

A mule deer with large, multi-tined antlers stands in a snowy field. The deer is facing the camera, and its body is partially obscured by the snow and frost-covered vegetation. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape of snow and frost-covered bushes.

MULE DEER SURVEY RESULTS

BASIC DATA ANALYSIS

APPROACH

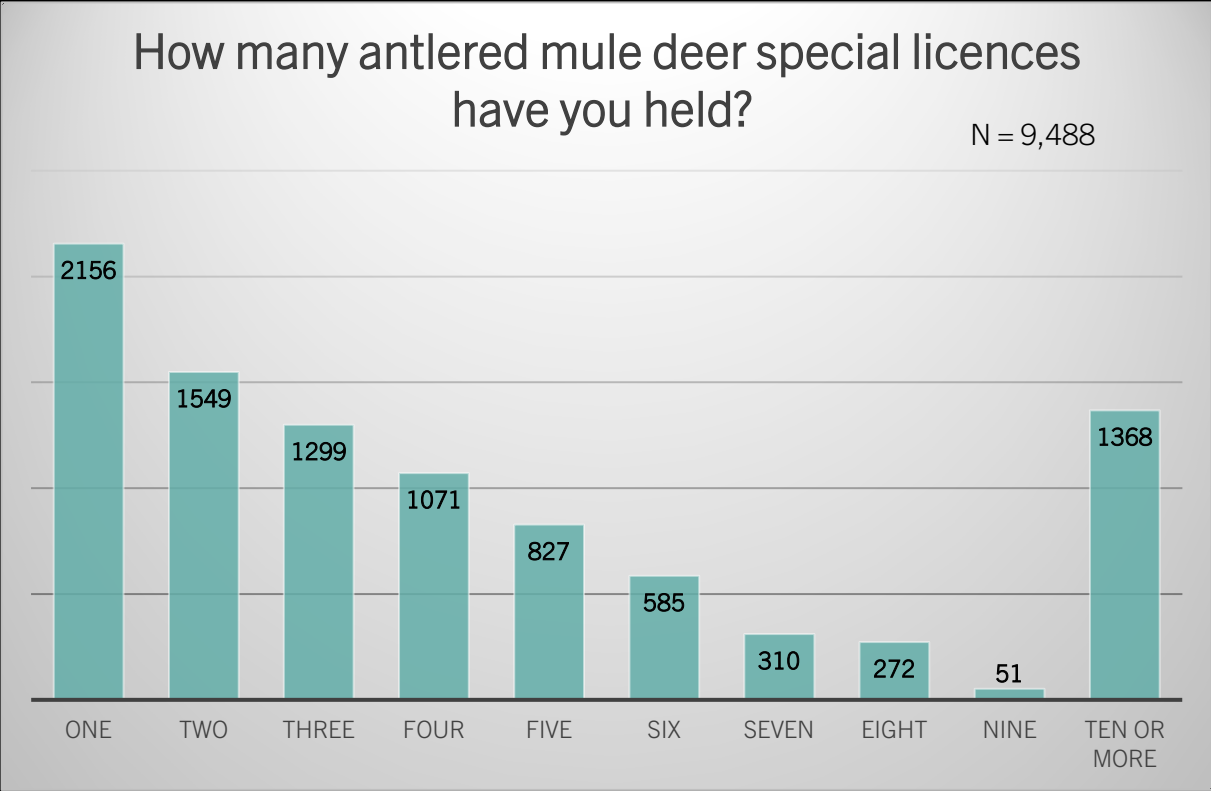
- The findings shown in this report are based on over 9,400 responses between September 5, 2023 and October 17, 2023.
- The mule deer survey was sent out to 26,400 antlered mule deer special licence holders from 2022, 2021 and 2020 that were registered in AlbertaRELM at the date of the release of the survey.
- All responses were received anonymously.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

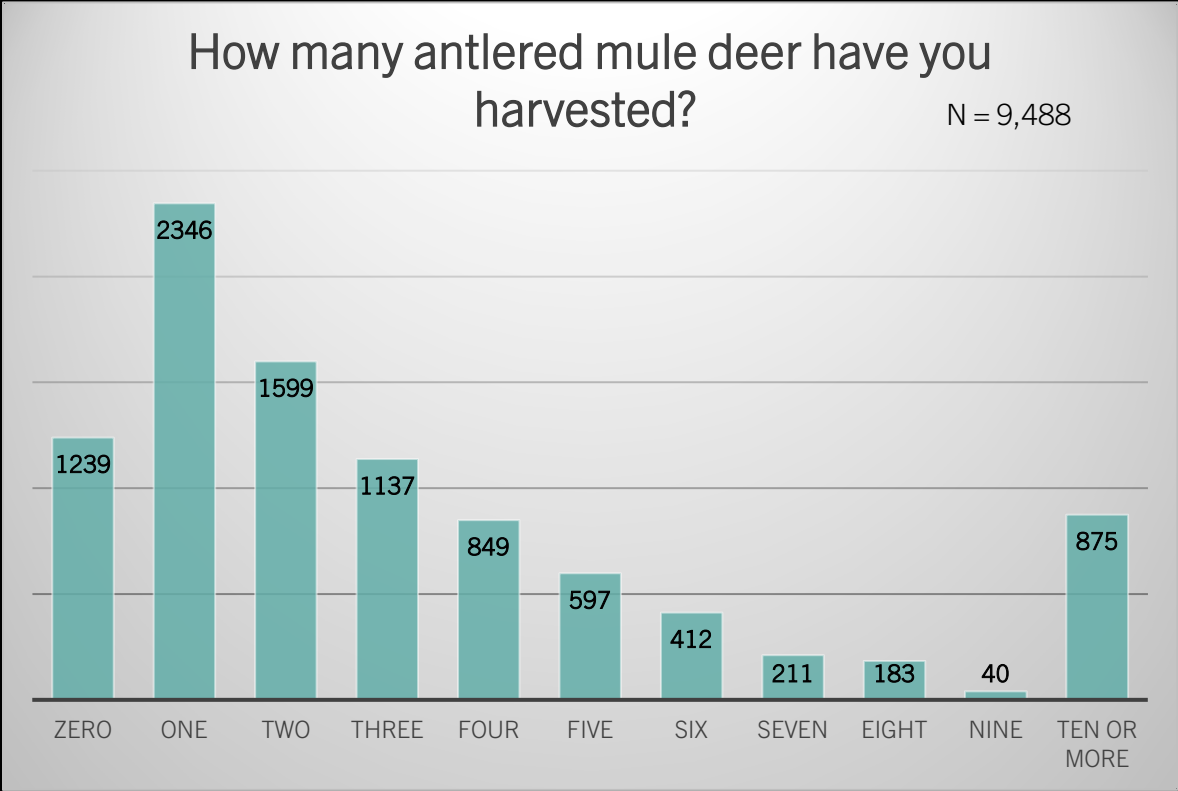
Age Range	Alberta Resident			Canadian Resident		
	Male	Female	Prefer Not to Say	Male	Female	Prefer Not to Say
17 or under	12	2	1	1	0	0
18 - 24	200	31	1	3	2	0
25 - 34	953	114	4	25	1	0
35 - 44	1825	116	8	33	1	0
45 - 54	1881	83	5	55	0	0
55 - 64	1909	65	6	63	2	1
65 or older	1904	43	5	91	1	0
prefer not to say	15	1	24	0	0	1
Total	8699	455	54	271	7	2

Total respondents to the online survey totaled 9,488, with 8,699 (91.7%) of respondents being Alberta resident male, 455 (4.8%) being Alberta resident female, 54 (0.6%) being Alberta residents preferring not to specify gender, 271 (2.9%) being Canadian resident male, 7 (0.1%) being Canadian resident female, and 2 (0.0%) being Canadian residents preferring not to specify gender.

MULE DEER SPECIAL LICENCES HELD & HARVESTED

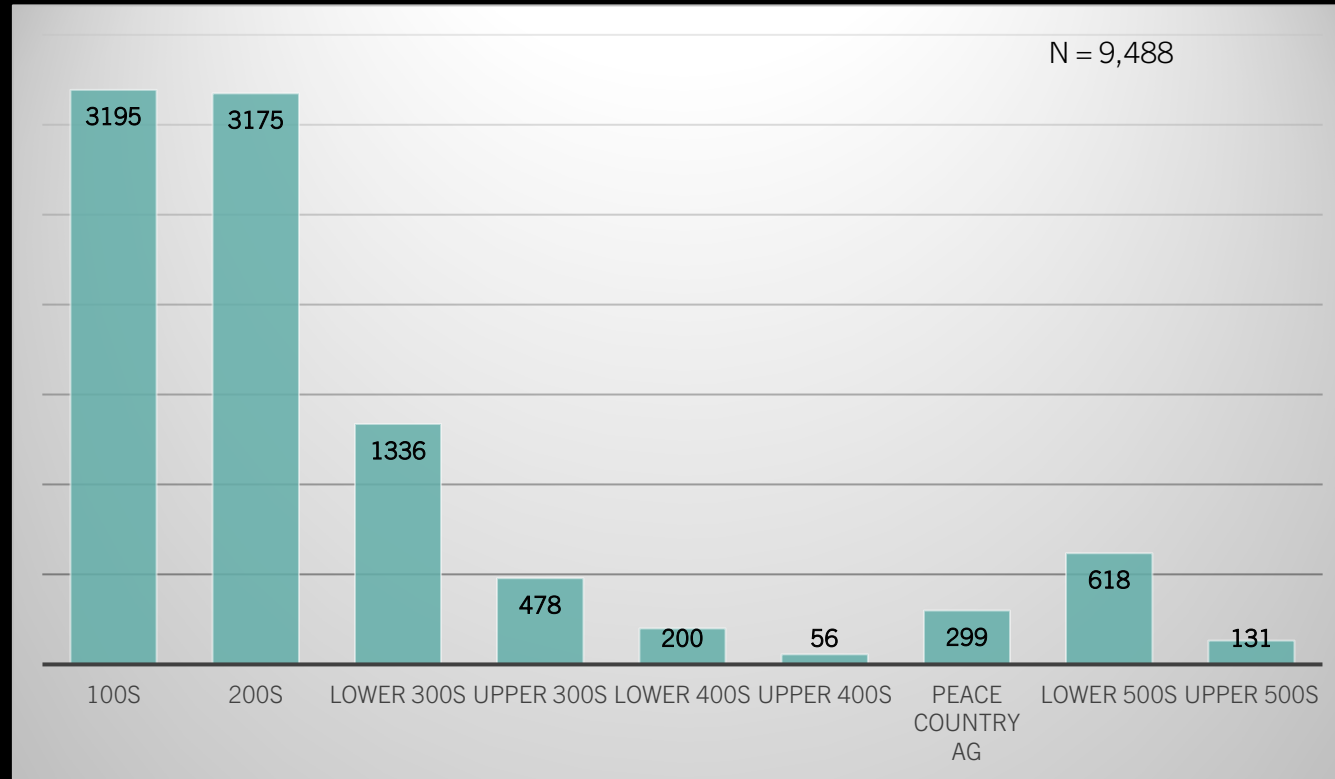


64.0% of respondents have held between one and four mule deer special licence(s), 21.6% of respondents have held between five and nine mule deer special licences, and 14.4% of respondents holding ten or more mule deer special licences.

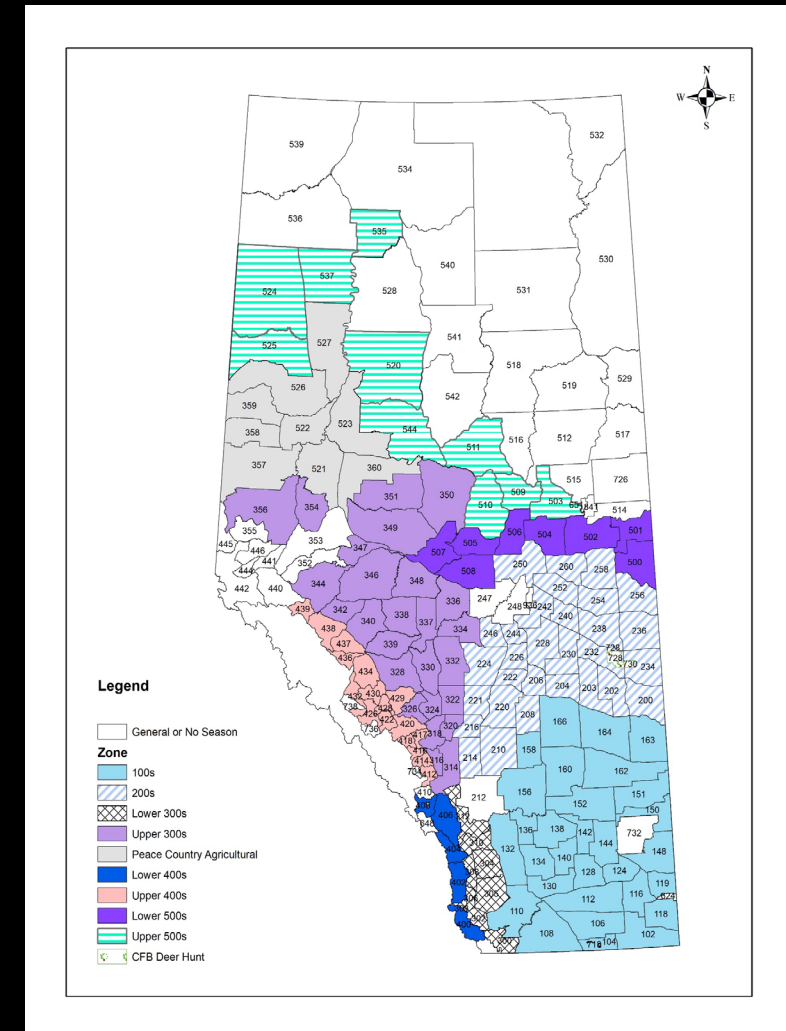


13.1% of respondents have not harvested an antlered mule deer, 62.5% of respondents have harvested between one and four antlered mule deer, 15.2% of respondents have harvested between five and nine antlered mule deer, and 9.2% of respondents have harvested ten or more antlered mule deer.

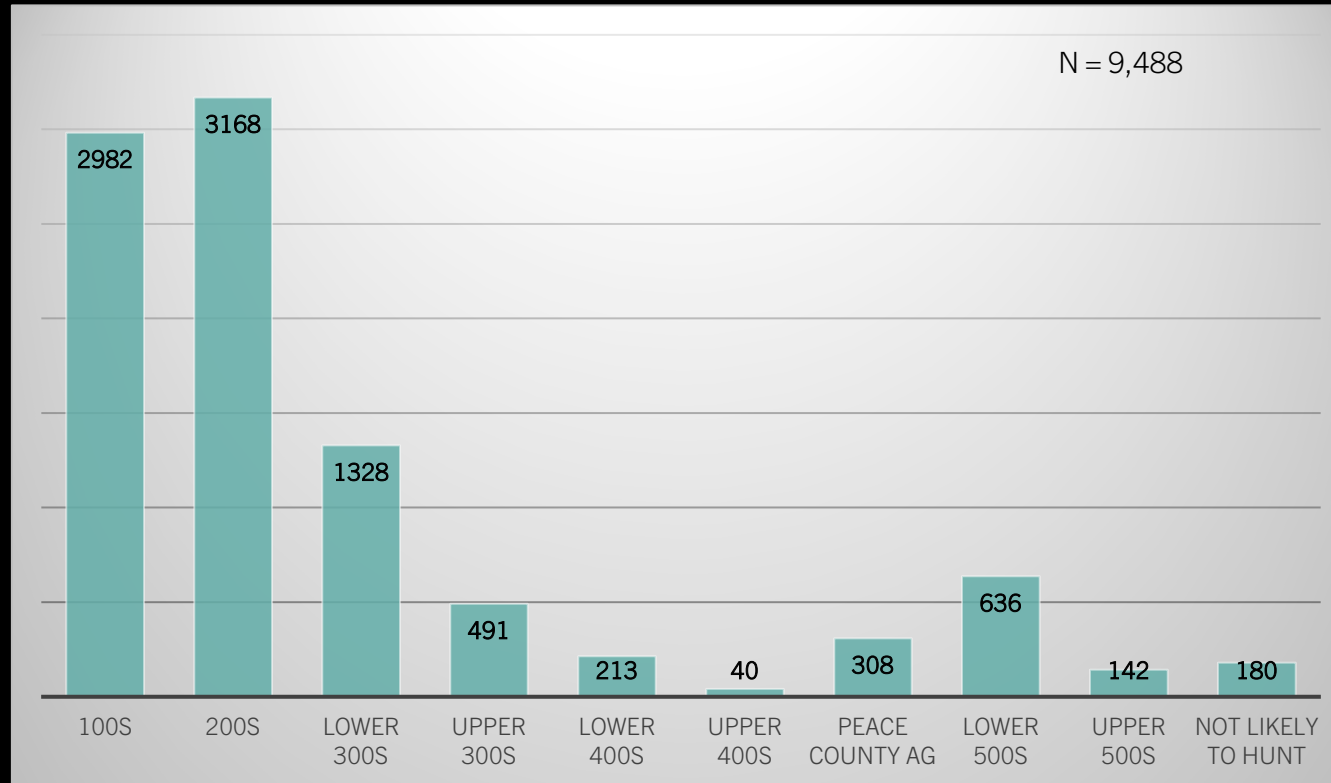
USING THE ZONE MAP, INDICATE THE ZONE YOU MOST RECENTLY HUNTED ANTLERED MULE DEER IN



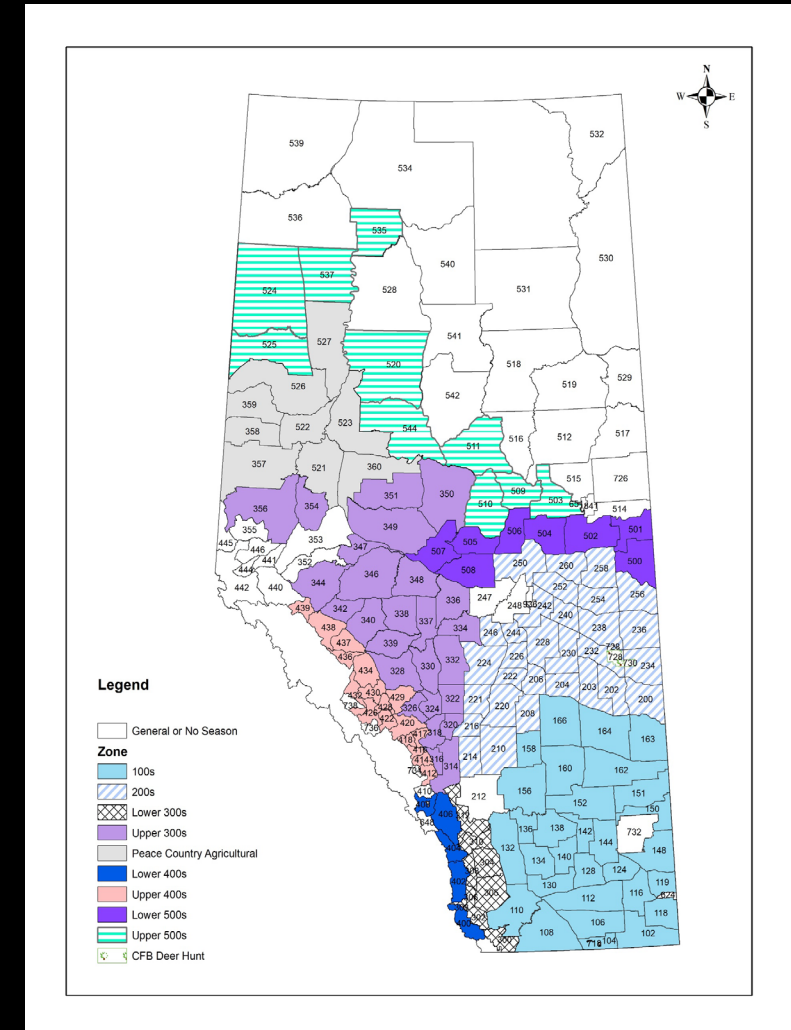
33.7% of respondents hunted antlered mule deer in the 100s zone, 33.5% of respondents hunted antlered mule deer in the 200s zone, 19.1% of respondents hunted antlered mule deer in the 300s zone, 2.7% of respondents hunted antlered mule deer in the 400s zone, 3.2% of respondents hunted antlered mule deer in the Peace Country Ag zone, and 7.9% of respondents hunted antlered mule deer in the 500s zone.



USING THE ZONE MAP, INDICATE THE ZONE YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO HUNT YOUR NEXT ANTLERED MULE DEER



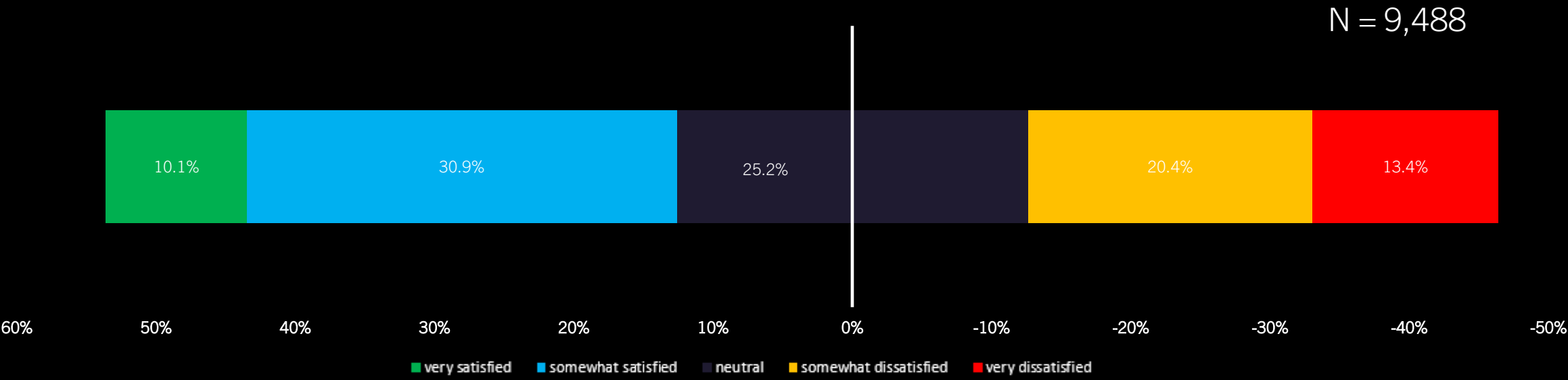
31.4% of respondents will most likely hunt their next mule deer in the 100s zone, 33.4% of respondents will most likely hunt their next mule deer in the 200s zone, 19.2% of respondents will most likely hunt their next mule deer in the 300s zone, 2.6% of respondents will most likely hunt their next mule deer in the 400s zone, 3.2% of respondents will most likely hunt their next mule deer in the Peace Country Ag zone, 8.2% of respondents will most likely hunt their next mule deer in the 500s zone, 1.9% of respondents are likely not to hunt in the next year.



HUNT ZONE RETURN RATE

Zone	Most Recent Hunt	Most Likely Next Hunt	Hunt Zone Return Rate
100s	3195	2767	86.6%
200s	3175	2917	91.9%
Lower 300s	1336	1119	83.8%
Lower 400s	200	148	74.0%
Lower 500s	618	538	87.1%
Peace Country Agricultural	299	268	89.6%
Upper 300s	478	388	81.2%
Upper 400s	56	28	50.0%
Upper 500s	131	109	83.2%

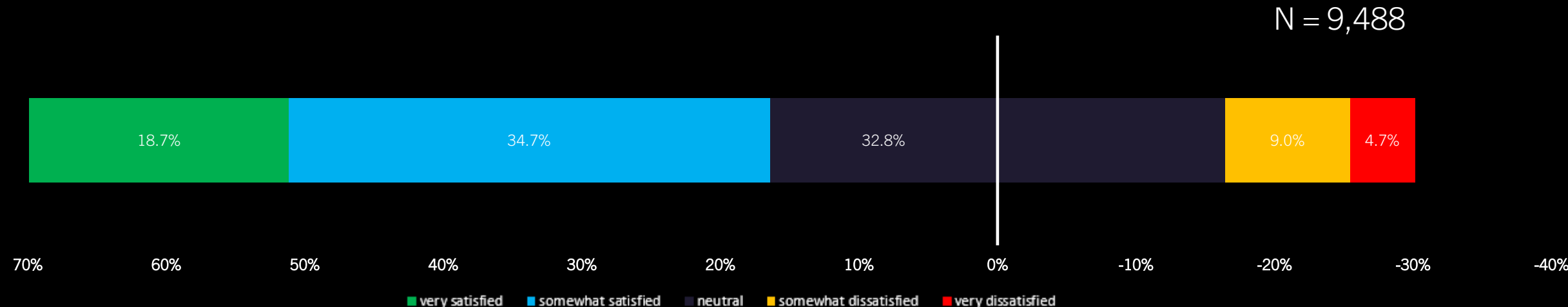
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT PROVINCIAL ANTLERED MULE DEER DRAW WAIT TIMES?



41.0% of respondents are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the current provincial mule deer draw rates, 25.2% of respondents are neutral with the current provincial mule deer draw rates, and 33.8% of respondents are somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the current provincial mule deer draw rates.

Mule Deer Management Zones (see map for specific WMUs in each zone)	Average number of priority points needed to be drawn within the zone (range across all WMU's in the zone in brackets)	2018 – 2022 Hunter success rates for antlered mule deer
100's	4 (2-9)	73%
200's	4 (2-9)	56%
Lower 300's	4 (2-7)	69%
Lower 400's	5 (3-6)	39%
Lower 500's	7 (3-10)	52%
Peace Ag	7 (3-10)	60%
Upper 300's	5 (2-10)	31%
Upper 400's	3 (0-6)	19%
Upper 500's	2 (0-7)	29%

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT HUNTER SUCCESS RATES?

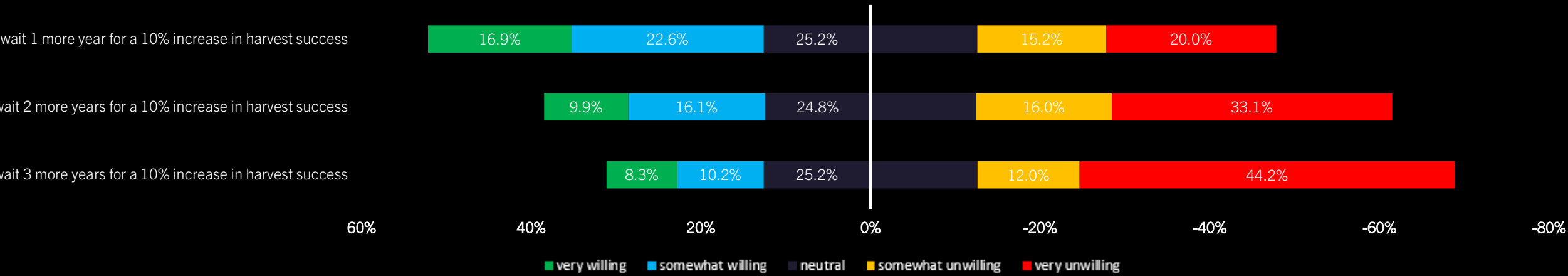


53.4% of respondents are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the current hunter success rates, 32.8% of respondents are neutral with the current hunter success rates, and 13.7% of respondents are somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the current hunter success rates.

Mule Deer Management Zones (see map for specific WMUs in each zone)	Average number of priority points needed to be drawn within the zone (range across all WMU's in the zone in brackets)	2018 – 2022 Hunter success rates for antlered mule deer
100's	4 (2-9)	73%
200's	4 (2-9)	56%
Lower 300's	4 (2-7)	69%
Lower 400's	5 (3-6)	39%
Lower 500's	7 (3-10)	52%
Peace Ag	7 (3-10)	60%
Upper 300's	5 (2-10)	31%
Upper 400's	3 (0-6)	19%
Upper 500's	2 (0-7)	29%

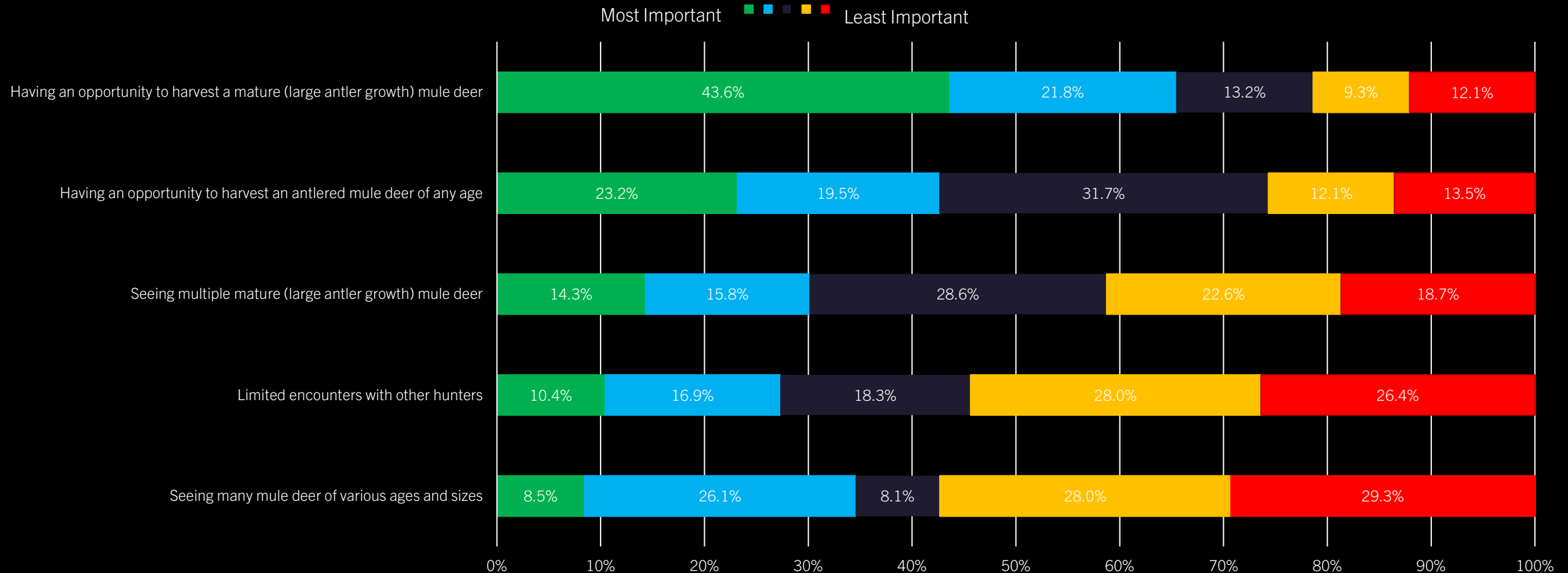
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO WAIT TO DRAW AN ANTLERED MULE DEER SPECIAL LICENCE, IF IT MEANS THAT YOU HAD AN INCREASED CHANCE OF HARVESTING A MORE MATURE BUCK?

N = 9,488

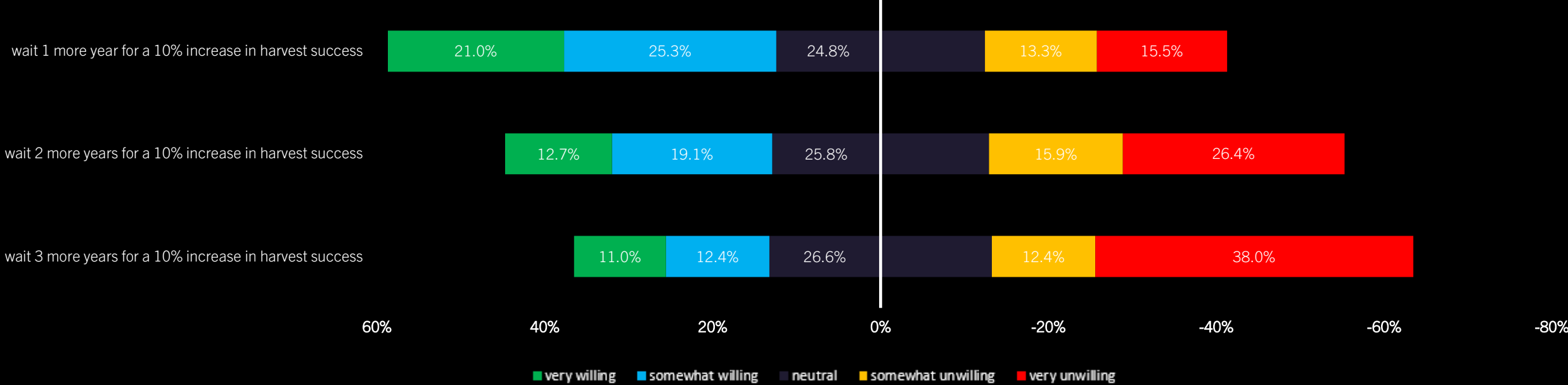


39.5% of respondents are willing to wait 1 more year for a 10% increase in harvest success of a more mature buck. 35.2% of respondents are unwilling to wait 1 more year for a 10% increase in harvest success of a more mature buck, and 25.2% of respondents are neutral. Results steadily decrease in willingness after 1 year, with waiting 2 years being only 26.0% and waiting 3 years further declining to 18.5%.

WHEN HUNTING ANTLERED MULE DEER, HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING FACTORS IN DETERMINING YOUR OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE HUNT? (1 – MOST IMPORTANT, 5 – LEAST IMPORTANT)



HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST A MATURE (LARGE ANTLER GROWTH) MULE DEER AND WILLINGNESS TO WAIT LONGER

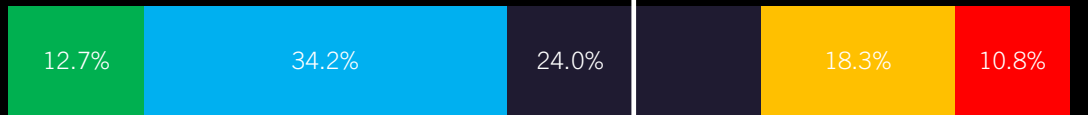


46.3% of respondents who answered having an opportunity to harvest a mature mule deer as most important factor are willing to wait 1 more year for a 10% increase in harvest success. Waiting 2 more years for a 10% increase in harvest success decreases the willingness by 14.5%, to 31.8% of respondents. Willingness is further decreased if waiting 3 more years, to 23.4%, a decrease from waiting 1 year to waiting 3 years of 49%.

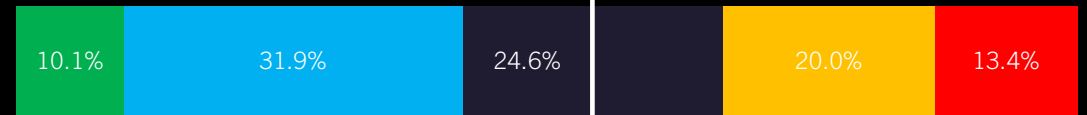


ZONE ANALYSIS
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT
PROVINCIAL ANTLERED MULE DEER DRAW
WAIT TIMES? (BASED ON ZONE MOST LIKELY
TO HUNT NEXT ANTLERED MULE DEER)

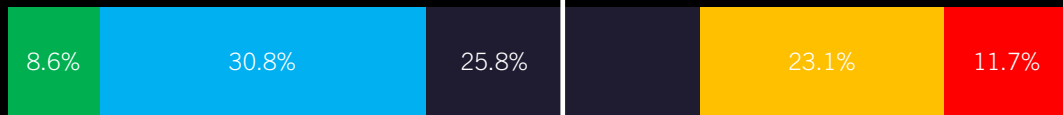
100s



200s



Lower 300s



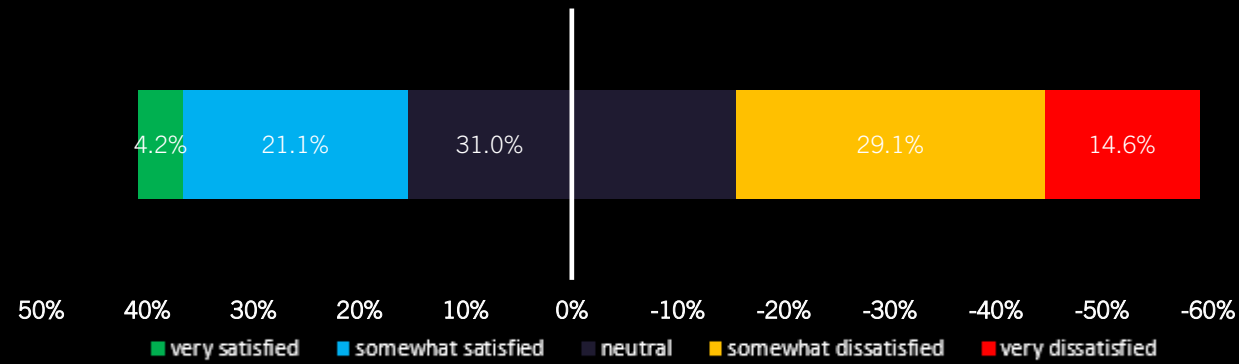
Upper 300s



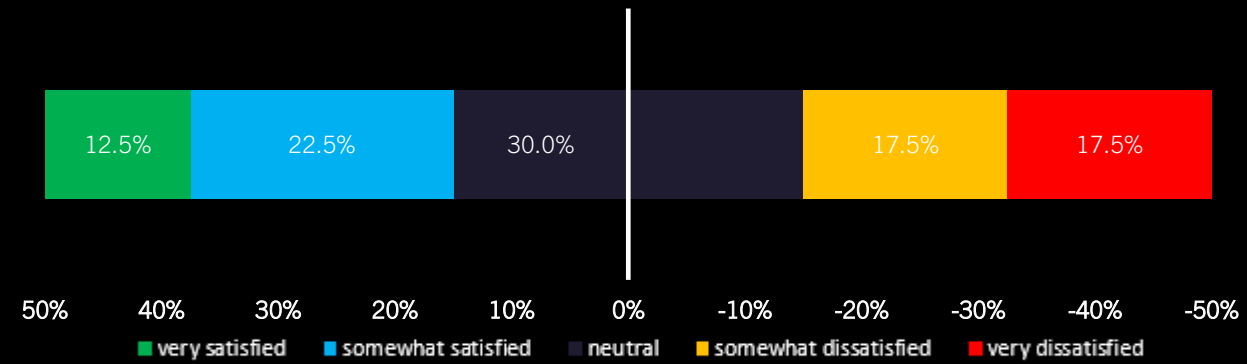
Peace Country Ag



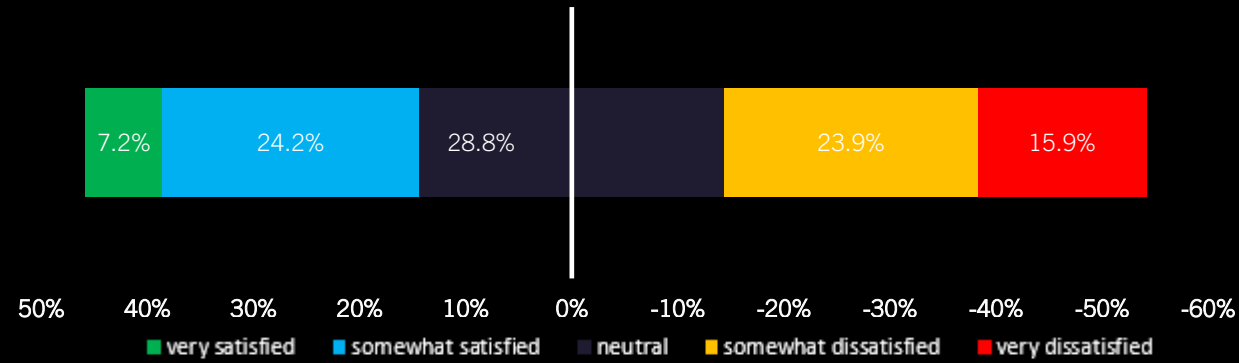
Lower 400s



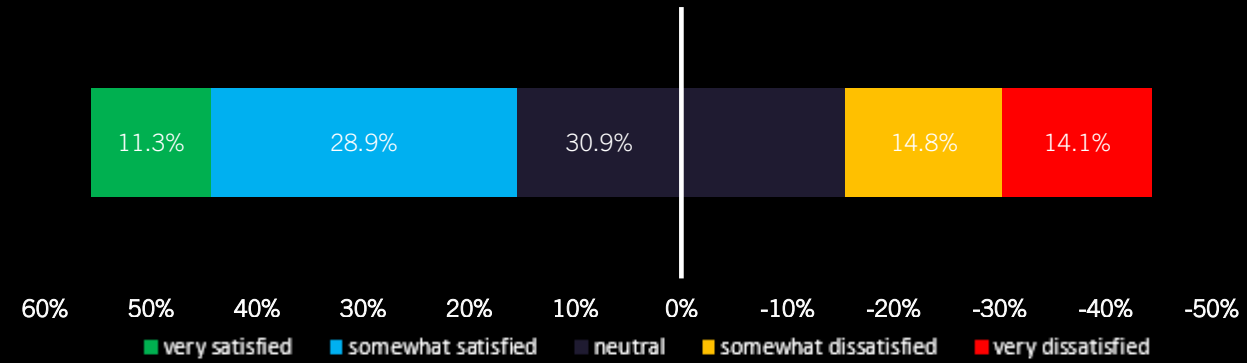
Upper 400s



Lower 500s



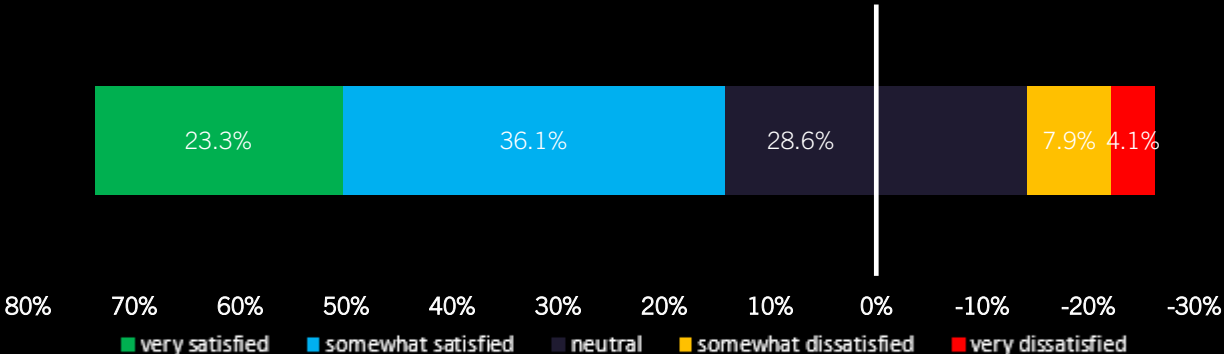
Upper 500s



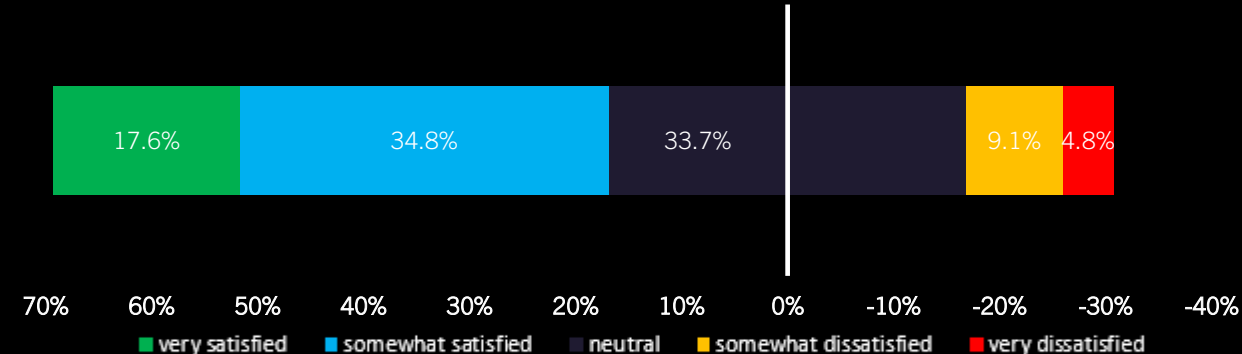


ZONE ANALYSIS
ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT
HUNTER SUCCESS RATES?(BASED ON ZONE
MOST LIKELY TO HUNT NEXT ANTLERED
MULE DEER)

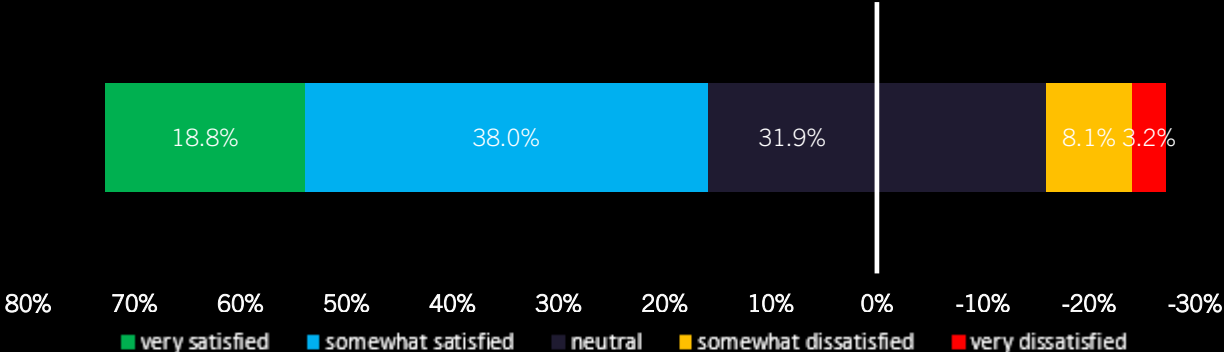
100s



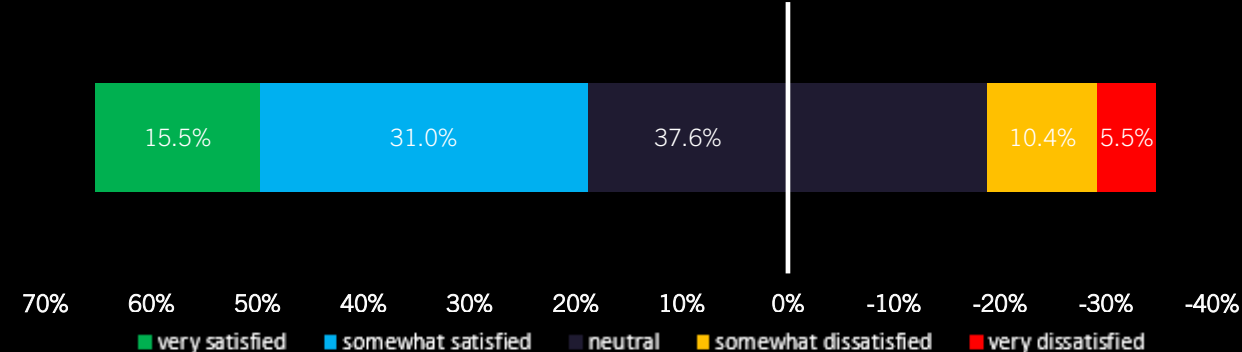
200s



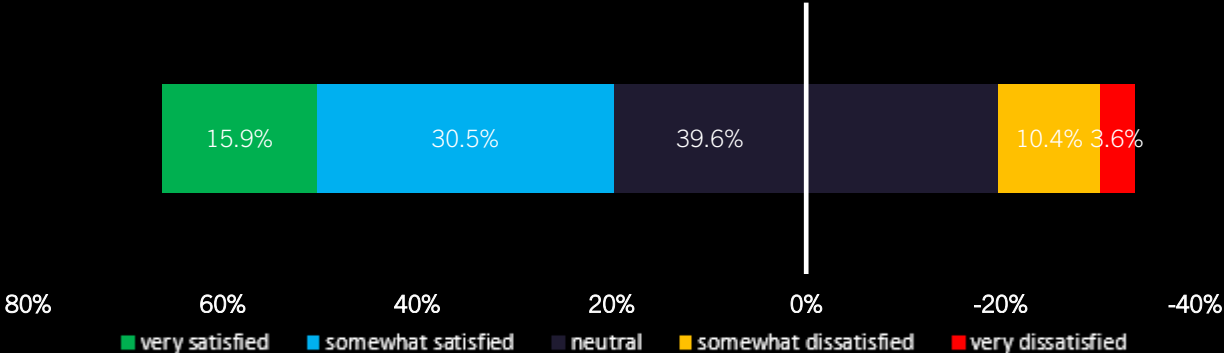
Lower 300s



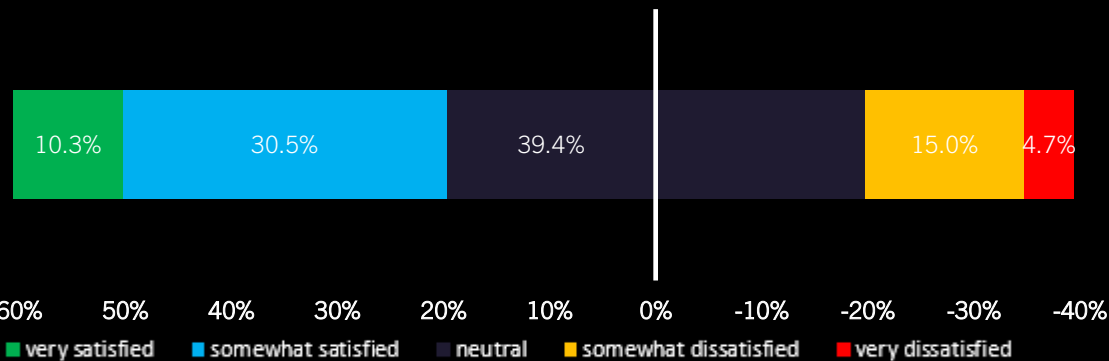
Upper 300s



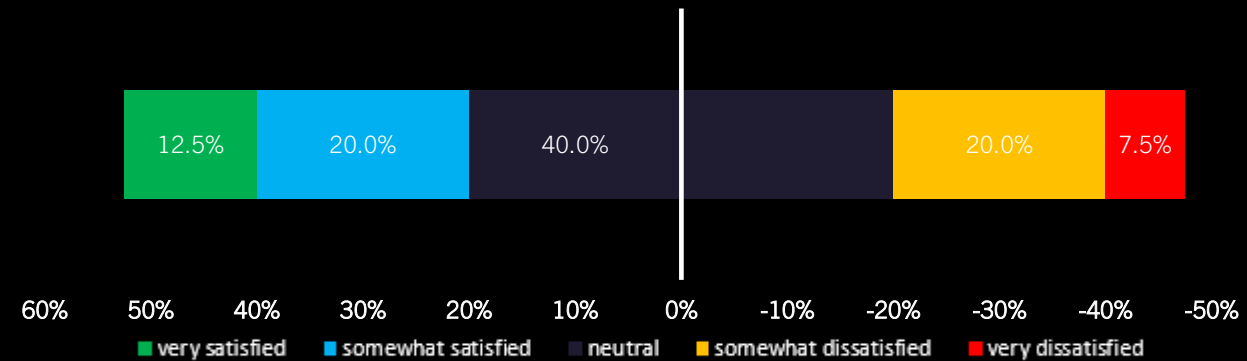
Peace Country Ag



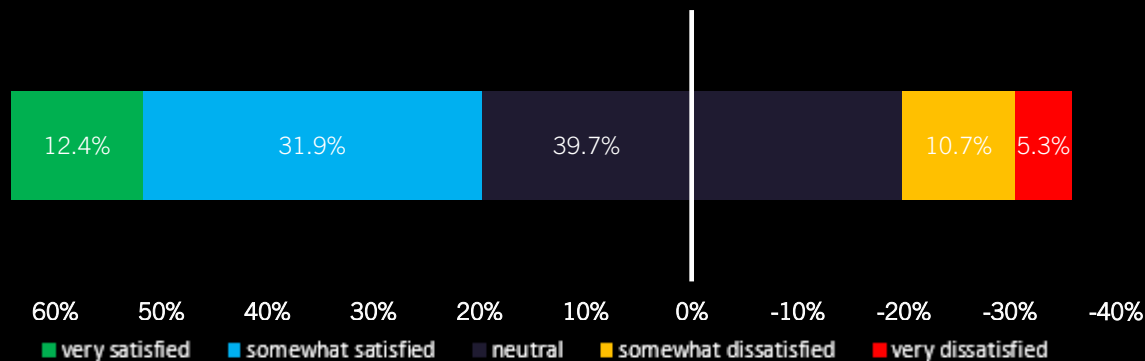
Lower 400s



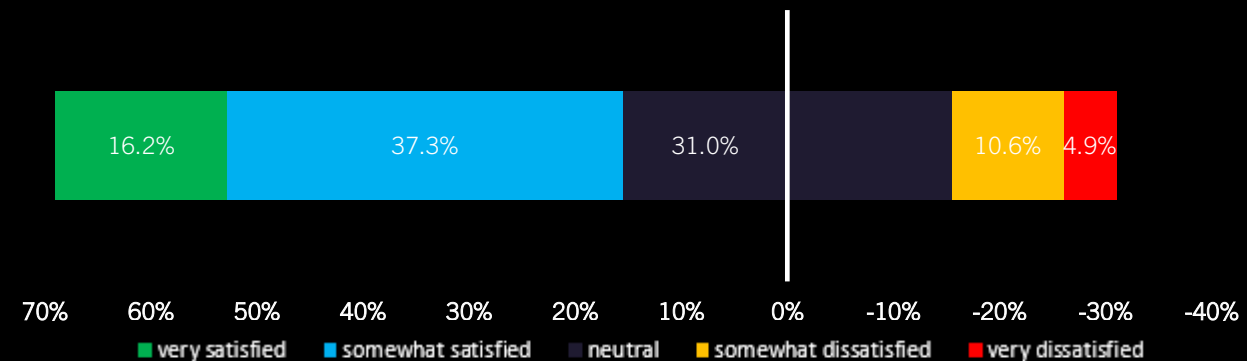
Upper 400s

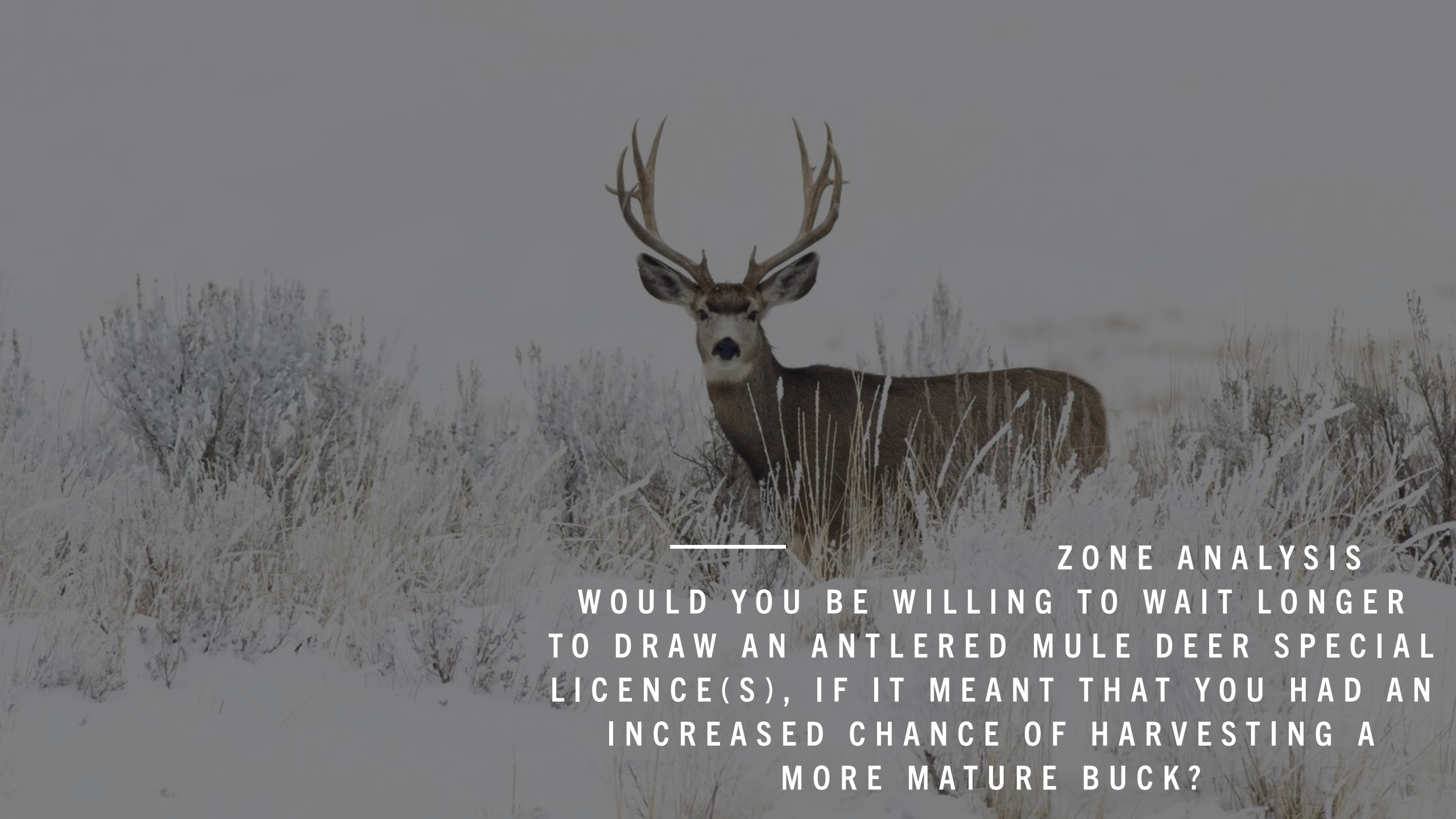


Lower 500s



Upper 500s

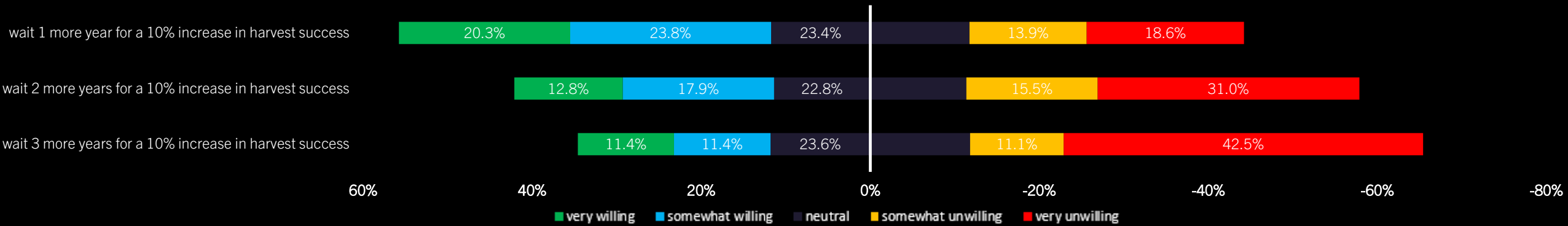




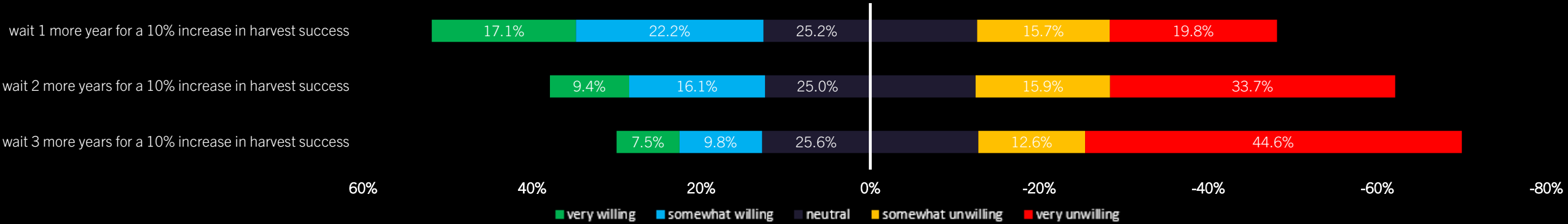
ZONE ANALYSIS

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO WAIT LONGER
TO DRAW AN ANTLERED MULE DEER SPECIAL
LICENCE(S), IF IT MEANT THAT YOU HAD AN
INCREASED CHANCE OF HARVESTING A
MORE MATURE BUCK?

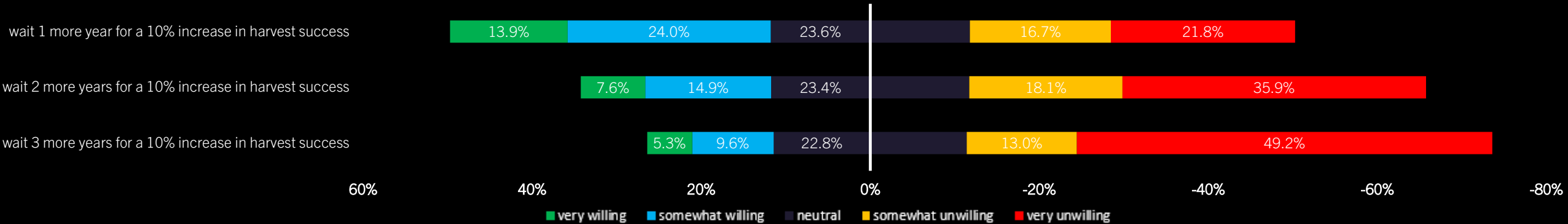
100s



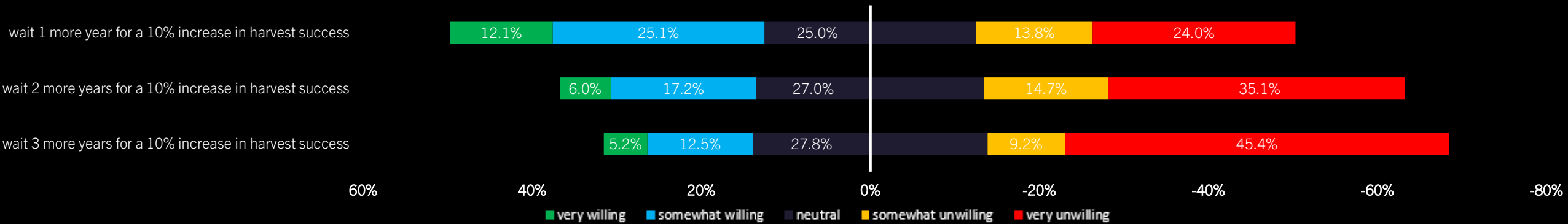
200s



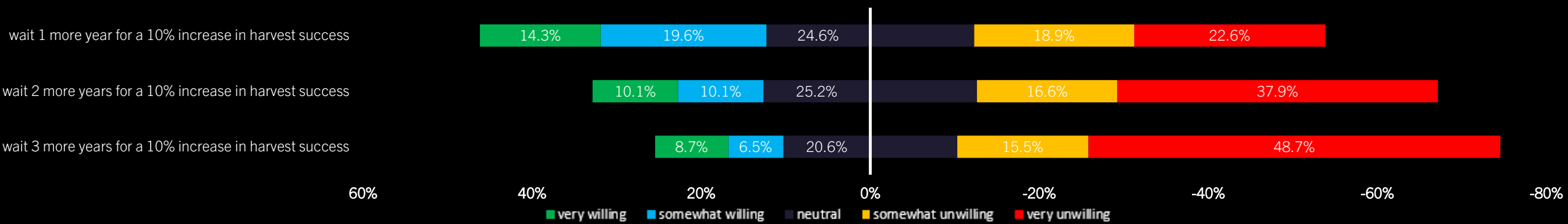
Lower 300s



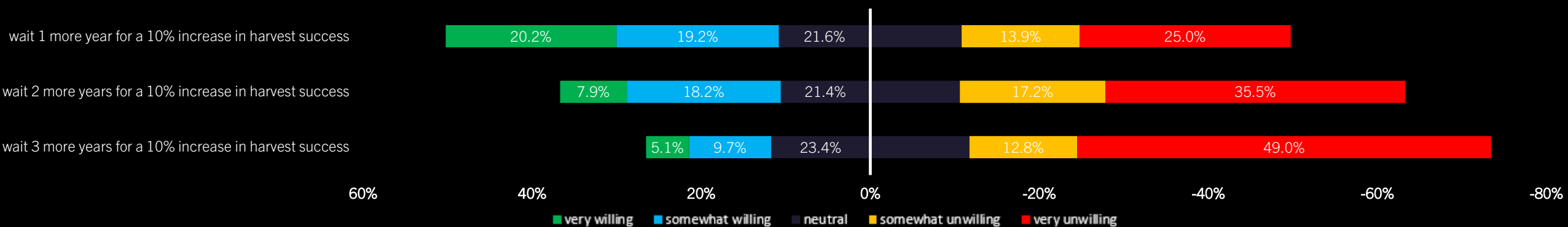
Upper 300s



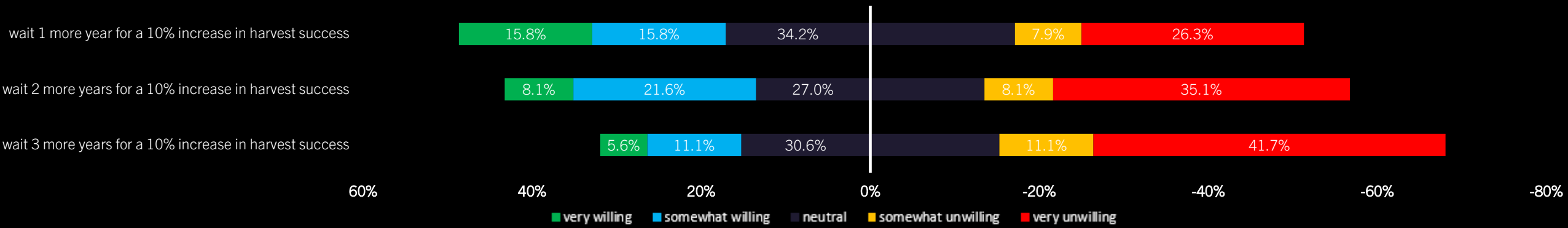
Peace Country Ag



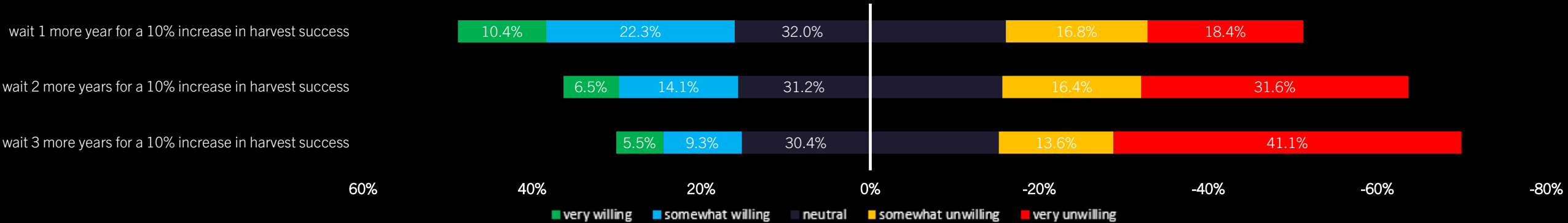
Lower 400s



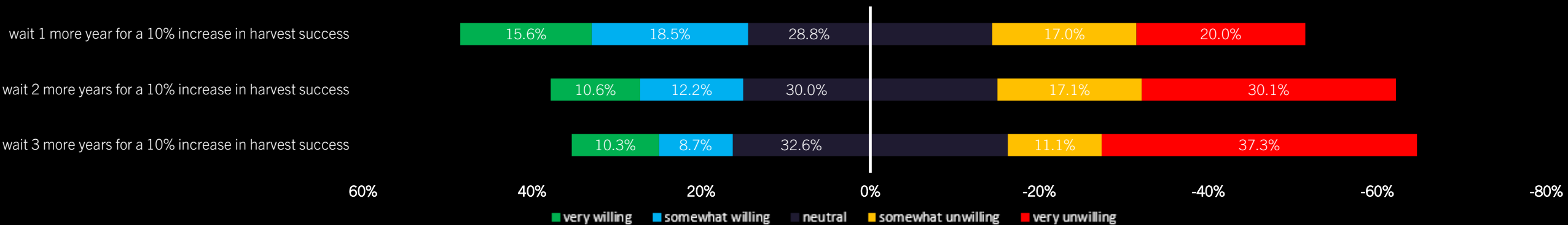
Upper 400s



Lower 500s



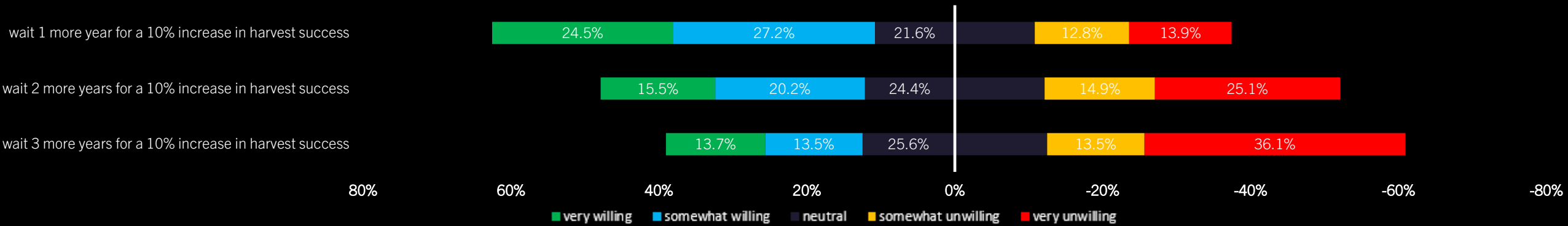
Upper 500s



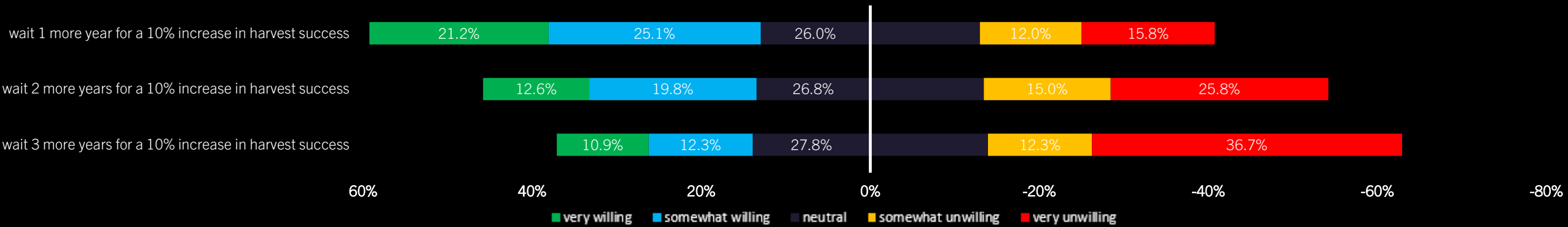


ZONE ANALYSIS
HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO HARVEST A
MATURE (LARGE ANTLER GROWTH) MULE
DEER AND WILLINGNESS TO WAIT LONGER
TO DRAW AN ANTLERED MULE DEER SPECIAL
LICENCE WITH AN INCREASED CHANCE OF
HARVEST RATE.

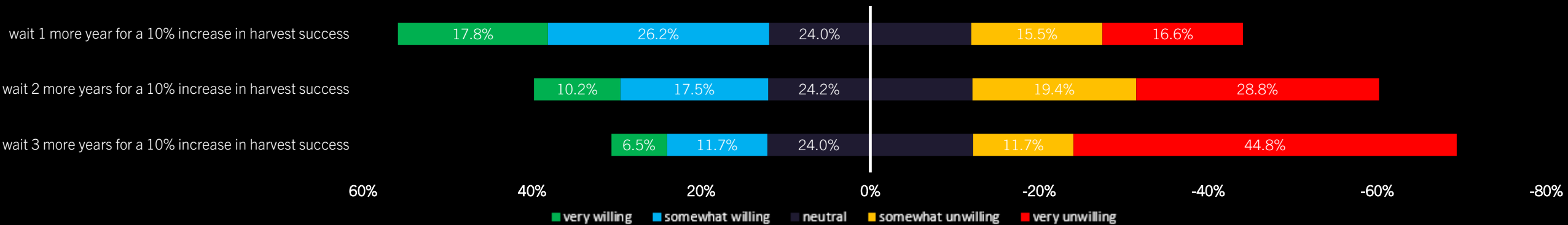
100s



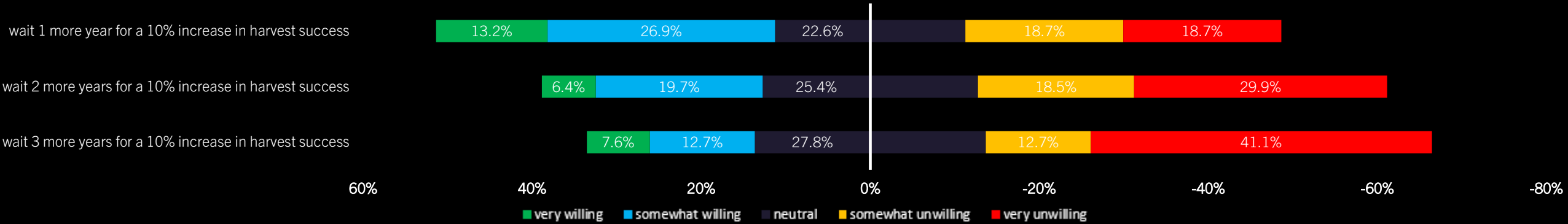
200s



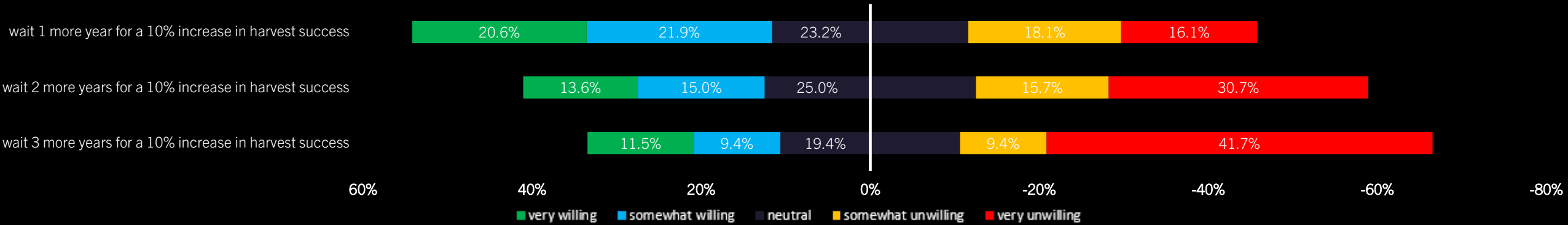
Lower 300s



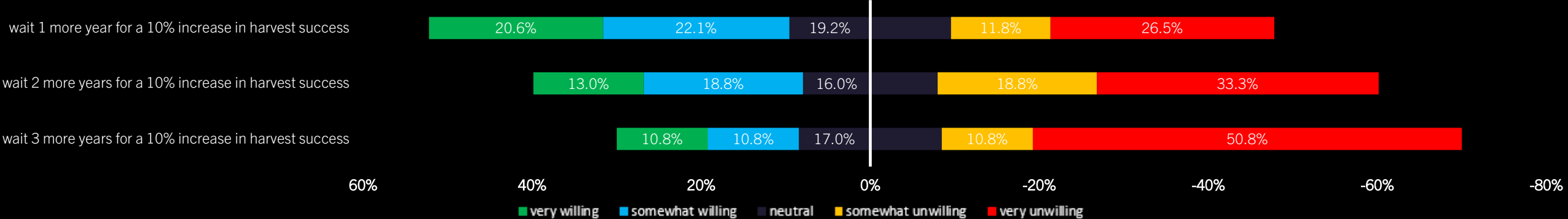
Upper 300s



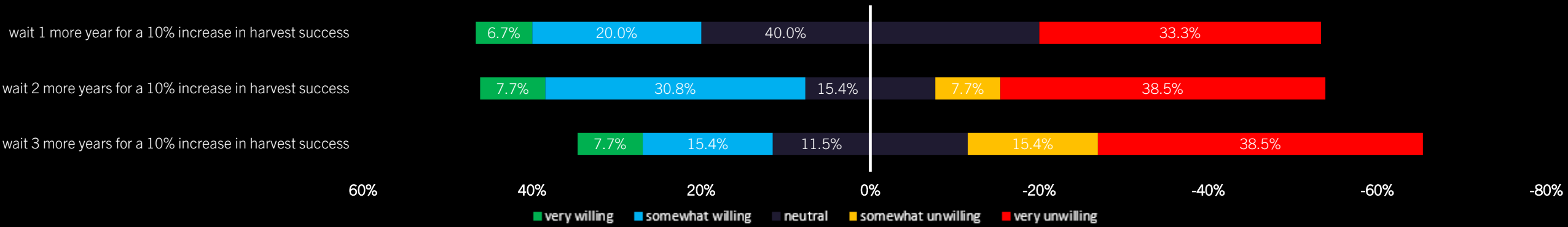
Peace Country Ag



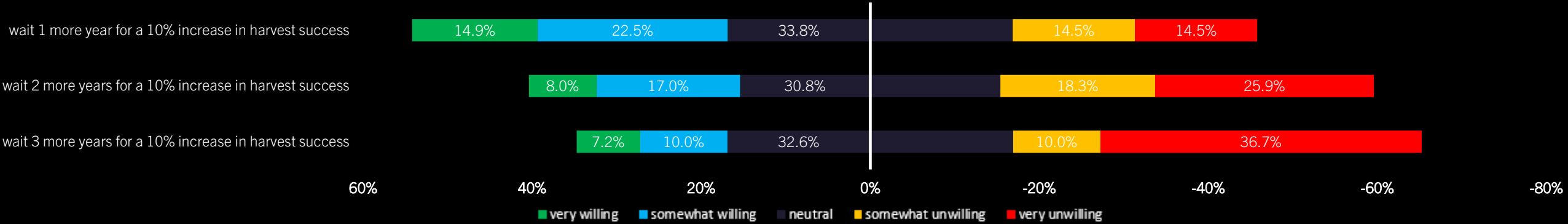
Lower 400s



Upper 400s



Lower 500s



Upper 500s

