

Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area Collaboration Meeting

Gallatin County Fair Grounds

February 29, 2012

Purpose

- This conversation will help determine if there is energy behind and interest in developing a user generated collaborative process to help guide the future of recreation within the WSA.
 - Not a debate or opportunity to provide testimony
 - It is an opportunity to assess the potential for a community driven collaborative process

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Forest Service Presentation
- History Wall Exercise
- Collaborative Process Presentation
- Community Sensing Exercise
- Next Steps
- Complete Interest Forms

Ground Rules

- Rules of common courtesy apply
- Listen to one another and try to understand how people value the same area
- Remain open-minded and receptive to different ideas and viewpoints
- Deal with differences as options, not battles to be won
- Share the responsibility of ensuring a successful process and quality outcome

Travel Management in the HPBH/WSA

How Did We Get Here & Where Are We Going



Community Discussion

- Opportunity to bring people together to collectively understand history, context, policy related to the HPBH WSA
- Determine if there is a better way to move this conversation forward
- Not a decision meeting or project scoping

MT Wilderness Study
Act 1977
Policy/Court
Decisions/Guidance

Gallatin Forest
Plan circa 1987
with
Amendments

National Travel
Rule/
Gallatin National
Forest Travel Plan
Decision
December 2006

**Public Use
Increases Over
Time**

Land
Acquisitions

HPBH WSA
Future
Management?

?

THE NATIONAL TRAVEL RULE

- Requires designation of those roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use by vehicle class and, if appropriate, time of year.
- Provides a consistent, national framework for local decisions.
- Route decisions are to be displayed on a Motor Vehicle Use Map, motor vehicle use off that designated system is prohibited.

GALLATIN TRAVEL PLAN

- Compliance with National Travel Rule
- Decision in 2006
- Comprehensive all use, all season decision
- Decision addressed trail and snowmobile uses in the HPBH WSA to meet the intent of the 1977 WSA legislation

MONTANA WILDERNESS STUDY ACT

Public Law s.393 – “...maintain existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.” Circa 1977

4 Qualities of Wilderness Character - Evolution from 1964 Wilderness Act

- Naturalness
- Undeveloped
- Untrammeled
- Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation

CURRENT SITUATION

- 9th Circuit Court decision remanded travel plan in HPBH WSA
- Court found that the GNF did not appropriately address ↑ volume of use and impacts to solitude.
- Interim orders used to comply with Court, subsequently challenged in District Court
- At some point, travel plan revision within WSA

Myths & Facts

Myths	Facts
The Forest Service can choose to disregard the Court's Ruling	The Forest Service must manage the HPBH WSA to comply with the Act, as interpreted/clarified by the Courts.
All motorized/mechanized access and use on the Gallatin Forest is in jeopardy.	The Gallatin Forest's Travel Plan Decision was upheld in all areas outside of the WSA – and approved uses outside the WSA will continue.

Myths & Facts (cont'd)

Myths	Facts
<p>The latest 9th Circuit Court Decision stated that the Forest Service failed to protect circa 1977 Wilderness character and rehabilitation is required.</p>	<p>The court did not speak to the issue of rehabilitation.</p> <p>The 9th Circuit Court Decision held that the Travel Plan improperly ignored impact of increasing volume of motorized and mechanized use which impacts user's ability to seek quiet and solitude.</p>

Myths & Facts (cont'd)

Myths	Facts
<p>The Gallatin Forest ignored motorized user input into the Travel Plan Decision and did not share with the court.</p>	<p>The Forest reviewed all input into the Travel Plan. Where relevant use data existed circa 1977 the Forest considered this in the 2006 Decision. All public input was provided to the Court.</p>
<p>The Montana Wilderness Study Act mandates that all historical uses that existed in 1977 be allowed.</p>	<p>The MT WSA does not speak to historic uses – only to the requirement to protect wilderness character. The WSA legislative record is clear that motorized (or other new uses) can be allowed to the extent they do not degrade 1977 wilderness character.</p>

The Way Forward

- No Quick Fix
- Need for Community based inclusive and sustained dialogue
- Any solutions are bound by the 9th Circuit Court rulings or future legislative action

The Way Forward

- Seeking lasting solution through community understanding and involvement
- Support for collaborative process, with community leadership
- Open to a different path

History Wall Exercise

What a collaborative effort might entail?

- Many collaborative efforts around the country dealing with public lands issues, some have been functioning for over 15 years
- Every one is different, but broad patterns of similarity emerge
- Some loose predictions/recommendations

Parties

- A nested structure, each layer representing a range of interests
 - Steering committee, with non-FS co-chairs (3-8 people)
 - Working group (10-20 people)
 - Interested and informed (hundreds)

Process

- Draft “Working Protocol”/By-Laws
- Decide on a decision rule
- Decide on behavior & communication expectations
- Develop project teams out of working group
- Develop and enforce deadlines

Time needed?

- Overall—18 months
- Steering Committee—300 hours
- Working group—140 hours
- Interested and informed—15 hours

Advantages of Collaboration

- Differences honestly engaged
- Potential for creative proposals
- Can break the cycle of agency proposes/groups litigate/agency re-proposes/groups litigate
- Strengthens communities

Disadvantages of Collaboration

- Slow
- Expensive
- Does require a minimum level of goodwill among the participants
- Can be “trumped” in other venues
- Not a silver bullet/can’t eliminate the need for tough decisions

Alternatives to Collaboration

- Agency-developed proposal
- Interest groups lobby congressional delegation
- Federal courts

Community Sensing Exercise

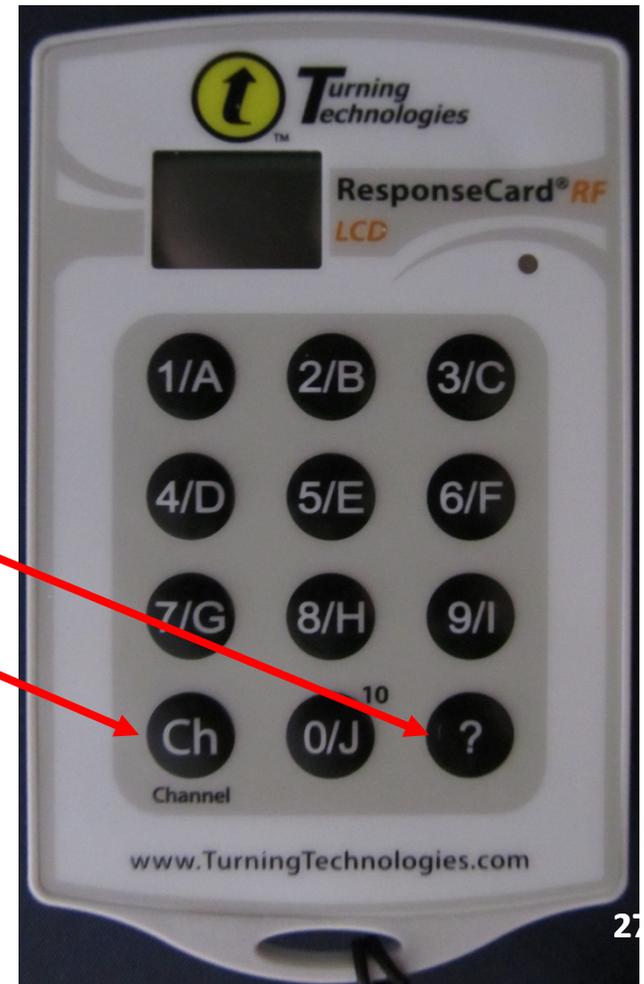
Voting Device

- 1 clicker per person
- Efficient & effective way to poll large groups
- Instant results



How to Vote

- The device is already ON
- Don't press these buttons



Press your answer on clicker key pad

- 1/A ←
- 2/B
- 3/C
- 4/D



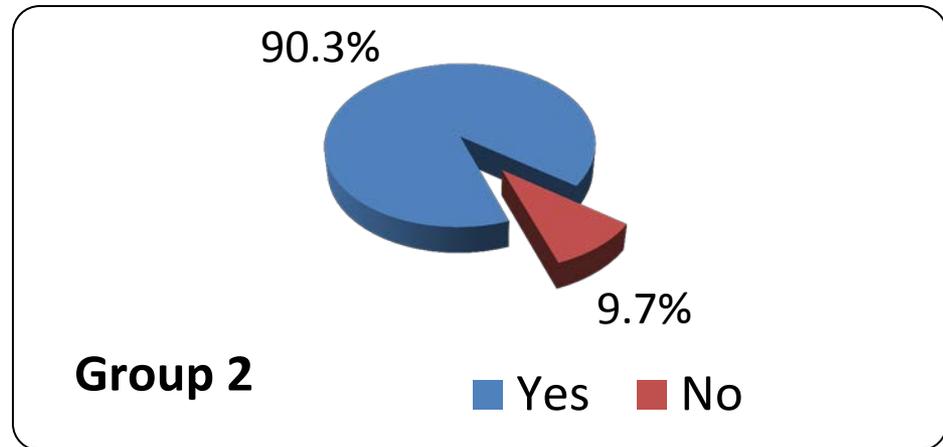
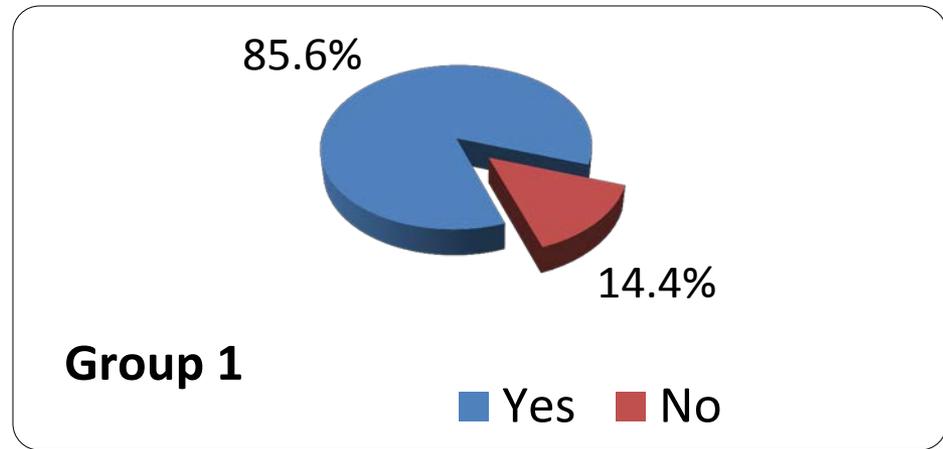
No one knows

- You are anonymous
- No one knows your answers
- So click away when asked questions!!!!!!



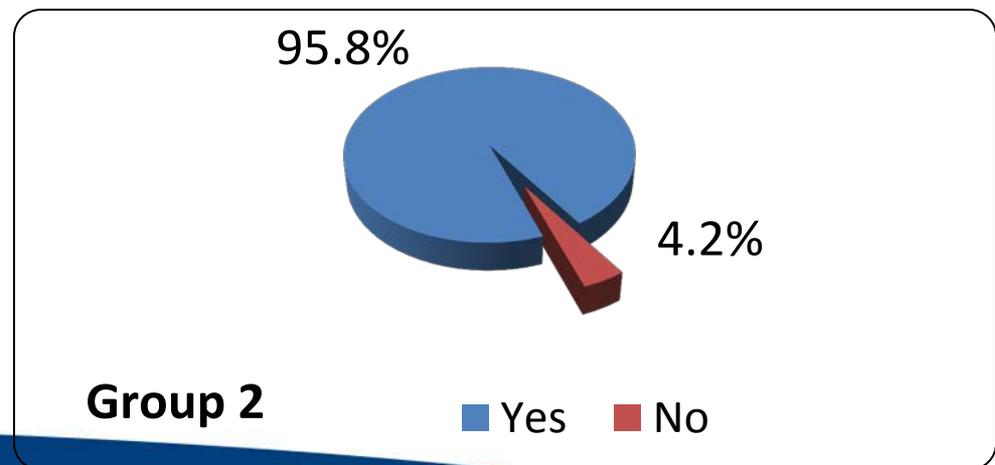
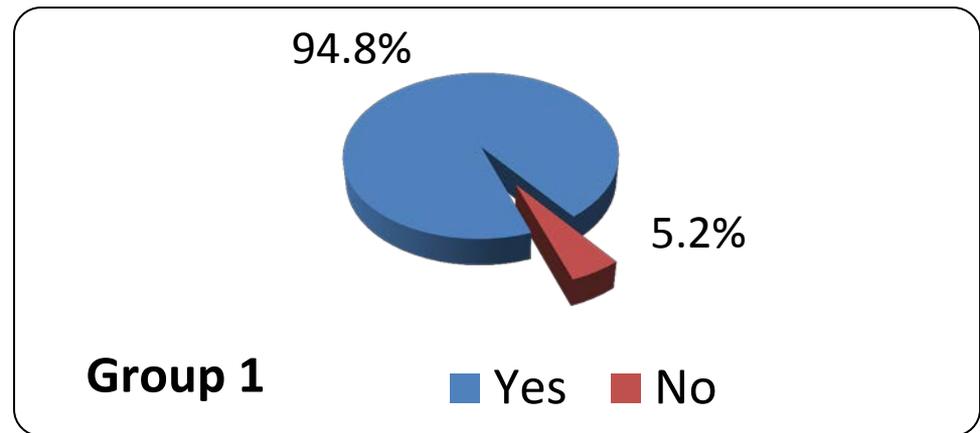
I understand the FS is interested in participating in a collaborative process.

- 1. Yes
- 2. No



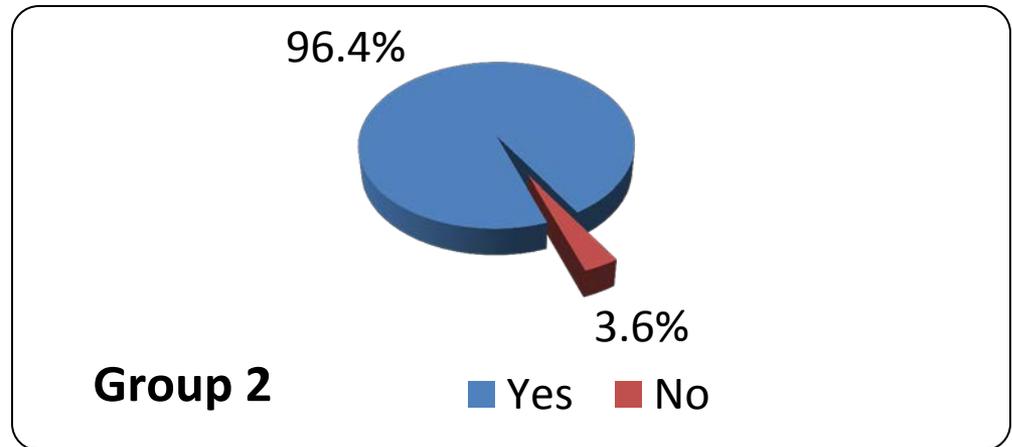
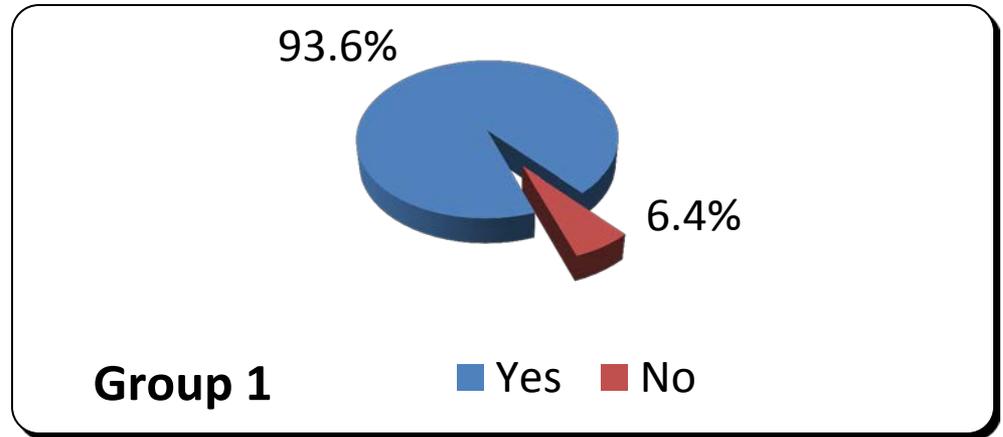
I understand the FS will need to share the leadership of a collaborative process with other partnering organizations and individuals.

1. Yes
2. No



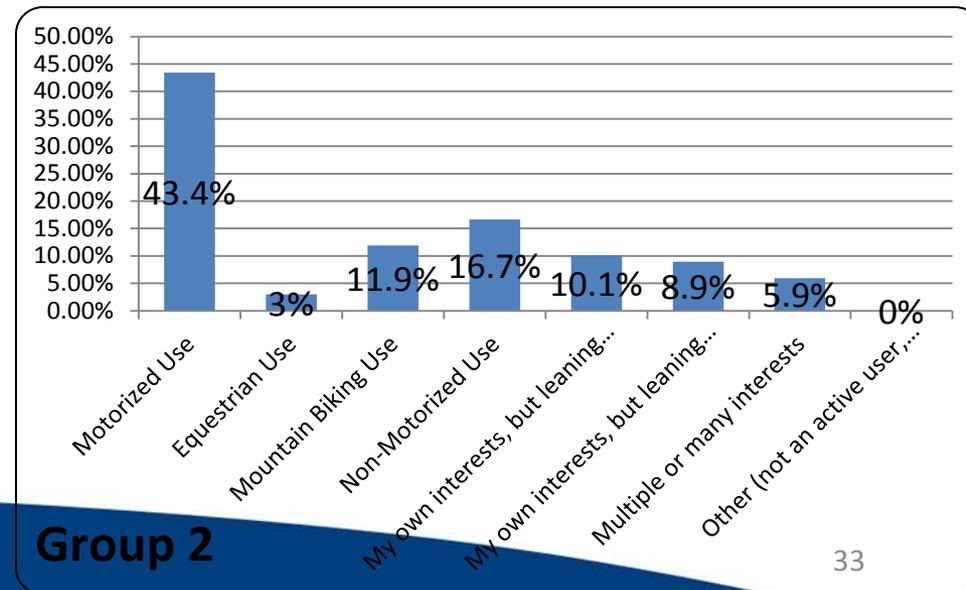
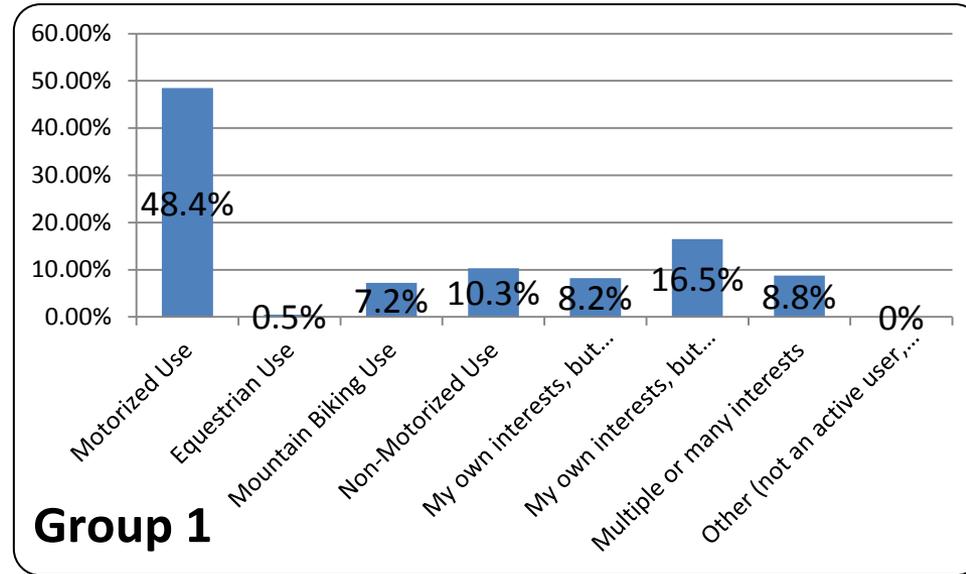
I understand what a collaborative effort might involve.

1. Yes
2. No



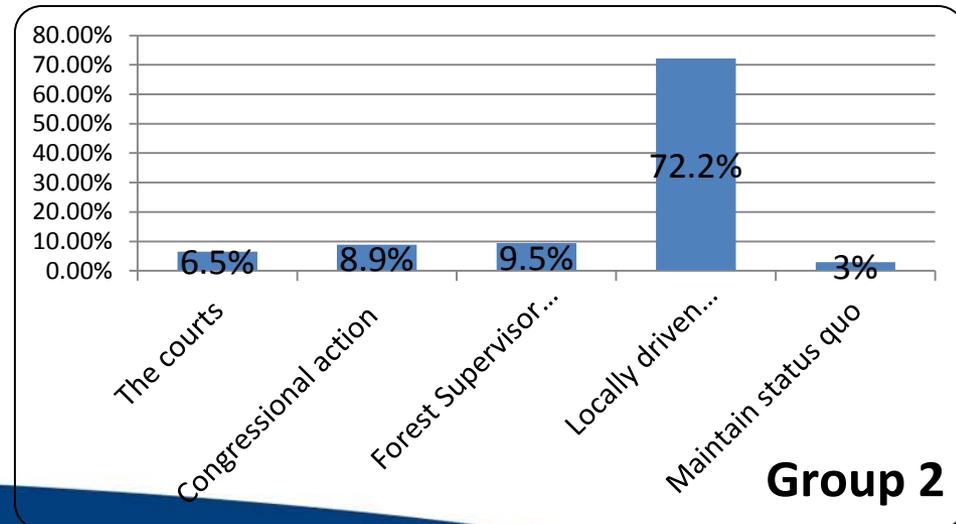
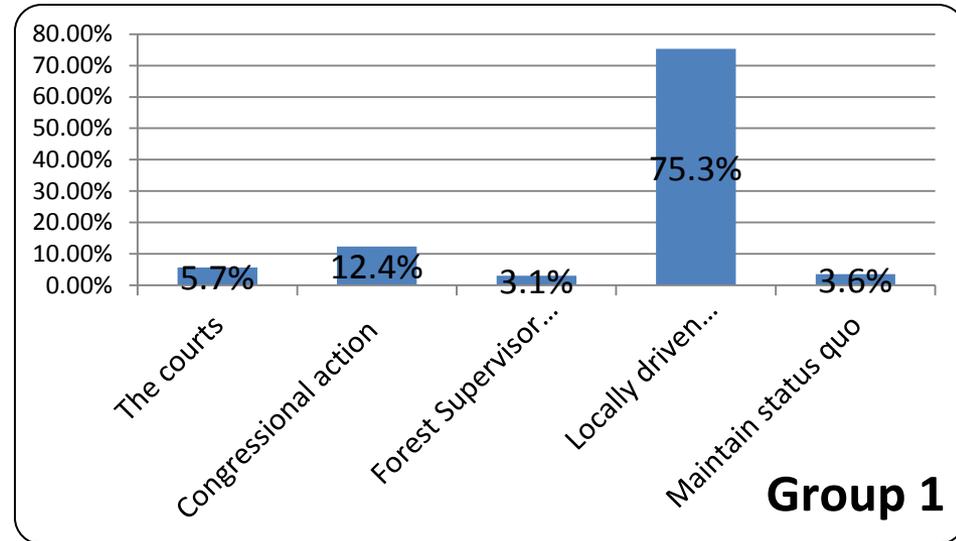
I am most aligned with:

1. Motorized Use Advocates
2. Equestrian Advocates
3. Mountain Biking Advocates
4. Non-Motorized Advocates
5. My own interests, but leaning toward limited use/wilderness values
6. My own interests, but leaning toward expanded recreation use/multiple use values
7. Multiple or many interests
8. Other (not an active user, scientific interests)



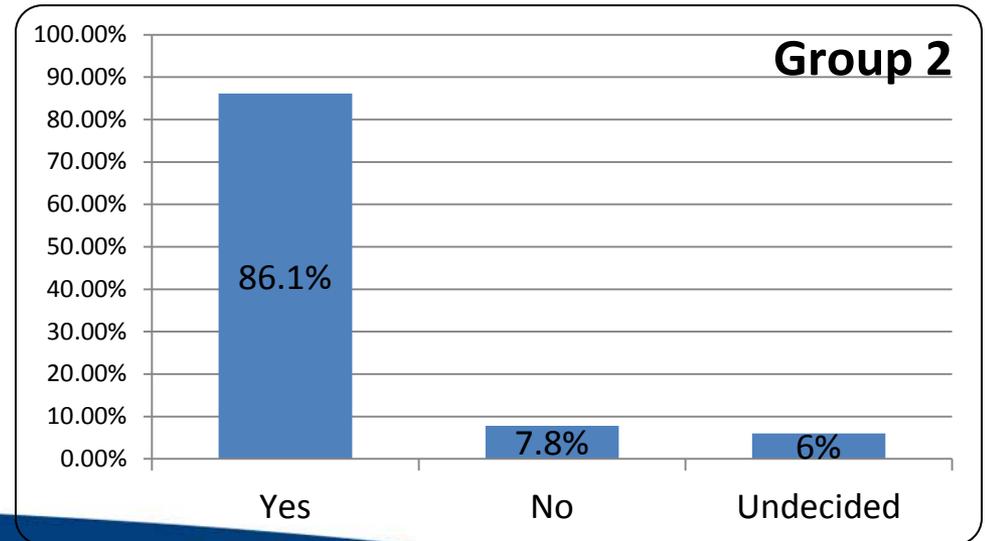
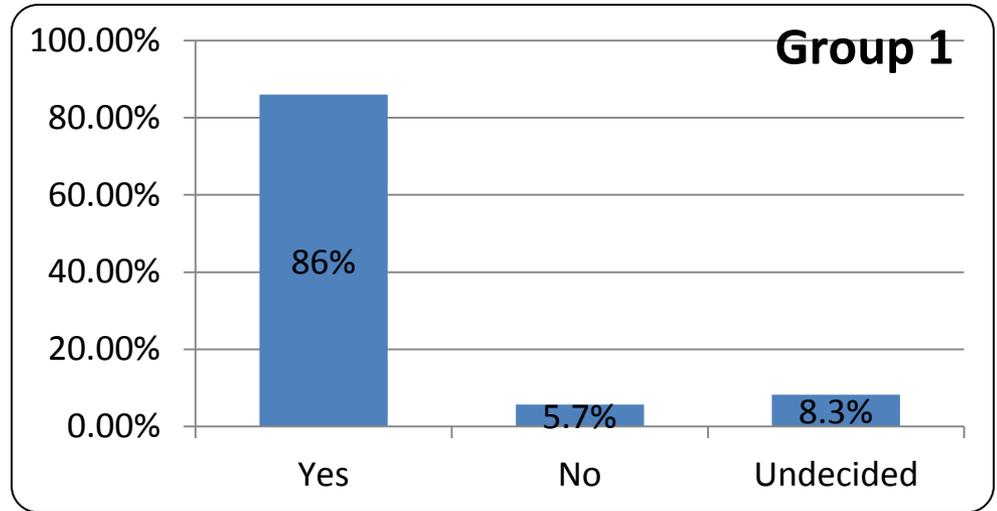
Do you see long-term resolution of this issue best being achieved by:

1. The courts
2. Congressional action
3. Forest Supervisor authority (Travel Planning, Forest Plan Revision)
4. Locally driven collaborative process
5. Maintain status quo



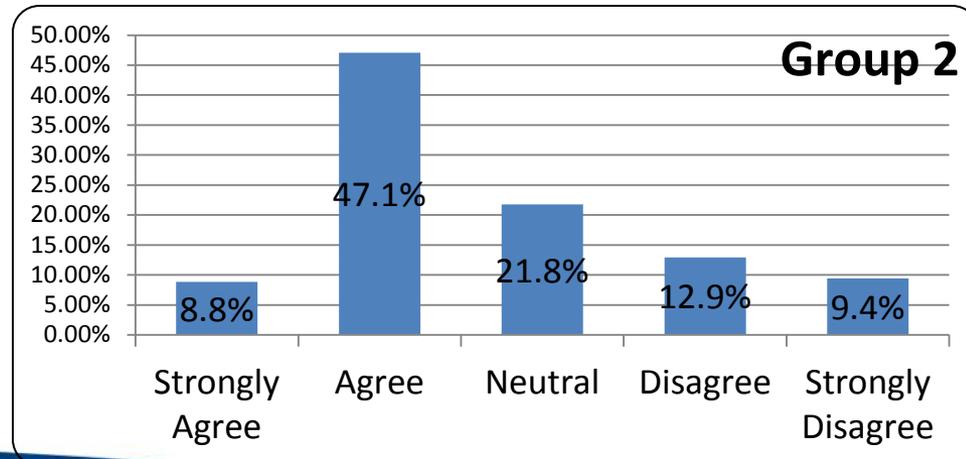
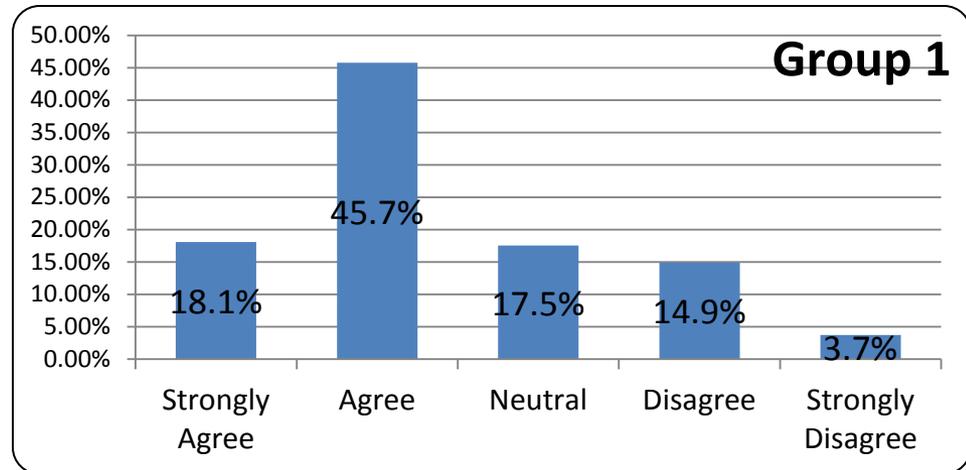
Do you feel the timing is right to engage in a collaborative effort?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Undecided



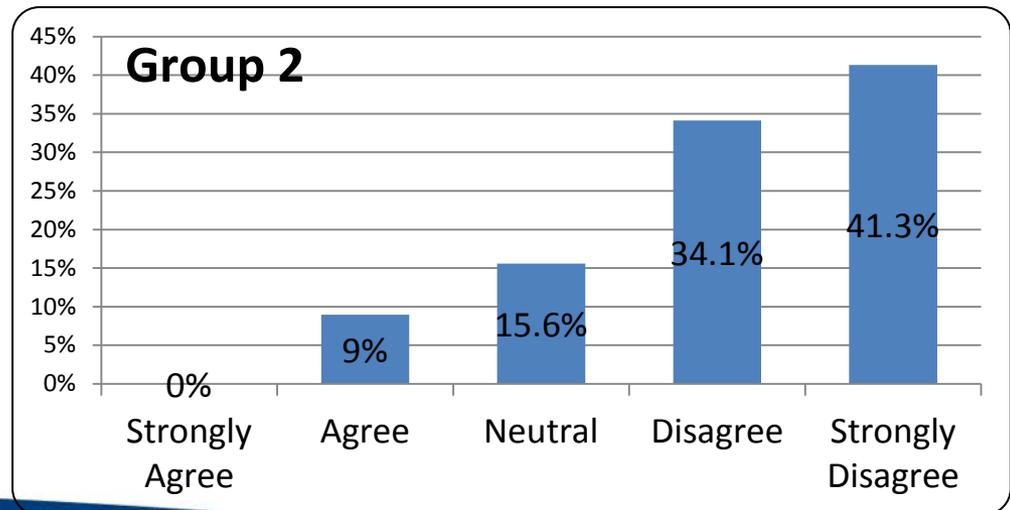
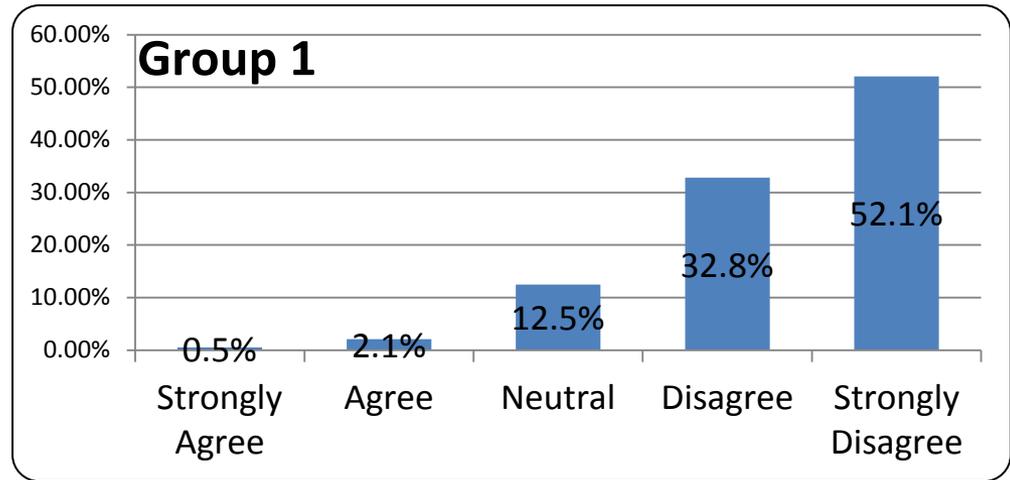
It is likely that a community of stakeholders can constructively address the HPBH/WSA issue through collaborative dialogue.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



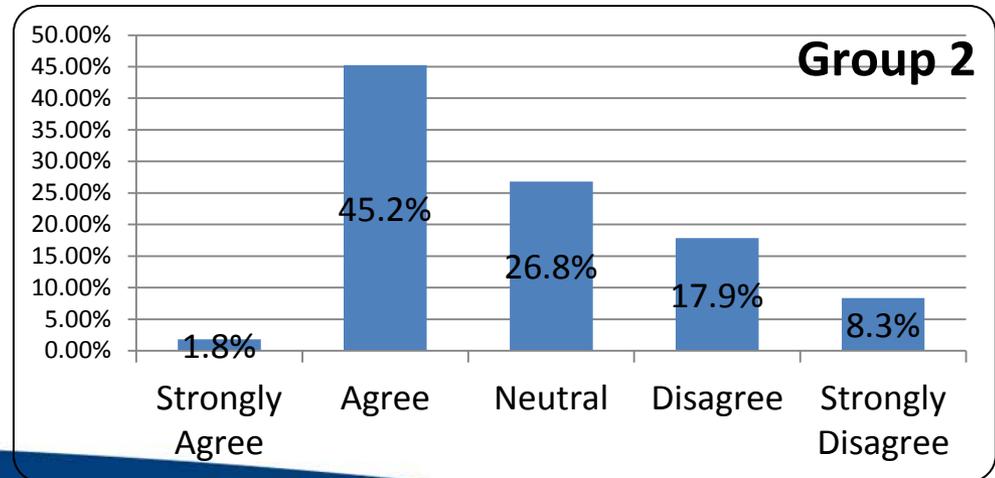
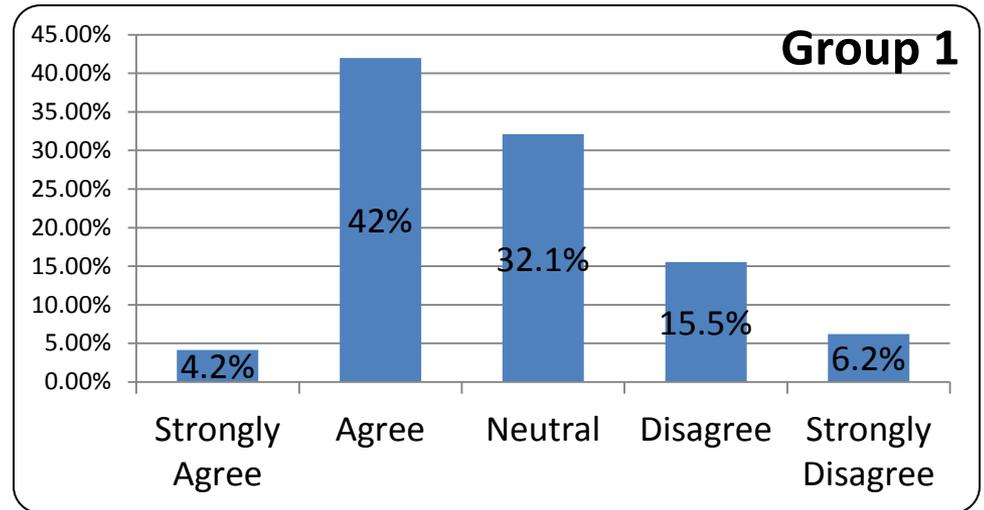
I have a high level of trust in the other parties interested in the HPBH/WSA.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



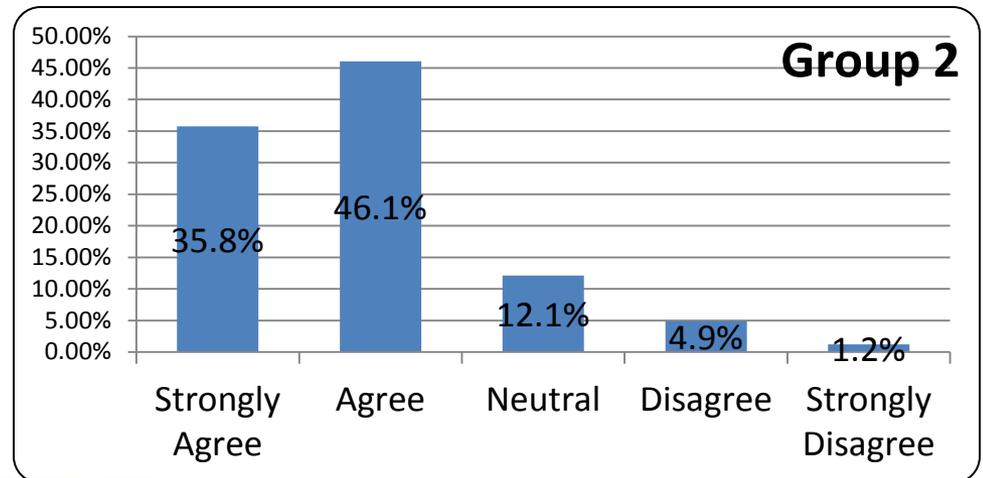
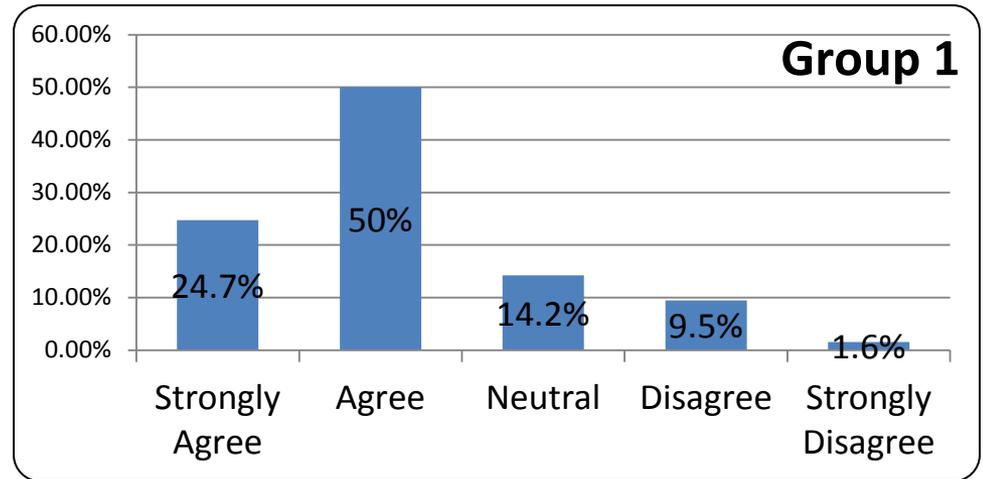
We will come to a mutually acceptable outcome if we use a collaborative process.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



I understand enough about the issue to move into a collaborative process.

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



Please Complete the Interest Forms

- **Organizational Interest Form (BLUE)**
- **Personal Interest Form (GREEN)**
 - Complete paper copies tonight or complete online
- Forms are due to the LGC at COB on **March 9**
- Facilitators will advise the FS on how to move forward
- Information from the forms will be available to organizations interested in moving forward independent of the FS

Online Forms

- Organizational Interest Forms found at:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSAorginterest>
- Personal Interest Forms found at:
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WSApersonalinterest>
- Online forms can also be access at the FS & LGC websites
 - <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gallatin>
 - <http://www.msulocalgov.org/>

Thank you for your
participation!