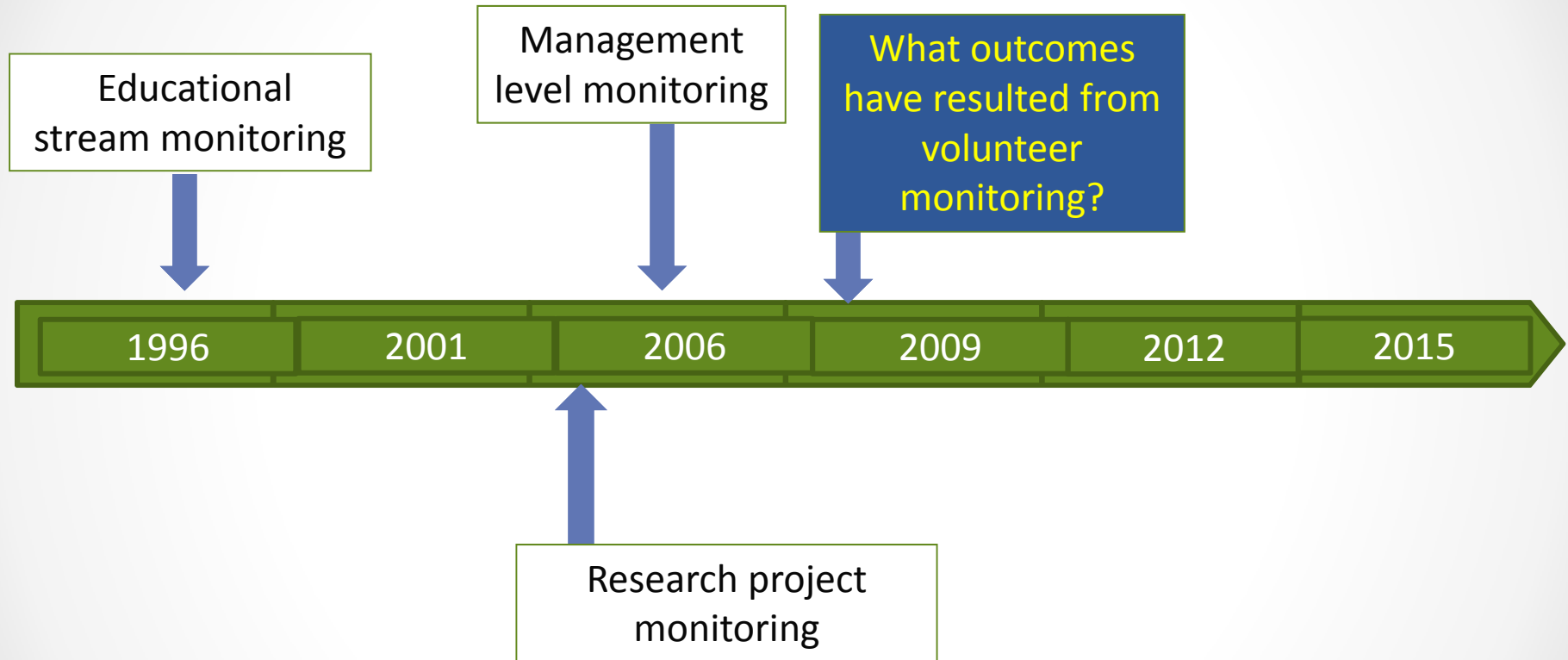




Does Volunteer Monitoring  
Make a Difference?


Kris Stepenuck  
March 31, 2016

# Water Action Volunteers Timeline



# USA Volunteer Water Monitoring Programs





Have volunteer water  
monitoring programs  
impacted natural resource  
management and policy?

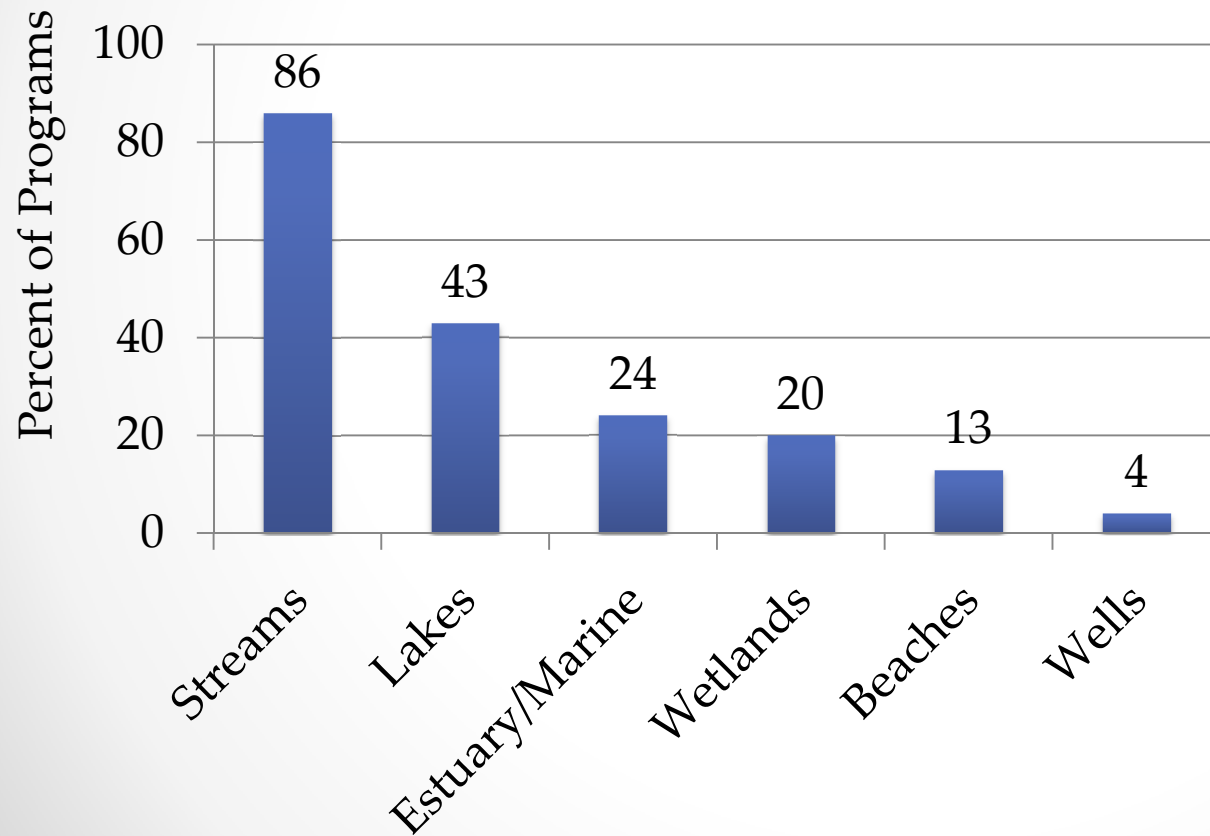
# 2013 National Survey

- 345 volunteer water monitoring program coordinators
- Represented population of ~1676 programs in US
- 86% responded
- Formed 1965 - 2012



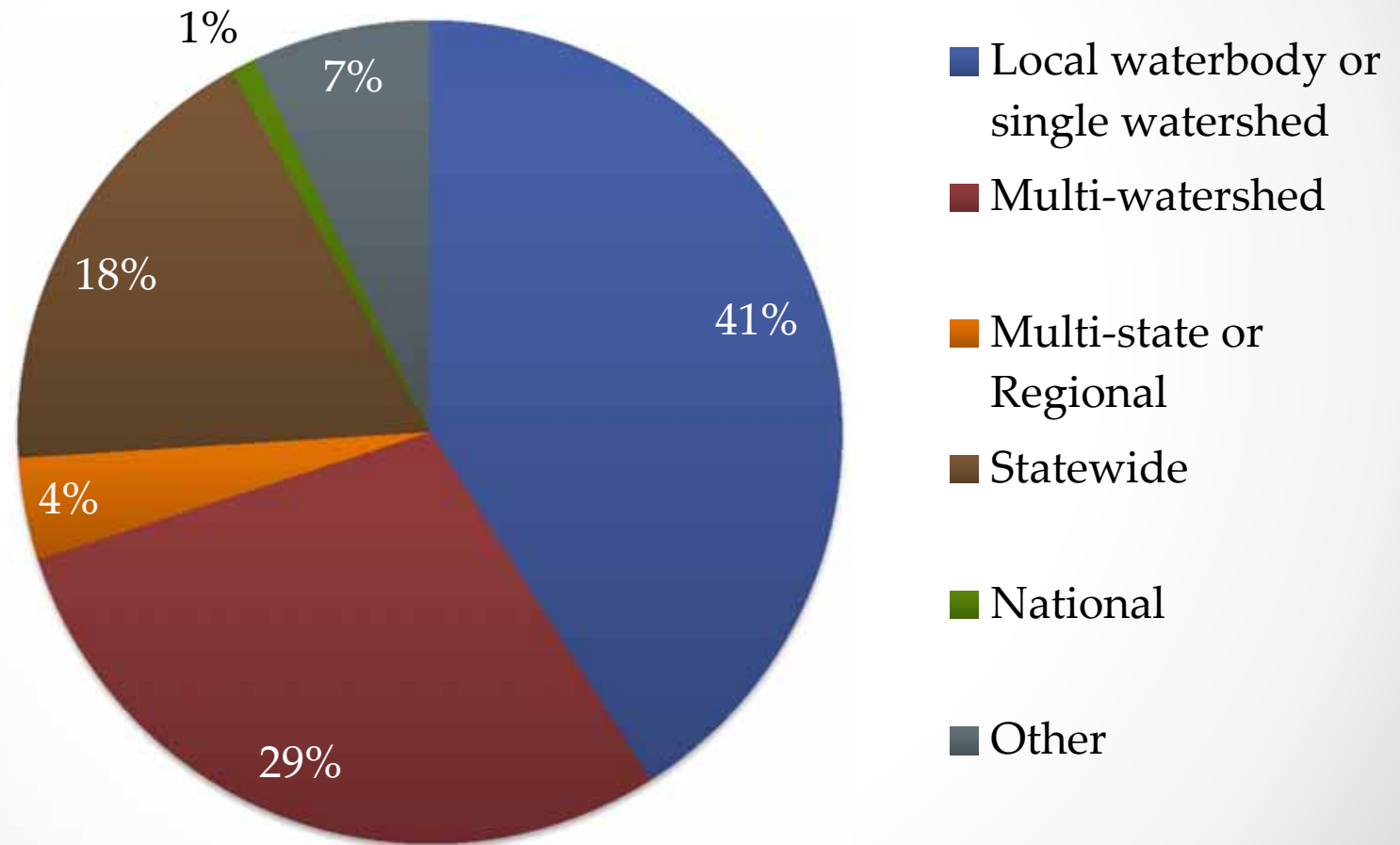
# Type of Waterbody Monitored

Most monitored rivers/streams and lakes



# Geographic Scope

Most operated in a single watershed



# Types of Outcomes

Natural  
Resource  
Management  
Decisions



Volunteer  
Civic  
Engagement

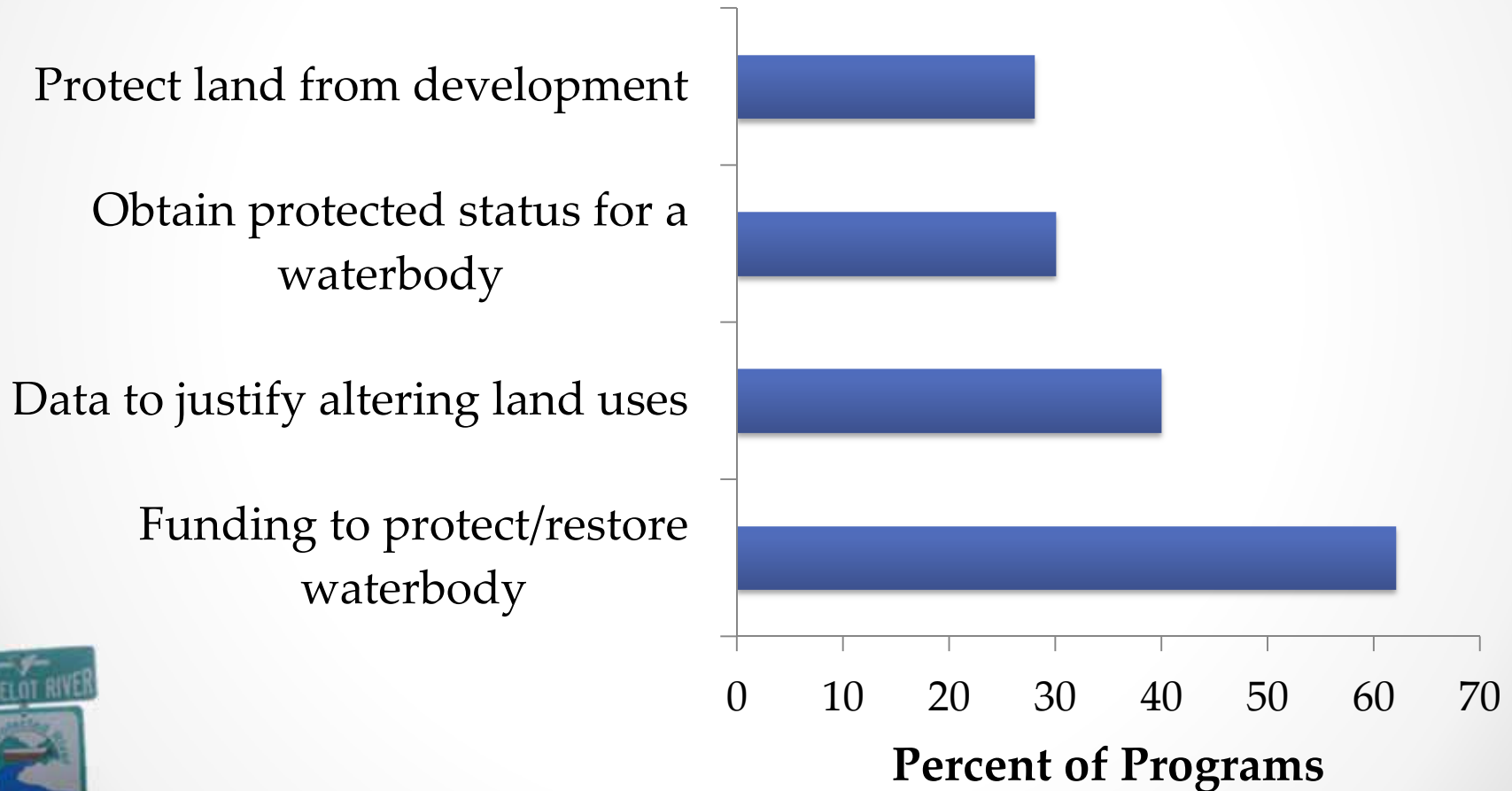
Waterbody  
Restoration &  
Protection



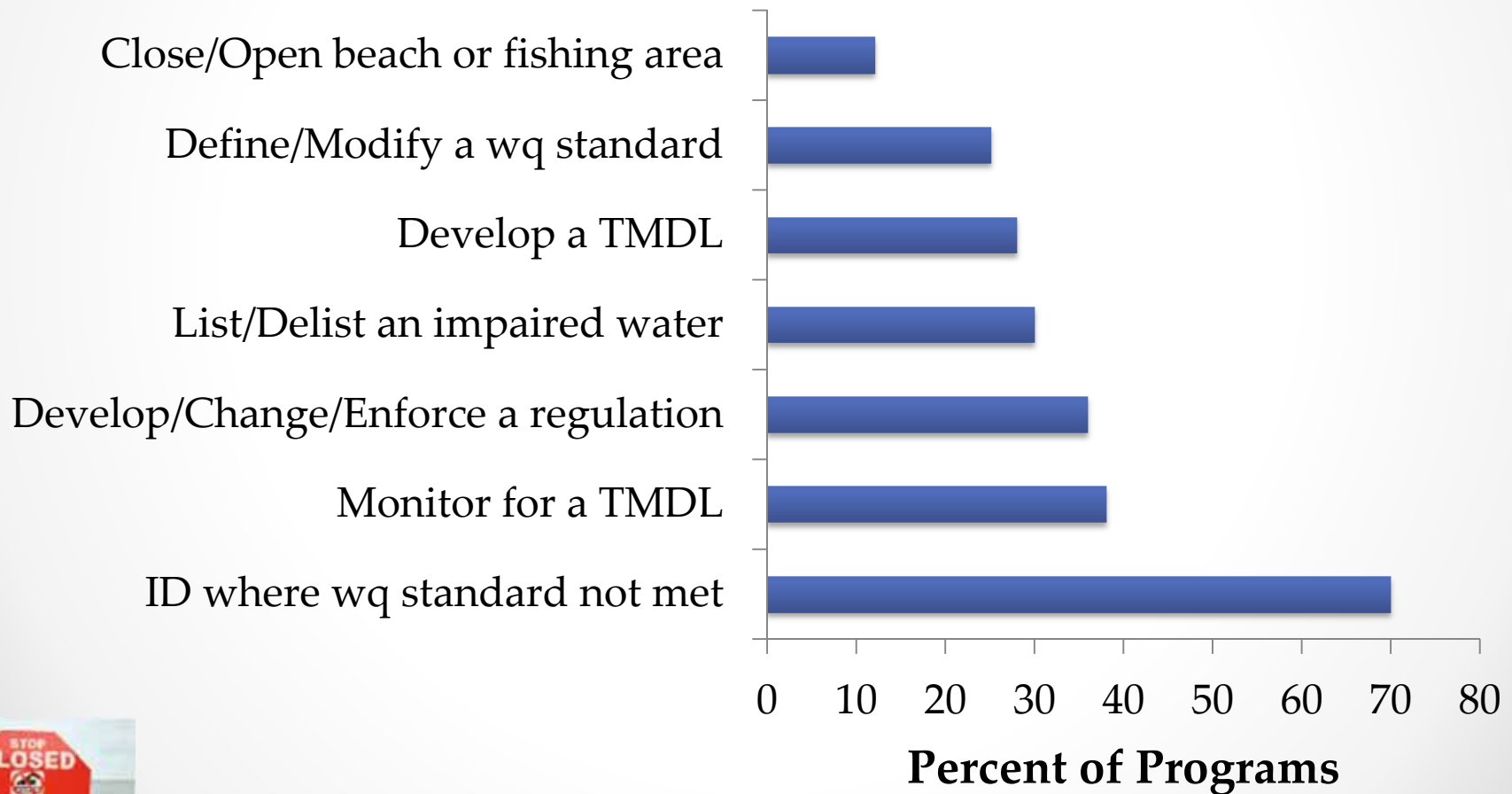
Organizational



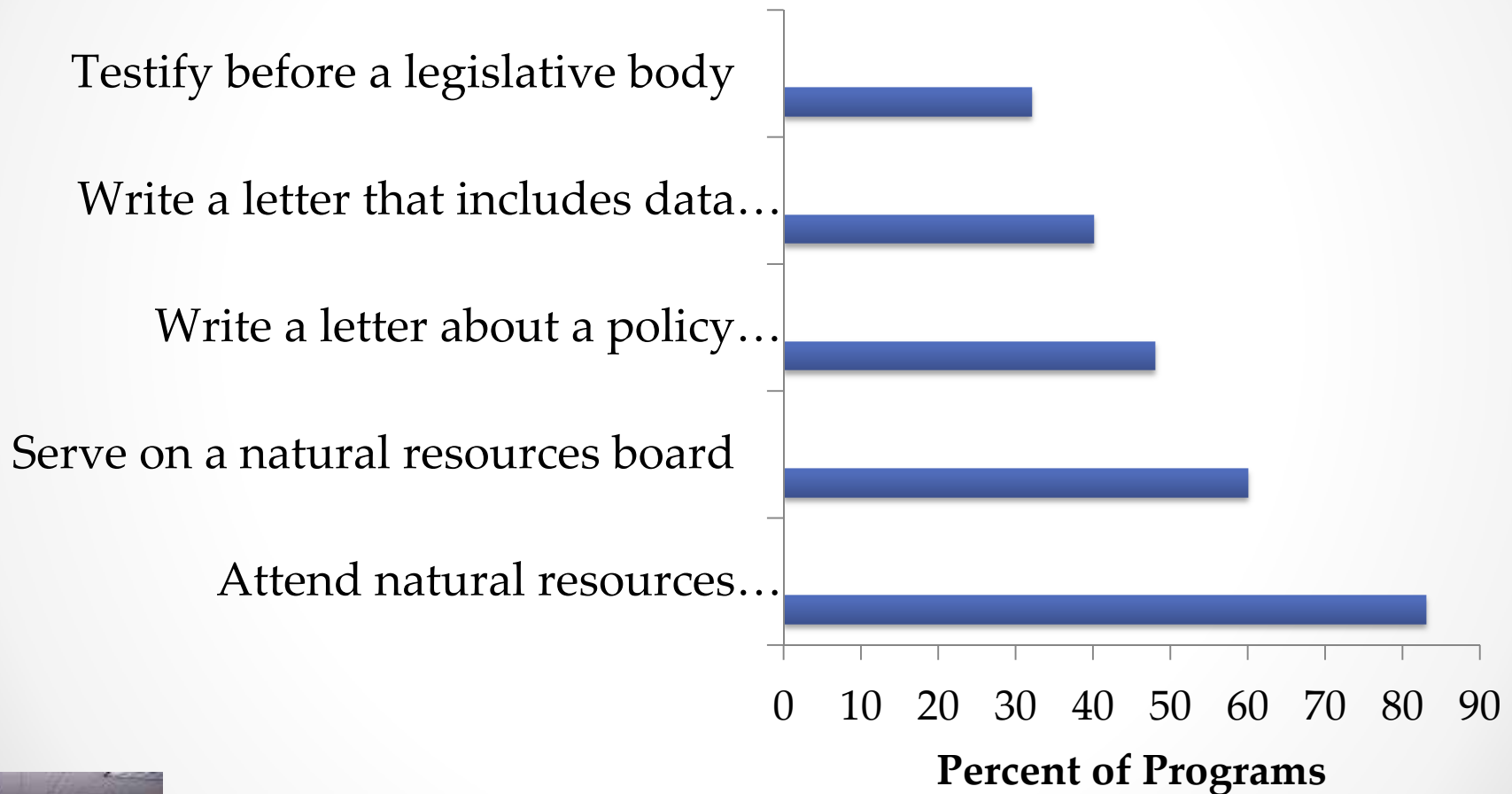
# Waterbody Protection and Restoration



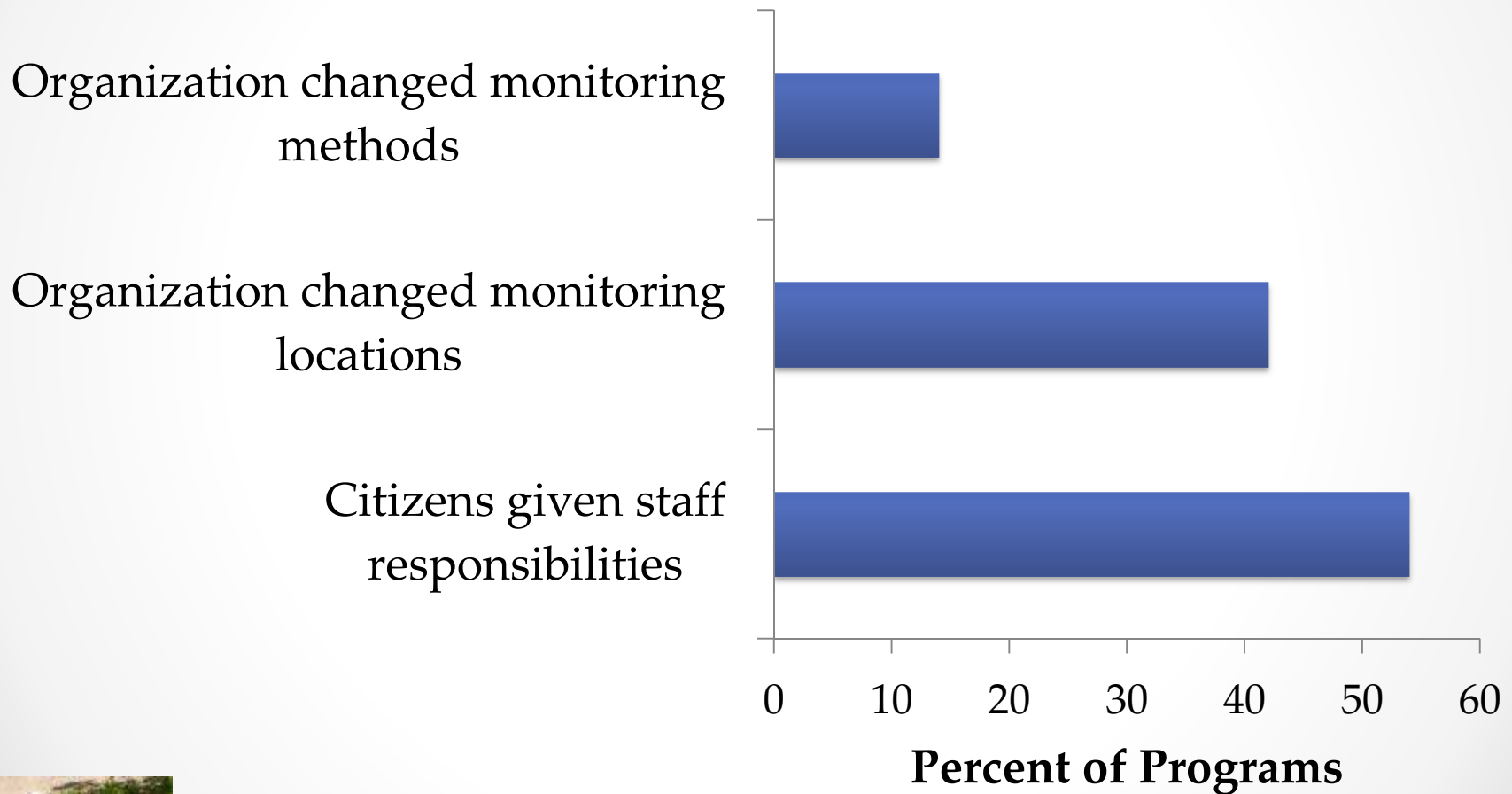
# Natural Resource Management Decisions



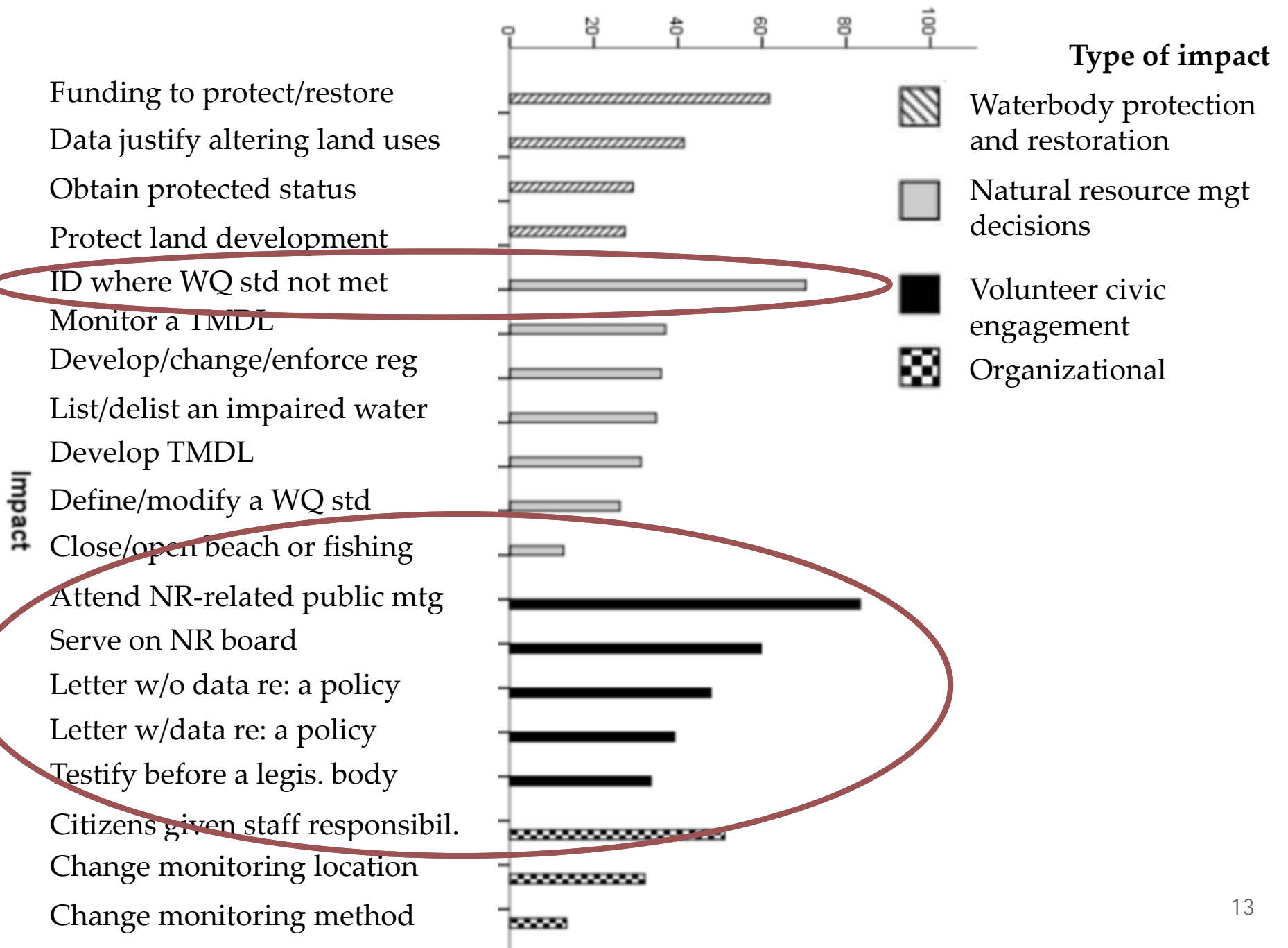
# Volunteer Civic Engagement



# Organizational



Percent of Programs



# Examples of Reported Outcomes <sup>14</sup>

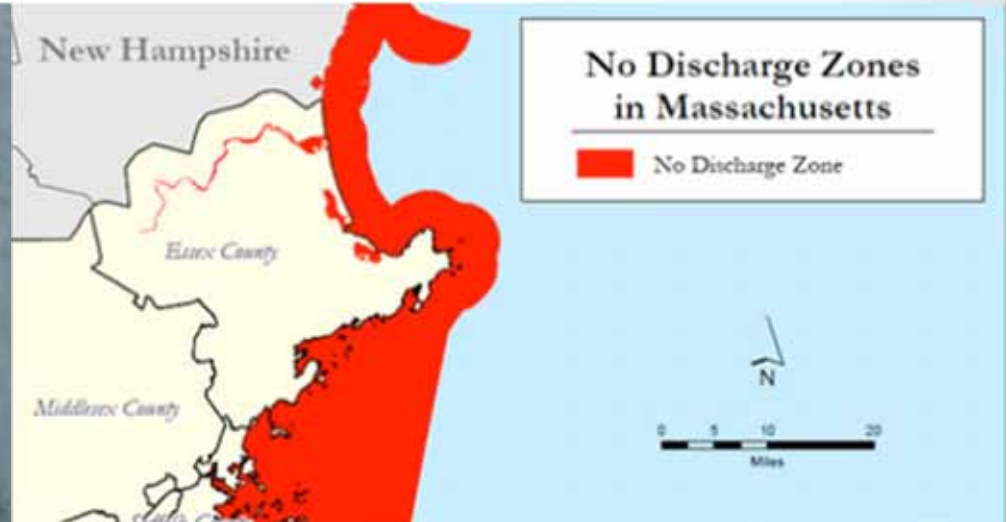
- 84 pages of vignettes
- More common:
  - Identified and controlled illicit bacterial discharges
  - Best Management Practices installed
- More unique:
  - National Wild and Scenic River status obtained
  - Presentation to Congress to obtain Superfund site status



# Waterbody Protection



[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



[www.examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com)



# Waterbody Protection



T. Stepenuck and blog.nhstateparks.org



Alabama Water Watch





# Justification to Alter Land Use



# Volunteers Involved in Natural Resource Decision-making



Healtheducation.org



commons.wikimedia.org



Votespringfield.org

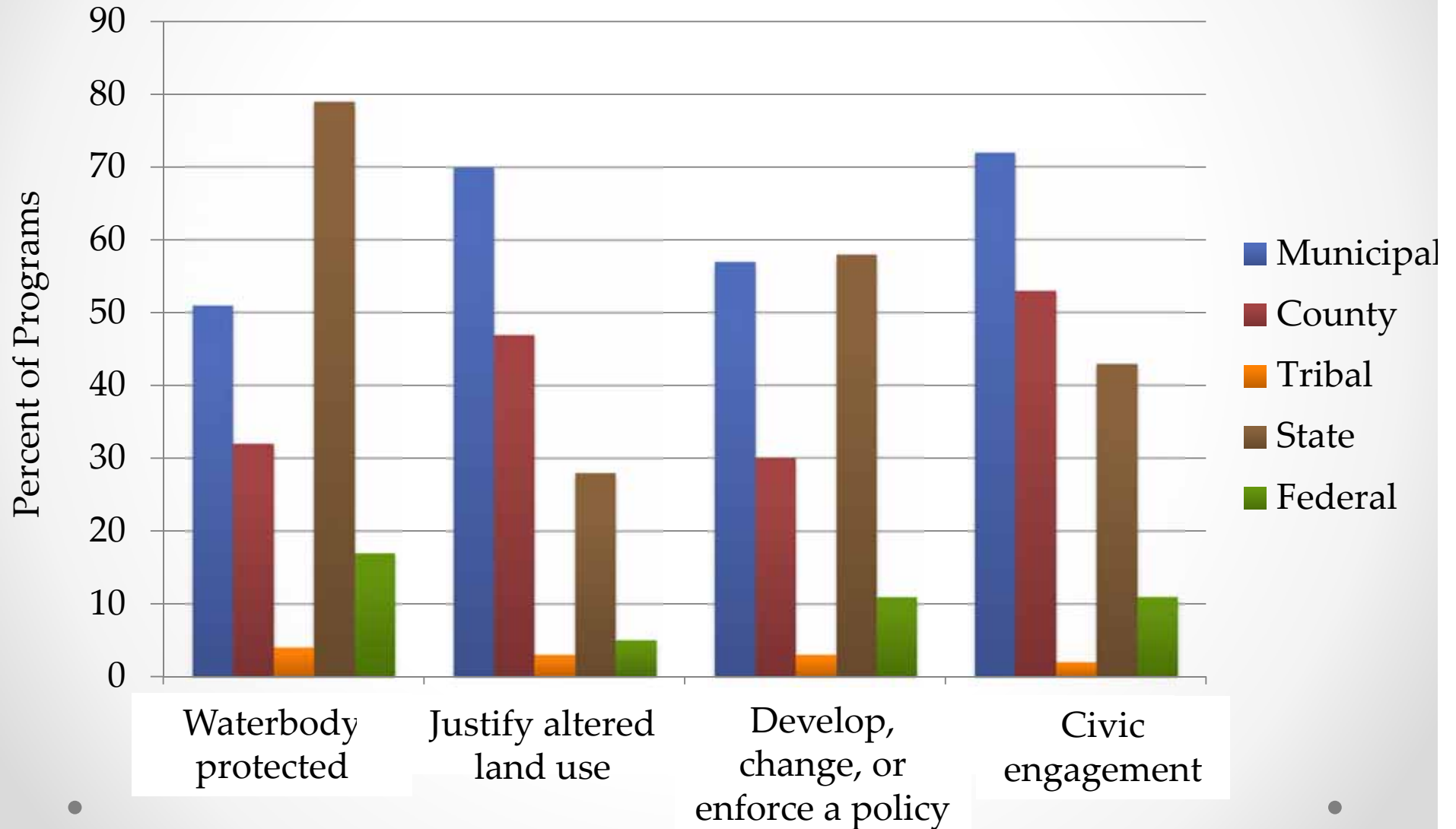


Carolyn Betz

# Develop, Change or Enforce a Policy



# Outcomes at What Level of Government?







# Volunteer Monitors Are Citizen Scientists





Lisa Ludwig



# Wisconsin's Four Key Reasons for Success



# Wisconsin's Key Reasons for Success

1. WisCALM
2. Total phosphorus (and other) standards
3. Sustained partnerships
  - o 30 years CLMN
    - ~104,000 site visits
  - o 20 years WAV
    - ~32,000 site visits
  - o 12 years, \$1.5 million and 200+ projects DNR-CBM
4. Ongoing support and trust of volunteers, and recognition that they *should* be invited to the table
5. Volunteers who care and who are willing to give their time



Water Action Volunteers





**Thank you,  
for your time  
and your  
commitment!**