

Summary of Utah Elk Hunter Survey Results

Sample Sizes and Categories:

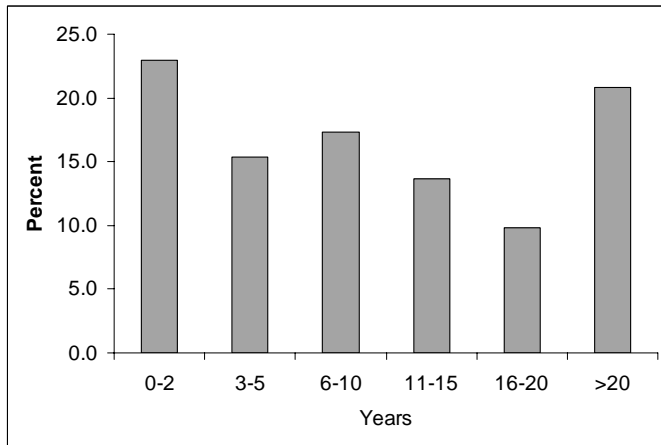
Total elk hunting pool: 76,832

Overall sample size: 16,614

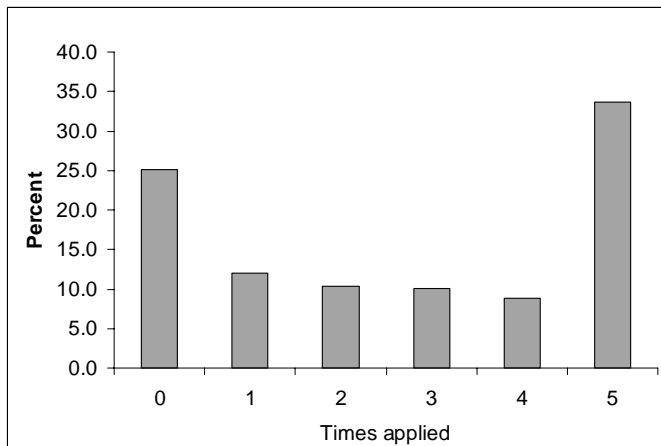
Surveys returned: 5,791

% return: 35%

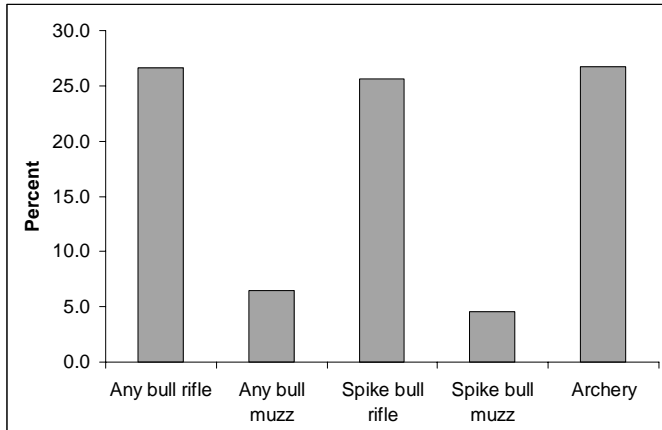
Q4. How many years have you hunted elk in Utah?



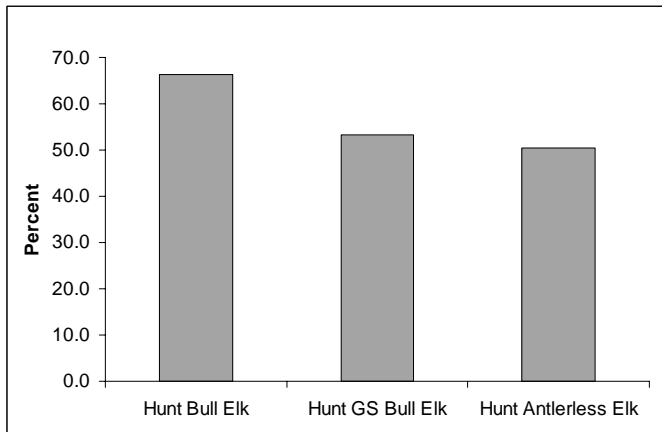
Q5. During the past 5 years (2004-2008), how many times have you applied in the public drawings for a Limited Entry or CWMU bull elk permit in Utah?



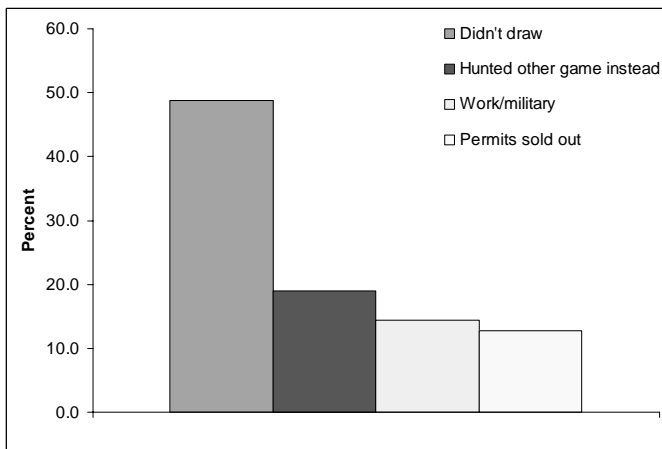
Q7. Please list all types of General Season bull elk permits you have obtained during the past 5 years (2004-2008).



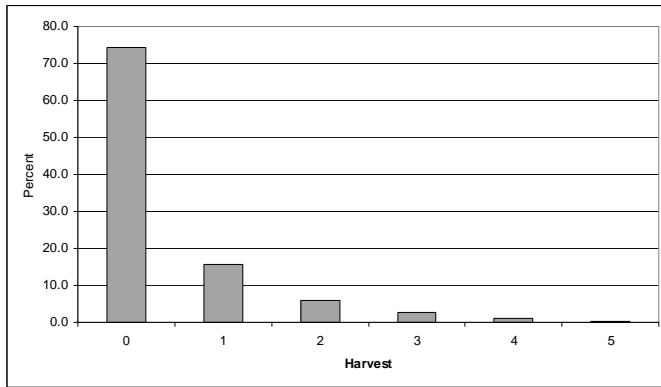
Q8. During the past 5 years (2004-2008), what types of elk hunts have you participated in Utah?



Q9. If you did not hunt elk in Utah during all 5 of the past years (2004-2008), please tell us why not? (Top 4 reasons of 16 total).



Q10. During the past 5 years (2004-2008), how many bull elk have you harvested in Utah?

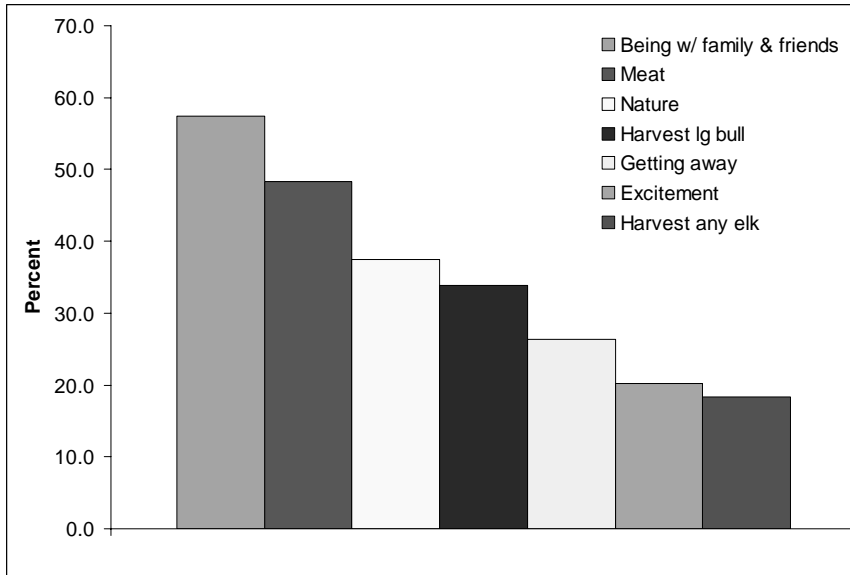


Q11. During the past 5 years (2004-2008), did you apply for or obtain permits for any antlerless elk hunts?

50.4% yes

49.6% no

Q12. Please select your top 3 reasons for hunting elk in Utah (Top 7 reasons of 14 total).

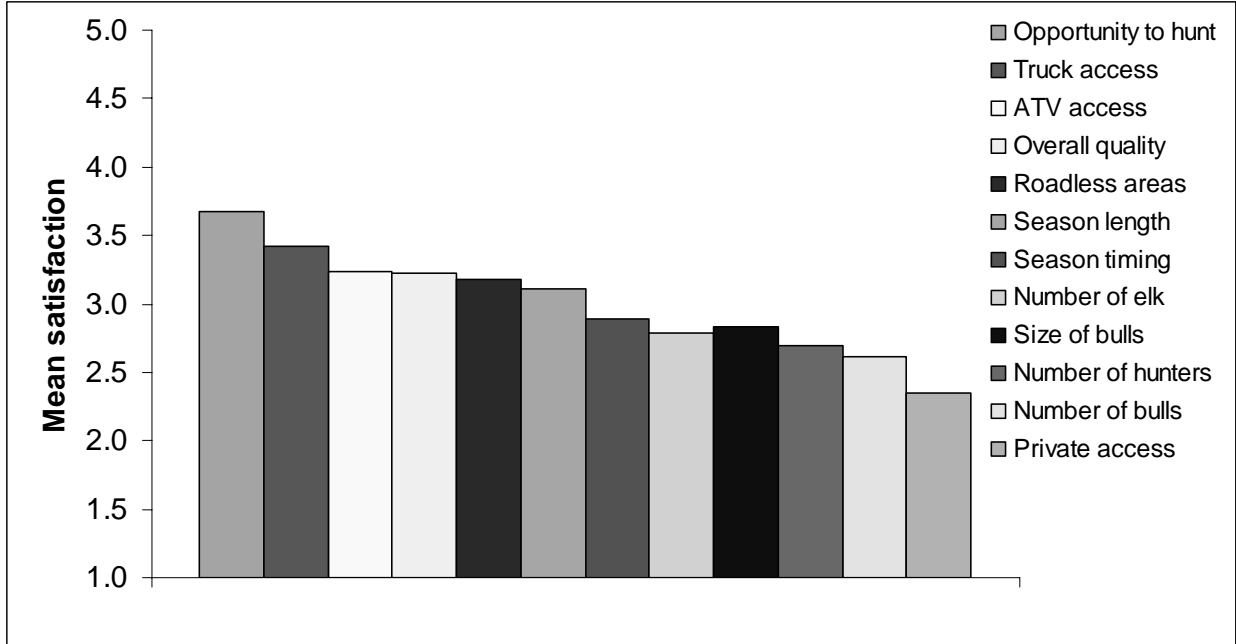


Q13. Did you hunt during any General Season bull elk hunts during the last 5 years?

53.2% yes

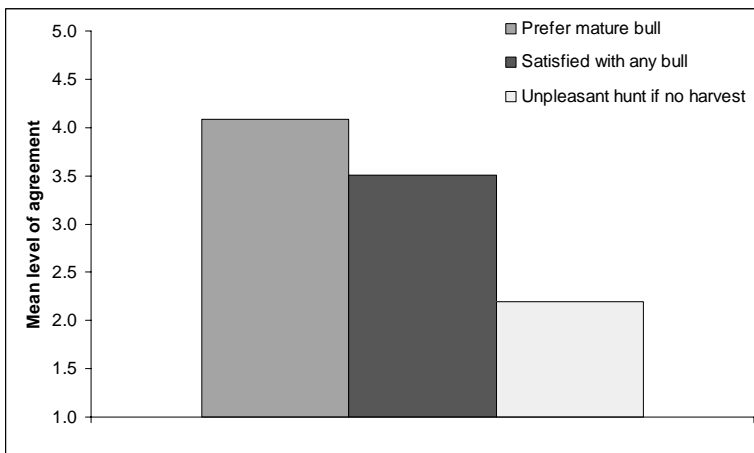
46.8% no

Q14. Mean satisfaction with each of the following aspects of your General Season bull elk hunting experience during the last 5 years (2004-2008). Note: a score of 3 is neutral, anything above 3 is satisfied, below 3 is dissatisfied. (asked only those who indicated they hunted GS any bull).



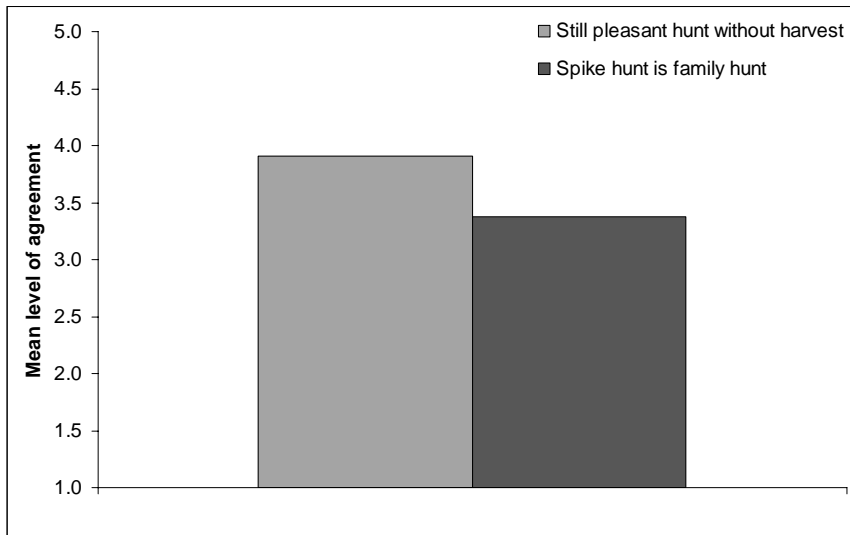
Q15. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following expectations when hunting on general season any bull elk units. Note: a score of 3 is neutral, anything above 3 is agree, below 3 is disagree. (asked only those who indicated they hunted GS any bull).

1. I am satisfied with my hunt when I harvest any size bull elk, although I am more satisfied when I harvest a mature bull elk
2. I am satisfied with harvesting any type of bull elk, mature or spike
3. I do not have a pleasant hunting experience when I do not harvest an elk.

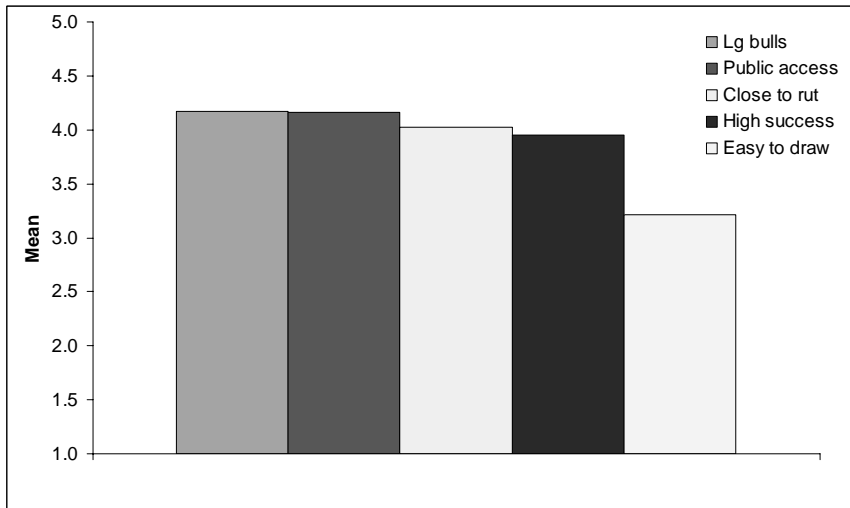


Q16. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following EXPECTATIONS when hunting on a GENERAL SEASON SPIKE BULL ELK UNIT. Note: a score of 3 is neutral, anything above 3 is agree, below 3 is disagree. (asked only those who indicated they hunted GS spike bull).

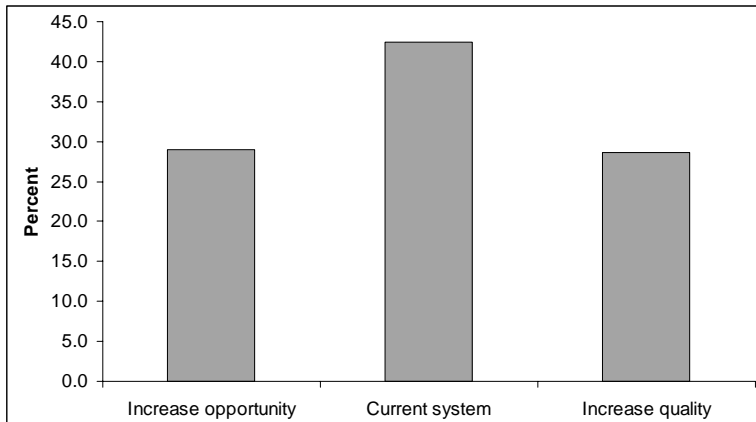
1. I do not have to harvest an elk to have a pleasant hunting experience
2. I think of the spike hunt as a family hunting experience



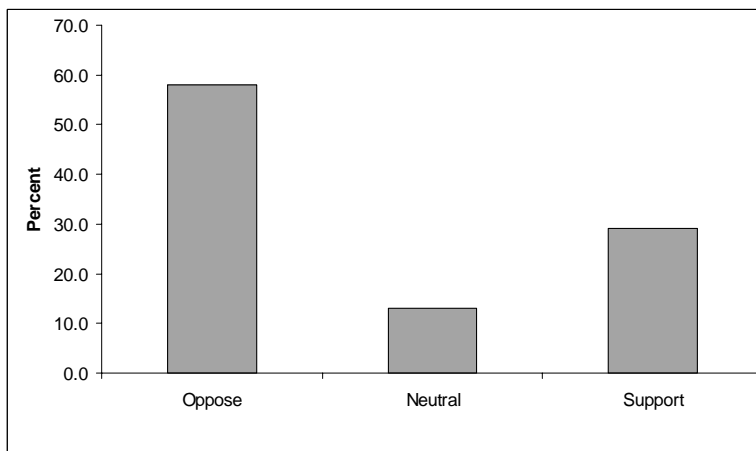
Q17. How does each characteristic affect your choice of which limited entry hunts to apply for in Utah? Note: a score of 3 is neutral, anything above 3 is positive, below 3 is negative.



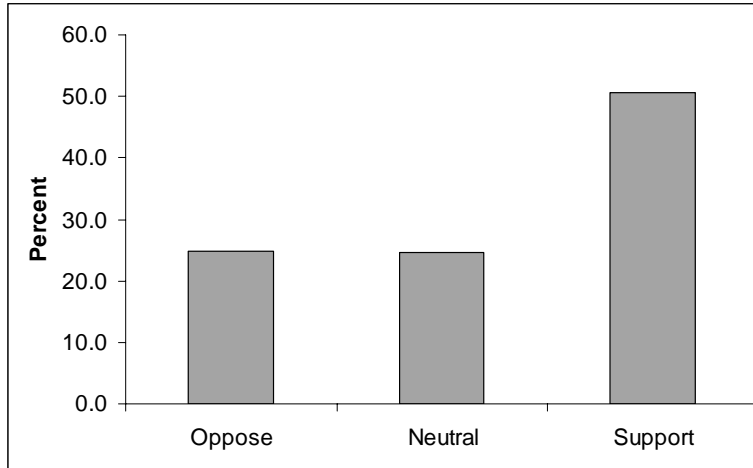
Q18. Our current LIMITED ENTRY system attempts to strike a balance between elk quality and opportunity for elk hunters in Utah. We accomplish this by having different age objectives for harvested elk on different units. Units with high age objectives (6-7 years old), have fewer permits but a lot of large bulls. On units managed for an average age objective of 5-6 years old, there are fewer large bulls but we are able to issue more permits and more hunting opportunity. Furthermore, units managed for an average age objective of 4-5 years old offer even more permits, but even fewer large bulls. Are you satisfied with the current balance between quality and opportunity in regards to LIMITED ENTRY bull elk hunting in Utah?



Q19. How would you feel about a system that would require hunters to choose between applying for Limited Entry hunts OR being allowed to obtain a General Season bull elk permit? Under this management approach, those who applied for a Limited Entry permit but were not successful in the drawing would not be allowed to obtain a General Season permit for bull elk during that season's hunt.



Q20. Discontinuing all SPIKE BULL ELK hunts could potentially provide an additional 500 Limited Entry permits. This would reduce drawing odds from the current odds of 1 in 16 to 1 in 13.5. Spike bull hunts provide opportunity for 12,500 hunters to hunt elk every year, while helping managers maintain bull-to-cow ratios to maximize elk production. Overall, what is your opinion of general season SPIKE BULL ELK hunting in Utah?



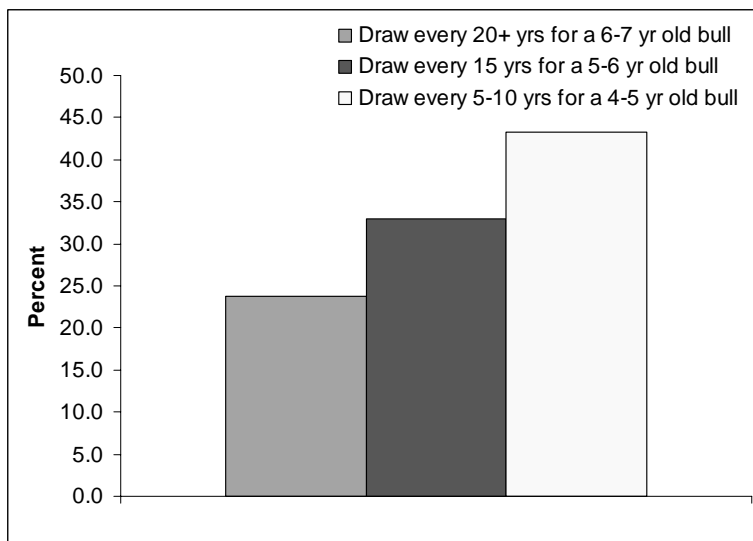
Q21. To produce more mature (large) bull elk requires reductions in bull harvest, which makes it harder to draw a permit. Managers need to know whether hunters are willing to make trade-offs between the size of bulls and the amount of opportunity to hunt. Please indicate which one of the following choices you favor the most by checking the appropriate box.

Definitions:

Age 6-7 yrs old, very large bull elk (Boone & Crockett score 340+)

Age 5-6 yrs old, large bull elk (Boone & Crockett score 300+)

Age 4-5 yrs old, medium bull elk (Boone & Crockett score 270+)



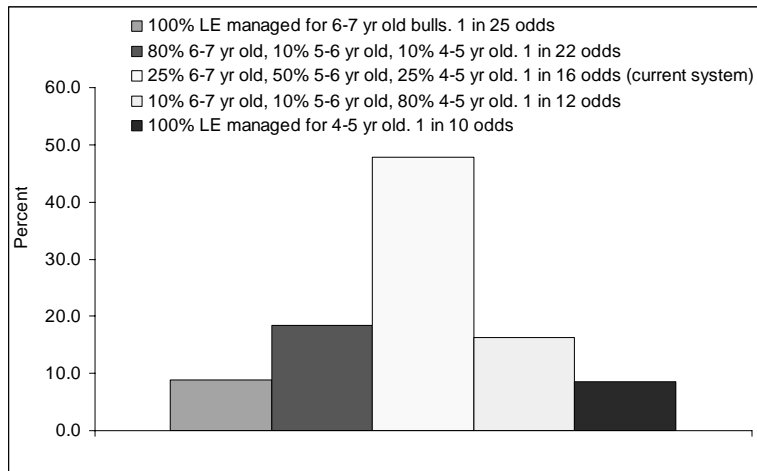
Q22. Utah's Limited Entry elk units are divided into 3 categories in order to provide several combinations of quality and opportunity. 25% of the Limited Entry units are managed for an average age of harvested bulls to be 6-7 years old. 50% of Limited Entry units are managed for an average age of harvested bulls to be 5-6 years old. The remaining 25% of Limited Entry units are managed for an average age of harvested bulls to be 4-5 years old. The elk units managed for a younger average age provide more opportunity for permits, while the units managed for an older average age provide larger bulls but fewer permits. Please indicate which one of the following choices you favor the most.

Definitions:

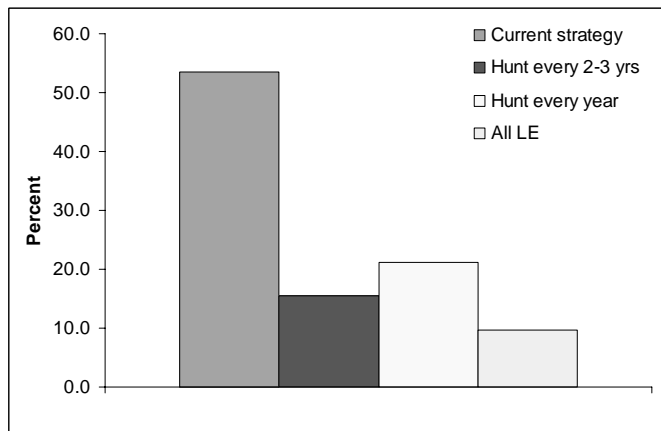
Age 6-7 yrs old, very large bull elk (Boone & Crockett score 340+)

Age 5-6 yrs old, large bull elk (Boone & Crockett score 300+)

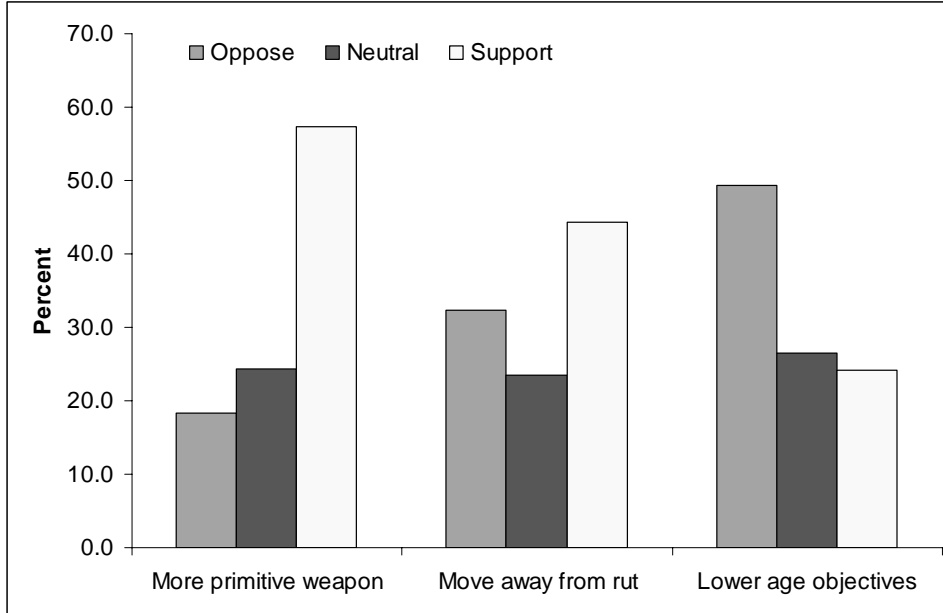
Age 4-5 yrs old, medium bull elk (Boone & Crockett score 270+)



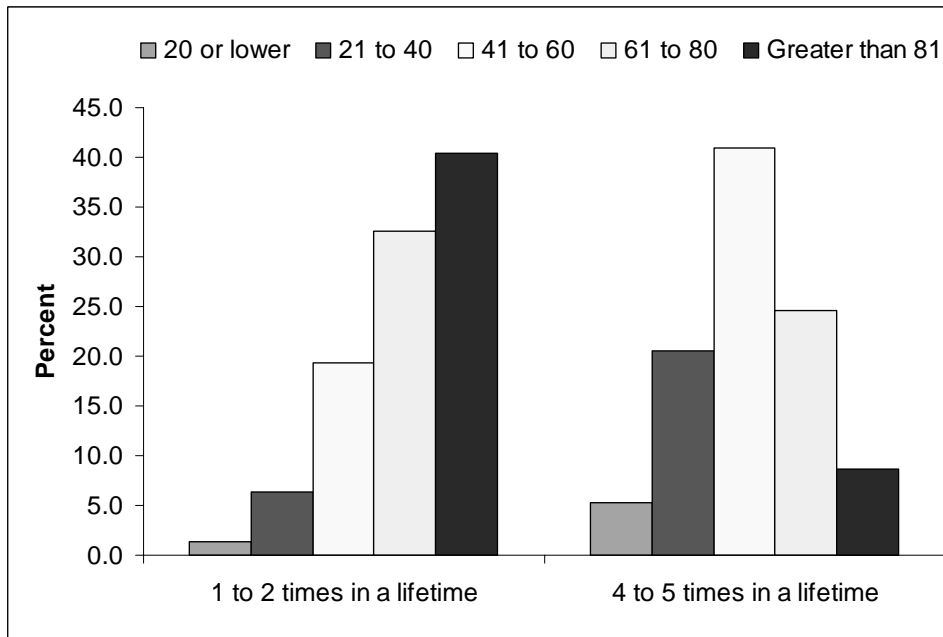
Q23. Elk management in Utah currently offers a variety of hunting strategies, accommodating both hunters who like to hunt every year, and providing limited entry areas for hunters who want the opportunity to harvest a large bull 3-4 times in their lifetimes, or the opportunity to harvest a very large bull 1-2 times in their lifetimes. Which of the following best describes your personal philosophy about how elk hunting should be managed?



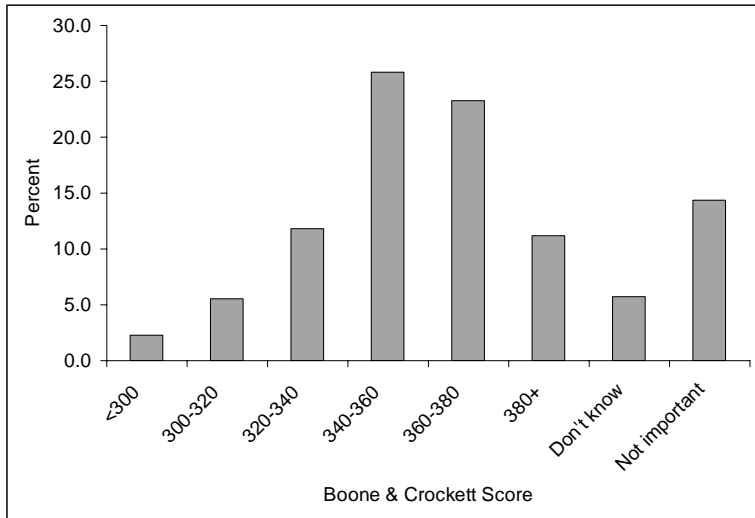
Q24. More permits could be offered on LIMITED ENTRY bull elk hunts by either slightly lowering elk size/age or lowering harvest success (i.e. more hunters would have the opportunity to draw a permit, but the chance that you would harvest would decrease). Please rate your level of support for the following ways to manage for more Limited Entry permits.



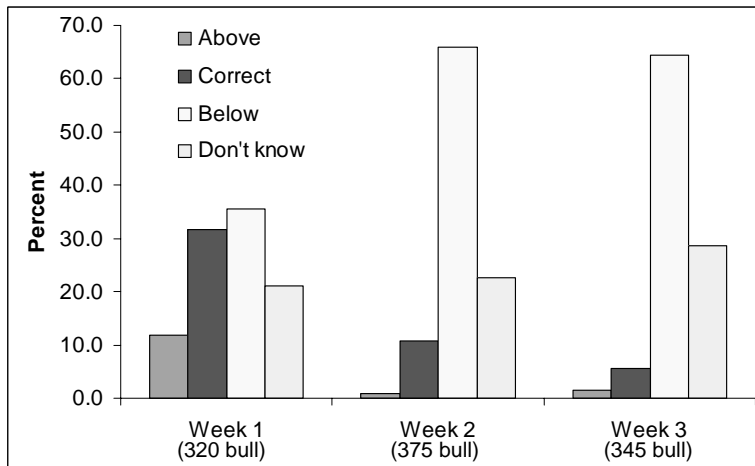
Q25. If you were only able to draw a Limited Entry permit 1-2 TIMES in your lifetime, which of the following harvest rates for Limited Entry areas would you consider as representing a reasonable opportunity for a successful hunt? What harvest rate if you could draw 4-5 times?



Q27. If you were only able to draw a Limited Entry permit 1-2 times in your lifetime, what is the MINIMUM bull elk Boone & Crockett score in a LIMITED ENTRY area that you would be satisfied with?



Q28. In your opinion, what would the pictured bull elk score, using a traditional gross Boone & Crockett score? (Survey participants were shown a picture of a bull elk and asked to score it. The picture was changed weekly to ensure data accuracy)

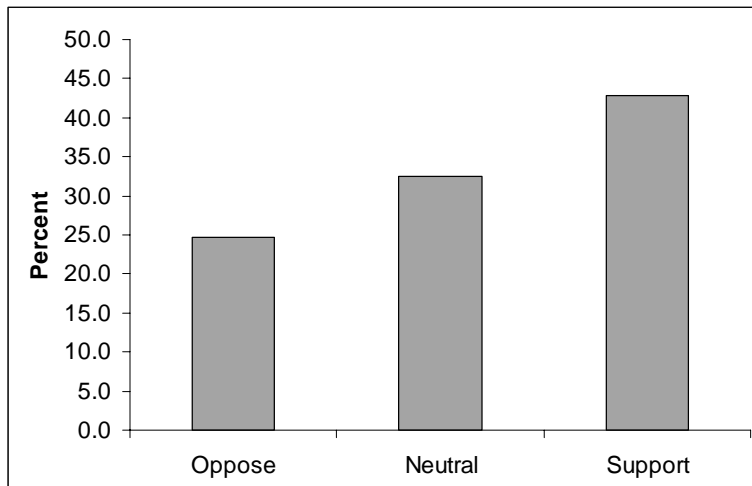


Q29. On a LIMITED ENTRY unit, would you be satisfied with harvesting an elk similar to the one pictured below?

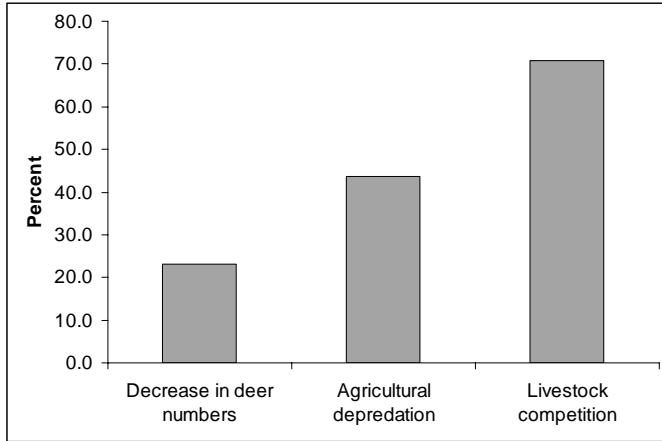
66% Yes
34% No



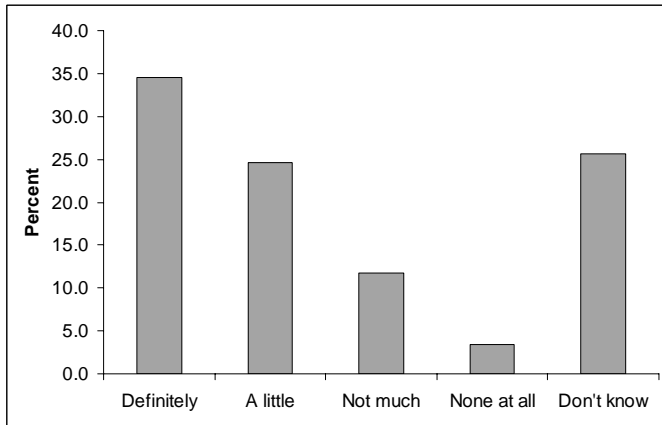
Q30. Rate your level of support for a new program providing public land grazers and grazing associations who don't qualify for existing CWMU or landowner association programs with Limited Entry Bull Elk permits that could be sold and the money used for habitat improvements, to gain their support for increasing elk numbers. Increasing elk numbers would in turn benefit all elk hunters by increasing overall opportunity.



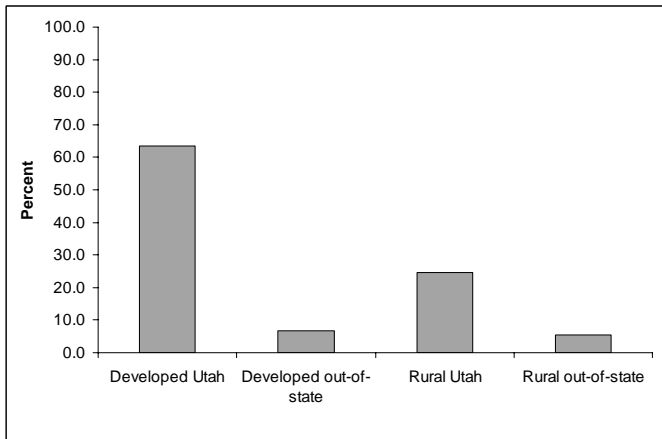
Q31. Would you support an increase in an elk population objective if this increase were to cause... (bars equal the percent the would support increases)



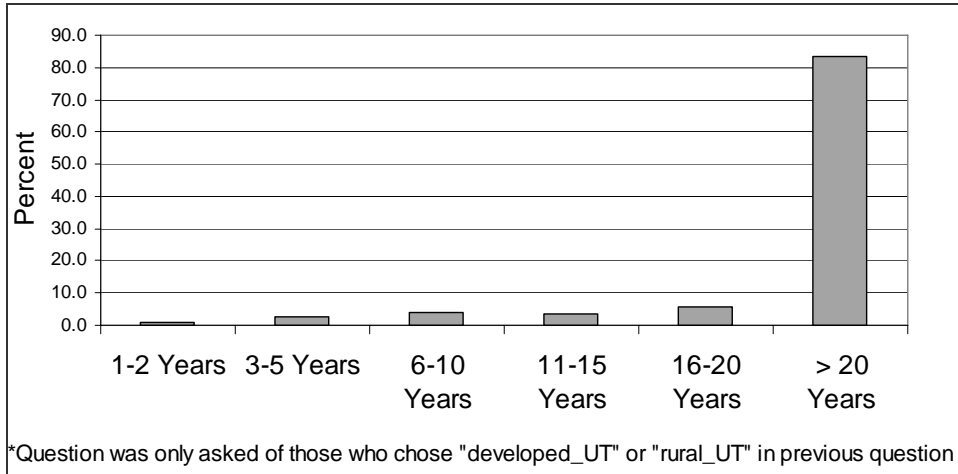
Q32. Over the past 5 years, the Watershed Restoration Initiative has spent millions of dollars improving hundreds of thousands of acres of habitat for wildlife in Utah. Do you feel that this was money well spent for improving wildlife populations?



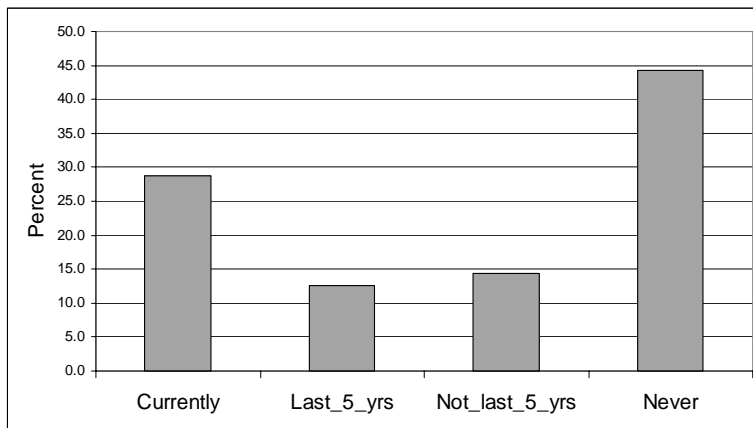
Q33. Where do you live?



Q34. How long have you lived in Utah?



Q35. Are you affiliated with any organizations that relate to hunting or wildlife conservation (e.g., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, etc.)?



Q36. If the answer to Q35 was “currently in a group” or “have belonged to a group within the past 5 years,” please tell us which hunting and/or wildlife conservation organizations you currently or recently belong to.

