

RURAL VOICES FOR CONSERVATION COALITION

Working together to find policy solutions to the ecological and economic challenges of the rural West.

NINTH WESTERN ANNUAL POLICY MEETING

December 7-9, 2009

Troutdale, Oregon

PRE-MEETING SURVEY SYNTHESIS

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1. Methods and Purpose

This document is based on the responses of 70 organizations that submitted responses on an on-line, pre-meeting survey. This is the ninth time we have done this survey as part of the preparation for the RVCC Annual Policy Meeting. Each year we modify the survey based on participant feedback and coalition work. This year's survey was the longest and most complicated survey we have done, perhaps a little ambitious, but also a sign of the growing maturity of our coalition. Unfortunately, this length and complexity also may have contributed to a significantly higher number of respondent's skipping questions.

This synthesis was prepared by Sustainable Northwest and reviewed by the RVCC Core Group. However, the results presented have not been vetted through the entire coalition and this document should not be used to infer consensus or agreement on the interpretation.

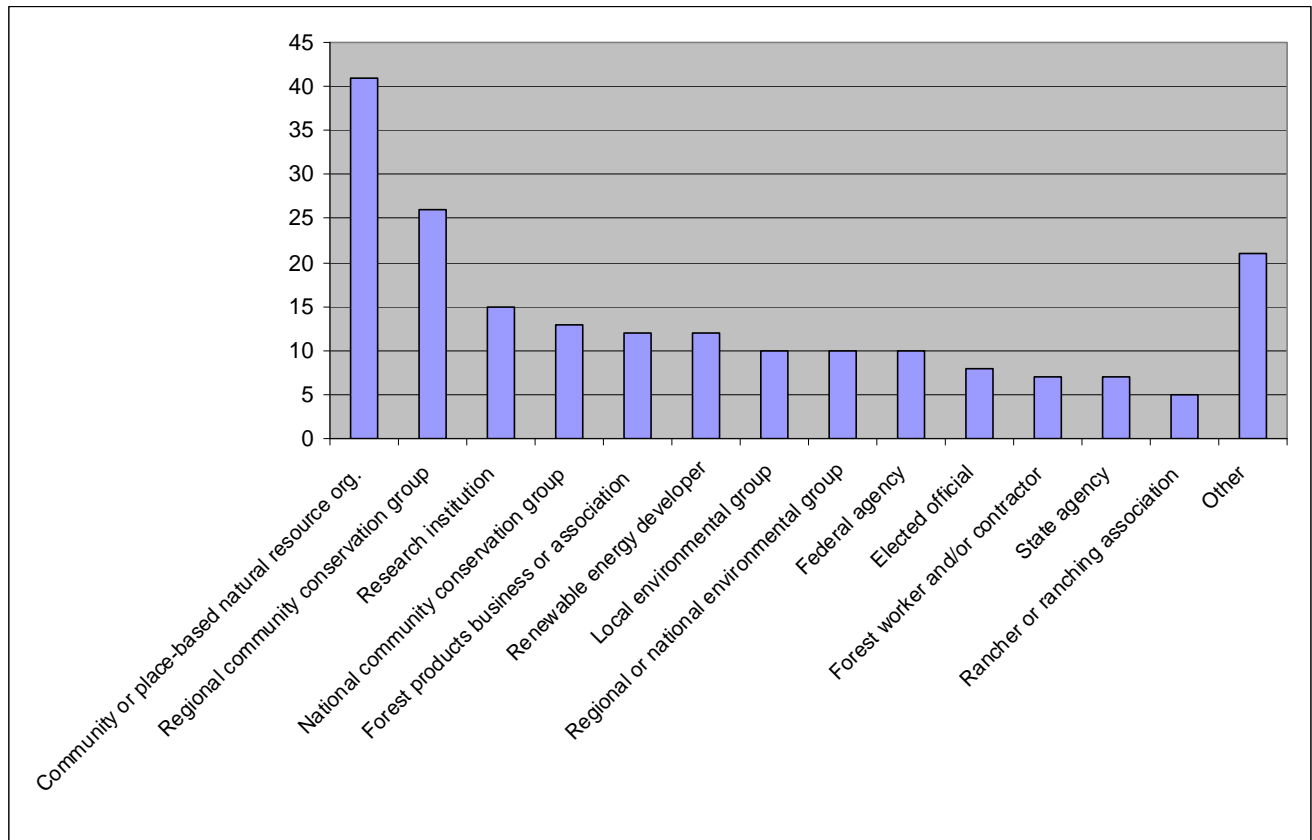
The purpose of the pre-meeting survey is to prepare participants for the Annual Policy Meeting by engaging them in thoughtful consideration of the issues. It also allows RVCC participants that are unable to attend the meeting a means of contributing their voice on the issues (up to 12% of the survey respondents will not be attending the meeting). Unless otherwise noted, percentages reported reflect those respondents who did not skip the question.

The purpose of the survey synthesis is to provide a summary of the collective information contained in the survey responses. It is intended for use by meeting participants to discuss issues for collective action during the meeting. Participants will use the results of the homework as a starting point for their small group discussions during the Annual Policy Meeting, but they are not bound to, or limited by, the information contained in this document. The small break out groups convened during the Annual Policy Meeting and the RVCC working groups will use the information contained in this document to track RVCC participant interests, identify issues and opportunities, political ripeness, and the potential for collective action among other criterion for the validity of the summary responses. The survey synthesis can also be used as a starting point for drafting issue papers; these papers will then go through the RVCC working groups' consensus-based process and full coalition sign-on process.

2. Survey Respondent Profile

Seventy respondents completed the on-line survey homework. Each respondent was asked to categorize their organization and the following chart gives an idea of the type of groups that responded to the homework:

Chart 1: Please pick ONE of the following that best describes your organization.



PERCENT of RESPONDENTS

*None of the respondents chose: Tribal member or employee

*Responses do not add up to 100% because respondents were allowed to check all that apply.

3. Scope of Organizational Policy Work

Almost 90% of survey participants indicated that they work on policy to some extent; however, almost two-thirds of these respondents have less than 25% of their organizational budget dedicated to working on policy. Most respondents (73%) chose federal forestland management as one of the policy issues they spent the majority time trying to influence. Other issues that ranked relatively high on this list were renewable energy (36%), climate change (32%), and federal rural economic development policy (30%). Of the organizations that work on climate change, 56% of them spend less than 10% of their time on this issue. The majority of respondents spend most or all of their time working on public lands issues (50%). However, most survey participants (94%) spend at least some time working on private lands, with 38% spending at least half their time working on private lands. The same percentage of respondents (6%) spent all of their time working on public or all of their time working on private land. Most responding organizations do not work on tribal lands issues (33%) or spend 10% or less of their time tribal land issues (44%).

4. Technical Assistance Needs

The top technical assistance needs reported by participants were accessing carbon markets and biomass utilization and energy production. Marketing and utilization of restoration byproducts also ranked high. Over the last three years there has been a gradual transition to RVCC participants ranking marketing assistance and accessing carbon markets higher in terms of technical assistance needs. Previously, higher need was reported in areas such as ecological, economic and social monitoring and collaborative processes. It is difficult to ascertain what has led to this switch – some possible answers include a broader RVCC membership, increased progress on monitoring and collaboration so that groups moved on to other needs, or changing circumstances leading to new or different training needs.

Table 1: What is the level of need in your community or organization for the following technical assistance and training?

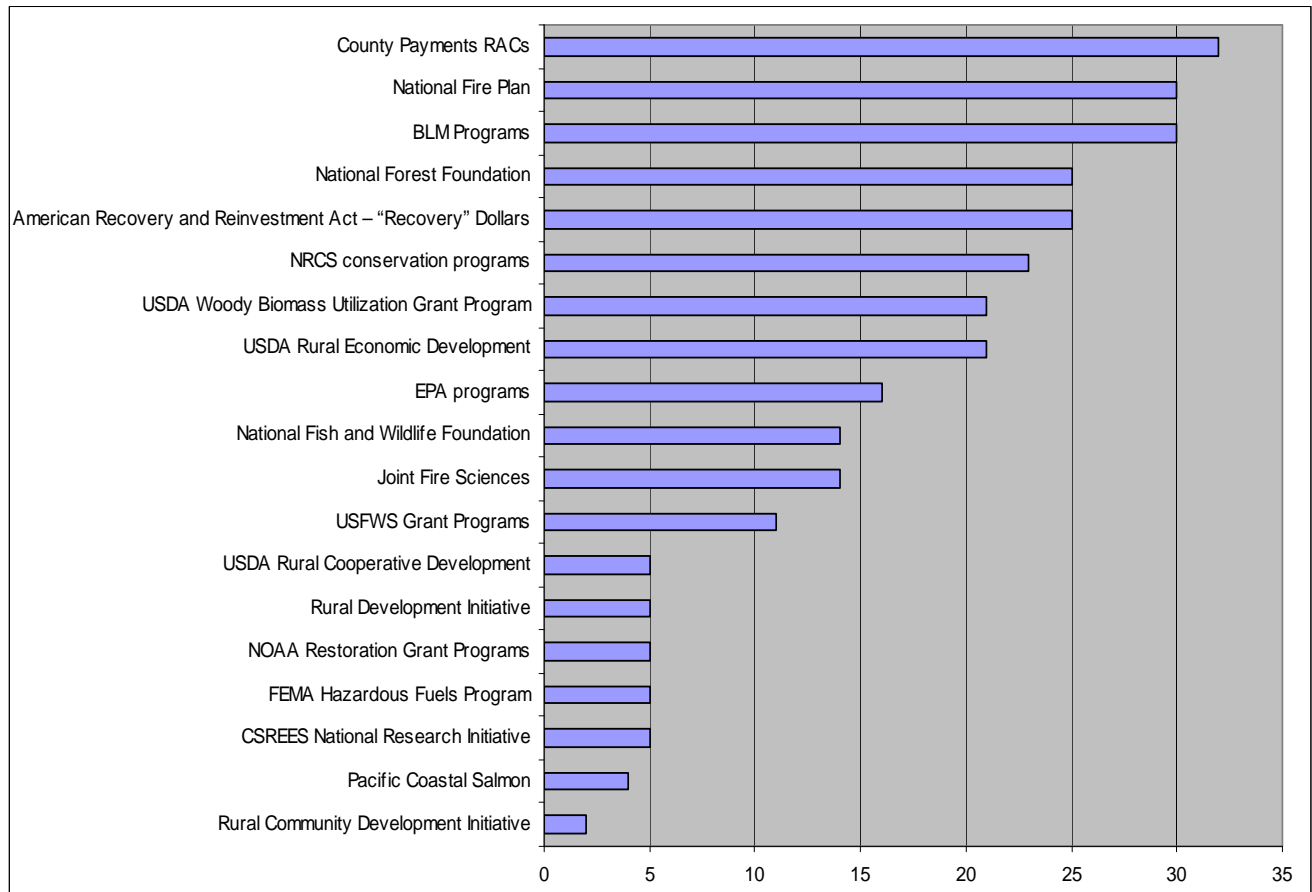
	Need				Don't know
	None	Some	Moderate	High	
Technical Assistance and Training	Percent				
Biomass utilization and energy production	14	26	14	44	2
Marketing and utilization of restoration byproducts	16	21	27	36	0
Accessing carbon markets	13	25	29	29	5
Ecological, social, and economic monitoring protocols	19	28	34	19	0
Collaboration	21	33	28	18	0
Facilitation	31	34	19	16	0
Private landowner forest management	30	34	20	14	2
Operations and business management	33	28	26	13	0
Multi-party monitoring	32	26	25	12	0
Community planning	32	23	34	11	0
Understanding/accessing easement and acquisition programs	46	19	22	9	4
Private landowner range management	43	30	15	6	6

*8% of respondents chose other

5. Federal Sources of Grants and Technical Assistance

The top two sources of federal grants and technical assistance to RVCC participants stayed the same between last year and this year, Resource Advisory Councils and the National Fire Plan. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the National Forest Foundation (both new categories added this year), each provided funding to about 25% of respondents. This year, the USDA Woody Biomass Utilization program declined almost 10% points in its significance ranking. In the last two years, there has been an increase in grants reported from BLM sources – almost 30% of respondents reported receiving grants or funds from BLM this year and last, compared to only a couple three years ago.

Chart 2: During the past three years, which of the following federal sources have provided your organization with technical assistance or grants for natural resource related projects?
(Organizations selected all that applied, consequently, percentages total greater than 100%)



PERCENT of RESPONDENTS

*13% of respondents answered: None of these

*The other category included the following:

- Department of Energy
- USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program
- USDA Collaborative Forest Restoration Program
- USFS More kids in the woods, USFS New Mexico forest restoration focused grant program, USFS State and Private Forestry, USFS Economic Action, USFS R&D
- UA Forest Service - Coop Forestry
- NFP dollars to NM State Forestry Division for hazardous fuels mitigation activities
- NRCS Grant Programs
- Wildland Urban Interface Grants
- Colorado Community Forest Restoration Grants
- State DEQ
- Agency Agreements for services

6. RVCC Priorities

Alternative energy development and landscape scale restoration were the two highest-ranking RVCC priorities for 2010. Climate change and building rural community and business capacity to play a stewardship role on public and private lands also ranked high. Other related issues with relatively high percentage ranking were increasing investment in federal land management and natural resource-based economic development. The priority ranking among survey respondents is relatively consistent with the priorities expressed last year.

Table 2: The following table shows the results for participants' ranking of what the priorities should be for the administration in 2010 (*participants were asked to select up to THREE*):

	Response Percent
Alternative energy development	41
Landscape scale restoration	41
Climate change	40
Building rural community and business capacity to play a stewardship role on public and private lands	38
Increasing investment in federal land management	35
Natural resource-based economic development	33
Protecting working landscapes	19
Management of wildfire	17
Conservation and protection of water quality	16
Increasing wilderness areas	5
Energy conservation	3
Increasing regional food security and distribution	3
Protecting endangered and threatened species	3
Reducing sprawl and land conversion	3

**0% of respondents answered: Protecting Old Growth and Protecting Open Space

7. Public Land Management Agency Issues

Barriers

The top three barriers identified by participants to achieving comprehensive restoration are all federal agency budget related barriers: 1) impact of fire suppression on the FS budget, 2) lack of multi-year funding for land management agency restoration projects, and 3) lack of an adequate budget structure. Lack of adequate accountability in the agencies performance measures and other systems for restoration related outcomes also ranked high. Specific comments regarding barriers included the NEPA process, and a lack of collaboration between federal agencies, partners and private landowners.

Budget Category Prioritization

The budget categories ranked as the overall top priority by respondents were FS Hazardous Fuels, FS Economic Action Programs and FS Vegetation and Watershed Management.

8. Rural Economic Development

Strategies

Expanding green jobs legislation to include rural communities and landscape restoration; increasing use of best value contracting; and creating a consistent program of work were identified by survey participants as the priority strategies for workforce and labor issues. Other strategies which respondents identified included addressing the root causes of “race to the bottom” bidding and access to capital for small businesses.

Barriers

The question regarding workforce and labor barriers generated a large number of “don’t know” responses. The two barriers that ranked highly among the respondents answering the question were lack of a trained and available workforce and bonding requirements, with a few ranking lack of workers compensation insurance and lack of enforcement of labor laws highly significant or highly significant.

9. Stewardship Contracting

The stewardship contracting survey questions were designed to begin a dialogue about what RVCC would like to see change or remain the same as we build towards stewardship contracting reauthorization. With these questions, we sought to identify components of stewardship contracting that people believe should stay the same and those we may want to recommend be changed. There were a few areas where respondents generally wanted provisions to stay the same, such as best value contracting, retained receipts, and agreements. But, there were a number of other areas where we need to have additional conversation. In these instances, some people were advocating for change while others were either unsure about the need for change or did not want to see change occur. The areas where we need additional conversation include:

- Whether and how counties should receive timber payments on stewardship contracts. This was the authority that most frequently identified needing change. There were, however, a number of questions raised about how that might be done.
- Whether and how cancellation ceiling requirements may need to be changed to increase flexibility in how the Forest Service funds obligates funds to meet its cancellation ceiling obligations
- Whether the maximum contract length should be changed. The most common response to this question was to keep it the same, which is currently 10 years. However, some wanted to see longer contracts, in the range of 15 to 20 years.
- Whether there should be requirements for payment of prevailing wages when using stewardship agreements and when using IRTC. By far the most common response here, was “don’t know”
- Whether and how we might change the multi-party monitoring system should be changed. A couple of people recommended strengthening the project-level monitoring requirements/authorities.

10. Renewable Energy and Biomass

Priority Issues

Almost 50% of respondents ranked developing a thermal energy component of Federal energy policy as the top priority in this area. In the area of renewable energy priorities, broadening the coalition for recognition of thermal energy at the Federal level ranked the highest. Ensuring

sustainability in biomass utilization policies and capitalization assistance for business development to create market demand for wood biomass and energy products also ranked high on the list of collective priorities. Economic diversification in local economies and wealth capture of energy dollars in local economies ranked high on the list of priorities for renewable energy policy issues.

Barriers

The top ranked barrier was the limitation/exclusion of federal land materials in the definition of renewable biomass in Federal energy policies. The lack of log markets for higher-valued materials and loss of traditional milling infrastructure to offset costs of small diameter removals and the lack of contracting opportunities on public lands also ranked high on the list of barriers. Other high-ranking barriers included lack of reliable supply estimates on public and private lands and lack of end customer markets for locally derived/manufactured wood products, including energy.

Incentives

Grants for capitalization ranked highest on the incentives needed in both the private and public sectors. Responses were fairly evenly split between remaining types of incentives in both the private and public sector.

Table 3: From your community’s perspective, what TWO types of incentives in the PRIVATE SECTOR are needed to create more opportunity for biomass utilization and energy development?

	Response Percent
Grants for capitalization	49
Tax credits (production-based or capital in lieu of production)	31
Funding for feasibility analyses	24
Loan guarantees for capitalization	24
Funding for technical assistance	22
Revolving loan funds	12
I don't know	22

Table 4: From your community’s perspective, what TWO types of incentives in the PUBLIC/GOVERNMENT SECTOR (schools, public buildings, etc.) are needed to create more opportunity for biomass utilization and energy development?

	Response Percent
Grants for capitalization	63
Funding for technical assistance	33
Funding for feasibility analyses	29
Loan guarantees for capitalization	16
Tax credits (production-based or capital in lieu of production)	10
Revolving loan funds	6
I don't know	25

11. Private Lands

Priority Issues

Access to emerging markets for ecosystem services ranked the number one priority for RVCC respondents on private land issues. Other highly ranked priorities included addressing land conversion and fragmentation and hazardous fuels reduction issues on private land.

Barriers

Lack of access to information about emerging markets for ecosystems services and inadequate landowner assistance funding were the top two ranked barriers to achieving comprehensive restoration and stewardship on private lands. Other barriers that ranked highly were inadequate agency capacity to deliver private landowner assistance programs, lack of support for market diversification opportunities that support conservation, and lack of funding for conservation easements and land acquisition.

Strategies

Almost 57% of respondents ranked access to ecosystem service markets and grant programs to state and local government (to create economic opportunities that support sustainable forestry) as a top strategy area for the private lands working group. Land acquisition programs (such as the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program) also ranked relatively high. However, a few respondents commented that we should not be focusing on land acquisition, and should instead focus on promoting working landscapes.

Federal Program Appropriations

Responses to the question asking participants to rate the importance of particular federal programs to the restoration and stewardship of private forest and ranch lands generated a high degree of “don’t know” responses. When responses were filtered to include only those organizations that spend 50% or more of their time on private land issues, contrary to expected results, the percentages of “don’t know” responses increased. This indicates a lack of knowledge within RVCC participants about the effectiveness of federal programs in reaching and assisting private landowners. In order to constructively engage in discussions of federal assistance programs, RVCC may need to take steps to increase our own understand these programs and their use among private landowners. Of those organizations that did provide responses to this question, assistance from States ranked highest, followed by the National Fire Plan, FS Woody Biomass Program, USDA Rural Development and the RACs.

12. Ranching

Threats to long-term Restoration

Land values that exceed the income potential for agricultural production, disincentives and penalties associated with inheritance and estate taxes, and land conversion were almost unanimously (over 88%) ranked as the top three threats to the long-term restoration of grazed lands and the sustainability of ranching communities.

Priority Issues

Priorities were split across most options given in the survey, however, participants ranked access to emerging markets for ecosystem services as the highest priority (35%) (55% when “I don’t know” responses are removed). Collaborative approaches to federal grazing land and threatened

and endangered species management, creating uniform guidelines for management and monitoring across public and private ownerships and tax policy reform also ranked high. A relatively high percentage of respondents selected “I don’t know” (37%) indicating a need to broaden understanding of this issue across the Coalition.

A number of responses under the Private Lands section of the survey are likely applicable to private lands approaches for both ranching and forestry contexts. The platform development issues that garnered highest “agree” or “strongly agree” rankings included: funding Farm Bill programs (79%); funding and technical assistance programs to prevent land conversion (81%); and, policy support for new markets and economic diversification strategies to achieve restoration (81%).

Public Lands Grazing and Restoration

Further dialogue is needed to establish coalition approaches to grazing and restoration on public lands. The majority of respondents see grazing as an appropriate activity on public lands (57%) or restoration and grazing being compatible on public lands (66%). The area of highest agreement was in the statement that “monitoring of rangeland conditions is necessary” (77%). Disagreement with public lands grazing as an appropriate activity, or compatibility between grazing and restoration is between 8 and 13%. Meanwhile, large numbers of respondents (21-30%) either “don’t know” or “neither disagree nor agree” on public lands grazing and restoration issues, signifying a base need for more learning and dialogue on these issues among coalition members, as well as increasing representation of those who work with ranching issues.

13. Climate Change

Priority Issues

Alternative energy development, adaptation funding for rural communities and landscapes, and access to carbon offset markets all ranked high for RVCC priority climate change focus areas in 2010. Green collar jobs and technical assistance and resources for rural communities to engage in local climate change planning and mitigation implementation also ranked high.

Barriers to Carbon Markets

46% of respondents reported experiencing barriers to accessing carbon markets. Most of those barriers can be summarized by one respondent’s observation that they are a “small fish in a big pond.” Specifics included barriers to aggregation, high cost and the complexity of markets.

Local Climate Change Plans

Most of the organizations responded that their community has had no discussion of creating a local plan. Six organizations reported having a local plan in place and four are in communities that are working on a local plan.

14. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The majority of survey respondents did not directly receive ARRA funds (67%). 26% did receive some funds through ARRA. However, 77% reported that the FS or BLM did spend ARRA funds in or near their community. The majority of these projects were hazardous fuel reduction (67%). Facilities improvements, road improvements and forest restoration were other types of common projects funded in RVCC survey participant landscapes. Many respondents were unsure of how

important the ARRA has been at stimulating projects in or near there community (high degree of “don’t know responses and many respondents skipped the question). ARRA funding of capital improvement and maintenance projects and restoration and stewardship projects ranked slightly more important than other types of projects.

There was also a high degree of uncertainty among respondents about barriers to ARRA implementation that benefit the local economy. One respondent commented that it was difficult to answer the ARRA questions because of the high degree of confusion regarding the rules governing the funds and the lack of transparency in the decision-making process and schedule. Of those answering the question, most respondents ranked the following barriers as most significant: the money was slow to get to the ground, projects responded to temporary unemployment trends but not long-term poverty, and that the contract or grant process is not transparent/accessible.

The open-ended comments regarding recommendations to make the ARRA more effective were numerous – over half of the respondents commented on this question. Some of the recommendations included taking a longer-term economic development perspective rather than a short-term employment perspective, more community involvement/collaboration, and more transparency. Additionally, several respondents pointed out that the process/contracts/match requirements disadvantaged smaller, local businesses and chronically high unemployment communities. Several respondents recommended an RVCC partner evaluation/assessment of ARRA that would evaluate how local the workforce that conducted ARRA projects was and the long-term economic impacts to communities.

15. Community Ownership

Cooperative Land Ownership

A majority of respondents did not know if their community had experienced barriers to pursuing cooperative, local or community ownership of land (41%) and many respondents skipped this question. Of those responding that their community had experienced barriers, lack of access to capital to acquire lands was by far the most significant barrier (87%). Lack of local institutional capacity to manage the land was a barrier for 40% of those experiencing barriers. Sixteen organizations are participating in a project involving community or cooperative ownership of forest and/or rangelands. Fourteen organizations (26%) are involved in a long-term stewardship agreement on public lands.

Manufacturing/Energy Facilities

About half of the respondents to this question (48 out of 70) are located in communities that are pursuing cooperative, local or community ownership of manufacturing or energy facilities. An overwhelming majority of these facilities are biomass to electricity facilities. Barriers to pursuing these facilities include financing (43%), lack of viable local business entities to partner with (30%) and lack of technical resources (30%).

16. Platform Development

There were several questions on the pre-meeting survey designed to continue our experiment from last year developing a cohesive platform for RVCC. As was the case last year, there was general agreement on broader statements in each section with less agreement on questions that

ventured into more specific detail. Participant comments about this overall section indicate that one major reason for the reduced agreement on specific policy statements is that the particular circumstances on the ground in different areas dictate what the appropriate solutions will be – what is appropriate in one instance, may not be appropriate in another. As a policy coalition, we will need to carefully consider this need to make decisions at a local level based on ecosystem conditions and other factors, with the need to provide information and input into national policy solutions to our issues.

Overall, there seemed to be more agreement in the areas related to contracting and restoration – at least on the more general questions on these issues. Salvage logging, roads and old growth questions seemed to generate less overall agreement. The results of this section are attached to this synthesis to provoke thought and dialog about this approach and the potential development of an RVCC platform (APPENDIX A.)

17. Rural Assembly

Our partner organization, the Rural Assembly, asked us to include a few questions geared toward advancing our common goals.

Rural Development Issues

The most common “additional” rural development issue that RVCC participants work on is community asset building (48%). Roughly twenty percent of respondents also work on education policy and transportation issues. Forty percent of the organizations responded that they do not work on any of the specified additional rural development issues.

Partnership Strategies

The majority of respondents favored the strategy of partnering with the Rural Assembly to focus national attention on issues that are important to RVCC. However, there was widespread support for all of the strategies mentioned in the survey.

Table 5: What additional rural development issues (beyond natural resources) does your organization work on?

	Response Percent
Community asset building	48
None of these	40
Education policy	23
Transportation	21
Broadband access	19
Housing	19
Rural arts and culture	19
Healthcare	12
Veterans affairs	10
Philanthropy	6
I don't know	2

****Other responses included:**

- Intergenerational transfer issues for family forest landowners.

- Tourism
- County is involved in the entire gamut of rural development issues
- Economic development, land-use planning, community visioning, etc.
- Rural sustainable economic development, rural partnerships/capacity development
- Rural economic development

APPENDIX A:

Table 6: Fire and Fuels Reduction

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems should be a top budgetary and programmatic priority of the land management agencies.	6	0	13	11	65	6
Thinning in fire-adapted ecosystems is needed to restore ecological resilience.	7	4	7	24	52	6
Hazardous fuels reduction should be a top budgetary and programmatic priority for the land management agencies.	7	4	9	28	46	6

Table 7: Restoration Principles

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Restoration of biological and structural diversity of forest plantations should be a top budgetary and programmatic priority of the land management agencies.	4	4	24	24	37	7
Restoration projects should always be economically viable.	21	40	19	8	9	4
Restoration projects should be driven by ecological needs and have an economic component if possible.	2	6	17	26	46	4
Restoration projects should be designed and implemented according to local ecological and economic conditions.	4	0	6	32	57	2
Science, local, and traditional knowledge should be used to determine what type of restoration and stewardship actions should be prescribed.	4	2	6	20	67	2
Restoration projects designed and supported by collaborative groups should be given budgetary and implementation priority by the land management agencies.	4	2	8	26	58	2
The management of noxious and invasive species should be a top priority of the land management agencies.	6	9	13	35	33	4

Table 8: Roads

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Road restoration and maintenance should be a top budget and programmatic priority for the land management agencies.	2	9	24	33	26	6
There should be no new temporary or permanent roads on public lands.	30	33	22	2	7	6
There should be no new permanent roads on public lands.	19	26	28	11	11	6
It is okay to build temporary roads on public lands when funds are committed to decommission the roads.	6	6	31	38	13	6

Table 9: Old Growth Protection

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Old growth structure should be permanently protected.	6	15	17	26	30	6
Old growth trees should be permanently protected.	11	26	17	23	17	6
Old growth trees and stands should be protected and actively managed to protect their structure and function.	4	4	13	30	43	6

Table 10: Salvage Logging

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Salvage of dead and dying trees is an appropriate land management activity on public lands.	8	8	11	34	34	6
Salvage of dead and dying trees should only be conducted when there is collaborative support for the activity.	8	26	17	30	11	8
Salvage of dead and dying trees should only be done within the boundaries of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).	38	27	15	10	2	8

Table 11: Grazing

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Grazing on public lands is an appropriate activity.	4	9	15	25	32	15
Grazing on public lands should be allowed but the system needs changes.	8	6	17	32	13	25
Restoration and grazing activities can be compatible on public lands.	2	6	11	26	40	15
Monitoring of rangeland conditions is necessary.	2	0	8	17	60	13

Table 12: Private Lands

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Working landscapes that include private lands should be protected using federal acquisition programs like Land and Water Conservation Funds.	4	6	9	43	19	19
Working landscapes that include private lands should be protected using federal easement programs like Forest Legacy and NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program.	4	2	15	40	23	17
Working landscapes that include private lands should be protected using state level acquisition programs.	4	9	13	40	19	15
Working landscapes that include private lands should be protected with federal landowner assistance programs.	4	2	9	40	32	13
Federal tax and other incentive programs should be enacted and funded to encourage community owned and managed forests.	2	0	23	27	37	12
Full funding for implementation of forestry-related farm bill programs should be top priority.	2	2	8	29	50	10
Restoration and stewardship of private lands should be top budgetary and programmatic priority of the land management agencies.	6	12	17	23	31	12
Funding and technical assistance programs should be put in place to prevent the conversion of working landscapes.	4	0	6	33	48	10
Supporting new markets and economic diversification strategies is necessary to achieve restoration on working landscapes.	2	0	6	25	58	10

Table 13: Integrated Biomass Utilization

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Federal funding should support the development of facilities that are appropriately scaled to support forest restoration and stewardship.	2	2	8	24	65	0
Federal policies should ensure that forest restoration activities are driven by ecological needs, not the need for supply for biomass facilities.	2	12	8	13	63	2
Federal policies should ensure that thermal energy qualifies for use in the Production Tax Credits.	2	0	6	21	63	8
Federal policies should ensure that thermal energy qualifies for use in the Renewable Portfolio Standards.	2	0	8	22	61	8
Federal grant program and technical assistance programs supporting integrated biomass utilization should be fully funded and staffed.	2	0	10	23	60	6
Land management agencies should prioritize biomass initiatives that have been developed and supported through collaborative efforts.	2	0	15	25	54	4

Table 14: Climate Change

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Federal land management agencies should prioritize delivery of funding and services to the poorest and most vulnerable communities.	2	8	27	42	15	6
Forest and rangeland carbon sequestration activities must be integrated into climate change policy in a manner that supports comprehensive restoration and stewardship.	2	2	10	19	58	10
Rural communities should be given access and opportunity to be involved in Federal greenhouse gas policy development.	4	0	6	21	63	6

Table 15: Contracting

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Federal contracts should be evaluated on factors beyond price.	2	0	4	13	75	6
Contract award criteria should ensure economic benefit to rural communities.	2	2	9	23	58	6
Contract award criteria should ensure that ecological objectives of the project can be achieved.	2	0	4	15	73	6
Contract award criteria should ensure that workers are paid in compliance with existing laws and regulations.	4	0	9	4	75	8
The use of retained receipts should be decided by national forests in consultation with local collaborative groups.	2	0	10	31	40	17
Collaboration should be required to achieve various federal policy objectives.	0	6	15	33	42	4
The structure of collaborative processes should not be legislatively prescribed, in order to allow diverse groups to design their own processes.	2	4	10	35	46	4

Table 16: Community Capacity and Natural Resource-Based Economic Development

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
	<i>PERCENT</i>					
Federal land management agencies should be fully funded to provide technical and financial assistance to build the social, human, infrastructure, and economic capacity of rural communities to participate in and benefit from natural resource-based economies.	4	0	12	19	63	2
Federal land management agencies should prioritize capacity building assistance to low income and underserved communities and workers.	2	0	17	40	37	4
Federal land management agencies should provide grant funding for infrastructure (capital investment) related to the purchase, development, or testing of equipment and/or processing equipment that will retain or revive a restoration and stewardship economy.	2	0	13	38	38	8
Federal grants and programs should prioritize and deliver funding to rural communities to build capacity to utilize raw materials that result from restoration and stewardship projects.	2	0	8	31	52	8
Federal land management agencies should provide grant funding for product and market development for products related to their mission.	0	0	16	33	45	6
Federal support for new markets and economic diversification strategies, including product certification, is necessary to achieve restoration on working landscapes.	2	6	13	37	37	6
Private land owners need access to markets for ecosystem services in order to promote the conservation of working landscapes.	2	0	10	42	40	6