



South Dakota
GAME, FISH and PARKS

Landowner Survey Design & Methods



6,373

Total sample size; landowners with >100 acres

11

Sub-strata; disproportionate random stratified sampling with post-stratification weighting

4

Waves of contact; mail survey

57%

Useable response rate; a total adjusted response rate of 63%

Hunter Survey

Design & Methods



4,000

Total sample size; Random Sample of resident deer applicants
Adjusted sample size = 3,886

6

Waves of contact; 3 email survey & 3 mail survey

64%

Adjusted response rate; 2,499 responses





Landowner Deer Survey

Landowner Demographics

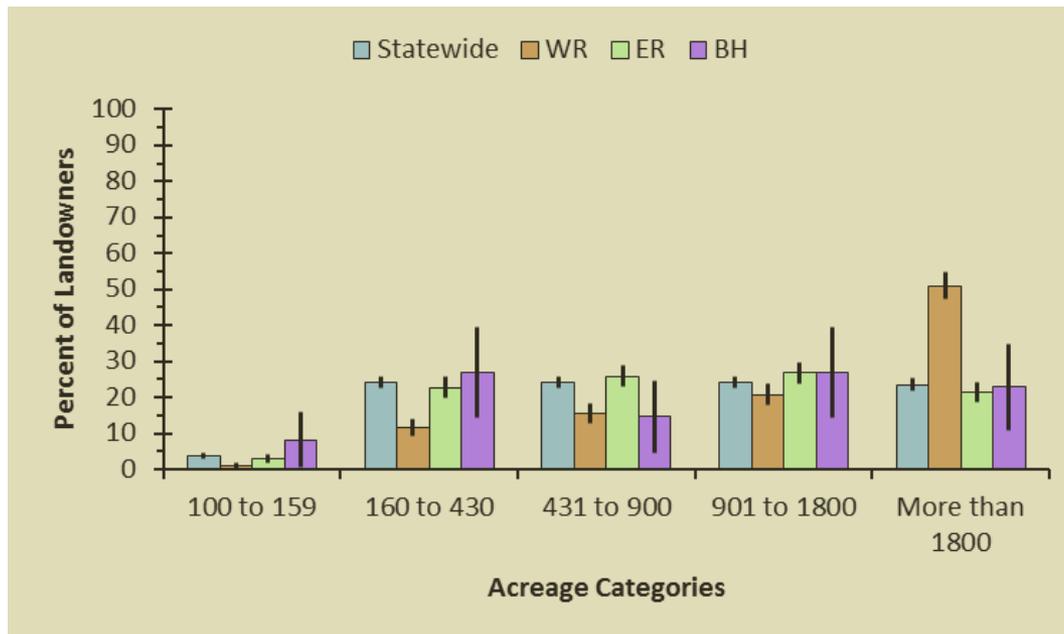


96%

of respondents own 160 or more acres

51% of West River respondents own more than 1,800 acres

Average acres owned: 1,546 (1,459 to 1,633)



Landowner Demographics



49% of East River respondents identified as farmers

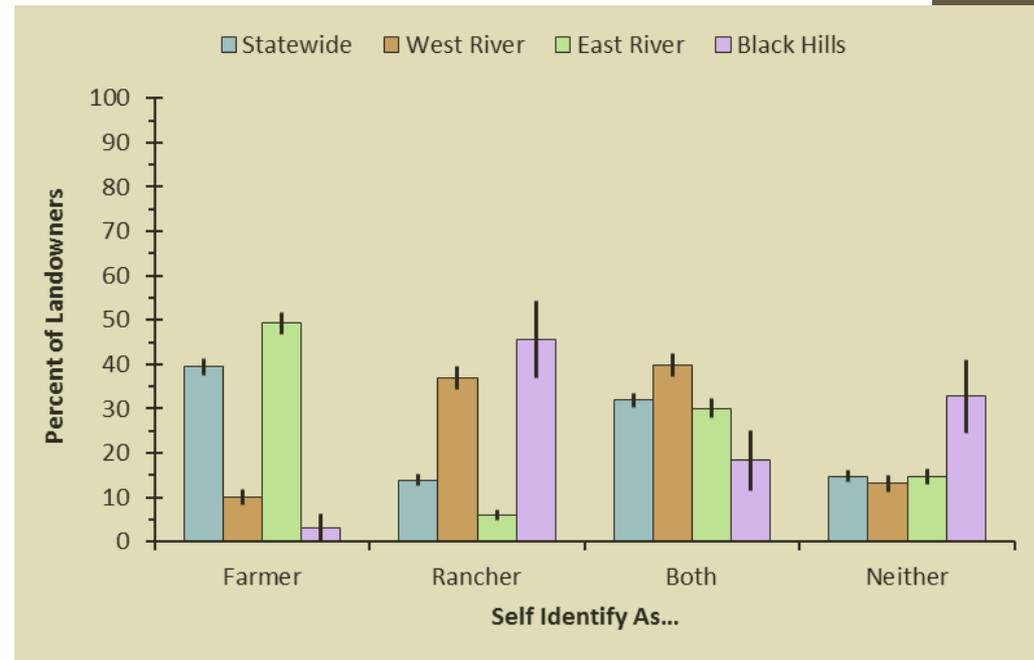


38% of West River and Black Hills respondents identified as ranchers

West River respondents were more likely to identify as both farmer and rancher



Black Hills respondents were more likely to identify as neither farmer nor rancher



White-Tailed Deer Populations



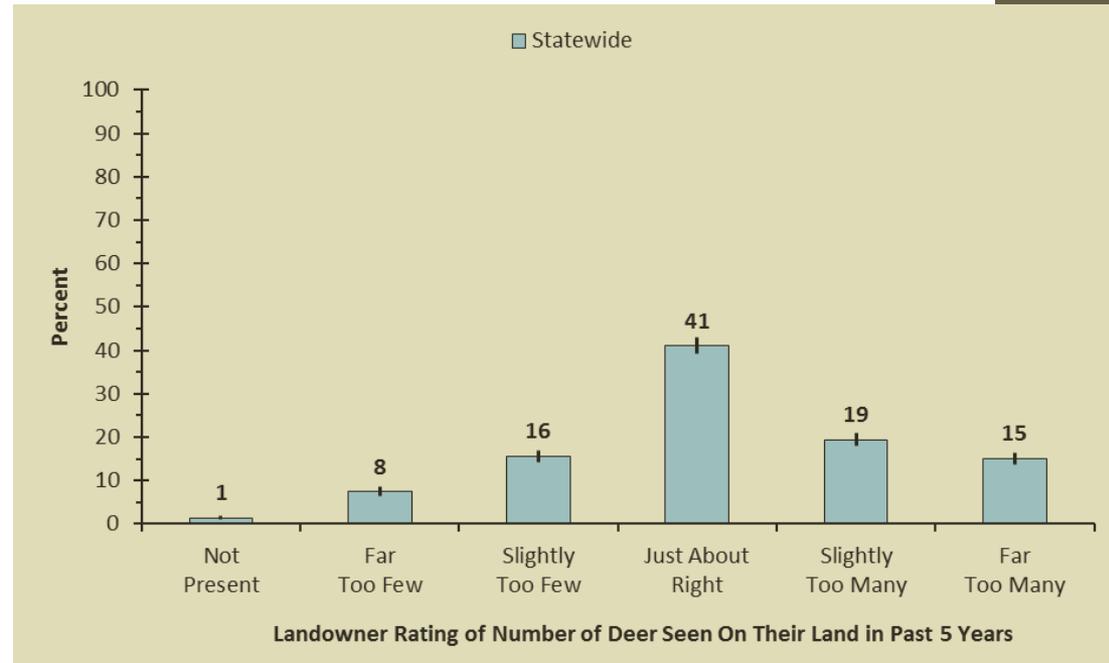
41%

rated the number of deer seen on their property just about right.

35% rated the number seen as too many



23% said the number seen was too few



Mule Deer Populations



36%

of West River/Black Hills landowners rated the number seen as about right

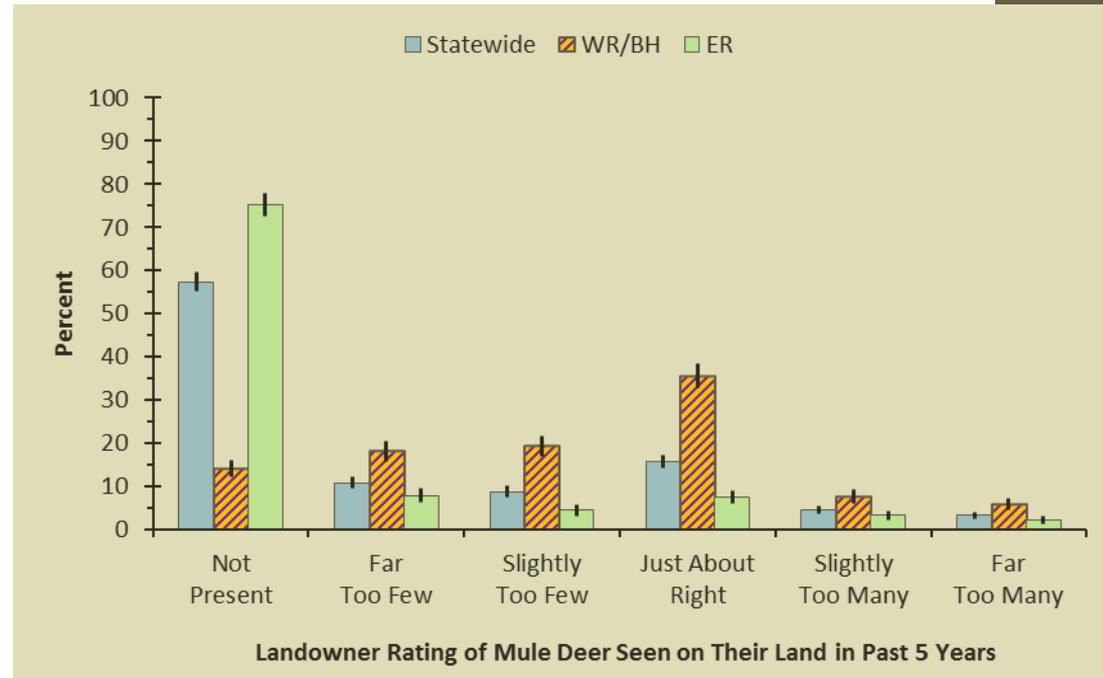
37% rated the number seen as too few



13% rated the number seen as too many



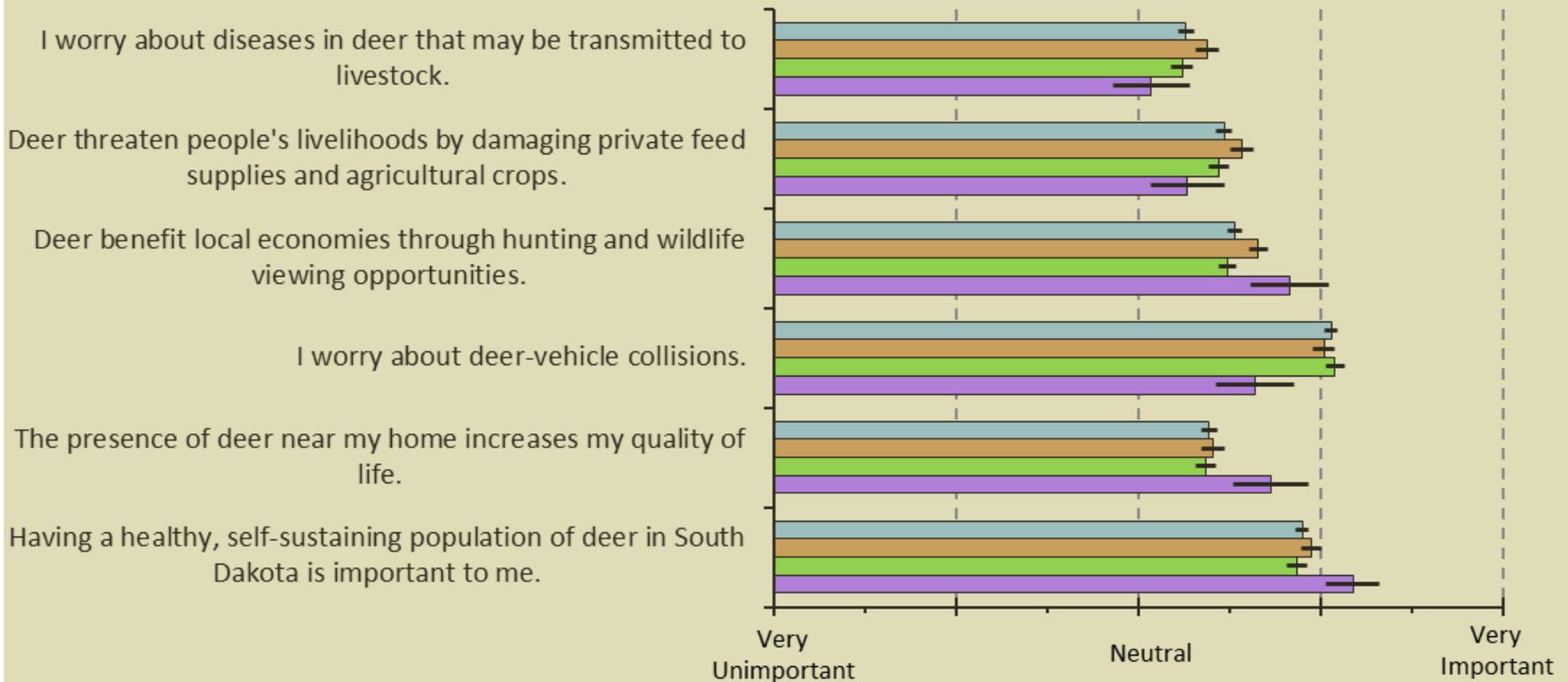
14% indicated mule deer were not present compared to 75% of East River Landowners



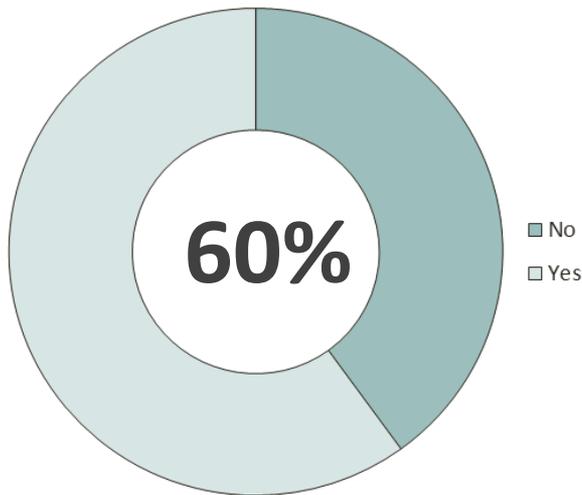
Attitudes Relative to Deer



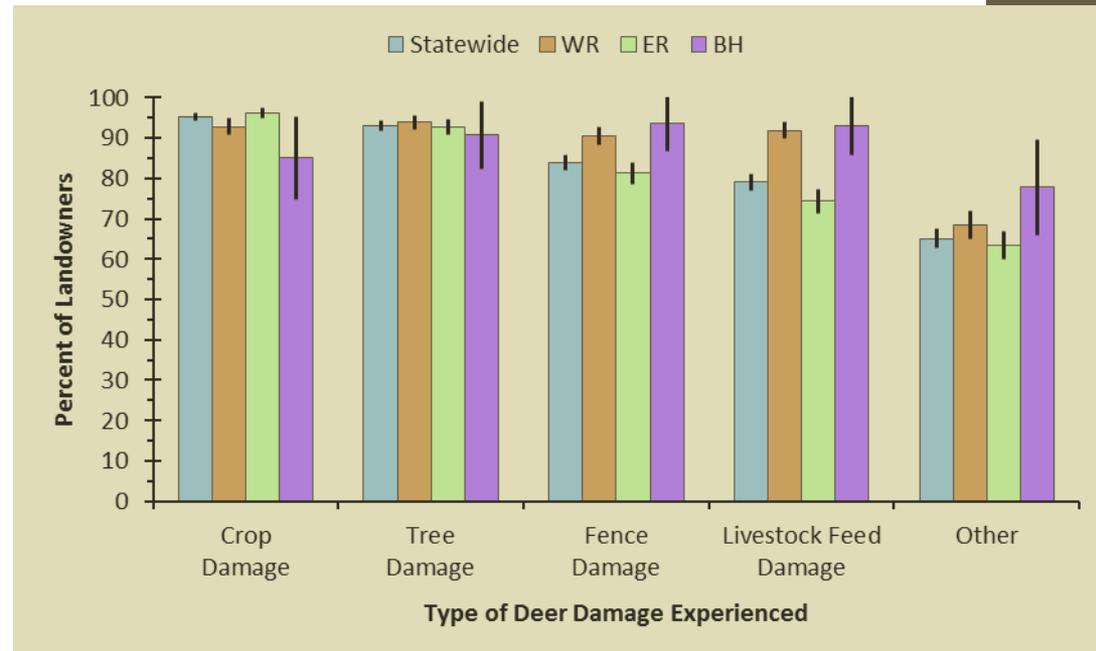
■ State
 ■ West River
 ■ East River
 ■ Black Hills



Deer Depredation



Did you experience any crop or property damage caused by deer on your land in the past 5 years?



82% of *other* damage was described as either vehicle collisions, garden/orchard damage, or equipment tire damage.

Severity of Damage



Minor to Moderate

Landowners rated livestock feed, crop, tree, and fence damage as minor to moderate

Moderate to Major

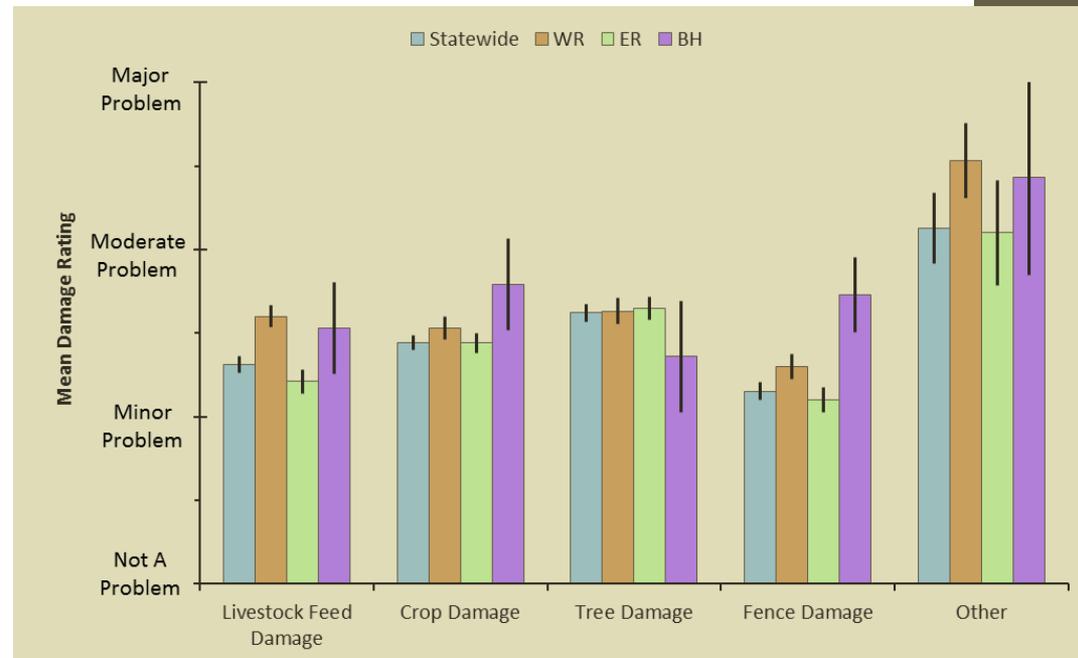
Other damage was rated as more severe

Livestock Feed

West River landowners were more likely to rate livestock feed damage as more severe than East River Landowners

Crop & Fence Damage

Black Hills Landowners were more likely to rate fence and crop damage as more severe than West River and East River Landowners



More Hunters



61%

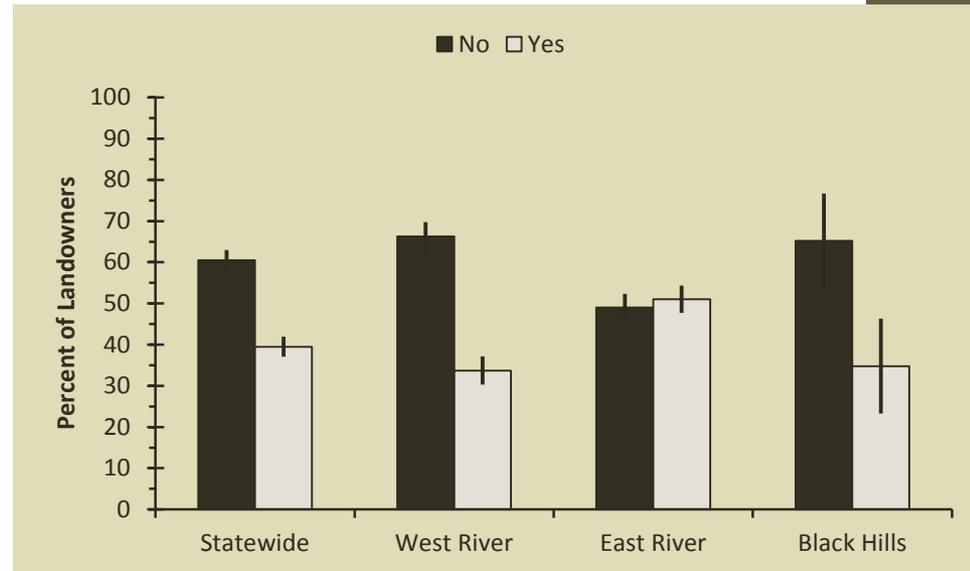
of South Dakota landowners do not think having more deer hunters will help reduce the deer damage on their land

51%

East River landowners indicated more deer hunters would help with their deer damage

WR &
BH

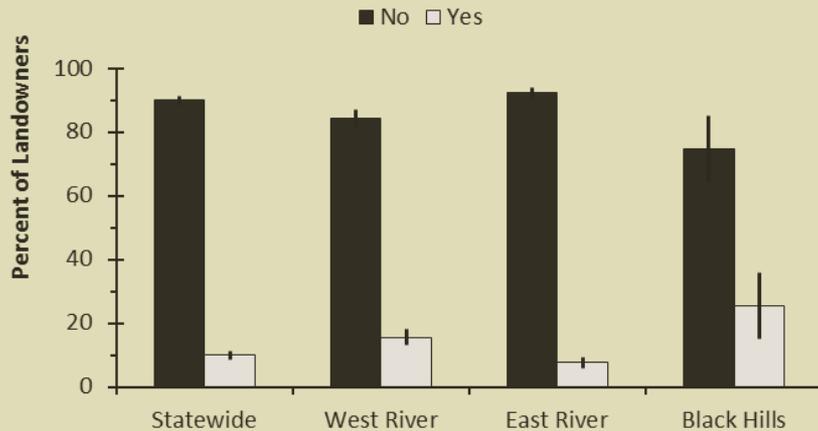
There were no differences between West River and Black Hills landowners. Approx. 65% indicated more deer hunters would not help.



Request Help



Requested Help from GFP



The majority of landowners experiencing deer damage did not request help from GFP



Black Hills landowners were more likely to request help

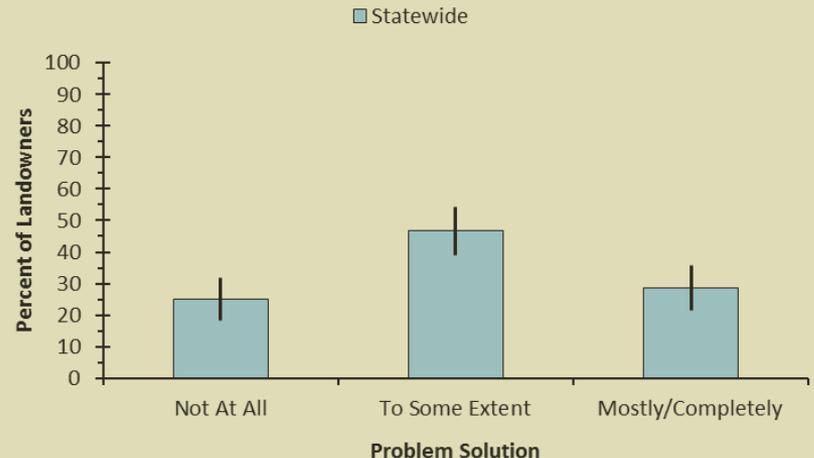
45% indicated the problem was addressed to some extent



28% said the problem was addressed mostly or completely



25% said the problem was not at all addressed.



Deer Hunting



48%

of landowners have hunted deer over the past 5 years

58%

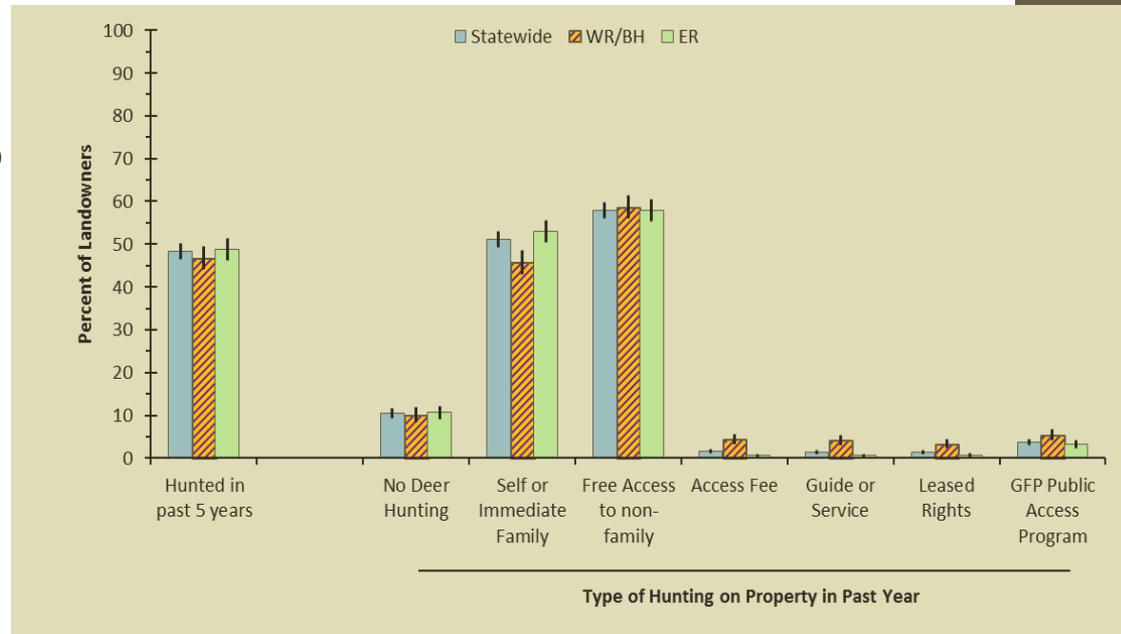
of landowners indicated they provided free hunting access to non-family members

Self or immediate family

East River landowners (53%) were more likely than West River landowners (46%) to indicate this type of hunting

10%

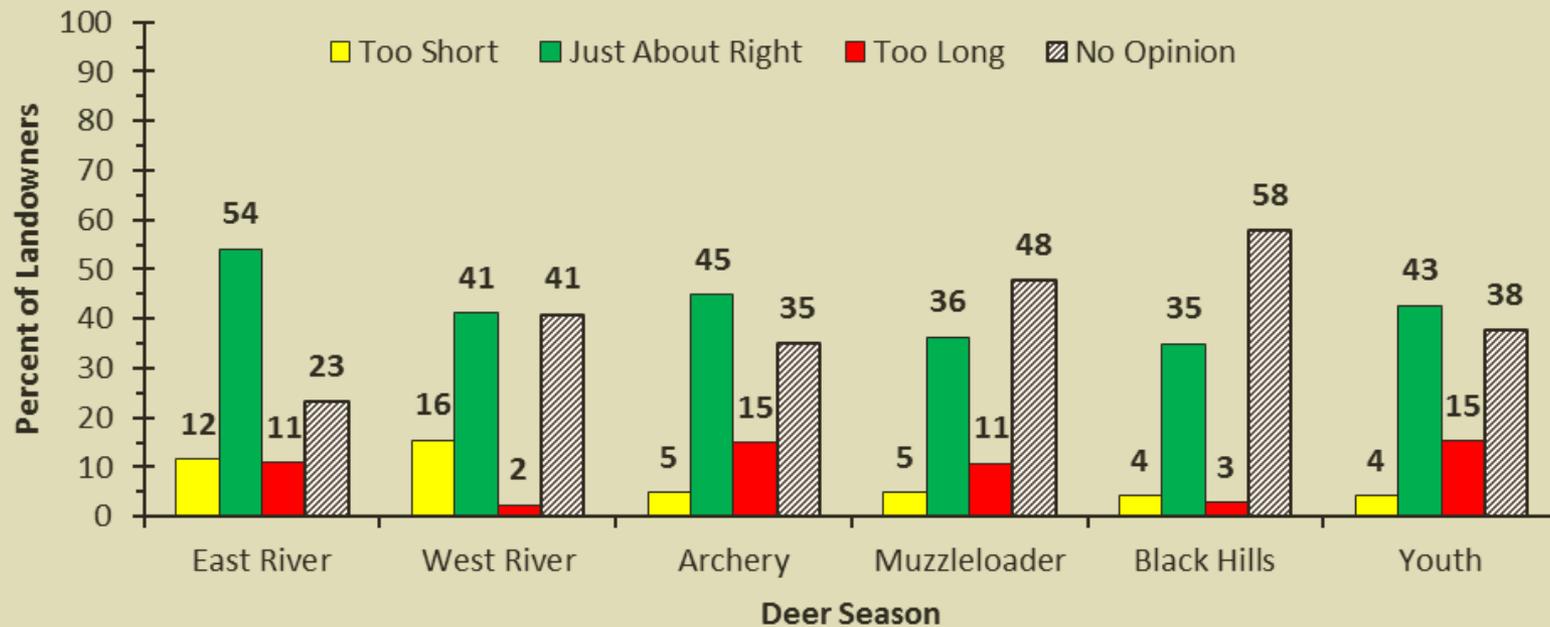
of landowners indicated there was no deer hunting on their land in the past year



Season Lengths



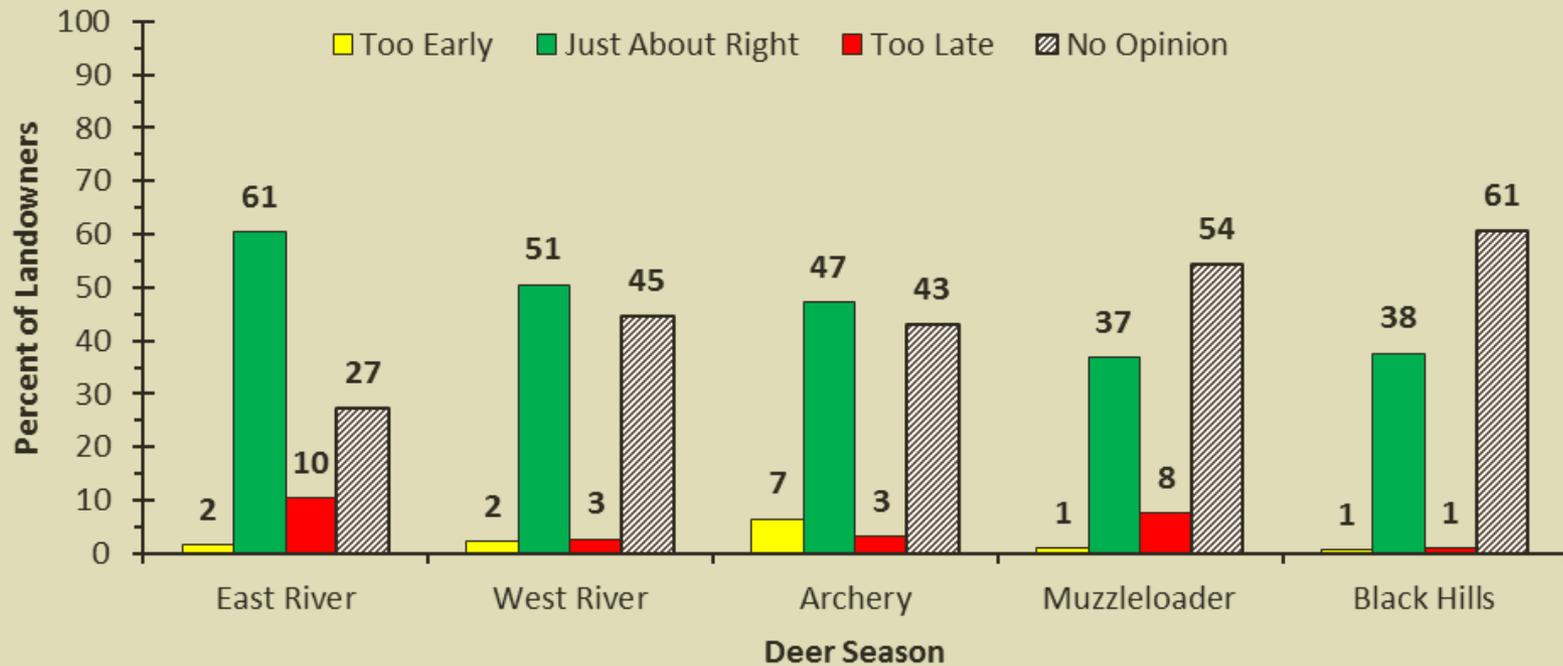
Landowners' Rating of Deer Season Lengths (Statewide)



Season Dates



Landowners' Rating of Deer Season Dates (Statewide)



Landowner/Hunter Conflicts



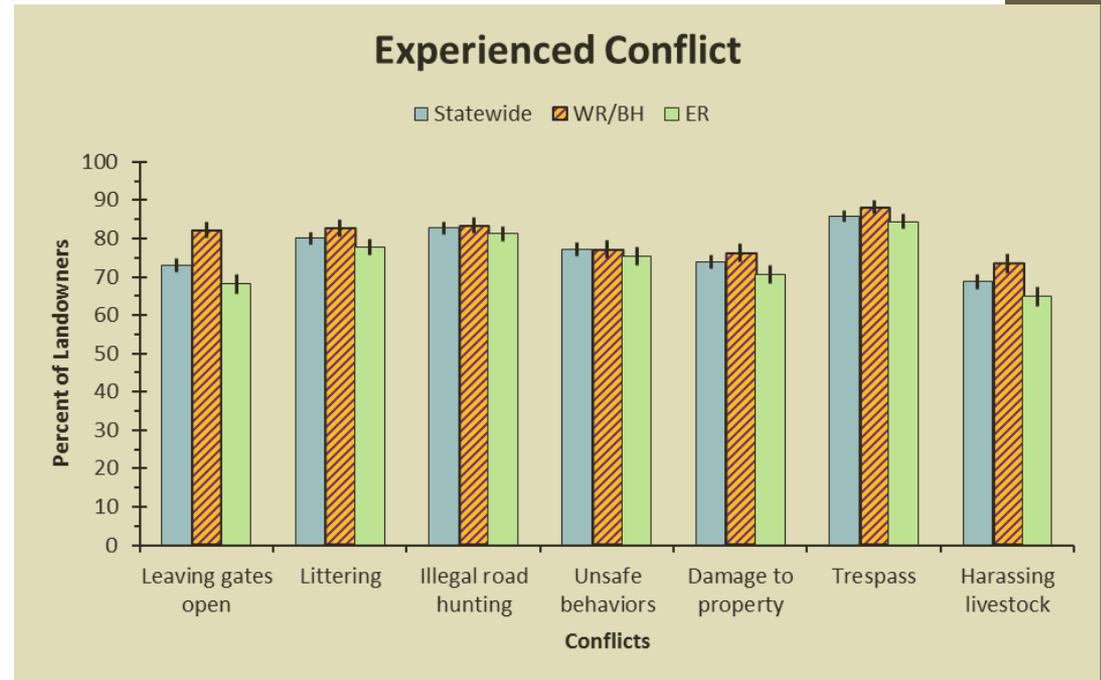
A Majority

of landowners have experienced these conflicts on their land

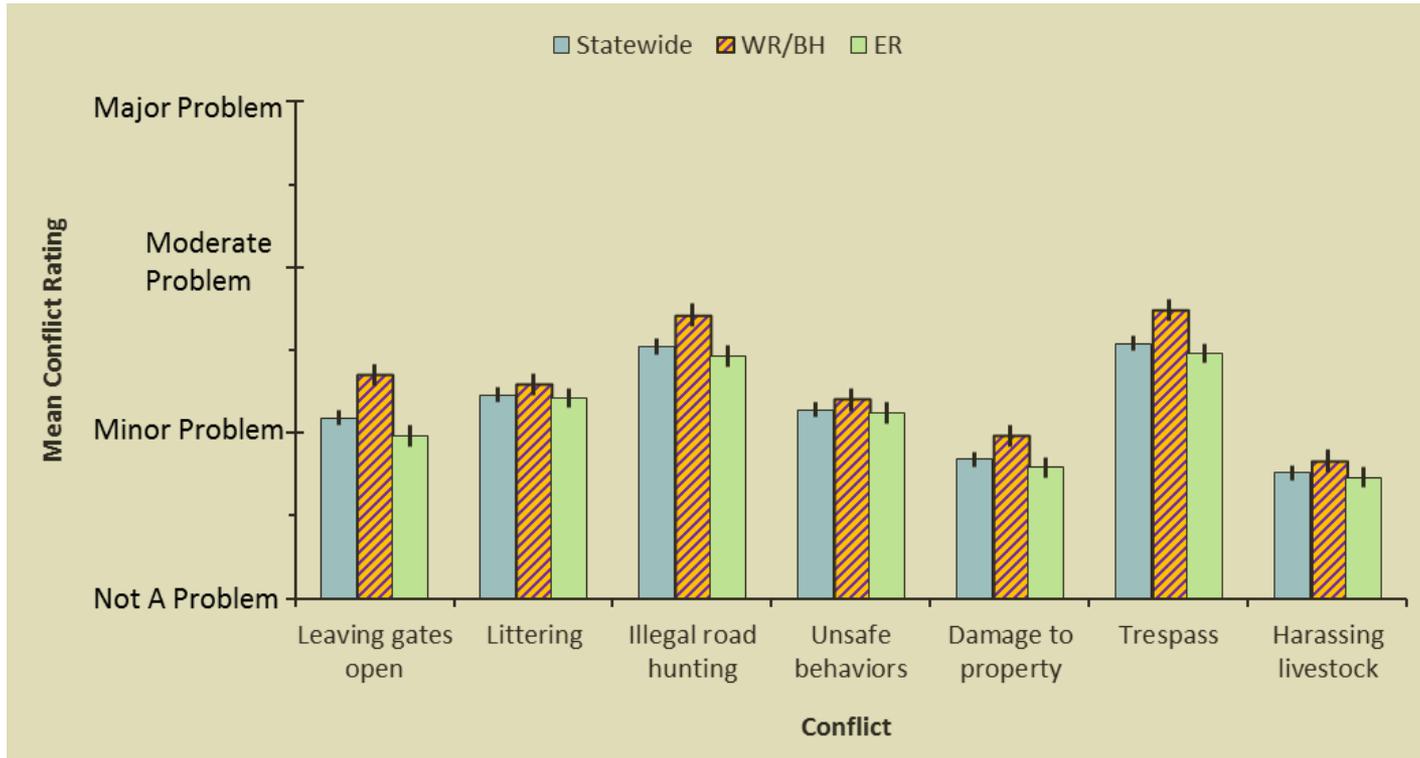
86% of landowners indicated they experienced trespass by deer hunters

&

West River and Black Hills landowners were more likely than East River landowners to experience some of the conflicts



Landowner/Hunter Conflicts



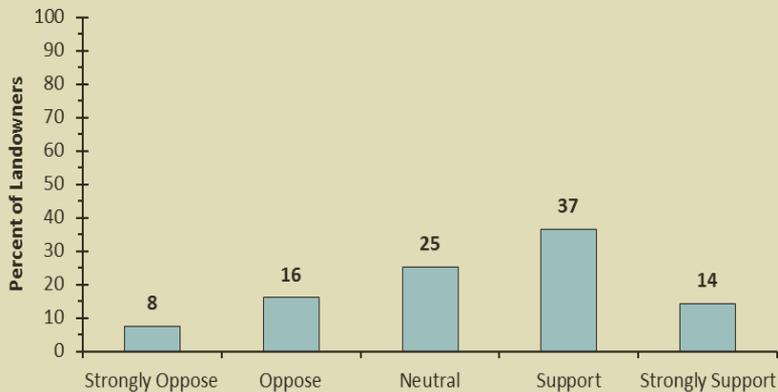
Moderate Problems - illegal road hunting & trespass

4 of 7 - West River & Black Hills landowners were more likely than East River landowners to rank higher some conflicts

Reduction Strategies



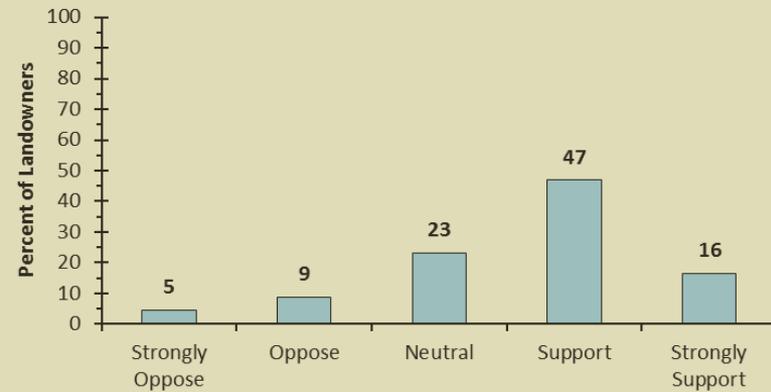
Lengthen the Regular Firearm Deer Season



51%

Support lengthening the regular firearm deer season when deer populations are too high

Increase Number of Licenses/Hunters



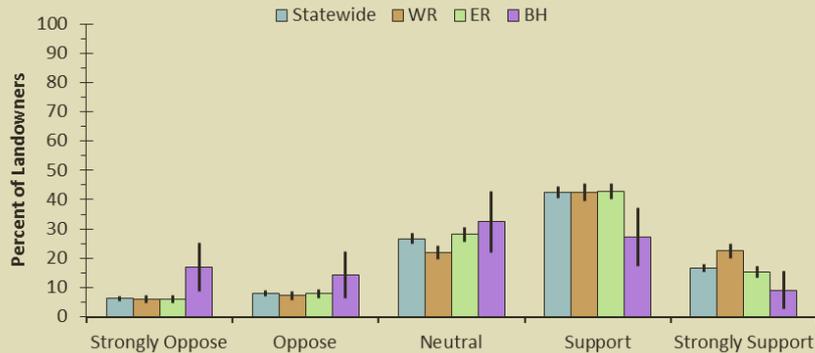
63%

Support increasing the number of licenses/hunters when deer populations are too high

Reduction Strategies



Include Antlerless-Only Days In Late December/Early January

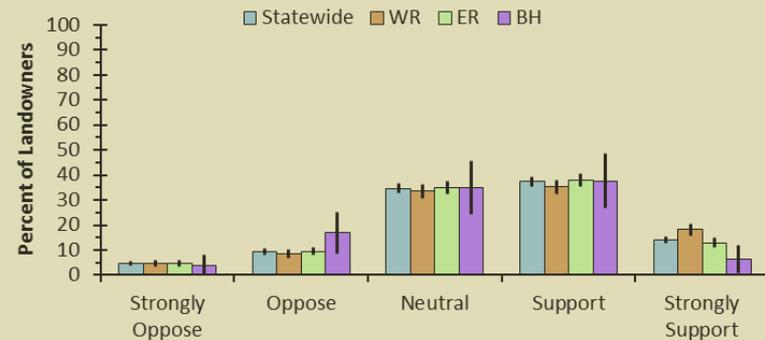


59%

Support including antlerless-only days in late Dec./early Jan. when deer populations are too high

Black Hills landowners were less likely than West River or East River landowners to support this

Include Antlerless-Only Days Immediately After Firearm Deer Season



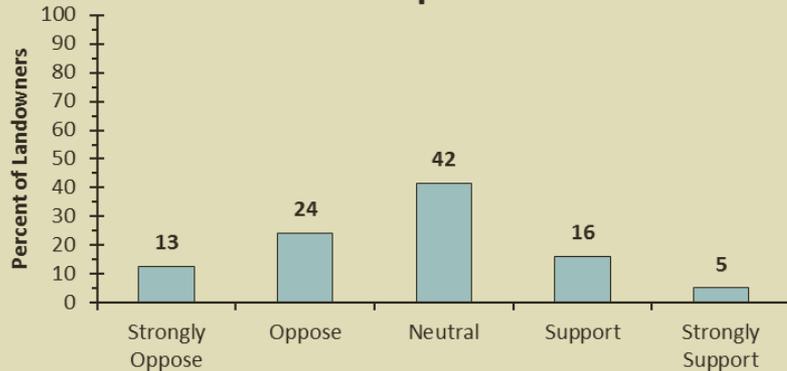
51%

Support including antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season when deer populations are too high

Reduction Strategies



Split Seasons, Resulting in Two Season Openers



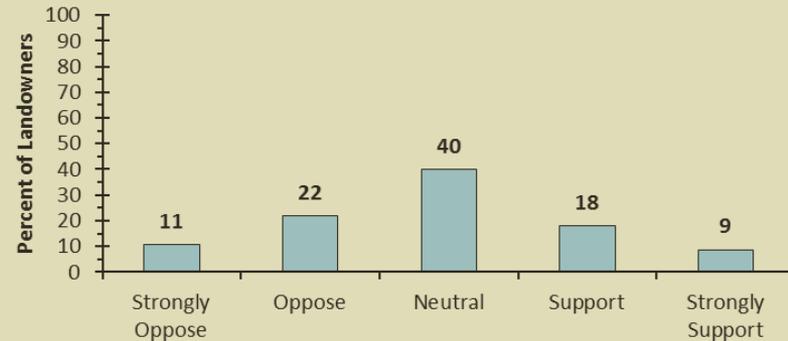
42%

of landowners are neutral to having split seasons when deer populations are too high

&

37% are opposed

Use of Antlerless Deer Tags in October During Firearm Antelope Season



40%

of landowners are neutral to the use of antlerless deer tags in October when deer populations are too high

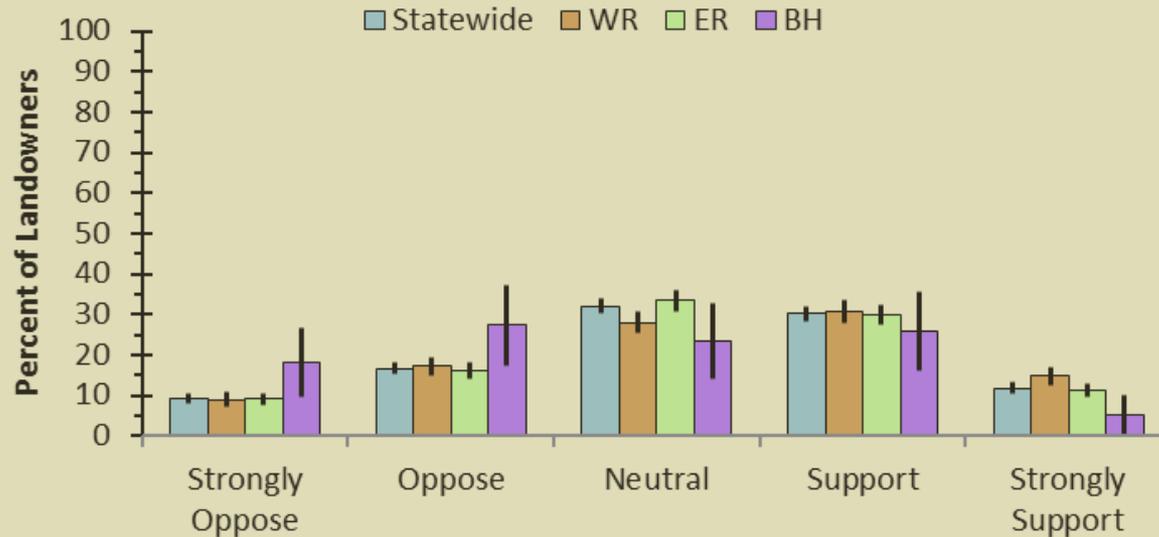
&

33% are opposed

Reduction Strategies



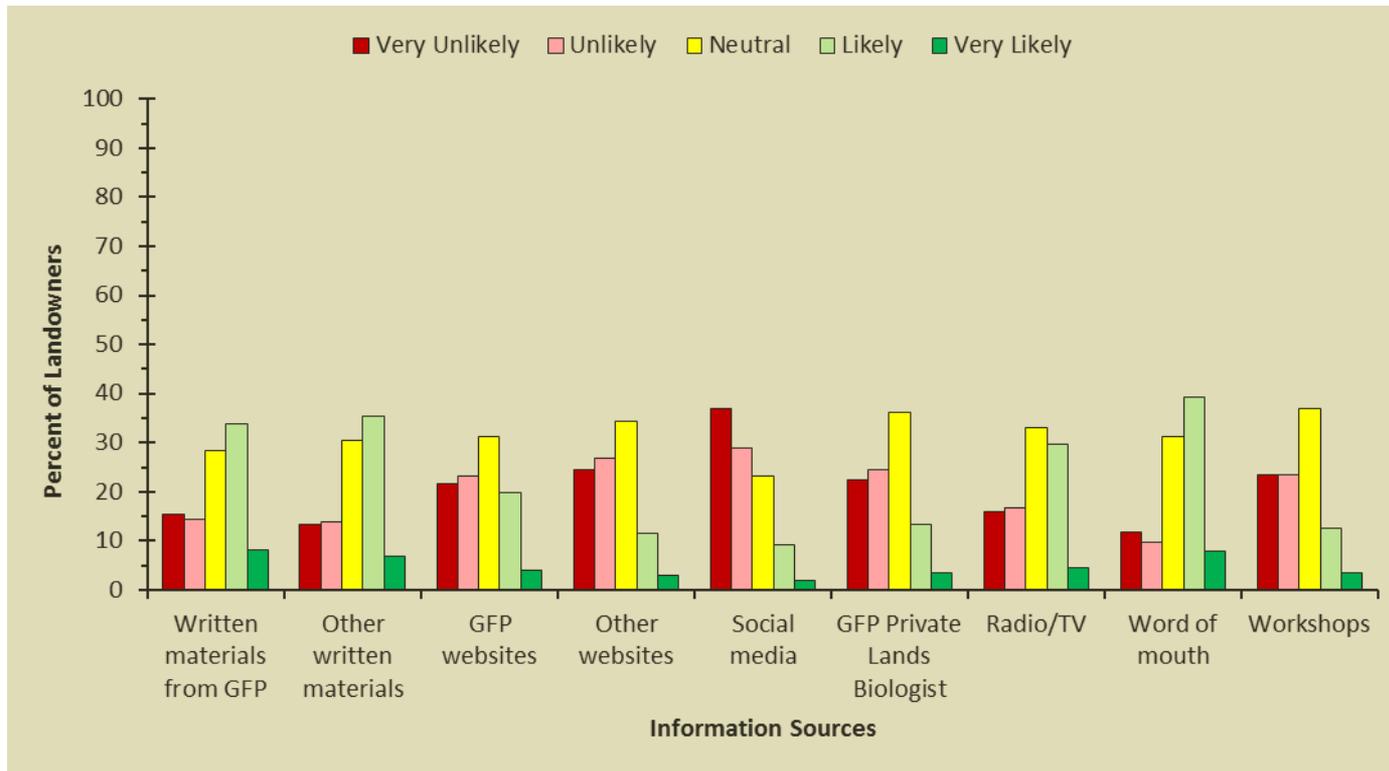
Increase Double and Triple Tag Licenses (3rd tag free)



42% of landowners support increasing double and triple tag licenses when deer populations are too high

Black Hills landowners were less likely than West River or East River landowners to support this

Information Sources



- Landowners indicated written materials and word of mouth are the information sources they are the most likely to use followed by radio and/or TV programs
- 56% of landowners said written materials was their most preferred (41% GFP and 15% other written material)



Hunter Profile

Deer Hunting

23



**Average number of years
South Dakota hunters have
been hunting deer**

**39% have hunted 25 years
or more**

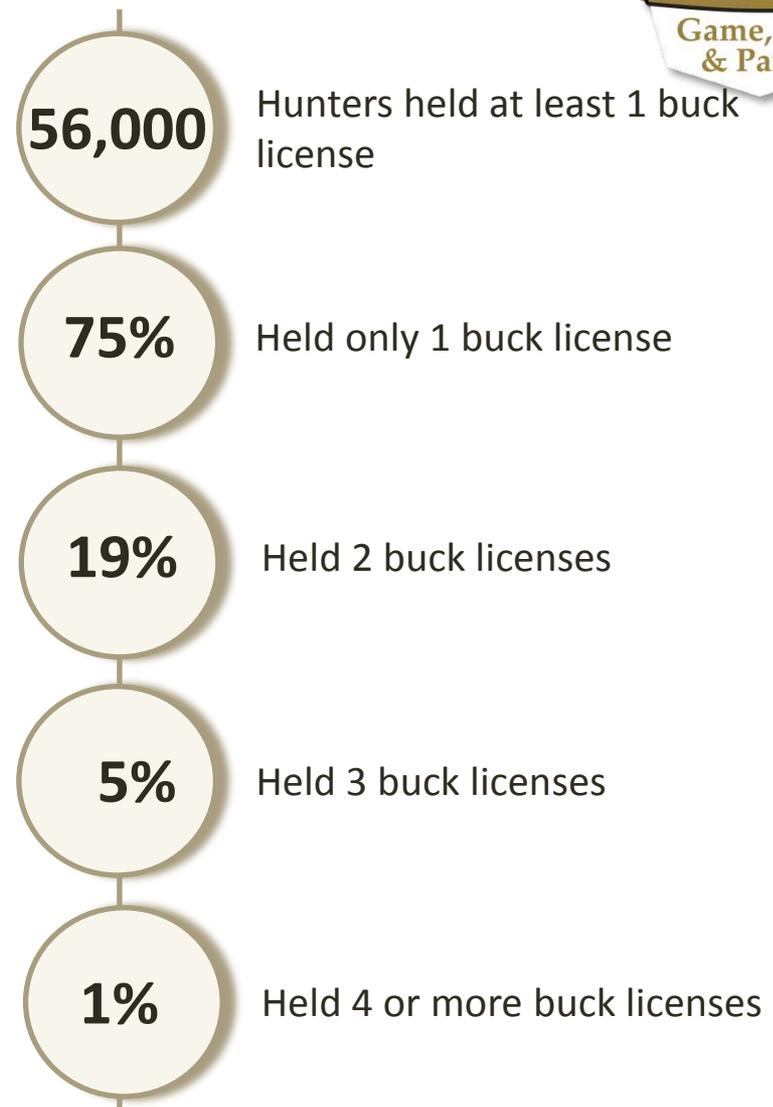
&

**29% have hunted 10 years
or less**

**78% most prefer to hunt
white-tailed deer in SD**

Season	Rank
East River Deer	1 st (1057)
West River Deer	2 nd (626)
Archery Deer	3 rd (452)
Black Hills Deer	4 th (287)
Muzzleloader Deer	5 th (24)
Refuge Deer	6 th (21)

2015 Deer Applications



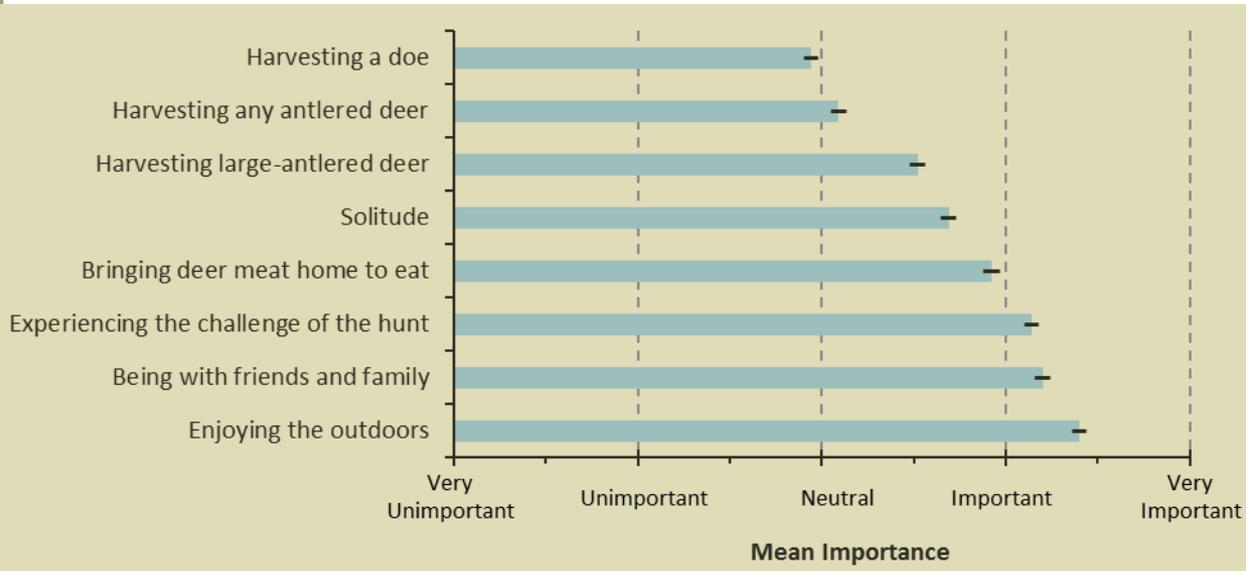
Deer Hunter Motivations



91% enjoying the outdoors is important or very important

82% being with friends & family is important or very important

83% experiencing the challenge of the hunt is important or very important



Deer Hunter Motivations



6%

of hunters said all motivations were unimportant

23%

of hunters place higher importance on bringing meat home

23%

Of hunters place higher importance on harvesting a large-antlered buck

48%

of hunters said all motivations were important

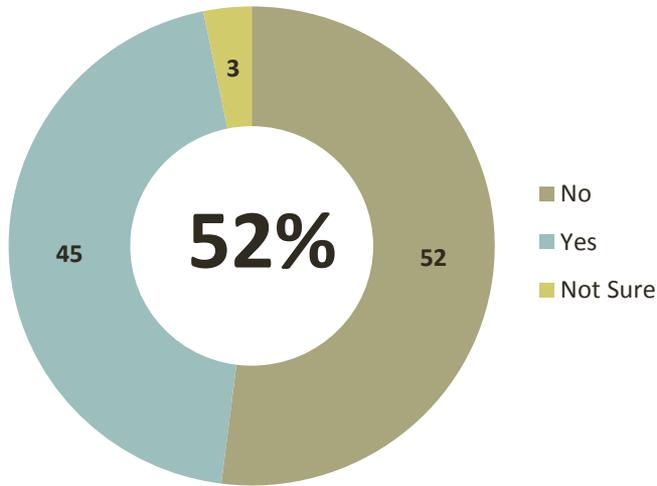
Female

deer hunters tend to place higher importance on bringing meat home

Male

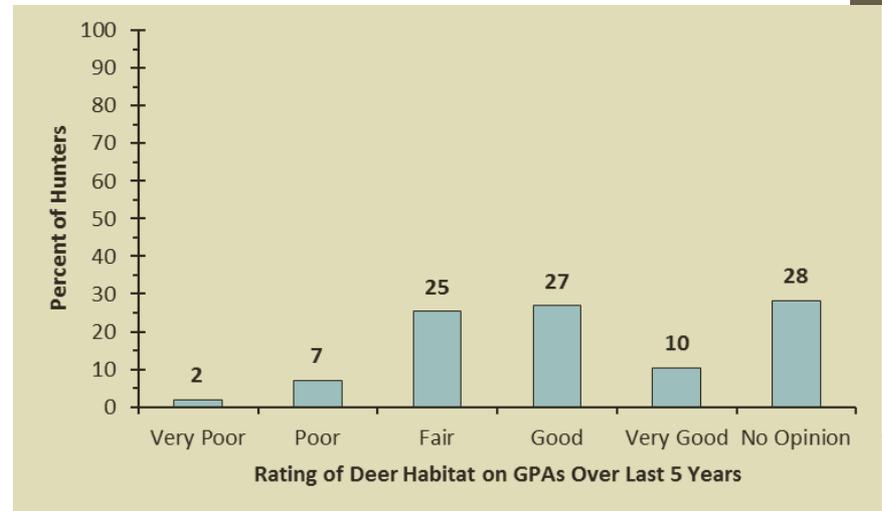
deer hunters tend to place higher importance on the sporting aspects of deer hunting

Where Hunted

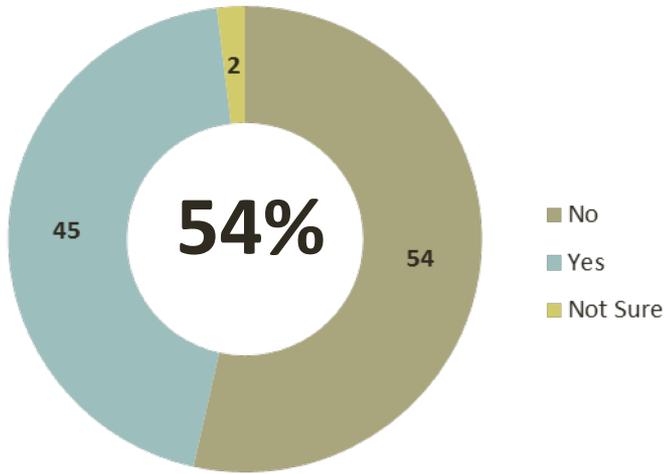


52% of deer hunters had not hunted deer on Game Production Areas in the past 5 years.

37% of deer hunters rated the deer habitat on GPAS over past 5 years as good or very good.



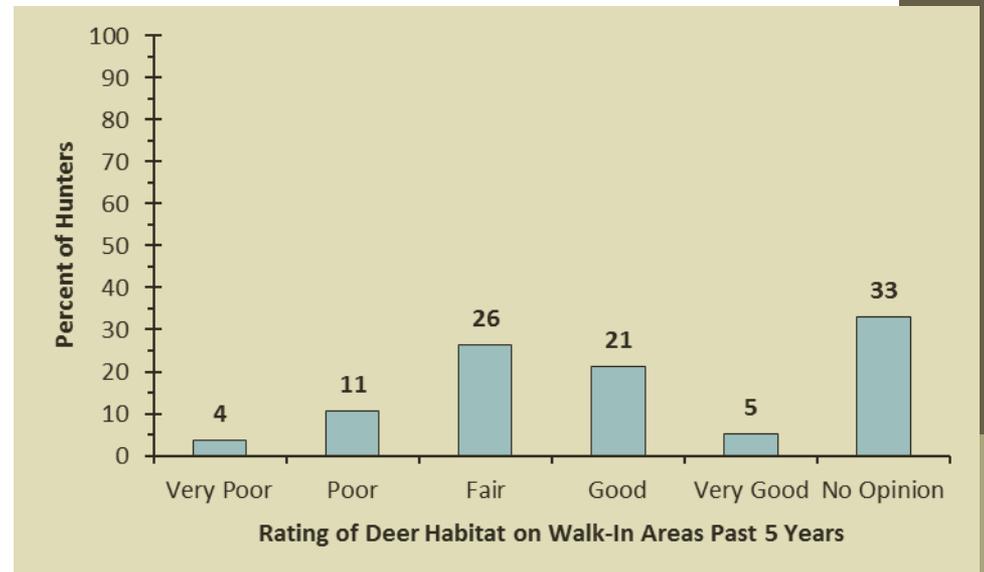
Where Hunted



54% of deer hunters had not hunted deer on Walk-In Areas in the past 5 years.



33% of deer hunters had no opinion about the deer habitat on WIAs over past 5 years .



Where Hunted – East River 2015

85%

Hunted on private land

-

74% of time spent on private land

30%

Hunted on public land

-

16% of time spent on public land

21%

Hunted on Walk-In Areas

-

7% of time spent on Walk-In Areas

8%

Hunted on CREP

-

2% of time spent on CREP

Where Hunted – West River 2015

66%

Hunted on private land

-

54% of time spent on private land

45%

Hunted on public land

-

30% of time spent on public land

34%

Hunted on Walk-In Areas
Areas

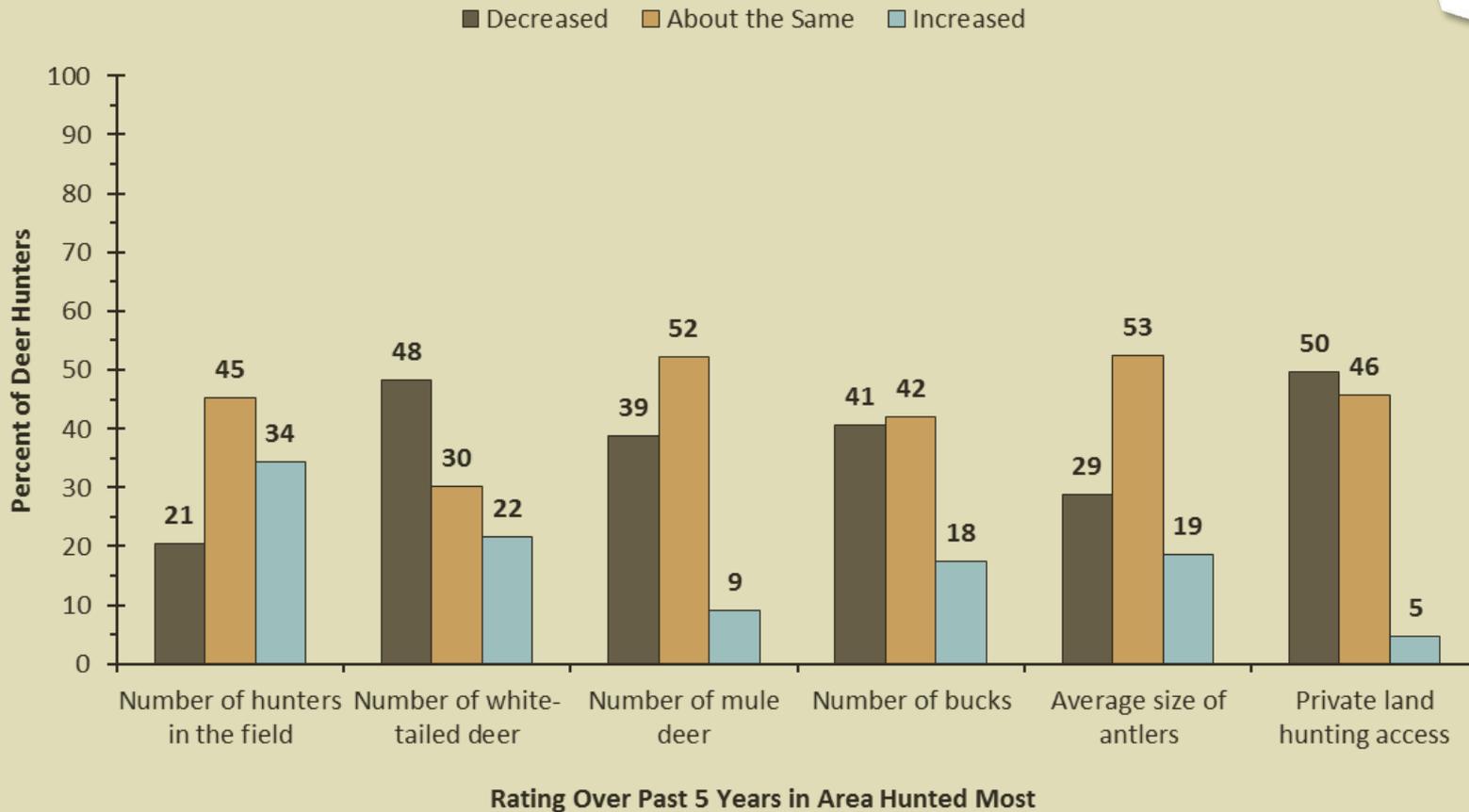
-

16% of time spent on Walk-In



Hunter Deer Survey

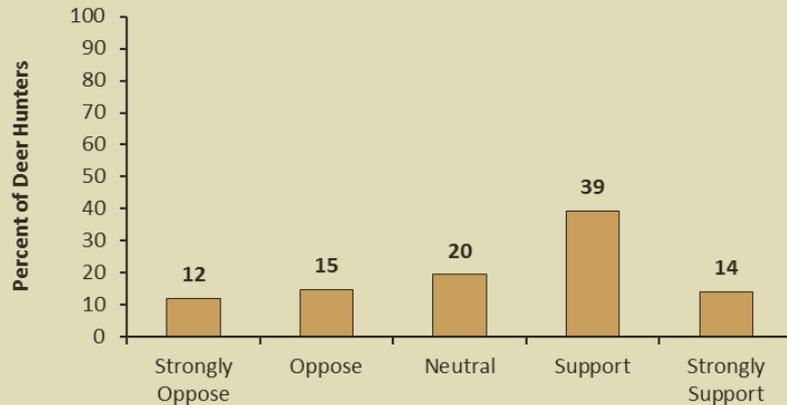
Rating of Conditions



Reduction Strategies



Lengthen the regular firearm deer season



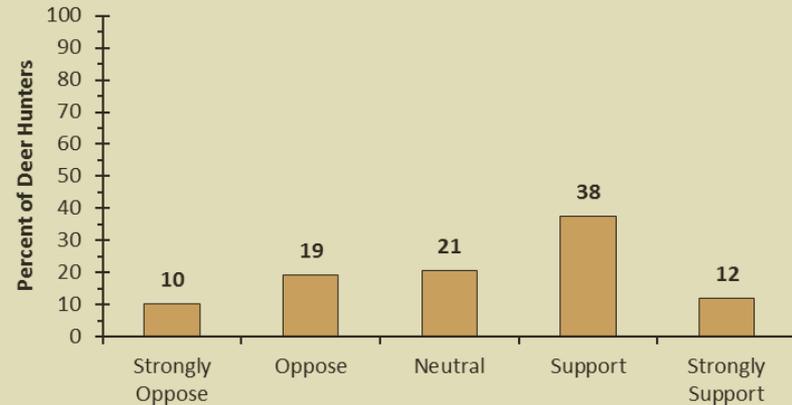
53%

of hunters support lengthening the regular firearm deer season when deer populations are too high

&

27% are opposed

Increase the number of licenses/hunters



50%

of hunters support increasing the number of licenses/hunters when deer populations are too high

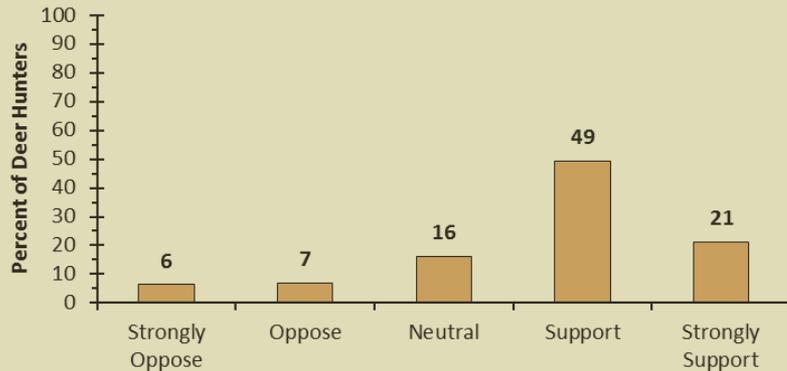
&

29% are opposed

Reduction Strategies



Include antlerless-only days in late December/early January

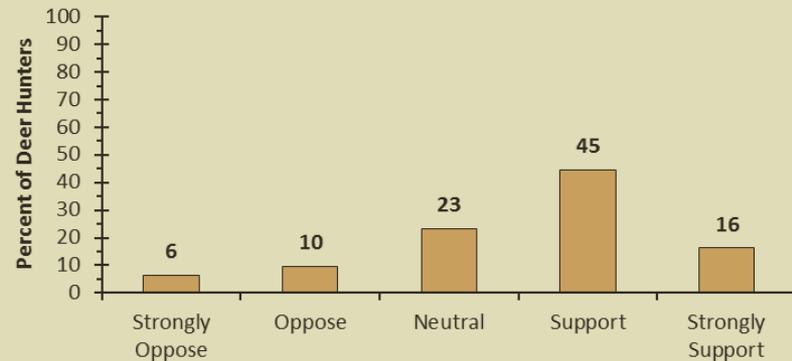


70%

of hunters support antlerless-only days in late December/early January when deer populations are too high &

13% are opposed

Include antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season



61%

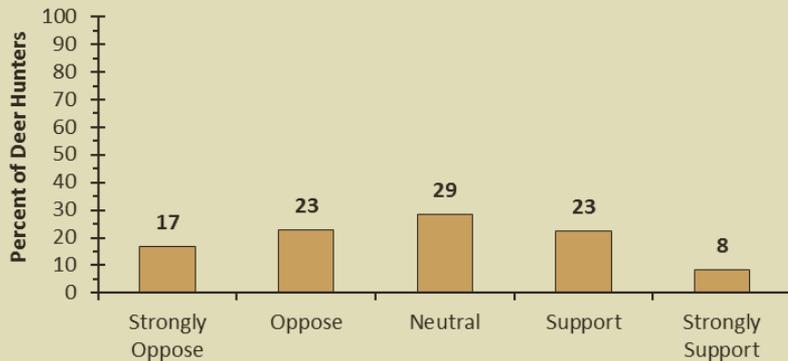
of hunters support antlerless-only days immediately after firearm deer season when deer populations are too high &

16% are opposed

Reduction Strategies



Allow the use of antlerless deer tags in October during firearm antelope season

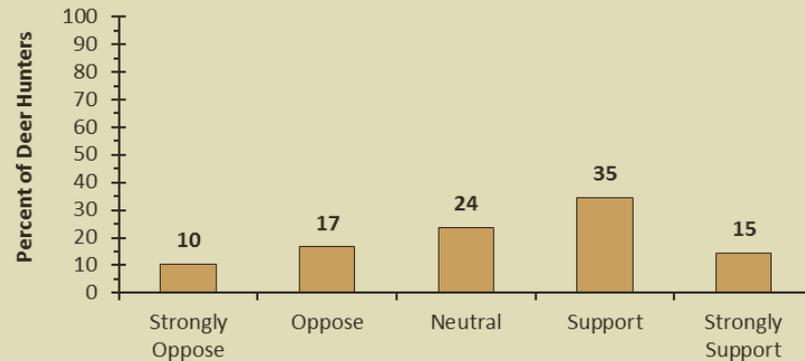


40%

of hunters oppose using antlerless deer tags during firearm antelope season when deer populations are too high &

31% support this

Increase double and triple tag licenses (3rd tag free)



50%

of hunters support increasing double and triple tag licenses when deer populations are too high &

27% are opposed

Reduction Strategies



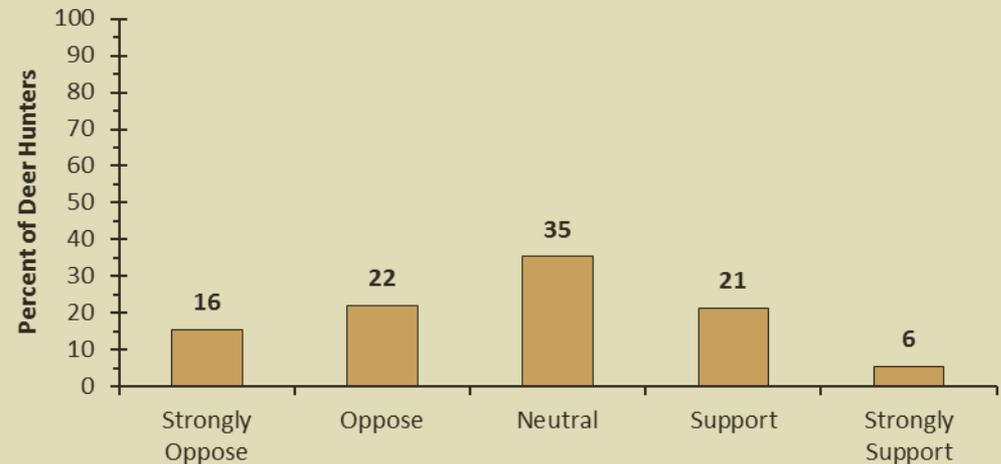
38%

**Oppose split seasons when
deer populations are too
high**

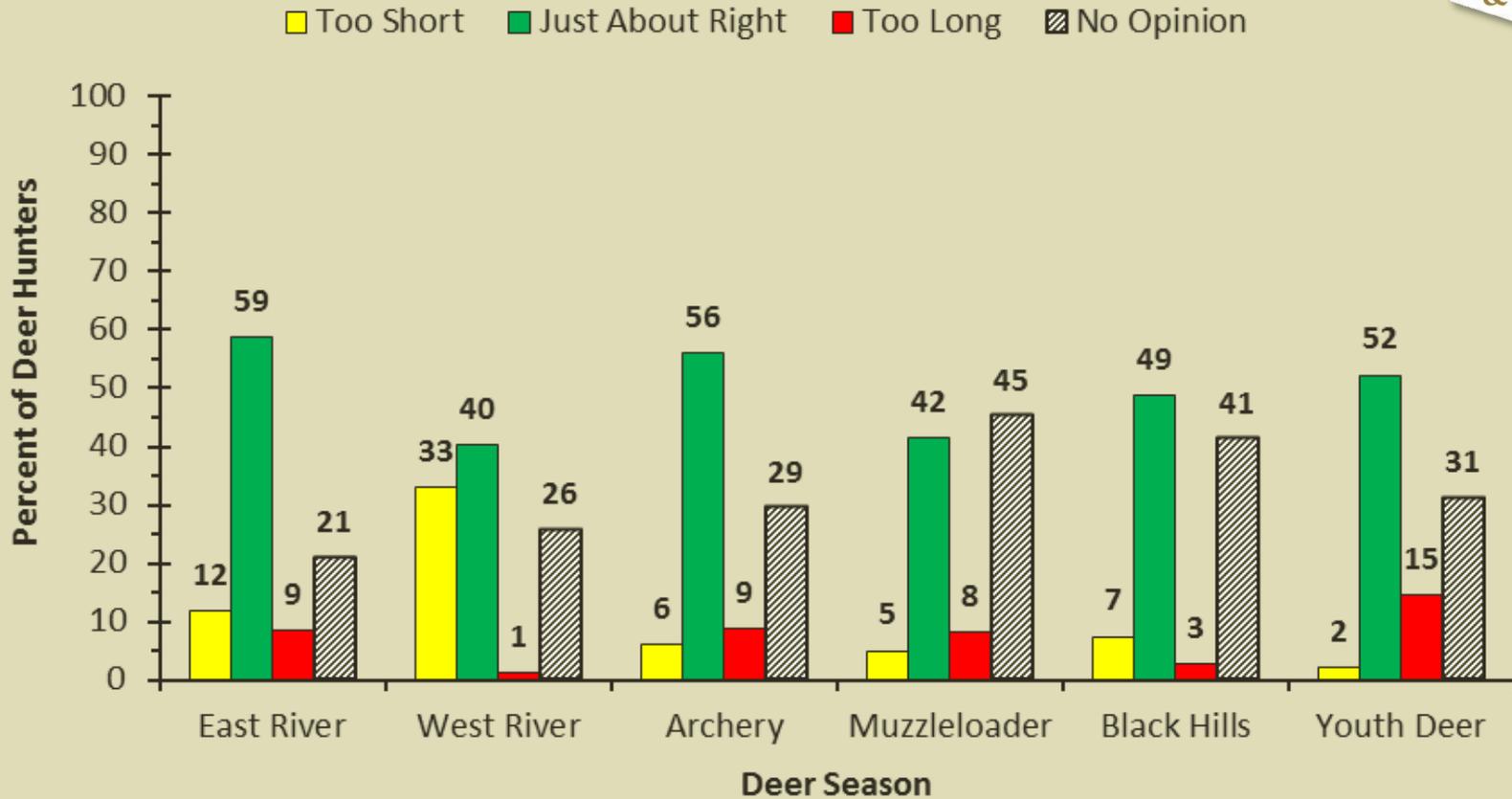
**35% were neutral
&**

**27% supported split
seasons**

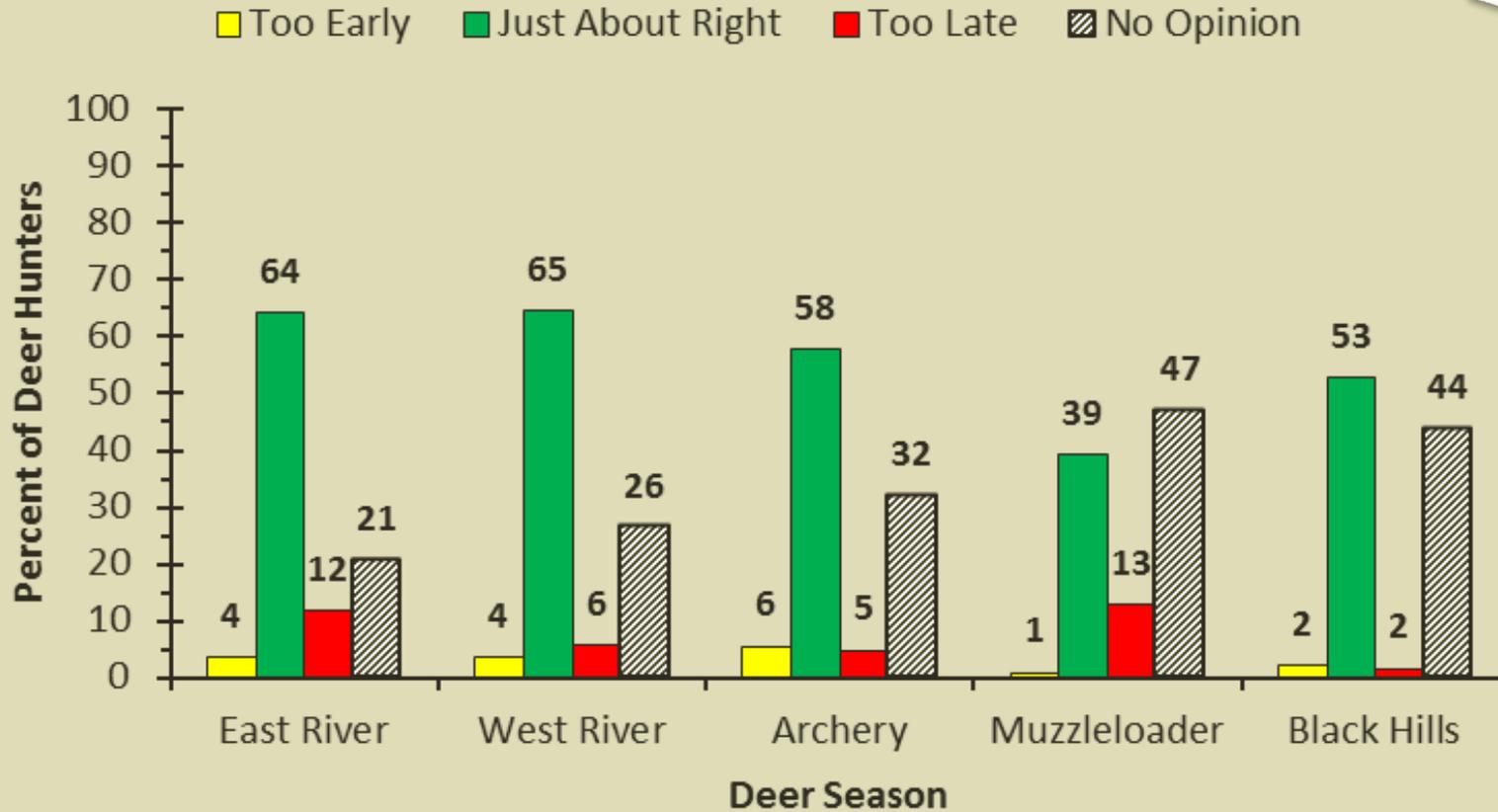
Split seasons, resulting in two season openers



Season Lengths



Season Dates





SOUTH DAKOTA

Game, Fish
& Parks