TITTABAWASSEE RIVER FLOODPLAIN

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH SUMMARY

Diane Russell – U.S. EPA

CAG Meeting
November 18, 2013

Summary Outline

- Outreach Goals
- Outreach Methods
- Results Summary
  - Goal #1
  - Goal #2
  - Goal #3

Outreach Goals

- The goals of this outreach effort were to:
  - Understand community values about the current state of the floodplain & desires for future conditions and uses.
  - Obtain feedback on the possible tradeoffs that come with the cleanup options.
  - Identify what other information may be needed by the community.

OUTREACH METHODS

Outreach "Tier" Groups

- The "Tier" indicates the outreach commitment for EPA based on how critical the group's input is.

Priority Group	Description
1st Tier	The individuals and groups that will be most directly affected by EPA's Tittabawassee floodplain cleanup decision
2nd Tier	Groups that are important because of the nature of their impact on the community and concerns regarding EPA's cleanup decisions
3rd Tier	Groups that are important in the community but may not be directly affected by EPA's Tittabawassee floodplain cleanup decision

NOTE: Input from other groups or individuals will be welcome at any time

Identified Outreach Groups

1st Tier	2nd Tier	3rd Tier
Tittabawassee River Floodplain Homeowners	Elected Officials/Local Government Bodies	Sportsman Organizations (except river fisherman)
Tittabawassee River Floodplain Farmers/ Agricultural Groups	Tribe	Civic Organizations
Tittabawassee River Floodplain Businesses	Tittabawassee-Saginaw Rivers Community Advisory Group	Non-governmental Organizations
Park and Recreation Departments managing parks along Tittabawassee River	Environmental Groups	Real Estate Agents
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Shiawassee NWR	Chamber of Commerce/ Better Business Bureau	Student Groups
	Sportsmen (river fisherman)	Unions
		Environmental Justice Groups

RESULTS

Results Summary

- 1st Tier Stakeholders:
  - Held 16 meetings for residential, agricultural and commercial owners
    - Held meetings from March - September at 5 different locations throughout the floodplain community.
  - Conducted best efforts to maximize participation
    - People were mailed multiple invitations
    - Called over half of all invitee's to inform them of upcoming meeting(s).
  - Held 5 meetings with local parks, recreational departments and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

Results Summary

- 2nd Tier Stakeholders:
  - All elected officials were informed of our outreach plans
  - Meet with 4 groups including the CAG
    - Made efforts to engage other 2nd tier stakeholders
- 3rd Tier Stakeholders:
  - No groups came forward to request a meeting.

Results Summary

- For residential, agricultural and commercial property owners, small informal meetings were held throughout the community where they were invited to;
  - Learn about cleanup options and tradeoffs.
  - Provided feedback to EPA and share of questions and/or concerns.
- For local parks and recreation departments, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and 2nd Tier groups, one-on-one meetings were held.

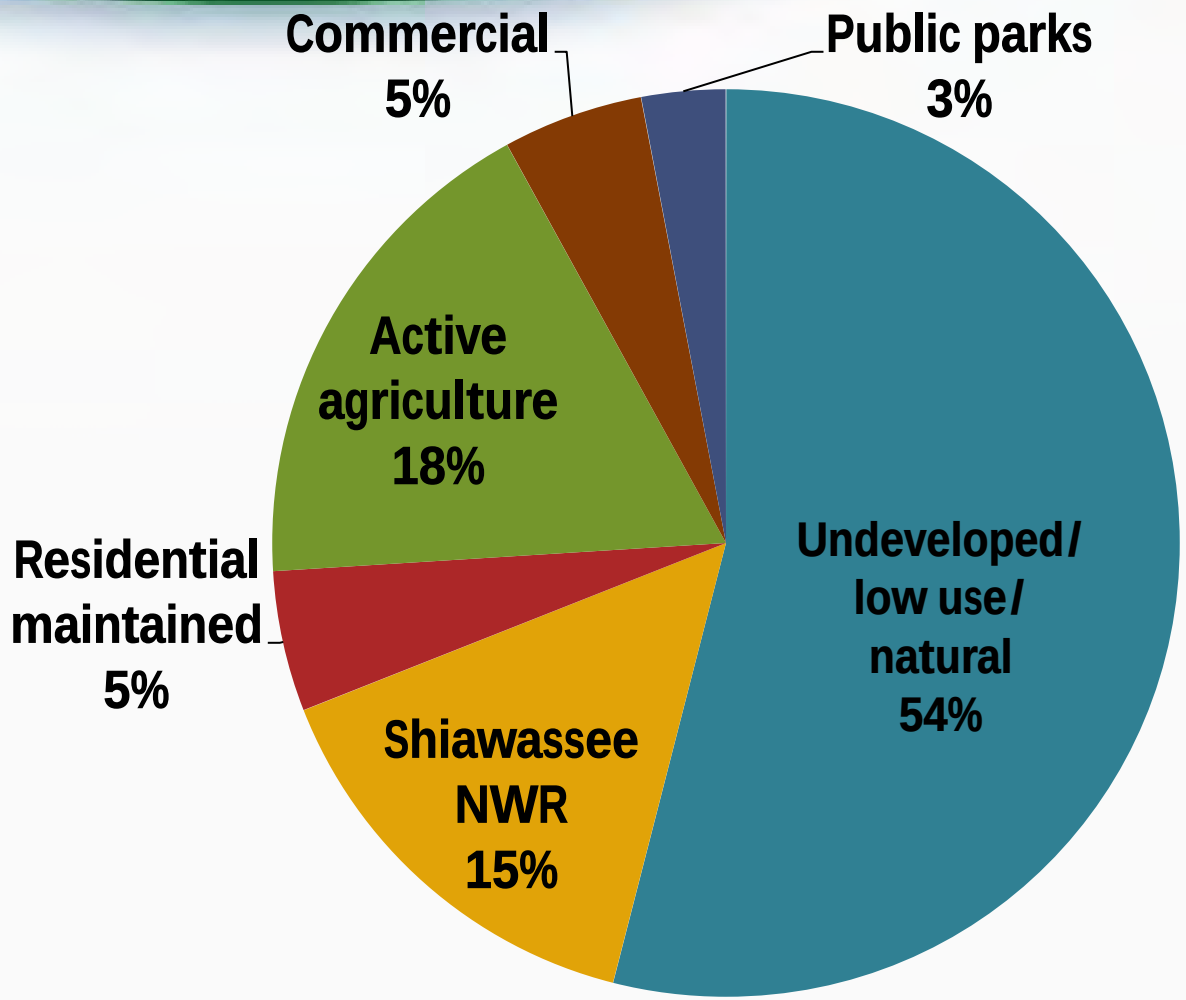
Results Summary

- The results presented in following slides are based on interactive exercises conducted during meetings held with residential, agricultural and commercial property owners.
  - CAG results are also included where available.

GOAL #1:

Understand community values about the current state of the floodplain & desires for future conditions and uses.

Estimated Current Land Use

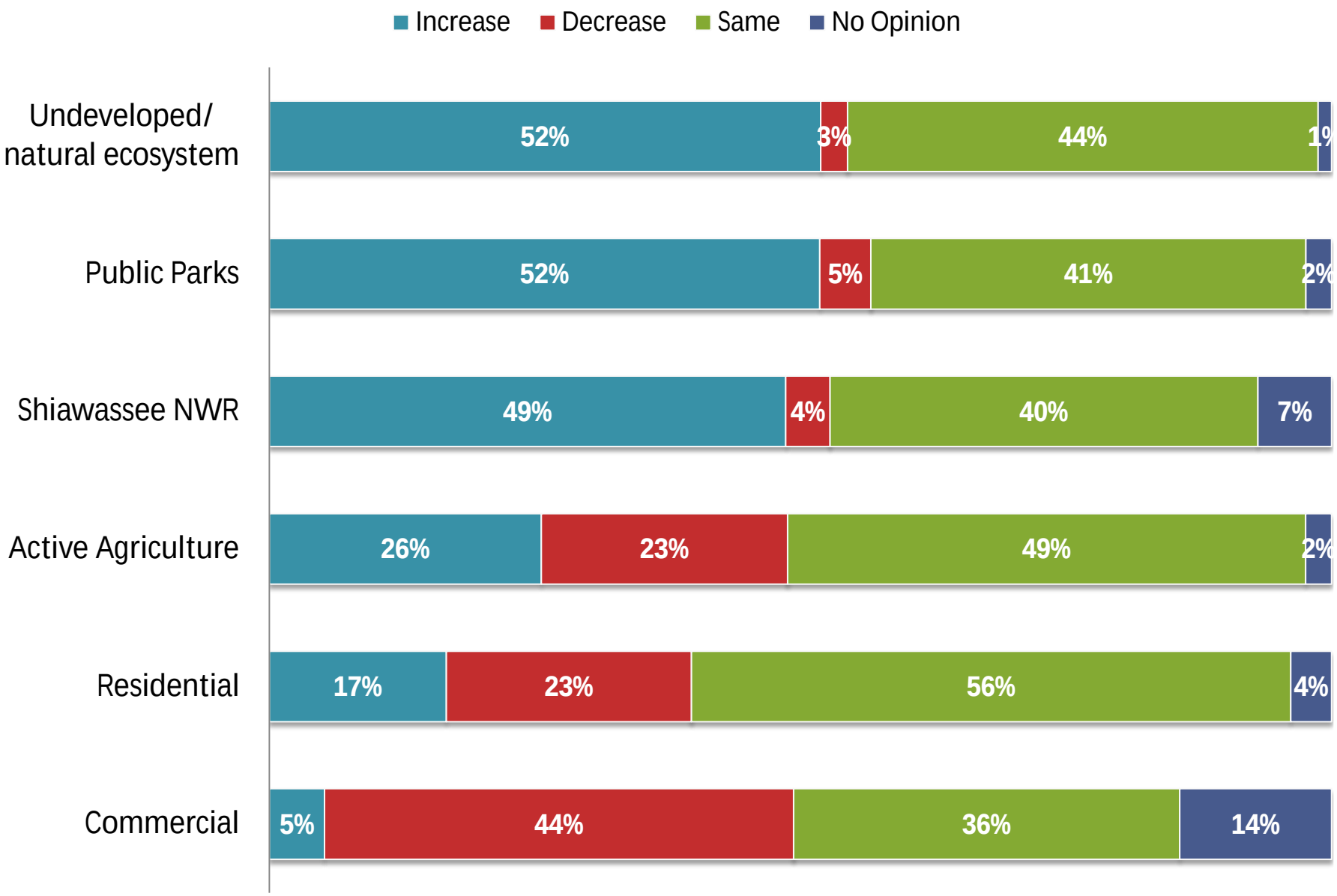


Future Land Conditions

How would you like the floodplain to look in the future?

Land Use	Increase	Decrease	Same	No opinion
Undeveloped/ natural ecosystem				
Residential				
Shiawassee NWR				
Active agriculture				
Commercial				
Public parks				

Views on Future Land Use of the Tittabawassee River Floodplain



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

GOAL #2:

Obtain feedback on the possible tradeoffs that come with the cleanup options.

Floodplain Cleanup Options

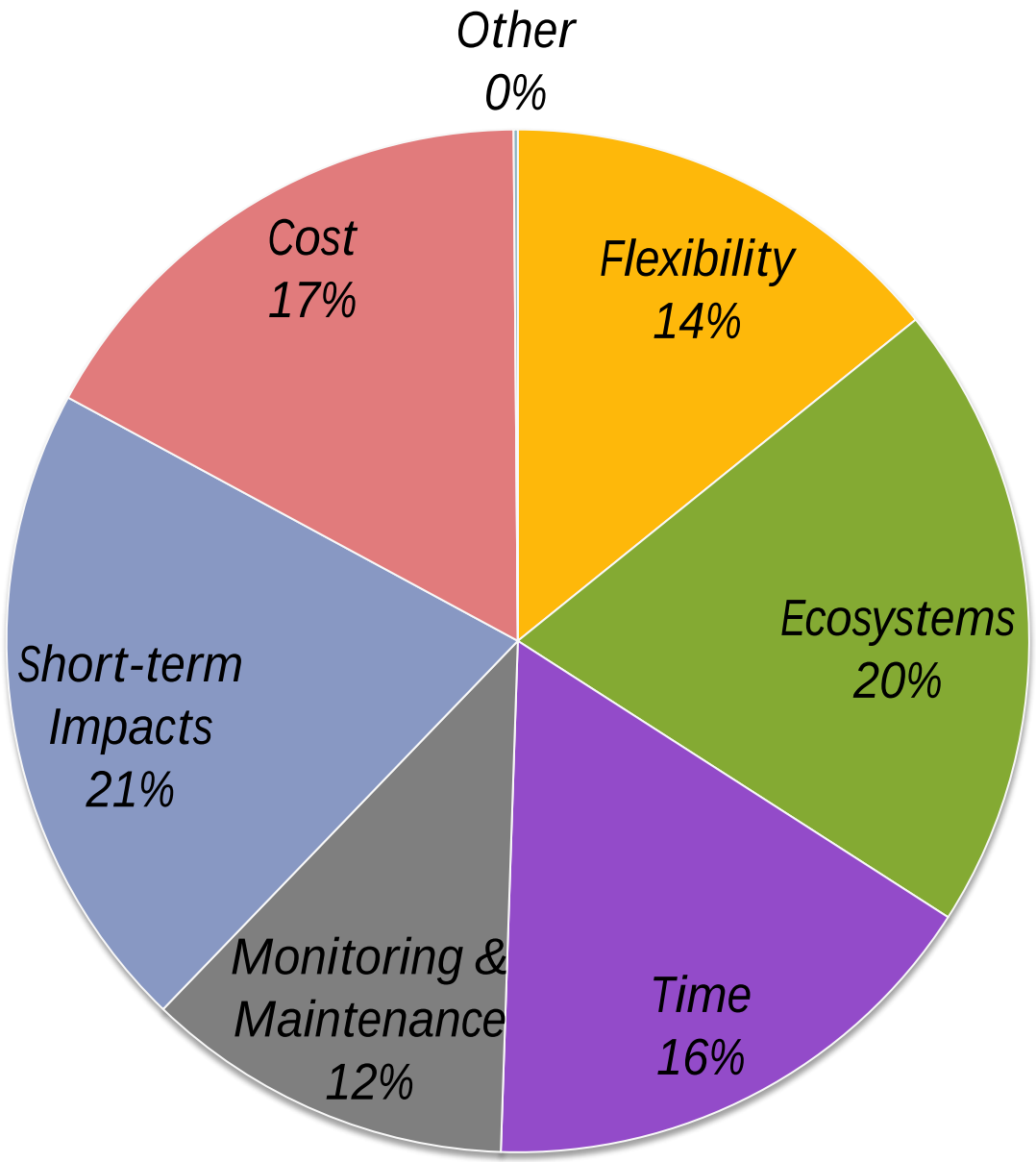
- The cleanup options being considered are:
  - Soil Removal
  - Soil Cover
  - Land-use Management
- Other things to consider:
  - Each option can protect people and the environment under the right conditions.
  - All have some tradeoffs or impacts to consider.
  - A mixed approach combining the options may provide the best balance among the tradeoffs for the floodplain cleanup.

Tradeoffs for Floodplain Cleanup Options

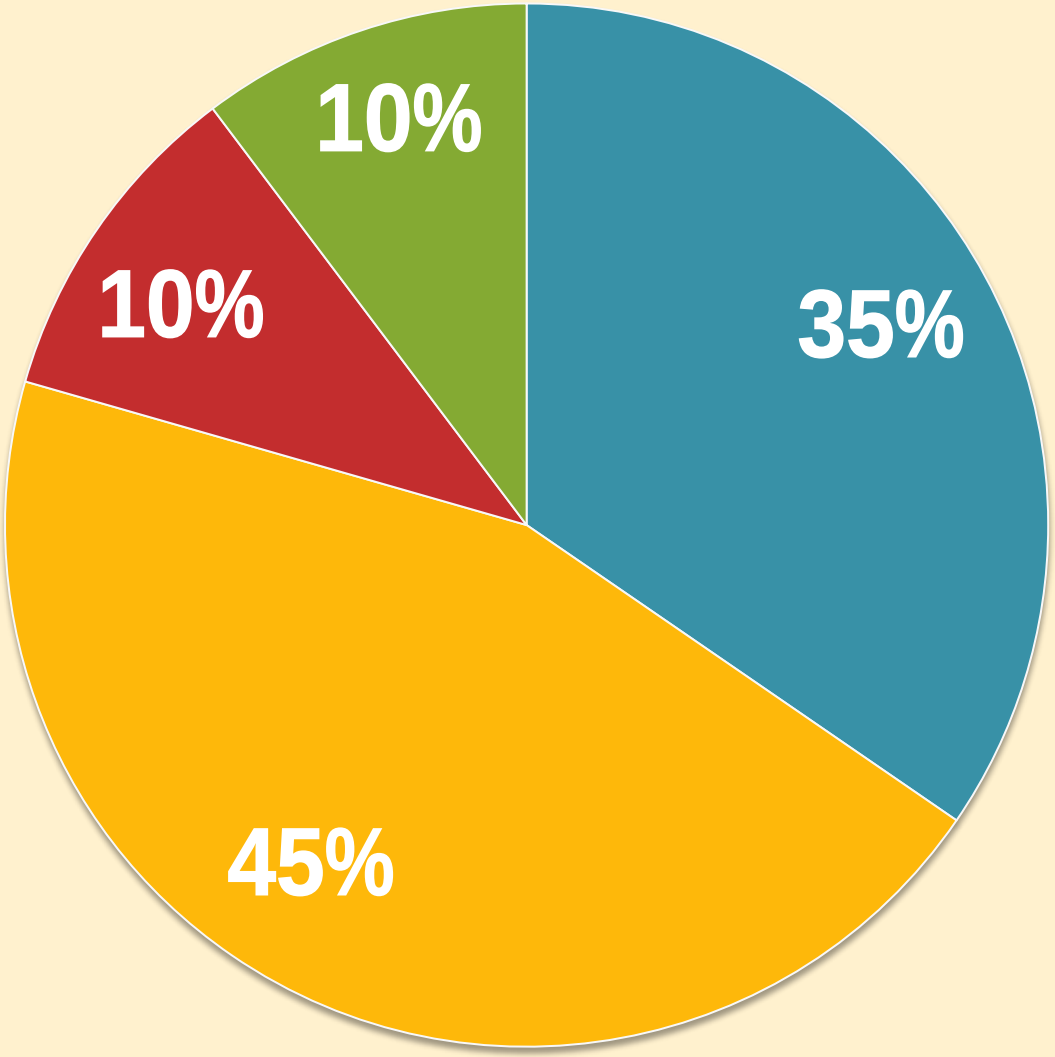
	CLEANUP OPTIONS		
TRADEOFFS	LAND USE MANAGEMENT	SOIL COVER	SOIL REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL
Flexibility for future land use	Least flexible	Somewhat flexible	Most flexible
Impacts to existing ecosystem	Least impact	More impact	Most impact
Time to implement and achieve protection	Least time to implement	More time to implement	Most time to implement
Reliance on monitoring and maintenance	Reliance on monitoring	Reliance on both monitoring and maintenance	Least to no reliance on monitoring
Short-term worker and community impacts	Least short-term impacts	More short-term impacts	Most short-term impacts
Cost	Least cost	More cost	Most cost

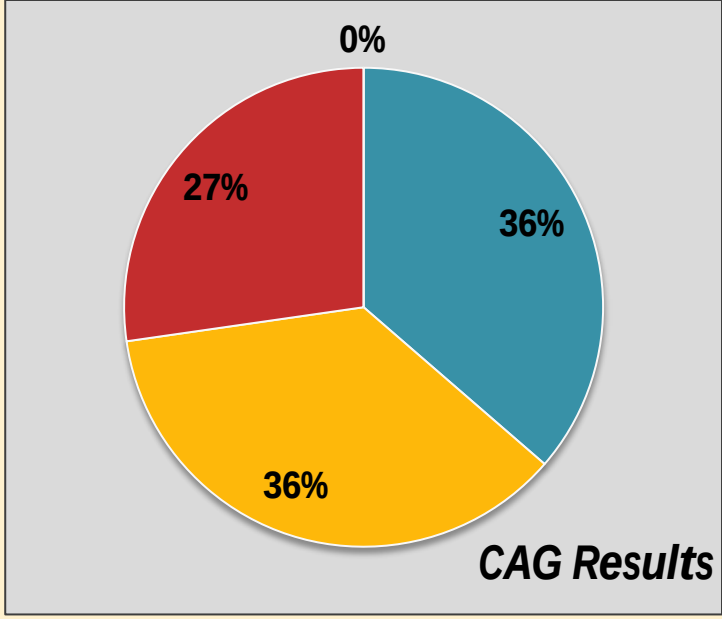
RESULTS FROM FEEDBACK ON CLEANUP OPTION TRADEOFFS

Percentage of Votes in Each Trade-off Category



Flexibility for Future Land Use



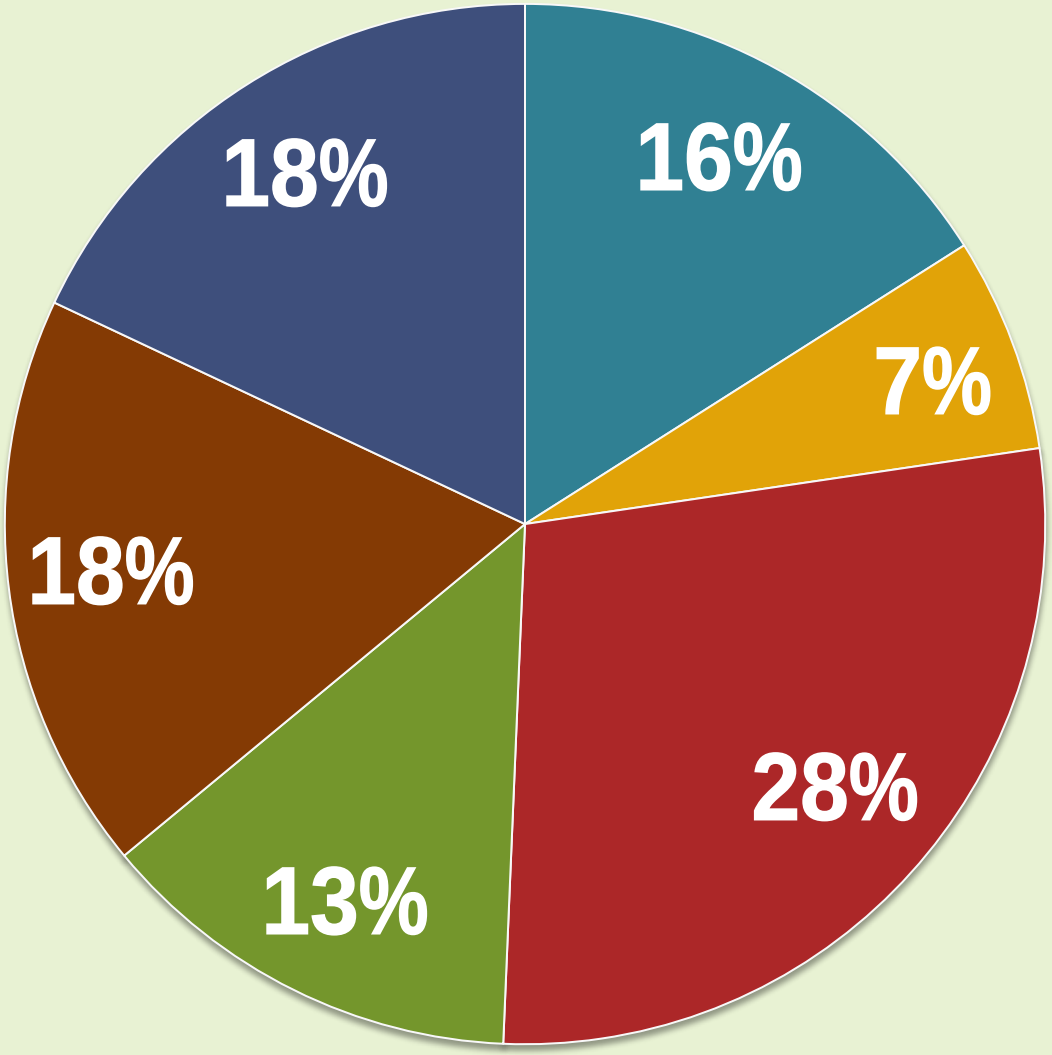


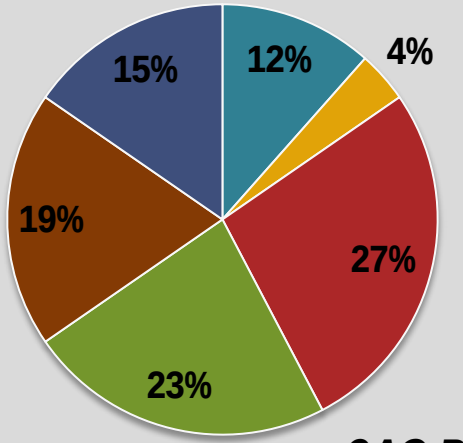
- #1 - I support the most flexibility for how the floodplain could be used in the future.
- #2 - I support limiting building or other development within the floodplain.
- #3 - There are specific areas within the floodplain where flexibility in land use should be maintained.*
- #4 - There are specific areas where future land use should be controlled.*

*#3 areas identified by owners: bike paths & parks, homeowners, wildlife & recreation, river edge

*#4 areas identified by owners: where human and animal exposures would be present

Impacts to Existing Ecosystems

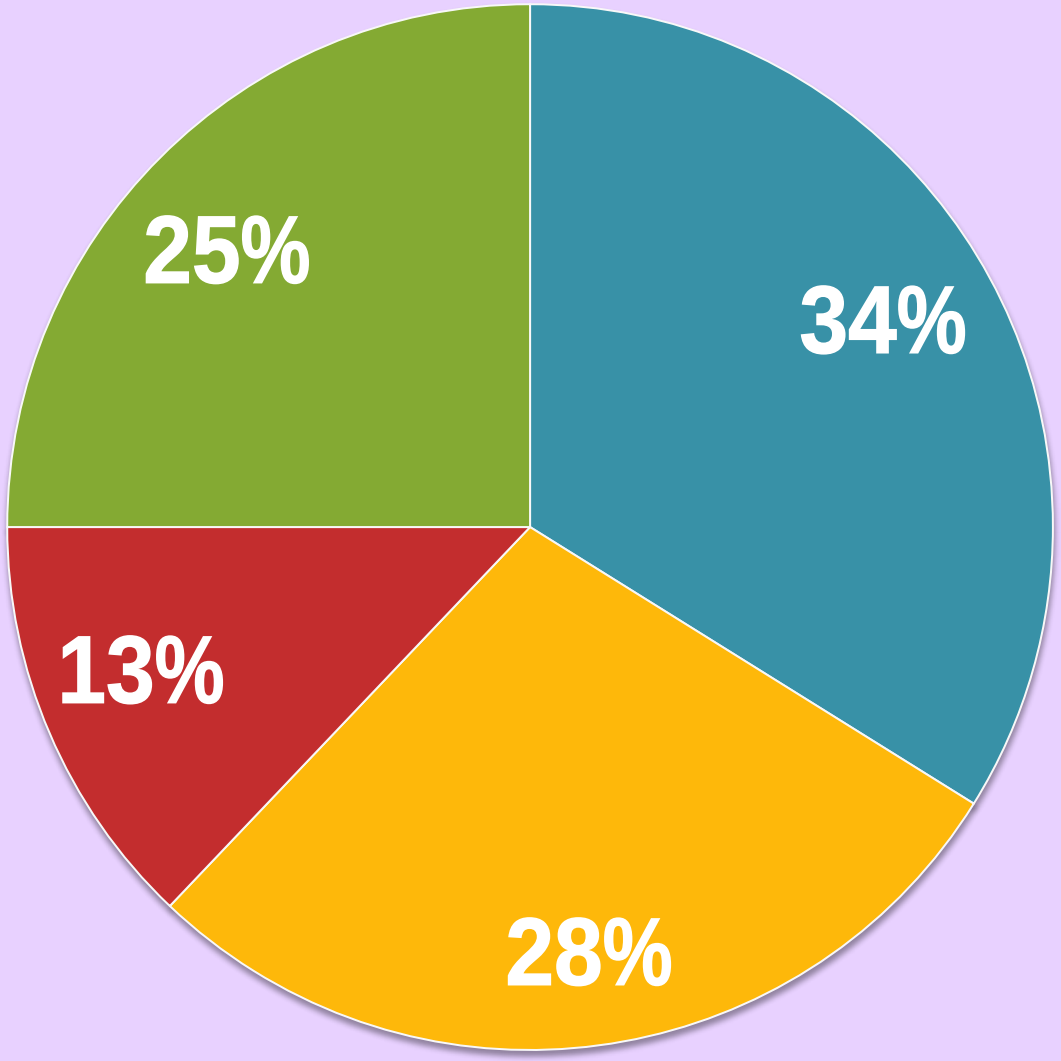




CAG Results

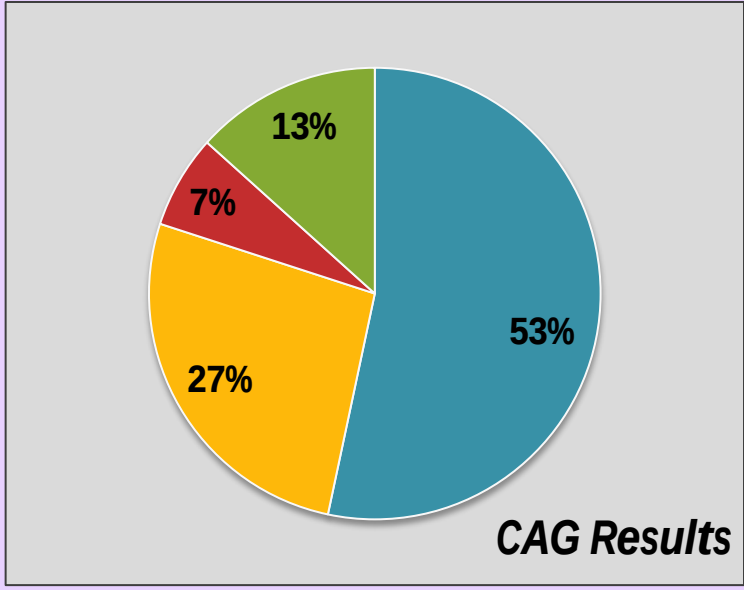
- #5 - I am willing to live with the disruption to the ecosystem, if I get the cleanup I want.
- #6 - I want to leave the ecosystem alone.
- #7 - I want to lessen ecosystem damage by focusing construction work to the most contaminated areas.
- #8 - I believe that the ecosystem can recover sufficiently from construction impacts.
- #9 - I want to protect the current floodplain ecosystem to the extent possible.
- #10 - I want to enhance the floodplain ecosystem to make it better.

Time to Implement/Achieve Protection



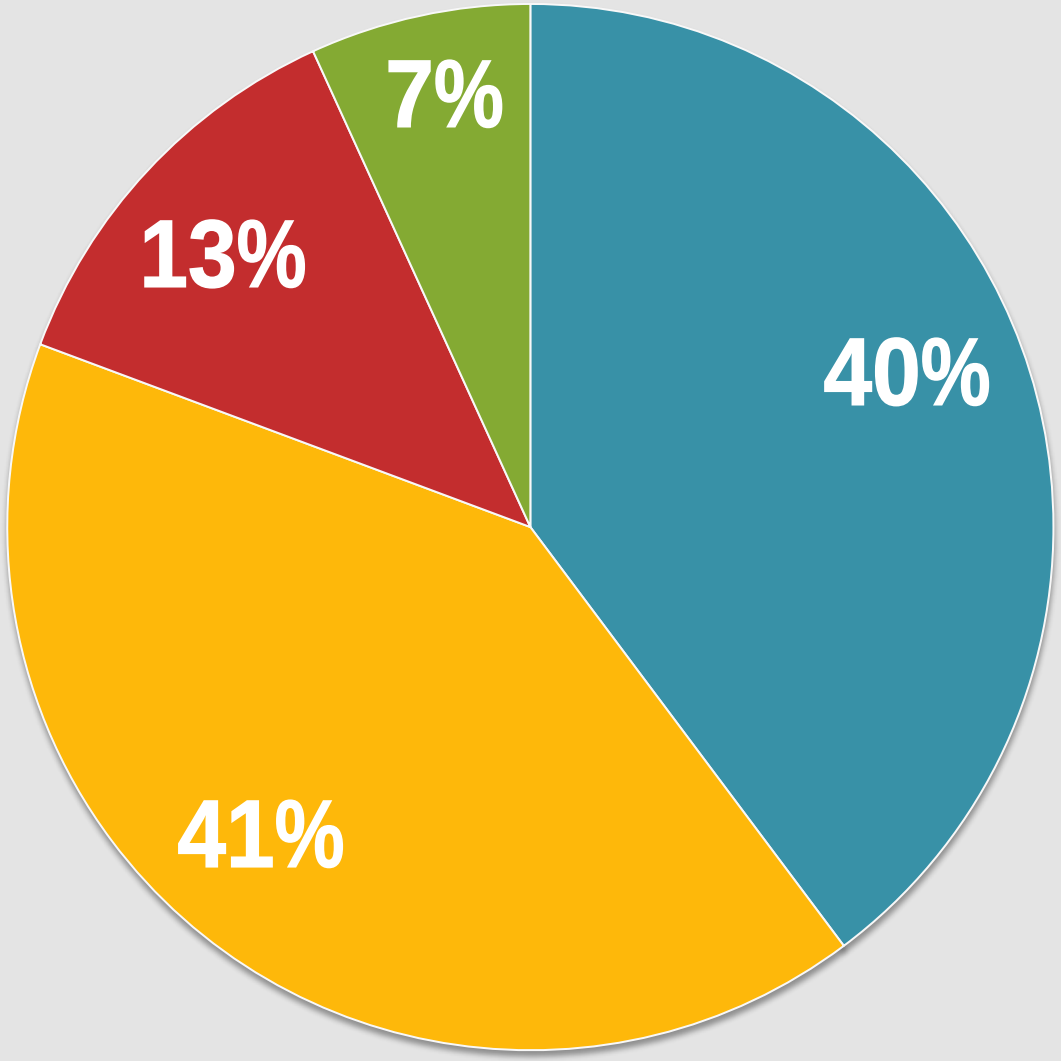
*#14 areas identified by owners: residential areas & parks

*#14 areas identified by CAG: high concentration, high use

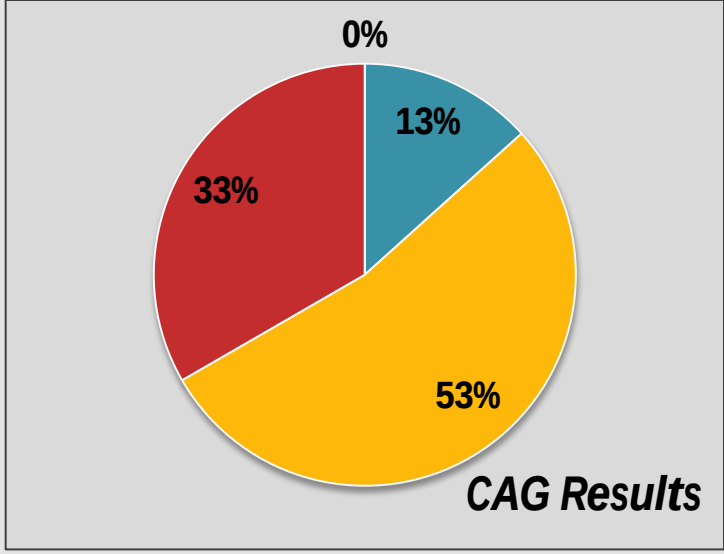


- #11 - It would be good to have this done as soon as possible.
- #12 - I can accept a longer cleanup, if I get the cleanup I want.
- #13 - I can accept a longer cleanup if there is less disruption to the community (i.e. limited work on nights or weekends, traffic limits).
- #14 - Some areas should be prioritized for cleanup sooner.*

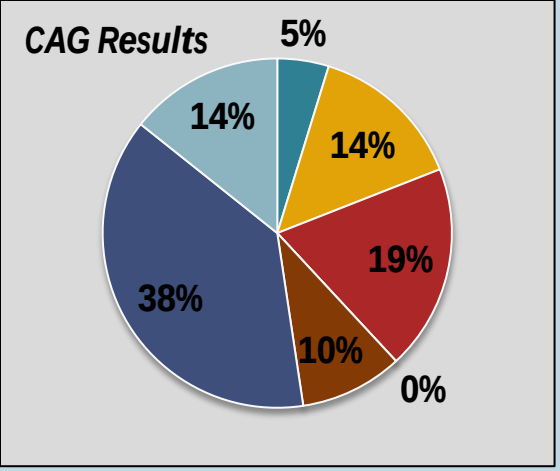
Reliance on Monitoring & Maintenance



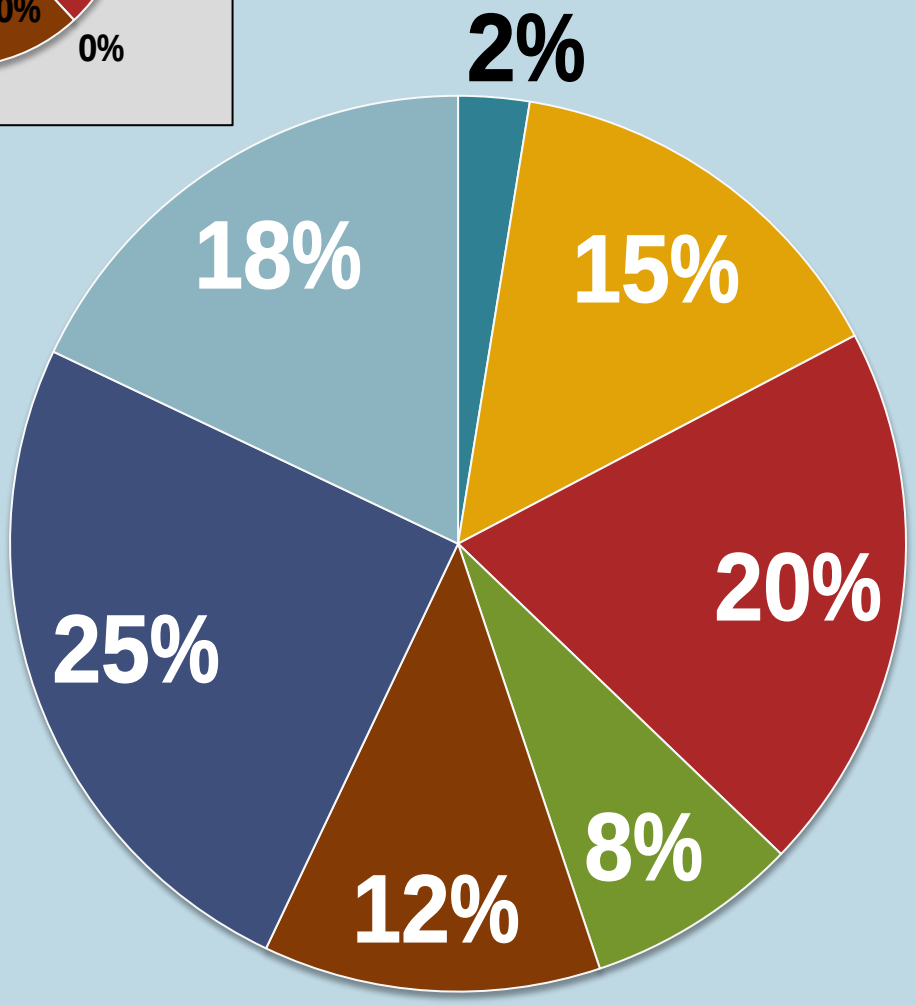
*#18 areas identified by owners: areas with most human interaction



- #15 - I don't believe that cleanups that leave contamination in the floodplain can be reliable in the long-term.
- #16 - I believe that monitoring and maintenance can be effective.
- #17 - The most contaminated areas should rely less on monitoring and maintenance.
- #18 - Specific areas should or should not rely on monitoring and maintenance.*

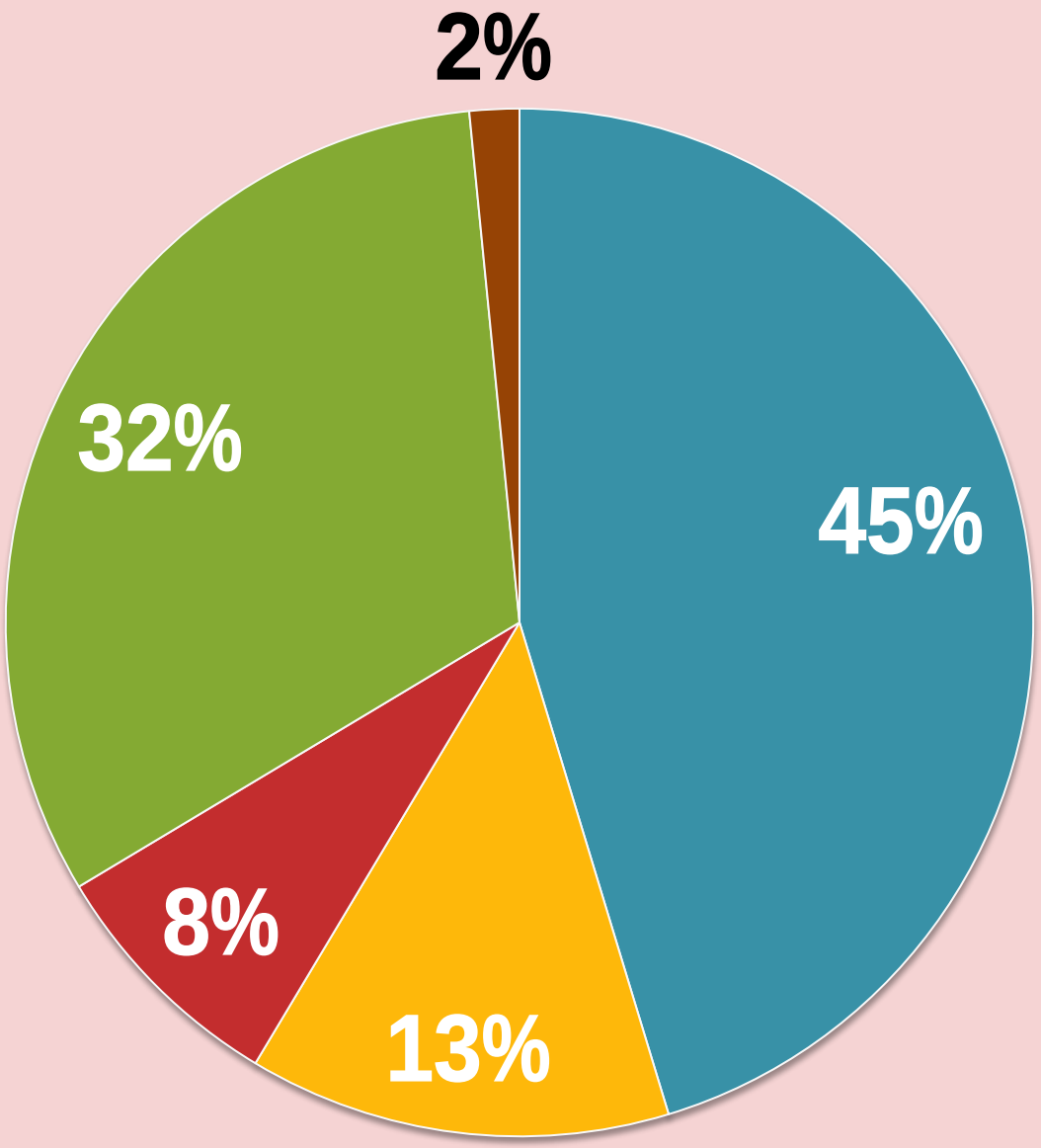


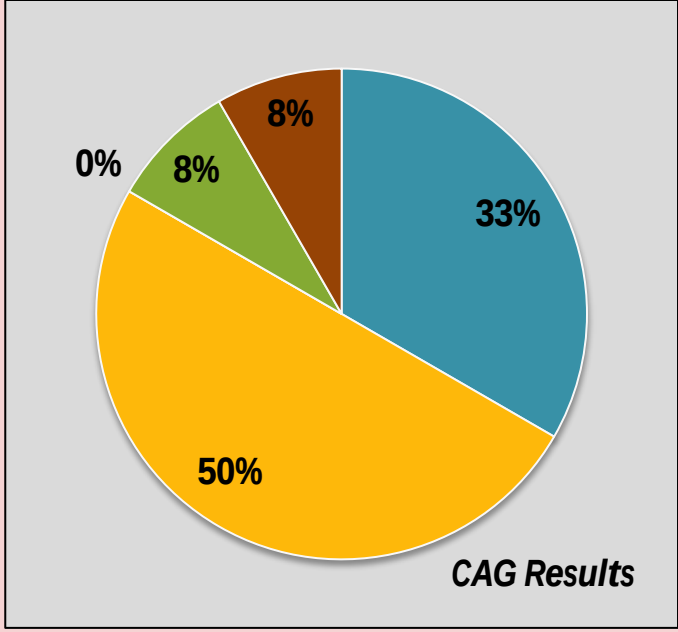
Short-term Impacts



- #19 - I don't want a lot of noise, lights, or truck traffic.
- #20 - I can accept some noise, lights, or truck traffic, but want limits (i.e. nights and weekends) even if that lengthens the cleanup.
- #21 - I am willing to live with noise, lights and truck traffic if I get the cleanup I want.
- #22 - Additional short-term pollution and resource use (water, fuel, energy) caused by the cleanup is a reasonable tradeoff.
- #23 - Short-term pollution and resource use (water, fuel, energy) should be lessened and "green" cleanup approaches used as much as possible.
- #24 - I want to make sure that the community is protected during the work.
- #25 - I want to make sure that the workers are protected during the work.

Cost





- #26 - There should be no limit on what the cleanup costs.
- #27 - A reasonable amount should be spent on the cleanup.
- #28 - It's not worth spending a lot on the cleanup.
- #29 - More should be spent to clean up the most contaminated areas.
- #30 - More or less should be spent to clean up specific areas.*

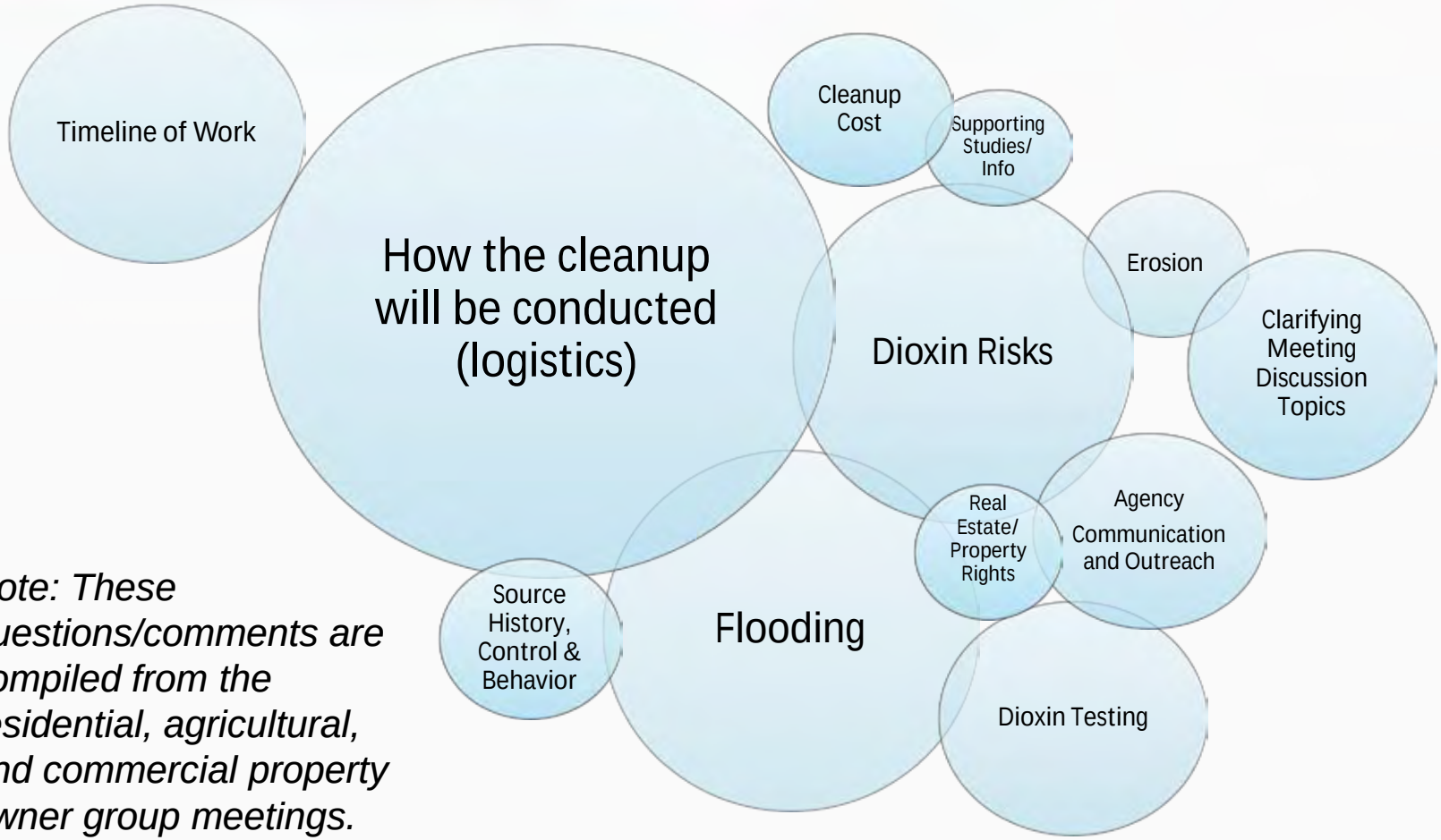
*#30 areas identified by owners: residential areas & parks

*#30 areas identified by CAG: high concentration, high use

GOAL #3:

Identify what other information may be needed by the community.

General categories and frequency of questions/comments



Note: These questions/comments are compiled from the residential, agricultural, and commercial property owner group meetings.

END