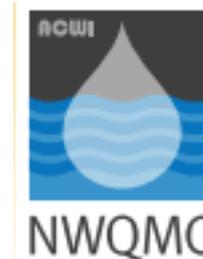


# Revisiting the Water Quality Portal Vision

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NWQMC meeting February 11, 2015,  
Boise, ID



# Agenda

- Part 1: Presentation
  - Background
  - Why update the vision
  - Questionnaire Results
  - Vision discussion
- Part 2: Breakout - Outlines
  - Communication Plan
  - Timeline
  - Next steps



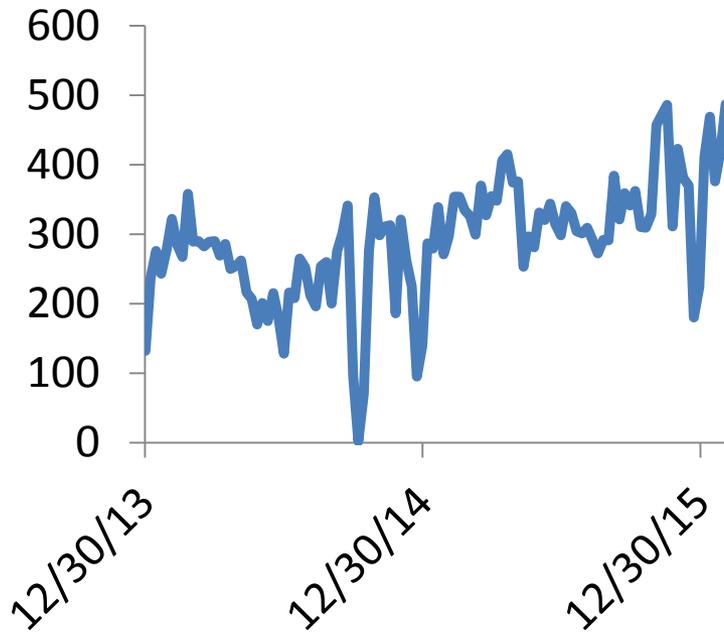


# Background: 2003 Memorandum of Understanding

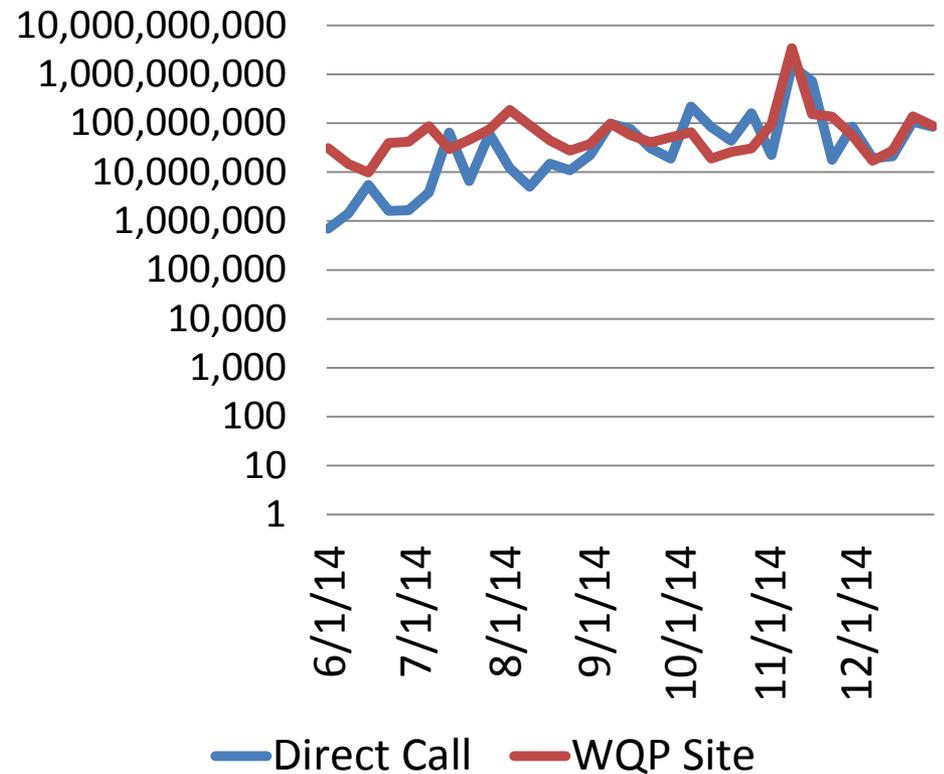
- USGS and EPA will deliver data from USGS-NWIS and EPA-STORET in a common format to:
  - 1. Analyze and report on the state of the nation's water environment
  - 2. Provide a common basis for integrated water-quality analysis and protection
  - 3. Provide an information base for scientific inquiry about water quality
- An underlying goal is to ensure that the data from these important government databases are documented to describe their quality so that users can establish the utility and comparability of the data.

# Portal Usage continues to rise

### Weekly Visits



### Result Records Downloaded





# Why update the vision?

- Reached a great milestone to launch the Portal in 2012
- There isn't really a "Portal vision"
- Portal is growing in data holdings and use
- Increase in user expectation of Portal utility
- Help in setting priorities for future Portal activities





# How can Council Committees help better define and promote the utility of the Portal?

- Collaboration and Outreach
  - Sponsor webinars
  - Expand communication with other Councils to increase data sharing and use of the Portal
  - Target different monitoring communities, other councils monitoring groups
  - Market Council Programs, Initiatives and Products
    - Strategy for WQP
- Methods and Data Comparability Board
  - Share lessons for sensors and continuous monitoring data storage and discoverability
  - Explore other opportunities to leverage NEMI
- National Monitoring Network
  - Identify where the Portal can support management issues—including nutrient enrichment, oxygen depletion, toxic contaminants, and beaches—that are important to a broad community of users
  - Attract involvement of IOOS and regional associations for monitoring offshore compartments and coastal management
  - Demonstrate ability to support a linked data network
  - Enable ability to meet diverse monitoring objectives (including fixed and probabilistic designs)
- Water Information Strategies
  - Engage with diverse data partners for data sharing and analysis

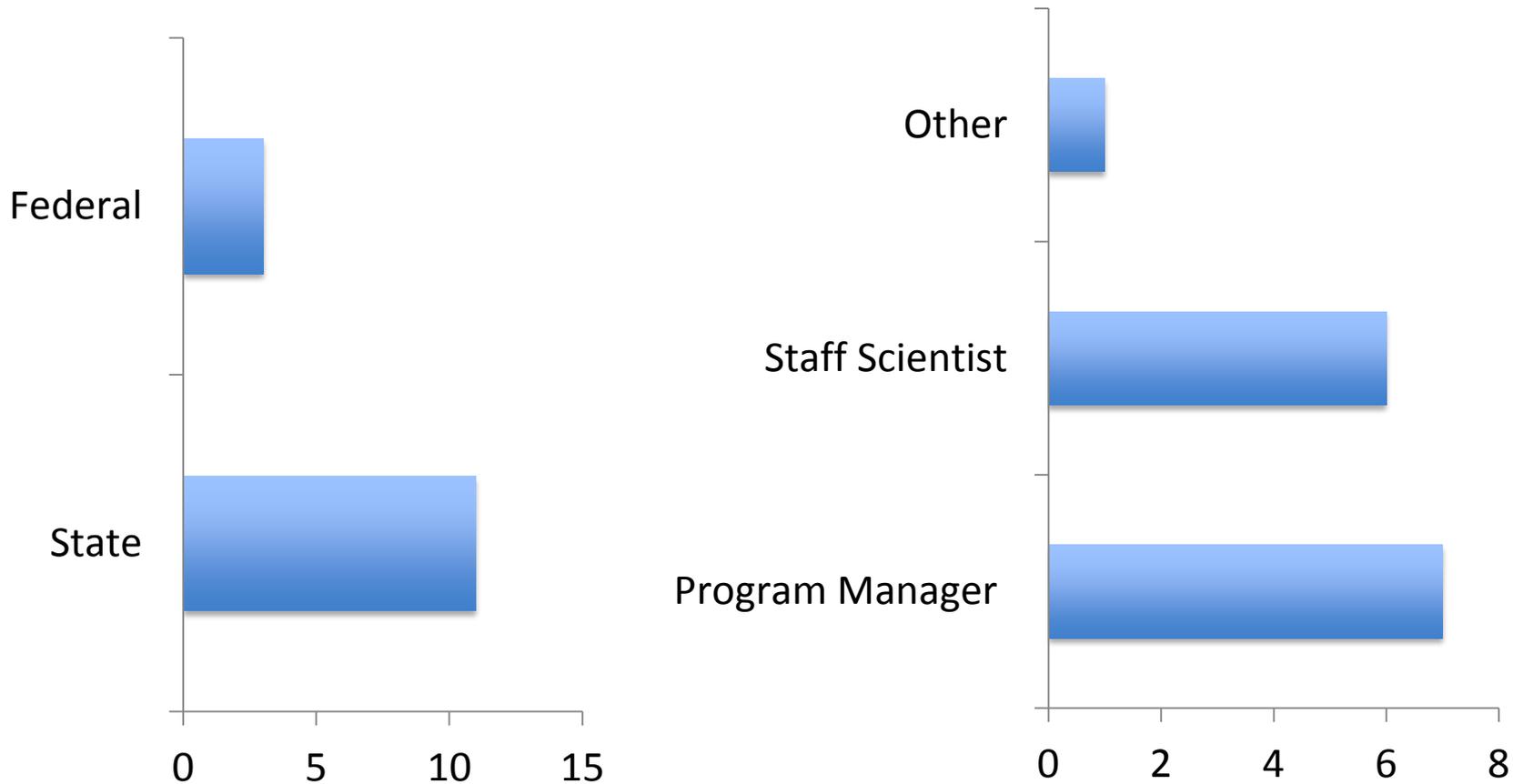
# Working DRAFT vision

- The foundation of the Portal is to provide a “one-stop” mechanism to quickly search and pull data to insert into user analyses.
- To serve as the premier source for water quality data.
- To serve as a driver for standards-based access for water quality data?

# Portal Questionnaire: Questions

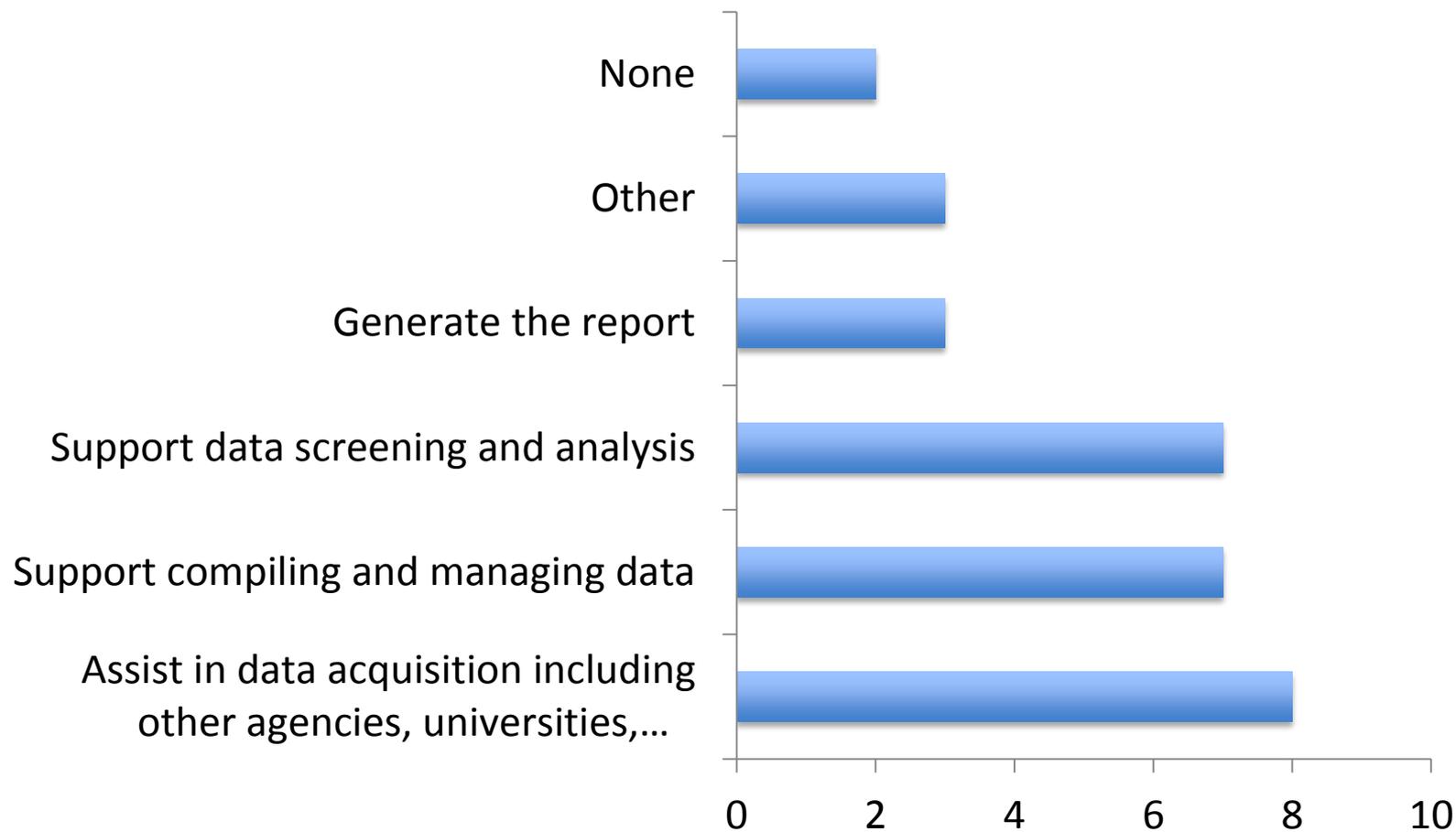
- Sent to Council members
- Received 14 responses
  
- 1) What is your affiliation?
- 2) What is your job title or role?
- 3) How do you support the development of state 305(b) reports?
- 4) How would you rate your familiarity with the Water Quality Portal?
- 5) How often do you use the Portal for your job?
- 6) What reason(s) do you visit the Portal?
- 7) What is/are your barrier(s) to using the Portal?
- 8) What type of training or assistance do you need to better understand or utilize the Portal? (Select all that apply)
- 9) What type(s) of data does your organization have in the Portal? (Select all that apply)
- 10) What type(s) of challenges does your organization face which prevent it from sharing data with the Portal?
- 11) Have you or your organization developed an application(s) which use(s) the Portal data or Portal web services?
- 12) Which features of the Portal do you like best?
- 13) Which features of the Portal do you like the least?
- 14) Of the features or capabilities listed below, which ones are highest priority for improving the Portal in the near future?
- 15) Other Comments

# Affiliation and Job Title



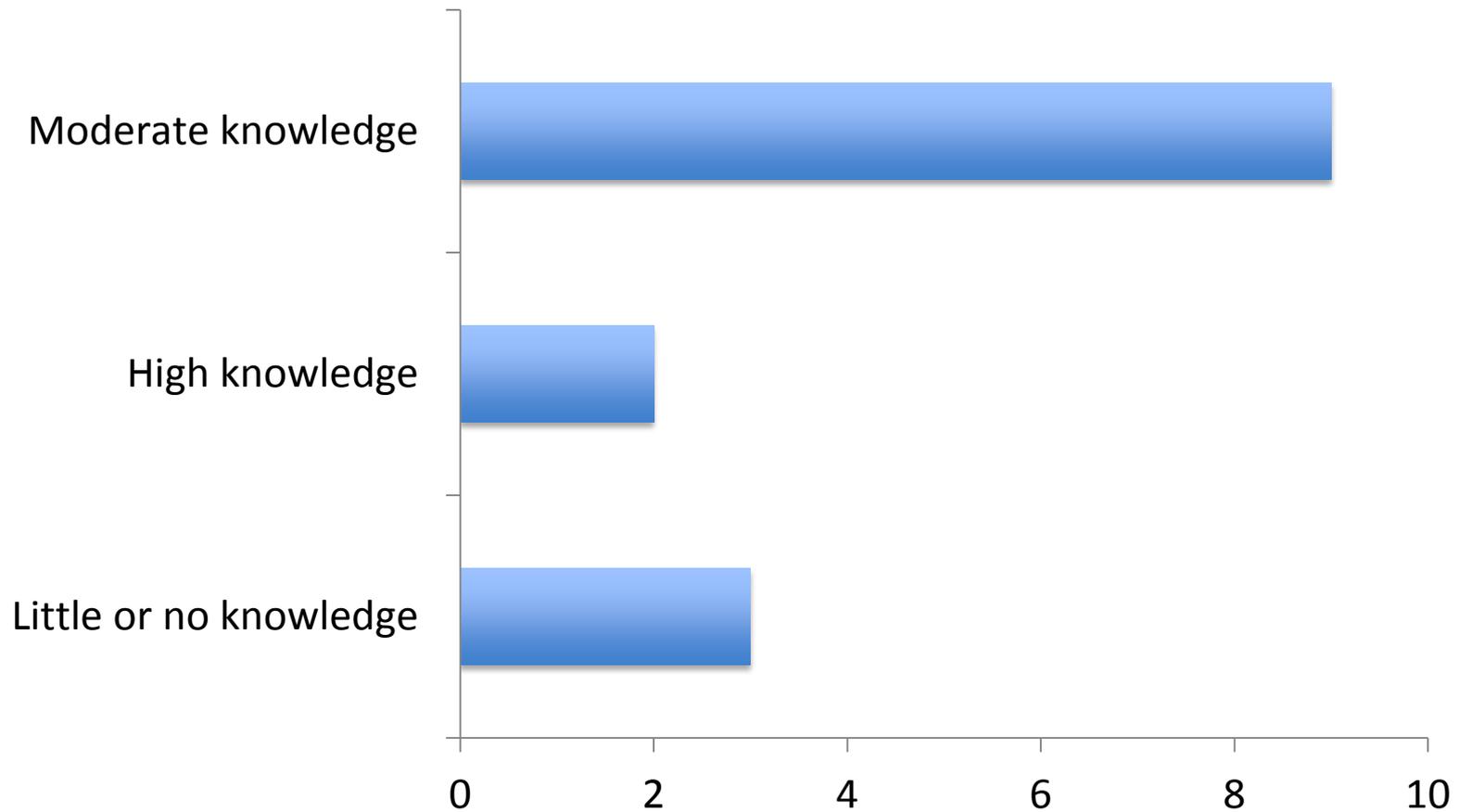


# How do you support the development of state 305(b) reports?



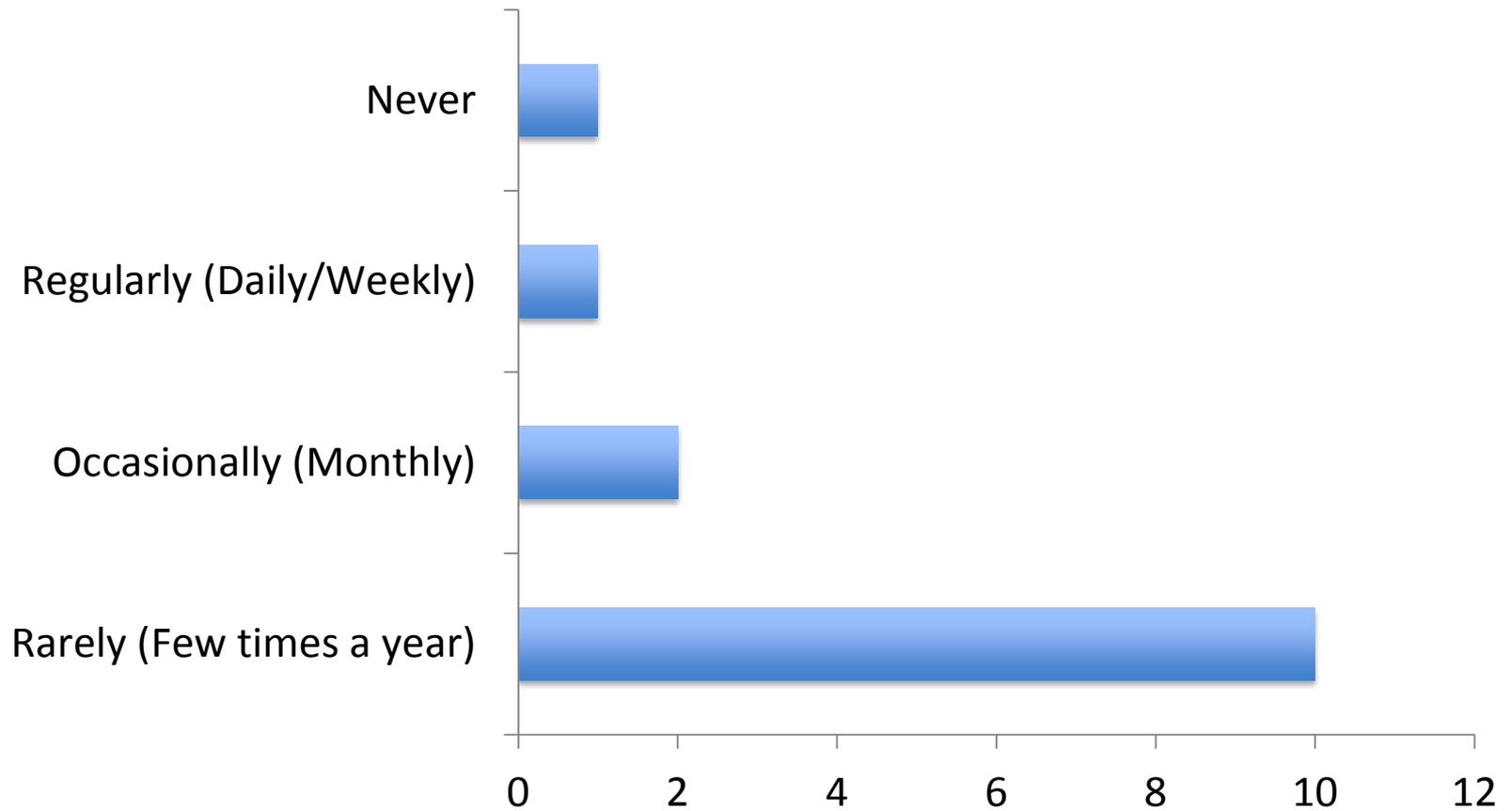


# How would you rate your familiarity with the Water Quality Portal?



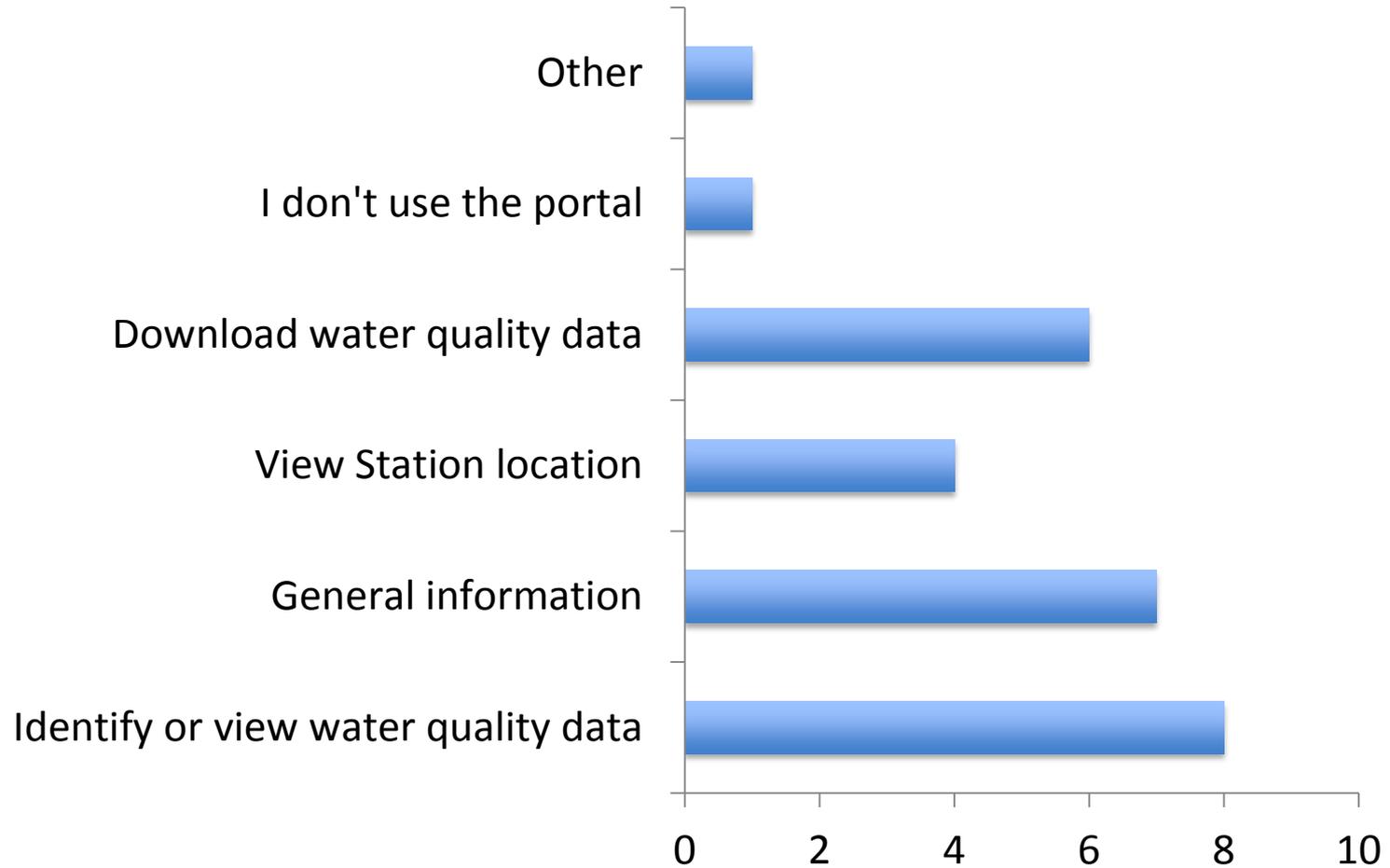


# How often do you use the Portal for your job?



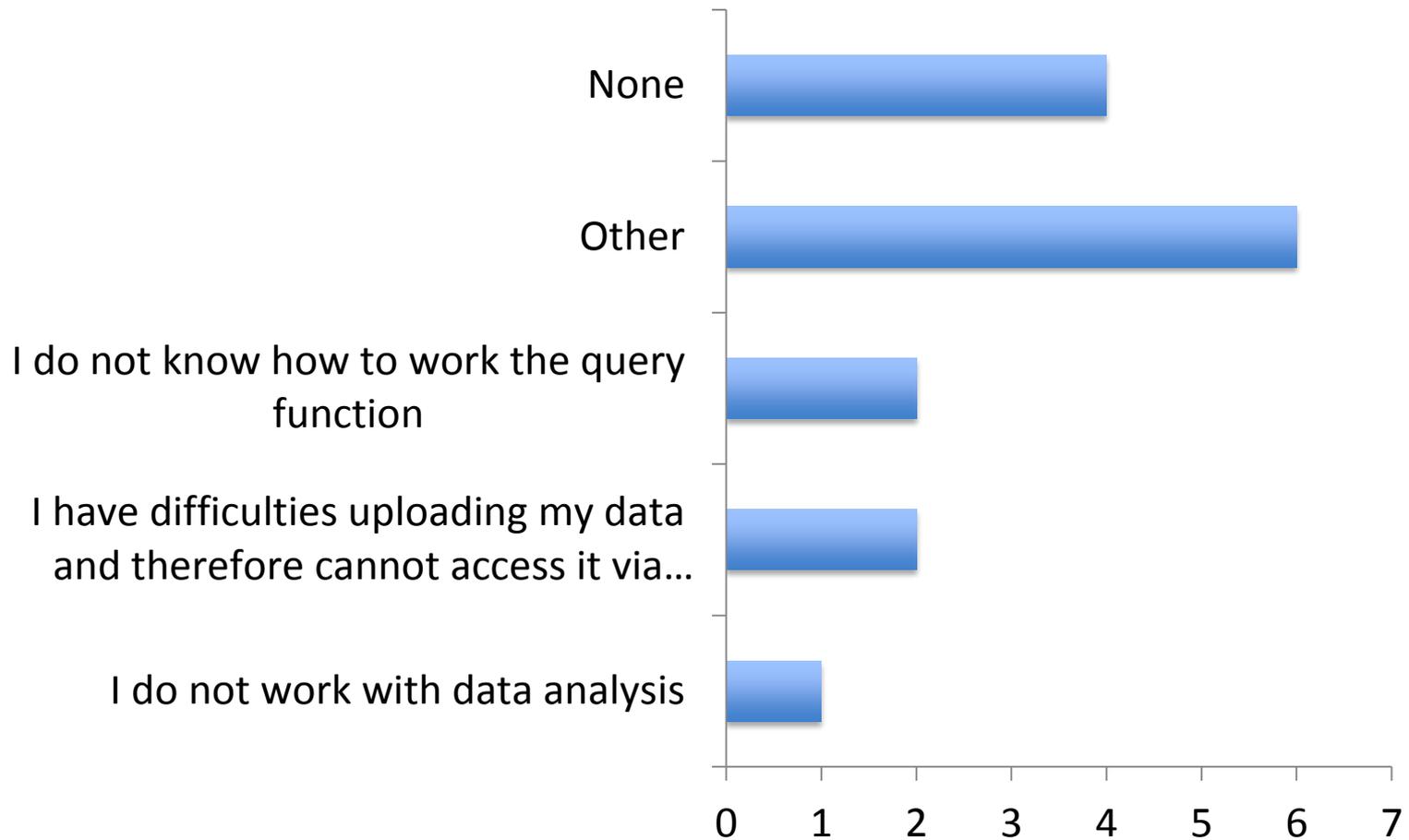


# What reason(s) do you visit the Portal?



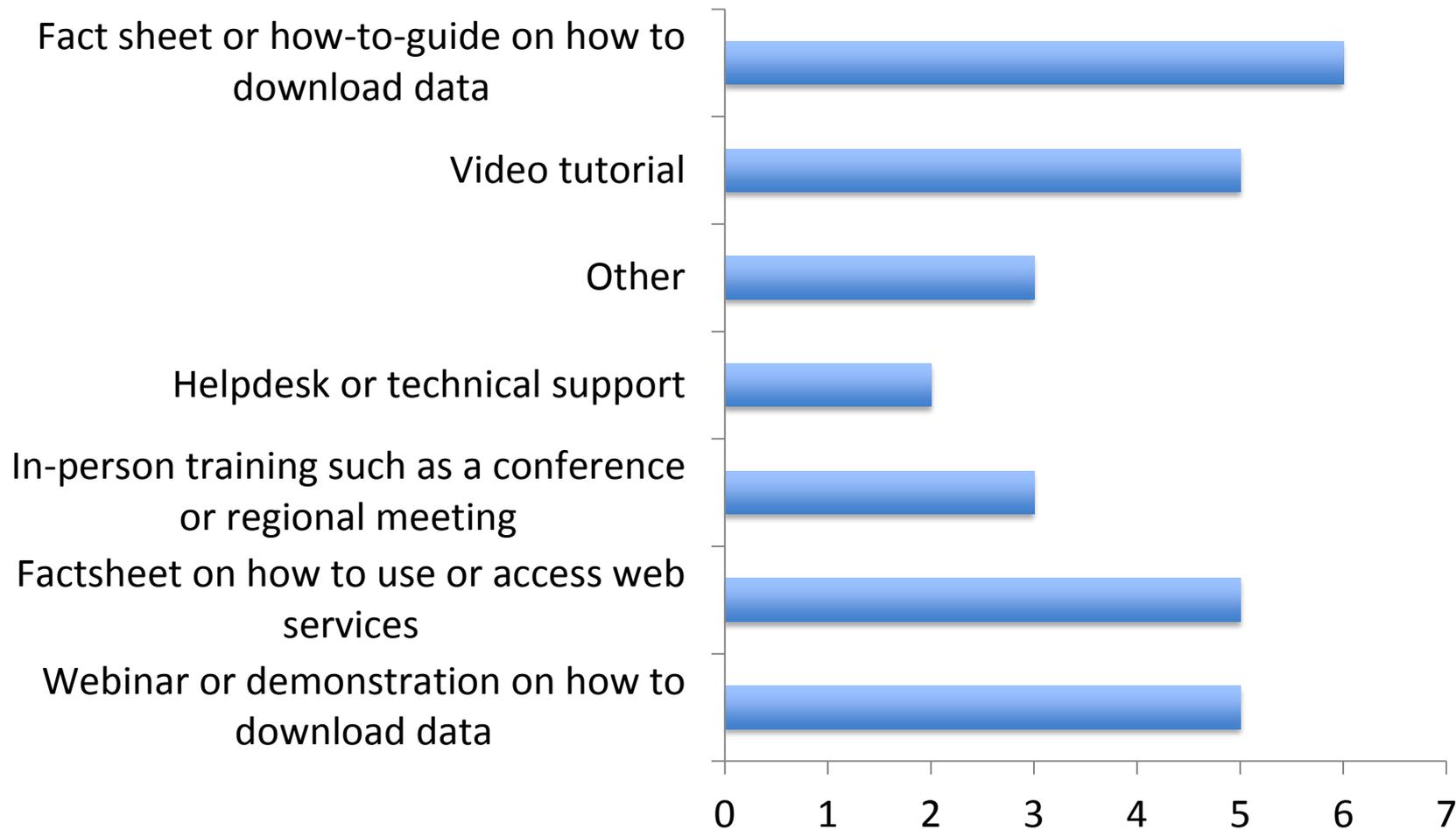


# What is/are your barrier(s) to using the Portal?



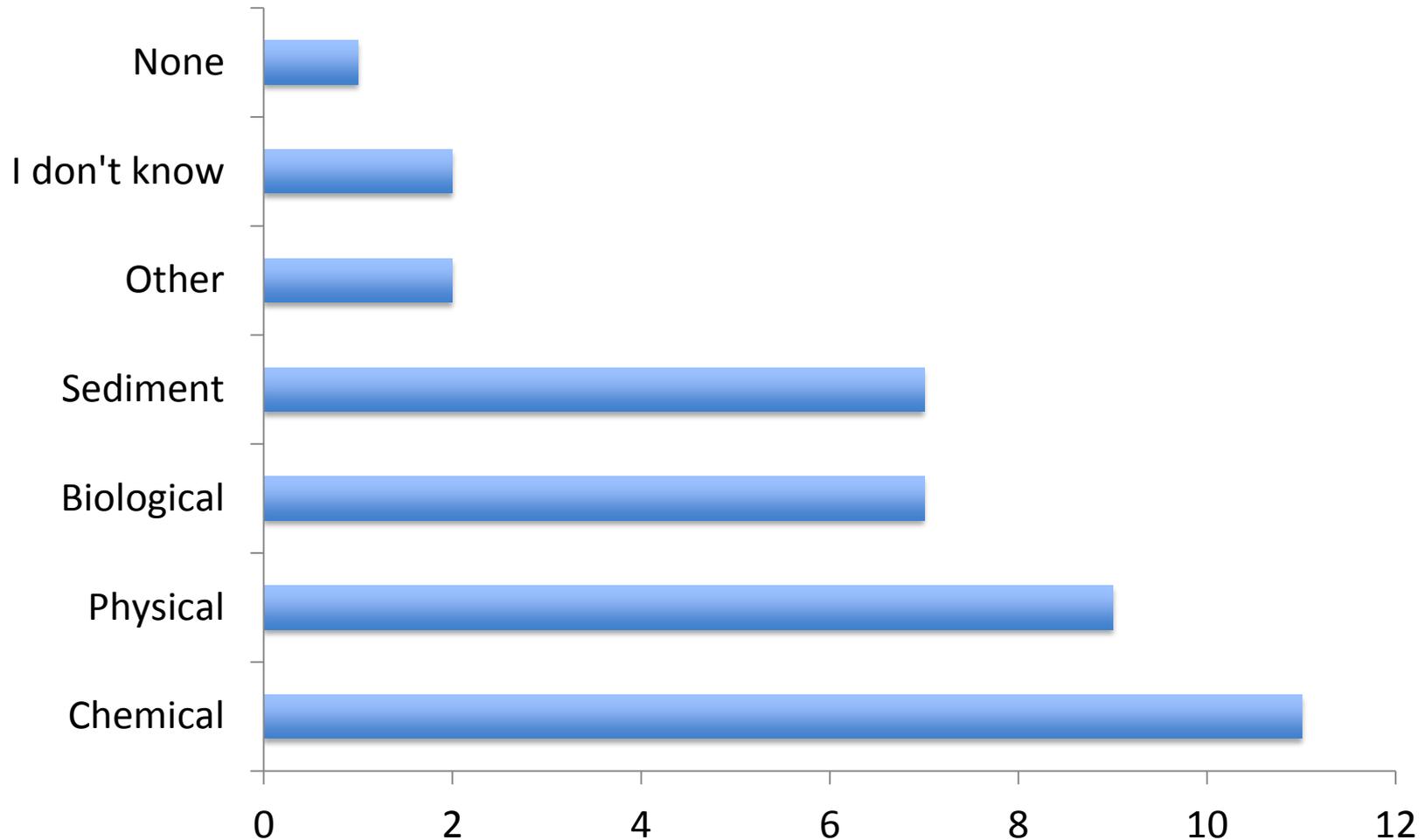


# What type of training or assistance do you need to better understand or utilize the Portal?



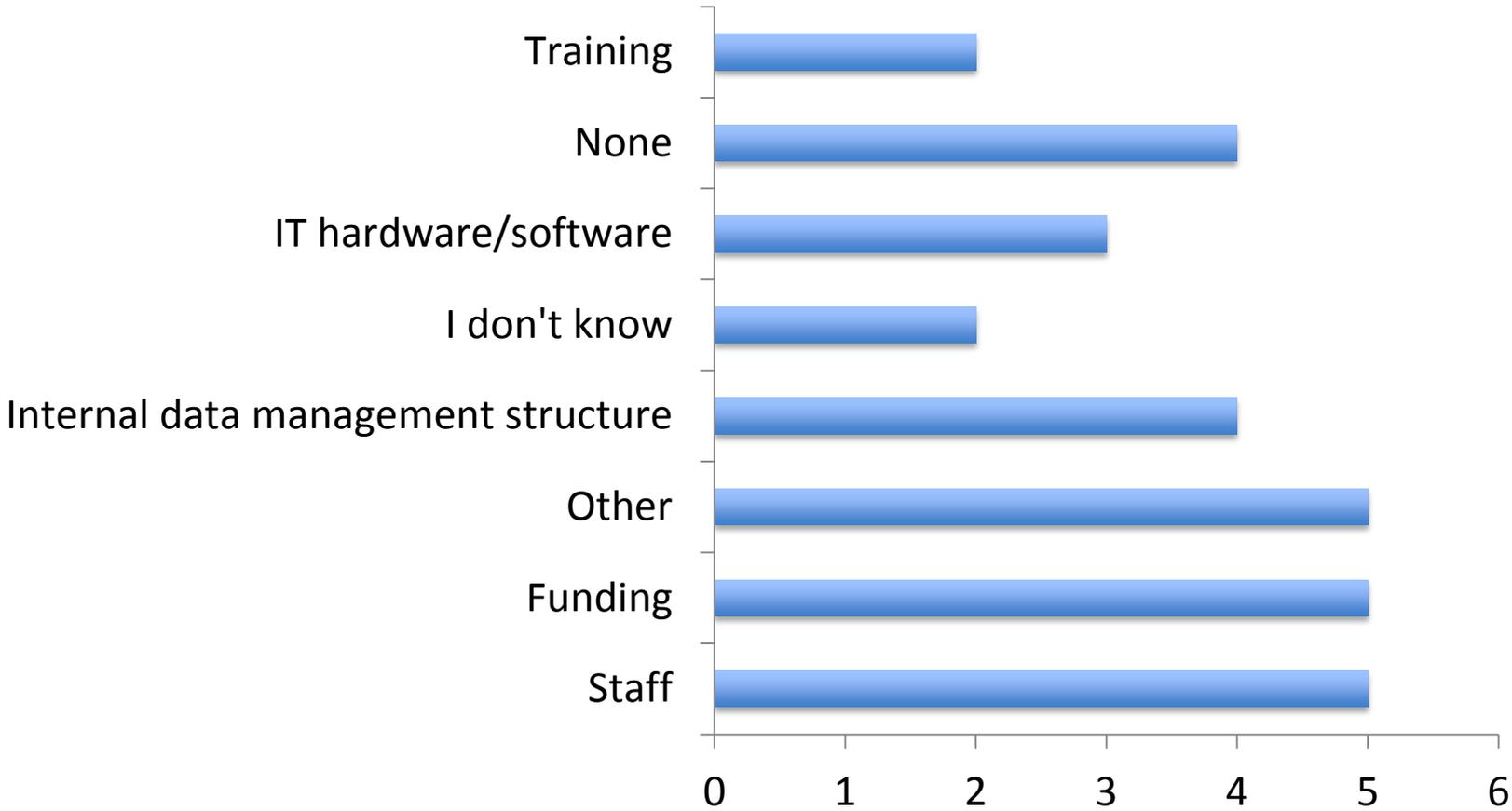


# What type(s) of data does your organization have in the Portal?



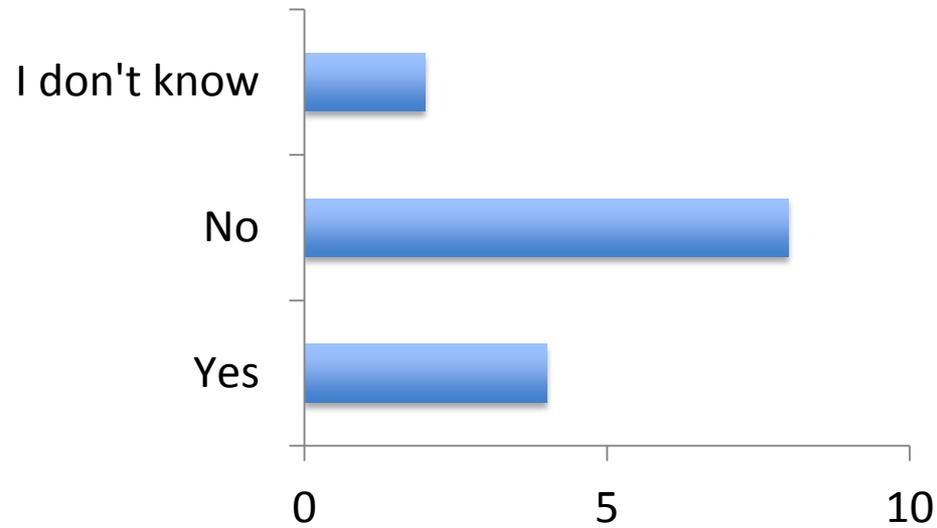


# What type(s) of challenges does your organization face which prevent it from sharing data with the Portal?

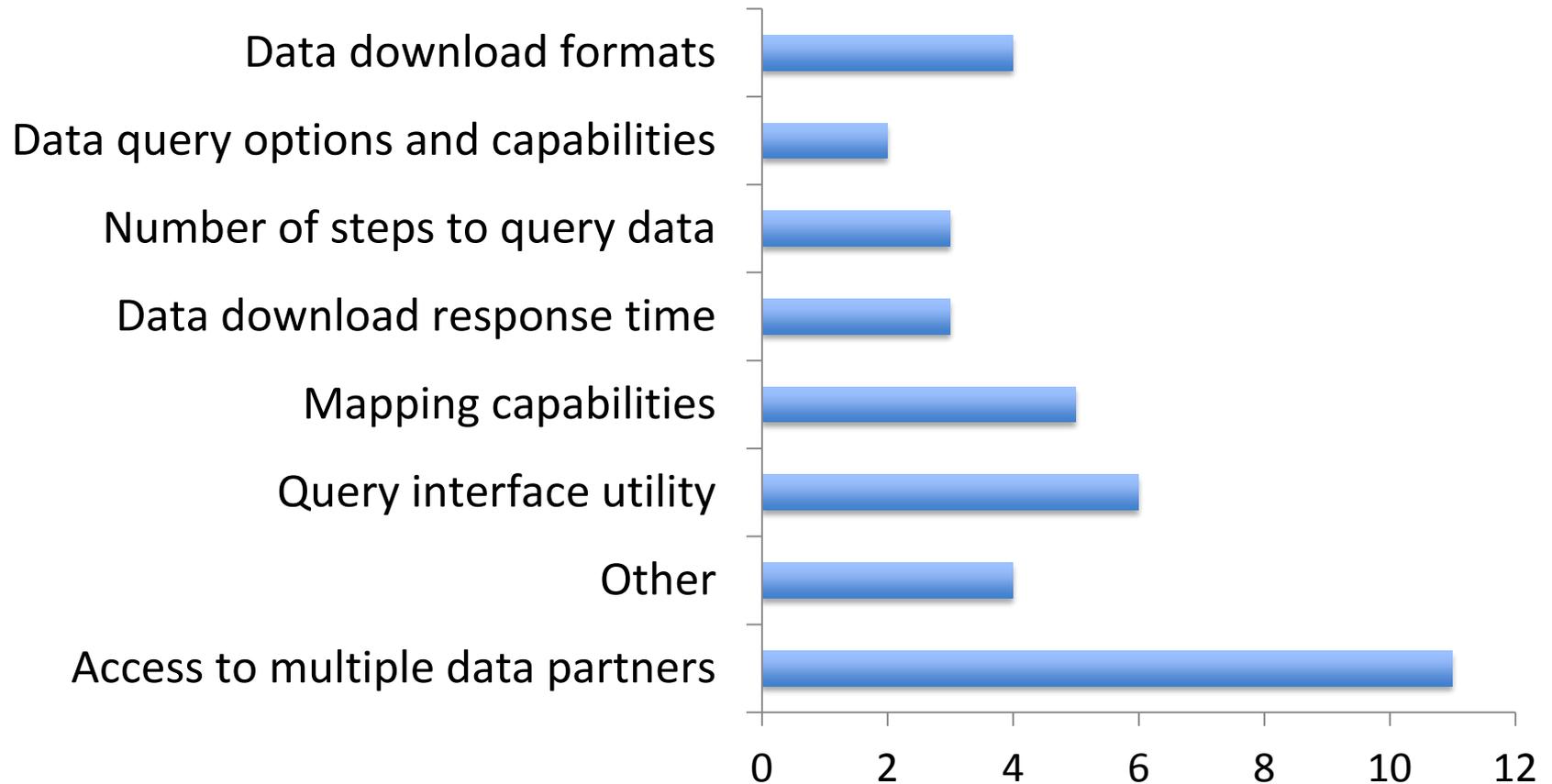




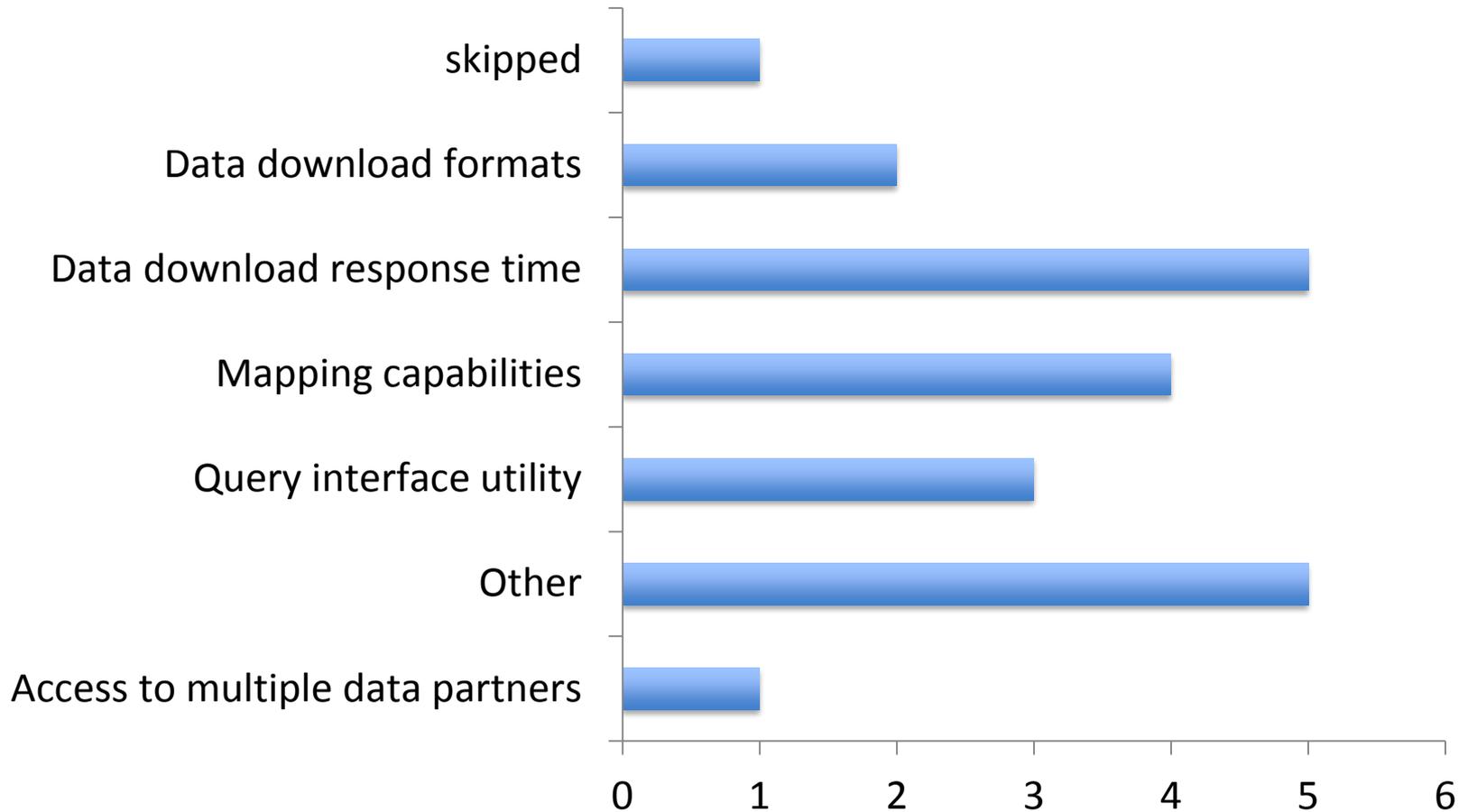
# Have you or your organization developed an application(s) which use(s) the Portal data or Portal web services?



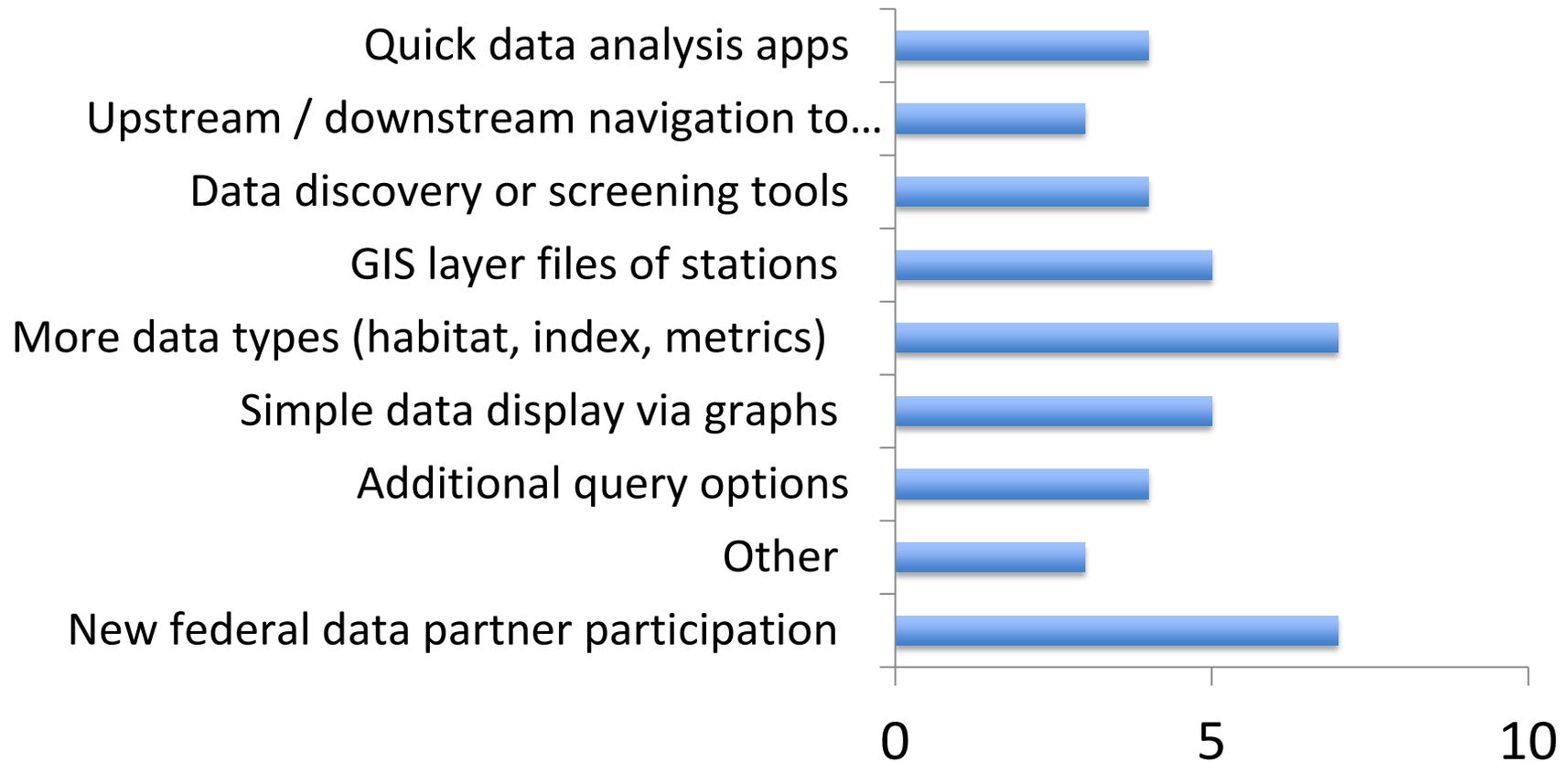
# Which features of the Portal do you like best?



# Which features of the Portal do you like the least?



Of the features or capabilities listed below, which ones are highest priority for improving the Portal in the near future?



# Questions we didn't ask

- What do you do with the data you download from the portal right now
- How did we do with the portal so far? Have we reached the right audience, are we meeting identified needs?
- Who else should we reach out to or identify as a user or partner?
  - Beyond Fed, State, Tribe
- What is the role of the Portal with respect to sensor data?
  - Should there be a different

# Vision Discussion

What do we see for the WQP in the long term?

Data types?

Data display?

Data Discoverability?

Clients?

More of the WQX metadata?

Data quality?

Data Stability?

Data Summary?

# Breakout Sessions

- Communication Plan
- Vision
- Timeline

# Vision Breakout

- Original MOU:
  - USGS and EPA will deliver data from USGS-NWIS and EPA-STORET in a common format to:
    - 1. Analyze and report on the state of the nation's water environment
    - 2. Provide a common basis for integrated water-quality analysis and protection
    - 3. Provide an information base for scientific inquiry about water quality
  - Working with the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC), [USGS and EPA] will develop a geospatial internet based query tool. This tool should be designed to facilitate the greatest possible sharing of data from all sources to all users..
  
- Where do we go from here?
  - How should the portal be framed as a tool?
  - What should the portal be thought of 10 years from now?
  - Have we reached the right groups?
  - What are potential functions and uses of the portal that are not currently available?
  - Do we need more information to help drive the vision?
  - What do we need to do to get there?

# Communication Plan

- Communication Plan
  - Up to higher executive levels for support
  - Down to organizations/people that use the data
- Who do we need to engage
- How do we reach out to people/groups
- How do we engage other Council Work Groups
  - Collaboration and Outreach
  - Methods and Data Comparability Board
  - National Monitoring Network
- What do we need to develop

# Timeline

May 2015 - Finalize vision

August 2015 - Show how Council and Committee activities support and align to the vision

Identify milestones to target Portal promotion across Council and Committee activities

2016 meeting

# Other Portal FY2015 Activities

- Outreach and Training
  - Portal factsheet
  - Portal webinars
  - Onsite training
  - Other opportunities to engage
- New Data Partners
  - Ready to begin work 2015
  - Help identifying potential partners
    - Federal
    - State
    - Other
- Data Tools
  - Data discovery apps built on R and available open source and via Portal
  - Requirements gathering

# Questions

- Charles Kovatch
  - [Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov](mailto:Kovatch.Charles@epa.gov)
  
- Jim Kreft
  - [jkreft@usgs.gov](mailto:jkreft@usgs.gov)