

National RxB Survey

2018 NATIONAL

PRESCRIBED FIRE USE SURVEY REPORT



Technical Report
Prepared by the Coalition of Prescribed Fire

Kolden Paper



Article

We're Not Doing Enough Prescribed Fire in the Western United States to Mitigate Wildfire Risk

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Abstract: Prescribed fire is one of the most widely advocated management practices for reducing wildfire hazard and has a long and rich tradition rooted in indigenous and local ecological knowledge. The scientific literature has repeatedly reported that prescribed fire is often the most effective of achieving such goals by reducing fuels and wildfire hazard and restoring ecological function to fire-adapted ecosystems in the United States (US) following a century of fire exclusion. This has translated into calls from scientists and policy experts for more prescribed fire, particularly in the Western US, where fire activity has escalated in recent decades. The annual extent of prescribed burning in the Western US remained stable or decreased from 1998 to 2018, while 70% of all prescribed fire was completed primarily by non-federal entities in the Southeastern US. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was the only federal agency to substantially increase prescribed fire use, potentially associated with increased tribal self-governance. This suggests that the best available science is not being adopted into management practices, thereby further compounding the fire deficit in the Western US and the potential for more wildfire disasters.

Keywords: indigenous burning; traditional ecological knowledge; wildland fire; controlled burning; prescribed burning; Cerro Grande

NE RSC RxB Survey

RX Survey

Q1 What Agency/Organization do you represent?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	NJ Forest Fire Service	12/13/2018 5:06 PM
2	Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Forestry - Fire Program	12/13/2018 1:33 PM
3	Indiana	12/12/2018 1:16 PM
4	New York State Forest Rangers	12/11/2018 12:14 PM
5	PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry	12/11/2018 11:37 AM
6	The Nature Conservancy	12/10/2018 1:02 PM
7	Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC	12/10/2018 12:36 PM
8	Nantucket Islands Land Bank	12/10/2018 11:10 AM
9	Sandwich Fire Department	12/10/2018 6:29 AM
10	Mashpee Fire	12/10/2018 6:25 AM
11	UMass Amherst	12/8/2018 8:22 PM
12	self	12/7/2018 5:28 PM
13	Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC	12/7/2018 2:56 PM
14	CT DEEP Forestry	12/7/2018 11:02 AM
15	RI DEM Division of Forest Environment	12/7/2018 10:03 AM
16	Joint Base Cape Cod Fire Department , Camp Edwards.	12/7/2018 6:04 AM
17	Town of Gosnold	12/6/2018 8:45 PM
18	Northeast Forest and Fire Management, LLC	12/6/2018 2:24 PM

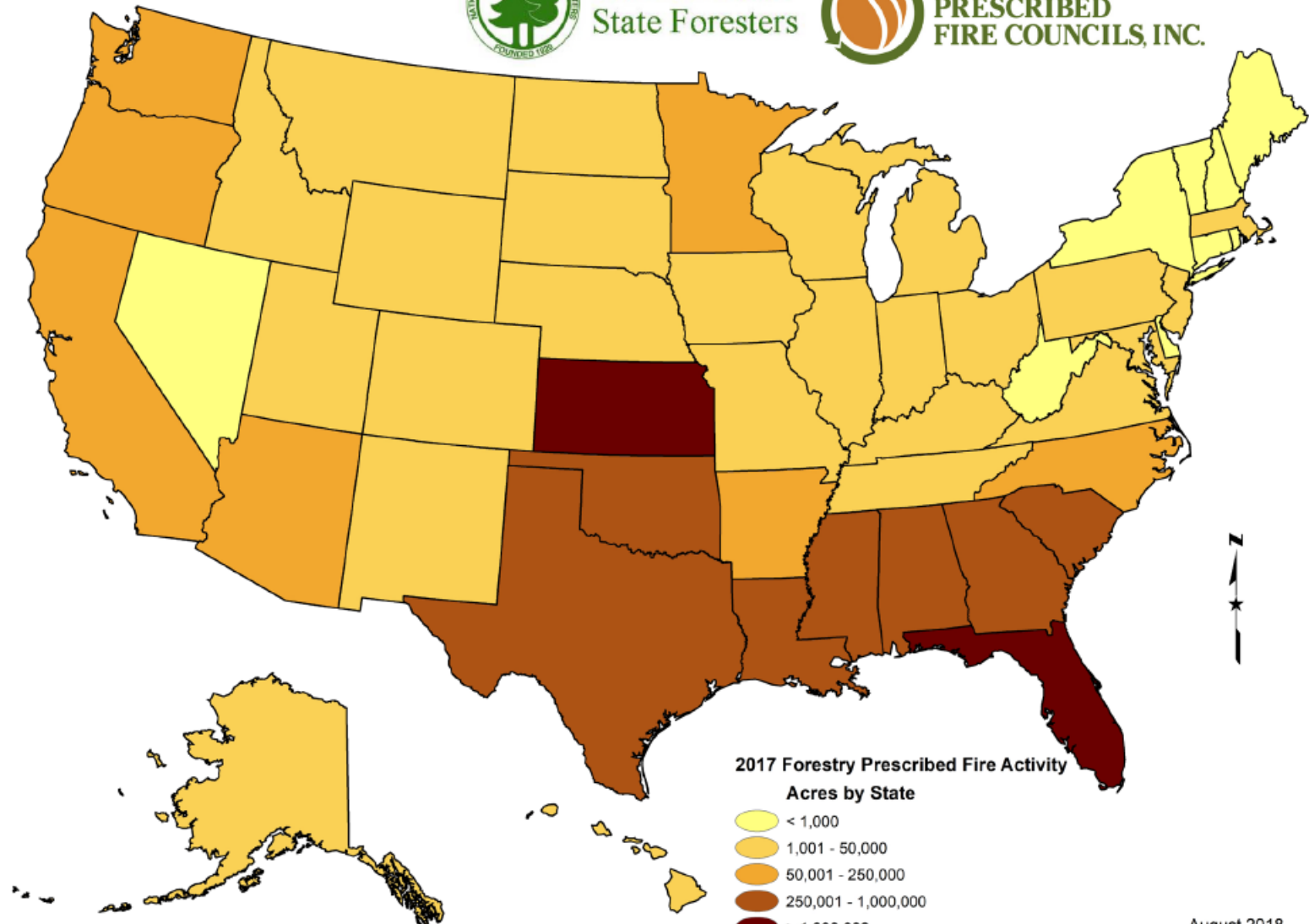
The Situation



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State Foresters



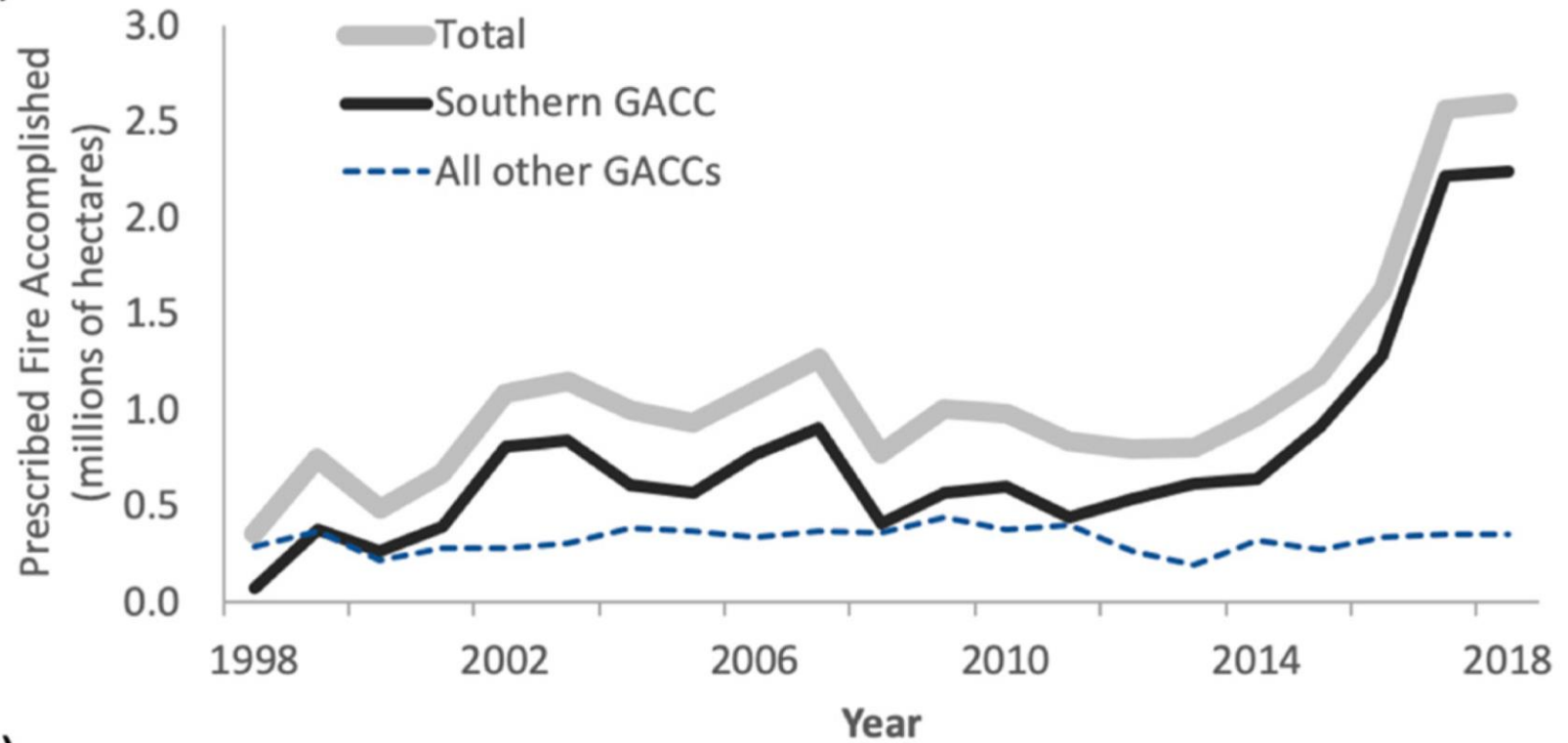
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August 2018

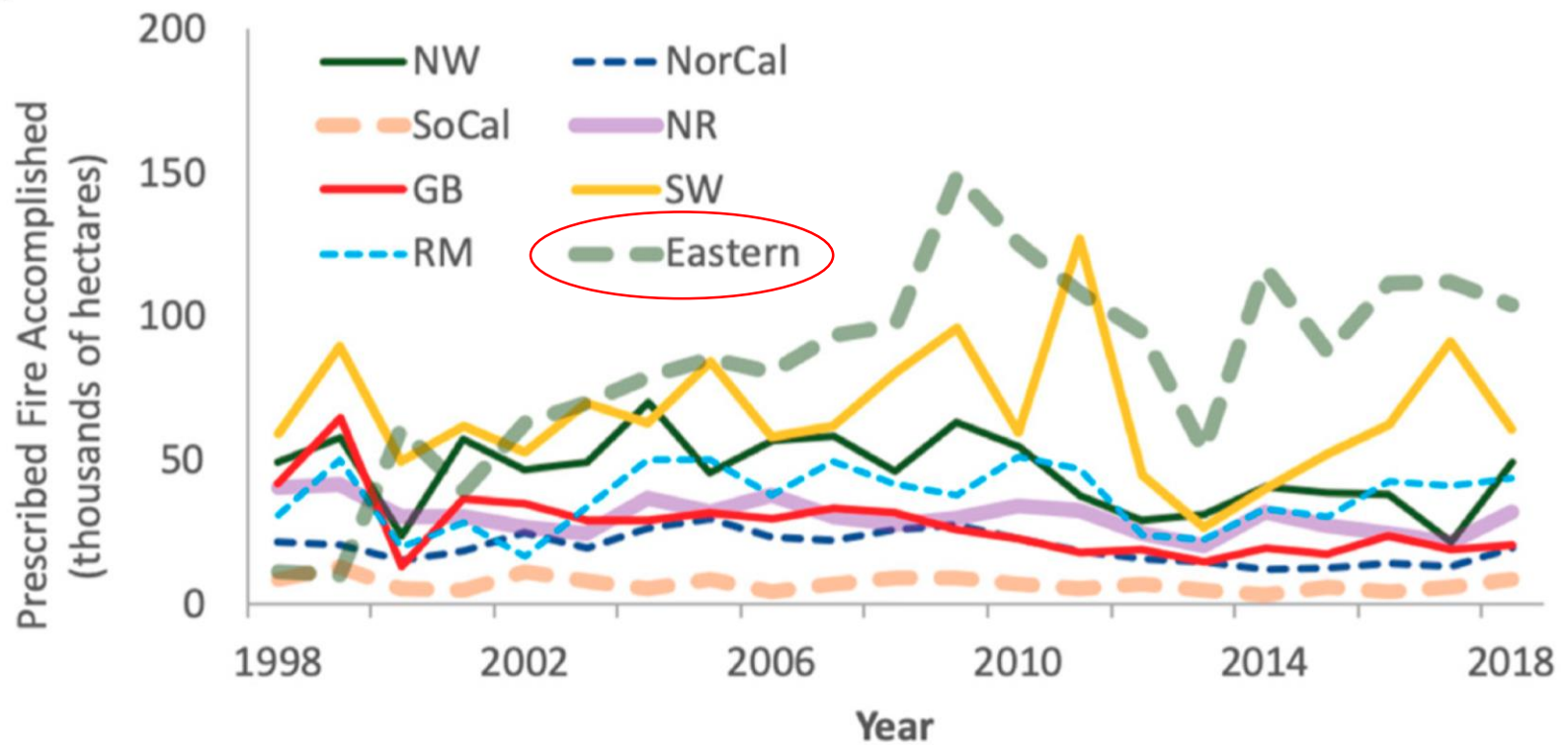
The Situation

a)

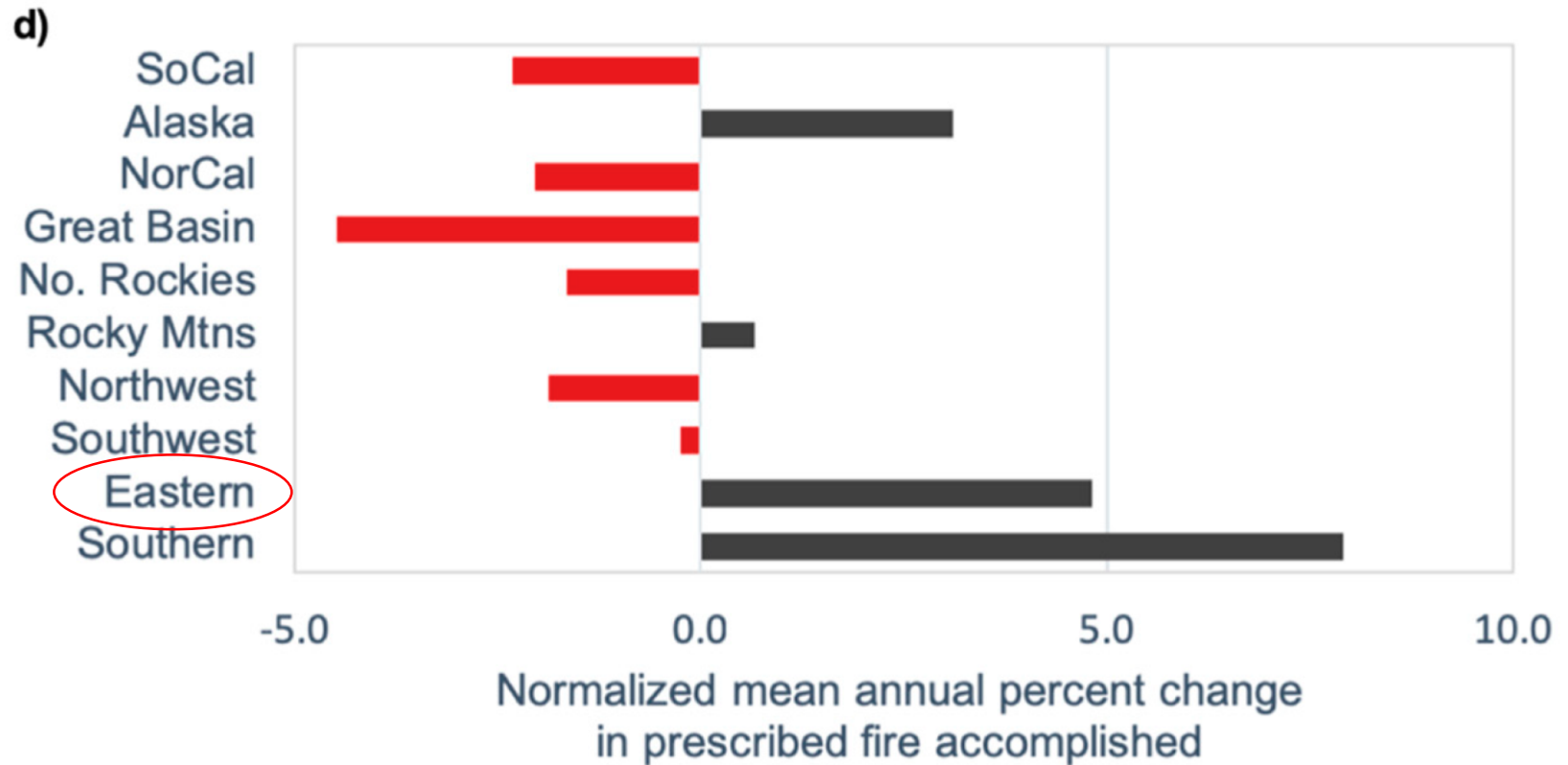


The Situation

b)



The Situation



*Note how much more the SE burns

Kolden, 2019

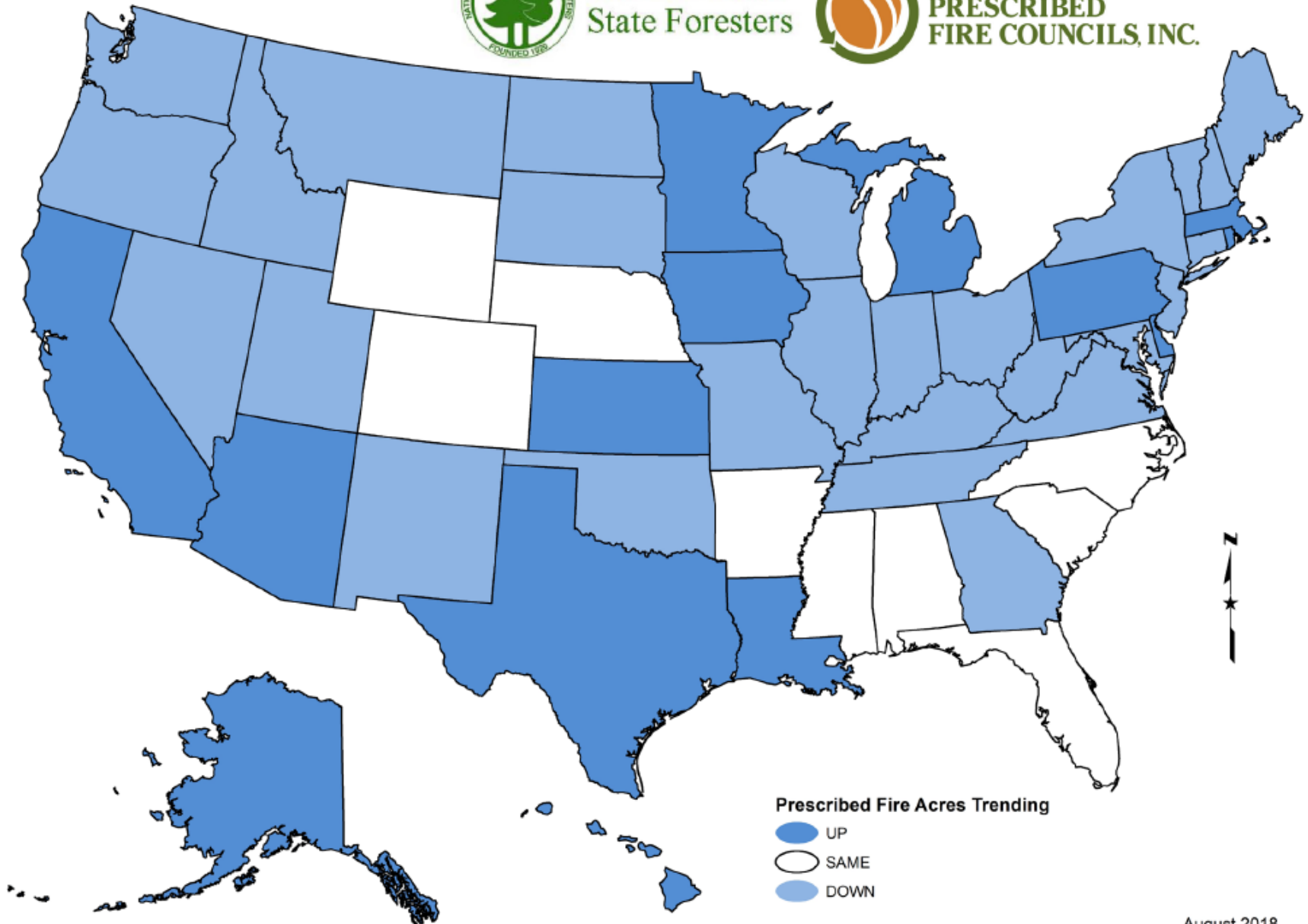
The Situation



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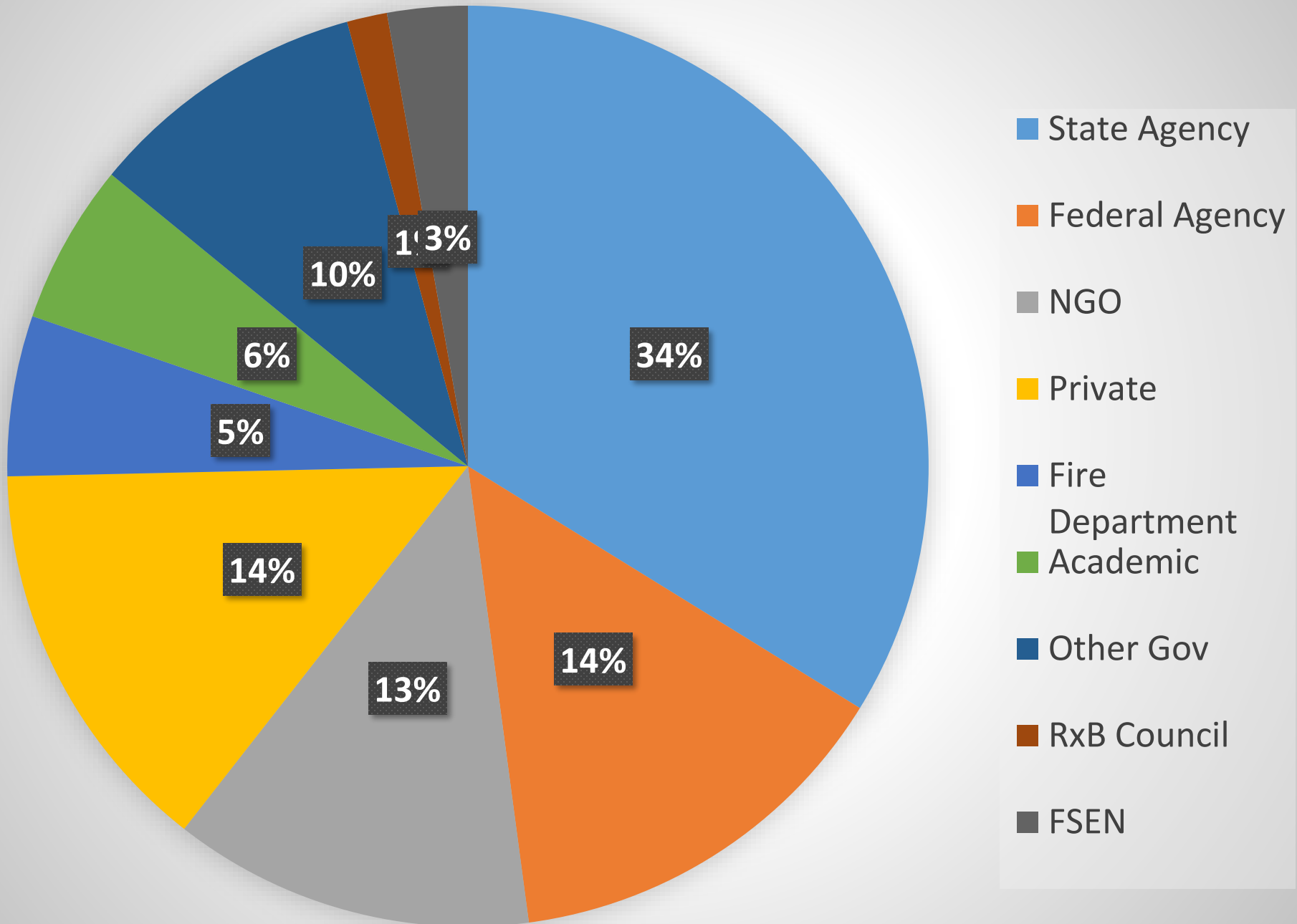


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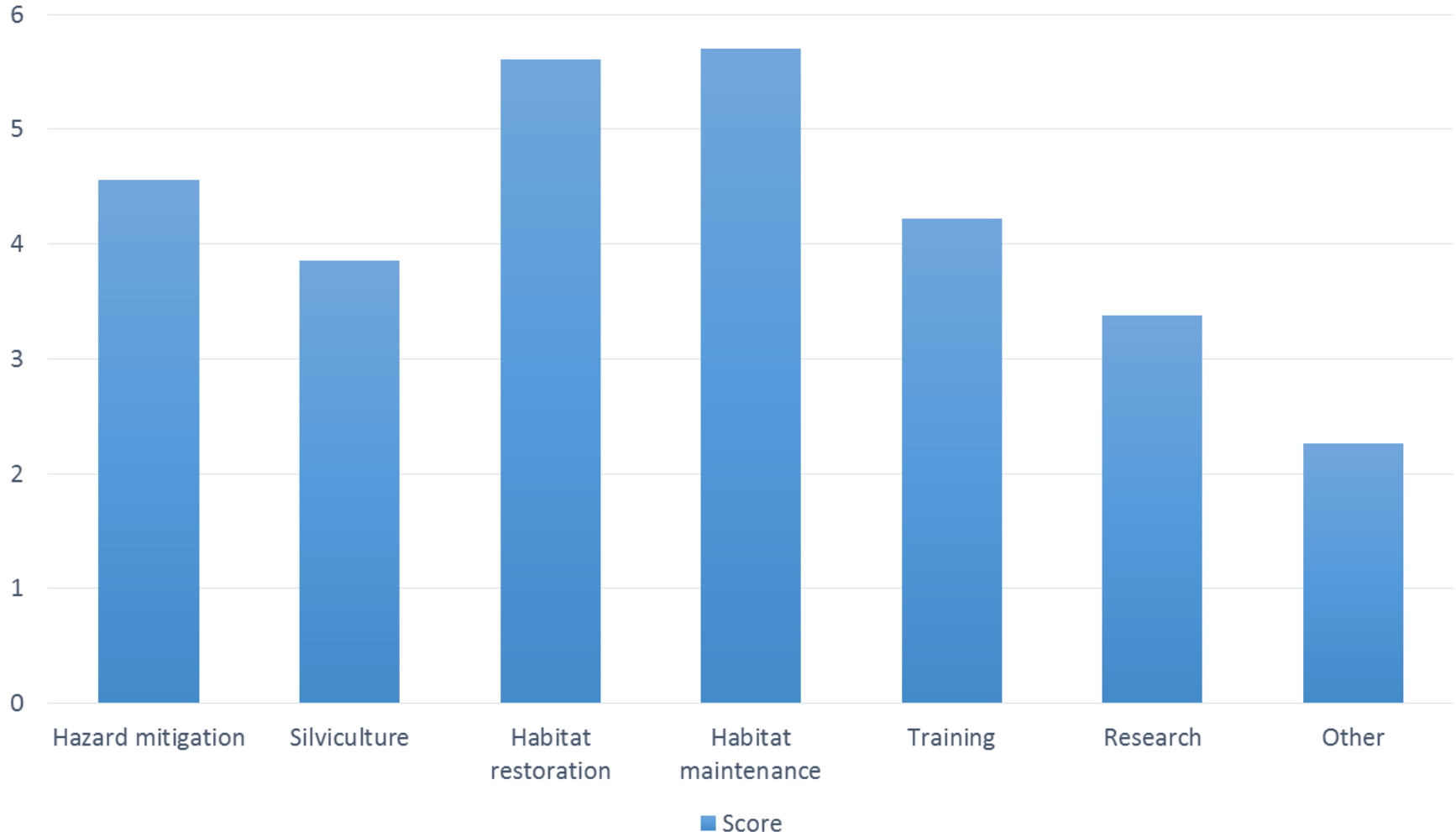
August 2018

Respondents by category (n=71)



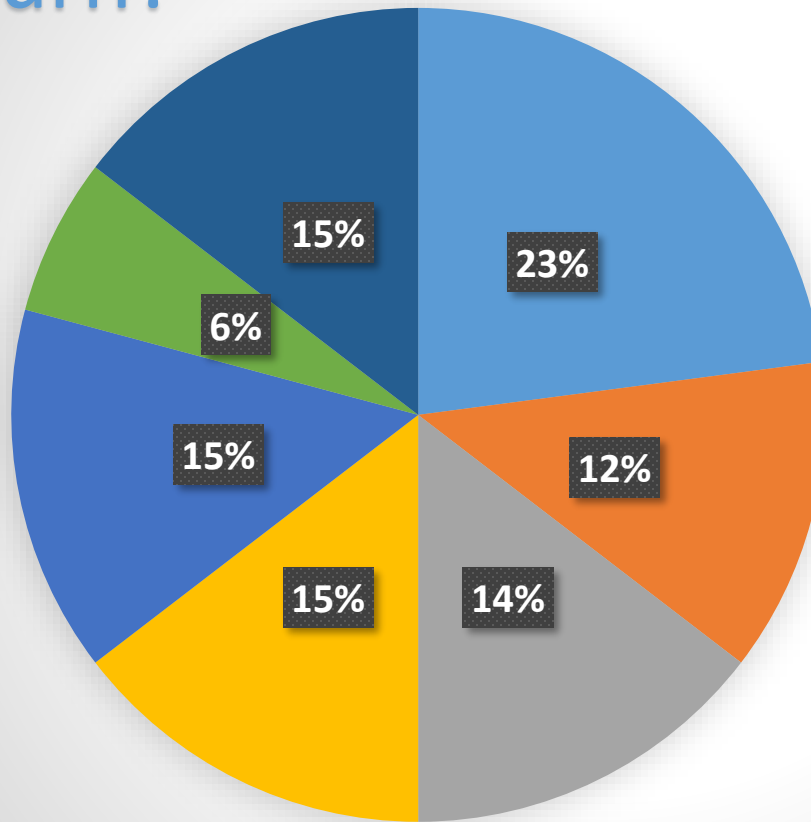
Why Burn?

Why do you burn? (1 = highest priority 7 = lowest)



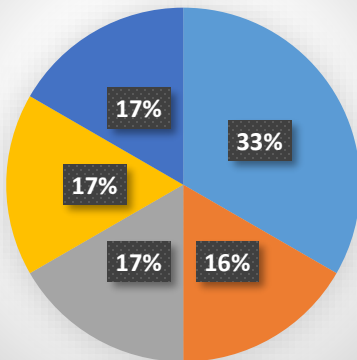
Why Burn?

First priority of burning for all groups

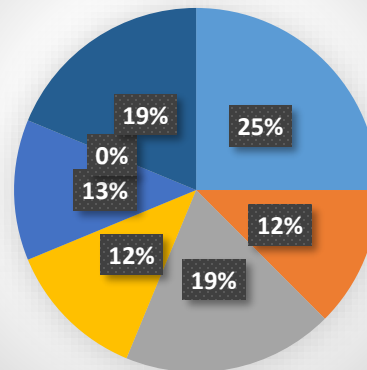


- Hazard mitigation
- Silviculture
- Restoration
- Maintenance
- Training
- Other
- Research

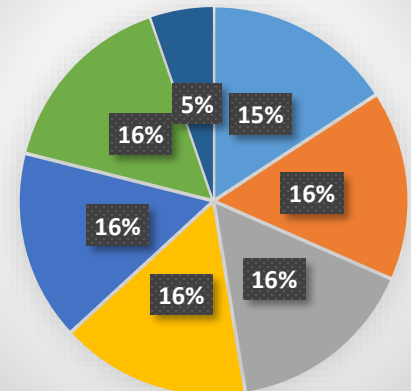
State Agencies



Federal Agencies

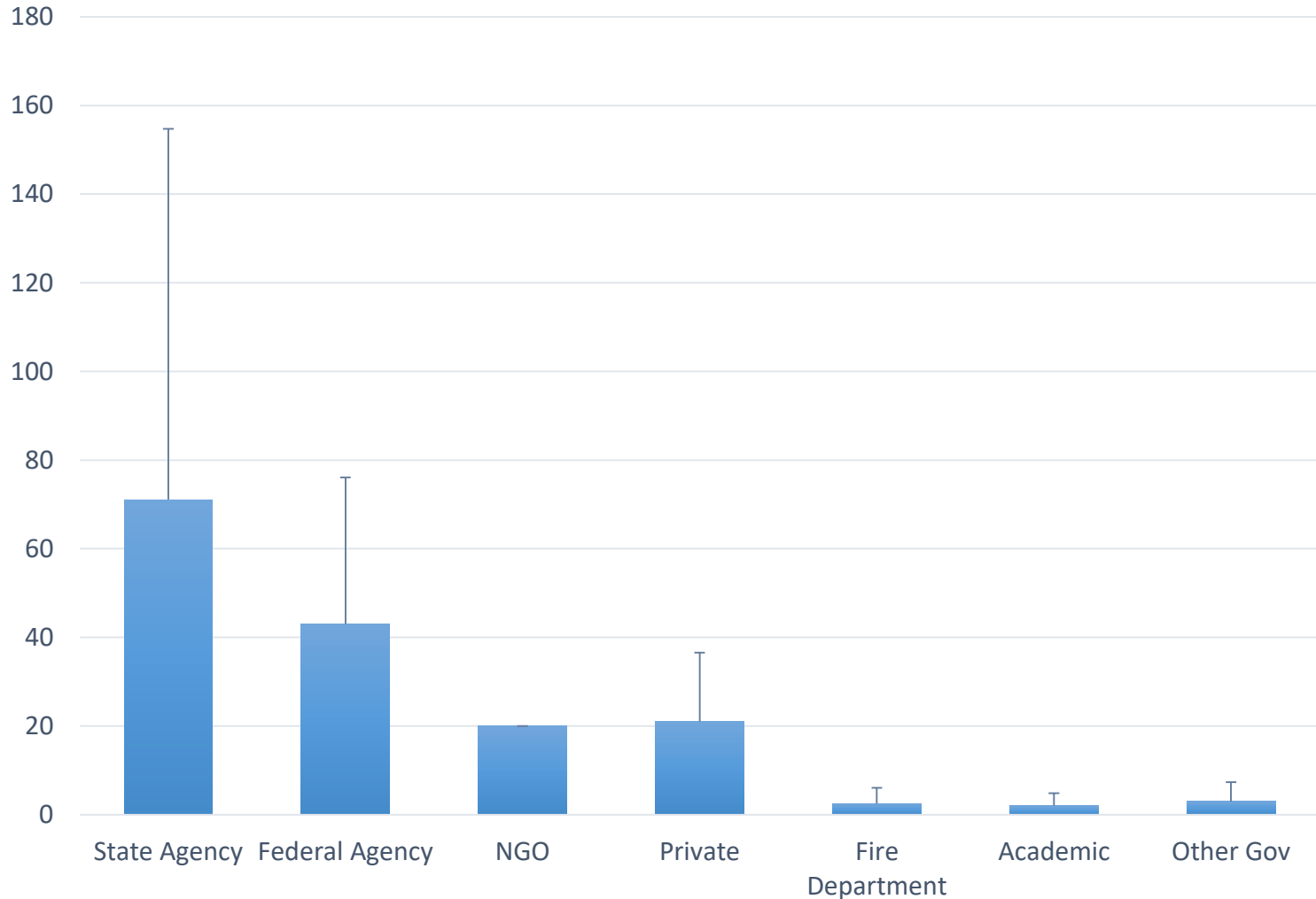


Private groups



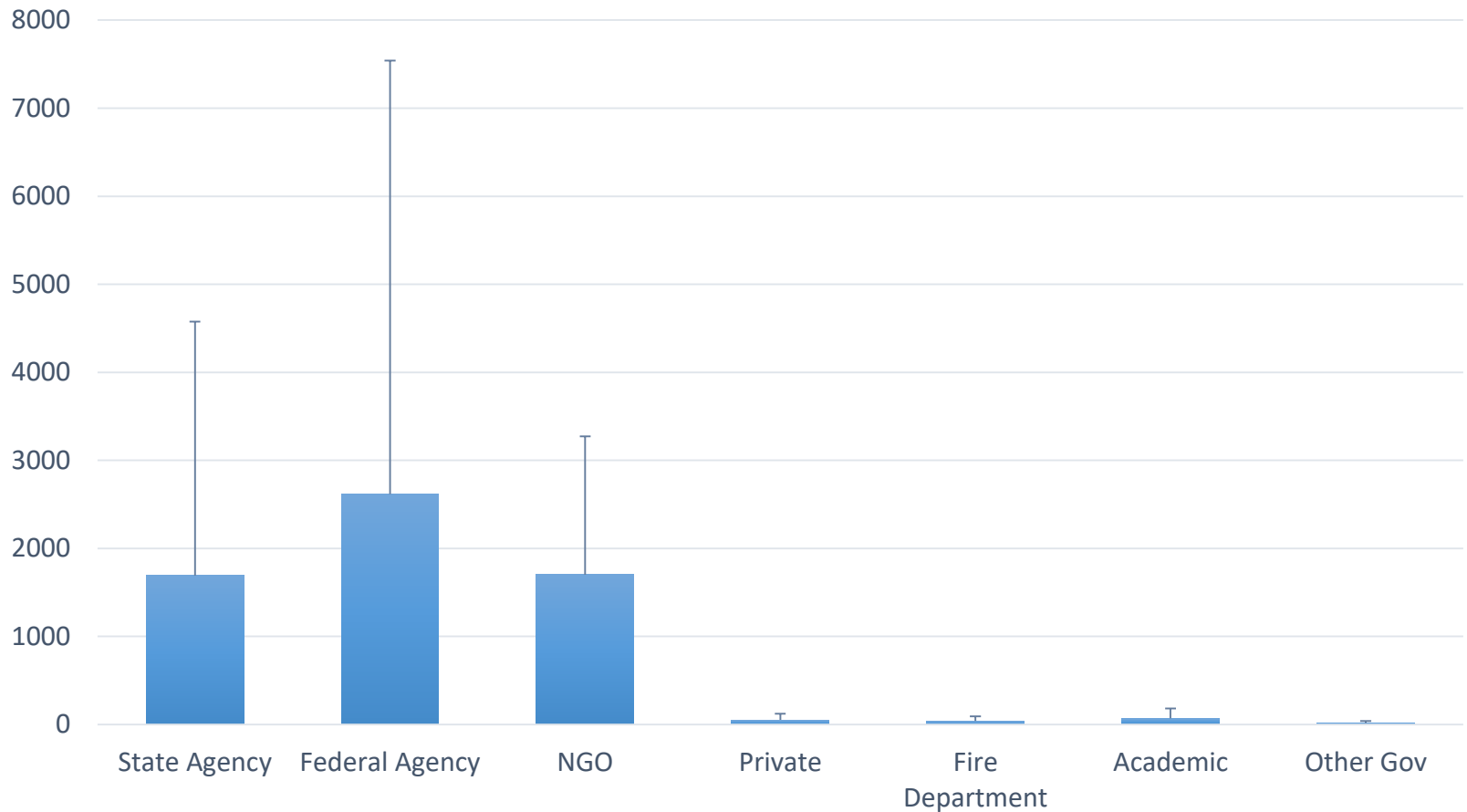
About those burns... how many?

Annual burns averaged by type



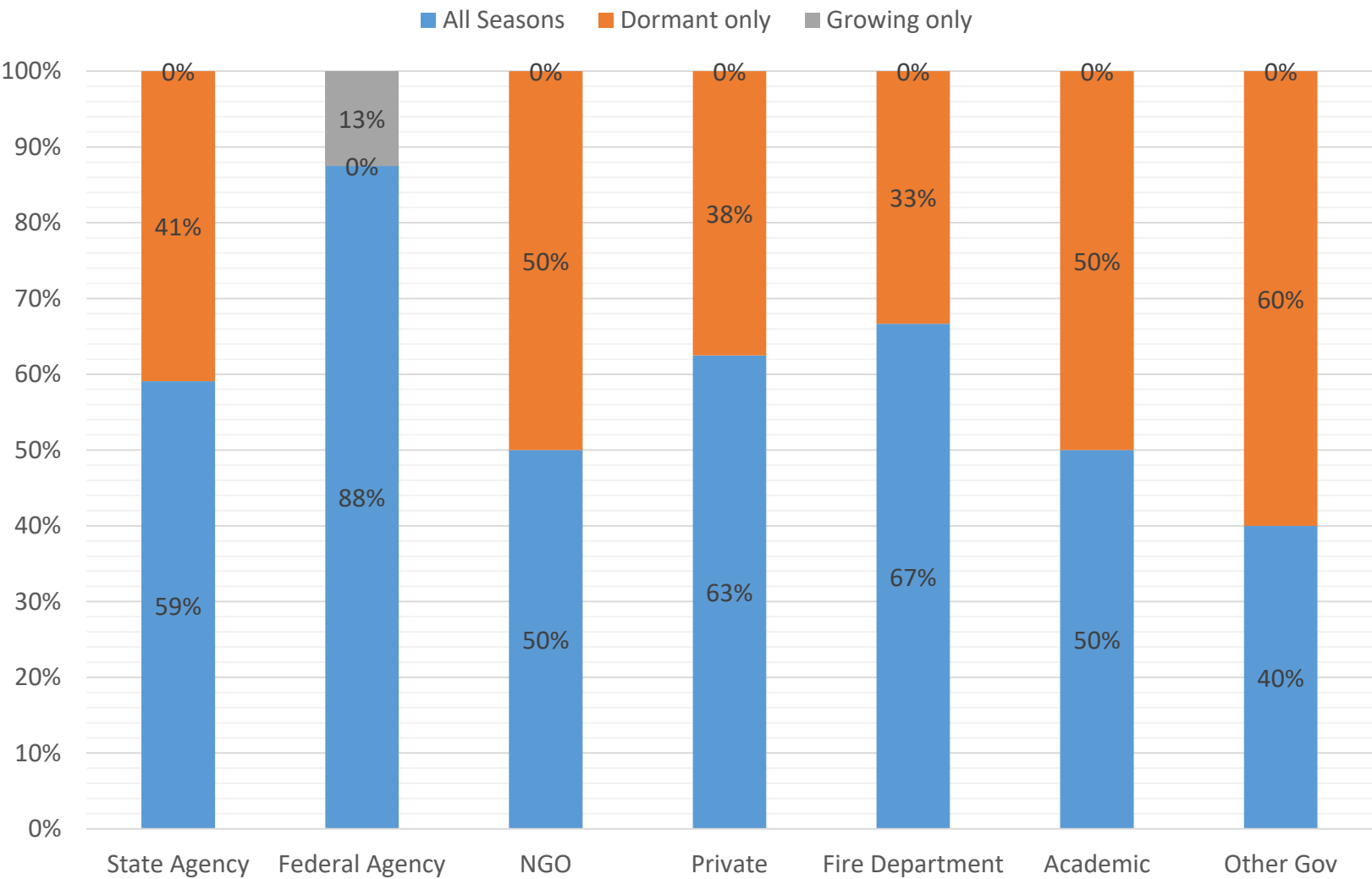
About those burns... how many acres?

Annual Acres by type



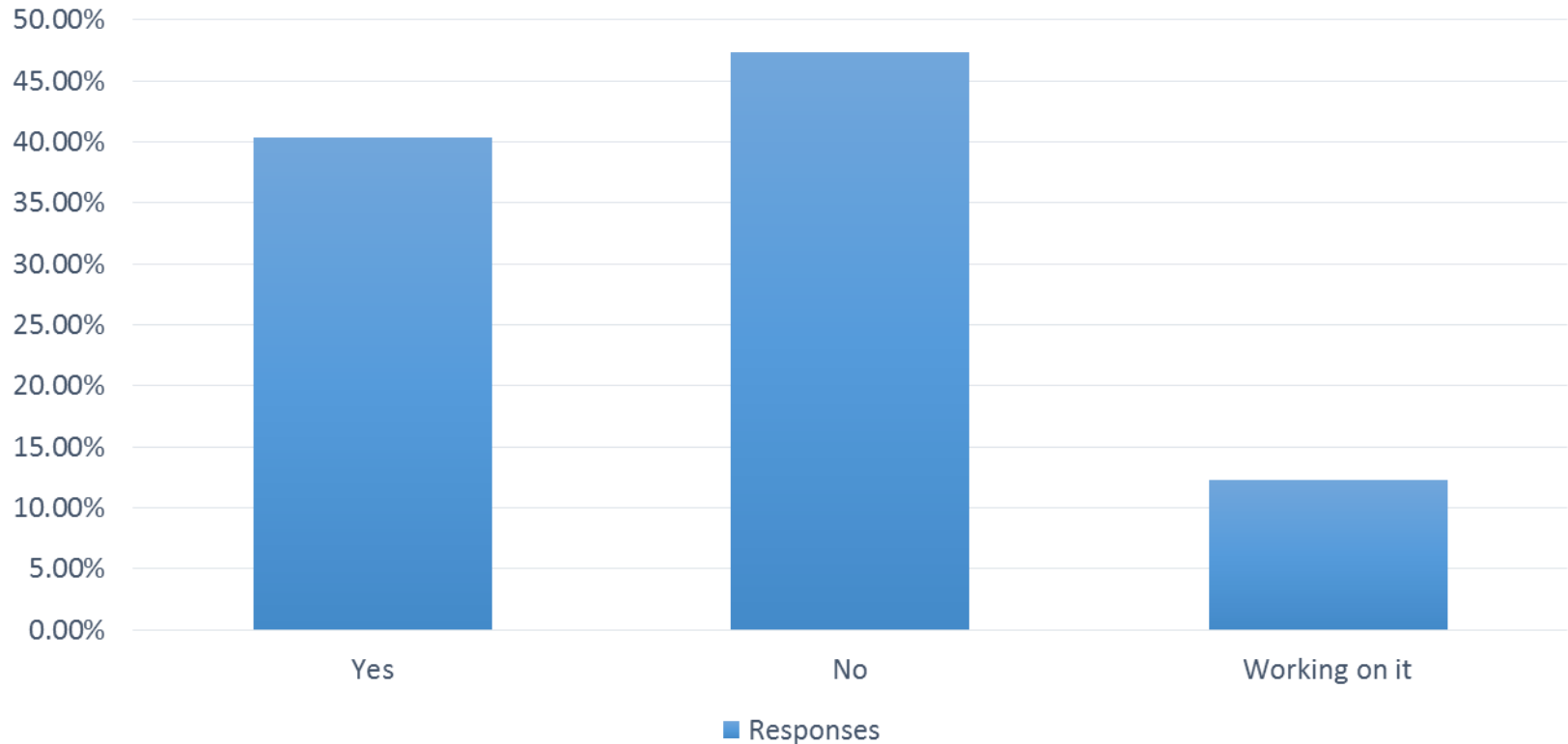
About those burns... when?

Seasonality of burning by respondent type



How - Legislation

Do you have specific prescribed fire legislation?



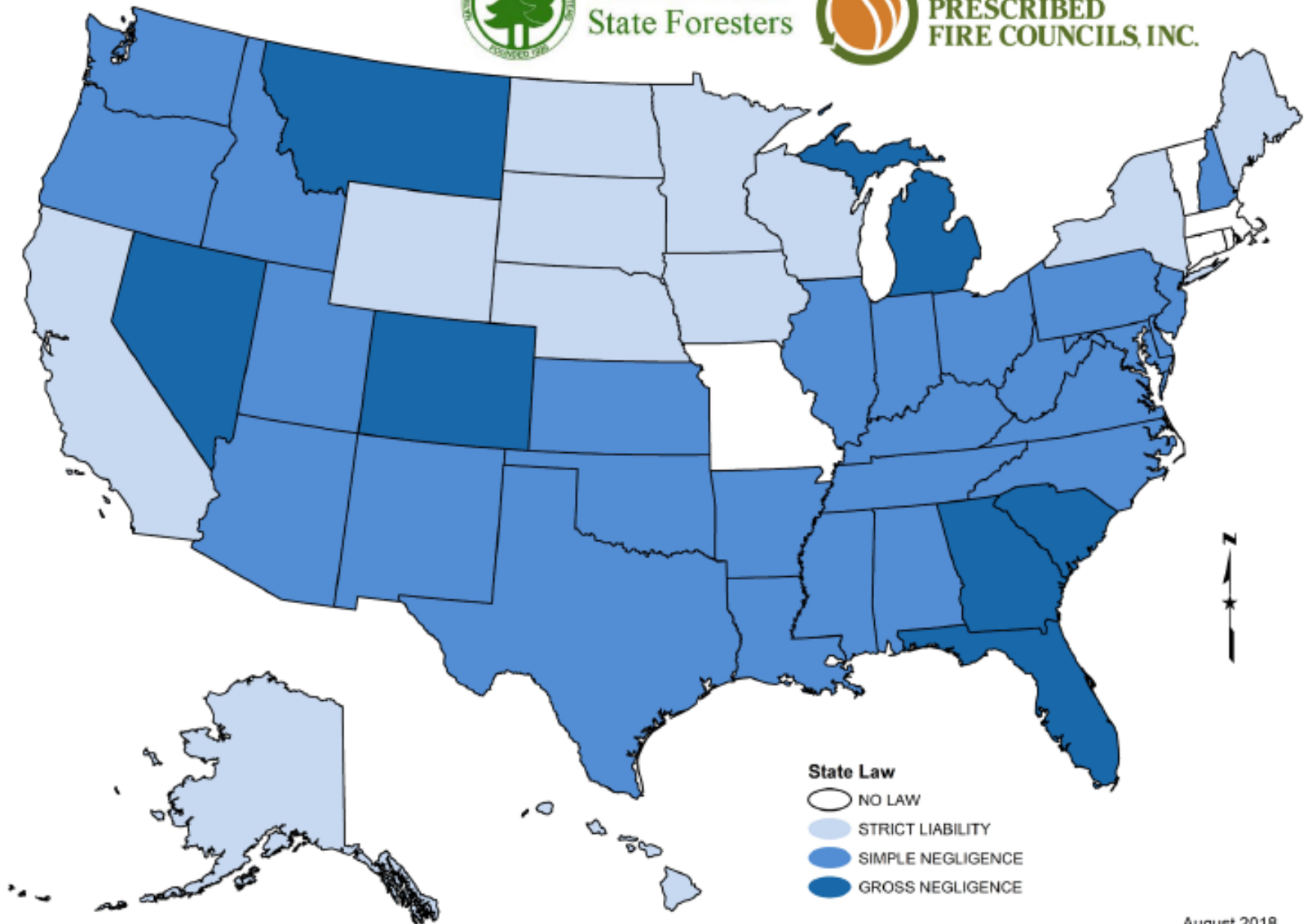
How - Legislation



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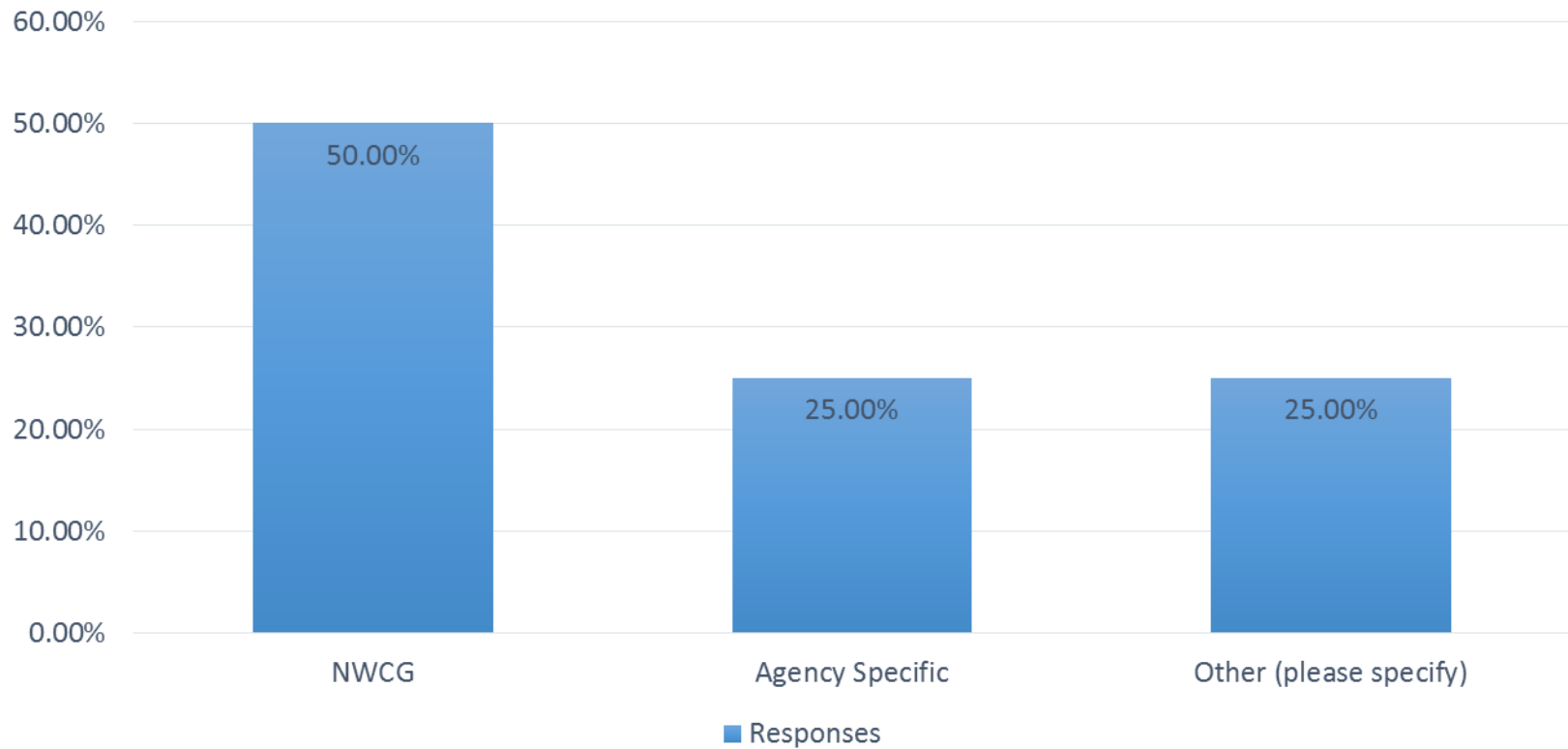


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How - Resources

NE Burn Boss Qualification systems



NWCG Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 1	6
NWCG Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2	101
NWCG Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 3	33
Other burn boss designation	342

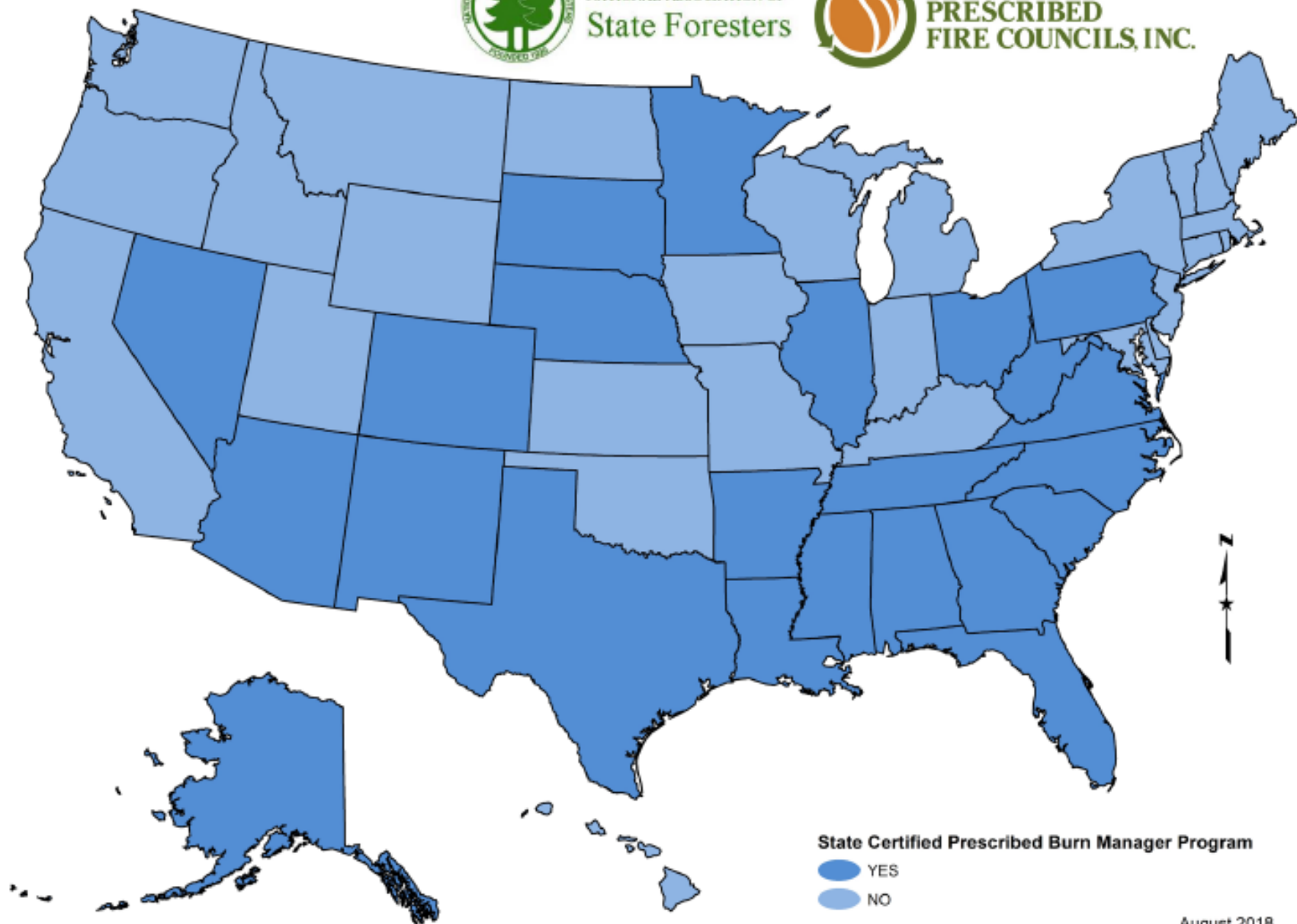
How - Resources



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State Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Program

YES

NO

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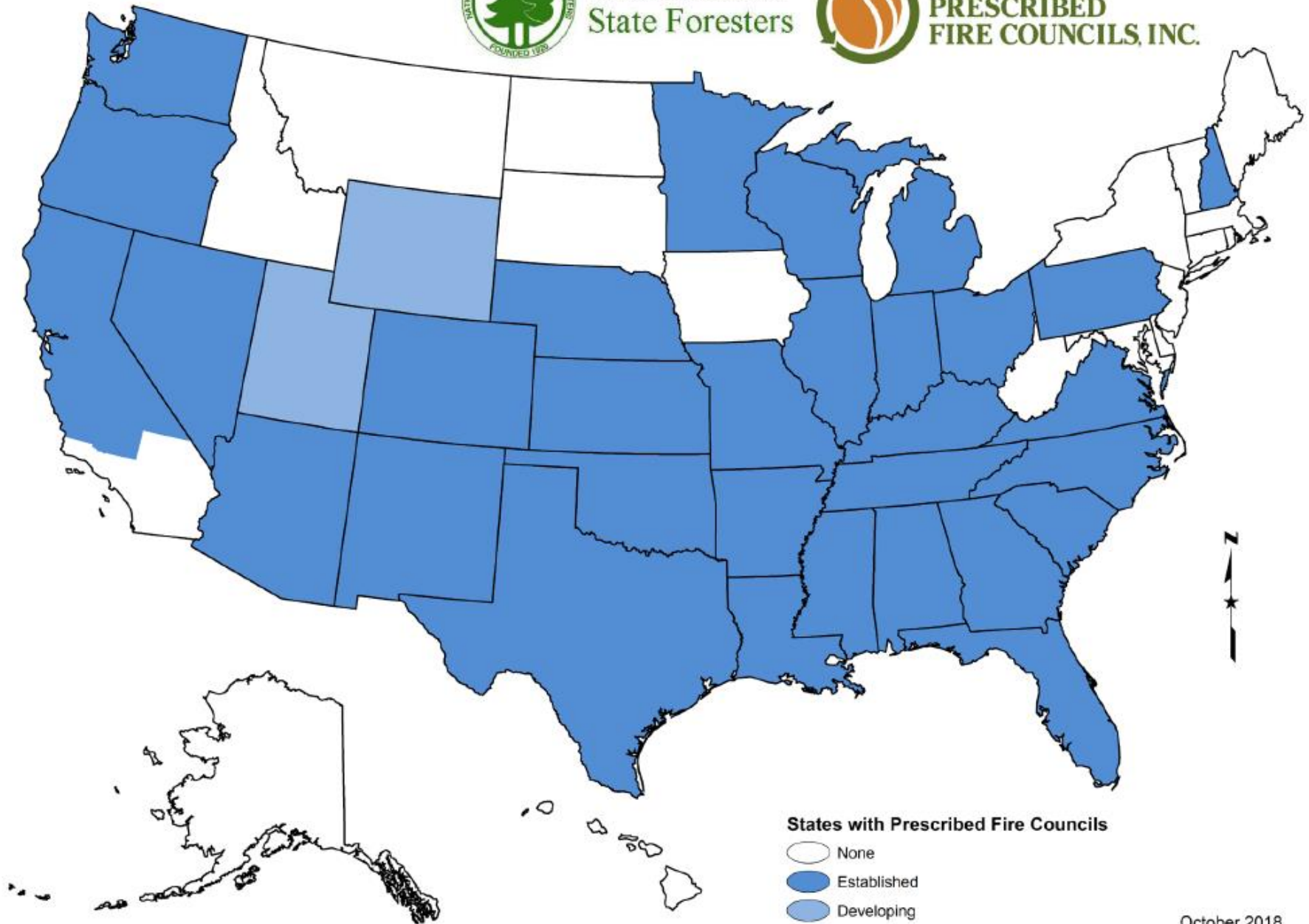
RxB - Councils



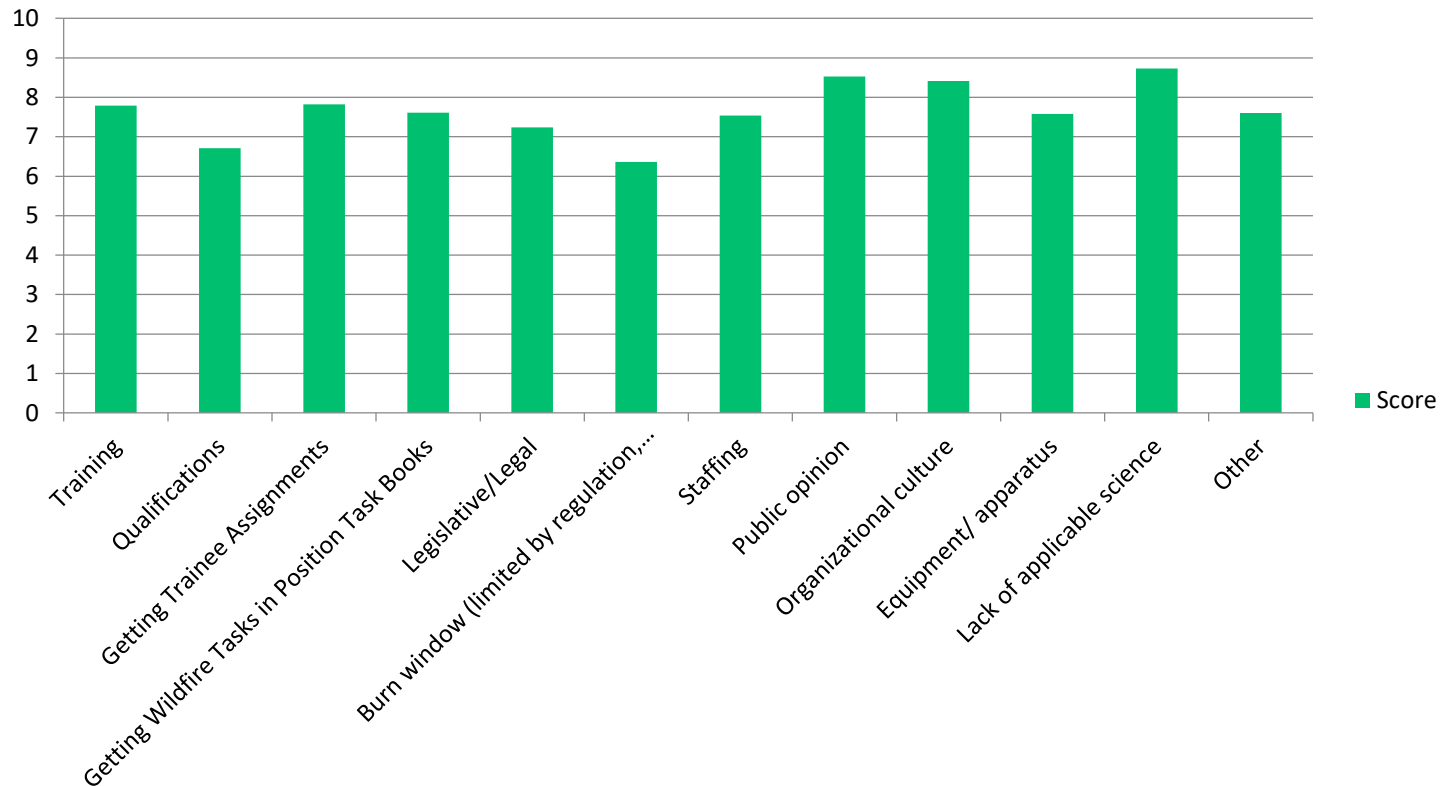
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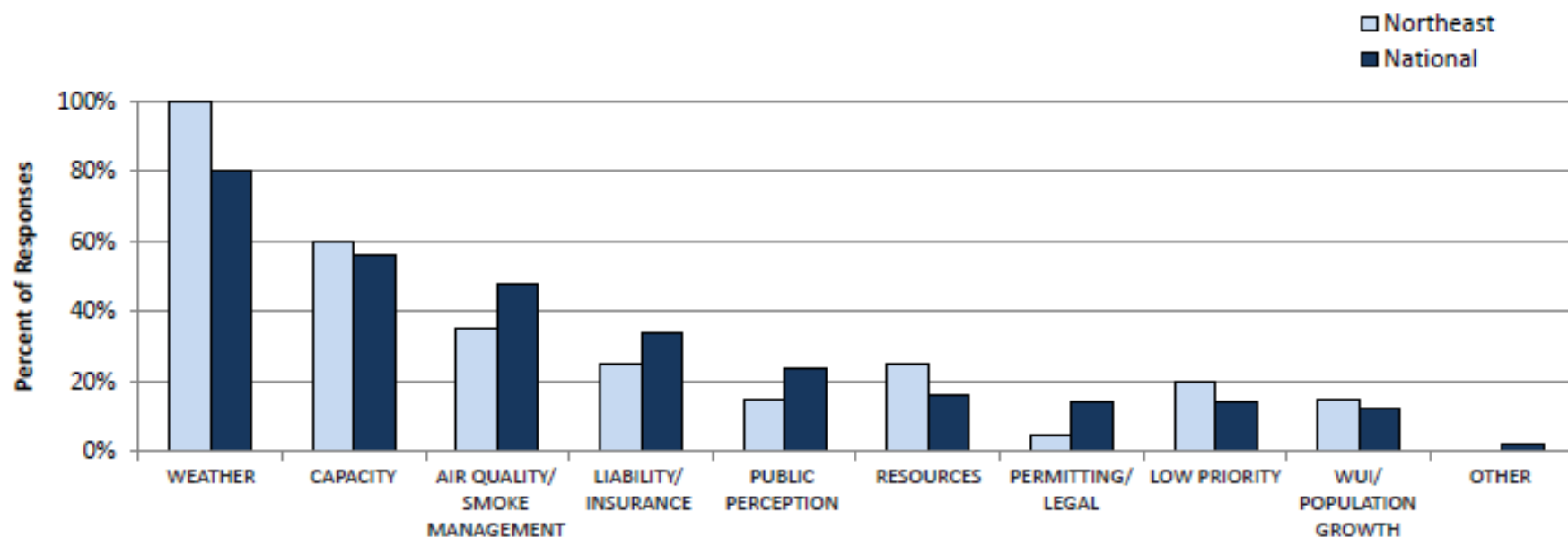


On a scale from 1 (smallest obstacle) to 7 (largest obstacle), rate how each of these factors impacts your program's ability to conduct a successful prescribed fire program.



Limits

Top 3 Impediments Limiting Prescribed Fire Use Northeast Ranking



Limits – Barriers for resource sharing

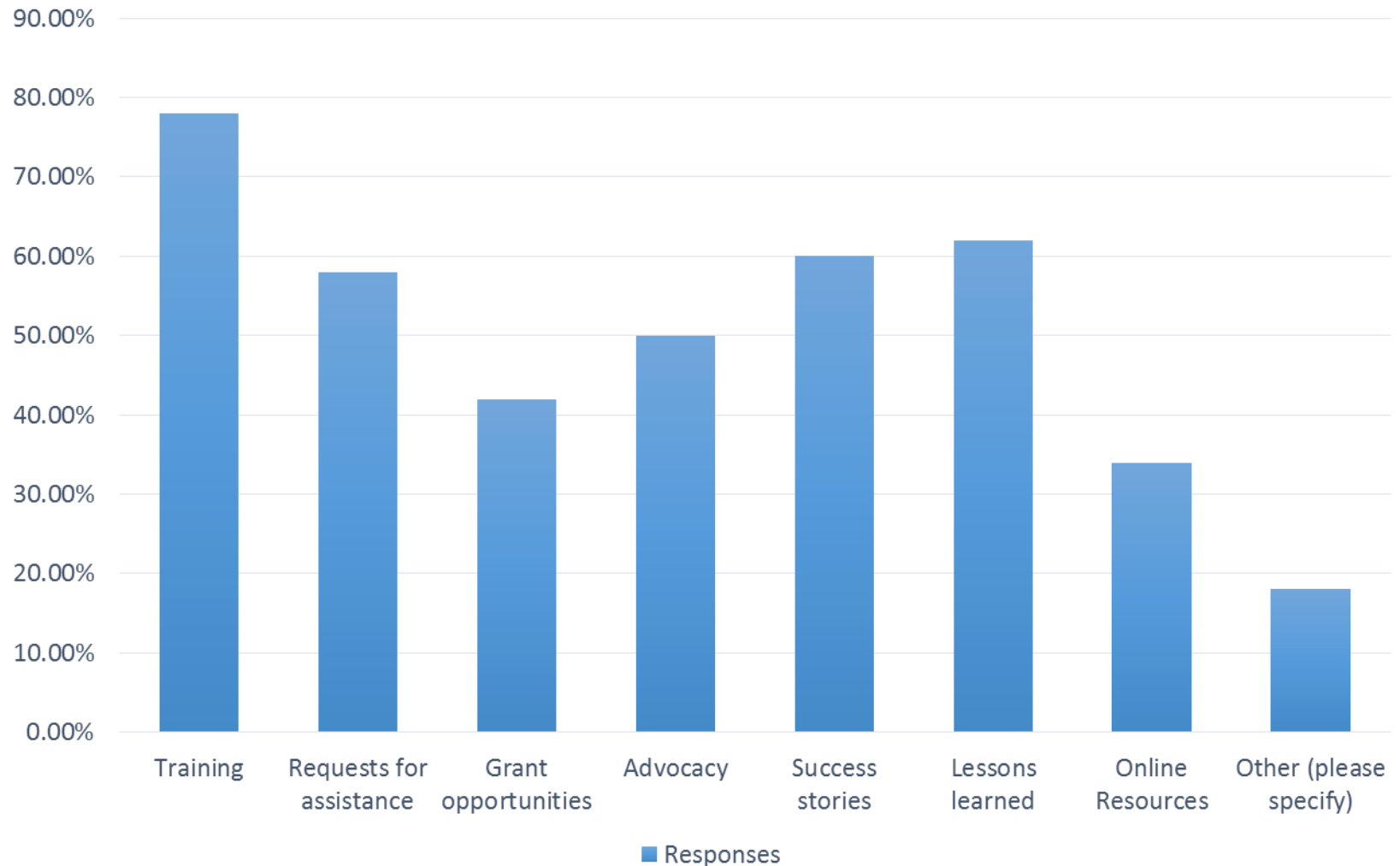


Limits – Solutions for resource sharing



Limits – Solutions for resource sharing

How can prescribed burning be best facilitated by sharing information between partners?



Recommendations

- RxB Councils
 - State-specific council establishment
 - Regional RxB Council?
- Burning Windows
 - Push all-season burning, where appropriate
 - Marginal burning days

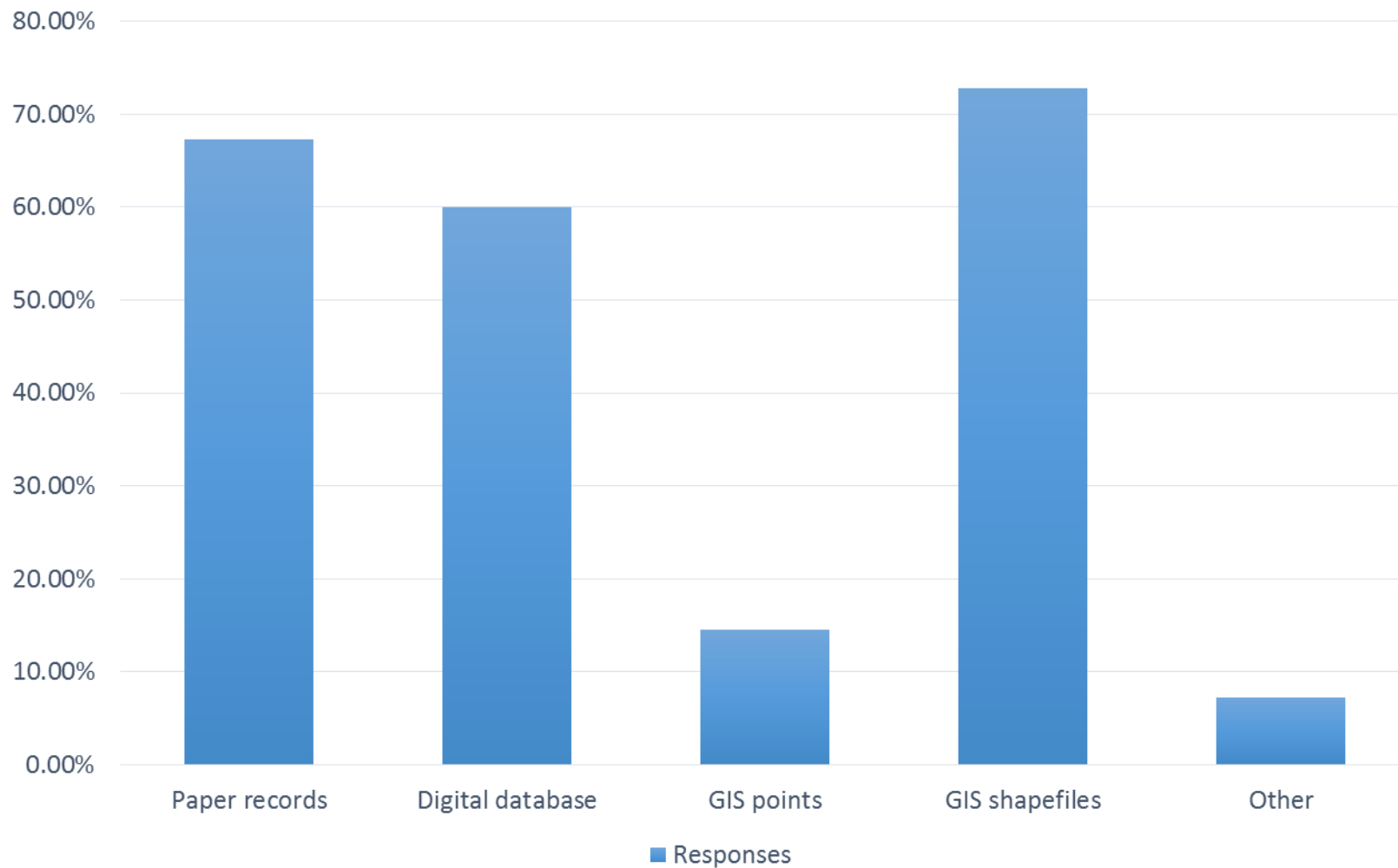
Actions

- Regional RxB meeting/ workshop

Additional Information

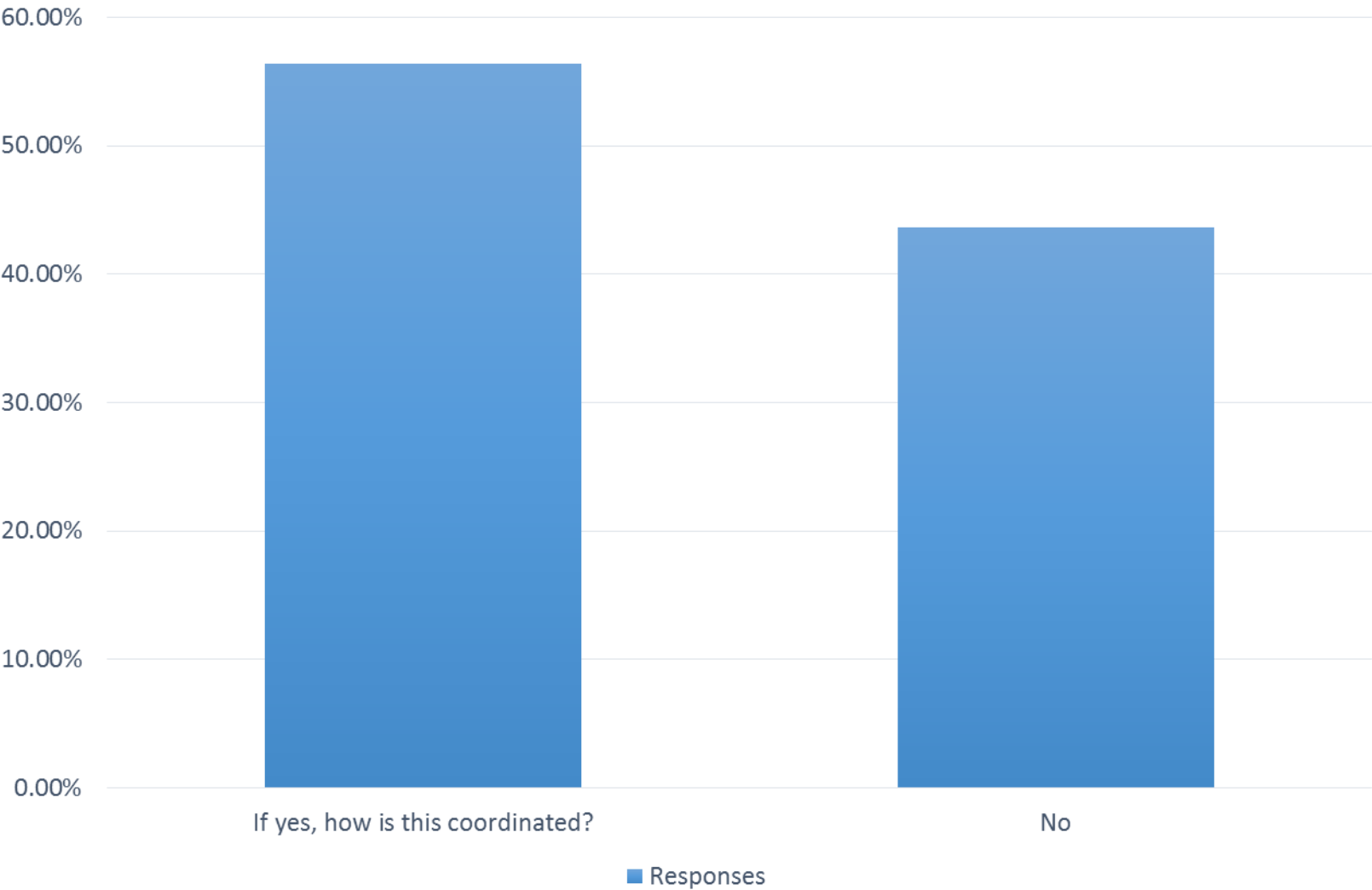
Consistent records

How are prescribed fires recorded in your agency/organization? Please select all that apply



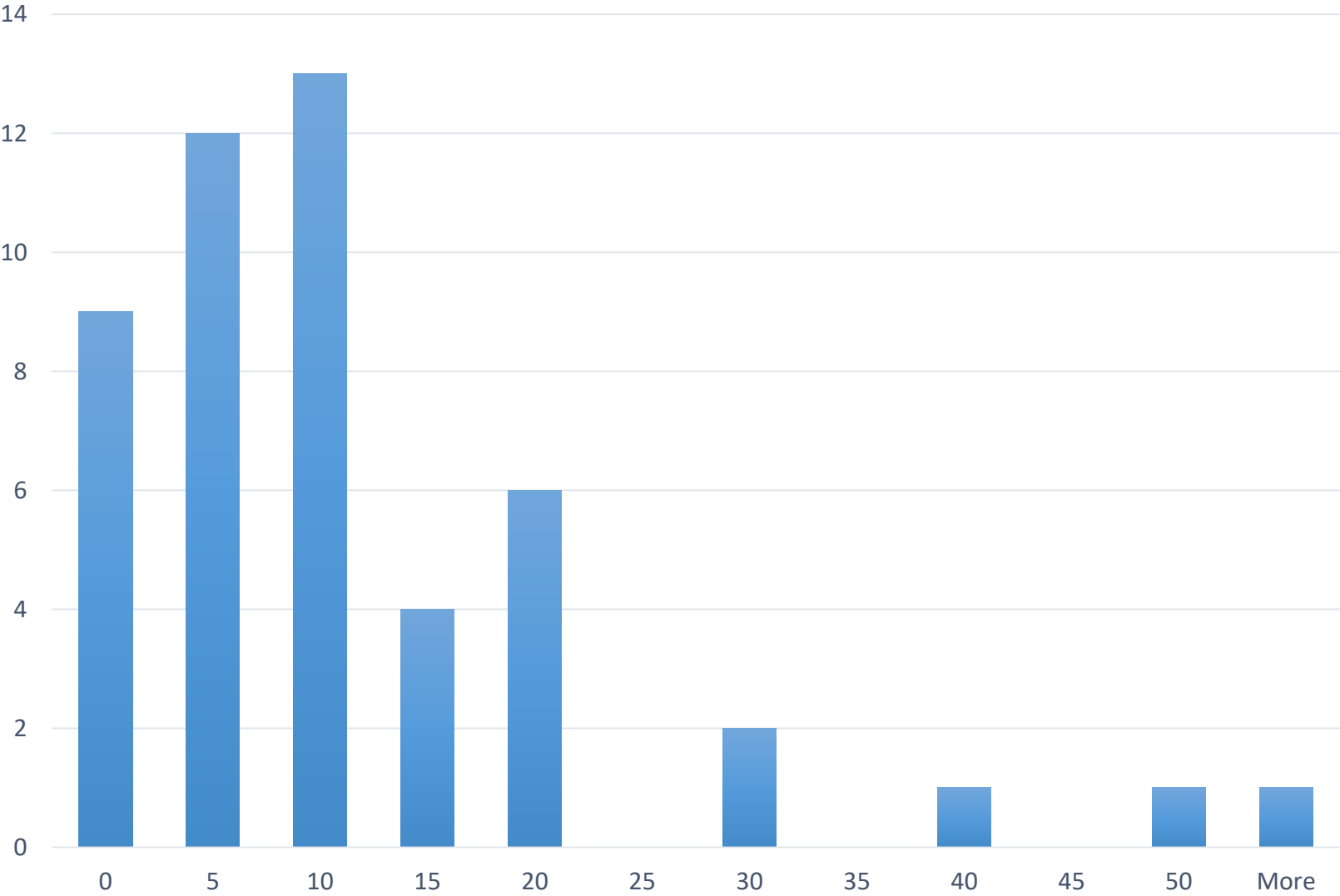
Consistent records

Are records centrally archived?



Consistent records

Years of RxB Records



Monitoring

Do you conduct pre/post-fire monitoring?

