Boyce Hill Town Forest

Steering Committee - Select Board Check-In

August 10, 2021

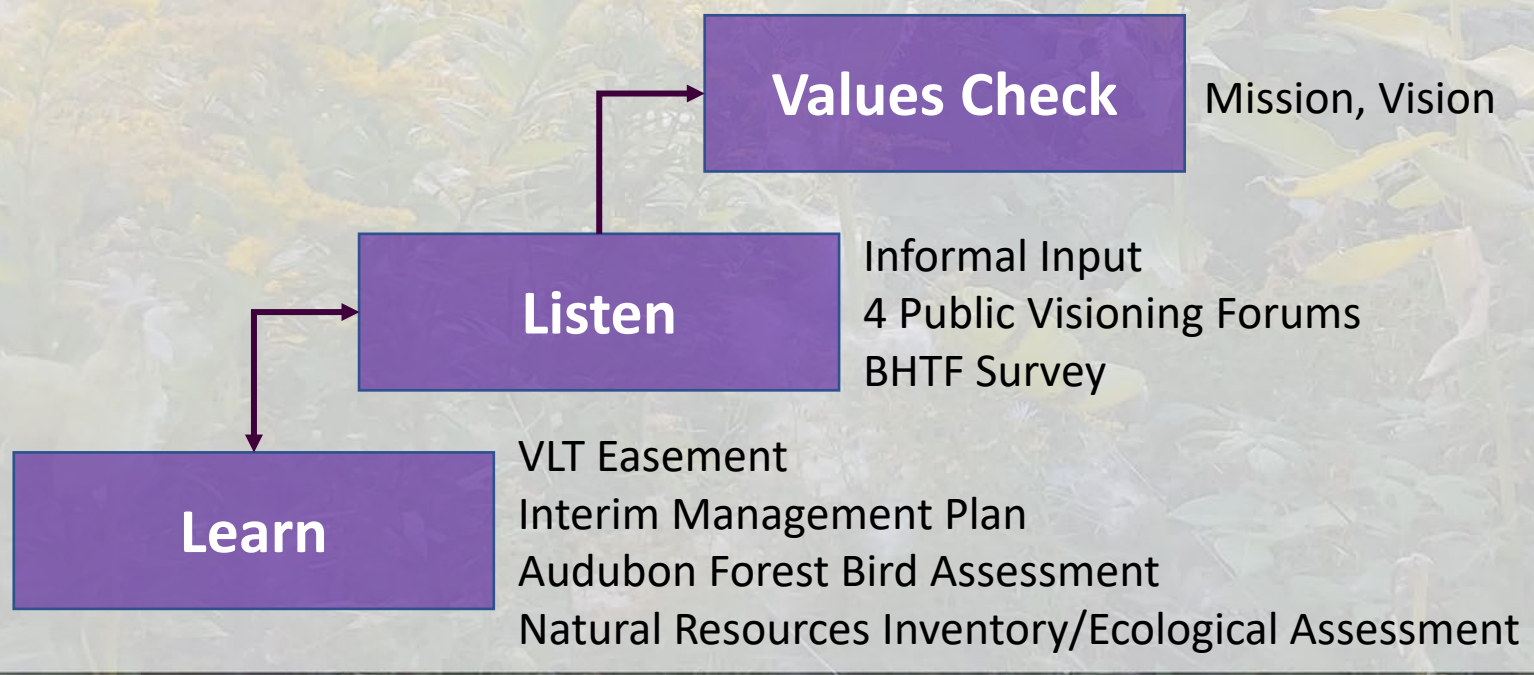
Tonight's Plan

- Planning Process Update
- Public Input Summary
- Steering Committee "Sense of What's Possible"
- Selectboard Feedback

Steering Committee Mission Statement

“The Boyce Hill Town Forest Steering Committee will develop a long-term management plan for Boyce Hill Town Forest that creates a balance between the conservation of natural resources and diverse recreational uses, and that fosters educational opportunities, thus respecting the health of the land and enhancing our community.”

Boyce Hill Steering Committee Job Description



Boyce Hill Steering Committee Job Description

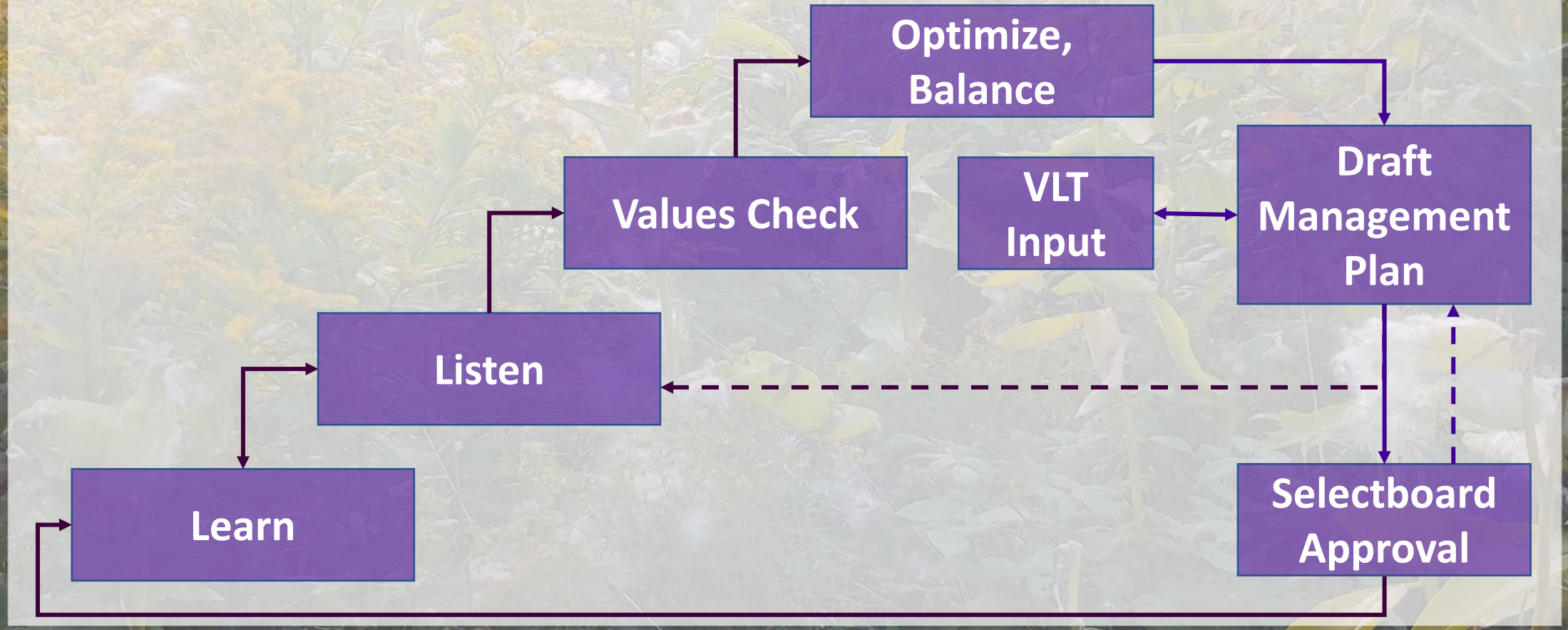
Make Everyone Happy

Values Check
Mission, Vision

Listen
Informal Input
4 Public Visioning Forums
BHTF Survey

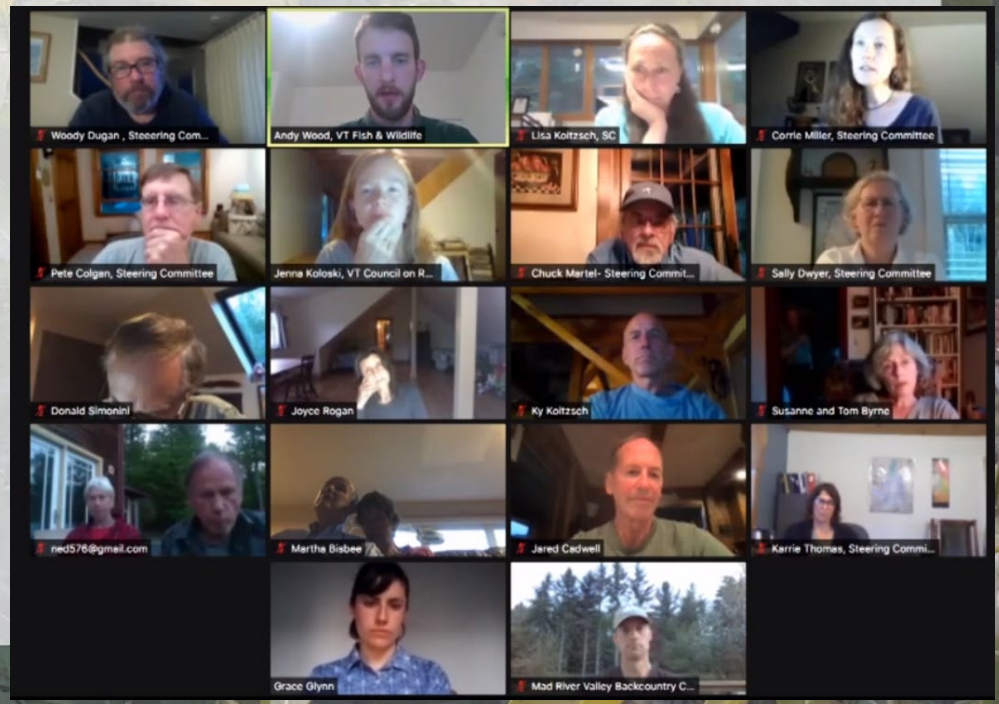
Learn
VLT Easement
Interim Management Plan
Audubon Forest Bird Assessment
Natural Resources Inventory/Ecological Assessment

Boyce Hill Steering Committee Job Description



Public Input

- Three Zoom Education/Input Sessions
  - Management Planning (Ethan Tapper, Liza Walker)
  - Natural Resources (Grace Glynn, Andy Wood)
  - Recreation (Becca Washburn)
- Consistencies:
  - Respectful listening
  - Deep love for the place
  - ”The view”
  - Sad it’s been “discovered”
  - Short-term self-interest vs. Long-term “greatest good”



Survey Results: 241 Responded

“Typical” Respondent: Fayston resident, aged 45-64, in a 2-person household, either extremely or very familiar with Boyce Hill, who visits at least once a month or a few times a year

Describe your current experience at Boyce Hill

VIEW
POND
WALK
OPEN
PEACE
SKI
BEAUTY
NICE
DOG
QUIET
SWIM
ENJOY
BACK
SEE
VISIT
FISH
SERENE
TOP
HIKE
BIRD
GREAT
LOVE
PLACE
LAND
LAST
HILL
GRASS
PEOPLE
MEADOW
WELL
WONDERED
SUN
AGO
VISTA
HOPE
RELAX
FIELD
CLEAR
SPACE
SNOW
HORSE
USE
ROAD
TRAIL
FALL
HABITAT
FAMILY
TOWN
FARM
BIKES
KIDS
LOOK
TOUR
RIDE
FOREST
CELLAR
WAY
BUSY
VAST
OBSERVE
APPLE
SMALL
SIGHT
WIDE
NEXT
SUNSET
RIVER
DEER
WILD
FROGS
PLEASANT
WATER
PLAY
SUMMER
WILDLIFE
LIGHT
CAR
LOSE
SAFE
CLEAN
PATH
NIGHT
IDEA
FLORA
WALLS
MOUNTAIN
ACCESS
FRIEND
OVERGROWN
SOUND
NATURE
LANDSCAPE
EXPLORE
MORNING
LOCAL
SPECTACULAR
APPRECIATE
BACK
FISH
SAT
BAD
COLD
POOP
WARM
WIND
SENSE
CHILD
OTHERS
DOZEN
RISK
MIND
TOGETHER
CONTEMPLATION
MEDITATE
BLACK
SAD
RUN
STEEP
PERFECT
WINTER
SADDENED
NEAT
AGES
AGAIN
GOAL
WALKWAY
PROHIBITED
WAXWING
WARREN
COMMUNITY
YELLOW
EXPANSES
SLID
SPIRITUAL
SOLE
EXERCISE
CHANCE
DINNER
IKE
SCENERY
ALGAE
SKIERS
FAUNA
SHOWED
FOREVER
VARIETY
GETTING
DIVERSE
VARIED
BELOW
EAGER
HEAVEN
BACKCOUNTRY
CHESTNUT
PARENTS
ACTING
PROXIMITY
SEASONS
MAINTAINED
PILE
FEELS
SLICE
SHRIMP
CHEERFULLY
TWICE
WALKING
HARDY
CROAKING
RIVER
UNTIL
WILD
DEER
READ
PLEASANT
MEADOW
PROHIBITED
WALKWAY
GOAL
LOSE
CAR
LAW
LIGHT
WILDLIFE
SUMMER
FLORA
CRAYFISH
WALLS
VISIBLE
VT'S

Describe your desired future experience at Boyce Hill

VIEW
SAME
OPEN
HIKE
TRAIL
BEAUTY
HOPE
ACCESS
PEACE
NATURE
LAND
SEE
PARK
SKI
PLACE
POND
FIELD
RECREATE
WALK
BIKE
PEOPLE
SPACE
FOREST
TREE
HILL
KEEP
EXPERIENCE
ENJOY
TOP
SIMILAR
WINTER
LOVE
MOUNTAIN
MANAGE
VISTA
STILL
OPPORTUNITY
HABITAT
PLANT
PATH
HUMAN
BOYCE
NICE
QUIET
WILDLIFE
MOWED
LEARN
SWIM
ROAD
TIME
OLD
FIND
LESS
CLEAN
FALL
SMALL
REMAIN
AVAILABLE
PRESERVE
SECRET
SOIL
SNOW
PASTURES
LAST
HELP
BRUSH
FISH
SAFE
MEADOW
MANY
DOG
SLED
MIX
VISIT
STAY
SURROUNDED
SERENE
ROCK
BERRIES
VAST
LOCAL
SKILLS
THINK
BRING
KEEP
FEATURE
RESTORE
FELT
SPOT
EXPLORE
JOB
FOG
TOUR
MEET
HEARD
WHOLE
BUSHES
BEAR
GENTLE
CARE
IDEAL
PROTECT
GENTLY
CLOSE
DUSK
HEALTHY
FEEL
BEACH
PUBLIC
KNOW
SHED
DEFEND
DIVERSE
EXPANSE
GROW
SIGNS
LANDSCAPE
OUTDOOR
WIDE
VALLEY
HORSE
WILD
LIGHT
FRIENDS
FARM
PARCEL
HOLE
RAFT
EXPLAIN
UNIQUE
GROOM
PET
SUCH
DEGREE
HIDDEN
FLAVOR
BIRDS
CHANGE
GEM
SENSE
EDIBLE
CHICKS
ALIVE
NUMBER
EDGES
SIDE
LARGE
KEPT
NEATLY
SECOND
MILK
GANJA
WORDS
INVITING
NEAT
GRAZED
SEEN
SKINS
NIGHT
PICNIC
ALONG
WATER
ACTIVITY
SPECIES
PRETTY
ABILITY
NATIVE
EASY
CUT
LIMIT
VISITOR
TRACK
HOUSES
SPECIAL
TAKE
SOMETHING
ENLARGED
NEIGHBORS
BEING
THROUGH
STRUCTURE
STUDENT
CHILDREN
ANNUAL
OVERUSE
STATE
SIGNAGE
SILKY
SKY
CALM
APART
EQUALS
ARCHED
WALKS
IMPACTS
CONSERVED
RIDING
SPRING
SEEDS
OTHERS
BURNT
RUN
ENGAGE
ABOVE
FAUNA
RELAX
EMERGING
UGLY
SHARP
COVER
EASEMENTS
LODGING
INTERIOR
FALLEN
LUCKY
FEAR
GRAZE
ENDORSEMENT
SYSTEMS
SHED
DEFEND
DWELLING
KNOW
PUBLIC
FRIENDLY
BALD
GRASSES
EASEMENTS
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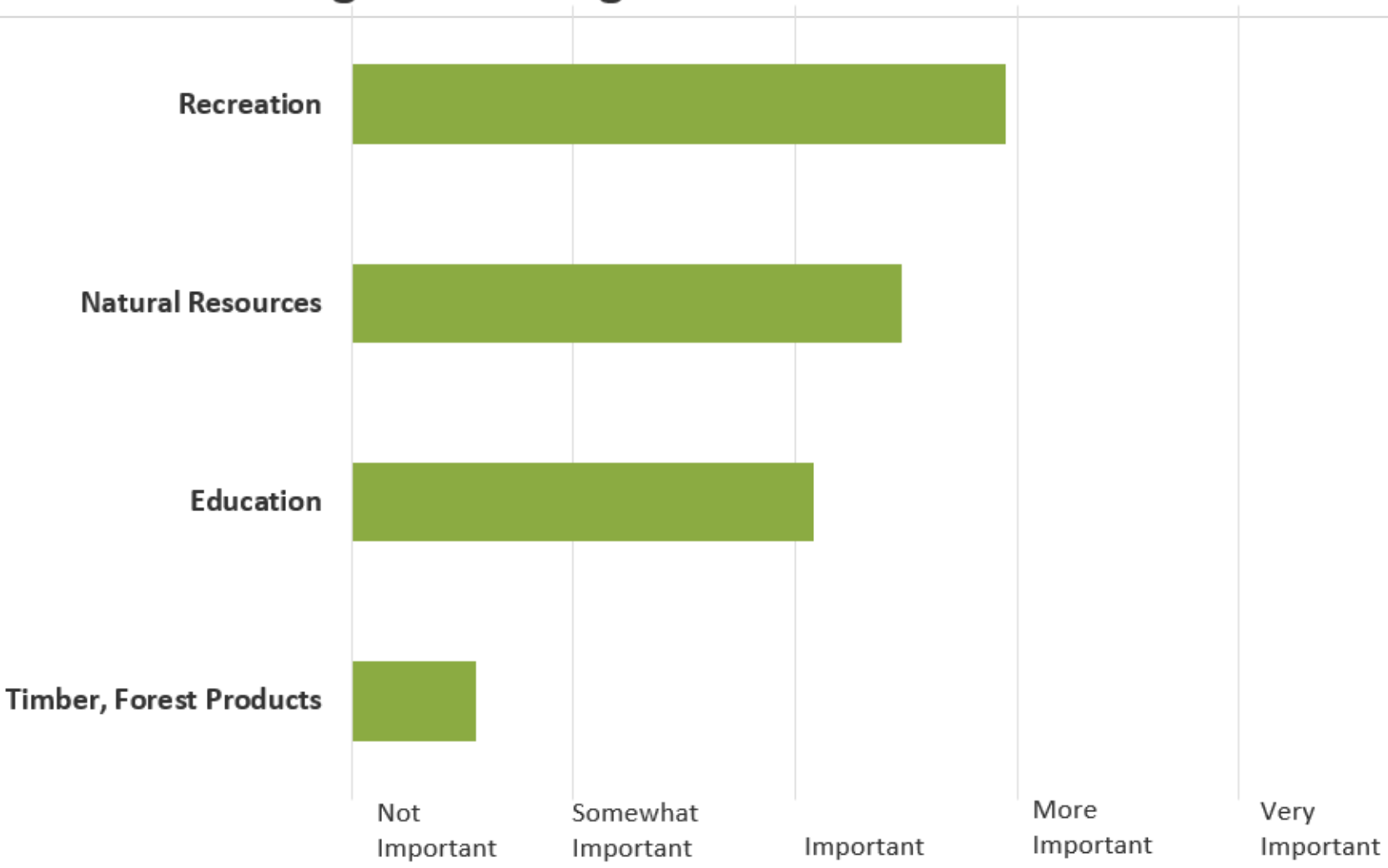
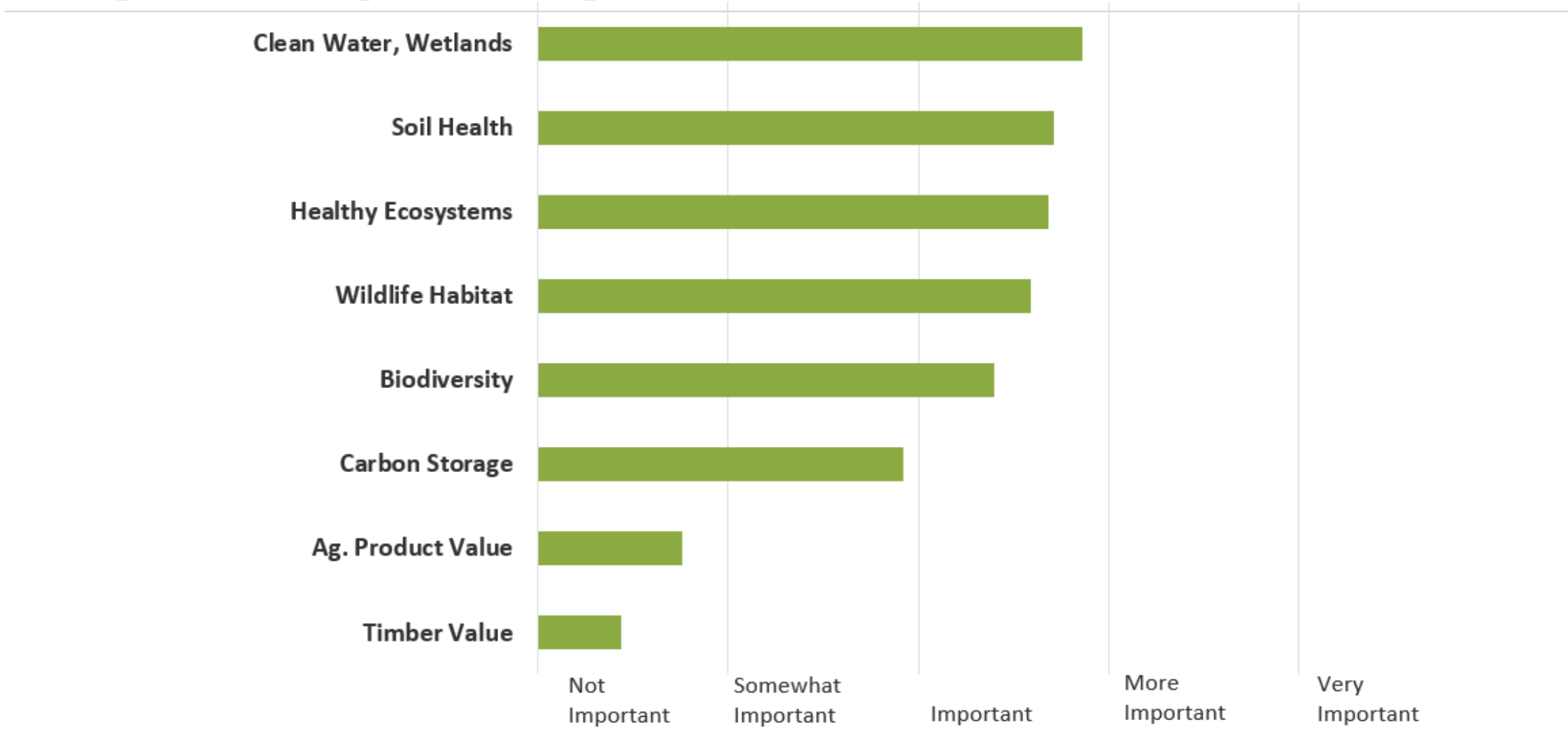
EMERGING
UGLY
SHARP
COVER

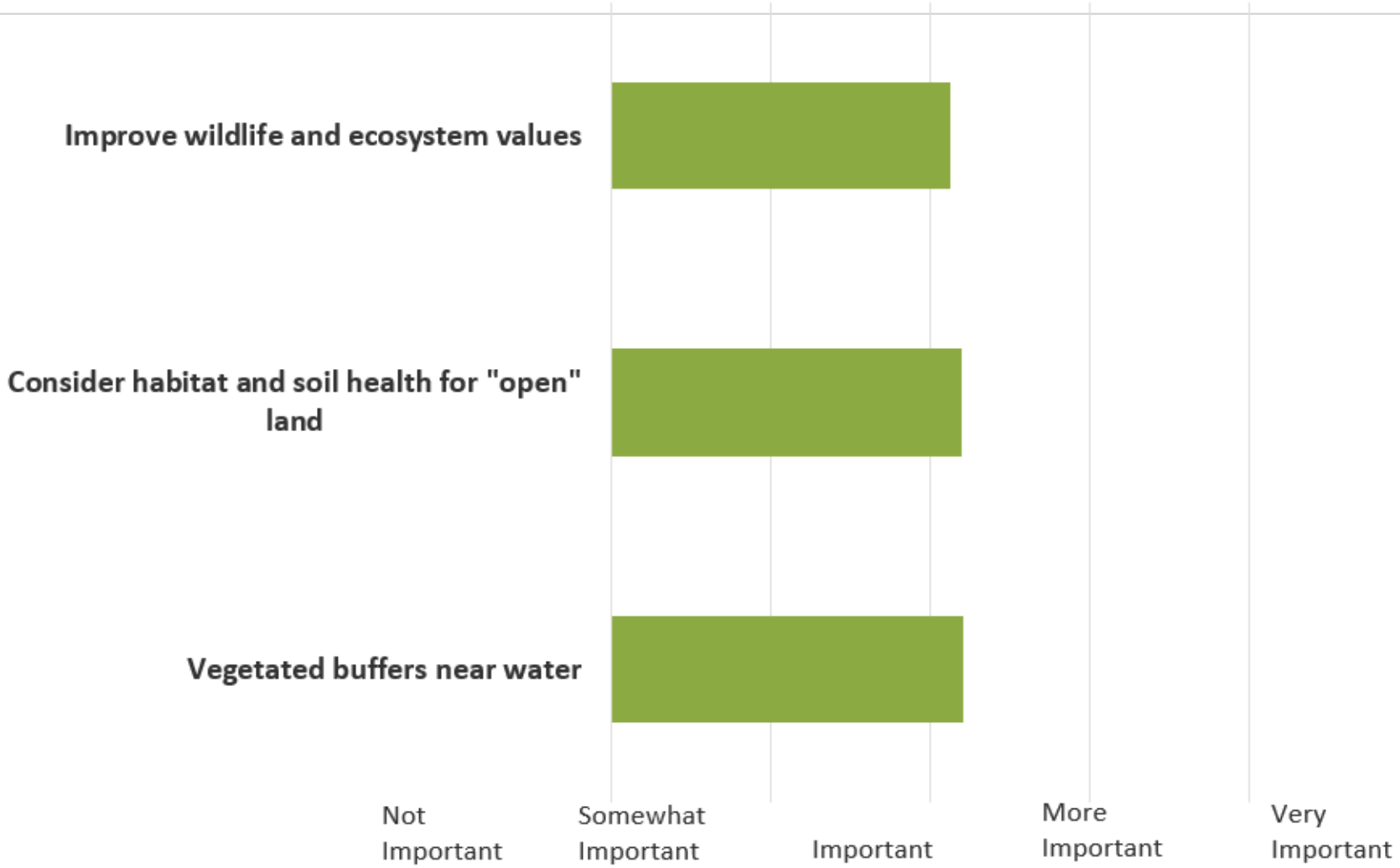
Areas of focus that should guide management decisions:



How important is it to you that the following natural resource and ecological values guide management decisions?

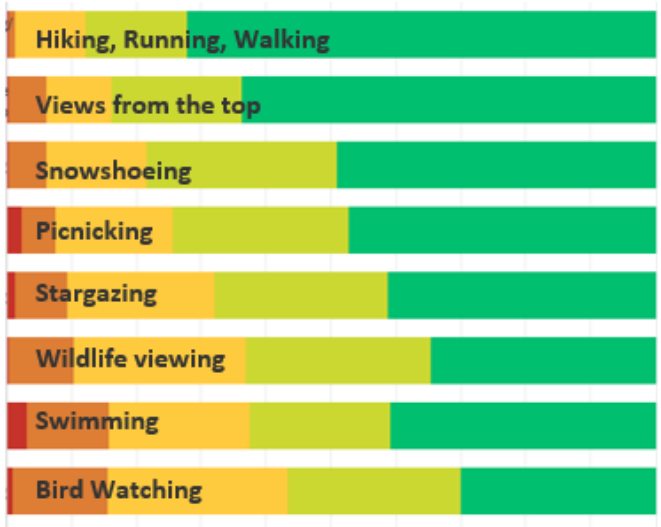


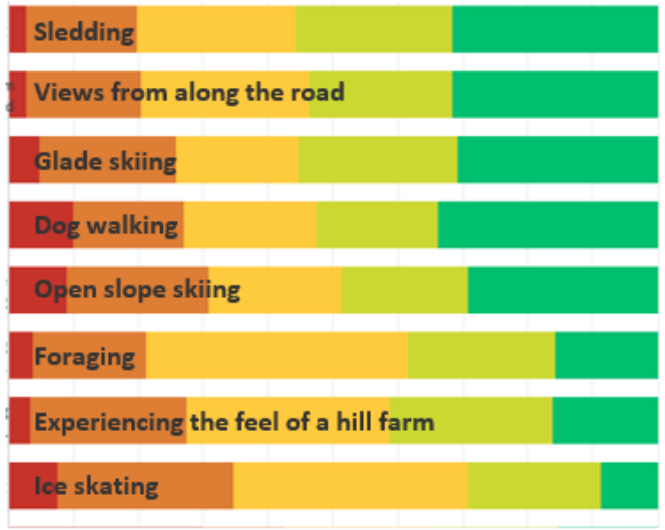
Specific Natural Resource Priorities

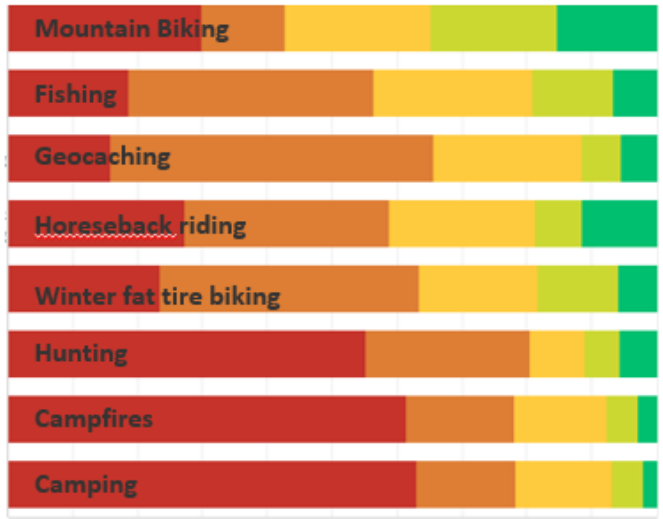


Q10: What types of activities would you like to see at Boyce Hill? Please indicate how strongly you would like to see each activity supported.

Answered: 214 Skipped: 27



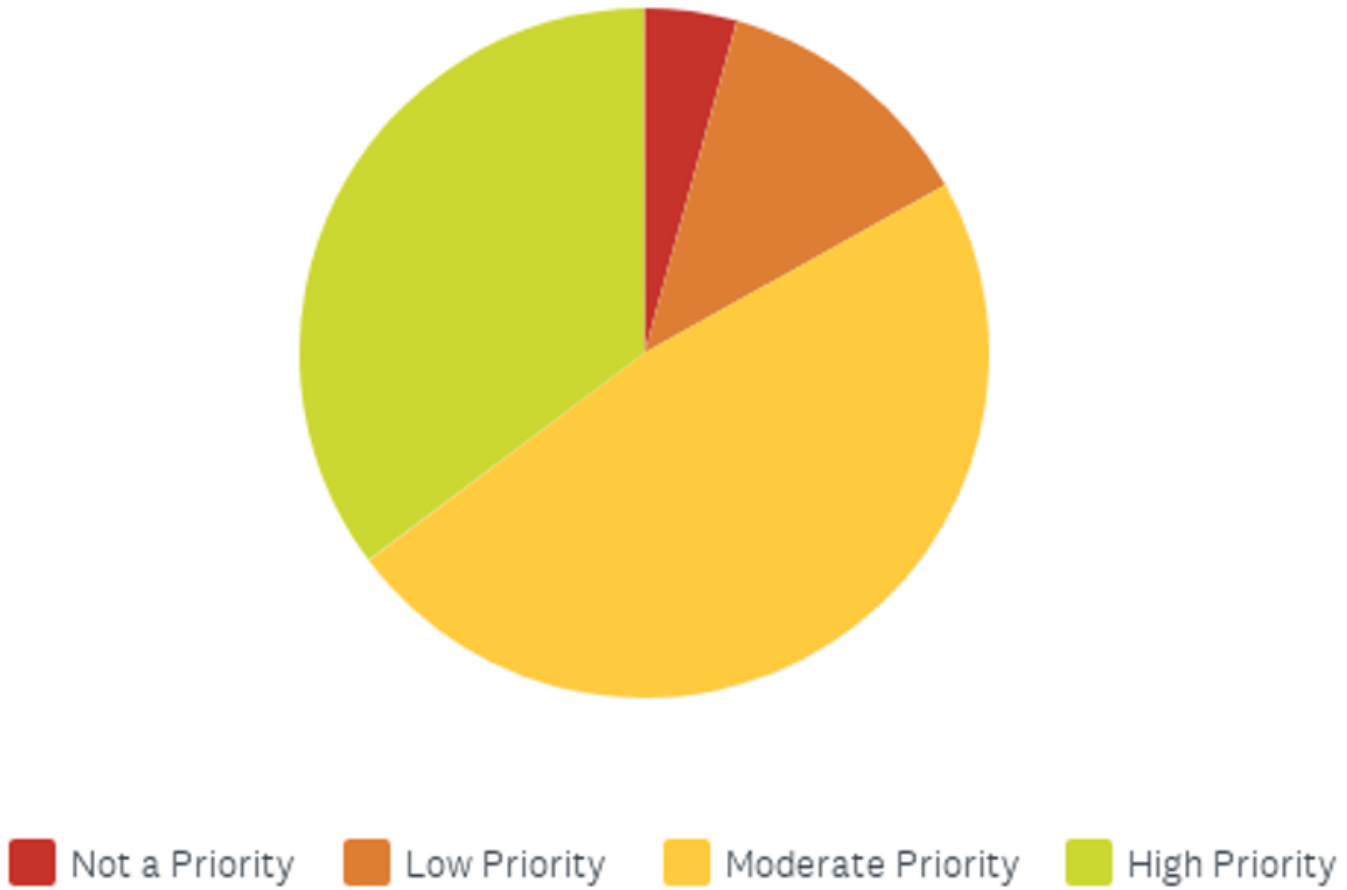




Don't Allow (Opposed) Don't Care (Indifferent) Nice to Have
Hope to Have Must Have

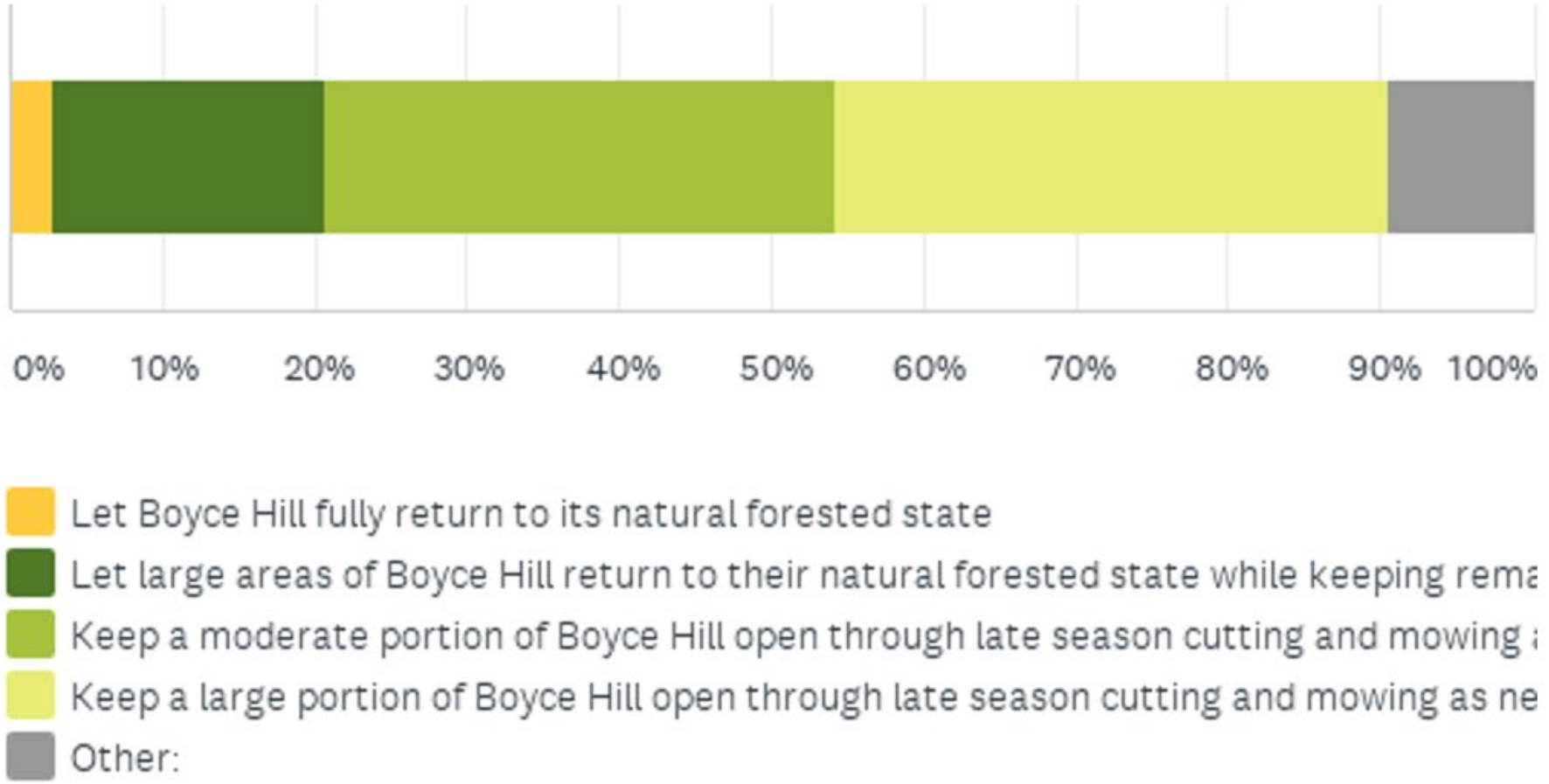
Q13: If it were possible to enable people with limited mobility to enjoy views from the property or to access the pond, what priority should those accommodations receive?

Answered: 207 Skipped: 34



Q14: What is your opinion about how much of Boyce Hill should be kept as open land as part of a balanced management plan?

Answered: 212 Skipped: 29



Steering Committee Sense of What's Possible

- VLT Easement Baseline
- Priority is balance
  - View, Pastoral Feel
  - Recreational Use
  - Resource Restoration
  - Education
- Management zones
  - Intensive use by pond and road
  - Protect habitat in NW corner
  - Selective cutting, mowing to allow continued pastoral feel and views
- Education
  - Hill farming and succession focus
- Connectivity
  - Manage first as isolated parcel
  - Abutting landowner agreements before allowing some uses
- Natural Resource Restoration
  - Selective reforestation managing to maintain both young and mature forest
- Equity
  - Unique opportunity for mobility-impaired access
- Abutters, Carrying Capacity
  - Boundary signage, Boyce Road, Limited Parking

Next Steps

- Selectboard Guidance
- Engage Management Plan Consultant?
- Draft Management Plan
- Public Review of Draft Plan – November?
- Final Plan to Selectboard – December?

Discussion