

Perceptions and Participation in US Community-Based Forestry

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INTRODUCTION

Historical Perspective on Community-based Forestry

This report addresses perceptions of and participation in community-based forestry (CBF) in the United States. For over a decade, a broad range of participants have sought to join, participate in, and advance this emerging social movement as a visionary form of sustainable forest stewardship. At this juncture it appears timely to investigate what forms of support these participants, as individuals and as organizations, feel would be most helpful and effective in furthering the practice of CBF on the ground, and at a collective scale, its reach and potency as a force for social, economic, and environmental change.

For this reason, the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress has developed and completed a study about CBF in the U.S., with contracted assistance from American Forests.¹ The study has been conducted through two surveys: the first was a qualitative survey that involved telephone interviews of various leaders and long-time participants in CBF.² The second was a quantitative survey that sought responses from a larger and more diverse set of participants via an internet-based instrument. This report presents the findings of the overall study, as information from the second phase builds directly from the first phase.

In a recent report on the policy role of CBF, Gerry Gray pointed out that CBF “has many dimensions and cannot be defined in simple terms.”

It [community-based forestry] focuses on the interdependence of forests and communities, and recognizes the vital role of communities-of-place in protecting, restoring, and maintaining forests. It is about ensuring that rural people and communities have a voice and meaningful role in decision-making regarding the management of nearby forests, as well as access to a portion of the benefits derived from those forests. It is about processes that favor civil dialogue, consensus-based decision-making, and collaborative learning over confrontational us-versus-them approaches, which generally have resulted in on-going, back-and-forth conflict among interest groups. It is about inclusive processes that provide opportunity and attention to underserved groups and equity issues. Finally, it is about communities in all land settings, including rural areas in the West with significant public forest ownership, rural areas in the East dominated by private forests, urban areas, and dynamic growth areas often referred to as the wildland-urban interface.³

Since it is the case that CBF has many dimensions in terms of place, objectives, voices, types of participation, and professional orientations, to mention just a few, it should not be surprising that the needs of its members for support, resources, and rewards are equally diverse.

¹ Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the study have been funded by the Ford Foundation.

² “Perceptions and Participations in US Community-Based Forestry” (Phase 1 Report, available at www.communitiescommittee.org)

³ Gray, 2005, p.1

The Roles of Community Based Forestry Support Organizations

A number of support organizations have evolved as key players in the CBF movement, including the national organizations involved in this study: the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress, the National Network of Forest Practitioners, American Forests, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, and the National Alliance for Community Trees. Additionally, several long-standing resource conservation organizations and professional forestry associations have provided various forms of assistance and support to CBF, such as the Society of American Foresters, The Wilderness Society, and The Nature Conservancy. Regional partnerships and coalitions such as the Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition, the Alliance of Forest Workers and Harvesters, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and others have also provided various types of assistance at more local levels.

Some of the important roles and contributions of these organizations include:

- Developing, advocating for, and monitoring resource management policies affecting public and private forests;
- Supporting the allocation of fiscal and other public resources to implement CBF;
- Fostering and promoting a set of core community-based forestry principles and values that enhance forest and community sustainability;
- Building community and organizational capacities to lead, and implement many forms of forest stewardship;
- Enhancing a wide range of skills and methods employed in the CBF movement, such as collaborative processes, community-based planning, restoration treatments, contracting, value-added technologies, marketing, and many forms of monitoring;
- Establishing communication and learning networks to increase cohesiveness, identity, and cooperation among individuals, communities and organizations

How can these organizations better fulfill these functions and advance the aims of CBF? The second phase of this study was designed to reach as many members of CBF's diverse constituencies as possible in order to ascertain the current state of the CBF field as perceived by participants. It aimed to answer several key questions to help assess strategic needs for capacity building: How do participants in the many dimensions of CBF view their work? How do they go about learning, developing, and sharing their knowledge and skills? What types of communication and support would be most welcome by a variety of participants in CBF? How do participants define and prioritize the current issues and challenges they are facing? What is their vision for CBF in the years ahead?⁴

As a national organization seeking to provide appropriate support and guidance to CBF and to the wide range of its participants, the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress has initiated this effort to examine these questions. They have undertaken the process for several reasons:

⁴ See Appendix B for a list of questions asked in the Phase 2 survey and response data for each.

- To provide important information for advancing the CBF movement;
- To strengthen its own support and assistance roles;
- To coordinate with other national and regional CBF organizations;
- To encourage dialogue among a variety of organizations and associations about a cohesive strategy to meet the needs of CBF.

While it is the intent of the Communities Committee to utilize the results of the CBF participants' survey to inform and guide its own future organization and leadership strategies, the study is also meant to engage others in a dialogue about these findings.

It is therefore the broad intent of this report to be used by those individuals, groups, and organizations that might find it helpful with regard to their own support and assistance roles. Furthermore, given the cooperative nature of CBF, it would appear most rewarding and appropriate if a variety of entities would seek to enter into mutual dialogue and planning in order to develop a coordinated and cohesive strategy to jointly provide the sorts of communication and capacity-building processes identified in this report.

METHODS

The project team conducted the study in two phases. In each phase, a survey was conducted asking questions pertinent to the project. Phase 1 used an interview process wherein people who were considered to be long-standing experts with CBF were asked about their perceptions of and experiences in CBF. Those responses were then used to develop a fixed choice survey format for use in Phase 2. Phase 2 participants consisted of as broad an array of forest-related practitioners and experts as project parameters allowed.

Phase 1 explored matters affecting current and future participation in community-based forestry. A task group developed survey questions and identified possible participants. Surveys were conducted by telephone interviews and ranged from a half hour to one and a half hours. Sixty people were identified for possible participation with thirty-five actually participating in and completing the telephone survey. Several criteria, including sector of work, geographic region, public versus private-land focus, and rural versus urban focus were used to identify and select possible participants. The phase 1 survey included eleven questions, each made up of several parts. The questions were designed to allow for a wide range of possible answers and perspectives on community-based forestry. The intent was to better understand the multiple ways participants perceive community-based forestry, their roles in it, and their level of commitment to it. The interviews elicited an array of perspectives and a large amount of unstructured information. Data analysis involved interpretation and categorization responses.

The aim of Phase 2 was to characterize the ways in which a range of individuals involved with forests perceive CBF, its evolution, and their roles in it. The set response options derived from responses gathered in Phase 1. A project team designed the survey instrument with the assistance of a market research firm, McKinley Marketing, Inc. (McKinley). McKinley also assisted in preparation of guidelines for participant selection. 945 contacts were identified from a variety of institutions and organizations, such as the Alliance for Community Trees, the State Foresters, the National Network of Forest Practitioners, the

Alliance of Forest Workers and Harvesters, and others. Those identified for possible participation were selected with the intent of obtaining a diverse representation of people involved in forestry related activities. While many of those identified have been actively involved in community-based forestry, others have been involved only peripherally.

The web-based survey was launched on February 28, 2006 and remained open for two weeks. During that time, 226 people completed the survey and 33 partially completed it. Two organizations forwarded the survey on to their membership lists rather than share their lists with the project team. It is estimated this amounted to an additional 600 people to whom the survey was sent. The authors recognize the limitations of a web based survey in reaching certain audiences who do not have access to or make regular use of the internet. Further survey research may be needed to gain better participation from such audiences. (See Appendix A for more on the statistical methods utilized in the survey).

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The following section summarizes survey data and presents key findings. (See Appendix B for a full listing of survey questions and response data.)

Demographics

Survey respondents are well distributed across demographic categories such as gender, length of time involved in community based forestry, sector of work or involvement, and so on. Ethnicity proved to be the exception to this generalization⁵, with the majority of respondents self-identifying as Caucasian. Factors that may have contributed to the low response rate by non-whites in the second phase survey include (but are not limited to) lower degree of involvement in community-based forestry or a lower level of internet use and access. Ultimately, the response rate by non-whites was too low to be able to draw any statistically valid conclusions about their involvement in and perceptions of CBF. It may be a worthwhile follow-on study to this one to attempt to contact those with limited or no access to internet via other means in order to additionally assess their interest and participation in as well their perceptions of community-based forestry.

The greatest number of respondents came from Oregon, California, Virginia, and Maryland. This may reflect a high level of involvement in and organization around community-based forestry in the Pacific Northwest as well as the Washington, DC area. The table below shows the way in which the authors divided up states into regions for the purposes of this survey.

⁵ Participation in the under 25 and over 65 age groups was also somewhat low, but it is reasonable to hypothesize that this is proportional to the total population of those involved in community-based forestry.

Table 1. Regional Breakdown of States

Inland West 32 Respondents (13%)	Midwest 26 Respondents (10%)	Northeast 41 Respondents (17%)	Southeast 62 Respondents (28%)	West Coast 55 Respondents (24%)
Arizona	Illinois	Ohio	Alabama	Alaska
Colorado	Indiana	Connecticut	Arkansas	California
Idaho	Iowa	Washington, DC	Florida	Hawaii
Montana	Kansas	Delaware	Georgia	Oregon
Nevada	Michigan	Massachusetts	Kentucky	Washington
New Mexico	Minnesota	Maryland	Louisiana	
Utah	Missouri	Maine	Mississippi	
Wyoming	Nebraska	New Hampshire	North Carolina	
	North Dakota	New Jersey	South Carolina	
	Oklahoma	New York	Tennessee	
	South Dakota	Pennsylvania	Texas	
	Wisconsin	Rhode Island	Puerto Rico	
		Vermont	Virginia	
		West Virginia		

Respondents were additionally asked to categorize themselves with regard to public versus private lands involvement and urban versus rural community-based forestry involvement. The following list presents some of the trends noted amongst respondents.

- Approximately half of participants classified themselves as being primarily involved in public lands issues, while a little over one third classified themselves as involved in private lands issues⁶. 2 Respondents (1%) classified themselves as being involved in tribal forests. The remaining participants either selected ‘unsure’ (8%) or ‘not involved’ (2%) as their response.
- Approximately two-thirds of participants identified themselves as involved in rural issues. One third identified themselves as being involved in urban issues⁷.
- The highest concentration of survey participants focusing on rural issues came from the West Coast category.
- Most people involved in urban issues came from the Southeast category, with the Midwest and the Northeast following closely behind.
- About half of the participants from the Southeast indicated involvement in public lands issues. Given the limited amount of public land located in the Southeast, this is surprising to the survey team. A likely explanation is that the inclusion of Virginia in the Southeast and the large number of responses from that state, responses may have

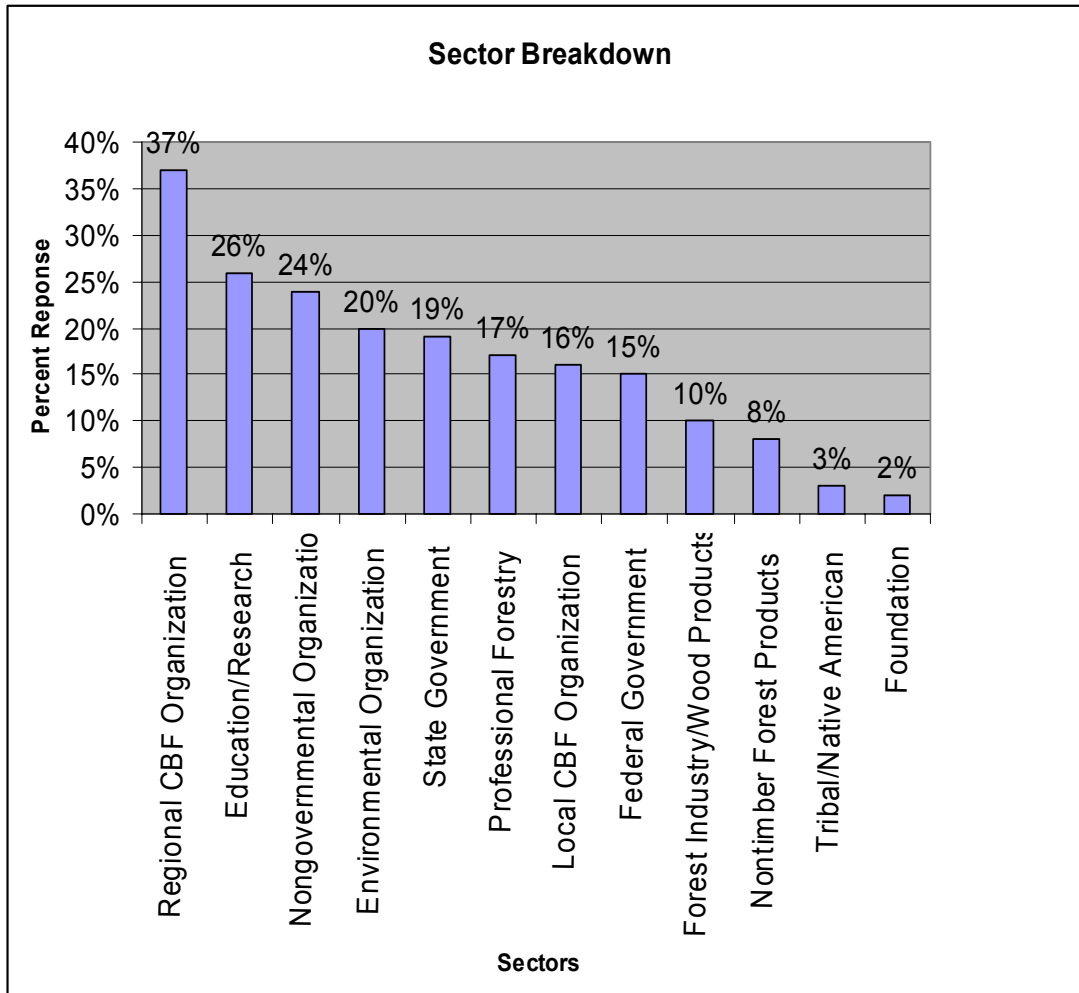
⁶ Note that it was not possible to select “both public and private” as an answer.

⁷ Note that it was not possible to select “both rural and urban” as an answer. In addition, we cannot assume someone with a rural focus lives in a rural area or that someone with an urban focus lives in an urban area, although this is likely. Hence, in this discussion ‘rural’ respondents means ‘with a focus on rural issues,’ rather than ‘rural resident.’ The same goes for ‘urban’ respondents.

been skewed towards those of public lands issues given the prominent presence of federal agencies and national nongovernmental organizations in the Washington, DC area.

Respondents were asked to define the sector in which they work. In general, sectors were well distributed across the previously defined regions. The following chart shows responses broken down by sector categories. (Please note that the percentages below total more than 100% because respondents were able to choose participation in more than one “sector.”)

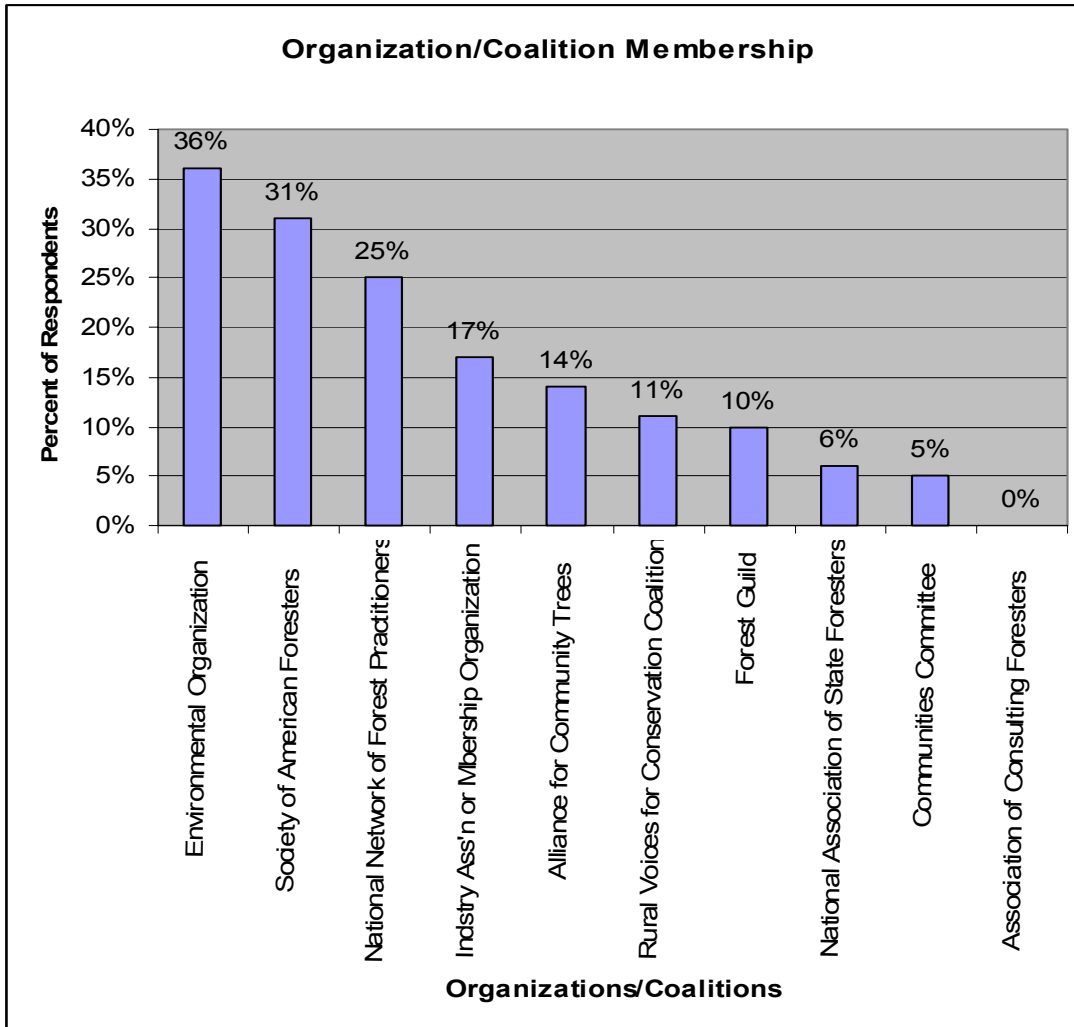
Table 2. Sector Breakdown



16% of participants identified themselves as belonging to groups other than those listed on the survey. The most commonly mentioned group in this ‘other’ category was employment by a municipal or county government.

Respondents were also asked to identify which organizations, if any, they were a member of from a list indicated in the survey. The following chart shows a breakdown of that organizational membership by respondents.

Table 3. Organization/Coalition Membership



Many respondents also listed other organizations of which they are members. Those organizations ranged from forestry organizations to social justice groups, environmental organizations, watershed planning groups, and many others. Given that only a limited number of organizations were listed as selection options and that participants may have defined various groups (such as ‘Environmental Organizations’) differently, the key finding is that a substantial percentage of respondents are members of one or more organizations supporting or related to CBF.

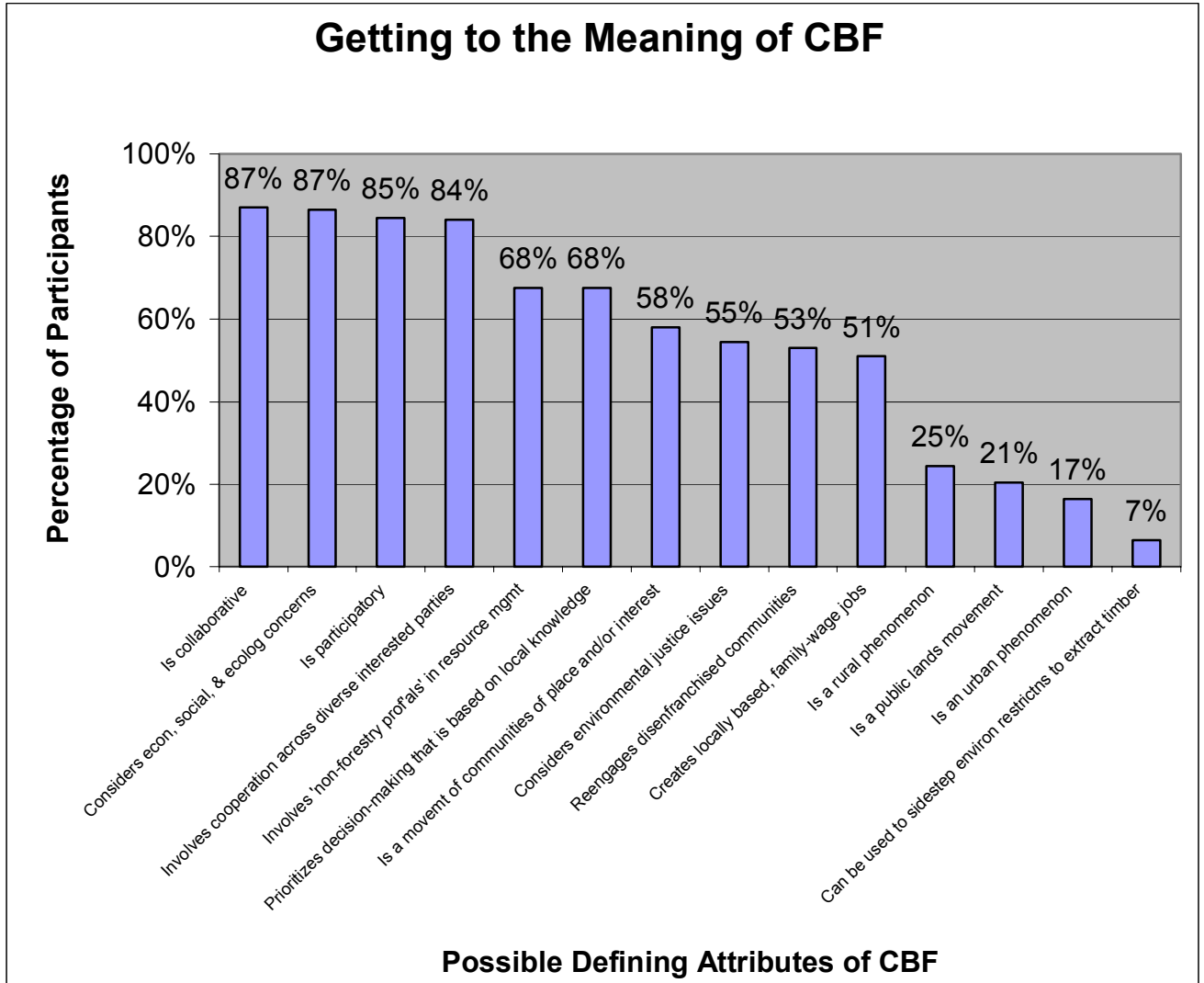
Current Perceptions of CBF

A central goal of the study was to discover how participants and observers of CBF understand and define it. What do they find to be its most essential features? Participants were asked to respond to a set of characteristics derived from key informant interviews held during Phase I of the study.

Characteristics of CBF

The following table ranks several attributes of CBF by perceived importance. Percentages displayed are a weighted average of “Extremely Important” and “Somewhat Important” responses.⁸

Table 4. Getting to the Meaning of CBF



The characteristics that received the strongest support across diverse groups appear to center around the following:

- Inclusive, democratic process
- Emphasis on a land management decision-making process that considers social, economic, and ecological factors

⁸ The weighted percentage figure is calculated as follows:

$$[(\text{“Extremely Important” } \% \times 2) + (\text{“Somewhat Important” } \%)]/2$$

- A breadth of stakeholder perspectives are embraced, including those with local or non-professional forestry knowledge related to resource management

The level of divergence was higher on a number of other variables. The contrasts between participants involved in urban forestry and rural forestry are some of the more striking findings:

- Nearly half of those respondents involved in rural issues see the creation of locally based, family wage jobs as extremely important to the just under one tenth of those respondents involved in urban issues. It is perhaps unsurprising in comparison that urban respondents do not see CBF as holding a high correlation with job creation since urban residents are much less likely to find employment in forest-related activities. Moreover, the values associated with urban forests are frequently different from those in a rural context.
- Only a small percentage of the ‘rural’ group (16%) thought that CBF can be characterized as an “urban phenomenon.” A similarly small percentage of respondents with an urban focus agreed that CBF is a “rural phenomenon”.
- A slightly greater percentage of participants involved in urban forestry issues see environmental justice as important in CBF than those participants who identified themselves as being involved in rural forestry issues
- A slightly greater percentage of respondents involved in rural forestry issues see CBF as engaging disenfranchised communities than those participants involved in urban forestry issues.

Other notable findings characterizing CBF include:

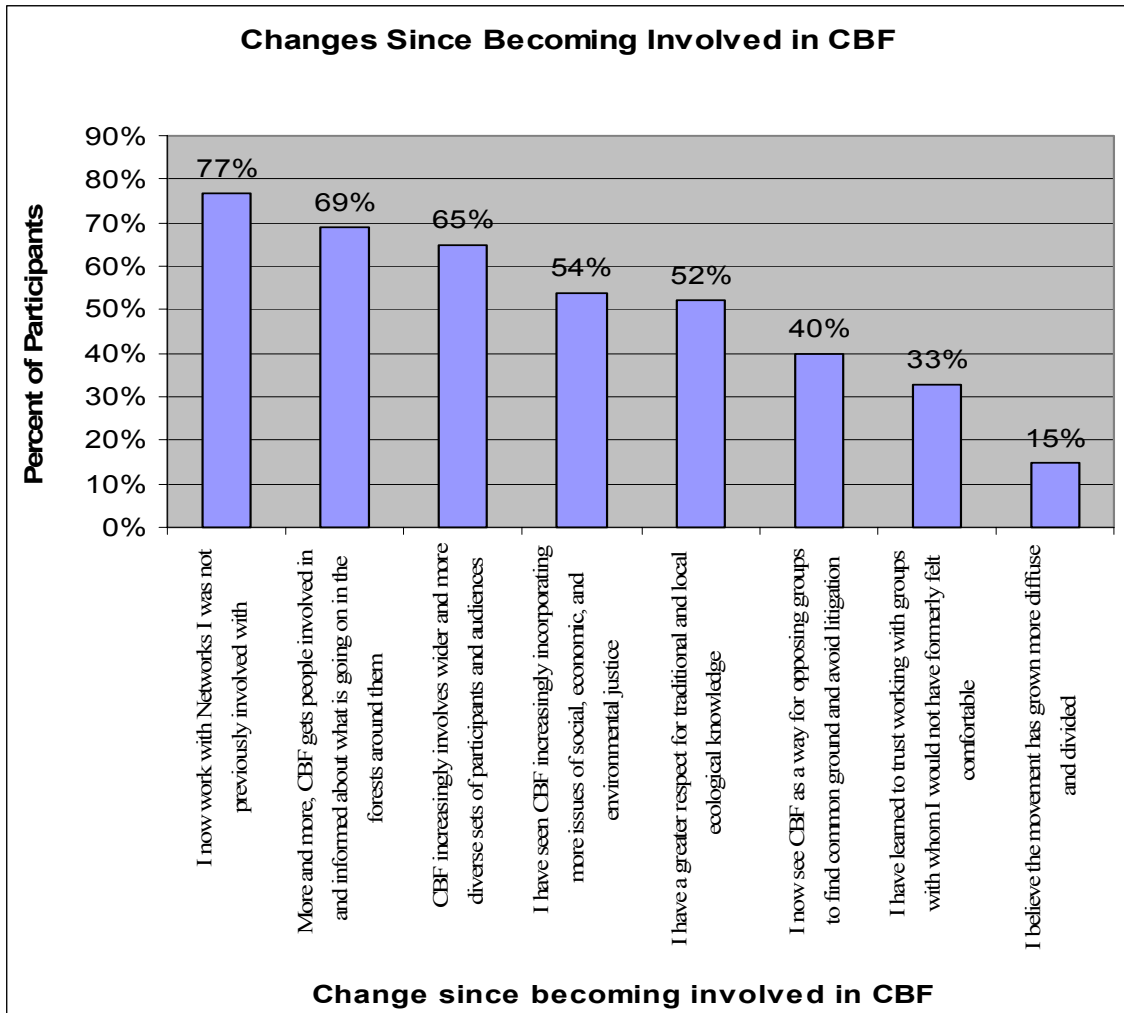
- Job creation was indicated as an important characteristic of CBF by respondents in the West Coast category, respondents working primarily on private lands issues, and respondents working for CBF organizations, industry, and NTFP groups
- Environmental justice was indicated to be an important features of CBF by respondents from the Northeast category and from NTFP groups
- More importance was given to CBF being a “movement of communities of place and/or interest” by respondents from the West Coast category, from NTFP groups, and from those in local CBF groups
- Most respondents indicated that participation is an “extremely important” element of CBF. The forest industry sector had the lowest level of agreement with this.
- Respondents from local and regional CBF organizations and from the forest industry most highly support the factor that says CBF “considers social, economic, and ecological concerns.” Federal government employee respondents gave it the weakest level of support.

Changes in Perceptions of CBF

Changes in participants’ perceptions of CBF over time may reflect how CBF is changing and may further reflect how participation in CBF has itself transformed skills, attitudes, and orientations. Slightly more than two-thirds of respondents reported that their understanding of CBF has changed from when they first became involved.

The following chart illustrates responses to various areas in which participants may have experienced change since becoming involved in CBF.

Table 5. Changes in Understanding of CBF Since Becoming Involved



Higher percentages of respondents see CBF as facilitating networking, providing increased “people involvement,” and diversity of participation. Fewer participants see CBF primarily as a means of avoiding litigation or as a way of learning to trust groups with whom they would not have previously been comfortable.

As CBF grows, attempts have been made to include a broader range of issues and people. This diversification to include different types of land ownership concerns, resource management concerns, and social concerns has prompted some speculation amongst researchers that the field may have become diffuse or even divided. A small percentage of survey participants perceive that diffusion and fragmentation within CBF has happened, though the majority of respondents did not indicate they agreed with this.

Involvement in Community-based Forestry

About two-thirds of participants stated that they have been involved in CBF for more than five years. While this may indicate some longevity in the field of CBF, it should be noted that definitions of involvement vary significantly.

The array of years of involvement is well distributed as shown by the following table showing the distribution of the 222 respondents.

Table 6. Length of Time Involved in CBF

Time spent involved in CBF	% of Participants Involved
Less than 1 year	6%
1-2 Years	7%
3-5 Years	23%
6-9 Years	19%
10-14 Years	18%
15-19 Years	10%
20 or More Years	17%

The mid-point is approximately 9 years of involvement in CBF, with 55% of the respondents falling at 9 years and below. This provides a rough estimate of the development period of community-based forestry, at least as experienced by this cohort.

When asked if their involvement had changed since becoming involved in CBF, 59% of respondents said it had increased, 15% said it had decreased, and 25% said it had stayed the same. Among those whose involvement had decreased, 76% had been involved with CBF for six years or more. Moreover, for every group that had been involved more than nine years, a larger percentage had decreased their involvement than had increased it. It is not possible to say if this represents an expected level of attrition due to personal life-changes, “burn-out,” a changed assessment of the efficacy of CBF, or other factors. Employees of the federal government are the only work sector for which a greater proportion have lessened their involvement than have increased it.

The way in which people involve themselves seems to be primarily through a mixture of professional and volunteer time. Very few people engage in CBF on a wholly volunteer basis.

Table 7. Allocation of Time Spent on CBF Activities

Type of Time Spent in CBF Activities	Amount of Time	Percentage of participants involved
Professional	All	38%
	Some	56%
	None	4%
Volunteer	All	3%
	Some	75%
	None	20%

Most participants work at two or more geographic scales. The portion of time individuals dedicate to community forestry generally drops as geographic scale increases. Most respondents spend at least “some” of their time on local issues, fewer are involved in regional followed by national, and international issues (though the latter point is almost certainly attributable to the focus of the survey having been on work going on within the domestic US).

The CBF-related work of three-quarters of respondents focuses on forest restoration and sustainable forestry, with project implementation, economic development, policy development, and public education all more or less equally clustered in second place. Slightly over half of all participants became involved in CBF due to a job, an assignment, or a project. A similar number also became involved when they became connected with a nongovernmental organization, association, or local group.

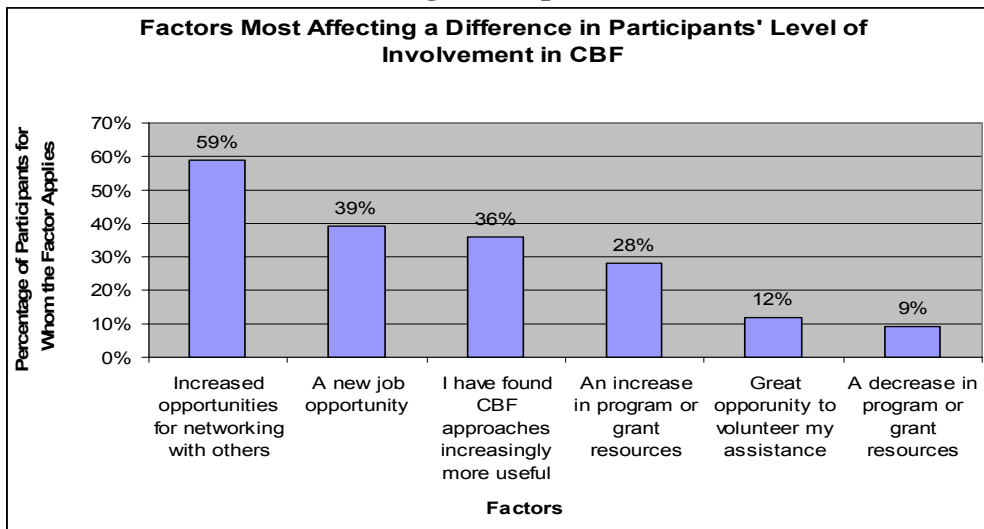
A little over a quarter of the respondents noted that an “insight that there should be a better way to accomplish management of natural resources” had led them to CBF. The survey team was surprised to note that “a local or regional crisis” was not broadly identified as a primary reason for becoming involved in CBF. Many narratives talk of CBF as having grown out of an effort to overcome conflict over natural resources or economic dislocation in forest-dependent communities.

Factors influencing involvement in CBF

Other aspects the survey sought to better understand were factors contributing to participants’ level of involvement in CBF.

When asked to account for the change in their level of involvement, most cited increased networking or job opportunities. Gains or losses in grant resources have also changed engagement in CBF, but to a lesser degree. About a third of participants explained their increased level of involvement as a result of the perception that “CBF approaches have become increasingly more useful.” It may be worth further exploration to examine the attitudes of the remaining two-thirds.

Table 8. Factors Most Affecting Participants’ Level of Involvement in CBF

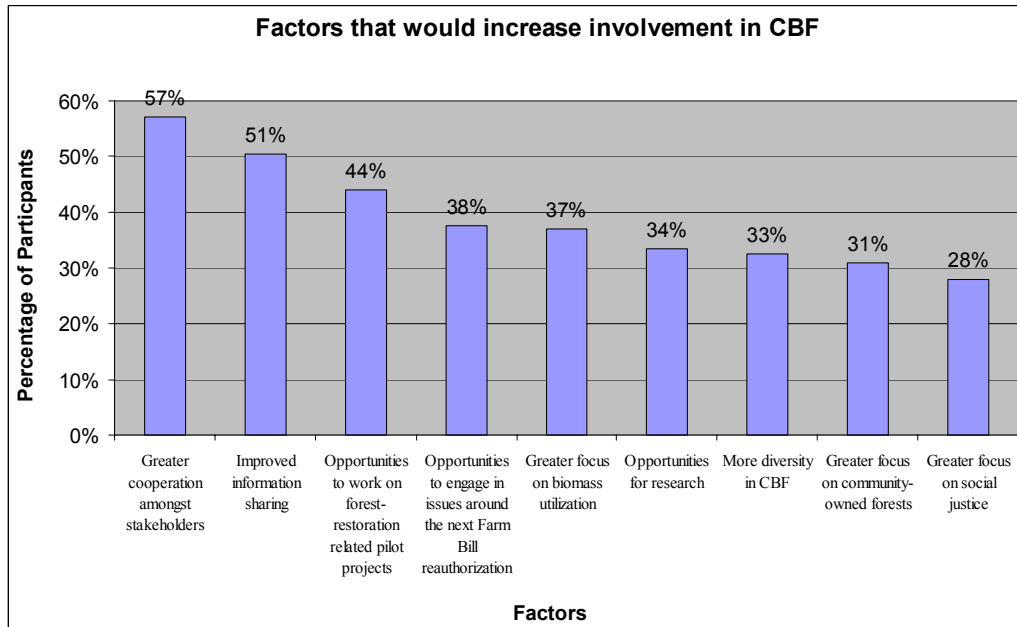


Incentives that would strengthen involvement in CBF

What are the resources, relationships, or processes that would motivate greater participation in CBF? Addressing this question would inform CBF networks and supporting organizations on how to provide the resources and assistance needed.

Combining the weighted responses for factors judged “extremely likely” and “somewhat likely,” to increase personal involvement in CBF, results in the following ranking:

Table 9. Factors That Would Increase Involvement in CBF in the Future



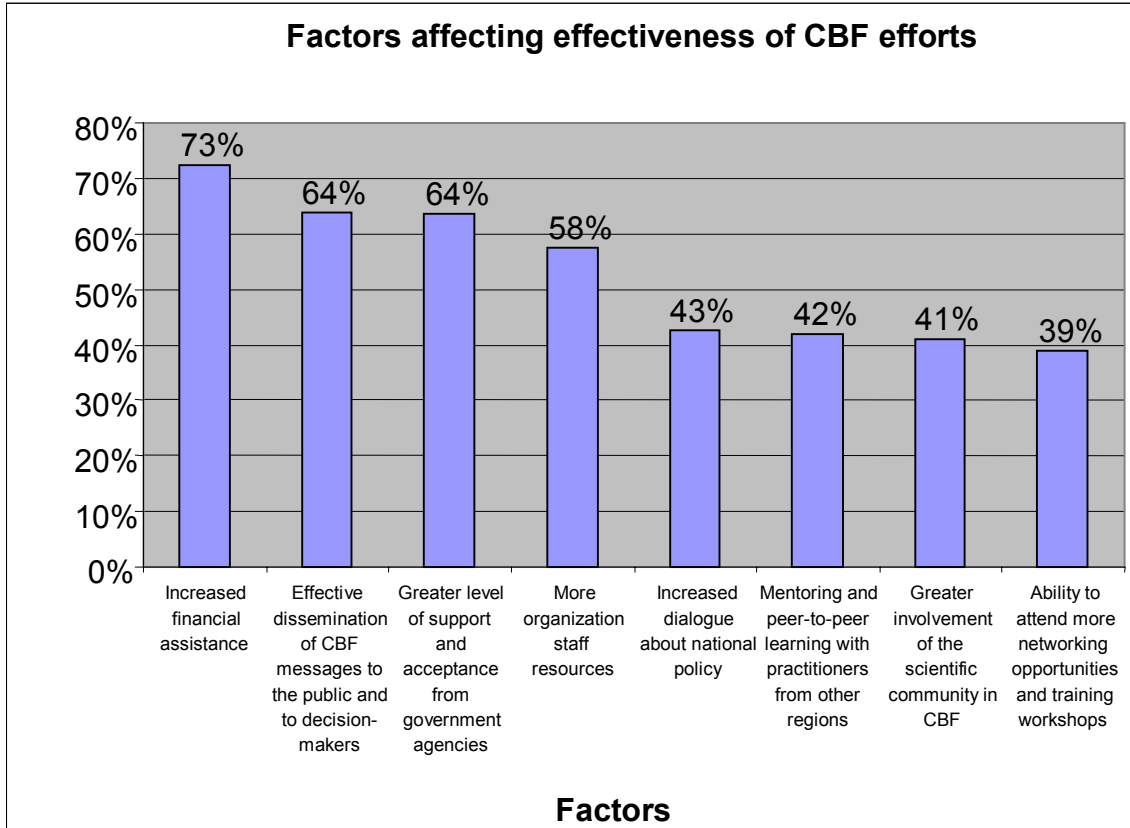
While cooperation amongst stakeholders, information-sharing, and forest restoration pilot projects ranked highest, their constituencies were interested in the other six factors as well.

- Local and regional CBF organizations are twice as likely as federal and state government employees to increase their involvement in CBF in the event of “greater opportunities to work on restoration.”
- More diversity in CBF and a greater focus on social justice are “a little” or “not at all likely” to enhance involvement among most participants (49% and 61% respectively). However, respondents are differentiated in this respect, with about half of non-timber forest product workers reporting that an increase in diversity in CBF would be “extremely likely” to increase their involvement, compared to less than one out of six federal government employees.

Factors increasing Effectiveness of CBF

Survey participants indicated that greater financial assistance, better communication of the CBF message to the public and to decision-makers, and greater support and acceptance from government agencies would most increase the effectiveness of their CBF efforts.

Table 10. Factors Affecting Effectiveness of CBF Efforts



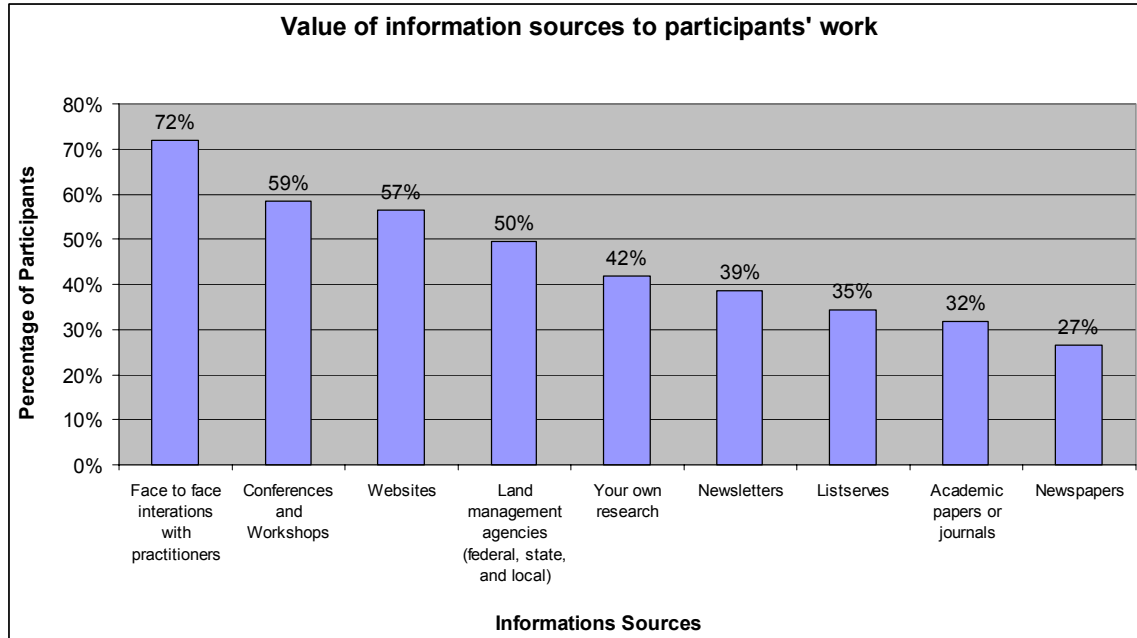
Improving Information Sharing, and Expanding Participation

Having observed the factors influencing and enhancing both involvement and effectiveness in CBF, one might ask what else could be emphasized to further strengthen CBF. The survey assessed respondents’ priorities regarding information needs, issues of primary concern, and what groups should be encouraged to become more involved. These three areas suggest an agenda for future action by CBF support organizations, policy makers, and other stakeholder groups.

Information Sources and Sharing

Relative to information sources that participants rely upon, the following table presents the most important ones in ranked order (values are weighted averages of “Extremely valuable” and “Somewhat valuable”):

Table 11. Value of Information Sources to Participants' Work



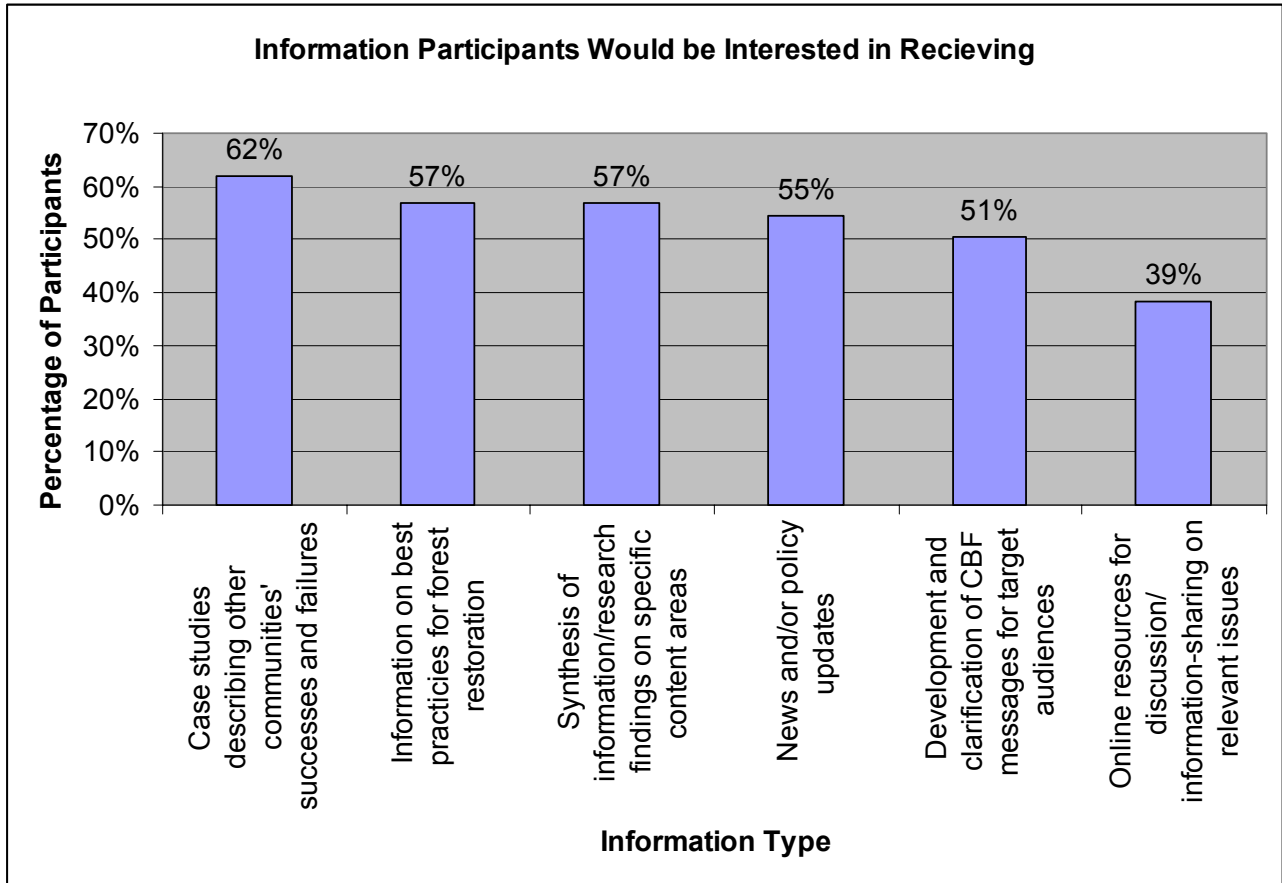
The information sources participants regard as most useful are direct or face-to face interaction with practitioners, followed by workshops and conferences, which also provide opportunities for direct contact. Land management agencies are important information sources for a sizable portion of participants. Listserves and newspapers received the lowest response. In contrast, note that the first phase of this research (open-ended key informant interviews) found, “Listserves are the most useful mechanism by which information is received and shared. E-mails from friends, colleagues, and other natural resources related partners follow close behind.”⁹

Most helpful types of information

In thinking about strengthening the practices of CBF, particularly as an emerging field, it was important also to examine what sorts of information would be most helpful to improve its practices. The results are illustrated in the table below. Percentages are weighted averages of “Extremely important” and “Somewhat important.”

⁹ Insert reference for the Phase 1 report with a page number

Table 12. Information Participants Would be Interested in Receiving



As above, it is notable that information through “on-line sources” did not receive very strong support. However, news and policy updates (which in practice are often delivered via the internet) were highly valued, especially by CBF organizations.

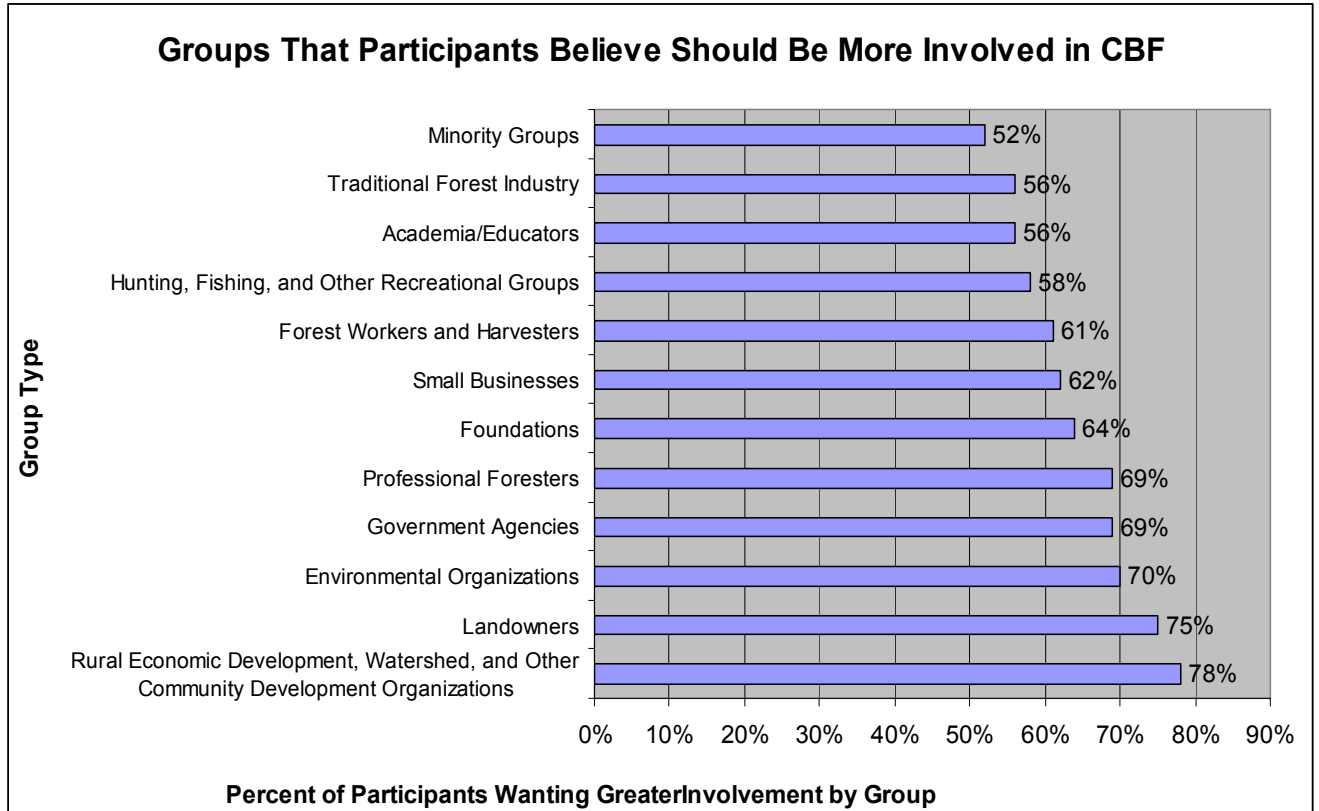
Determining who else should be involved in CBF

Increasing Inclusion and Diversity of Members

The growth of CBF is also related to the types of persons and interests that find it helpful, and become involved. Who might these people or constituencies be? By asking persons who currently identify with CBF about whom they would recommend, a range of potential new members can be identified. As illustrated in the table below, respondents would like to see a wider range of groups become involved in community-based forestry; this suggests targets for outreach that could expand participation in CBF¹⁰.

¹⁰ Among those who selected “other,” local government and developers were mentioned most frequently.

Table 13. Groups That Participants Believe Should Be More Involved in CBF



Responses to this question vary by work sector. The keen interest of the forest industry/wood products sector in landowners might relate to concerns about wood supply (and/or a high value attached to private property). They share a strong interest in the inclusion of the traditional forest industry and small business with the non-timber forest sector¹¹.

In other respects, the non-timber forest products sector stands out: for favoring increased participation by minorities, forest workers and harvesters, and recreational groups. The forest/wood products industry and regional CBF organizations are notable for a high level of support for an increased role for professional foresters.

Approaches to Strengthening CBF

The following section of the report examines several areas that might suggest ways of strengthening or increasing support for CBF participants

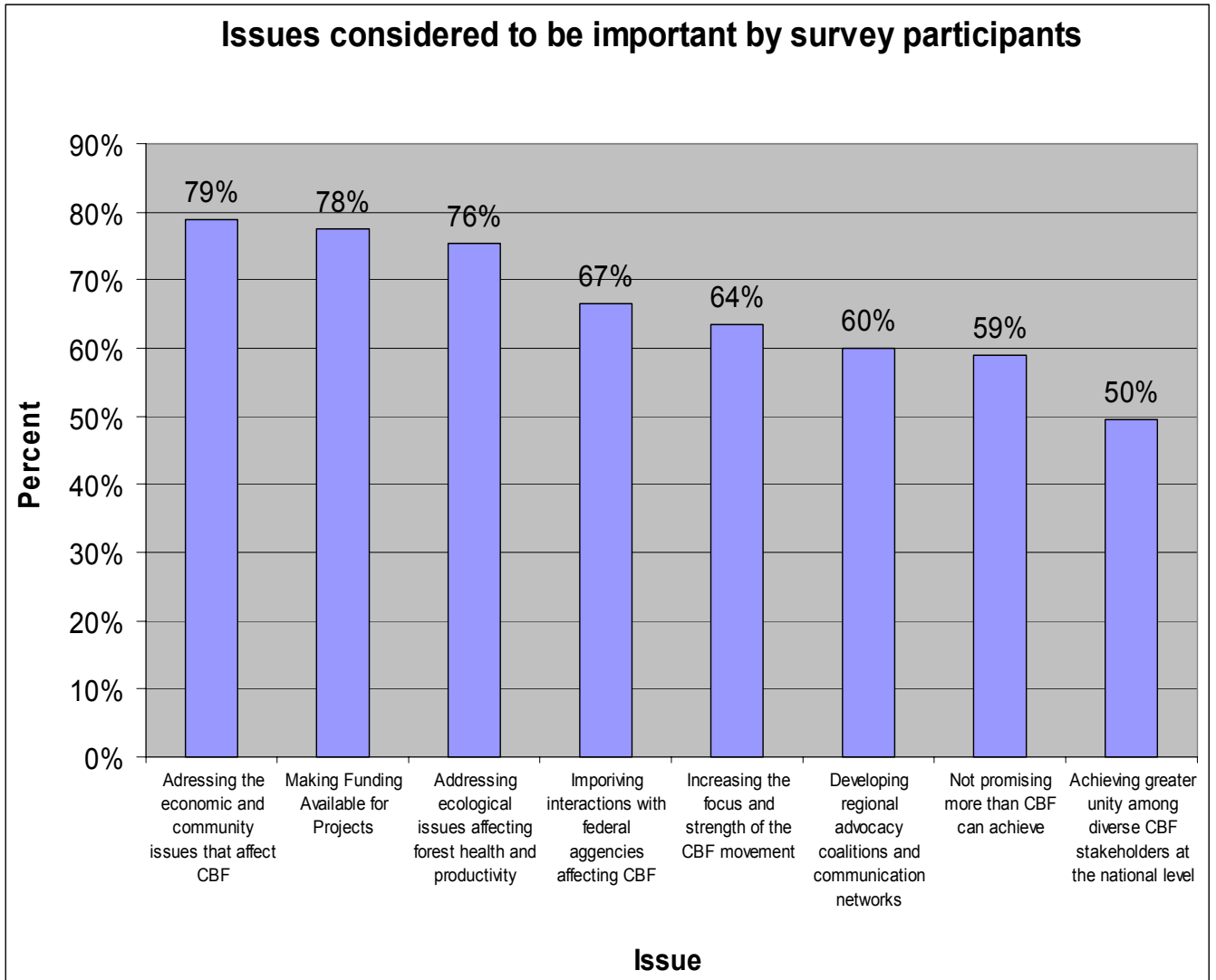
Key Issues for CBF

The survey sought to assess which of the issues facing CBF participants find most important, thus suggesting a possible agenda for supporting organizations. The following table displays

¹¹ Both may recognize the desirability of greater cooperation with and by large timber companies, many of whom control large tracts of forest (supply) as well as with the businesses that use and market their products (demand).

the issues asked about on the survey. The responses are displayed as weighted averages of “Extremely important” and “Somewhat important.”

Table 14. Issues Considered to be Important by Survey Participants



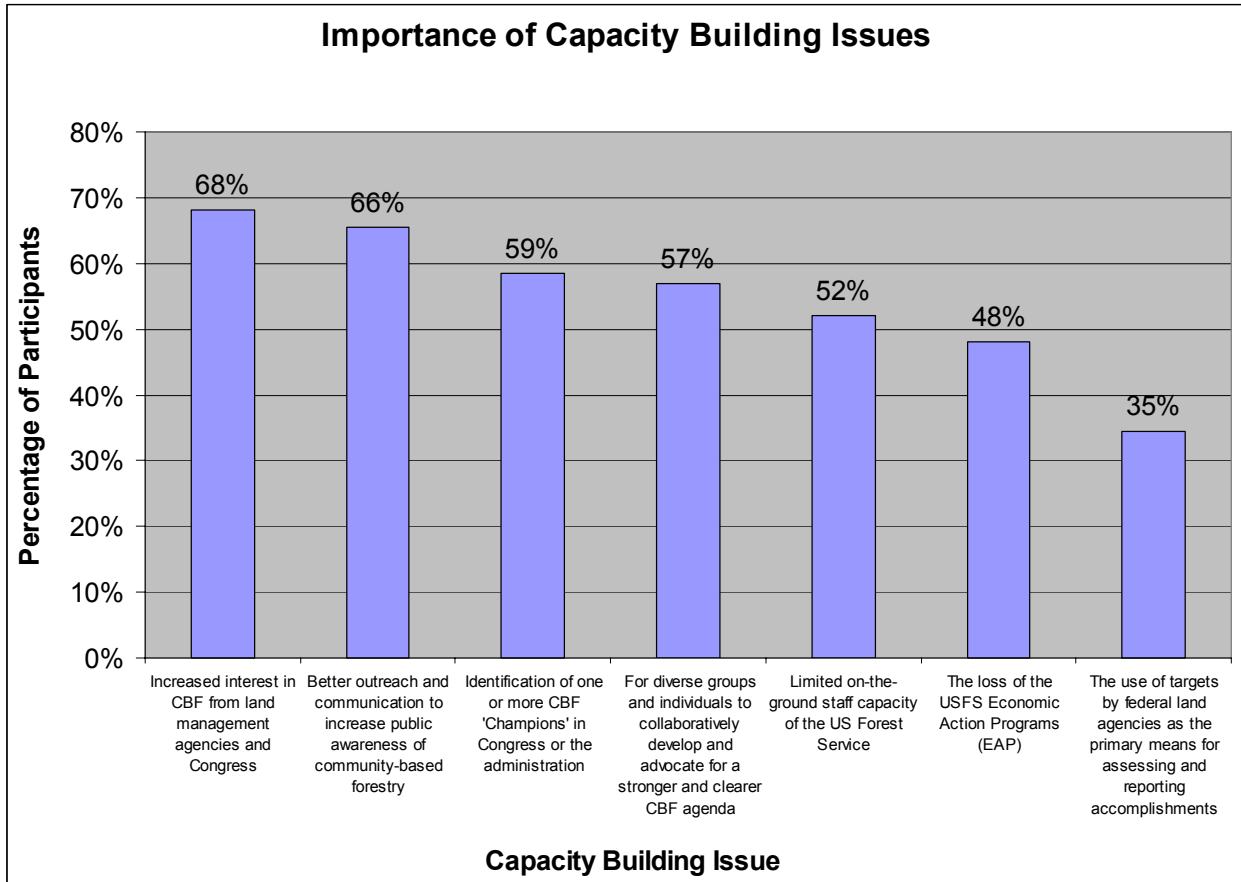
Again, there was considerable variation by work sector. “Addressing the economic and community issues that affect CBF” was rated most highly by industry and least by government. The governmental sector also gave relatively low support for other issues of broad concern: “making funding available for projects” and “addressing ecological issues threatening forest health and productivity.”

Outcome-oriented issues ranked higher than those associated with process or network- and movement-related concerns. “Increasing the focus and strength of the CBF movement” was emphasized most by regional and local CBF groups. Regional CBF groups also showed the highest level of response in supporting “developing regional advocacy coalitions and communication networks,” with the Southeast showing the greatest level of interest.

Capacity Building Issues

With a view towards determining what would strengthen CBF, the survey sought to identify priority issue areas for capacity building. It is notable that the two items receiving the highest response rate are issues that fall under the general area of communication and outreach. The following table details the issues and the degree to which participants believe they are important to CBF. Percentages are weighted averages of “Extremely Important” and “Somewhat Important.”

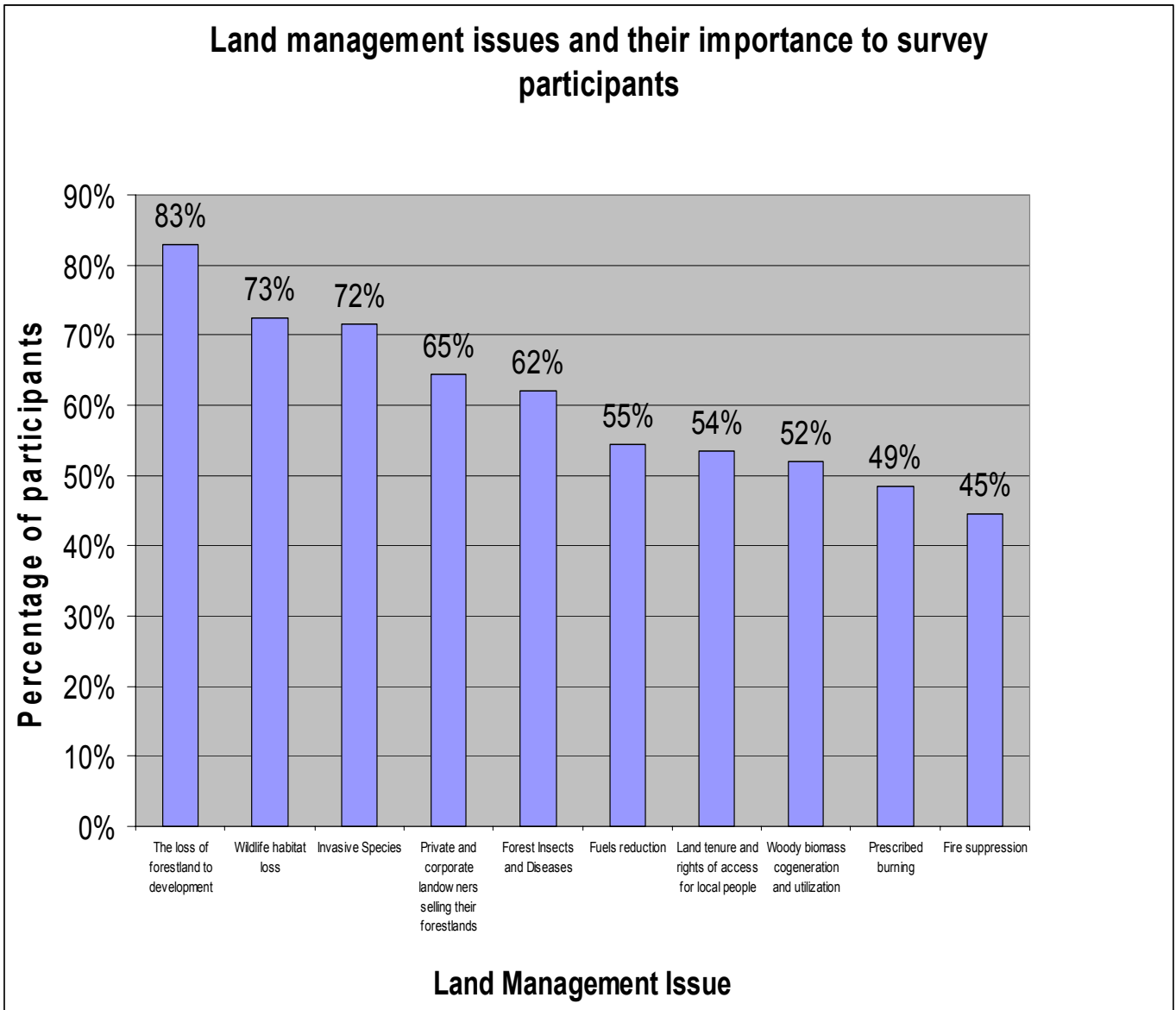
Table 15. Importance of Various Capacity Building Issues to Survey Participants



Critical Resource Management Issues

Another way to help achieve the objectives of CBF would be to assist participating organizations in focusing on and addressing those resource management issues that are of highest concern to their constituencies. The following table shows the issues considered most important by survey participants. Percentages are weighted averages of “Extremely important” and “Somewhat important.”

Table 16. Land Management Issues and Their Importance to Survey Participants

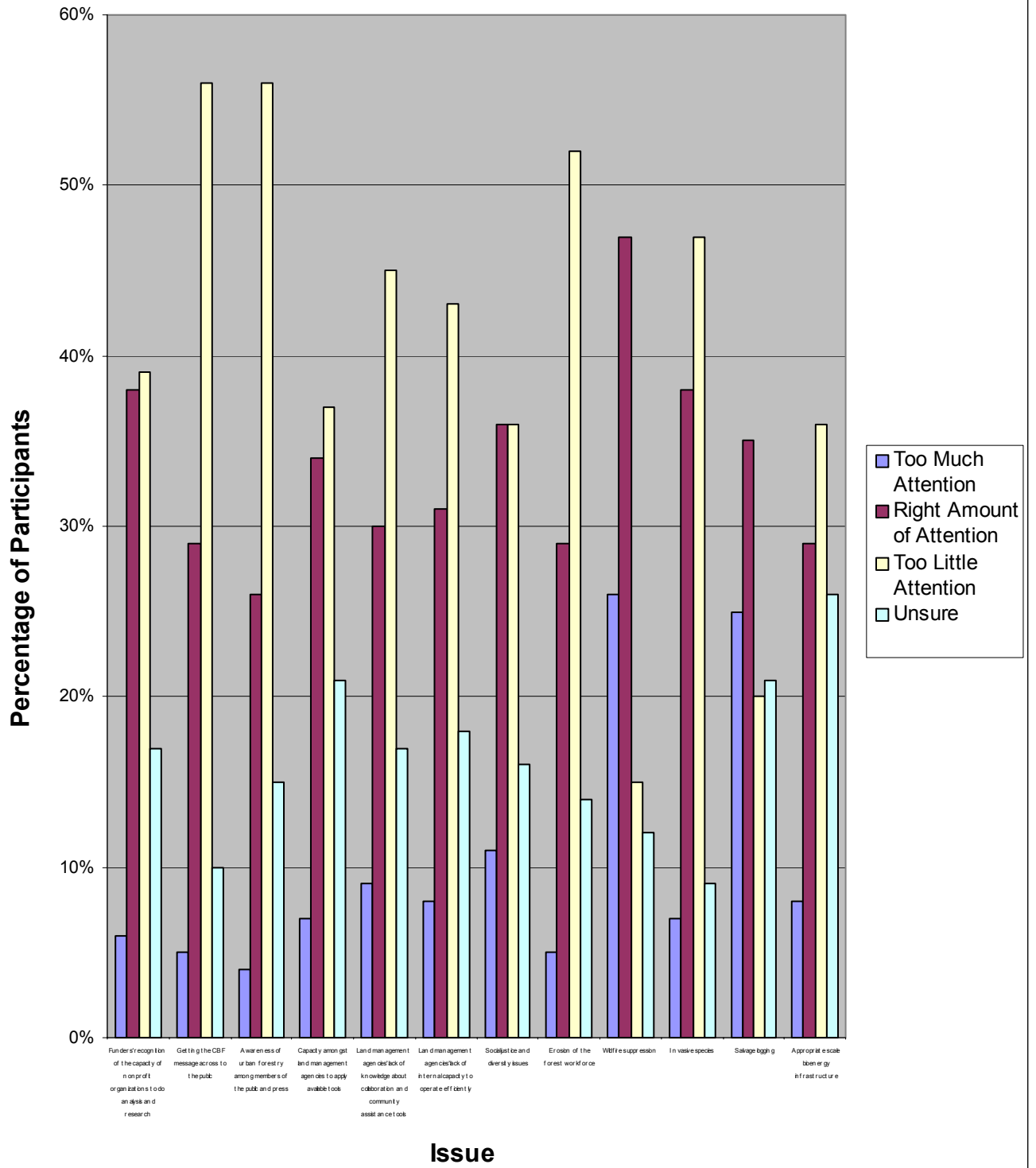


It is possible that the last five items received somewhat lower overall rankings because they are generally thought to be more critical in the West than in other regions.

Conversely, from a CBF perspective, some resource management issues may receive too much attention or too little attention. The following table illustrates participants' responses to questions about the amount of attention various issues receive.

Table 17. Amount of Attention Paid to Various CBF Issues

Amount of Attention Paid to Various Issues



Note that communication and public education are the two issues (Table 17) which the highest percentage of respondents believes are receiving too little attention. It is significant that topics relating to communication, messages, or awareness top the list.

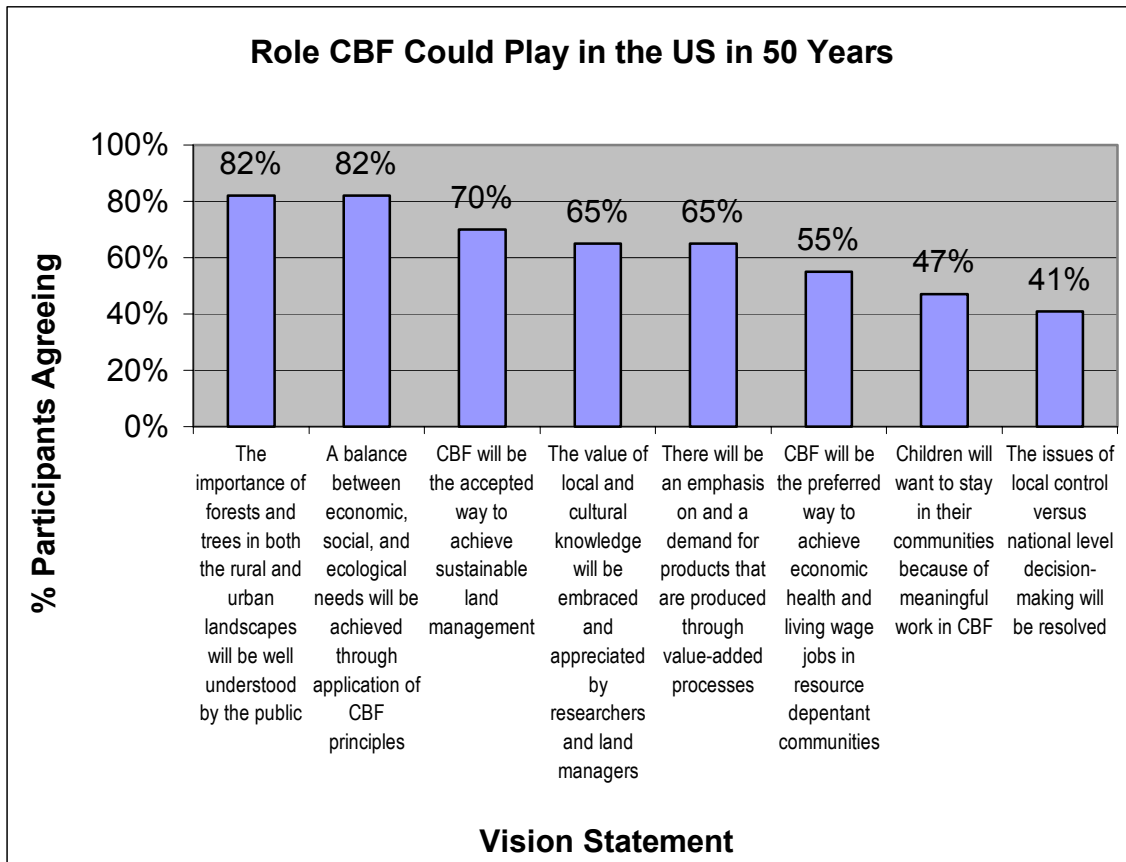
Notably, approximately one-quarter of respondents feel wildfire suppression and salvage logging are each receiving too much attention; however, nearly 50% feel these issues are receiving the right amount of attention. All the other issues listed are seen by a larger percentage as receiving too little (rather than too much) attention.

The Vision of CBF

In addition to how CBF is understood, what its key components are, what information its adherents need, and what capacities and issues need to be addressed, the survey examined visions of what it could contribute over time.

The survey asked what role CBF “could play in the United States 50 years from today.” This question is intended to elicit the long-term goals of those engaging in CBF. It was left open to interpretation whether to answer in predictive terms (what is achievable?), or in idealistic terms (what would you *like* to see?).

Table 18. Role CBF Could Play in the US in 50Years



One of the two most popular visions overall-- balancing economic, social and ecological dimensions, was selected by a high percentage of CBF and public lands groups, yet the

private forest group ranked it *lowest*. A similar anomaly marked the other chief vision, regarding public understanding of the importance of forests and trees in landscapes: it was among the least selected by *rural* groups.

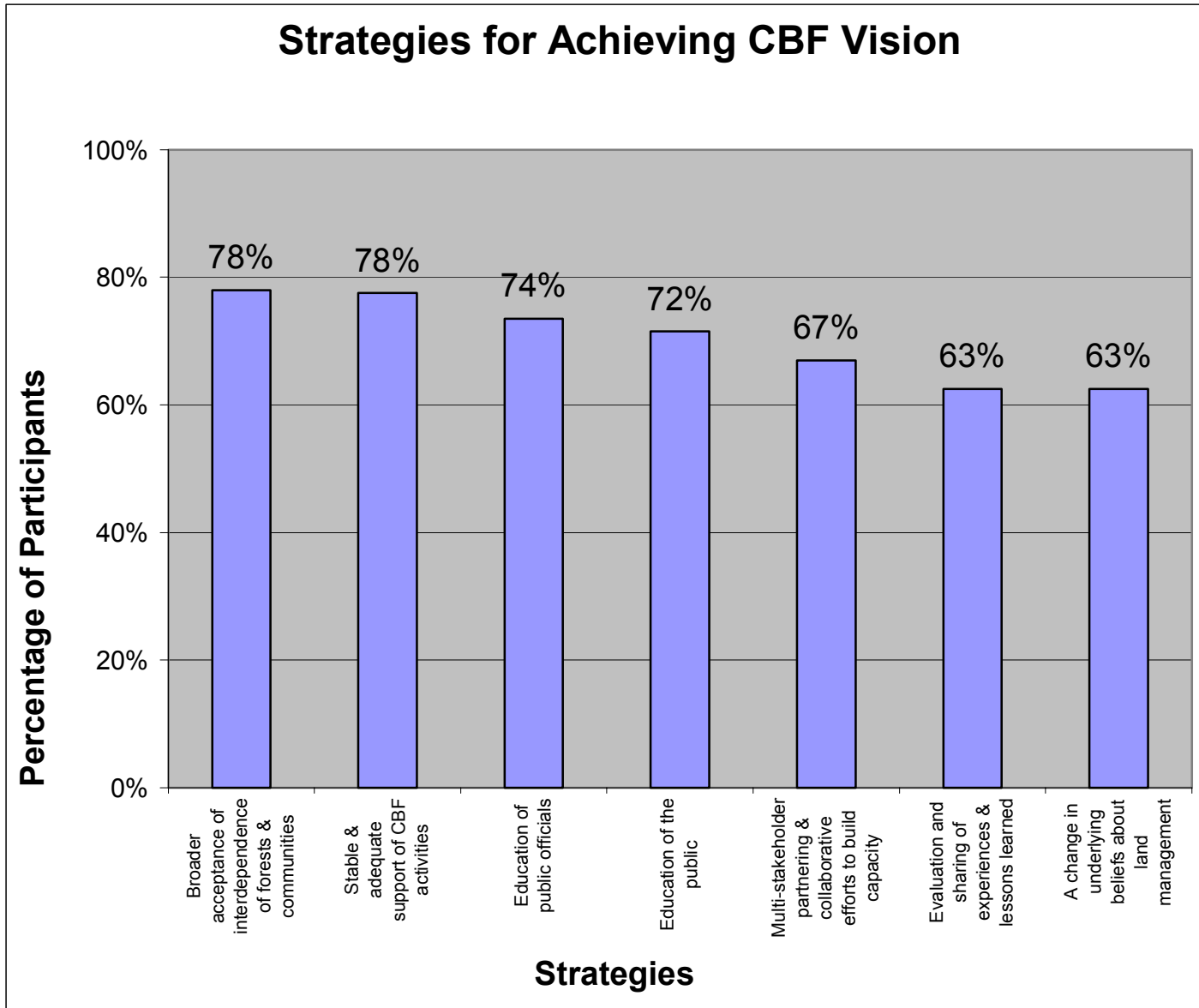
Particularly rural, *private* forest, CBF and NTFP groups emphasized the value of children staying in the community. More predictably, appreciation of local knowledge and demand for value-added processes were more often selected by the rural groups than the urban. Since forestry provides few jobs in urban areas, it is also not surprising that urban-focused respondents did not often concur that “CBF will be the preferred way to achieve economic health and living wage jobs.” Finally, resolution of issues of local control is most important to local CBF and public lands groups.

These are not unexpected differences in perspectives given the differences between rural and urban forestry, and between public and private forestry. The challenge is to incorporate these unique settings and perspective into a common voice for community-based forestry.

Getting to the Vision

In addition to their appraisal of a vision of CBF, survey respondents were asked to evaluate the importance of a range of “principles and strategies” that would be needed to achieve the vision. The following table presents a rank ordering of a specific set principles and strategies by all respondents to the survey, combining the “Extremely important” and “Somewhat important” scores to present a weighted average.

Table 19. Possible Strategies or Principles for Achieving the CBF Vision



Survey participants seem to feel that a diversity of strategies will be required, as more than three-quarters of them endorsed every strategy listed as moderately to very important.

SUMMARY

As noted in the introduction, the field, activity, or process of CBF has many dimensions. These dimensions are context-sensitive, often specific to a particular form of ownership, geographic region, and rural -to-urban setting, with all the gradations in between. Given this specificity, it would likely be helpful to develop a broad or foundational understanding of CBF as an evolving set of principles and practices. Analysis of this survey of approximately 250 persons has attempted to uncover what these diverse participants perceive to be some of these commonalities in order to inform those organizations and groups--professional, non-

profit, and governmental--that are working in partnership to develop CBF approaches to a variety of natural resource management challenges.

Moreover, if CBF is placed within the context of many recent public policy initiatives, the importance partnership efforts to create forest health, enhance community sustainability, and provide new incentives for cooperative ecological improvements is magnified in relevance and strategic necessity. It would not be too far-reaching to argue that the health, utilization, and sustainability of many rural forest ecosystems will increasingly depend up on long-term, multi-jurisdictional, and mutually cooperative efforts informed by balanced social, economic, and ecological values and perspectives. One could also argue that the restoration, health, and sustainability of urban forest ecosystems will depend on similar, and perhaps more complex, multi-jurisdictional and mutually cooperative efforts to protect the important ecological services these forests provide in enhancing the quality of life in urban areas.

Because of the two-step process utilized, whereby a group of key informants were interviewed first, and then a broader survey was constructed from their answers, this study has helped illuminate the rich and diverse nature of CBF, and to differentiate the factors underlying that diversity in a quantitative fashion. Its core principles and values have been inventoried and discerned more fully. We have seen how participants in CBF from a variety of organizational and professional sectors characterize CBF, and what they see as its key objectives, issues, and activity areas - all these essentially call for different forms and levels of support.

Some of the goals associated with CBF are more important to some regions and communities than others. For example, the creation of family wage jobs may be more essential to rural westerners while environmental and amenity values of forests may be more critical to urban easterners. People in diverse community settings quite naturally emphasize some objectives over others, and are differentially aided and challenged by varying resources and problems. Through understanding what is at the common core, and what are also the varied and unique perspectives held by different constituencies, we are challenged to discover a range of implementable ways to enhance and strengthen the overall effort of community-based forestry.

To this end, the following summary statements are made to reflect some of the themes discovered among the survey responses:

- CBF is an approach to resource stewardship about which there are diverse views among practitioners, both rural and urban, and public and private, among professional foresters, researchers, and educators, among those in forest industry and non-timber products, among local, state and federal government representatives, and among environmental organizations, yet these diverse groups are drawn to CBF for certain common values.
- Broadly speaking, greatest support is expressed for four core principles of CBF: it is collaborative, participatory, involves cooperation across diverse interested parties, and that it considers economic, social and ecological concerns.
- As indicated by this survey sample, and within other communication opportunities, it would appear that the voices of minority ethnic and racial groups are underrepresented in some aspects of CBF dialogue.

- Rural community forestry interests tend to congregate more strongly within Western Coastal and Inter Western Regions, while urban interests are more strongly represented in CBF in the Midwest, Southern, and Northeastern Regions.
- Participants are most often drawn to CBF as a result of an employment opportunity, and tend to see its principles, methods, and issues in a manner that varies with the roles they play, from professional forester, to researcher, organizational leader, or governmental representative, etc.
- The predominant CBF-related engagements reported by respondents include forest restoration and sustainable forestry, public education, ground-level project implementation, and policy development.
- Note that these commonalities primarily concern “*process characteristics*” of CBF. Equitable process (collaborative, participatory) receives more emphasis than achieving social equity as an objective (tackling environmental injustice and disenfranchisement).
- As a result of involvement in CBF, participants report “working with new networks” and observe that “people [are] more involved and more informed about what is going on in forests around them”
- The three issues in CBF that were of the greatest common concern are: “making funding available for projects, addressing the economic and community issues that affect CBF, and addressing ecological issues threatening forest health and productivity.”
- Among the strategies that would most strengthen CBF, the following three received the strongest support: greater cooperation amongst stakeholders, improved information-sharing, and opportunities to work on forest restoration-related pilot projects.
- The greatest needs in capacity-building to support CBF concern educational outreach and communication.
- CBF participants clearly prefer to receive information through face-to-face interaction and workshops; they are strongly interested in information about best practices for forest restoration, syntheses of information/research findings in specific content areas, and case studies describing other communities’ successes and failures.
- The four resource management issues needing the greatest attention by CBF are “the loss of forestland to development, private and corporate landowners selling their forestland, wildlife habitat loss, and invasive species.”
- In terms of a vision for the CBF, strongest support was received for the following set of outcome statements:
 - a balance between economic, social, and ecological needs will be achieved through application of community-based forestry principles;
 - the importance of forests and trees in both the rural and urban landscapes will be well understood by the public;
 - community-based forestry will be the accepted way to achieve sustainable land management;
 - the value of local and cultural knowledge will be embraced and appreciated by researchers and land managers; and,
 - there will be an emphasis on and demand for products that are produced through value-added processes.

- While many of the attributes, strategies, issues and visions of CBF are commonly held across the diversity of participants, clearly there are some points of distinction. These include the strong concern of non-timber products workers over losses in the labor force and diversity, and the fact that federal government employees apparently see little connection between CBF and environmental justice; family wage jobs; and balancing social, economic, and environmental concerns.
- Of the various sources of differentiation observed among survey respondents, rural-urban differences appear to be some of the most distinctive and consistent. It is clear that CBF is much more centrally concerned with livelihoods, employment in particular, for rural participants. Beyond this, the two groups seem to operate with different definitions of CBF in mind, and in some cases seem not to be aware of the meaning attached to it by others. Some urban constituents appear to consider the term “urban and community forestry” to be of one piece.
- Differences in perceptions of CBF can most often be accounted for in terms of variations in geographic setting, economic, social roles and responsibilities, and/or organizational affiliations. Explicitly taking these perspectives into account will be crucial in subsequent initiatives to provide organizational support, programmatic resources, communications and informational opportunities, or capacity development. It might be possible, through organized dialogue and collaborative effort to better understand these differences and perhaps identify bridging terms, objectives, strategies and activities. This could serve to strengthen CBF and build its character as an emerging social movement.

Future Support for Community-Based Forestry

While this study is primarily an information tool, rather than an action agenda device for making specific recommendations, survey results clearly indicate the need for assistance and support in the following general areas:

1. **Enriching the dialogue about CBF attributes and characteristics among all parties**, some of whom significantly vary in how they value them.
2. Continuing to **foster inclusion of diverse groups** in discussions about the needs generated by their particular social and ecological contexts.
3. **Addressing the particular and unique needs and interests** of various employment sectors, such community, NGO, research, education, government, and tribe.
4. Providing additional **focus to public education and communications needs** and objectives.
5. Emphasizing information and knowledge transfer **through success stories and illustrations of best practices**.
6. Developing the resources to support and providing assistance to **continue and strengthen community-based forest health projects**.
7. **Creating forums** for topics which have not been given adequate levels of attention.
8. Continuing to **foster capacity-building** among key stakeholders with regard to their interests, resources, and abilities to initiate and participate in CBF activities.

9. Clarifying a **broadly shared vision for CBF**, through a participatory process that is widely understood and inclusive.

A very general recommendation might be that the findings of this report be shared by the Communities Committee with other national and regional CBF support organizations and interests. After appropriate review and discussion, perhaps a coordinated effort to formulate a future agenda for action could be undertaken. In order to inform further dialogue and action, additional analysis of more specific aspects of the survey data and findings would be valuable.

Details of Statistical Methods Utilized in Phase 2 of the Study

Of the 945 participants invited to take part, eight addresses were invalid (four bounced, four opted-out), leaving a universe of 937 potential participants. 27.6% of this group completed the questionnaire (226 completes, 33 partials) during the response period.

The response rate of 27.6% falls into typical Internet survey participation rates of 1% - 30%.¹ The sampling error (SE) is $\pm 2.86\%$, as computed with the following equation:

$$SE(p) = \sqrt{p(100-p) \div N \times Z^2}$$

Sampling error refers to differences between the sample and the greater population. While McKinley feels that the sample in this study is representative of the greater population, there may be outliers that could potentially skew the results, which is the reason the percentage of sampling error is conducted.

The total response rate of 27.6% was inserted for “p” and the total universe of 937 was inserted for “N.” The value of “Z” is a standard value of 1.96 when seeking a confidence level of 95%. A 95% confidence level means that the researchers (McKinley) are 95% confident that the results presented here are within $\pm 5\%$ of the greater population that was invited to participate in the survey. Furthermore, since this is an opinion-based survey, it can be considered as statistically significant due to the response rate and number of viable cross tabulations. Additionally, the margin of error for this survey is $\pm 3.2\%$. The margin of error is an estimate of a variance in reported percentages if the same poll were taken multiple times. For example, if this same survey were taken two more times by different audiences who are still familiar with CBF, there could be 27% or 21% of respondents who work for an environmental organization, as opposed to the 24% on this survey. To ensure that the response rate would be representative of the total CBF universe, the survey employed both simple rating and Likert scales. The simple rating scale allowed respondents to select a number of items from a scale. However, if their desired response did not match the ones provided, the respondent was not required to respond to the question. This dispersed possible "factor fusion" which restricts perceptions and desires of survey respondents into a smaller space. Since factor fusion was not present in this survey, overall results are typically more accurate.

The Likert scale is the most commonly used scale in survey research, as it allows respondents to easily rate items such as the importance of several CBF-related issues. For example, respondents in this survey were asked to rate the importance of capacity building issues as extremely important, somewhat important, a little important or not at all important. Each subject's response was added to calculate a single score for each program area. Using the Likert scale, the relative importance of each issue to the greater CBF community can more easily be understood.

APPENDIX B

¹² Wimmer, Roger D and Joseph R. Dominick, *Mass Media Research. 7e.* by Thompson-Wodsworth, Belmont, CA. 2003. pp. 193

¹² Ibid., p. 100

Survey Questions and Responses

1. How long have you been involved with CBF?

	Number of Participants	Response Ratio
Less than 1 year	14	6%
1-2 years	15	7%
3-5 years	50	23%
6-9 years	43	19%
10-14 years	39	18%
15-19 years	23	10%
20 or more years	38	17%

2. What percentage of this time working in CBF is professional / employed versus in a volunteer capacity?

		100%	75-99%	50-74%	25-49%	1-24%	0%	Unsure
Professional/ Employed	Percent of Participants	38%	23%	10%	6%	17%	4%	1%
	Number of Participants	84	51	23	14	38	8	2
Volunteer	Percent of Participants	3%	7%	11%	12%	45%	20%	2%
	Number of Participants	4	9	14	16	59	27	3

3. What percentage of the total time you devote to CBF occurs at the following levels?

		All of my time	Most of my time	Some of my time	A little of my time	None of my time	Unsure
International	Percent of Participants	2%	1%	8%	23%	66%	0%
	Number of Participants	3	1	13	37	105	0
National	Percent of Participants	3%	10%	33%	41%	13%	0%
	Number of Participants	6	18	60	74	24	0
Regional	Percent of Participants	2%	12%	43%	29%	13%	1%
	Number of Participants	4	22	77	52	23	1
State	Percent of Participants	9%	18%	31%	30%	10%	2%
	Number of Participants	17	34	61	59	20	3
Local	Percent of Participants	11%	34%	26%	19%	10%	1%
	Number of Participants	21	65	50	37	19	2

4. How did you initially get involved with CBF (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
A job, an assignment, or project that put me in touch with CBF networks	120	54%
Work in international community-based resource management	15	7%
As a student in undergraduate or graduate school	31	14%
Became connected with a local community group	49	22%
Became connected with a non-governmental organization or association	75	34%
Due to a local or regional crisis	26	12%
Insight that there should be a better way to manage natural resources	61	27%
Other, Please Specify	31	14%

5. Which of the following issues does your organization/work focus on (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Economic development	126	57%
Forest restoration and sustainable forestry	170	76%
Ground-level project implementation	136	61%
Policy development	133	60%
Research	90	40%
Public Education	140	63%
Social Justice	57	26%
Other, Please Specify	42	19%

6. If you were explaining community-based forestry (CBF) as it exists in the United States to someone, how important are each of the following attributes to include?

		Extremely important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Unsure
Is participatory	Percent of Participants	74%	21%	3%	0%	1%
	Number of Participants	163	46	7	1	3
Is collaborative	Percent of Participants	77%	20%	2%	0%	1%
	Number of Participants	170	44	5	0	3
Involves cooperation across diverse interested parties	Percent of Participants	74%	20%	5%	0%	1%
	Number of Participants	164	45	11	1	2
Involves 'non-forestry professionals' in resource management	Percent of Participants	51%	33%	14%	1%	1%
	Number of Participants	113	74	32	2	2
Prioritizes decision-making that is based on local knowledge	Percent of Participants	49%	37%	12%	1%	1%
	Number of Participants	109	83	27	2	2
Considers economic, social, and ecological concerns	Percent of Participants	78%	17%	3%	0%	1%
	Number of Participants	174	39	7	0	3
Considers environmental justice issues	Percent of Participants	35%	39%	20%	4%	2%
	Number of Participants	77	88	44	10	4

Is a movement of communities of place and/or interest	Percent of Participants	39%	38%	13%	3%	7%
	Number of Participants	87	84	30	7	15
Reengages disenfranchised communities	Percent of Participants	34%	38%	21%	3%	3%
	Number of Participants	76	85	47	6	7
Creates locally based, family-wage jobs	Percent of Participants	34%	34%	21%	7%	3%
	Number of Participants	77	76	48	16	7
Is a rural phenomenon	Percent of Participants	10%	29%	34%	23%	5%
	Number of Participants	22	64	75	51	10
Can be used to sidestep environmental restrictions in order to extract timber	Percent of Participants	3%	7%	20%	61%	9%
	Number of Participants	7	16	43	134	20
Attempts to create locally-based, family-wage jobs	Percent of Participants	32%	34%	19%	11%	5%
	Number of Participants	71	75	42	24	11
Is an urban phenomenon	Percent of Participants	7%	19%	33%	34%	6%
	Number of Participants	16	43	73	76	13
Is a public lands movement	Percent of Participants	9%	23%	37%	25%	7%
	Number of Participants	19	50	81	54	16

7. Has your perception of community-based forestry changed from when you first became involved?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Yes	155	69%
No	49	22%
Unsure	17	8%
Have never been involved in CBF	5	2%
Total	226	100%

8. Which of the following has changed since you became involved with CBF (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
I now work with networks I was not previously involved with.	120	77%
I now see CBF as a way for opposing groups to find common ground and avoid litigation	62	40%
I have learned to trust working with groups with whom I have would not have formerly felt comfortable.	51	33%
More and more, CBF gets people involved in and informed about what is going in the forests around them	107	69%
CBF increasingly involves wider and more diverse sets of participants and audiences	100	65%
I have a greater respect for traditional and local ecological knowledge	81	52%
I have seen CBF increasingly incorporating more issues of social, economic, and environmental justice	83	54%
I believe the movement has grown more diffuse and divided	23	15%
I am not currently involved in CBF	2	1%

9. Would you say that you are more or less involved in CBF than you were five years ago?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
More involved	132	58%
Less involved	35	15%
Involvement has stayed the same	55	24%
Have not been involved	3	1%
Unsure	1	0%
Total	226	100%

10. Which of the following factors has led to a difference in your level of CBF involvement (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
An increase in program or grant resources	36	28%
A decrease in program or grant resources	11	9%
A new job opportunity	50	39%
Greater opportunity to volunteer my assistance	15	12%
I have found CBF approaches increasingly more useful	46	36%
Increased opportunities for networking with others	76	59%
No particular reason	6	5%
Other, Please Specify	20	16%

11. Which of the following factors has led to a difference in your level of CBF involvement (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
An increase in program or grant resources	36	26%
A decrease in program or grant resources	21	15%
A new job opportunity	64	47%
Fewer opportunities to volunteer my assistance	1	1%
I have found that CBF approaches are becoming less useful	9	7%
Decreased opportunities for networking with others	2	1%
No particular reason	18	13%
Other, Please Specify	20	15%

12. How much would each of the following forms of assistance improve the effectiveness of your community-based forestry efforts?

		A tremendous amount	A good deal	A little	Not at all	Unsure
Increased dialogue about national policy	Percent of participants	25%	35%	33%	5%	2%
	Number of participants	55	77	72	10	5
Increased financial assistance	Percent of participants	58%	29%	7%	4%	3%
	Number of participants	129	63	15	8	6
More organizational staff resources	Percent of participants	42%	31%	19%	4%	4%
	Number of participants	91	66	41	9	9
Ability to attend more networking opportunities and training workshops	Percent of participants	20%	38%	34%	6%	2%
	Number of participants	43	83	73	13	4

Mentoring and peer-to-peer learning with practitioners from other regions	Percent of participants	23%	38%	31%	5%	2%
	Number of participants	50	81	67	10	5
Effective dissemination of community-based forestry messages to the public and to the decision makers	Percent of participants	45%	38%	13%	2%	2%
	Number of participants	98	84	28	4	5
Greater involvement of the scientific community in CBF	Percent of participants	20%	42%	30%	5%	2%
	Number of participants	44	92	66	11	4
Greater level of support and acceptance from government agencies	Percent of participants	47%	33%	14%	3%	3%
	Number of participants	105	74	30	7	6

13. How likely are each of the following to increase your involvement in community-based forestry?

		Extremely likely	Some what likely	A little likely	Not at all likely	Unsure
More diversity in CBF	Percent of participants	18%	29%	28%	21%	5%
	Number of participants	39	63	62	45	10
Greater focus on community-owned forests	Percent of participants	18%	26%	33%	21%	2%
	Number of participants	40	57	71	45	4
Greater focus on social justice	Percent of participants	19%	18%	34%	27%	2%
	Number of participants	41	40	74	60	5
Greater focus on biomass utilization	Percent of participants	21%	32%	28%	16%	2%
	Number of participants	46	70	61	35	5
Opportunities to engage in efforts around the next Farm Bill reauthorization	Percent of participants	22%	31%	26%	17%	5%
	Number of participants	47	67	56	37	11

Opportunities to work on forest restoration-related pilot projects	Percent of participants	24%	40%	25%	9%	2%
	Number of participants	53	86	54	20	4

14. How valuable are each of the following information sources to you? If you do not currently receive information from a listed course, please select “not applicable.”

		Extremely valuable	Somewhat valuable	A little valuable	Not at all valuable	N/A
Conferences and workshops	Percent of participants	37%	43%	18%	1%	2%
	Number of participants	82	94	39	2	4
Face to face interaction with practitioners	Percent of participants	54%	36%	8%	0%	2%
	Number of participants	121	80	18	0	4
Newsletters	Percent of participants	13%	51%	26%	5%	5%
	Number of participants	28	113	58	10	11
Websites	Percent of participants	35%	43%	18%	1%	2%
	Number of participants	78	96	40	3	5
Your own research	Percent of participants	25%	34%	18%	6%	18%
	Number of participants	54	74	40	13	39
Newspapers	Percent of participants	11%	31%	37%	16%	6%
	Number of participants	23	67	81	34	13
Listserves	Percent of participants	16%	37%	23%	9%	15%
	Number of participants	35	82	51	19	33
Land management agencies (federal, state, and local)	Percent of participants	27%	45%	22%	3%	4%
	Number of participants	58	98	47	6	9

Academic papers or journals	Percent of participants	12%	40%	30%	8%	9%
	Number of participants	27	88	66	17	20

15. Relative to the information you currently receive/access, how interested would you be in each of the following?

		Extremely interested	Somewhat interested	A little interested	Not at all interested	Unsure
Information on best practices for forest restoration	Percent of participants	37%	40%	18%	4%	0%
	Number of participants	81	87	40	9	1
Case studies describing other communities successes and failures	Percent of participants	42%	40%	15%	1%	1%
	Number of participants	93	88	34	3	2
Synthesis of information/r research findings on specific content areas	Percent of participants	37%	40%	20%	2%	1%
	Number of participants	81	87	44	5	2
News and/or policy updates	Percent of participants	31%	47%	21%	0%	0%
	Number of participants	68	103	45	1	1
Development and clarification of CBF messages for target audiences	Percent of participants	34%	33%	23%	7%	3%
	Number of participants	74	72	50	15	6
Online resources for to discussion/information-sharing on relevant issues	Percent of participants	22%	33%	33%	10%	2%
	Number of participants	49	73	74	21	4

16. Among the following groups, which ones do you believe should become more involved in CBF (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Academia/Educators	126	56%
Landowners	168	75%
Minority Groups	116	52%
Government Agencies	155	69%
Traditional Forest Industry	125	56%
Small businesses	139	62%
Forest workers and harvesters	136	61%
Foundations	143	64%
Environmental organizations	157	70%
Hunting, fishing, and other recreational groups	129	58%
Professional Foresters	155	69%
Rural economic development, watershed, and other community development organizations	174	78%
Other, Please Specify	30	13%

17. In your experience, how important are the following issues for CBF?

		Extremely important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Unsure
Making funding available for projects	Percent of participants	64%	27%	8%	0%	1%
	Number of participants	140	58	17	0	3
Increasing the focus and strength of the community-based forestry movement	Percent of participants	45%	37%	15%	1%	3%
	Number of participants	98	80	32	2	6
Improving interactions with federal agencies affecting community-based forestry	Percent of participants	46%	41%	12%	0%	0%
	Number of participants	99	90	26	1	1
Addressing ecological issues threatening forest health and productivity	Percent of participants	59%	33%	7%	0%	1%
	Number of participants	128	73	15	0	2
Addressing the economic, and	Percent of participants	63%	32%	2%	0%	2%

community issues that affect CBF	Number of participants	137	71	5	1	5
Not promising more than CBF can achieve	Percent of participants	43%	32%	15%	1%	8%
	Number of participants	95	70	33	3	18
Achieving greater unity among diverse CBF stakeholders at the national level	Percent of participants	28%	43%	22%	4%	3%
	Number of participants	61	94	49	8	7
Developing regional advocacy coalitions and communication networks	Percent of participants	39%	42%	15%	4%	1%
	Number of participants	85	92	32	8	2

18. How important are the following CBF capacity building issues to you?

		Extremely important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Unsure
The loss of USFS Economic Action Programs (EAP)	Percent of participants	35%	26%	14%	7%	18% ⁷⁵
	Number of participants	75	56	31	15	40
Limited on-the-ground staff capacity of the US Forest Service	Percent of participants	33%	38%	15%	7%	6%
	Number of participants	73	82	33	16	14
The use of targets by federal land agencies as the primary means for assessing and reporting accomplishments	Percent of participants	16%	37%	24%	13%	11%
	Number of participants	35	79	52	27	23

For diverse groups and individuals to collaboratively develop and advocate for a stronger clearer CBF agenda	Percent of participants	38%	38%	19%	1%	4%
	Number of participants	83	82	42	3	8
Better outreach and communication to increase public awareness of community-based forestry	Percent of participants	48%	35%	12%	2%	3%
	Number of participants	105	77	26	5	6
Increased interest in CBF from land management agencies and Congress	Percent of participants	50%	36%	11%	1%	2%
	Number of participants	109	78	24	3	4
Identification of one or more community-based forestry “champions” in Congress or the administration	Percent of participants	38%	41%	14%	4%	3%
	Number of participants	83	90	30	8	7

19. How important are each of the following land management issues to you?

		Extremely important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Unsure
Private and corporate landowners selling their forestland	Percent of participants	50%	29%	16%	4%	1%
	Number of participants	111	64	35	8	3
Invasive species	Percent of participants	55%	33%	9%	1%	1%
	Number of participants	123	74	19	3	3

Forest insects and diseases	Percent of participants	43%	38%	15%	2%	1%
	Number of participants	96	83	34	5	3
Prescribed burning	Percent of participants	33%	31%	27%	7%	2%
	Number of participants	73	68	59	15	5
Wildlife habitat loss	Percent of participants	57%	31%	10%	1%	1%
	Number of participants	124	67	22	3	3
Fuels reduction	Percent of participants	39%	31%	19%	9%	2%
	Number of participants	85	67	42	20	4
Woody biomass cogeneration and utilization	Percent of participants	33%	38%	23%	4%	2%
	Number of participants	72	83	51	8	5
The loss of forestland to development	Percent of participants	74%	18%	5%	1%	1%
	Number of participants	165	41	11	2	3
Land tenure and rights of access for local people	Percent of participants	37%	33%	21%	8%	1%
	Number of participants	80	72	46	18	3
Fire suppression	Percent of participants	27%	35%	28%	8%	2%
	Number of participants	58	76	62	18	4

20. Please rank the following issues to indicate if you feel they are receiving too much, too little, or the right amount of attention by those engaged in CBF?

		Too much attention	The right amount of attention	Too little attention	Unsure
Funders' recognition of the capacity of non-profit organizations to do analysis and research	Percent of participants	6%	38%	39%	17%
	Number of participants	13	82	85	38
Getting the community-based forestry message across to the public	Percent of participants	5%	29%	56%	10%
	Number of participants	12	63	123	22

Awareness of the urban forestry among members of the public and press	Percent of participants	4%	26%	56%	15%
	Number of participants	9	56	122	32
Capacity amongst land management agencies to apply available tools such as stewardship contracting	Percent of participants	7%	34%	37%	21%
	Number of participants	15	75	82	47
Land management agencies lack of knowledge and how to use collaboration and community assistance tools, and/or applying them inconsistently	Percent of participants	9%	30%	45%	17%
	Number of participants	19	64	97	36
Land management agencies' lack of internal capacity to operate efficiently	Percent of participants	8%	31%	43%	18%
	Number of participants	18	68	93	38
Social justice and cultural diversity issues	Percent of participants	11%	36%	36%	16%
	Number of participants	24	80	80	36
Erosion of the forest workforce	Percent of participants	5%	29%	52%	14%
	Number of participants	11	62	113	31
Wildfire suppression	Percent of participants	26%	47%	15%	12%
	Number of participants	56	102	32	26
Invasive species	Percent of participants	7%	38%	47%	9%
	Number of participants	15	81	101	19
Salvage logging	Percent of participants	25%	35%	20%	21%
	Number of participants	54	76	44	45
Appropriate-scale energy infrastructure	Percent of participants	8%	29%	36%	26%
	Number of participants	17	64	79	57

21. What is your vision of the role community-based forestry could play in the United States 50 years from today (please check all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Community-based forestry will be the accepted way to achieve sustainable land management	153	70%
The importance of forests and trees in both the rural and urban landscapes will be well understood by the public	181	82%
CBF will be the preferred way to achieve economic health and living wage jobs in resource dependent communities	122	55%
Children will want to stay in their communities because of meaningful work in CBF	103	47%
A balance between economic, social, and ecological needs will be achieved through application of community-based forestry principles	181	82%
The value of local and cultural knowledge will be embraced and appreciated by researchers and land managers	144	65%
There will be an emphasis on and demand for products that are produced through value-added processes	143	65%
The issues of local control versus national level decision-making will be resolved	91	41%
Other, Please Specify	18	8%

22. How important do you think each of the following principles or strategies are in order to achieve the CBF vision over time?

		Extremely important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not at all important	Unsure
Stable and adequate support of community-based forestry activities, from ground-level projects to research and advocacy efforts nationally	Percent of participants	65%	25%	7%	0%	3%
	Number of participants	139	54	14	1	7
Education of the public	Percent of participants	56%	31%	10%	0%	3%
	Number of participants	120	67	22	0	7
Education of government officials	Percent of participants	57%	33%	6%	0%	3%
	Number of participants	124	71	14	1	6
Evaluation and sharing of experiences and lessons learned	Percent of participants	37%	51%	9%	0%	3%
	Number of participants	79	109	20	1	6
Multi-stakeholders partnering and collaborative efforts to build capacity	Percent of participants	47%	40%	10%	0%	3%
	Number of participants	102	87	21	1	6

A change in underlying beliefs about how land management should be achieved and who should accomplish it	Percent of participants	46%	33%	13%	4%	5%
	Number of participants	99	72	29	4	11
Broader acceptance that communities must sustain forests and forests must sustain communities	Percent of participants	64%	28%	2%	1%	4%
	Number of participants	137	60	5	3	8

23. Which of the following identifies the sector in which you work (please select all that apply)?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Environmental organization	54	24%
Local CBF organization	44	20%
Regional CBF organization	35	16%
Non-governmental organization	82	37%
Forestry industry/Wood products manufacturing	22	10%
Non-timber forest products	17	8%
Professional forestry	37	17%
Education/Research	57	26%
Federal government	33	15%
State government	42	19%
Tribal/Native American	7	3%
Foundation	5	2%
None	4	2%
Other, Please Specify	36	16%

24. Would you classify yourself as involved in:

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Urban issues	67	30%
Rural issues	144	65%
Unsure	10	4%
Not involved	2	1%
Total	223	100%

25. Would you classify yourself as involved in:

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Public forests	111	51%
Private forests	83	38%
Tribal forests	2	1%
Unsure	18	8%
Not involved	4	2%
Total	218	100%

26. With which of the following ethnic groups do you most closely identify?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
African American	10	5%
Asian	1	0%
Hispanic	4	2%
Non-White Hispanic	0	0%
Middle Eastern	2	1%
Native American	5	2%
Pacific Islander	1	0%
White/Caucasian	186	86%
Other	7	3%
Total	216	100%

27. Please select your age from the range below.

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Under 18	0	0%
18-25	5	2%
26-35	42	19%
36-45	49	22%
46-55	74	33%
56-65	47	21%
66 or older	5	2%
Total	222	100%

28. Please select your gender.

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Male	111	50%
Female	111	50%
Total	222	100%

29. Please select the state in which you primarily live:

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
AL	6	3%
AK	3	1%
AZ	3	1%
AR	2	1%
CA	20	9%
CO	9	4%
CT	0	0%
DE	1	0%
DC	6	3%
FL	2	1%

GA	5	2%
HI	0	0%
ID	3	1%
IL	1	0%
IN	3	1%
IA	2	1%
KS	1	0%
KY	1	0%
LA	3	1%
ME	3	1%F
MD	10	5%
MA	3	1%
MI	6	3%
MN	6	3%
MS	1	0%
MO	2	1%
MT	6	3%
NE	0	0%
NV	1	0%
NH	0	0%
NJ	2	1%
NM	7	3%
NY	4	2%
NC	7	3%
ND	1	0%
OH	7	3%
OK	1	0%
OR	25	11%
PA	1	0%
RI	2	1%
SC	2	1%
SD	0	0%
TN	13	6%
TX	4	2%
UT	3	1%
VT	1	0%
VA	18	8%
WA	7	3%
WV	1	0%
WI	3	1%
WY	0	0%
Washington, DC	0	0%
Puerto Rico	0	0%
Outside the US	1	0%
Total	219	100%

30. Which, if any, of the following organizations/coalitions are you a member?

	Number of Responses	Response Ratio
Society of American Foresters	68	31%
Association of Consulting Foresters	1	0%
National Association of State Foresters	13	6%
The Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition	25	11%
Alliance for Community Trees	30	14%
The Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forests Congress	11	5%
The National Network of Forest Practitioners	54	25%
The Forest Guild	22	10%
Industry association for membership organization(s)	37	17%
Environmental organization(s)	79	36%
None of the above	26	12%
Other, Please Specify	51	23%