

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 19, 2019

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

Approval for the June 19, 2019 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the June 19, 2019 Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from April 17, 2019 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Wildlife and Heritage Service Administration Program Update – Presentation was given by Associate Director Glenn Therres.

- Associate Director Therres gave a presentation on the Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) Administration Program. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Associate Director Therres handed out WHS Budget Appropriations for FY20 to the Commissioners. [ATTACHMENT B]
- Reimbursable funds are monies coming from another State agency to the WHS.
- When budget managers prepared for the FY 20 budget, managers were not aware of the COLA increases. Therefore, the FY 20 budget numbers that the Commissioners are reviewing do not include the total 5% COLA increase.
- As a special funded unit, all staff members are paid through special funds. WHS does not get extra money in the budget to cover the increase in salaries due to the COLA increase. If WHS was a general funded unit WHS would receive an increase in general funds but WHS is not a general funded unit. The budget managers have to reduce their expenditures to cover the COLA increase.
- The Section 6 Endangered Species and the White-nose Syndrome Grant are pending USFWS approval. The “other category” is from small USFWS contracts.
- The members of the Commission had discussions about WHS not able to spend all the allocated federal money and that is still the case. WHS is still having issues matching the federal funds.
 1. General Funds can serve as matching funds because it is non-federal money.
 2. Matching funds are any non-federal monies.
 3. Program Open Space (POS) Funding Source for Matching Funds – the value of the land purchased with POS funds and is identified as Wildlife Management Area (WMA) could be used as a match for WHS land management. These WMAs that serve as matching funds and purchased with State money will have more future restrictions, which is more restricted than the current WMAs that WHS have because it would be listed under as a federal match. The restriction is that it would be listed as WMA with the purpose of what it was intended for. All WMAs are in one grant. Even though the funds are used for land management, it would free up special funds for other projects.
 4. Agricultural leases and timber harvest revenue are examples of Program Income. In the past, if WHS did not spend all of the federal grant money then WHS would get penalized for having Program Income (PI) because WHS had to subtract the PI revenue from the amount of federal reimbursement. Starting July of 2018, the feds instituted a third option that is called “cost share” where any income derived from a grant could be used as part of the match but the match

had to be used as the same function as the grant activities. WHS does not have to subtract out the PI revenue.

5. Most of the solutions were already in discussion internally prior to the Commission discussion on the lack of matching funds.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Chairman Compton asked if the State could take a particular tract of land and build a shooting sports center. The State buys it with POS funds and gets the 3-in-1 match; could the State use the 3-in-1 match to build the shooting sports center.
 - a. Staff believes that establishing a shooting facility on a WMA is an eligible use of PR funds but a grant would have to be developed.
 - b. Chairman Compton expressed that his constituencies and hunters that support the Wildlife and Heritage by purchasing hunting licenses would like to see a shooting facility on a WMA.
 2. Commissioner Weinberg asked when staff will know that any of the initiatives outlined are successful to get some of the reverted 1.7 million dollars.
 - a. Discussions ensued related to the funds that are keeping the Wildlife and Heritage Service budget whole including covering the COLA increases.

Break Time 11:00 AM to 11:15 AM

Deer Management Plan Update – Presentation was given by Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler.

- Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler gave a Deer Management Plan Update to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT C].
- The survey indicated that the majority of hunters feel that Sunday hunting is very important to their success in harvesting deer.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Weinberg asked about the survey question related to trap, relocate, and contraception. Commissioner Weinberg wanted to know if the options in the poll were equally explained.
 - a. The survey did not present any answers. After collecting the answers, the Responsive Management put the answers that the public gave in the major categories.
 - b. Commissioner Weinberg added that in talking about outreach if the people knew more of the particulars of doing things, their responses would be different.
 - c. Mr. Eyler pointed out questions related to sterilization/contraception was asked by Responsive Management flat out; such as, what do you think of sterilization or contraception and then Responsive Management will provide a brief narrative – here is what the biologists are saying, “It is not effective everywhere.” After the brief narrative, Responsive Management will ask the sterilization/contraception question again. Sometimes the narrative may change the responses but it is not a lot of changes after a narrative.
 2. Commissioner Keithley asked has the Department hire outside consultants or marketers for outreach.
 - a. Ms. Stonesifer responded there was a short-lived outreach website entitled, “Hunting works for Maryland and the impacts of deer hunting.”
 - b. Mr. Eyler added that staff works with the Maryland Tourism and staff participants at the Harrisburg Outdoor Show.
 - c. WHS is very limited with staff in regards to reaching out to the schools. There are education trunks that teachers can utilize that are used to get our message out to the public.

The schools system is so tight with the curriculum that it is difficult to get additional things added unless it is an afterschool event.

- d. Staff is being creative on the social media to help increase outreach.
3. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked about the general population survey question related to vehicular accident with a deer and the 8% indicated yes.
 - a. Yes, 8% indicated that they had a car/deer struck in the past year, but they may not have necessarily been driving; however, they could have been passengers in the vehicle. It is still could be an inflatable number. This slide is used more as a trend indicator between surveys.
 - b. Staff does not want to change the question because it allows staff to compare the data.
 - c. Commissioner Gulbrandsen did the math of 8% multiply by how drivers in Maryland; the result is tenfold over what staff estimated is in the State.
 - d. State Farm's data related to the vehicular accidents with deer has been stable, which is approximately 30,000 deer struck annually.
4. Once staff members have completed the 10-Year Deer Management Plan Revisions, it will go through the chain of command that includes the Secretary along with the Governor's Office for approval. WHS goal is to be done by the end of this year.
5. The Black Bear Management Plan and the game species regulations are coming up for next year for staff and the Commission.
6. Associate Director Stonesifer will provide another update of the 10-Year Deer Management Plan at the November 20 meeting.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – No representative from the Maryland Farm Bureau in attendance.

Natural Resources Police Update – No representative from Natural Resources Police in attendance.

Old Business –

- The Commission discussed the September 18, 2019 WAC Field Day. The Commission would like to participate in the field visit if it is meaningful.
- The Commission members discussed the attendance of the WAC members for the August 21 meeting. Commissioner Weinberg is unable to attend the August 21 meeting.
- There are two vacancies on the Commission. The Commission would like an update on vacancies from Director Peditto. Discussion ensued about membership. There is an online application for public to submit an application at <https://govappointments.maryland.gov/instructions-for-filling-out-the-general-application-form/>.

New Business – **No New Business.**

- The members of the Commission received an invitation to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources 50th Anniversary Event. There are some special guest that will be in attendance. There will be a 50th Anniversary Ceremony. A tree planting will take place in honor of the event. Lunch will be provided. Different units will have booths set-up to represent the units so that staff may learn what other units are doing for the natural resources of the State. The date is July 1 at 11:00 am and the location is Patapsco State Park. The Commission must RSVP by June 19.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, , S. Keithley, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	J. Griffin
Guest:	
Staff:	B. Eyler, E. Muriel, K. Stonesifer, and G. Therres

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHS Administration Program



**Update to Wildlife Advisory Commission
June 19, 2019**

- Budget, Procurement, Inventory
- Federal Aid Coordination
- Personnel
- Wildlife Permits
- Regulations
- Legislation



Program Staff

- Glenn Therres, Associate Director
- Tina Jarvis, Wildlife Permits
- Connie Roberts, Wildlife Permits
- Errica Muriel, Admin Specialist

Wildlife Permits

Tina Jarvis

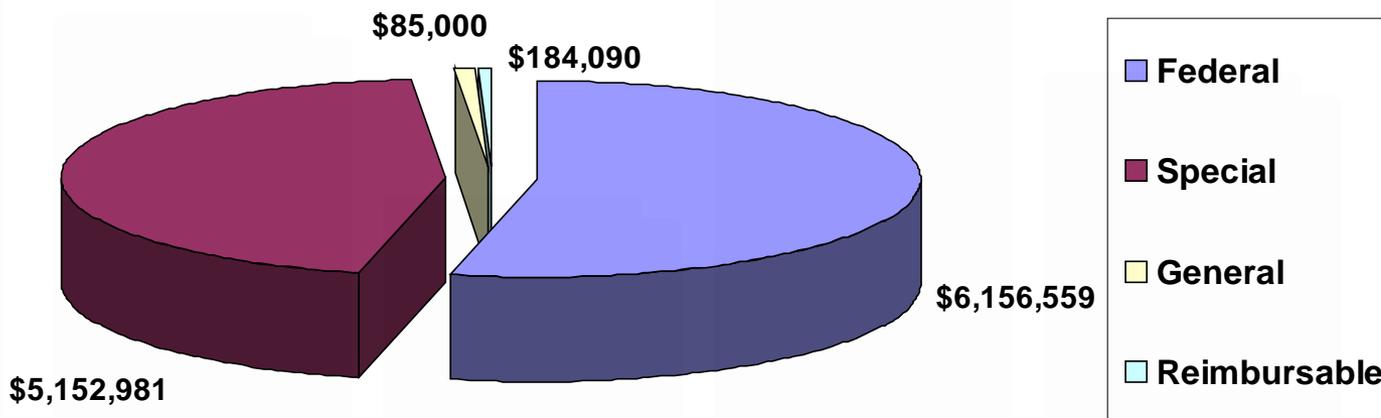
- Shoreline Blind Sites
- Endangered Species
- Scientific Collecting
- Regulated Shooting Areas
- USFWS special permits

Connie Roberts

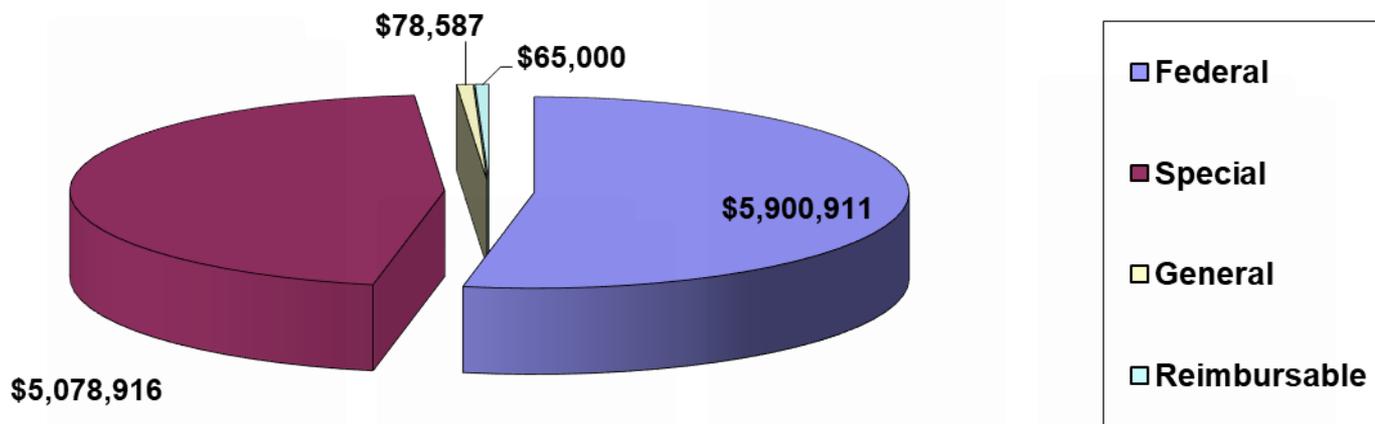
- Falconry
- Game Husbandry
- Captive Reptile and Amphibian
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Taxidermy
- Wildlife Damage Control Cooperator
- Waterfowl Guide and Outfitter

- Shoreline Blind Sites = \$85,430
- Wildlife Permits = \$109,627
- Total Permit Revenue = \$195,057

FY19 Budget = \$11,464,540



FY20 Budget = \$11,123,414



State Special Funds – FY20

Wildlife Management & Protection = \$4,155,000

Chesapeake Bay & Endangered Species = \$400,000

Migratory Game Bird Fund = \$415,000

Upland Wildlife Habitat Fund = \$1,000

Deer Stamp Account = \$108,000



Federal Aid – FY20

Pittman-Robertson = \$5,162,000

State Wildlife Grants = \$652,000

Section 6 Endangered Species = \$56,000

White-nose Syndrome Grant = \$21,000

Other = 10,000



PR Funds Likely to Revert

- Available PR Funds = \$7,155,648
- Budgeted = \$5,162,000
- Likely to Revert = \$1,993,648

- Match Issues = Special Fund
- Solutions =
 - In-kind match with volunteer hours
 - Outside match from contractors
 - New buildings constructed with Capital funds
 - New lands acquired with POS funds
 - Program Income
 - Increase Revenues



Funding

Staff
Support



Serve
the
Public

3 Year Agency Summary Report
Agency : K00 - Department of Natural Resources
Fund : [GF,SF,FF,NB,RF,CUR,CR,FFA]

Positions	2018 - Actuals				2019 - Current			2020 - Budget			
	FMIS	Agency Actuals	Budget Book Actuals	Leg. Appr	Agency Working	Working Additional	Budget Book Working	Target	Agency Request	OTTR/RED	Allowance
Number of Authorized Positions	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	86.00
Number of Contractual Positions	16.00	15.14	15.14	-	19.22	19.22	19.22	11.00	19.58	19.58	18.58
Expenditure											
00 Unallocated	(41)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
01 Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	7,563,361	7,569,017	7,569,017	7,330,109	7,330,109	7,330,109	7,390,176	7,601,224	7,417,473	7,417,473	7,540,499
02 Technical and Special Fees	521,118	521,072	521,072	648,504	648,504	648,504	648,504	648,504	674,560	674,560	630,850
03 Communications	230,408	230,758	230,758	234,548	234,548	234,548	234,548	234,548	227,507	227,507	227,507
04 Travel	74,462	76,204	76,204	87,648	87,648	87,648	87,648	87,648	62,153	62,153	62,153
06 Fuel and Utilities	58,653	58,653	58,653	66,994	66,994	66,994	66,994	66,994	68,545	68,545	68,545
07 Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	1,021,481	1,020,414	1,020,414	782,298	782,298	782,298	782,298	598,547	576,765	576,765	574,605
08 Contractual Services	1,348,877	1,344,589	1,344,589	1,341,009	1,340,909	1,340,909	1,340,909	1,341,009	1,133,707	1,133,707	1,133,707
09 Supplies and Materials	494,756	491,733	491,733	465,719	465,819	465,819	465,819	465,719	641,159	641,159	636,119
10 Equipment - Replacement	488,595	488,595	488,595	101,248	101,248	101,248	101,248	101,248	18,004	18,004	18,004
11 Equipment - Additional	260,546	260,546	260,546	55,350	55,350	55,350	55,350	55,350	26,000	26,000	26,000
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	25,000	25,000	25,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
13 Fixed Charges	198,641	198,635	198,635	188,775	188,775	188,775	188,775	188,775	195,425	195,425	195,425
14 Land and Structures	131	131	131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	12,285,988	12,285,347	12,285,347	11,397,202	11,397,202	11,397,202	11,457,269	11,484,566	11,051,298	11,051,298	11,123,414
Funds											
General Funds	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	-	-	78,587
Special Funds	5,733,967	5,824,948	5,824,948	5,106,539	5,106,539	5,106,539	5,140,907	5,492,923	5,106,798	5,106,798	5,078,916
Federal Funds	6,295,868	6,299,826	6,299,826	6,135,663	6,135,663	6,135,663	6,161,362	5,836,643	5,879,500	5,879,500	5,900,911
Reimbursable Funds	171,153	75,573	75,573	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
Total Funds	12,285,988	12,285,347	12,285,347	11,397,202	11,397,202	11,397,202	11,457,269	11,484,566	11,051,298	11,051,298	11,123,414

This report may contain Confidential Privileged and/or Pre-Decisional information requiring protection from inappropriate disclosure in accordance with State of Maryland laws and regulations.

White-tailed Deer Management Plan Update

*- Wildlife Advisory Commission
6/19/2019*



Brian Eyler
Deer Project Leader
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Deer Plan Update

-The Process

- **First briefed WAC – August 2017**
- **Preliminary stakeholder meeting – April 2018**
- **Public opinion telephone survey – November 2018**
- **Additional public input – February/March 2019**
 - Public meetings
 - Online comment forum
 - Telephone calls/emails/letters
- **2nd stakeholder meeting – April 2019**
- **Draft plan creation and review – Summer/Fall 2019**
- **Draft plan public comment – Fall 2019**
- **Final plan adoption – Winter 2019**



Deer Plan Update

-Today

- Public comment summary
- Public opinion survey summary
- Questions





Public Comment Summary

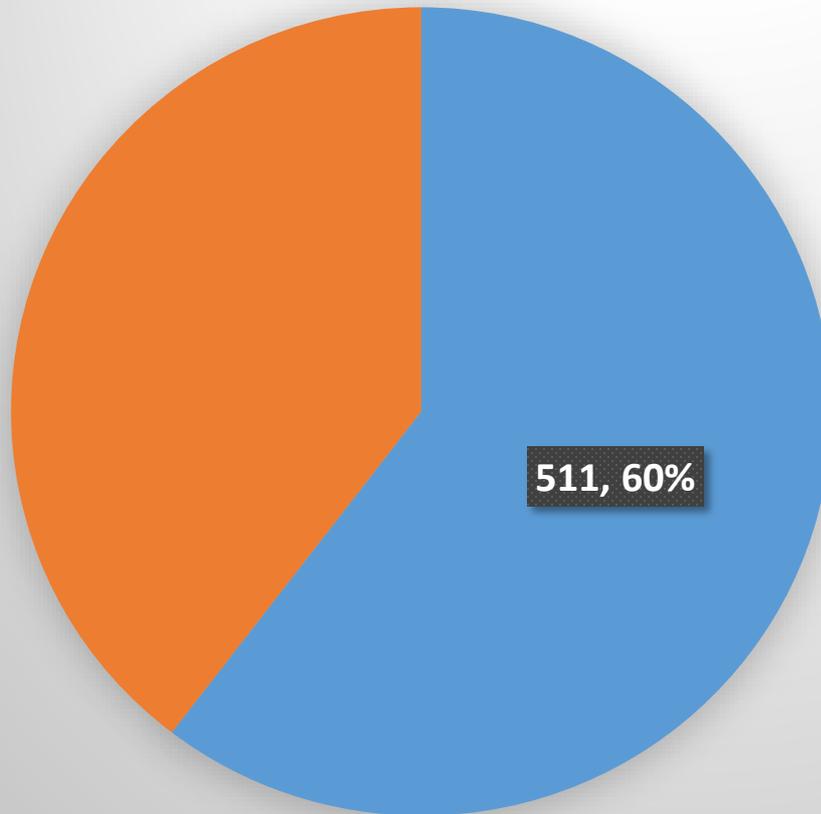
- **846 comments received (vs 200 in 2007)**
 - 573 online
 - 226 via 4 public meetings (171 attendees)
 - 34 telephone calls
 - 13 letters/direct emails

- **Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve**
- **Federal Research Center (FDA White Oak Campus)**
- **Greater Colesville Citizens Association**
- **Humane Society of the United States**
- **Maryland Soybean Board**
- **Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council**
- **Montgomery County Government**
- **USDA Wildlife Services**



Public Comment Summary

Hunter and/or Pro Hunting

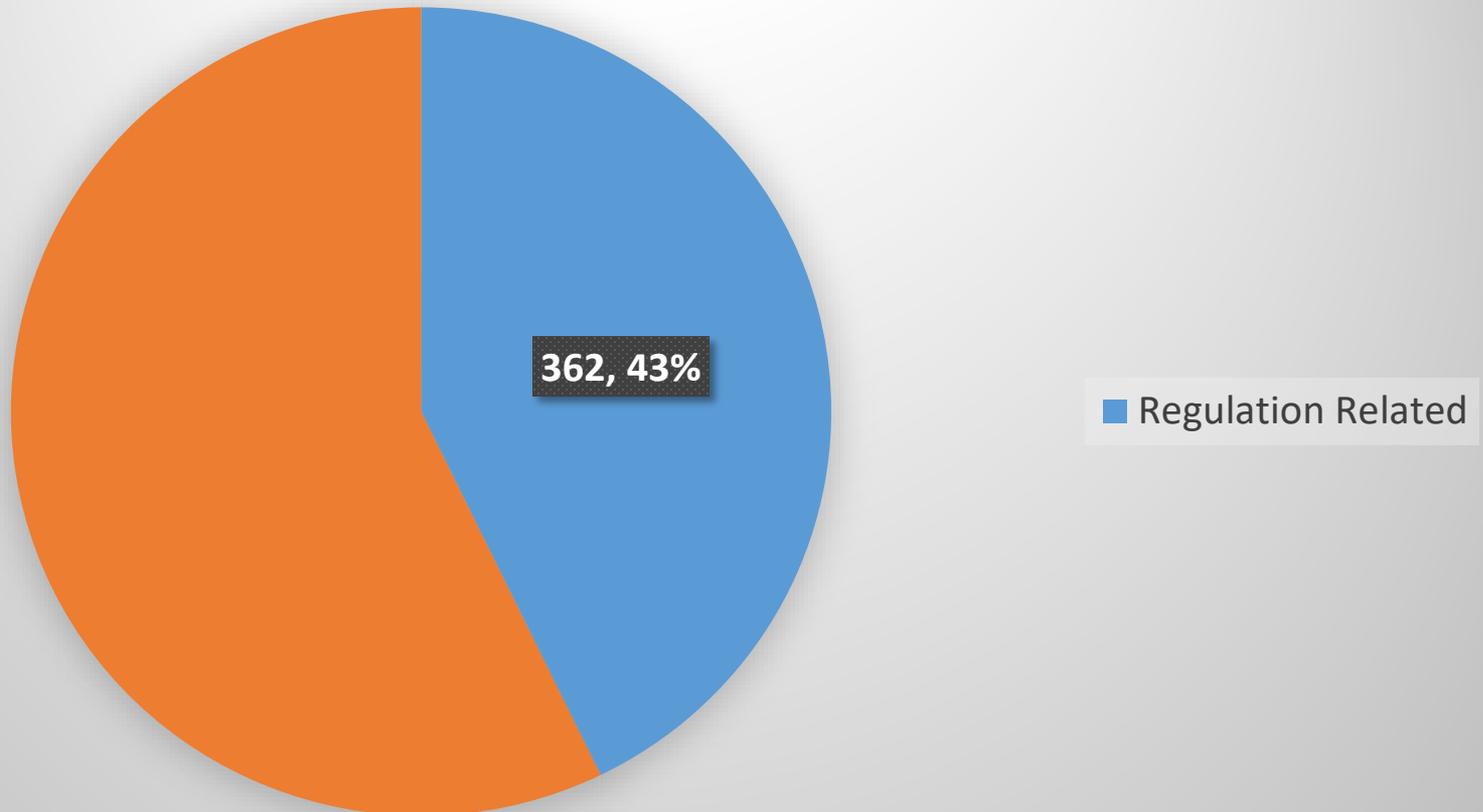


■ Hunter and/or Pro Hunting



Public Comment Summary

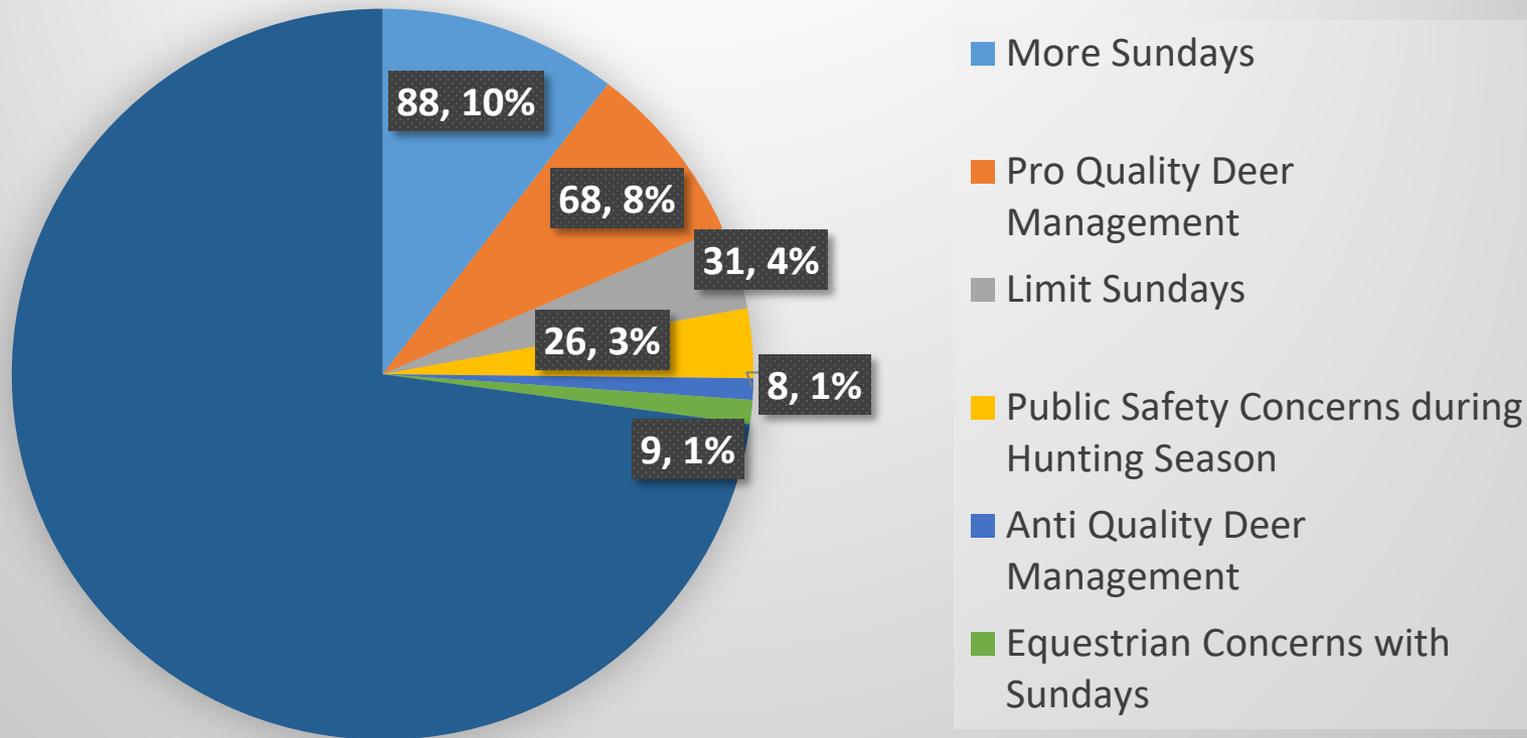
Hunting Regulation-Legislation Related





Public Comment Summary

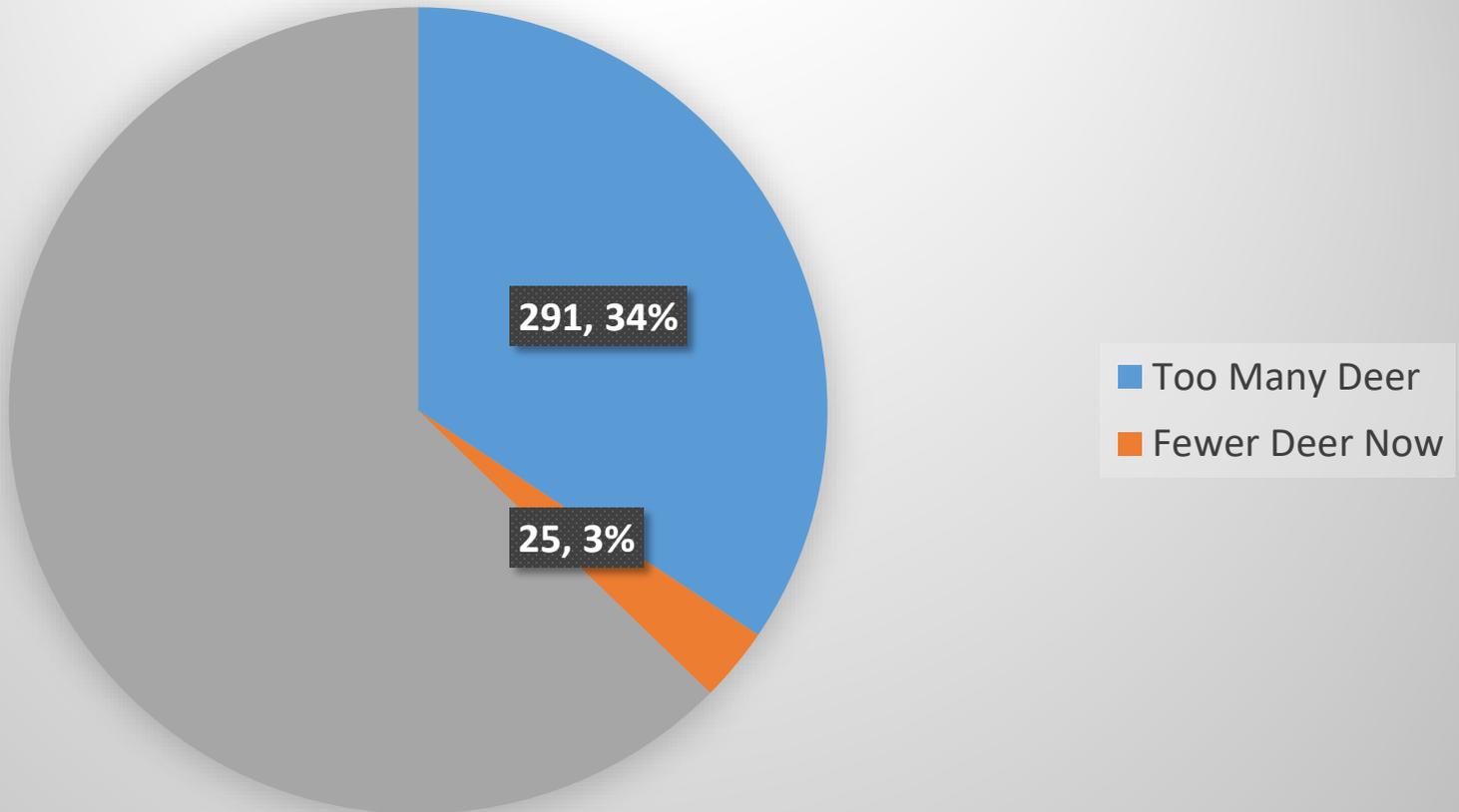
Common Hunting Regulations-Legislation Commented On





Public Comment Summary

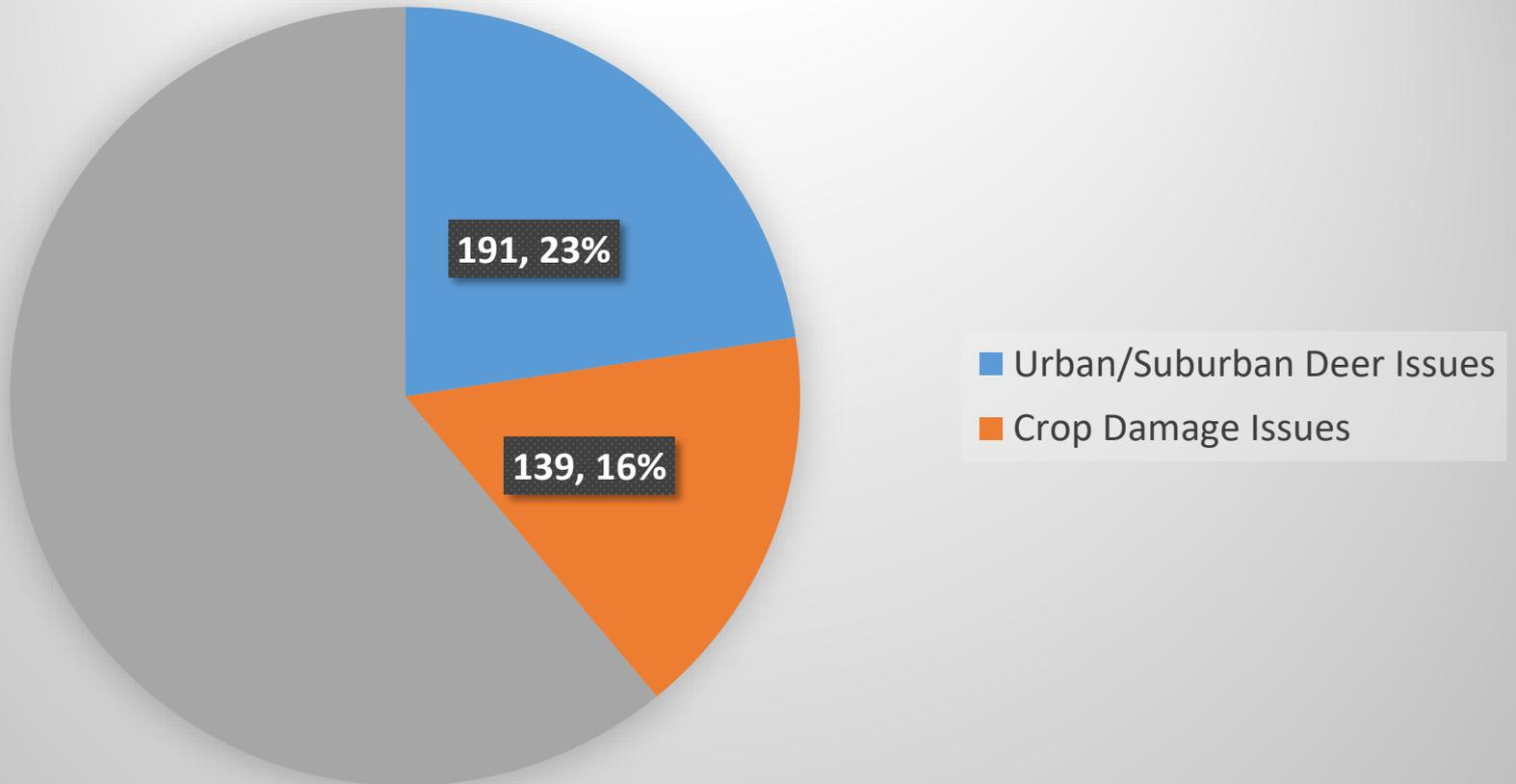
Deer Population Status





Public Comment Summary

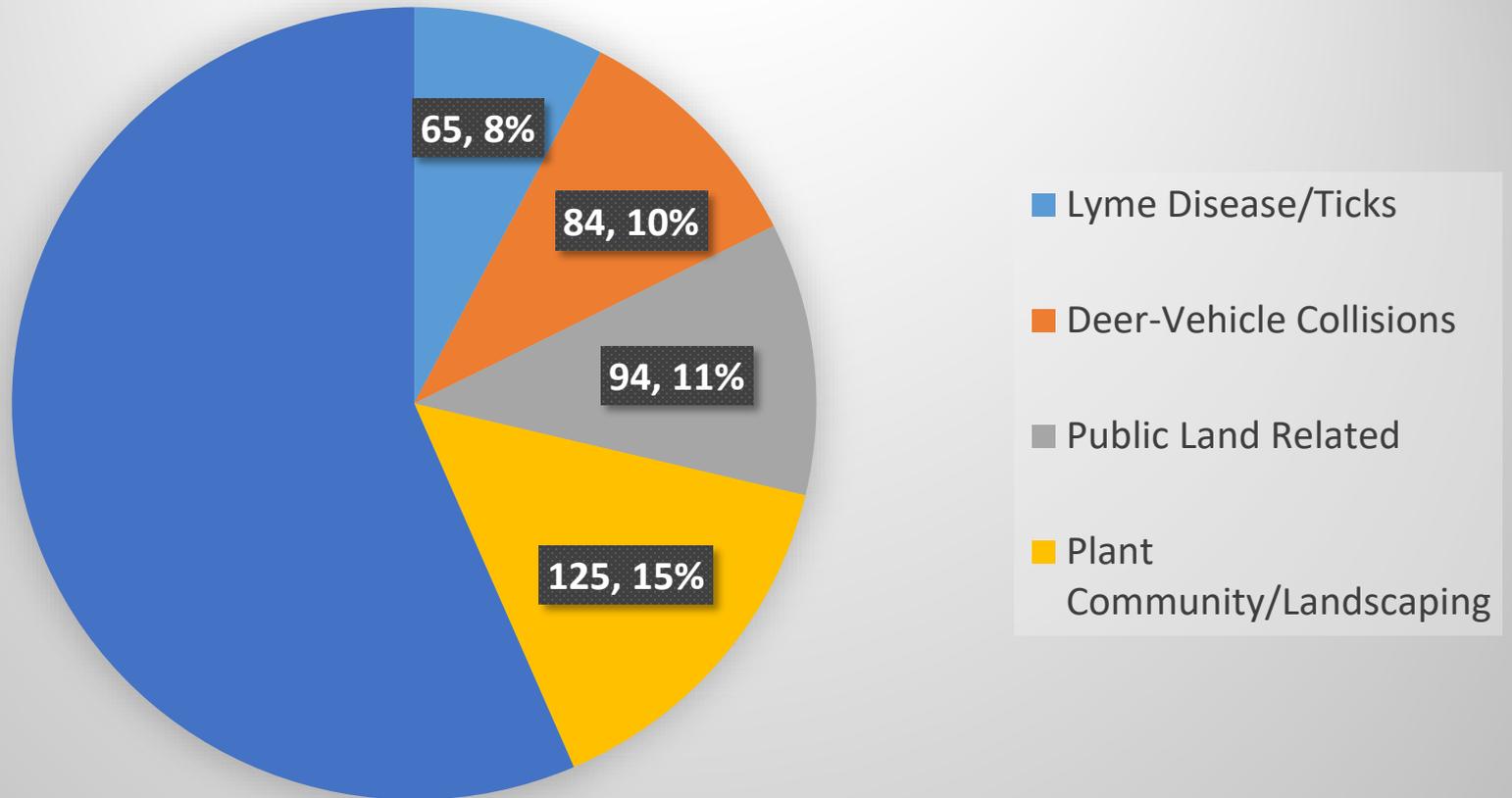
Overabundant Deer Problems





Public Comment Summary

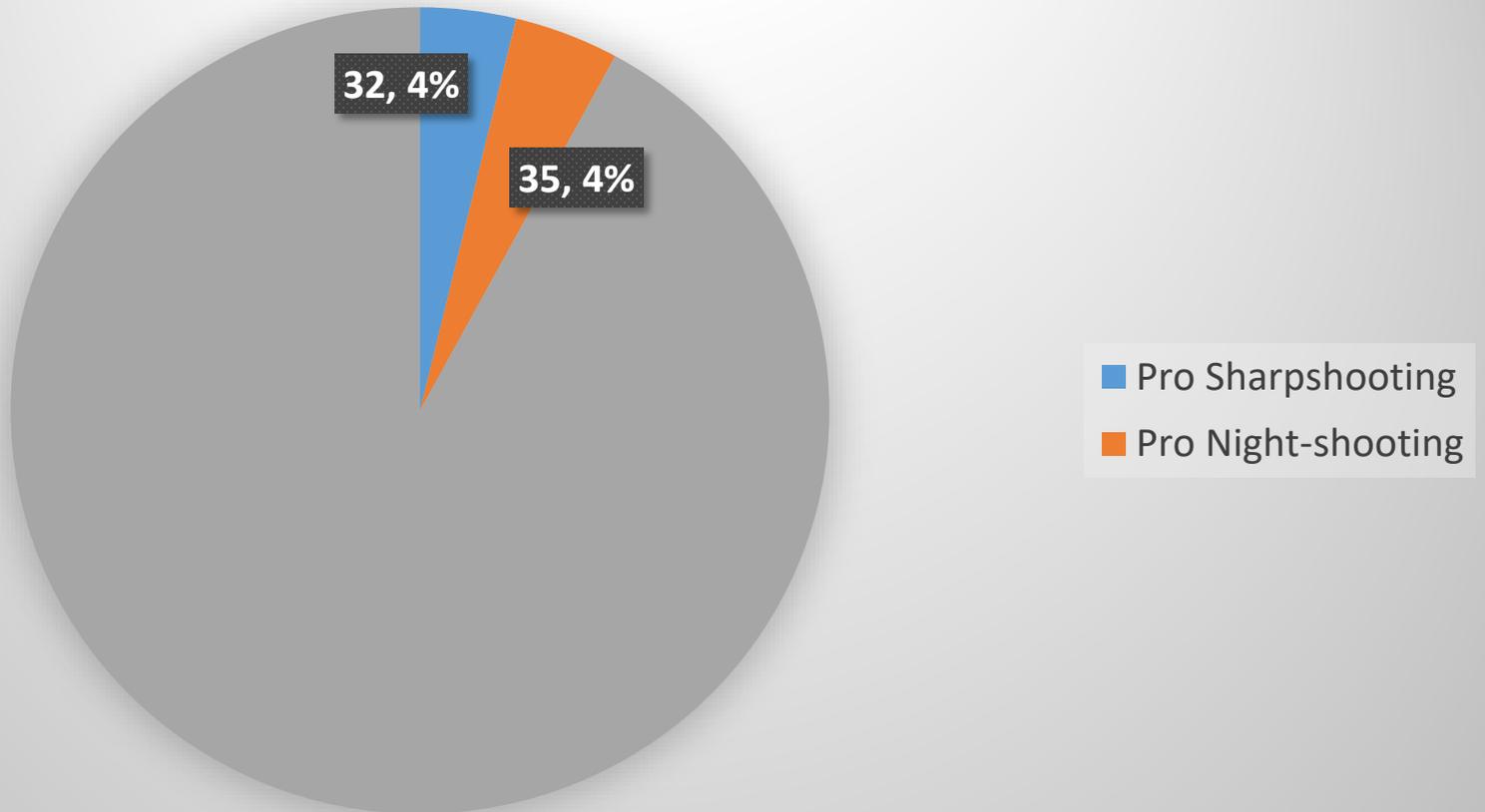
Overabundant Deer Problems





Public Comment Summary

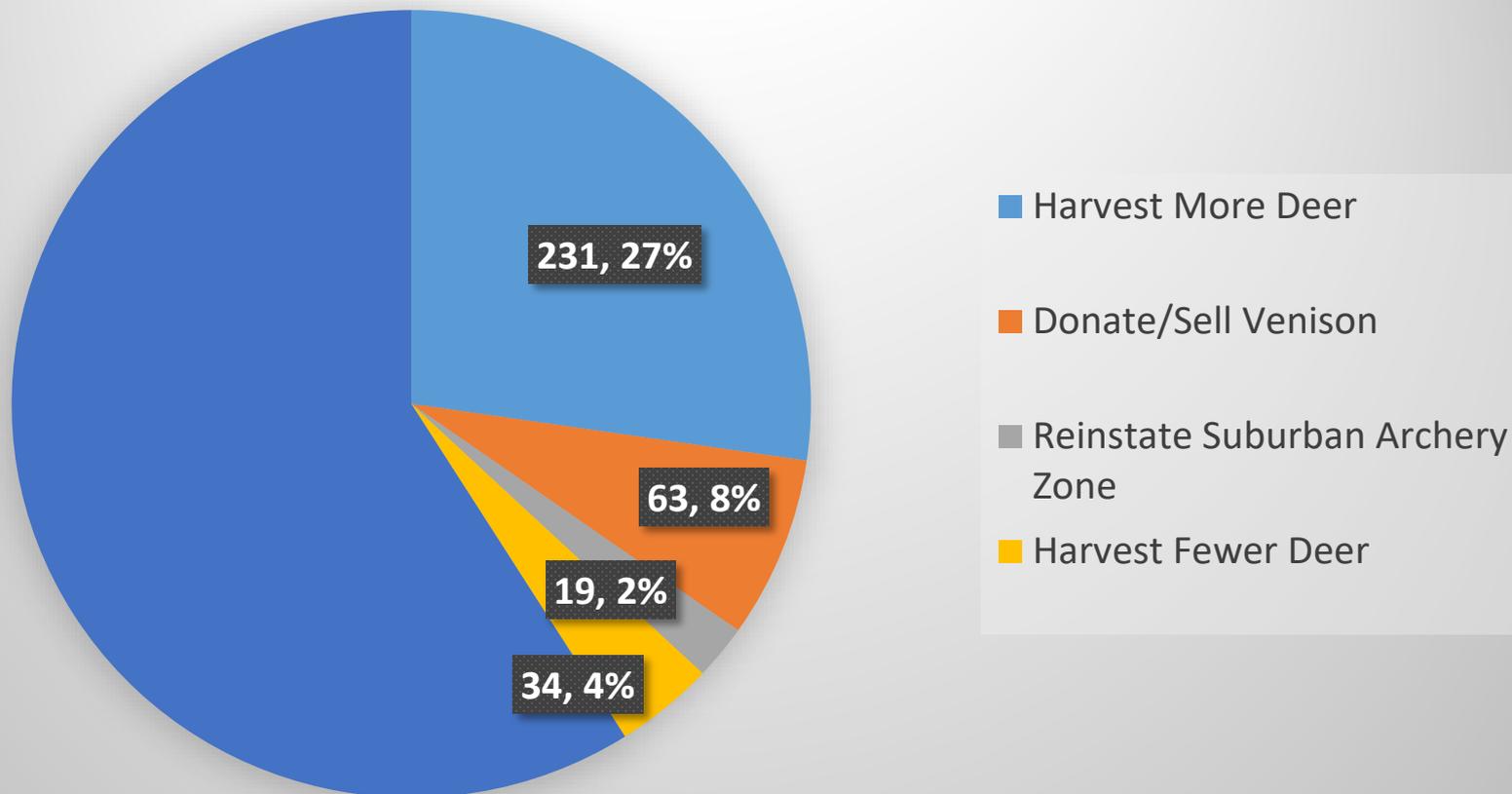
Overabundant Deer Problems





Public Comment Summary

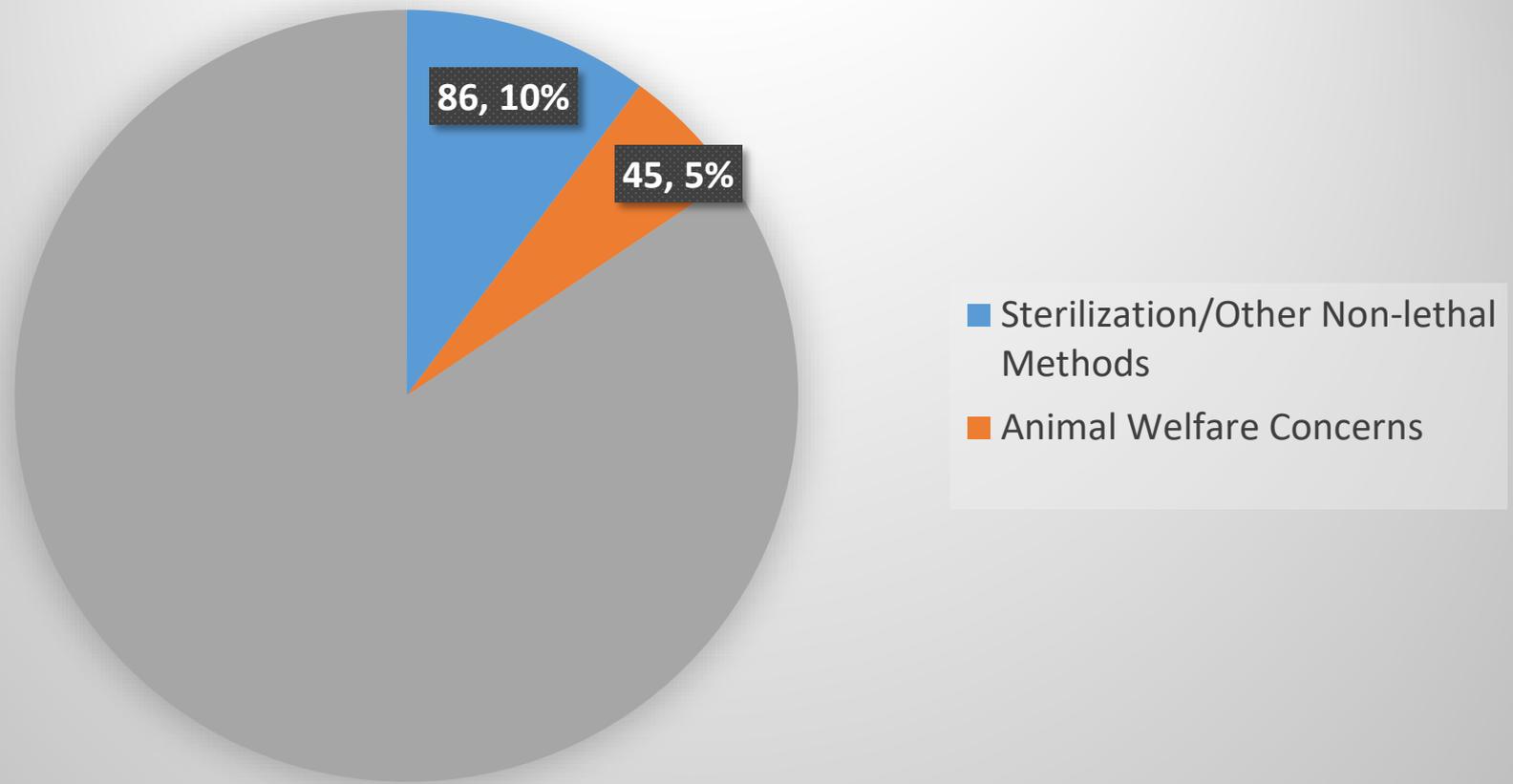
Overabundant Deer Problems





Public Comment Summary

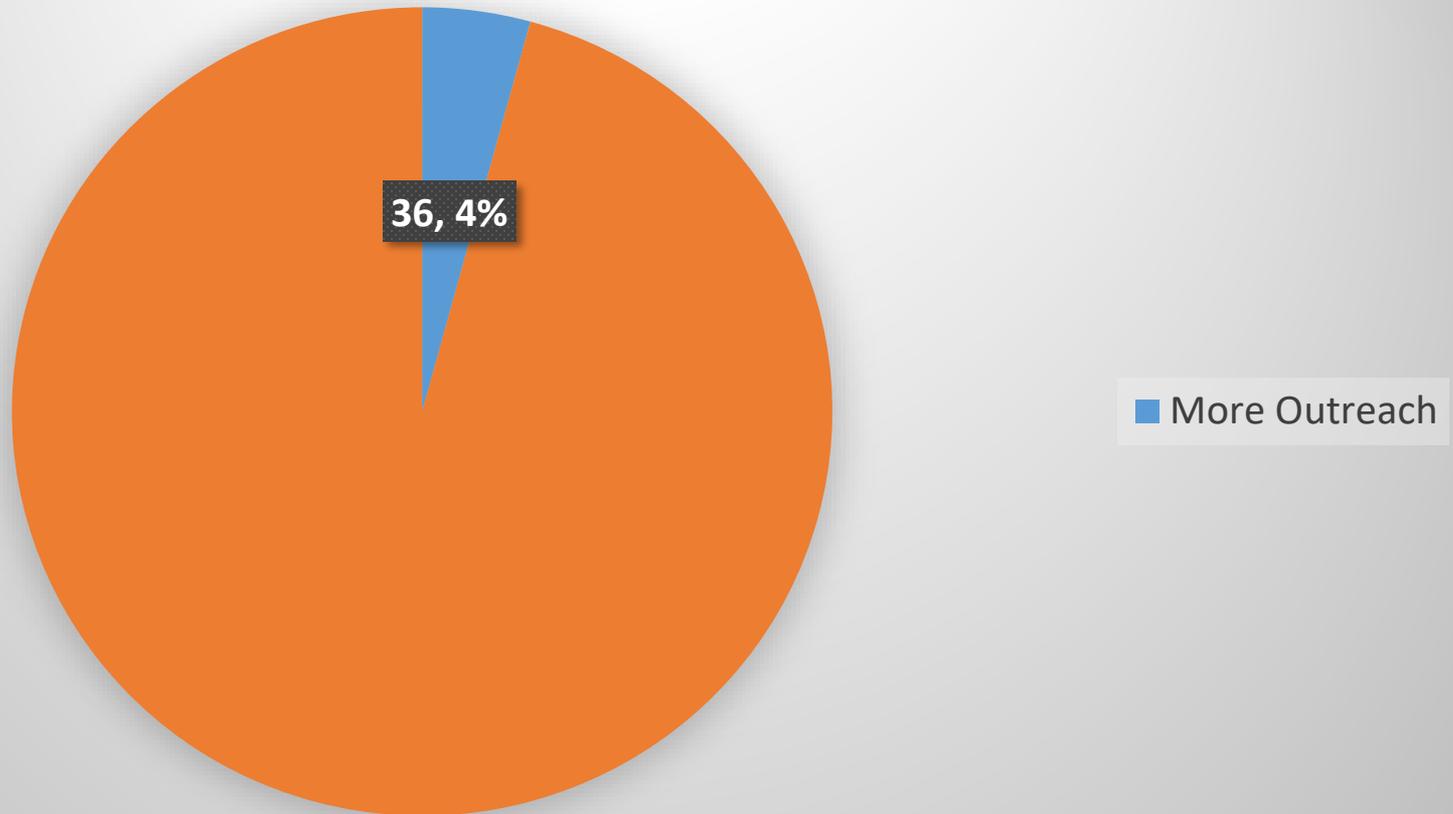
Non-lethal Deer Management





Public Comment Summary

Conduct More Outreach





Synopsis

- **Significant input from the farming community**
- **Significant input from the urban/suburban community**
- **Social media effects?**
- **Little discontent from the hunting community**
- **Effective outreach?**
- **Current Goals, Objectives, & Strategies still remain relevant and address many/all of the comments**



Public Opinion Survey

- **Telephone survey**
 - 801 deer hunters
 - 800 general population
 - 606 landowners
- **Compared results to the 2007 survey where possible**
- **General population results presented with and without hunters included**
- **Data were obtained regionally for additional analyses**
- **Chronic Wasting Disease questions were repeated from 2013**

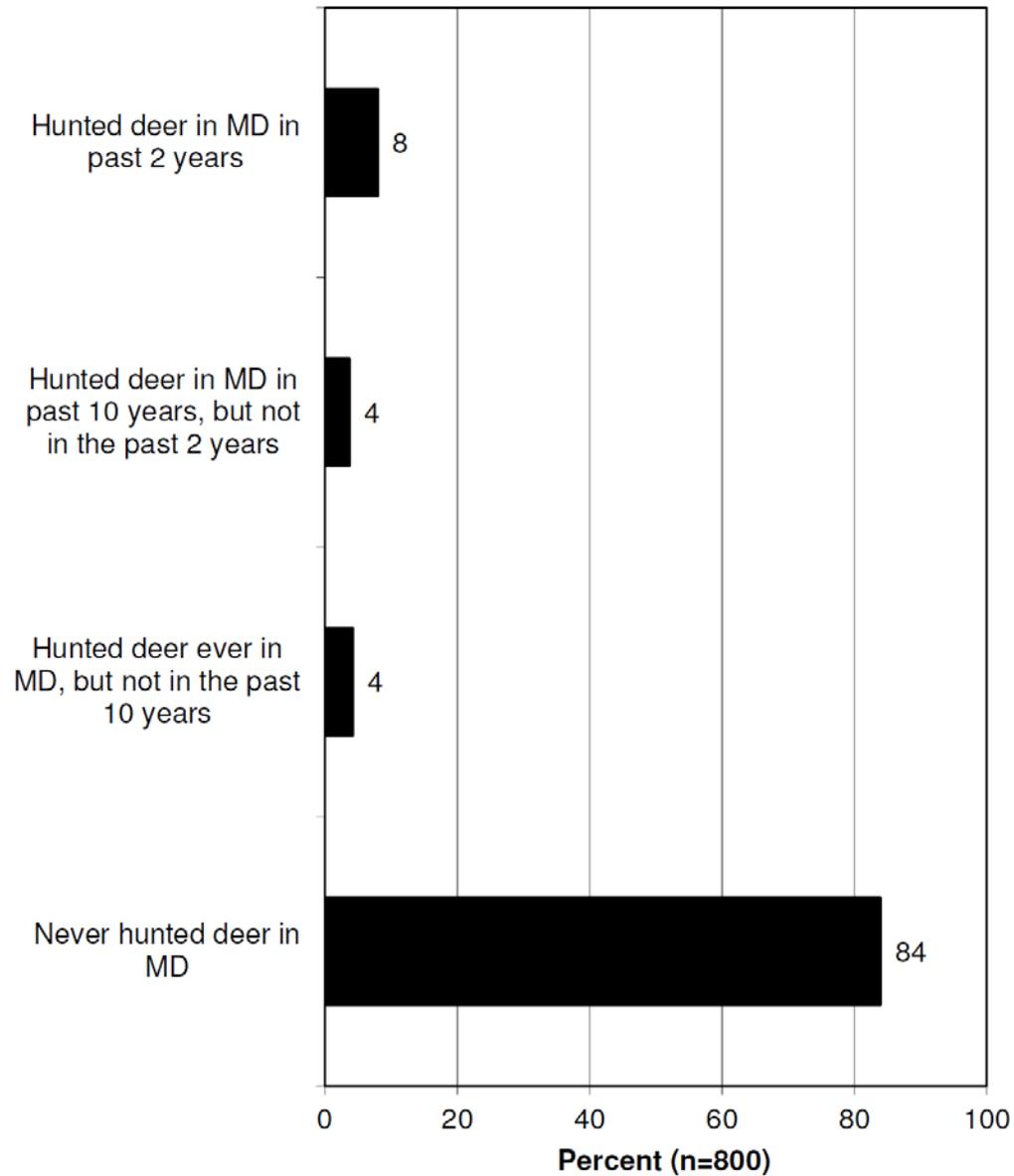


Public Opinion Survey

General Population



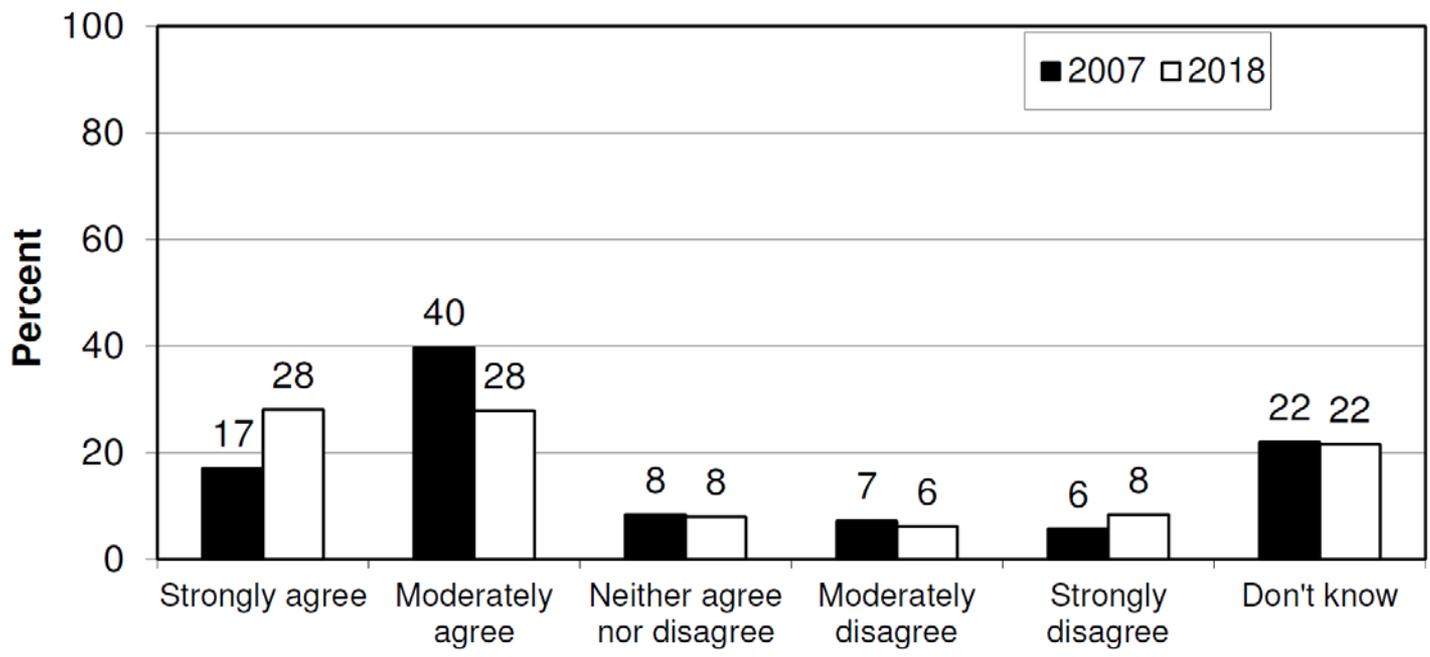
**Q43. Have you ever hunted deer in Maryland? In the past 10 years? In the past 2 years?
(Gen pop survey)**





Public Opinion Survey

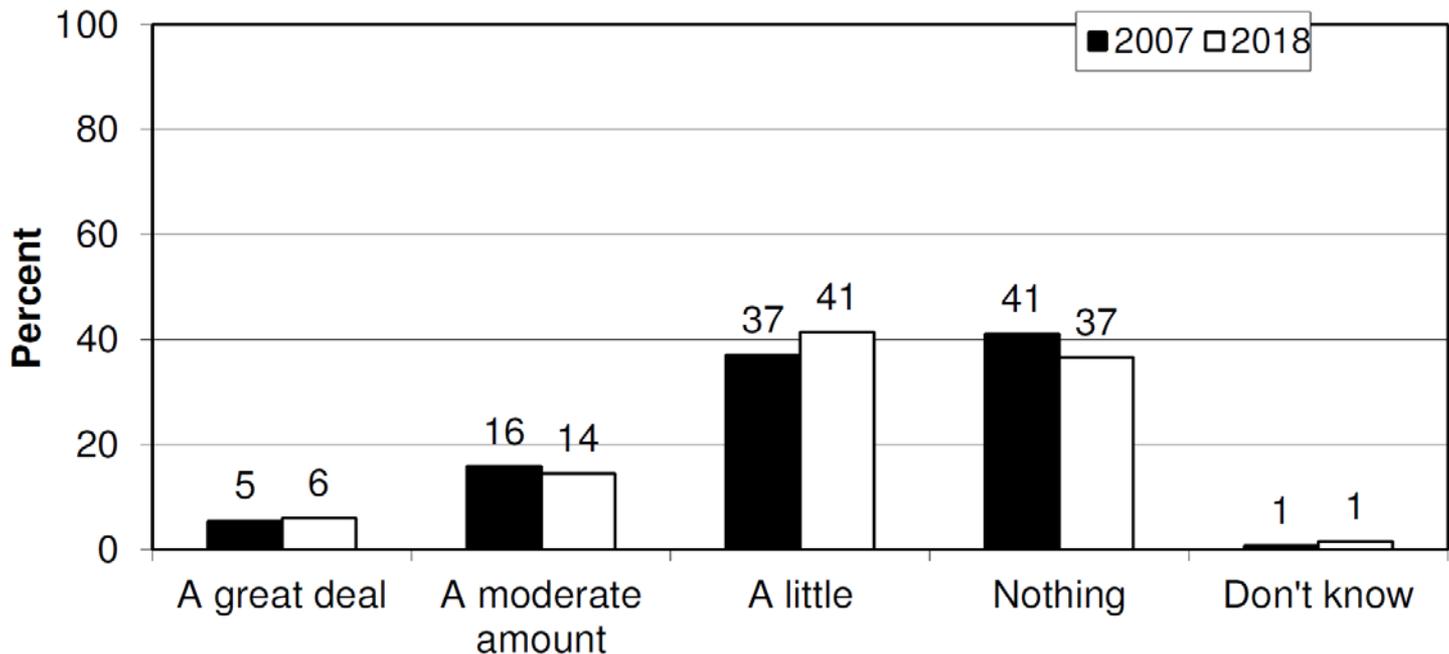
**Q14. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population.
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)
(Gen pop survey)**





Public Opinion Survey

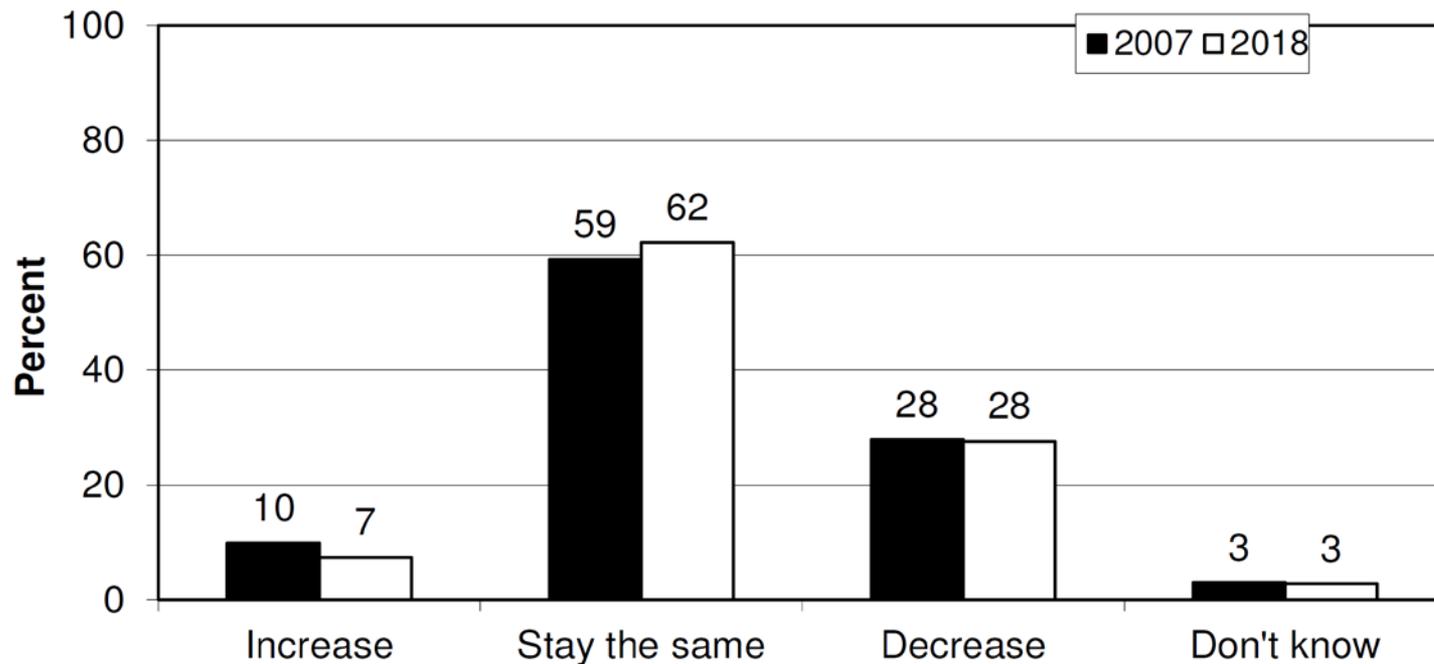
**Q21. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program?
(Gen pop survey)**





Public Opinion Survey

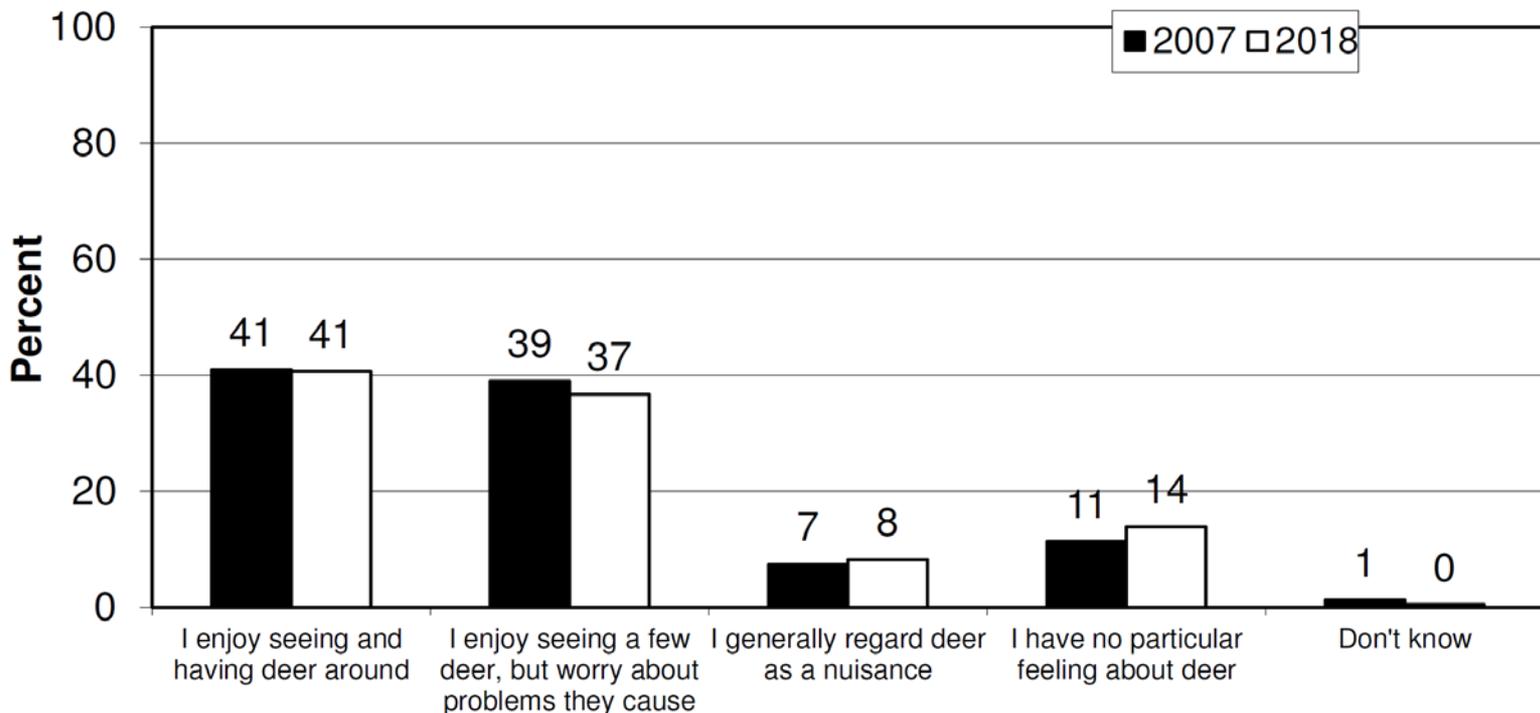
**Q24. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease?
(Gen pop survey)**





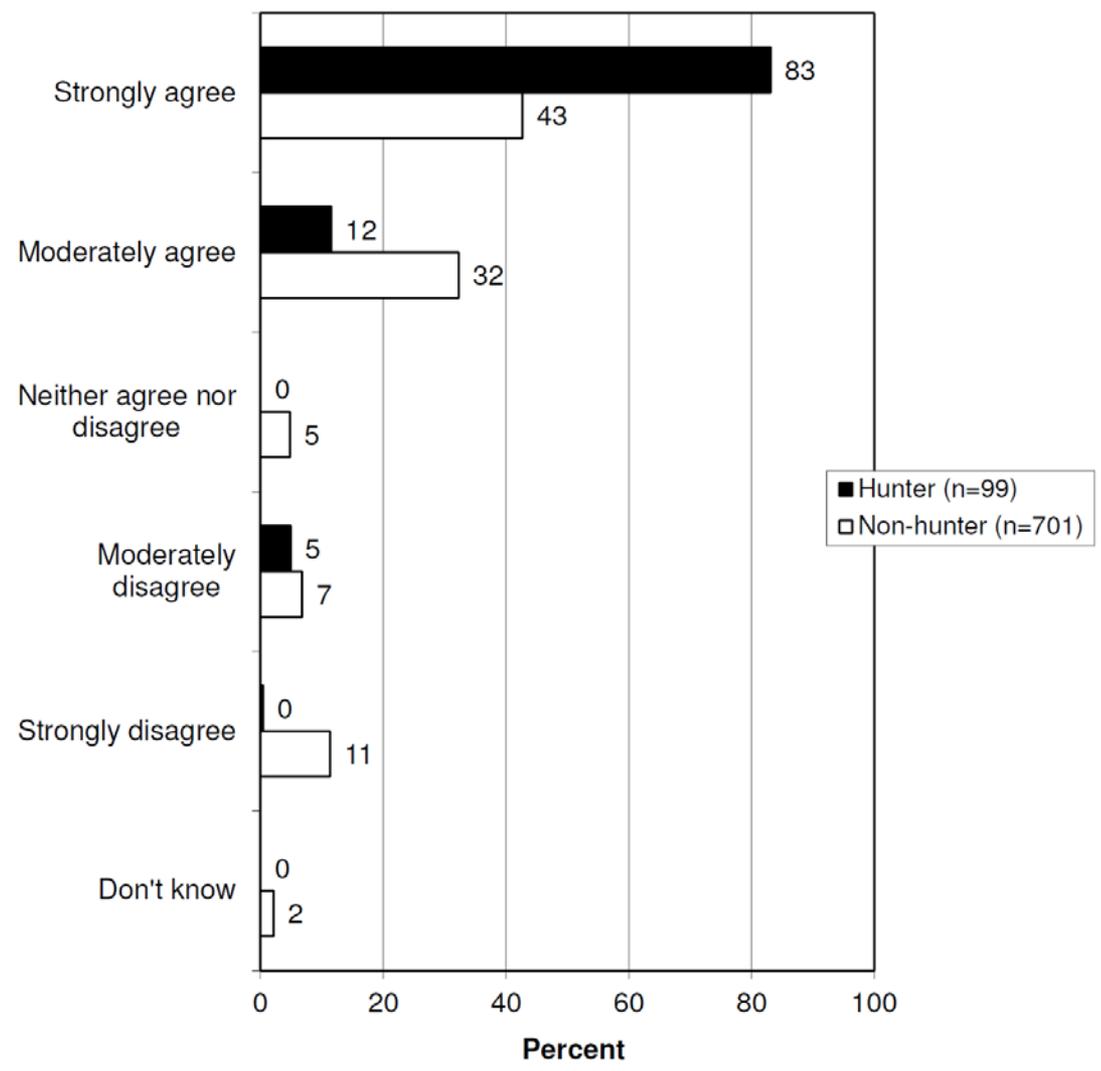
Public Opinion Survey

**Q7. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county?
(Gen pop survey)**





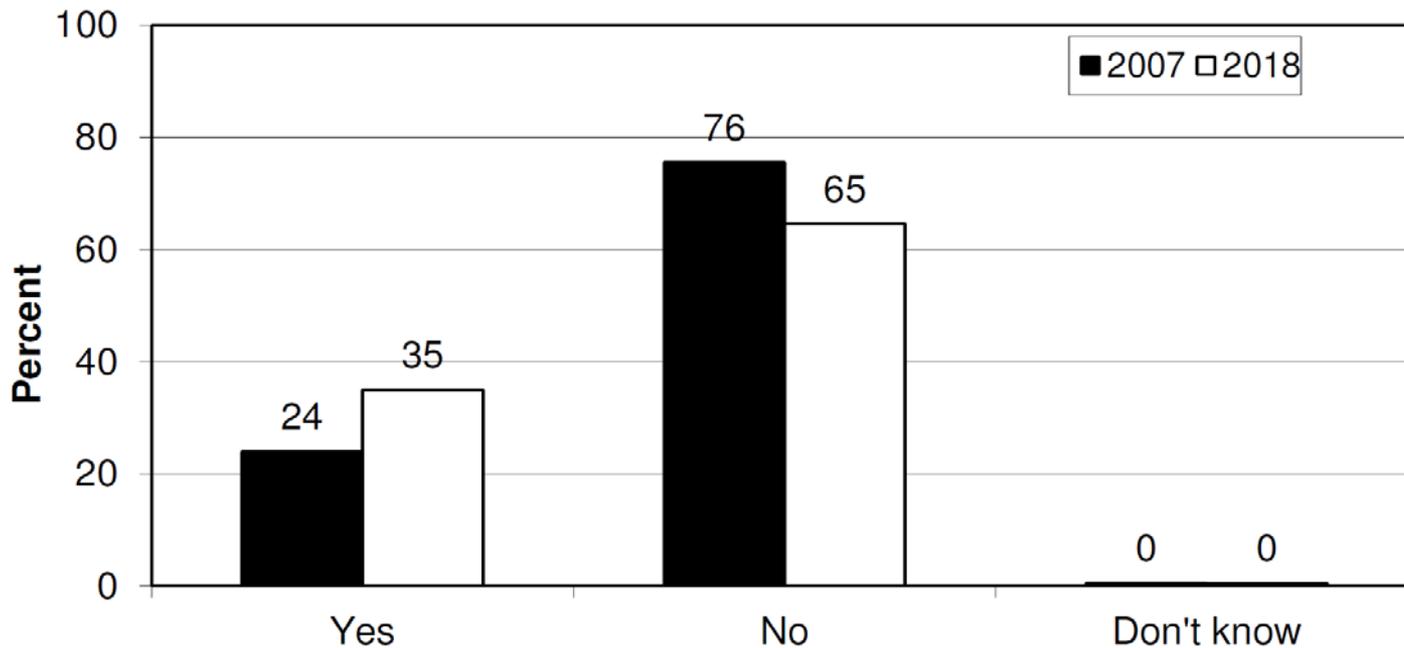
Q13. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)





Public Opinion Survey

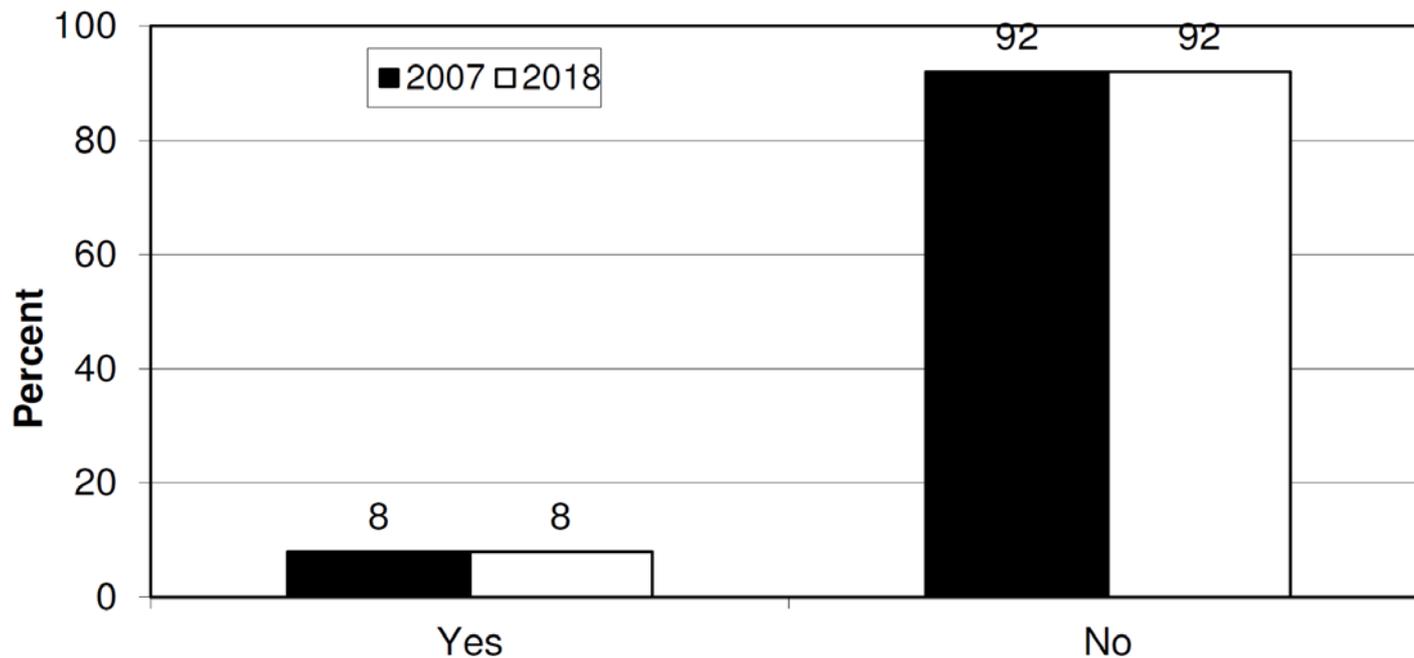
**Q36. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer?
(Gen pop survey)**





Public Opinion Survey

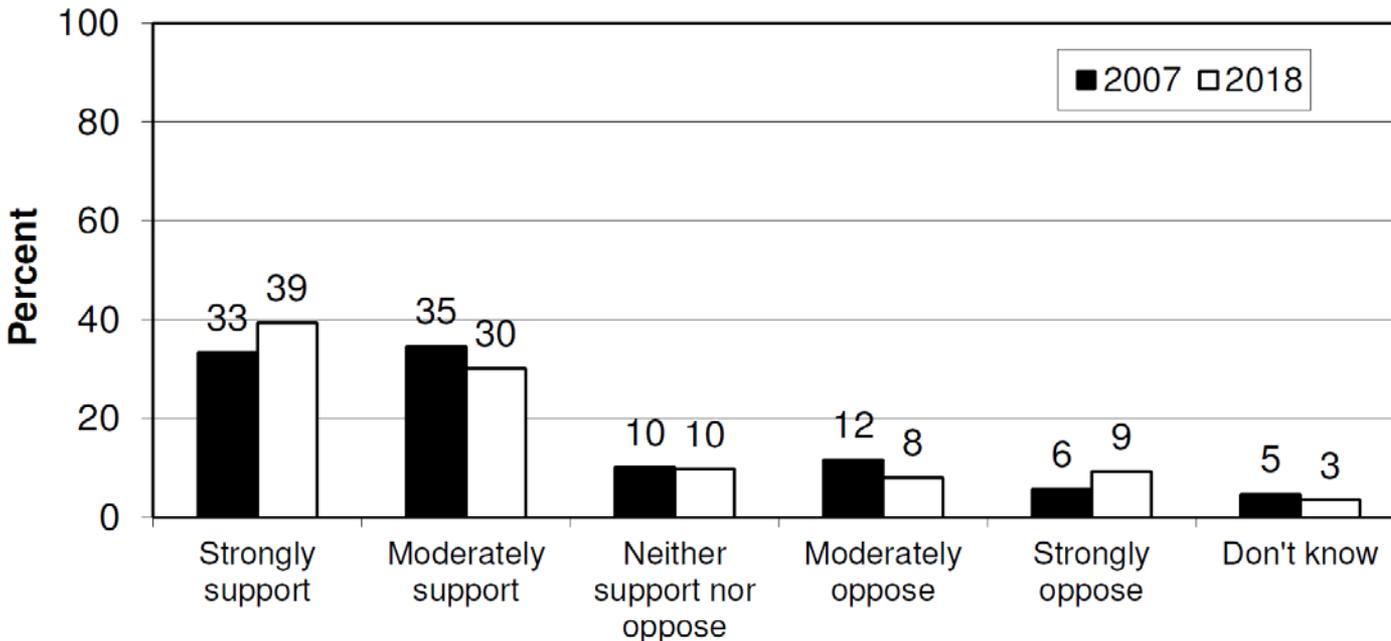
**Q42. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer?
(Gen pop survey)**





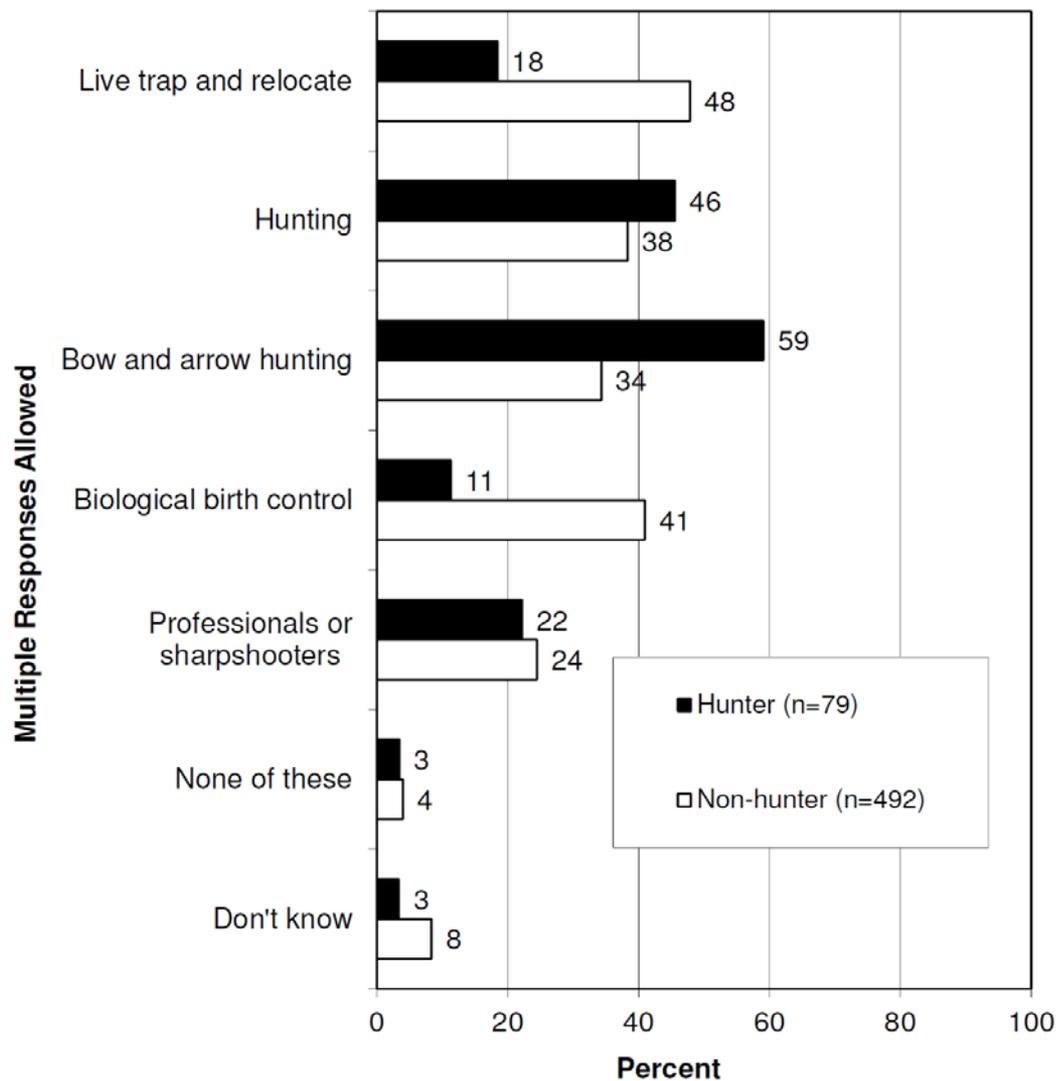
Public Opinion Survey

**Q81. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas?
(Gen pop survey)**





**Q84. How do you think deer should be controlled in urban and suburban areas?
(Asked of those who support controlling deer populations.) (Gen pop survey)**





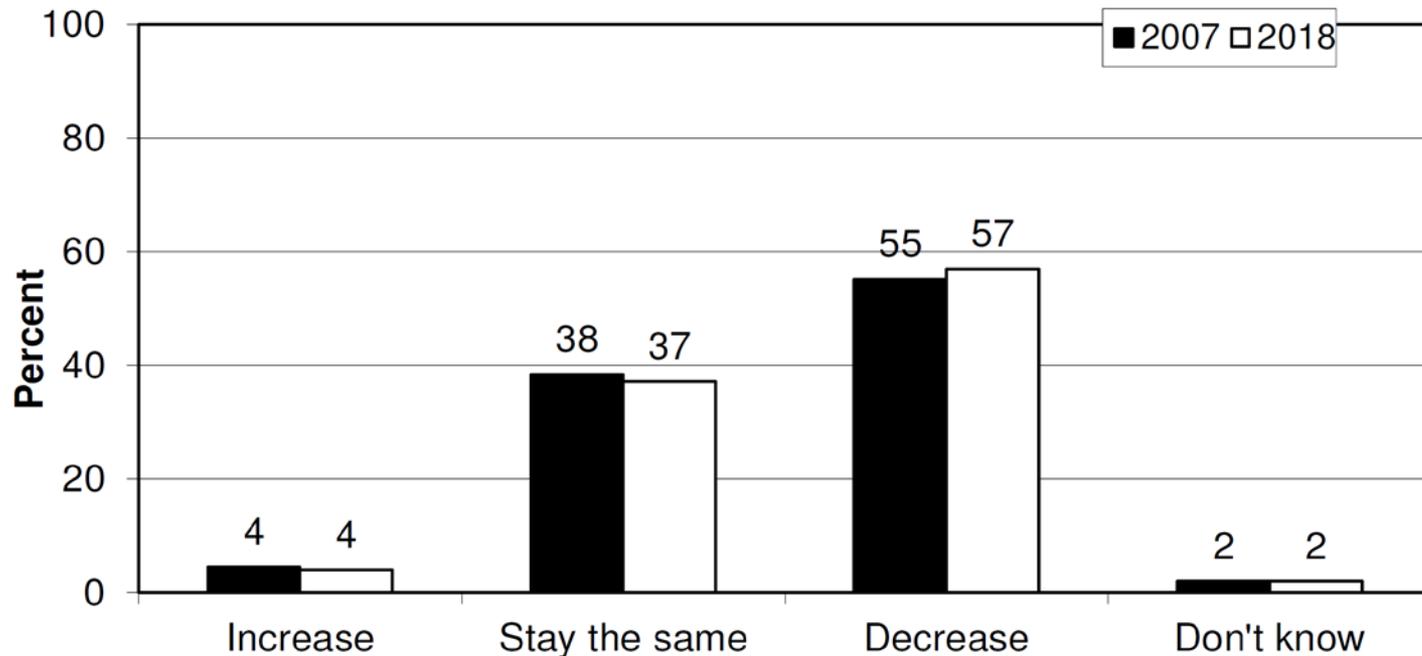
Public Opinion Survey

Landowners



Public Opinion Survey

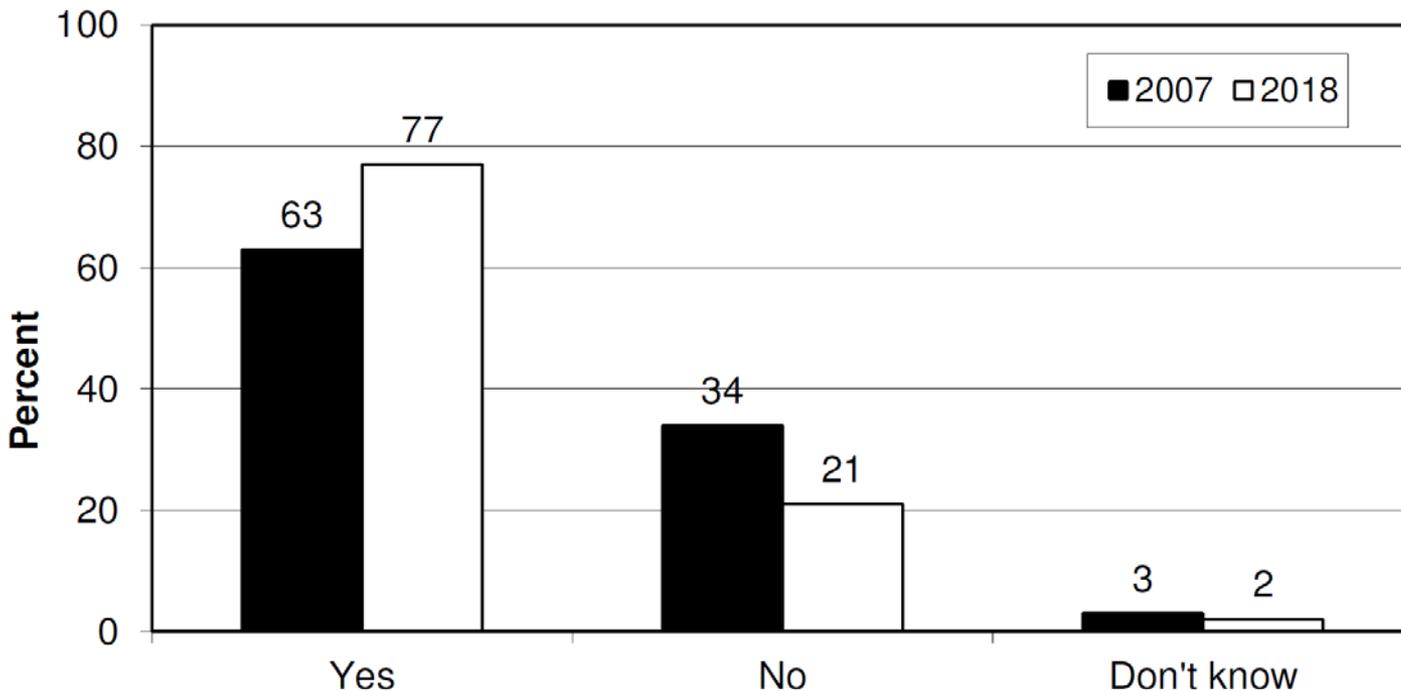
**Q26. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease?
(Landowner survey)**





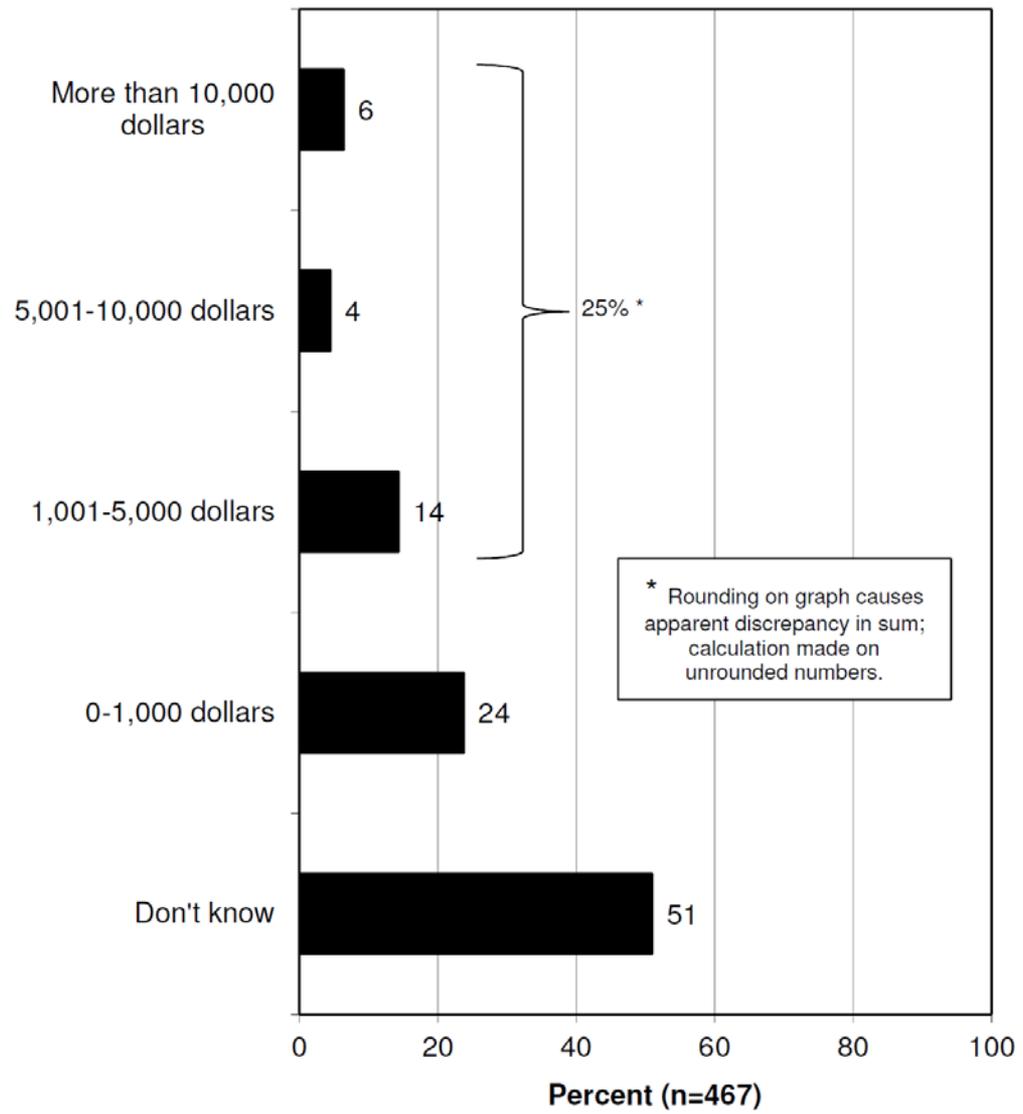
Public Opinion Survey

**Q35. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your agricultural crops from deer?
(Landowner survey)**





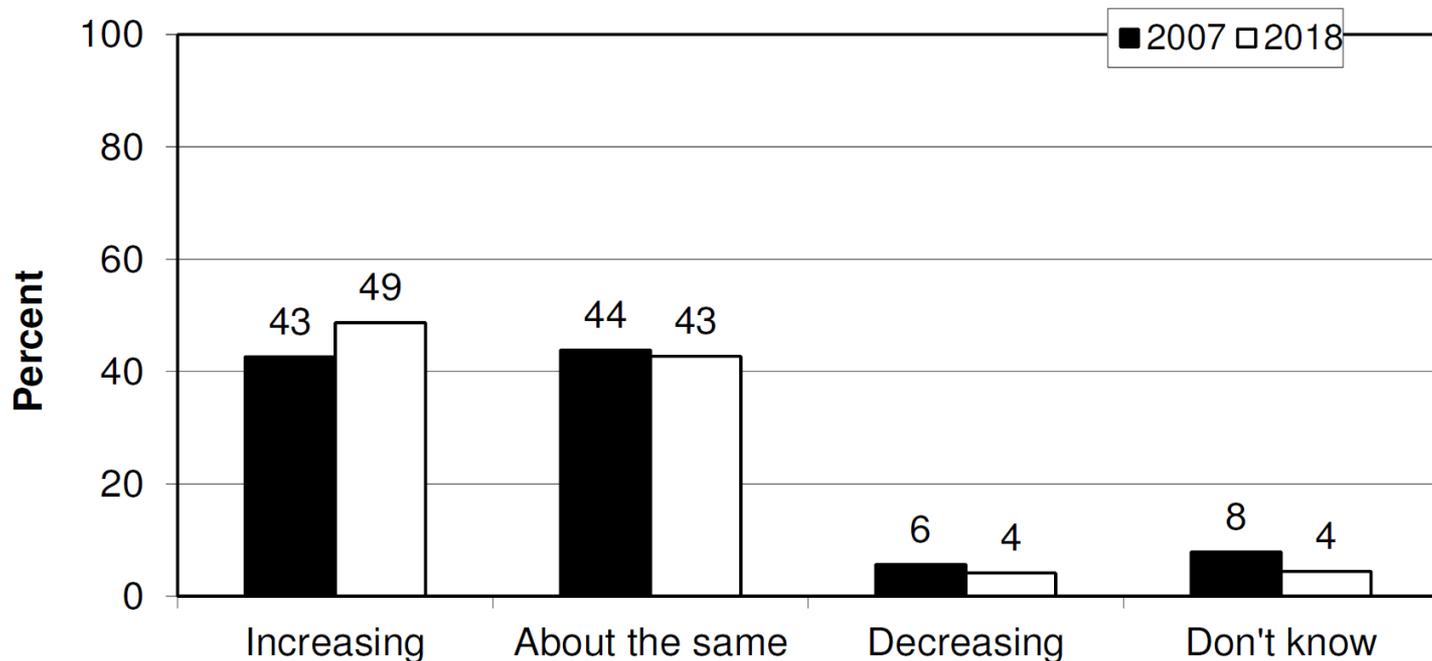
Q125. Please tell me how much monetary damage the deer caused in the past 12 months, in your best estimate. (Asked of those who experienced agricultural damage from deer in the 12 months.) (Landowner survey)





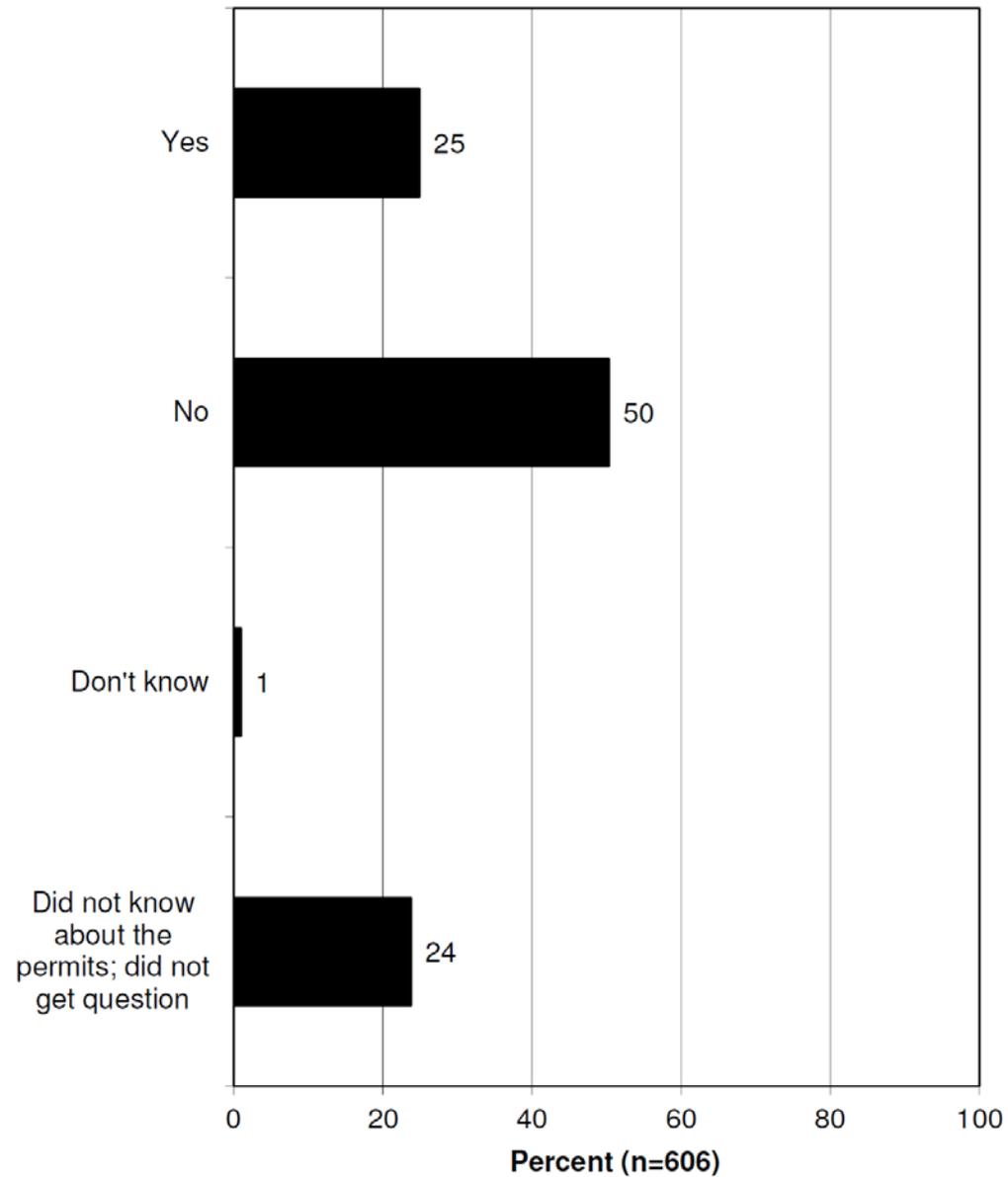
Public Opinion Survey

**Q37. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing?
(Landowner survey)**



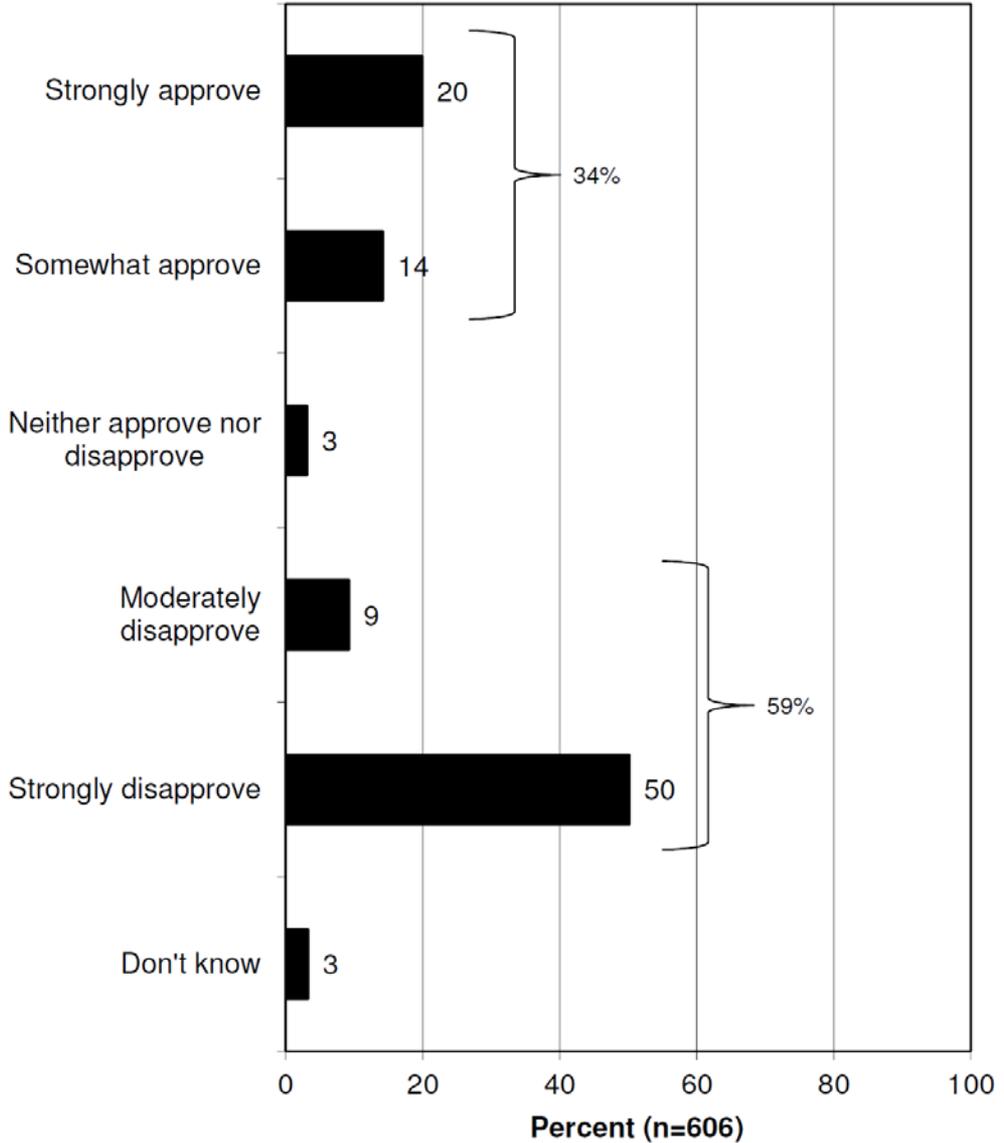


Q129. Do you use crop damage permits? (Landowner survey)





**Q134. Do you approve or disapprove of shooting deer at night for this purpose?
(Landowner survey)**





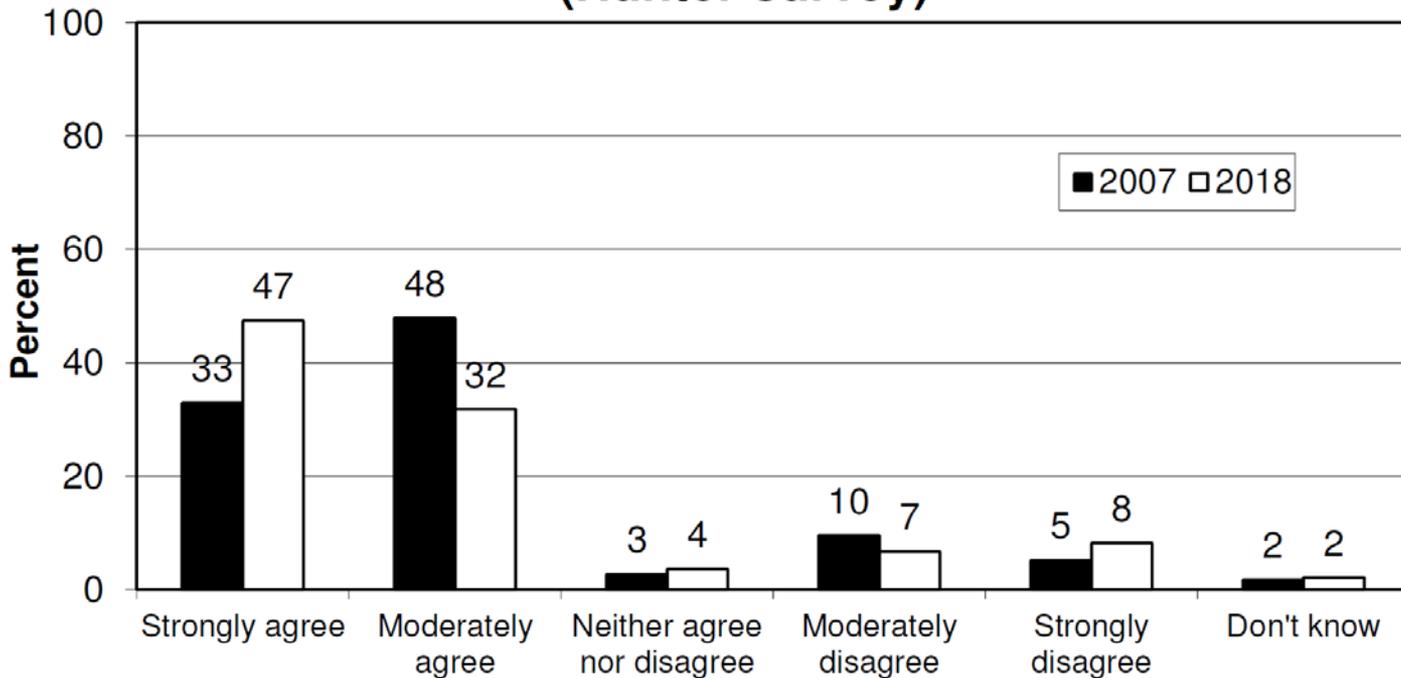
Public Opinion Survey

Deer Hunters



Public Opinion Survey

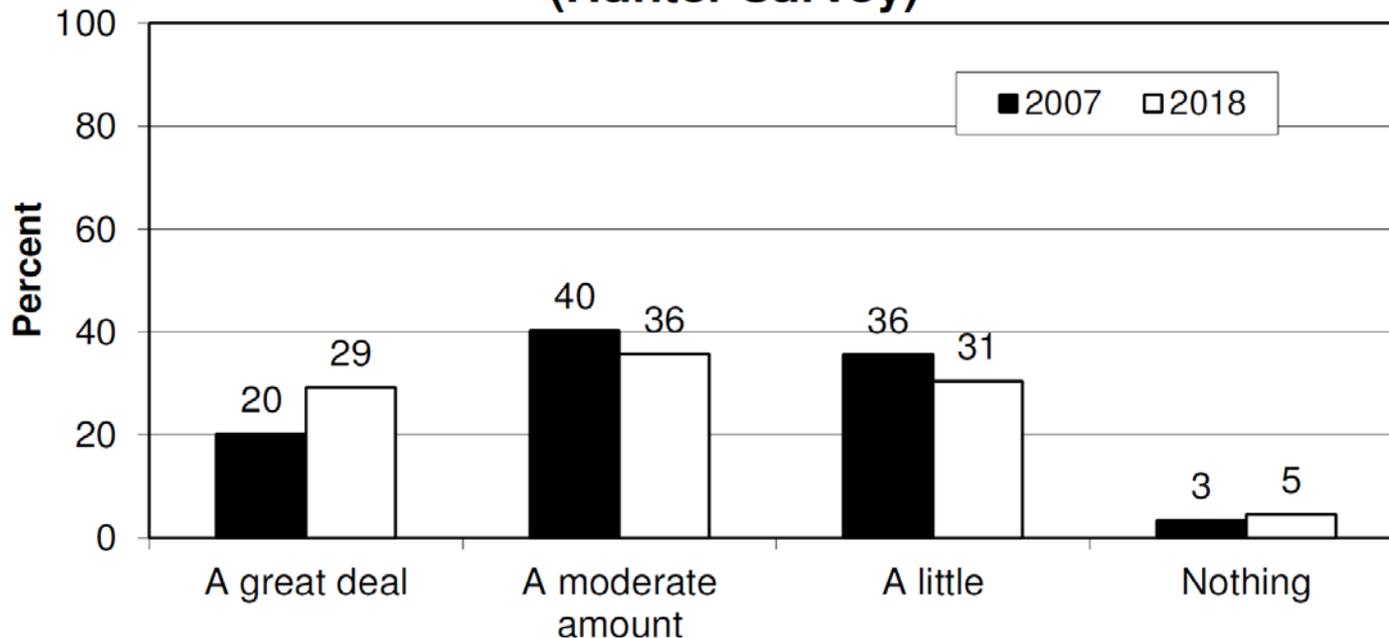
**Q15. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population.
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)
(Hunter survey)**





Public Opinion Survey

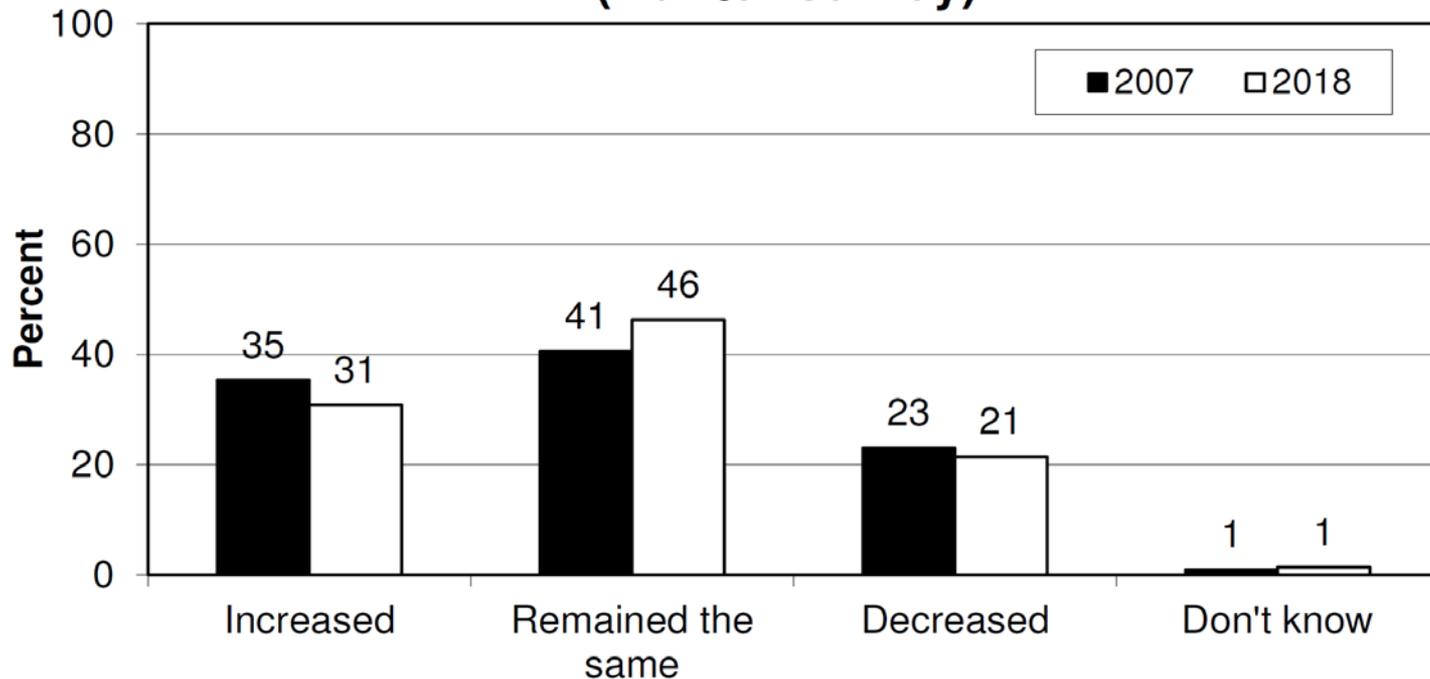
**Q18. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program?
(Hunter survey)**





Public Opinion Survey

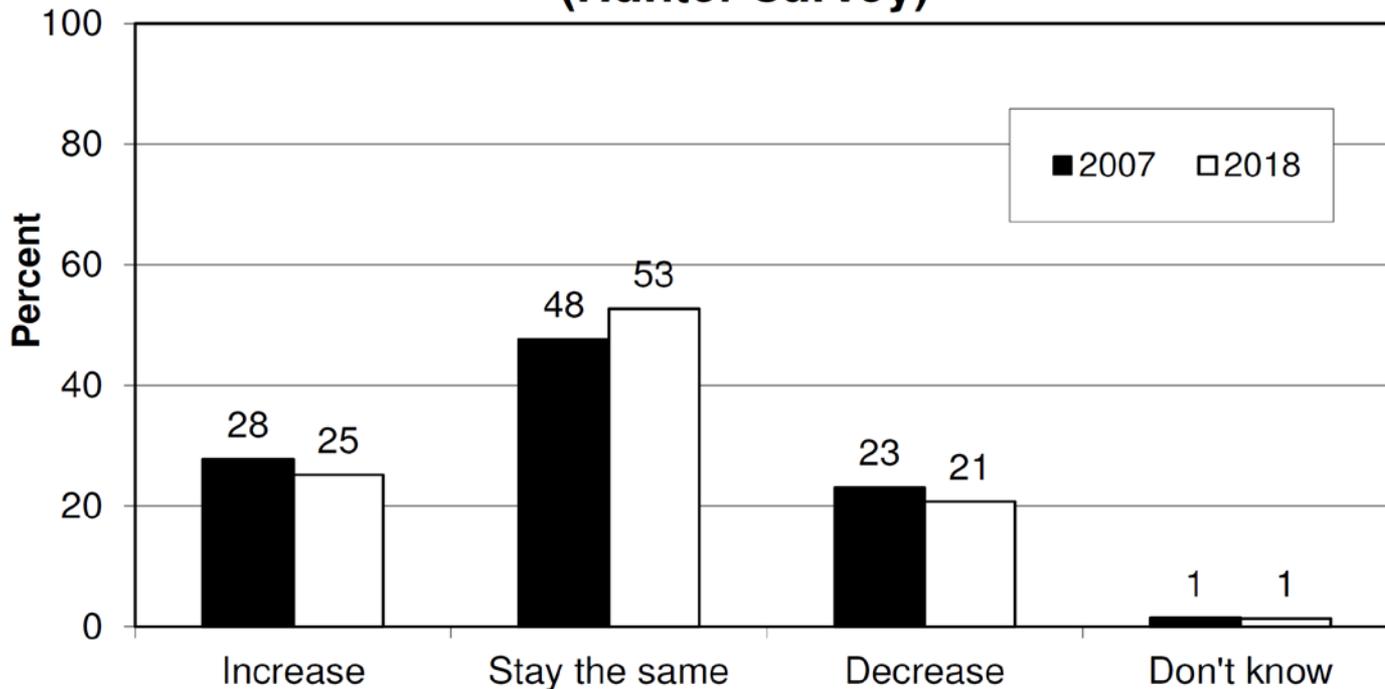
**Q67. Would you say your satisfaction with your deer hunting experiences in Maryland has increased, remained the same, or decreased over the past 10 years?
(Hunter survey)**





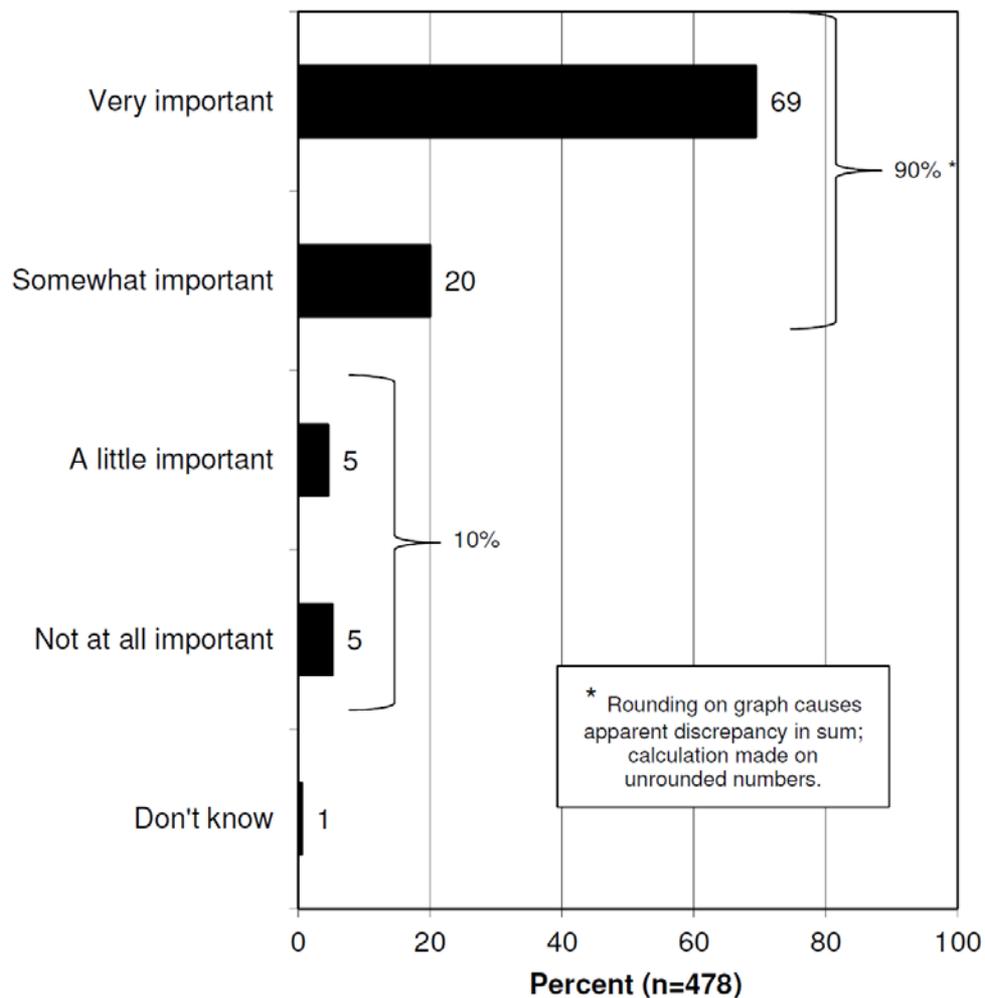
Public Opinion Survey

**Q21. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease?
(Hunter survey)**



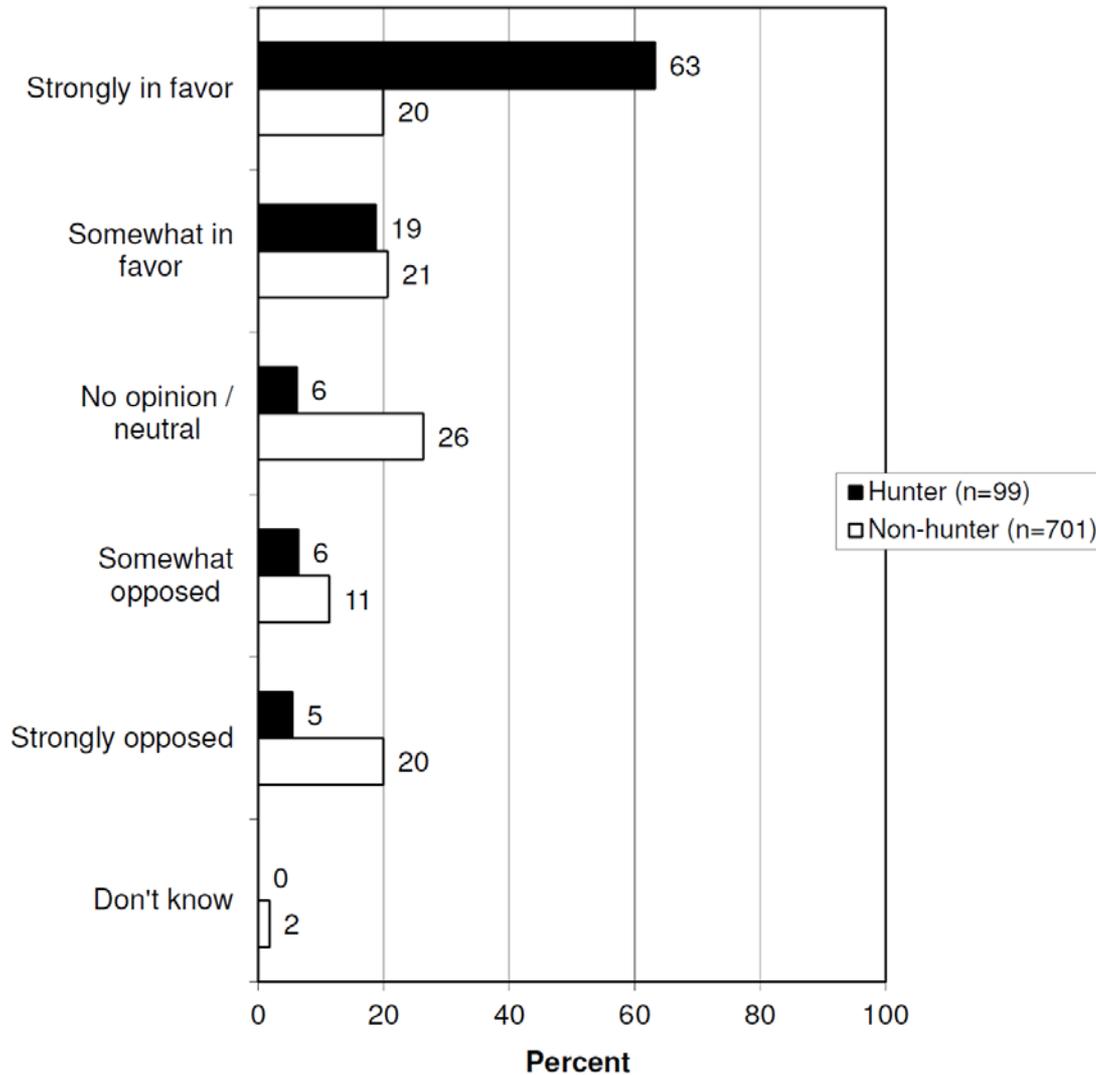


Q131. Do you feel that having Sundays available to hunt is very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not at all important to your success in harvesting a deer? (Asked of those who hunted deer on Sundays during the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)





Q17. What is your general opinion of Sunday deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)





Synopsis

- **Public opinion has not changed significantly concerning deer and deer management since 2007**
- **Landowner attitudes have changed somewhat**
- **Better outreach needed?**

Questions?

