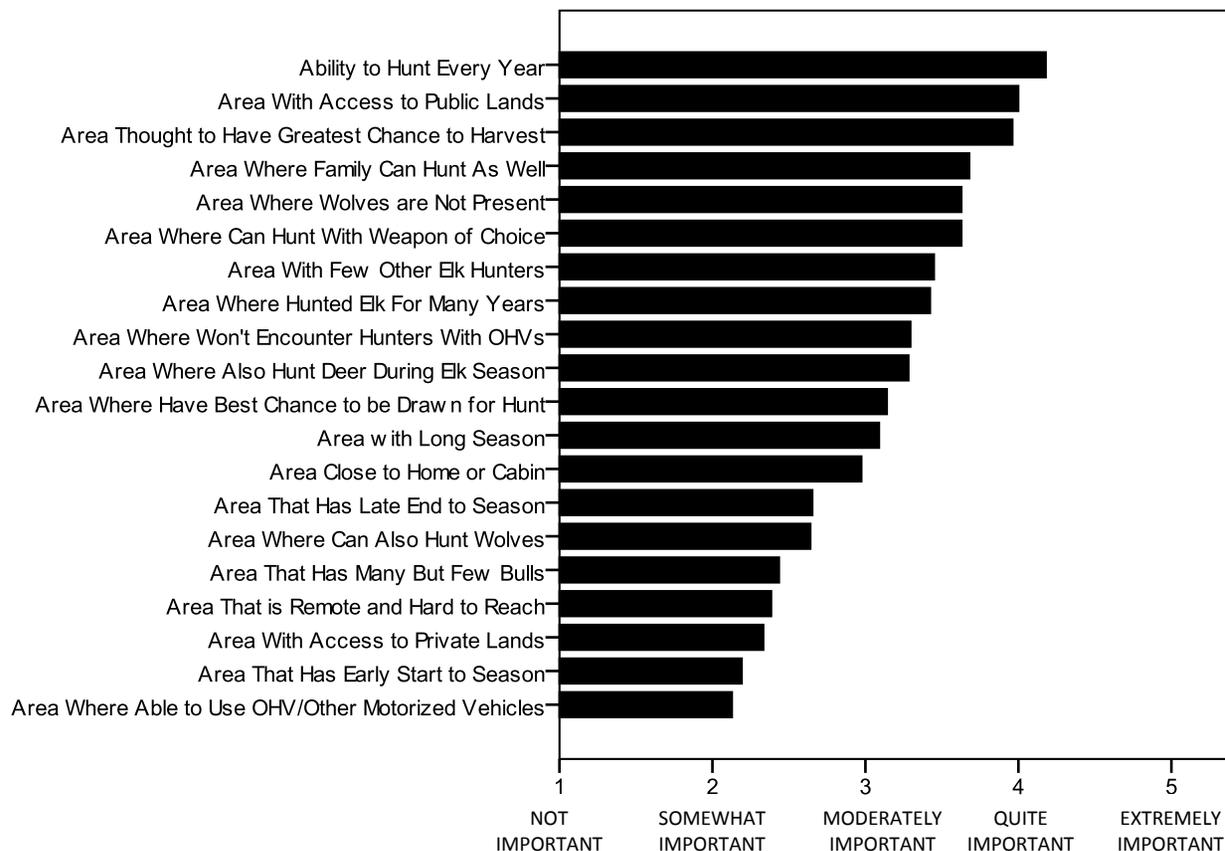


Feelings About Setting Season Conditions 2 Years in Advance

Q38: 4.5% less Tex Creek respondents found these conditions favorable compared to the state average.

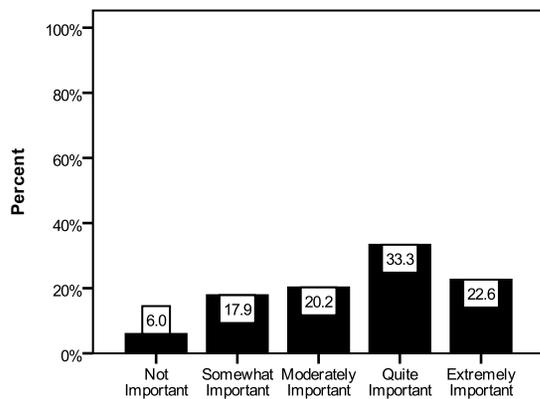
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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

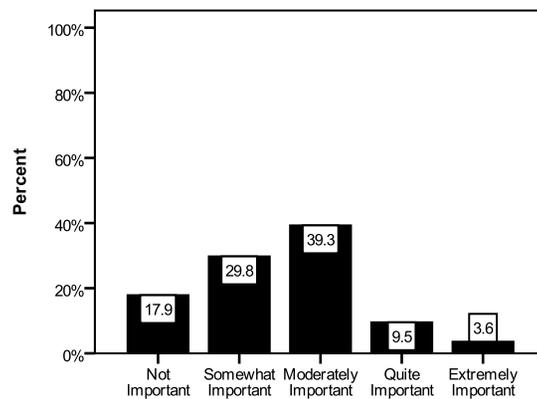


Q29: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

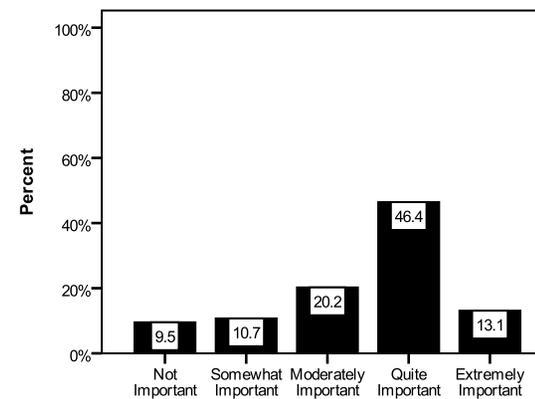
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



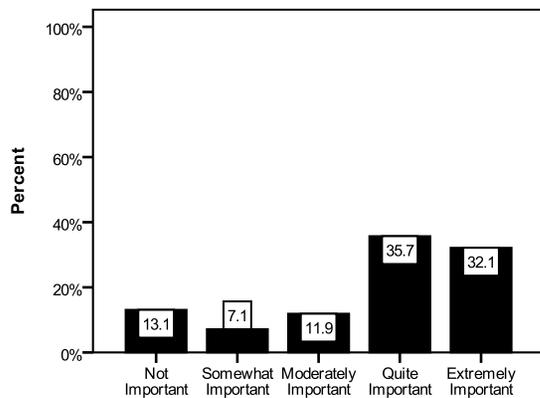
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



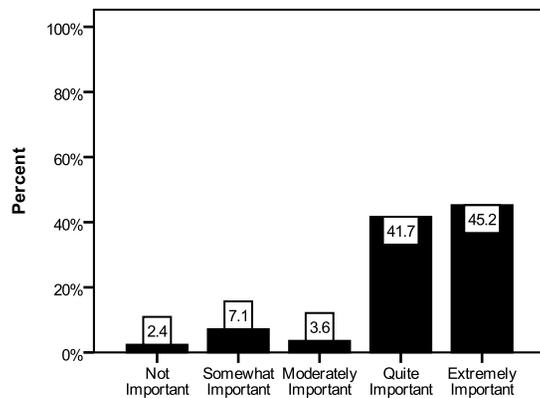
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



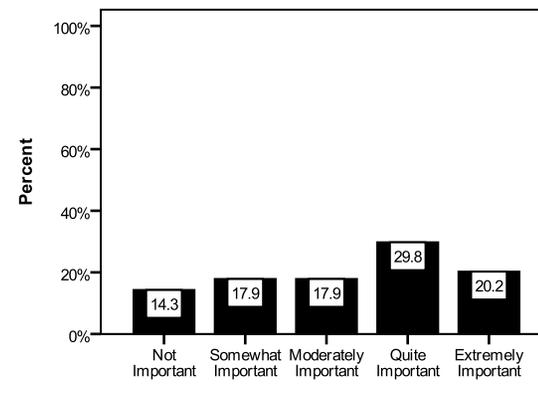
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



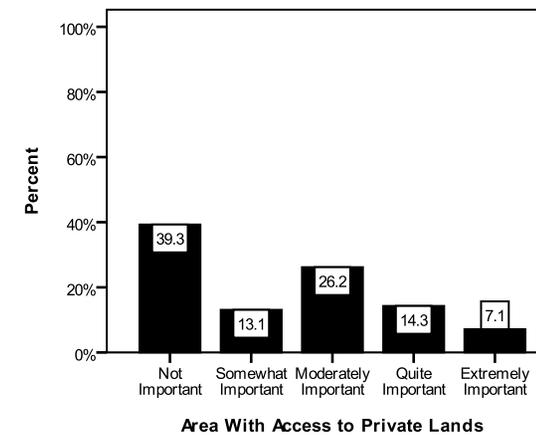
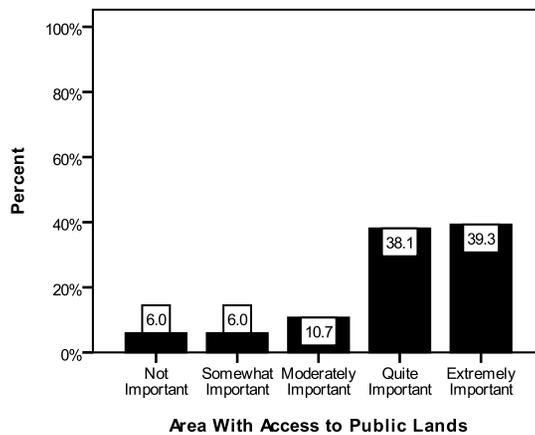
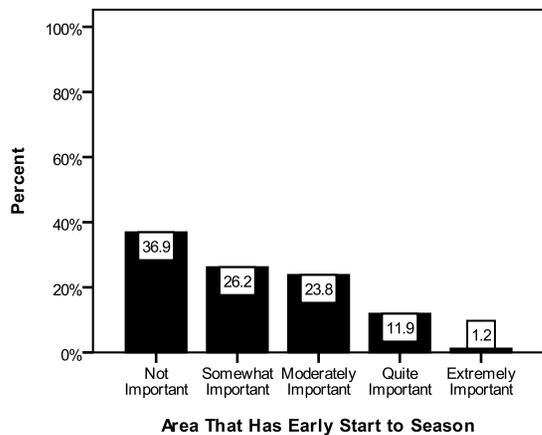
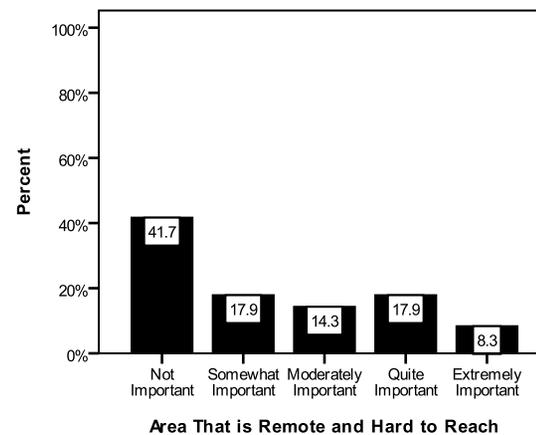
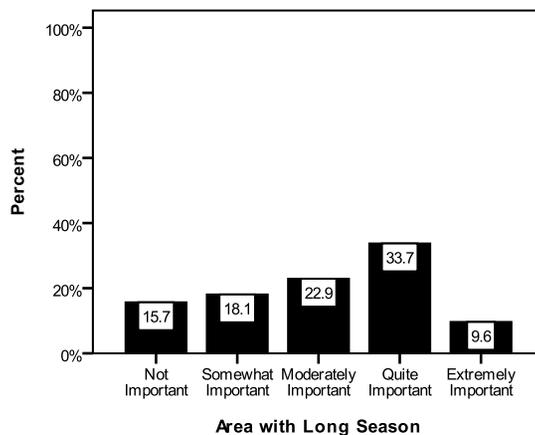
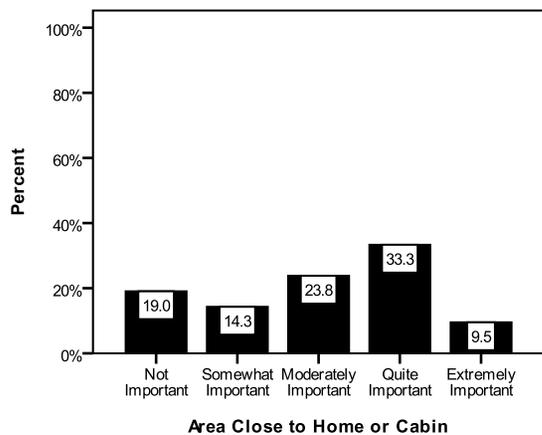
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well

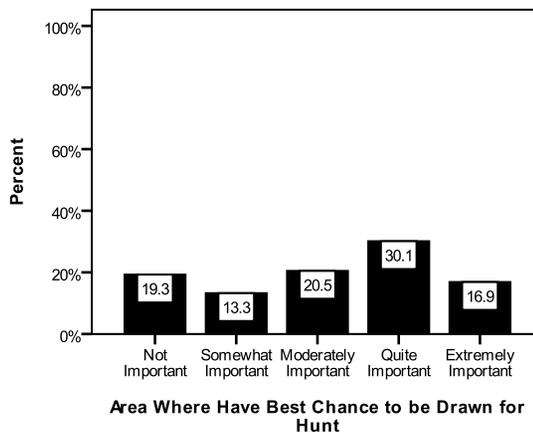
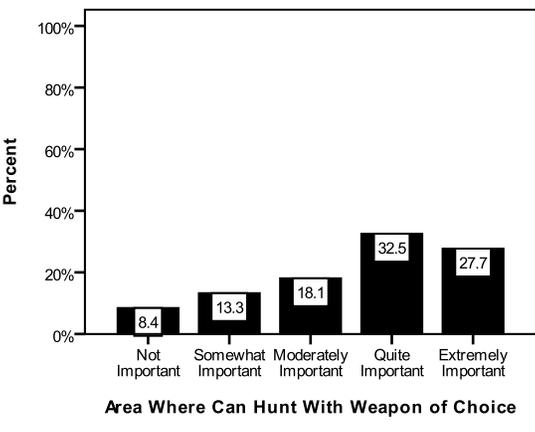
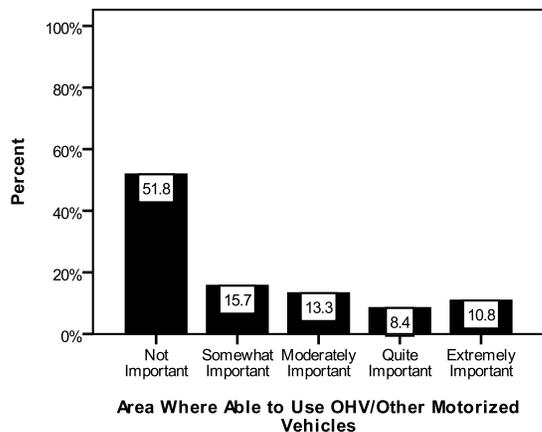
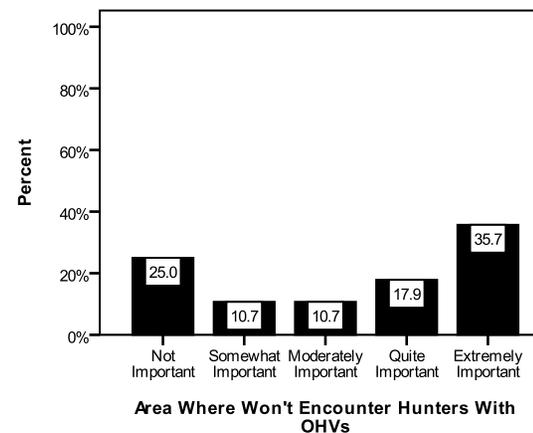
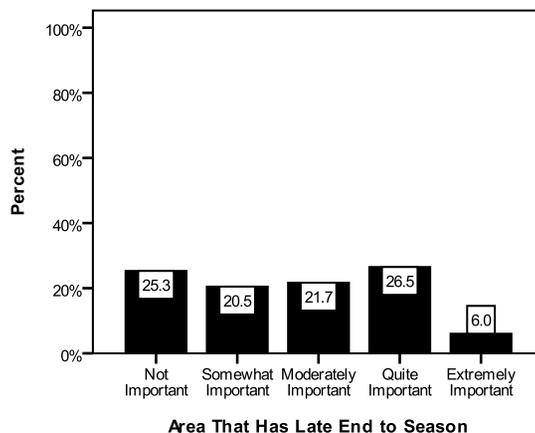
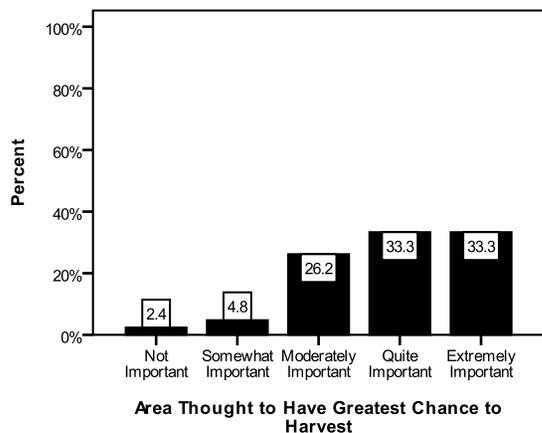


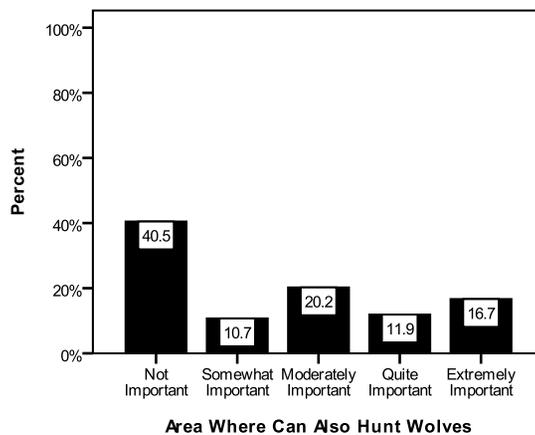
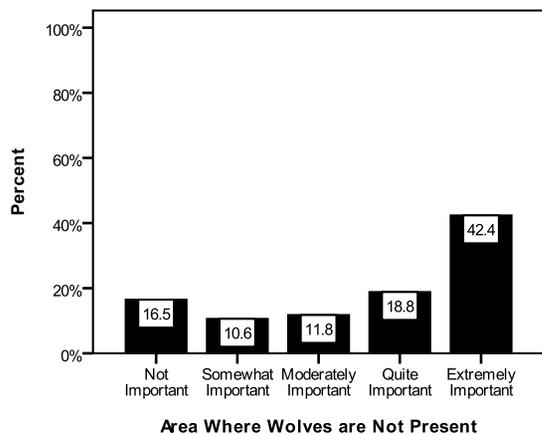
Ability to Hunt Every Year



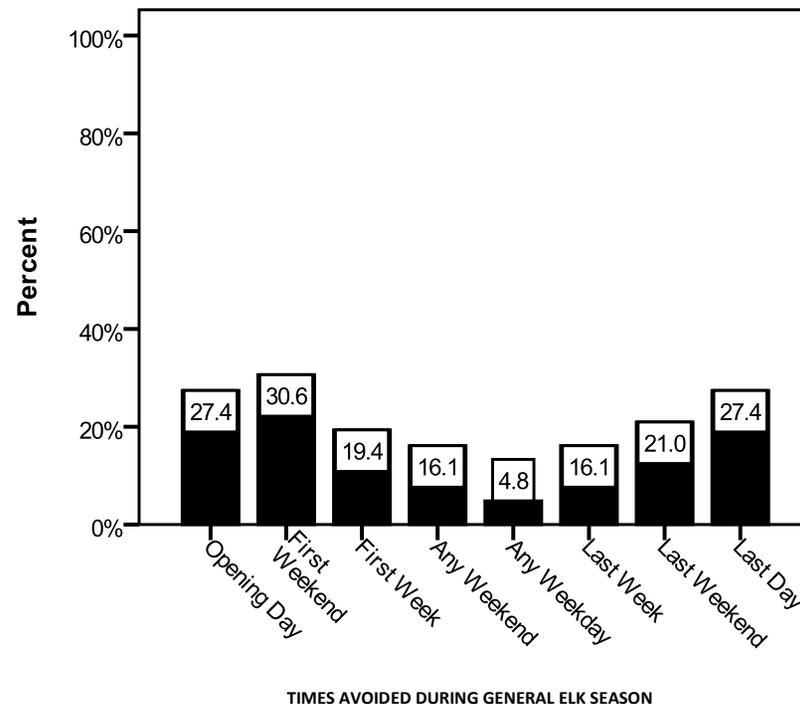
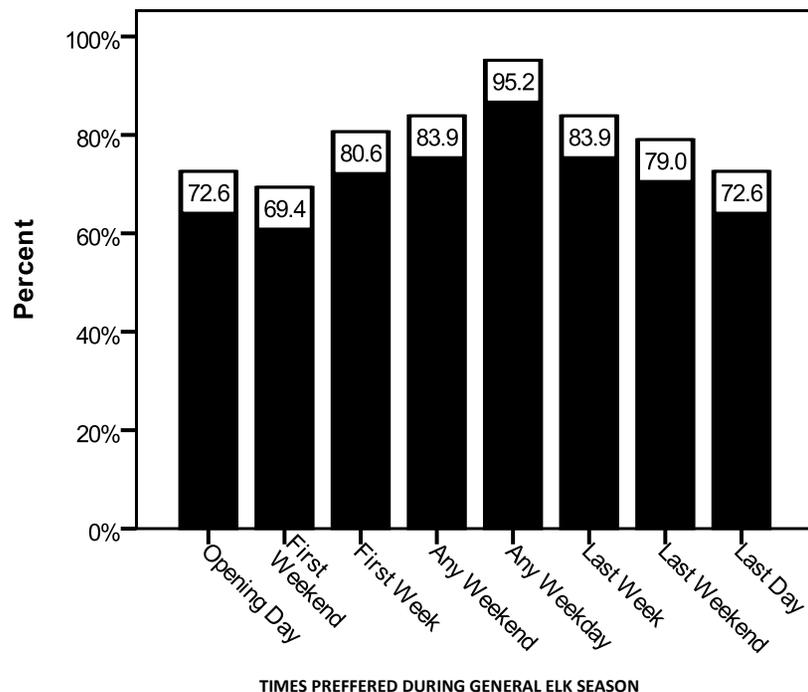
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season







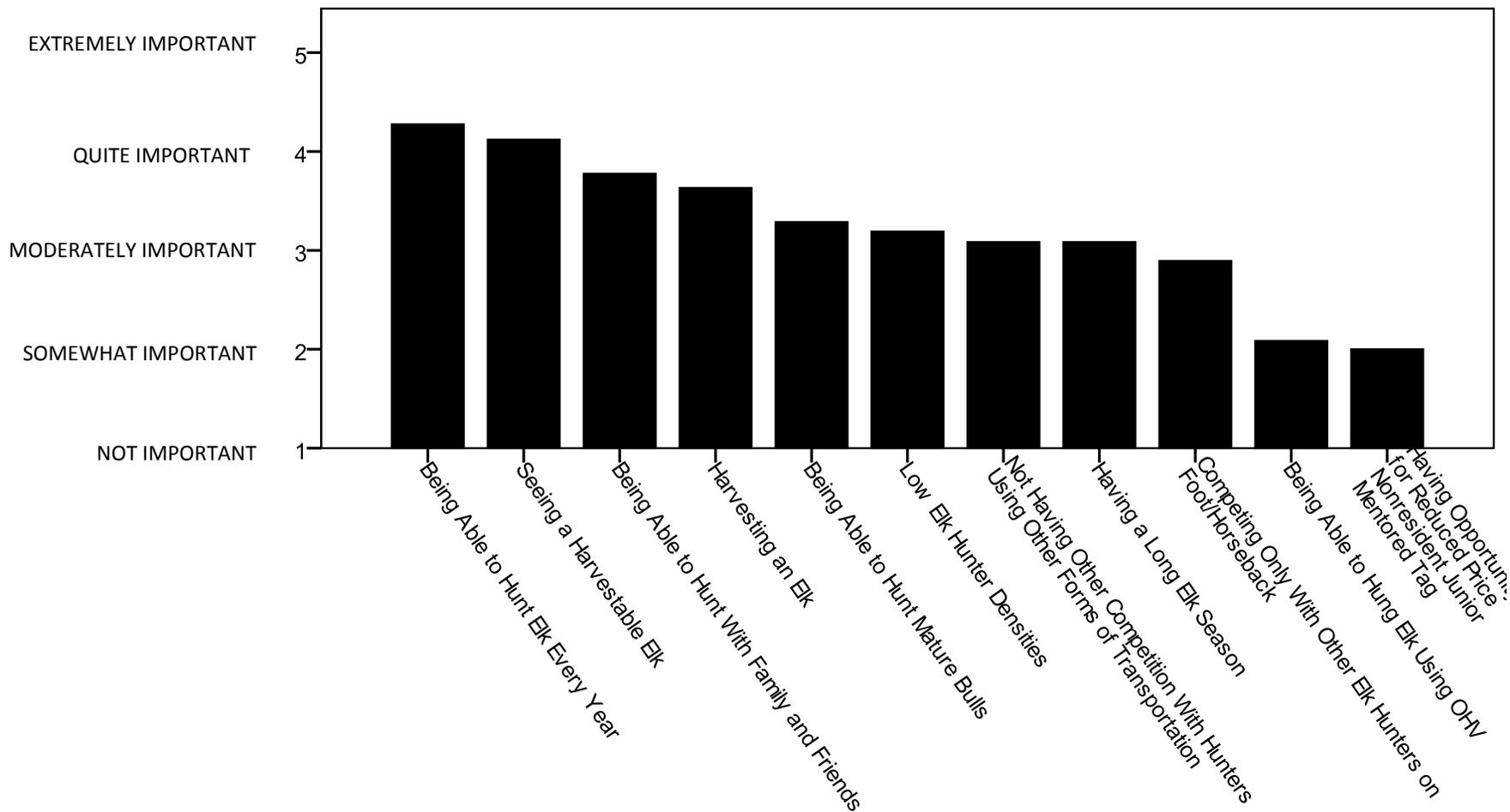
30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



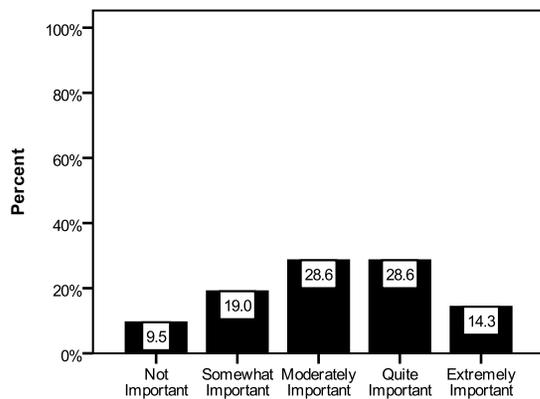
Q30: The preferences and distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

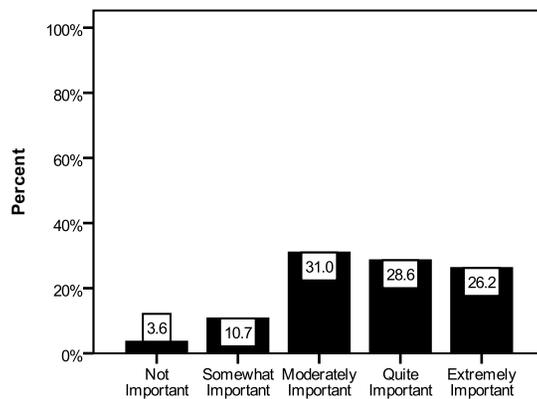
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



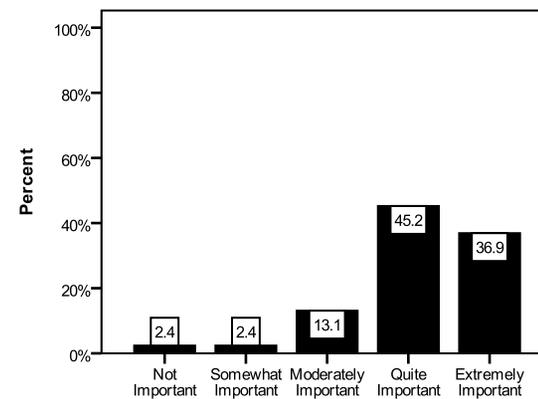
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



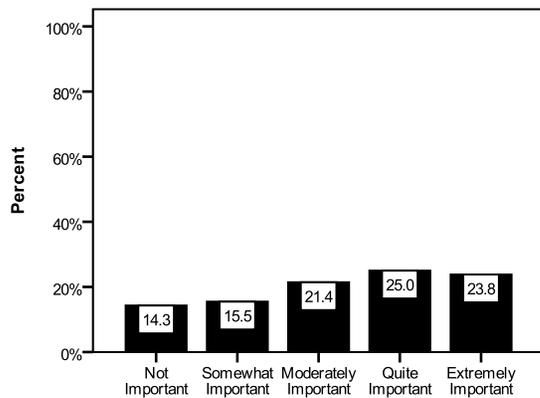
Low Elk Hunter Densities



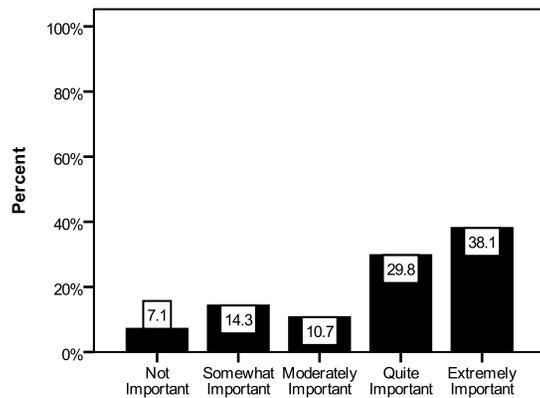
Harvesting an Elk



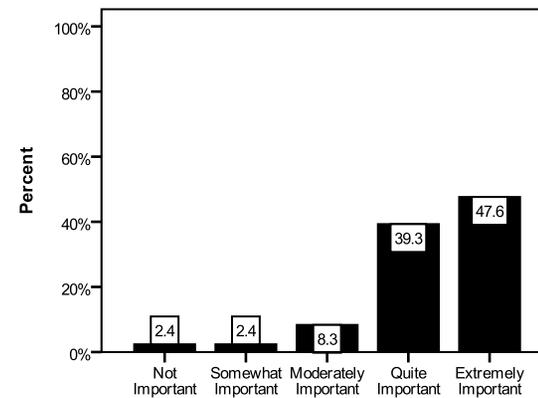
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



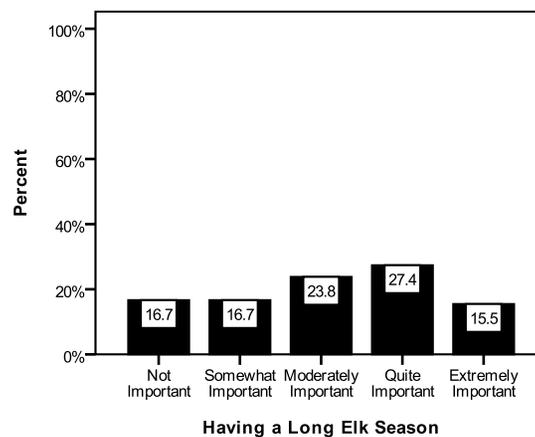
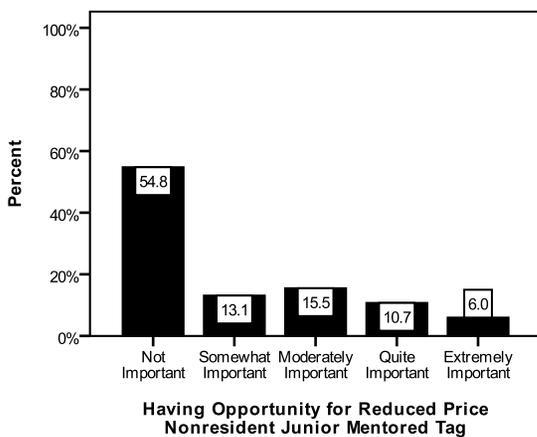
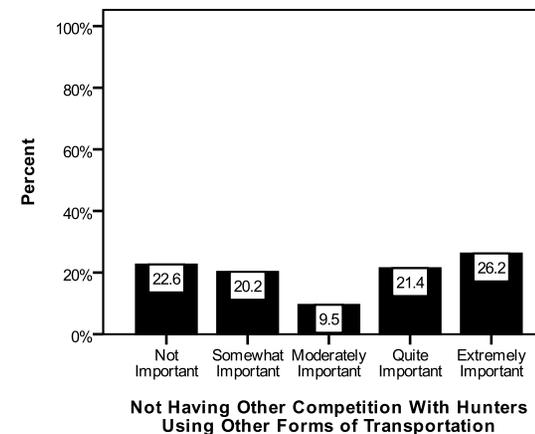
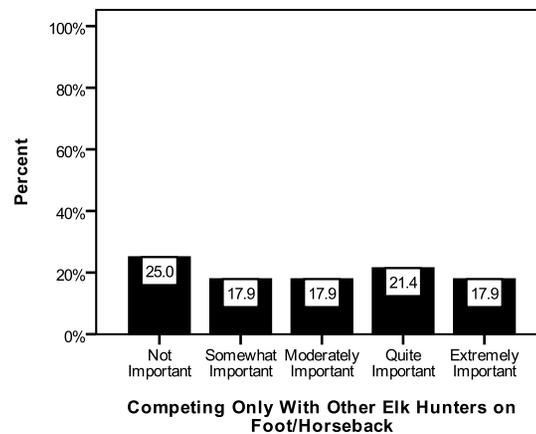
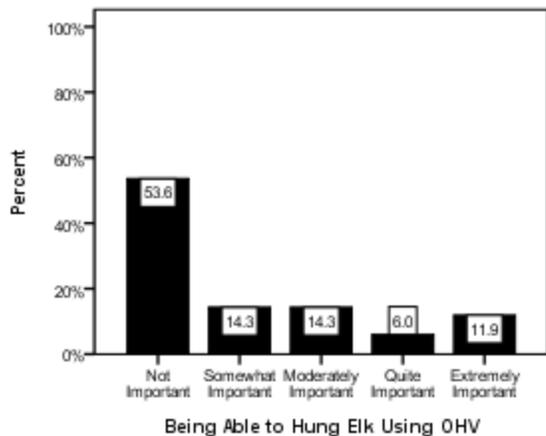
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



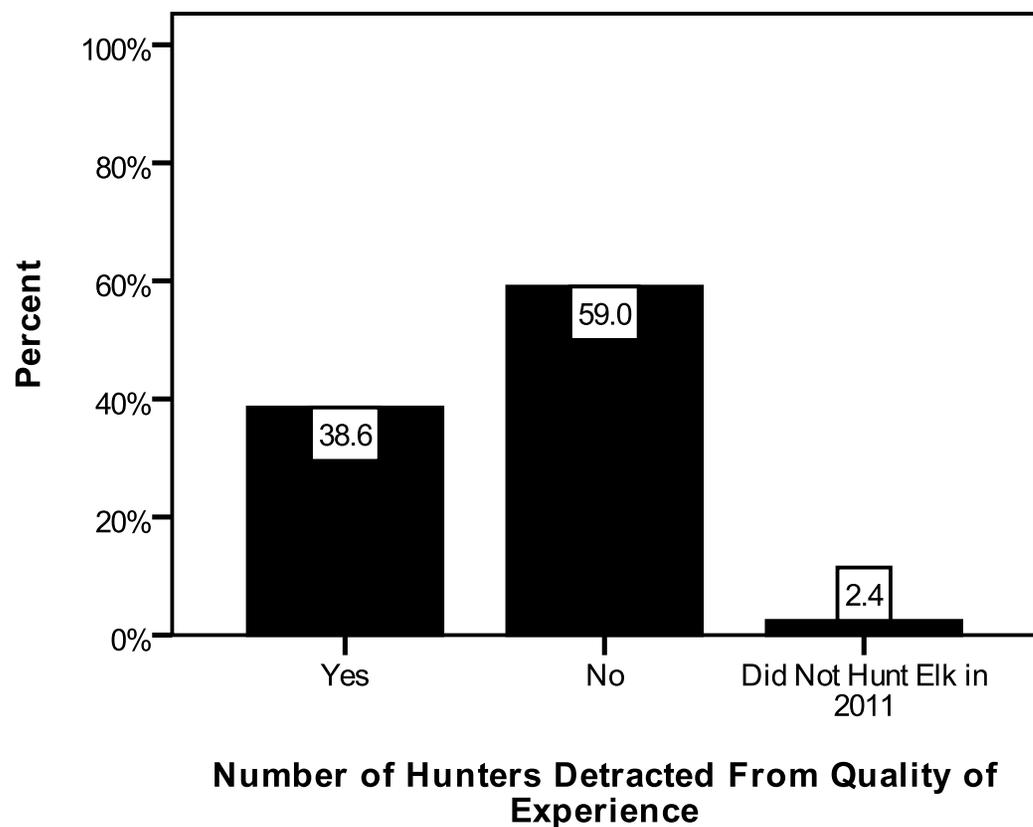
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



Q31: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are fairly similar.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

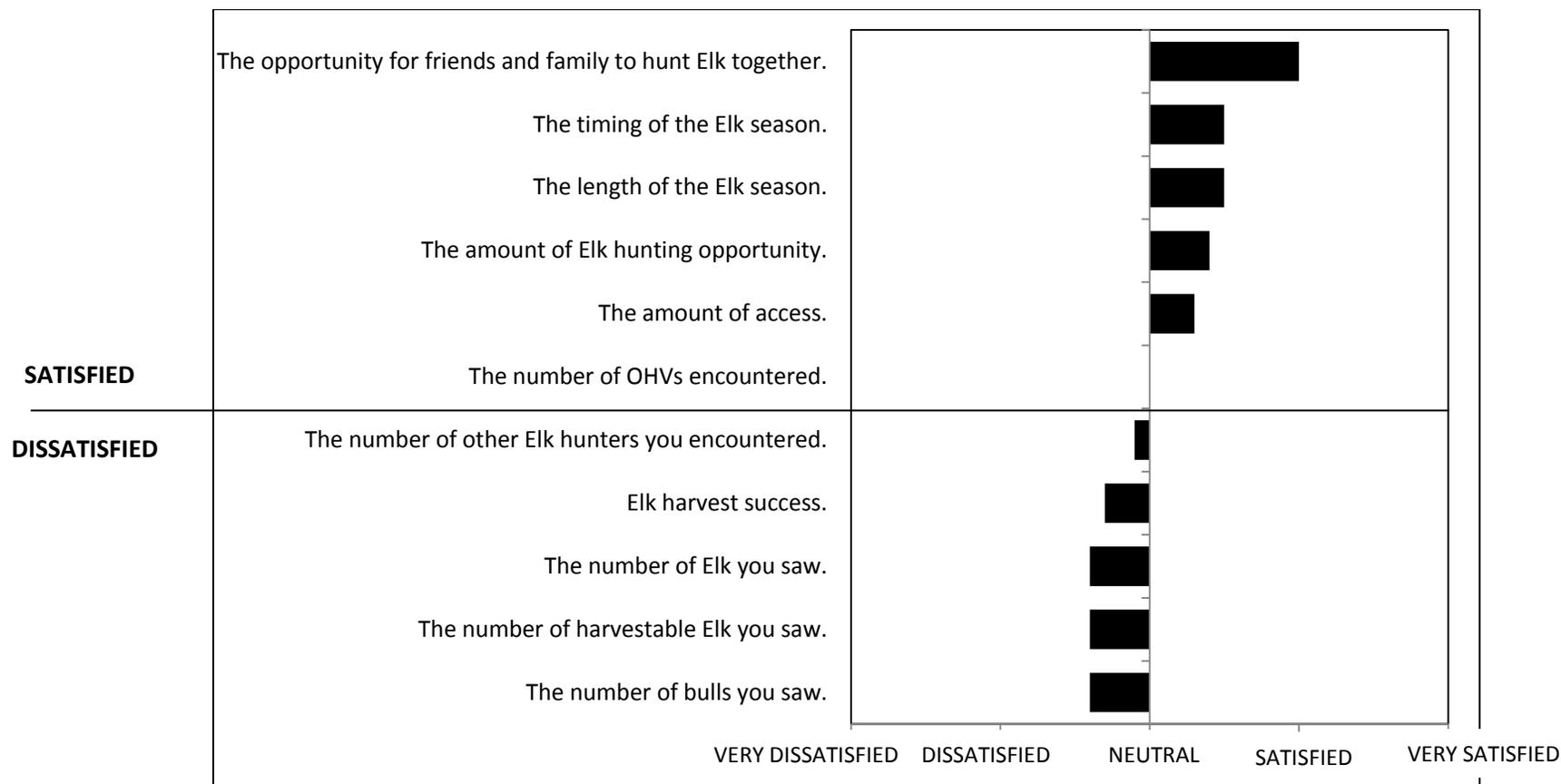
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



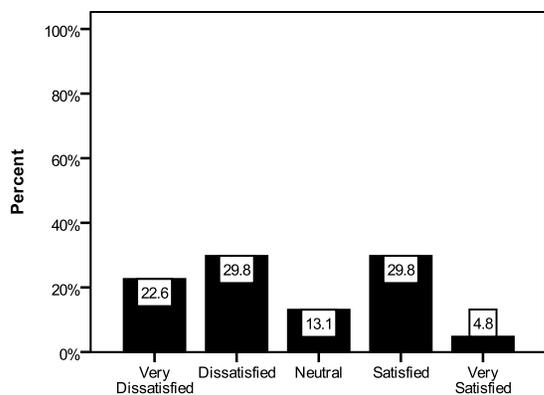
Q33: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

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

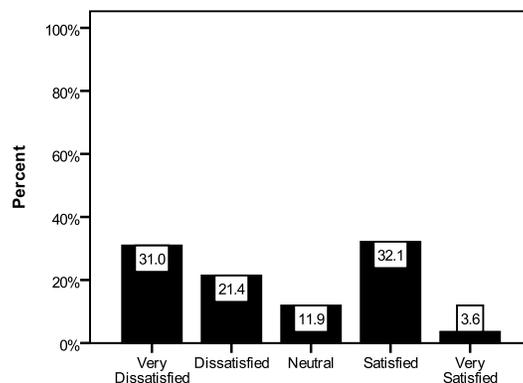
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



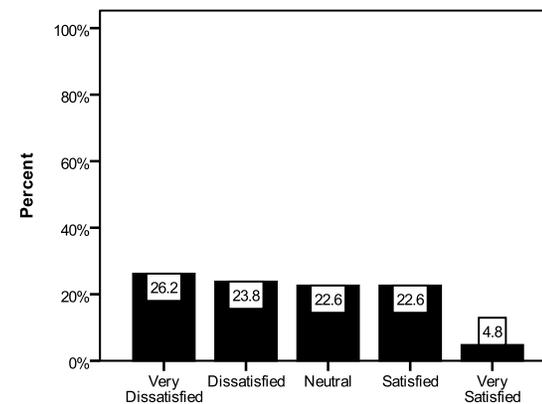
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



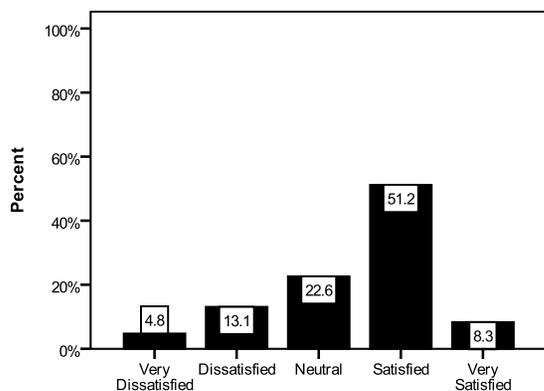
Number of Elk Seen



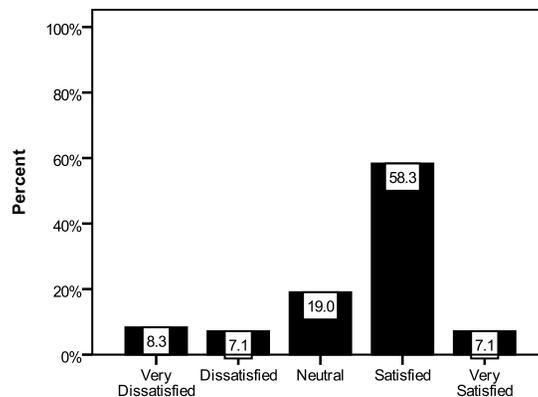
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



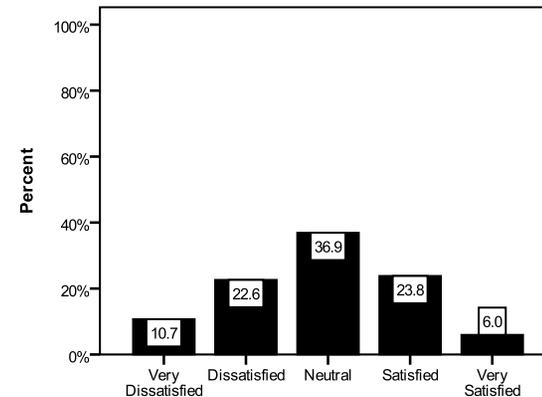
Number of Bulls Seen



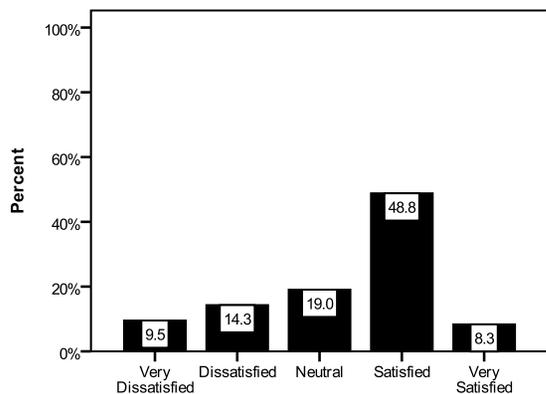
Length of Elk Season



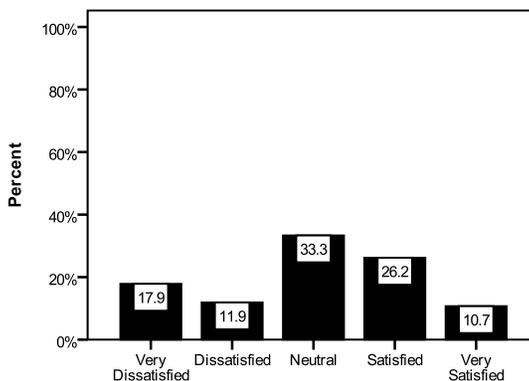
Timing of Elk Season



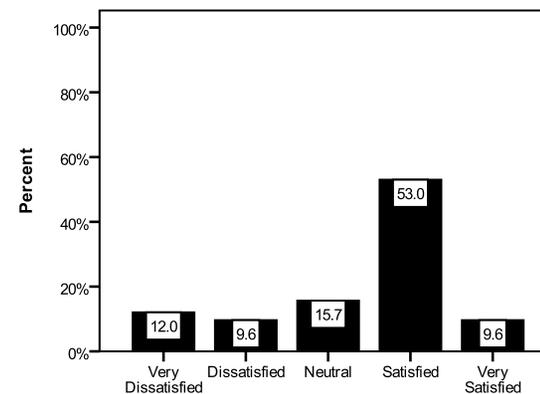
Number of Elk Hunters Encountered



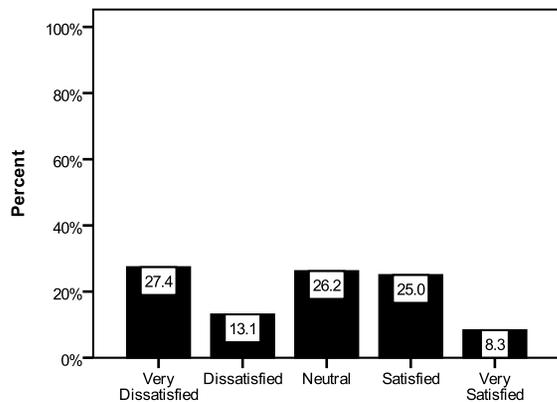
Amount of Access



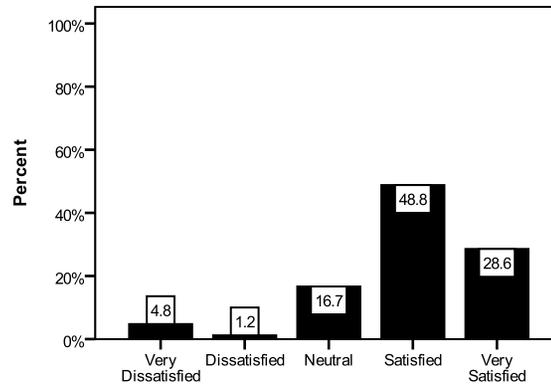
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



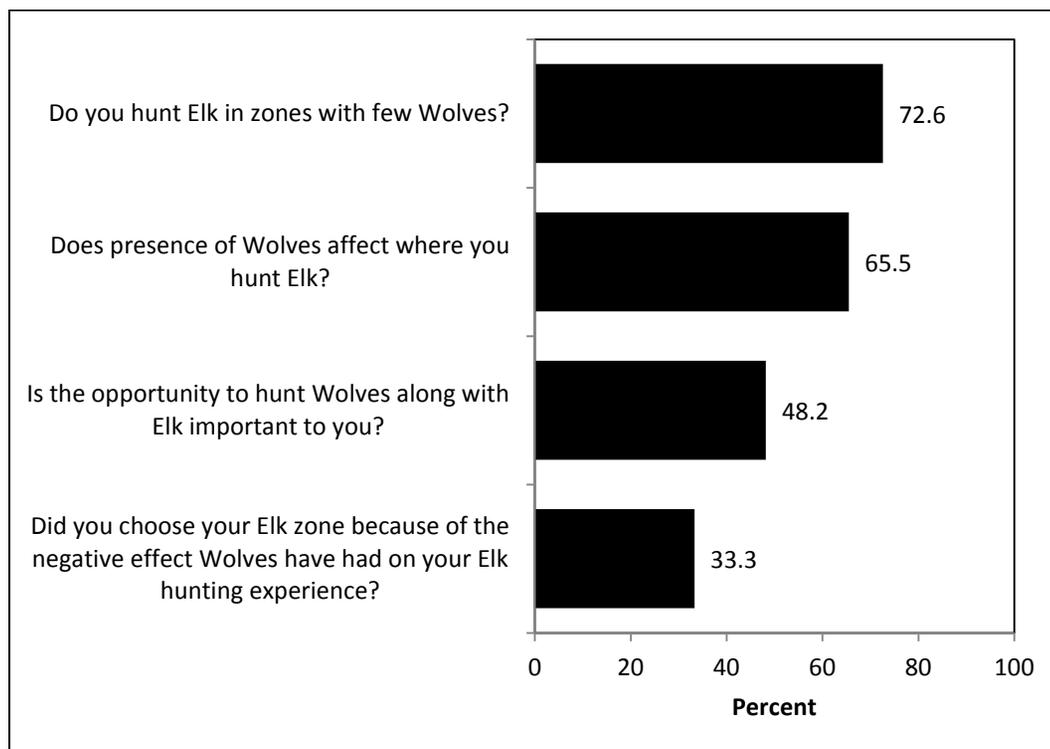
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

Q37: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar, but Tex Creek respondents were also dissatisfied with the number of other Elk hunters they encountered.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

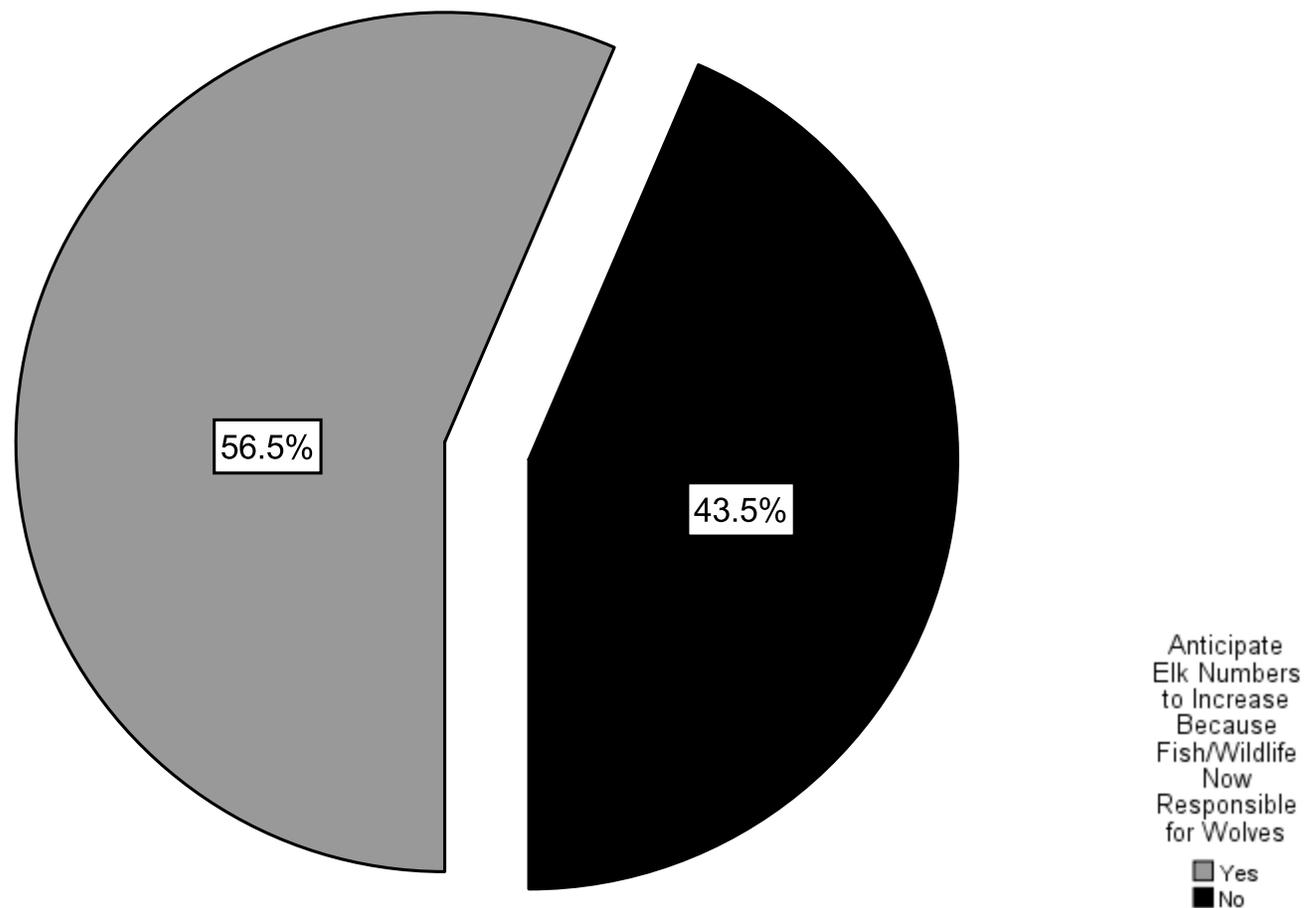
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: A much larger number of Tex Creek respondents hunt Elk in zone with few Wolves compared to the state average.

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



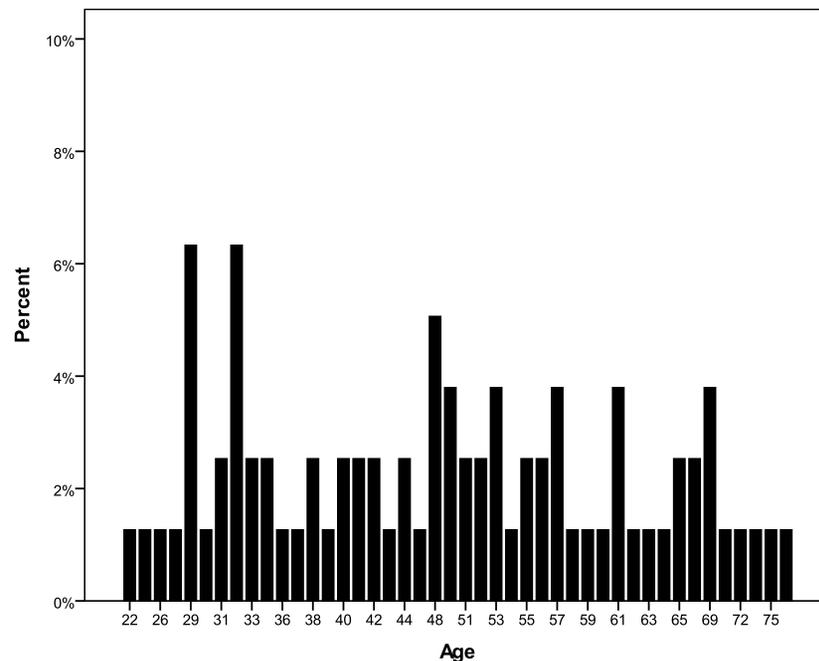
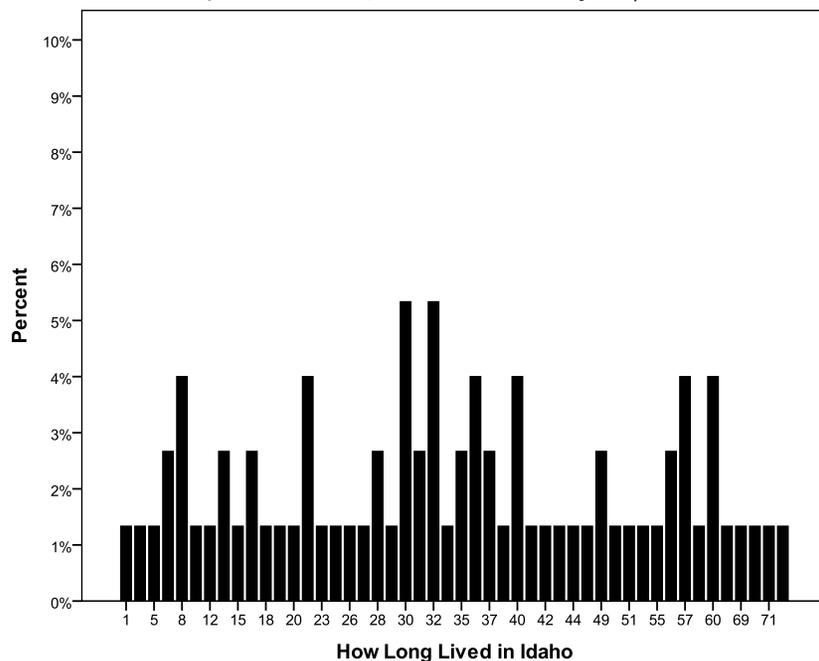
Q40: The distribution of responses between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar.

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 between the Tex Creek zone and the state average are similar for both Q42 and Q43.