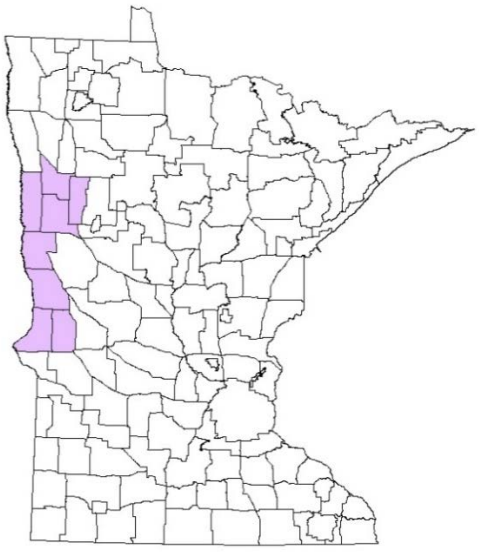
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Attitude Survey Report

Block 8: West Central Prairie



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Statement of Purpose and Scope of Data

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) periodically conducts opinion surveys of deer hunters and landowners to assess preferences for deer populations, experiences with deer hunting and impacts of deer populations to inform the deer population goal setting process. Data from these studies directly inform decision making for deer populations in the future. Landowners and hunters are selected randomly from county tax parcel records, or MNDNR deer license information respectively for participation. Therefore, the results of these studies are representative of a stakeholder group, and differ substantially from results of self-selected public input processes. The values in these reports should be interpreted as the average values for the given question within the population of interest (e.g., Goal Setting Block).

Data Collection Process

Hunters and landowners were surveyed using a mixed mode design that included two waves of letters requesting that participants complete a questionnaire online, and a third mailing that included a paper copy of the survey with a postage-paid self-addressed return envelope.

Hunters

Within a block, hunters were randomly selected from the list of all firearm deer license holders in the given year to receive a goal setting survey. Surveys were only sent to adults over the age of 18 at the time the sample was drawn. The number of hunters selected in each DPA was proportional to the distribution of hunters hunting across DPAs, after accounting for the minimum sample size needed to make statistically valid inference about the population at the goal setting block level. Participants may not be residents of the DPA, but have indicated that the given DPA is the primary location where they hunt deer.

Landowners

Within a block, landowners were randomly selected from a list of all landowners with a parcel greater than or equal to 2 acres in size. The sample was further stratified by acres to ensure a representative coverage of land use types and interests. Land acres strata were: 2-19.9, 20-79.9, 80-319.9, and >=320 acres. Similar to hunters, the number of landowners selected for each DPA was proportional to the total number of landowners in the DPA and after determining the minimum sample size needed for statistically valid inference at the goal block scale.

Data Context

Results presented in this report are from a study conducted in fall 2013 and winter 2014. Therefore, the data refer to deer populations, hunting experience, and deer damage during the 2013/14 season, but may be applicable to recent experiences with deer hunting and deer damage within the goal setting block. Frequencies

are reported for responses by DPA to show general trends. However, estimates are statistically valid with 95% confidence for the goal block scale only (rows marked total).

Deer population management

Deer population goals for Block 8 DPAs were last set in 2007 (Table 1). A goal was set to decrease the deer population by 25% for DPA 265. The remaining DPAs set a goal to increase the deer population by either 25% (4) or 50% (2), except 297 where the goal was to stabilize.

At the time of the attitude survey (2014) deer population density estimates ranged from a low of 2 deer per square mile for DPA 272, to high of 9 deer per square mile for DPA 265. All DPAs were managed as Lottery in 2014.

Table 1. Historic deer population and management by DPA

	Goal Setting Period - 2007			Attitude Survey Period - 2014		2019
DPA	**Year Last Goal Set**	**Population Est. 2006 (Deer/Sq. Mile)**	**Population Goal**	**Population Est. 2014 (Deer/Sq. Mile)**	**DPA Mgmt. at Time of Survey**	**Current Population Est. Deer/Sq. Mile**
262	2007	3	+25%	3	Lottery (150)	5
265	2007	9	-25%	9	Lottery (500)	13
266	2007	6	+25%	5	Lottery (150)	9
269	2007	3	+25%	3	Lottery (250)	5
270	2007	4	+50%	3	Lottery (100)	5
271	2007	2	+50%	3	Lottery (250)	4
272	2007	5	+25%	2	Lottery (100)	NM
297	2007	25	Stabilize	3	Lottery (10)	5

*Population estimates are derived from the deer population model, NM = not yet modeled

Harvest

The total annual deer harvests in 2012/13 and 2013/14 were 186,634 and 172,781 animals respectively. The 1990 to 2018 long-term average annual harvest is 204,055 deer. Therefore, the year of survey (2013/14) and previous year (2012/13) saw harvests 9% and 15% below the long-term average respectively.

Winter Severity

The Winter Severity Index (WSI) is a metric used to track the potential impact of winter conditions on white-tailed deer over winter survival and populations. One point is accumulated for every day with average ambient temperature <=0 degrees Fahrenheit, and/or 15 inches of snow depth on the ground. A WSI greater than 180 is considered a severe winter.

Table 2. Winter severity index by DPA

DPA	WSI 2012/13	WSI 2013/14
262	74	85
265	84	122
266	98	108
269	94	75
270	99	74
271	71	68
272	79	70
297	108	135
Average	***86***	***86***

Block 8: West-Central Prairie

The data presented herein are from a statistically representative survey of Minnesota deer hunters and landowners in goal setting Block 8. This area includes deer permit areas: 262, 265, 266, 269, 270, 271, 272, and 297 in the west central part of the state (Figure 1).

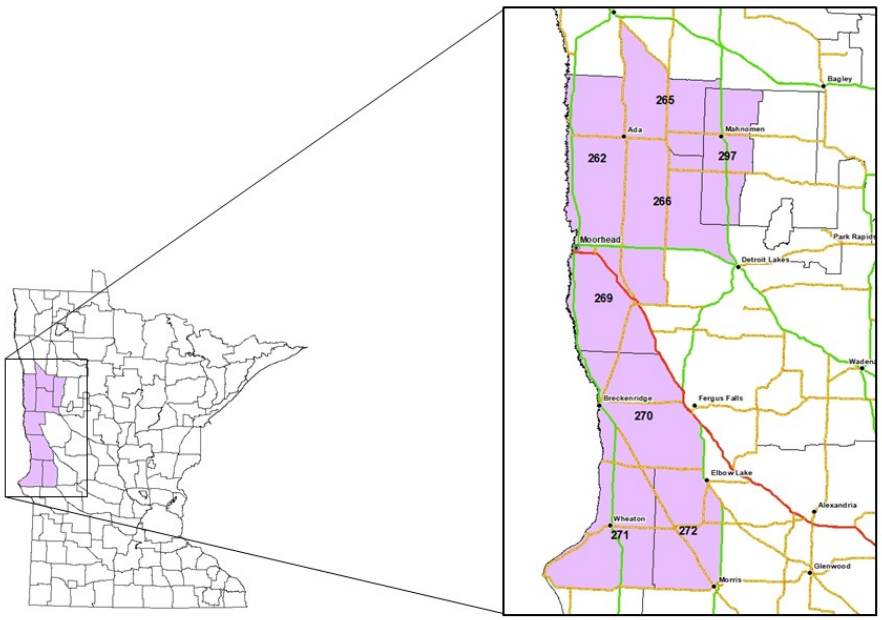


Figure 1. Goal setting Block 8 DPA boundaries

Response Rates

Hunters

A total of 2,600 hunters were originally sampled for participation in the study. The sample frame was reduced by 123 cases after accounting for undeliverable postal address and individuals that has passed away. Survey efforts yielded 1,012 usable responses, for an effective response rate of 40.9%

Landowners

A total of 2,487 landowners were originally sampled for participation in the study. The sample frame was reduced by 177 cases after accounting for undeliverable postal address and individuals that has passed away. Survey efforts yielded 751 usable responses, for an effective response rate of 32.5%

Hunters

Demographics and hunting behavior

Respondents were on average 49.9 years of age at the time the data were collected, and had been living in Minnesota for an average of 44.8 years. The vast majority of respondents were male (88.9%). This disparity, however, reflects the lower participation rate in hunting among females in the state. Nearly 33% of respondents reported having completed a four year college degree or greater.

Firearms hunters, on average, spent 4.8 days hunting during the firearms season. While, archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters spent 17.7 and 5.9 days afield respectively. Around a quarter of hunters reported that they spent all of their time hunting on private land that they do not own (27%) or private land that they own (21%). A small minority of hunters reported hunting on leased land (~8%). Around 60% of hunters reported spending at least some time hunting on public land (Table 3).

Population preferences

Hunters were asked their preference for the future of deer populations in the permit area where they primarily hunt. On average, 75% of hunters in goal setting Block 8, preferred an increase in the white-tailed deer population. This result did not vary substantively by DPA (Table 4). Roughly 35% of hunters preferred an increase in the deer population of 25%, and 17% preferred an increase of 50% (Table 5).

In addition to future deer populations, hunters were queried about their perception of the change in deer population over the last 5 years (Table 6). A full 75% of hunters perceived that there were fewer deer at the time of survey than 5 years prior.

A majority (68%) of Block 8 hunters reported that the current deer population is too low. This pattern held consistently across DPAs (Table 7). This same sentiment was reflected in hunters' overall satisfaction with deer populations (Table 8). A majority of respondents (63%) reported dissatisfaction with current deer populations. Similarly, hunters reported dissatisfaction with the number and quality of bucks, and the total number of deer they saw while hunting (Table 9). Hunters were more evenly split between agreement and disagreement with statements measuring their satisfaction with hearing about or seeing bucks, and the number of antlerless deer.

Finally, hunters evaluated statements about the deer goal setting process in general (Table 10). They were asked how important different priorities were to them when considering goals for deer populations in the area where they hunt. Respondents indicated that hunters' satisfaction, winter mortality, herd health, and deer hunting heritage and tradition were particularly import factors to consider. Whereas, deer impacts on crops and forest, and deer-vehicle collisions were not salient concerns (Figure 4).

Table 3. Amount of time hunters spent hunting on different types of land, in 2014

	None	Some	Most	All
Public land	41.5 (338)	37.9 (309)	12.6 (103)	8.0 (65)
Private land that I do not own or lease	23.2 (202)	23.7 (206)	26.0 (226)	27.2 (237)
Private land that I lease for hunting	92.4 (646)	3.6 (25)	2.7 (19)	1.3 (9)
Private land that I own	44.0 (361)	13.9 (114)	21.2 (174)	21.0 (172)

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 4. Hunters' preference for future deer population by permit area, in 2014

DPA	Decrease	No change	Increase
262	12.2 (11)	23.3 (21)	64.4 (58)
265	16.6 (32)	19.2 (37)	64.2 (124)
266	4.7 (8)	13.6 (23)	81.7 (138)
269	6.1 (8)	13.0 (17)	80.9 (106)
270	8.9 (9)	10.9 (11)	80.2 (81)
271	10.5 (10)	23.2 (22)	66.3 (63)
272	9.2 (10)	13.8 (15)	77.1 (84)
297	-	11.6 (11)	88.4 (84)
Total	***9.0 (88)***	***16.0 (157)***	***75.1 (738)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Figure 2. Hunters' preference for future deer population level, in 2014

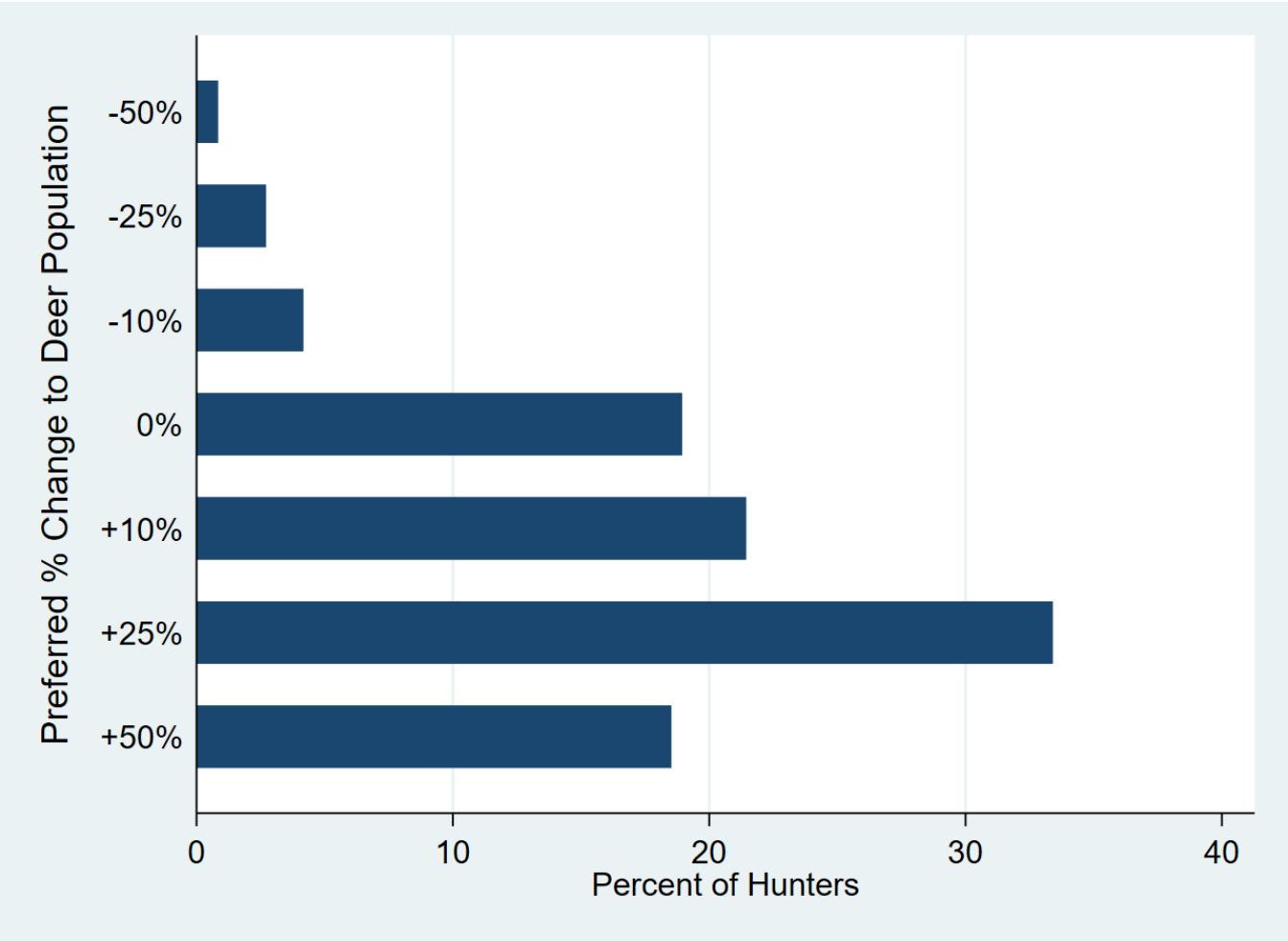


Figure 3. Hunters' preference for future deer population, in 2014

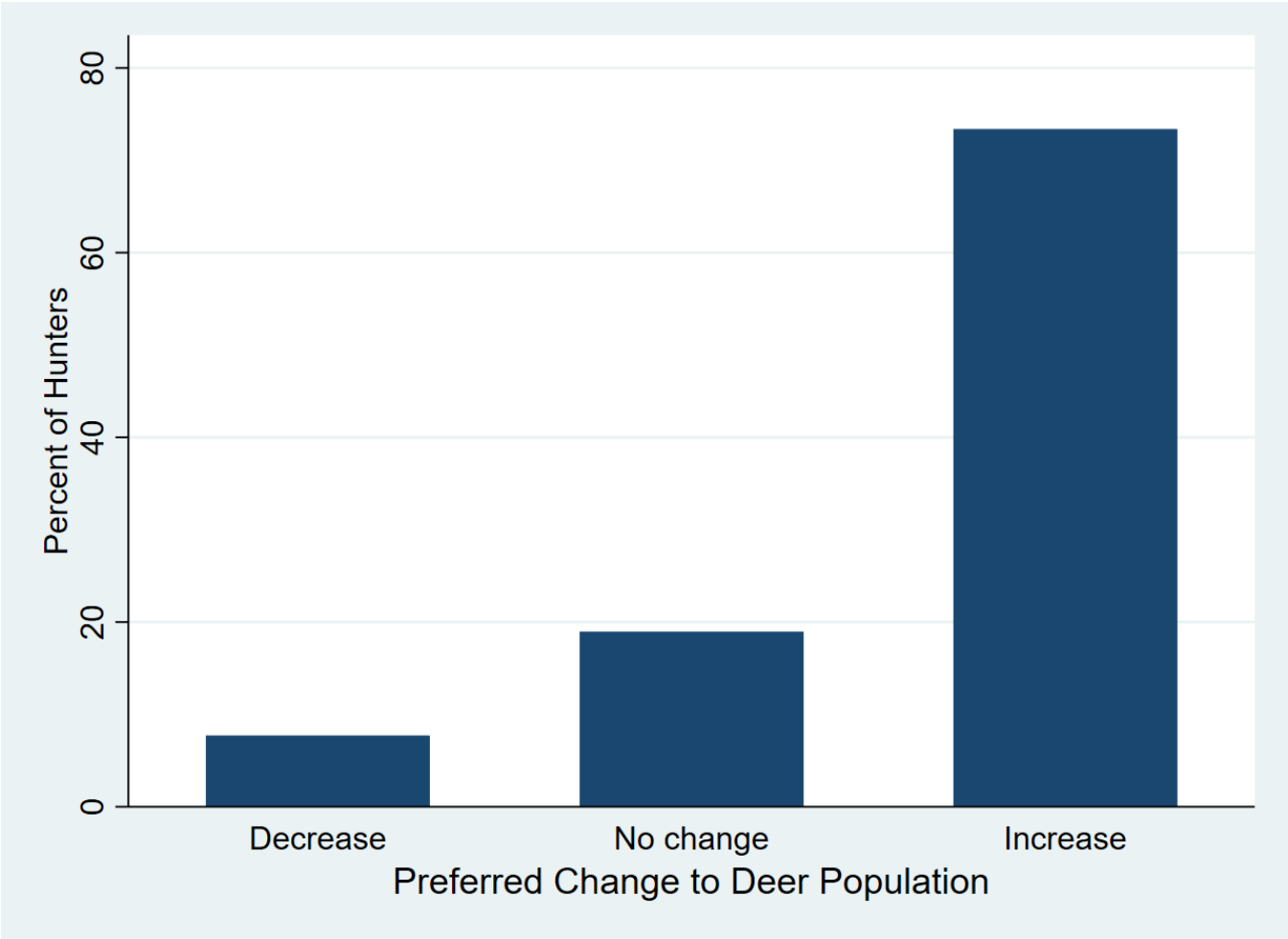


Table 5. Hunters' preferred future deer population by DPA, in 2014

DPA	-50%	-25%	-10%	No change	+10%	+25%	+50%
262	1.1 (1)	3.3 (3)	7.8 (7)	23.3 (21)	26.7 (24)	27.8 (25)	10.0 (9)
265	2.1 (4)	4.7 (9)	9.8 (19)	19.2 (37)	25.9 (50)	31.6 (61)	6.7 (13)
266	-	2.4 (4)	2.4 (4)	13.6 (23)	18.9 (32)	42.6 (72)	20.1 (34)
269	2.3 (3)	0.8 (1)	3.1 (4)	13.0 (17)	19.1 (25)	39.7 (52)	22.1 (29)
270	3.0 (3)	2.0 (2)	4.0 (4)	10.9 (11)	19.8 (20)	34.7 (35)	25.7 (26)
271	-	5.3 (5)	5.3 (5)	23.2 (22)	31.6 (30)	22.1 (21)	12.6 (12)
272	3.7 (4)	2.8 (3)	2.8 (3)	13.8 (15)	21.1 (23)	33.0 (36)	33.0 (36)
297	-	-	-	11.6 (11)	17.9 (17)	47.4 (45)	23.2 (22)
Total	***1.5 (15)***	***2.8 (27)***	***4.7 (46)***	***16.0 (157)***	***22.5 (221)***	***35.3 (347)***	***17.3 (170)***

**Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)*

Table 6. Hunters' perception of the deer population over the last 5 years by DPA, in 2014

DPA	Fewer	About the same	More
262	67.0 (59)	22.7 (20)	10.2 (9)
265	67.7 (132)	23.1 (45)	9.2 (18)
266	83.3 (140)	12.5 (21)	4.2 (7)
269	82.6 (109)	9.1 (12)	8.3 (11)
270	79.0 (79)	14.0 (14)	7.0 (7)
271	52.1 (50)	28.1 (27)	19.8 (19)
272	74.8 (80)	19.6 (21)	5.6 (6)
297	91.3 (84)	6.5 (6)	2.2 (2)
Total	***75.0 (733)***	***17.0 (166)***	***8.1 (79)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 7. Hunters' perception of the current deer population by DPA, in 2014

DPA	Too low	About right	Too high
262	51.1 (46)	42.2 (38)	6.7 (6)
265	53.4 (103)	37.8 (73)	8.8 (17)
266	74.7 (127)	22.9 (39)	2.4 (4)
269	81.7 (107)	14.5 (19)	3.8 (5)
270	78.0 (78)	18.0 (18)	4.0 (4)
271	47.4 (45)	46.3 (44)	6.3 (6)
272	67.0 (73)	29.4 (32)	3.7 (4)
297	89.2 (83)	9.7 (9)	1.1 (1)
Total	***67.5 (662)***	***27.7 (272)***	***4.8 (47)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 8. Hunters' satisfaction with deer populations by DPA, in 2014

DPA	Dissatisfied	Neither	Satisfied
262	48.9 (43)	22.7 (20)	28.4 (25)
265	52.1 (101)	16.5 (32)	31.4 (61)
266	69.0 (116)	13.1 (22)	17.9 (30)
269	71.2 (94)	10.6 (14)	18.2 (24)
270	67.3 (68)	10.9 (11)	21.8 (22)
271	51.0 (49)	11.5 (11)	37.5 (36)
272	63.0 (68)	15.7 (17)	21.3 (8)
297	80.6 (68)	10.8 (10)	8.6 (8)
Total	***62.7 (614)***	***14.0 (137)***	***23.4 (229)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 9. Hunters' satisfaction with deer populations by DPA, in 2014

	Response	262	265	266	269	270	271	272	297	Total
Number of legal bucks	Disagree	53.4	47.7	56.6	57.6	47.5	44.8	61.3	68.5	***54.2***
	Neither	14.8	17.1	18.1	18.4	16.2	15.6	13.2	15.2	***16.4***
	Agree	31.8	35.2	25.3	24.0	36.4	39.6	25.5	16.3	***29.4***
Quality of bucks	Disagree	45.5	49.5	53.6	59.0	43.4	45.8	51.0	62.9	***51.5***
	Neither	26.1	16.1	22.3	13.1	23.2	17.7	17.3	18.3	***19.0***
	Agree	28.4	34.4	24.1	27.9	33.3	36.5	31.7	18.7	***29.5***
Heard about or saw legal bucks while hunting	Disagree	17.0	19.9	30.3	29.4	35.7	23.2	23.1	40.0	***27.0***
	Neither	9.1	13.1	12.74	14.3	9.2	13.7	11.5	16.7	***12.6***
	Agree	73.9	67.0	56.4	56.3	55.1	63.2	65.4	43.3	***60.4***
Total number of antlerless deer	Disagree	26.7	25.9	41.9	46.5	46.0	26.3	40.0	52.7	***37.7***
	Neither	16.3	18.1	14.4	17.3	14.0	17.7	19.0	15.4	***16.3***
	Agree	57.0	56.0	43.7	36.2	40.0	25.9	41.0	31.9	***46.1***
Total number of deer I saw while hunting	Disagree	37.5	36.4	57.8	61.2	27.6	42.6	56.2	67.4	***51.3***
	Neither	20.5	13.4	12.7	10.1	9.1	14.9	16.2	13.0	***35.1***
	Agree	42.0	49.7	29.5	28.7	33.3	42.6	27.6	19.6	***35.1***

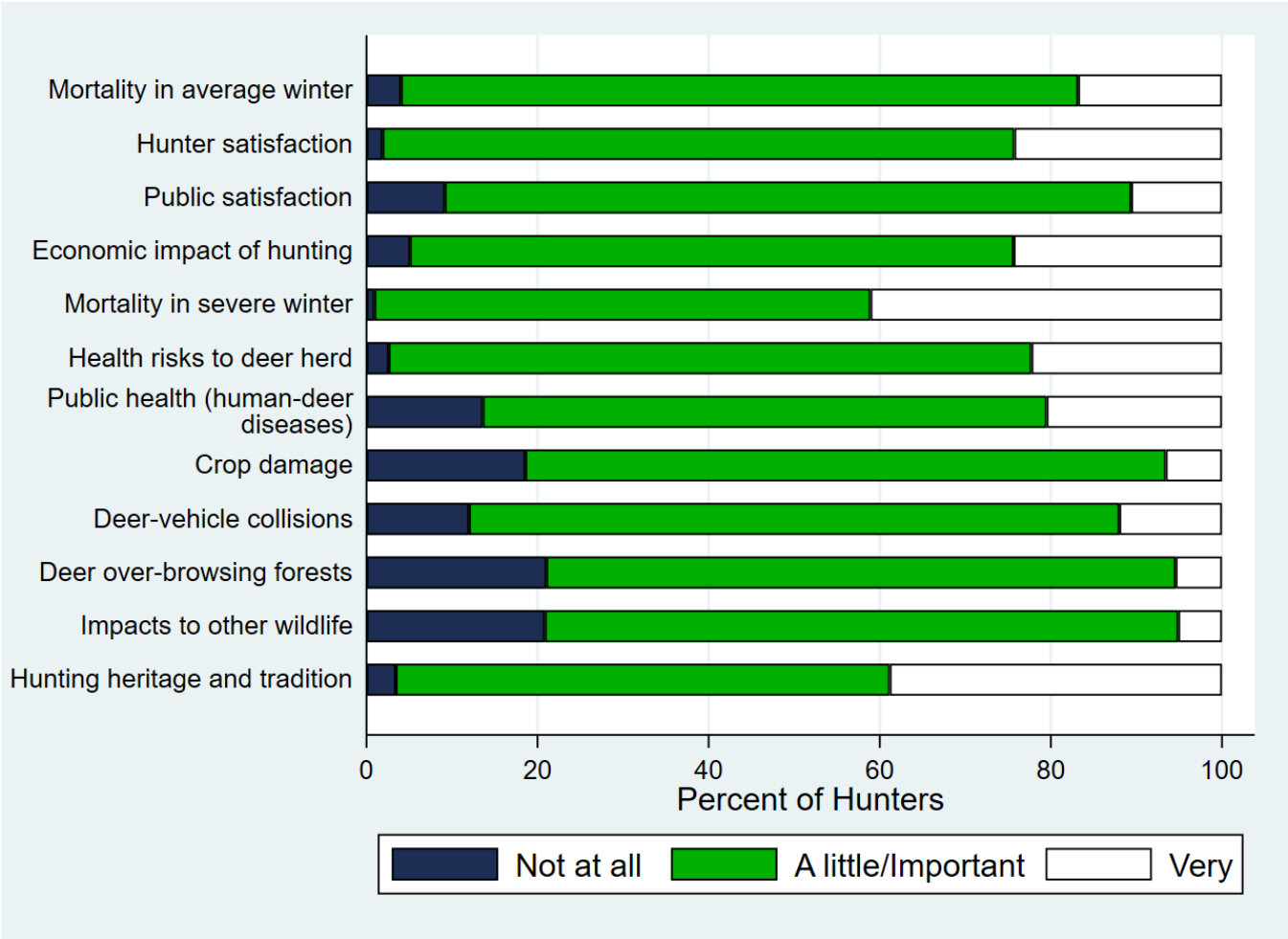
*Data are Percent of Respondents

Table 10. Hunters' reported importance of attributes of deer population goal setting, in 2014

Question	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Important	Very
Amount of deer mortality during an average winter	2.1	9.2	27.0	44.5	17.3
Hunter satisfaction with deer numbers	1.5	9.1	24.9	35.8	28.7
Public satisfaction with deer numbers	9.9	20.9	29.9	26.2	13.1
Impact of deer hunting on the local economy	9.4	17.2	24.4	31.2	17.8
Amount of deer mortality during a severe winter	0.3	6.3	14.6	41.0	37.7
Potential health risks to deer herd	1.5	8.7	23.1	45.2	21.4
Public health (human-deer diseases)	10.4	18.1	22.9	26.8	21.7
Amount of crop damage	16.4	29.5	30.5	16.7	6.8
The number of deer-vehicle collisions	10.7	24.0	31.0	22.5	11.8
Deer over-browsing of forests	20.9	22.8	30.4	20.7	5.2
Impacts of deer on other wildlife species	22.1	26.3	27.2	20.9	3.5
Deer hunting heritage and tradition	5.8	9.6	21.2	30.7	32.7

*Data are Percent of Respondents

Figure 4. Hunters' reported importance of attributes of deer population goal setting



Caption: Percent of hunters indicating that each factor is either not at all important, moderately important (collapsed "a little", "moderately" and "important") or very important to them as priorities to consider when setting deer population goals.

Landowners

Demographics and hunting behavior

Respondents were on average 60.8 years of age at the time the data were collected, and had been living in Minnesota for an average of 52.8 years. The vast majority of respondents were male (82.3%). Roughly, one third of respondents had completed a college degree or achieved some greater level of education. The mean acres of parcels represented in the sample was 239.5 (self-reported).

Nearly 43% of landowners reported that they had hunted during one of the last three deer seasons at the time of data collection. Substantive differences were observed in the pattern of response by hunting status. Therefore, estimates were made for landowners' population preferences by whether or not they indicated that they were a hunter.

A large percentage of landowners that indicated that they hunted spent all of their time hunting on private land that they owned (43%). Nearly 91% reported that they did not hunt leased land at all. Close to a majority of landowners indicated that they spent at least some of their time hunting either private land that they do not own, or public land respectively (Table 11).

Deer damage

Landowners were asked to indicate whether or not they experienced property damage from deer in three categories; crops, residential, and forests. They were also asked to rate the overall intensity of the damage that they experienced from deer across the three categories. Around 26% of landowners indicated that they experienced damage to crops from deer. Roughly, 15% reported that they experienced damage to residential property, and 7% reported damage to forest (Table 12). Crop and forestry damage were associated with parcel size, where larger landowners were more likely to report experiencing damage from deer. Whereas 14-22% of landowners reported damage to residential property regardless of the amount of land they owned. Among those that experienced some form of damage, the vast majority reported that the intensity of the damage was minor or moderate (Table 13).

Population preferences

Landowners, on average, expressed a belief that the deer population at the time of survey was too low. This belief, however, was moderated by hunting status. Non-hunting landowners were more likely to indicate the current population was about right (59%) as opposed to hunting landowners (36%) (Table 14).

On average, landowners have perceived a decline in the deer population over the last 5 years. Roughly 66% have seen "fewer" as opposed to "about the same" (24%) or "more" (10%) deer compared to 5 years prior (Table 15).

Landowners expressed a preference for an increase in future deer populations (Table 16). Greater than 33% of landowners would like to see an increase of either 25% or 50%, and 55% would like to see an increase of 10% or more (Table 17). Hunting landowners prefer a greater increase in the deer population than non-hunting

landowners. For instance, 19% of hunters would like to see an increase of 50%, whereas 7% of non-hunting landowners indicated the same (Table 18).

Respondents placed relatively high importance on severe winter deer mortality as a factor the DNR should consider when setting deer population goals. Conversely, the impacts that deer may have on other wildlife species or forests were rated as having less importance compared to the factors evaluated (Table 19).

Table 11. Amount of time hunting landowners spent hunting on different types of land in 2014

	None	Some	Most	All
Public land	53.0 (150)	32.2 (91)	10.6 (30)	4.2 (12)
Private land that I do not own or lease	43.6 (127)	27.2 (79)	17.5 (51)	11.7 (34)
Private land that I lease for hunting	90.1 (222)	3.7 (9)	4.1 (10)	1.2 (3)
Private land that I own	13.2 (45)	20.5 (70)	23.2 (79)	43.1 (147)

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 12. Percent of landowners that experienced damage to different land uses by acres, in 2014

	Percent "Yes"				
	2-19.9	20-79.9	80-319.9	>=320	***Total***
Crops	11.3	28.9	25.9	33.6	***26.3***
Woods	7.0	4.9	3.1	11.5	***6.7***
Residential	13.5	11.2	12.3	22.9	***15.1***

*Data are Percent of Respondents

Figure 5. Percent of landowners experiencing damage from deer by land use, in 2014

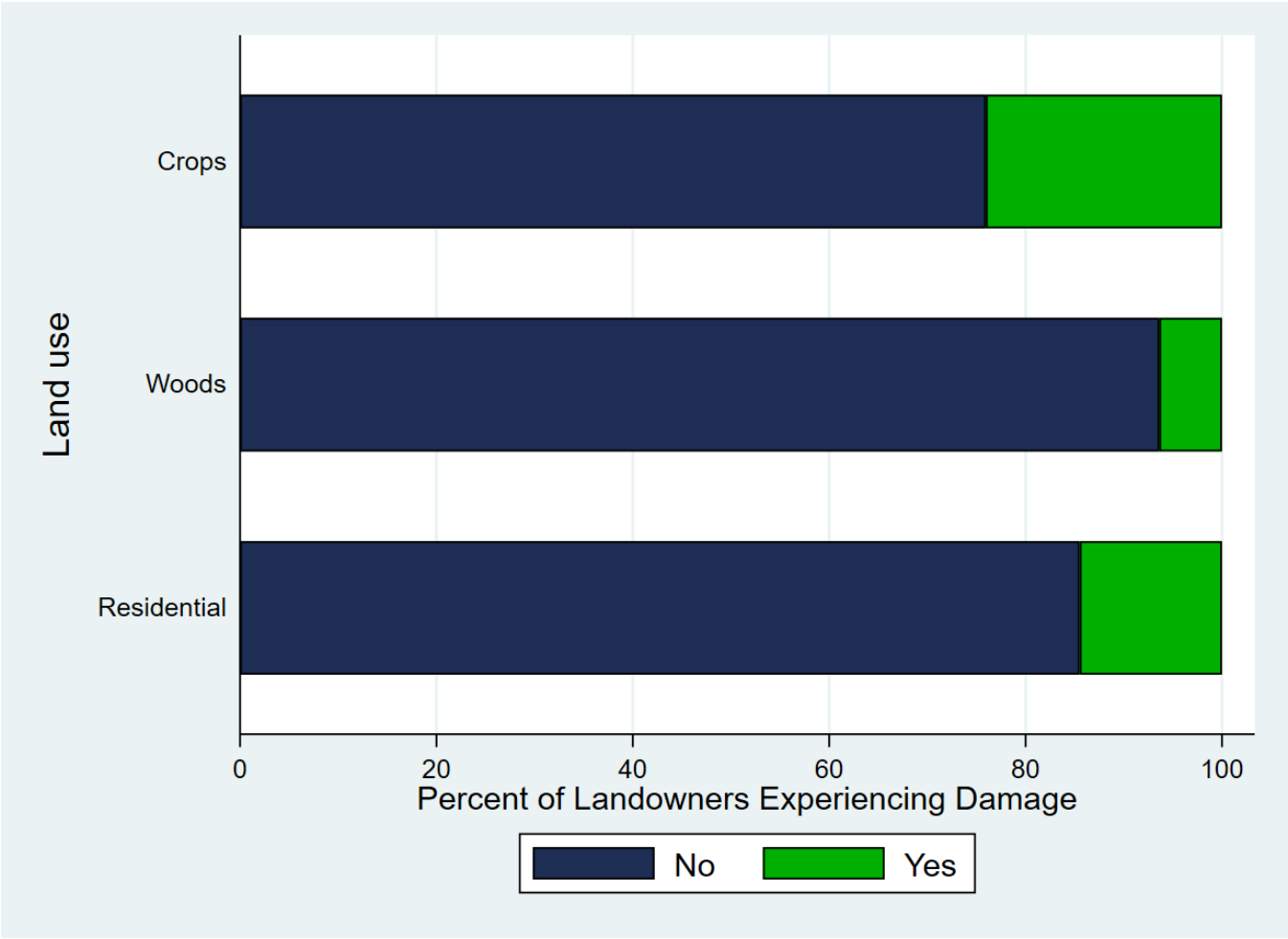


Table 13. Intensity of damage from deer, for those that experienced damage by land use, in 2014

	Negligible	Minor/Moderate	Severe/Very Severe
Crops	21.3	76.0	2.7
Woods	25.0	75.0	-
Residential	16.7	79.8	3.6

*Data are Percent of Respondents

Table 14. Non-hunting landowners' perception of the deer population, in 2014

DPA	Too low	About right	Too high
262	20.9 (14)	62.7 (42)	16.4 (11)
265	27.8 (10)	50.0 (18)	22.2 (8)
266	33.3 (21)	58.7 (37)	7.9 (5)
269	35.3 (24)	58.8 (40)	5.9 (4)
270	36.6 (26)	59.2 (42)	4.2 (3)
271	20.0 (1)	80.0 (4)	-
272	31.6 (6)	52.6 (10)	15.8 (3)
297	40.9 (9)	54.5 (12)	4.5 (1)
Total	***31.6 (111)***	***58.4 (205)***	***10.0 (35)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 14 Continued. Hunting landowners' perception of the deer population, in 2014

DPA	Too low	About right	Too high
262	38.9 (14)	47.2 (17)	13.9 (5)
265	49.1 (26)	41.5 (22)	9.4 (5)
266	50.0 (29)	48.3 (28)	1.7 (1)
269	72.5 (37)	27.5 (14)	-
270	74.1 (40)	27.5 (14)	-
271	50.0 (2)	50.0 (2)	-
272	73.9 (17)	21.7 (5)	4.3 (1)
297	70.7 (29)	29.3 (12)	-
Total	***60.6 (194)***	***35.6 (114)***	***3.8 (12)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 14 Continued. Landowners' overall perception of the deer population by DPA, in 2014

DPA	Too low	About right	Too high
262	27.2 (28)	57.3 (59)	15.5 (16)
265	40.4 (36)	44.9 (40)	14.6 (13)
266	41.3 (50)	53.7)	5.0 (6)
269	51.3 (61)	45.4 (54)	3.4 (4)
270	52.8 (66)	44.8 (56)	2.4 (3)
271	33.3 (3)	66.7 (6)	-
272	54.8 (23)	35.7 (15)	9.5 (4)
297	60.3 (38)	38.1 (24)	1.6 (1)
Total	***45.5 (305)***	***47.5 (319)***	***7.0 (47)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 15. Landowners' perception over the last 5 years by DPA, in 2014

DPA	Fewer	About the same	More
262	54.8 (57)	30.8 (32)	14.4 (15)
265	53.8 (49)	31.9 (29)	14.3 (13)
266	68.0 (83)	22.1 (27)	9.8 (12)
269	71.7 (86)	22.5 (27)	5.8 (7)
270	62.5 (80)	28.9 (37)	8.6 (11)
271	66.7 (6)	22.2 (2)	11.1 (1)
272	76.7 (33)	9.3 (4)	14.0 (6)
297	81.5 (53)	12.3 (8)	6.2 (4)
Total	***65.5 (447)***	***24.3 (166)***	***10.1 (69)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 16. Landowners' preferred future deer population by DPA, in 2014

DPA	-50%	-25%	-10%	No change	+10%	+25%	+50%
262	2.0 (2)	7.0 (7)	6.0 (6)	42.0 (42)	27.0 (27)	8.0 (8)	8.0 (8)
265	5.6 (5)	7.9 (7)	4.5 (4)	32.6 (29)	21.3 (19)	18.0 (16)	10.1 (9)
266	-	4.9 (7)	6.6 (8)	40.2 (49)	20.5 (25)	18.0 (22)	9.8 (12)
269	1.7 (2)	0.8 (1)	5.9 (7)	28.6 (34)	21.0 (25)	25.2 (30)	16.8 (20)
270	0.8 (1)	4.0 (5)	4.0 (5)	36.0 (45)	13.6 (17)	30.4 (38)	11.2 (14)
271	-	-	11.1 (1)	55.6 (5)	33.3 (3)	-	-
272	2.4 (1)	4.9 (2)	4.9 (2)	29.3 (12)	24.4 (10)	19.5 (8)	14.6 (6)
297	1.7 (1)	-	-	23.3 (14)	18.3 (11)	30.0 (18)	26.7 (16)
Total	***1.8 (12)***	***4.2 (28)***	***5.0 (33)***	***34.6 (230)***	***20.6 (137)***	***21.1 (140)***	***12.8 (85)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 17. Landowners' preferred future deer population by DPA summarized, in 2014

DPA	Decrease	No change	Increase
262	15.0 (15)	42.0 (42)	43.0 (43)
265	18.0 (16)	32.6 (29)	49.4 (44)
266	11.5 (14)	40.2 (49)	48.4 (59)
269	8.4 (10)	28.6 (34)	63.0 (75)
270	8.8 (11)	36.0 (45)	55.2 (69)
271	11.1 (1)	55.6 (5)	33.3 (3)
272	12.2 (5)	29.3 (12)	58.5 (24)
297	1.7 (1)	23.3 (14)	75.0 (45)
Total	***11.0 (73)***	***34.6 (230)***	***54.4 (362)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Figure 6. Landowners' preference for future deer population level by hunting status, in 2014

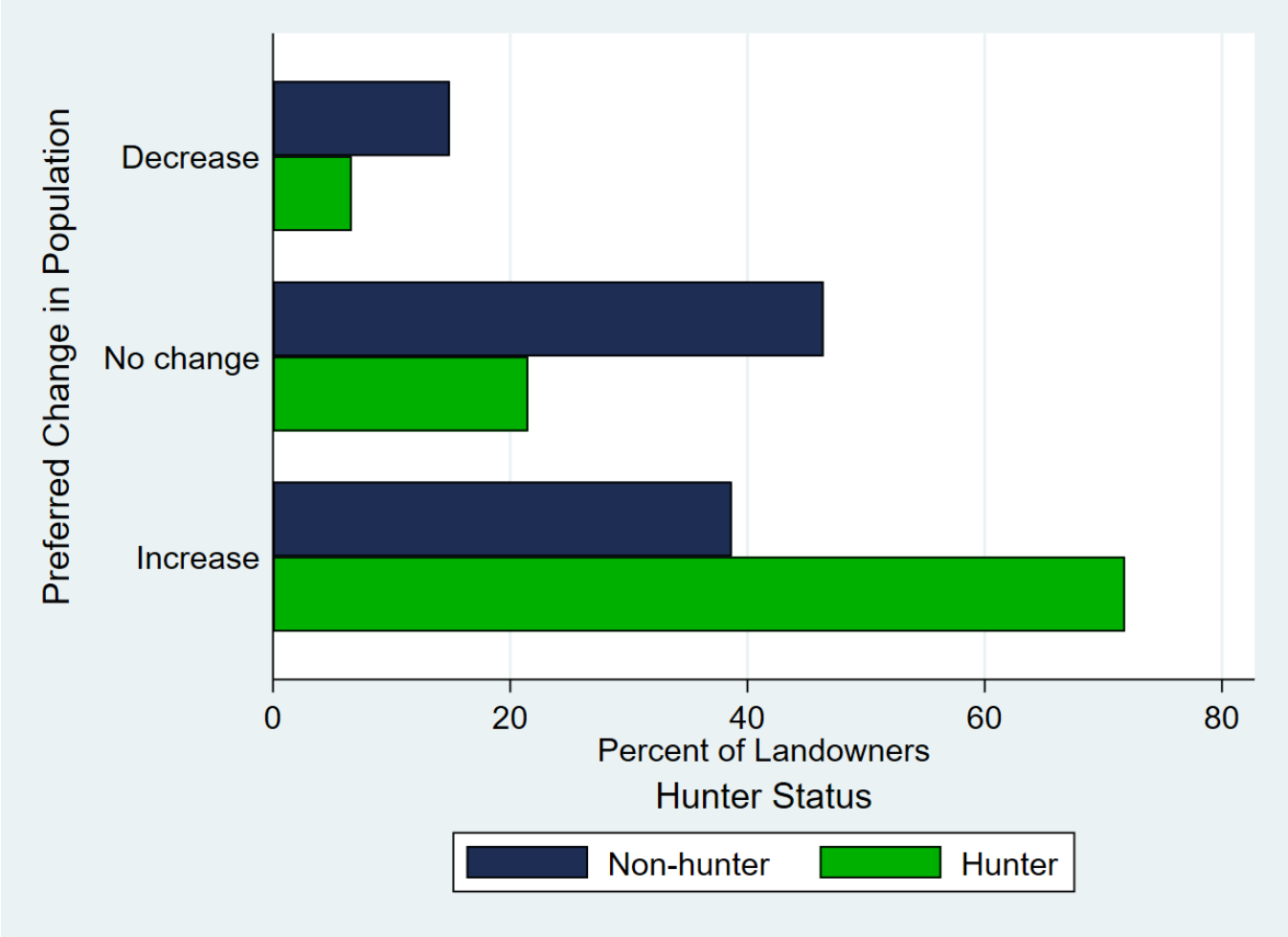


Table 18. Non-hunting landowners preference for future deer population by DPA, in 2014

DPA	-50%	-25%	-10%	No change	+10%	+25%	+50%
262	3.1 (2)	6.3 (4)	7.8 (5)	46.9 (30)	23.4 (15)	3.1 (2)	9.4 (6)
265	8.1 (3)	10.8 (4)	2.7 (1)	43.2 (16)	18.9 (7)	10.8 (4)	5.4 (2)
266	-	7.8 (5)	6.3 (4)	50.0 (32)	18.8 (12)	12.5 (8)	4.7 (3)
269	2.9 (2)	-	10.3 (7)	41.2 (28)	16.2 (11)	20.6 (14)	8.8 (6)
270	1.4 (1)	4.2 (3)	7.0 (5)	50.7 (30)	8.5 (6)	23.9 (17)	4.2 (3)
271	-	-	20.0 (1)	60.0 (3)	20.0(1)	-	-
272	5.3 (1)	10.5 (2)	5.3 (1)	47.4 (9)	15.8 (3)	15.8 (3)	-
297	4.8 (1)	-	-	38.1 (8)	23.8 (5)	9.5 (2)	23.8 (5)
Total	***2.9 (10)***	***5.2 (18)***	***6.9 (24)***	***46.4 (162)***	***17.2 (60)***	***14.3 (50)***	***7.2 (25)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Table 18 Continued. Hunting landowners preference for future deer population by DPA, in 2014

DPA	-50%	-25%	-10%	No change	+10%	+25%	+50%
262	-	8.3 (3)	2.8 (1)	33.3 (12)	33.3 (12)	16.7 (6)	5.6 (2)
265	3.8 (20	5.8 (3)	5.8 (3)	25.0 (13)	23.1 (12)	23.1 (12)	13.5 (7)
266	-	1.7 (1)	6.9 (4)	29.3 (17)	22.4 (13)	24.1 (14)	15.5 (9)
269	-	2.0 (1)	-	11.8 (6)	27.5 (14)	31.4 (6)	27.5 (14)
270	-	3.7 (2)	-	16.7 (9)	20.4 (11)	38.9 (21)	20.4 (11)
271	-	-	-	50.0 (2)	50.0 (2)	-	-
272	-	-	4.5 (1)	13.6 (3)	31.8 (7)	22.7 (5)	27.3 (6)
297	-	-	-	15.4 (6)	15.4 (6)	41.0 (16)	28.2 (11)
Total	***0.6 (2)***	***3.2 (10)***	***2.9 (9)***	***21.5 (68)***	***24.4 (77)***	***28.5 (90)***	***19.0 (60)***

*Data are Percent of Respondents and (Total Number of Respondents)

Figure 7. Landowners' preference for future deer population level, in 2014

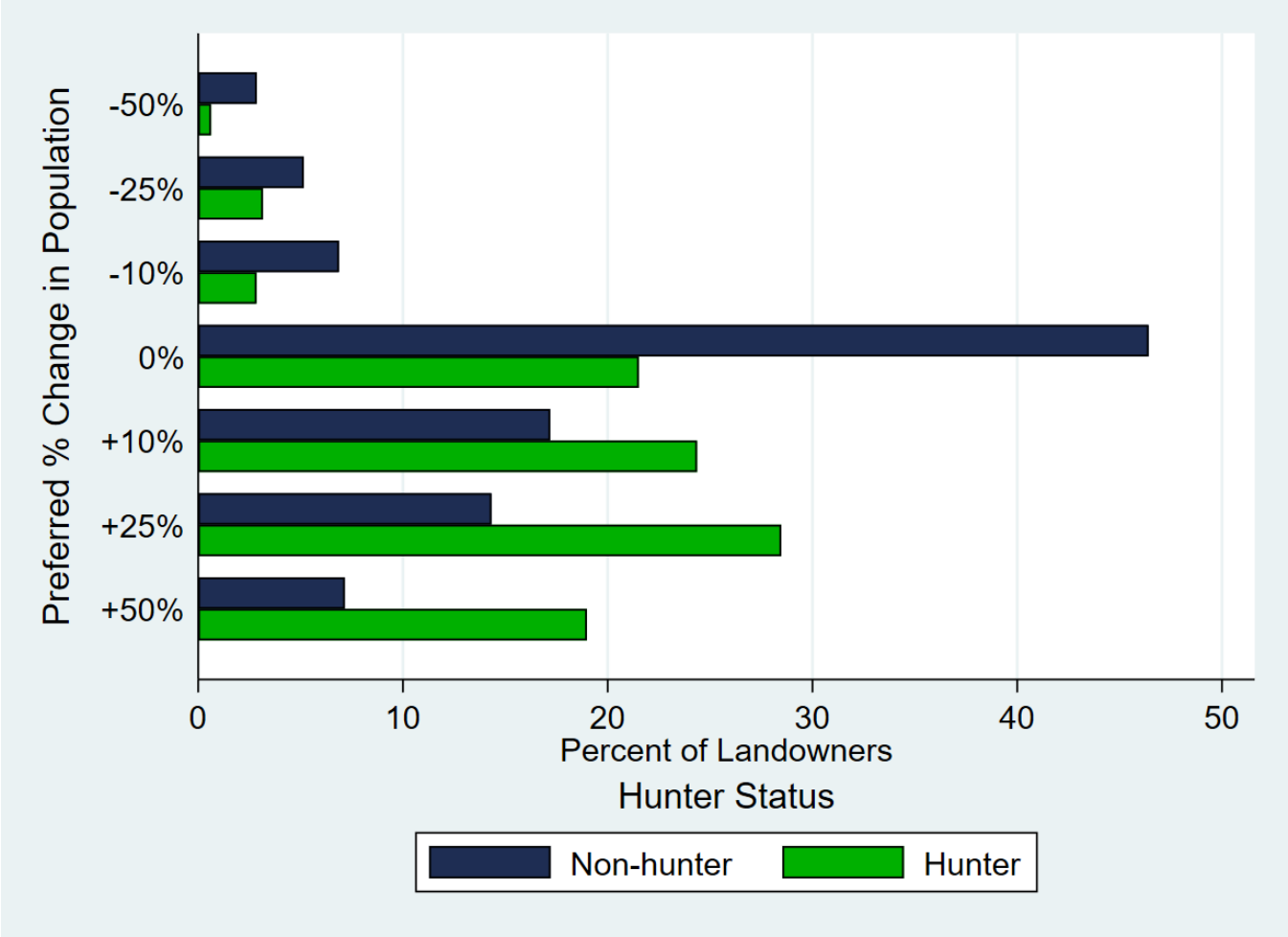
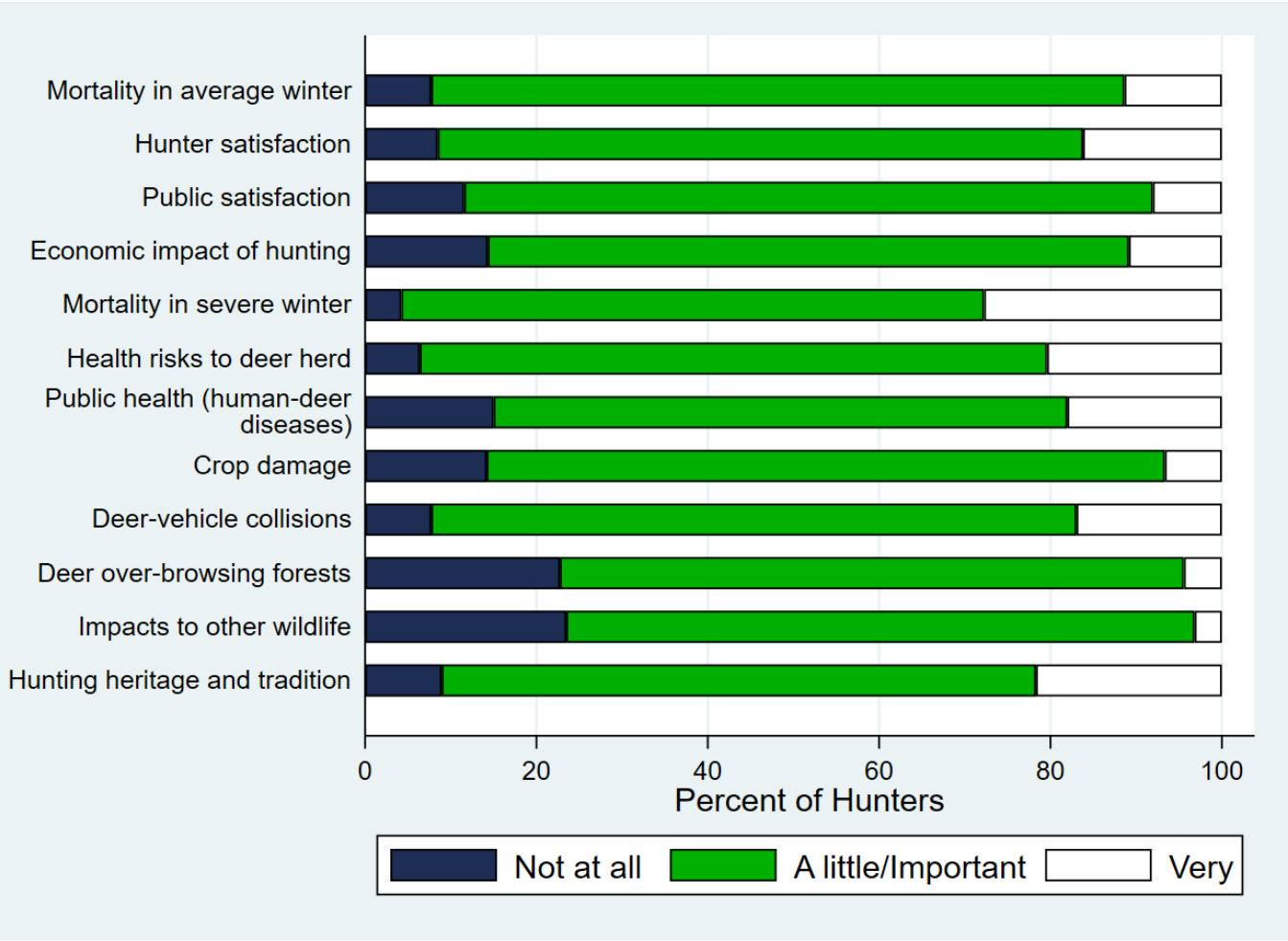


Table 19. Landowners' reported importance of attributes of deer population goal setting, in 2014

Question	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Important	Very
Amount of deer mortality during an average winter	7.2	15.0	30.1	36.3	11.5
Hunter satisfaction with deer numbers	8.5	16.1	28.3	31.7	15.4
Public satisfaction with deer numbers	11.2	19.0	34.1	28.0	7.6
Impact of deer hunting on the local economy	13.8	22.8	27.3	25.4	10.7
Amount of deer mortality during a severe winter	4.2	10.2	19.5	38.4	27.6
Potential health risks to deer herd	6.5	13.7	26.5	32.8	20.5
Public health (human-deer diseases)	14.6	21.6	22.3	23.6	17.9
Amount of crop damage	13.5	29.1	29.8	21.3	6.3
The number of deer-vehicle collisions	7.8	20.0	25.2	29.9	17.1
Deer over-browsing of forests	22.0	26.2	27.8	20.2	3.9
Impacts of deer on other wildlife species	22.6	26.8	31.2	16.4	2.9
Deer hunting heritage and tradition	8.8	15.3	25.7	28.6	21.6

*Data are Percent of Respondents

Figure 8. Landowners' reported importance of attributes of deer population goal setting, in 2014



Caption: Percent of landowners indicating that each factor is either not at all important, moderately important (collapsed "a little", "moderately" and "important") or very important to them as priorities to consider when setting deer population goals.