

Characterizing Volunteer Monitoring Programs Across the Country: Final Survey Results

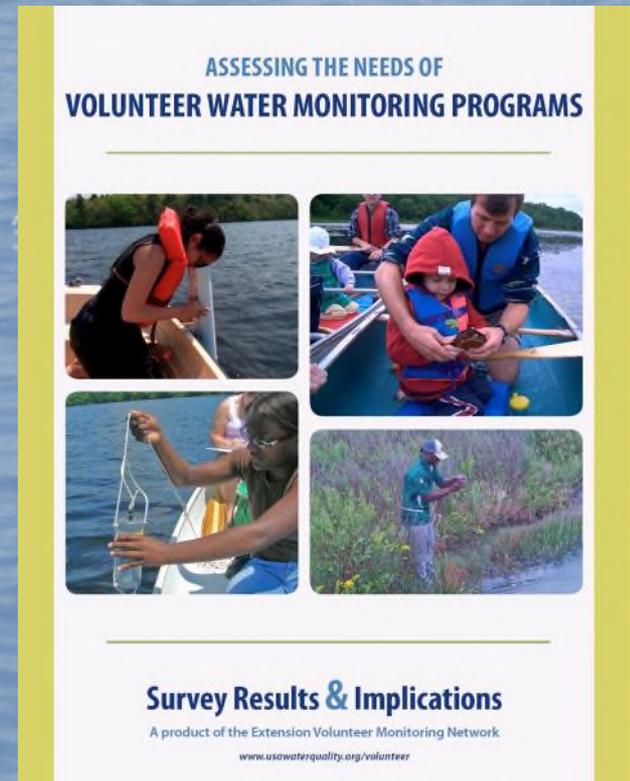
Linda Green¹, Kristine Stepenuck²,
Elizabeth Herron¹, Frank Finley³,
Bill Deutsch⁴, Adam Sigler⁵

¹URI Cooperative Extension, ²U Wisc – Extension,
³Salish Kootenai College, ⁴Auburn Univ, ⁵Montana State
University



Extension Volunteer Water Monitoring Network (EVMN)

- Funded 2000-2013 through USDA NIWQP grants
- Goals:
 - Build a support system for Extension-connected volunteer water quality monitoring efforts
 - Expand & strengthen the capacity of existing VM programs
 - Support development of new groups (Extension or not)



www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer

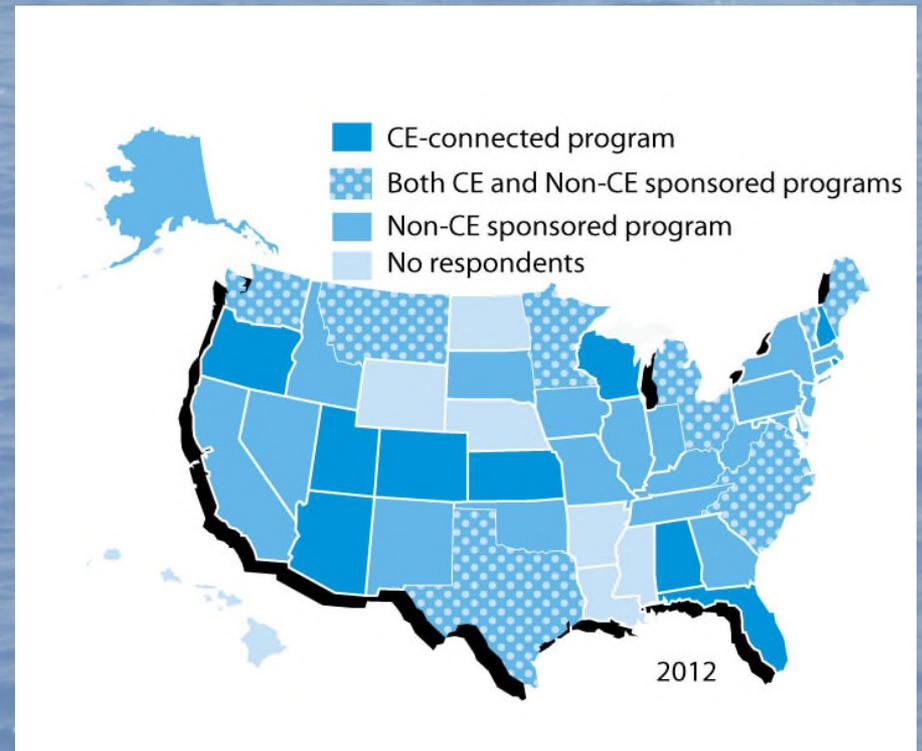


2012 Survey

- Determine the **status** of VM programs, including learning how they began, their goals, ongoing efforts, resources, and **needs**.
- Online needs assessment carried out in fall and winter 2011-2012.
 - Contacted thru EPA VM & EVMN listservs
 - 3 rounds of e-requests
 - Begging email to individual EVMN coordinators

Respondents

- **102 programs** from 42 states responded
- 38 Extension-connected programs
- 64 non-Extension programs
- Programs began 1971-2011



Monitoring Programs

- ◆ Rivers/streams (69*)
- ◆ Lakes/ponds (35)
- ◆ Estuary/Marine (12)
- ◆ Wetlands (10)
- ◆ Beaches (7)
- ◆ Wells (2)

* = # programs

The Largest Programs...

- MiCorps - **20,000 volunteers** in a single program
- **5000 streams** (MO Stream Team)
- **900 lakes** (WI Citizen Lake Monitoring Network),
- **300 wells** (MT State University Extension)
- **300 beaches** (Alliance for the Great Lakes)
- **>150 wetlands** (Friends of the Rouge River, MI),
- **125 estuary/marine** locations (Florida Lakewatch)

Totals...

Water Body Type	Number of Sites	Number of Volunteers
River/stream	14,610	46,170
Lake/pond	4570	6980
Wells	315	340
Beach	660	9400
Wetlands	295	710
Estuary/Marine	390	660
TOTALS	20,850	64,260

Contributing

>514,700 hours (2010)

Valued at \$10,834,300*

Ranging from

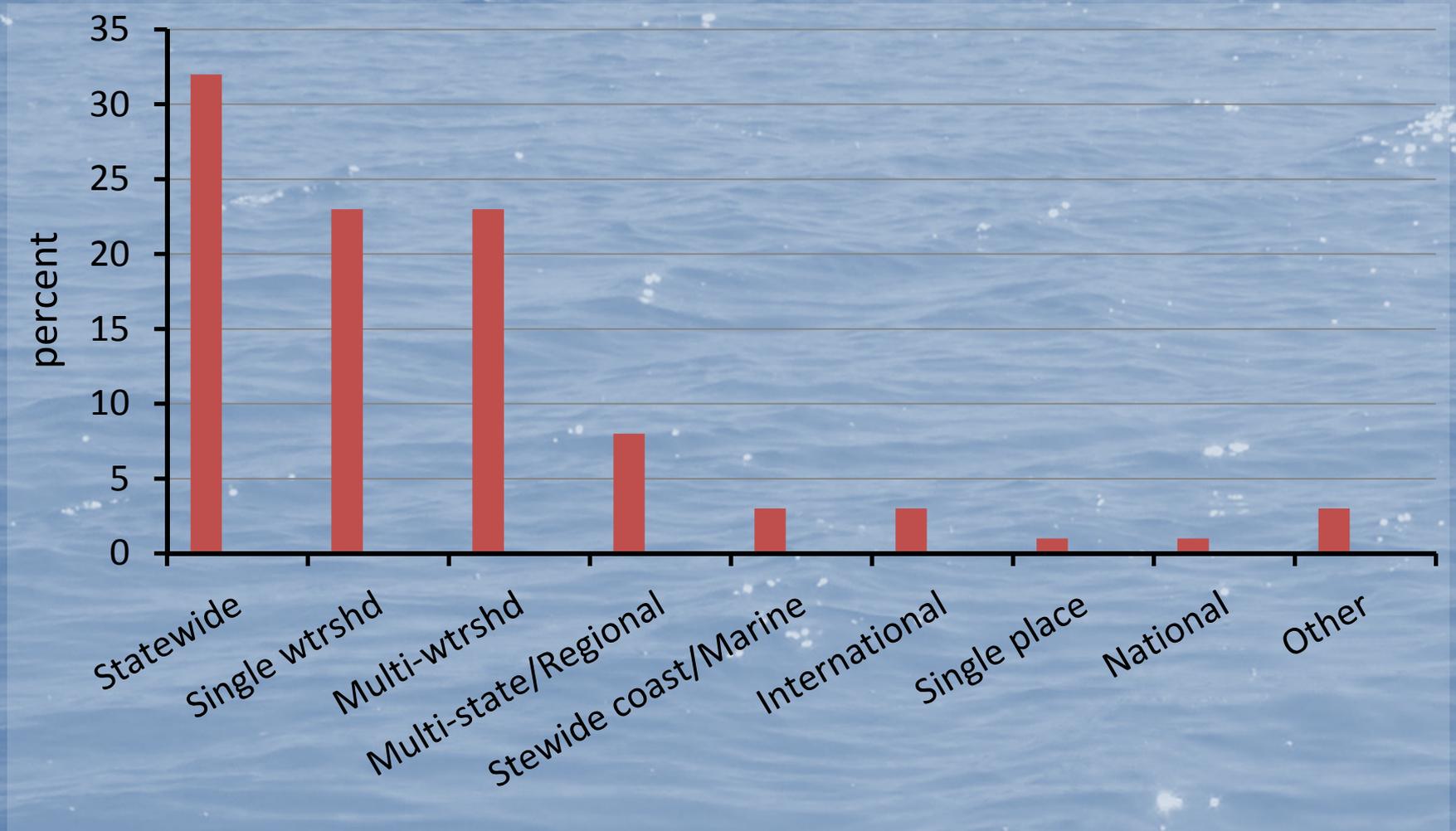
15 hours (local WI program) to

260,000 hours (Texas Master Naturalist Program)

* www.independentsector.org
using each state's valuation

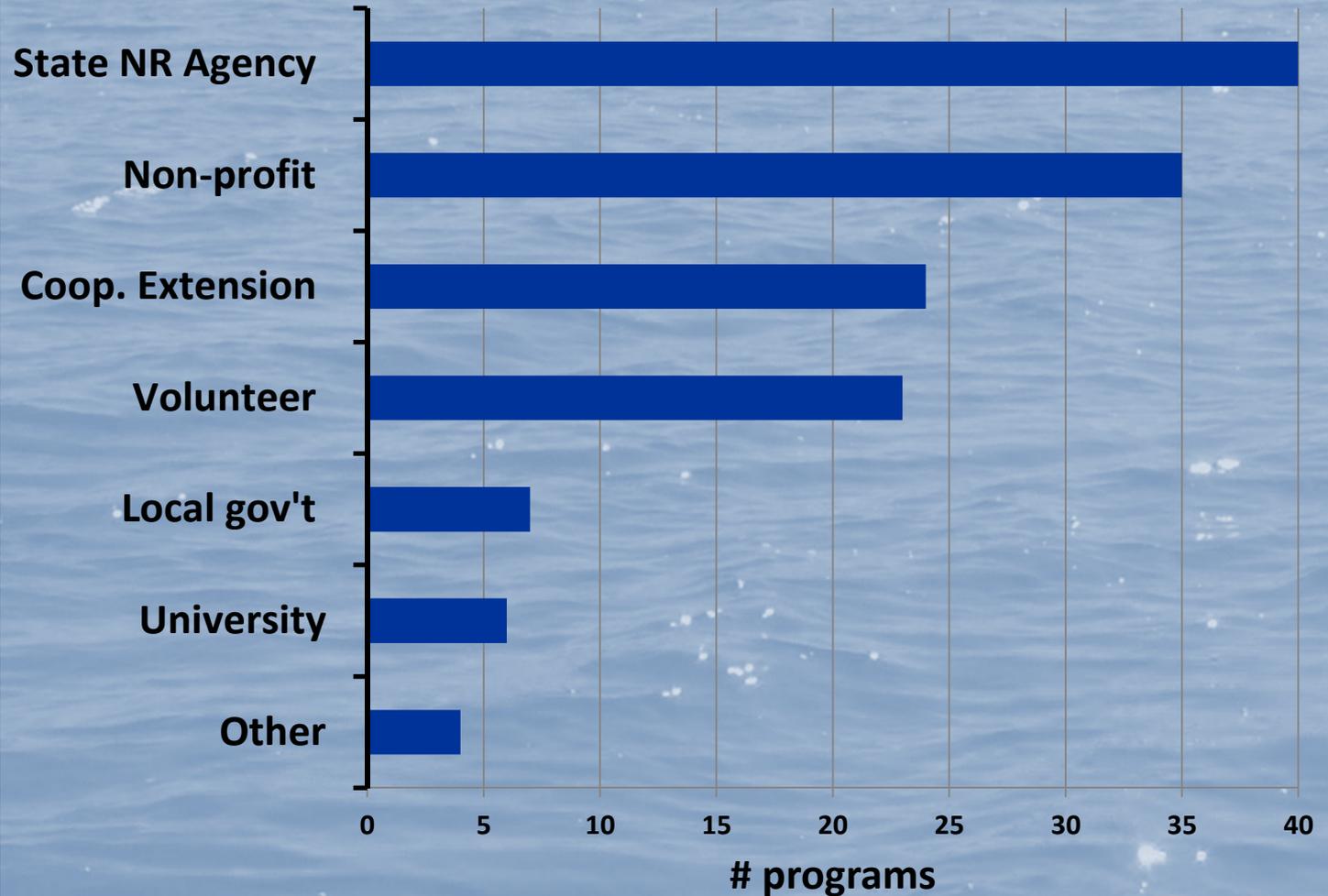


Geographic Extent of Programs

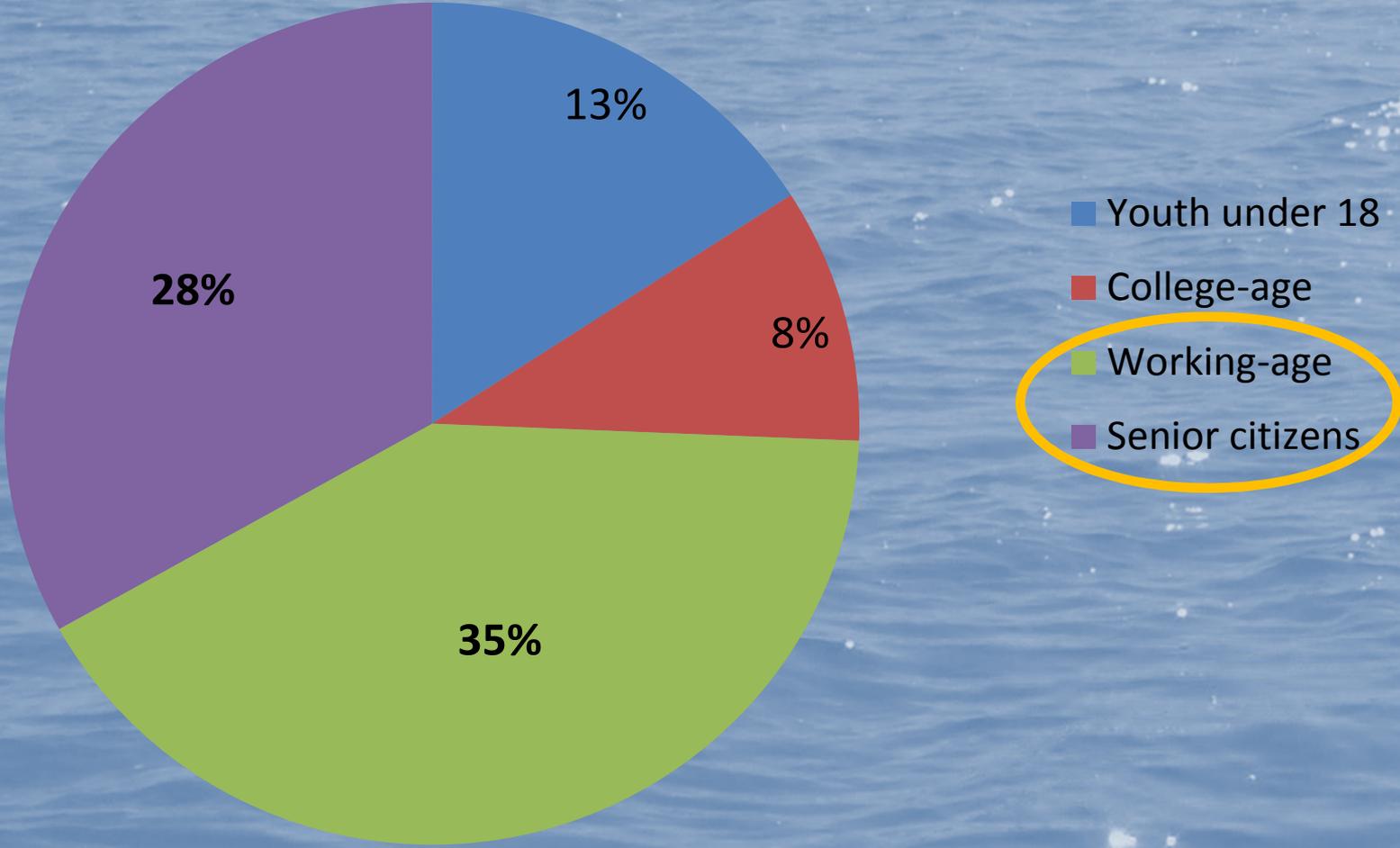


Who Started Programs

Note: 25 programs indicated multiple leaders led the charge to initiate their program.

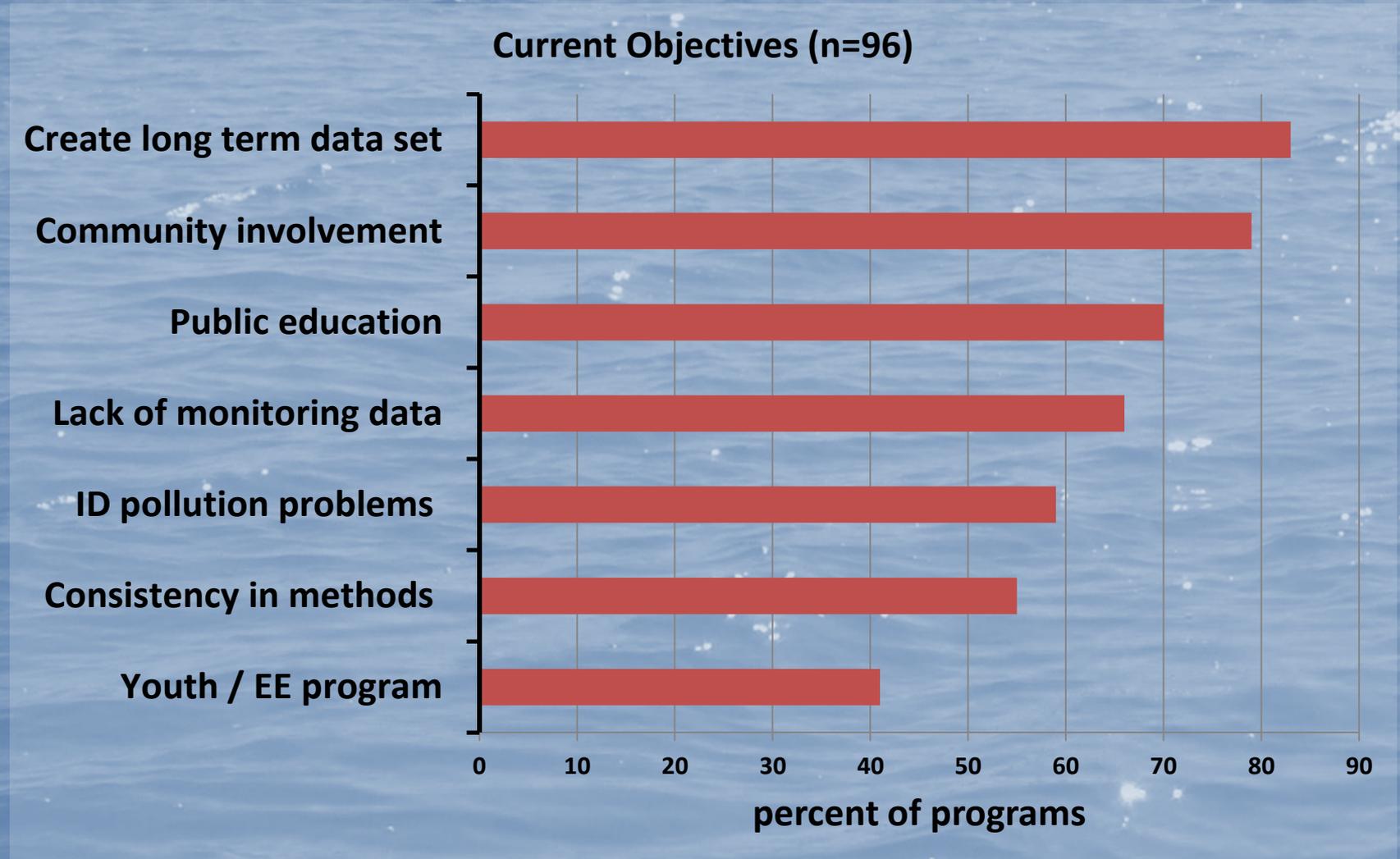


Who Monitors?



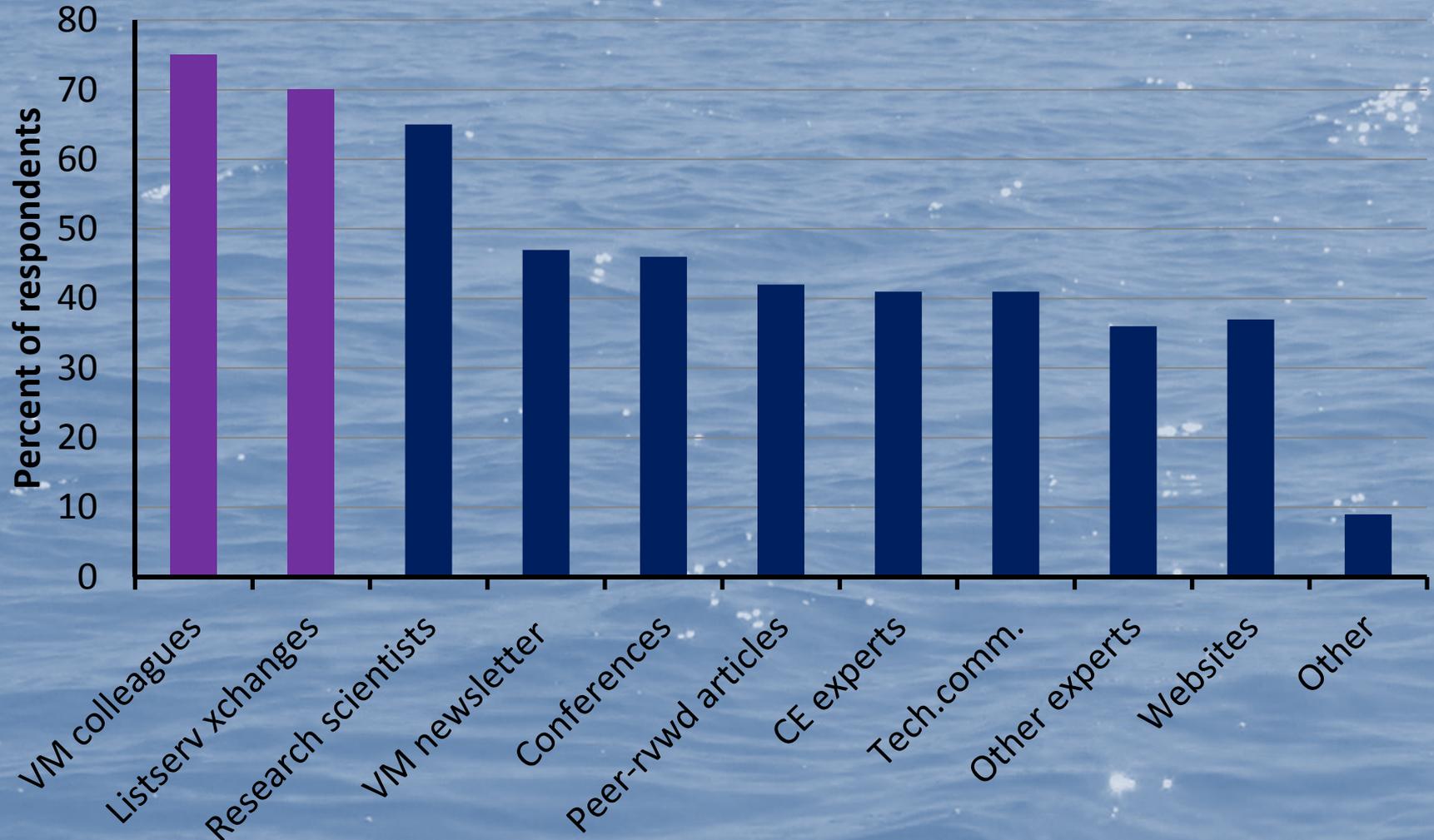
Current Objectives

Note: About 90% of responding programs indicated multiple program objectives.

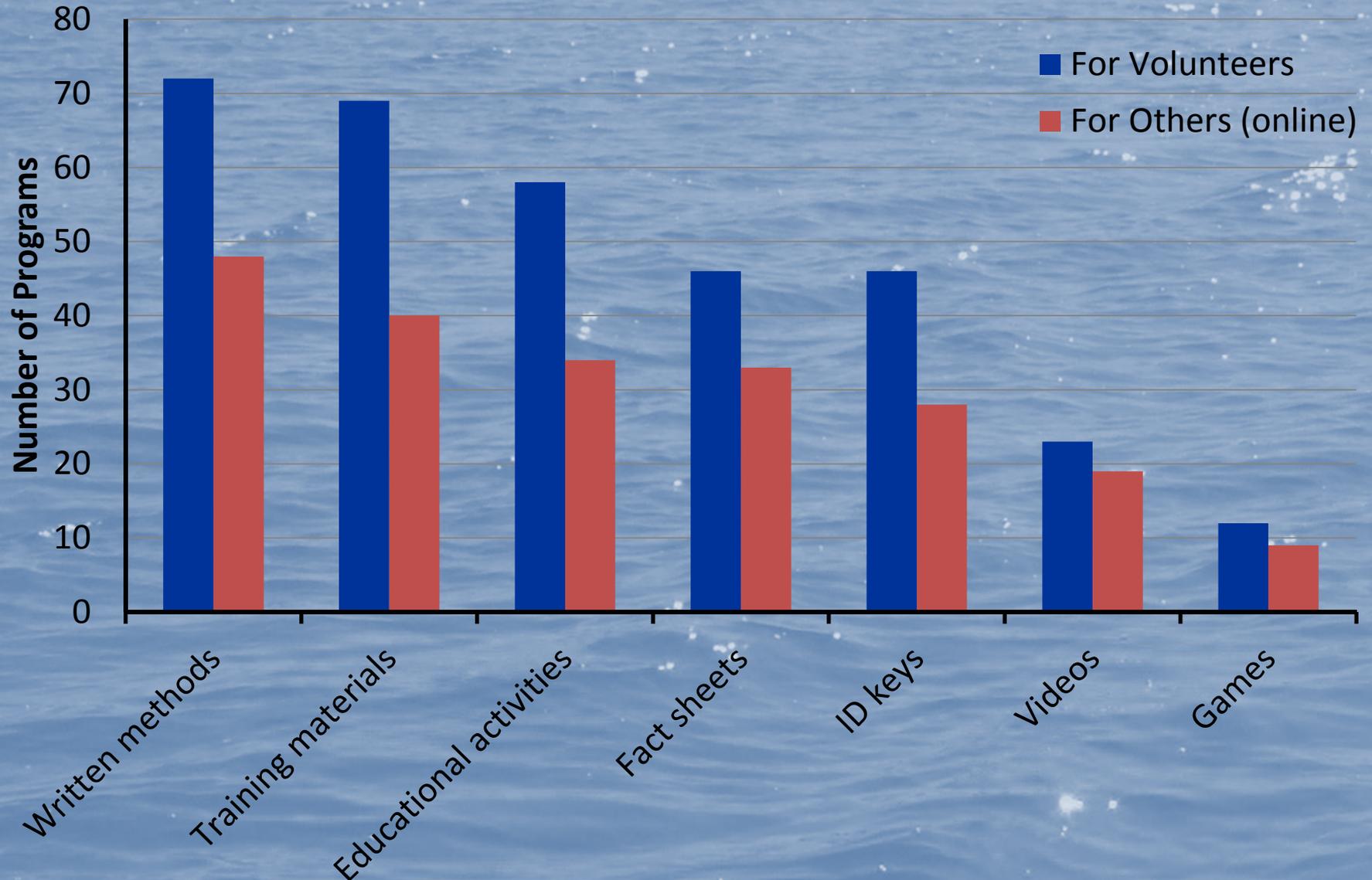


We Rely Upon Each Other for Program Development and Support

n = 92

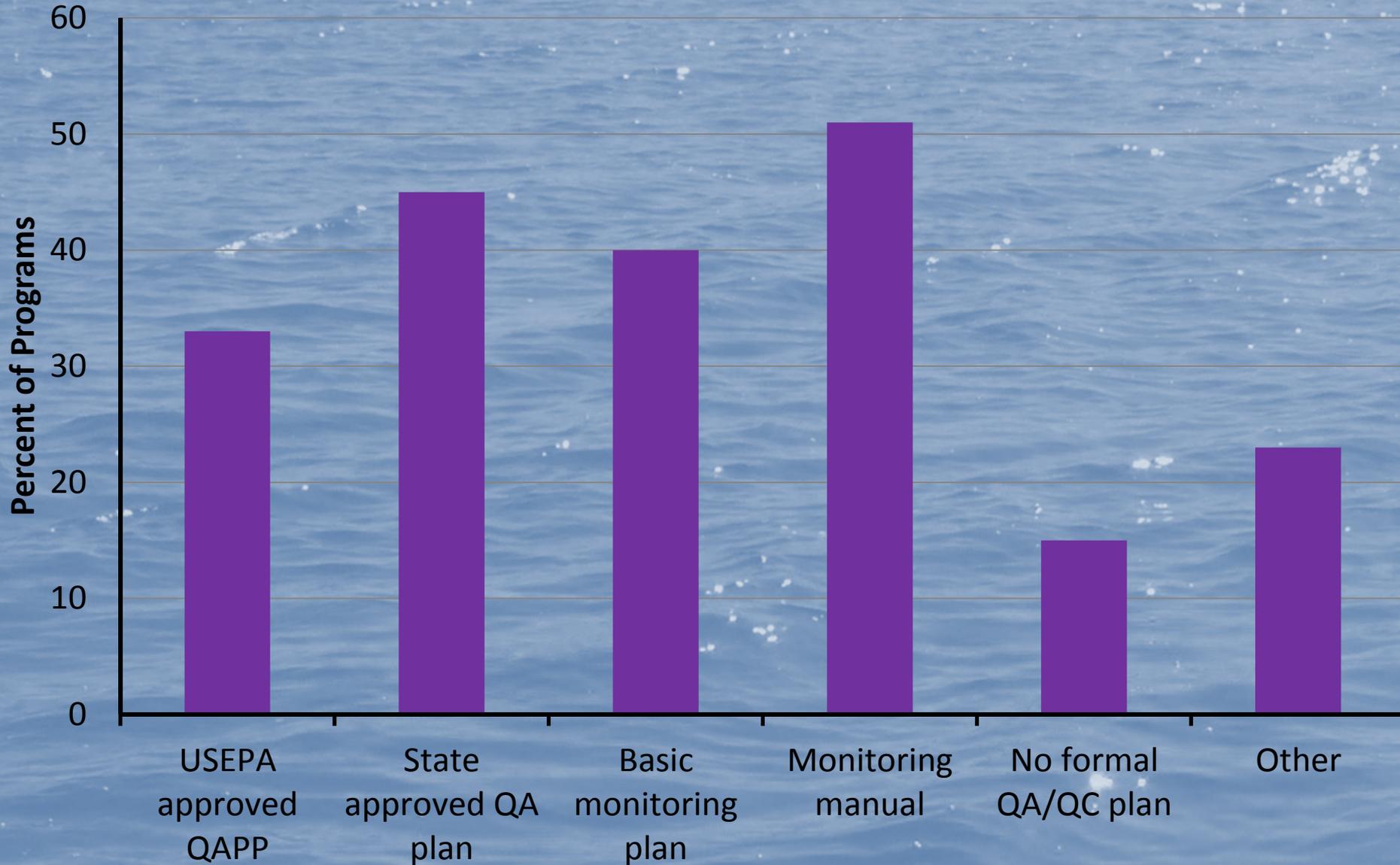


Available Resources



How These Programs Document Procedures

n = 87



Getting the Word Out

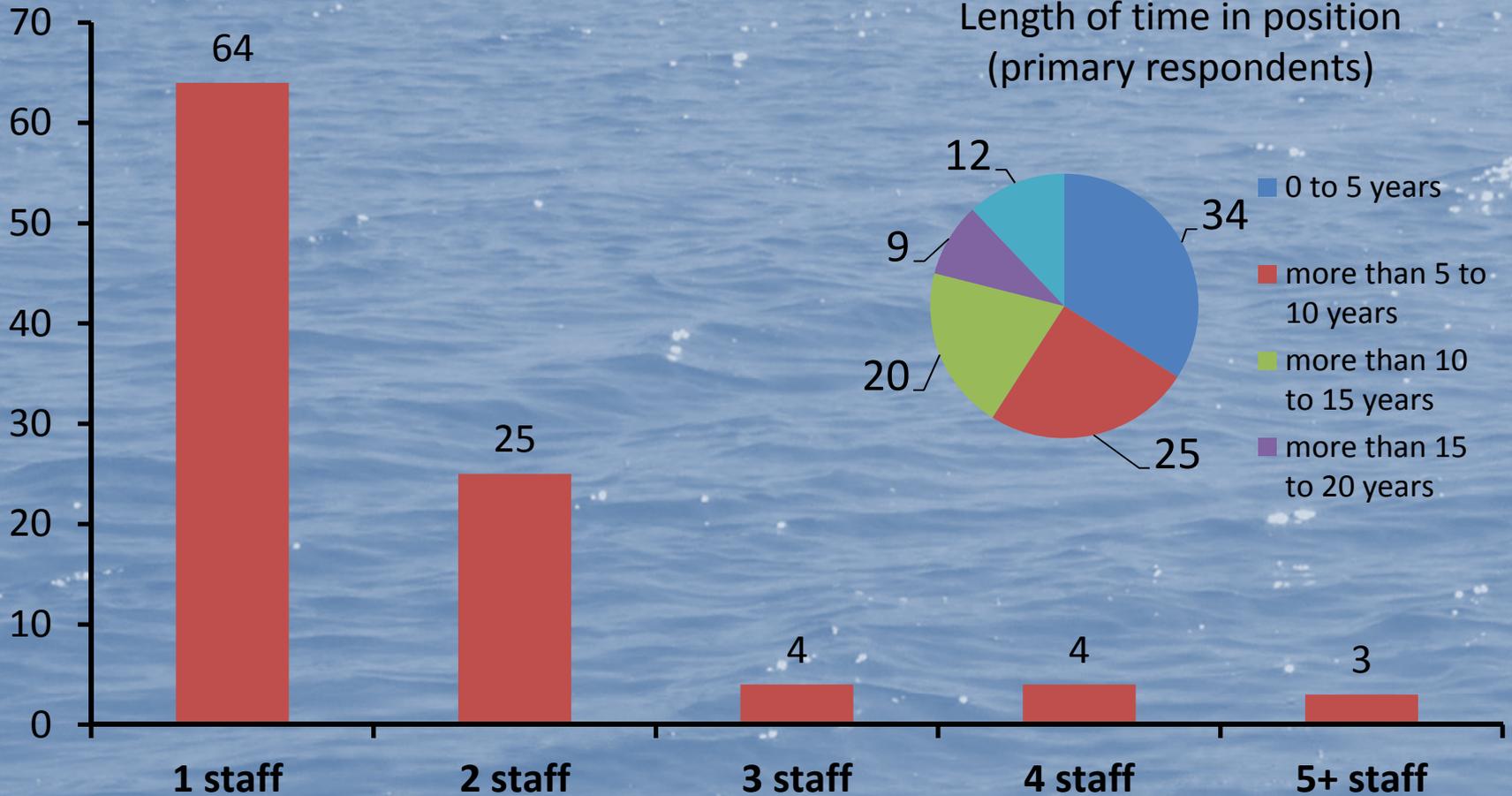


Top Program Concerns

- **Funding stability**
- **Funding amount**
- **Staff Time (overworked *and* see above)**
- Use of Program's data
- Volunteer Retention
- Analyzing data and sharing results
- Volunteer support
- Understaffing (*see top 3 above*)

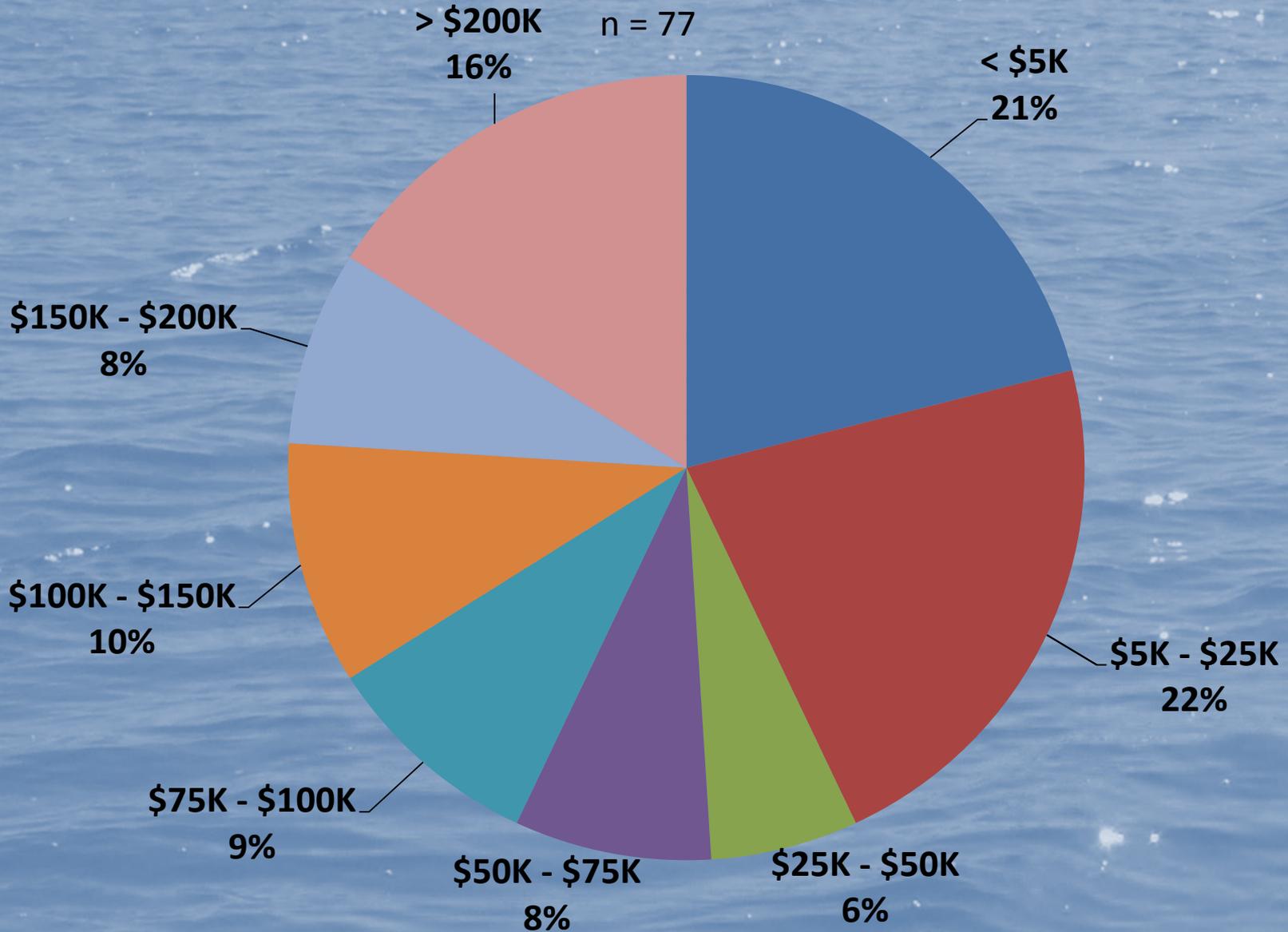
Staffing of VM Programs

n=100

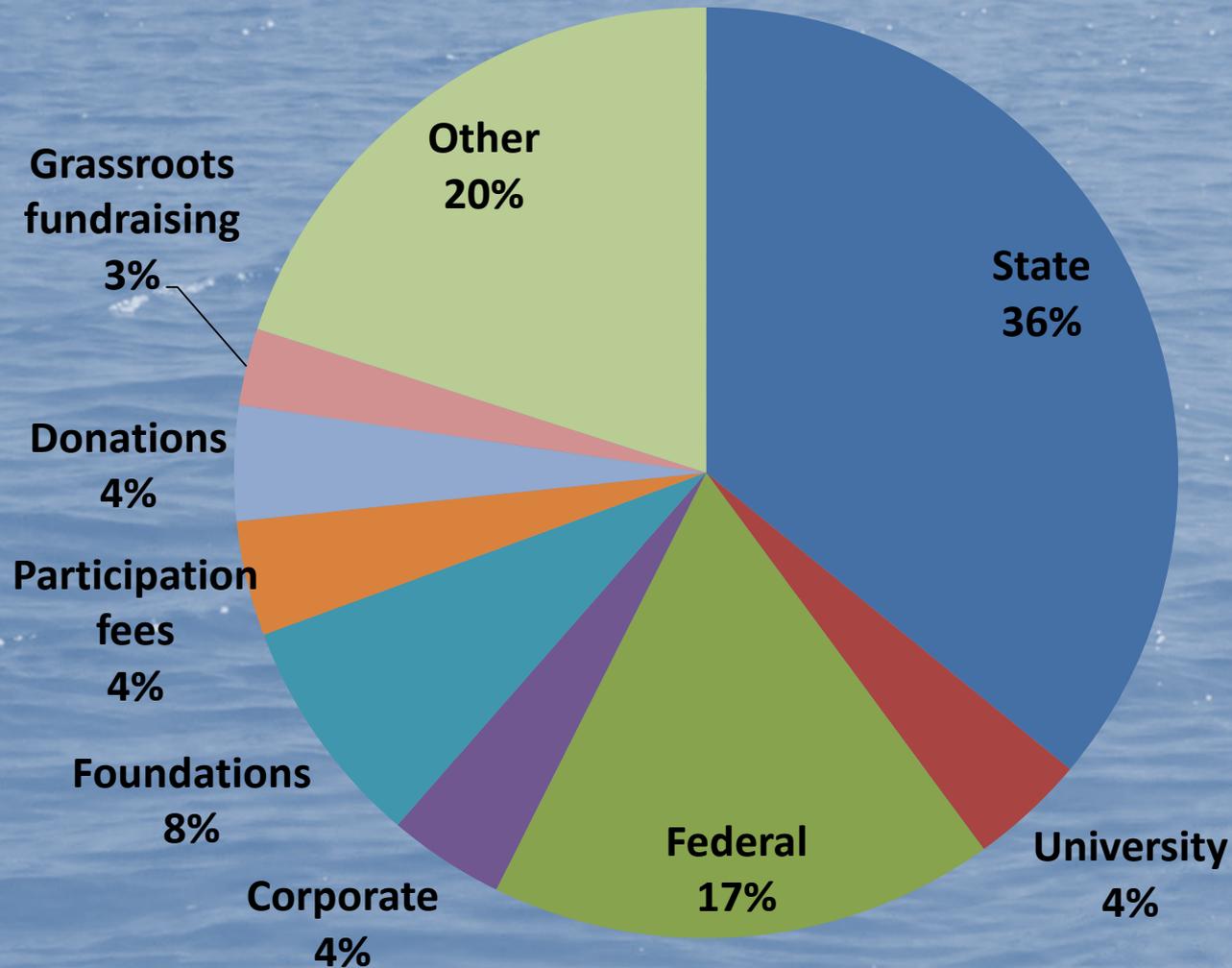


88% are paid

Program Budgets

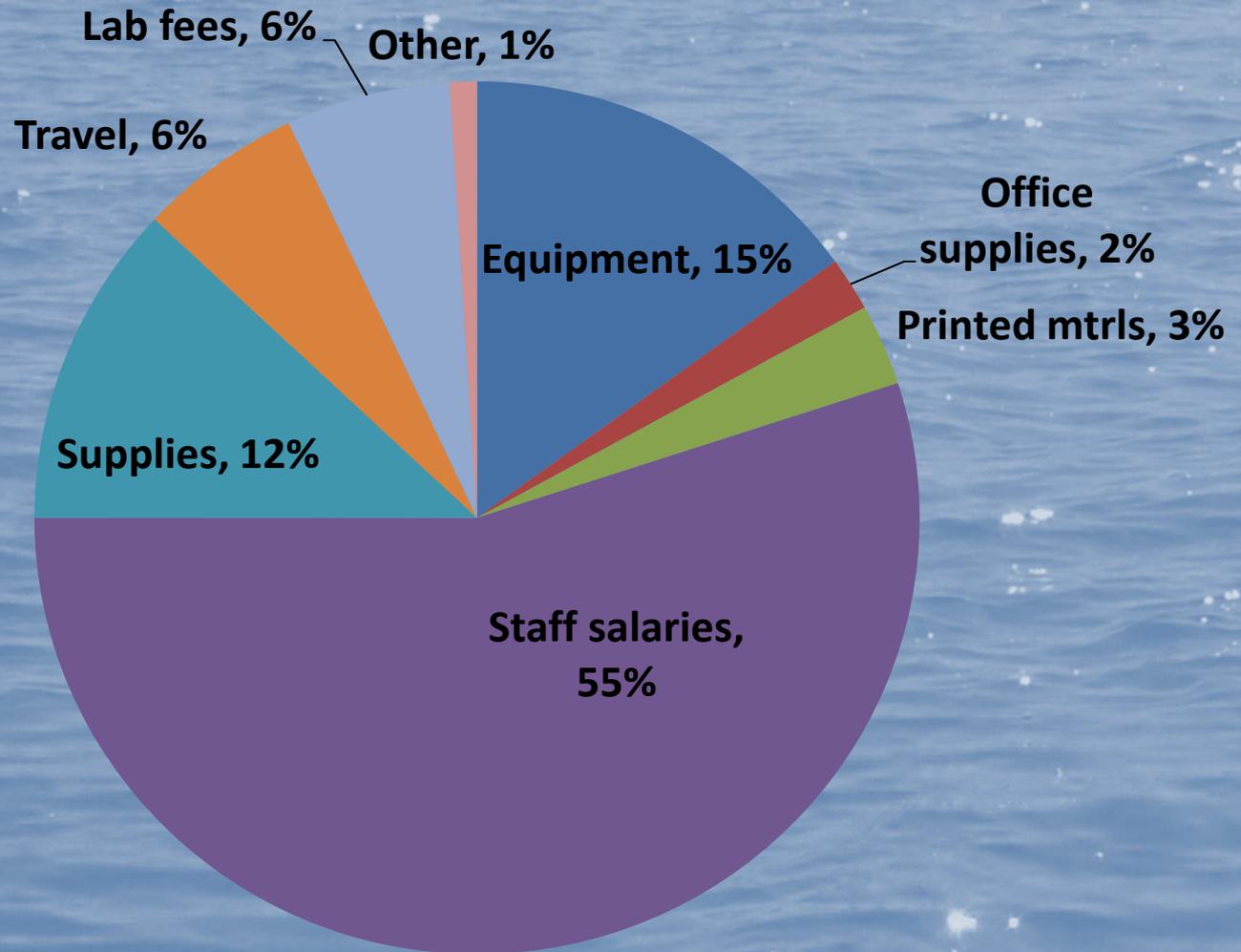


Sources of Funding

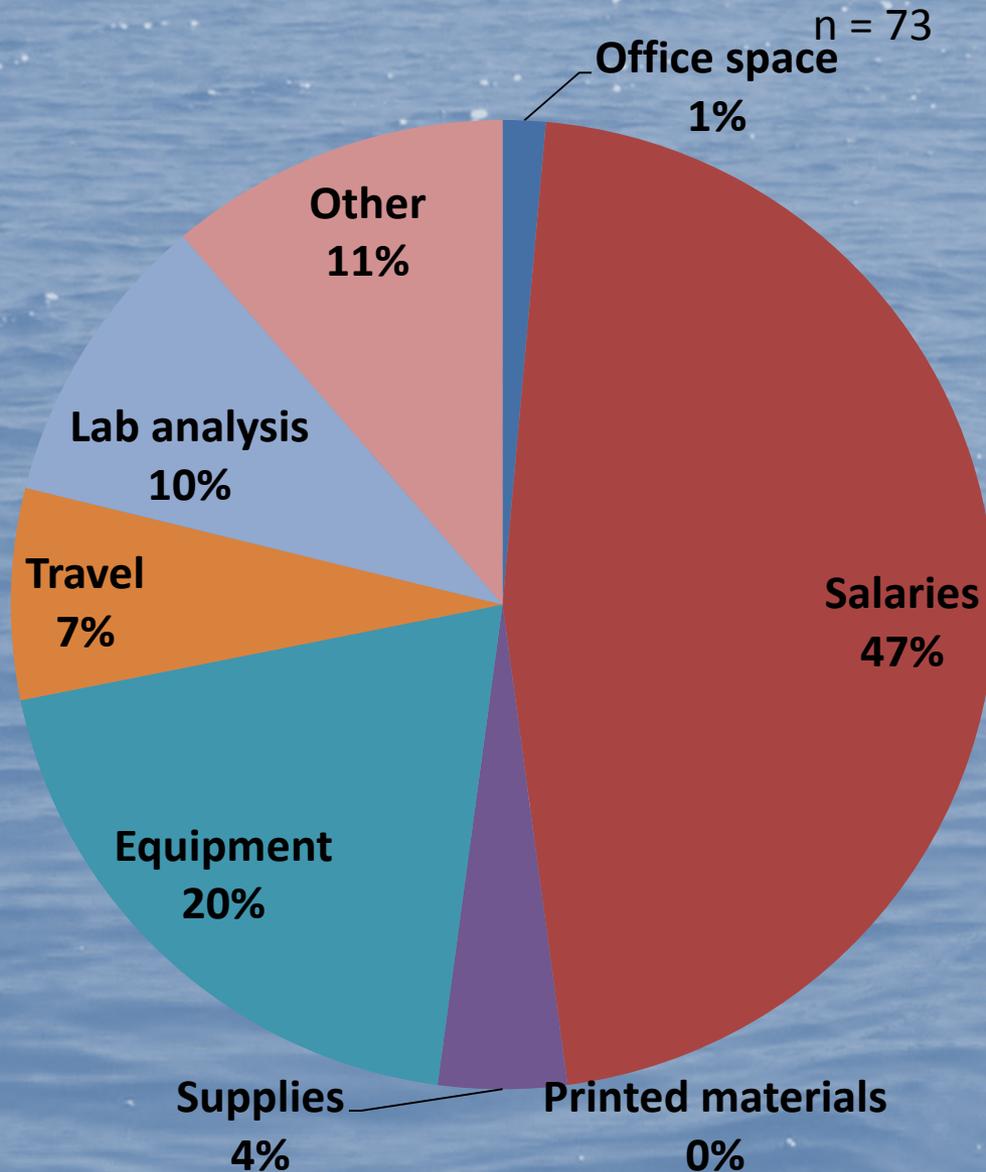


Funding What?

n = 61



What is Most Challenging to Fund?



How Many *Water* VM Programs*?

- **349** Parent or stand-alone programs
- **1415** Affiliated, sponsored, or sub-programs
- **9** Service Provider (VM support) programs

Grand Total = 1773

(1998 ~ 770 environ VM programs

Of those, 245 now seem to be MIA)

*K. Stepenuck, 2013

Extension, Master Naturalist, VM Parent and Service Provider Programs



<http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/VolunteerMonPrograms/index.html>

May 2013

Thank You!

Linda Green

lgreen@uri.edu



Kris Stepenuck
Water Action Volunteers
University of Wisconsin Extension
Environmental Resources Center
445 Henry Mall
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608) 265-3887
Email: kfstepenuck@wisc.edu



Linda Green & Elizabeth Herron
URI Watershed Watch
University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension
Coastal Institute in Kingston
Kingston, RI 02881
Green, Phone: (401) 874-2905
Email: lgreen@uri.edu
Herron, Phone: (401) 874-4552
Email: emh@uri.edu



Bill Deutsch
Alabama Water Watch
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
559 Devall Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: (334) 844-9119
Email: deustwg@auburn.edu



Tara Muenz
Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
GA DNR Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch
4220 International Parkway, Suite 101
Atlanta, GA 30354
Phone: (404) 675-6240
Email: tara.muenz@dnr.state.ga.us



Adam Sigler
Montana State University Extension
2 Marsh Labs
Bozeman, MT 59717
Phone: (406) 994-7381
Email: asigler@montana.edu



Frank Finley
Salish Kootenai College
US Hwy 93
Pablo, MT 59855
Phone: (406) 885-2787
Email: salishsilver@gmail.com



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