

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



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**For:**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**

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**INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES**

**METHODS**

**SAMPLING**

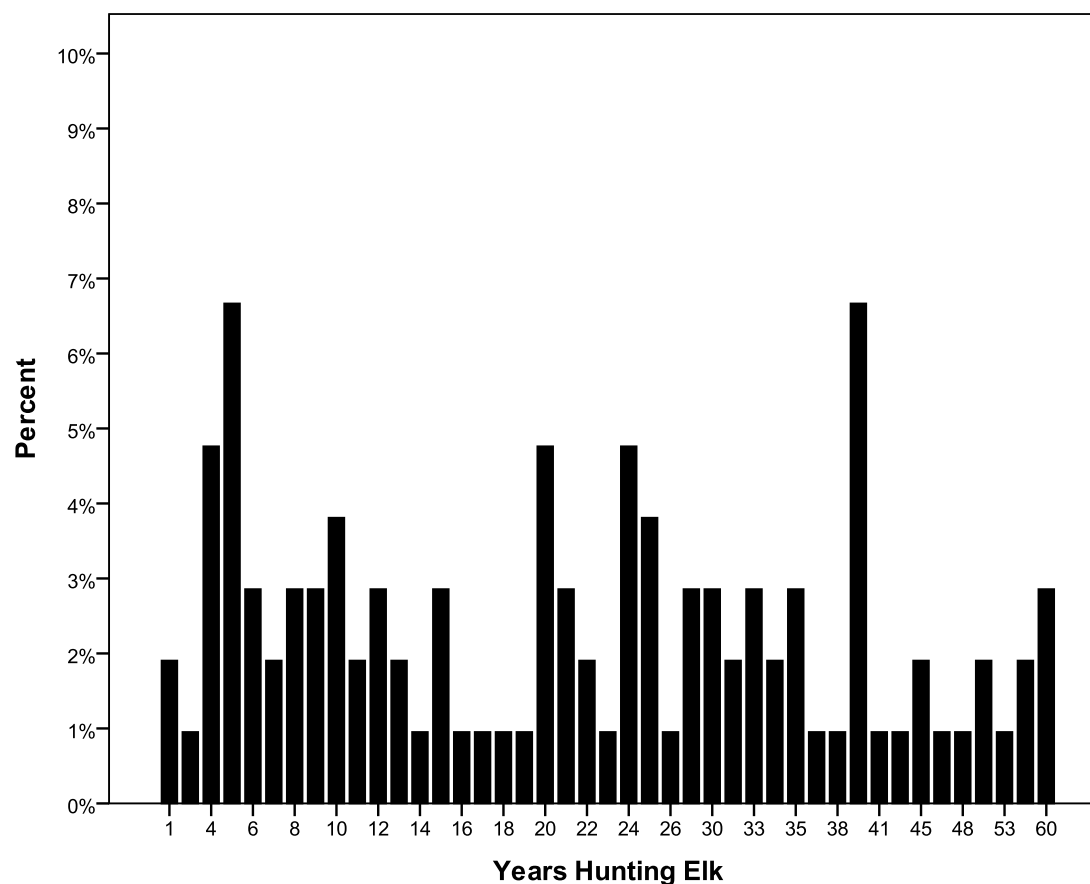
**RESPONSE RATE.**

## ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

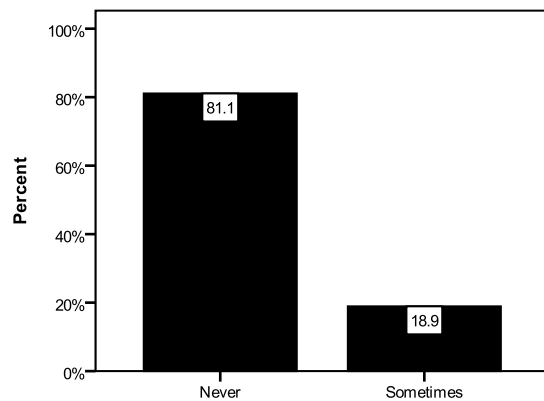
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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

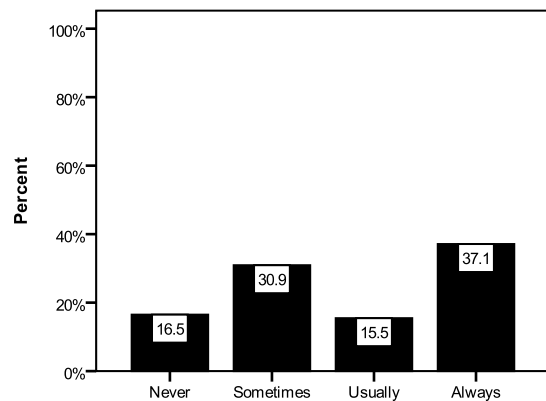


Q3: The distribution of responses is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average. Slightly more hunters in this zone have hunted for less than ten years and slightly less in the 15 to 30 year range.

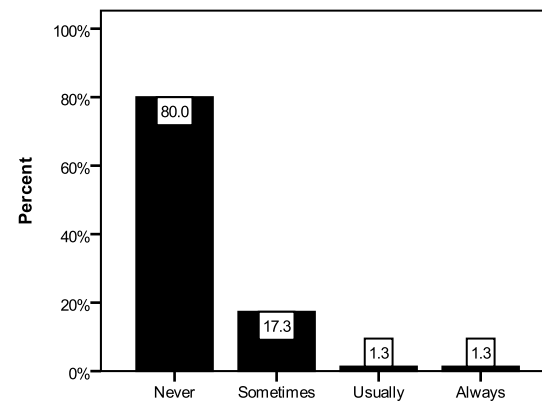
**7. Excluding your travel to and from your home, how often do you use the following mode of transportation when you hunt Elk in Idaho?**



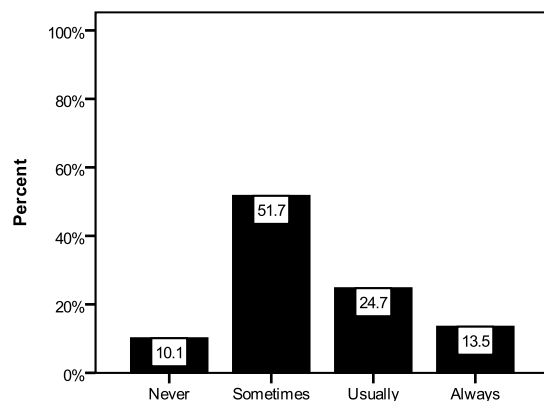
**Horse/pack animals**



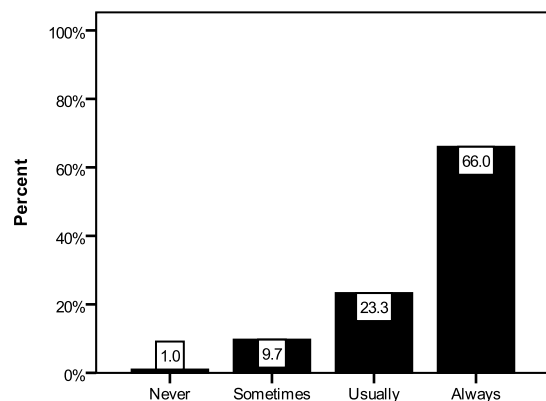
**Car/truck**



**Mountain Bike**



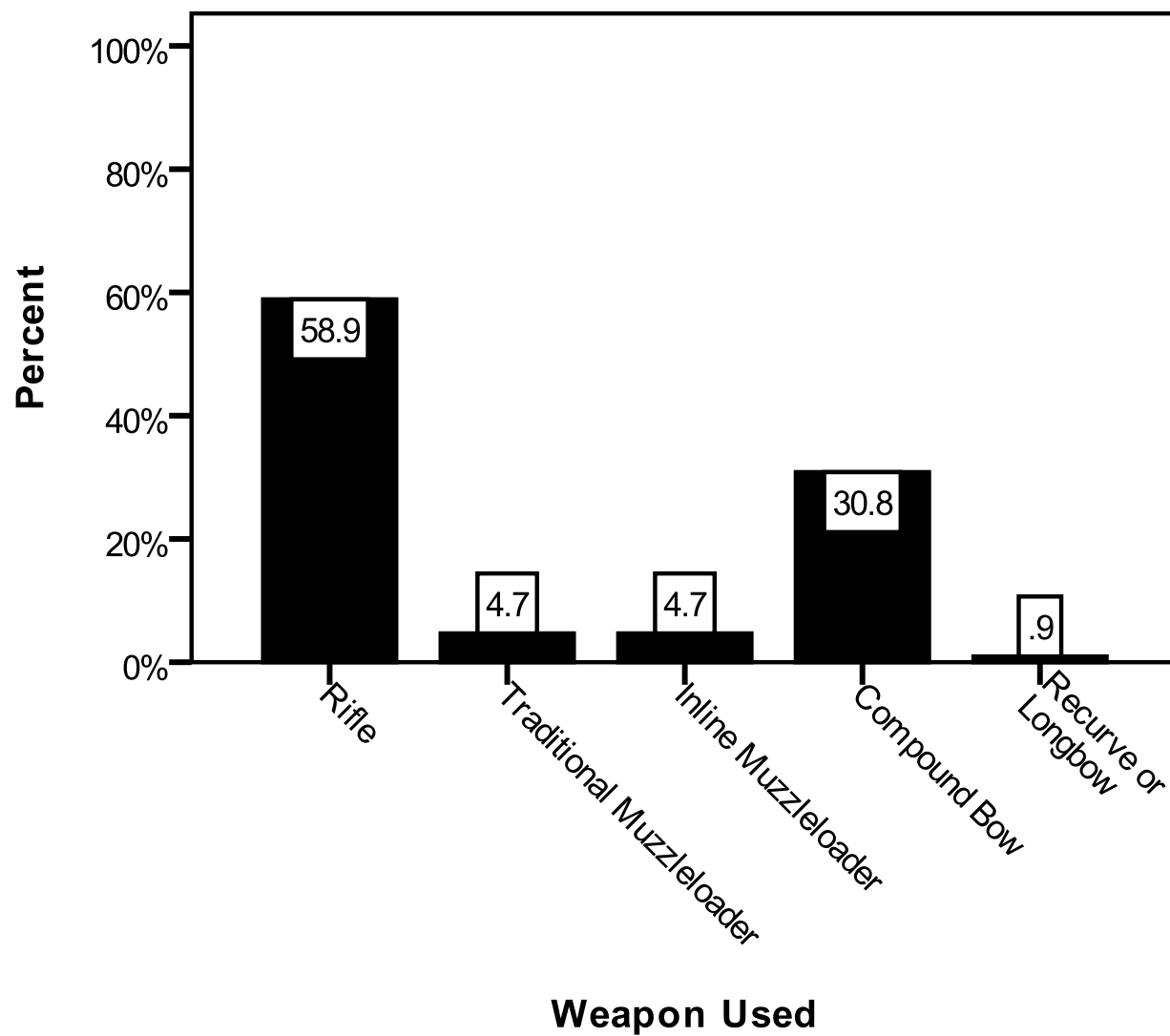
**OHV**



**On Foot**

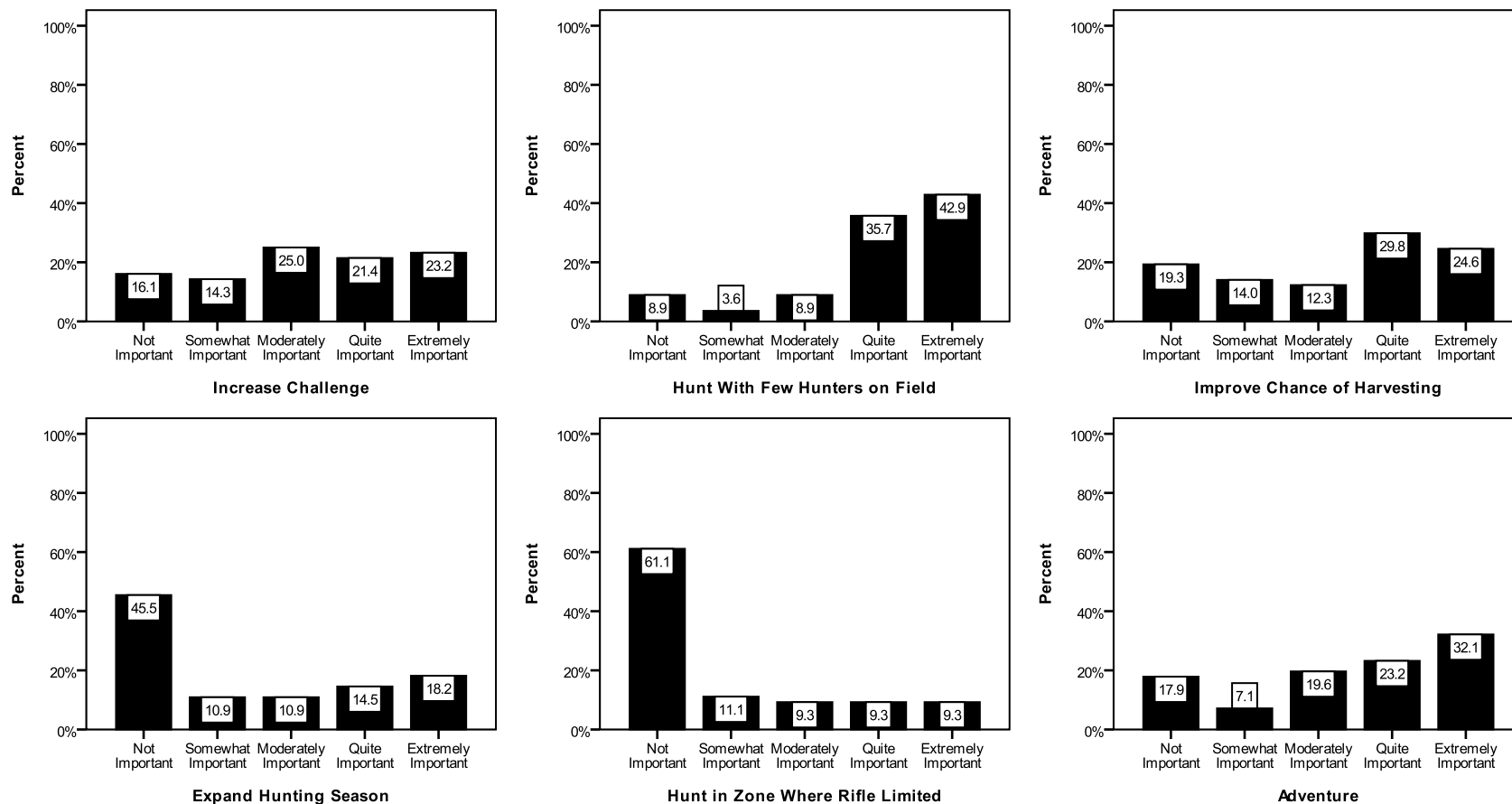
**Q7: The distribution of responses is similar between hunters in the Dworshak zone and the state average. Most hunters in this zone never use horse/pack animals for travel and about 10% more hunters in this zone than the state average use OHVs sometimes.**

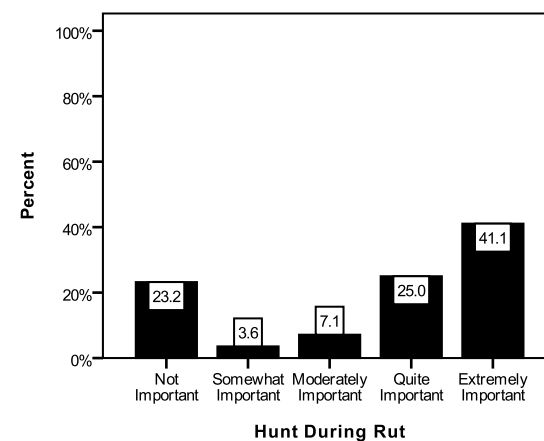
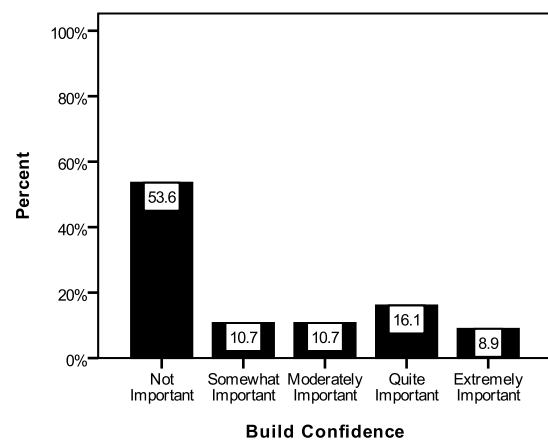
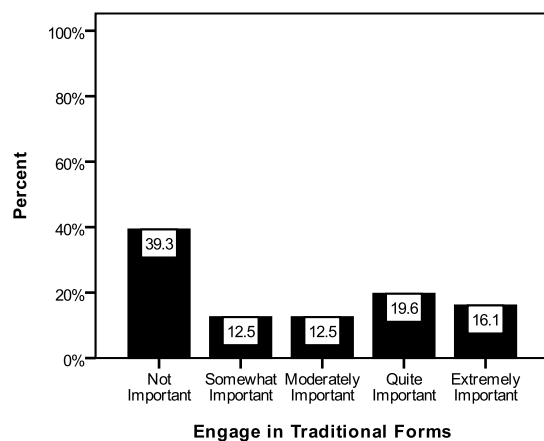
8. What type of weapon do you typically use to hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)



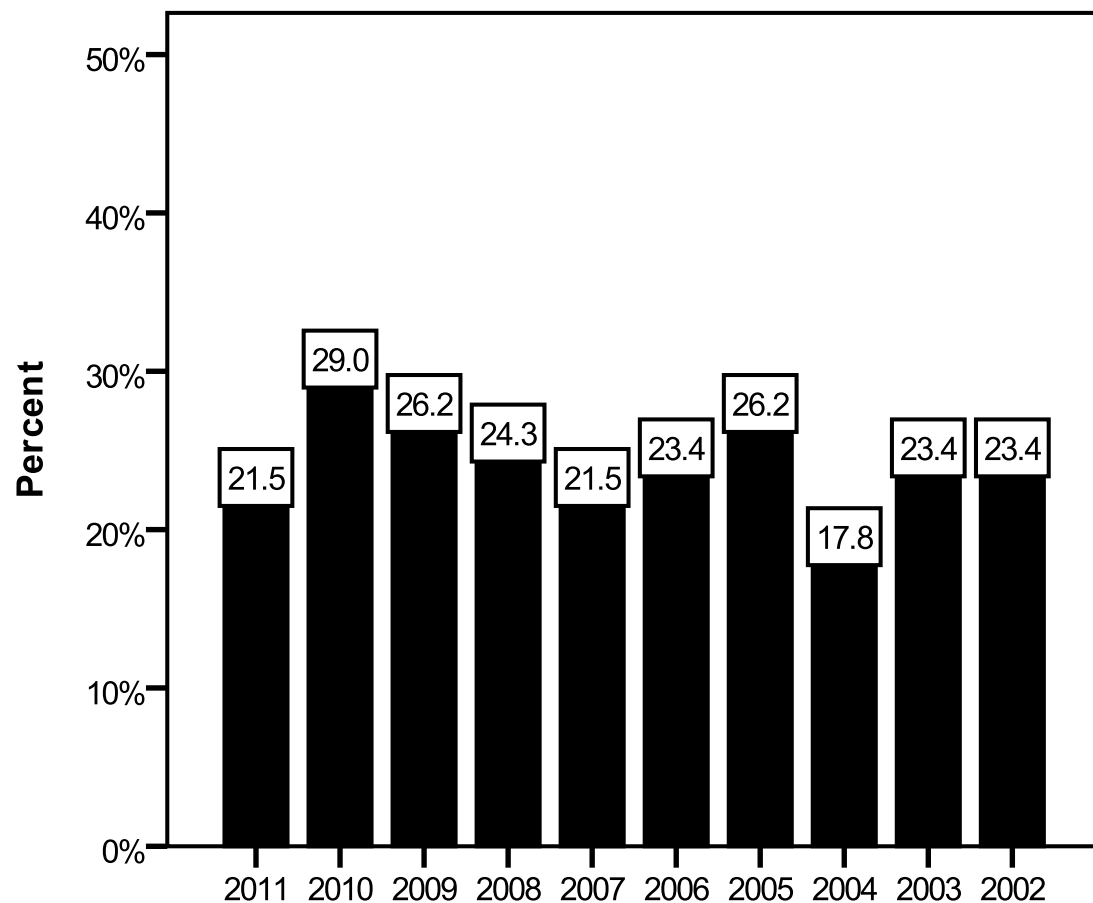
Q8: The distribution of responses is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average.

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





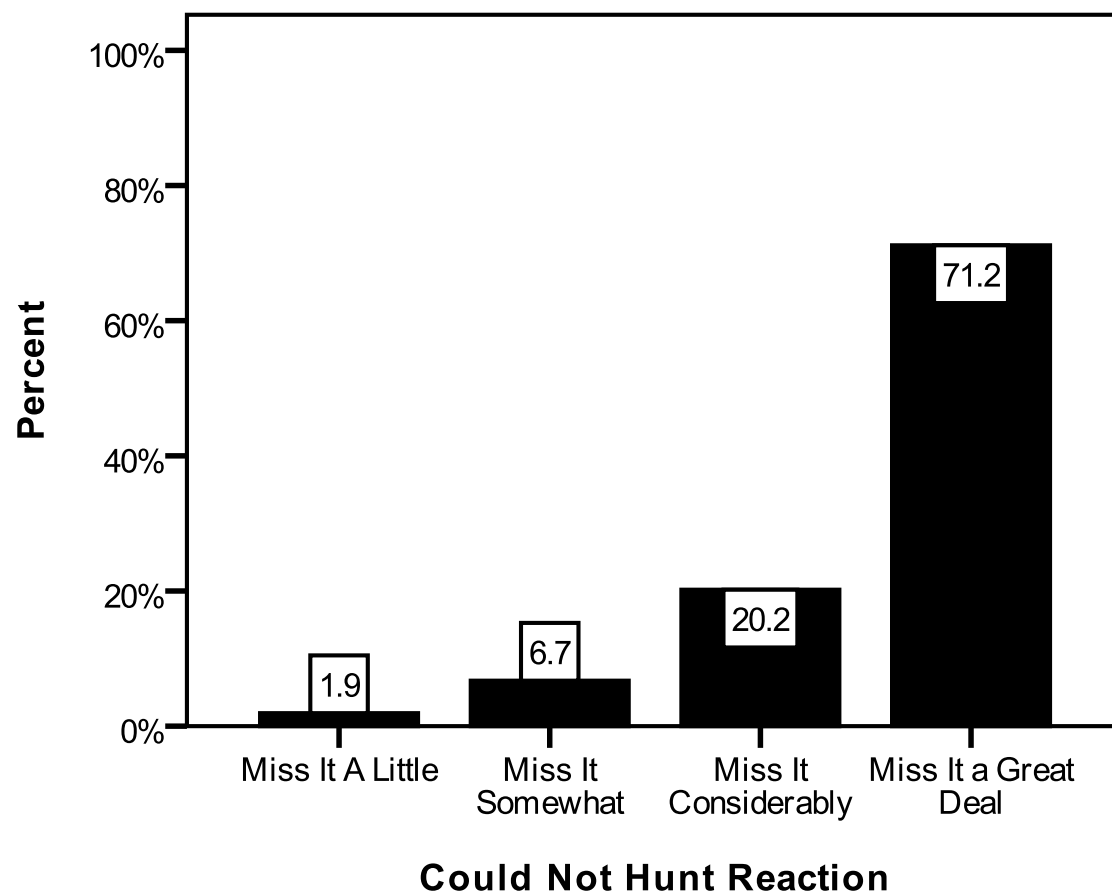
**Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average. However, expanding the hunting season and hunting in zone where rifles are limited do not hold much importance for a majority of hunters in this zone.**

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

**Q11:** The distribution of responses for hunter harvest success is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average over the past 10 years. However, harvest success for hunters in this zone has been slightly higher (2-6%) than the state average for the past few years.

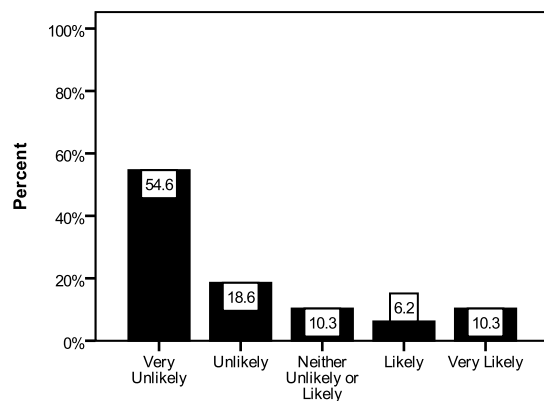


12. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would you react? (Please check only one response)

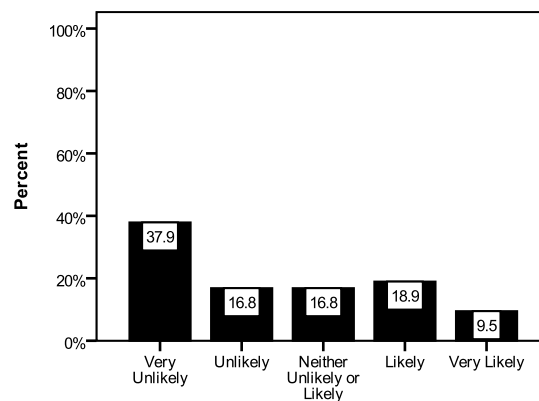


Q12: Like most other hunters in the state, a majority of hunters in the Dworshak zone would miss Elk hunting in Idaho a great deal, if they were not able to.

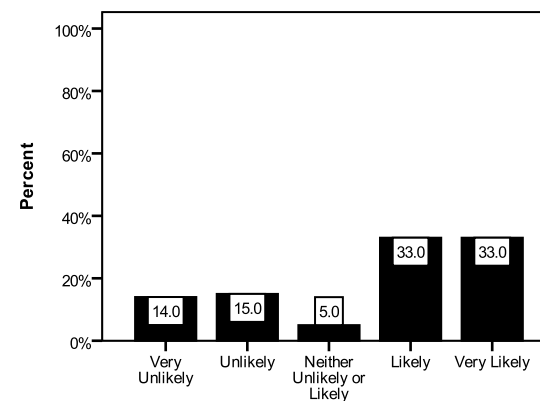
### 13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



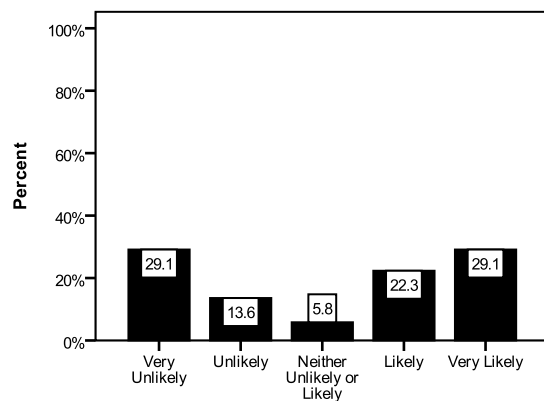
Hunt Waterfowl More



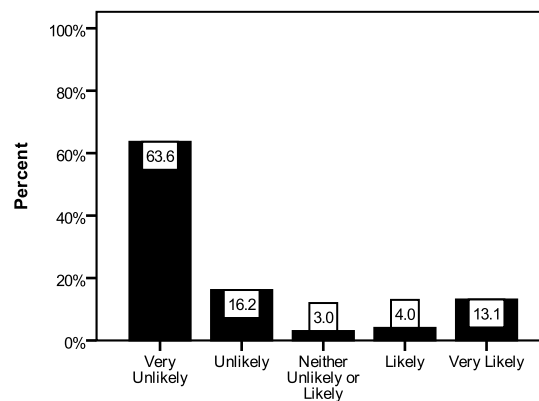
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



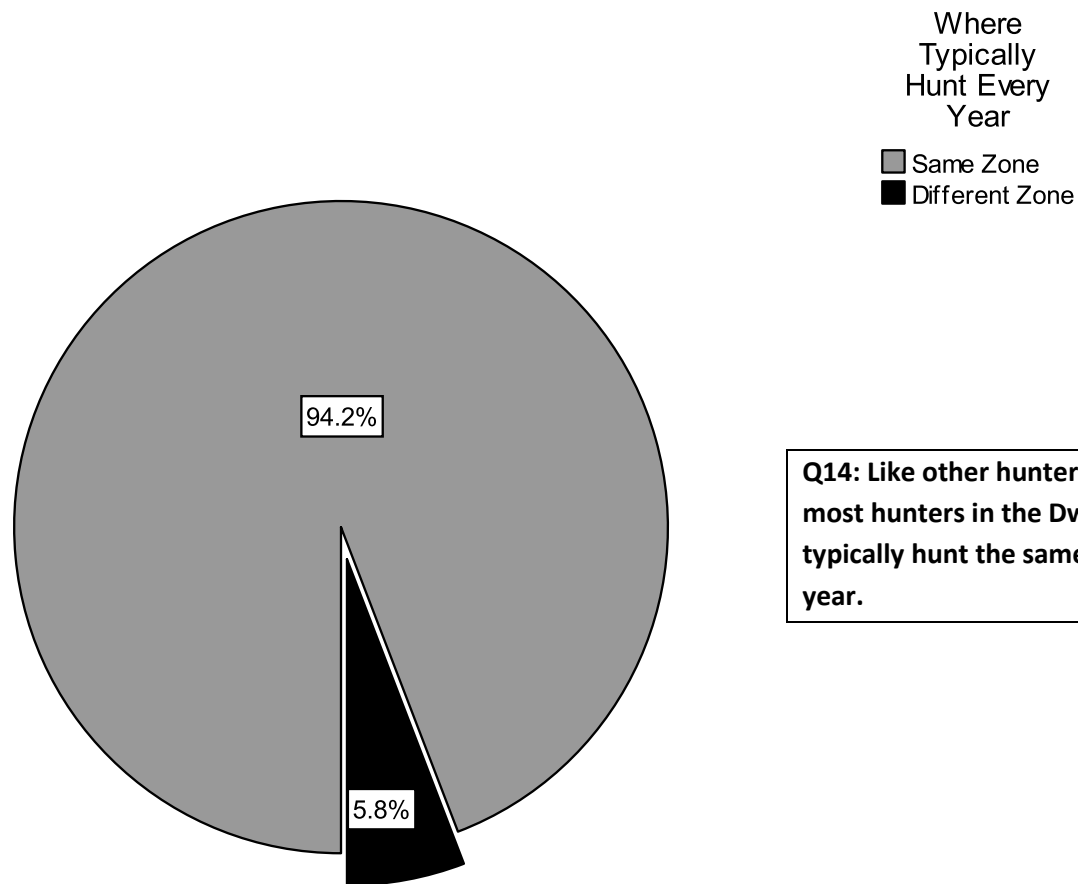
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

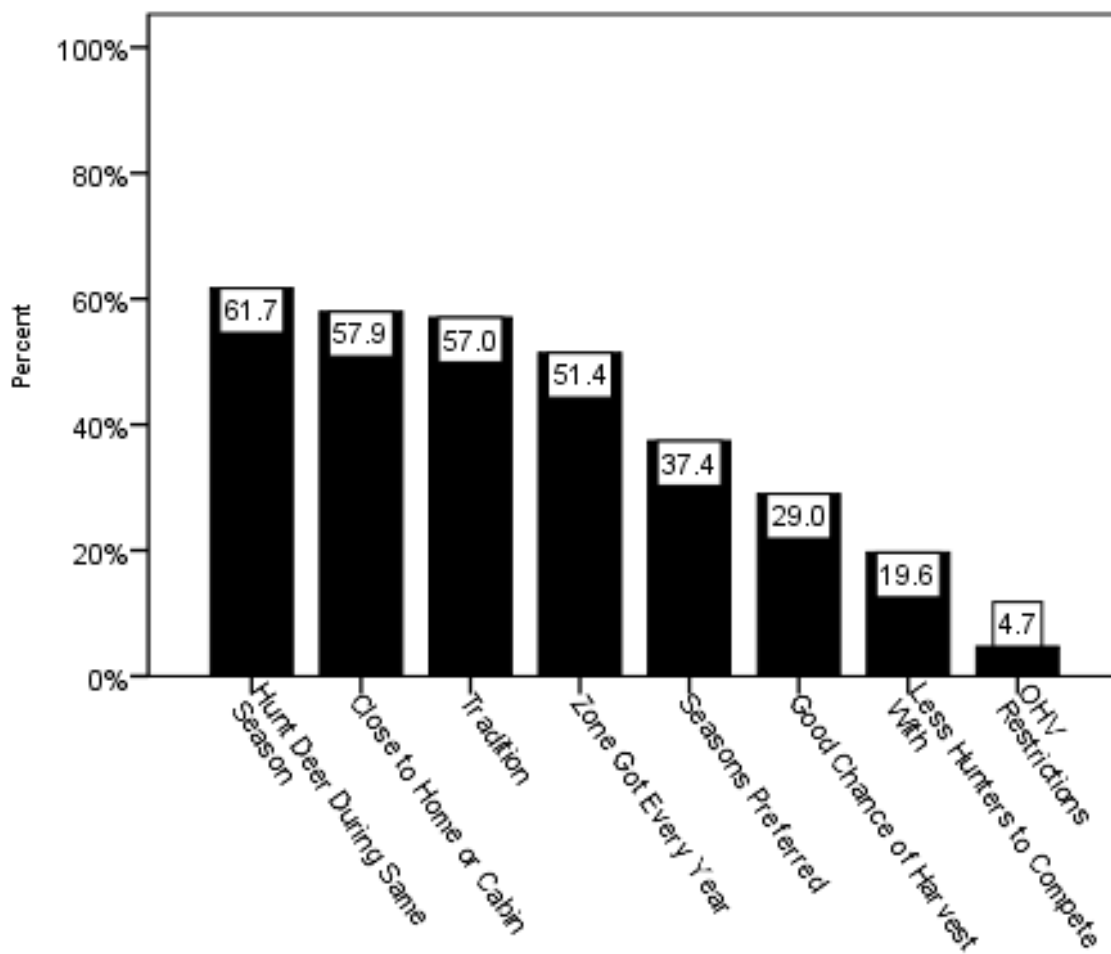
**Q13: The distribution of responses is similar between hunters in the Dworshak zone and the state average.**

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



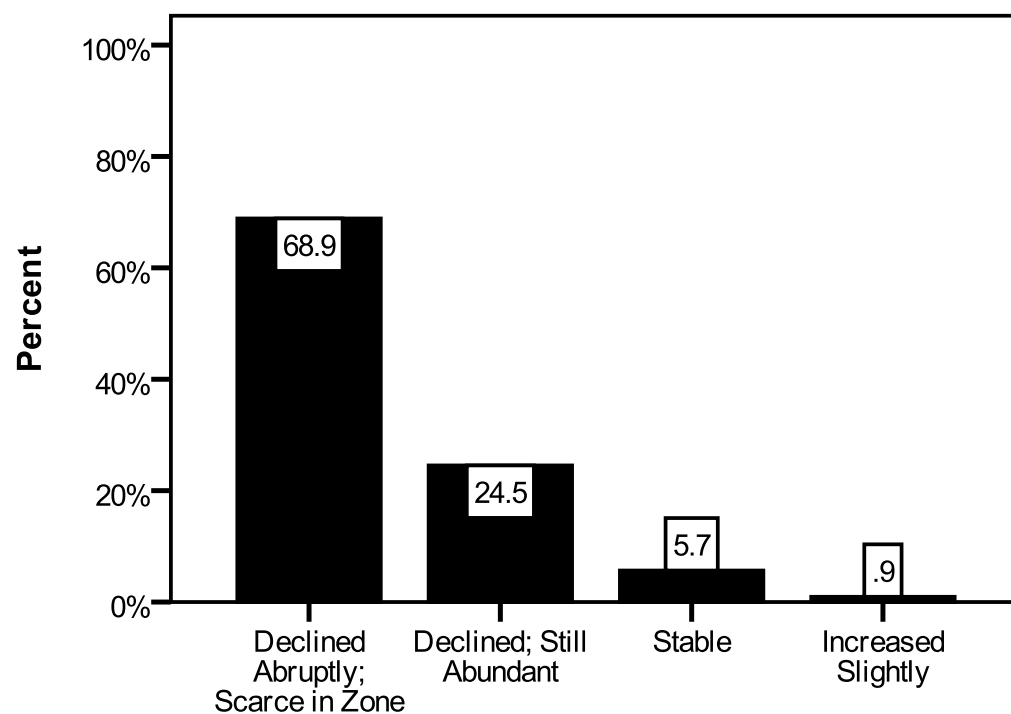
**Q14: Like other hunters in the state, most hunters in the Dworshak zone typically hunt the same zone every year.**

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



**Q16: Unlike other hunters in the state, being able to hunt Deer during the same season makes the zone the most desirable for most hunters in the Dworshak zone. Also, tradition makes a zone more desirable for more hunters in this zone.**

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)

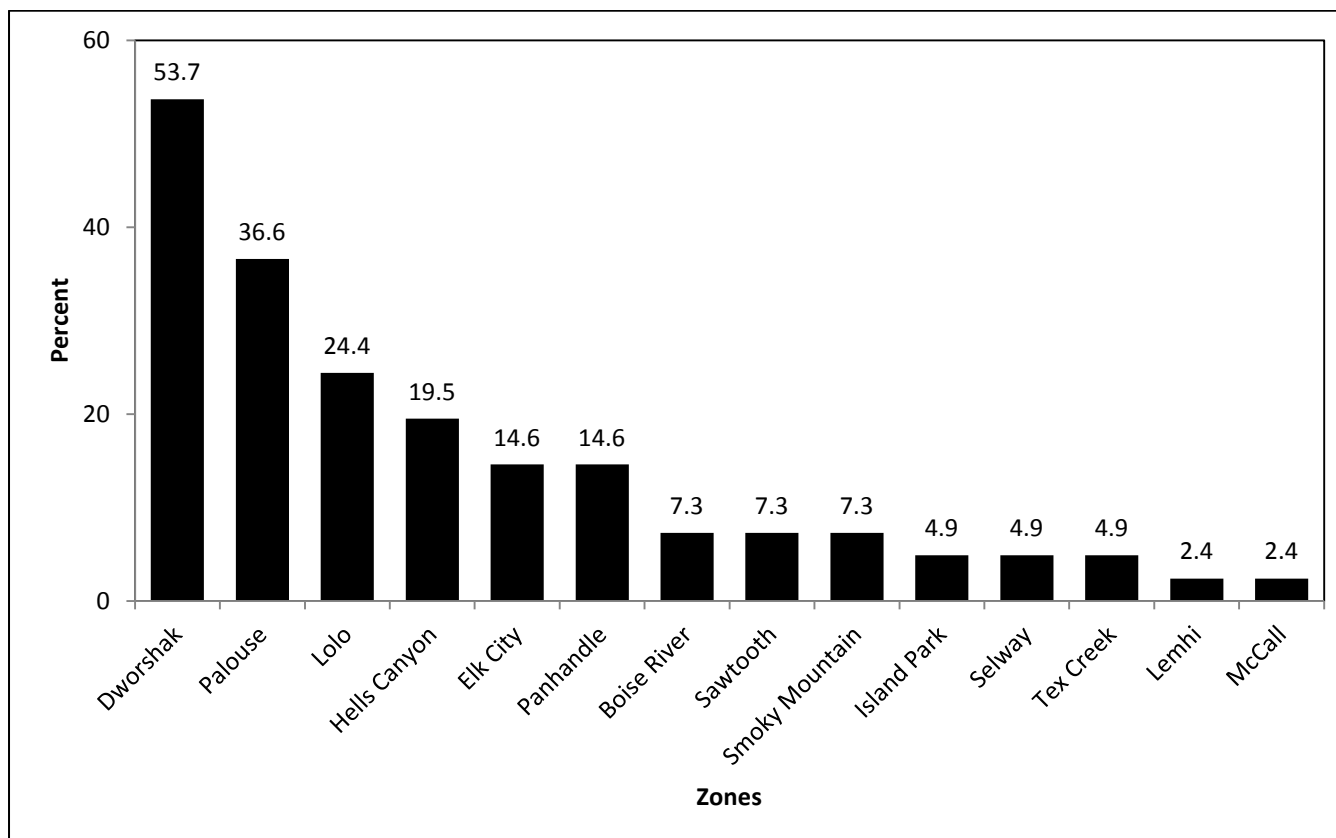


Perceptions of Elk Numbers

Q17: Like other hunters in the state, a majority of respondents in the Dworshak zone perceive Elk numbers to have declined abruptly, causing scarcity in the zone they hunted in 2011.

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

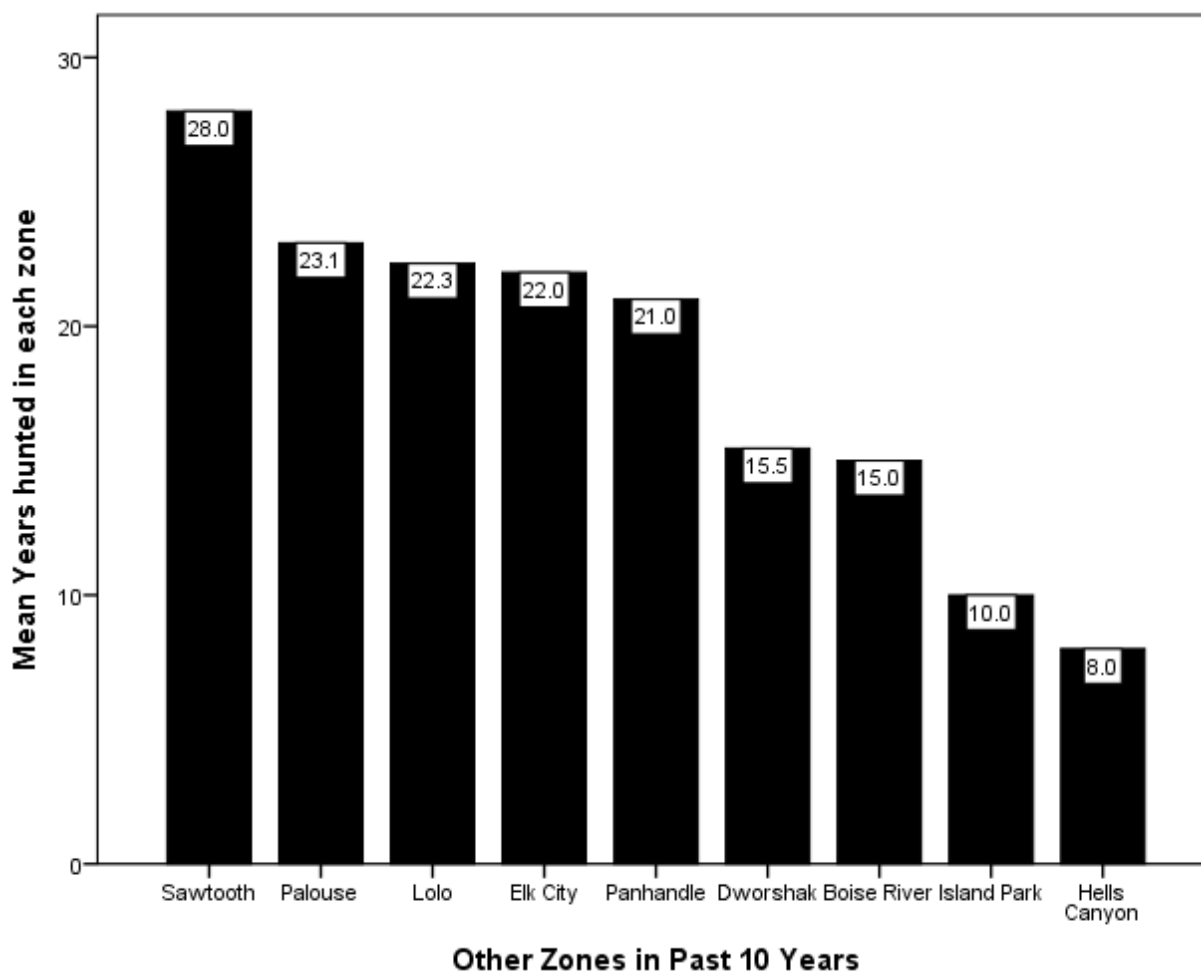
*(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)*



**Q18: Besides the Dworshak zone, the Palouse and Lolo zones are hunted by more than a quarter of respondents.**

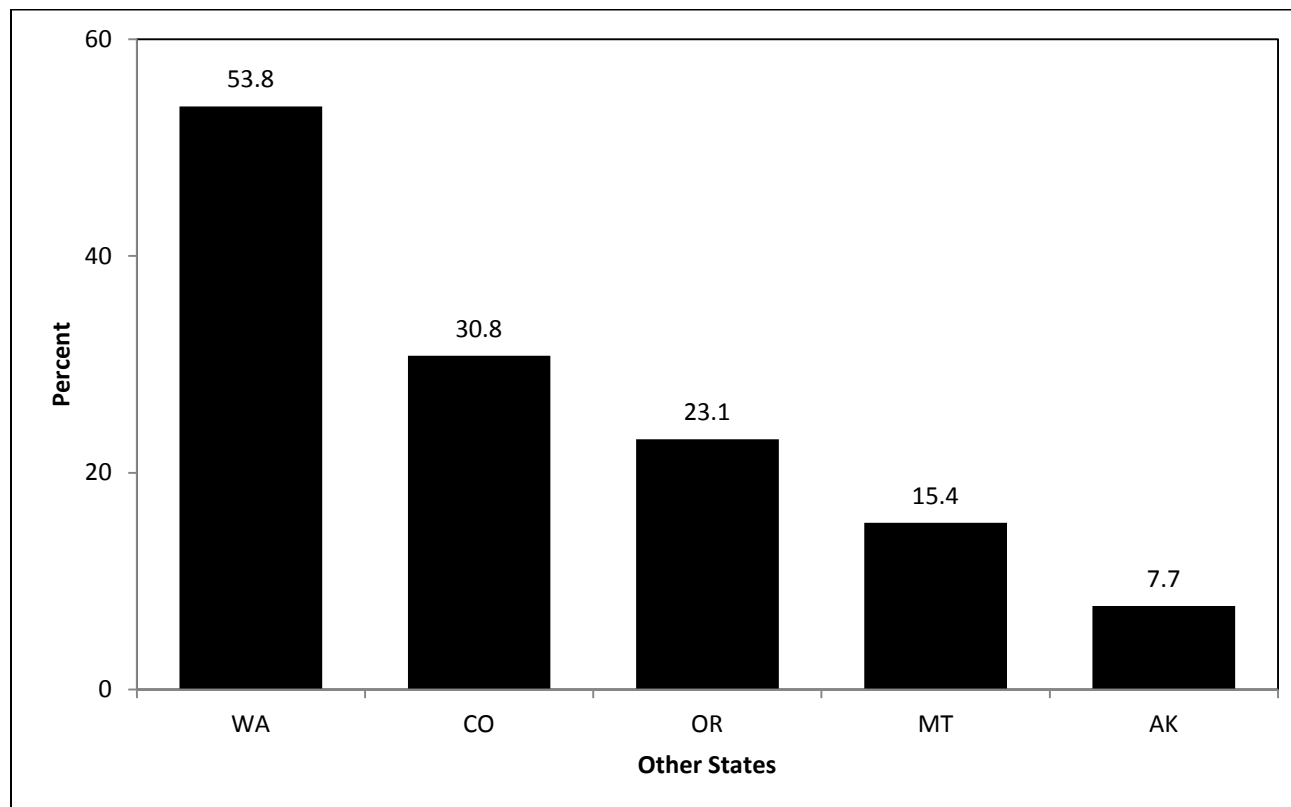
**20. How long have you hunted Elk in each of the zones you listed in Q-18?**

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



**Q20:** The Sawtooth zone has been hunted the longest among respondents. Dworshak zone itself ranks sixth in duration.

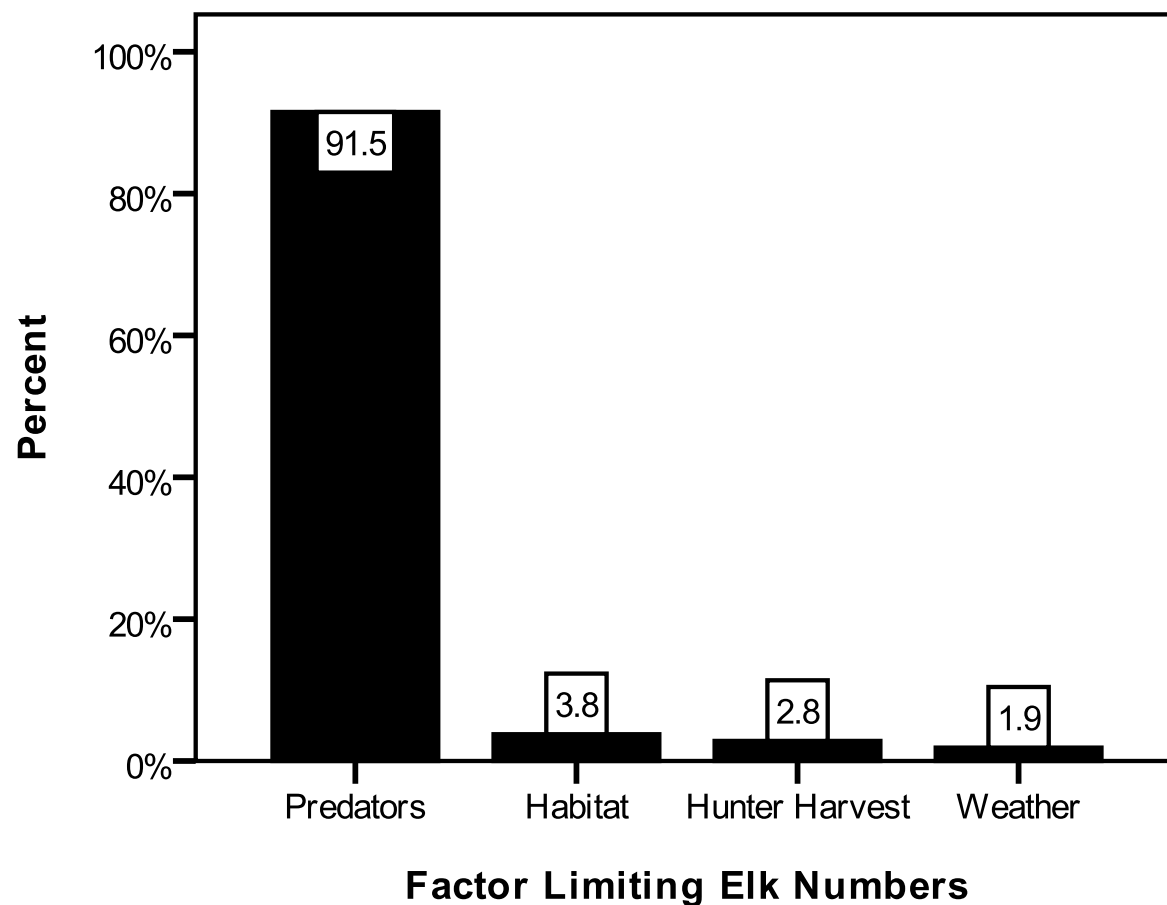
**21. Do you also hunt for Elk in other states? (Please check one response)**



**Q21: Over half of Dworshak hunters who have hunted out-of-state have hunted in Washington.**



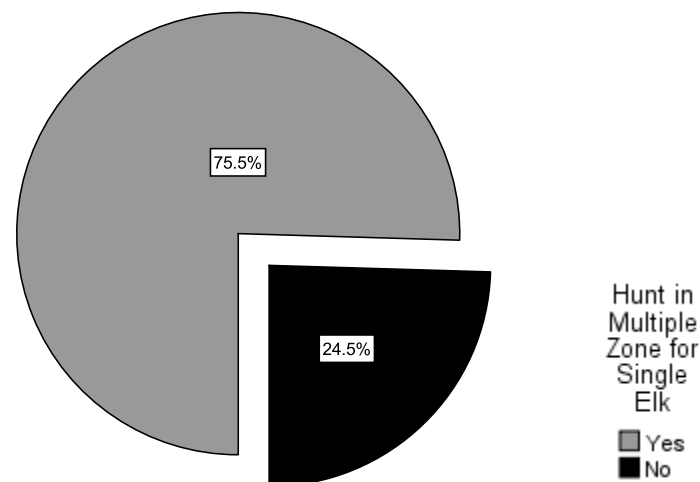
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



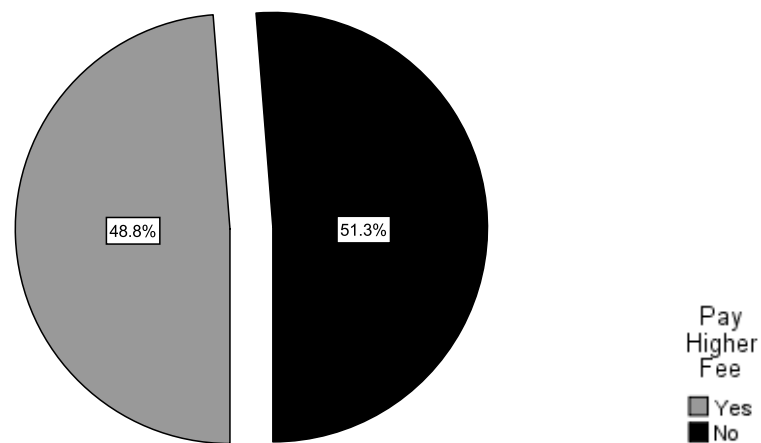
Q22: Similar to the state average, a large majority of Dworshak hunters attribute the primary factor for limiting Elk numbers to predators.

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

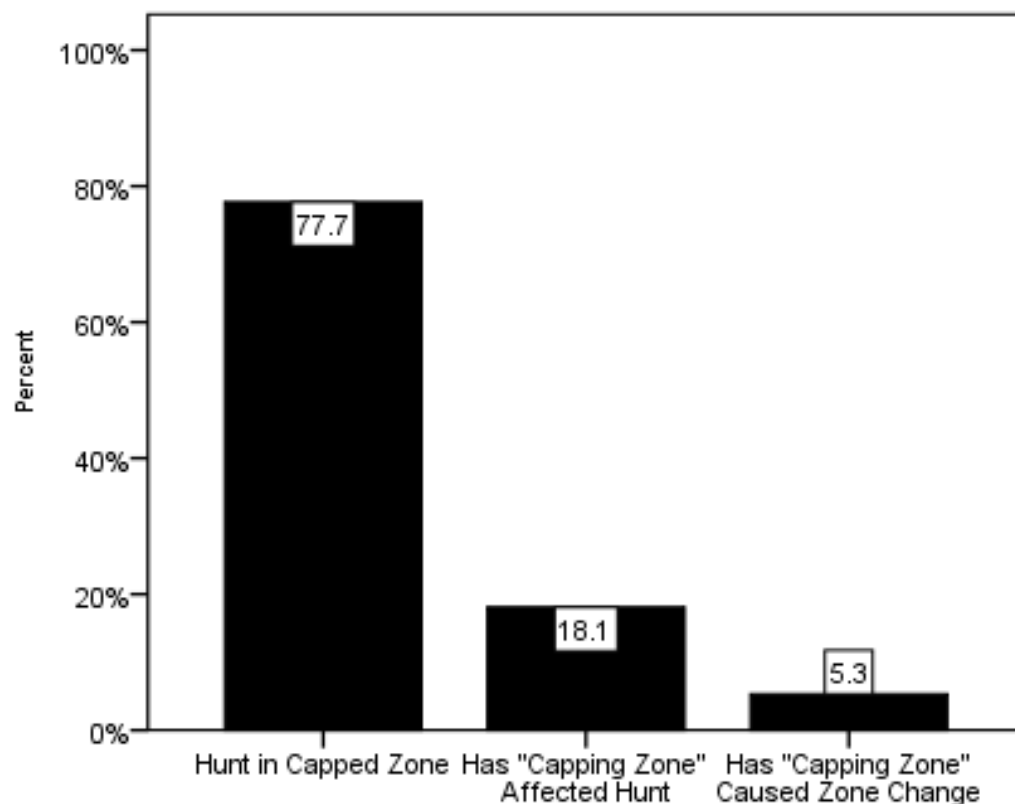
Like other hunters in the state, a majority of hunters in the Dworshak zone would also like to be able to hunt for a single Elk in multiple zones in a year. However, unlike the state average, less than half of respondents would be willing to pay a higher fee to do so.



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

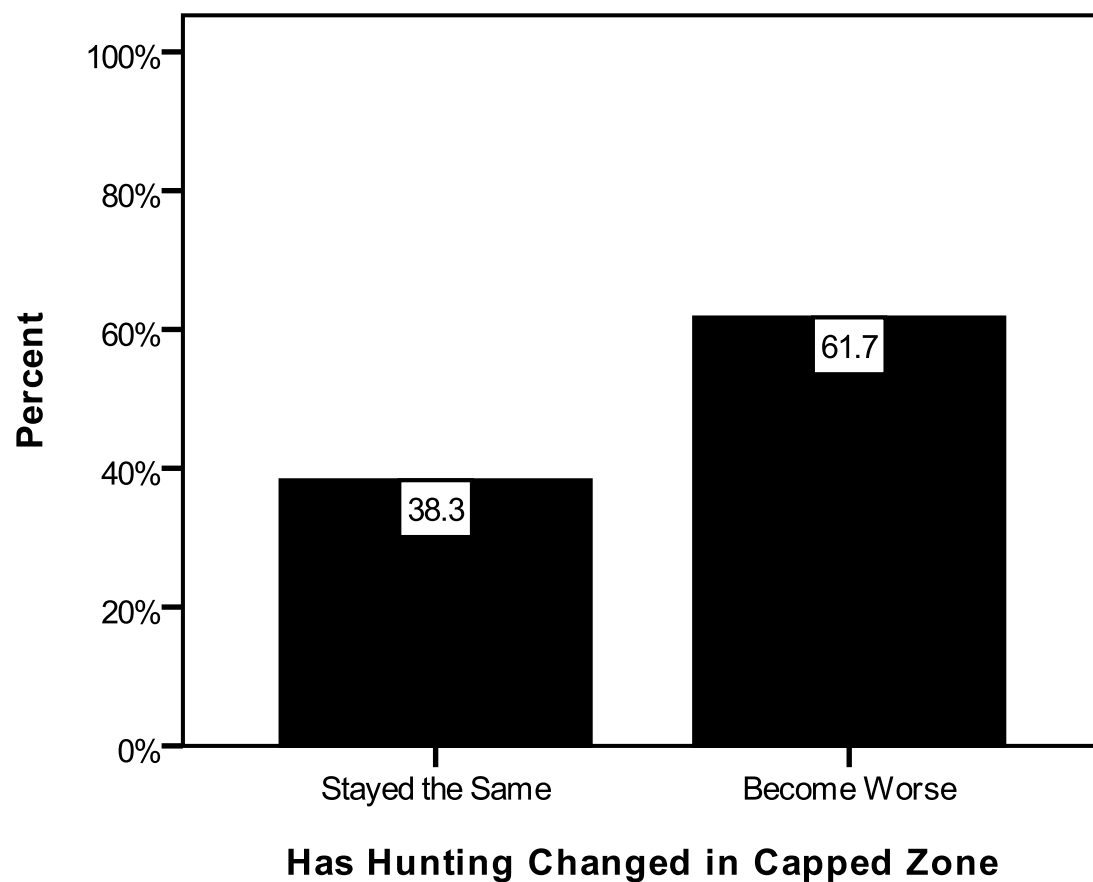


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called "capping the zone" was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This "capping the zone" is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters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



Q25: 33.1% more hunters in the Dworshak zone than the state average hunt in a capped zone. However, less hunters in this zone reported that capping the zone has affected where they hunt or has caused them to change zones.

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

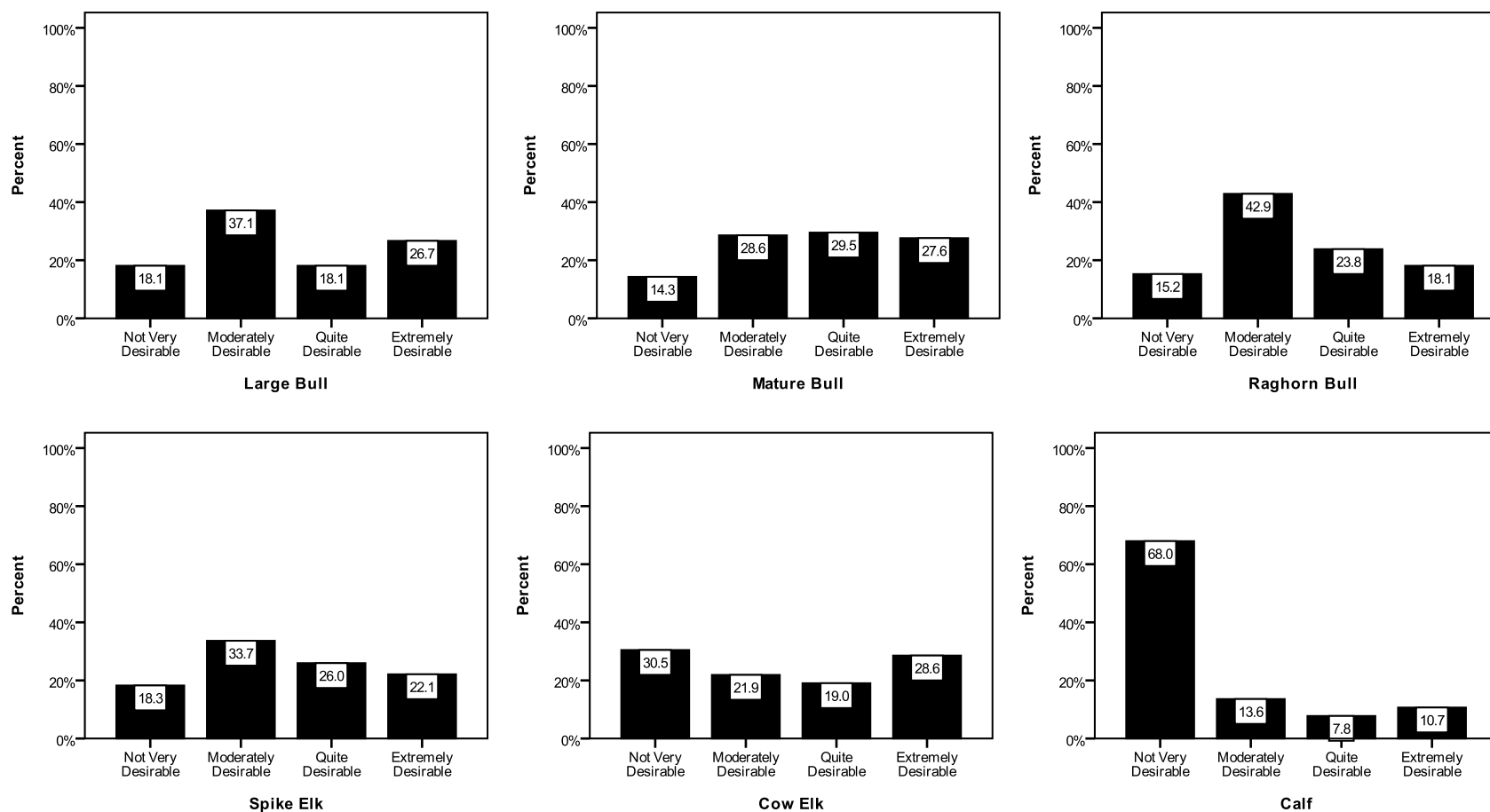


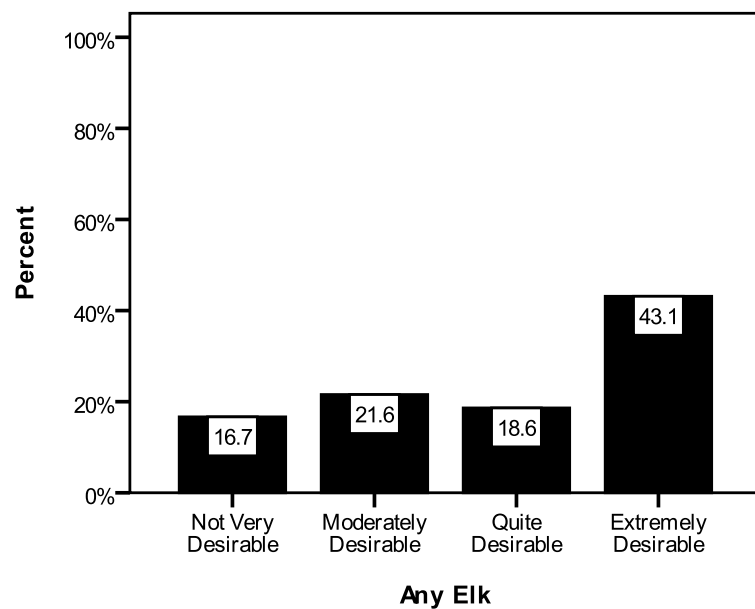
Q26: Similar to the state average, a majority of hunters in the Dworshak zone feel that Elk hunting has become worse since the zone was capped.

## ELK HUNTING PREFERENCES AND MOTIVATIONS

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

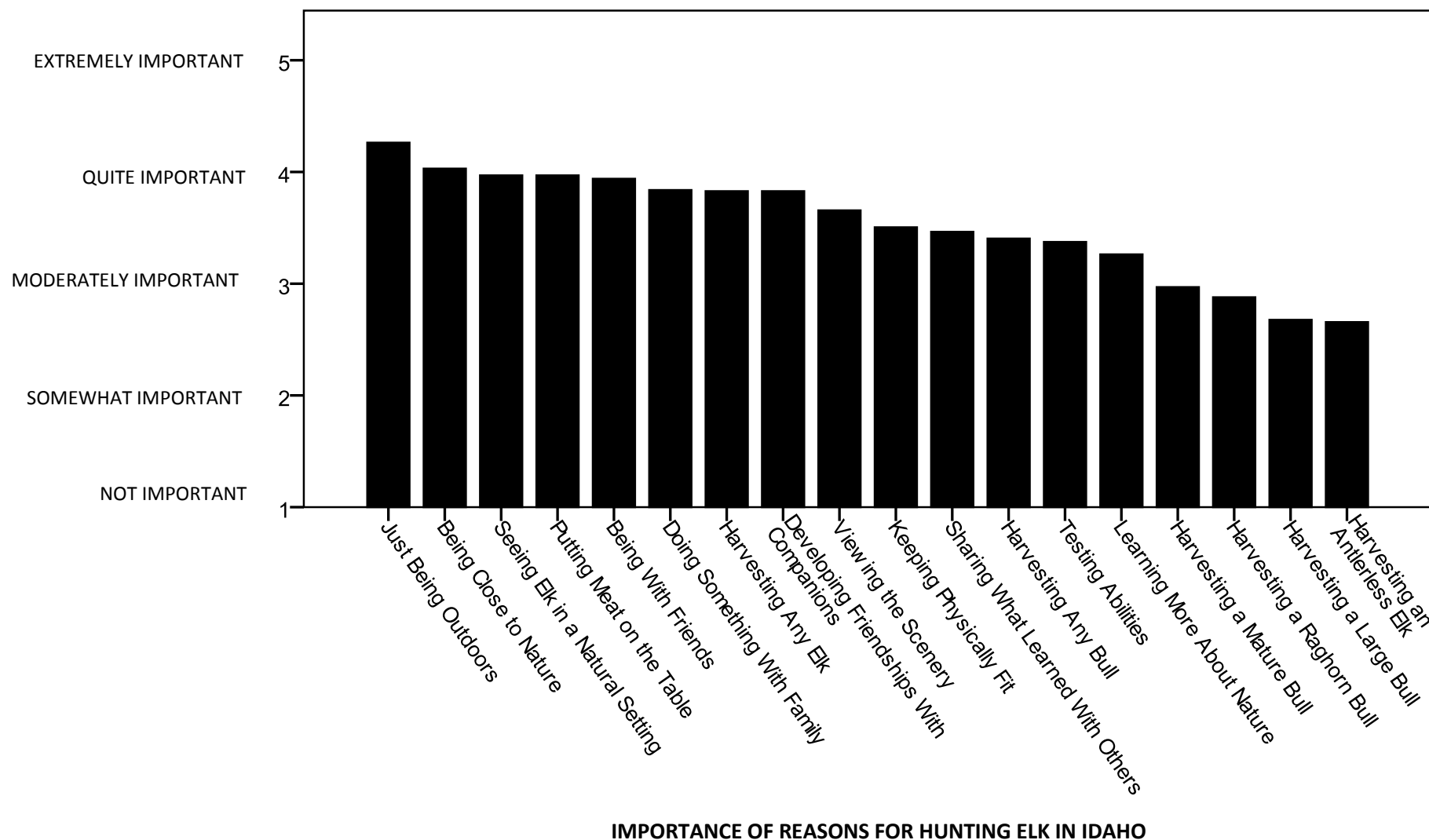
### 27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?

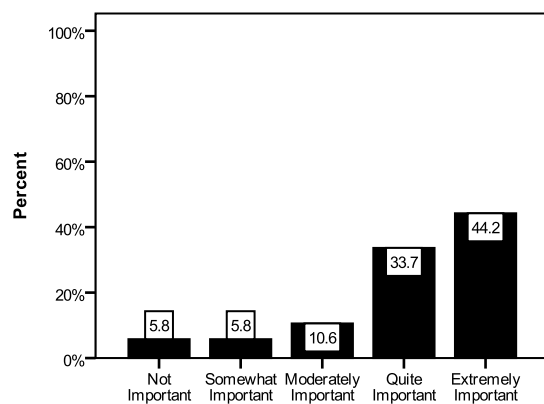




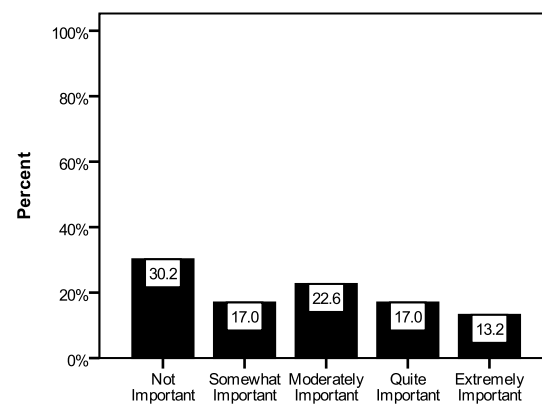
**Q27: Although the distribution of responses is similar between Dworshak zone hunters and the state average, hunters in this zone prefer any Elk or cow Elk slightly more than other hunters. They also seem to find larger sized and more mature Elk slightly less desirable than other hunters in the state.**

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?

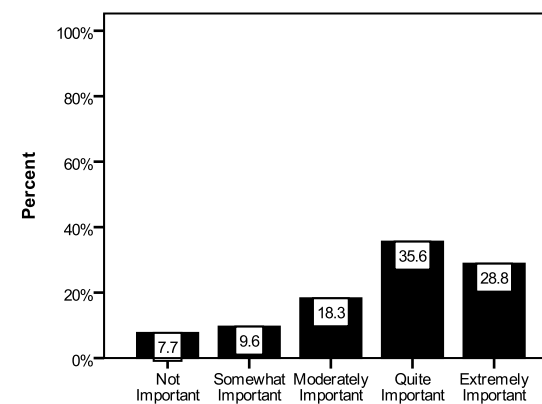




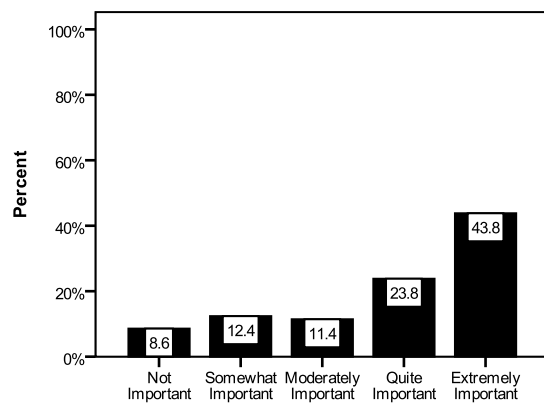
Being Close to Nature



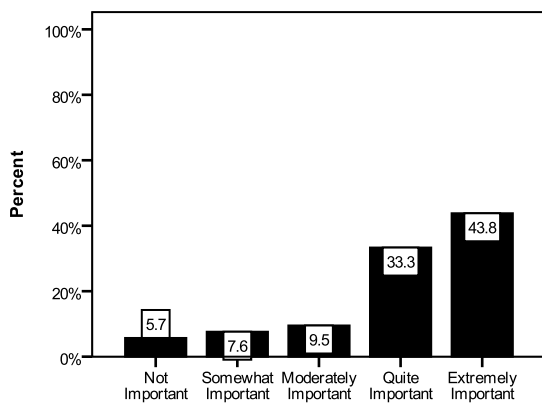
Harvesting an Antlerless Elk



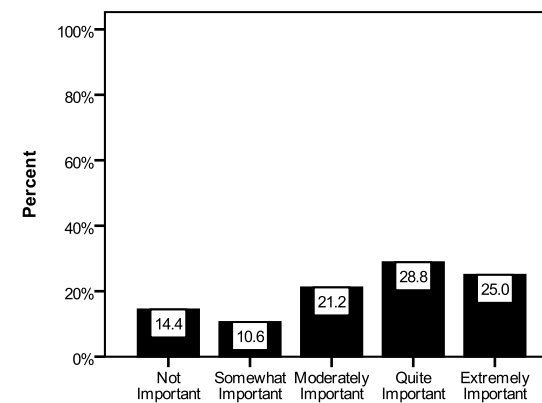
Viewing the Scenery



Harvesting Any Elk

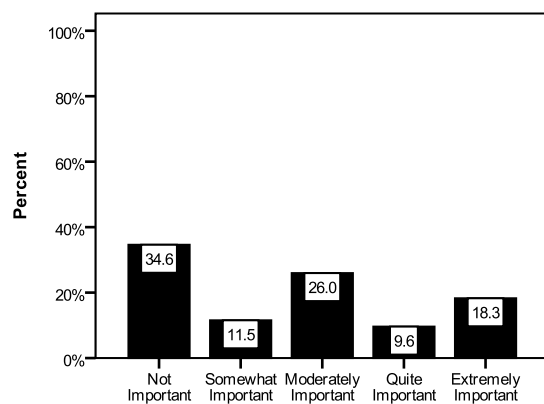


Seeing Elk in a Natural Setting

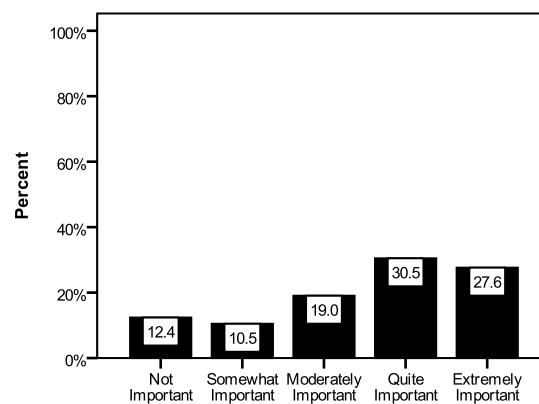


Testing Abilities

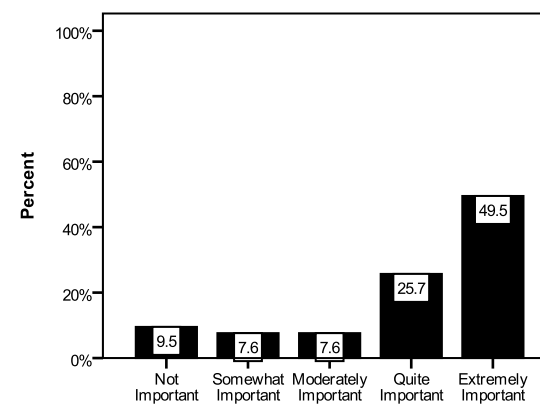




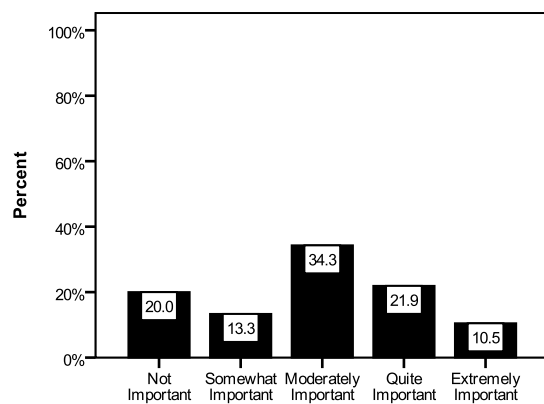
Harvesting a Large Bull



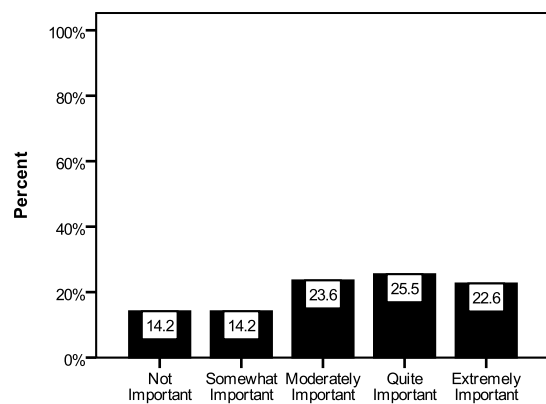
Sharing What Learned With Others



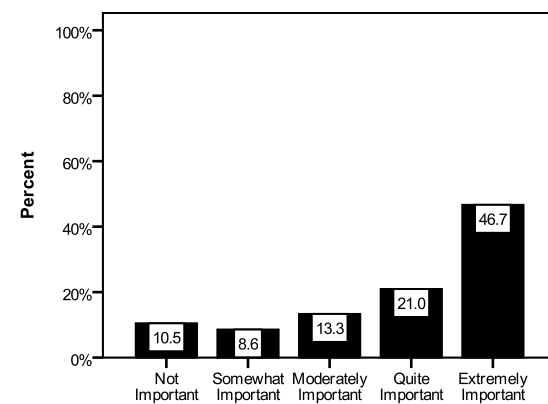
Being With Friends



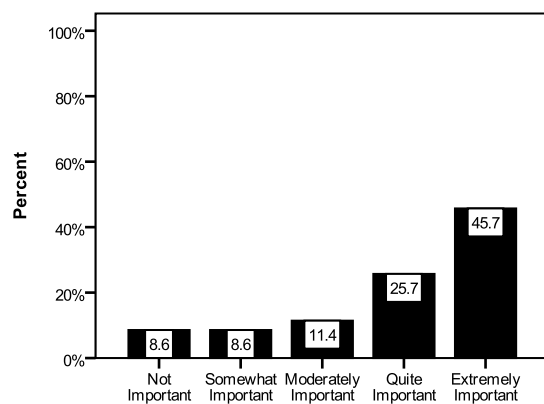
Harvesting a Raghorn Bull



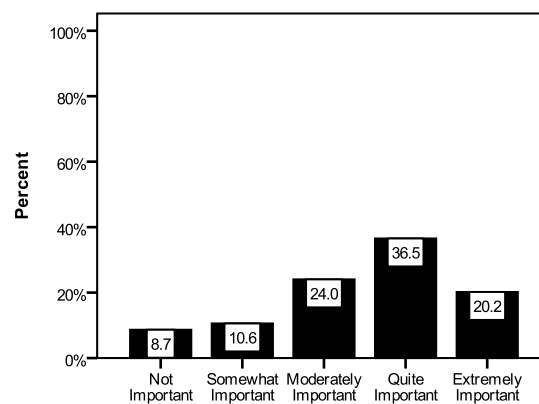
Learning More About Nature



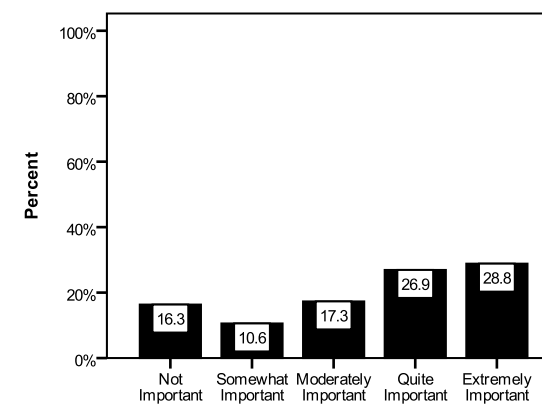
Doing Something With Family



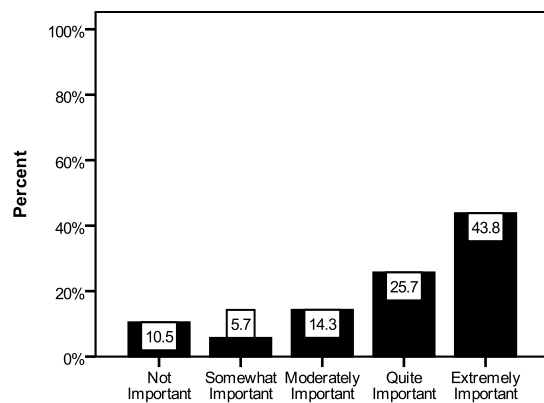
Putting Meat on the Table



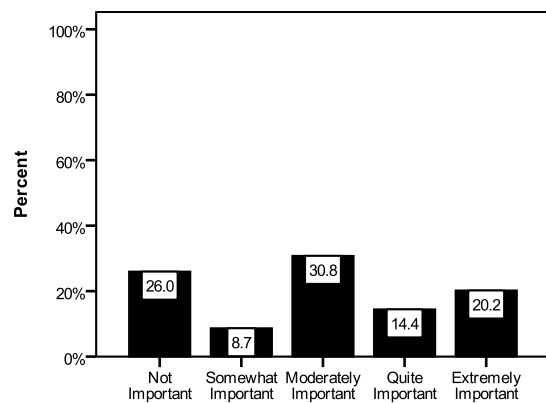
Keeping Physically Fit



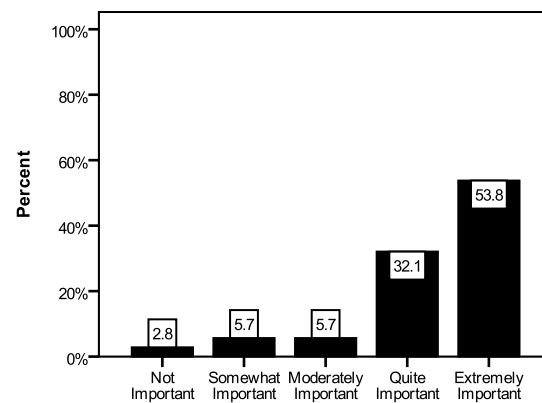
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

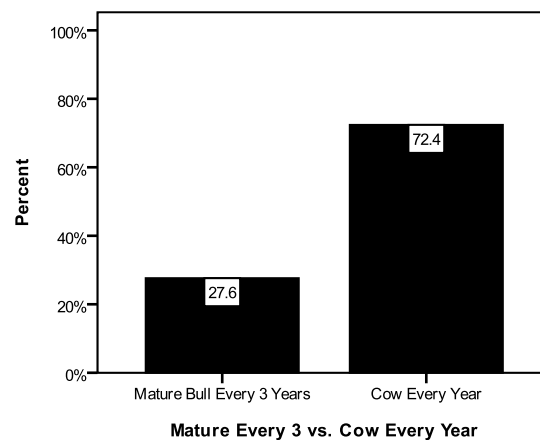
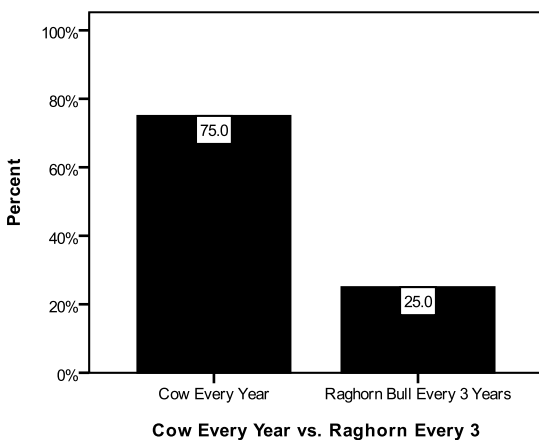
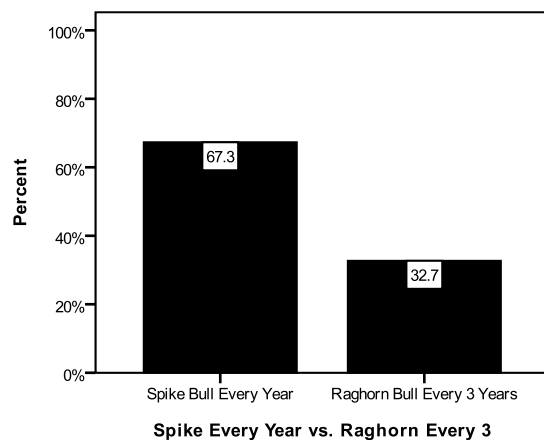
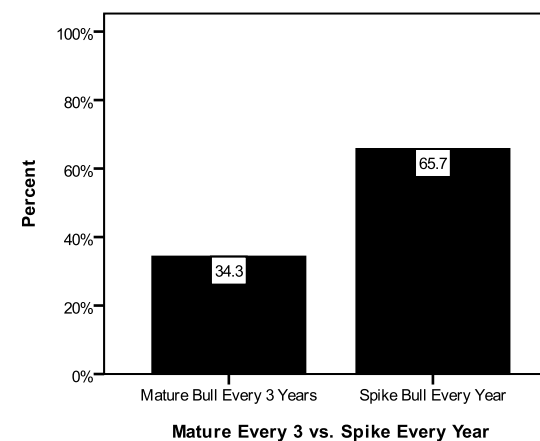
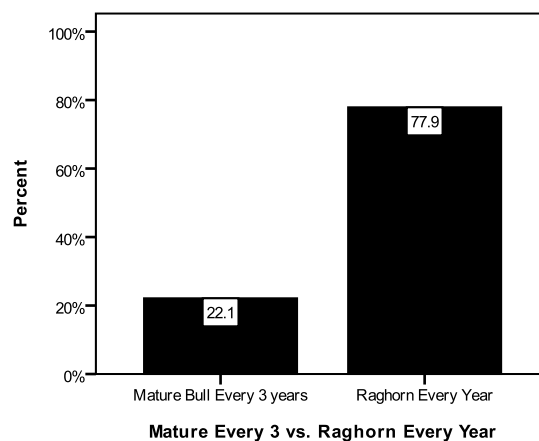
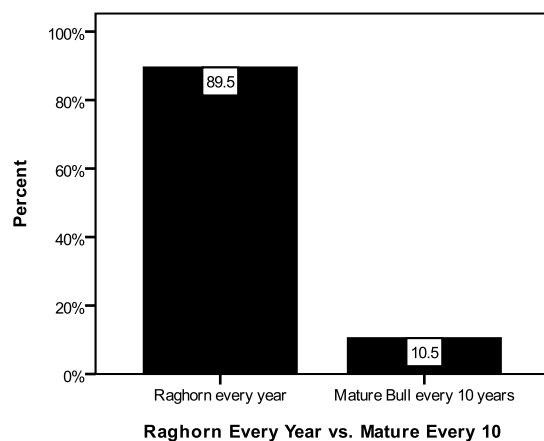


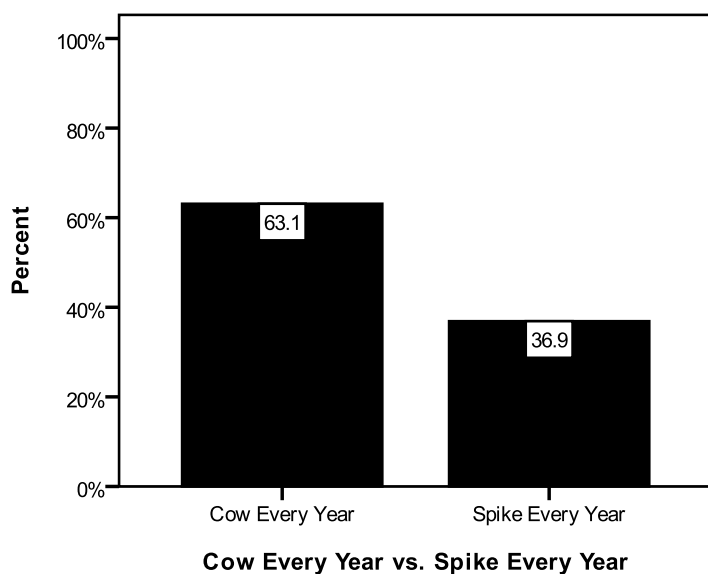
Just Being Outdoors

**Q28: The top three reasons for hunting Elk in Idaho is the same for the Dworshak zone and the state average. However, hunters in this zone rank putting meat on the table as more important 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.**

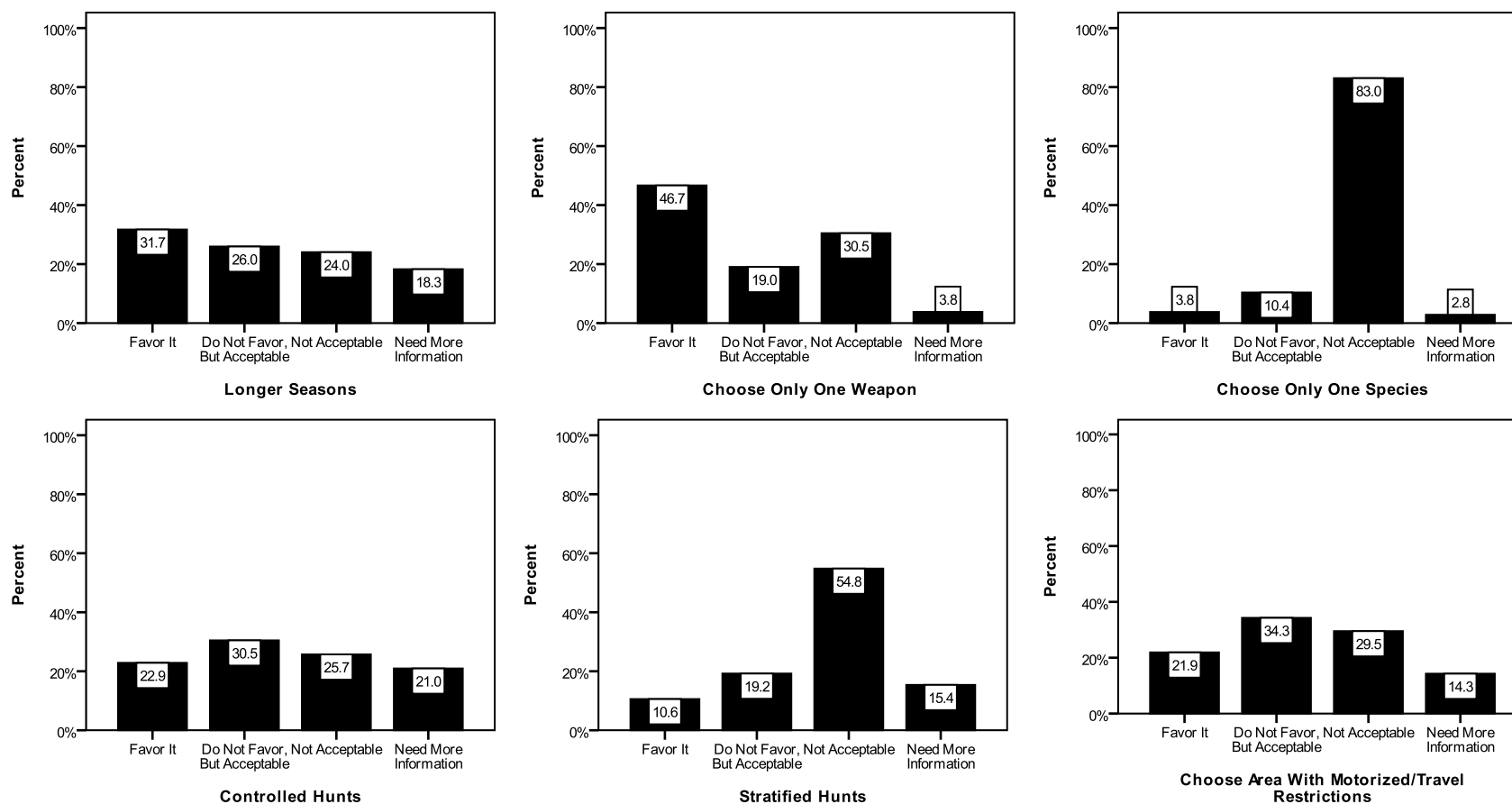


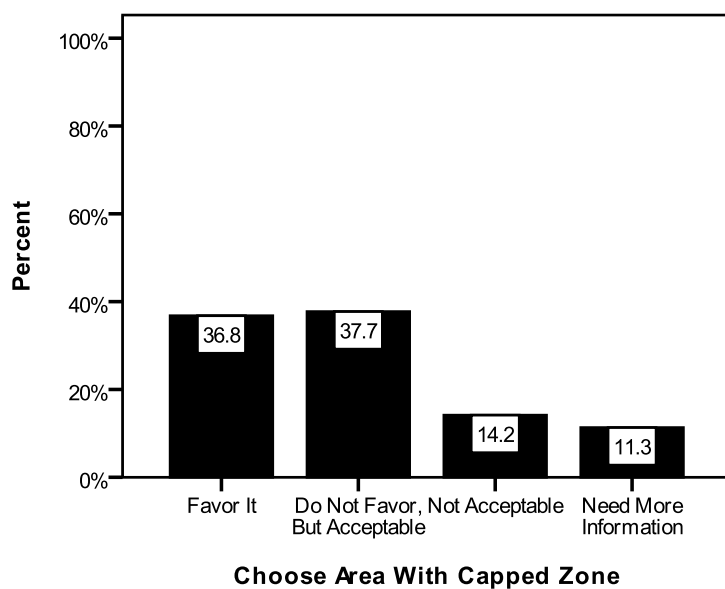


**Q32: The distribution of responses is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average. In this zone, there is slightly more emphasis on preserving the amount of opportunity to hunt than being able to hunt for larger, more mature Elk.**

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

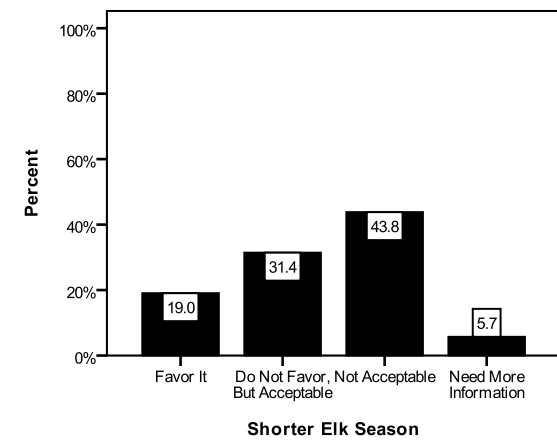
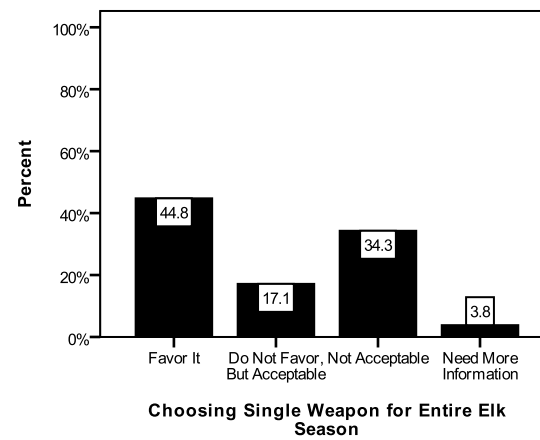
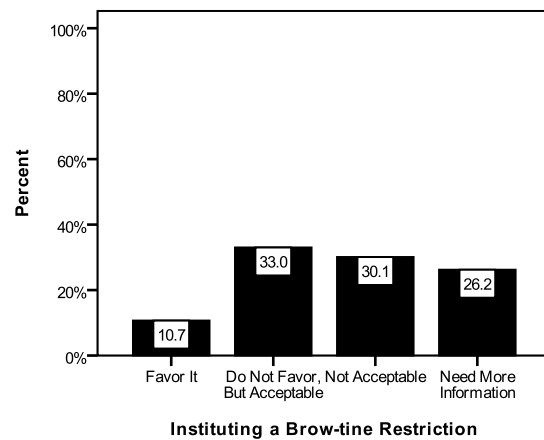
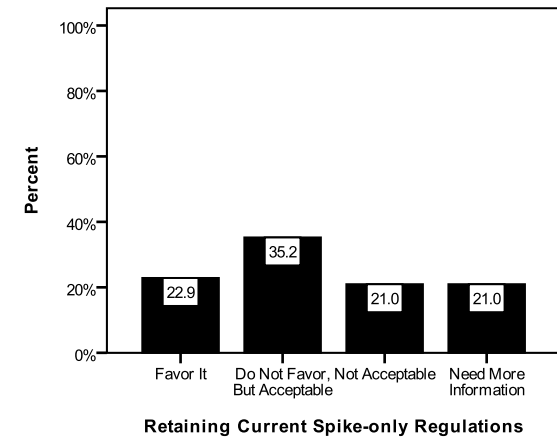
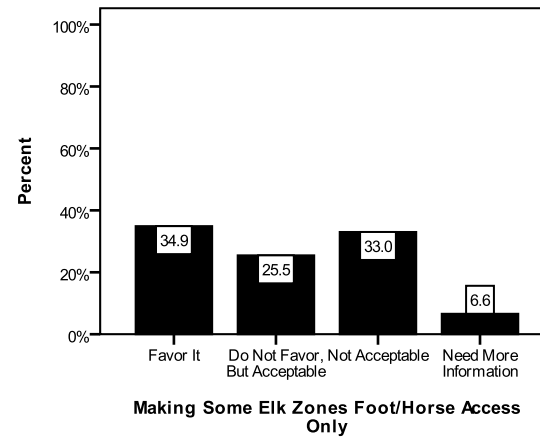
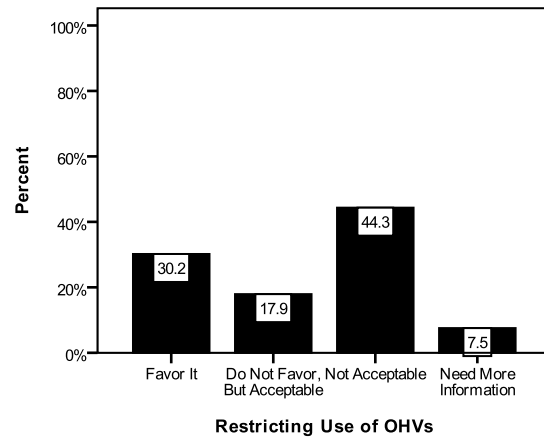
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

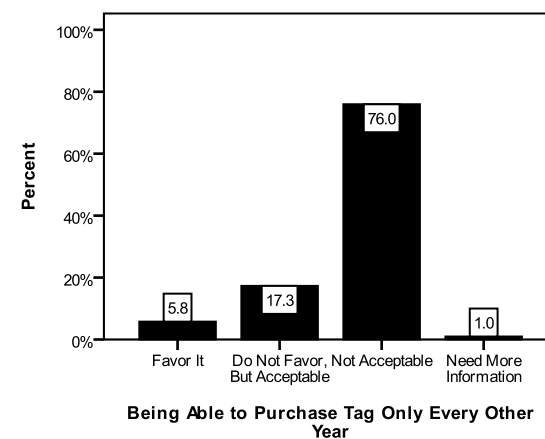
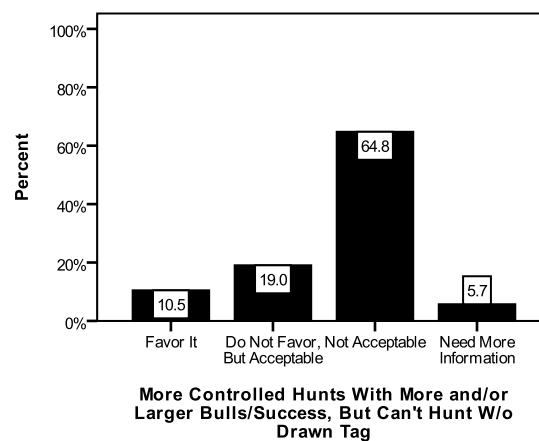
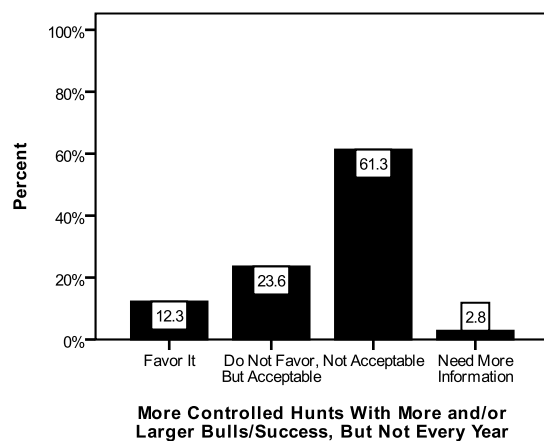




**Q34: The distribution of responses is similar between hunters in the Dworshak zone and the state average. Hunters in this zone favor choosing an area with a capped zone slightly more than other hunters and find choosing an area with motorized/travel restrictions slightly less favorable but still acceptable in comparison.**

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

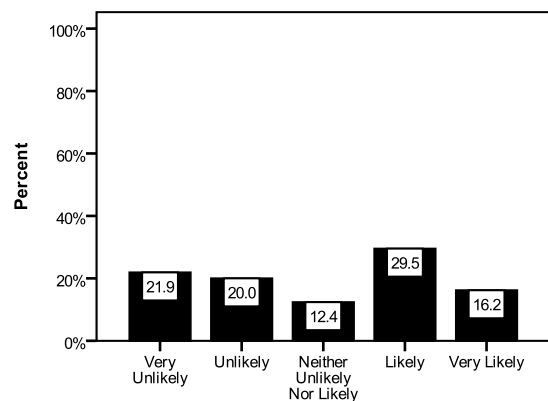




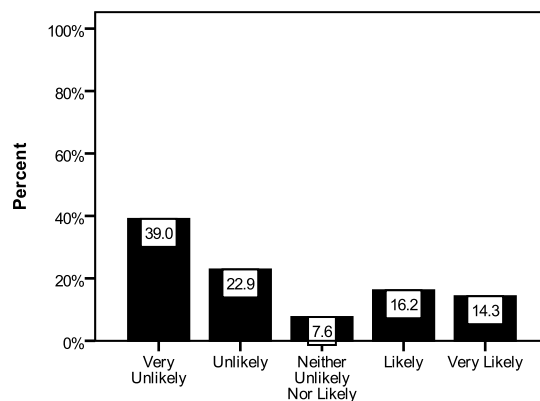
**Q35: The distribution of responses is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average. Hunters in this zone reported lower acceptance for potential restrictions concerning travel when Elk hunting.**



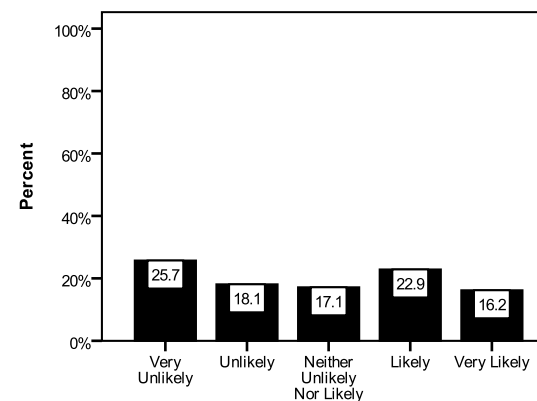
36. IF Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



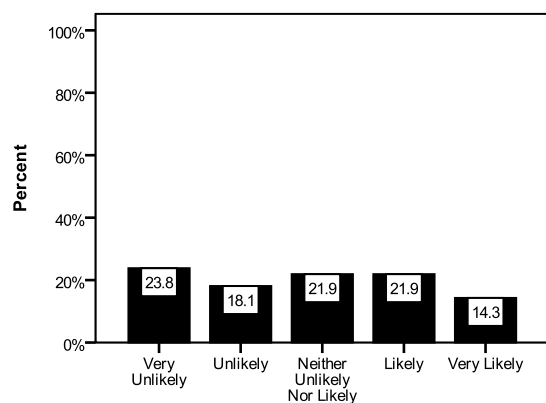
Hunt in Different Zones



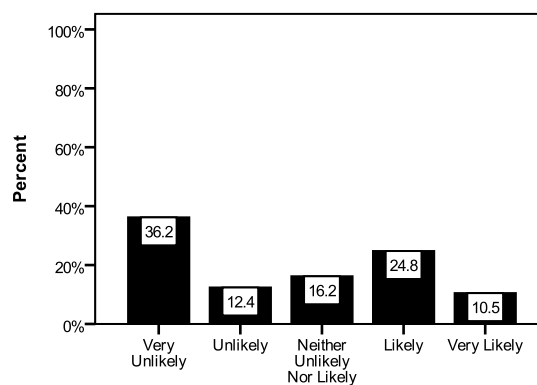
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



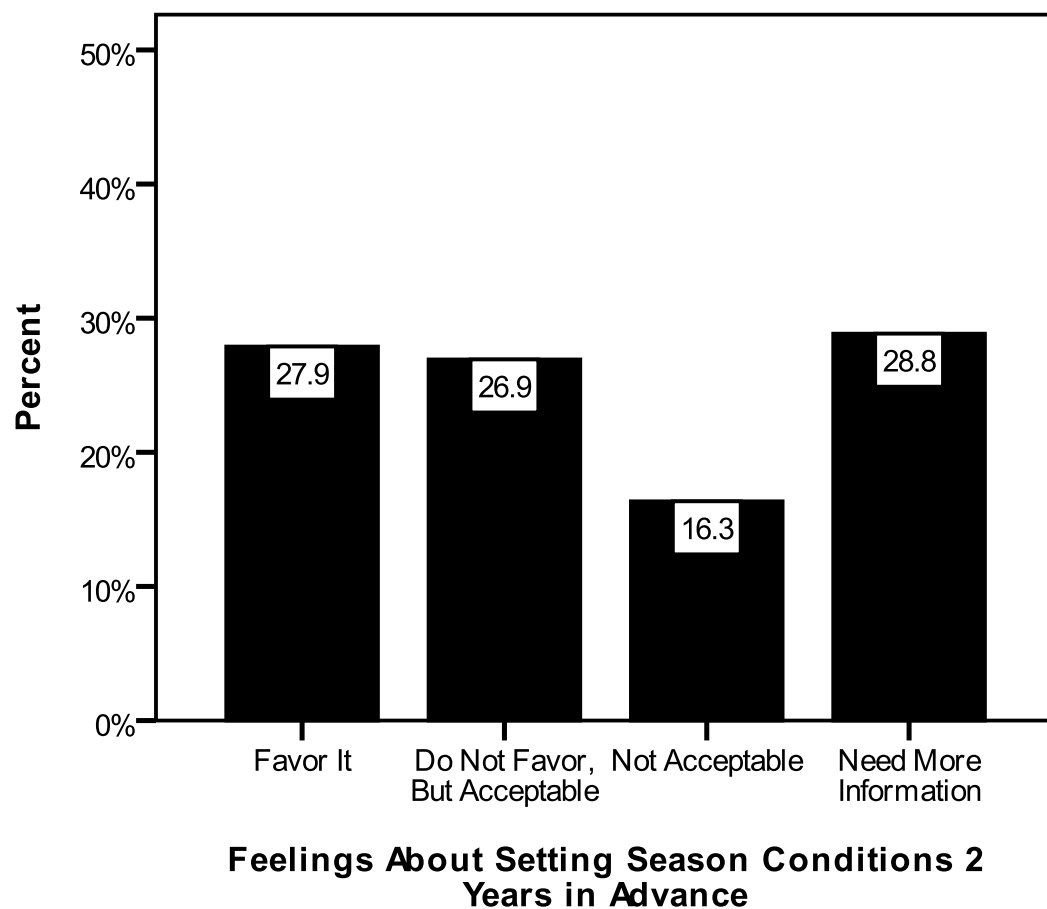
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

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

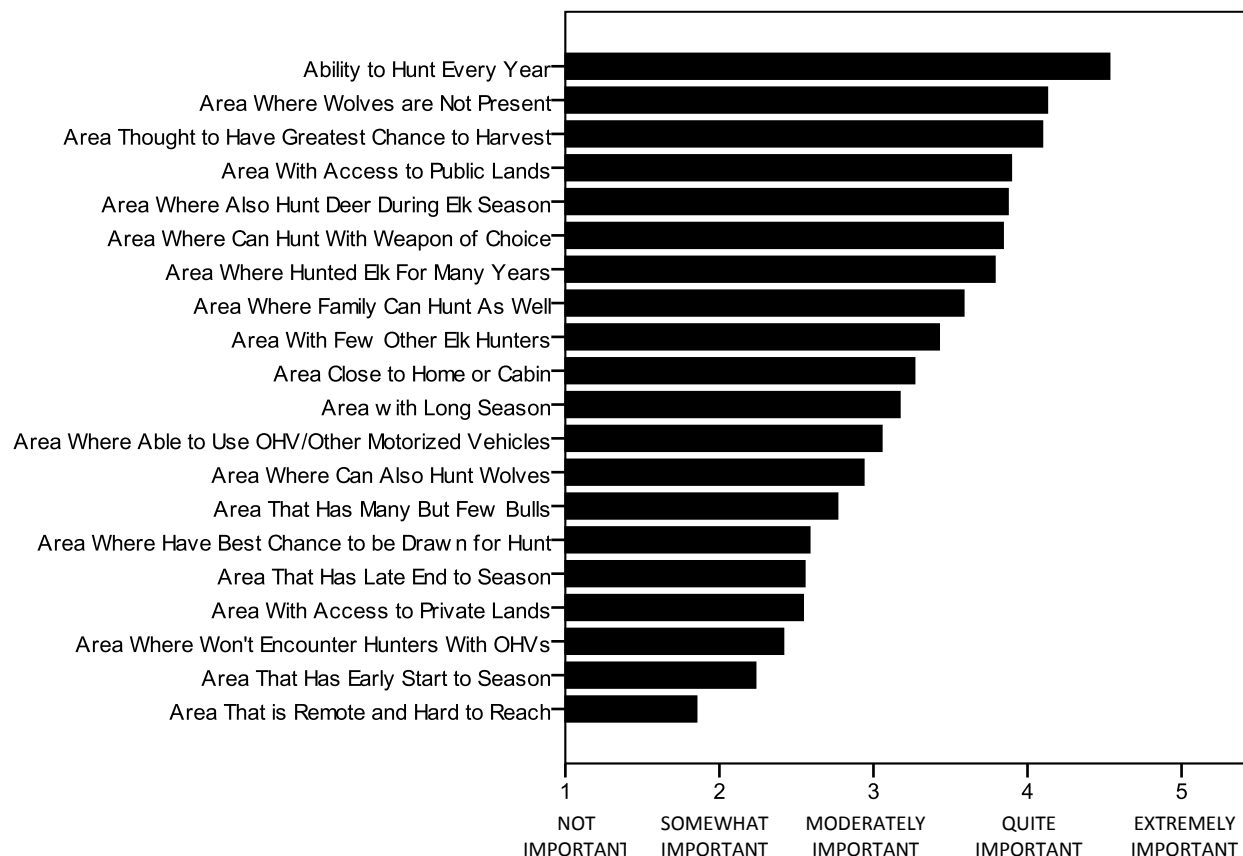
38. How would you feel about a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, just like the current Moose, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Upland Game, Turkey and Fishing regulations? *(Please check one response)*



Q38: The distribution of responses between the Dworshak zone and the state average are similar.

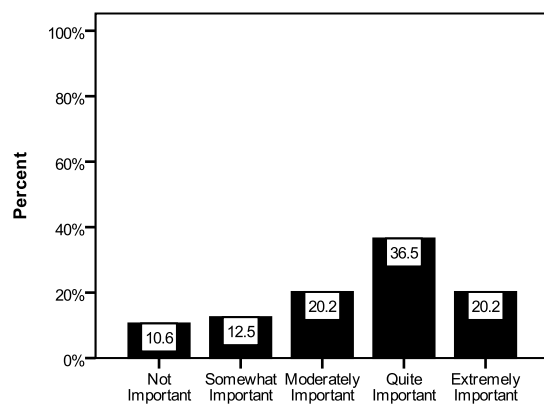
## WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

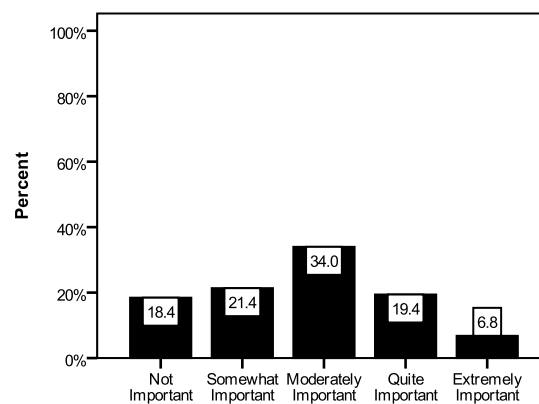


**Q29: The same four characteristics are ranked as most important for Dworshak zone hunters and the state average. However, hunters in this zone reported that choosing an area where Deer can also be hunted during the Elk season is quite important (5<sup>th</sup> in importance), whereas other hunters in the state consider it only moderately important.**

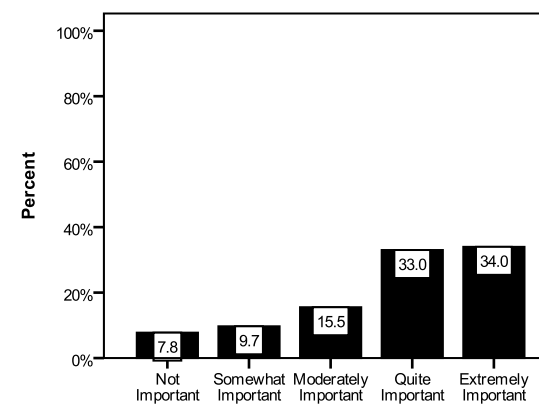
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



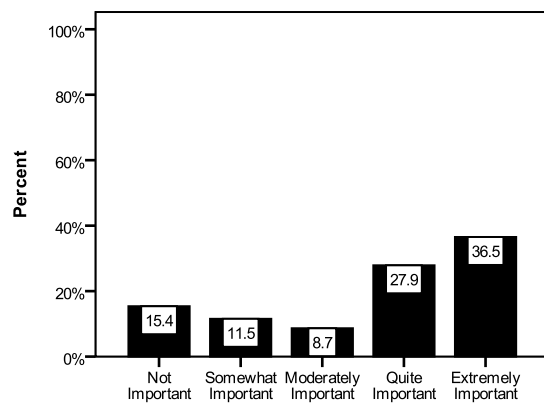
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



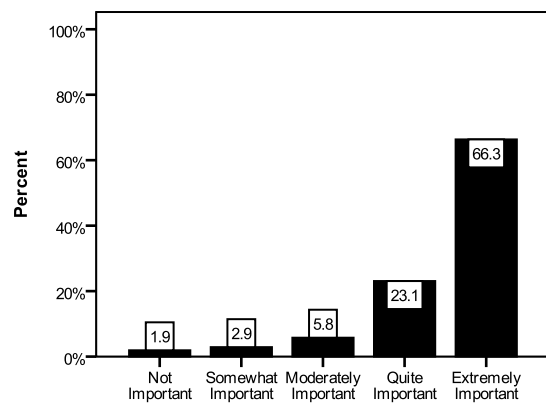
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



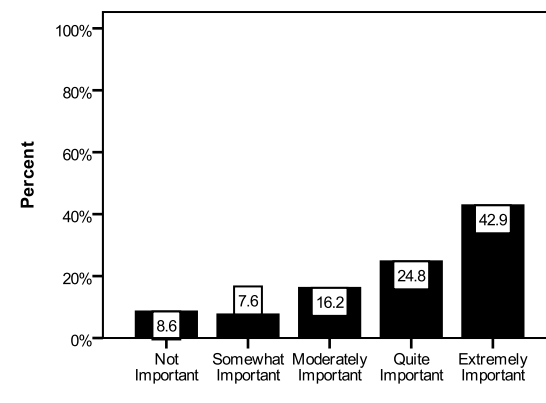
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



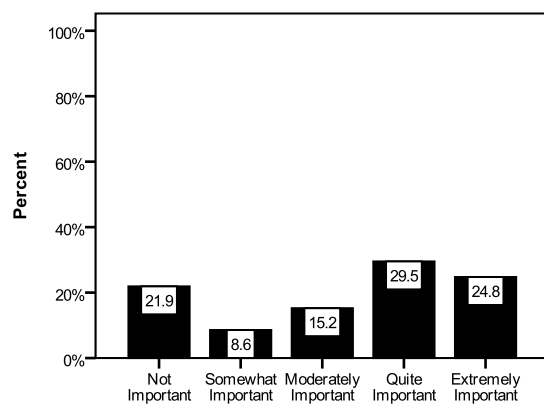
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well



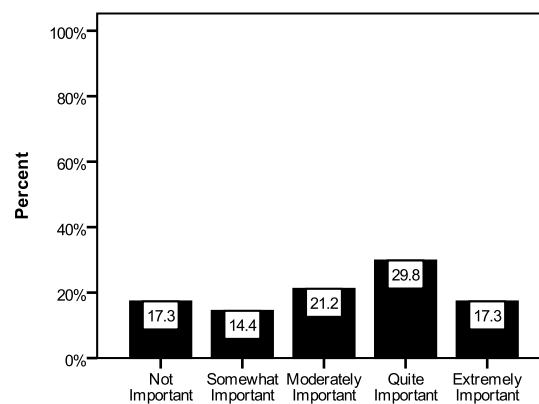
Ability to Hunt Every Year



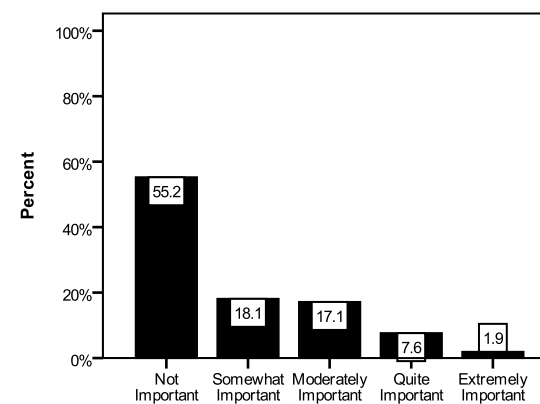
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season



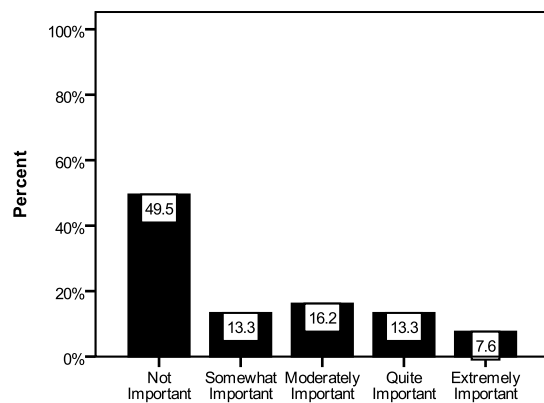
Area Close to Home or Cabin



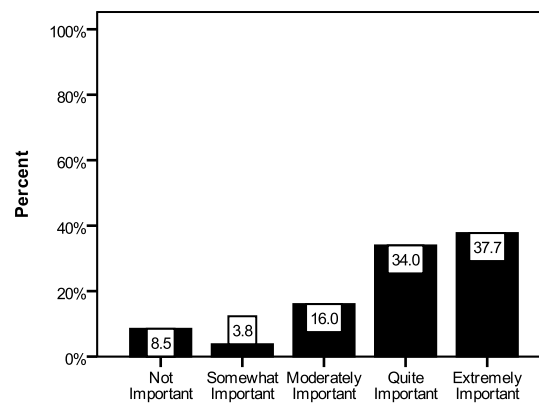
Area with Long Season



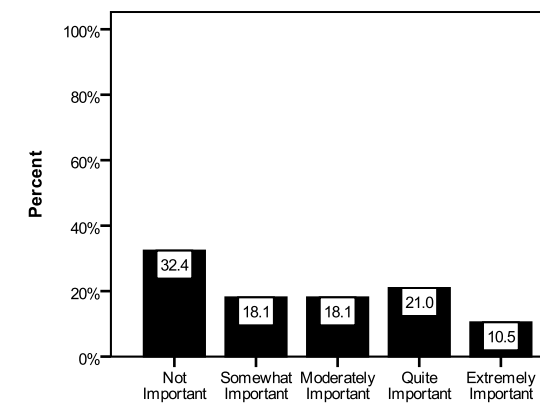
Area That is Remote and Hard to Reach



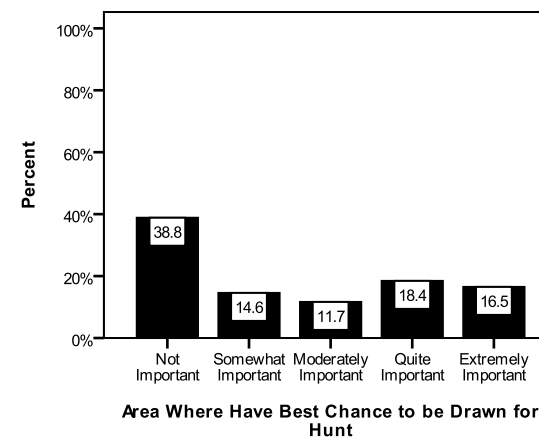
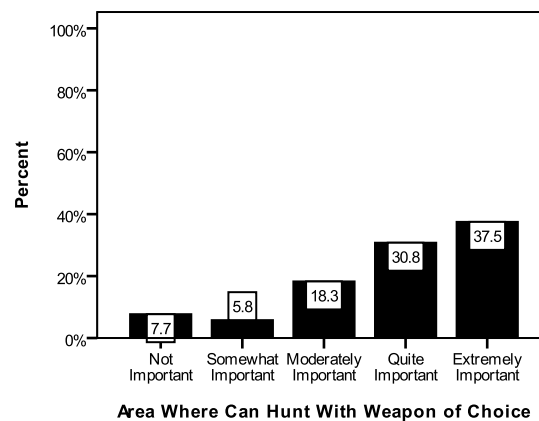
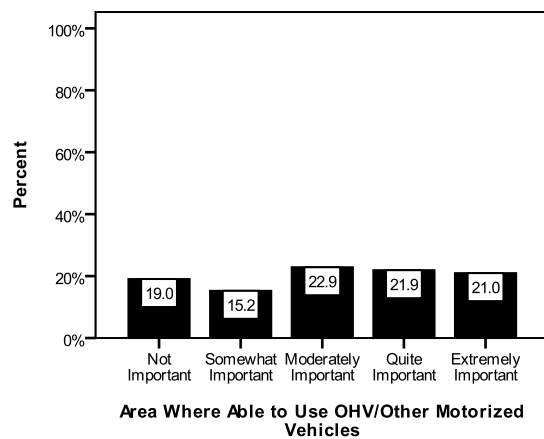
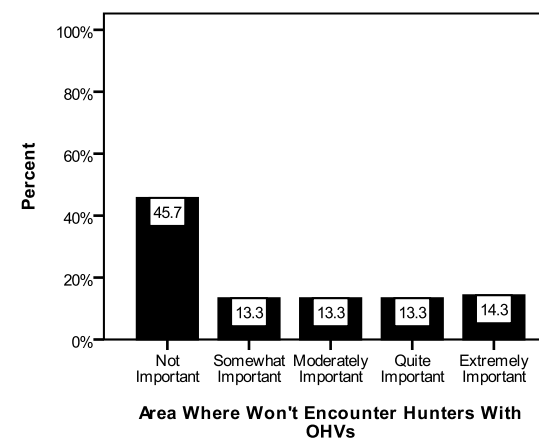
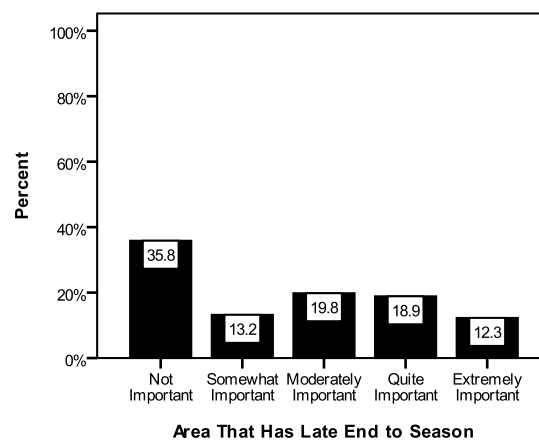
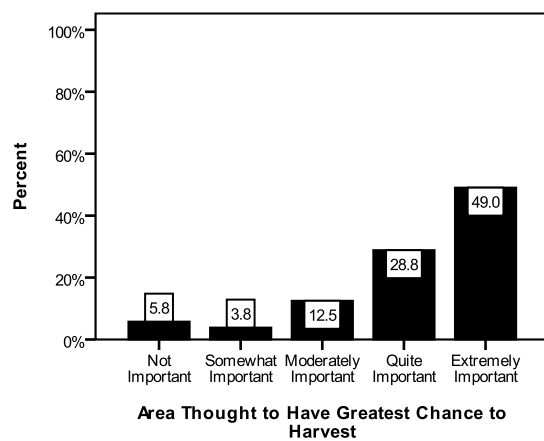
Area That Has Early Start to Season

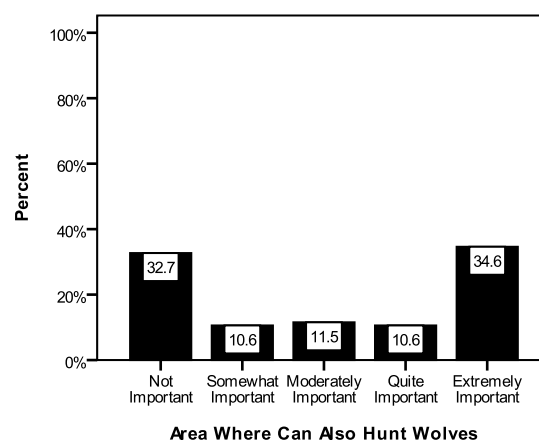
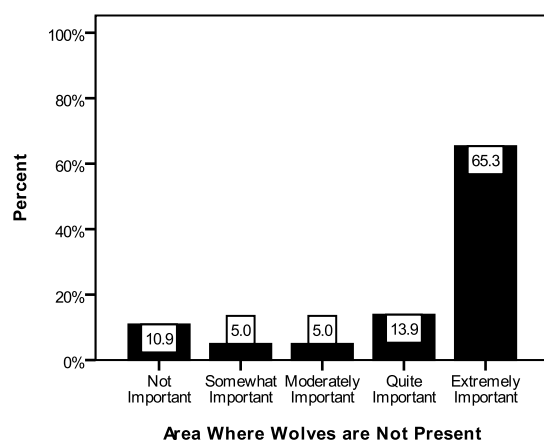


Area With Access to Public Lands

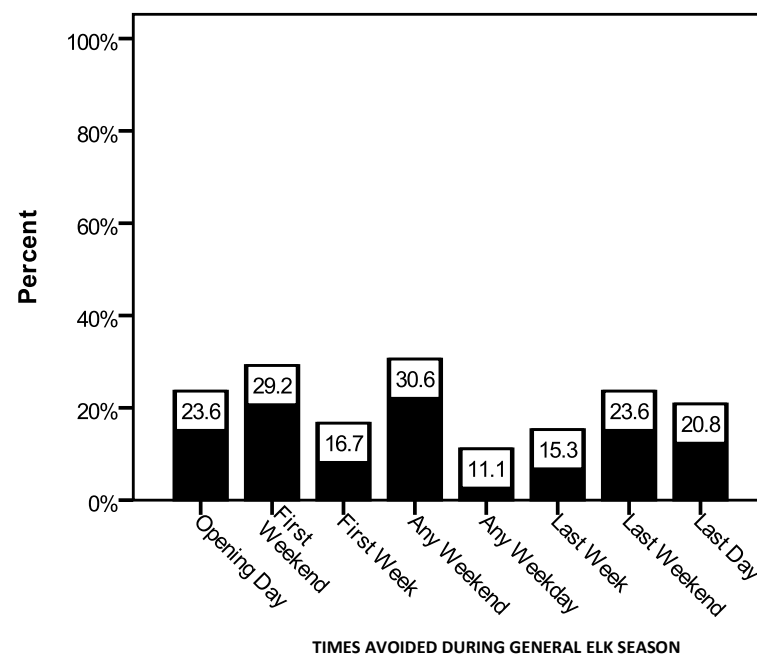
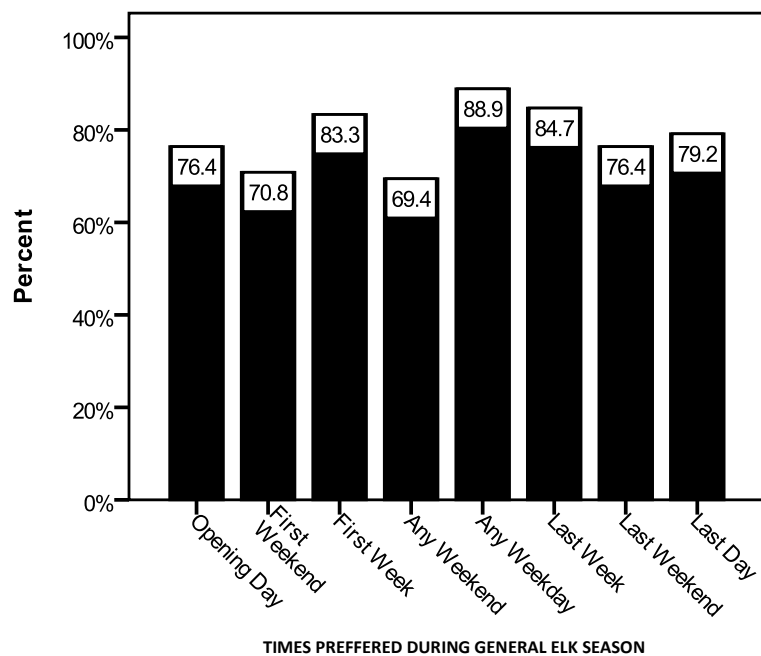


Area With Access to Private Lands





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

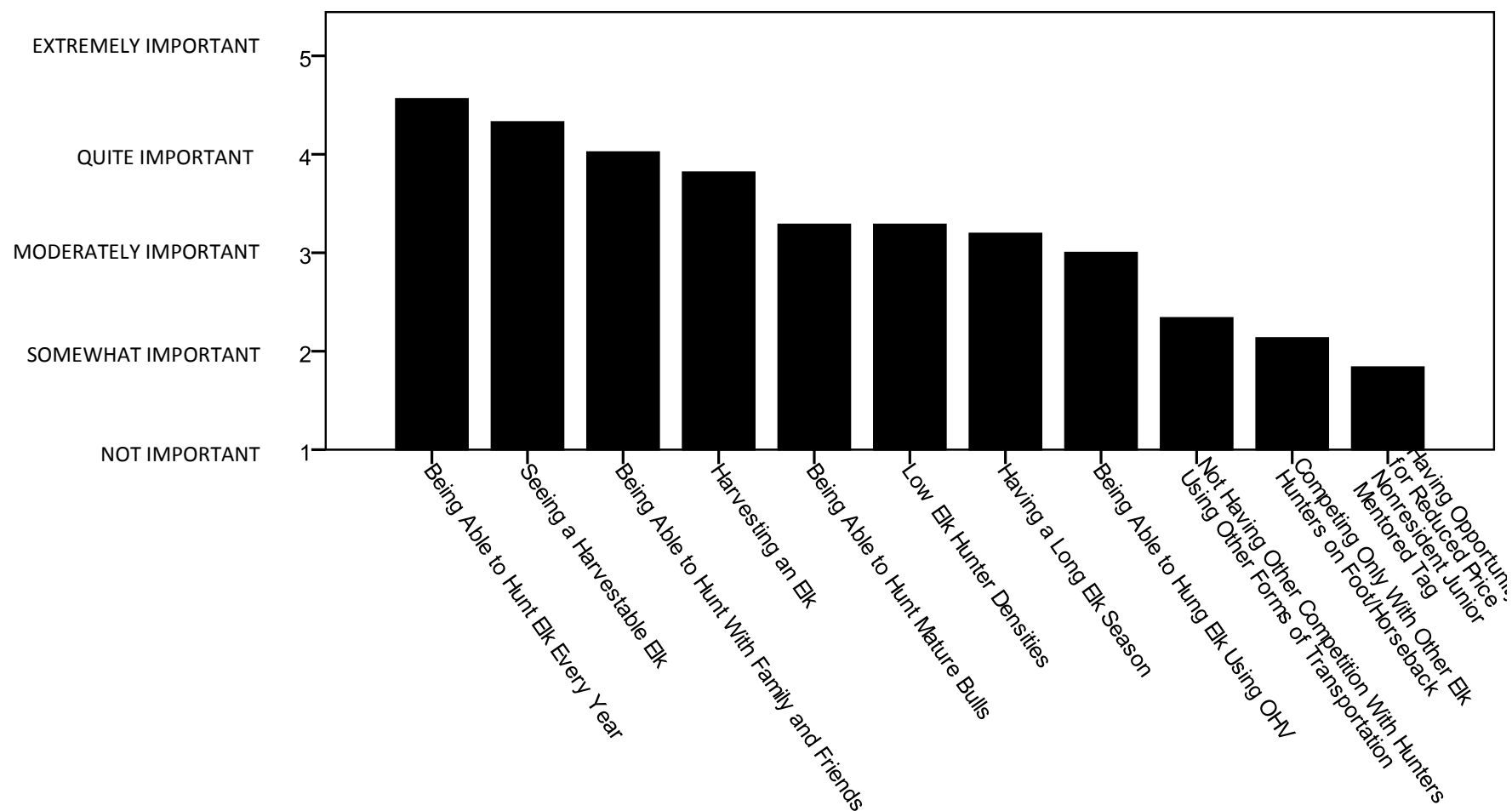


**Q30: The distribution of responses is similar between the Dworshak zone and the state average. Hunting during the week is more preferred among hunters.**

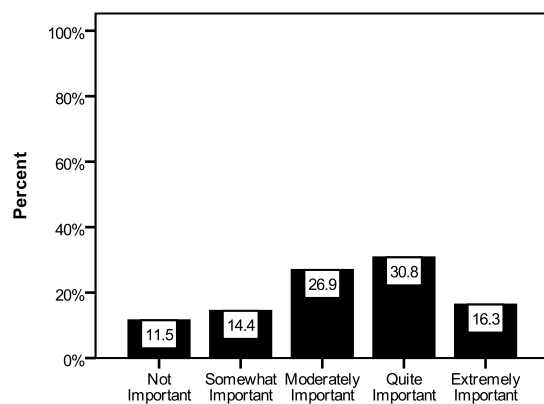


## ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

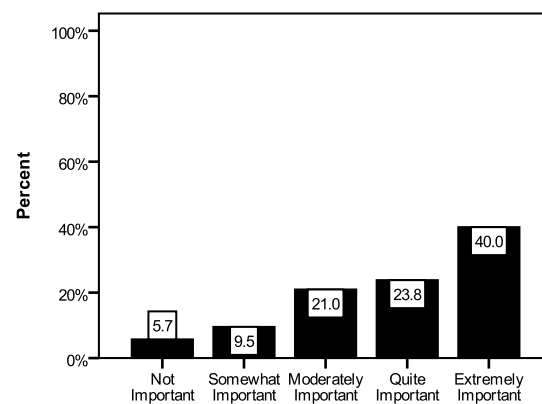
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



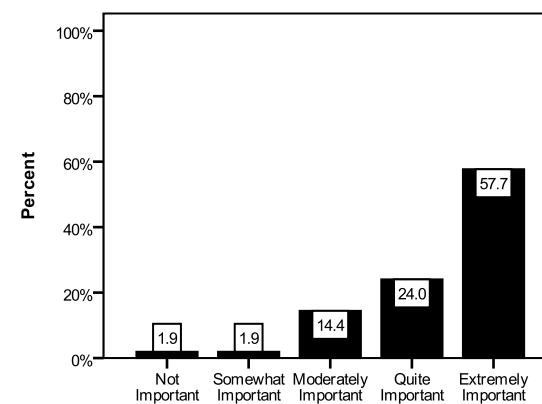
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



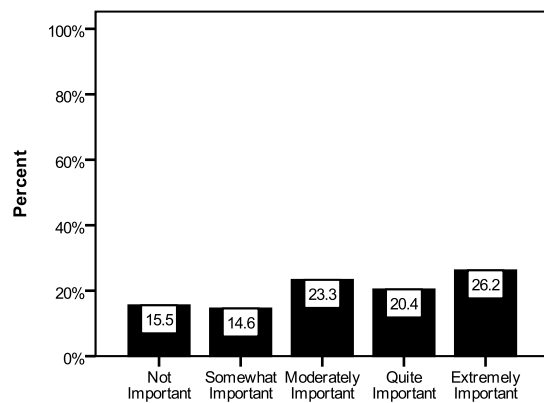
Low Elk Hunter Densities



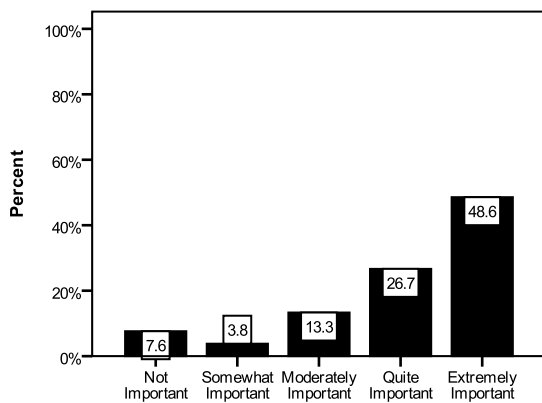
Harvesting an Elk



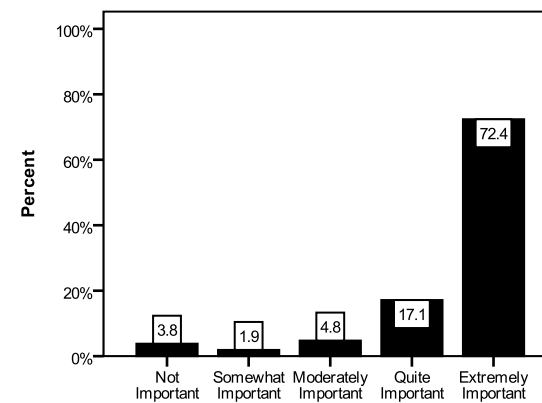
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



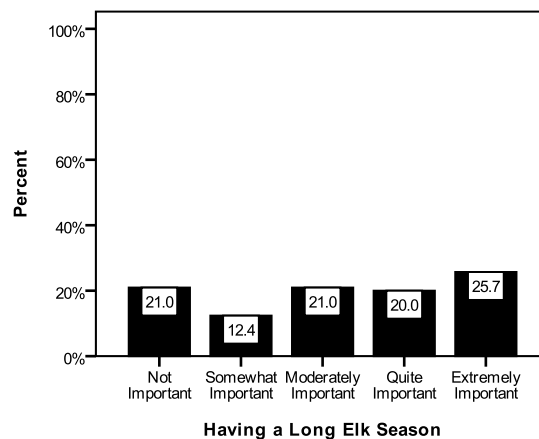
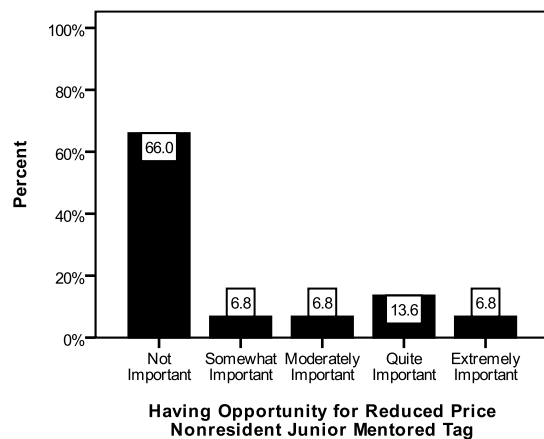
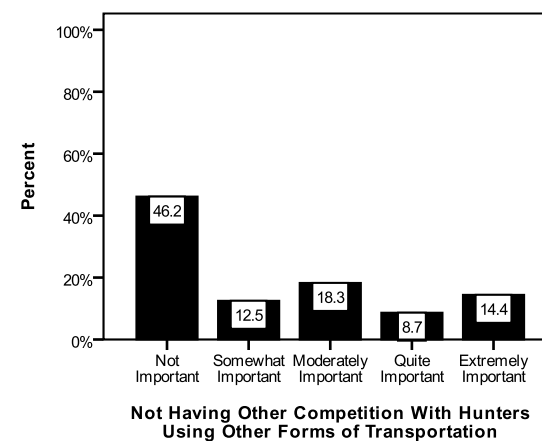
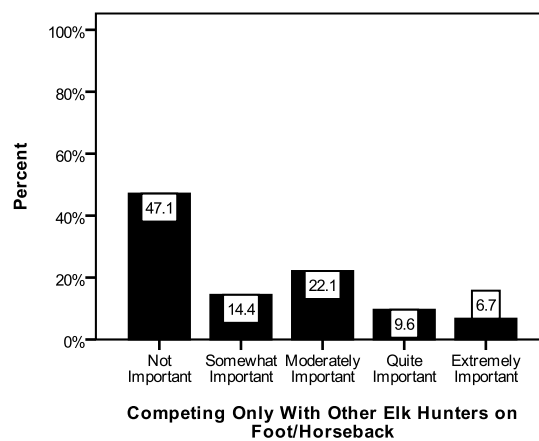
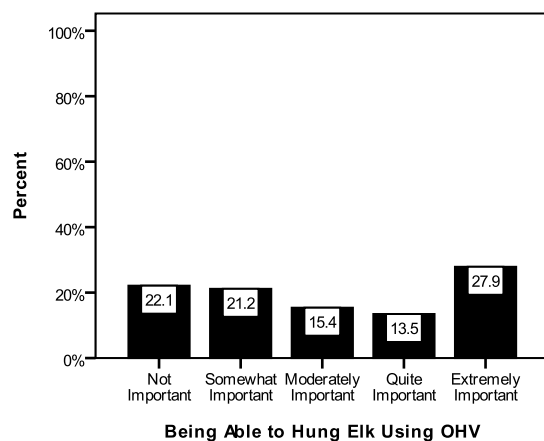
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



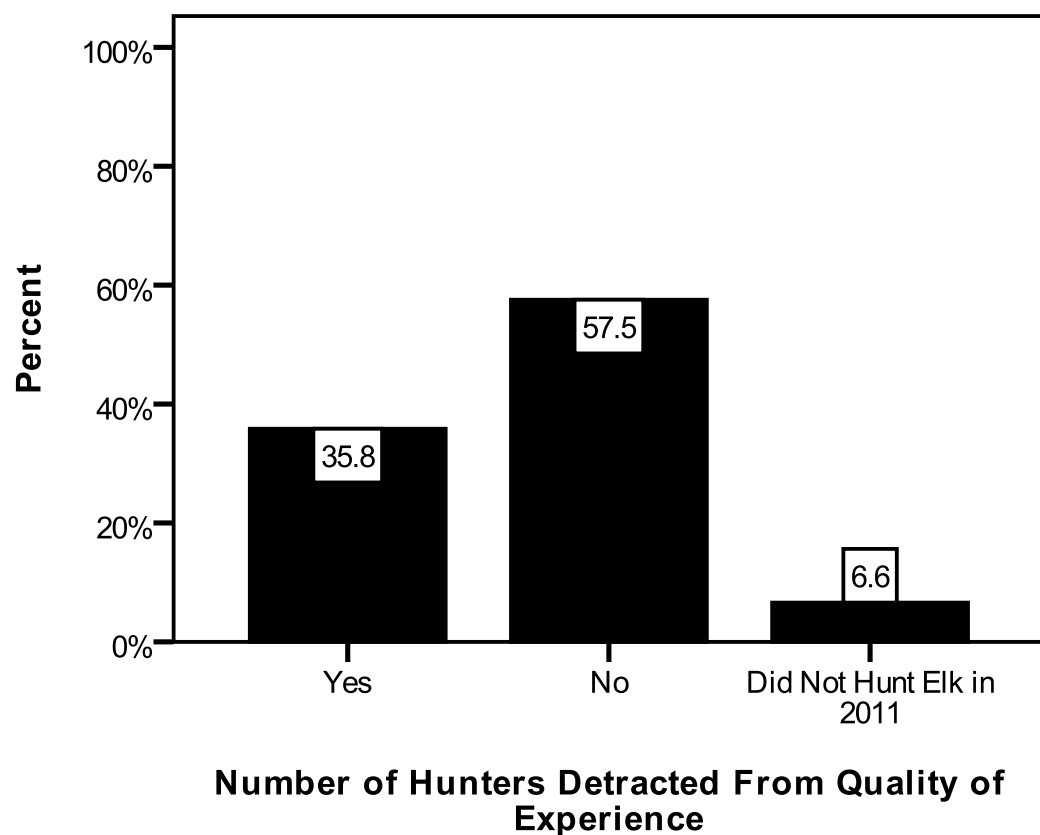
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



**Q31: The same five attributes ranked most important are the same for Dworshak zone hunters and the state average.**

## HUNTING SATISFACTION

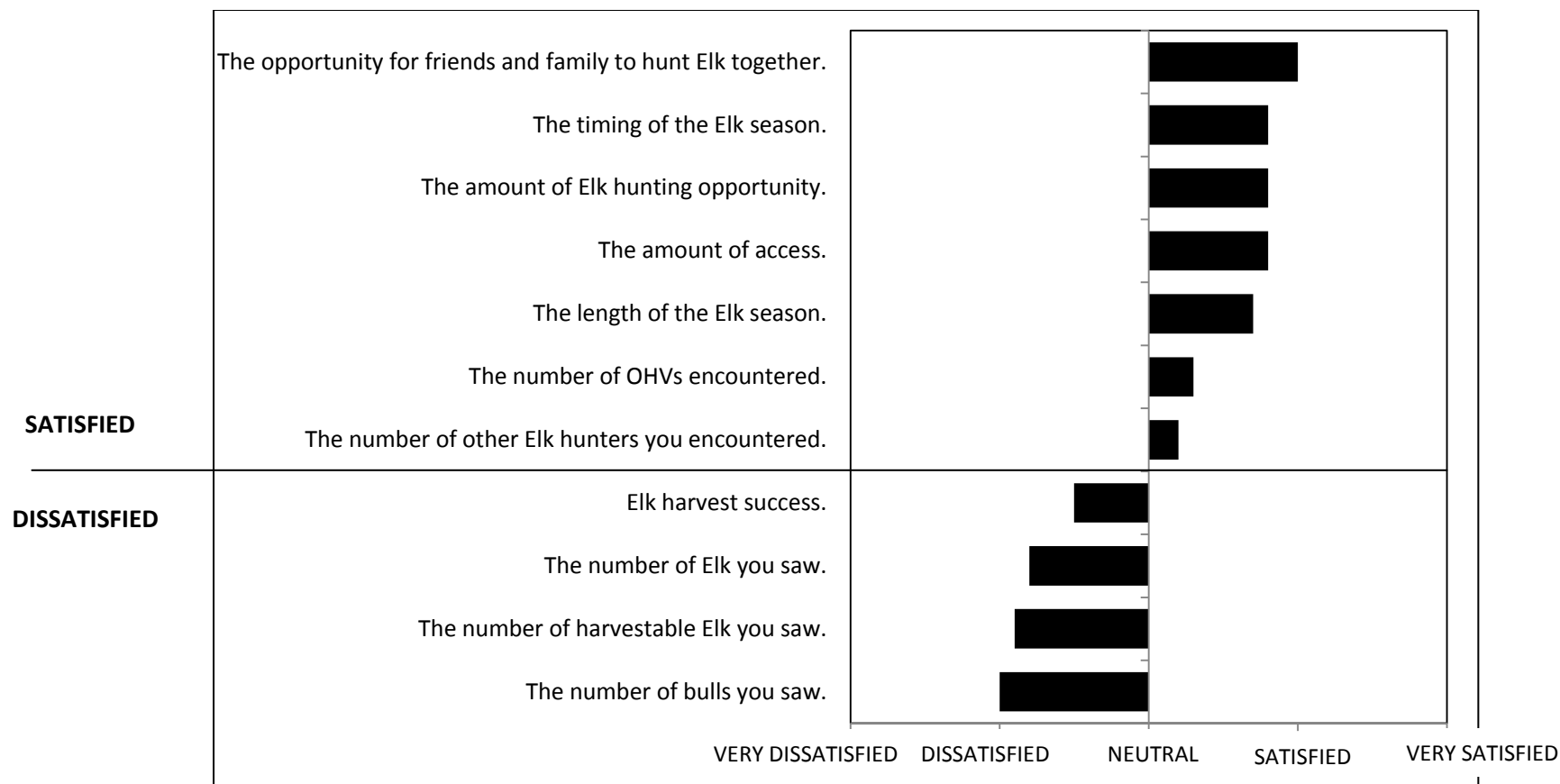
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



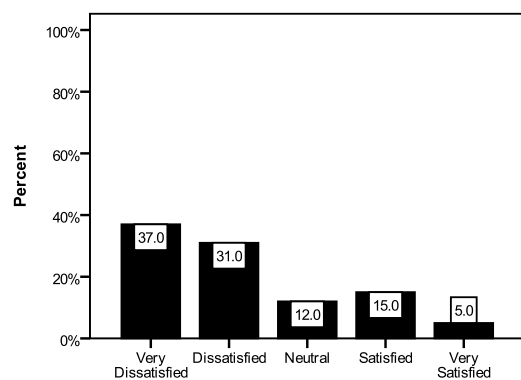
Q33: The distribution of responses is similar between the state average and the Dworshak zone.

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

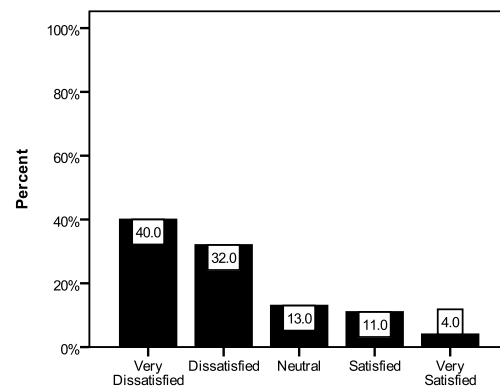
**37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?**



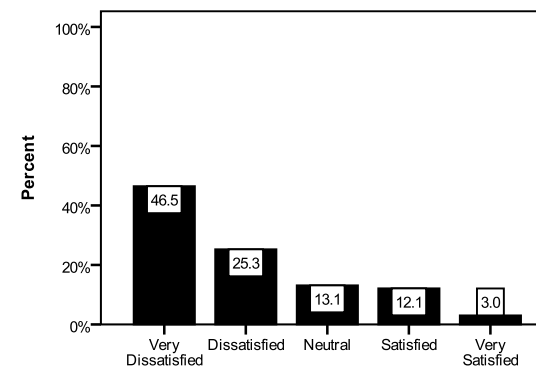
**SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE**



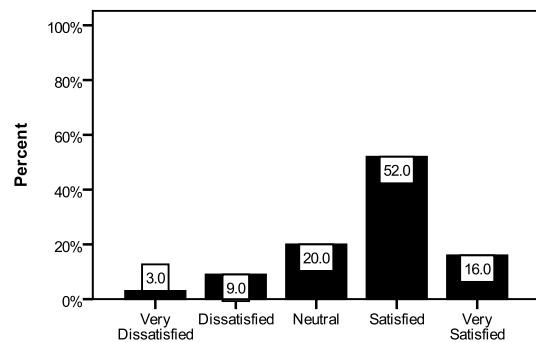
Number of Elk Seen



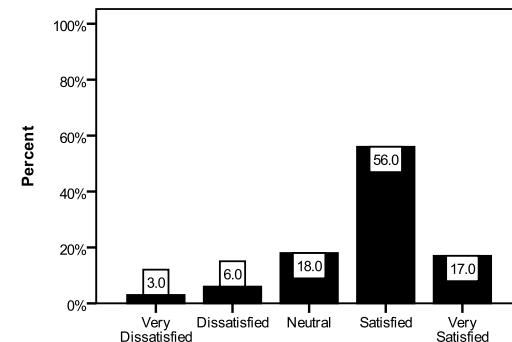
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



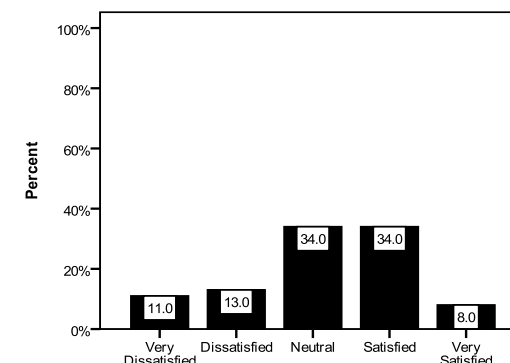
Number of Bulls Seen



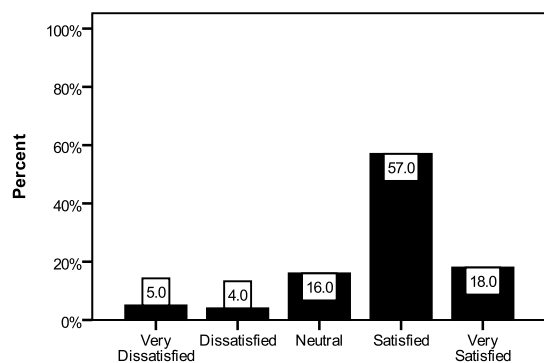
Length of Elk Season



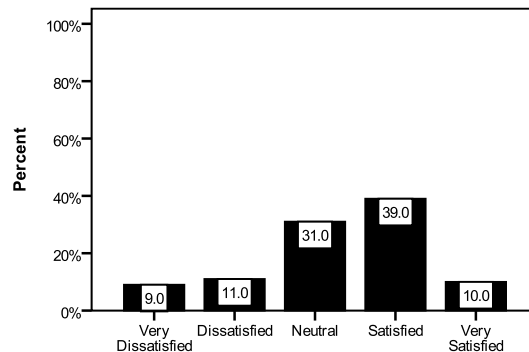
Timing of Elk Season



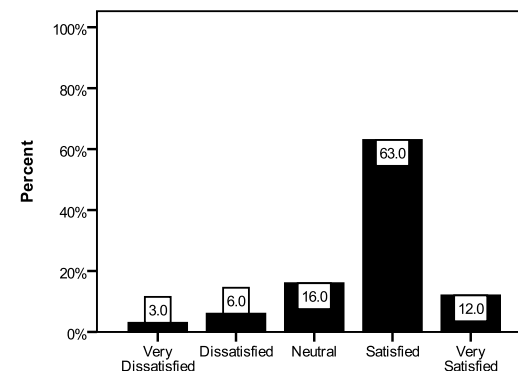
Number of Elk Hunters Encountered



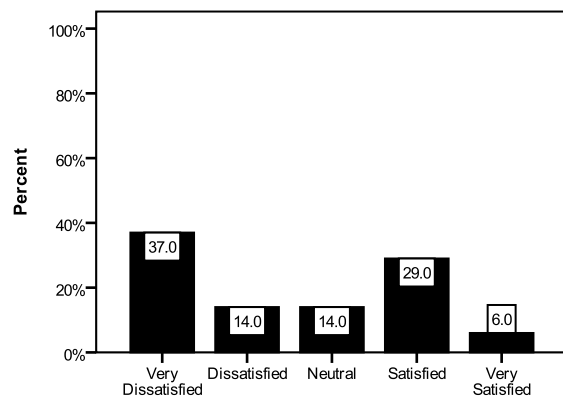
Amount of Access



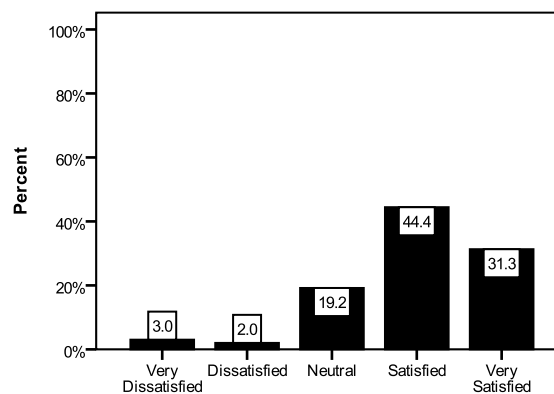
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



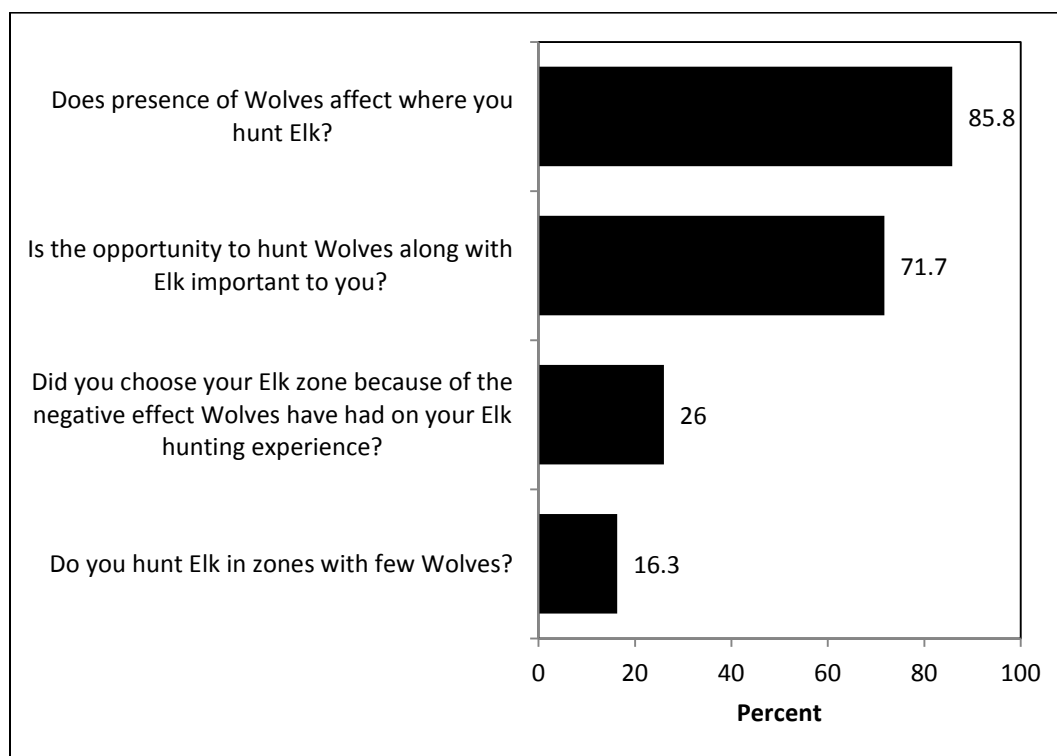
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

**Q37: Similar to the state average, hunters in the Dworshak zone reported that the most dissatisfying aspect of their 2011 Elk hunting experience was the number of Elk they saw and their harvest success.**

## PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

Two questions about predators in Idaho.

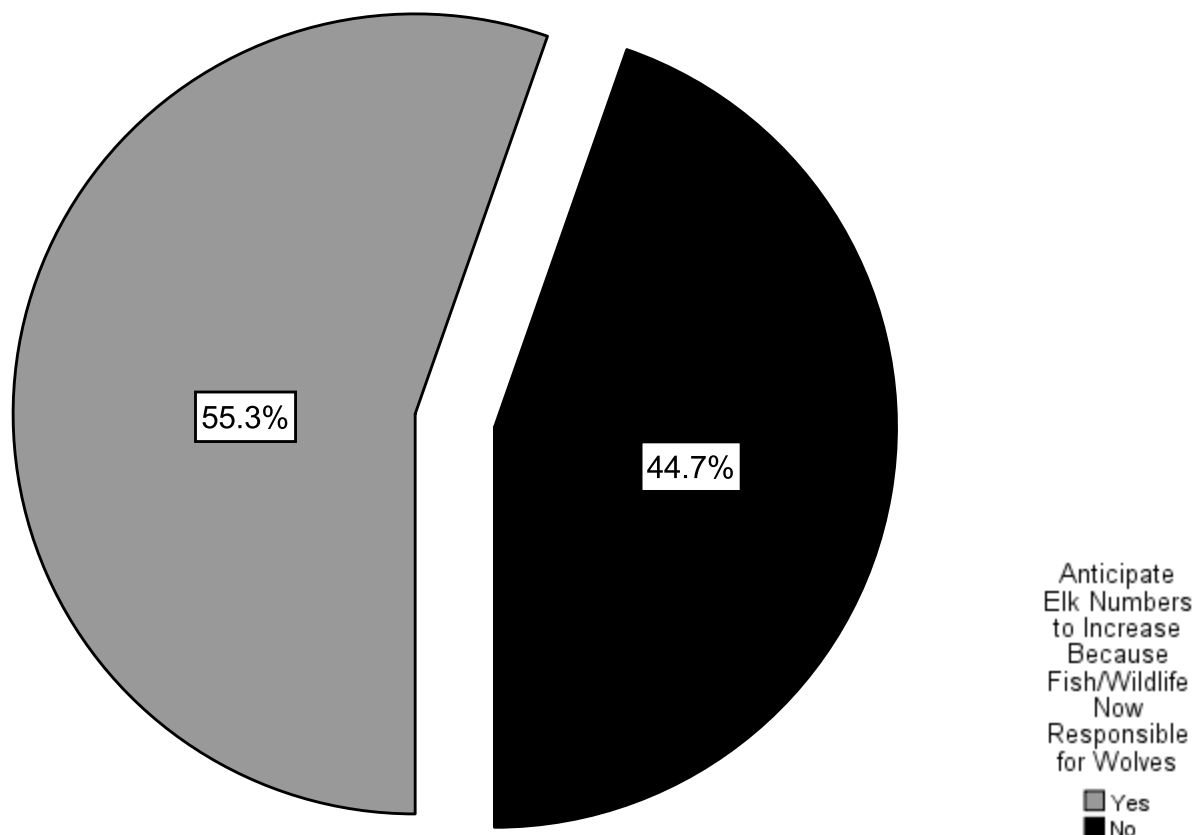
39. How do Wolves affect your Idaho Elk hunting experience? *(Please circle one response for each item)*



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



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



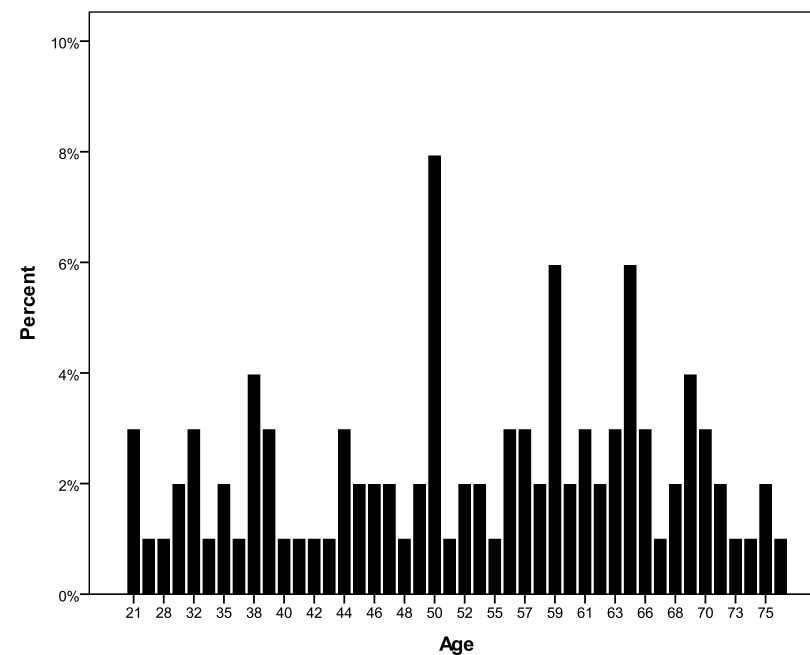
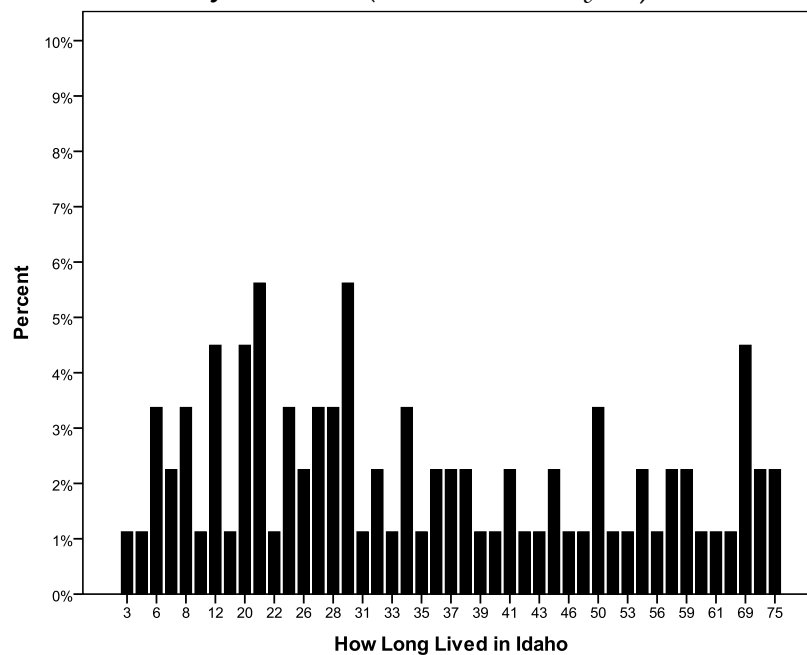
**Q40:** Like other hunters in the state, more than half anticipate Elk numbers to increase with the IDFG management of Wolves.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, some questions about you!

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

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



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