

ELK HUNTING IN IDAHO:

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF HUNTERS: WEISER ZONE



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For:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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INSERT ELK SURVEY OBJECTIVES

METHODS

SAMPLING

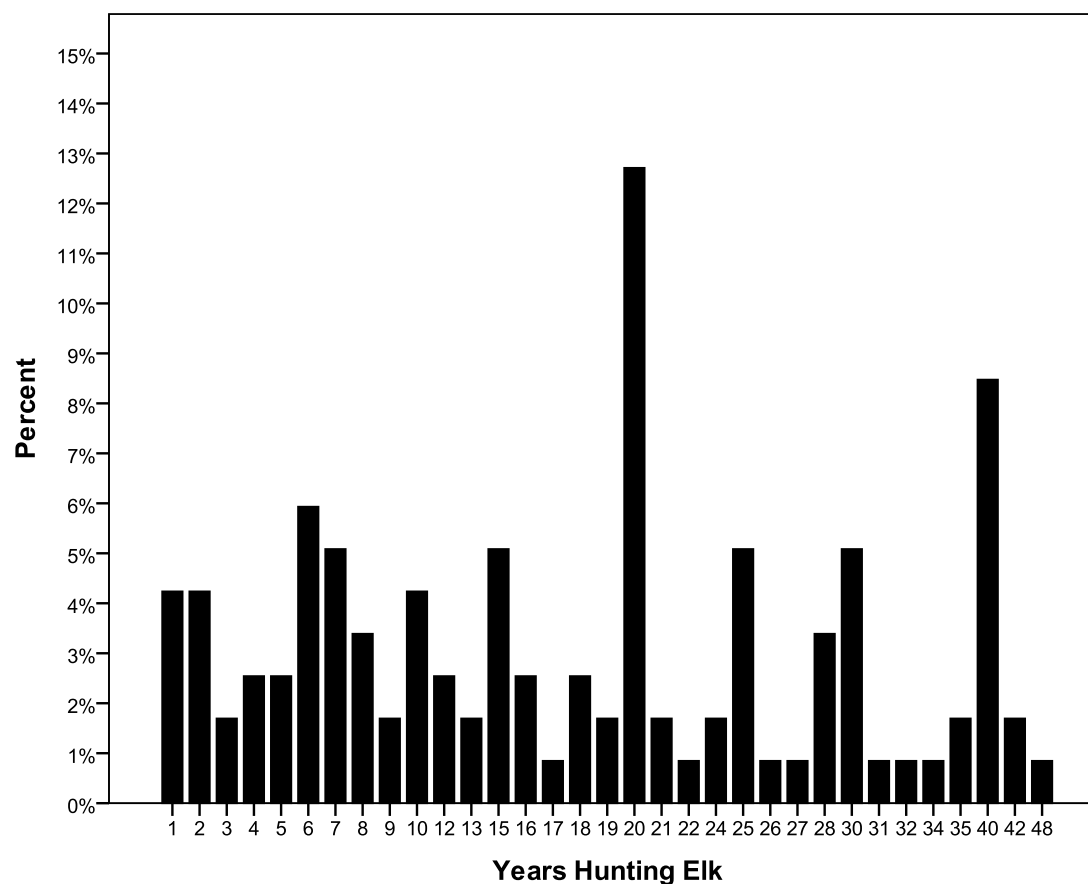
RESPONSE RATE.

ELK HUNTER PROFILES

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

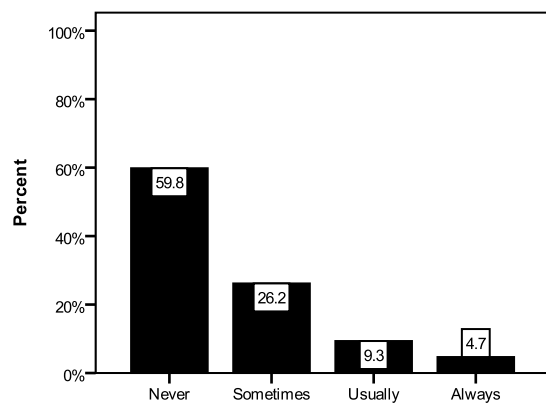
Now, some questions about your Idaho Elk hunting experiences and preferences.

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

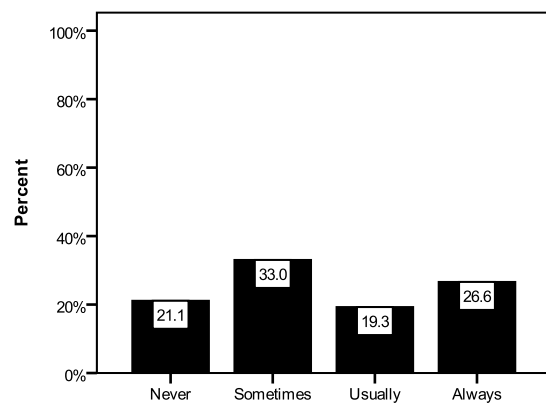


Q3: The range of years hunting Elk in the Weiser zone is about half as large as the state average.

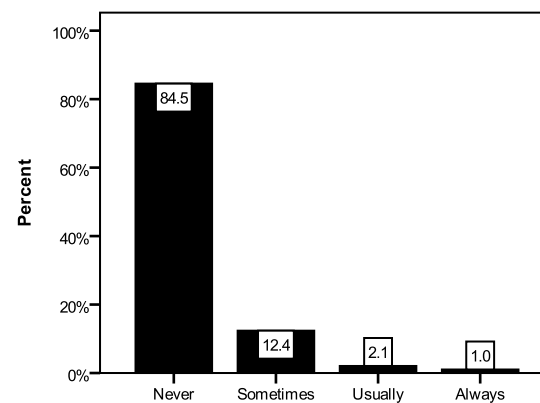
7. Excluding your travel to and from your home, how often do you use the following mode of transportation when you hunt Elk in Idaho?



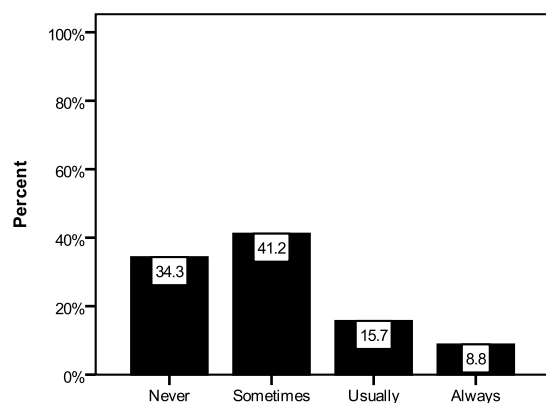
Horse/pack animals



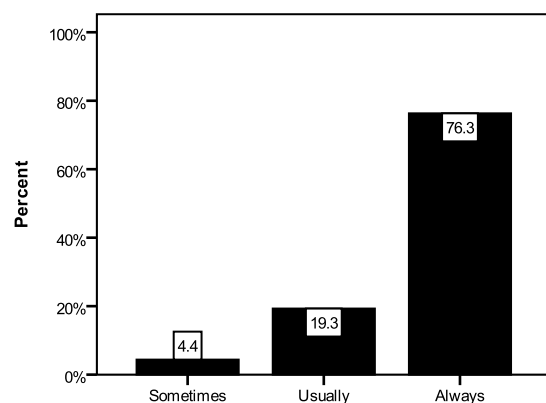
Car/truck



Mountain Bike



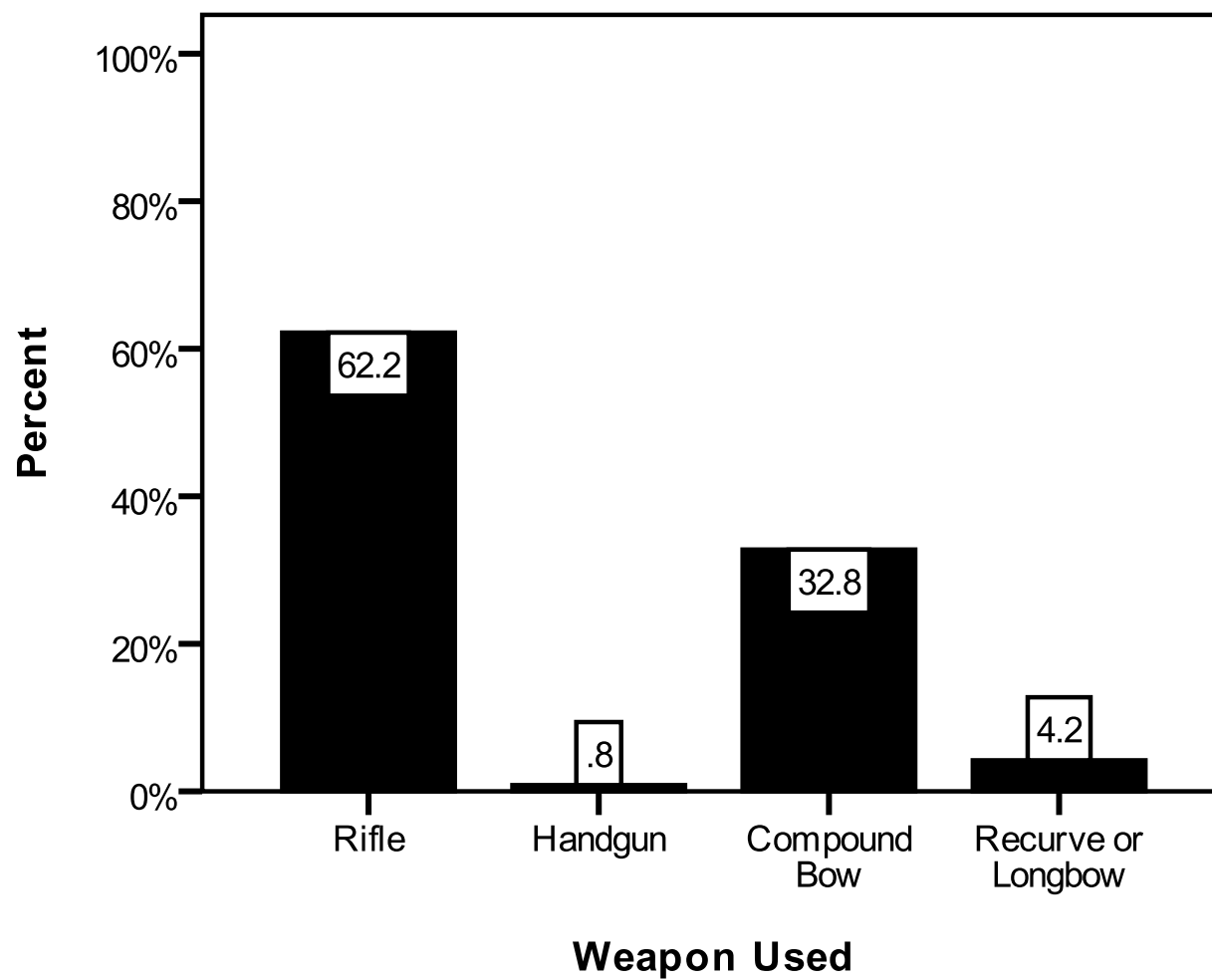
OHV



On Foot

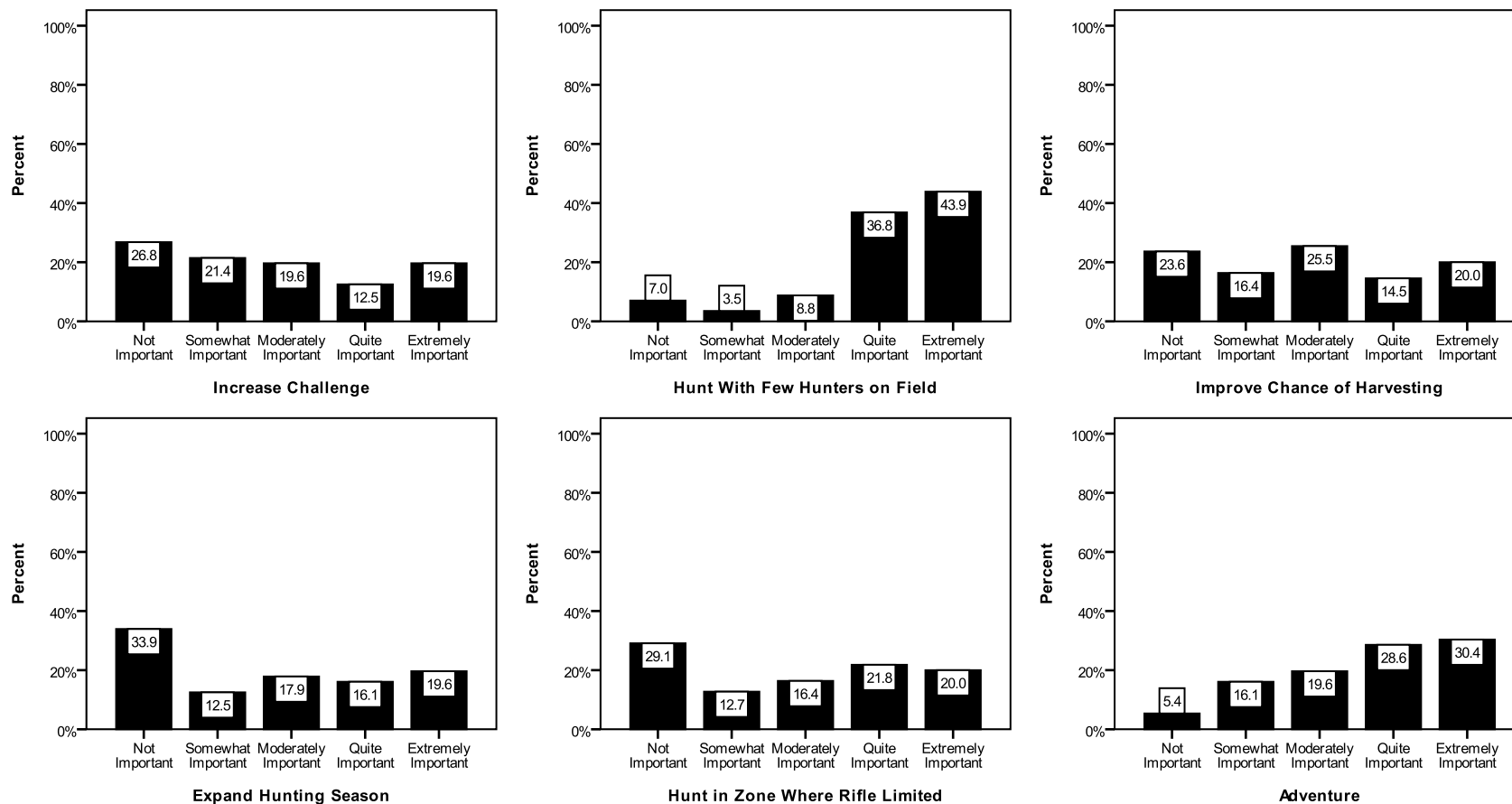
Q7: The distribution of responses regarding mode of transportation are similar between the Weiser zone and the state average.

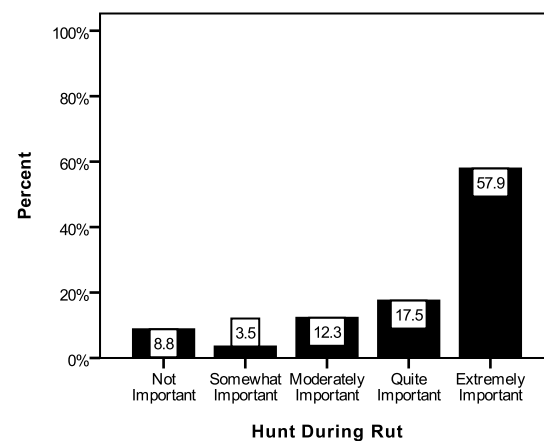
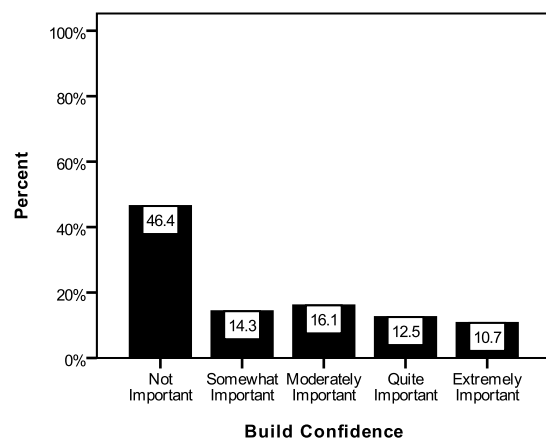
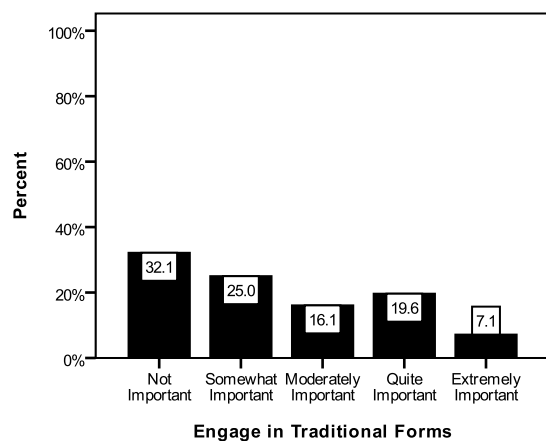
8. What type of weapon do you typically use to hunt Elk in Idaho? (Please check only one response)



Q8: Similar to the state average, hunters in the Weiser zone typically use a rifle or compound bow when hunting Elk in Idaho.

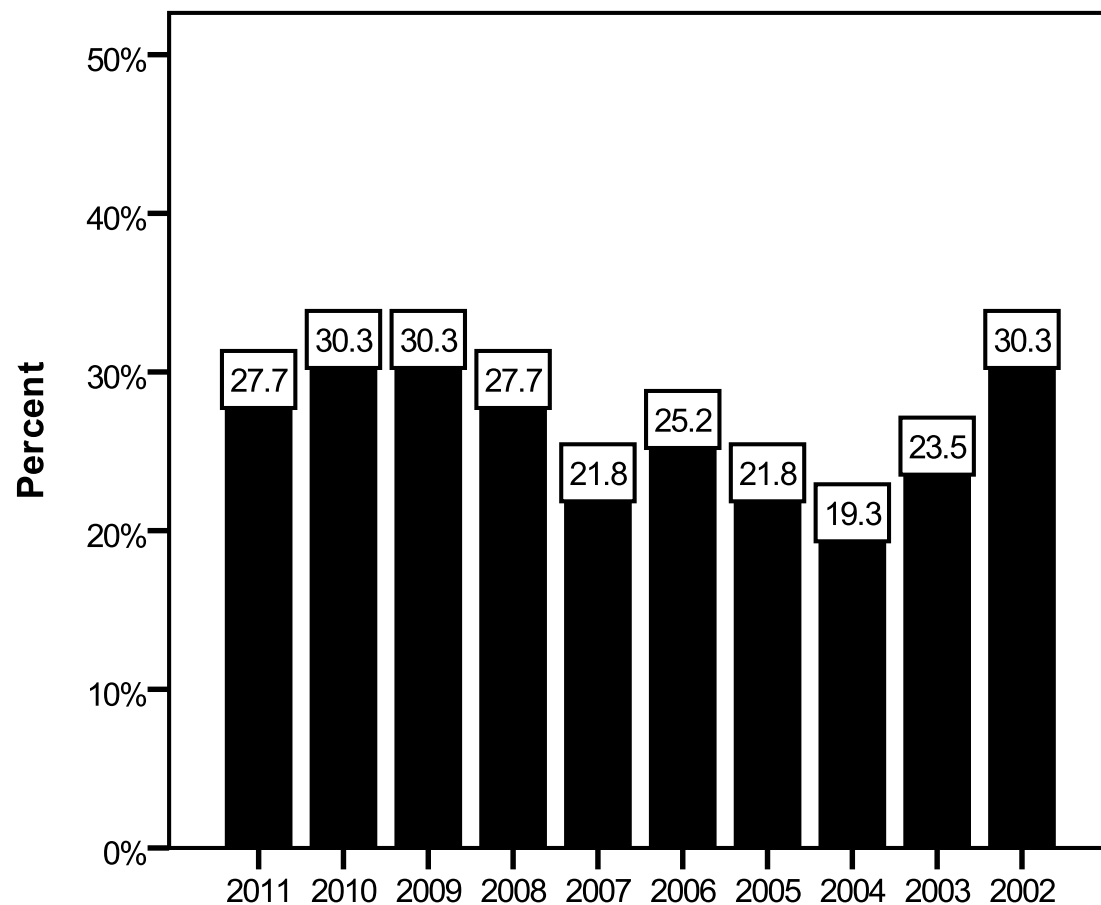
10. How important was each of the following in your decision to hunt during Elk archery, short-range weapons or muzzleloader seasons?





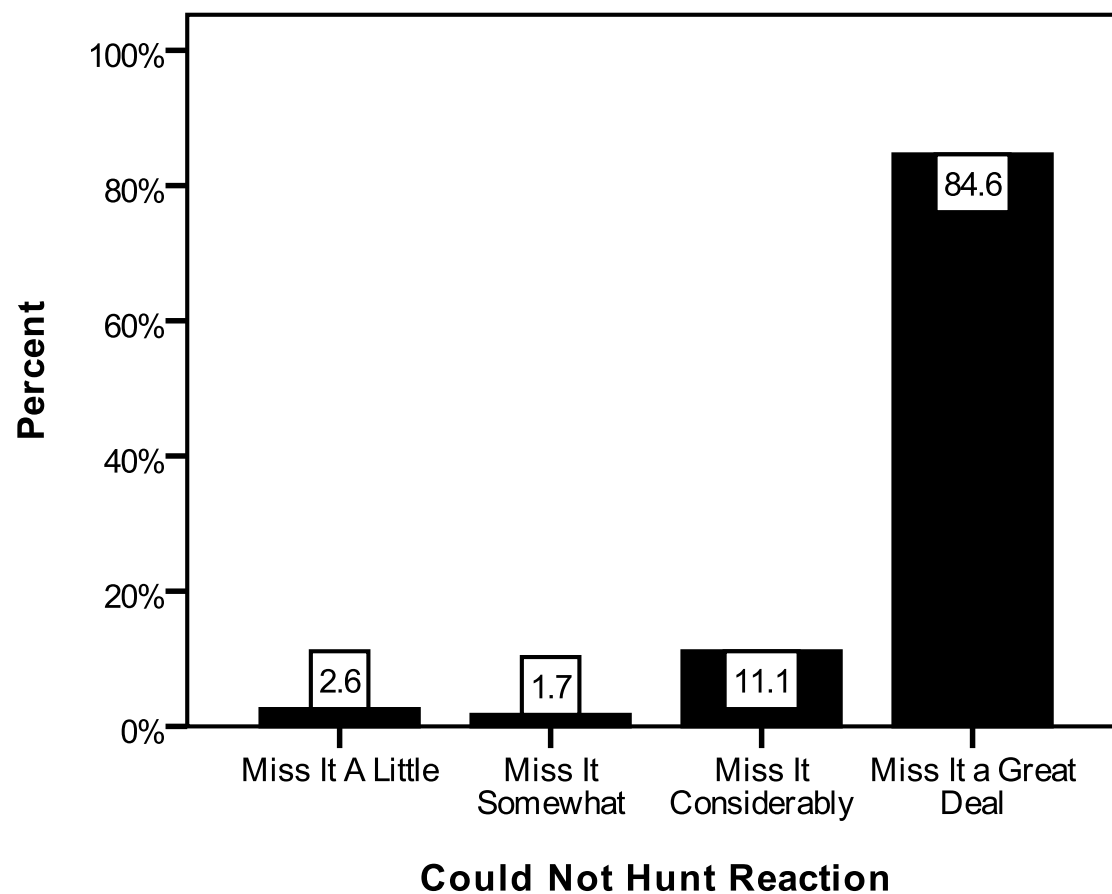
Q10: The distribution of responses is similar between the Weiser zone and the state average.

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



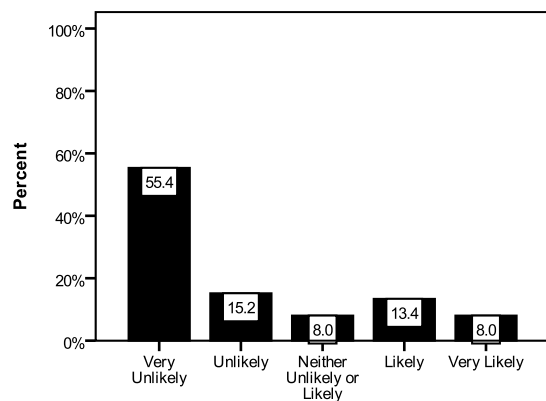
Q11: The respondents in the Weiser zone reported having a slightly higher harvest success rate than the state average in the past 4 years, between a 5.2 and 8.5% increase.

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

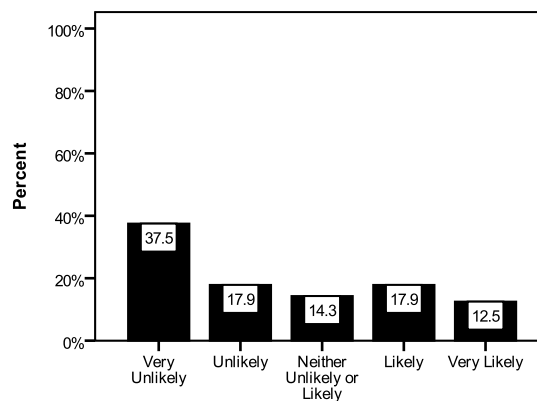


Q12: Similarly to other hunters in the state, if Weiser zone hunters could not hunt Elk in Idaho, they would miss it a great deal.

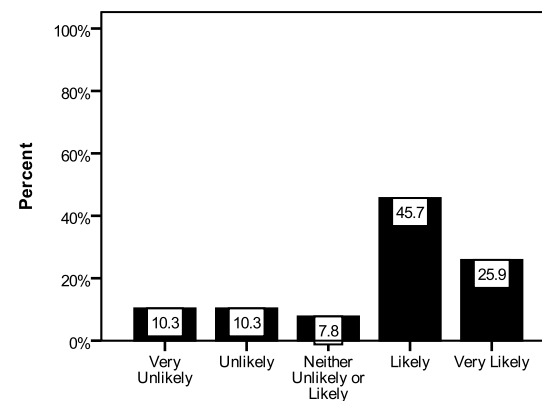
13. If you could not hunt Elk in Idaho, how would your hunting change?



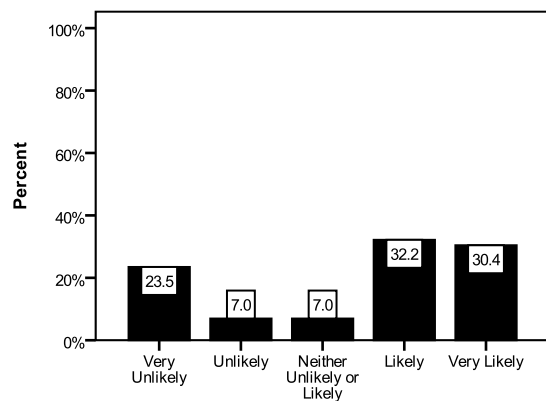
Hunt Waterfowl More



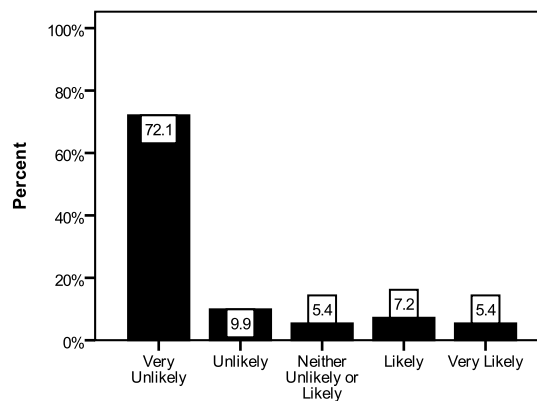
Hunt Upland Game More



More Time Hunting Other Game



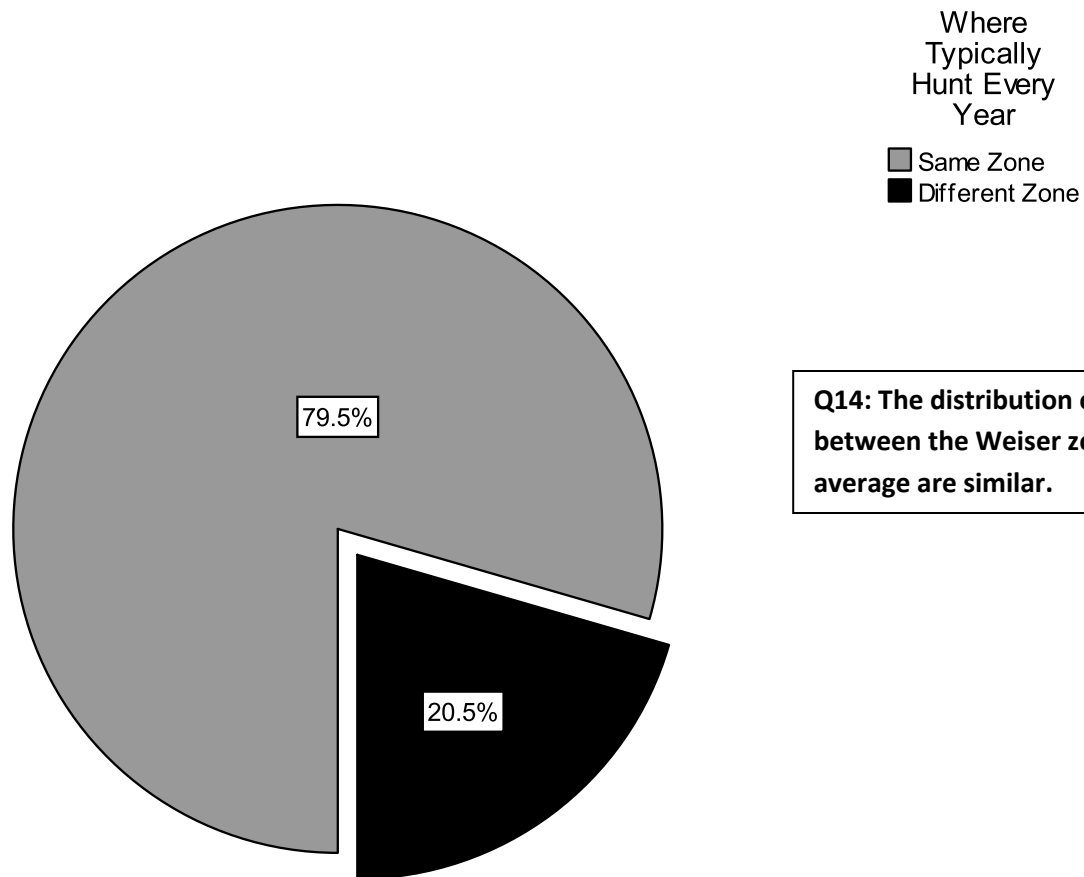
Hunt Elk in Other States



Not Hunt At All

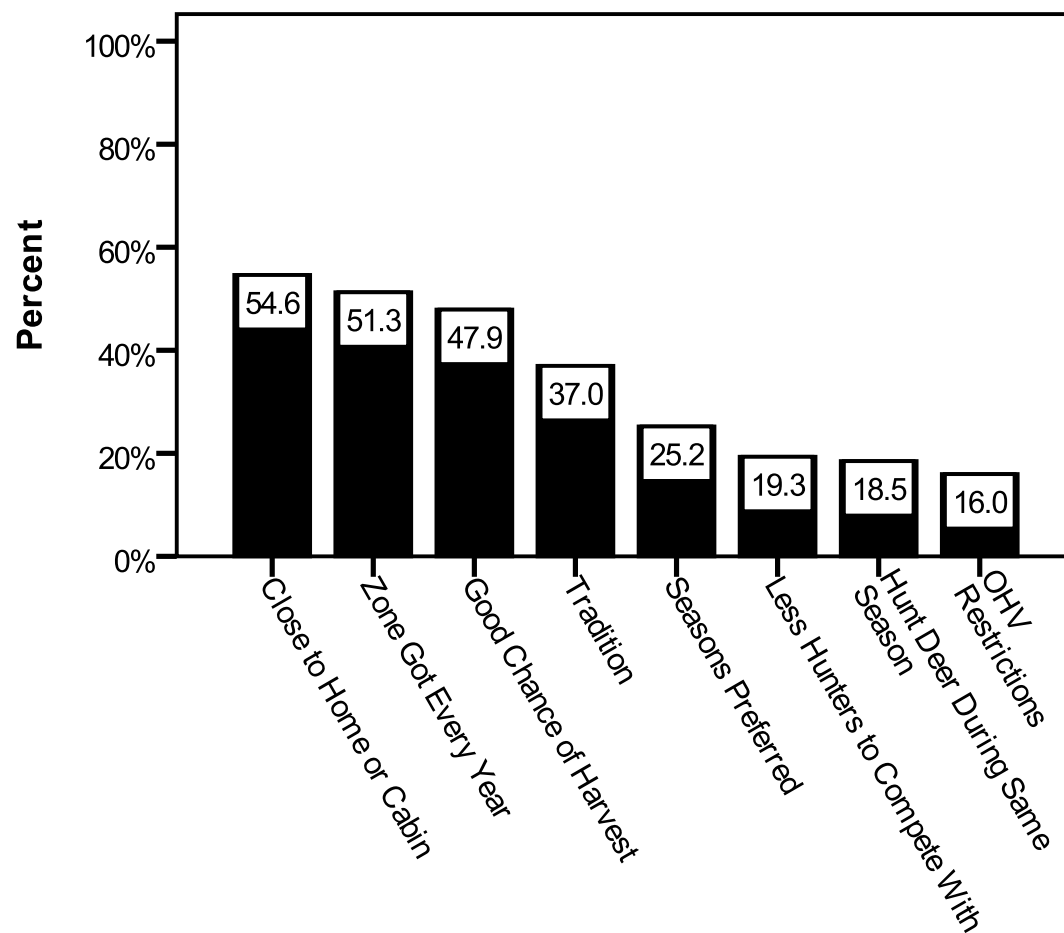
Q13: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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



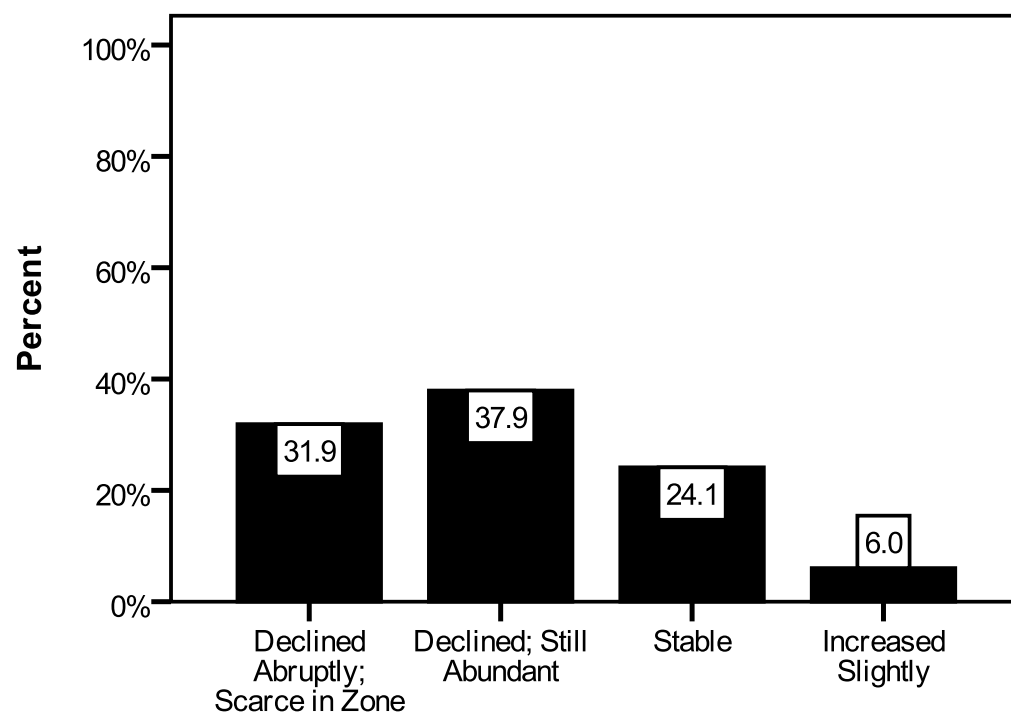
Q14: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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 Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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)

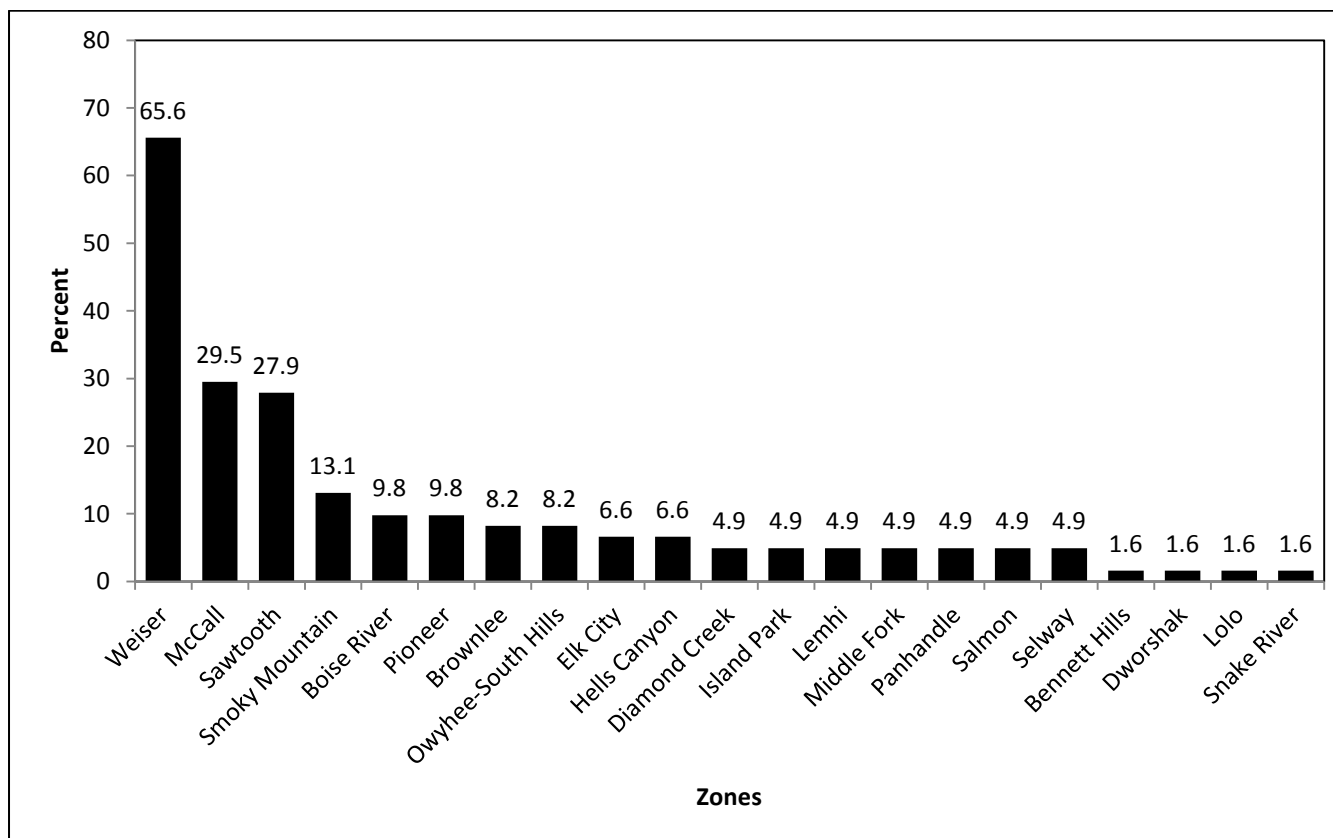


Perceptions of Elk Numbers

Q17: Weiser zone respondents perceive Elk numbers to have declined abruptly almost 20% less than the state average. The perceive numbers to have declined but still abundant or to be stable slightly more than on average.

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

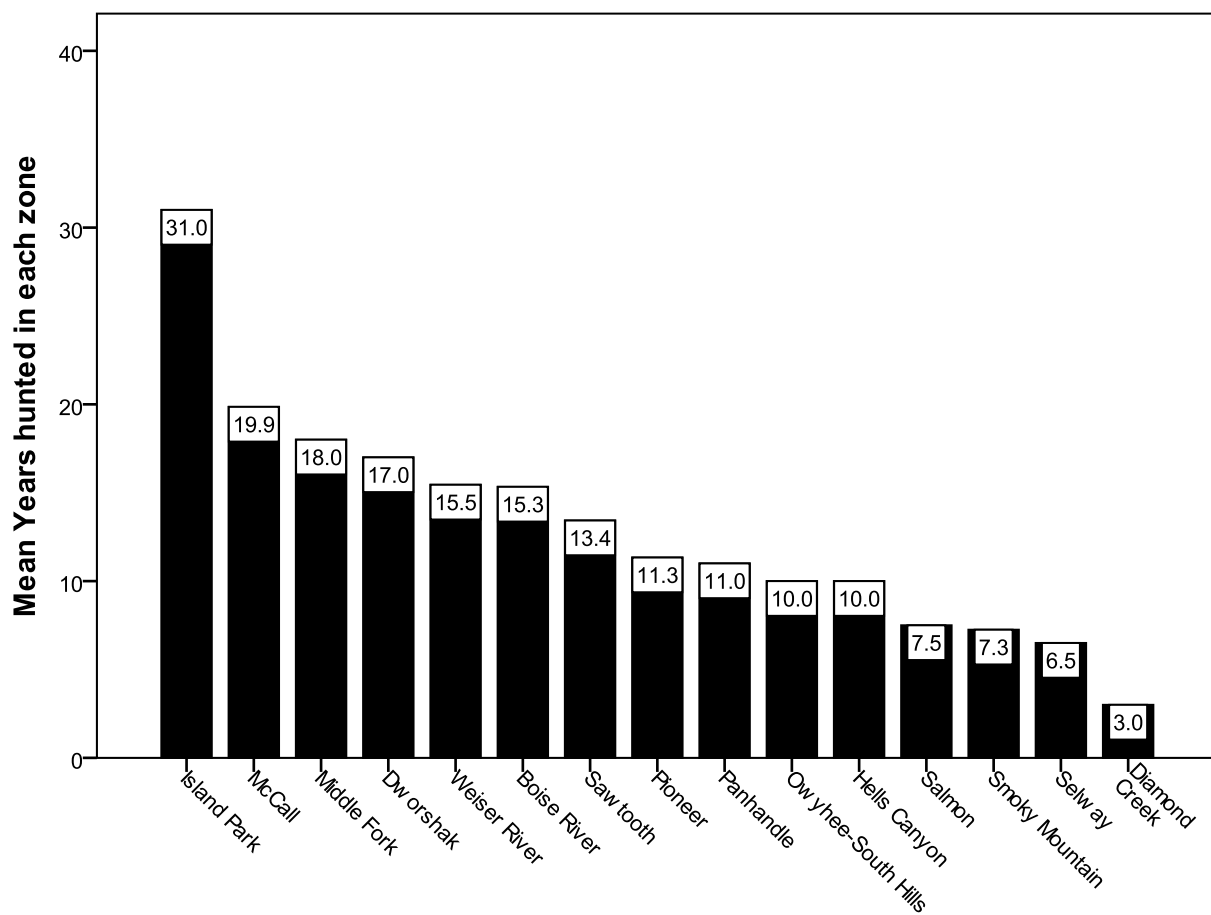
(Please write in the Zone names, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q18: The McCall and Sawtooth zones are frequented by the most Weiser zone respondents outside of the Weiser zone itself, with over a quarter of respondents hunting in those zones as well.

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

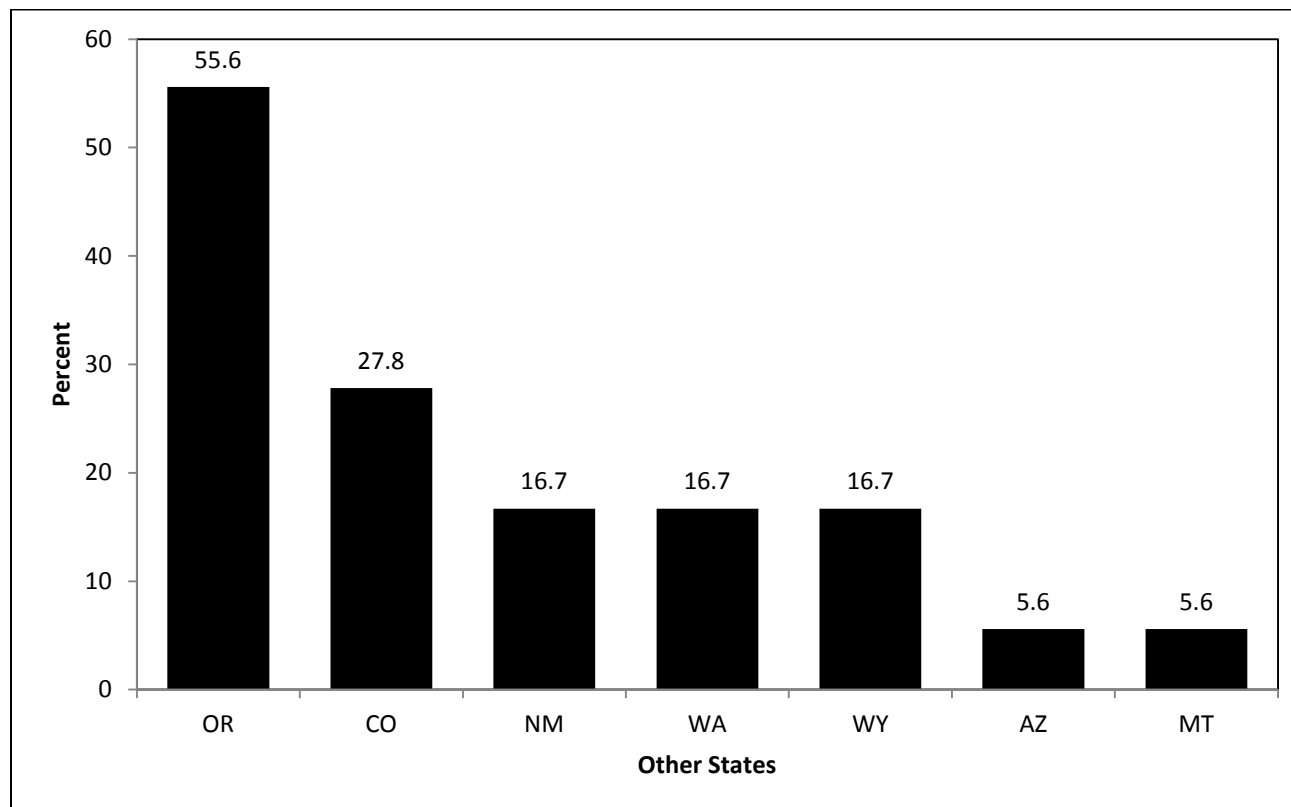
(Please write in the name of the zone and number of years, refer to map on page 5 for Zone names)



Q20: Along with being popular among respondents, the McCall zone is second to Island Park in mean years hunted with 19.9 years.

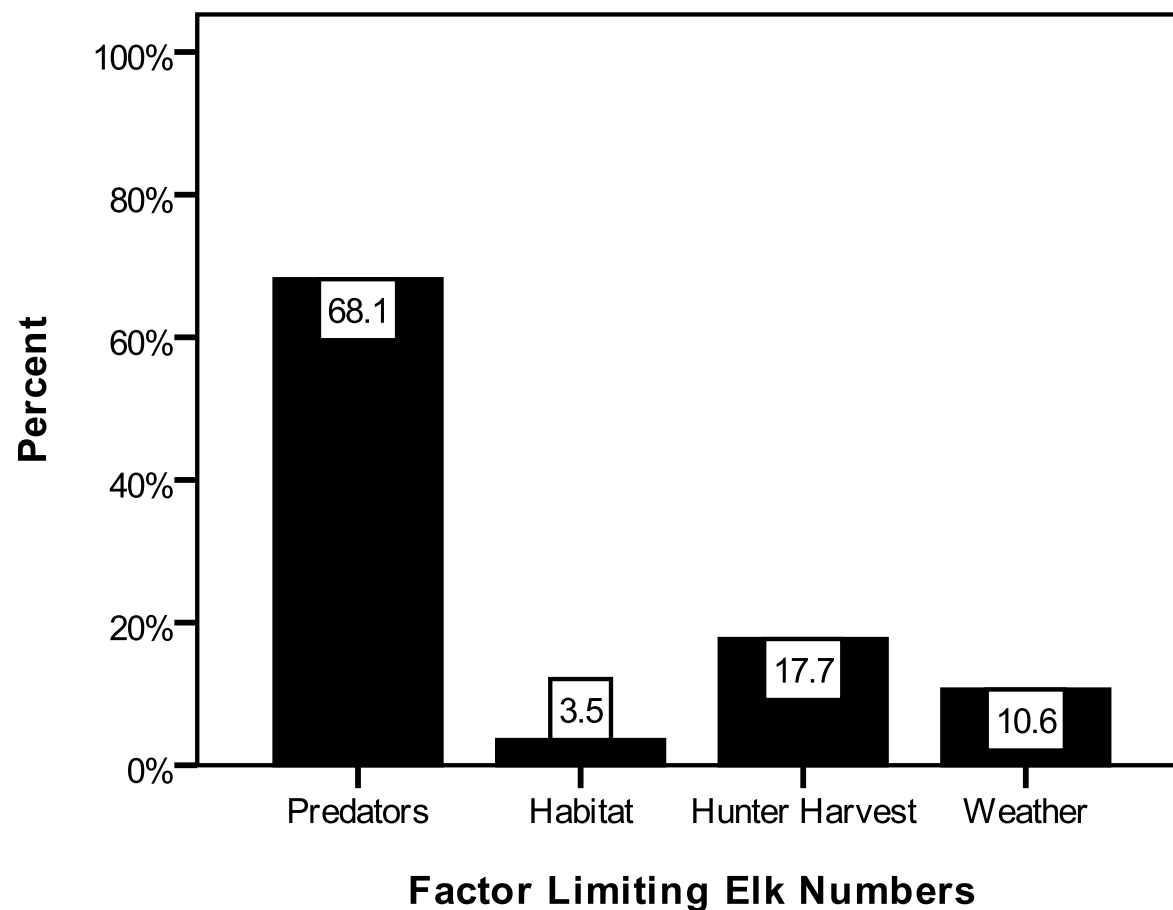
Other Zones in Past 10 Years

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



Q21: Over half of Weiser respondents that said they hunted in other states reported hunting in Oregon.

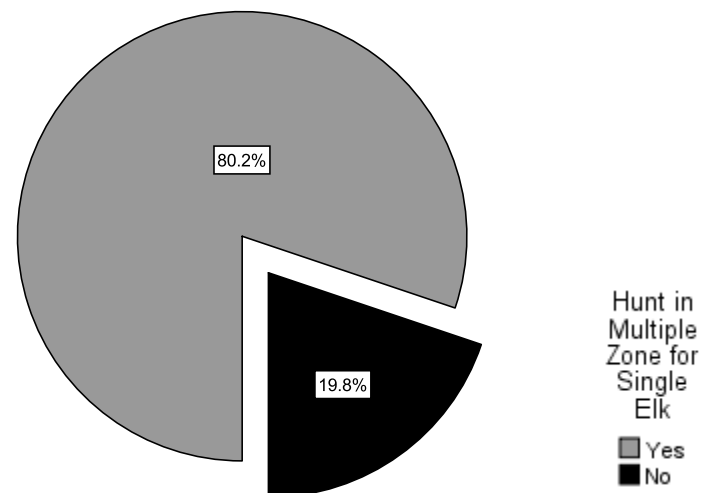
22. What do you believe is the primary factor limiting Elk numbers in the zone you hunted in 2011? (Check only ONE response)



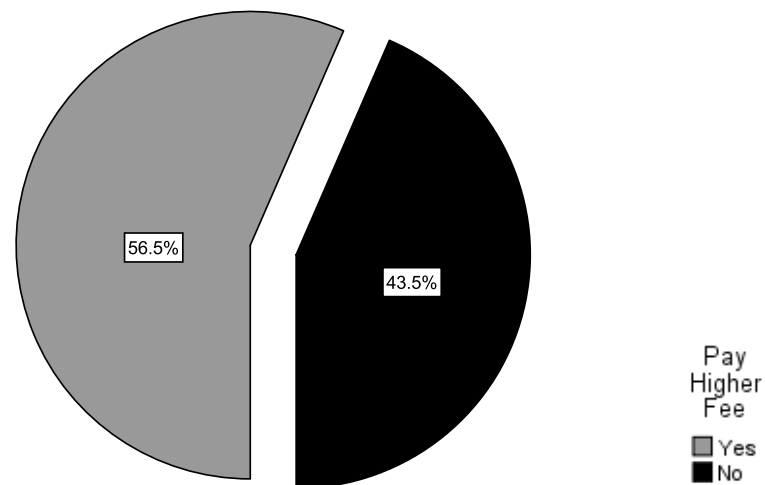
Q22: Predators are believe to be the primary factor limiting Elk numbers by the most respondents in both the Weiser zone and the state average.

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

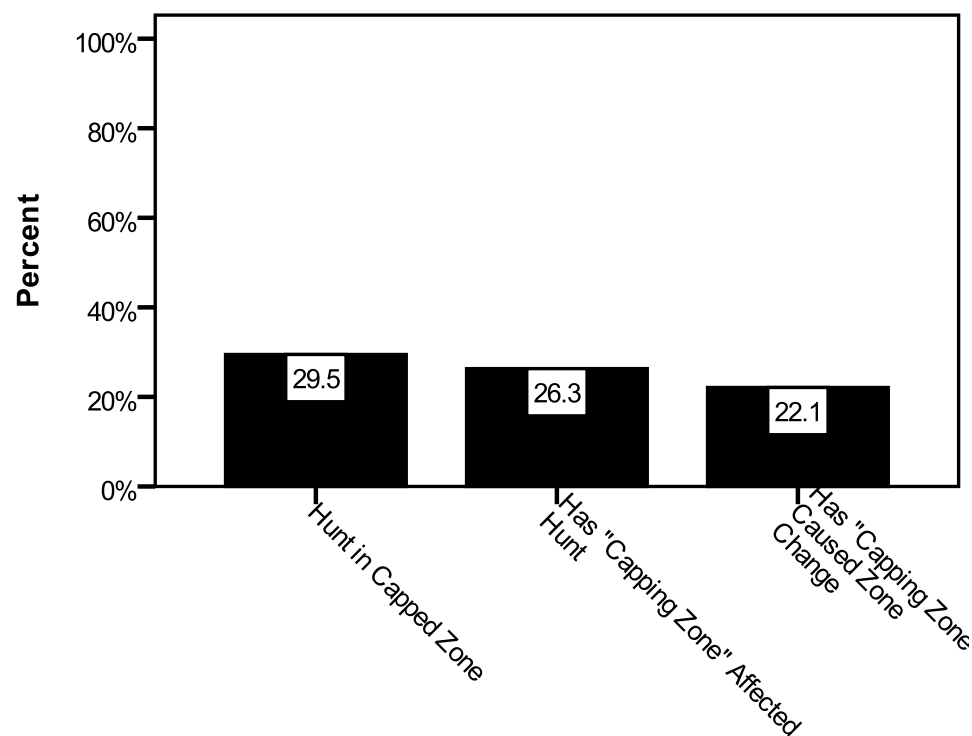
The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar for both Q23 and Q24.



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)*

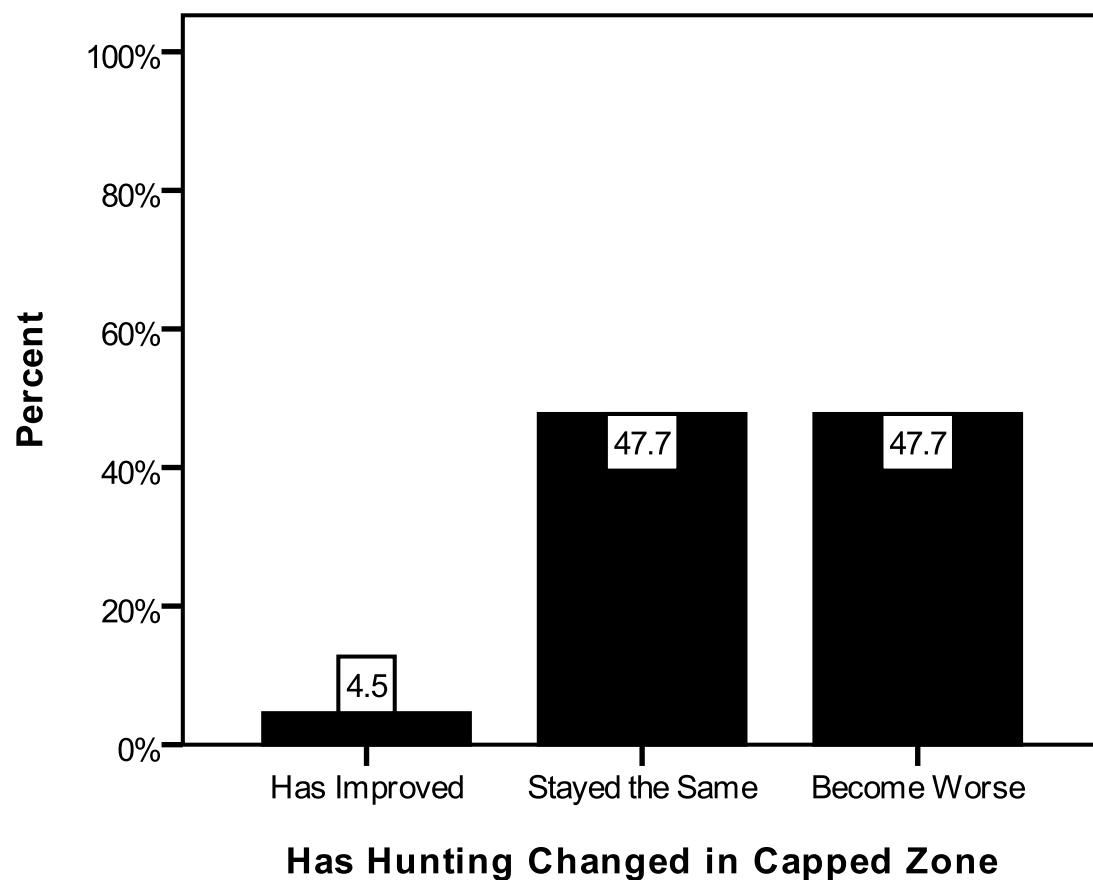


25. When the zone system was implemented the mechanism for reducing unlimited over-the-counter opportunity called “capping the zone” was developed by the department with the help of legislators, sportsmen and outfitters. This “capping the zone” is an allocation formula to distribute Elk tags to hunters (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: 15.1% fewer Weiser respondents than the state average reported to have hunted in a capped zone. Slightly more hunters in the Weiser zone said it had 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)

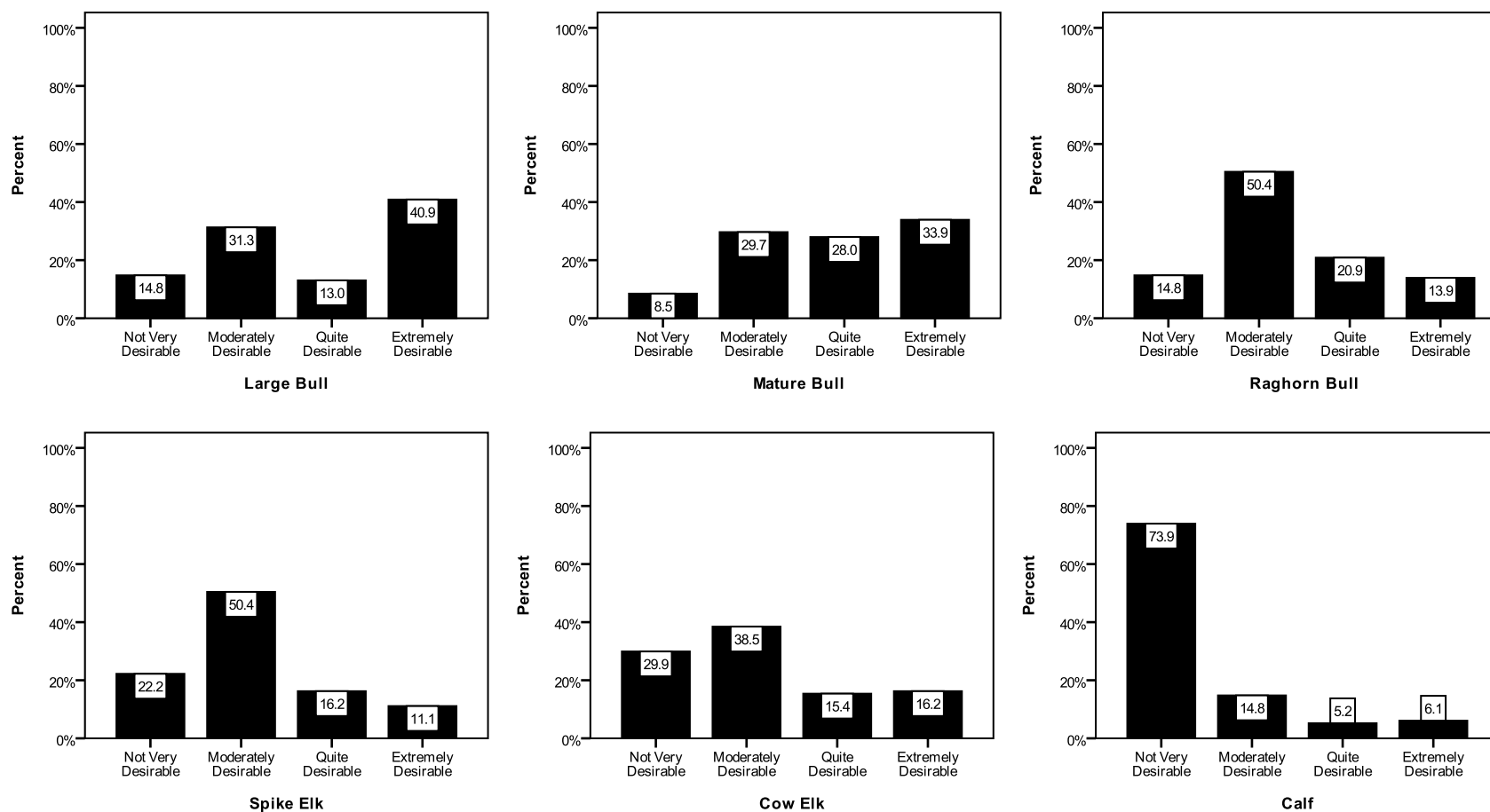


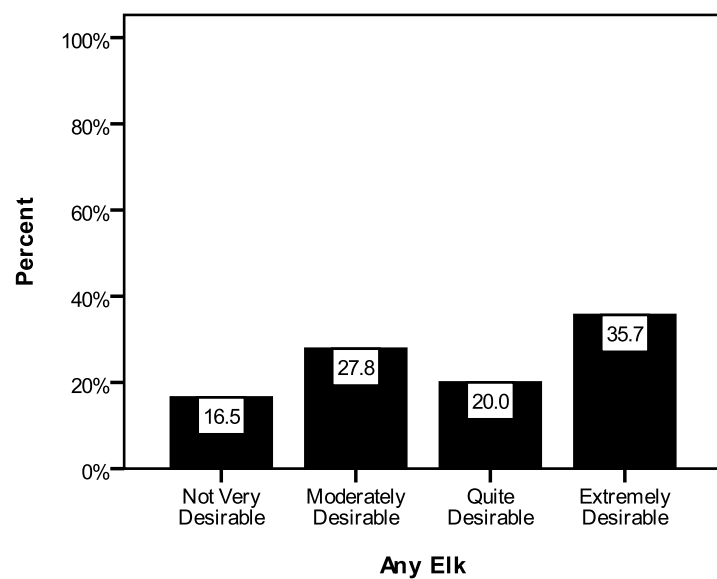
Q26: Unlike the state average, 10.6% more respondents in the Weiser zone felt that Elk hunting had stayed the same since the zone was capped.

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.

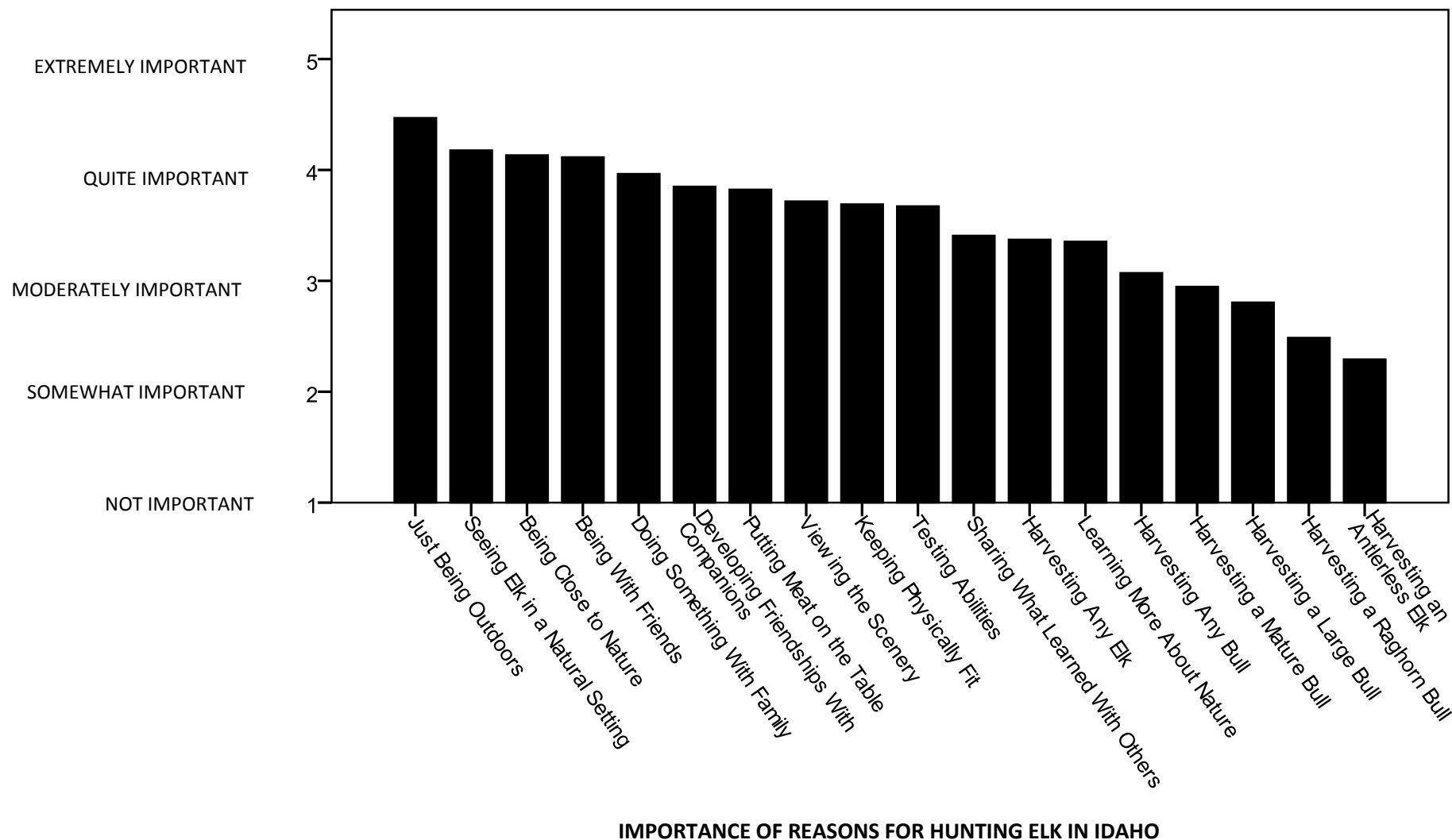
27. How desirable is it to you to harvest the following kinds of Elk?

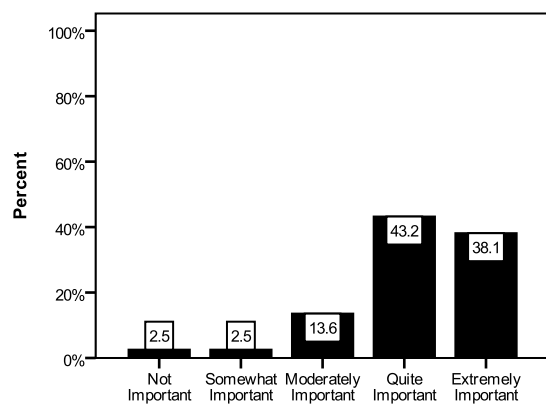




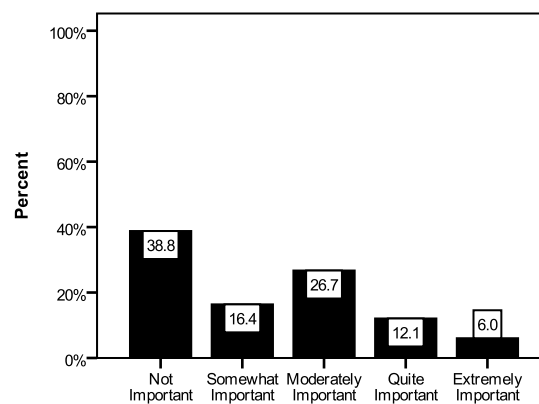
Q27: Although mature and larger Elk are most desirable among Weiser hunters and other hunters across the state, those in Weiser find spike Elk slightly more desirable than the average.

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?

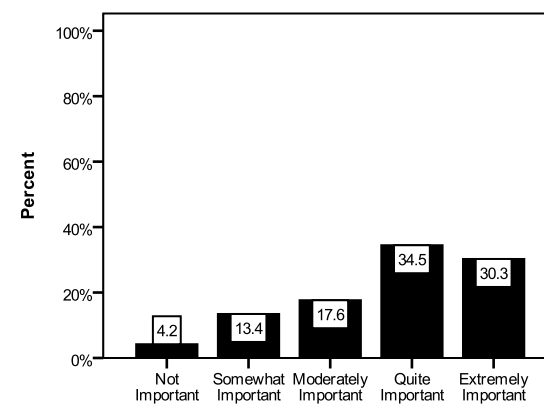




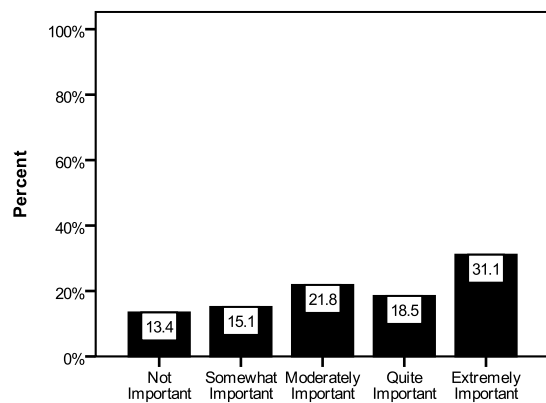
Being Close to Nature



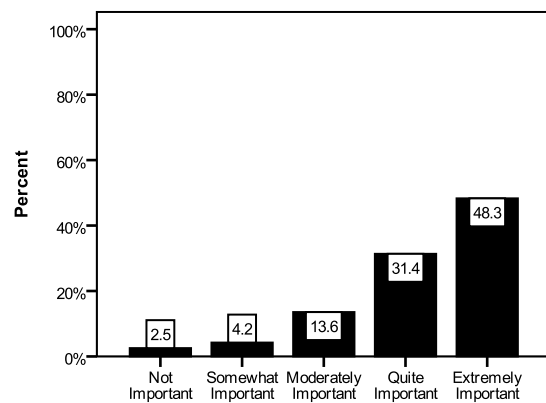
Harvesting an Antlerless Elk



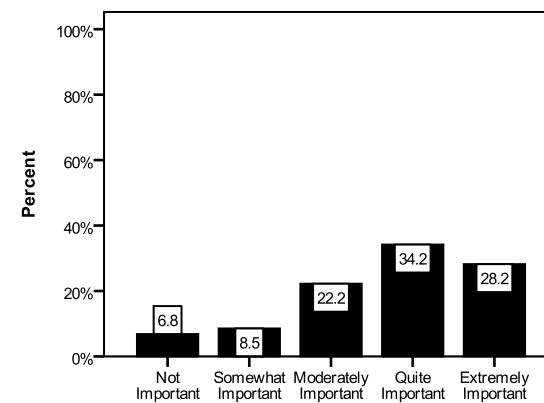
Viewing the Scenery



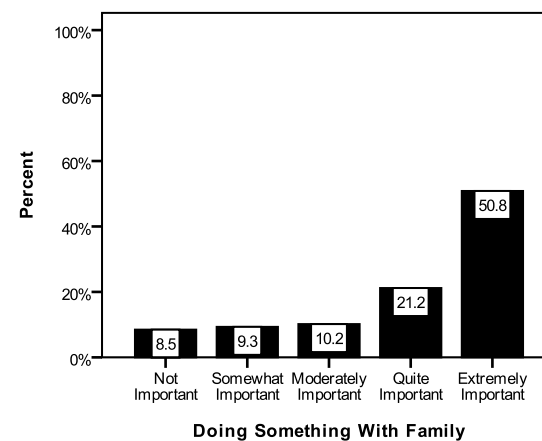
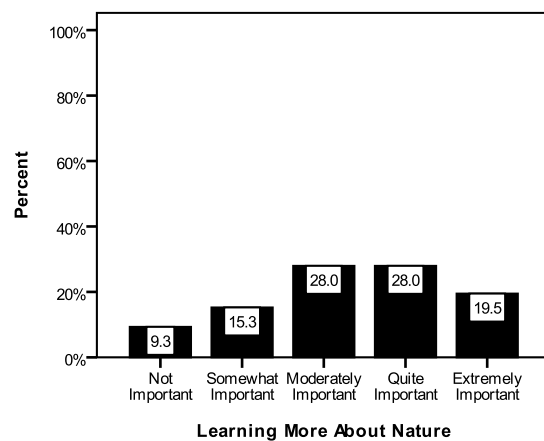
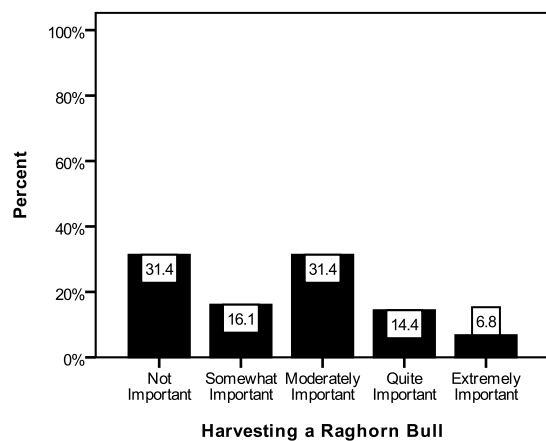
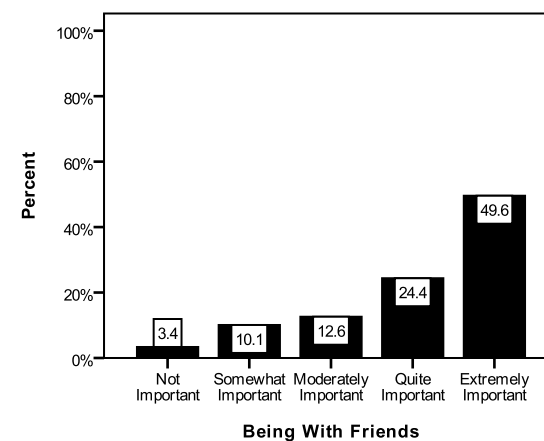
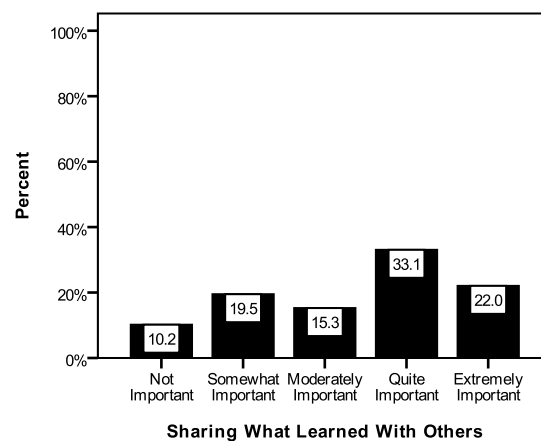
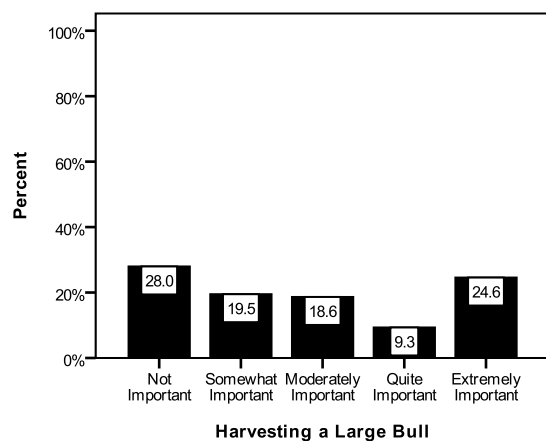
Harvesting Any Elk

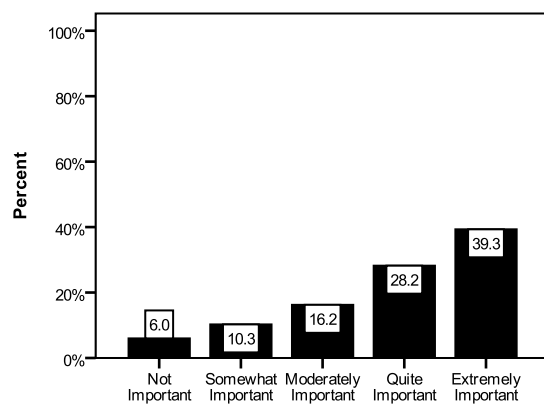


Seeing Elk in a Natural Setting

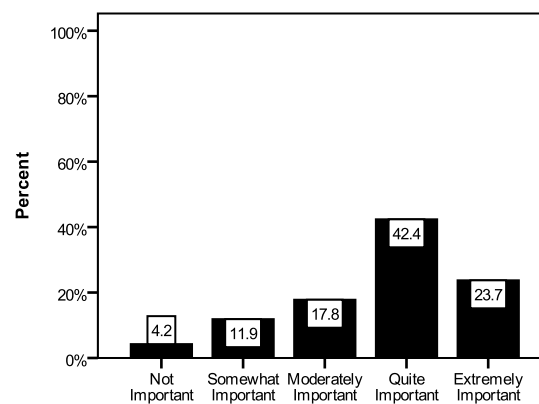


Testing Abilities

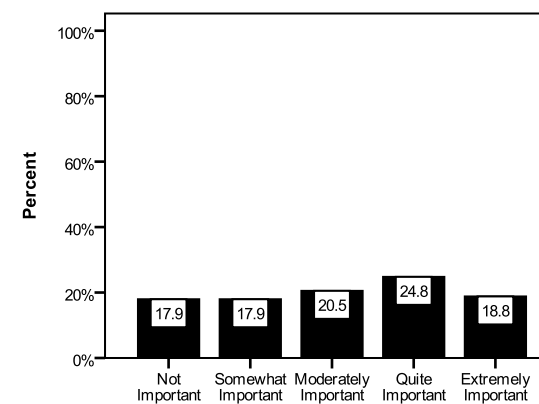




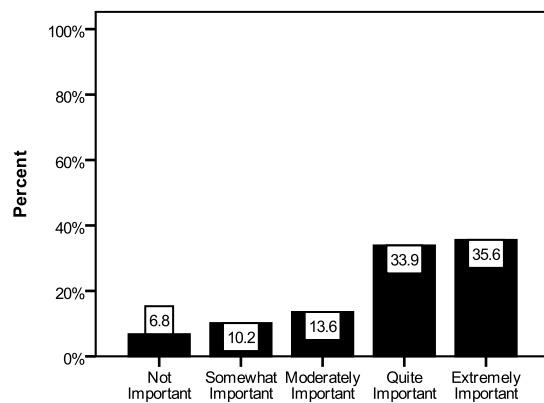
Putting Meat on the Table



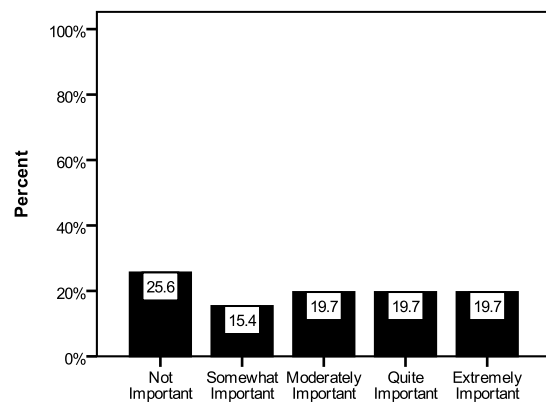
Keeping Physically Fit



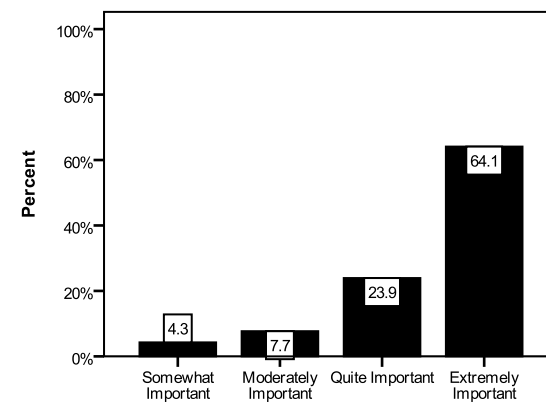
Harvesting Any Bull



Developing Friendships With Companions



Harvesting a Mature Bull

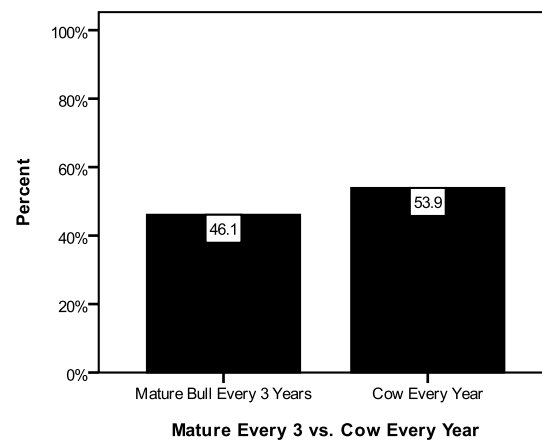
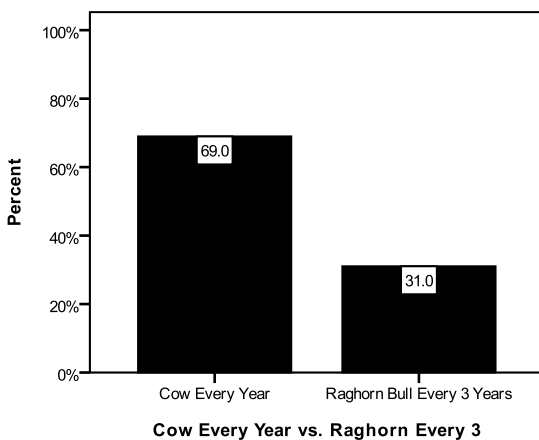
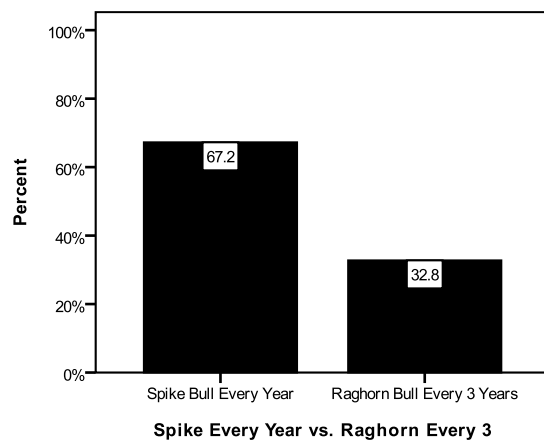
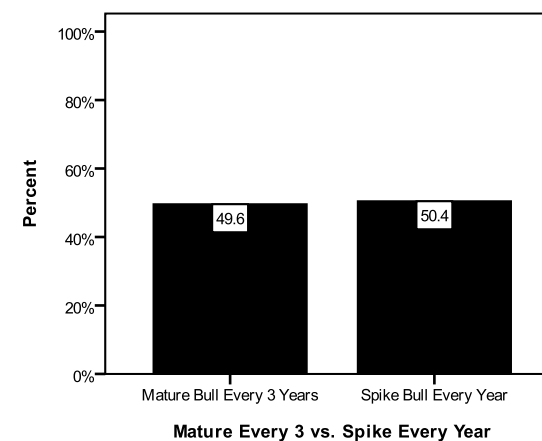
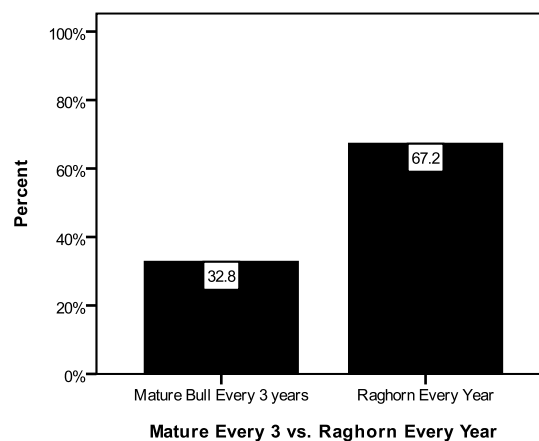
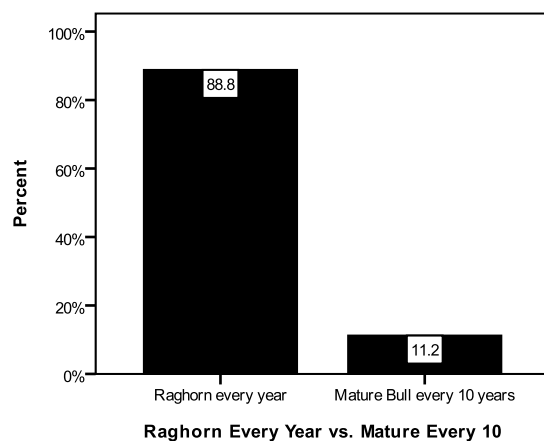


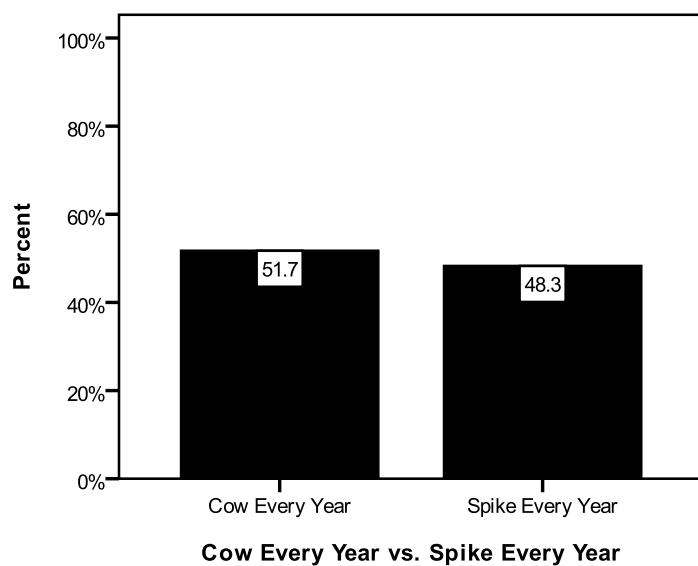
Just Being Outdoors

Q28: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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.

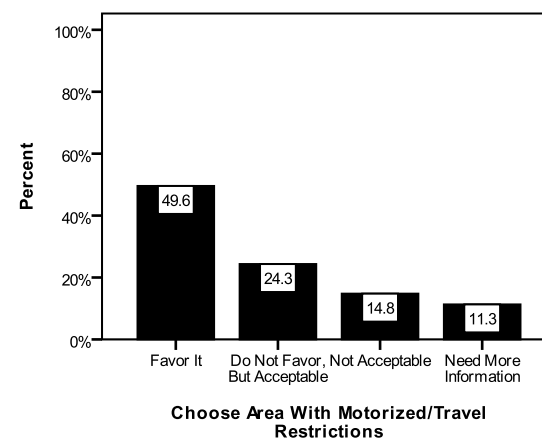
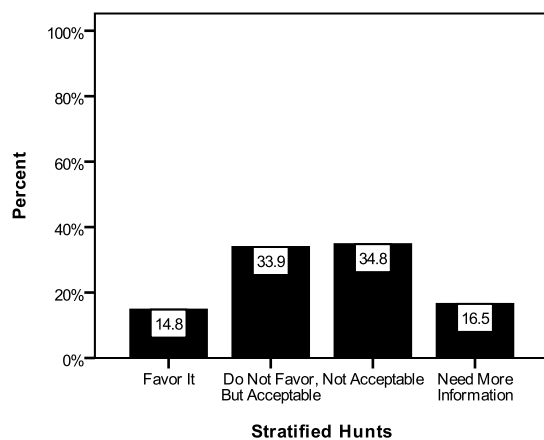
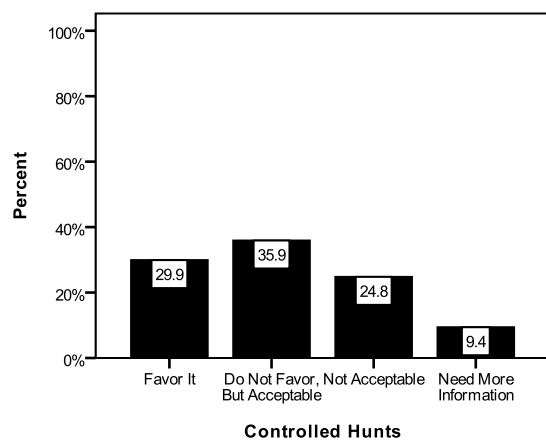
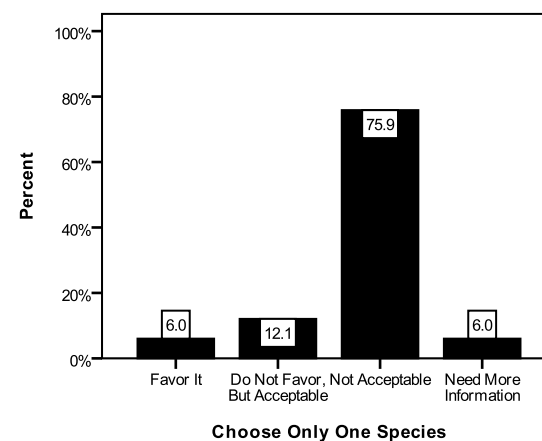
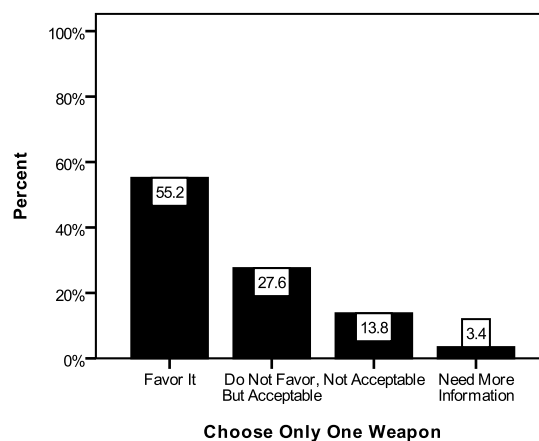
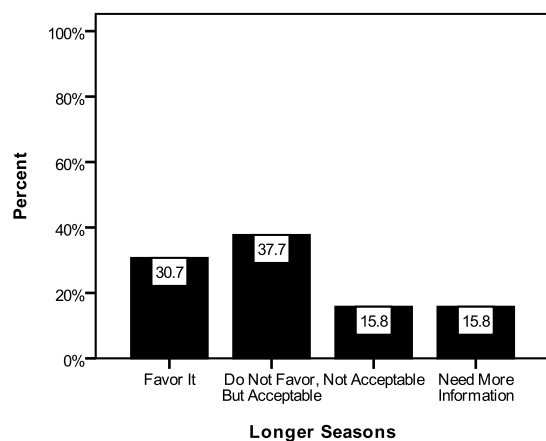


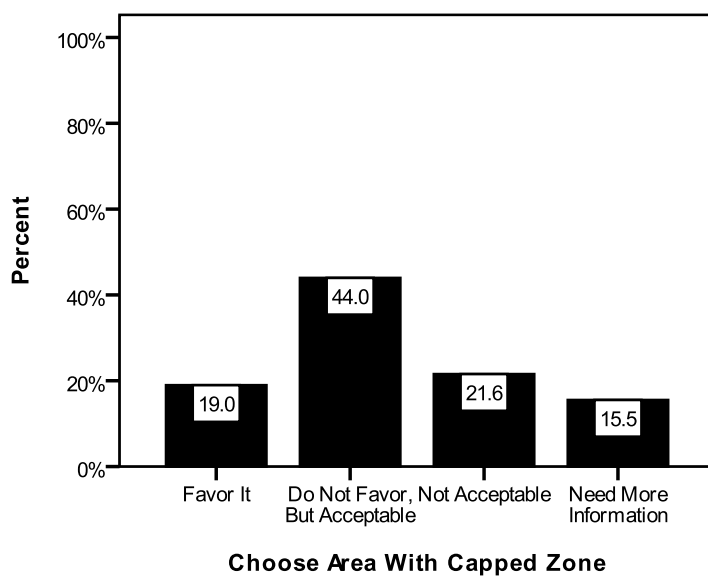


Q32: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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

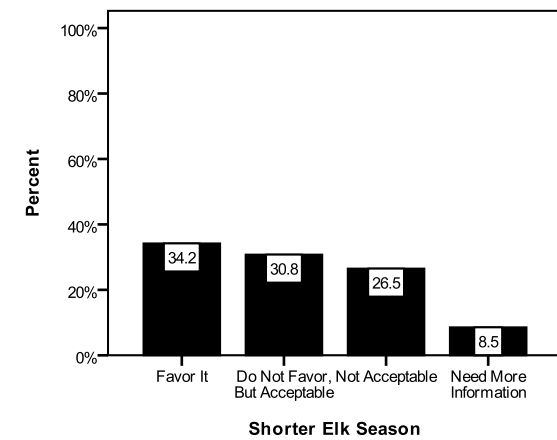
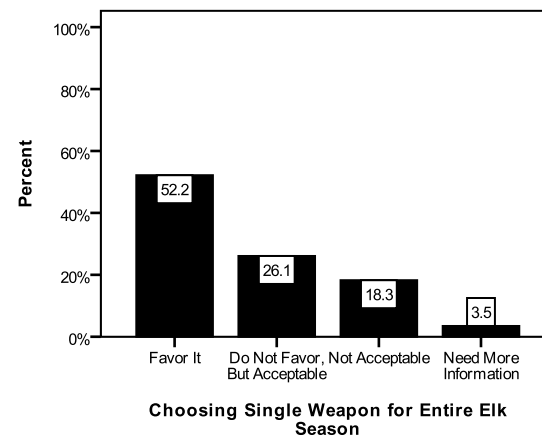
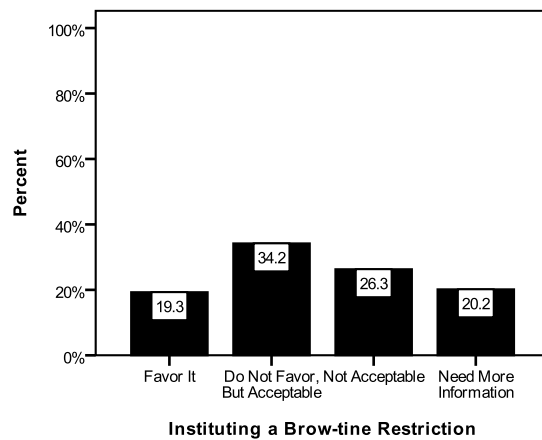
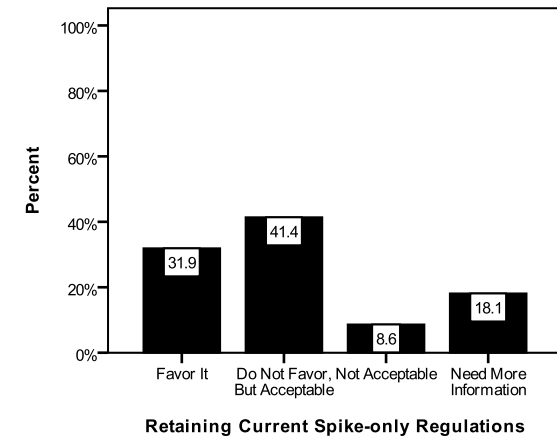
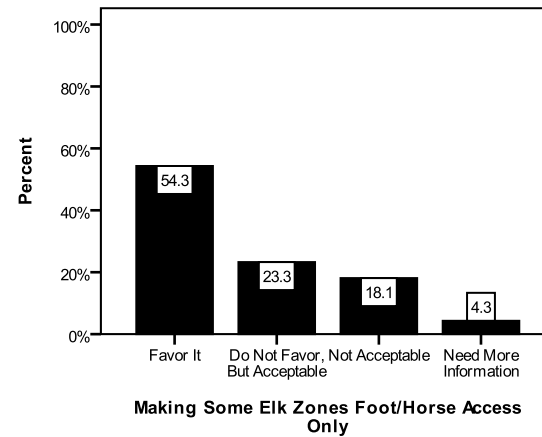
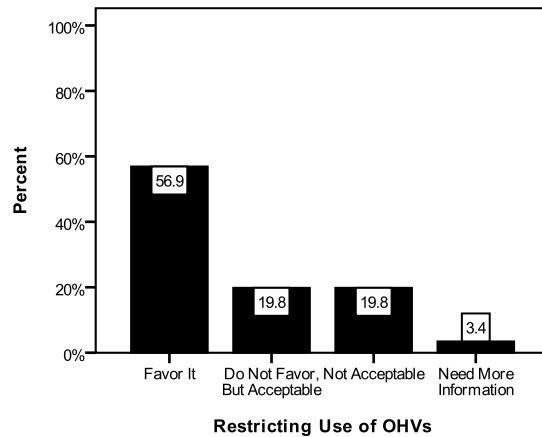
34. How do you feel about each of the following potential ways of improving Elk hunting, if needed?

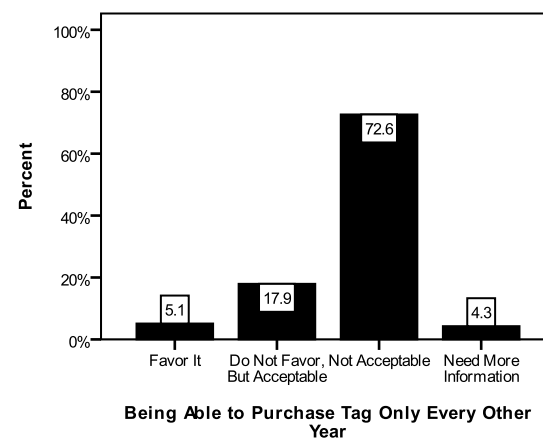
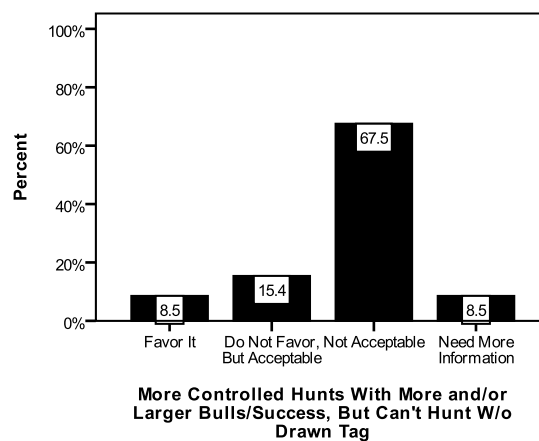
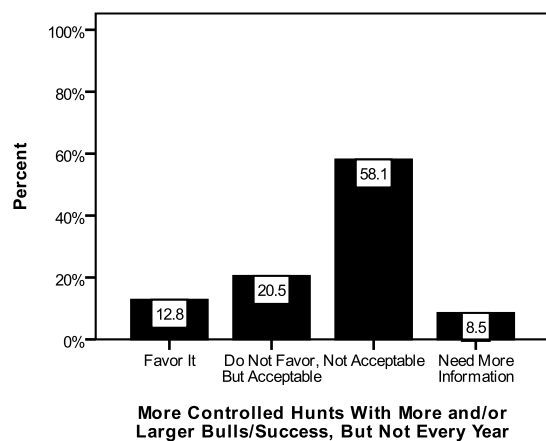




Q34: Although the distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar, it can be noted that Weiser hunters find potentially longer seasons less acceptable than the average and stratified hunts slightly more acceptable.

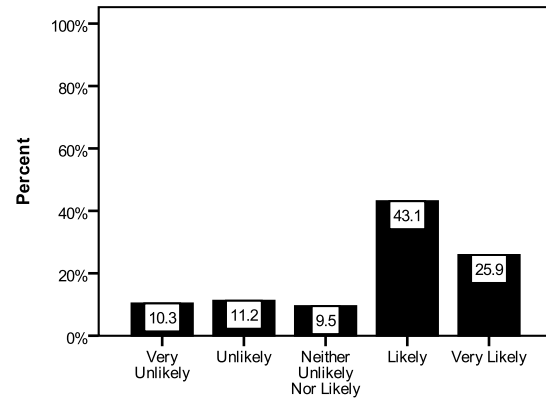
35. We would like to know how you feel about the following potential restrictions to increase the quality and size of Elk in Idaho and improve Elk hunting opportunities. Please indicate your opinion on the following potential restrictions.



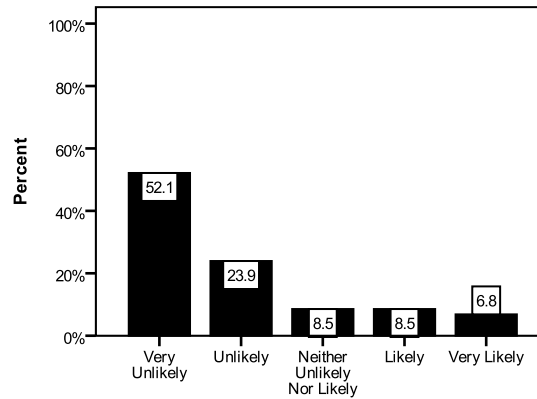


Q35: For most potential restrictions, the distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar. However, Weiser respondents found shorter Elk seasons more favorable than the average.

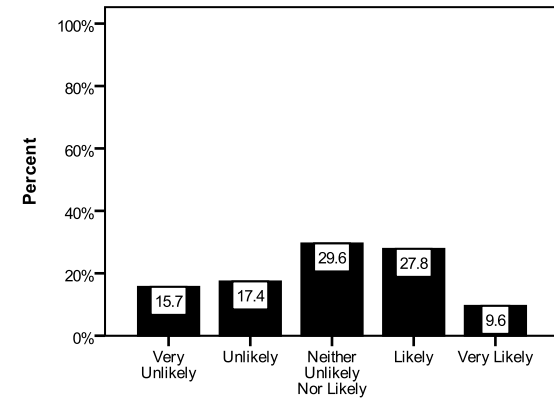
36. IF Idaho Fish and Game introduces restrictions that reduce Elk hunting opportunities to improve Elk populations, how would your hunting behavior change?



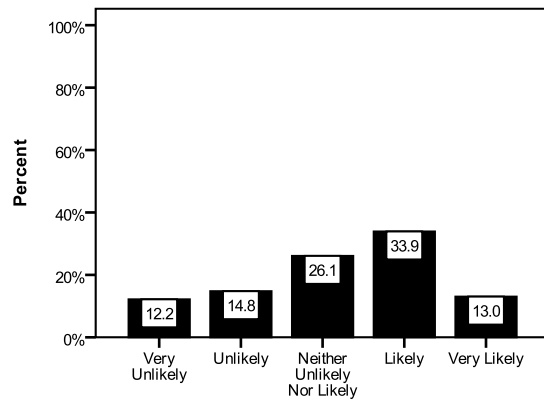
Hunt in Different Zones



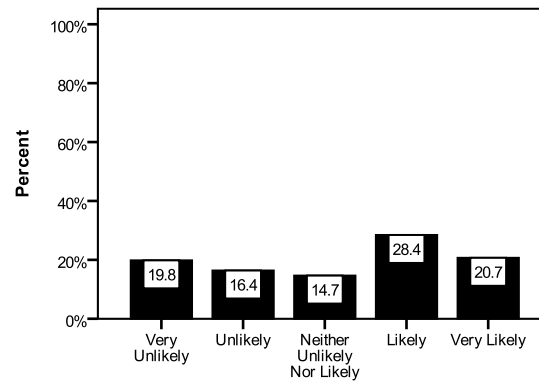
Quit Hunting Elk



Shift to Hunt Other Species



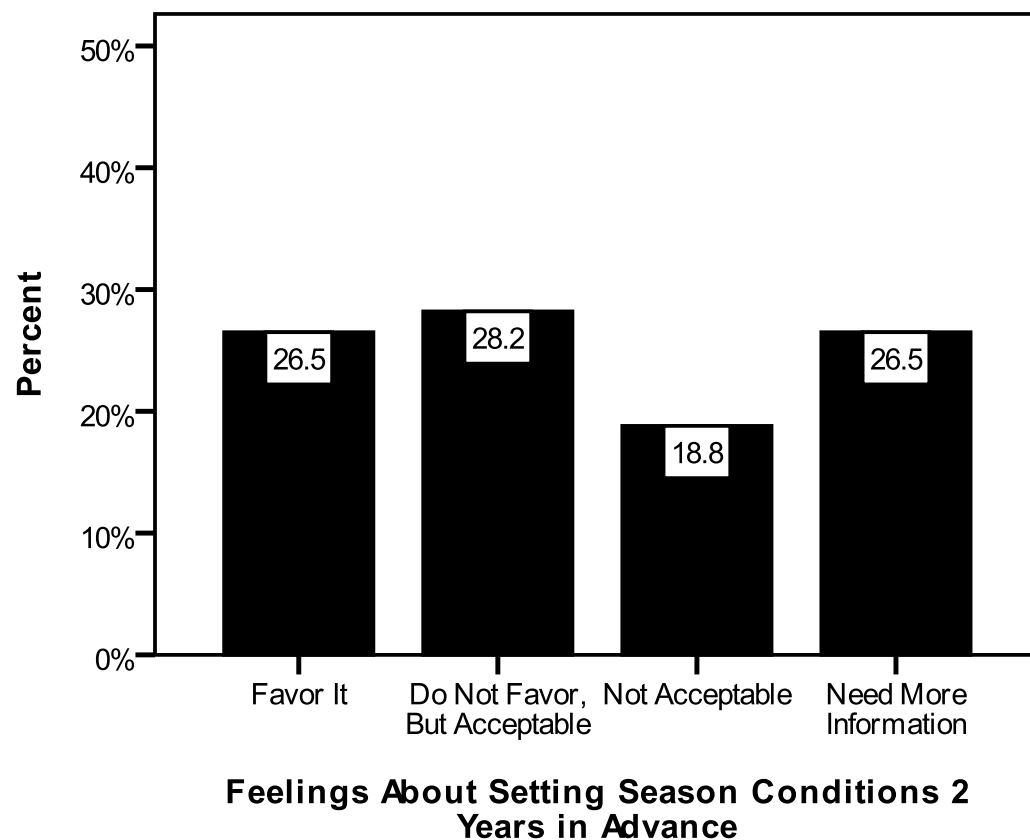
Not Change Hunting Behavior



Change Weapon Type for Increased Elk Hunting Opportunity

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

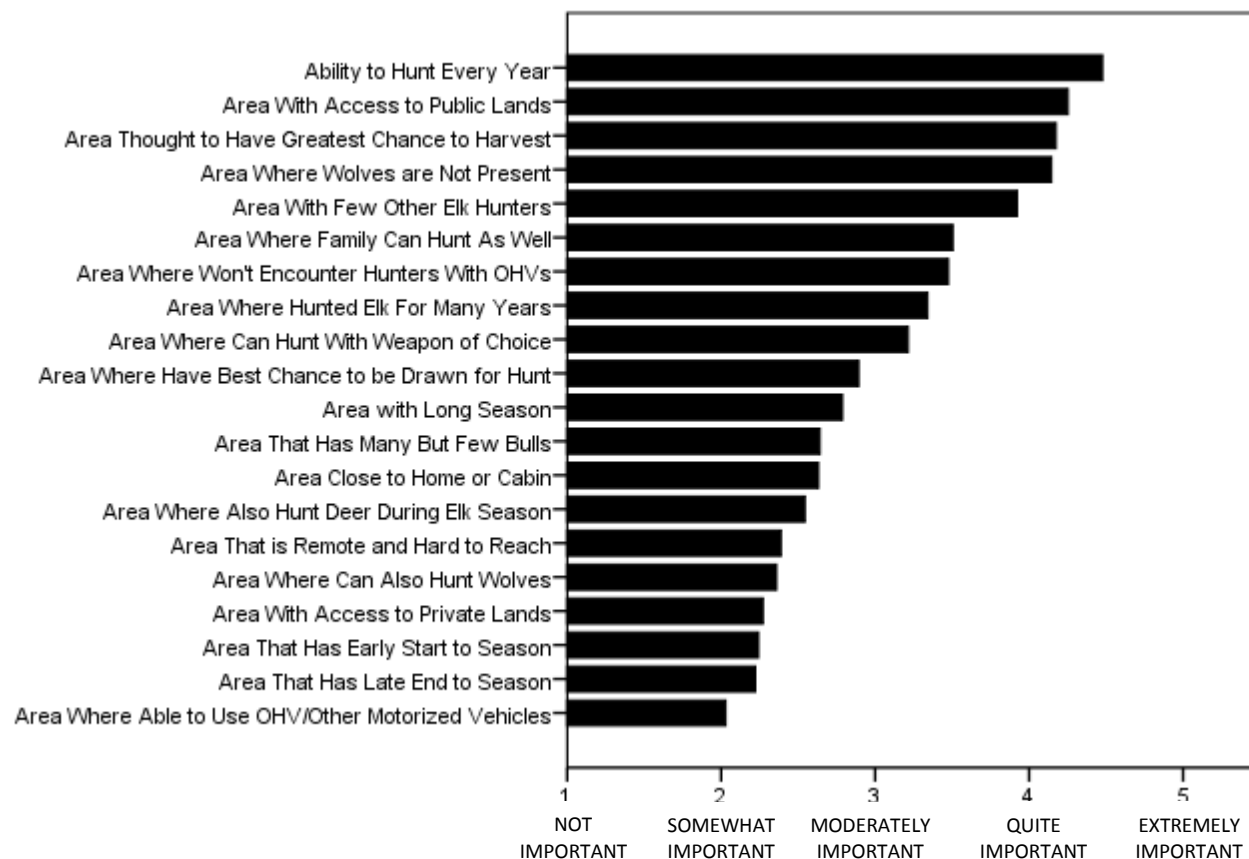
38. How would you feel about a big game regulation that sets the general season conditions for 2 years in advance, just like the current Moose, Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Upland Game, Turkey and Fishing regulations? *(Please check one response)*



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

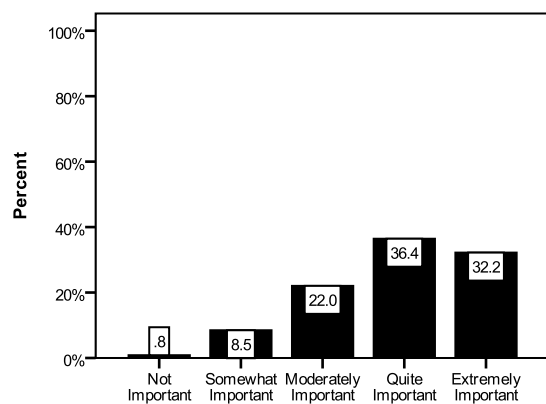
WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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?

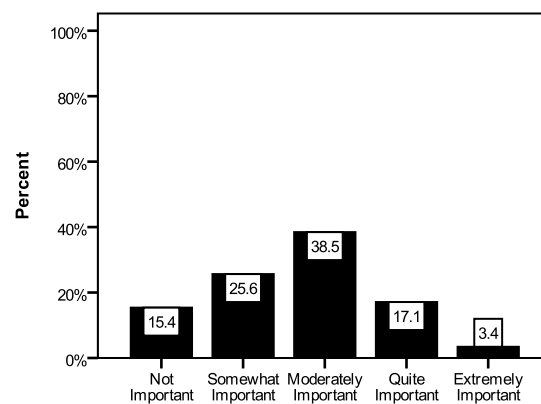


Q29: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar, with the top six characteristics being the same.

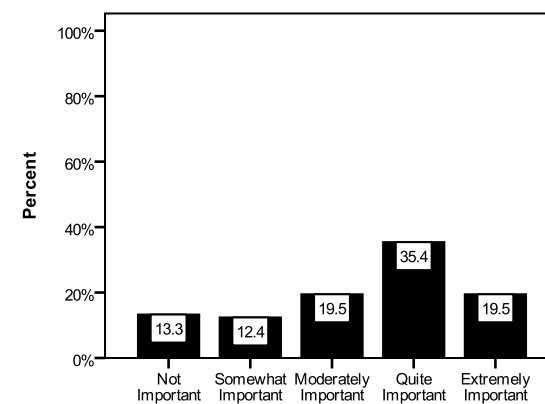
CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING CHOICE OF WHERE TO HUNT IN IDAHO



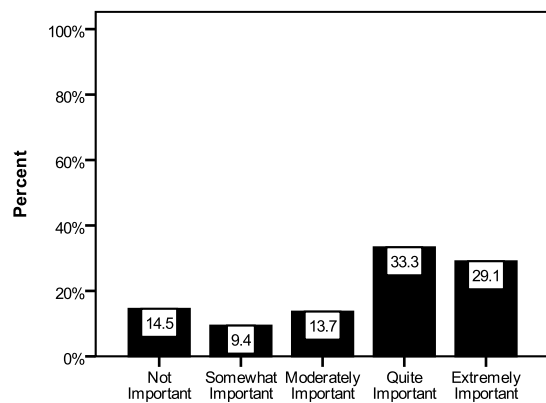
Area With Few Other Elk Hunters



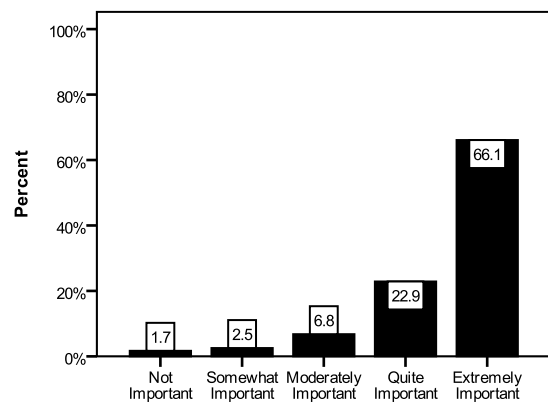
Area That Has Many But Few Bulls



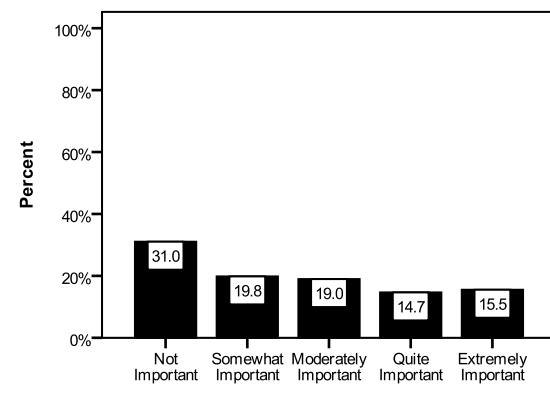
Area Where Hunted Elk For Many Years



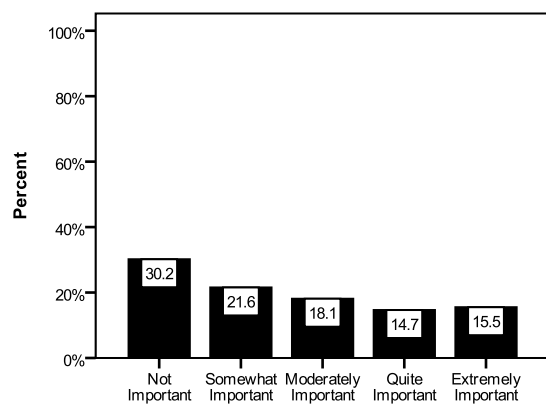
Area Where Family Can Hunt As Well



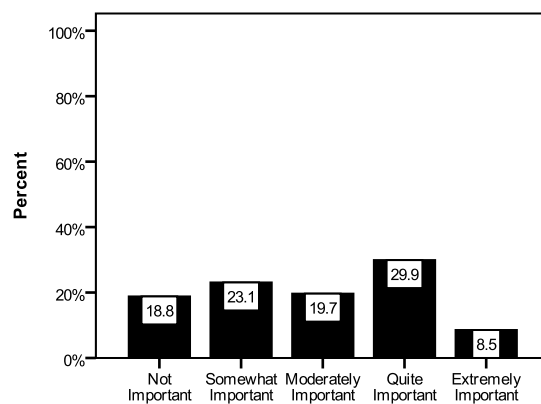
Ability to Hunt Every Year



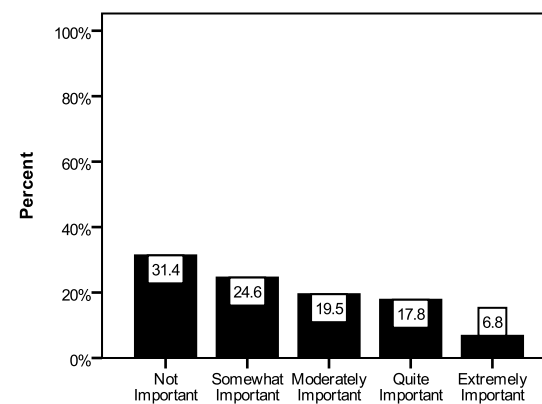
Area Where Also Hunt Deer During Elk Season



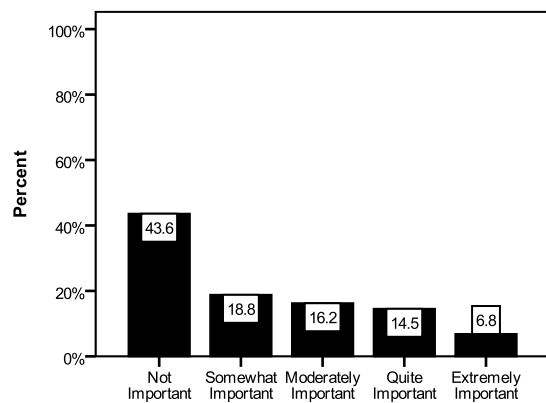
Area Close to Home or Cabin



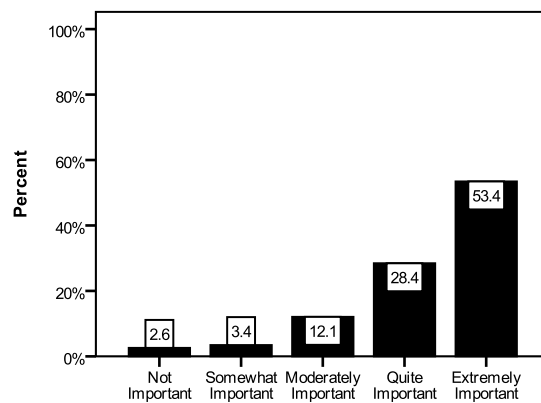
Area with Long Season



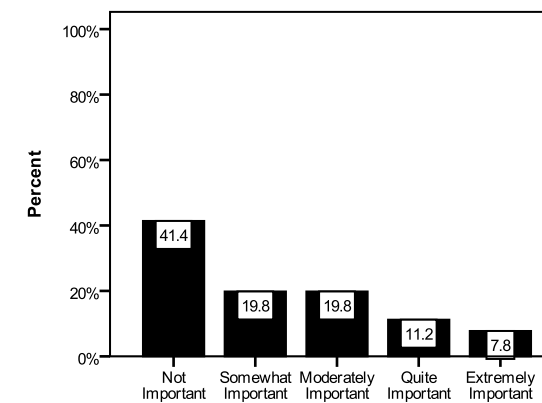
Area That is Remote and Hard to Reach



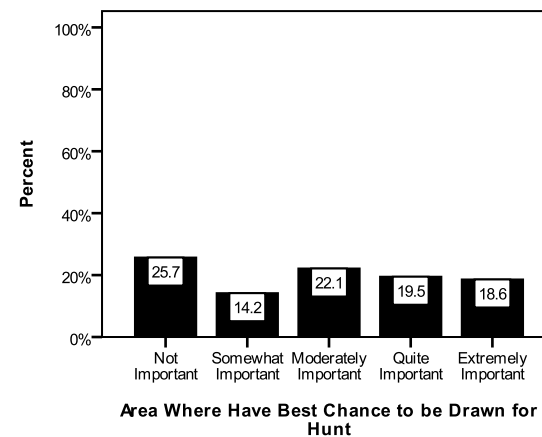
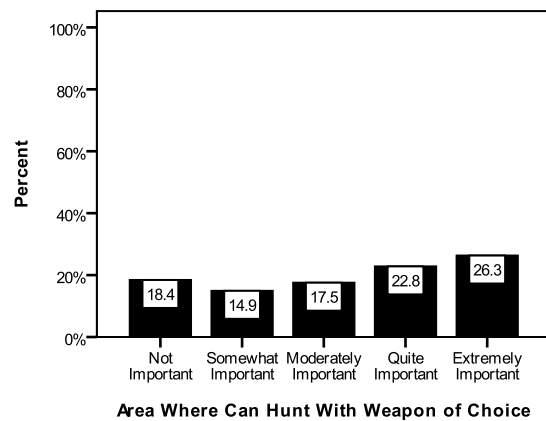
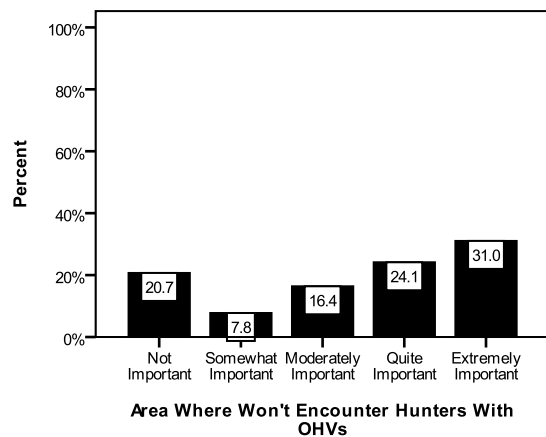
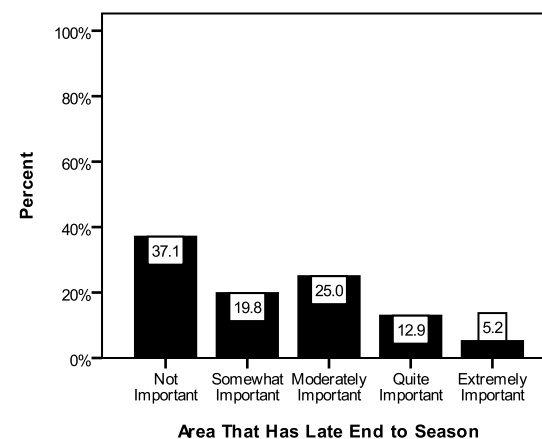
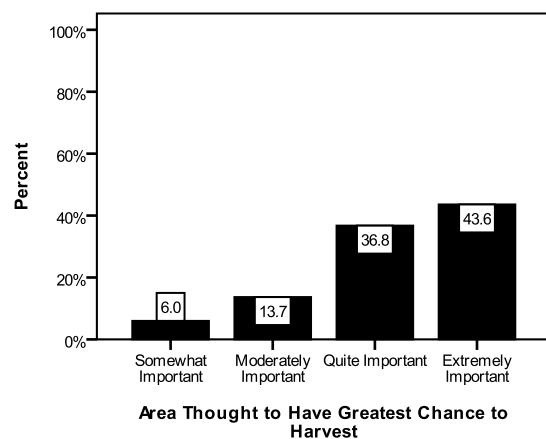
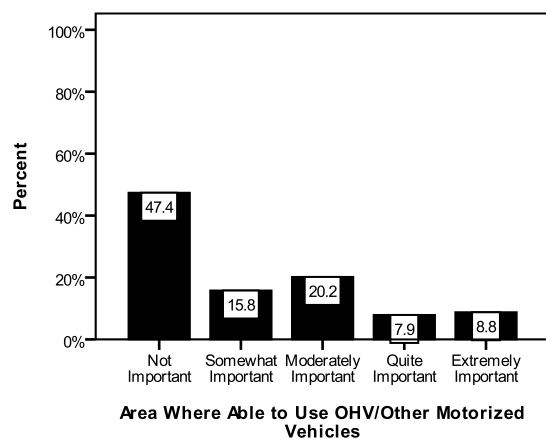
Area That Has Early Start to Season

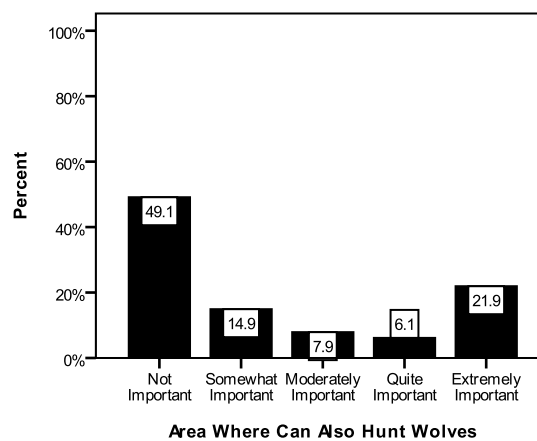
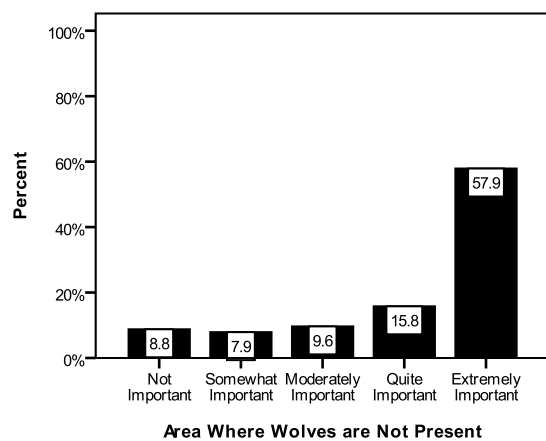


Area With Access to Public Lands

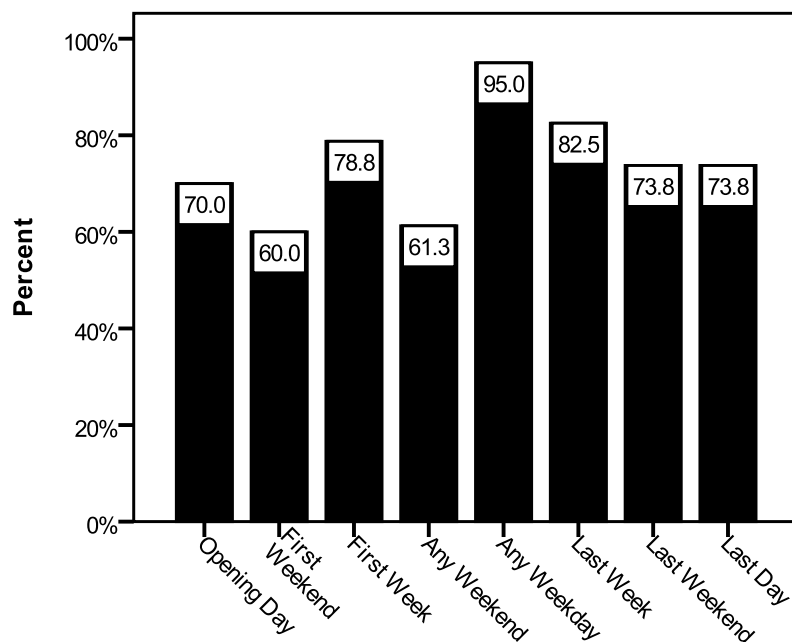


Area With Access to Private Lands

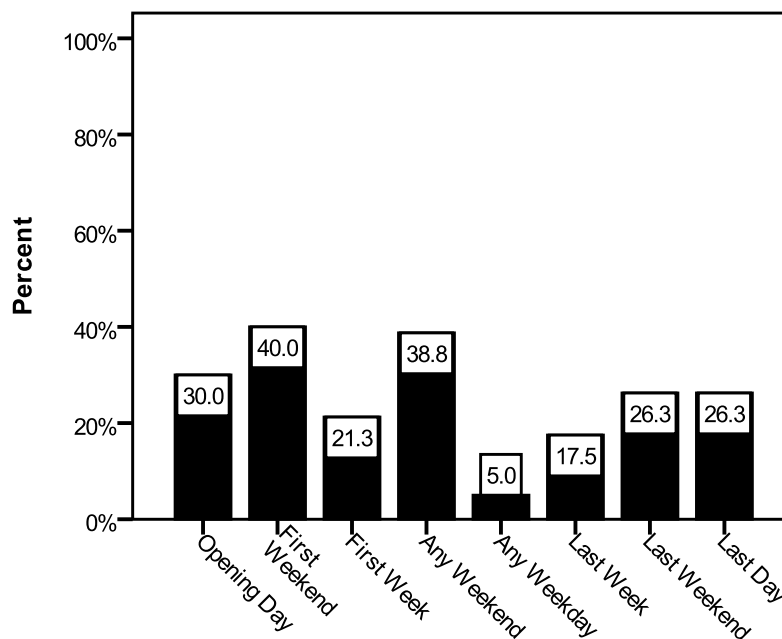




30. Are there any times during the general Elk hunting season in Idaho that you prefer or avoid? (Please check as many as apply)



TIMES PREFERRED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

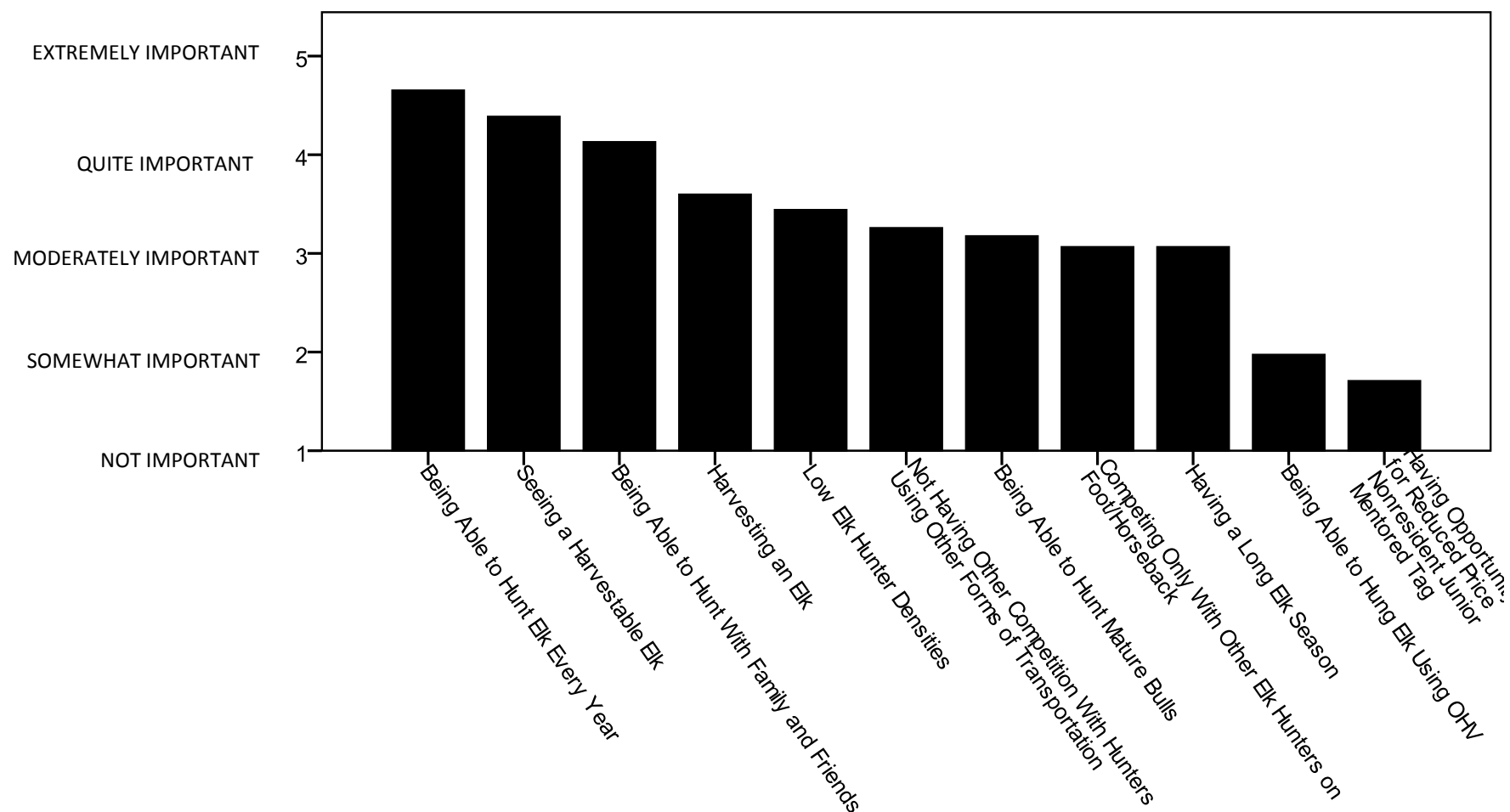


TIMES AVOIDED DURING GENERAL ELK SEASON

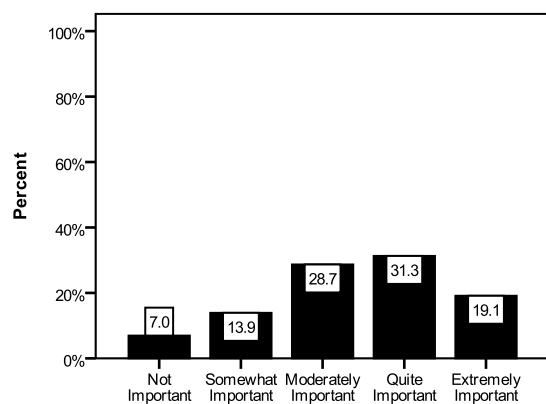
Q30: The preferences and distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

ATTRIBUTES OF A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE

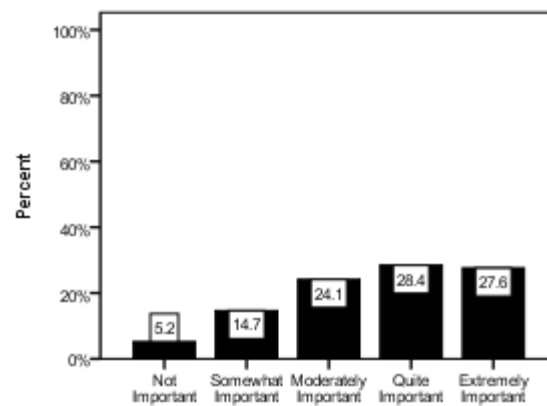
31. How important to you are each of these attributes for a quality Idaho Elk hunting experience?



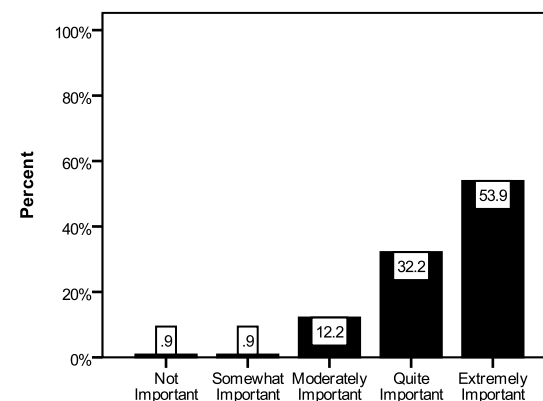
IMPORTANCE OF ATTRIBUTES FOR A QUALITY ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE IN IDAHO



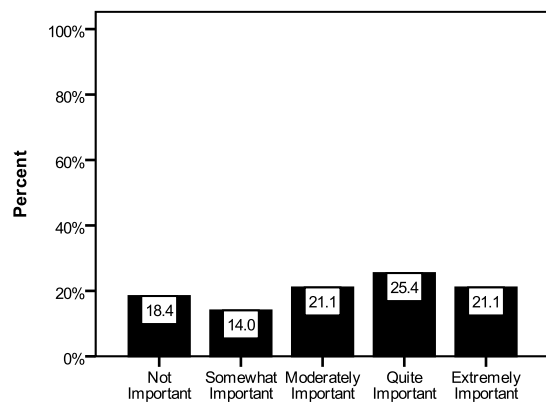
Low Elk Hunter Densities



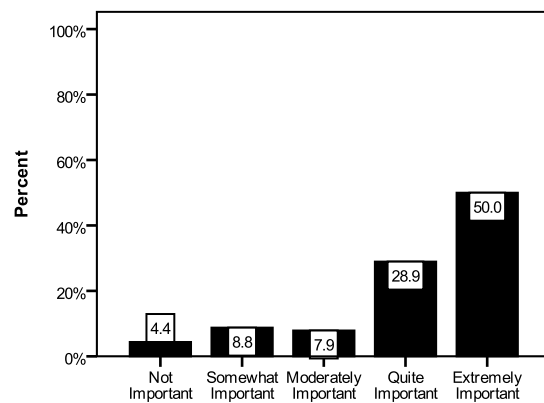
Harvesting an Elk



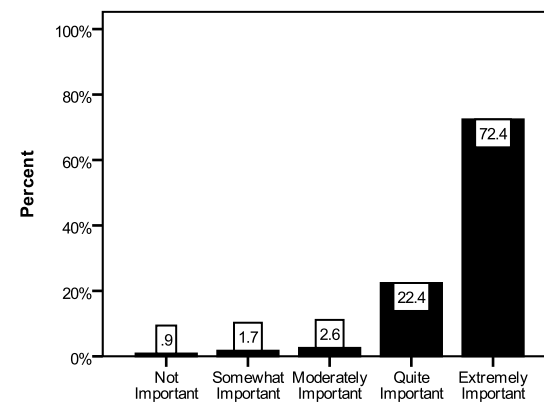
Seeing a Harvestable Elk



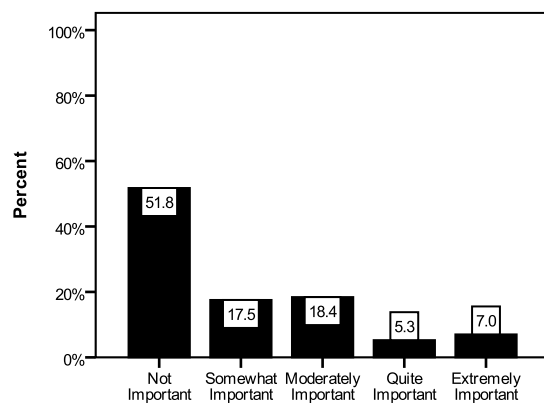
Being Able to Hunt Mature Bulls



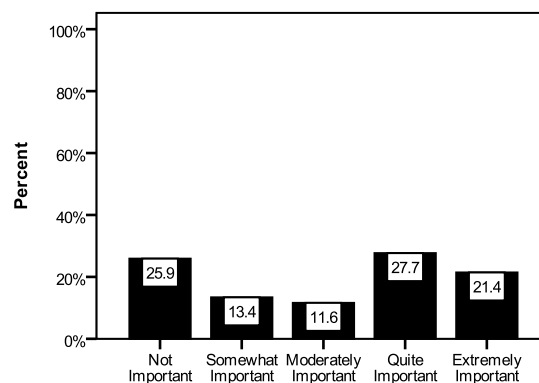
Being Able to Hunt With Family and Friends



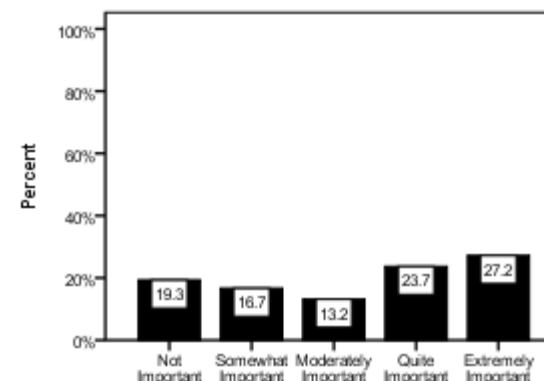
Being Able to Hunt Elk Every Year



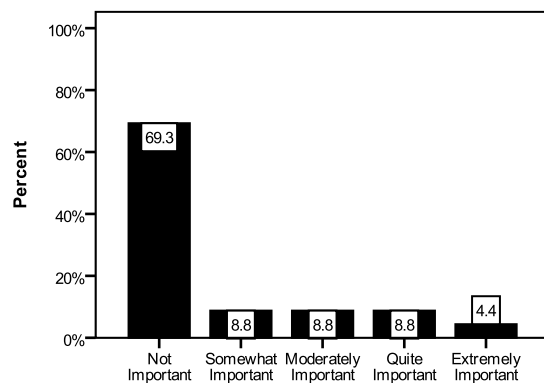
Being Able to Hunt Elk Using OHV



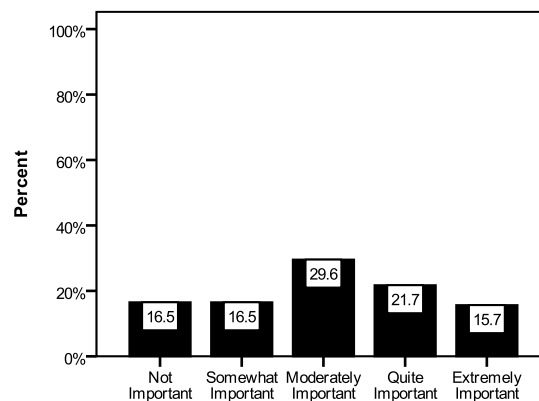
Competing Only With Other Elk Hunters on Foot/Horseback



Not Having Other Competition With Hunters Using Other Forms of Transportation



Having Opportunity for Reduced Price Nonresident Junior Mentored Tag

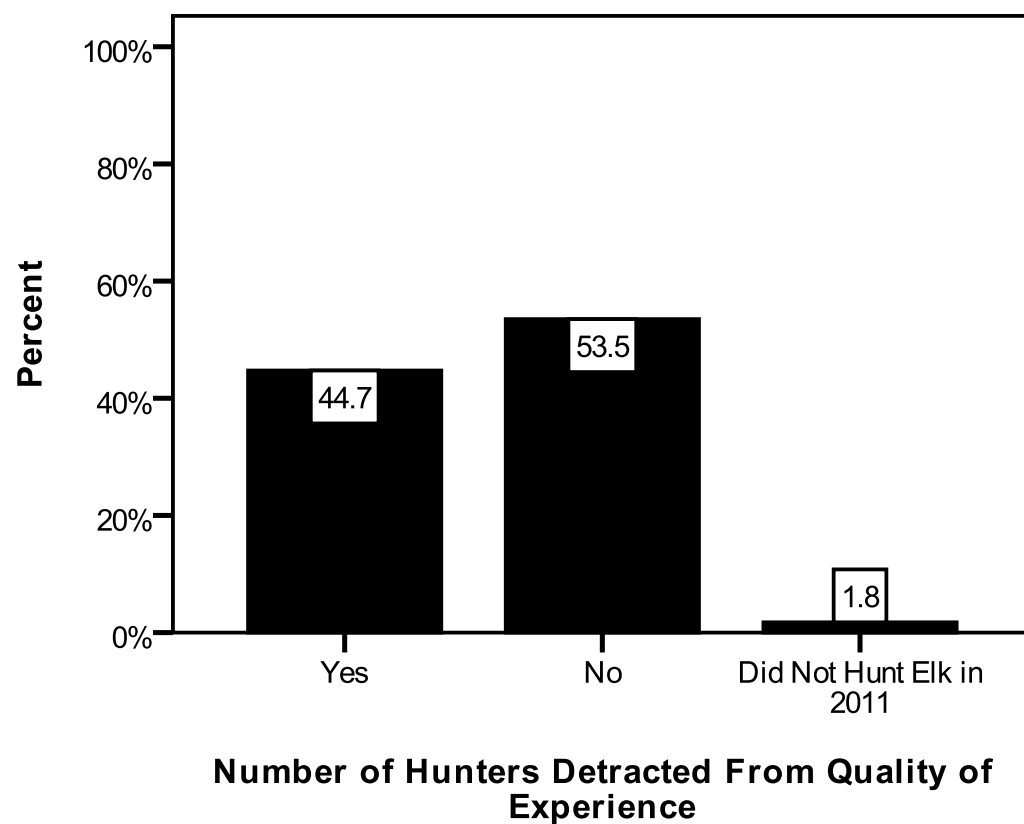


Having a Long Elk Season

Q31: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar, but respondents of the Weiser zone said low Elk hunter densities were more important to them than the state average.

HUNTING SATISFACTION

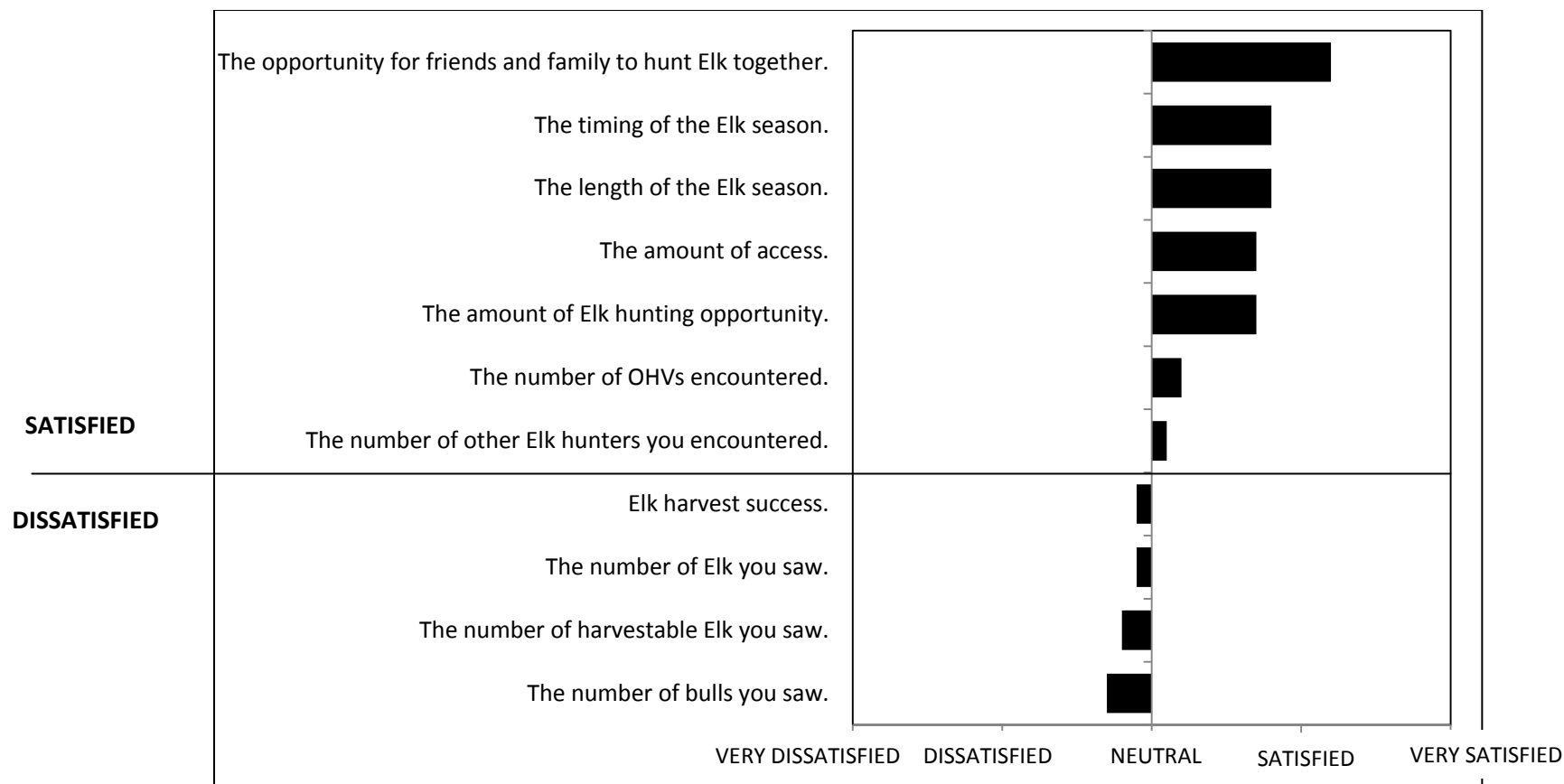
33. Were there times during your 2011 Elk season when the numbers of other hunters seriously detracted from the quality of your hunting experience? *(Please check one response)*



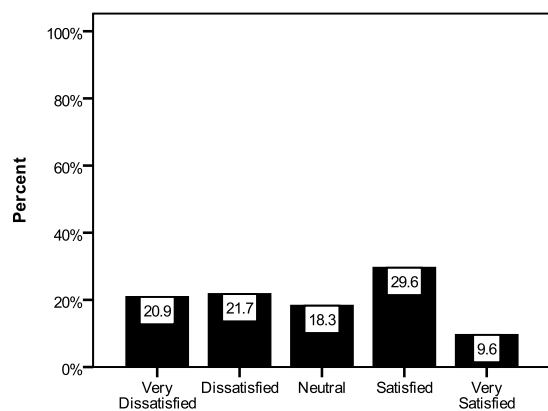
Q33: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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

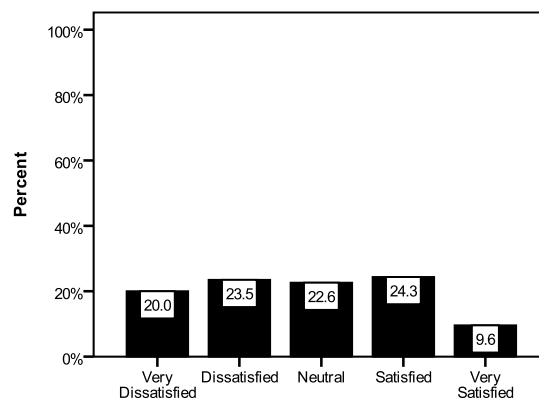
37. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your 2011 Elk hunting experience?



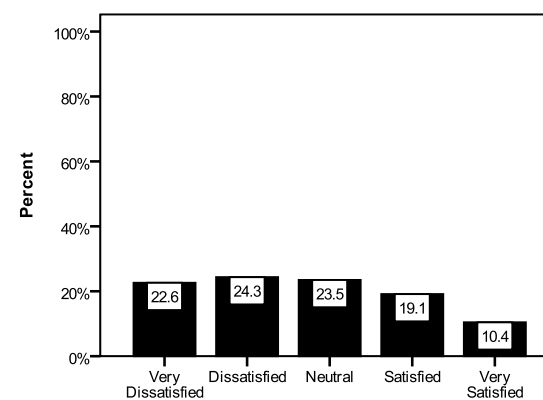
SATISFACTION OF ASPECTS OF 2011 ELK HUNTING EXPERIENCE



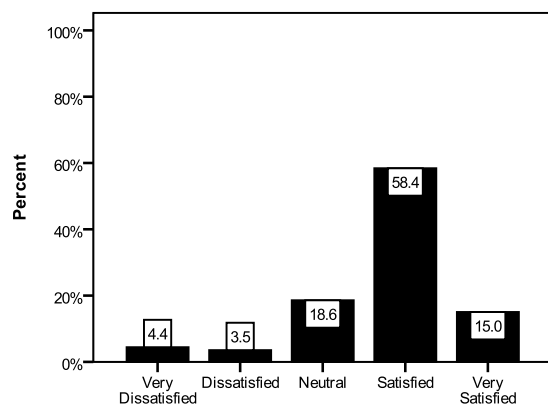
Number of Elk Seen



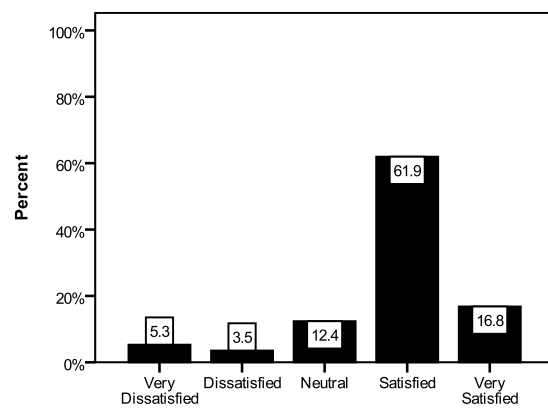
Number of Harvestable Elk Seen



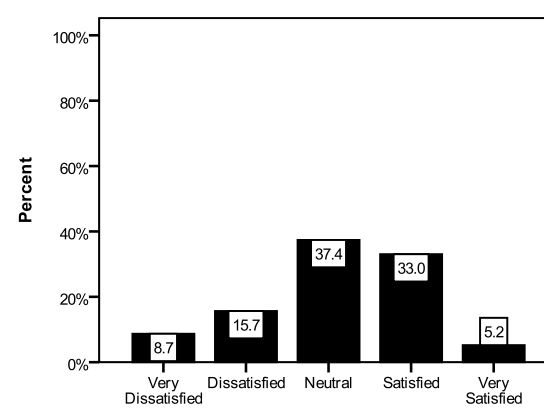
Number of Bulls Seen



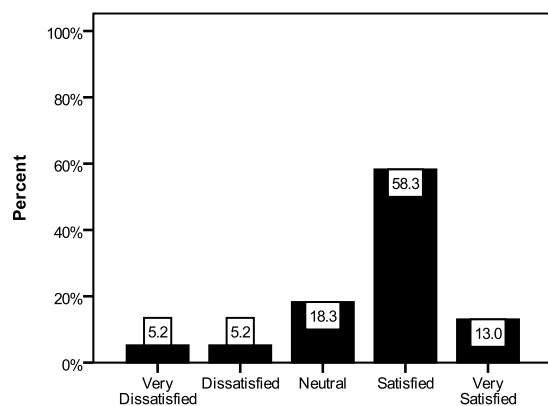
Length of Elk Season



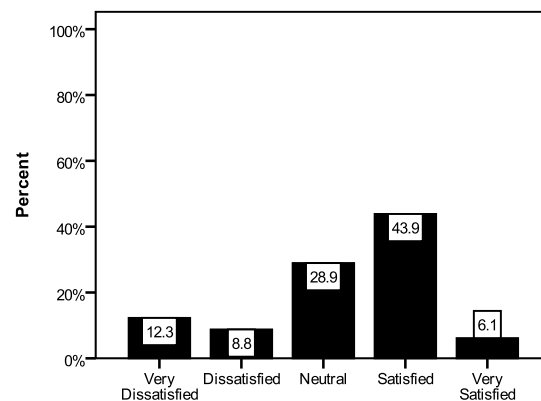
Timing of Elk Season



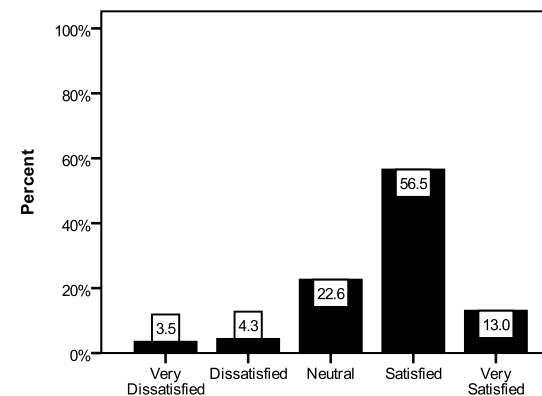
Number of Elk Hunters Encountered



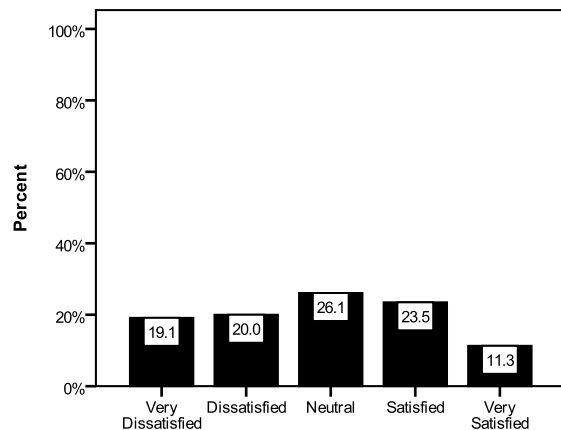
Amount of Access



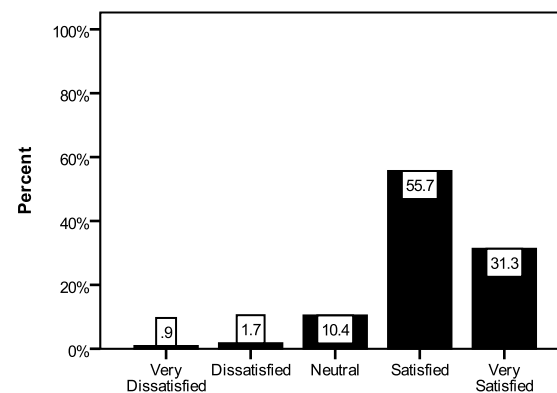
Number of OHVs Encountered



Amount of Elk Hunting Opportunity



Elk Harvest Success



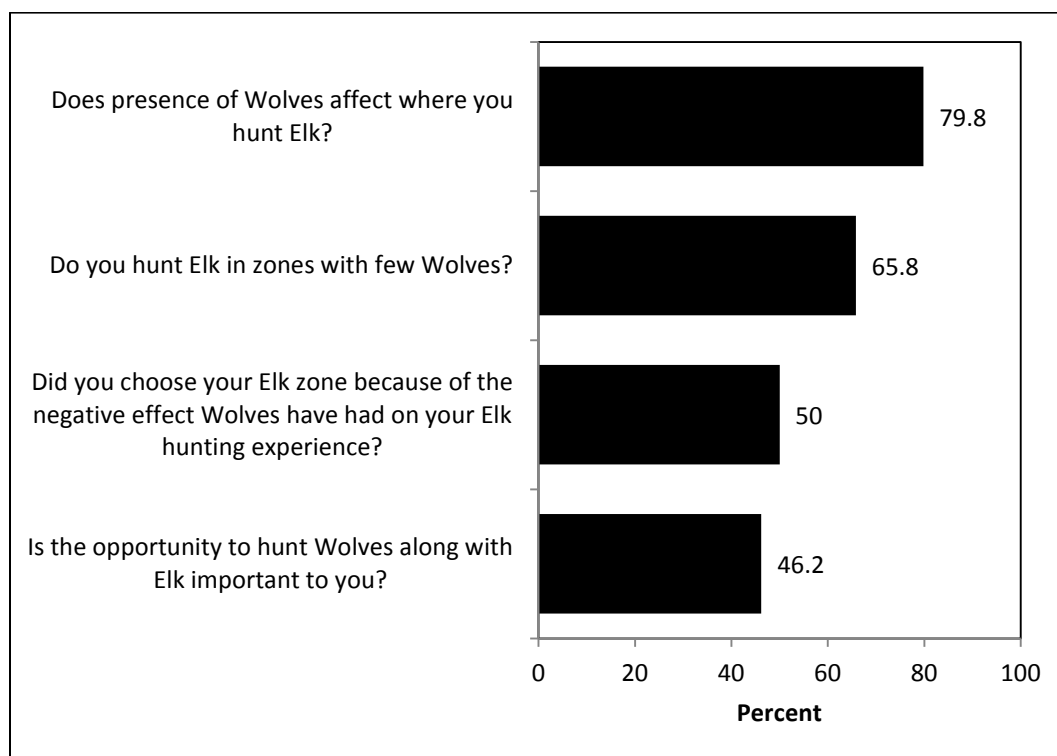
Opportunity for Family and Friends to Hunt Together

Q37: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

PERCEPTIONS OF PREDATORS

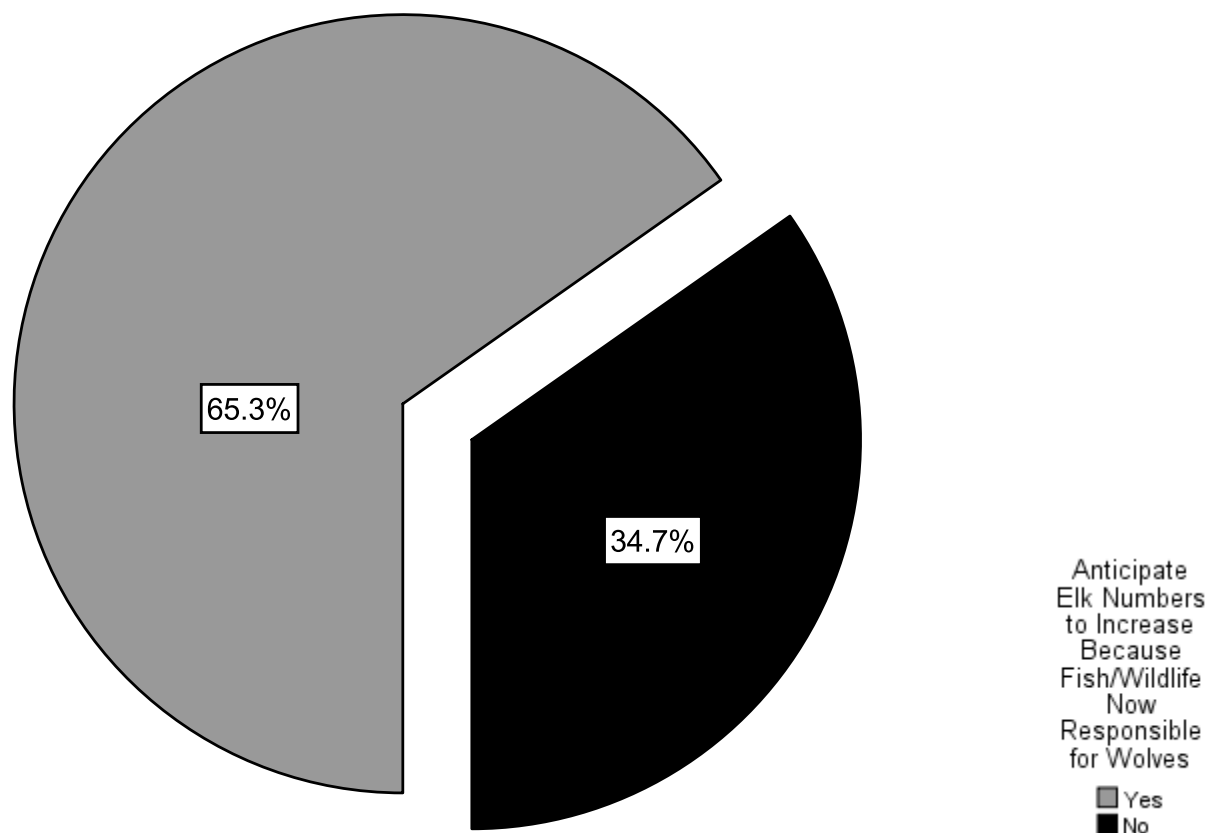
Two questions about predators in Idaho.

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



Q39: More hunters in the Weiser zone hunt Elk in zones with few Wolves than the state average. They also find the opportunity to hunt Wolves along with Elk less important to them 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)



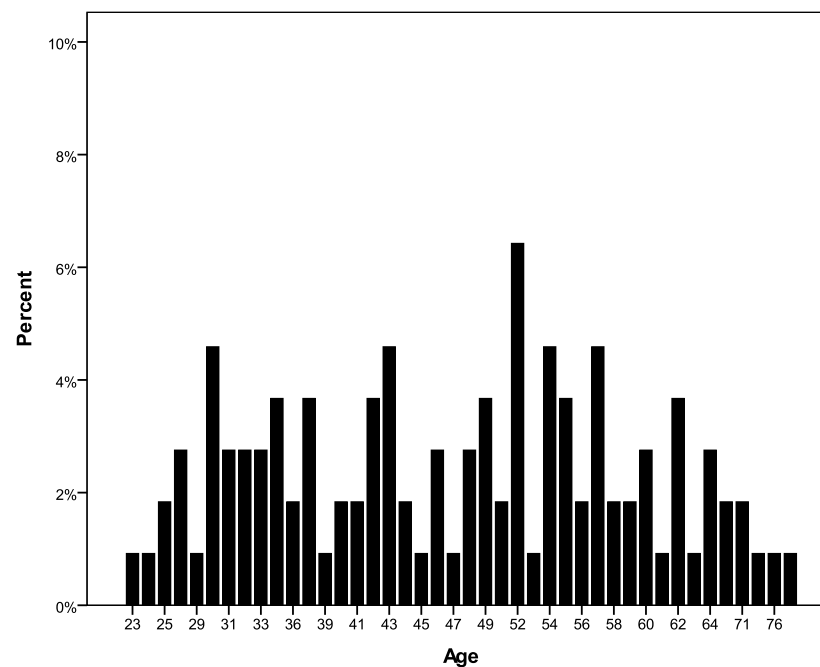
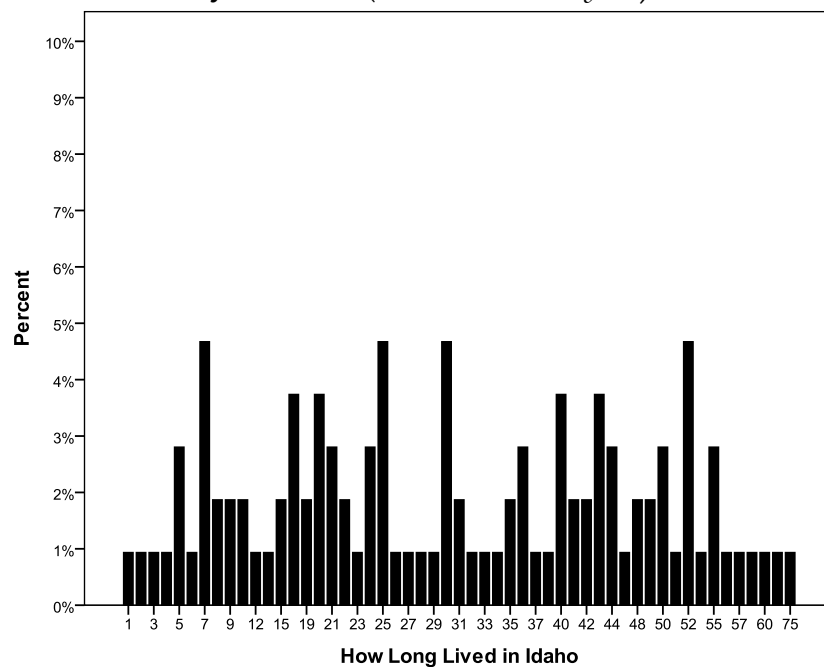
Q40: The distribution of responses between the Weiser zone and the state average are similar.

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 Weiser zone and the state average are similar for both Q42 and Q43.