

Responsive Management



OPINIONS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION, HUNTERS, AND ANGLERS ON FUNDING FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN WYOMING

**Conducted for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department
by Responsive Management**

2005

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Acknowledgements

Responsive Management would like to thank Chris Burkett and Bill Wichers of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for their input, support, and guidance on this project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine the opinions of the general population, hunters, and anglers toward funding for wildlife management in Wyoming. The study entailed a telephone survey of the general population of Wyoming as well as Wyoming hunters and anglers.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., all local time. The survey was conducted in January 2005. Responsive Management obtained a total of 405 completed interviews among the general population and 406 completed interviews with anglers and hunters (hereinafter referred to as sportsmen; note that the term, “sportsmen,” is meant in a gender neutral sense). The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language.

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of the general population, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 4.87 percentage points. For the sample of Wyoming sportsmen, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 4.86 percentage points.

PARTICIPATION IN HUNTING AND FISHING

- About a third (32%) of the general population had hunted and 46% had fished in Wyoming in the past 2 years.
 - Among sportsmen, 60% had hunted and 86% had fished in Wyoming in the past 2 years.
 - 53% of anglers had also hunted, and 76% of hunters had also fished.

OPINIONS ON WHETHER THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE SHOULD PROVIDE MONEY FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Majorities of the general population (78%) and sportsmen (71%) agreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for unmet wildlife management needs.
 - Disagreement was small, but not insubstantial: 13% of the general population and 18% of sportsmen disagreed.
 - There were no major differences between the general population and sportsmen.

- Respondents who agreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for unmet wildlife management needs most commonly said that the reason they agreed was because Wyoming's wildlife needs to be properly managed, the Department needs the money, or that wildlife is part of Wyoming's heritage and is important to the state's economy.

- Respondents who disagreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for unmet wildlife management needs most commonly said that the reason they disagreed was that the Department mismanages the money that it already receives. Other important reasons included that the Department should be run like a business (i.e., they should not need state support but should be self-supporting), that the state has better uses for money, and that the Department is not a responsible agency.

OPINIONS ON BLOCK GRANTS AND LINE-ITEM BUDGETING

- Block Grants were supported over Line-Item Budgeting by both the general population and sportsmen: support for Block Grants was at 61% among the general population and 59% among sportsmen, while support for Line-Item Budgeting was at 47% among the general population and 37% among sportsmen. Furthermore, the majority of those who indicated support for both funding options preferred Block Grants over Line-Item Budgeting. Among those who supported both options, 55% of the general population and 55% of sportsmen preferred Block Grants over Line-Item Budgeting, while 19% of the general population and 23% of sportsmen preferred Line-Item Budgeting over Block Grants.

- Majorities of the general population and sportsmen supported Block Grant funding to the Department as an alternative to not providing any money at all, although opposition was not insubstantial. Among the general population, 61% supported, but 23% opposed; among sportsmen, 59% supported, but 23% opposed.
- Common reasons that respondents said that they supported a Legislative Block Grant for wildlife management funding included that the Department needs the money, that Wyoming's wildlife must be properly managed, that wildlife is part of Wyoming's heritage and is important to the state's economy, and that Block Grants are good budget tools. Opposition to providing Block Grant funding for wildlife management in Wyoming was most commonly because respondents believed that the Department mismanages the money it already receives, that the Legislature would not have oversight on how money is spent, and that Block Grants are bad budget tools.
- Among the general population, support (47%) was slightly greater than opposition (34%) for having the Wyoming Legislature provide money for wildlife management through the Line-Item Budgeting process as an alternative to not providing any money at all. Opinion was switched among sportsmen: opposition (50%) was slightly greater than support (37%).
 - Hunters were more likely than the general population to strongly oppose.
 - Anglers were less likely than the general population to support, and they were more likely to oppose.
- Common reasons that respondents said that they supported Line-Item Budgeting for wildlife management funding included that the Department needs the money, that Line-Item Budgeting is a good process, that Wyoming's wildlife must be properly managed, and that wildlife is part of Wyoming's heritage and is important to the state's economy. Opposition to providing funding through Line-Item Budgeting for wildlife management in Wyoming was most commonly because respondents believed that the Department would lose autonomy from the Legislature, that the Line-Item Budgeting is a bad process, that the Legislature would not have oversight over how money was spent, and that the Department mismanages the money it already receives.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine the opinions of the general population, hunters, and anglers toward funding for wildlife management in Wyoming. The study entailed a telephone survey of the general population of Wyoming as well as Wyoming hunters and anglers. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. In addition, a central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of natural resources and outdoor recreation. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers conducted project briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of the survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. The Survey Center Managers randomly monitored telephone workstations without the interviewers' knowledge to evaluate the performance of each interviewer. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians edited each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., all local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in January 2005. Responsive Management obtained a total of 405 completed interviews among the general population and 406 completed interviews with anglers and hunters (hereinafter referred to as sportsmen; note that the term, “sportsmen,” is meant in a gender neutral sense). Note that the general population sample included some hunters and anglers; however, these “general population” hunters and anglers were not included in the sportsmen sample—the two samples were kept distinct and separate.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1 (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

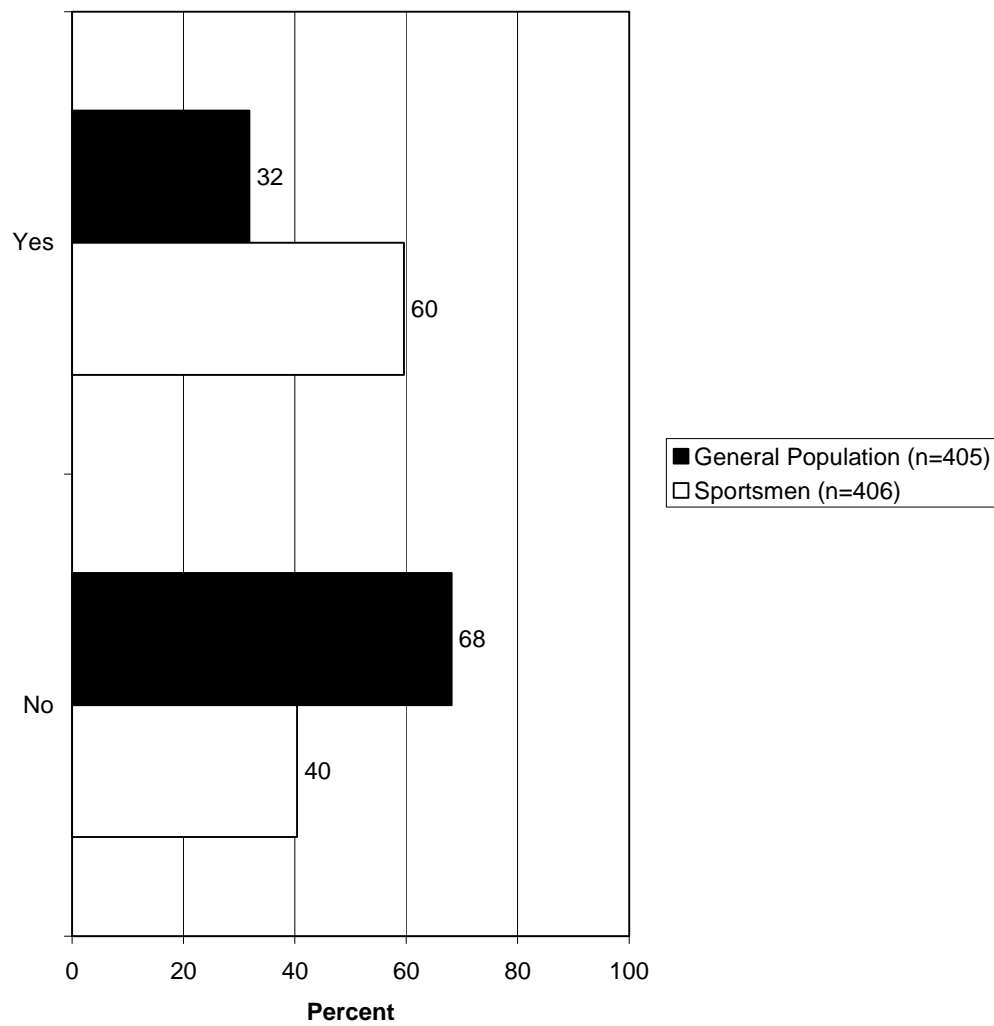
Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of the general population, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 4.87 percentage points. For the sample of Wyoming sportsmen, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 4.86 percentage points.

Note that some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding. Additionally, rounding on the graphs may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

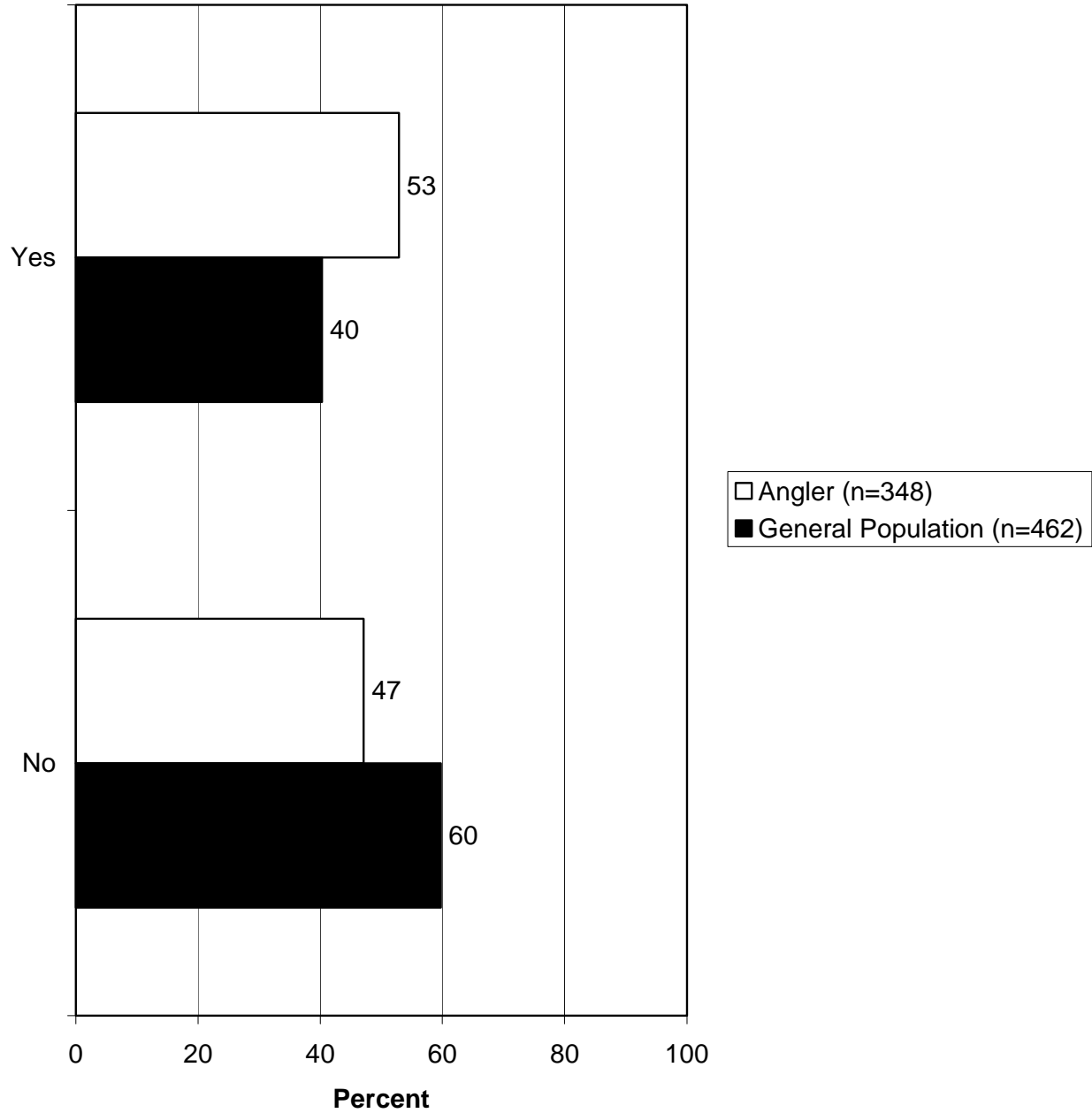
PARTICIPATION IN HUNTING AND FISHING

- About a third (32%) of the general population had hunted in Wyoming in the past 2 years, and 46% had fished in Wyoming in the past 2 years.
 - Among sportsmen, 60% had hunted and 86% had fished in Wyoming in the past 2 years.
 - 53% of anglers had also hunted, and 76% of hunters had also fished.

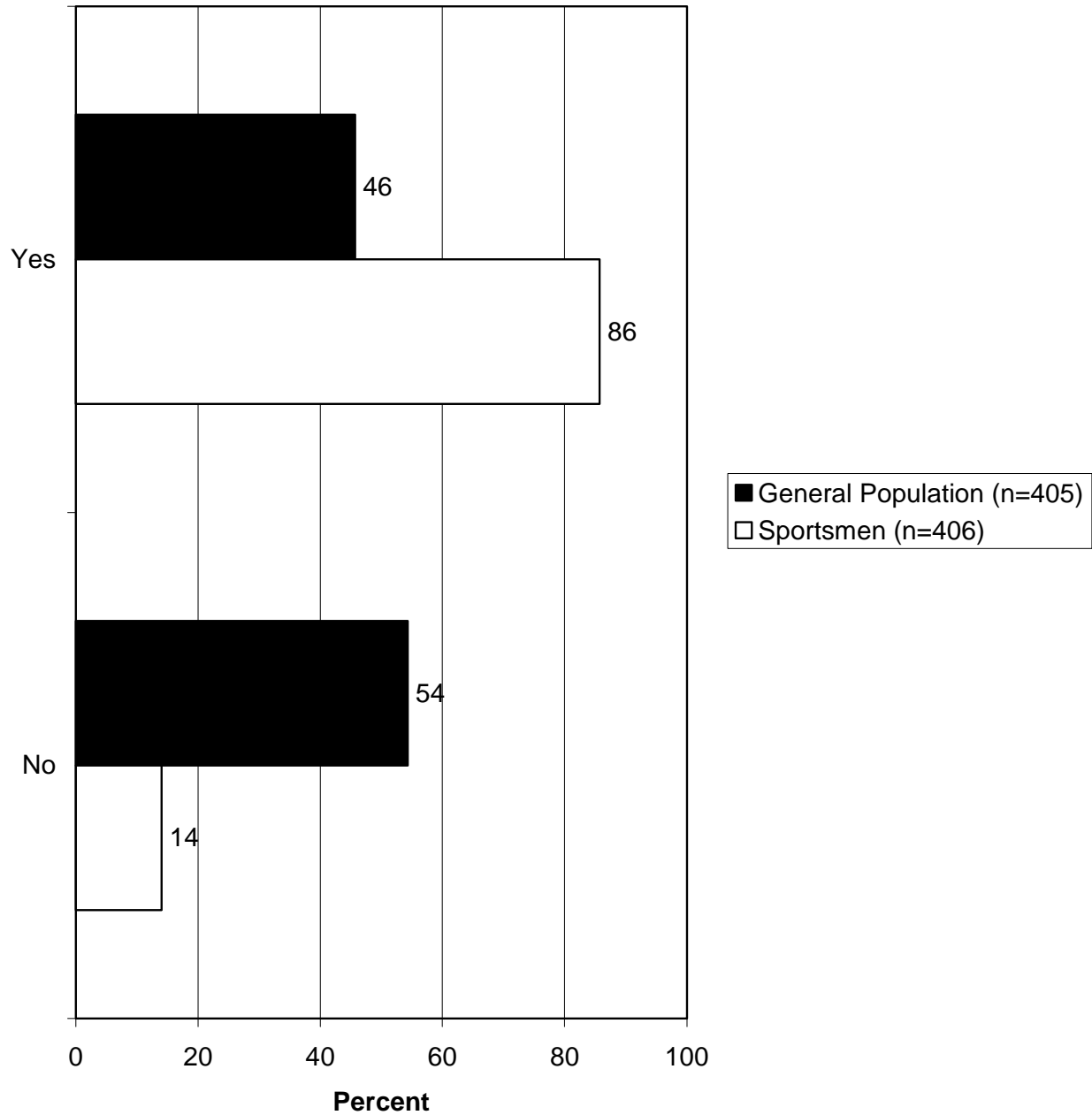
Q8. Did you hunt in Wyoming in the past 2 years?

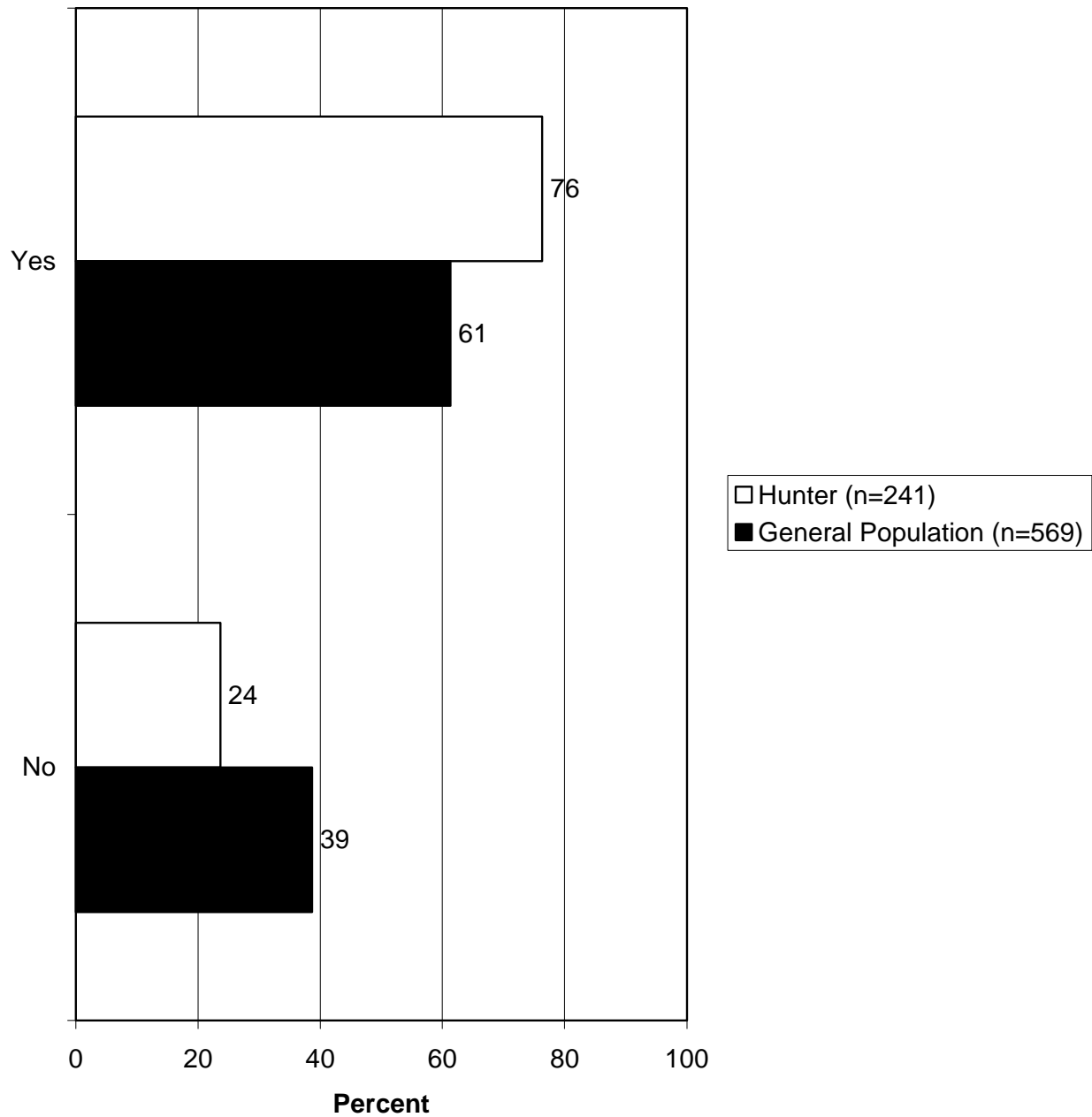


Q8. Did you hunt in Wyoming in the past 2 years?



Q9. Did you fish in Wyoming in the past 2 years?



Q9. Did you fish in Wyoming in the past 2 years?

OPINIONS ON WHETHER THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE SHOULD PROVIDE MONEY FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Majorities of the general population (78%) and sportsmen (71%) agreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for unmet wildlife management needs, with most of that agreement among both groups being strong agreement.
 - Disagreement was small, but not insubstantial: 13% of the general population and 18% of sportsmen disagreed.
 - There were no major differences between the general population and sportsmen.

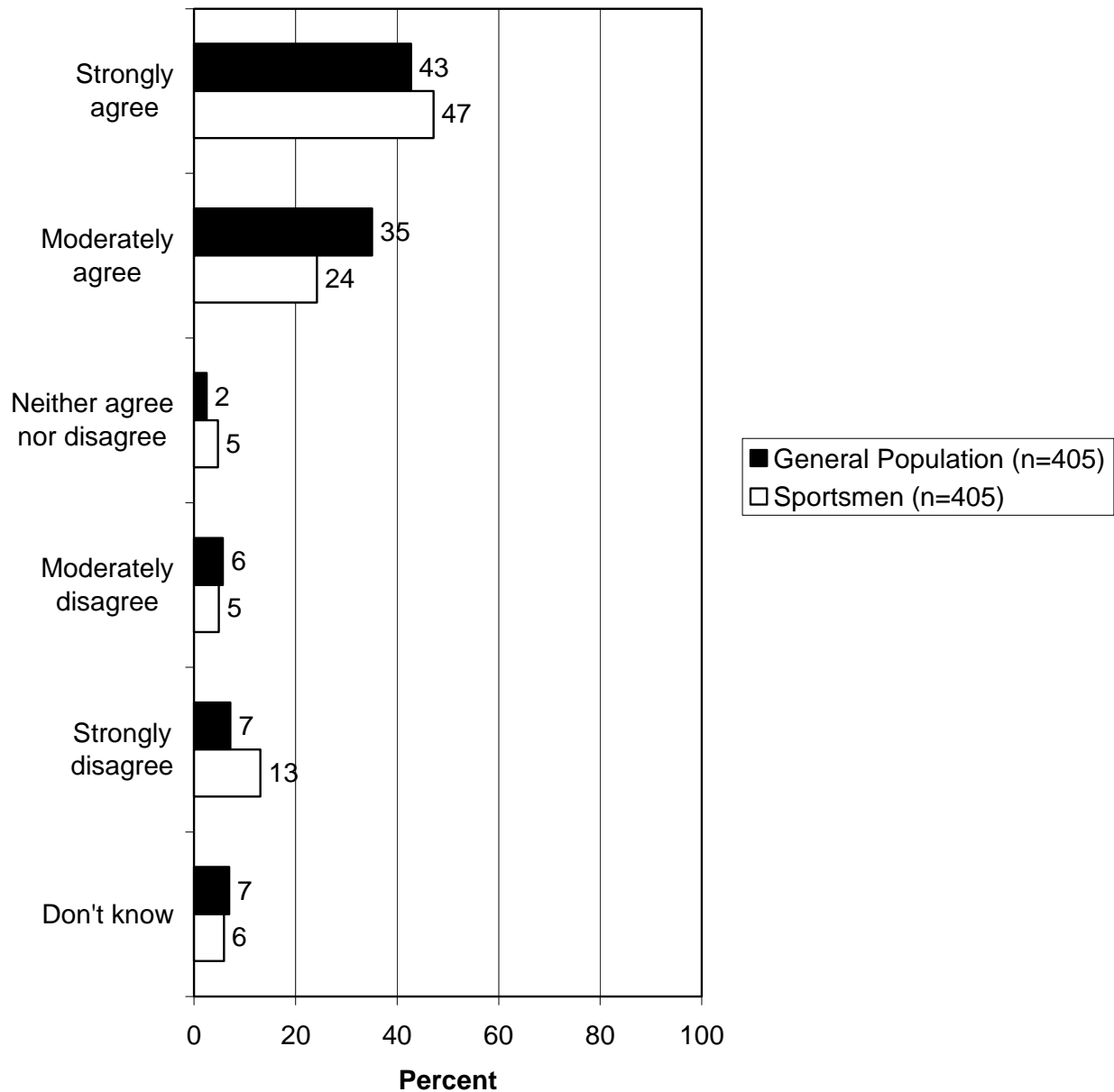
- Respondents who agreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for unmet wildlife management needs most commonly said that the reason they agreed was because Wyoming's wildlife needs to be properly managed, the Department needs the money, or that wildlife is part of Wyoming's heritage and is important to the state's economy.
 - Sportsmen were much more likely than the general population to say that the reason for agreeing is that the Department needs money.
 - Hunters were slightly more likely and anglers were much more likely than the general population to say that the reason for agreeing is that the Department needs money.

- Respondents who disagreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for unmet wildlife management needs most commonly said that the reason they disagreed was that the Department mismanages the money that it already receives. Other important reasons included that the Department should be run like a business (i.e., they should not need state support but should be self-supporting), that the state has better uses for money, and that the Department is not a responsible agency.
 - Sportsmen were more likely than the general population to say that providing money for wildlife management would cause the Legislature to raise taxes to provide funding.
 - Hunters were more likely than the general population to say that a reason for disagreeing is that the Department should be run like a business, and hunters were less likely than the general population to say that a reason for disagreeing is that hunters and anglers will lose influence over wildlife management.

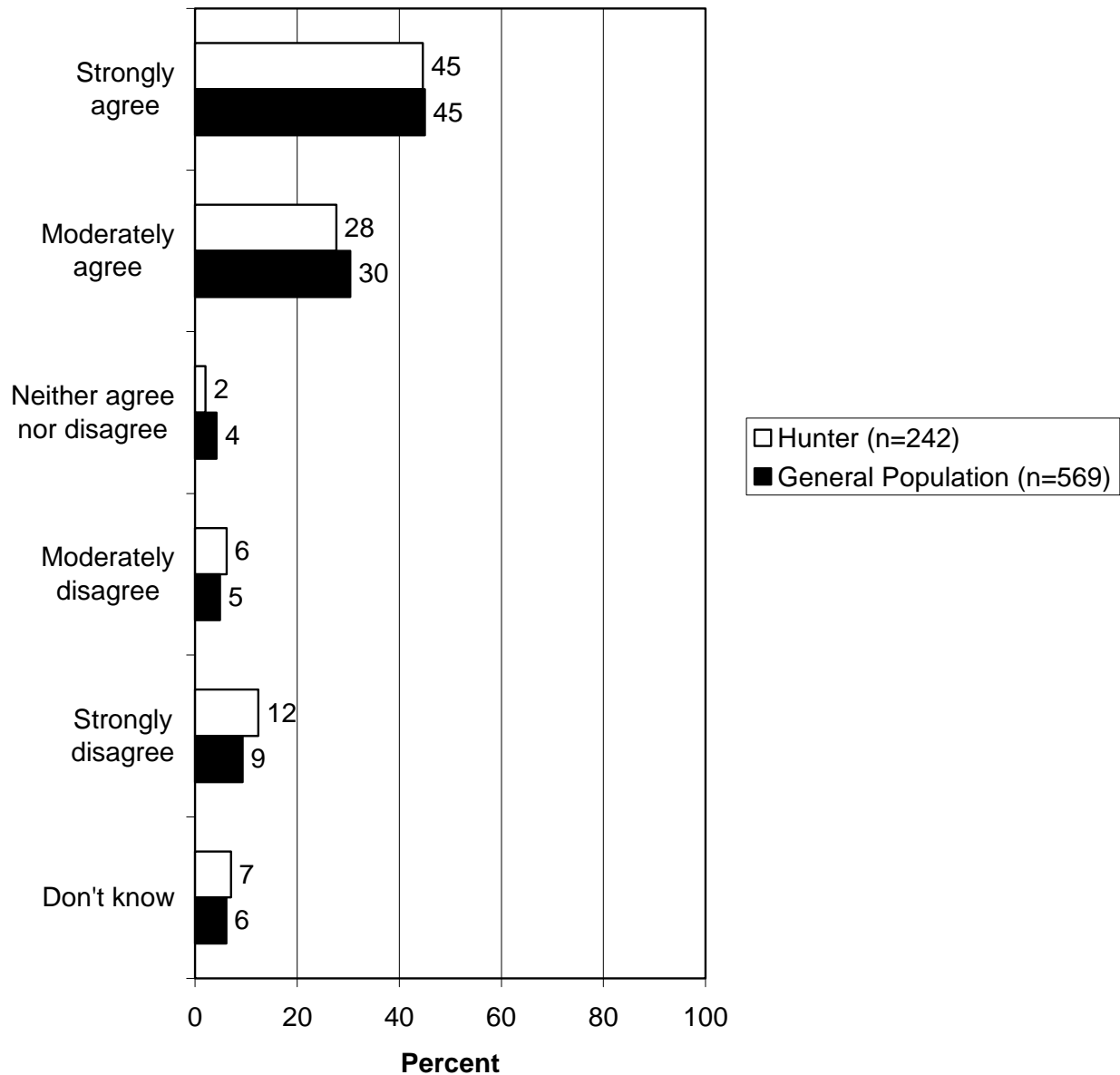
- Anglers were more likely than the general population to say that providing money for wildlife management would cause the Legislature to raise taxes.

- Only 4 of the general population and 4 sportsmen disagreed that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money for wildlife management and also subsequently said that the reason why is that the state has better uses for the money; their perceived better uses for the state's money included education, transportation/road improvements, health care, food/safety inspections, and to stimulate the economy.

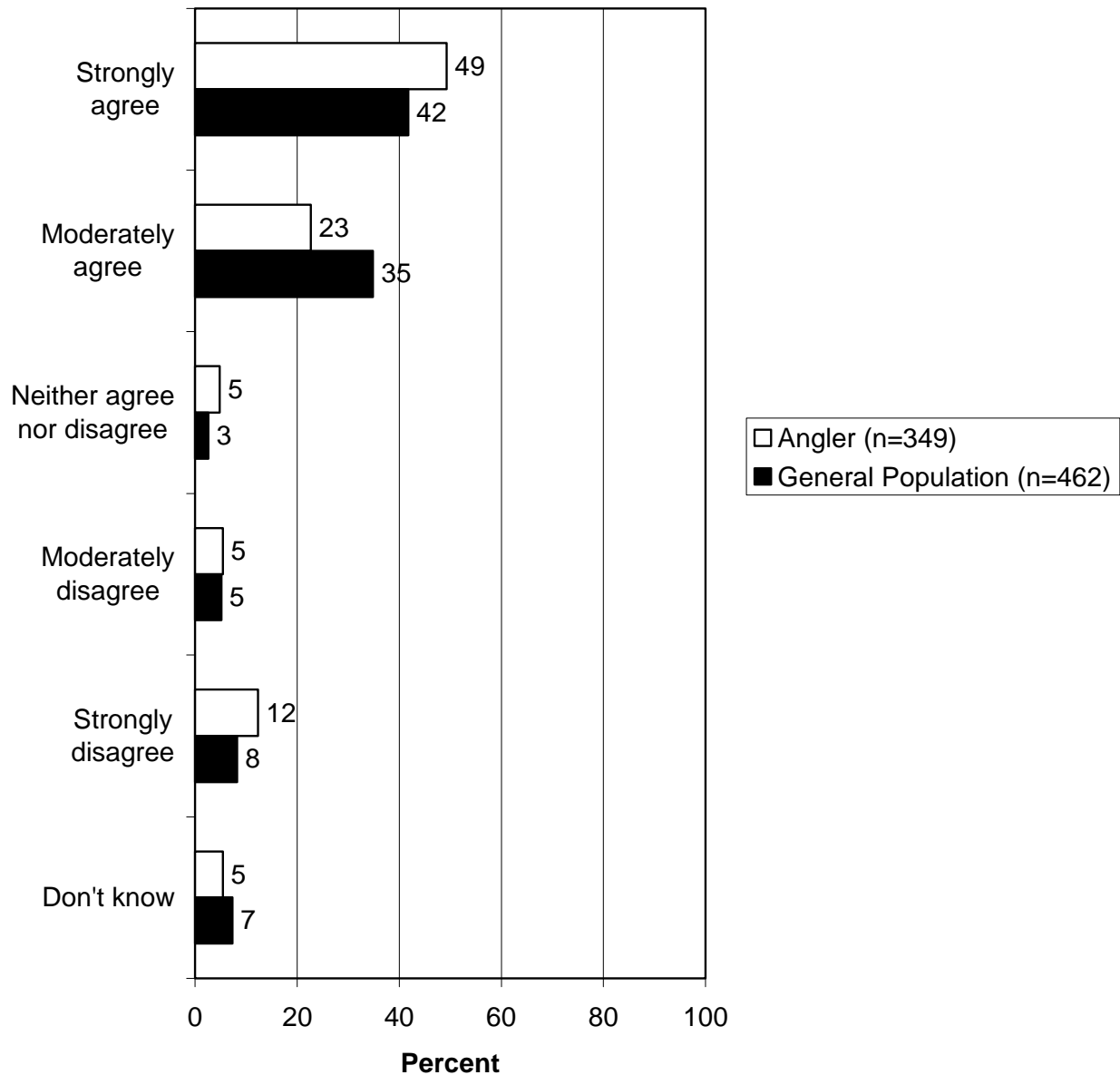
Q13. Would you agree or disagree that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for these unmet wildlife management needs [that were previously read to respondent]?



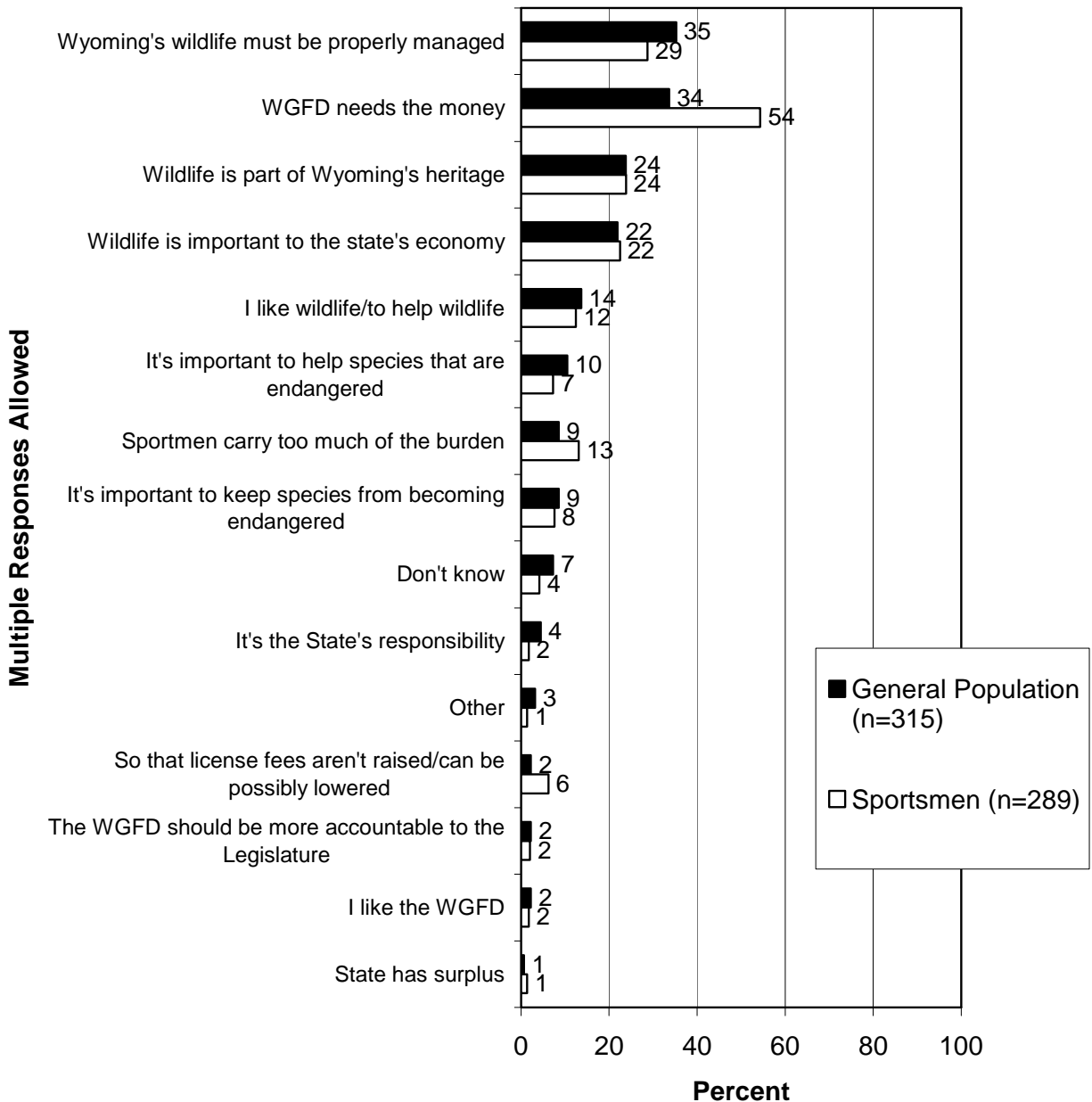
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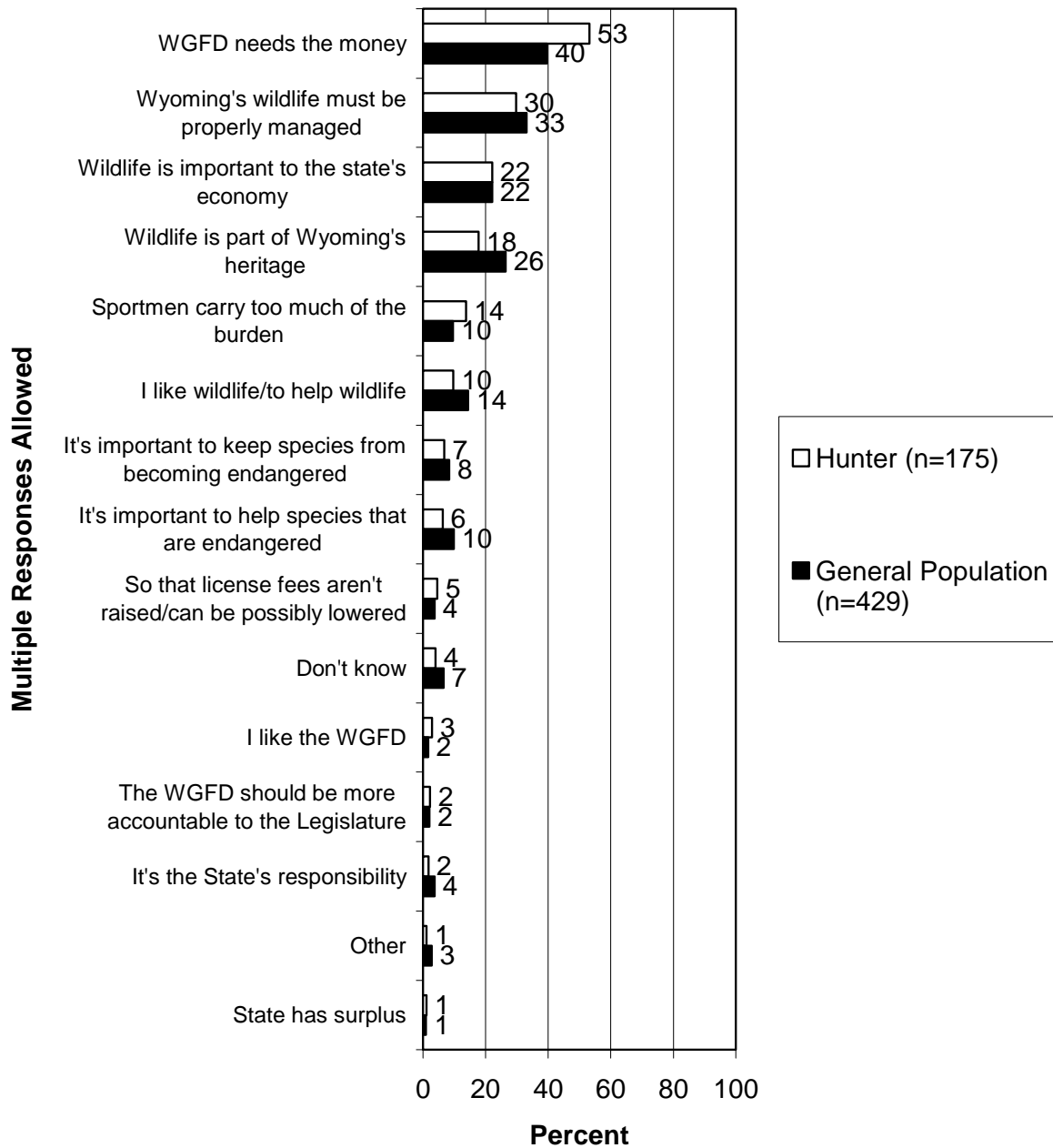
Q13. Would you agree or disagree that the Wyoming Legislature should provide state money to help pay for these unmet wildlife management needs [that were previously read to the respondent]?



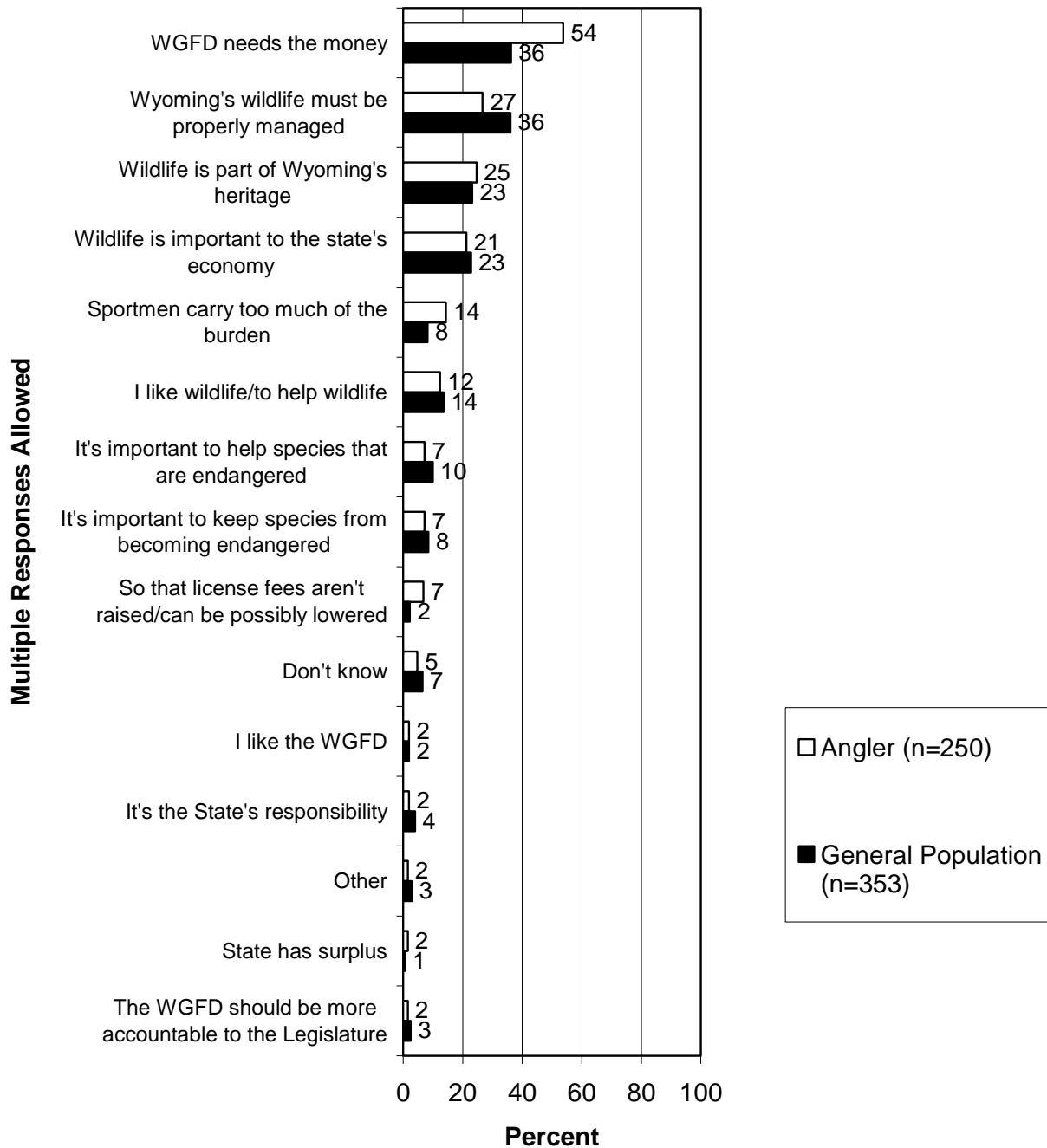
Q15. Why do you agree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife?



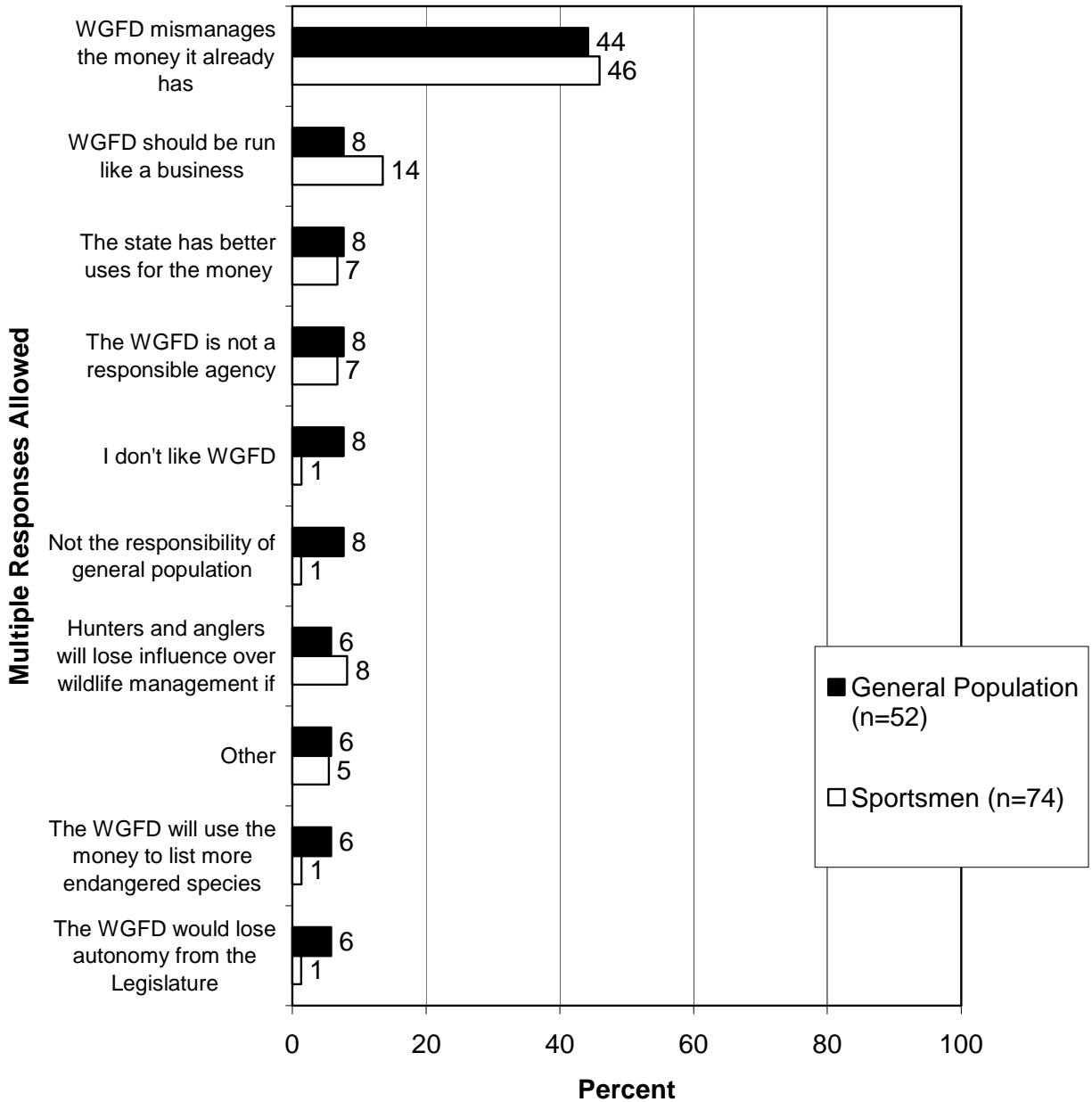
Q15. Why do you agree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife?



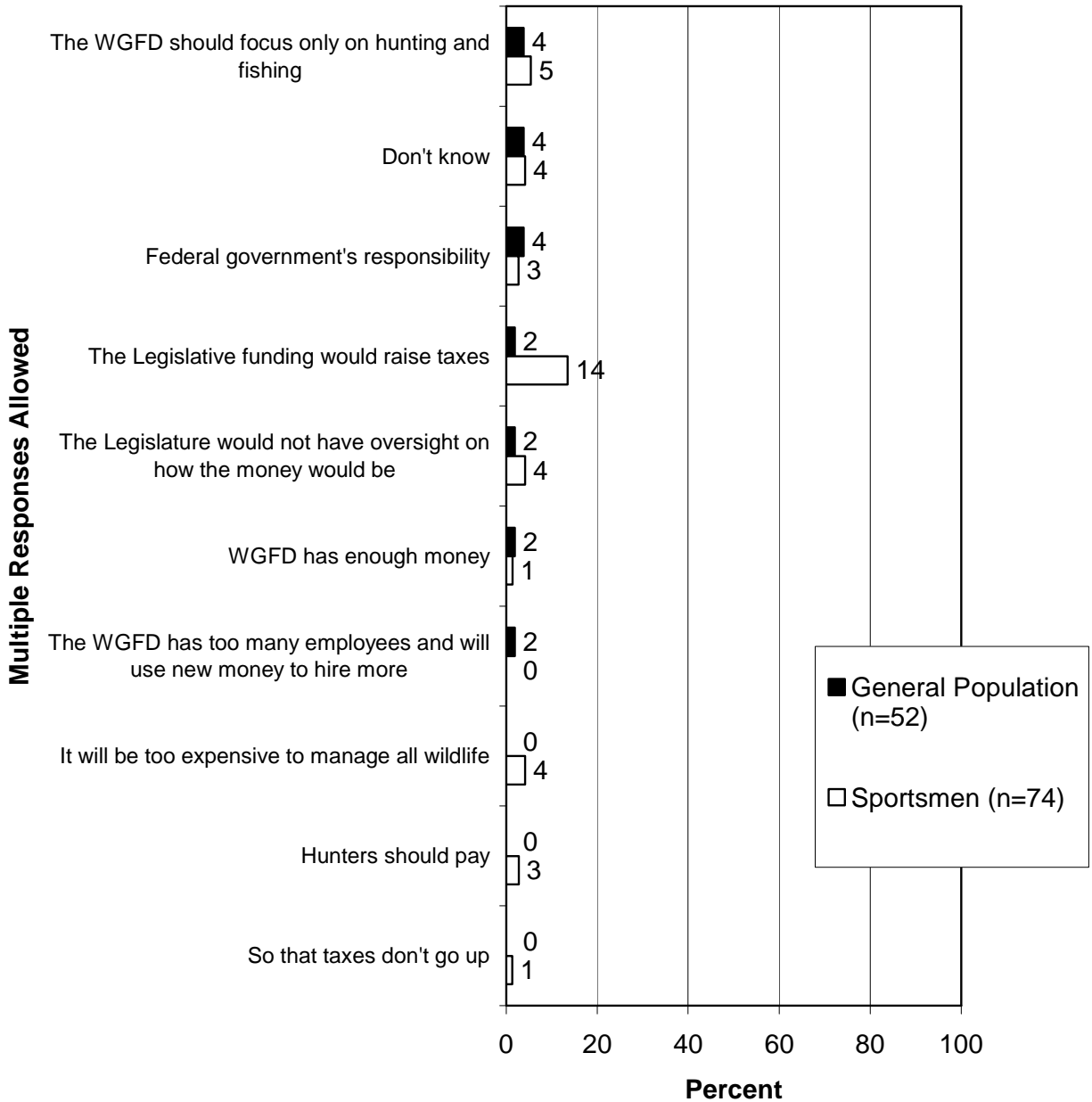
Q15. Why do you agree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife?



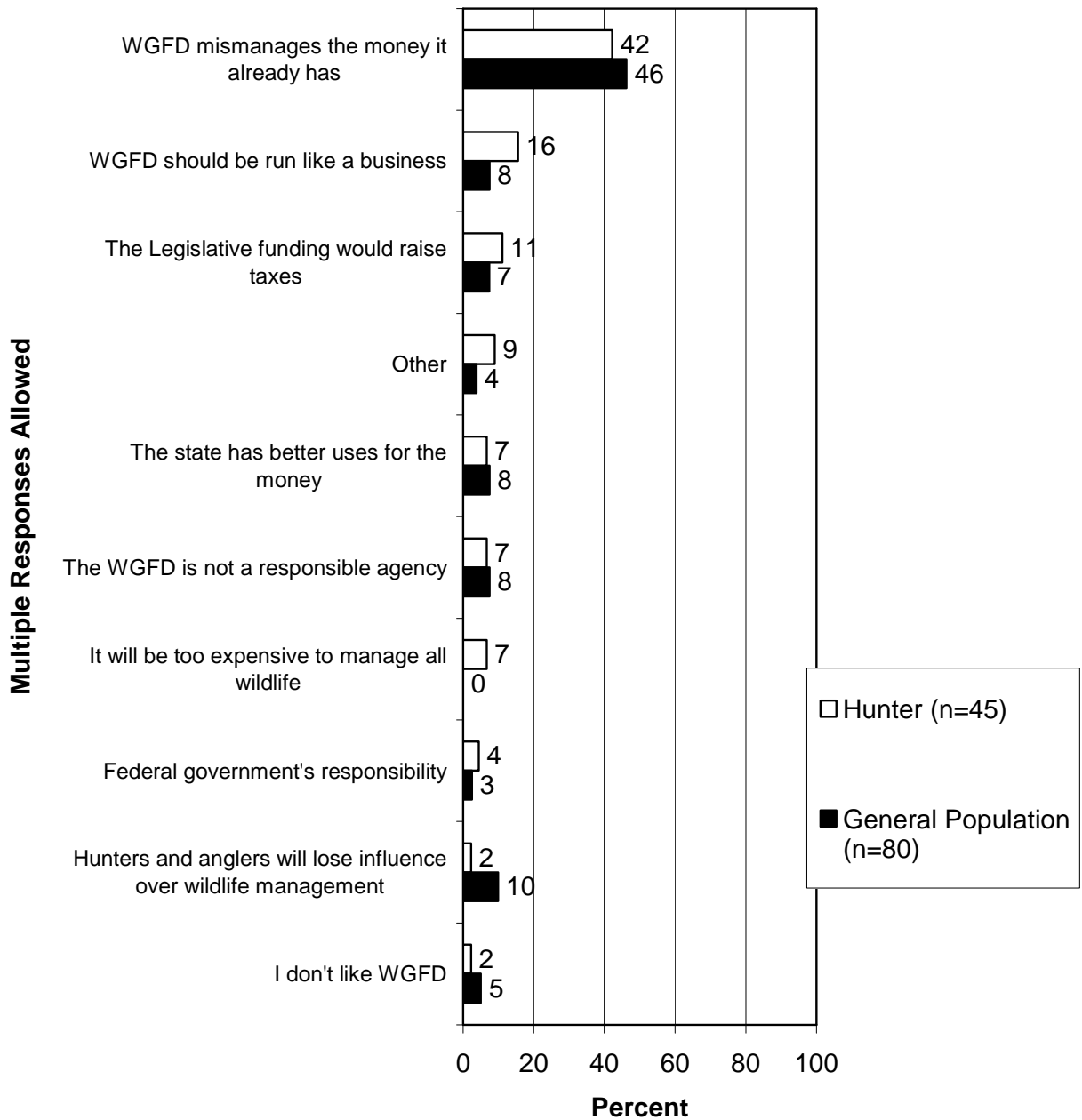
Q18. Why do you disagree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife? (Part 1.)



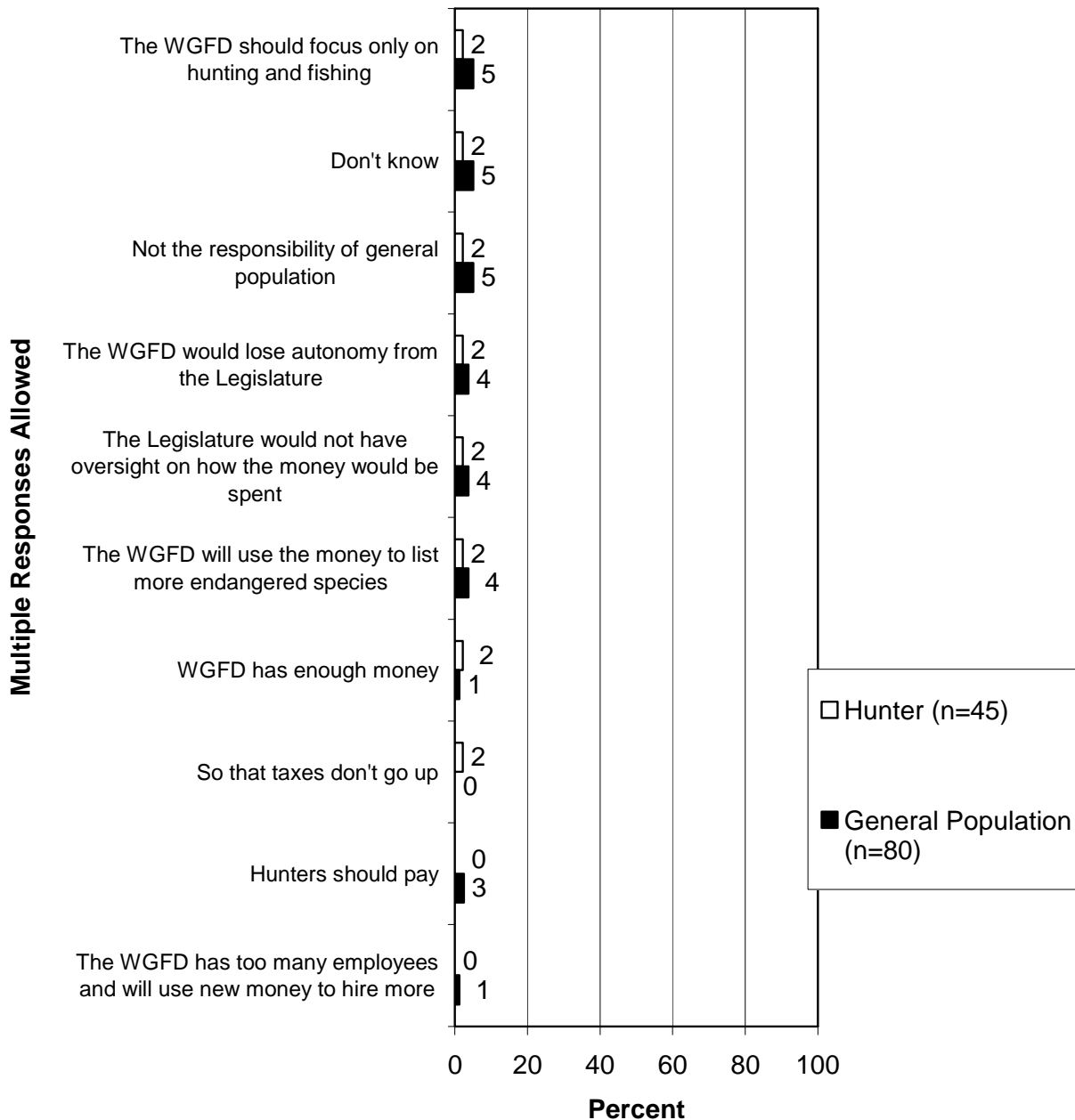
Q18. Why do you disagree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife? (Part 2.)



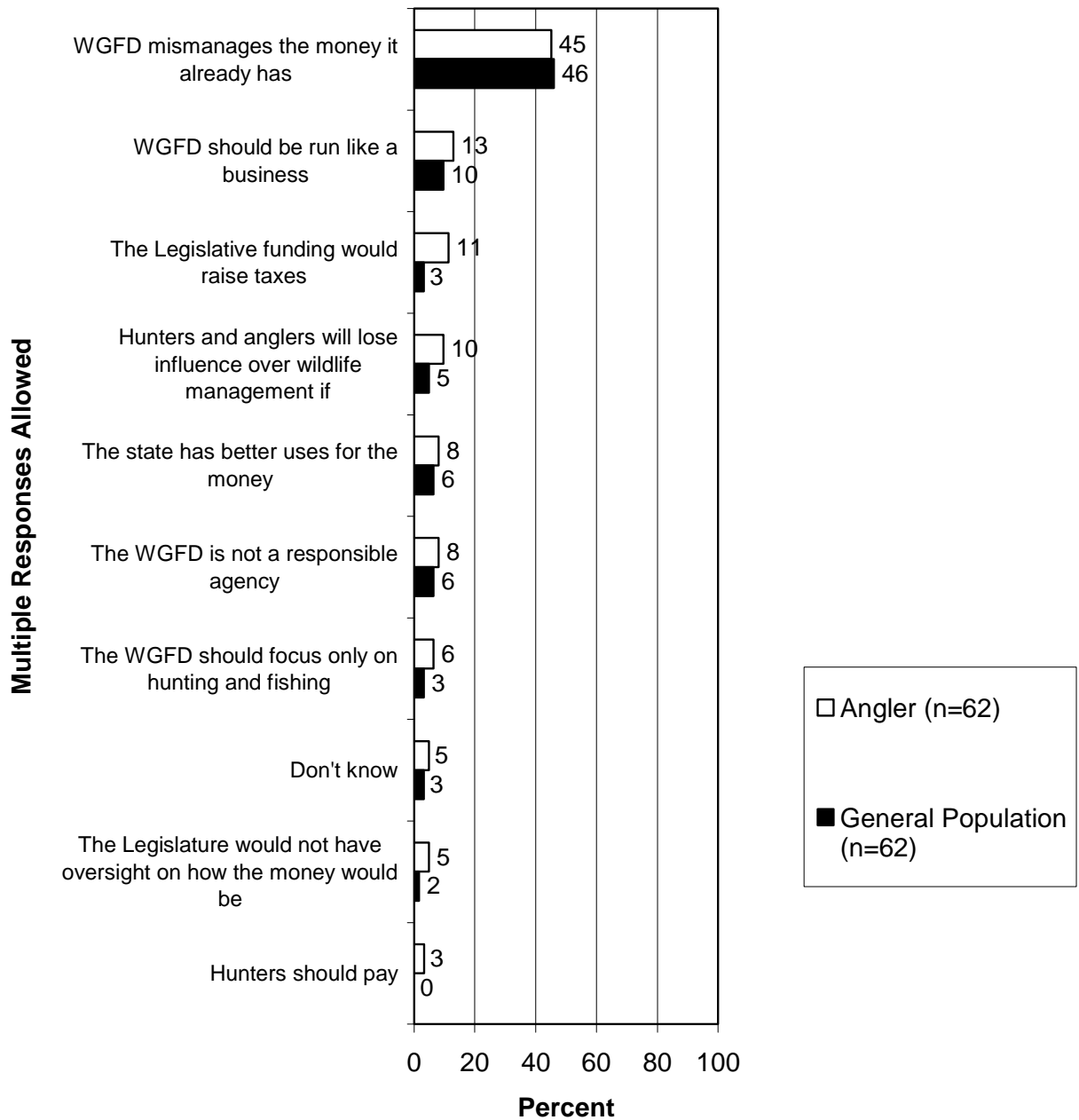
Q18. Why do you disagree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife? (Part 1.)



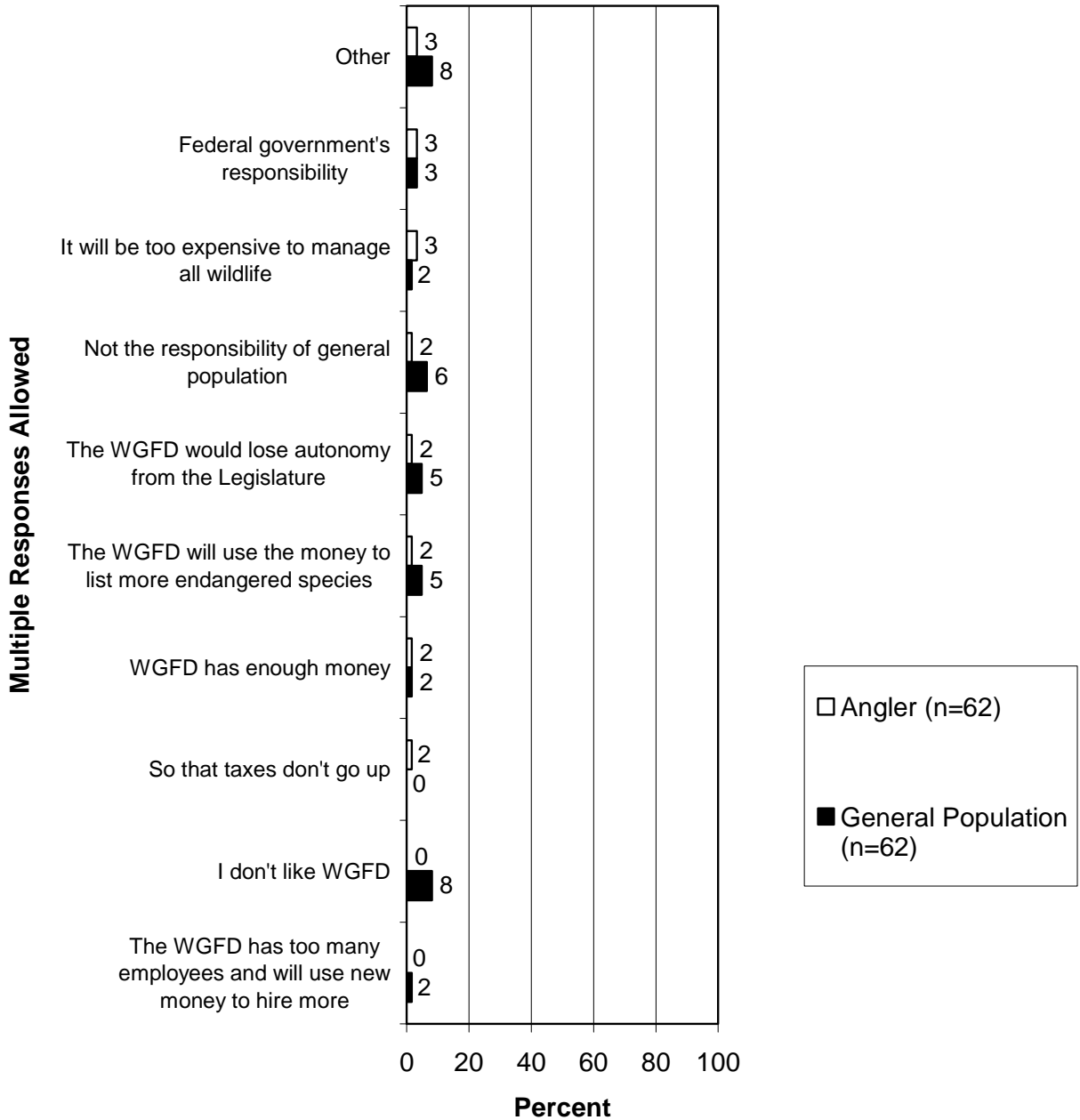
Q18. Why do you disagree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife? (Part 2.)



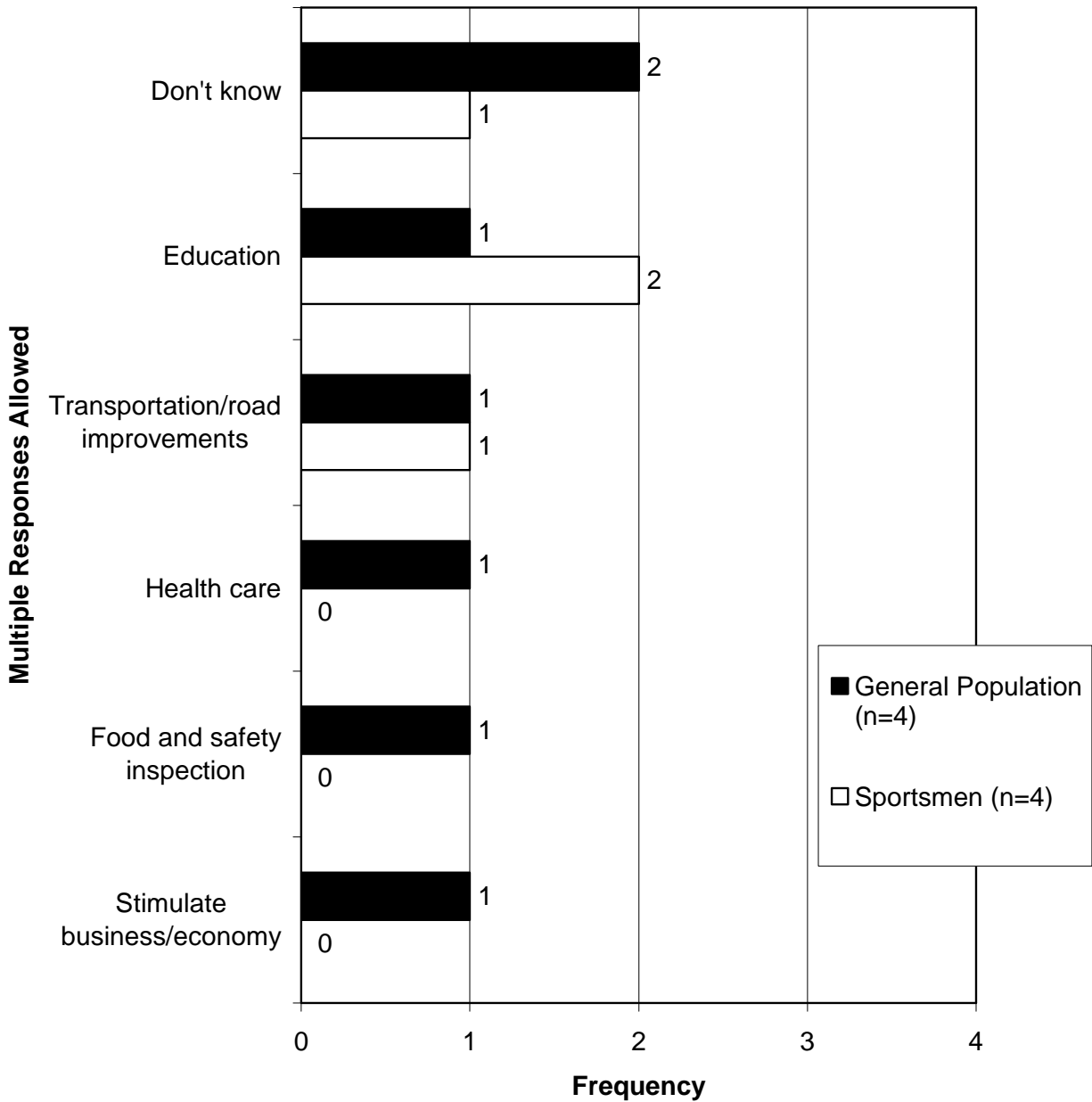
Q18. Why do you disagree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife? (Part 1.)



Q18. Why do you disagree that the Legislature should provide state money for wildlife? (Part 2.)



Q21. What do you feel would be a better use of the state's money [other than for wildlife management]?



OPINIONS ON BLOCK GRANTS

- Majorities of the general population and sportsmen supported Block Grant funding to the Department as an alternative to not providing any money at all, although opposition was not insubstantial. Among the general population, 61% supported, but 23% opposed; among sportsmen, 59% supported, but 23% opposed.
 - Hunters and anglers mirrored the general population in their opinions on this question.

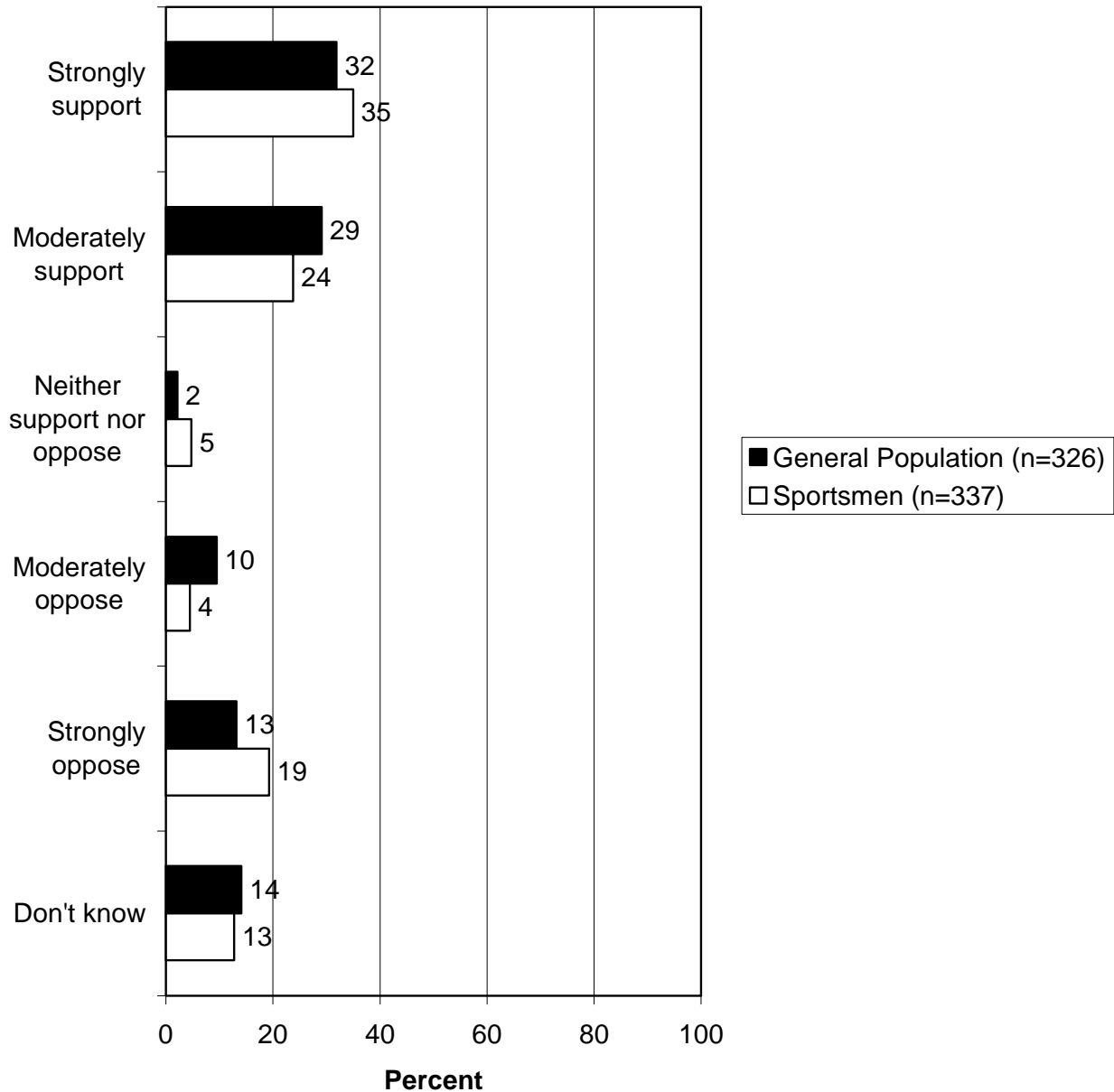
- Common reasons that respondents said that they supported a Legislative Block Grant for wildlife management funding included that the Department needs the money, that Wyoming's wildlife must be properly managed, that wildlife is part of Wyoming's heritage and is important to the state's economy, and that Block Grants are good budget tools.
 - Sportsmen were more likely than the general population to say that they supported a Legislative Block Grant for wildlife because the Department needs the money and because block grants are good budget tools.
 - Hunters were more likely than the general population to say that they supported Block Grants because the Department needs the money.
 - Anglers were more likely than the general population to say that they supported Block Grants because the Department needs the money and because block grants are good budget tools.

- Opposition to providing Block Grant funding for wildlife management in Wyoming was most commonly because respondents believed that the Department mismanages the money it already receives, that the Legislature would not have oversight on how money is spent, and that Block Grants are bad budget tools.
 - Sportsmen and hunters were more likely than the general population to say that the Department mismanages the money it already receives.

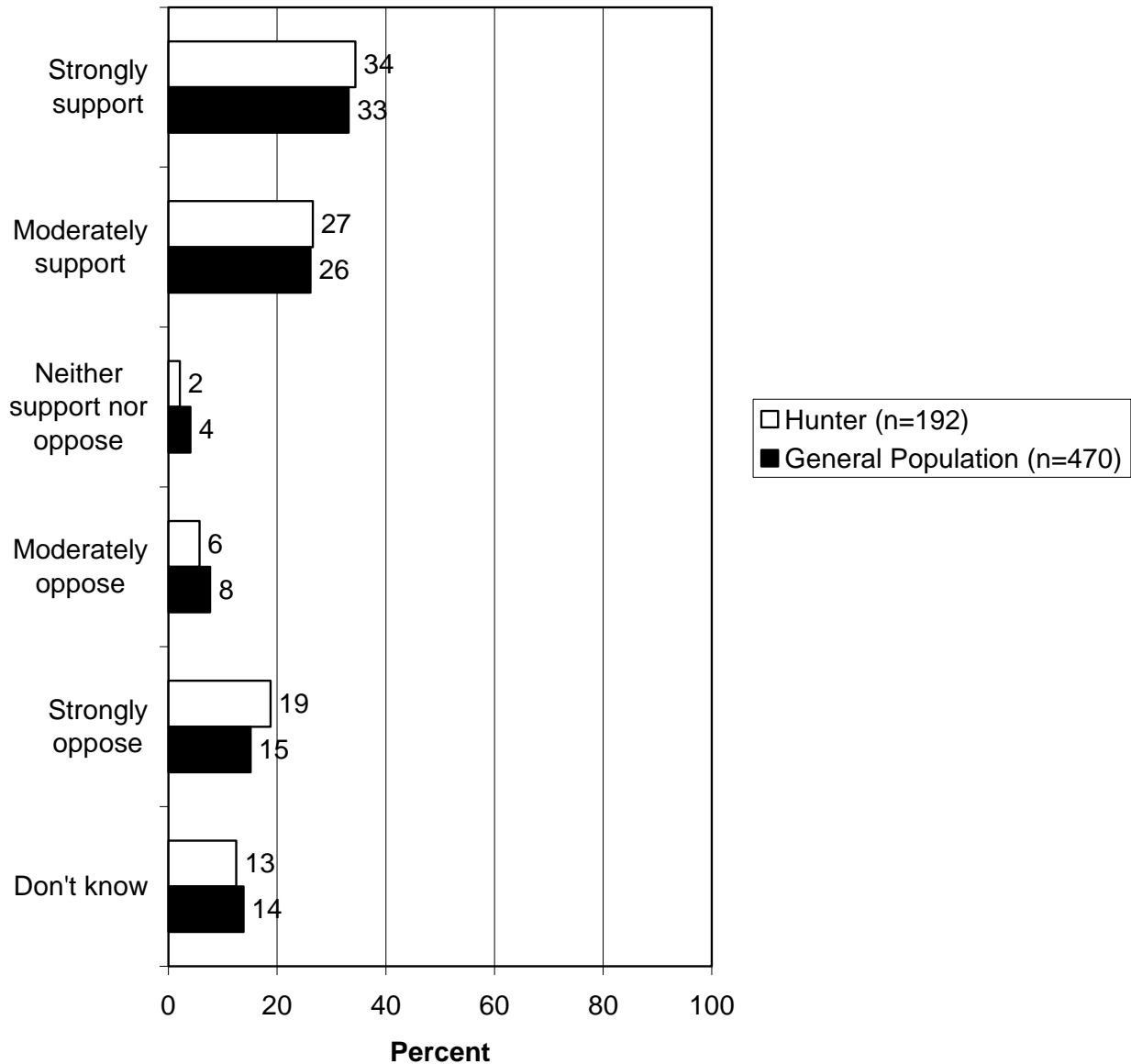
- A total of 9 respondents (6 of the general population and 3 sportsmen) opposed having the Legislature provide Block Grant funds to the Department and also subsequently said that the reason why is that the state has better uses for the money; their perceived better uses for the state's money included health care, education, and to stimulate the state economy.

- The majority of those who indicated support for both funding options discussed in the survey (Block Grants and Line-Item Budgeting) preferred Block Grants over Line-Item Budgeting: 55% of the general population and 55% of sportsmen preferred Block Grants over Line-Item Budgeting.
 - Hunters and anglers mirrored the general population on this question.

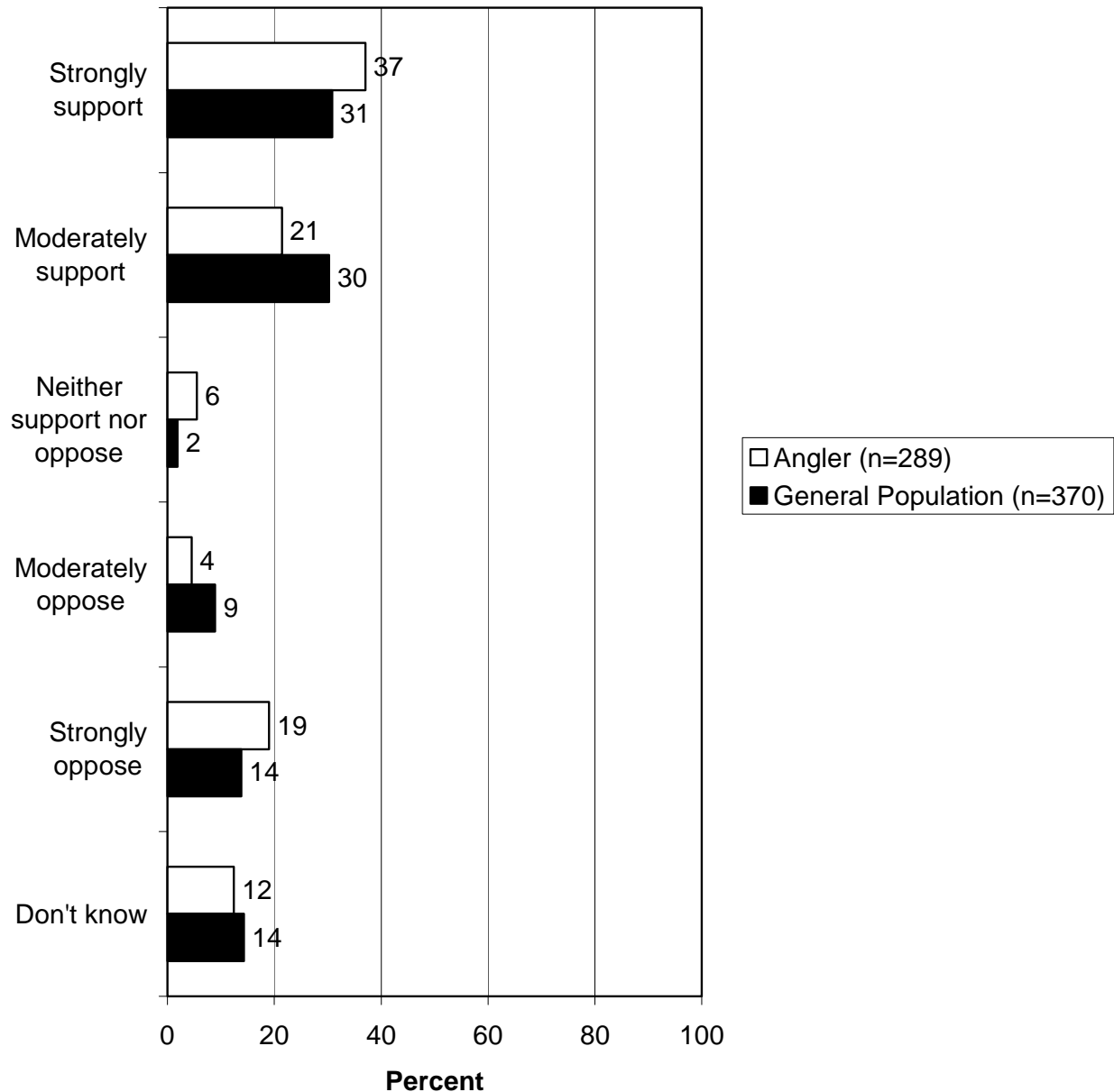
Q26. Would you support or oppose having the Wyoming Legislature provide the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission with a \$12 to \$20 million Block Grant every 2 years to fund wildlife management as an alternative to not providing any state money to the Commission?



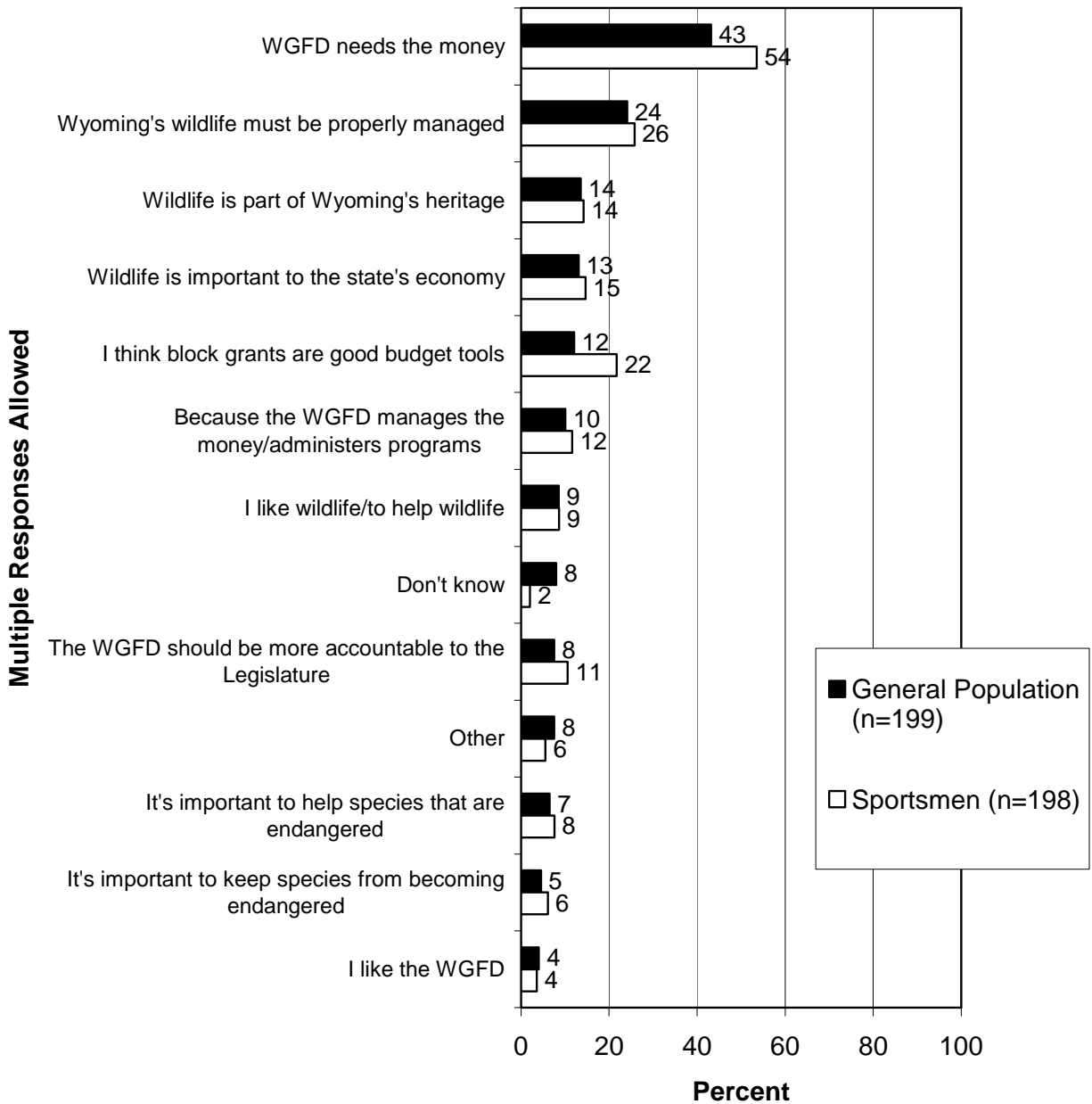
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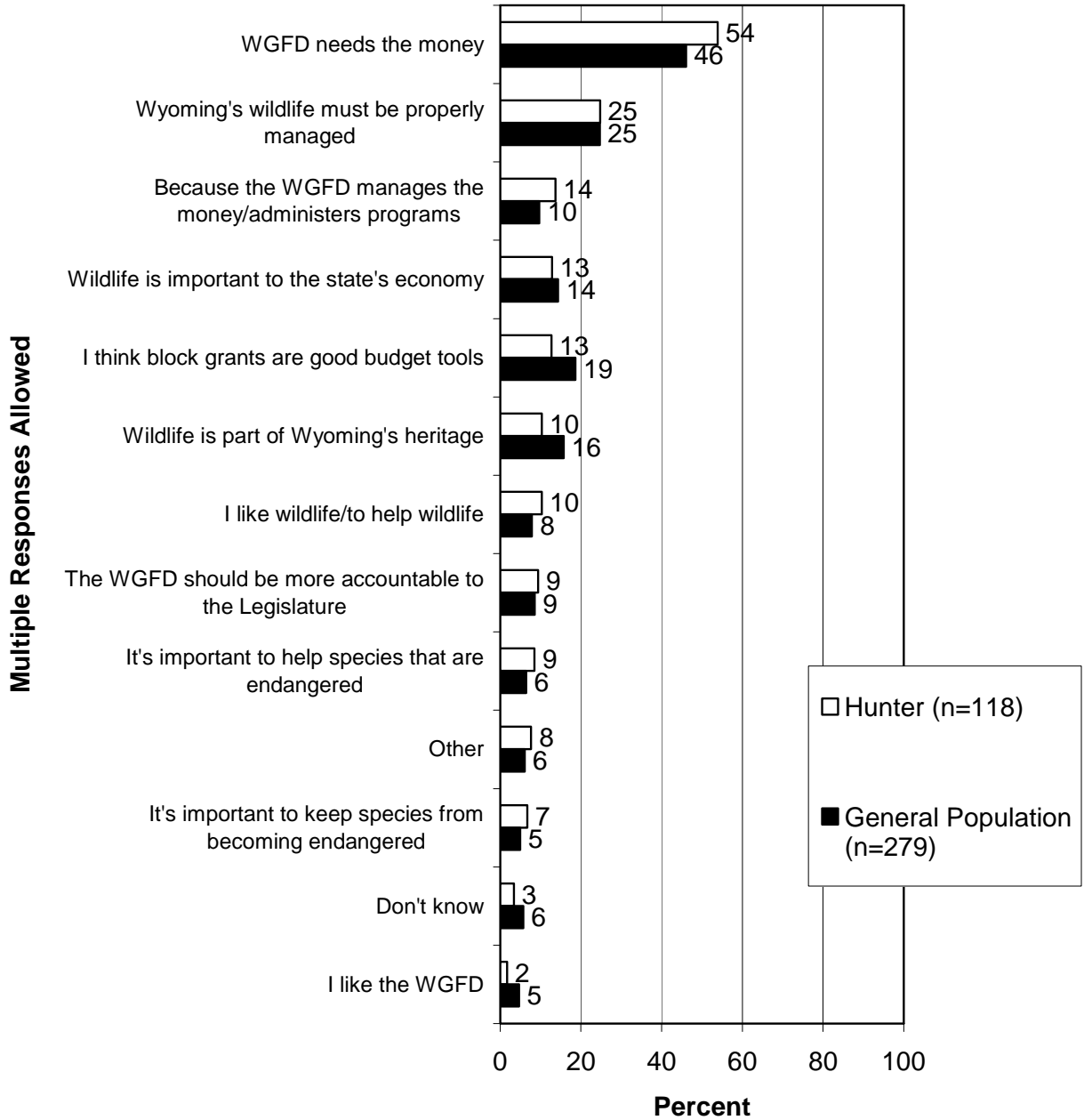
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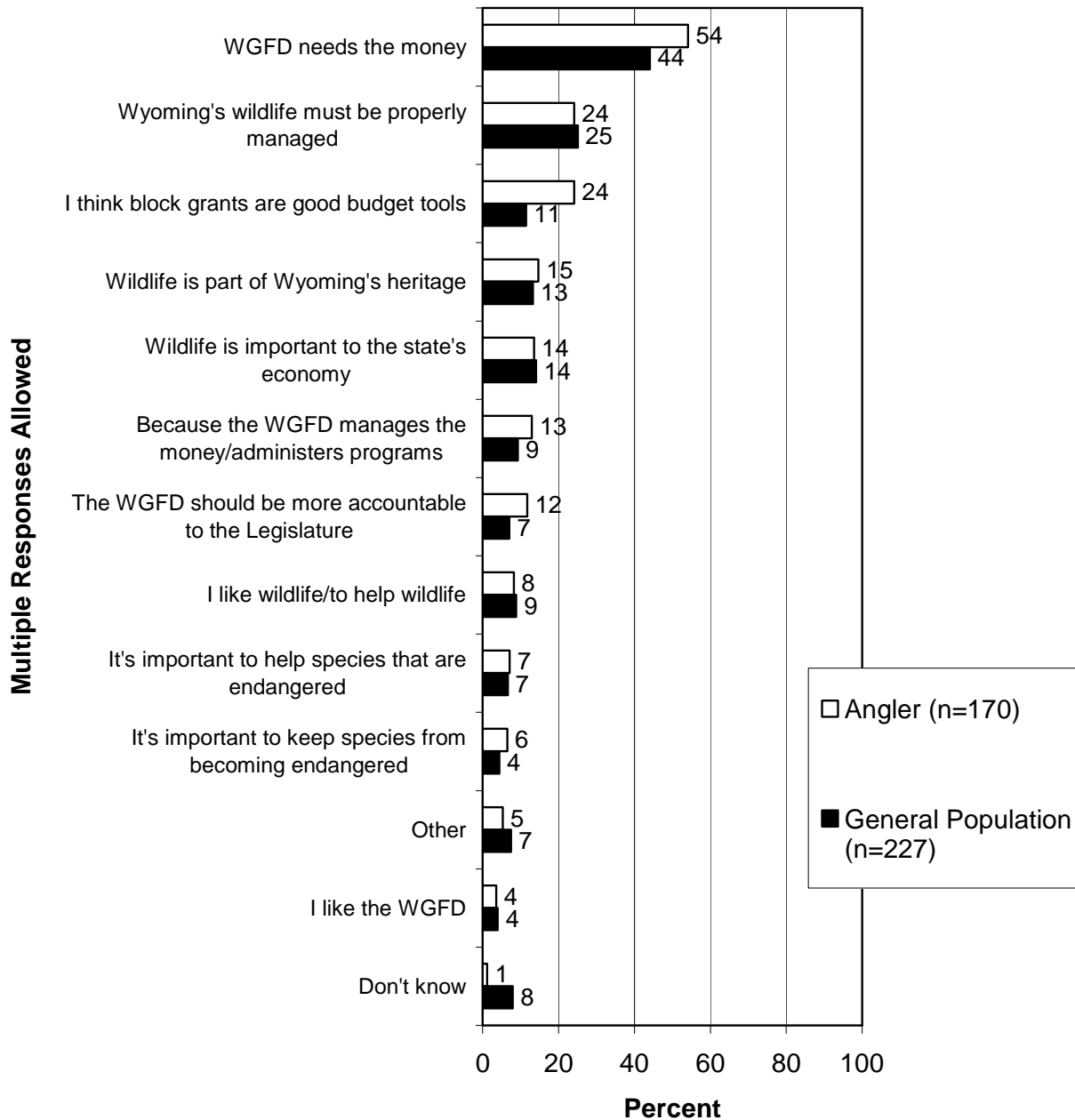
Q28. Why would you support a Legislative Block Grant for wildlife?



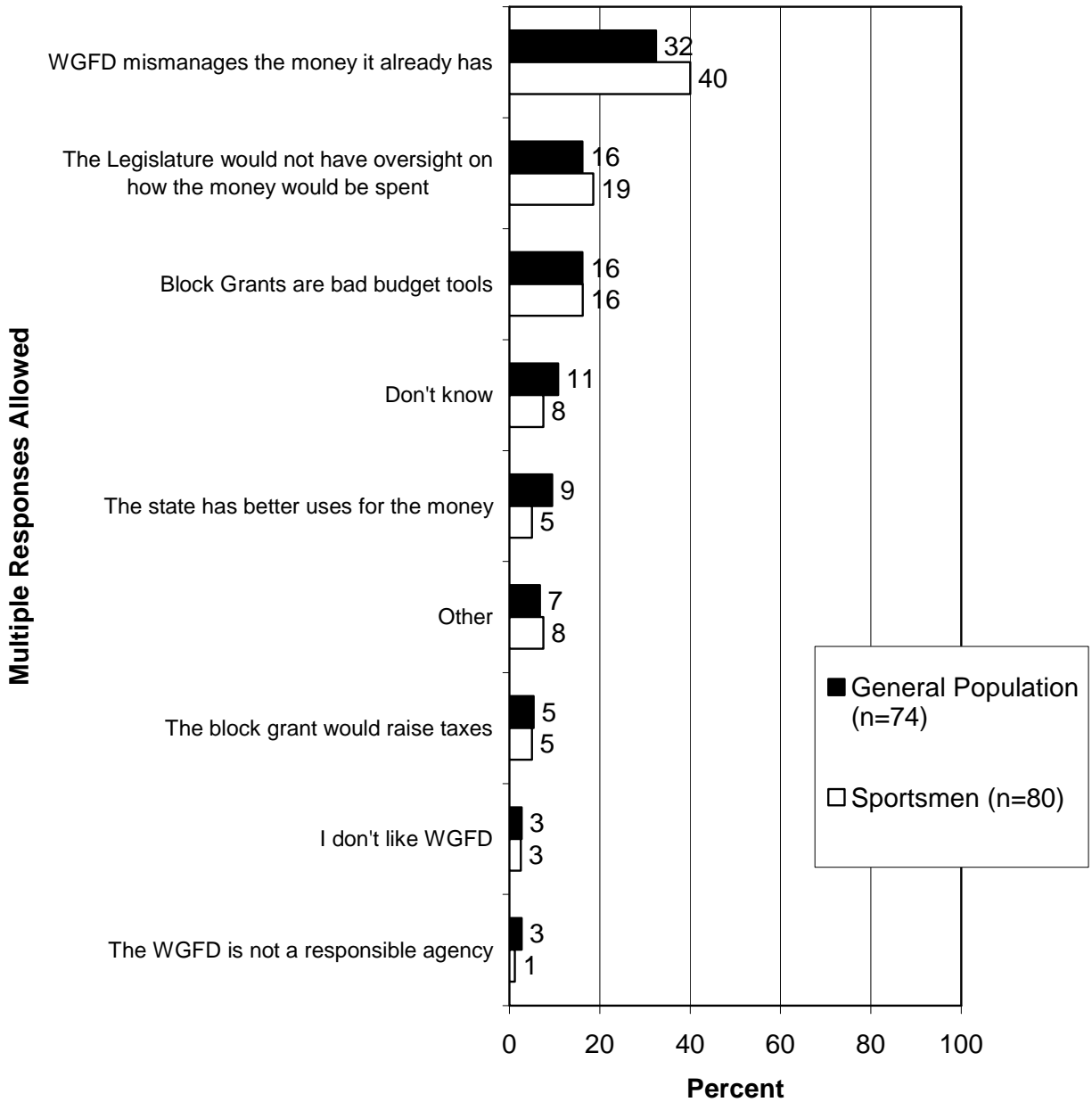
Q28. Why would you support a Legislative Block Grant for wildlife?



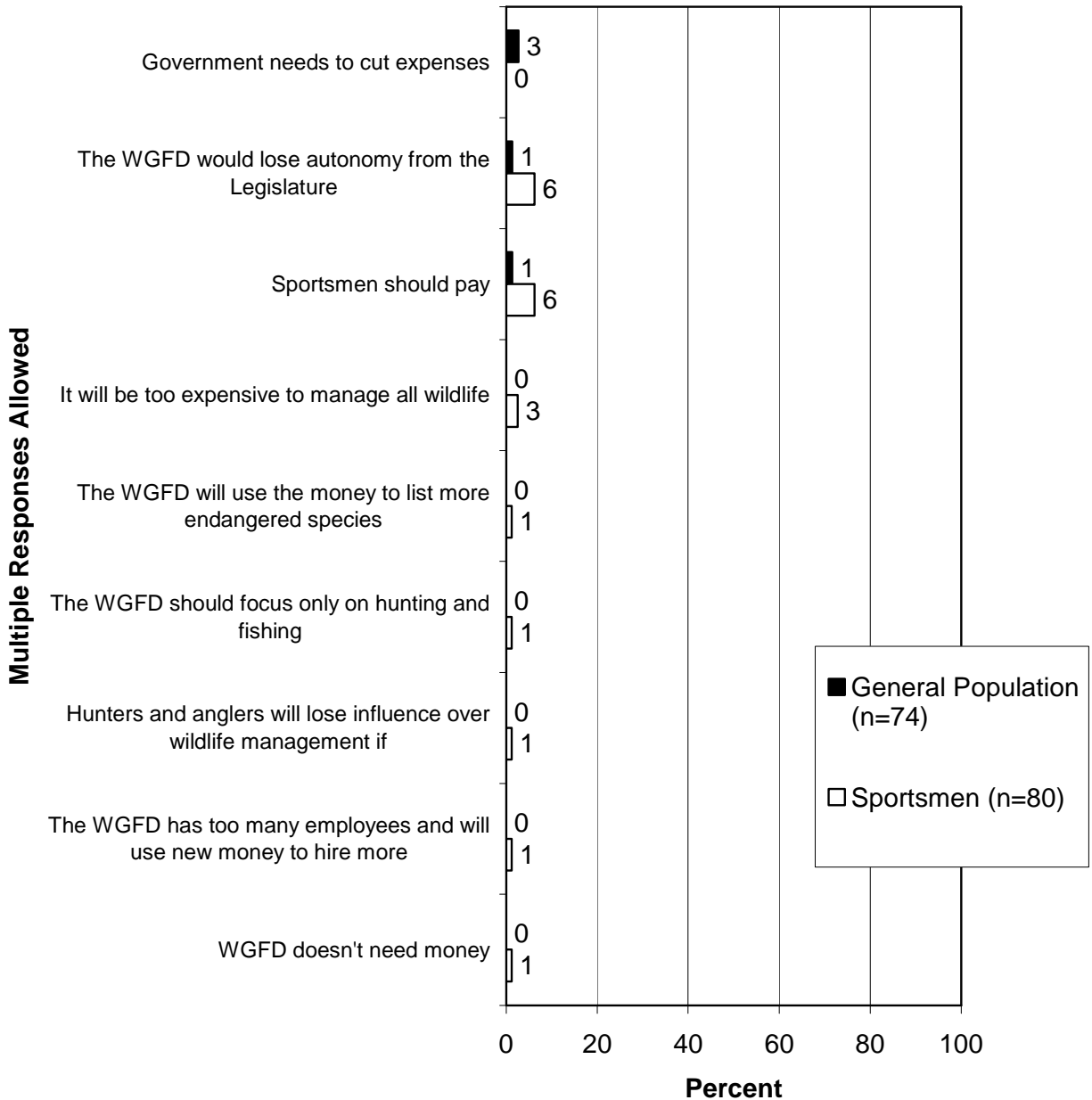
Q28. Why would you support a Legislative Block Grant for wildlife?



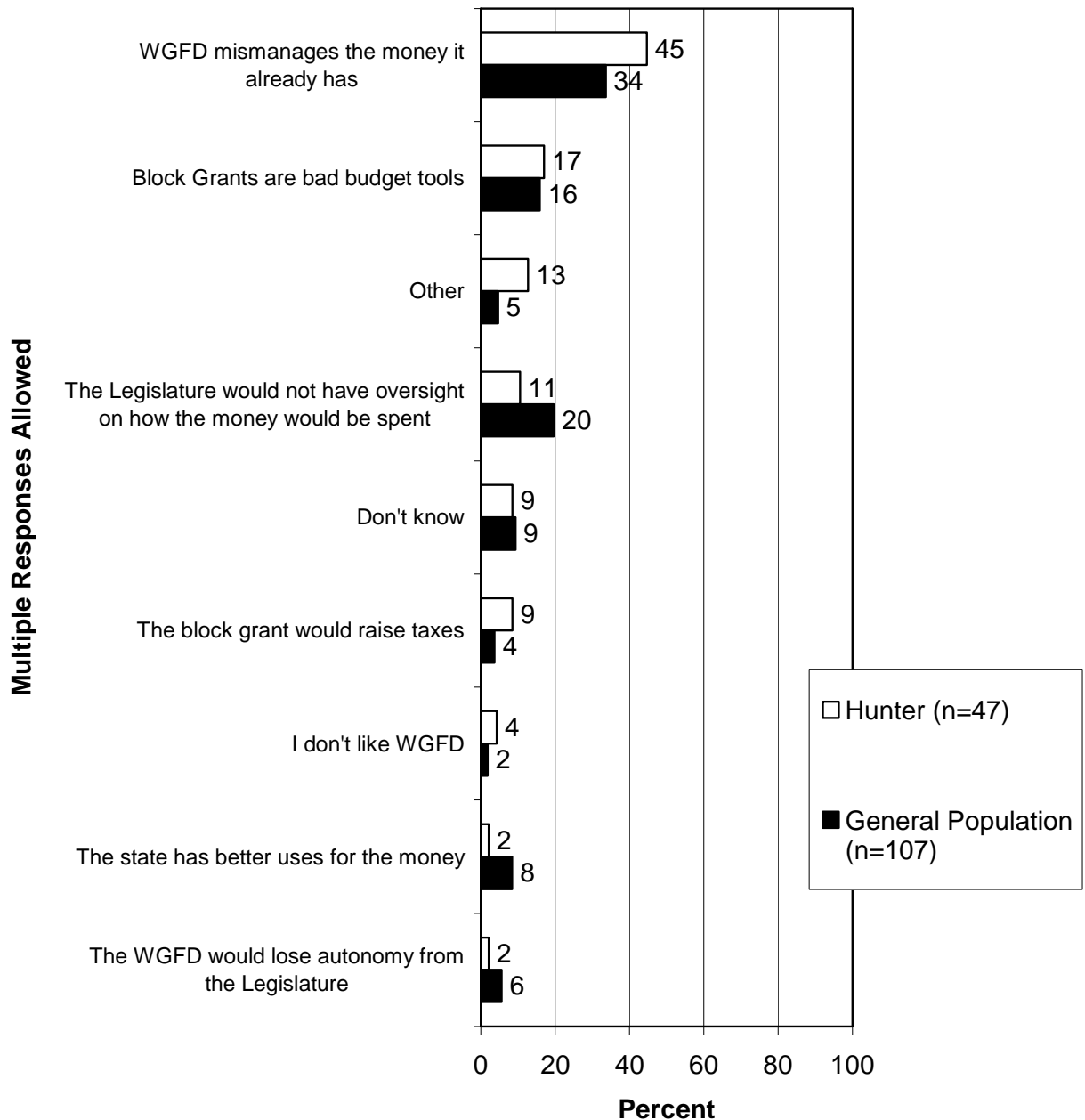
Q31. Why would you oppose using a block grant to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming? (Part 1.)



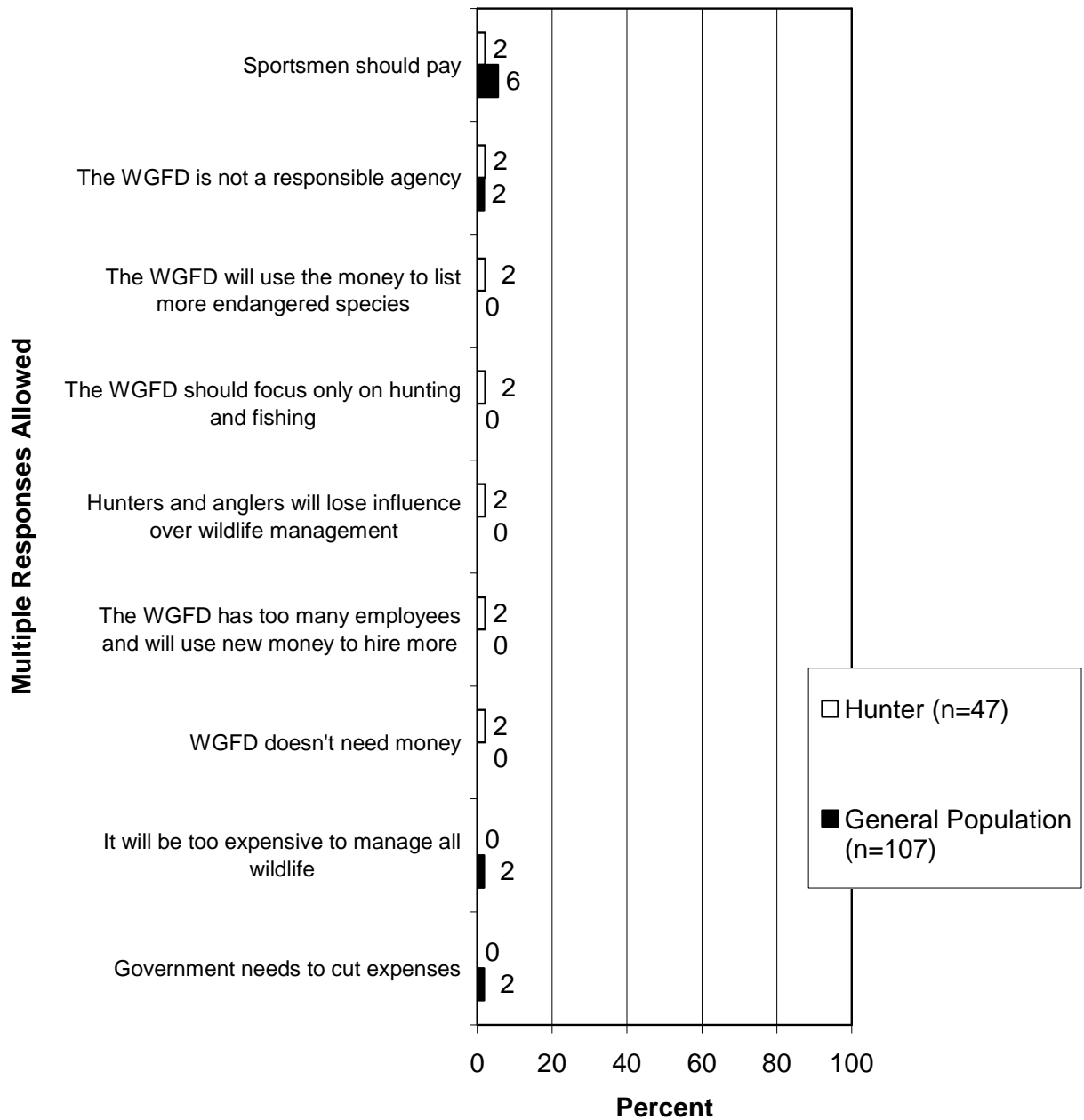
**Q31. Why would you oppose using a block grant to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming?
(Part 2.)**



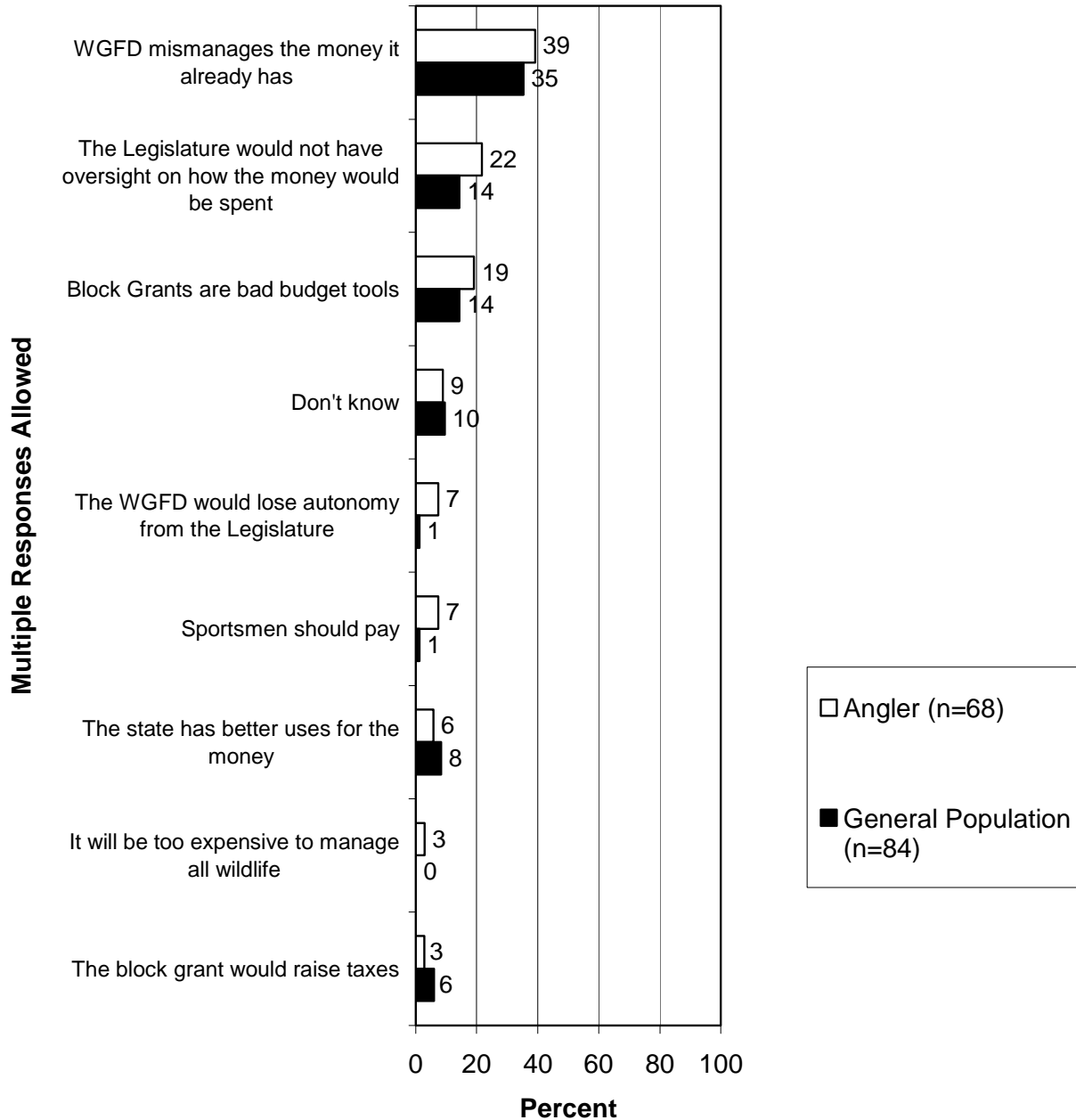
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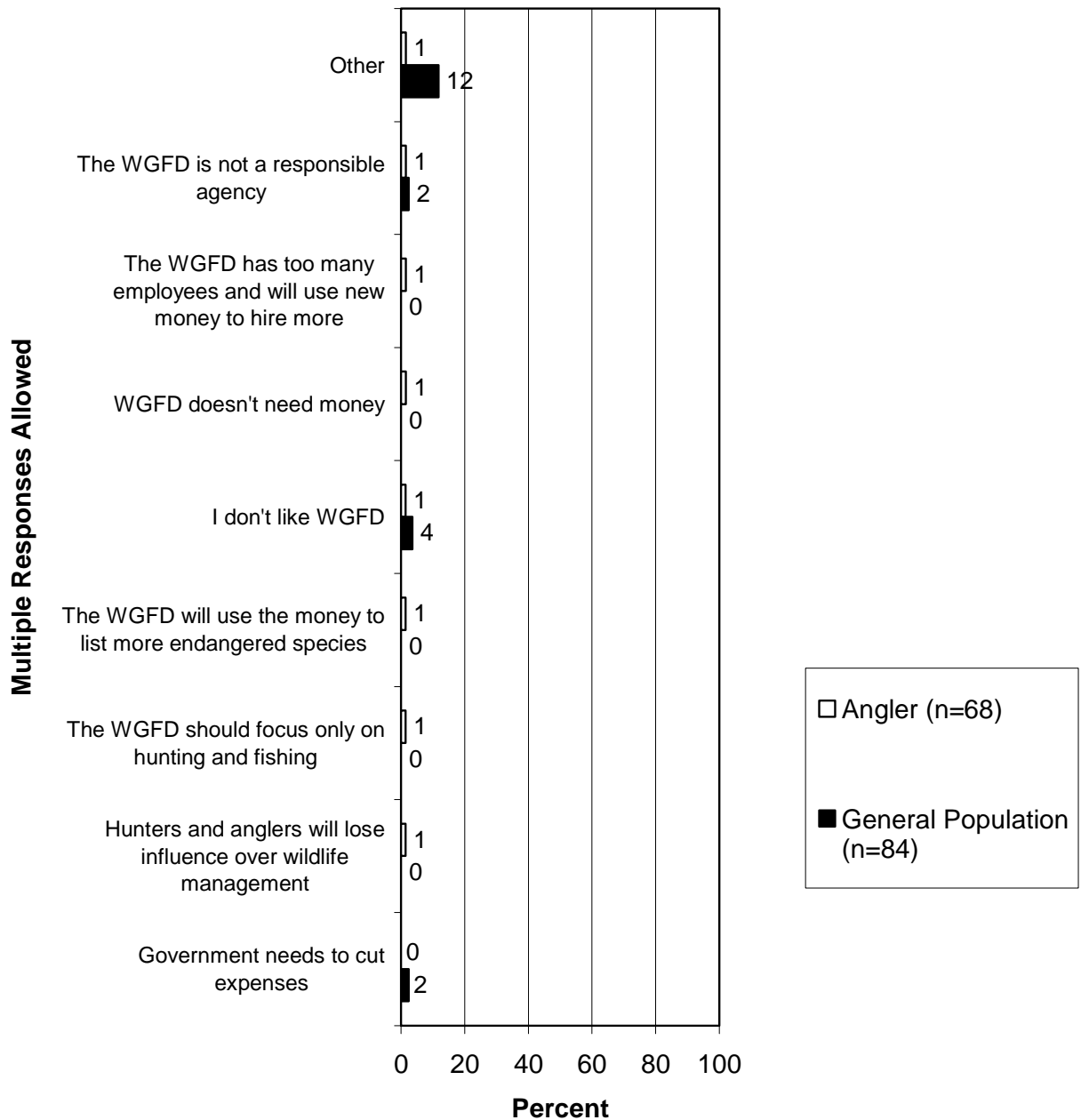
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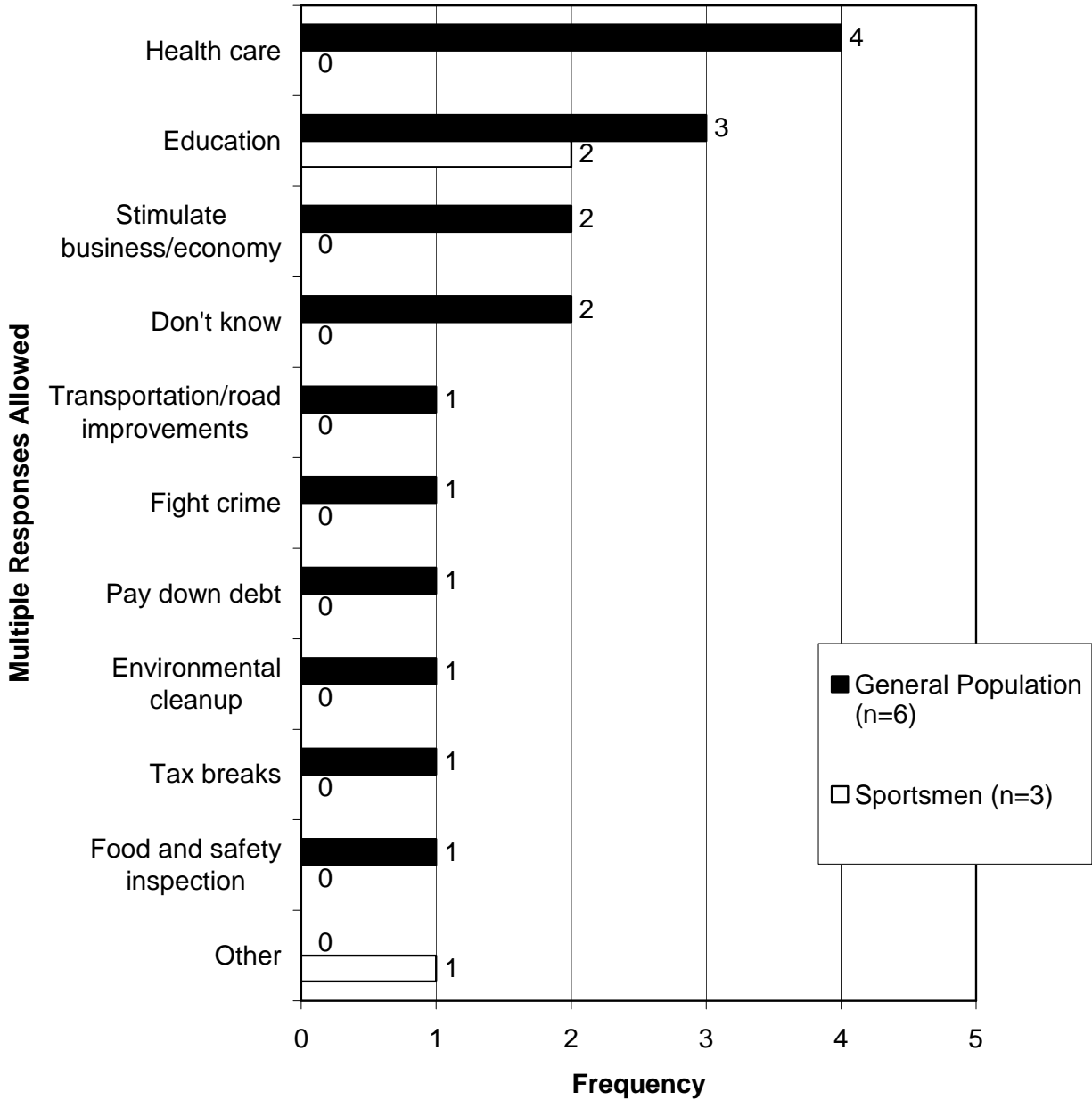
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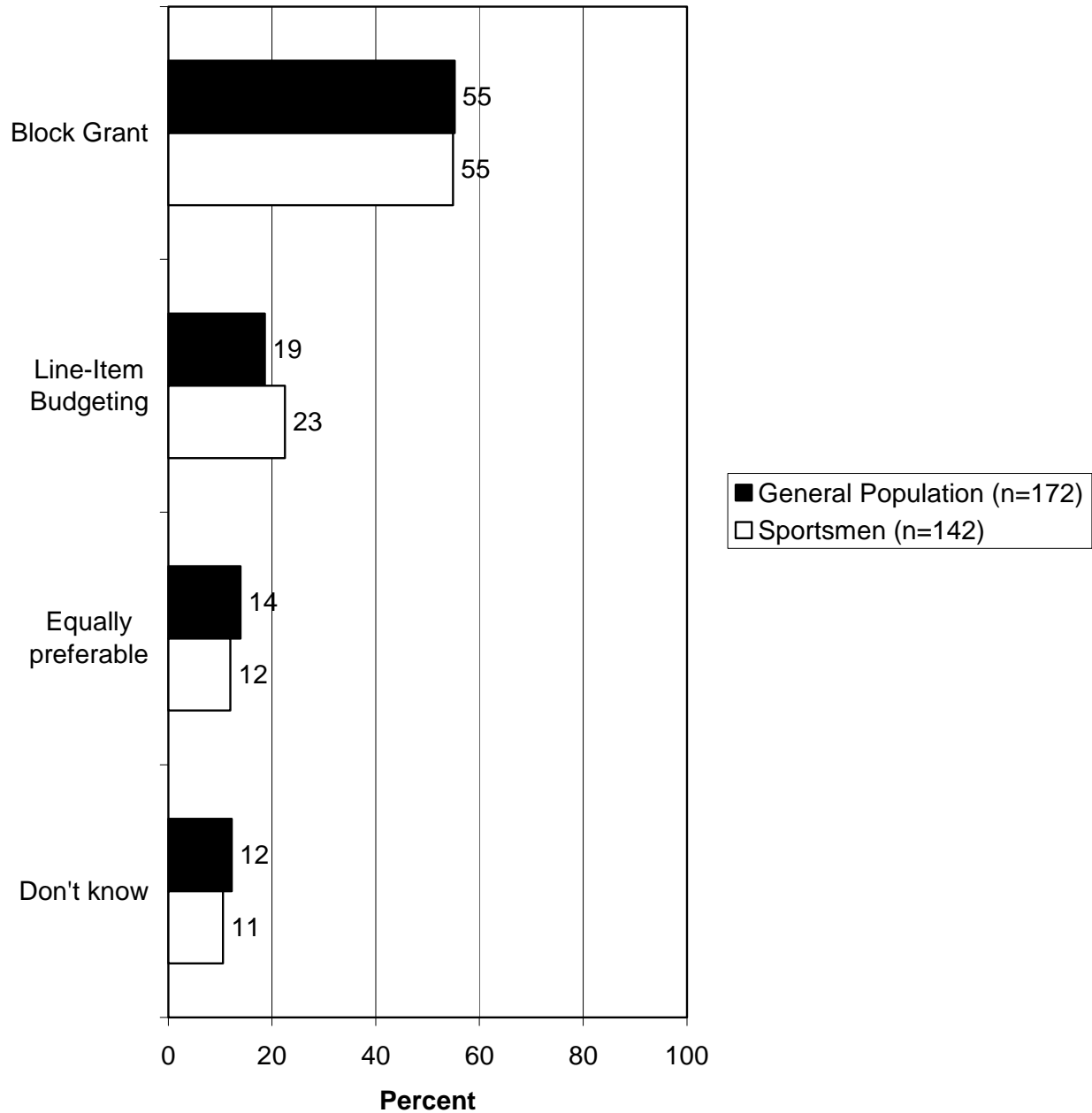
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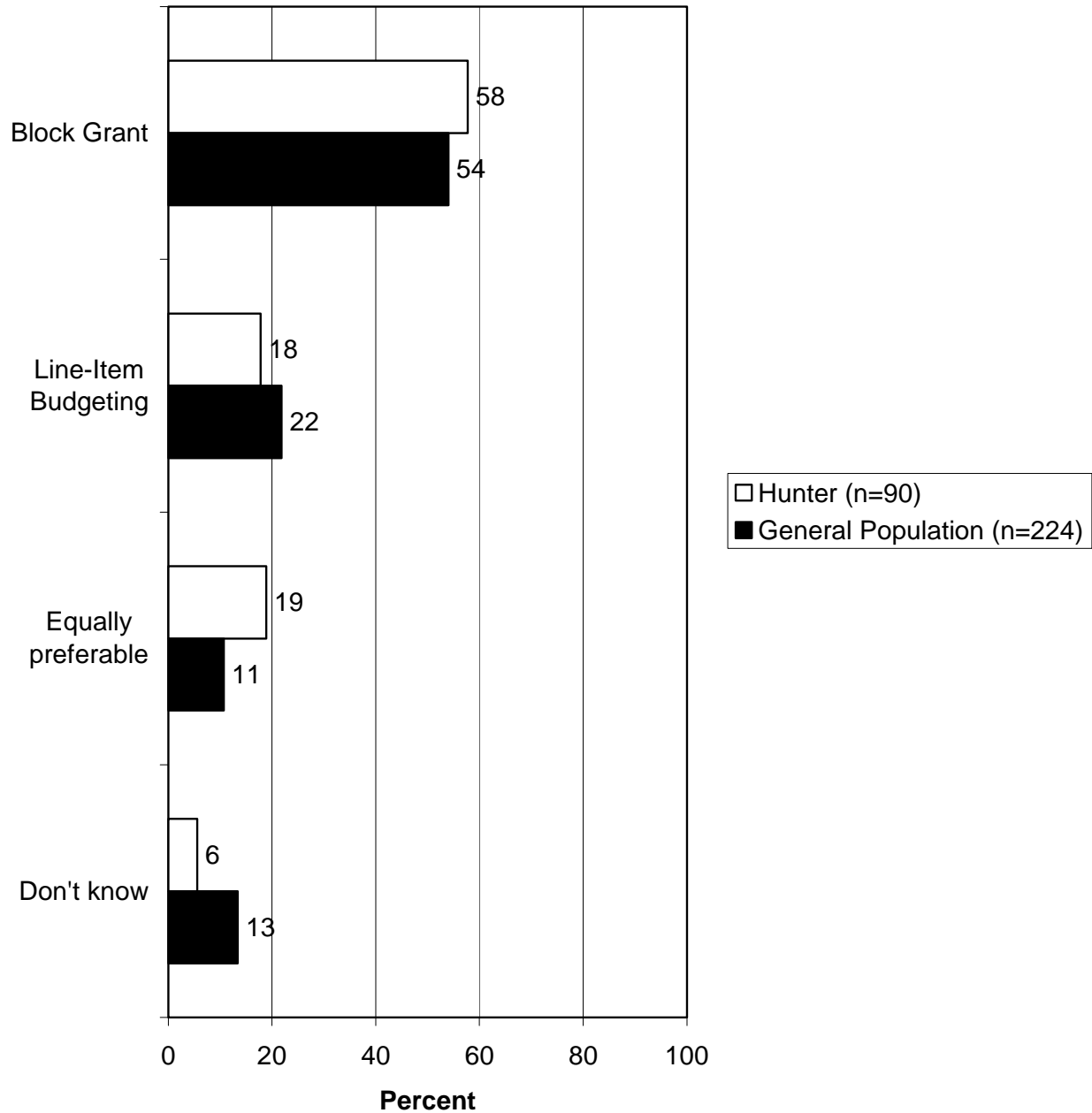
Q34. What do you feel would be a better use of the state's money [than Block Grants for wildlife management]?



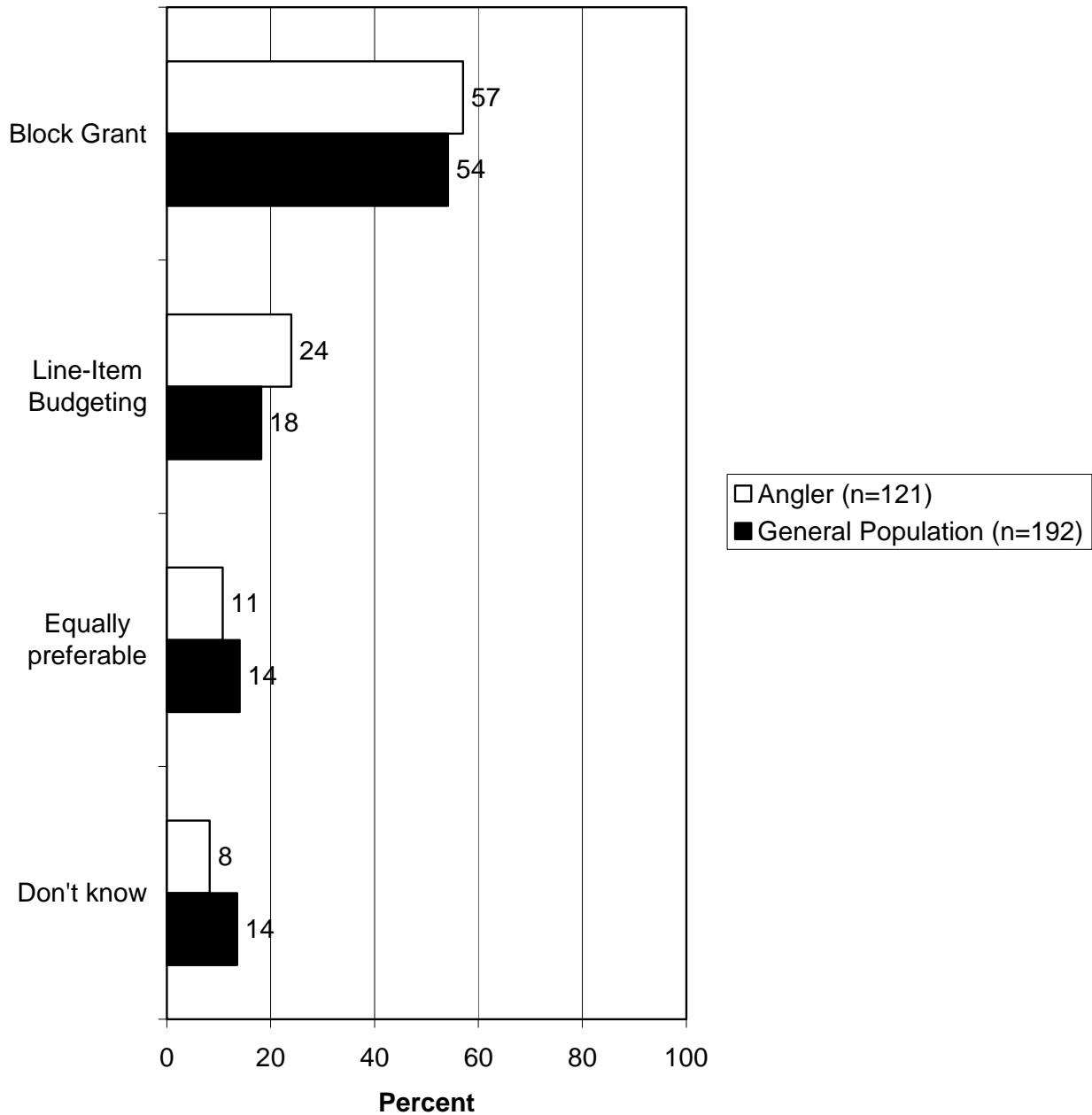
Q48. You have indicated that you support both funding options. Which do you prefer?



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Q48. You have indicated that you support both funding options. Which do you prefer?



OPINIONS ON LINE-ITEM BUDGETING

- Among the general population, support (47%) was slightly greater than opposition (34%) for having the Wyoming Legislature provide money for wildlife management through the Line-Item Budgeting process as an alternative to not providing any money at all. Opinion was switched among sportsmen: opposition (50%) was slightly greater than support (37%). Among sportsmen, opposition was mostly strong opposition.
 - Hunters were more likely than the general population to strongly oppose.
 - Anglers were less likely than the general population to support, and they were more likely to oppose.

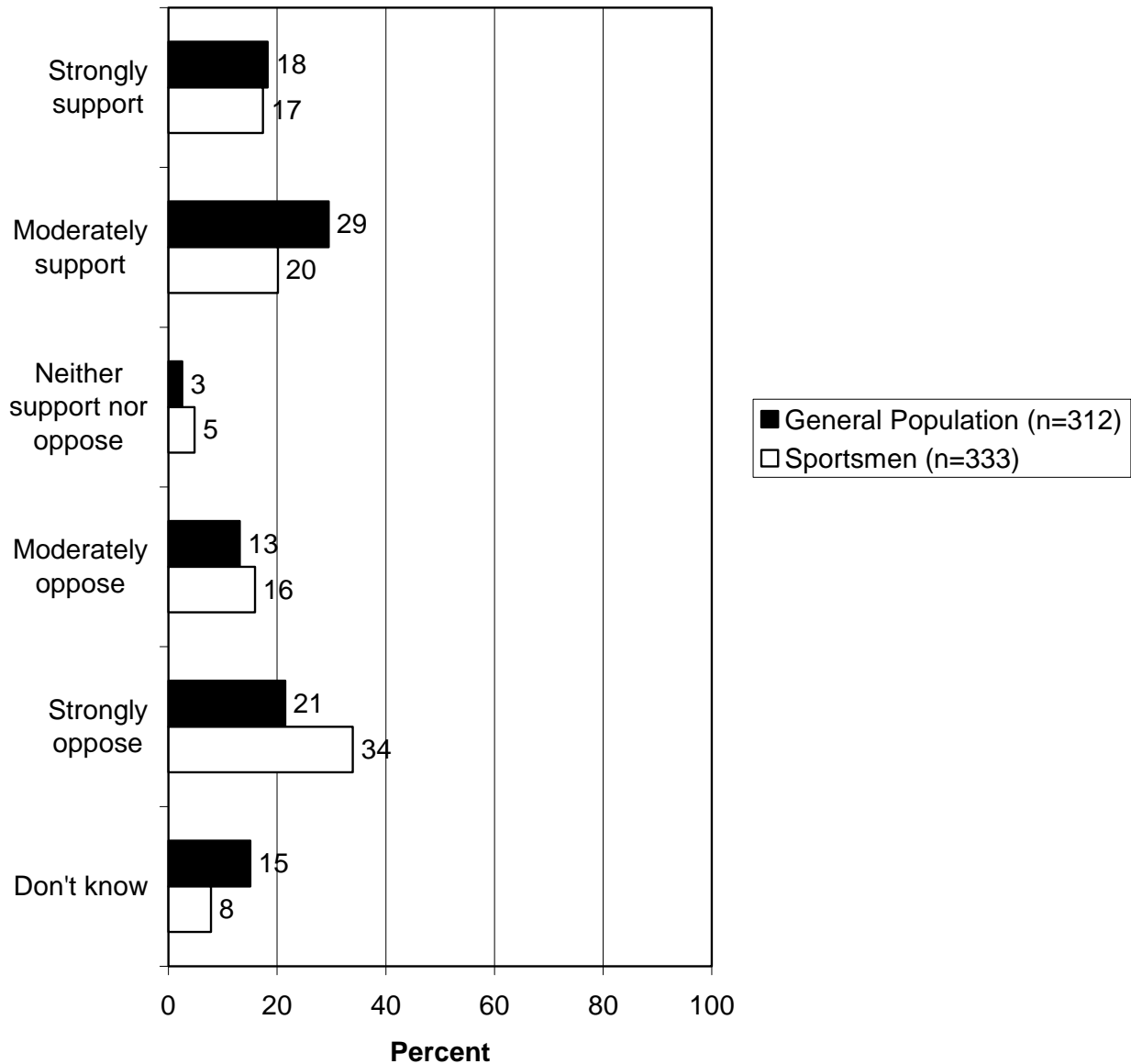
- Common reasons that respondents said that they supported Line-Item Budgeting for wildlife management funding included that the Department needs the money, that Line-Item Budgeting is a good process, that Wyoming's wildlife must be properly managed, and that wildlife is part of Wyoming's heritage and is important to the state's economy.
 - Sportsmen were more likely than the general population to say that the Department needs the money.
 - Hunters were more likely than the general population to say that the Department needs the money.
 - Anglers were more likely than the general population to say that the Department needs the money, and they were also more likely to say that the Department should be more accountable to the Legislature.

- Opposition to providing funding through Line-Item Budgeting for wildlife management in Wyoming was most commonly because respondents believed that the Department would lose autonomy from the Legislature, that the Line-Item Budgeting is a bad process, that the Legislature would not have oversight over how money was spent, and that the Department mismanages the money it already receives.
 - Sportsmen were more likely than the general population to say that a reason for opposing Line-Item Budgeting was because the Legislature would not have oversight on how the money would be spent, and this difference was largely fueled by anglers (hunters were not greatly different than the general population on this particular reason).

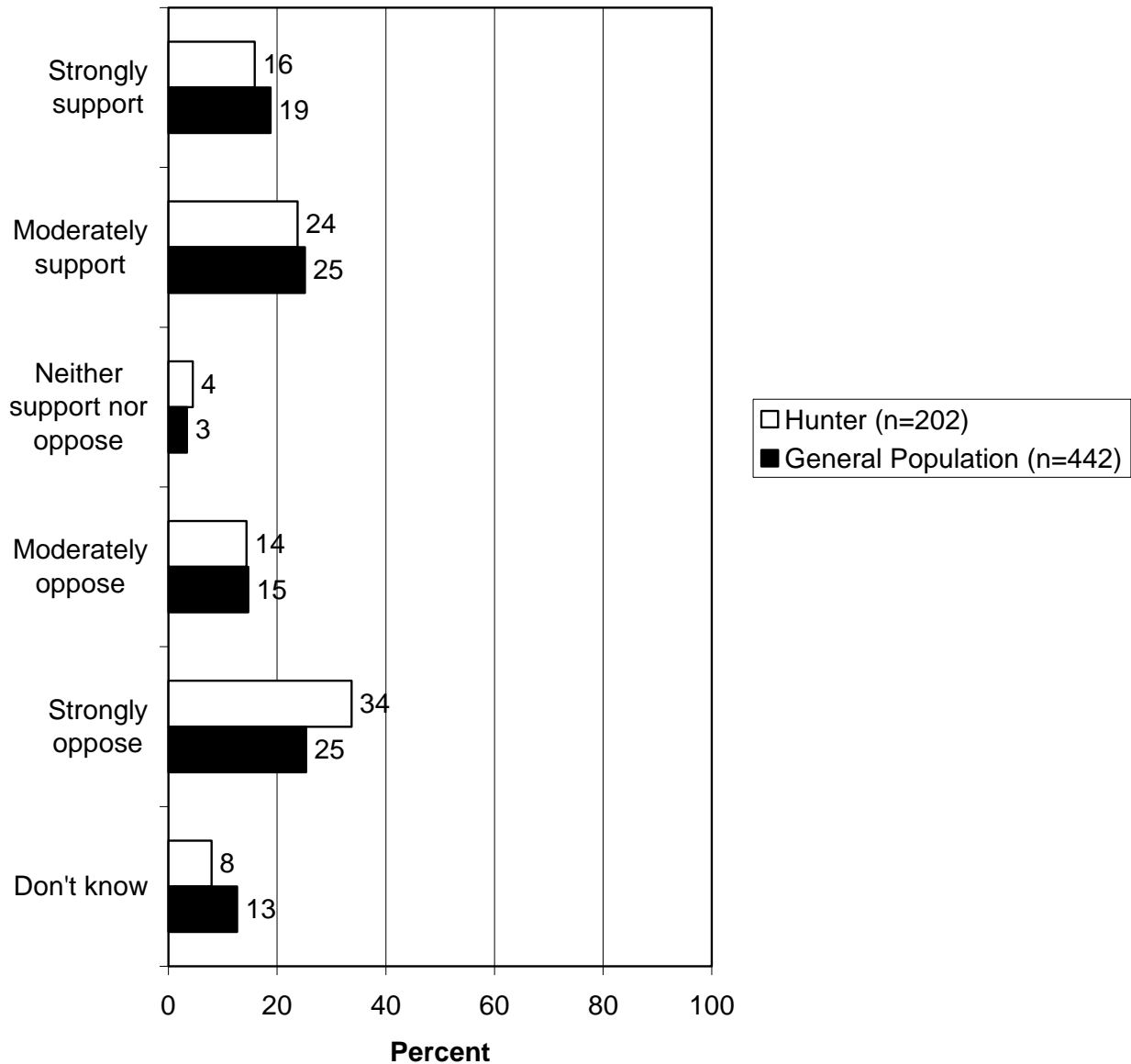
- A total of 8 respondents (7 of the general population and 1 sportsman) opposed having the Legislature provide Line-Item Budgeting to the Department and also subsequently said that the reason why is that the state has better uses for the money; their perceived better uses for the state's money included education, environmental cleanup, health care, food and safety inspections, and Block Grants.

- The majority of those who indicated support for both funding options discussed in the survey (Block Grants and Line-Item Budgeting) preferred Block Grants over Line-Item Budgeting: while 55% of the general population and 55% of sportsmen preferred Block Grants over Line-Item Budgeting, only 19% of the general population and 23% of sportsmen preferred Line-Item Budgeting over Block Grants. (These graphs were discussed in the previous section of this report, "Opinions on Block Grants," and are shown in that section.)
 - Hunters and anglers mirrored the general population on this question.

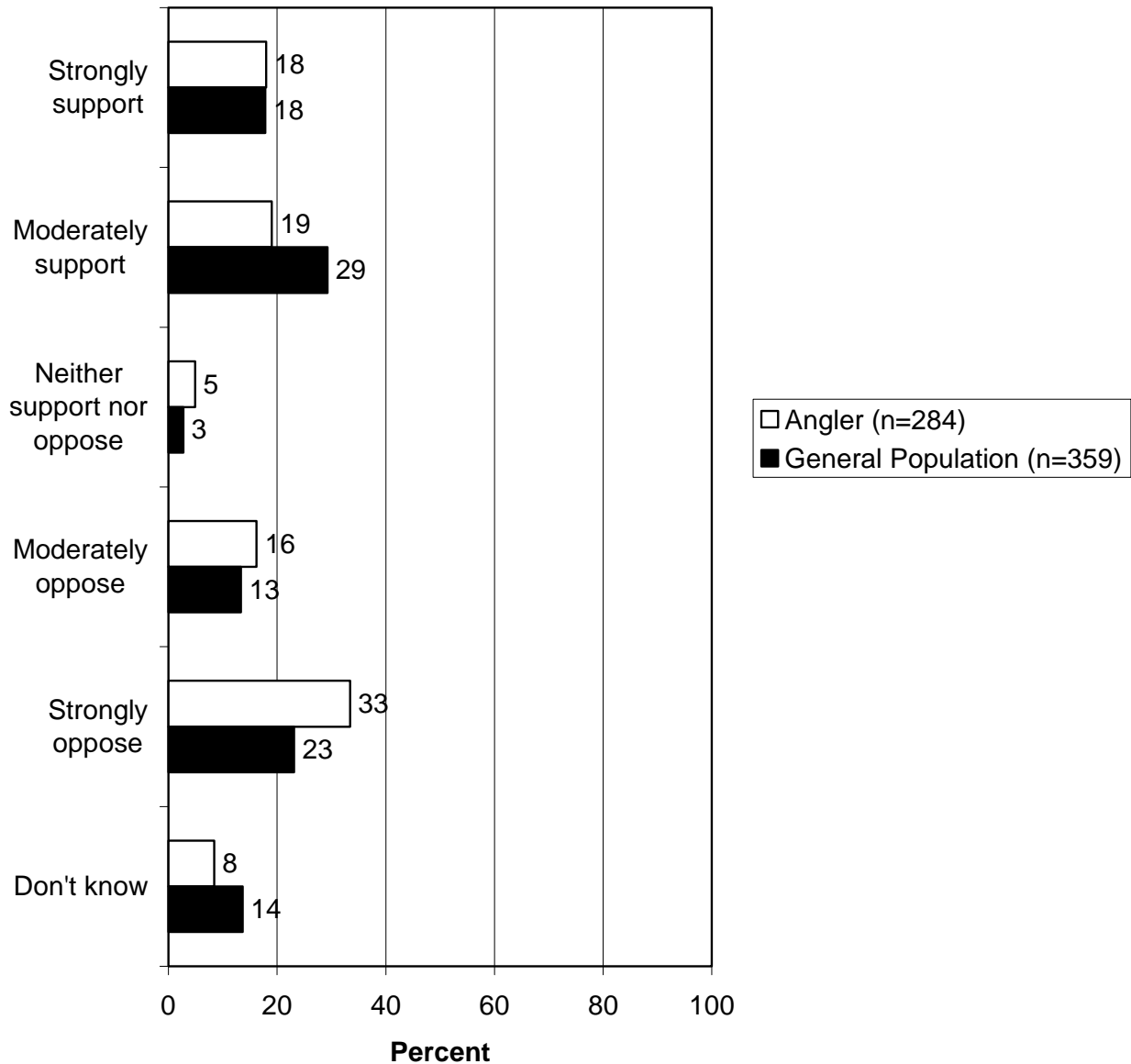
Q38. Would you support or oppose having the Wyoming Legislature provide money to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for wildlife management through the Line-Item Budgeting process as an alternative to not providing any state money to the Commission?



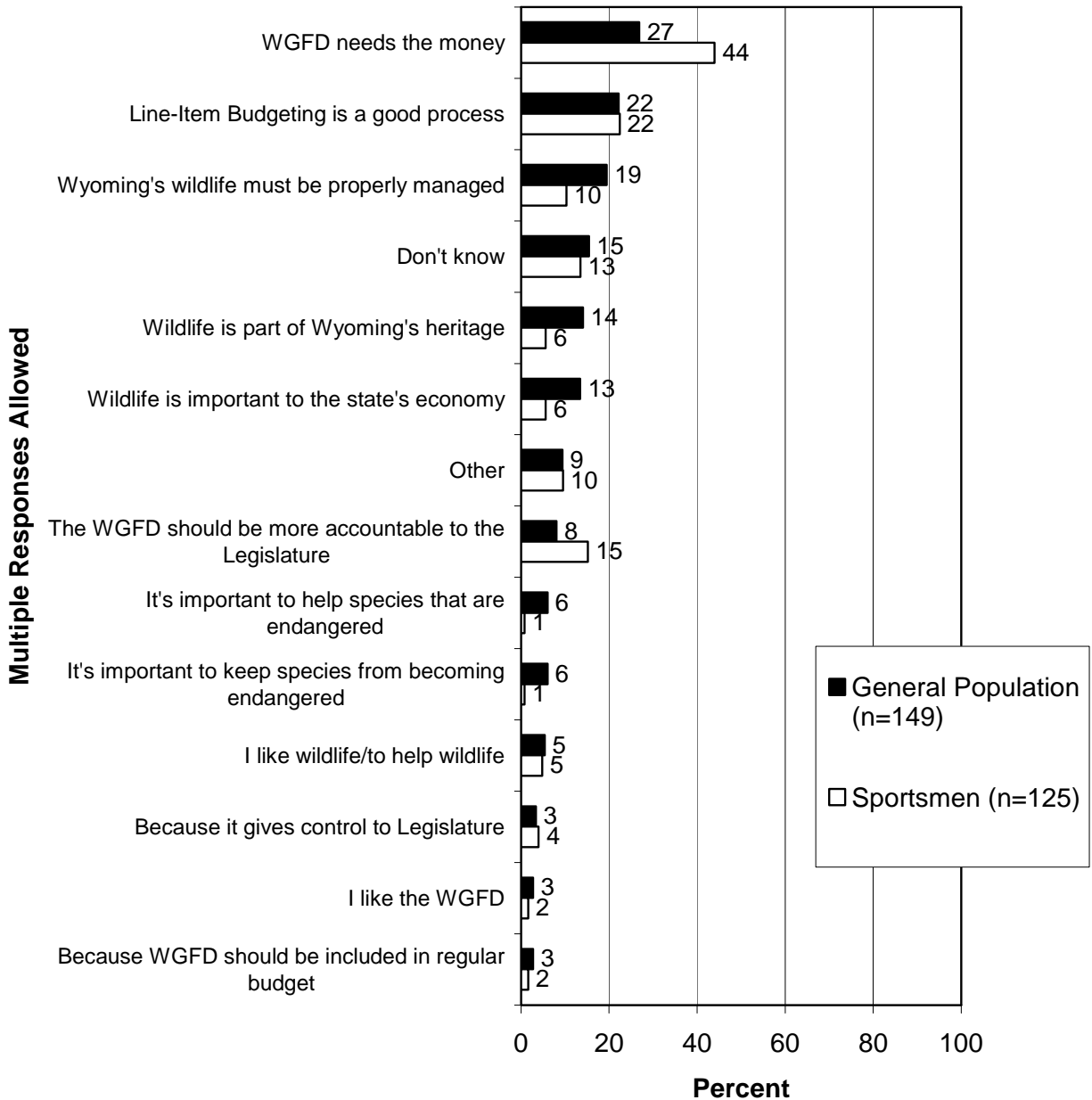
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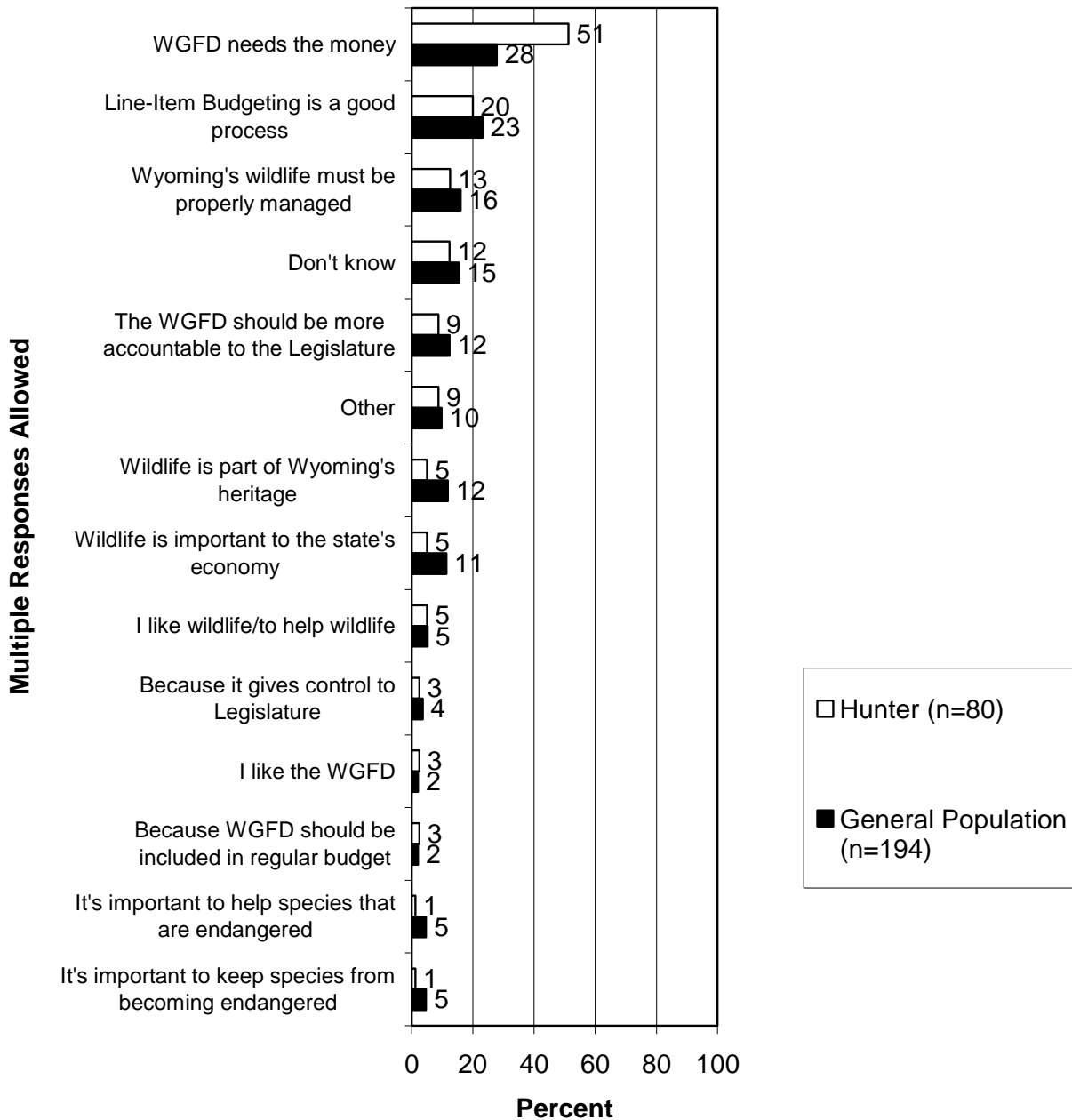
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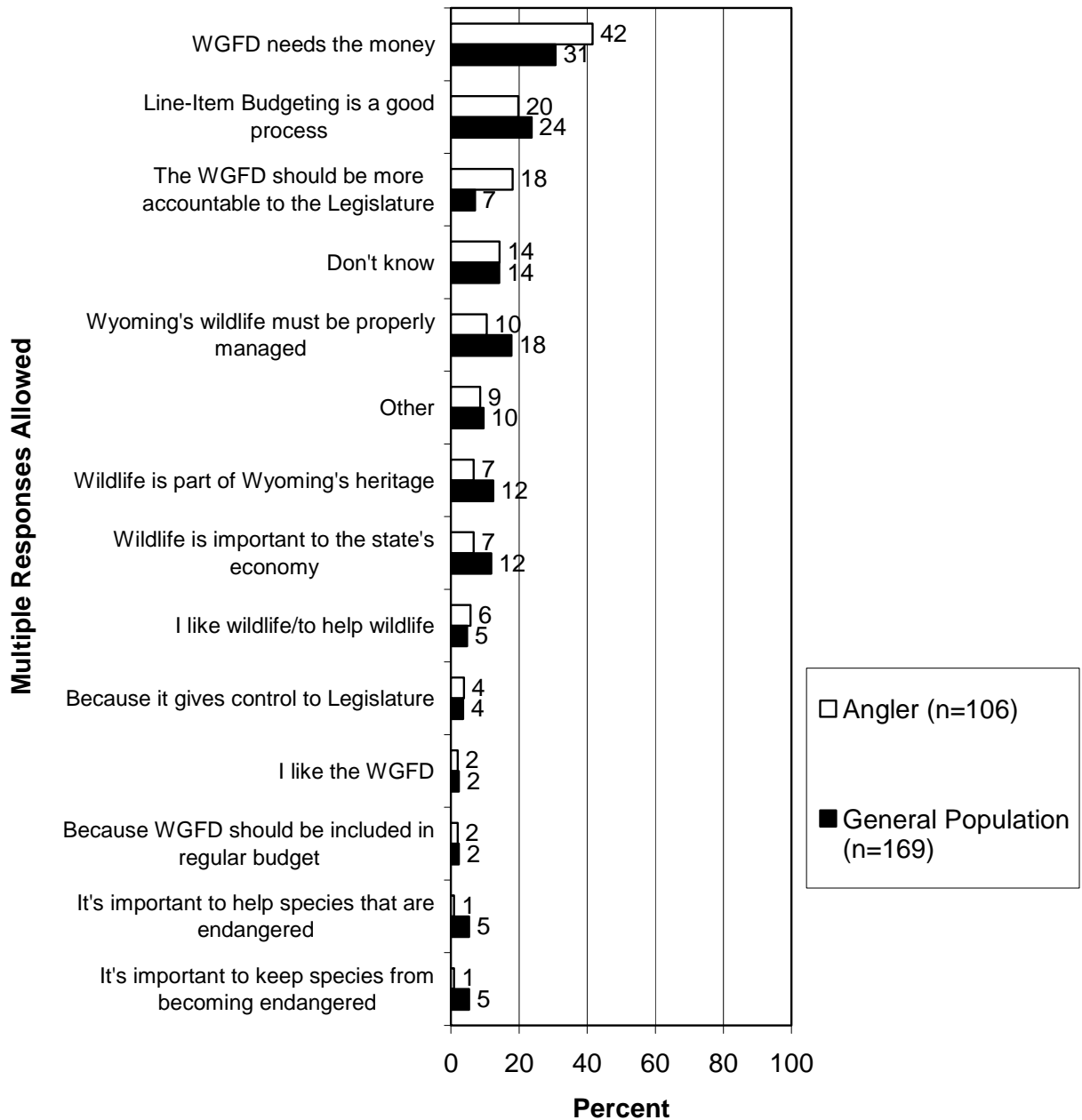
Q40. Why would you support the Legislature using the Line-Item Budgeting process to help pay for wildlife management?



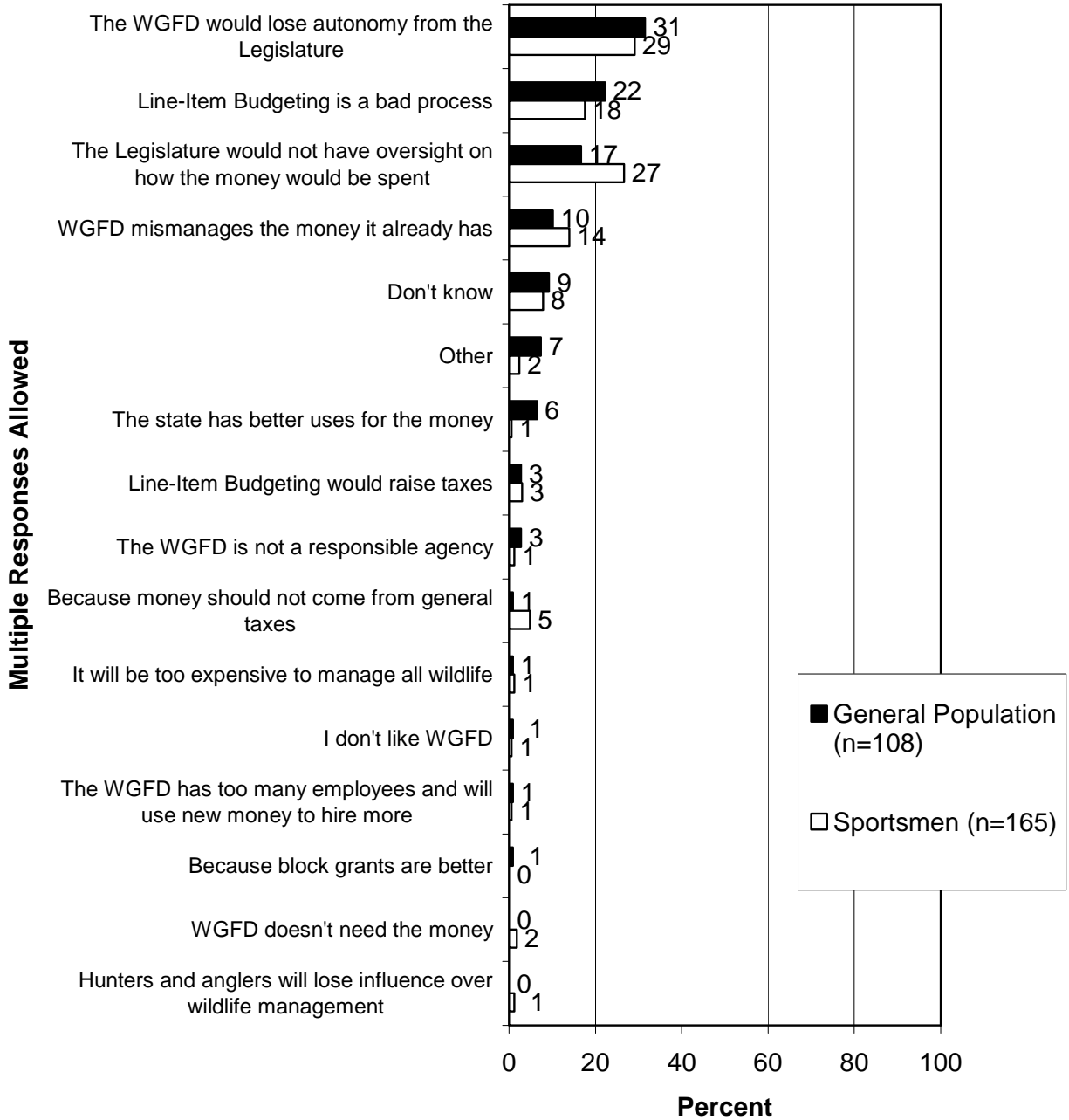
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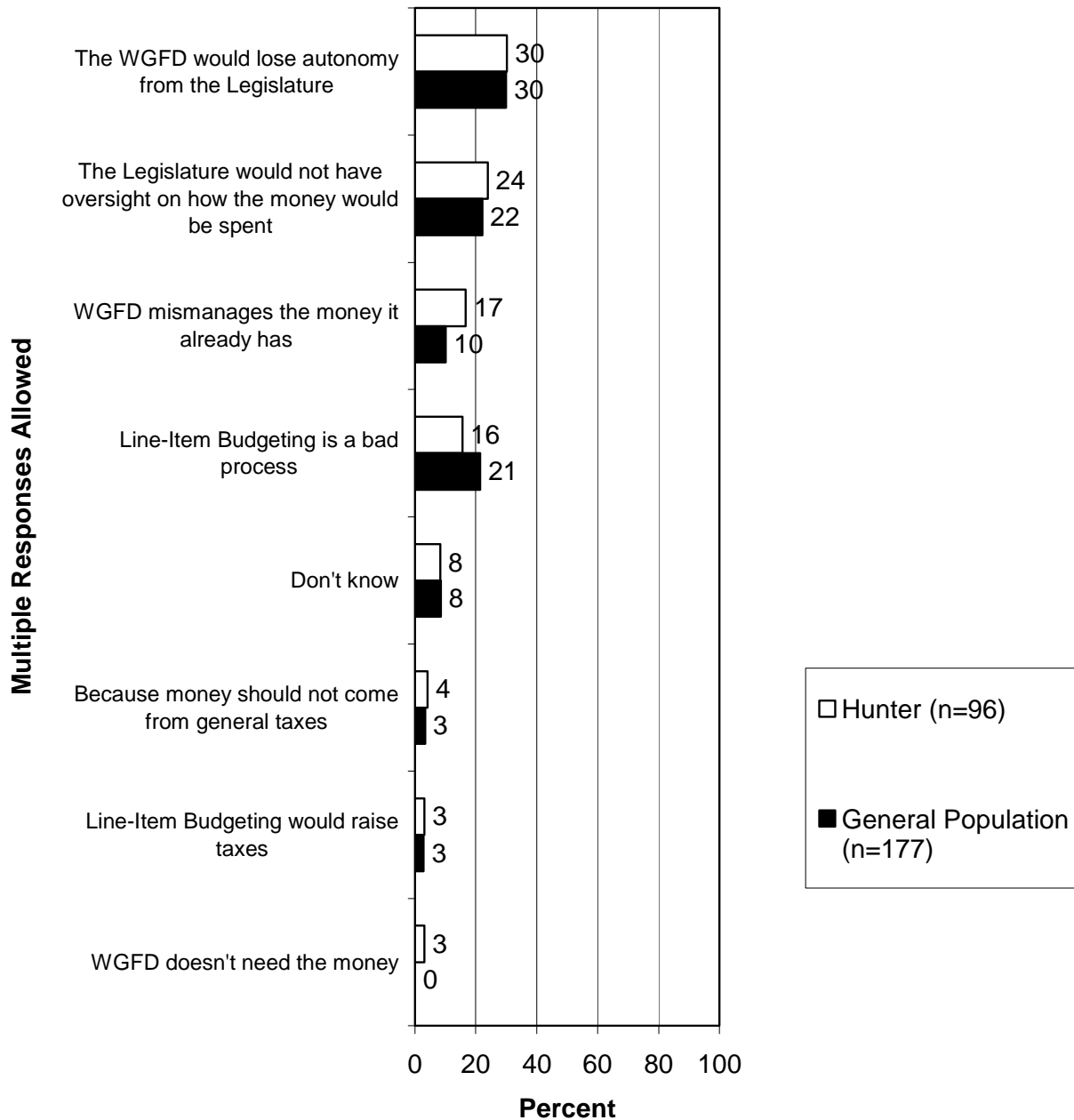
Q40. Why would you support the Legislature using the Line-Item Budgeting process to help pay for wildlife management?



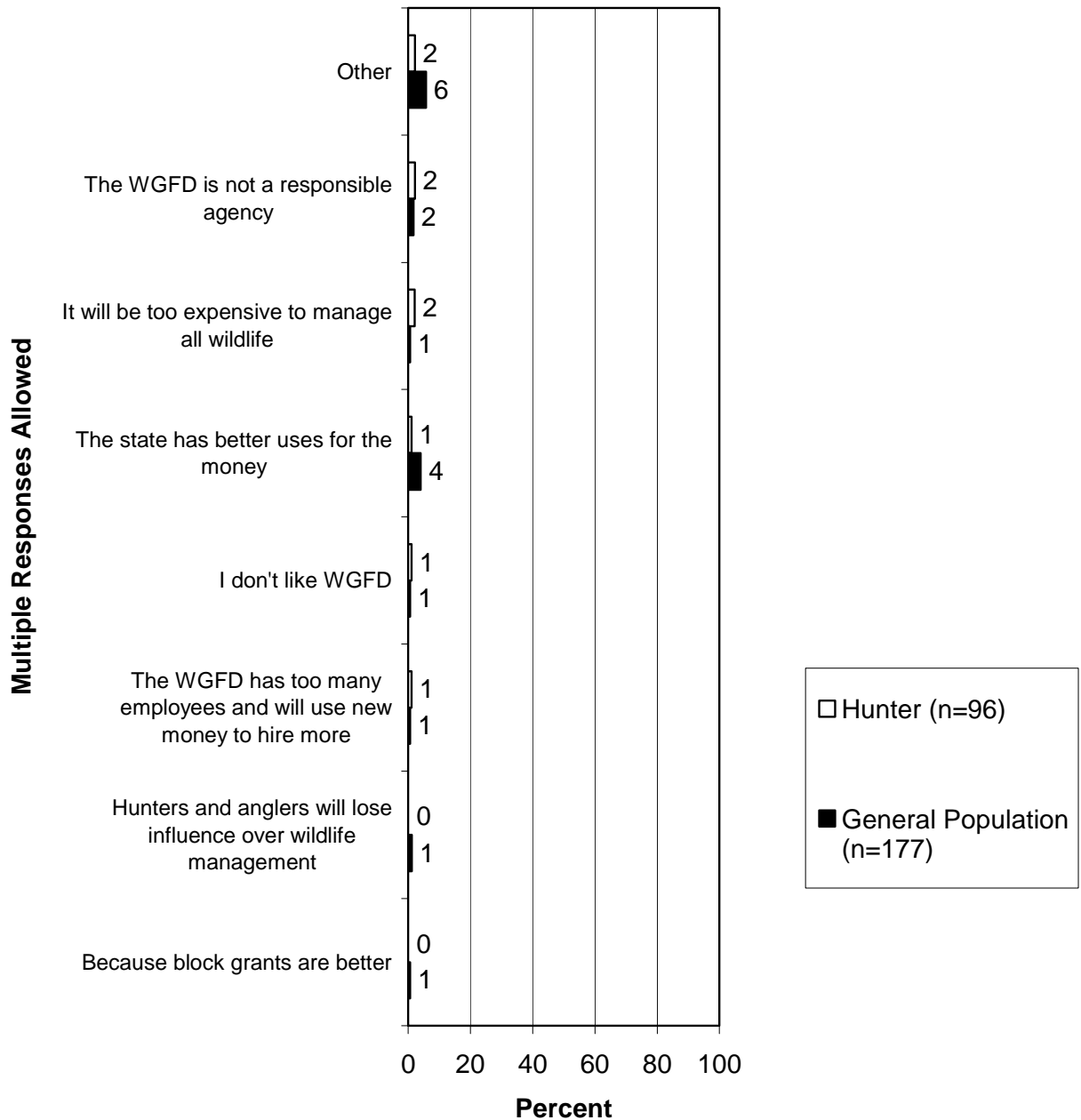
Q43. Why would you oppose using Line-Item Budgeting to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming?



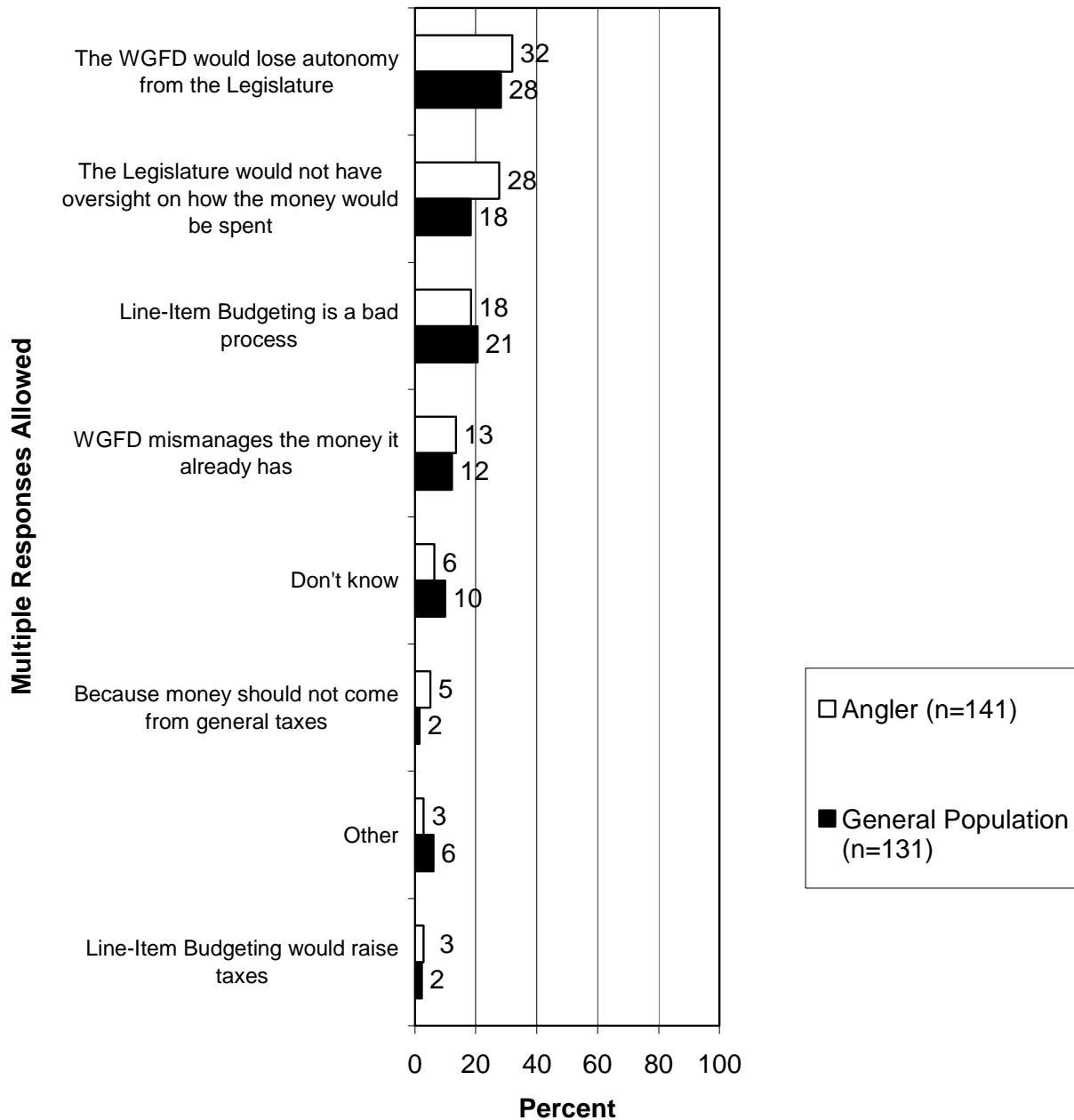
Q43. Why would you oppose using Line-Item Budgeting to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming? (Part 1.)



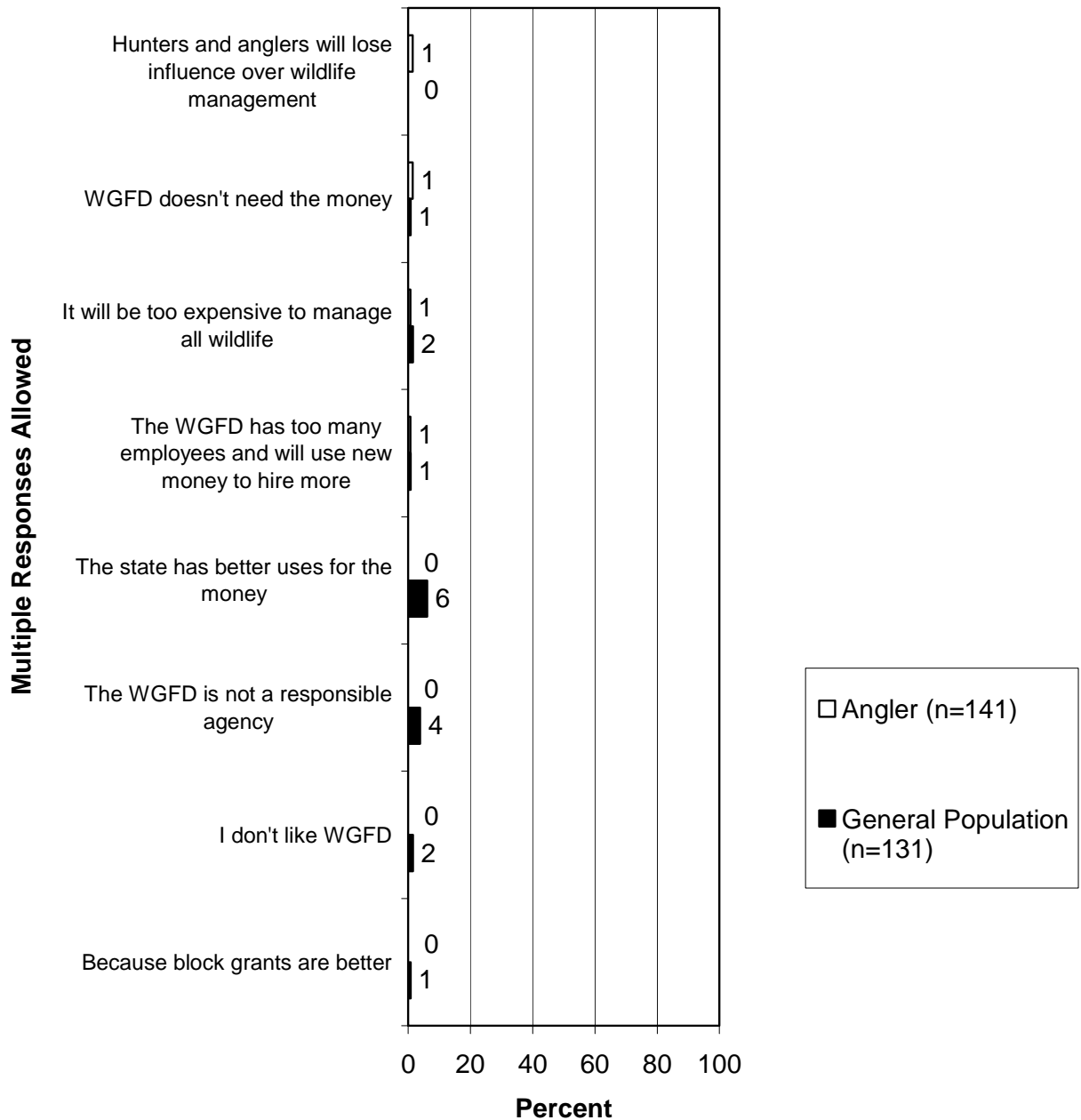
Q43. Why would you oppose using Line-Item Budgeting to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming? (Part 2.)



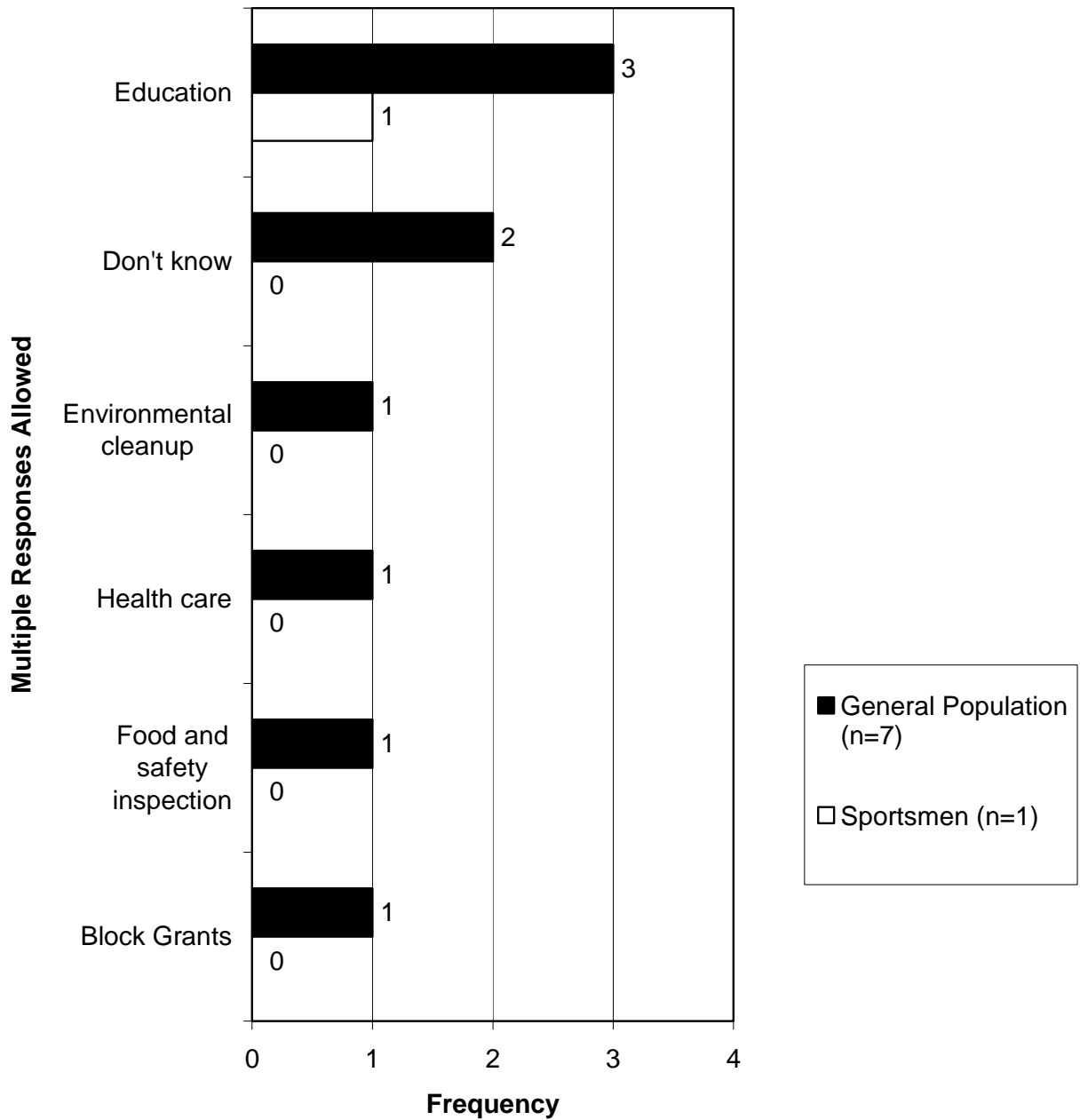
Q43. Why would you oppose using Line-Item Budgeting to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming? (Part 1.)



Q43. Why would you oppose using Line-Item Budgeting to fund wildlife management activities in Wyoming? (Part 2.)



Q46. What do you feel would be a better use of the state's money [than Line-Item Budgeting for wildlife management]?



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

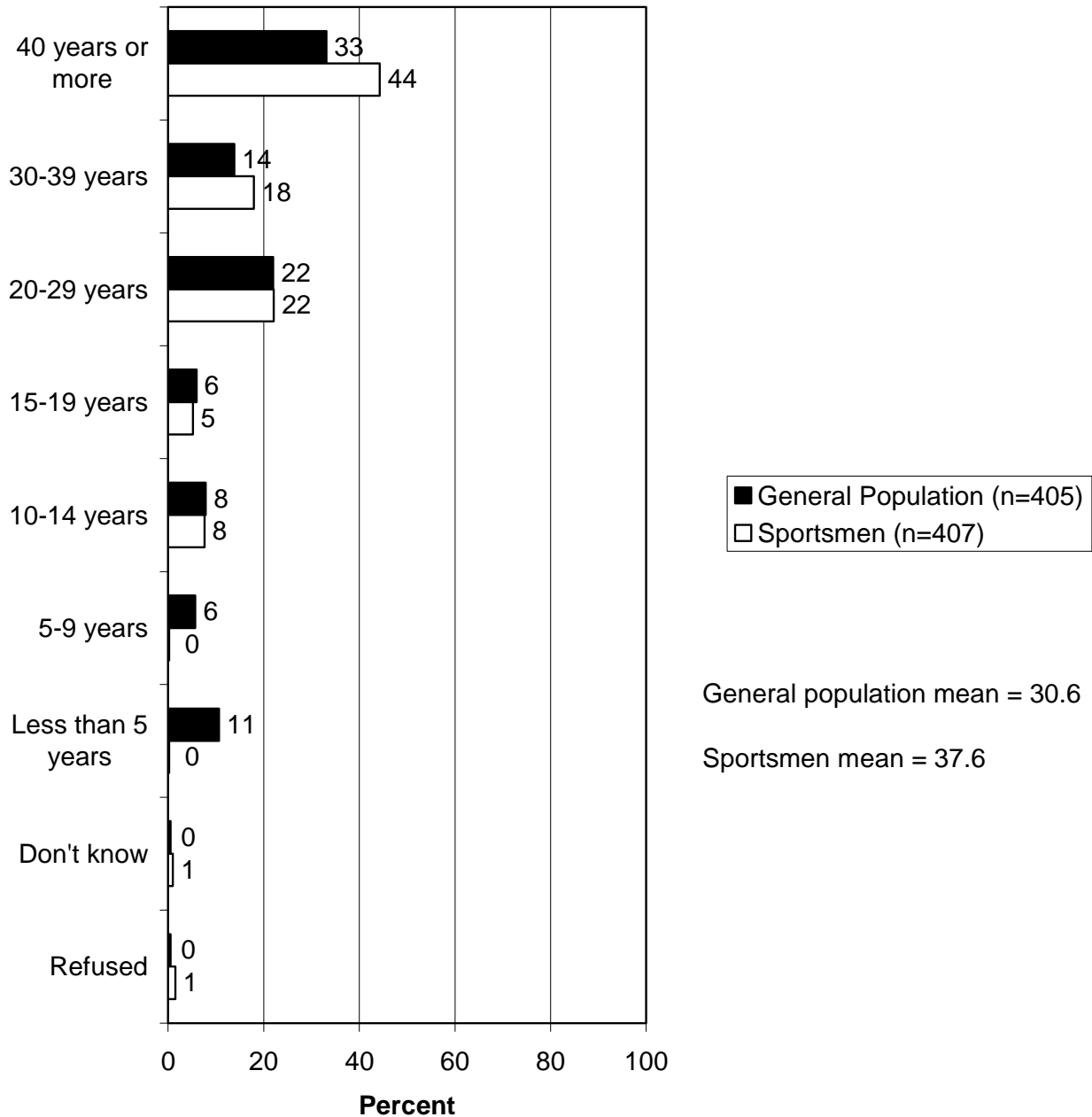
- Substantial percentages of the general population and sportsmen have lived in Wyoming for 40 years or more; the mean number of years that members of the general population have lived in Wyoming is 30.6 years; the mean number of years that sportsmen have lived in Wyoming is 37.6 years.
 - Hunters and anglers had lived in Wyoming, in general, slightly longer than had the general population. The mean number of years that hunters had lived in Wyoming is 38.4 years; the mean number of years that anglers had lived in Wyoming is 37.2 years.

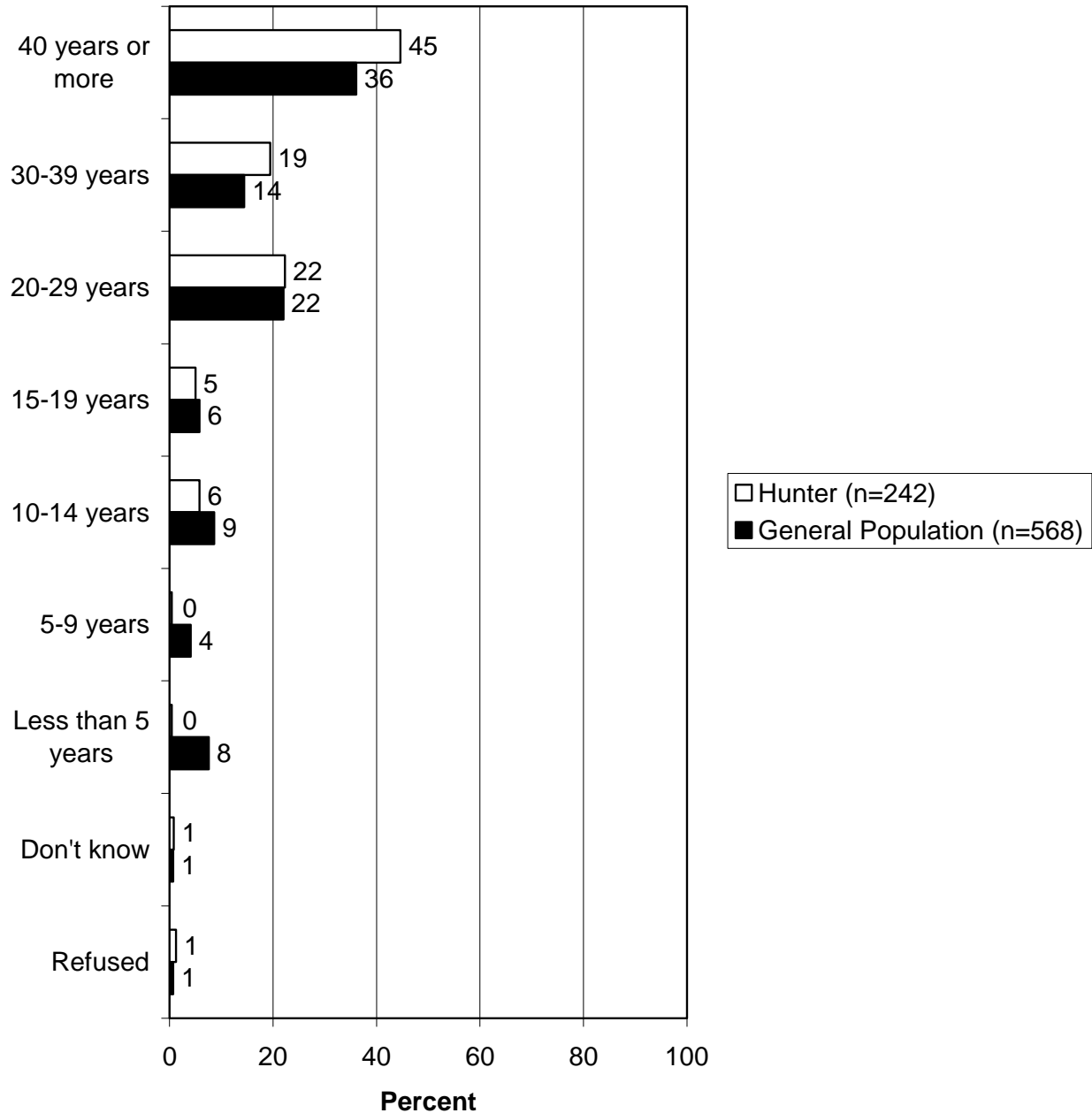
- Counties of residence are shown. The first two graphs show the counties of residence sorted by county name; the second set of two graphs shows the counties sorted by percent of the general population residing there; the third set of two graphs shows the counties sorted by the percent of sportsmen residing there. Following those graphs are two sets of two graphs for hunters' counties of residence and anglers' counties of residence. The counties in which members of the general population most commonly resided were Laramie, Natrona, Fremont, and Campbell. The counties in which sportsmen most commonly resided were Natrona, Fremont, Sweetwater, and Park.

- In general, the ages of each sample of respondents followed a bell curve, slightly skewed to the older ages. The most common age group for both the general population and sportsmen was 45 to 54 years old category. The mean age of the general population was 49.0; the mean age of sportsmen was 52.2.
 - Hunters were, in general, slightly older than the general population; their mean age was 51.6 years.
 - Anglers were, in general, slightly older than the general population; their mean age was 52.6 years.

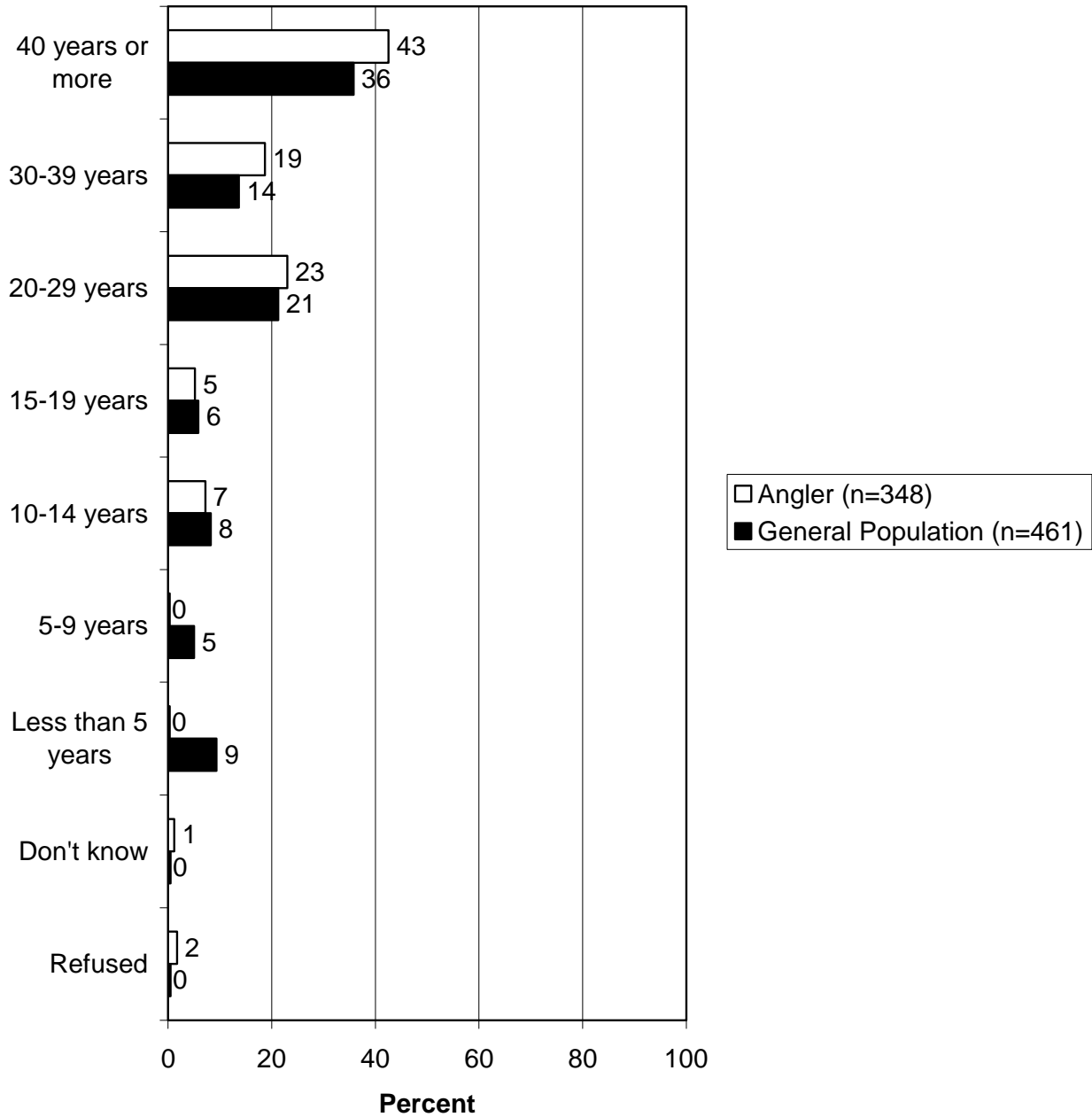
- The general population was about evenly split between male and female; sportsmen were overwhelmingly men (83%).
 - Hunters were the most male of the samples: 91% of hunters were male; 82% of anglers were male.

Q50. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?

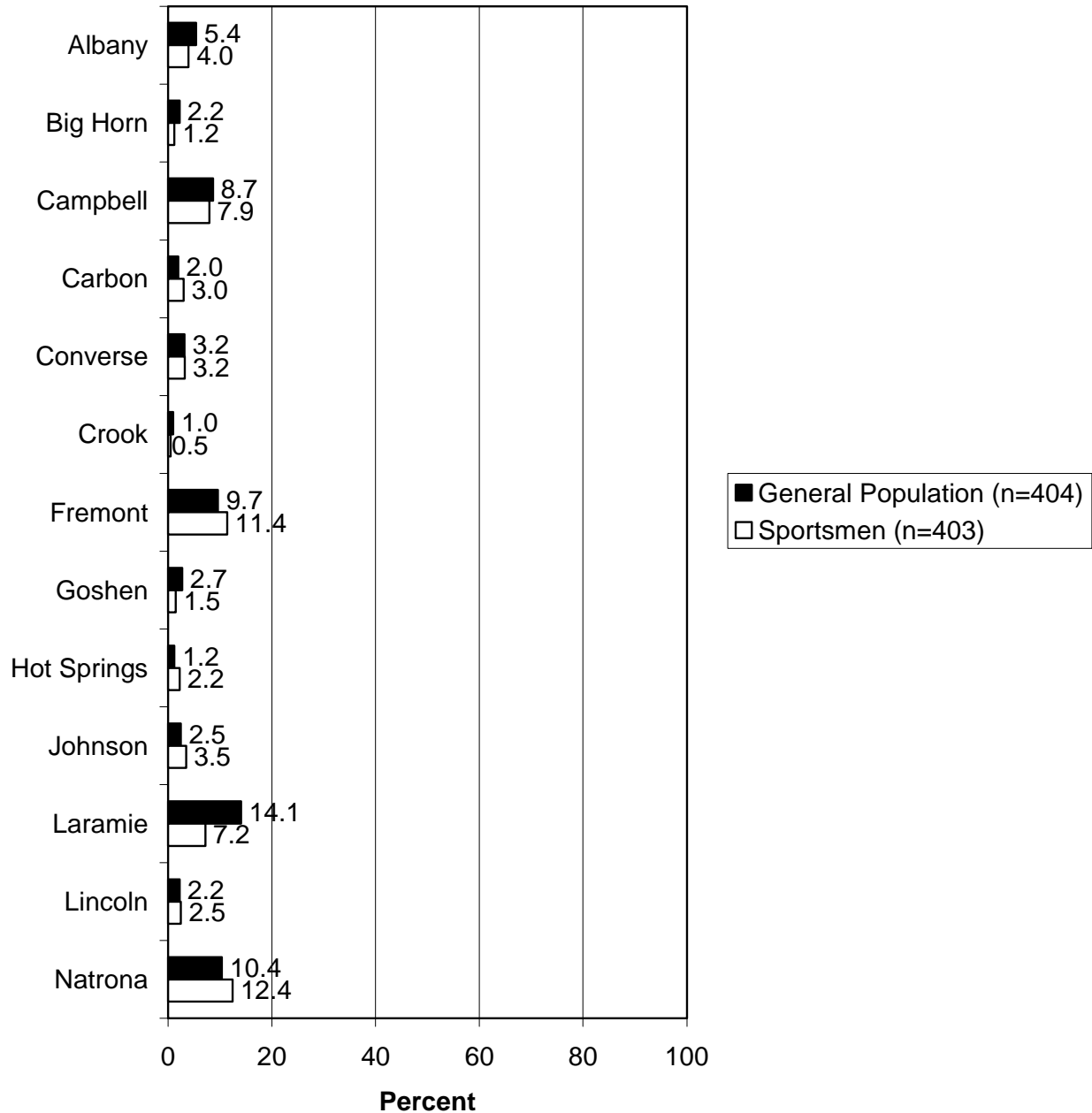


Q50. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?

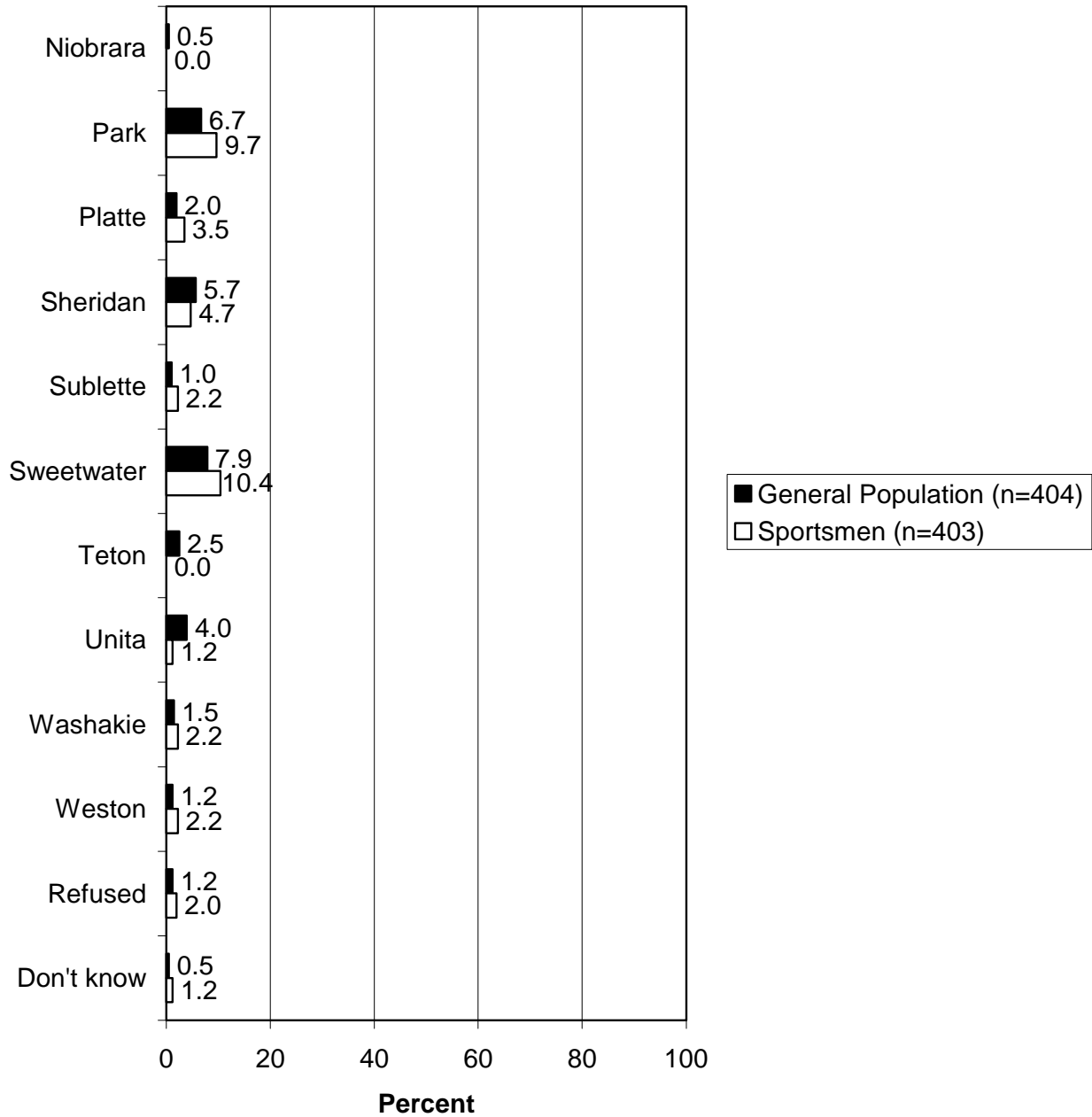
Q50. How many years have you lived in Wyoming?



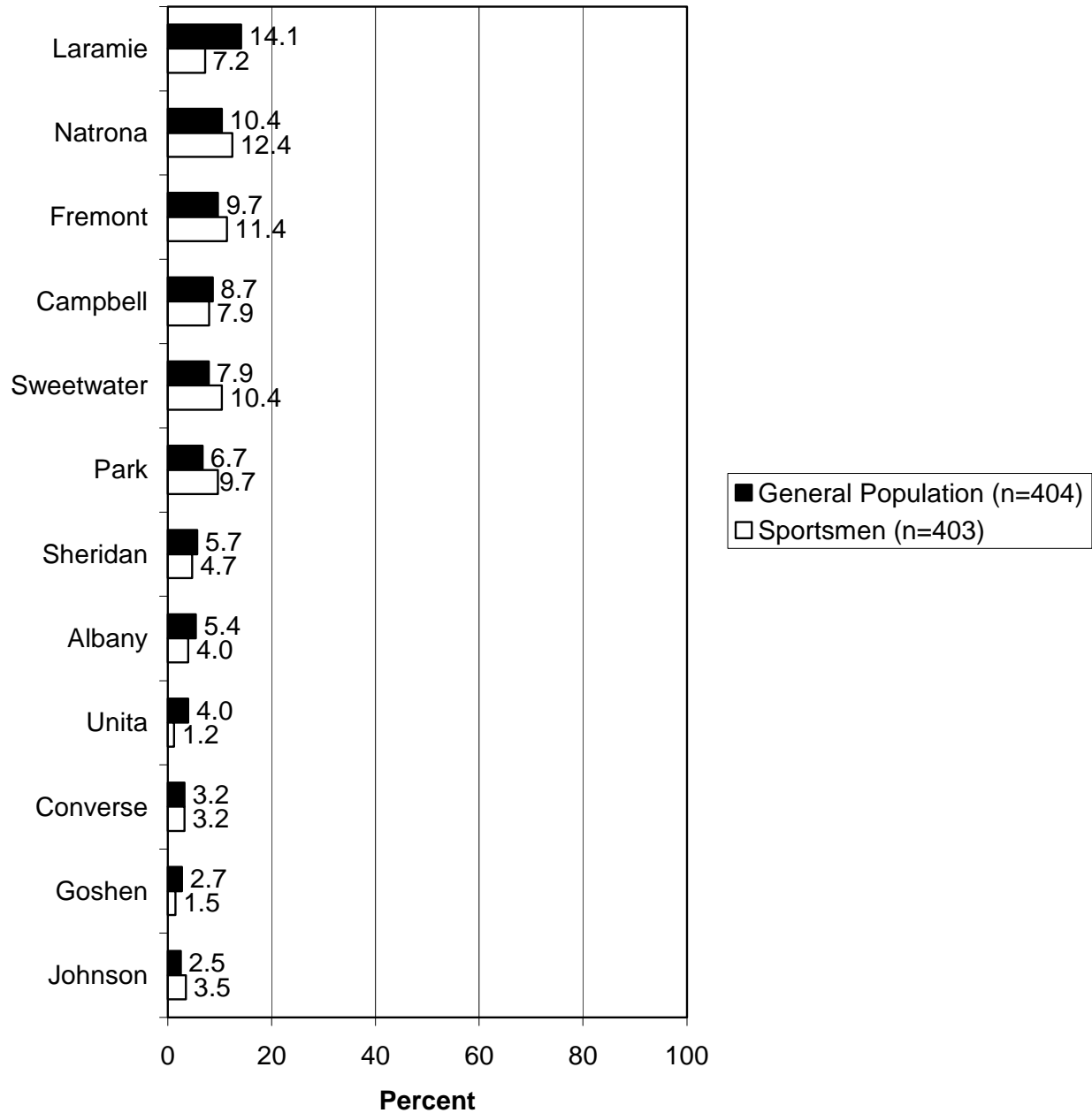
Q52. What county do you live in? (Part 1.)



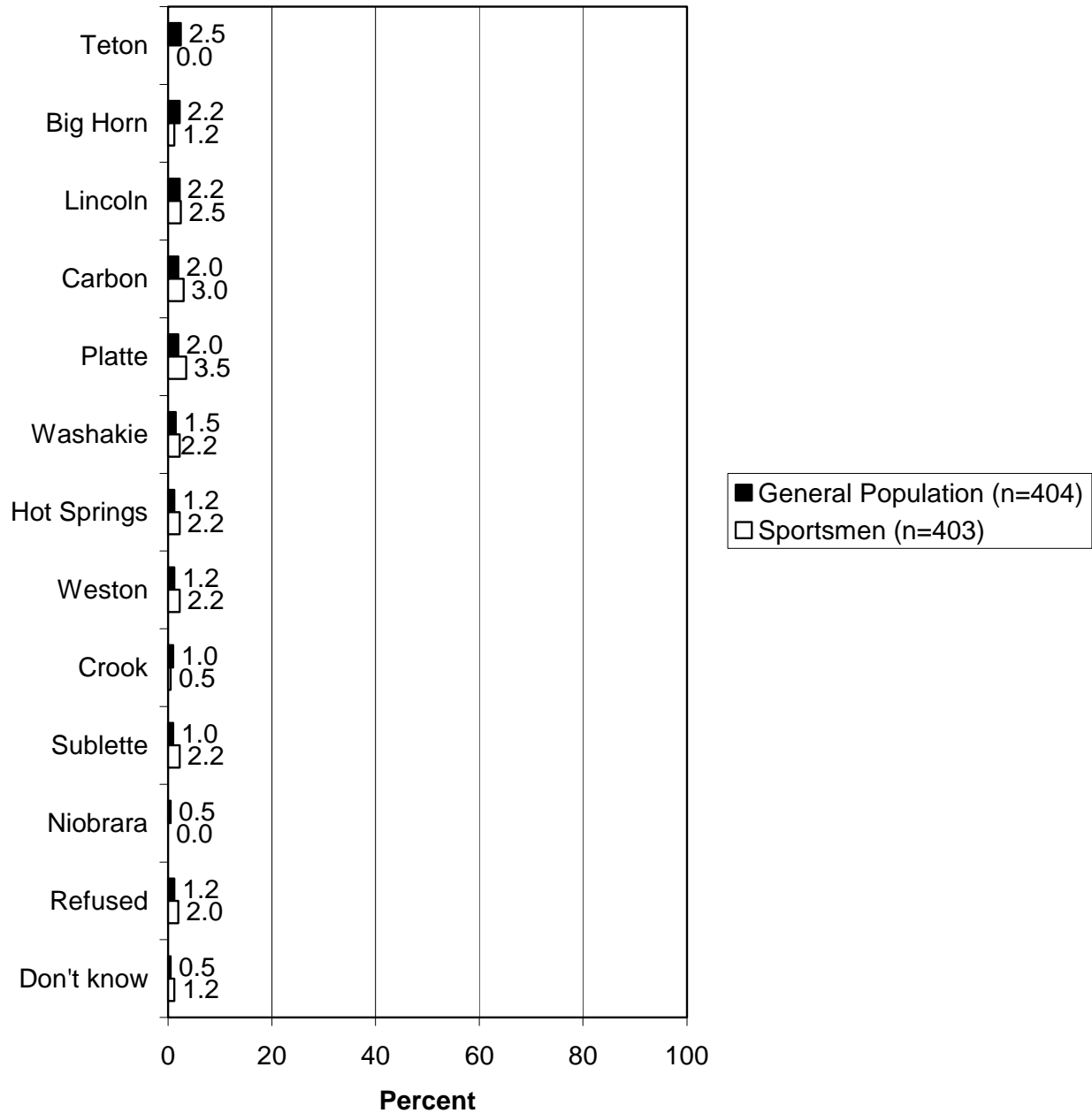
Q52. What county do you live in? (Part 2.)



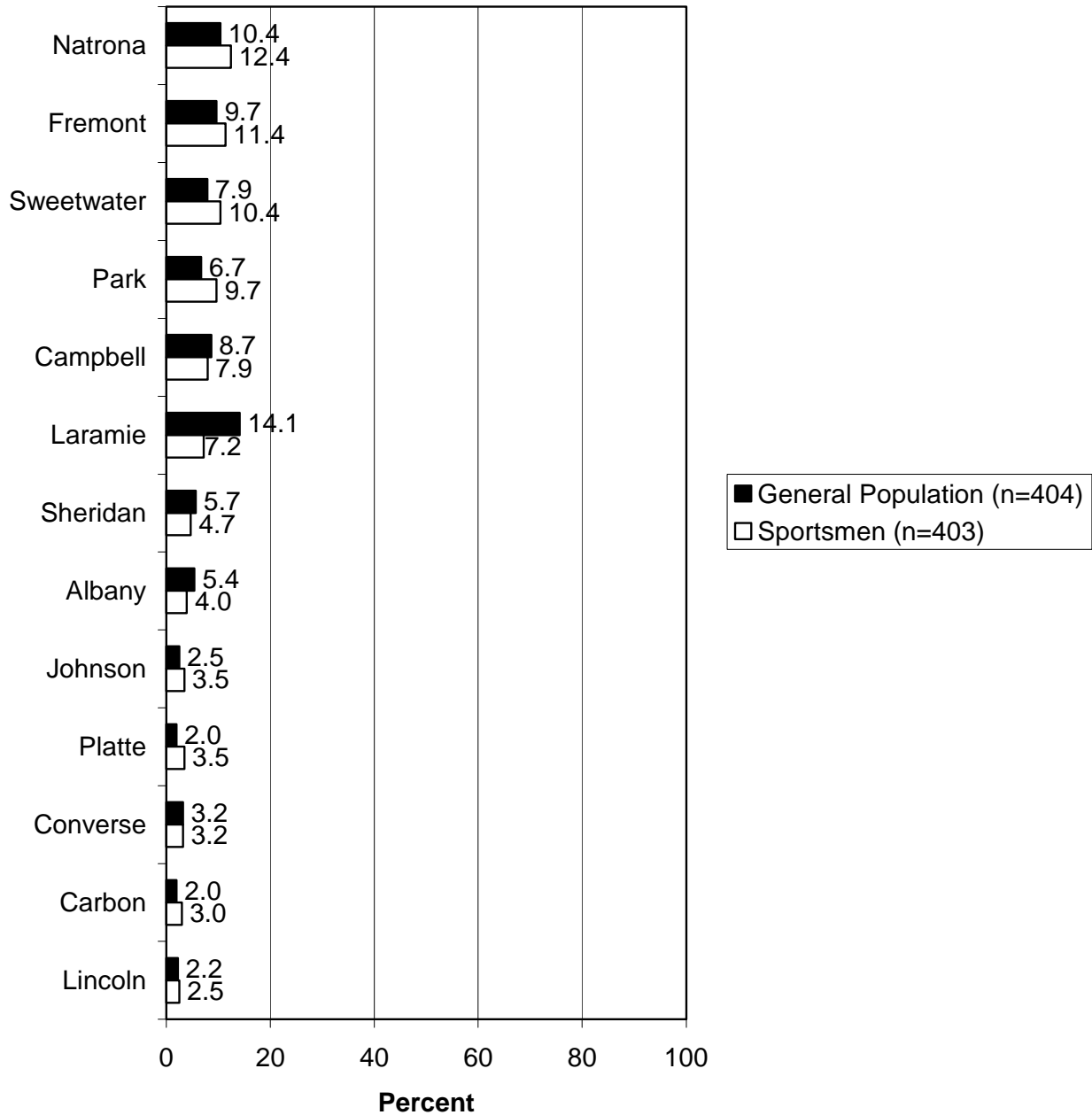
**Q52. What county do you live in? (Sorted by
general population; Part 1.)**



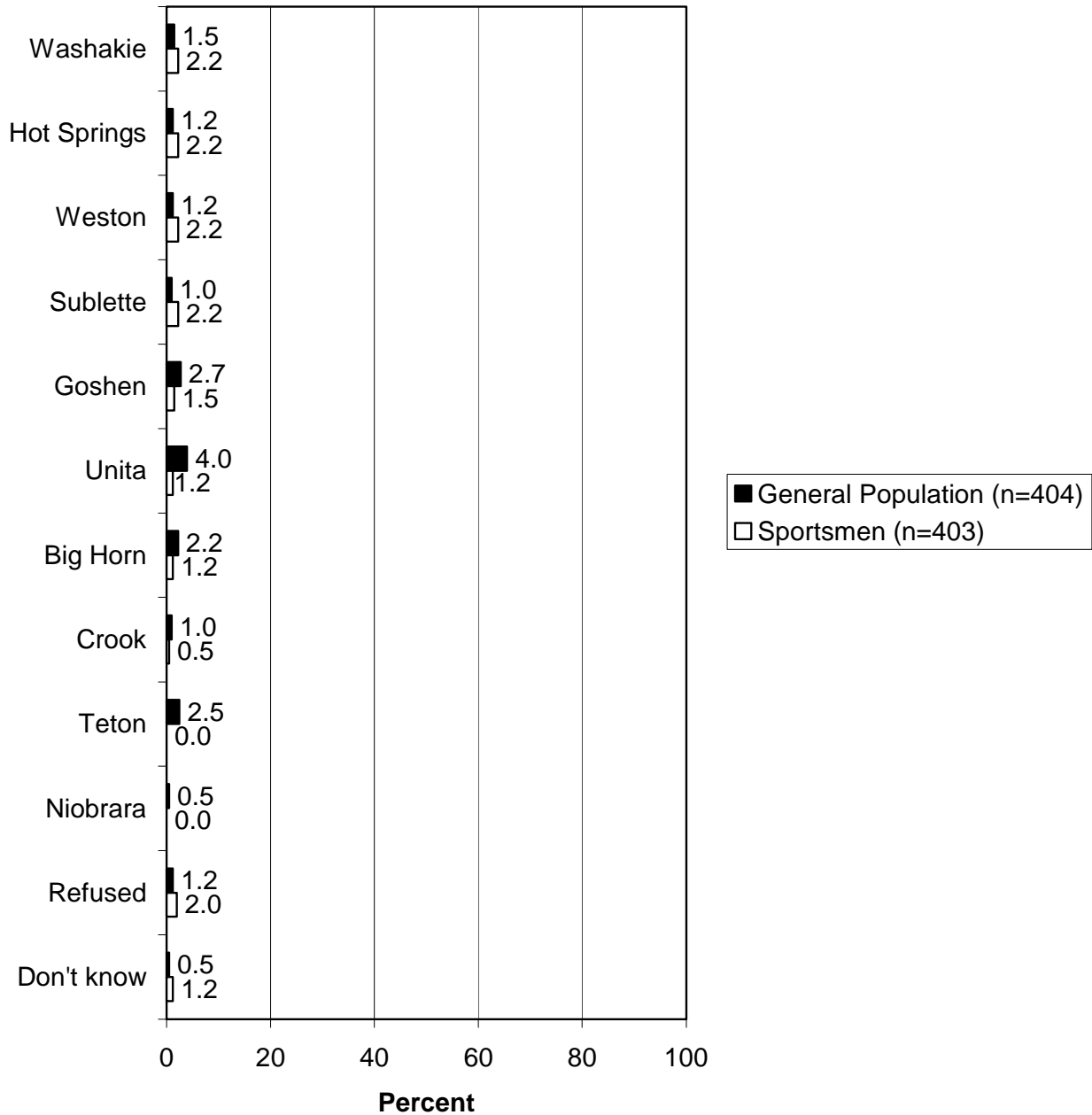
Q52. What county do you live in? (Sorted by general population; Part 2.)



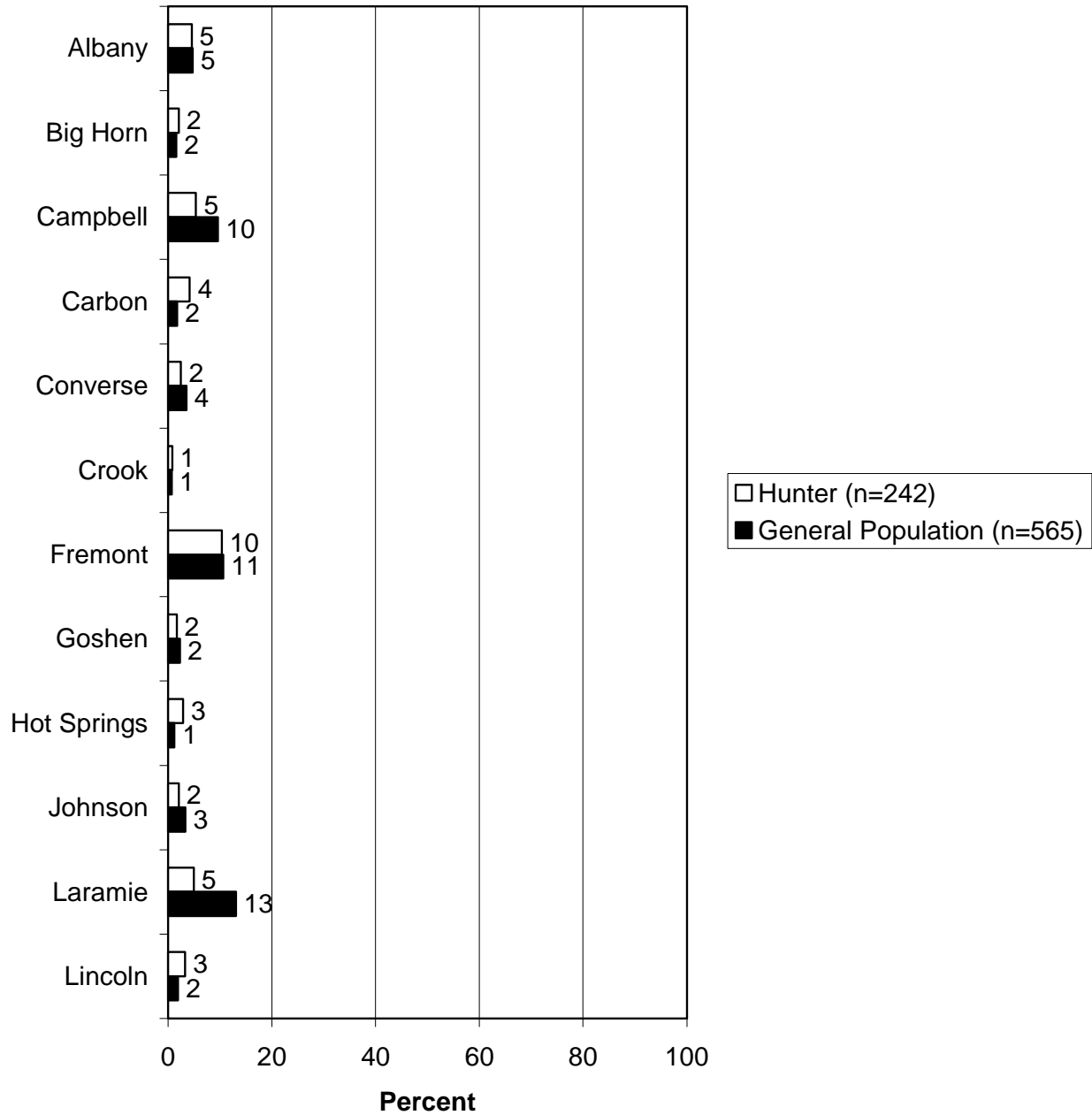
Q52. What county do you live in? (Sorted by sportsmen; Part 1.)



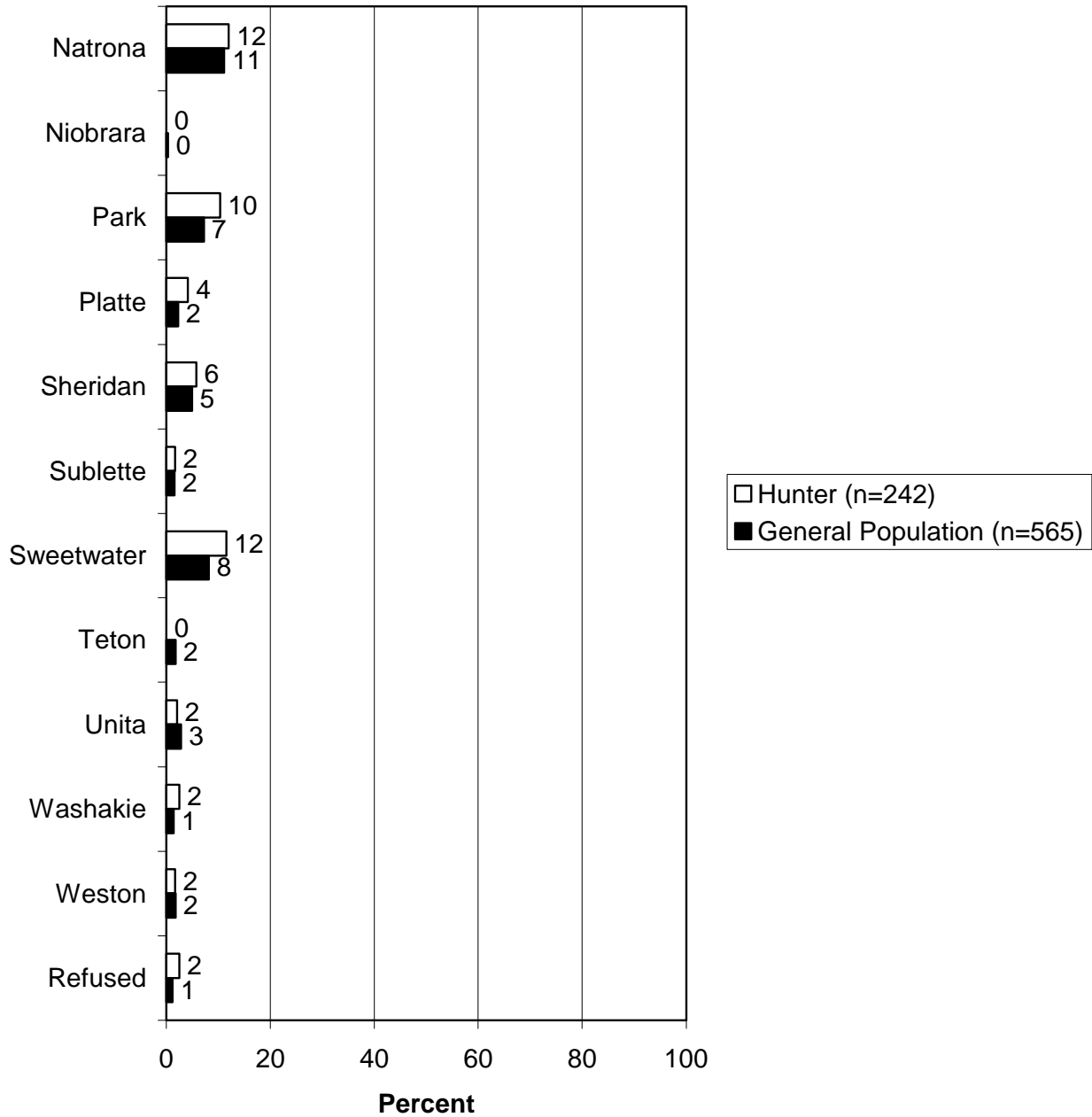
Q52. What county do you live in? (Sorted by sportsmen; Part 2.)



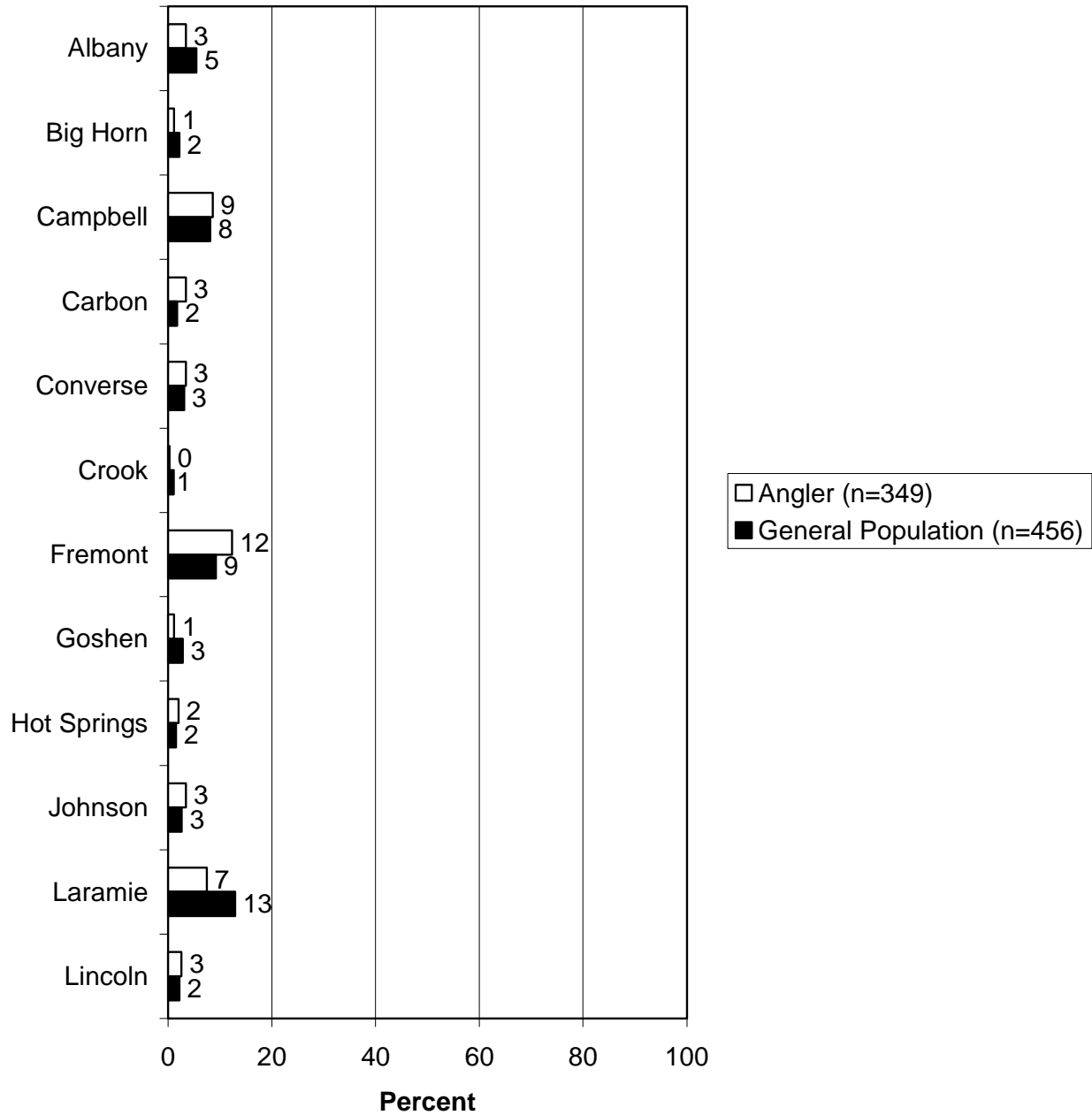
Q52. What county do you live in? (Part 1.)



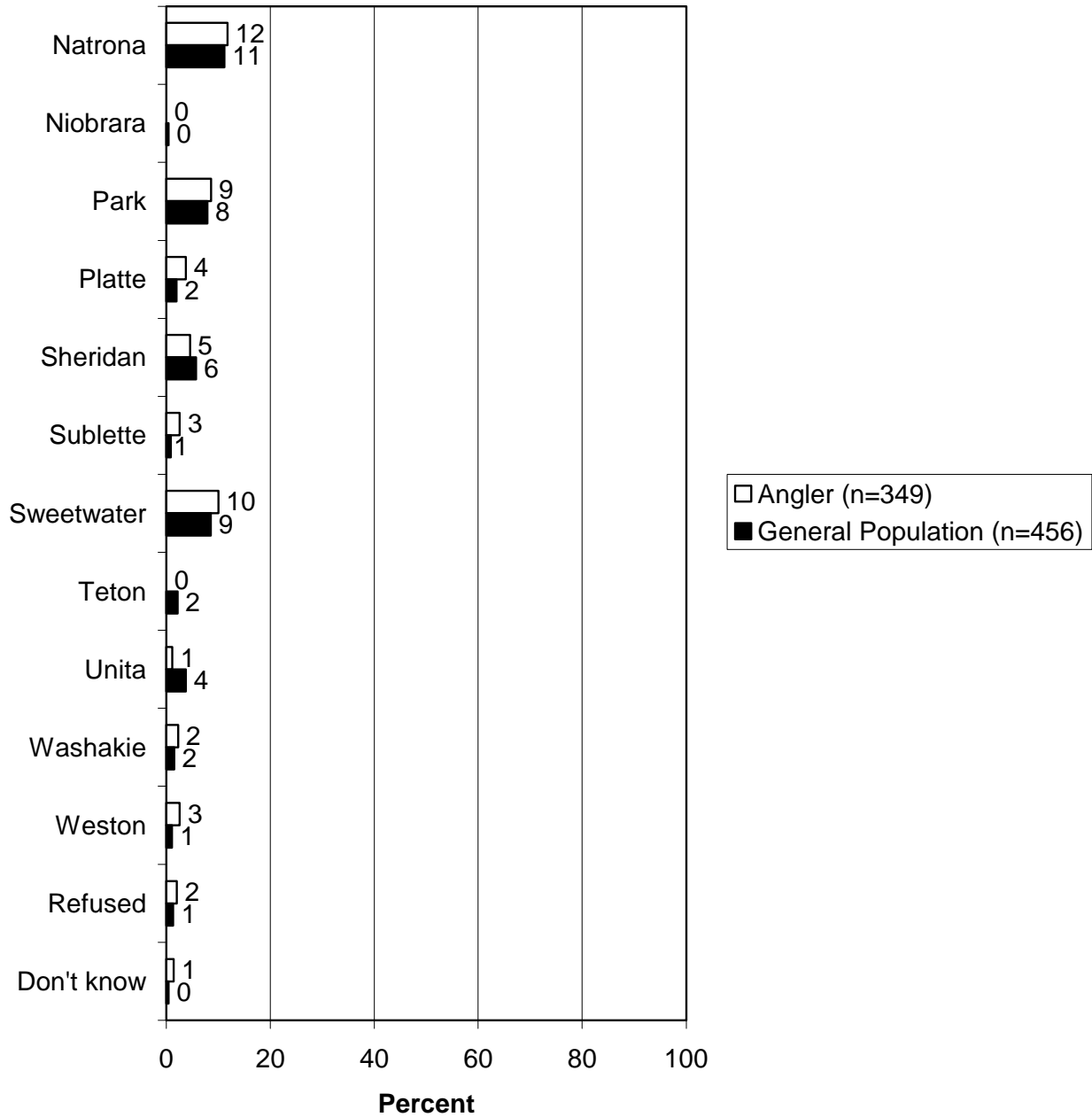
Q52. What county do you live in? (Part 2.)

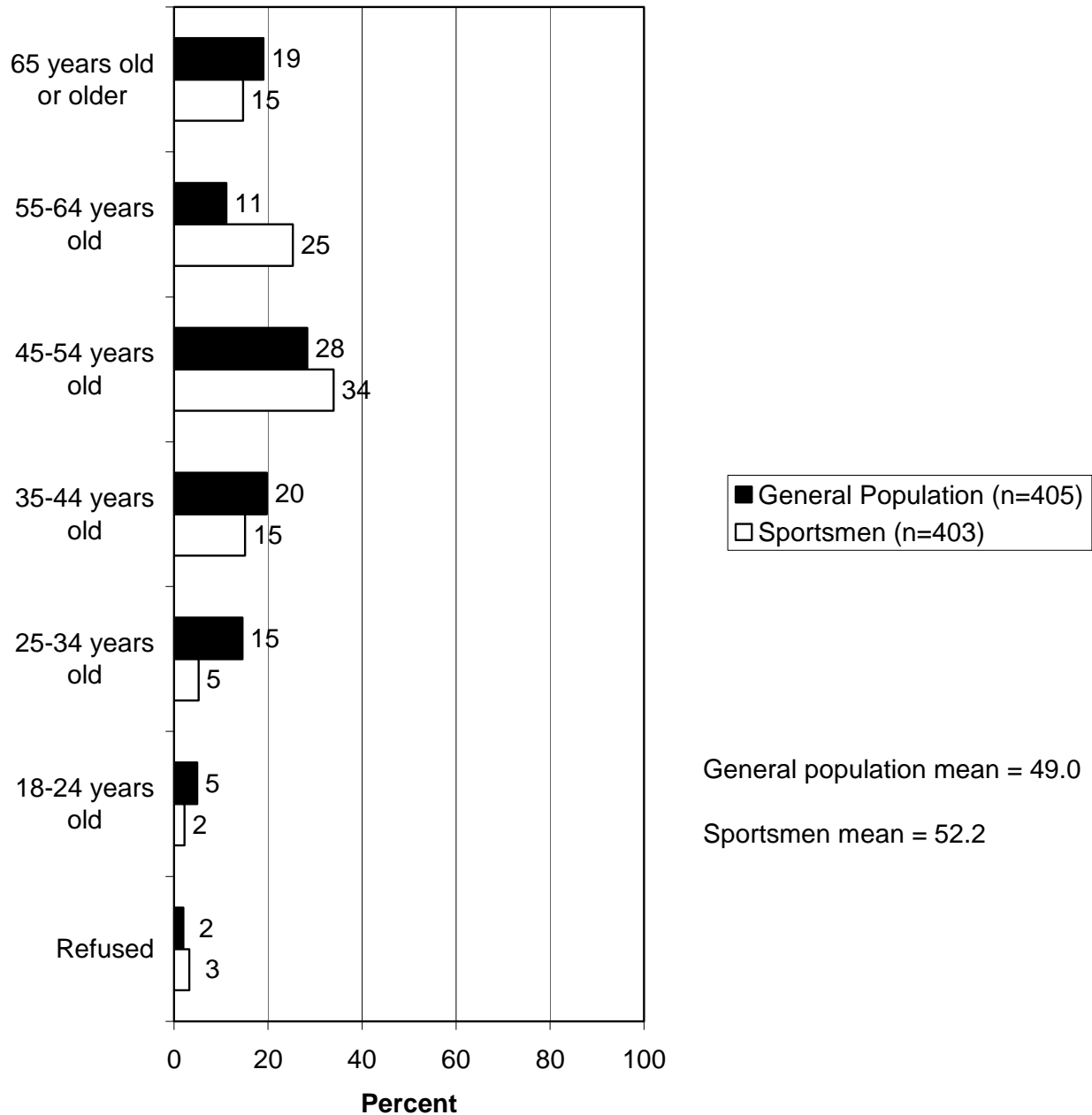


Q52. What county do you live in? (Part 1.)

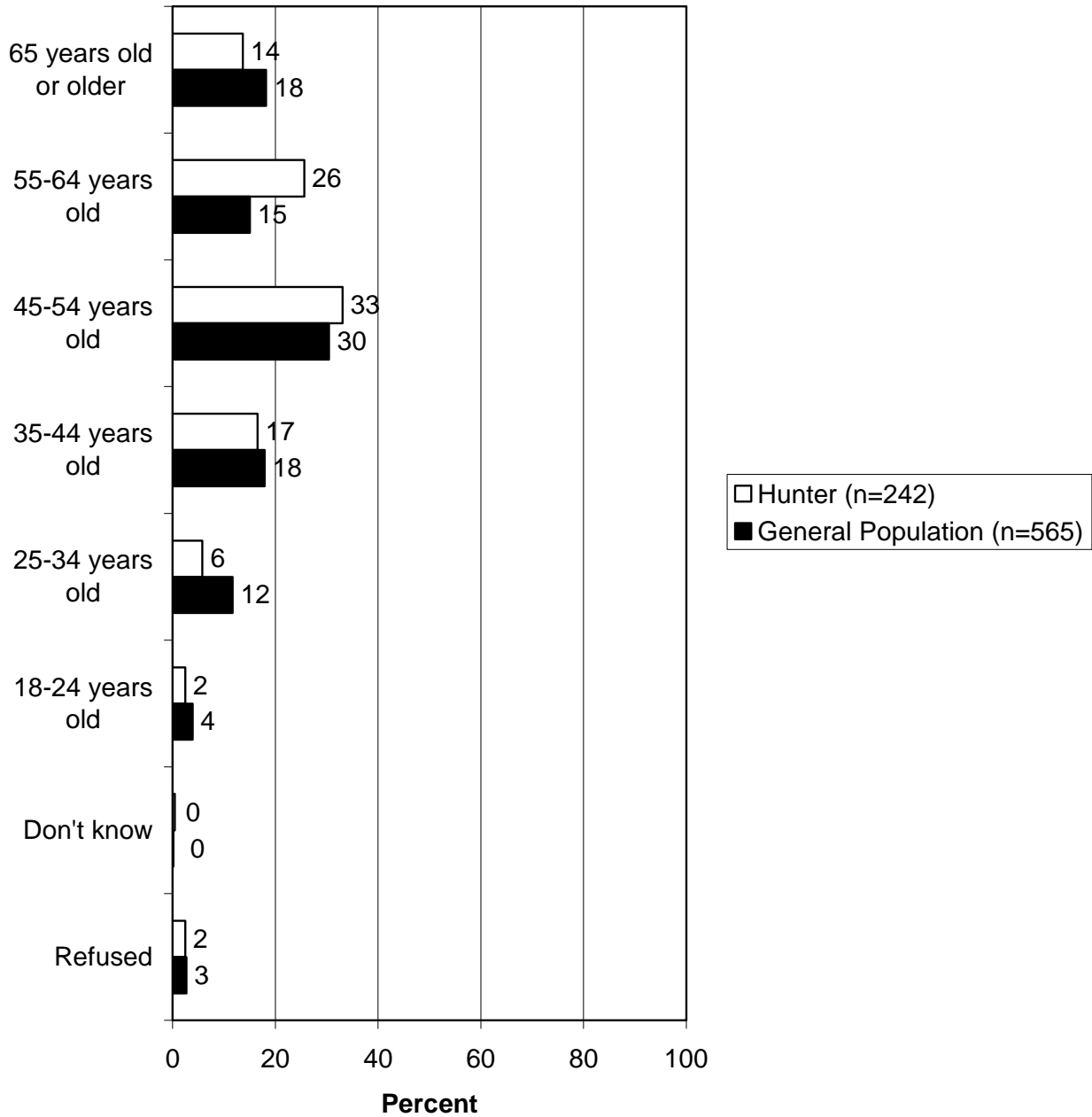


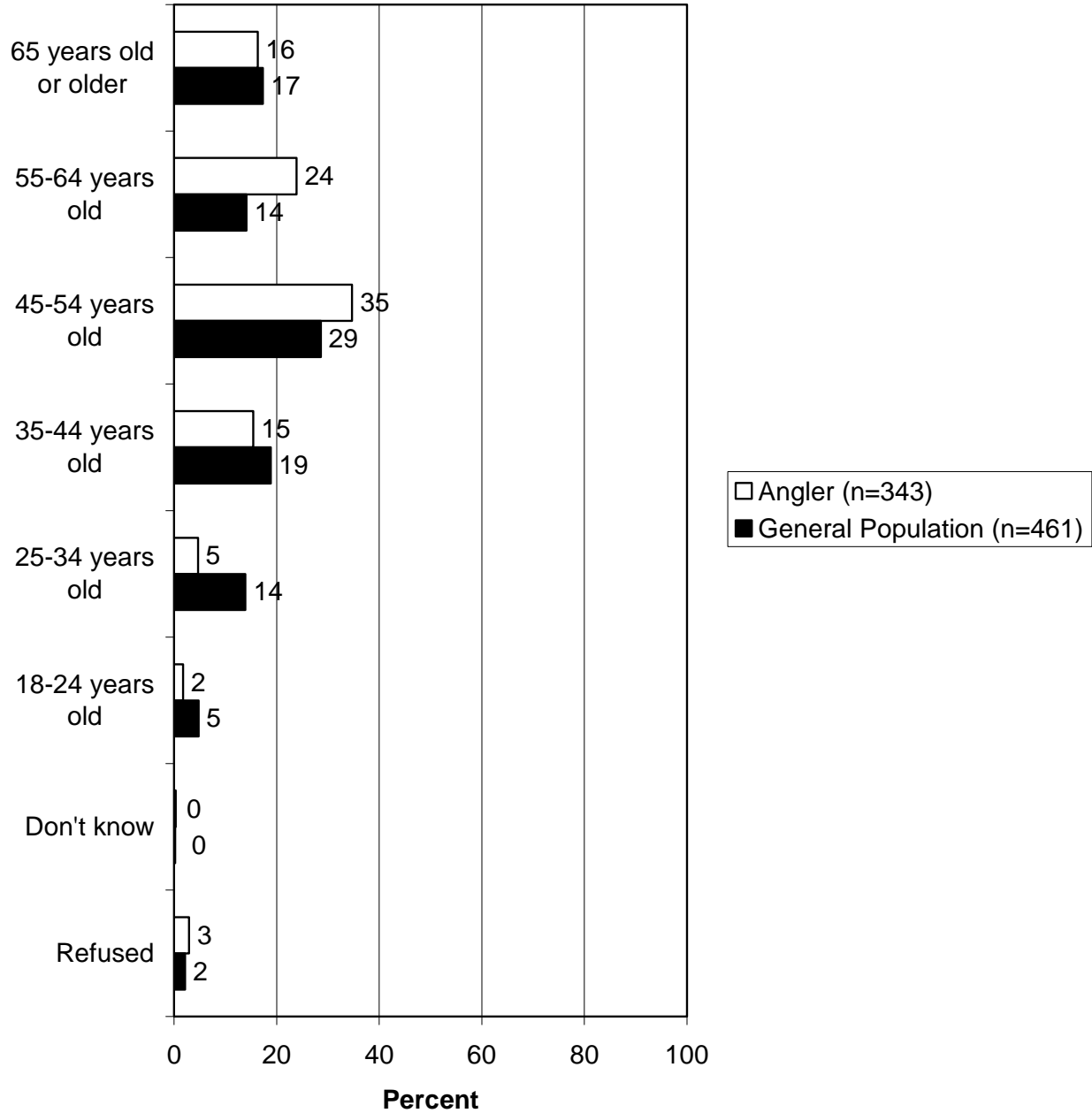
Q52. What county do you live in? (Part 2.)



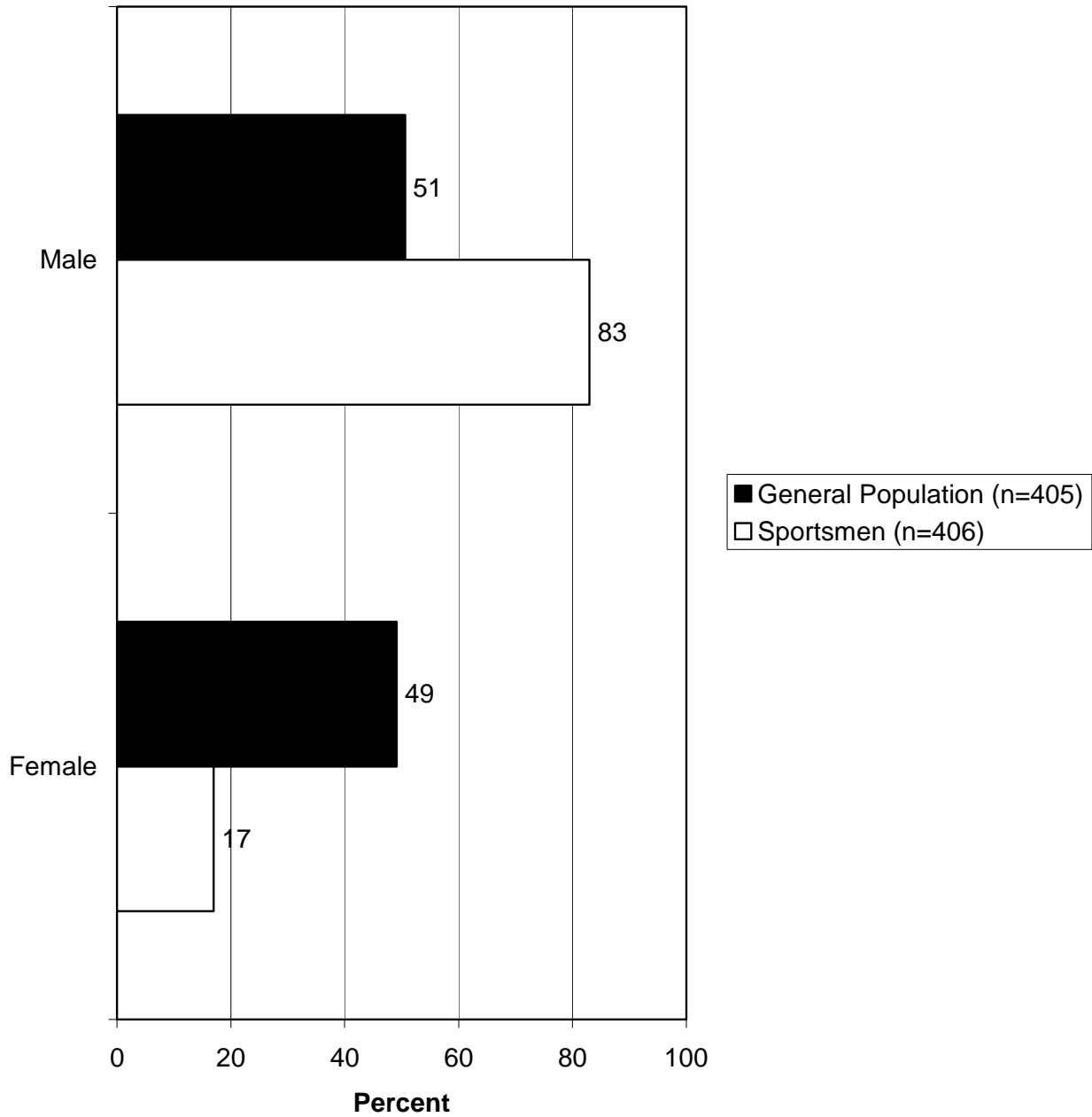
Q53. May I ask your age?

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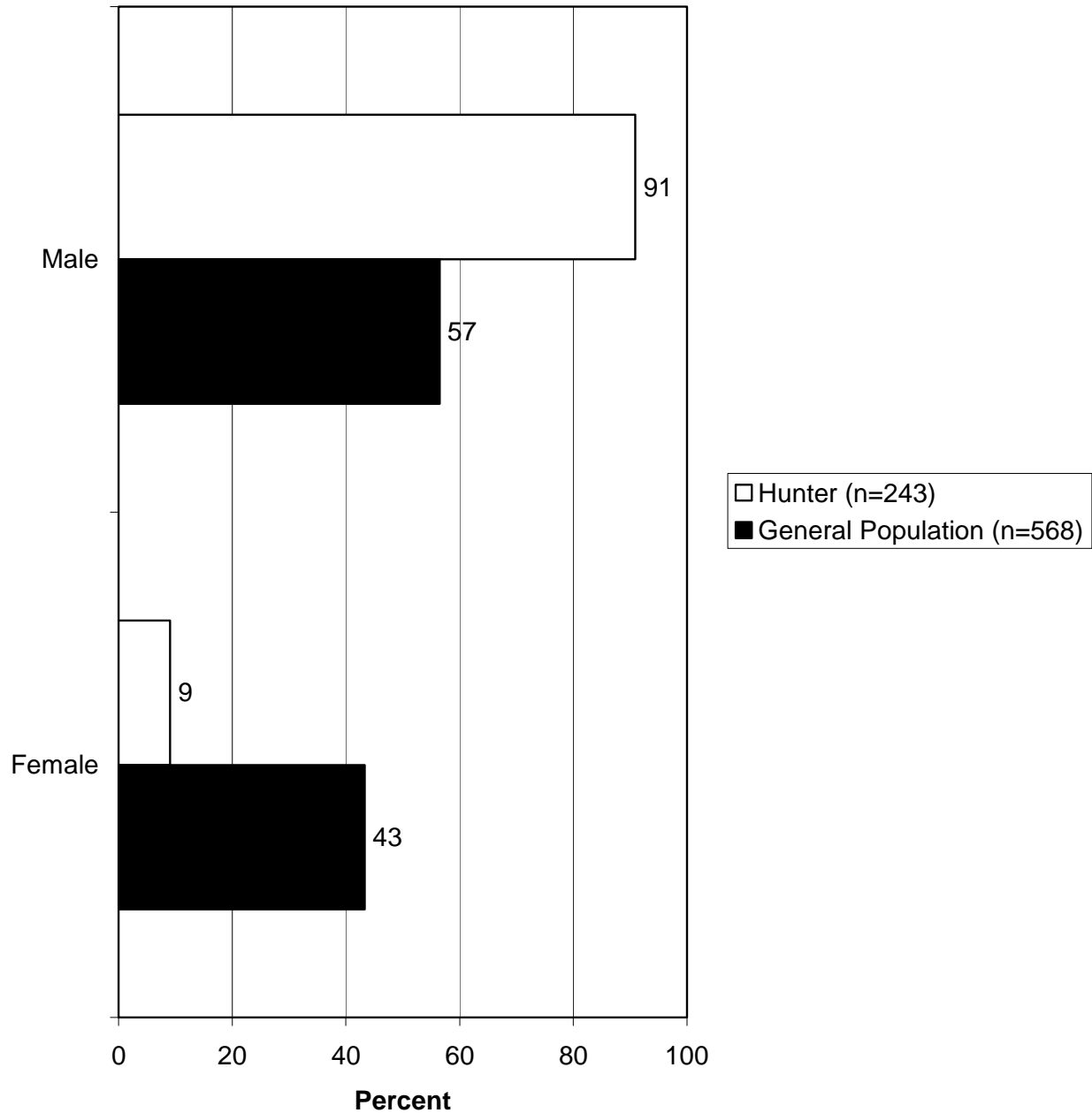


Q53. May I ask your age?

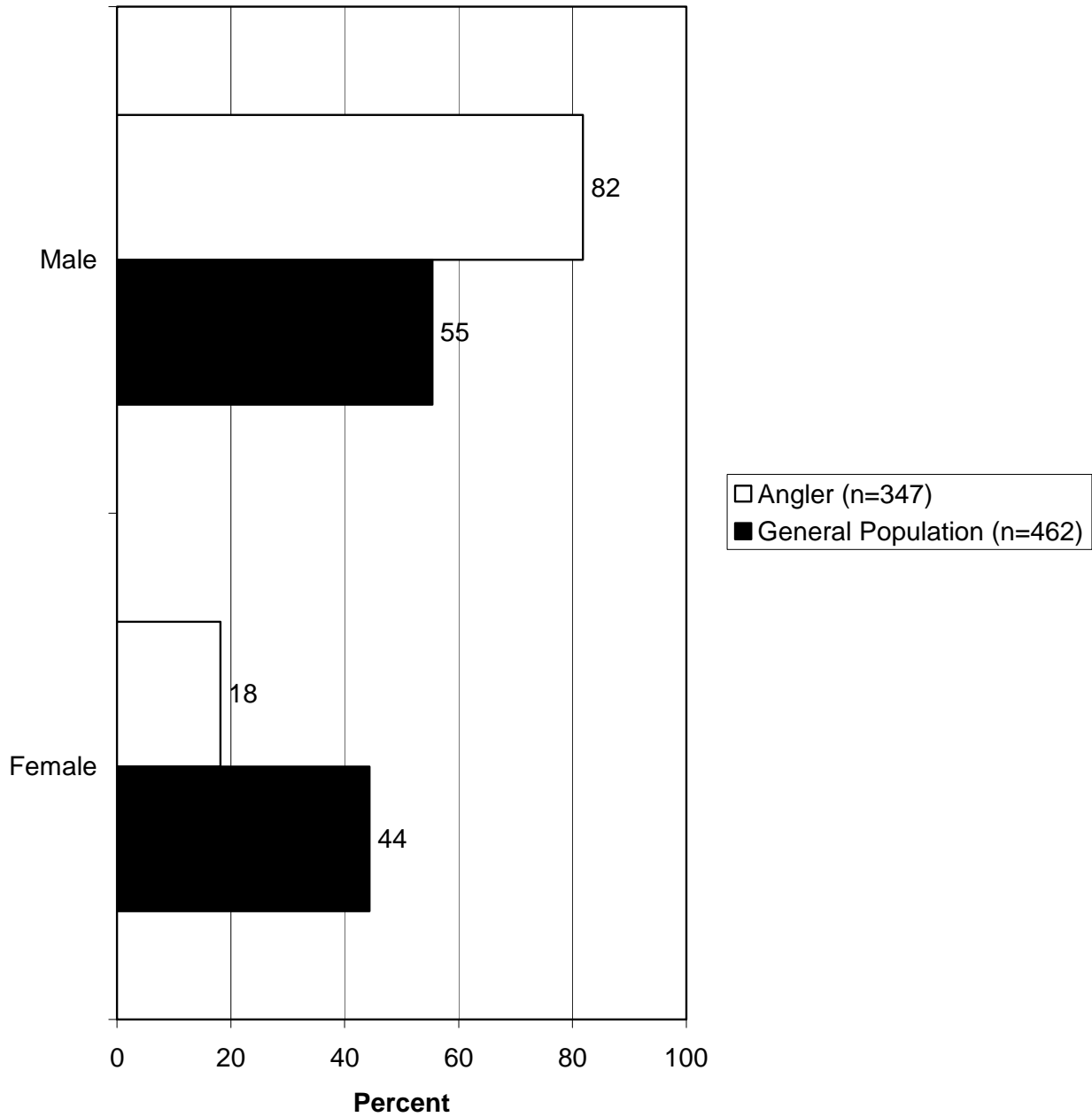
Q55. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).



Q55. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).



Q55. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional monies should be raised through higher out-of-state hunting license fees.
Clean up the boat ramps and lakes. Use some of the money to do that. Cut down on the nonsense tickets from Rangers and such.
Follow Alaska's example with confiscation of property if caught breaking wildlife laws.
Control the wolf population.
De-list wolves and grizzlies so the Department can better control or keep up big game.
I don't want my taxes to be raised because they aren't managing what they are supposed to already (the wolves).
Give me a moose and bighorn sheep license; I should be able to shoot wolves that harass wildlife.
I don't think that out-of-staters should be able to get a license for hunting so easily. They only want a trophy and leave the meat to waste; that should be monitored more closely.
Feds have come in and the Easterners have come in to try to run things. The grizzlies and the wolves are a problem.
Money is needed for access to public lands from ranchers.
G&FD are in trouble due to their own doings; no tax money should be given to help bail them out.
The Game and Fish Department is doing a great job.
Interest off of mineral revenue fund is the best choice. Now I hope the state succeeds in its wolf lawsuit.
Antelope, deer, and elk are declining, and the present G&FD is catering to nonresidents and treat residents poorly. They don't care about the important things: the elk, deer, and antelope.
Game and Fish need to encourage wolf population.
Good job with fish and antelope, and moose, but they are over-funded; they waste money.
I don't agree the way that they are managing it right now, with the policies they have.
Highways are the biggest wildlife killer—attach an animal tax.
I approve of the line-item budget process, but not who controls that line-item.
I think it would be a good idea to make it mandatory that anyone who uses state or BLM lands would have a conservation stamp fee to provide money for the WGFD.
Common ground needs to be met on the way things are managed in the wild between the public and private land owners.
I think the funding is very important; put together an endowment, and use the interest from the fund for the Game and Fish Department.
I believe the Department/Commission mismanages the money they have already, and I'm against any additional money they might receive because they just use it to hire biologists and do studies, but no action is taken.
The Game and Fish Department shows nothing but bureaucratic incompetence. I am against the WGFD having any more money until I find out what they are doing with it. I think this survey doesn't provide enough information.
I don't think they need any more money; they are mismanaging. The licenses are too expensive for the quality of hunting and fishing. They need to use their money better to manage wildlife.

Department is spreading itself too thin. They should be concentrating on diseases of the game animals.
I feel that they do nothing for the hunters as it is and should receive no additional money until they stop raising hunting licenses and do something decent with the money they currently receive.
I think the WGFD should be managed like a business.
Legislature would be less knowledgeable on the best way to spend the money.
The WGFD needs more than license fees.
I used to live in Freemont City, and all over, the game is not the most important. There are a lot of other animals that need to be protected, like the martens. Wyoming should be kept wild; we lose our heritage when we lose our animals.
I want open season on coyotes and grizzlies.
I would definitely encourage the Legislature to give the Commission some financial backing.
Important for heritage.
I think that rather than a block grant, it should be budgeted on a per issue item.
Keep the Colorado people out of Wyoming.
I know they have a lot of problems with wolves and other things and they lack the funding.
I would like to stress that the legislators may be considered best due to the fact they are ranchers and not for wildlife. The Commission would be better suited to know where the money would be best spent.
I think they need more Game Warden coverage and to open the check stations back up.
As a landowner, I want control of wildlife on my property.
Laws are too severe.
License fees are what I would want to pay for wildlife management, but if that isn't enough, then block grants should be used.
The WGFD does great job!
I think the idea that the Commission allocates the money makes more sense because the people close to the situation would know how to allocate the money. I think the off-road vehicles need to be required to purchase a conservation stamp.
My county, Converse, is overrun with deer and elk, and I can't get in touch with the Game Warden to do something about the population. I am so frustrated with the WGFD that I think it should be abolished.
The WGFD needs more people.
Need to have license for grizzly bear hunting.
I would have to know where exactly the money is coming from, what other budgets are going to get hurt. If it's the schools or something like that, I oppose it. I would rather see the officers get a raise.
Need to help the wildlife and the ranchers.
The WGFD monitors predators instead of managing big game; it is a bad organization and needs to learn to manage money.
I am opposed to any money going to the Game and Fish Department in their quest to take people's water for in-stream flow.

I am opposed to federal regulations and taking money away from the state to require some wildlife regulations. I am concerned with wolf and grizzly populations and am disappointed in roads being closed—it is unfair to those who go outdoors to have limited access to it.
Our fees are too high; the Department should handle their money better.
Out-of-state vs. in-state license—where do those costs go? The wildlife officers don't have enough resources; more officers are needed.
Increase criminal investigation of poaching.
Public needs more input.
The government is shafting us on the wolf deal.
The WGFD should have more campgrounds. Where does the money from the motorcycle stickers go—it's double taxation.
I think they don't need any money since they spend too much already on the grizzlies and wolves.
I register my boat and snowmobiles and would be willing to pay way more considering how beautiful and worthwhile it is. The majority of money should come from raising those registration fees to specifically help snow trails and waterways.
I want no new taxes.
They should use the "trust fund" they've got.
I don't want state money used for funding and for protecting grizzly bears and wolves.
The state should charge for a grizzly bear license and allowing hunting of them.
Taxes shouldn't be raised anymore; if the money is already there to use, then fine, but don't raises taxes anymore. The out-of-state hunters should have to pay more.
The Department of Game and Fish should be self-sustaining.
If the Sierra Club and environmental extremists were out, then we could give money.
The WGFD needs to be controlled by another board; it should be going through the Legislature or to the public for a vote.
Wolves and grizzly bears need to be dealt with, and the state needs to get federal funds.
The WGFD should spend money for game animals, like elk. They shouldn't spend money on studies on wolves and grizzlies and animals we eradicated a long time ago just because Easterners want to come out to Yellowstone and see a wolf.
The wolf situation sucks. The wolves are here on account of the ecosystem, but we already had them; just no one wanted to admit it. That's millions of dollars you blew right there.
They rolled over, brought a lot of it on themselves; they should be held accountable.
Decisions should not be made by these environmental people that are sticking it to the gas and oil companies that are out there protecting their 'habitat'; one should listen to the men who are out their working who get to see the animals. So where do they get off?
I am tired of the wolf situation; there are too many of them attacking people.
Tourists should help pay, not only the state. I don't know if money should come from tax fund.
I want the Commission to have a say over the money.
The federal government needs to pay the costs associated with the management of the wolf and the grizzly bear.
We need some help on the federal level, too. We have a lot of outside influence forcing wolves upon Wyoming, and there's a lot of people getting hurt.

We shouldn't spend millions taking care of grizzly bears instead of a range of animals.
Wolves are overpopulated; need to get rid of them because they are chasing game away.
The WGFD should have two budgets: one for game paid for by license fees under the control of the WGFD only, and the other budget for nongame provided by and controlled by the Legislature. The Legislature shouldn't have control of license fee money.
The WGFD wastes money. They don't need new trucks every year or to buy new nets all of the time and take them for personal use.
What is happening in areas with archery and rifle seasons at the same time? That hurts people who are archery hunting.
When we have a problem bear in the park, don't move it to hunting areas because wolves and bears are taking over elk and hunting areas.
Wolf management is needed badly.
The wolf problem is out of hand.
Work more for alternatives other than hunters and anglers; more for recreation.
Work on access for the local people to fish on. They can't get into Box Elder Canyon anymore. The state traded land for land that has no fishing. Landowners need to provide access to the public.
I would like to see the Commission buy more land for recreation.
I would oppose the grizzly bear expansion. Now the hunters are not able to harvest enough game animals to provide enough money for these problems, and this a problem that the Department brought upon itself.
Wyoming's wildlife management should be a national effort, not just supported by Wyoming hunters, anglers, and residents. Wyoming's natural resources are a treasure for the nation.

ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is a nationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Its mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing its in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center with 65 professional interviewers, Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communications plans, need assessments, and program evaluations on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Clients include most of the federal and state natural resource, outdoor recreation, and environmental agencies, and most of the top conservation organizations. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities, including the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Auburn, Texas Tech, the University of California—Davis, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Penn State, West Virginia University, and others.

Among the wide range of work Responsive Management has completed during the past 15 years are studies on how the general population values natural resources and outdoor recreation, and their opinions on and attitudes toward an array of natural resource-related issues. Responsive Management has conducted dozens of studies of selected groups of outdoor recreationists, including anglers, boaters, hunters, wildlife watchers, birdwatchers, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, and campers, as well as selected groups within the general population, such as landowners, farmers, urban and rural residents, women, senior citizens, children, Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans. Responsive Management has conducted studies on environmental education, endangered species, waterfowl, wetlands, water quality, and the reintroduction of numerous species such as wolves, grizzly bears, the California condor, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has conducted research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their memberships and donations. Responsive Management has conducted major agency and organizational program needs assessments and helped develop more effective programs based upon a solid foundation of fact. Responsive Management has developed Web sites for natural resource organizations, conducted training workshops on the human dimensions of natural resources, and presented numerous studies each year in presentations and as keynote speakers at major natural resource, outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental conferences and meetings.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has also conducted surveys and focus groups in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

Responsive Management's research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN's *Crossfire*, ESPN, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front page of *USA Today*.