

TAG ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the October 15, 2013 Meeting

The Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) met at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 15 2013 at the Verdi Nature Center, 270 Bridge St., Verdi, Nevada.

PRESENT: Chairman Jack Robb (by phone)
Rex Flowers
Joe Crim (by phone)
Michael McBeath (by phone)
Brad Johnston

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Bob Haughian
Maureen Hullinger

OTHERS PRESENT: Tony Wasley – NDOW Director
Don Sefton – Systems Consultants (SCI)
Larry Gilbertson – NDOW
Cody Schroeder - NDOW

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is retained by the Department of Wildlife and is available for review upon request.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Committee Members, Determination of Quorum

Chairman Robb called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Chairman Robb informed the committee that he has directed Rex Flowers to run the committee meeting since he was not physically present.

2. Approval of Agenda – Rex Flowers

Brad Johnston motioned to approve the agenda.

Chairman Jack Robb seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes – Rex Flowers – For Possible Action

The Committee will review the minutes from the August 2, 2013 meeting of the TAAHC and may take action to approve the minutes.

Rex Flowers identified 5 corrections that needed change on the August 2, 2013 TAAHC minutes.

Brad Johnston motioned to approve the minutes with the changes that Rex Flowers identified.

Chairman Jack Robb seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Rex Flowers - Informational

Committee members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Committee. Any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. The Committee will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Committee since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Committee members may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by the department will also be discussed.

Rex Flowers asked the committee if they had any member items, announcements or any correspondence they would like to discuss. There were none.

5. New Items for Consideration for Inclusion on the TAAHC Topic List – Rex Flowers – For Possible Action

As a continuing opportunity to the public, the Committee will review any new suggested Tag Allocation and Application Hunt topics received from County Advisory Boards or the public and may take action to add and prioritize topics to the TAAHC Topic List for consideration for implementation.

Bob Haughian identified at the last TAAHC meeting, topic list item A.1.12 – “Obtain Bonus Point during any big game application period even if species category is not available” was not ranked. He also informed the committee that Maureen Hullinger spoke to the individual who submitted this topic.

Maureen Hullinger said she notified this individual regarding this topic and he would like to see the ability to purchase a bonus point be applied to all species even if there are no remaining tags available for that species in the other draws.

Chairman Robb asked Don Sefton of SCI if there was a reason why the bonus point-only period is only opened 7 days after the application period and why it could not be open for a longer period of time.

Don Sefton informed the committee that there are series of lengthy processes that occur after the close of the application period and before the draw is conducted. One of the processes is any merging duplicate records a client may have created. This process is fairly onerous and it can affect a client's eligibility.

Maureen Hullinger stated that after looking at this, other sportsmen who may benefit from this would be those who do not have readily available access to the internet like the active duty military. This would give them a chance to come back and pick up bonus points for those species they may have missed because they had no access to a computer during the application period.

Michael McBeath asked Don Sefton if a person is just putting in solely to purchase a bonus point for the following year, what it is about the current draw that would impact it.

Don Sefton explained that SCI would not know if a client had already submitted an application, therefore there would be a duplicate application created for bonus points, which then would reject both applications through the merge process. The bonus point process is tied to the draw and does not run separately from it. He said with some programming, it would be possible to allow the purchase of a bonus point for a species in the 2nd draw that is not remaining. He furnished the example of purchasing a bull elk bonus point in the 2nd draw even though there may not be any remaining tags for bull elk in the 2nd draw.

Michael McBeath stated he supports this idea and would like the committee to explore the possibility of offering the purchase of a bonus points only. He feels that anything the committee could do to aid those hunters who would otherwise lose their points would benefit the hunters and also would furnish additional revenue to the department.

Chairman Jack Robb also stated he agrees with Michael McBeath in exploring and discussing this idea further with Don Sefton.

Brad Johnston stated he did not see any down side to this idea.

Don Sefton informed the committee he could see two possible down sides to this, one being a hunter who has submitted his application on time would be extremely upset at the allowance of another hunter who missed the deadline but was able to apply after the deadline. The second one is, a hunter may think they can purchase a bonus point in the main draw then come back in the 2nd draw and purchase another for the same species. Don Sefton assured the committee that this would not be possible because of the programming that is in place which would prevent this. The second application for purchasing a bonus point would automatically be rejected. The bigger problem would be those who apply on a paper application, all of the edits for these are done by hand, if this was online only, the programming would catch these applications and rejected them before any money is submitted.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item before the committee votes on a motion. There were none.

Michael McBeath motioned to the committee to rank topic item A.1.12 as a "2".

Chairman Robb seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Rex Flowers opens up topic item A.1.13 – No loss of bonus points for a species if the same species tag is drawn during First Come, First Serve (FCFS) draw for discussion.

Maureen Hullinger informed the committee that if the committee opted to go forward with this, it will take NAC change.

Rex Flowers asked Maureen Hullinger if the committee goes forward with this change, could the language be implemented by 2014.

Maureen Hullinger explained she would need to draft new language for the NAC for changes to bonus points for the FCFS draw. She stated that it would be better if implemented for 2015 to assure the language is correct and the timing of getting it to LCB for review.

Joe Crim expressed this could cause a dilemma by hunters waiting to purchase their deer tags in the FCFS draw and not lose any of their bonus points. Next, the elk and sheep hunters would want the same opportunity and cry foul because there are not remaining elk or sheep tags left in the FCFS draw.

Maureen Hullinger informed the committee this would not just apply to deer, but would be across the board for all species remaining in the FCFS draw.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item before the committee votes on a motion. There were none.

Brad Johnston motioned to the committee to request from the Department to go forward with implementation of topic item A.1.13 for no loss of bonus points for a species if the same species tag is drawn during FCFS draw.

Rex Flowers seconded the motion.

Michael McBeath asked for clarification if this was to be implemented in 2014 or 2015.

Rex Flowers clarified it would depend on the timing of getting the language changed in NAC and presented to LCB. It could be implemented in either 2014 or 2015.

Motion carried unanimously.

Rex Flowers opens up topic item A.6.4 – Change bull elk waiting period from 10 years to 5 years for discussion.

Bob Haughian informed the committee that at the August TAAHC meeting, Chairman Robb requested Don Sefton present an analysis of how many hunters this would effect.

Don Sefton reported to the committee he has compiled a few PowerPoint slides with the data he came up with (see attached). The data that he used is for resident and nonresident hunters who applied for all weapon types such as any legal weapon, muzzleloader and archery hunts for bull elk. He reported that for resident bull elk hunters only, it would roughly equal to 500 hunters each year. This would affect hunters who have harvested and are now in a 10 year waiting period starting from 2004 through 2008 and would be eligible again to apply in 2015 through 2019. The nonresident's bull elk hunter's averages out to 60 each year. This is also for the hunters who have harvested and are now in a 10 year waiting period starting from 2004 through 2008 and will be eligible again to apply in 2015 through 2019.

Rex Flowers asked Don Sefton if allowing approximately 2,600 hunters to apply again for bull elk after 5 years, how would this affect the odds?

Don Sefton reported he would have to run the numbers to come up with this data.

Director Tony Wasley asked whether or not this would change hunter's expectation. The whole basis of this is if hunters didn't have to wait ten years and were only waiting five, they might lower their standards and kill a smaller bull and increase hunters' successes. He stated that he personally felt going from a 10 year waiting period to a 5 year would change a hunter's expectation. There is a culture of hunters that expect to kill the biggest animal possible and by reducing the waiting period this would not have any measurable effect on their expectations.

Don Sefton provided the data and stated there would be approximately 10% hunters added back into the pool.

Larry Gilbertson stated from a biologist stand point, this discussion came up at the NDOW big game meeting this year and the dilemma the Department has is that it has tried to recommend more bull elk tags but the County Advisory Boards usually ended up cutting the number of tags to be issued. This would stem from a hunter showing up and claiming that if there are too many tags issued, this would cause hunter congestion in an area and as Director Wasley stated, there is high expectation for these big bulls. The County Advisory Boards would then recommend the reduction of the numbers of tags in an area. He felt the Department could allocate a lot more tags but the process won't allow this. And because of this, the bull to cow ratio keeps on climbing and there is nothing the Department can do about it. He suggested making the waiting period for both harvest and not harvested the same; this may encourage a hunter to harvest smaller bulls.

Chairman Robb stated there were hunters who are still waiting to have the opportunity to draw their first elk tag and would like to see them do so before letting the ones who have already harvested an elk be put back in the pool again.

Joe Crim also agreed with Chairman Robb and felt if the elk waiting period was changed to 10 year if harvested and 10 years if did not harvest, the hunter's would be more incline to take a smaller bull. This would help alleviate the bull population.

Michael McBeath said he felt reducing the waiting period would be more beneficial in reducing the elk population.

Rex Flowers stated he would like to see the 10 year waiting period for both harvest and no harvest. He also stated that when it is time to set the quota's, instead of letting the County Advisory Boards dictate the numbers of tags to be allocated, ask them to come forward with some real solid reasons on why not to increase the tag numbers.

Brad Johnston felt trying to affect the hunter's behavior in the field and changing waiting periods may not achieve the results they want. He stated he would like to think on this item, have more information and hear comments from the public before making a discussion.

Larry Gilbertson informed the committee that one of the recommendations for 2014 will be a spike elk hunt out of Elko because the biologists are not able to keep up with the bull elk ratio because it is getting so high.

Michael McBeath reported that as a commissioner for the past 6 years, he has in the past tried to get the CABs and the Commission to follow NDOW's recommendation on quotas but the reality of this issue is the quotas are the domain of the CABs and the only way to increase tag allocations would to have the CABs fall in line. He stated he does not see this happening.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item before the committee votes on a motion. There were none.

Chairman Robb motioned to the committee to rank topic item A.6.4 – Change bull elk waiting period from 10 years to 5 years as a "3."

Joe Crim seconded the motion.

Brad Johnston concurred with ranking topic item A.6.4 a "3", but still is not convinced that shortening or lengthening the waiting period will change the actual behavior of hunters in the field. He stated that unless once the survey results are in, and the results show that hunters' behavior will change based upon waiting periods, then he might be inclined to change the ranking from a "3" to something else.

Michael McBeath informed the committee he would like to see the topic item ranked as a '2.' He would like to take this out to the public and see what the public input would be. He informed the committee that he would not be voting on the motion of ranking the topic item as a "3".

Chairman Robb believes if this was presented to the CABs and the public, the feedback results would reflect whether or not they are in a waiting period and for how long.

Rex Flowers stated he is supporting the topic item as a ranking of "3" only because there are so many individuals out there who have never drawn their bull elk tag and have a high number of bonus points.

Joe Crim reported those hunters who are sitting out the 10 year waiting period do have the option of applying for the depredation elk hunts. They don't have to technically sit out; there are other avenues and options to get a bull elk tag.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item before the committee votes on ranking topic item A.6.4 a "3".

Michael McBeath voted "No"

Motion passed 4 to 1.

6. Review Progress of Topic List Items Ranked as #1 by the Committee - Chairman Robb and Operations Chief Bob Haughian – For Possible Action

The Committee will hear a progress report of those items previously ranked as #1 by the committee. The committee may further define/refine the scope of the activities related to each of the items and may introduce further direction regarding the completion/implementation of those items.

Bob Haughian identified at the last TAAHC meeting, 5 topic items to be introduced for further discussion by the committee. The first topic item to be addressed is A.1.7 – Party hunt bonus point retention, Bob reported that Don Sefton was to provide a report on his findings.

Don Sefton reported that he was asked to determine how many high bonus point holders with a tag in a party had returned their tags. Looking at the data (see attached slides), he said approximately 1% of hunters were returning their tags had a high number of bonus points.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item before the committee votes on a motion. There were none. Rex Flowers brought this topic item back to the TAAHC stating it has a ranking of a "1" and asked if anyone wanted to make a motion.

Chairman Robb moved to motioned the committee to change topic item A.1.7 – Party hunt bonus point retention ranking it to a "3" with the information that was provided.

Rex Flowers seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Rex Flowers opened up topic item A.1.10 – First-time youth applicant, who has completed hunter safety course, starts with one bonus point for comments from the committee and the public. There were no comments by the TAAHC or public, this topic item with stay ranked as a "3".

Bob Haughian informed the committee on topic item A.1.14 – No loss of bonus points for active duty military who leave the State of Nevada, NDOW staff met on this item and looked at some other items to add to this. There is more work to do on this topic item and have requested an evaluation group with NDOW staff, John Reed, Don Sefton and a recently retired military member from NDOW to participate. This topic item will be brought back to the TAAHC after the evaluation group meeting.

Michael McBeath said he would pass topic item A.2.2 – Fee evaluation, over to the chairman of finance.

Rex Flowers suggested on ranking topic item A.2.2 as a "3" since it was not within the venue and asked for comments from the committee and the public.

Chairman Robb suggested on keeping this topic item as N/A so it will not fall off of the TAAHC radar.

Bob Haughian recalled at the last TAAHC meeting, topic item A.10.2 – Apply for bull and cow elk in the same draw, was a lengthy discussion and the result which came from the meeting was that topic item A.10.2 morphed into A.10.3 – Eliminate applicability of bonus points for depredation hunts to include elk and A.10.4 – Allow for the selection of a cow elk tag in the same unit when applying for a mule deer tag. He informed the committee that NDOW staff is addressing these issues.

Maureen Hullinger reported NDOW has already gone forward with drafting language changes which would address all three of these topic items. The language changes have been submitted to LCB and NDOW hopes to have it back before the December meeting for implementation in 2014 for the application process. She stated she also drafted guidelines on the eligibility on each of these items which also tie in with the application process. There will be a paper going out to the CABs and the Commission for review and provide direction to NDOW for the creation of the Commission Regulation for the February meeting.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item. There were none.

7. Review Status of Proposed Survey of Nevada's Big Game Tag Applicants' Attitudes and Preferences - Chairman Robb and Operations Chief Bob Haughian – For Possible Action

The committee will hear a progress report regarding the development of a survey to gain information from Nevada's big game hunters. The survey has been refined to focus on mule deer hunters and management. The committee may further define the scope, content and administration of the survey.

Bob Haughian explained that during the August TAAHC the committee requested the department to seek input from the Department's staff in the development of survey questions. He also informed the committee that back in October of 2000, there was a mule deer survey conducted by Research and Polling, Inc. for NDOW. After reviewing the findings and questions from this survey, Bob Haughian said he felt some of these questions would be applicability for this survey. He also informed the committee that at the direction of Director Wasley, the mule deer survey from October 2000 should be submitted internally to the Chief of Game, Larry Gilbertson, to distribute among his senior biologists asking that they identify what questions they thought were good scientific questions that would be applicable now, identify what questions that may have flaws in them and not to pursue them, and the third task was to identify any new questions that were not addressed in the 2000 survey that could be used for the upcoming survey. All of this has just recently been completed but a full analysis on this has not been done yet.

The next step is to package this up and pass it to the University of Idaho. There were a couple of administrative items which need to be addressed first, one was that NDOW will be doing this by contract and it will be done as an interlocal agreement. Another item associated with the interlocal agreement would be the scope of work. Bob Haughian said he would be forwarding the interlocal agreement and the scope of work to the University of Idaho so they could begin the survey development.

Bob Haughian summarized for the committee the scope of work overview: learning from the respondents their definition of a trophy animal, identify what respondents view as a quality hunt (i.e. quality vs. quantity, congestion etc.), season structure, attitude toward predation management and attitude towards fee increases.

The goal is to target approximately 1,200 tag applicants with roughly 10% of nonresident applicants and 90% resident applicants. We would also factor in the small percentage of 3 or 4% applicants who apply on paper, allowing for paper applicants to participate in the survey.

The methodologies and the deliverables would include two cover letters that the University of Idaho in coordination with NDOW would develop, and the intent is to get the letter out no later than the first full week of January. The letter would go to those 1,200 randomly selected announcing the survey and inviting them to take the survey on the website. A couple of weeks after the letter, there will be a follow up with a postcard sent to those who have not yet taken the survey. Each applicant will have a unique identifier, this is an confidential survey but each one will have a unique identifier and the University of Idaho will maintain and protect that information. If not all of the 1,200 had taken the survey, those remaining will then receive another letter and included with that will be a paper survey.

The University of Idaho will process all of the surveys and do the analysis. Once completed they will provide NDOW with two reports--a preliminary report and a final report. The intent is to receive the preliminary report in early March so the TAAHC could review it during the March TAAHC meeting associated with the March Commission meeting. The final report will be completed in May with the intent to present it to the TAAHC and the Commission meeting in May. One of

the researchers from the University of Idaho may attend the May commission meeting to address the results of the survey.

Bob Haughian went on to inform the committee he had requested from the University of Idaho the very high end estimation cost associated for the survey to make sure there would be funding for this. The cost estimate is approximately \$48,000. To help this process, prior to the initial letter going out, emails will be going out to alert those who have been selected to participate in the survey in advance of the letter to let them know they have been randomly selected to participate in the survey.

Rex Flowers asked Bob Haughian if some who opt not to participate in the survey will there be a second letter mailed to them.

Bob Haughian responded there would be.

Rex Flowers inquired if the survey would be broken down by age group.

Bob Haughian clarified that in addition to the survey questions there will be various demographic information collected such as gender, age, etc. Also the University of Idaho will also research potential questions that the committee and NDOW may not have thought of and recommend them for inclusion in the survey.

Rex Flowers asked if there were anymore comments from the committee and the public on this item. There were none.

8. **Public Comment Period** - Persons wishing to speak may do so at this time. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time, any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

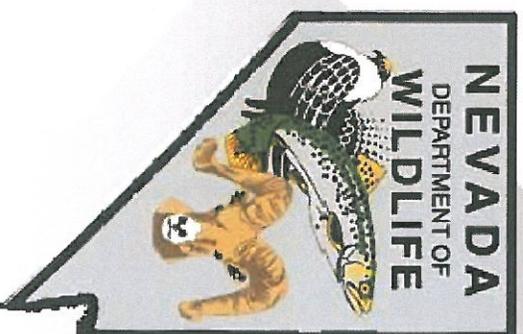
Rex Flowers opened up for any public comments. There were none.

9. **Future Committee Meetings – Chairman Robb – Informational**
The Committee will reconfirm the date and location of the next TAAHC meeting.

Next TAAHC will be scheduled for December 6, 2013 in Reno, at 5:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Tag Application & Application Hunt Committee



Elk Eligibility, Deer Party Tag Returns
by Systems Consultants

Las Vegas, Nevada – September 20, 2013



TAAHNC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns Agenda



Our Agenda ...

- Elk Eligibility – How many are affected if the 10 year wait is reduced to some other number of years?
- Deer Party Tag Returns – Are high bonus point holders “boot-strapping” other party members success only to return their tags to regain their points to repeat?



TAAHNC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns Elk Eligibility



Elk Hunts with waiting periods (highlighted in yellow)

Hunt Code	Description	Wait If Harvest	Wait No Harvest
4000	PIW ELK ANTLERED HUNT 4000	11	6
4100	ELK WILDLIFE HERITAGE HUNT	0	0
4101	ELK ANTLERLESS LONGBOW ARCHERY DEP HUNT 4101	1	1
4102	ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDAATION HUNT 4102	1	1
4103	ELK DEPREDAATION HUNT 4103	1	1
4104	ELK EMERGENCY DEPREDAATION HUNT 4104	1	1
4105	ELK EMERGENCY DEPREDAATION HUNT 4105	1	1
4106	ELK EMERGENCY DEPREDAATION HUNT 4106	1	1
4107	ELK ANTERLESS DEPREDAATION HUNT 4107	1	1
4111	ELK ANTERLESS LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4111	1	1
4131	ELK INCENTIVE HUNT	0	0
4132	ELK INCENTIVE LONGBOW ARCHERY	0	0
4133	ELK INCENTIVE MUZZLELOADER	0	0
4151	ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4151	11	6
4156	ELK ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4156	11	6
4161	ELK ANTLERED LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4161	11	6



TAAHNC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns Elk Eligibility



Elk Hunts with waiting periods, continued (highlighted in yellow)

Hunt Code	Description	Wait If	
		Harvest	No Harvest
4176	ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4176	1	1
4181	ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181	1	1
4200	ELK WILDLIFE HERITAGE HUNT	0	0
4211	ELK ANTLERLESS ARCHERY HUNT 4211	1	1
4231	ELK INCENTIVE HUNT	0	0
4232	ELK INCENTIVE HUNT LONGBOW	0	0
4233	ELK INCENTIVE HUNT MUZZLELOADER	0	0
4251	ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4251	11	6
4256	ELK ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4256	11	6
4261	ELK ANTLERED LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4261	11	6
4276	ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4276	1	1
4281	ELK ANTLERLESS HUNT 4281	1	1
4300	SILVER STATE ELK HUNT 4300	0	0
4500	DREAM TAG ELK HUNT 4500	0	0



TAAHHC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns Elk Eligibility



Resident Elk Hunters in Waiting Because of Harvest:

Resident Bull Elk (Tags With Harvest)											
Draw Year	Next Year Eligible	Any Legal Weapon	4000	4151	4151	Total	Muzzleloader	Archery	4156	4161	Res Total
2004	2015	2	386	388	48	41	477				
2005	2016	3	472	475	73	47	595				
2006	2017	3	471	474	43	34	551				
2007	2018	2	427	429	42	36	507				
2008	2019	3	456	459	42	49	550				



TAAHHC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns Elk Eligibility



Non Resident Elk Hunters in Waiting Because of Harvest:

Non Resident Bull Elk (with Harvest)					
Draw Year	Next Year Eligible	Any Legal Weapon	Muzzleloader	Archery	Non Res Total
2004	2015	21	1	3	25
2005	2016	89	11	6	106
2006	2017	52	7	5	64
2007	2018	62	4	6	72
2008	2019	55	1	3	59



**TAAHC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility,
Party Tag Returns
2013 Party Tag Returns**



There have been 10,403 Groups or Parties apply in 2013 in all draws:

Draw	Species	# Groups
NR Guided	Deer	153
Main	Deer	7,887
Main	Antelope	381
Main	Elk	1,445
2nd Draw	Deer	326
2nd Draw	Elk	211
Totals		10,403



TAAHNC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns 2013 Party Tag Returns



Of these 10,403 groups containing a total of 27,192 party members, there have been 105 individual tags returned by party members. These 105 party members were in 75 groups.

Of these 73 groups, in at least 21 ALL group members returned their tags. This leaves 52 groups in 2013 to consider.



TAAHC – Questions Regarding Elk Eligibility, Party Tag Returns



2013 Party Tag Returns – Differences in Points in Party Members

Difference Between		Difference Between	
Min and Max Points	Groups	Percent Max and Average Points	Groups
0	7,131	68.5%	0
1	1,782	17.1%	1
2	739	7.1%	2
3	375	3.6%	3
4	172	1.7%	4
5	73	.7%	5
6	47	.5%	6
7	34	.3%	7
8	17	.2%	8
9	10	.1%	9
10	8	.1%	10
11	8	.1%	11
12	3	.0%	12
13	1	.0%	13
14	1	.0%	14
15	2	.0%	15
Totals	10,403	Totals	10,403