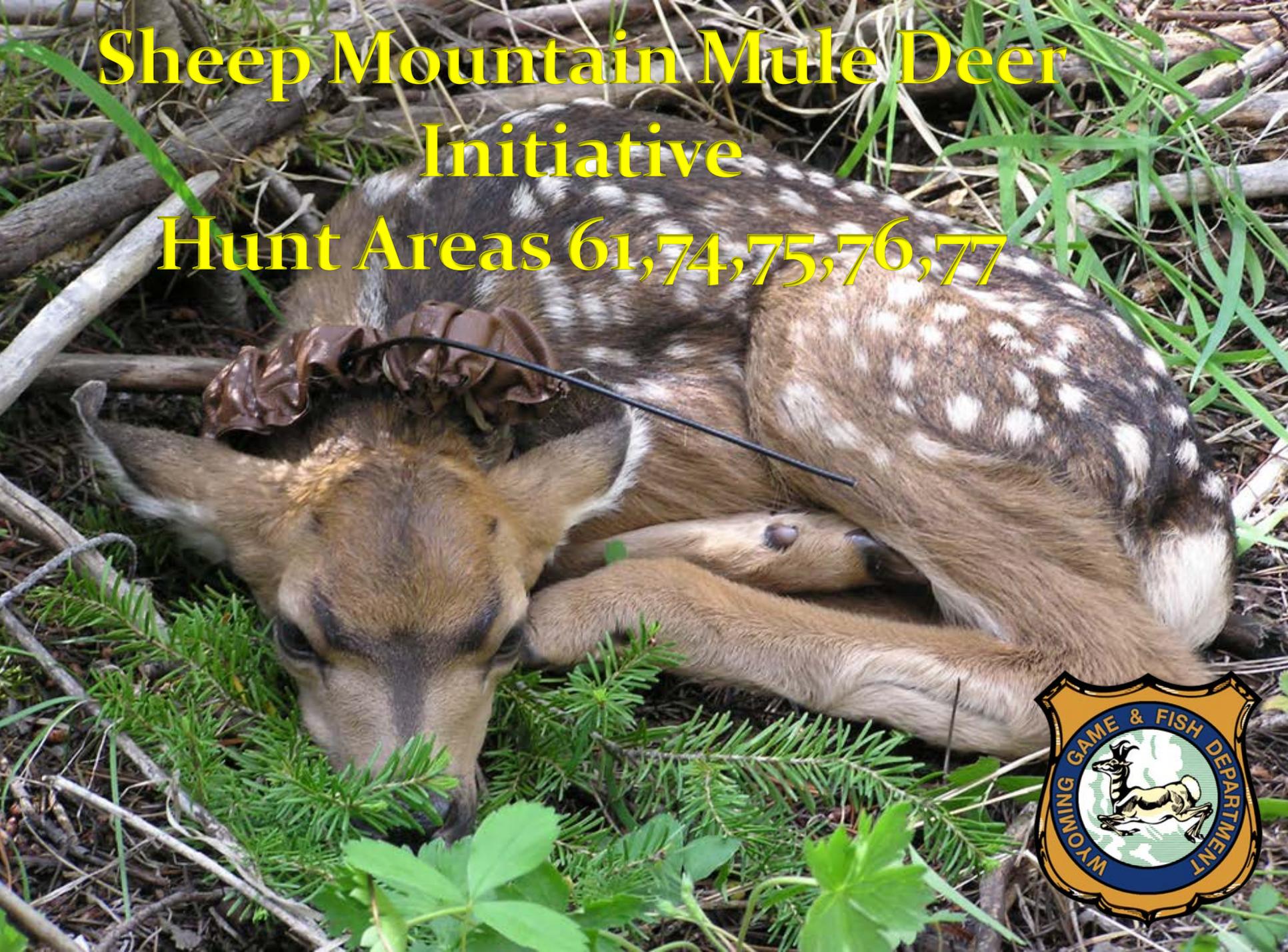
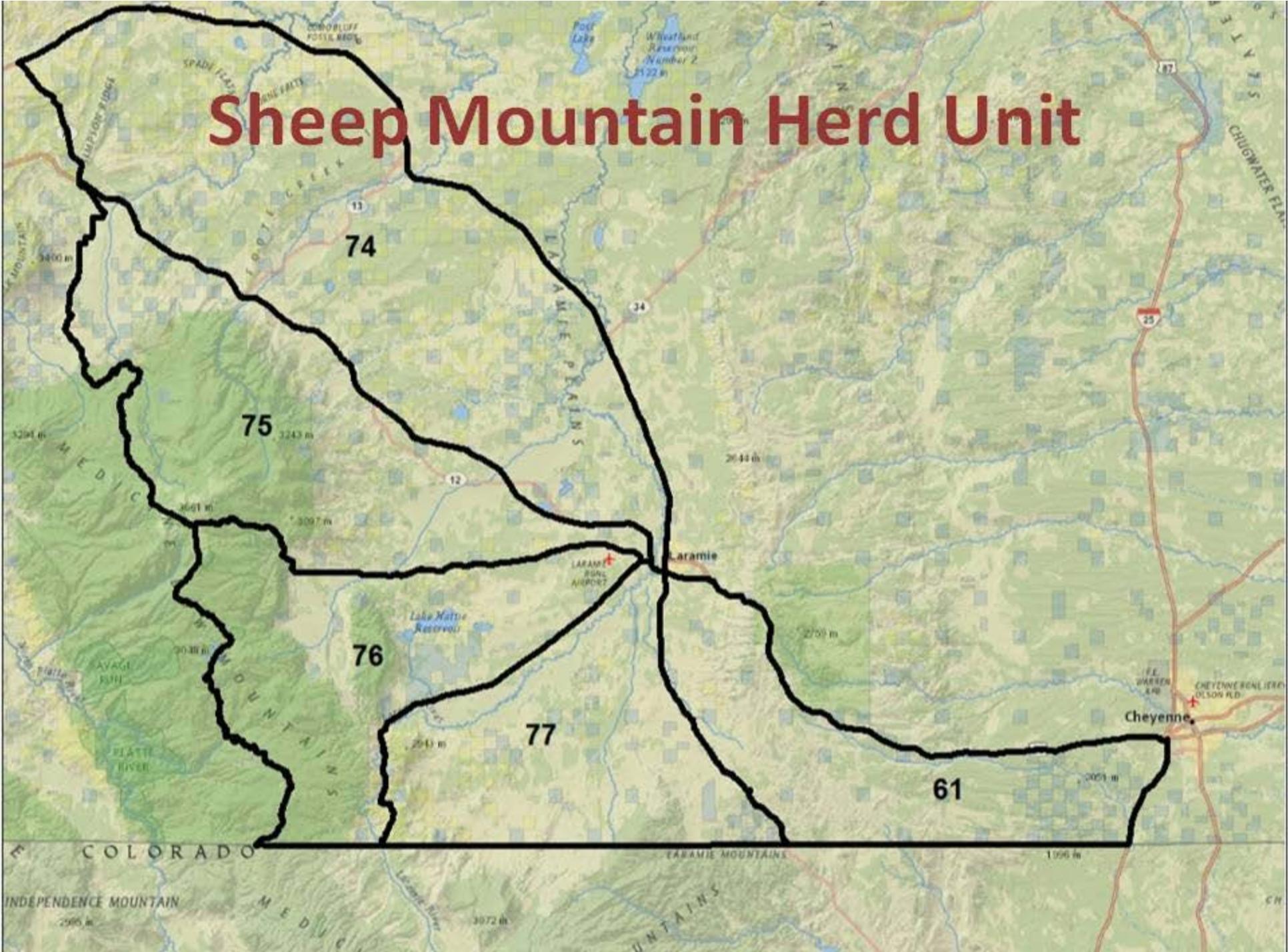


Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Initiative Hunt Areas 61,74,75,76,77



Sheep Mountain Herd Unit



Meeting Goals

- Review Progress from Last Meeting
- Presentation on Sheep Mountain Habitat Issues and Focus Areas
- Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Herd Objective Review Process and Discussion, Obtain Feedback
- DRAFT Management Recommendations Document Outline, Obtain Feedback on Direction
- Determine Additional Information Needs, Suggest Some Potential Workshops, Obtain Feedback
- Discuss Preliminary Survey Results
- This is NOT a Season Setting Meeting
 - Season's can and should be discussed, but this meeting will not Usurp the existing Season Setting Process

Last Meetings Results

Mule Deer Meetings Summary of Main Points for all Groups:

- Habitat quality and quantity, particularly summer and transition ranges
- Understanding cause specific mortality, what's killing deer, particularly fawns
- Reduce Hunter Crowding
- Manage Predators
- Interspecies Competition (elk, moose)
- Youth Involvement, education, and recruitment
- Disturbance (reduce human disturbance impacts to deer and hunters eg. Motorized travel, antler shed hunting)
- INFO ON WEBSITE: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1002046.aspx>

Habitat Quality and Quantity, Particularly Summer and Transition Ranges

- Forest-wide Cheatgrass NEPA in process now
- NEPA complete for some habitat projects that would benefit mule deer already
- Working with Land Management agencies to develop additional habitat projects

Understanding cause specific mortality, what's killing deer, particularly fawns

- WGFD, MFF, and UWYO Coop working together to initiate a mule deer study within the SMMDI area to address data needs
 - Movement
 - CS fawn mortality
 - Compare body condition and productivity of mule deer across habitat types

Reduce Hunter Crowding

- SMMDI survey, PIGMS, and this groups ideas on how to address this issue
 - Reduce hunter numbers
 - Reduce motorized hunter access

Manage Predators

- Albany Co. Predator Management Board Sheep Mountain Project
- Increased quota for black bears
- Increased quota for mountain lions and increased season duration
- Coyotes are predatory species, can be killed by anyone without a hunting license

Youth Involvement, education, and recruitment

- Forever Wild Families Program
- Consider seasons to increase youth hunter participation

Human Disturbance (reduce human disturbance impacts to deer and hunters)

- Antler Shed Hunting
- Motorized Disturbance
 - **USFS** considering signs and gates to enforce current travel plan issues

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Management Recommendations Outline

- Acknowledgements (list of participants)
- Introduction
- Issues, Objectives, Strategies
 - Population Management (includes data collection, hunting seasons and research.)
 - Habitat Management (includes habitat quantity and quality, focus areas, key habitat types, etc.)
 - Predation Management
 - Disturbance (Human presence and activities, motorized activity, etc.)
 - Access Management (hunting, motorized)
 - Youth Hunter Education, Involvement and Recruitment
 - Literature Cited
 - Appendices (includes survey, collaborative session results, minutes, etc.)

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Information Needs/Workshops

- Suggestions for Workshops
 - How to Manage Your Land for Mule Deer
 - Conservation Easements, What are they and how to get started
 - OHV Disturbance and Mule Deer
 - Other Suggestions
- Other Information Needs??

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Sheep Mountain MDI Survey

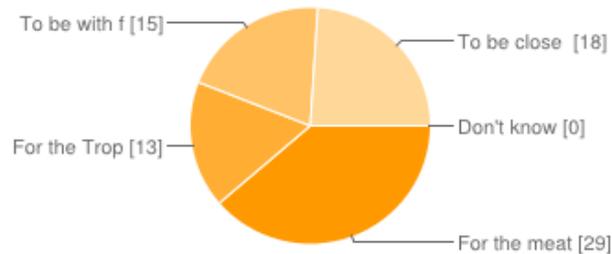
Preliminary Results

- Survey Invitations sent **XXXXXX**
- Deadline for completing survey **XXXXXXX**
- 86 Respondents as of 12/15/14
- Purpose: to obtain additional public data on the Sheep Mountain Mule Deer herd
- Brief Review of some of the questions directly related to the issues that came up during our first meeting
- **Some of the percentages don't add up to 100%, this is because they are based on 86 respondents, and not everyone answered each question, we will address this in the final analysis**

Why People Hunt Mule Deer

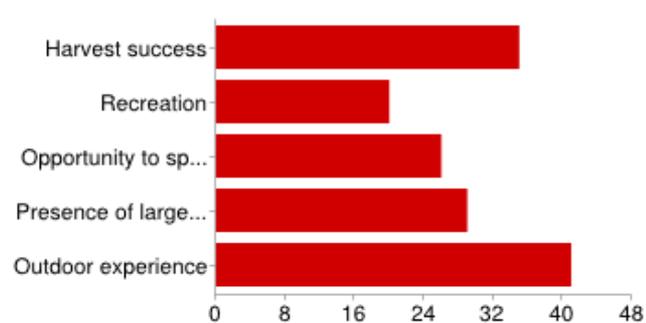
Mule Deer Hunting Preferences

Thinking about when you've hunted mule deer, what is your most important reason for hunting? Would you say it is...?



For the meat	29	34%
For the Trophy	13	15%
To be with family and friends	15	17%
To be close to nature	18	21%
Don't know	0	0%

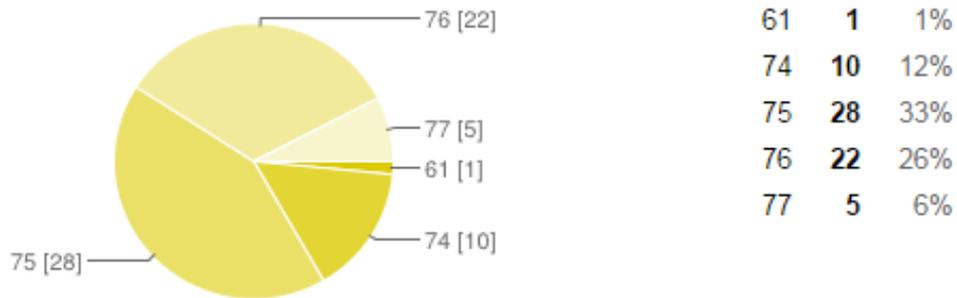
What do you look for in a quality mule deer hunt?



Harvest success	35	41%
Recreation	20	23%
Opportunity to spend time with family/companions	26	30%
Presence of large antlered bucks	29	34%
Outdoor experience	41	48%

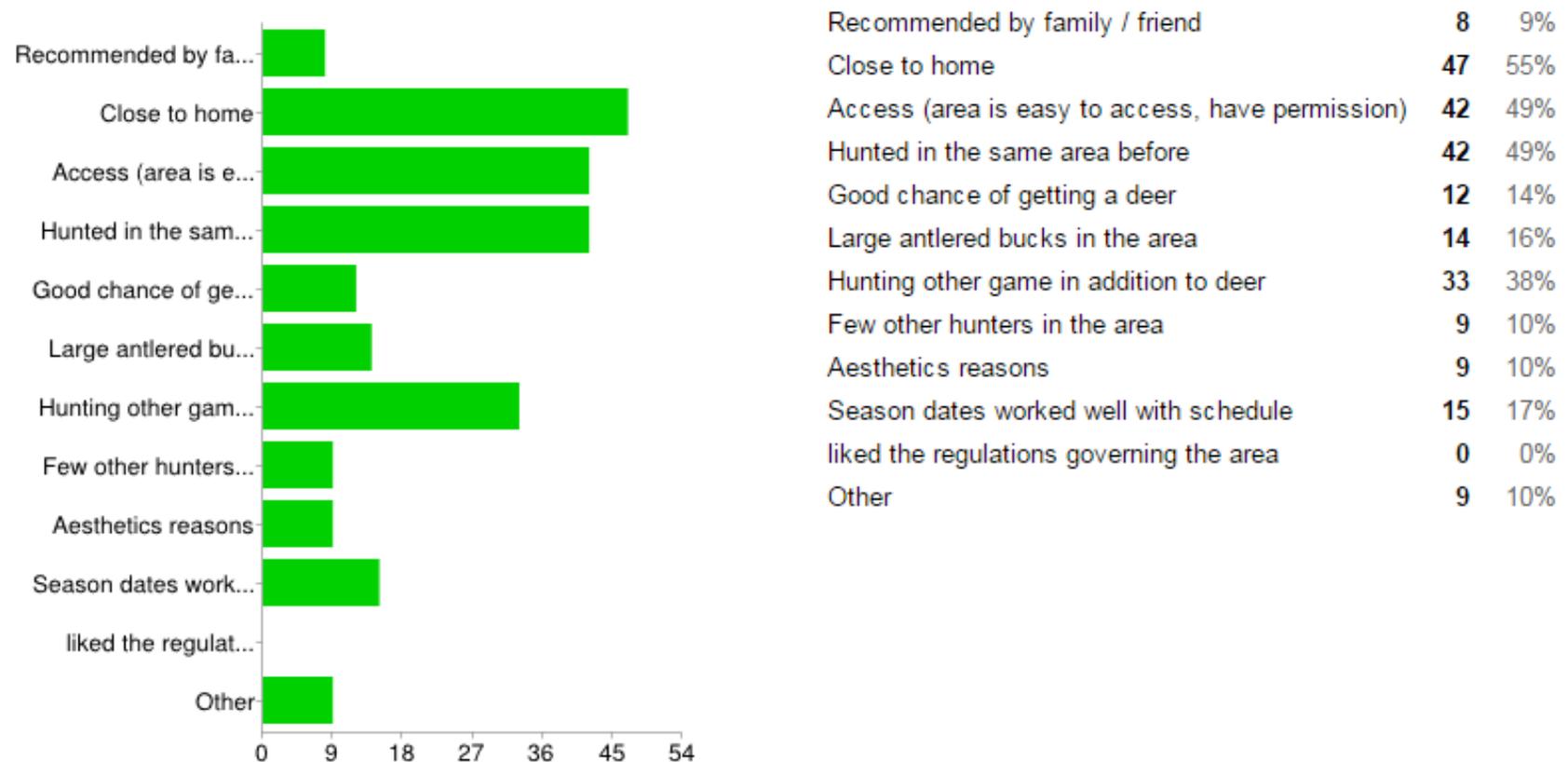
Hunt Areas

In what hunt area in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area have you hunted mule deer the most often in the past 5 years?



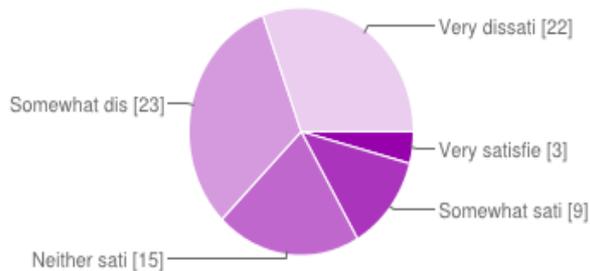
Why People Hunted Sheep Mtn

What were all the reasons you chose to hunt mule deer in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area in the past 5 years?



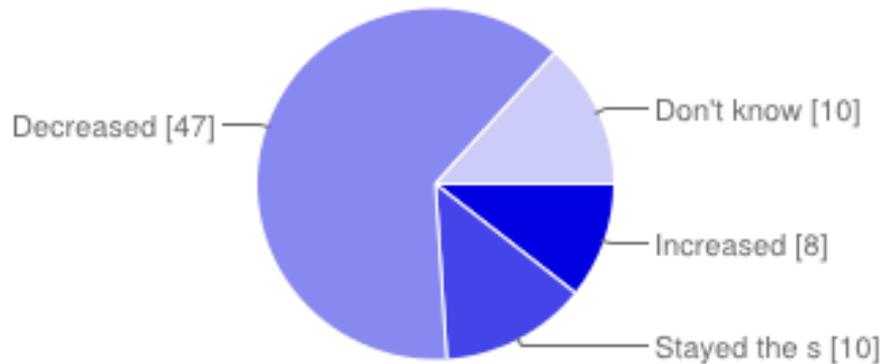
Overall Hunt Satisfaction

How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the overall quality of your mule deer hunting experience in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area during the last season you hunted in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



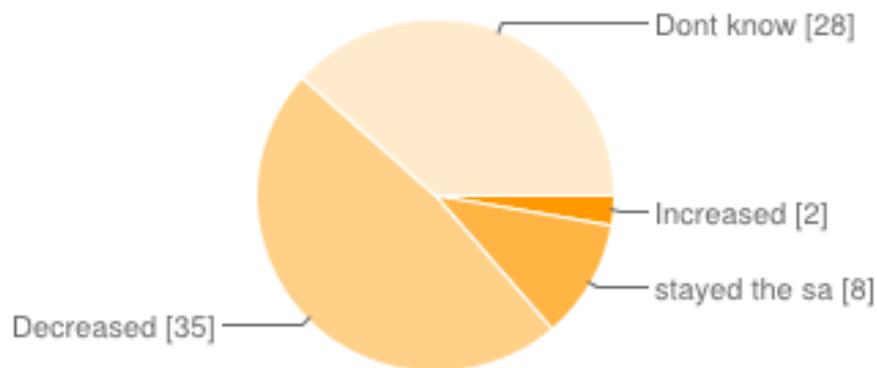
Very satisfied	3	3%
Somewhat satisfied	9	10%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	17%
Somewhat dissatisfied	23	27%
Very dissatisfied	22	26%

Total number of mule deer.



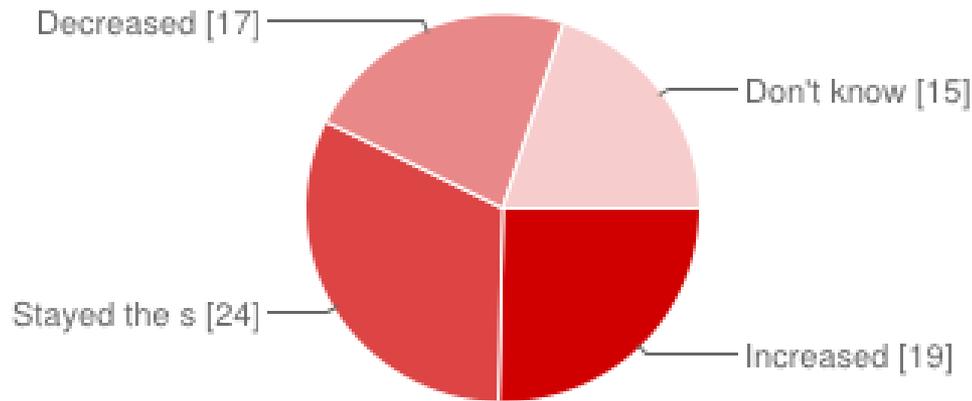
Increased	8	9%
Stayed the same	10	12%
Decreased	47	55%
Don't know	10	12%

Number of mule deer harvested by hunters each year.



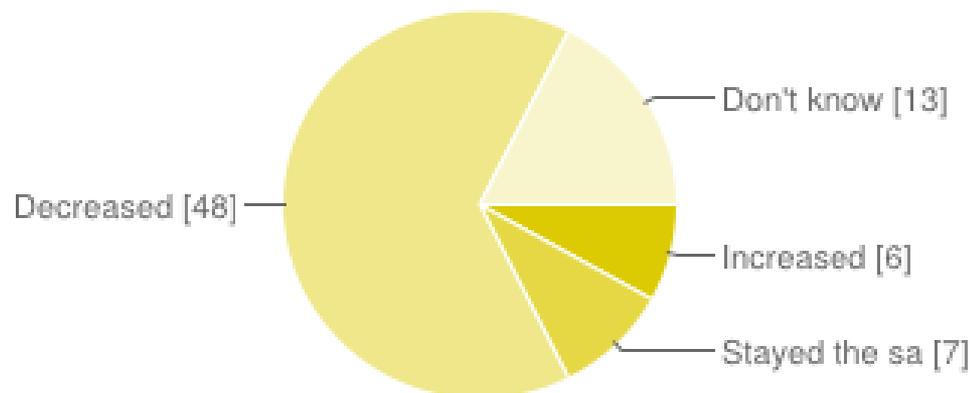
Increased	2	2%
stayed the same	8	9%
Decreased	35	41%
Dont know	28	33%

The number of hunters in the field



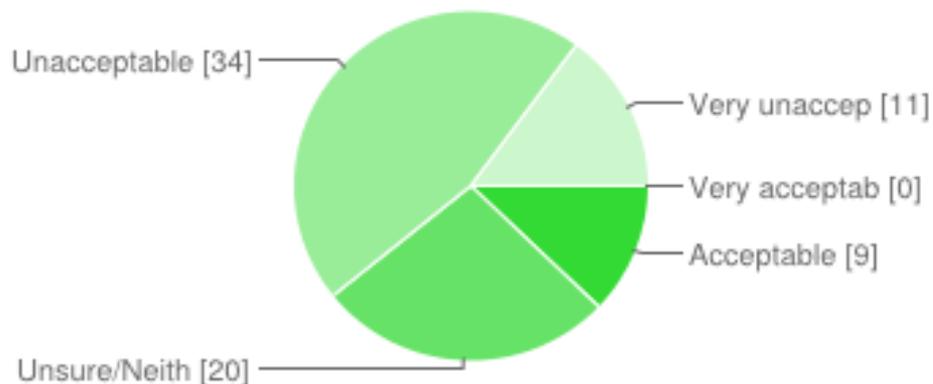
Increased	19	22%
Stayed the same	24	28%
Decreased	17	20%
Don't know	15	17%

The number of bucks.



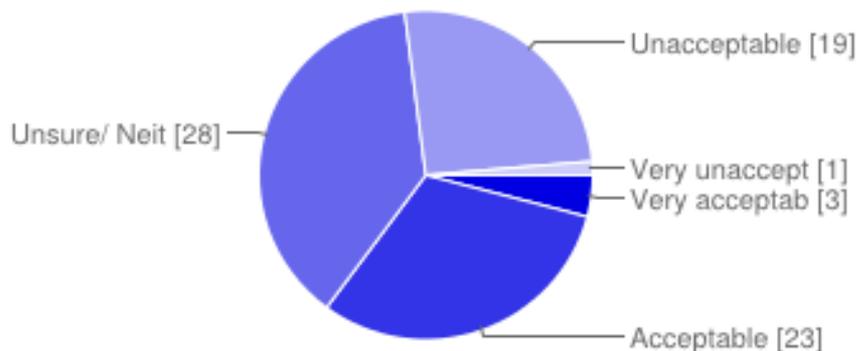
Increased	6	7%
Stayed the same	7	8%
Decreased	48	56%
Don't know	13	15%

How acceptable or unacceptable is the number of mule deer in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



Very acceptable	0	0%
Acceptable	9	10%
Unsure/Neither	20	23%
Unacceptable	34	40%
Very unacceptable	11	13%

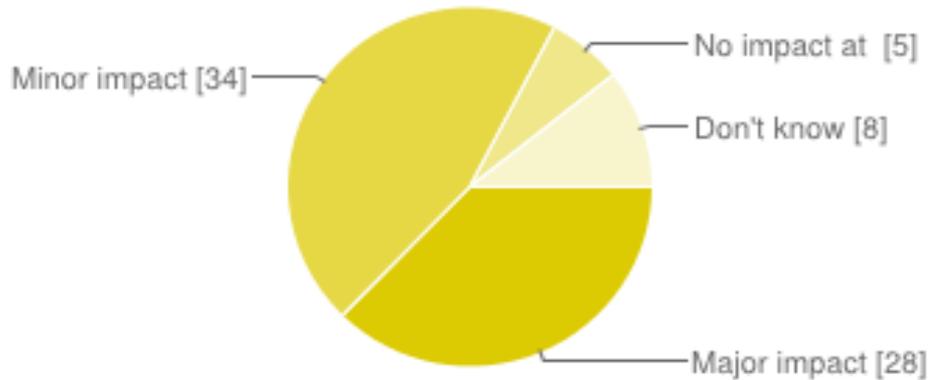
How acceptable or unacceptable is the number of hunters in the field in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



Very acceptable	3	3%
Acceptable	23	27%
Unsure/ Neither	28	33%
Unacceptable	19	22%
Very unacceptable	1	1%

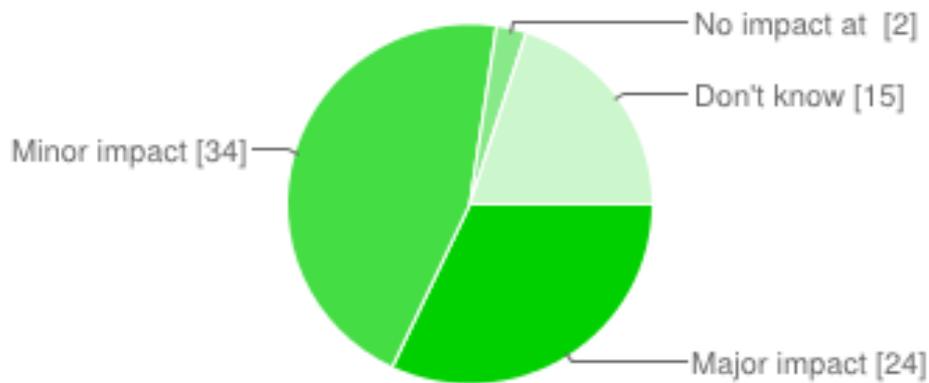
Impacts to Mule Deer Population

Competition for food and habitat from other big game animals, such as elk and white-tailed deer



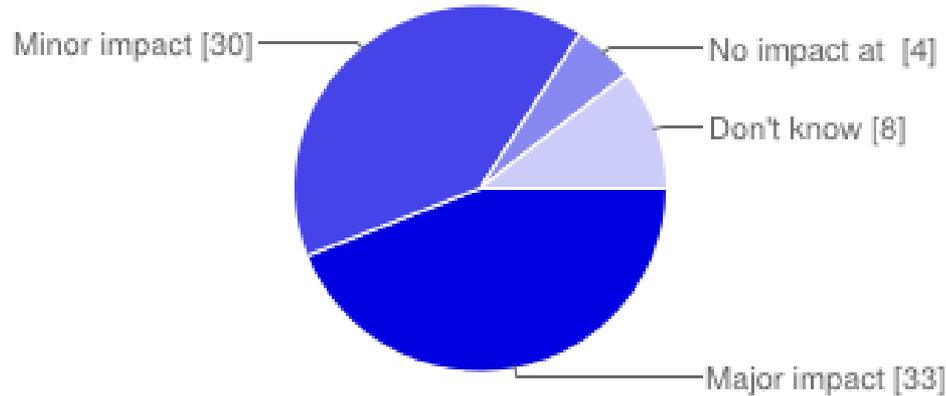
Major impact	28	33%
Minor impact	34	40%
No impact at all	5	6%
Don't know	8	9%

Winterkill, that is, mule deer deaths resulting from starvation during the winter months



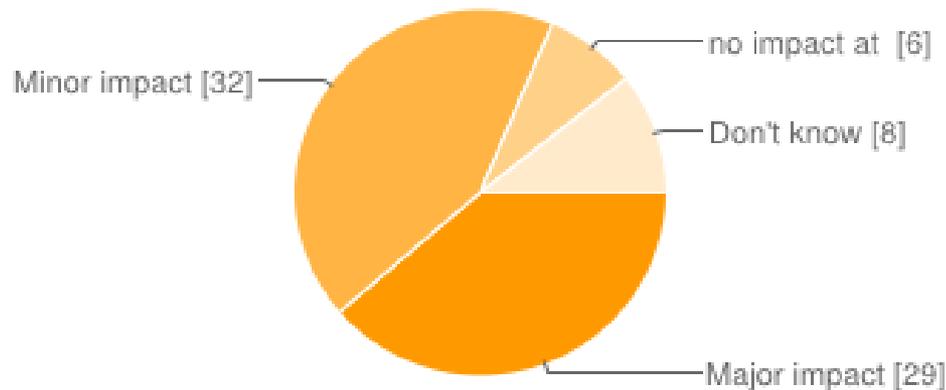
Major impact	24	28%
Minor impact	34	40%
No impact at all	2	2%
Don't know	15	17%

Mountain lions preying on mule deer



Major impact	33	38%
Minor impact	30	35%
No impact at all	4	5%
Don't know	8	9%

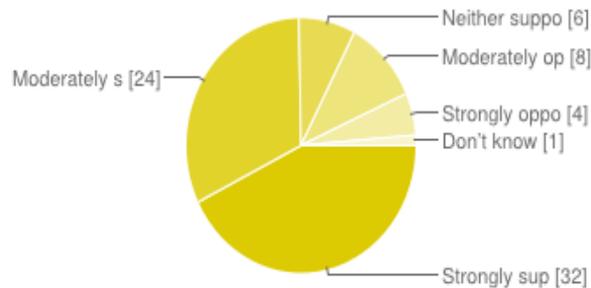
Coyotes preying on mule deer



Major impact	29	34%
Minor impact	32	37%
no impact at all	6	7%
Don't know	8	9%

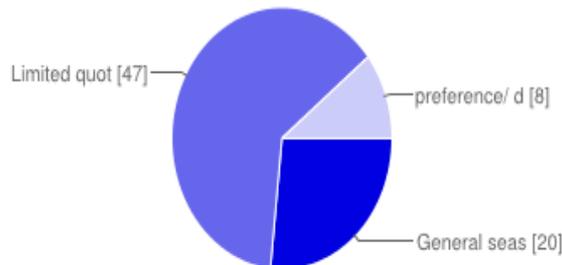
Harvest Management

Would you support or oppose managing for trophy bucks in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area if it meant more restrictions and reduced chances of hunting every year?



Strongly support	32	37%
Moderately support	24	28%
Neither support nor oppose	6	7%
Moderately oppose	8	9%
Strongly oppose	4	5%
Don't know	1	1%

In the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area, do you prefer general seasons, which mean you could hunt every year, and have the ability to hunt multiple hunt areas, but possibly a reduced chance of harvest, or limited quota seasons? Limited quota seasons mean you might not hunt every year in the limited quota hunt areas and may lose the opportunity to hunt multiple hunt areas, but you would probably have a higher chance of harvest when you do hunt. Which do you prefer?

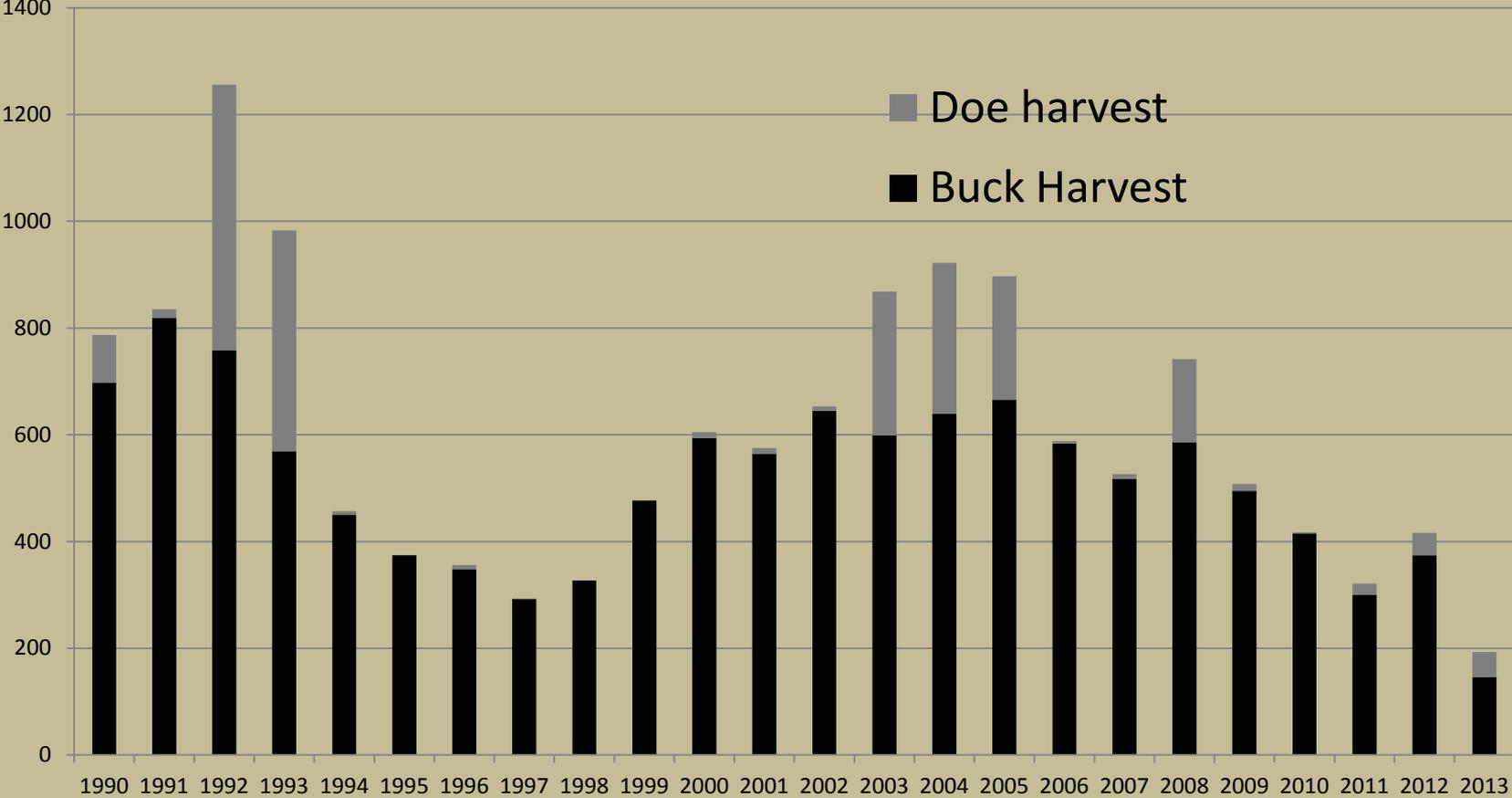


General seasons	20	23%
Limited quota seasons	47	55%
preference/ don't know	8	9%

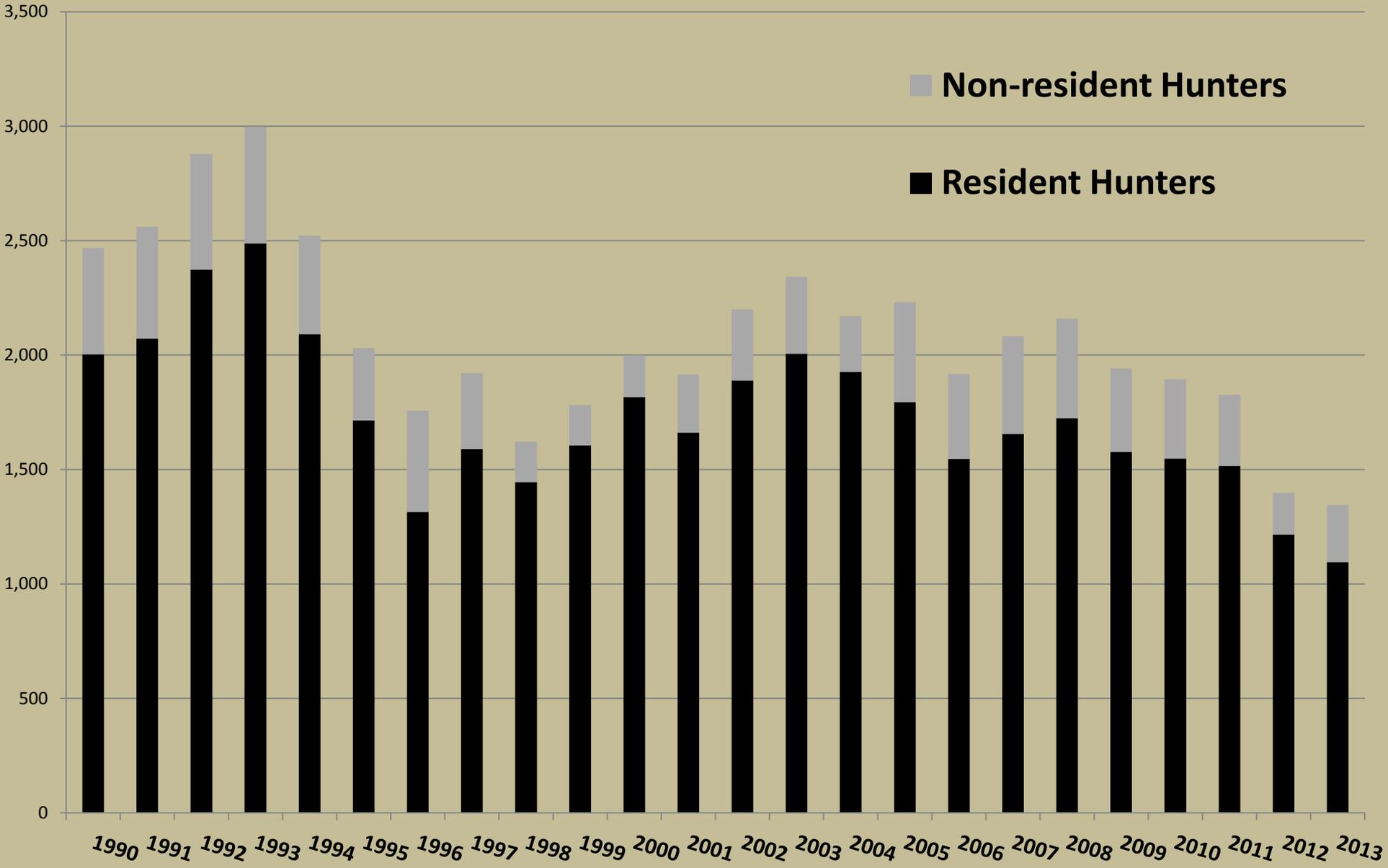
Limited Quota Information

- Limited quota hunts can improve
 - Buck numbers/ratios
 - Buck hunting experience
- LQ hunts will not make more fawns or increase the mule deer population
- LQ hunts can reduce your opportunity to hunt every year

Harvest

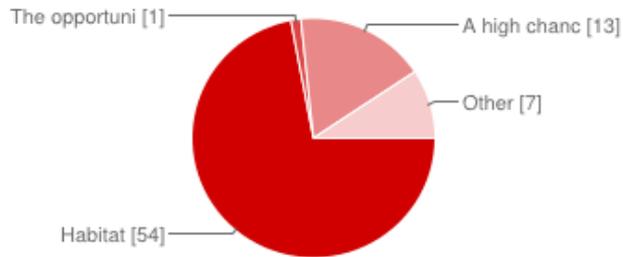


Number of Hunters



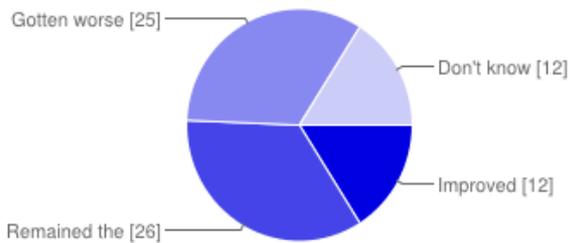
Habitat

In your opinion, what is the single most important factor that should be used to determine how many mule deer should be in the herd in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



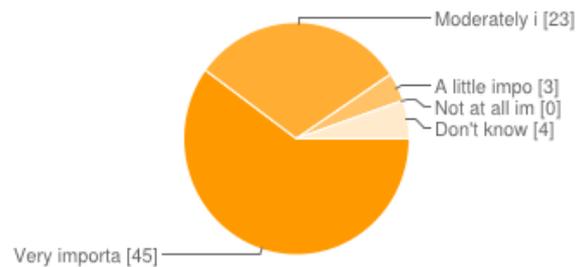
Habitat	54	63%
The opportunity for hunters to hunt every year regardless of success	1	1%
A high chance of harvest success even if it means limited hunting opportunities	13	15%
Other	7	8%

Do you think the quality of mule deer habitat in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area has improved, remained the same, or gotten worse in the past 5 years?



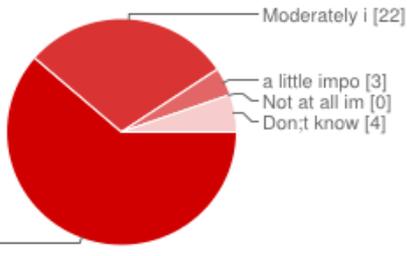
Improved	12	14%
Remained the same	26	30%
Gotten worse	25	29%
Don't know	12	14%

In your opinion, how important is the QUALITY of habitat on SUMMER ranges in determining the survival of mule deer in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie herd?



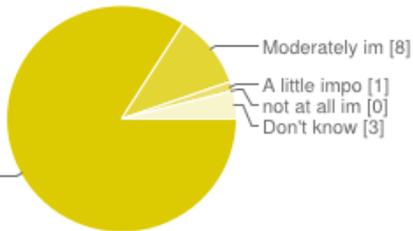
Very important	45	52%
Moderately important	23	27%
A little important	3	3%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't know	4	5%

How important is the AMOUNT of habitat on SUMMER ranges in determining the survival of mule deer in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie herd?



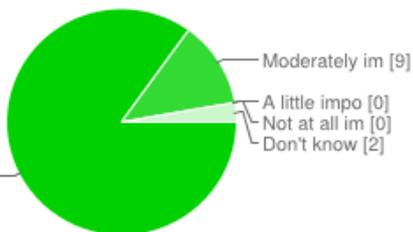
Very importa	46	53%
Moderately important	22	26%
a little important	3	3%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don;t know	4	5%

In your opinion, how important is the QUALITY of habitat on WINTER ranges in determining the survival of mule deer in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie herd?



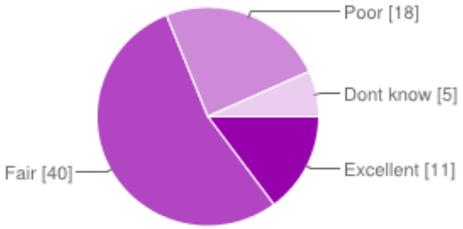
Very importa	63	73%
Moderately important	8	9%
A little important	1	1%
not at all important	0	0%
Don't know	3	3%

How important is the AMOUNT of habitat on WINTER ranges in determining the survival of mule deer in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie herd?



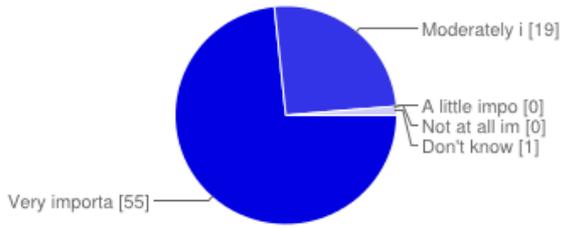
Very importa	62	72%
Moderately important	9	10%
A little important	0	0%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't know	2	2%

How would you rate the current QUALITY of deer habitat in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



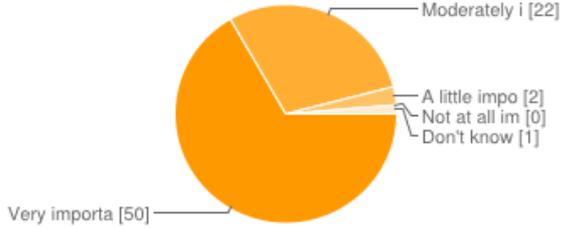
Excellent	11	13%
Fair	40	47%
Poor	18	21%
Dont know	5	6%

How important do you think managing the QUALITY of deer habitat in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area should be to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department?



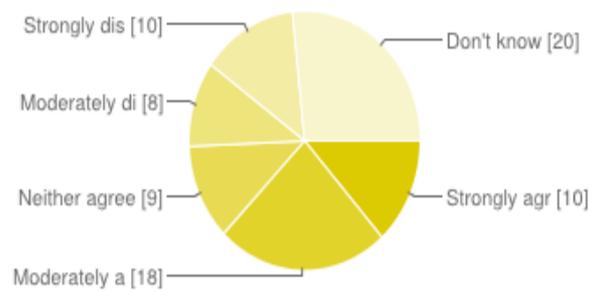
Very important	55	64%
Moderately important	19	22%
A little important	0	0%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't know	1	1%

How important do you think managing the AMOUNT of deer habitat in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area should be to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department?



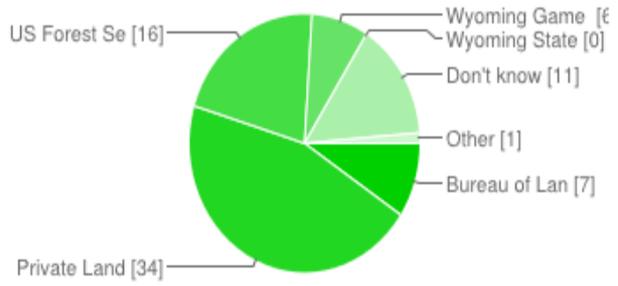
Very important	50	58%
Moderately important	22	26%
A little important	2	2%
Not at all important	0	0%
Don't know	1	1%

Do you agree or disagree that there is enough WINTER habitat in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area to sustain the current size of the mule deer population?



Strongly agree	10	12%
Moderately agree	18	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	9	10%
Moderately disagree	8	9%
Strongly disagree	10	12%
Don't know	20	23%

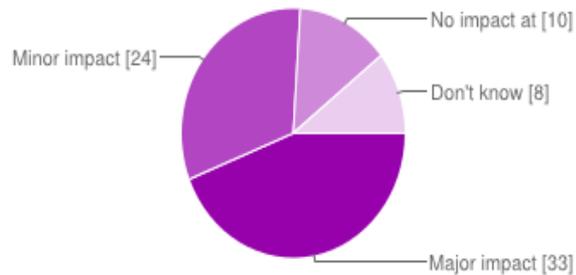
Who do you think has the most influence and control of habitat on deer WINTER ranges for the Sheep Mountain/Laramie herd?



Bureau of Land Management	7	8%
Private Landowners	34	40%
US Forest Service	16	19%
Wyoming Game and Fish Department	6	7%
Wyoming State Land Office	0	0%
Don't know	11	13%
Other	1	1%

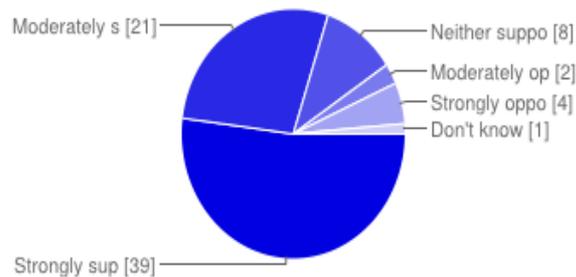
Disturbance

Does collecting shed antlers in the winter from areas where mule deer are concentrated have a major impact, a minor impact, or no impact at all on the deer?



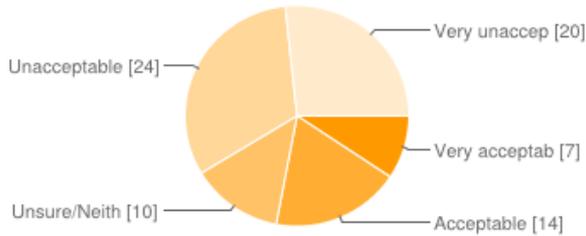
Major impact	33	38%
Minor impact	24	28%
No impact at all	10	12%
Don't know	8	9%

Would you support or oppose efforts by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to regulate the hunting or collecting of shed antlers during the winter in areas where mule deer are concentrated in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



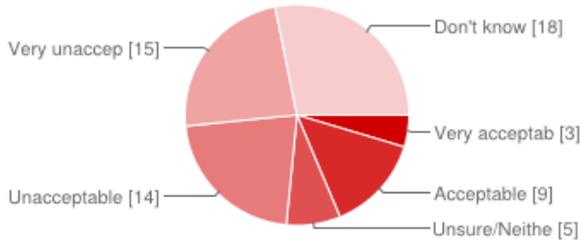
Strongly support	39	45%
Moderately support	21	24%
Neither support no oppose	8	9%
Moderately oppose	2	2%
Strongly oppose	4	5%
Don't know	1	1%

How acceptable or unacceptable is the amount of ATV use in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area where you most often hunted mule deer in the past 5 years?



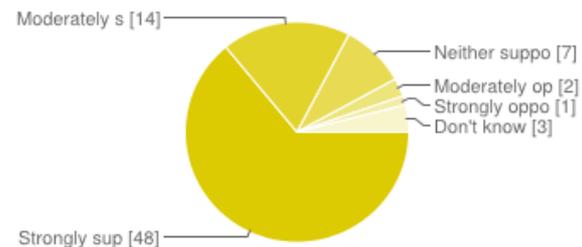
Very acceptable	7	8%
Acceptable	14	16%
Unsure/Neither	10	12%
Unacceptable	24	28%
Very unacceptable	20	23%

How acceptable or unacceptable is the amount of ATV use on mule deer winter ranges in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area?



Very acceptable	3	3%
Acceptable	9	10%
Unsure/Neither	5	6%
Unacceptable	14	16%
Very unacceptable	15	17%
Don't know	18	21%

Would you support or oppose efforts to regulate the use of ATVs during the WINTER in the Sheep Mountain/Laramie area where mule deer are concentrated?



Strongly support	48	56%
Moderately support	14	16%
Neither support nor oppose	7	8%
Moderately oppose	2	2%
Strongly oppose	1	1%
Don't know	3	3%

INTERESTING INFORMATION

- Minimum # of points on one side a buck needs to be a “trophy”? Range 1-6
- Minimum antler spread that a buck has to have to be a “trophy” buck? Range 12-30, Average 19.65.
- 15% Respondents Landowners
- Largest group of respondents 61-70 years of age

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?