



PENINSULAR FLORIDA

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

A review of what we heard from:

PFLCC Steering Committee Interviews PFLCC Web Community

Vern Herr/Brett Boston

U.S. Institute for
Environmental Conflict Resolution
Udall Foundation



Who We Talked to, Part I

21 Peninsular Florida Conservation
Cooperative (PFLCC) Steering Committee
members in telephone interviews

External Trends the Plan Must Consider

- **9 million new residents by 2023!**
- **Quality of life and tourism are vital to Florida**
- **Climate change is no longer an abstraction.** Decision makers will need to know how future changes will affect conservation investment decisions...and which ones might not make long-term sense.
- **The economic recession**
- **Political atmosphere**
- **RESTORE and NRDA damage assessments**

PFLCC Strengths

- Long-term personal relationships
- PFLCC is non-prescriptive
- Florida leads nation with some of the most advanced conservation efforts and extensive data resources
- Strong belief PFLCC can be an effective forum where stakeholders from a wide range of interests will have a constructive place to share data, perspectives and develop consensus-based positions.
- Committee poised to ACT

PFLCC Threats

- Habitat fragmentation and loss due to urban growth
- Non-native/invasive species
- Complexity of the communication and engagement processes
- Water quantity: recharge and saline encroachment
- Water quality: springs and other aquatic habitat protection
- Changes in marine environment and coral communities
- Incorrect fire regimes
- Increasingly severe storms and responses to them

Barriers & Constraints

- **Entrenched resistance to change**
- **Parochialism**
- **Litigiousness**
- **Misuse of data**
- **Poor State/Federal agency coordination**
- **Tsunami of data.** How to integrate and analyze?
- Regulatory agencies perceived as not understanding of private landowners concerns

Opportunities

- **Great opportunity to leverage funding** *if PFLCC can identify Florida's highest conservation priorities*
- **Provide actionable climate information** that becomes part of long-range planning
- **Enhance systems thinking** so natural areas become thought of as strategic coastal protection
- **A forum for regular dialogue** between agencies and landowner representatives
- RESTORE/NRDA guidance for counties

A Key PLFCC Opportunity: Engaging Private Landowners

- **This group can move the conservation needle**
- They want to be part of this process...but they need to see clear benefits for participation
- Working landscapes need to be identified and sustained
- More can be accomplished with cooperative agreements than regulation and enforcement
- Landowners need clear messages about PFLCC
- Conservation values should enhance the value of their land holdings
- More regulatory certainty is a big deal for them

Guiding Principles

- Provide transparent, unbiased science
- Operate as honest brokers
- Through demonstrated performance, build trust over time
- Don't duplicate the successful work of others
- Provide actionable deliverables
- Maintain a sense of urgency
- Remain transparent and objective in research and funding
- Deliver non-prescriptive approaches
- Link PFLCC work to climate science centers
- Focus on adaptation strategy to address climate change issues

Planning Assumptions

- **PFLCC work plan needs to be nimble and leverage rapid prototyping.** We have plenty of data to begin making plans and decisions, then adapting as new information becomes available.
- Partners can accomplish more outside their silos
- **Learn from each other.** Data, to the greatest extent possible, needs to be compatible and exchangeable between partners and agencies
- We move at the speed of trust.
- Private landowners will embrace an open and inclusive plan

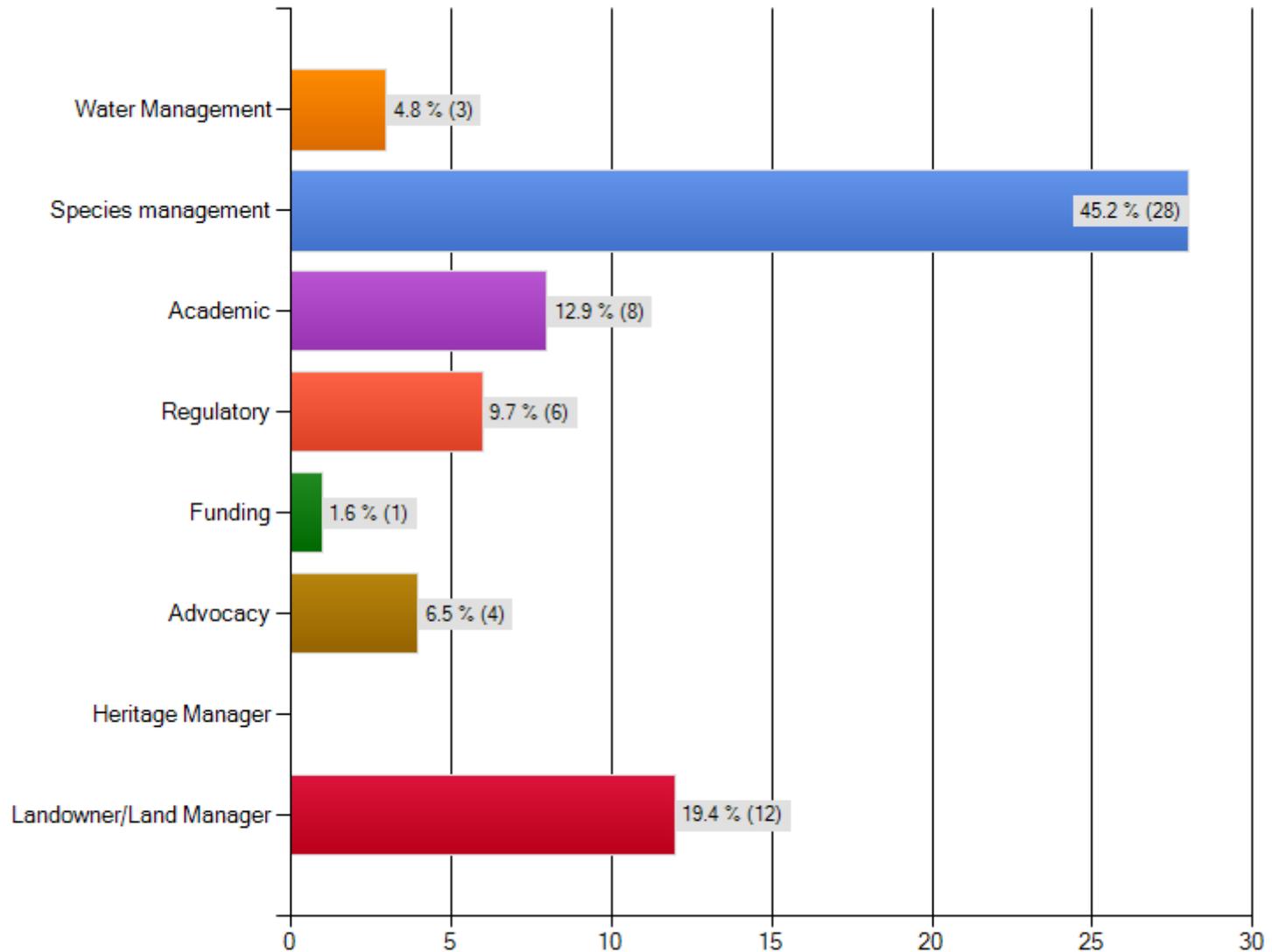
Other Potential Partners

- Regulatory agencies, at all levels
- FL Forest Service
- Florida Association of Counties
- Everglades Foundation
- FL Cattlemen's association
- Parks Service (especially interested in understanding sea-level rise)
- Mosaic
- Rural stewardship program representatives from Collier County
- Miccosukee/Seminole Tribal nation representatives
- Significant landowners

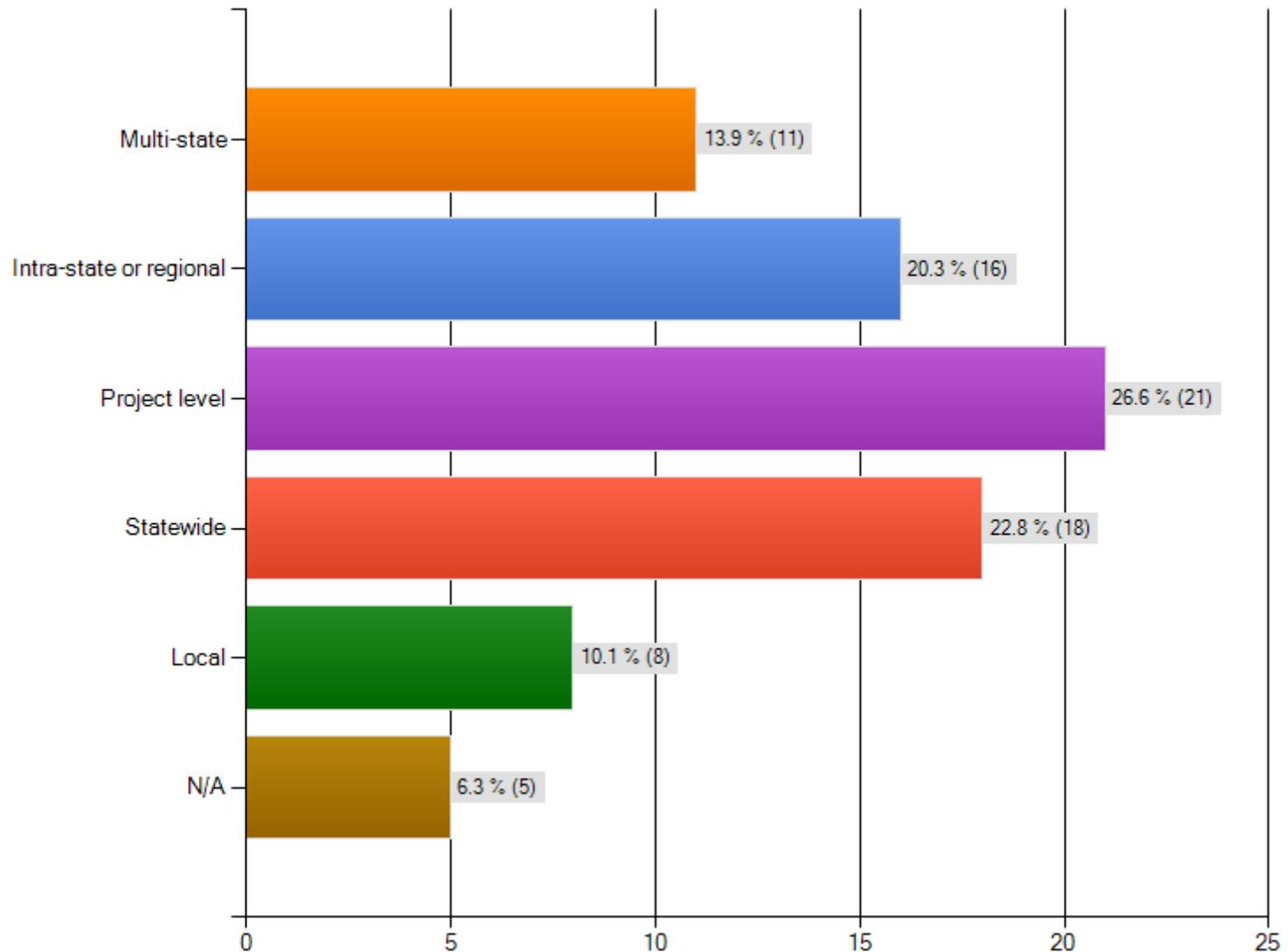
Who We Talked to, Part II:

79 members of the PFLCC web community participated in a web-based survey

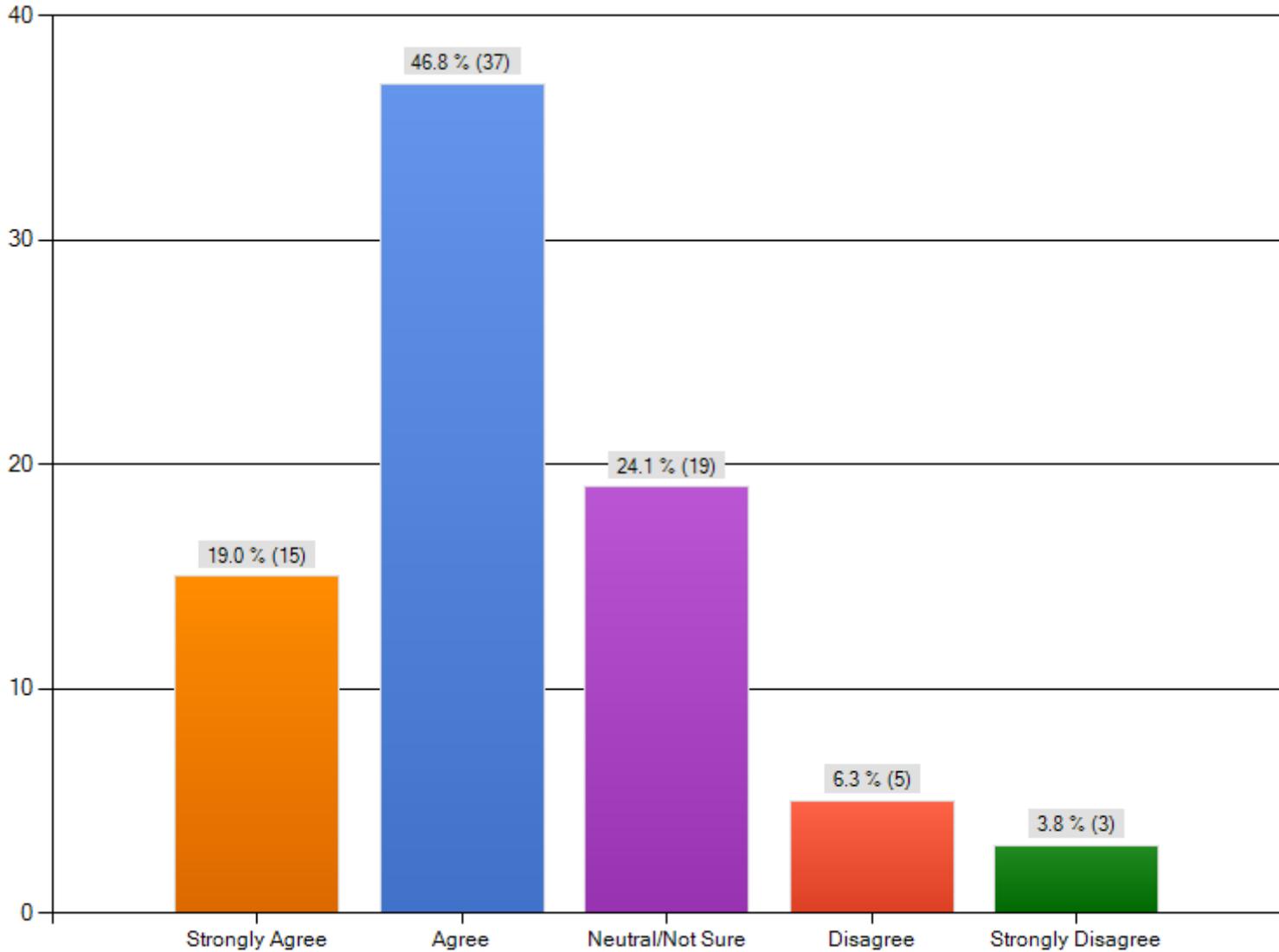
My Responsibilities Are Primarily (62)



The Decisions I Make are Primarily (79)



I'm Familiar With the Purpose and Charter of PFLCC (79)



Please Indicate Your Agreement with the Following Statements (73)

There is a strong role for landscape conservation in Florida.	68
Conservation managers need more strategy and implementation tools. Plenty of data exists....we need to share, integrate and mine what's there more effectively.	62
There is strong potential to leverage multi-agency funding opportunities if members can agree to a set of common conservation priorities.	62
Collaborative conservation efforts with private landowners should be a priority for PFLCC	62
PFLCC can help identify where the best “bang for the buck” is possible on land acquisition and cooperative conservation agreements	55
PFLCC is an appropriate forum for regular dialogue between agencies, organizations, academia and landowners in framing the science necessary for demonstration projects	53
Discussions on the value of ecosystems services and streamlining regulation are appropriate for PFLCC to facilitate.	52
PFLCC can help remove barriers that prevent partners from collaborating on innovative conservation alternatives	44
A better understanding of the risks associated with new ESA species listings is needed.	44
PFLCC could play a constructive role in helping to improve regulatory coordination between Federal, State and County agencies	43
Federal, State and County regulators often don't fully understand the needs and concerns of private landowners	40
<i>Rapid prototyping and adapting is appropriate in many conservation projects.</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Mis-use of data is a significant concern. Greater effort should be made to ensure it is used and interpreted correctly.</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>There is a high level of trust among PFLCC partners due to existing personal relationships.</i>	<i>15</i>

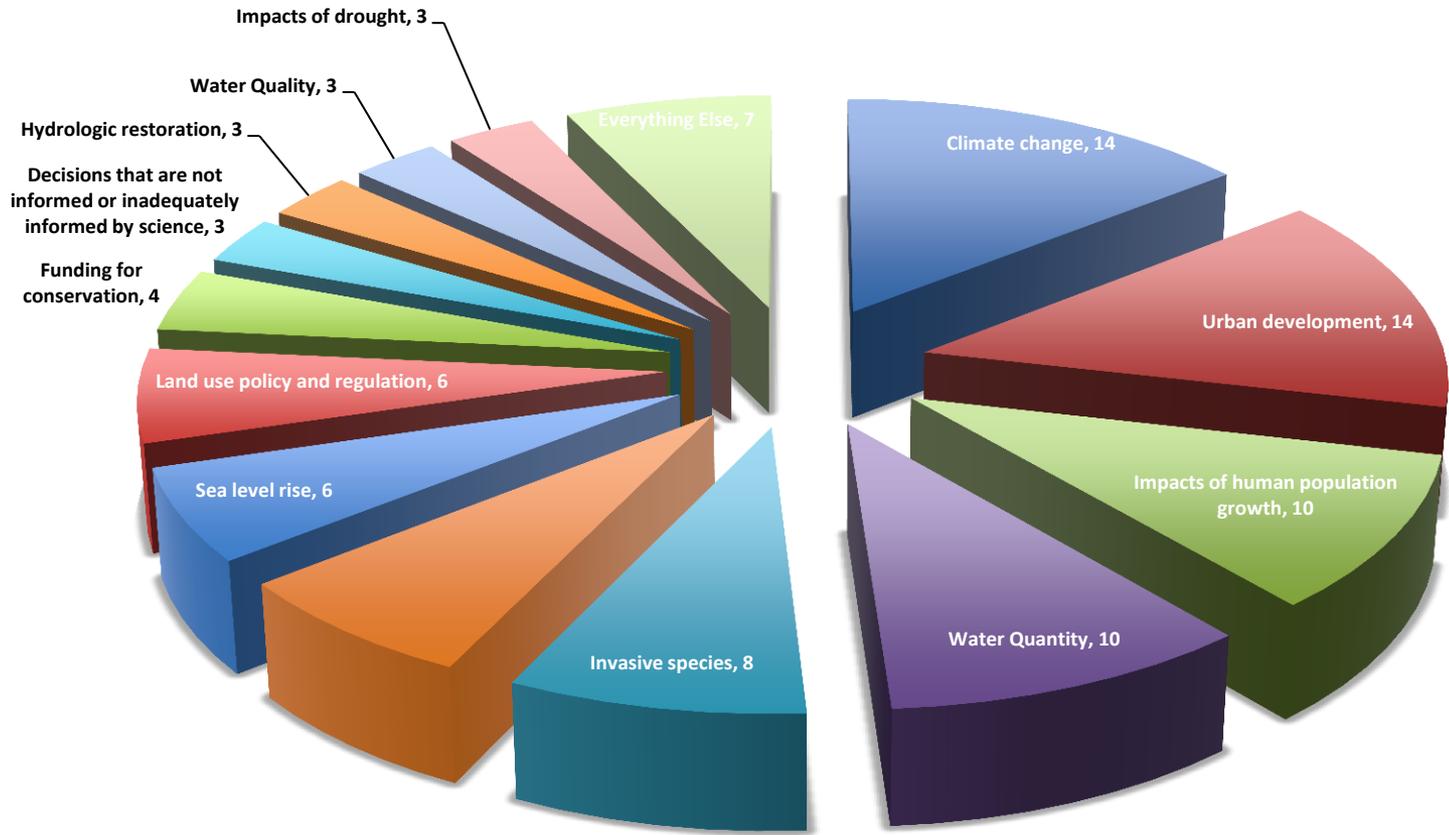
Highest Rated Importance of Goals and Focus Areas (69)

Identifying and prioritizing key habitat and connectivity areas.	584
Predicting the impact of climate change and population growth	514
Strengthening working relationships with private landowners	511
Validating and demonstrating the economic value of ecosystem services	510
Investigating and modeling the effects of sea level rise on plant and animal communities; develop potential adaptation scenarios.	504
Supporting aquatic systems and water quality needs	504
Delivering integrated tools that help conservation managers see and consider future linkages between climate change, impacts on development and water supply	502
Predicting habitat losses related to future coastal development	499
Validating and promoting best future land management practices	481
Providing strategic guidance for surface water storage, restoration and rehydrating surface wetlands and minimizing saline encroachment	463

Lowest Rated Importance of Goals and Focus Areas (69)

Providing biological planning and conservation design that helps optimize fire regimes	437
<i>Identifying and integrating optimal cultural and natural sustainability</i>	420
<i>Predicting changes on the marine environment and coral communities</i>	410
<i>Providing RESTORE/NRDA guidance for counties</i>	378
<i>Planning for gulf hazard resilience</i>	374
<i>Predicting future effects of more severe storms</i>	366

What Do You Believe the Two Most Significant Ecological Drivers in FL over the Next 5-7 Years? (59)



What Do You Believe the Two Most Significant Ecological Drivers in FL over the Next 5-7 Years? Everything Else...

Payment for ecosystems services

Fire regimes

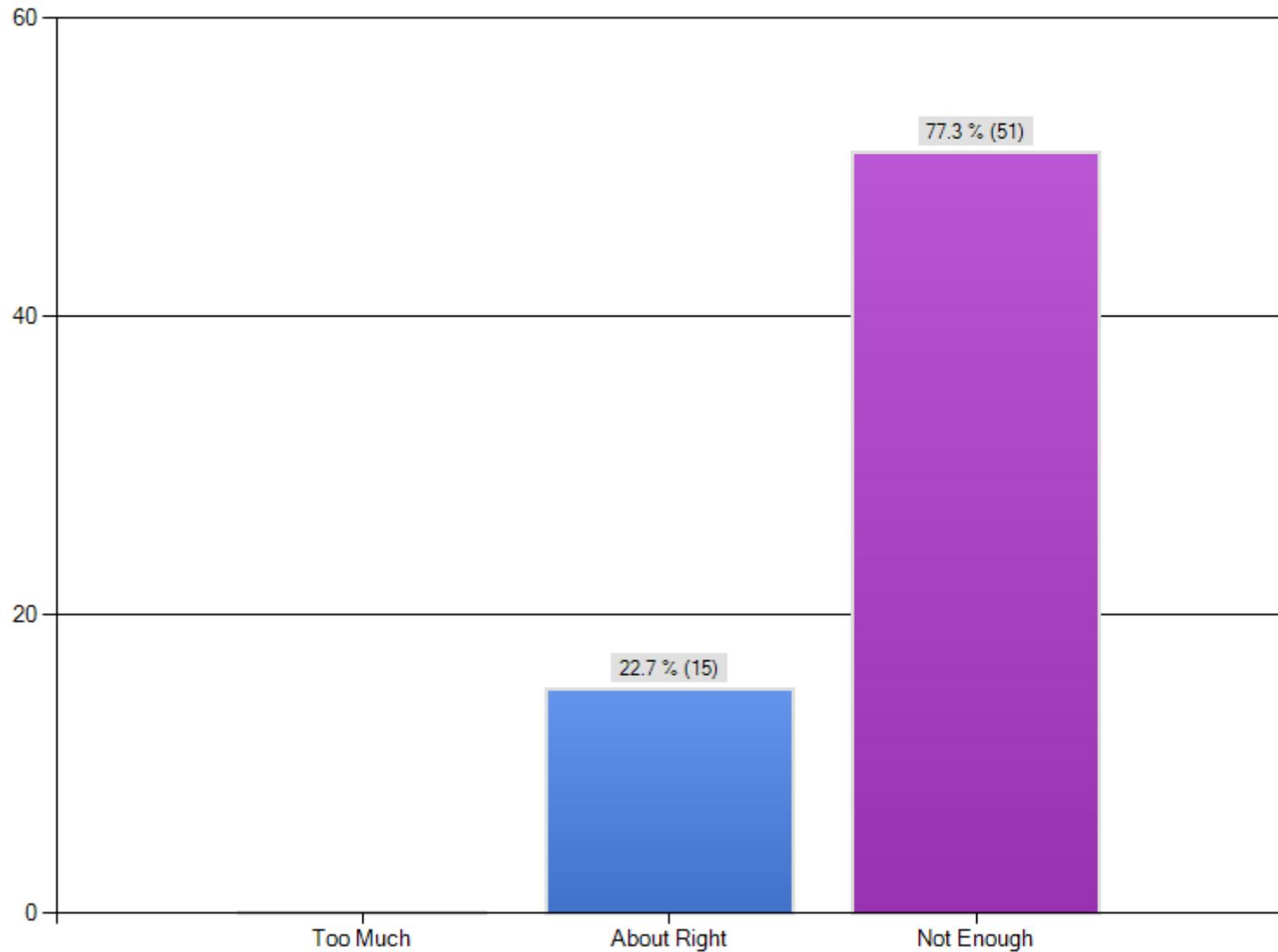
Conflicting ESA requirements

Public lands purchases

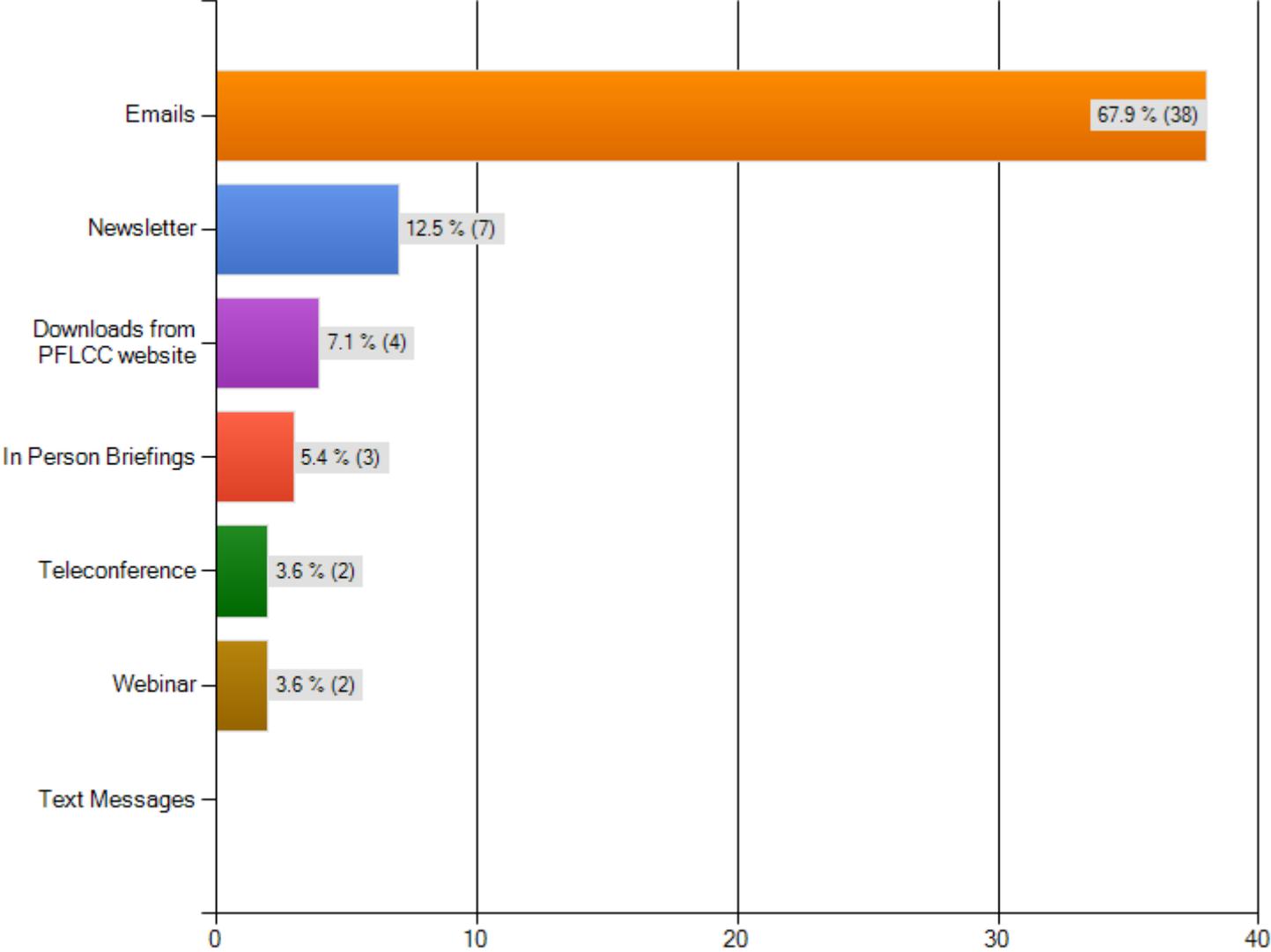
Landscape resiliency to severe weather

Economics

How Do You Rate Communication From Your PFLCC?



How Do You Prefer to Receive Communication From Your PFLCC?



How Can PFLCC Improve Communication and Coordination With Our Partners?

- **Circulate a fact sheet showing PFLCC purpose/goals and how to get involved**
- **Tap communication capabilities of steering committee members**
- **Some were hearing of PFLCC for the first time.** Think through targeting a larger audience
- **Visit the resource agencies** to provide updates and understand their needs
- **Reach out to all levels of govt and stakeholders,** not just Feds and state.
- **Continue collaboration** with established multi-agency efforts in aquatic habitat conservation and restoration activities.
- **Control emails:** If you send too many, many will not be able to keep up

Additional Organizations or Individuals that Should be Involved in PFLCC Planning?

- **Local agencies - county and not for profits**
- **Audubon**
- **County/Local Planning Councils**
- **Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection**
- **Florida Oceans and Coastal Council**
- **Florida Institute of Oceanography**
- **Florida Association of Counties**
- **Florida DOT**
- **Water Management Districts**
- **Corps of Engineers and EPA**
- **The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)**
- **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP)**
- **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC)**
- **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)**
- **University programs with state-wide land-holdings such as the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).**
- **The public**

Who We Talked to, Part III

13 Peninsular Florida Conservation
Cooperative (PFLCC) Steering Committee
members in a web-based follow-up

PFLCC's ability to "move the needle;" to have a positive impact

0= No Ability 2= Unlikely 5= Some 8= Strong 10= Definite

Nr	Item	$\bar{\phi}$	SD	n
1	Habitat fragmentation and loss	7.46	0.12	13
2	Payment for ecosystems services	7.38	0.13	13
3	Invasive species	6.85	0.16	13
4	Fire regimes	6.85	0.17	13
5	Funding for conservation	6.77	0.14	13
6	Water Quality	6.38	0.14	13
7	Hydrologic restoration	6.31	0.21	13
8	Conflicting ESA requirements	6.31	0.26	13
9	Decisions that are not informed or inadequately informed by science	6.23	0.23	13
10	Land use policy and regulation	6.00	0.20	13
11	Public lands purchases	5.62	0.18	13
12	Water Quantity	4.92	0.23	13
13	Impacts of human population growth	4.85	0.22	13
14	Sea level rise	4.77	0.21	13
15	Climate change	4.77	0.23	13
16	Impacts of drought	4.46	0.20	13
17	Landscape resiliency to severe weather	4.38	0.22	13
18	Urban development	4.08	0.26	13

PFLCC's ability to find a consensus position for addressing this

0= No way; 2= Highly Unlikely;

5=Possible; 8=Likely;

10= Certainty

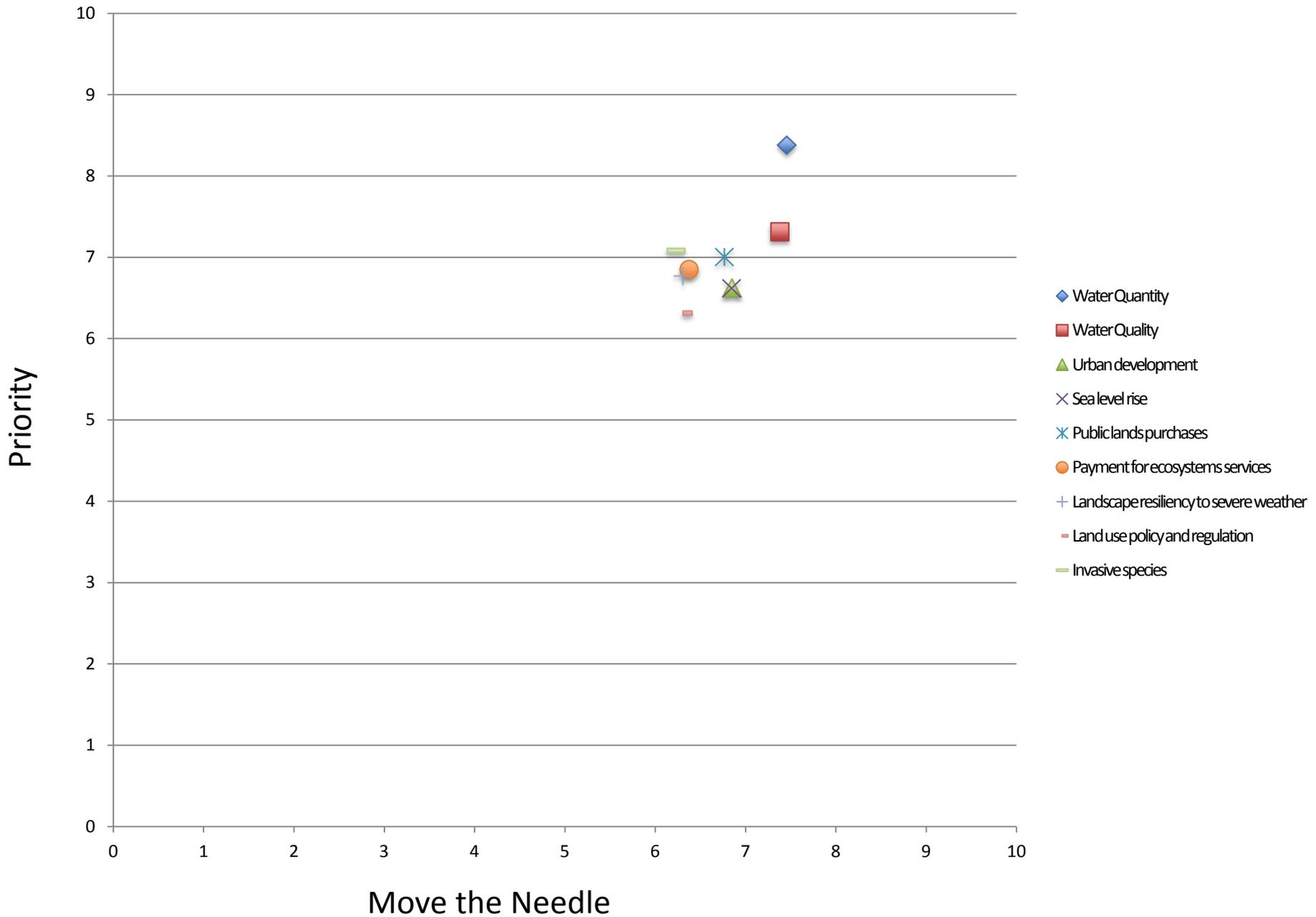
Nr	Item	Ø	SD	n
1	Habitat fragmentation and loss	7.23	0.20	13
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13	Climate change	5.69	0.09	13
14	Landscape resiliency to severe weather	5.69	0.13	13
15	Impacts of human population growth	5.54	0.21	13
16	Sea level rise	5.46	0.14	13
17	Water Quantity	5.46	0.19	13
18	Urban development	4.85	0.25	13

Priority to Have Specific Actions as Part of Our 5-7 Year Plan

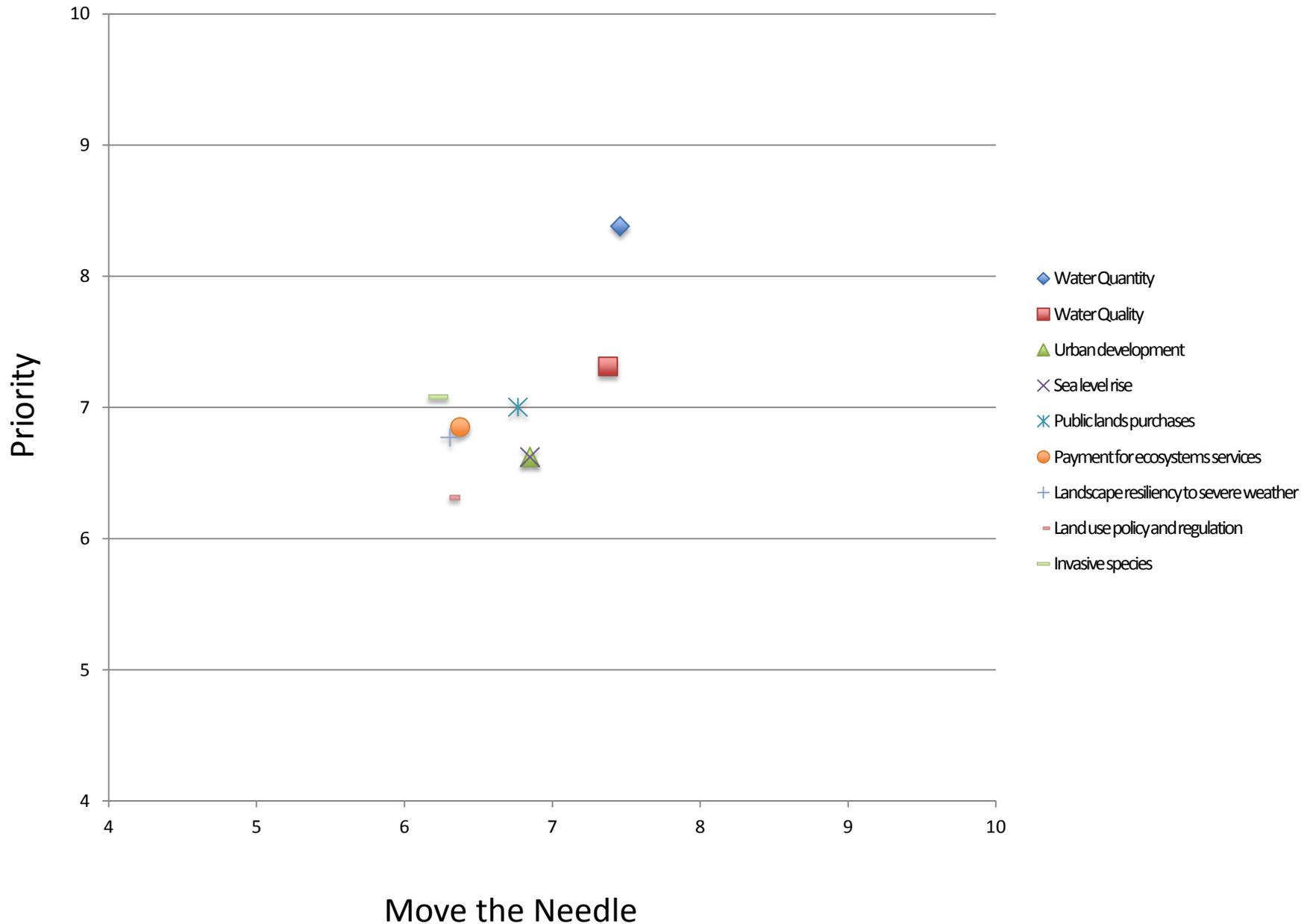
0=Waste of time 2=Low 5=Address As Resources Allow; 8=Important; 10=Mission Critical

Nr	Item	Ø	SD	n
1	Habitat fragmentation and loss	8.38	0.15	13
2	Payment for ecosystems services	7.31	0.30	13
3	Decisions that are not informed or inadequately informed by science	7.08	0.18	13
4	Funding for conservation	7.00	0.23	13
5	Water Quality	6.85	0.24	13
6	Hydrologic restoration	6.77	0.22	13
7	Fire regimes	6.62	0.15	13
8	Invasive species	6.62	0.24	13
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10	Public lands purchases	6.23	0.25	13
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12	Impacts of human population growth	6.08	0.22	13
13	Water Quantity	5.92	0.27	13
14	Sea level rise	5.69	0.33	13
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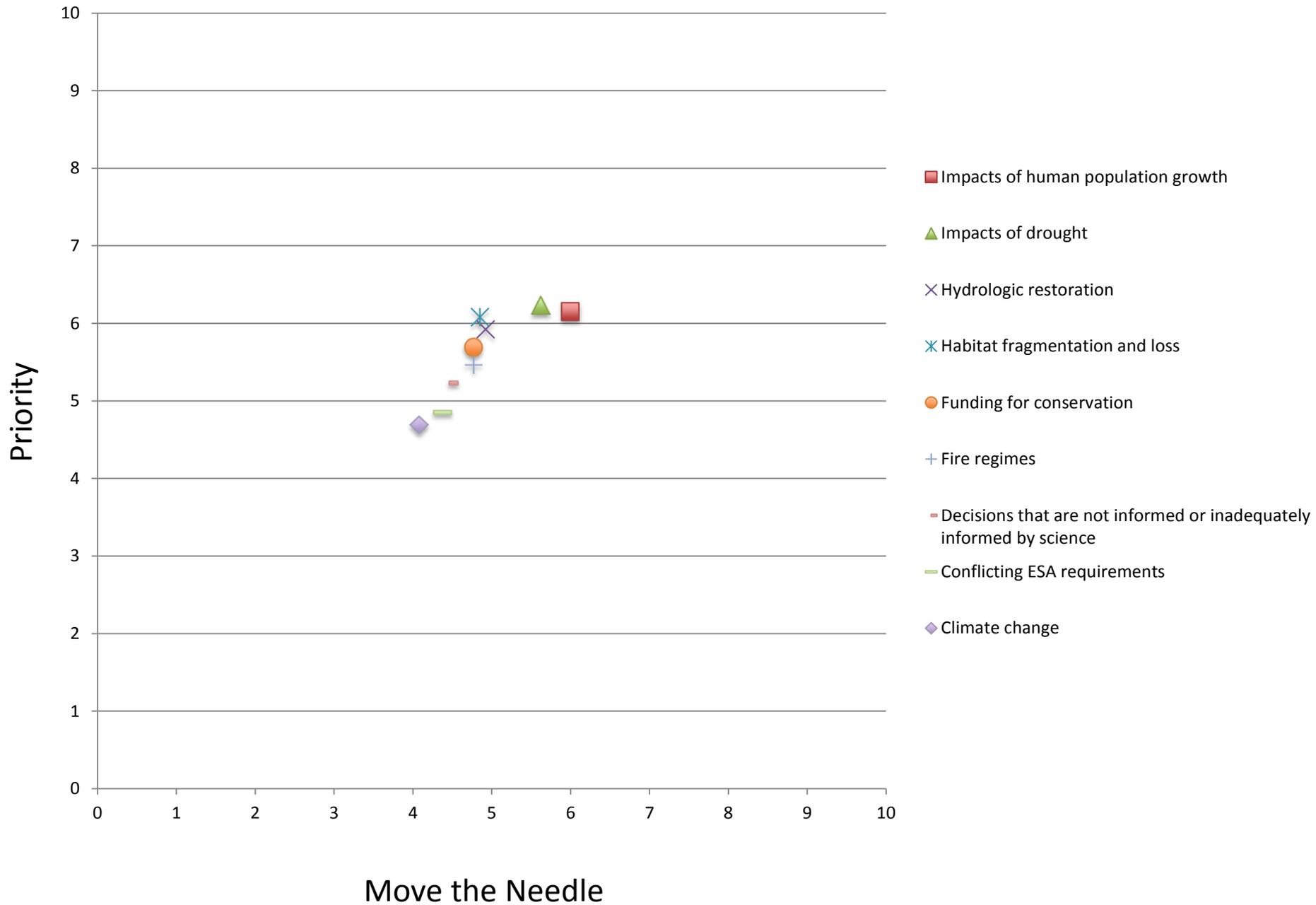
Significant Ecological Drivers for the Next 5-7 Years: Top 9 Full Scale



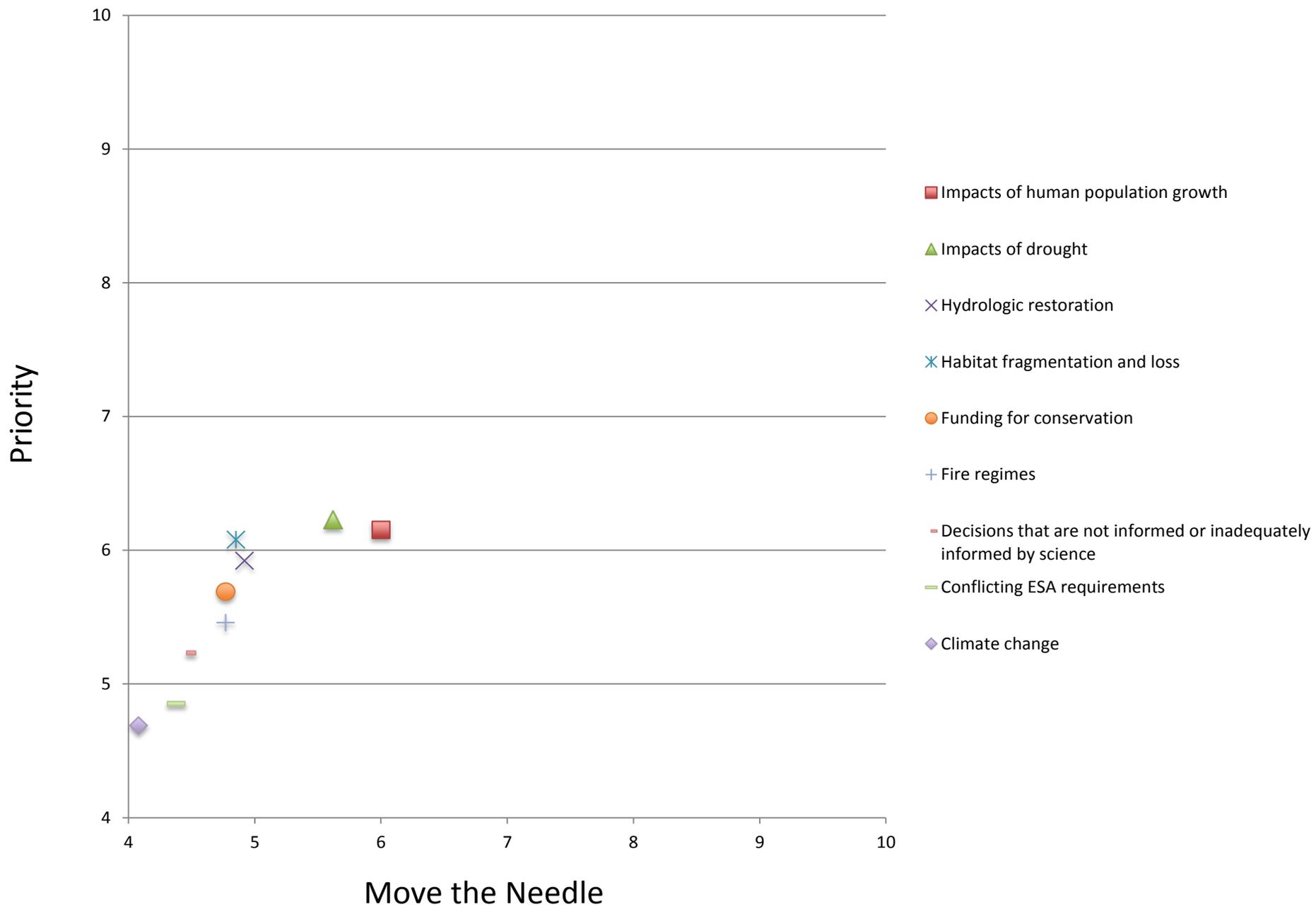
Significant Ecological Drivers for the Next 5-7 Years: Top 9 Zoomed



Significant Ecological Drivers for the Next 5-7 Years: Bottom 9 Full Scale



Significant Ecological Drivers for the Next 5-7 Years: Bottom 9 Zoomed





PENINSULAR FLORIDA

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE

Discussion

U.S. Institute for
Environmental Conflict Resolution

Udall Foundation



Discussion Notes

- The value of rural land is important. Owners understand the conservation values and want to contribute, but not finance conservation.
- Communicate charter and purpose to 35%
- Watch the potential disconnect with web community on trust and mis-use of data.
- More communications needed from LCC ;-)
- Send succinct emails, but avoid overloading us.
- Develop an elevator speech needed for first-time LCC contacts to get a quick overview.
- Don't over-interpret the final set of data. We have much more digging to do there. We will take this up at the SC planning meeting session.
- Concern: If we have too many things that we are trying to do, we will not be able to get them done. We have to prioritize our efforts and make a difference on the key things the SC decides will make a difference.
- The work plan will find the balance between the short-term and long-term work efforts. This will be a resource balancing act.
- On Communications: Email is a no-brainer, but since it is overwhelming, we need another way to connect with people and let the people know at a more significant level.
- Use threaded communications by interest.
- Develop targeted communications to specific groups, i.e., landowners - the communications should be more "friendly" to the type of work that the people do.

Discussion Notes

- **Tim is working on communications support. Develop a platform where the documents and presentations are available to download and support the dialogue.**
- **Tim able to support a cooperative support position with another group.**
- **Our communications person should coordinate with agencies, groups and orgs to share and update.**
- **Discussion on linking in local governments: The sooner the better. Start with association of local and county govts**
- **First step would be to communicate with this org and find a way to get them involved and get their input on how to best communicate with local govts, particularly the counties.**
- **If we have counties that are in the planning cycles, or have large areas of county land in our area of interests.**
- **IFUS person in Sarasota Co. might be a good contact point.**
- **Communicate more with each county. The county government and the IFUS extension office within the county.**
- **Tim: Work with FWC or cooperative shared position. IFUS extension might be the way to go with the cooperative shared position.**

Discussion Notes

- **IFIS point of contact; Sarasota? Talk to person in Gainesville program lead.**
- **FYI - For Marine, Carl Havens manages SeaGrant for Florida out of UF**
- **Tim: Wants a strong tie-in from this position.**
- **March Meeting: 6&7 1 PM on the 6th at USGS headquarters at UCF. Vern will resend the invite to everyone.**