

# 2011 Comprehensive Survey of Wisconsin Coverts Cooperators

Jamie Nack – WI Coverts Project Coordinator



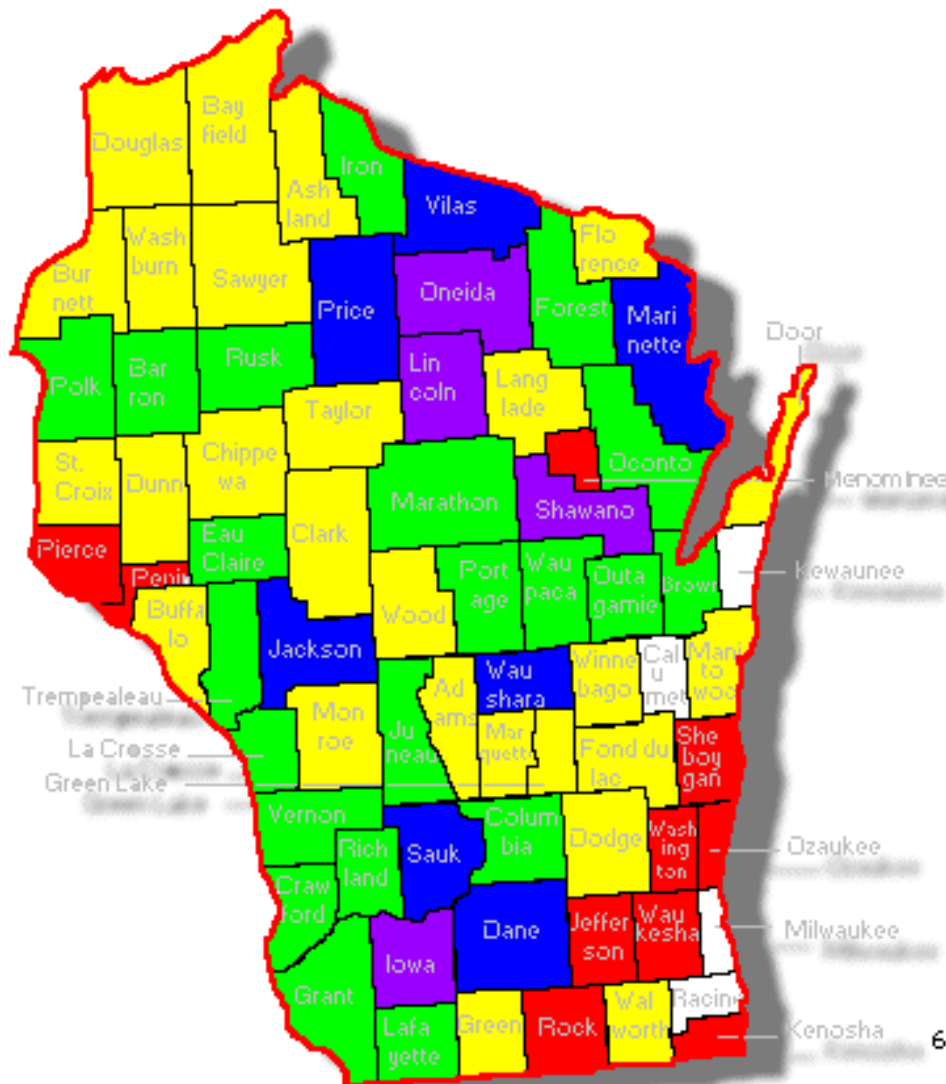
*Promoting Woodland Wildlife Stewardship*

# Wisconsin Coverts Project

- \* Initiated in 1994
- \* 20 traditional workshops to-date (over 17 years)
- \* Reunions in 2006 and 2011
- \* 505 Coverts Cooperators trained, representing 440 properties.
- \* 470 active cooperators (included in directory)
- \* 35 have been removed from directory

# Counties of Land Ownership for Active Covert Cooperators

- - 1
- - 2 to 5
- - 6 to 10
- - 11 to 15
- - 16



# Survey Methods

- \* January 18, 2011 - a 5-page survey was mailed to 385 (addresses) representing 441 cooperators. Response deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \* April 5, 2011 – a reminder was mailed.
- \* To increase the survey response rate, we drew 10 winners from the surveys received by the deadline to receive the publication “Woodworking for Wildlife”.

# Survey Response

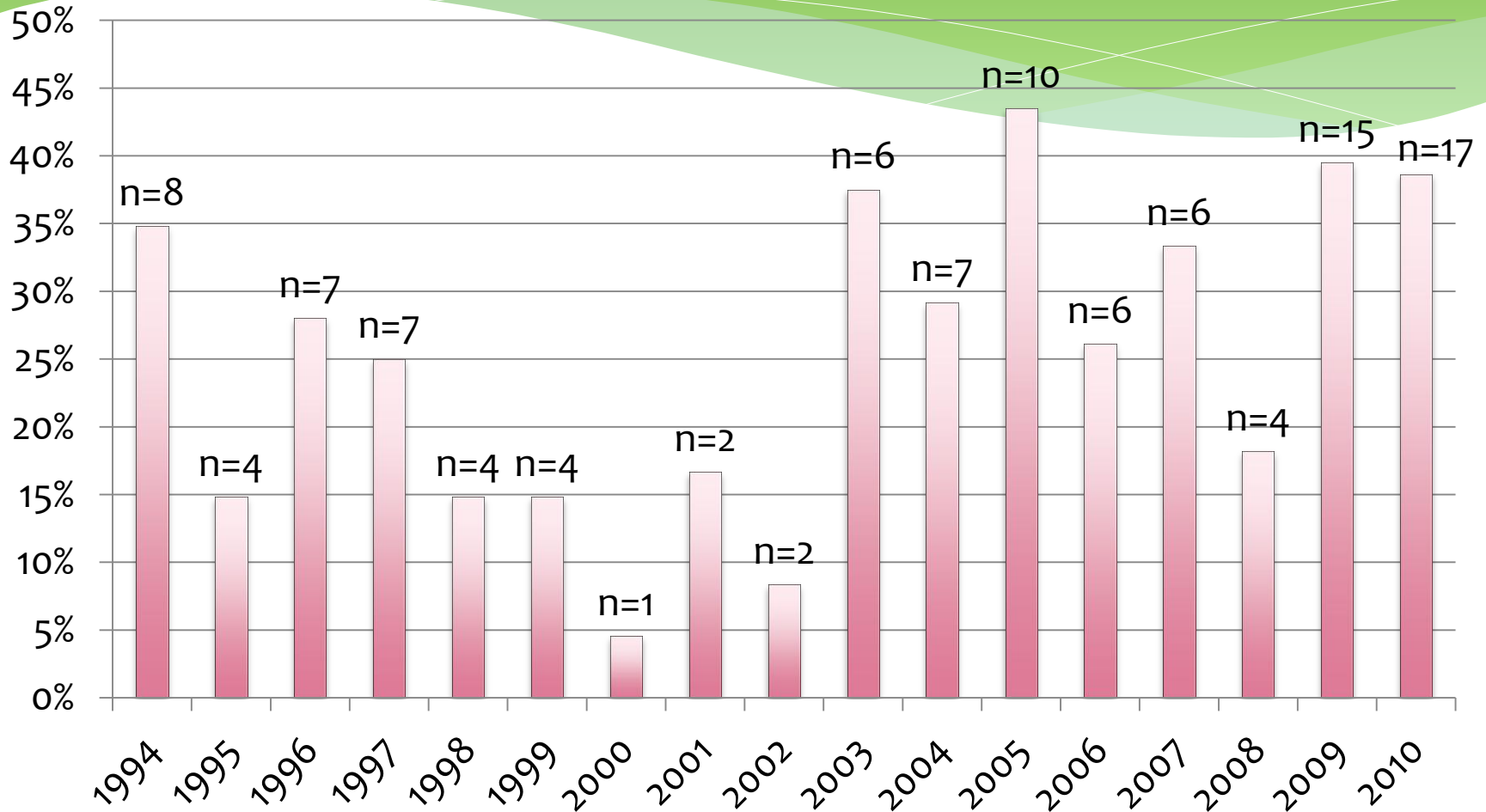
- \* Received 110 surveys out of 385
- \* **Response rate of 28.6%**
  - \* 2006 response rate was 40.3% (102 out of 253)
- \* 128 cooperators total (18 spouses)
- \* 10 Survey winners:

Sheila Manor  
Todd Putz  
Bill Helm  
Dale Haymann

Steven Raether  
Janet Brandt  
Jeff Rach

Wayne Van Zeeland  
Richard Achter  
John Hagman

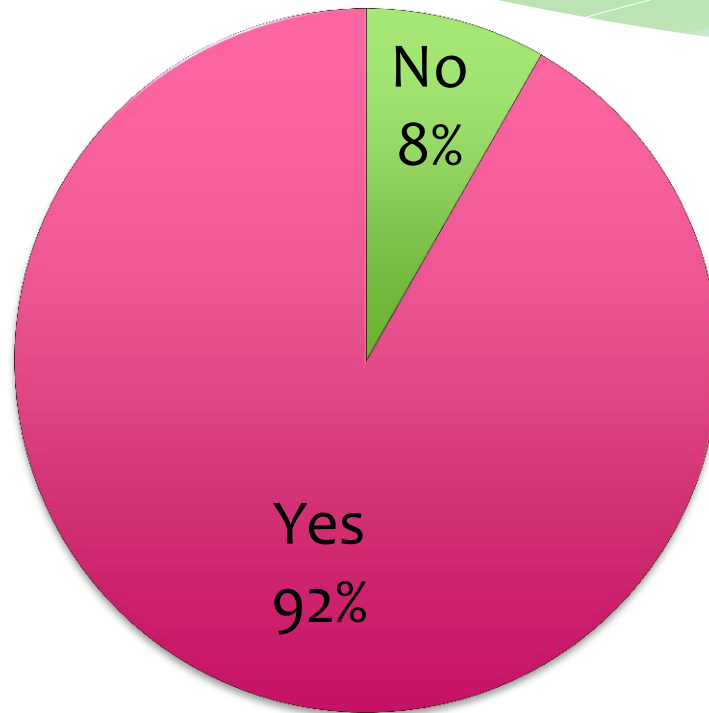
# Survey Response Rate by Year



# Where Do You Own Land?

- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| * Wisconsin             | 102 |
| Wisconsin and Illinois  | 2   |
| Wisconsin and Minnesota | 1   |
| Minnesota               | 5   |
- \* Total acreage owned **21,564 acres; average 196 acres (includes 17,486 acres of woodland)**
  - \* Are you responsible for managing any additional land?
  - \* 96 No, 13 Yes additional **3,045 acres (includes 1,918 acres of woodland)**
  - \* Total acres owned or responsible for **24,609 acres**

# Do You Consider Yourself an Active Coverts Cooperator?





# Do you have a written forest and/or wildlife management plan?

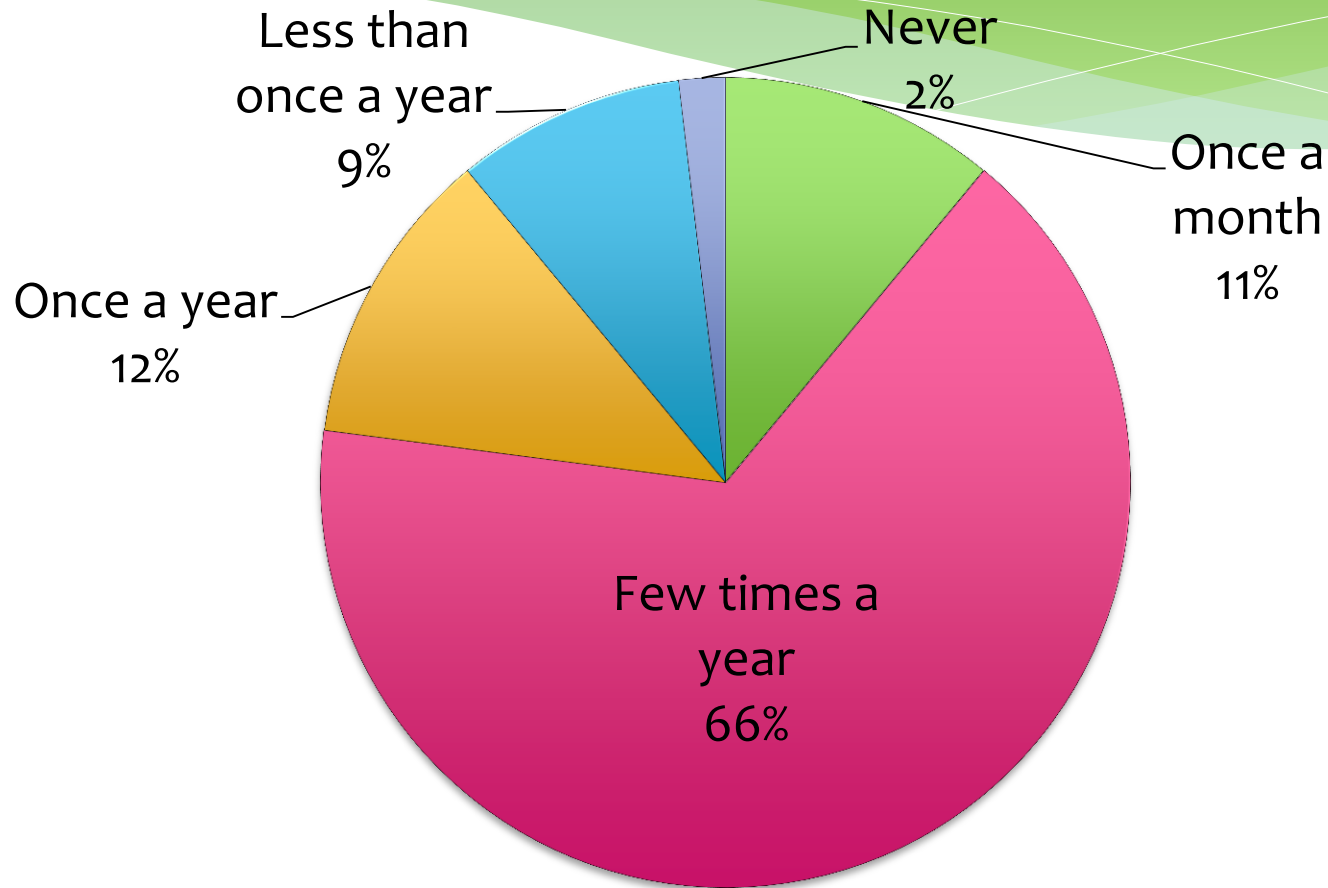
95 Yes, 13 No, 2 In progress

Total # of acres under a management plan = **16,018 acres**

Of the 97 management plans:

- \* 63 plans existed prior to attending Coverts
- \* 5 were partially completed or revised
- \* 29 plans were developed after Coverts

# How often do you use your resource binder?



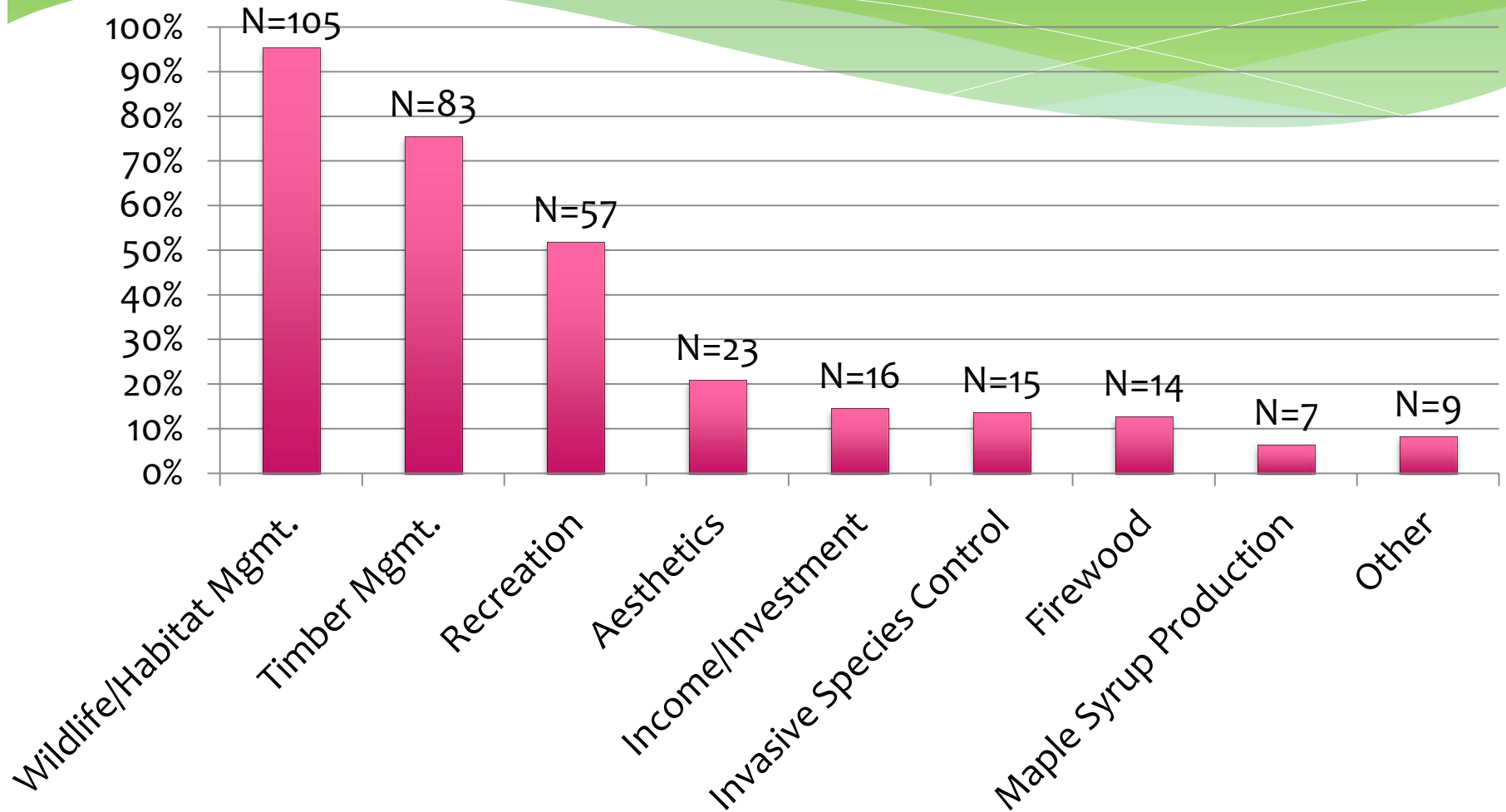
# Which activities have you engaged in to help raise awareness about forest stewardship and wildlife management?

- 97% One-on-one conversations (n=107)
- 84% Shared written resources (n=92)
- 46% Volunteered for a public or private conservation organization (n=50)
- 35% Contacted a legislator (n=38)
- 26% Hosted/led a field day or tour (n=28)
- 19% Promote ideas through the media (n=21)
- 16% Presented a related program in my community (n=17)
- 14% Staffed a natural resources exhibit (n=15)
- 12% Testified at a public hearing (n=13)

# What wildlife species are you actively managing for?



# What are your top 3 management objectives?



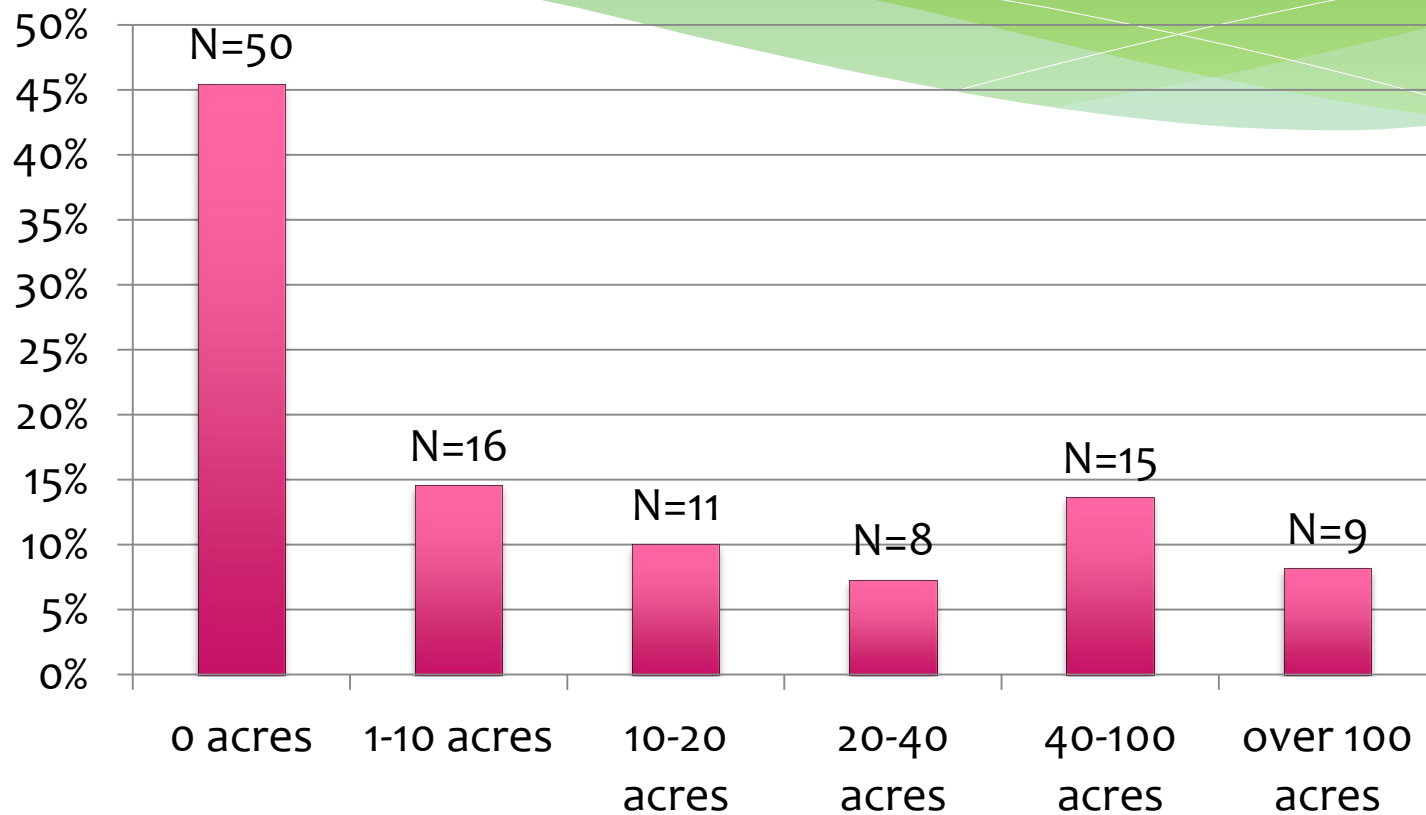
# Do you derive any income from wildlife?

- \* 104 No, 5 Yes, 1 In the past
- \* Annual amounts:
  - \* Amount varies/flexible for hunting leases
  - \* \$360 for hunting leases
  - \* \$3,750 for deer and turkey hunting leases
  - \* \$5,000 for waterfowl hunting leases

# What habitat management activities have you done SINCE attending Coverts?

- 80% Created brush piles (n=88)
- 75% Planted trees and/or shrubs (n=82)
- 59% Conducted a timber harvest/stand improvement (n=65)
- 58% Developed and/or updated a written wildlife/forest management plan (n=64)
- 51% Added artificial nesting structures (n=56)
- 45% Developed a food plot (n=49)
- 41% Inventoried and/or monitored wildlife (n=45)
- 35% Managed/restored prairie or grassland habitat (n=38)
- 26% Managed/restored a wetland/pond (n=29)
- 20% Other (n=22)

# Since attending Coverts, how many acres of timber have you harvested?





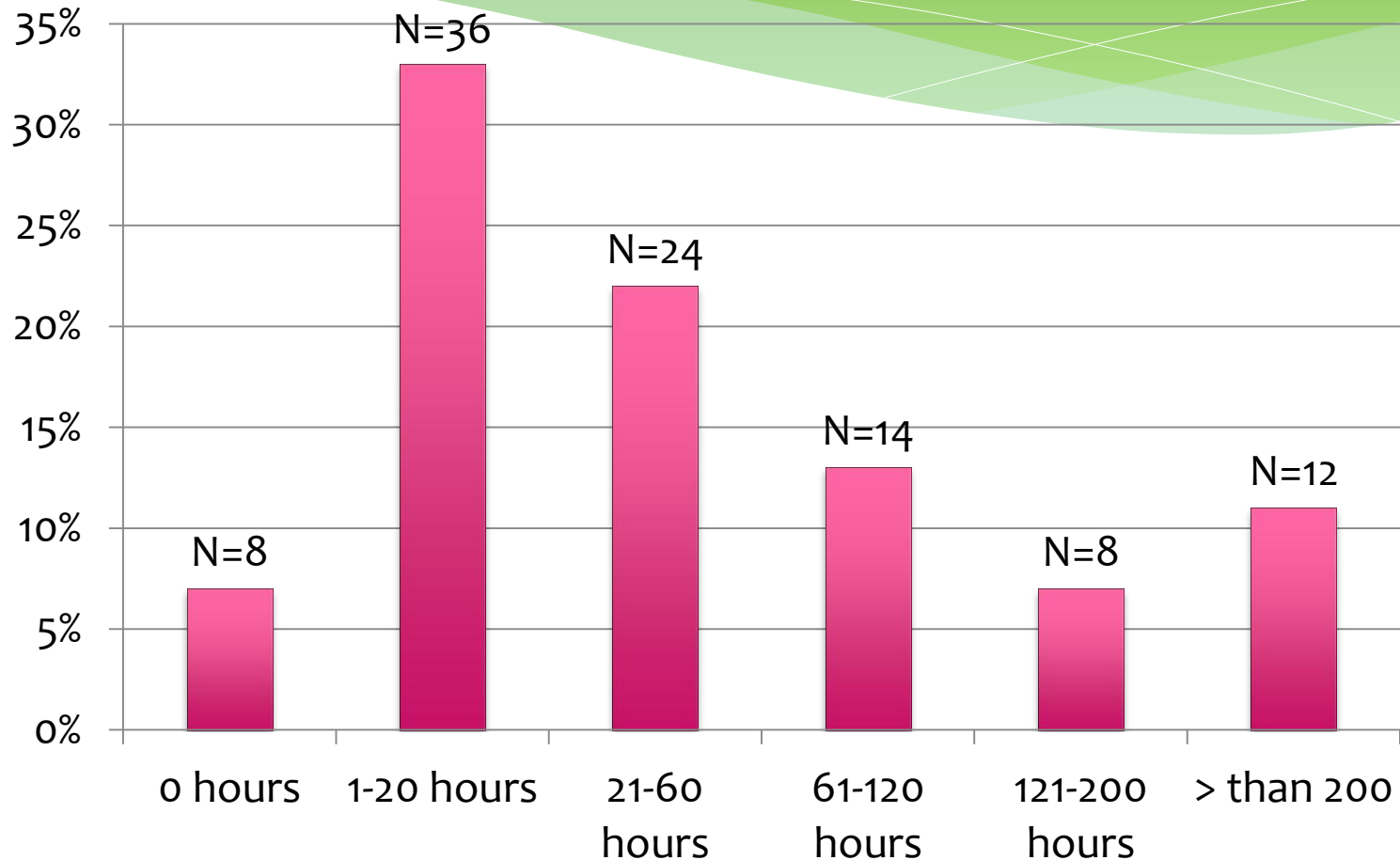
# Which community conservation activities have you participated in?

- 18% Involved in a watershed association, river coalition, or other water resources group (n=20)
- 15% Served on a town planning board/council (n=16)
- 14% Served on an open space, land trust, or conservation group board (n=15)
- 12% Helped manage town forest or other conservation land (n=13)
- 9% Helped a community with a master plan or natural resources inventory (n=10)
- 3% Served on a Conservation Commission (n=3)
- 2% Other (n=2)

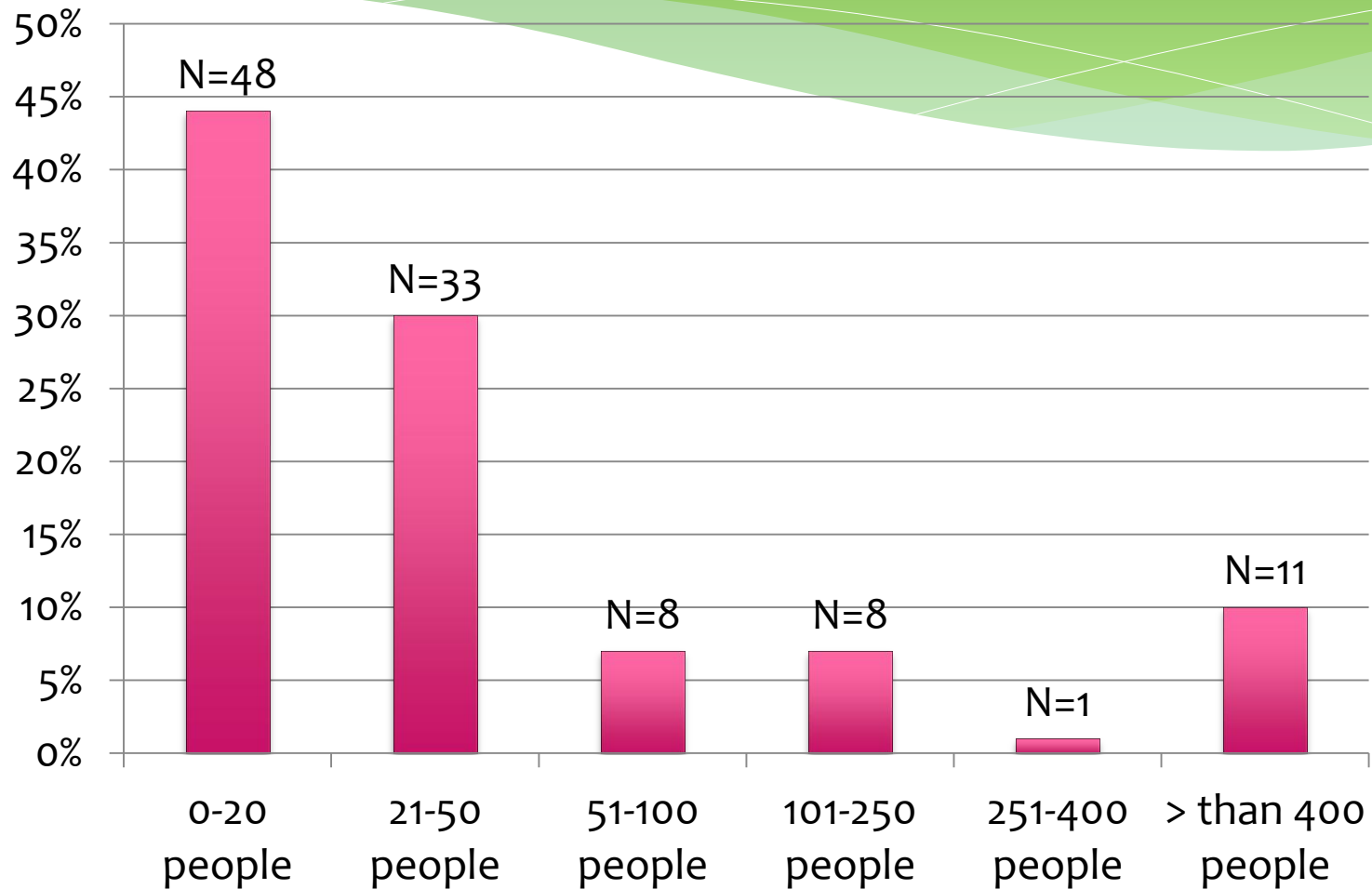
# Have you developed contacts with any of the following professionals?

- 70% WI DNR – Foresters (n=77)
- 67% Consulting foresters (n=74)
- 43% WI DNR – Wildlife Managers (n=47)
- 43% Extension agents/specialists (n=47)
- 41% Conservation organizations (i.e. RGS, Land Conservation Associations, TNC, etc.) (n= 45)
- 19% Other state or federal agency (n=21)
- 16% Others (n=18)

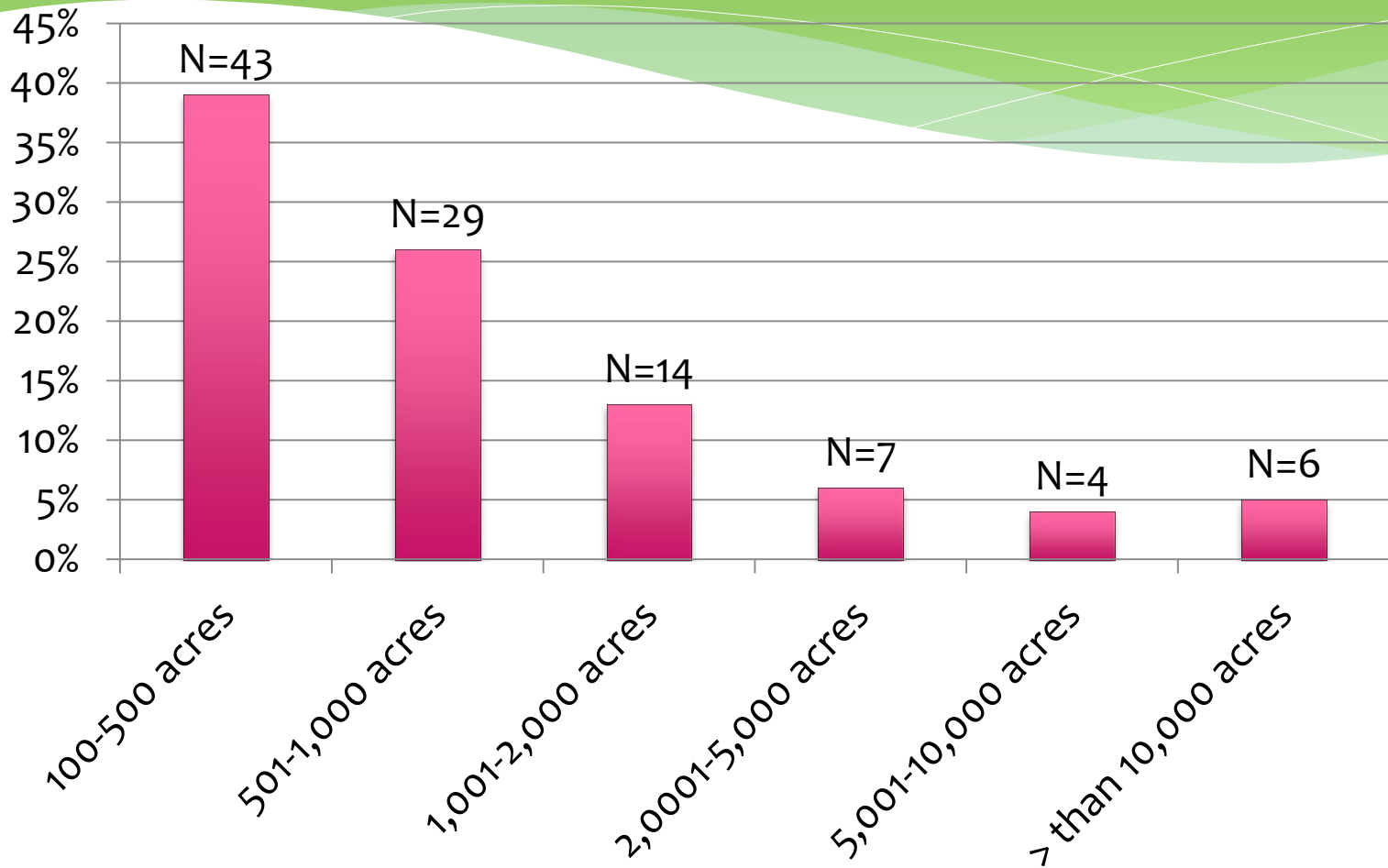
# Number of hours spent volunteering on behalf of forest and wildlife stewardship since attending Coverts



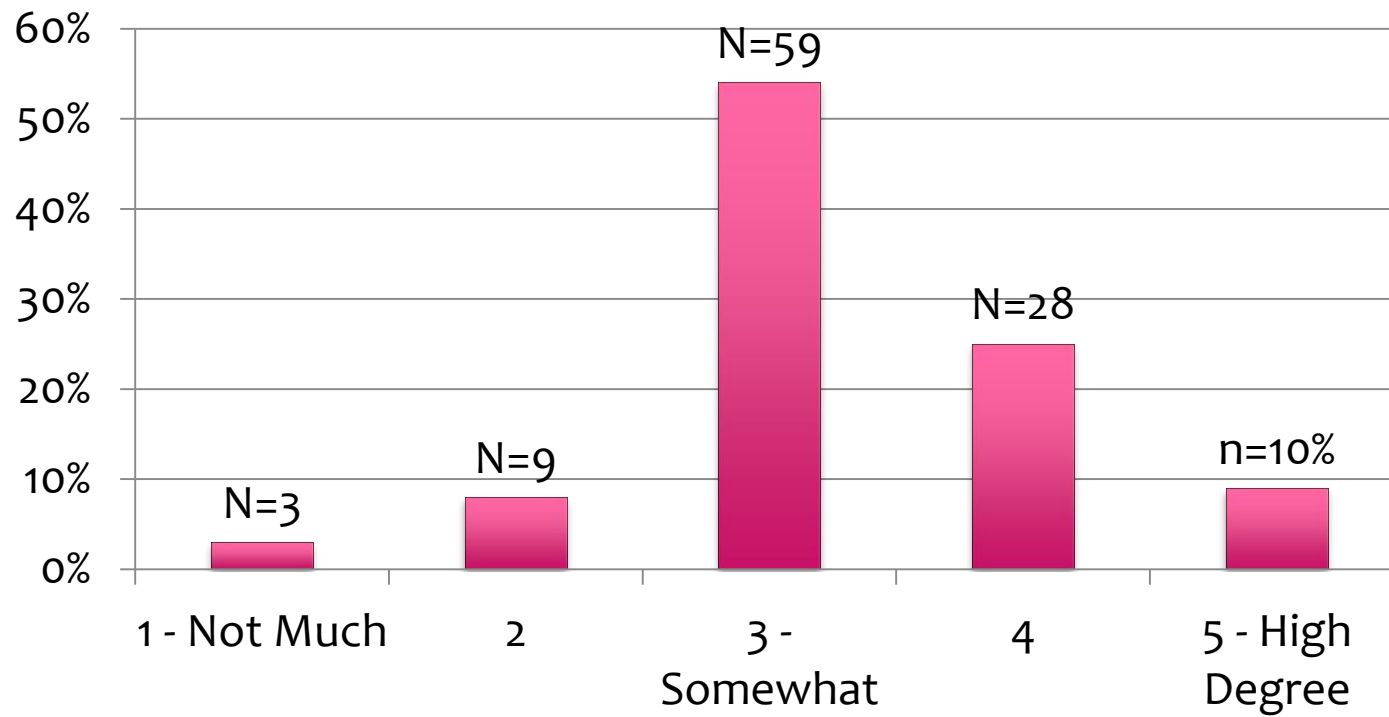
# Estimate how many friends, family, neighbors, and members of the general public you have reached through your outreach efforts as a Covertis Cooperator



# Estimated the number of acres owned by the landowners you have reached out to

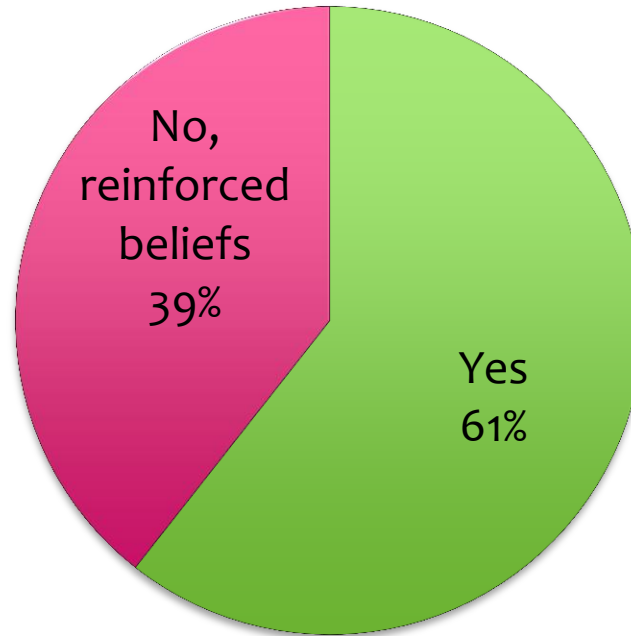


# To what degree do you feel you have helped enhance, restore, or conserve habitat for wildlife?



# Has your experience with the WI Coverts Project changed your views or the way you manage your land?

No  
0%



# Comments

- \* One of the best attributes of the Coverts Project is simply that it made us think about actively managing our property. It is so easy to be complacent and just let nature take its course, but as time slips by the property just grows haphazardly. It was very enabling to see what specific forestry actions can have on specific [wildlife] species. We have a much clearer vision of what we want for our property and how to get there.

*Bob and Rita Lee – 2009 Coverts Cooperators*




# THANK YOU!!!

for your outreach efforts and your  
commitment to land stewardship...

and

for taking the time to  
complete this survey!



*"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

**- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949**