



2025 Kentucky Elk Hunter Survey



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Final Report

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Purpose

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) surveyed 2025 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 2025 Kentucky elk season. Many of the 2025 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 13, 2025, through April 1, 2026. The survey contained 39 questions (included below in results) and took hunters an average of 30 minutes and 2 seconds to complete. KDFWR received 159 responses from the 540 elk hunters, ensuring an adequate sample size for statistical significance.

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: 159 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: 159 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: 159 Skipped: 0

The average birth year of 2025 Kentucky elk hunters was 1981, so the average hunter age was 44.

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

Answered: 159

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	29 (18%)	70
Bull Firearms Week 2	24 (15%)	70
Cow Firearms Week 1	32 (20%)	82
Cow Firearms Week 2	29 (18%)	82
Either-sex Archery/ Crossbow	38 (24%)	170
Other Permit*	5 (3%)	43
Youth	2 (1%)	26

*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: 159

Skipped: 0

More than half of the respondents (65%, $n = 104$) 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: 98

Skipped: 61

Hunters spent 4.1 days on average to scout before their elk hunt (98 hunters reported a range of 0 – 6 trips). Twelve percent ($n = 12$) of hunters reported scouting for one day before their hunt and 42% ($n = 41$) 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: 103

Skipped: 56

Seventy-seven percent ($n = 79$) of hunters saw no elk while scouting prior to their hunt. Hunters who went scouting and saw elk (23%, $n = 24$) were asked to provide the number of elk they observed by sex. Hunters reported seeing more cows (152) than bulls (41) on their scouting trips, and hunters who made at least one scouting trip reported seeing 1.9 bulls and 6.9 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: 102

Skipped: 57

Table 2. Scouting trip expenses.

Expense	Average Amount Spent	Total Reported Spent
Gas	\$260	\$26,528
Meals	\$180	\$18,217
Lodging	\$248	\$22,112
Equipment	\$485	\$40,247
Other	\$222	\$11,300

In 2025, Kentucky elk hunters and their helpers spent \$1,395 scouting on average before their hunt. Total amount reportedly spent scouting prior to elk hunts in 2025 was \$118,404.

Hunting

Question 9. Did you go elk hunting in Kentucky during the 2025 season?

Answered: 158

Skipped: 1

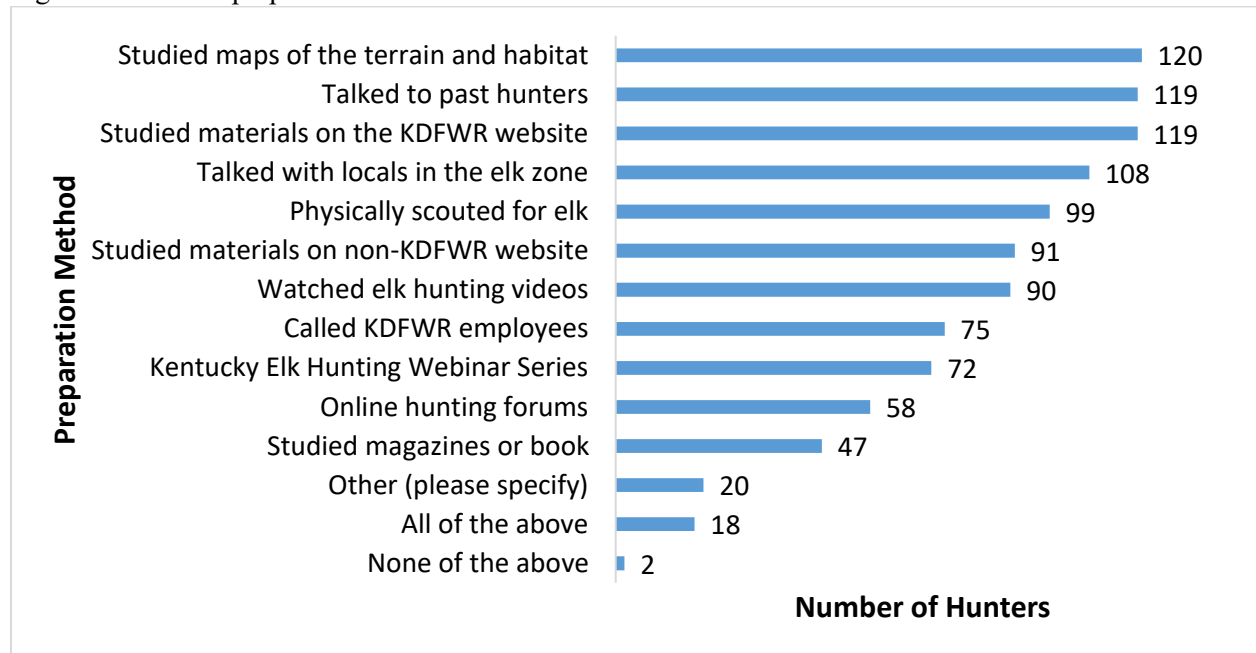
A majority of elk permit holders (97%, $n = 153$) reported that they went elk hunting in 2025.

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

Answered: 158

Skipped: 1

Figure 1. Elk hunt preparation methods.



The majority of elk hunters prepared for their elk hunt by studying maps (76%), talking to past hunters (75%), or studying materials on the KDFWR website (75%).

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

The 6 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:

- 60% cited personal or family illness.
- 40% reported “other” and were asked to specify. These responses included people would not return phone calls and wife had major surgery requiring care 24/7.

Question 12. What unit did you hunt?

Answered: 153 Skipped: 6

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

Unit	Number of Respondents	Available Quota Permits
2	30 (20%)	96
3	37 (24%)	142
4	23 (15%)	77
5	15 (10%)	56
6	27 (18%)	70
7	21 (14%)	59

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

Answered: 150 Skipped: 9

Table 4. Kentucky elk hunter expenditures.

Expense	Average Amount Spent	Total Spent
Gas	\$231	\$34,139
Meals	\$276	\$40,067
Lodging	\$363	\$48,651
Equipment	\$653	\$85,524
Guide/ Outfitter	\$1,720	\$204,690
Meat Processing	\$112	\$12,206
Taxidermy	\$355	\$38,675
Other	\$50	\$2,120

The average party of 2025 Kentucky elk hunters and helpers spent \$3,760 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 \$2,040 per hunt. Total amount of money reportedly spent on elk hunts in 2025 was \$466,072 and \$261,382 excluding guide/outfitter fees.

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

Answered: 152

Skipped: 7

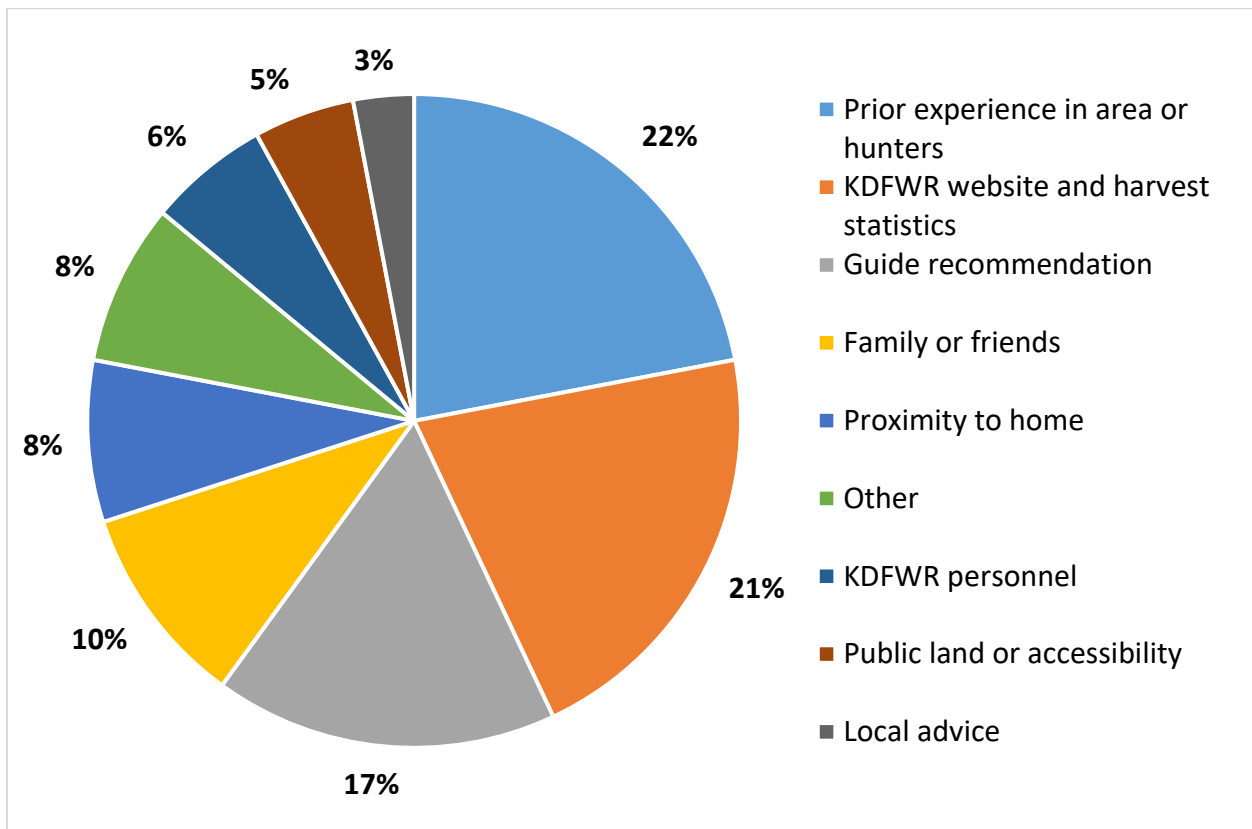
KDFWR conducts a secondary drawing for elk hunting units (EHU) and/or regulated areas (RA). Hunters were given the option of selecting up to five preferences for their EHU and/or RA in 2025. One hundred forty hunters (92%) selected at least one preference, while 12 (8%) made no selections. Of those 12 hunters, 7 provided a reason for why they did not make any selections. Their reasons for not applying in the secondary drawing include: 57% said they missed deadline and 43% didn't have the option (i.e., purchased a landowner permit, which must be used on specific property).

Question 15. What helped you make your choice?

Answered: 141

Skipped: 18

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 other previous hunters' or personal experience (22%), KDFWR website and previous harvest statistics (21%) or their guide/outfitter (17%) were the leading sources of information to help select their preferences, followed by family or friends (10%), proximity to home (8%), and other (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?

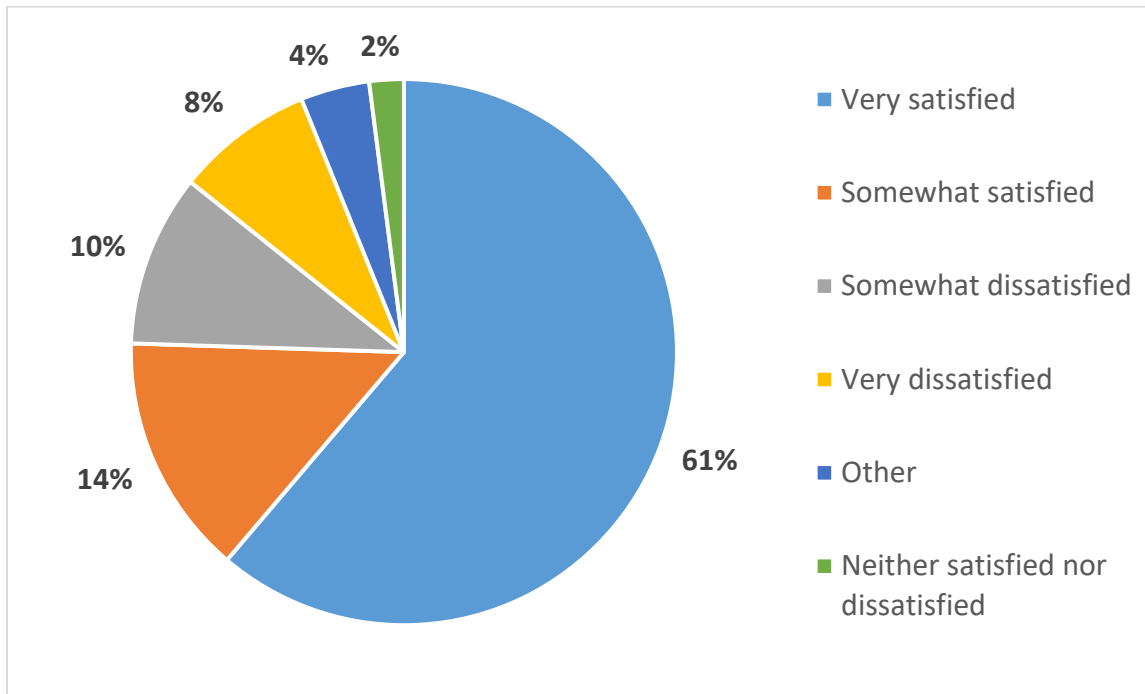
Answered: 153 Skipped: 6

Less than half (32%; $n = 49$) of hunters reported using a guide for their 2025 elk hunt.

Question 17. How would you rate your guide experience?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 1

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 (75%) reported being either very or somewhat satisfied with the service they received.

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

Answered: 152 Skipped: 7

The average 2025 Kentucky elk hunter spent 4.9 days hunting elk (range: 1 – 21). Total number of days spent afield hunting elk among survey respondents in 2025 was 742 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: 152 Skipped: 7

Kentucky elk hunters spent 9.2 hours per day hunting elk on average (range: 1 – 16). Combined, they spent a total of 6,826 hours elk hunting in 2025.

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: 150 Skipped: 9

Table 5. Number of elk observed by hunters during the 2025 Kentucky elk hunt.

Sex	Average	Range	Total
Cows Seen While Hunting (<i>n</i> = 150)	4.3	0 – 40	640
Bulls Seen While Hunting (<i>n</i> = 149)	1.1	0 – 10	165

Each Kentucky elk hunter observed an average of 4 cows and 1 bull while elk hunting in 2025.

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: 147 Skipped: 12

The average Kentucky elk hunter reported having 2.3 elk within their weapon’s range that they couldn’t or wouldn’t shoot (range: 0 – 40). Total number of elk reported within the 2025 Kentucky elk hunters’ range that they could not or would not shoot was 343.

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

Answered: 63 Skipped: 3

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:

- 24% reported that the elk was either too small or too young.
- 22% said the elk was not the gender they were drawn to hunt.
- 22% said that the elk was obscured by vegetation.
- 17% claimed a reason other than those listed but were not asked to specify.
- 13% claimed the elk was not the desired gender.
- 2% claimed that it was too early in their hunt to shoot an elk.

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

Answered: 147

Skipped: 12

Kentucky elk hunters missed 0.1 elk on average during their 2025 hunt. The total number of elk that hunters reported shooting at but missing in this survey was 10 with a range of 0 – 2. Either-sex archery/crossbow hunters accounted for more (50%; $n = 5$) 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: 152

Skipped: 7

The average 2025 Kentucky elk hunt survey respondent wounded 0.02 elk during their hunt. The total number of elk that were reported wounded in this survey was 3, with a range of 0 – 1. Either-sex archery/crossbow hunters accounted for 67% ($n = 2$) 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: 152

Skipped: 7

Thirty-seven percent ($n = 56$) of respondents were successful during their 2025 Kentucky elk hunt. See Appendices A and B for a more thorough analysis of results from this question.

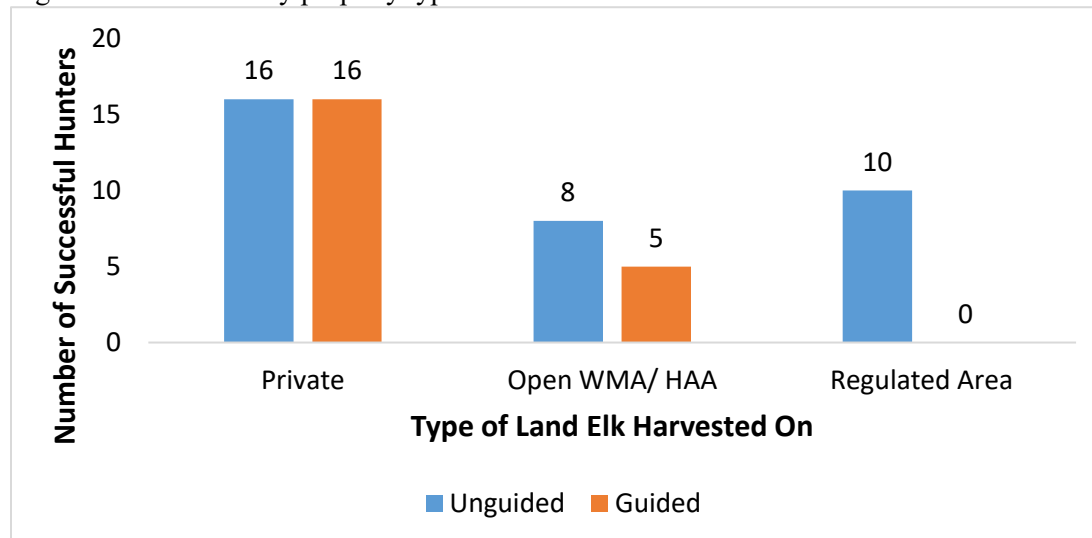
Question 26. What type of land did you harvest your elk on?

Answered: 55

Skipped: 1

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

Figure 4. Elk harvest by property type.



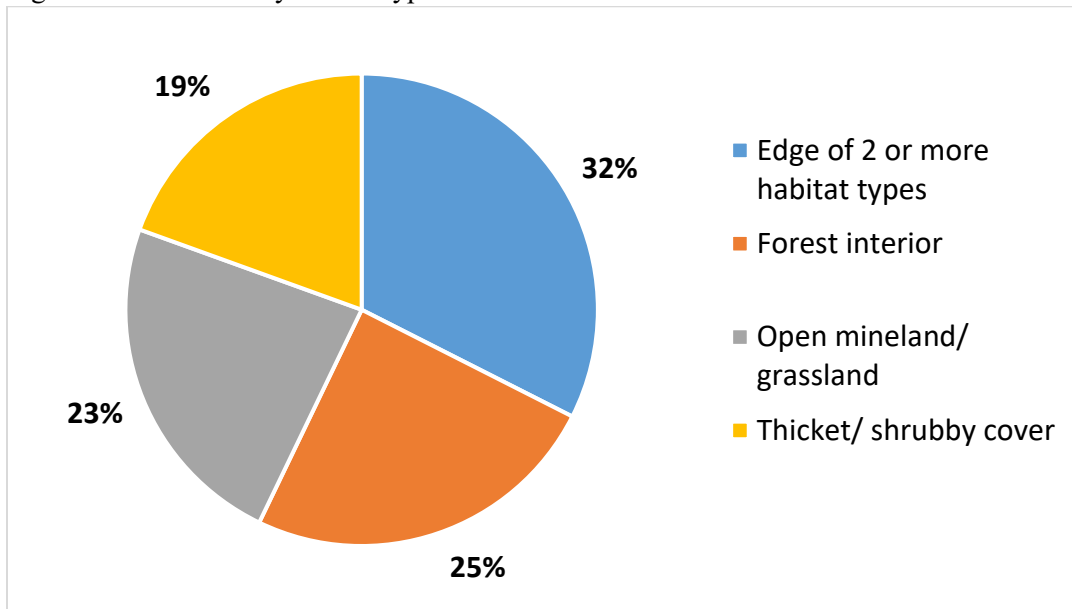
More than half of all successful hunters in the survey (58%; $n = 32$) harvested their elk on private property. Unguided hunters ($n = 16$) and guided hunters ($n = 16$) harvested more elk on private property than public property. This is an important distinction, as private individuals or entities own most of the property in the elk management zone.

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

Answered: 55 Skipped: 1

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: 55 Skipped: 1

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	42%
Whole directly into truck	25%
In parts packed out with backpacks	16%
Other*	9%
In parts by ATV/UTV	7%

*The responses within this category included “in parts by truck” and “dragged out by hand”.

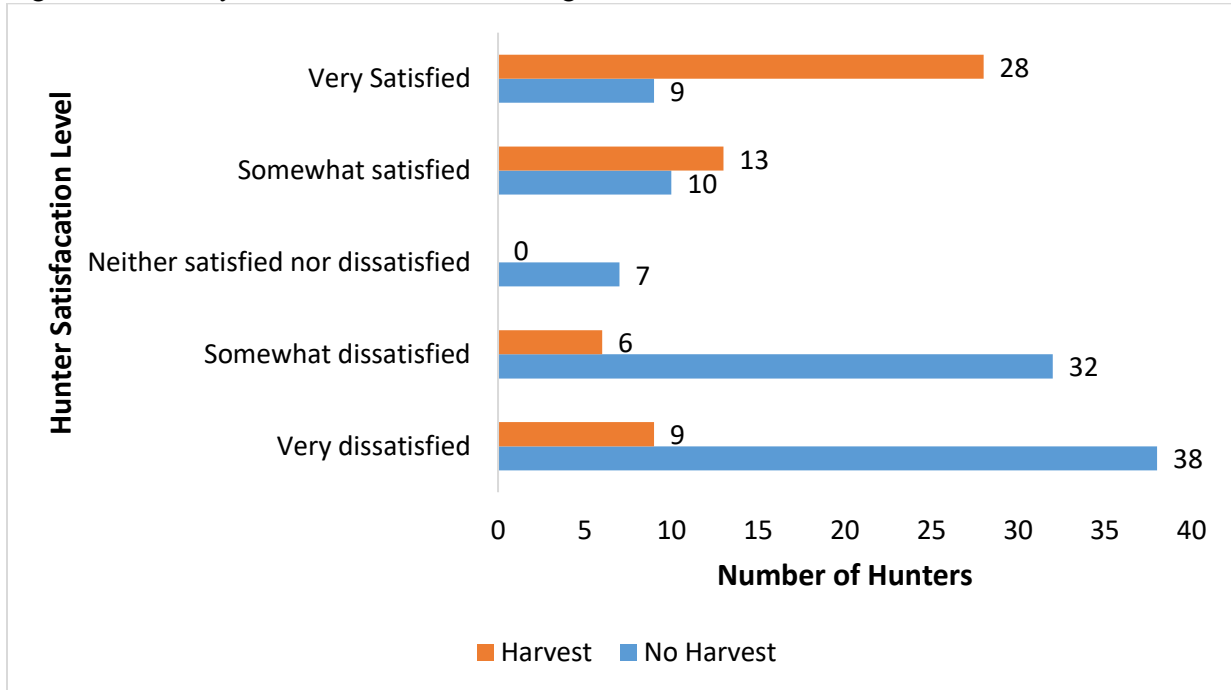
The majority of survey respondents (67%) indicated they were able to get their harvested elk out of the field whole with either a truck or ATV/UTV.

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

Answered: 152

Skipped: 7

Figure 6. Kentucky elk hunter satisfaction ratings.



More survey respondents (56%; $n = 85$) expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their 2025 elk hunt than those who expressed some level of satisfaction (39%; $n = 60$). 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: 78

Skipped: 81

Sixty-five percent ($n = 51$) 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 ($n = 27$) were asked to provide the reason they chose not to hunt the RA they were selected for.

Answered: 27

Skipped: 13

Of the 14 hunters that provided a reason why they did not hunt the RA they were selected for:

- 50% claimed their guide/outfitter did not want to go there or had other areas for them to hunt.
- 14% reported little-to-no elk sign on the property, or elk at lower densities.

- 14% said they had access to private property. 13% were classified as “other” (i.e., did not fit into an established/ common category).
- 7% said they found better spot.
- 7% said terrain was too challenging.

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

Answered: 60

Skipped: 99

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 (<i>n</i> = 9)	Did hunt the RA (<i>n</i> = 51)
1	5	8
2 – 5	3	20
6 – 10	1	19
11+	0	4

Thirty-nine percent (*n* = 20) of respondents who hunted an RA spent two to five days scouting and/or hunting the property. The majority (89%) 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: 66

Skipped: 93

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 (<i>n</i> = 27)	Did hunt the RA (<i>n</i> = 51)
0	13	27
1 – 10	0	22
11 – 20	0	0
21 – 30	2	1
31 - 40	0	0
41 – 50	0	1
50+	0	0

Fifty-three percent (*n* = 27) and forty-three percent (*n* = 22) of respondents that hunted an RA observed 0 elk and 1 – 10 elk on the property in 2025, respectively.

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

Answered: 51

Skipped: 0

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

Twenty-eight percent ($n = 14$) of respondents who hunted an RA reported harvesting an elk in 2025.

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

Answered: 152

Skipped: 7

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:

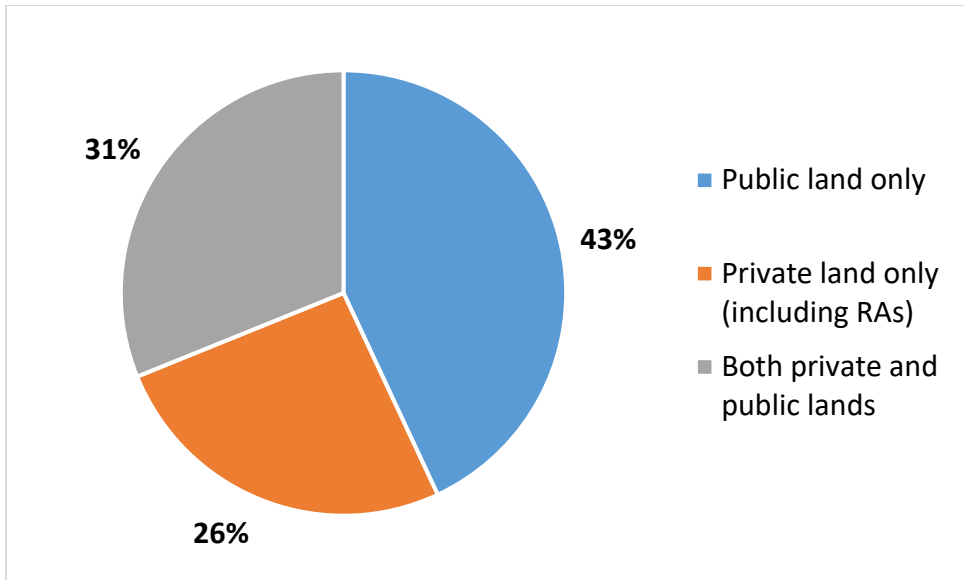
- 29% had no comments or suggestions for ways to improve the RA program.
- 13% provided a response unrelated to the RA program.
- 10% requested better maps, marked boundaries, or access point information.
- 9% wanted more hunting areas (including more hunters allowed on individual properties and for KDFWR to acquire more property to hunt).
- 8% wanted to reduce other uses on the property (e. g., off road vehicles, other hunting, landowner conflicts, better enforcement of non-RA hunters, etc.).
- 8% asked for properties with more elk on them.
- 7% asked for better habitat management on RAs.
- 4% requested an earlier date for the secondary drawing, or general changes in the structure to improve ease of use.
- 4% asked for more information and/or data, including communication between KDFWR and hunters.
- 4% wanted to prohibit guiding on RAs and/or public property.
- 2% indicated they like the RA program “as is.”
- 1% suggested better field observations or abundance estimates for elk on the property.

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

Answered: 151

Skipped: 8

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 2025.

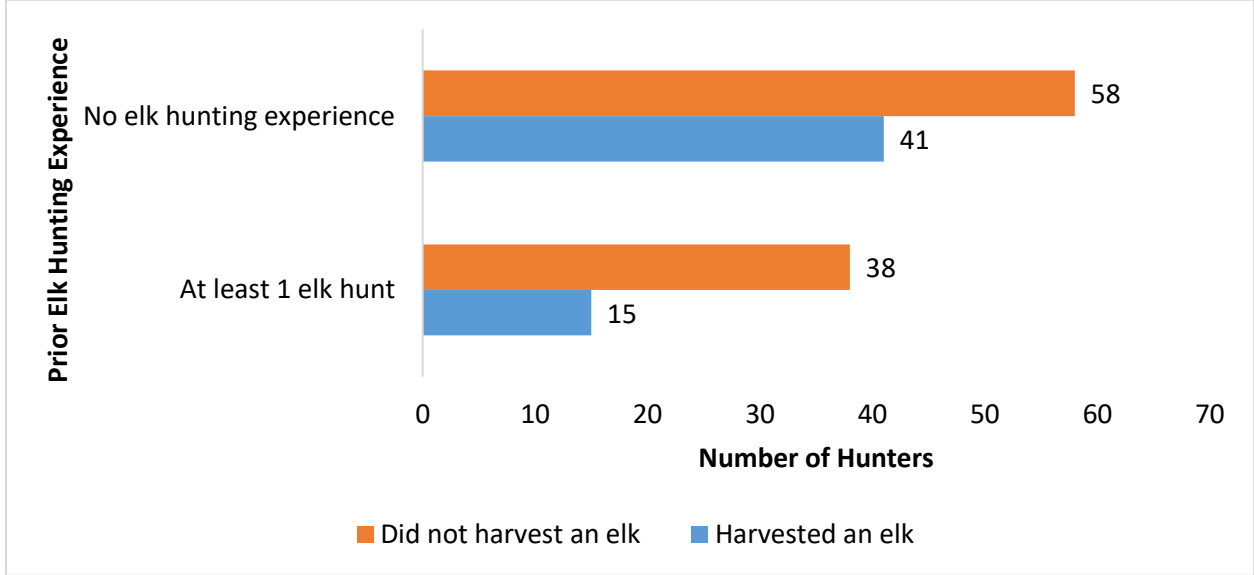
Question 36. Have you ever hunted elk before your Kentucky elk hunt?

Answered: 152 Skipped: 1

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

Sixty-five percent ($n = 99$) of survey respondents indicated they had never hunted elk before the 2025 Kentucky elk season.

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



There were at least 56 hunters who harvested their first elk during the 2025 Kentucky elk hunt. Hunters that had no prior elk hunting experience (41%) were more successful than those with prior elk hunting experience (28%). Prior elk hunting experience does not appear to be an indicator of overall elk hunter success.

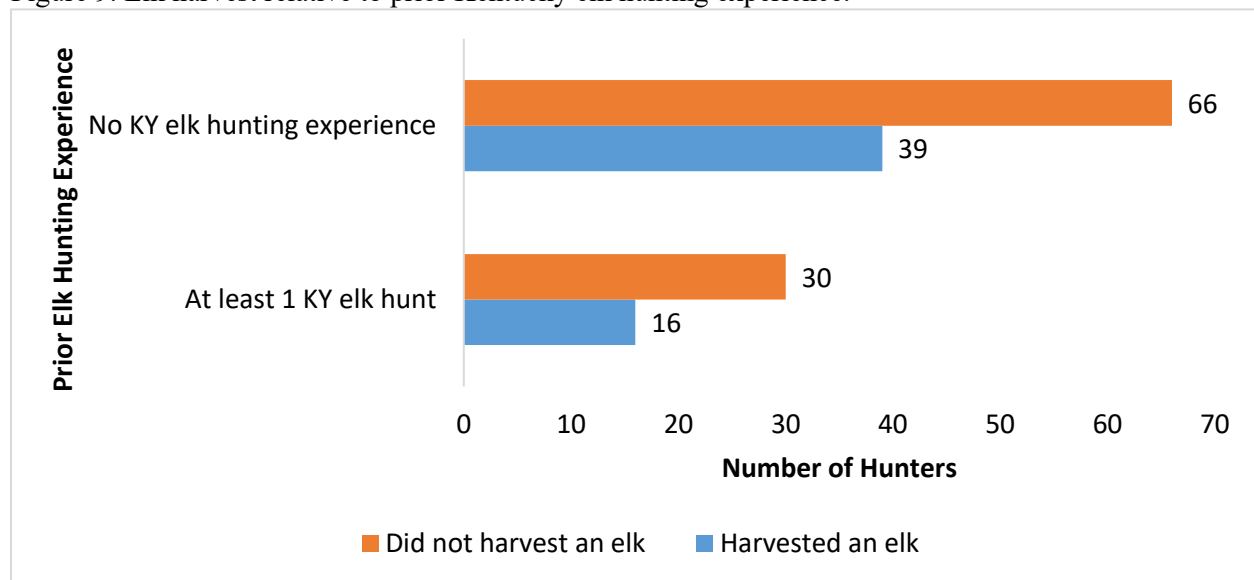
Question 37. Have you ever hunted, or been a part of an elk hunt in Kentucky before?

Answered: 151 Skipped: 2

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

Seventy percent ($n = 105$) of survey respondents had never hunted elk (or been a part of an elk hunt) in Kentucky before 2025.

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



There were at least 39 hunters who either harvested their first elk or their first Kentucky elk in 2025. Hunters that had no Kentucky elk hunting experience (37%) were about equally successful in harvesting an elk than those with previous Kentucky elk hunting experience (35%).

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

Answered: 94 Skipped: 65

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

- 34% expressed frustration with low elk observations during their hunt or requested more elk in Kentucky.
- 11% 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).
- 7% suggested the need for better habitat, including removal of feral livestock.

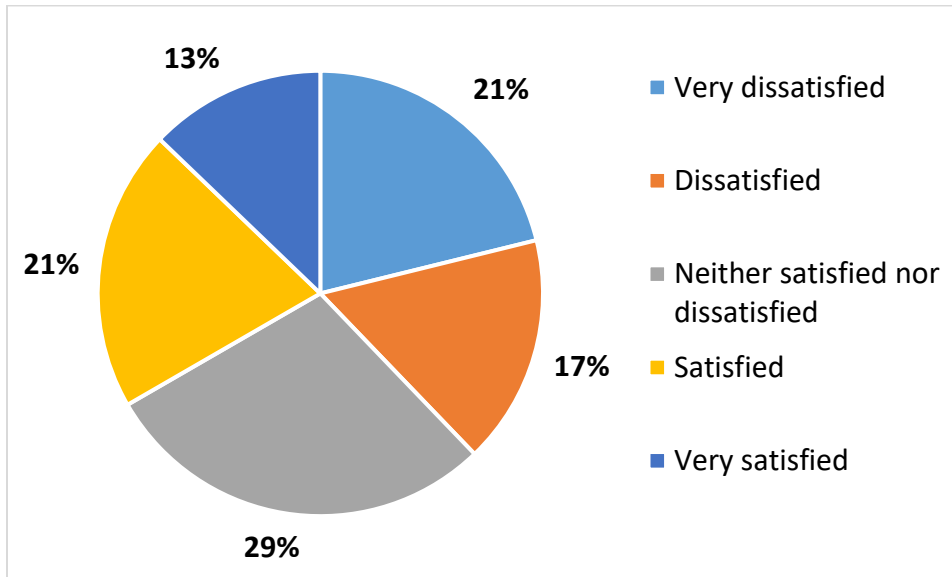
- 7% were concerned about guiding services and asked for better regulation of these services, or to prohibit them from utilizing public land.
- 7% wanted more law enforcement to stop poaching and prevent illegal use of properties.
- 5% had no suggestions for improving the elk hunt or liked it “as is.”
- 5% want KDFWR to stop trapping and translocating elk.
- 4% wanted to have longer elk seasons, expressed displeasure with overlapping dates between elk and other hunting seasons (e.g., bear chase season, firearm deer seasons), or had issues with the current season dates (e.g., archery season too early, cow seasons held too late).
- 4% of responses were classified as “other” as there was no common theme with other responses.
- 3% requested better mapping of properties or access points.
- 3% 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.
- 3% desired more public land elk hunting opportunities.
- 3% wanted to expand bear harvest.
- 2% requested better communication between elk hunters and KDFWR personnel, including general correspondence and updated information regarding elk movements or public land closures.
- 0.5% 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).
- 0.5% wanted more elk hunting opportunities for residents.

Question 39. We are currently working to adjust how we allocate elk hunting units and regulated areas. What is your level of satisfaction with our current system for drawing elk hunting units and regulated areas?

Answered: 156

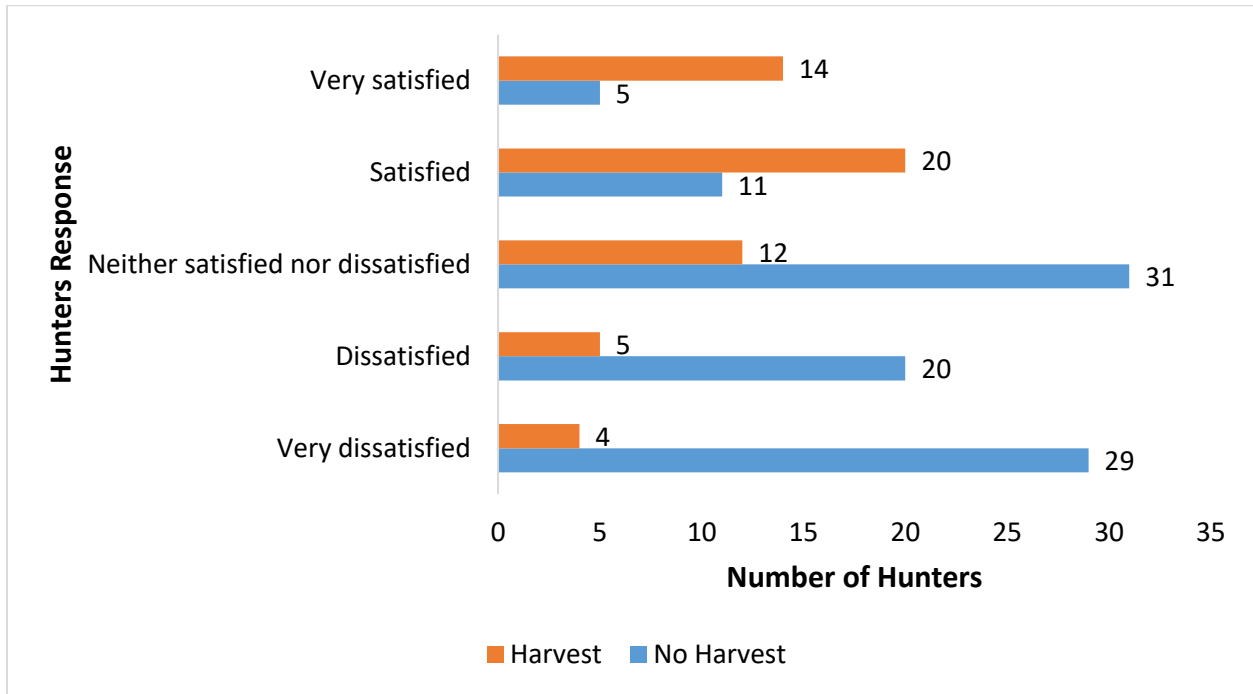
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Figure 10. Kentucky elk hunter level of satisfaction with current system for elk drawing.



Slightly more respondents were very dissatisfied or dissatisfied (38%) with current system for elk drawing than those that were very satisfied or satisfied (34%)

Figure 11. Kentucky elk hunter level of satisfaction with current system for elk drawing relative to elk harvest.



More hunters who harvested an elk were satisfied (62%) with current system for elk drawing compared to those that did not harvest an elk (17%). Harvesting an elk appears to influence opinion to applying for elk hunting units during initial application period.

Appendix A. Summary results for 2025 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> = 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.0	0	0	0%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 16)	5.2	3.3	1.2	4.0	1.8	0.6	31%
Bull Week 2	No (<i>n</i> = 0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 12)	4.6	1.4	0.7	3.8	1.5	0.5	25%
Either Sex Archery	No (<i>n</i> = 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.0	0	0	0%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 23)	4.2	0.5	0.2	8.7	2.7	1.8	57%
Cow Week 1	No (<i>n</i> = 6)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.7	9.0	1.7	33%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 14)	3.3	2.5	0.5	4.1	3.5	0.6	21%
Cow Week 2	No (<i>n</i> = 4)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.0	13.8	1.8	50%
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 21)	3.7	1.5	0.3	3.9	4.3	1.0	24%
Other Permit	No (<i>n</i> = 0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 3)	4.3	1.3	0.7	4.0	8.0	1.5	0%
Youth	No (<i>n</i> = 0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Yes (<i>n</i> = 1)	6.0	0	0	11.0	15.0	2.0	100%

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. Bull and archery hunters who scouted were more successful than bull and archery hunters who did not scout, whereas reverse occurred for cow hunters. 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 2025 Kentucky elk hunt survey respondents.

Permit Type	Guide Option	Average Days Hunted	Average 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> = 11)	3.7	4.7	1.5	2.5 (28)	0 (0)	0 (0)	64%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 18)	4.0	1.6	0.5	1.2 (22)	0.1 (1)	0 (0)	28%
Bull Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 11)	4.1	6.7	1.7	2.2 (24)	0 (0)	0 (0)	46%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 12)	3.8	1.5	0.5	1.5 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	17%
Either Sex Archery	Guided (<i>n</i> = 12)	7.4	3.0	1.2	0.9 (11)	0.2 (2)	0.2 (2)	25%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 25)	8.6	2.5	1.7	1.2 (30)	0.1 (3)	0 (0)	52%
Cow Week 1	Guided (<i>n</i> = 10)	2.9	6.0	0.7	0.5 (54)	0 (0)	0 (0)	40%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 20)	3.7	5.2	0.8	2.6 (51)	0.1 (2)	0.1 (1)	25%
Cow Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 2)	3.0	20.0	1.5	1.0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	50%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 25)	3.6	5.8	1.1	3.7 (93)	0.1 (2)	0 (0)	28%
Other Permit	Guided (<i>n</i> = 2)	5.0	1.0	1.0	1.5 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	50%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 2)	4.0	8.0	1.5	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0%
Youth	Guided (<i>n</i> = 1)	7.0	1.0	1.0	1.0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	100%
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 1)	11.0	15.0	2.0	6.0 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	100%

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 2025 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> = 11)	0	5	0	0	6
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 18)	10	2	1	1	4
Bull Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 11)	4	3	0	1	3
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 12)	7	2	0	2	1
Cow Week 1	Guided (<i>n</i> = 10)	4	2	0	1	3
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 20)	3	5	3	6	3
Cow Week 2	Guided (<i>n</i> = 2)	0	1	0	0	1
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 25)	9	5	2	2	7
Either Sex Archery	Guided (<i>n</i> = 12)	3	4	0	4	1
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 25)	7	8	0	3	7
Other Permit	Guided (<i>n</i> = 2)	0	1	0	1	0
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 3)	0	0	1	1	0
Youth	Guided (<i>n</i> = 1)	0	0	0	0	1
	Unguided (<i>n</i> = 1)	0	0	0	1	0
Total		47	38	7	23	37

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).