

Summary of Results of the Big Woods Wildlife Management Area Survey

Dustin R. Martin, Ph.D.

Human Dimensions Biologist

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of a survey conducted about the Big Woods Wildlife Management Area (BWWMA) in Sussex County, Virginia. The survey was designed to address questions related to whitetail deer management and hunting regulations on BWWMA as well as examine hunter perceptions of safety during different hunting seasons. The results of this survey are to be used to guide future management decisions regarding management of BWWMA.

METHODS

The survey was created in Snap 11 Professional and deployed using the Snap Surveys online platform. This survey was intentionally created with open access (i.e., no password required) due to the inherent difficulty in accessing hunters and other users of the property with minimal investment. We intended for this open survey to allow as many interested users of the property to take the survey and share their opinions. The link to the survey was posted on the DGIF Survey webpage (www.dgif.virginia.gov/surveys/). Additionally, signs were posted at Big Woods WMA kiosks to direct hunters using the WMA to the website to share their opinions about wildlife management on BWWMA by taking the survey. Postcards were printed with the web address and the information for the public meeting and placed on windshields of hunters during prime hunting days to increase sample sizes.

The survey was open on October 1, 2015 and the survey was closed to additional responses on 5 January 2016 after all deer seasons had ended.

RESULTS

A total of 1,075 responses were received as of 5 January 2016. The majority of surveys were received in a few short time periods (Oct 20-22, Dec 15-22, and Dec 28-31; Figure 1). These time periods coincided with the survey being mentioned on either an online hunting forum or Facebook pages dedicated to Virginia hunting. The remaining surveys that occurred outside of these time periods are likely to have come from hunters using BWWMA and coming across the survey information at the site.

All responses from days that had greater than 10 respondents were removed from the dataset for analysis purposes and this report. We believe that these respondents were not hunters that “organically” found the survey resource and therefore have biased the survey. Therefore, by removing them, we have a more accurate representation of what the “true” hunting population response would be. This resulted in a sample size of 91 respondents who completed the survey.

Survey results are presented by survey question on the following pages with further analysis as needed. An appendix is provided at the end of this report with similar graphs representing the entire dataset, including all 1,075 responses.

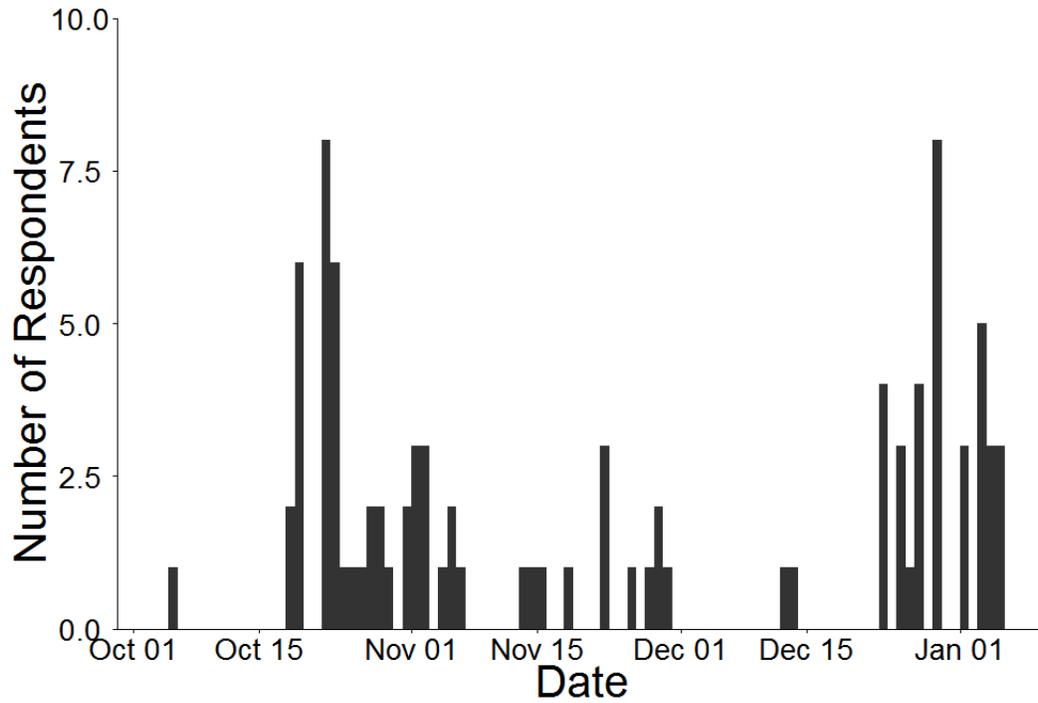


Figure 1. Distribution of response (N=91) by date.

Whitetail Deer Management

I would be in favor of part of BWWMA being set aside.....

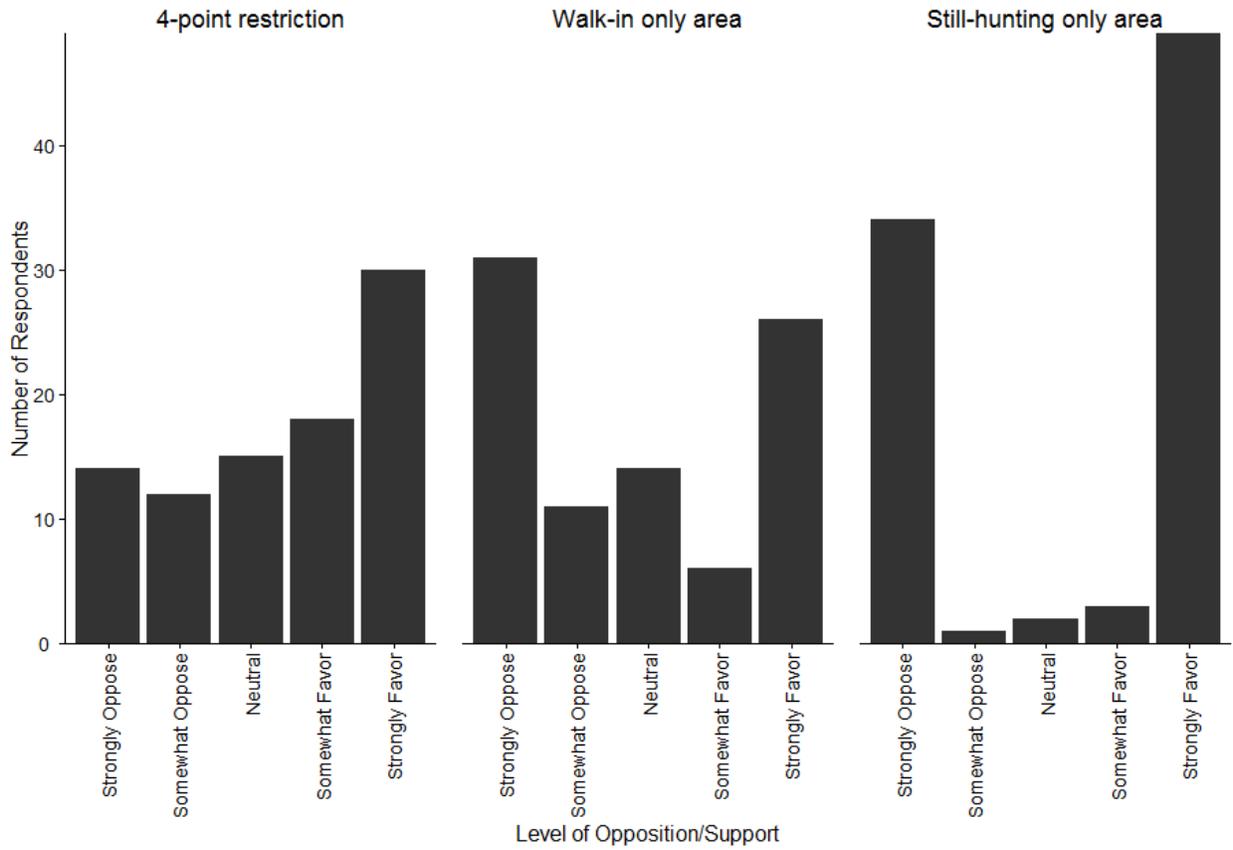


Figure 2: Level of opposition or support for three proposed management area regulation changes at BWWMA.

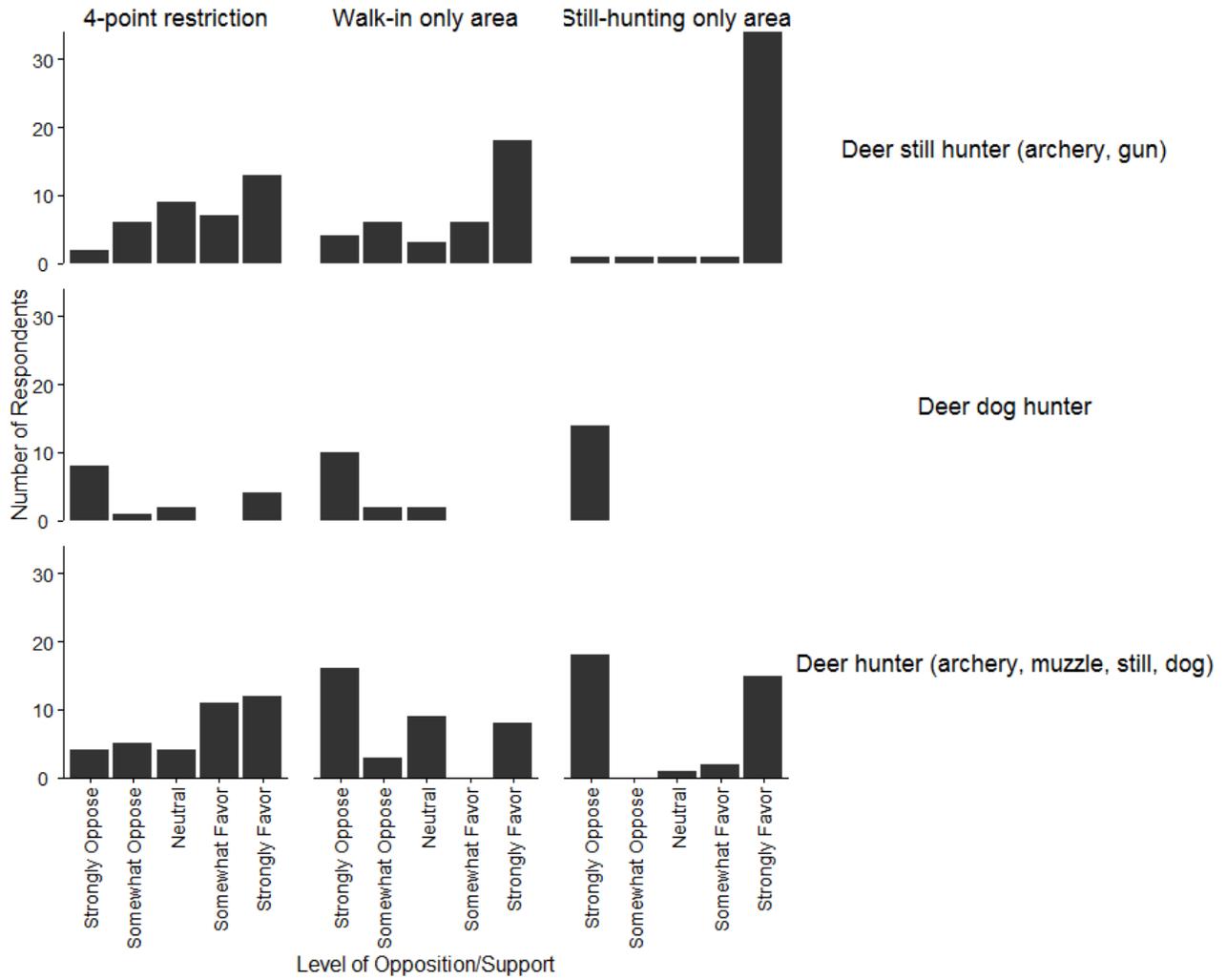


Figure 3: Level of opposition or support to the three proposed management changes at BWWMA by hunter type.

Safety on BWWMA

I feel safe hunting on BWWMA during the

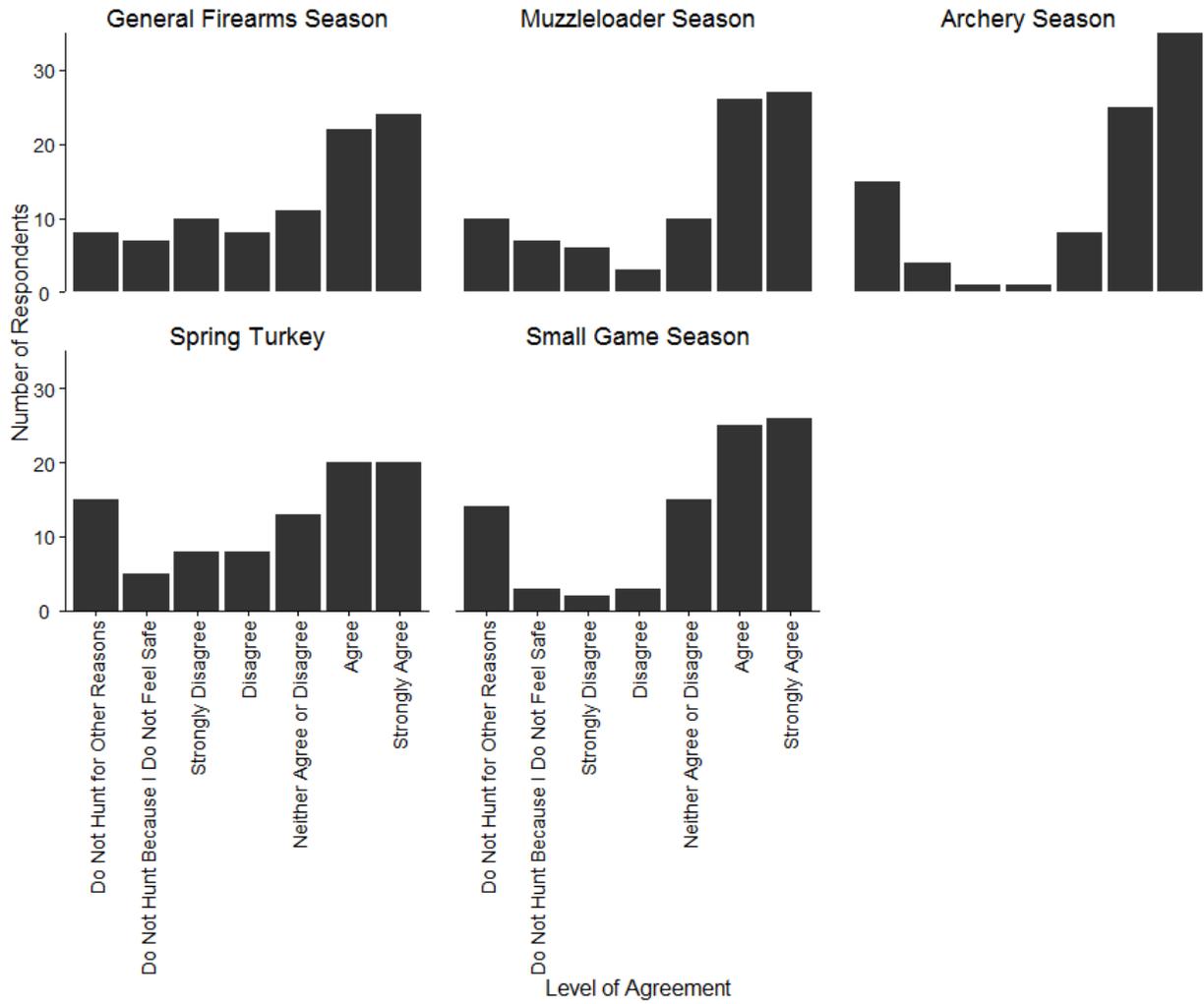


Figure 4. Level of agreement with safety of hunting during 5 hunting seasons on BWWMA.

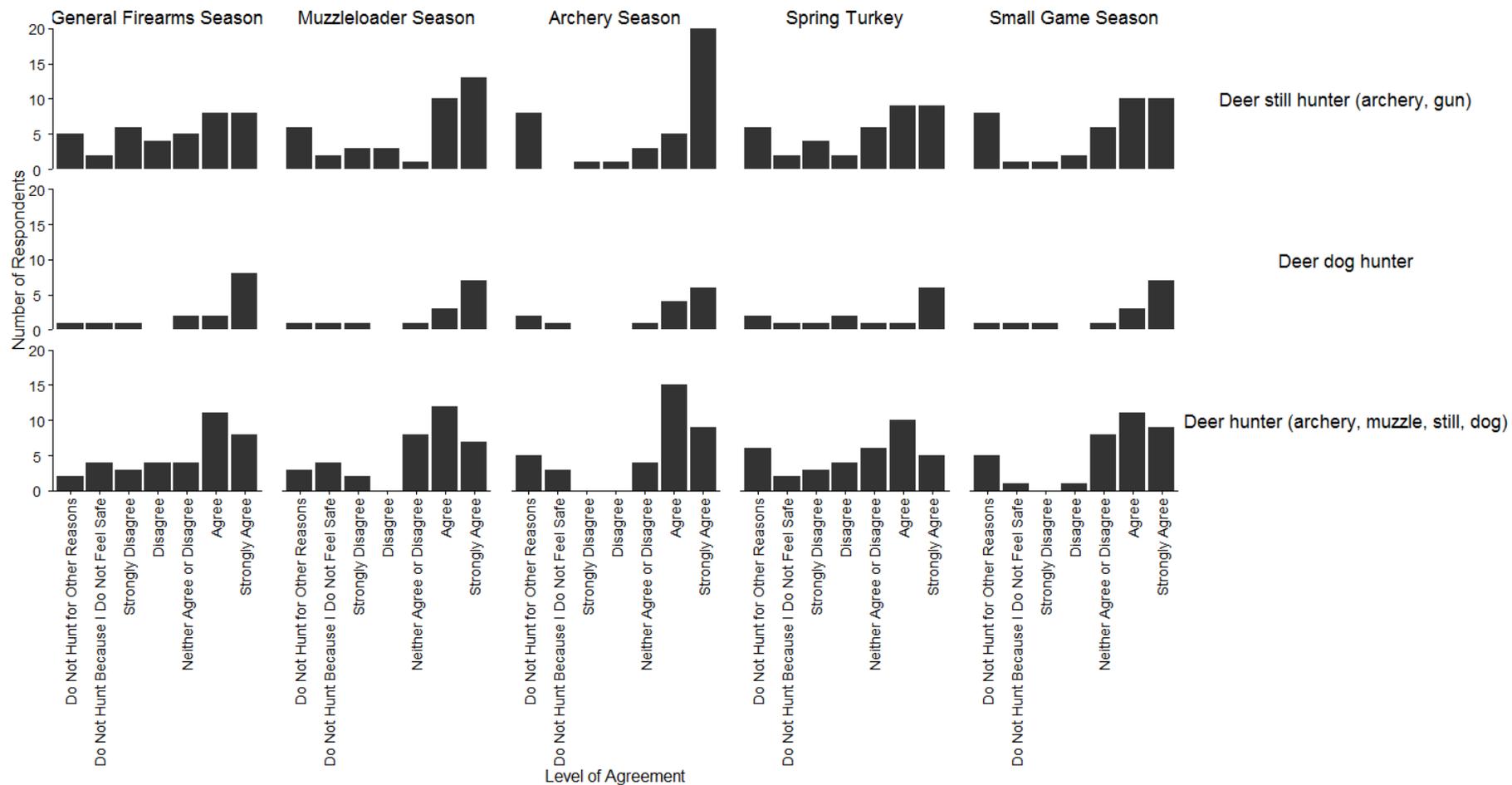


Figure 5. Level of agreement with safety during 5 different seasons on BWWMA by hunter type.

I would feel safer hunting BWWMA if (Select all that apply)

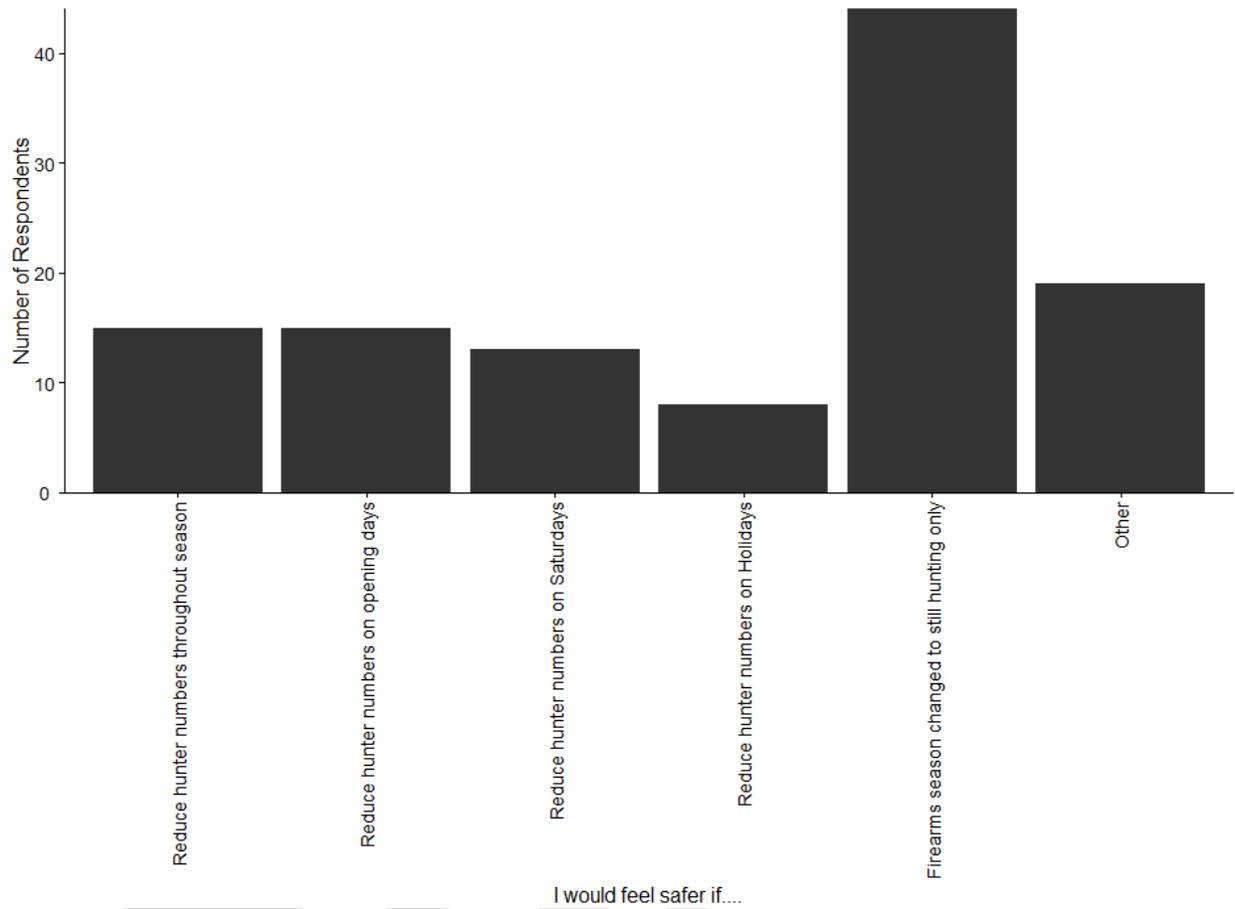


Figure 6. Number of respondents who selected the suggested measures for increasing safety at BWWMA.

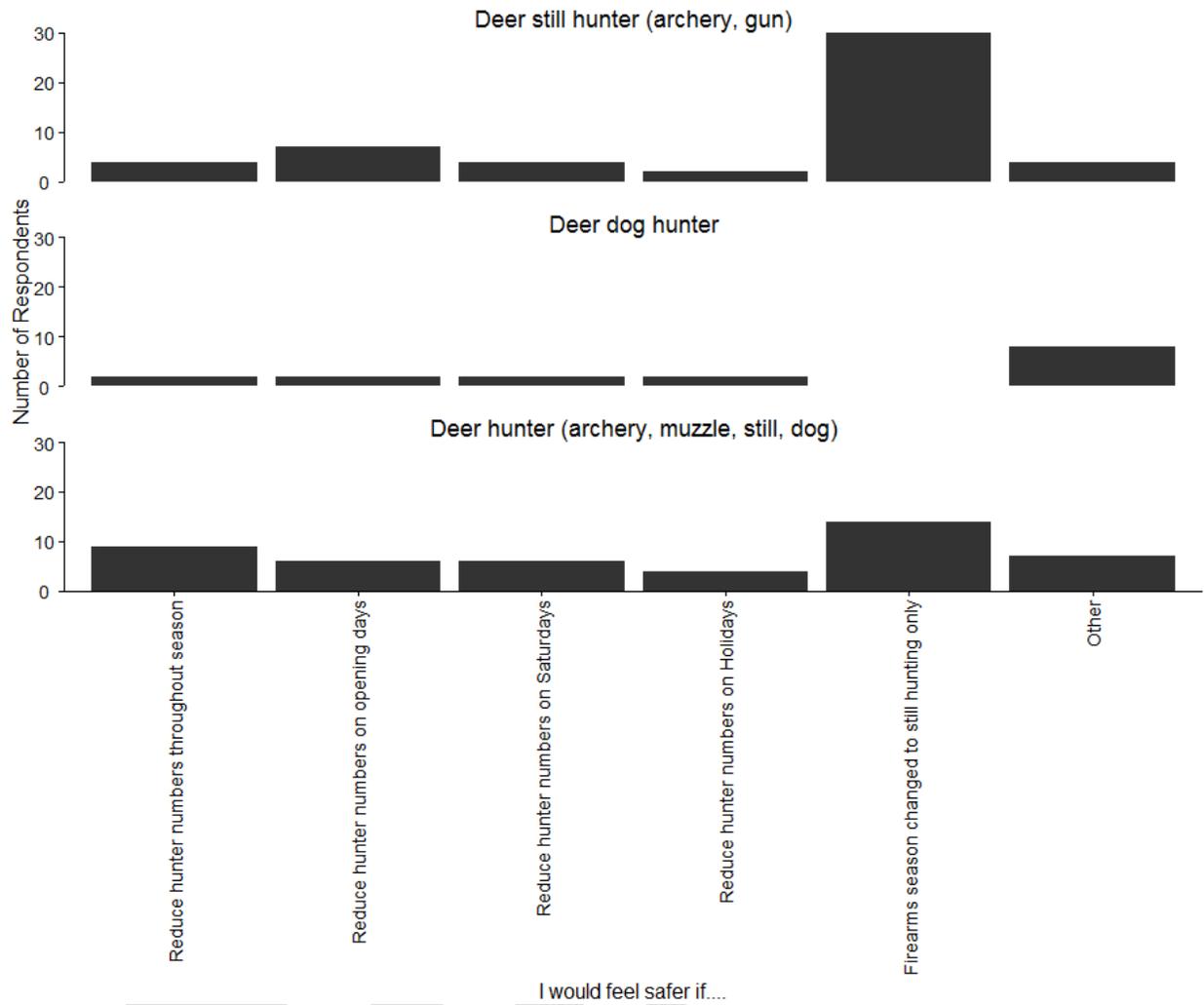


Figure 7. Number of respondents who selected the suggested measures for increasing safety at BWWMA by hunter type.

Comments from those selecting “other” for safety.

- [1] "Driver's would stop riding the roads looking for deer and jumping out shooting."
- [2] "keep the city people out of it"
- [3] "this will not let me completely make my but a sign in would be good ..."
- [4] "WEAR MORE ORANGE VEST AND HATS"
- [5] "bow hunters were required to wear blaze orange, and had to qualify to hunt there"
- [6] "controled by others"
- [7] "need to be able go in and catch dogs"
- [8] "Some select thinning of 5 to 10 year cuts"
- [9] "make areas with boundaries that you hang your name on when you hunt."
- [10] "I feel safe hunting regardless of who is at big woods"
- [11] "I feel safe hunting with my hunting club because we have been a local hunting club all my life!"
- [12] "No change"
- [13] "No hounding"
- [14] "Where orange vest"
- [15] "no change"
- [16] "None"

Demographics

Type of Hunter

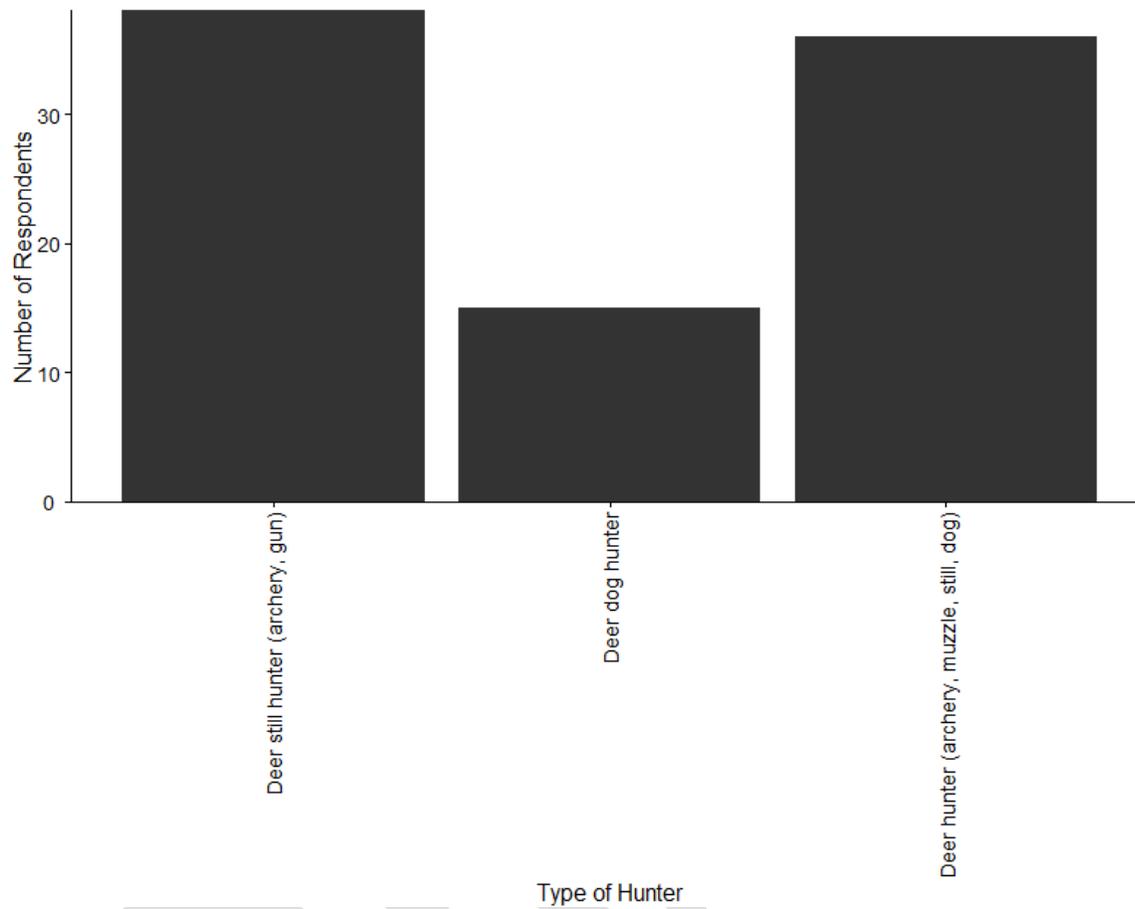


Figure 8. Self-selected type of hunter of survey respondents.

How many years of experience do you have hunting deer?

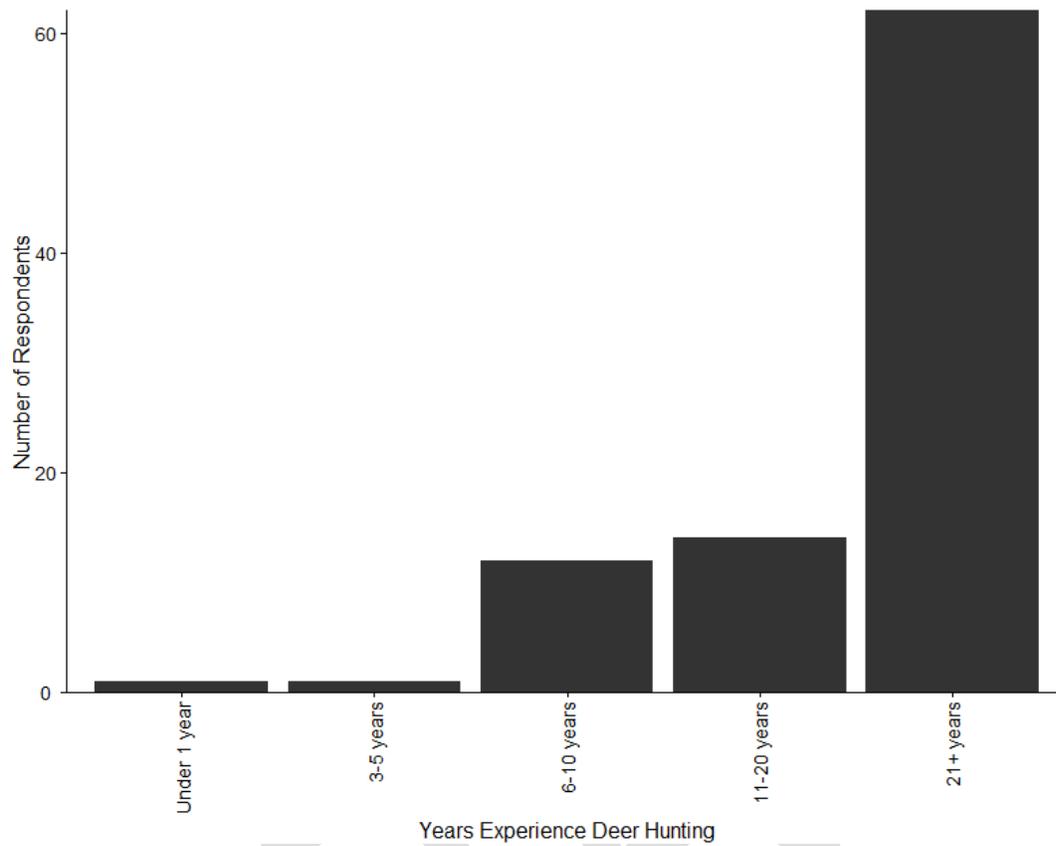


Figure 9. Experience hunting deer of survey respondents.

How many days do you hunt deer (any season) in an average year?

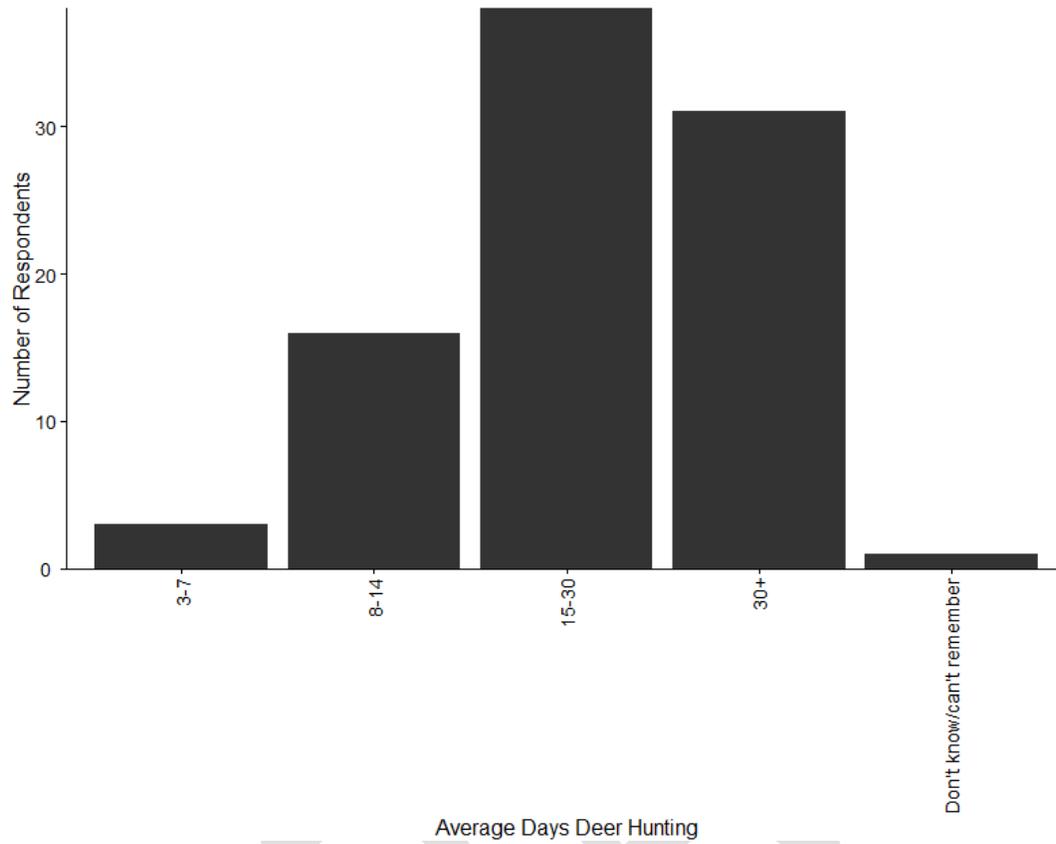


Figure 10. Number of days deer hunting of respondents in an average year.

ZIP Code of Respondents

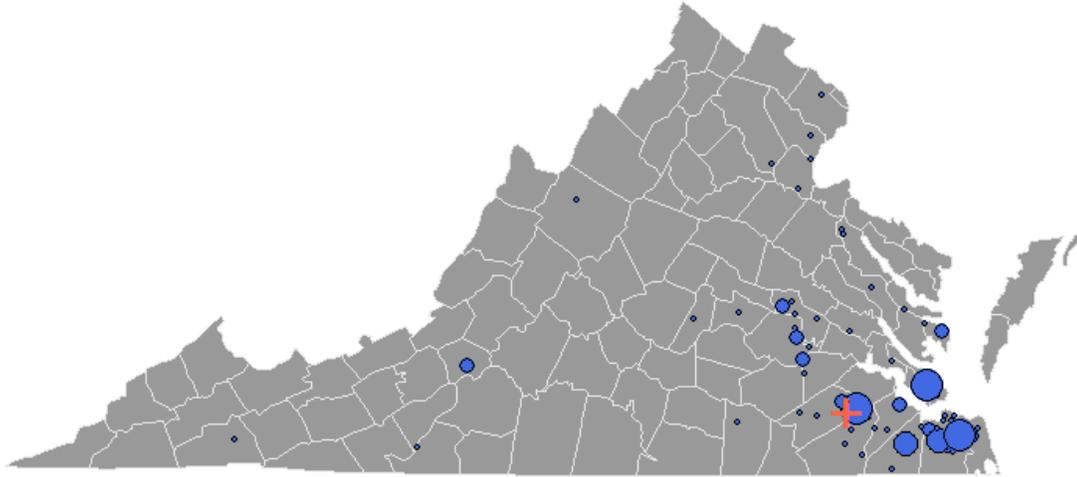


Figure 11: Distribution of hunters completing the survey by hunter ZIP code. Size of circle indicates number of hunters completing survey from that ZIP code. Red + indicates location of BWWMA. No hunters from outside the Commonwealth of Virginia completed the survey.

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Comments to the question “If you have any further comments and/or questions, please feel free to write below.”

[1] "I lived next to this area for 16 years and I am curious how to safely hunt this area"

[2] "I DON'T THINK ANY CHANGES NEED BE MADE, AS THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THE RESIDENT FOR SUSSEX HAVE TO HUNT UNLESS WE WANT TO JOIN A CLUB. I WILL NEVER JOIN ONE BECAUSE MOST I HAVE HUNTED WITH DID MORE DRINKING THAN HUNTING IN THE WOODS. I HAVE MY OWN PACK OF DOGS AND INVITE ALL WHO HUNT BIG WOODS TO HUNT WITH ME AT NO FEE,I ENJOY HAVING SOMEWHERE TO RUN MY DOGS. FOR STILL HUNTING DURING DOG SEASON MOST STAY TO THE STATE FOREST SIDE AND WE RUN DOGS IN THE WMA. I HAVE BEEN HUNTING THERE SINCE IT WAS OPENED TO HUNTING AND WE HAVE HAD NO CONFLICTS."

[3] "Being a Disabled Veteran this happens to be the only place near my home to enjoy our current activities. I would like to see all WMA's open for Archery hunting only on Sunday's."

[4] "Trophy management is great but it also is what is ruining a tradition and way of life for real deer hunters who utilize meat harvested."

[5] "Rules need to be enforced more during spring turkey season. People are running rampant and conditions are dangerous. I love the big woods wma it is a great management area for the public. And considerably well kept no enforcement is the biggest problem"

[6] "I believe a sign in would be good so we know how many people and where they are..i very been walked up on while both still and dog hunting by people who are careless. It's dangerous. .lot of people hunting in here are out of state and need to learn the way we hunt in Virginia"

[7] "leave it like it is. great place to hunt."

[8] "Deer dog hunting is always disruptive in a public hunting area. When dog hunters arrive, all other hunting is over. Deer being chased by dogs, cause hunters to take moving/quick shots at a movement or flash of brown, and that scares the heck out of me. I hunt deer/dog, but only on property that either I or the club I belong to manage. We know who is there, where they are located, and this helps to keep all people safe. Turning loose dogs, and hunters running about on foot and in trucks is total havoc. If you want to alienate the general public, and deny non-hunters the right to use public property, then kee"

[9] "why dont you charge bow hunters a 21 dollar fee to hunt there like the bear tag u wanted soooooooooooooo much"

[10] "Please take a look at what Ft. Pickett is doing successfully to afford quality hunting on public land. No deer dogs is a big contributor to the success. Also, check in and check out procedures increase safety and general knowledge of who is hunting and reduces the hunting pressure on any given track of land. iSporstmen is being proposed as an automated electronic tracking tool for check in/out in the future.

Also, after an extensive hunter survey last year, Ft. Pickett will continue with no deer dogs and is moving to a 6 point antler requirement for harvest on a substantial track of land. Most deer hunters ar"

[11] "I would suggest have assigned hunting areas. Divide into 20 acres section on a map and only allow 1 hunter or 1 hunter with youth in that section. upon arrival on various game map trail head. You could paint different zones by color tree markers. I would also require all hunters to register and fill out Identification cards ."

[12] "Matt@ Mr Smith are very helpful with all my questions,awesome place to hunt,thanks again, John R."

[13] "I think Big Woods is a great property and I am not against dog hunting, but I think they over hunt the property with dogs (even when it is not the right time of year). Today I was out there for the first day of Muzzle loader and I heard 3 different sets of dogs run through the property at different times of the day. I understand that small game started today, but I can tell the difference between beagles running rabbits and a pack of beagles running deer. Plus, on the way out tonight I saw a few deer in the field by the chicken farm or pig farm (the really smelly farm) and as I went by I slowed to see if any of th"

[14] "The people at bw are mostly friendly and understanding that it is public. No personal claims to an area that I have encountered. However, I would not hunt from the ground till after deer gun season. If I get there late and a truck is their, I wait till full light or go somewhere else. I also wear more orange than required till on stand. Never was much for dog hunting but they have helped more than hurt. I'm just tired of seeing more people than deer while on stand."

[15] "I'm not in favor of large numbers of hunt club members invading WMAs with dogs during deer season. I know they have rights to hunt on public land, but they DO take advantage. They have their leased club land to hunt on, then they basically take over state lands with an attitude as if state lands belong only to them and not to the people who simply can't find affordable hunting elsewhere. Also, clubs have been known to let their dogs loose on public land to chase/sweep deer off public land onto their adjacent club land. God forbid if someone try that on their club land. Maybe you should consider banning dog hu"

[16] "1.) The area is really too large to make it a walk in only. That's quite a hike and very long drag. Chickohominee does some of that and it is just way too far to walk into some of the areas there. Though, that would certainly keep some hunt clubs and other large volume users/abusers from entering. However, the surrounding clubs that have alternate access through their own land would then have easier access to hunt the WMA than the people who the WMA is mostly intended for! 2.) Alot of the survey pertains to safety. I agree to keep numbers down for safety but also for just decent hunting. You can not hunt wit"

[17] "What happened to all of the deer? Haven't seen any this year at Big Woods! Disease? Predators? Chased onto adjacent lands by those darn dog owners? More nocturnal? What happened? I think the population is in overall decline. I see fewer deer along public roads during the evening, fewer road kills, too. If I want to climb a tree and see nothing, I can do that in my front yard. Might see some cute

joggers, too. Neighbors will think I'm nuts, but it's crazy to drive 75 minutes each way, climb a tree and see nothing but fall leaves. One hunter at Big Woods started going there when they first opened and only f"

[18] "I would like the Game Commission to open public land to Sunday hunting. There are many people who's only option is public land but it's off limits on Sunday. At least open small game hunting on Sunday on public land. If the VDGIF takes the first step then the U.S. Forest Service will probably follow suit."

[19] "Deer hunting with dogs should not be allowed on any public land..."

[20] "Be nice to limit dog hunting, public land gets hunted hard dogs makes it worse. Doesn't take a whole lot to burn up the place where you don't see any game."

[21] "I believe that Virginia needs to reduce the liberal tag limit is to let the herd numbers come back. Also adding antler point restriction would be nice, similar to what PA did. Now PA hunters are beginning to see bigger bucks then they ever have. Dog hunting just needs to go away, period. Just because it was a tradition is not a valid reason to continue. Kirby needs to retire. Deer hounds should not be allowed on state Forest or public property. Go to any state land on a Saturday and it is being run by dog hunt clubs. These clubs harass hunters during bow season and mess with people's vehicles and commit larceny. I"

[22] "I love hunting big woods wma, however I have had several hunts(even during the week) interrupted by multiple teams of dogs being ran through the woods. I understand some feel this is their \"heritage\" but I find it lazy, impatient and unsportsmanlike. Dogs hunting should be reserved to private land and leases or at least limited on public land. The rut this year has been ruined by deer that will now hardly, if at all, move without dogs pushing them."

[23] "I love my freedom hunting with dogs and I would love to continue hunting with dogs in the future! The club that I hunt with are very respectful hunters and love our dogs like our own children! I will no longer watch or support cbs 6 news bc of the pics and lies they spread through the media on what dog hunting is about in which I know is not true what they say! I vote to keep dog hunting alive!"

[24] "While hunting there during general fire arms. If you have to leave early you have to deal with the dog hunters hunting the gravel roads. Seems every time I went. Also the last two time I went there were 7 and 9 hunt clubs there running dogs. Asked how many dogs and where they were from. Last time my count was at 62 dogs in the woods. Crazy. The clubs come there when they run all the deer off there club land. As this land is so close to hampton roads I feel it would be better served as a no dog wma. It gets way to many hunters. I do not have dogs but I am not against it. I have been in clubs with dogs in my 35 year"

[25] "I am a 100% disabled vet. If roads are closed except for walk in only it would eliminate the possibility to use the WMA. Please open small game hunting on Sunday in all WMAs. The deer dog hunters Chase all game indiscriminately. Bird dogs are not a problem"

[26] "Open all public land to Sunday hunting."

[27] "Your entire survey is biased toward doing away with dog hunting and it's not appreciated. Y'all want to increase hunting license fees every other year such as the having to have a separate bear tag this year and then restrict more and more how we can hunt and its not appreciated."

[28] "outlaw center fire muzzle loaders because theyre just as effective as a rifle"

[29] "Time to take the dos out. Disruptive and trespassing."

[30] "Stop dog hunt on WMA"

[31] "Please support and promote the opening of ALL WMA's for Sunday hunting."

[32] "Hunting with dogs is a tradition passed on from generations passed. We need to allow this to continue."

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Appendix: Survey Results With All Respondents

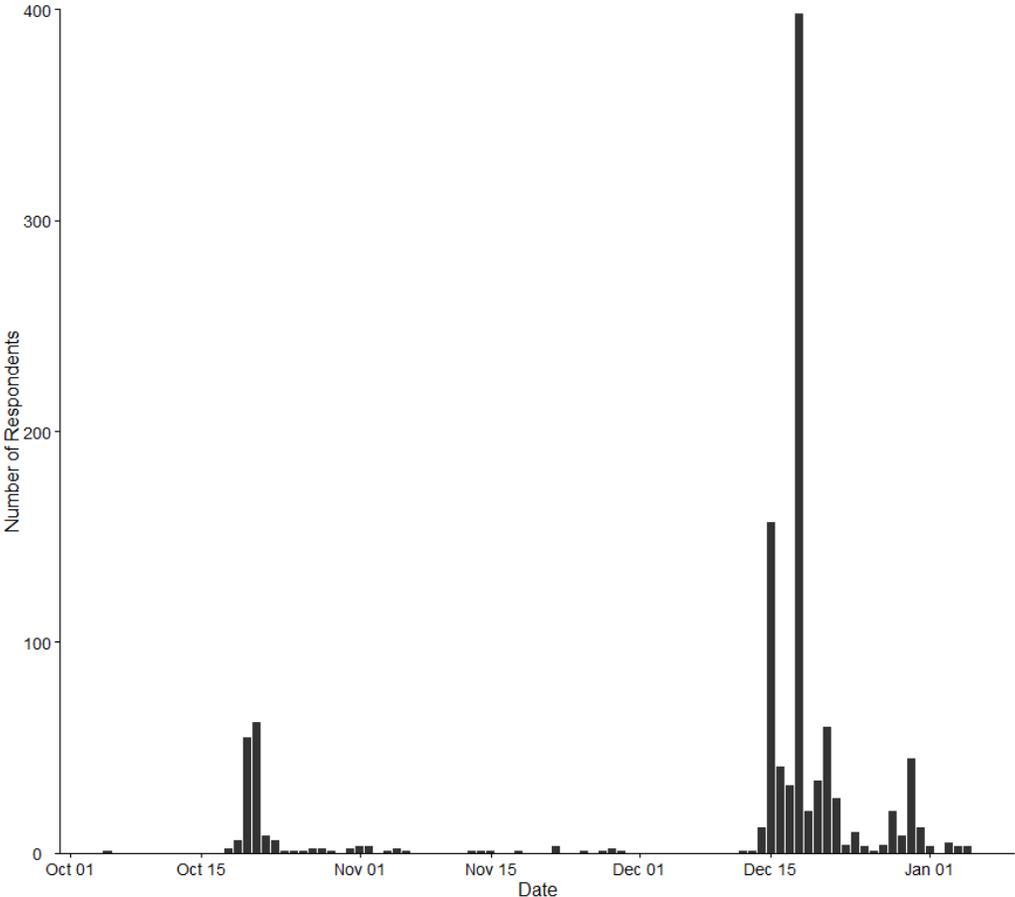


Figure A1. Number of survey responses by date.

Whitetail Deer Management

I would be in favor of part of BWWMA being set aside.....

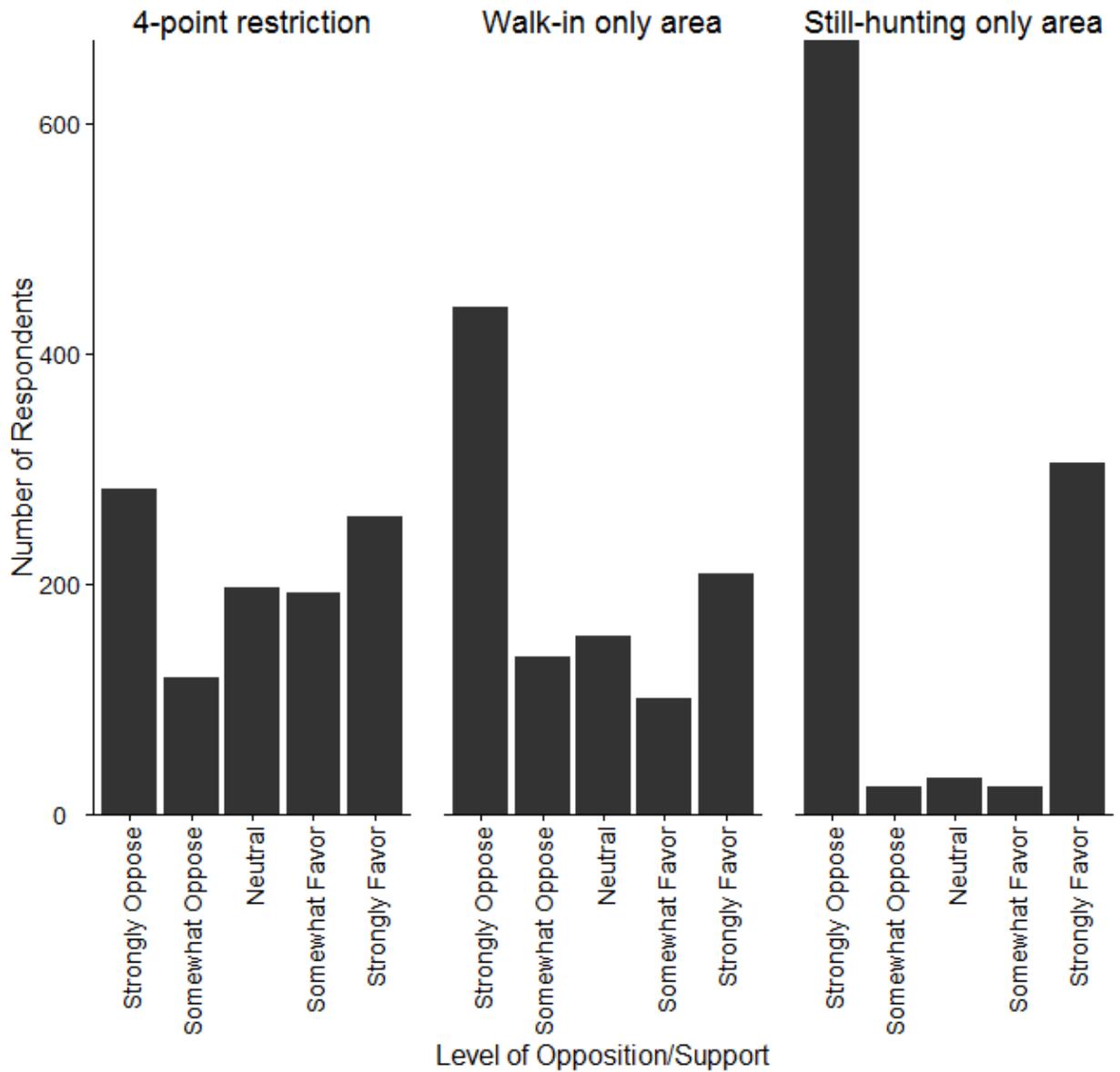


Figure A2. Level of opposition or support for three proposed management area regulation changes at BWWMA.

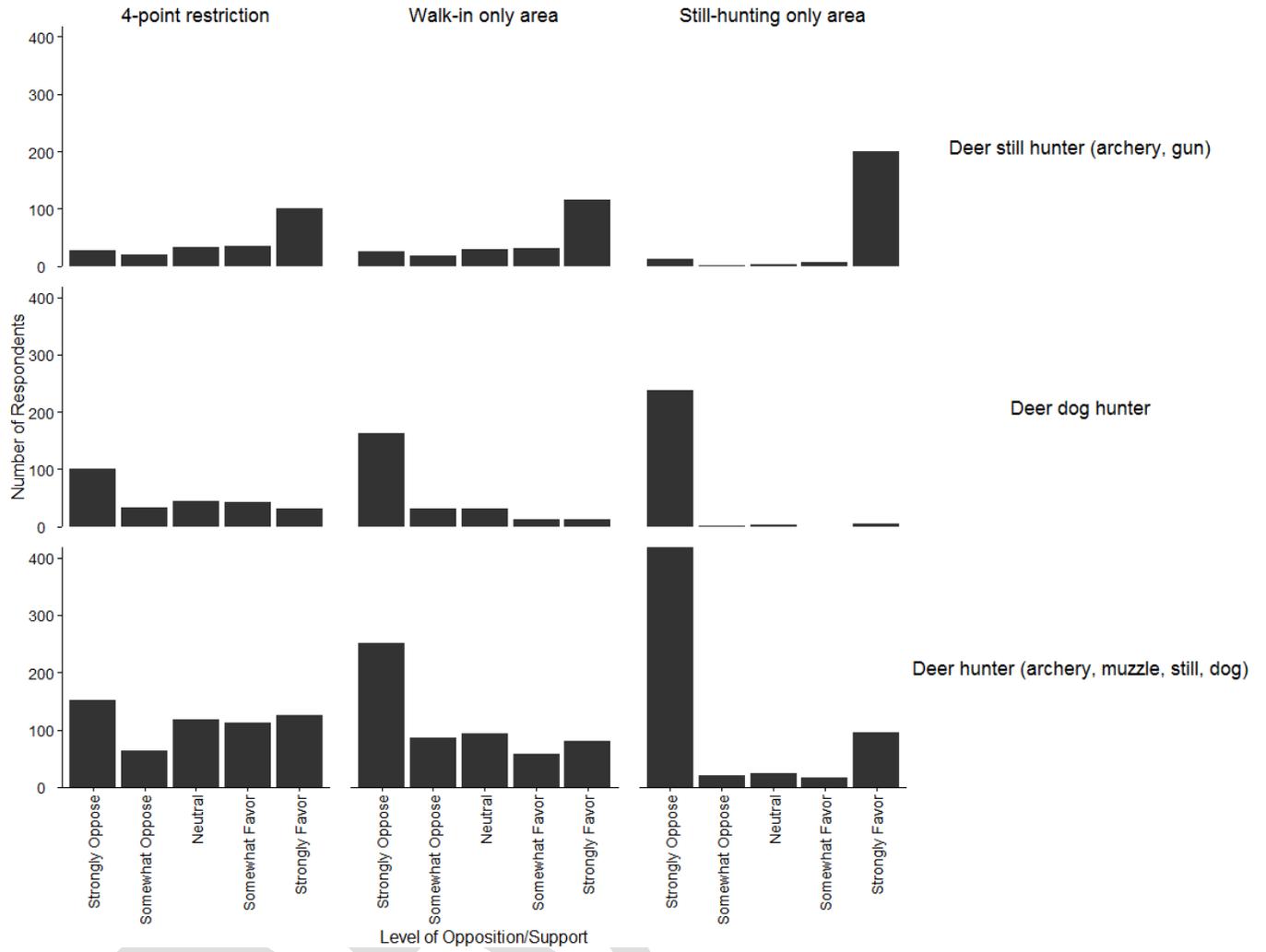


Figure A3. Level of opposition or support to the three proposed management changes at BWWMA by hunter type.

Safety on BWWMA

I feel safe hunting on BWWMA during the

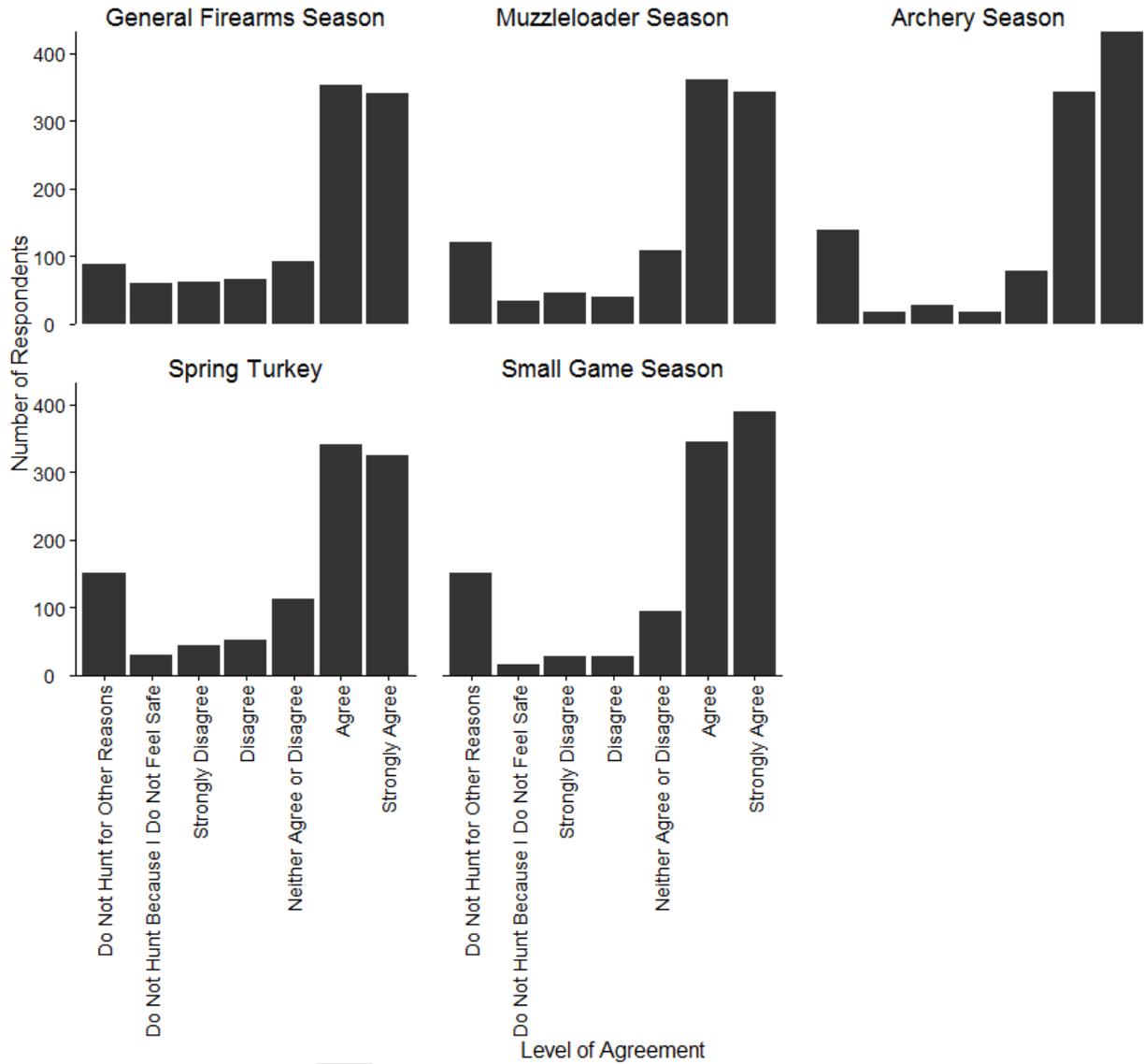


Figure A4. Level of agreement with safety of hunting during 5 hunting seasons on BWWMA.

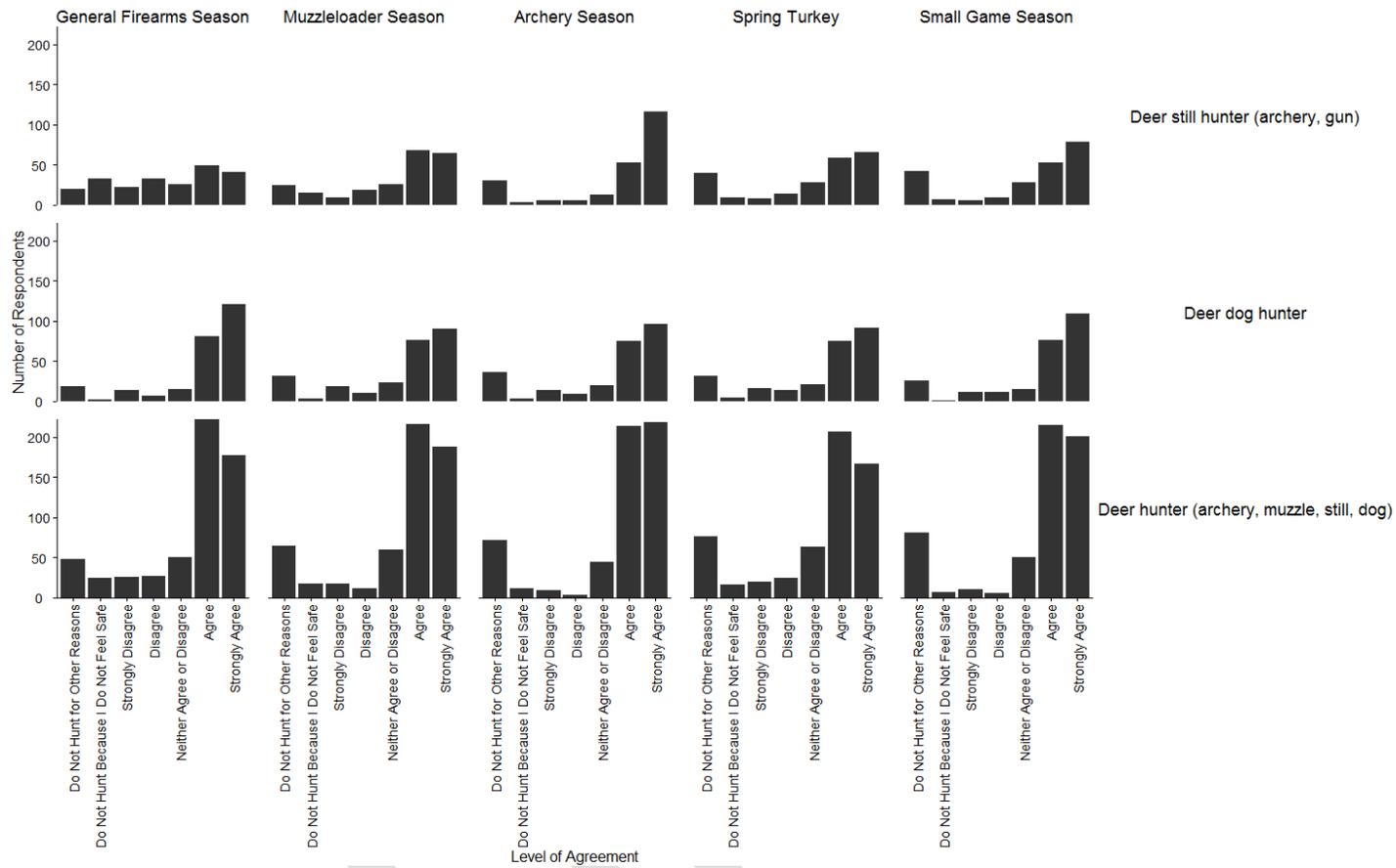


Figure A5. Level of agreement with safety during 5 different seasons on BWWMA by hunter type.

I would feel safer hunting BWWMA if (Select all that apply)

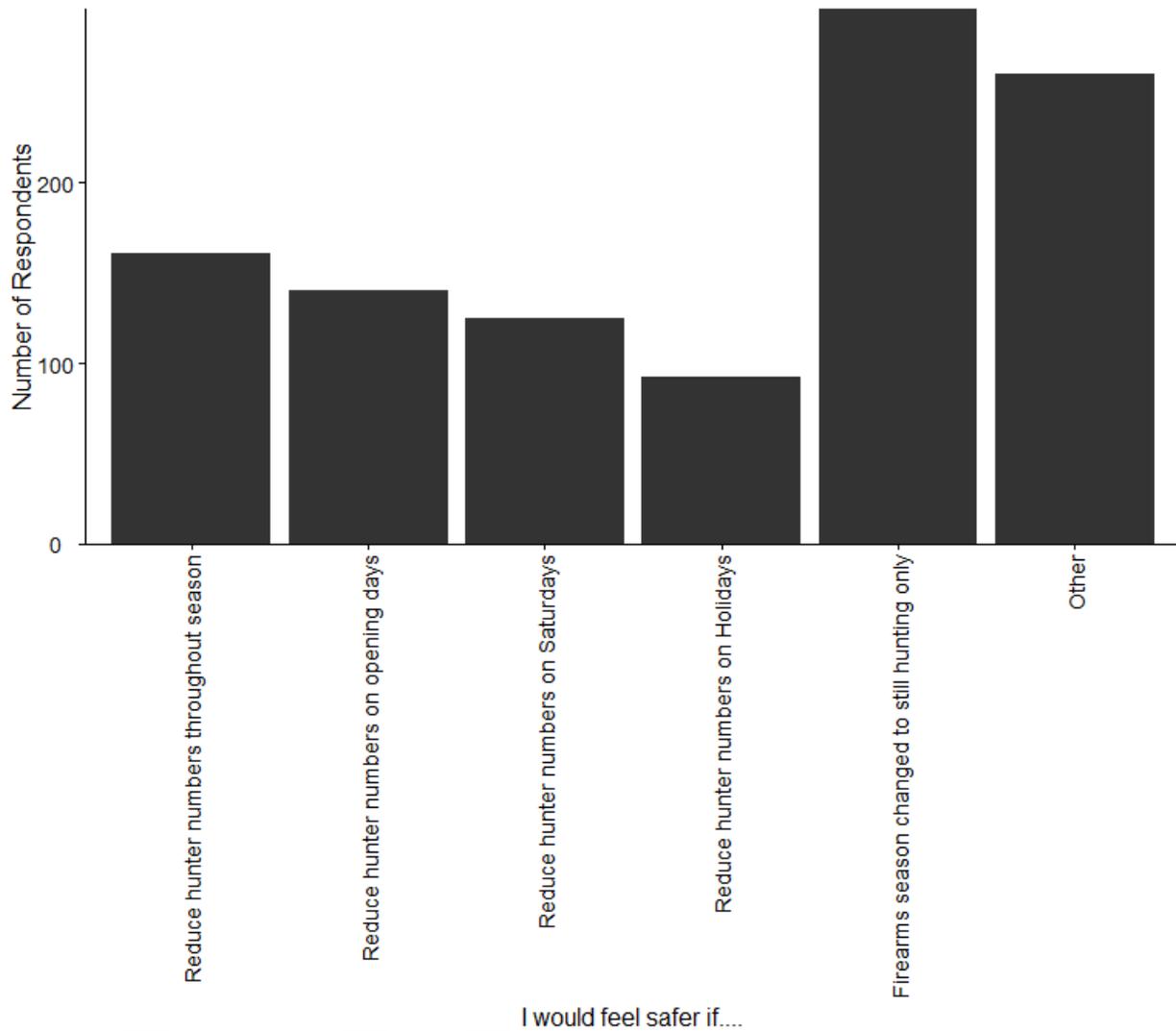


Figure A6. Number of respondents who selected the suggested measures for increasing safety at BWWMA.

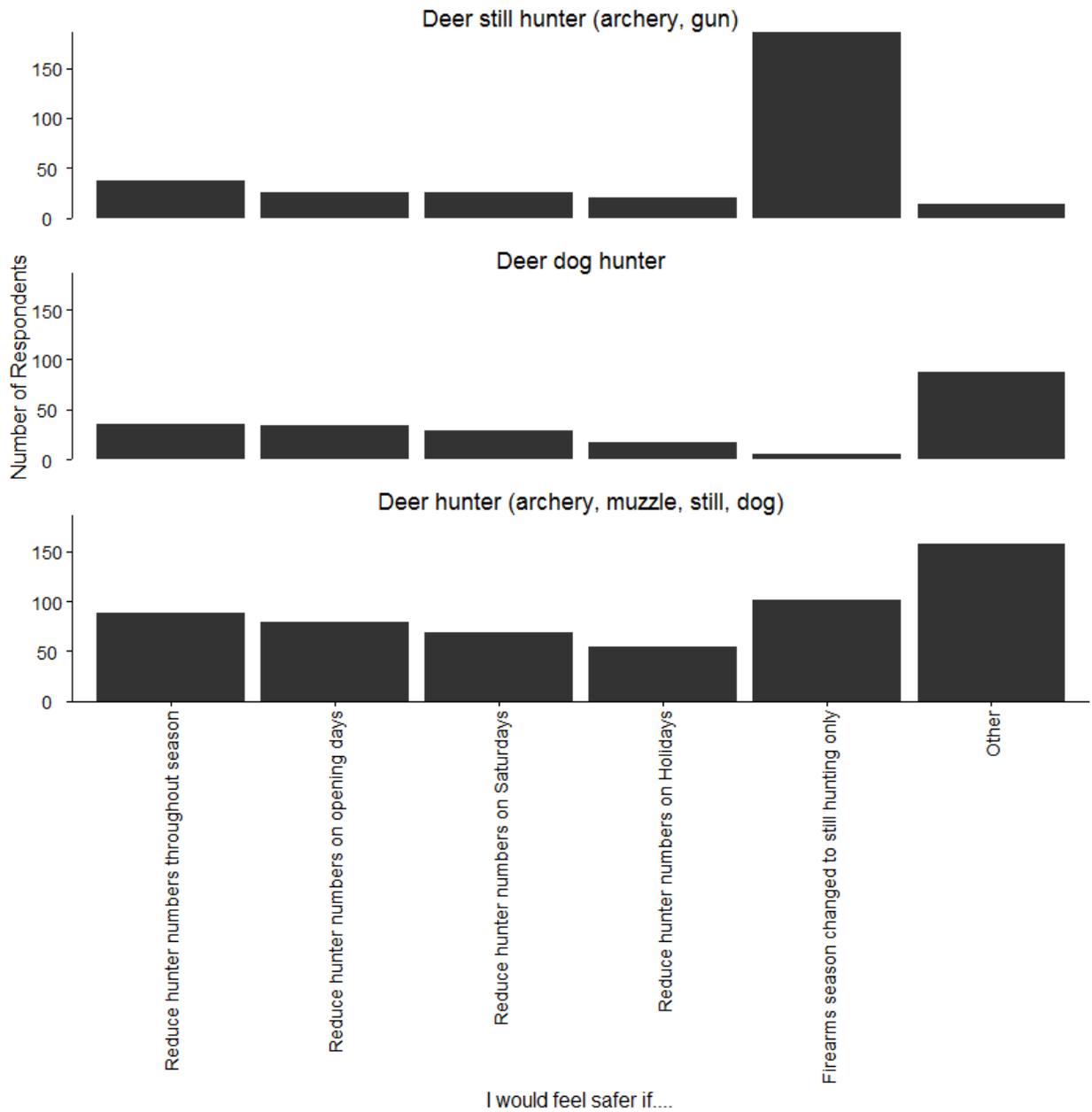


Figure A7. Number of respondents who selected the suggested measures for increasing safety at BWWMA by hunter type.

Comments from those selecting “other” for a suggestion for improving safety.

- [1] "Driver's would stop riding the roads looking for deer and jumping out shooting."
- [2] "keep the city people out of it"
- [3] "this will not let me completely make my but a sign in would be good ..."
- [4] "WEAR MORE ORANGE VEST AND HATS"
- [5] "N/A"
- [6] "I feel safe hunting there no matter the season."
- [7] "No change"
- [8] "if I could access more roads by vehicle"
- [9] "Stop all the city people from coming they are the problem"
- [10] "If stupid people weren't allowed to have a hunting license"
- [11] "more parking was established throught the area; no small game hunting until after deer season;"
- [12] "Hunter known sera location"
- [13] "Keep it the way it currently is."
- [14] "leave as is"
- [15] "Do not make any changes. Hunters paid for this area, they should have every opportunity to use it."
- [16] "a sign in or other means to regulate hunter locations is needed"
- [17] "bow hunters were required to wear blaze orange, and had to qualify to hunt there"
- [18] "controled by others"
- [19] "need to be able go in and catch dogs"
- [20] "Some select thinning of 5 to 10 year cuts"
- [21] "make areas with boundaries that you hang your name on when you hunt."
- [22] "I feel safe hunting regardless of who is at big woods"
- [23] "ban dog hunting"

[24] "Wouldnt feel any safer any way at all. I dont feel unsafe."

[25] "Should be a sign in at all parking areas so people don't walk allover each other even when running d"

[26] "It's fine the way it has been for years"

[27] "Muzzleloaders and slug guns were not allowed"

[28] "I feel safe as it currently is"

[29] "Signing in areas you'll be like regular stands or general area"

[30] "Better organization and areas marked where others are located."

[31] "the numbers shouldn't be limited"

[32] "Mandatory safety certificates"

[33] "Dog hunting"

[34] "Less still hunters when you dog hunt you know where every one in the hunt is"

[35] "I'm fine the way it is"

[36] "I think it's fine how it is"

[37] "hunters need to use their best judgment for their safety when choosing when to hunt."

[38] "More orange beside just hat"

[39] "I have never felt unsafe at BWWMA"

[40] "If my dogs going on there didn't have the possibility of getting shot by a antidog hunter"

[41] "Safe as it is"

[42] "Out of state hunters reduced"

[43] "I feel safe anytime"

[44] "if everything was left as it is now"

[45] "I feel safe now"

[46] "I always feel safe"

[47] "I feel safe as it is now"

[48] "I feel safe there anytime"

[49] "No restrictions"

[50] "I already feel safe, but about the first two. Weeks of General firearms are no dog hunting in va."

[51] "seem fine to me"

[52] "There should be other ways to make it safer other than reducing numbers"

[53] "Feel safe"

[54] "feel safe there anytime of the year."

[55] "na"

[56] "N/a"

[57] "More game warden patrols"

[58] "i like the way it is now"

[59] "More land to hunt"

[60] "I feel safe threw out the entire season"

[61] "feel safe already"

[62] "Put in tree stands to gut hunters off the ground"

[63] "no discrimination"

[64] "I don't have any issues with safety."

[65] "If Everyday was a day you could hunt deer with Dogs!"

[66] "blaze orange an posted location of hunter"

[67] "If it was zoned off like other management areas"

[68] "leave it like it is never been there when it was overcrowded and i go two to three times a week"

[69] "leave it alone"

[70] "I have no issues with the current safety"

[71] "Organized local hunters should be permitted only in order to preserve a coordinated hunt"

- [72] "General firearms season was changed to dog hunt only"
- [73] "General firearms was deer dogs only!"
- [74] "leave area open to all types of hunters"
- [75] "I feel safe as it is"
- [76] "If there were more organized hunts"
- [77] "Maybe have a sign in process ?"
- [78] "Keep it the way it is"
- [79] "Hunter numbers of any style should NEVER be reduced"
- [80] "If there was not a threat to dog hunters, and all hunters could join together!"
- [81] "designated hunting areas with a map at the entrance for the hunters to flip a card when they enter a"
- [82] "Continue to allow Hunting with Dogs Monday thru Saturday"
- [83] "did not like any of the choices"
- [84] "I feel safe dont need any changes"
- [85] "Do not feel unsafe"
- [86] "Have not hunted it so I don't know how it is."
- [87] "More number of people more the deer feel pressured to move so there for more opportunity to kill one"
- [88] "I have never not felt safe in the big woods. I have hiked quite a few miles through the wma"
- [89] "If I knew where bow hunters were"
- [90] "Less out of town hunters on private land"
- [91] "Dog Hunting only"
- [92] "A still hunter log book was kept with numbered stands and maped locations"
- [93] "I feel safe"
- [94] "Hunters used more precaution before aiming a gun or pulling a trigger"

- [95] "More awarness about hunting in general."
- [96] "I feel safe all the time in the bwwma's because I carry myself with caution 24/7"
- [97] "Nothing needs to change"
- [98] "I feel safe hunting in my area we don't allow muzzleloader season cause its dangerous."
- [99] "Must wear a blaze orange vest to maximize visibility of others"
- [100] "Did not have to worry about still hunters shooting my dog"
- [101] "More cpo presence to crack down on unlawful acts"
- [102] "None of the above"
- [103] "i feel safe"
- [104] "no ground blinds or treestands were allowed"
- [105] "I feel safe with allowing the hunter's to hunt."
- [106] "Hunter reducing the dog amount use and deer bag limit for big groups"
- [107] "Nothing changed"
- [108] "Never felt unsafe"
- [109] "think it's fine the way it is"
- [110] "Nothing leave it alone this is bs tryn to change stuff that doesn't need to be changed"
- [111] "I feel safe hunting Big Woods at all times"
- [112] "Don't need reduced"
- [113] "Have had no points of feeling unsafe"
- [114] "They want so many unsafe people there"
- [115] "change nothing"
- [116] "I never feel unsafe."
- [117] "I have never felt that I was in an unsafe situation"
- [118] "I would feel safe anytime"
- [119] "Allow only organized hound hunts with drawn stands"

[120] "feel safe hunting"

[121] "I feel safe all the time"

[122] "I feel it should be open to county residents only"

[123] "I've always felt safe there"

[124] "Extend the general firearms by 2 weeks after the season ends and make it for still hunting only"

[125] "No changes"

[126] "I feel safe now, with none of the restrictions above"

[127] "no change; has there been any accidents? if not, why change? why add restrictions? no accidents..."

[128] "I think it's just fine right now"

[129] "Change nothing"

[130] "Knowing that the other hunters practice safe hunting, all it takes is one person to cause an accident"

[131] "I feel safe the way things are now"

[132] "Still hunters aren't such women about a tradition"

[133] "Hunting with dog's"

[134] "more orange than just a hat"

[135] "Dogs only"

[136] "I feel safe no matter the season or population!"

[137] "shotgun only no slugs and no rifles for deer hunting during Saturdays and holidays"

[138] "Hunters recognized they are hunting with others"

[139] "I feel plenty safe during general gun season"

[140] "If it was hunted with dogs only since the hunts are organized and everyone knows where everyone is"

[141] "My safety is longstanding. I do not feel that it is in jeopardy"

[142] "if rifles were not allowed"

[143] "You don't need to reduce anything I feel safe the way it is now!"

[144] "I feel safe now."

[145] "hunting with dogs"

[146] "Keep hunting with dogs legal"

[147] "If general firearms season was back to the way it was before Sunday hunting was allowed"

[148] "no changes needed all is good"

[149] "I feel like hunting hunting shouldn't be changed any"

[150] "not a problem"

[151] "raise cost of licens's and take away as usual, F***K YOU VDGIF"

[152] "Keep everything the way it is"

[153] "i'm a hound hunter"

[154] "I feel safe the way it is. There is no good reason to change the access. Limits and size restriction"

[155] "See previous question...."

[156] "Need 2 separate deer seasons. 1 for dogs and 1 without dogs"

[157] "Dog hunting on Monday wed and sat only"

[158] "Still Hunters were not shooting at myself, my truck or my dogs."

[159] "I don't feel it's unsafe"

[160] "LET THAN STAY AS THEY ARE."

[161] "Fell safe all the time"

[162] "I feel comfortable hunting it no matter what"

[163] "I think it's fine the way it is"

[164] "No rifles were allowed"

[165] "I have no issues"

[166] "Sign in sheet"

[167] "Have no problem any seasons"

[168] "Dog hunting only, no still hunting"

[169] "If it were possible to actually know the other people who were hunting in the area."

[170] "More blaze orange required"

[171] "It's safe without any changes"

[172] "When a club is hunting at least you know where they are at. Still hunters could be anywhere ."

[173] "It doesn't matter to me if numbers are reduced at all. We do an okay job of that in the field."

[174] "I feel safe anytime around my group"

[175] "no change"

[176] "Blaze orange torso is mandatory"

[177] "Hunting should be open to all, everyday hunting season is open."

[178] "No changes are necessary for safety."

[179] "I would feel safe if i was the only one that could hunt there."

[180] "areas allowed for hunting marked as such"

[181] "I feel safe all the time at this place"

[182] "Keep the same as it is now"

[183] "Remove all still hunters and have dog hunting only ."

[184] "general firearms dog hunting only"

[185] "Let the people that are truly familiar with this area set a proven safe number and use that."

[186] "If I knew all hunters had taken a safety course"

[187] "I feel safe hunting with my hunting club because we have been a local hunting club all my life!"

[188] "please leave Virginia's hunting season/bag limits/hunting methods alone"

[189] "already feel safe"

[190] "I feel it is safe now. have never seen it crowded"

[191] "None"

[192] "You had to remain a certain distance from a vehicle"

[193] "I do not feel unsafe hunting Big Woods."

[194] "Do not feel unsafe."

[195] "I feel safe there"

[196] "No need to change the seasons on a public property."

[197] "No vehicles inside gates"

[198] "Add an additional day, such as Sunday. That would allow public land hunters the option to pick a da"

[199] "Feels safe hunting anytime"

[200] "wmas should be open during the season and not closed on sundays!"

[201] "I would like to see still/stand hunting for the first 2-4 weeks, then allow dogs after that time per"

[202] "More access to open land for hunters"

[203] "No hounding"

[204] "Where orange vest"

Demographics

Type of Hunter

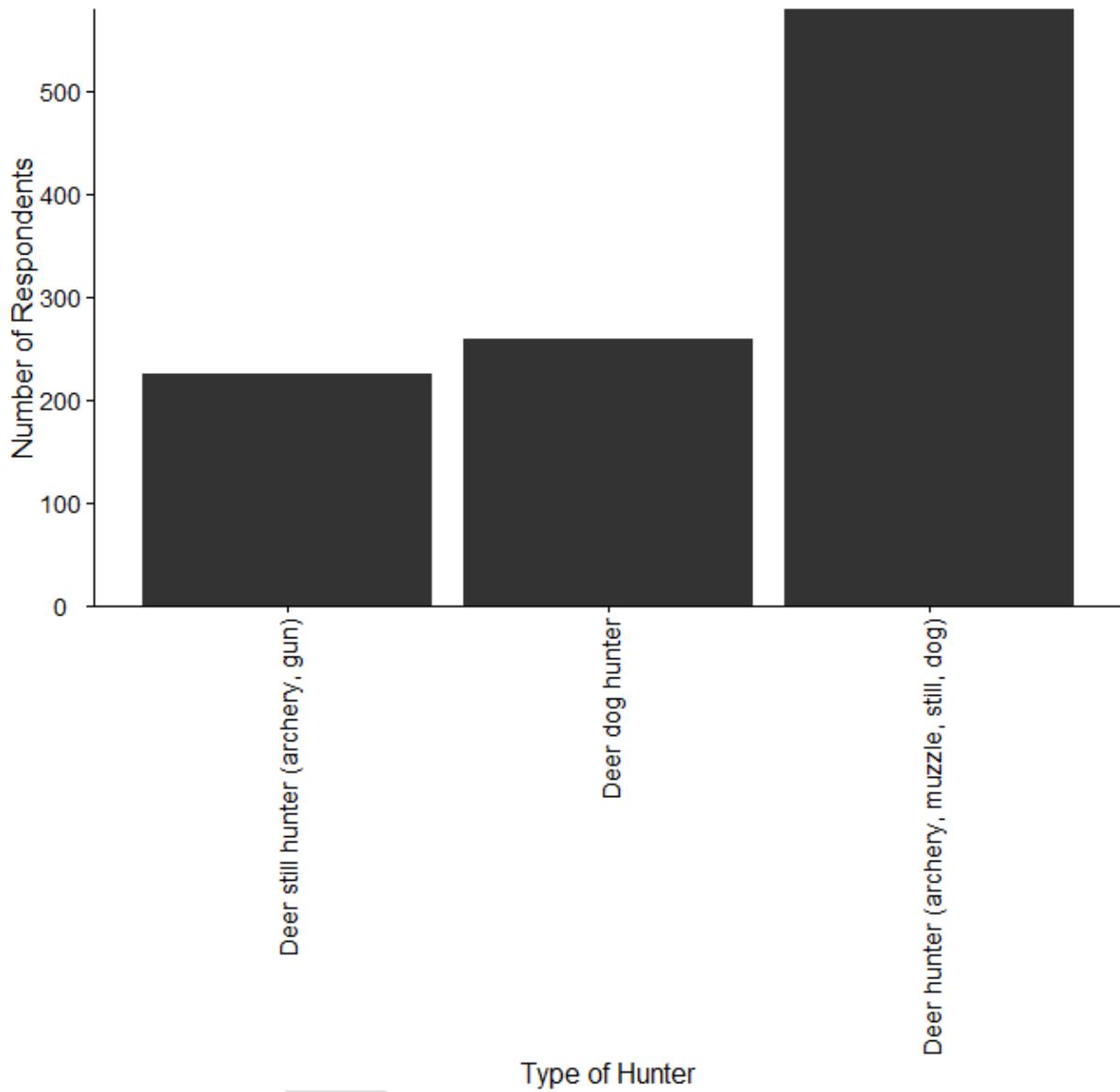


Figure A8. Self-selected type of hunter of survey respondents.

How many years of experience do you have hunting deer?

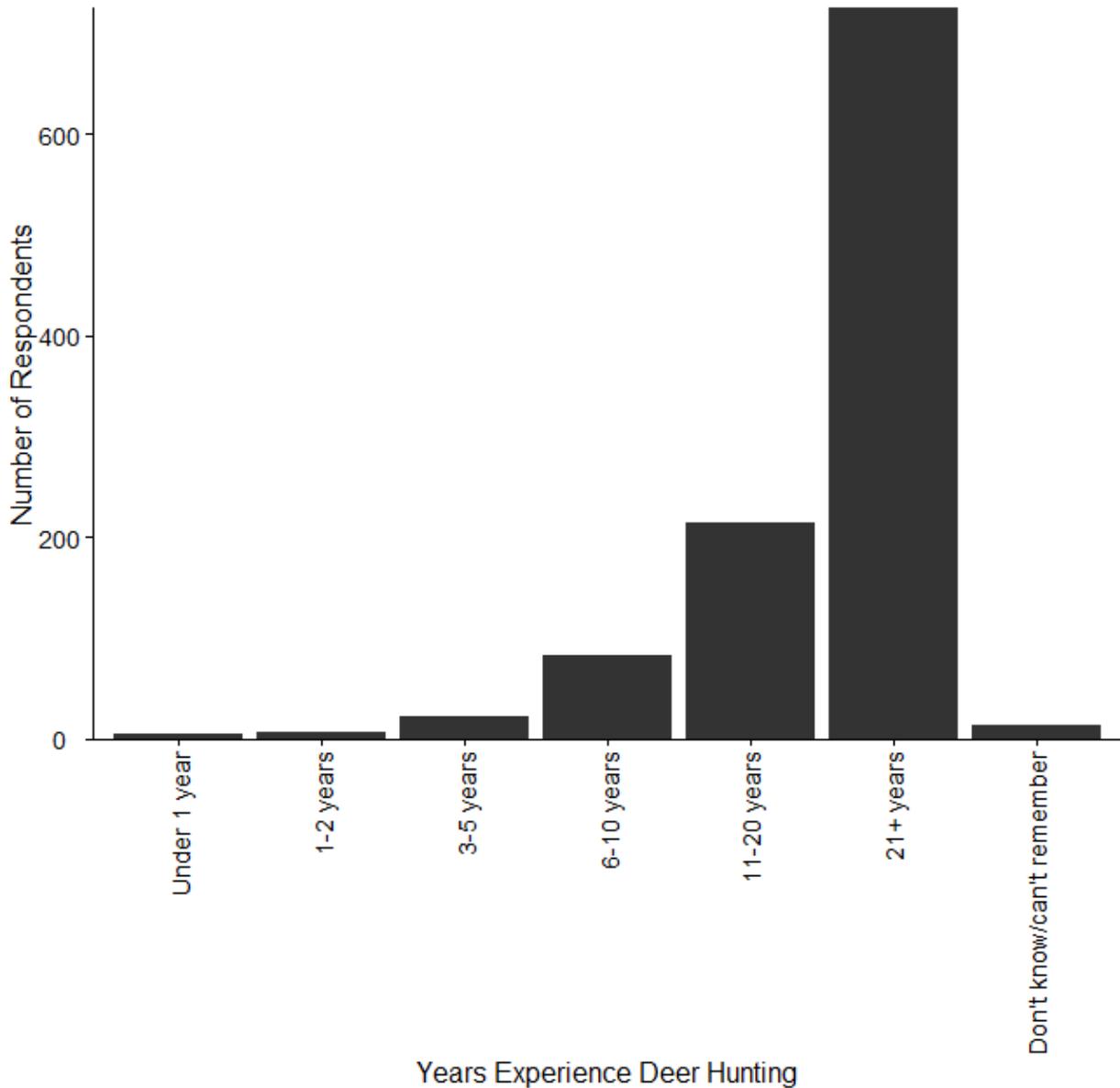


Figure A9. Experience hunting deer of survey respondents.

How many days do you hunt deer (any season) in an average year?

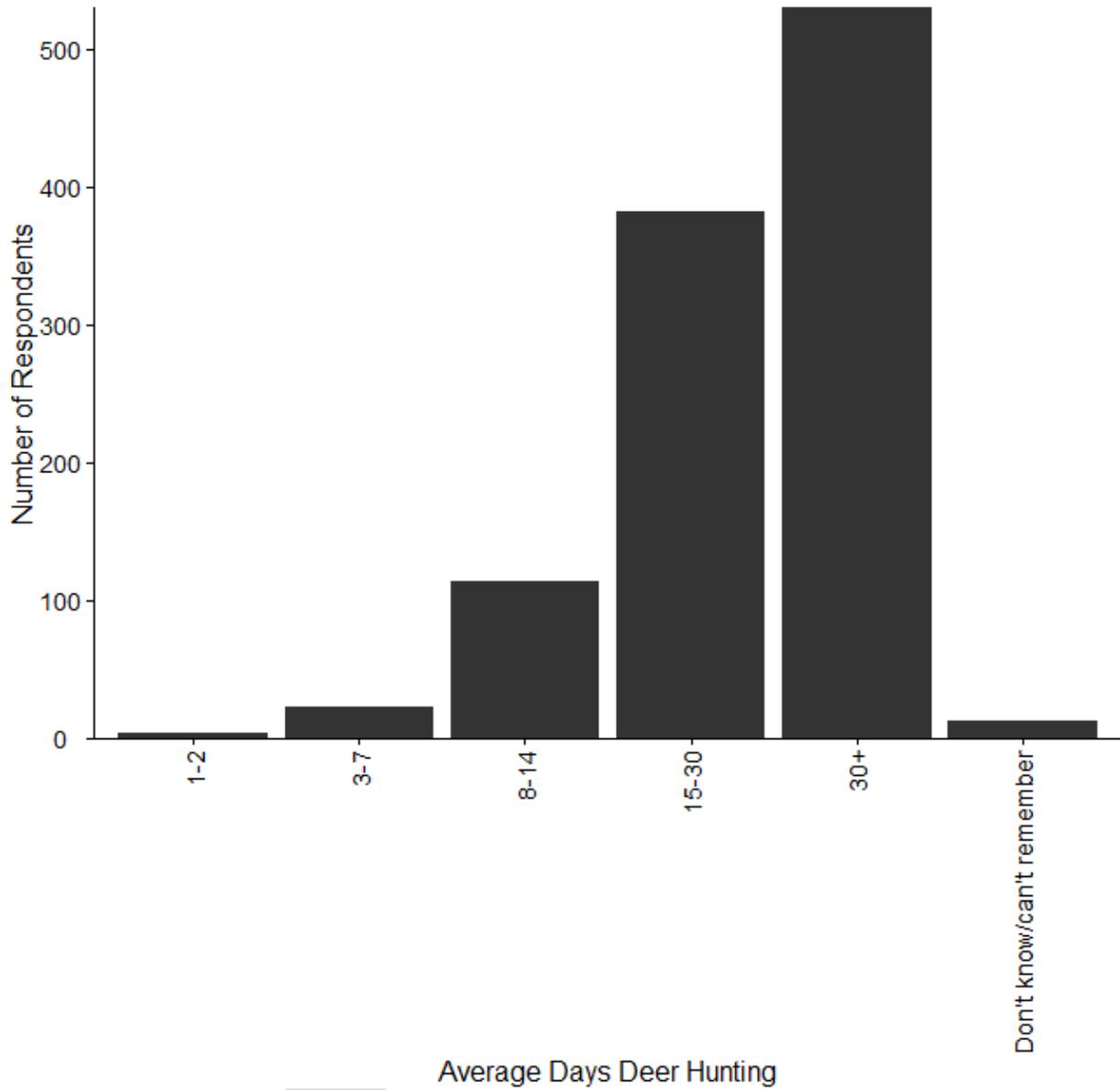


Figure A10. Number of days deer hunting of respondents in an average year.

ZIP Code of Respondents

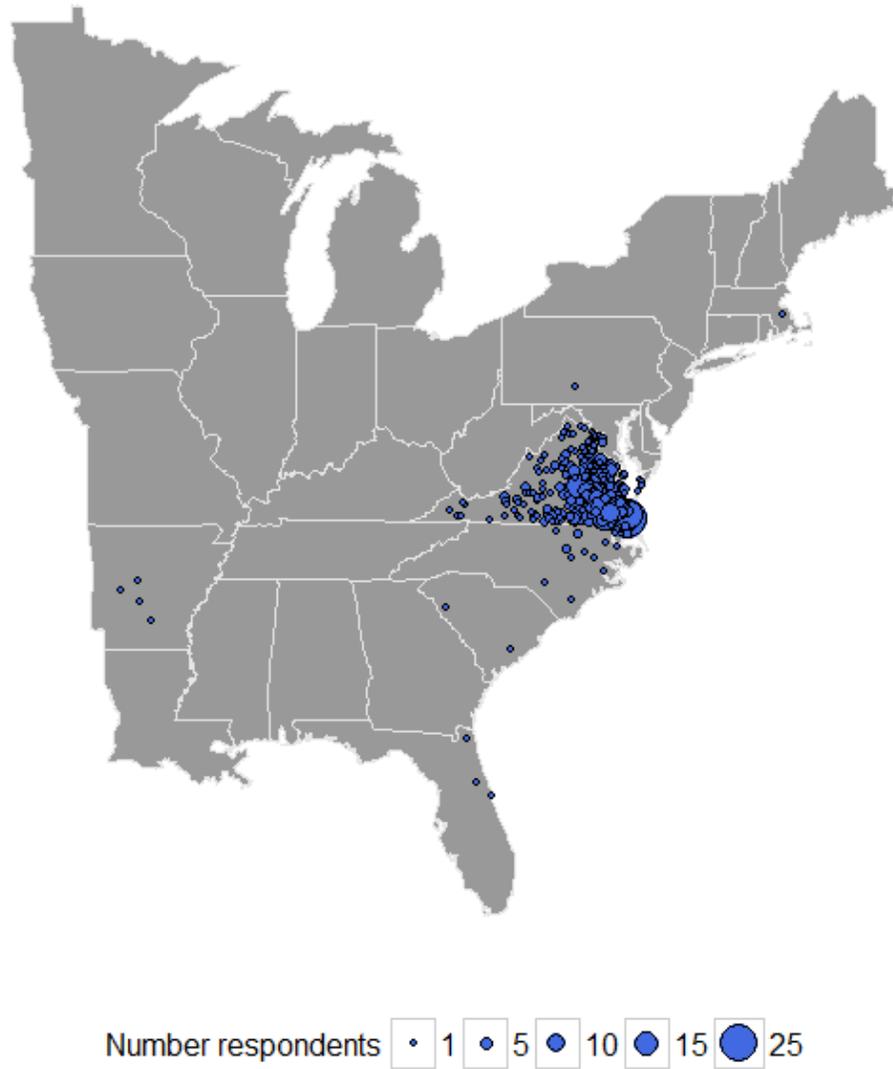


Figure A11. ZIP code of all respondents to the survey. Size of circle indicates number of respondents in that ZIP code.

ZIP Code of Respondents (in Virginia)

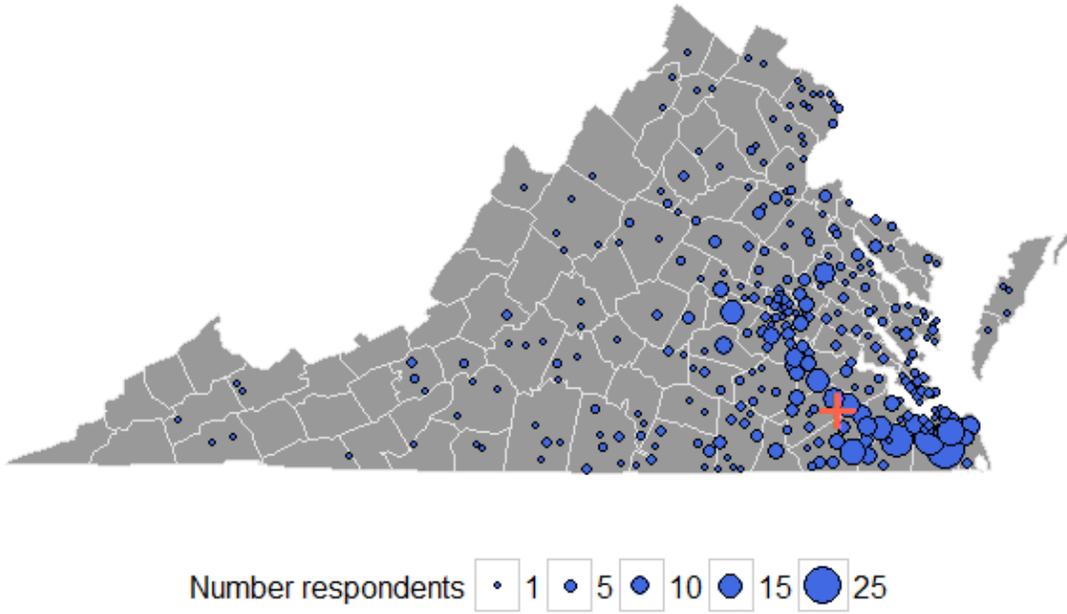


Figure A12. ZIP code of all respondents to the survey from Virginia. Size of circle indicates number of respondents in that ZIP code.

Comments to the question "If you have any further comments and/or questions, please feel free to write below."

[1] "I lived next to this area for 16 years and I am curious how to safely hunt this area"

[2] "I DON'T THINK ANY CHANGES NEED BE MADE, AS THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THE RESIDENT FOR SUSSEX HAVE TO HUNT UNLESS WE WANT TO JOIN A CLUB. I WILL NEVER JOIN ONE BECAUSE MOST I HAVE HUNTED WITH DID MORE DRINKING THAN HUNTING IN THE WOODS. I HAVE MY OWN PACK OF DOGS AND INVITE ALL WHO HUNT BIG WOODS TO HUNT WITH ME AT NO FEE,I ENJOY HAVING SOMEWHERE TO RUN MY DOGS. FOR STILL HUNTING DURING DOG SEASON MOST STAY TO THE STATE FOREST SIDE AND WE RUN DOGS IN THE WMA. I HAVE BEEN HUNTING THERE SINCE IT WAS OPENED TO HUNTING AND WE HAVE HAD NO CONFLICTS."

[3] "Being a Disabled Veteran this happens to be the only place near my home to enjoy our current activities. I would like to see all WMA's open for Archery hunting only on Sunday's."

[4] "Trophy management is great but it also is what is ruining a tradition and way of life for real deer hunters who utilize meat harvested."

[5] "Rules need to be enforced more during spring turkey season. People are running rampant and conditions are dangerous. I love the big woods wma it is a great management area for the public. And considerably well kept no enforcement is the biggest problem"

[6] "I believe a sign in would be good so we know how many people and where they are..i very been walked up on while both still and dog hunting by people who are careless. It's dangerous. .alot of people hunting in here are out of state and need to learn the way we hunt in Virginia"

[7] "leave it like it is. great place to hunt."

[8] "Please don't take away the deer hunting with dogs it's something I enjoy and hope I can pass it onto my kids one day"

[9] "I am all for allowing deer hunting and small game hunting with dogs. It is part of my heritage and I am passing the same on to my grandchildren."

[10] "The survey didn't allow for the full email. Ipittythefoo@comcast.net"

[11] "That is the most unorganized, unsafe place I have ever been. I have found dead deer that people are shooting a leaving in the woods because it's to far to drag them out! Nobody doesn't know or car where people are hunting. I can't believe somebody hasn't been killed yet. It's the still hunters that are running all over the woods shooting in front of my dogs that come from land that isn't part of this property. So your opinion of just thinking still hunters are safe is not true."

When the state took this land away from organized hunt clubs it was a big mistake. You need to go deal with these idiots you all call hunt"

[12] "I am strongly in favor of rules that encourage killing bucks 3 years and older. I would agree with an exception for Youth under 12."

[13] "Please provide more opportunities for waterfowl hunting"

[14] "You can't consider QDM when we all know the dog clubs around the land run both sides to the extreme of blocking roads in and out to do so. I saw it happen. NO DOGS PERIOD, ONLY STILL HUNTING."

[15] "Get volunteers and lets improve the habitat"

[16] "Anybody that's says they are agents dog hunt and then shoots a deer off sounding club dogs is a hypocrite .dog hunting is apart of Virginia hunting and should never be banned. Please do not deny my kids that right thank you."

[17] "Doing general firearms season let your hunters that don't know how to hunt say on a stand (# on a tree) on a path. Make your dog drivers sit tight until dinner time {think y'all call that lunch] tell standers to get a bit while dog driver get dogs up. repeat afternoon hunt."

[18] "Roads in bog woods could be marked better and printed maps to take with you would be nice"

[19] "I don't feel safe a majority of the time in Bug Woods, no way would I introduce and take my children there to enjoy the outdoors."

[20] "Havent met a person yet that hasn't enjoyed hunting with my dogs at the big woods I don't step on any toes or ruin another hunters hunt check the area before we drop dogs and have a full plan please keep dog hunting legal here"

[21] "Would like to see the dog hunting for deer banned on all public land."

[22] "Make it non hound hunting wma tired of getting ran over and hunt ruined by dog club"

[23] "Don't change anything. It's already bad enough with all the idiots hunting"

[24] "Leave dog hunting alone period...its not always about the kill but listening to dogs scream is music to my ears"

[25] "Open more of the established paths and provide more parking. Older hunter have difficulty with walking distances. Open the area for deer hunters during deer season and small game and bird during all other seasons. Allow dogs during deer season. All must wear orange!"

[26] "Would love to see the BWWMA a Antler restriction/Walk in/Archery only area. This area has the potential to grow some exceptional deer if given the potential and this would be a step in the right direction for this. Virginia needs Archery only areas that are QUALITY areas. Currently we have nothing like this as they do in other states. Also keeping the dogs out would be huge"

[27] "I like Big Woods, I would hate imposing a certain number of hunters, because I might end up being restricted."

[28] "i enjoy this property very much and it is my hope that it stays the way it is thank you"

[29] "I think this is a great property and have never felt unsafe. I have never felt that it was overcrowded either so I hope this survey is not the start of potential future restrictions because of a few bad apples."

[30] "Want to see it archery only along with other WMA"

[31] "Deer dogs have ruined hunting opportunities and deer populations on this WMA"

[32] "How can it be aloud to have hunting clubs that pay for there own land be aloud to put on organized dog hunts and walk through the woods not knowing where other hunters that have already set up are at? Only a matter of time before there is a hunting accident."

[33] "Big Woods offers a very different habitat as compared to the rest of the surrounding counties. I appreciate that it gets controlled burns - just like the area was hundreds of years ago."

[34] "Personally, I've hunted the area and like it a lot. When you have large clubs around that run dogs they instantly have a larger tract of land at the states expense. I prefer to still hunt and would love to have a area to do so without being over run with dogs even through archery season. How would this be enforced though I have serious questions about how a over worked organization could manage the no dog consideration."

[35] "It is my understanding that the Virginia Landowners Association has circulated this survey link to its members and the survey results may be skewed by those who are not actually hunters posing as such for other reasons. I am a still hunter and I do not support RTR but I do support Dog hunting."

[36] "I feel that allowing clubs/ individuals to peruse deer with hounds on public land is causing many hunters to shy away from public land. It has been my experience that saftey is the last thing a hound hunter thinks about as he/ she is shooting at running deer. I have all but stopped using public land for this very reason!"

[37] "I think the Big Woods WMA would be a much safer place to hunt if there were check-in stations located at the gates so people would know how many people were hunting and who they are and what areas they were hunting."

[38] "If consideration is made for antler restrictions and trophy deer management, I would suggest that it been done on the newly acquired tract west of Beaverdam Dam Road. As someone who has hunted every inch of the Big Woods WMA area for close to 50 years (prior to VDGIF purchase) I can tell you that, that area has the best potential for trophy deer. Access to this area should be walk-in only."

[39] "I don't hunt Big Woods nearly as much as I have in the past. The guys running dogs just run all over top of you and in my opinion have ruined the deer hunting there."

[40] "Dog hunting is an unethical method of taking game and it often leads to illegal trespassing while interrupting the hunts of many others in the woods. Deer dogs should be banned in Virginia."

[41] "while the department of game and fisheries has the right to manage their lands as they see fit, should they make this WMA area a walk in only area, it will greatly affect all the surrounding hunt clubs who hunt land adjacent to this land. The ability to at least be able to drive in and retrieve hunting dogs during the deer season is very important. 5000+- acres is a pretty large area to have to walk into."

[42] "Chasing deer with dogs is highly unethical and should be outlawed"

[43] "During and outside of hunting season our family enjoys spending time in Virginia WMA's and Big Woods is one of our favorites. We would enjoy it more if there weren't deer dogs running all over and ruining the experience for EVERYONE. When these \"hunters\" start dropping the dogs it interferes with anyone else that is not hunting deer with dogs. The WMA's should be for everyone to enjoy not just guys with dogs. When My 12 year old daughter and 10 year old son walk the woods with me and my wife on a squirrel hunt, we cause very little disruption if any to others in the WMA enjoying our public lands. I cannot tell you"

[44] "This is not a private property and as such should be set up to allow any hunting of legal means without catering to the still hunting crowd or the dog hunting crowd."

[45] "Ban deer dog hunting on Big Woods."

[46] "The guys that hunt with dogs act like they own the place"

[47] "Do something about the DOGS ! Place is over run all the time. They run all year long, you cant do ANY other type of hunting there."

[48] "Apparently many of the dog clubs in that area used to lease/hunt that land and still consider it theirs. Have had a couple of interesting encounters out there but all in all I really like the place especially during archery season."

[49] "The form would not let me put in my full email address(entry field not long enough). mako.uidzero@gmail.com"

[50] "Deer dog hunting is always disruptive in a public hunting area. When dog hunters arrive, all other hunting is over. Deer being chased by dogs, cause hunters to take moving/quick shots at a movement or flash of brown, and that scares the heck out of me. I hunt deer/dog, but only on property that either I or the club I belong to manage. We know who is there, where they are located, and this helps to keep all people safe. Turning loose dogs, and hunters running about on foot and in trucks is total havoc. If you want to alienate the general public, and deny non-hunters the right to use public property, then kee"

[51] "why dont you charge bow hunters a 21 dollar fee to hunt there like the bear tag u wanted soooooooooooooo much"

[52] "Please take a look at what Ft. Pickett is doing successfully to afford quality hunting on public land. No deer dogs is a big contributor to the success. Also, check in and check out procedures increase safety and general knowledge of who is hunting and reduces the hunting pressure on any given track of land. iSportmen is being proposed as an automated electronic tracking tool for check in/out in the future. Also, after an extensive hunter survey last year, Ft. Pickett will continue with no deer dogs and is moving to a 6 point antler requirement for harvest on a substantial track of land. Most deer hunters ar"

[53] "I would suggest have assigned hunting areas. Divide into 20 acres section on a map and only allow 1 hunter or 1 hunter with youth in that section. upon arrival on various game map trail head. You could paint different zones by color tree markers. I would also require all hunters to register and fill out Identification cards ."

[54] "Matt@ Mr Smith are very helpful with all my questions,awesome place to hunt,thanks again, John R."

[55] "I think Big Woods is a great property and I am not against dog hunting, but I think they over hunt the property with dogs (even when it is not the right time of year). Today I was out there for the first day of Muzzle loader and I heard 3 different sets of dogs run through the property at different times of the day. I understand that small game started today, but I can tell the difference between beagles running rabbits and a pack of beagles running deer. Plus, on the way out tonight I saw a few deer in the field by the chicken farm or pig farm (the really smelly farm) and as I went by I slowed to see if any of th"

[56] "The people at bw are mostly friendly and understanding that it is public. No personal claims to an area that I have encountered. However, I would not hunt from the ground till after deer gun season. If I get there late and a truck is their, I wait till full light or go somewhere else. I also wear more orange than required till on stand. Never was much for dog hunting but they have helped more than hurt. I'm just tired of seeing more people than deer while on stand."

[57] "I'm not in favor of large numbers of hunt club members invading WMAs with dogs during deer season. I know they have rights to hunt on public land, but they DO take advantage. They

have their leased club land to hunt on, then they basically take over state lands with an attitude as if state lands belong only to them and not to the people who simply can't find affordable hunting elsewhere. Also, clubs have been known to let their dogs loose on public land to chase/sweep deer off public land onto their adjacent club land. God forbid if someone try that on their club land. Maybe you should consider banning dog hu"

[58] "1.) The area is really too large to make it a walk in only. That's quite a hike and very long drag. Chickohominee does some of that and it is just way too far to walk into some of the areas there. Though, that would certainly keep some hunt clubs and other large volume users/abusers from entering. However, the surrounding clubs that have alternate access through their own land would then have easier access to hunt the WMA than the people who the WMA is mostly intended for! 2.) Alot of the survey pertains to safety. I agree to keep numbers down for safety but also for just decent hunting. You can not hunt wit"

[59] "What happened to all of the deer? Haven't seen any this year at Big Woods! Disease? Predators? Chased onto adjacent lands by those darn dog owners? More nocturnal? What happened? I think the population is in overall decline. I see fewer deer along public roads during the evening, fewer road kills, too. If I want to climb a tree and see nothing, I can do that in my front yard. Might see some cute joggers, too. Neighbors will think I'm nuts, but it's crazy to drive 75 minutes each way, climb a tree and see nothing but fall leaves. One hunter at Big Woods started going there when they first opened and only f"

[60] "I would like the Game Commission to open public land to Sunday hunting. There are many people who's only option is public land but it's off limits on Sunday. At least open small game hunting on Sunday on public land. If the VDGIF takes the first step then the U.S. Forest Service will probably follow suit."

[61] "Deer hunting with dogs should not be allowed on any public land..."

[62] "Be nice to limit dog hunting, public land gets hunted hard dogs makes it worse. Doesn't take a whole lot to burn up the place where you don't see any game."

[63] "I believe that Virginia needs to reduce the liberal tag limit is to let the herd numbers come back. Also adding antler point restriction would be nice, similar to what PA did. Now PA hunters are beginning to see bigger bucks then they ever have. Dog hunting just needs to go away, period. Just because it was a tradition is not a valid reason to coninue. Kirby needs to retire. Deer hounds should not be allowed on state Forrest or public property. Go to any state land on a Saturday and it is being run by dog hunt clubs. These clubs harass hunters during bow season and mess with people's vehicles and commit larceny. I"

[64] "I love hunting big woods wma, however I have had several hunts(even during the week) interrupted by multiple teams of dogs being ran through the woods. I understand some feel this is their \"heritage\" but I find it lazy, impatient and unsportsmanlike. Dogs hunting should be

reserved to private land and leases or at least limited on public land. The rut this year has been ruined by deer that will now hardly, if at all, move without dogs pushing them."

[65] "Deer Dog hunting is unethical and should be banned."

[66] "I have had more hunts ruined by dogs than any other thing. It is time for dog running to be restricted. Thank you for your action!"

[67] "All wildlife management areas should be quota hunts.. All are not safe"

[68] "hunting is an our heritage please don't take it away! Tganks and God bless!"

[69] "I feel as if some hunters are so caught up in the size of a deer's horns, they become reckless. Some hunters hate dog hunting, and it is all over jealousy. The dog hunters in the big woods have the best attitude out of all the hunters."

[70] "Big woods should never be a still hunting only area. I feel like hunting with dogs is the only thing that keeps the deer population from getting out of control."

[71] "Im a full blooded dog hunter. Never hunted anyway! Love it with everything in me."

[72] "I support everyone's rights to hunt however they choose. Hunting with dogs is a Virginia tradition and an American tradition and should always be."

[73] "I feel that we have not had any major issues. So why continue to try to change laws when no issue are at foot"

[74] "For the most part dog hunters are fair ,respectful,law-abiding citizens? There are just as many non dog hunting people who are bad apples if not more , I live in NC but have hunted VA my whole life and have spent lots of money and given tons of respect to your laws as well as land owners . Please don't don't punish our tradition of dog hunting based on the actions of the \"bad apple's \" thanks."

[75] "Long live dog hunting"

[76] "i lived in buckingham ,va for over 44yrs was a big dog hunter for deer now live in castlewood, va in russell co where you cant hunt dogs for deer and cant stand it and alot of the people that a live here wish they would let people use dogs for deer but its not allowed alot go to countys that do allow dog hunting for deer and thats not right taking away from the economy and gun season is for only 2 weeks here and i see why no deer here hardly i still hunt but dont like it and alot here say the same thing not saying just because use to be dog hunter either because i only own 1 pet dog now and will proabbly never"

[77] "Stop using dog for deer hunting please."

[78] "I have been hunting the property next to the \"new big woods\" for as long as I've been hunting please allow dog hunting in there we have always gotten along with the hunt club that is loosening the land and they are going to be hurt by this. Again please don't take away our right to run deer dogs its a passion I wish to pass on to my son as my father and grandfather both did."

[79] "I think this survey would have been better if you gave people the option to select all 5 types of hunting they may do. For instance, it asks towards the end if I consider myself a deer dog hunter, still hunter or one other option. I could only choose one. That's a skewed survey in my opinion. I hunt both ways just for the record. Next time please allow the option for us dog hunters to express all types of hunting we may do."

[80] "All these people trying to stop dog hunting is going to lose a lot of money for the state I know hundreds of people who say if you outlaw it they aren't even going to buy hunting licenses all these antidog hunters are complaining that we mess up their hunts and want to make it okay to kill dogs we don't complain during muzzleloader and bow season of how they mess our dog season up so why do we have to change for them when they aren't changing for us I don't even go in to people's property anymore to get dogs for fear of them getting mad and shooting a dog I call the dog to the road and catch him there but it is ve"

[81] "Hunting is a great sport that is done in many ways don't let the small minded people ruin just because they don't agree on how the next person hunts!!!"

[82] "Dog hunting is a heartfelt tradition in our area. Some bad apples give us all a bad name. There is nothing that can replace the good times and fellowship that comes with dog hunting. It was passed down to me by my grandfather and I would love to pass it on to my kids and grandkids so they can live out the tradition as well."

[83] "I have hunted Big Woods on a couple of occasions as a lone still hunter and have had disagreements with hunters who are using dogs, common saying is if you shoot a deer it is ours due to our dogs jumping it to you. I want to say I am also hunt deer with dogs in organized groups at various clubs, safer environment rather than groups coming out that you are not a part of and worry about disagreements if you are a lone hunter and kill a deer that has been jumped by one of the groups dogs."

[84] "BWWMA is one of the few public lands around that offers a nice piece of property that I can legally run my hounds in the area. Taking this right away would mean many would be forced to pay ridiculous dues to join a hunt club."

[85] "I feel everything should be left as it is now. If anything I feel the season should be extended in to February"

[86] "More action needs to be taken when someone's deer dog has been shot and killed."

[87] "Keep dog hunting legal"

[88] "Save the hounds"

[89] "I like the antler restriction idea.....maybe 6pt and below being off limits. Also, set aside certain dates for dogs and still hunting. So during a dog day (include a Sat here and there) You can drive around. Still hunt day.....walk in only. I still hunt and dog hunt. I think this would be fair for all hunters! Love the area! Thank you!!"

[90] "We need to keep dog hunting. I think we should keep dog hunting because the deer population would get out of hand, a lot of little businesses would go out of business, still hunters have their 2 months to still hunt and dog hunters have their 2 months to dog hunt. Dog hunter spend a lot of time with their dogs and spend a lot of money on them. Still hunters are starting to shoot out dogs and that is totally not right. This is why I think we should keep dog hunting"

[91] "Just my opinion I feel that there should be more doe days on public land and less days to harvest bucks as public lands are over ran with doe. I have talked to a lot oh hunters and everyone that I have asked how they felt about having more doe days and limited buck days all agree it would be ok with them. And if the deer population is not being controlled enough opening more days to harvest doe will help control it a lot more then harvesting a buck. And I don't believe I will help from having so many disease in deer I hunt mostly Cumberland forest in Cumberland van.and I can tell you all we have seen is doe all se"

[92] "I enjoy hunting there just the way it is I've enjoyed hunting there for last four years I don't see any reason for the change"

[93] "Would like to see something done about the large organized hunts being conducted. Many times I go hunting there and there are groups with more than 20 hunters surrounding the blocks of wood. This greatly reduces hunting opportunities for single hunters to access the woods."

[94] "Please keep hound hunting legal"

[95] "Deer Hunting with dogs on the Big woods WMA has allowed me to make new \"friends\"/^\"hunting parnters\", It is great to meet new people while hunting. It is a great thrill to introduce hunters that have never hunted with dogs the oppurtunity to enjoy the sport as I know it. ZERO complaints at the Big Woods WMA from me."

[96] "I am not opposed to Dog hunting. But I believe a place that gets that crowded need to have some better regulations to limit the amount of hunters. Without making it a quota hunt. I believe there is plenty of good still hunting on that land. As for I still hunters there is really not a lot of public land near the populated areas for that purpose. That is not a quota hunt."

[97] "A special provision for elderly and handicap for helping get big game out, 4 wheeler or truck"

[98] "Keep dog hunting the same with no changes."

[99] "I really enjoy hunting big woods. Its a very nice wma and like the way the regulations and the way it is run as of now."

[100] "I am a small game hunter and would like to see the state have certain sections or more land where I can rabbit hunt with out making deer hunters mad, I went opening weekend which was opening muzzle loader and was stopped by game warden. The warden was very respectful and nice and just told us to track lightly due to first day of muzzle load season , I would like to see new areas not always for big game guys but for small game and more places to rabbit hunt with dogs."

[101] "Dog hunting is heritage and I hope VDGIF allows this happen as long as I'm able to hunt."

[102] "I strongly believe that without dogs being ran in this hunting area the number of deer being harvested by both dog hunters as well as still hunters would be much lower. I personally have seen 9 deer be taken by still hunter off our dogs this season, do to the fact that the dogs keep the deer moving threw out the area when they would other wise be nocturnal and hunter successes would be much lower suck as at cavalier wma. Taking dog hunting out of this wma would be very unfair to the people who can not afford a hunt club."

[103] "I hunt at the big woods and run dogs. This year I have seen alot of deer killed and have seen some young boys kill deer in front of dogs up there. So I really don't see the problem with people bringing there dogs up there. I haven't seen anything unsafe up at the big woods."

[104] "I feel that there should be no dogs allowed . Too many hunters very dangerous"

[105] "I prefer hunting with dogs myself. It gives hunters a better chance of being able to get a deer and feed their family."

[106] "i dont feel the safety aspect is so much as in numbers of people as i do,,it being the experience of the hunter...as long as its not way over crowded..every piece of land should have numbers...maybe so many per acre in general..one person per 250 yrds..to give room to be able to seperate from each other..but you always have people that want to \"move around' which is very dangerous if you have new hunters (shooting in the bush, type people)...i have hunted in good numbers of people in way smaller settings....maybe some days should be still hunting only,,and then other days,,dog running,,,,,we all have our prefere"

[107] "Everybody is equal, dont discriminate"

[108] "I am %100 for hunting with dogs an oppose anything trying to ban in!"

[109] "Support the hounds. And our tradition's."

[110] "Please leave it dog friendly there is a lot of people that come there to run there dogs and there are people there that like to here dogs run i no i am only one person but i love to here the dogs run"

[111] "Please don't take my rights to run my dogs.just so other people can make big money in the high fence operations using twisted laws to get there agendas set up.Ihave never had problems with anyone while running my dogs .bu I know there are people who don't respect other people's property"

[112] "The still hunting community does not have the opportunity in the southeastern portion of the state to still hunt without dogs running during the general firearms season on public WMA land. From the Hampton Roads area, Cavalier WMA just opened up without a lottery system and became quite crowded, quickly, but it does not allow dogs. As I understand, Amelia WMA is the only other closest WMA to the HR area that does not allow dogs, but it is a two hour drive from HR area. I suggest a split general firearms season that allows no dogs whatsoever on BWWA, to include those supposedly used for bird hunting. The season"

[113] "I took my son here one time and we're almost ran over by a truck chasing a dog. There is also to many hunters using drugs. We could smell Marijuana during the whole hunt through out the day."

[114] "I am tired of public land being inundated with deer dogs Nov and Dec. It makes it impossible for anyone else, hunter or non-hunter, to enjoy public land."

[115] "Hunting with dogs is a right that needs to be protected."

[116] "I hope this helps to ban dog deer hunting... This is a unfair hunting technique..."

[117] "Tired of dealing with dog hunters as a whole.....I have witnessed hunters leaving their dogs loose on private property, going to retrieve dogs with firearms on private property, had damage to personal property by hunting dogs (garden trashed from them running loose, damaging paint job on my husband's motorcycle from jumping on it with front paws, chasing pets on personal property, and have been threatened by dog owners because I own a horse that dislikes and will chase and kill dogs.....was told I'd find my horse shot if he attacked one of the hunting dogs. Been told to move if I don't like dog hunting and that"

[118] "End dog deer hunting"

[119] "Hunting would be so much more enjoyable if there never was a dog in I any woods"

[120] "I would like to see dog hunting removed from all public hunting areas. Allowing people a better opportunity to hunt the entire season."

[121] "I think dog hunters need a separate season and need more restrictions on letting their dogs loose on land that they have no right to be on only to push deer on to surrounding property that might join such."

[122] "I would love to see deer dogging stopped on ALL public lands in VA.! Its becoming a 3 ring circus of danger. Ive also hunted Dragon Run State Forest,its horrible,simply horrible because of all the people and dogs."

[123] "Place is over run by deer dogs ALL THE TIME. before season, during season, turkey season. How about getting your CPO's off their lazy asses and at least ticketing the out of season deer dogs and the truck hunters ? Those guys are quicker with excuses than they are enforcing the law. Your department is a waste of tax dollars."

[124] "STOP DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS IN VA. PERIOD! They have no respect for other hunters land or hunting privileges."

[125] "Dog hunting is something my family loves and I hope it continues for many years."

[126] "Please keep deer dog hunting legal. I spend 90 percent of my time hunting with deer dogs. And in twenty plus years we have never had any complaints from landowners."

[127] "Deer hunting with dogs is a way of life and that way of life shouldn't be changed. It is an ongoing tradition that many families look forward to teaching there kids how to do."

[128] "There needs to 2 weeks set aside early in the hunting season, possibly last 2 weeks of october, for bear hunters to run their dogs so that more bears may be taken during this time before bears hibernate. This will help the deer population, deer hunters, and the bear hunters."

[129] "The Big Woods WMA was bought with funds largely provided by those who hunt with dogs. It is obvious that DGIF is at it again trying to take hunting privileges away from the hound hunters. Still hunters have Sunday that they can hunt without any interruption from those that hunt with dogs. Even Monday through Thursdays have very little hound hunters on the site. I have hunted there with dogs many times without one single problem being caused from someone in my group. If anything, the still hunters are the safety issue. Many refuse to cooperate with organized drives. They chose to walk right into the middle of hunt"

[130] "It looks like this survey is to put a stop to the dog deer hunting. I think that most of the deer hunting is done with dogs so where does most of the money come from to pay the state?"

[131] "I feel this is an attack against dog hunting. It's funds from the over 180,000 people who hunt with dogs each year that helped pay for Big Woods WMA. Do a BCA on what you stand to lose revenue wise once you ban dog hunting or otherwise restrict it to the point dog hunters can't comply. Your one question is loaded! What can be done to make you feel safer hunting! What if you feel safe enough now! Your are catering to a few anti-dog hunters."

[132] "Public lands should be left available for all hunters. And the only focus of the state should be how do we make it safe and available to all hunters."

[133] "Hunting with dogs has been a long tradition in the old Dominion I would ask for the support of Dgif to make sure that continues."

[134] "This survey seems slanted to get an outcome favorable to still hunting only. The Big Woods WMA should be open to all forms of Legal Hunting."

[135] "I think making it now only not only effects not just dog hunters but also the others that muzzleloader and the people that still hunt."

[136] "This survey seemed to be centered around deer dog hunting. Not the wma itself. I don't think you should generalize hunter safety with the"

[137] "Don't give in to the anti dog hunters.they are a small portion of the hunters in virginia"

[138] "The right to deer hunt with dogs needs to be left alone. It's an awesome tradition that I hope I get to pass to my children as it was to me. I don't want my state turning into a commercial deer hunting state like Iowa and Texas to name a few. Hunting is a way of providing food for families, not lining the pockets of the rich. Hunting used to be a poor mans sport and is being pushed further away and it's a shame."

[139] "To help increase deer population what about a restriction on number of tags instead of six why not cut it down to three one buck two does for a couple years to help boost population back up"

[140] "All hunters need to learn to appreciate other methods of hunting still Hunter or dog Hunter no hunter should be limited"

[141] "I think all forms of hunting should stay allowed on BWWMA dog,still,muzzleloader,and bow. The DGIF and other hunters should be proud of every form of hunting style that is available. The number of youth deer hunters reduces every year. There should be more programs done to get youth involved in hunting, of all forms."

[142] "Deer dogging is far intrusive to have on public land , it essentially makes it unhuntable for others."

[143] "Do not end hunting with hounds . It is a great sport I love it"

[144] "I live close by the White Oak Mountain WMA and feel very strongly that hunting with dogs does not hamper other hunters while hunting there. My club is one of the largest in the County and hunt everyday except Sunday. We do not turn out on the WMA and if the dogs go onto it they almost always blow through it and head down to the River and off the WMA property. It would be strong blow to our members and our sport to stop dog hunting on the

preserve. When we are on the WMA we are safety conscious and obey all the many laws and guidelines that are in place. I am also a twenty-eight year 911 Dispatch Supervisor and do"

[145] "Dog hunting is the way of life and has been for many on years going back to George Washington. Why activists are trying to take it away is prejudice to people that run dogs as a hobby and lifestyle and socially."

[146] "As a hunt club member I am extremely appreciative of our hunt club members that have taken the time to feed and take care of their hunting dogs! Every deer I have killed has been in front of a beagle or a blue tick or a walker. I feel as this is the best way to hunt for deer! Running dogs is fun and the best way to get deer moving. I would greatly appreciate it if dog hunting was not banned! Thank you!"

[147] "There should be some restrictions on the harvest. Maybe no doe days set in place"

[148] "I do not feel safe at times due to people shooting unidentified objects such as dogs and vehicles! I also do not feel safe here due to the lack of communication!"

[149] "I'm sixtytwo years old and have been hunting hounds all my life. I have never has any complaints from land owners! I can't believe that the DGIF would even consider taking away our right to hunt with hounds. You take that away and your jobs will be next. I spend thousands of dollars on licenses and dog food and other related items."

[150] "Keep deer hunting with dogs it's part of the reason I love and enjoy hunting so much. It's part of our heritage."

[151] "Study biased in favor of doing away with deer hunting with dogs, the most widely practiced means of hunting deer East of Rt. 29"

[152] "Keep us allowing to run dogs in this property. It is a multigeneration ability to run hunting dogs in my family, and if y'all ban it, you'll be taking away that opportunity for my kids. Dog running is a southern thing and this phrase has been said by a many wise person. Don't piss off the rednecks"

[153] "I find it very absurd that people can move from out of state and just try to change the way we hunt and traditions in virginia because they have never done and dont like it. Im sure they wouldnt like it if we moved to there state and tried to get it passed where you couldnt still hunt and only dog hunt."

[154] "Needs habitat improvement.. Personally, I'd like to see rifles hunting allowed. Dogs on alternate Saturdays and Wednesdays."

[155] "If you read the first line of this survey there shouldn't be one people that are complaining contribute very little to the sport I think if you buy a license in va and there's public land you should hunt how you please you pay for it"

[156] "I strongly feel that hunting with dogs is a part of our heritage and more needs to be done about the hunting dog shootings in Va.."

[157] "Please don't change my deer dog tradition because some don't like it. I don't tread on others so please don't come treading on my hunting deer with dogs. No matter where it maybe. Instead of changing everything for a still better that get from September to January to kill a deer. Us houndsman only have 2 months. So please when you go to thinking about changes because of the crying that is going on from the still hunters keep in mind they get a whole lot longer in the woods to kill deer then we do. But yet they point a finger at me."

[158] "Save our hounds"

[159] "I feel the WMA should always stay open to hound hunting. This is a Virginia tradition that must be preserved!!"

[160] "All hunter should have respect for each other . One hunter choice how they hunt is up to them . I love dog hunting and do it the right way I take care of my hounds and respect landowners. I hope I can continue to dog hunt for many years to come . I will do my best to educate people who do wrong and will not stand for people to ruin what I love!!!!"

[161] "We need to Keep hound hunting in all WMAs!!"

[162] "This survey reeks of anti hound sentiment!"

[163] "I just can't believe that Dog Hunting would even be a issue. This is a tradition that you must not mess with. Remember, that would be a lot of lost revenue to not only the Game Commission but also for the businesses that make a living off Dog Hunters. The problem lies with people moving into Virginia with their own agenda and trying to force us to change the way we hunt. They knew the laws before they bought the land. The other problem is that we can't continue to bow to every other organization that gets mad because they can't have their way. Leave the dog hunters alone and worry about more important issues. Tha"

[164] "You can not stop dog hunting. You will lose so many hunters in our area. It's a tradition that has been carried on for g@ is a way of life for us. Thanks."

[165] "My email is billyheitzer@yahoo.com. Please keep me informed."

[166] "I think running dogs should continue in the Big Woods. Just keep it regulated so everyone can enjoy the hunting spot."

[167] "Keep dog hunting legal. The strength and numbers of the dog hunting community not only generate revenue for the state, also for local and small businesses selling any number of products."

[168] "Keep dog hunting in Va!!!!!!!!!"

[169] "Many people are saying hunting with dogs is bad and unethical but it's no different than a still hunter putting corn out all year for deer and then hunting over that spot waiting for a deer to do what it does naturally and that's eat if he has a food source he will keep coming back to it. When you get a big buck up on his feet with dogs behind him he is using every single trick to shake those dogs not just getting hungry and showing up to a corn pill and getting shot while eating. Just my two cents."

[170] "Dog hunters in big woods are known for harrasing still hunters and vandalizing vehicles so they will not hunt and shoot deer being run by their dogs. This is a very common occurance and lots of talk about it online also"

[171] "Don't add restrictions to satisfy special interests groups. Do not go to quota hunts and restricted hunts; let this be a true hunters WMA. I'm not aware of any accidents nor near misses on this WMA."

[172] "This is an I'll conceived attempt to block hound hunting by DGIF for what group? I think we all know !!"

[173] "I don't personally hunt with dogs, but I enjoy hearing them run and when they push deer out to me eclectically when they are laying right."

[174] "This survey needs to be available to a more broad audience than targeting still Hunter's which will give skewed results"

[175] "Please do not put laws in to take away deer hunting with dogs, everyone enjoys different styles of hunting and this style shouldn't be singled out."

[176] "I am in favor of present laws in VA when in relates to hunting with dogs involving all game."

[177] "I would like to say I have been hunting with dogs all my life, it's been this way in Virginia forever & it should not be taken away from us"

[178] "I think it's sad that as a whole we can't come together and get over the dog / still hunting. There are bad apples in both groups. As one we should not fight this as we don't wanna loose hunting. Dog hunting is a southern tradition that should never be band. Hunt how you wanna hunt. Still hunt or dog hunt but obey the rules"

[179] "Yes I have never hunted on the land in question called big woods, but I hunt govt. land around home Mecklenburg county and charlotte county, we or I have attempted to get permission to grow grain on this govt property and have failed to get permission, the property I am speaking of is on state road 699 in Mecklenburg and charlotte county. my proposal was simple to grow the grain at my cost and leave a combine with around each field for game and to make sure the fields do not grow up. PLEASE HELP ME IF POSSIBLE THANK YOU MY

NAME IS DALE S. WILKINSON address 6002 Hwy 15 Clarksville Va. 23927 434-374-9766
home-----"

[180] "Deer dog hunters send the most money on hunting."

[181] "Keep dog hunting legal!"

[182] "DON'T TAKE AWAY A TRADITION THAT WE HAVE AND THAT'S HUNTING WITH DOGS..THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES STARTED THIS SO WE GONA KEEP IT GOING FOR MANY MORE YEARS....IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT WE DO IN THE COUNTRY. ..I SUGGEST THAT YOU MOVE BACK TO THE CITY....THANK YOU...LOVE MY DEER DOGS"

[183] "Do not take away our dog hunting tradition"

[184] "Hunting with dogs is a longstanding tradition and should be honored as such. The vast majority of dog hunters are totally mindful of the laws and regulations and are fully respectful toward the property and rights of others in their words and actions as they not only enjoy this sport, but also work to preserve it for generations to come."

[185] "Keep dog hunting legal! It's been apart of my life since day one and I'm 3rd generation dog driver and I love it! The dogs don't mess with anything but the deer that they are running and I know that's a big debate but there is no reason to get rid of it because it's been apart of hunting forever!!!"

[186] "The big woods area has been a great addiction to the area, the cost to hunt in the clubs around the area is out of reach for young hunters that want to get into all types of Hunting, The big woods allows young hunters to hunt for just \$15.00 permit fee."

[187] "Dog hunting is a Virginia tradition.Don't stop it because of the \"Come Here's\" that want it gone."

[188] "Love the place only change I want is Sunday hunting in this area so I can have more time to Hunt"

[189] "with the high cost of hunting clubs the BWWMA is great opportunity for young dog hunters to hunt and not experience the high financial cost ."

[190] "Please keep hunting with dogs legal no permits for them or acreage minimum it would drive off all the hunt clubs in my area thank you"

[191] "Deer hunting with dogs is our life style so please don't take it away!"

[192] "I believe strongly that if an individual is against dog hunting, the heritage of dog hunting, and/or hunting in general, if they were to experience property damage, such as hitting a deer with

there car, they should have to pay for it out of pocket, and insurance companies should not cover it. It has been stated this is a free country and everybody has rights, well that also includes my fellow hunters and myself. We cause no trouble and should have the right to hunt our hounds!"

[193] "As I have taken this survey I feel there is an angle towards dog hunting that I strongly disagree with. I am a bow hunter ,muzzleloader hunter and dog hunter. We practice buck restrictions and herd management on private lands and believe that our contribution through license and fees contribute to public lands where as the same freedoms should be enjoyed. Regards Bryan Spangler"

[194] "Keep the dog hunting tradition alive. When dog hunting comes to a end i see a big decline in revenue for this department of game an inland fisheries. I see the rise in wild packs of dogs an animal shelters numbers incline in large numbers. I am a bow hunter muzzel loader an a dog hunter. Im also an avid fox rabbit an turkey hunter. I support all hunting. Remember theres no ethical way to KILL!! Hound beagle bird dog tree stand corn pile whatever it is your still gonna shoot it till it dies. Thanks from you Avid hunter"

[195] "You do not expand hunting opportunities by taking opportunities away. Prohibiting the use of hounds for deer hunting is not creating opportunities, but discriminating against thousands of hunters. It appears the DGIF is taking on a Liberal stance to regulation: the group that cries the loudest wins favor. Hunting with hounds is a long tradition in the South. There are many hunters who simply wouldn't rather hunt any way than over hounds and many including the older hunters who simply cannot hike, backpack, and use climbing treestands but can sit on a stool while the younger participants in the hunt do most of the"

[196] "I am a hunter on Campbell county. I have been hunting for years and I have seen that this year is far less deer than I have ever seen. I have been hunting over 10 years and I have never seen the population of deer drop this dramatically, I'm a dog hunter and we have seen quite a few coyotes and the game just isn't there anymore. The turkeys, deer, rabbits, everything that we hunt is gone. I feel like that the coyote population has gone out of control and a lot of us have resorted to spending hundreds of dollars buying calls, and other things to kill the coyotes and the more we hunt them the smarter they get and th"

[197] "Dog hunting has always been a part of America and any in fringe mentioned would be wrong!"

[198] "You raised the bear license 21 dollars, least you can do is open the season up for the full 2 weeks of muzzloader and full 2 weeks of rifle season for non dog hunters"

[199] "Feels like DGIF has skewed the true results of this survey. If this department wanted true and accurate results, it would have been formally dispatched in a manner which is consistent with a non-biased approach. I feel very disappointed with the means in which I found out about this survey, as it was not from a department related individual or entity."

[200] "I want to keep dog hunting in Virginia!"

[201] "Keep deer dog hunting the way it is now"

[202] "I would strongly oppose banning dog hunting. I am a veteran that enjoys to listen to the dogs. It's is very therapeutic for all veterans to enjoy"

[203] "I am an avid hunting enthusiast. I enjoy still hunting as well as dog hunting. I strongly oppose the way dgif goes about its studies on dog hunting because I know for a fact the vast majority of hunters oppinions are not heard because they do not recieve information. These small groups of so called landowners & still hunters have way too much influence on dgif. Virginia should be proud to be a state that honors the age old tradition of dog hunting. It should not have to be a constant battle."

[204] "I hope the VDGIF takes a hard look at the deer hound issues and repeals the RTR and hounds on lands of others that do not want them. I would like to see the Florida plan on hounds implemented in Virginia."

[205] "I witnessed a pack of dog hunters chasing 2 wounded deer around the highschool ball field (they were chased in their by dogs). The deer were petrified and my children and I witnessed them being beaten down and dragged out. It was very barbaric. In my opinion, it wasnt very humane and those animals were cowered down and petrified for well over a half an hour. I never agreed with dog hunting before, and after witnessing that I most definitely feel sound in my judgement that it's inhumane! I also feel like it's more unsafe than traditional hunting."

[206] "Support ALL hunting"

[207] "Dog hunters are very disrespectful to land owners even with posted signs hung. There should be 2 separate season for still hunters and dog hunters."

[208] "As a still hunter, I don't really care for dog driving. However, I respect it, as it is and has been a great tradition. Dog driving should not be done away with simply to appease a small group that don't care for it."

[209] "Do not stop dog hunting it is our right just as it is the still hunters right to hunt. In my opinion there is no greater skill than a dog an killing a 12 point ahead of a pack of screaming dogs. I've still hunted before and it takes very little skill to sit on a corn pile of a trail they walk and kill a 12 point. Just my opinion but u can't stop dog hunting . Thanks Stephen Mazyck"

[210] "Ban dog hunting and repeal the \"right to trespass\" laaw"

[211] "Dog hunters respect property owners posted land"

[212] "I wish you would do no changes to dog hunting I would like to see a way that you could go in and get your game on state land so you don't have to drag it for miles"

[213] "Dog hunting should be left alone just because of a few hi fouldin city slickers"

[214] "Please continue to allow hunting with dogs at Big Woods WMA. If dog hunting goes away, we may not continue."

[215] "I would love to keep dog hunting around, it's a really big tridition my family and friends go by."

[216] "I feel VA should have life time license like other states where u get all tags fishing fresh and salt water trapping .NCarolina has the best deal going big game small bow ,muzzle loader,shot gun , rifle. The sportsman and I think the season should be longer and stop given the night permits the game animals have to eat also.grandfather the hunters that have a solo life permit ."

[217] "Dog hunters that hunt this land have no respect for the land, the deer, or other hunters."

[218] "Dog hunting needs to stay. I travel to Virginia each year just to hunt deer with dogs. If this opportunity is lost, you will lose my revenue and the revenue that I spend in your communities and from many other hunters like myself."

[219] "This whole survey is about trying to ban dogs on the WMA. All hunters just need to get along."

[220] "Get rid of deer dog hunting."

[221] "I'm a property owner in this state. It's been in our family for over a 100 years. And I feel that the history of our state is being destroyed. I've owned hunting dogs in the past and we always have hunted dogs in my area with the permission of the land owners. The problem comes from a handful of people that always screw up. There's always that small percentage that screws it up for everyone else. Then there're these people that move into our area that want to live the country life. But by their rules. Then there're those educated dumbasses that don't know shit from apple butter. The only dirt they own is what's un"

[222] "It is pretty obvious that this survey has been set up to end hunting with dogs. Please revise your questions to be of a neutral point of view."

[223] "Dog hunters should not be excluded from public hunting lands."

[224] "I am a very avid hunter. I hunt deer, small game, turkey, and predators. I totally enjoy the outdoors and hunting. I am a firm believer that hunting is a tradition that should be kept as it is for our youth to keep the tradition going."

[225] "I strongly support hunting deer with dogs in virginia. I will no longer hunt in virginia if hunting with dogs is done away with"

[226] "I have hunted big woods since it was opened a few years back and have always had good hunts there. I still hunt and run dogs so as a mixed enthusiast, I believe that hunting with dogs in BWWMA is a awesome thing to have. I have had many encounters with still hunters while running dogs who have joined with us and killed deer in front of dogs and said they wanted to get more into hunting with dogs after the experience with us. I think it is a good place for still hunters to have a chance to be a part of hunting with dogs and hopefully change their look towards it and get them into it."

[227] "Dog hunting is getting out of control and wreckless, the dog drivers have no respect for other hunters when they enter the property and I would be 100% for prohibiting dog hunting in big woods wma."

[228] "I hope we can keep our tradition going and I enjoy dog hunting and hope I can share with my kids some day"

[229] "Let the dogs stay!!!!!"

[230] "It's a great place for steal hunting. Perhaps the area could be broken down into sub sectors and only a certain number of hunters could be in a particular sector at a time. Sign in and out would be required."

[231] "Please leave dog hunting regulations alone as we have now. I am fifty four years old, have had pack of dogs to hunt with most of that time. In this area mostly farm land ,hunting this way here before I was born . Hope that can be for my children and grandchildren. This lifestyle has been in Virginia long time don't change laws for few that don't like or understand this lifestyle. Thank you Todd Hale"

[232] "For me and my sons please fight to keep hunting with dogs legal. Myself and my boys love our hounds and the joy and responsibility these dogs/ family members bring to us is irreplaceable. These boys help me feed, water, take them to the vet and take them hunting. The best hunting days is not the days we kill deer...the best days are the days that we and our dogs come home safely. These memories that we make hunting with hounds here in Virginia are unlike any other memories you can make in other states. Please keep dog hunting legal. Sincerely, The Marshalls (a hound loving family)"

[233] "We as hunters and you guys at the Dept.of game and fisheries need to push forward to keep all areas open to all hunters no matter what style hunting folks do.It's a win win for us as hunters and you as DGIF to have a JOB.Anti folks do not care about either of us.Thanks for putting out the survey."

[234] "Open WMAs to Sunday hunting"

[235] "The ability to hunt public lands on Sundays is critical to ensuring hunting opportunity and therefore hunting participation. Without access to private lands the general hunter is forced to

take off work to hunt and also results in overcrowding on public lands on Saturdays. Without the hunting opportunity one questions the value of a hunting license and this factors into whether to even buy a license...."

[236] "All WMAs and National Forest should be open to Sunday hunting. Please end the dog hunting on WMAs. Dog hunting interferes with all other types of hunting. All other types of hunting do not interfere with dog hunting."

[237] "Please open WMA areas to Sunday Hunting."

[238] "This survey is very selectively questioning the safety of deer hunters in regards to the use of hounds. Have there been any specific safety related occurrences while hunters have been using hounds to hunt deer in BWWMA? Also it is highly encouraged that the VDGIF endorse the VAGA to allow Sunday Hunting on WMA's."

[239] "Please support opening WMA's and National Forrest to Sunday Hunting!!"

[240] "Open all public land to sunday hunting. Please. Eliminate the rule of writing allowed to hunt on sundays which isn't even on the game book permission slip. It was stupid to even make that part of the law. Land owners already can limit you how or when they choose, its their land. Makes no sense. And please use sound science in your decision making. The whole scent thing, give me sound science. You have none, ive looked and looked and have found nothing to support the need for this law, and please stop the change of laws and seasons for one small group of hunters. The bear tag, its a shame that you allow this"

[241] "I would like to see all wma's open to Sunday hunting!"

[242] "Open WMA's to hunting on Sundays."

[243] "Open big woods to Sunday hunting."

[244] "Please open all state hunting lands and national forest to Sunday hunting."

[245] "Open it up to Sunday hunting."

[246] "I didn't bother answering the about \"I would feel safer...\". I have been to BWWMA about 8-10 this 2015 season. I actually work on the weekends. My friends tell me it busier there on the weekends. I can say that I am very happy hunting the BWWMA during the week Mon.-Fri.. As I haven't been on a Sat. Or Sun. I have felt completely safe hunting the times that I have been. And I have done morning & Evening still hunts there mostly. I have seen doe in & out of range. I am there for a buck. Though I have not had a harvest there this season I look forward to my hunts at the BWWMA. I thoroughly enjoy my time there!"

[247] "Plant food plots. Cut trails through pine thickets. Limit access."

[248] "I also believe it should be open to sunday hunting"

[249] "I strongly feel that All WMA need to be opened up to Sunday hunting. Given declining opportunities and access to private land this is a great opportunity to continue to recruit our youth into the sport. I personally can not afford to join a still hunt only club. The WMA properties are usually over run on Saturday by dogs and trucks running around. Sunday would be a wonderful opportunity to have quiet in the woods."

[250] "I support all types of legal hunting including using hounds to hunt deer. There is a small, extremely vocal group, that has recently started wanting to ban hunting with dogs in Virginia. The vast majority of Virginians in the eastern half of our state support hunting with hounds and I hope that the VDGIF does not make hasty decisions to bow to this tiny minority who represents less than 1% of the deer hunters east of the Blue Ridge. Thanks! Greg Bell Courtland, VA"

[251] "Please open WMA's to Sunday hunting."

[252] "Please allow Sunday Hunting."

[253] "Pleas open this wma for Sunday hunting"

[254] "Dog hunting is irresponsible and wreck less. I have lost many a hunting days because of loose/unretrieved dogs that wonder onto the property and chase the deer. I have always been a still hunter and understanding that some people have been raised to hunt with dogs that is their right. However, if dog hunting is allowed to continue then there needs to be a law in place that holds the owner/hunt club responsible for their actions. My passion is spending hours walking, plotting, strategizing, and placing stands for hunting only to have them ruined in minutes the day that dogs are allowed to hunt. There is a total lac"

[255] "Please allow hunting on Sundays on Big Woods and all WMA's. Access to Sunday hunting is a crucial element to the prolongation of hunting as a whole."

[256] "I would really like to se the WMA's open to Sunday hunting. I would also like to restrict hunting in these areas to still hunting only and no dog hunting."

[257] "Open all WMA's to Sunday Hunting without dogs along with ALL public use areas."

[258] "Please open Big Woods to Sunday Hunting"

[259] "Open up for Sunday Hunting"

[260] "need to open all wma and state forest on sunday"

[261] "I think it would make it safer if big woods was broken into section with a max number of hunters per section. I've hunted this way before and I feel it helps control the amount of hunters in one section and ensure there is not overcrowded in one area and making it safer."

[262] "Please consider opening all WMA's for Sunday hunting."

[263] "Please open all WMA to Sunday Hunting! MARK DICKINSON POWHATAN VA"

[264] "The push to end dog hunting in Virginia needs to stop."

[265] "I think VDGIF should consider having a two week still hunting only season after bow and muzzleloader season . Then finish out the deer season with dog and chase . This would I think please a lot of people and ease the friction between the still and dog hunters allowing all to have their time in the woods ."

[266] "All the hunters in Virginia helped to purchase all the WMA areas so all Virginia hunters should be able to use them at any time during the Virginia hunting season. It should not be close to one and not the other."

[267] "I am concerned that DGIF is trying to do away with dog hunting in the state. I am absolutely opposed to dog hunting be eliminated from the state whether it is on public or private land."

[268] "Keep dog hunting in this area . Restrict still hunters during general firearms season ."

[269] "Please support opening WMA to Sunday hunting. The way the economy is there are a lot of people who can only hunt on weekends. The # of hunters is declining & we need to do what we can to save the sport. Thank you"

[270] "I really think it is important to open this and other WMA's for Sunday hunting."

[271] "All WMAs should be open to Sunday hunting. Hunting with dogs should be prohibited on Big woods WMA"

[272] "designate certain days as still hunt days and hunting with dog days it's the revenue from hunting licenses that pay these areas every one should be able to enjoy these Wmas"

[273] "Please open BWWMA and ALL WMA's to still hunting on Sundays. Hunters provide funding for these lands via licenses and other fees and this is what they are managed for....hunting and fishing."

[274] "Take care of the local club harassment around Bwoods."

[275] "I believe opening WMA's for Sunday hunting would benefit the Department. I am retired Navy and have numerous friends that have quit hunting due to busy schedules and only being able to hunt on Saturday. Although this would not be a \"fix-all\", license sales are decreasing and this only makes sense to help continue current funding or to perhaps increase funding into the future."

[276] "the questions asked in this survey seem to be pro-stillhunter, it is not the job of vdgif to dictate hunting style."

[277] "Please open the WMA's to Sunday hunting. It would help get me and my sons more time in the woods together. Also, get rid of dog hunting. It ruins hunting for ALL still hunters. I shouldn't have to waste a day off just to watch deer and dogs run by me at 20 miles an hour."

[278] "I love my freedom hunting with dogs and I would love to continue hunting with dogs in the future! The club that I hunt with are very respectful hunters and love our dogs like our own children! I will no longer watch or support cbs 6 news bc of the pics and lies they spread through the media on what dog hunting is about in which I know is not true what they say! I vote to keep dog hunting alive!"

[279] "WMA's need to be open for Sunday hunting, Hunters pay for them, why can't we hunt them on Sundays?"

[280] "wild life management areas should be open on Sundays for hunting. i think people would be able to hunt ether day and that would be less people in the woods at one time. I don't mind the dog but their are getting worse and most of the dog owner act like they own the wma."

[281] "If the WMA were opened up to Sunday hunting it would make it worth it to come down for the weekend. Get a hotel and enjoy all that this part of Virginia has to offer."

[282] "I would hope that any regulation regarding dog hunting would be handled more by the localities and not statewide."

[283] "All WMAs should be open to hunting on Sundays."

[284] "While hunting there during general fire arms. If you have to leave early you have to deal with the dog hunters hunting the gravel roads. Seems every time I went. Also the last two time I went there were 7 and 9 hunt clubs there running dogs. Asked how many dogs and where they were from. Last time my count was at 62 dogs in the woods. Crazy. The clubs come there when they run all the deer off there club land. As this land is so close to hampton roads I feel it would be better served as a no dog wma. It gets way to many hunters. I do not have dogs but I am not against it. I have been in clubs with dogs in my 35 year"

[285] "I am a 100% disabled vet. If roads are closed except for walk in only it would eliminate the possibility to use the WMA. Please open small game hunting on Sunday in all WMAs. The deer dog hunters Chase all game indiscriminately. Bird dogs are not a problem"

[286] "Open all public land to Sunday hunting."

[287] "I feel that their are a lot of rumors going around about hunting with dogs that aren't true this part of this sport was never a problem in the past and has become like part of some of our lives my dad hunted with dogs and so did his dad they took me and taught me and now I do it

and have two young sons that love hunting with our hounds they are part of our family. I understand the whole land thing and all but people are blowing stuff out of content if people are personally driving all up and down your land with no permission yes that is a problem that should be handled but if five hounds happen to chase a deer th"

[288] "Hunting deer with dogs has been a long tradition in Virginia, with much success, and I am in favor of continuing this heritage and tradition. Thank you."

[289] "Our family owns 800 acres in Southampton county and do NOT support any changes to hunting deer with dogs. Thank you, Stewart Howell."

[290] "Great safe place to hunt"

[291] "Your entire survey is biased toward doing away with dog hunting and it's not appreciated. Y'all want to increase hunting license fees every other year such as the having to have a separate bear tag this year and then restrict more and more how we can hunt and its not appreciated."

[292] "outlaw center fire muzzle loaders because theyre just as effective as a rifle"

[293] "I am a forestal landowner in Barboursville, Orange County, Virginia. I lease my land for hunting to still hunters for deer season every year. I have a terrible problem with trespassers and illegal hunters, deer doggers and still hunters including jack lighters year round."

[294] "I posted before about my hunt but wanted to give a little more info. I went to big woods 12/26 for the fifth time this year. I only hunt public land, specifically wma's. Hunt powhatan, amielia, chicahaminy, dick cross and cavileer wma's and cumberlin state forest. I will no longer take my daughter or grandkids who love hunting to Big woods. as the number of dog hunters and how they hunt is i feel not safe for us. They set up there standers on the gravel roads and run there trucks up and down the roads they are not standing on all day long. except when they stop for lunch. On this saturday I went in early, hit the wo"

[295] "Please help and support opening up WMAs to Sunday hunting. We need the VDGIF to attend the hearings and influence the vote in Richmond."

[296] "I Strongly favor the opening of all WMA's and state parks to Sunday Hunting. There is no logical basis to restrict it any further. Since SH became law, there have been no incidents attributed to SH. Since one of the primary reasons for SH was to allow those with family commitments such as sports on Saturday with the kids, it is a logical extension then that the WMA's should allow it since this demographic is not likely to have access to local hunt clubs or have access to private land. Opening up the WMA's to Sunday Hunting will open up the sport to more youth and parents who can further the sport. Thank you."

[297] "Please open ALL WMA to Sunday hunting!"

[298] "Sunday hunting on all wma! Please"

[299] "I think that all WMAs should be open for hunting on Sundays and should always be allowed to use dogs. These properties are plenty big enough to support this."

[300] "I think we need more public hunting land in Virginia"

[301] "Would really like to see Sunday hunting on WMA."

[302] "I have hunted WMA'S for over 10 years, I have no private land to hunt. When the a Sunday hunting law came into effect my husband and I could not have felt more discriminated against! Because we do not own land or find land to hunt we can't hunt on Sunday like I guess you could say the lucky ones can. I just can not understand WMA'S are use i would guess 95% for hunting but we can not on Sundays. There are so many people that hunt these PLEASE don't discriminate against us and let us hunt on Sundays like all other hunters I would also add the survey question about what type of Hunter I am should have allowed me t"

[303] "Open for Sunday hunting."

[304] "I would like to see the WMA open up to Sunday hunting. This would relieve some of the over hunting pressure on Saturdays and give folks with kids the opportunity to take them out on Sunday when they don't have sports and other activities."

[305] "Please open this and all WMA's to Sunday Hunting. They are used every other day of the week with no problems so why is land paid for with hunters money kept from them on just one day a week. There have been no problems through out the state with Sunday Hunting so far so please open WMA's so more can enjoy a sport they pay the state for while other users do not pay a license fee except for those fishing who are allowed on Sundays."

[306] "please allow sunday hunting. I live in newport news and I don't have access to private land and also can't afford to join a hunt club. you shouldn't have to be rich in order to hunt"

[307] "The clubs or groups hunting big woods with dogs are ruining it for everyone . There are great genetics in the area let them grow , keep vehicles out and it will be safer"

[308] "Please reconsider the current regulations that do not allow Sunday hunting on WMA's. Many hunters use exclusively public lands and are in the minority now and not allowed to hunt on Sundays. This was allow for much more hunting for this particular population of hunters ."

[309] "Please allow sunday hunting to public as well as private lands. My fishing license working well on sundays, public or private waters."

[310] "I'd like to bring to the attention of the VDGIF the possibilities they would enable by allowing Sunday hunting on WMA's. As a friend of many who are unprivileged and do not have private land to hunt on Sunday, I am a major proponent of Sunday hunting on WMA and I would like for VDGIF to address the issue. Thank you."

[311] "Please open up WMA to Sunday Hunting"

[312] "I would like to see wma's opened up on Sundays for still hunters. Not everyone has the luxury of hunting private land and it would benefit us hunters who work 5-6 days a week a chance to get out all day instead of a quick afternoon hunt if you can make it on time"

[313] "I would like to see the WMA's open to hunting on Sundays. If it is about giving the animals a day or rest, put no hunting on Monday and Tuesday. However, it's very difficult for a hunter who works all week to get out and only have a single day to attempt a harvest. The additional day of Sunday would also provide less of a sense of urgency by hunters to take the first deer they see."

[314] "I strongly feel all dog hunting on public land in va should be banned. It would allow for more successful hunting opportunities. Many hunters leave the woods and the state when dog season is on for both deer and bear. Make the public land accessible to stil hunting only."

[315] "I would like to see the Sunday hunting law stay the way it is currently written with no changes except that you can run dogs on larger tracts of land. Deer become smart after the first two weeks of dog hunting and go nocturnal, that's the reason for dog hunting on Sunday's."

[316] "I am not against hunting with dogs. Just feel there are to many hunters at big woods for it. And still hunters get in there way and dog hunters get in still hunters way. I have hunted in va for 26 years. Came from Wisconsin where hunting with dogs has been stopped for a long time before I ever hunted. And the kill is on par with va or higher every year. Sunday hunting would be great also. Not only for us hunters. But the towns that we go to would see increased revenue in many ways, food sales, hotel, camping, fuel. Hunters in general will have no problem spending the extra cash to hunt Sunday because it would allow"

[317] "please open sunday hunting on all wma I don't have private land to hunt,i hunt all wma I drive everywhere.this needs to change in va/"

[318] "I think the gun range should be closed during the regular gun season .I have hunted at the WMA all of my life and have seen many Military and others shoot around ,above and behind the range ,Very danger-est .The Dog hunters come in from every where and bring children that are to small to even carry firearms must less can even pull a trigger. Many times these people are the ones that kill most of the does .?? That needs to stop We need more officers on the ground and more people fined .What a great place just beautiful ."

[319] "Hunt clubs with dogs run the deer out of big woods during the start of general gun season. Hunt clubs have tons of property they can hunt, most people who hunt on the wma do not have access to other land. Not allowing dogs would give the hunters who use the wma a better chance at killing a deer. My entire family killed their first deer at a wma in the state of va"

[320] "I used to hunt the Thompson WMA on a regular basis, but a few years back I had some run-ins with loud, obnoxious idiots who handled their guns very carelessly, so I only use it during archery season now. There's always a few idiots..."

[321] "Please open WMA to Sunday Hunting!"

[322] "Not a supporter of allowing Sunday hunting."

[323] "I would like for the serious consideration of opening up public land to Sunday hunting. A lot of us, do not have access to private land, and by opening up public land to Sunday hunting, it would ease the extreme crowding on Saturdays."

[324] "I would love to see this WMA open on Sundays for hunting. I would also like to see dog hunting not be allowed in this WMA. I have been still hunting here many times where dog hunters have just taken over with no regard for anyone be in the woods. Walking through yelling and hollering and driving their vehicles all over the road. I've had dog hunters parked blocking the road sitting in their trucks I guess waiting for the dogs to come through and when you drive up on them they just look at you like what you want us to move. Open for Sunday hunting and no dog hunting thanks Dan Kirk"

[325] "Would be nice if the vadgif set the regs instead of all the confusing county ordinances. For example no rifle hunting in my county but Henrico is wide open. Its just a good old boy system"

[326] "For safety: Enforce strict compliance with Blaze orange Requirements. To avoid confrontations with hunters and anti hunters: Post sign that clearly define and state Virginia laws regarding harassment of hunters. Consider assigning an area (zone) to hunters and clearly mark the areas with letters or numbers on signs. Mark entry points and trails. Mandatory check in and check out."

[327] "Sunday hunting should be allowed on all WMAs limited dog hunting specific areas only for dogs and if they cant obey them then ban them all together"

[328] "Please consider expanding Sunday hunting opportunities on this and all WMAs. As a 100% public land hunter, I have no place for me and my family to hunt on Sundays."

[329] "I think all WMAs should be open to Sunday hunting"

[330] "Allow Sunday hunting opportunities on all WMA's. Ban deer hunting with dogs throughout Virginia."

[331] "Public land be open to Sunday because not every body has access private land"

[332] "I think it would be nice if they put Antler restrictions on bucks so that we would have more opportunity to see a bigger buck ."

[333] "I would like to see Sunday hunting expand to all WMA'S as my Saturdays are normally spent with my kids, i.e. sports, festivals, special events, etc. Sundays would be a great opportunity to take my son out to hunt. In addition, I find it difficult to join hunt clubs due to fees/dues and you have to know someone in most cases, so public land is my best option. I would also like to see waterfowl restrictions lifted as far as the 500 yard rule given to stationary blinds east of 95. If you are west of 95, there is no 500 yard rule. What's the difference?"

[334] "Allow Sunday hunting."

[335] "Please open WMA for Sunday hunting I am a retired Army Soldier who ended up in Virginia I have always hunted on Sunday's in all states I have served or lived in even Germany"

[336] "It would be nice to open Sunday Hunting to all public land in Virginia and not just privately owned land."

[337] "Time to take the dogs out. Disruptive and trespassing."

[338] "Stop dog hunt on WMA"

[339] "Please support and promote the opening of ALL WMA's for Sunday hunting."

[340] "Hunting with dogs is a tradition passed on from generations passed. We need to allow this to continue."