

**2005 Arkansas
Nongame Wildlife Conservation
Survey**

by

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2005 Arkansas Non-Game Wildlife Conservation Survey

Introduction

At the request of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and their partners, the UALR Institute of Government Survey Research Center (SRC) conducted a telephone survey between January 31 and February 19, 2005. The purpose of the survey was to obtain data and information relating to Arkansans' opinions on wildlife issues. The information provided in this report will be used in planning how to manage Arkansas wildlife. AGFC Conservation Committee and SRC developed all questions used in the survey jointly.

Using a combination of screening questions, samples were developed for groups: State General Adults - adults over 18 years of age residing in the state of Arkansas; and Rural Landowners - adults over 18 years of age who own 5 acres or more of land in Arkansas and reside in Arkansas outside of the six Metropolitan Statistical Areas (i.e. not in Washington or Benton; Crawford or Sebastian; Faulkner, Saline, Pulaski, or Lonoke; Jefferson; Crittenden; or Miller counties.) A total of 413 (State General Adults) and 402 (Rural Landowners) interviews were conducted, which provide a potential for sampling error of ± 5 percent at the conventional 95 percent confidence interval. For example, if a survey showed that 49 percent of a sample indicated that they were "Very Interested" in the wild animals that live in Arkansas, we can be 95 percent confident that the comparative figure for the entire population would be between 44 percent and 53 percent.

The State General Adults and Rural Landowners samples were weighted independently for gender and age group. The 2000 Census on Population and Housing provided the sample estimates that formed the basis for weighting. The age groups were 18 to 24 years of age, 25 to 39, 40 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 and over. Descriptive data analysis included frequency distributions and cross-tabulations of data broken down by group.

Chi-square was performed on valid responses to determine whether significant differences (0.05 level) existed between the two samples.

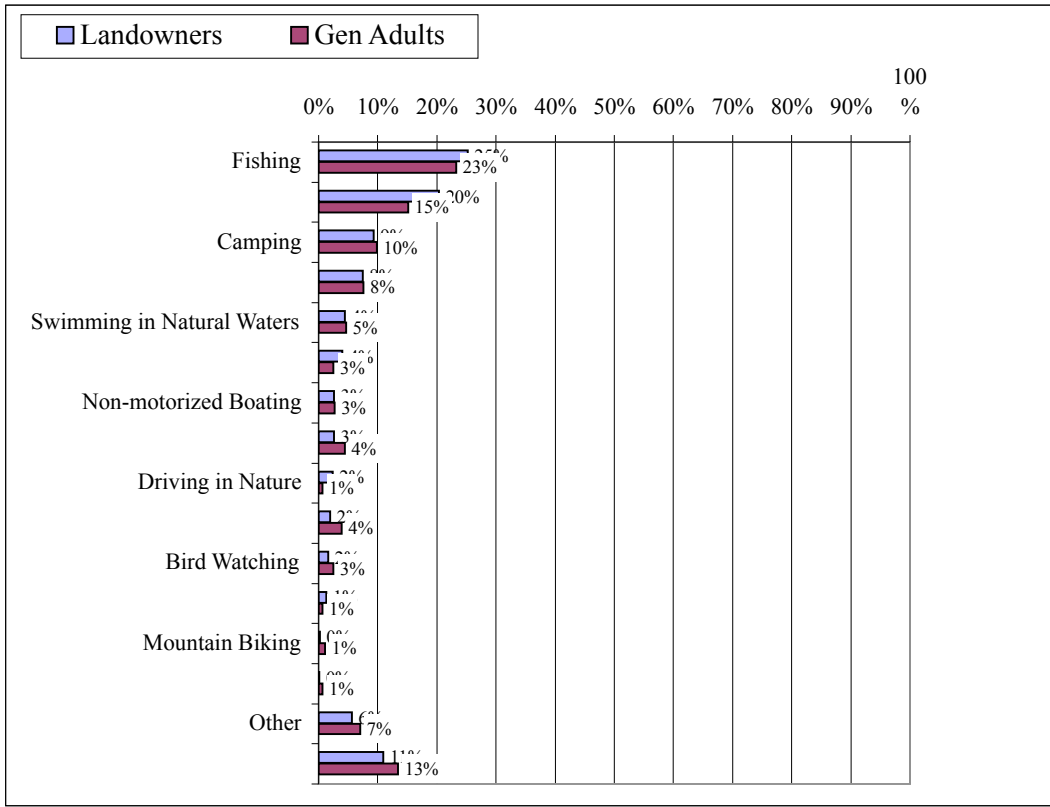
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Outdoor Recreation

What outdoor recreational activities or hobbies did you participate in during the last 12 months in Arkansas?



Highlights

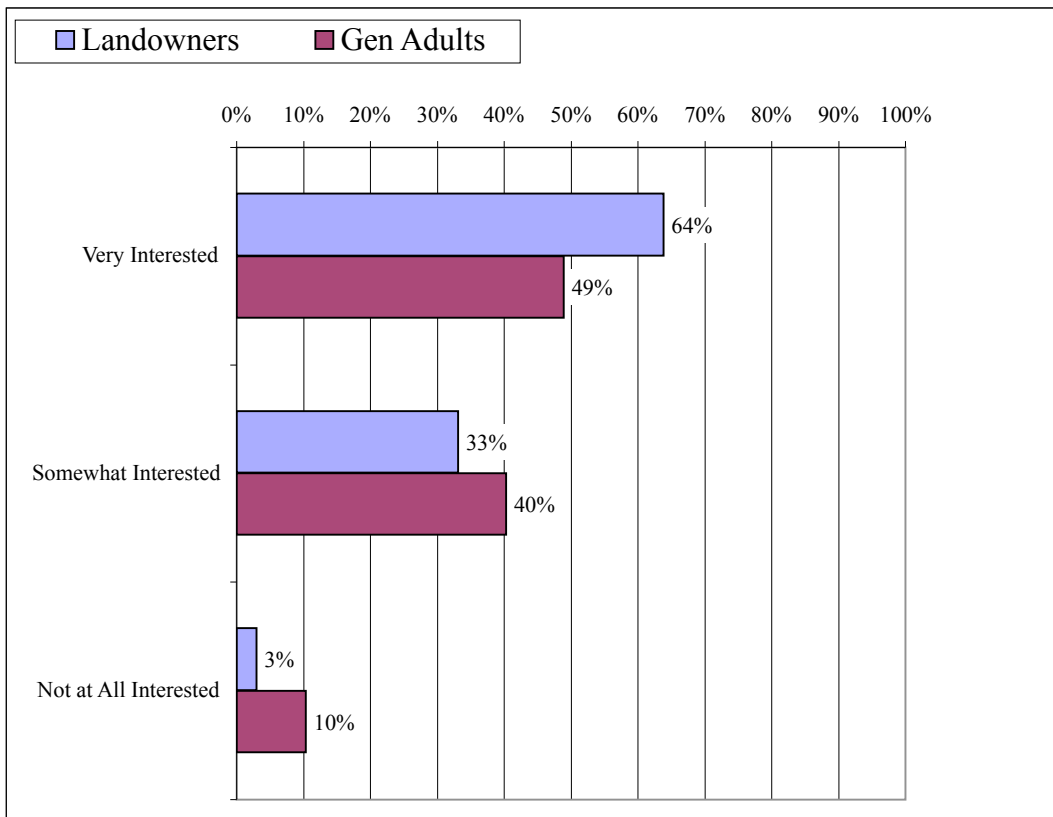
Fishing and hunting were the most frequently named outdoor recreational activities. Of the 735 times that Rural respondents named an outdoor activity, 25% named fishing; 20%, hunting. Of the 723 times when statewide respondents named an activity, 23% indicated fishing; 15%, hunting.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Fishing	25%	23%
Hunting	20%	15%
Camping	9%	10%
Hiking	8%	8%
Swimming in Natural Waters	4%	5%
Riding Off-road Vehicles	4%	3%
Non-motorized Boating	3%	3%
Motor Boating	3%	4%
Driving in Nature	2%	1%
Visiting a State Park	2%	4%
Bird Watching	2%	3%
Wildlife Watching	1%	1%
Mountain Biking	0%	1%
Nature Center Visit	0%	1%
Other	6%	7%
None	11%	13%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Interest in Wild Animals

How interested are you in the wild animals that live in Arkansas?



Highlights

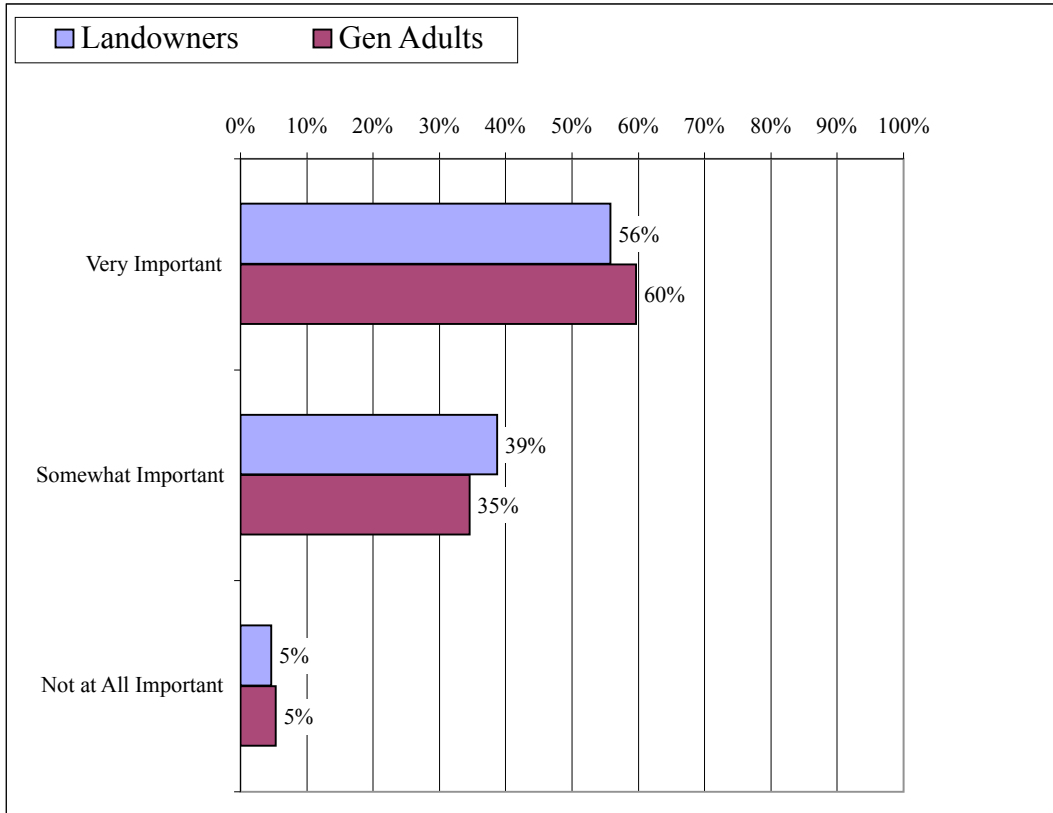
- ❑ The majority of respondents were interested in wild animals that live in Arkansas.
- ❑ Rural Arkansans (64% very interested) were significantly more interested in the state's wild animals than statewide respondents (49% very interested) were.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Interested	64%	49%
Somewhat Interested	33%	40%
Not at All Interested	3%	10%
Don't Know	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Non-game Wildlife Maintenance

How important is it to you that Arkansans maintain healthy populations of nongame wildlife?



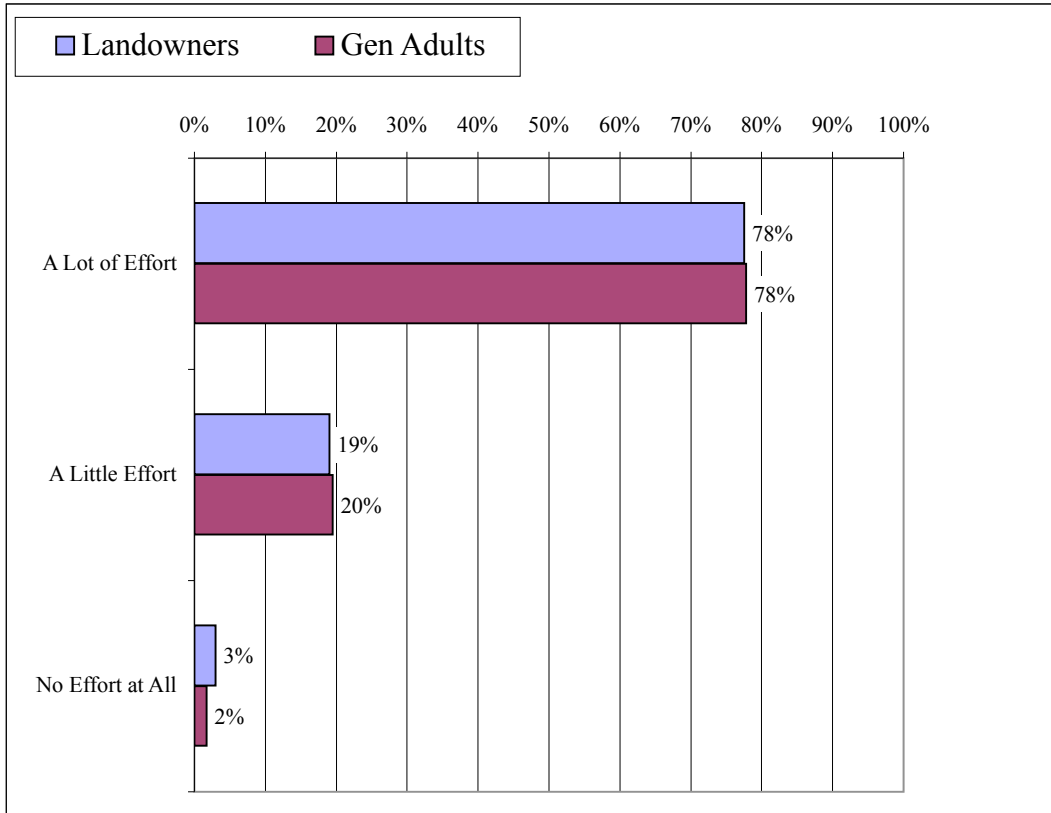
Highlights

- Most respondents of both groups, 56% of Rural and 60% of State, find it very important that Arkansans maintain healthy populations of non-game wildlife.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Important	56%	60%
Somewhat Important	39%	35%
Not at All Important	5%	5%
Don't Know	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Birds

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about birds such as songbirds and owls ...



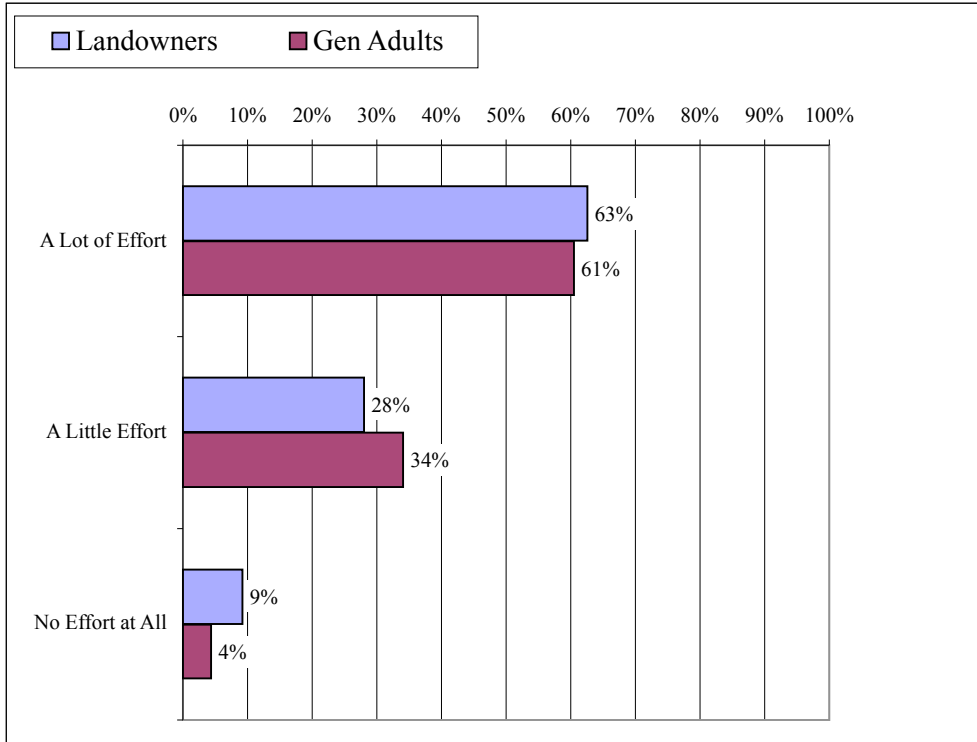
Highlights

- ❑ A clear majority of both groups (78% each) believe that a lot of effort should be made to maintain healthy bird populations.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	78%	78%
A Little Effort	19%	20%
No Effort at All	3%	2%
Don't Know	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Insects

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about insects such as butterflies and dragonflies ...



Highlights

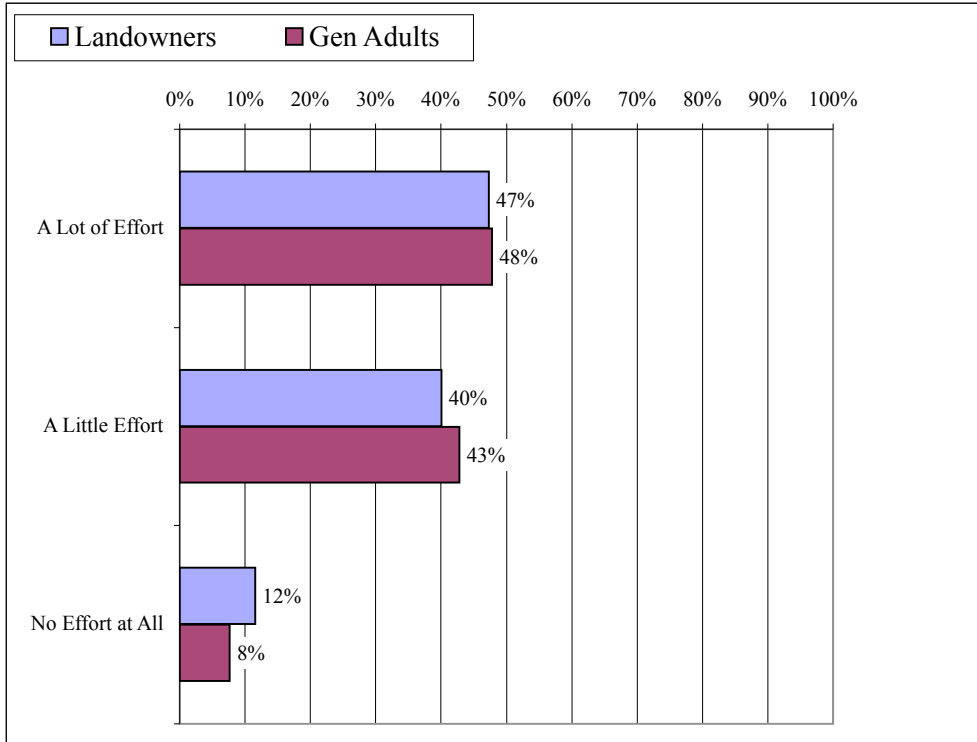
- ❑ Over half of both Rural (63%) and State (61%) respondents believe that a lot of effort should be made to maintain healthy insect populations.
- ❑ The two groups differed, however, in that the State group's overall opinion about effort, whether a little or a lot, was stronger at 95% than the Rural group's opinion at 91%.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	63%	61%
A Little Effort	28%	34%
No Effort at All	9%	4%
Don't Know	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Effort to Maintain Amphibians

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about amphibians such as frogs and salamanders ...



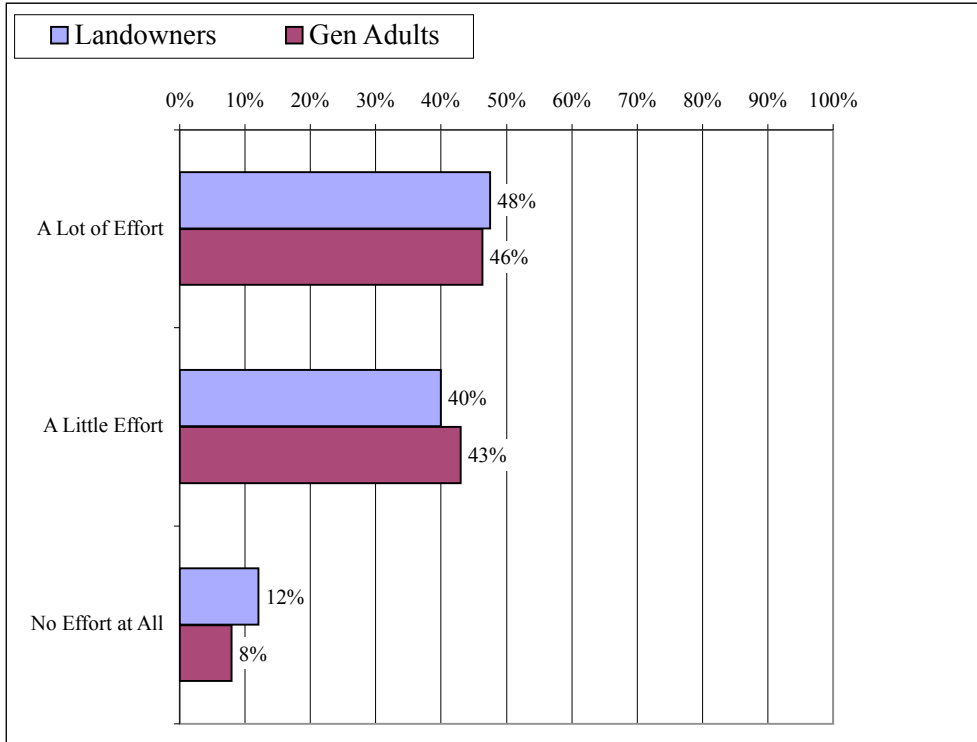
Highlights

- ❑ Nearly half of both groups, 47% of Rural respondents and 48% of State, believe that a lot of effort should be made to maintain healthy amphibian populations.
- ❑ Additional, sizable portions of each group, 40% of Rural and 43% of State, thought that a little effort should be devoted to this purpose.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	47%	48%
A Little Effort	40%	43%
No Effort at All	12%	8%
Don't Know	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Aquatic Animals

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about aquatic animals such as crawfish and mussels ...



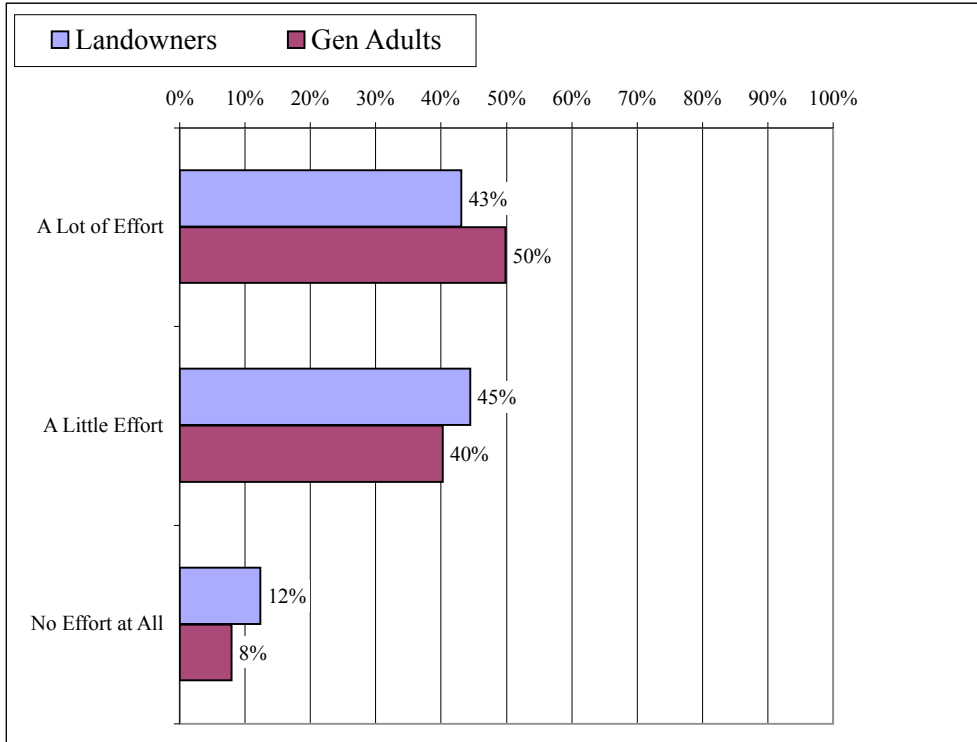
Highlights

- ❑ Almost half of each group, 48% of Rural and 46% of State, believed that a lot of effort should be made to maintain healthy aquatic animal populations.
- ❑ An additional 40% of Rural and 43% of State believed that a little effort should be made.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	48%	46%
A Little Effort	40%	43%
No Effort at All	12%	8%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	3%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Reptiles

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about reptiles such as turtles and lizards ...



Highlights

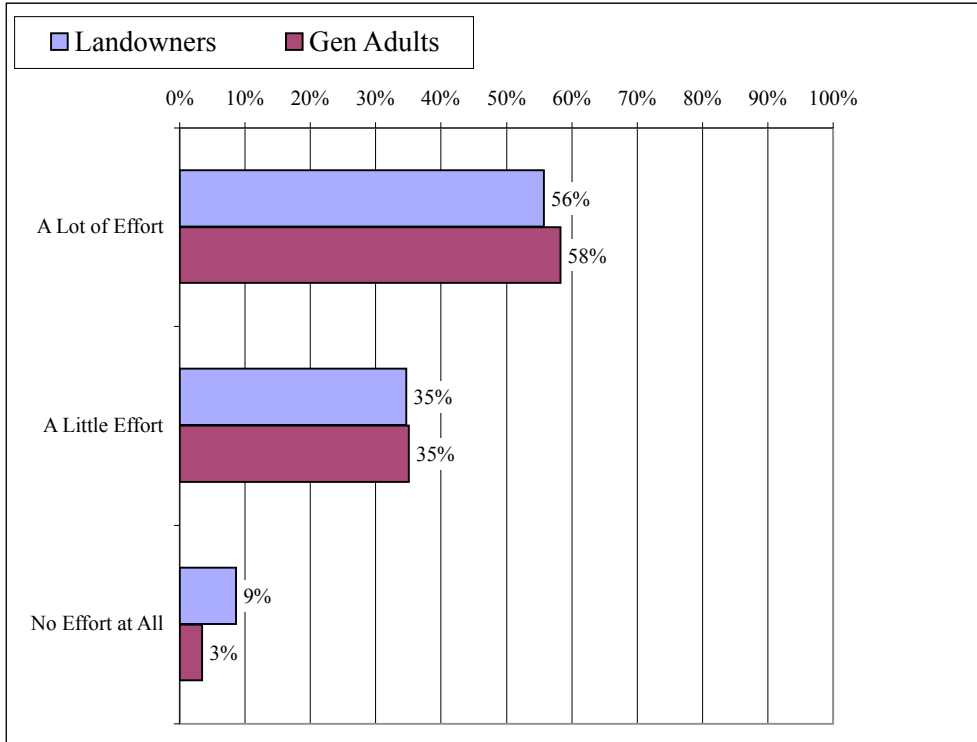
- ❑ Statewide respondents (50%) were most likely to believe that a lot of effort should be made to maintain healthy populations of reptiles and second most likely (40%) that a little effort should be made.
- ❑ Rural respondents, on the other hand, were nearly evenly divided in believing that a lot (43%) or a little (45%) effort should be made toward amphibians.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	43%	50%
A Little Effort	45%	40%
No Effort at All	12%	8%
Don't Know/Refused	0%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Effort to Maintain Fish

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about fish such as minnows and darters ...



Highlights

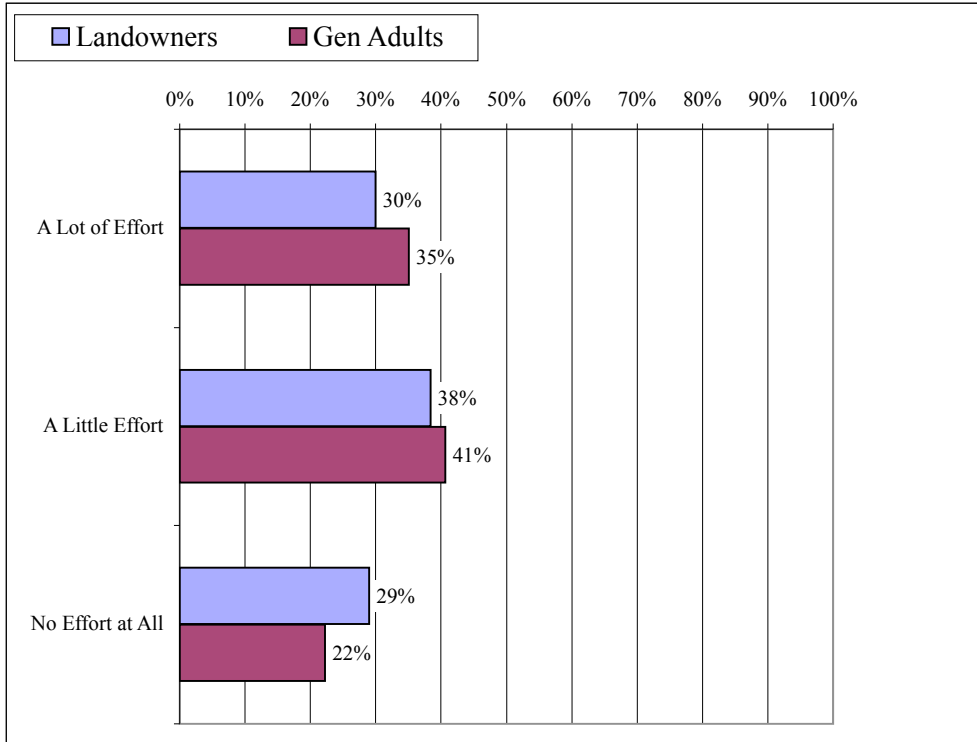
- ❑ A little more than half of each group, 56% of Rural and 58% of State, thought that a lot of effort should be made to maintain healthy fish populations.
- ❑ An additional 35% thought a little effort should be made.
- ❑ The two groups differed significantly in their opinions that no effort should be made: 9% of Rural respondents and 3% of State respondents.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	56%	58%
A Little Effort	35%	35%
No Effort at All	9%	3%
Don't Know	1%	3%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Effort to Maintain Mammals

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their healthy populations? How about mammals such as harvest mice and bats ...



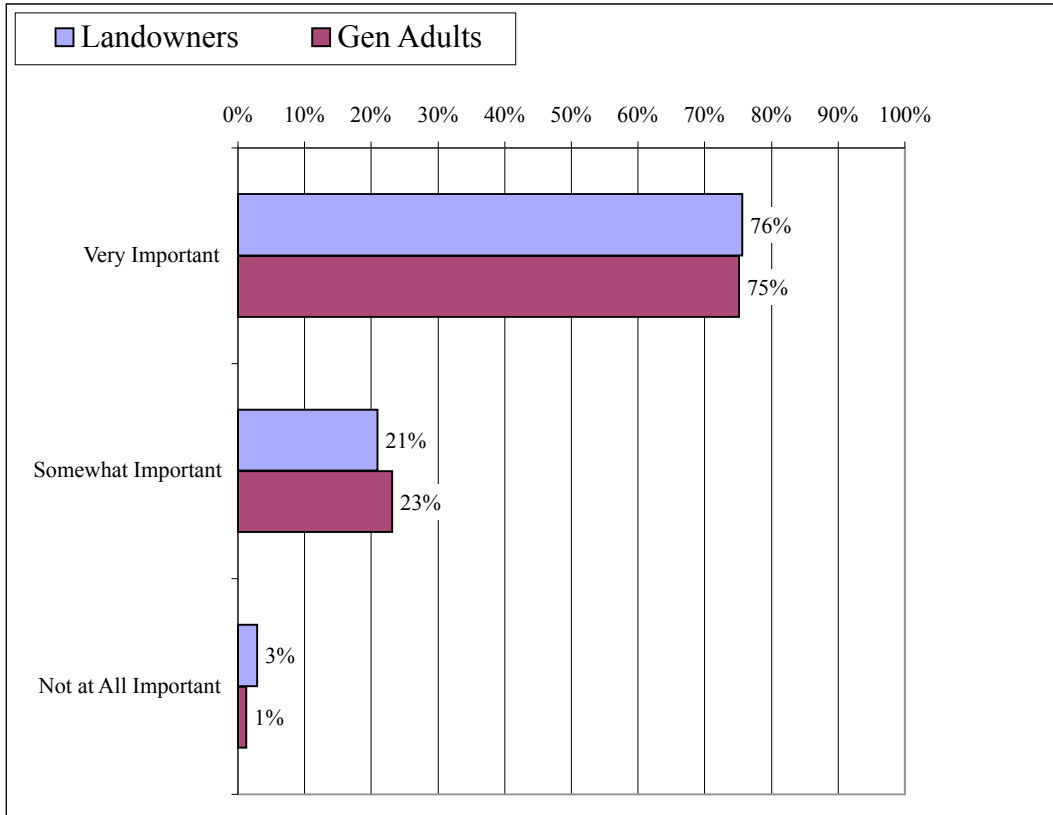
Highlights

- Respondents in both groups were most likely to believe that only a little effort should be made to maintain healthy mammal populations: 38% of Rural and 41% of State respondents.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	30%	35%
A Little Effort	38%	41%
No Effort at All	29%	22%
Don't Know	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Non-game Wildlife Habitat Maintenance

Arkansas has many special places where non-game wildlife live. These places include prairies, caves, forests, and clear-flowing streams. How important is it to you that Arkansans maintain these places?



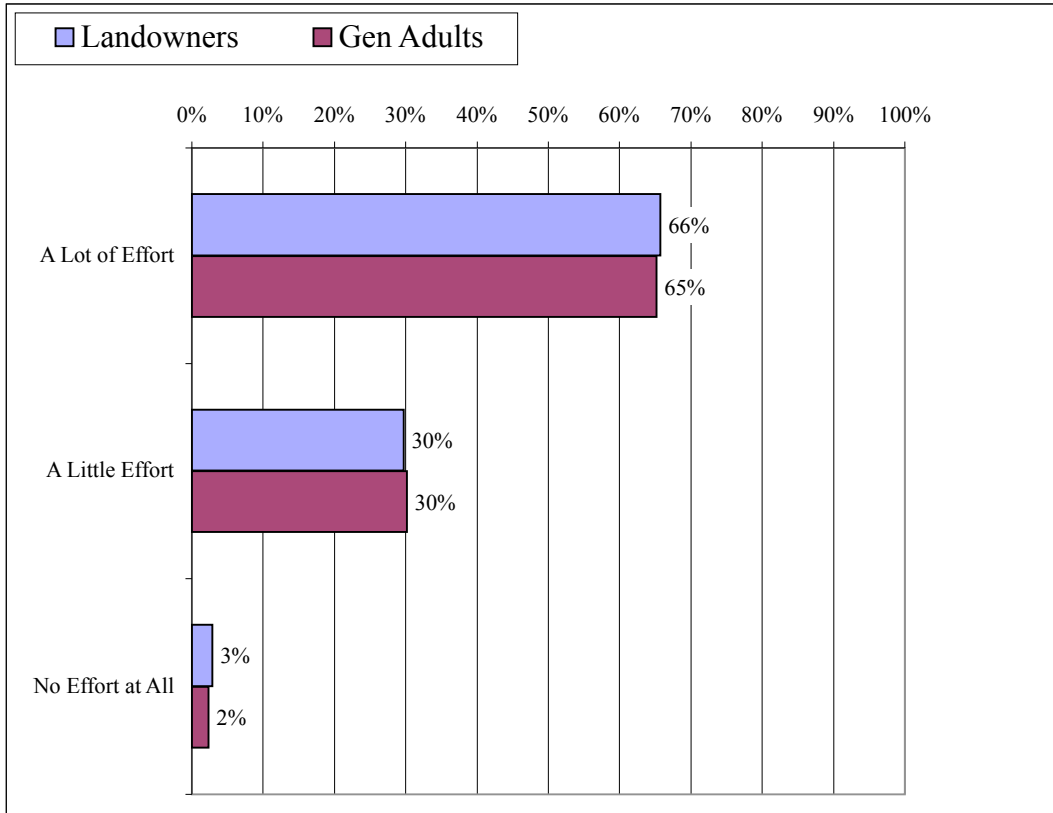
Highlights

- About three-quarters of both groups think it is very important to maintain wildlife habitats.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Important	76%	75%
Somewhat Important	21%	23%
Not at All Important	3%	1%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Prairies and Glades

Here are a few examples of the many types of places where nongame wildlife live. For each example, please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality. How about prairies and glades ...



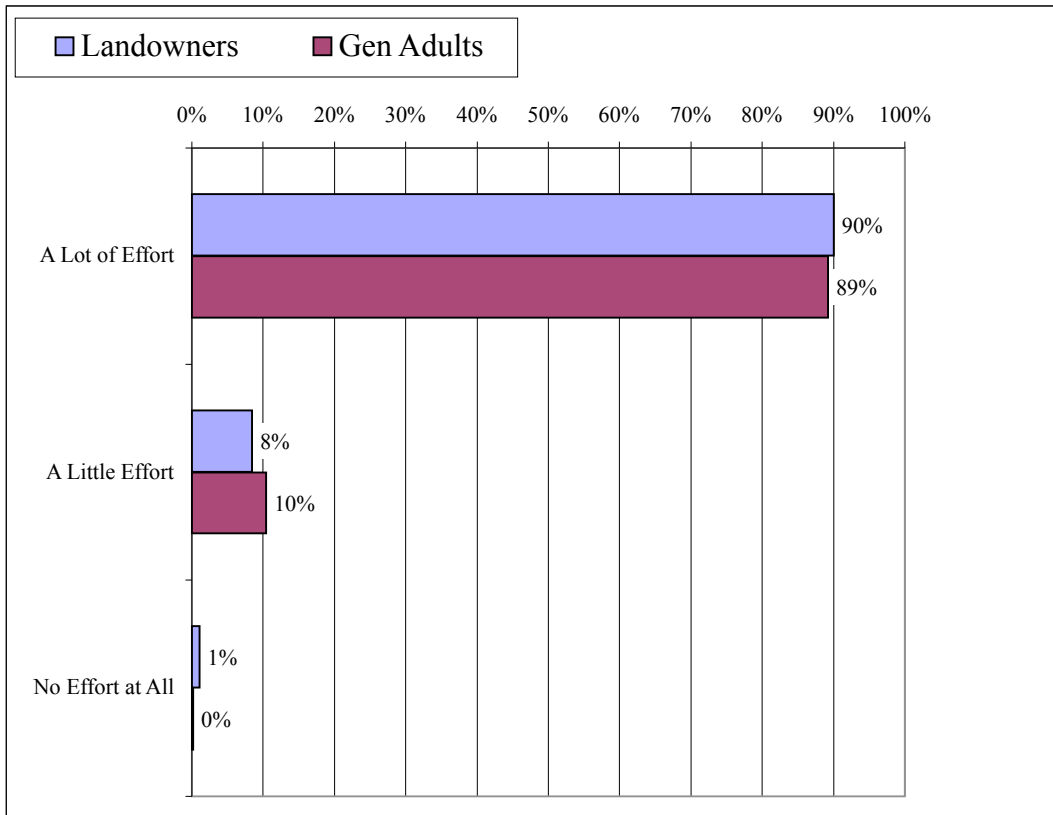
Highlights

- ❑ Most respondents in both the Rural (66%) and the State (65%) groups believe that a lot of effort should be made to maintain the quality of prairies and glades.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	66%	65%
A Little Effort	30%	30%
No Effort at All	3%	2%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Rivers, Streams and Lakes

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality? How about rivers, streams and lakes ...



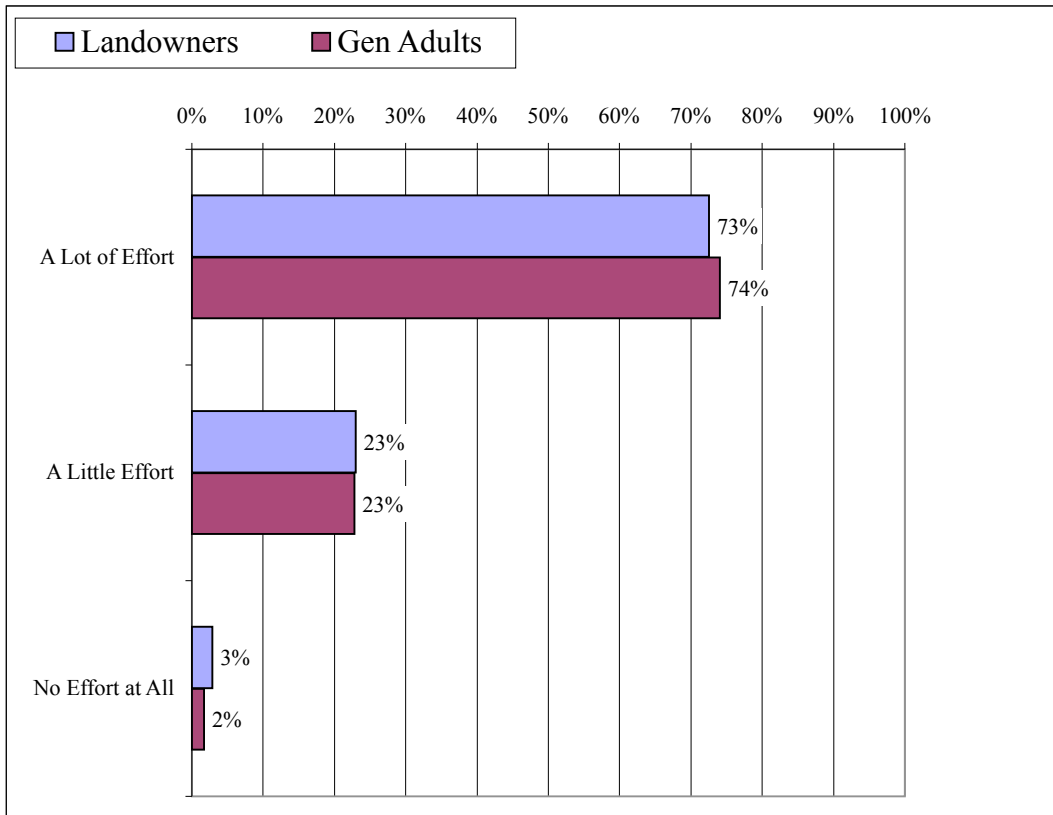
Highlights

- ❑ The vast majority of both Rural (90%) and State (89%) respondents believe that a lot of effort should be made to maintain the quality of this state's rivers, streams, and lakes.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	90%	89%
A Little Effort	8%	10%
No Effort at All	1%	0%
Don't Know	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Bottomland Forests and Flatwoods

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality? How about bottomland forests and flatwoods ...



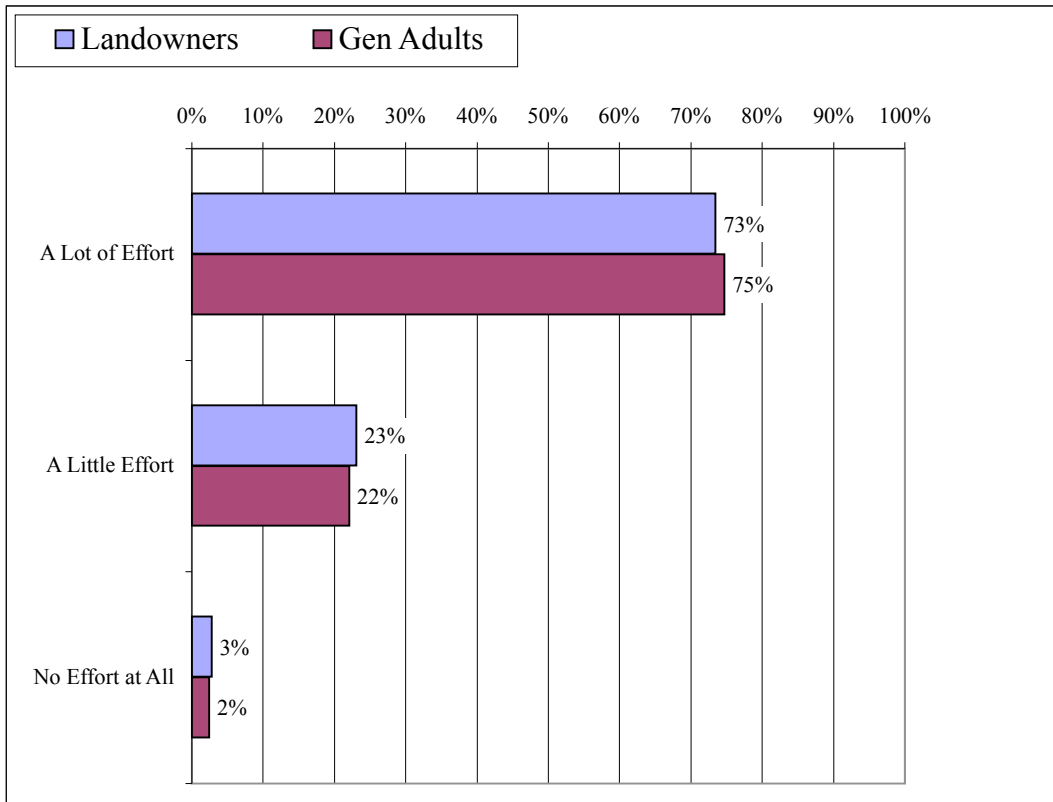
Highlights

- Almost three-fourths of both groups, 73% of Rural and 74% of State, thought that a lot of effort should be devoted to maintain bottomland forests and flatwoods.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	73%	74%
A Little Effort	23%	23%
No Effort at All	3%	2%
Don't Know	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Caves and Springs

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality? How about caves and springs ...



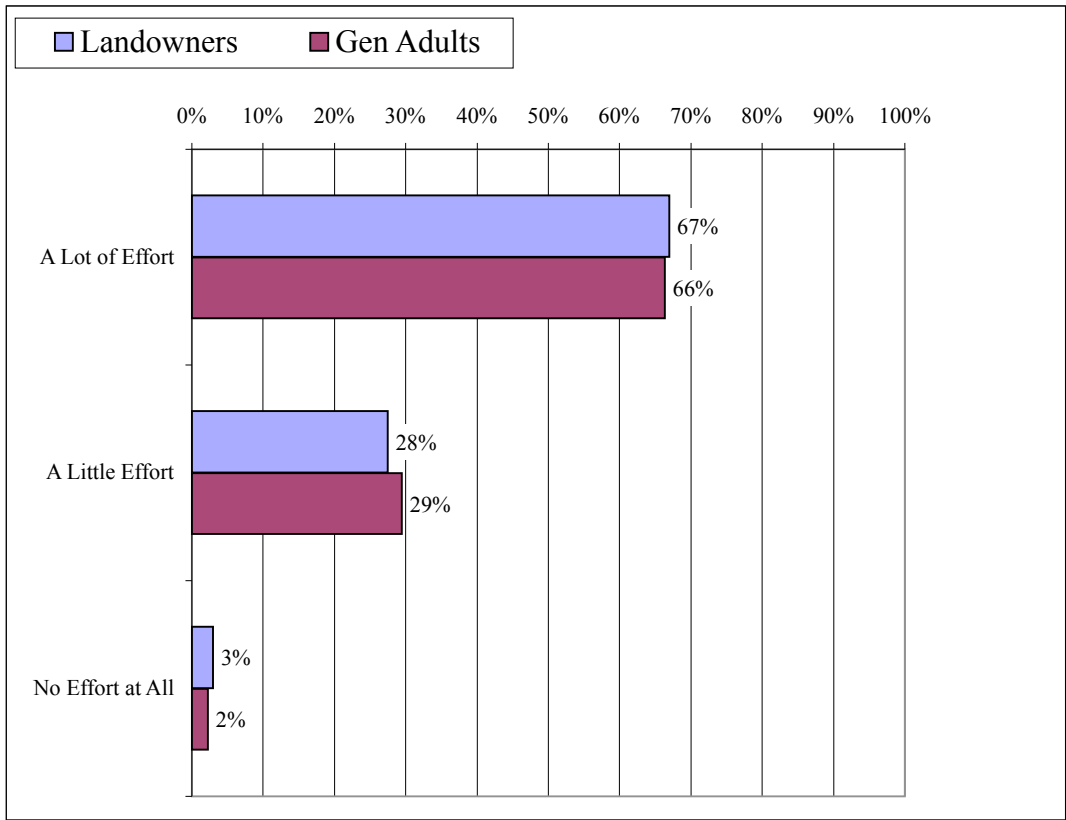
Highlights

- About three-fourths of both Rural (73%) and State (75%) respondents thought that a lot of effort should be devoted to maintain caves and streams.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	73%	75%
A Little Effort	23%	22%
No Effort at All	3%	2%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Urban Developed Land

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality? How about urban developed land, parks, and green spaces ...



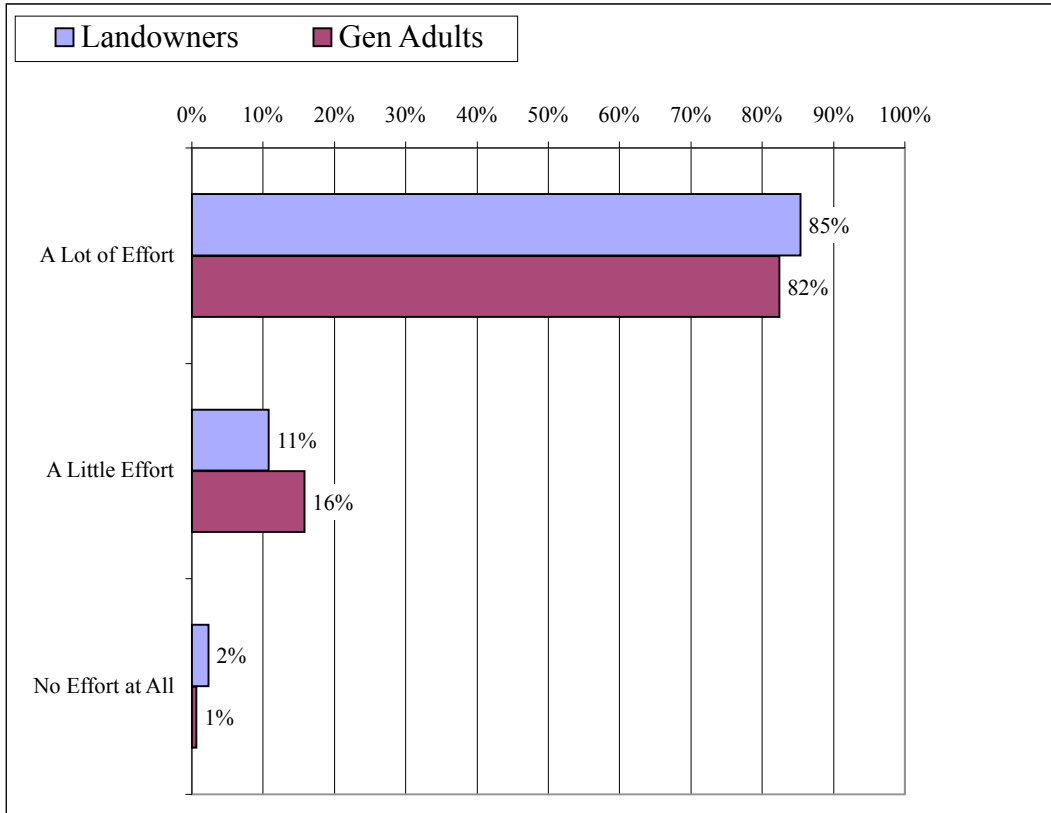
Highlights

- About two-thirds of the Rural (67%) and State (66%) groups think that a lot of effort should be made to maintain the quality of urban developed land.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	67%	66%
A Little Effort	28%	29%
No Effort at All	3%	2%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Effort to Maintain Upland Forests

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality? How about upland forests such as the Ozark Mountains ...



Highlights

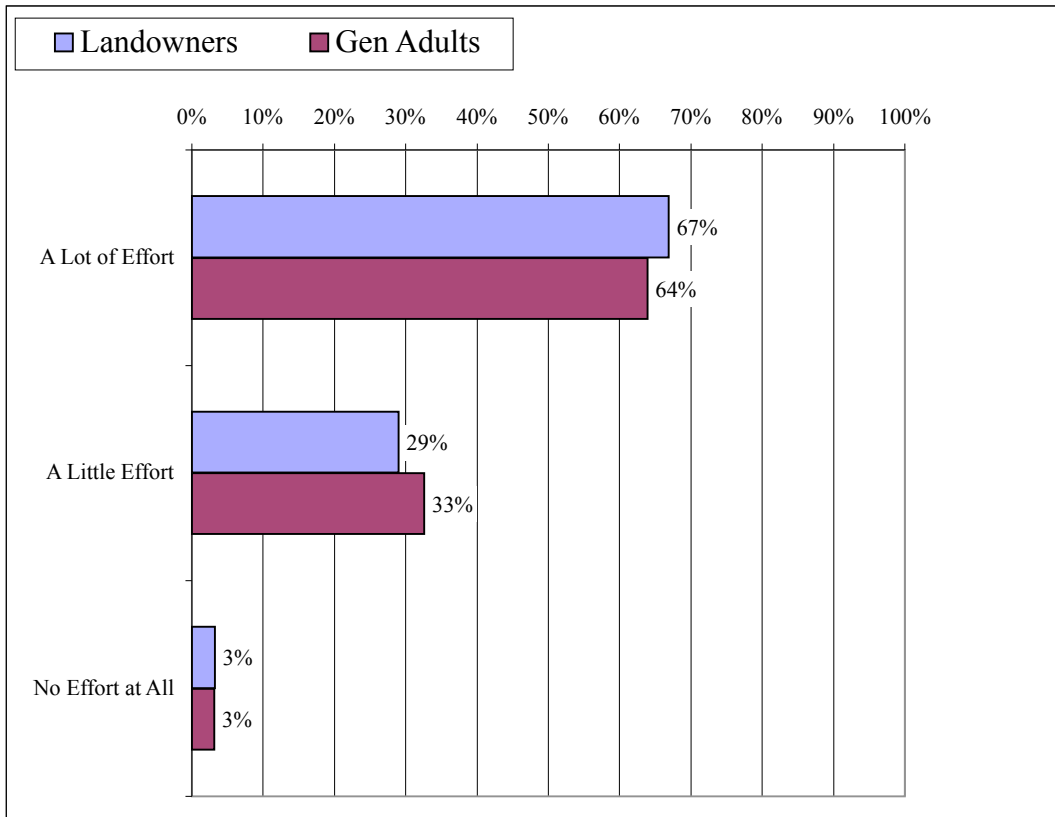
- A clear majority of both groups, 85% of Rural and 82% of State, think that a lot of effort should be made to maintain the quality of upland forests.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	85%	82%
A Little Effort	11%	16%
No Effort at All	2%	1%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Effort to Pastures, Fencerows, and Other Agri Lands

Please tell me if you believe a lot of effort, a little effort, or no effort should be made to maintain their quality? How about pastures, fencerows, and other agricultural lands ...



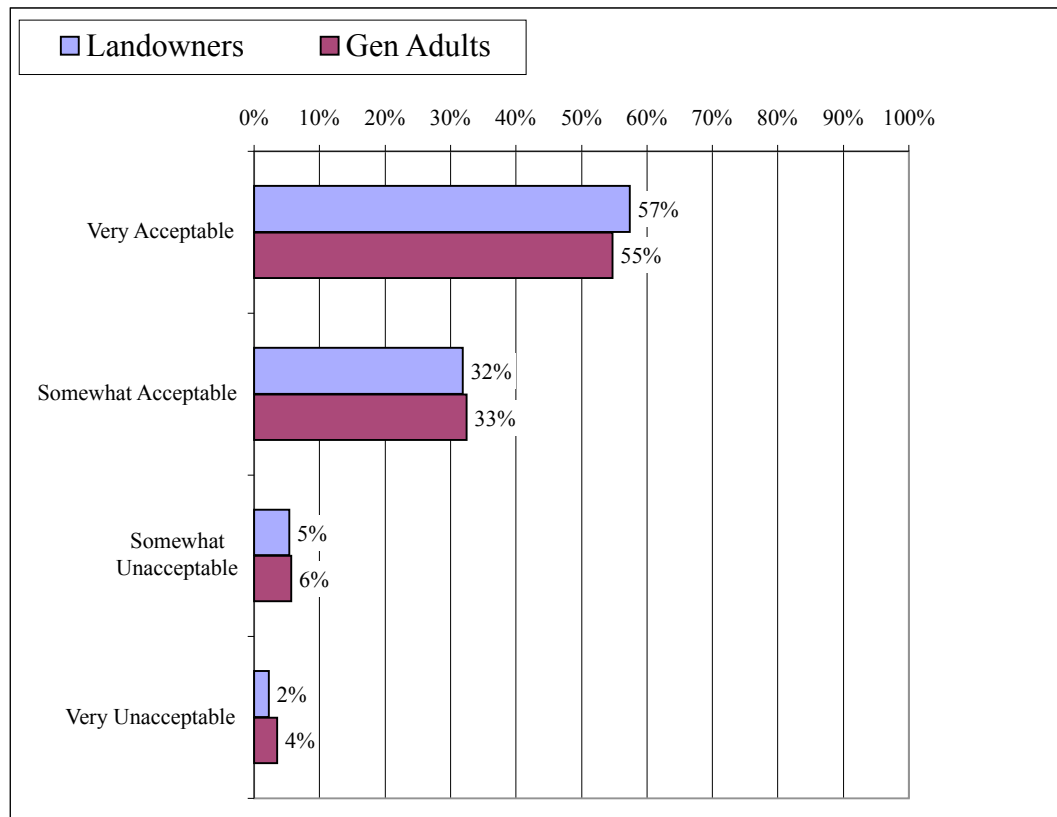
Highlights

- About two-thirds of Rural (67%) and State (64%) respondents think that a lot of effort should be made to maintain pastures, fencerows, and other agricultural lands.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
A Lot of Effort	67%	64%
A Little Effort	29%	33%
No Effort at All	3%	3%
Don't Know	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%

Controlled Fires

There are a number of ways to improve places where wildlife live. How acceptable or unacceptable are these practices to you? Conducting controlled fires in order to make the land more suitable for non-game wildlife ...



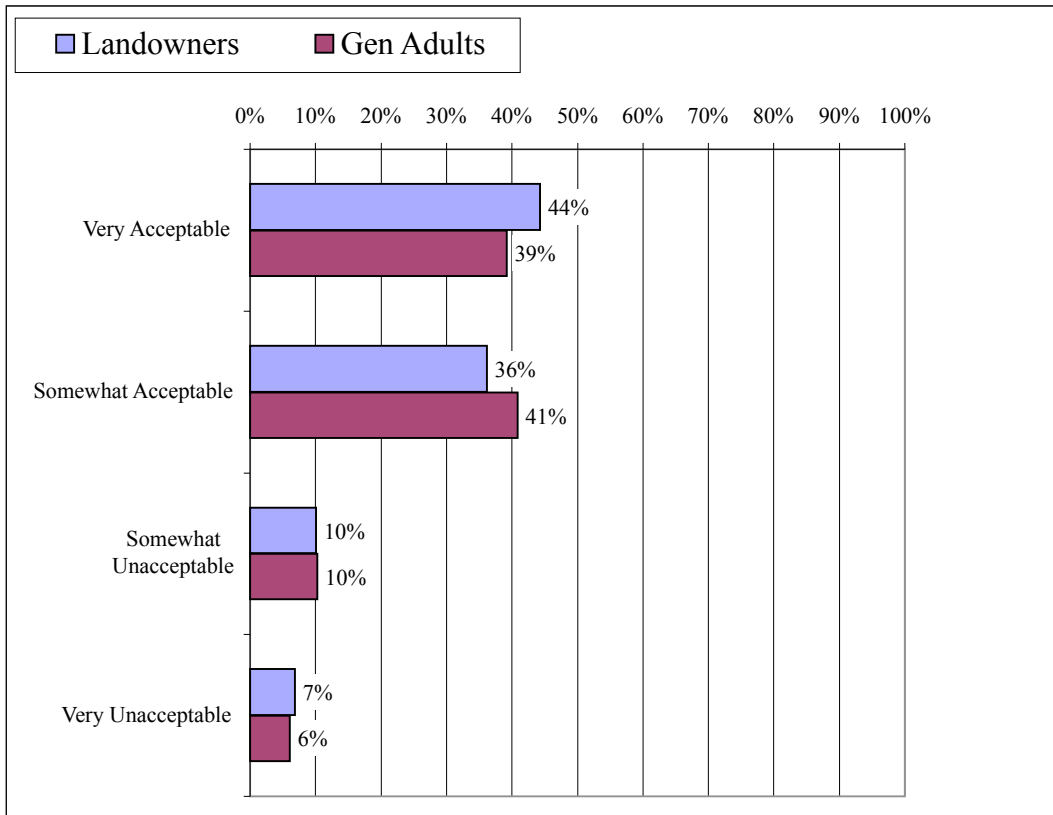
Highlights

- ❑ Altogether, 89% of Rural and 88% of State find controlled fires to be an acceptable practice for improving places where wildlife live.
- ❑ Just over half of both groups, 57% of Rural and 55% of State, find this practice to be very acceptable.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Acceptable	57%	55%
Somewhat Acceptable	32%	33%
Somewhat Unacceptable	5%	6%
Very Unacceptable	2%	4%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	4%
Total	100%	100%

Thinning Tracts of Timber

*Thinning tracts of timber to make it more suitable for nongame wildlife.
Would that be acceptable or unacceptable?*



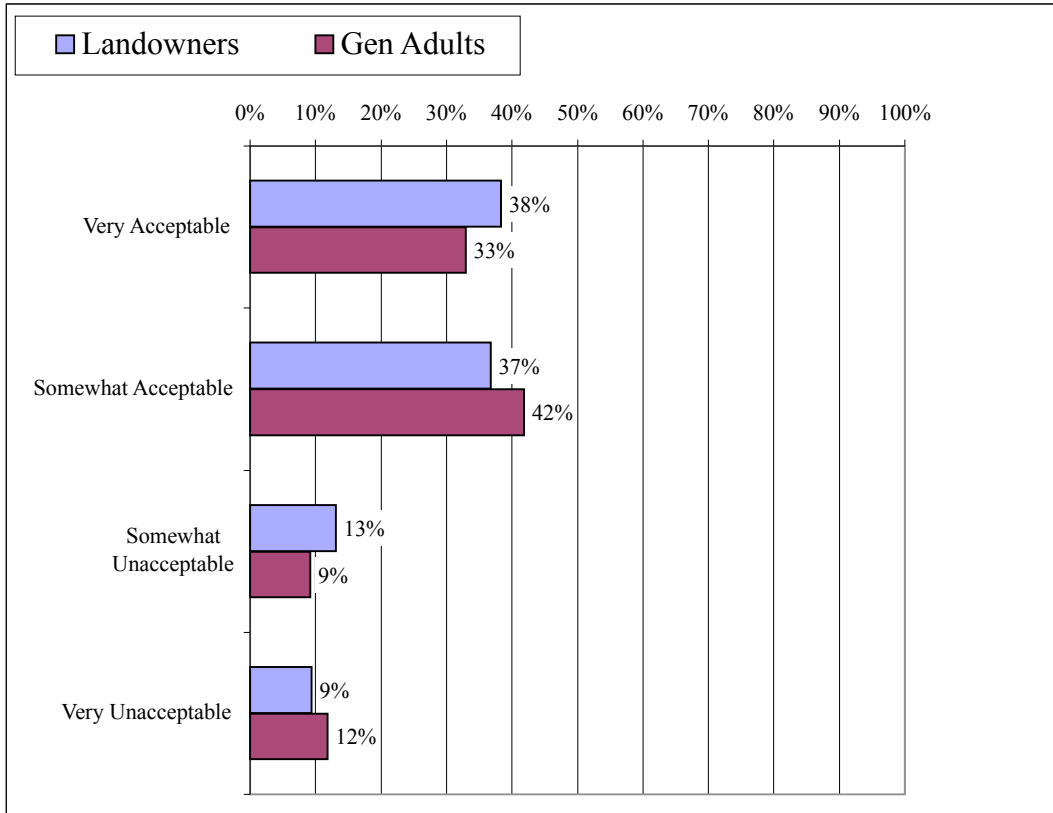
Highlights

- ❑ Eighty percent of each group, Rural and State, think that thinning tracts of timber is an acceptable way to make wildlife habitat more suitable.
- ❑ Not quite half -- 44% of Rural and only 39% of State -- find thinning tracts of timber very acceptable.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Acceptable	44%	39%
Somewhat Acceptable	36%	41%
Somewhat Unacceptable	10%	10%
Very Unacceptable	7%	6%
Don't Know	3%	3%
Refused	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Paying Private Landowners

Paying private landowners to do these and other types of activities that benefit nongame wildlife and where they live. Is this acceptable or unacceptable?



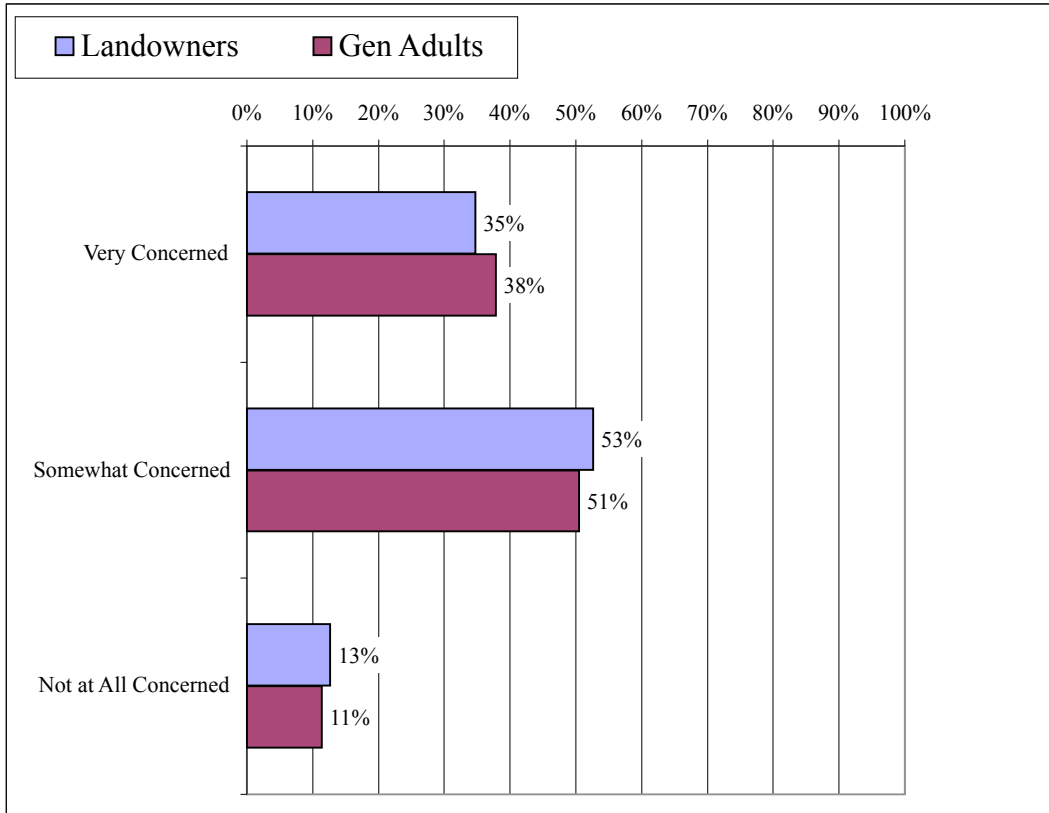
Highlights

- ❑ Three-quarters of both groups find it acceptable to pay private landowners to engage in practices to make non-game wildlife habitats more suitable.
- ❑ A little more than a third of Rural respondents (38%) and about a third of State respondents (33%) think it is very acceptable to pay private landowners to improve wildlife habitats.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Acceptable	38%	33%
Somewhat Acceptable	37%	42%
Somewhat Unacceptable	13%	9%
Very Unacceptable	9%	12%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	4%
Total	100%	100%

Impact of Human Activities

How concerned are you about the impact of human activities on nongame wildlife? Very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?



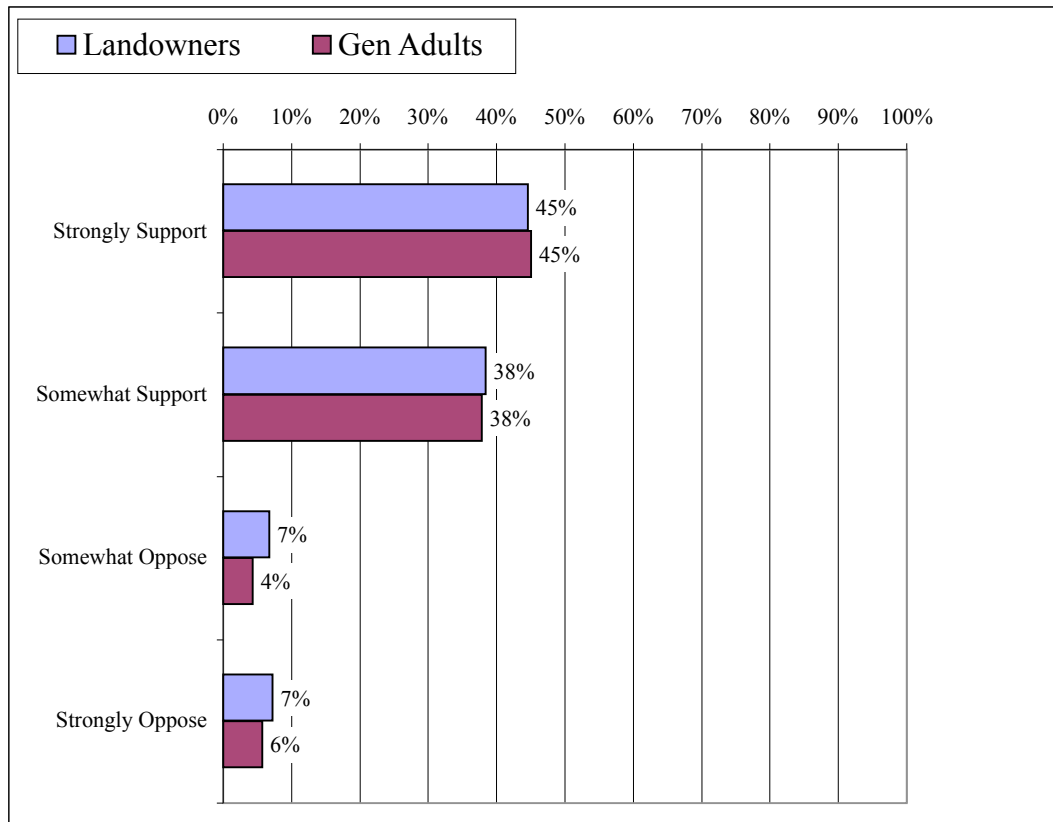
Highlights

- ❑ Respondents in both groups tended to be only somewhat concerned about the impact of human activities on non-game wildlife: 53% of Rural and 51% of State respondents.
- ❑ More than a third of each group, 35% of Rural and 38% of State, report being very concerned.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Very Concerned	35%	38%
Somewhat Concerned	53%	51%
Not at All Concerned	13%	11%
Total	100%	100%

Funding Support

A question that often arises is "How will these conservation efforts and activities be funded? Funding will be provided by a new federal grant to Arkansas. Each grant dollar requires a matching state dollar. Do you support or oppose funding these wildlife conservation efforts and activities through this new federal grant?"



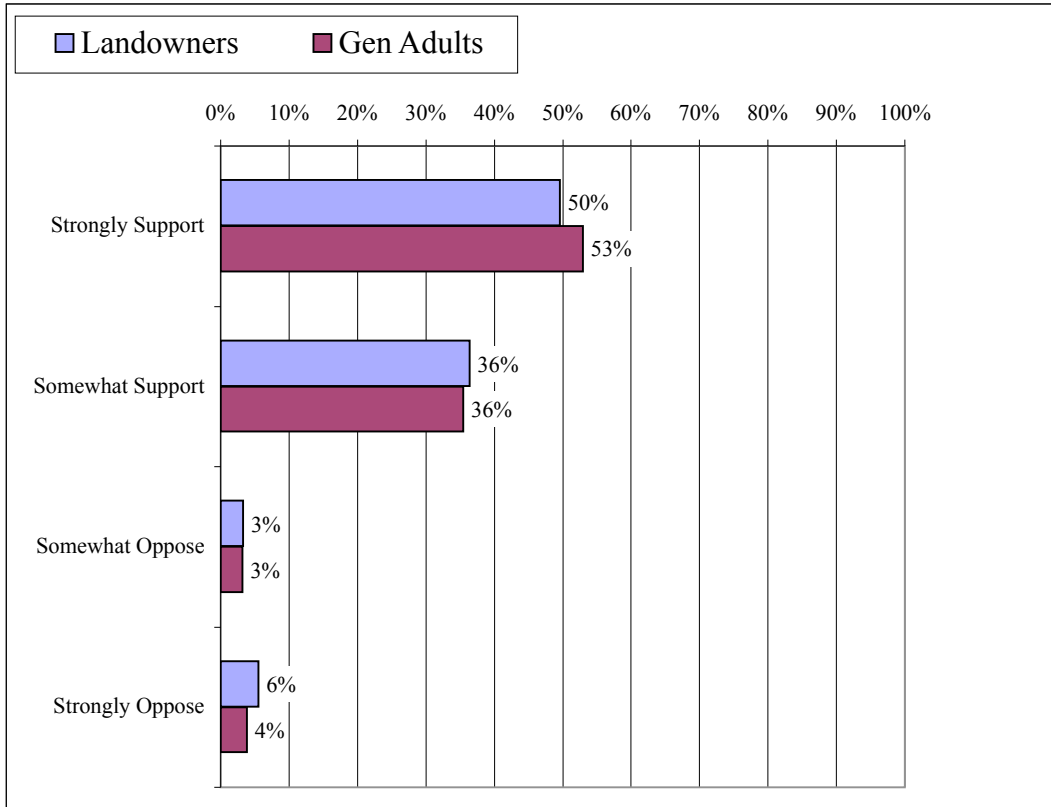
Highlights

- ❑ A majority of both groups of respondents, 83% of Rural and 83% of State also, support this federal grant's funding of wildlife conservation efforts and activities.
- ❑ Forty-five percent of each group strongly support this method of funding for conservation efforts.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Strongly Support	45%	45%
Somewhat Support	38%	38%
Somewhat Oppose	7%	4%
Strongly Oppose	7%	6%
Don't Know	2%	7%
Refused	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%

Support for AGF Action Plan

Do you support or oppose the efforts of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its partners to develop an action plan to manage non-game wildlife with public input?



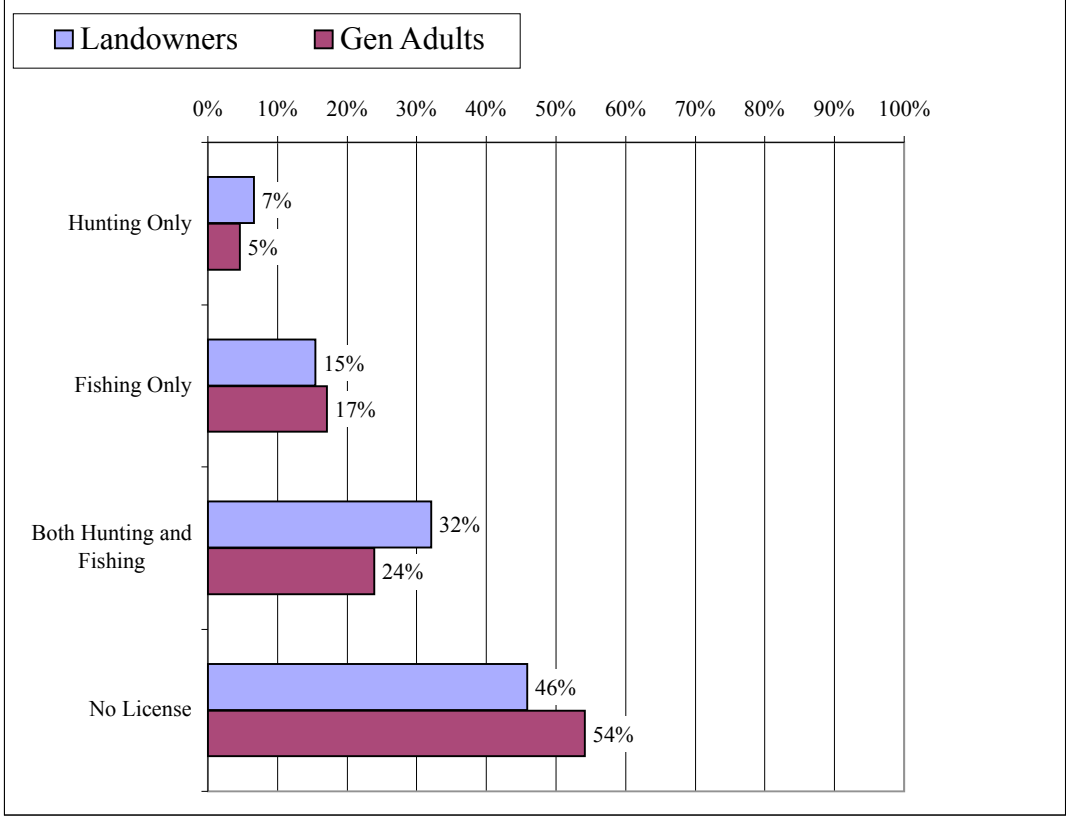
Highlights

- ❑ A clear majority of both groups, 86% of Rural and 89% of State, supports efforts of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its partners to develop an action plan to manage non-game wildlife with public input.
- ❑ About half, 50% of Rural respondents and 53% of State, strongly support these efforts.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Strongly Support	50%	53%
Somewhat Support	36%	36%
Somewhat Oppose	3%	3%
Strongly Oppose	6%	4%
Don't Know	4%	4%
Refused	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Hunting or Fishing License

During the last 12 months, did you purchase an Arkansas hunting or fishing license?



Highlights

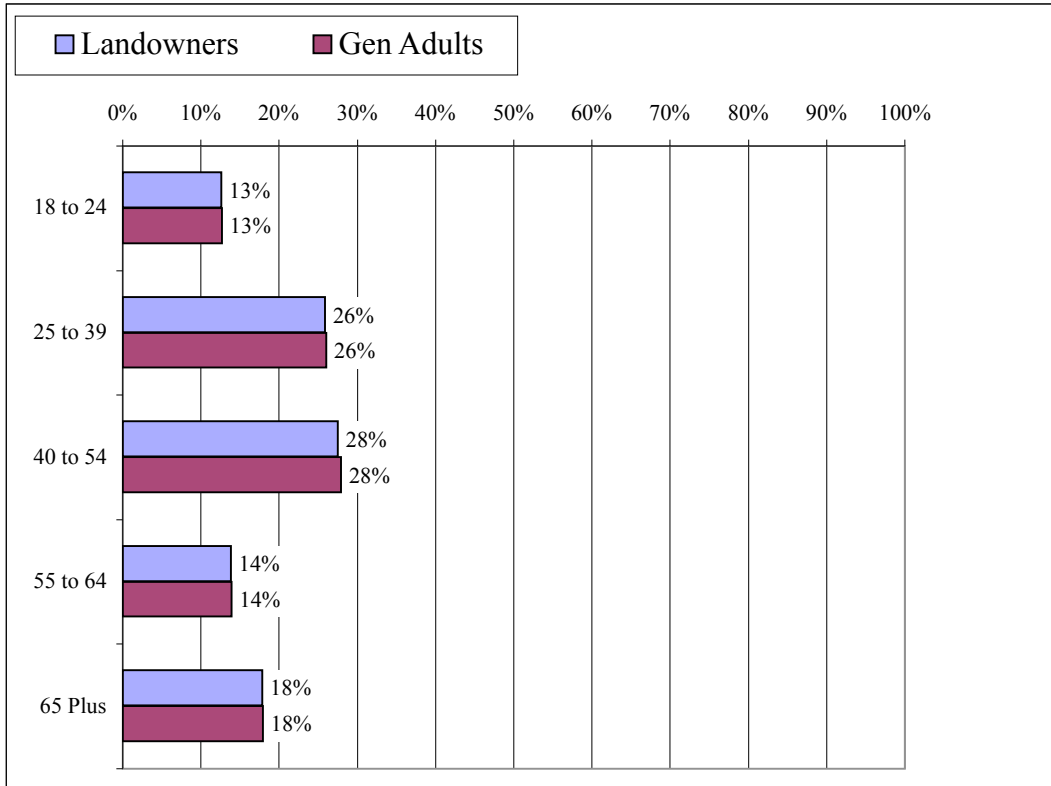
- ❑ During the last 12 months, 32% of Rural respondents and 24% of their statewide counterparts purchased both hunting and fishing licenses.
- ❑ Fishing licenses were more frequently sought than hunting, 15% to 7% for Rural respondents and 17% to 5% for State.
- ❑ The two groups differed significantly in that more Rural respondents had purchased one or both licenses in the last year.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Hunting Only	7%	5%
Fishing Only	15%	17%
Both Hunting and Fishing	32%	24%
No License	46%	54%
Total	100%	100%

Significant difference between groups.

Age Group

What is your age?



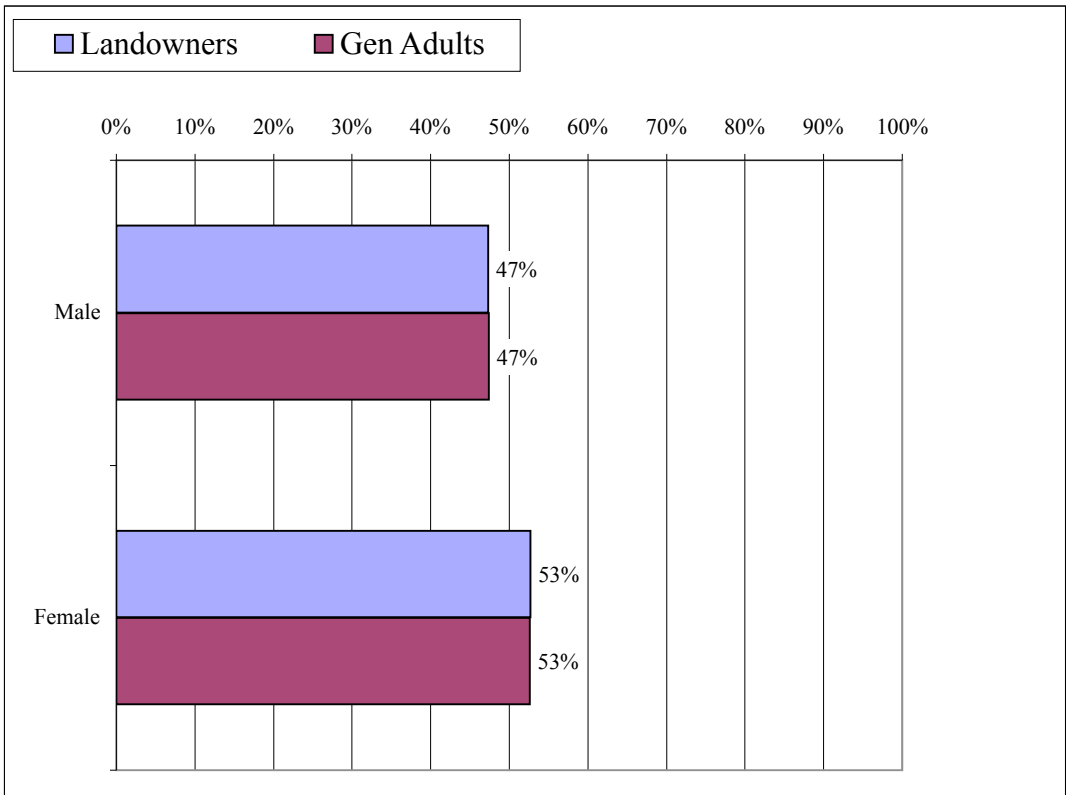
Highlights

- The sample data were weighted for age so as to be in proportion with the state adult population.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
18 to 24	13%	13%
25 to 39	26%	26%
40 to 54	28%	28%
55 to 64	14%	14%
65 Plus	18%	18%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Gender

And I need to verify that you are a ...



Highlights

- ❑ The sample data were weighted for gender so as to be in proportion with the state adult population.

	Rural Landowners	State Gen Adults
Male	47%	47%
Female	53%	53%
Total	100%	100%