



DEER HUNTER SURVEY FOR THE 2019 PELHAM HUNT AT QUABBIN RESERVOIR

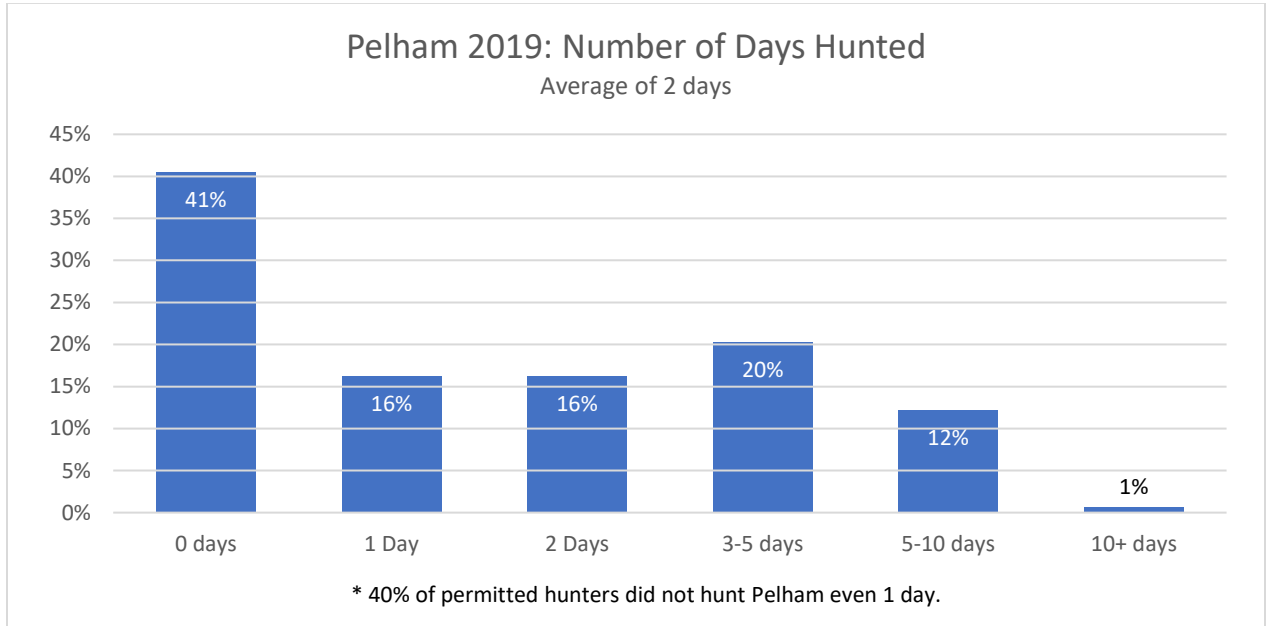
DCR DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION
NATURAL RESOURCE SECTION
JANUARY 2020

PELHAM DEER HUNTER SURVEY RESULTS

Total Number of Responses to the Survey: 148

Question 1:

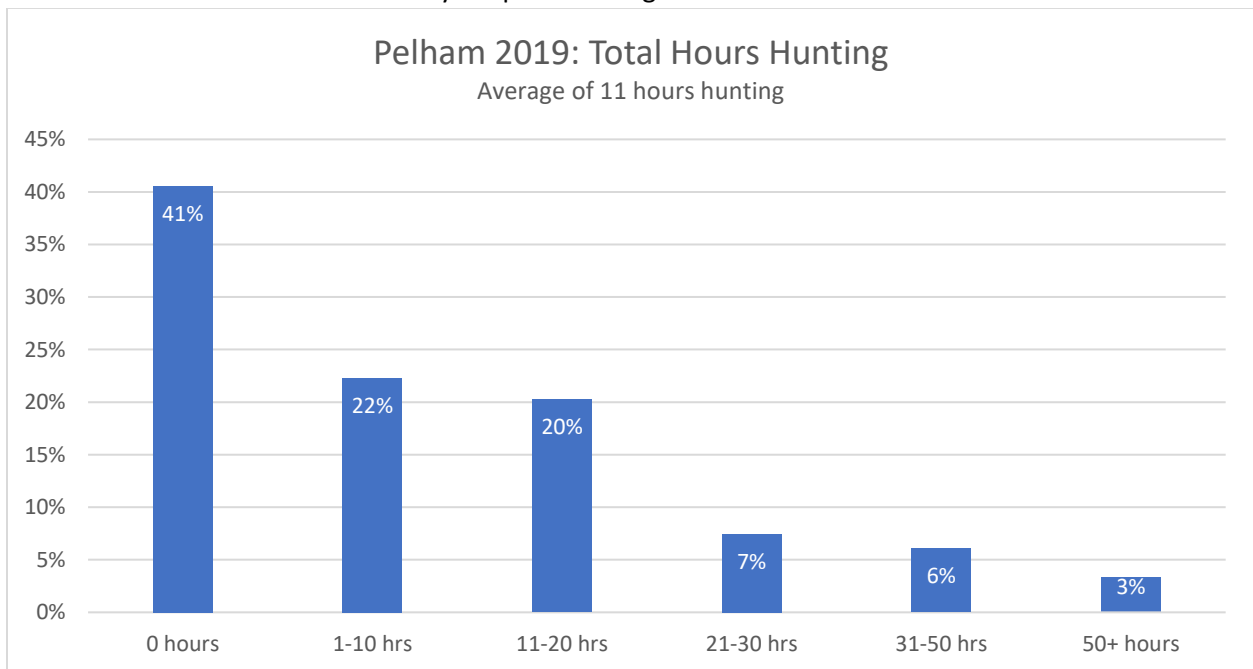
Please tell us the number of DAYS you got out to hunt Pelham in 2019



Number of Responses: 148

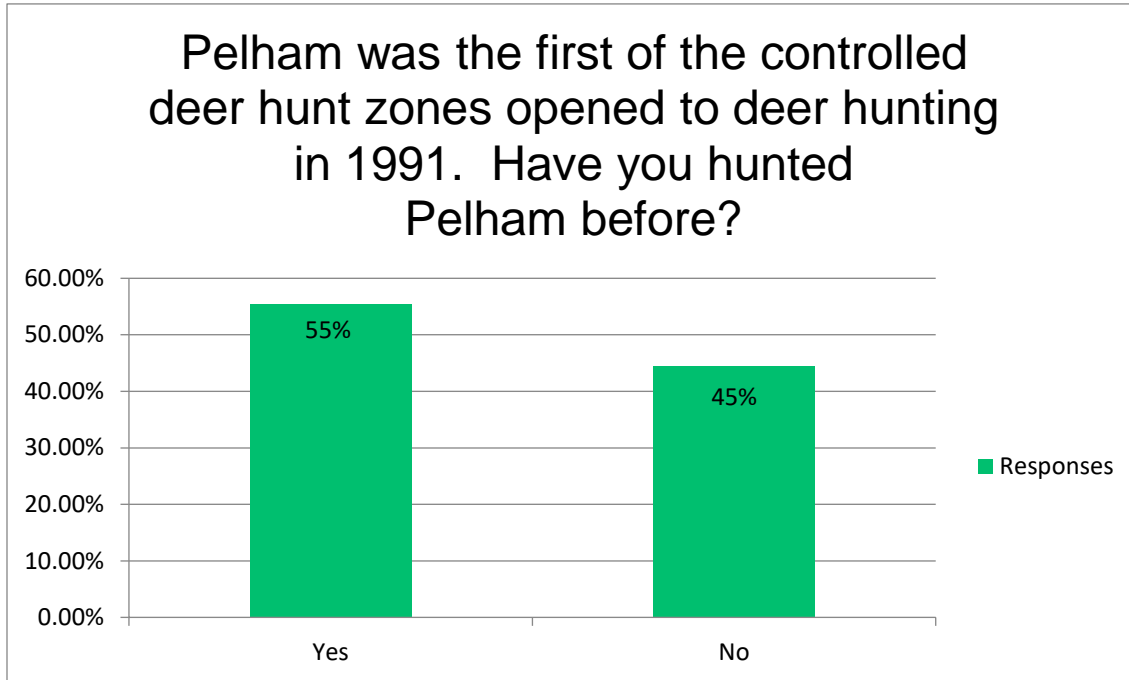
Question 2:

Please tell us the number of HOURS you spent hunting Pelham in 2019



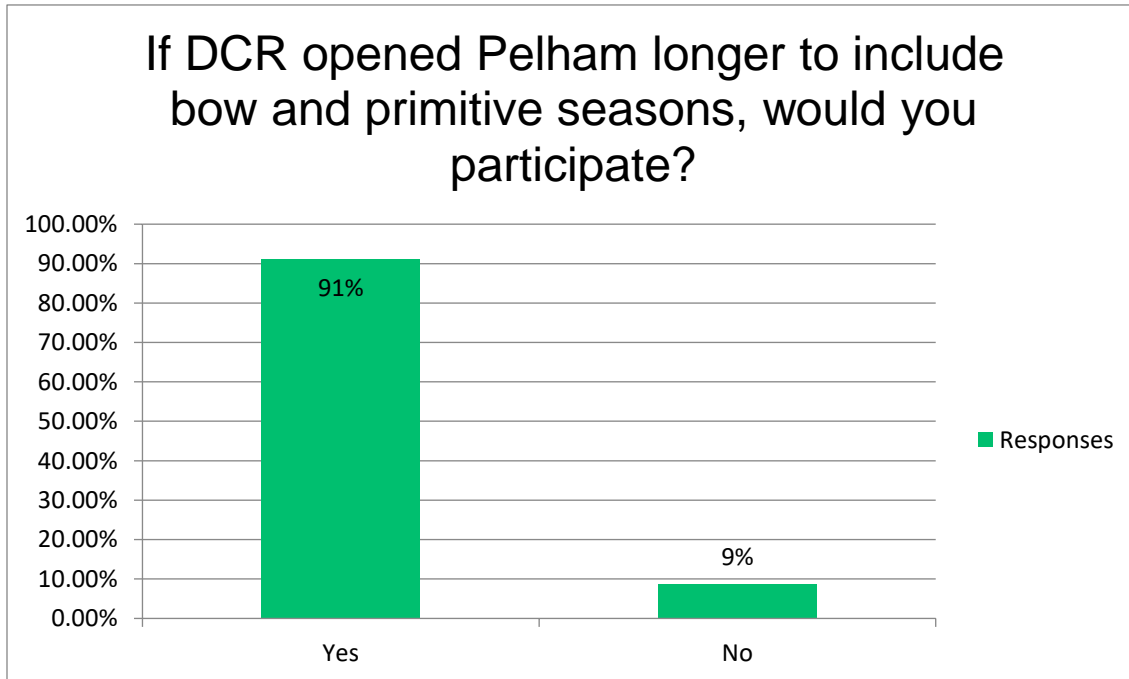
Number of Responses: 148

Question 3:



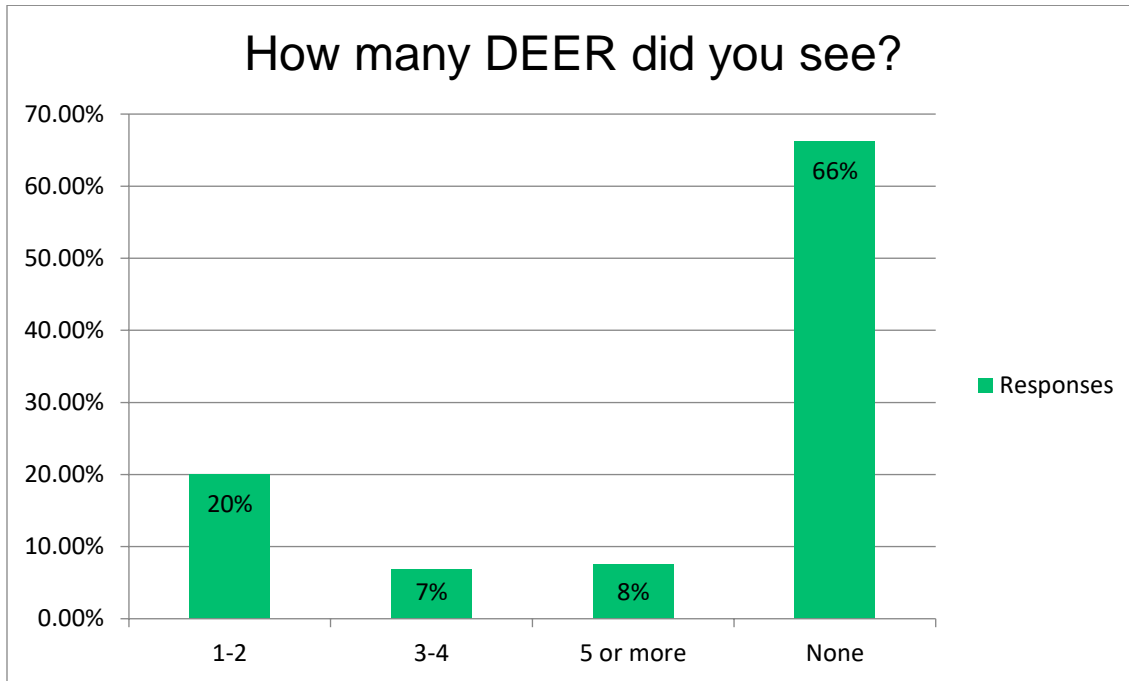
Number of Responses: 146

Question 4:



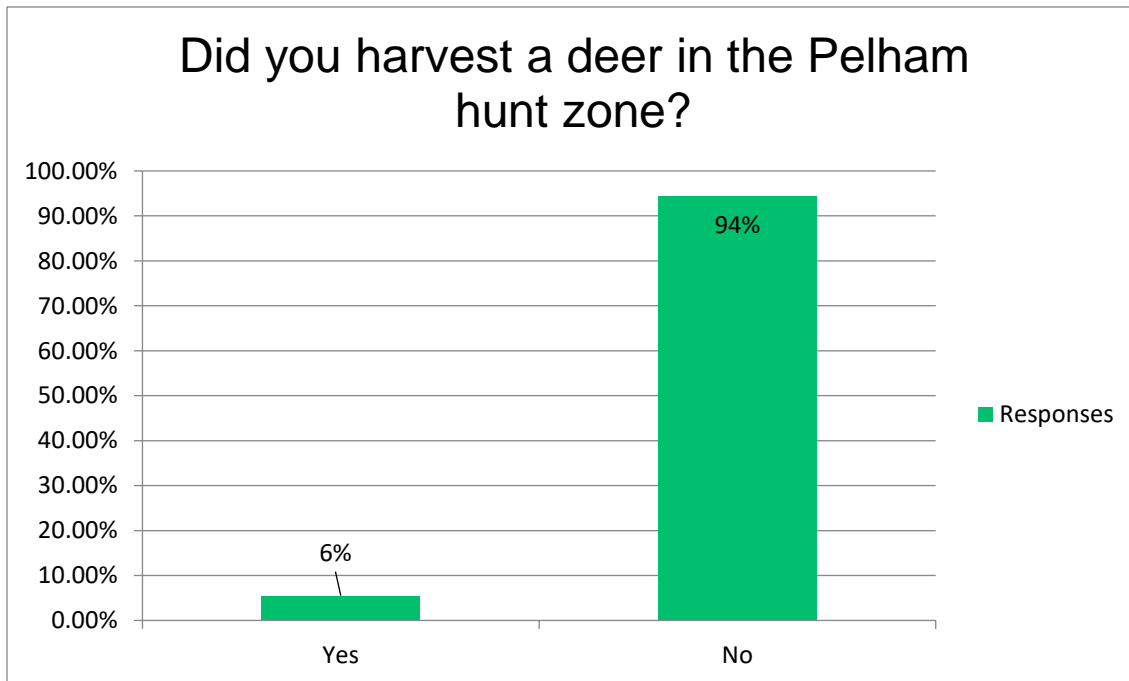
Number of Responses: 147

Question 5:



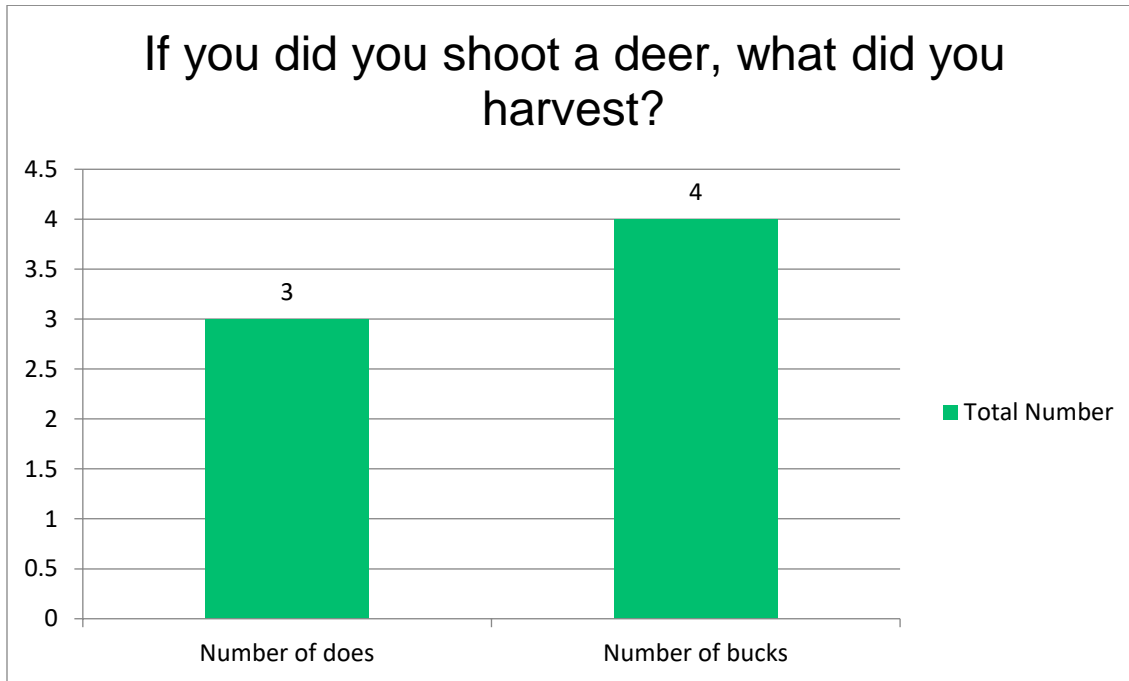
Number of Responses: 145

Question 6:



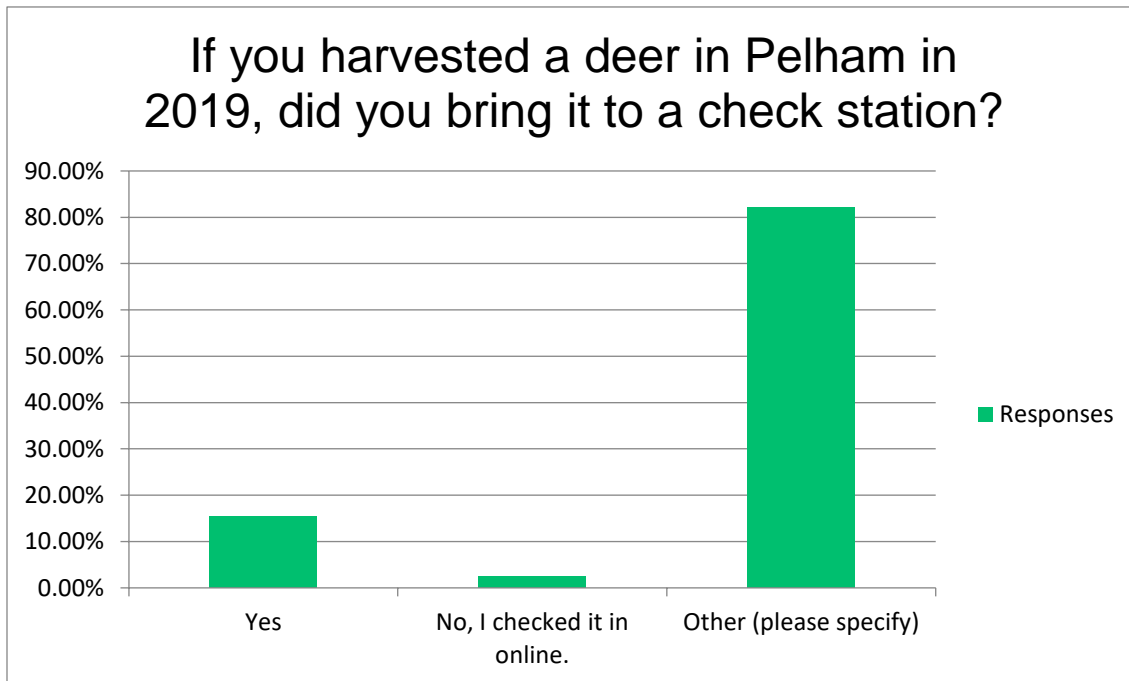
Number of Responses: 145

Question 7:



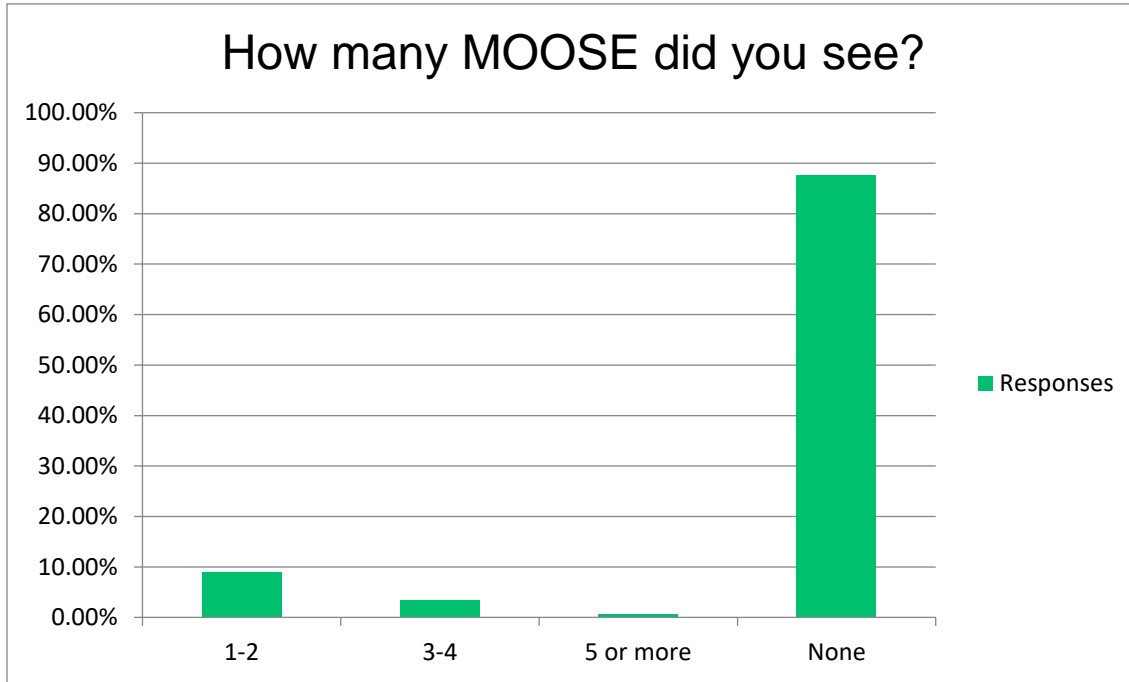
Total Responses: 58

Question 8:



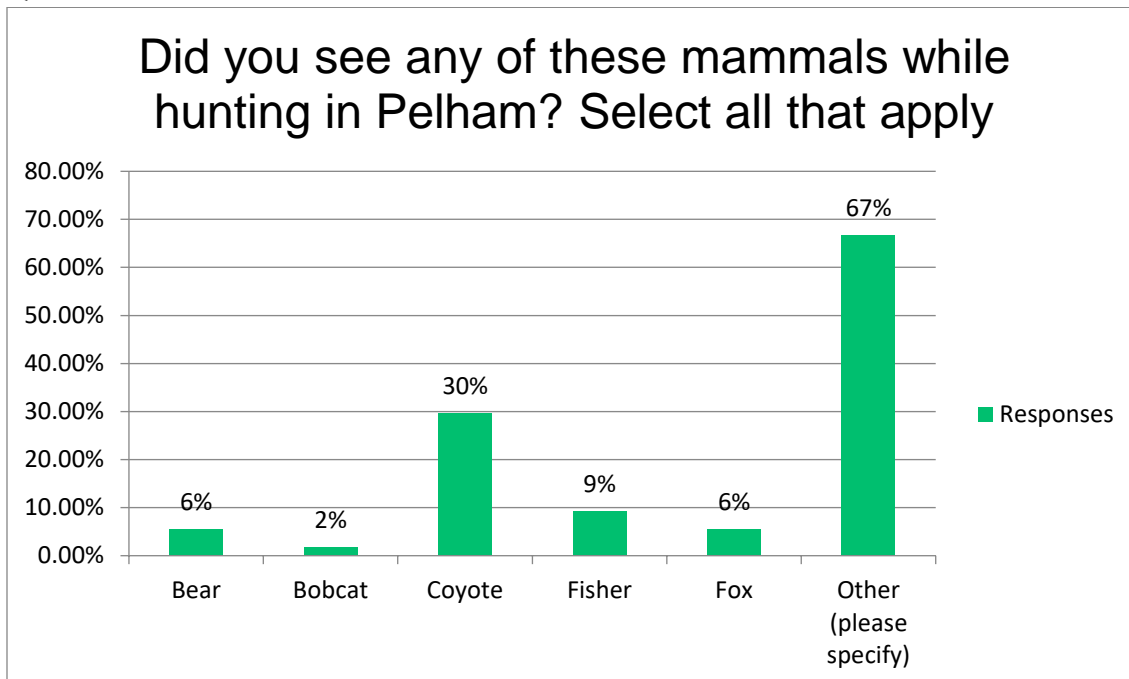
Total Responses: 39

Question 9:



Total Responses: 145

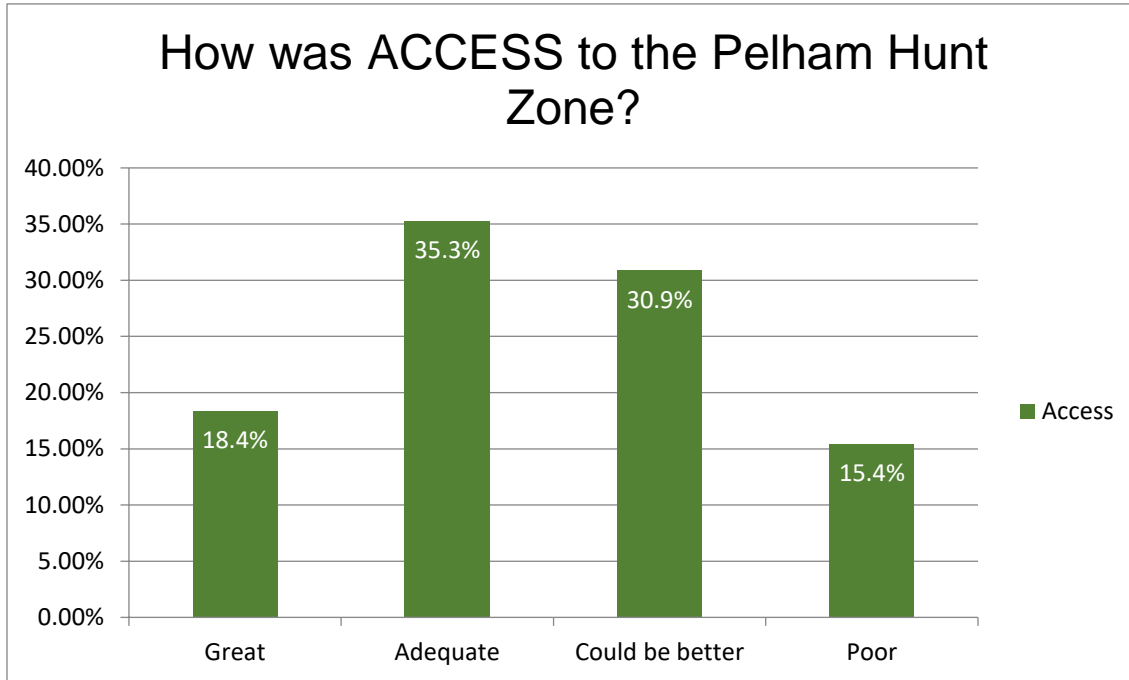
Question 10:



Total Responses: 54

*Species listed in the OTHER category: Porcupine, squirrels, tracks

Question 11:



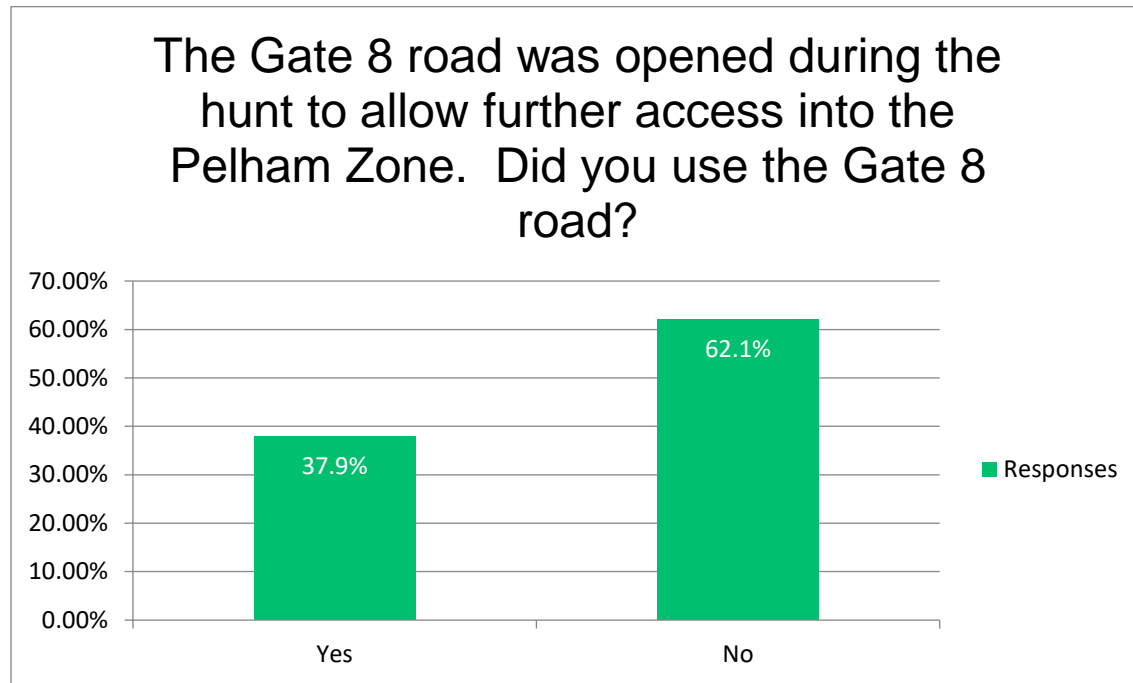
Number of responses: 136

Comments about Pelham Access (Question 11):

- did not hunt
- While there are many gates to hunt in the parking at many of these gates is limited, especially if we are to avoid blocking the gate. I was unaware that Gate 8 would be open although it is possible that I overlooked this announcement.
- heard it's a long walk in, I was injured so I didn't attend
- we didn't know we could drive in so we didn't hunt because I am hp
- Don't let vehicles of any kind in
- Access was too hard for me with all the snow, if I could have drove in further then I would have hunted it
- Open the gates & let us park closer than we've been allowed. If it snows plow the roads even if it's just to help with walking in.
- N/A
- I don't think it would have hurt to open the road all the way down to the gate 8 boat launch. To far to walk for some older hunters who are the ones that have time to hunt because they are retired.
- N/A
- Didn't go
- Didn't hunt
- Did not manage to hunt this year
- too much snow or ice to hunt safely
- Snow plowing more of the roads when heavy snow. Access to more of the roads with my vehicle. Took a lot of work and 3-4 hours to drag out harvested deer that was shot by another hunter.
- Snow caused some parking problems

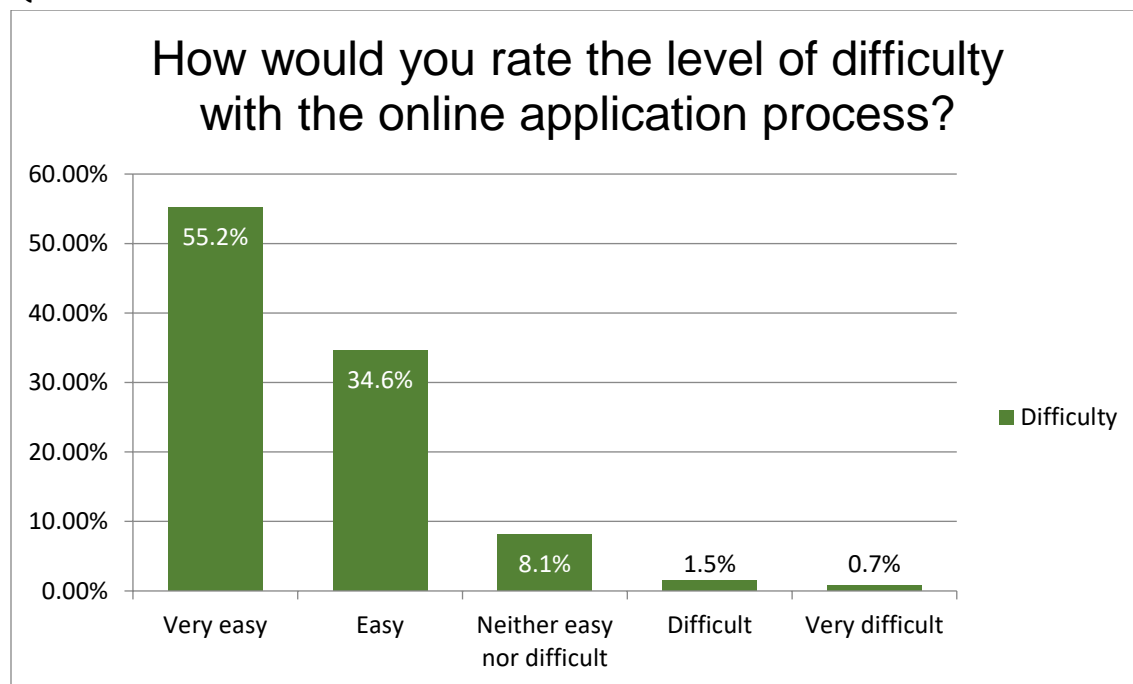
- Some gates had very limited parking space, though that was probably because of the heavy snow on the day that I went
- did not hunt
- Due to the snow at the time, I understand. But we prefer access the old way. Two days full access.
- Too much effort to access good areas
- no input
- The snow
- Gate 8 access was only open to the power lines on the Saturday I visited. The other two days I had to park up above and walk the 1/4 mile to the power lines. Also- there is a lot more road and woods beyond the power lines. Why is that not accessible? All we succeed in doing was pushing the deer closer to the reservoir. beyond t
- Heavy snow and none of the parking areas were plowed the first few days. I had access to only one site and had to drive into high snow.
- Hard to hunt far with gates being blocked off
- did not access
- After the snow, hard to park anywhere
- Snow made it difficult to hunt and is the reason I passed on the opportunity
- i had no info about access, did not know how to access or park truck
- Too much snow 1st week and rain the 2nd weekend
- There was 20" of snow when I hunted for 2 days, so walking was difficult.
- if no snow roads should be open to access different areas especially for those with bad legs
- Did not hunt
- i checked poor because not all of us can walk long distance. after a survey of the map and where i wanted to hunt. a walk from any gate would have been to difficult. and how would anyone drag a deer that far?
- Pelham is too big of an area to only park at the gate then walk in. I wish that I could drive on the main gated road to as far as allowable to the water edge.
- Due to the heavy snow parking was a chore.
- Need to be able to drive all roads
- Big snow made parking and access difficult
- First two days of the season provided thigh high snow drifts. Thankful for plow service on the 2nd day.
- Snow was an issue... did not know Gate 8 was open. Never received any info from DCR previous to the hunt on axis details.
- Deep snow was a factor.
- The first day the road at gate 8 was not plowed below the guard shack so walking beyond that was difficult. Other than that, it was great.
- I did not hunt
- I like having to hike in. It rewards those willing to work a little more.
- Could not participate checked off adequate only because something had to be checked
- Too much snowfall to access
- Never went
- Our party includes hunter with bad back, needs to drive to hunt area.
- No comment

Question 12:



Number of Responses: 132

Question 13:



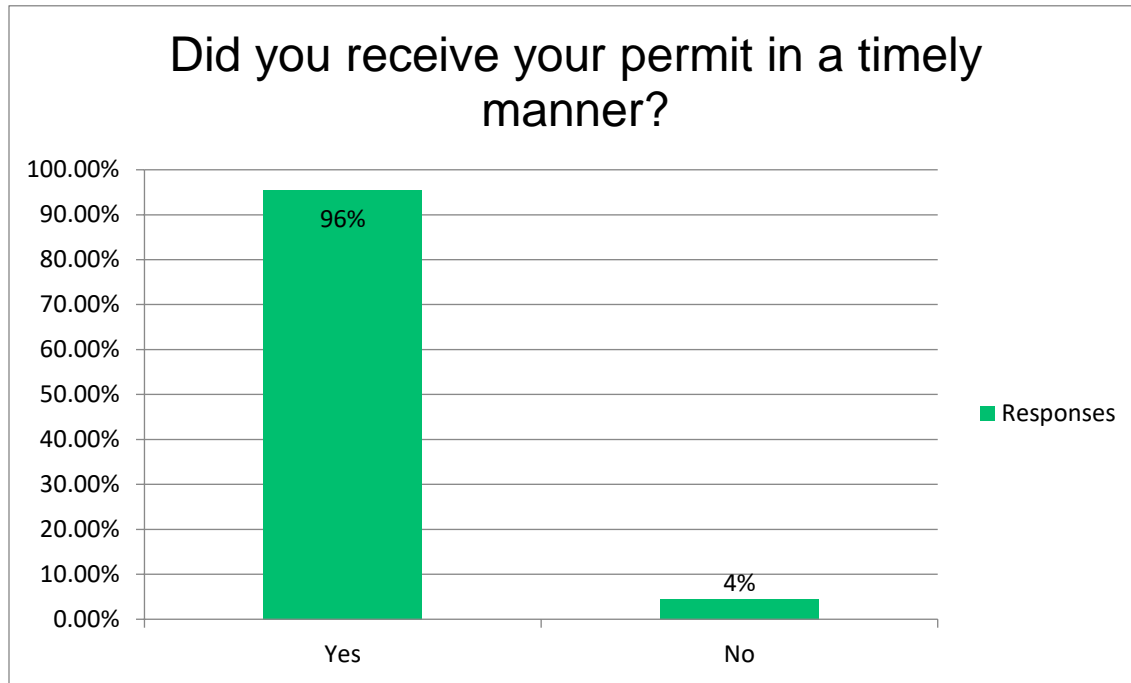
Number of Responses: 136

Comments regarding the Application Process:

- The DCR did a great job with the application process! Thank you!
- My darling wife did it "ALL"
- I didn't realize you could apply for a doe permit, prior to the hunt. Did I miss it?

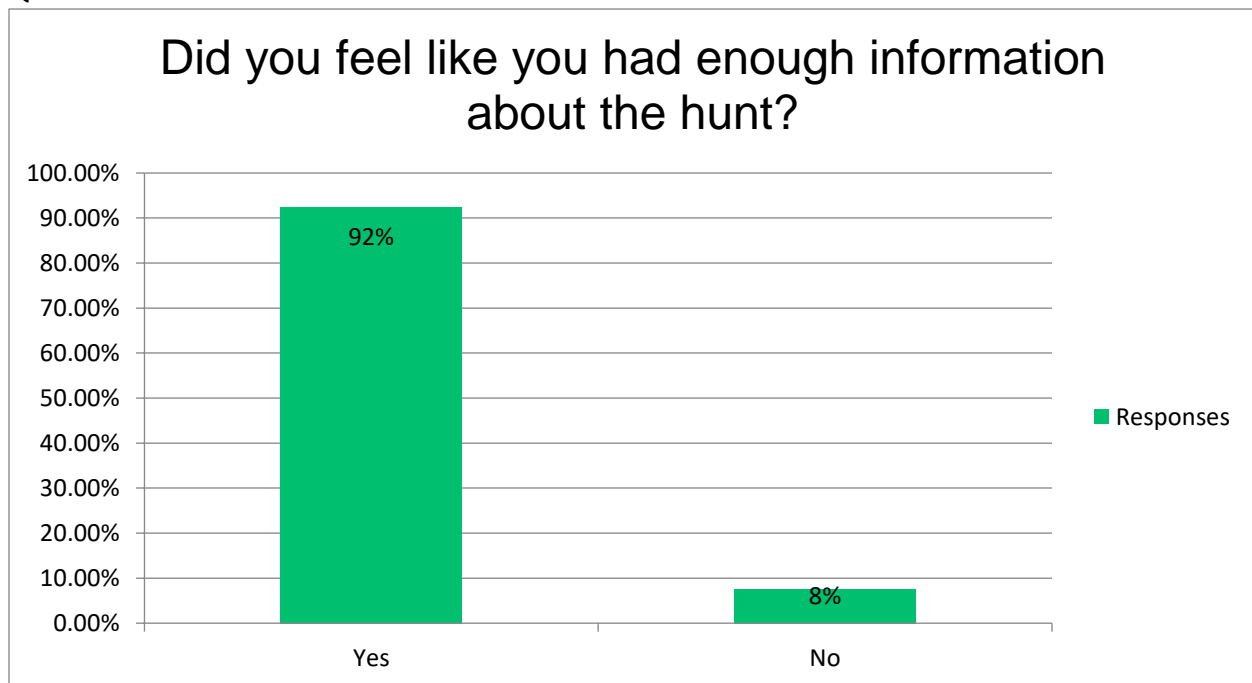
- I wish access of roads was as easy
- A lot of people like myself do not use a computer and must have some fill out for us.
- Had some problems with it

Question 14:



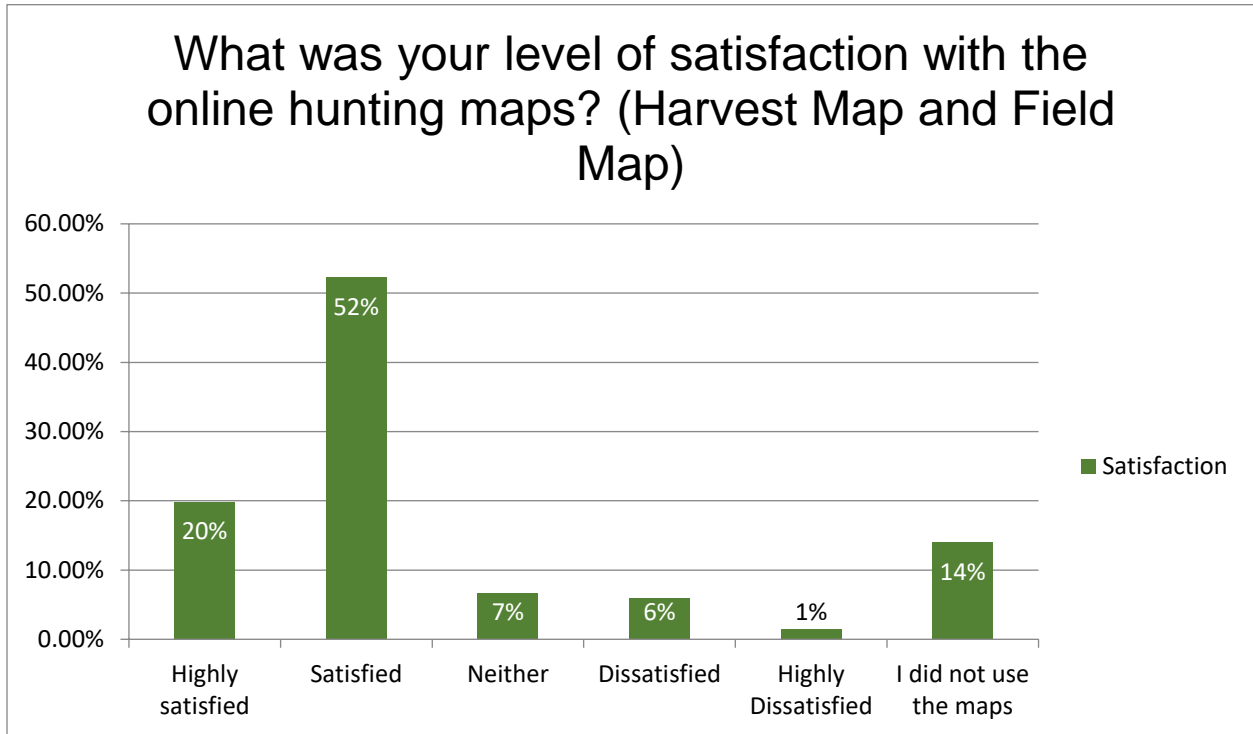
Number of Responses: 134

Question 15:



Number of Responses: 132

Question 16:

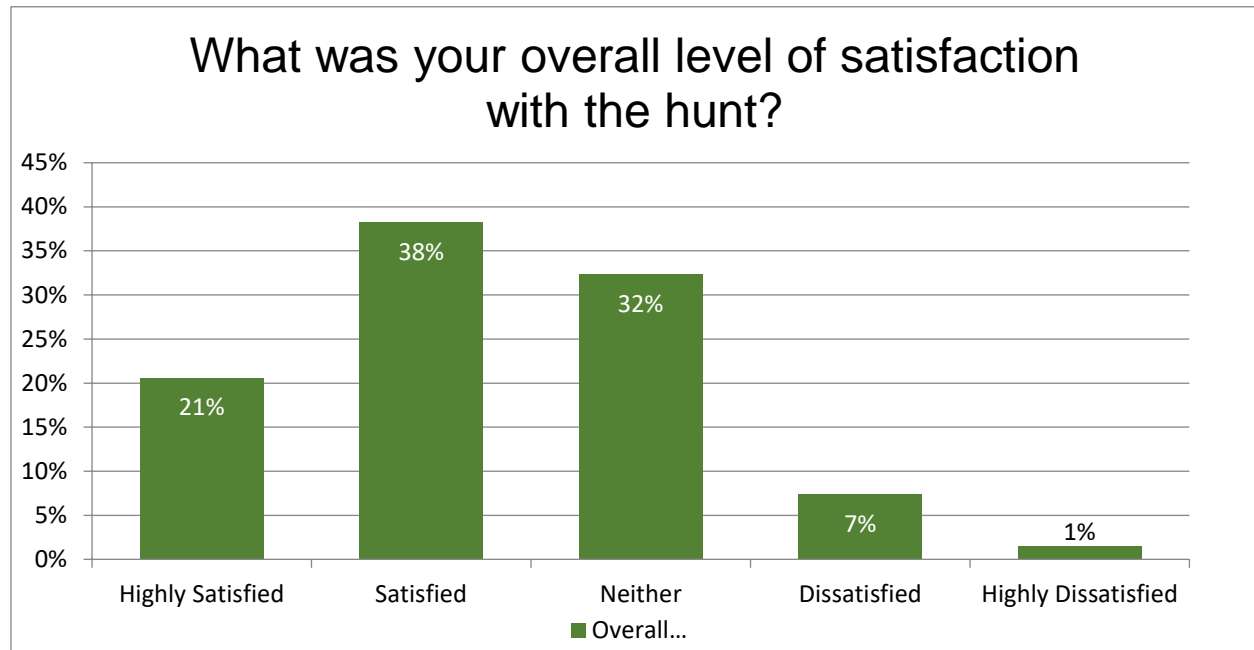


Number of Responses: 136

Comments about the Pelham hunting maps:

- The Explorer for ArcGIS app and the maps available for the DCR hunts are absolutely amazing!
- Found it hard to use
- Maybe just highlight in solid color areas that can be hunted and leave out all other areas such as Quabbin hunt zones out of the map. So just put Quabbin Reservoir on map and highlight areas only pertaining to the Pelham hunt only.
- Map was blurry and hard to print
- Was not accurate in my location a few times
- A paper map like ones issued for Prescott and the other zones would have been nice
- I feel the harvest map had too much information, and it was merely confusing. Why would information on harvests from 2011 and 2012 be relevant? It merely clouded the more recent years.
- Worthless without better access to the land
- could not find access points
- The maps emailed to us were not clear. I used the maps app.
- blurry had to go to Quabbin visitor's area for one
- Maps were blurry when I tried to enlarge
- I don't think they have enough details especially zoomed in for topography. Old harvest data appears to be incomplete.
- old maps were better
- I did not hunt Pelham this year due to the amount of snowfall

Question 17:



Number of Responses: 136

Any further comments?

- Overall VERY satisfied...and that has nothing at all to do with having harvested a deer. I am pleased to see such access granted "outside" of the traditional drive-in Quabbin Hunts that I have participated in for decades. The only comment I have is that these walk-in hunts are going to be a "young-man's thing" as deer retrieval/removal for the older folks who would likely participate will be difficult at best and more likely prohibitive. I am considering myself (at 40) on the "younger" side of this fence...I dragged my deer out nearly a mile (on snow) and it was quite an ordeal. If you offered some level of potentially available deer removal assistance from the DCR and/or additional "conditional" access for a hunter to drive in and retrieve their deer that would be an improvement. The older folks would be more likely to participate and the younger guys would likely hunt deeper if there were some "lifeline" to helping the retrieval of the deer once dragged to the nearest Quabbin road.
- we didn't know about driving in
- Weather conditions kept me from hunting as much as usual this year.
- I wasn't able to walk in with the deep snow.
- Actually I did not hunt. I wound up in the hospital the night before opening day of shotgun season. Because of an health issue I did not hunt at all this December. Sorry I had to answer some of the questions it would not let me skip through the questions.
- The heavy snow the first week limited many hunters' proper access and I think it would have been better to at least open the gate 8 road down to the water.
- Wished it stayed open for primitive
- Have always been very happy with the experience, could not hunt this year due to work related reasons.
- I saw a deer that is all that matters. I am not hard to please.
- Need more access by roads to hunting area in order to harvest deer and pull deer out of area. Snow plow more access roads.

- Deep snow was a problem. Limited my ability. Think it lowered overall success of hunt. Can't control nature.
- Beautiful area to go hunting, hope that it's open again next year!
- Open hunt for additional seasons otherwise limited by weather/conditions for just 2 weeks
- Even if I didn't have the shot, time spent there was awesome.
- I counted less than 10 cars the day I was able to hunt. I understand the snow played a factor. But we preferred the old way. Two days with full access. A lot more hunters in the woods moving more deer. Honestly if you do it the same way again next year, I'm not sure I'd be interested.
- May will be different if wasn't a lot snow
- It's always nice to be able to hunt these beautiful woods.
- Can't judge as I only got to go one day
- It was late in the rut, and not only did I not harvest a deer, but I only heard 3 shots in the three days I was there. I would like to see this area opened up for bow hunting next year. I feel the lack of lead slugs would be even less damaging to the watershed
- Good sign, hard to track. Very thick in a lot of areas. Had fun tracked quite a few large deer, but no luck because of the limit of how far you wanted to drag a deer out of the woods
- Snow was too deep
- The weather made it very difficult to hunt during the time I could hunt, not your fault, wish it was open for black powder.
- did not hunt there
- Didn't hunt due to weather conditions
- I had a great time walking in the woods, but the hunt was not successful.
- access to inner roads would be helpful for people with bad legs
- did not go
- Snow made for very difficult hunt but here were a lot of signs.
- Not giving a Doe Permit stopped me from hunting the Pelham Hunt
- Unfortunate about the high levels of snow on the first two days of the season. No one's fault; just unfortunate.
- Would love to be able to bow hunt the areas.
- I generally dislike deer firearms season but this was an incredibly fun hunt. I only saw 4 deer but I was into deer sign everyday and jumped several animals that I never actually got to see. I will definitely be applying to hunt there again next year.
- really needed the roads plowed as it took 4 yrs. to drag a deer
- I did not hunt
- I was unable to hunt due to work changes. I'd love to have greater access to the area and the ability to know where other hunters might be so to avoid interfering with them.
- didn't participate because of weather
- Too Much Snowfall to be able to hunt in Pelham hunt this year (2019)
- Due to lack of vehicle access especially after storms.