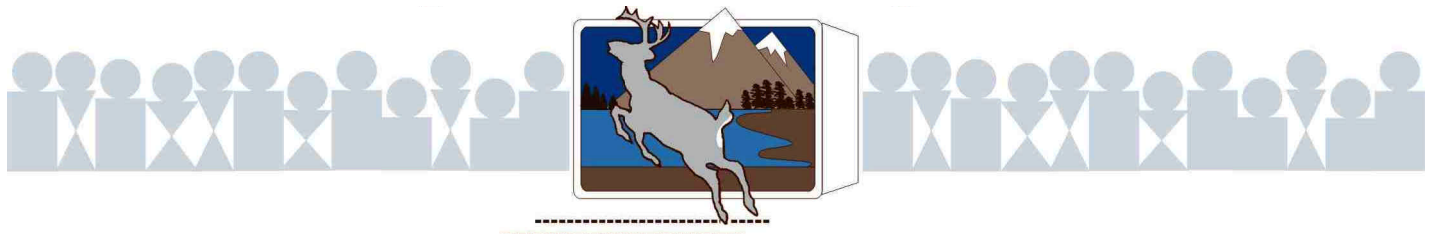


Responsive Management Report



Fall 2007

Specializing in opinion and attitude research on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues

Public Opinion on Alternative Funding and Wildlife Species Management in Vermont

The mission of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (Department) is “the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.” Toward this mission, the Department frequently monitors public opinion to measure how they are doing in the eyes of Vermonters. In the spring of 2007, the Department commissioned Responsive Management to conduct a major telephone survey of Vermont residents 18 years of age and older to determine public opinion on wildlife species management, on funding for the Department, and on hunting regulations.



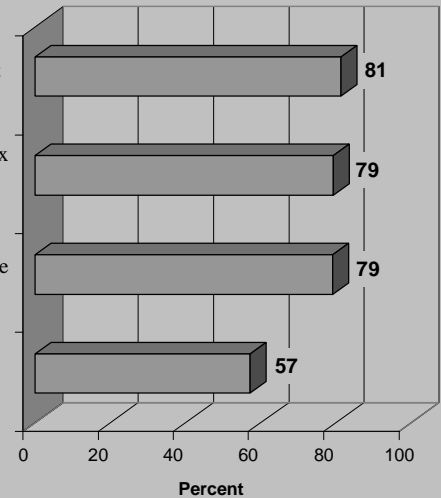
Percent of Vermont Residents Who Strongly or Moderately Support the Following Funding Options

The Department receiving general fund dollars for programs and activities in which it participates but does not currently receive funding

Redistributing a portion of the current state sales tax so that the Fish and Wildlife Department would receive 1/8 of 1% of the existing sales tax

The Department receiving a small percentage of the Rooms and Meals Tax

A 1/8 of 1% increase in the state general sales tax in support of programs for which the Department does not currently receive funding



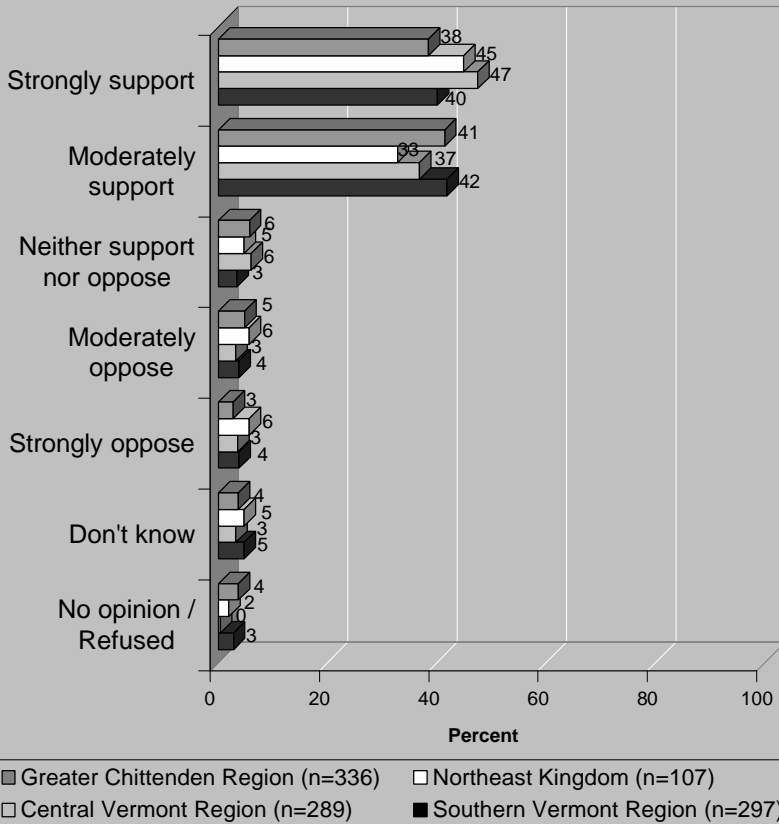
Support for Various Funding Mechanisms for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

The survey asked about four funding options for the Department. Three of the four Department funding options asked about in the survey have a large majority in support (ranging from 79% to 81%): the Department receiving money from the state’s general fund for programs and activities in which the Department participates but does not currently receive money (42% *strongly* support, and 81% *strongly or moderately* support); redistributing a portion of the current sales tax so that the

Department receives 1/8 of 1% of the tax (49% *strongly* support, and 79% *strongly or moderately* support); and the Department receiving a portion of the Rooms and Meals Tax (45% *strongly* support, and 79% *strongly or moderately* support). The least support is for a 1/8 of 1% *increase* in the state general sales tax for programs in which the Department participates but does not currently receive money (26% *strongly* support, and 57% *strongly or moderately* support).

See **Funding**, page 2

Would you support or oppose the Department receiving general fund dollars for programs and activities in which it participates but does not currently receive funding?



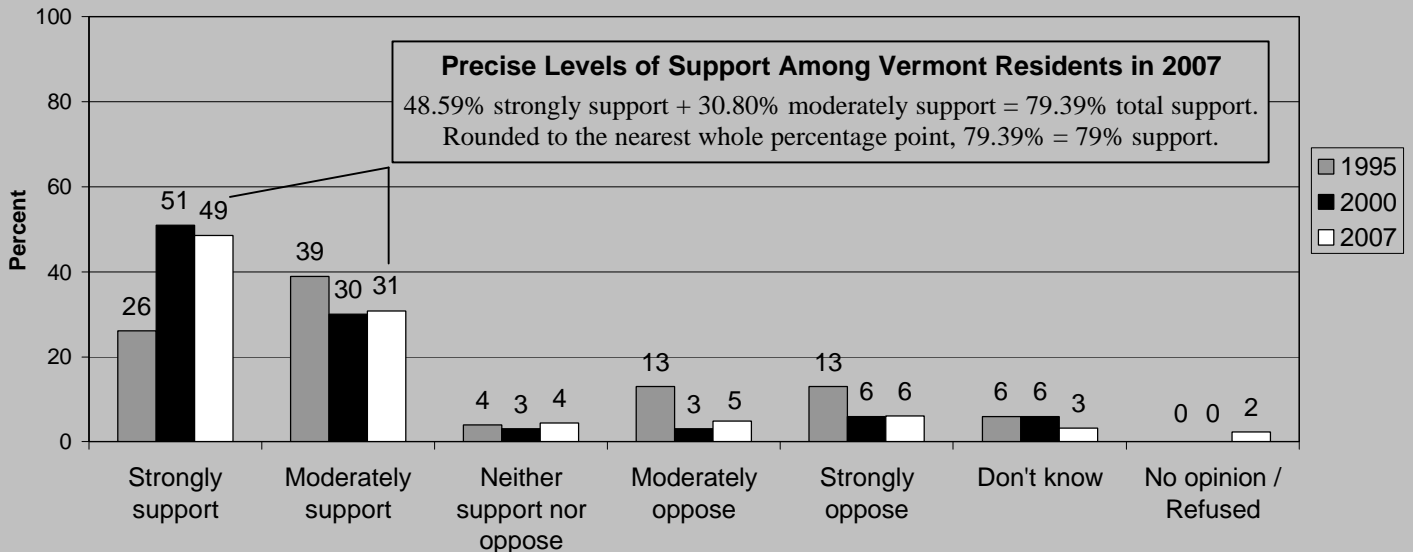
Support for the funding mechanisms is widespread among Vermont residents and not concentrated among specific subgroups. For example, hunters and non-hunters are not markedly different regarding support for the different funding options. Men and women are not markedly different regarding support for funding mechanisms. There is also little difference in support among the regions in Vermont (see graph on left).

Public opinions on two of the funding options were measured in a previous survey, and were used for trends analysis. Support for the Department receiving general fund dollars for programs and activities in which it participates but does not receive funding has slightly decreased since 2000, but it is commensurate with the support that this question received in 1995.

Support for redistributing a portion of the current state sales tax so that the Department receives 1/8th of 1% of the existing sales tax (with no increase in the tax) is about the same as it was in 2000, but both the 2000 and 2007 level of support are higher than the support this question had in 1995 (see graph below).

Note that some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point.

Would you support or oppose redistributing a portion of the current state sales tax so that the Fish and Wildlife Department would receive 1/8 of 1% of the existing sales tax? There would be no increase in the state sales tax. (The tax now goes to the general fund.)



A Note from Responsive Management

The release of Responsive Management's study on Vermont residents' opinions on alternative funding for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has attracted much attention and discussion. The article found at the following URL is one of two articles featured in the publication that discussed the results of the study. This article presents a hard-hitting perspective on how the results of the study may be used to inspire not only discussion but action as well.

Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director, Responsive Management

The Burlington Free Press

June 24, 2007

Support for Funding Is There – How About Some Courage?

By Matt Crawford

(Link provided with permission from *The Burlington Free Press*)

This article was reprinted with permission from *The Burlington Free Press*. For a hard copy of Responsive Management's newsletter featuring a reprint of this article, please contact Responsive Management at (540) 432-1888. To access this article online through *The Burlington Free Press* archives, please visit www.burlingtonfreepress.com and, using the archives search function found halfway down the menu on the left of the screen, search the archives using the keywords "support for funding is there how about some courage Responsive Management survey" (please note that the article was published on June 24, 2007).

Recent and Current Survey Research Projects

Agency / Organization Constituent Studies and Surveys

- ✓ Arizona Residents' Opinions on the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Its Activities: Trends Study
- ✓ Arkansas Residents' Opinions on and Participation in Outdoor Recreation and Their Perceptions of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- ✓ Employees' and Stakeholders' Opinions on the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Its Programs and Activities
- ✓ The Attitudes of the General Public, Stakeholders, and Employees Regarding the Strategic Direction of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Coastal Resources

- ✓ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center 2006 Coastal Resource Management Survey
- ✓ Florida Manatee Education and Outreach Assessment
- ✓ A Programmatic Evaluation of the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Networks in the Southeast and Southwest Regions
- ✓ Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Training Needs Assessment and Market Inventory
- ✓ Coastal Community Professionals' Evaluation of the Alliance for Coastal Technologies Pilot Sensor Training Workshop and Interest in and Preferences for Future Workshops

Funding / Economics

- ✓ Vermont Residents' Opinions on and Attitudes Toward Funding and Game Species Management
- ✓ Opinions of the General Population, Hunters, and Anglers on Funding for Wildlife Management in Wyoming

Trapping

- ✓ Ownership and Use of Traps by Trappers in the United States

Wildlife and Natural Resources

- ✓ Attitudes Toward Grizzly Bears in the Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zone
- ✓ West Virginia Residents' Opinions on Black Bears and Black Bear Hunting
- ✓ New Mexico and Arizona Residents' Awareness of and Opinions on the Mexican Wolf Recovery Project
- ✓ Grizzly Bear Recovery in the North Cascades Outreach Project Evaluation
- ✓ Licensed Deer Hunters' Opinions on and Attitudes Toward Deer Management in Wyoming
- ✓ New Hampshire Residents' and Hunters' Opinions on the Status and Management of Big Game Populations
- ✓ Opinions and Attitudes of Georgia Residents, Hunters, and Landowners Toward Deer Management in Georgia
- ✓ Opinions of the General Population, Hunters, and Farmers Regarding Deer Management in Delaware
- ✓ Opinions of the General Population, Hunters, and Farmers Regarding Deer Management in Maryland
- ✓ Retirements and Outsourcing: Who Will Manage Our Natural Resources? The Role of the Private Sector and Landowners' Attitudes Toward Fish and Wildlife Management and Wildlife-Related Recreation
- ✓ West Virginia Residents' Attitudes Toward Wildlife, Their Participation in Wildlife-Related Recreation, and Their Consumption of Fish in West Virginia
- ✓ Africans' Attitudes Toward the Use and Consumption of Bushmeat

Hunting, Shooting, and Fishing

- ✓ The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports: Recommendations and Strategies to Recruit and Retain Hunters and Sport Shooters
- ✓ The Sportsmen's Voice: Handbook for State Legislators on Issues Related to Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Participation, Administration, and Legislation, written for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation entailing 50 state reports

- ✓ Nationwide Opinion Survey of Hunters and Anglers Regarding Global Warming and Sportsmen and Climate Change

Hunting

- ✓ A Study of Attitudes Toward and Opinions on Sunday Hunting in North Carolina and the Impact It Would Have on Hunting Participation and the State's Economy (with Virginia Tech)
- ✓ A Study of the Vermont Youth Hunting Season: Evaluating Recruitment and Retention Impacts
- ✓ A Comparative Analysis of Factors Related to Hunting License Sale Increases and License Sale Decreases in the United States
- ✓ West Virginia Deer Hunting Participation and Harvest Study
- ✓ California Hunters' Awareness of and Opinions on a Potential Ban of Lead Ammunition
- ✓ The Attitudes of Resident and Non-Resident Elk Hunters Toward a Proposed Change in Non-Resident Elk Licensing Allocation in Wyoming
- ✓ Arizona Big Game Hunt Permit Tag Draw Study
- ✓ Hunter Retention and Recruitment in North Carolina: Analysis and Implications from the "Maintaining the Heritage" Workshop
- ✓ Indiana Hunting Recruitment and Retention Report
- ✓ New Jersey Hunter Retention and Deer Hunter Satisfaction Survey
- ✓ Opinions of Mississippi Residents Regarding Deer Baiting
- ✓ Georgia Wildlife Harvest Survey
- ✓ Georgia Small Game Harvest Survey
- ✓ Georgia Spring Turkey Harvest Survey
- ✓ South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Hunting and Fishing License Duplication Study
- ✓ South Carolina Turkey Hunting Harvest Nonresponse Study

Conducted by Responsive Management

Shooting and Archery

- ✓ Americans and the Shooting Sports: The Public's Attitudes Toward and Participation in the Shooting Sports
- ✓ An Evaluation of the Archery Trade Association Trade Shows
- ✓ National Archery in the Schools Program Evaluation
- ✓ National Shooting Sports Foundation Hunting Participation and Attitude Survey and Trends Study
- ✓ Study on the Best Location and Features of Shooting Ranges in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Area in Minnesota

Fishing

- ✓ Oregon Licensed Angler Survey
- ✓ North Carolina Anglers' Participation in and Satisfaction with Trout Fishing and Opinions on Trout Regulations
- ✓ California Residents' Attitudes Toward Coastal Commercial Fisheries
- ✓ South Carolina Saltwater Anglers' Opinions on the Red Drum Fishery
- ✓ South Carolina Saltwater Anglers' Participation in and Satisfaction with Saltwater Fishing and Opinions on Saltwater Fisheries Management

Boating

- ✓ Analysis of Factors Associated with Boating Fatalities in the U.S.
- ✓ Washington State Boaters Survey Regarding Safety, Education, and Law Enforcement
- ✓ An Assessment of the Needs of Recreational Boaters in Washington State
- ✓ Delaware Boaters' Participation in and Attitudes Toward Boating, Boating-Related Activities, and Boater Safety Education
- ✓ Lake Tahoe Boater Survey
- ✓ Georgia Boaters' Attitudes and Opinions Regarding Boating in Georgia
- ✓ Comprehensive Review of Boating Education Programs Nationwide with Recommendations for Improvements
- ✓ Survey of Boaters Regarding Boating and Fishing in the Midwest

- ✓ Factors Associated with Canoe and Kayak Fatalities

Park Users

- ✓ Washington State Residents' Attitudes Toward and Use of State Parks

Land Management

- ✓ Orange County Residents' Attitudes Toward Open Space and the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve
- ✓ Sportsmen's Knowledge of, Opinions on, and Attitudes Toward Energy Development on Public Lands
- ✓ Landowners' Opinions on the Pennsylvania Public Access Program
- ✓ Maryland Landowners' Attitudes Toward Deer Management

Outreach / Education / Communications / Marketing

- ✓ Georgia Residents' Opinions on Litter and Anti-Littering Programs in Georgia
- ✓ Local Litter Attitude Survey Development Guide for *Keep America Beautiful*
- ✓ An Inventory and Needs Assessment for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Education Programs in Delaware: Recommendations for Implementing Successful Green Infrastructure Education and Outreach Programs
- ✓ Wyoming Residents' Use of Information Sources Regarding Wildlife Issues: Implications for Developing Effective Communications Strategies

Law Enforcement

- ✓ Opinions of Georgia Residents, Anglers, Hunters, and Landowners on Law Enforcement Activities of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division

Forest Resources

- ✓ Oregon Residents' and State Forest Stakeholders' Knowledge of, Values Regarding, and Attitudes Toward Natural Resource Management in Oregon State Forests
- ✓ South Carolina Residents' Knowledge of, Perceptions of, and Opinions on Wildfires and Controlled Burning

Water Resources

- ✓ Americans' Knowledge of and Attitudes Toward Water and Water-Related Issues
- ✓ South Carolina Youths' Attitudes and Behaviors Toward Aquatic Resources

Outdoor Recreation

- ✓ Orange County (California) Residents' Participation in Outdoor Recreation and Their Recreational Needs
- ✓ Attitudes Toward and Opinions on Converting Railways to Recreational Trails in Concord, Massachusetts
- ✓ Iowa Residents' Outdoor Recreation Use Patterns and Needs
- ✓ Arizona Residents' Opinions on and Participation in Off-Highway Driving
- ✓ A Study of Ohio River Contact Recreational Use, Characteristics of Contact Recreational Use, and Site-Specific Fish Consumption Rates

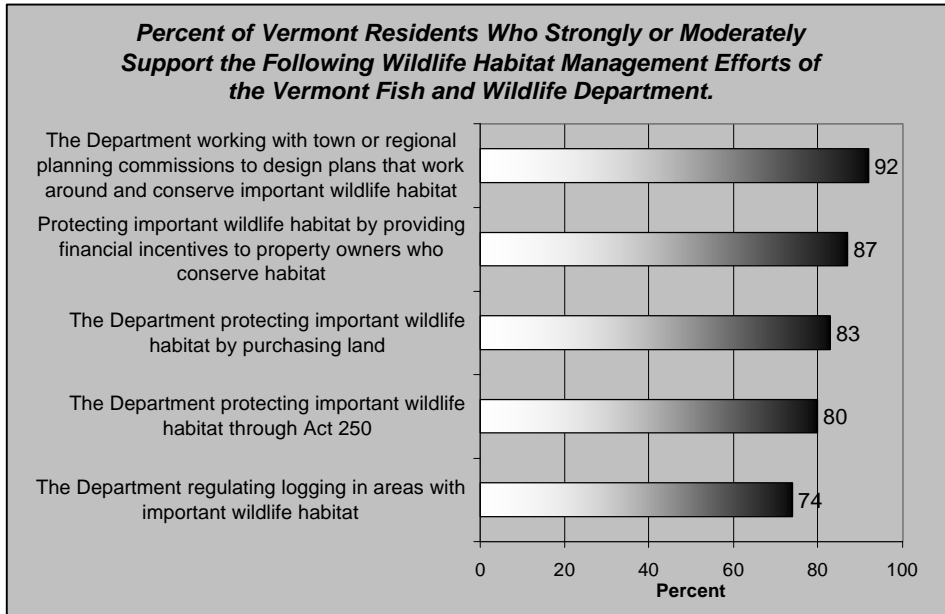
Presentations and Press

Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director of Responsive Management, has had the privilege of speaking at numerous conferences and workshops over the past 12 months, including at the opening sessions of the following conferences: the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference, the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, and the Pennsylvania Governor's Outdoor Conference. He was the featured speaker at the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses Annual meeting. Mark also recently presented a paper on the role of the private sector in the human dimensions of wildlife management at the International Union of Game Biologists XXVIII Congress in Upsalla, Sweden, in August 2007.

Through the years, Responsive Management's research has been featured in almost all of the nation's media, including the front page of *USA Today* and, recently, the front page of the *Washington Post*, as well as in *Newsweek* magazine.

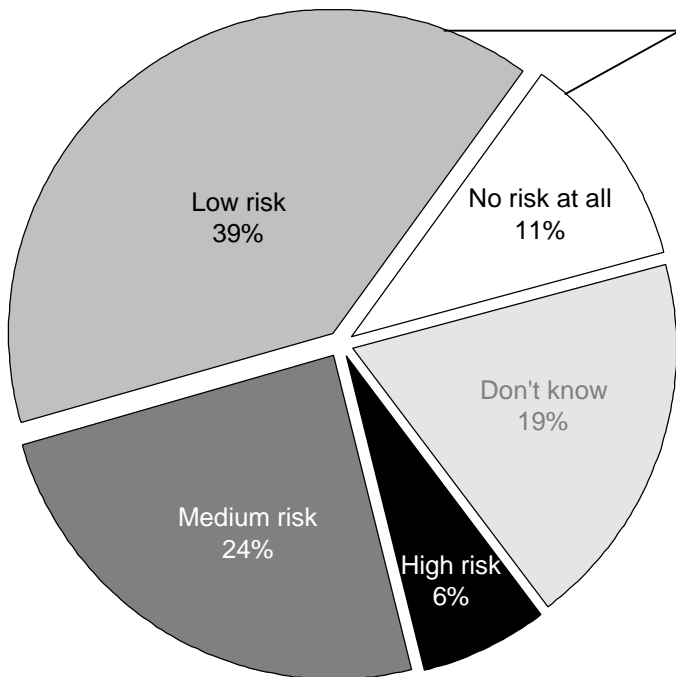
Attitudes Toward Wildlife Management

Support for or Opposition to Wildlife Habitat Management Efforts of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department



The survey of Vermont residents asked about five habitat protection and conservation efforts and found a large majority in support of each, ranging from 74% to 92% in support. Also, for each effort, most support is *strong* support. The greatest support is for having the Department work with town or regional planning commissions to design plans that work around and conserve important habitat (92% support; 64% strongly support), closely followed by support for protecting important wildlife habitat by providing financial incentives to property owners who conserve habitat (87% support; 58% strongly support).

Opinions on Chronic Wasting Disease



50% of deer hunters think the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease in Vermont's deer population is low to none at all.

Among deer hunters, Chronic Wasting Disease in Vermont's deer population is not currently seen as a great risk: 50% think the risk is low to none at all. However, a substantial percentage think the risk is high (6%) or medium (24%). The risk that Chronic Wasting Disease poses to Vermont's deer hunters is perceived as less than the risk it poses to deer: 66% rate the risk to hunters as low or none at all, while only 3% rate it high and 11% rate it medium.

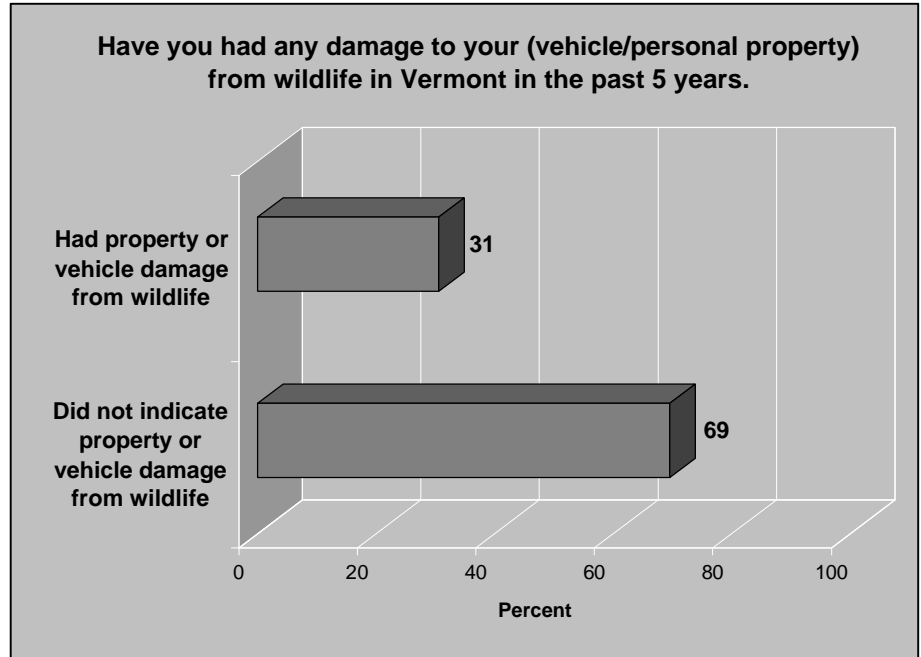
Deer hunters from the Greater Chittenden Region and the Northeast Kingdom see Chronic Wasting Disease as a greater risk relative to deer hunters from the other two regions.

How would you rate the Vermont deer population's risk for Chronic Wasting Disease? Would you say the Vermont deer population is at a high risk, a medium risk, a low risk, or no risk at all for Chronic Wasting Disease? (Asked of those who have hunted white-tailed deer in Vermont.)

Human-Wildlife Conflicts

A substantial percentage of Vermont residents (14%) have had vehicle damage from wildlife in Vermont in the past 5 years, overwhelmingly caused by deer. Even more (21%) have had damage to other personal property from wildlife in Vermont in the past 5 years, mostly caused by deer, but also with substantial damage from black bear. Most damage was to landscaping/gardens, but a substantial amount of damage was structural or to agriculture (see graph below). Overall, 31% had damage to their vehicle and/or their personal property in Vermont from wildlife in the past 5 years (see graph on right).

Most commonly, the cost of fixing the damage was minimal (38% said they spent nothing to fix the damage—either the damage could be repaired at no cost or they chose not to repair the damage); however, 9% reported costs of \$2,000 or more to fix vehicle/property damage



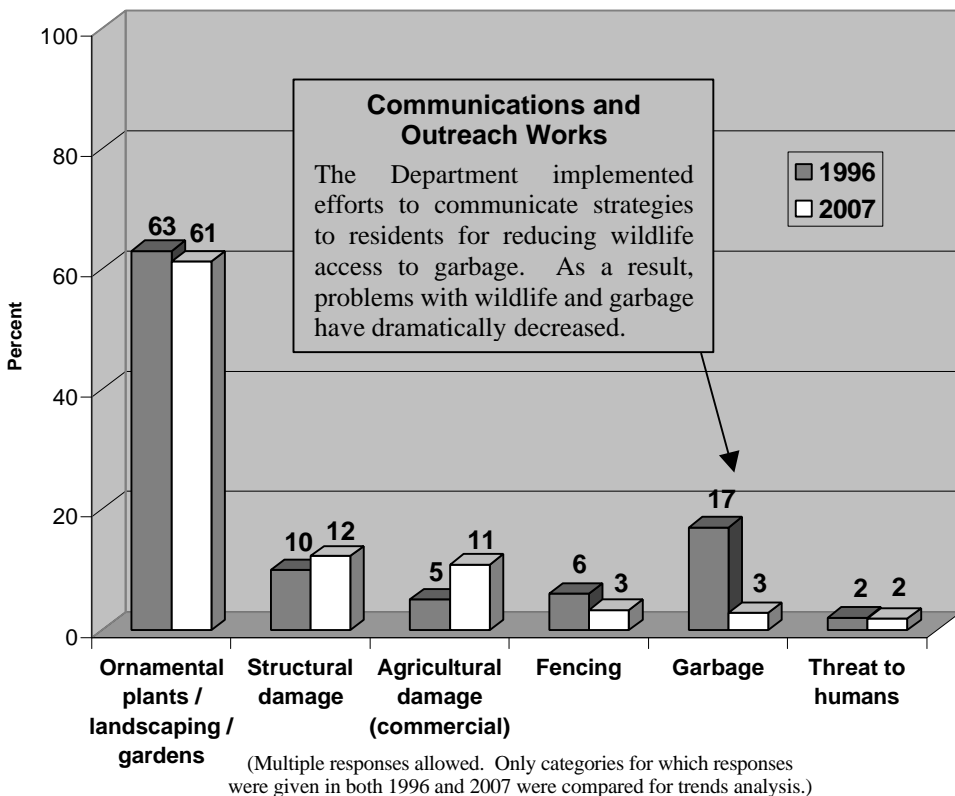
caused by wildlife. The median cost was \$50.

The survey also asked how much respondents spent to *prevent* wildlife damage. While the overwhelming majority (85%) spent nothing, 11% indicated spending something, usually less than \$150.

The mean amount was \$63.44.

In a related question, a substantial percentage of Vermonters (10%) said that they personally or someone in their household had a vehicle collision with a deer in Vermont in the past 2 years (note that this timeframe—2 years—differs from that considered for the previous questions relating to vehicle and property damage from wildlife in general in the past 5 years). About half (52%) of those who indicated personal or household involvement in a collision said it was another household member involved, and 44% indicated that they were driving during a collision.

What kind of damage did the wildlife cause?



To download the entire report on Vermont residents' opinions on and attitudes toward alternative funding for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and wildlife species management, please visit www.responsivemanagement.com, click on "Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Research" on the left, click on "Alternative Funding and Membership" in the pop-up menu, and then click on the link for reports.



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Opinions on the Management of Various Wildlife Populations

Most commonly, Vermont residents want to see wildlife populations in their county remain the same, which includes deer, moose, black bear, wild turkey, and beaver populations.

A common reason for wanting the deer, moose, black bear, and wild turkey populations increased is to improve the chances of seeing an animal. Common reasons for wanting to see the deer and wild turkey populations increase also include improving hunter success rates.

The most common reasons for wanting deer and moose populations decreased is to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and vehicle collisions with these species. Those who would like to see the black bear population in their county decreased would like to reduce human and black bear conflicts. Population decreases are also desired for deer and wild turkey populations because some residents feel that the ecosystem needs fewer deer or wild turkey.

Men are more likely than are women to want an increase in the deer, moose, and black bear populations.

Interestingly, crosstabulations for opinions on each of the five wildlife populations found that those who have experienced damage to their vehicle and/or to their personal property are *not* markedly different than those who have not experienced damage regarding their opinions on each of the wildlife populations.

Opinions on the Size of Various Wildlife Populations

