

Floodplain Administrator Survey Results

The online survey of Floodplain Administrators conducted in November 2012 by the State Floodplain Coordinator's office produced information that helps paint a picture of who does floodplain management in Idaho. Respondents were from 34 counties and 51 cities across the state. There are 175 communities enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), so the response rate was about 49%. There was more than one response from some communities. The highest number of respondents for some, but not all, questions was 99.

(Insert map)

Summary

Some of the key findings are that floodplain management is a shared responsibility in about half of the respondent communities and it is done by people with a wide range of expertise. The top three areas of expertise for people with the primary floodplain management responsibility are in planning and zoning, as city clerk and as a building official. The top three areas of expertise for those who assist with floodplain management are building officials, planning and zoning and engineering. However, the duties are shared by elected officials, code enforcement, GIS, emergency managers and others.

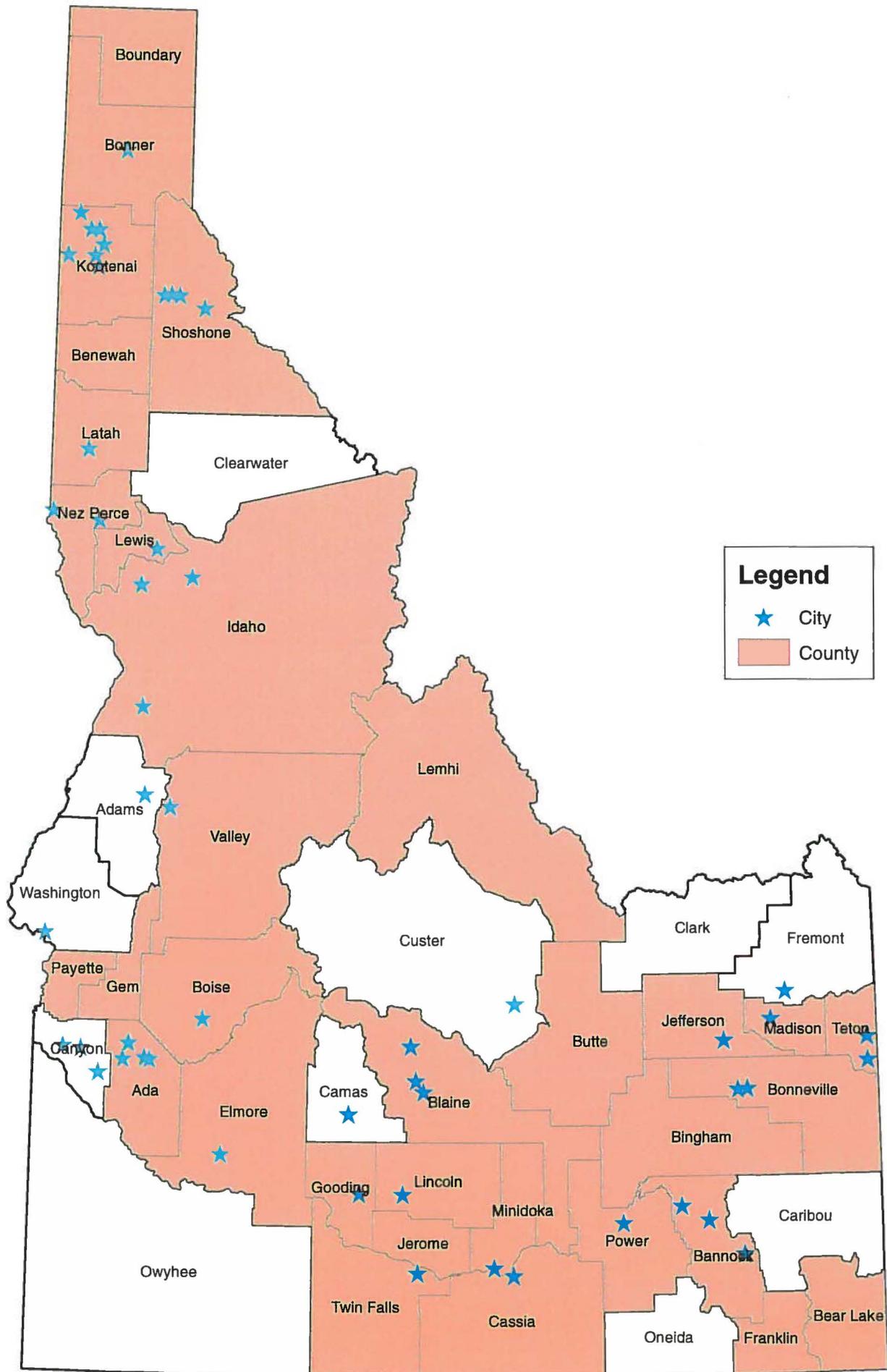
Outdated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) was cited by 20% of respondents as their biggest floodplain management challenge. Half of respondents report that their community FIRM is older than 1990 and five respondents said their community does not have a FIRM. The second rated challenge was not having enough time to spend on floodplain management. The public not understanding the flood risk and not enough local resources allocated to floodplain management were other top challenges.

Most respondents, about 78%, said they spend less than 10% of their time on floodplain management. Only 4% of respondents say they spend more than 20 and up to 40% of their time on floodplain management.

Respondents were asked to identify what training they would find most beneficial. The category with the highest rating shows that general information about floodplain administrator roles and responsibilities would be valuable. That was the top ranked choice for beneficial training and it got the most votes overall. Approximately the same number of respondents indicated an interest in basic and advanced training about the National Flood Insurance Program. Another choice that did not make the top five rank list, but that was selected by a high number of respondents, was integrating floodplain management and GIS.

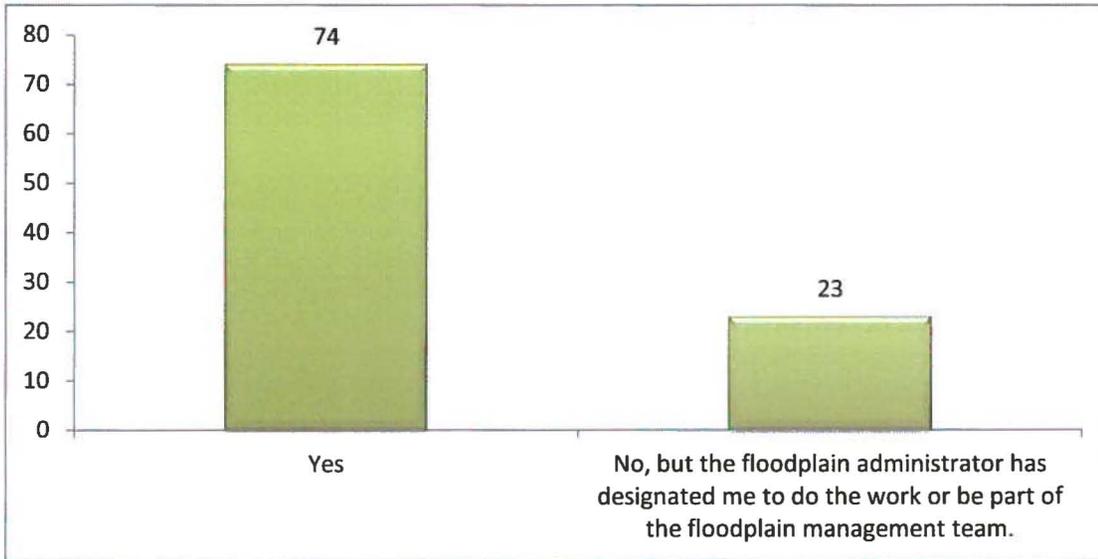
A summary of the results for each question is included in the attached report.

Responses to Floodplain Management Survey



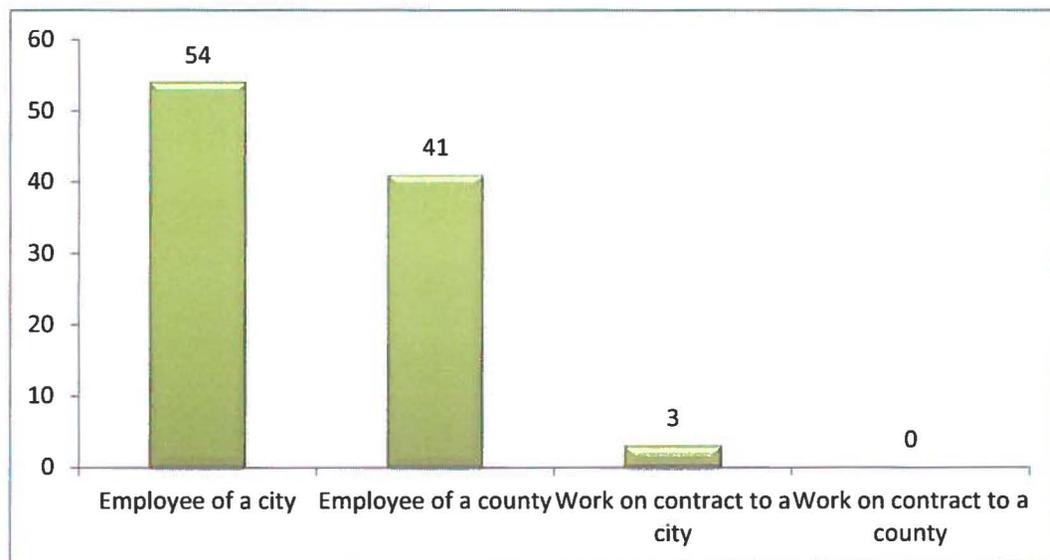
1. Are you the floodplain administrator designated in your local government ordinance?

AnsweredQuestion 97
SkippedQuestion 2



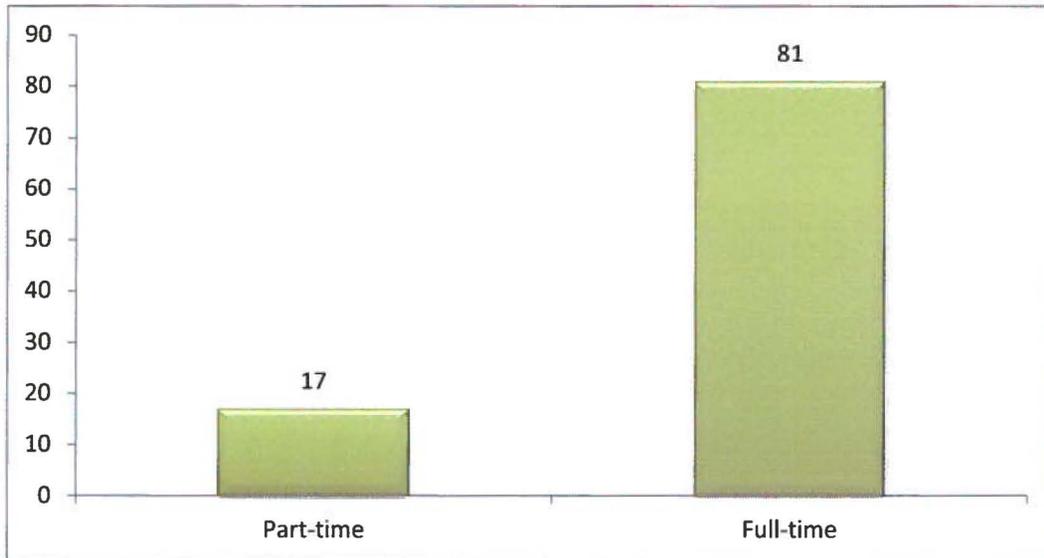
2. Are you employed by the city or county or are you under contract to the local government?

AnsweredQuestion	98
SkippedQuestion	1



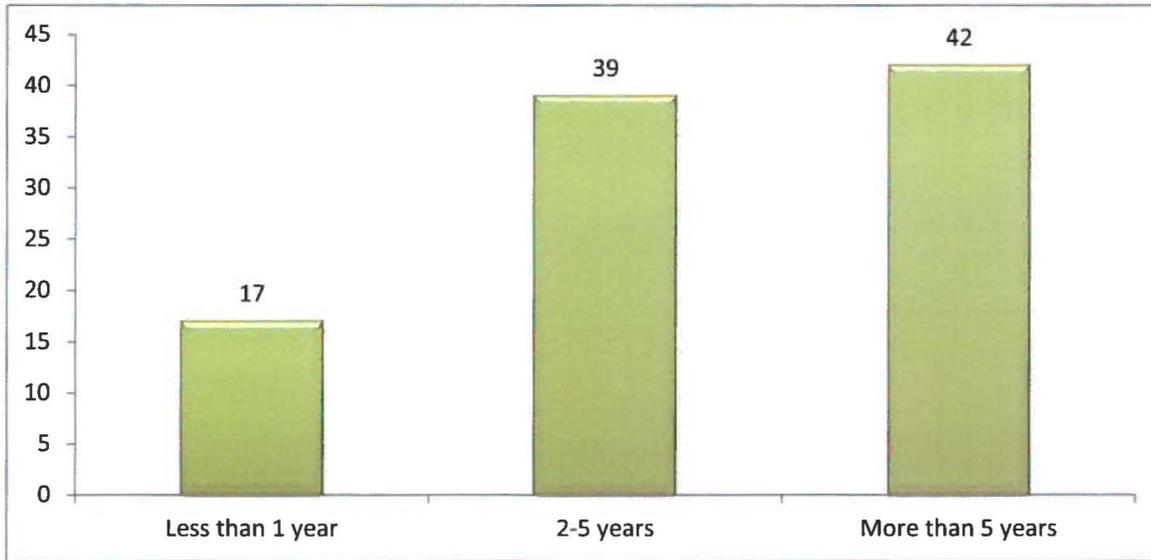
3. Is your position:

AnsweredQuestion	98
SkippedQuestion	1



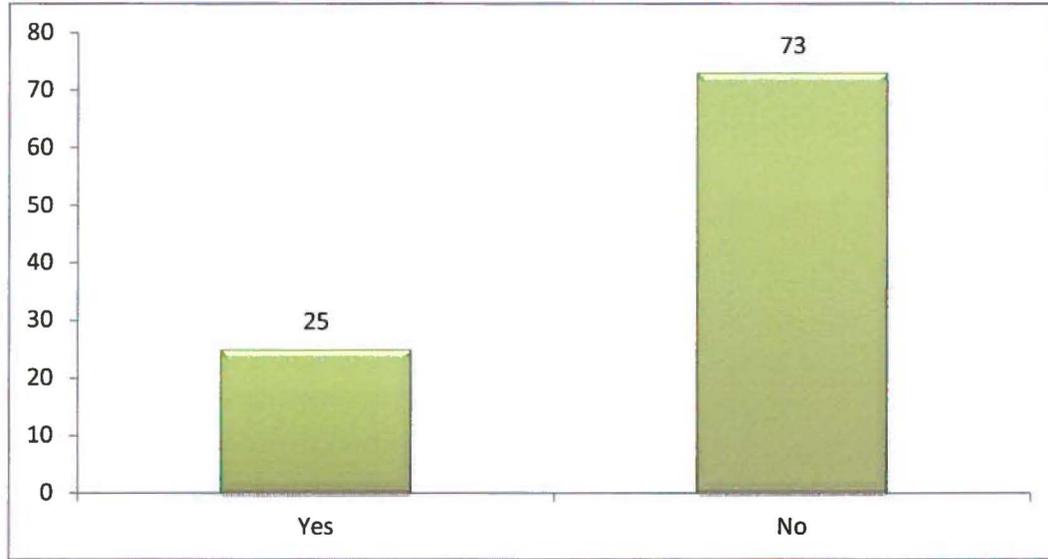
4. How long have you been doing floodplain management in the local government where you now are employed?

AnsweredQuestion 98
SkippedQuestion 1



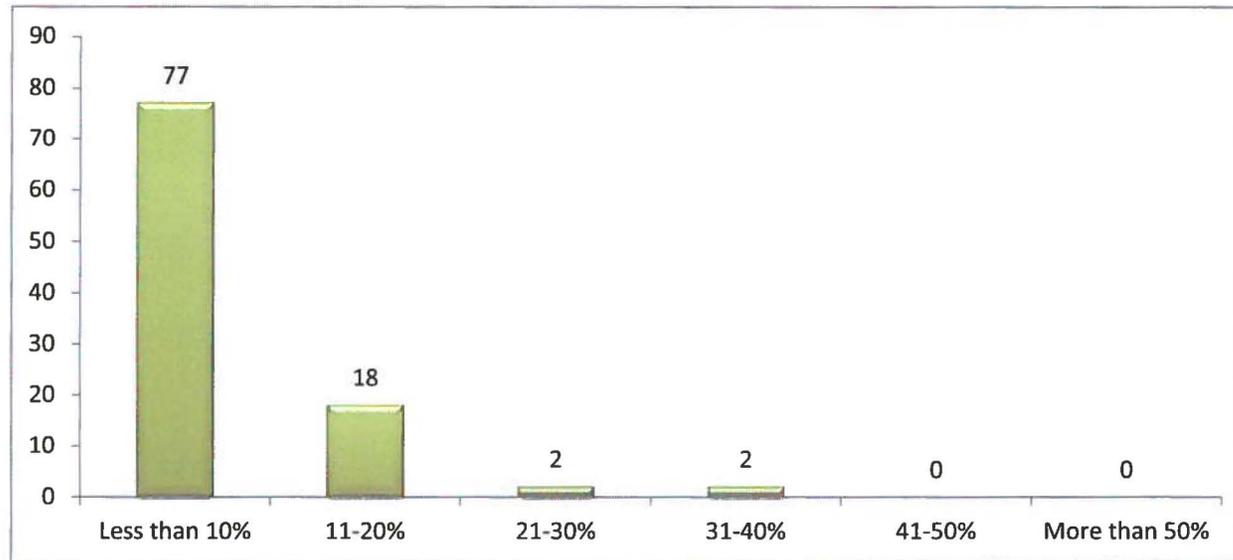
5. Did you have experience in floodplain management previous to this position?

AnsweredQuestion	98
SkippedQuestion	1



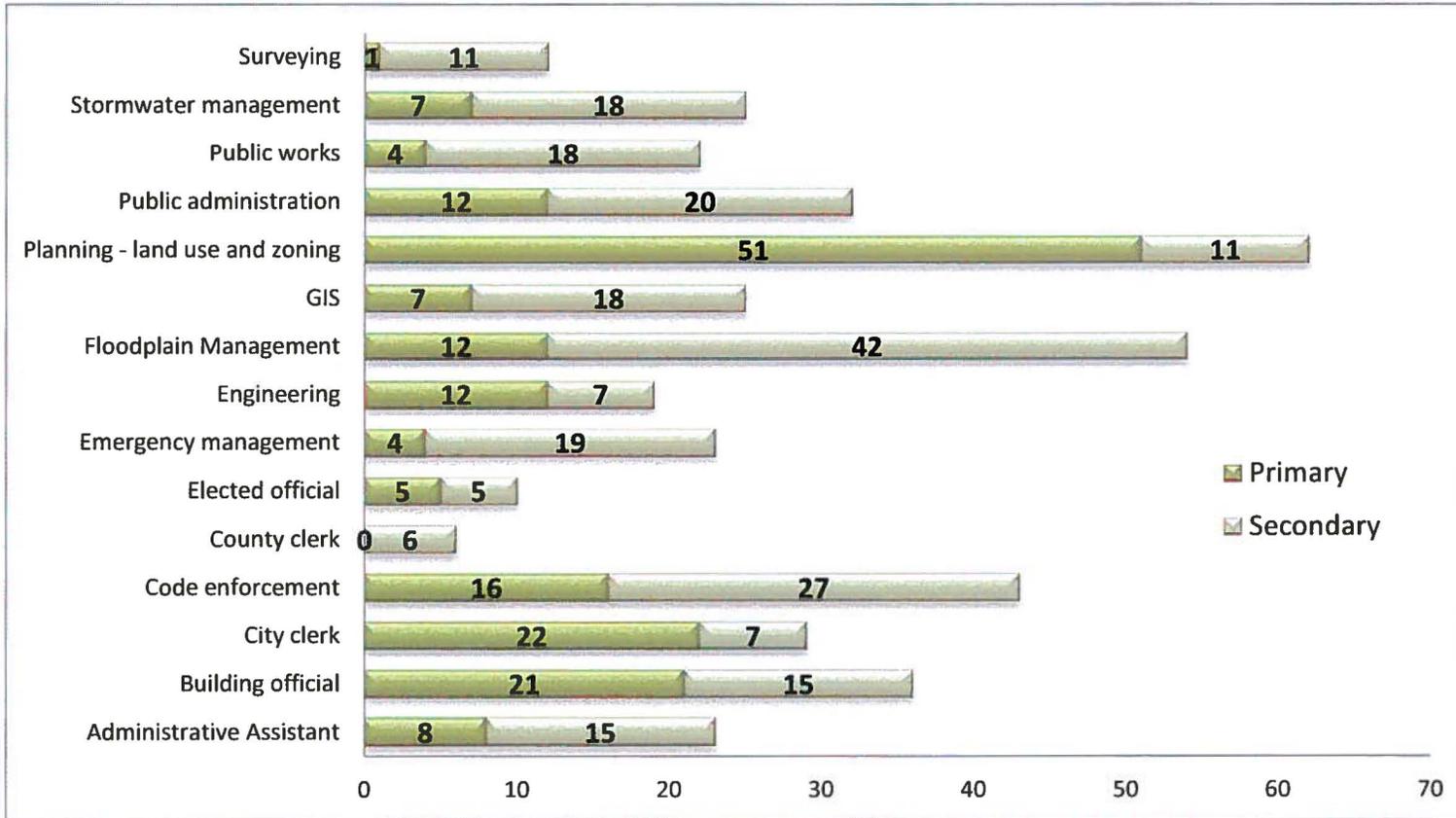
6. What percent of your annual work effort do you typically spend on floodplain management activities?

AnsweredQuestion 99
SkippedQuestion 0

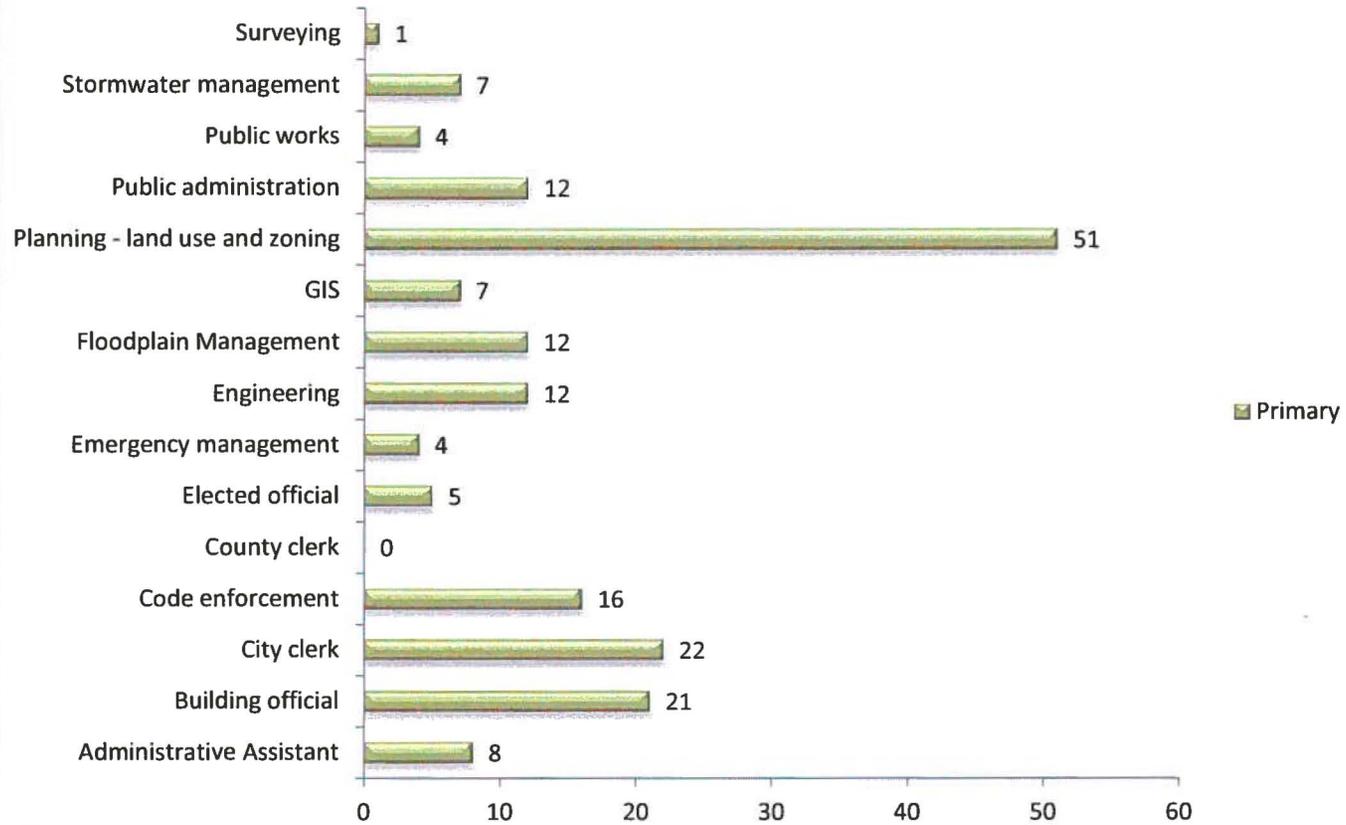


7. In what areas of expertise do you perform most of your work? Please rank them 1 and 2 with 1 being where

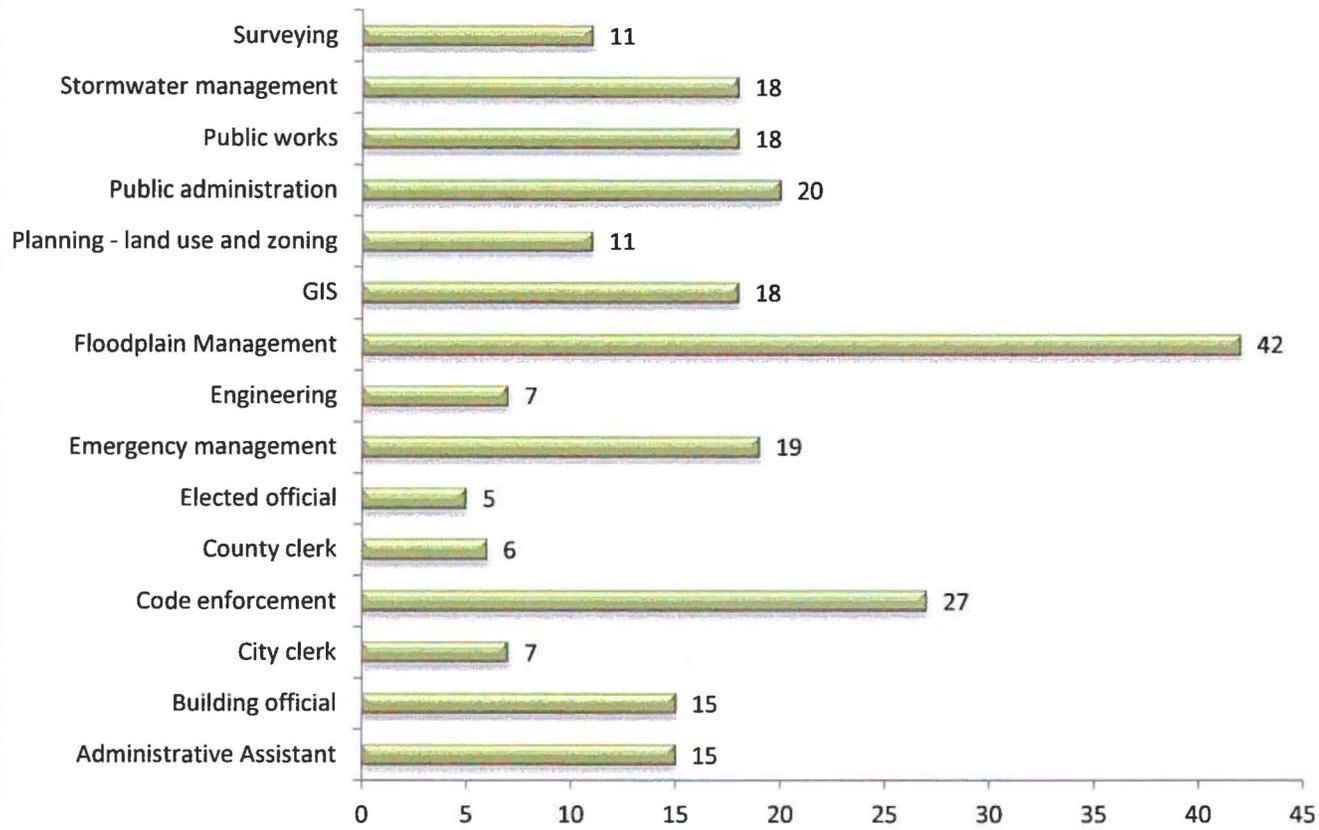
AnsweredQuestion 99
SkippedQuestion 0



Primary Duty

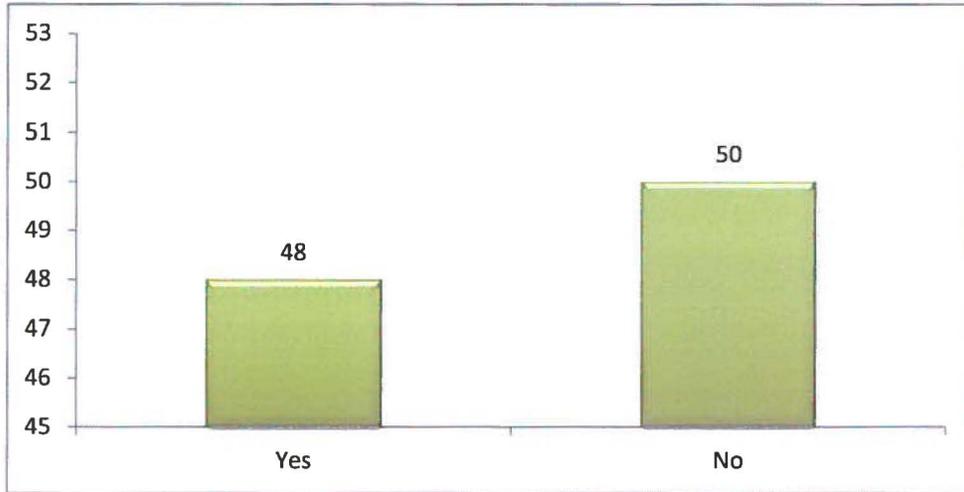


Secondary Duty

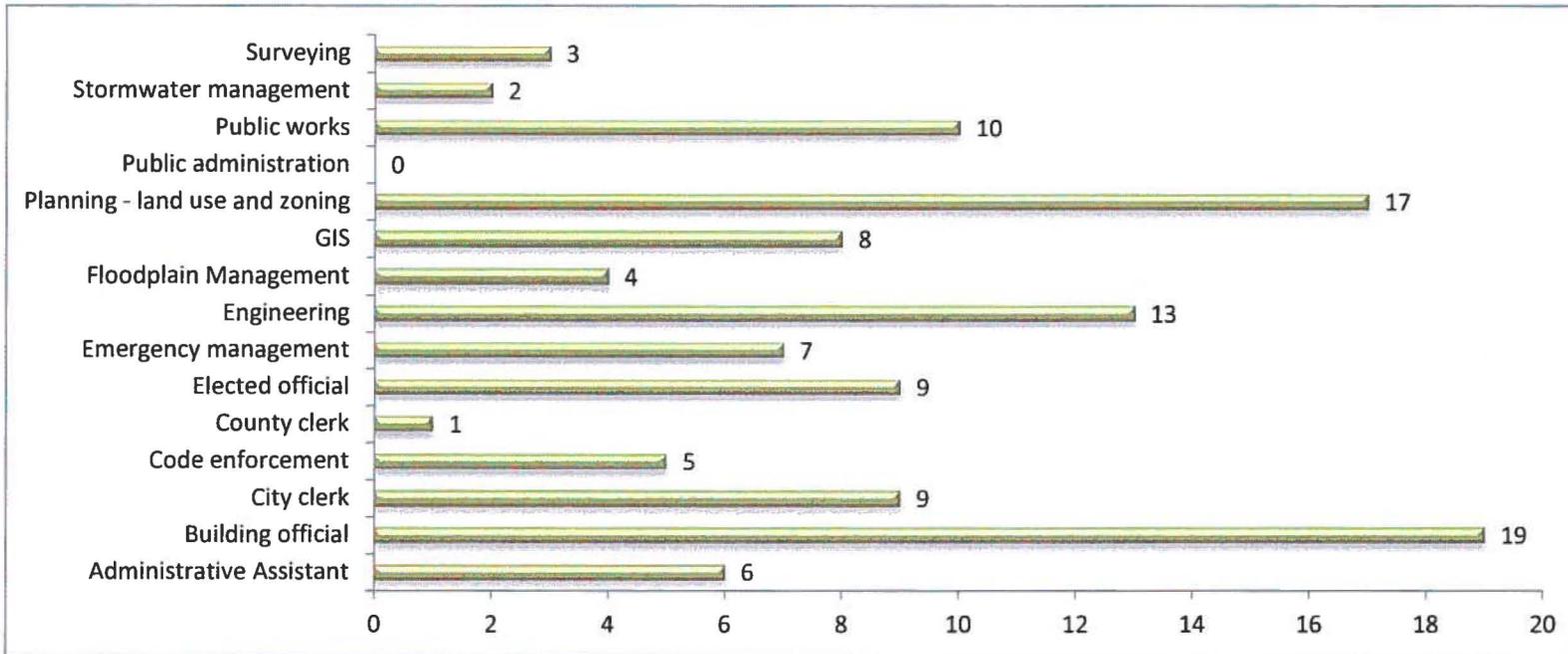


8. Is floodplain management a shared responsibility in your local government?

AnsweredQuestion 98
SkippedQuestion 1

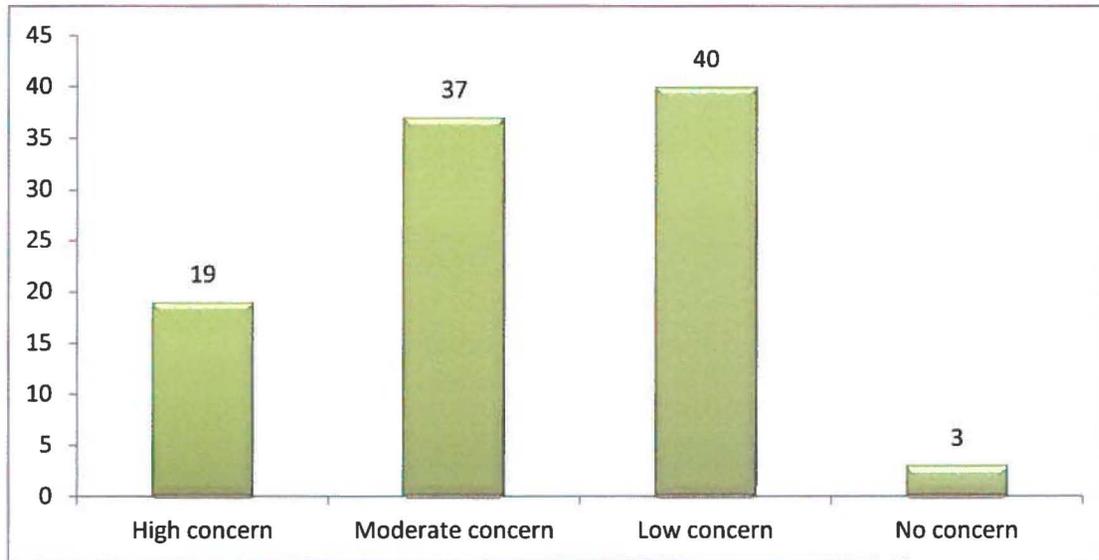


9. If yes, who else assists in floodplain management? Please check all that apply.



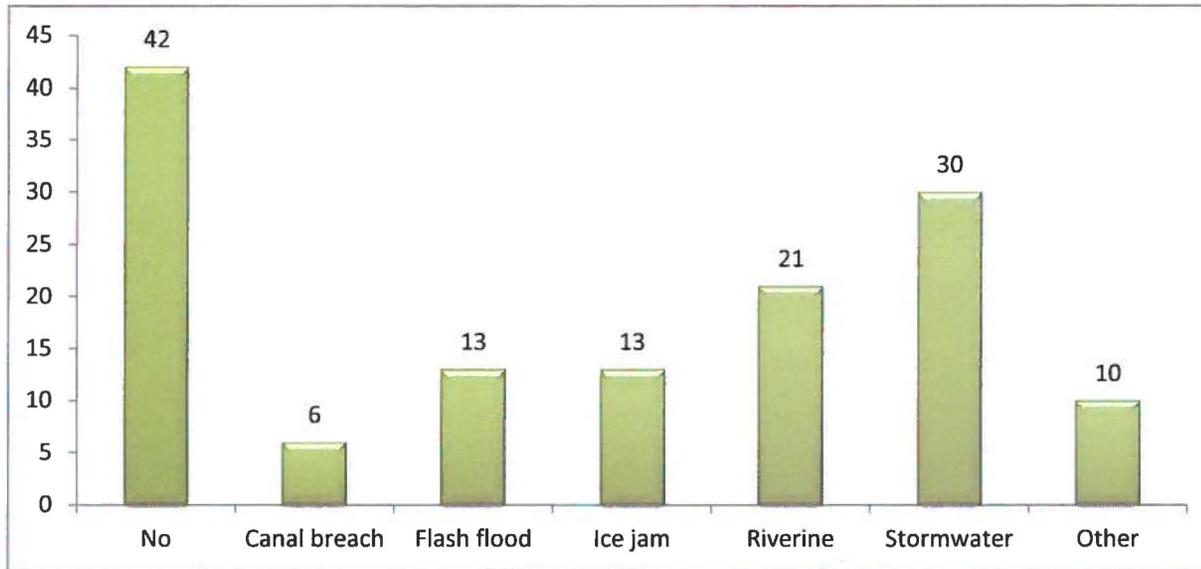
10. What is your level of concern about flooding in your community?

AnsweredQuestion 99
SkippedQuestion 0



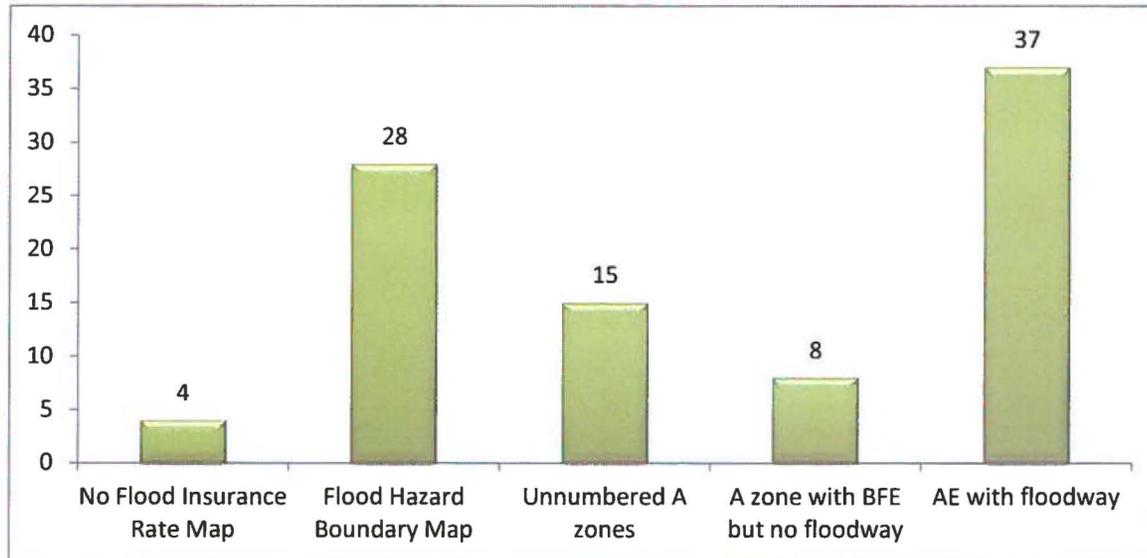
11. Has there been flooding in your community since you have been doing floodplain management there? Check all that apply.

AnsweredQuestion 94
SkippedQuestion 5



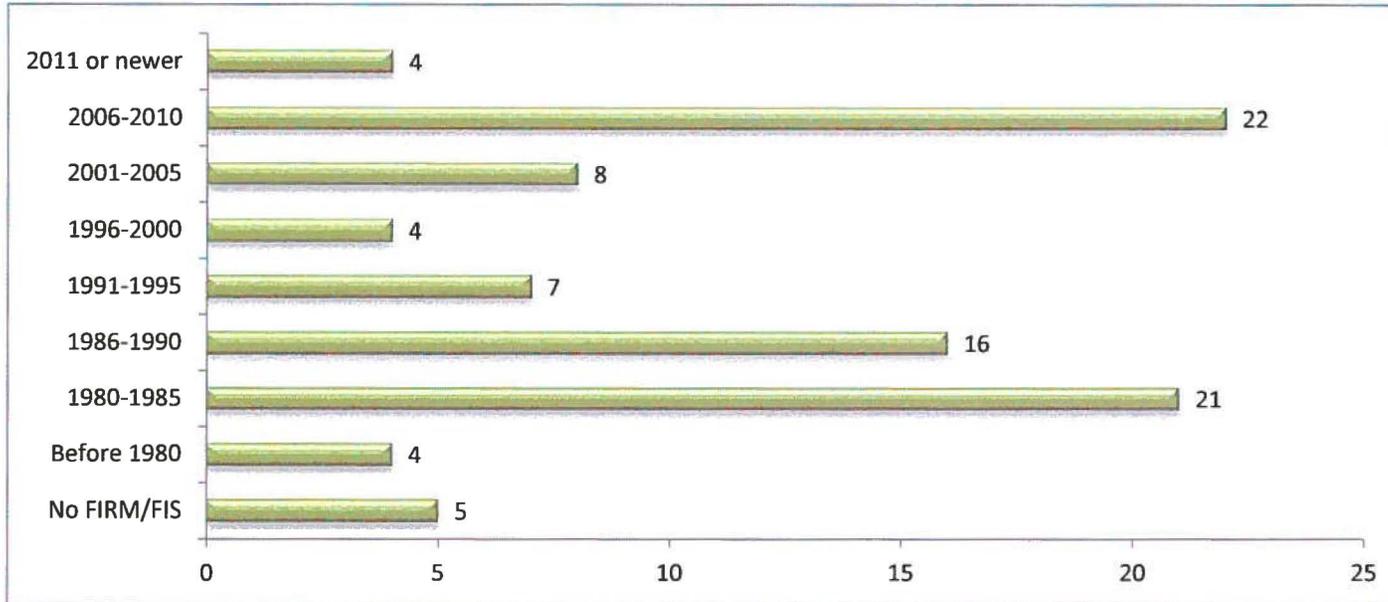
12. What is the most detailed level of mapping in your community?

Answered Question 92
Skipped Question 7

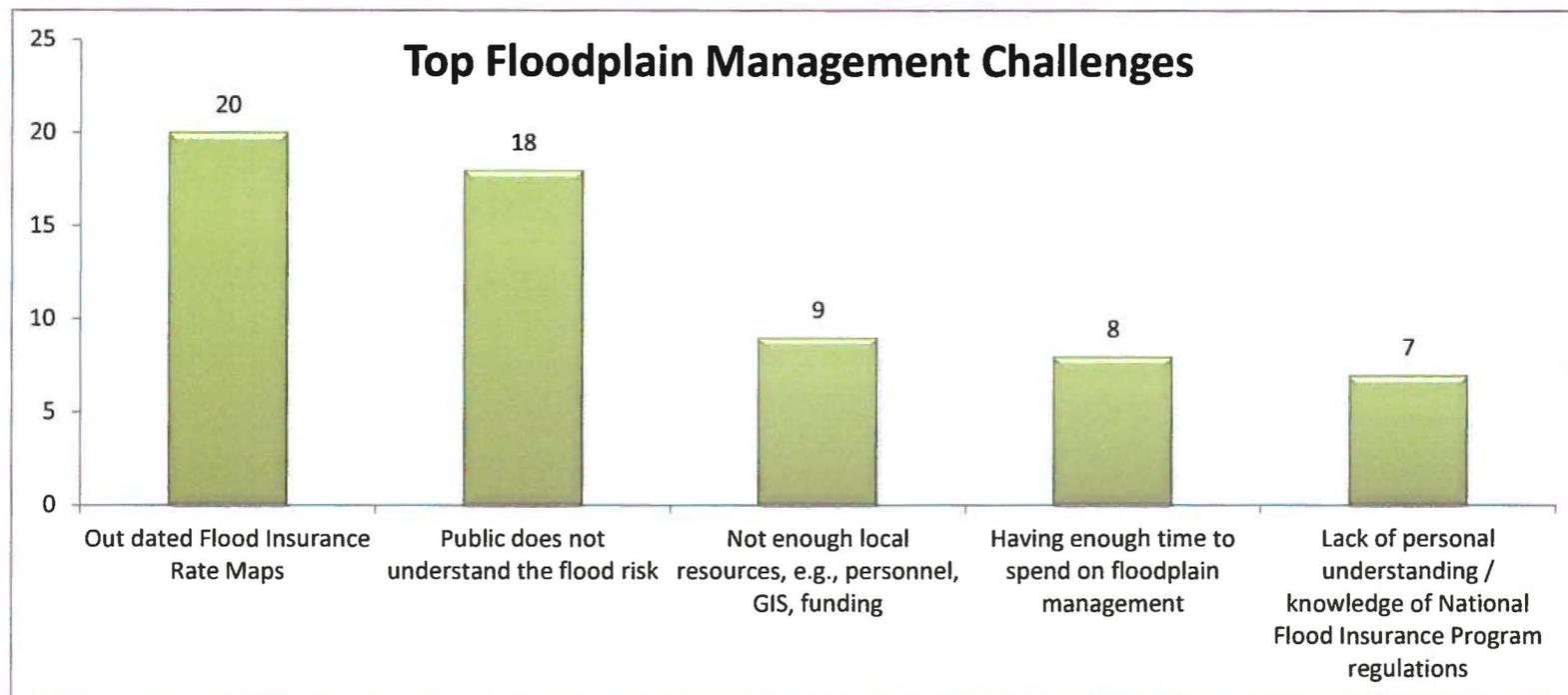


13. What is the age of the effective Flood Insurance Study and Flood insurance Rate Map?

AnsweredQuestion 91
SkippedQuestion 8

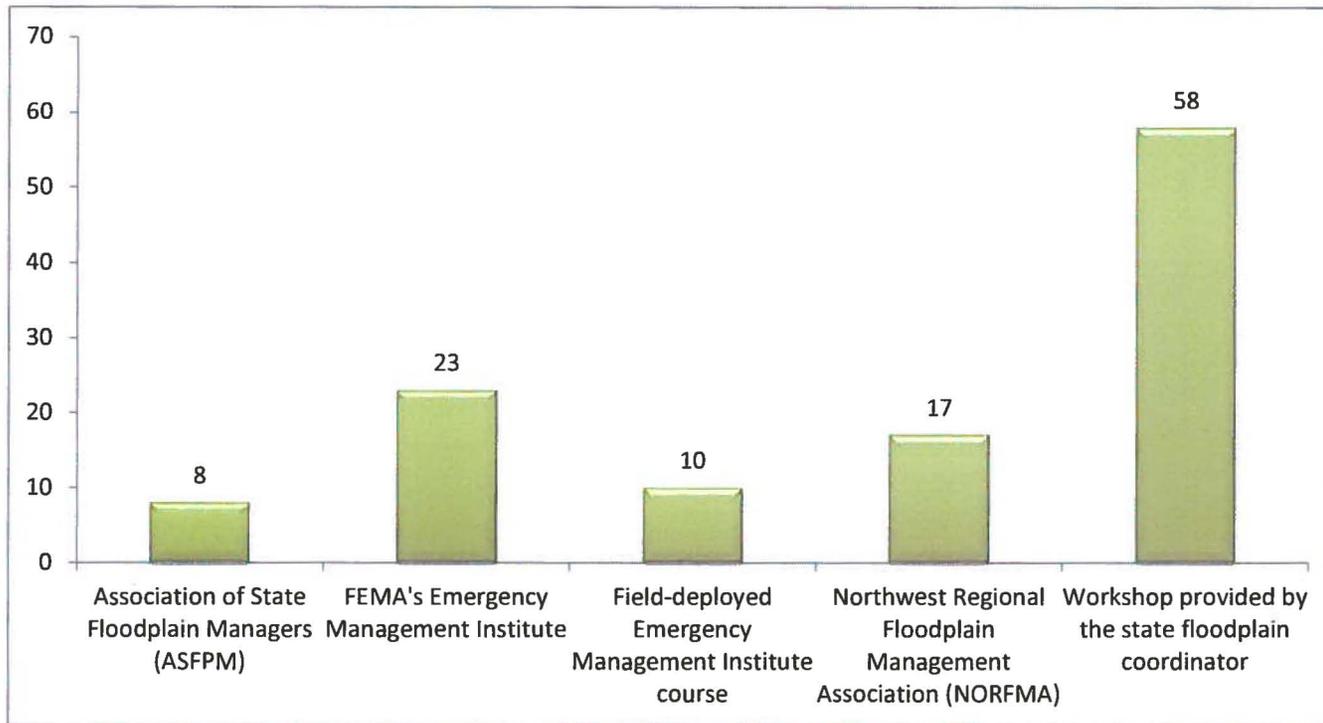


14. What are your top five floodplain management challenges? Please rank them with the 1st challenge being most challenging.



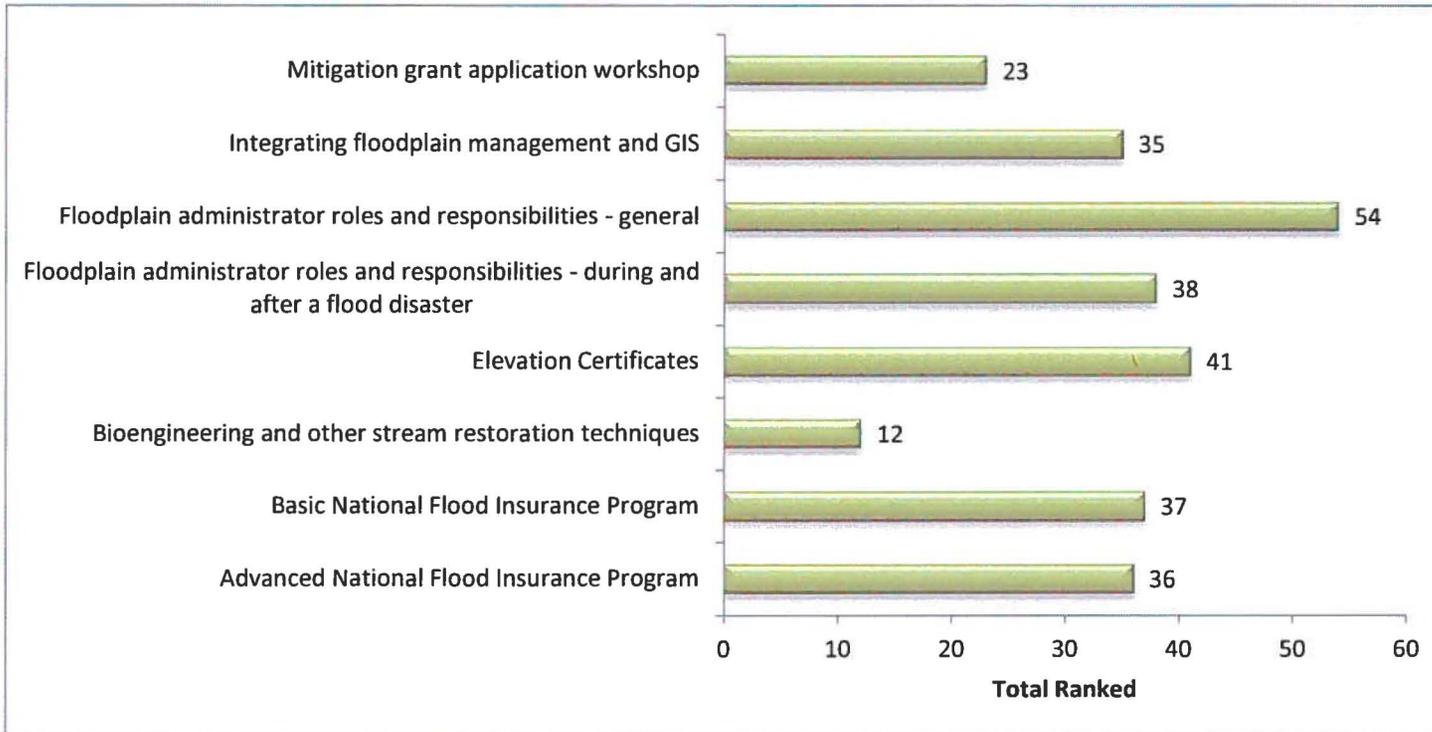
15. Have you ever attended floodplain management training? Check all that apply.

AnsweredQuestion 77
SkippedQuestion 22

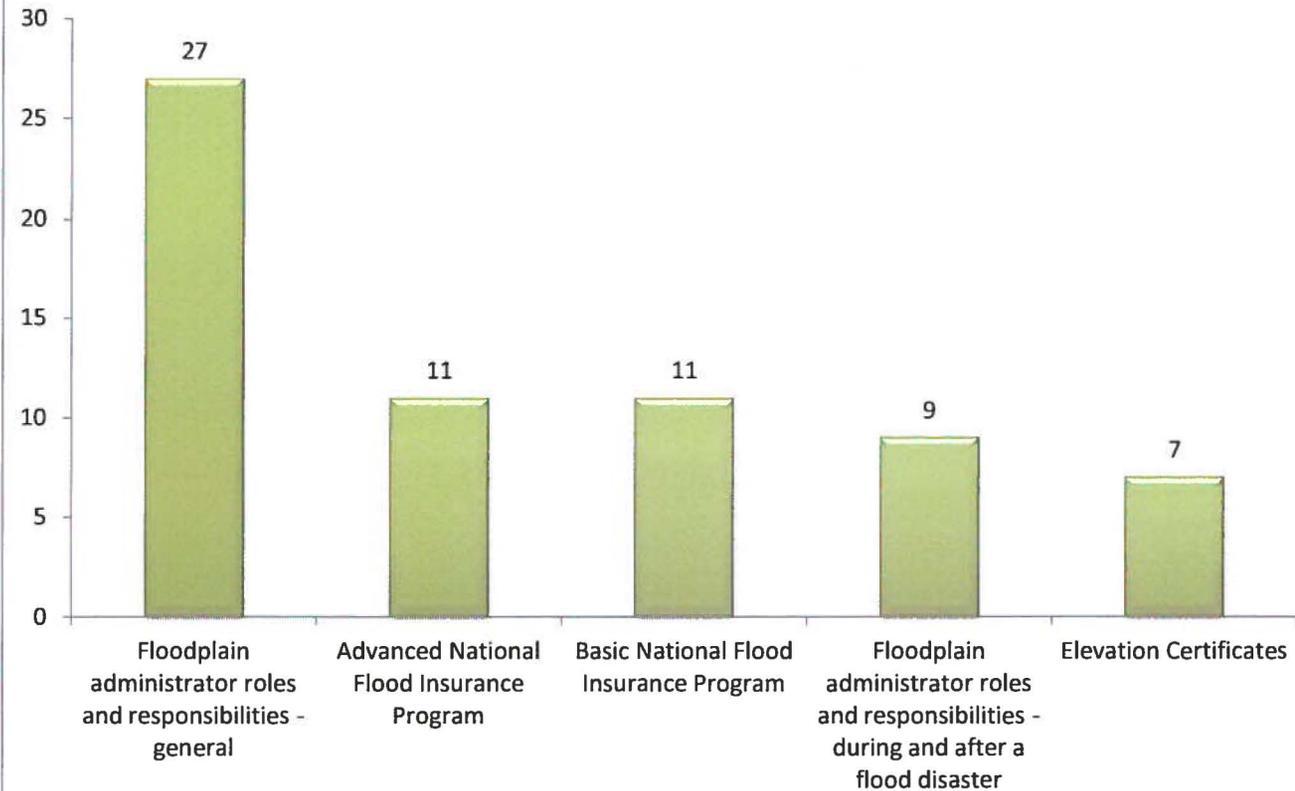


16. What training would you find most beneficial? Please rank them 1 to 5 with 1 being most important.

Answered Question 83
Skipped Question 16

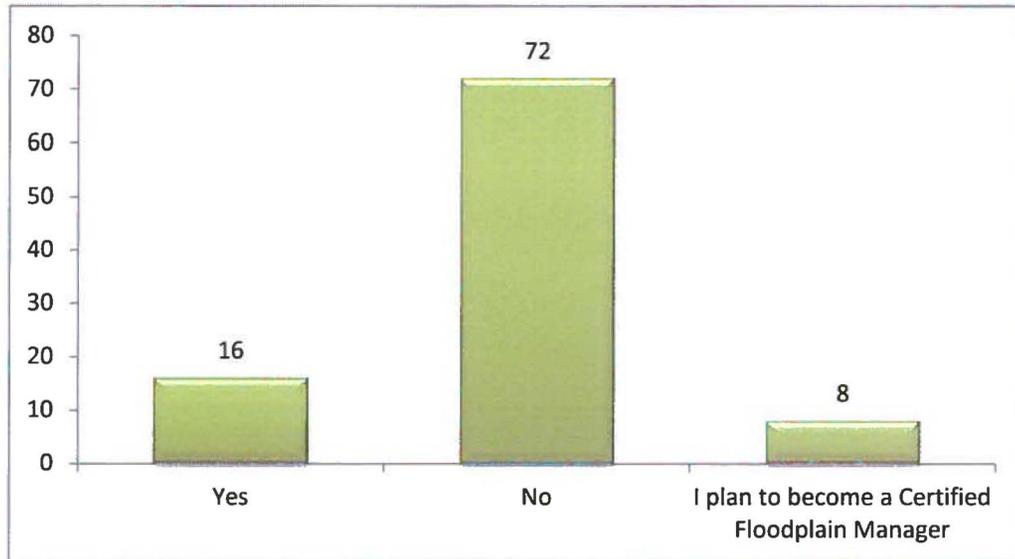


Most Beneficial Training Ranking



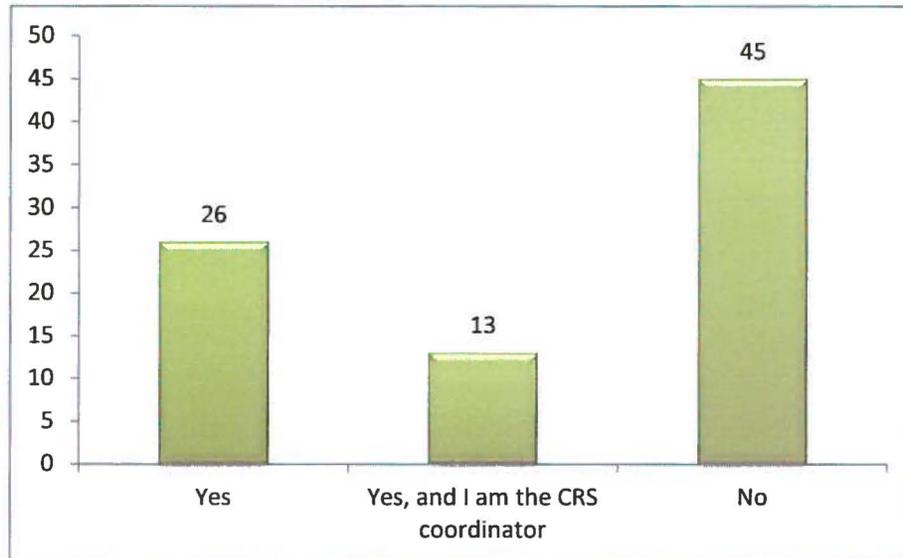
17. Are you a certified floodplain manager (CFM)?

AnsweredQuestion	96
SkippedQuestion	3



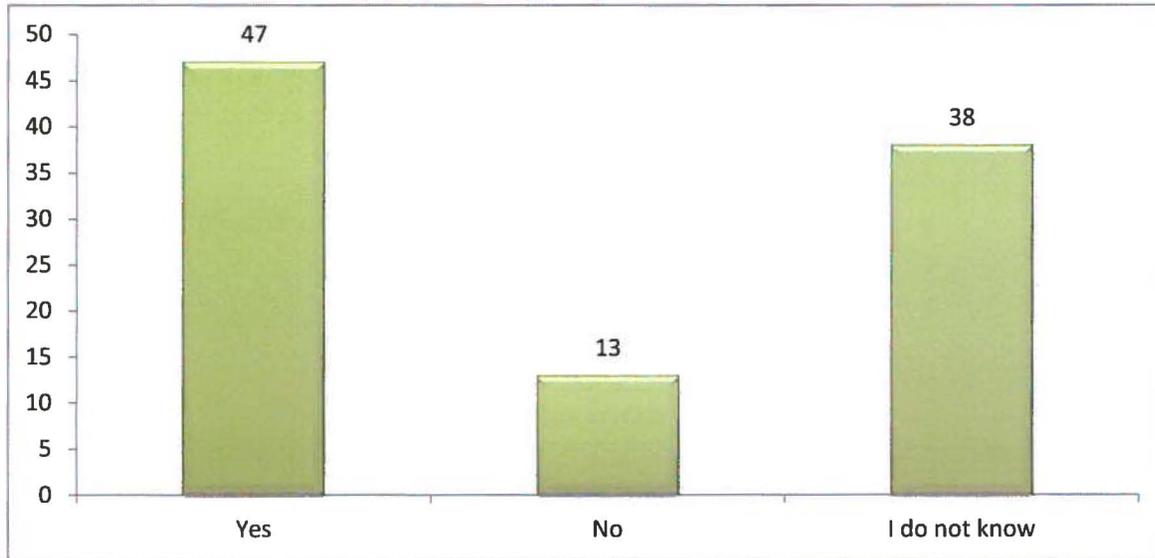
18. Is your city/county in the Community Rating System (CRS)?

AnsweredQuestion	84
SkippedQuestion	15



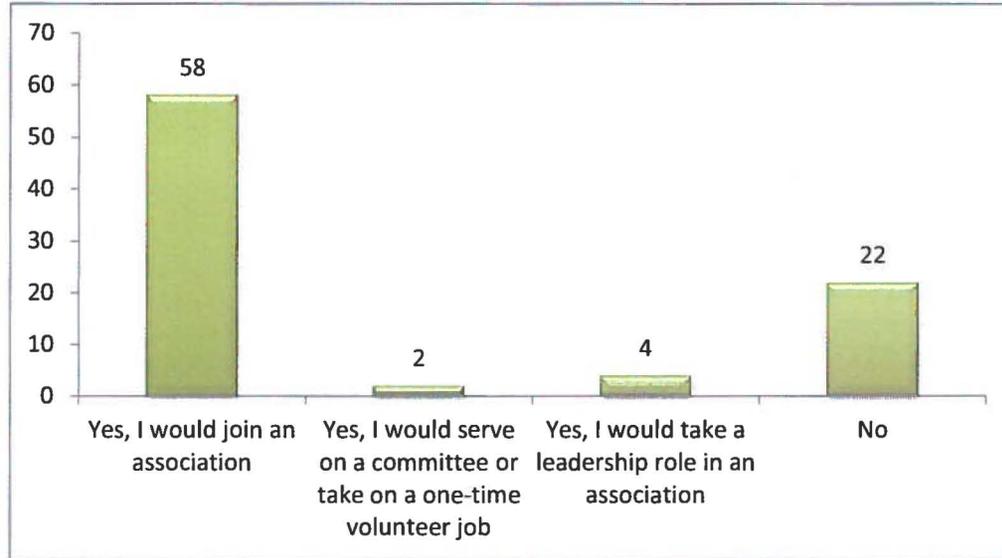
19. Do you think you would benefit from a state association of floodplain administrators/managers?

AnsweredQuestion 98
SkippedQuestion 1



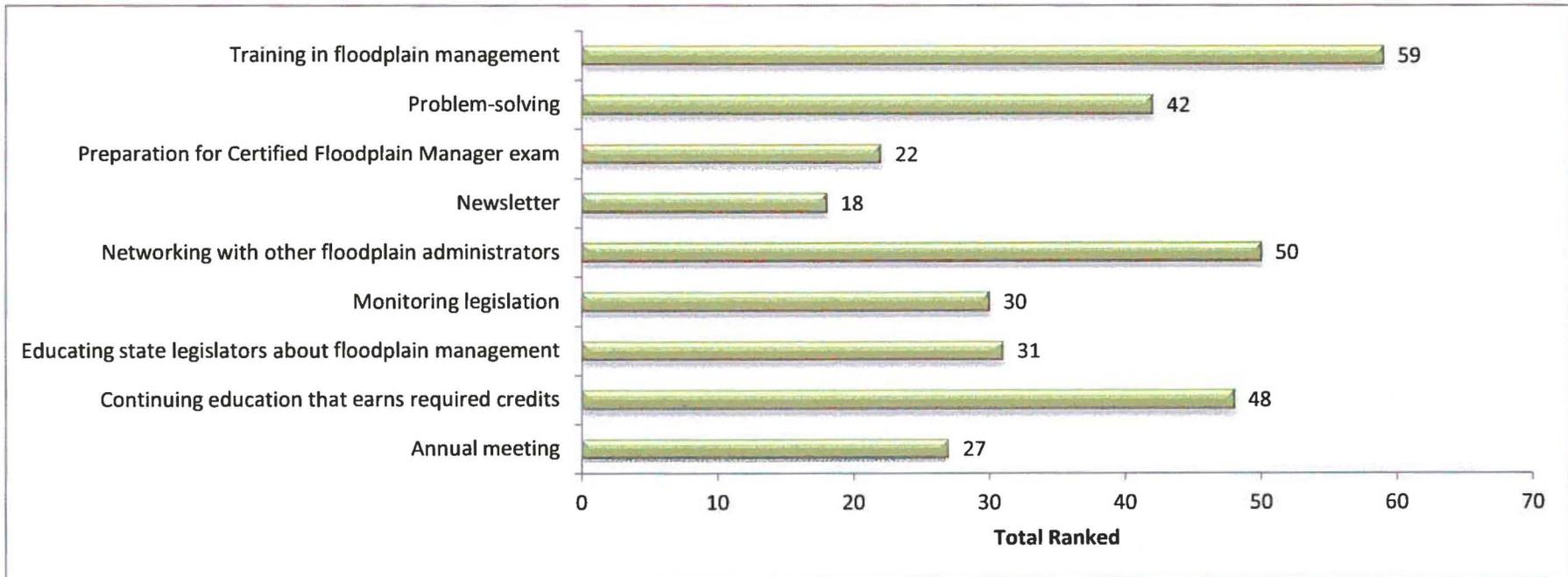
20. Would you support a state floodplain management association?

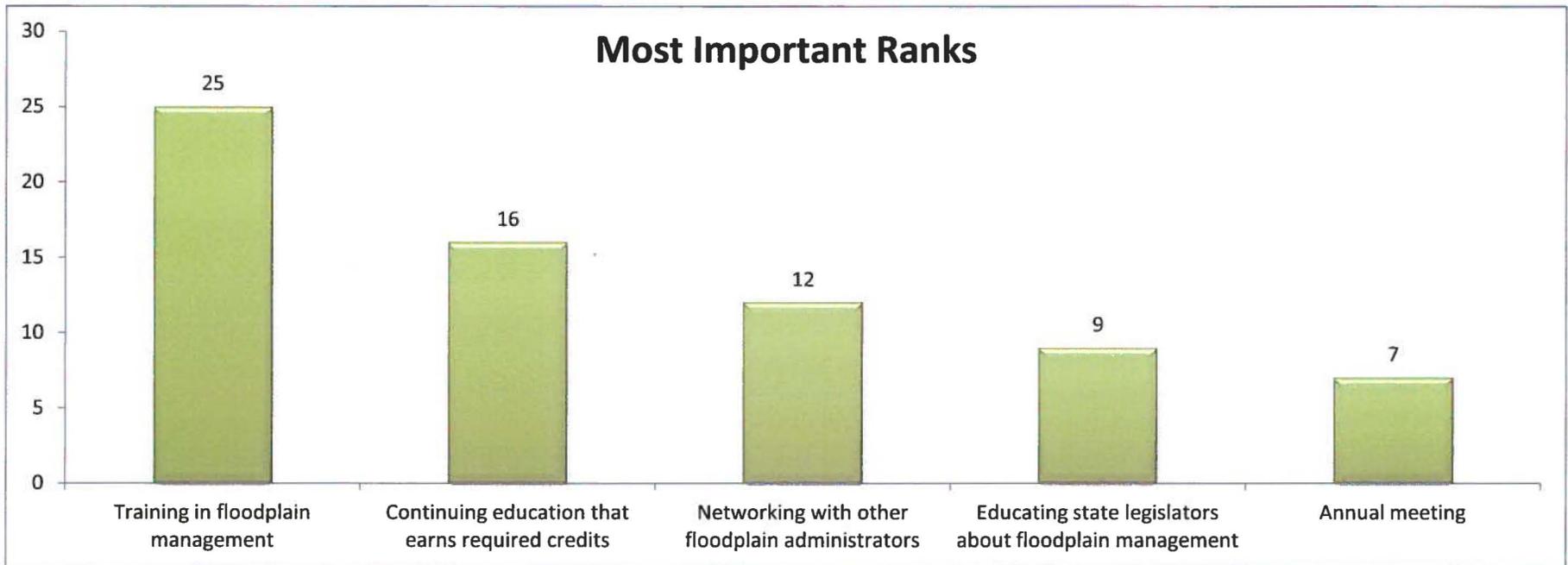
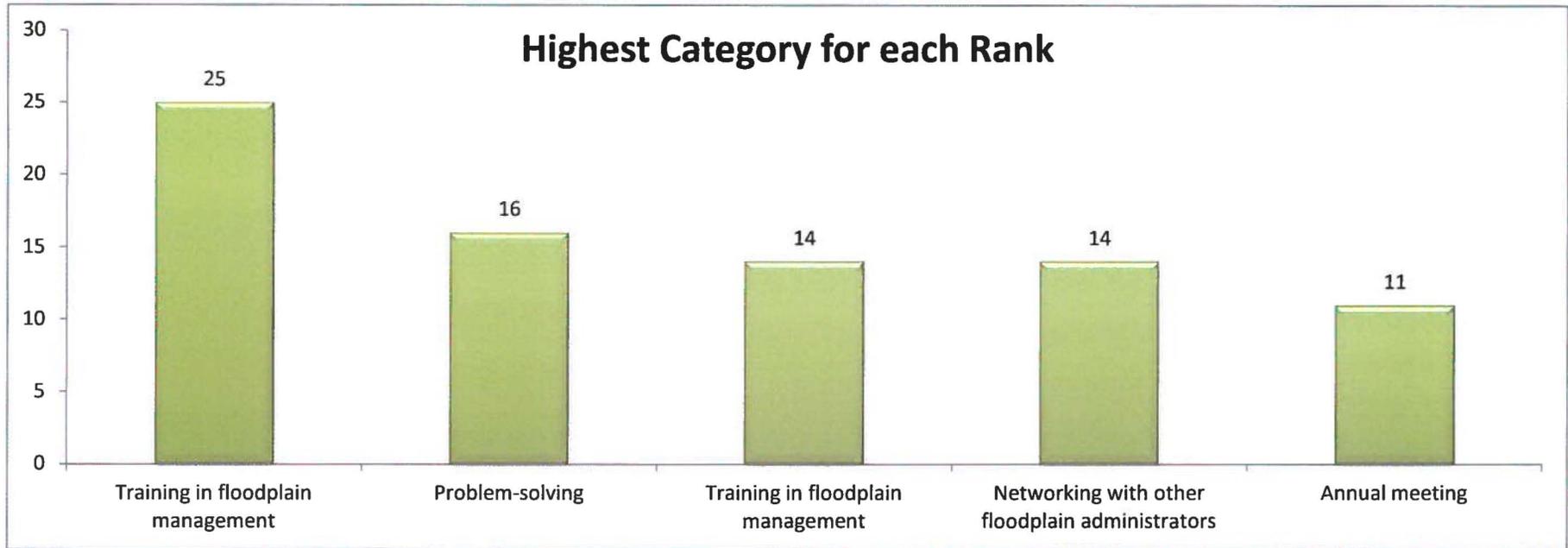
AnsweredQuestion	86
SkippedQuestion	13



21. What benefits should a state association offer? Rank them from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important.

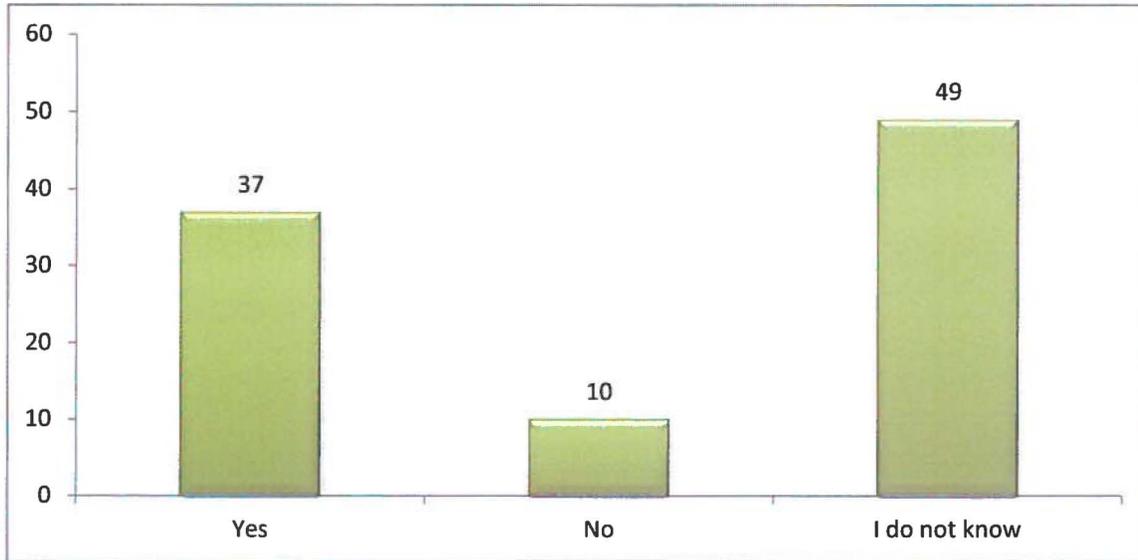
Answered 75
Skipped 24





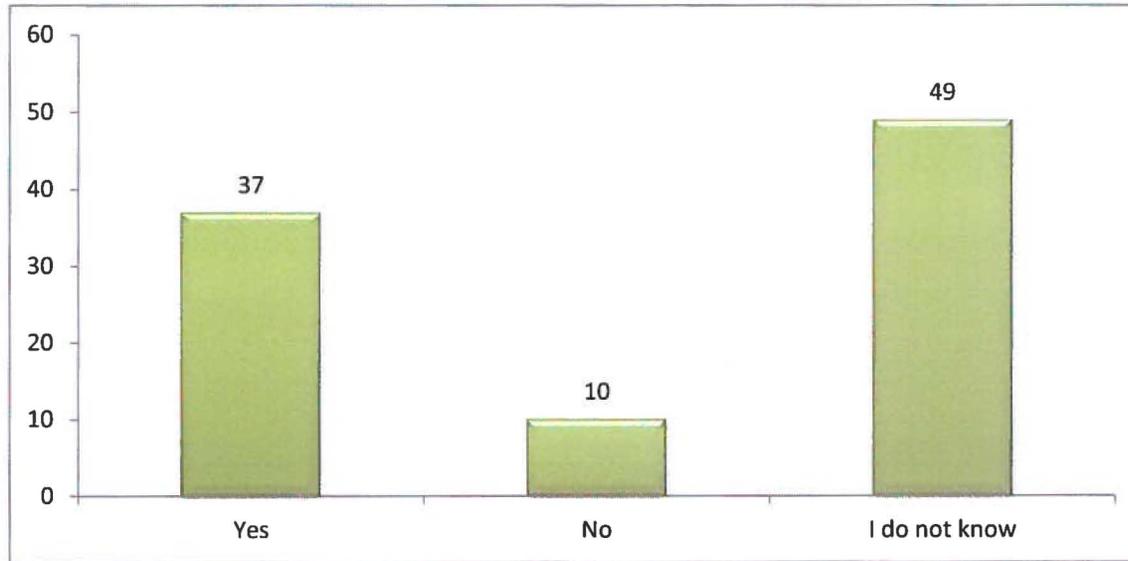
22. Will your employer pay an organizational membership fee?

AnsweredQuestion	96
SkippedQuestion	3



23. Will your employer pay an organizational membership fee?

AnsweredQuestion 96
SkippedQuestion 3



24. Do you have any comments pertaining to floodplain management in Idaho?

Get the levee vegetation issue figured out.

better mapping is most important need for Idaho's FPA's.

Not enough data concerning canals and flood prone areas within Jerome County.

Not at this time

Training needs to be at different levels and need to learn using own maps that are completely outdated. Even if an old map could be put on a current GIS layer would be better. It is frustrating to try to explain to property owners that they are not allowed to build in the critical area close to the river. It is their property and they should be allowed to do what they want with the property. Also property owners won't allow city workers to access the river to take out fallen trees so we can keep debris out of the river to I would love to see education more specific to Idaho's geography when it comes to managing floodplains, instead of coastal regions.

There are numerous communities similar to mine, that are small and underfunded. Having a group of FPM's to network with and to utilize the power of a group is a great idea. Too many times the individual community is left to its own devices to regulate, educate and manage issues that really effect a region as a whole. I would like to see greater regional efforts put to work managing our floodplains.

Training, Training, and Training

participation in CRS not worth the expense of record keeping in a small community

It would be nice to have an online forum to ask questions, "throw spaghetti on the wall." Especially for new FM to be able to ask questions of the more experienced would be beneficial. It's easy to understand the "book," but each application always has quirks that would be nice to vet to a group without the judgment of it being FEMA.

We need mapping based on good elevation info and updated studies. The IDWR web map was a big leap forward.

1. With the anticipated reduction in Federal discretionary spending in the years ahead combined with strong private property rights, more emphasis and training on market-based incentives and no adverse impact type approaches would be helpful. 2. The unresolved issue of levee protection vis-a-vis FIRM zones continues to present a challenge and uncertainty for locals.

Support the Idaho Dept of Water Resources Flood Plain Administrator

We have few, and small waterways, little risk of flood. We have no floodplain maps, and FEMA isn't interested in helping.

Such diverse population and demographics make consistent state wide control impossible

no

Maps are out dated because don't know where the high water mark is located. Does not give an overview of potential flood areas from canal systems.

In our rural community we typically issue 1-4 Floodplain Development Permits in a year. The CRS requirements are so complicated and the Manual so massive that adequate training and the necessary documentation is not easily obtainable by one part-time employee. The time & money invested in producing CRS-required documentation is significant, especially in comparison to the number of structures our community has in A-zones. A simplified program for communities with limited data (unnumbered A zones) or limited resources could be implemented much more effectively and efficiently.