



DEER HUNTER SURVEY FOR THE 2019 SUDBURY RESERVOIR LANDS HUNT

**DCR DIVISION OF WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION
NATURAL RESOURCE SECTION
MAY 2020**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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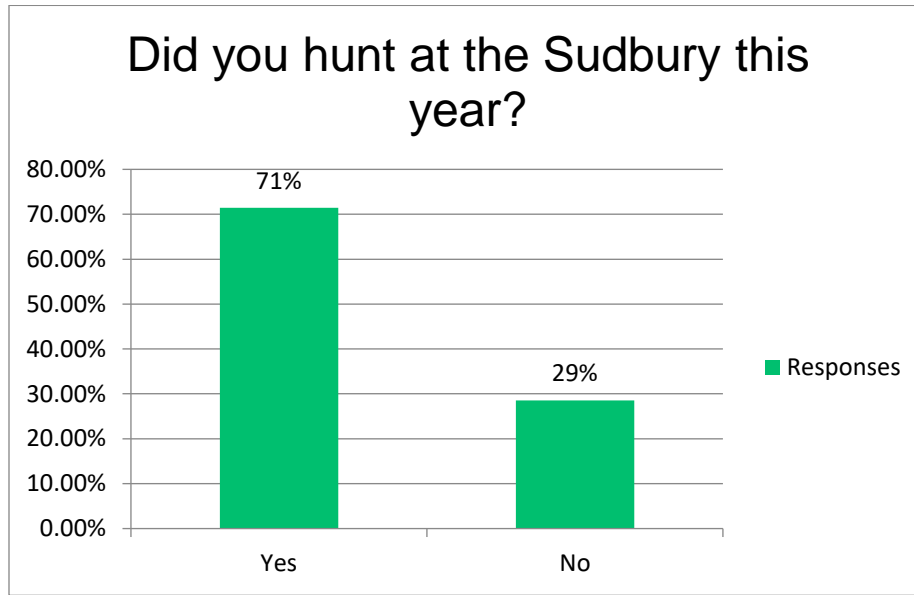
SUDBURY DEER HUNTER SURVEY

RESULTS

Total Number of Responses to the Survey: 264

Question 1:

Did you hunt at the Sudbury this year?



Number of Responses: 217

Question 2:

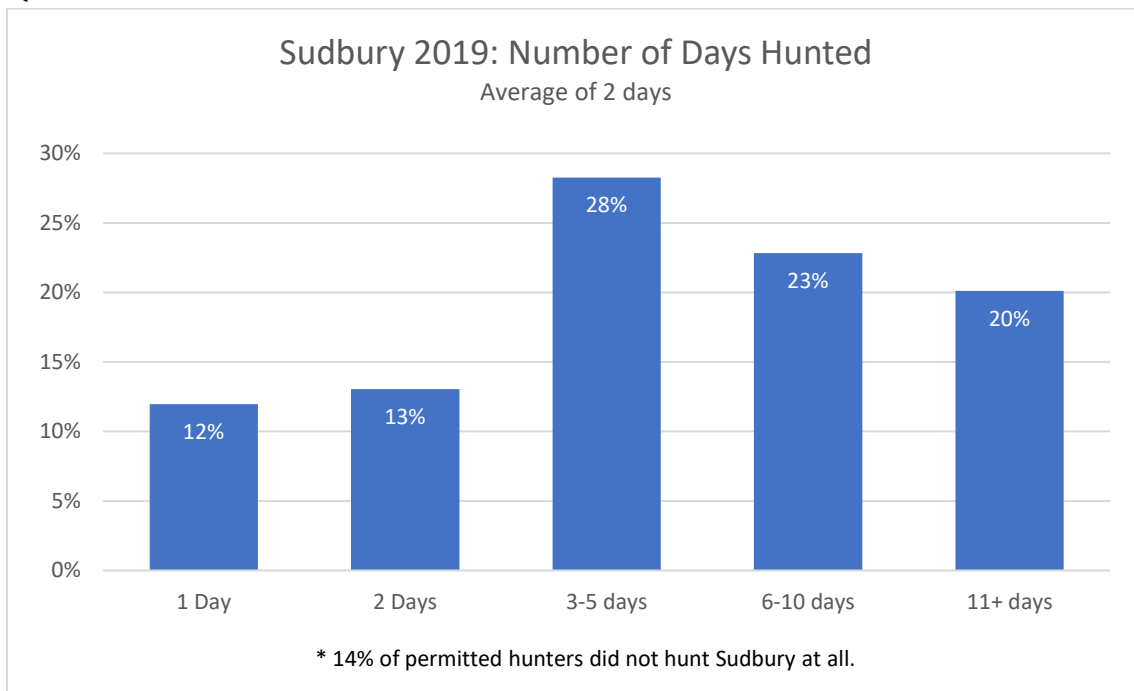
If you didn't make it out there, please tell us why:

- Just didn't have the time.
- Torn tendon in my foot
- Just couldn't make it out there
- No time
- Too busy to go
- Late entry did not get a chance to scout looking forward to next year
- Became sick. Had to miss deer hunting. Hope too in 2020 season. I did scout the area before season, and it looks every good lots of deer sign. Thank you.
- No time
- I wasn't able to hunt. I worked.
- Work schedule got in the way!
- time work
- Was busy hunting other spots
- Not enough notice to scout land.
- never had the chance to make it over there
- Focused on other areas, but intend to go next season.

- didn't get a chance to get there
- NO TIME THIS YEAR
- Broke my foot
- Didn't like how tight the property was and the amount of hunters on the property based on the tree stands I discovered pre-season.
- I had a child. Didn't work out to make it out there, but hoping to change that next year
- It was late in the season and the deer herd was scarce!
- I got the Flu, So I had to take time off and unfortunately miss the hunt this year.
- Didn't get permit in time to get doe permits and had bucks I was hunting in another zone. Was hoping this zone 10 area would open Oct. 1st
- a conflict with work schedule didn't allow for me to travel to your State to hunt as I had wanted to
- Life got too busy
- Stayed in local area
- Time
- Too many hunters
- Unfortunately I missed the hunting season due to an injury.
- My schedule didn't allow me time to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Signed up late. Was still during the last part of the season.
- Vacation days planned for hunting had to be used for dependent care.
- No time to scout the area pre season
- Work got in the way of hunting
- no time
- I live on Cape Cod, I wasn't sure if I would hunt the area, but wanted the option if I hunted Worcester County this season.
- Time and distance
- Not enough time to hunt.
- Found out about the access very late in shotgun season and was not able to scout out the land before trying to hunt.
- I spent 3 days scouting and witnessed little or no sign of deer or mast. When decided to hunt the area was covered with hunters. So little parking made it difficult. I was discouraged thinking this would be a great opportunity. I also witnessed DCR personnel with their own personal vehicle inside the locked gate. They were wearing camo. Access to many areas had long walking distances to hunt.
- I had hurt my lower back just before hunting season and was not able to hunt at all this past season. I was looking forward to hunting there but just couldn't make it
- "Just didn't work out to find the time to get there. Wachusett was the closest I got"
- "My work was too busy. Saturdays I hunted in other areas.
- I would hunt Sundays if the state allowed it."
- Ran out of time and ended up working more than anticipated
- work and weather
- Took three months for my F ID card to come from the state so I couldn't hunt during firearm season.
- Very small areas.
- Business travel did not allow it.

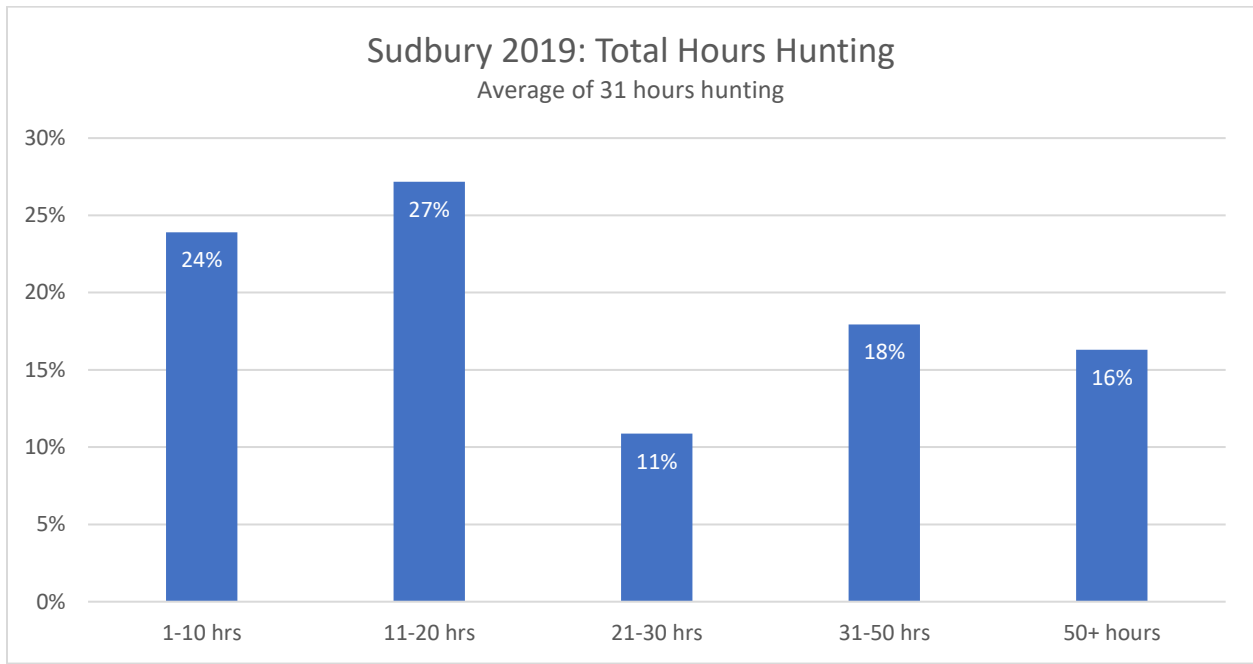
- "Family Situation Came Up.
- I scouted off Parmenter Road once. The parking was very limited and the traffic was awful. Someone will get hit if nothing is done. Most cars and trucks doing twice the speed limit. Crossing the road to check out the other side was dangerous.
- Work schedule became too busy
- I only had a chance to hunt on Saturday. And I ended up busy on Saturday.
- Work obligation
- No time heard that to many people out there
- Not enough time
- I ended up with Pneumonia and as much as I wanted to go, I couldn't. It came down to hunting and ending up in the hospital or not going hunting and not going to the hospital, I chose the latter.
- Hunted other areas closer to where I live, in the limited time that I had to hunt.
- Was hunting Wachusett Reservoir instead.

Question 3:



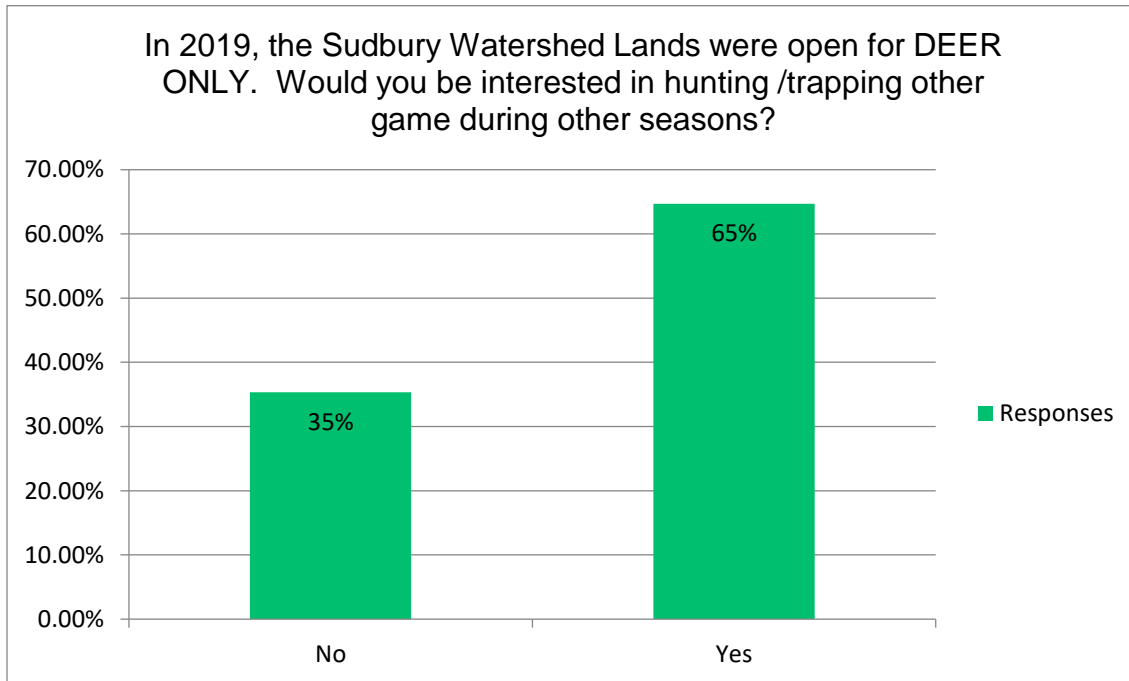
Number of Responses: 184

Question 4:



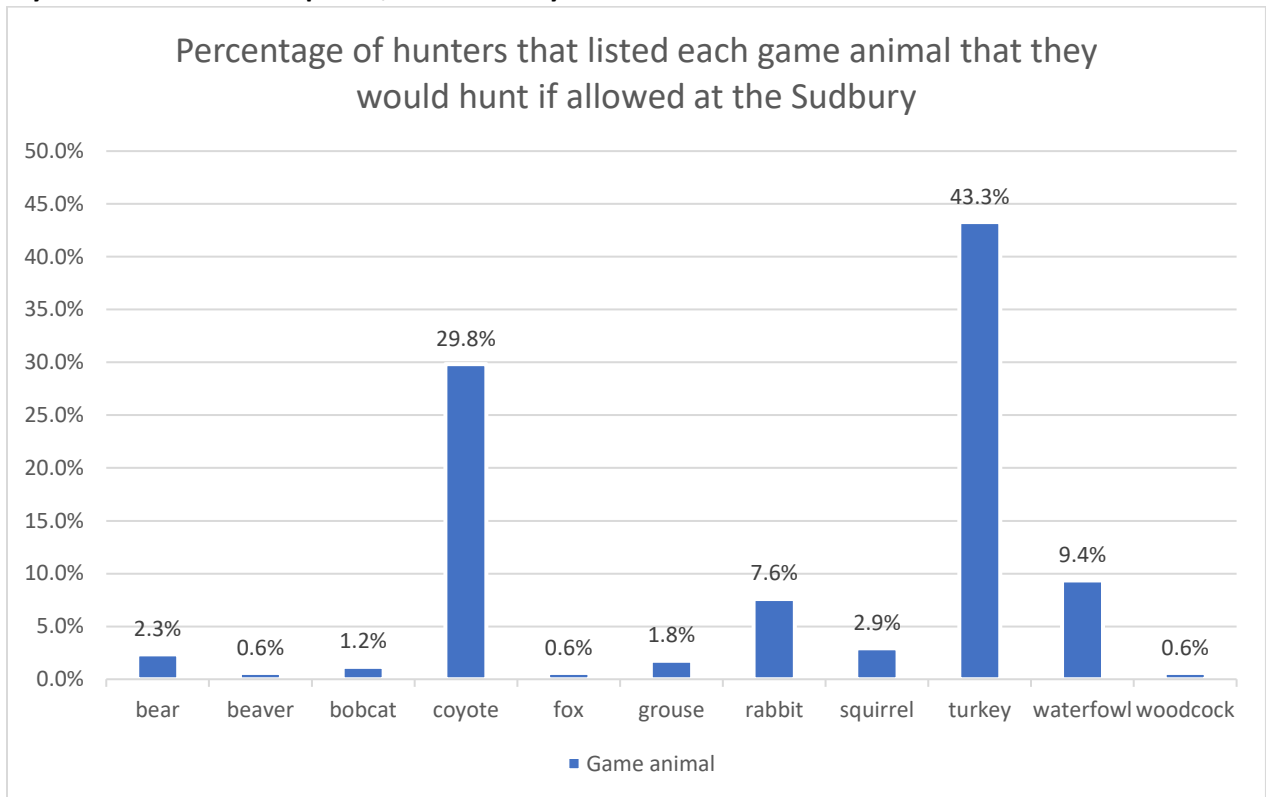
Number of Responses: 184

Question 5:

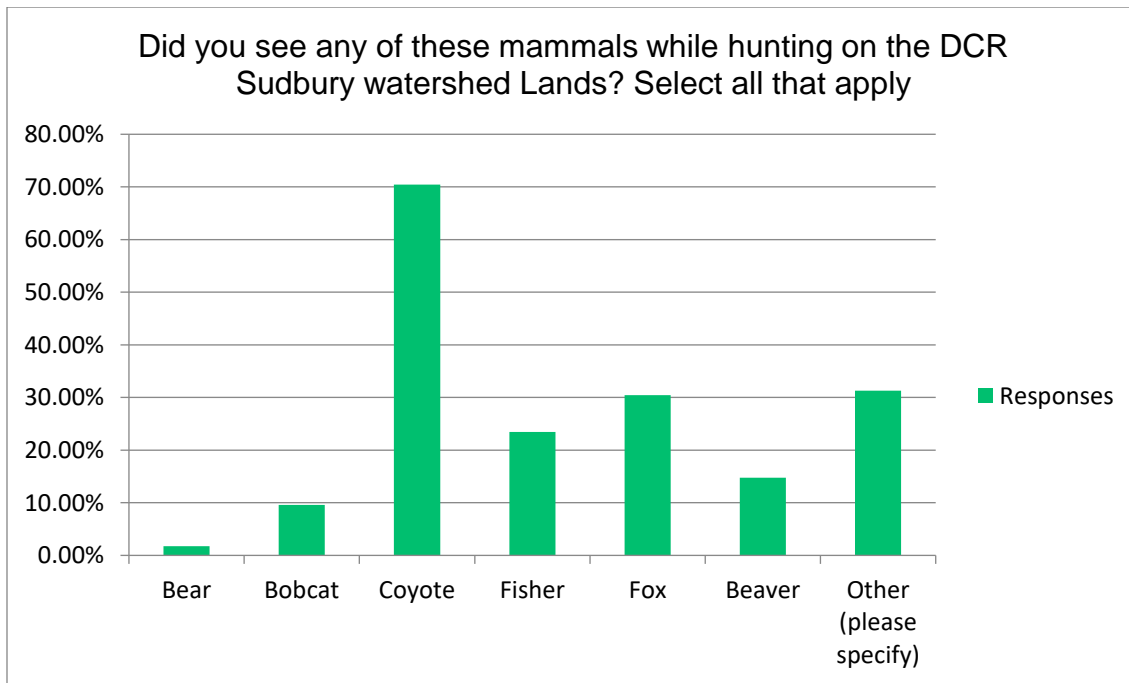


Number of Responses: 184

If you could hunt other species, what would you hunt?



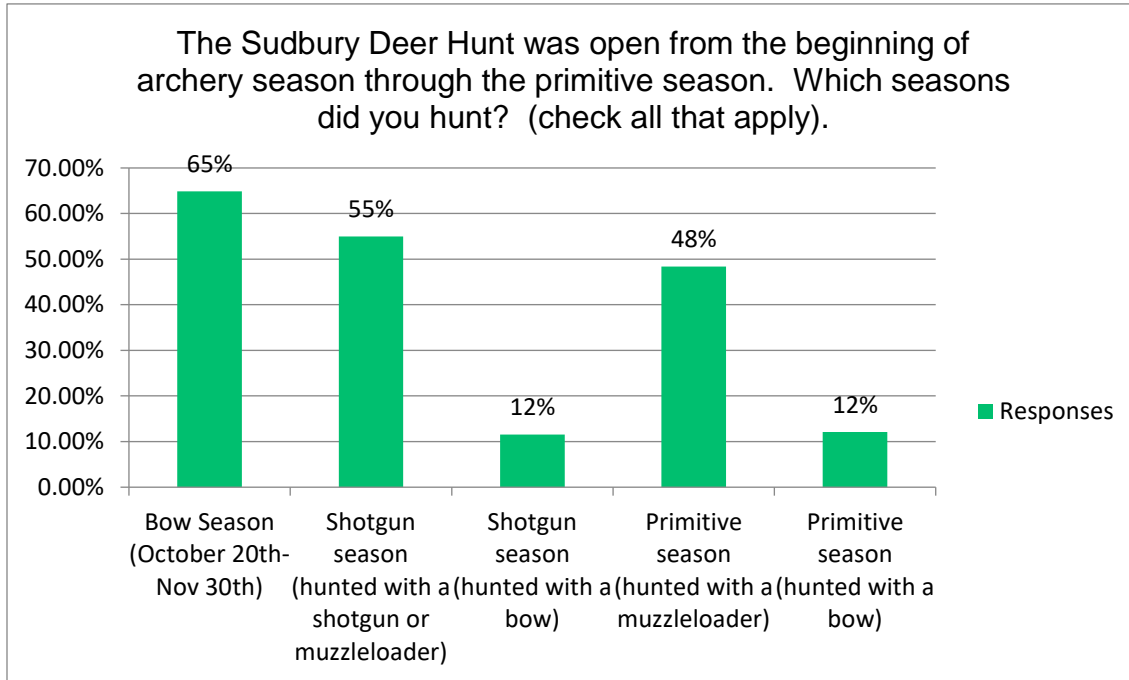
Question 6:



Number of Responses: 115

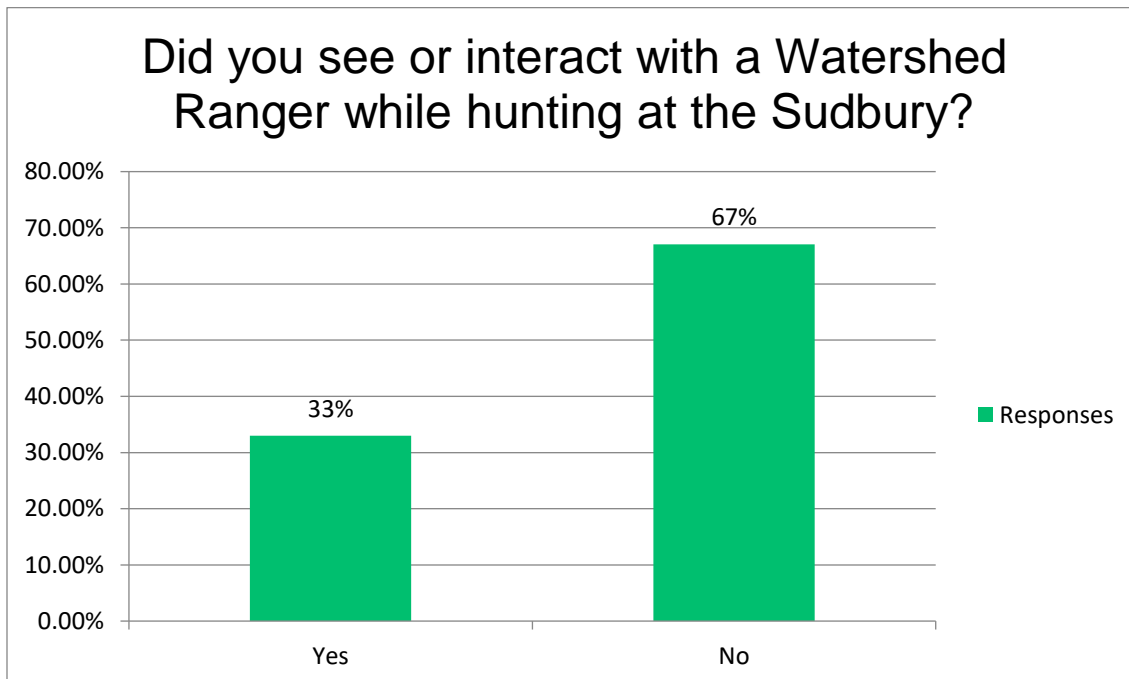
*species listed as "other" included: turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, grouse, raccoon, flying squirrel, and owls.

Question 7:



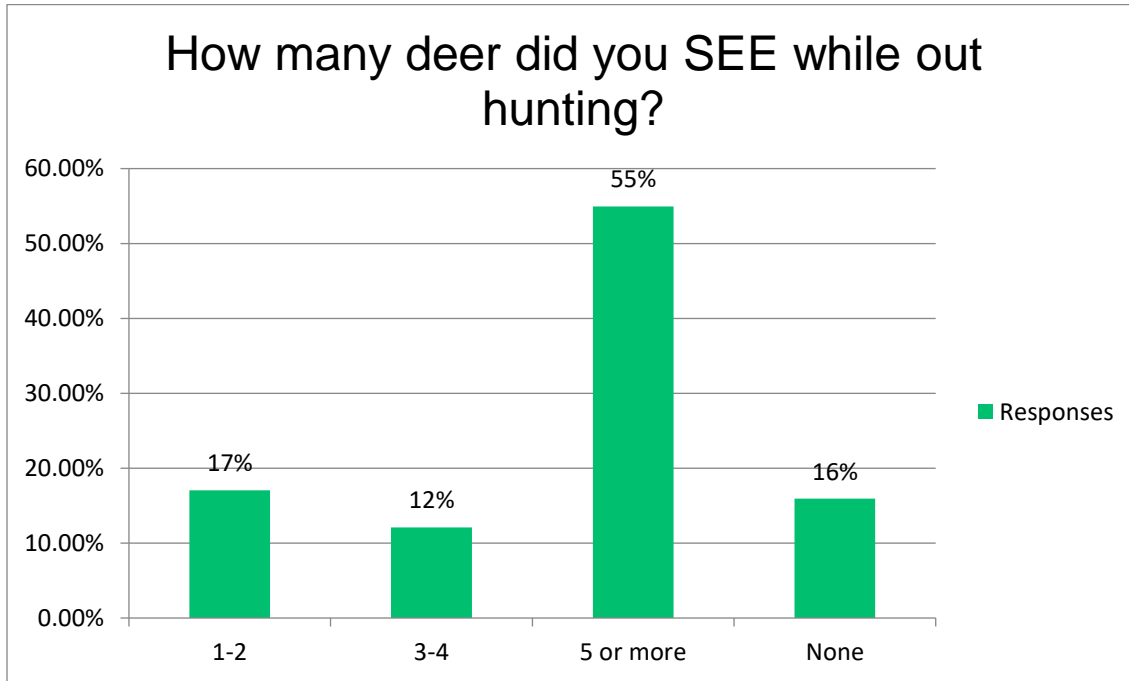
Total Responses: 182

Question 8:



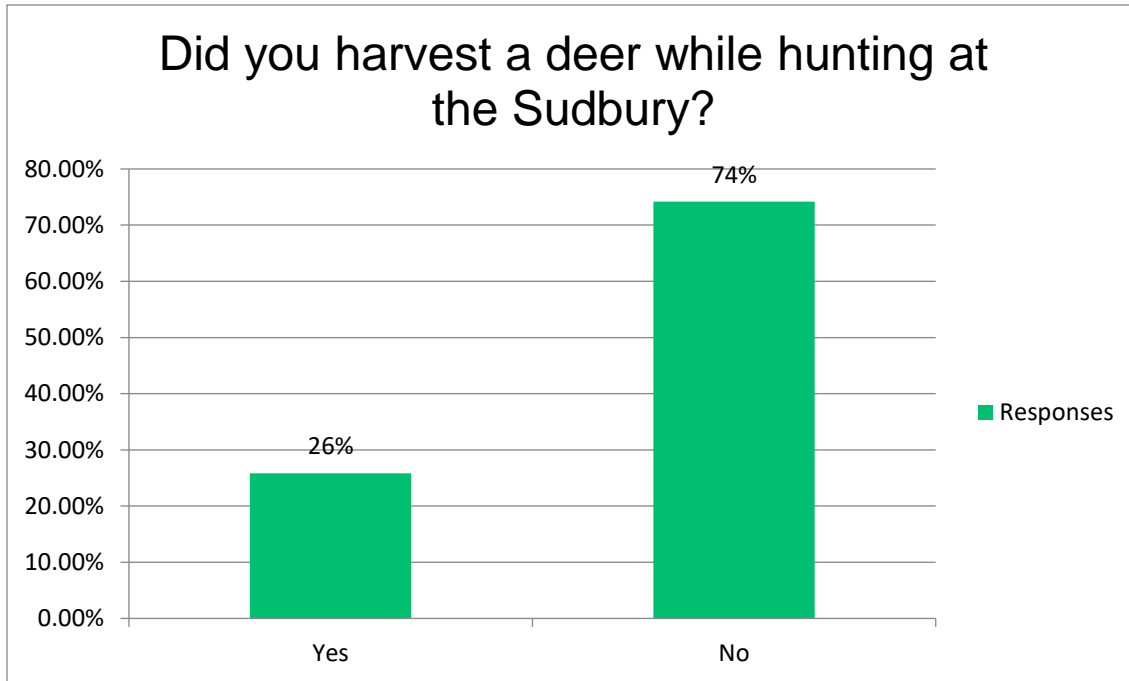
Total Responses: 182

Question 9:



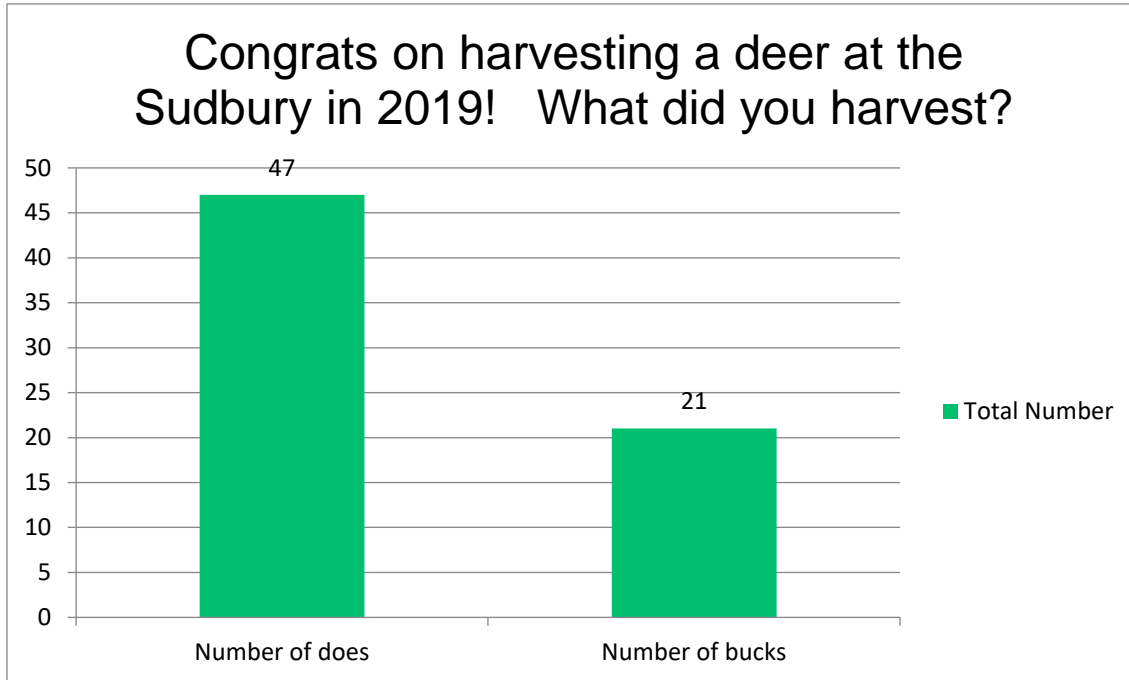
Total Responses: 182

Question 10:



Total Responses: 182

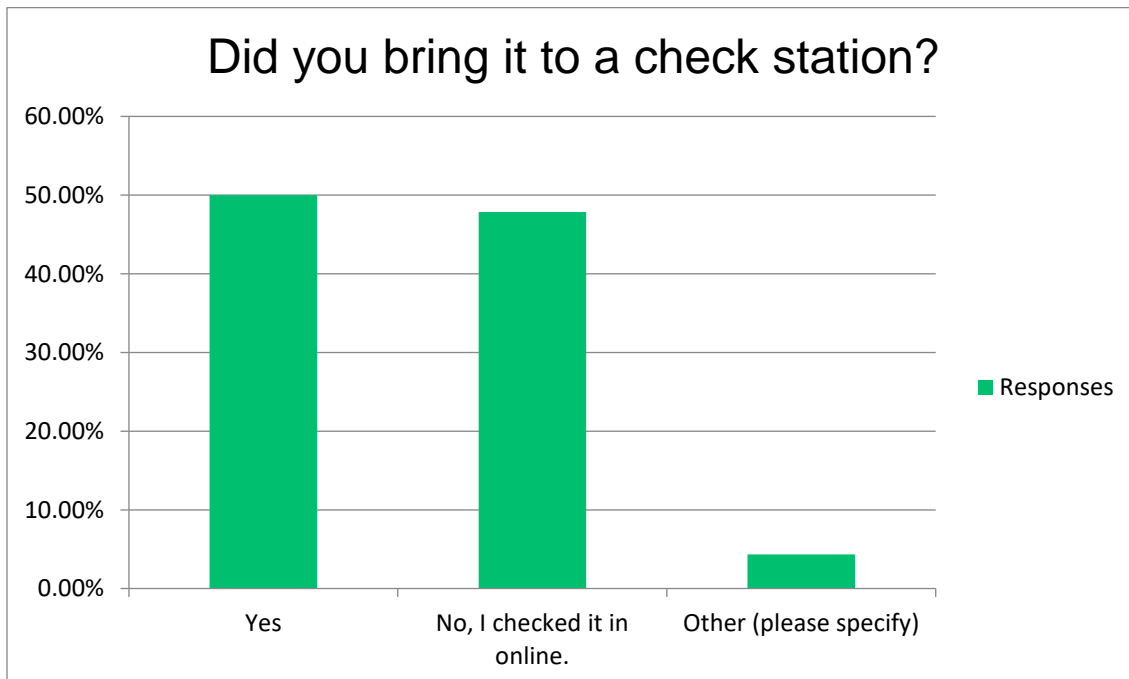
Question 11:



Number of responses: 45

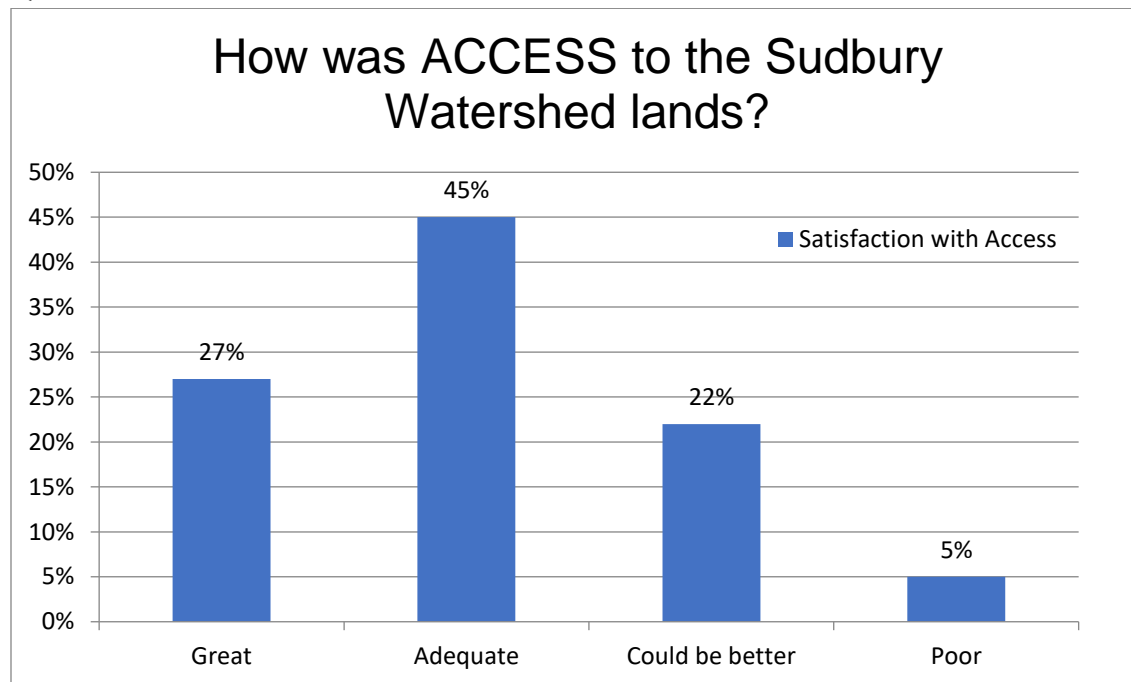
NOTE: Actually harvest was between 68- 80 deer

Question 12:



Number of Responses: 46

Question 13:



Number of Responses: 182

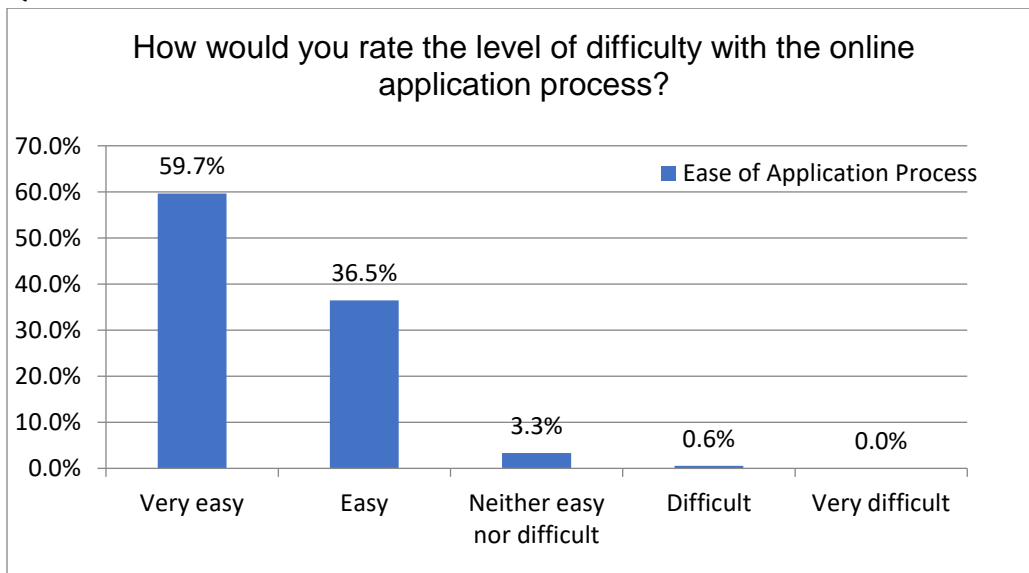
Comments regarding Hunter access:

- I live close by and know the area well, access for me was not an issue.
- Not enough parking
- Not enough parking spaces
- Limited parking
- No parking on the south end and most of the east sides were neighborhoods.
- I used the maps which worked very well
- I was not too sure about parking up near the old Stoney brook golf course so I stayed away from that area but I would love to park there
- Due to unlimited permits given for this area I would recommend only giving out a limited amount of permits.
- Even though there were places to park that would have been off the paved road, I was concerned about getting a ticket for parking in non-designated parking. If there was a way to work with local P.D. to allow parking as long as it didn't interfere with traffic flow that would be great.
- A lot of walking
- Need more places to park
- I live down the street from Sudbury Reservoir.
- I hunted in the Westborough portion of the Watershed lands, no issue with access
- There needs to be more access points
- Would have liked to been able to use a bike to access further into some parts, but no biking signs prohibited it.
- The more legal access hunters have, the less likely there are to be problems with town regulations, the public, ect. Making it easy to be legal to hunt makes for less problems in my experience. This starts with parking/access. Having adequate parking also helps to keep hunters from having to compete with each other. Having access to the property on all sides is almost useless if the hunters don't have anywhere legal to park their vehicles. This forces them to park in places that may or may

not be legal because many roads are not posted. This can cause unintended issues with the public which could be avoided all together.

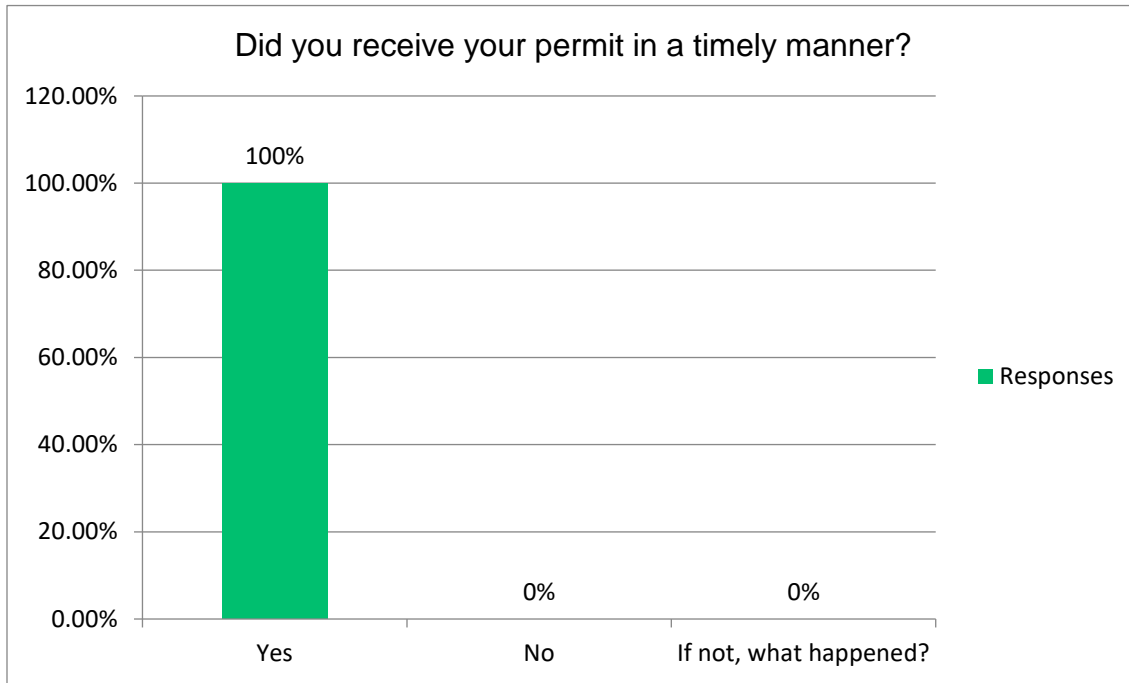
- Had no issues, was a pleasure to hunt.
- Good hunt, hope be selected this season
- More parking areas are desperately needed to provide more access to hunting.
- Limited parking and good distance to walk before getting to hunt able areas
- Easy access = too many hunters
- Few parking areas. Several non-hunters lingering in parking areas which made me suspicious. I also hunted the Wachusett lands open to hunting and had my tire slashed!!! I reported it to DCR, Police & Environmental police but issue was not resolved. It is very risky parking in these areas. It's hard to enjoy yourself hunting if you have to worry about ANTIS!! The parking areas need security!!!!
- Limited access for handicapped hunters like my dad who cannot walk long distances without a wheelchair
- During the early December snow was difficult to get in and out near gates
- Parking was rough
- Some properties are hard to access without additional parking available.
- One area I wanted to hunt could not find any access to it
- Water treatment facility complained when I walked by.
- Access was poor from the private parking areas, could be much better if hunters were allowed to access the lands through private property or other access points not designated as parking areas.
- Very tough to hunt deer with everyone accessing same area. A few more entry points would be huge with a bow
- This only applies to the spot that I hunted
- Access was fine, hard to find the access points on the map sometimes
- Easy access but it looks like the adjacent neighborhood is using the proper as a dog park. I ran across dog feces more than once.
- Lots of people parking off the road, kind on dangerous and harassment from drivers
- I couldn't hunt due to deep snow
- Some areas hard to find parking. Map confusing in some spots. Perhaps mark trees with orange tape where allowed?

Question 14:



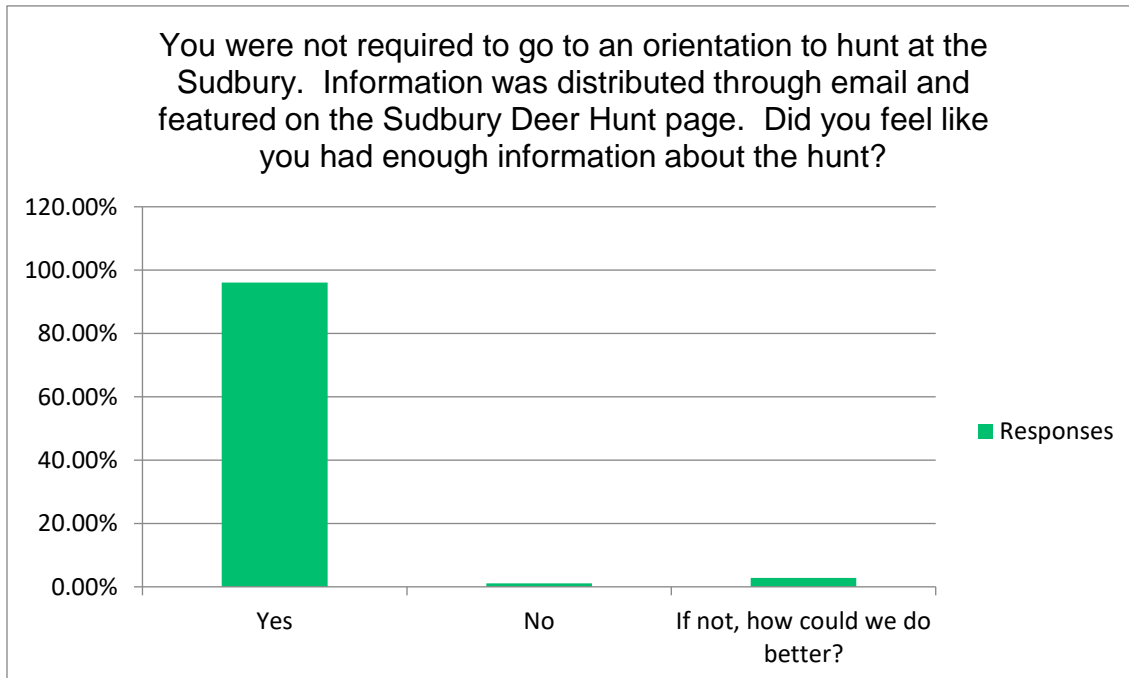
Number of Responses: 181

Question 15:



Number of Responses: 181

Question 16:

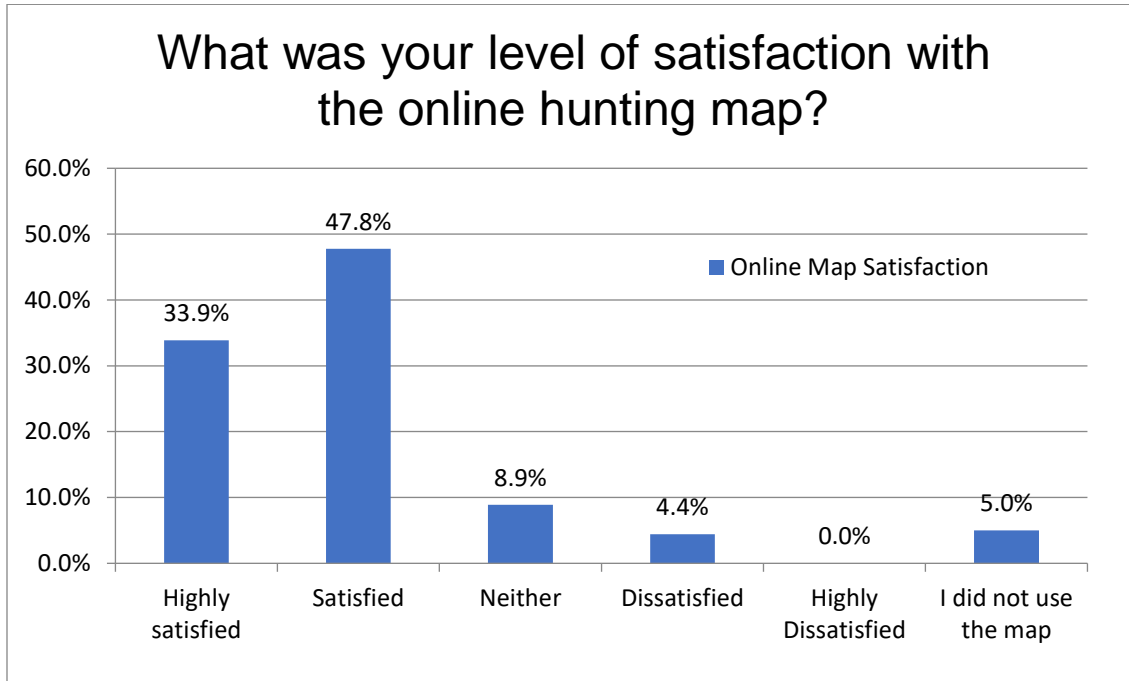


Number of Responses: 180

Comments about hunting information:

- The web maps were difficult to get a paper map specific for the Sudbury hunt would be great I'd be willing to pay
- some ill-defined boundaries and non-hunting areas
- Not all areas have obvious parking designated areas; a little more guidance would be good.
- Detailed maps would have been a big help. Secure safe parking would also be needed.
- There was still confusion about archery only versus archery / shotgun / muzzleloader

Question 17:



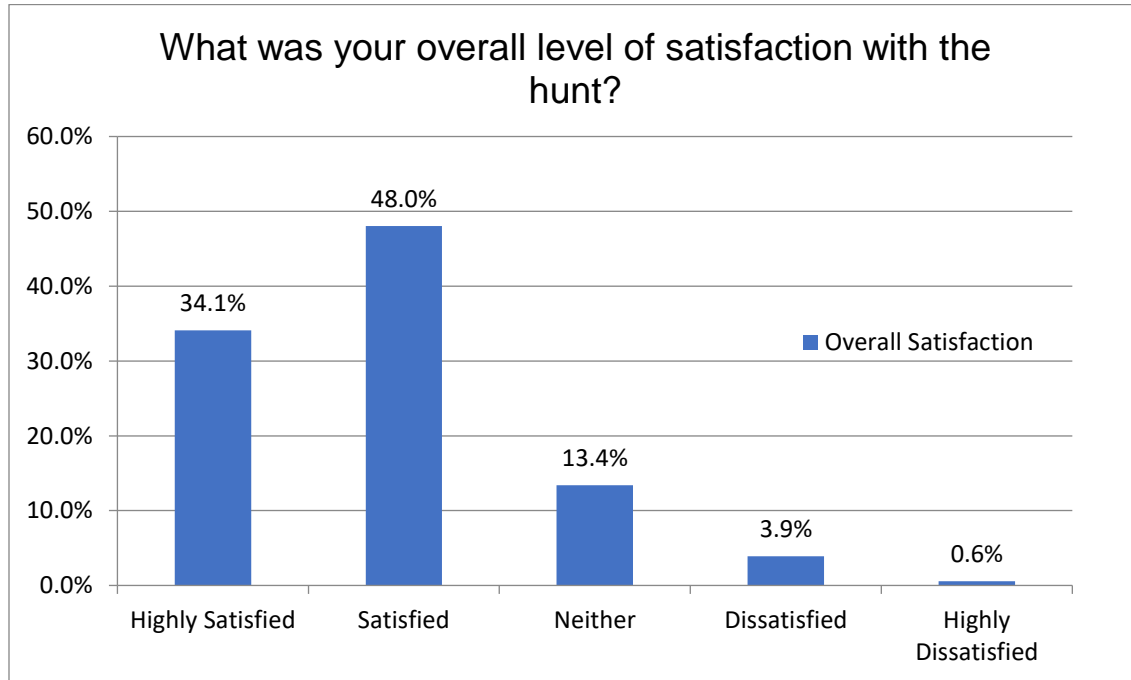
Number of Responses: 180

Comments about using the online mapping features:

- Did not work well with my iPhone, once I got a new phone it worked great!
- Border could be explained in more detail
- Not enough boundary markings was hard to figure out where you can hunt
- Great tool, no doubt I was in a legal spot
- Very mobile UNfriendly
- Used topo maps and google earth. permission for boots on the ground scouting would be beneficial
- If a digital download was available that would be awesome. If we could download it onto a GPS device to confirm boundaries that would be great. A major concern about Massachusetts hunting is being positive you are in an acceptable location while hunting and not breaking any rules.
- Comment previous page
- I don't know if it was my phone or the app but several times the app had my location as being in the water.
- Adequate but with some reservations as previous question
- Although I had a general idea of where I wanted to hunt, I could not get the maps to open while actually hunting.
- Some access areas were vague.
- Loved it.

- Would like to use year round.
- I used it on my mobile phone, it was very useful in the field to know if/where I could hunt.
- Was tough to use. I used huntstand app for boundary info
- Better detail that shows more road names.
- Would like to see the online maps added to the app
- Maybe suggestions on best access points for some of the more difficult areas?
- Shadowed areas could be lighter for more detail. Was great to use to establish borders.
- The map did help to provide boundary's but was not useful in any other way
- Parking spots could have better pictures on the maps
- There are a lot of areas that could be safely huntable and should be revised

Question 18:



Number of Responses: 179

Comments about the Sudbury Hunt:

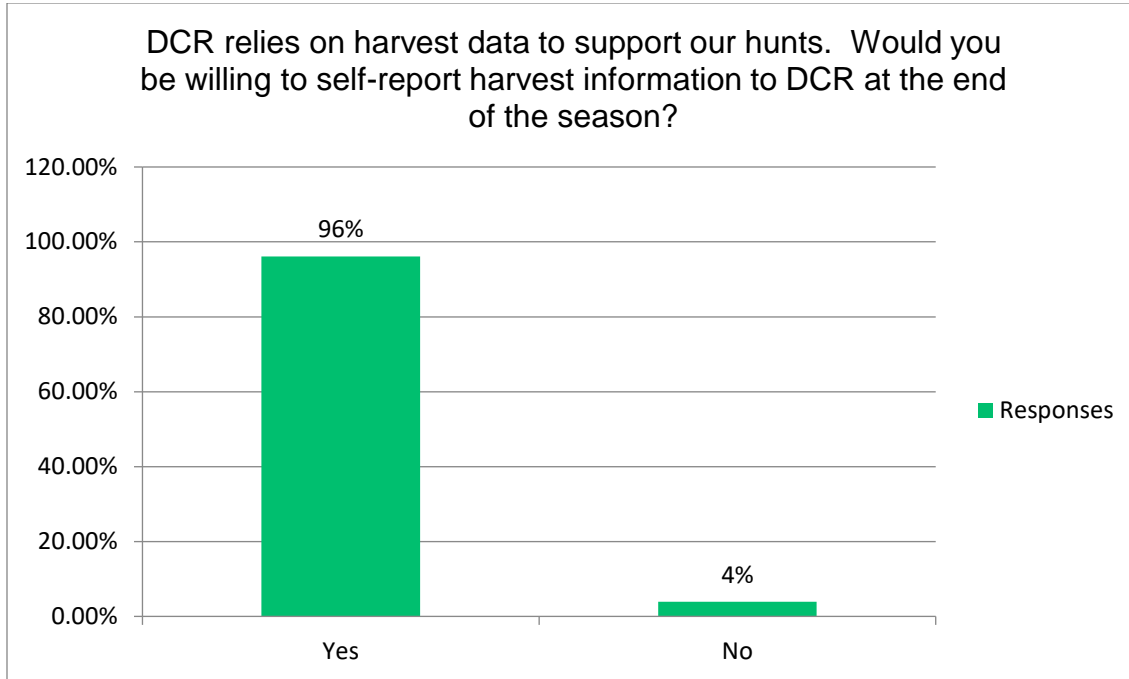
- great, I never saw anyone, felt like I had won the vacation of a life time. twenty inches of snow on opening day of shotgun season. four hours to drag her out to the truck.
- i know of a boat load of deer harvested, close to 50 between the two groups of guys i know, I dont think you should allow this hunt to go on every year or only allow certain number of permits, because hunters cleared up a lot of deer out of there this year, I'd honestly shut it down after 2 years, and only do it in two year increments every two years. A ton of deer were harvested out of there..
- If I remember correctly it stated that you could scout the property. I like to scout an area before hunting it.
- Can't wait to hunt it this year
- Opening day snow storm was a hindrance. Limited mobility. Would very much like to bow hunt next year
- A long time coming

- Saw too many hunters roaming the woods during bow season. That made my decision to not hunt there once fun season opened. Way too dangerous!! I heard from a few other hunters that it was like the Wild West once gun season began. Too bad
- My Father also hunts it with me .He doesn't have a email but feels the same way i do
- I signed up late I didn't want to disturb other hunters I hope to sign up early to better scout the areas
- There was plenty of sign and a significant number of deer on the property. The problems I encountered were not related to the Sudbury hunt but to lack of hunter etiquette in general. Hunting public land without interfering with other hunters requires a level of courtesy and awareness that does not exist anymore. I will probably only hunt the property during muzzle loader season next year.
- Passed on does as had already taken one elsewhere. Deer became very scarce in Southboro area due to hunting pressure.
- I would limit the number of permits given to this area. There was way too many permits allowed for this size land.
- Didn't see any bucks.
- Too much craziness with other "hunters"
- At first it was great, but once my stand was stolen and guys were out there doing pushes during archery it turned me off and I will not be coming back
- This was a great experience and I saw many deer. Hope to be allowed the opportunity to hunt this property in the future!
- I think Bow only is less intrusive may to hunt
- There was a lot of opportunity to harvest deer that was hindered by the number of hunters that showed up at the beginning. This is to be expected with a newly opened property and I believe will likely be less of an issue in following years as has been my experience in the past.
- Saw lot of deer. Averaged 6 deer sighting every time went with 13 one time. Alot of mature does. Suggestion would be to control population maybe lottery doe tags for drc.
- One of my stands and safety ropes was stolen. I made a report to the Mass Env. Police - but never heard back from them. I will use a lock in the future. But I loved hunting there. Bow season was quiet - but Shotgun season brought more hunters out.
- Provide EFFECTIVE security
- new land not over hunted
- Allowing only 30 minutes before and after legal hunting is something that most hunters would like to see increased to at least an hour. Especially with the difficulty to access some of the property.
- Love to come back
- Too many hunters in the first area I bow hunted
- Way too many Hunter's. Everyone hunted the same areas
- It is like any hunting, you have to put time in to be successful.
- Seems like a great area to hunt, will keep it in mind for next year.
- Sudbury should be lottery ONLY and should be monitored. I have been hunting a long time(30+ years) and with snow on the ground and opening day combined I honestly have never been in a more dangerous situation. I have ever seen so many yahoos in the same spot indiscriminately shooting at anything and everything with not a ranger in sight. Anywhere. I left at noon, literally came within inches of being shot as I pushed a deer across a road and was greeted by several shots in my direction. The deer was hit and the guy never looked for it. IN THE SNOW. I never went back to that spot the rest of the season but found some slightly lesser pounded areas to hunt. WAY TOO MANY PERMITS given out and WAY TOO LITTLE in terms of wardens EPO etc. I have hunted many US states and Canada and honestly believe Massachusetts is the worst in terms of EPO doing their jobs, treating hunters with respect, land management, herd management, laws, the list goes on and on.

Someday something will have to change. Until then we'll just keep printing our paper licenses and calling EPO that never come for help, harvesting deer that no one reports and believing that the deer densities are the same as they were in the 90's per published reports. If you're still reading, LIMIT THE NUMBER OF COWBOYS FOR NEXT SEASON PLEASE.

- Did not get out
- Didn't hunt- heard many stands stolen

Question 19



Number of Responses: 178