MFRC Northeast Landscape Plan

Overview of Plans & Participants

Thursday, December 1, 2011

images: c. zerger

Who we are…

Carissa Schively Slotterback, PhD, AICP

Associate Professor and Director, Urban & Regional Planning
Humphrey School of Public Affairs, U of M

Cindy Zerger, ASLA, APA

Research Fellow
College of Design, U of M

Our role…

Study the Northeast Landscape Plan Update process

Innovative process

Opportunity for research on stakeholder engagement and regional-scale planning

Interested in your perceptions of issues and the process

Our role…

Methodology

Pre- and post-process surveys

Post-process interviews

Post-meeting surveys

Observation

Plan review

Non-intrusive, retain anonymity, not required to participate

Our role…

Benefits

Research Outcomes

Produce rigorous research for publication and presentations

Plan Update Process

Provide ongoing feedback on the effectiveness of the process

Inform real-time modifications to the process

Produce a tested collaborative planning model that can be replicated in future landscape planning efforts

Plan Review & Summary

Methodology

16 documents identified by Minnesota Forest Resource Council (MFRC) Staff

- » 9 priority documents identified by staff
- » 11 summarized

MFRC summary requested information

- » Vision
- » Issues
- » Goals
- » Strategies

UMN Researchers identified additional information that may be helpful

- » Spatial Scale (e.g., context within larger region, connections, coordination)
- » Temporal Scale (e.g., future desired conditions, scenarios)
- » Social, Economic, Ecological content
- » Key words (e.g., climate change, adaptive management, process)

*A full list of categories included in this review is available from Schively Slotterback & Zerger.

Plan Review & Summary

List of MFRC identified plans

Reviewed plans

1. Border Lakes Subsection Forest Resources Management Plan (2005)
2. Carlton County Management Plan for Tax-Forfeited Lands (2004)
3. Cook County Wildfire Protection Plan (2009)
4. Fond du Lac 2008 Integrated Resource Management Plan (2008)
5. Lake County Forest Management Plan (2007)
6. Mille Lacs Uplands Subsection Forest Resources Management Plan (2008)
7. North Shore Highlands, Toimi Uplands, Laurentian Uplands Subsection Forest Resources Management Plan (2004)
8. St. Louis County 2010-2012 Land Department Business Plan (2010)
9. St. Louis Moraines, Tamarack Lowlands, Nashwauk Uplands, and Littlefork-Vermillion Uplands Subsection Forest Resources Management Plan (2010)
10. Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (2004)
11. Superior National Forest Record of Decision Final Environmental Impact Statement (2004)

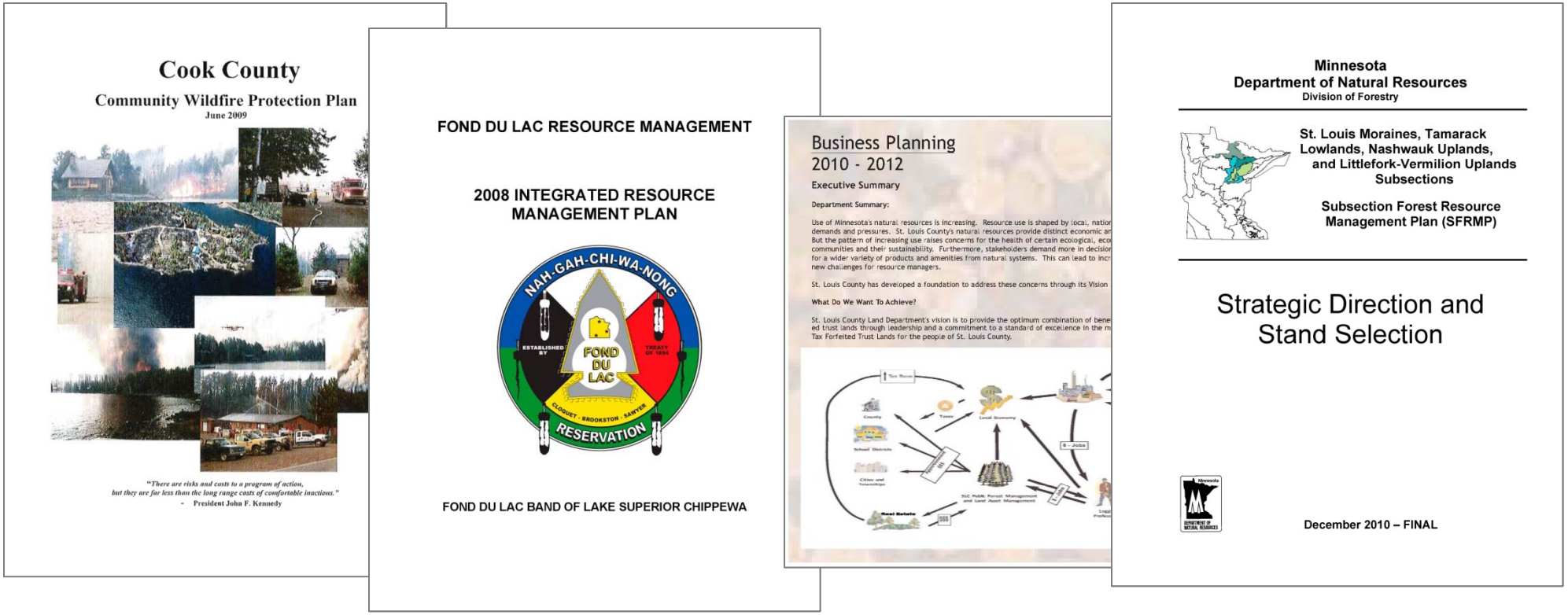
Additional plans completed during 2004-2011 – not reviewed by UMN

1. Carlton County Local Water Management Plan (2010)
2. Lake County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2006)
3. Lake County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinance (2011)
4. St. Louis 2010-2020 Comprehensive Water Plan (2010)
5. St. Louis Community Wildfire Protection Plan (n.d.)
6. Boise Forte (not interested in sharing document at this time)

Plan Review & Summary

General purpose of documents

Generally, all documents identify a similar document purpose: to provide a framework for **management of lands** and identify key initiatives, goals, and strategies for lands as they relate to addressing **ecological health** (forest, water, animal, habitat), **timber productivity**, and **experiential qualities** of lands in the Northeast Region.



Plan Review & Summary

Ecological: common topics and concerns

Desirable future forest conditions

» Vegetative diversity
» Wildlife habitat diversity
» Spatial patterns
» Research or increased knowledge
(for identification, management, monitoring)
» Sustainable forest

Threats to ecological health

» Fragmentation
» Increase in disturbances (e.g., fire, blowdown)
» Invasive species
» Deer population

image: esagor flickrstream

image: bimiers2 flickrstream

Plan Review & Summary

Social: common topics and concerns

High quality recreation experiences

» Management for scenic value
» Providing a variety of opportunities
» Passive and active

Recreation & tourism

» Important part of Minnesota experience and economy

Impact of recreation

» Positive and negative impacts

Plan Review & Summary

Economy: common topics and concerns

Desirable future forest conditions

» Good productivity
» Diversity of timber products
» Optimization
» Sustainable practices

Tax forfeited land administration

» Proper management
» Appropriate acquisition / exchange

Connection between forest health and productivity and jobs

Plan Review & Summary

Management and Planning: common topics and concerns

Provide a framework for management of lands and identify key initiatives, goals, and strategies for lands as they relate to addressing ecological health (forest, water, animal, habitat), timber productivity, and experiential qualities of lands in the Northeast Region.

» Engage stakeholders and public in processes
» Desire for cross-ownership collaboration when appropriate (management, monitoring, and research)
» General information on planning process (meeting dates, involvement)

image: c.zerger

image: CathyAH flickrstream

Plan Review & Summary

Common gaps in information

Ecological

» Climate change and potential impacts
(4 of 11 documents mention or discuss climate change impacts)
» Adaptive management strategies

Social

» Demographic information (past, present, future)

Economic

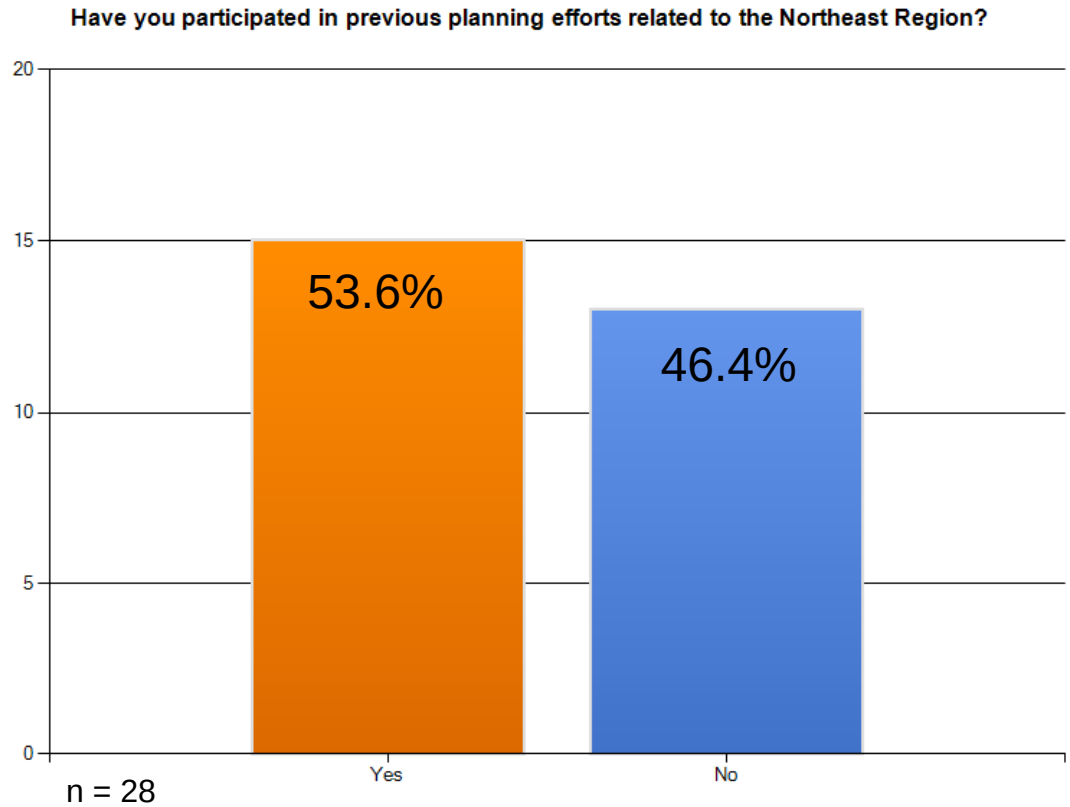
» Economic data / information (past, present, future)

Management and Planning

» Detailed description of planning processes
» How to encourage collaboration

Participant Survey Overview (n=28)

Participation in past planning efforts



More than ½ of participants have been involved in past planning efforts

Most common planning efforts you've been involved in:

1. Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (8)
2. Border Lakes Subsection Forest Resources Management Plan (6)

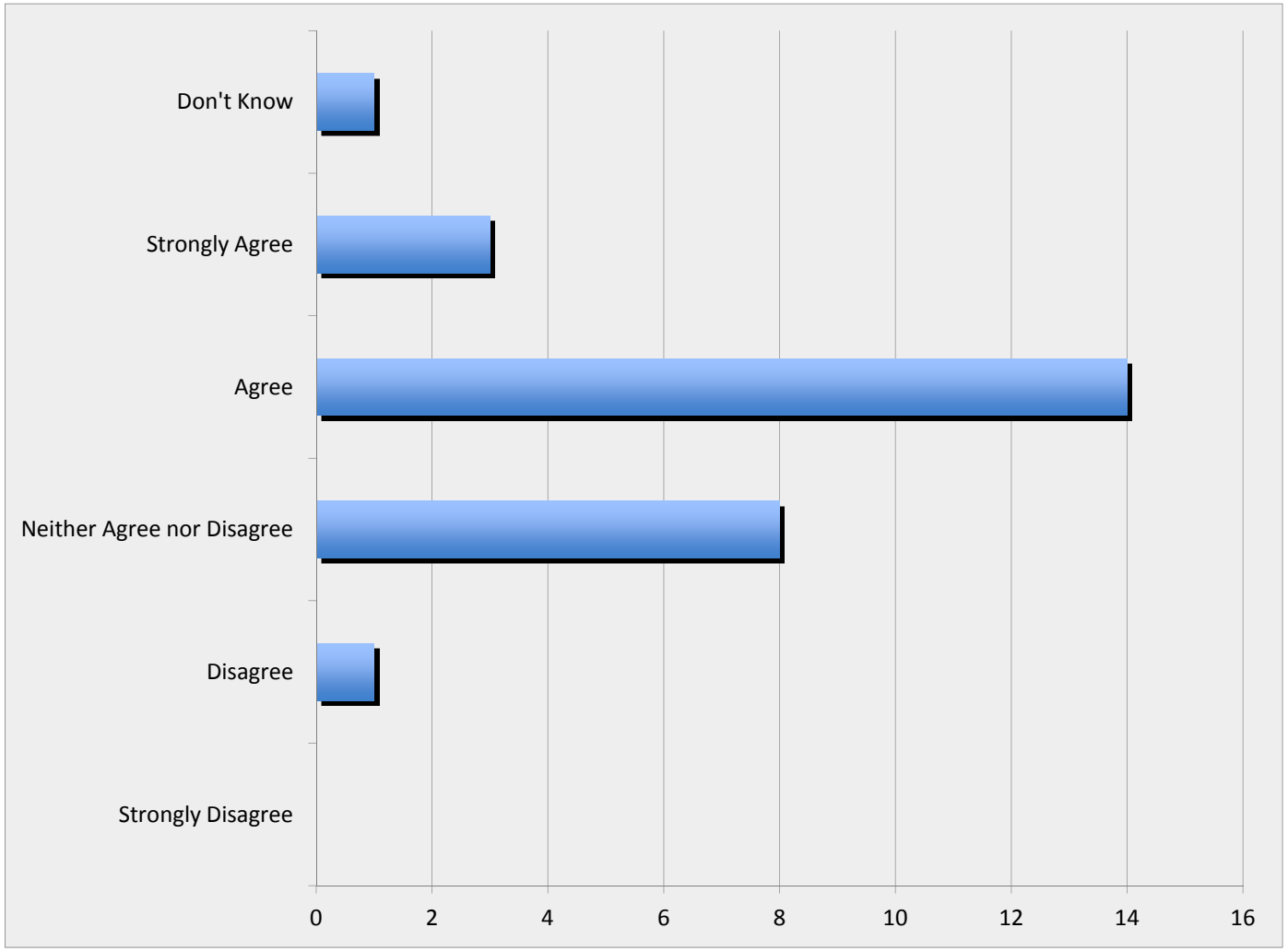
2(t). North Shore Subsection Forest Resources Management Plan (6)

3. Manitou Collaborative (5)

Participant Survey Overview

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements related to the upcoming update process for the Northeast Landscape Plan.

Updating the Northeast Landscape Plan is urgent.



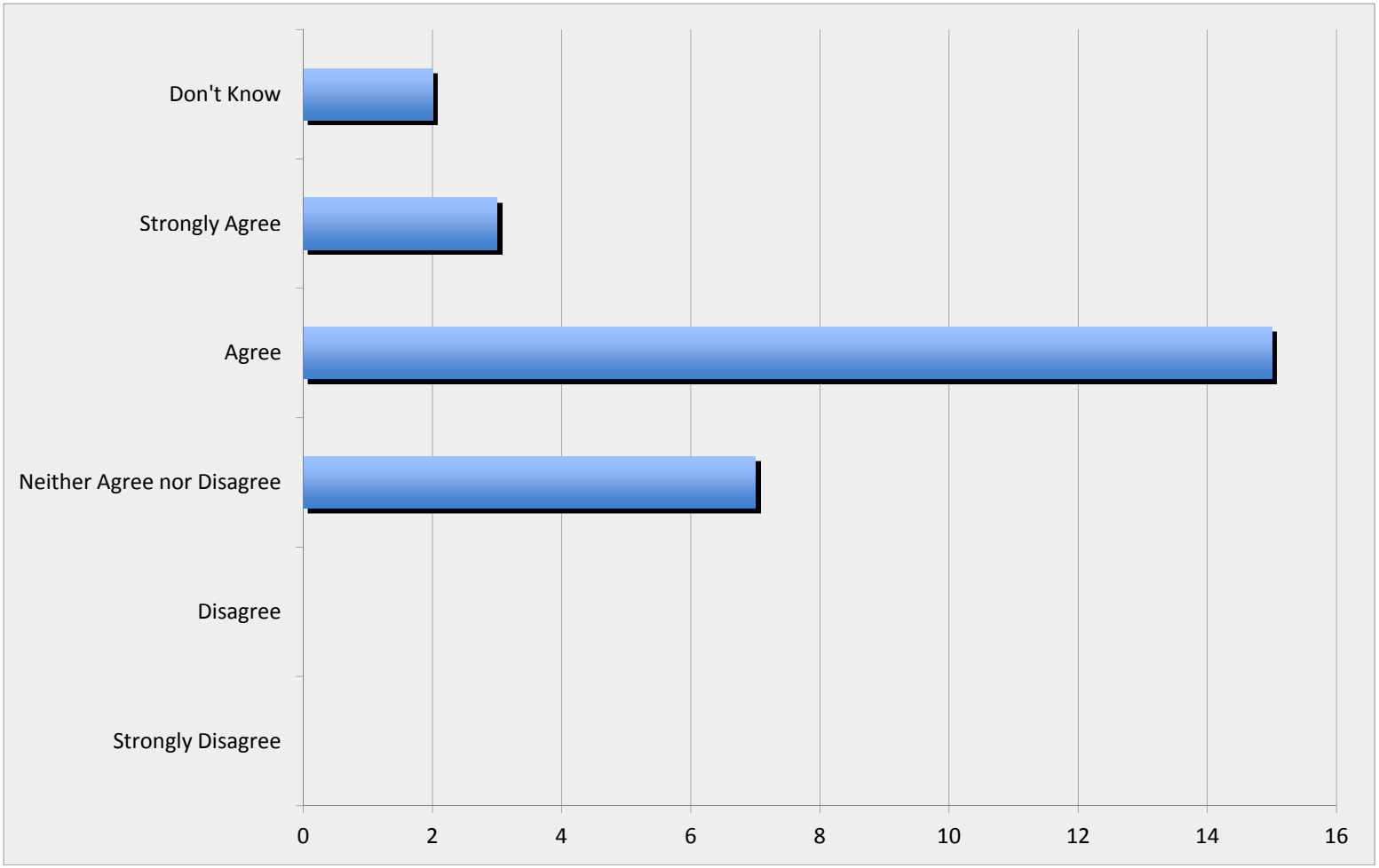
Moderate level of agreement that planning is <u>urgent</u>

Also, 85% strongly agree or agree that the NE region has changed since previous plan

Participant Survey Overview

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements related to the upcoming update process for the Northeast Landscape Plan.

The 2003 Northeast Landscape Plan has supported effective landscape management.

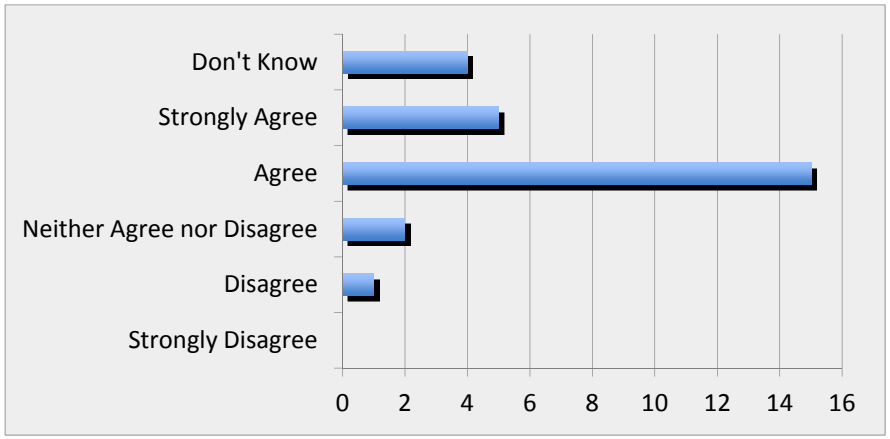


Most agree or strongly agree that 2003 plan has *supported effective landscape management*

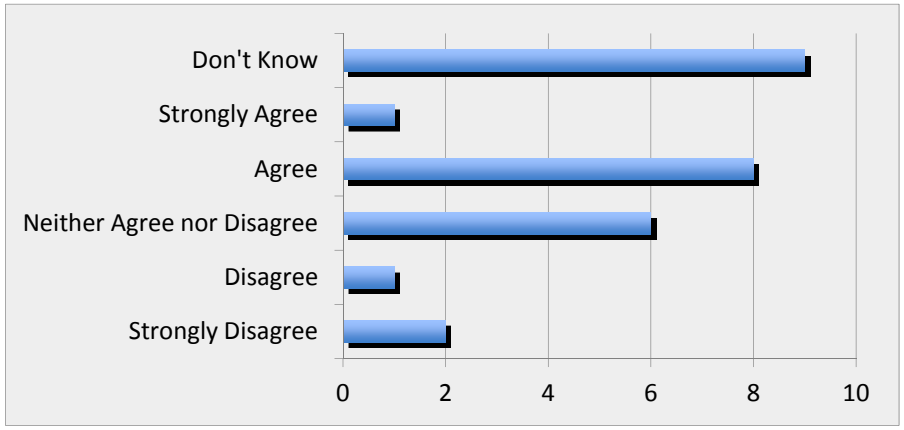
Participant Survey Overview

The 2003 Northeast Landscape Plan is being used to inform…

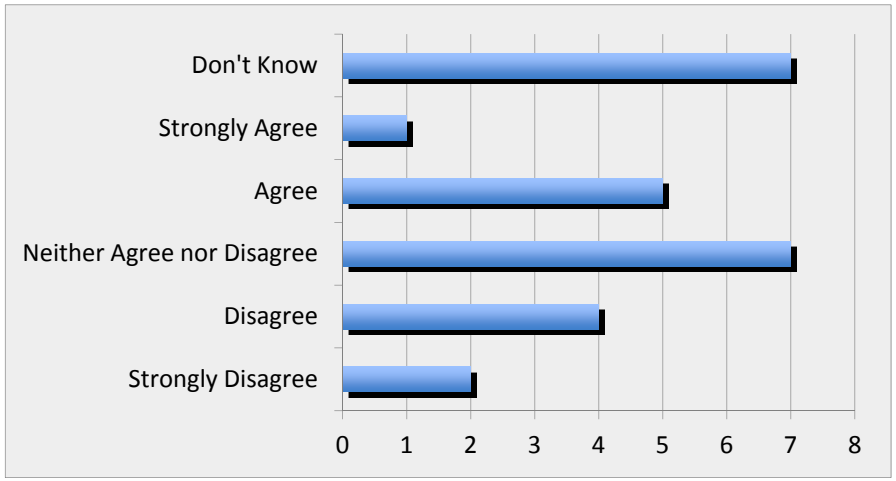
public land management decisions in the region (e.g. USFS, DNR, counties)



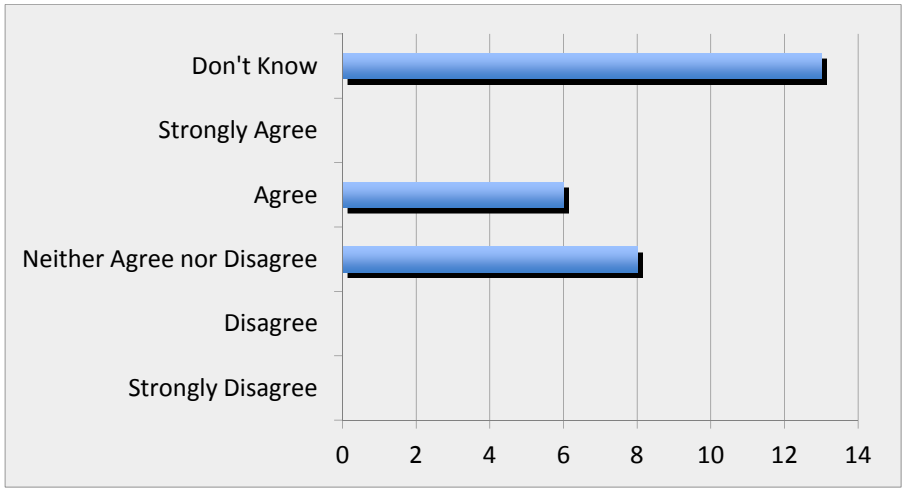
private industrial land management



private non-industrial land management



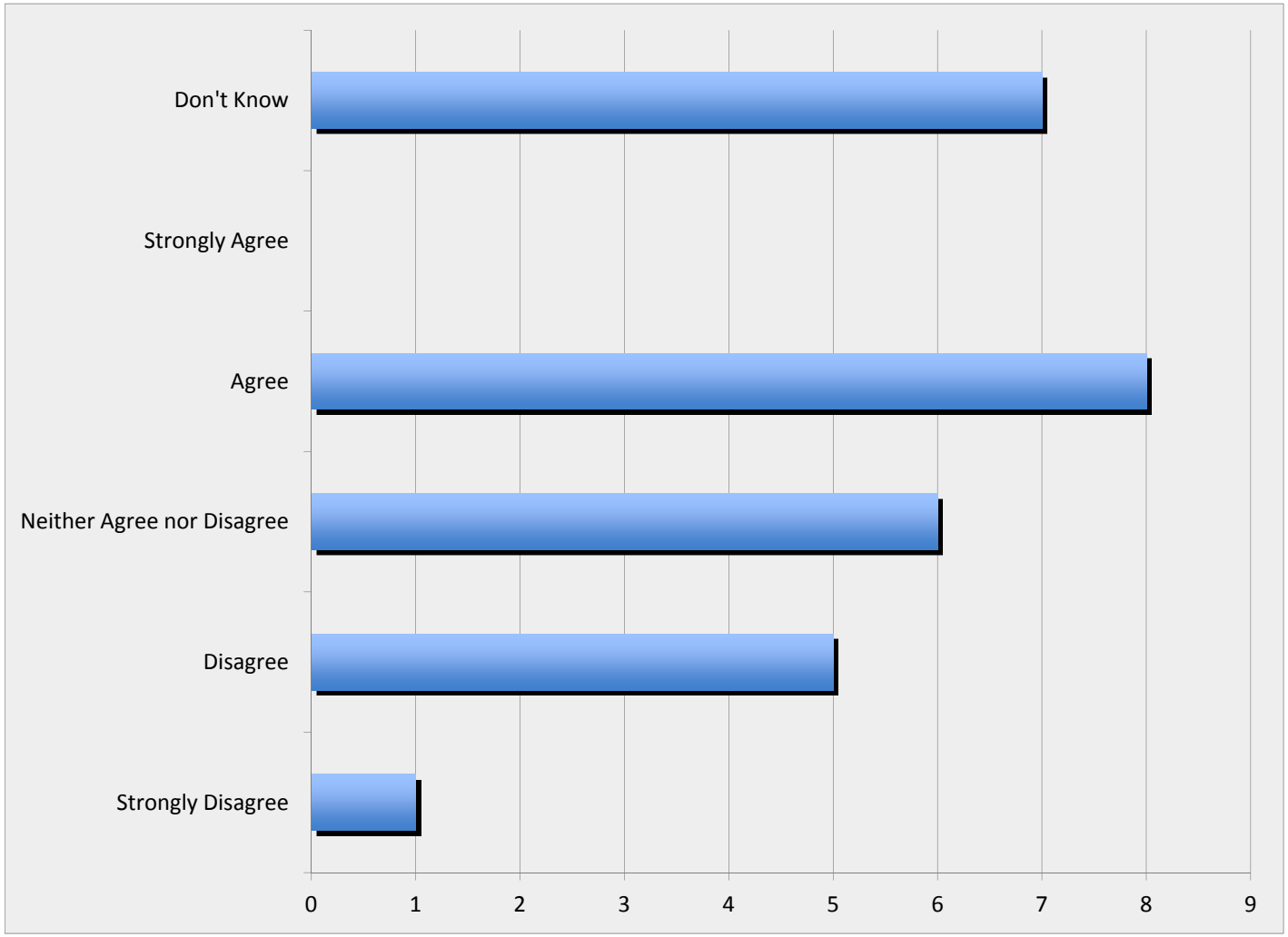
tribal land management



Participant Survey Overview

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements related to the upcoming update process for the Northeast Landscape Plan.

The 2003 Northeast Landscape Plan is being used to inform local government regulation and decision-making in the region.



Wide range of responses – many "don't know"

Participant Survey Overview

Which of the following groups are relevant stakeholders in the update process for the Northeast Landscape Plan? Please indicate all that apply.

Stakeholder Groups	% respondents
Forest products industry	100.0%
Forest Resources Council	100.0%
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	100.0%
Private industrial land owners	100.0%
Recreation groups (e.g. hunters, hikers, off-road vehicle users)	100.0%
U.S. Forest Service	96.3%
County governments	92.6%
Environmental and Conservation Groups	92.6%
Private non-industrial land owners	92.6%
Energy Industry	88.9%
Recreation/tourism business interests (e.g. outfitters, resorts)	88.9%
Tribes & Tribal Interests	85.2%
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	77.8%
Tourists (e.g., those who travel to the region for recreation)	70.4%
City/municipal governments	66.7%
Mining interests	66.7%
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	59.3%
National Park Service	59.3%
Minnesota Department of Transportation	44.4%

Participant Survey Overview

Which of the following groups are relevant stakeholders in the update process for the Northeast Landscape Plan? Please indicate all that apply.

Others identified by respondents

Legislative Leadership
Townhouse Associations/Resorts
Students (from kids to university)
Bi-National Program Lake Superior Workgroup
Specific DNR divisions - State Parks, Forestry, Ecological & Water
UofM - Boreal Forest Group
EPA
Scenic Byways Groups - North Shore, Gunflint, SNF Byway
UMD Staff Rep
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
IRRB
Lake Superior Binational Program
US Forest Service research branch
Canadian orgs part of N Sup. Uplands ecological subsection

Participant Survey Overview

Issues in order of importance

Top 5:
Forest management
Habitat and wildlife
Water quality
Cross-ownership coordination
Invasive species

More than ½ of issues rated 3+

Also, 63% strongly disagree or disagree that the NE region has reached its limits in accommodating multiple uses

Average importance rating (out of 4)	
3.89	Forest management
3.59	Habitat and wildlife
3.59	Water quality
3.44	Cross-ownership coordination
3.41	Invasive species
3.33	Economic development
3.33	Tourism and recreation
3.26	Wildfire
3.19	Climate change
3.04	Biomass/biofuel
3.04	Mining
3.00	Parcelization
2.96	Water quantity/access
2.85	Air quality
2.81	Education
2.70	Energy production and transmission
2.59	Demographics
2.52	Transportation
2.04	Food/agriculture
1.96	Urbanization
1.74	Telecommunications

Participant Survey Overview

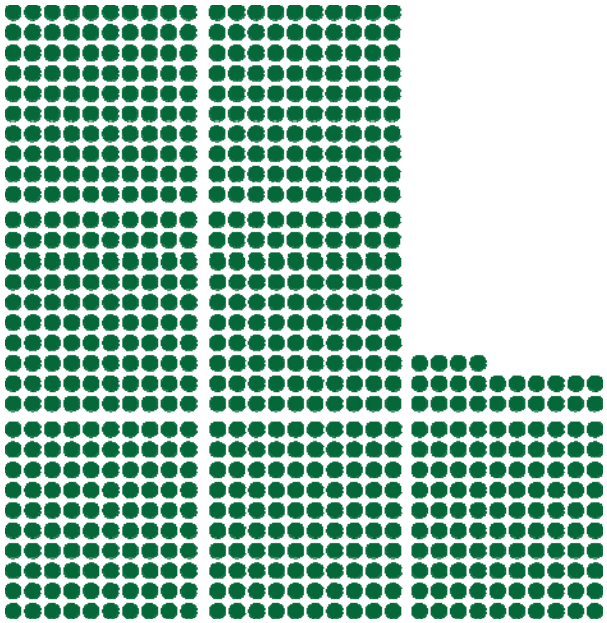
Other issues identified by respondents

» Capacity of public land management staffing
» Watershed considerations
» Tree planting, access to genetically appropriate tree plugs
» Forest soil productivity
» Landscape scale forest health issues – bugs, landscape that does not have adequate diversity in age class structure of forest
» Wilderness – note: this is NOT the same as recreation
» Sharing of resources, tools, equipment, manpower
» Tribal rights and interests/1854 Treaty Authority fed. Lands
» Protected natural communities – SNAs, RNAs, etc.
» Controlled burns/managed burns
» Forest insects and disease
» Heritage areas
» Traditional cultural properties
» Collaborative natural resource management across boundaries

Participant Survey Overview

How many years have you lived or worked in the Northeast Region?

collective experience



724 Years!

average: **28 years**

median: **20 years**

Participant Survey Overview

Please provide any additional comments that you would like to share related to the Northeast Landscape Plan update process.

» New folks need to be briefed on existing plan & efforts. What is the status of MFRC monitoring?

» Go! Fight! Win! - or something more politic like, this is an important step to take that will benefit stakeholders now and into the future.

» Need to have more control of the deer population along the Lake Superior shore line. Better moose habitat.

» Consensus should not drive the decision making - it most frequently produces a plan that is driven by low common denominators.

» I thought the 1st round of NE landscape planning process and results was very constructive and the results were utilized extensively in govt agency planning efforts. Would like to see it updated, refreshed and new energy put into collaborative work to implement across [the] landscape.

Thank you!!

All plans and summaries will be posted @ http://www.frc.state.mn.us/

Contact information:

Carissa Schively Slotterback
612.625.0640
cschively@umn.edu

Cindy Zerger
612.624.2976
czerger@umn.edu