Minnesota Loggers and Invasive Plants: Attitudes, Behaviors and Concerns

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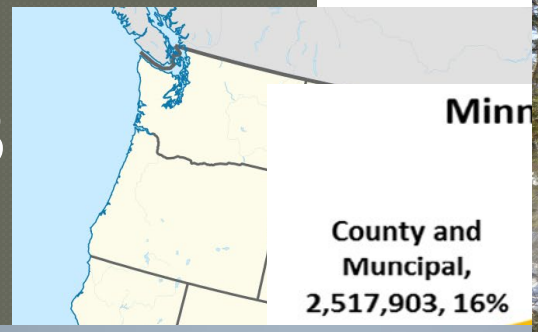
Overview

- Background
- Survey
  - Approach
  - Results
- Summary

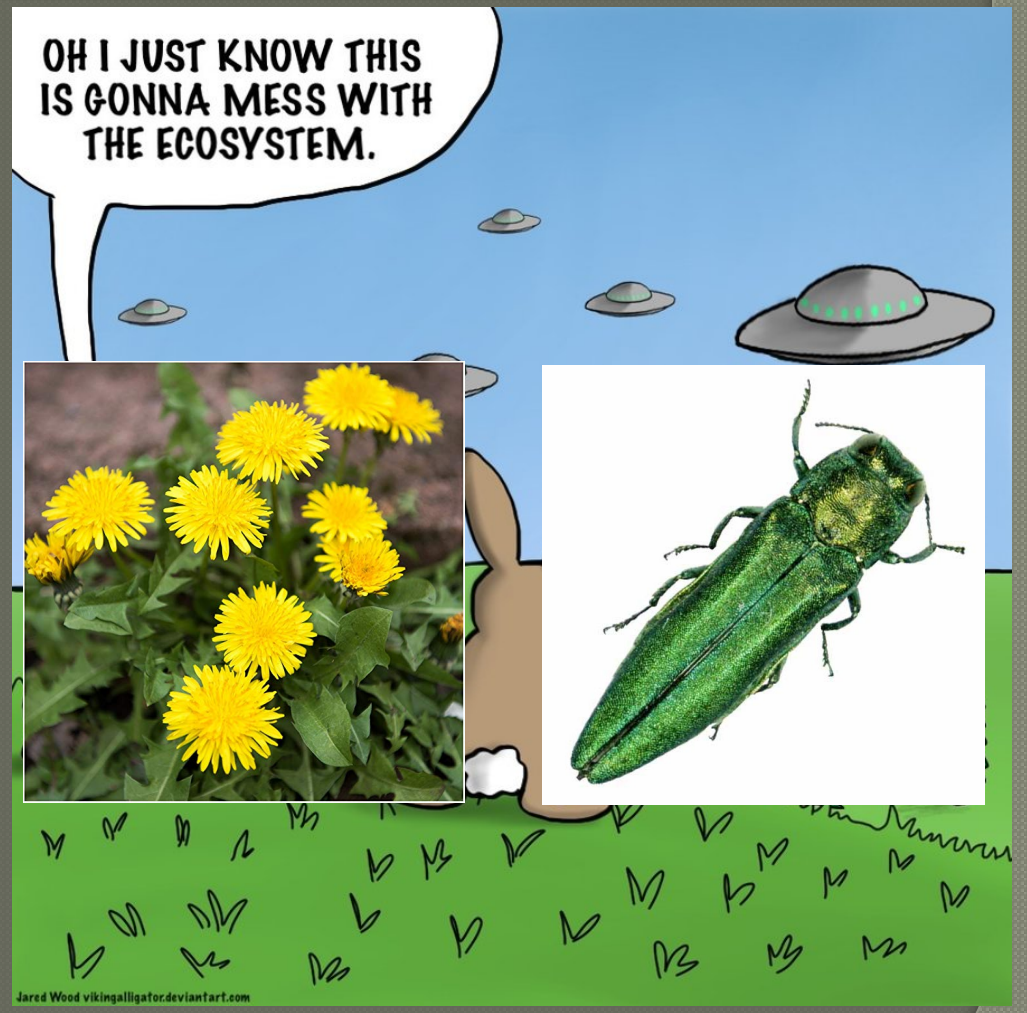
Minnesota

- Ownership
- 11.2 million m^3
- Seasonality
- # Tracts/year
- Voluntary programs



What is an Invasive Species

- Introduced, non-native species, moved by human activities to a location where they do not naturally occur and cause ecological or economic problems

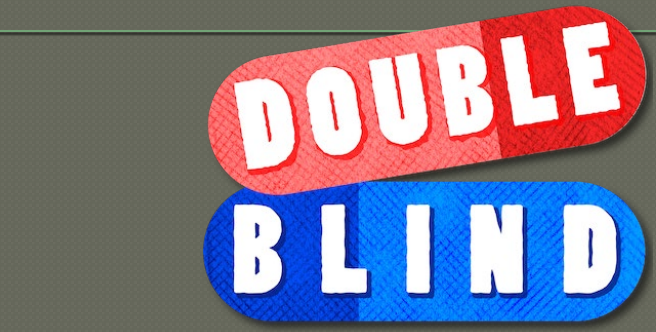


Objectives

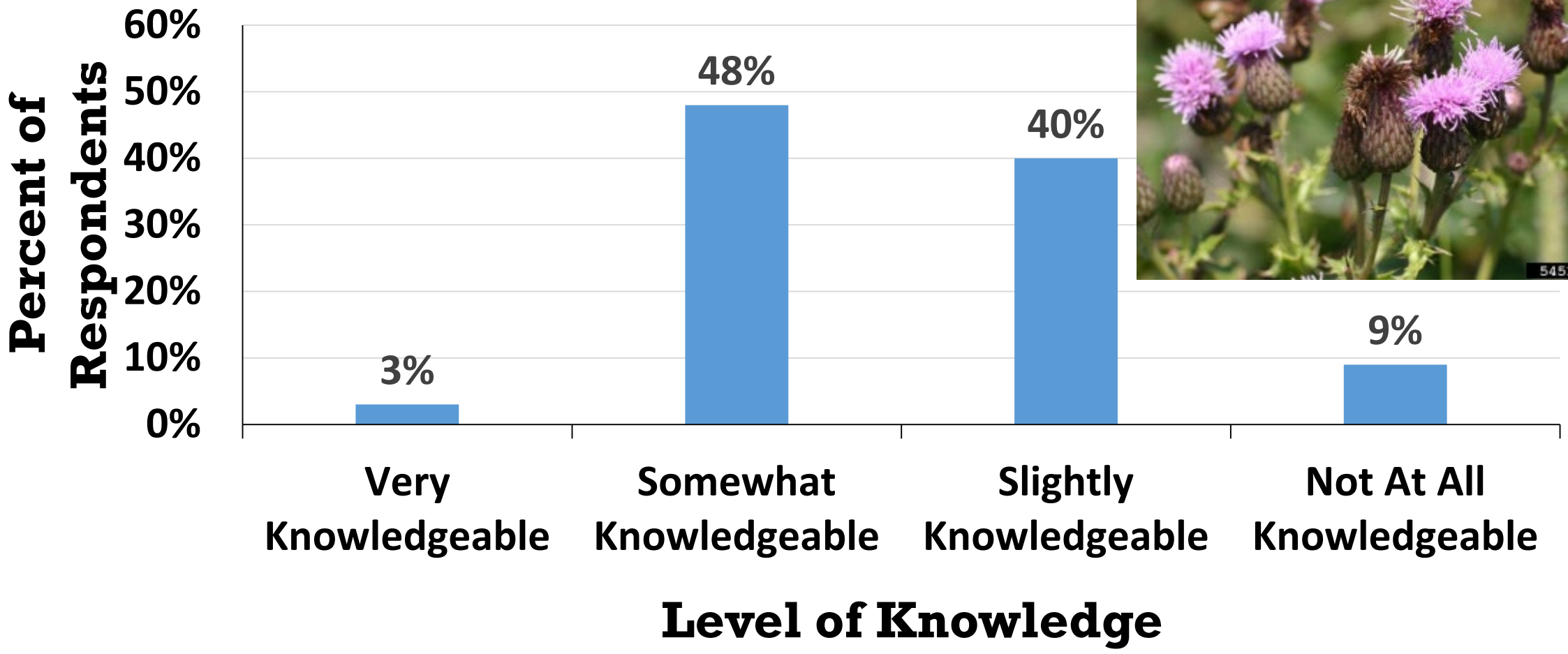
- Are loggers early detectors?
- Practices applied to limit introduction and spread
- Impact on procurement
- Interest in developing expertise

Survey Approach

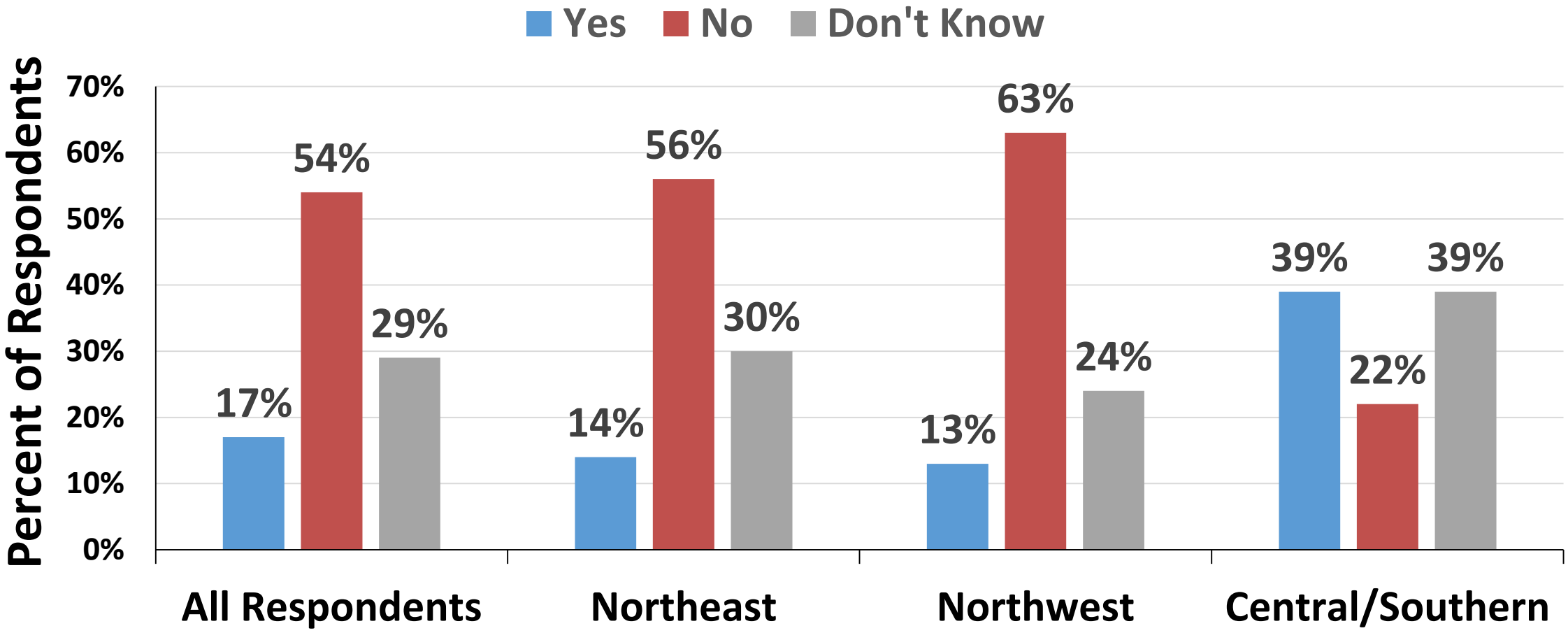
- Design
- Analysis
  - DNR regions
  - Production level
  - Seasonality



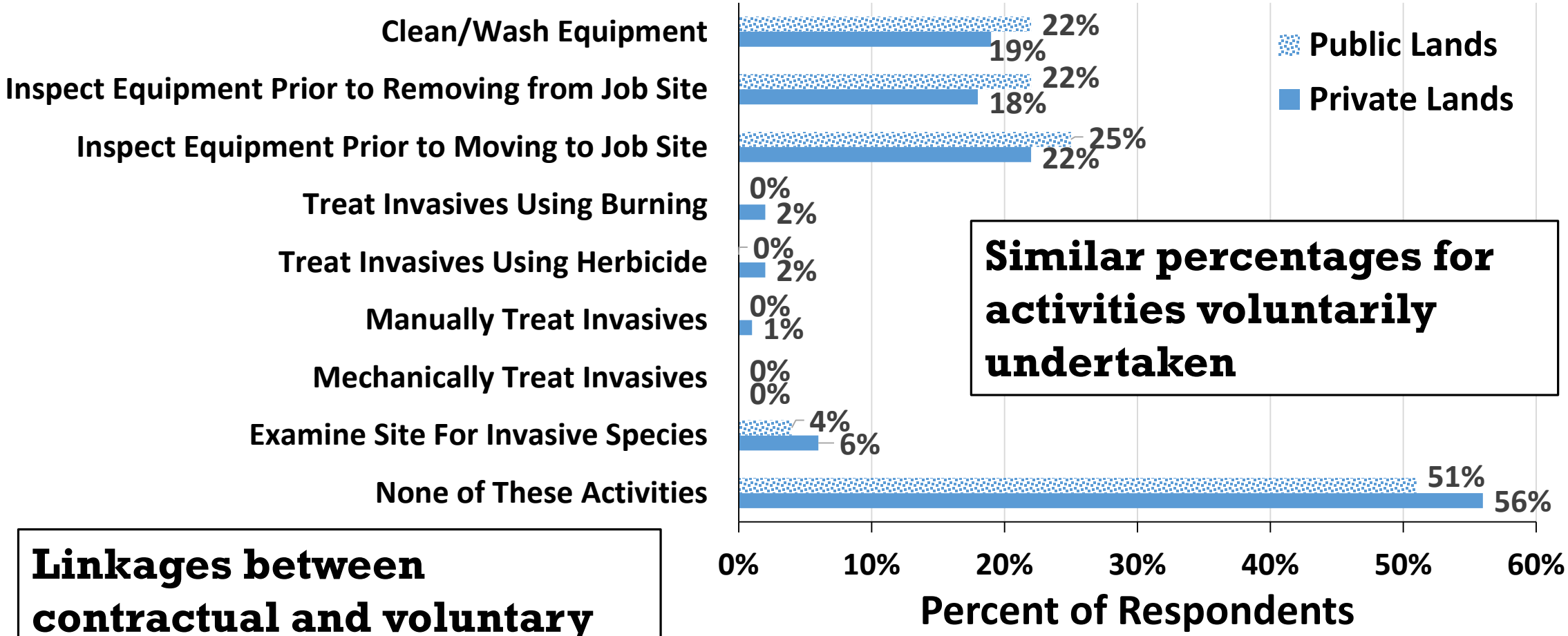
Knowledge Level



Observed Increase in Invasive Plants Within Past Three Years



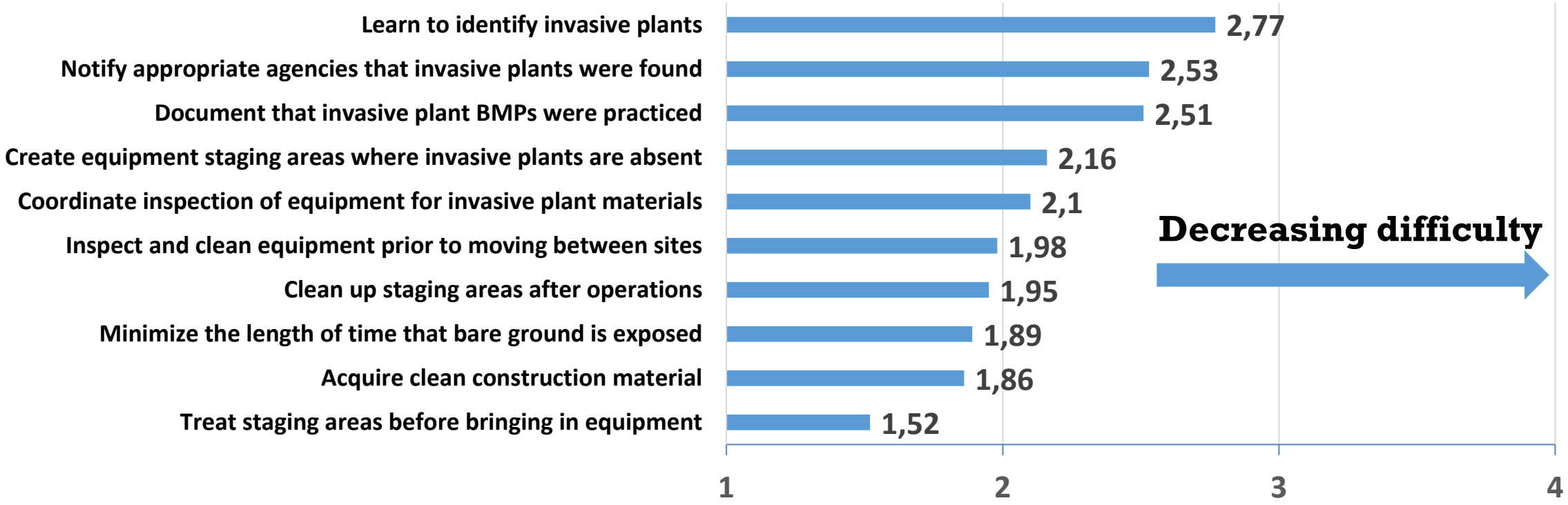
Activities Contractually Undertaken to Avoid Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants



Similar percentages for activities voluntarily undertaken

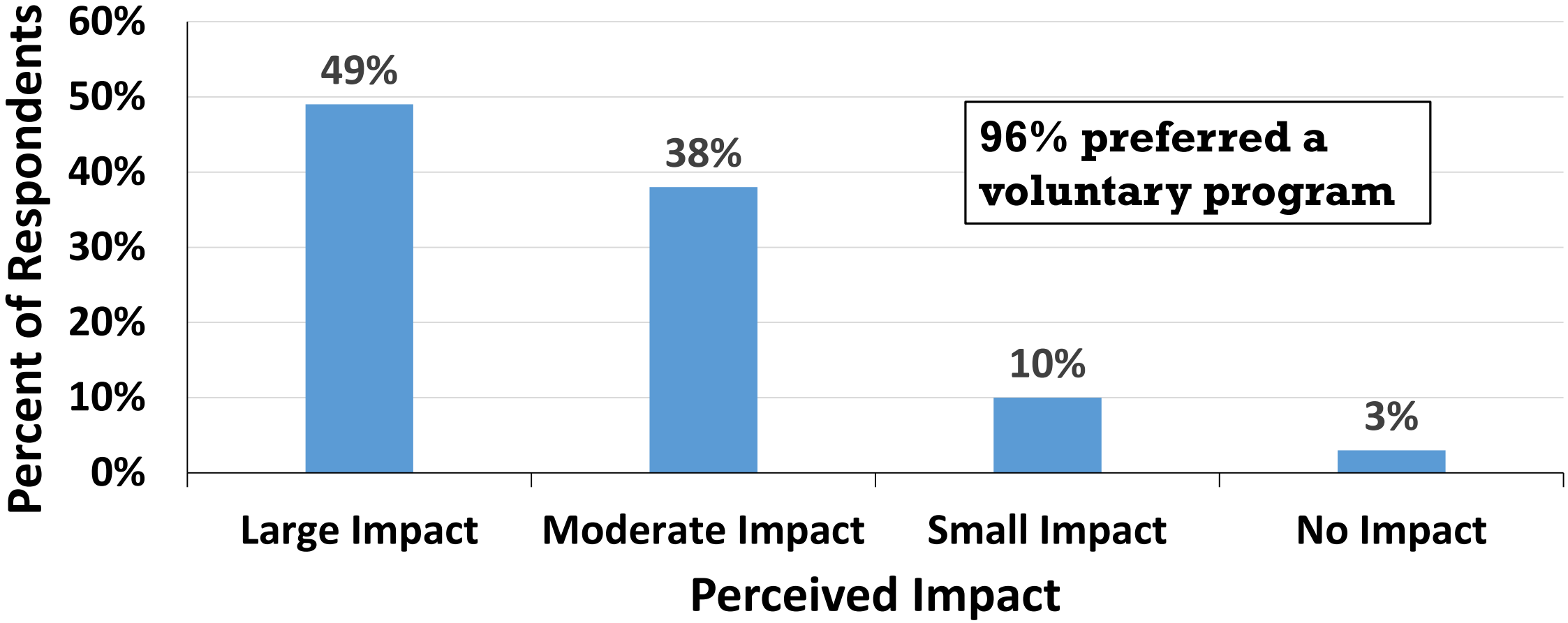
Linkages between contractual and voluntary implementation?

Perceived Degree of Difficulty to Implement Invasive Forest Plant BMPs

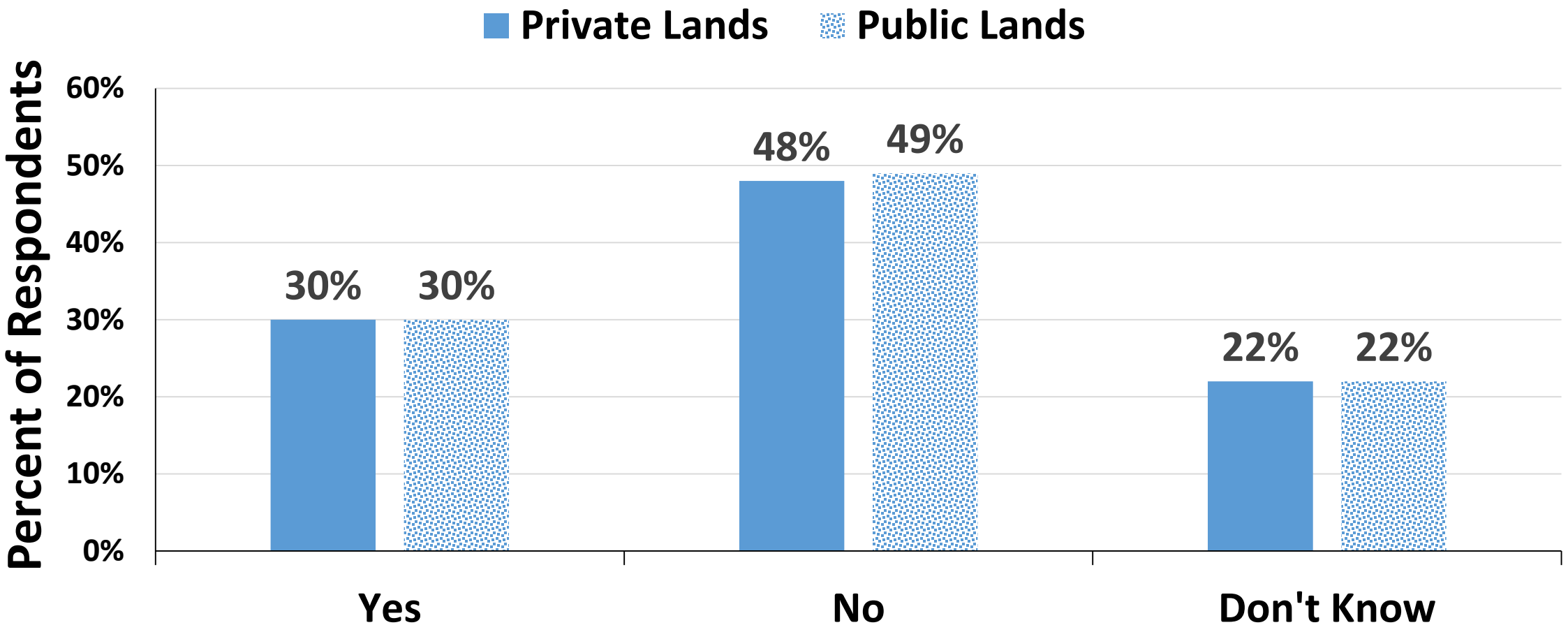


1=Very difficult 2=Somewhat difficult 3=Slightly difficult 4=Not at all difficult

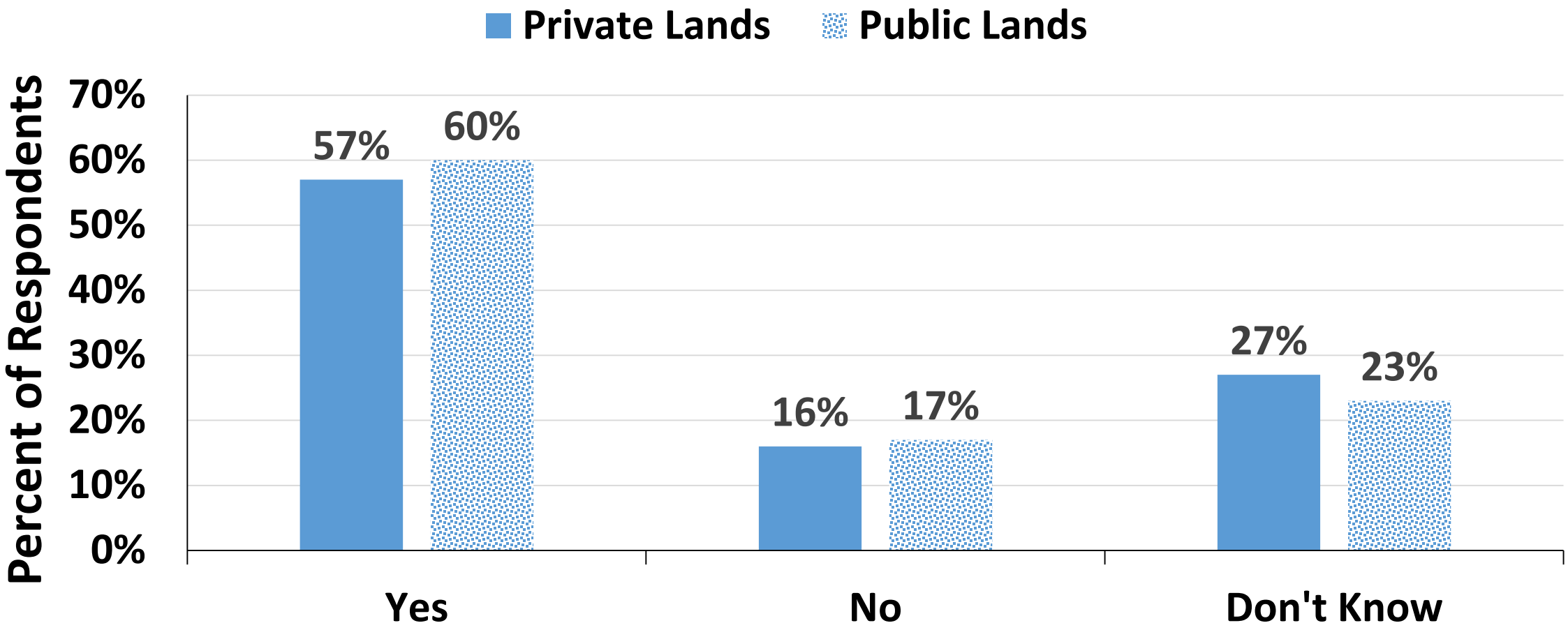
Perceived Impact of Invasive Forest Plant BMPs on Logging Operations



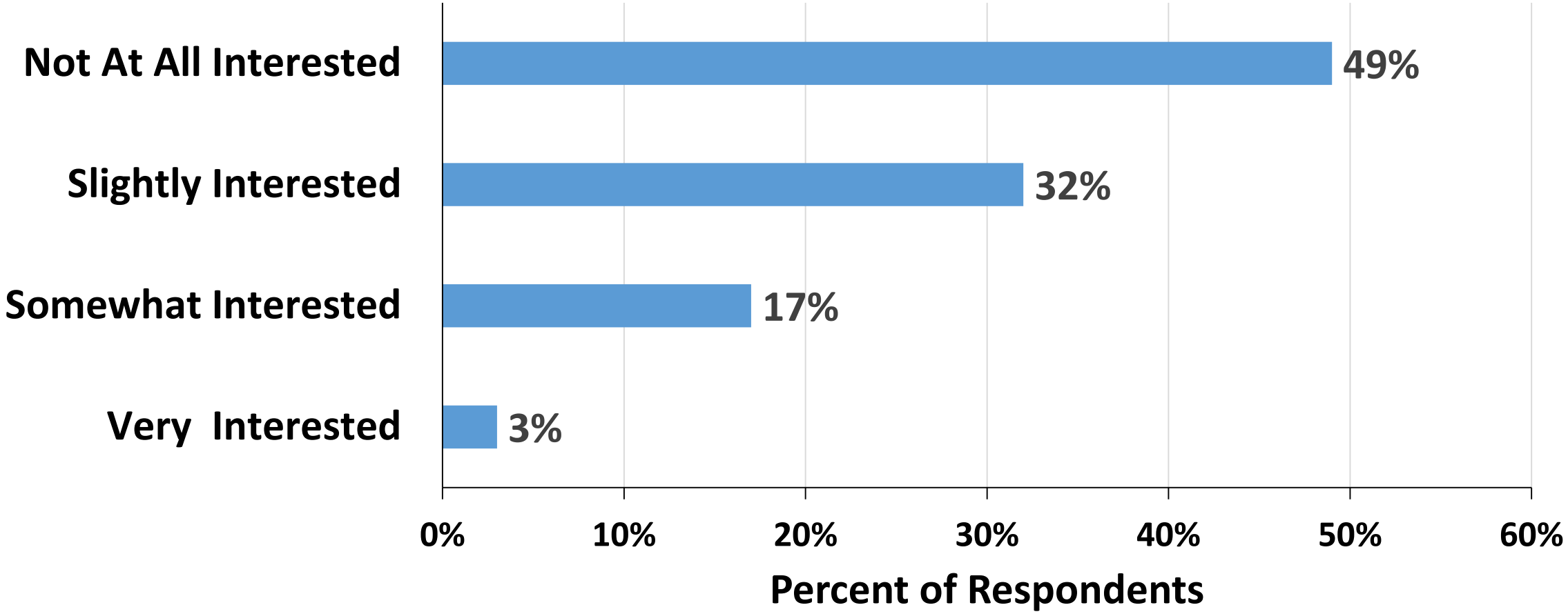
Reduced Interest in Purchasing a Timber Sale with Invasive Plants



Reduced Interest in Purchasing a Timber Sale with Invasive Plants if Invasive Plant BMPs are Required

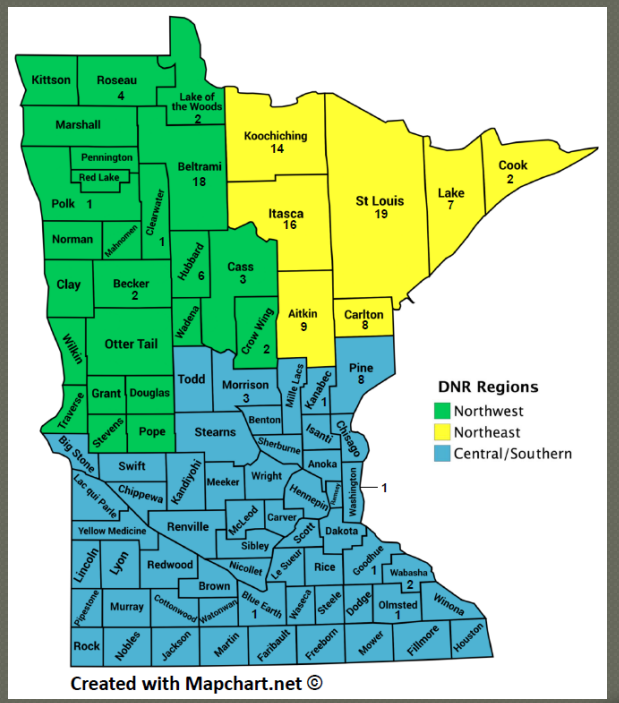


Degree of Interest in Developing Invasive Plant Treatment and Removal Expertise



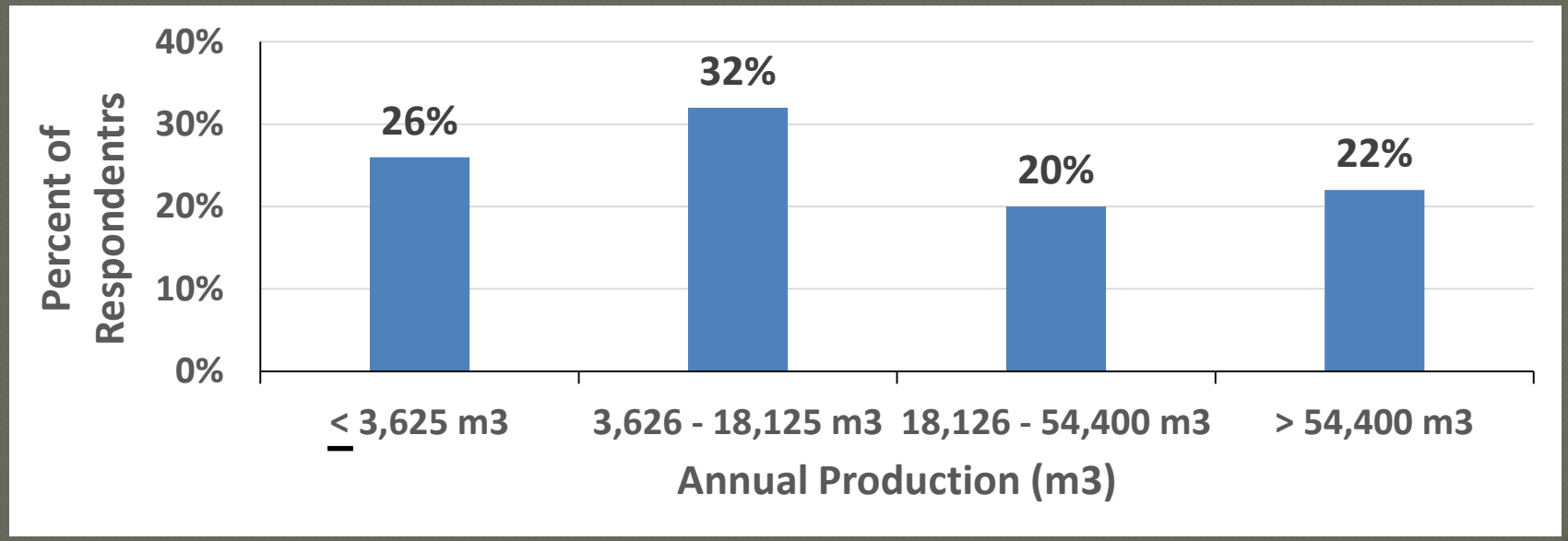
Segmentation Analysis: Location

- Central/Southern producers
  - Noted increase in number of sales with invasives
  - More interest in developing treatment/removal expertise
  - Less likely to be contractually required



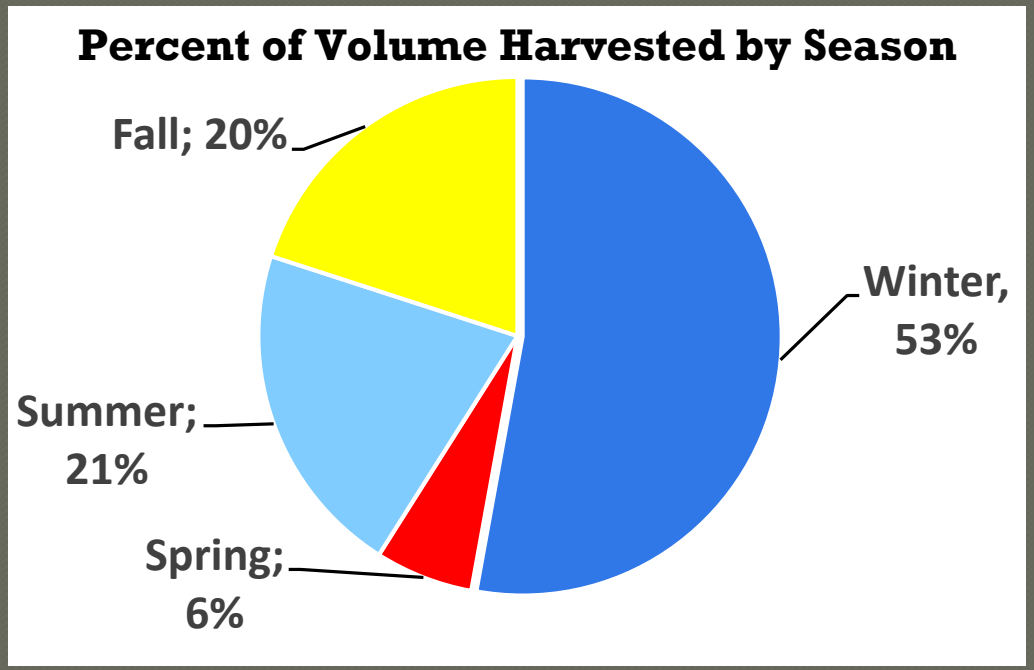
Segmentation Analysis: Production Level

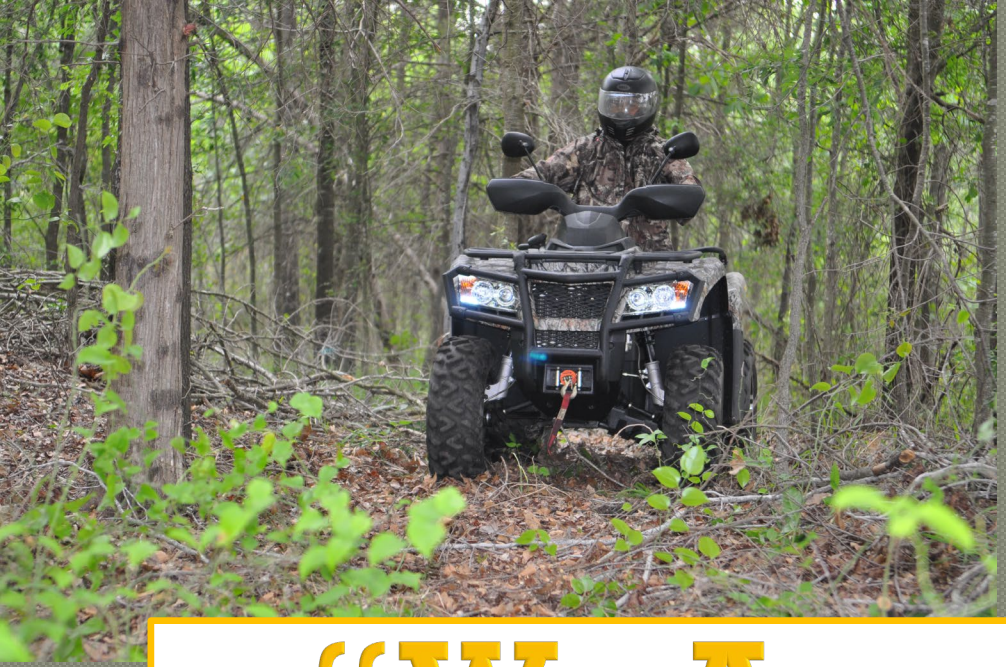
- Smaller producers
  - Less likely to clean or inspect equipment prior to moving
  - Winter-only operations



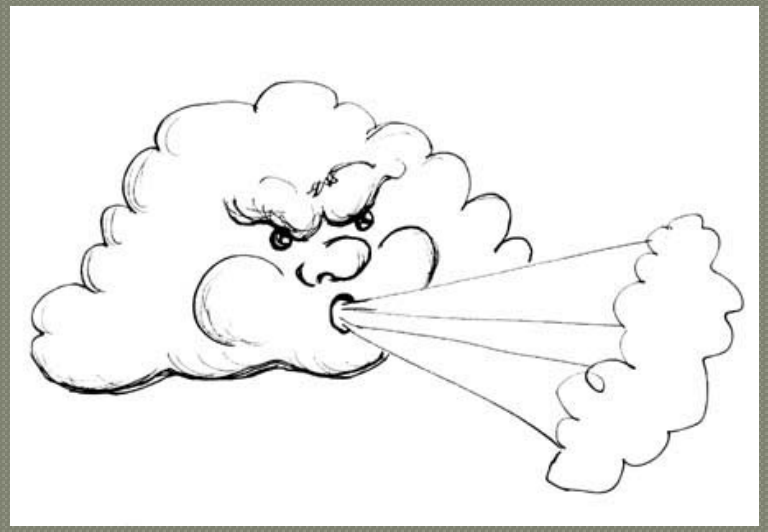
Segmentation Analysis: Season

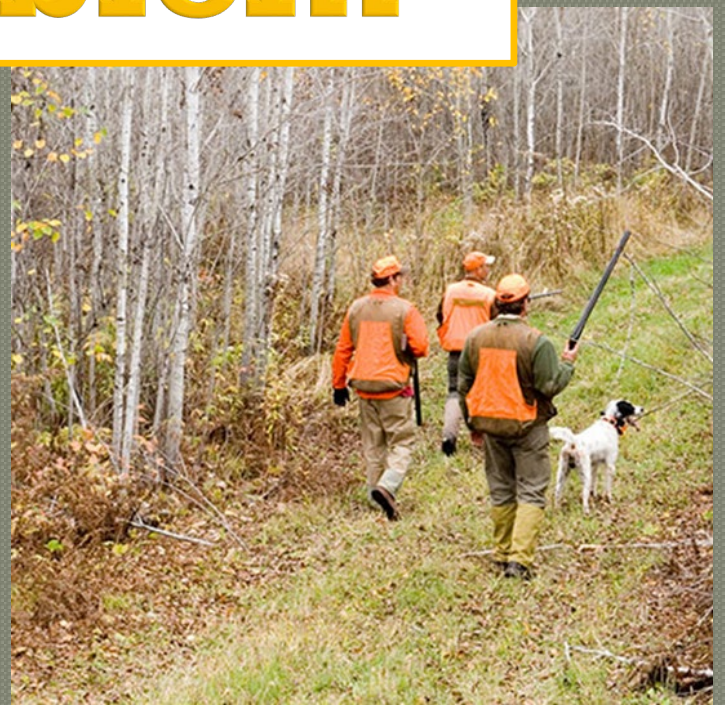
- Winter-only producers
  - Lower general level of knowledge





“We Aren’t the Problem”





Selected Quotes

- Economic burden of rules and regulations
  - "Mandatory regulations would hurt the bottom line of an industry that already has tight profit margins. It would hurt small businesses while achieving minimal success."
  - "The cost of everything is going up and is driving a lot of people out of the business. Who pays for this consuming stuff or ideas but the logger?"
- Futility
  - "You can't stop the invasive spread."
  - "It is highly improbable that forest practices will make any difference except putting extra burdens on everyone involved."
- Lack of agency response
  - "Invasive plants line the county & state roads here for years and they do nothing!"
  - "It seems like state officials don't want to deal with it so it will get pushed to a requirement of the logger, and thats not RIGHT."

Key Points

- Not currently early detectors
- 20-25 % have undertaken BMP activities
- BMPs somewhat/very difficult to implement
- Disinterest in sales with BMPs
- 50% with interest in developing expertise
- Next steps

Acknowledgments

- Funding
  - Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee
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  - Minnesota SFI Implementation Committee
  - Minnesota Logger Education Program
  - Minnesota DNR
  - Minnesota Department of Agriculture
  - University of Minnesota
- Logistics
  - Minnesota Logger Education Program
- Data entry
  - Minnesota Forest Industries

QUESTIONS?

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