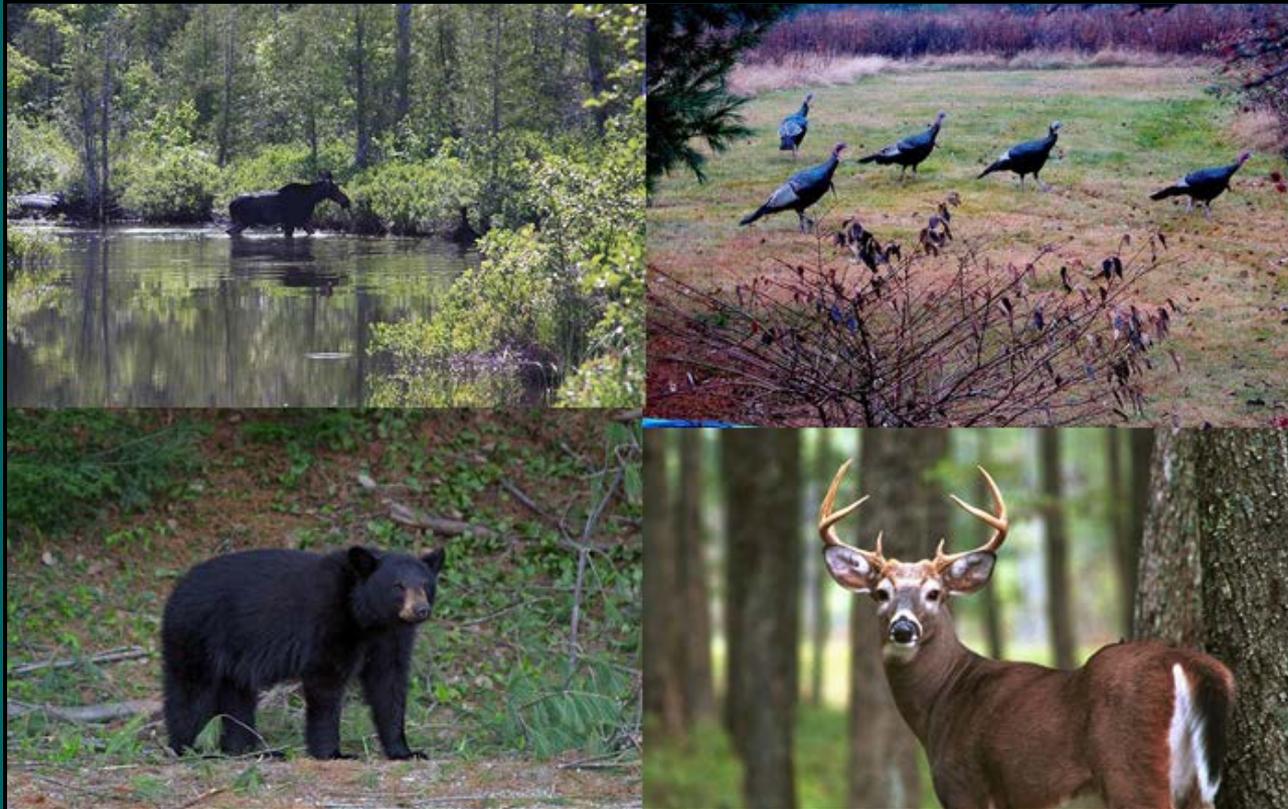


Residents', Hunters', and Landowners' Opinions on Big Game Management in Maine



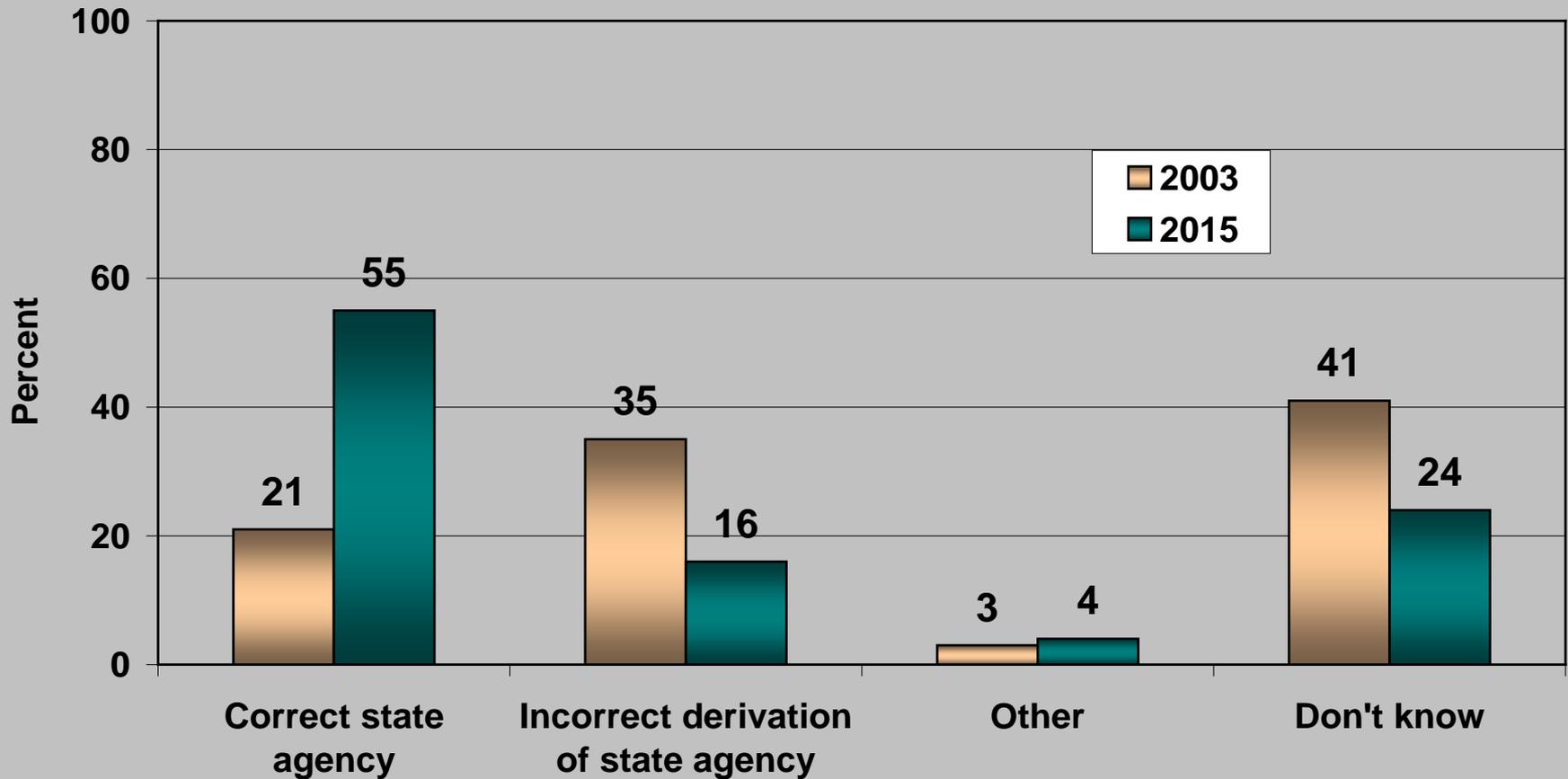
Presented to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
February 18, 2016

Mark Damian Duda, Responsive Management

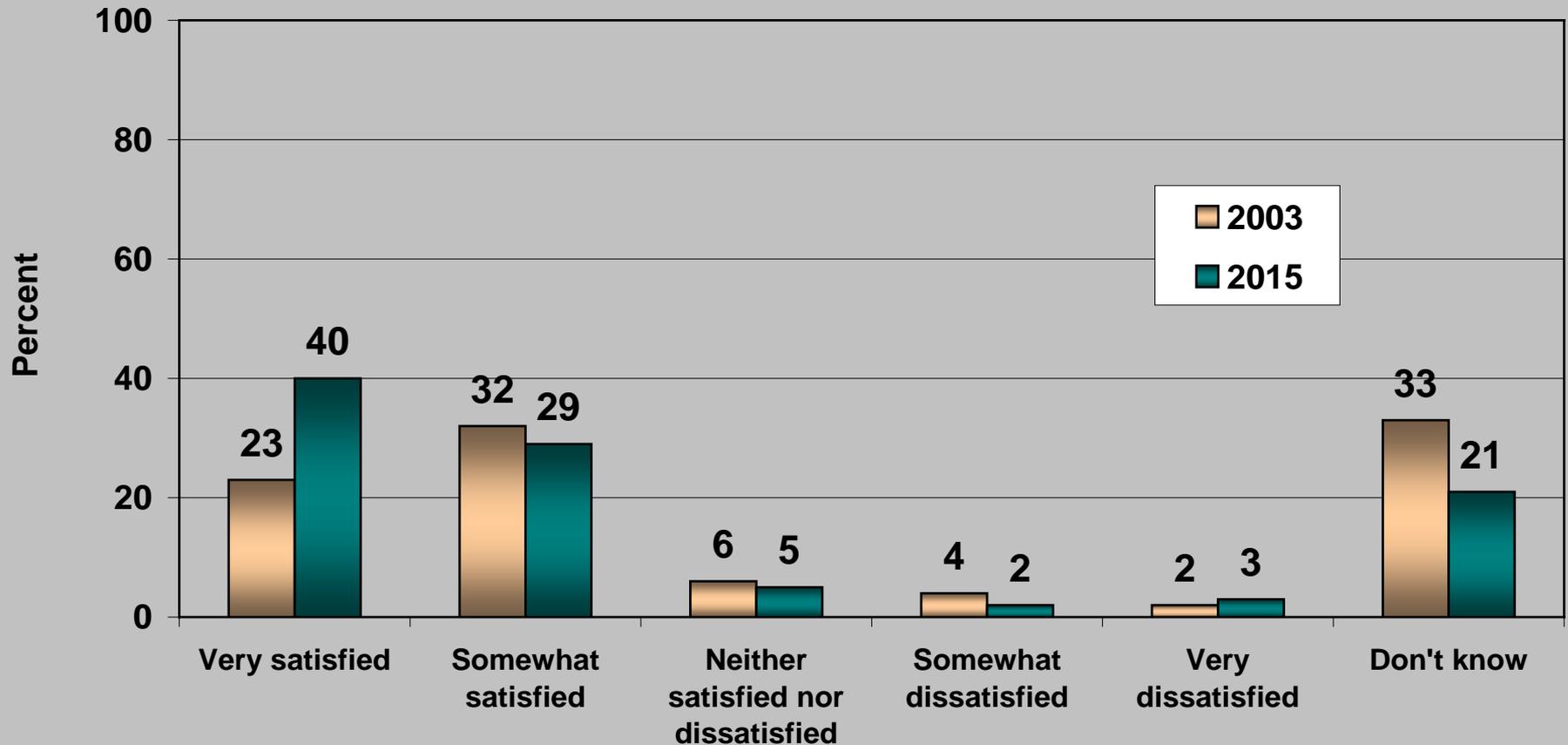
Excerpts from MDIFW Communications Study



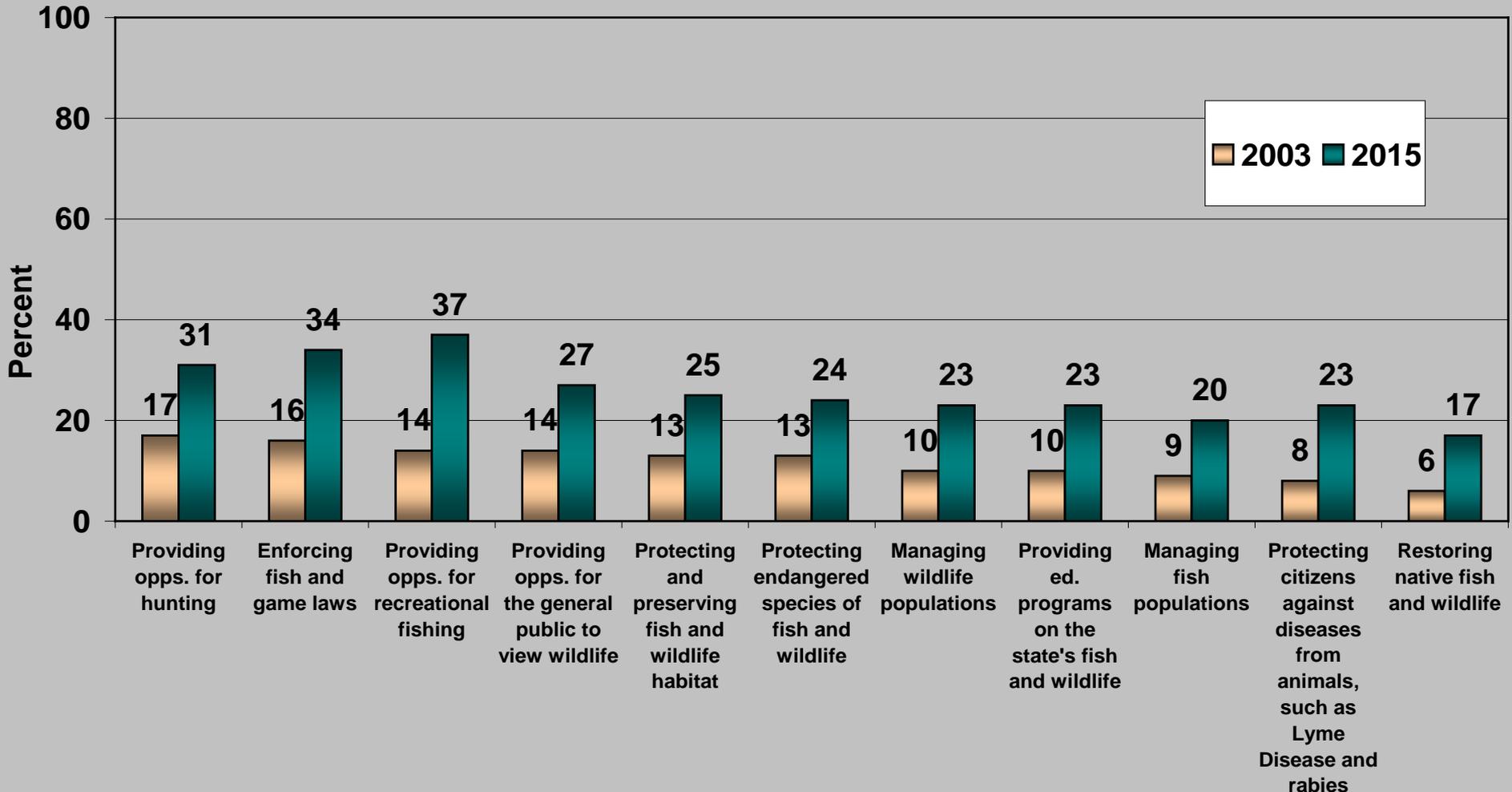
Q196. Which government agency would you say is most responsible for managing and protecting freshwater fish and wildlife in Maine?



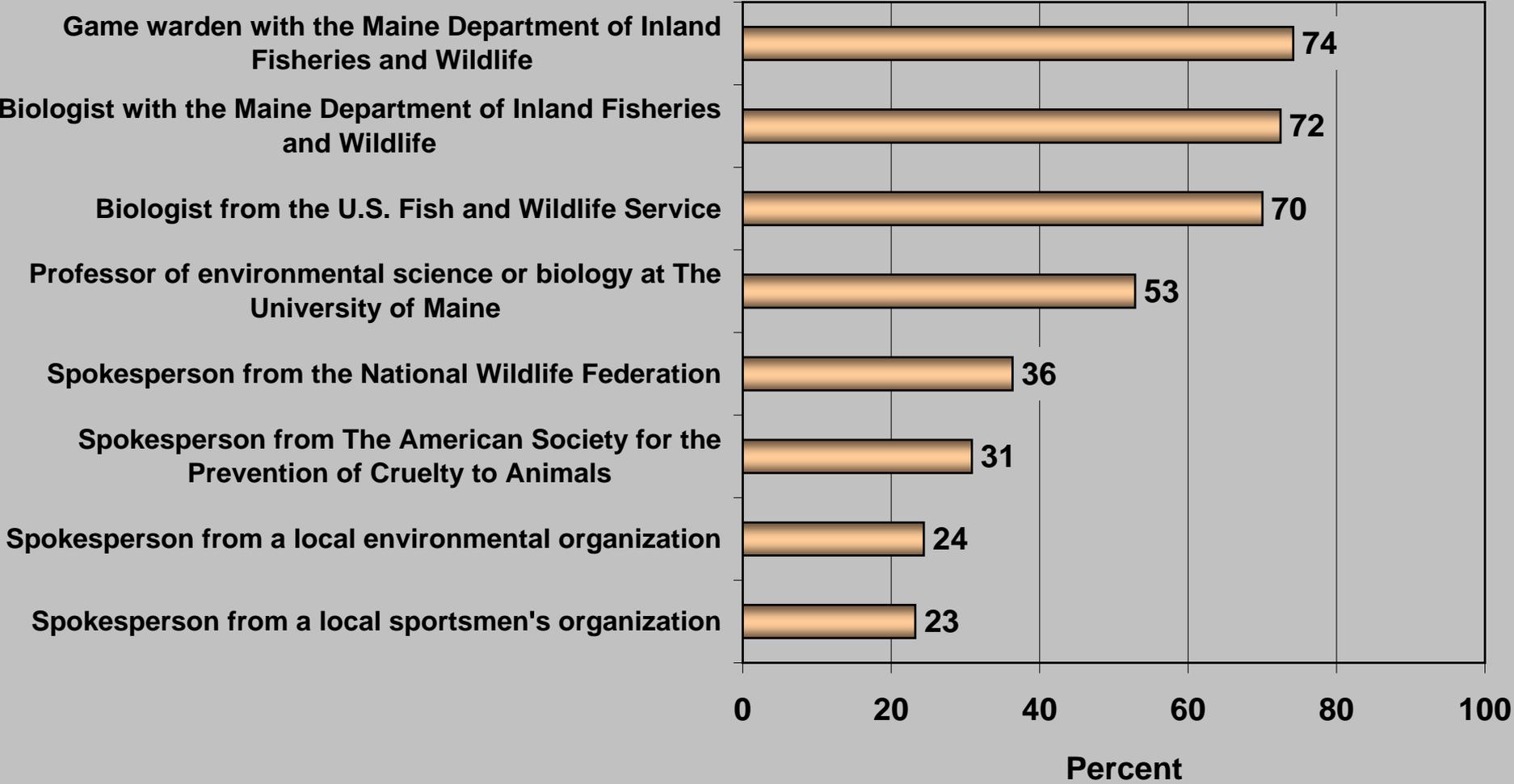
Q200. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a governmental agency, or do you not know?



Q254-265. Percent of respondents who think the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is doing an excellent job at each of the following efforts:



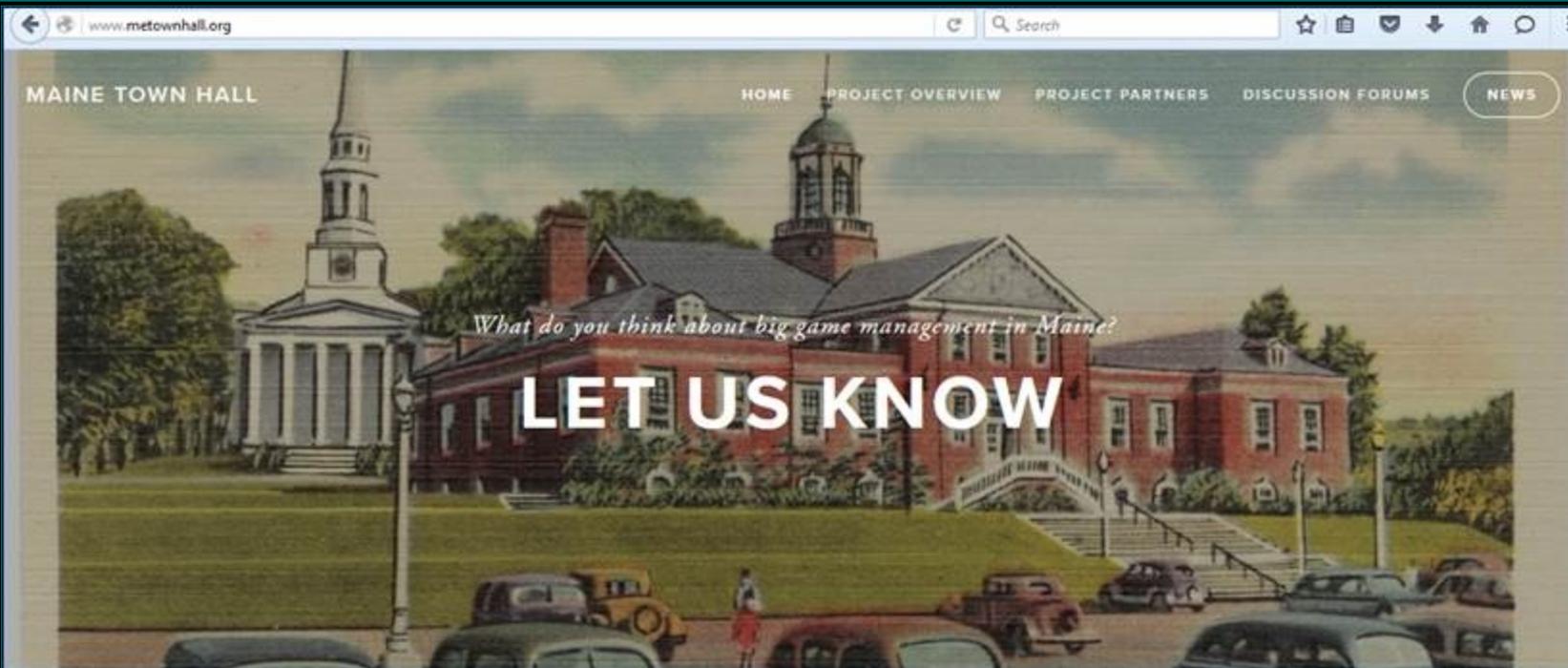
Q334-341. Percent of respondents who think each of the following sources are a very credible source of information on fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation. (General population.)



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Scientific multi-modal survey of residents, hunters, and landowners
- Online “Town Hall” forum
- Series of seven focus groups
 - Two groups per region
 - Separate groups for bear, general big game management issues
 - Seventh group with residents who voted YES on Question 1 in 2014
- Series of six public meetings
 - Two meetings per region
 - Separate meetings for bear, general big game management issues





BIG GAME MANAGEMENT IN MAINE

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) is working with Responsive Management, a survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, to update the state's big game management plan. This Town Hall Forum is one step in a three-tiered approach to explore the opinions of Maine residents on big game management issues.



Presentation Overview

- **Survey Methodology**
- **Interest in and Knowledge of Wildlife**
- **Opinions on Hunting**
- **Participation in Hunting**
- **Opinions on Regulations and Specific Aspects of Hunting**
- **Hunting Access**
- **Problems With Wildlife**
- **Land Management in General**
- **Perceptions About Big Game Management**
- **How to Best Manage Big Game**
 - Factors
 - Population Levels
 - Methods

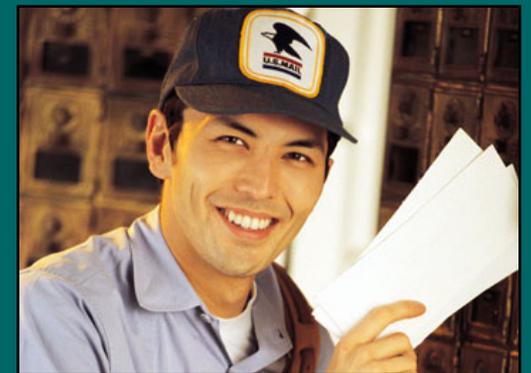
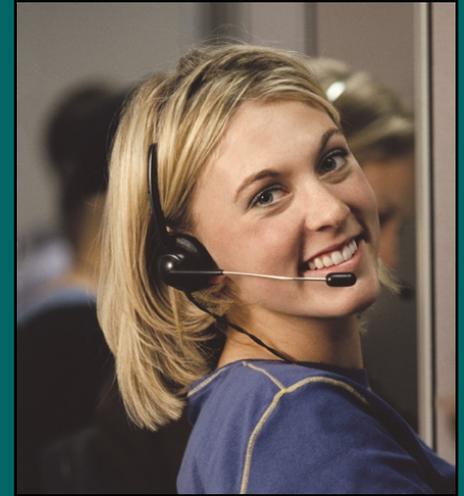


Survey Methodology

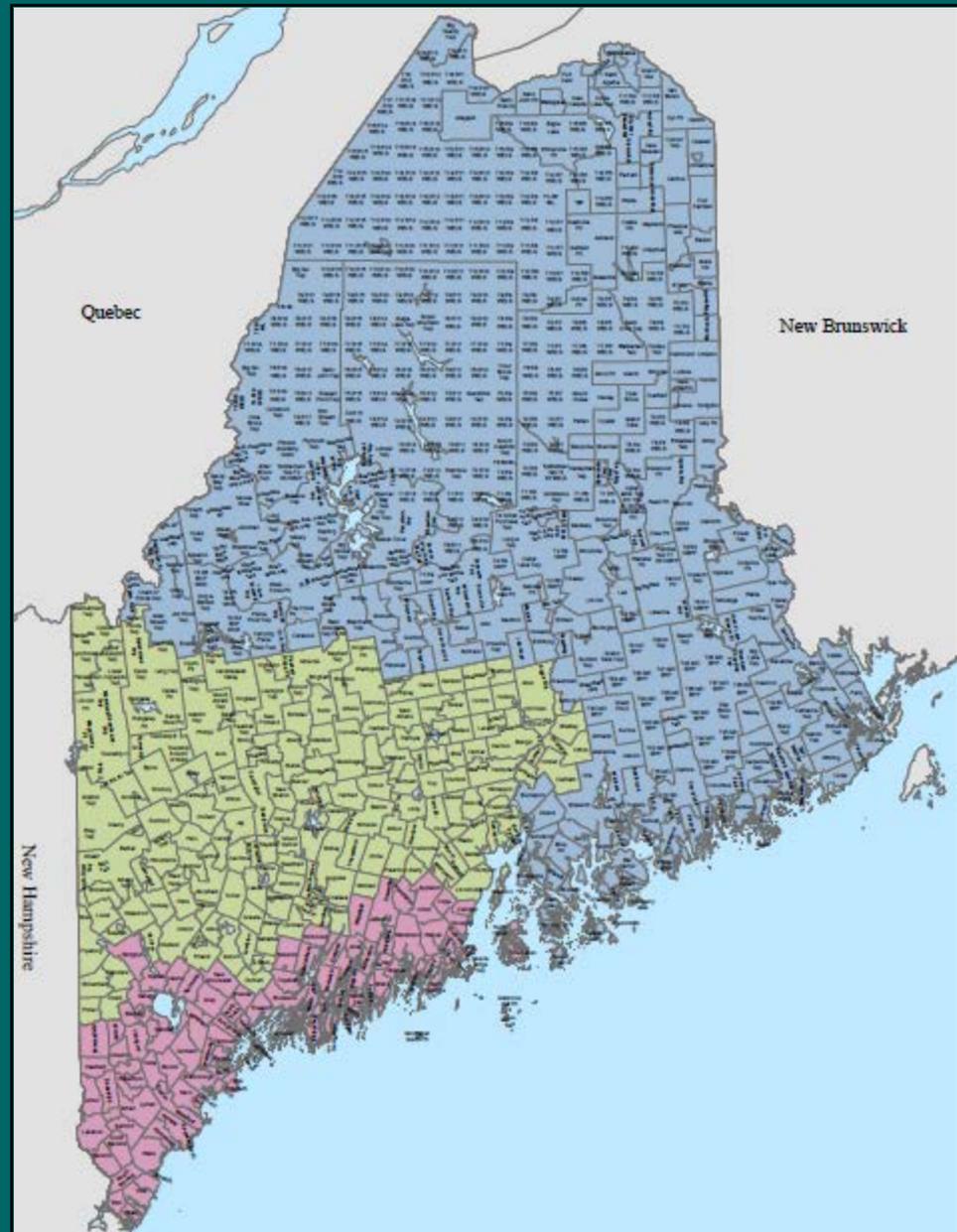


Survey Methodology

- Scientific multi-modal survey of Maine residents, licensed hunters, and landowners:
 - n=933 residents (+/- 4.07)
 - n=956 hunters (+/- 3.26)
 - n=304 landowners (+/- 6.81)
- Data collected by telephone (landline and cell in proper proportions), mail, internet
- Sampling and analysis by region:
 - North / East
 - Central
 - South
- Survey conducted January–February 2016



Maine Survey Regions



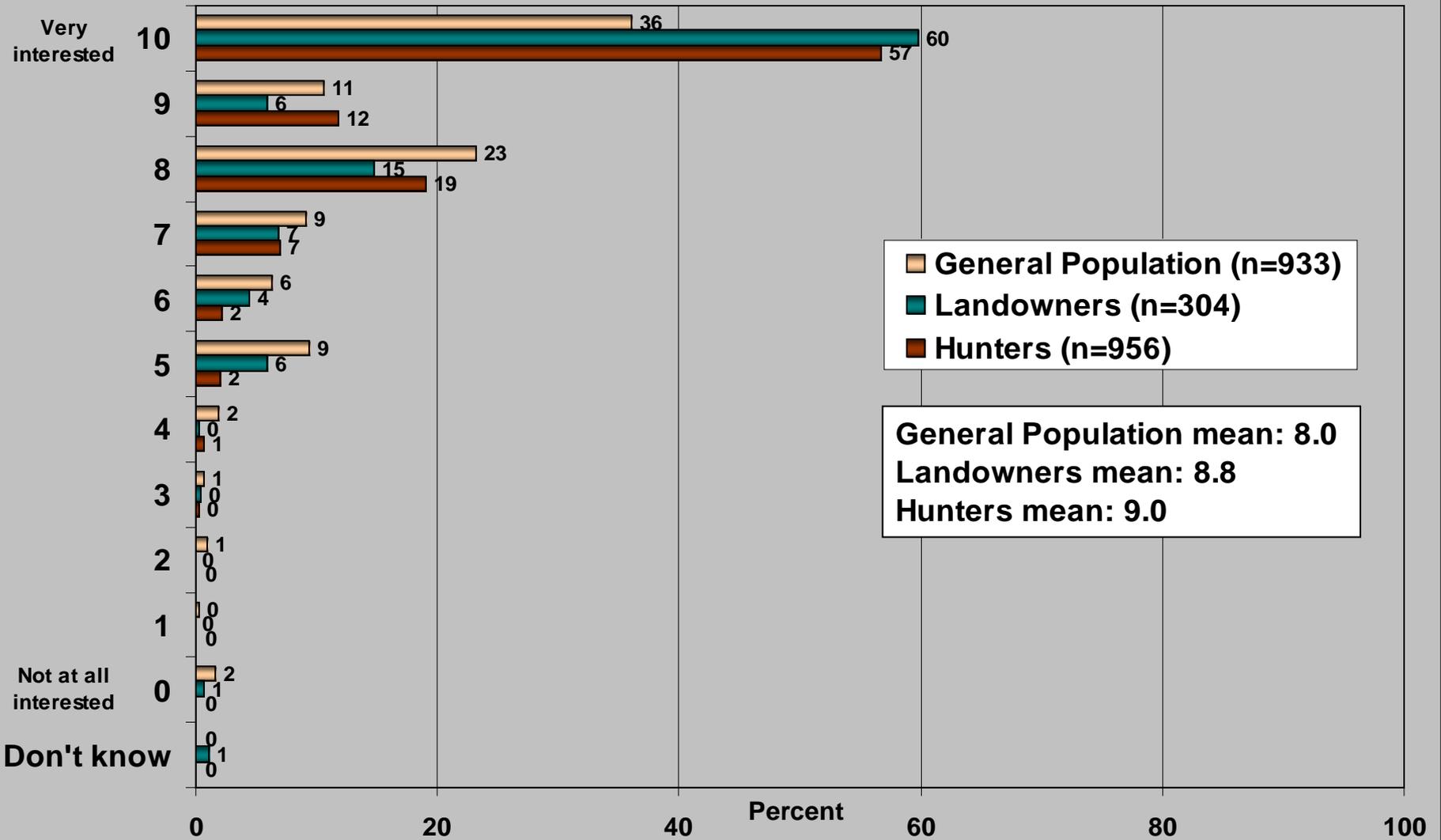
Survey Results



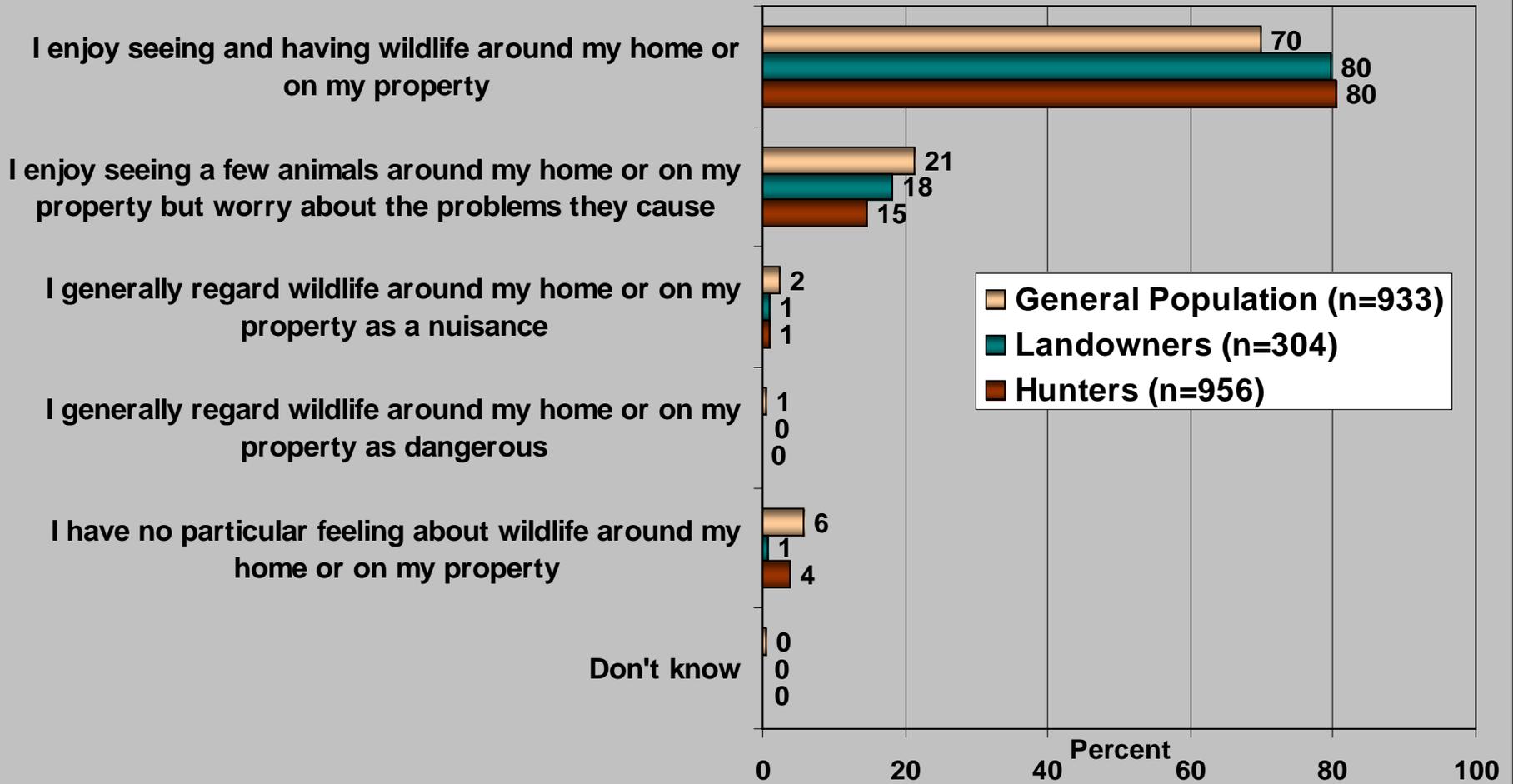
Interest in and Knowledge of Wildlife



How interested are you in wildlife in Maine? (Overall)



Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about wildlife around your home or on your property? (Overall)

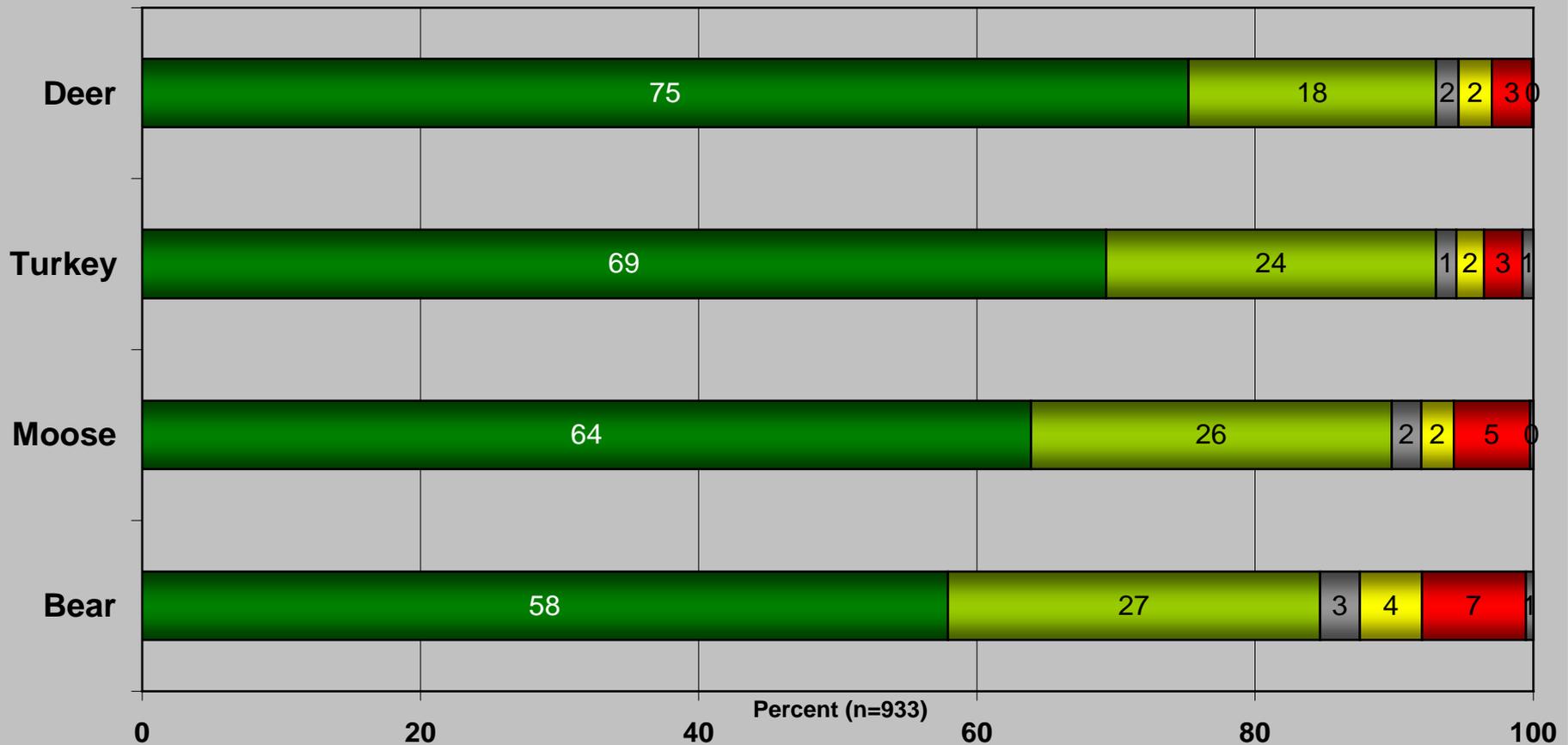


Opinions on Hunting



Percent of respondents who [approve / disapprove] of the legal hunting of each of the following species. (General Population)

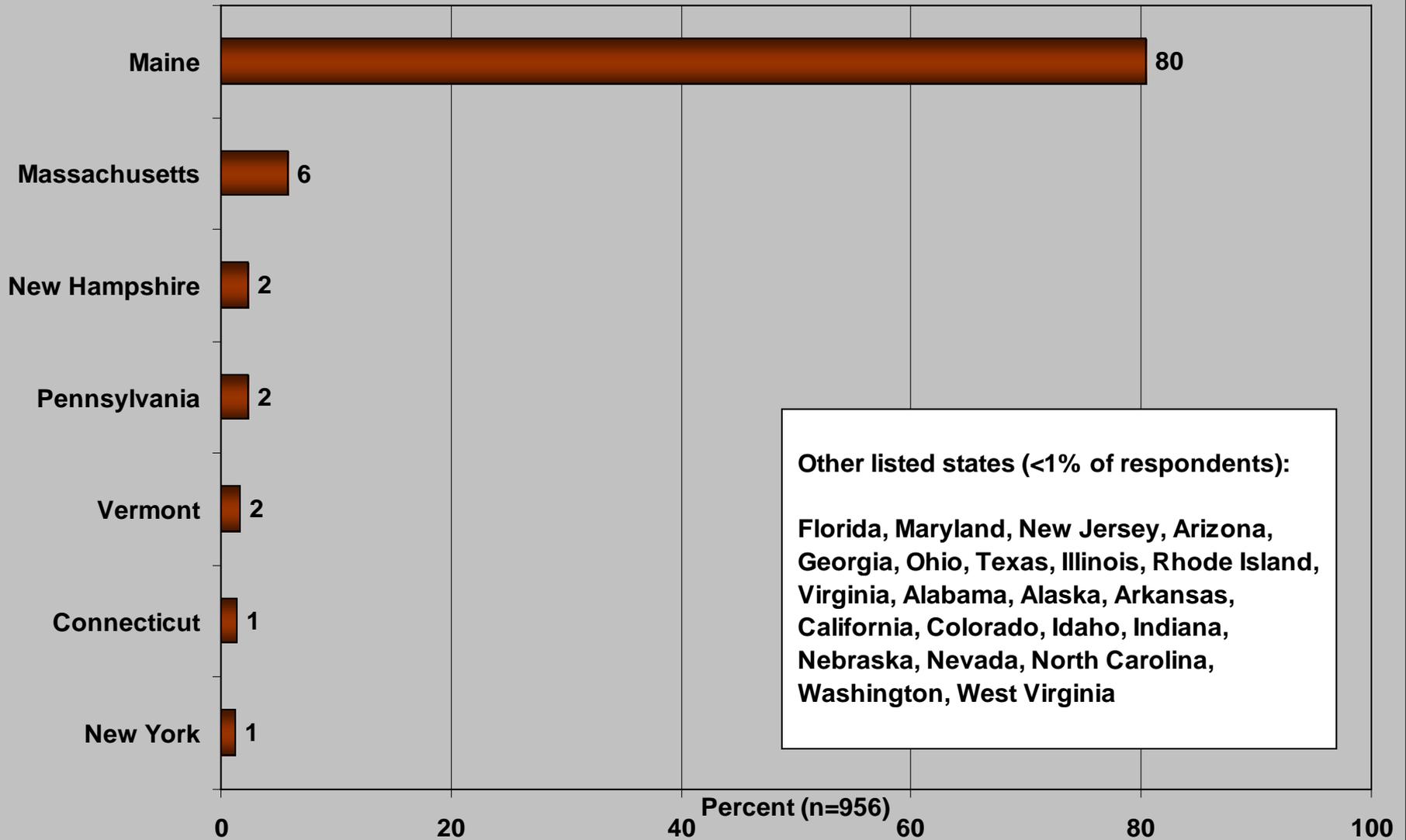
■ Strongly approve
 ■ Moderately approve
 ■ Neither approve nor disapprove
 ■ Moderately disapprove
 ■ Strongly disapprove
 ■ Don't know



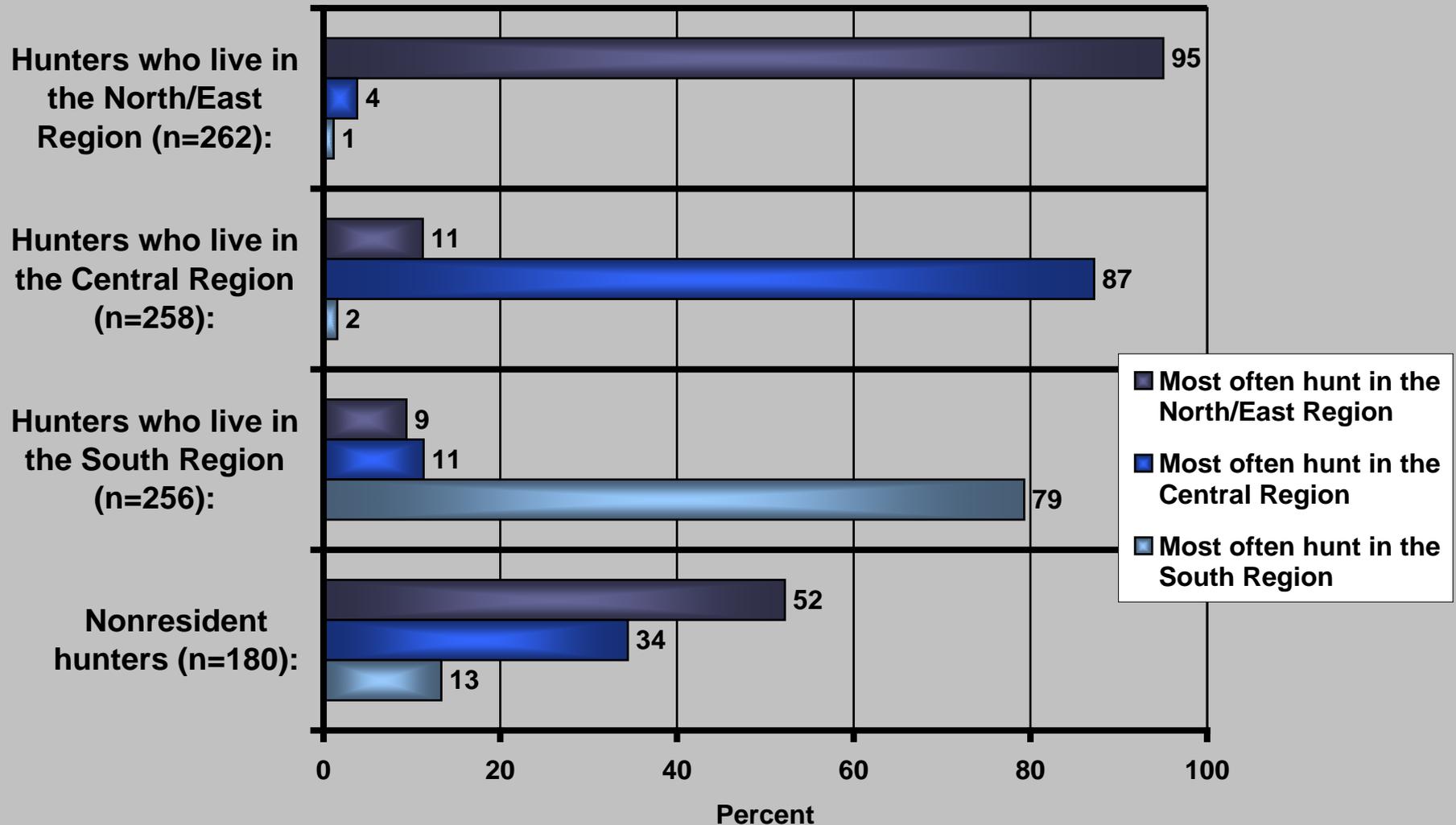
Participation in Hunting



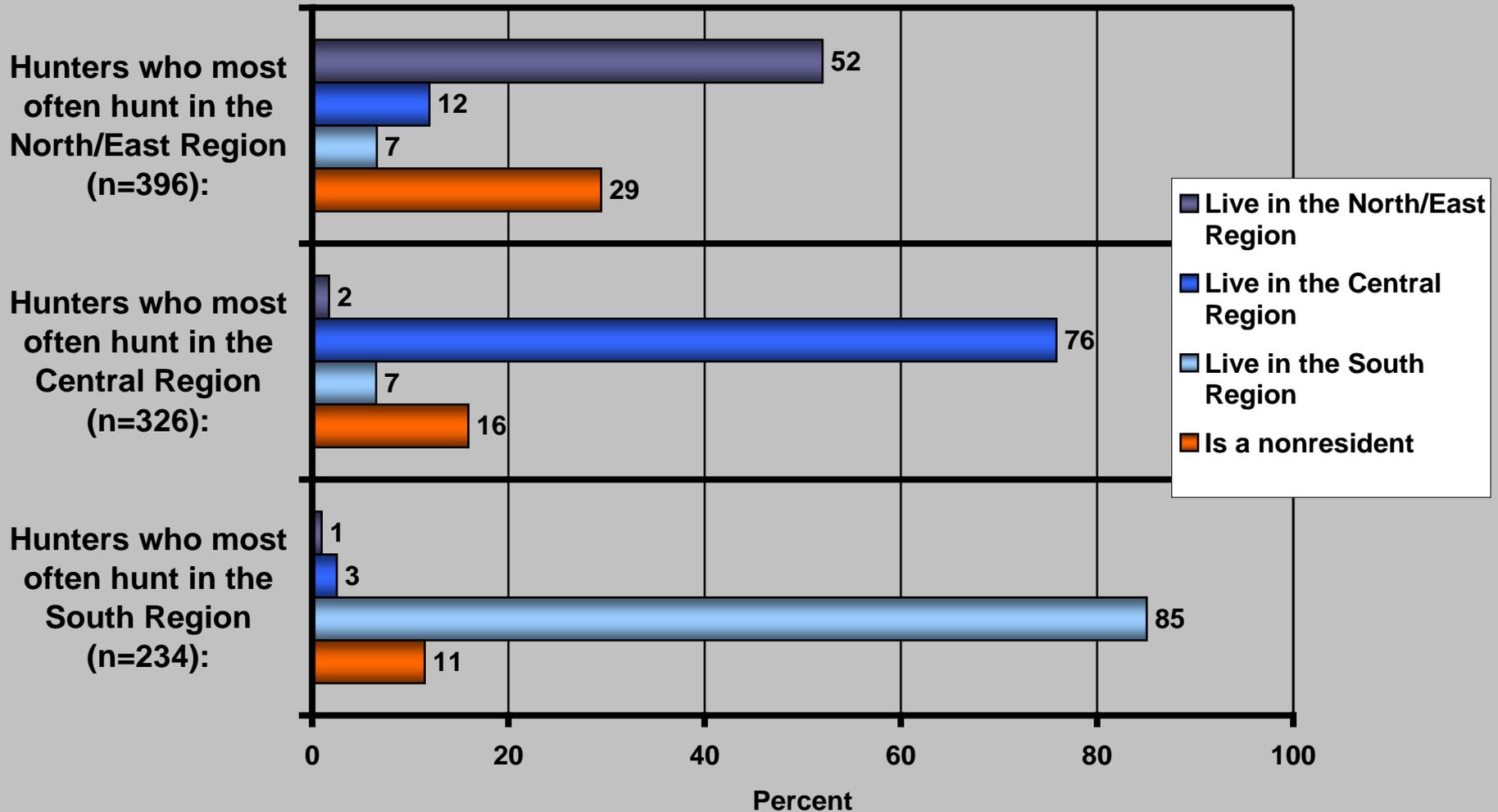
What state do you live in? (Hunters)



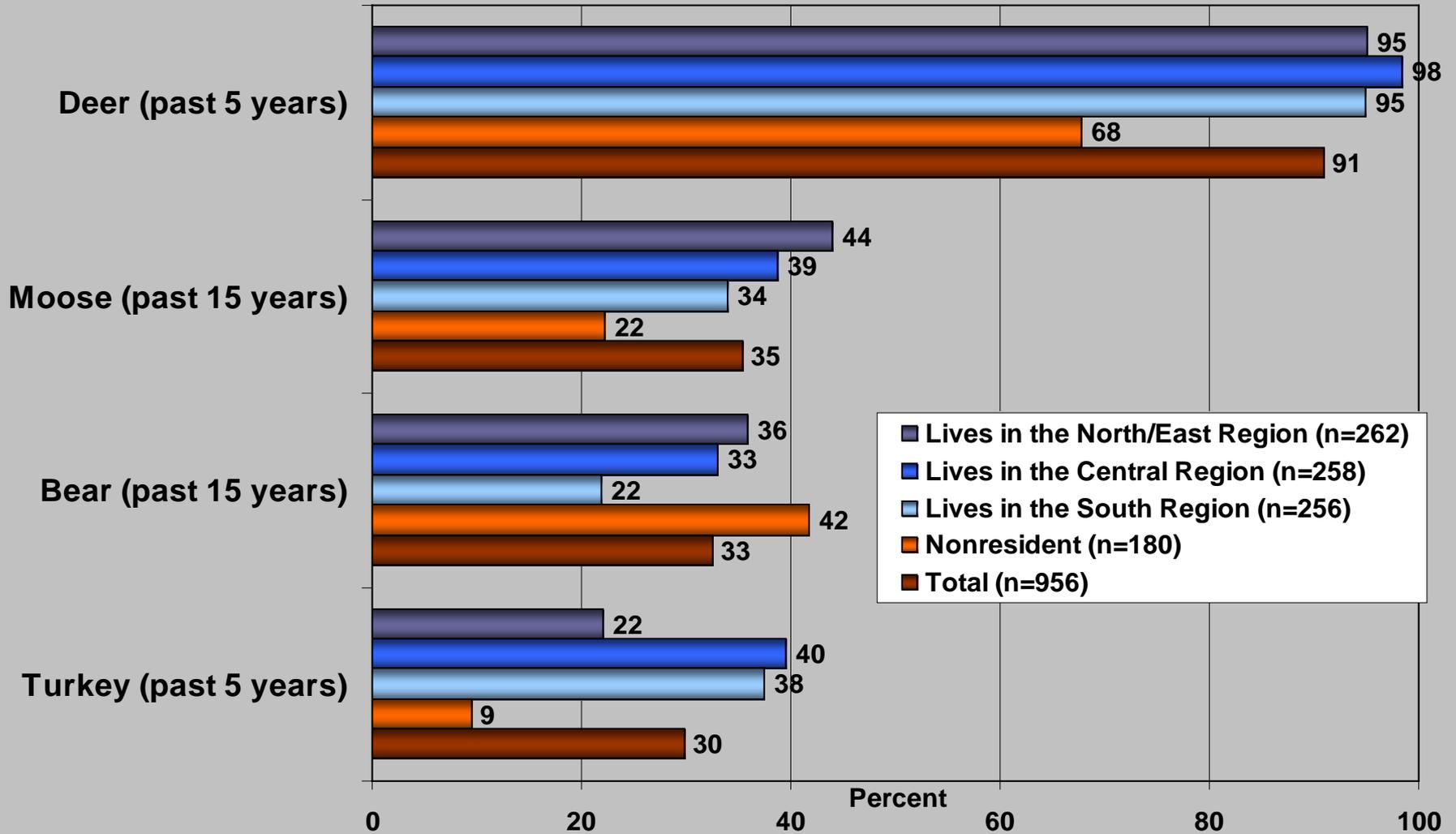
Where hunters from each region most often hunt: (Hunters)



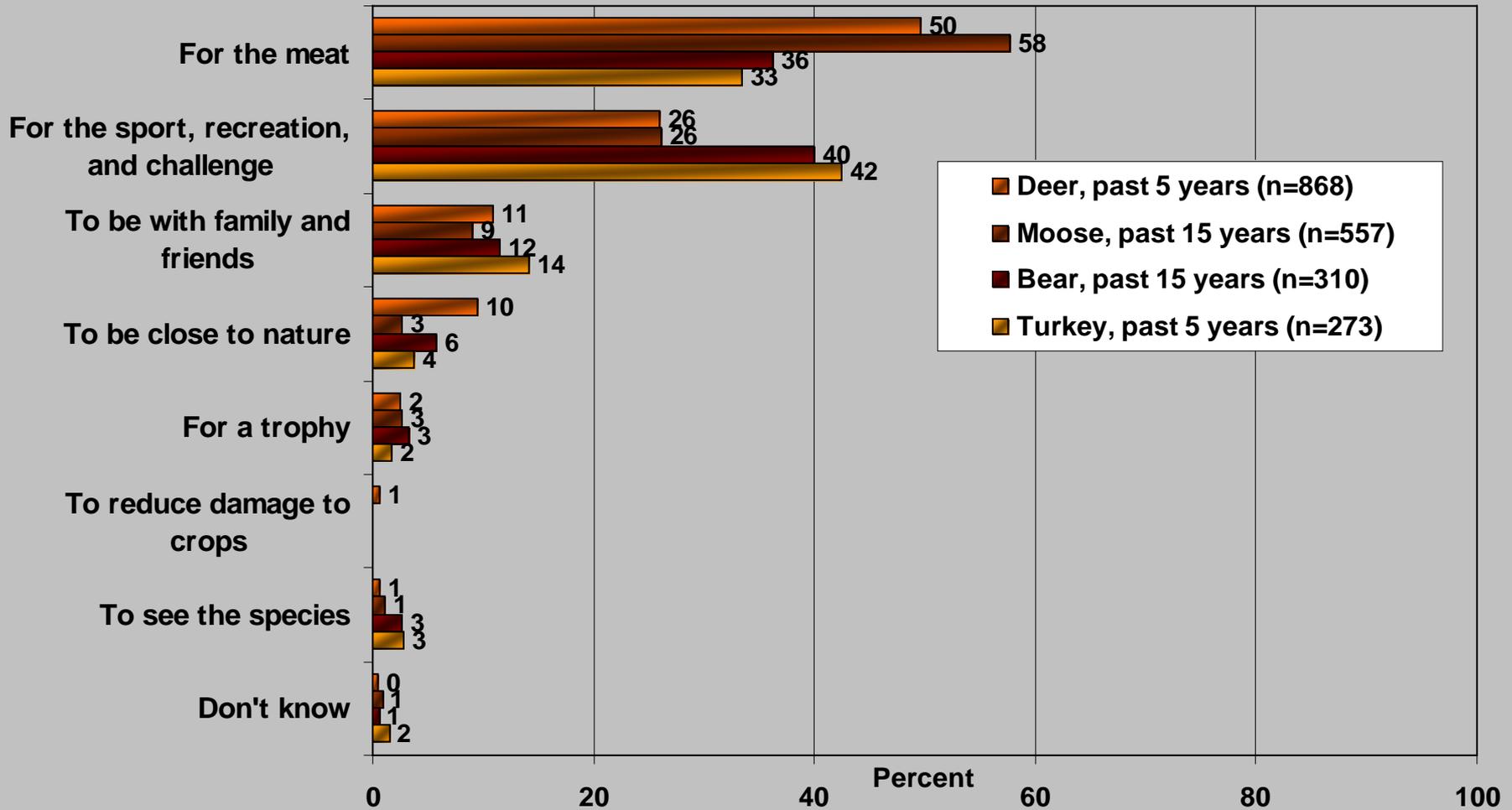
Where those who hunt in each region are from: (Hunters)



Percent of respondents who hunted each of the following species. (Hunters)

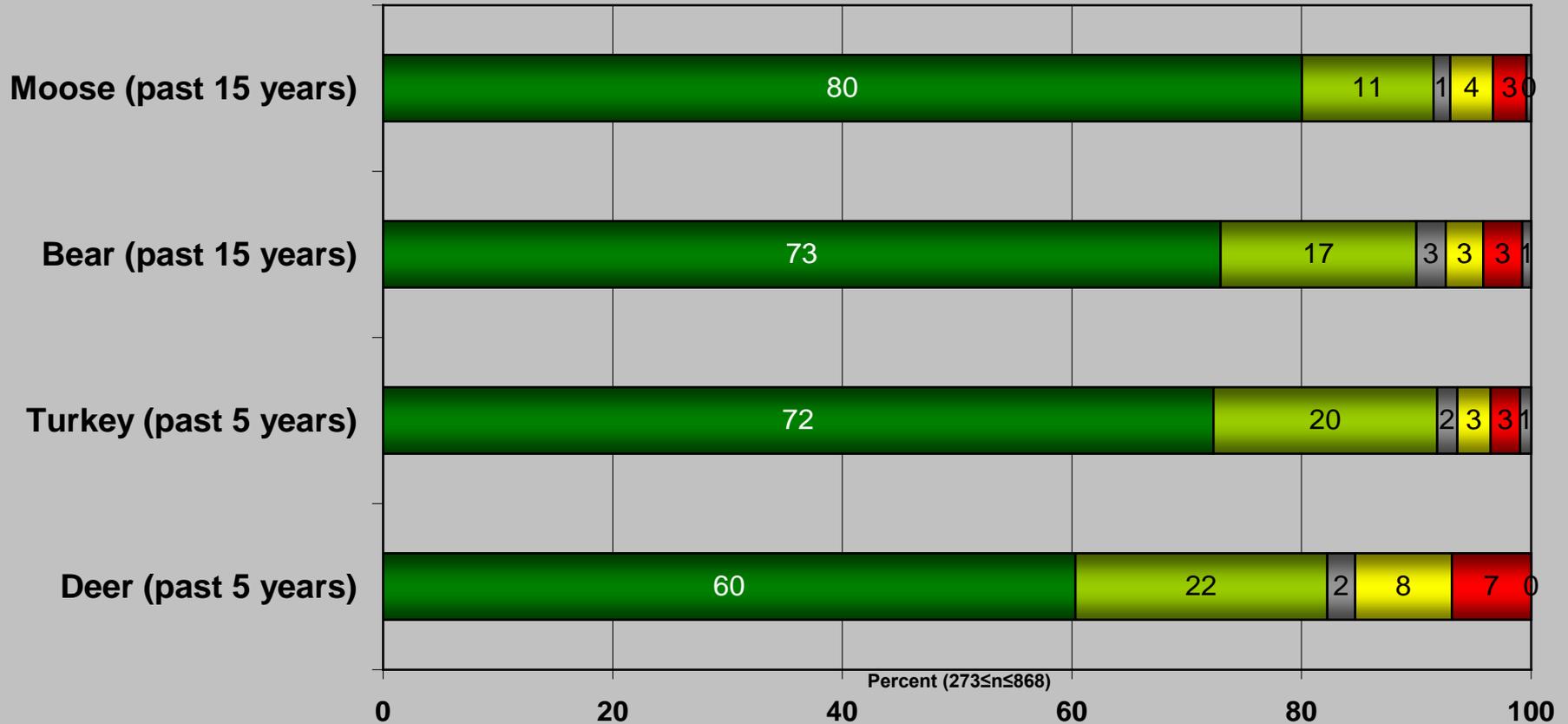


What was your most important reason for hunting each of the following species? (Asked of those who hunted the species in Maine.) (Hunters)



Percent of respondents who were [satisfied / dissatisfied] with their hunting of each of the following species in Maine. (Asked of those who hunted the species.) (Hunters)

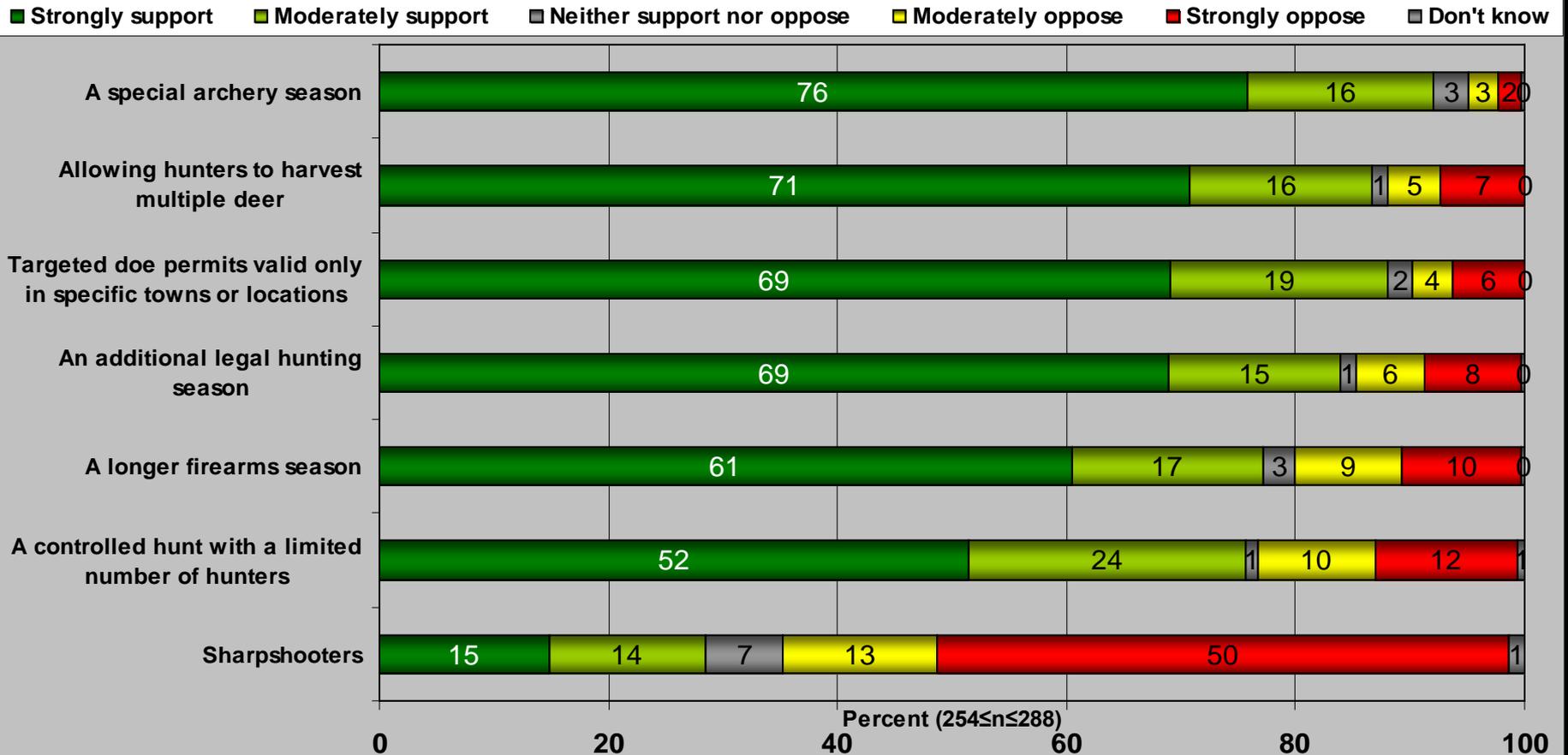
■ Very satisfied
 ■ Somewhat satisfied
 ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
 ■ Somewhat dissatisfied
 ■ Very dissatisfied
 ■ Don't know



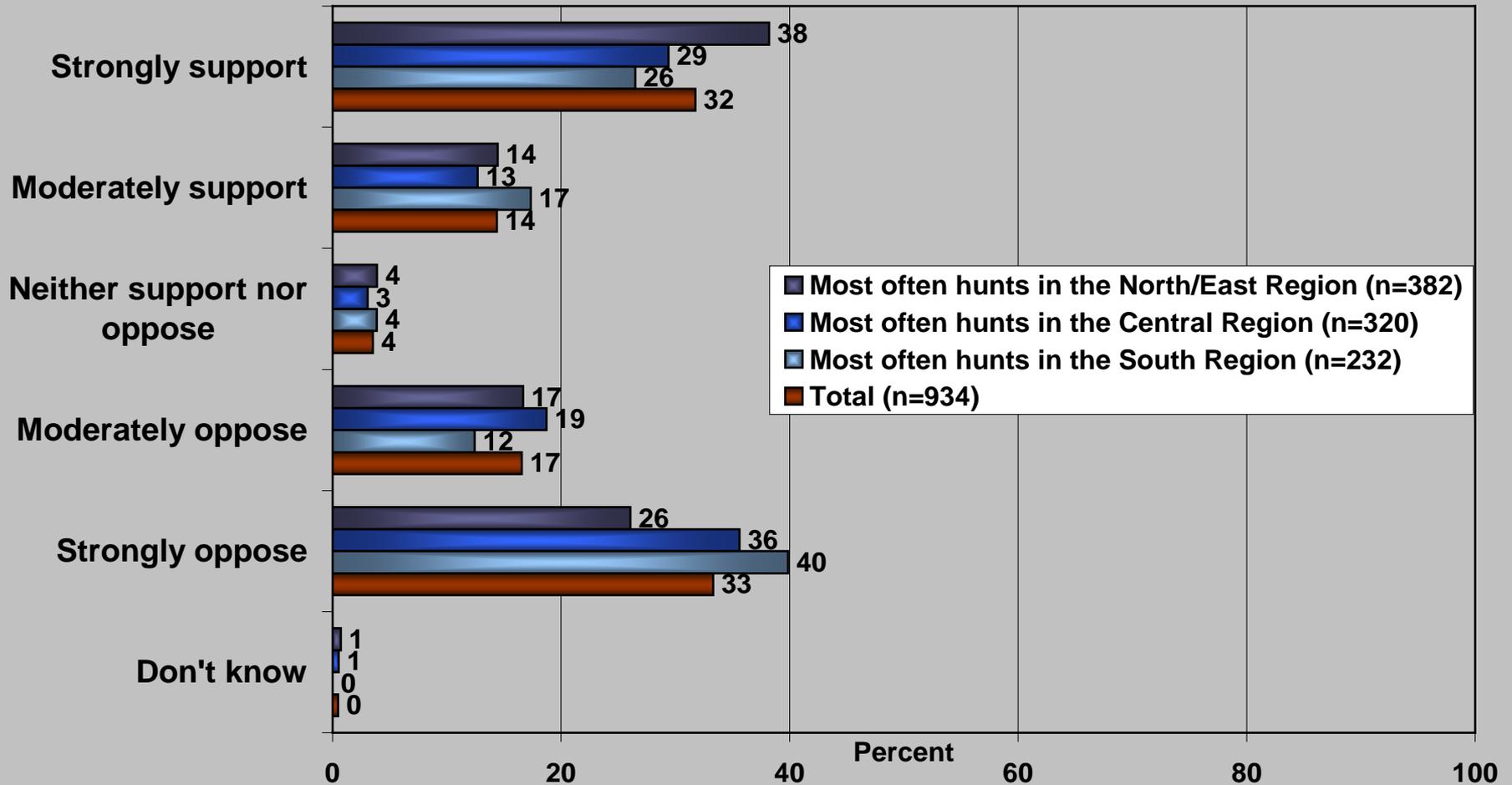
Opinions on Regulations and Specific Aspects of Hunting



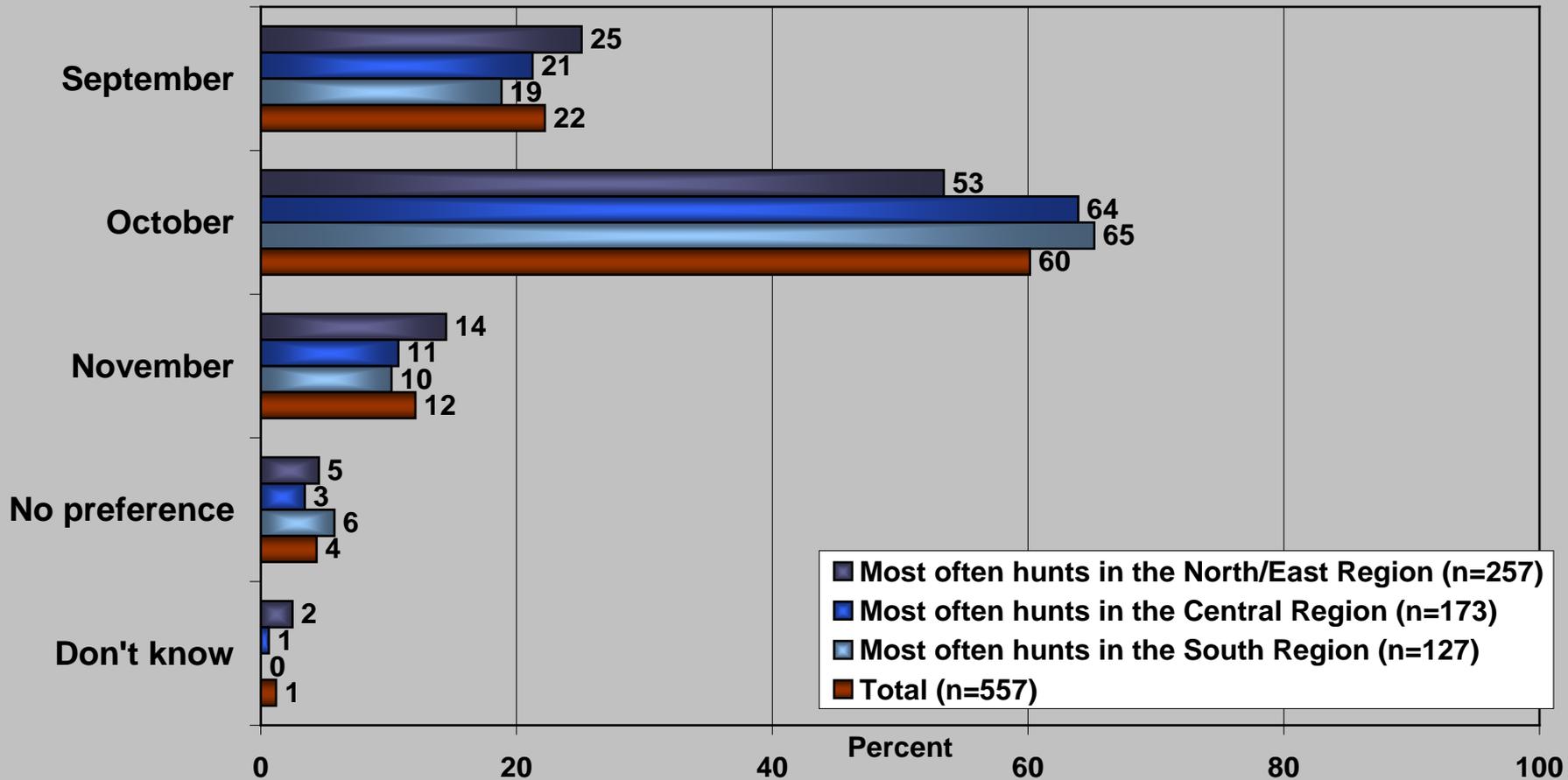
Percent of respondents who would [support / oppose] each of the following deer management options in areas of Maine where the deer population became overabundant. (Hunters)



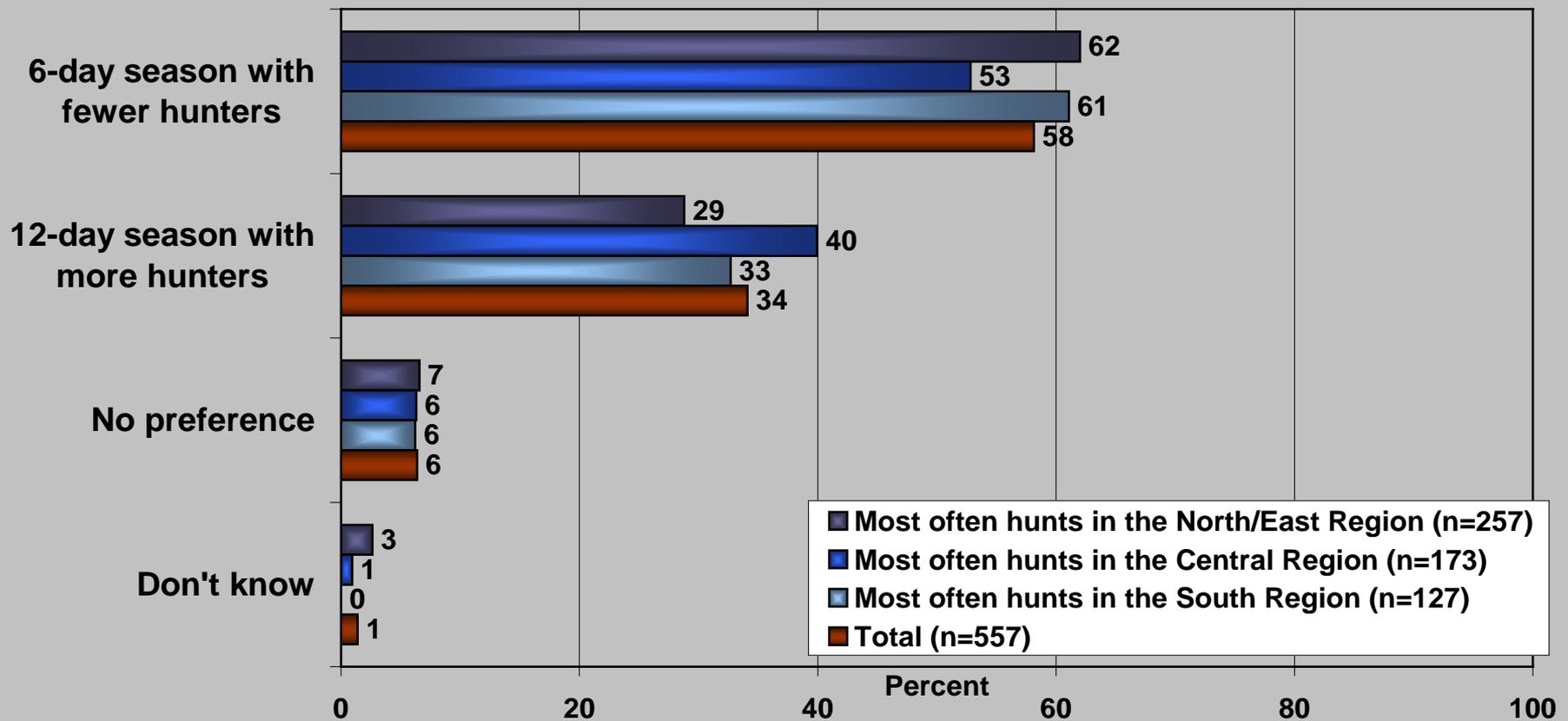
Would you support or oppose a law requiring that harvested bucks have at least 3 points on one side? (Hunters)



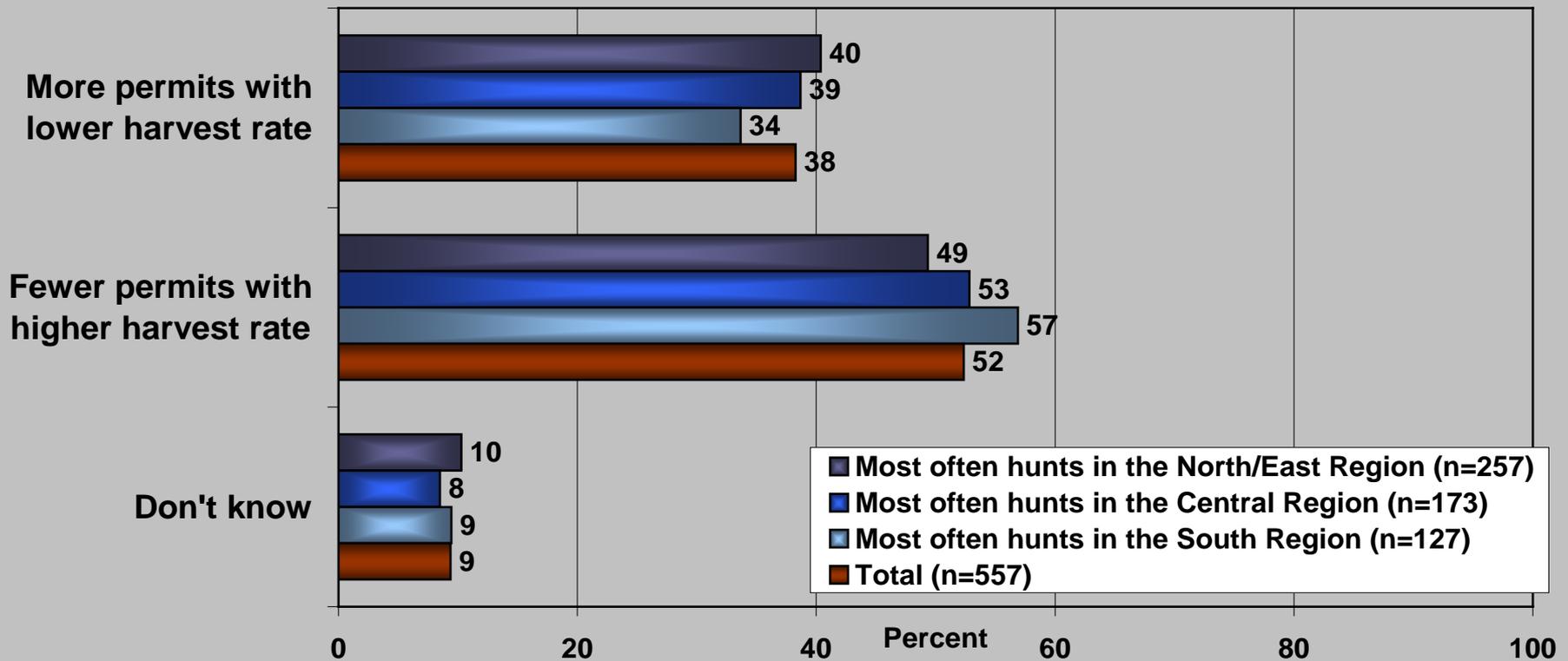
Which month do you most prefer for the moose hunting season? (Asked of those who hunted moose in Maine in the past 15 years or typically apply for a moose permit.) (Hunters)



If you had to choose, would you prefer a 6-day season with fewer hunters, or would you prefer a 12-day season with more hunters? (Asked of those who hunted moose in Maine in the past 15 years or typically apply for a moose permit.) (Hunters)

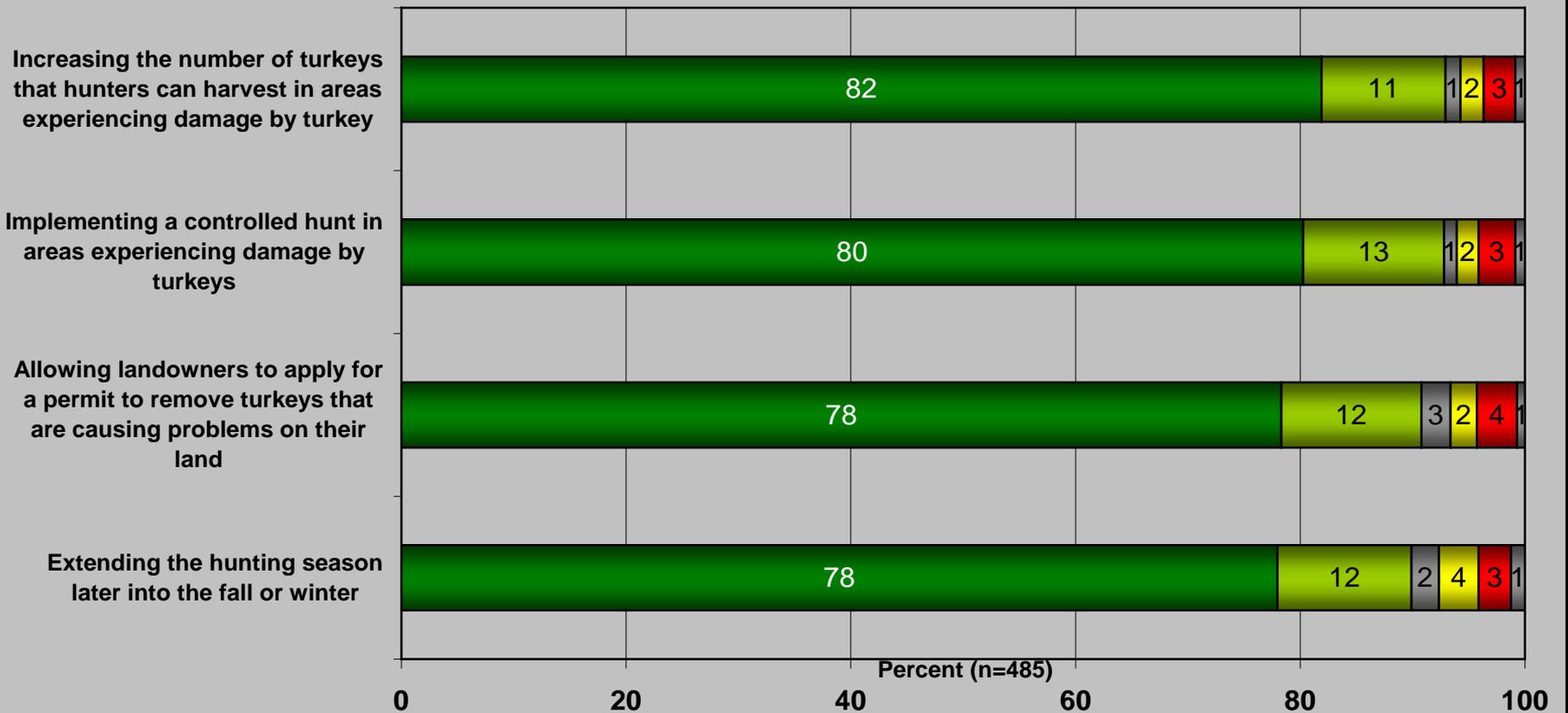


Would you prefer the Department offer more moose permits but a lower harvest success rate or fewer moose permits with a higher success rate? (Of those who hunted moose in Maine in the past 15 years or typically apply for a moose permit.) (Hunters)



Percent of respondents who would [support / oppose] each of the following turkey management options in areas of Maine where the turkey population became overabundant. (Hunters)

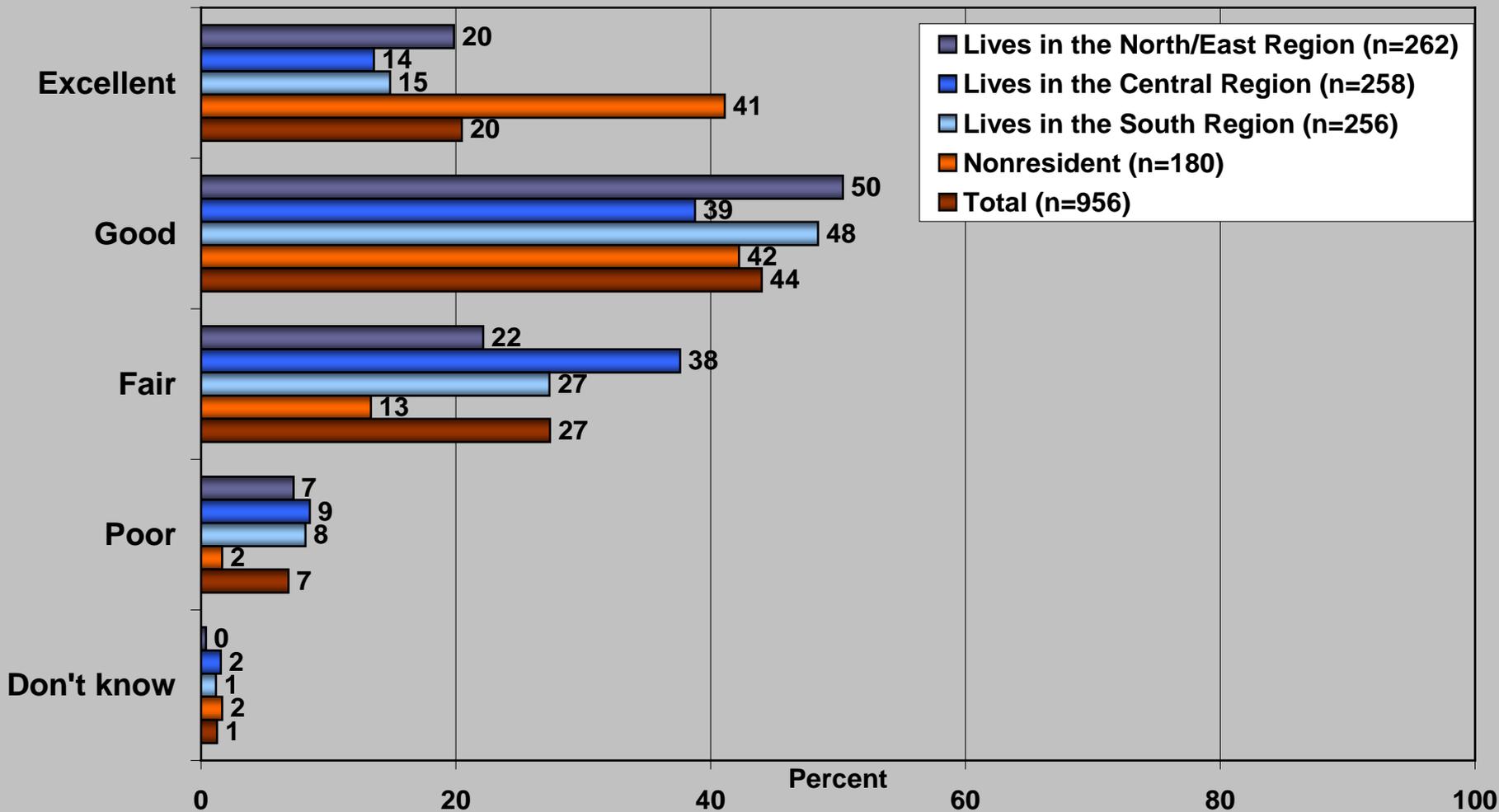
■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know



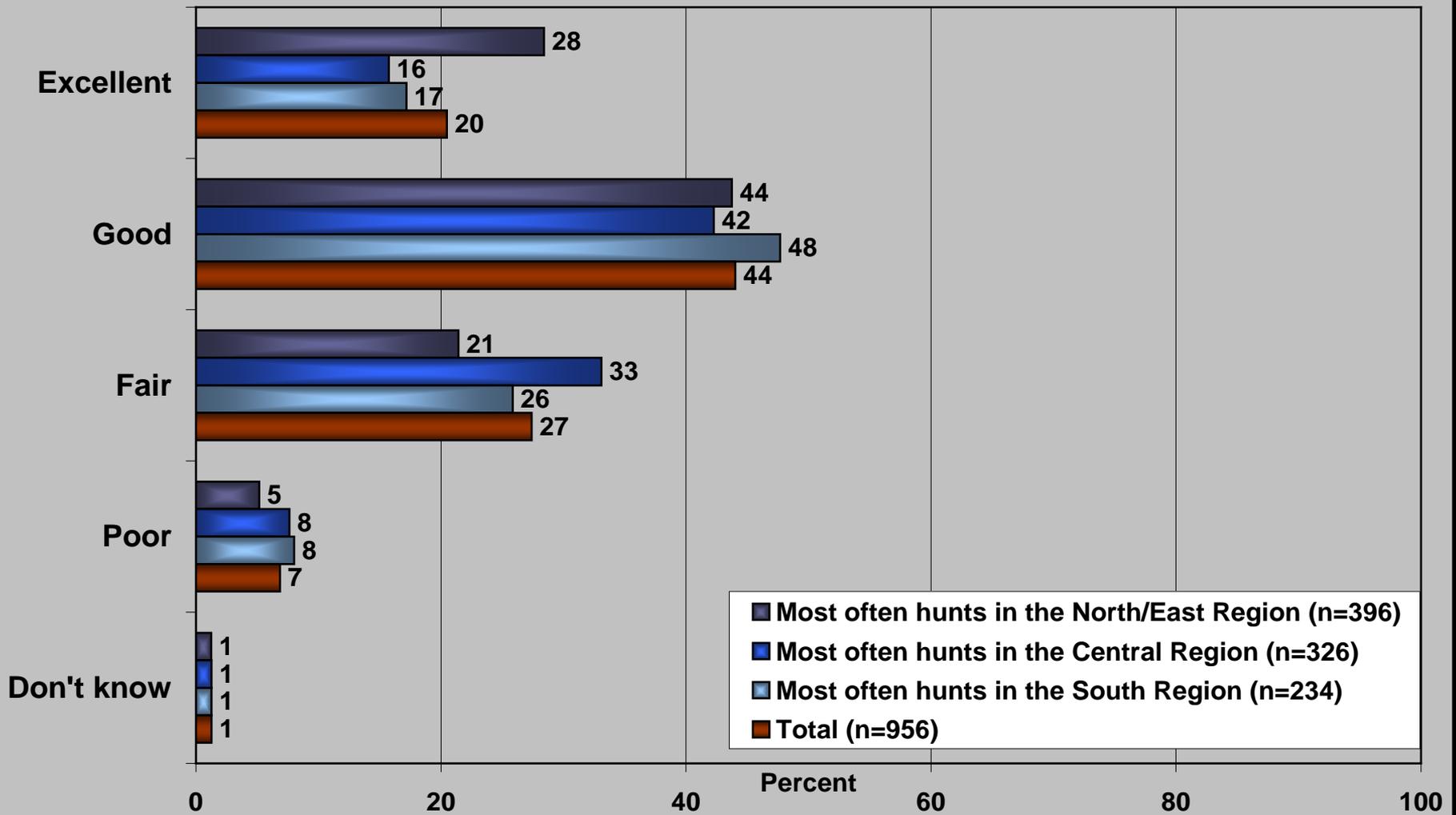
Hunting Access



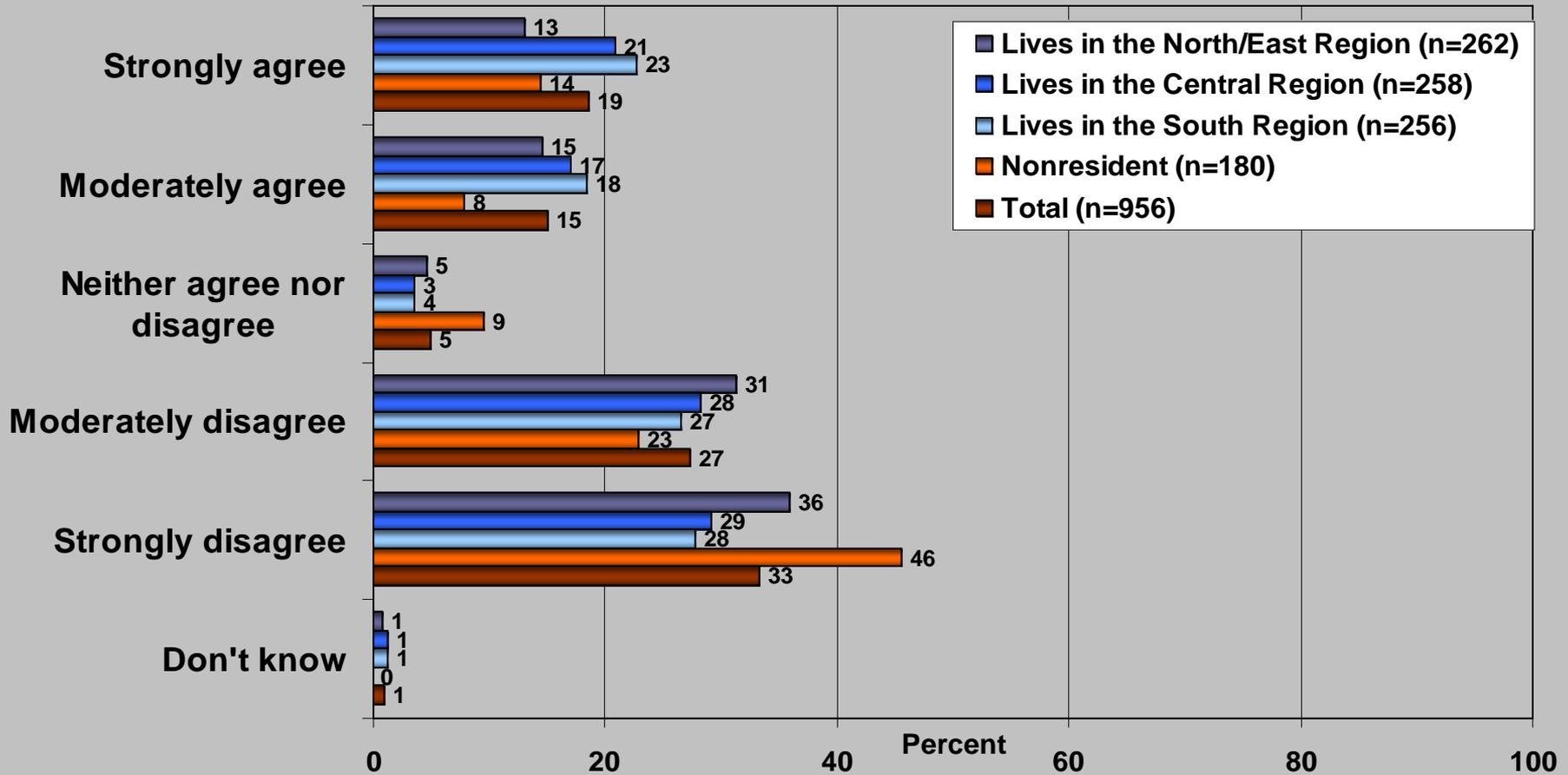
In general, how would you rate access to hunting lands in Maine? (Hunters)



In general, how would you rate access to hunting lands in Maine? (Hunters)



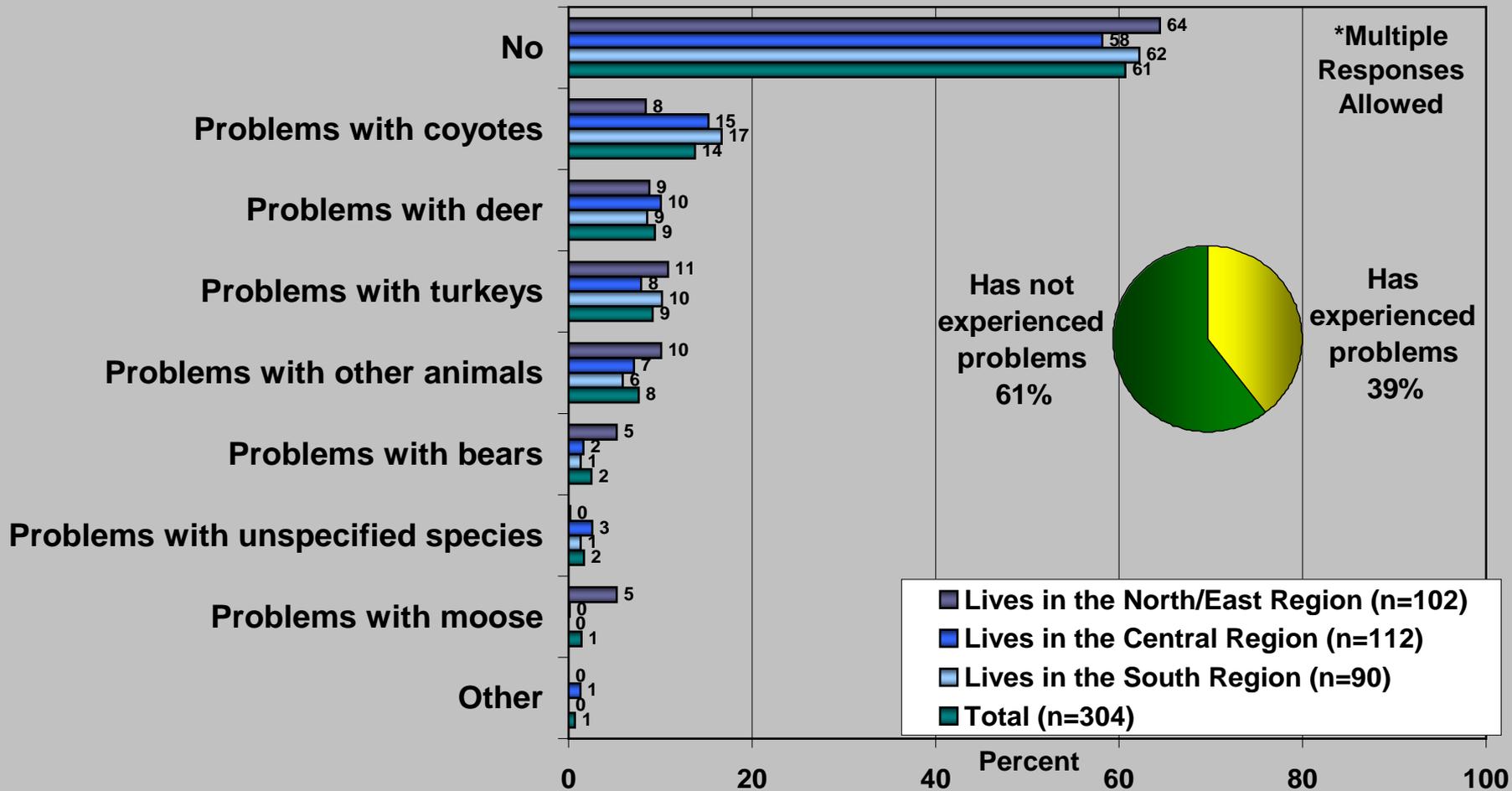
Do you agree or disagree that a lack of access to hunting lands in Maine has caused you to not hunt any species as much as you would like in the past 5 years? (Hunters)



Problems With Wildlife



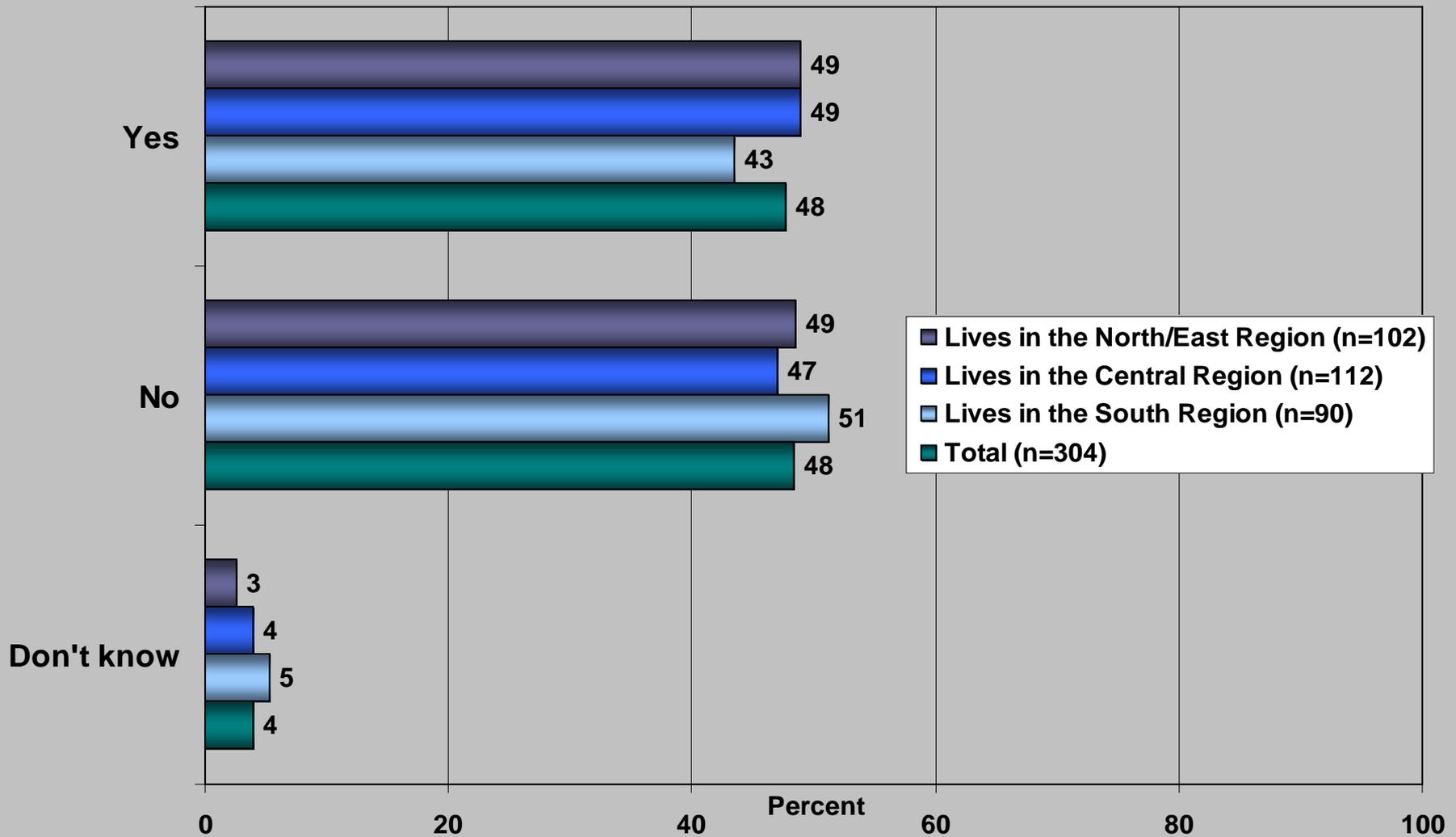
In the past 2 years, have you experienced any problems with wildlife on your largest tract of land? (Landowners)



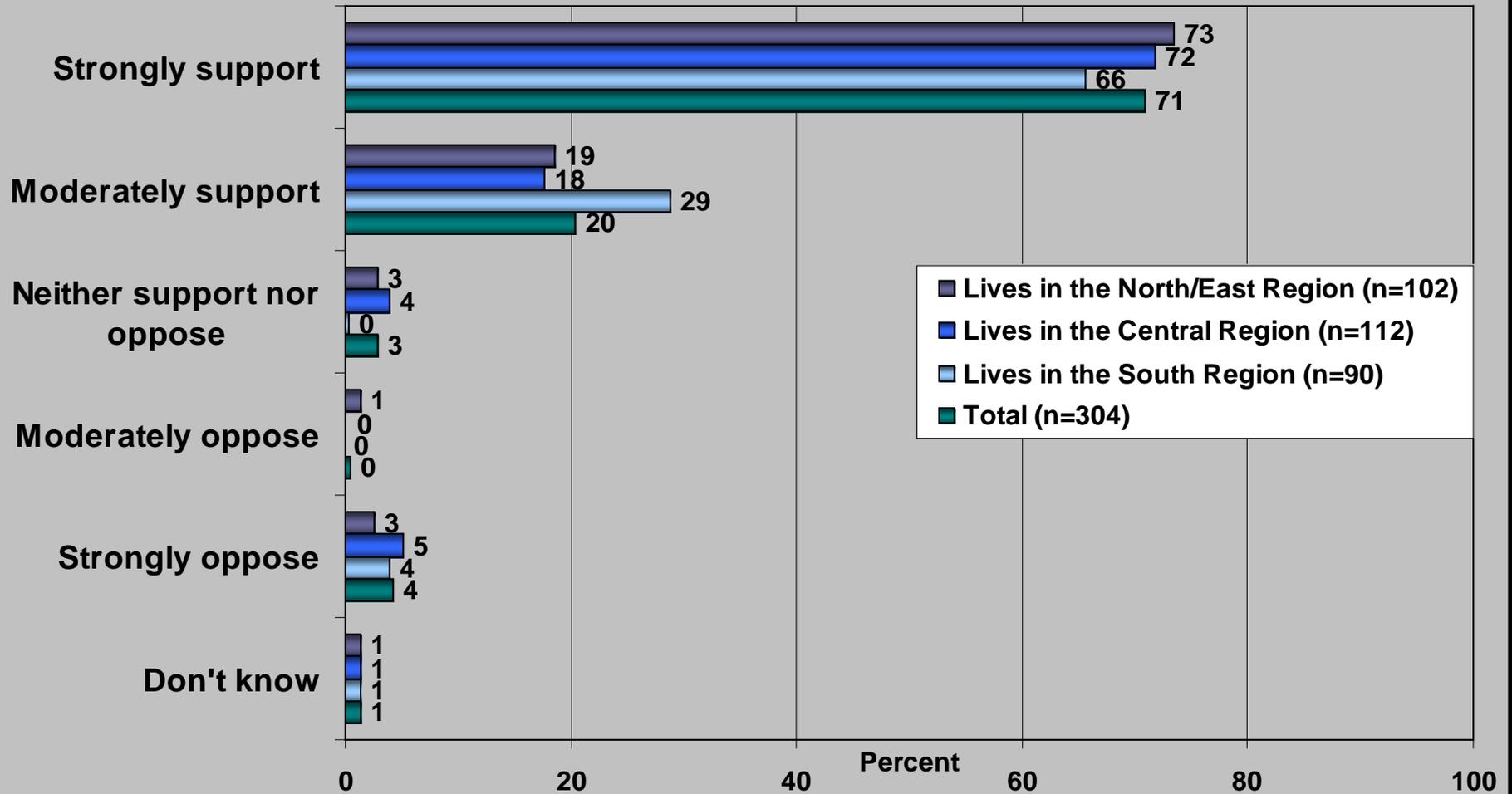
Land Management in General



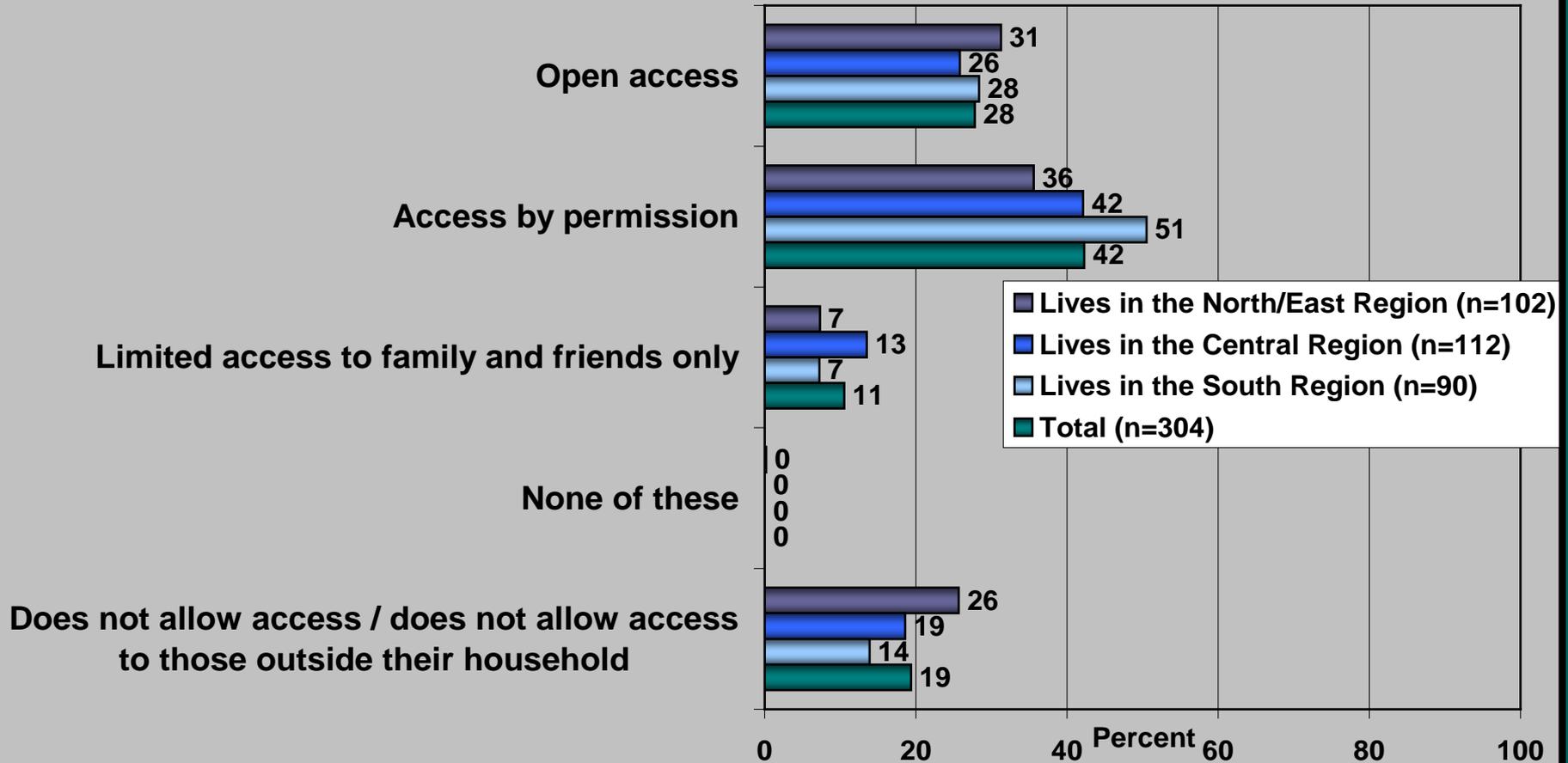
Do you actively manage for wildlife on your land? (Landowners)



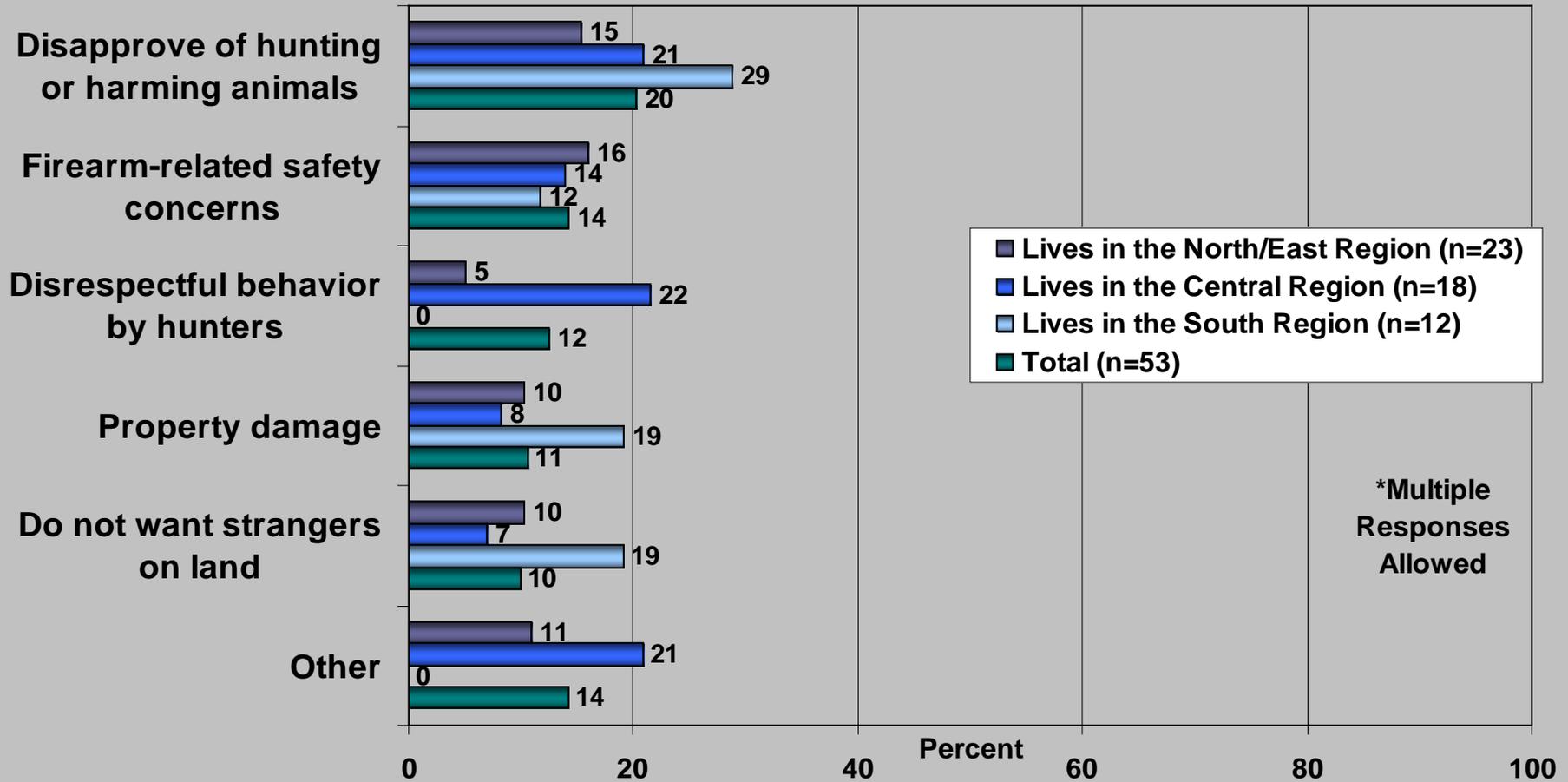
Do you support or oppose legal hunting as a method to help manage wildlife populations in Maine? (Landowners)



Do you typically allow open hunting access, allow hunting access by permission, or allow limited hunting access to family and friends only? (Landowners)



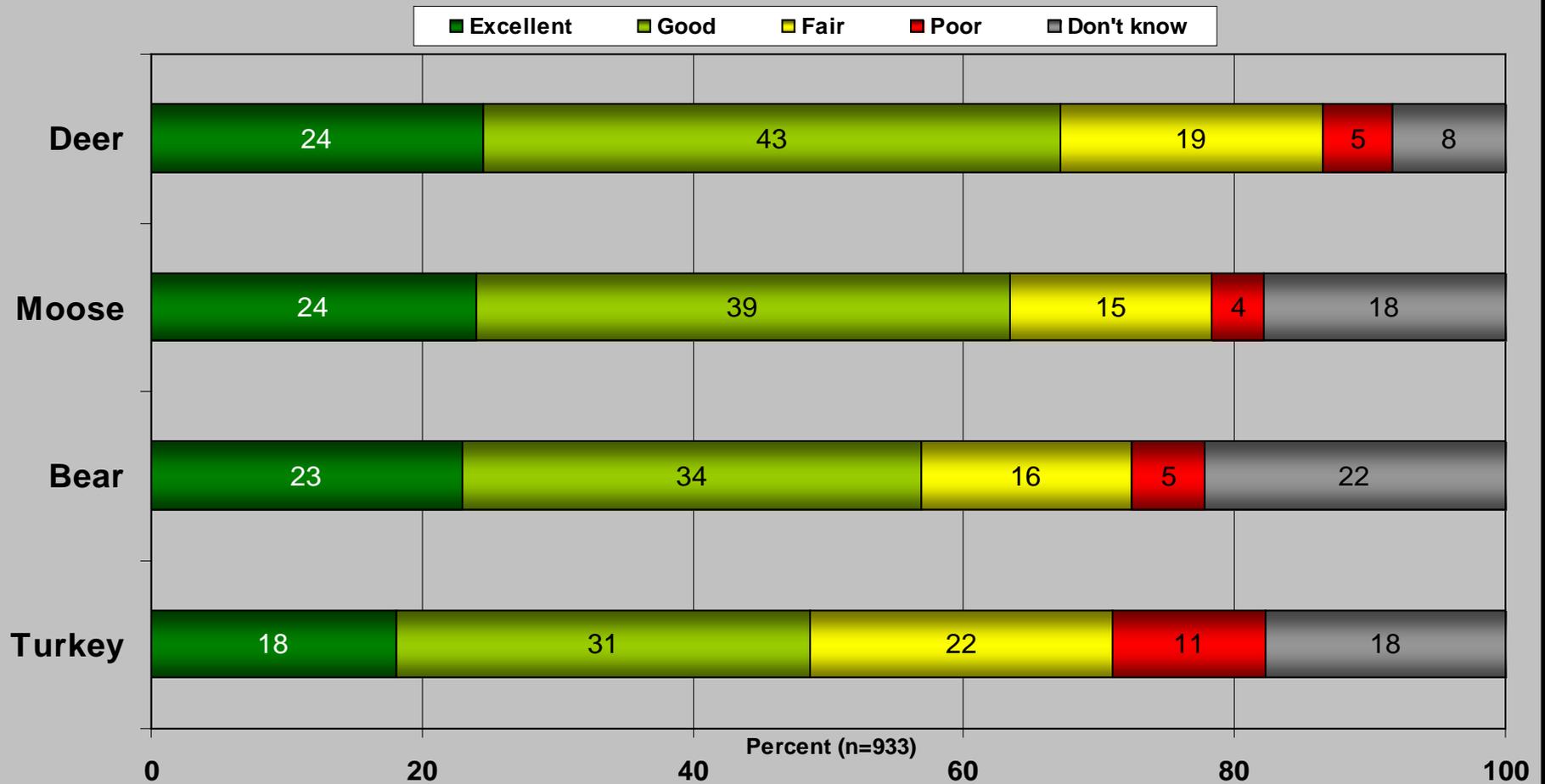
What are the main reasons you do not allow access to the land for hunting other than for family and friends? (Asked of those who do not allow access beyond members of their household.) (Landowners)



Perceptions About Big Game Management

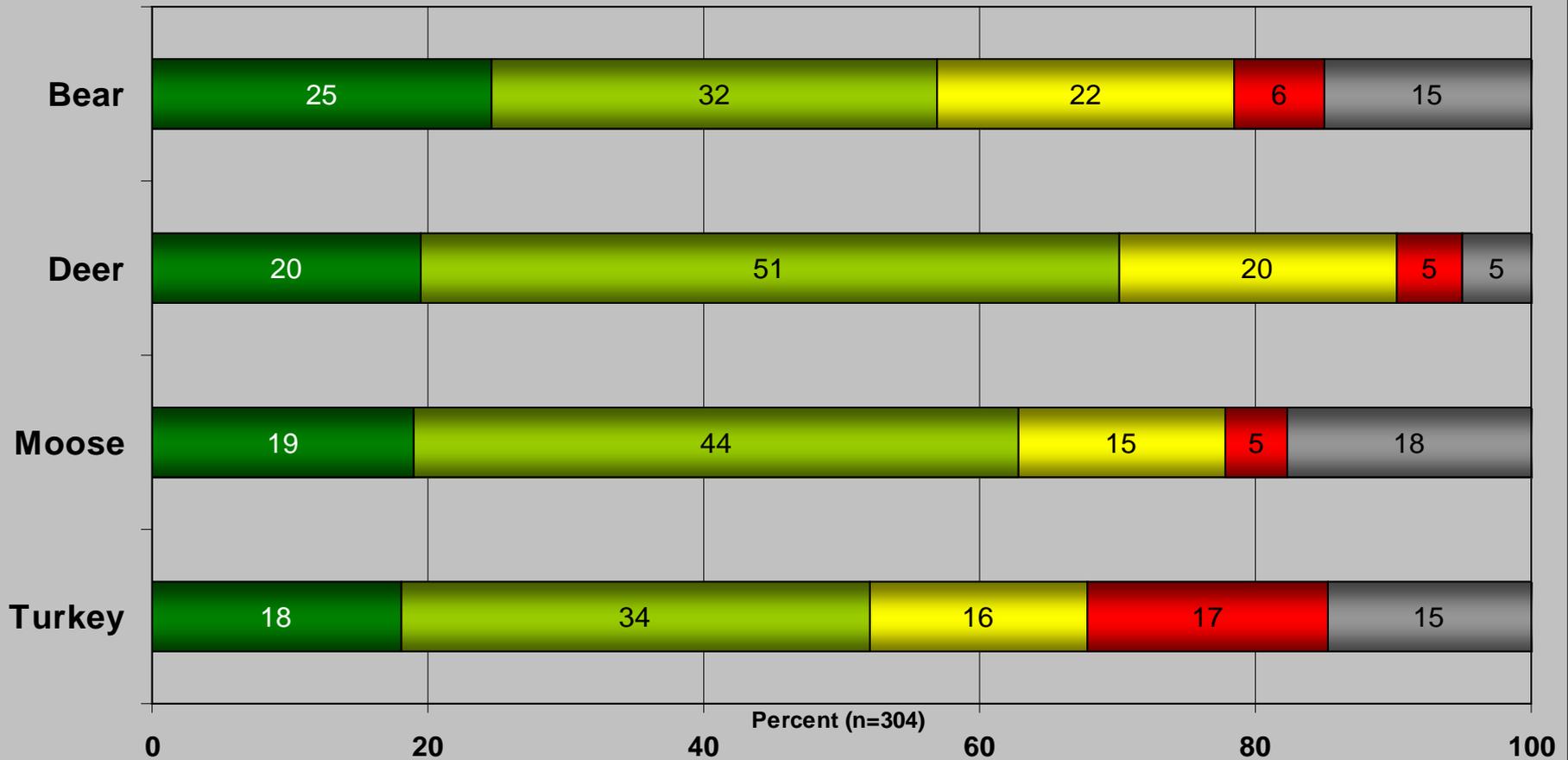


Percent of respondents who rated the management of each of the following species as [rating] in Maine. (General Population)

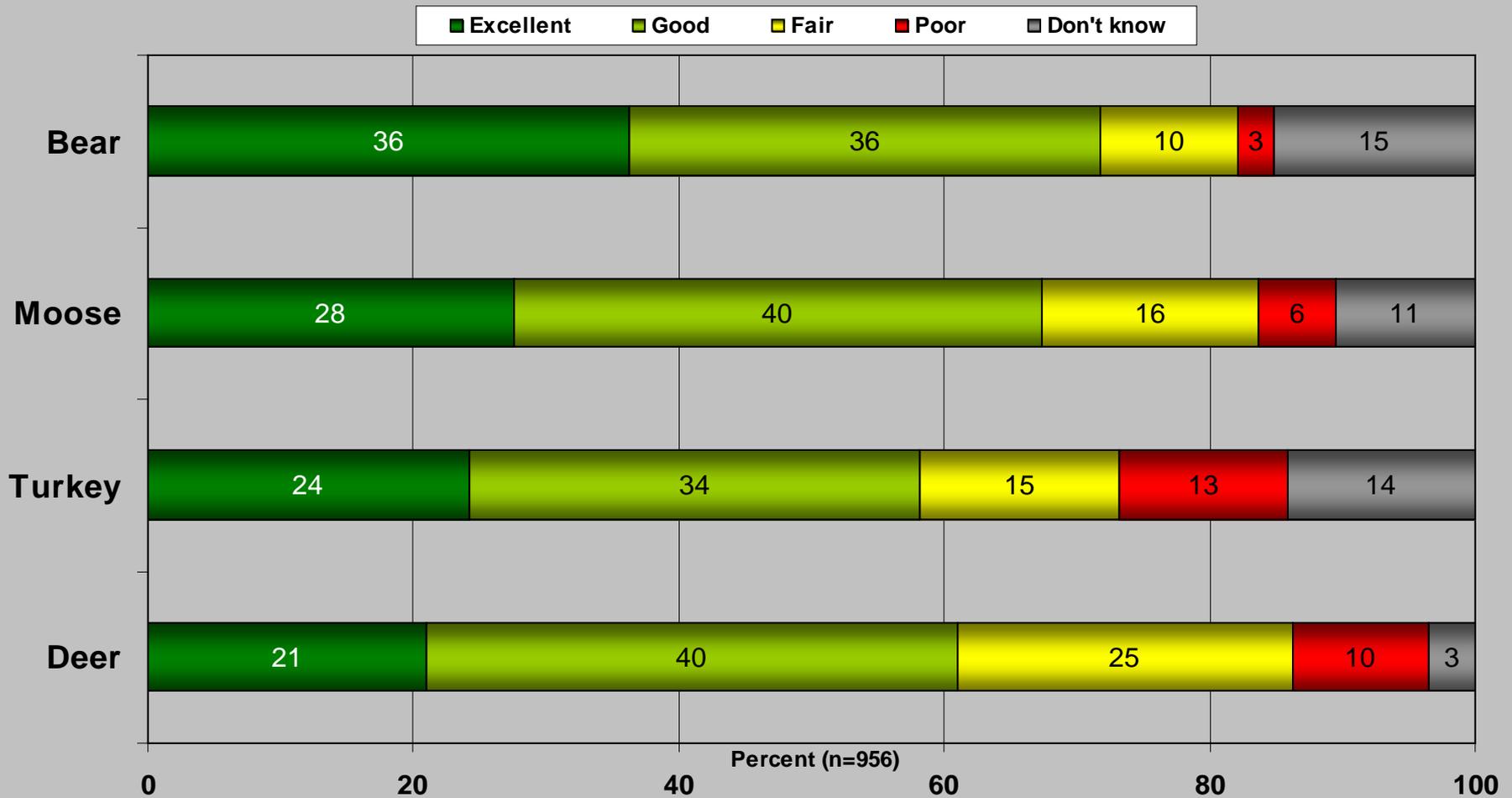


Percent of respondents who rated the management of each of the following species as [rating] in Maine. (Landowners)

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Don't know



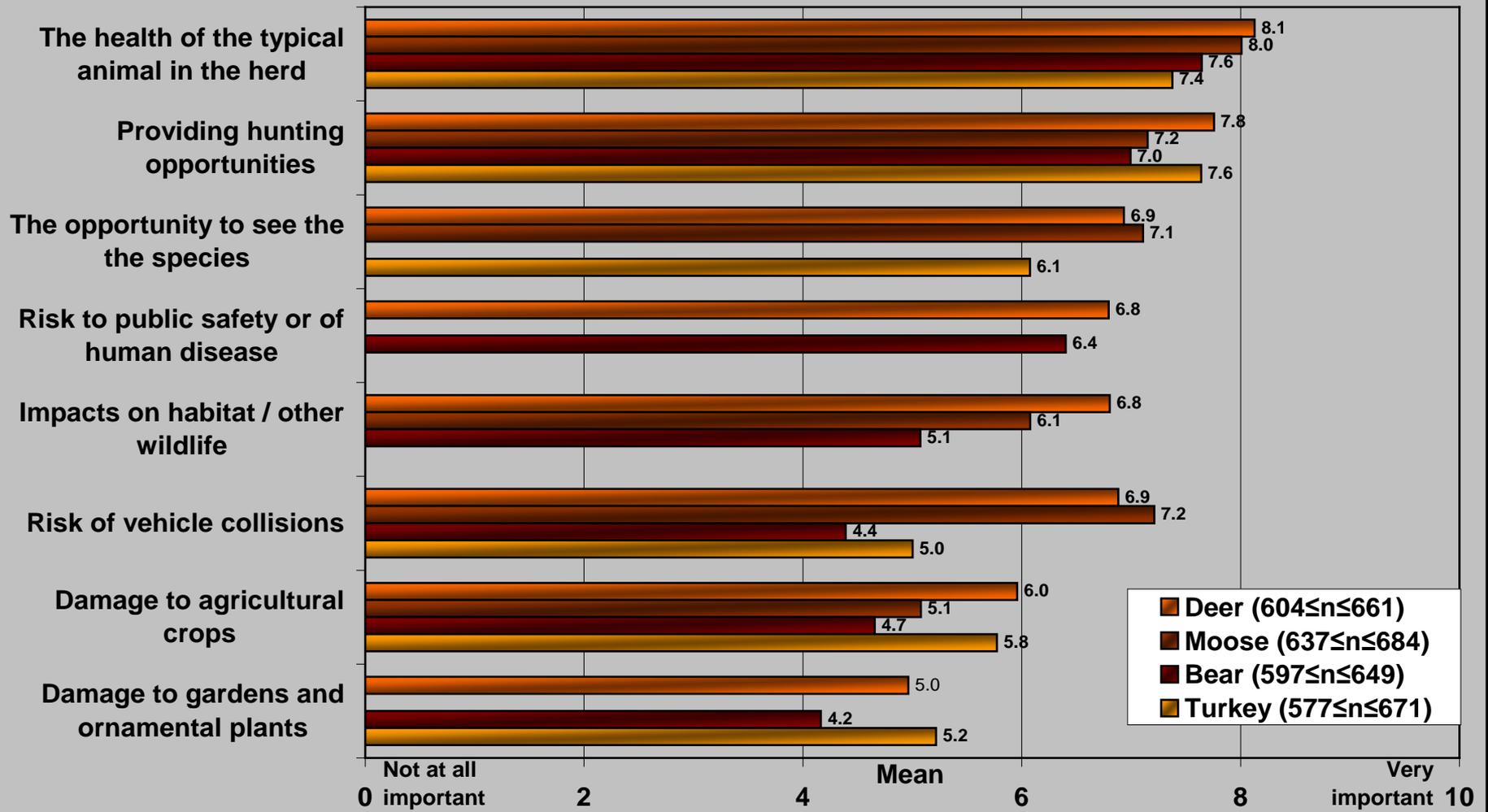
Percent of respondents who rated the management of each of the following species as [rating] in Maine. (Hunters)



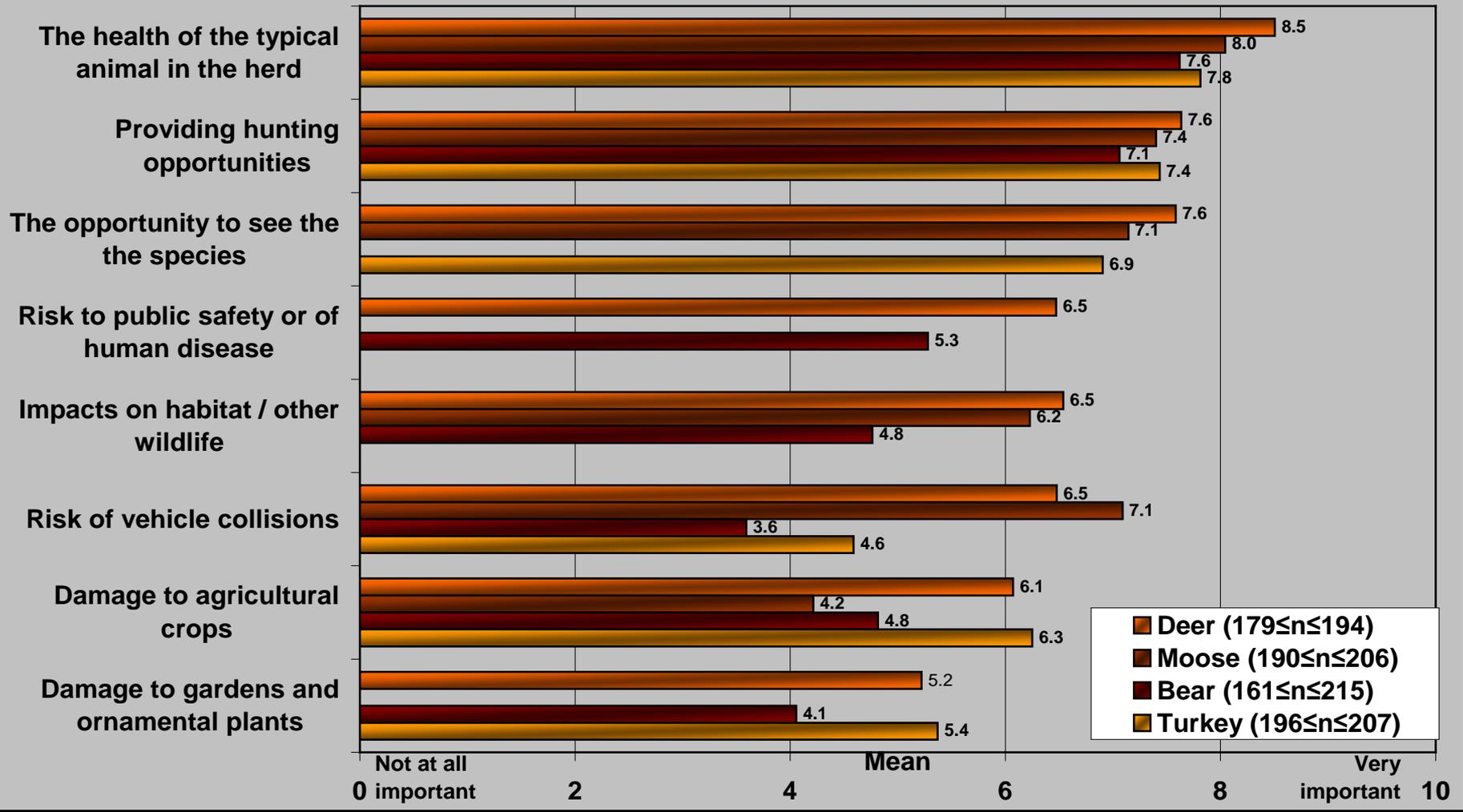
How to Best Manage Big Game: Factors



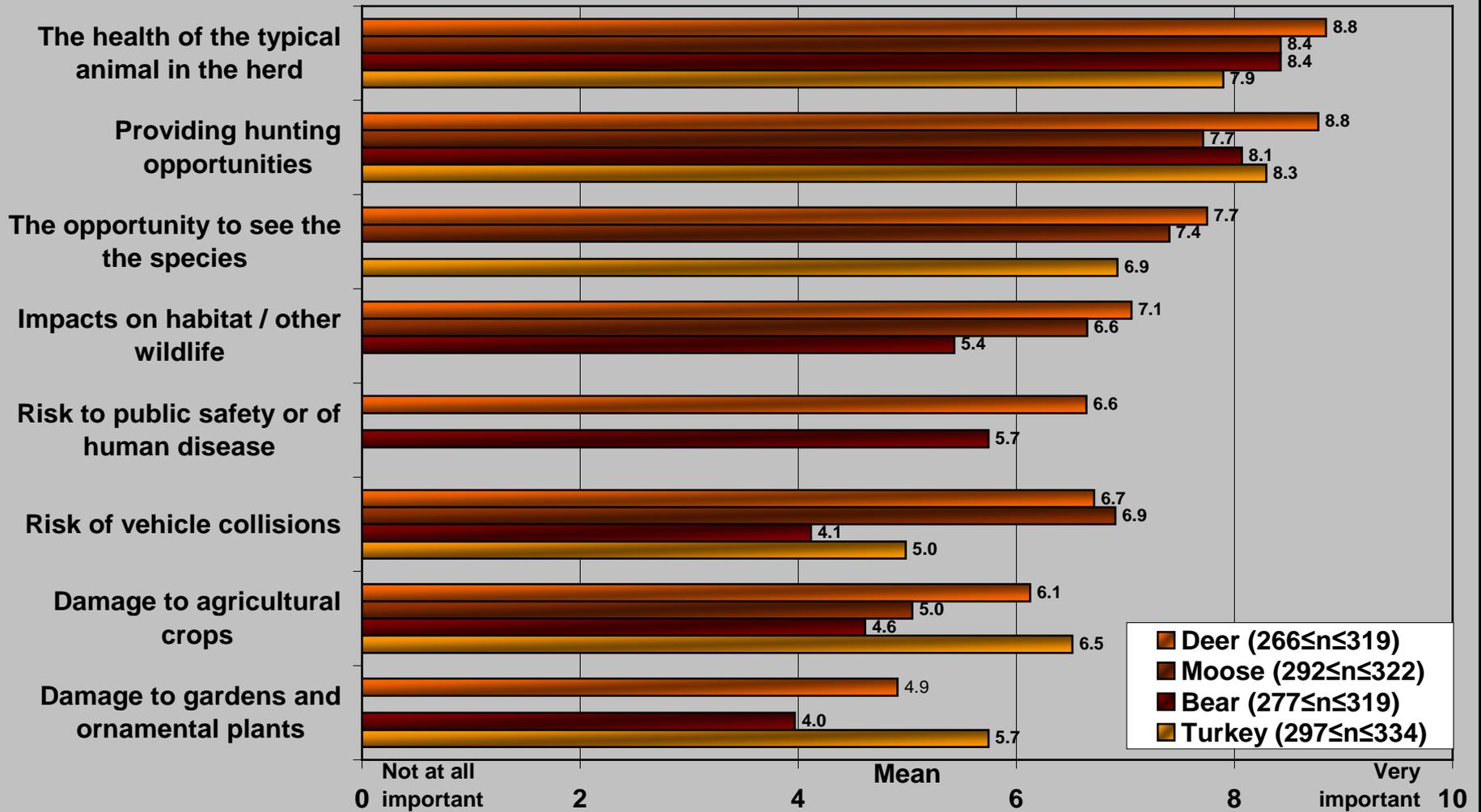
How important do you think each of the following factors should be for managing each of the following species in Maine? (General Population)



How important do you think each of the following factors should be for managing each of the following species in Maine? (Landowners)



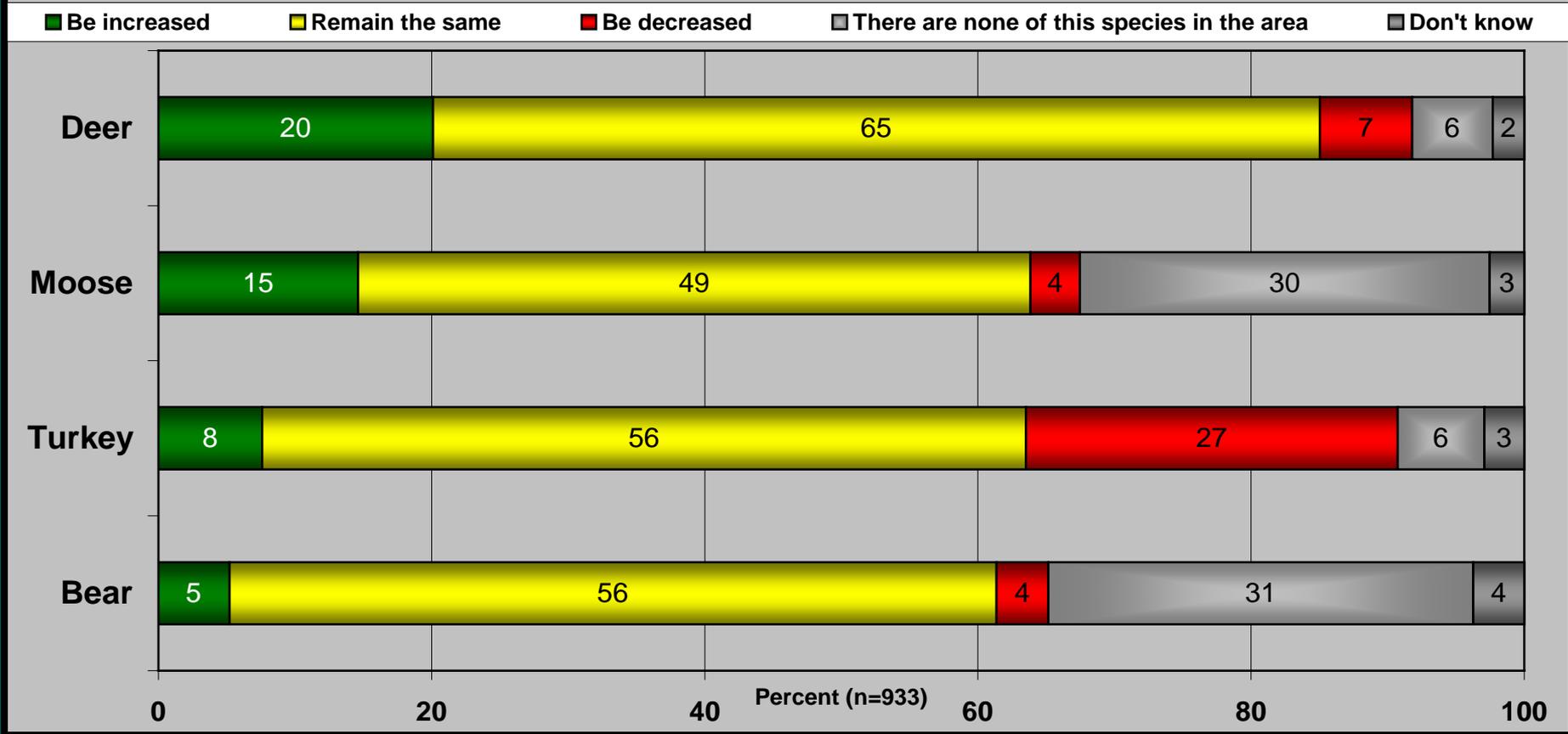
How important do you think each of the following factors should be for managing each of the following species in Maine? (Hunters)



How to Best Manage Big Game: Population Levels

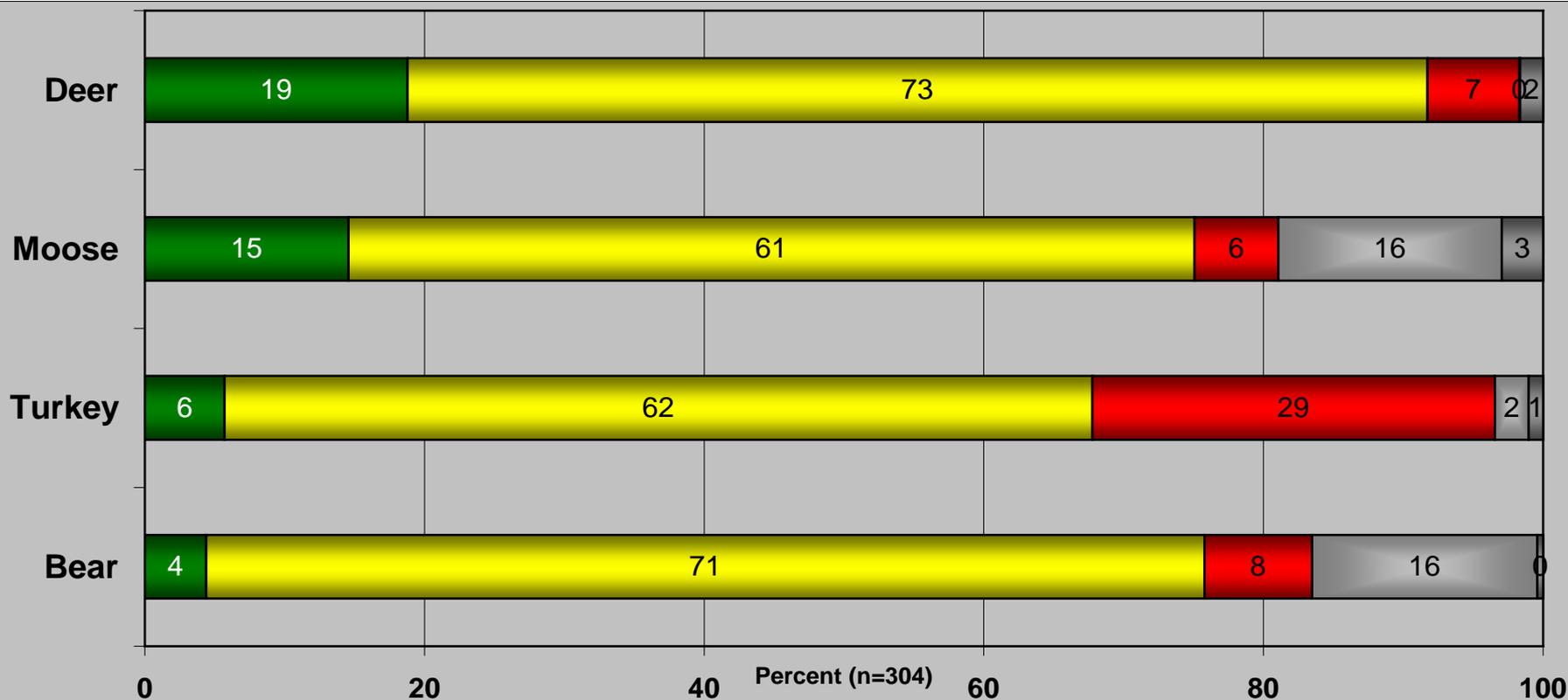


Percent of respondents who think the populations of each of the following species should [be increased / remain the same / be decreased] in the area where they live. (Asked of residents.) (General Population)

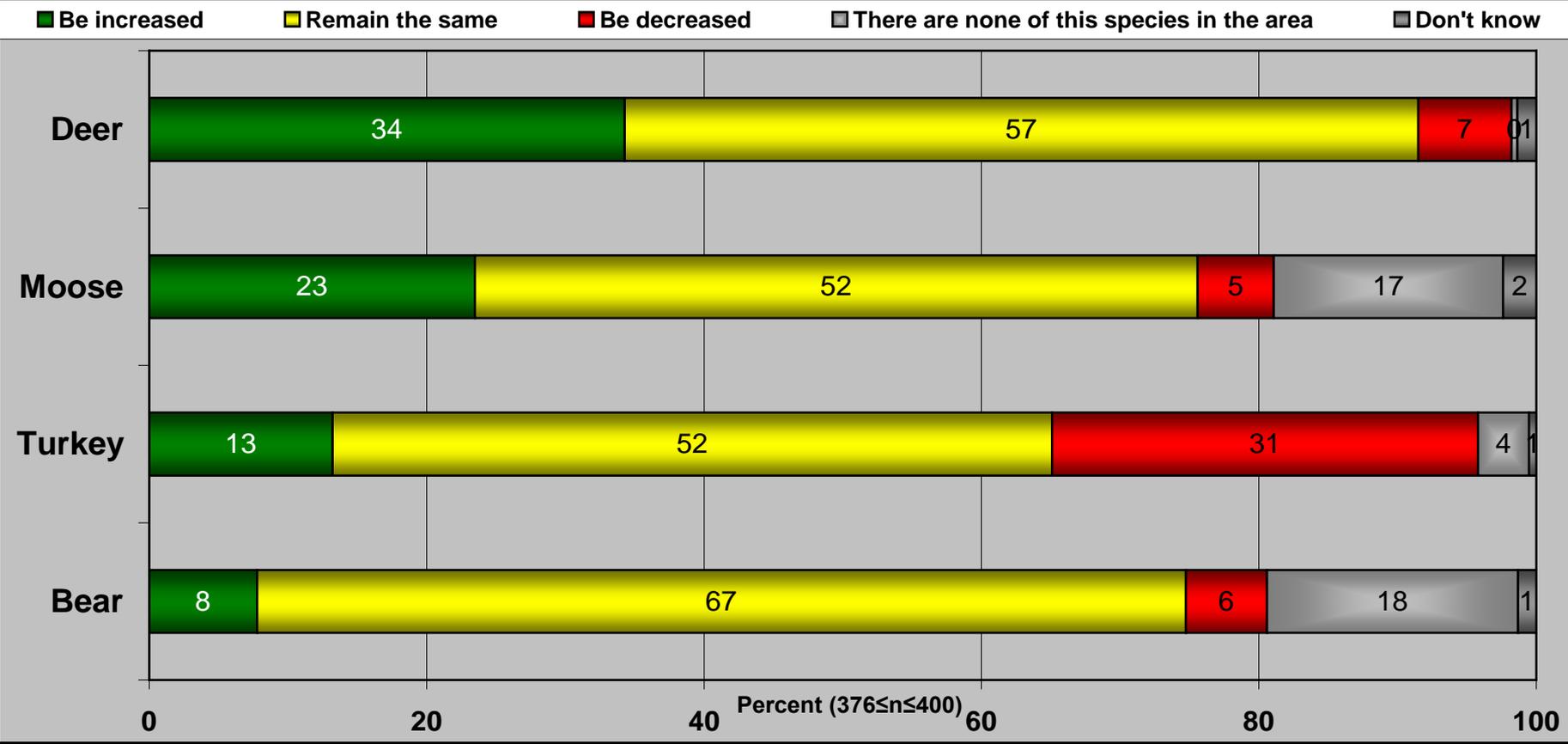


Percent of respondents who think the populations of each of the following species should [be increased / remain the same / be decreased] in the area where they live. (Asked of residents.) (Landowners)

■ Be increased ■ Remain the same ■ Be decreased ■ There are none of this species in the area ■ Don't know



Percent of respondents who think the populations of each of the following species should [be increased / remain the same / be decreased] in the area where they live. (Asked of residents.) (Hunters)

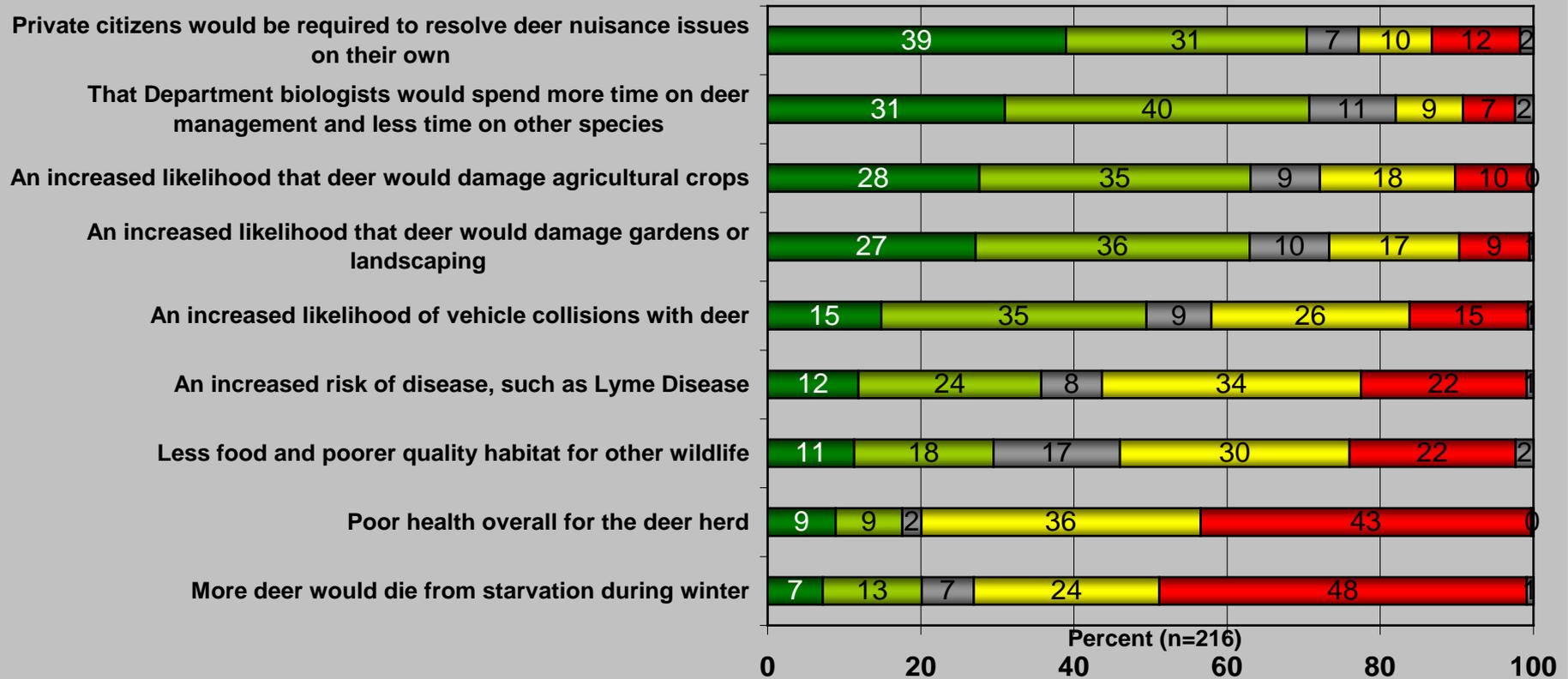


How to Best Manage Big Game: Methods



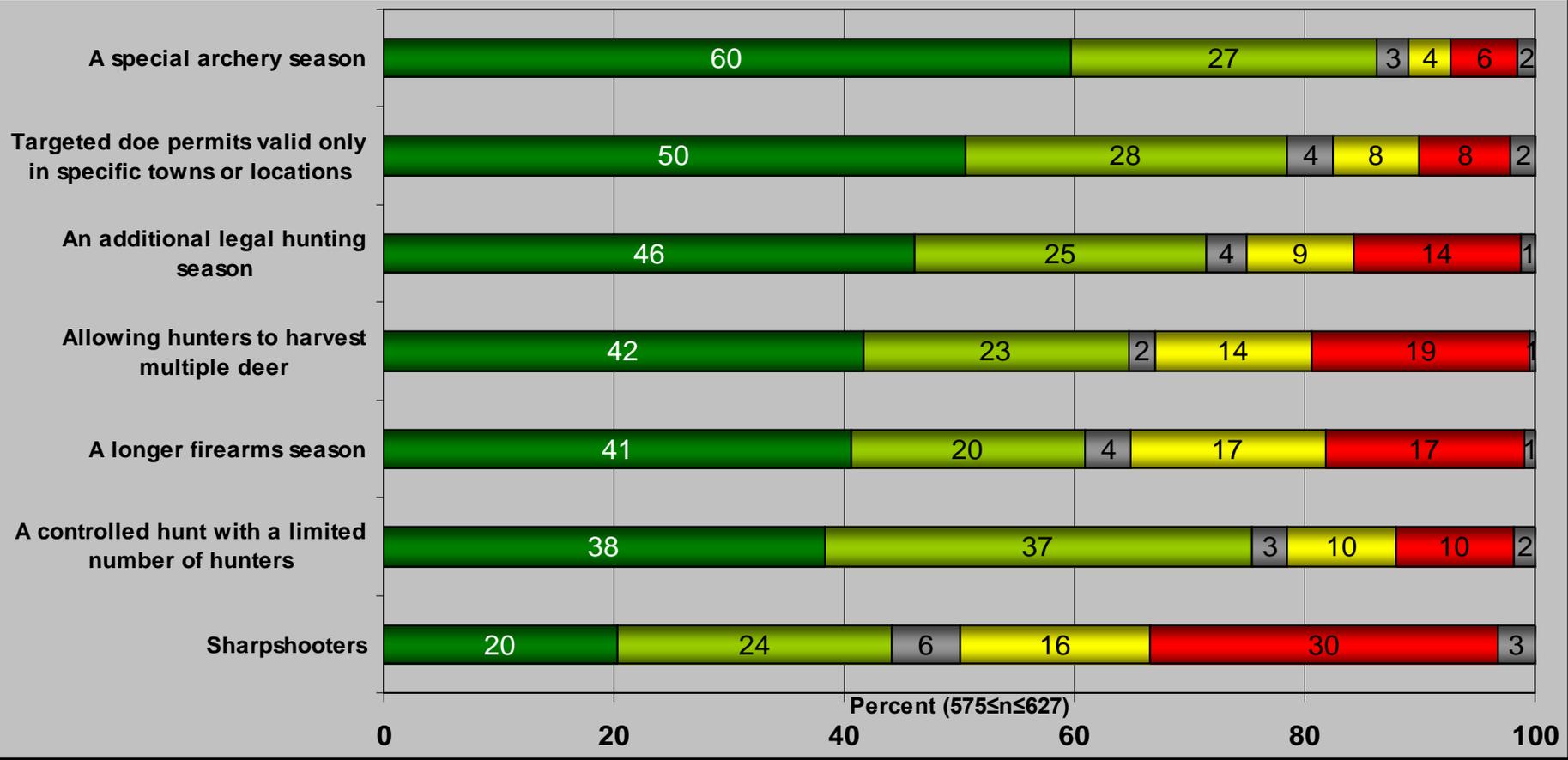
Percent who would [support / oppose] increasing the deer population in the area where they live if it meant the following. (Asked of residents who think the deer population in their area should be increased.) (General Population)

■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know



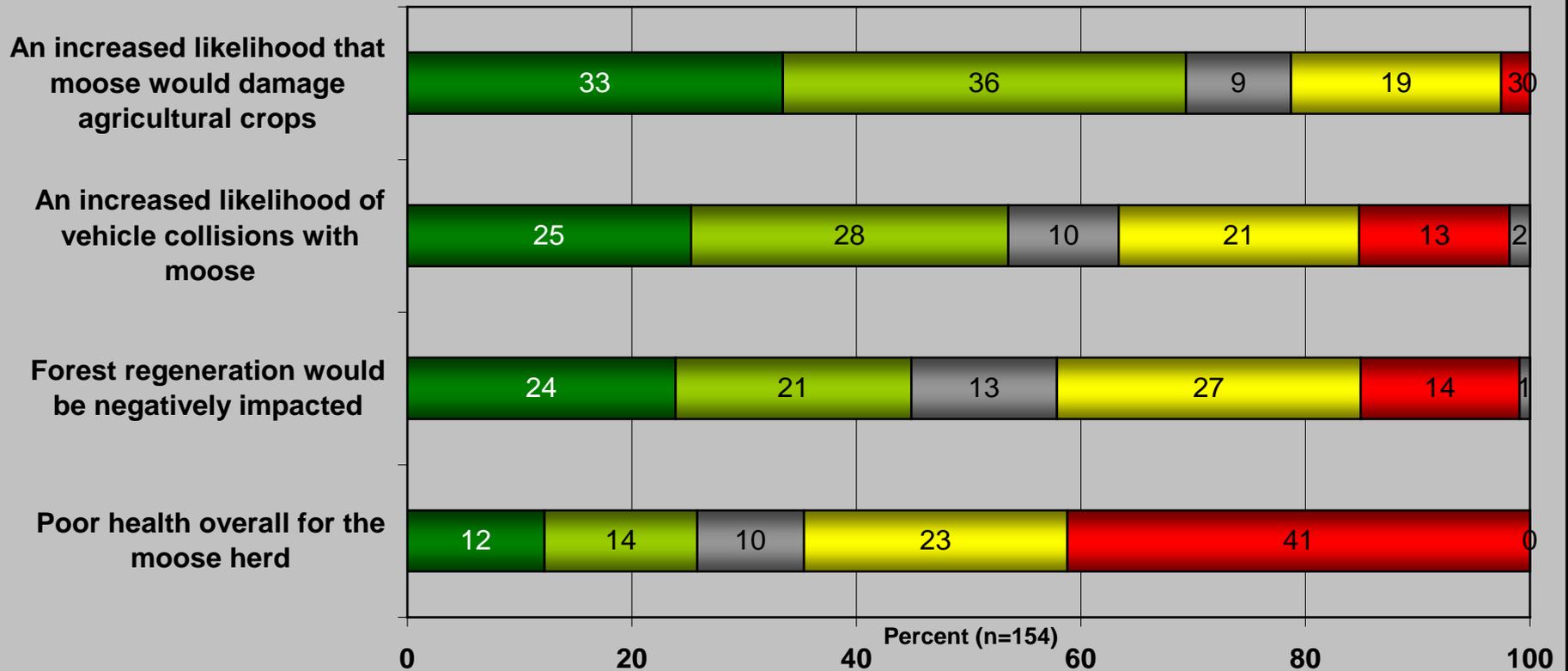
Percent of respondents who would [support / oppose] each of the following deer management options in areas of Maine where the deer population became overabundant. (General Population)

■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know

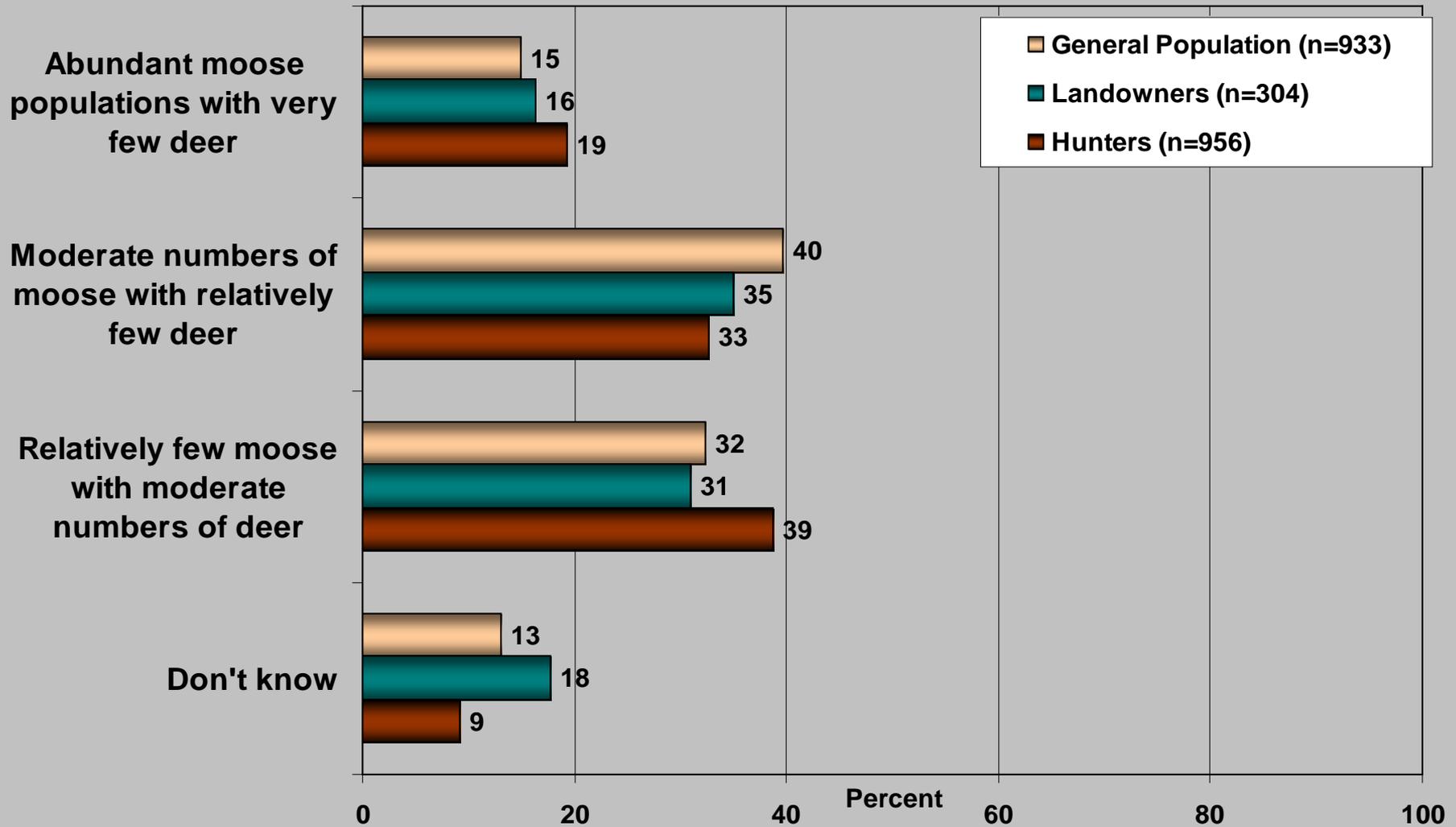


Percent who would [support / oppose] increasing the moose population in the area where they live if it meant the following. (Asked of residents who think the moose population in their area should be increased.) (General Population)

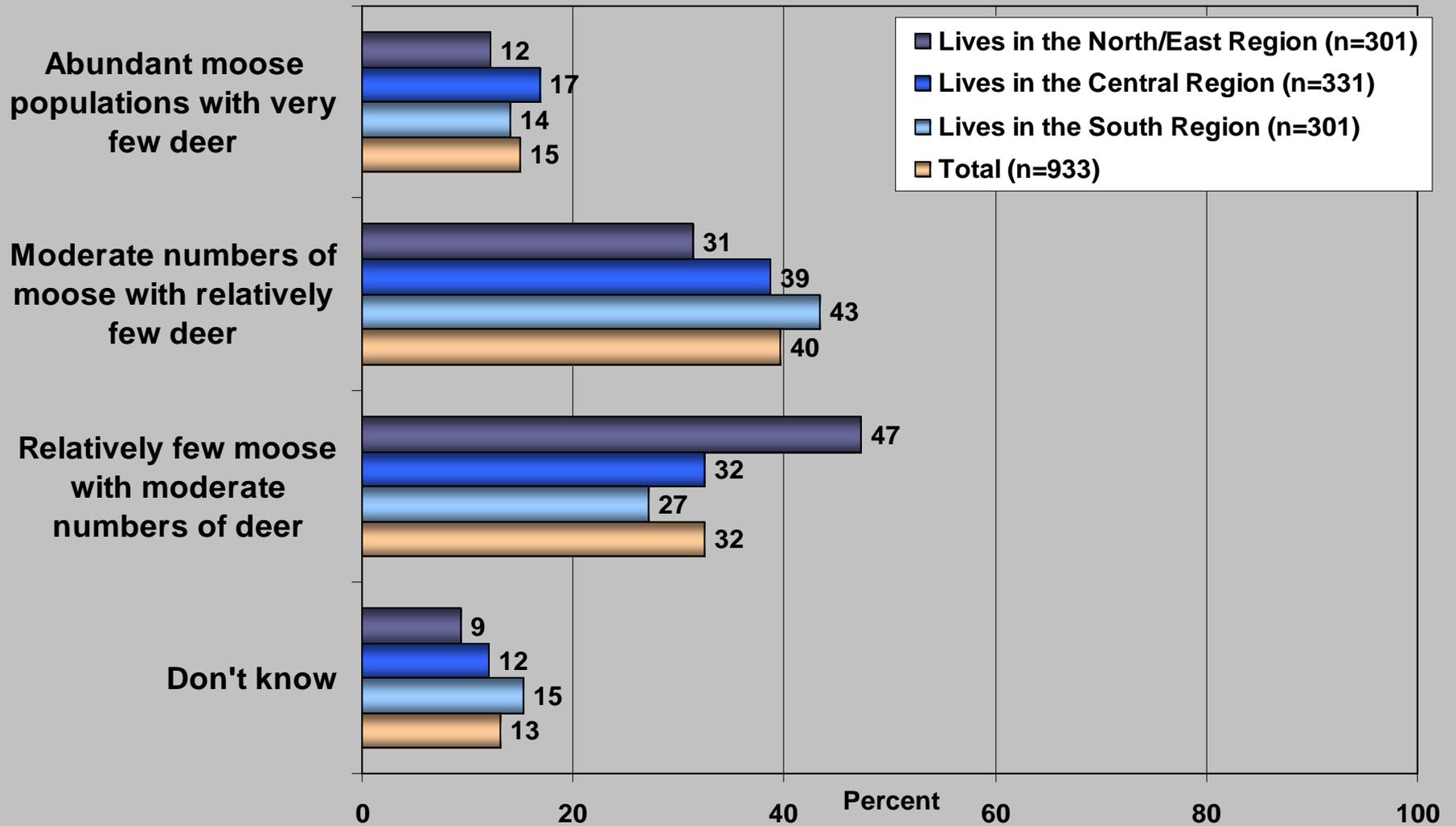
■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know



In northern Maine, which of the following scenarios would you most prefer? (Overall)

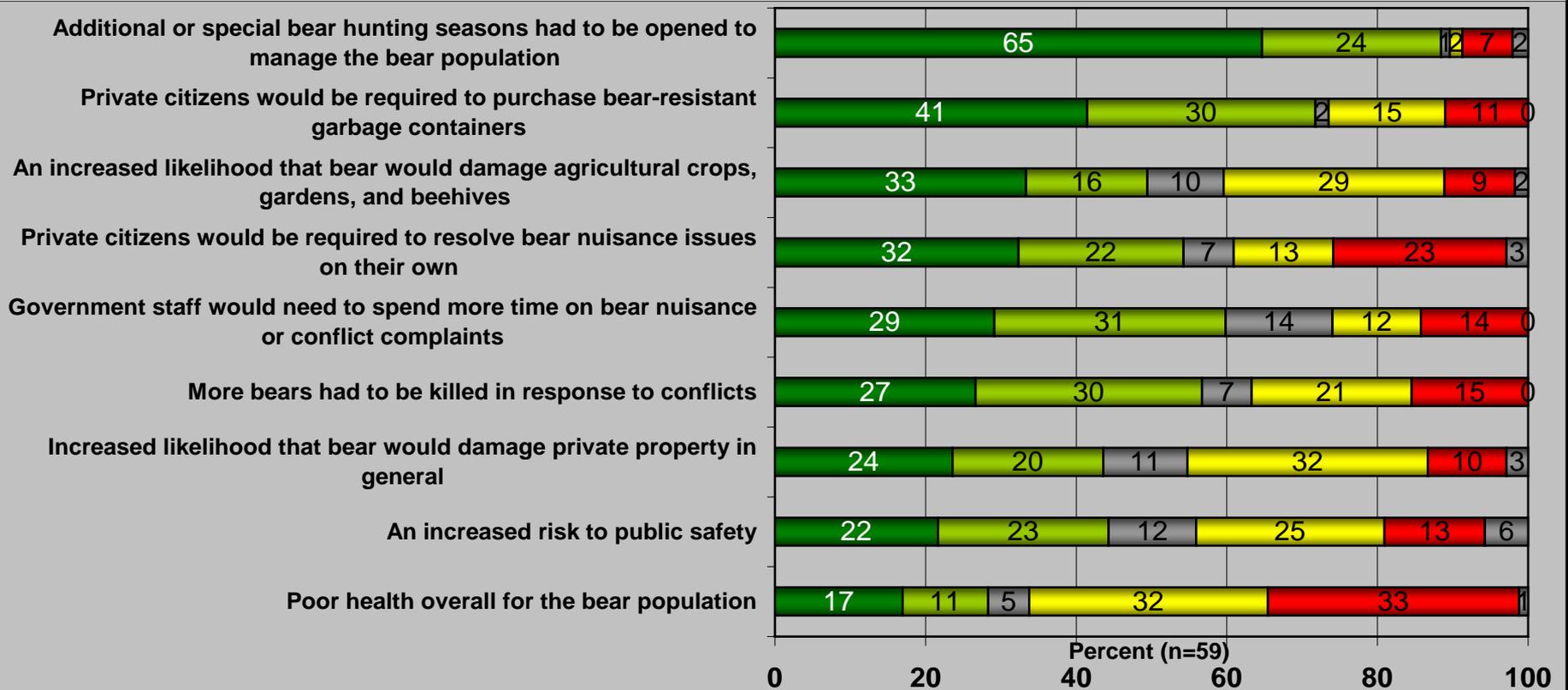


In northern Maine, which of the following scenarios would you most prefer? (General Population)



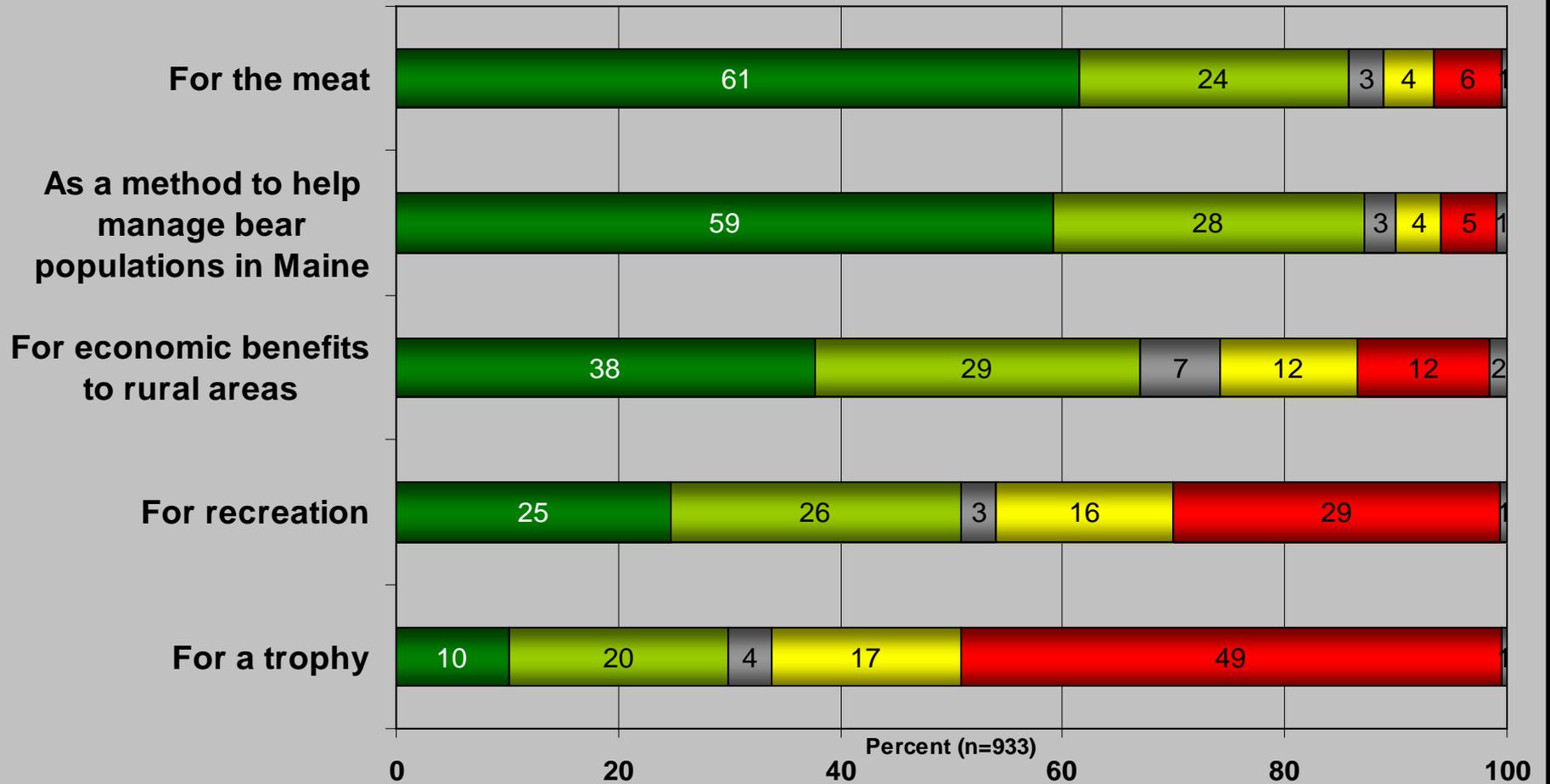
Percent who would [support / oppose] increasing the bear population in the area where they live if it meant the following. (Asked of residents who think the bear population in their area should be increased.) (General Population)

■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know

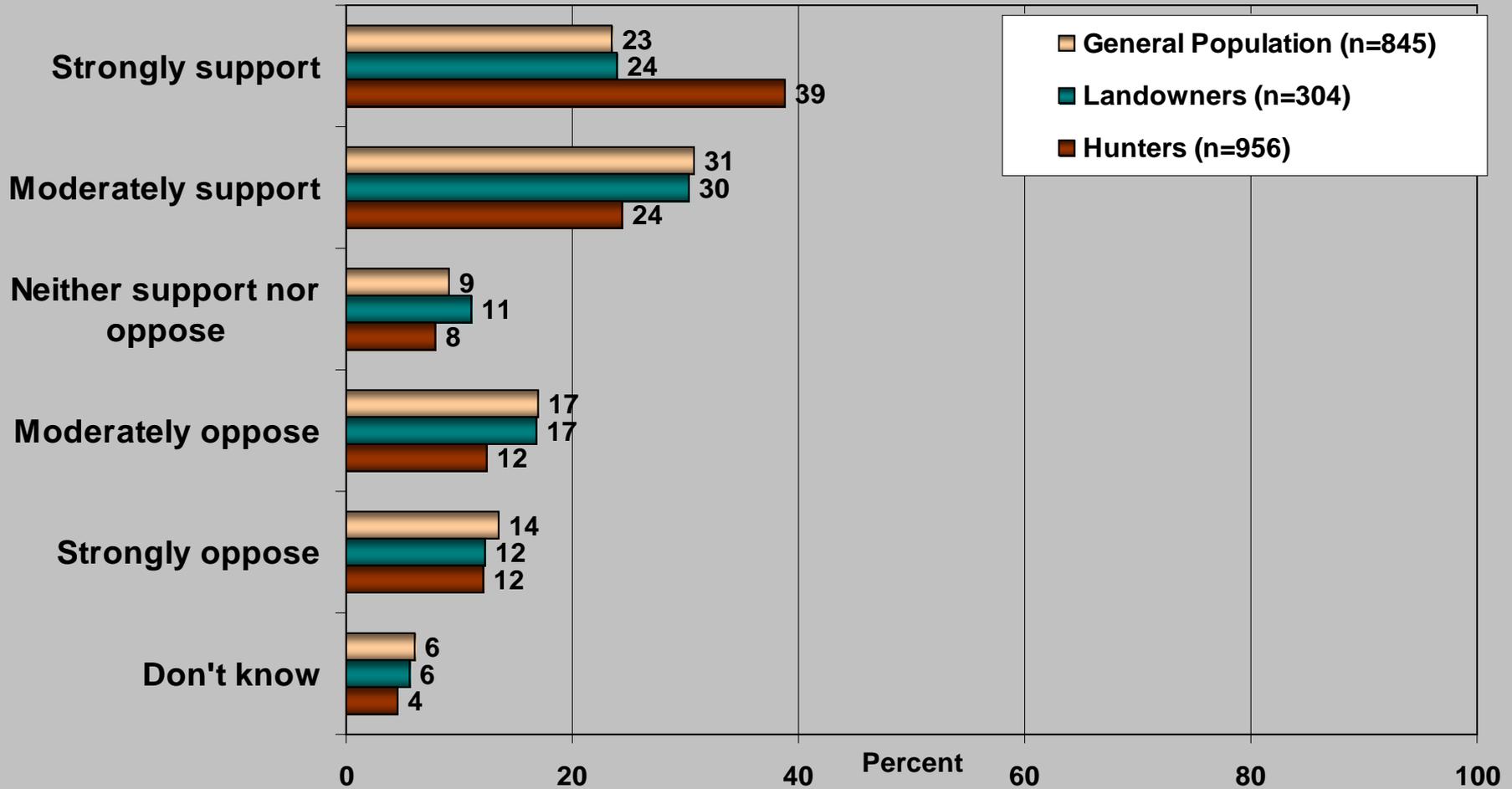


Percent of respondents who would [support / oppose] hunting bear for each of the following reasons. (General Population)

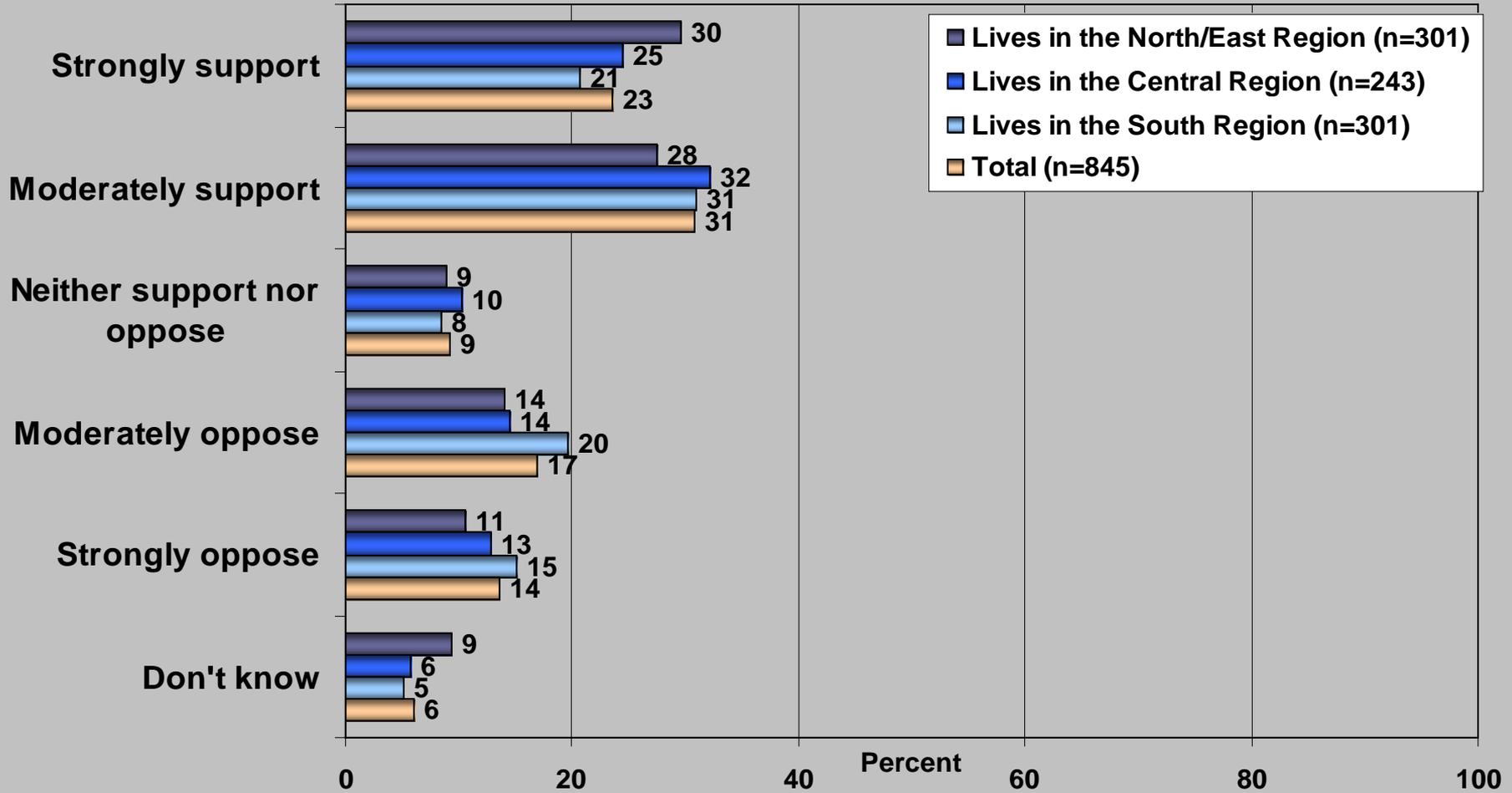
■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know



Do you support or oppose allowing the bear population to expand further into central and southern Maine? (Overall)

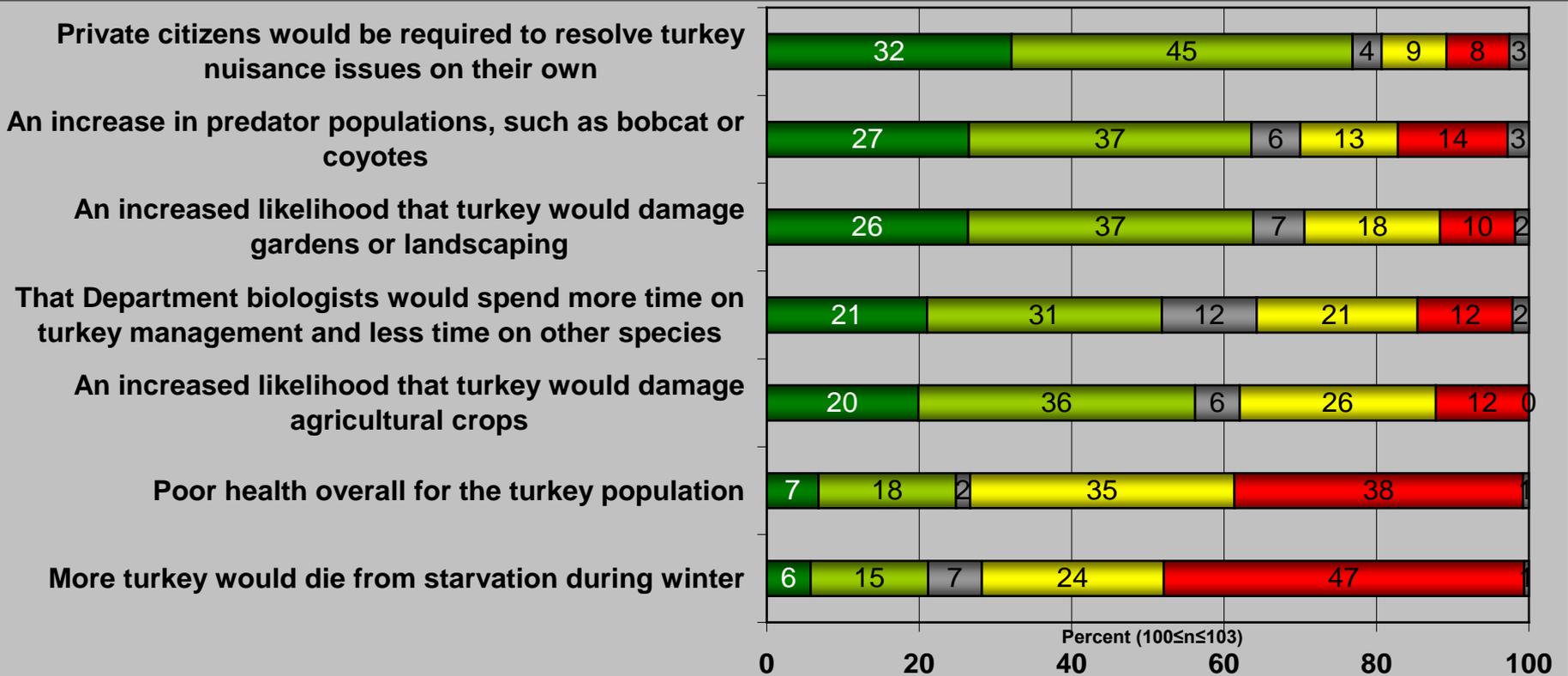


Do you support or oppose allowing the bear population to expand further into central and southern Maine? (General Population)



Percent who would [support / oppose] increasing the turkey population in the area where they live if it meant the following. (Asked of residents who think the turkey population in their area should be increased.) (General Population)

■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know



Percent of respondents who would [support / oppose] each of the following turkey management options in areas of Maine where the turkey population became overabundant. (General Population)

■ Strongly support
 ■ Moderately support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Moderately oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose
 ■ Don't know

