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:

- Providing opps. for hunting: 17% (2003), 17% (2015)
- Enforcing fish and game laws: 16% (2003), 16% (2015)
- Providing opps. for recreational fishing: 14% (2003), 14% (2015)
- Providing opps. for the general public to view wildlife: 13% (2003), 13% (2015)
- Protecting and preserving fish and wildlife habitat: 27% (2003), 25% (2015)
- Protecting endangered species of fish and wildlife: 24% (2003), 23% (2015)
- Managing wildlife populations: 23% (2003), 23% (2015)
- Providing ed. programs on the state's fish and wildlife: 10% (2003), 10% (2015)
- Managing fish populations: 9% (2003), 8% (2015)
- Protecting citizens against diseases from animals, such as Lyme Disease and rabies: 20% (2003), 23% (2015)
- Restoring native fish and wildlife: 6% (2003), 17% (2015)
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.)

- Game warden with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: 74%
- Biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: 72%
- Biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 70%
- Professor of environmental science or biology at The University of Maine: 53%
- Spokesperson from the National Wildlife Federation: 36%
- Spokesperson from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals: 31%
- Spokesperson from a local environmental organization: 24%
- Spokesperson from a local sportsmen's organization: 23%
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
What do you think about big game management in Maine?

LET US KNOW

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>General Population (n=933)</th>
<th>Landowners (n=304)</th>
<th>Hunters (n=956)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very interested</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Population mean: 8.0
Landowners mean: 8.8
Hunters mean: 9.0
Generally, which of the following best describes your feelings about wildlife around your home or on your property? (Overall)

- I enjoy seeing and having wildlife around my home or on my property
- I enjoy seeing a few animals around my home or on my property but worry about the problems they cause
- I generally regard wildlife around my home or on my property as a nuisance
- I generally regard wildlife around my home or on my property as dangerous
- I have no particular feeling about wildlife around my home or on my property
- Don't know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Population (n=933)</th>
<th>Landowners (n=304)</th>
<th>Hunters (n=956)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy seeing and having wildlife</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I enjoy seeing a few animals</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I generally regard wildlife as a</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuisance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I generally regard wildlife as</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dangerous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have no particular feeling</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about wildlife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opinions on Hunting
Percent of respondents who [approve / disapprove] of the legal hunting of each of the following species.
(General Population)

- **Deer**: 75% strongly approve, 18% moderately approve, 2% neither approve nor disapprove, 30% moderately disapprove, 2% strongly disapprove, 2% don't know.
- **Turkey**: 69% strongly approve, 24% moderately approve, 1% neither approve nor disapprove, 3% moderately disapprove, 1% strongly disapprove, 1% don't know.
- **Moose**: 64% strongly approve, 26% moderately approve, 2% neither approve nor disapprove, 5% moderately disapprove, 0% strongly disapprove, 0% don't know.
- **Bear**: 58% strongly approve, 27% moderately approve, 3% neither approve nor disapprove, 4% moderately disapprove, 7% strongly disapprove, 1% don't know.
Participation in Hunting
What state do you live in? ( Hunters)

Maine: 80%
Massachusetts: 6%
New Hampshire: 2%
Pennsylvania: 2%
Vermont: 2%
Connecticut: 1%
New York: 1%

Other listed states (<1% of respondents):
Where hunters from each region most often hunt: (Hunters)

Hunters who live in the North/East Region (n=262):
- Most often hunt in the North/East Region: 95%
- Most often hunt in the Central Region: 11%
- Most often hunt in the South Region: 4%

Hunters who live in the Central Region (n=258):
- Most often hunt in the North/East Region: 2%
- Most often hunt in the Central Region: 87%
- Most often hunt in the South Region: 11%

Hunters who live in the South Region (n=256):
- Most often hunt in the North/East Region: 9%
- Most often hunt in the Central Region: 79%
- Most often hunt in the South Region: 11%

Nonresident hunters (n=180):
- Most often hunt in the North/East Region: 13%
- Most often hunt in the Central Region: 34%
- Most often hunt in the South Region: 52%
Where those who hunt in each region are from: (Hunters)

Hunters who most often hunt in the North/East Region (n=396):
- Live in the North/East Region: 52%
- Live in the Central Region: 12%
- Live in the South Region: 29%
- Is a nonresident: 7%

Hunters who most often hunt in the Central Region (n=326):
- Live in the North/East Region: 2%
- Live in the Central Region: 76%
- Live in the South Region: 16%
- Is a nonresident: 7%

Hunters who most often hunt in the South Region (n=234):
- Live in the North/East Region: 1%
- Live in the Central Region: 11%
- Live in the South Region: 85%
- Is a nonresident: 3%
Percent of respondents who hunted each of the following species. (Hunters)

- Deer (past 5 years):
  - Lives in the North/East Region: 95%
  - Lives in the Central Region: 98%
  - Lives in the South Region: 95%
  - Nonresident: 91%
  - Total: 98%

- Moose (past 15 years):
  - Lives in the North/East Region: 44%
  - Lives in the Central Region: 39%
  - Lives in the South Region: 34%
  - Nonresident: 22%
  - Total: 36%

- Bear (past 15 years):
  - Lives in the North/East Region: 42%
  - Lives in the Central Region: 33%
  - Lives in the South Region: 36%
  - Nonresident: 22%
  - Total: 40%

- Turkey (past 5 years):
  - Lives in the North/East Region: 30%
  - Lives in the Central Region: 38%
  - Lives in the South Region: 33%
  - Nonresident: 22%
  - Total: 42%
What was your most important reason for hunting each of the following species? (Asked of those who hunted the species in Maine.)

(Hunters)

1. For the meat
2. For the sport, recreation, and challenge
3. To be with family and friends
4. To be close to nature
5. For a trophy
6. To reduce damage to crops
7. To see the species
8. Don't know

Percent

Deer, past 5 years (n=868)
Moose, past 15 years (n=557)
Bear, past 15 years (n=310)
Turkey, past 5 years (n=273)
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)

- **Moose (past 15 years):**
  - Very satisfied: 80%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 11%
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 1%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 4%
  - Very dissatisfied: 3%
  - Don't know: 10%

- **Bear (past 15 years):**
  - Very satisfied: 73%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 17%
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 3%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 3%
  - Very dissatisfied: 3%
  - Don't know: 1%

- **Turkey (past 5 years):**
  - Very satisfied: 72%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 20%
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 2%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 3%
  - Very dissatisfied: 3%
  - Don't know: 1%

- **Deer (past 5 years):**
  - Very satisfied: 60%
  - Somewhat satisfied: 22%
  - Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 2%
  - Somewhat dissatisfied: 8%
  - Very dissatisfied: 7%
  - Don't know: 0%
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Moderately support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A special archery season</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing hunters to harvest multiple deer</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted doe permits valid only in specific towns or locations</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An additional legal hunting season</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A longer firearms season</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A controlled hunt with a limited number of hunters</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpshooters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent (254≤n≤288)
Would you support or oppose a law requiring that harvested bucks have at least 3 points on one side? (Hunters)

![Bar chart showing support levels for the law in different regions.]

- **Strongly support**
  - Total: 38
  - North/East: 29
  - Central: 26
  - South: 26

- **Moderately support**
  - Total: 32
  - North/East: 14
  - Central: 17
  - South: 17

- **Neither support nor oppose**
  - Total: 17
  - North/East: 14
  - Central: 14
  - South: 14

- **Moderately oppose**
  - Total: 19
  - North/East: 12
  - Central: 17
  - South: 17

- **Strongly oppose**
  - Total: 40
  - North/East: 26
  - Central: 36
  - South: 33

- **Don't know**
  - Total: 1
  - North/East: 1
  - Central: 0
  - South: 0

**Percent**

0 20 40 60 80 100
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)

- September: 25% (North/East), 22% (Central), 14% (South), 6% (No preference), 4% (Don't know)
- October: 53% (North/East), 64% (Central), 60% (South), 65% (No preference), 6% (Don't know)
- November: 11% (North/East), 10% (Central), 12% (South), 12% (No preference), 6% (Don't know)
- No preference: 3% (North/East), 4% (Central), 6% (South), 12% (No preference), 12% (Don't know)
- Don't know: 1% (North/East), 0% (Central), 1% (South), 12% (No preference), 12% (Don't know)

Total (n=557)

Most often hunts in the North/East Region (n=257)
Most often hunts in the Central Region (n=173)
Most often hunts in the South Region (n=127)
Total (n=557)
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)

- 6-day season with fewer hunters
  - Most often hunts in the North/East Region (n=257): 62%
  - Most often hunts in the Central Region (n=173): 61%
  - Most often hunts in the South Region (n=127): 53%
  - Total (n=557): 58%

- 12-day season with more hunters
  - Most often hunts in the North/East Region (n=257): 29%
  - Most often hunts in the Central Region (n=173): 33%
  - Most often hunts in the South Region (n=127): 34%

- No preference
  - Most often hunts in the North/East Region (n=257): 7%
  - Most often hunts in the Central Region (n=173): 6%
  - Most often hunts in the South Region (n=127): 6%

- Don't know
  - Most often hunts in the North/East Region (n=257): 3%
  - Most often hunts in the Central Region (n=173): 6%
  - Most often hunts in the South Region (n=127): 1%

Total (n=557)
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)

- Increasing the number of turkeys that hunters can harvest in areas experiencing damage by turkey: 82% strongly support, 11% moderately support, 2% neither support nor oppose, 3% moderately oppose, 1% strongly oppose, 1% don't know.
- Implementing a controlled hunt in areas experiencing damage by turkeys: 80% strongly support, 13% moderately support, 12% neither support nor oppose, 3% moderately oppose, 1% strongly oppose, 1% don't know.
- Allowing landowners to apply for a permit to remove turkeys that are causing problems on their land: 78% strongly support, 12% moderately support, 3% neither support nor oppose, 2% moderately oppose, 4% strongly oppose, 3% don't know.
- Extending the hunting season later into the fall or winter: 78% strongly support, 12% moderately support, 2% neither support nor oppose, 4% moderately oppose, 3% strongly oppose, 1% don't know.
Hunting Access
In general, how would you rate access to hunting lands in Maine? (Hunters)

Excellent
- Lives in the North/East Region (n=262): 14%
- Lives in the Central Region (n=258): 15%
- Lives in the South Region (n=256): 20%
- Nonresident (n=180): 41%
- Total (n=956): 50%

Good
- Lives in the North/East Region (n=262): 22%
- Lives in the Central Region (n=258): 39%
- Lives in the South Region (n=256): 38%
- Nonresident (n=180): 42%
- Total (n=956): 48%

Fair
- Lives in the North/East Region (n=262): 13%
- Lives in the Central Region (n=258): 27%
- Lives in the South Region (n=256): 38%
- Nonresident (n=180): 38%
- Total (n=956): 44%

Poor
- Lives in the North/East Region (n=262): 9%
- Lives in the Central Region (n=258): 8%
- Lives in the South Region (n=256): 27%
- Nonresident (n=180): 27%
- Total (n=956): 27%

Don't know
- Lives in the North/East Region (n=262): 7%
- Lives in the Central Region (n=258): 2%
- Lives in the South Region (n=256): 1%
- Nonresident (n=180): 1%
- Total (n=956): 1%
In general, how would you rate access to hunting lands in Maine? (Hunters)

- **Excellent**: 28
- **Good**: 44
- **Fair**: 33
- **Poor**: 27
- **Don't know**: 1

Most often hunts in the North/East Region (n=396)
- **Excellent**: 17
- **Good**: 42
- **Fair**: 33
- **Poor**: 8
- **Don't know**: 1

Most often hunts in the Central Region (n=326)
- **Excellent**: 20
- **Good**: 48
- **Fair**: 27
- **Poor**: 8
- **Don't know**: 1

Most often hunts in the South Region (n=234)
- **Excellent**: 16
- **Good**: 44
- **Fair**: 21
- **Poor**: 8
- **Don't know**: 1

Total (n=956)
- **Excellent**: 16
- **Good**: 44
- **Fair**: 21
- **Poor**: 8
- **Don't know**: 1

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Responsive Management
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)

[Bar chart showing responses by region and other categories]
Problems With Wildlife
In the past 2 years, have you experienced any problems with wildlife on your largest tract of land? (Landowners)

- Problems with coyotes
- Problems with deer
- Problems with turkeys
- Problems with other animals
- Problems with bears
- Problems with unspecified species
- Problems with moose
- Other

*Multiple Responses Allowed*

- Has not experienced problems 61%
- Has experienced problems 39%

Lives in the North/East Region (n=102)
Lives in the Central Region (n=112)
Lives in the South Region (n=90)
Total (n=304)
Land Management in General
Do you actively manage for wildlife on your land? (Landowners)

- **Yes**
  - Lives in the North/East Region (n=102): 49%
  - Lives in the Central Region (n=112): 49%
  - Lives in the South Region (n=90): 48%
  - Total (n=304): 49%

- **No**
  - Lives in the North/East Region (n=102): 47%
  - Lives in the Central Region (n=112): 51%
  - Lives in the South Region (n=90): 48%
  - Total (n=304): 51%

- **Don't know**
  - Lives in the North/East Region (n=102): 3%
  - Lives in the Central Region (n=112): 4%
  - Lives in the South Region (n=90): 5%
  - Total (n=304): 4%
Do you support or oppose legal hunting as a method to help manage wildlife populations in Maine? (Landowners)

- **Strongly support**
  - Total (n=304): 73
  - North/East Region (n=102): 72
  - Central Region (n=112): 66
  - South Region (n=90): 71

- **Moderately support**
  - Total (n=304): 29
  - North/East Region (n=102): 19
  - Central Region (n=112): 18
  - South Region (n=90): 20

- **Neither support nor oppose**
  - Total (n=304): 20
  - North/East Region (n=102): 20
  - Central Region (n=112): 18
  - South Region (n=90): 4

- **Moderately oppose**
  - Total (n=304): 0
  - North/East Region (n=102): 0
  - Central Region (n=112): 1
  - South Region (n=90): 0

- **Strongly oppose**
  - Total (n=304): 5
  - North/East Region (n=102): 5
  - Central Region (n=112): 4
  - South Region (n=90): 4

- **Don't know**
  - Total (n=304): 1
  - North/East Region (n=102): 1
  - Central Region (n=112): 1
  - South Region (n=90): 0
Do you typically allow open hunting access, allow hunting access by permission, or allow limited hunting access to family and friends only? (Landowners)

- Open access
- Access by permission
- Limited access to family and friends only
- None of these

Lives in the North/East Region (n=102)
Lives in the Central Region (n=112)
Lives in the South Region (n=90)
Total (n=304)

Does not allow access / does not allow access to those outside their household
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)

- Disapprove of hunting or harming animals
- Firearm-related safety concerns
- Disrespectful behavior by hunters
- Property damage
- Do not want strangers on land
- Other

*Multiple Responses Allowed*
Perceptions About Big Game Management
Percent of respondents who rated the management of each of the following species as [rating] in Maine. (General Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent (n=933)
Percent of respondents who rated the management of each of the following species as [rating] in Maine. (Landowners)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent (n=304)
Percent of respondents who rated the management of each of the following species as [rating] in Maine. (Hunters)

- Bear:
  - Excellent: 36%
  - Good: 36%
  - Fair: 10%
  - Poor: 3%
  - Don’t know: 15%

- Moose:
  - Excellent: 28%
  - Good: 40%
  - Fair: 16%
  - Poor: 6%
  - Don’t know: 11%

- Turkey:
  - Excellent: 24%
  - Good: 34%
  - Fair: 15%
  - Poor: 13%
  - Don’t know: 14%

- Deer:
  - Excellent: 21%
  - Good: 40%
  - Fair: 25%
  - Poor: 10%
  - Don’t know: 3%
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)

- The health of the typical animal in the herd
- Providing hunting opportunities
- The opportunity to see the species
- Risk to public safety or of human disease
- Impacts on habitat / other wildlife
- Risk of vehicle collisions
- Damage to agricultural crops
- Damage to gardens and ornamental plants

**Deer (604≤n≤661)**
- The health of the typical animal in the herd: Mean 8.0, Very important 8.1
- Providing hunting opportunities: Mean 7.6, Very important 7.8
- The opportunity to see the species: Mean 6.8, Very important 7.1
- Risk to public safety or of human disease: Mean 6.8, Very important 6.8
- Impacts on habitat / other wildlife: Mean 5.0, Very important 6.0
- Risk of vehicle collisions: Mean 5.0, Very important 6.0
- Damage to agricultural crops: Mean 5.0, Very important 5.0
- Damage to gardens and ornamental plants: Mean 5.2, Very important 5.8

**Moose (637≤n≤684)**
- The health of the typical animal in the herd: Mean 7.4, Very important 7.6
- Providing hunting opportunities: Mean 7.0, Very important 7.2
- The opportunity to see the species: Mean 6.1, Very important 6.1
- Risk to public safety or of human disease: Mean 6.4, Very important 6.8
- Impacts on habitat / other wildlife: Mean 6.1, Very important 6.8
- Risk of vehicle collisions: Mean 4.7, Very important 5.1
- Damage to agricultural crops: Mean 4.7, Very important 5.1
- Damage to gardens and ornamental plants: Mean 5.2, Very important 5.8

**Bear (597≤n≤649)**
- The health of the typical animal in the herd: Mean 7.2, Very important 8.1
- Providing hunting opportunities: Mean 7.0, Very important 7.8
- The opportunity to see the species: Mean 6.1, Very important 7.1
- Risk to public safety or of human disease: Mean 6.4, Very important 6.8
- Impacts on habitat / other wildlife: Mean 6.1, Very important 6.8
- Risk of vehicle collisions: Mean 4.7, Very important 5.1
- Damage to agricultural crops: Mean 4.7, Very important 5.1
- Damage to gardens and ornamental plants: Mean 5.2, Very important 5.8

**Turkey (577≤n≤671)**
- The health of the typical animal in the herd: Mean 8.0, Very important 8.1
- Providing hunting opportunities: Mean 7.6, Very important 7.8
- The opportunity to see the species: Mean 6.1, Very important 7.1
- Risk to public safety or of human disease: Mean 6.4, Very important 6.8
- Impacts on habitat / other wildlife: Mean 6.1, Very important 6.8
- Risk of vehicle collisions: Mean 4.7, Very important 5.1
- Damage to agricultural crops: Mean 4.7, Very important 5.1
- Damage to gardens and ornamental plants: Mean 5.2, Very important 5.8
How important do you think each of the following factors should be for managing each of the following species in Maine? (Landowners)

- The health of the typical animal in the herd
- Providing hunting opportunities
- The opportunity to see the species
- Risk to public safety or of human disease
- Impacts on habitat / other wildlife
- Risk of vehicle collisions
- Damage to agricultural crops
- Damage to gardens and ornamental plants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer (179≤n≤194)</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose (190≤n≤206)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear (161≤n≤215)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (196≤n≤207)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean ratings are provided for each category.
How important do you think each of the following factors should be for managing each of the following species in Maine? (Hunters)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Deer (266≤n≤319)</th>
<th>Moose (292≤n≤322)</th>
<th>Bear (277≤n≤319)</th>
<th>Turkey (297≤n≤334)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The health of the typical animal in the herd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing hunting opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The opportunity to see the species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts on habitat / other wildlife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk to public safety or of human disease</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of vehicle collisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to agricultural crops</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage to gardens and ornamental plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The health of the typical animal in the herd:
- Deer: 8.4
- Moose: 8.4
- Bear: 8.4
- Turkey: 8.8

Providing hunting opportunities:
- Deer: 8.3
- Moose: 8.8
- Bear: 8.1
- Turkey: 7.9

The opportunity to see the species:
- Deer: 8.1
- Moose: 7.7
- Bear: 7.7
- Turkey: 8.4

Impacts on habitat / other wildlife:
- Deer: 6.6
- Moose: 6.6
- Bear: 7.1
- Turkey: 6.9

Risk to public safety or of human disease:
- Deer: 6.1
- Moose: 6.6
- Bear: 5.7
- Turkey: 6.7

Risk of vehicle collisions:
- Deer: 5.0
- Moose: 6.1
- Bear: 6.9
- Turkey: 6.6

Damage to agricultural crops:
- Deer: 5.0
- Moose: 6.1
- Bear: 4.6
- Turkey: 5.0

Damage to gardens and ornamental plants:
- Deer: 4.9
- Moose: 4.6
- Bear: 4.0
- Turkey: 4.9

Mean scores:
- Deer: 5.0
- Moose: 5.7
- Bear: 6.4
- Turkey: 6.1

The health of the typical animal in the herd is considered very important, while damage to gardens and ornamental plants is considered not at all important.
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)

- Deer: 20% be increased, 65% remain the same, 7% be decreased, 6% there are none, 2% don't know
- Moose: 15% be increased, 49% remain the same, 4% be decreased, 30% there are none, 3% don't know
- Turkey: 8% be increased, 56% remain the same, 27% be decreased, 6% there are none, 3% don't know
- Bear: 5% be increased, 56% remain the same, 4% be decreased, 31% there are none, 4% 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.) (Landowners)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Be increased</th>
<th>Remain the same</th>
<th>Be decreased</th>
<th>There are none of this species in the area</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent (n=304)
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)

- Deer: Be increased 34, Remain the same 57, Be decreased 7
- Moose: Be increased 23, Remain the same 52, Be decreased 5, There are none 17
- Turkey: Be increased 13, Remain the same 52, Be decreased 31, There are none 4
- Bear: Be increased 8, Remain the same 67, Be decreased 6, There are none 18
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Moderately support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private citizens would be required to resolve deer nuisance issues on their own</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That Department biologists would spend more time on deer management and less time on other species</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increased likelihood that deer would damage agricultural crops</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increased likelihood that deer would damage gardens or landscaping</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increased likelihood of vehicle collisions with deer</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increased risk of disease, such as Lyme Disease</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less food and poorer quality habitat for other wildlife</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor health overall for the deer herd</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More deer would die from starvation during winter</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent (n=216)
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Moderately support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A special archery season</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted doe permits valid only in specific towns or locations</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An additional legal hunting season</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing hunters to harvest multiple deer</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A longer firearms season</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A controlled hunt with a limited number of hunters</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpshooters</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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)

- An increased likelihood that moose would damage agricultural crops:
  - Strongly support: 33
  - Moderately support: 36
  - Neither support nor oppose: 9
  - Moderately oppose: 19
  - Strongly oppose: 1
  - Don't know: 3

- An increased likelihood of vehicle collisions with moose:
  - Strongly support: 25
  - Moderately support: 28
  - Neither support nor oppose: 10
  - Moderately oppose: 21
  - Strongly oppose: 13
  - Don't know: 2

- Forest regeneration would be negatively impacted:
  - Strongly support: 24
  - Moderately support: 21
  - Neither support nor oppose: 13
  - Moderately oppose: 27
  - Strongly oppose: 14
  - Don't know: 1

- Poor health overall for the moose herd:
  - Strongly support: 12
  - Moderately support: 14
  - Neither support nor oppose: 10
  - Moderately oppose: 23
  - Strongly oppose: 41
  - Don't know: 0
In northern Maine, which of the following scenarios would you most prefer? (Overall)

- Abundant moose populations with very few deer
- Moderate numbers of moose with relatively few deer
- Relatively few moose with moderate numbers of deer
- Don't know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>General Population (n=933)</th>
<th>Landowners (n=304)</th>
<th>Hunters (n=956)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abundant moose</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate numbers of</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatively few moose</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Abundant moose populations with very few deer
- Moderate numbers of moose with relatively few deer
- Relatively few moose with moderate numbers of deer
- Don't know

### Region Breakdown

- **Lives in the North/East Region (n=301)**
  - Abundant: 12, Moderate: 31, Low: 32, Don't know: 9
- **Lives in the Central Region (n=331)**
  - Abundant: 14, Moderate: 39, Low: 32, Don't know: 12
- **Lives in the South Region (n=301)**
  - Abundant: 17, Moderate: 40, Low: 32, Don't know: 15
- **Total (n=933)**
  - Abundant: 47, Moderate: 43, Low: 40, Don't know: 32

### Percentage Chart

- Abundant: 61%
- Moderate: 47%
- Low: 43%
- Don't know: 32%
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Moderately support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional or special bear hunting seasons had to be opened to manage the</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bear population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private citizens would be required to purchase bear-resistant garbage</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>containers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increased likelihood that bear would damage agricultural crops, gardens,</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and beehives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private citizens would be required to resolve bear nuisance issues on their</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government staff would need to spend more time on bear nuisance or</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conflict complaints</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More bears had to be killed in response to conflicts</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased likelihood that bear would damage private property in general</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increased risk to public safety</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor health overall for the bear population</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent (n=59)
Percent of respondents who would [support / oppose] hunting bear for each of the following reasons. (General Population)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Strongly support</th>
<th>Moderately support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the meat</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a method to help manage bear populations in Maine</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For economic benefits to rural areas</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For recreation</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a trophy</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the meat: 61% strongly support, 24% moderately support, 3% neither support nor oppose, 4% moderately oppose, 6% strongly oppose, 1% don't know.

As a method to help manage bear populations in Maine: 59% strongly support, 28% moderately support, 3% neither support nor oppose, 4% moderately oppose, 5% strongly oppose, 1% don't know.

For economic benefits to rural areas: 38% strongly support, 29% moderately support, 7% neither support nor oppose, 12% moderately oppose, 12% strongly oppose, 2% don't know.

For recreation: 25% strongly support, 16% moderately support, 3% neither support nor oppose, 29% strongly oppose.

For a trophy: 10% strongly support, 4% moderately support, 17% neither support nor oppose, 49% strongly oppose.
Do you support or oppose allowing the bear population to expand further into central and southern Maine? (Overall)

- **Strongly support**
  - General Population (n=845): 24%
  - Landowners (n=304): 24%
  - Hunters (n=956): 39%

- **Moderately support**
  - General Population (n=845): 31%
  - Landowners (n=304): 30%
  - Hunters (n=956): 24%

- **Neither support nor oppose**
  - General Population (n=845): 11%
  - Landowners (n=304): 11%
  - Hunters (n=956): 8%

- **Moderately oppose**
  - General Population (n=845): 17%
  - Landowners (n=304): 17%
  - Hunters (n=956): 12%

- **Strongly oppose**
  - General Population (n=845): 14%
  - Landowners (n=304): 14%
  - Hunters (n=956): 12%

- **Don't know**
  - General Population (n=845): 6%
  - Landowners (n=304): 4%
  - Hunters (n=956): 6%
Do you support or oppose allowing the bear population to expand further into central and southern Maine? (General Population)

- Strongly support
  - Lives in the North/East Region (n=301)
  - Lives in the Central Region (n=243)
  - Lives in the South Region (n=301)
  - Total (n=845)

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

Percentages:
- Strongly support: 30%
- Moderately support: 32%
- Neither support nor oppose: 10%
- Moderately oppose: 14%
- Strongly oppose: 15%
- Don't know: 6%

Lives in the North/East Region (n=301):
- Strongly support: 25
- Moderately support: 28
- Neither support nor oppose: 9
- Moderately oppose: 14
- Strongly oppose: 11
- Don't know: 6

Lives in the Central Region (n=243):
- Strongly support: 31
- Moderately support: 32
- Neither support nor oppose: 10
- Moderately oppose: 14
- Strongly oppose: 13
- Don't know: 5

Lives in the South Region (n=301):
- Strongly support: 23
- Moderately support: 21
- Neither support nor oppose: 9
- Moderately oppose: 17
- Strongly oppose: 15
- Don't know: 6

Total (n=845):
- Strongly support: 30
- Moderately support: 31
- Neither support nor oppose: 10
- Moderately oppose: 20
- Strongly oppose: 14
- Don't know: 6
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)

- Private citizens would be required to resolve turkey nuisance issues on their own
- An increase in predator populations, such as bobcat or coyotes
- An increased likelihood that turkey would damage gardens or landscaping
- That Department biologists would spend more time on turkey management and less time on other species
- An increased likelihood that turkey would damage agricultural crops
- Poor health overall for the turkey population
- More turkey would die from starvation during winter

![Bar chart showing the percent of residents who would support or oppose increasing the turkey population for each of the listed reasons.](image_url)
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percent (n=933)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the number of turkeys that hunters can harvest in areas experiencing damage by turkey</td>
<td>61 25 3 4 4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing a controlled hunt in areas experiencing damage by turkeys</td>
<td>60 29 4 3 3 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing landowners to apply for a permit to remove turkeys that are causing problems on their land</td>
<td>60 27 3 4 3 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extending the hunting season later into the fall or winter</td>
<td>54 27 3 9 6 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responsive Management