

A photograph of a deer standing in a snowy forest. The deer is facing left, with its head turned slightly towards the camera. It has a brown coat and small antlers. The ground is covered in snow, and there are many bare trees and branches in the background. The lighting suggests a bright day, with shadows cast on the snow.

Harvest Summary 2013

or . . .

Everything you really didn't want to
know about the Duluth Bowhunt,
and were afraid to ask.

Submitted to ABA Board

By Bork

Part 3, Year End Survey Results

A little about our Hunters, aka The Year End Survey

- The next few slides summarize a bit from the Year End Survey. These are based upon 148 responses from the 391 participating hunters.

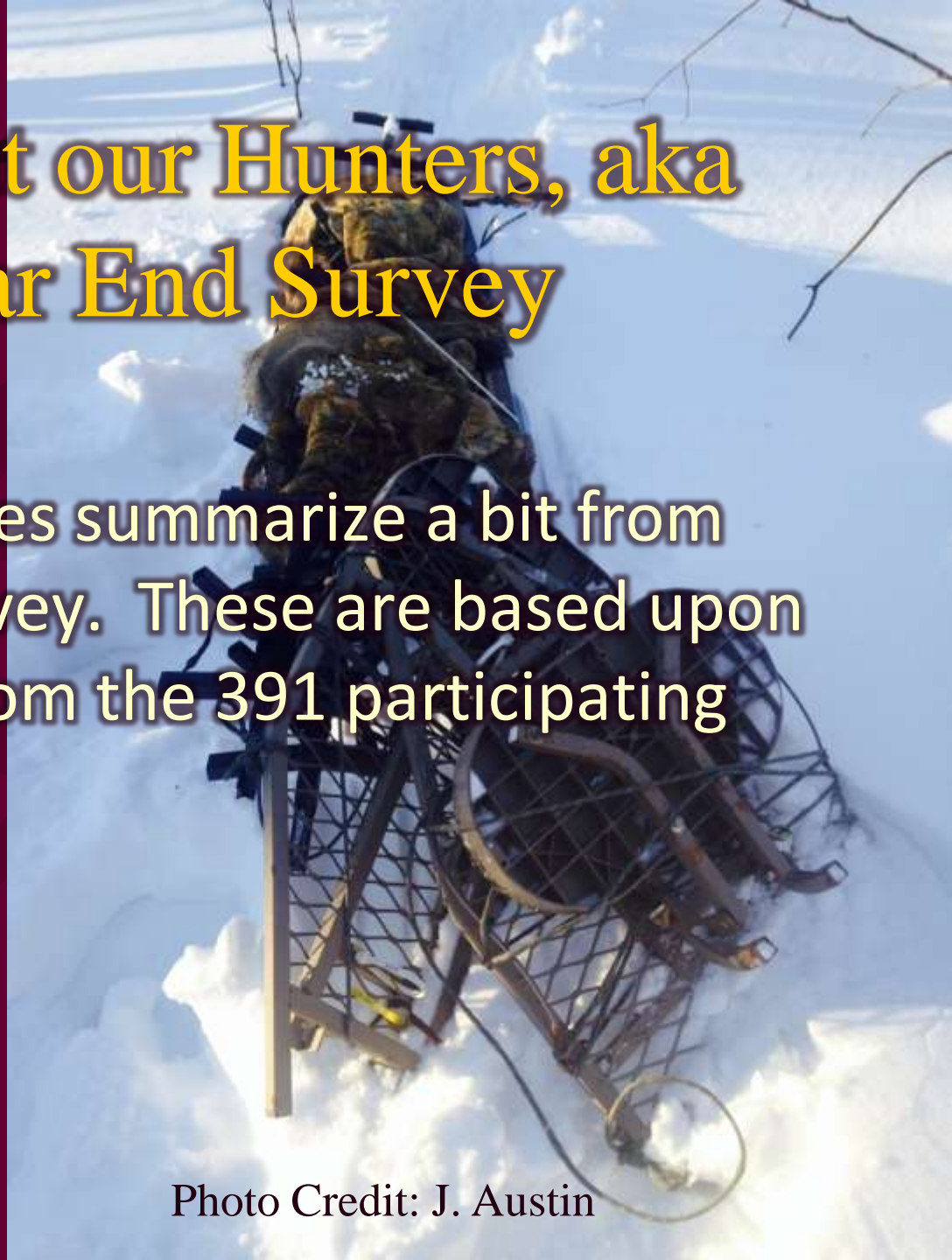


Photo Credit: J. Austin

Survey Response Rate		
# Survey Responses	148	
# Hunters Placed	391	
Response Rate	37.9%	
Responsible for % harvest	53.1%	
Final Total Harvest	399	
<p><i>Therefore, if hunter harvested deer, they were much more likely to fill in the Year End Survey. But that said, there were many individuals that failed to harvest a deer that DID participate. Thank you for your time.</i></p>		

This 37.9% response rate was the lowest we've ever had for a Year End survey. Thus, if it's not worth your time to fill out the survey, please don't complain when the ABA doesn't manage this hunt in the way you think is appropriate.

Response Rate by Hunter Type

# Returning Hunters Surveyed			128
# New Hunters Surveyed			20
# Returning Hunters Placed			301
# New Hunters Placed			90
Response Rate of Returning Hunters			42.5%
Response Rate of New Hunters			22.2%

Who Resonded to Survey?						
					#	%
Survey Respondents Harvesting a deer					110	74.3%
Survey Respondents that did not Harvest a Deer					38	25.7%
Total Hunters that Harvested a Deer					231	59.1%
Total that Did Not Harvest a Deer					160	40.9%

- It would appear that hunters who harvested a deer may have been slightly more apt to go online and complete the survey. However, the ABA does appreciate the unsuccessful hunters that did take the time to complete this survey.

Wounding Rates

Total # Deer Reported:	208
Total # Wounded:	37
Total # shots:	245
Total # that did not die:	17
General Wounding Rate:	15.1%
Adjusted Wounding Rate:	8.2%

Overall wounding was just over 15%, slightly higher than the average for MN archery. This estimate is slightly higher than previous wounding rate estimates. Removing the deer that folks reported being 100% sure survived, our wounding drops to 8.2%, equivalent to previous estimates for Duluth bowhunters.

After being given a DHA, did you Hunt in Duluth in 2013?

Yes I did!	142
No, I did not.	6
Total	148
% that did hunt	95.9%

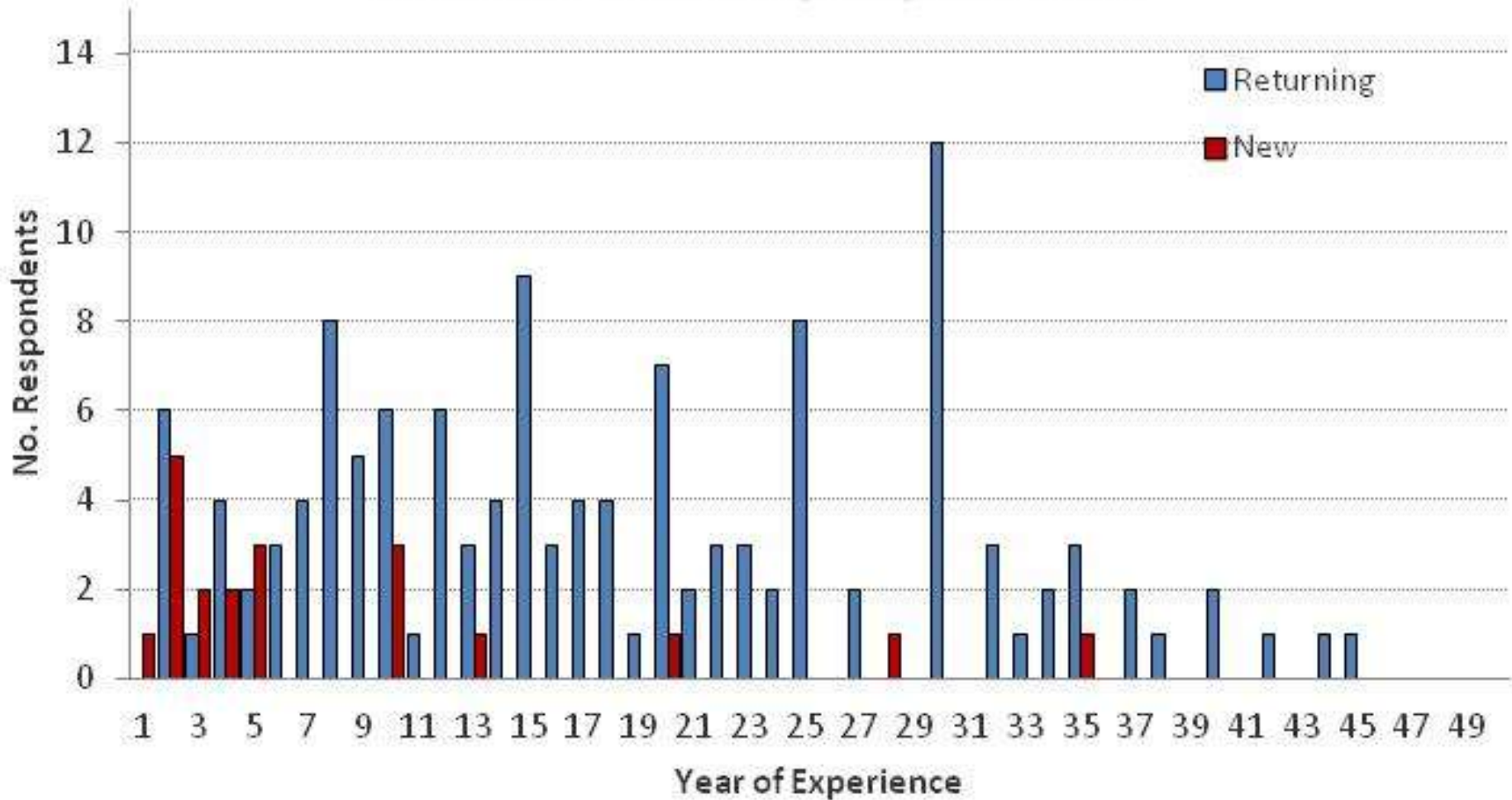
Approximately 96% of hunters placed at Lottery did actually hunt in 2013. This is identical to the estimates since 2011. Thus, most folks that go thru all of the ABA hoops and Rules, actually do end up in the woods.

If you Bowhunted, did you bowhunt anywhere in MN other than Duluth in 2013?

Yes I did.	79
No, I only hunted in Duluth.	69
Total	148
% Seeking other Hunting Spots	53.4%

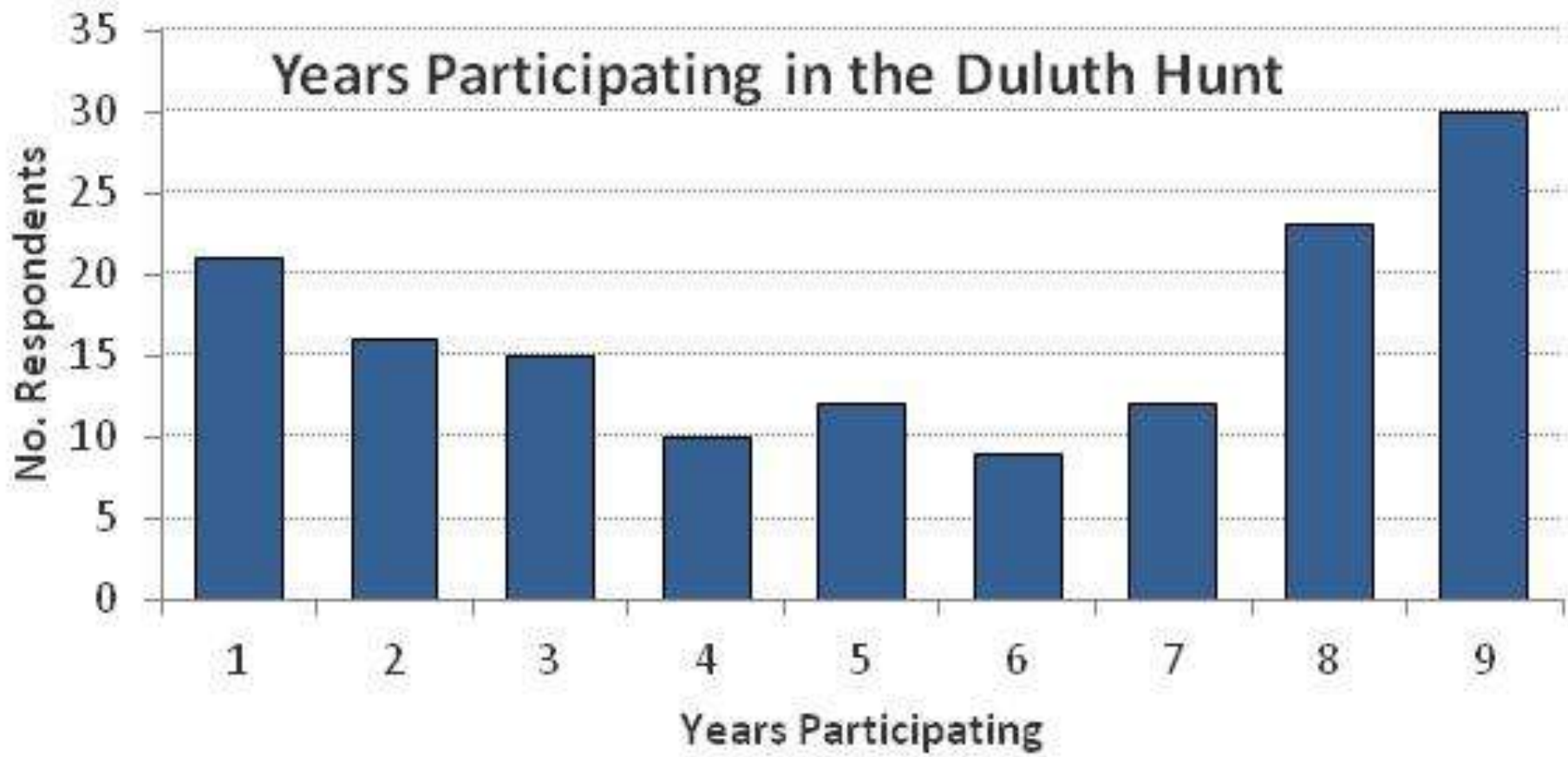
- Note that this includes several individuals that reported that they just never got out into the woods to participate in 2013. This estimate is down by 20% from the 2011 estimate and 10% from the 2012 estimate. Thus, more folks in 2013 invested all of their hunting time in the Duluth woods, rather than elsewhere.

Years of Archery Experience

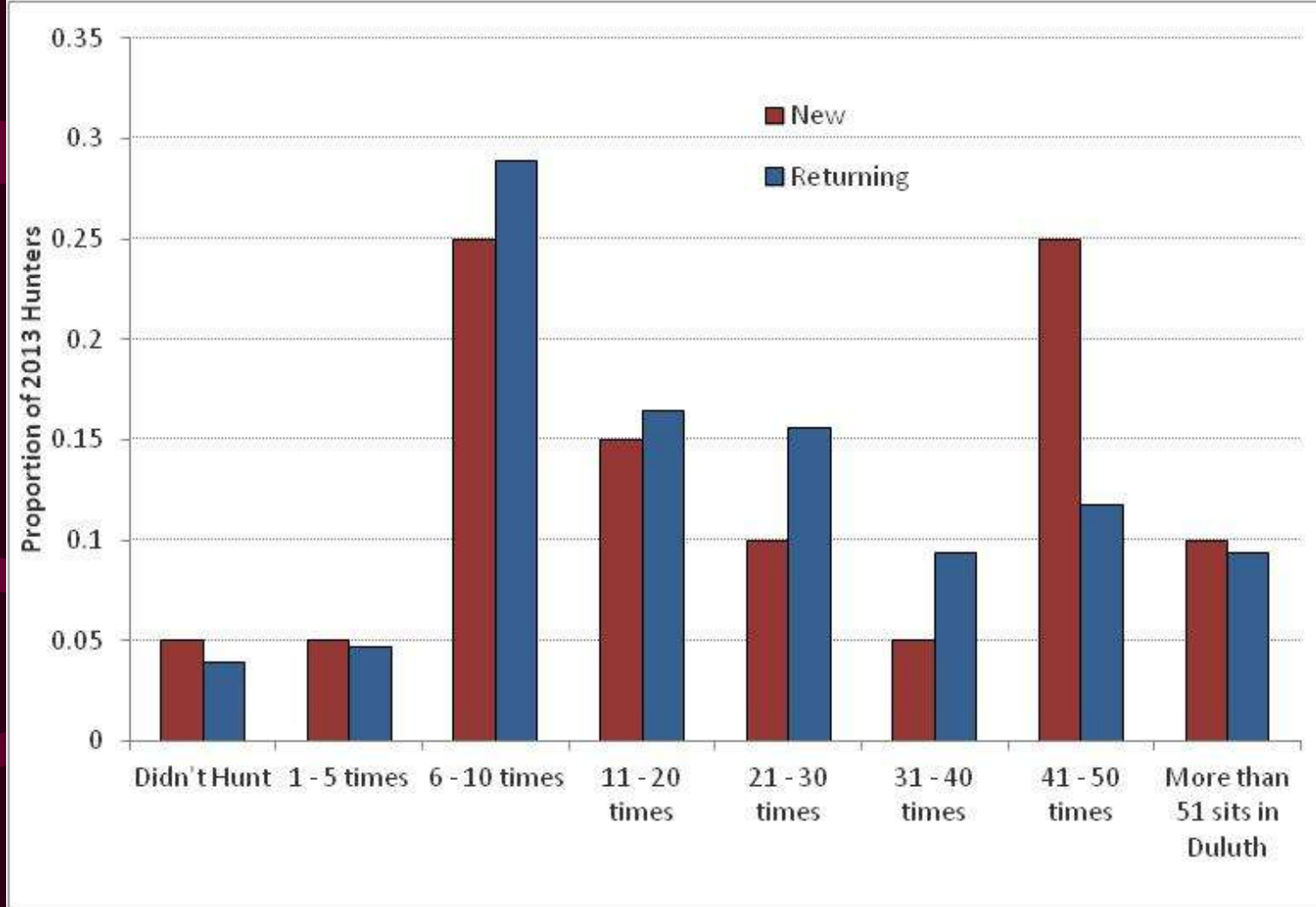


From this graph, the data suggests that overall experience in bowhunting is higher for returning hunters. Obviously there are exceptions, but as a group, new hunters in Duluth are relatively new to the sport. Welcome!

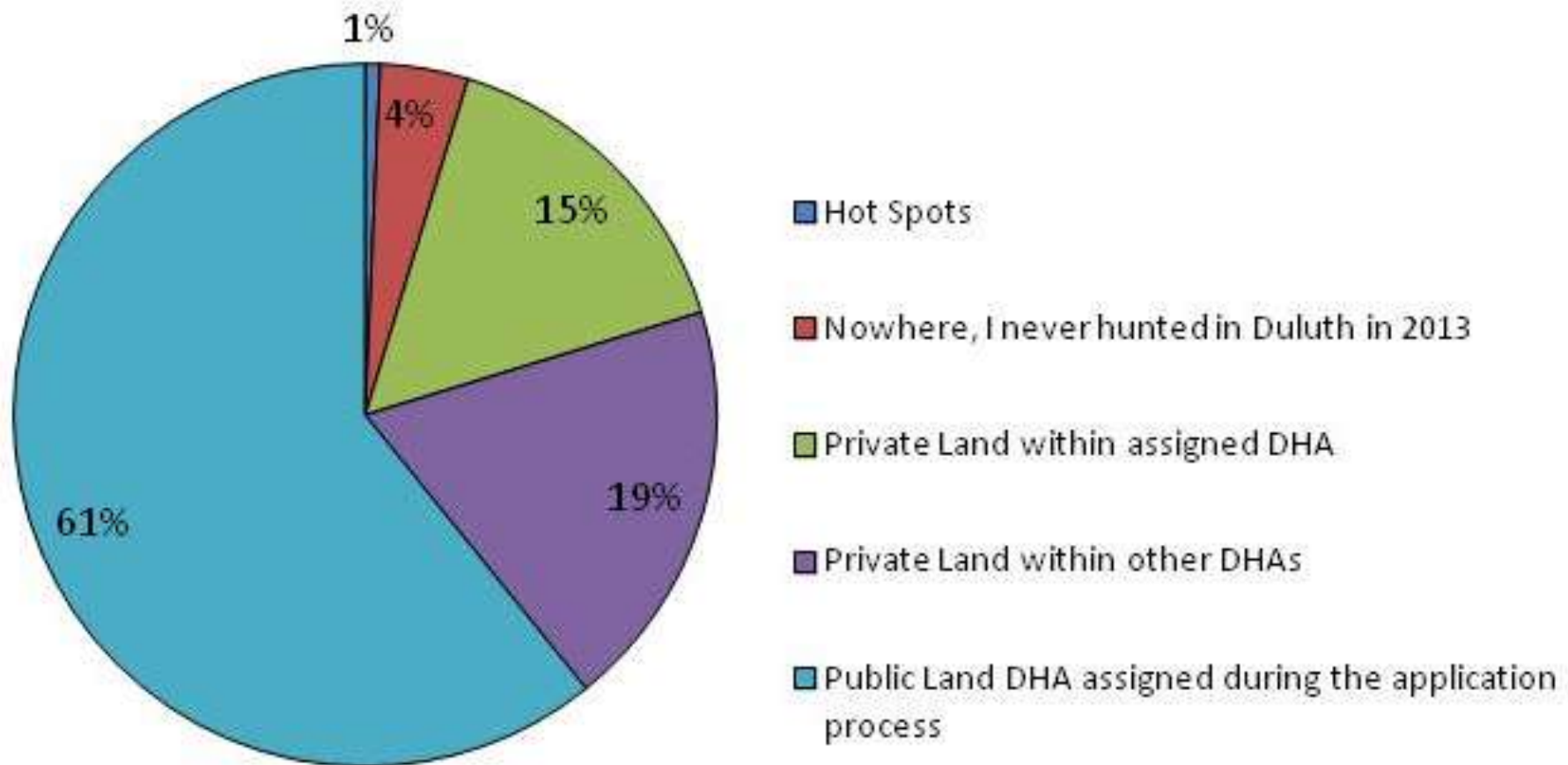
- Archery experience for our New Hunters was 8.3 ± 4.4 years of participating in this sport.
- For Returning hunters, average years of experience was 18.4 ± 1.9 .
- There were significant differences observed in these two means (averages) ($t = 4.396$, $P < 0.0001$), suggesting that more new hunters may be getting involved in this wonderful sport as a result of the opportunity to participate in the Duluth Hunt.
- This has been a great opportunity for recruitment into the sport.



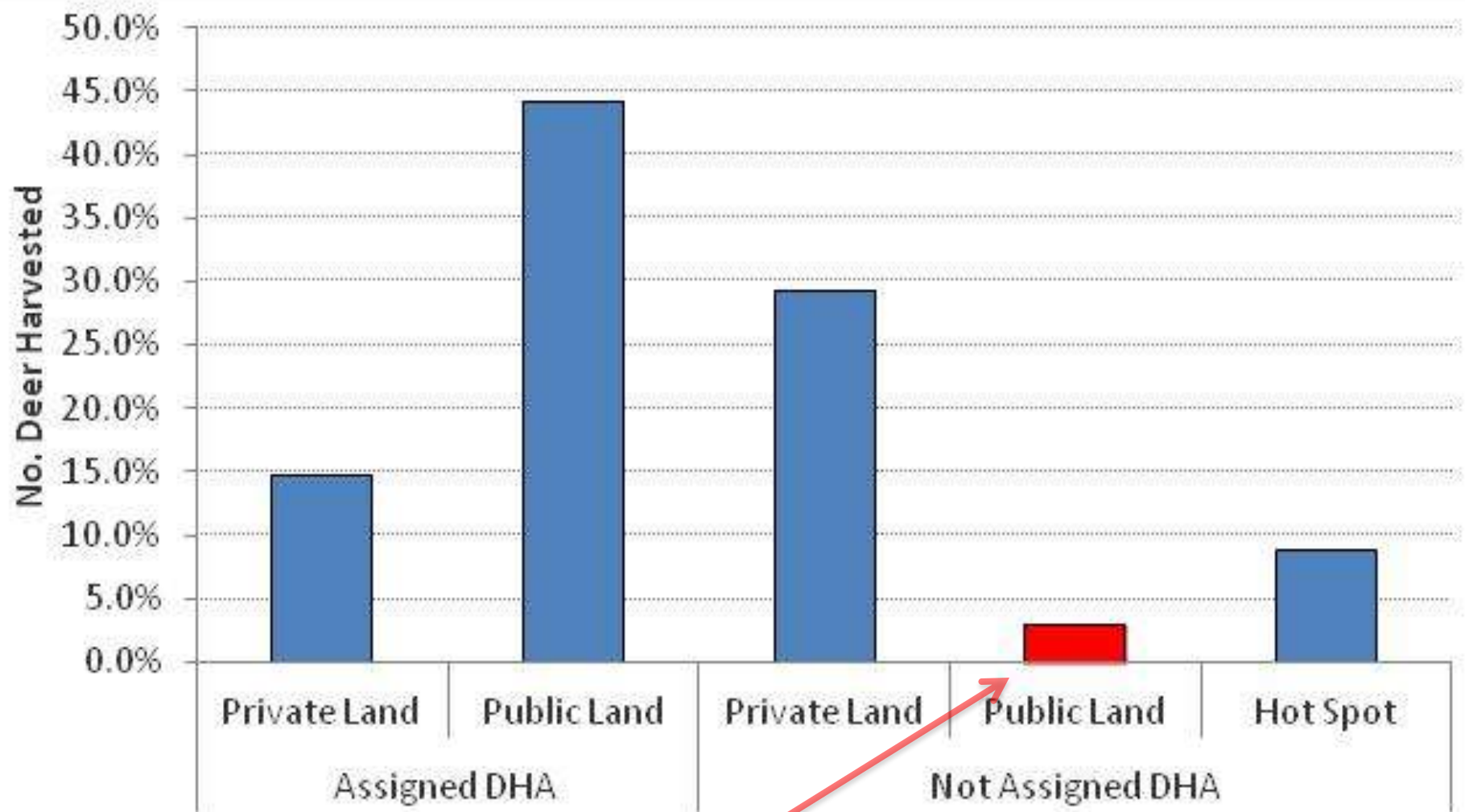
Average participation experience for Duluth hunters in 2013 was 5.4 ± 0.5 years. I'm encouraged that 30 of our survey participants have been Duluth hunters all 9 years of the hunt. So apathy in filling these surveys out and complying with all of the extra hunt rules of this urban management hunt hasn't affected everyone Yet!



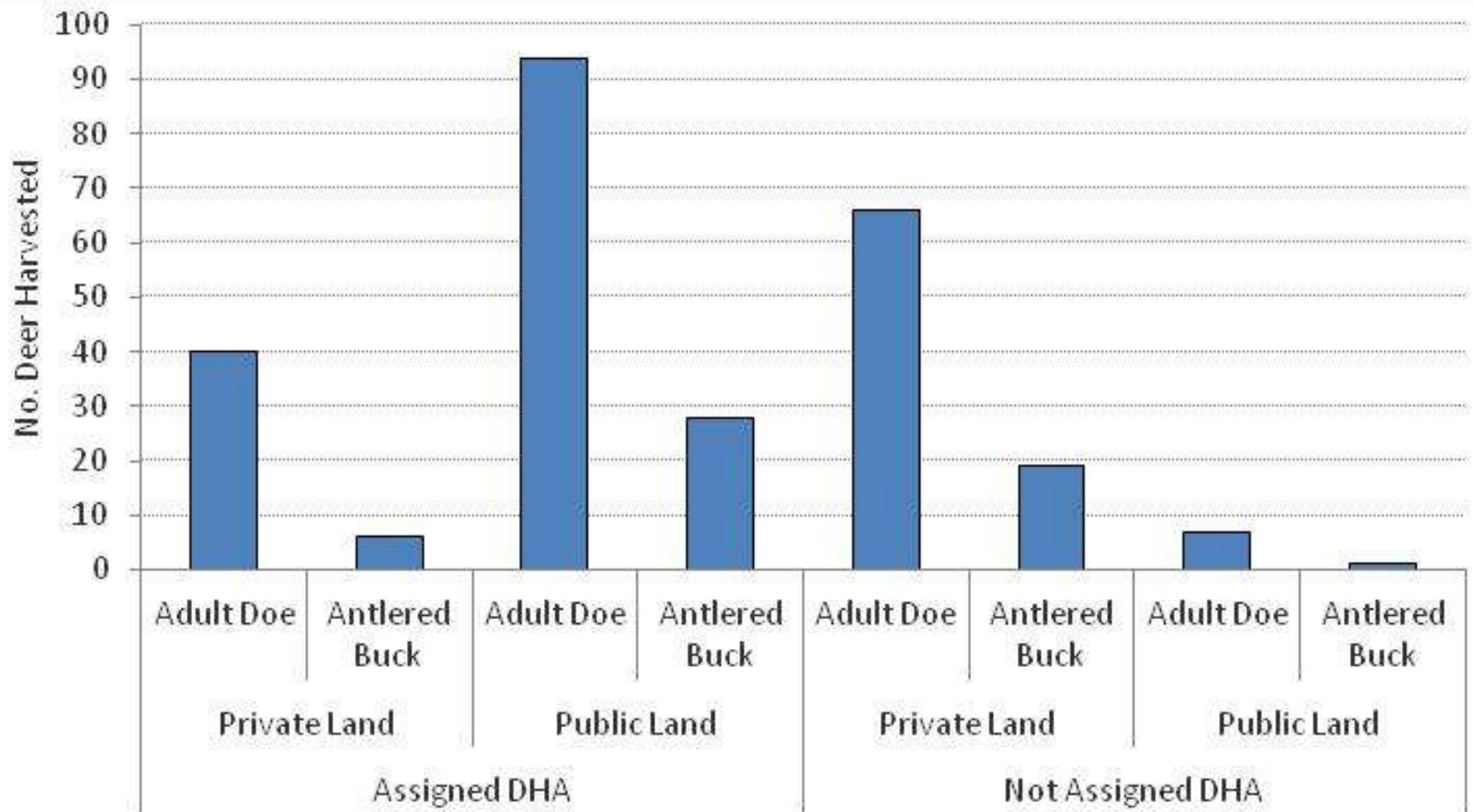
To gauge how avid our hunters are, respondents were asked to estimate the number of times they headed out into the woods to hunt. We have no data to compare this to (I know, can you believe it!! No stats here!). But anecdotally, it sure seems as though Duluth hunters spend a lot of time in the woods. Aren't we spoiled at this wonderful opportunity?



It appears as though DHA selection in the Lottery provides the majority of the hunting opportunities within Duluth, as 61% of respondents reported that their DHA was their most used hunting location. So please do show up in 2014, or send a proxy, or ask Bork to serve as your proxy. He has to be there anyways, no reason for everyone to waste a nice evening in July, right?



Further, I looked at harvest. Almost 45% of the harvest was from the public land DHA assigned during the Lottery. I'm not sure why hunters are hunting public lands on DHAs they were NOT assigned???

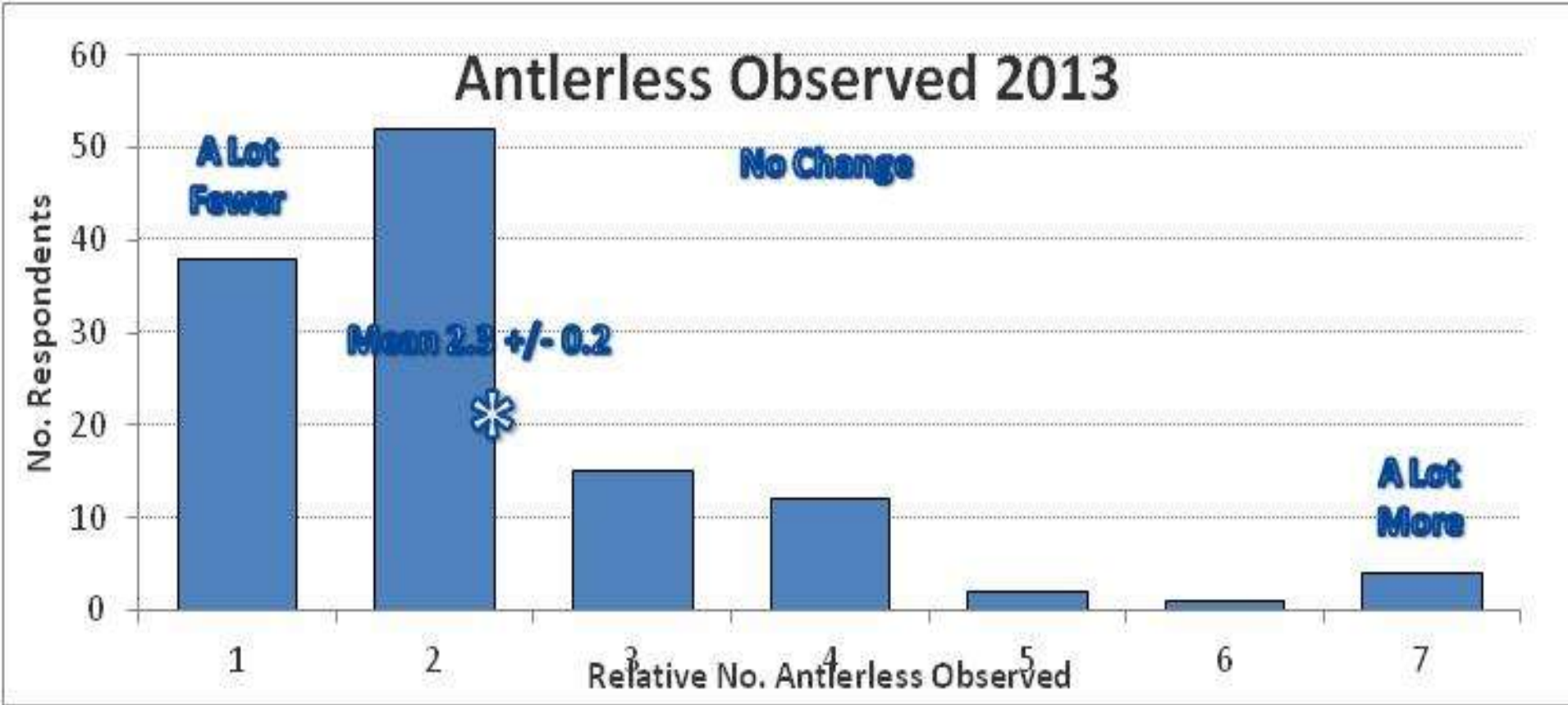


In evaluating the importance of the DHA and private lands, the majority of our doe and buck harvest does occur on public land DHAs, and not private hunting reserves, as many hunters mistakenly believe.

Relative Deer Numbers

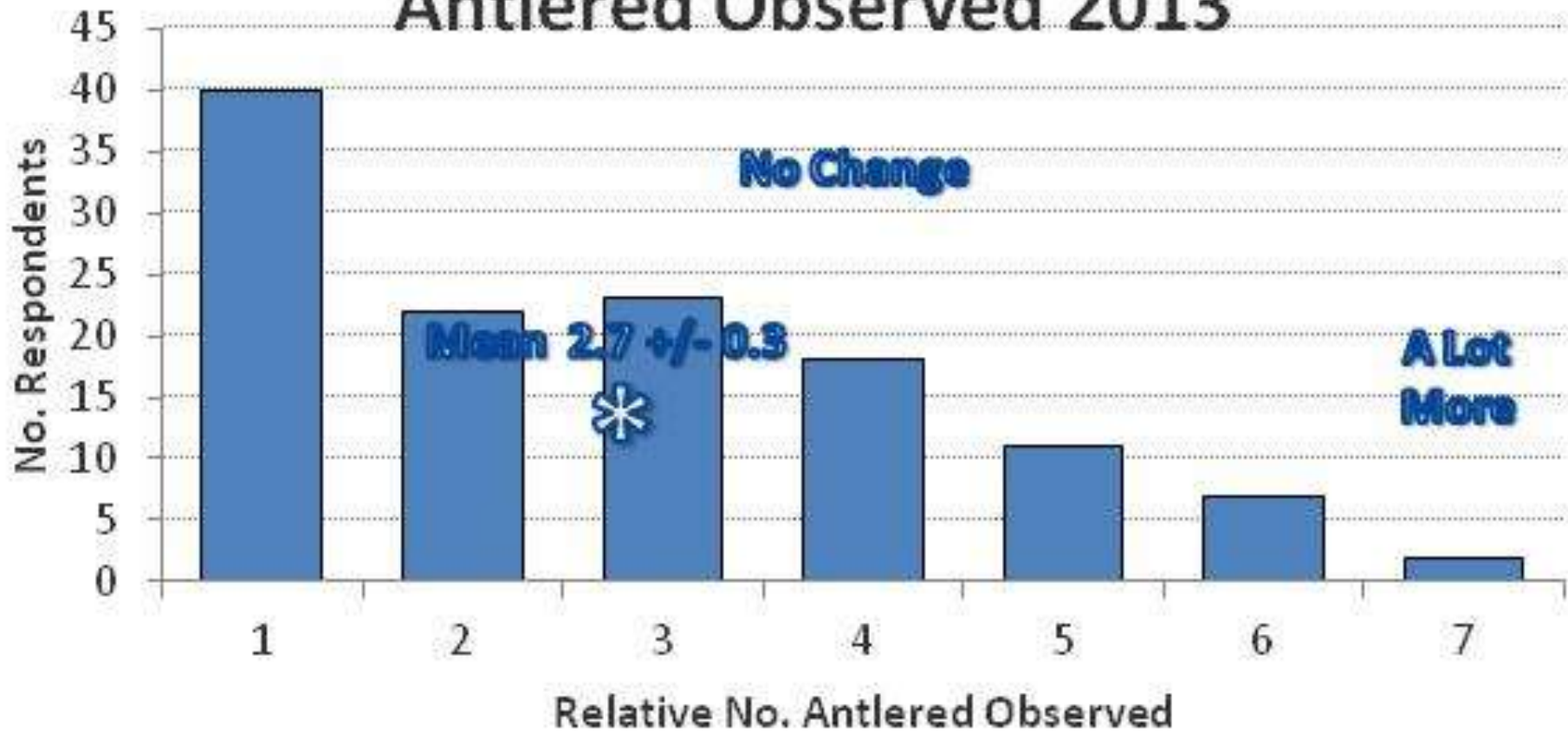
- Survey participants were asked to rate deer observations relative to previous years in the Duluth Hunt, on a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 being “a lot fewer deer observed” to 7 being “I saw a whole lot more deer relative to previous seasons”. 4 meant “no change in Deer Observed”.
- Obviously analysis was limited to Returning hunters only, that actually had this experience to draw from.

Photo Credit: P. Mannon

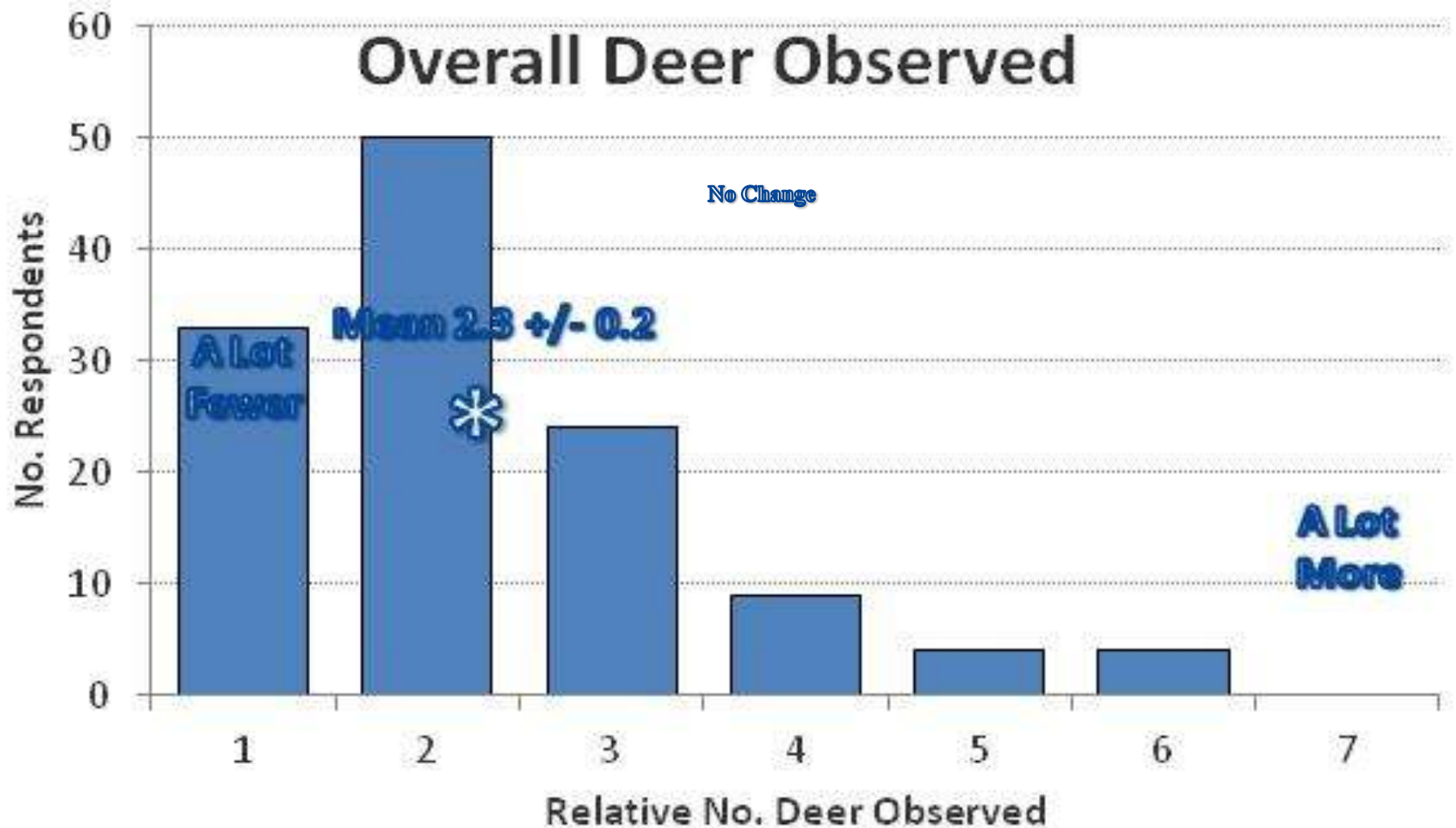


Returning hunters reported antlerless observations at 2.3 ± 0.2 antlerless deer, indicating that returning hunters saw far fewer individuals as in years past.

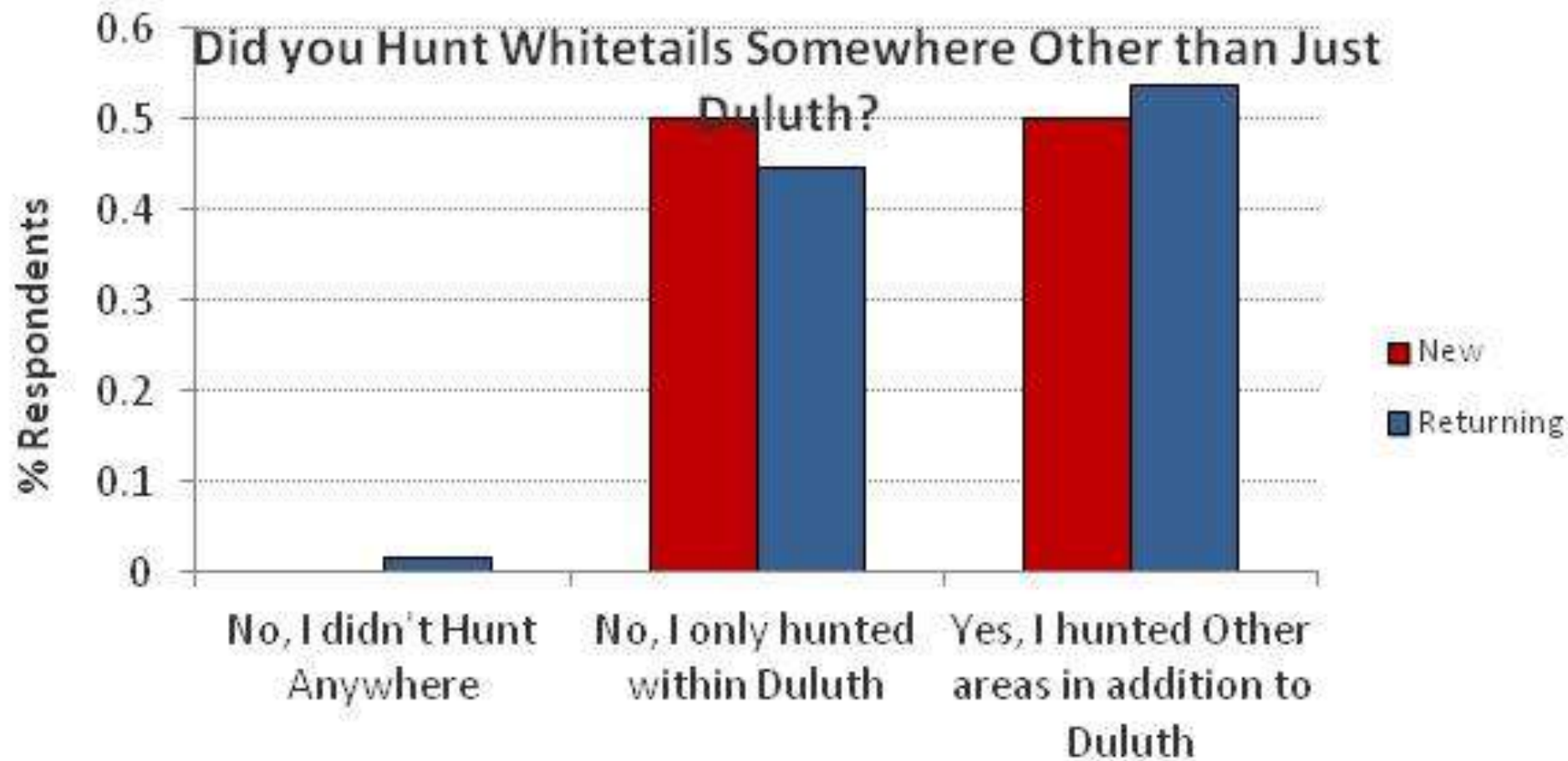
Antlered Observed 2013



Returning hunters reported that they saw 2.7 ± 0.3 antlered deer, indicating that returning hunters observed fewer antlered deer than in years past.

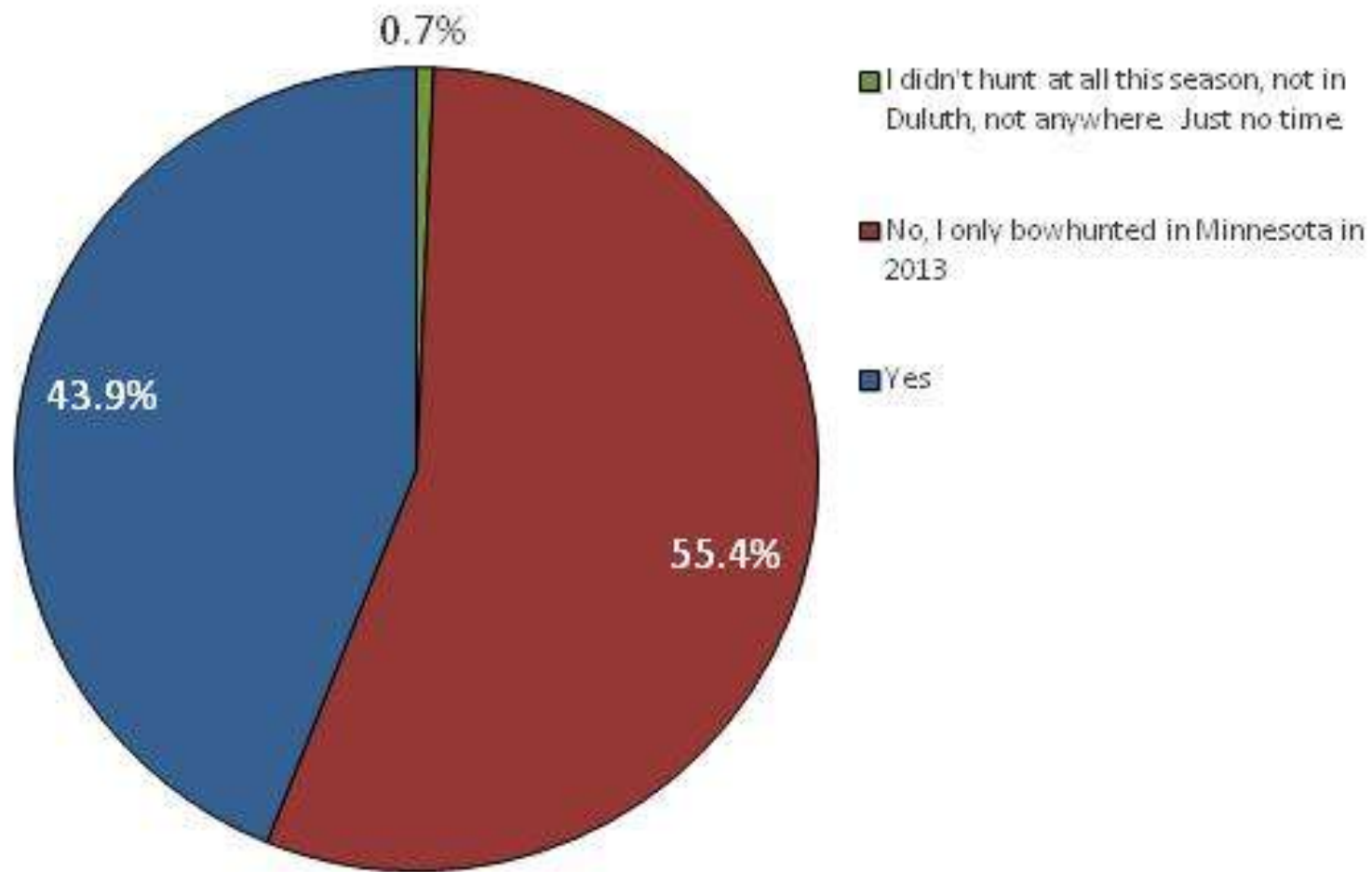


Average reported deer density was 2.3 ± 0.2 , indicating that returning hunters saw less deer than in years past.



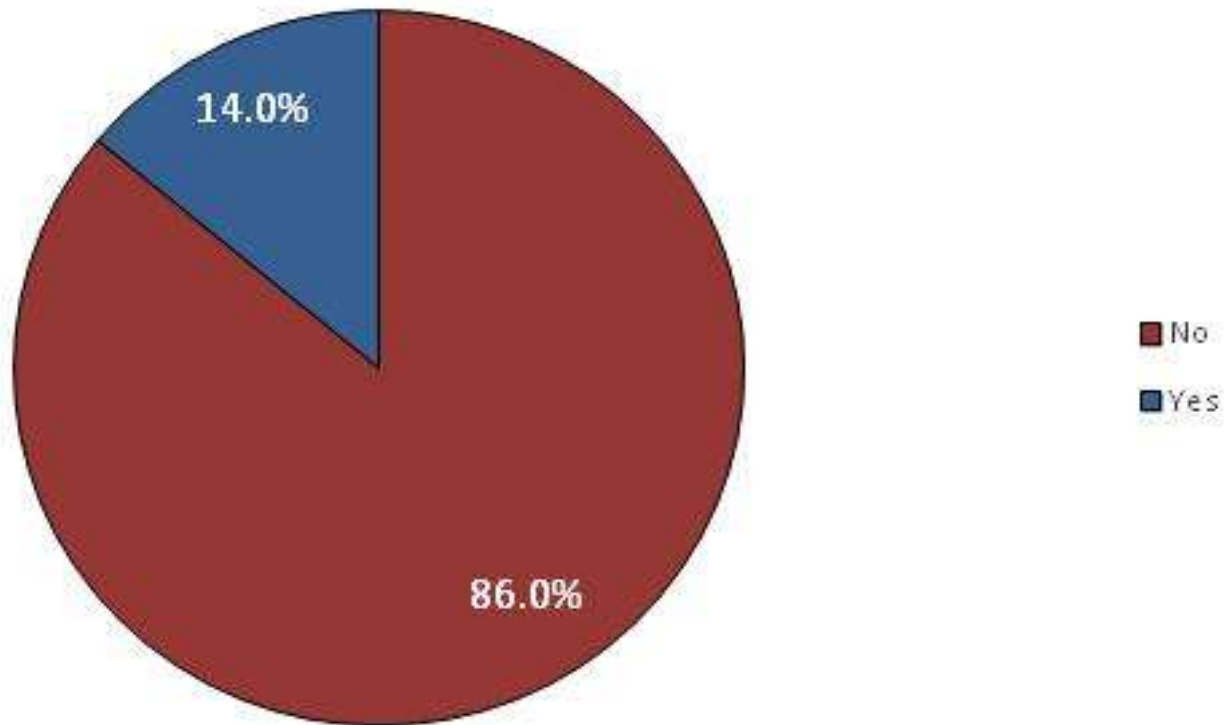
Even New hunters had other stand locations outside of Duluth that they spent time pursuing white-tailed deer in 2013.

Did you Participate in the MN State Firearms Season?



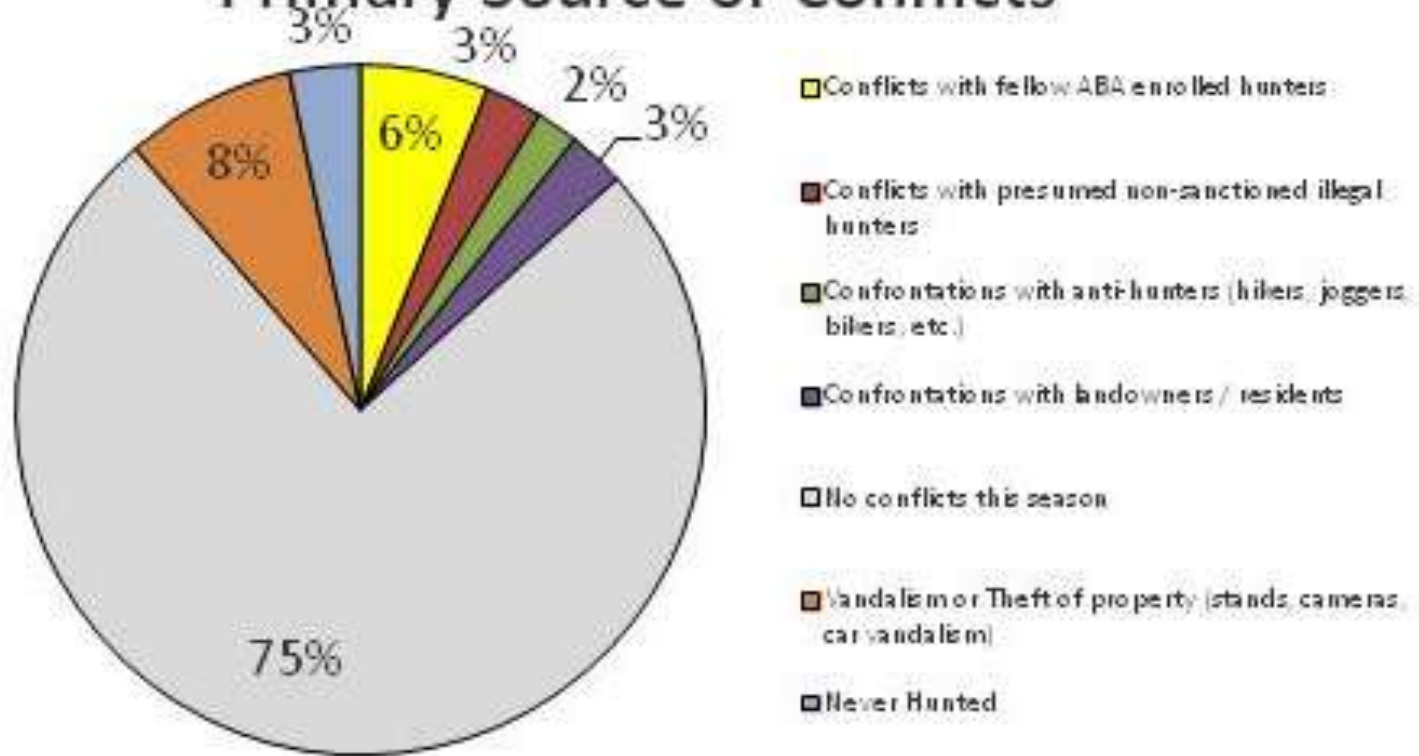
Survey participants were asked about their rifle hunting in 2013. Reason for this was that the ABA has been asked why our hunters don't shoot more bucks. We wondered if this was due to firearm hunting activity. 43.9% of our hunters reported participation in the MN State Firearms Season in 2013.

Did you Harvest a Buck in the MN State Firearms Season?



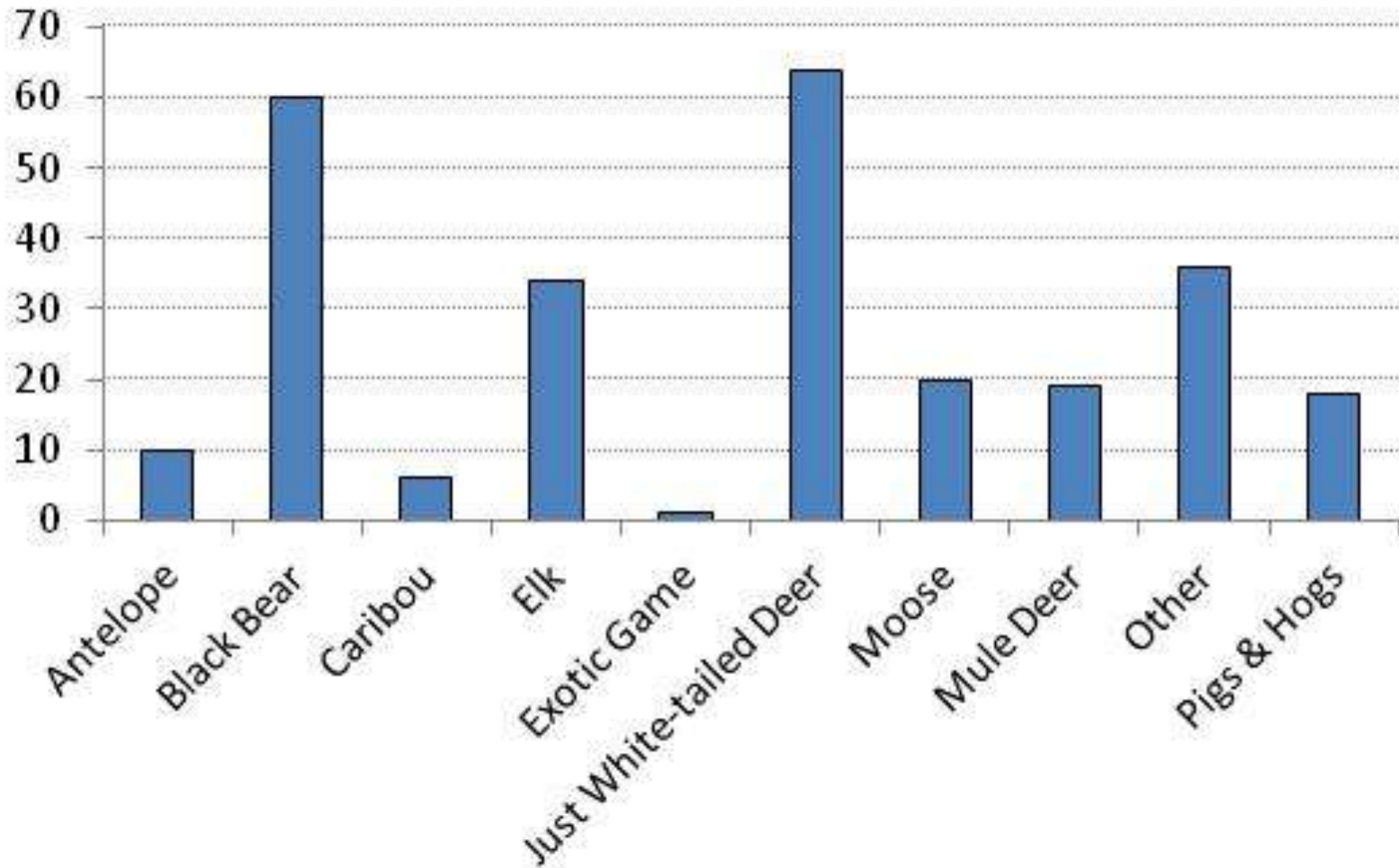
Of those hunters that participated in the State Firearms season, 14% reported harvesting a buck during the firearms season. Which is fine. This gives us some insight as to why more antlered individuals aren't harvested in Duluth.

Primary Source of Conflicts



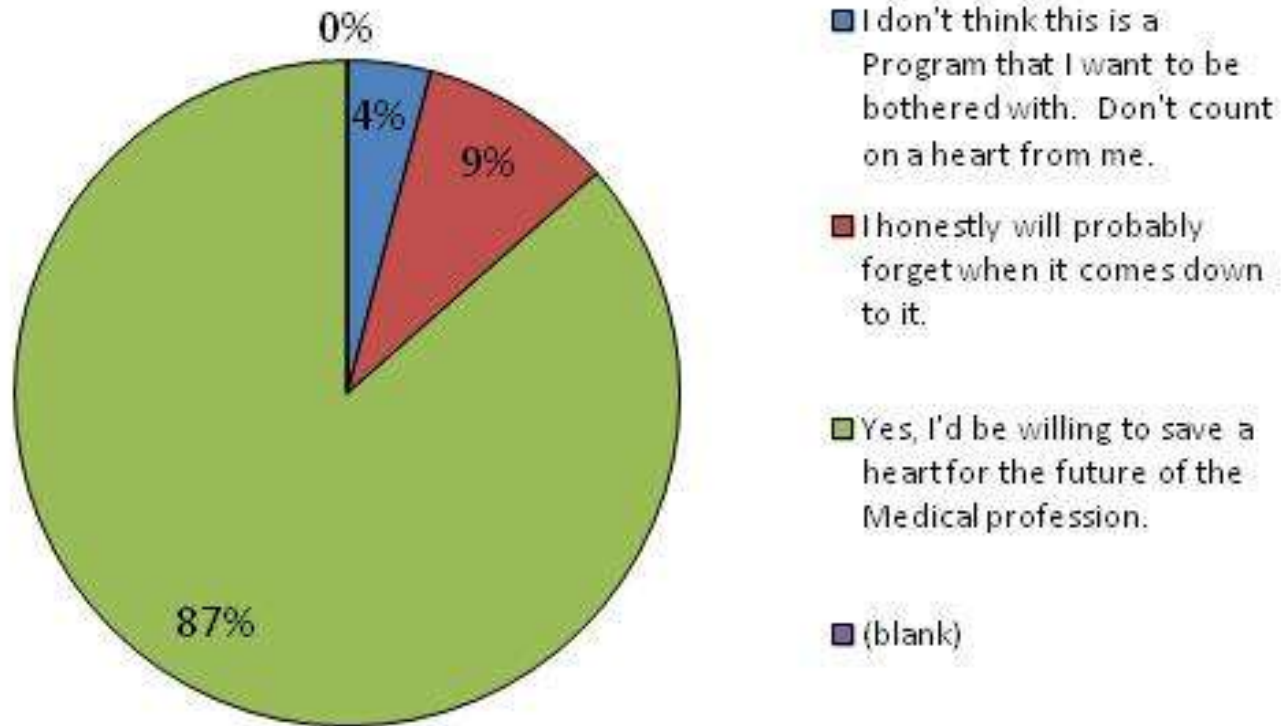
75% of respondents reported zero incidents in the woods in 2013. 3% reported issues with presumed non-ABA hunters. The Board can't do anything about that. You need to contact Duluth PD when you run into these hunters. But 6% of you reported having problems with other ABA hunters. You were instructed at Orientation Night to play nicely with each other. Please do so in 2014! This value really should be very close to 0%.

Other Species Bowhunted



Duluth bowhunters appear to have a lot of collective bowhunting experience for game other than just Duluth deer.

Would you save a Heart in 2014 for UMD?

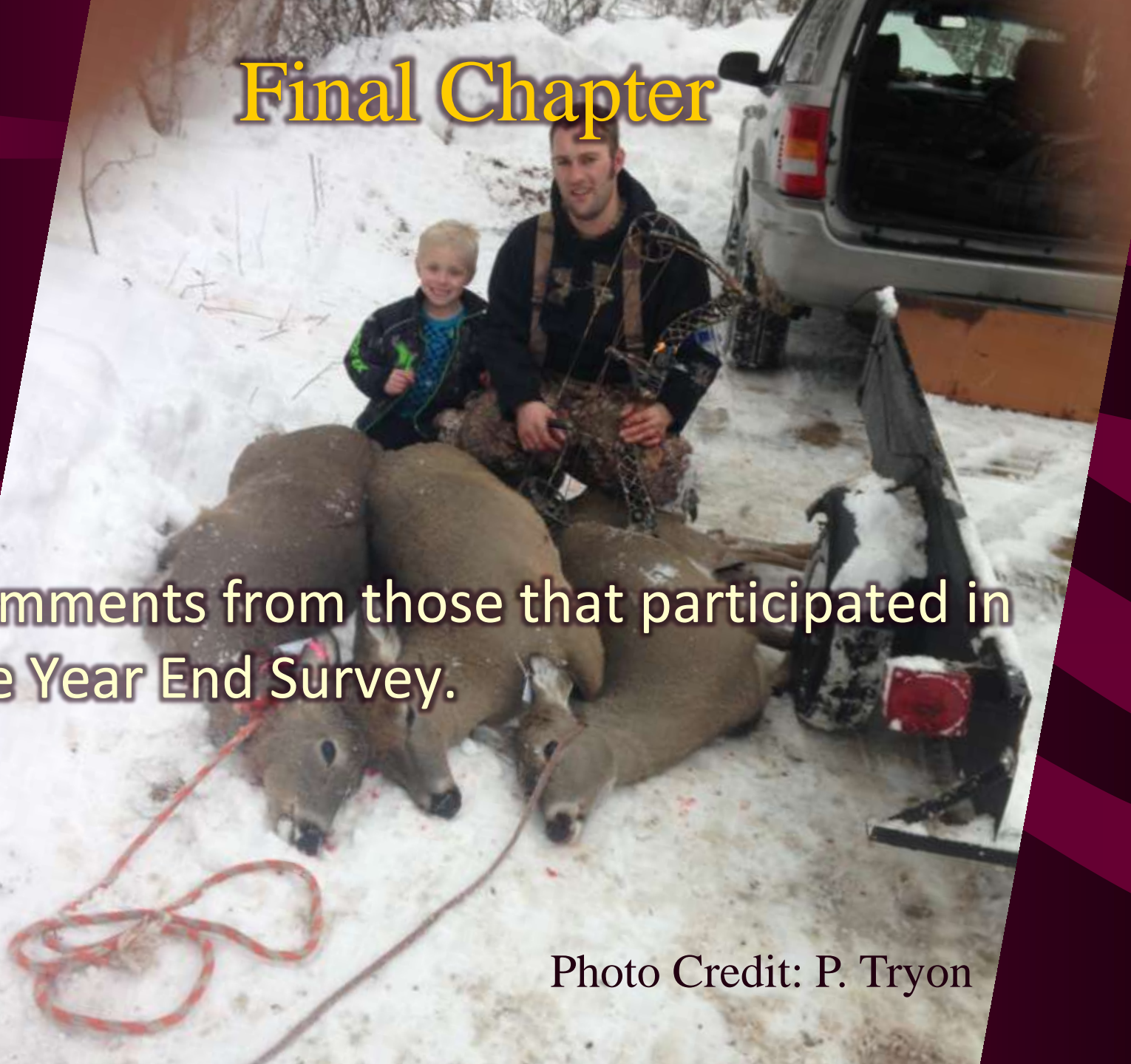


As you know, the UMD Medical School has requested hearts from us for the past three years. Fresh, frozen hearts have “significantly” finer detail in the veins and structures than do preserved hearts. But it has seemed that interest from our hunters has waned. The ABA wanted to gauge interest prior to committing to doing this again in 2014. Perhaps we will still commit. Thanks!

Final Chapter

- Comments from those that participated in the Year End Survey.

Photo Credit: P. Tryon



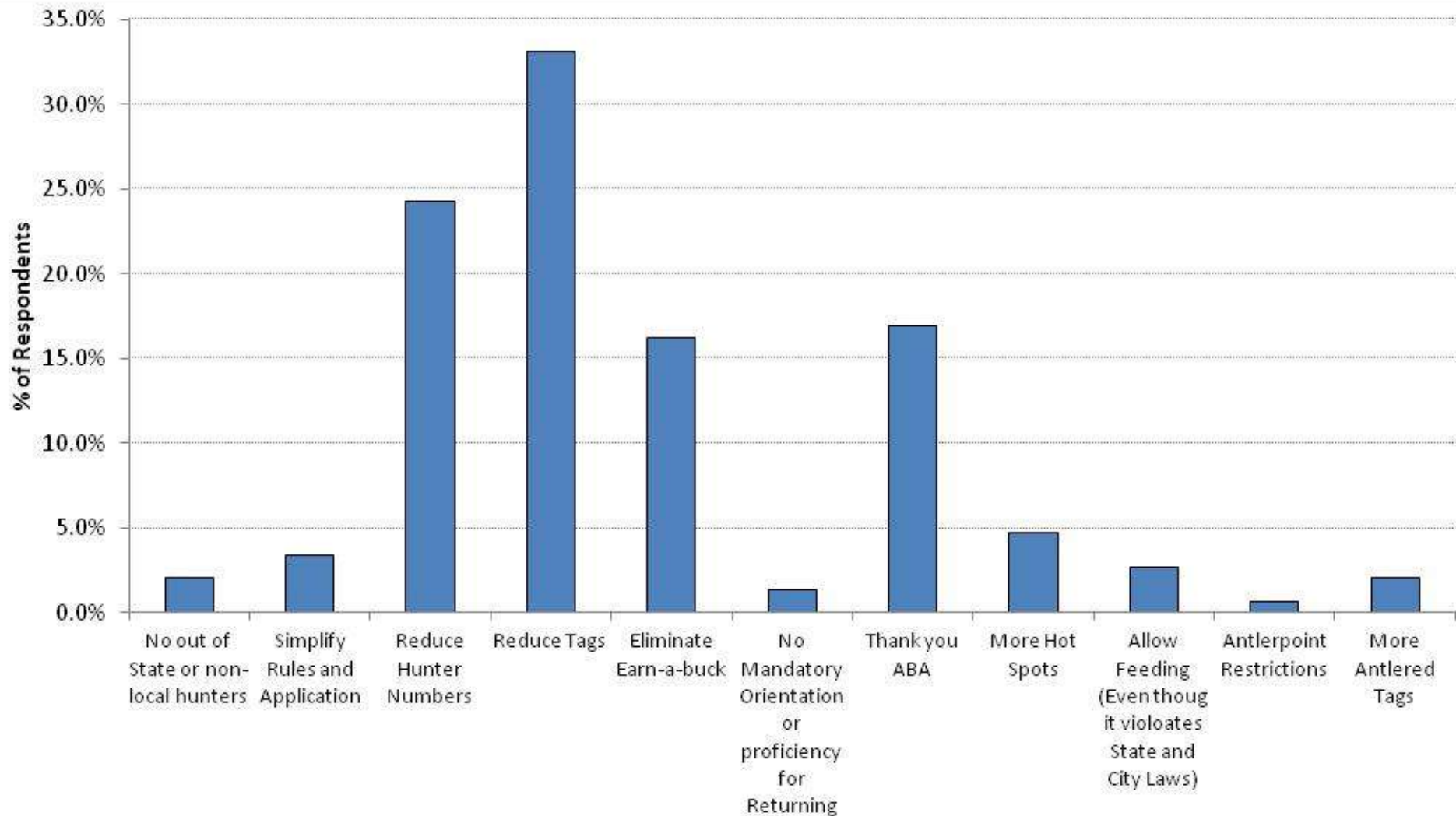
Comments from the Masses:

You all were given the opportunity to comment on whatever you wanted. The question was worded:

“Do you have any ideas or suggestions for improving the Hunt in 2014?”

Well, as can be expected, the responses were all over the place. Many were useful. The following pages show the general category of the responses, along with the number of hunters that made the suggestion. For some, the ABA Board has commented. Others don't warrant an official ABA position.

These comments are presented in no particular order. Enjoy!



This is just a summary of comments received. More than 15% are appreciative of the work the ABA Board does. More than 30% believe that tag numbers need to be reduced in 2014. Almost 25% say we have too many hunters. Limited this hunt to Duluth residents only was also mentioned by a few.

Duluthians vs. Locals

- Since several individuals perhaps think that non-Duluth residents ought not be allowed to participate, here's a summary of what non-Duluth Locals have harvested:
 - Duluth Resident Hunters harvested 0.9 ± 0.1 antlerless deer
 - Non-resident Local Hunters harvested 1.0 ± 0.2 Antlerless
 - No significant differences between the two groups ($t = 0.8449$, $P = 0.4001$)

COMMENT	NO. RESPONSES	ABA RESPONSE
Unlimited Antlerless Tags / Hunter	1	MNDNR decision, not an ABA nor City one.
No Out-of-State or Non-Local Hunters should be allowed. They don't pay taxes.	3	Yea, but they shoot deer, and lots of them.
Use bonus tags on smaller bucks, 4 to 6 pointers.	1	MNDNR decision, not an ABA nor City one.
Simplify Rules and Application Process	5	Rules are simpler outside of the Urban Hunt. To maintain order, rules are required.

Open up Hot Spots to more Hunters / More Hot Spots	7	Please have landowners email the ABA to request a consultation.
Eliminate Earn-a-Buck	24	Comments made that NOT a State rule, so it shouldn't be a City one. Also folks seem to believe that there's too many bucks running around the city.
More Buck Tags Per Hunter	3	ABA can't do anything about a MN State Statute.
Too Many Hunters	36	Discussions are pending.
Good Job, Thank you!	25	Thank you.

Enforce ABA Rules Consistently. Lots of rules being broken.	1	We Try. Please contact us directly to discuss where we have fallen short. Call us WHEN rules are being broken. This is your responsibility to report infractions.
Reduce deer / antlerless tags	49	MNDNR will probably keep Intensive Management for zone 182. Nothing the ABA can do. Prepare yourselves mentally for difficult hunting as we continue to reduce the herd as we promised the City and the residents. Besides, you are free to harvest or not harvest multiple antlerless deer. No one says you MUST shoot all four of your bonus antlerless deer. This is a personal decision. And really, aren't you already tired of the ABA micro-managing this hunt?

Allow hunting from Ground (<i>no blind, just stalking</i>), or allow deer drives	2	City Ordinance, not an ABA decision. Be safe, and stay in your tree.
No Proficiency for Returning Hunters	2	City Ordinance, not an ABA decision.
Hunters “claim” spots with stands and then NEVER actually hunt those stands	1	Comment received from an HC. Perhaps hunters need to communicate better with HCs
No Orientation or Proficiency Testing for Returning Hunters	2	So, you all want to just stop over to Bork’s or Lockett’s, and have them individually hand out 390+ maps and Rules manuals at your convenience? Talk about a waste of time, our time! Perhaps there are other options that the Board will look into.

Successful hunters should have preference for next year's Lottery, or no lottery at all	2	Yea, THAT won't result in tons of phantom deer being registered on 31 December so that EVERYONE gets "preference"!
Bork's an arrogant pain, and I'm tired of him! His graphs are useless.	1	Sorry. But my job is open to the first person that wants it. I'm not married to this task. Man up, call me, and we can discuss your future on the Board and your data management skills.
Antler Point restrictions	1	This isn't a buck management hunt. Hunters are allowed to choose how they punch their tags. We have too many rules as it is.
Hunt application process too complicated	5	We know. It's not too difficult outside of the City.

Landowners automatically get DHA that their property is located in	2	Comments also included NOT requiring landowners to get a permit or follow the Rules. But this is a City Ordinance.
Allow youth to shoot a buck without a first doe.	1	City Ordinance, not an ABA decision.
Returning hunters should automatically get their DHA next season	1	What about all of the hunters that did NOT get their first choice? Kind of screws them, don't you think?
Allow Baiting	4	ABA can't do anything about a MN State Statute. Plus it's a City Ordinance that you can't feed deer.

Questions?

- If they're legitimate questions, ask Bork
- If you just want to vent or complain about the Hunt, please direct that to infoduluthhunt@gmail.com

