

Additional Analyses of Selected Deer-Hunter Survey Questions

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At its September 2002 meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission directed staff to explore in greater detail results of the deer-hunter survey conducted during July 2002. Staff was asked to concentrate on questions from the survey concerning quality deer hunting and associated issues and to determine if opinions differed between individuals who hunted only on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and those who hunted only on private lands.

The telephone survey was conducted by the Florida Government Performance Research Center at Florida State University. The Commission provided to the Center a database of randomly selected individuals licensed to hunt in Florida. The Center contacted 651 hunters from this database. Four hundred and four (62%) individuals said they had hunted deer in Florida during the past five years. Only these individuals were asked the remaining questions.

Results are shown as percent of respondents who selected each multiple-choice answer for all hunters, those who hunted on WMAs only, and those who hunted on private land only. For every question, responses within each group of respondents (i.e., all hunters, WMA-only hunters, and private-only hunters) were significantly different from an equal distribution of answers across the possible choices (χ^2 tests, $\alpha < 0.05$). We also tested for different distributions of responses between WMA-only and private-only hunters for each question (χ^2 tests, $\alpha < 0.05$). Results are noted next to the column headings with different superscript letters indicating a significant difference. Ninety-five percent confidence intervals are shown in parentheses and are indicative of the potential for the response rates within rows to differ between columns.

1.	How important to you is it to hunt higher quality bucks?			
		All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
	Very important	42% (37-47)	34% (25-44)	50% (43-58)
	Somewhat important	38% (33-43)	43% (34-53)	32% (26-40)
	Not very important	15% (12-19)	15% (9-23)	14% (9-20)
	Not important at all	5% (3-7)	8% (4-15)	3% (1-7)
	Total respondents	404	109	179
2.	How would you describe the quality of bucks* in the herd where you primarily hunt?			
		All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
	Too many quality bucks	1% (1-3)	0% (0-3)	2% (1-6)
	Just the right number of quality bucks	22% (18-26)	15% (8-23)	26% (20-33)
	Too few quality bucks	77% (72-81)	85% (77-92)	71% (64-78)
	Total respondents	397	103	178

*Survey respondents were told to consider a quality bucks as one having at least eight antler points or a spread of 15 inches between the inside of each antler. This definition was based on a 1992 survey of Florida deer hunters.

3. To increase the quality of bucks in the field and in the harvest, the overall harvest of younger bucks must be reduced. This can be done through mandatory regulations set by the Commission, or by voluntary actions imposed by landowners or hunt clubs. Which method would you favor?

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
Mandatory regulations	38% (33-43)	55% (45-65)	31% (24-38)
Voluntary actions	53% (48-58)	34% (25-44)	62% (54-69)
Some other method	9% (6-13)	11% (6-19)	7% (4-12)
Total respondents	383	100	169

4. One possible configuration of Deer Management Zones would be to manage each county in the state as a Deer Management Zone. This could mean different seasons lengths, antler restrictions, and/or bag limits by county. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose Deer Management Zones at the county level?

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^a
Strongly support	30% (25-35)	33% (25-43)	29% (23-37)
Somewhat support	29% (24-33)	24% (16-33)	31% (24-39)
Neither	3% (2-5)	6% (2-12)	2% (1-6)
Somewhat oppose	11% (8-15)	12% (7-20)	8% (5-14)
Strongly oppose	27% (23-32)	25% (17-34)	28% (22-36)
Total respondents	386	108	166

5. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose mandatory antler restrictions if it meant more quality bucks available for harvest.

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^a
Strongly support	45% (40-50)	46% (37-56)	46% (39-54)
Somewhat support	23% (19-27)	24% (16-33)	22% (16-29)
Neither	4% (2-7)	5% (1-11)	4% (2-8)
Somewhat oppose	13% (10-17)	14% (8-22)	13% (8-18)
Strongly oppose	14% (11-18)	11% (6-19)	15% (10-22)
Total respondents	395	106	175

6. Please indicate which antler restriction you would prefer for a buck to be considered legal for harvest.

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
One antler visible above the hairline	10% (7-14)	11% (5-18)	9% (5-15)
One antler at least 5 inches in length	38% (33-43)	49% (39-59)	34% (27-42)
Something more restrictive, such as a specific number of points (point rule) or a certain number of inches separating the two antlers (spread rule)	52% (47-57)	41% (31-51)	57% (49-64)
Total respondents	389	105	173

7.	If an antler restriction were imposed, which would you prefer?			
		All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
	A point rule where one antler had to have a certain number of points, such as 2, 3, or 4 points	51% (46-56)	48% (38-58)	48% (41-56)
	An inside spread rule where there had to be a specific length between the two antlers, such as 14, 15, or 16 inches	5% (3-7)	5% (2-11)	6% (3-10)
	Some combination of points and spread	18% (14-22)	10% (5-17)	21% (15-28)
	None of the above	27% (23-32)	37% (28-47)	25% (19-32)
	Total respondents	398	102	174
7a.	(If point rule selected) How many points should the antler have?			
		All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
	1 point	12% (7-18)	10% (3-24)	10% (4-20)
	2 points	46% (38-54)	44% (28-60)	42% (30-55)
	3 points	28% (21-35)	28% (15-45)	34% (23-47)
	4 points	13% (8-19)	18% (7-33)	10% (4-20)
	5 points	1% (0-3)	0 (0-9)	0 (0-5)
	6 points	1% (0-5)	0 (0-9)	3% (0-10)
	Total respondents	158	39	67
7b.	(If spread rule selected) How many inches should there be between the two antlers? (Sample size too small to note opinion of WMA only and private only hunters.)			
		All hunters		
	4 inches	7% (0-32)		
	5 inches	7% (0-32)		
	6 inches	7% (0-32)		
	8 inches	13% (2-41)		
	9 inches	20% (4-48)		
	10 inches	7% (0-32)		
	12 inches	7% (0-32)		
	14 inches	20% (4-48)		
	15 inches	13% (2-41)		
	Total respondents	15		
8.	Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a statewide annual bag limit on bucks if it meant more quality bucks available for harvest?			
		All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
	Strongly support	54% (49-59)	61% (51-70)	49% (41-57)
	Somewhat support	22% (18-26)	25% (17-34)	22% (16-29)
	Neither	2% (1-4)	3% (1-8)	2% (0-5)
	Somewhat oppose	9% (7-13)	3% (1-8)	13% (8-18)
	Strongly oppose	13% (10-17)	8% (4-15)	14% (9-20)
	Total respondents	399	108	175

9. If a statewide annual bag limit were imposed, which would you prefer?

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^b
A bag limit of 1 buck	7% (5-10)	10% (5-18)	5% (2-10)
A bag limit of 2 bucks	41% (36-46)	59% (49-68)	37% (29-44)
A bag limit of 3 bucks	28% (23-32)	19% (12-27)	33% (26-40)
Some other limit	10% (7-14)	3% (1-8)	11% (7-17)
No limit	15% (11-19)	9% (5-17)	15% (10-21)
Total respondents	392	107	172

10. If a bag limit of 2 or more bucks were imposed, would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a requirement that part of the bag limit must be a "quality" buck(s)? A quality buck would likely be one that had at least 3 or 4 antler points on one side.

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^a
Strongly support	52% (47-57)	52% (43-62)	53% (45-61)
Somewhat support	19% (16-24)	18% (11-26)	22% (16-29)
Neither	3% (1-5)	5% (1-11)	1% (0-3)
Somewhat oppose	11% (8-14)	10% (5-18)	8% (5-13)
Strongly oppose	15% (12-19)	15% (9-23)	16% (11-23)
Total respondents	391	107	172

11. If bag limits were imposed, a system whereby it can readily be determined if an individual hunter has achieved his or her bag limit would have to be established. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a requirement that a hunter must mark his or her license, such as with a signature and date, when a deer is harvested?

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^a
Strongly support	54% (49-59)	62% (52-71)	46% (39-54)
Somewhat support	21% (17-25)	21% (13-29)	25% (19-32)
Neither	1% (1-3)	2% (0-7)	1% (0-4)
Somewhat oppose	9% (6-12)	6% (2-12)	12% (7-17)
Strongly oppose	15% (11-19)	10% (5-18)	16% (11-23)
Total respondents	398	107	178

12. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a requirement that a harvest deer must be tagged where a portion of a license must be affixed to the deer?

	All hunters	WMA only ^a	Private only ^a
Strongly support	56% (51-61)	64% (54-73)	51% (43-59)
Somewhat support	18% (14-22)	18% (11-26)	21% (16-28)
Neither	1% (1-3)	3% (1-8)	1% (0-4)
Somewhat oppose	9% (6-12)	6% (2-12)	10% (6-15)
Strongly oppose	16% (12-20)	10% (5-18)	16% (11-23)
Total respondents	400	107	178