

WILD BOAR HUNTING AS A TOOL FOR FOREST PROTECTION

Jakub Drimaj, Jiří Kamler, Jan Dvořák, Pavel Peška

Department of Forest Protection and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno

Aim of project

The IGA project deals with the impact of wild boar rooting on the forest ecosystem, especially on the plant component but also on the entomofauna. The soil characteristics of the disturbed areas allow for the establishment of pioneer plants and species tied to loose soils, as well as anemochoric tree species. These ecosystem impacts are of interest to us but the results of the monitoring will be known in the coming year.

Topic of this year's presentation

This year we can therefore present further parts of our research activities related to wild boar. Any negative impacts on forest and other environments are largely influenced by the density of wild boar in the area. This depends, among other things, on the intensity of hunting pressure, which is determined by the number, hunting activity and equipment of hunters, and their motivation to hunt. In order to better understand the motivation of hunters to hunt wild boar and to propose effective solutions in the form of high-quality motivational tools for practice and government, we organised an extensive sociological survey. This targeted hunters associated in hunting organisations and individual hunters, not organised in associations, across the Czech Republic.



Questionnaire survey

The survey was conducted via a questionnaire application between 21 June 2022 and 30 September 2022. The 52-question questionnaire was visited by 4,883 hunters, with 23.5% completing the survey.

Preliminary results

The survey was conducted via a questionnaire application between 21 June 2022 and 30 September 2022. The 52-question questionnaire was visited by 4,883 hunters, with 23.5% completing the survey.

The results showed that the average Czech wild boar hunter spends 6.1 hours/week on hunting preparation, 10.3 hours/week on actual hunting, and 47.6 hours to hunt one wild boar. This is a summary result that includes both intensive and extensive hunters. Hunters reported that 56.5% hunt 0-10 wild boar per year, 23% hunt 11-21 wild boar, 11% hunt 22-35 wild boar, and only 9.5% of hunters hunt more than 36 wild boar. A very interesting finding is the proportion of wild boar hunted by hunting method. More than 65% of wild boar were taken by still hunting and not even one percent were taken by trapping (see Fig. 3). 48.1% of hunters agree with hunting of adult sows, but nearly 80% of all hunters actively hunt them.

In terms of hunting satisfaction, 29.5% of hunters are satisfied with their current hunting activity and 46.5% would like to hunt more but do not have the time to do so. 23.4% of hunters use photo traps for hunting, 23.1% of hunters use night vision scopes, 19.3% own a thermal imaging device but only 4.4% have a shot silencer on their gun. 41.4% of hunters have hunting equipment worth from 77 thousand to 210 thousand Czech crowns, 36.2% worth from 21 thousand to 75 thousand Czech crowns.



Hunters consume most of the venison produced from wild boar in their own households (39.5%) or give venison to friends and acquaintances (17.6%). The hunting ground user consumes 18.6%, 8.7% is sold to the final consumer and 15.5% goes to the meat buyer. The main motivation for hunting wild boar was identified by hunters as "the need to control wild boar numbers" and equally important is "hunting attractiveness". These are only preliminary results, which will be statistically evaluated in collaboration with sociologists and then published in a quality scientific journal.

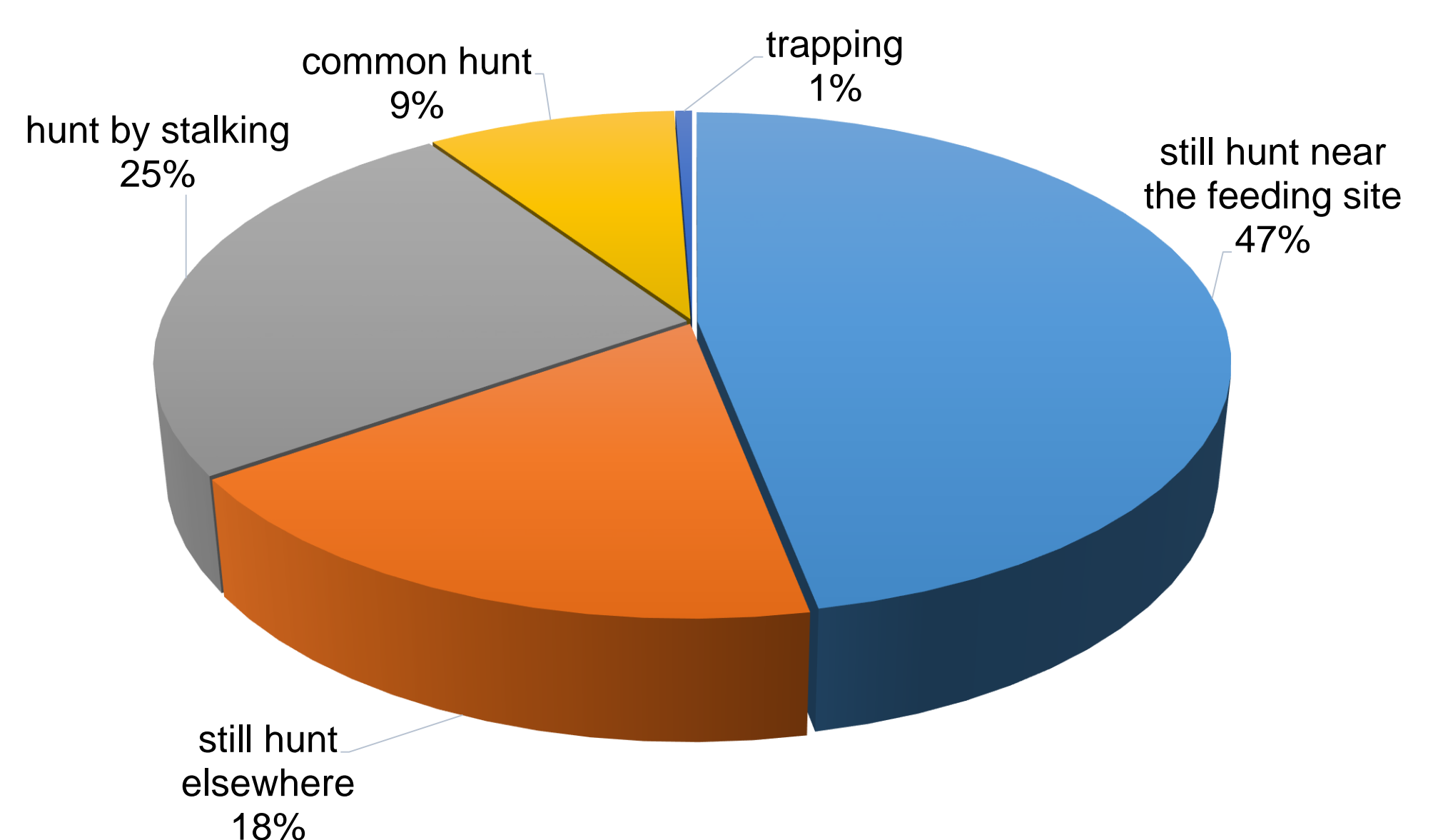


Fig. 3 Percentage of wild boar hunted by hunting method

Acknowledgement

This study was supported with funding provided by the Internal Grant Agency (IGA) project IGA-LDF-22-TP-006 of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno.