



**Miistakis
Institute**

Landowners Tell All about Beavers in Alberta Beaver Survey

In Partnership with Cows and Fish

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PUTTING BEAVERS TO WORK FOR WATERSHED RESILIENCY
AND RESTORATION SYMPOSIUM

Miistakis Institute



The Miistakis Institute is a non-profit, charitable, applied research institute affiliated with Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Our goal – *a world where communities have genuine access to the science and research they need to make choices that promote healthy landscapes*

Our work – make innovative research accessible to communities and decision makers

Perceptions and Attitudes



Survey Purpose and Objective

- Determine Albertans level of knowledge and perceptions about beavers, their habitat and management in Alberta
- Inform beaver management in Alberta by assessing knowledge gaps
- Creation of targeted awareness materials to encourage coexistence
 - Factsheet
 - Hands-on workshops
 - Informative videos

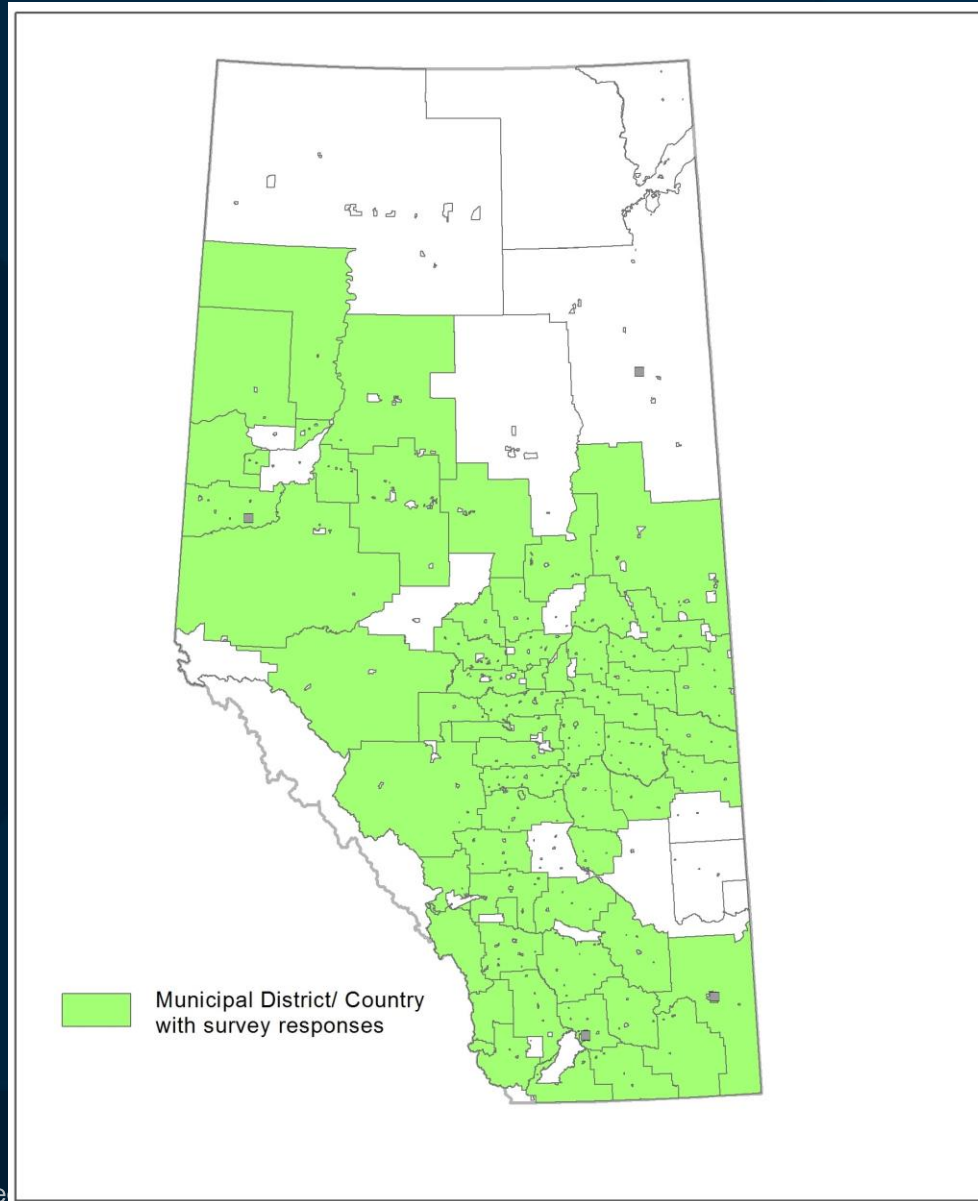
Methods

- Design
- Literature review
- Distribution
 - Alberta wide, rural landowners
- Delivery
 - Online via SurveyMonkey, hardcopy optional
- Analysis
 - Quantitative and qualitative

Survey Response

- Survey open for 8 weeks
- 639 useable surveys received (all on-line)
 - Assuming a target survey number of 385, we can be 95% certain that the results are accurate within (plus or minus) 5%.
 - Response rate varied for each question, therefore some questions may have varying statistical validity.
 - There were 303 complete responses (every question answered).

Survey Response – across Alberta

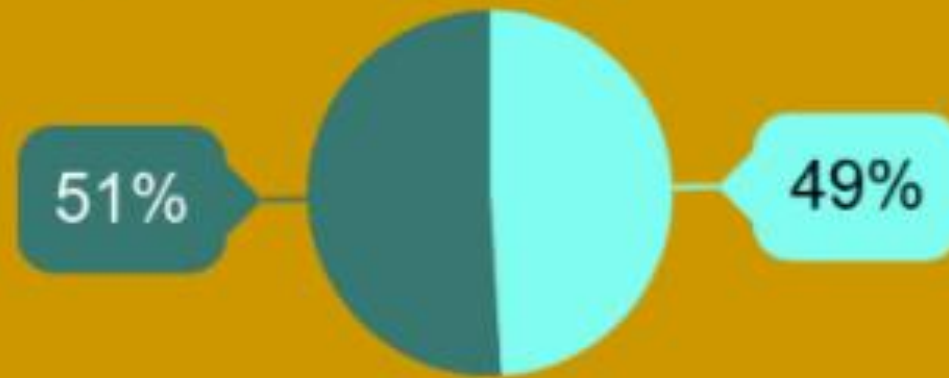


Top 5 Findings– Support for Coexistence

1. There is support for coexistence with beavers in Alberta

Top 5 Findings– Support for Coexistence

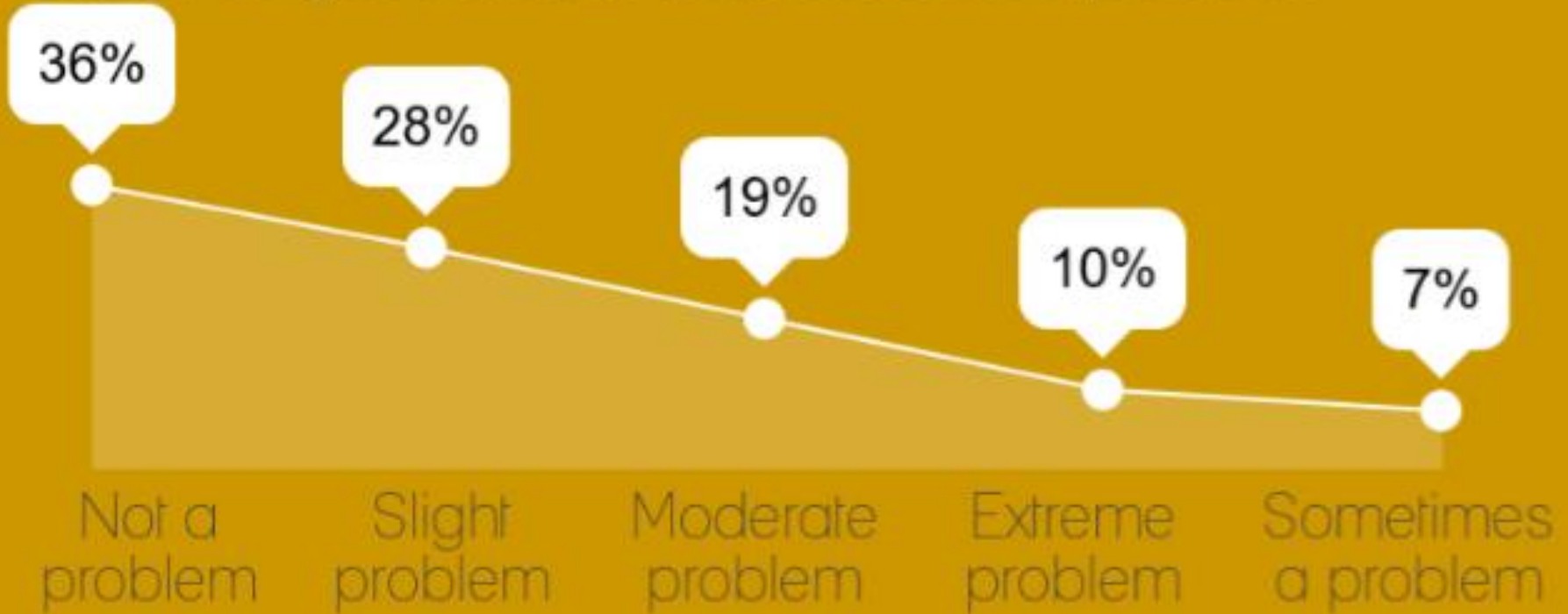
How interested would you be in having beavers living on your property?



■ Interested (49%) ■ Not interested (51%)

Top 5 Findings– Support for Coexistence

For landowners with beavers present on their land, what extent do you consider beavers to be a problem?



Top 5 Findings – Damages

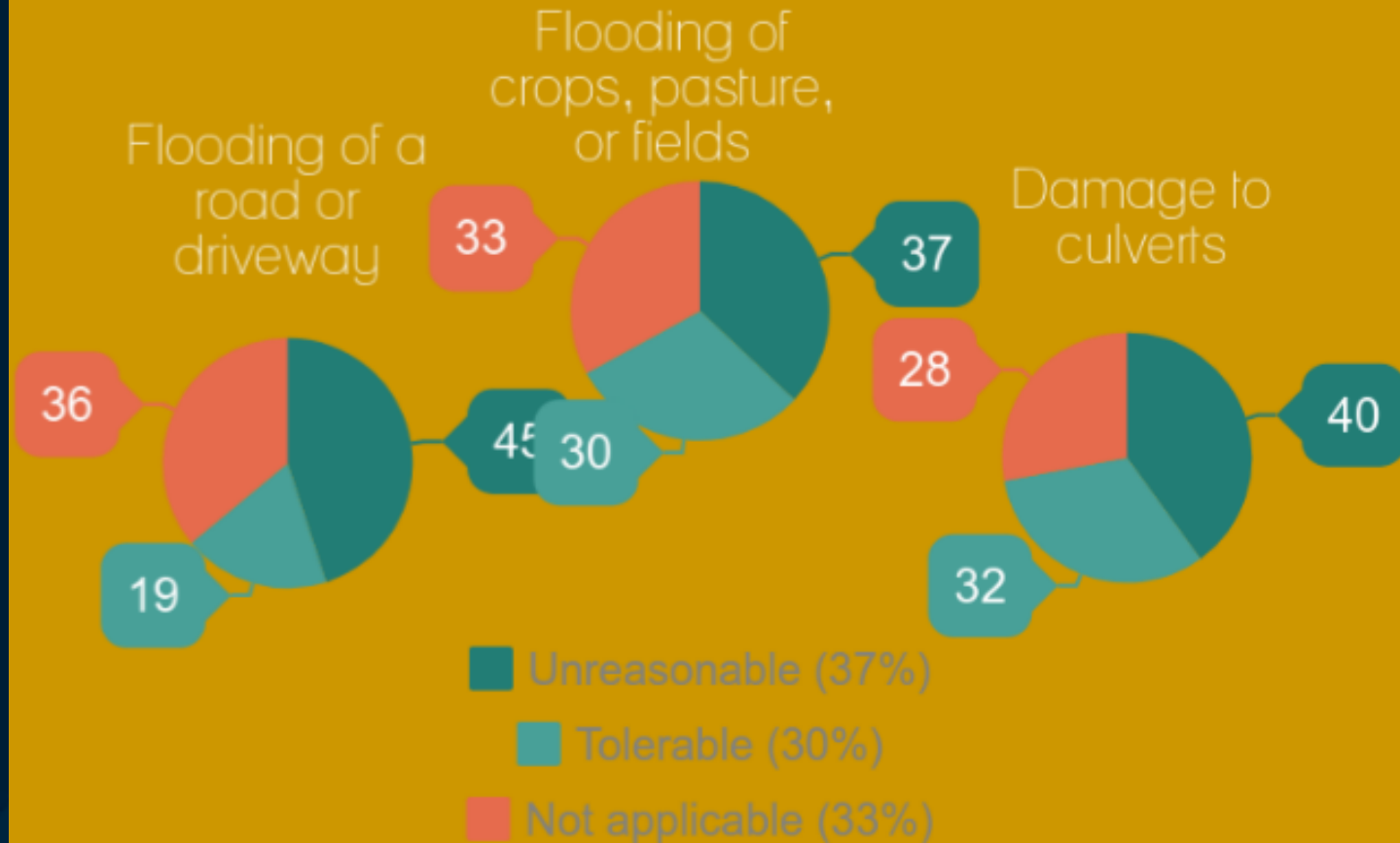
2. There is a clear need to address damage caused by beavers

Top 5 Findings – Damages

Respondents indicate their concern for flooding caused by beavers, along with damage to trees and plugged culverts.

Top 5 Findings – Damages

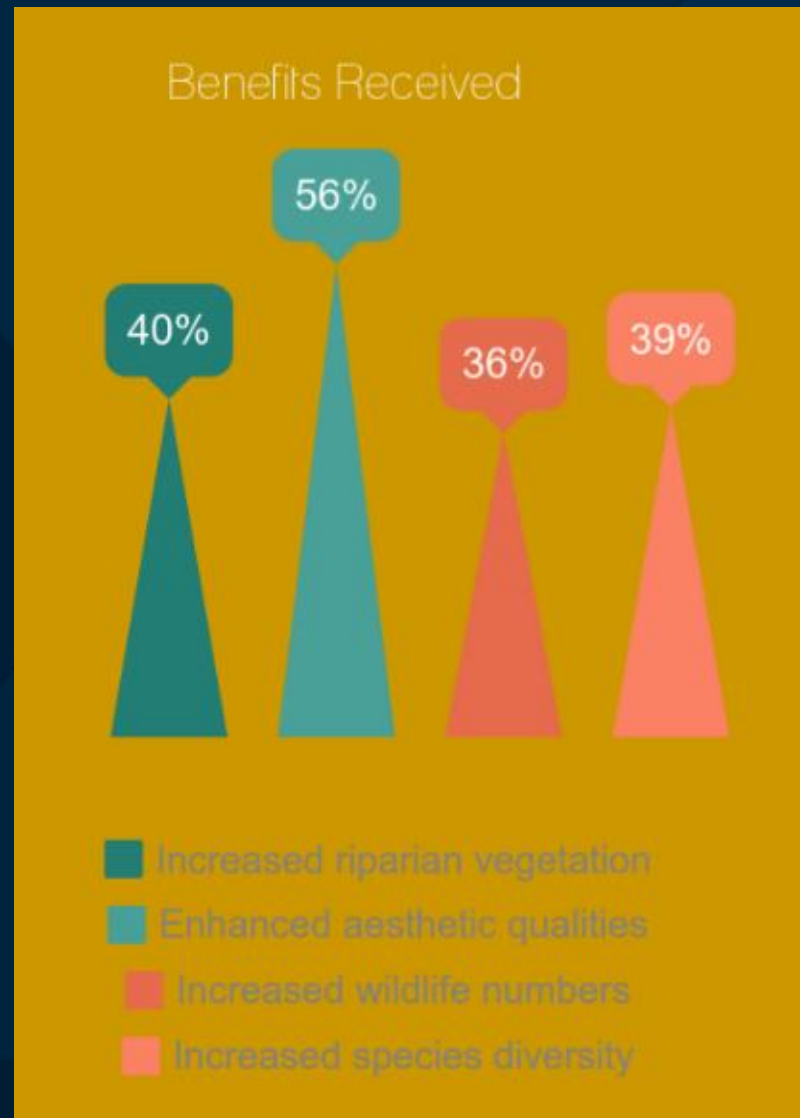
Respondents with beaver present consider the following impacts to be unreasonable



Top 5 Findings– Benefits

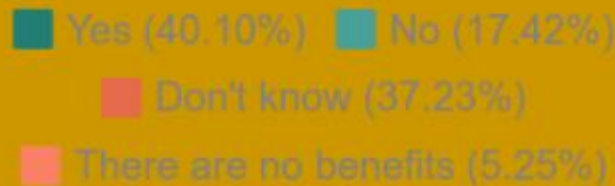
3. Benefits are being realized but there is need for more information regarding the benefits afforded by beavers

Top 5 Findings– Benefits



Top 5 Findings– Benefits

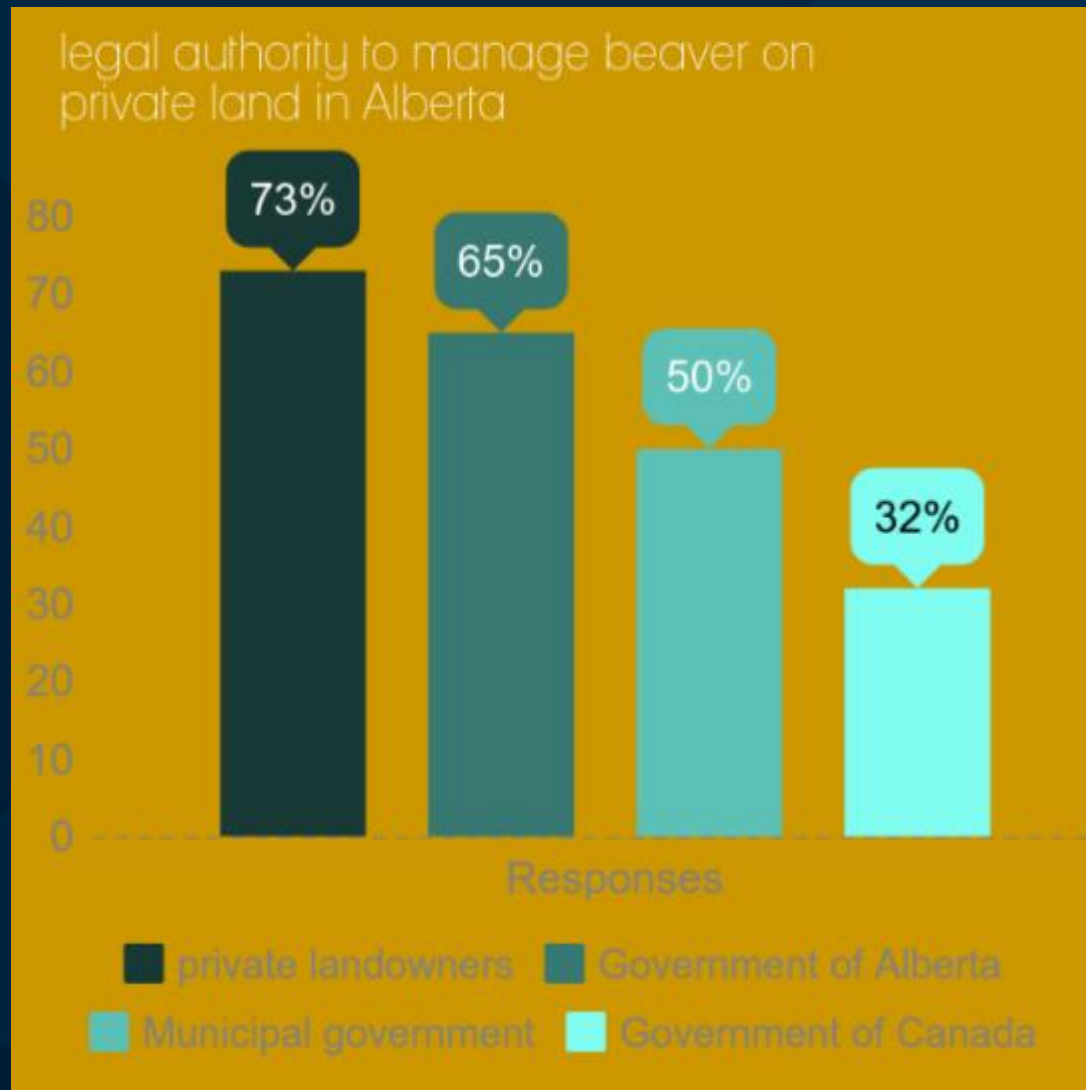
Do you receive all the benefits that you want to receive from beavers or beaver wetlands?



Top 5 Findings– Beaver Management

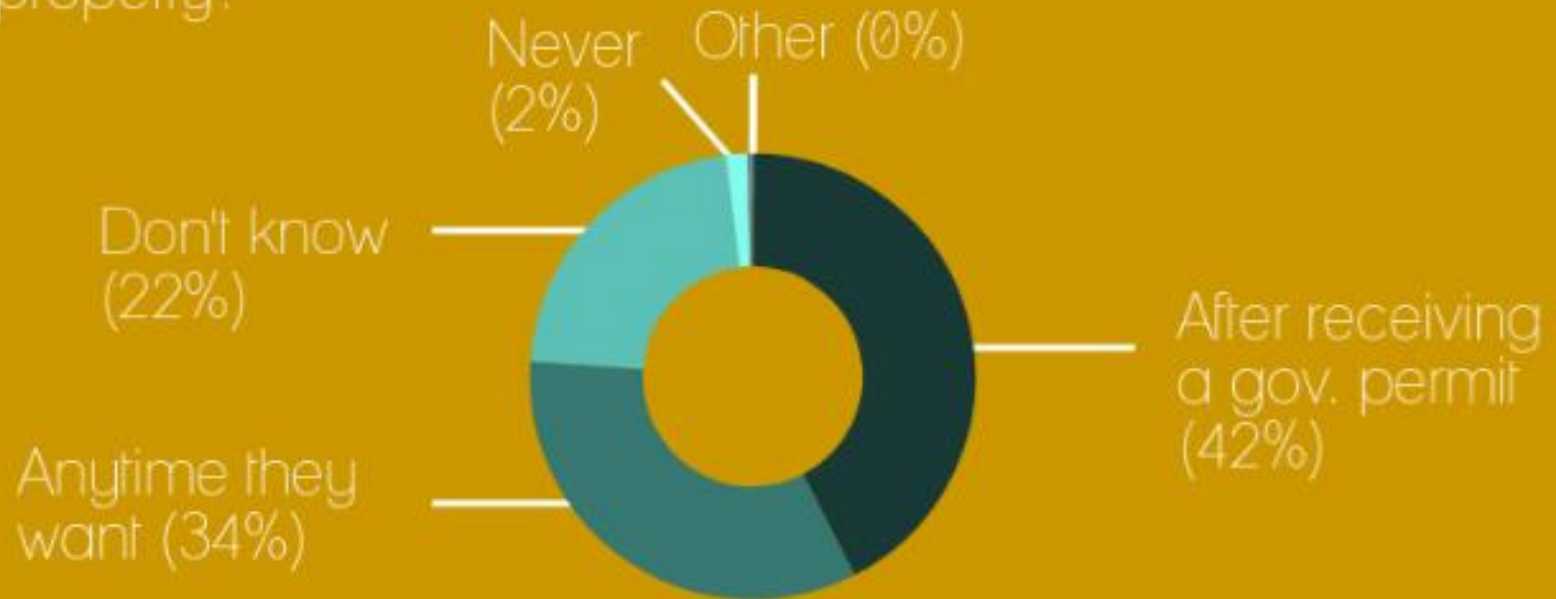
4. There is a need for better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of beaver management

Top 5 Findings— Beaver Management

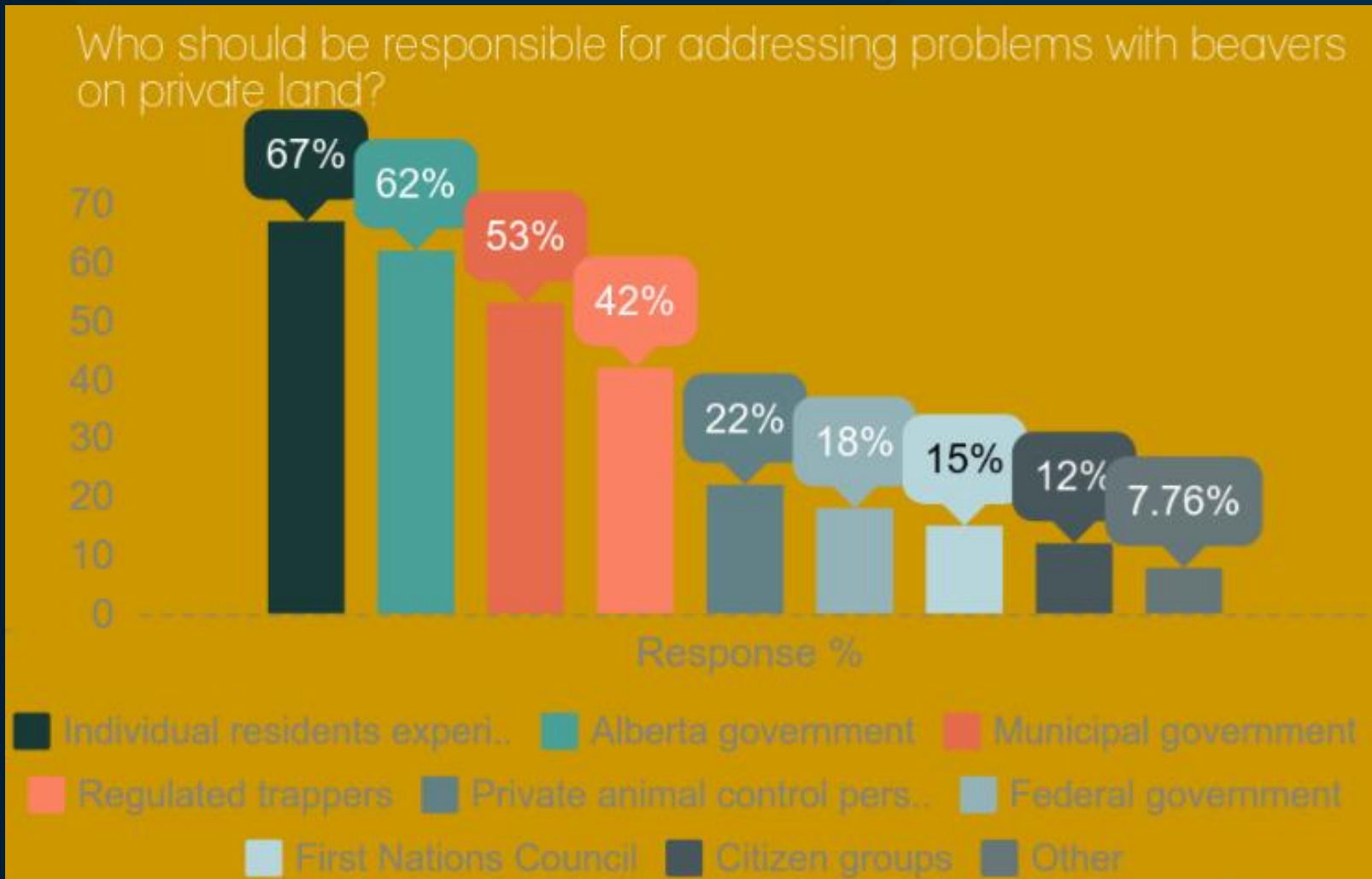


Top 5 Findings– Beaver Management

When can a landowner remove beaver or a beaver dam from their property?



Top 5 Findings– Beaver Management



Top 5 Findings– Enhanced Education

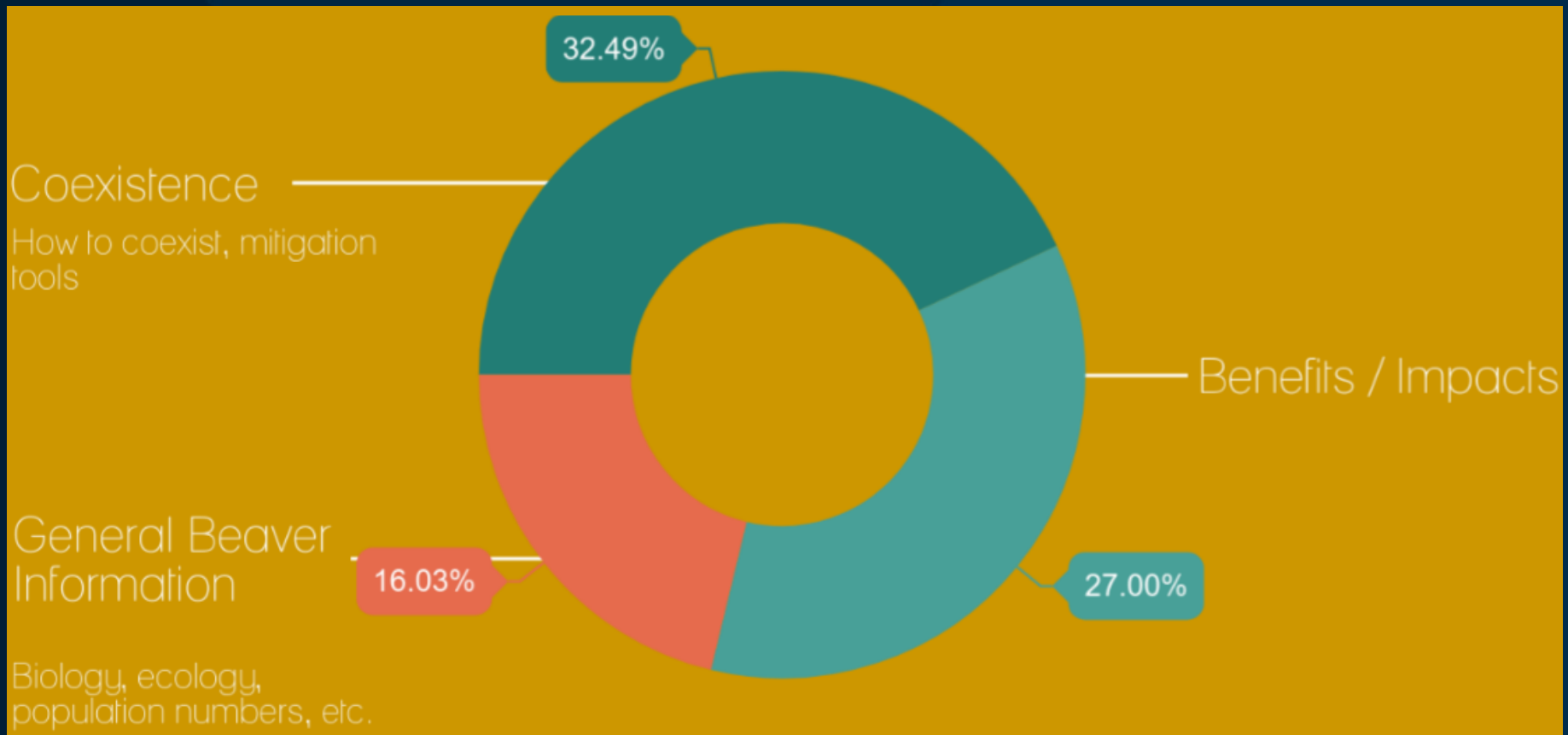
5. There is desire for enhanced education on the ecology of beavers, including their impacts on fish species and habitat, and coexistence methods

Top 5 Findings– Enhanced Education

T/F

In the knowledge true/false test section, respondents struggled on questions regarding beaver ecology and biology: beaver dam influence on fish movement and beaver dispersal age.

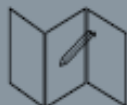
Top 5 Findings– Enhanced Education



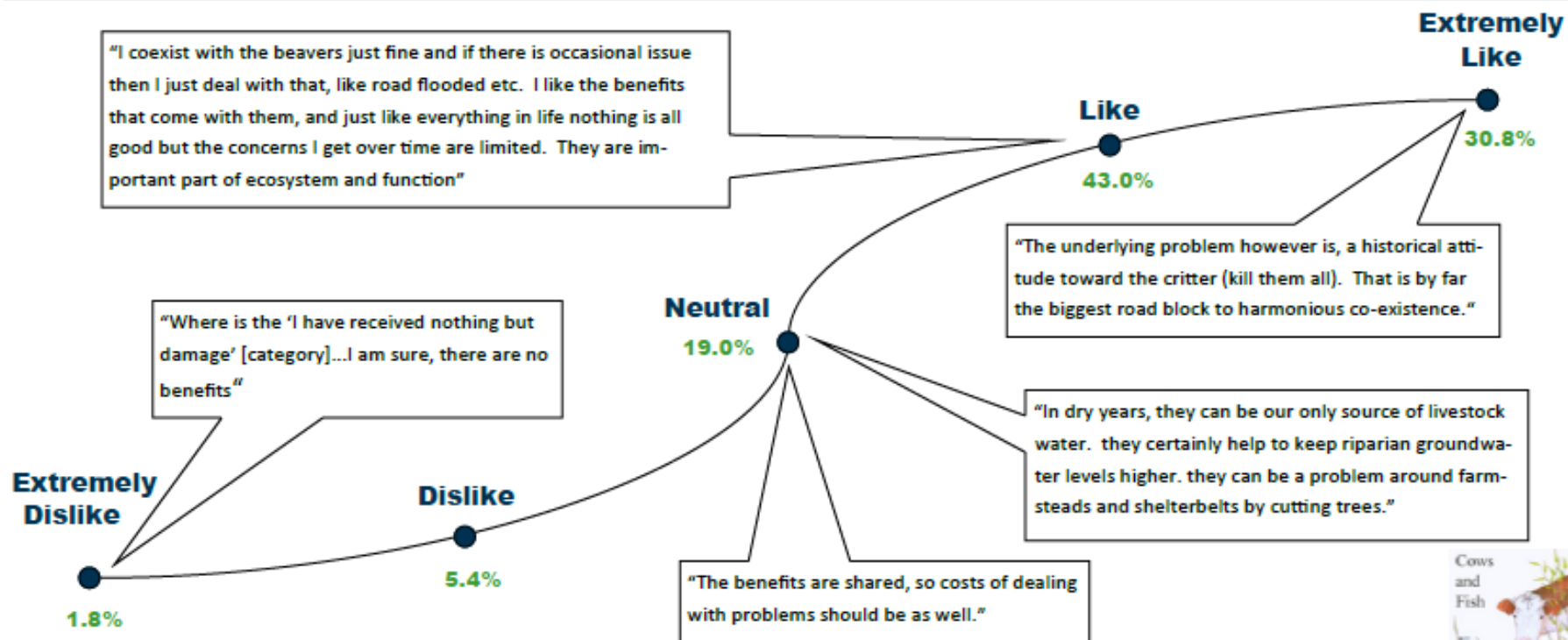


Perceptions About Beavers

Albertans expressed a range of feelings towards beavers



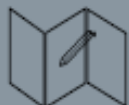
In the 'Alberta Beaver Survey: Assessing Knowledge and Perceptions about Beavers', Albertans expressed a range of feelings towards beavers





Perceptions About Beavers

Albertans expressed a range of feelings towards beavers



ed a range

"I coexist with them then I just deal with the problems that come with them. The good but the most important part of it is the co-existence."

"Where is the 'I have received nothing but damage' [category]...I am sure, there are no benefits"

Extremely Like

30.8%

Extremely Dislike

Dislike

is, a historical attitude). That is by far the most common co-existence."

5.4%

"Where is the 'I have received nothing but damage' [category]...I am sure, there are no benefits"

Extremely Dislike

1.8%

5.4%

ly source of livestock riparian groundwater problem around farming trees."

1.8%

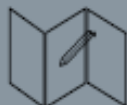
"The benefits are shared, so costs of dealing with problems should be as well."



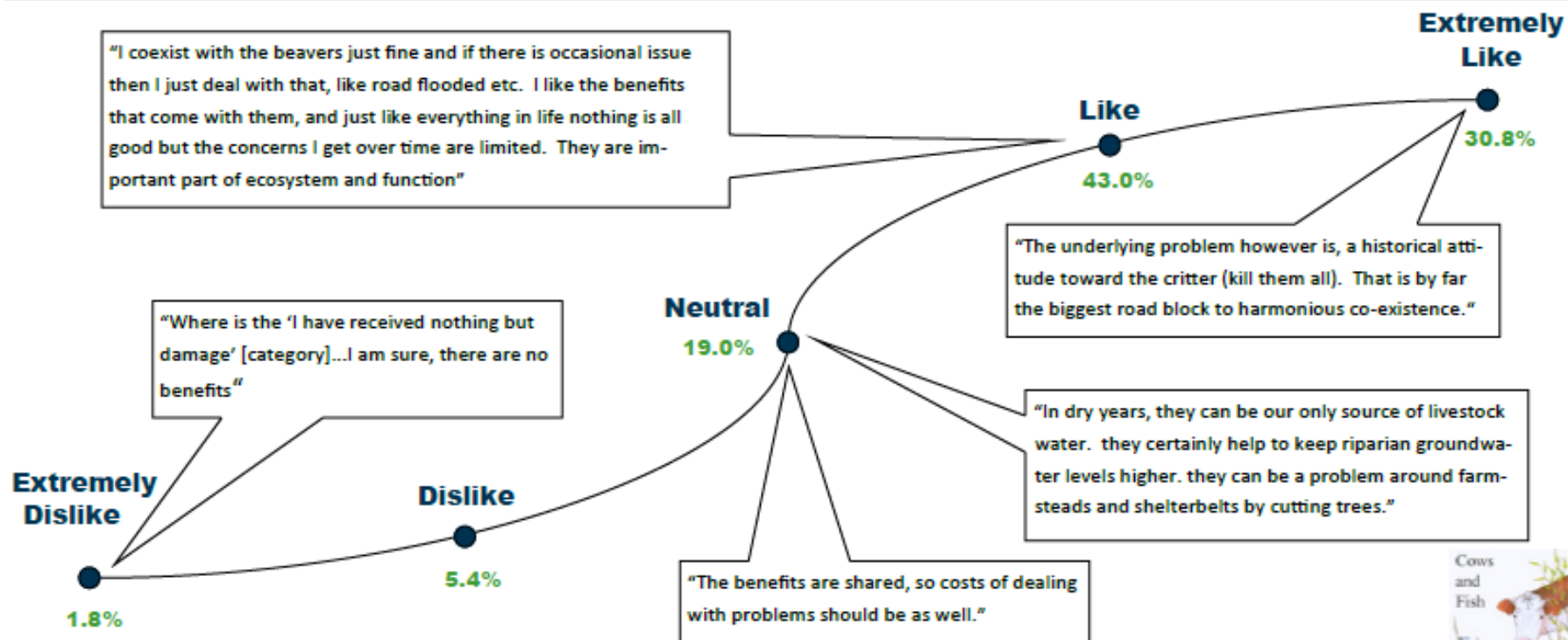


Perceptions About Beavers

Albertans expressed a range of feelings towards beavers



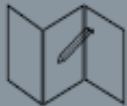
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Perceptions About Beavers

Albertans expressed a range of feelings towards beavers



Expressed a range of feelings
Extremely Like

Expressed a range of feelings

Extremely Like

30.8%

Like

43.0%

"I coexist with the beaver then I just deal with the damage that come with them, a good but the concerns about the important part of ecosystem"

"The underlying problem however is, a historical attitude toward the critter (kill them all). That is by far the biggest road block to harmonious co-existence."

However is, a historical attitude toward them all). That is by far the biggest road block to harmonious co-existence."

our only source of livestock to keep riparian groundwatersheds and shelterbelts by cutting trees."

"Where is the 'high damage' [category benefits]"

DISLIKE

5.4%

Extremely Dislike

1.8%

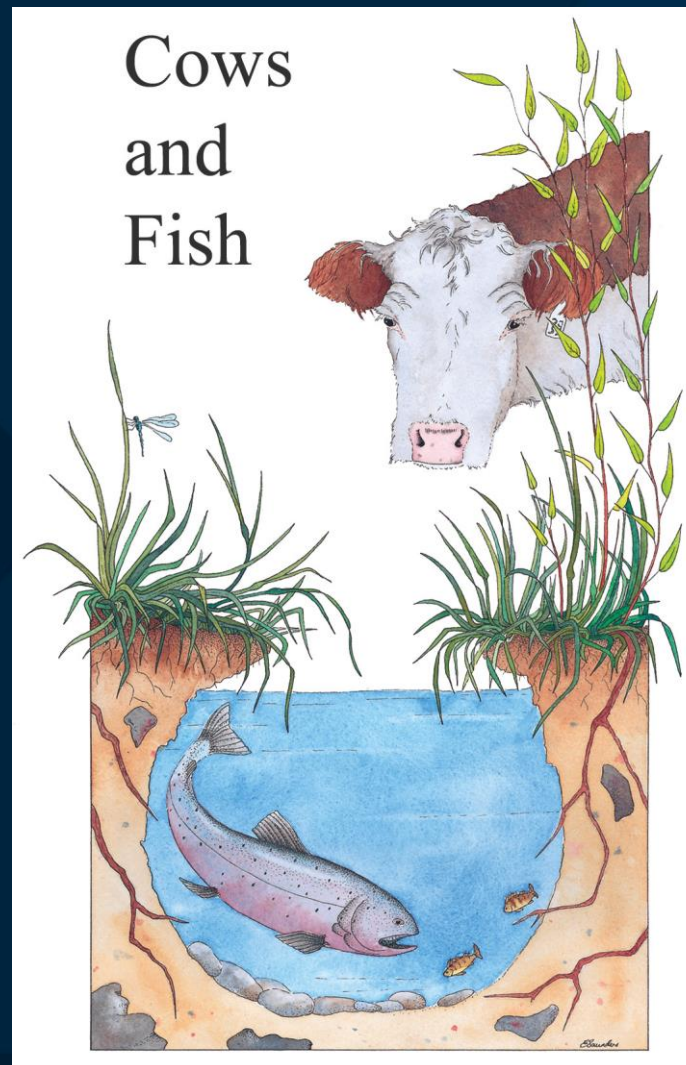
"The benefits are shared, so costs of dealing with problems should be as well."



Next Steps

- Report will be available online by end of December
- Create recommendations for awareness materials
- Refine topics covered for future work including:
 - webinars
 - in-person workshops
 - symposiums
- Further analysis

Partners



Thank you to our funders!



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