

# MULE DEER HUNTING IN NEVADA



# Introduction

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- Presentation of key points from the final report titled “*Mule Deer Hunting & Management: Experiences, Attitudes and Preferences of Nevada’s Mule Deer Tag Applicants,*” dated April 17, 2014.
- Unbiased representative sample of the Mule Deer hunter population of Nevada collected between January 10 and April 11, 2014
- Accurate to better than  $\pm 5\%$  at a 95% CI

This report is available to download at:

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Committees/Tag\\_Allocation\\_and\\_Application\\_Hunt/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Committees/Tag_Allocation_and_Application_Hunt/)

# Study Objectives

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- Attitudes and opinions including:
  - “Quality” hunting (quality vs. quantity, congestion... )
  - Hunter behavior & satisfaction
  - Evaluation of potential management options
  - Season structure
  - Perceptions of “Trophy” Mule Deer
  - Hunter attributes (demographics)

# Random Sample

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- 57,249 applicants for big game tags for 2012 main draw
- 1,200 randomly-selected by NDOW
  - (People who had applied for Mule Deer tags in the main draw in 2012 & 2013)
- Sample includes approximately 10% of non-resident hunters and 4% who only apply with paper applications
- Response rate: 54.9% (638 returned of 1,162 delivered)

# “Hybrid” Survey

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## Online Survey-68.2%



Mule Deer Hunting and Management:  
Experiences, Attitudes and Preferences of Nevada's Mule Deer Tag Applicants

A survey conducted in partnership with



and **The Department of Conservation Social Sciences**  
University of Idaho College of Natural Resources

You can be assured of complete confidentiality. Your identity will never be associated with your answers.

[Click HERE to begin taking the survey](#)

## Mail Survey-31.8%



Mule Deer Hunting and Management:

Experiences, Attitudes and Preferences of  
Nevada's Mule Deer Tag Applicants

Conducted by:  
The Department of Conservation Social Sciences

College of Natural Resources  
**University of Idaho**

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

For:  
The Nevada Department of Wildlife



<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/muledeer/>

2013  
NDOW / TAAHC  
Contracts Univ. of Idaho to  
conduct survey of hunters

# Methodology

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Nov.-Dec. 2013  
Univ. of Idaho designed  
cover letters & postcards,  
approved by NDOW.  
Website for the online  
survey created.

Jan. 8, 2014  
NDOW email to sample  
announcing the survey in  
conjunction with UI CSS  
Department

Jan. 10  
Cover letter from NDOW  
to sample of 1,200  
launching the online survey

March 5  
Preliminary report to  
NDOW  
March 21  
TAAHC review

Feb. 6  
Second cover letter from  
UI to non-respondents with  
a paper copy of the  
questionnaire

Jan. 23  
Post card from UI as a  
reminder and to thank  
those who had already  
responded

March 26  
Final email reminder from  
NDOW sent to non-  
respondents

April 11  
Data collection for the  
survey was terminated

April 17  
Final report provided to  
NDOW

# Results

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# Average Respondent Profile

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- Is male (88%) and 50.4 years-old
- Is a Nevada Resident (72.5%) and lives in Washoe or Clark counties (27.9 and 23.7 %)
- Is employed full-time (69.9%)
- Has hunted in Nevada for 19.4 years and applied to the draw for 17.6 years
- Hunts with 2.6 tag holders and 1.4 non-tag holders
- Weapon of choice is “Any legal weapon” (82.9%)

# Preference of When to Hunt

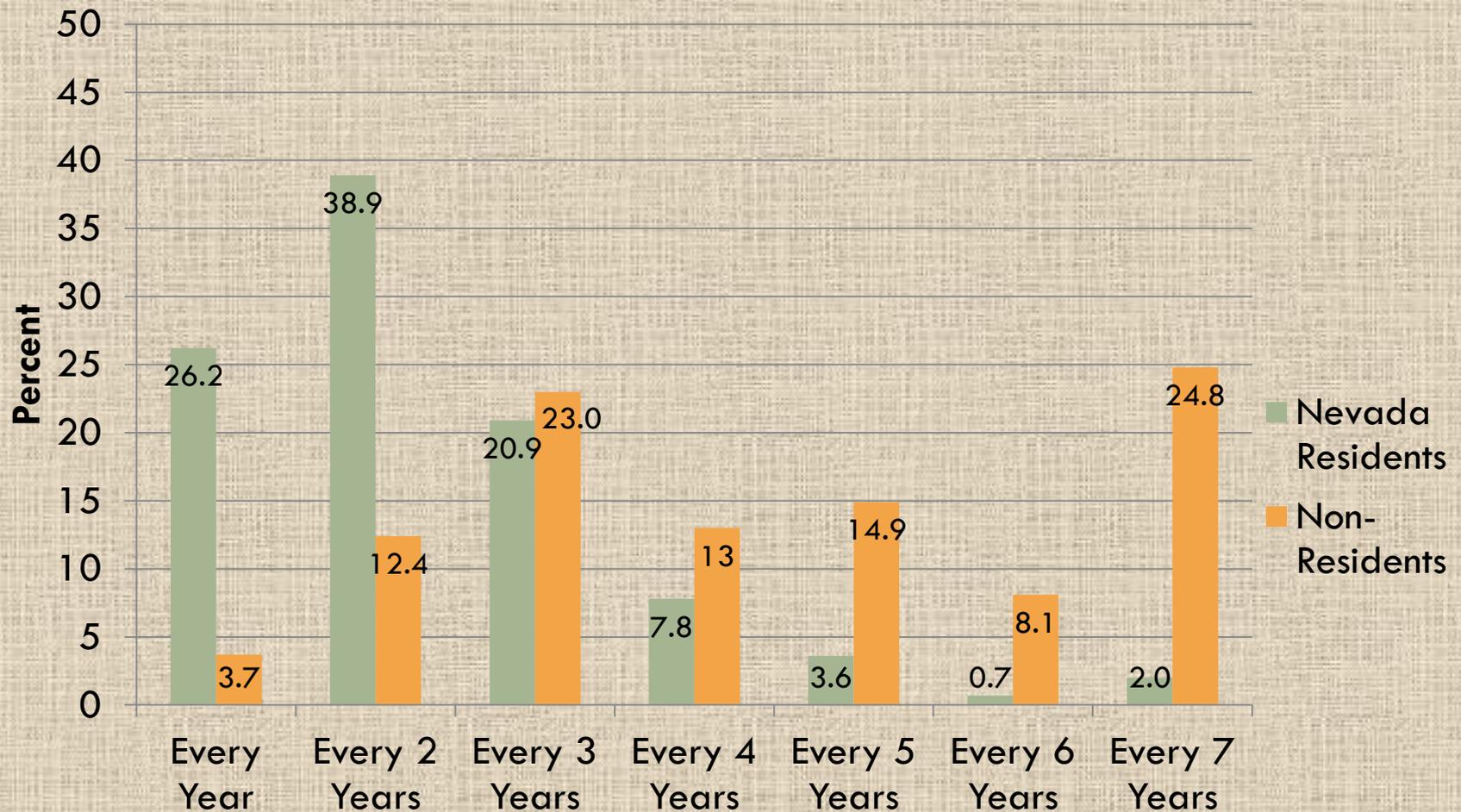
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Percent

Time of Season	I Prefer	I Avoid
Opening Day	61.5%	38.5%
First Weekend	61.5	38.5
First Week	80.1	19.9
Any Weekend	71.0	28.1
Any Weekday	91.4	8.6
Last Week	87.9	12.1
Last Weekend	75.7	24.3
Last Day	71.9	28.1

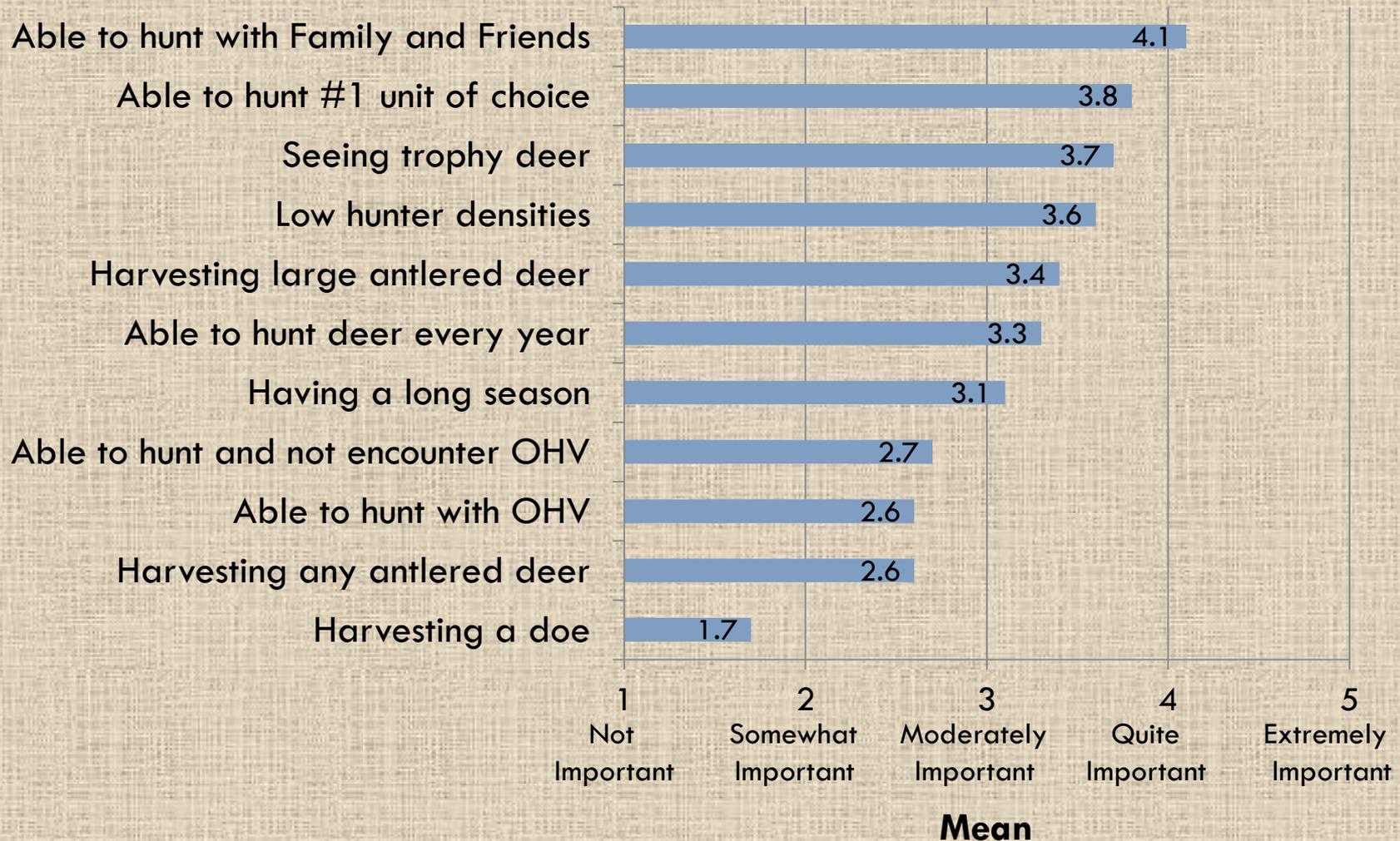
# Expectation to Successfully Draw a Tag

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# A Quality Hunting Experience

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# Motivations for Hunting Mule Deer

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## 4 = Quite Important

Being close to nature

Bringing back memories

Teaching children to hunt

Viewing scenery

Seeing **deer** in natural settings

Getting away from demands of life

Doing something with family

**Getting a good shot at deer**

Being with friends

Getting to know lay of land

Developing friendships w companions

## 3 = Moderately Important

Keeping physically fit

Learning more about deer

Experiencing tranquility

Learning more about nature

Stimulation and excitement

Thinking about personal values

**Harvesting large antlered buck**

Testing abilities

Sharing what I have learned

Testing and using equipment

Using **deer** stalking skills

1

Not  
Important

2

Somewhat  
Important

3

Moderately  
Important

4

Quite  
Important

5

Extremely  
Important

# Motivations for Hunting Mule Deer

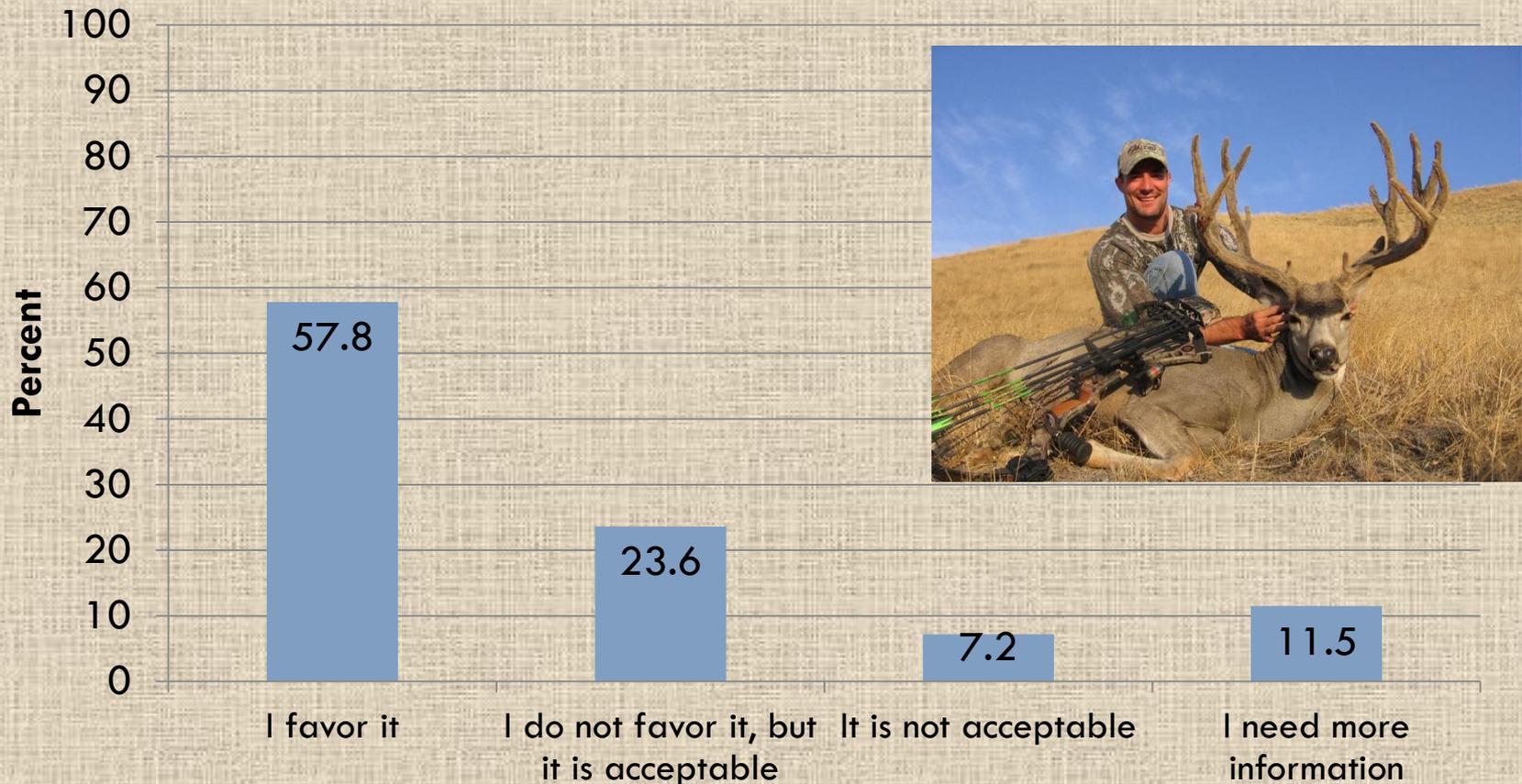
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<b>2 = Somewhat Important</b>		<b>1 = Not Important</b>
<b>Putting meat on the table</b>		<b>Harvesting any deer</b>
Developing hunting skills		Showing others I can do it
Developing spiritual values		<b>Harvesting a small antlered buck</b>
Being on my own		<b>Harvesting antlerless deer</b>
<b>Harvesting any buck</b>		Competing against others
Releasing or reducing tension		

1 Not Important	2 Somewhat Important	3 Moderately Important	4 Quite Important	5 Extremely Important
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# Either Sex Archery Tags

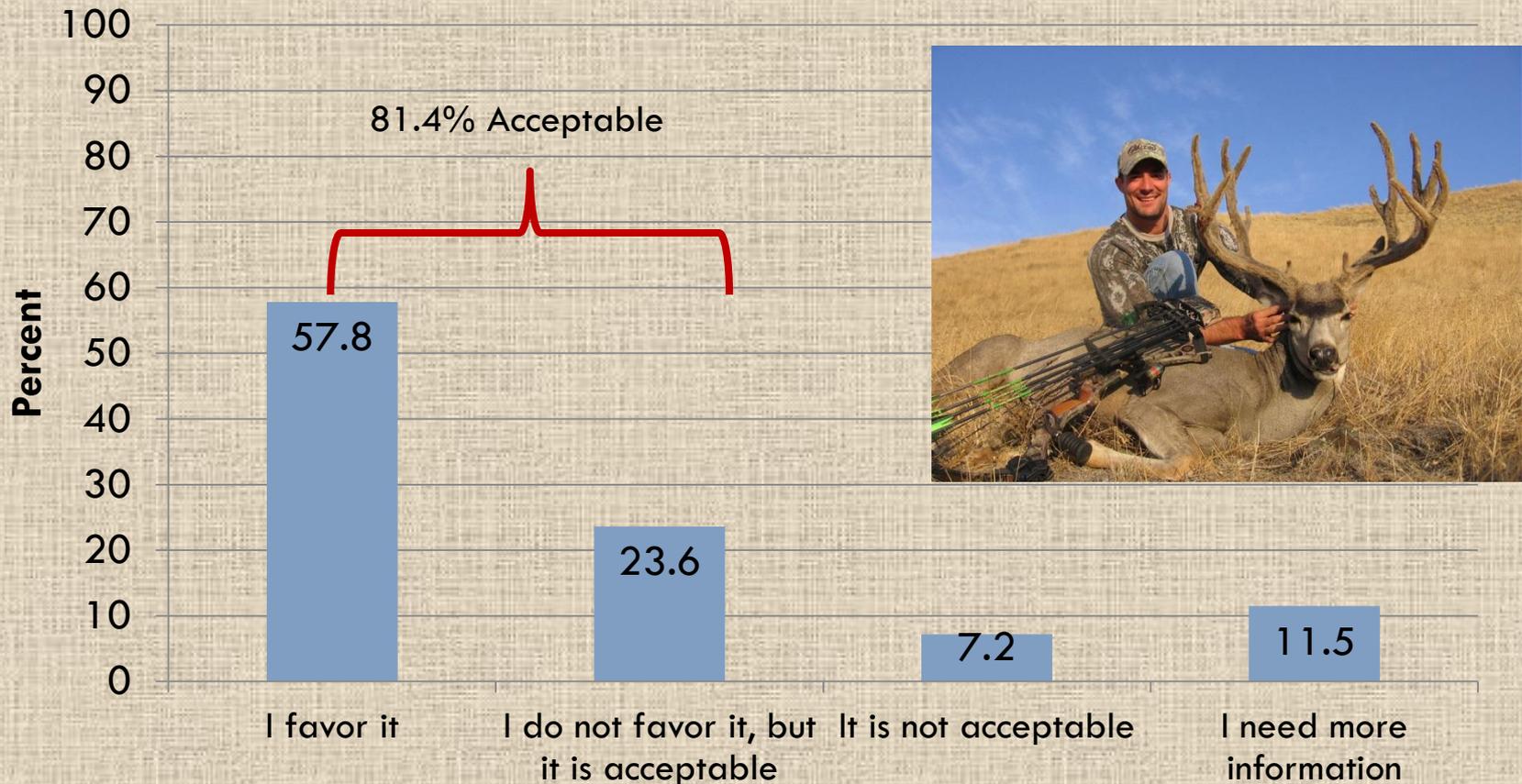
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In areas where doe harvest may be necessary in order to achieve management goals, would you support either sex archery deer tags?

# Either Sex Archery Tags

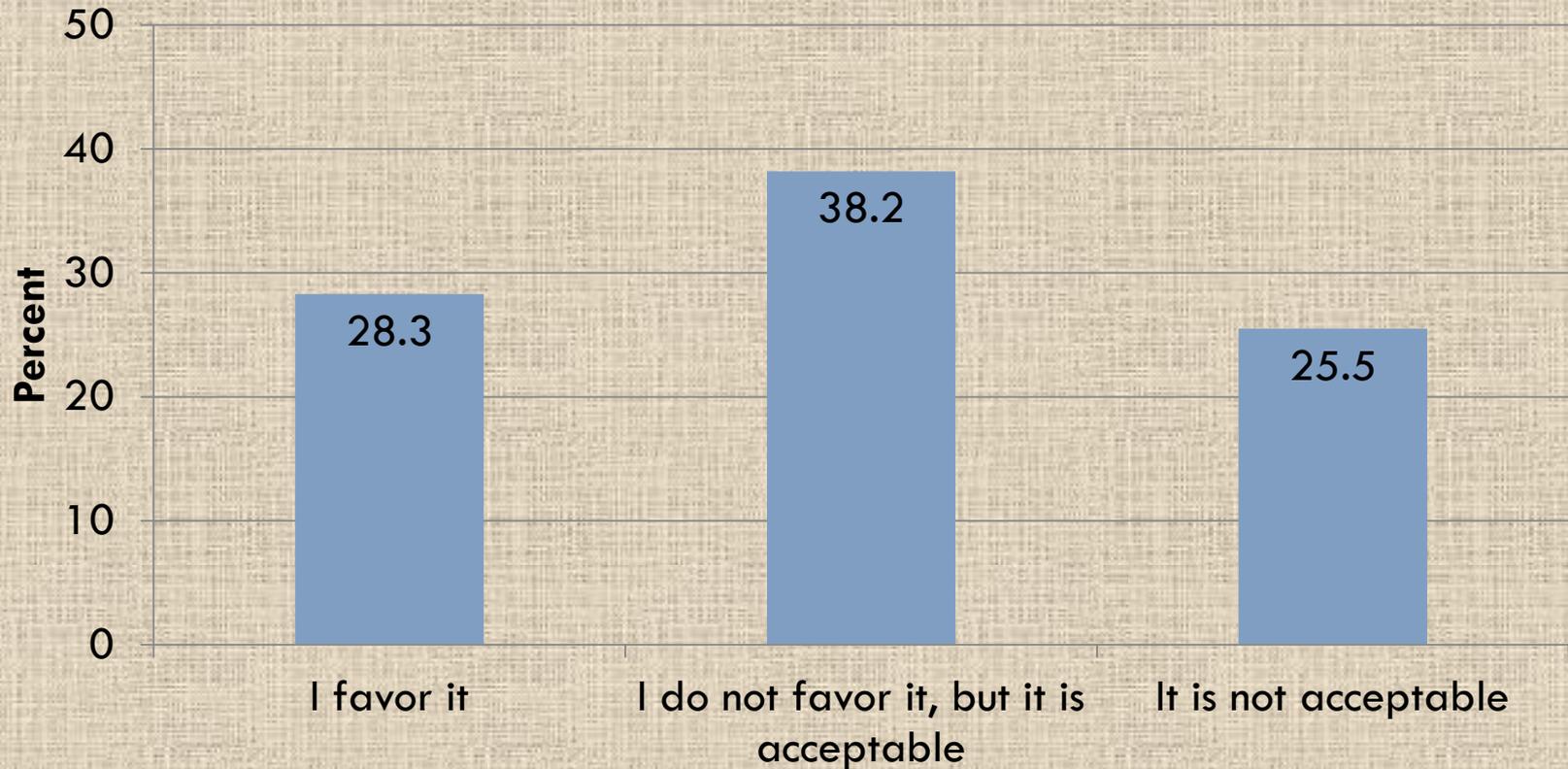
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In areas where doe harvest may be necessary in order to achieve management goals, would you support either sex archery deer tags?

# Use of Trail Cameras

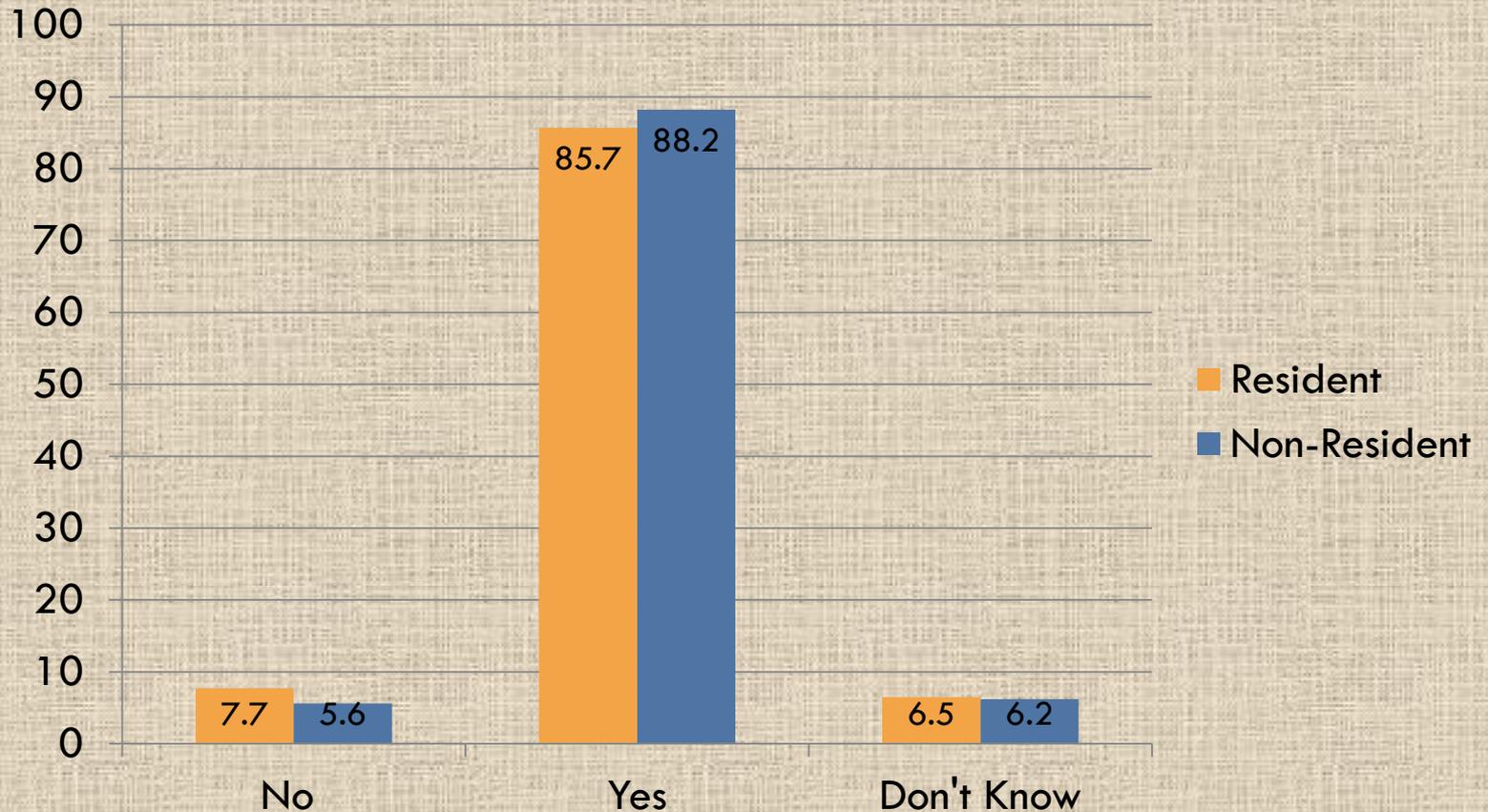
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How do you feel about the use of personal trail cameras for monitoring wildlife during hunting?

# Antlerless Hunts to Improve Hunting

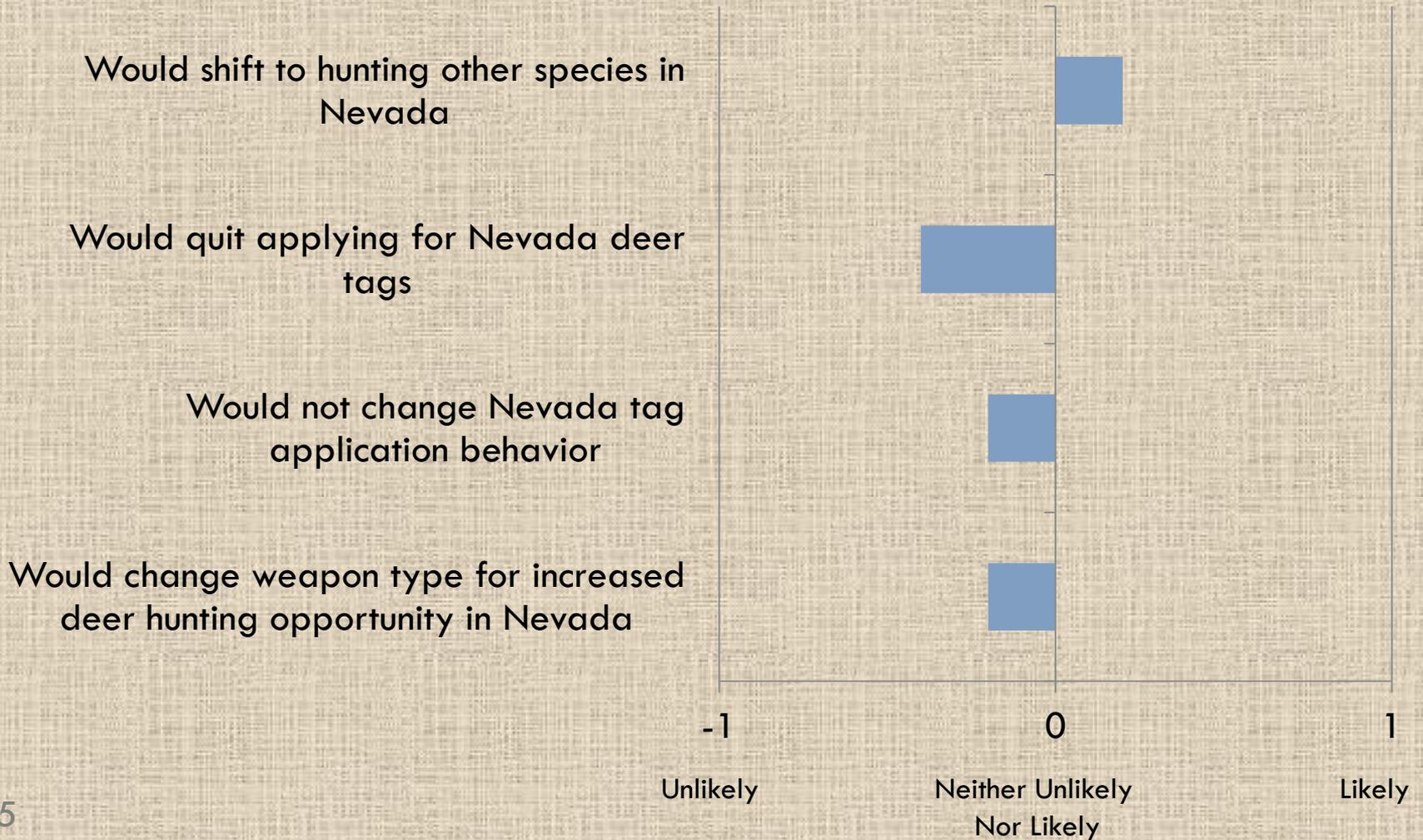
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Are you in favor of antlerless hunts (harvesting does) for Mule Deer if it could improve deer herd health or result in more fawns or larger bucks?

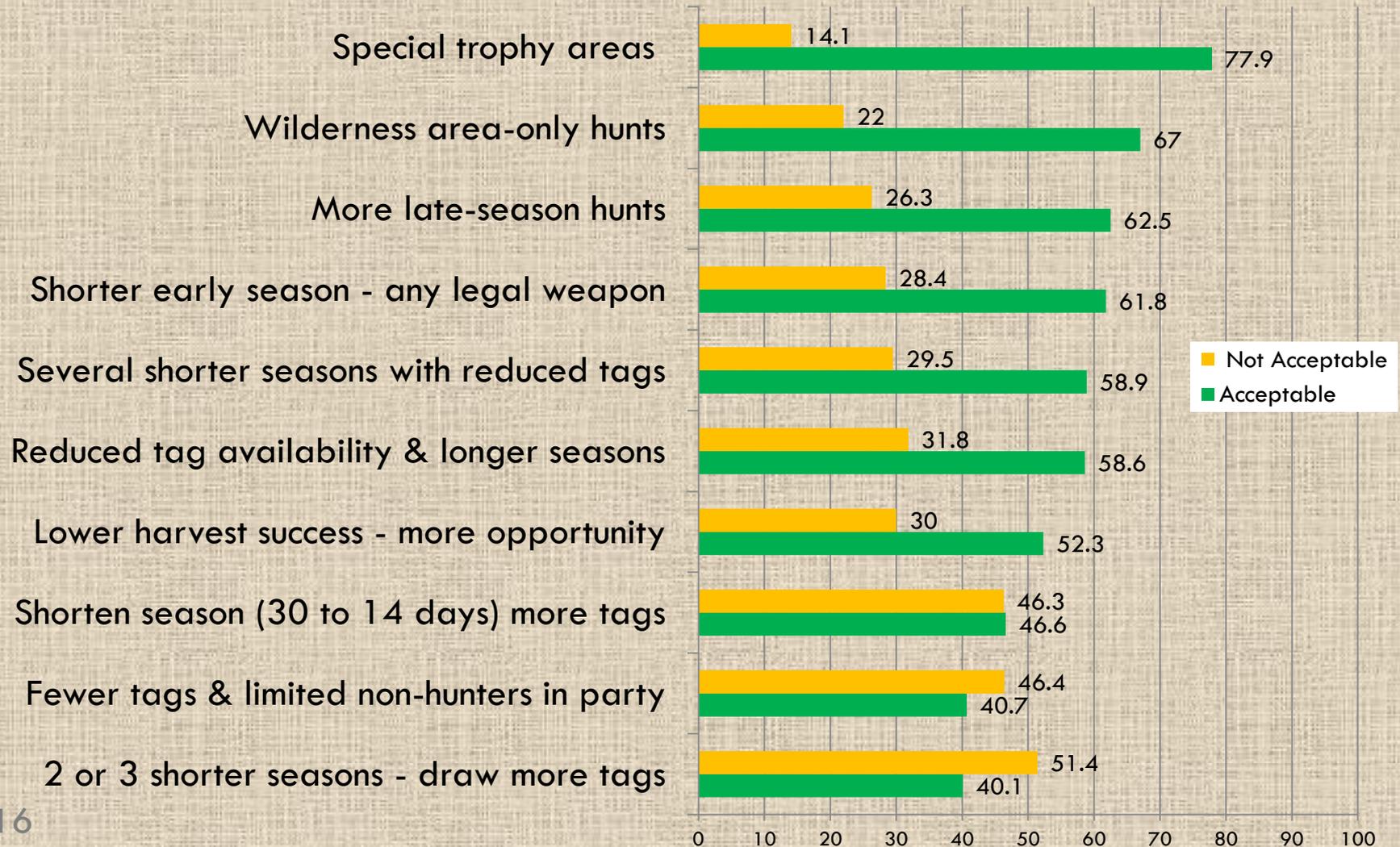
# Hunting Behavior Change if Hunting Opportunities Decrease

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# Acceptability of Potential Management Options

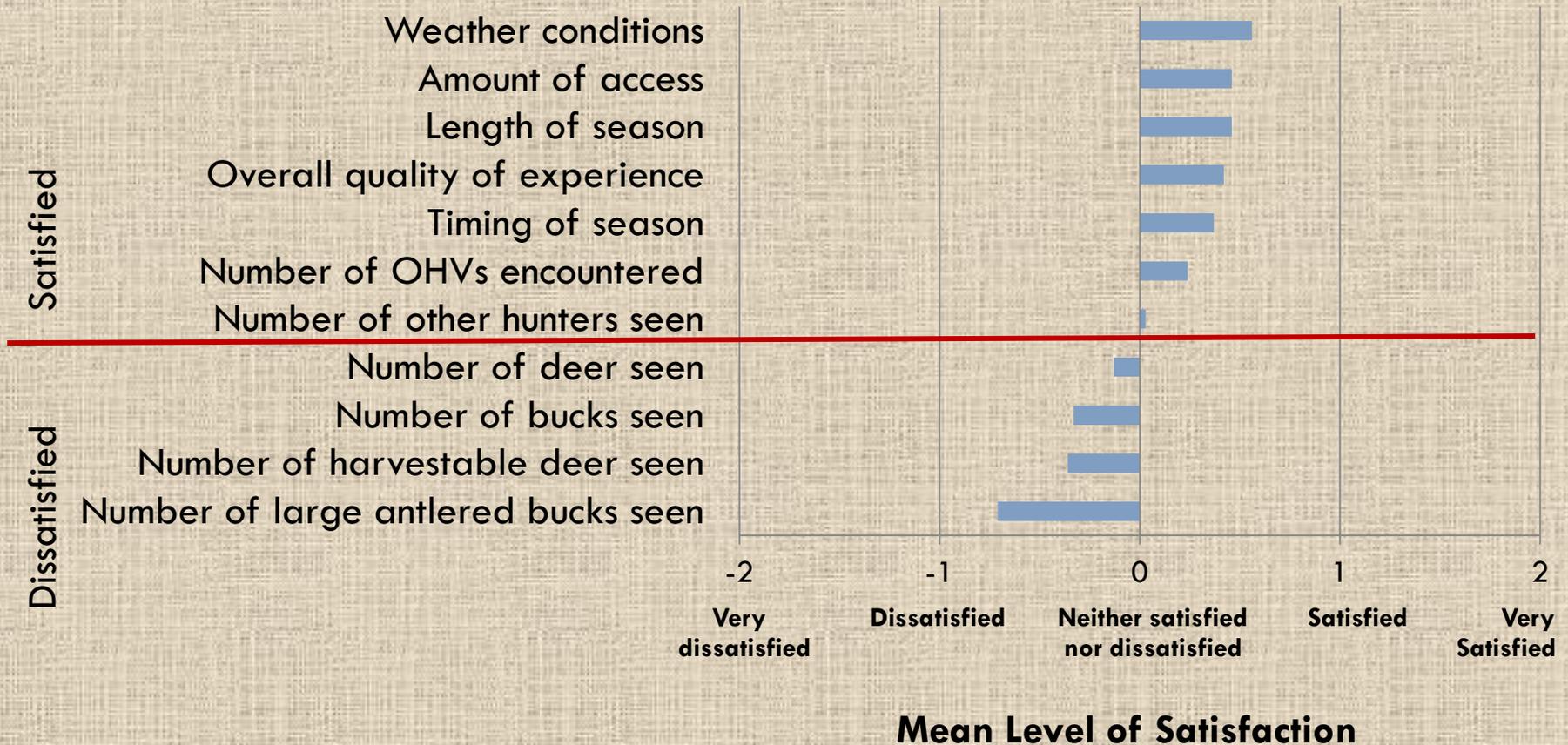
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# Satisfaction with Hunting Experience

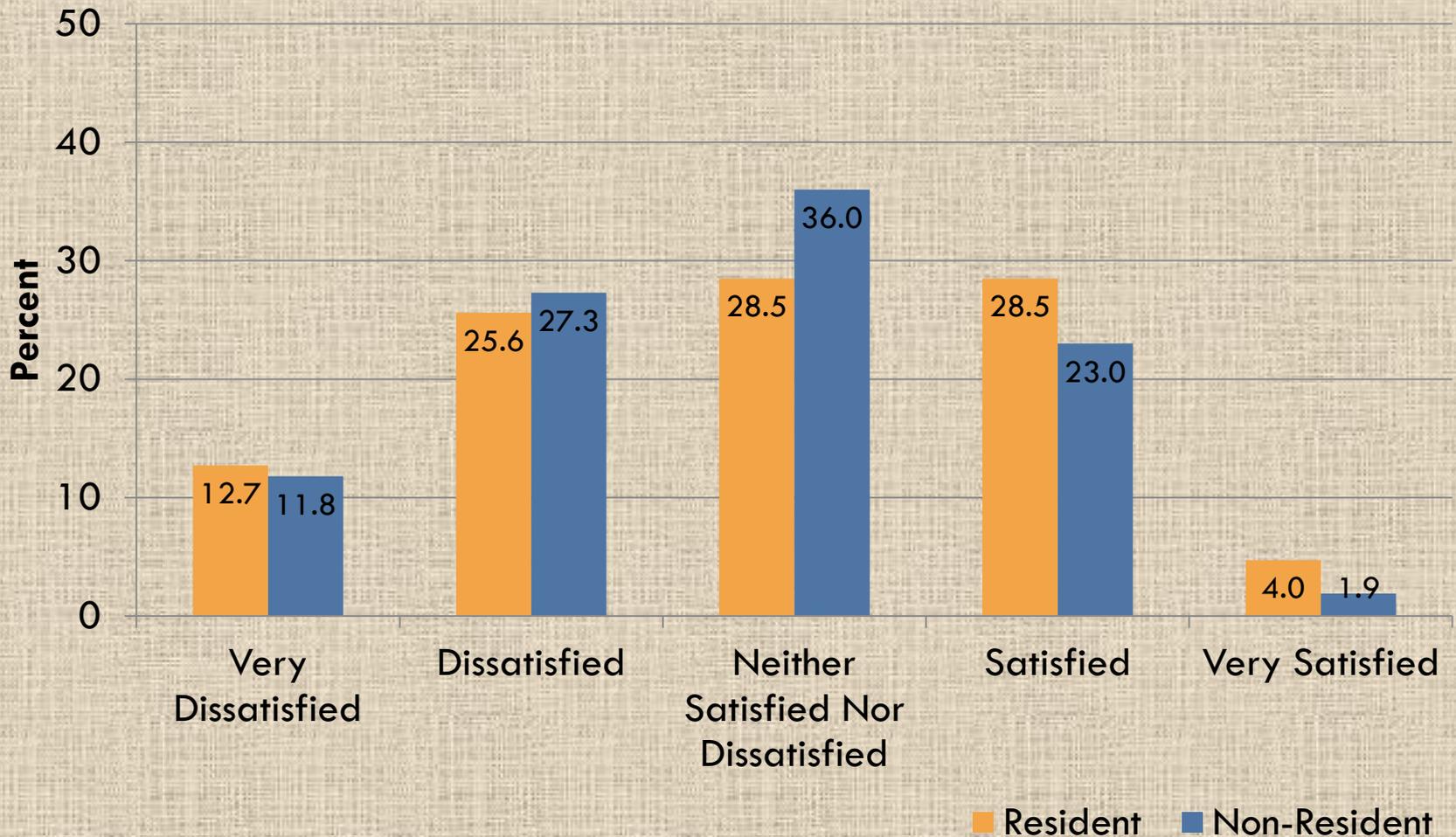
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## Satisfaction with 2012-2013 Hunting Experience



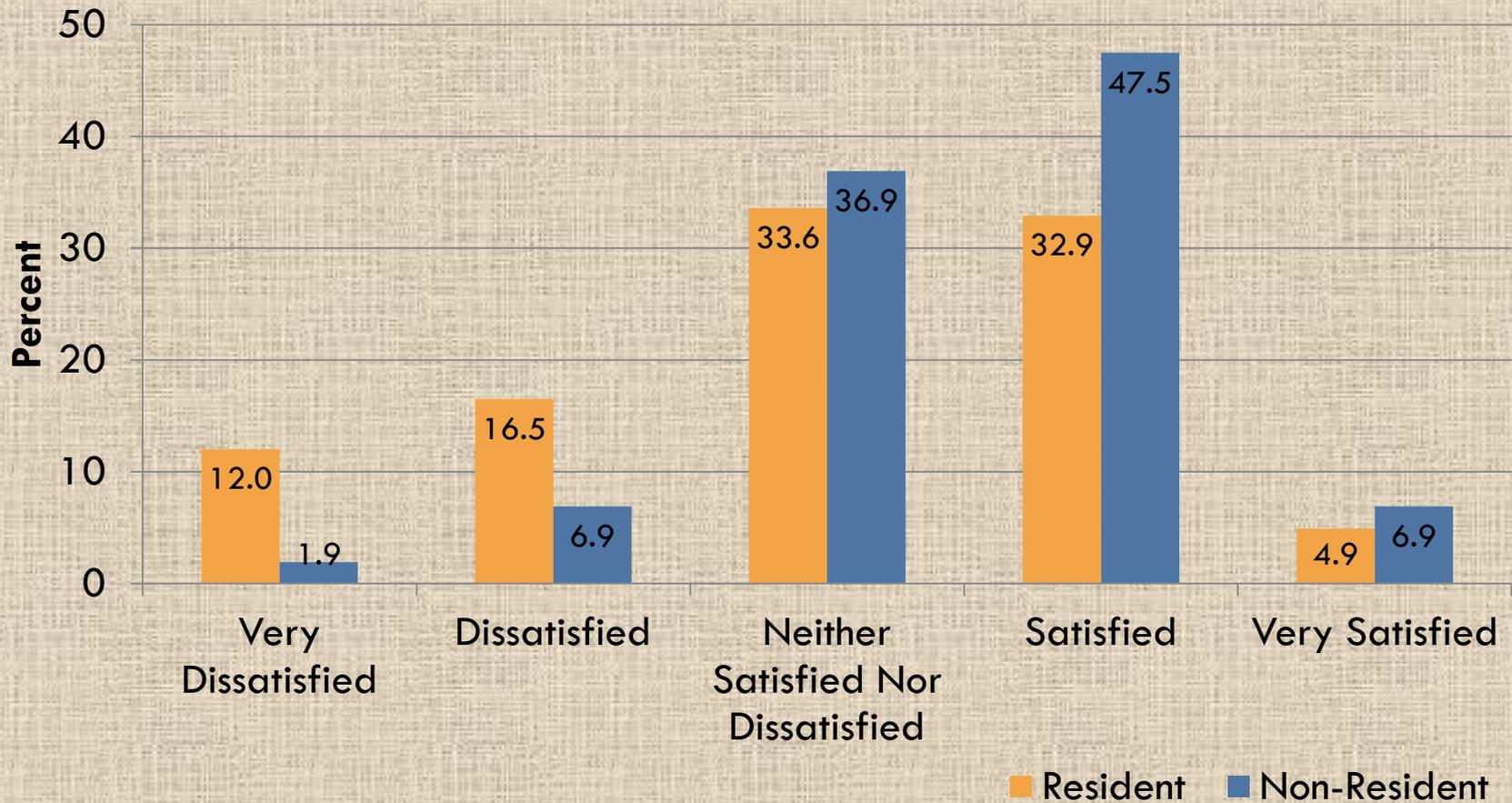
# Satisfaction with Chances of Drawing a Tag

21



# Satisfaction with NDOW Management of Mule Deer Populations

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# Potential Factors Negatively Affecting Mule Deer Populations

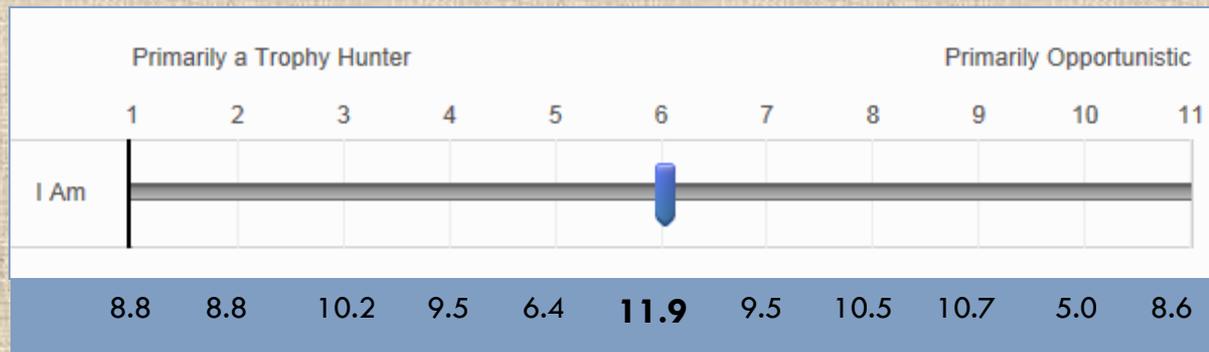
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Potential Factors Negatively Affecting Mule Deer Numbers	Unlikely	Neither Unlikely nor Likely	Likely
Predators (Coyotes, Mountain Lions, Bobcats)	13.1%	15.9%	<b>71.0%</b>
Competition from wild horses	23.5	21.9	<b>54.6</b>
Illegal Mule Deer harvest (poaching, etc.)	22.8	24.9	<b>52.4</b>
Loss of habitat (due to housing, mining and energy development)	<b>37.2</b>	19.7	<b>43.2</b>
Competition from livestock	<b>34.5</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>36.9</b>
Competition from Elk	<b>35.4</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>30.5</b>
Wildlife diseases	19.4	36.8	<b>43.8</b>
Legal harvest of Mule Deer	<b>52.4</b>	30.2	17.4

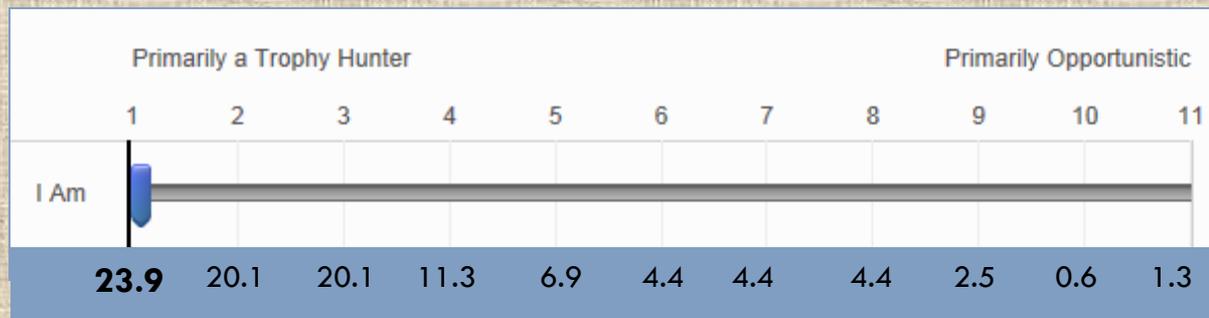
# Trophy Hunter vs. Opportunistic Hunter

Q21	Resident	Non-Resident
I don't care about the size, harvesting a Mule Deer each season is most important	47.9%	9.9
I'm more interested in a mature or trophy deer and will often bypass a chance to shoot smaller bucks	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>89.5</b>

Resident



Non-Resident



# How Hunters Define “Trophy”

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	Average Measurements*
Antler Points/Side	4
Antler Length	21.5 inches
Antler Spread	28.0 inches
Boone & Crocket or Pope & Young score	180

\* Data only from hunters (57%) who expressed an interest in hunting trophy Mule Deer

# Turning in a Tag / Accompany Others

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"Turned in" a tag in past 2 years	Percent	
	Resident	Non-Resident
No	88.4%	89.0
Yes, in 2012	6.9	5.2
Yes, in 2013	5.7	3.9
Did NOT draw a tag but accompanied family or friend		
No	22.5%	52.8
Yes	77.5	47.2

# Information Sources about Mule Deer Management

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Sources of Information (check all that apply)	Resident	Non-Resident
Other hunters	64.3%	38.9
Friends	64.1	47.5
NDOW Website	60.3	55.6
NDOW reports, publications, pamphlets	45.8	27.2
Newspapers	28.2	4.3
Internet/Internet Forums	24.4	27.5
NDOW staff	17.4	11.1
Magazines	15.0	39.5
County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife	10.3	3.1
TV	9.9	5.6
Radio	9.2	1.2

# Resident Hunter Involvement

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- 67.1% of resident hunters are not aware of the *County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife* system
- Of the 32.9% who are aware, 75.8% have not attended a CAB or Wildlife Commission meeting in the last 3 years
- 68.3% -- do not belong to conservation or sportsmen's organizations
- 27.3% -- are interested in becoming more involved in wildlife management issues, particularly Mule Deer management

# Residents' Awareness of CABs

Mean Scores

Hunter Attributes	Not Aware	Aware
How long hunted in NV	20.7 Years	<b>29.9</b> Years
How long applying for tags in NV	17.3 Years	<b>25.3</b> Years
Satisfaction with chance to draw a tag	2.8*	<b>3.0</b>
Satisfaction with NDOW management	3.1*	2.9
Trophy vs. Opportunistic	<b>6.4**</b>	5.0
Years of Residency	30.6 Years	<b>39.1</b> Years

\*1= Very Dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3= Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied 4=Satisfied 5=Very Satisfied

\*\* Scale of 1-11

# Residents' Attendance at CAB or Wildlife Commission Meetings

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Mean Scores

Hunter Attributes	Have Not Attended	Have Attended
How long hunted in NV	28.1 Years	<b>33.1</b>
How long applying for tags in NV	23.7 Years	<b>28.3</b>
Satisfaction with chance to draw a tag	2.9*	<b>3.2</b>
Satisfaction with NDOW management	<b>3.0*</b>	2.7
Trophy v. Opportunistic	<b>5.4**</b>	4.1
Years of Residency	37.1 Years	<b>43.0</b>

\*1= Very Dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3= Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied 4=Satisfied 5=Very Satisfied

\*\* Scale of 1-11

Q31→Q1, Q2, Q18, Q19, Q22, Q37

# Residents' Membership in Conservation Organizations (2012-2013)

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Hunter Attributes	Mean Scores	
	Non-Member	Member
How long hunted in NV	22.4 Years	<b>27.0</b>
How long applying for tags in NV	18.6 Years	<b>23.1</b>
Satisfaction with chance to draw a tag	2.8*	<b>3.0</b>
Satisfaction with NDOW management	3.1*	3.0
Trophy v. Opportunistic	<b>6.2**</b>	5.1
Years of Residency	32.4 Years	<b>35.7</b>

\*1= Very Dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3= Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied 4=Satisfied 5=Very Satisfied

\*\* Scale of 1-11

# Residents' Interest in Becoming More Involved in Wildlife Management Issues

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Mean Scores

Hunter Attributes	Not Interested	Interested	Don't Know
How long hunted in NV	26.1 Years	25.9	<b>20.5</b>
How long applying for tags in NV	20.1 Years	21.5	18.9
Satisfaction with chance to draw a tag	2.8*	3.0	2.8
Satisfaction with NDOW management	3.1*	3.0	3.0
Trophy v. Opportunistic	<b>6.6**</b>	5.0	5.9
Years of Residency	36.4 Years	34.3	<b>30.5</b>

\*1= Very Dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3= Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied 4=Satisfied 5=Very Satisfied

\*\* Scale of 1-11

# Take Away Points

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- NV Mule Deer hunters are very experienced and loyal & willing to share their opinions
- Sample dependably represents 57,000 hunters
- “Hunters want it all” – a tag every year, less congestion, big bucks – often at cross purposes
- Satisfied with NDOW management of Mule Deer
  - A little less satisfied with chances of drawing a tag
  - Many rely on NDOW information sources

# Take Away Points

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- Willing to accept regulations to protect health of the herd
- Favor regulations that provide variety of opportunities to hunt
- Are split between interest in trophy deer versus opportunity to harvest
- Are motivated to hunt for many reasons, not just harvest; and people without tags often accompany other hunters
- Many are interested in becoming more involved

# Thank You – Any Questions?

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# Presentation to NDOW

## Reno, NV May 9, 2014

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Sanyal, N., Krumpe, E. & Middleton, A. 2014. *Mule Deer Hunting and Management: Experiences, Attitudes and Preferences of Nevada's Mule Deer Tag Applicants*. Final Report to Nevada Department of Wildlife. Moscow, ID: Department of Conservation Social Sciences, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho.

Professors Ed Krumpe & Nick Sanyal  
Research Assistant, Alexandria Middleton  
Dept. of Conservation Social Sciences  
College of Natural Resources  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, ID 83844-1139

208-885-7528  
nsanyal@uidaho.edu

208-885-7428  
ekrumpe@uidaho.edu

**University of Idaho**  
College of Natural Resources

<http://www.uidaho.edu/cnr/css>