



2018 Season Waterfowl Hunter Survey Summary

Presented by Josh Richardson, Sr. Biologist
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Background

- Waterfowl hunting season and limits are determined by both state and federal entities
- Several biologically acceptable options
- Hunter opinion can help determine the course of action to take



Waterfowl Hunter Survey

- Opportunity to hear from hunters across OK & US
- Internet survey
 - ▣ Census of HIP permit holders ~40,000
 - ▣ Senior licenses w/ email
- Administered Oct/Nov 2018

Waterfowl Hunter Survey 2018

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is conducting a statewide survey of duck hunters. We are interested in learning about your experiences and preferences for duck hunting in Oklahoma. This survey offers Oklahoma duck hunters an opportunity for feedback on aspects of the duck season within ODWC's authority to change: season dates, splits, and zones. Your answers will help us improve waterfowl management in the state of Oklahoma. Your responses will remain confidential and at no time will your name be associated with any of your responses. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the final report of this study, please contact Josh Richardson at josh.richardson@odwc.ok.gov. Your help in this project is greatly appreciated and we look forward to learning about your duck hunting experiences!

Thank you for your time.

Josh Richardson
Migratory Game Bird Biologist
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese) in Oklahoma at all in the last five years?

- Yes
 No

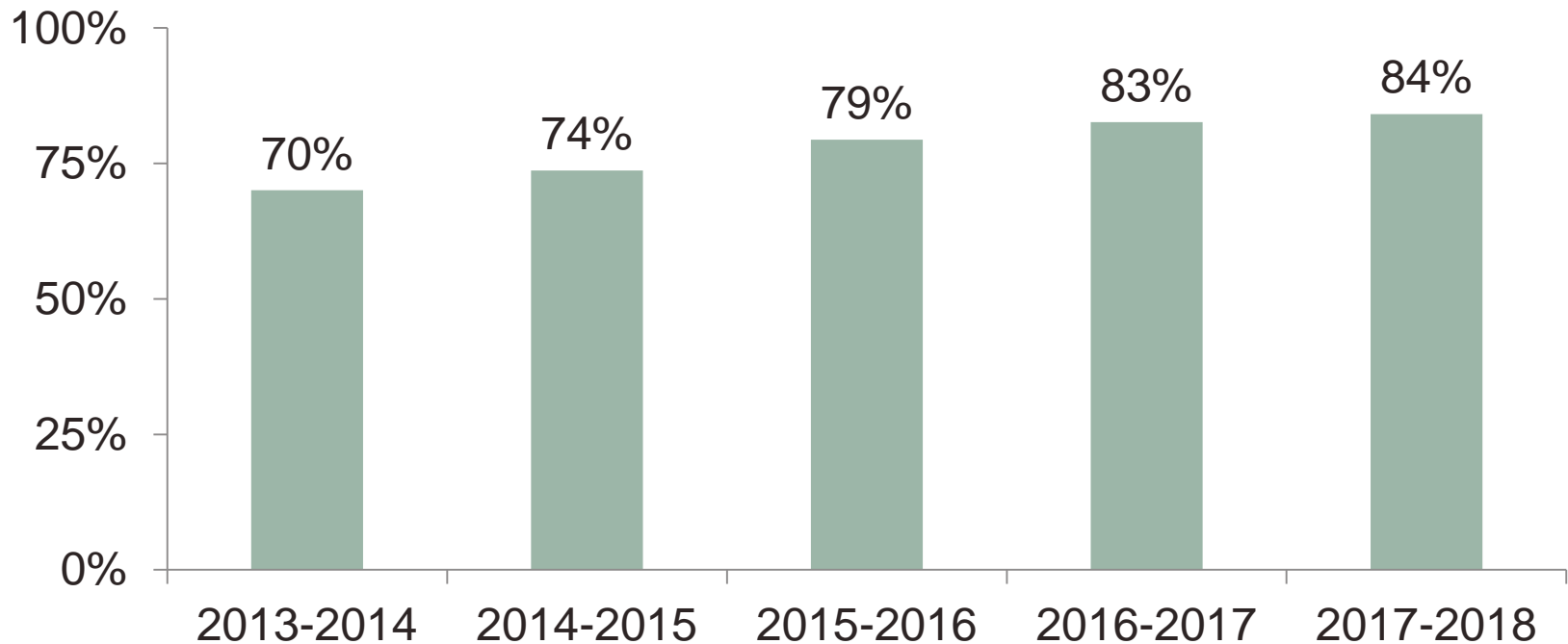
Please do not forward this email as its survey link is unique to you.
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Powered by  SurveyMonkey

Who responded

- We had 8,627 responses
 - 5,608 had hunted waterfowl in the last five years
 - State & Federal estimates range 10-15k hunters

Which season(s) did you hunt ducks?



Demographics of Survey Respondents

- Geography
 - Even spread across state based on population
- Age
 - Average = 44 years old
 - spread from 12 years - 84 years
- Avidity
 - Average = 16.79 years hunting waterfowl
 - spread from 0 years-69 years
- Gender
 - 4,086 male (98%), 83 female (2%)

Reasons to hunt for waterfowl in OK

Most important:

1. Being outdoors/ in nature
2. Hunting with friends or family

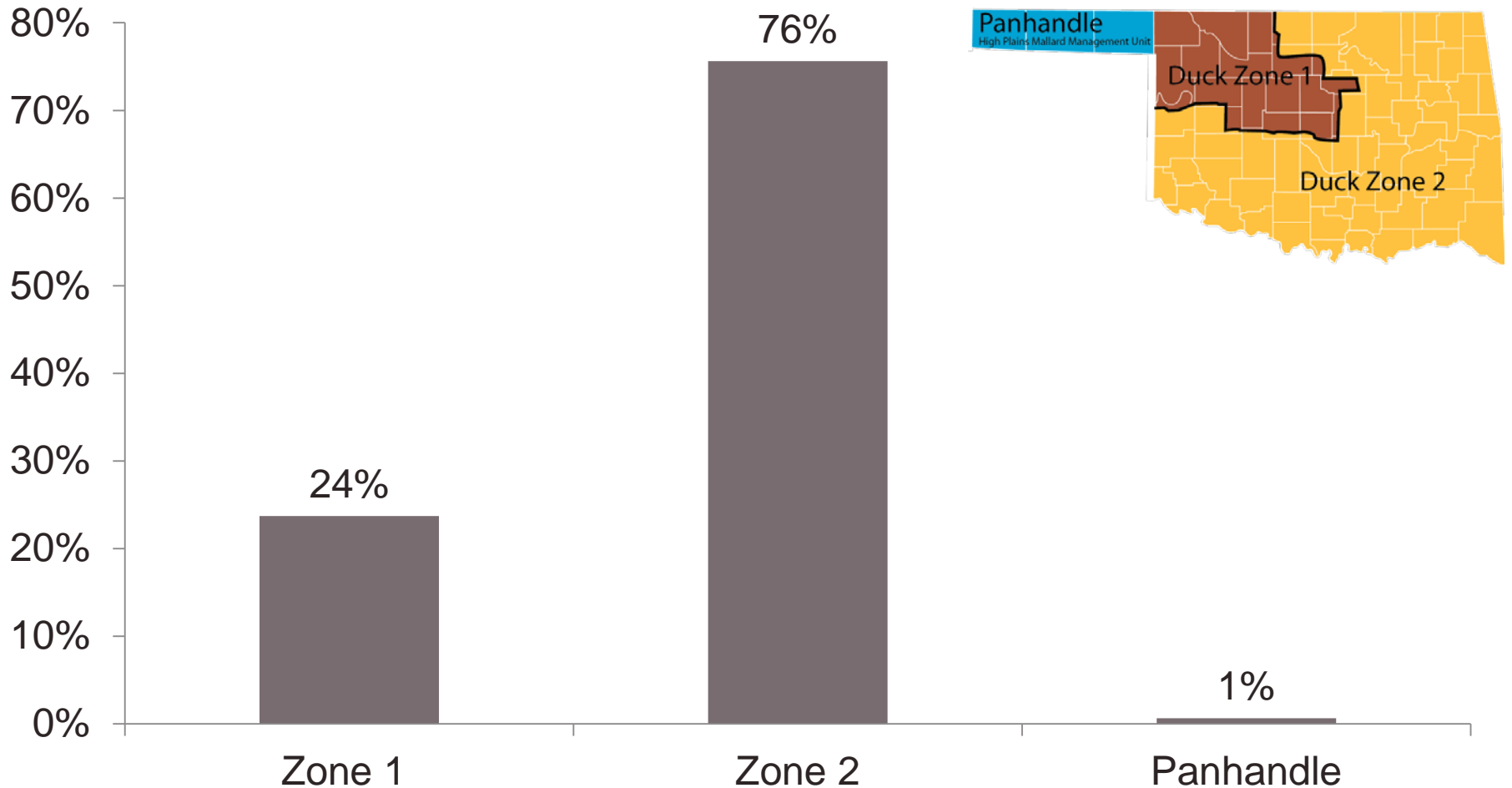


Least important:

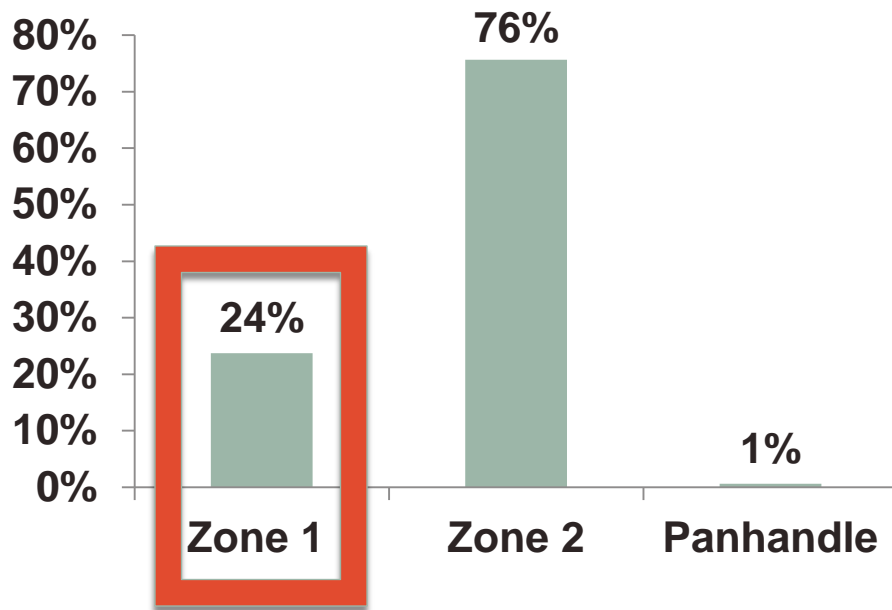
1. Maximizing the number of mallards shot in a season
2. Harvesting their daily limit



What zone do you hunt most often?

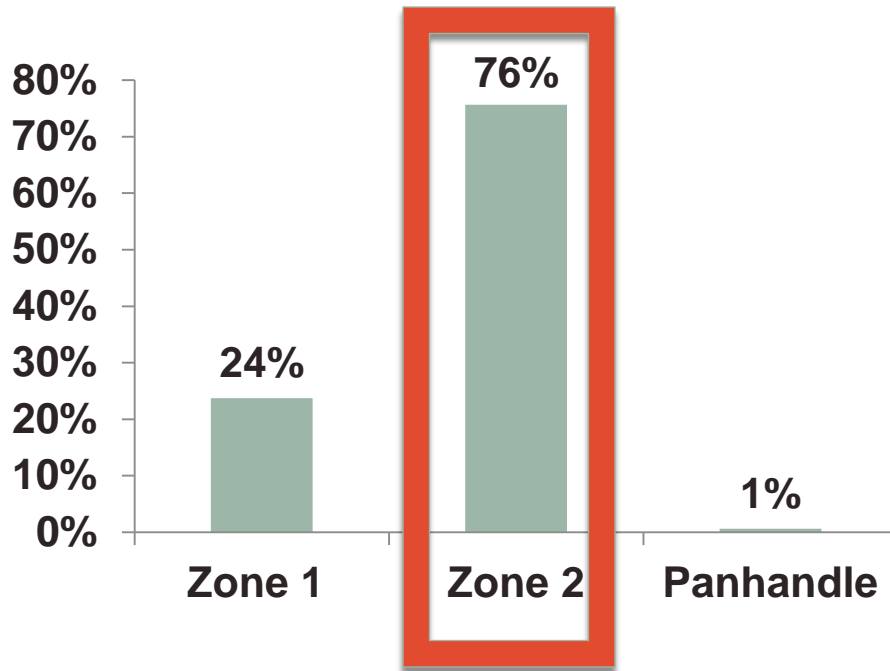


Zone 1 Hunters



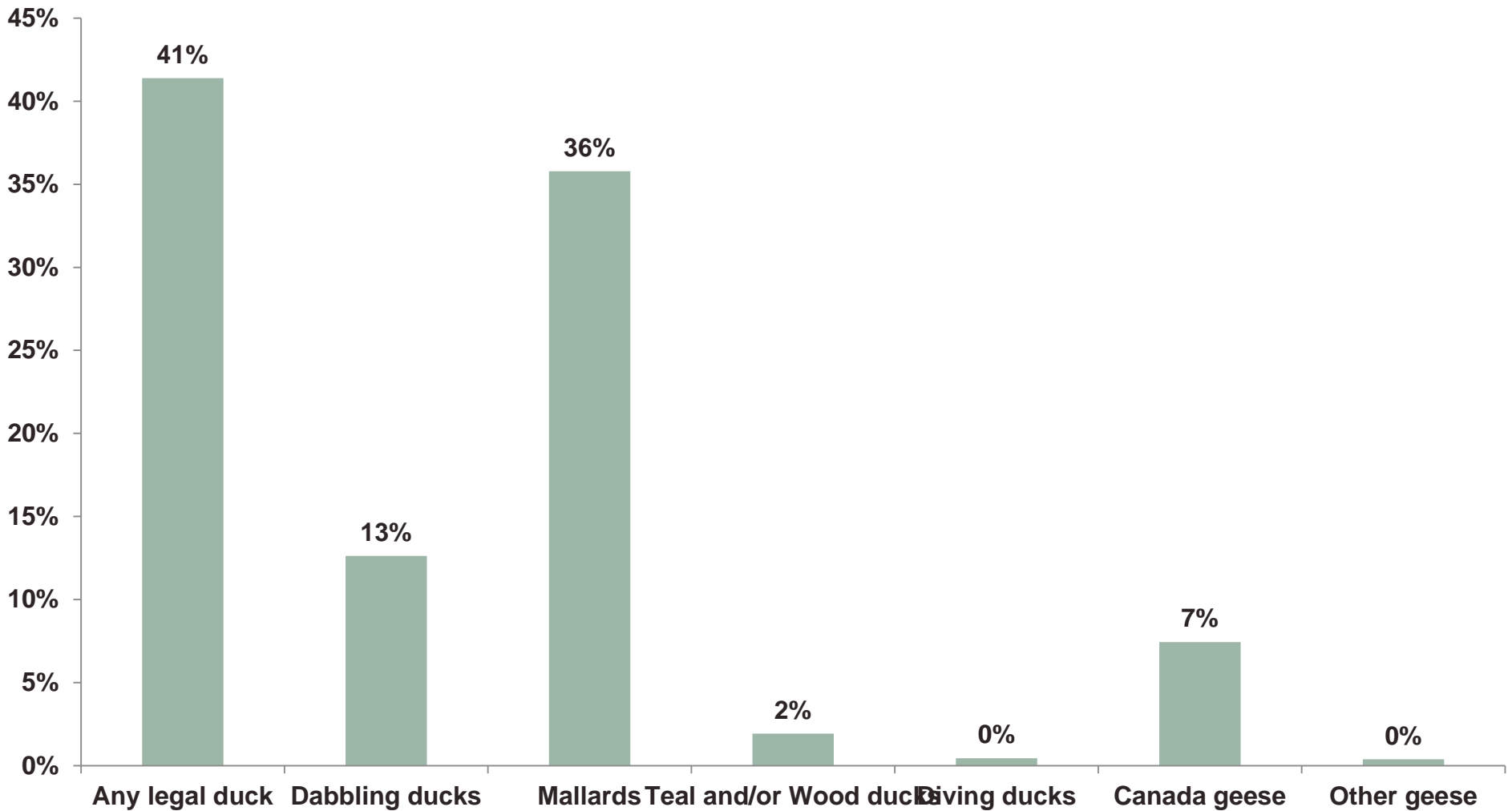
- Averaged 12 days of hunting
- Averaged 30 birds harvested
- Hunted waterfowl an average of 16.8 years

Zone 2 Hunters

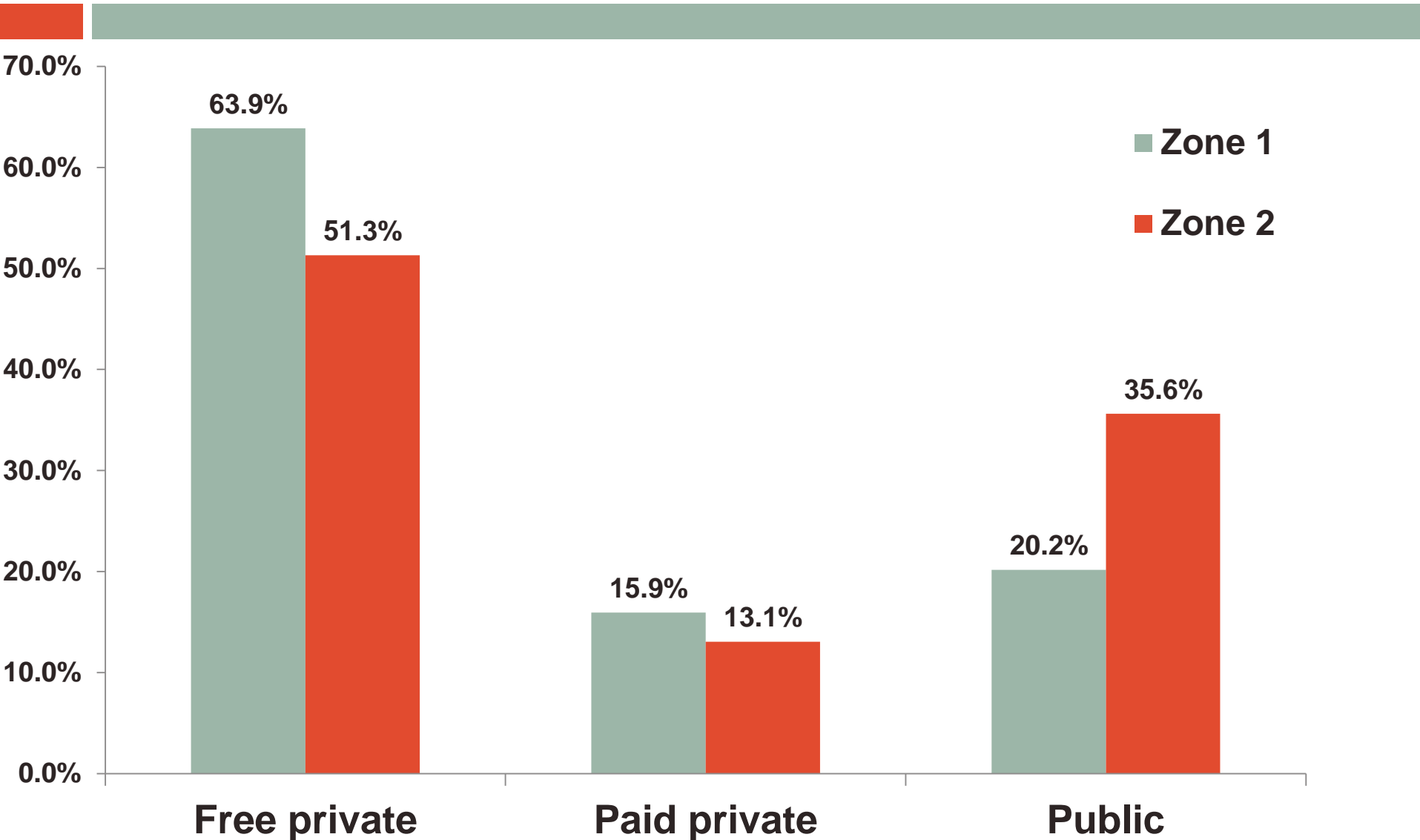


- Averaged 15.3 days of hunting
- Averaged 39.3 birds harvested
- Hunted waterfowl an average of 16.9 years

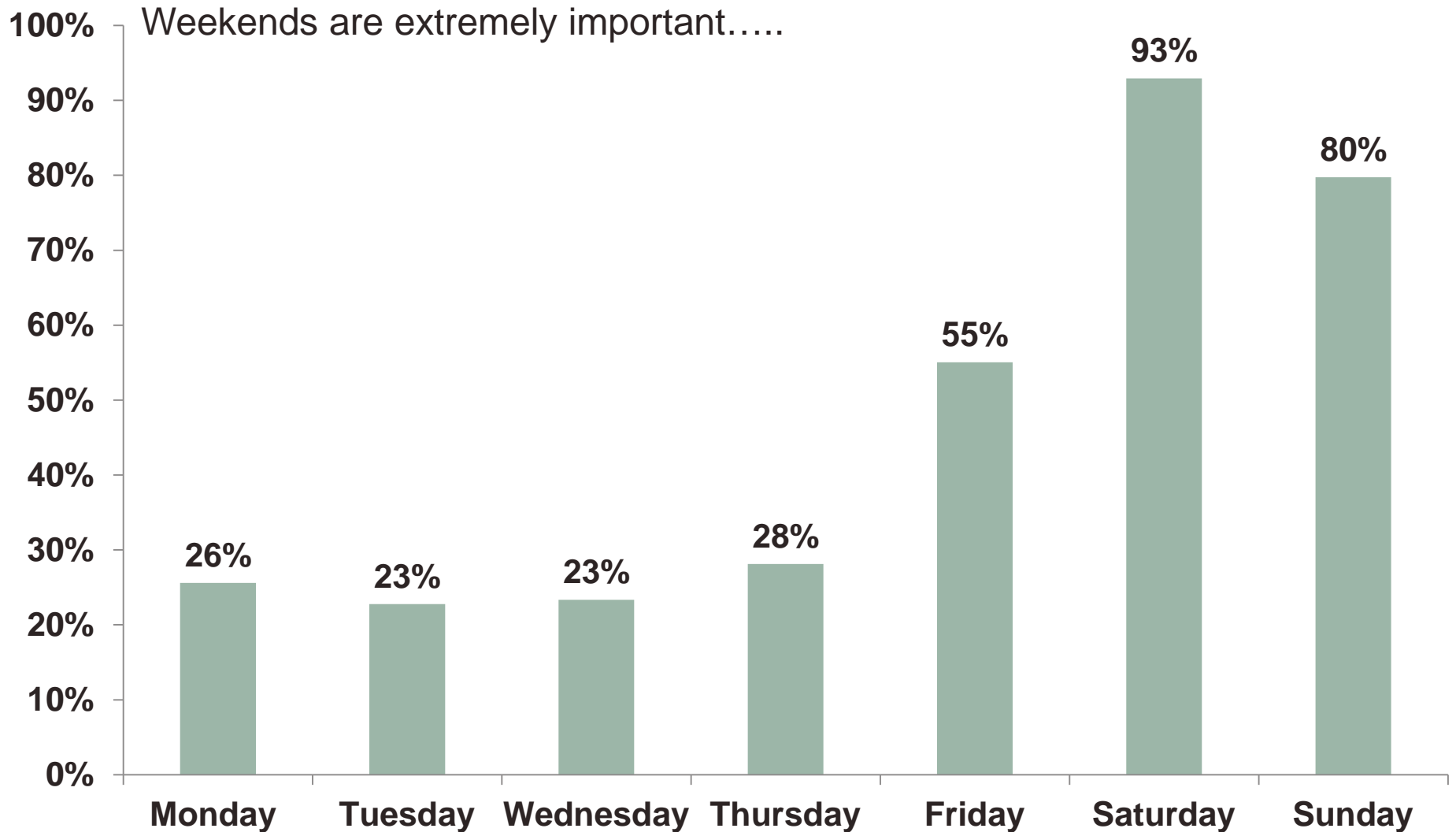
Primary targeted waterfowl species



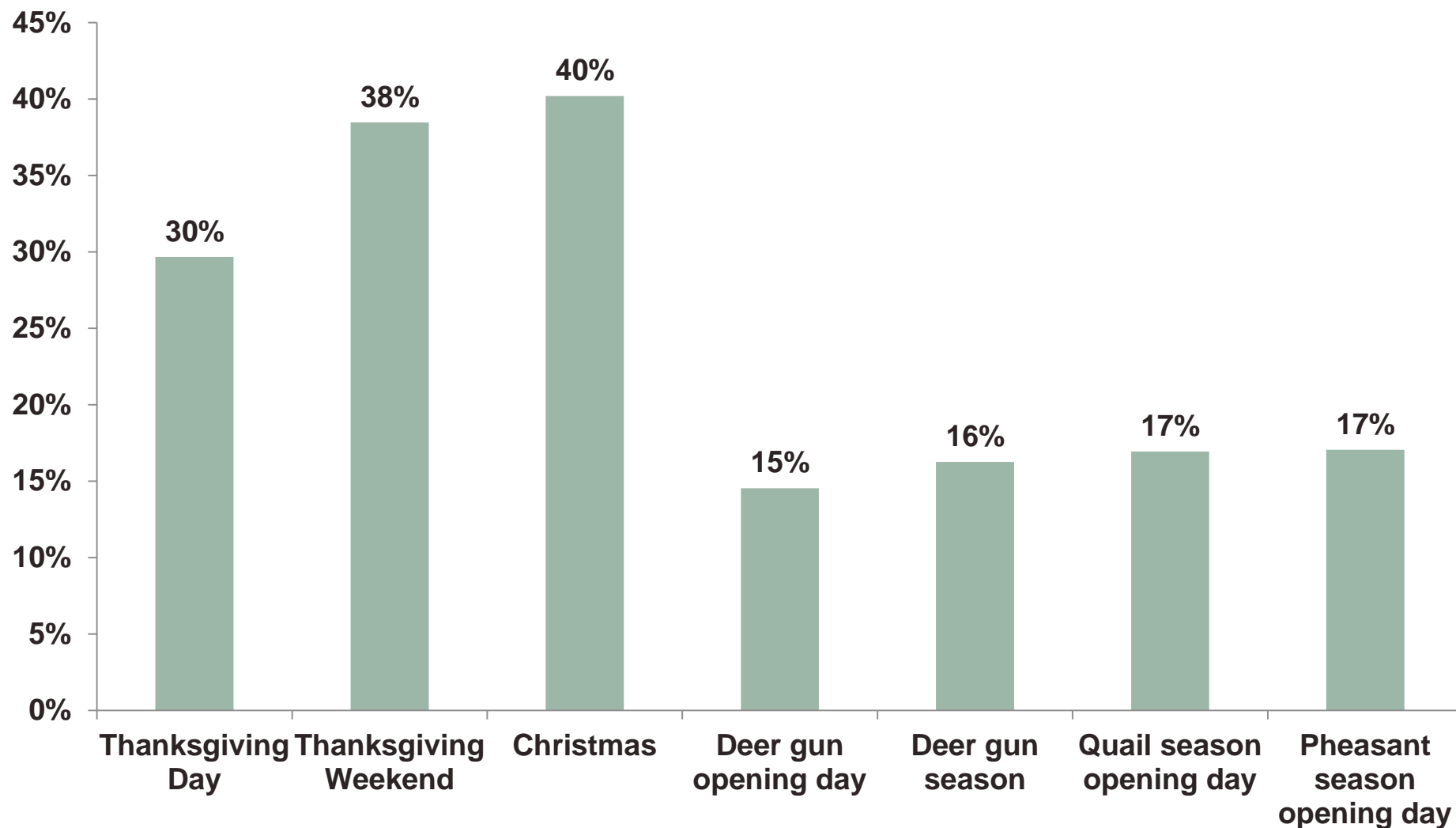
Waterfowl Hunting Land Use



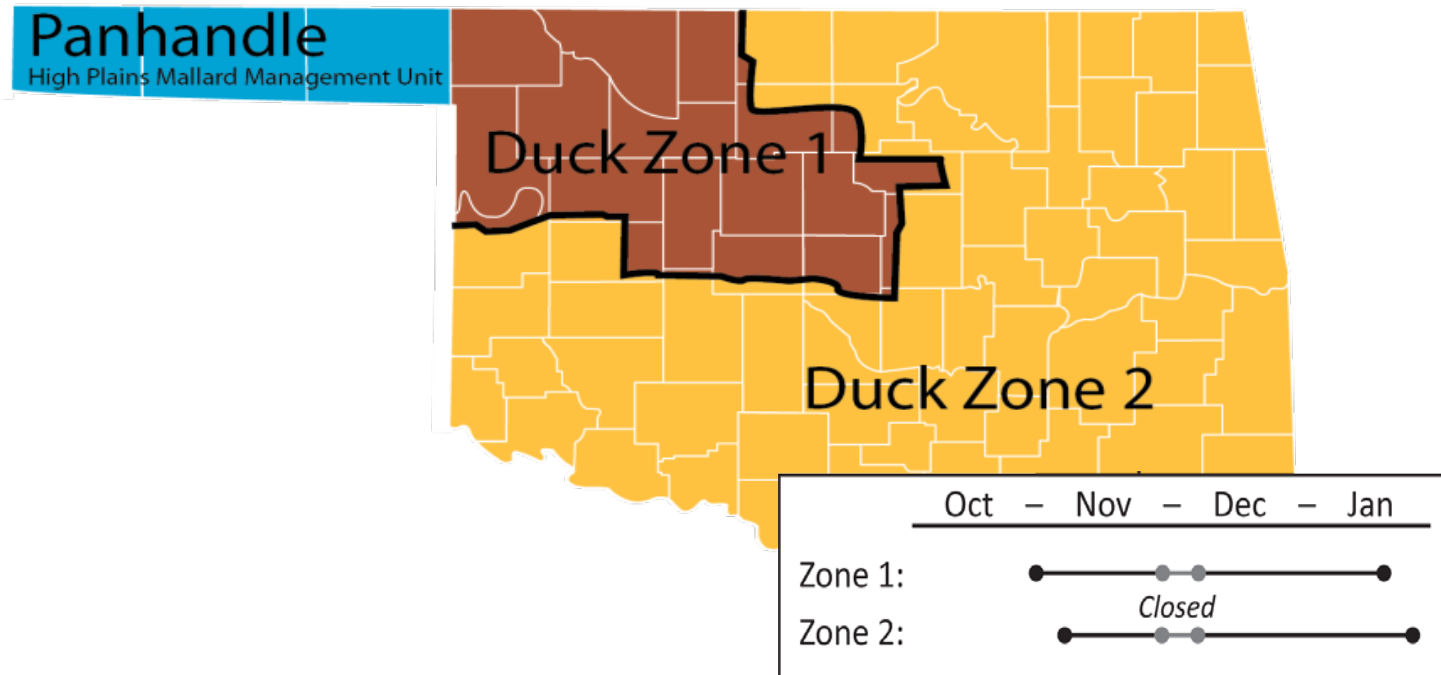
What days do you typically hunt waterfowl?



What days/periods are very desirable for having an open waterfowl season?



Zones in Oklahoma



2018 Season Dates

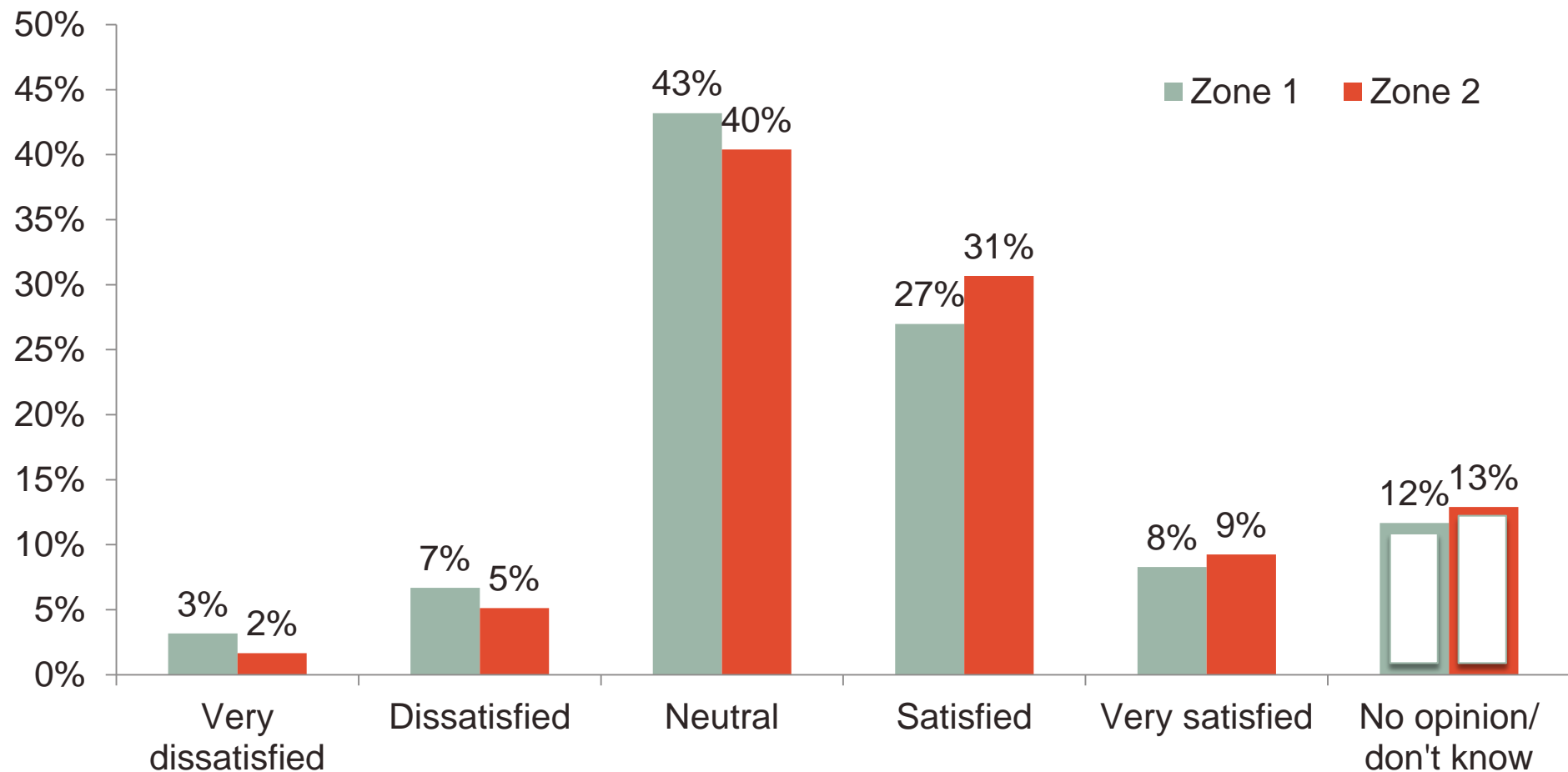
Panhandle: Oct. 13- Jan. 9

Zone 1: Oct. 27-Nov. 25 & Dec. 8- Jan. 20

Zone 2: Nov. 3- Nov. 25 & Dec. 8- Jan. 27

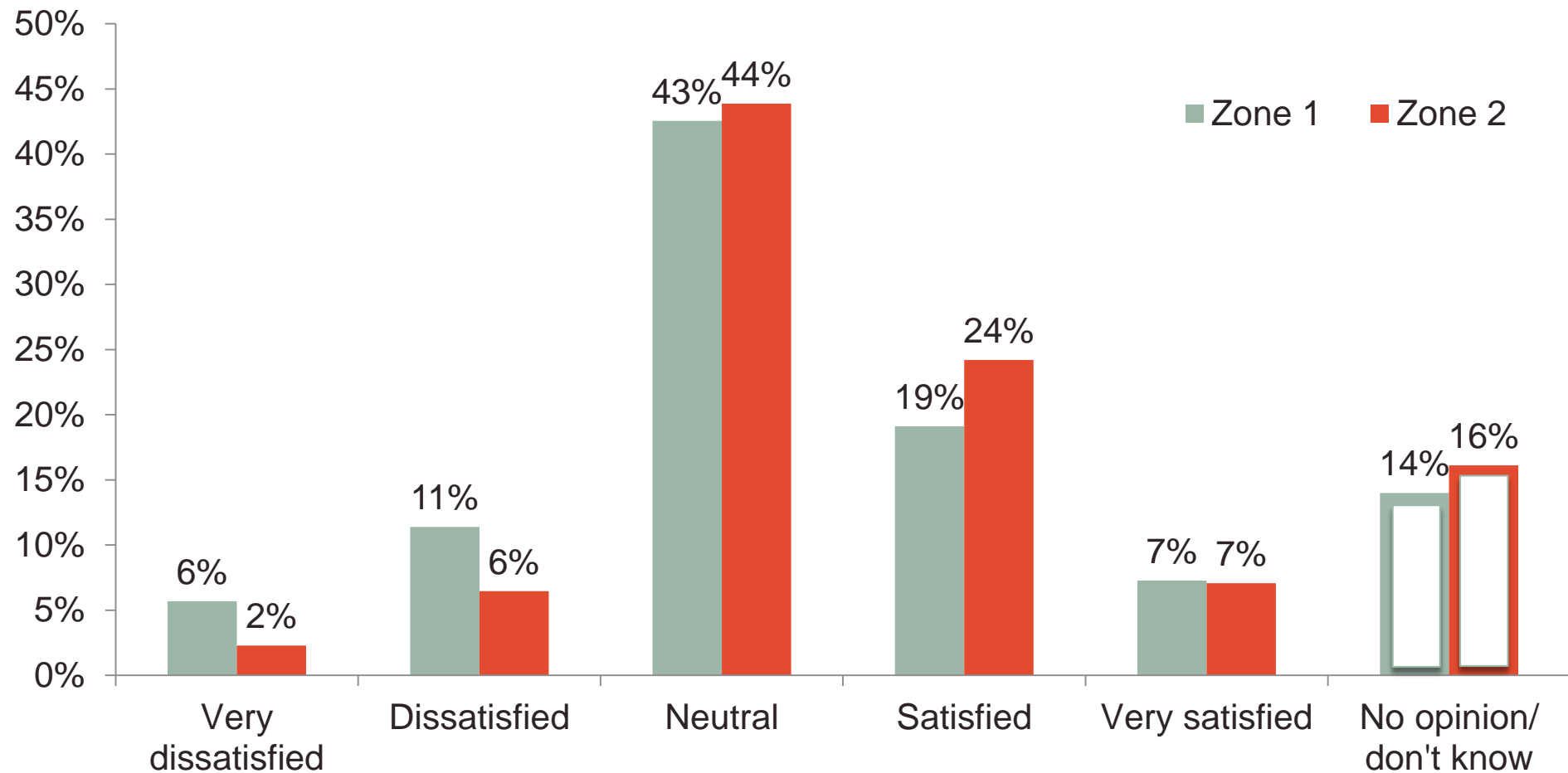
How satisfied are you with the....

□ Number of duck hunting zones in Oklahoma

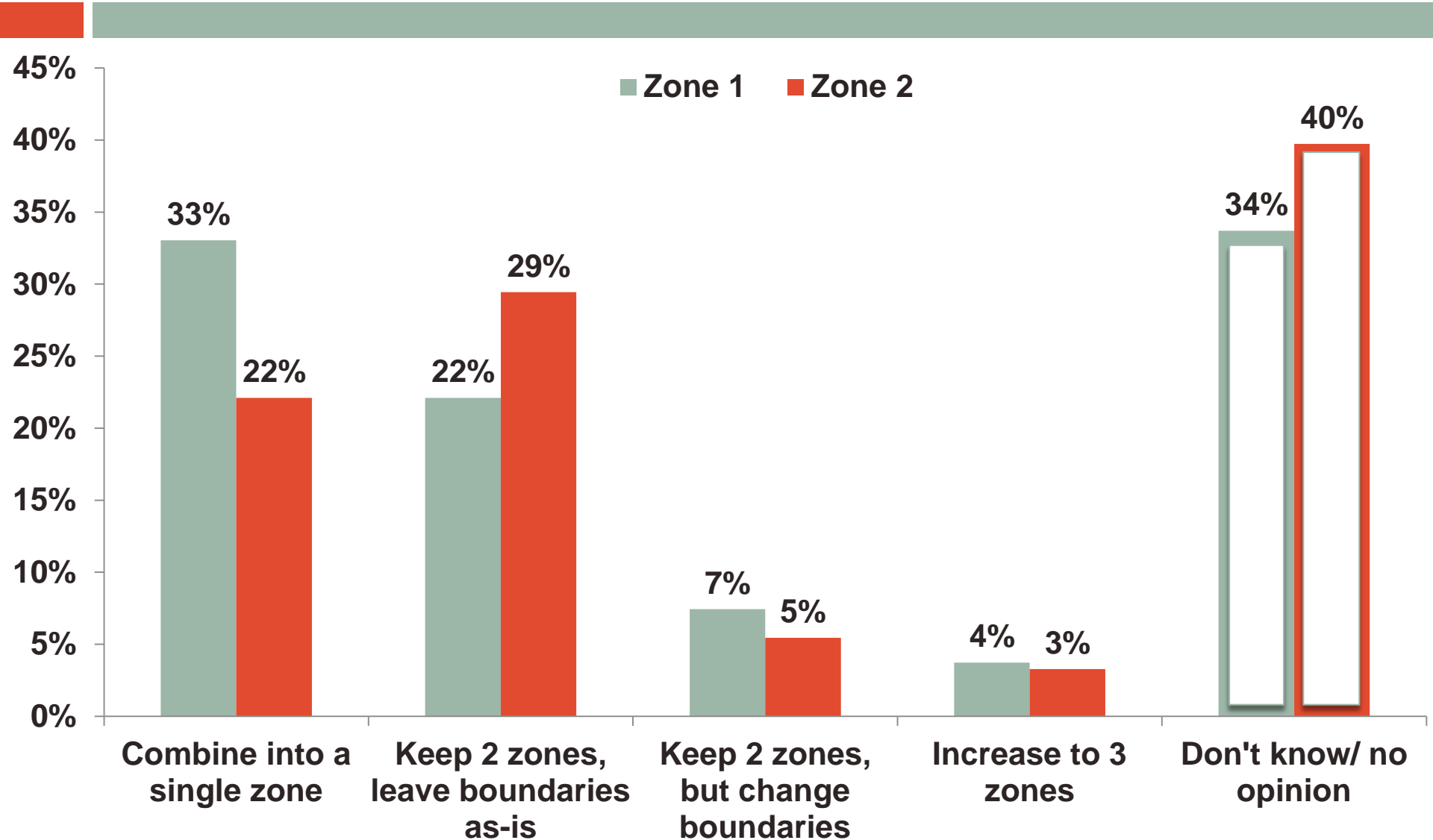


How satisfied are you with the....

□ The boundary between Zone 1 and Zone 2



What is your opinion on zones in Oklahoma?



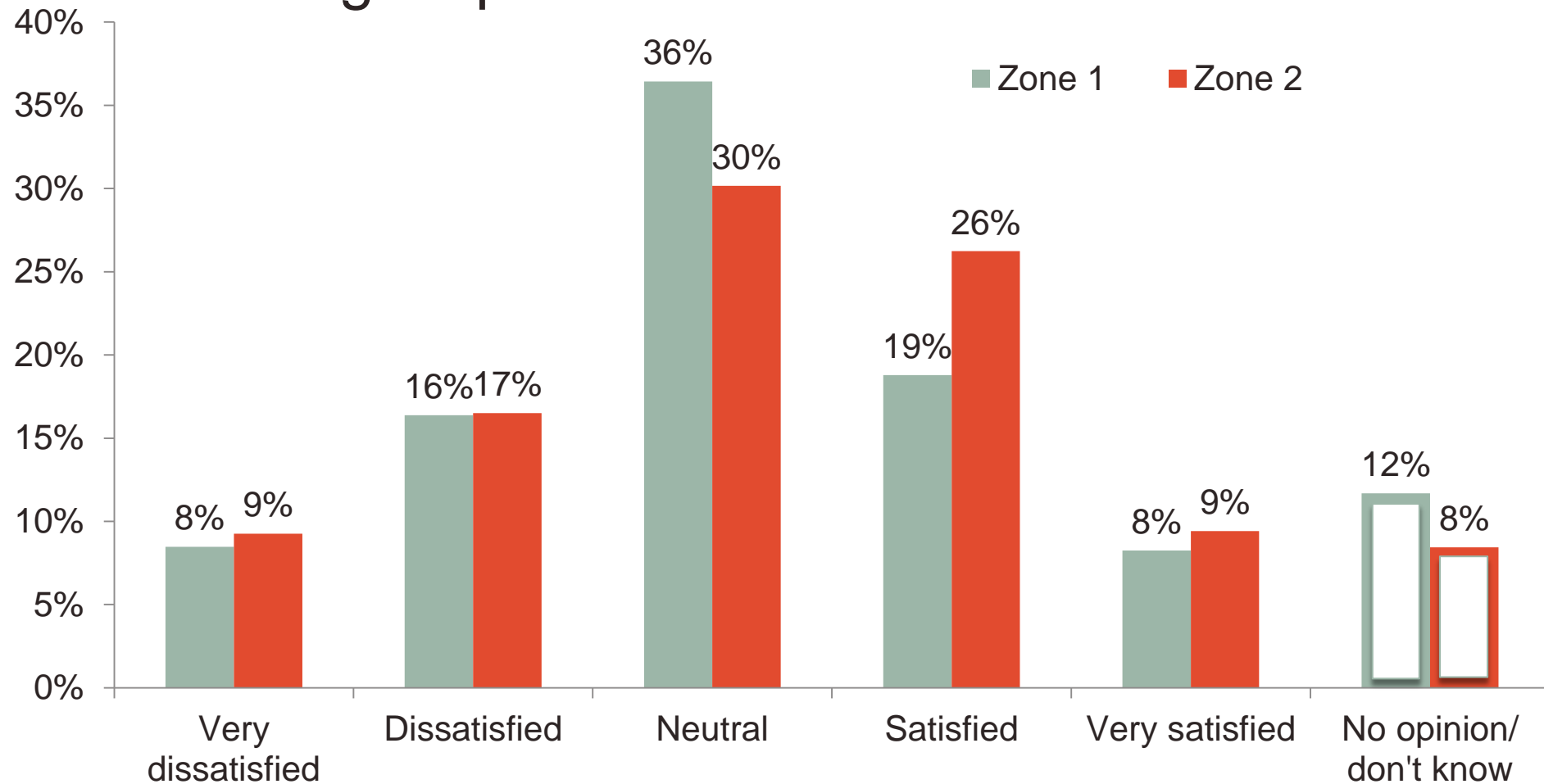
Split



General opinion across all of Oklahoma

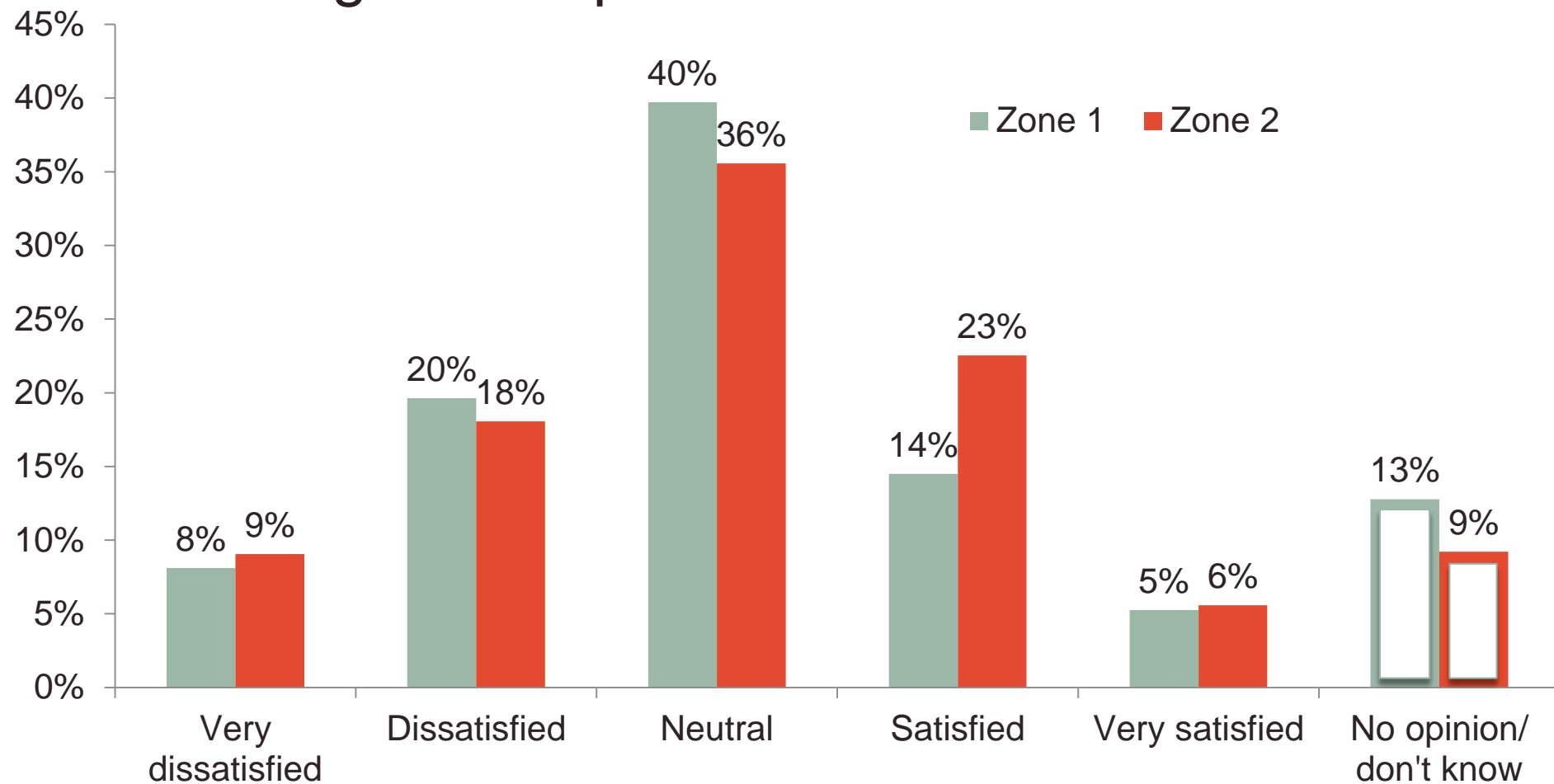
How satisfied are you with....

□ Having a split season



How satisfied are you with the....

□ Timing of the split

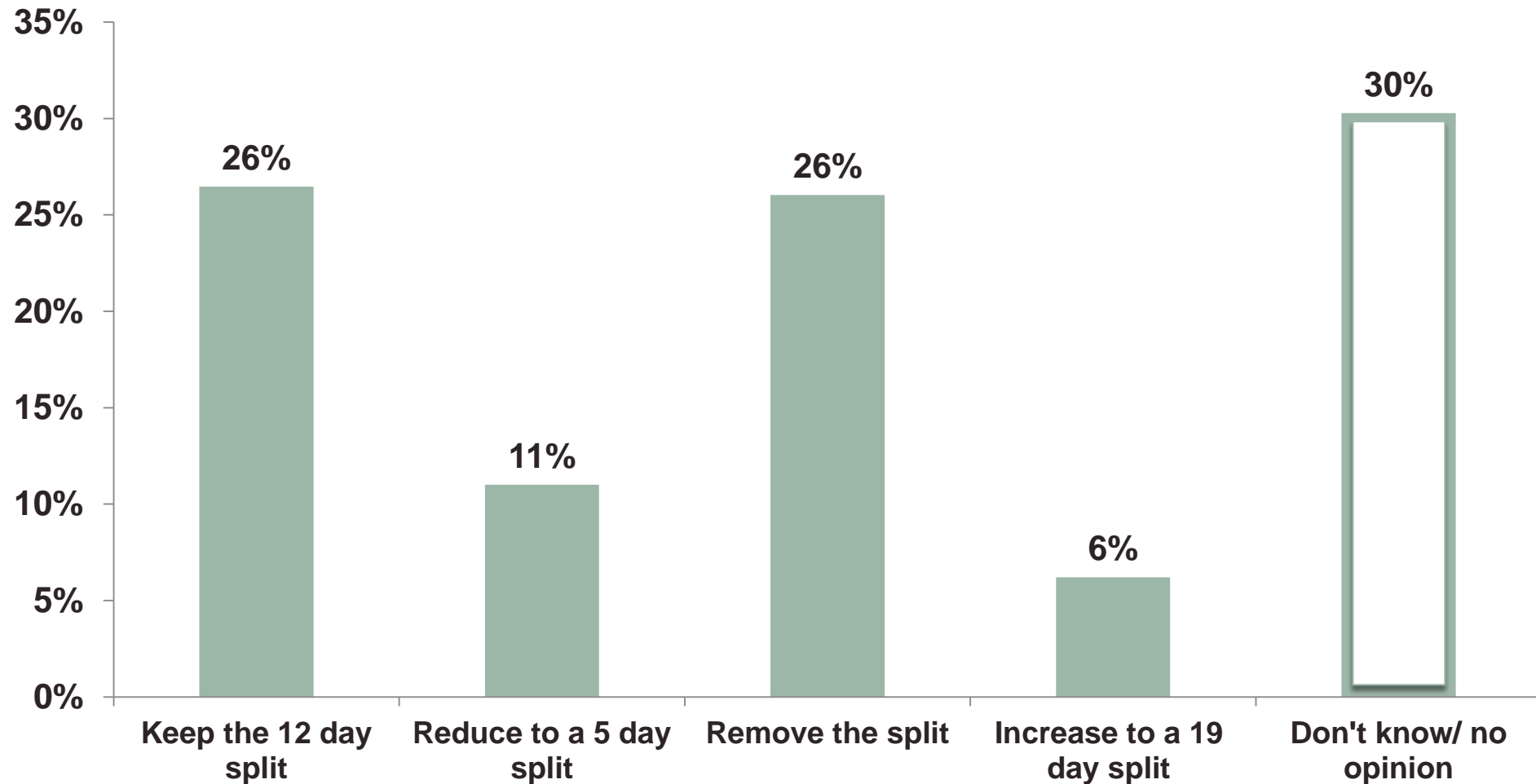


Information by Zone



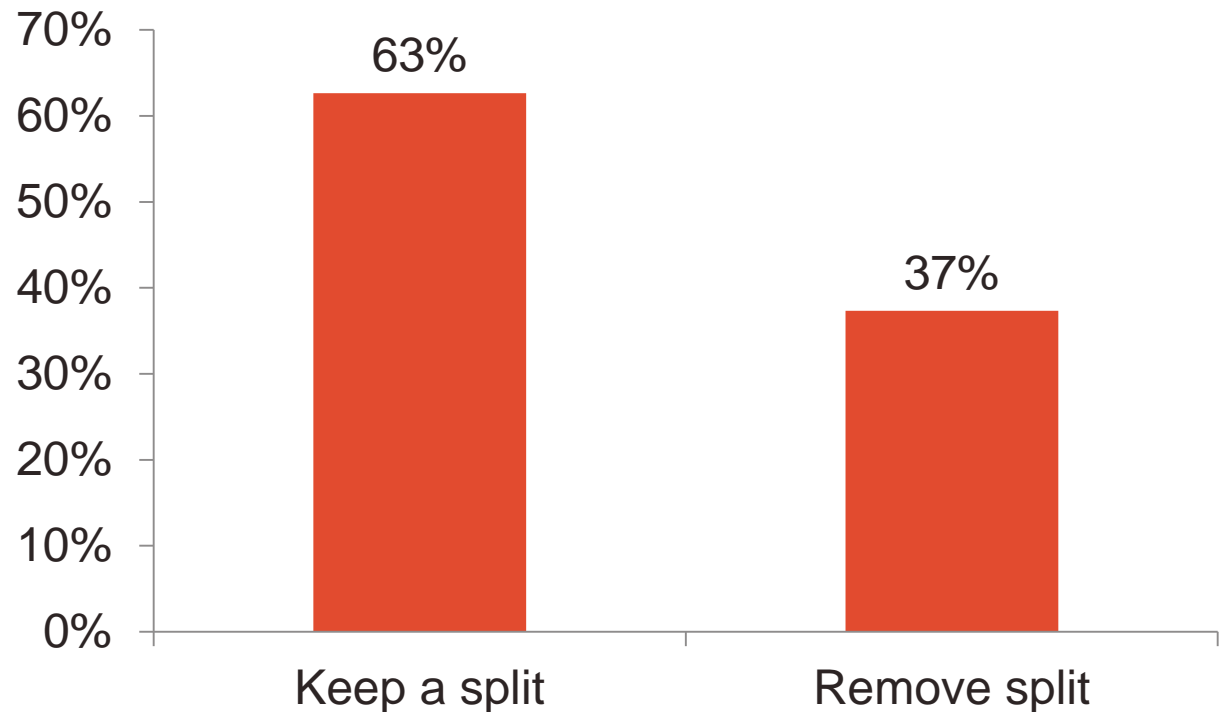
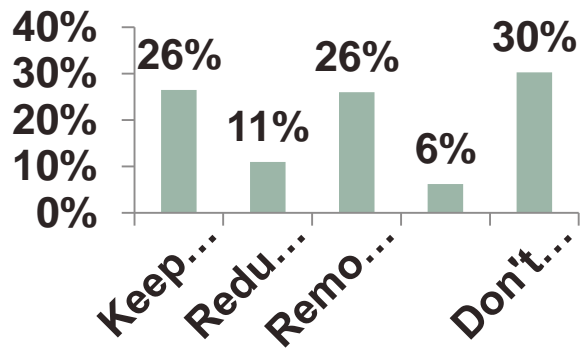
Zone 1 Hunters on Zone 1 Regulations

Which of the following would you prefer for the split in Zone 1?

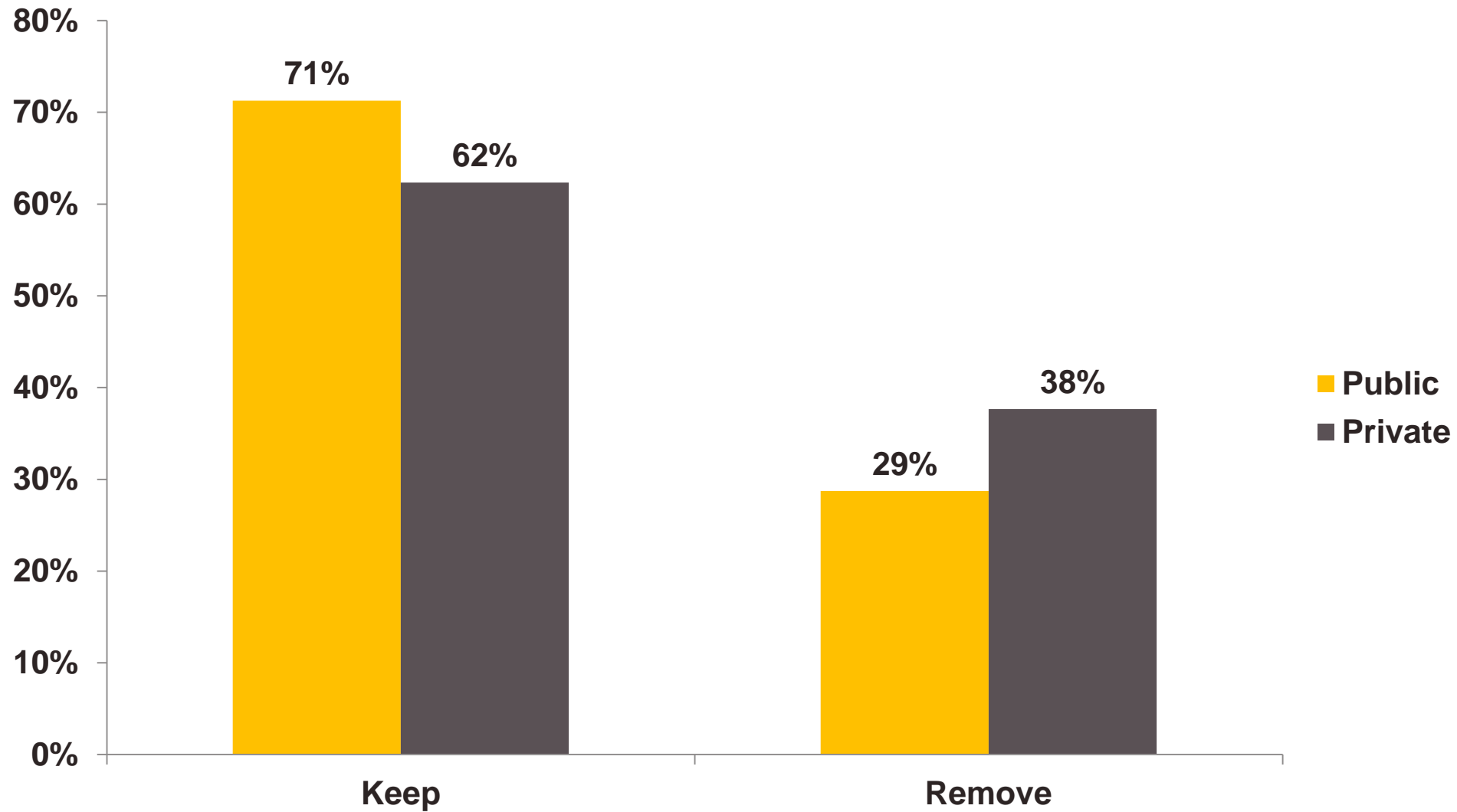


Zone 1 Hunters on Zone 1 Regulations

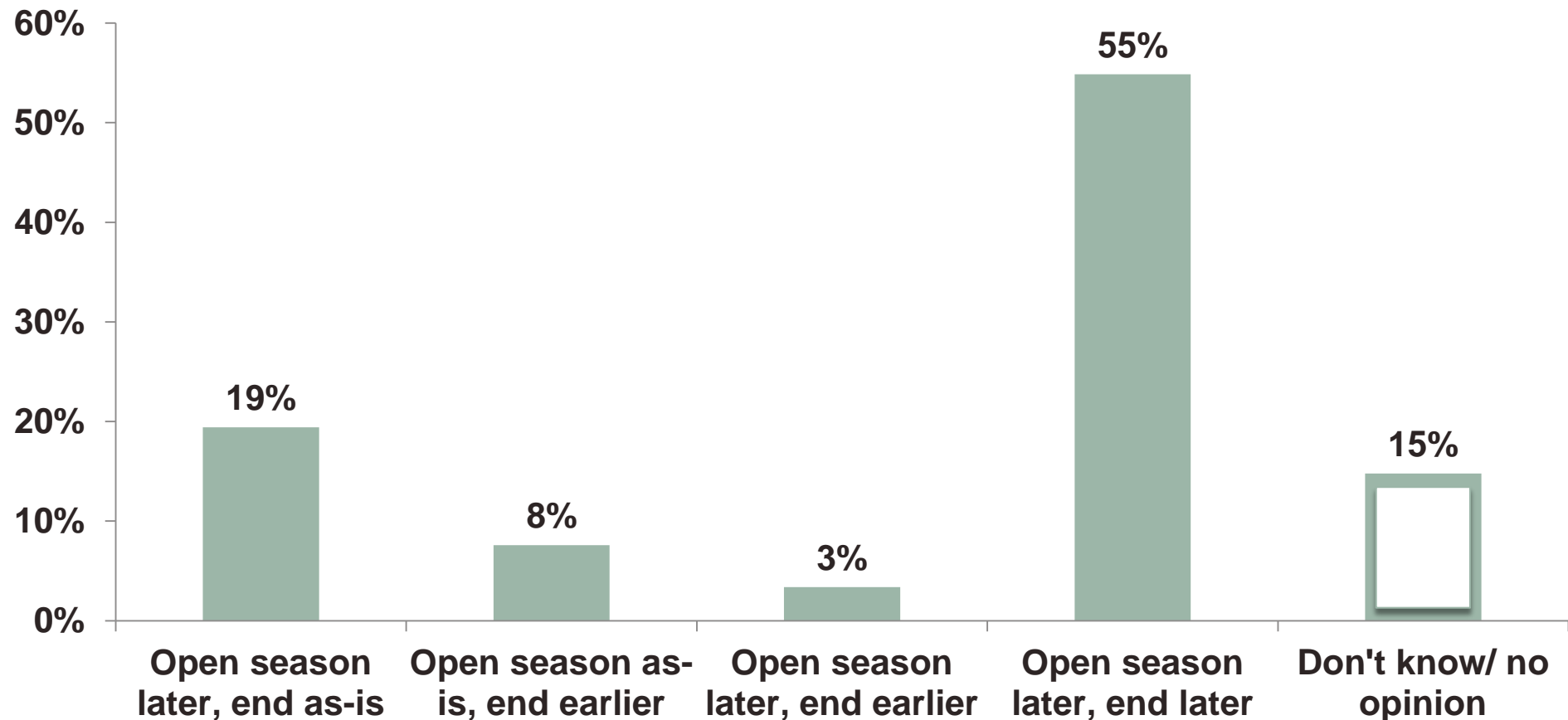
Which of the following would you prefer for the split in Zone 1?



In terms of those who use public or private land most often in Zone 1...

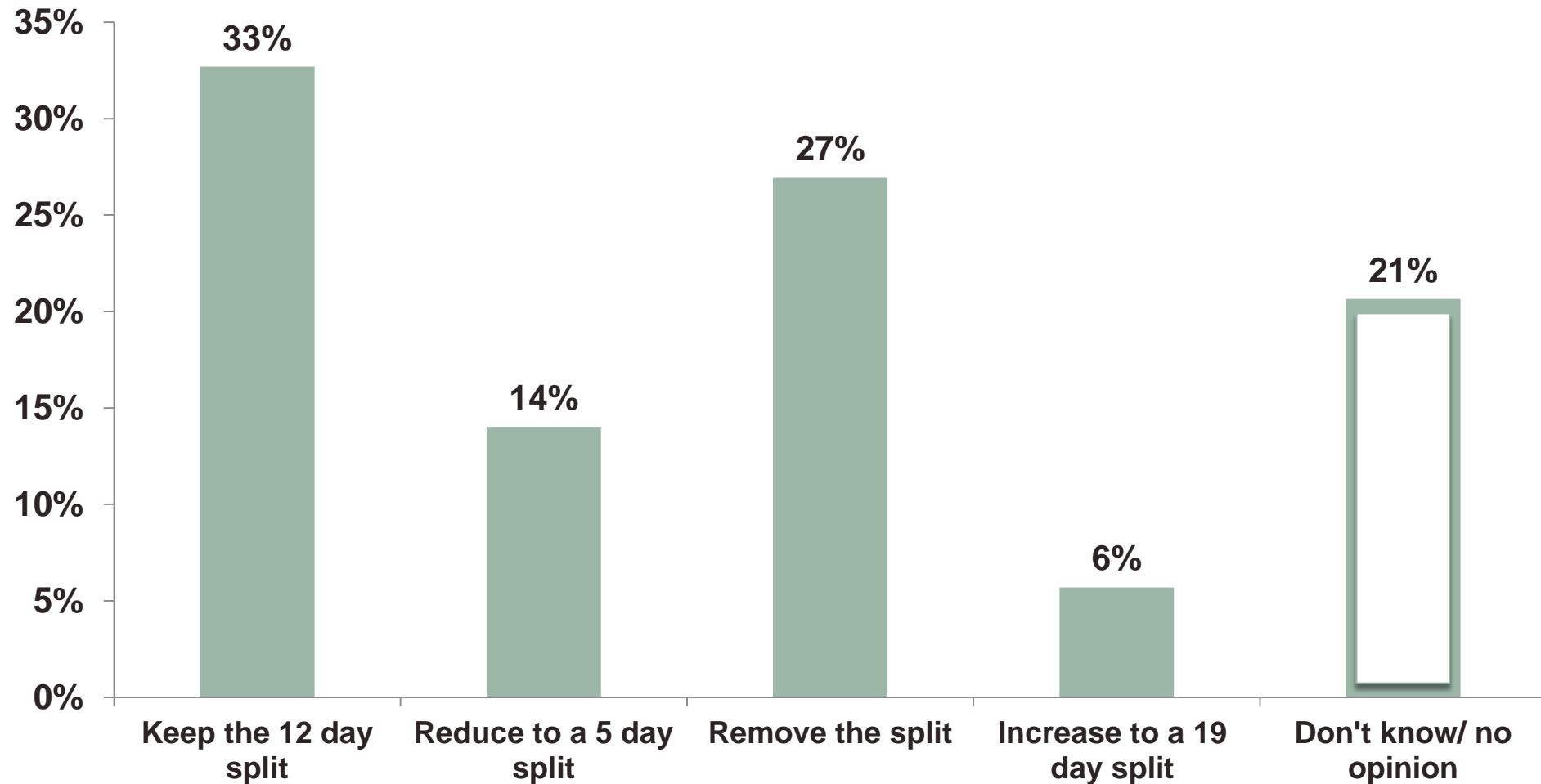


- Of the Zone 1 hunters that **want the split removed** (n=239), the majority want the season to open later and end later.



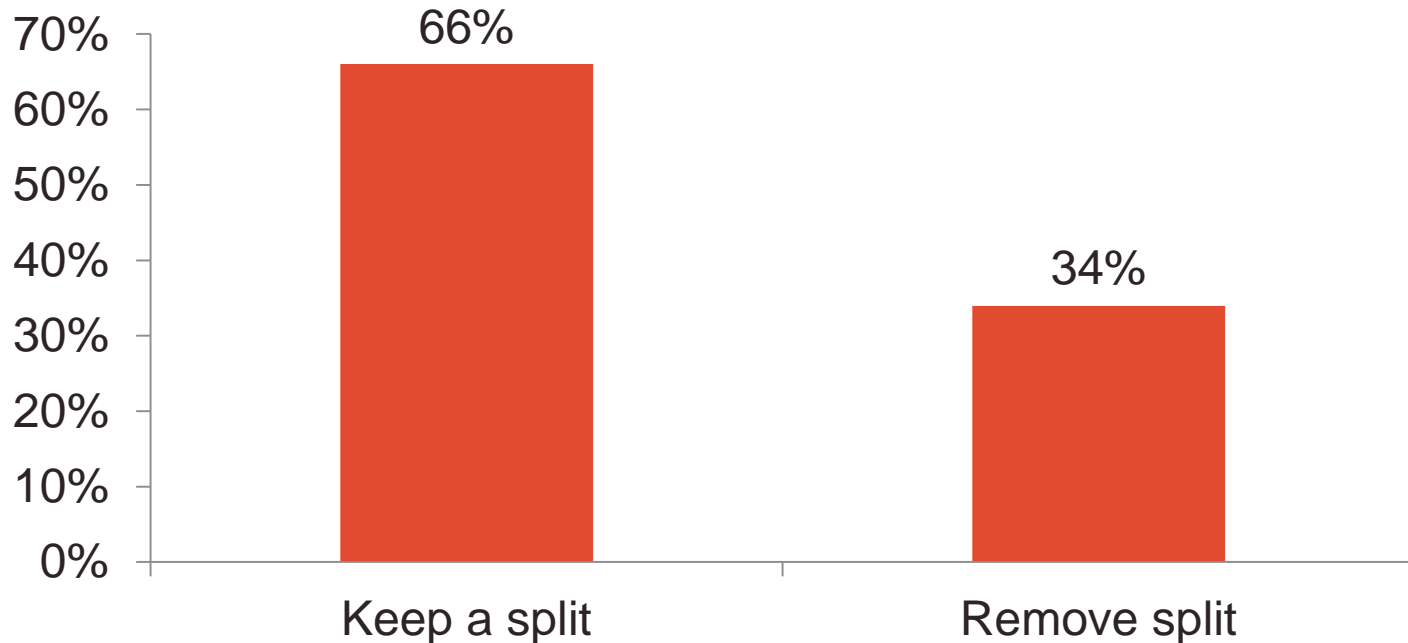
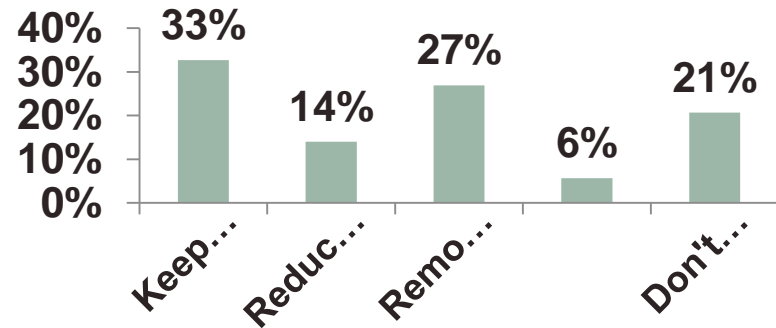
Zone 2 Hunters on Zone 2 Regulations

Which of the following would you prefer for the split in Zone 2?

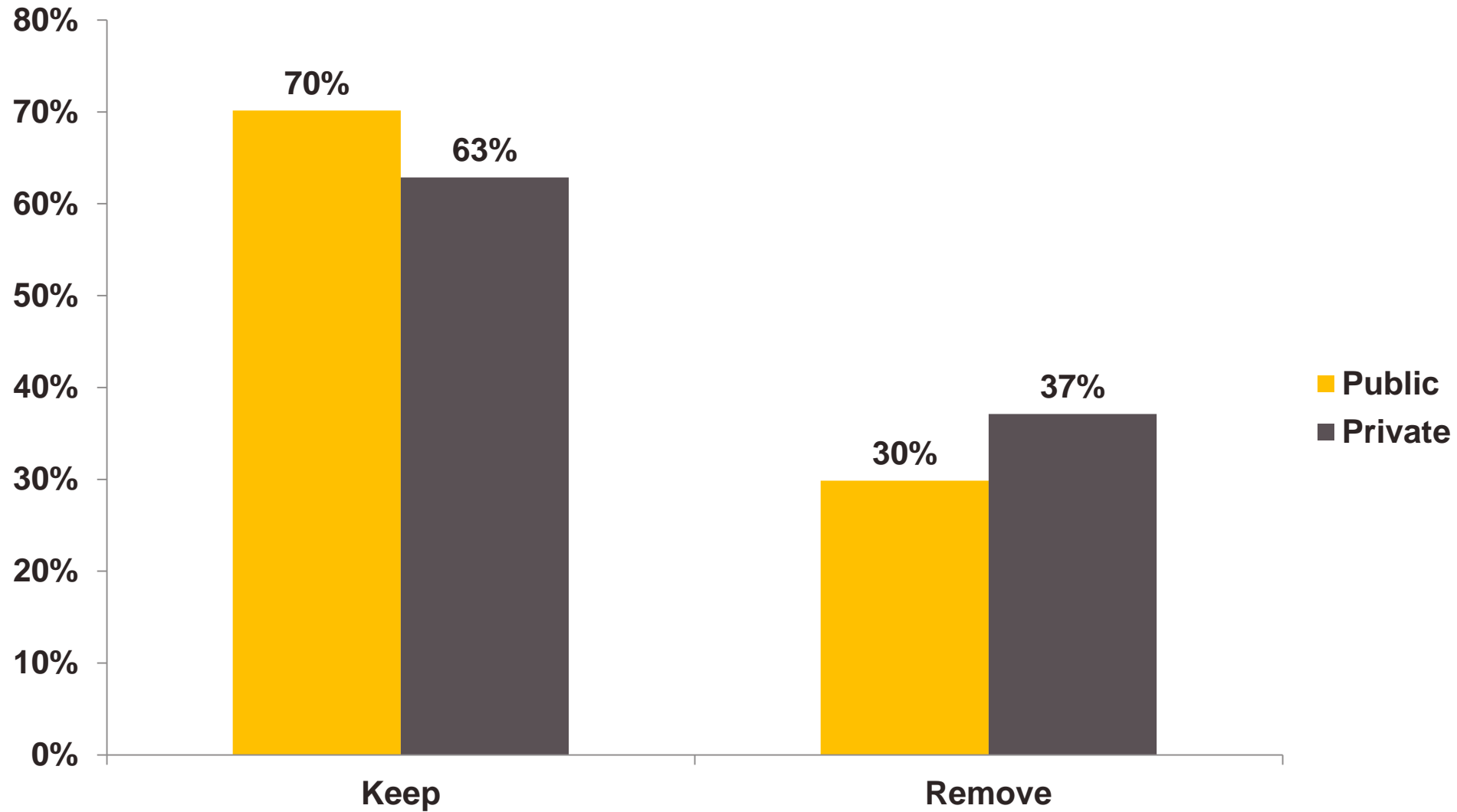


Zone 2 Hunters on Zone 2 Regulations

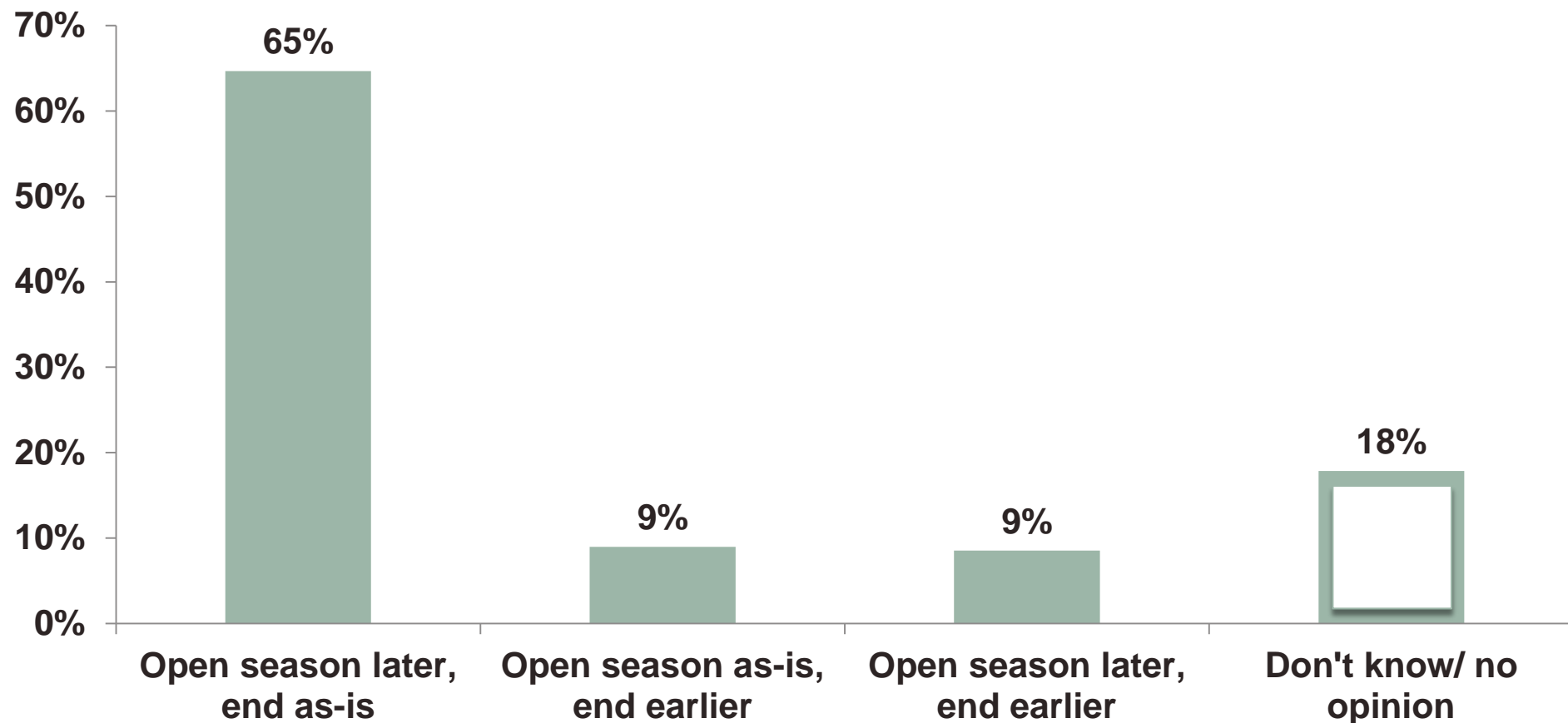
Which of the following would you prefer for the split in Zone 2?



In terms of those who use public or private land most often in Zone 2...



- Of the Zone 2 hunters that **want the split removed** (n=884), the majority want the season to open later and end as-is.



In conclusion...

- Reached 5,608 of our 10-15,000 waterfowl hunters, 1/3-1/2 of our waterfowl hunters responded
- Average annual harvest of 30-40 birds, 12-15 days
- Weekends and holidays important
- Mostly satisfied with current zones, but opportunity for combining zones
- Preference for keeping a split, but opportunity for adjusting split timing

Next Steps

- Additional feedback coming via public comment
- Report finalized and publicly distributed
- States provide season date selections early May
- Recent Service decision has extended final frameworks to Jan. 31 for 2019-20 season
- Zones selected in 2020, realized in 2021

