

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Recreation Study

TAKEAWAYS, SUGGESTED STRATEGIES, TACTICS

The Shimoda Group, LLC

March 25, 2021

Initial Study Goals

- ▶ Understand baseline conditions to establish historical context.
- ▶ Gain an understanding of trends that will impact future use and suggest management strategies.
- ▶ Develop and seek input from engaged stakeholders regarding desired conditions for the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River.
- ▶ Seek public input to advise the development of 'desired conditions' through a town hall-style, virtual public meeting.
- ▶ Recommend management strategies and tactics to achieve desired conditions based on input received from Fall 2020 input.
- ▶ Develop an in-person interview program to conduct at river launch sites.
- ▶ Final Report



Baseline Conditions, Historical Context

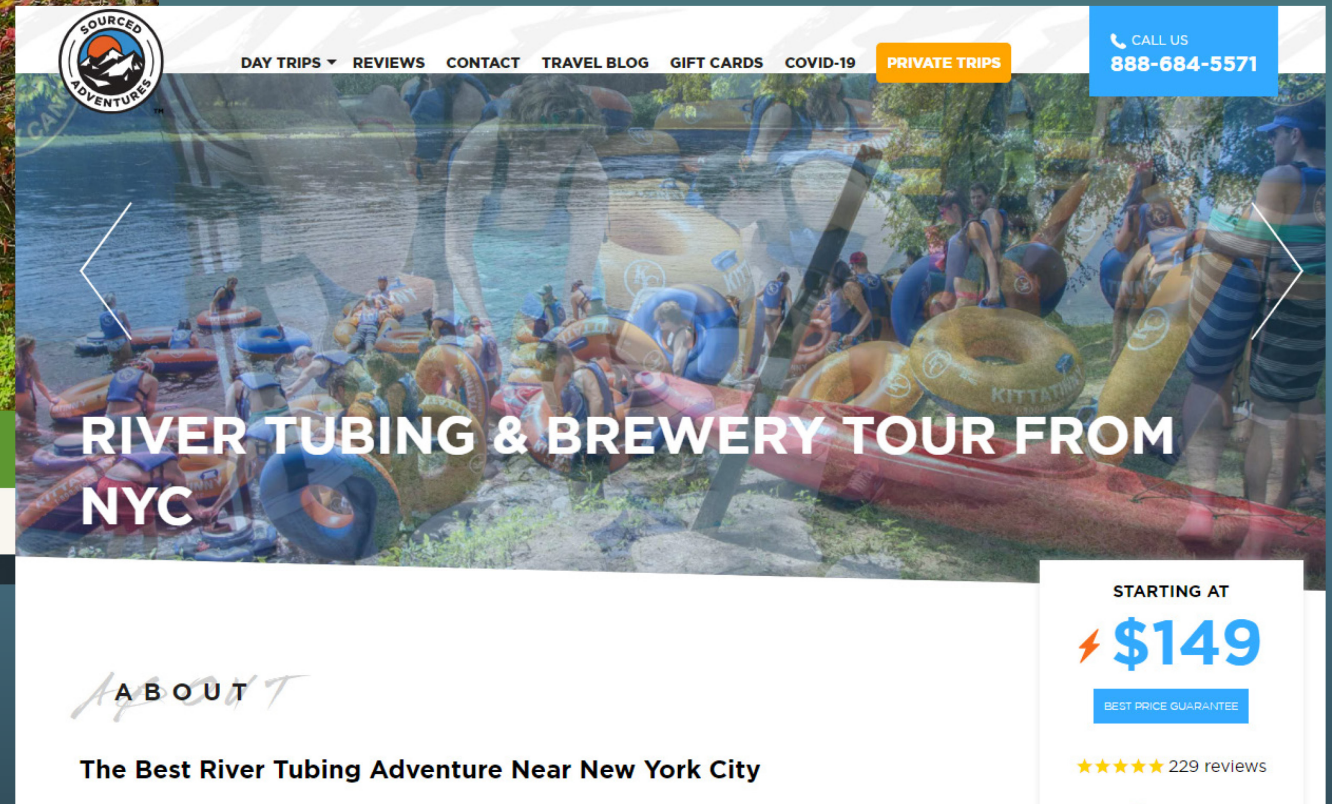
▶ PA Township, City	1
▶ PA County	4
▶ PA Fish and Boat	4
▶ PA DCNR	8
▶ NJ Township, City	1
▶ NJ DEP	7
▶ NJ DFW	2
▶ NJ - Other	1
▶ None	1



Post COVID-19: growth is here to stay



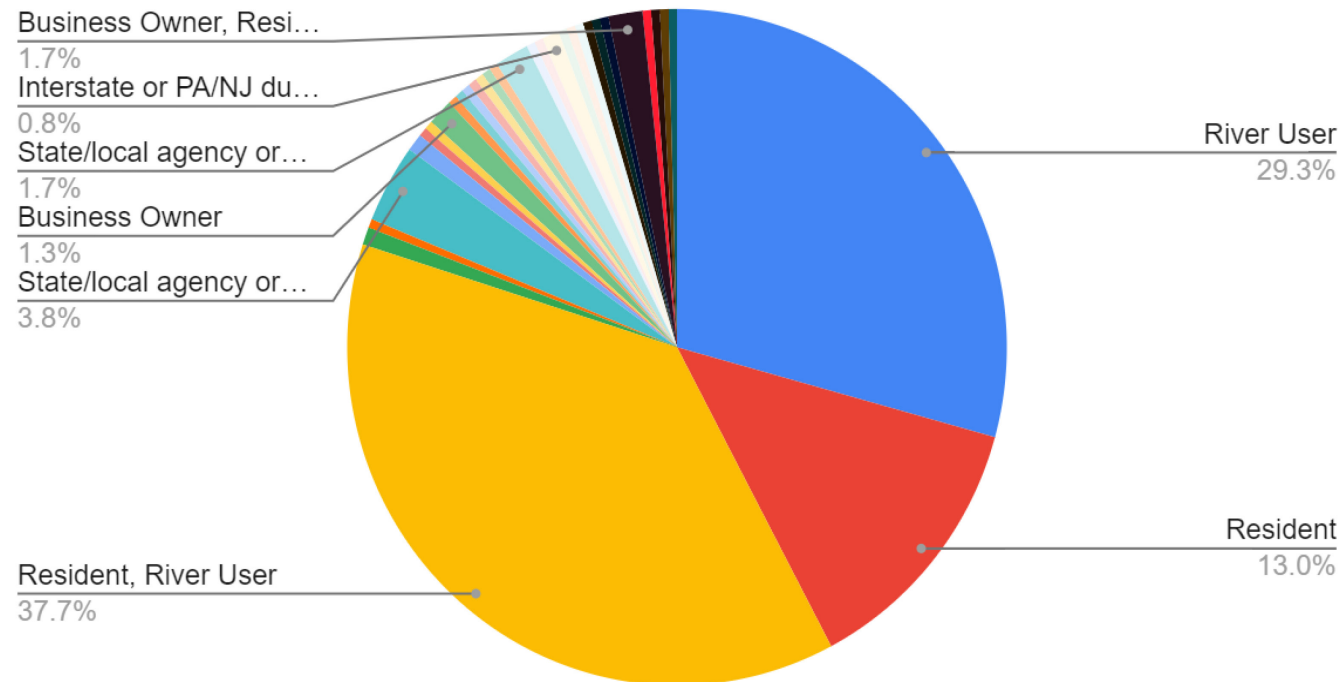
The screenshot shows the TrailLink website interface. At the top, the TrailLink logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'Log in', 'Register', and 'DONATE' are on the right. Below the logo, there are links for 'My TrailLink', 'Explore Trails', 'About Us', and 'Get Involved'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area features a large image of a forest path with the title 'Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail' and 'New Jersey'. A 'View Trail Map' button is prominently displayed. Below the title, there are five stars and '105 Reviews'. At the bottom of the page, there is a green banner with the text 'Register for free with TrailLink today!' and a row of icons for 'View Trail Map', 'Print', 'Complete', 'Share', 'Favorite', and 'Send to App'.



The screenshot shows the Sourced Adventures website. The header includes the Sourced Adventures logo, navigation links for 'DAY TRIPS', 'REVIEWS', 'CONTACT', 'TRAVEL BLOG', 'GIFT CARDS', 'COVID-19', and 'PRIVATE TRIPS', and a 'CALL US 888-684-5571' button. The main content area features a large image of people tubing on a river with the title 'RIVER TUBING & BREWERY TOUR FROM NYC'. Below the title, there is a section titled 'ABOUT' with the text 'The Best River Tubing Adventure Near New York City'. On the right side, there is a price section with 'STARTING AT \$149' and a 'BEST PRICE GUARANTEE' button. At the bottom right, there are five stars and '229 reviews'.

Input from stakeholders: 'desired conditions'

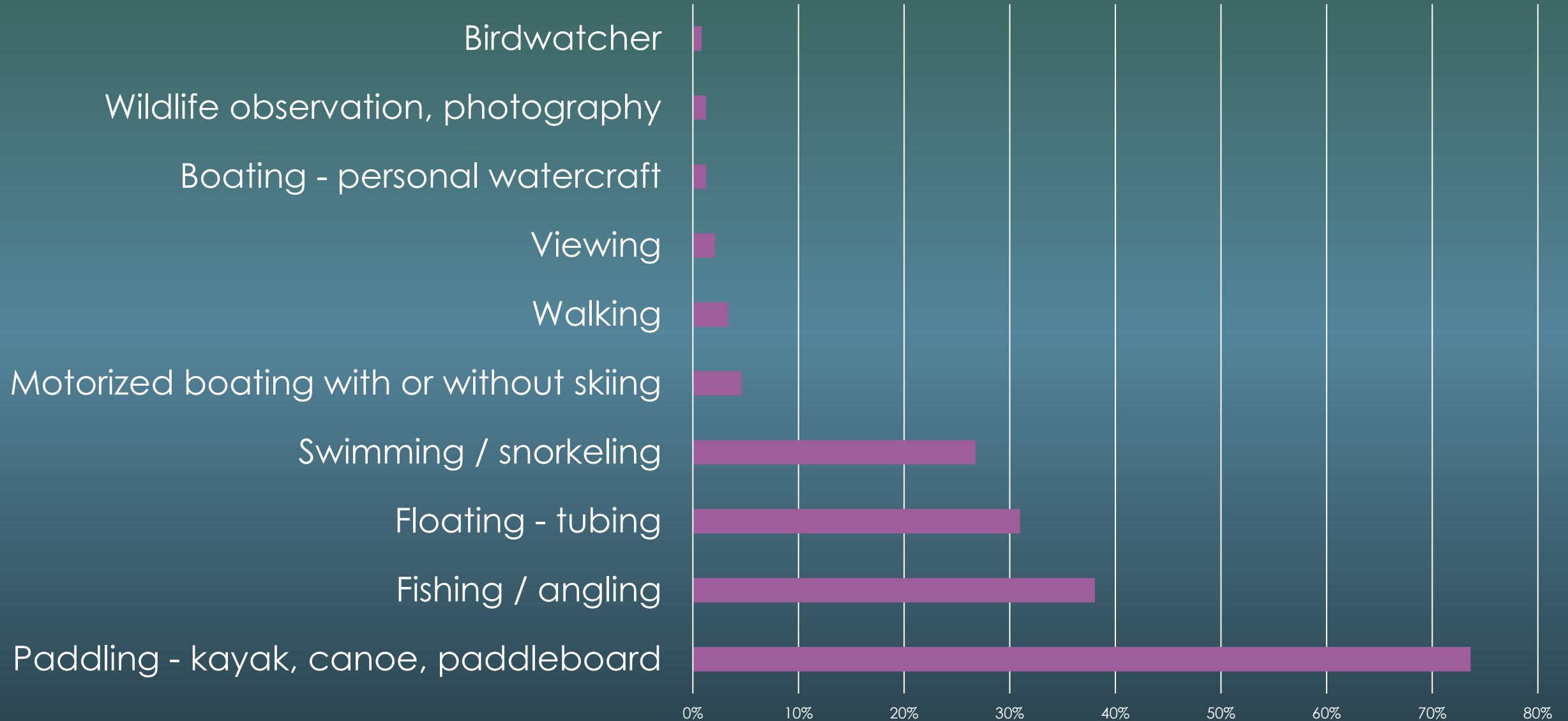
Count of Q1 a. What is your role or interest in the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River?



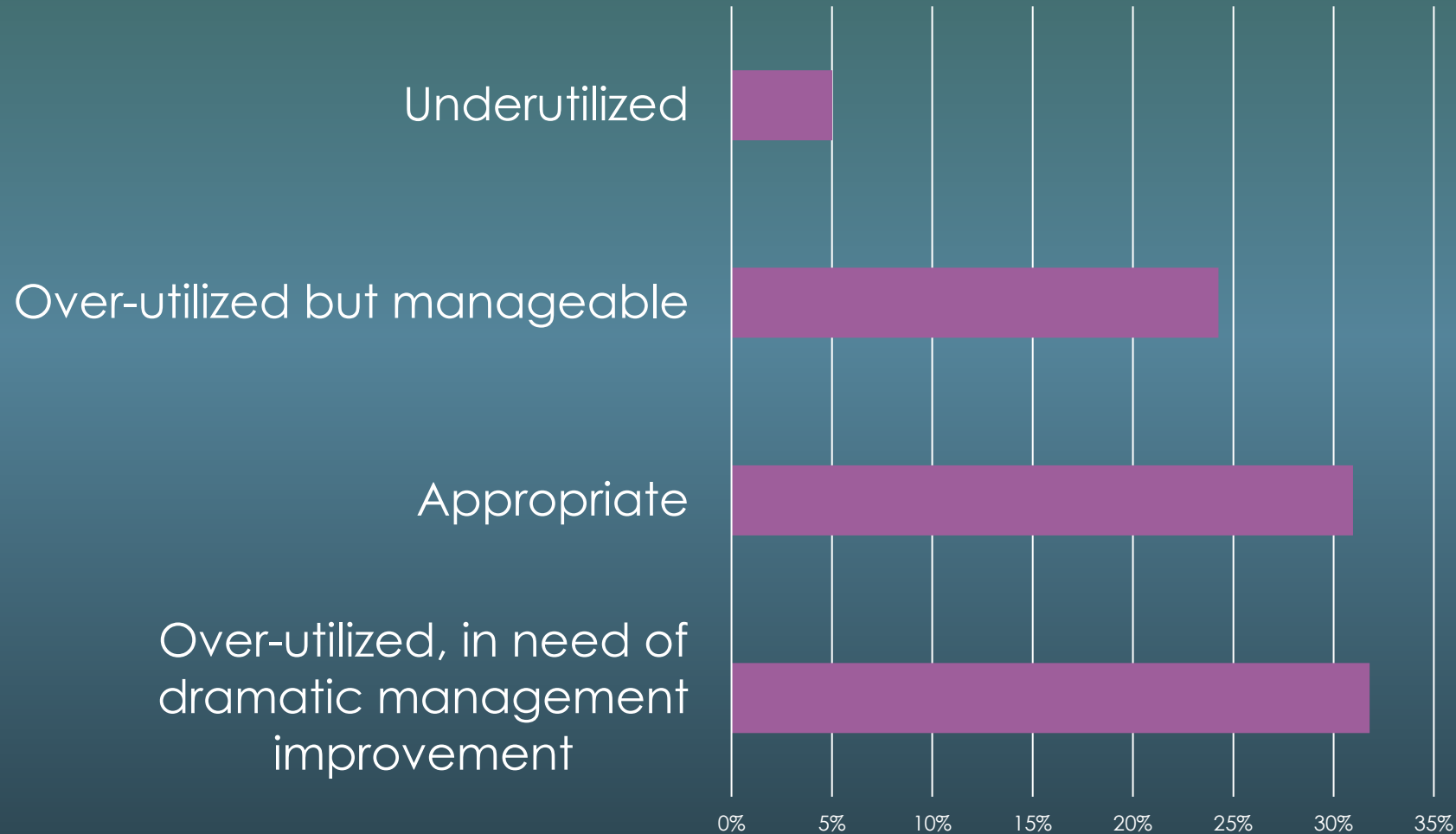
Where do respondents launch?

Kingwood DEP, NJ	18%
Scudders Falls - Yardley	14%
Lambertville, NJ	8%
Riegelsville Access, NJ	8%
Portland Footbridge, PA	8%
Tinicum County Park - Erwinna, PA	6%
Upper Black Eddy	3%
Belvidere - Belvidere, NJ	3%
D&L Canal	3%
D&RC State Park - Frenchtown, NJ	2%
All of the above	2%
Milford Bridge to Delaware Canal	1%
Point Pleasant	1%
Scott Park - City of Easton, PA	1%
Washington Crossing Historic Park	1%
Giving Pond, Upper Black Eddy	1%
Sandt's Eddy	1%

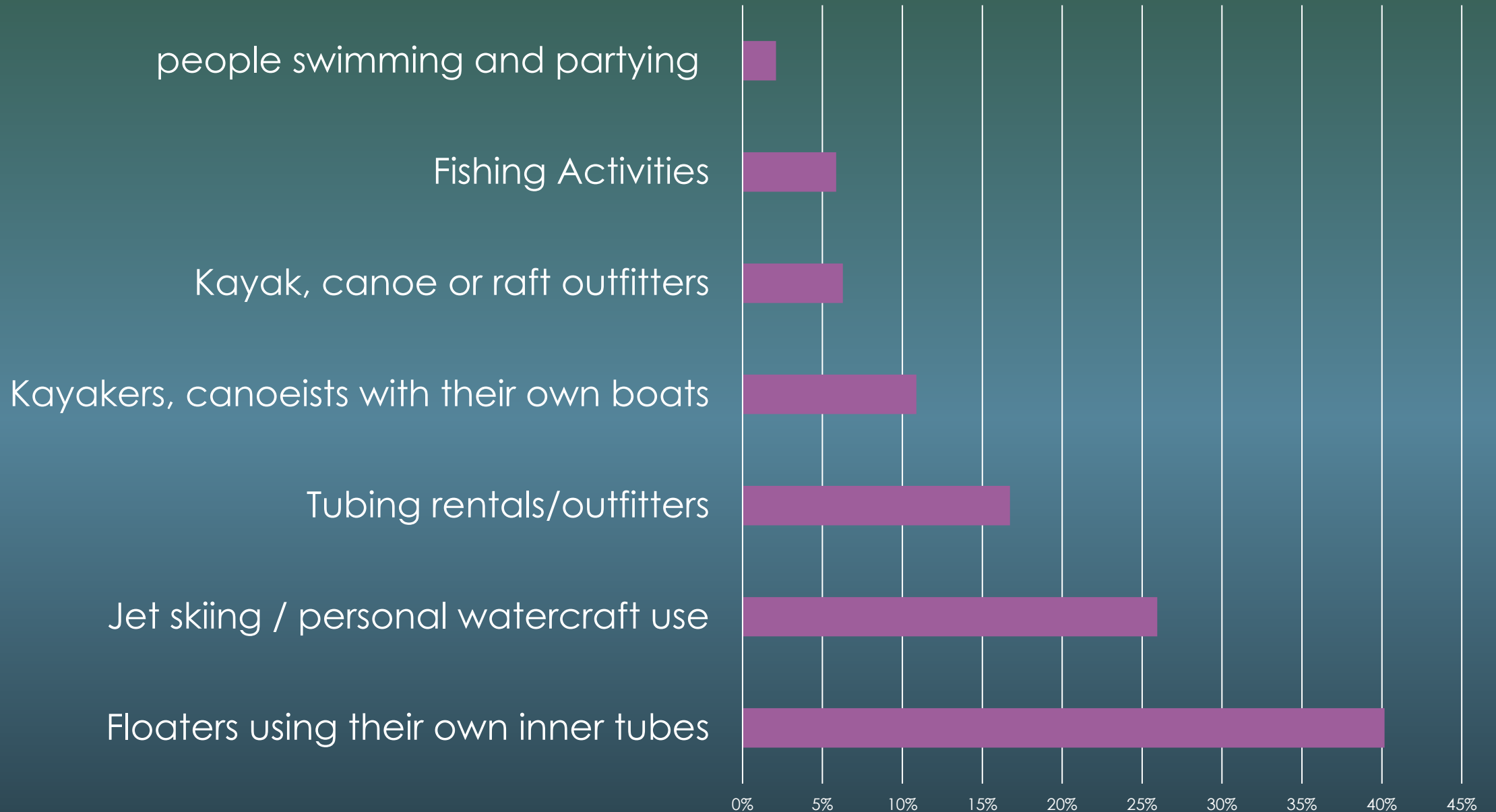
What do they do at, on the river?



Opinion of recreational use growth on the Lower Delaware WSR?

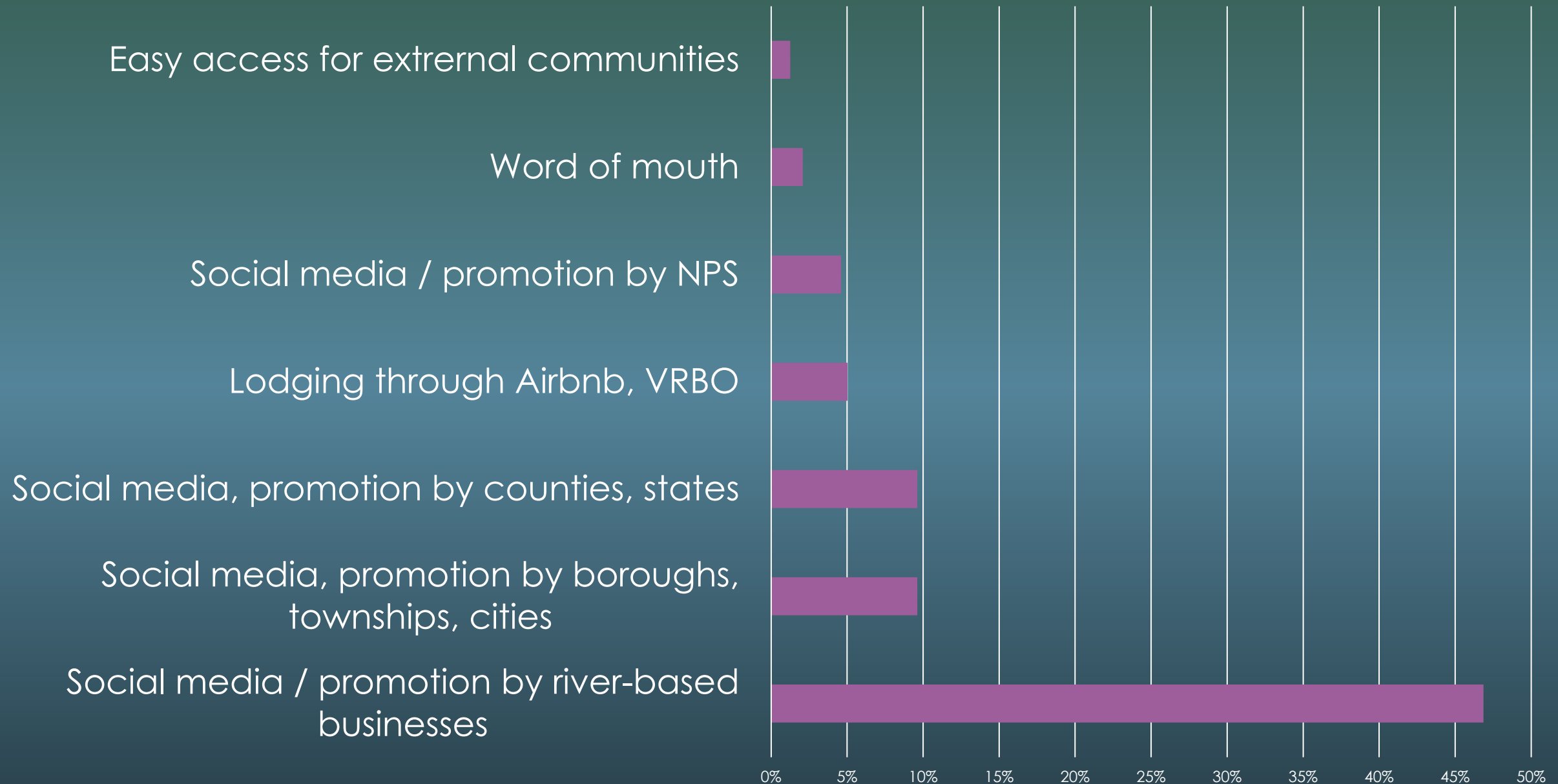


Contributors to Growth of Recreation





Other reasons for the river's popularity



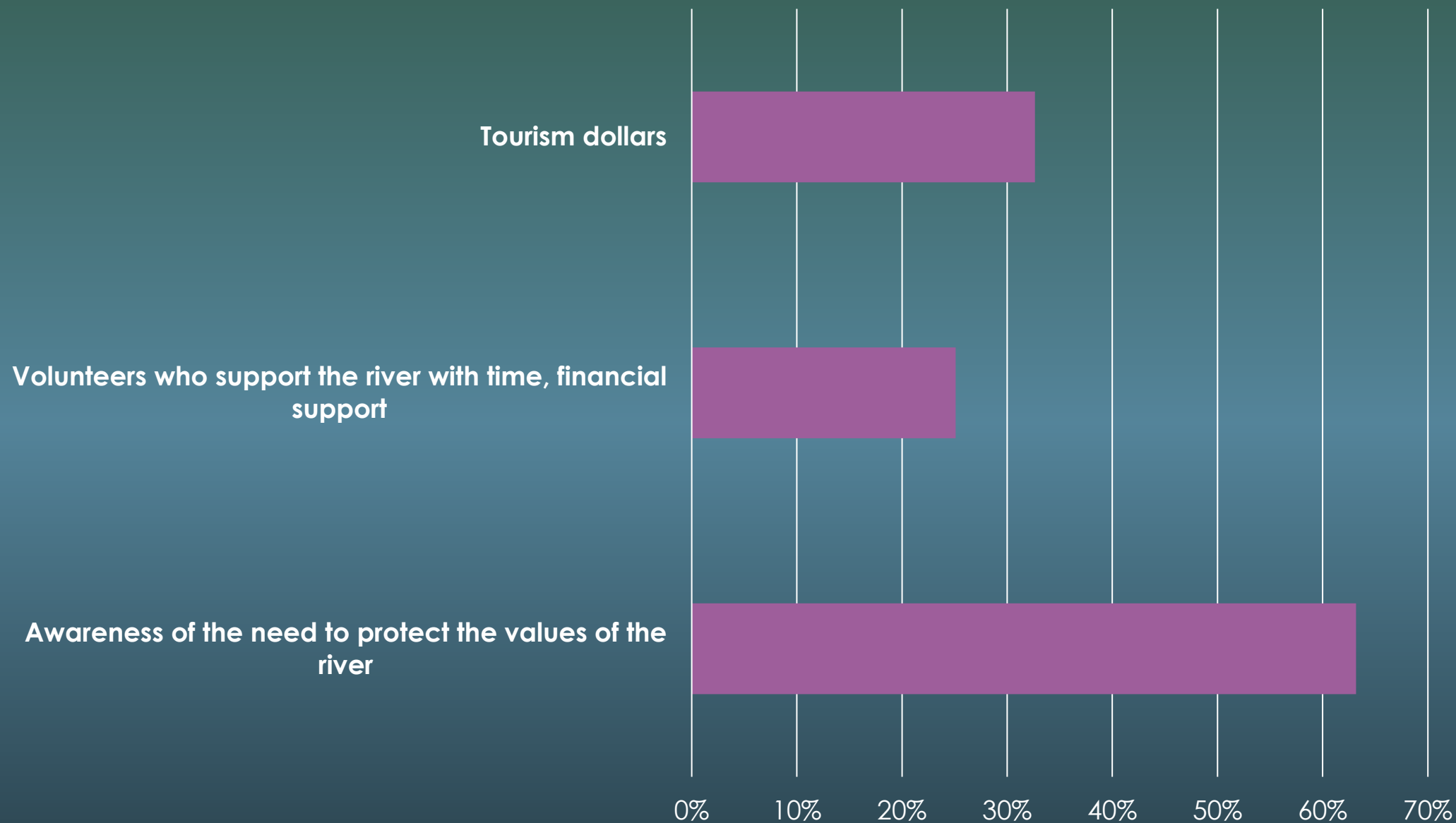


Other reasons for the river's popularity



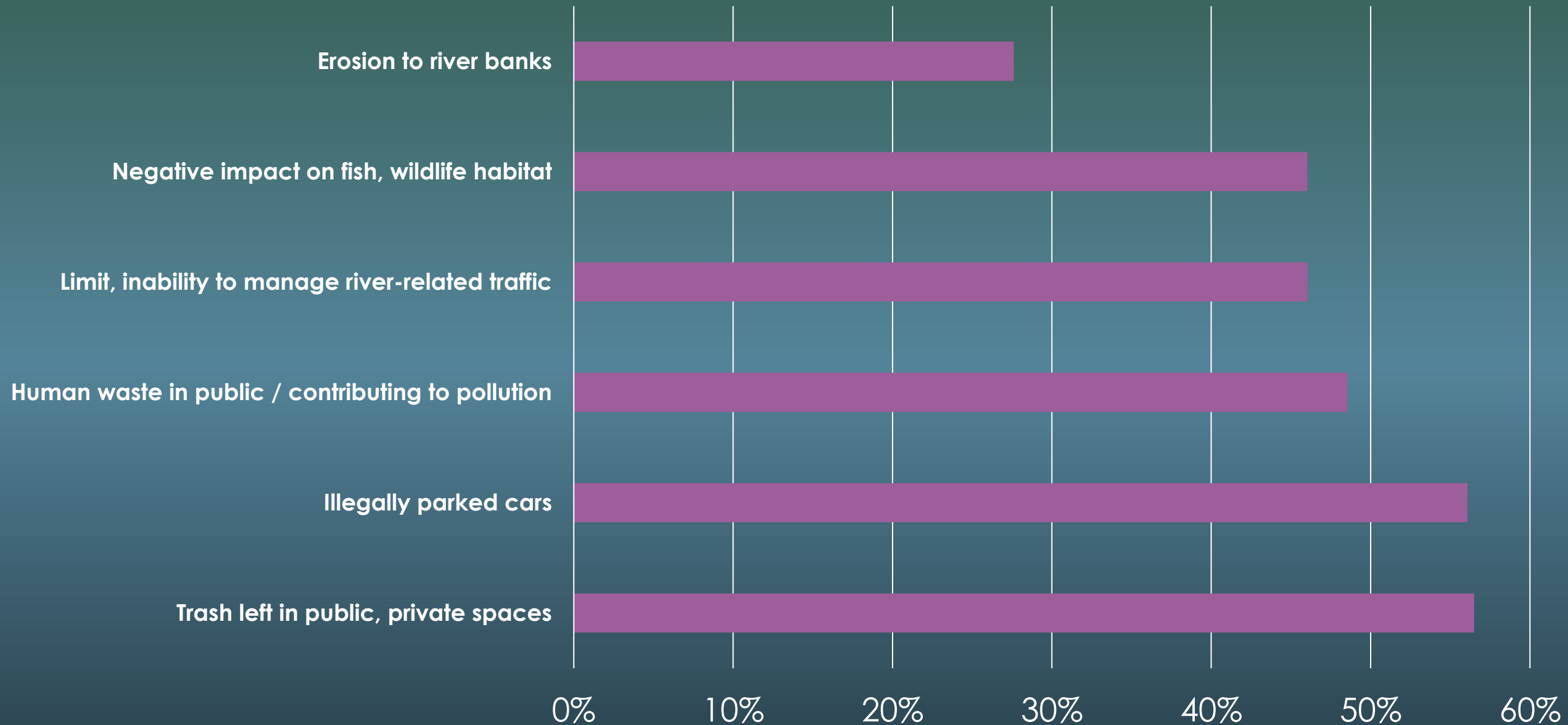


Positive Impacts of Popularity





Non-Positive Impacts of Popularity



TOP PLACES TO RIDE YOUR PWC IN PENNSYLVANIA

May 13, 2020 Blog



Challenge:
promote and
manage
access

Lower Delaware

National Wild and Scenic River
PA, NJ

[Plan Your Visit](#) [Learn About the Park](#) [Get Involved](#)

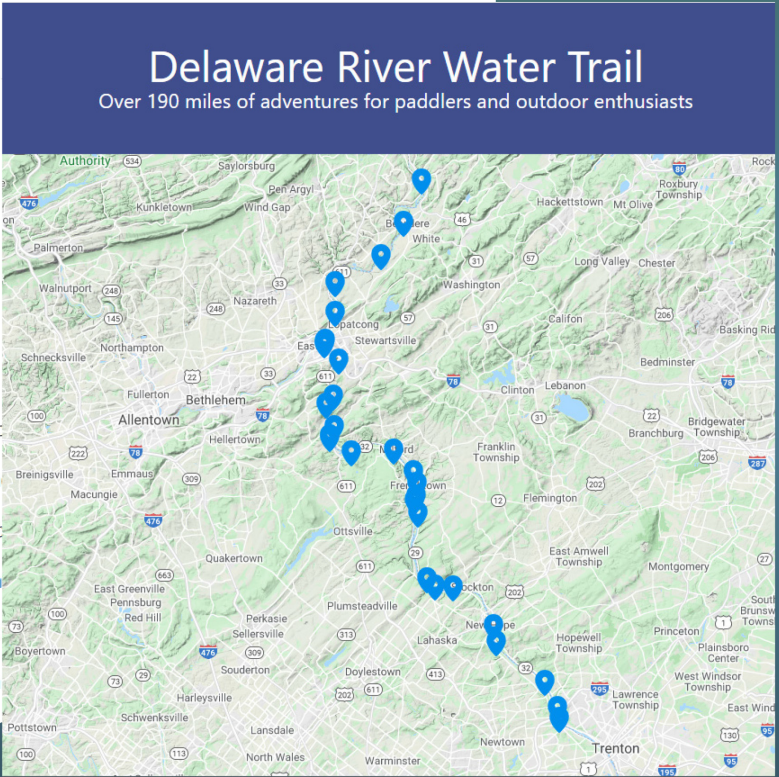
[INFO](#) [ALERTS](#) [MAPS](#) [CALENDAR](#)

[NPS.gov](#) / [Park Home](#) / [Plan Your Visit](#) / [Things To Do](#) / [Fishing & Boating](#)

Fishing & Boating

Boat Accesses

- River Mile 208:** Footbridge Access Area; Portland, PA, handlaunch, gravel ramp
- River Mile 198.5:** Belvidere, NJ Access Area; cartop, power, non-motorized launch
- River Mile 194.2:** Martins Creek, PA Access Area; beach launch for motorized and non-motorized
- River Mile 189.3:** Sandts Eddy, PA; paved ramp for motorized and non-motorized
- River Mile 186.5:** Frost Hollow, PA Access Area; sand/gravel ramp for cartop, handlaunch
- River Mile 183.9:** Phillipsburg Free Bridge Access; Phillipsburg, NJ (GPS 40.692 -75.2044), paved launch
- River Mile 183.7:** Scott Park; Easton, PA (GPS 40.6901 -75.2044), paved launch

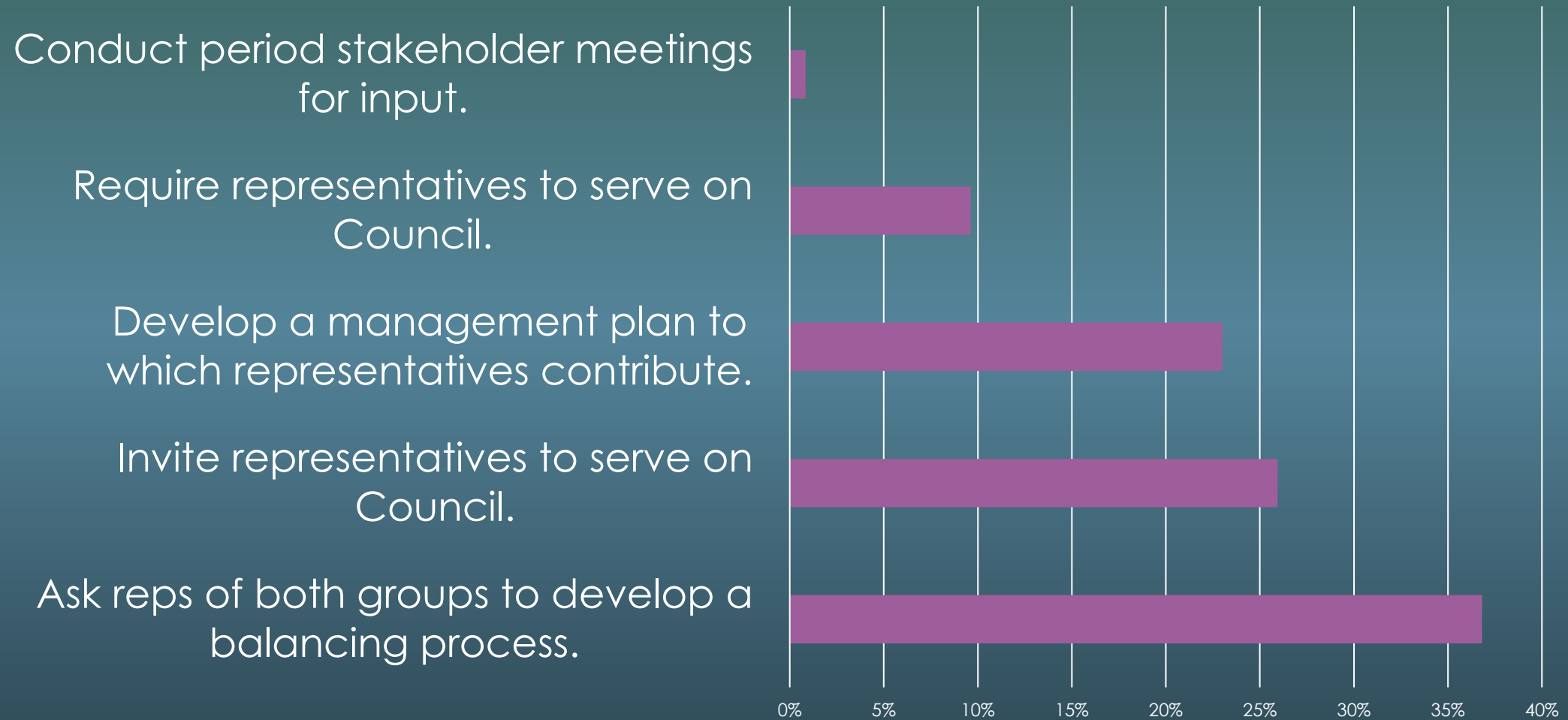


Seek public input on the development of 'desired conditions'





Suggested LDWSR MC composition to balance goals



Partnership Strategies

Leverage user group self-interest in management discussions:

- ▶ Jurisdictions
- ▶ Agencies managing launch access
- ▶ Boating law administrators
- ▶ Business owners
- ▶ Private landowner representatives
- ▶ Non-profit group leaders

Identify 'wins' when all have skin in the game.





Actions

- ▶ Invite conversations to advise the Council
- ▶ Invite resource agencies to invite volunteer assistance
- ▶ Inventory, coordinate outreach among extended LDWSR partners (phone tree)
- ▶ Galvanize, share leadership with reach-wide initiatives
- ▶ Reach out to non-participant jurisdictions
- ▶ Develop a management plan to address capacity
- ▶ Survey tool to 'count' users will help develop baseline



Thank you.

