

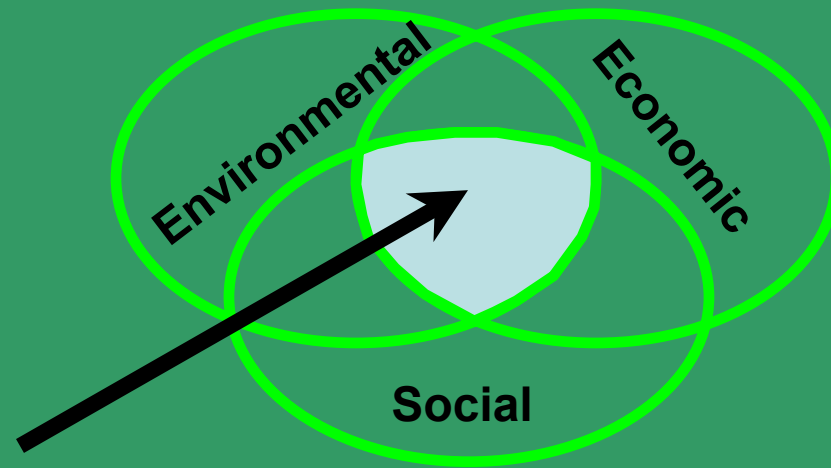
Presented to the BNR, July 19. Subject to change and amendment.

2002 Sustainable Harvest Public Opinion Research

Washington's Vision
for Forest Management

Presented to the BNR, July 19. Subject to change and amendment.

Sustainability



Finding the Balance

- Sustainable harvest model creates results for ecological and economic benefits
- Social benefits are more difficult to quantify
- Public opinion research can provide one way to help quantify social benefits

The Survey

- Questions relate to people's values, not technical or factual issues
- Questions provide a tradeoff between two potentially conflicting positions
- A questionnaire that helps the Board understand how the public would find the balance that the Board must work to find

Three Sources of Information

- We looked to different sources of information to understand what different people thought
 - Survey at town meetings
 - Statewide opinion poll
 - Three focus groups
- This allows us to compare and understand people's thoughts more completely

Who Did The Surveys?

- Town Meeting surveys were distributed and collected by DNR. The results were tabulated by DNR and comments were considered SEPA comments
- Statewide survey done by Hebert Research Inc., in Bellevue
- Focus Groups done by Cathy Allen and the Connections Group

Strengths and Weaknesses

- This is not a horse race and questions are subjective
- By combining three sources of data, picture becomes more clear
- A 400 sample statewide is statistically significant and was weighted to match geography, age and gender
- The results will be questioned

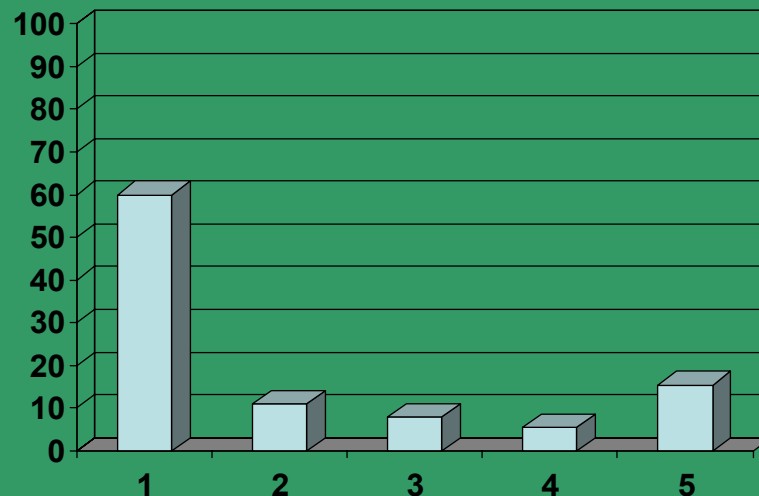
Question 1

I believe timber harvesting can be done responsibly, benefiting the people of Washington by providing approximately one-third of school construction costs and still can promote healthy ecosystems.

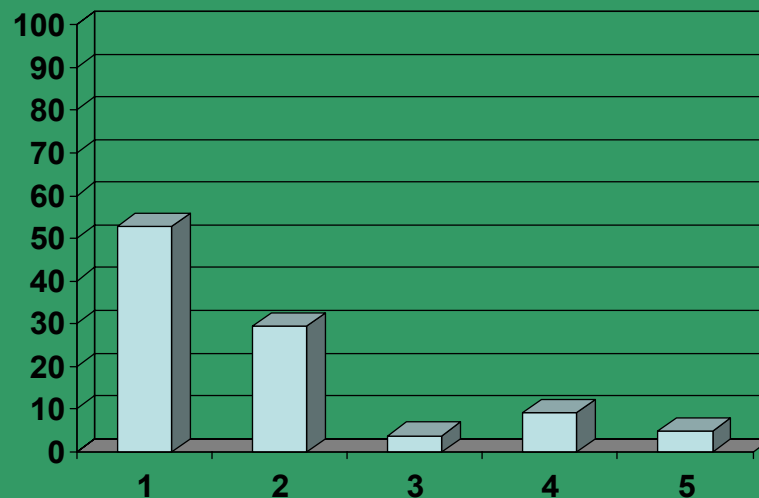
or

I believe we cannot simultaneously provide significant funding for school construction through timber harvests and still protect healthy ecosystems.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



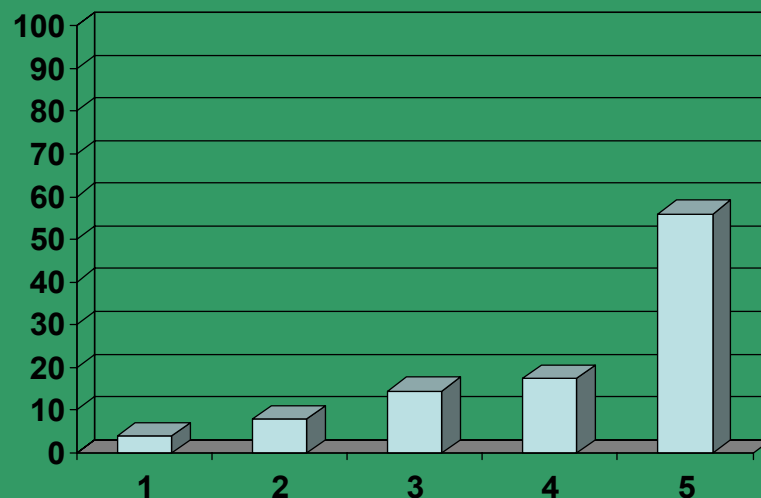
Question 2

I believe that nature has survived without us, and nature manages better than people; we should be passive stewards of our forests.

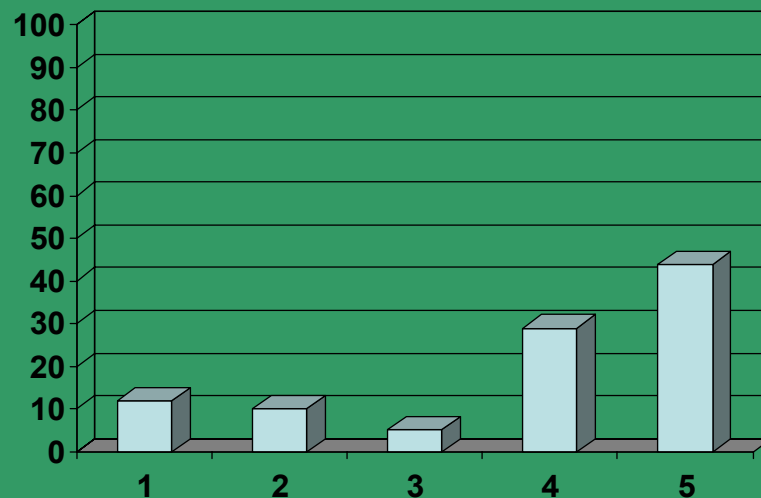
or

I believe interaction between people and nature is inevitable and unavoidable in managing our forest. We should be active stewards of our forests and make forests more healthy and productive.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



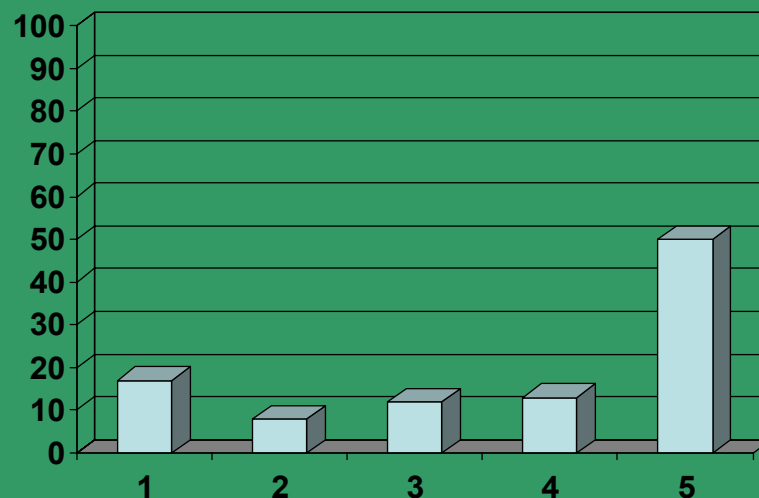
Question 3

I believe we should limit state harvest activity – in part to lead the way for others, in part to compensate for others. And, it's the right thing to do, even if we are among the few governments doing so.

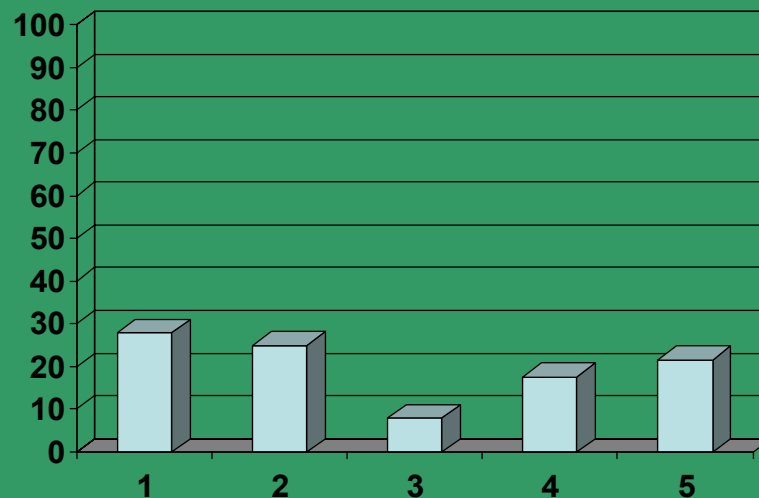
or

I believe timber harvesting is done more responsibly here than in most other parts of the world. We should harvest here rather than import wood from other places where there may be more harmful environmental impact.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



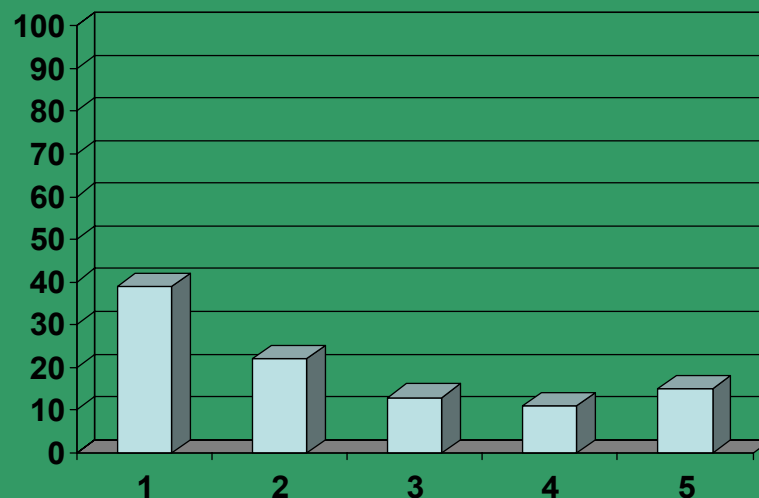
Question 4

I believe timber harvesting to benefit schools, local government and others is a priority even if there is a risk that our harvesting will cause some disruption to our wildlife.

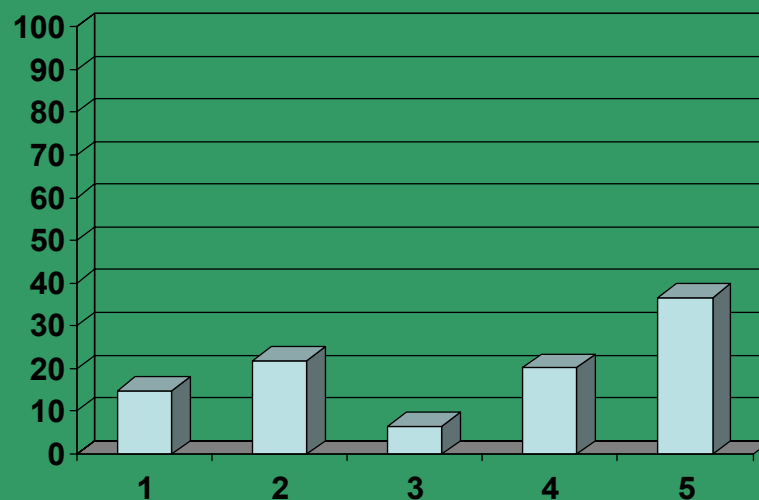
or

I believe we should not be harvesting anywhere that forces wildlife to move out of a region where they traditionally have existed.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



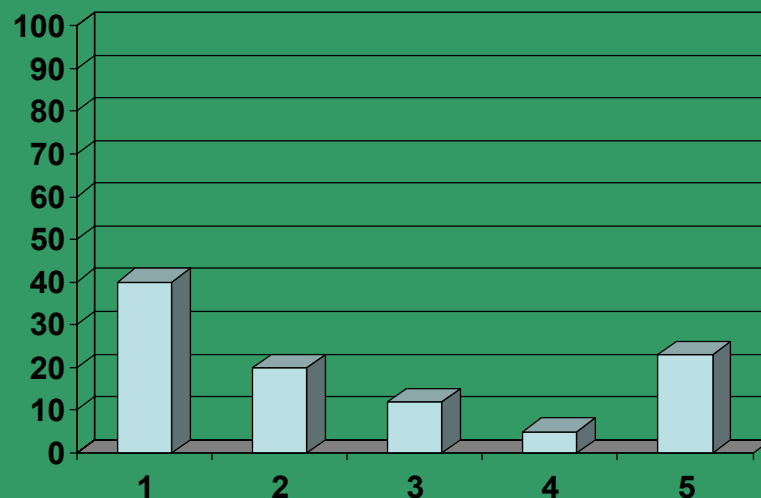
Question 5

I believe timber harvesting makes sense: the risk of environmental damage from harvests is low and we're going to use more lumber and paper products.

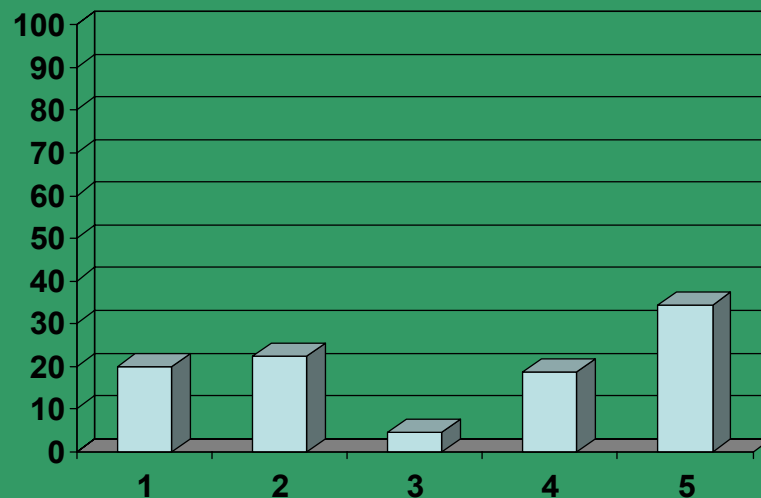
or

I believe timber harvesting should be limited. I'm willing to do more to reduce the amount of paper and lumber I use. For example, I would consider living in a smaller house the next time I move.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



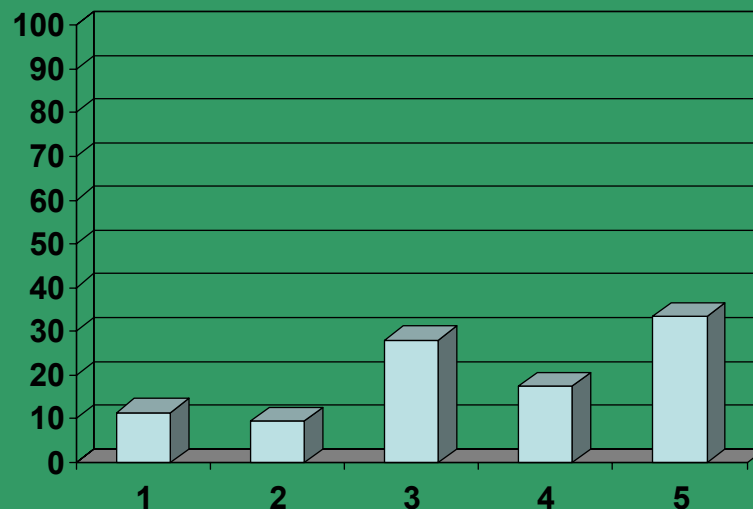
Question 6

I believe the increasing number of hikers, bikers, snowmobilers and others visiting state lands is creating significant wear and tear on trails, forests, streams, and wildlife.

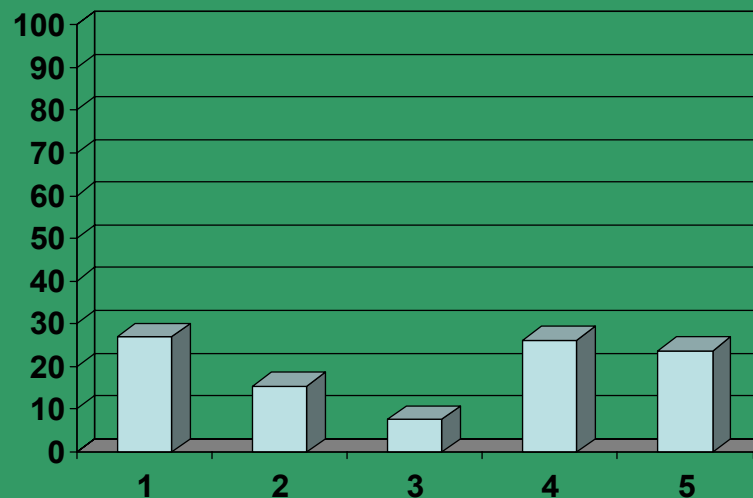
or

I believe we can enjoy many types of recreation on state lands without causing major or even minor negative environmental impacts to wildlife, streams or the forest.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



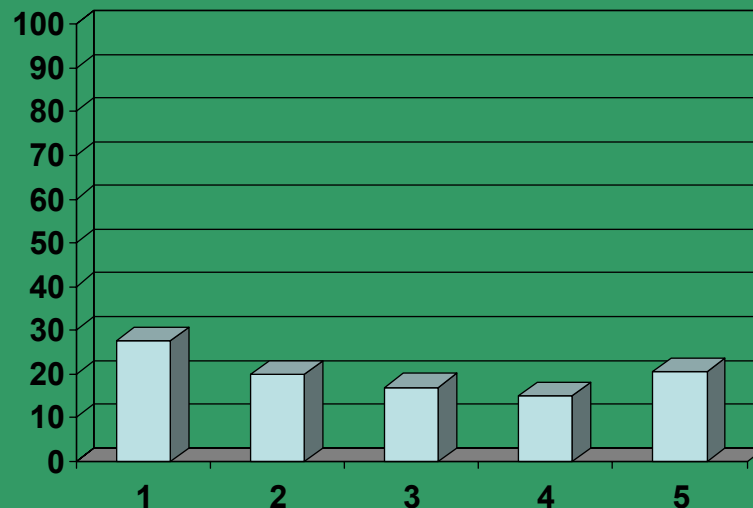
Question 7

I believe people in Washington have a right to enjoy their state lands and should have more access to hike, snowmobile, paraglide and ride off-road vehicles in state forests and on state land.

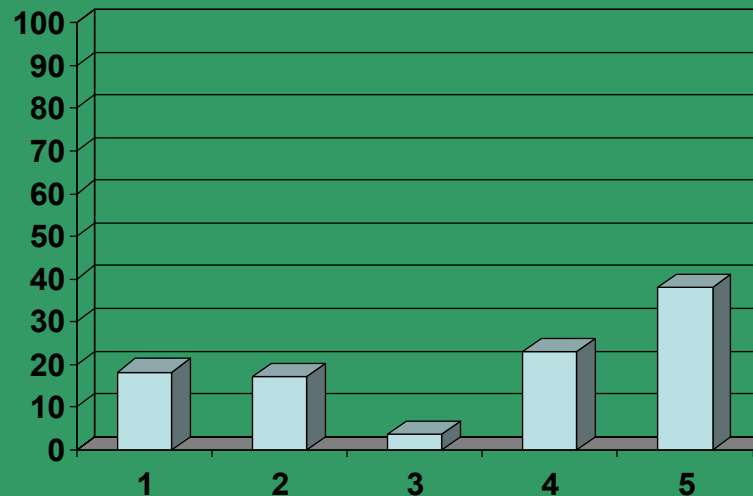
or

I believe we should allow recreation only if it has little adverse environmental impact.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



Question 8

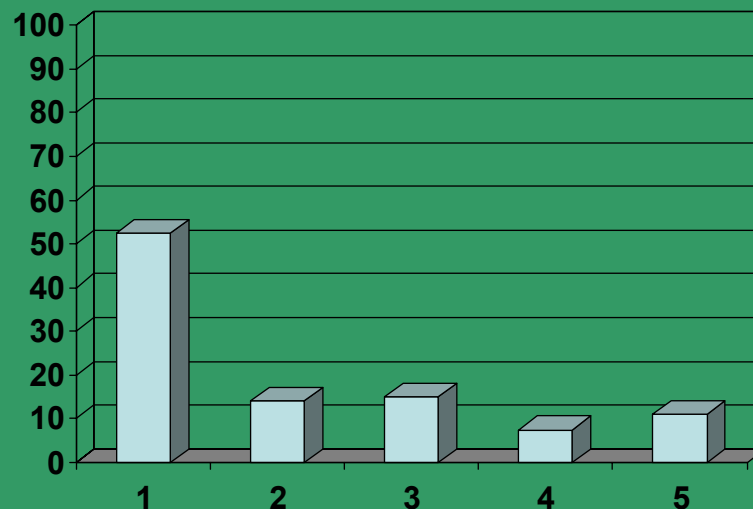
(9 on Town Meeting Survey)

I believe school overcrowding is serious and harvesting timber to help fund approximately one-third of school construction costs is important for schools in the community – even if harvests are visible.

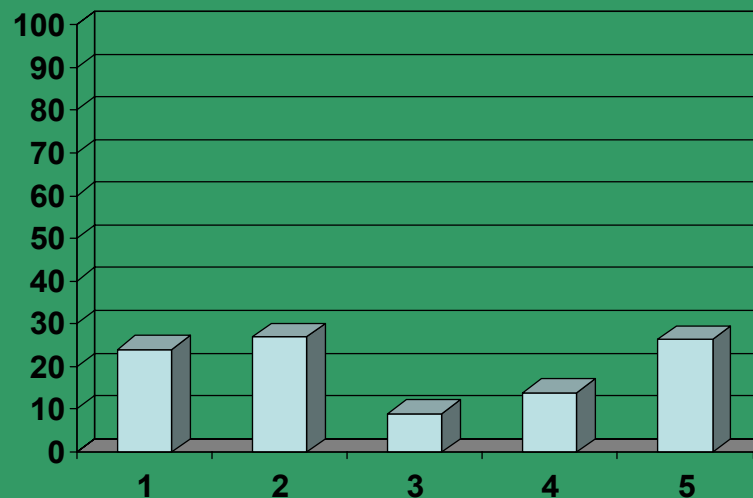
or

I believe timber harvests that are visible to the community are unattractive and shouldn't occur even if it means reducing funds available for schools in the community.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



Question 9

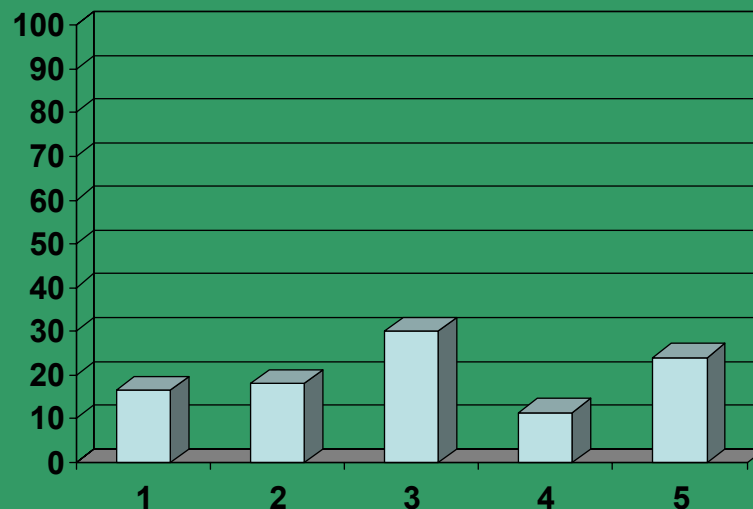
(10 on Town Meeting Survey)

I believe we should get the best value from timber harvests today even if it means we limit future options to earn revenue.

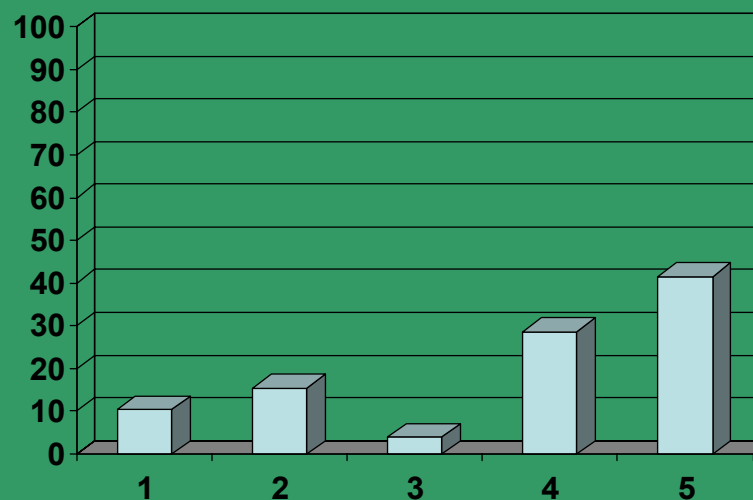
or

I believe there may be opportunities to earn revenue from timber in other ways in the future and we should not foreclose options even if it means we get less now or that the future revenues never materialize.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



Question 10

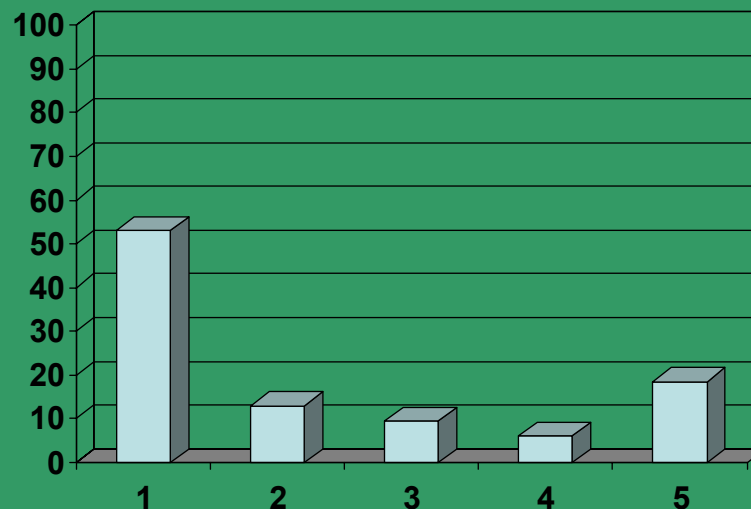
(11 on Town Meeting Survey)

I believe timber harvesting needs to be reasonable but I accept that some harvesting may be done in visible areas. I also don't mind if areas near harvests have to be closed to recreation from time to time.

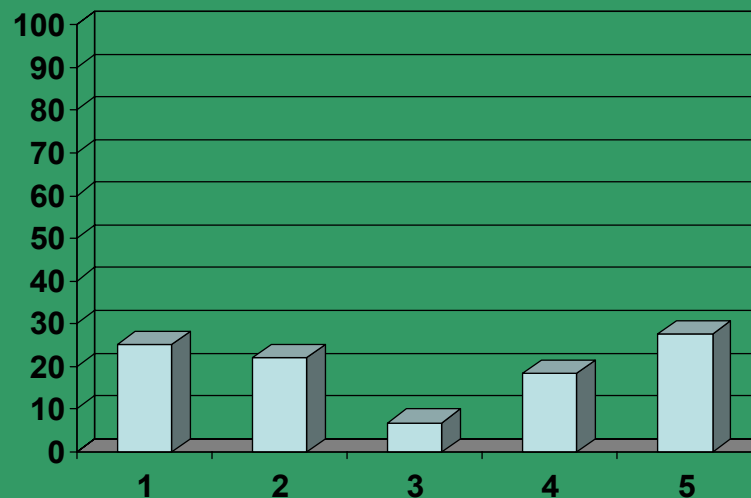
or

I believe timber harvesting should be limited – even if it means fewer forest roads and less access to recreation. And, I prefer we find other sources of funding for school construction.

Town Meetings



Statewide Survey



Focus Groups

- Focus groups allow us to probe more deeply about specific concerns and issues
- Total results are not statistically valid
- Discussion, however, indicates how typical residents of these areas may think about and consider these issues

Key Findings

- What is the goal the DNR should strive for generally?
- What are their values when it comes to the forest?
- Harvesting for school construction
- Recent issues

Goal of DNR

- Maintain Low Risk to Environment
- Strike a Balance: Enviro/Develop
- Do What Intended, Don't Overstep
- Help Use/Protect Our Forests
- Lead As Good Example
- Further Environmental Research
- Make Money for Schools
- Stop the Recession
- Safeguard Resources
- Many Concurrent Uses

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What are People's Values?

- Responsible management
 - Schools, aesthetics and recreation are important
 - Harvest here, don't import or cut down the rain forest
 - Balance recreation and environmental protection
- As the discussion went on, more people moved toward the middle

Harvesting for School Construction

- Highlighted school construction as opposed to Forest Board or other beneficiaries for clarity
- Few people realized the connection
- Ultimately a majority said if it helps the schools, I support it
- In every group, someone mentioned a state income tax as an alternative

Recent Issues

- No group could identify a recent issue relating to Washington's forests
- Clear cuts were always mentioned and generally got a negative reaction primarily because of aesthetics
- Replanting was discussed and tended to reduce concern about clear-cuts
- In each group someone mentioned that they believed the reaction to the spotted owl was overblown
- Old-growth was never mentioned