



Targeted Investment Survey; Region Responses (6 of 7 regions)

Recycled Spirits of Iron – Ashford, WA



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery
Funding Board



Presented By: Wyatt Lundquist

Item 2

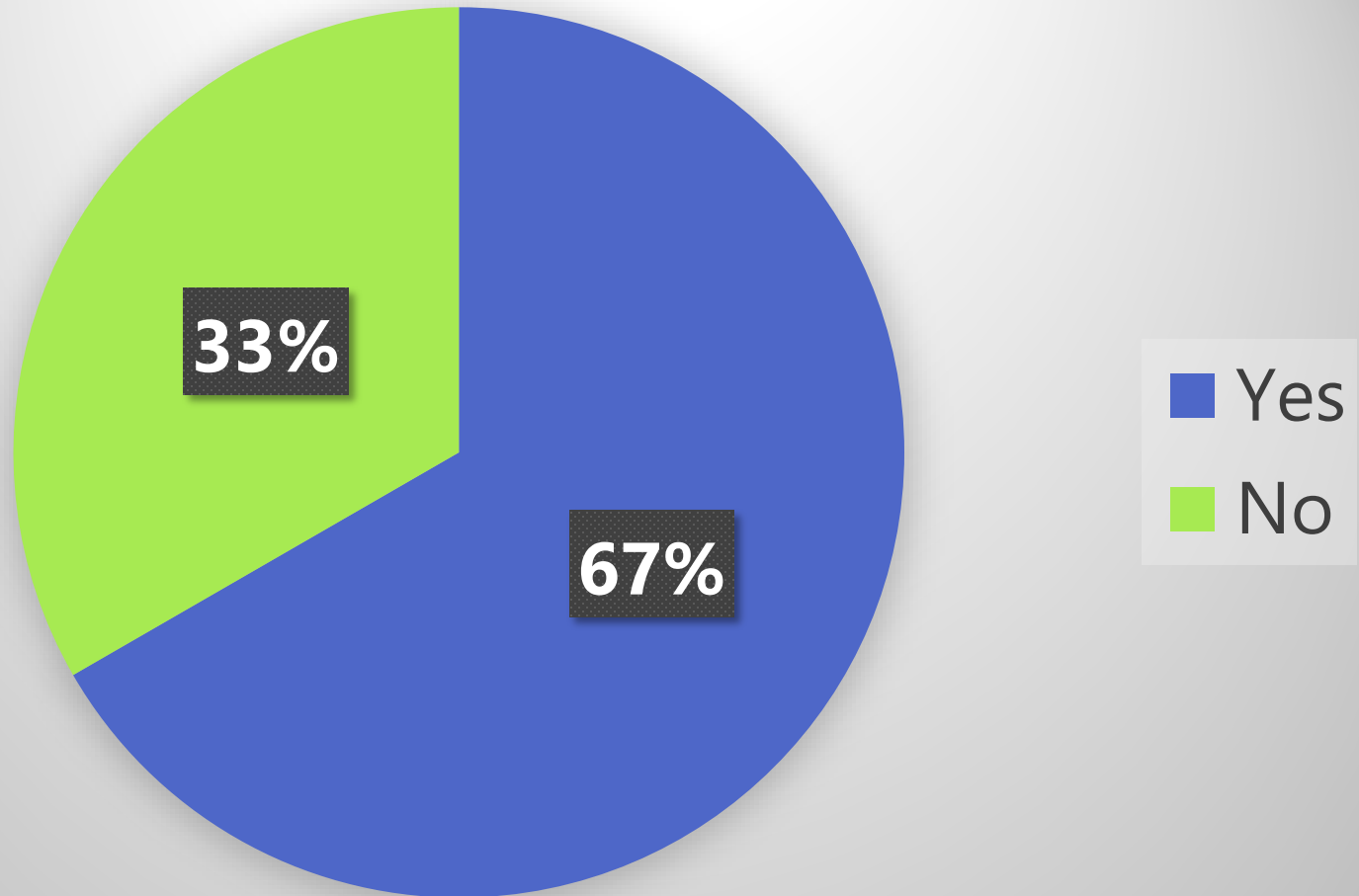
How would you define a “large, complex salmon habitat project”?

- Project Cost Above Allocation
- Multi-benefit Projects
- Big Project Size
- Project That Takes Multiple Biennia
- Politically Complicated
- Project With High Risks
- Project That Requires Intensive Coordination, Negotiation, Analysis Design And Funding

Criteria or threshold suggestions to define "large, complex salmon habitat projects"?

- Projects that Span Multiple Watersheds
- Projects that Span Multiple Jurisdictions or Permitting Authorities
- Diverse Habitat Projects
- Higher Cost Threshold
- Multiple Landowners
- Multiple Stakeholders
- Multiple Biennia to Complete
- Politically Complicated

Are the highest priority projects to implement the regional salmon recovery plan being implemented in your region?



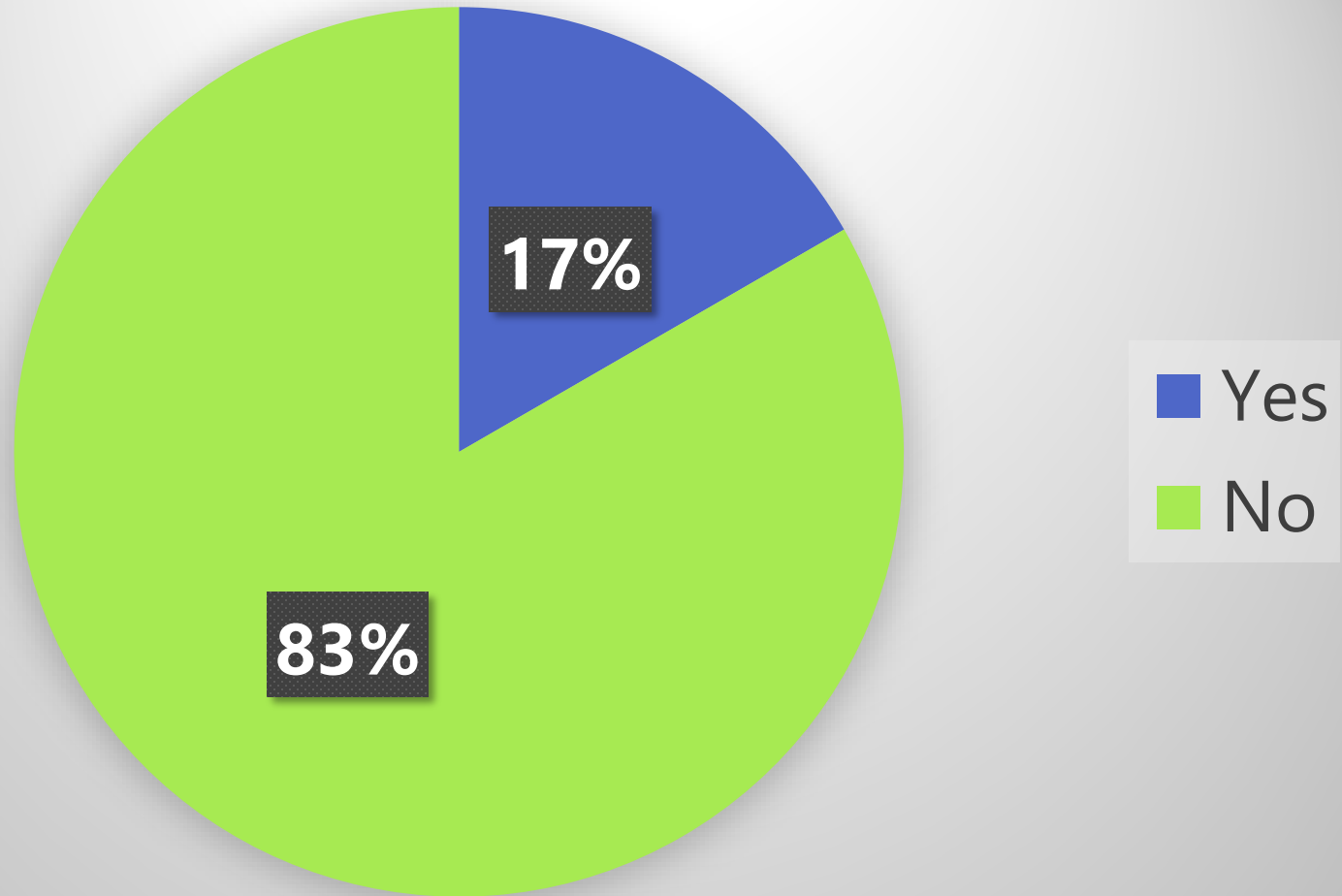
Reason for saying “no”:

- Insufficient funding
- Lack of resources and direction for sponsors

What are the key barriers or constraints your region has in getting large, complex projects funded or implemented?

- 60% - Lack of funding
- Delays in permitting
- Not enough time
- Long Term Planning/Focus
- Not many constraints

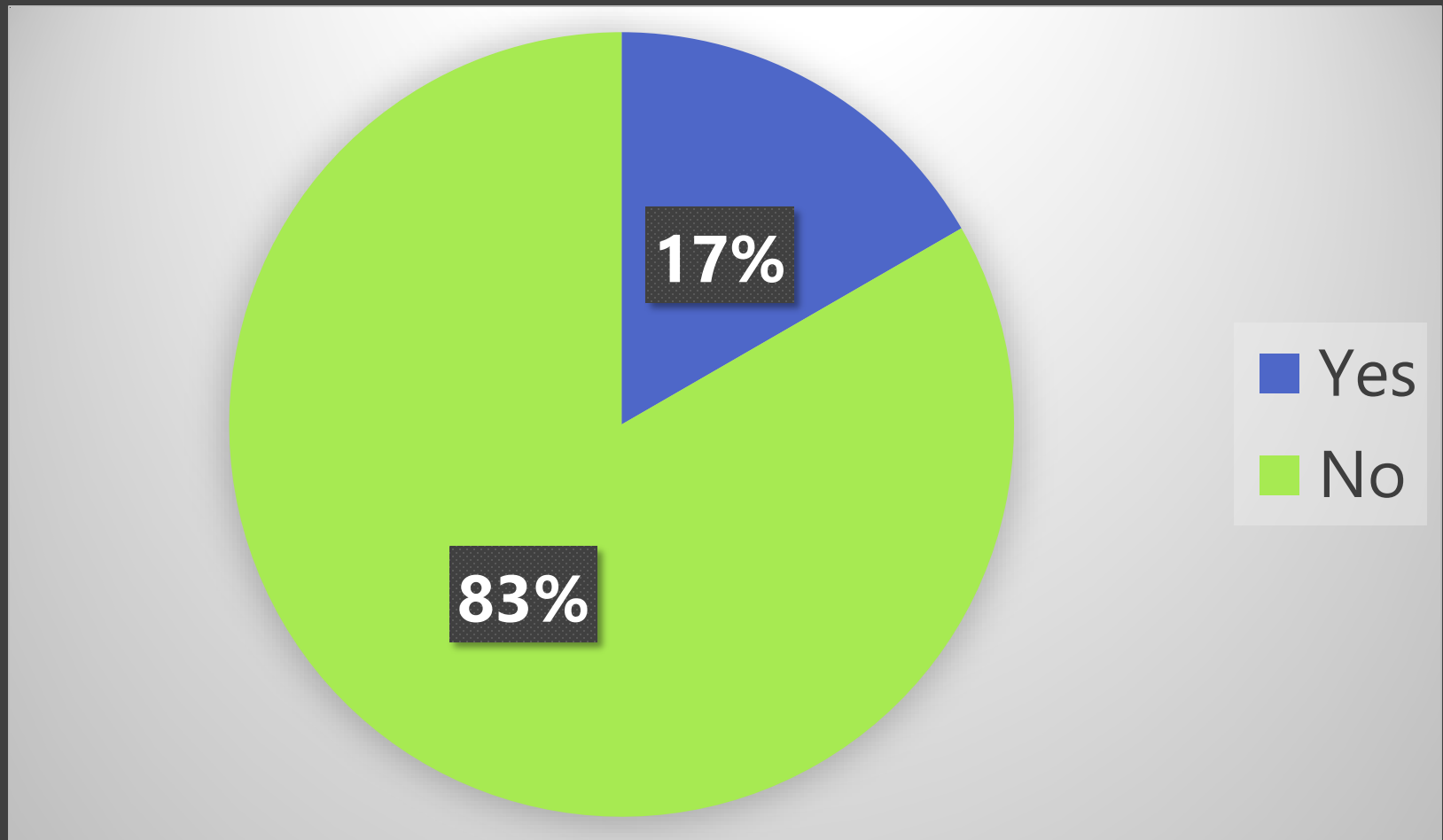
Are the larger, more complex projects being funded sufficiently through the current SRFB project selection process and the funding allocation process?



What are the main challenges that will need to be addressed to implement these future large, complex projects?
CHOOSE TOP 3 CHALLENGES

- Landowner willingness - **34%**
- Funding - **25%**
- Securing other agreements to move forward - **9%**
- Securing community and political support - **8%**
- Staff capacity - **8%**
- Matching timelines with other funding entities - **8%**
- Bigger landscape projects not fitting narrower criteria - **8%**

Would you like to see the SRFB create a statewide competitive grant program to address the larger, more complex projects?



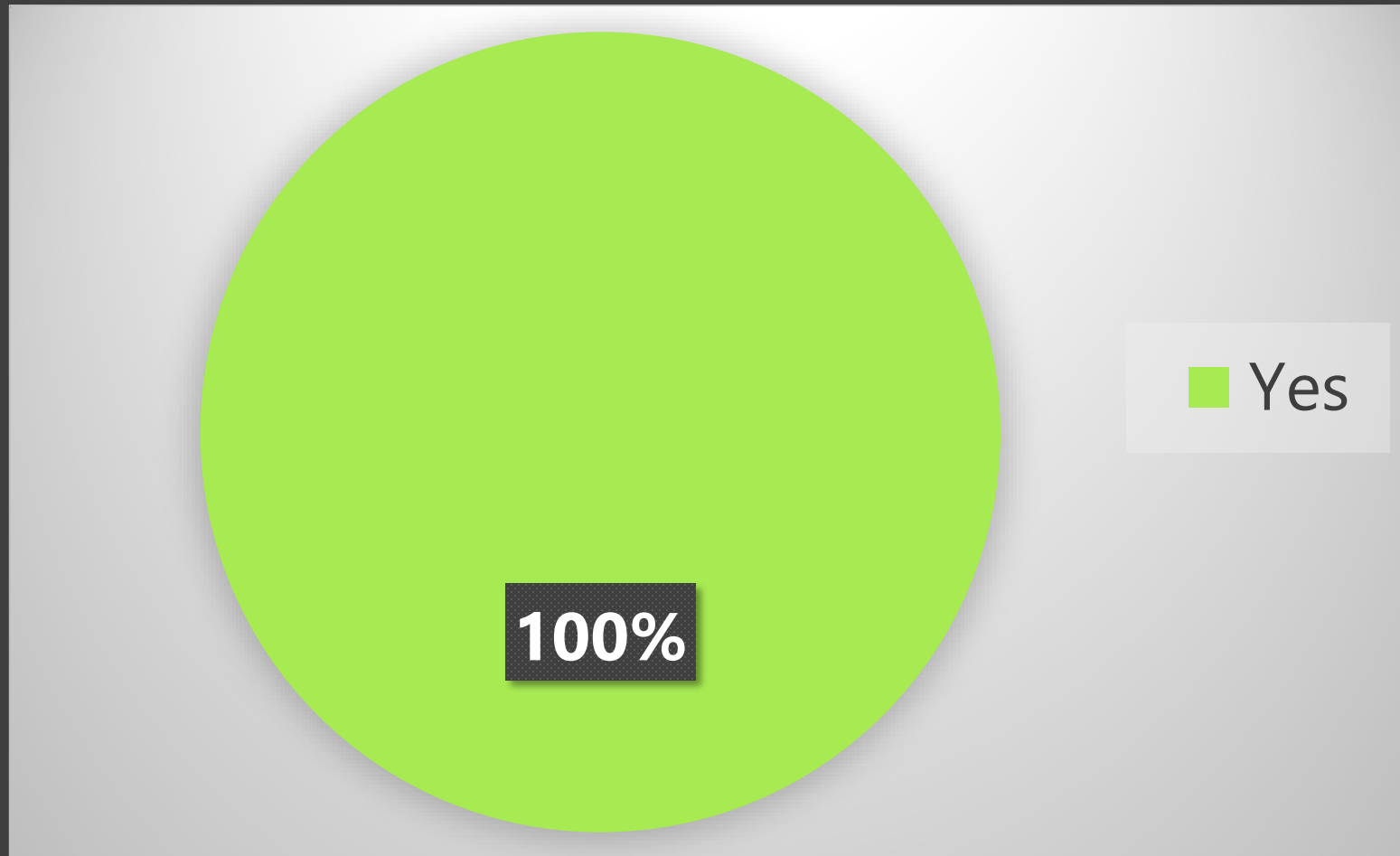
Reason for saying “no”:

- Already too many funding sources
- Could slow momentum on regional recovery efforts
- Would only distract from current project developments
- Would just cost more money to run another program
- We would need new additional funding

Besides increasing funding, what changes might the SRFB make to get the larger, more complex projects funded?

- Help Streamline permitting
- Better liability protection laws for landowners
- Use political influence to limit bottlenecks
- Synchronization and coordination of monitoring efforts
- Ability to commit to future project phases
- Support regional prioritization of projects

Would you like to see the SRFB target some funding in those regions nearing their recovery goals to assist in getting to de-listing under the Endangered Species Act?



Responded “yes”:

- Not at the expense of other regions
- Work with NOAA to identify these targets
- The region must be able to demonstrate that the targeted habitat impediments are the highest priority in the way of recovery.
- Land use programs should be in place to ensure protected long term investments

Besides targeting large, complex projects or regions nearing delisting, should the SRFB target investments towards any other goal?

YES:

- Specific species/sub-species
- Pilot program for smolt and early marine survival
- Summary status and trends for all regions

NO:

- Not unless there is a significant increase in funding



Targeted Investment Survey; Lead Entity Responses (15 of 25)



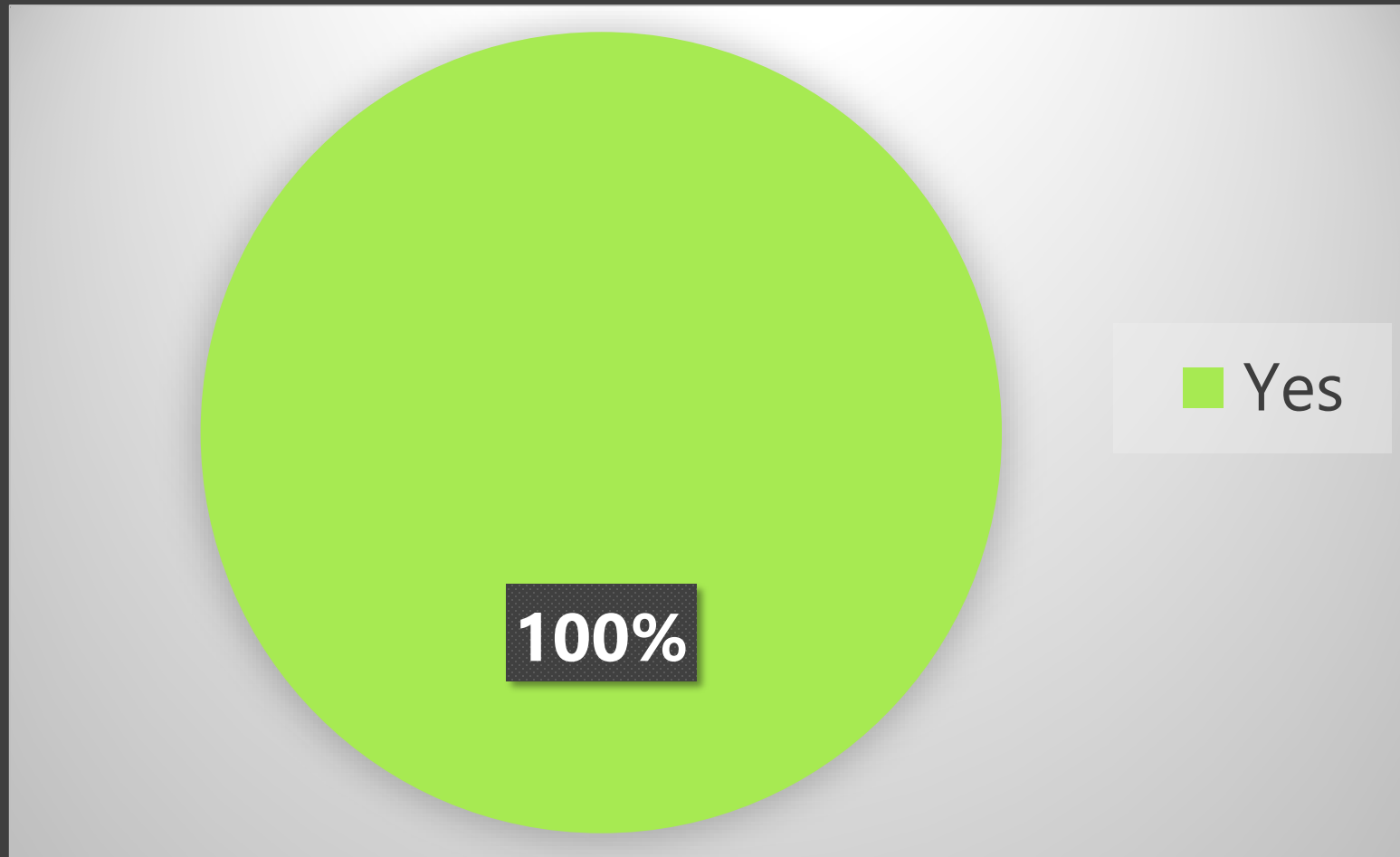
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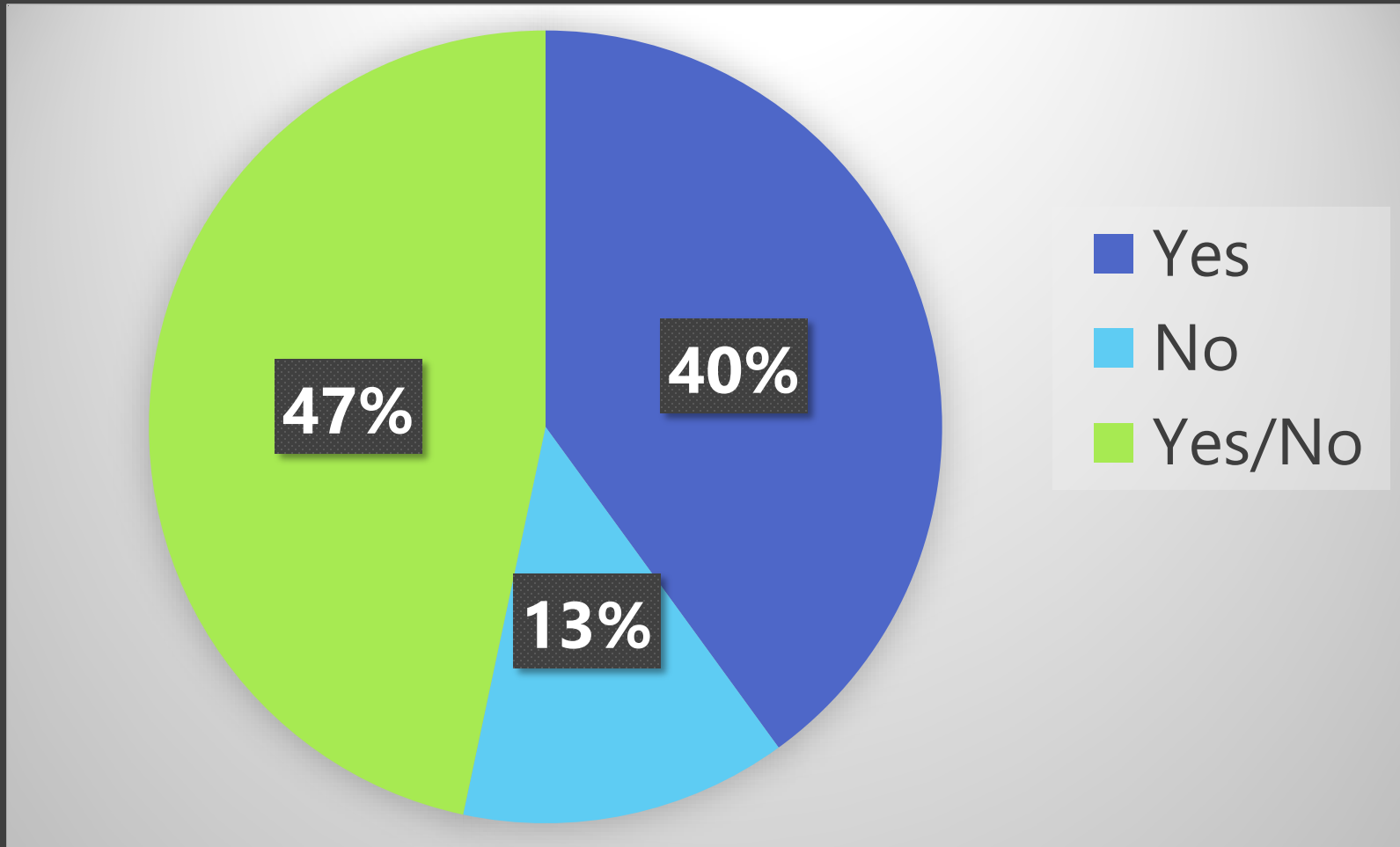
Are you familiar with the regional salmon recovery plan that covers the area you work in?



If yes, what are the goals and priorities of your regional recovery plan and what are the key types of habitat projects needed to be completed?

- Intertidal culverts and fish passage
- Shoreline restoration
- Education and outreach
- Flood Plains
- Estuaries
- Instream woody debris and sediment control
- Barriers
- Agriculture
- Water quality and quantity
- Habitat protection
- Fully functioning watersheds
- Timberlands and Community Forest efforts
- Riparian Function
- Side Channels
- Predation Management

Are the highest priority projects to implement the regional salmon recovery plan being implemented in your area?



Some responded both “yes” and “no”:

- My Lead Entity is not in a priority geographic area
- We are implementing many high priority projects, but struggle improving predation and smolt survival
- Yes, but funding pace and landowner willingness is slow
- Fish Passage, yes. However, there are other limiting factors in watersheds

How would you define a “large, complex salmon habitat project”?

- Multiple Stakeholders
- Multiple Partners
- Multiple jurisdictions
- High costs
- Large scale barrier removals
- Large scale acquisitions
- Projects with multiple phases
- Projects span multiple biennia
- Projects that cross watersheds and regions
- Multiple integrated project elements
- Projects that impact or integrate with existing infrastructure
- Large geographic area

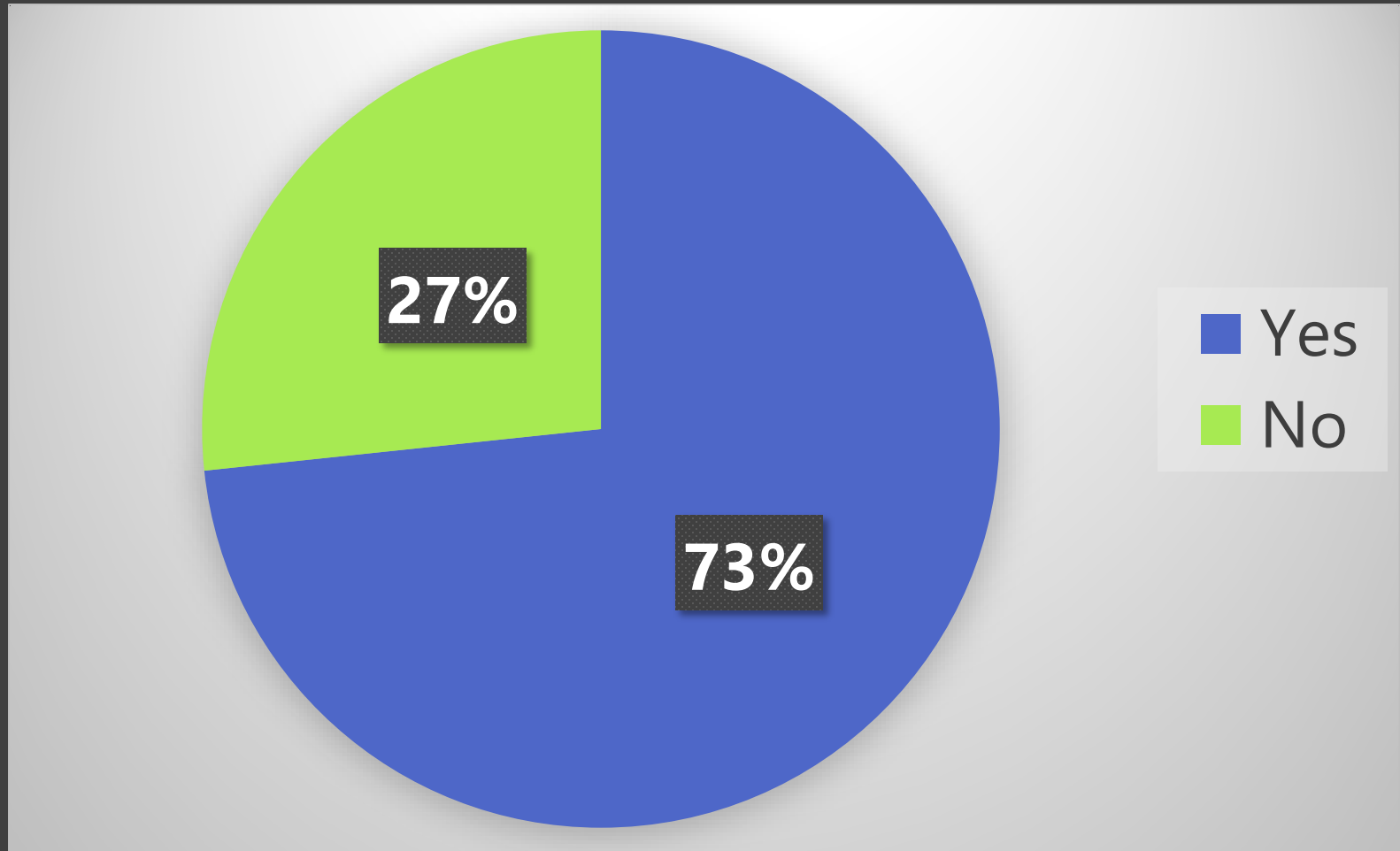
Are there criteria or thresholds you would suggest the SRFB use to categorize or define "large, complex salmon habitat projects"?

- Fish benefit
- Cost
- Not cost
- Cross jurisdictions
- Multiple stakeholders, partners and/or landowners
- VSP criteria
- Project costing more than allocation
- Can't be defined, too subjective
- Number of regulatory authorities
- Size

What are the key barriers or constraints your Lead Entity has in getting large, complex projects submitted or funded by the SRFB?

- Cost
- Timing
- Low hanging fruit is almost gone
- Need more resources for acquisition, planning and design phases
- Local capacity issues
- We currently have large and complex projects funded by SRFB, don't cut the pie
- Hard to get long term commitments
- Stakeholder or landowner willingness
- Politics
- Getting clearance from review panel/Lack of review panel support
- Funding match

Has your Lead Entity ever had a proposed SRFB project too large to be funded within your annual SRFB or PSAR allocation?

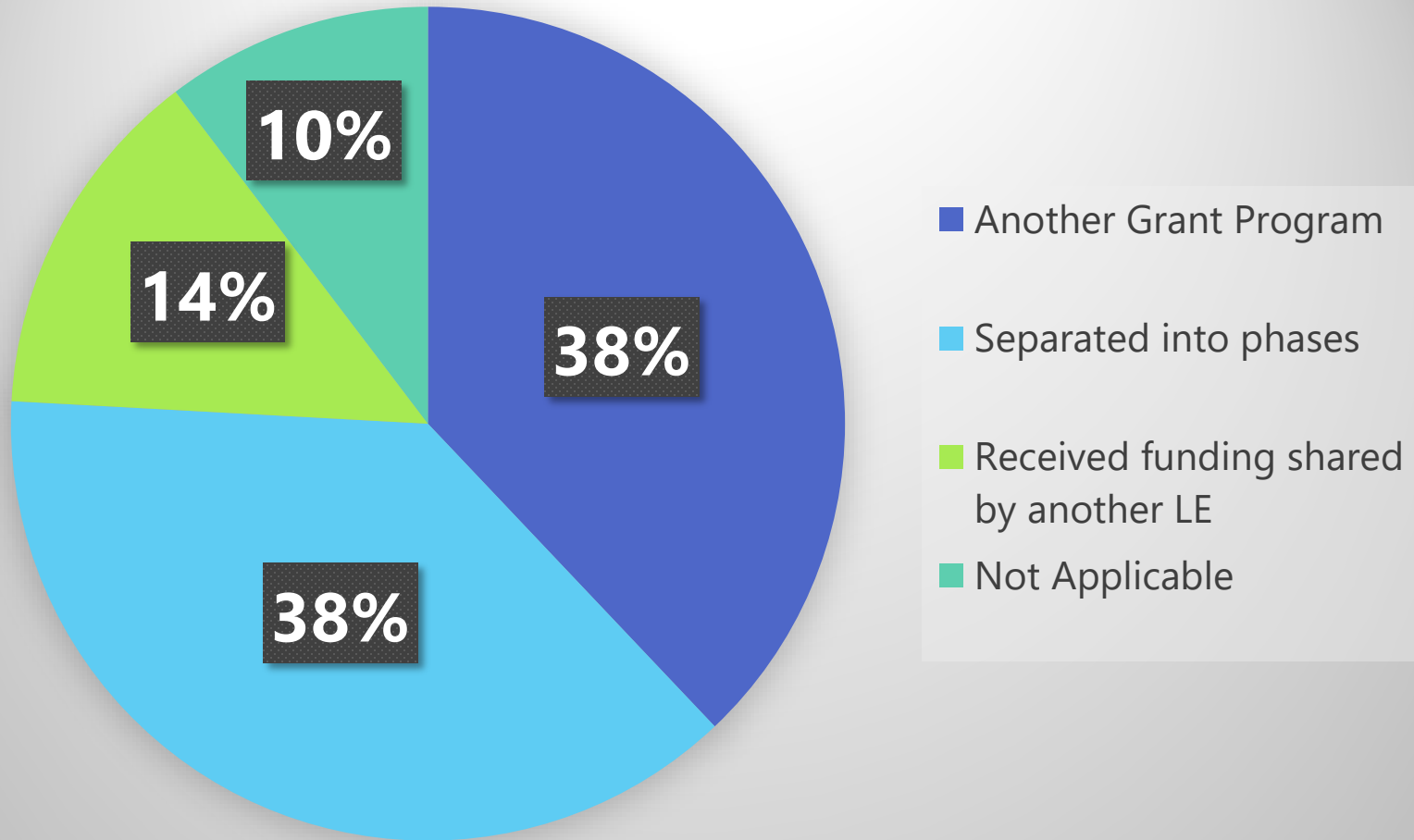


Please list all the projects too large or expensive by name/location:

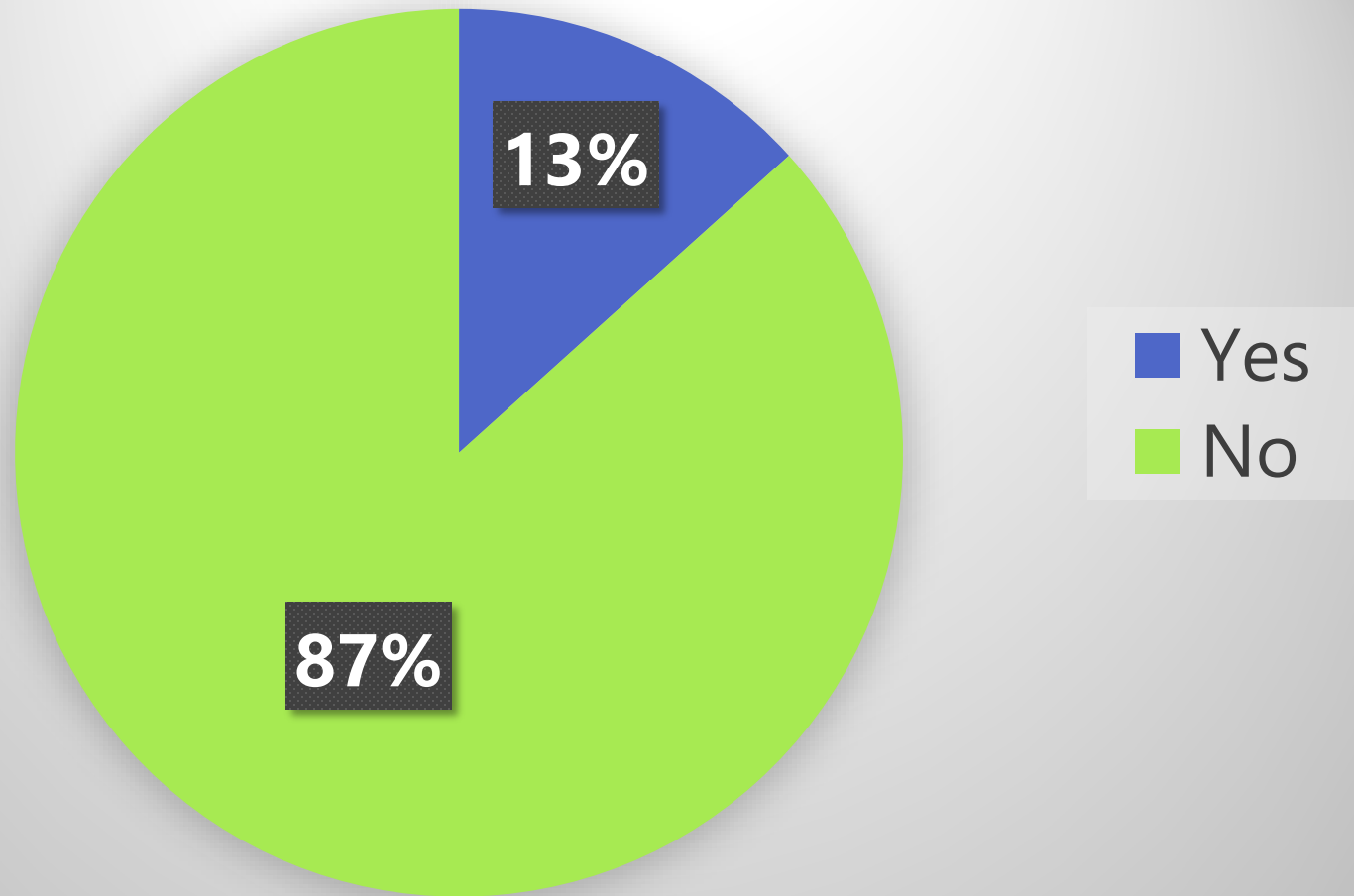
More than 50 projects were listed, here are some examples:

- Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration
- Kilisnoe Harbor Restoration
- Skokomish River Watershed Restoration
- Nisqually Estuary Restoration
- North Touchet River Mile 1.3-4.3
- Evergreen Park Nearshore Restoration
- Elwha Revegetation
- Walla Walla Bridge to Bridge
- Mill Creek (Walla Walla)
- Cornet Restoration
- Barnum Point Acquisition
- Camano Creek Restoration
- Sunlight Shores Restoration
- Maylor Point Restoration
- Stillaguamish Tidal Wetlands Acquisition

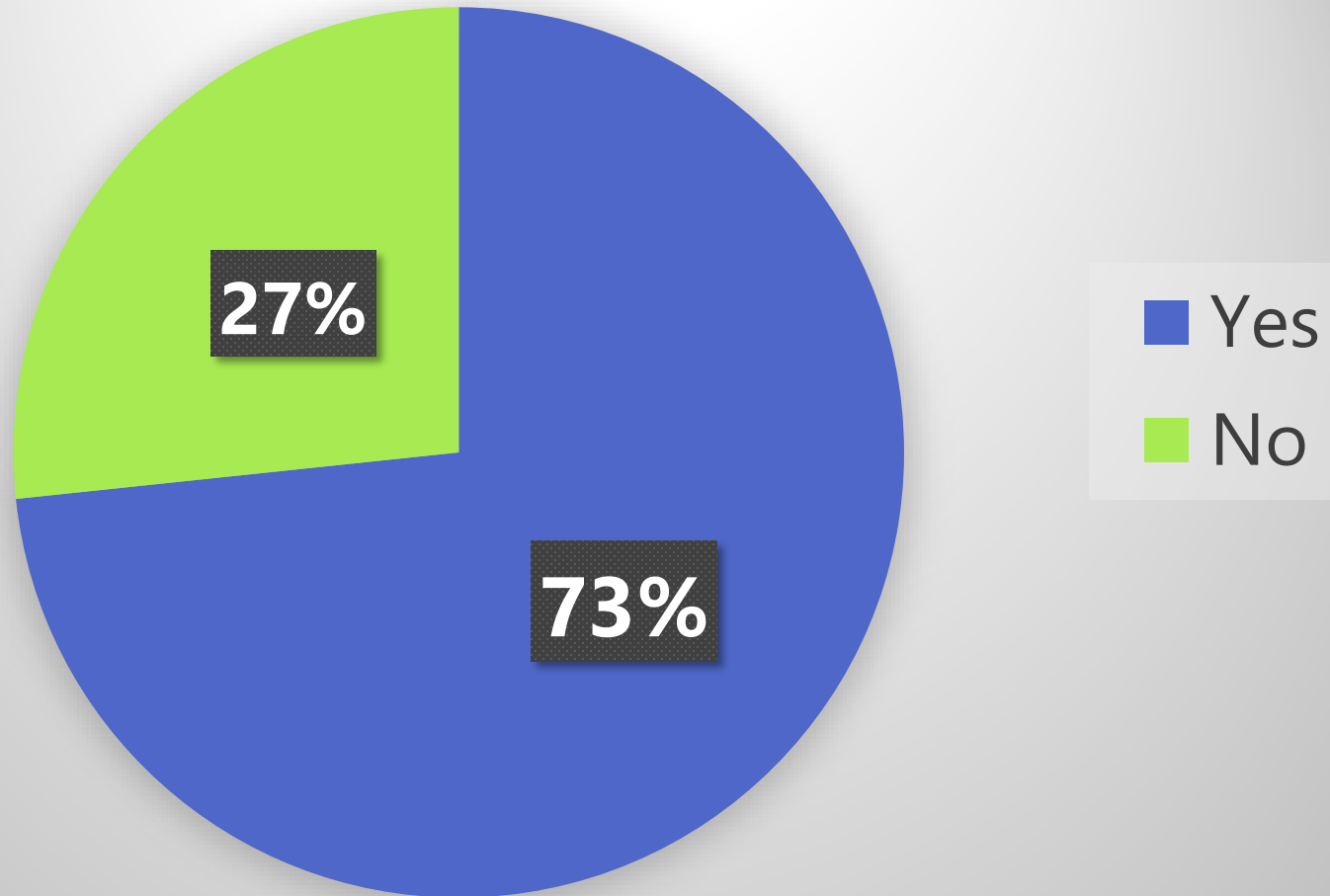
If any of the projects identified in question 8 were eventually completed or are currently in progress, please identify how they got approved or funded below:



Would you like to see the SRFB create a statewide competitive grant program to address the larger, more complex projects?



Would you like to see the SRFB target some funding in those regions nearing their recovery goals to assist the region in getting to de-listing under the Endangered Species Act?



Besides targeting large, complex projects or project in regions nearing delisting, should the SRFB target investments towards any other goal?

- Yes, recovery goals
- Yes, species important to Tribal treaty rights
- Yes, smolt survival/predation issues
- Yes, target investments that are more visible to state legislators
- Yes, viability
- No, not unless there are significant funding increases
- No

Is there anything else you would like the SRFB to know about the funding of salmon recovery projects?

- Plan or prepare projects and allow for maximum flexibility in the use of funding is helpful
- Cost does not equal priority or significance in all cases
- Rethink the relationship between allocations and regional recovery needs
- The SRFB would do well to evaluate why reach-scales are not more common in project types

Targeted Investment Survey; Sponsor Responses (60)

Mt. Baker – Olga, WA



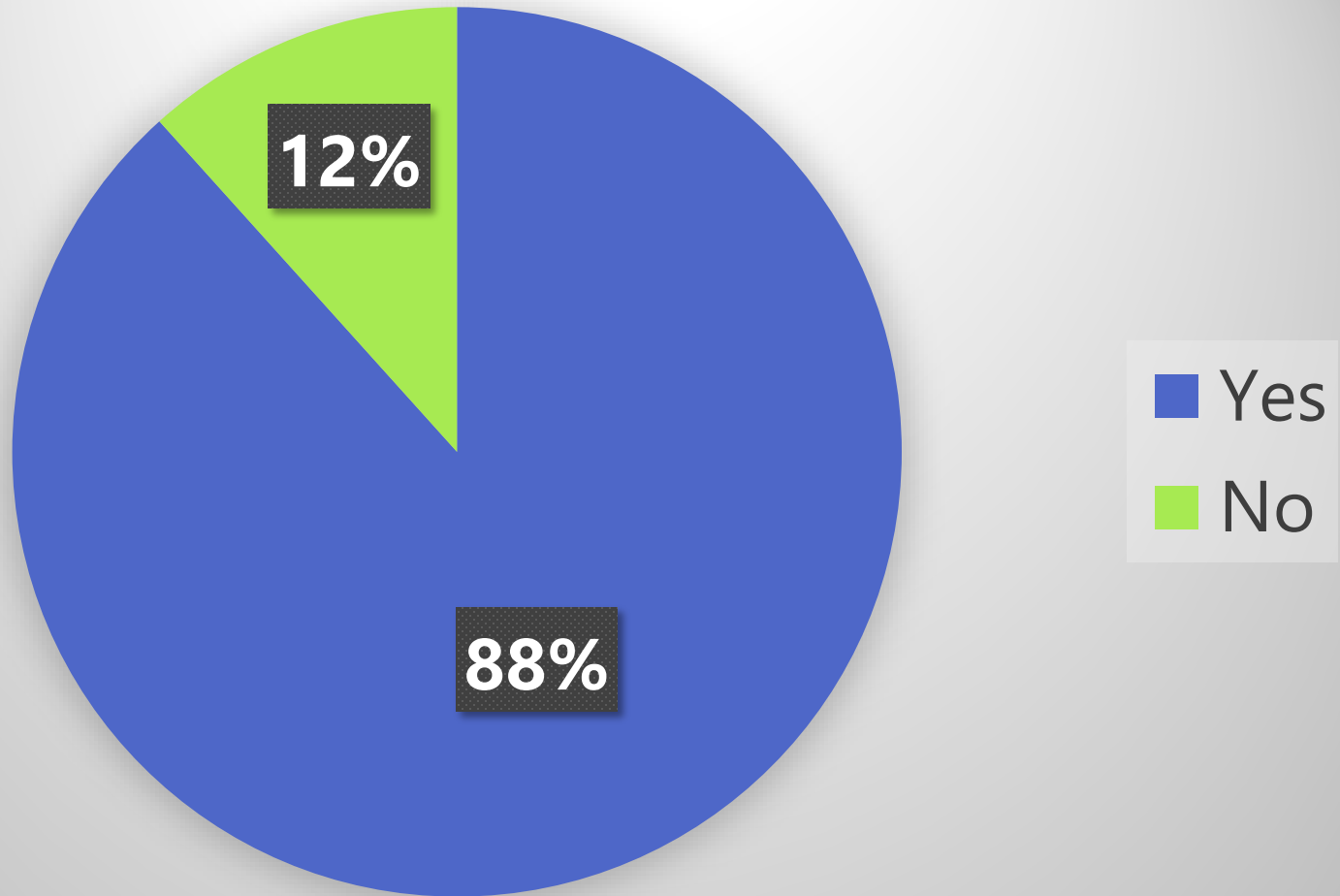
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Are you familiar with the regional salmon recovery plan that covers the area you work in?

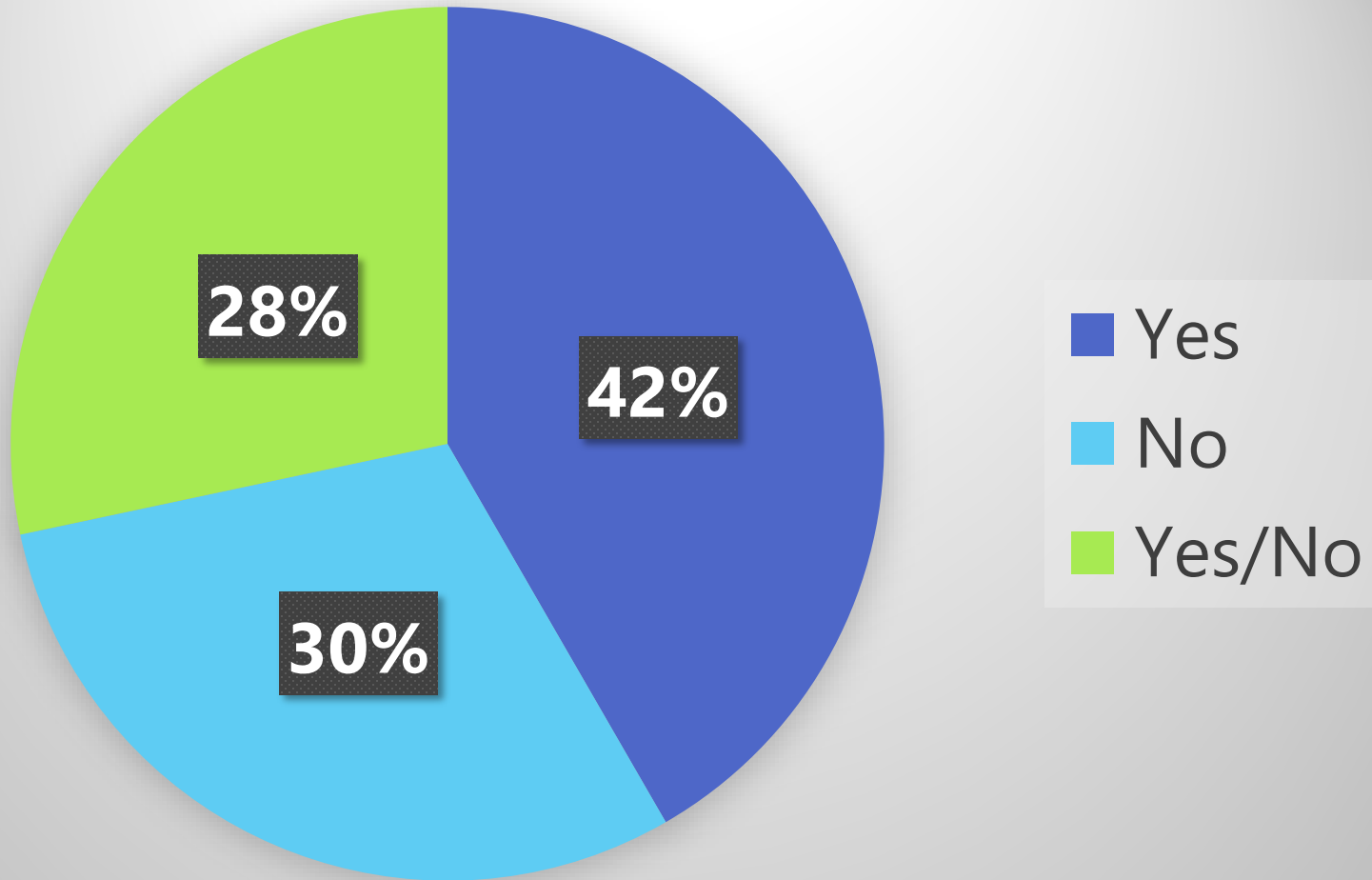


If yes, what are the goals and priorities of your regional recovery plan and what are the key types of habitat projects needed to be completed?

Some of the things we heard:

- Protection of functioning habitat
- Improved passage and flow
- Improvement of riparian and in-stream conditions in tributaries
- Restored floodplain connection and function
- Permanent protection of habitat for threatened salmonid species
- Restoration of degraded habitat for threatened salmonid species
- Restore woody debris
- Reopen floodplain and estuary habitat
- Remove armoring
- Restore riverine processes
- Forests and freshwater

Are the highest priority projects to implement the regional salmon recovery plan being funded or implemented in your area?



Some responded both “yes” and “no”:

- Some highest priority projects are being funded, but some are too large for the existing grant structure to support
- The highest priority projects are funded, but not at a pace that will allow us to achieve recovery
- Projects with the greatest salmonid benefit receive funding. However, critical projects (e.g., floodplain restoration) languish for a decade or more waiting for funds to be cobbled together
- Yes, but not nearly at the rate and scale needed
- Some are, but it isn't clear that all are
- Yes and no, political will continues to be a limiting factor for implementing high-value projects

How would you define a “large, complex salmon habitat project”?

- Multiple landowners/stakeholders
- Multiple funding sources
- Competing resource priorities
- There are only large, complex projects left
- High cost
- Political, engineering, ecological, social, and funding aspects
- Large geographic area
- Projects that typically involve current infrastructure
- Take multiple years to design and implement
- Projects larger than 2-5 acres with levee breach/setback, multiple permits, rezoning and multiple stakeholders

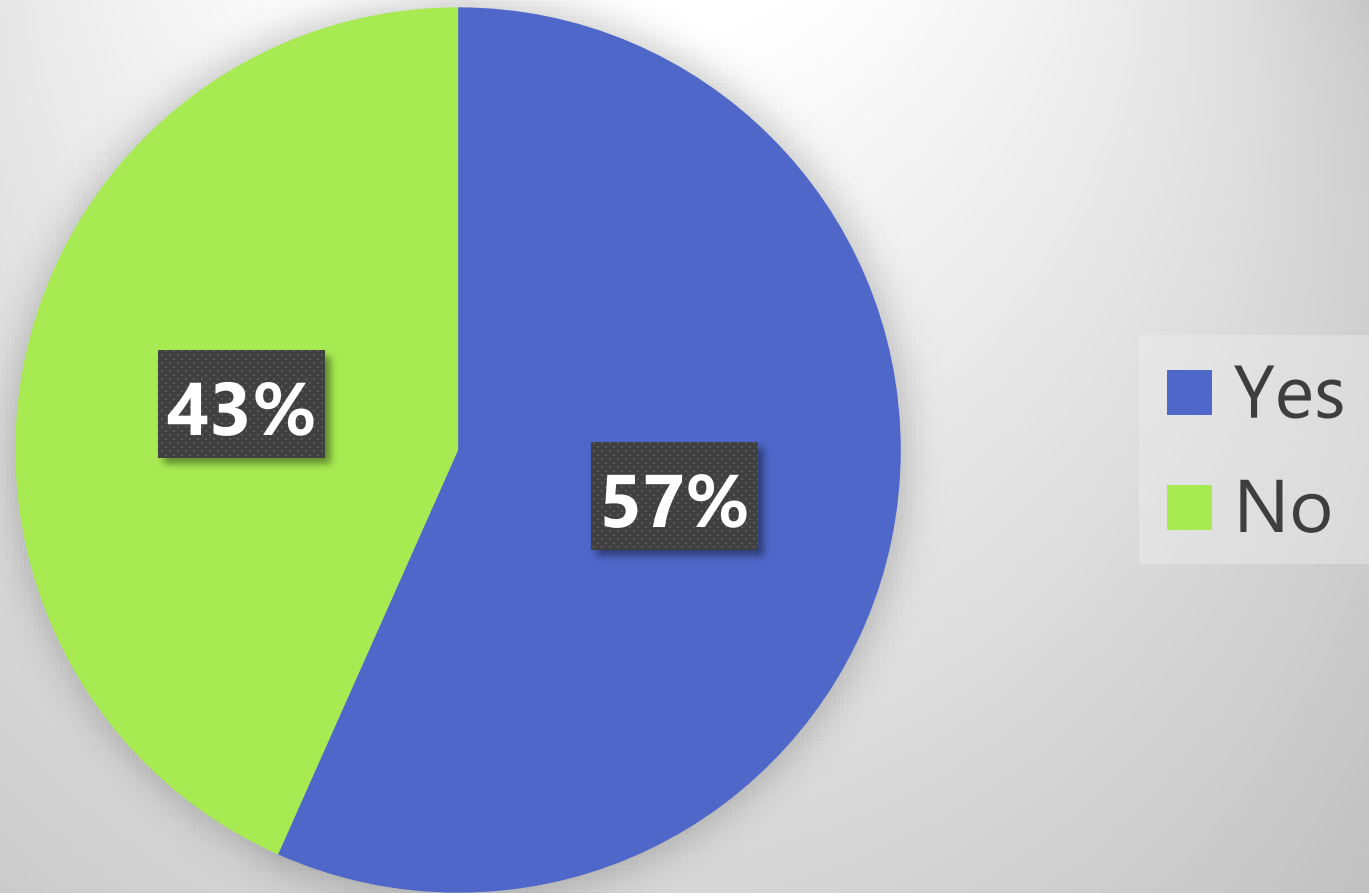
Are there criteria or thresholds you would suggest the SRFB use to categorize or define "large, complex salmon habitat projects"?

- Cost should be the primary criteria (18)
 - Ecological processes across jurisdictions and parcels
 - Geographic size
 - Location
 - Duration it takes to complete
 - Number of entities involved
 - Different thresholds for freshwater
 - Allow the local regional groups to make this call
 - VSP parameters combined with NOAA delisting criteria
 - Number of ownerships
-
- No (11)

What are the key barriers or constraints your organization has in implementing large, complex projects?

- Funding (37)
- Permitting
- Landowner willingness
 - Determining project benefit only by # of fish increase
- Capacity/Staffing
- Stakeholders
- Cooperation of other agencies
- Lack of human resources and political leverage
- Infrastructure/development constraints
- Conflicting interests

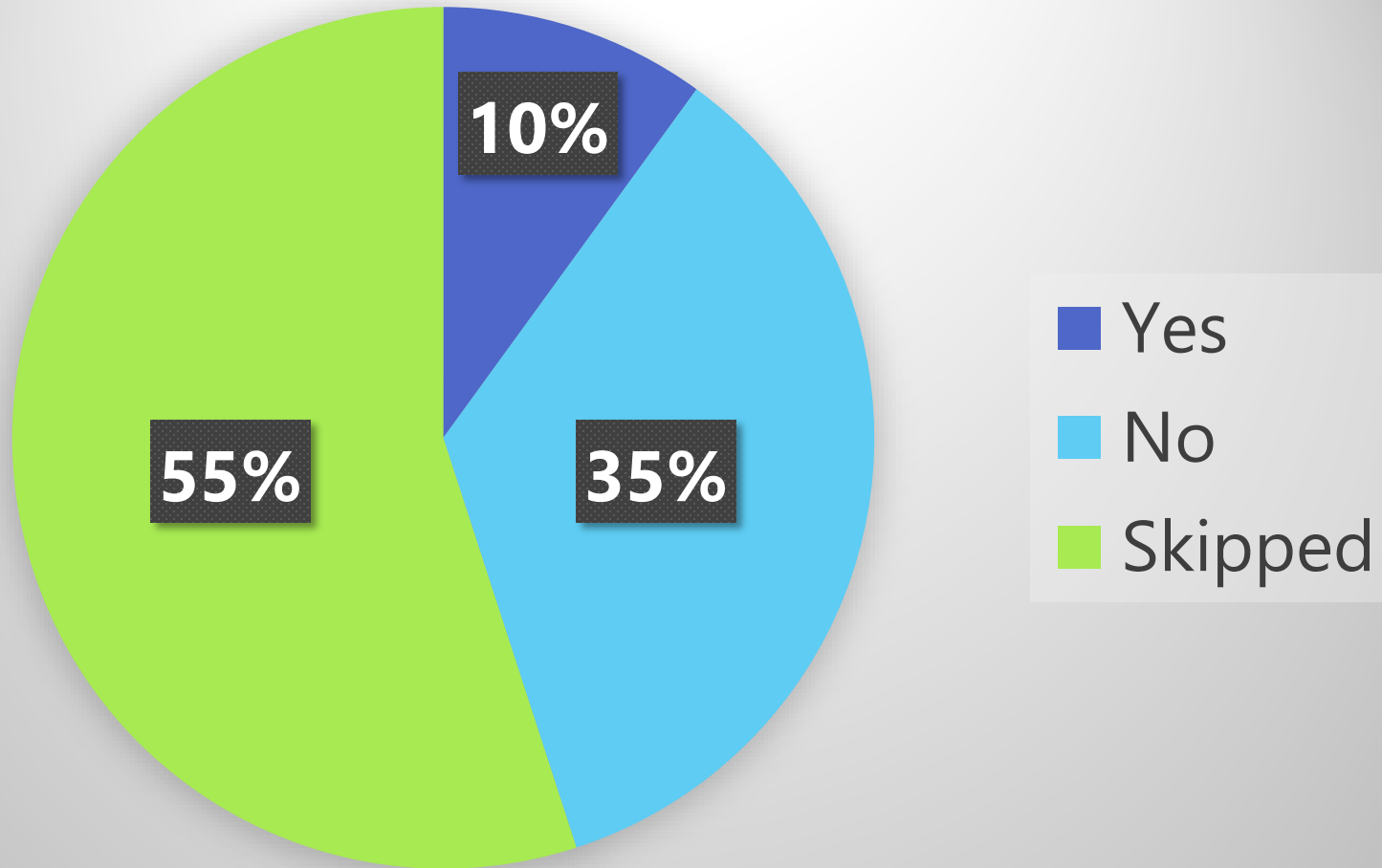
Has your organization had one or more large, complex project(s) that could not be funded by the SRFB?



Starting with the comment box for question 8 below, please list your projects over the last 10 years that could not be funded, by name/location for questions 8-12

- **22** respondents had at least 1 project that could not be funded
- **12** respondents had at least 2 projects that could not be funded
- **8** respondents had at least 3 projects that could not be funded
- **3** respondents had at least 4 projects that could not be funded
- **1** respondent had at least 5 projects that could not be funded

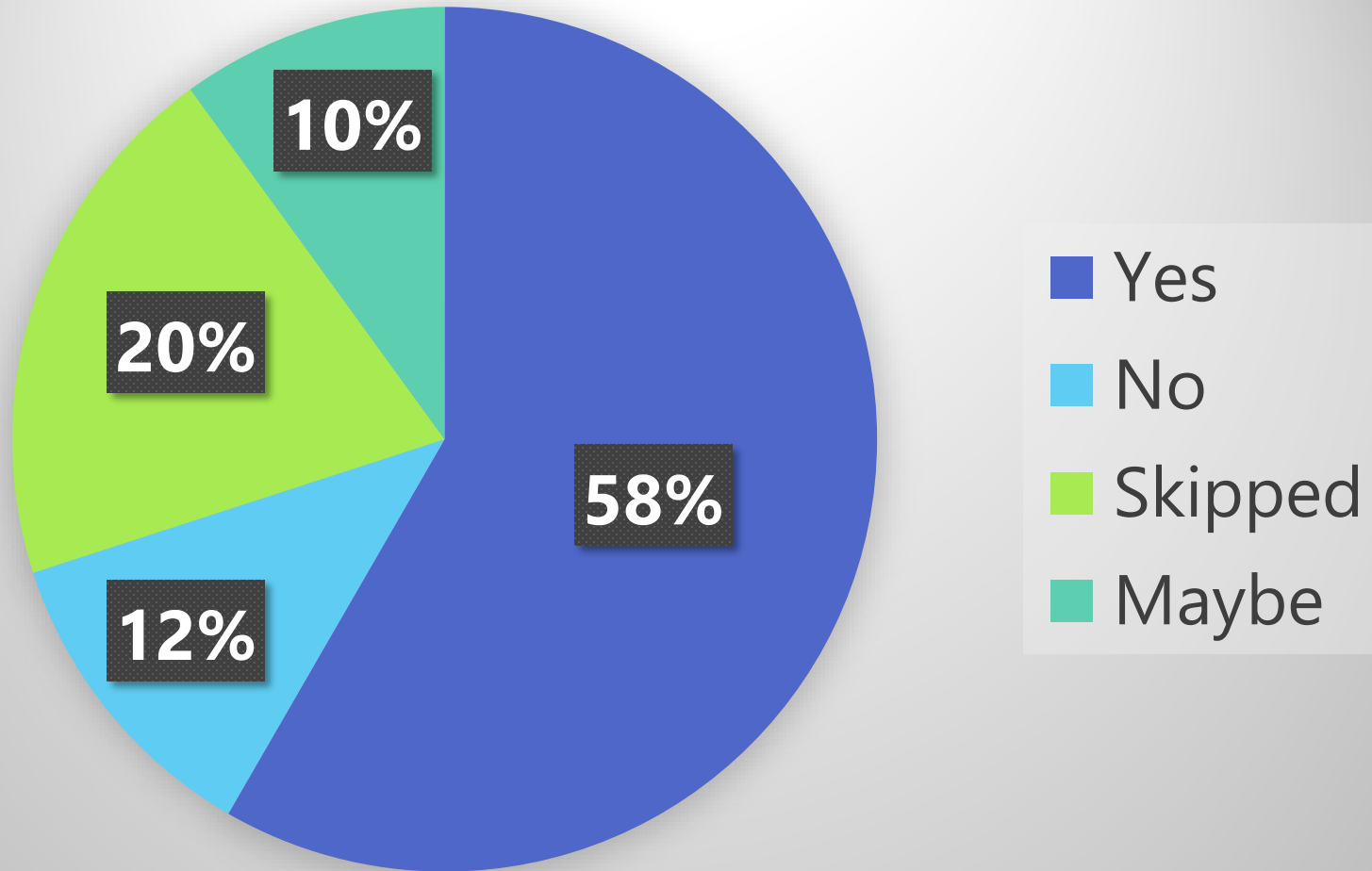
Are there any additional large, complex projects you did not have room to list?



Responded “yes”:

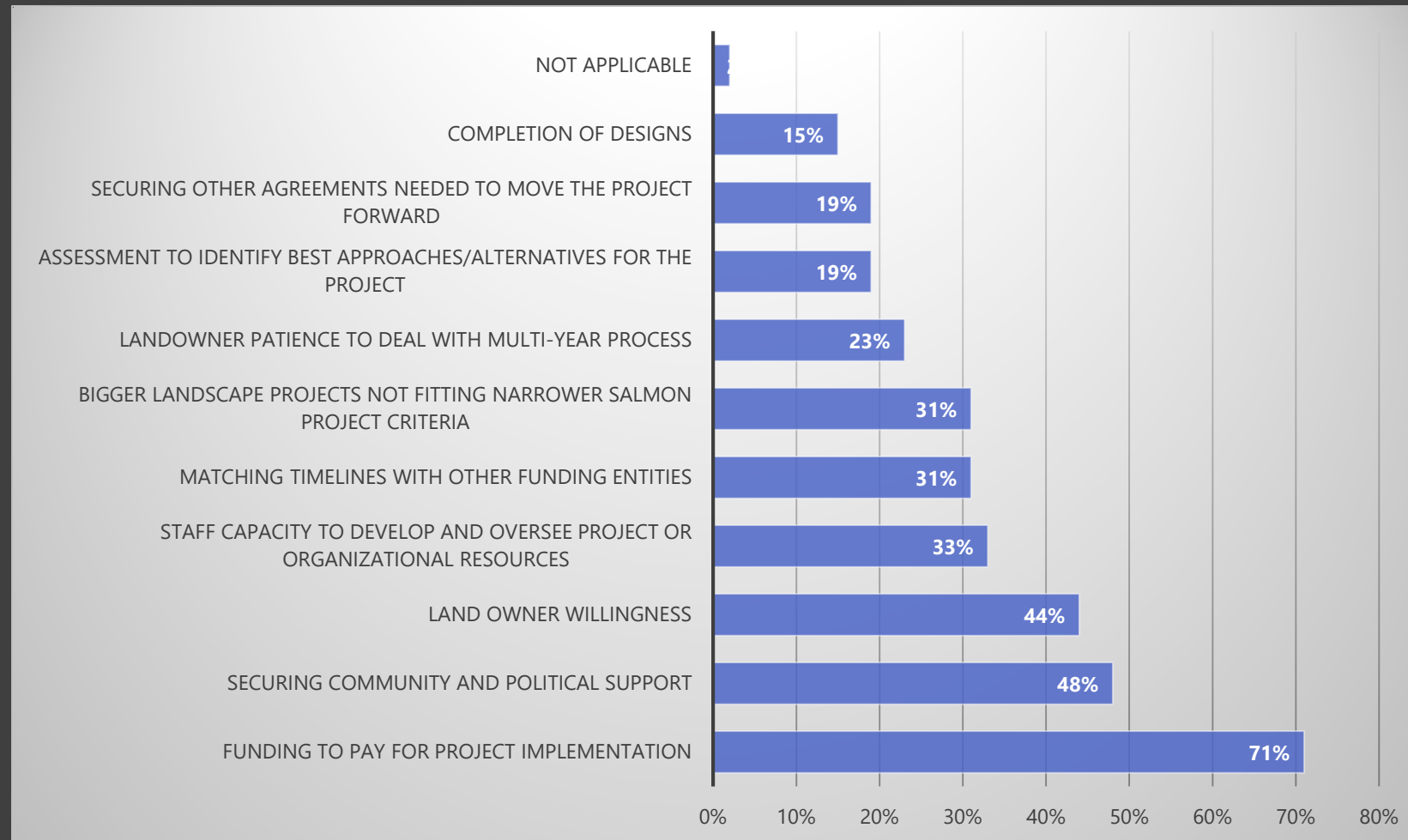
- There are ecosystem based projects identified that have not been pursued due the organizations understanding of the funding landscape.
- The Master planning effort for each watershed would intentionally lead to a number of specific projects, some of which are very likely to be large and complex
- Have several projects, but not worth my time to list
- County's Fish Passage Enhancement Program completed five last year and intends to complete 5-6 in the next two years.
- I'm positive there are many more. It would help to know how this information will be used.
- Projects are forthcoming, but will exceed availability of funds. There are likely half a dozen key projects in this category.

Does your organization have any large, complex projects planned for the next 3 years?

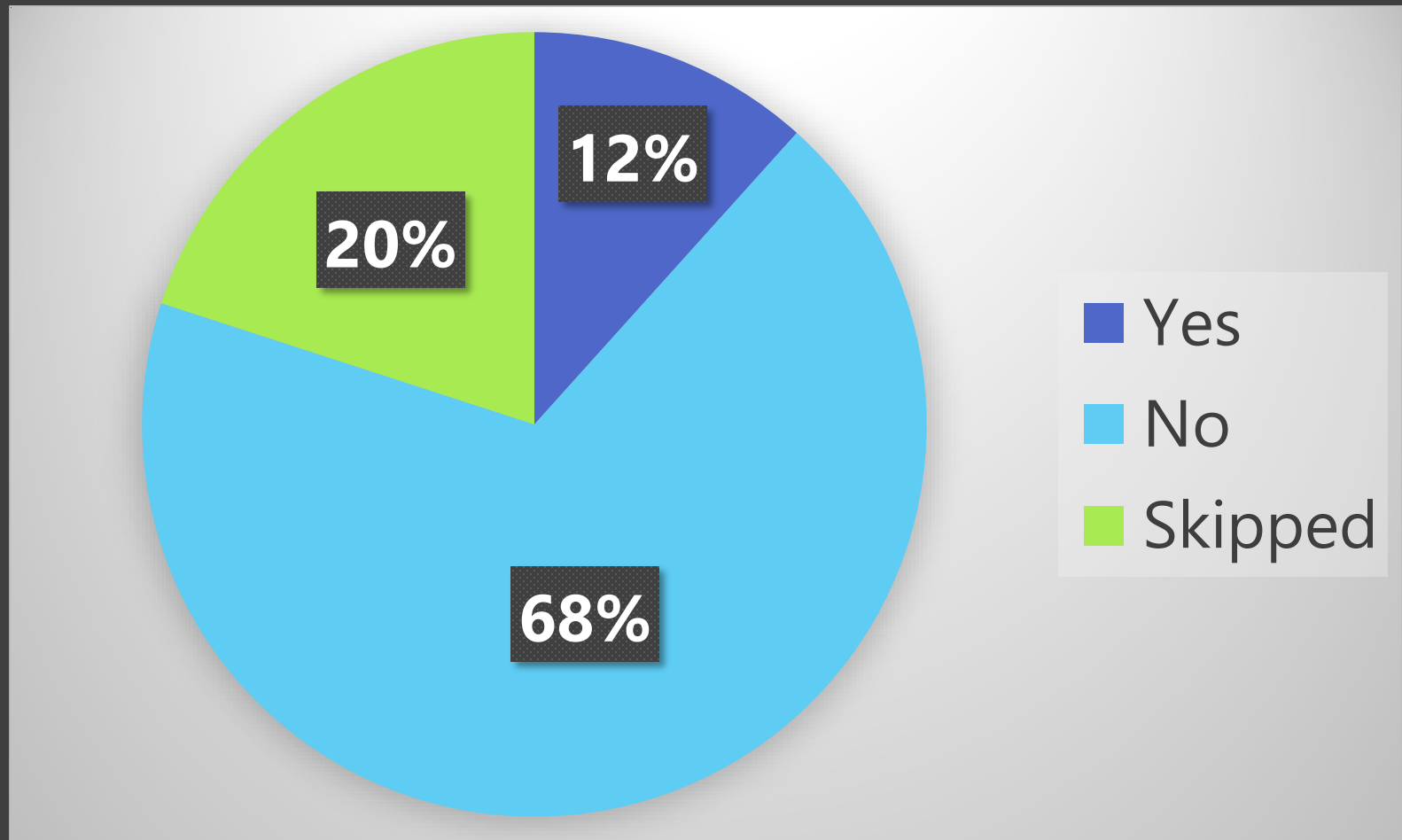


What are the main challenges that will need to be addressed to implement these future large, complex projects?

CHOOSE TOP 3 CHALLENGES



Do you believe these future large, complex projects will be able to be funded within your lead entity's annual allocation?



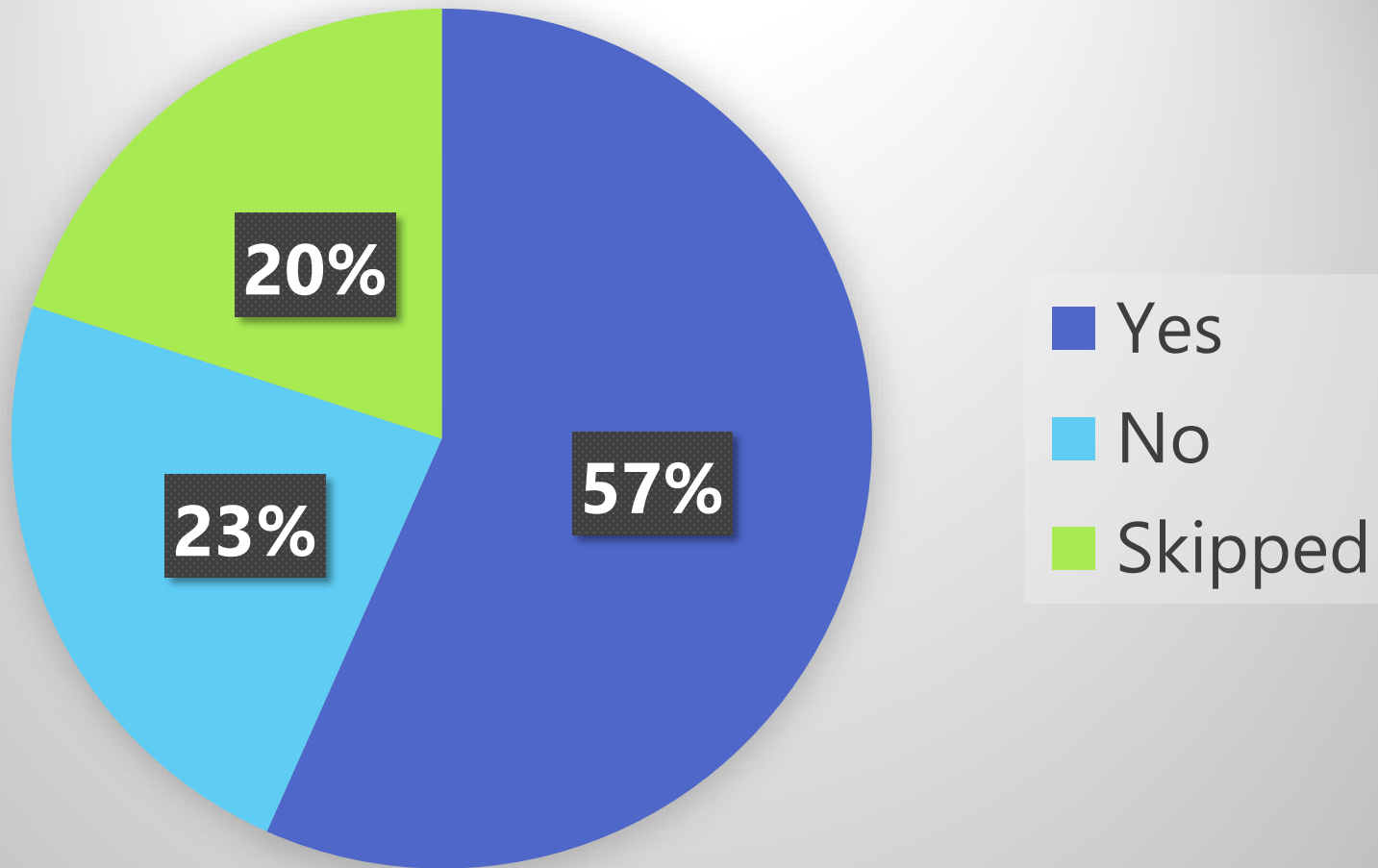
If you answered "no" in the question above, how do you plan to proceed with these projects?

- Phase the project - **23%**
- Apply for other funding - **38%**
- Seek direct appropriation from legislature - **9%**
- Delay the project **8%**
- Reduce the size or scope of project - **9%**
- Other - **13%**

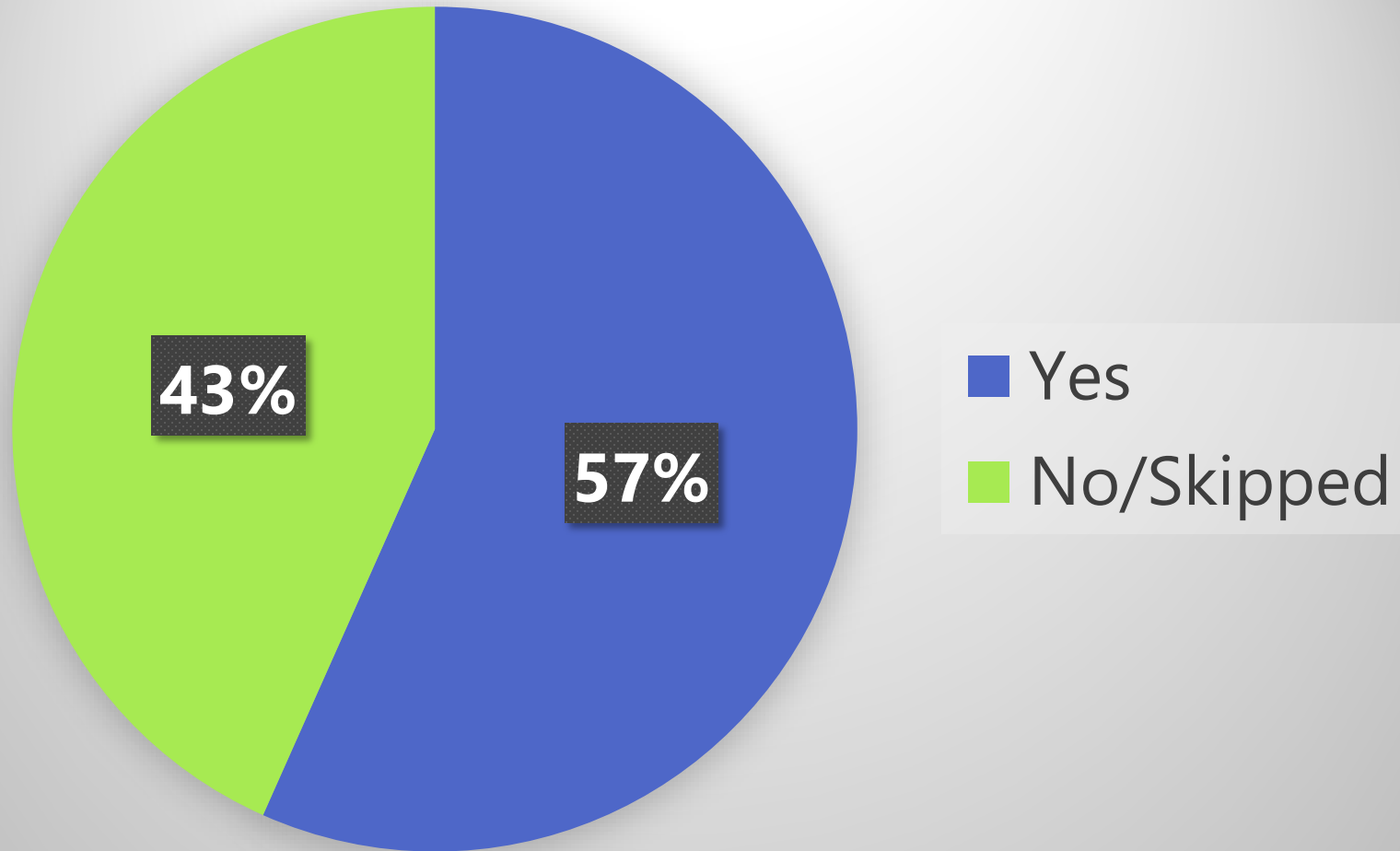
Responded “other”:

- Seeking mitigation funds to purchase properties
- Congressional Appropriation
- Continue to try to build additional partnerships
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funds
- PSAR Large Cap funding
- Fish Barrier Removal Board
- San Juan Preservation Trust private funding
- Funding is in-hand
- Work with other partners to demonstrate what is possible
- Need a new funding mechanism for the protection of forestland. So important for salmon recovery.

Would you like to see the SRFB create a statewide competitive grant program to address the larger, more complex projects?



Would you like to see the SRFB target some funding in those regions nearing their recovery goals to assist the region in getting to de-listing under the Endangered Species Act?



Besides targeting large, complex projects or regions nearing delisting, should the SRFB target investments towards any other goal?

Some of what we heard:

- Protection of functioning habitat
- Remove the requirement for regional certifications: Klickitat
- Legislative communication
- Fish passage barriers as a focus for small entities
- General increase in funding
- Streamline permitting requirements
- Stream temperatures
- Keep some of the traditional allocations for smallish projects
- Recovery/preservation of natural processes, and connectivity
- Not beyond what we've already stated here
- Speeding up distribution of funds in order to enable projects to get on the ground faster!

Is there anything else you would like the SRFB to know about the funding of salmon recovery projects?

Some of what we heard:

- If SRFB chooses to develop a "large cap SRFB" it needs to maintain independence from the regular SRFB.
- Sponsors need to have the flexibility of applying to both funding sources
- I would encourage the SRFB to think as big as possible when it comes to developing the necessary funding.
- Education and Outreach projects
- Additional funding
- Lean the process
- streamline funding process
- Please don't create another large capital program through the state capital budget
- Grant application has redundant questions
- Thank you! (7)