



2023 Kentucky Elk Hunter Survey



2023 Kentucky elk hunter Brianna Griffin (Photo provided by Lonnie Griffin)

Final Report

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Purpose

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) surveyed 2023 Kentucky elk permit holders to better understand the opinions and experiences of Kentucky elk hunters. Starting in 2018, elk permit holders (applicants selected for permits through the Kentucky elk hunt drawing, and holders of other elk permits such as landowner-cooperator elk permits, collectively called “elk hunters” or “hunters” hereafter) have been required by law (301 KAR 2:132 Section 8 18(a)) to comply with the postseason survey requirement. Elk hunters who fail to comply with the requirement are prohibited from applying for KDFWR-administered quota hunts (i.e., deer, waterfowl, sandhill crane and upland game) the following year.

Methods

The survey was delivered to hunters via their MyProfile account. Elk hunters were reminded of this requirement by mail and email correspondence from the Department before, during and after the 2023 Kentucky elk season. Many of the 2023 survey questions are similar to those asked in previous surveys to better assess potential trends. The survey was administered through SurveyMonkey® and was open for responses from September 9, 2023 through February 29, 2024. The survey contained 39 questions (included below in results) and took hunters an average of 38 minutes, 15 seconds to complete. KDFWR received 375 responses from the 650 elk hunters, ensuring an adequate sample size for statistical significance at a 95% confidence level.

Results: Responses to Survey Questions

Question 1. Please enter your 11-digit customer ID number to continue (found at the top of your hunting license).

Answered: 375 Skipped: 0

The hunters’ customer ID numbers are not provided in this report to protect the privacy of each hunter.

Question 2. What is your last name?

Answered: 375 Skipped: 0

The hunters’ last names are not provided in this report to protect the privacy of each hunter.

Question 3. What year were you born?

Answered: 375 Skipped: 0

The average birth year of 2023 Kentucky elk hunters was 1979, so the average hunter age was 44.

Question 4. What type of permit were you selected for?

Answered: 375

Skipped: 0

Table 1. Number of survey respondents by elk permit type and availability.

Permit Type	Number of Respondents	Available Permits
Bull Firearms Week 1	56 (75%)	75
Bull Firearms Week 2	44 (59%)	75
Cow Firearms Week 1	75 (61%)	122
Cow Firearms Week 2	87 (71%)	122
Either-sex Archery/ Crossbow	88 (50%)	175
Youth	8 (32%)	25
Other Permit*	17 (30%)	56

*Includes landowner-cooperator, voucher-cooperator, and Commission permits.

Scouting

Question 5. Did you make any trips to the elk zone to scout for elk before your hunt?

Answered: 375

Skipped: 0

More than half of the respondents (58%, $n = 219$) made at least one scouting trip before their elk hunt. See Appendix A for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

Question 6. How many days did you spend scouting?

Answered: 217

Skipped: 161

Hunters spent 3.8 days on average to scout before their elk hunt (217 hunters reported a range of 0 – 6+ trips). Ten percent ($n = 21$) of hunters reported scouting for one day before their hunt and 33% ($n = 71$) of hunters reported scouting for elk at least six days. See Appendix A for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

Question 7. Did you see any elk while scouting?

Answered: 217

Skipped: 158

Sixty two percent ($n = 135$) of hunters saw no elk while scouting prior to their hunt. Hunters who went scouting and saw elk (38%, $n = 82$) were asked to provide the number of elk they observed by sex. Hunters reported seeing more cows (527) than bulls (131) on their scouting trips, and hunters who made at least one scouting trip reported seeing 0.7 bulls and 2.8 cows on average while scouting. See Appendix A for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

Question 8. About how much money for the following expenses did you or your group spend while scouting for elk?

Answered: 215

Skipped: 162

Table 2. Scouting trip expenses.

Expense	Average Amount Spent	Total Reported Spent
Gas	\$255	\$54,525
Meals	\$119	\$24,919
Lodging	\$173	\$31,235
Equipment	\$792	\$131,160
Other	\$248	\$24,275

Kentucky elk hunters and their helpers spent \$1,586 scouting on average before their hunt. Total amount reportedly spent scouting prior to elk hunts in 2023 was \$266,114.

Hunting

Question 9. Did you go elk hunting in Kentucky during the 2023 season?

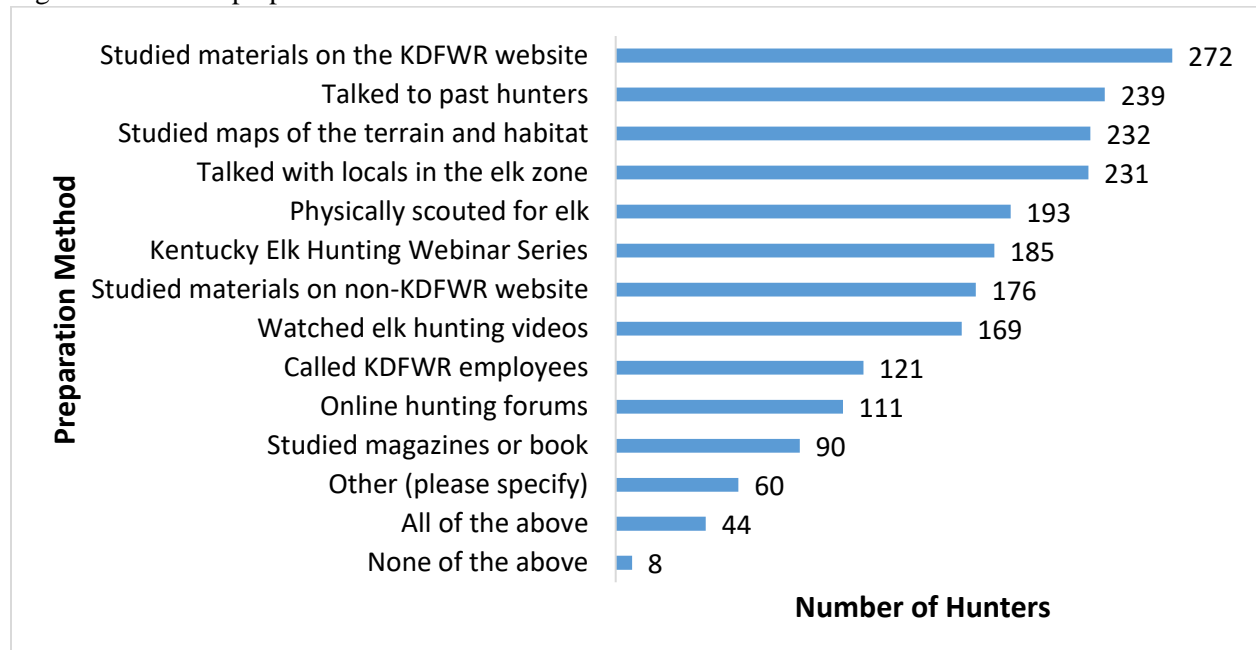
Answered: 372

Skipped: 3

A majority of elk permit holders (94%, $n = 348$) reported that they went elk hunting in 2023.

Question 10. How did you prepare for your elk hunt?

Figure 1. Elk hunt preparation methods.



Question 11. Which of the following best explains why you didn't elk hunt after being drawn?

The 24 permit holders who did not go elk hunting (see question 9 above) were asked to provide a reason for not doing so. Hunters reported the following reasons:

- 38% cited personal or family illness.
- 33% reported “other” and were asked to specify. The majority of these responses involved being selected for an area the hunter considered undesirable, but also included hunter couldn't find a guide and vehicle issues.
- 17% reported family conflicts and/or obligations.
- 8% claimed work conflicts and/or obligations.
- 1% cited cost and/or financial obligations.

Question 12. What unit did you hunt?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

Table 3. Elk hunter distribution across elk hunting units and response rate.

Unit	Number of Respondents	Available Quota Permits
2	51 (15%)	94
3	98 (28%)	140
4	68 (20%)	134
5	40 (12%)	74
6	63 (18%)	94
7	26 (8%)	58

Question 13. About how much money for the following expenses did you and your helpers spend during or after your elk hunt?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

Table 4. Kentucky elk hunter expenditures.

Expense	Average Amount Spent	Total Spent
Gas	\$267	\$89,092
Meals	\$176	\$56,896
Lodging	\$325	\$93,571
Equipment	\$990	\$268,195
Guide/ Outfitter	\$3,499	\$437,485
Meat Processing	\$137	\$29,284
Taxidermy	\$238	\$48,415
Other	\$210	\$14,300

The average party of 2023 Kentucky elk hunter and helpers spent \$5,843 during a hunt. Guide/outfitter fees were the largest single expenditure on average, and when removed from the sample, the average elk hunter and helpers spent a total of \$2,344 per hunt. Total amount of money reportedly spent on elk hunts in 2023 was \$1,037,238.

Question 14. Did you apply for a unit and/or regulated area? (if no, why not)

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

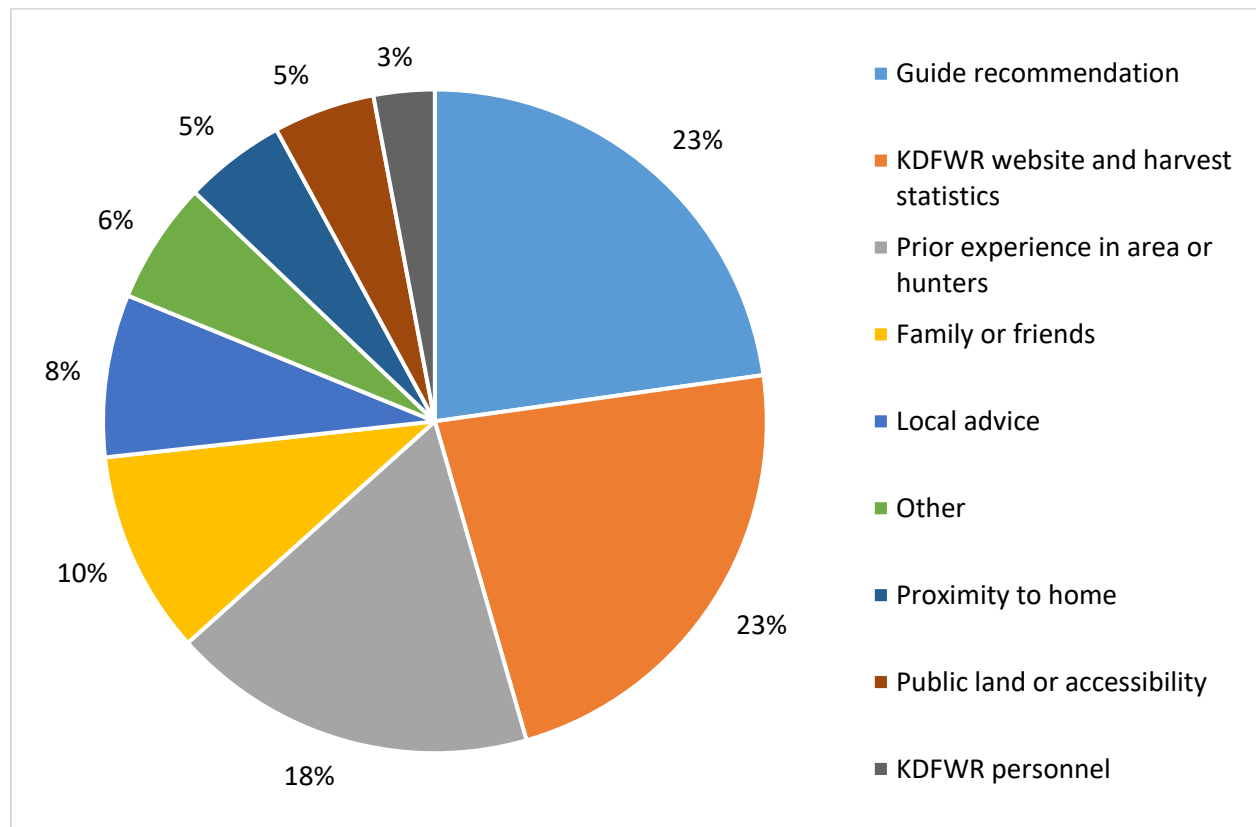
KDFWR conducts a secondary drawing for elk hunting units (EHU) and/or regulated areas (RA). Hunters were given the option of selecting up to five preferences for their EHU and/or RA in 2023. Three hundred eleven hunters (90%) selected at least one preference, while 35 (10%) made no selections. Of those 35 hunters, 23 provided a reason for why they did not make any selections. Their reasons for not applying in the secondary drawing include: 48% didn't have the option (i.e., purchased a landowner permit, which must be used on specific property), 30% said they missed the application deadline, and the remaining 17% indicated they had no preference or that they wanted to hunt public property.

Question 15. What helped you make your choice?

Answered: 317

Skipped: 58

Figure 2. Elk hunting unit and regulated area selection influence of choices.



The majority of hunters who made an EHU and/or RA selection indicated that their guide/outfitter (23%) or KDFWR website and previous harvest statistics (23%) were the leading sources of information to help select their preferences, followed by other previous hunters' or personal experience (18%), family and friends (10%), and local advice (8%). The remaining influences in determining an EHU and/or RA selection were comparable in frequency of occurrence.

Question 16. Did you hire a guide/outfitter for your elk hunt?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

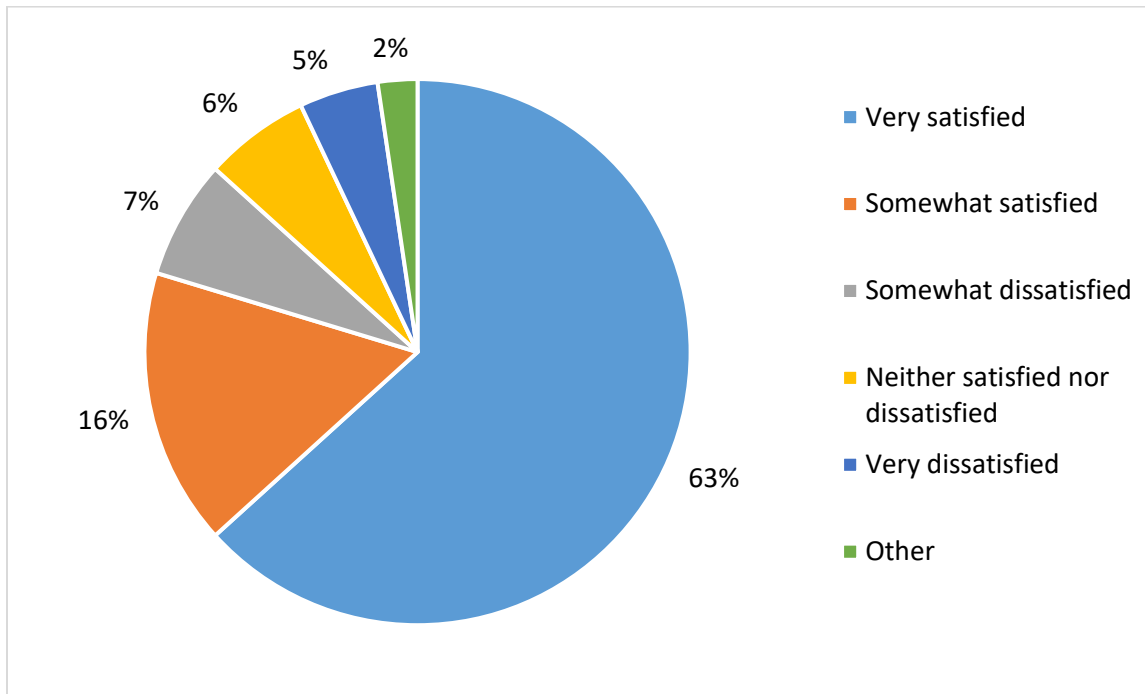
Less than half (37%; $n = 128$) of hunters reported using a guide for their 2023 elk hunt.

Question 17. How would you rate your guide experience?

Answered: 128

Skipped: 0

Figure 3. Guide/outfitter satisfaction. (Data from hunters who indicated they did not hire a guide/outfitter in Question 16 were excluded from this analysis.)



A majority of hunters who hired a guide/outfitter (80%) reported being either very or somewhat satisfied with the service they received.

Question 18. How many different days did you spend elk hunting?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

The average 2023 Kentucky elk hunter spent 5.0 days hunting elk (range: 1 – 20). Total number of days spent afield hunting elk among survey respondents in 2023 was 1,680 days. See Appendices A and B for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

Question 19. Approximately how many hours did you hunt per day?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

Kentucky elk hunters spent 9.1 hours per day hunting elk on average (range: 1 – 16). Combined, they spent a total of 15,288 hours elk hunting in 2023.

Question 20. Approximately how many elk did you see while hunting?

Note: Question 20 was separated into two parts: one that allowed the reporting of cow observations, and one for bull observations.

Answered: 334

Skipped: 41

Each Kentucky elk hunter observed an average of 4 cows and 1 bull while elk hunting in 2023.

Table 5. Number of elk observed by hunters during the 2023 Kentucky elk hunt.

Sex	Average	Range	Total
Cows Seen While Hunting (<i>n</i> = 334)	3.8	0 – 43	1,282
Bulls Seen While Hunting (<i>n</i> = 321)	1.3	0 – 15	408

See Appendices A and B for a more thorough analysis of this question.

Question 21. How many elk did you have “in range” of your weapon type, but couldn’t or wouldn’t shoot?

Answered: 331

Skipped: 44

The average Kentucky elk hunter reported seeing 2.2 elk within their weapon’s range that they couldn’t or wouldn’t shoot (range: 0 – 48). Total number of elk reported within the 2023 Kentucky elk hunters’ range that they could not or would not shoot was 741.

Question 22. Why did you not harvest the elk that was “in range?”

Answered: 134

Skipped: 17

The hunters who responded to Question 21 were asked to provide a reason why they couldn’t or wouldn’t shoot an elk that was “in range” of their weapon type. Only hunters that reported having at least 1 elk within range of their weapon type in Question 25 were included in this analysis.

Hunters provided the following reasons:

- 34% said that the elk was obscured by vegetation.
- 22% said the elk was not the gender they were drawn to hunt.
- 20% claimed a reason other than those listed but were not asked to specify.
- 11% reported that the elk was either too small or too young.
- 10% claimed the elk was not the desired gender.
- 2% claimed that it was too early in their hunt to shoot an elk.
- 1% claimed that elk was too far from road or vehicle.

Question 23. How many elk did you shoot at but miss?

Answered: 338

Skipped: 37

Kentucky elk hunters missed 0.05 elk on average during their 2023 hunt. The total number of elk that hunters reported shooting at but missing in this survey was 17 with a range of 0 – 3. Cow firearm hunters accounted for more (35%; $n = 6$) of the missed shots than any other hunter group. See Appendix B for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

Question 24. How many elk did you hit and not recover?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

The average 2023 Kentucky elk hunt survey respondent wounded 0.05 elk during their hunt. The total number of elk that were reported wounded in this survey was 16, with a range of 0 – 1. Archery/crossbow hunters accounted for 56% ($n = 9$) of all wounded elk. See Appendix B for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

Question 25. Did you harvest an elk during your hunt?

Answered: 347

Skipped: 28

Forty percent ($n = 140$) of respondents were successful during their 2023 Kentucky elk hunt. See Appendices A and B for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

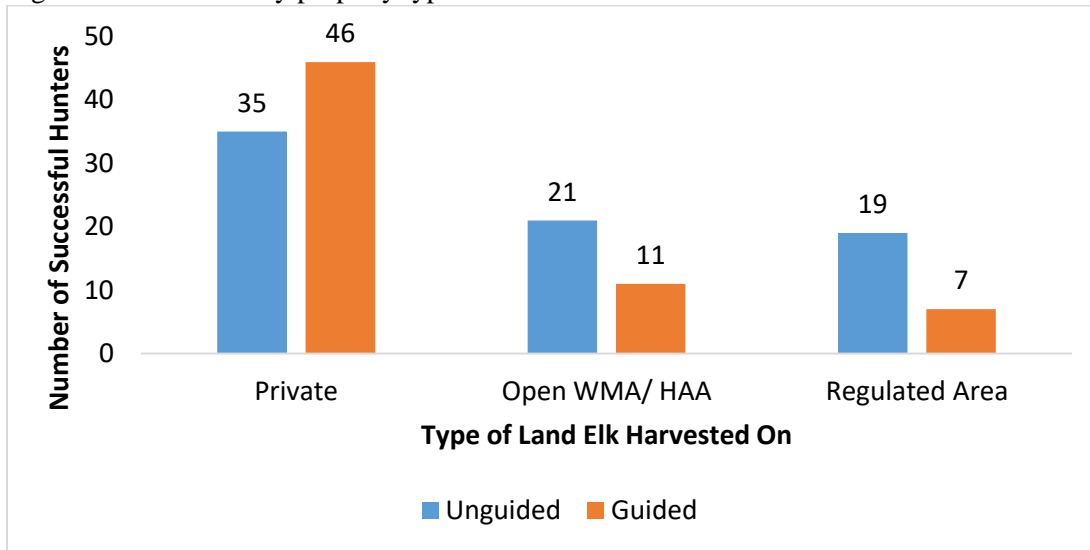
Question 26. What type of land did you harvest your elk on?

Answered: 139

Skipped: 1

Only hunters that reported harvesting an elk in Question 25 were included in this analysis.

Figure 4. Elk harvest by property type.



Slightly more than half of all successful hunters in the survey (58%; $n = 81$) harvested their elk on private property. More guided hunters ($n = 46$) harvested their elk on private property than unguided hunters ($n = 35$). This is an important distinction, as private individuals or entities own most of the property in the elk management zone.

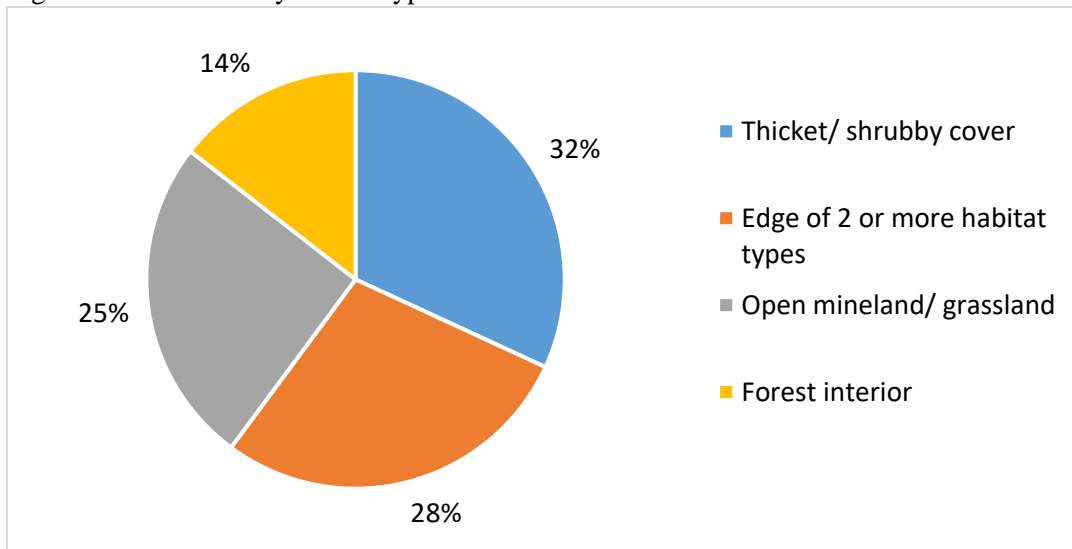
Question 27. What habitat type was your elk in when you harvested it?

Answered: 138

Skipped: 2

Responses were only considered from hunters who reported an elk harvest in Question 25.

Figure 5. Elk harvest by habitat type.



Question 28. How did you get your elk out of the field?

Answered: 138

Skipped: 2

Responses were only considered from hunters who reported an elk harvest in Question 25.

Table 6. Game retrieval method used by Kentucky elk hunters.

Game Retrieval Method	% of Hunters
Whole directly into ATV/UTV	41%
Whole directly into truck	34%
In parts packed out with backpacks	12%
Other*	10%
In parts by ATV/ UTV	3%

*The responses within this category included “in parts by truck”, “whole onto a trailer”, carried by hand, in backpacks on ebikes”, and “using backhoe”.

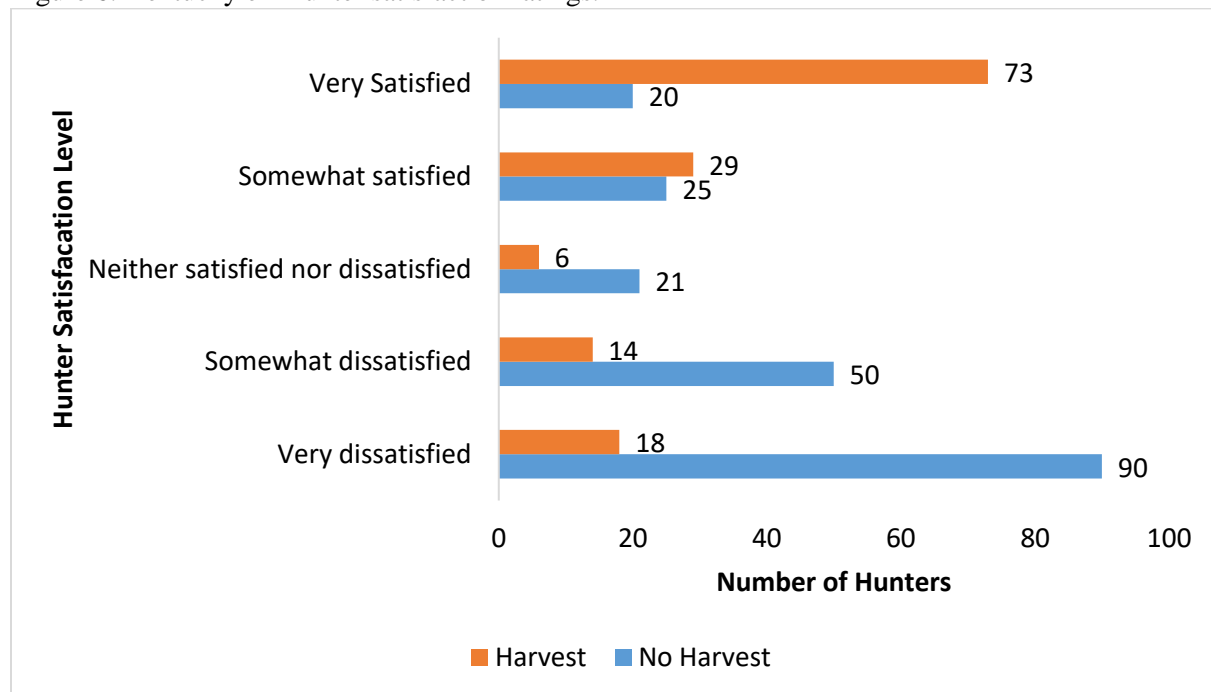
The majority of survey respondents (75%) indicated they were able to get their harvested elk out of the field whole with either a truck or ATV/UTV.

Question 29. Thinking back over your entire elk hunt, how satisfied were you with your elk hunt overall?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

Figure 6. Kentucky elk hunter satisfaction ratings.



Slightly more survey respondents (50%; $n = 172$) expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their 2023 elk hunt than those who expressed some level of satisfaction (42%; $n = 147$). There appears to be a

positive relationship between a hunter’s level of satisfaction and the harvest of an elk. See Appendix C for an expanded analysis of this question.

Question 30. If you were selected for a regulated area, did you hunt on the regulated area you had access to?

Answered: 157 Skipped: 218

Sixty-seven percent ($n = 105$) of hunters that gained access to an RA, either in the initial or “secondary draw”, indicated they hunted the property.

Hunters who answered “No” to Question 30 ($n = 52$) were asked to provide the reason they chose not to hunt the RA they were selected for.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 23

Of the 29 hunters that provided a reason they did not hunt the RA they were selected for:

- 45% reported little-to-no elk sign on the property, or elk at lower densities.
- 17% said they had access to private property.
- 17% were classified as “other” (i.e., did not fit into an established/ common category).
- 10% claimed their guide/outfitter did not want to go there or had other areas for them to hunt.
- 7% said terrain was too challenging.
- 3% said online maps provided by KDFWR were insufficient, that properties were difficult to locate.

Question 31. How many days did you hunt and scout on the regulated area?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 244

Only data from hunters that responded to Question 30 were used in this analysis.

Table 7. Hunter effort on regulated areas (RA).

Number of Days Scouting and Hunting	Did not hunt the RA ($n = 26$)	Did hunt the RA ($n = 105$)
1	14	17
2 – 5	9	57
6 – 10	3	23
11+	0	8

Fifty-four percent ($n = 57$) of respondents who hunted an RA spent two to five days scouting and/ or hunting the property. The majority (88%) of hunters who did not hunt their drawn RA spent less than five days scouting the property.

Question 32. Approximately how many total elk did you see on the regulated area while hunting and scouting?

Answered: 139

Skipped: 236

Only data from hunters that responded to Question 30 were used in this analysis.

Table 8. Number of elk observed while scouting and hunting on assigned regulated areas (RA).

Number of Elk Seen Hunting and/or Scouting	Did not hunt the RA ($n = 34$)	Did hunt the RA ($n = 105$)
0	29	32
1 – 10	5	58
11 – 20	0	0
21 – 30	0	14
31 - 40	0	0
41 – 50	0	1
50+	0	0

Fifty-five percent ($n = 58$) of respondents that hunted an RA observed between 1 – 10 elk on the property in 2023.

Question 33. Did you harvest an elk on the selected Regulated Area?

Answered: 105

Skipped: 0

Only data from hunters who responded “Yes” to Question 30 were used in this analysis.

Forty-one percent ($n = 43$) of respondents who hunted an RA reported harvesting an elk in 2023.

Question 34. How can KDFWR improve the Regulated Area program?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 29

This was an open response question where hunters could provide comments about the RA program. Answers from all survey respondents were examined to gain a better understanding of customer satisfaction and understanding of the RA program, even though not all hunters had the opportunity to physically hunt and/or scout an RA.

Survey respondents shared the following responses when asked how KDFWR can improve the RA program:

- 30% had no comments or suggestions for ways to improve the RA program.
- 17% provided a response unrelated to the RA program.
- 8% wanted more hunting areas (including more hunters allowed on individual properties and for KDFWR to acquire more property to hunt).
- 7% requested an earlier date for the secondary drawing, or general changes in the structure to improve ease of use.

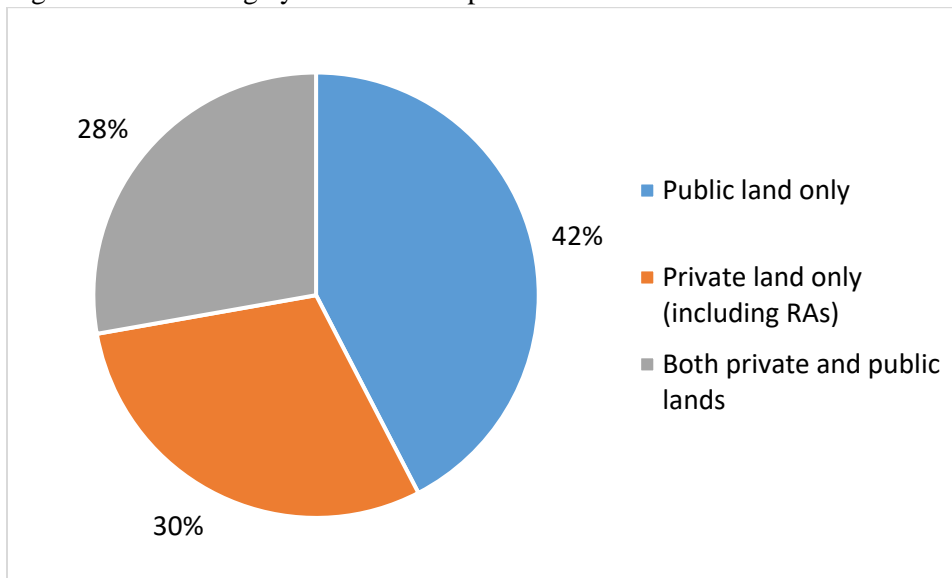
- 7% wanted to reduce other uses on the property (e. g., ATVs, other hunting, landowner conflicts, better enforcement of non-RA hunters, etc.).
- 7% indicated they like the RA program “as is.”
- 6% requested better maps, marked boundaries, or access point information.
- 5% suggested better field observations or abundance estimates for elk on the property.
- 4% asked for properties with more elk on them.
- 3% asked for more information and/or data, including communication between KDFWR and hunters.
- 2% asked for better habitat management on RAs.
- 2% wanted to prohibit guiding on RAs and/or public property.

Question 35. Which of the following types of lands did you elk hunt on?

Answered: 342

Skipped: 33

Figure 7. Elk hunting by land ownership.



More respondents reported hunting on public land only than private land only, or on both private and public lands (across all hunters) in 2023.

Question 36. Have you ever hunted elk before your Kentucky elk hunt?

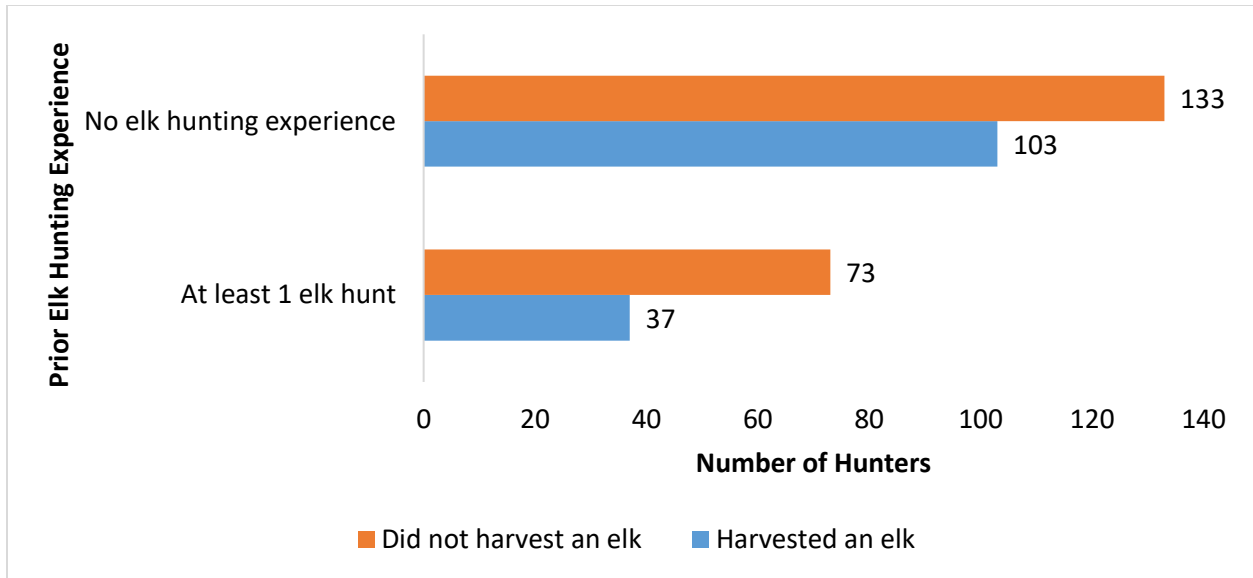
Answered: 346

Skipped: 5

Only data from hunters who responded “Yes” to Question 9 were used in this analysis.

Sixty-eight percent ($n = 236$) of survey respondents indicated they had never hunted elk before the 2023 Kentucky elk season.

Figure 8. Elk harvest relative to prior elk hunting experience.



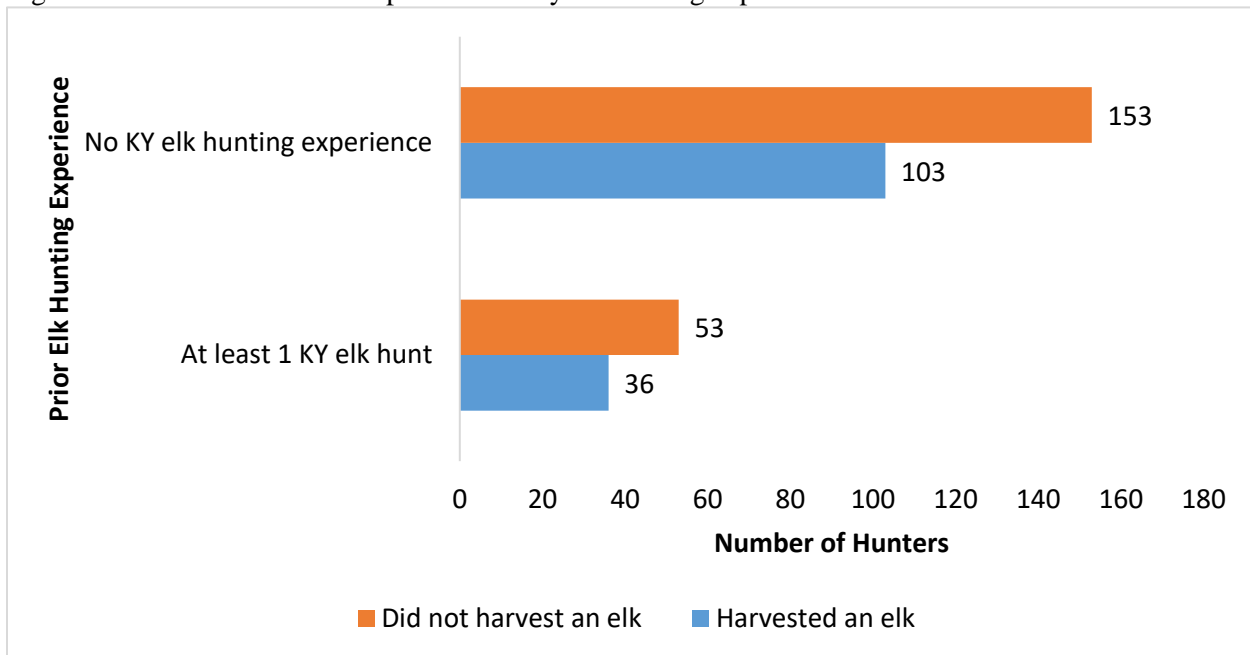
There were at least 103 hunters who harvested their first elk during the 2023 Kentucky elk hunt. Those with no prior elk hunting experience were more successful in harvesting an elk (44%) than those that had elk hunted before (34%). Prior elk hunting experience does not appear to be an indicator of overall elk hunter success.

Question 37. Have you ever hunted, or been a part of an elk hunt in Kentucky before?

Answered: 345 Skipped: 6

Seventy-seven percent ($n = 313$) of survey respondents had never hunted elk (or been a part of an elk hunt) in Kentucky before 2023.

Figure 9. Elk harvest relative to prior Kentucky elk hunting experience.



There were at least 103 hunters who either harvested their first elk or their first Kentucky elk in 2023. Hunters with or without previous Kentucky elk hunting experience were equally successful in harvesting an elk (40%).

Question 38. If you have additional comments or recommendations, please enter them in the box below.

Answered: 210

Skipped: 165

Survey respondents shared the following when asked if they had any additional comments or suggestions:

- 21% expressed frustration with low elk observations during their hunt or requested more elk in Kentucky.
- 16% had no suggestions for improving the elk hunt or liked it “as is.”
- 11% wanted to have longer elk seasons, expressed displeasure with overlapping dates between elk and other hunting seasons (e.g., firearms deer seasons), or had issues with the current season dates (e.g., early archery season held before rut).
- 10% were concerned about guiding services and asked for better regulation of these services, or to prohibit them from utilizing public land.
- 7% of responses were classified as “other” as there was no common theme with other responses.
- 7% suggested that KDFWR eliminate the EHU system, provide a better avenue for local residents to hunt the unit in which they live, or simplify the EHU system.
- 6% expressed a desire to close elk season for several years in one way or another (mainly including cow hunting, but some advocated for the closure of all elk hunting in Kentucky).
- 6% wanted more law enforcement to stop poaching and prevent illegal use of properties.

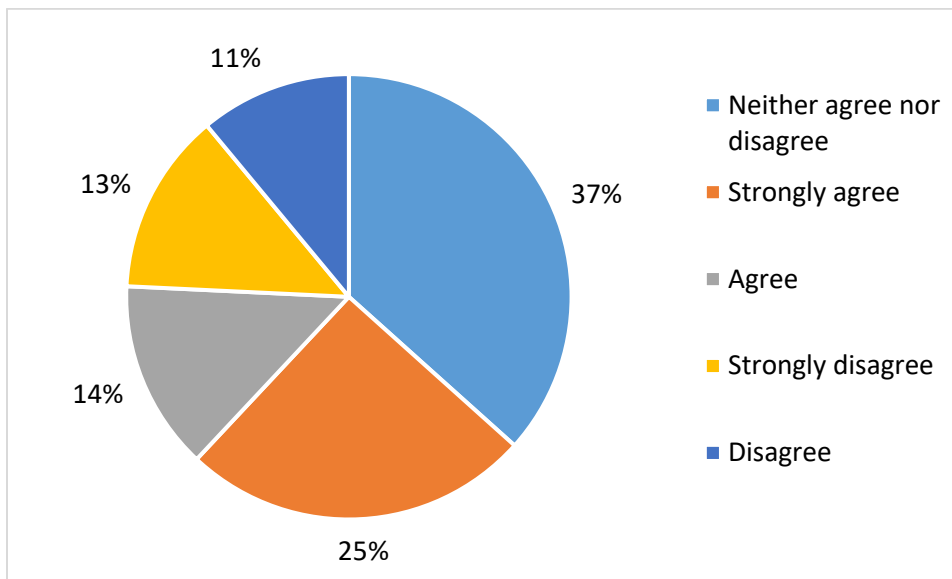
- 6% requested better communication between elk hunters and KDFWR personnel, including general correspondence and updated information regarding elk movements or public land closures.
- 5% suggested the need for better habitat, including removal of feral livestock.
- 2% asked for the ability to defer or transfer their permits or be drawn again without a waiting period (particularly if they didn't harvest an elk).
- 2% want KDFWR to stop trapping and translocating elk.
- 1% requested better mapping of properties or access points.
- 1% desired more public land elk hunting opportunities.
- 1% wanted more elk hunting opportunities for residents.

Question 39. Would you rather apply for elk hunting units during the initial application period? In other words, you would apply for units while applying for an elk permit as opposed to using the secondary unit draw system currently in place.

Answered: 363

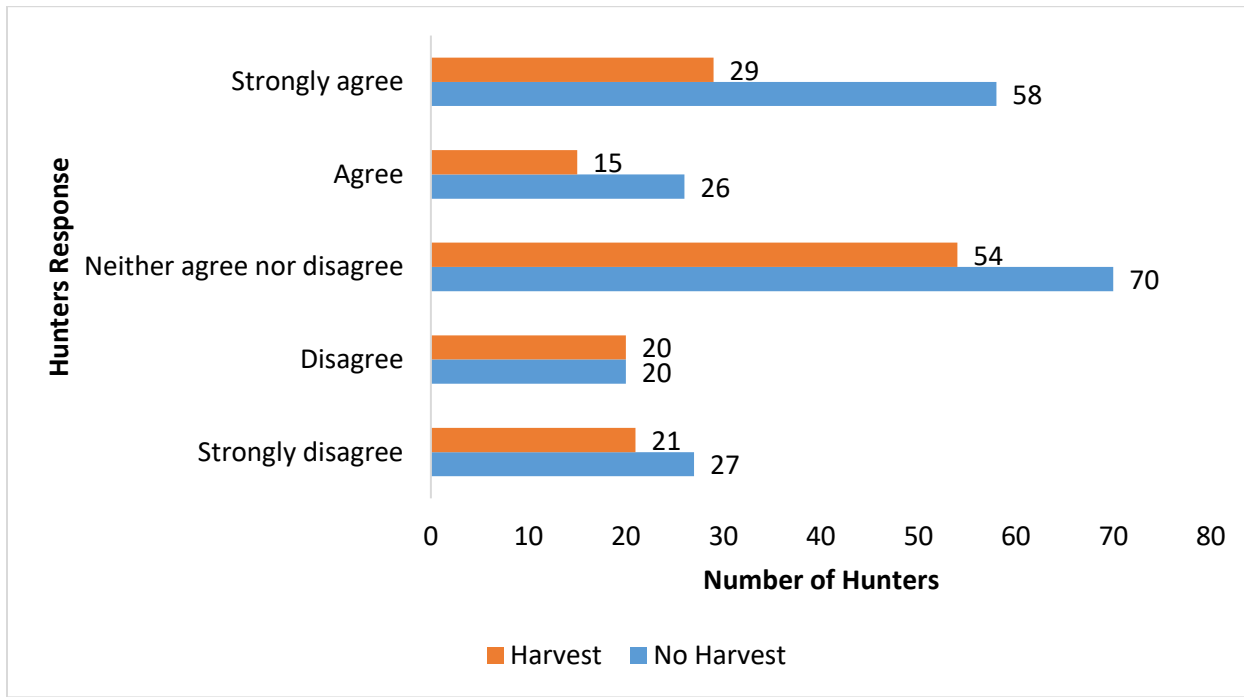
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Figure 10. Kentucky elk hunter opinions for changing draw system.



Slightly more respondents had no or neutral opinion (37%) for applying for elk hunting units during initial application period than those that strongly agreed (25%).

Figure 11. Kentucky elk hunter opinions for changing draw system relative to elk harvest.



More hunters who did not harvest an elk strongly agreed (29%) with applying for elk hunting units during initial application period compared to those that harvested an elk (21%). Not harvesting an elk appears to influence opinion to applying for elk hunting units during initial application period.

Appendix A. Summary results for 2023 Kentucky elk hunt “do it yourself” survey respondents.

Permit Type	Scout?	Days Scouted	Elk Observed Scouting		Days Hunted	Elk Observed Hunting		Harvest %
			Cows	Bulls		Cows	Bulls	
Bull Week 1	No (<i>n</i> = 3)				4.0	1.5	0.7	33%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 21)	4.6	3.5	0.8	3.5	1.3	0.7	33%
Bull Week 2	No (<i>n</i> = 4)				4.0	1.3	1.0	25%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 17)	4.6	1.3	0.3	4.5	1.4	0.4	53%
Either Sex Archery	No (<i>n</i> = 8)				5.5	4.6	1.4	25%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 45)	3.5	3.5	1.0	8.0	5.1	1.6	49%
Cow Week 1	No (<i>n</i> = 14)				3.3	1.1	1.0	50%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 37)	3.1	2.3	0.7	3.8	2.4	0.8	41%
Cow Week 2	No (<i>n</i> = 13)				3.2	1.7	0.7	8%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 40)	2.7	3.6	0.9	3.5	6.0	0.8	43%
Other Permit	No (<i>n</i> = 3)				7.0	4.0	2.0	33%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 7)	5.1	4.1	1.2	8.5	5.3	1.6	14%
Youth	No (<i>n</i> = 1)				19.0	6.0	2.0	0%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 5)	3.0	3.6	1.2	6.3	4.4	2.0	60%

Data used in these analyses were derived from survey questions 4 - 7, 9, 16, 18 - 19 and 22. Only respondents who answered questions 5, 9, and 16 were included in this dataset to narrow the dataset to hunters who went “do it yourself.” Data are provided for reference only. KDFWR Elk Program staff receive numerous requests regarding the necessity for a guide and/or the ability to be successful as a “do it yourself” hunter. Although confounding variables (e.g., whether hunters who failed to scout had local or prior knowledge of an area) and low sample sizes likely affected the above results, “do it yourself” hunters who did not scout prior to their hunt hunted less days on average, but hunters who scouted were more successful than elk hunters who did not scout. It was also generally true that hunters who made one or more scouting trips prior to hunting saw more elk when hunting than when scouting.

Appendix B. Summary results for 2023 Kentucky elk hunt survey respondents.

Permit Type	Guide Usage	Days Hunted	Elk Observed		Elk in Range Couldn't Shoot (per hunter, <i>n</i>)	Elk Missed (per hunter, <i>n</i>)	Elk Wounded (per hunter, <i>n</i>)	Harvest
			Cows	Bulls				
Bull Week 1	Guided (<i>n</i> = 27)	3.3	2.9	0.8	1.6 (43)	0.04 (1)	0.04 (1)	48%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 24)	3.5	1.3	0.7	1.0 (21)	0 (0)	0.04 (1)	38%
Bull Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 19)	4.2	6.0	1.6	2.7 (52)	0.05 (1)	0 (0)	37%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 21)	4.4	1.4	0.5	0.5 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14%
Either Sex Archery	Guided (<i>n</i> = 32)	6.9	4.5	2.1	2.2 (71)	0.06 (2)	0.13 (4)	44%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 53)	8.0	3.6	1.6	1.3 (60)	0.06 (3)	0.09 (5)	34%
Cow Week 1	Guided (<i>n</i> = 18)	3.3	4.2	0.9	1.9 (32)	0 (0)	0 (0)	56%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 51)	3.5	3.6	0.8	3.0 (144)	0.02 (1)	0.02 (1)	31%
Cow Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 23)	2.7	6.2	1.9	4.2 (96)	0.14 (3)	0.04 (1)	65%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 53)	3.3	3.7	1.2	2.9 (147)	0.04 (2)	0.02 (1)	38%
Other Permit	Guided (<i>n</i> = 7)	5.9	5.9	1.4	1.6 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	57%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 10)	8.5	5.3	1.6	2.2 (20)	0 (0)	0.1 (1)	70%
Youth	Guided (<i>n</i> = 2)	8.0	2.0	1.0	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	100%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 6)	12.0	7.7	3.0	5.5 (33)	0.67 (4)	0.17 (1)	33%

Data used in these analyses were derived from survey questions 9, 16, 18, 20 - 21, and 23 - 25. Only respondents who answered questions 9 and 16 were included in this dataset to allow for comparisons between guided and unguided hunters. Data are provided for reference only. KDFWR Elk Program staff receive numerous inquiries regarding the necessity for a guide and/or the ability to be successful as a “do it yourself” hunter.

Appendix C. Frequency of occurrence for hunter satisfaction level by permit type and guide option for the 2023 Kentucky elk hunt.

Permit Type	Guide Option	Hunter Satisfaction Level (frequency of occurrence)				
		Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neither Dissatisfied nor Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Bull Week 1	Guided (<i>n</i> = 27)	11	4	0	6	6
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 24)	8	3	1	6	6
Bull Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 19)	9	2	2	4	2
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 21)	9	4	3	1	4
Cow Week 1	Guided (<i>n</i> = 18)	5	3	0	2	8
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 51)	15	9	5	9	13
Cow Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 23)	10	3	0	4	6
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 53)	7	15	5	8	18
Either Sex Archery	Guided (<i>n</i> = 32)	8	5	2	4	13
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 53)	18	11	7	9	8
Other Permit	Guided (<i>n</i> = 7)	3	1	0	0	3
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 10)	2	1	2	1	4
Youth	Guided (<i>n</i> = 2)	1	0	0	0	1
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 6)	2	3	0	0	1
Total		47	18	4	20	39

Data used in these analyses were derived from survey questions 9, 16, and 29. Data are provided for reference only and do not reflect a hunter’s satisfaction level with the guiding service they may have received (see Question 17 for those results).