

CCA / Partners for Western Conservation Ag Water NetWORK

Mission: "Keeping Ag Water Connected with Ag Land"

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2019 Project: Watershed & Stream Management Plans - Outreach and Training to the Agricultural Community

1. Survey:

- a) Assess ag familiarity with watershed management plans
- b) Help identify water-related priorities of ag
- c) Guide outreach and training

2. Outreach: Raise awareness, understanding among ag producers

3. Training: Train ag-oriented individuals interested in coordinating / leading / volunteering locally on watershed and stream management plan planning & implementation.

Increasing Water Demands vs. Finite Supply

1. Population growth (municipal)
2. Tourism and recreation (rafting, skiing, angling, etc.)
3. Irrigation
4. Aquatic (T&E species) and wildlife
5. Oil and Gas

Planning is key to minimizing crisis and conflict



Producer involvement is crucial to balanced plan and protecting agriculture's interests.

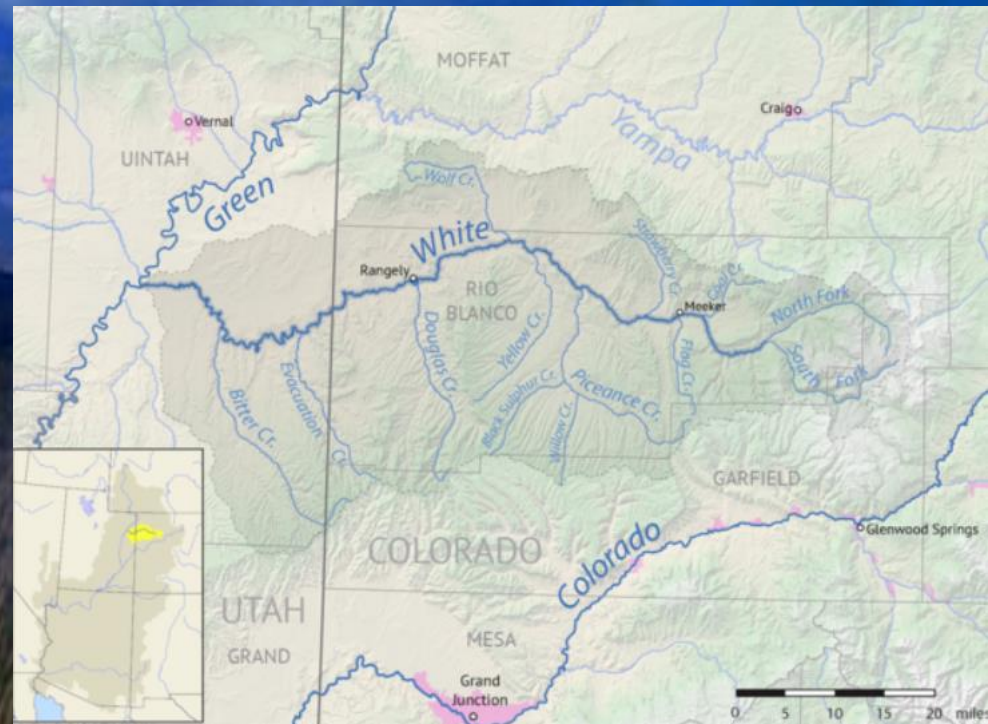
Watershed & Stream Management Plans

CO Water Plan goal:

“Develop Watershed Master Plans that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders.”


Measurable Objectives by 2030:

- 80% of the locally prioritized rivers have **Stream Management plans.**
- 80% of critical watersheds have **Watershed Management Plans.**

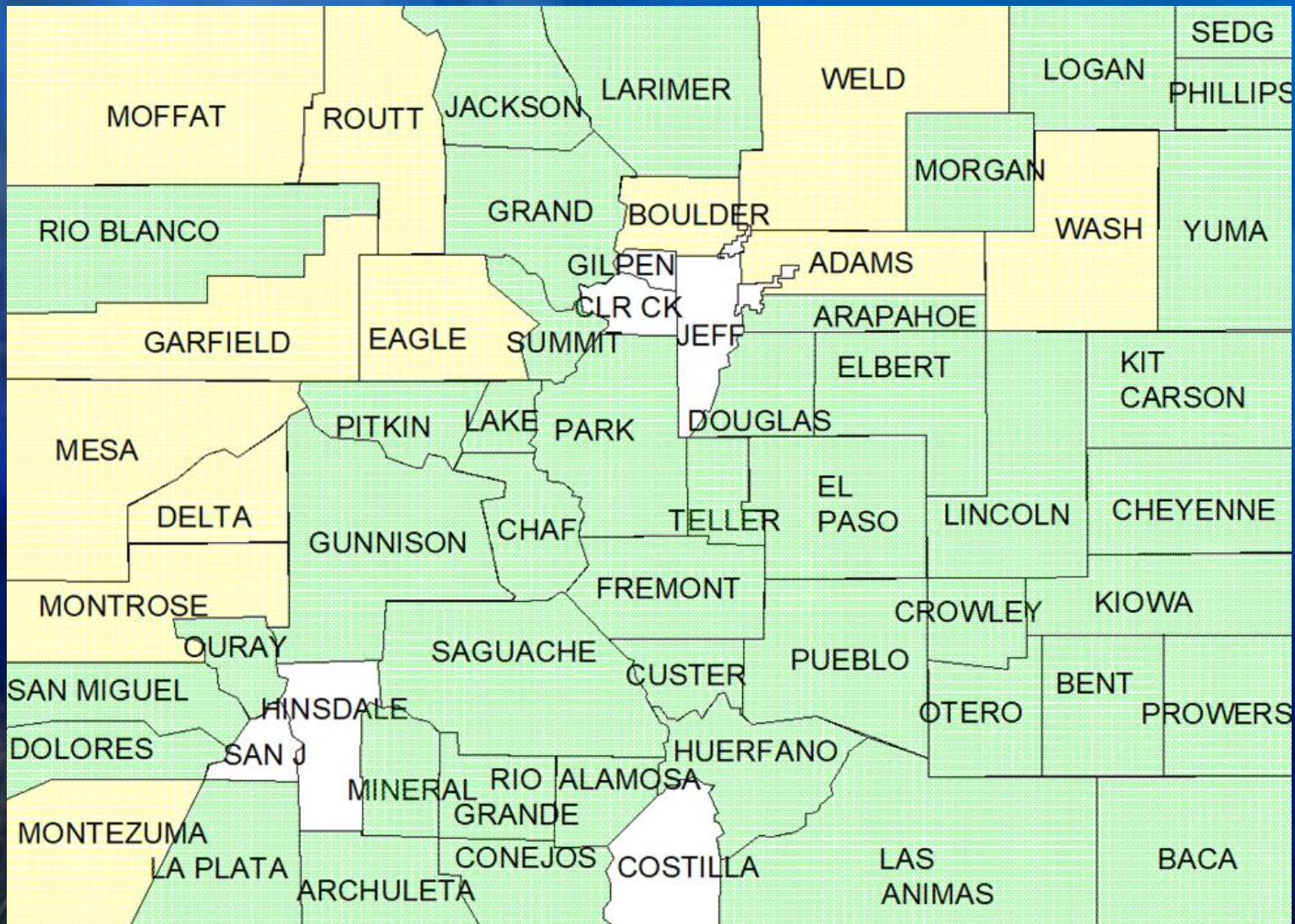


2019 Survey of Ag Producers on Watershed and Stream Management Planning

Survey Facts:

- Survey period: January 16 – April 30, 2019
 - 330 total responses received, 288 responses used
 - Responses received from producers in 56 counties (88%)
 - Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties: 14 responses
 - Garfield County: 22 responses
 - Eight (8) drawings for a \$100 or \$50 Cabela's gift card during survey period.
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2019 Ag Producer Survey Results

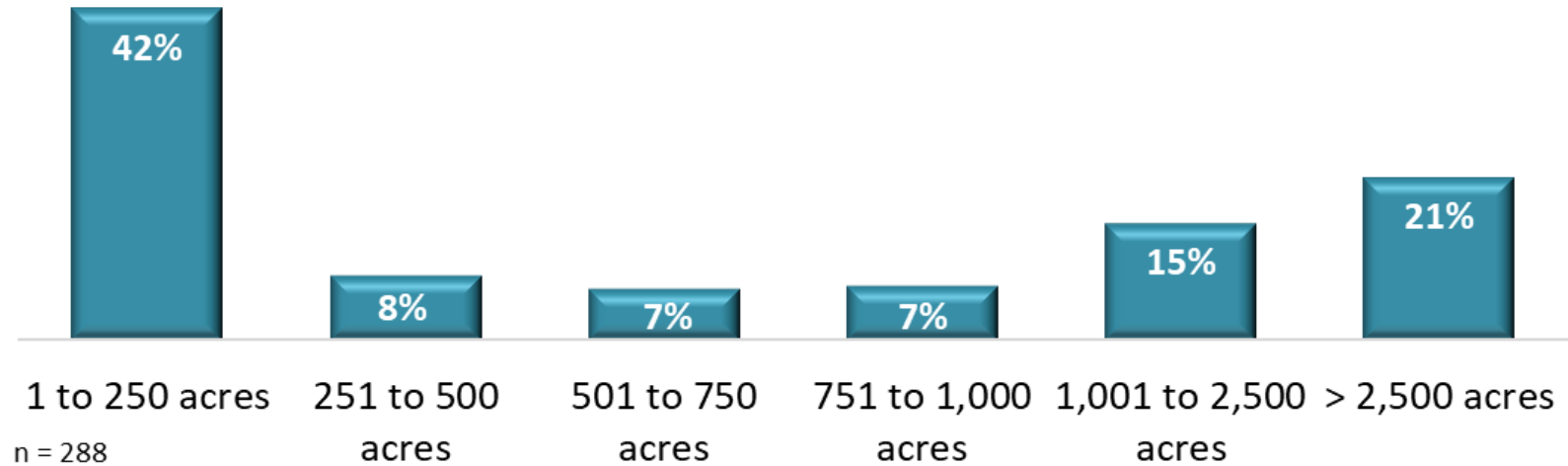


Green shading = ≥ 1 response

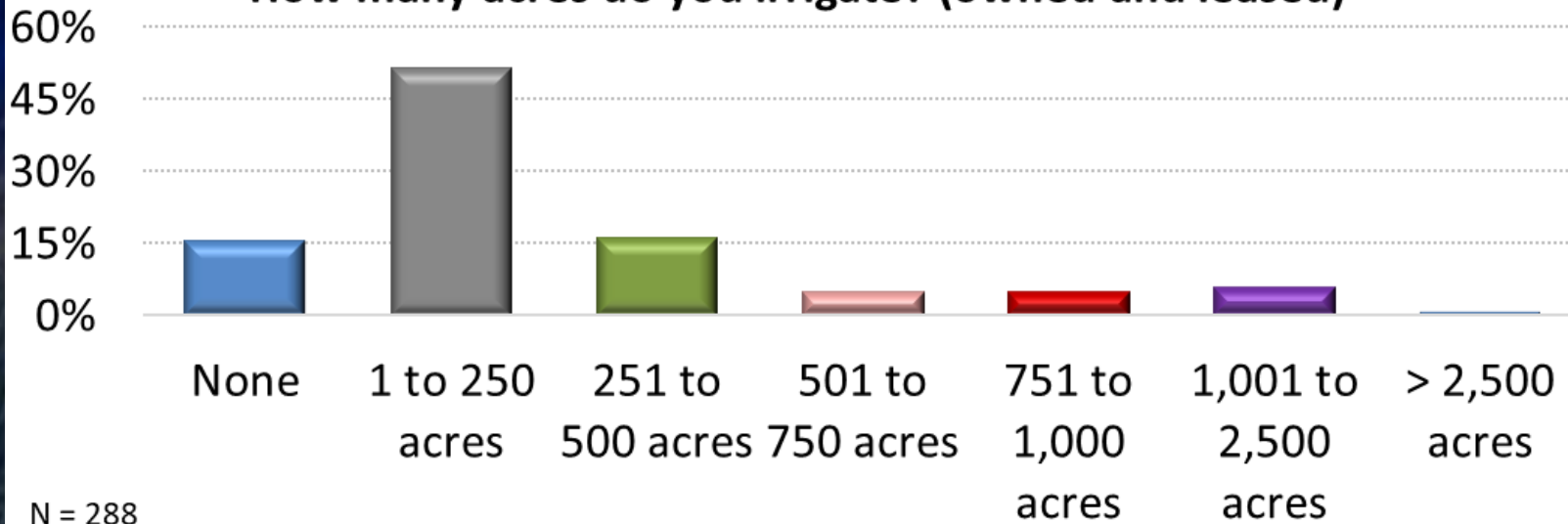
Yellow shading = County among top 12 responders

2019 Ag Producer Survey Results

Acres utilized for agricultural production (owned and leased)

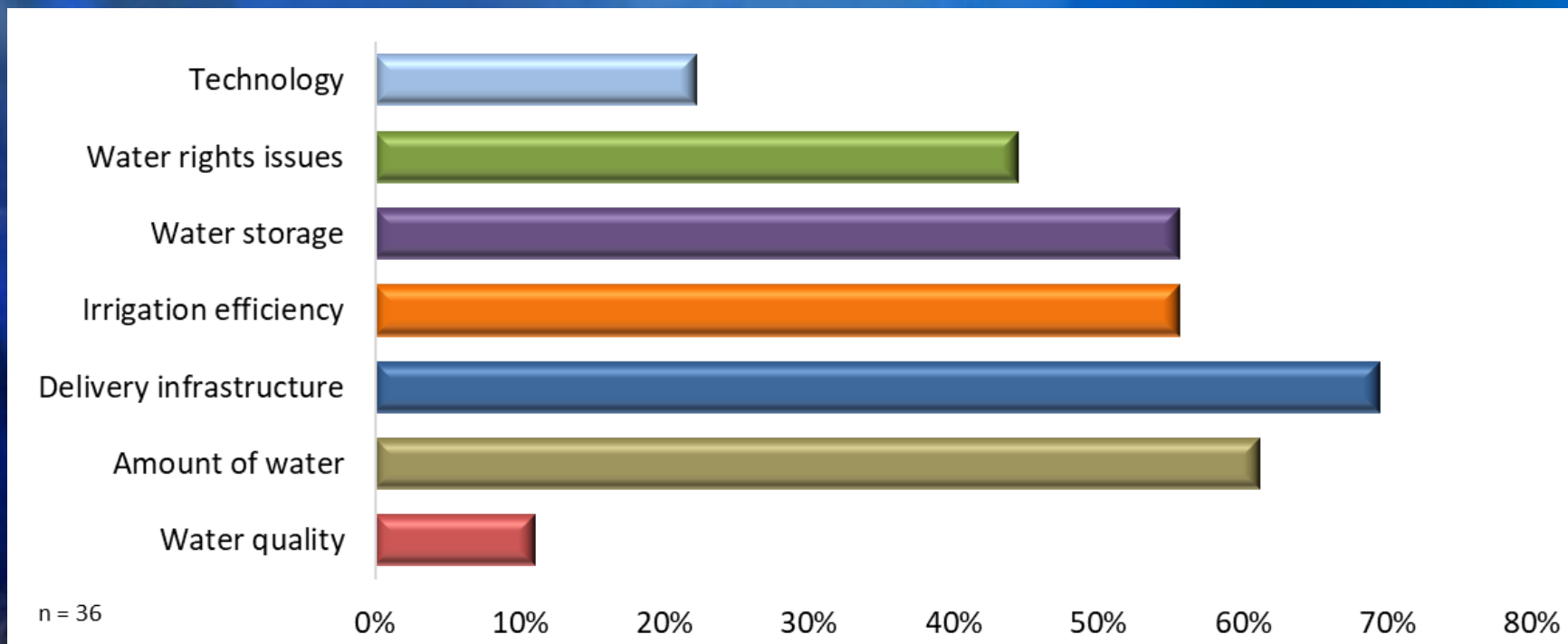


How many acres do you irrigate? (owned and leased)



For your operation, what water-related challenge(s) would you most like to improve upon?

White River counties



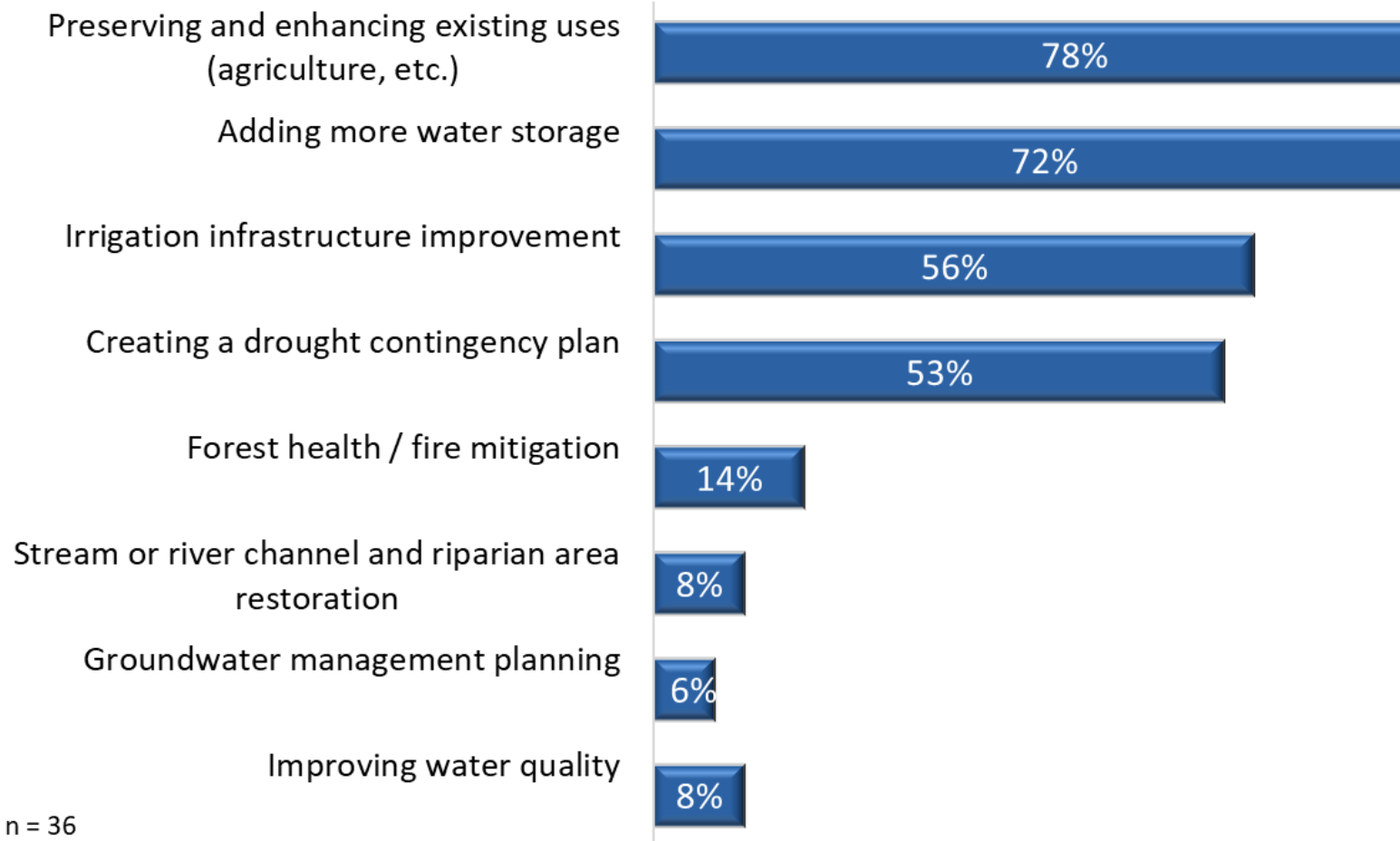
Comments (statewide):

“Evaporative loss”

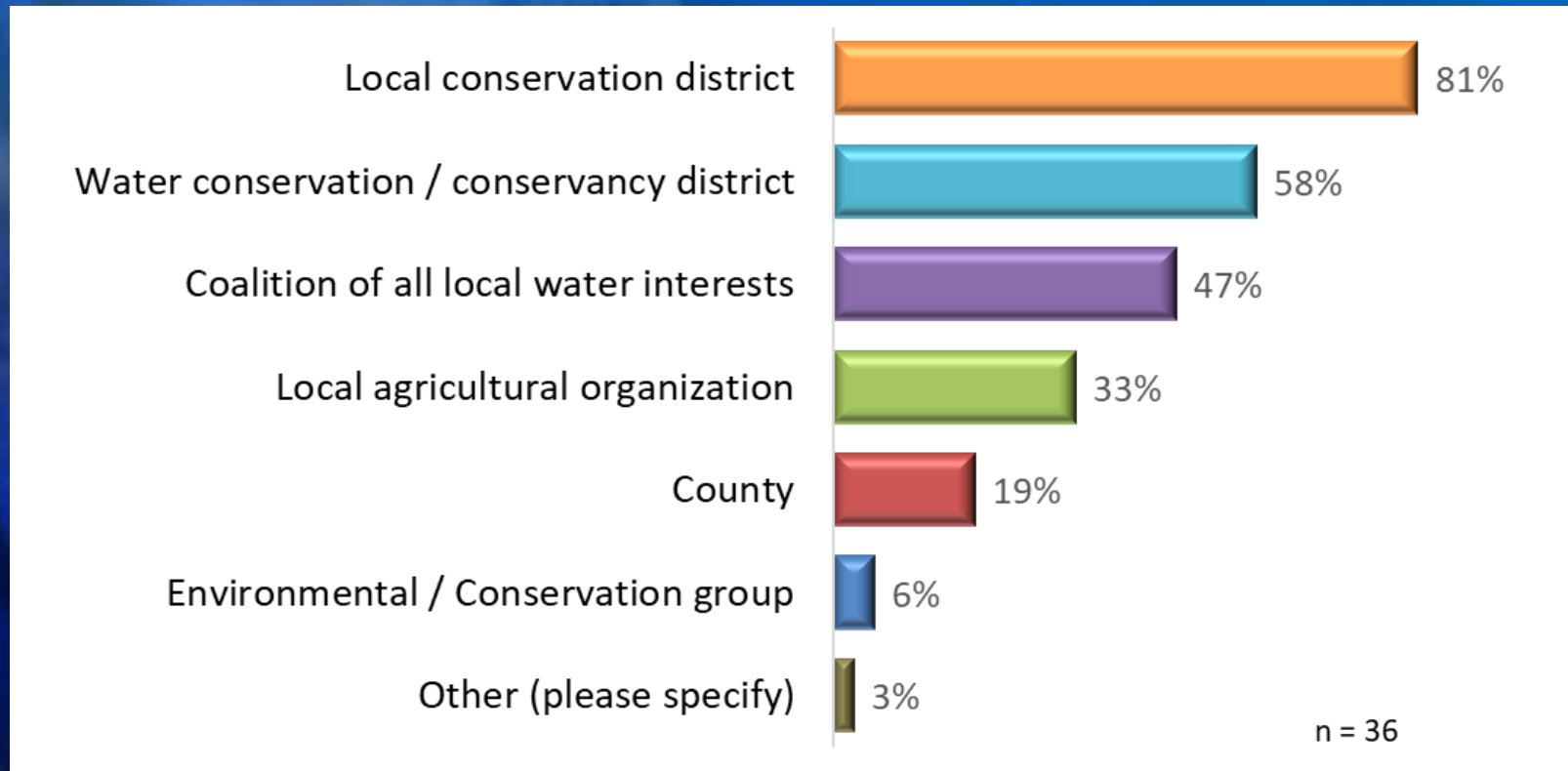
“Streamlining intermediate leasing to outside water users”

“Correction of out-of-compliance augmentation plans”

What should the Priorities of a watershed management plan be? (White River Counties)



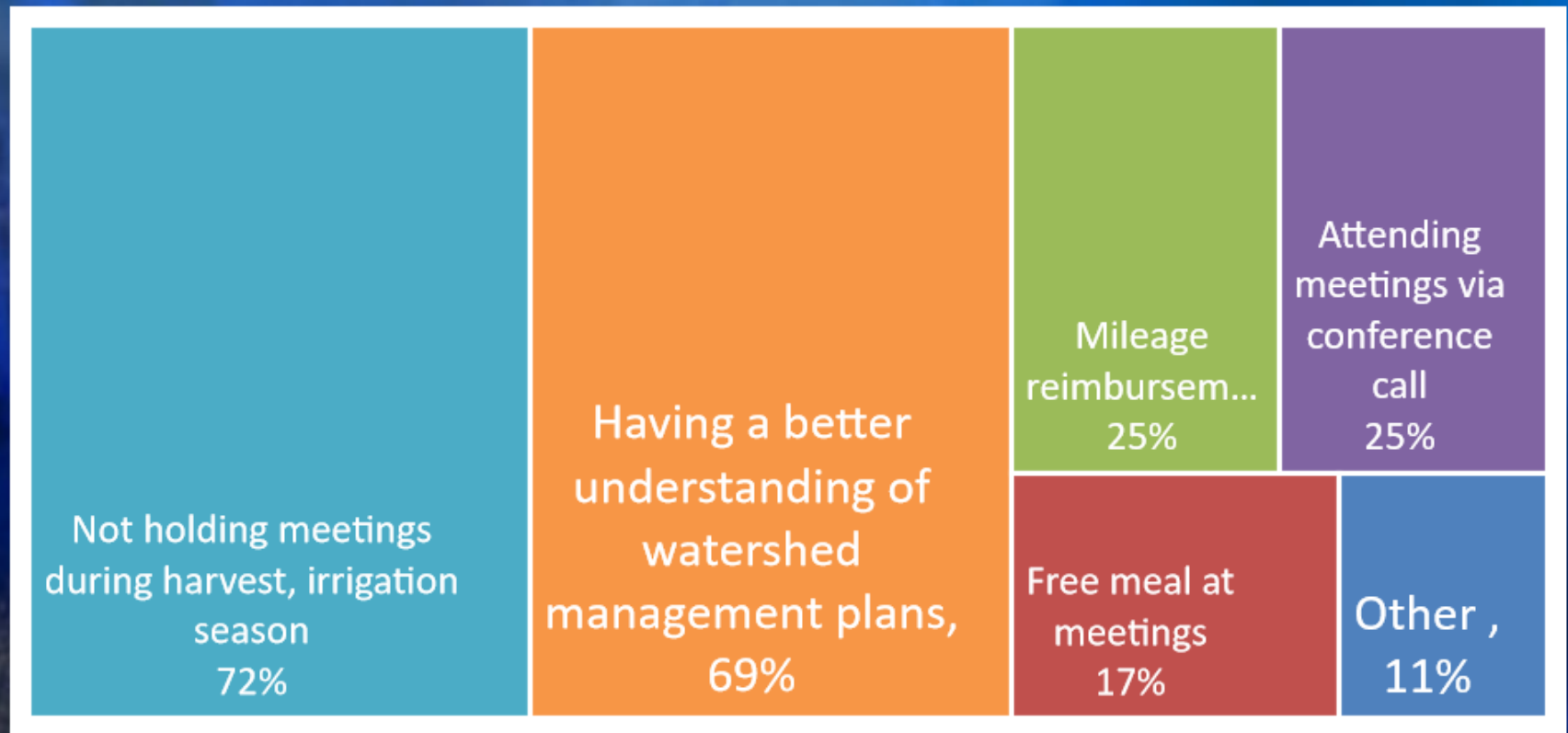
Who should lead watershed planning efforts in your area?



Producer Comments (statewide):

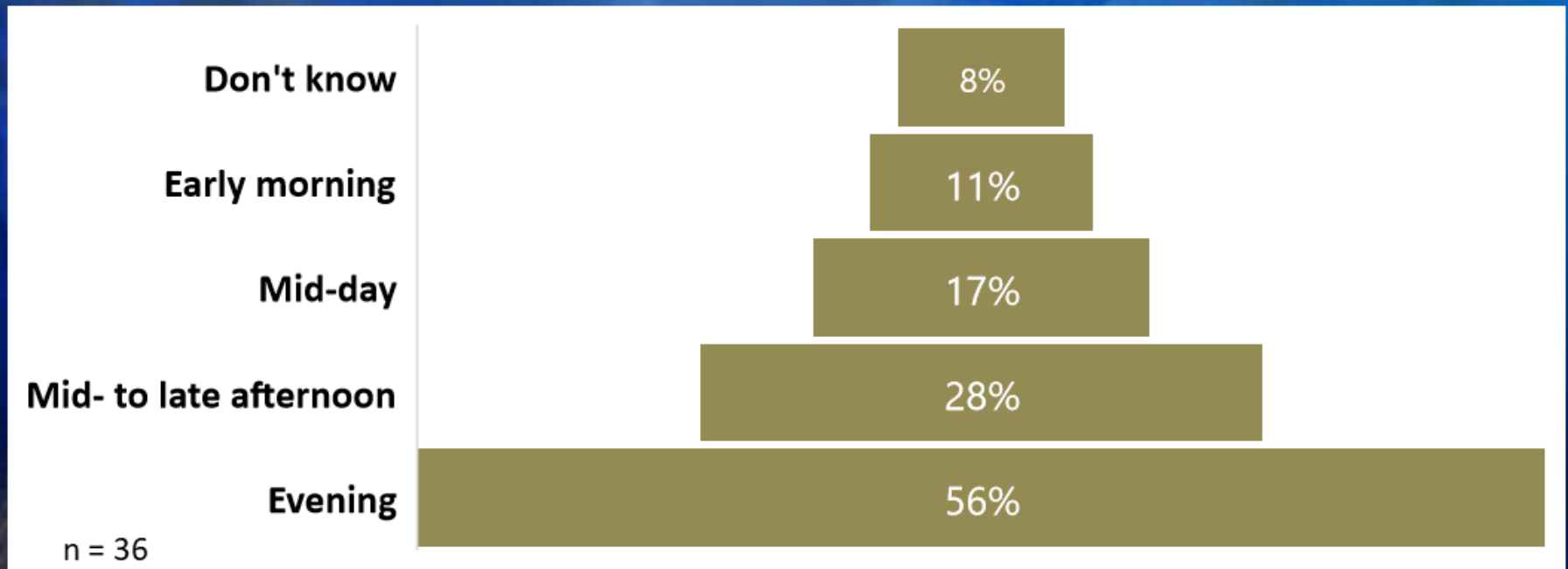
- Ditch companies
- Basin Roundtables
- Groundwater Districts
- CCA

If you were to participate in watershed management planning meetings, which of the following would be helpful to you? (White River counties only)



If you were to attend a watershed planning meeting, what time of day would work best for you to meet?

(White River Counties only)



In what role would you like to serve if you participated in watershed or stream management planning activities?

Hosting a group at my farm to showcase water related improvements

11%

Leader or co-leader

11%

Subcommittee member

50%

Occasional attendee with no formal role

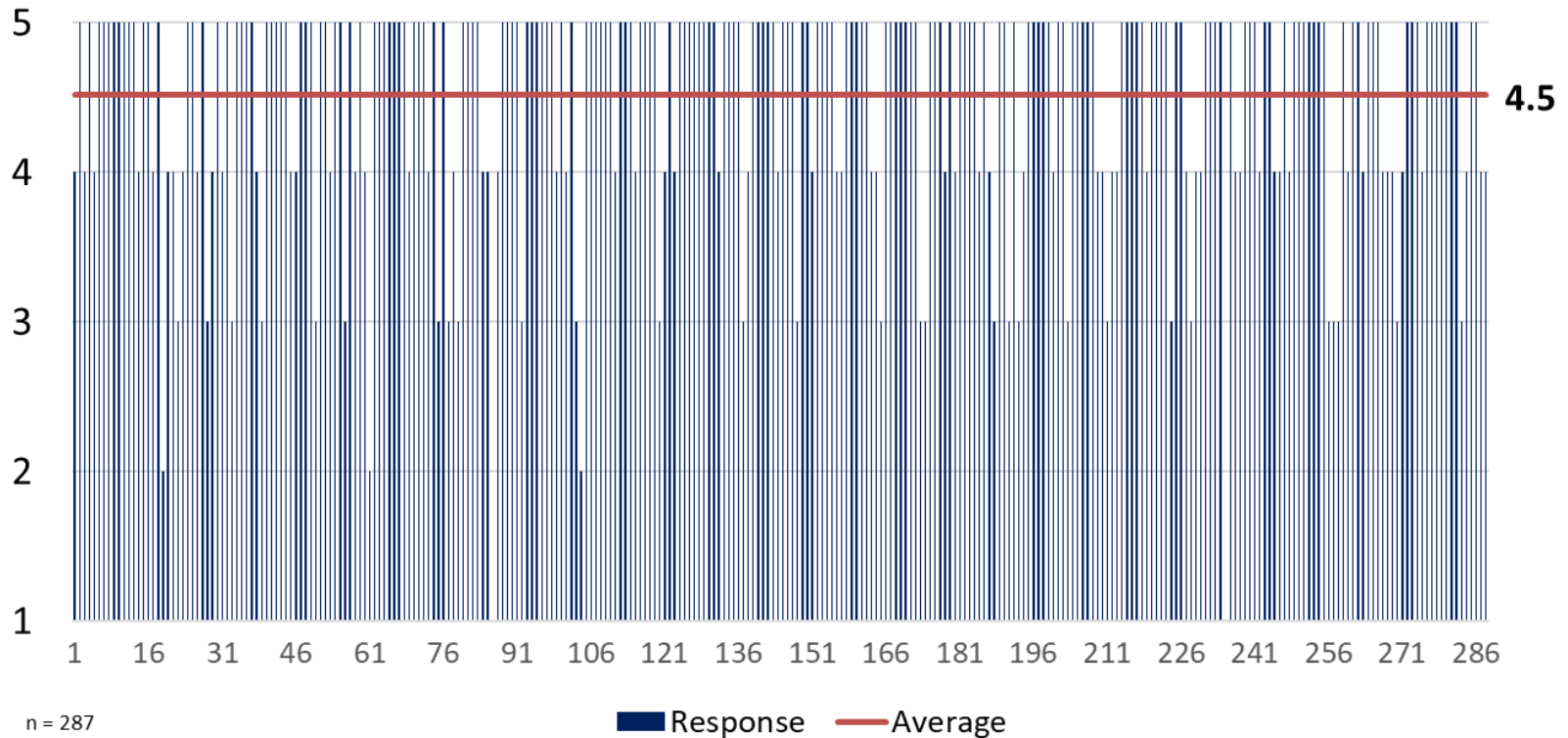
44%

Don't know

22%

n = 36

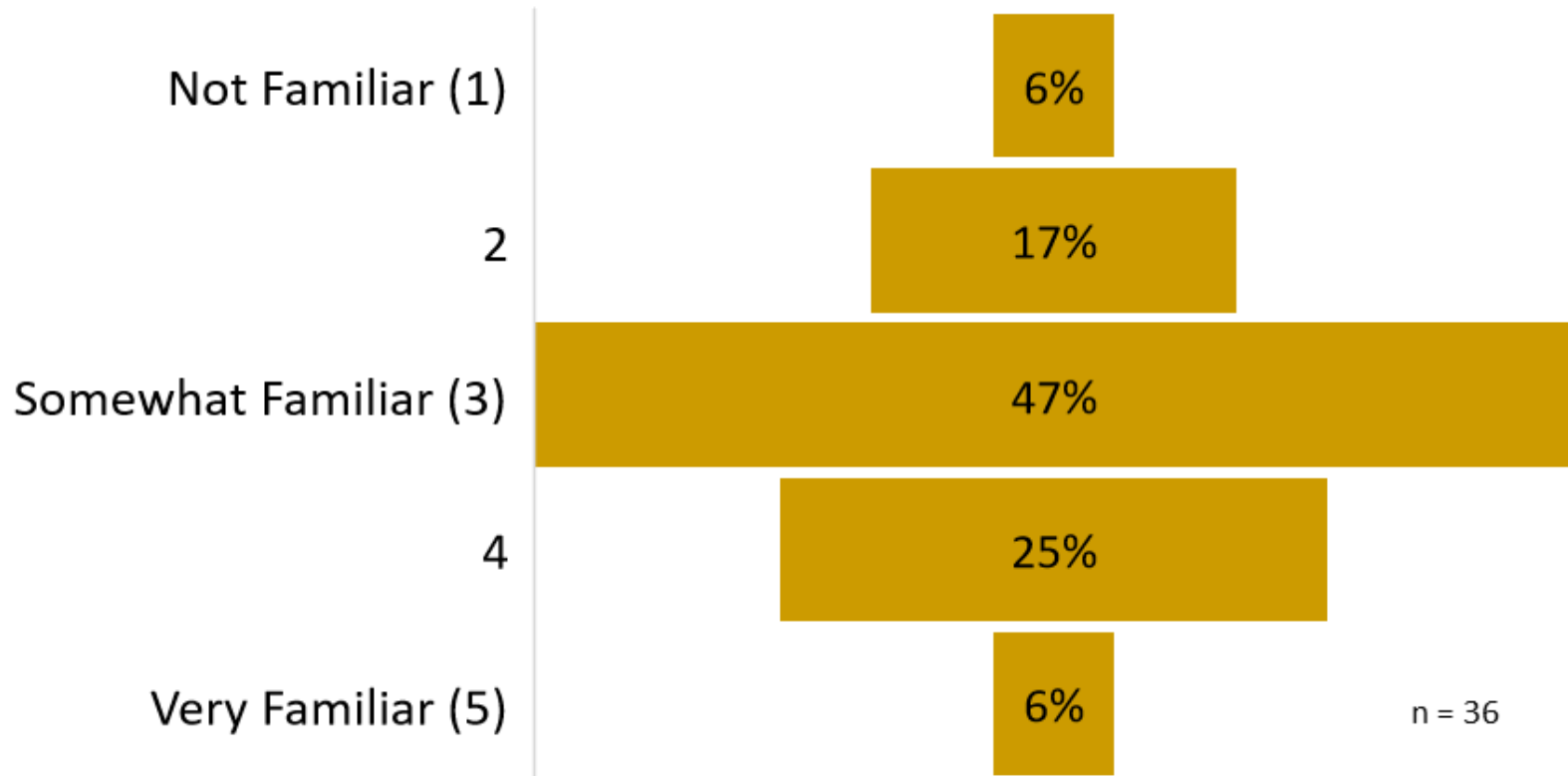
How helpful would it be to have a local ag-oriented person serve as a "liaison" to represent agriculture's interests at local watershed management planning and implementation meetings? (1 = Not Helpful; 5 = Very Helpful)



Liaison Limitation – Producer comment: "Ag" is not one thing, and one person would have a hard time speaking for all ag interests."

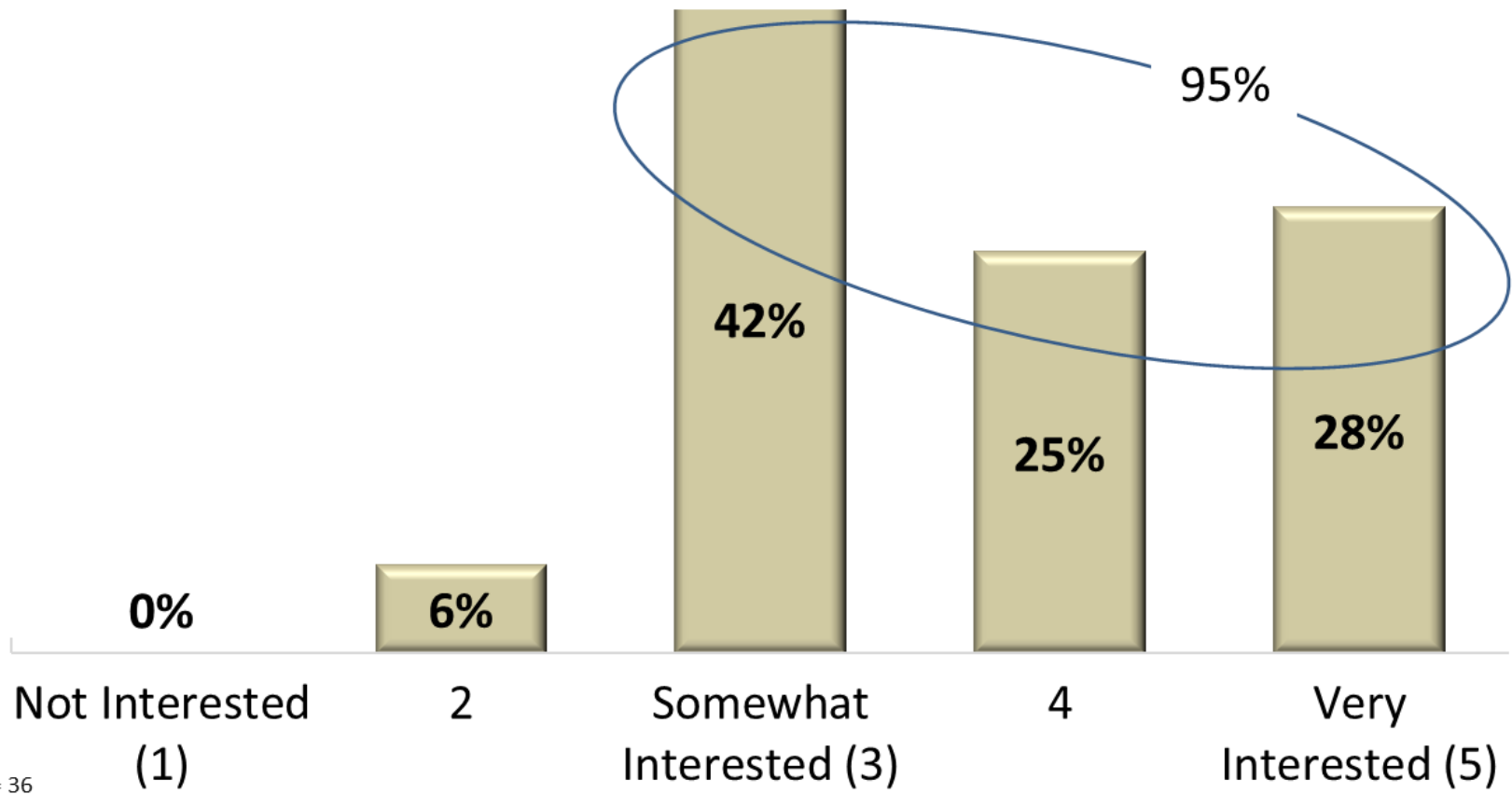
White River Counties only

How would you rate your familiarity with what a watershed management plan is and what it is intended to accomplish? (1 = Not Familiar, 5 = Very Familiar)



Last Question!..

Please rate your interest in participating in a local watershed management planning initiative:



Summary of Producers Comments & Questions:

- More information is needed on watershed and stream management plans.
- Make it EASY to find out what is going on.
- Meetings: Short with well-defined objectives and timelines, and positive atmosphere.
- Avoid meeting during hunting, calving, irrigation and harvest seasons.
- Get rid of acronyms and jargon.

Agricultural Water Rights:

- Address security of ag water rights and agricultural viability protection.
- Work on ag water leasing (ATMs).

Implementation:

- Reach watershed / stream project implementation phase sooner.
- Funding needed for ag water projects – infrastructure, storage, efficiency.

Potential Benefits for Ag - Funding for:

- Assessment of irrigation infrastructure and funding for irrigation upgrades
- Channel improvement / bank stabilization
- Groundwater recharge area protection planning
- Storage studies
- Water delivery system improvements
- Forest Health Assessment / Fire mitigation
- Drought Contingency / Demand Mgmt. Planning
- Create dialog with other water stakeholders which creates allies outside the ag community.



**The whole point of planning is to get
beneficial things done!**

Agriculture can help shape the goals, the priorities and the values of watershed and stream plans!

Survey report and summary: www.agwaternet.org



Questions? Phil Brink (303) 475-3453 or phil@brinkinc.biz