City Council Special Meeting Agenda

Date: 08/11/2011
Time: 4:15 p.m.
Location: City Hall Council Chambers

- Mayor Nancy Tia Brown
- Donny Anderson
- Charles Cloud
- Bryan Edwards
- Jerry Fritz
- Steve Miller
- Stan Wolz
- City Administrator, Jenni Rosencranse
- Assistant Administrative Services Officer, Sara Wead
- City Attorney, Scott Kolpitcke

- Discuss the Urban Deer Task Force results and recommendations.
  - Rick Manchester, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director

- Appoint a Council Member to participate in the City Planner assessment and interview process.

- Review Agenda for Tuesday, August 16th Regular Council Meeting.

- Staff Updates

- Council Updates

- Meeting Reminders:

  - Tuesday, August 16, 2011 – Regular Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Council Chambers (pre-meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

  - Thursday, September 1, 2011– Council Work session 4:15 p.m. City Council Chambers

  - Tuesday, September 6, 2011 – Regular Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Council Chambers (pre-meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

Time Adjourned: _____

MEETING DATE: WORKSHOP—AUGUST 11TH, 2011
DEPARTMENT: PARKS, RECREATION, & PUBLIC FACILITIES
PREPARED BY: RICK MANCHESTER
DEPT. DIR. APPROVAL: RMM
CITY ADM. APPROVAL: _____
PRESENTED BY: RICK MANCHESTER

Urban Deer Task Force Recommendation

☐ For Your Information ☐Action Necessary ■Response Requested

PROBLEM/OPPORTUNITY

In November, 2010, the City Council nominated and appointed the Urban Deer Task Force. There are two members from each ward and one position serving as an at-large capacity. Council members from each ward nominated representation from their ward. The Mayor nominated the at-large spot.

The task force was assisted by City staff and Wyoming Game and Fish employees serving as technical advisors.

- Richard Henderson, Ward 1
- Jackie House, Ward 1
- Don Kurtz, Ward 2
- Sharon LaGrant, Ward 2
- Randy Blackburn, Ward 3
- Biff Beck, Ward 3
- George "Mick" Barrus," At-large

Staff Liaisons

- Rick Manchester, City Staff
- Technical Advisor Doug McWhirter, WY G&F
- Technical Advisor Tim Fagan, WY G&F

BACKGROUND

The first meeting of the task force took place on December 13th, 2010 and the meeting allowed for a significant amount of public input. The task force met periodically to discuss issues and compare data from other communities in Wyoming and outside the State of Wyoming. The committee continued to take public input during every meeting with the exception of the July 13th meeting . Meetings had up to 50 members of the public attending and providing comments. Other meetings had as few as 2-5 attendees however the task force continued to take public comment. Comments were also provided by emails and phone calls.

SUMMARY

The committee learned early that there were two primary categories used to manage deer that include lethal and non-lethal methods. Non-lethal methods include contraceptives, tranquilizing and relocation, or use of deer deterrents such as fences or sprays. Lethal methods require a chapter 56 permit from WY Game and Fish and the options include bow hunting (legal already) or controlled hunting (sharpshooters).

To determine the public sentiment, the committee decided to issue a community public opinion survey. The results are included as an attachment to this agenda request form. The survey was developed with the

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

assistance of Tara Kuipers, UW Cooperative Extension Service. Lisa Smith from NW College tabulated the data from over 1,500 survey instruments and submitted an executive summary of the results.

The results show that 50% of respondents would like to have a deer management plan developed that will reduce the number of deer.

Interesting information gleaned from the survey.

1. 30% consider use of sharp shooters is acceptable and 57% think it is unacceptable.
2. 41% consider controlled hunting is acceptable and 46% think it is unacceptable.
3. 33% consider euthanasia is acceptable and 56% consider it unacceptable.
4. 35% consider contraceptives are acceptable and 44% think it is unacceptable.
5. 51% consider damage control by the property owner through the use of deterrents acceptable and 31% consider use of deterrents is unacceptable.

Staff opinion--This information shows that in many cases only 30-40 percent of those that responded think we should do something to manage the urban deer herd. The rest of the respondents seem to be satisfied with the status quo.

There was much discussion centered on conducting a deer count for deer in city limits. Game and Fish agreed to conduct a count to result in a best guess estimate. They did a map review and developed a gut level feeling of the number of deer in 10 separate areas of the City. The map review was conducted by Game and Fish officers and the City's retired Community Service Officer. Their map exercise resulted in an estimate of 350-450 deer in city limits.

ISSUES CONSIDERED

The task force members used the following evaluation criteria in developing their recommendations.

1. Efficiency and fiscal impact to City or the cost to implement a management plan.
2. Equity, equality, fairness or "justice."
3. Health, safety, and property damage of residents caused by deer.
4. Health and safety of deer.
5. Political acceptability of implementing a management strategy.

FISCAL IMPACT

Status Quo—least expensive to City.
Lethal Methods—moderate cost depending on use of police officers or hired sharp shooters.
Non Lethal—moderate but predicted to be the highest cost of the three alternatives.

ALTERNATIVES

1. No action or status quo.
2. Lethal and type of lethal needs to be developed.
3. Non lethal and type of non lethal needs to be developed.

RECOMMENDATION

The task force recommends alternative number one with the following conditions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

1. City Council requests that the WY Game and Fish Department conducts an actual deer count every year for the next 5 years to develop a trend watch.
2. City Council considers ordinance changes that may assist residents in developing their own deer deterrent practices for their own property.
3. The deer task force meets each year after the deer count and reviews data developed over the previous year.

ATTACHMENTS

Survey Results
Survey Comments—available upon request
Listening Log—available upon request
Map and process used by WY G&F to develop estimate

AGENDA & SUMMARY REPORT TO:

Urban Deer Task Force Members

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

City of Cody – Urban Deer Survey – Executive Summary
Spring 2011

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

- **Respondents:** 1546 respondents returned the Urban Deer Survey to the City of Cody (respondent numbers per question may be lower and are available in the survey question results).
- **Age:** The largest percentage of respondents were 55 to 69 years old (**39%**), followed by 70 years or older (**26%**), then 40 to 54 years old (**23%**), then 25 to 39 years (**11%**), and subsequently 18 to 24 years old (**1%**).
- **Gender:** Slightly more females (**51%**) than males (**49%**) responded.
- **Residency:** The vast majority of respondents (**65%**) have lived in the City of Cody for at least 15 years. Most respondents (**60%**) did not know or did not indicate in which City ward they lived.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE DEER POPULATION

The majority (**56%**) indicated that they *have concerns* regarding the deer herd in Cody, while **44%** *do not have concerns*. However, the manner of concerns varies widely; for example, some respondents are concerned that the deer herd is too large, and others are concerned that the deer will be harmed through a deer management plan.

Slightly more respondents (**44%**) think there are *too many deer* than those who consider the deer population to be *about the right size* (**43%**).

Regarding property, plant, or landscape damage from deer, **76%** have experienced *some damage*; of these, **45%** have experienced *frequent damage*. However, comments show that some of those who received damage think the damage is worth being able to see deer regularly.

Concerning the importance of maintaining opportunities to see deer in the City limits, **58%** indicated that it is *at least somewhat important*; of these, it is *very important* to **37%**. It is *not important* to **37%** to see deer in the City.

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Respondents were split when asked if they would like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd; **50%** indicated *yes*, and **50%** indicated *no*. Regarding specific deer management methods, only one is considered acceptable to the majority of respondents.

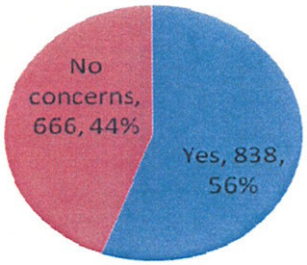
- **Method Considered Acceptable:** Damage control by the property owner through the use of deterrents: **31%** consider it *unacceptable*, and **51%** consider it *acceptable*.
- **Methods Considered Unacceptable**
  - Controlled hunting: **46%** consider it *unacceptable*, and **41%** consider it *acceptable*.
  - Sharp-shooting: **57%** *unacceptable*, **30%** *acceptable*.
  - Trapping and euthanasia: **56%** *unacceptable*, **33%** *acceptable*.
  - Contraception: **44%** *unacceptable*, **35%** *acceptable*.

CONCLUSION

The only method of deer management that the majority of respondents consider acceptable is damage control by the property owner. Many respondents noted that they are already using deterrents on their own properties. Some claim these methods are effective, and others claim they do not work (the deer are no longer deterred by them). Though considered unacceptable by most, if an alternative method which involves hunting or euthanizing the deer is implemented, many commented that they would like to see the meat be eaten and not wasted (i.e., given to needy families). While the majority considers trapping and *euthanizing* deer to be unacceptable, many respondents indicated that they would support trapping and *relocating* the deer instead.

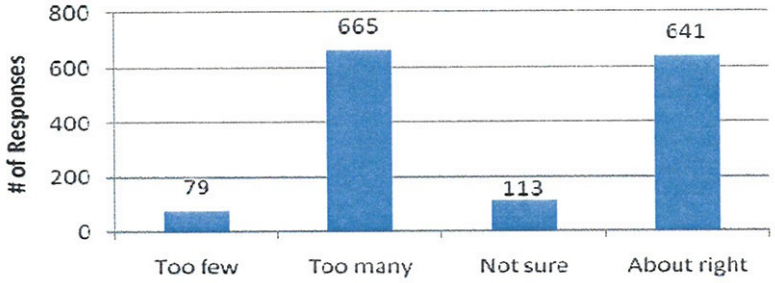
Question Results, *all respondents (N = 1546)*

1. Do you have concerns regarding the deer herd in Cody? *(N = 1504)*



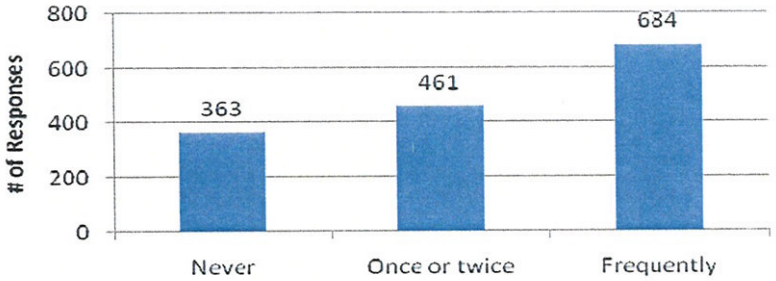
Though the majority responded "Yes," some did so because of concerns that the herd is too large, and others because of concerns that the deer will be harmed. (See comments for question 1.)

2. Think about the number in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer are: *(N = 1498)*



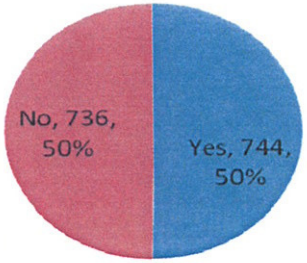
44% of respondents think there are *too many* deer.
43% think the deer population is *about the right size.*

3. In the past year, have you experienced property, plant, or landscape damage from deer? *(N = 1508)*

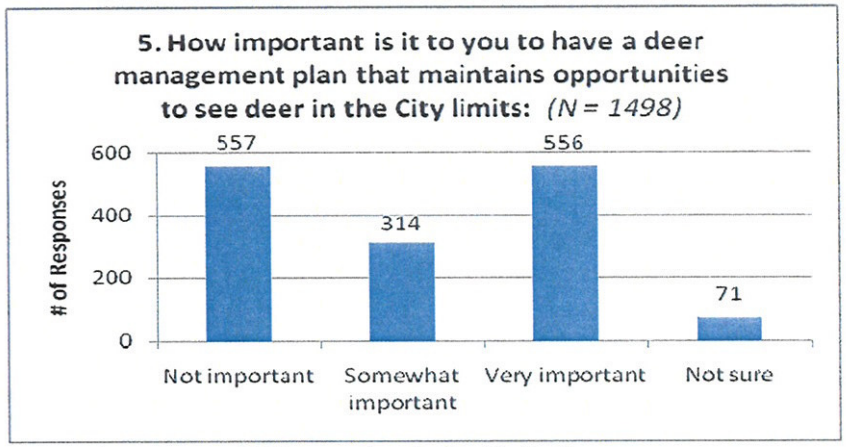


76% of respondents have experienced *some damage* from deer.
Of these, **45%** have experienced *frequent damage.*
However, comments indicate that some of those who received damage think the damage is worth being able to see deer regularly.

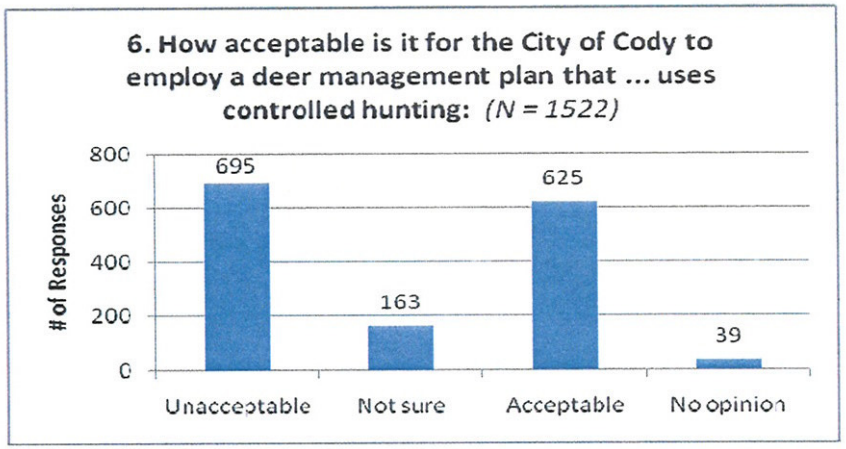
4. Would you like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd? *(N = 1480)*



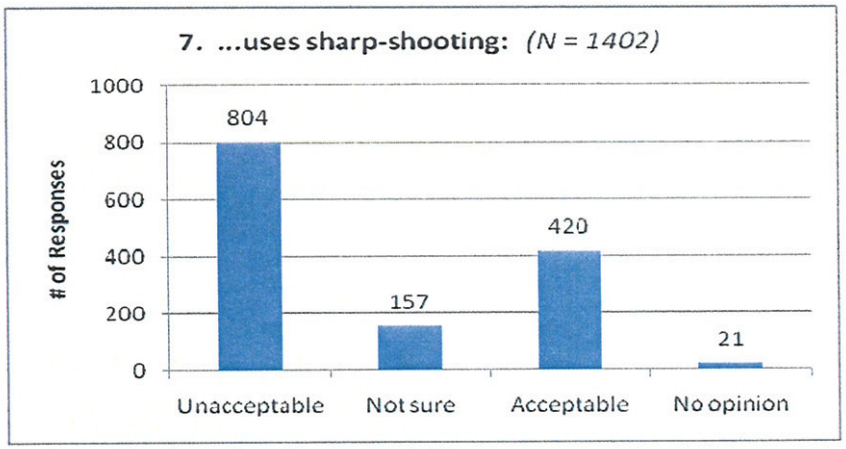
Respondents' opinions of *whether or not to reduce the herd* are **fairly equal** on both sides.



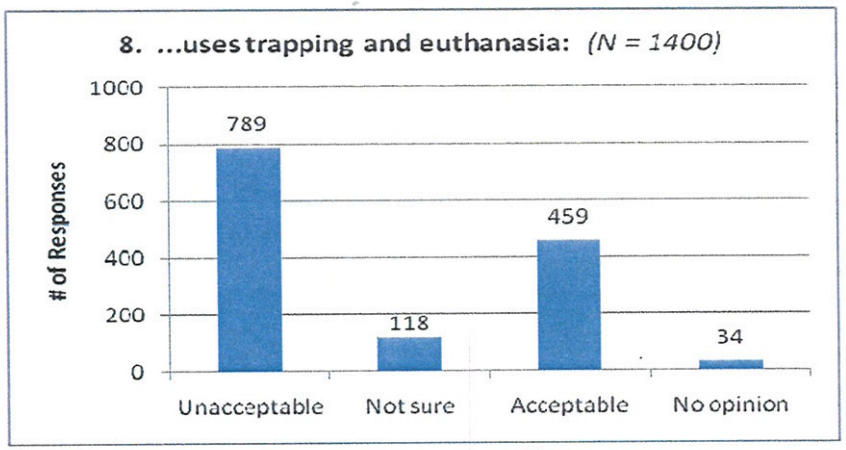
It is *not important* to **37%** to see deer in the City limits.
It is *at least somewhat important* to **58%** of respondents to see deer in the City (of these, it is *very important* to **37%**).



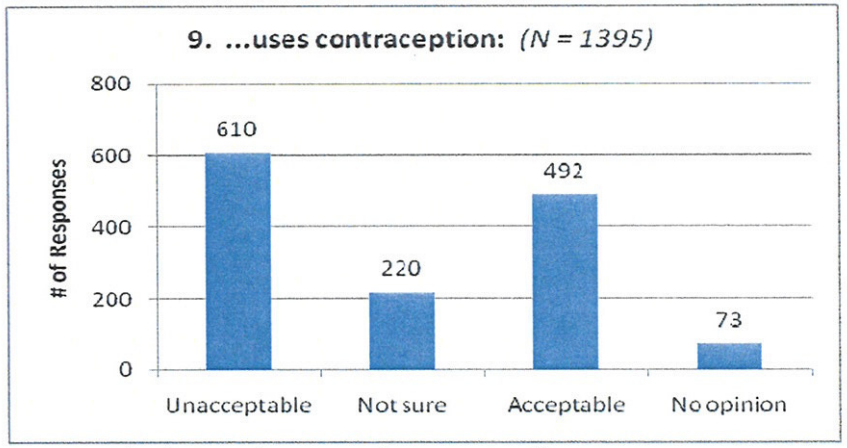
46% consider controlled hunting *unacceptable.*
41% consider it *acceptable.*
For all of the methods involving hunting or euthanizing the deer (questions 6-8), many respondents commented that they would like to see the meat be eaten and not wasted (i.e., given to needy families) if that method was implemented.



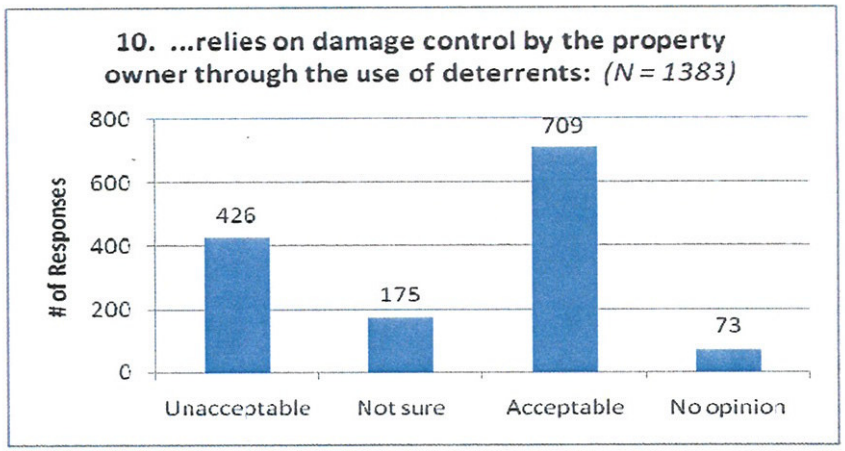
57% consider sharp-shooting *unacceptable.*
30% consider it *acceptable.*



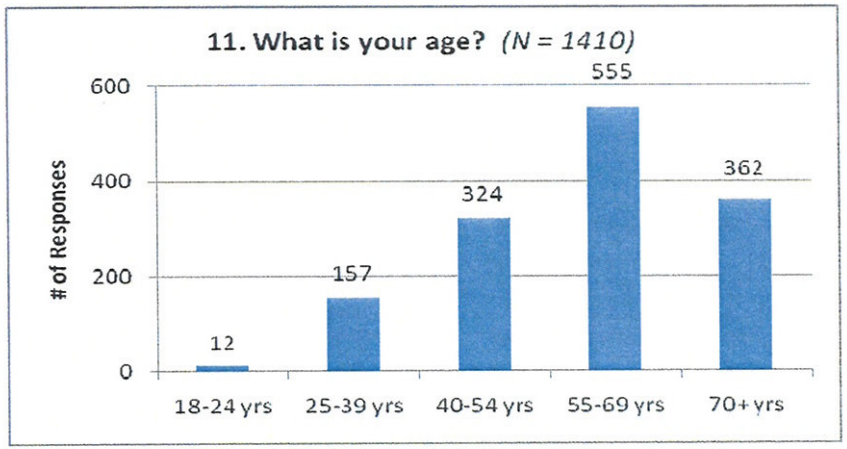
56% consider trapping and euthanasia *unacceptable.*
33% consider it *acceptable.*
While the majority considered trapping and euthanizing unacceptable, many indicated in the comments that they would support trapping and *relocating* the deer.



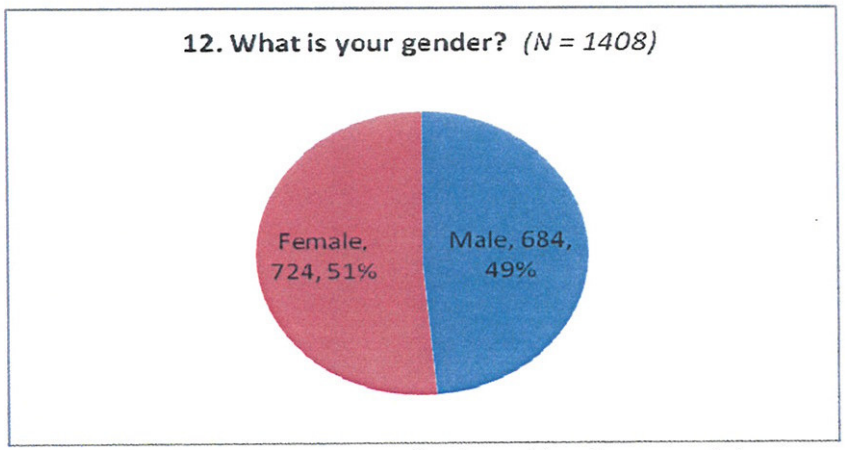
44% consider the use of contraception *unacceptable.*
35% consider it *acceptable.*



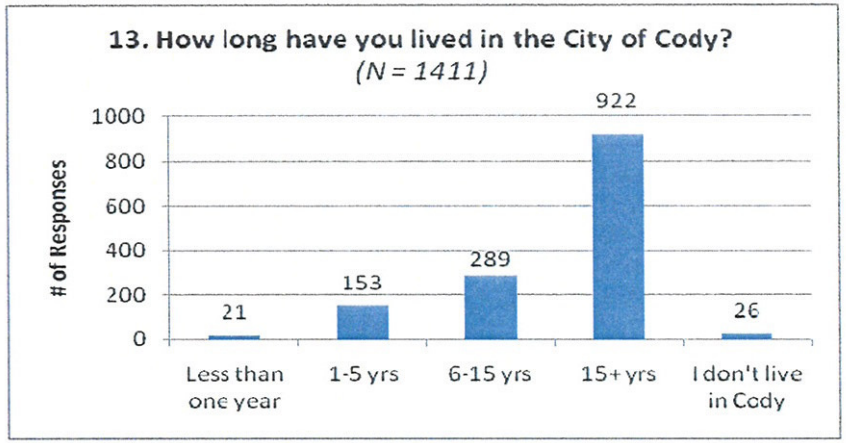
31% consider the reliance on property owners as *unacceptable.*
51% consider it *acceptable.*
Of methods of deer management surveyed, this item has the most support (and is the only method supported by a majority).
In the comments, many respondents indicated that they are already using these methods. Some claim they are effective, and others claim they do not work (the deer have gotten used to them and are no longer deterred).



The majority of respondents (**39%**) were age *55 to 69 years old.*
26% were *70 years or older.*
23% were *between 40 and 54 years old.*
11% were *25 to 39 years old.*
The smallest percentage of respondents (**1%**) was the *18 to 24 year olds.*

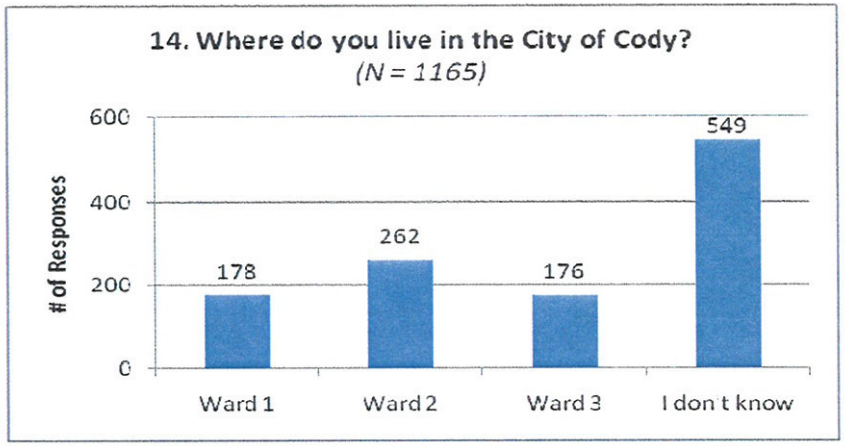


Approximately the same percentage of *males and females* responded.



The vast majority of respondents (**65%**) have lived in the City of Cody for *at least 15 years.*

Of those who don't live in Cody, some indicated in the comments that they owned property in the City, though they live out-of-town.



Many respondents did not answer this question. Of those who did:

15% live in *Ward 1.*

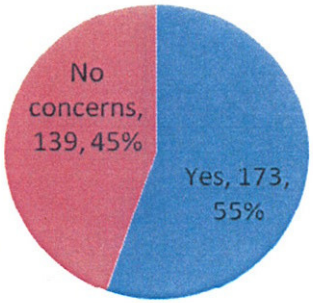
22% live in *Ward 2.*

15% live in *Ward 3.*

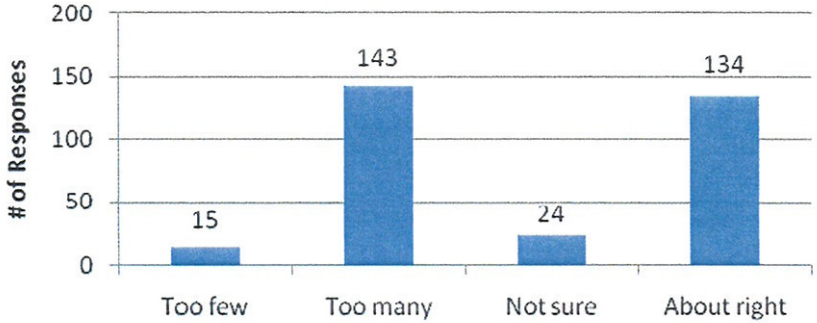
Those who didn't answer or didn't know their ward often wrote the area in which they live in the comments. (See question 14 comments for more info.)

Question Results, *2/28/11 mailing (N = 322)* Cycle 4

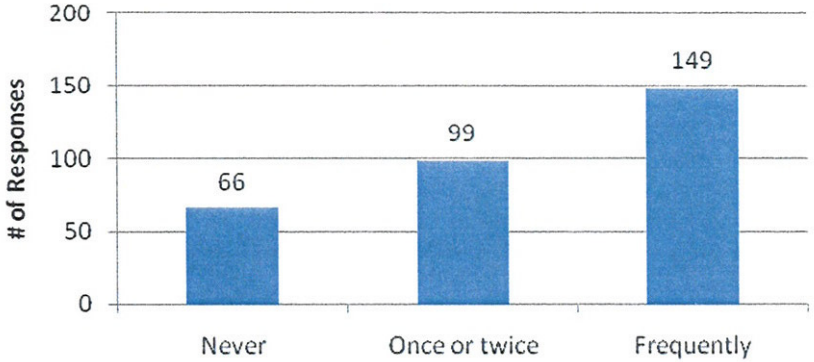
1. Do you have concerns regarding the deer herd in Cody? *(N = 312)*



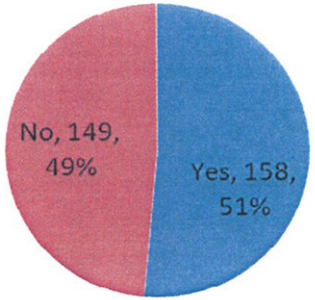
2. Think about the number in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer are: *(N = 316)*



3. In the past year, have you experienced property, plant, or landscape damage from deer? *(N = 314)*

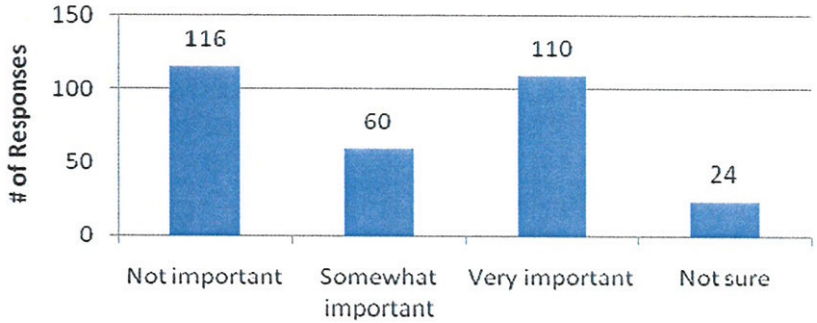


4. Would you like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd? *(N = 307)*

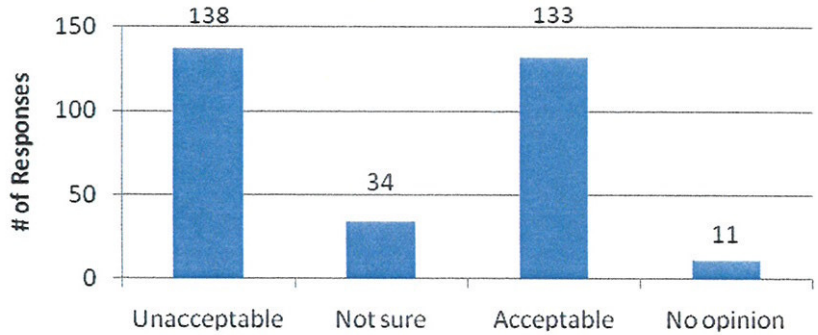


Question Results, *2/28/11 mailing (N = 322)*

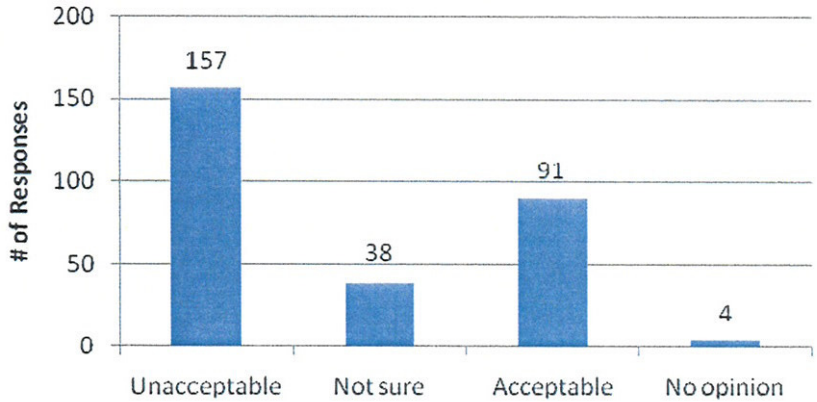
5. How important is it to you to have a deer management plan that maintains opportunities to see deer in the City limits: *(N = 310)*



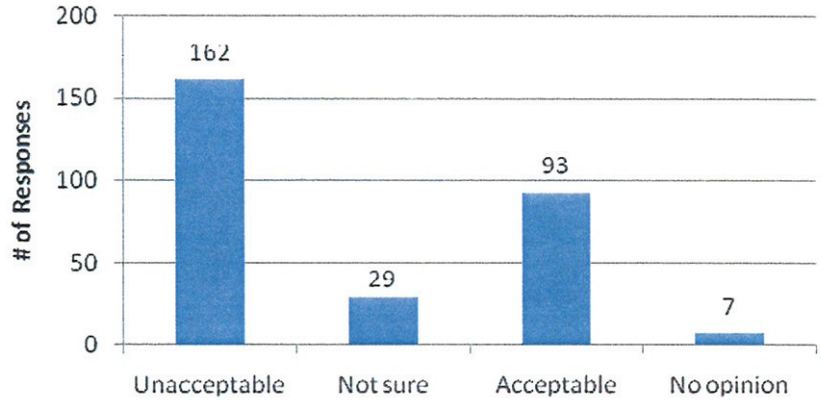
6. How acceptable is it for the City of Cody to employ a deer management plan that ... uses controlled hunting: *(N = 316)*



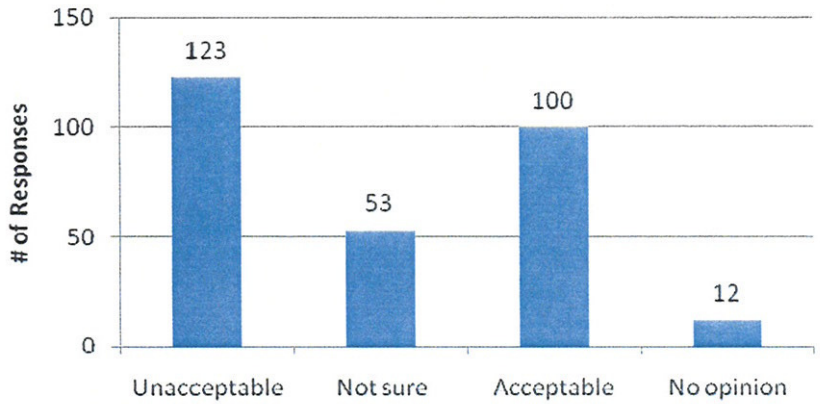
7. ...uses sharp-shooting: *(N = 290)*



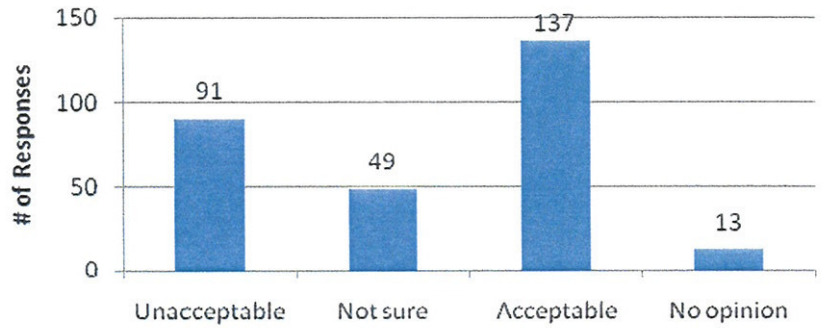
8. ...uses trapping and euthanasia: *(N = 291)*



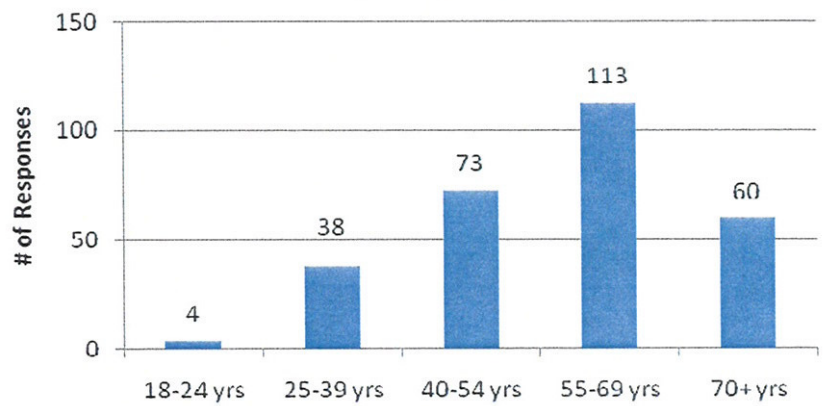
9. ...uses contraception: *(N = 288)*



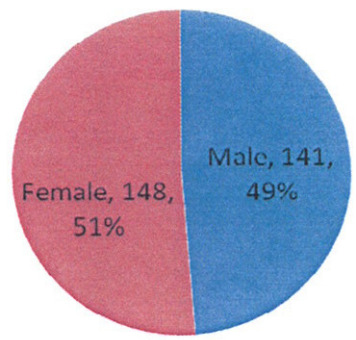
10 ...relies on damage control by the property owner through the use of deterrents: *(N = 290)*



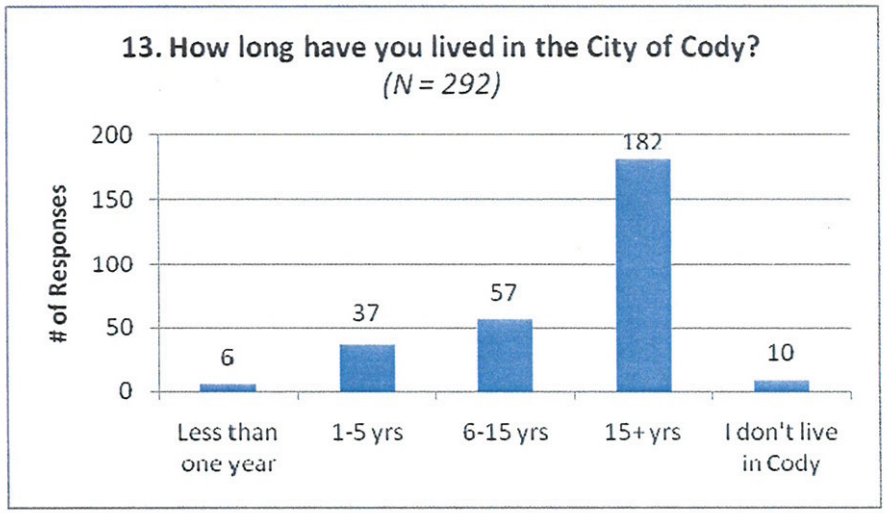
11. What is your age? *(N = 288)*

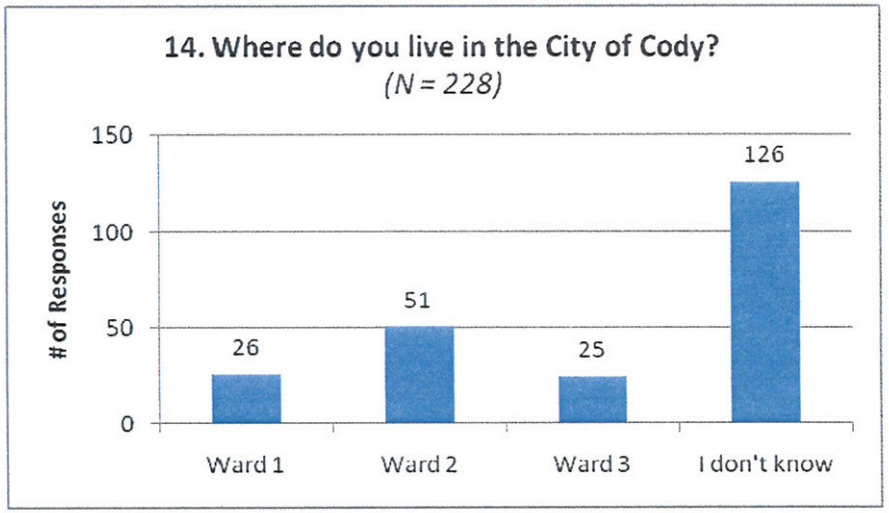


12. What is your gender? *(N = 289)*



Question Results, *2/28/11 mailing (N = 322)*

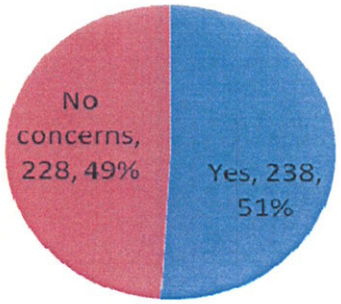




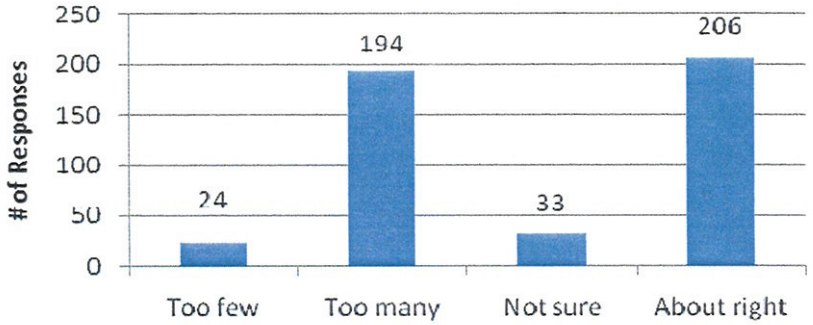
Question Results, *3/10/11 mailing (N = 472)*

Cycle 1

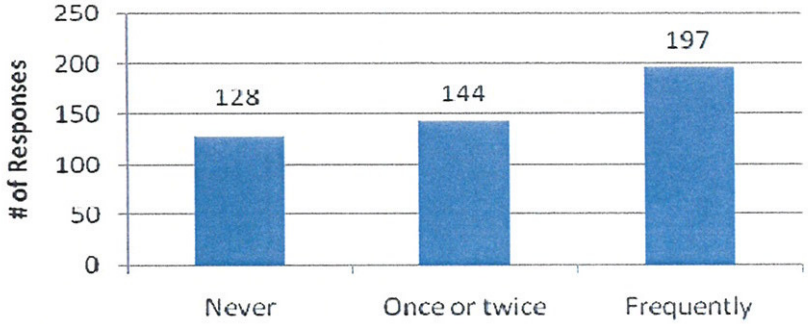
1. Do you have concerns regarding the deer herd in Cody? *(N = 466)*



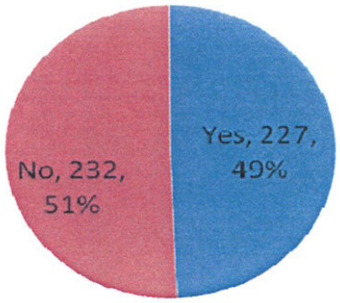
2. Think about the number in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer are: *(N = 457)*



3. In the past year, have you experienced property, plant, or landscape damage from deer? *(N = 469)*

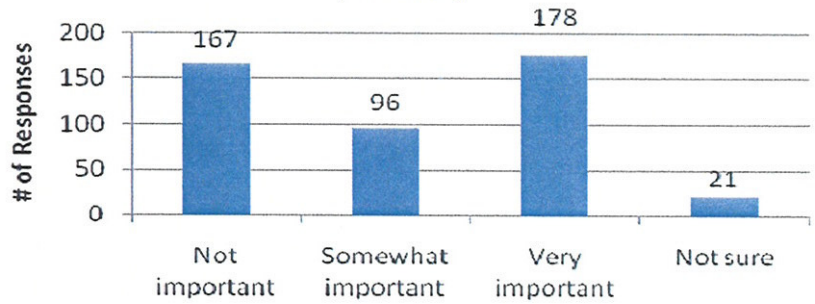


4. Would you like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd? *(N = 459)*

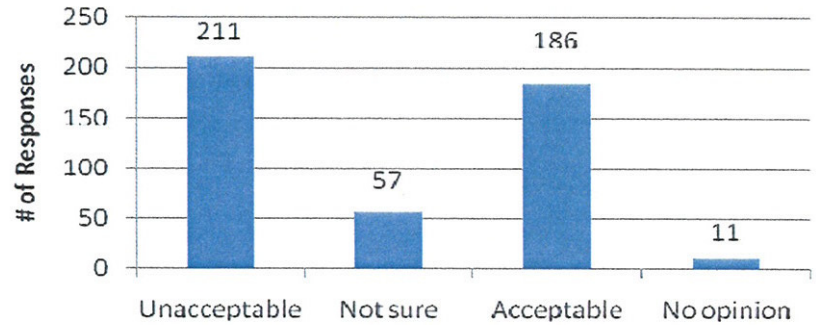


Question Results, *3/10/11 mailing (N = 472)*

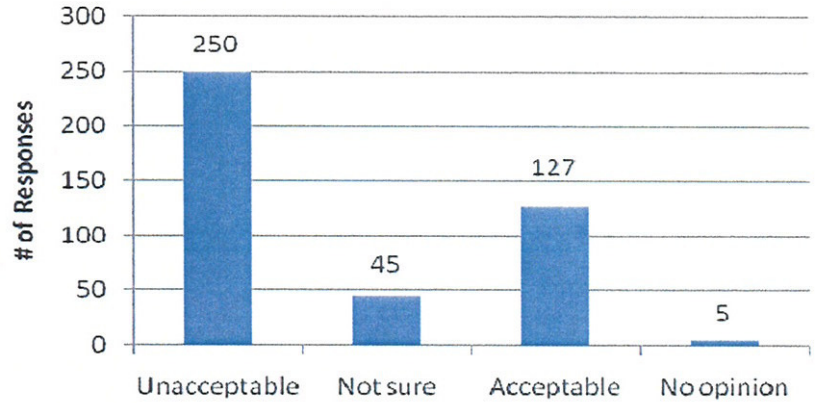
5. How important is it to you to have a deer management plan that maintains opportunities to see deer in the City limits: *(N = 462)*



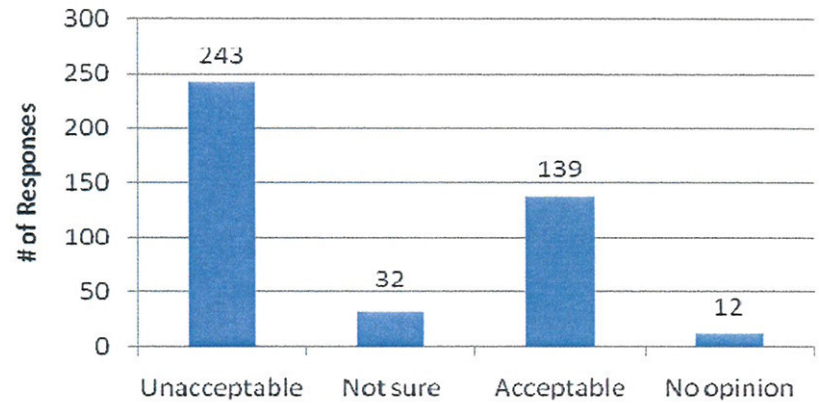
6. How acceptable is it for the City of Cody to employ a deer management plan that ... uses controlled hunting: *(N = 465)*



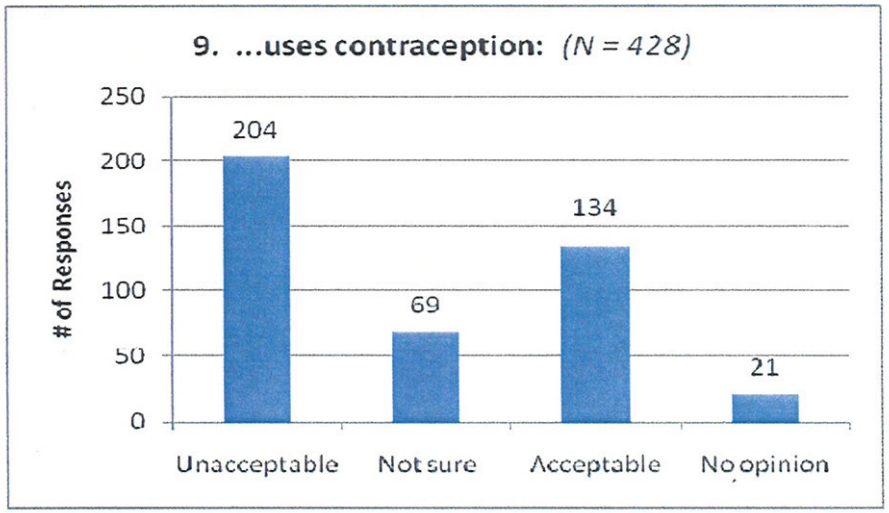
7. ...uses sharp-shooting: *(N = 427)*

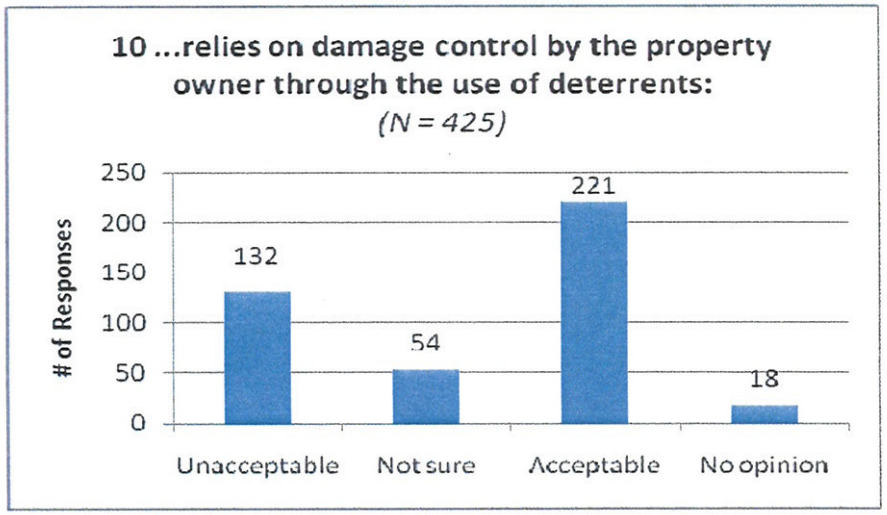


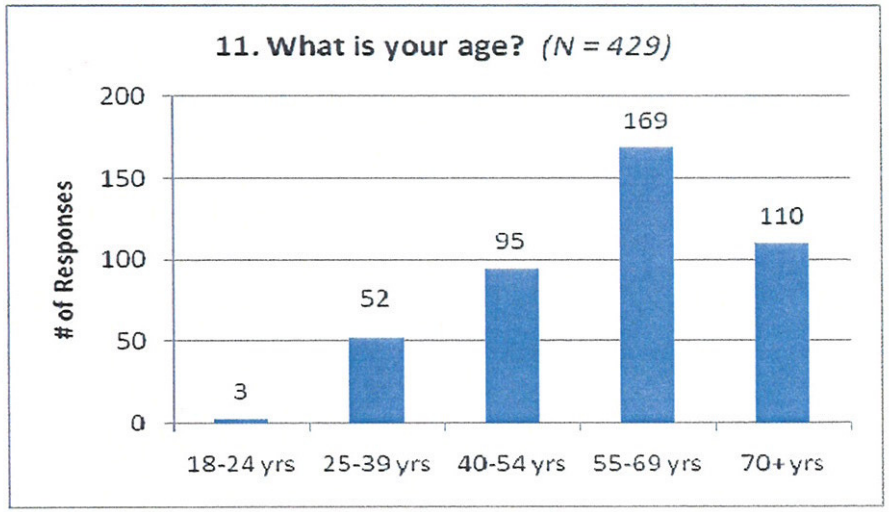
8. ...uses trapping and euthanasia: *(N = 426)*

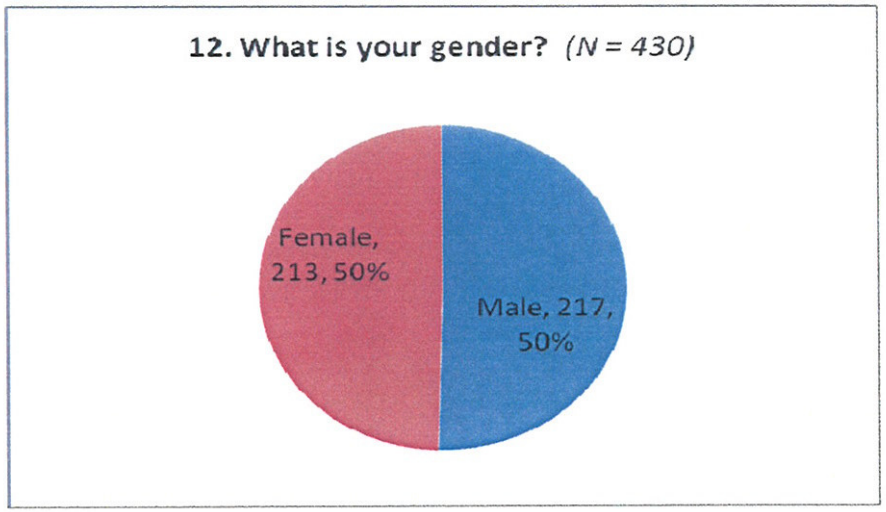


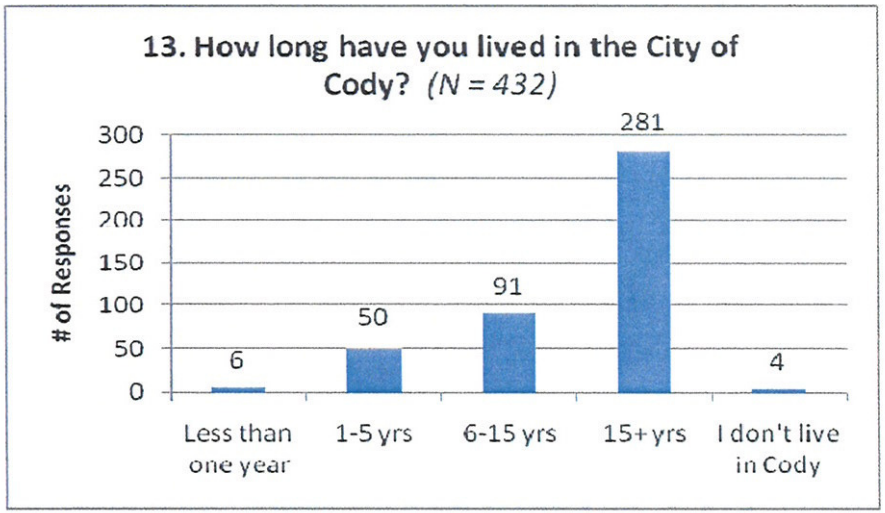
Question Results, *3/10/11 mailing (N = 472)*

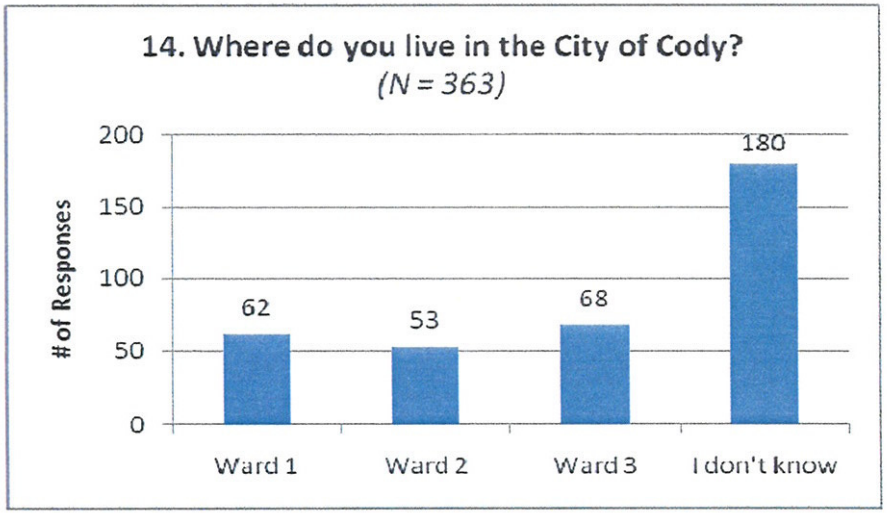




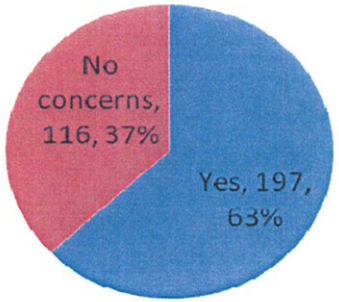




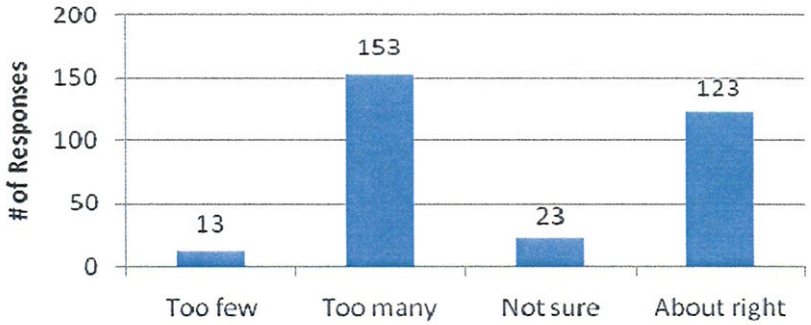

13. How long have you lived in the City of Cody? (N = 432)
# of Responses
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
6
50
91
281
4
Less than one year
1-5 yrs
6-15 yrs
15+ yrs
I don't live in Cody


14. Where do you live in the City of Cody? (N = 363)
# of Responses
200
150
100
50
0
62
53
68
180
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
I don't know

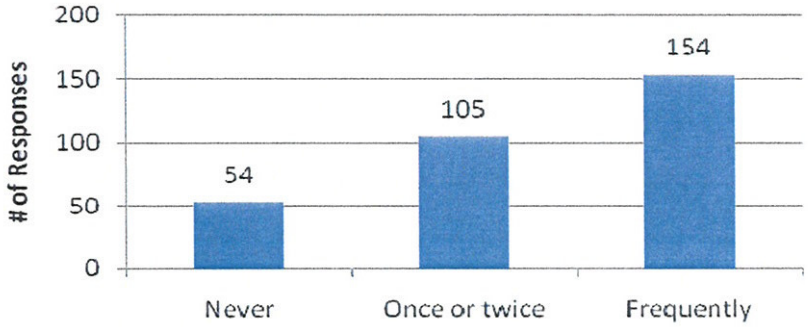
1. Do you have concerns regarding the deer herd in Cody? *(N = 313)*



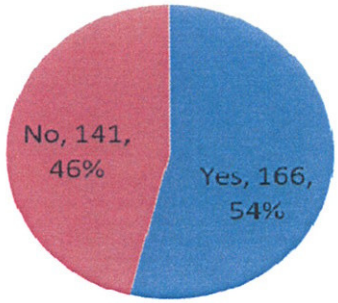
2. Think about the number in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer are: *(N = 312)*



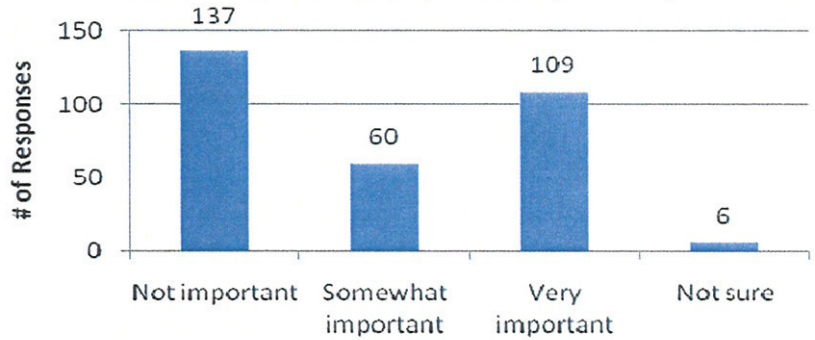
3. In the past year, have you experienced property, plant, or landscape damage from deer? *(N = 313)*



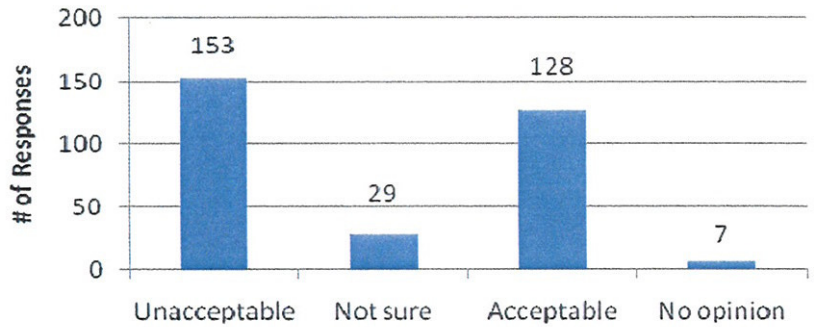
4. Would you like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd? *(N = 307)*



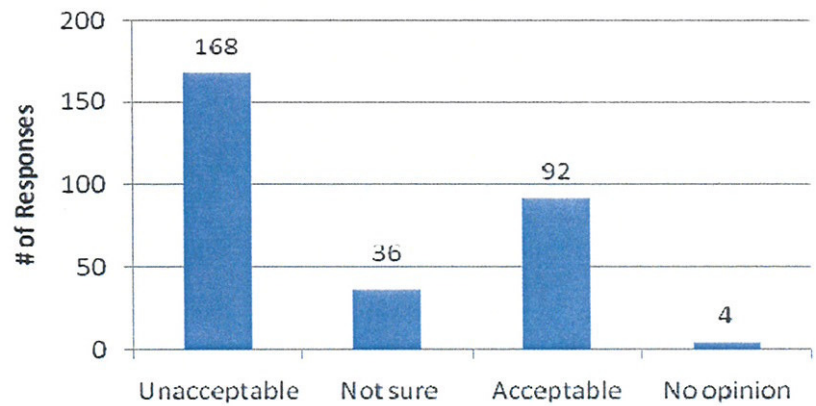
5. How important is it to you to have a deer management plan that maintains opportunities to see deer in the City limits: *(N = 312)*



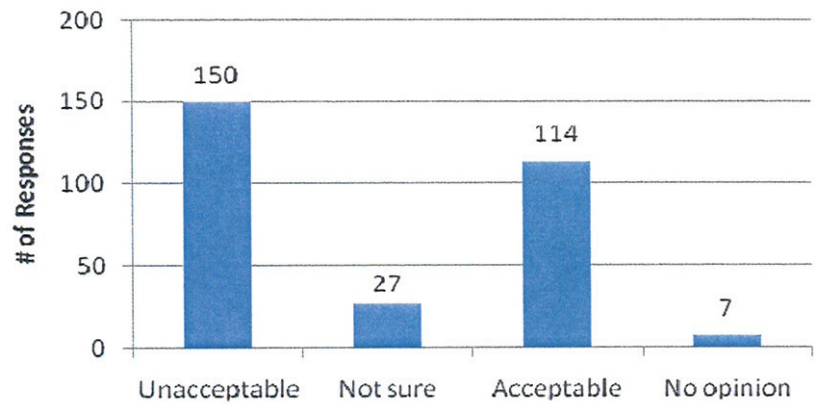
6. How acceptable is it for the City of Cody to employ a deer management plan that ... uses controlled hunting: *(N = 317)*



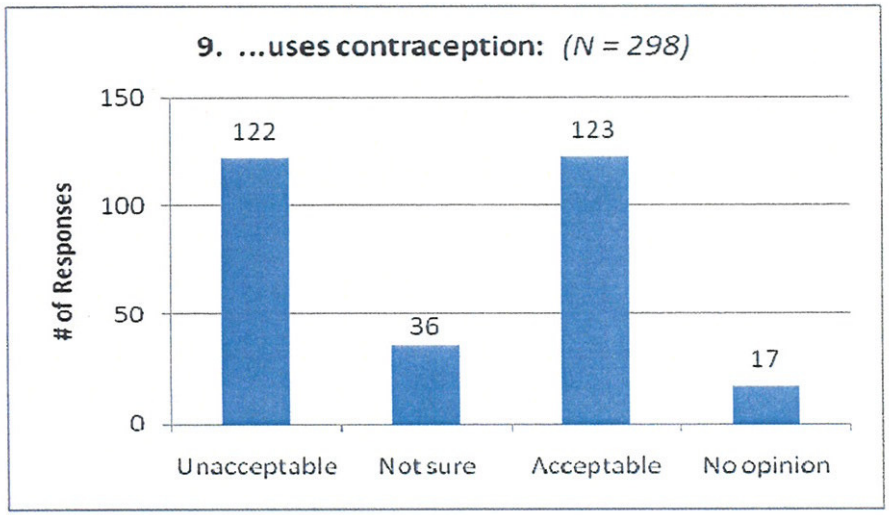
7. ...uses sharp-shooting: *(N = 300)*

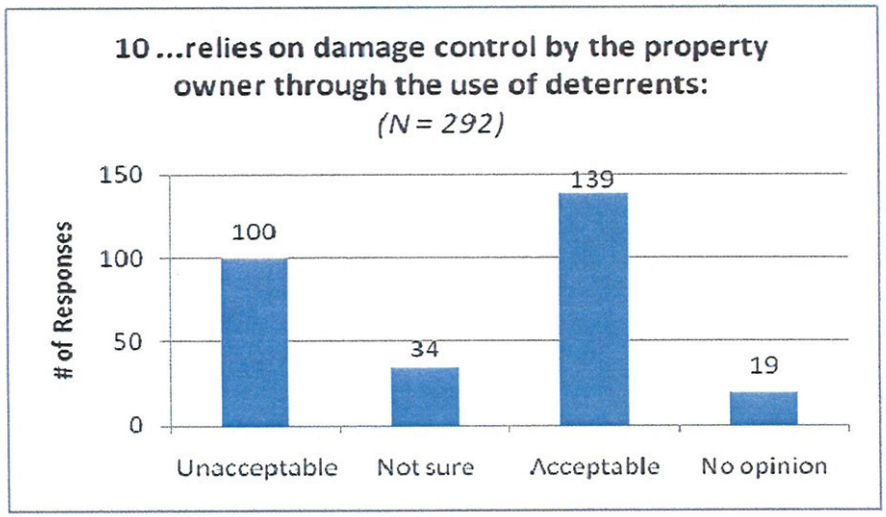


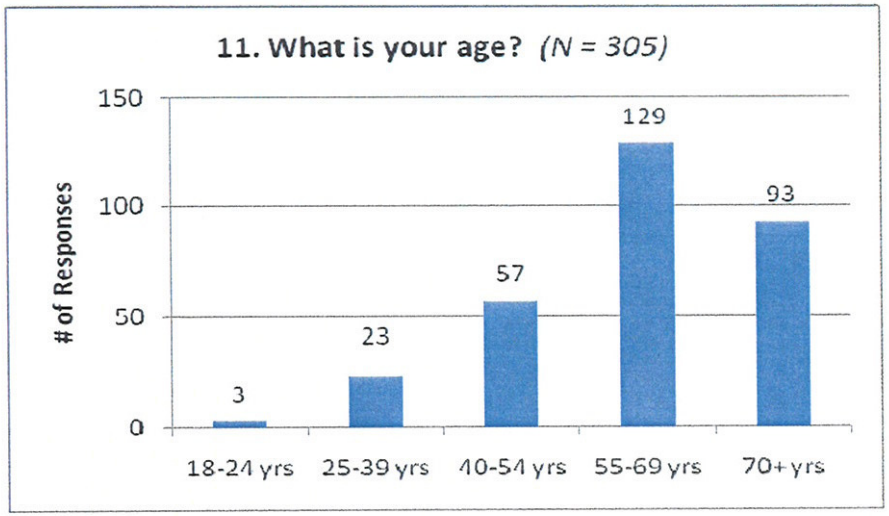
8. ...uses trapping and euthanasia: *(N = 298)*

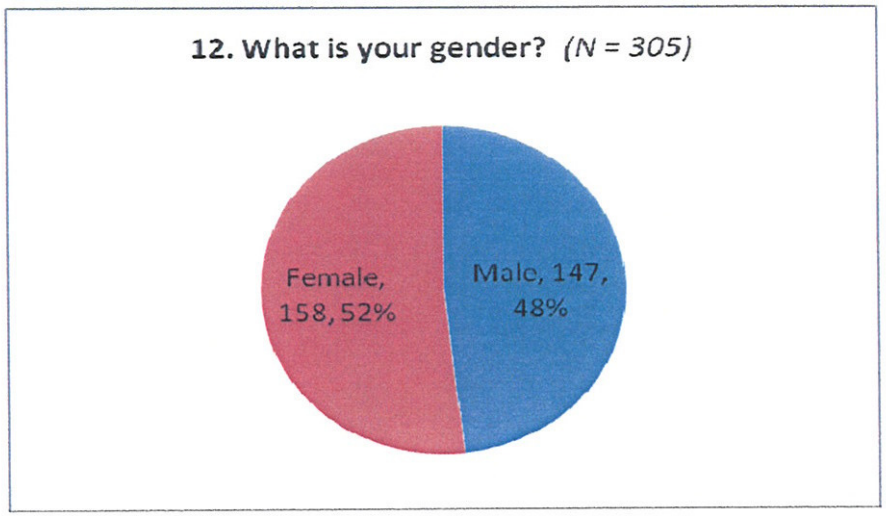


Question Results, *3/17/11 mailing (N = 320)*

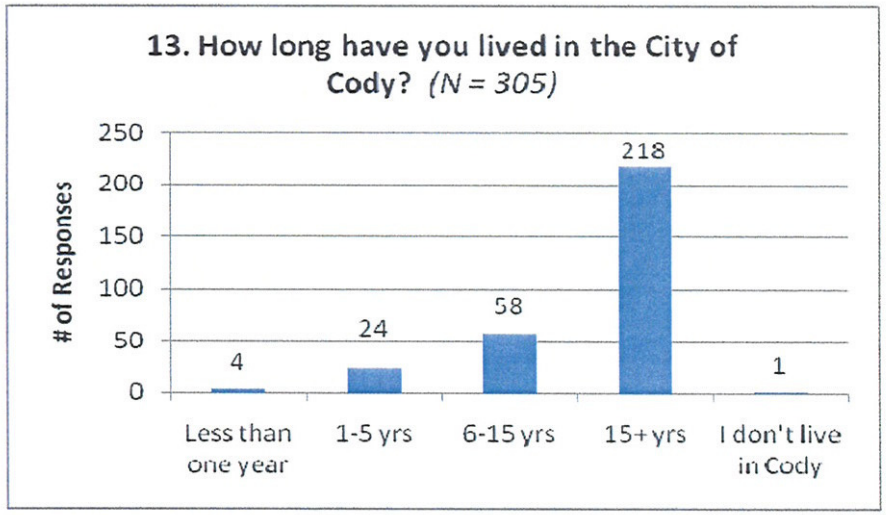


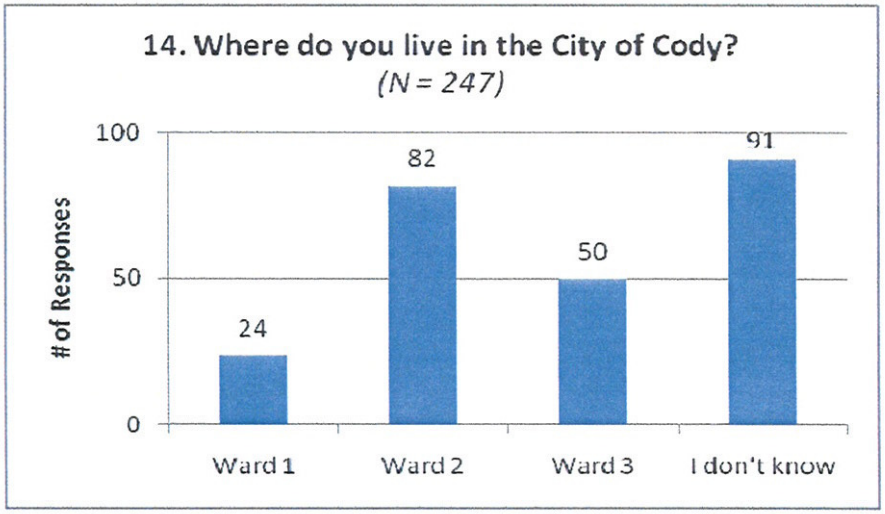




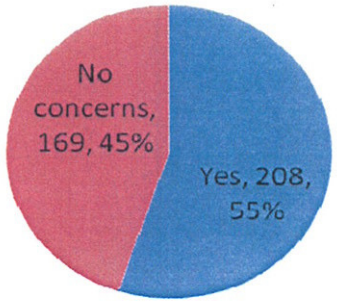


Question Results, *3/17/11 mailing (N = 320)*

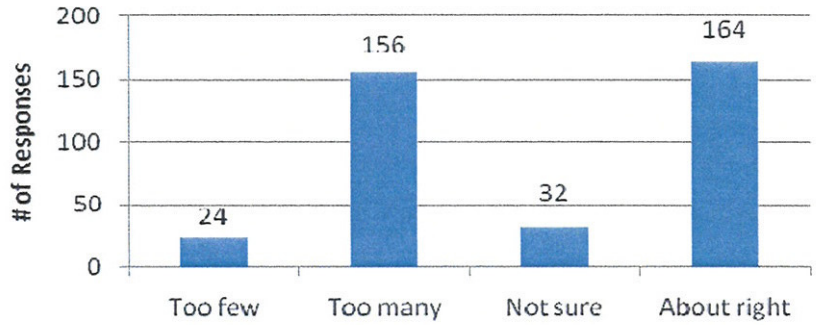




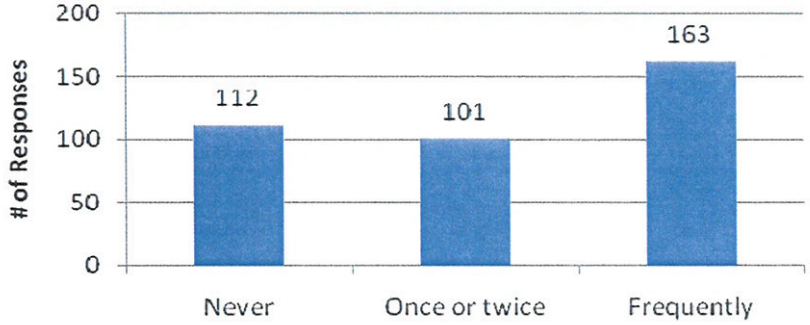
1. Do you have concerns regarding the deer herd in Cody? *(N = 377)*



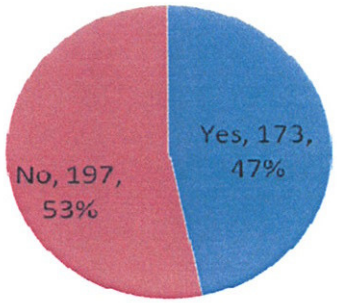
2. Think about the number in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer are: *(N = 376)*



3. In the past year, have you experienced property, plant, or landscape damage from deer? *(N = 376)*

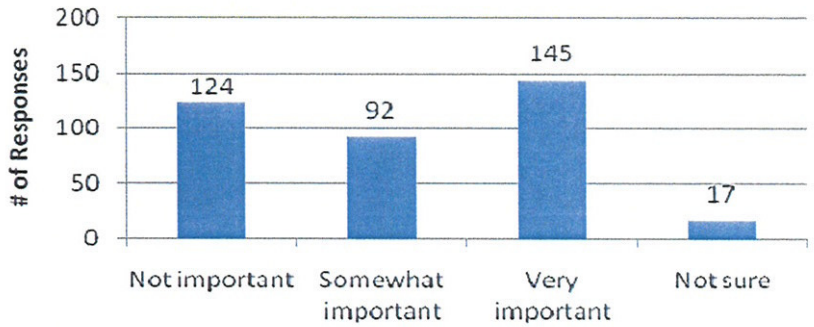


4. Would you like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd? *(N = 370)*

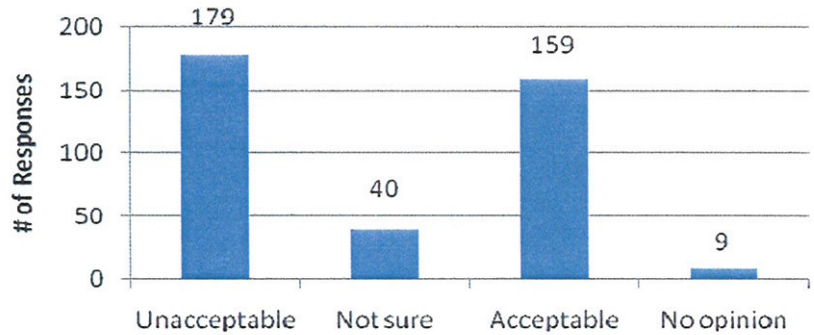


Question Results, *3/24/11 mailing (N = 391)*

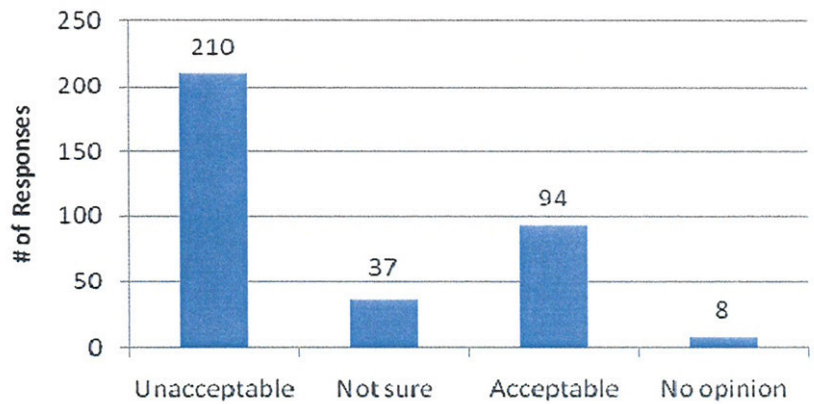
5. How important is it to you to have a deer management plan that maintains opportunities to see deer in the City limits: *(N = 378)*



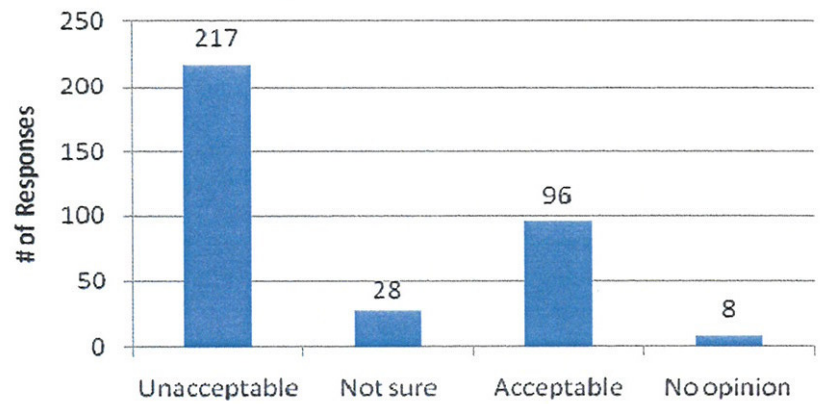
6. How acceptable is it for the City of Cody to employ a deer management plan that ... uses controlled hunting: *(N = 387)*

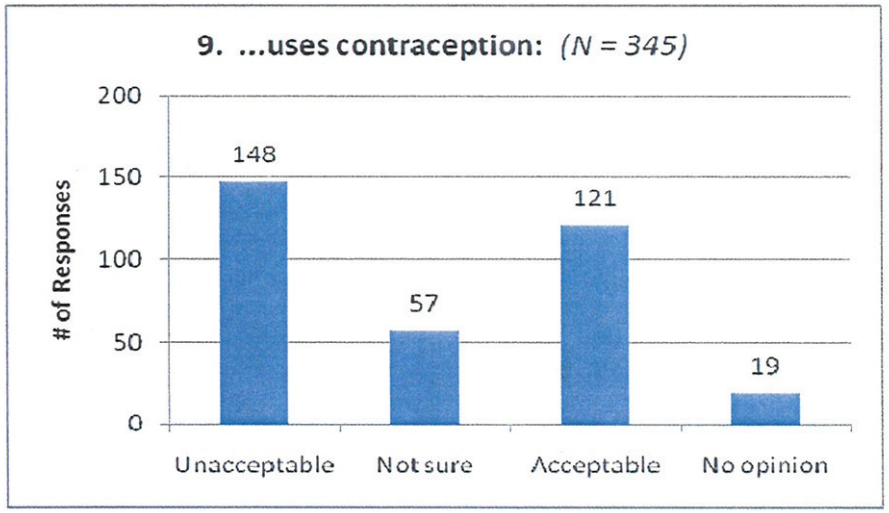


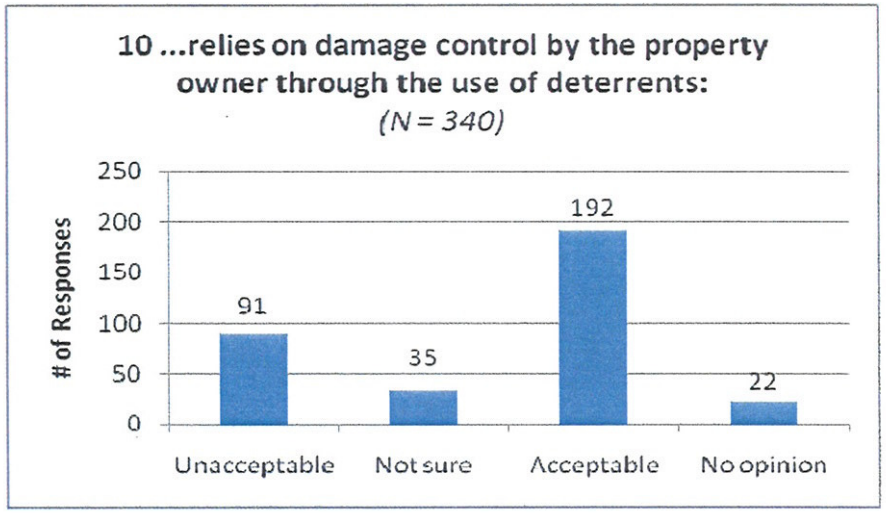
7. ...uses sharp-shooting: *(N = 349)*

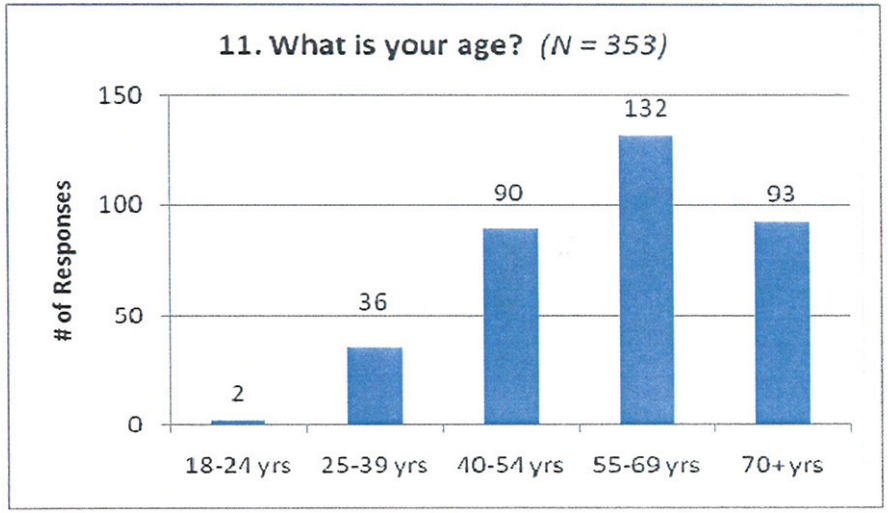


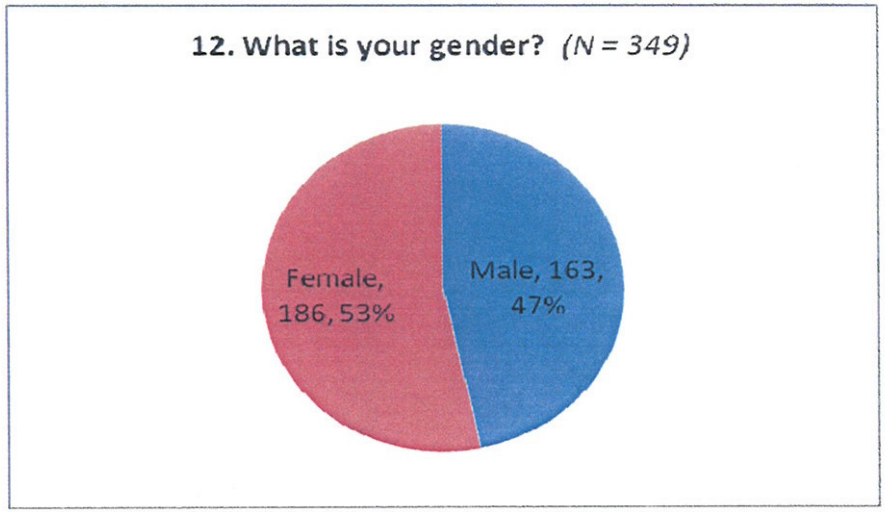
8. ...uses trapping and euthanasia: *(N = 349)*

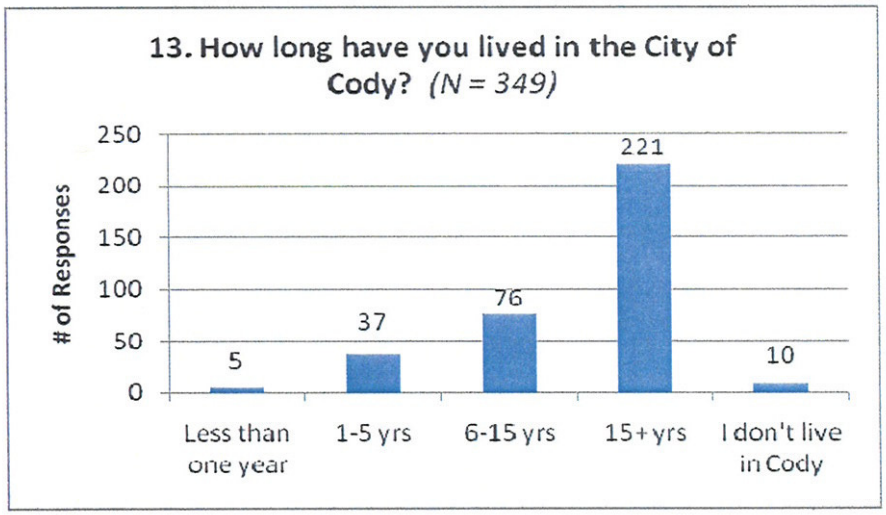


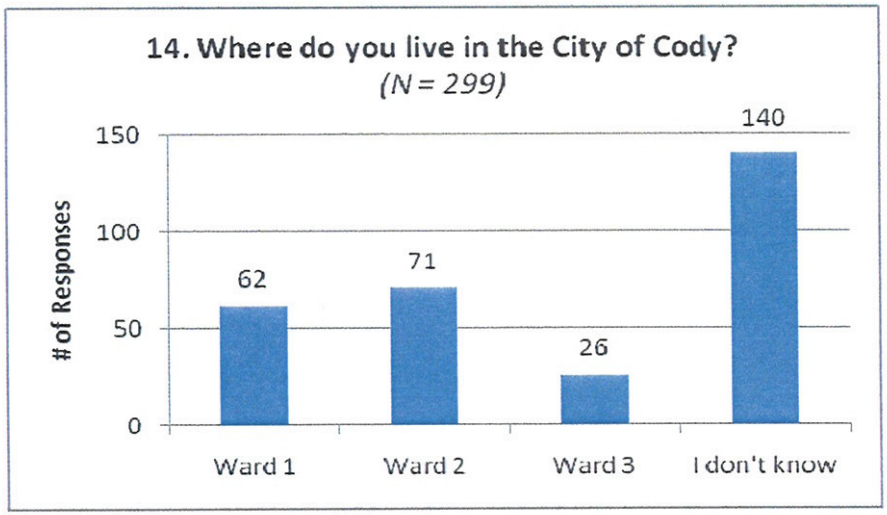

9. ...uses contraception: (N = 345)
# of Responses
200
150
100
50
0
148
57
121
19
Unacceptable
Not sure
Acceptable
No opinion


10 ...relies on damage control by the property owner through the use of deterrents:
(N = 340)
# of Responses
250
200
150
100
50
0
91
35
192
22
Unacceptable
Not sure
Acceptable
No opinion


11. What is your age? (N = 353)
# of Responses
150
100
50
0
2
36
90
132
93
18-24 yrs
25-39 yrs
40-54 yrs
55-69 yrs
70+ yrs

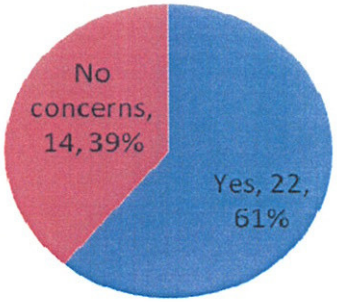

12. What is your gender? (N = 349)
Female, 186, 53%
Male, 163, 47%


13. How long have you lived in the City of Cody? (N = 349)
# of Responses
250
200
150
100
50
0
5
37
76
221
10
Less than one year
1-5 yrs
6-15 yrs
15+ yrs
I don't live in Cody

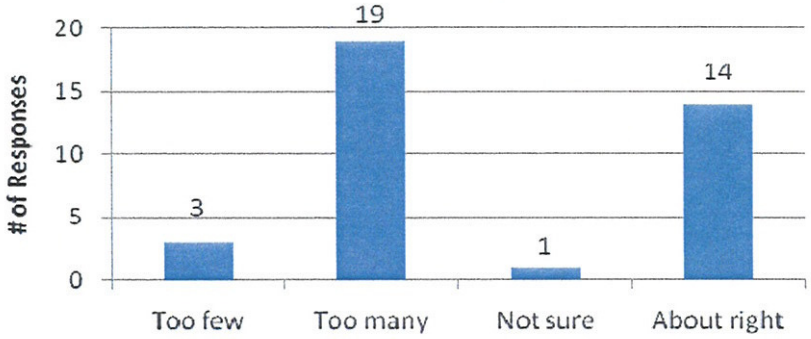

14. Where do you live in the City of Cody? (N = 299)
# of Responses
150
100
50
0
62
71
26
140
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
I don't know

Question Results, *extra responses (not from a mailing) (N = 41)*

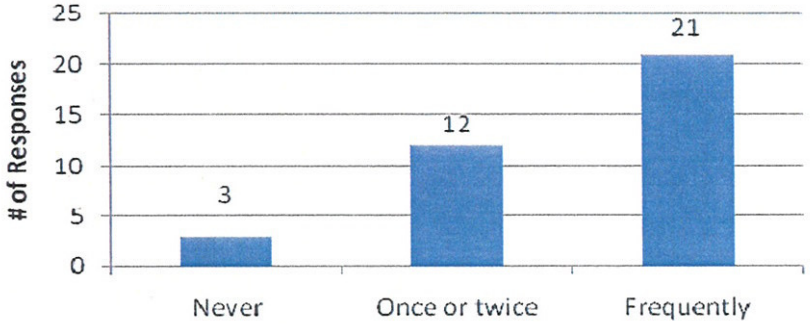
1. Do you have concerns regarding the deer herd in Cody? *(N = 36)*



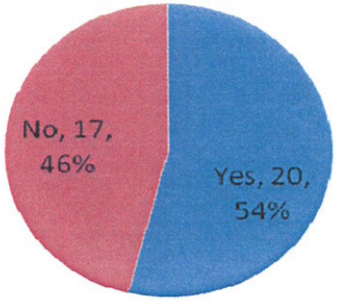
2. Think about the number in the area where you live. Indicate whether you think the number of deer are: *(N = 37)*



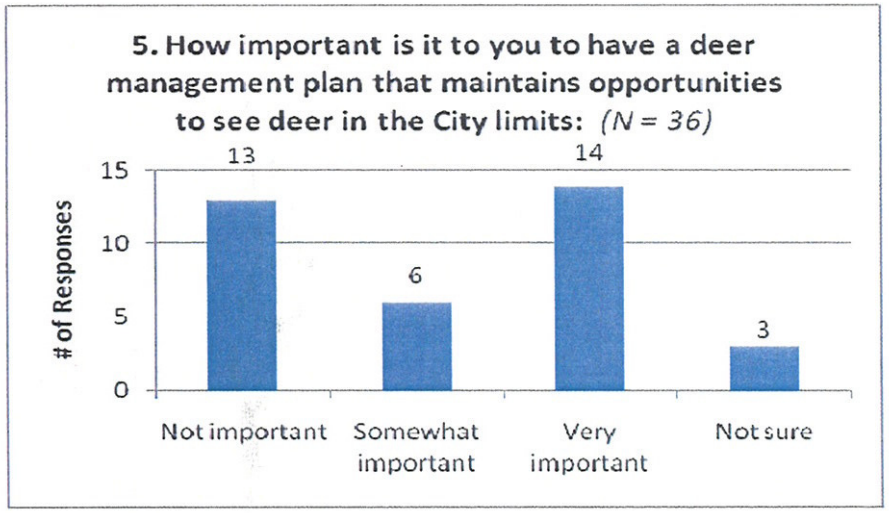
3. In the past year, have you experienced property, plant, or landscape damage from deer? *(N = 36)*

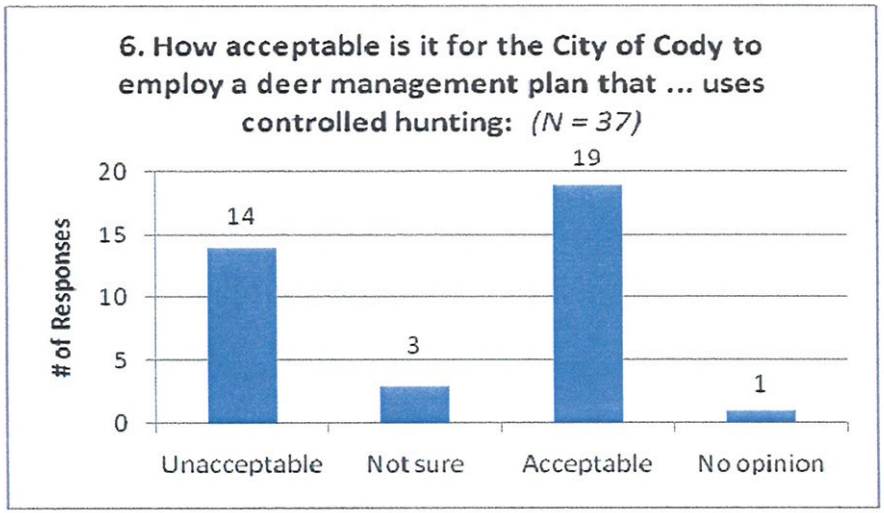


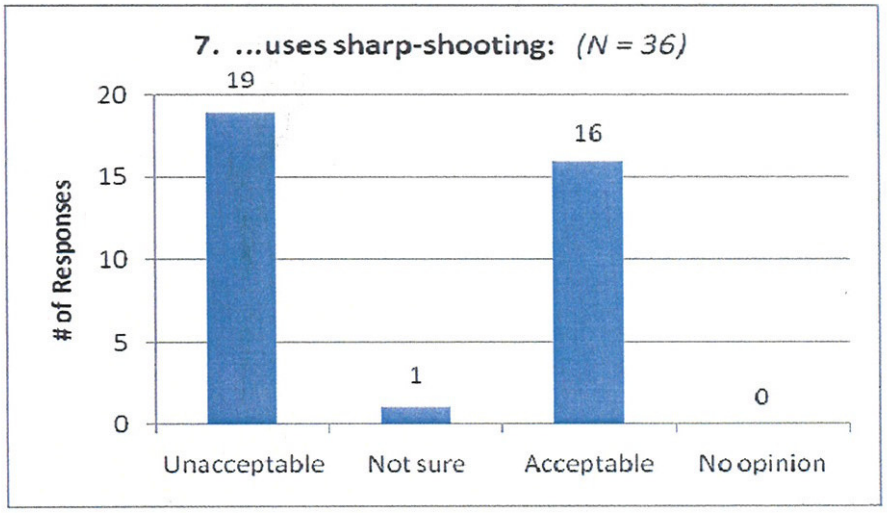
4. Would you like to see deer management actions that reduce the deer herd? *(N = 37)*

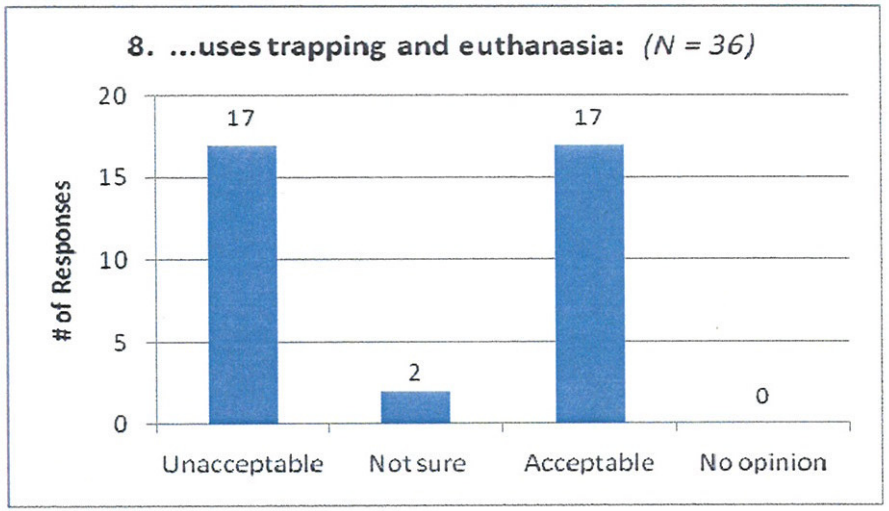


Question Results, *extra responses (not from a mailing) (N = 41)*

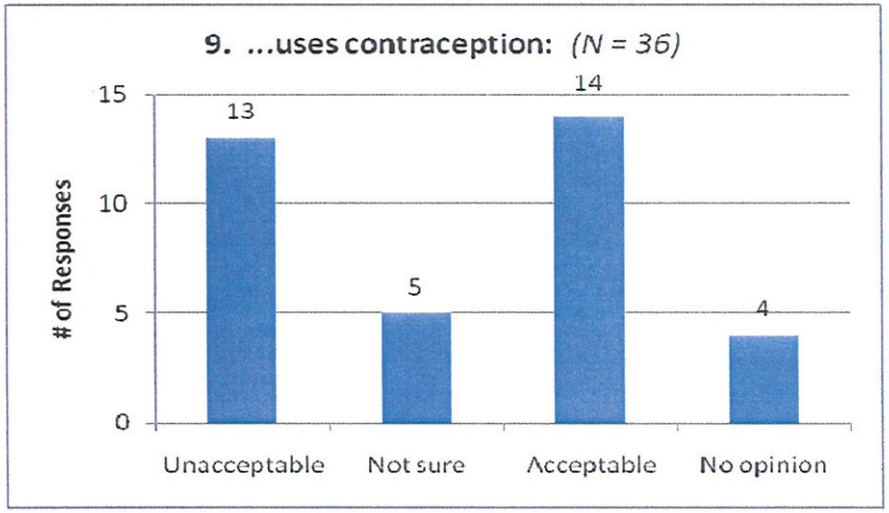


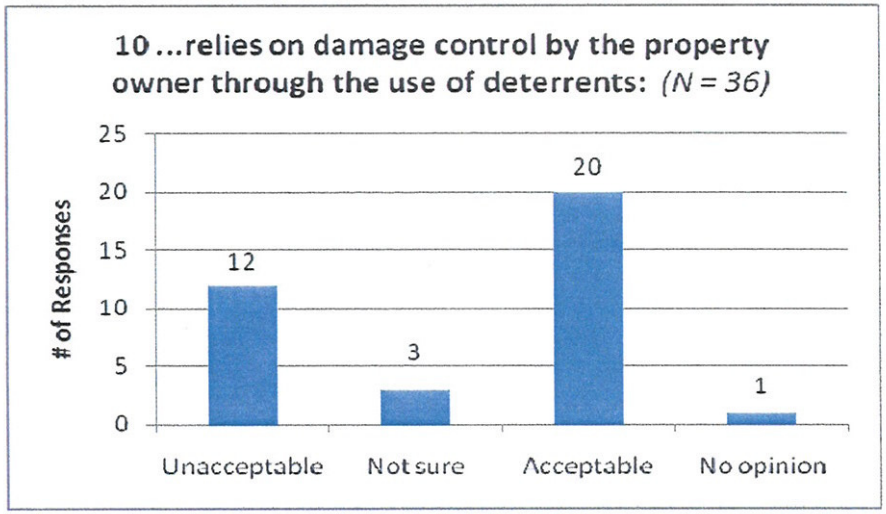


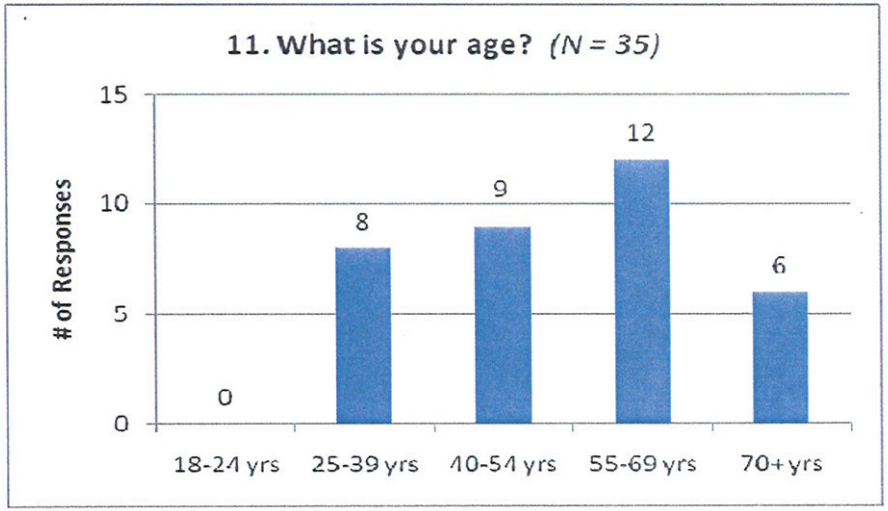


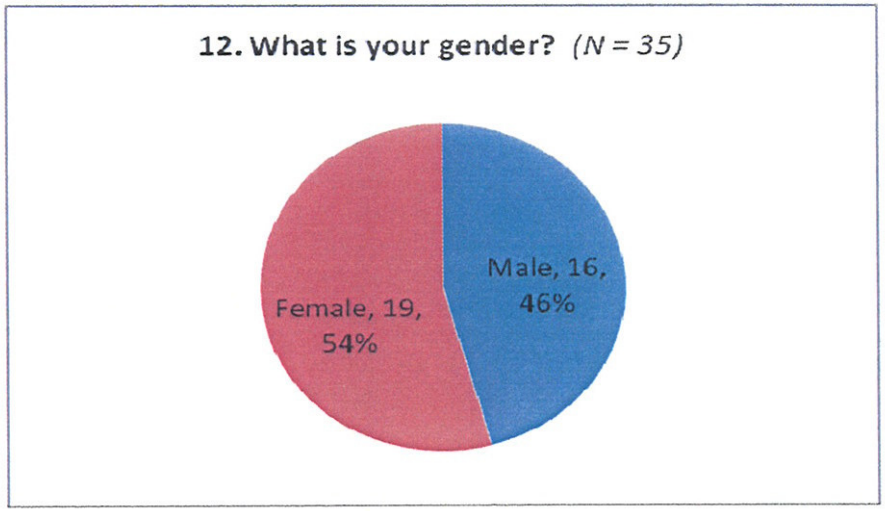


Question Results, *extra responses (not from a mailing) (N = 41)*









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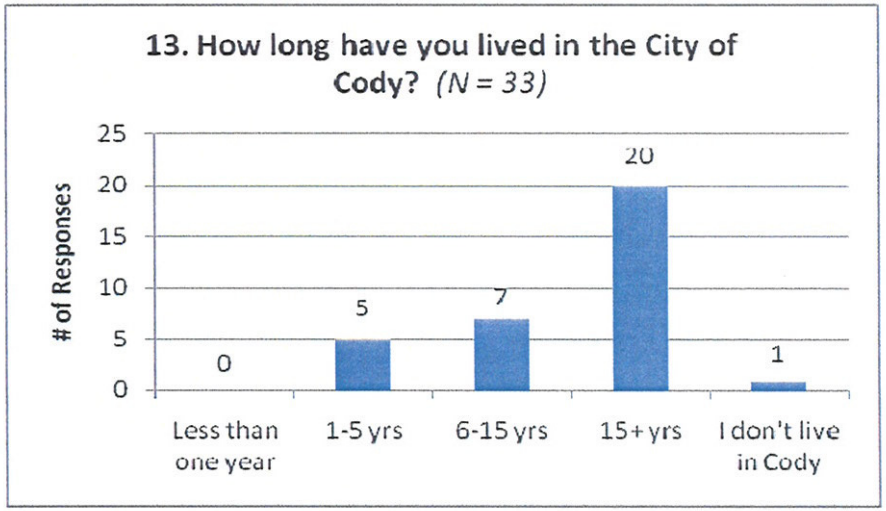
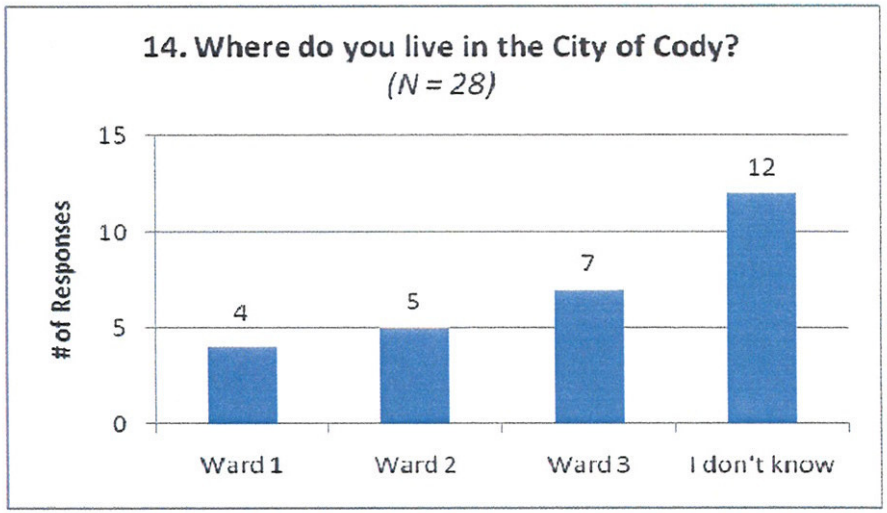




Cody Urban Deer Task Force

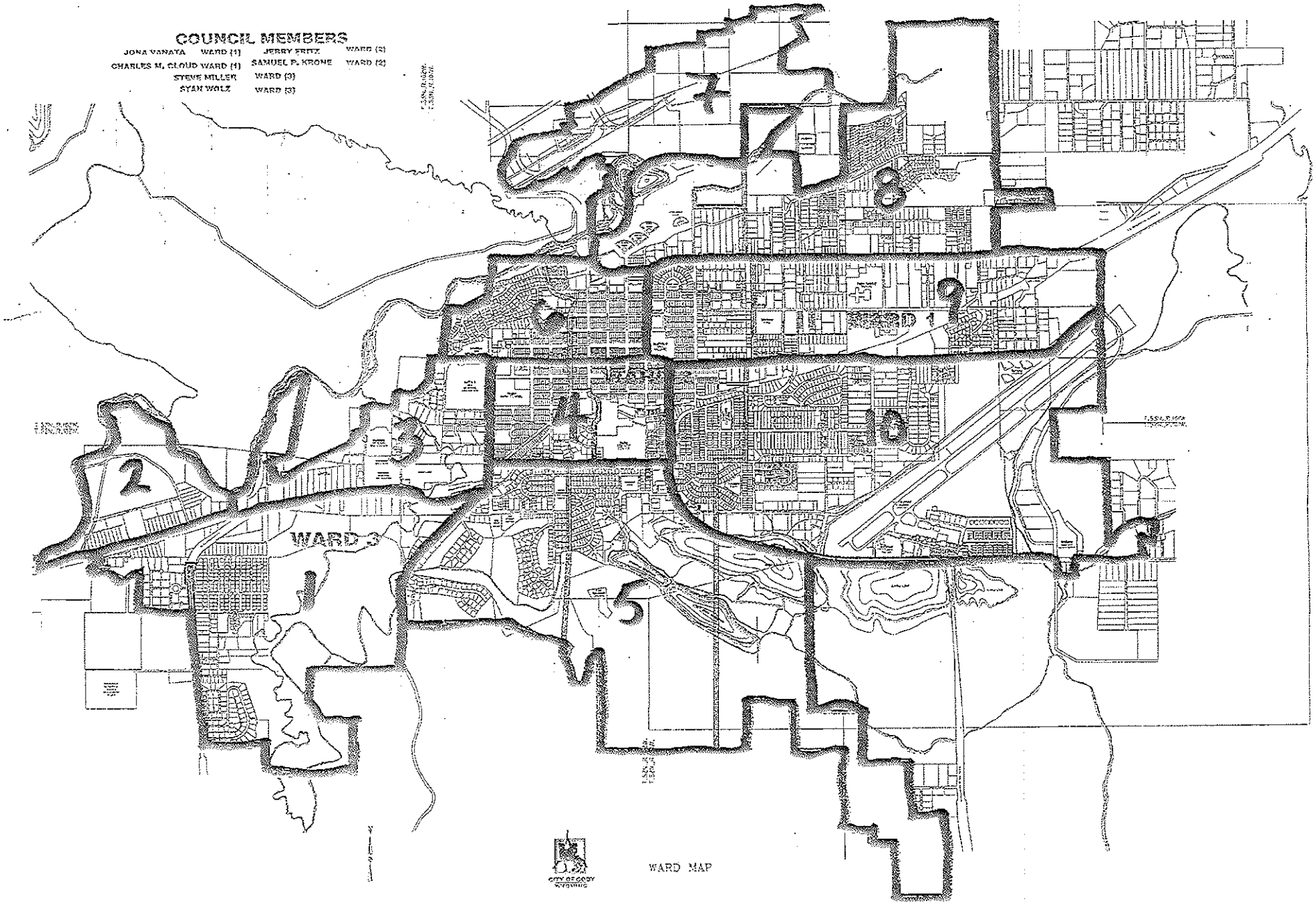
Deer Estimate within Cody City Limits (7/6/2011)

Results of discussions with Tim Fagan, Craig Sax, Doug McWhirter, & Duane Weiner

Neighborhood/Area	Map Location	Estimate
Valley View/Chugwater/Sulphur Creek	1	25-50
Rodeo Grounds	2	0
West Strip	3	50
Downtown South	4	30-50
Golf Course/Beck Lake	5	50
Downtown North	6	30-50
Shoshone River/2AB	7	50-75
Shoshone River/Bighorn Ave	8	25
Bighorn/Sheridan	9	40-50
Sheridan/Airport	10	40-50
TOTAL		**350-450**

Based on our discussions of deer known to frequent specific parts of town, it is our feeling there could potentially be between 350-450 deer currently residing within the city limits of Cody. A few comments must be made regarding this estimate;

1) There is an unknown level of interchange between deer on the "outskirts" of town and those deer within the city limits. This movement could easily influence deer numbers within the city limits at any given time. There are considerable numbers of deer immediately adjacent to the city limits in several areas.
2) There is also an unknown level of interchange of deer between various neighborhoods within the city limits. Lack of understanding these movements could easily influence any estimate of deer numbers within the city limits (likely resulting in an overestimate).
3) The time of year also has an impact on the number of deer within the city limits, with the highest densities likely to occur after each year's fawn crop hits the ground. The highest densities coincide with the drying out of natural habitats and the ripening of fruit trees and gardens, and the continued lush vegetation associated with watered lawns.


COUNCIL MEMBERS
JONA VANATA WARD (1)
CHARLES M. CLOUD WARD (1)
STEVE MILLER WARD (3)
STAN WOLZ WARD (3)
JERRY FRITZ WARD (2)
SAMUEL P. KRONE WARD (2)
WARD 1
WARD 2
WARD 3
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
CITY OF CODY WYOMING

WARD MAP