



Survey of Nebraska Landowner Attitudes on Mountain Lions

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Executive Summary

- Respondents most reported owning over 1,000 acres of land within an Mountain Lion Management Unit (61%).
- Most landowners reported that they had personally observed a mountain lion on their land (65%).
- Most landowners reported that they frequently had mountain lions on their property within the last 24 months (47%), with the exception of landowners in the Wildcat Hills who most frequently reported that they did not know (38%).
- Most landowners reported that there were too many mountain lions on their property (57%).
- The most prevalent attitude toward mountain lions was very negative (32%), with a majority seeing mountain lions as a slight risk to people (49%).
- Only 25% of respondents believed they had experienced livestock depredation from a mountain lion, but 69% of those individuals found the damage to be totally unacceptable.
- Of those who believe they experienced mountain lion depredation, 91% reported it was on cattle.
- Majority of landowners were aware they could kill a mountain lion if it is in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock on your property (77%) and that NGPC could remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock (70%). Most had never contacted NGPC for help with mountain lions (90%).
- Most do not plan to hunt mountain lions (76%).

General Information

This report describes responses to questions from the 2025 “Survey of Nebraska Landowner Attitudes on Mountain Lions.” This survey was a tool to analyze Nebraska landowner perspectives on the mountain lion populations residing on their land and the depredation caused by mountain lions to their property. We provide information regarding the design and implementation of the survey as well as summarized responses to questions from the overall respondent pool and responses from individual Mountain Lion Management Units.

Nebraska Landowner-Mountain Lion Project Objectives

1. Gather information about Nebraska landowners who own property within Mountain Lion Management Units
2. Assess landowner perceptions about mountain lions
3. Determine perceptions of damage caused by mountain lions to landowner property
4. Gauge landowner interest in hunting and allowing the hunting of mountain lions on their property

Mode Selection

Biologists at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the University of Nebraska held several meetings to design the survey instrument that would properly meet the objectives. A postal survey was used to determine the views of Nebraska landowners. Using this vehicle to collect information allows researchers to generalize results to a larger population. Surveys were mailed to a sample of landowners who owned property in at least one of the three Nebraska Mountain Lion Management Units. Invitations were distributed on February 5, 2025. A reminder survey was mailed to all landowners on March 7, 2025. The survey period closed on March 21, 2025.

Design and Item Selection

The design and fielding of the survey was accomplished by the Human Dimensions Lab in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The questionnaire consisted of items pertaining to the number of mountain lions on landowner property, how landowners feel about the number of mountain lions on their property, the amount of damage caused by mountain lions, and landowner feelings about the amount of damage caused.

Analyses

This report depicts a general summary of how survey respondents responded to each question. A depiction of how respondents answered each question by Mountain Lion Management Unit follows each general summary.

Survey population

Questionnaires were sent to 453 landowners. Landowner contacts were acquired by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission staff. The overall response was 175 landowners and the overall response rate to the survey project was 39%.

Survey Results

Property size and location

Q1: In which Mountain Lion Management Unit is the majority of your land located?

Overall responses

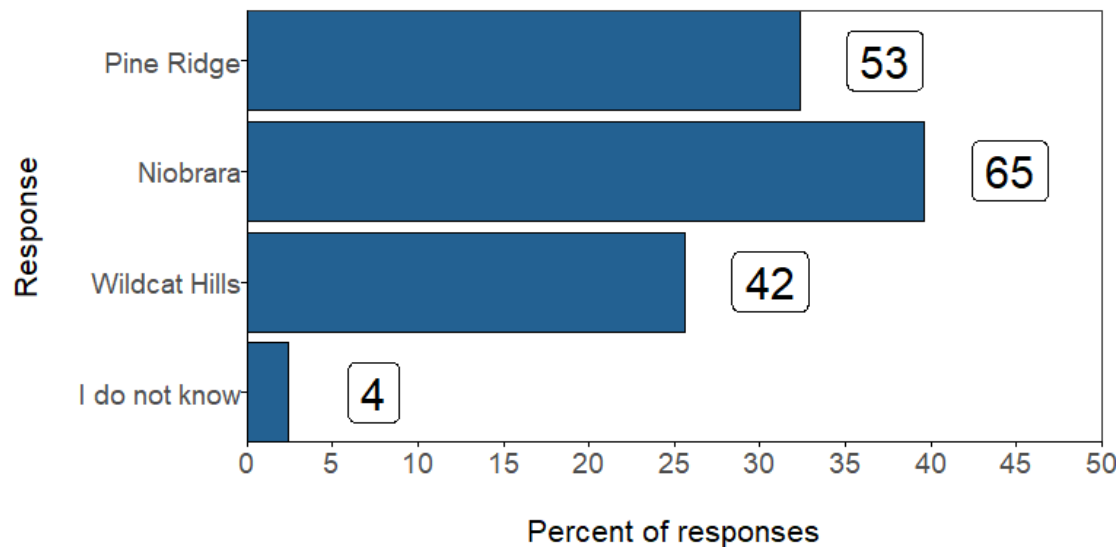


Figure 1. The Nebraska Mountain Lion Management Unit in which respondents of the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey hold the majority of their land. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the horizontal gold bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 164).

Q2: About how many acres do you operate (own or lease) for agricultural or rangeland purposes?

Overall responses

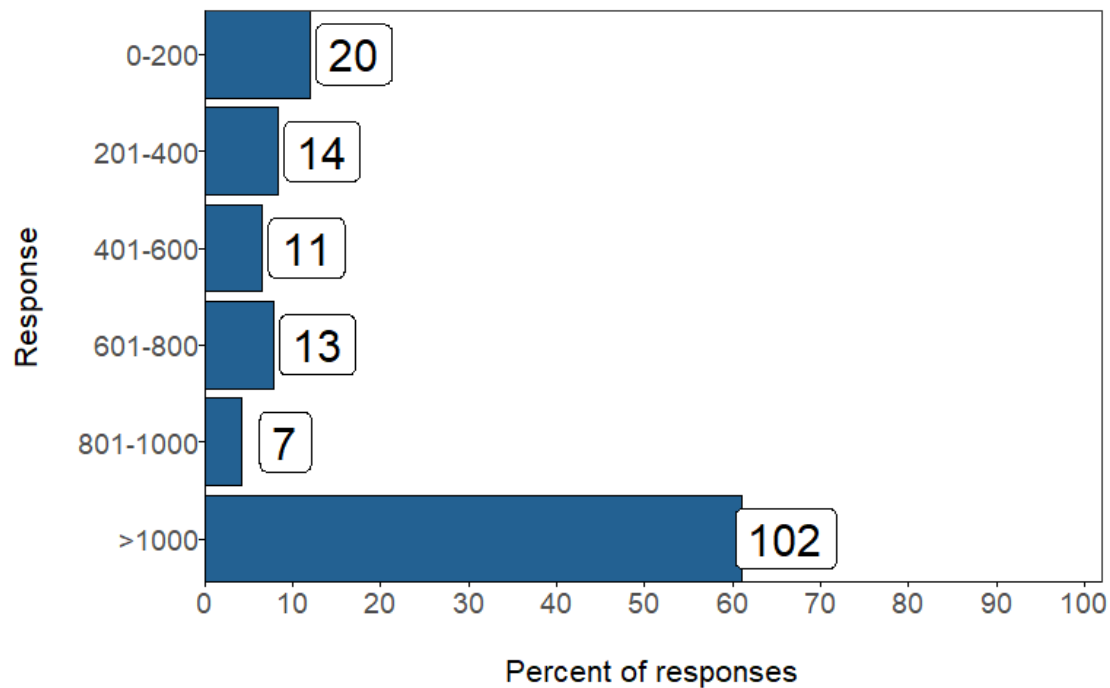


Figure 2. The approximate number of acres owned or leased by landowners as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the horizontal blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 167).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

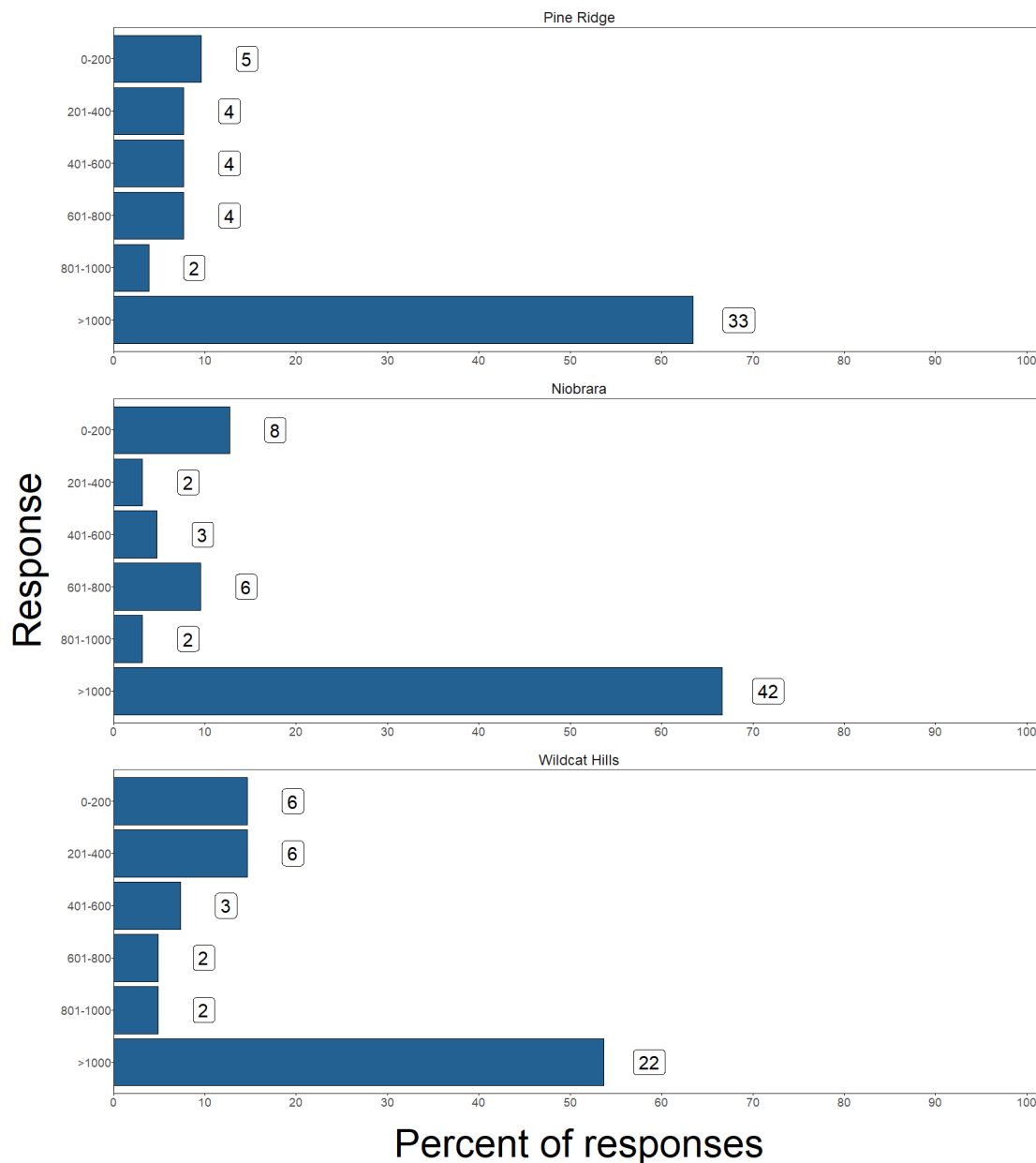


Figure 3. The approximate number of acres owned by landowners as indicated by respondents each Mountain Lion Management Unit to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the horizontal blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 156).

Q3: What county is the majority of your land located?

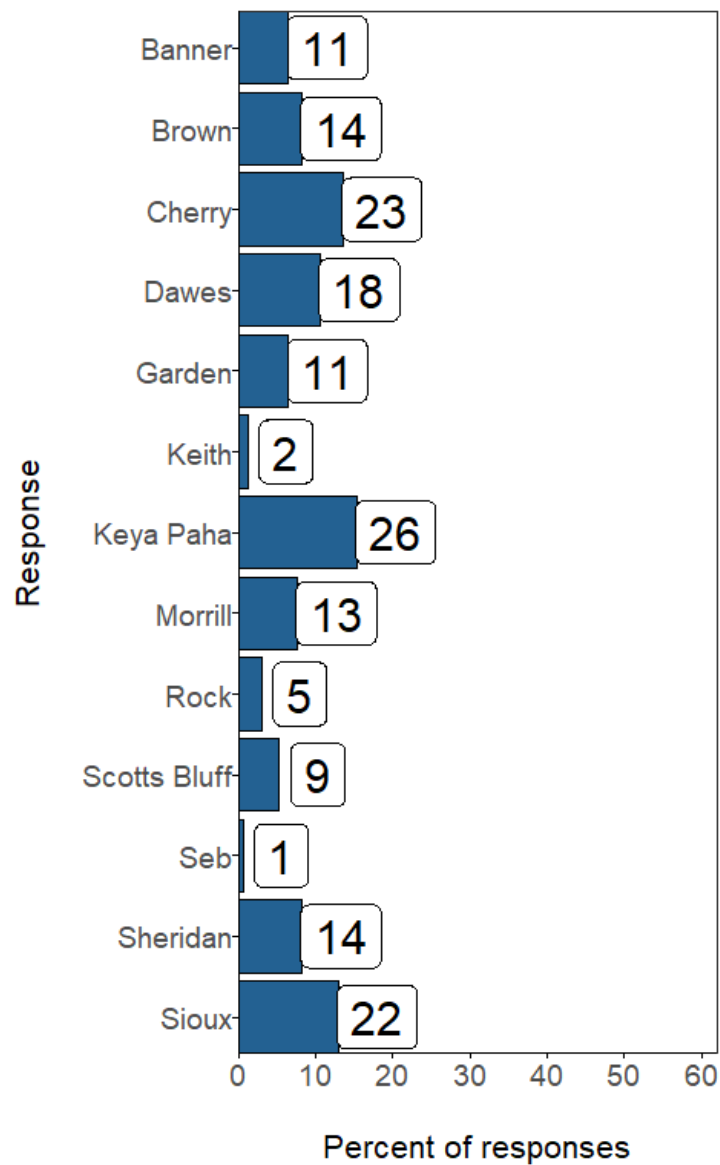


Figure 4. County where the majority of respondent land is located as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the horizontal blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 169).

Mountain lion numbers and mountain lion damage

Q4: Have you personally observed a mountain lion on your land?

Overall responses

Landowners who responded to the survey prior the reminder mailing were more likely to report having personally seen a mountain lion than landowners who responded after the reminder mailing ($\chi^2 = 7.29$, $P < 0.01$).

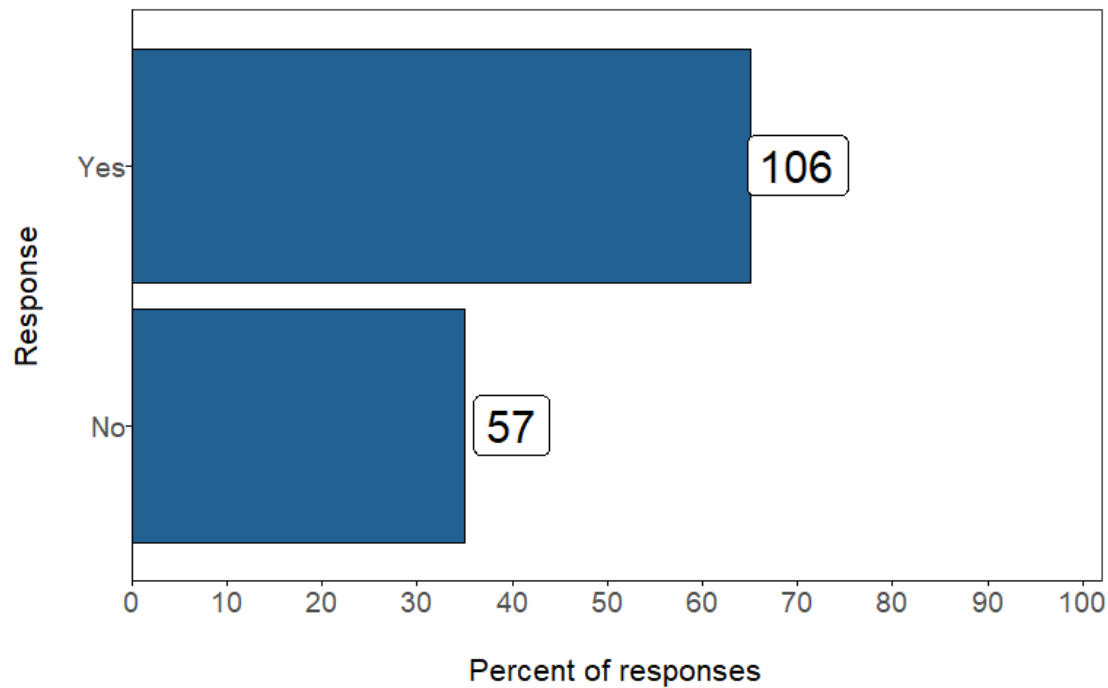


Figure 5. Whether a mountain lion was personally observed on land as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 163).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

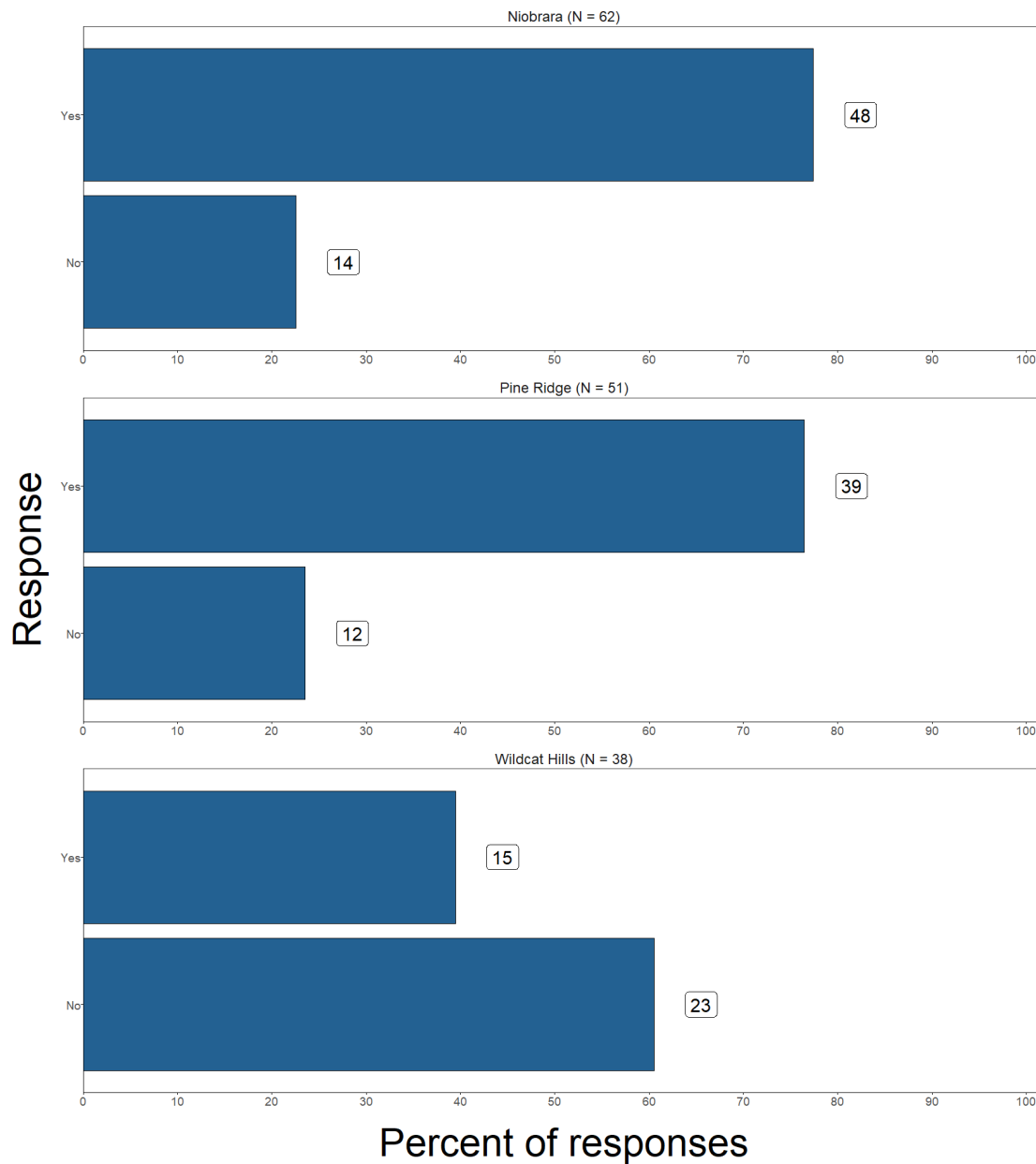


Figure 6. Whether a mountain lion was personally observed on land from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 151).

Q5: To your knowledge, how frequently did you have mountain lions on your land in the past 24 months?

Overall responses

Landowners who responded to the survey prior the reminder mailing reported presence of mountain lions on their land more frequently than landowners who responded after the reminder mailing ($\chi^2 = 7.21$, odds ratio = 3.33, $P < 0.01$).

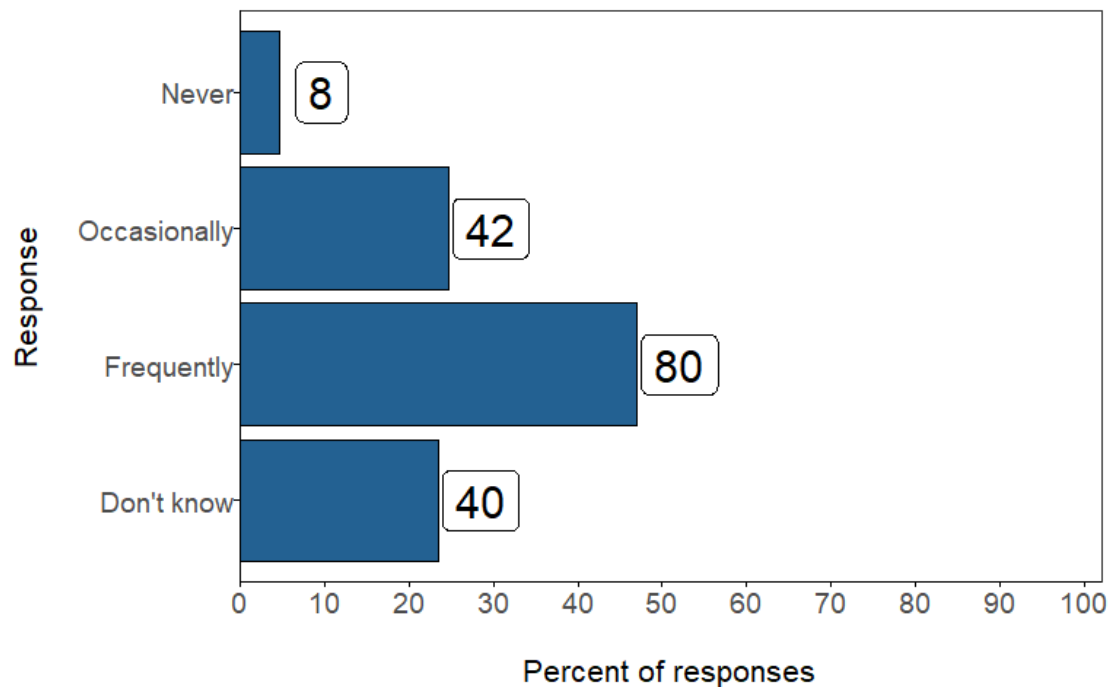


Figure 7. The frequency in which landowners had mountain lions on their land as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 170).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

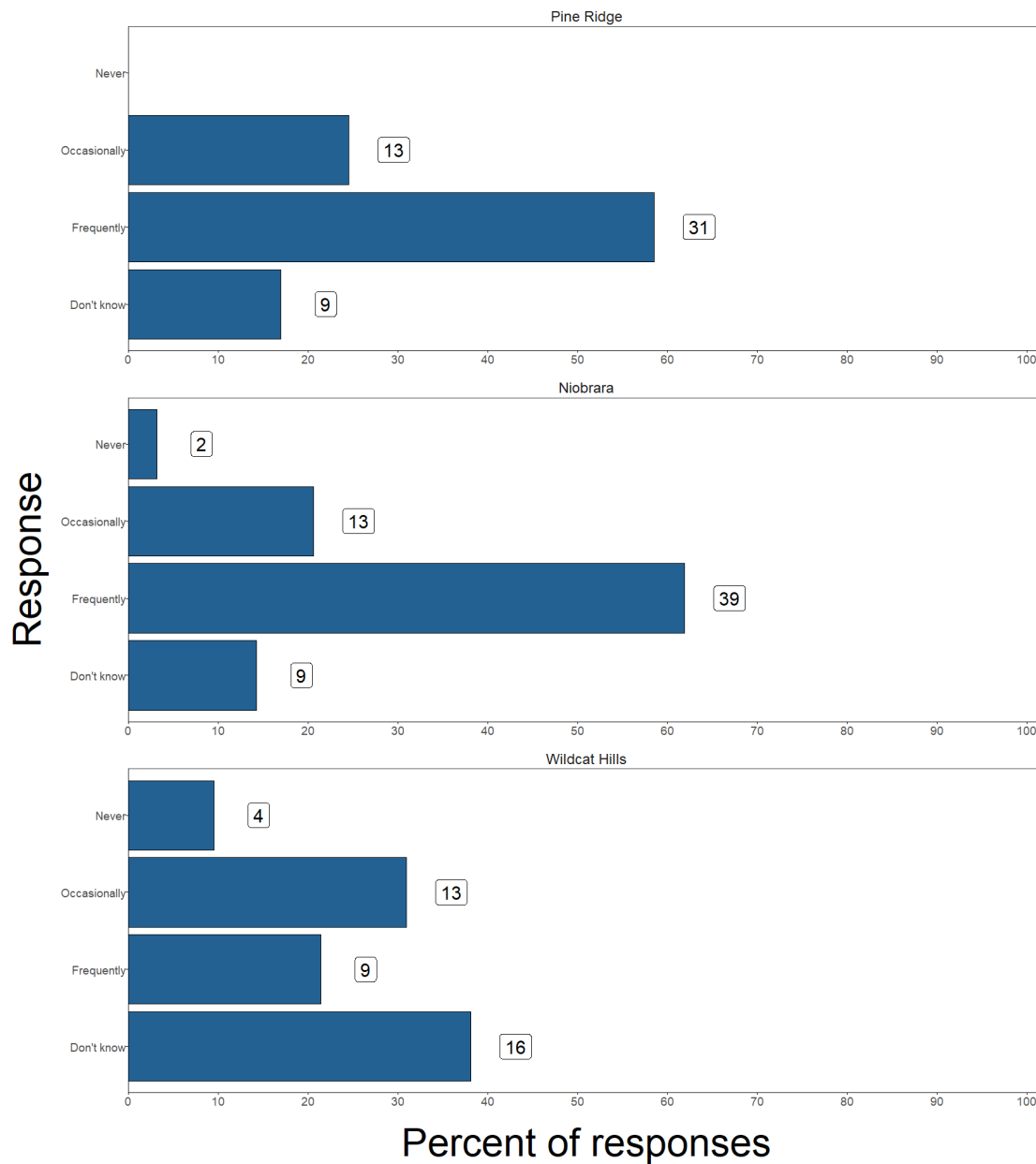


Figure 8. The frequency in which landowners had mountain lions on their land from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Elk Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 158).

Percentage indicating frequent occurrence of mountain lions by Mountain Lion Management Unit

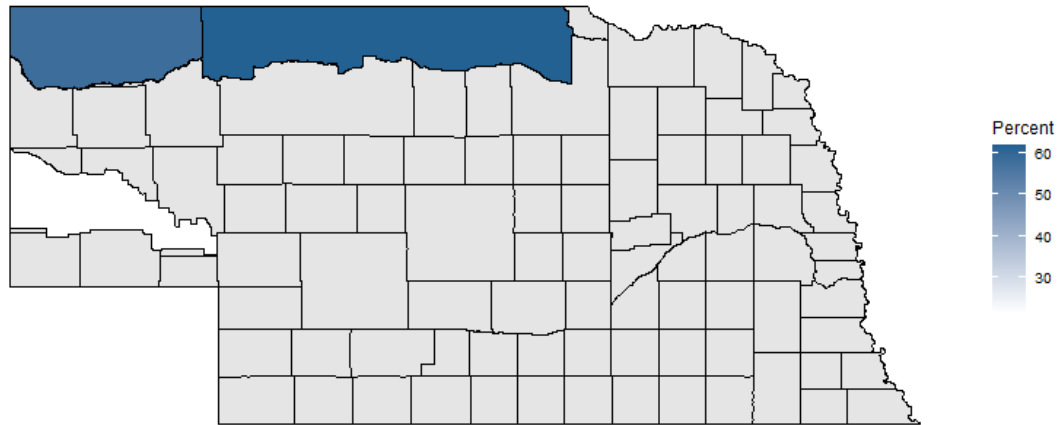


Figure 9. The percentage of landowners from each Mountain Lion Management Unit who responded that they frequently had mountain lions on their land as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey (N = 79).

Q6: How do you feel about the number of mountain lions on your land in the past 24 months?

Overall responses

No significant difference was observed between early and late respondents to sentiment about number of mountain lions on land ($\chi^2 = 0$, odds ratio = 1.04, $P = 0.95$).

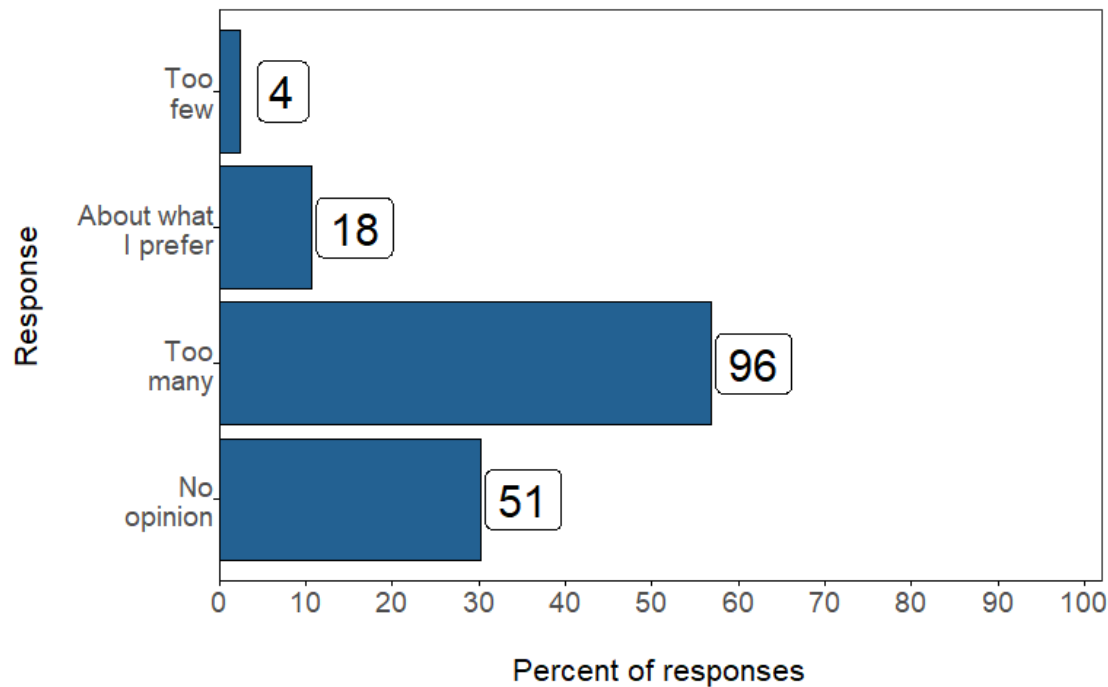


Figure 10. Attitude about the number of mountain lions that were present on the landowners' property in the previous 24 months indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents ($N = 169$).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

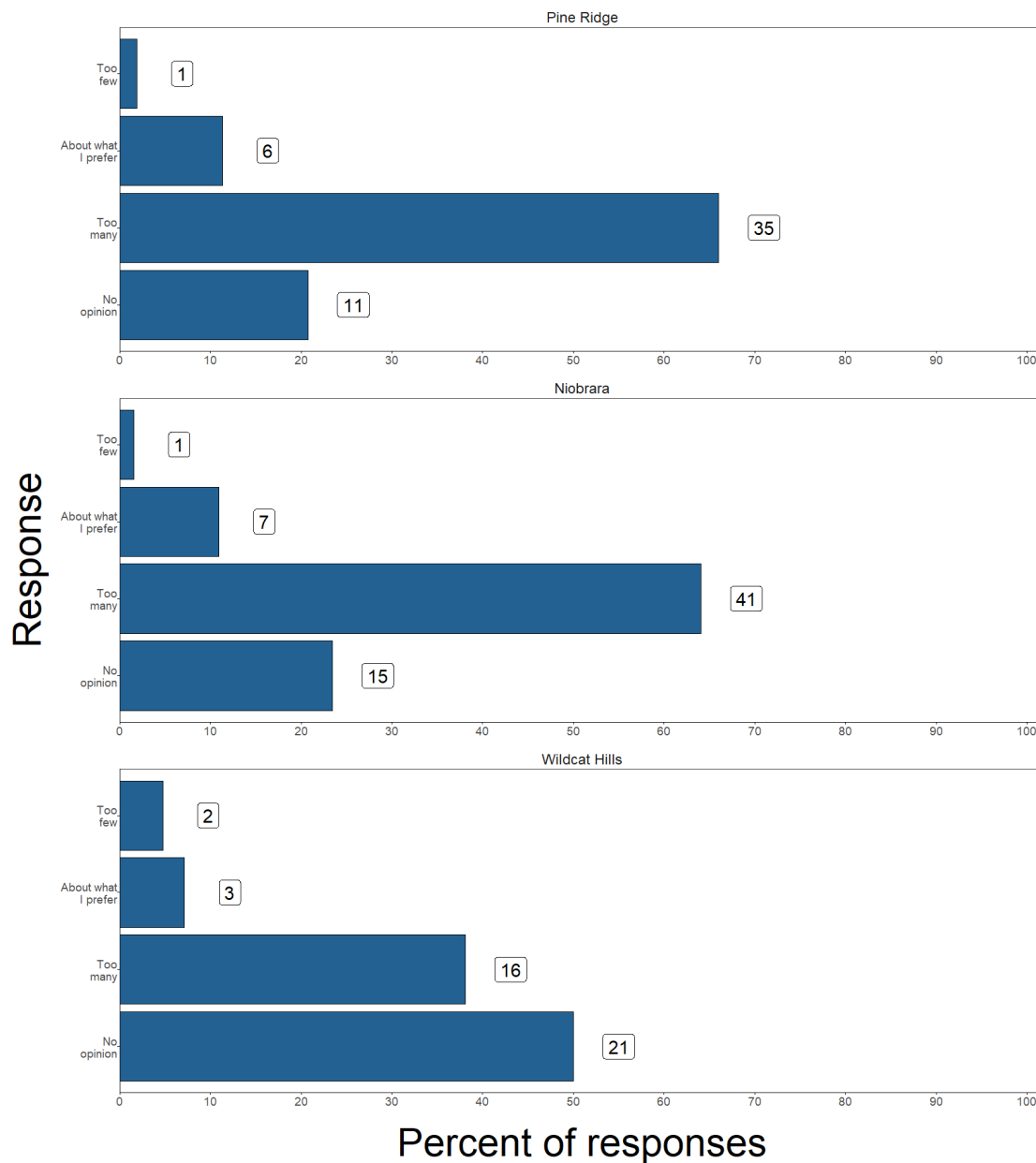


Figure 11. Attitude about the number of mountain lions that were present on the landowners' property in the previous 24 months from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported having mountain lions on their land (N = 156).

Q7: How positive or negative are your general attitudes towards mountain lions?

Overall responses

No difference on attitudes about mountain lions was observed between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 0.08$, odds ratio = 1.11, $P = 0.07$).

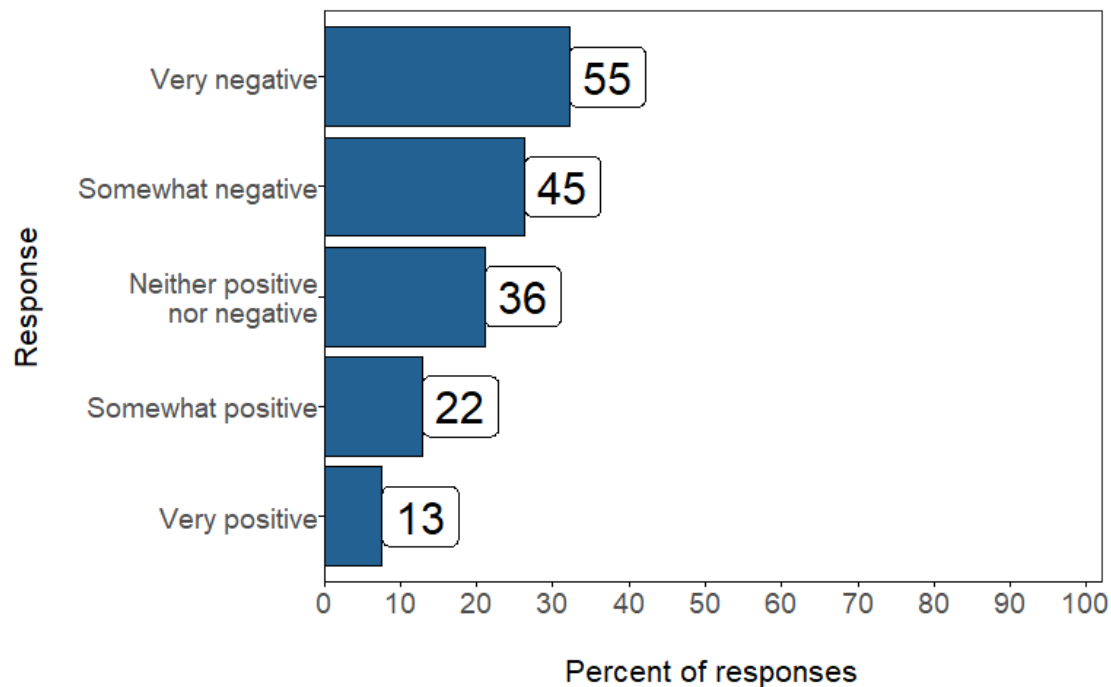


Figure 12. General attitude toward mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents ($N = 171$).

Landowners who responded they *frequently* had mountain lions on their land held more negative attitudes about mountain lions than landowners who *never* had mountain lions on their land ($\chi^2 = 10.53$, odds ratio = 5.56, $P < 0.01$).

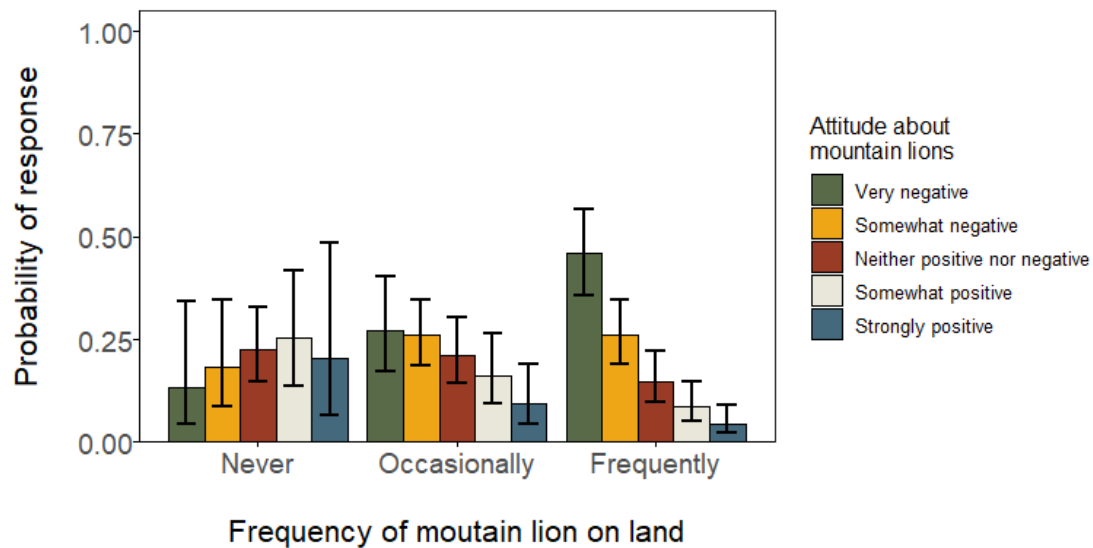


Figure 13. Probability of attitude about mountain lions for each level of mountain lions occurring on land indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The y-axis indicates the probability of attitude and the error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

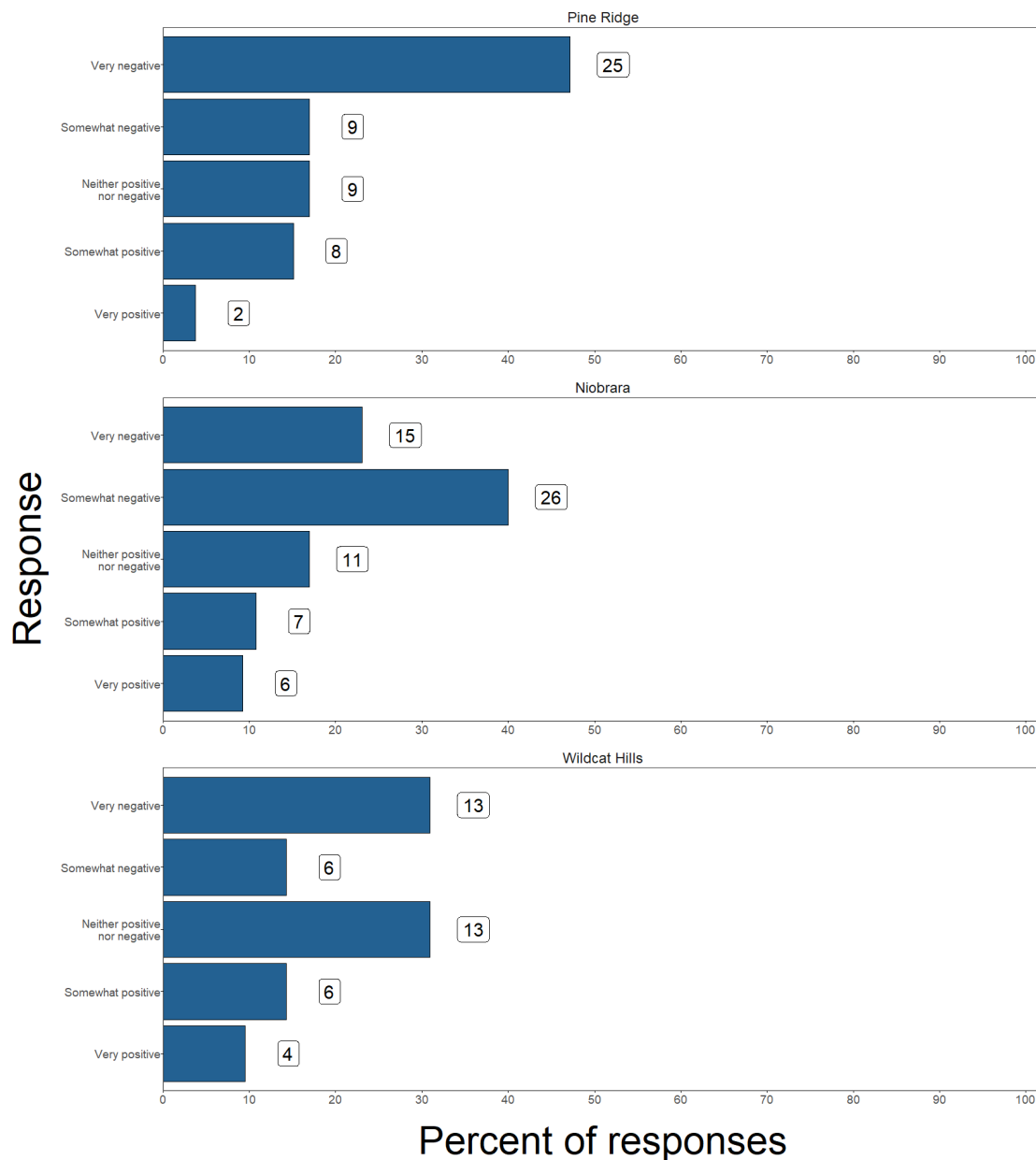


Figure 14. General attitude toward mountain lions from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 160).

Q8: What is your perceived risk of mountain lions to people?

Overall responses

No difference on perceived risk of mountain lions was observed between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 0.09$, odds ratio = 1.12, $P = 0.76$).

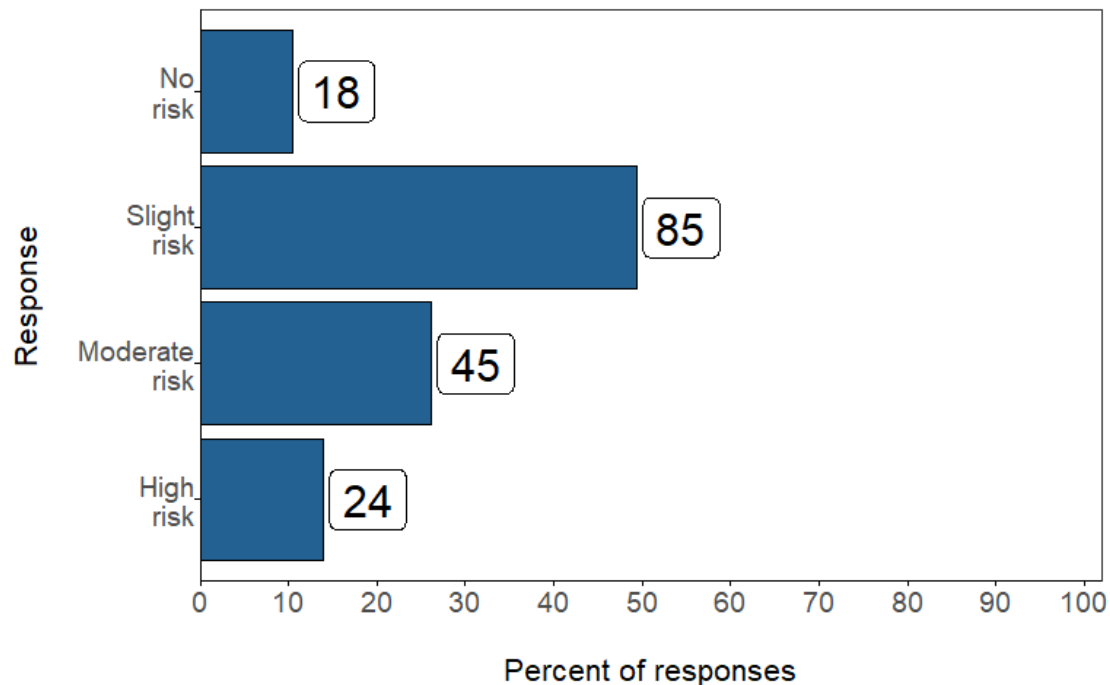


Figure 15. Perceived risk of mountain lions to people indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents ($N = 172$).

No difference on perceived risk of mountain lions was observed among levels of mountain lion occurrence on land ($\chi^2 = 3.91$, $P = 0.14$).

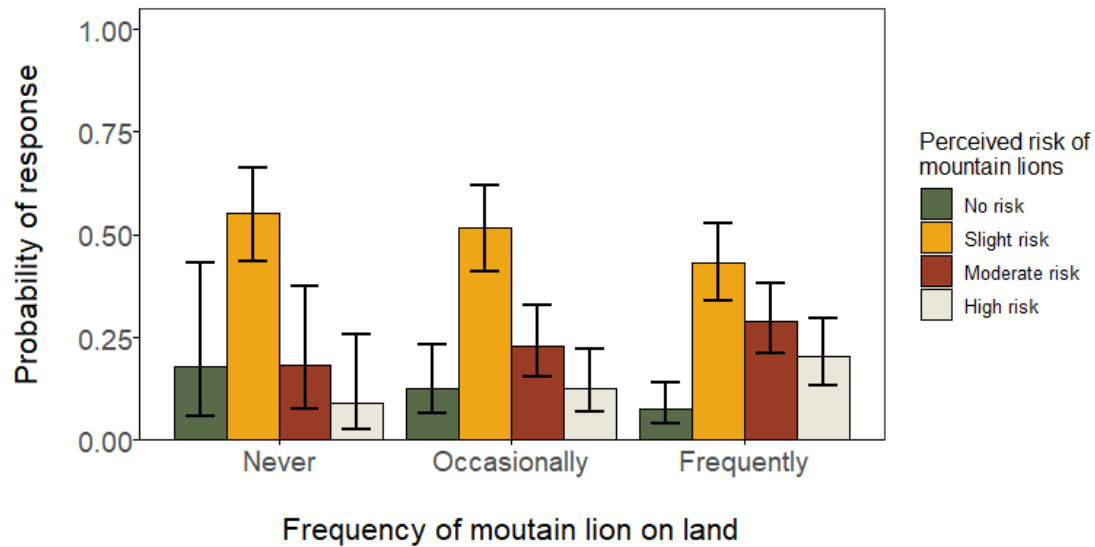


Figure 16. Probability of perceived risk of mountain lions for each level of mountain lions occurring on land indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The y-axis indicates the probability of perceived risk and the error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

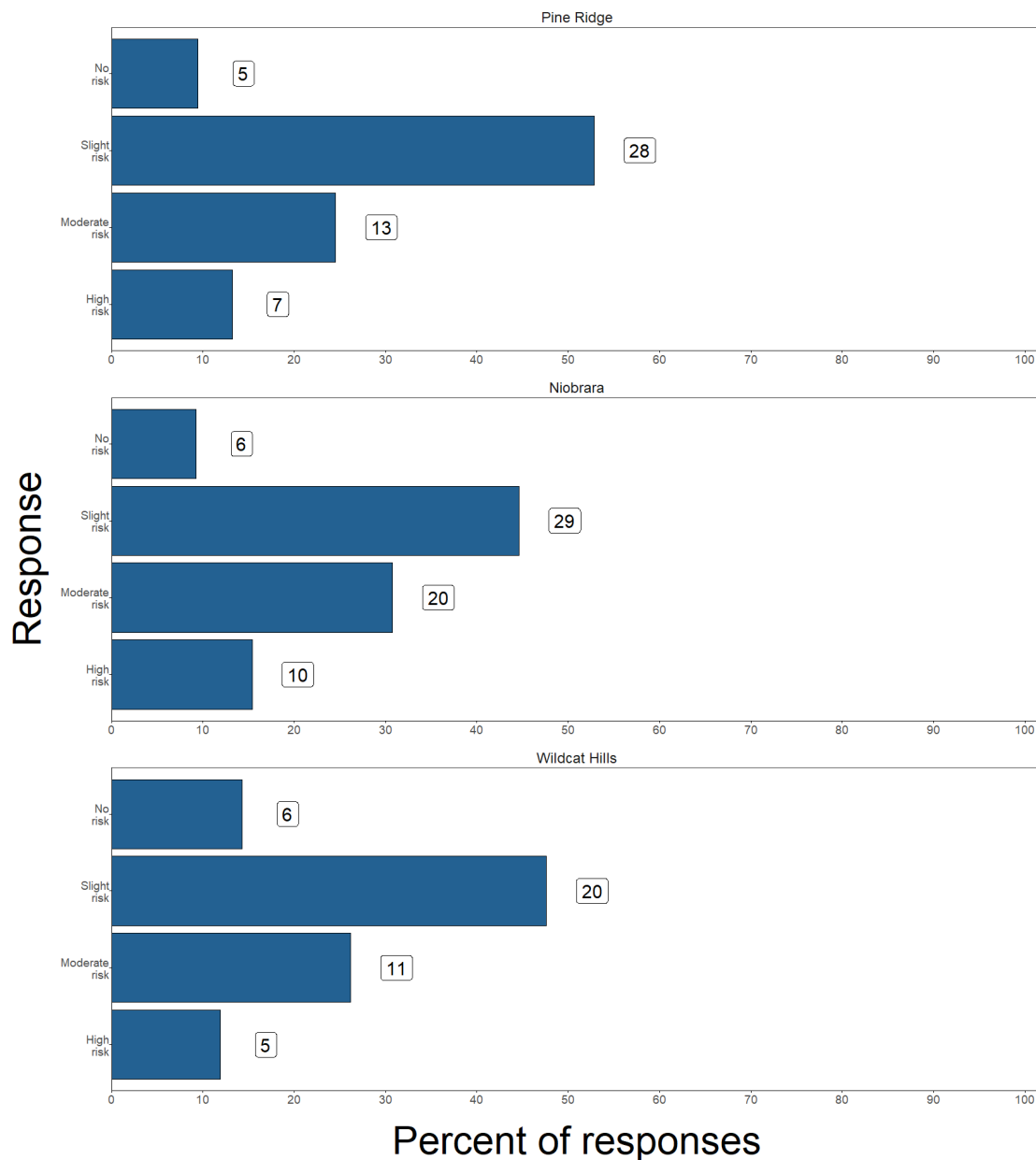


Figure 17. Perceived risk of mountain lions to people from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 160).

Percentage indicating “High risk” for perceived risk of mountain lions to people by Mountain Lion Management Unit

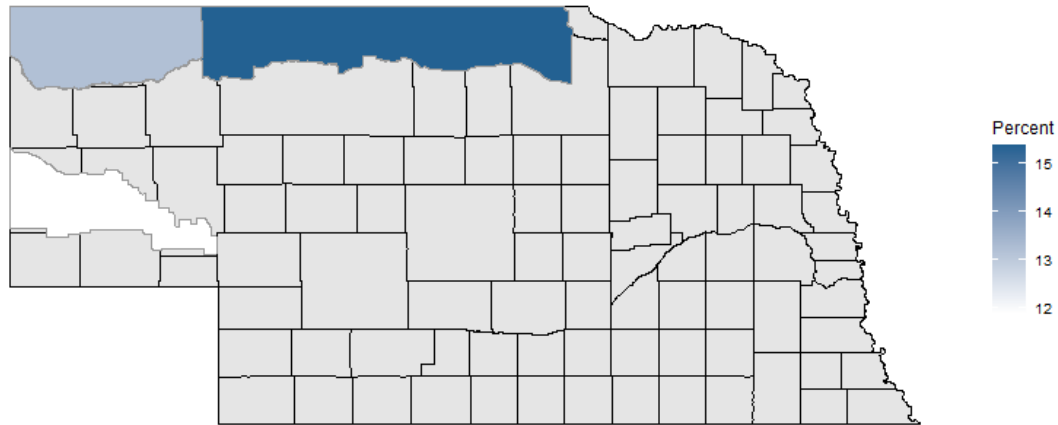


Figure 18. The percentage of landowners from each Mountain Lion Management Unit who responded mountain lions pose a high risk to people as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey (N = 22).

Percentage indicating “No risk” or “Slight risk” for perceived risk of mountain lions to people by Mountain Lion Management Unit

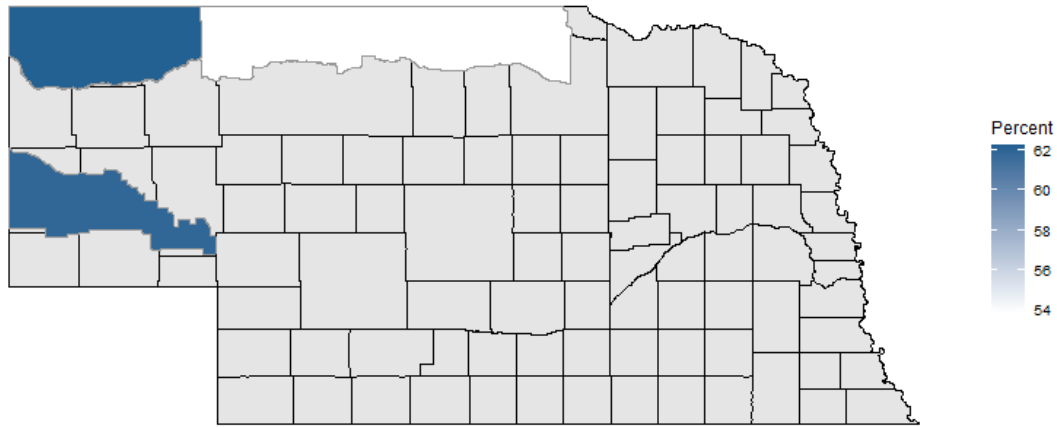


Figure 19. The percentage of landowners from each Mountain Lion Management Unit who responded mountain lions pose no risk or a slight risk to people as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey (N = 94).

Q9: Do you believe you experienced livestock depredation from a mountain lion in the past 24 months?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for livestock depredation between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 3.4$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.07$).

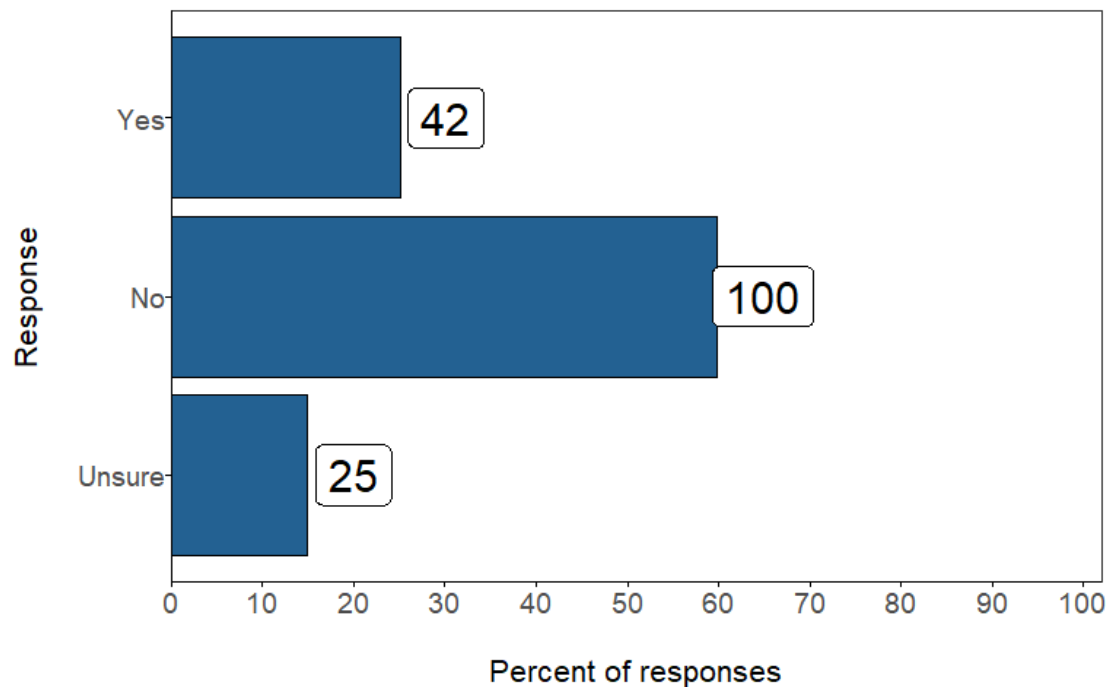


Figure 20. Whether there was perceived livestock depredation from a mountain lion as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 167).

Landowners who reported livestock depredation held more negative attitudes about mountain lions than landowners who reported no livestock depredation ($\chi^2 = 38.67$, odds ratio = 9.55, $P < 0.01$).

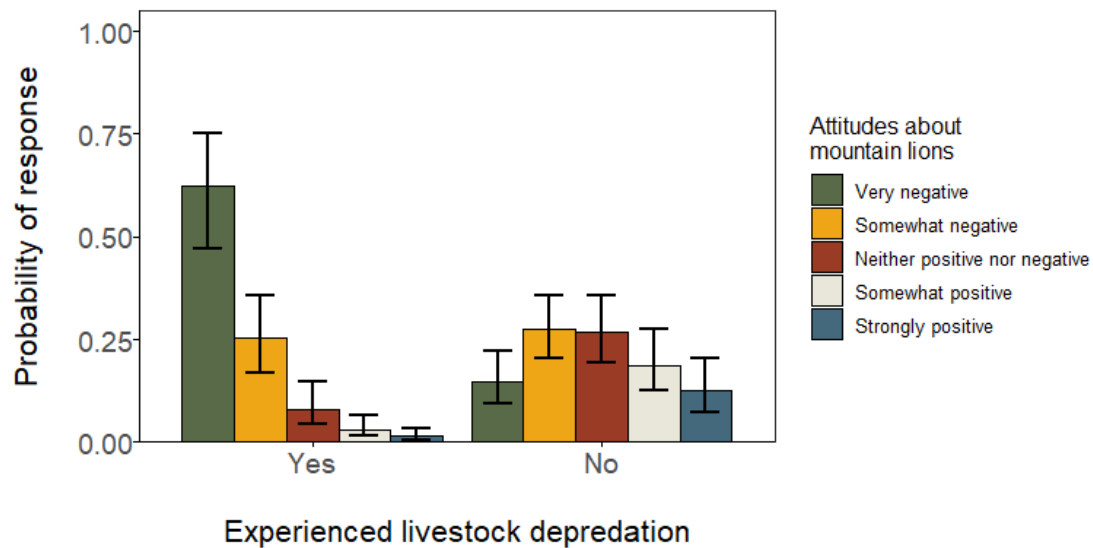


Figure 21. Effect of perceived mountain lion depredation on livestock on attitude about mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The y-axis indicates the probability of attitude and the error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

Landowners who responded they experienced livestock depredation reported more frequent mountain lion presence on their land than landowners who reported no livestock depredation ($\chi^2 = 19.97$, odds ratio = 9.09, $P < 0.01$).

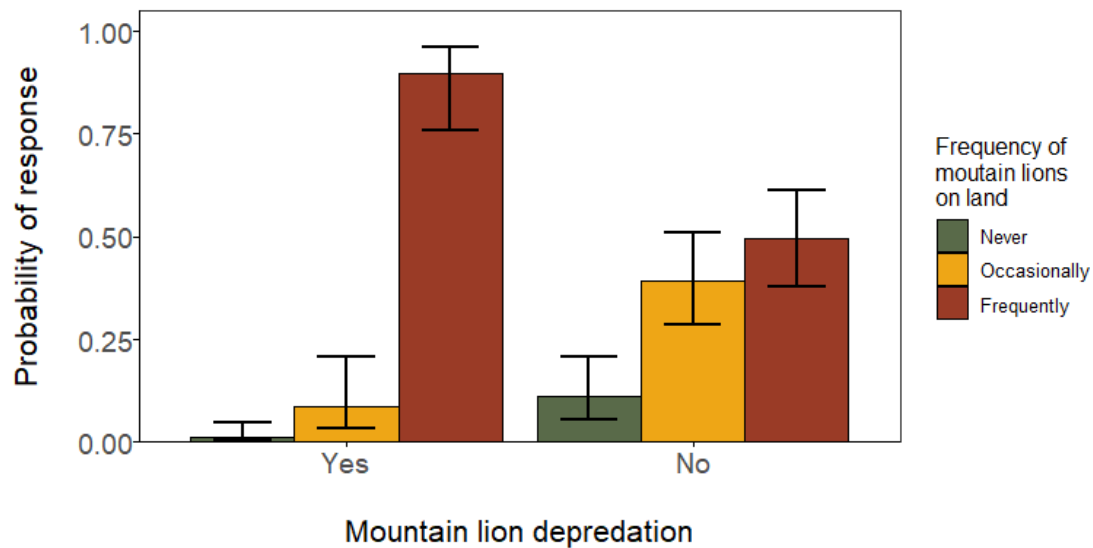


Figure 22. Effect of perceived mountain lion depredation to livestock on frequency of mountain lion presence indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The y-axis indicates the probability of attitude and the error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

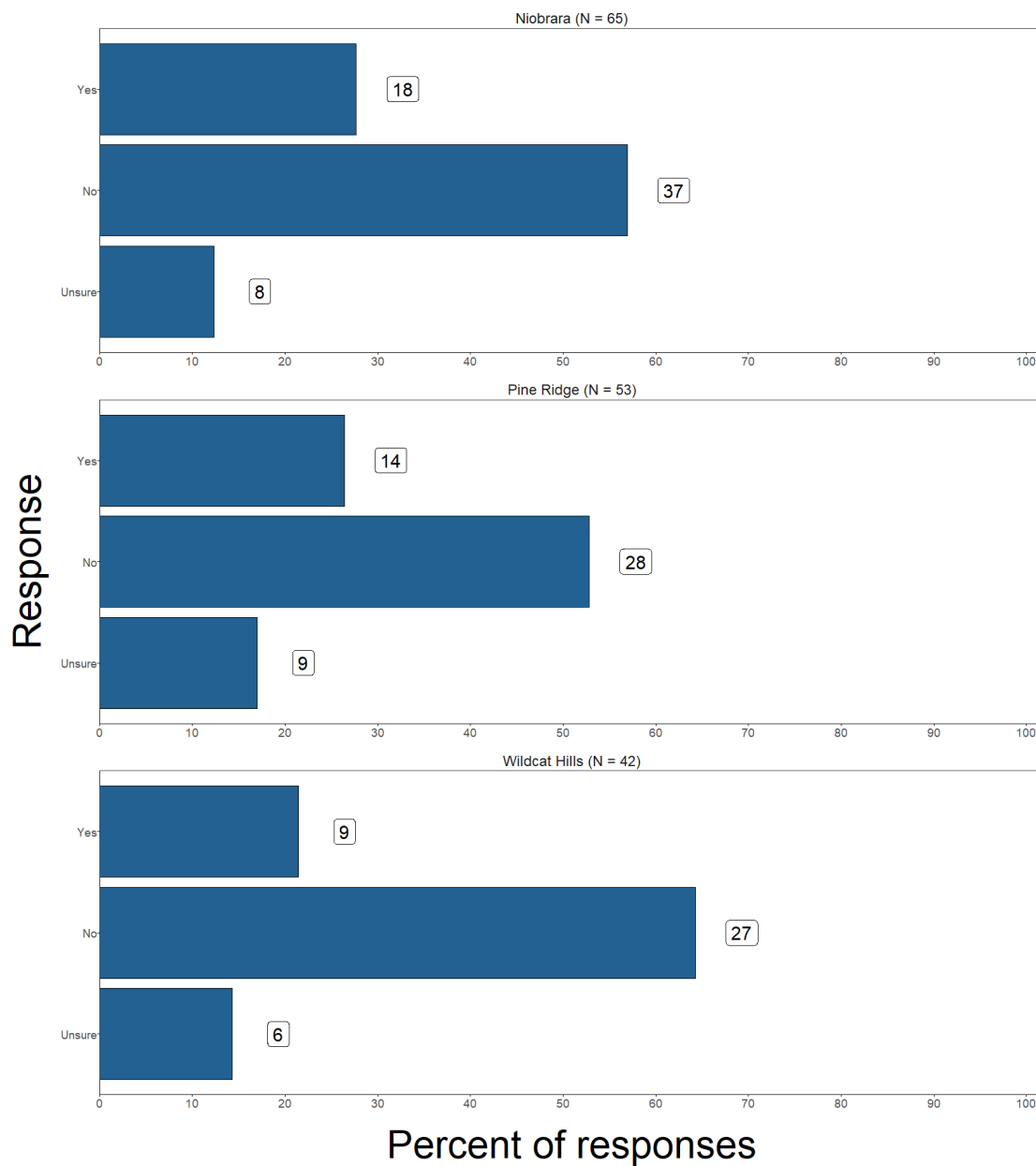


Figure 23. Whether there was perceived livestock depredation from a mountain lion from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 160).

Q9a: How acceptable or unacceptable was the level of depredation caused by mountain lions?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for acceptability of depredation caused by mountain lions between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 3.15$, odds ratio = 0.11, $P = 0.08$).

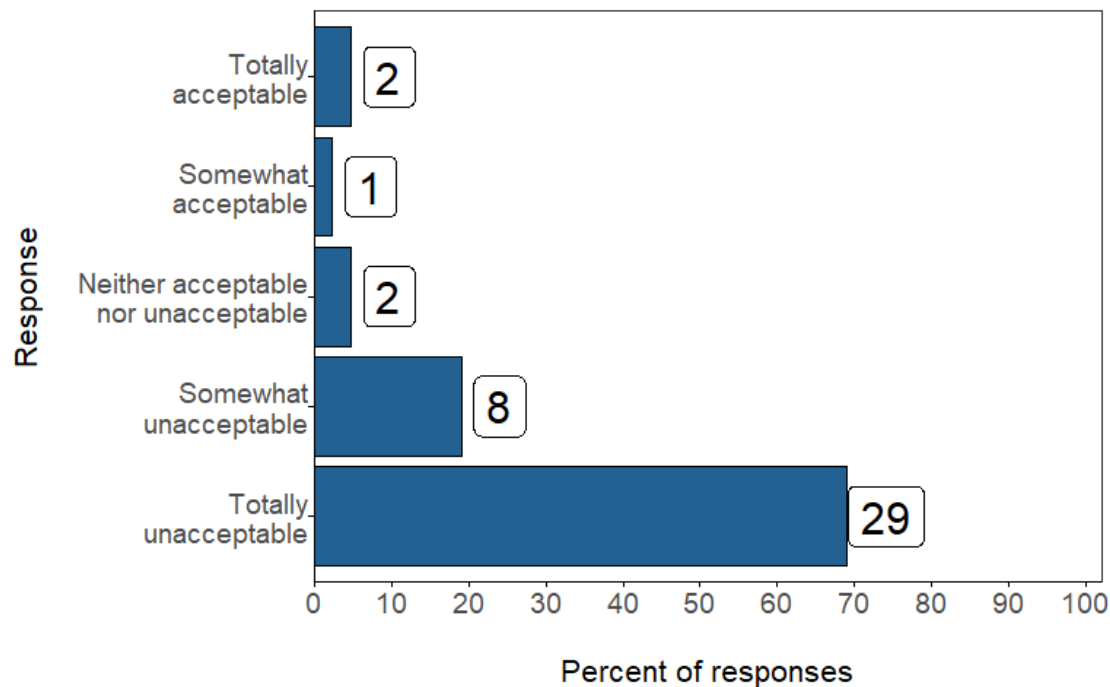


Figure 24. Acceptability of depredation caused by mountain lions as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to who reported livestock depredation from mountain lions ($N = 42$).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

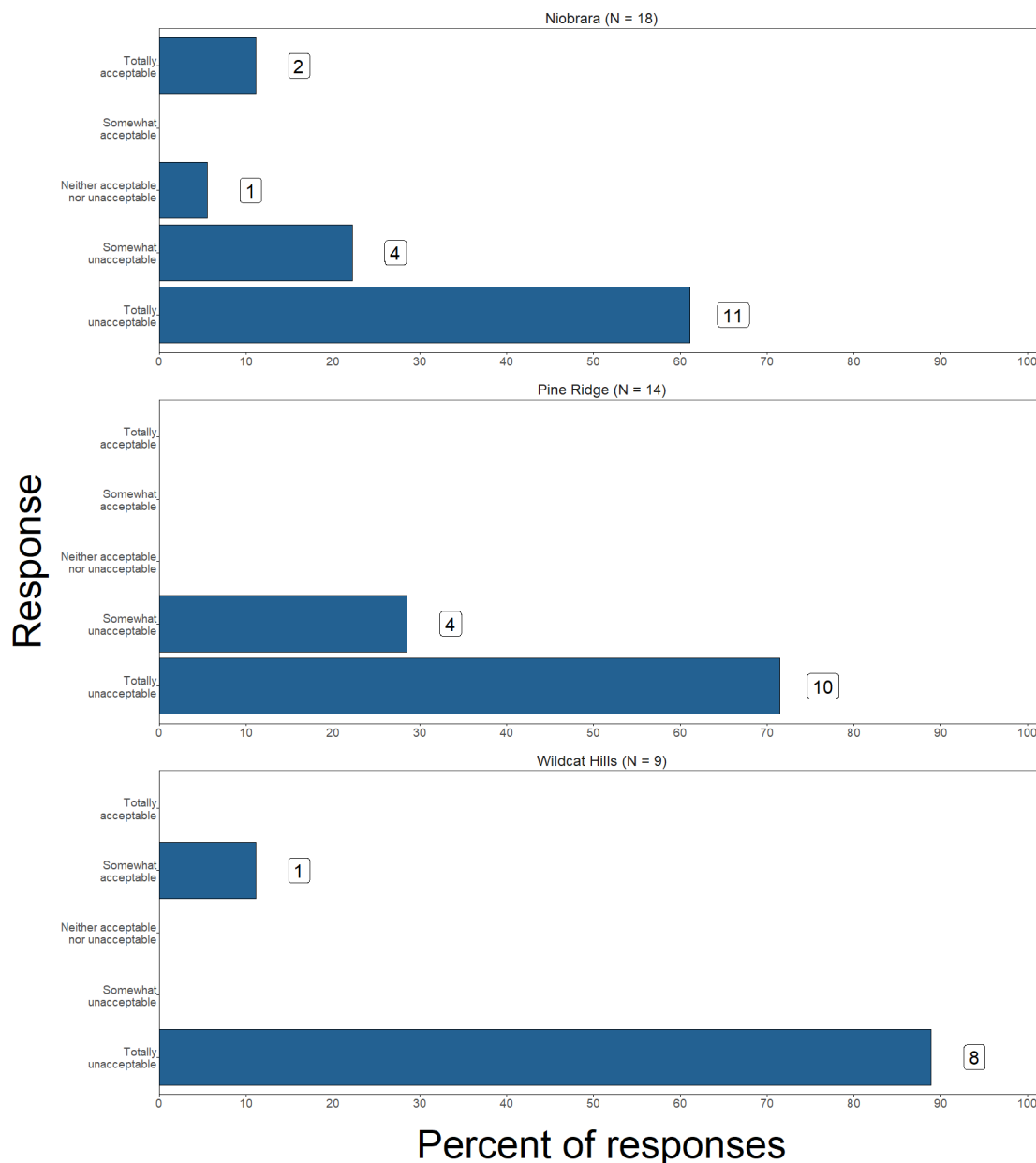


Figure 25. Acceptability of depredation caused by mountain lions from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to who reported livestock depredation from mountain lions (N = 41).

Q9b: What type of livestock depredation did you experience?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for mountain lion depredation on goats ($\chi^2 = 0.2$, $P = 0.65$), sheep ($\chi^2 = 0.41$, $P = 0.52$), poultry ($\chi^2 = 2.33$, $P = 0.13$), cattle ($\chi^2 = 0.84$, $P = 0.36$), horses ($\chi^2 = 0.2$, $P = 0.65$), nor other ($\chi^2 = 0.0$, $P = 1.00$) between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after.

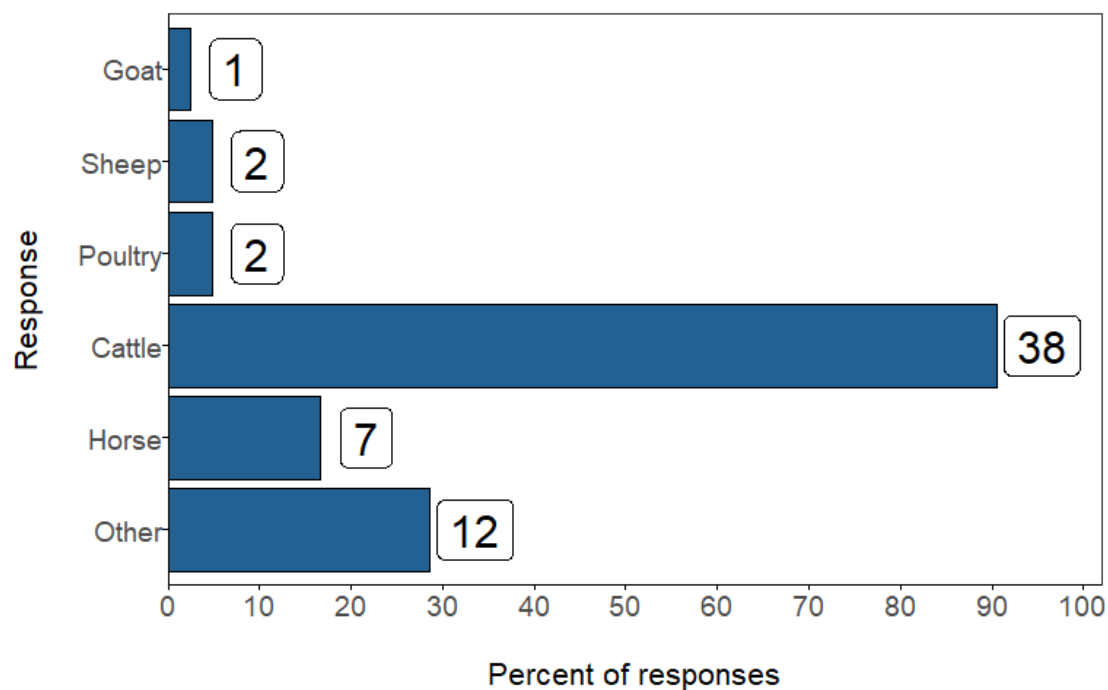


Figure 26. The kind of livestock depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported livestock depredation from mountain lions ($N = 42$). Percentage totals may exceed 100% as respondents could have chosen multiple responses.

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

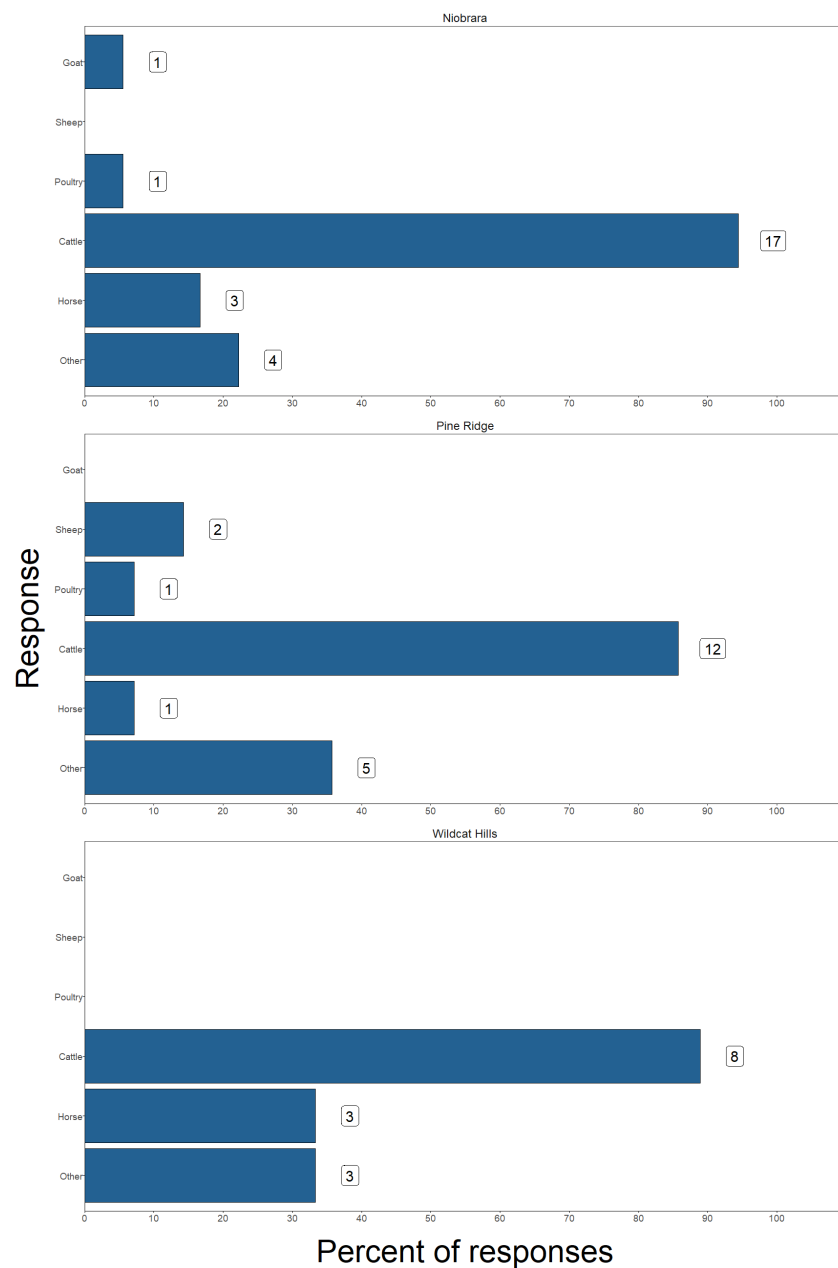


Figure 27. The kind of livestock depredation caused by mountain lions from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported livestock depredation from mountain lions ($N = 41$). Totals within each unit may exceed N as respondents could have chosen multiple responses.

Control and assistance

Q10: Are you aware that you may kill a mountain lion if it is in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock on your property?

Overall responses

Landowners who responded to the survey prior the reminder mailing were more likely to be aware that you may kill a mountain lion if it is in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock on your property than landowners who responded after the reminder mailing ($\chi^2 = 3.86$, $P = 0.05$).

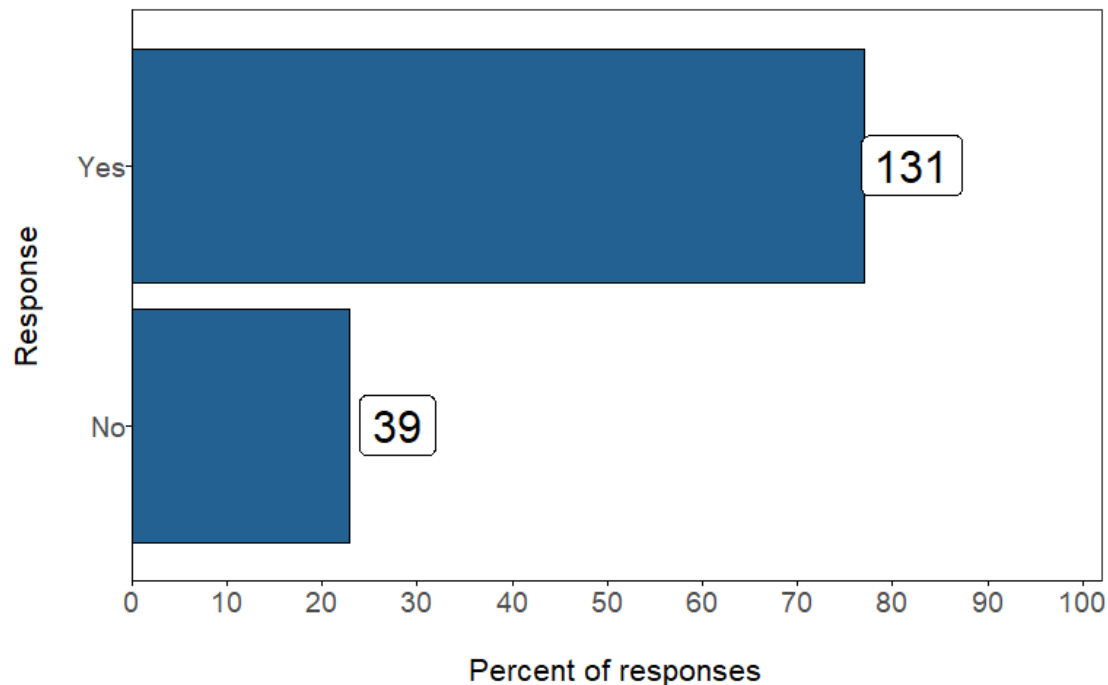


Figure 28. Awareness that mountain lions can be killed if in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents ($N = 170$).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

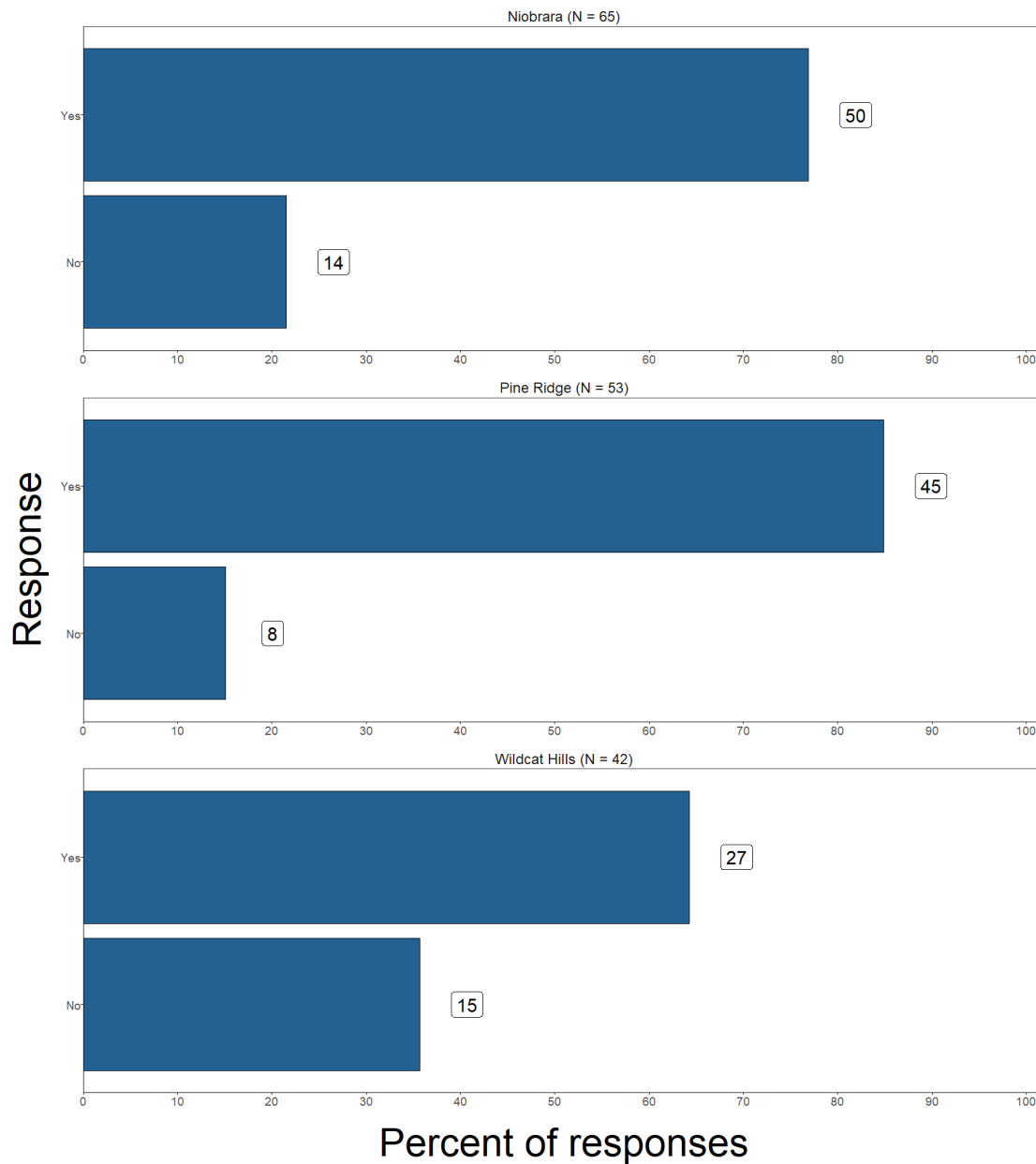


Figure 29. Awareness that mountain lions can be killed if in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock from a mountain lion from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 162).

Q11: Are you aware that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit to the landowner?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for awareness that Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 0.43$, $P = 0.05$).

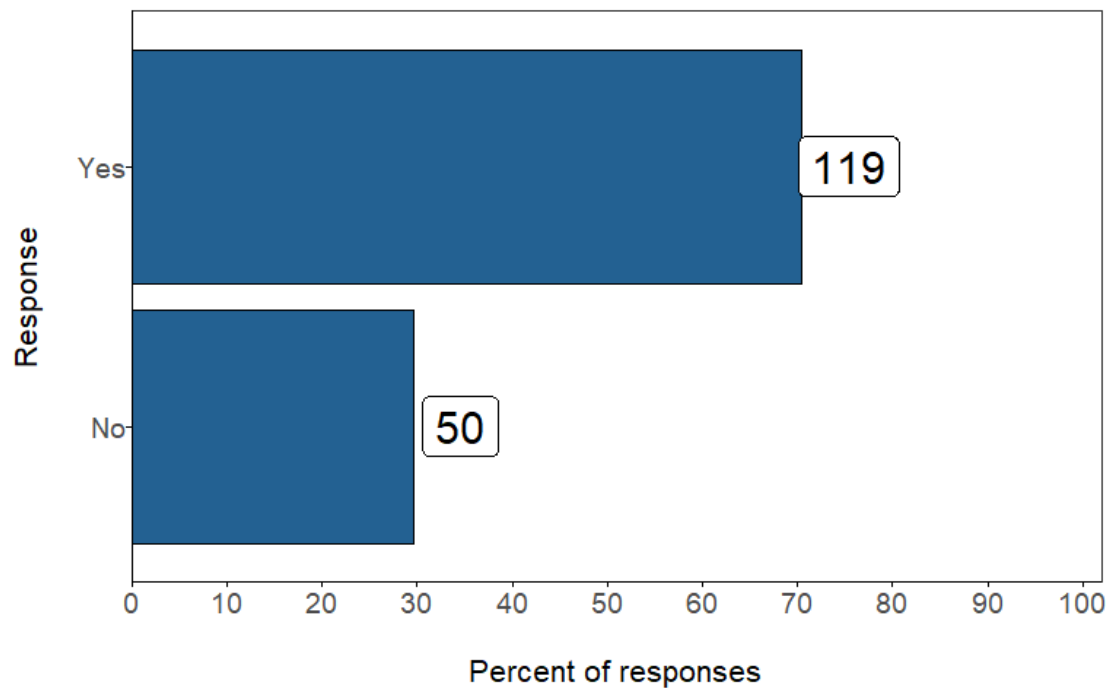


Figure 30. Awareness that Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 169).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

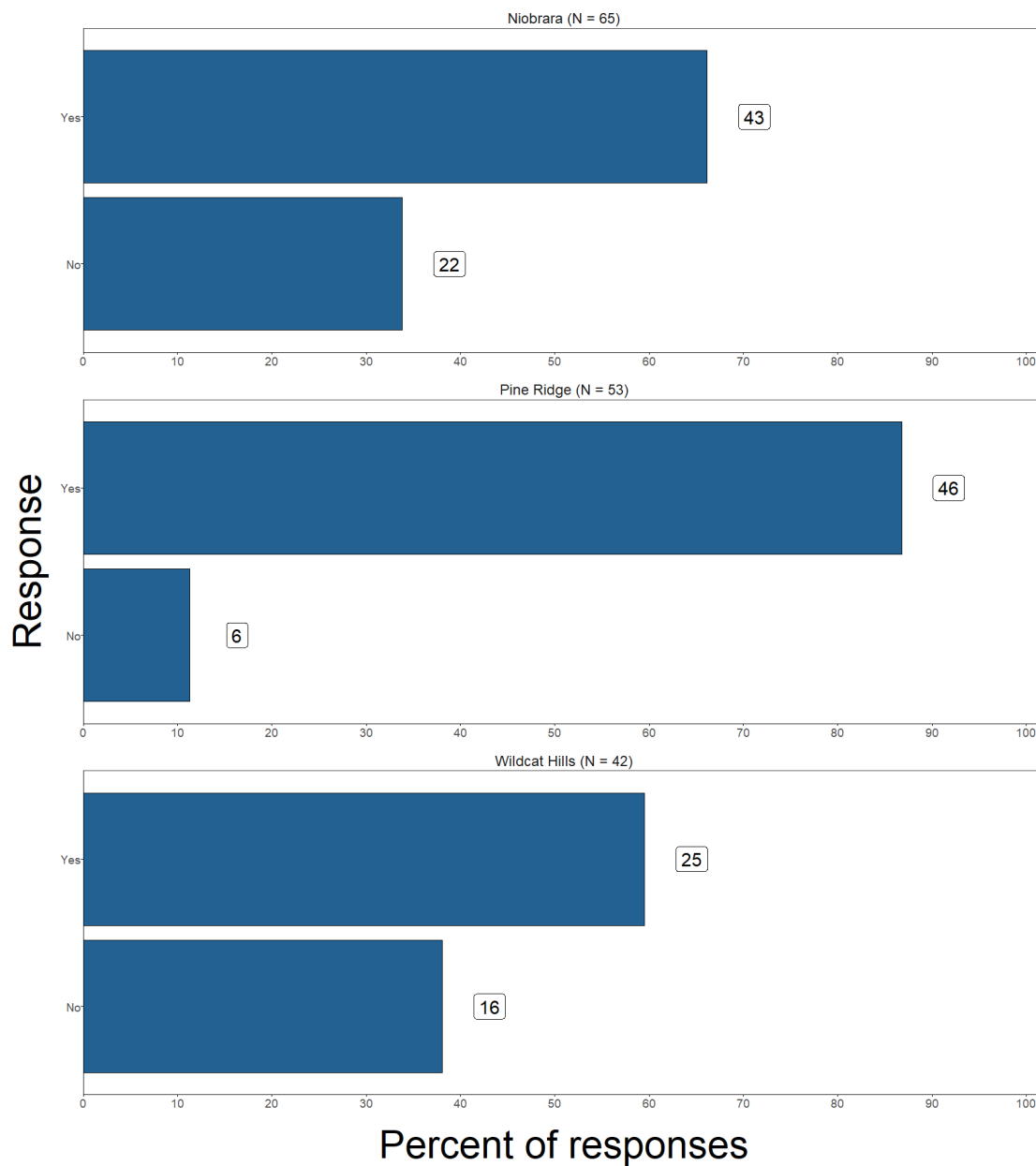


Figure 31. Awareness Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 160).

Q12: Have you ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation on your land?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for whether landowner ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 2.68$, $P = 0.01$).

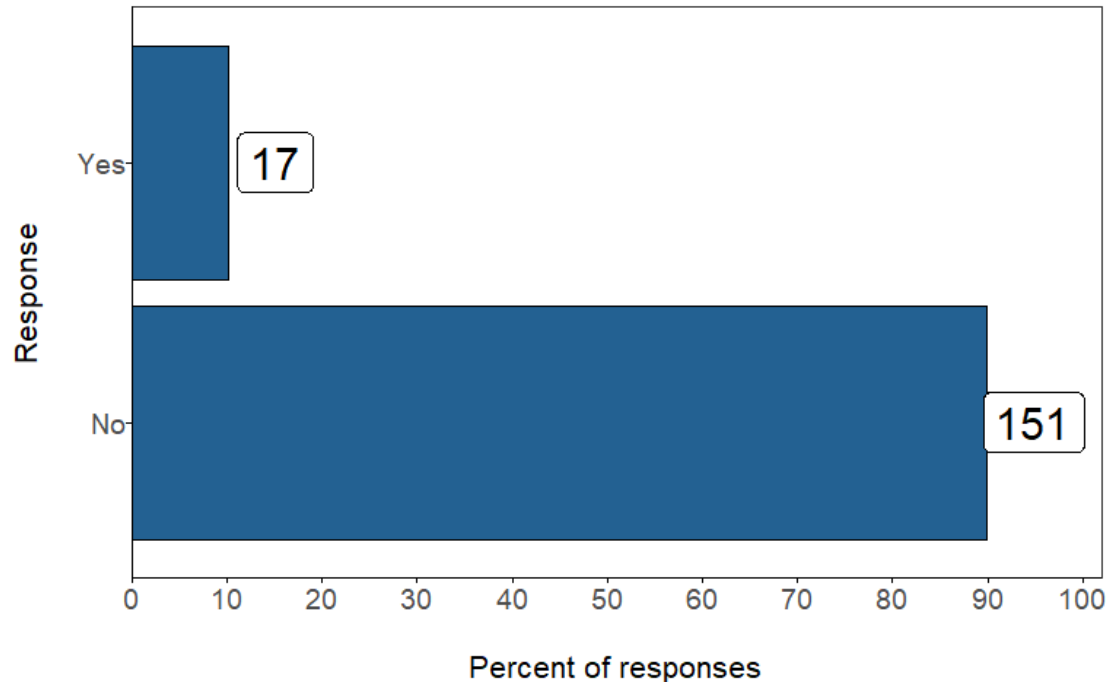


Figure 32. Whether landowner ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents ($N = 168$).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

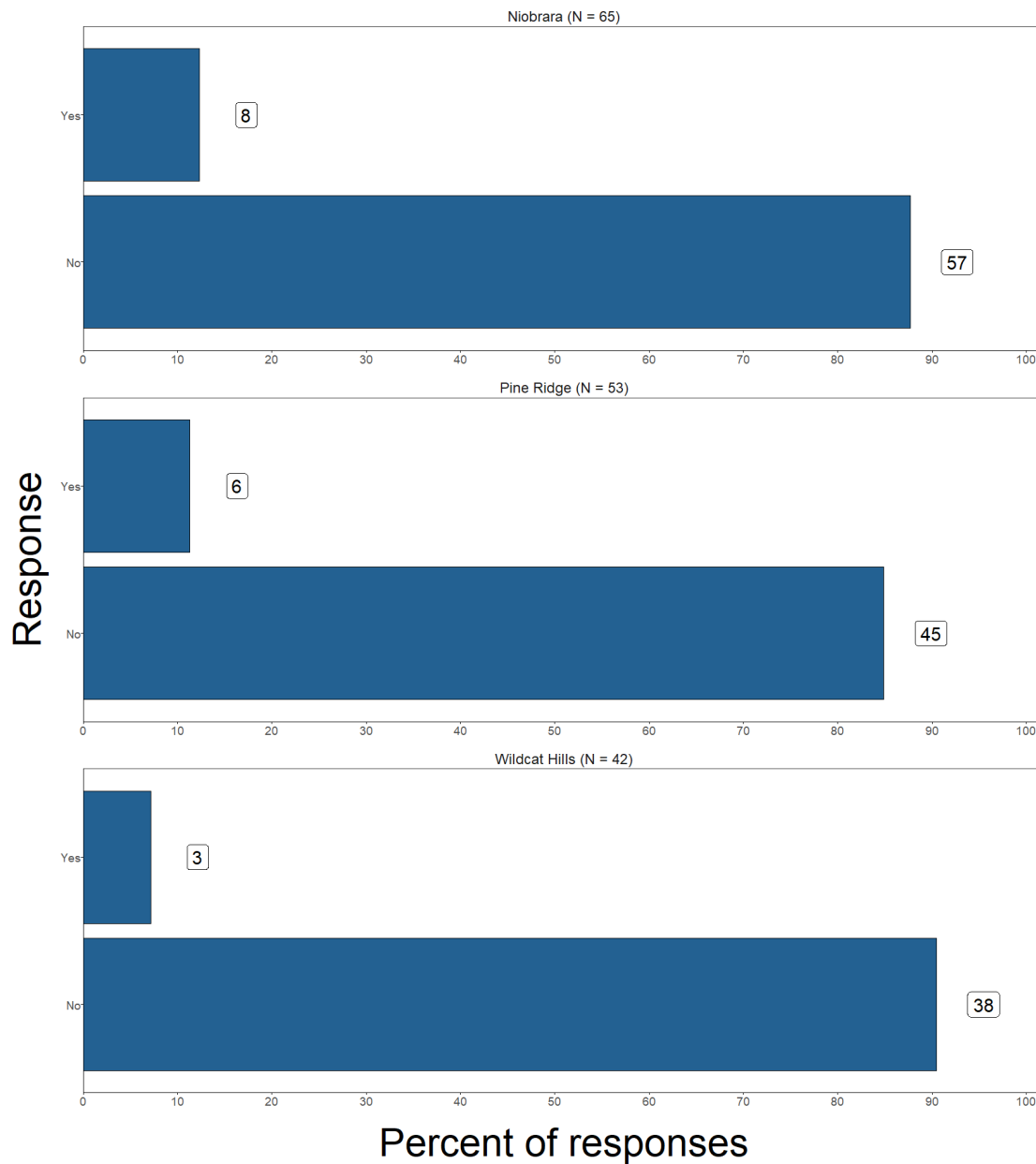


Figure 33. Whether landowner ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 160).

12a) In what year did you last contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission concerning depredation caused by mountain lions?

Overall responses

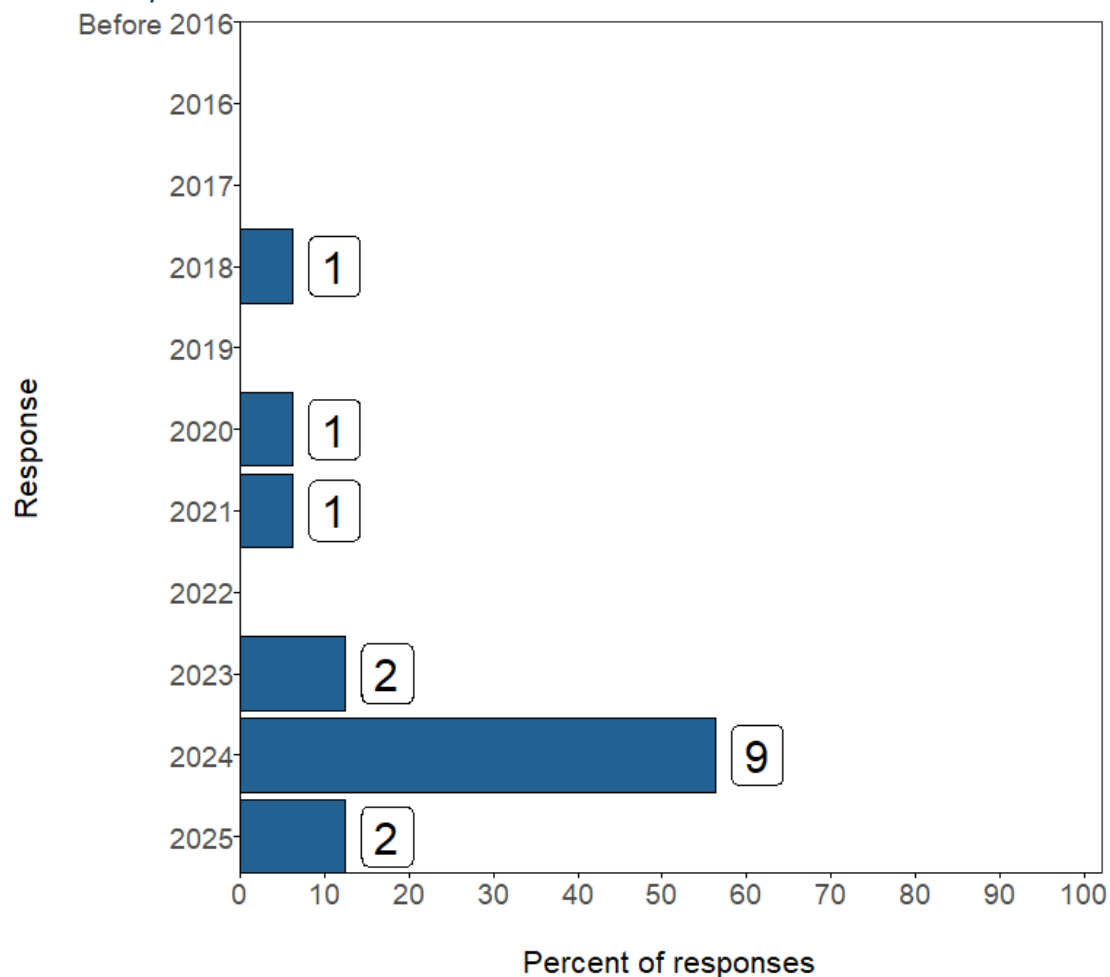


Figure 34. Year in which landowners most recently contacted Nebraska Game and Parks concerning depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the horizontal blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported that they contacted NGPC (N = 16).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

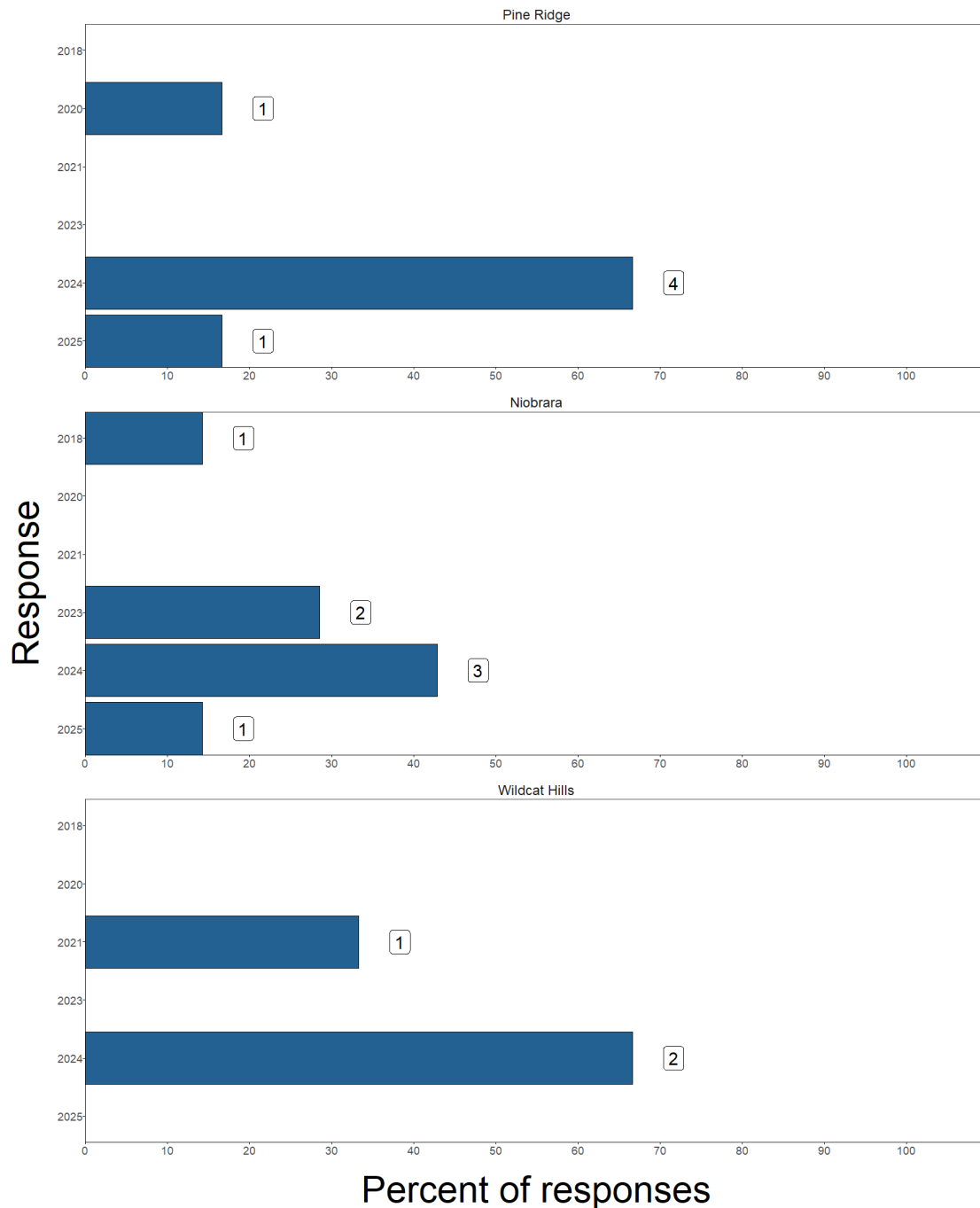


Figure 35. Year in which landowners most recently contacted Nebraska Game and Parks concerning depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the horizontal blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported that they contacted NGPC (N = 16).

Q12b: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the assistance you received?

Overall responses

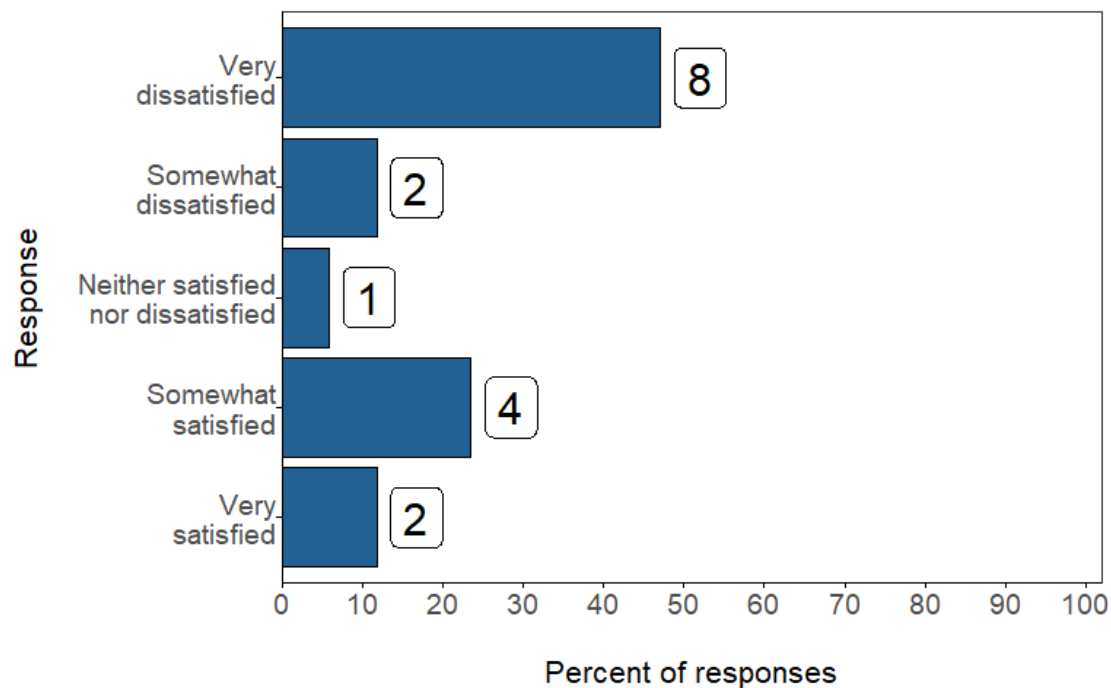


Figure 36. Satisfaction with NGPC indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported that they contacted NGPC (N = 17).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

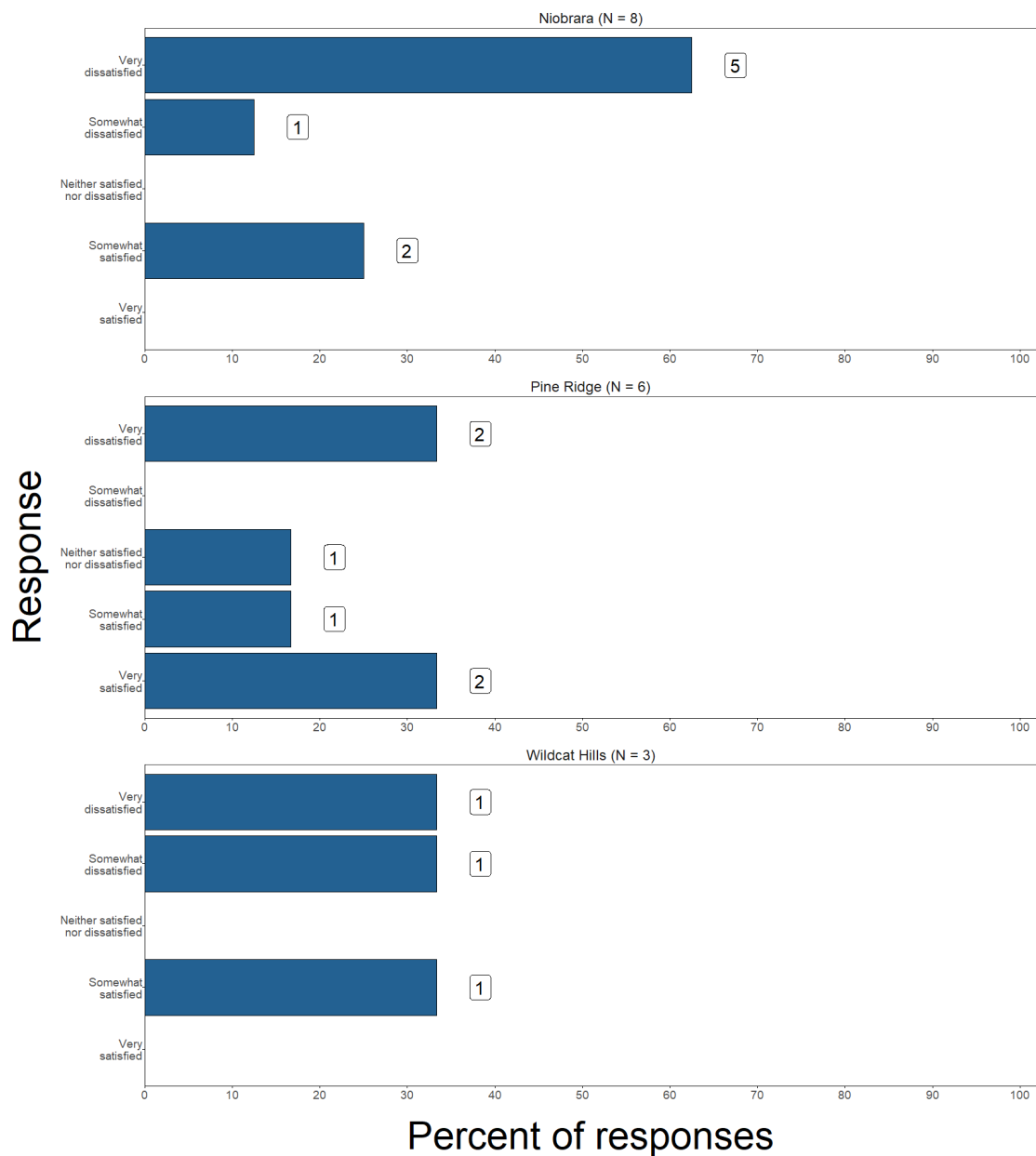


Figure 37. Satisfaction with NGPC in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Responses are limited to those who reported that they contacted NGPC (N = 17).

Mountain Lion hunting on landowner property

Q13: Do you yourself plan to hunt mountain lions on your land during the current season?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for whether landowners plan to hunt mountain lion on their land in the current season between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after ($\chi^2 = 1.52$, $P = 0.22$).

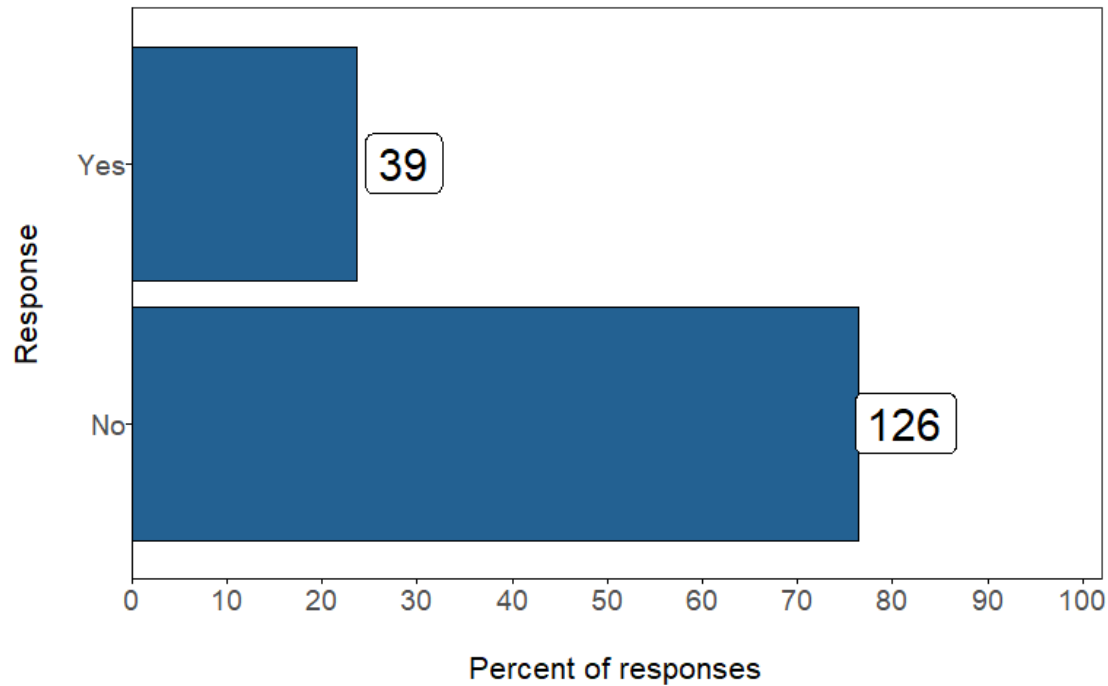


Figure 38. Whether landowners plan to hunt mountain lion on their land in the current season indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents ($N = 165$).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

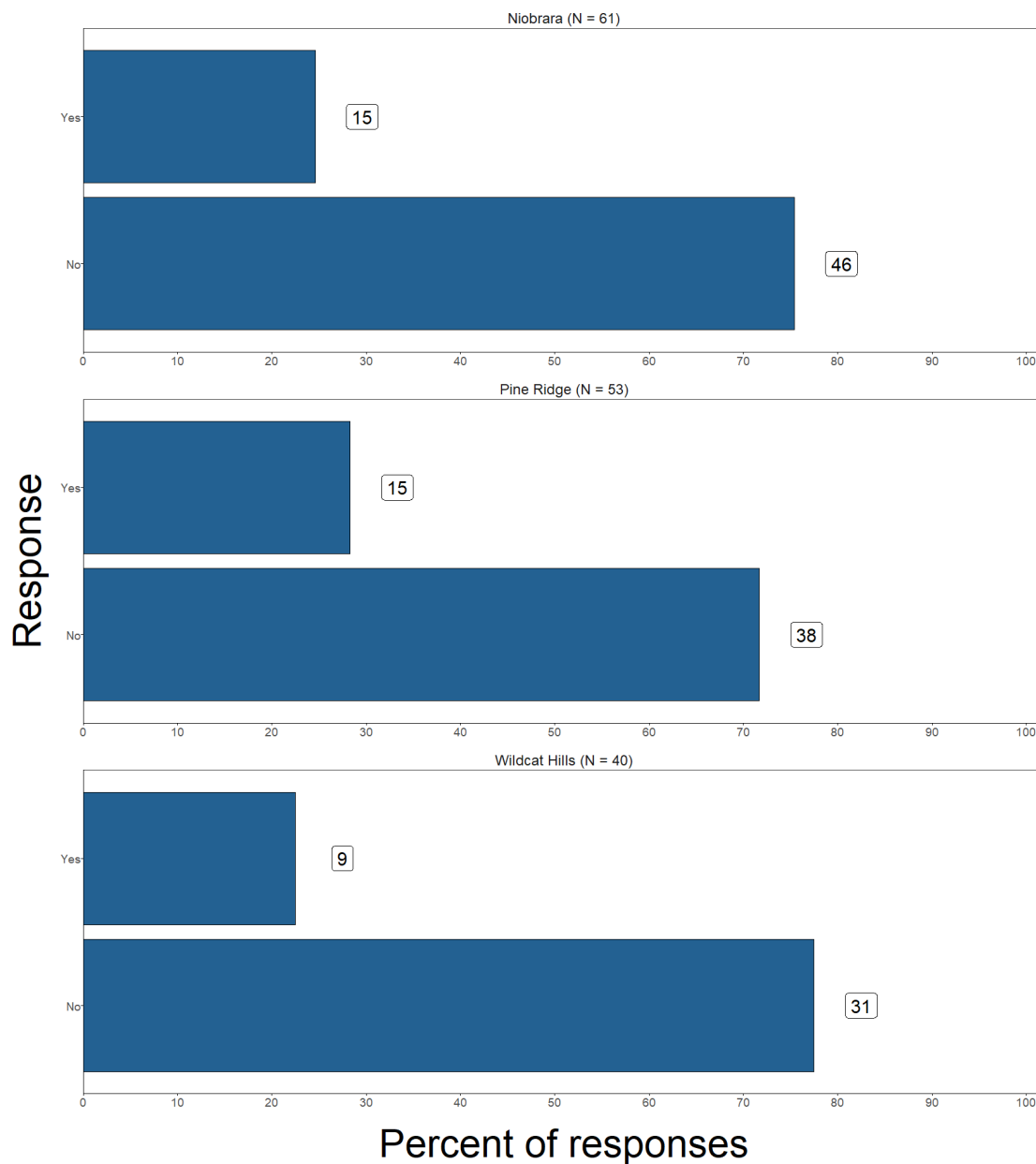


Figure 39. Whether landowners plan to hunt mountain lion on their land in the current season in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents (N = 154).

Q14: Who else would you allow to hunt mountain lions on your land during the current season?

Overall responses

No difference was observed for allowing family ($\chi^2 = 0.61$, $P = 0.44$), others they know ($\chi^2 = 0.03$, $P = 0.85$), others they do not know ($\chi^2 = 0.09$, $P = 0.77$), or nobody ($\chi^2 = 0$, $P = 0.98$) access to hunt mountain lions on their property between landowners who submitted before the reminder mailing and those who submitted after.

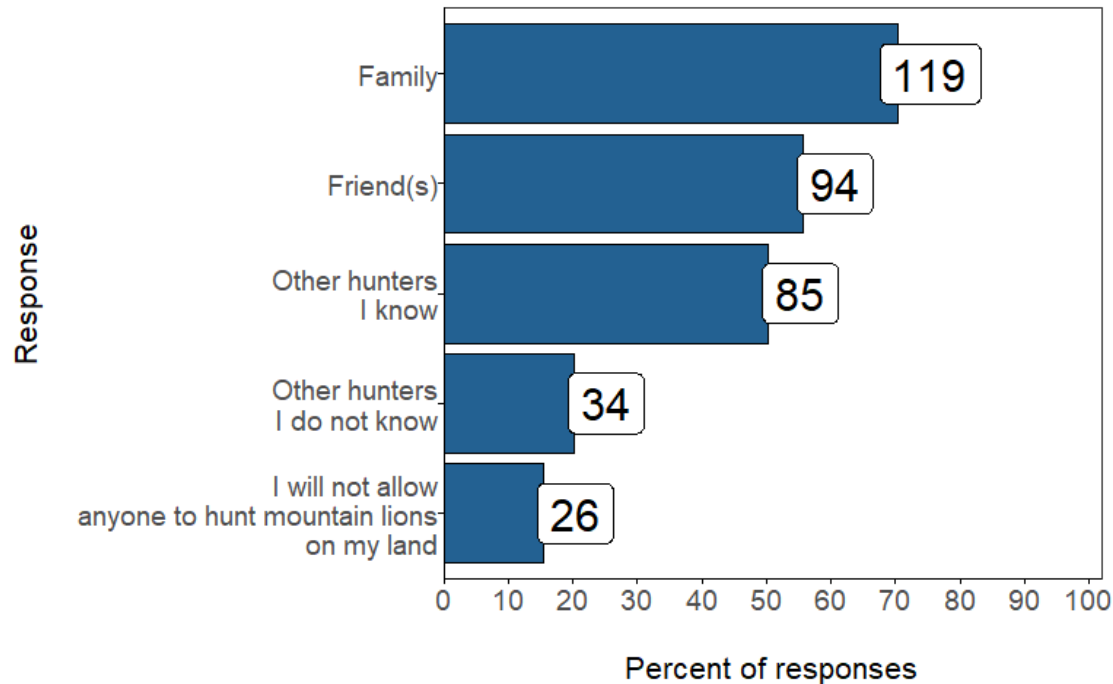


Figure 40. Who landowners would allow to hunt mountain lions on their land indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents. Percentage totals may exceed 100% as respondents could have chosen multiple responses (N = 166).

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

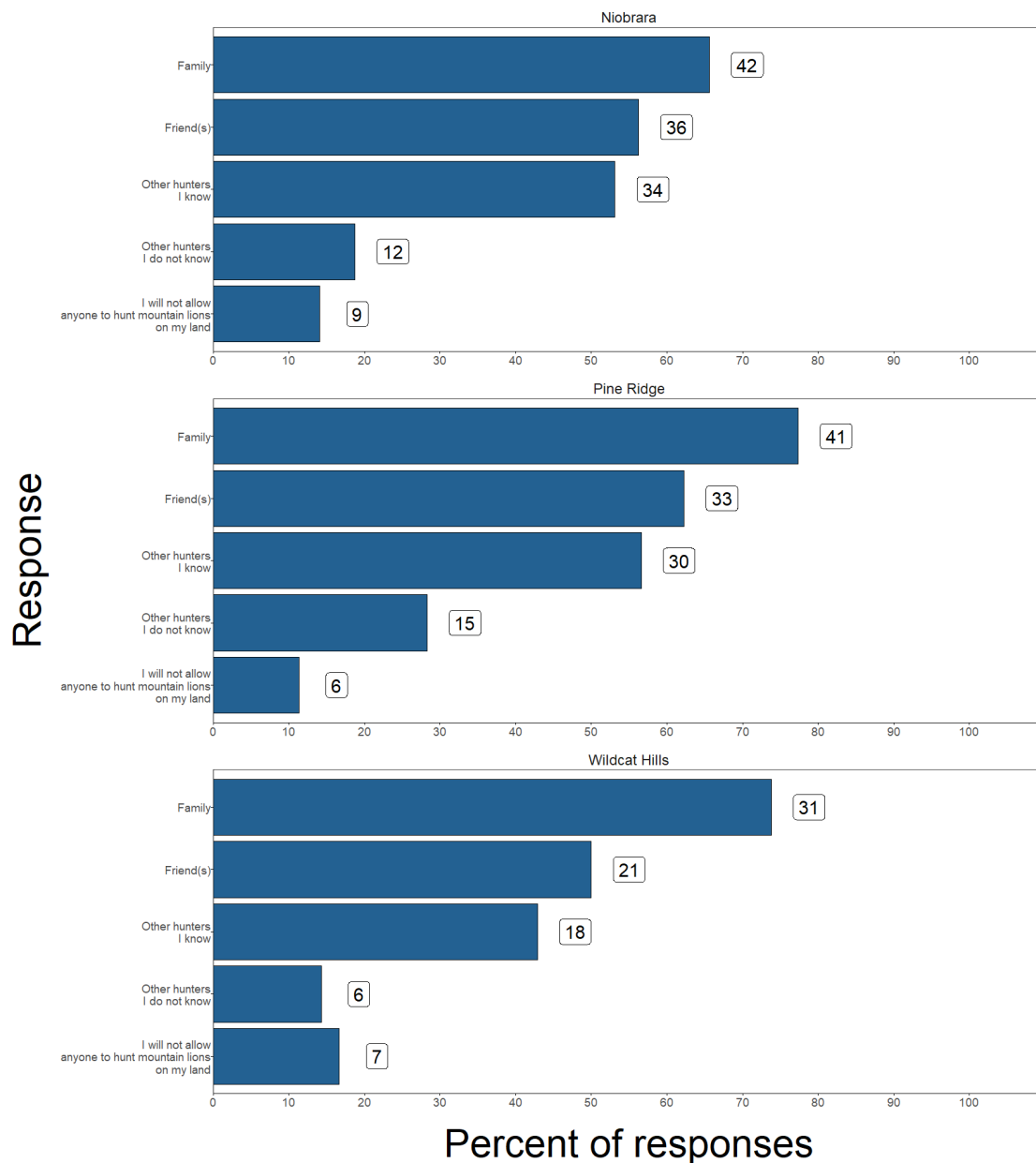


Figure 41. Who landowners would allow to hunt mountain lions on their land from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. The x-axis indicates the percentage of all respondents and the number to the right of the blue bars represents the actual number of respondents.. Totals within each unit may exceed N as respondents could have chosen multiple responses (N = 159).

Appendices

Appendix A: Survey Response Tables

1) In which Mountain Lion Management Unit is the majority of your land located?

Table A1. The Nebraska Mountain Lion Management Unit in which respondents of the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey hold the majority of their land

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	53	164	32.3
Niobrara	65	164	39.6
Wildcat Hills	42	164	25.6
I do not know	4	164	2.4

Q2: About how many acres do you operate (own or lease) for agricultural or rangeland purposes?

Table A2. The approximate number of acres owned or leased by landowners as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Acres	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
0-200	20	167	12.0
201-400	14	167	8.4
401-600	11	167	6.6
601-800	13	167	7.8
801-1000	7	167	4.2
>1000	102	167	61.1

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A3. The approximate number of acres owned by landowners as indicated by respondents each Mountain Lion Management Unit to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Acres	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	0-200	5	52	9.6
Pine Ridge	201-400	4	52	7.7
Pine Ridge	401-600	4	52	7.7
Pine Ridge	601-800	4	52	7.7
Pine Ridge	801-1000	2	52	3.8
Pine Ridge	>1000	33	52	63.5
Niobrara	0-200	8	63	12.7
Niobrara	201-400	2	63	3.2
Niobrara	401-600	3	63	4.8
Niobrara	601-800	6	63	9.5
Niobrara	801-1000	2	63	3.2
Niobrara	>1000	42	63	66.7
Wildcat Hills	0-200	6	41	14.6
Wildcat Hills	201-400	6	41	14.6
Wildcat Hills	401-600	3	41	7.3
Wildcat Hills	601-800	2	41	4.9
Wildcat Hills	801-1000	2	41	4.9
Wildcat Hills	>1000	22	41	53.7

Q3: What county is the majority of your land located in?

Overall responses

Table A4. County majority of land is located as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

County	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Banner	11	169	6.5
Brown	14	169	8.3
Cherry	23	169	13.6
Dawes	18	169	10.7
Garden	11	169	6.5
Keith	2	169	1.2
Keya Paha	26	169	15.4
Morrill	13	169	7.7
Rock	5	169	3.0
Scotts Bluff	9	169	5.3
Seb	1	169	0.6
Sheridan	14	169	8.3
Sioux	22	169	13.0

Q4: Have you personally observed a mountain lion on your land?

Overall responses

Table A5. Whether landowner observed a mountain lion on their land as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Observed mountain lion	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Yes	106	163	65
No	57	163	35

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A6. Whether landowner observed a mountain lion on their land from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Observed mountain lion	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Yes	39	51	76.5
Pine Ridge	No	12	51	23.5
Niobrara	Yes	48	62	77.4
Niobrara	No	14	62	22.6
Wildcat Hills	Yes	15	38	39.5
Wildcat Hills	No	23	38	60.5

Q5: To your knowledge, how frequently did you have mountain lions on your land in the past 24 months?

Overall responses

Table A7. The frequency in which landowners had mountain lions on their land as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Frequency	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Never	8	170	4.7
Occasionally	42	170	24.7
Frequently	80	170	47.1
Don't know	40	170	23.5

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A8. The frequency in which landowners had mountain lions on their land from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Frequency	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Occasionally	13	53	24.5
Pine Ridge	Frequently	31	53	58.5
Pine Ridge	Don't know	9	53	17.0
Niobrara	Never	2	63	3.2
Niobrara	Occasionally	13	63	20.6
Niobrara	Frequently	39	63	61.9
Niobrara	Don't know	9	63	14.3
Wildcat Hills	Never	4	42	9.5
Wildcat Hills	Occasionally	13	42	31.0
Wildcat Hills	Frequently	9	42	21.4
Wildcat Hills	Don't know	16	42	38.1

Percentage indicating frequent occurrence of mountain lion on land by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A9. The percentage of landowners from each Mountain Lion Management Unit who responded that they frequently had mountain lions on their land as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	31	53	58.5
Niobrara	39	63	61.9
Wildcat Hills	9	42	21.4

Q6: How do you feel about the number of mountain lions on your land in the past 24 months?

Overall responses

Table A10. Attitude about the number of mountain lions that were present on the landowners' property in the previous 24 months indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Landowner sentiment	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Too few	4	169	2.4
About what I prefer	18	169	10.7
Too many	96	169	56.8
No opinion	51	169	30.2

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A11. Attitude about the number of mountain lions that were present on the landowners' property in the previous 24 months from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Landowner sentiment	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Too few	1	53	1.9
Pine Ridge	About what I prefer	6	53	11.3
Pine Ridge	Too many	35	53	66.0
Pine Ridge	No opinion	11	53	20.8
Niobrara	Too few	1	64	1.6
Niobrara	About what I prefer	7	64	10.9
Niobrara	Too many	41	64	64.1
Niobrara	No opinion	15	64	23.4
Wildcat Hills	Too few	2	42	4.8
Wildcat Hills	About what I prefer	3	42	7.1
Wildcat Hills	Too many	16	42	38.1
Wildcat Hills	No opinion	21	42	50.0

Q7: How positive or negative are your general attitudes towards mountain lions?

Table A12. General attitude toward mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Attitude	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Very negative	55	171	32.2
Somewhat negative	45	171	26.3
Neither positive nor negative	36	171	21.1
Somewhat positive	22	171	12.9
Very positive	13	171	7.6

Table A13. Probability of attitude about mountain lions for each level of mountain lions occurring on land indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Frequency of mountain lion occurrence	Attitude	Probability of response	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Frequently	Neither positive nor negative	0.15	0.10	0.22
Occasionally	Neither positive nor negative	0.21	0.14	0.31
Never	Neither positive nor negative	0.23	0.15	0.33
Frequently	Very negative	0.46	0.36	0.56
Occasionally	Very negative	0.27	0.17	0.40
Never	Very negative	0.13	0.04	0.34
Frequently	Strongly positive	0.04	0.02	0.09
Occasionally	Strongly positive	0.10	0.05	0.19
Never	Strongly positive	0.21	0.07	0.48
Frequently	Somewhat positive	0.09	0.05	0.15
Occasionally	Somewhat positive	0.16	0.09	0.27
Never	Somewhat positive	0.25	0.14	0.42
Frequently	Somewhat negative	0.26	0.19	0.35
Occasionally	Somewhat negative	0.26	0.19	0.35
Never	Somewhat negative	0.18	0.09	0.35

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A14. General attitude toward mountain lions from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to those who reported having elk on their land.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Damage severity	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Very negative	25	53	47.2
Pine Ridge	Somewhat negative	9	53	17.0
Pine Ridge	Neither positive nor negative	9	53	17.0
Pine Ridge	Somewhat positive	8	53	15.1
Pine Ridge	Very positive	2	53	3.8
Niobrara	Very negative	15	65	23.1
Niobrara	Somewhat negative	26	65	40.0
Niobrara	Neither positive nor negative	11	65	16.9
Niobrara	Somewhat positive	7	65	10.8
Niobrara	Very positive	6	65	9.2
Wildcat Hills	Very negative	13	42	31.0
Wildcat Hills	Somewhat negative	6	42	14.3
Wildcat Hills	Neither positive nor negative	13	42	31.0
Wildcat Hills	Somewhat positive	6	42	14.3
Wildcat Hills	Very positive	4	42	9.5

Q8: What is your perceived risk of mountain lions to people?

Table A15. Perceived risk of mountain lions to people indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Risk	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
No risk	18	172	10.5
Slight risk	85	172	49.4
Moderate risk	45	172	26.2
High risk	24	172	14.0

Table A16. Probability of perceived risk of mountain lions for each level of mountain lions occurring on land indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Frequency of mountain lion occurrence	Risk	Probability of response	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Frequently	Slight risk	0.43	0.34	0.53
Occasionally	Slight risk	0.52	0.41	0.62
Never	Slight risk	0.55	0.44	0.66
Frequently	High risk	0.20	0.13	0.30
Occasionally	High risk	0.13	0.07	0.22
Never	High risk	0.09	0.03	0.26
Frequently	No risk	0.08	0.04	0.14
Occasionally	No risk	0.13	0.07	0.23
Never	No risk	0.18	0.06	0.43
Frequently	Moderate risk	0.29	0.21	0.38
Occasionally	Moderate risk	0.23	0.15	0.33
Never	Moderate risk	0.18	0.08	0.37

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A17. Perceived risk of mountain lions to people from each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Risk	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	No risk	5	53	9.4
Pine Ridge	Slight risk	28	53	52.8
Pine Ridge	Moderate risk	13	53	24.5
Pine Ridge	High risk	7	53	13.2
Niobrara	No risk	6	65	9.2
Niobrara	Slight risk	29	65	44.6
Niobrara	Moderate risk	20	65	30.8
Niobrara	High risk	10	65	15.4
Wildcat Hills	No risk	6	42	14.3
Wildcat Hills	Slight risk	20	42	47.6
Wildcat Hills	Moderate risk	11	42	26.2
Wildcat Hills	High risk	5	42	11.9

Percentage indicating that mountain lions pose a risk to people by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A18. The percentage of landowners from each Mountain Lion Management Unit who responded mountain lions pose a high risk to people as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	7	53	13.2
Niobrara	10	65	15.4
Wildcat Hills	5	42	11.9

Percentage indicating “No risk” or “Slight risk” for perceived risk of mountain lions to people by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A19. The percentage of landowners from each Mountain Lion Management Unit who responded mountain lions pose no risk or a slight risk to people as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	33	53	62.3
Niobrara	35	65	53.8
Wildcat Hills	26	42	61.9

Q9: Do you believe you experienced livestock depredation from a mountain lion in the past 24 months?

Table A20. Whether there was perceived livestock depredation from a mountain lion indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Livestock depredation	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Yes	42	167	25.1
No	100	167	59.9
Unsure	25	167	15.0

Table A21. Effect of perceived mountain lion depredation to livestock on attitude about mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Livestock depredation	Attitude	Probability of response	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
No	Neither positive nor negative	0.27	0.19	0.36
Yes	Neither positive nor negative	0.08	0.04	0.15
No	Somewhat negative	0.27	0.20	0.36
Yes	Somewhat negative	0.25	0.17	0.36
No	Very negative	0.15	0.09	0.22
Yes	Very negative	0.62	0.47	0.75
No	Strongly positive	0.12	0.07	0.20
Yes	Strongly positive	0.01	0.01	0.03
No	Somewhat positive	0.19	0.12	0.27
Yes	Somewhat positive	0.03	0.01	0.07

Table A22. Effect of perceived mountain lion depredation to livestock on frequency of mountain lion presence indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Livestock depredation	Frequency of mountain lion presence	Probability of response	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
No	Frequently	0.50	0.38	0.61
Yes	Frequently	0.90	0.76	0.96
No	Occasionally	0.39	0.29	0.51
Yes	Occasionally	0.09	0.03	0.21
No	Never	0.11	0.06	0.21
Yes	Never	0.01	0.00	0.05

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A23. Whether there was perceived livestock depredation from a mountain lion as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Livestock depredation	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Yes	14	53	26.4
Pine Ridge	No	28	53	52.8
Pine Ridge	Unsure	9	53	17.0
Niobrara	Yes	18	65	27.7
Niobrara	No	37	65	56.9
Niobrara	Unsure	8	65	12.3
Wildcat Hills	Yes	9	42	21.4
Wildcat Hills	No	27	42	64.3
Wildcat Hills	Unsure	6	42	14.3

Q9a: How acceptable or unacceptable was the level of depredation caused by mountain lions?

Table A24. Acceptability of depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Acceptability	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Totally acceptable	2	42	4.8
Somewhat acceptable	1	42	2.4
Neither acceptable nor unacceptable	2	42	4.8
Somewhat unacceptable	8	42	19.0
Totally unacceptable	29	42	69.0

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A25. Acceptability of depredation caused by mountain lions as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to who reported livestock depredation from mountain lions.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Acceptability	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Somewhat unacceptable	4	14	28.6
Pine Ridge	Totally unacceptable	10	14	71.4
Niobrara	Totally acceptable	2	18	11.1
Niobrara	Neither acceptable nor unacceptable	1	18	5.6
Niobrara	Somewhat unacceptable	4	18	22.2
Niobrara	Totally unacceptable	11	18	61.1
Wildcat Hills	Somewhat acceptable	1	9	11.1
Wildcat Hills	Totally unacceptable	8	9	88.9

Q9b: What type of livestock depredation did you experience?

Table A26. The kind of livestock depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Type of depredation	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Cattle	38	42	90.5
Goat	1	42	2.4
Horse	7	42	16.7
Other	12	42	28.6
Poultry	2	42	4.8
Sheep	2	42	4.8

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A27. The kind of livestock depredation caused by mountain lions as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to who reported livestock depredation from mountain lions.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Type of depredation	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Cattle	12	14	85.7
Pine Ridge	Horse	1	14	7.1
Pine Ridge	Other	5	14	35.7
Pine Ridge	Poultry	1	14	7.1
Pine Ridge	Sheep	2	14	14.3
Niobrara	Cattle	17	18	94.4
Niobrara	Goat	1	18	5.6
Niobrara	Horse	3	18	16.7
Niobrara	Other	4	18	22.2
Niobrara	Poultry	1	18	5.6
Wildcat Hills	Cattle	8	9	88.9
Wildcat Hills	Horse	3	9	33.3
Wildcat Hills	Other	3	9	33.3

Q10: Are you aware that you may kill a mountain lion if it is in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock on your property?

Overall responses

Table A28. Awareness that mountain lions can be killed if in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Aware	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Yes	131	170	77.1
No	39	170	22.9

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A29. Awareness that mountain lions can be killed if in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Aware	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Yes	45	53	84.9
Pine Ridge	No	8	53	15.1
Niobrara	Yes	50	65	76.9
Niobrara	No	14	65	21.5
Wildcat Hills	Yes	27	42	64.3
Wildcat Hills	No	15	42	35.7

Q11: Are you aware that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit to the landowner?

Overall responses

Table A30. Awareness that Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Aware	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Yes	119	169	70.4
No	50	169	29.6

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A31. Awareness that Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Aware	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Yes	46	53	86.8
Pine Ridge	No	6	53	11.3
Niobrara	Yes	43	65	66.2
Niobrara	No	22	65	33.8
Wildcat Hills	Yes	25	42	59.5
Wildcat Hills	No	16	42	38.1

Q12: Have you ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation on your land?

Overall responses

Table A32. Whether landowner ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Contacted NGPC	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Yes	17	168	10.1
No	151	168	89.9

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A33. Whether landowner ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Contacte d NGPC	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Yes	6	53	11.3
Pine Ridge	No	45	53	84.9
Niobrara	Yes	8	65	12.3
Niobrara	No	57	65	87.7
Wildcat Hills	Yes	3	42	7.1
Wildcat Hills	No	38	42	90.5

12a) In what year did you last contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission concerning depredation caused by mountain lions?

Overall responses

Table A234. Year in which landowners most recently contacted Nebraska Game and Parks concerning depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to those who reported that depredation occurred.

Year	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Before 2016			
2016			
2017			
2018	1	16	6.2
2019			
2020	1	16	6.2
2021	1	16	6.2
2022			
2023	2	16	12.5
2024	9	16	56.2
2025	2	16	12.5

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A35. Year in which landowners most recently contacted Nebraska Game and Parks concerning depredation caused by mountain lions indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to those who reported that depredation occurred.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Year	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	2020	1	6	16.7
Pine Ridge	2024	4	6	66.7
Pine Ridge	2025	1	6	16.7
Niobrara	2018	1	7	14.3
Niobrara	2023	2	7	28.6
Niobrara	2024	3	7	42.9
Niobrara	2025	1	7	14.3
Wildcat Hills	2021	1	3	33.3
Wildcat Hills	2024	2	3	66.7

Q12b: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the assistance you received?

Overall responses

Table A36. Satisfaction with NGPC assistance indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to those who reported that damage occurred.

Satisfaction	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Very dissatisfied	8	17	47.1
Somewhat dissatisfied	2	17	11.8
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	17	5.9
Somewhat satisfied	4	17	23.5
Very satisfied	2	17	11.8

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A37. Satisfaction with NGPC assistance in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Responses are limited to those who reported that depredation occurred.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Satisfaction	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Very dissatisfied	2	6	33.3
Pine Ridge	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	6	16.7
Pine Ridge	Somewhat satisfied	1	6	16.7
Pine Ridge	Very satisfied	2	6	33.3
Niobrara	Very dissatisfied	5	8	62.5
Niobrara	Somewhat dissatisfied	1	8	12.5
Niobrara	Somewhat satisfied	2	8	25.0
Wildcat Hills	Very dissatisfied	1	3	33.3
Wildcat Hills	Somewhat dissatisfied	1	3	33.3
Wildcat Hills	Somewhat satisfied	1	3	33.3

Q13: Do you yourself plan to hunt mountain lions on your land during the current season?

Overall responses

Table A38. Whether landowners plan to hunt mountain lion on their land in the current season indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Hunt mountain lion	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Yes	39	165	23.6
No	126	165	76.4

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A39. Whether landowners plan to hunt mountain lion on their land in the current season in each Mountain Lion Management Unit as indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Anyone hunt land	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Yes	15	53	28.3
Pine Ridge	No	38	53	71.7
Niobrara	Yes	15	61	24.6
Niobrara	No	46	61	75.4
Wildcat Hills	Yes	9	40	22.5
Wildcat Hills	No	31	40	77.5

Q14: Who else would you allow to hunt mountain lions on your land during the current season?

Overall responses

Table A40. Who landowners would allow to hunt mountain lions on their land indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey.

Person(s) allowed to hunt	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Family	119	169	70.4
Friend(s)	94	169	55.6
I will not allow anyone to hunt mountain lions on my land	26	169	15.4
Other hunters I do not know	34	169	20.1
Other hunters I know	85	169	50.3

Response by Mountain Lion Management Unit

Table A41. Who landowners would allow to hunt mountain lions on their land in each Mountain Lion Management Unit indicated by respondents to the 2025 Landowner Mountain Lion Survey. Totals within each EMU may exceed N as respondents could have chosen multiple responses.

Mountain Lion Management Unit	Person(s) allowed to hunt	Number of responses (N)	Total responses (N)	Percent of responses (%)
Pine Ridge	Family	41	53	77.4
Pine Ridge	Friend(s)	33	53	62.3
Pine Ridge	I will not allow anyone to hunt mountain lions on my land	6	53	11.3
Pine Ridge	Other hunters I do not know	15	53	28.3
Pine Ridge	Other hunters I know	30	53	56.6
Niobrara	Family	42	64	65.6
Niobrara	Friend(s)	36	64	56.2
Niobrara	I will not allow anyone to hunt mountain lions on my land	9	64	14.1
Niobrara	Other hunters I do not know	12	64	18.8
Niobrara	Other hunters I know	34	64	53.1
Wildcat Hills	Family	31	42	73.8
Wildcat Hills	Friend(s)	21	42	50.0
Wildcat Hills	I will not allow anyone to hunt mountain lions on my land	7	42	16.7
Wildcat Hills	Other hunters I do not know	6	42	14.3
Wildcat Hills	Other hunters I know	18	42	42.9

Appendix B: Write-in responses

9b) What type of livestock depredation did you experience?

Response
2 calves
5 elk calves in high fence pasture
Also many deer nearly all turkeys all the fawns are gone some carcasses are left also at least 1 doe this winter
Deer
Deer and turkeys
Had 8 mares with colts and a mare had claw marks on her hindquarters- but no colts were harmed. Had a professional lion hunter from colo.- He verified that it was a lion that caused the damages.
Loss of calves!
Mule deer ARE GONE on a place we've had for 50 plus years, turkey numbers are down also
Young calves taken, horses scared
big horn
cats and dogs go missing. Just had a mountain lion male on game camera 1-6-25 about 400 yards from the house round a feeder
deer population
turkey, deer- deer are almost completely ate up. Turkey numbers are hurt.

Appendix C: Respondent comments to questionnaire

Response

Deer population should be our priority. Oh, and birds, pheasant quail turkey waterfowl. We have too many fur animals.

First, we are glad to see a hunting season in our region. Yes, we understand all what we can do if we see a lion in our livestock. The concerns we have are with the numbers of lions in our area. There are too many for a balanced ecosystem. The Wildcat hills are NOT mountain lion territory. The hills belong to the BobCat, Wild Cat, Mule Deer, Porcupine, little rodents, rattlesnakes and the reintroduction of the BigHorn Sheep. Mountain lions have always migrated through the hills but never in the numbers we see now. Their overpopulation has hindered the other wildlife that call these hills home. This is evident in the decline of the Mule Deer, Big Horn, Bob Cat, and Porcupine populations. (Yes, we did have a tough winter that did some damage, but that is only a little bit of the decrease.) Not only are these species being affected by the overpopulation of the Mountain Lions, so are the area cattle populations. This statement is a fact because year after year we have cattle losses from lions. We know that these are lion kills due to the placement of the cattle bodies in and under trees. How the hide is ripped and peeled off the carcass. Along with lion tracks around the carcasses. The loss of these cattle is substantial to us. This year alone the calves are averaging \$2000 or more. We lost 11 just this year to lions. This is \$22,000 in losses. BUT there is more, some of these 11 that the lion killed were replacement quality heifers. The loss affects our operation in the long term. In a ten-year lifespan a heifer kept on production will roughly earn the ranch over \$2,000,000 in profits. This is a BIG loss to the ranch. Keep in mind that is what ONE heifer will produce. This year alone there were several heifers taken from us. This is just the past year. Over the years we have had 13 or more taken from the ranch by lions. Lions also cause damage to the cattle. Claw marks, trauma to their mental health, broken legs, broken hips, damaged necks, trachea the list goes on. This stress causes Pneumonia in the calves, yearlings and the added stress effects breed back in the cattle. These damages also hurt our profits. Our pastures are also affected by the lions. When cattle are pushed out of the hills where the good high protein and fiber grasses are, they do not receive the proper nutrients needed to be healthy. The cattle also get pushed down in the flats of the pastures. When this happens, they overgraze the pastures. They are also in the heat of the sun and stressed. When stressed pneumonia and lack of breed back happen. Early rotation of pastures also happens. We pay taxes on these pastures, and they can't be utilized correctly due to the overpopulation of lions. Not only are our cattle not safe, neither are our horses. I have had 4 horses come in with lion marks. I had a newborn foal with claw marks over his jugular. He had a long recovery process. He did live through the trauma. Due to the overpopulation of the lions the hills are no longer safe. They are not safe for our cattle, wildlife, and PEOPLE. Yes, I do not feel safe in my own hills. When I fix fences in the hills, I make sure someone else is with me. There have been numerous times I have been stalked by lions. I have had dear friends have lions over their heads while cleaning the hills. I have even had a dear friend cornered by several lions as he

was trying to protect himself. Thank goodness his dogs protected him. THESE LIONS DO NOT HAVE FEAR FOR PEOPLE. Due to all that ranchers must deal with they should be allowed to use dogs to protect their animals, staff, and themselves. Anytime ranchers feel their cattle, staff, and themselves are in danger from lions they should be allowed to protect by all means. Glad there is a season but considering how fast the lions were harvested in the Wildcat area and the 95 or more lions in the hills the season needs to be increased significantly. PS... most were harvested around my family's ranch. Banner County has a BIG cat population.

Five concerns: 1. Investment in apex predator Re-wilding is a needless distraction and waste of money for the NGP. Originating more than 8 million years ago, the puma is one of nature's preeminent survivors. They are found in all eco-systems (including suburbia) and in all western states. Today, they are re-colonizing the mid-west, southern and mid-Atlantic states. We expect this trend to continue in Nebraska as they move into the suburbs of Omaha and Lincoln. 2. Mountain Lions are opportunistic hunters with a prey spectrum that includes humans. While lions are a threat to ranch animals (e.g. pets, horses, goats, and domestic fowl), they are also a big threat to the adults and children of our family. Family safety is our biggest concern. While most cities publish the addresses of child molesters, NGP is reluctant to tell us about the presence of equally dangerous collared lions on our ranch. This year we captured a mature lion on our game cam within a few hundred yards from our HW areas. 3. The presence of mountain lions on our ranch as forced us to deny requests for recreational access by non-family/non-friend hikers, photographers, and campers. Civil liability law imposes a duty to inform our guests if we know a hazard exists. Even then we know that we are still at risk. 4. We believe the lion re-colonization of the Pine Ridge is causing a steady decline in our whitetail and mule deer populations. While we recognize that disease, drought and winter kills influence fluctuations in population size, we also recognize that steady decline in our deer herds over the past decade (rarely see more than 5 or 6 animals in a herd) has occurred. Last year we hosted just one family hunting party. Depending upon what we see this spring and summer, we may close our 2025 guest hunting for the first time. The revenue loss will hurt! 5. Mountain Lion information sharing can be improved. Although we have given access to NGP for lion and elk surveys, we have never seen a written report of observations or radio-collar records. It's almost as if landowners, are considered more outsiders than partners in the mountain lion program. We will continue welcoming NGP to our property and are most appreciative of our many conversations with NGP's staff. We also wish to encourage landowner access to real time, public trail cam videos, periodic lion activity/status reports and focused educational opportunities. We support mountain lion hunting and continued study of the issues and complementary methods of lion population control.

Giving out 240 tags but only allowing 5 to be filled is ridiculous! At the very minimum, you need to allow half of them to be filled. We, personally, have a land lease that has 30+ tagged cats, and who knows how many more. These cats are basically out of control and management of the numbers has been POOR. Please listen to us landowners and leases of land and stop listening to people who don't live here or aren't personally involved or affected by the cats.

I answered your questions. Why doesn't the commission answer mine?

I do not want to disturb elk wintering on my place by hunting lions. Major damage to our mule deer, tired of hearing other excuses for major decline in pine ridge habitat. Call me for more comments on lions in Nebraska.

I feel the lions are decimating our deer population- we actively manage and market our properties for deer hunting. Also- I believe the general public gets a lot more joy from the deer than they ever will from the lions as they are rarely seen. I also think we have to go to a bounty system on the coyotes. They have been killing our calves and also kill many deer. With the poor fur prices, we are not recruiting another generation of trappers. Game and Parks will continue to see the license sales and revenue drop if we can't get these deer number to recover. Harvesting only 3- lions in this unit is NOT going to accomplish this.

I had a permit for 2024. I seen numerous tracks of single and mother with kittens (2 or 3). I feel our mule deer population and whitetail is affecting largely by lion kill. Deer are extremely wild. Some days I see numerous deer contently feeding. Other day extremely alert and sometimes no deer at all. The mule deer population is increasing but I would be quick to say, it is not rebounding rapidly. I prefer no mule deer hunting at the present time. The Pine Ridge areas covers a lot of area. Maybe split area like the elk zones or units.

I have never seen a mountain lion on or near my property. Neighbors have and these neighbors have small chicken and family pets which is a concern. It appears to me that mule deer have been decimated in this area. I had a small head of 7 that stayed on my land for several years but they have been gone for several years.

I know most are wary about hiking the canyon behind our house. We keep close eye on pets and kids and livestock refuse to utilize our pasture as cats are there.

I wish you would take all the lions and take them out of here maybe we would have some deer. I lived 83 years we don't need them. It's hard to find fence in canyon and watch for a lions

If we don't get rid of more lions there will be no more deer

Keep the population down

Let us hunt the mountain lions then we MIGHT get the game animals back!

Lions are not dangerous to humans unless they lose their fear of humans. Two concerns: 1. Cow dogs chase predators. Fight with lion will not end well for dog. 2. Deer died from disease a few years ago. They are having difficulty re-establishing numbers. I think lions are eating a lot of young deer. Is there any way to attract mountain lion into my alfalfa bale yard? :)t

More need to be killed, even if during the season. If the season was only open for about 24 hours in 2025 until the quota was filled, obviously there are too many mountain lions.

Mountain lions are an important part of the ecosystem. We should strive for sustainable populations and resident education!

Mule deer population is down. Also fewer turkeys

My niece was attacked by a lion in Montana. A big horned sheep was killed on my land.

Nebraska Game and Parks does a nice job managing the Mountain Lion population in

Nebraska considering the politics involved in managing this resource. In the Niobrara unit South of Nenzel where our land is located, we have multiple sightings and trail cam pictures of lions throughout the year. To my knowledge there are two dens located within 10 miles of our property. According to trail cam pictures the male lion killed this year, was on our land the night before it was taken just east of our home on a neighboring property. In my opinion the Niobrara unit is too big. Over the last two seasons the majority of the cats have been killed in the eastern half of the unit. This year, the male lion was killed on the last day of the season, since the two other female lions in the unit had already been killed in the east half of the unit. My understanding is, he would not have been able to have been harvested the next day due to the season being closed, because of the quota being met. Had he not been taken, the west half of the unit would not have had any cats harvested in 2 years. To my knowledge the previous season cats were killed in the eastern half as well. There seems to be a concentration of lions in our area. In my opinion, game and parks would be able to manage the unit better if it was split in half somewhere in the Valentine area and have an East Niobrara and West Niobrara unit similar to Elk Units 6 and 7. I would be happy to discuss this further with Game and Parks representatives. Thank you for all the hard work you do in managing Nebraska's Wildlife Resources.

Nebraska needs to have a 3 year period after a hunter is successful. This will make the season last longer.

Niobrara County, Wyoming 2024 Predator control air sweep 4 young male NE G&P collared cats included in the take says so much about the NE mountain lion repatriation

No hunting of mountain lions WILL EVER be allowed on my property! I am not aware of them causing any problems or death of livestock in my area. I would personally like to limit the season until they are well established.

Our deer numbers are down, very seldom do we see them. Canyons use to have mulie deer, not now. Is this because of mountain lions??? Some white tails, not many.

Quota needs to be raised! Our deer numbers are 25% of what they used to be. It is rare that I don't see fresh tracks after a snow.

Re: #10, Most cat activity is after dark. Re: #11, Isn't it illegal to release wildlife? Collaring a cat only benefits the biologists who follow them around. Re: #12, No rancher wants 4-5 UTVS on drought-stricken grass. I have cats on game cameras constantly throughout the year. In November, we had the bob-tail cat visit. In December (23rd) there were two young cats, followed by a larger female (their mother?) on December 24th. Four different cats in two months. They are wiping out the deer population! Do something about it. I hunted 2x/day except one, during M.L. season. I heard one growl and saw one cat, but it was getting dark.

Season quota needs to be increased. When harvest limit is obtained/met in the first 2-3 days of the season- the harvest limit is too low.

The Niobrara mountain lion season this year did no good to manage them where my land is. The three killed were well outside of my area and the season lasted one day. We often see tracks and get pictures of them. Our deer numbers have continued to drop in our area. I feel there are currently too many cats in the Niobrara unit. Thank you for allowing input.

The mountain lion population is getting out of control. Better and more management is required. Also non resident land owners should be eligible for tags. The units need to be split into smaller units to ensure population management in more localized areas.

There are too many lions in our area. We see tracks and have trail cam photos and have seen them a couple of times over the years.

There are way more lions than what people are being told! Up to 4 lions have been seen running together- eating on a dead yearling. People come up missing big calves and coyotes will eat a dead calf but don't drag it far- lions have chewed calves in half and buried part in a hay stack- we found the other half on top of a stack of round bales! When Game and Parks was contacted they said if they trap one it has to be released within close range (1/4 mile) of where it is caught! We had camera images of lion going through corrals at 1:00 pm! Neighbors complained but you never did anything to help! Its not the ranchers responsibility to feed your pet project!

There are way to many cats in our area I have pic and neighbors do also 10 kitten in a 7 mile stretch of the river. I have live here all my life and ranching is hard enough with out wolfs and cat and elk. I love the wildlife and was an outfitter for deer and turkey you can make some income on deer and turkey. Elk and cats you can't make enough to make up for what they cost in the area! YOU NEED to increase limit to unlimited. I also do not like NOT SEEING MULE DEER that use to be so common. You have poorly managed this resource.

This Apex predator needs to be considered just as the coyotes, if nothing else on private land only.

We are concerned they have been seen so close to our house and out buildings and pets, also at finding dead deer so close by

We are on western edge of Morrill Co on N. Platte River have never seen lions in 50 years. We have used cameras and negative mountain lions.

We are short calves at end of grazing season. There's a lot of canyon so you don't find all the carcass remains to determine. There is also considerable less deer, in last few years.

We don't like the mountain lions here. We feel unsafe walking in wooded areas and for our small children.

We have mountain lions on video along N Platte River often and occasional deer kills which our local game warden confirms. My experience is lions may spook penned cattle which can cause damage but not harm otherwise!

We have too many mountain lions in the Pine Ridge area. My ranch is in the Cottonwood drainage as I border Ft. Robinson. We need more permits, longer season or the use of dogs.

We observed mountain lions within 30 yards of our house on 2 occasions in the last 24 months. Our neighbor directly across the river identified 6 different mountain lions with game cameras on his side of the river. We were short 9 calves last fall in the pasture directly across the river from the neighbor that identified the 6 mountain lions mentioned above. We do not feel safe on our own property and feel that the Nebraska Game Fish and Parks need to eliminate the mountain lions from this unit like our forefathers did

many years ago.

We own a pasture and home, northeast of Harrison Nebraska. Just in the past two weeks, we found a lion killed 6x6 Deer 100 yards from our home in the pasture. We are fearful for our grandkids who love to hike and explore on our property. The deer population is extremely low. No good hunting for deer the past 4 years. Our cows do not stay spread out and settled. They tend to stay grouped up and overgraze the areas with less lion pressure. I believe the lion population in the Pine Ridge is way out of control.

What concerns me is the killing of females with kittens or juvies. If a female gets killed what's the chances of the kitten knowing what to do (hunt survive) could this leave to starve kittens getting into trouble with people, livestock, pets. When I got a tag in Montana 10 years ago I had to take a online test which was very helpful I had a guide which was very helpful we used dogs, we treed two different females with kittens one was in the tree the other was not but my guide told me she was a wet female so the kit, kittens were close by so we moved on. My point is dogs are a good thing to determine sex age and so on. I think hounds man is a good thing.

Why does NGPC want to establish an apex predator to the detriment of all other game animals in Nebraska? Your deer numbers are low. One deer per lion per week- you do the math! Turkey numbers are low, wonder why? I do my best to maintain the wildlife on my limited acres, but one of your lions can decimate the resident deer herd and turkeys in a few weeks! You may mislead the public all you wish, but we landowners are aware of the lion population. Elimination of all lions in Nebraska would be a good start to get NGPC back in good graces with the land and livestock owners in Nebraska. And I for one will not call to get an ok to protect my family, stock or property.

You dumbasses released otters on my land. They traveled nearly 1/4 mile and cleaned out my fish ponds! Emily Munter was NO help. NGPC is a bunch of bureaucrats with too much power and no common sense!

IRB Project ID #: UNI-00024095
 Project Subject Title: Landowner Attitudes Toward Wildlife Damage
 Dear Nebraska Landowner,

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), in collaboration with researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, are currently interested in your views and opinions as a landowner on mountain lion populations, hunting, and their effects on your land and farming/ranching operations. If you are at least 19 years of age you may participate in this research.

Participation in this study will require approximately 15 minutes. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire pertaining to your views on mountain lion populations and any resulting damage to your property. Participation will take place at your residence.

Reasonable steps will be taken to protect the privacy and the anonymity of your study data; however, in some circumstances we cannot guarantee absolute privacy and/or confidentiality. Research records will be stored electronically through University approved methods. Records will only be seen by the research team and/or those authorized to view, access, or use the records during and after the study is complete.

If you have any questions about this project, you may contact me at 402-471-5414 or email at dusty.scheltzki@nebraska.gov.

If you have further questions about this research, you may alternatively contact Matthew Grantredor (mgrantredor@unl.edu) if you have any questions about your rights or complaints about the research, contact the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at (402)472-6965 or irb@unl.edu.

You can decide not to be in this research study, or you can withdraw at any time before, during, or after the research begins for any reason. Deciding not to be in this research study or deciding to withdraw will not affect your relationship with the investigator, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, or the NGPC. You will not lose any benefits to which you are entitled.

You are voluntarily making a decision whether or not to participate in this research study. By completing and submitting your survey responses, you have given your consent to participate in the research. You should print/keep a copy of this page for your records.

Detach the letter at the perforation, fill the survey with the Business Reply on the outside and tape the top as directed on page 4. No postage is necessary. The survey will close to participation on **March 21, 2025**.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Sincerely,

Dusty Scheltzki

Dusty Scheltzki
 Depredation Program Manager

- 1) In which **Mountain Lion Management Unit** is the **majority of your land located?**
(see above map) ☐ Pine Ridge ☐ Wildcat Hills ☐ Nobrara ☐ I do not know
- 2) About how many acres do you operate (own or lease) for agricultural or rangeland purposes? acres
- 3) What county is the majority of your land located in?
 county
- 4) Have you personally observed a mountain lion on your land? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 5) To your knowledge, how frequently did you have mountain lions on your land in the past 24 months? ☐ Never ☐ Occasionally ☐ Frequently ☐ Don't know
- 6) How do you feel about the number of mountain lions on your land in the past 24 months? ☐ Too few ☐ About what I prefer ☐ Too many ☐ No opinion
- 7) How positive or negative are your general attitudes towards mountain lions?
☐ Strongly negative ☐ Somewhat negative ☐ Neither negative nor positive ☐ Somewhat positive ☐ Very positive
- 8) What is your perceived risk of mountain lions to people?
☐ No risk ☐ Slight risk ☐ Moderate risk ☐ High risk
- 9) Do you believe you experienced livestock depredation from a mountain lion in the past 24 months? ☐ Yes ☐ No (Skip to #10) ☐ Unsure (Skip to #10)

- 9a) How acceptable or unacceptable was the level of depredation caused by mountain lions?
- ☐ Totally unacceptable ☐ Somewhat unacceptable ☐ Neither acceptable nor unacceptable ☐ Somewhat acceptable ☐ Totally acceptable

9b) What type of livestock depredation did you experience?
(select all that apply)

☐ Goat ☐ Cattle

☐ Other (please describe) _____

- 10) Are you aware that you may kill a mountain lion if it is in the process of stalking, killing, or consuming livestock on your property? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- 11) Are you aware that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may remove a mountain lion proven to have inflicted livestock, or may issue a kill permit to the landowner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- 12) Have you ever contacted the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for assistance in reducing mountain lion depredation on your land?
☐ Yes ☐ No (Skip to #13)

- 12a) In what year did you last contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission concerning depredation caused by mountain lions?
 (e.g., 2019)

- 12b) How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the assistance you received?**
- ☐ Very dissatisfied ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied ☐ Somewhat satisfied ☐ Very satisfied

- 13) Do you yourself plan to hunt mountain lions on your land during the current season? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- 14) Who else would you allow to hunt mountain lions on your land during the current season? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Family member(s) ☐ Other hunters I do not know
☐ I will not allow anyone else to hunt mountain lions on my land
☐ Other hunters I know

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If you have any comments or concerns about mountain lions, please let us know by addressing them in the comment section below. Your input is important and we thank you for taking the time to voice your opinion.

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