

Forestry Program for Oregon

Oregon Board of Forestry

and

Oregon Department of Forestry

Strategic Planning Document

Introduction from the Board Chair and the State Forester

TEMPLATE

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Executive Summary:

Mission, Vision, Values, Purpose, Principles:

Vision (Where the organization is headed)

Complex and resilient ecosystems that endure and adapt (retreat created)

Mission (What the organization does)

Work on the Mission is underway but not completed

Values:

Work on the Values is underway but not completed

Purpose (How the organization operates)

Work on the Purpose is underway but not completed

Principles (Informing realization of purpose top of mind examples could include...)

Work on the Principles is underway but not completed

About the Board of Forestry (est. 1907):

History, current make up, et cetera.

About the Department of Forestry (est. 1911):

History, structure, etc.

Climate-Smart Forestry in Oregon for a Resilient Future

Climate-smart forestry is a holistic approach for addressing the management needs related to the existential pressures exerted from climate change. Recent impacts go beyond the biotic aspects of the forest and include social dimensions including economics and State financial obligations. Abiotic and biotic forces are driving a divergence of existing ecosystems and the future environment.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Board of Forestry have accepted a definition of climate-smart forestry that includes three legs: adaptation, mitigation, and the social dimension (including communities and economic aspects). Building the Forestry Program for Oregon around this stool will help the Board and the Department be in line with each other on climate policy. It also helps to align the work the State is doing with its federal counterparts which have been directed to center climate-smart agriculture and forestry in their own work and processes.

So, what does a climate-smart forestry framework look like?

In previous iterations of the Forestry Program for Oregon, the Board has identified sustainable forest management as a key principle. Climate-smart forestry (CSF) has been built out of sustainable agriculture and links with previous efforts to build criterion and indicators for sustainable forest management, like the Montreal Protocol.

Starting with **adaptation**. The changing environment has passed through tipping points that forests are unlikely to move back through. Forests see this through more extreme events, longer and more severe fire seasons, and a megadrought not seen in the past 1200 years. These impacts do not spare any management approach or landowner. Adaptation policy can help forests adapt towards more resilient landscapes through human intervention. Changing forest structure, different management approaches, and incentivizing efforts to incorporate climate change into management decisions will be key. Additionally, providing tools that help forest landowners and managers assess their vulnerability to climate change can have broad benefits.

Next think of climate (or atmospheric carbon) **mitigation**. To reach internationally accepted targets (global temperature rise less than 1.5°C) to limit catastrophic impacts from climate change the global population will need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as well as work on adaptation measures. Natural climate solutions like forests, agricultural lands, and blue carbon all offer options to increase this mitigation through biologic sequestration. Forests, especially those on the west side of the state, are widely regarded as being highly capable ecosystems for this needed sequestration. Policy approaches and levers that can be utilized include incentivizing practices to increase stored carbon in the forests, reducing emissions from forest activities (e.g., limiting slash burning and increasing alternative slash use), among others.

Social license to achieve the other parts of CSF comes from the **social dimension**, a bifurcated part of CSF. Made up of communities and economies, this social aspect of CSF considers the impacts of adaptation and mitigation action on people, personal and community health, and community and rural economies. Utilizing climate smart forestry to create healthy, resilient forests that also provide ecosystem and economic benefits can help lift disadvantaged, underserved, natural resource dependent, and those living with intergenerational poverty. This adaptive management will require a scene change from past management and there are opportunities for increased partnership with both public and private entities as well as community-based organizations and the people that they serve.

Climate-Smart Forestry will be used to stitch together the various aspects of this FPFO and will be present in each of the various goals that the Board and Department have mutually developed. More on this context, the structure of the goals and their assessment are on the following pages.

Framework of the Goals:

The goals will each identify the climate adaptation, mitigation, and social aspects that they address and how. This will link them all back to climate-smart forestry and aims to develop a robust and scientifically sound strategic plan for resilient Oregon forests. Within each goal, partner agencies and constituencies are identified to achieve the actions, though some may change over the life of each specific goal depending on stage and need.

Strategies:

The strategies are the broad brushes that are used to successfully achieve the goal. These link with the challenges by providing mechanisms to resolve them and provide the guidance for the more specific actions.

Trends:

Identify the measurable changes in related to the specific goal and to the strategies that have been identified. Linkage between the departments monitoring efforts and potentially new lines of monitoring will need to be employed to accurately assess the trends.

Challenges:

Identification of the barriers to achieving the goal. These can be either anthropocentric (e.g., economics, community concerns, etc.) or environmental (e.g., climate change, increasing wildfire scope, etc.). some of these challenges are not specifically resolvable but identified actions can work to ameliorate or mitigate their impacts as well as providing broader mitigating impacts for the entire system.

Actions:

Specific examples of the day-to-day work that takes place in the department to achieve the goal. While some of these actions have been core business for more than a century (e.g., protection from fire or forest health), others will be new or may not have begun at the time of this Forestry Program for Oregon (FPFO) completion and adoption. Actions are the operational side of this FPFO and are largely identified by agency leadership (ODF Directors Office, Executive Team, and Leadership Team working together with the Board).

Goal A:

Definition/Identification

Strategies:

Trends:

Challenges:

Actions:

Goal B:

Definition/Identification

Strategies:

Trends:

Challenges:

Actions:

Goal C:

Definition/Identification

Strategies:

Trends:

Challenges:

Actions:

Goal D:

Definition/Identification

Strategies:

Trends:

Challenges:

Actions:

Goal E:

Definition/Identification

Strategies:

Trends:

Challenges:

Actions:

TEMPLATE

Definitions:

References:

Development, Coordinators, Acknowledgements:

Attachments: May be links, summaries, or references

E.g., CCCP, 20-year strategy, SF FMP/HCP, list of key recent legislation, etc.

Oregon Board of Forestry

Oregon's Forests – Values and Beliefs Overview

Presented Thursday, January 5, 2023



Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

The research was completed as a community service by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. OVBC is an Oregon based non-profit, non-partisan, opinion research team that uses representative samples to provide valid research to assist with helping build stronger communities across the state.



Research Purpose

- Gauge values and beliefs related to forests
 - State forest management
 - Forest practices
 - Wildfires
 - Involvement and communications
- Benchmark attitudes across time



Forest Values and Beliefs Studies Across Time—Partial Listing

- **2022**
- 2019
- 2014
- 2010
- 2005
- 2002



2022 Research Methodology

- Online survey of N=1,554 Oregon residents ages 18+
- Conducted November 10-19, 2022, approximately 15 minutes to complete
- Quotas and weighting to age, gender, area of state, and education help ensure results are representative of the population
- Margin of error +/- 2.5%
- Due to rounding, some totals may differ by +/- 1 from the sum of separate responses
- “I don’t know enough about this to have an opinion” vs. “I know about this, but am undecided”
- **Research packet: highlights memo, annotated questionnaire, crosstabs (subgroup differences)**



Research Representativeness

GENDER	N = 1,554	Census
Man	49%	49%
Woman	49%	51%
Other/Refused	2%	--

AGE	N = 1,554	Census
18-29	18%	19%
30-44	26%	27%
45-54	13%	15%
55-64	18%	16%
65+	25%	23%

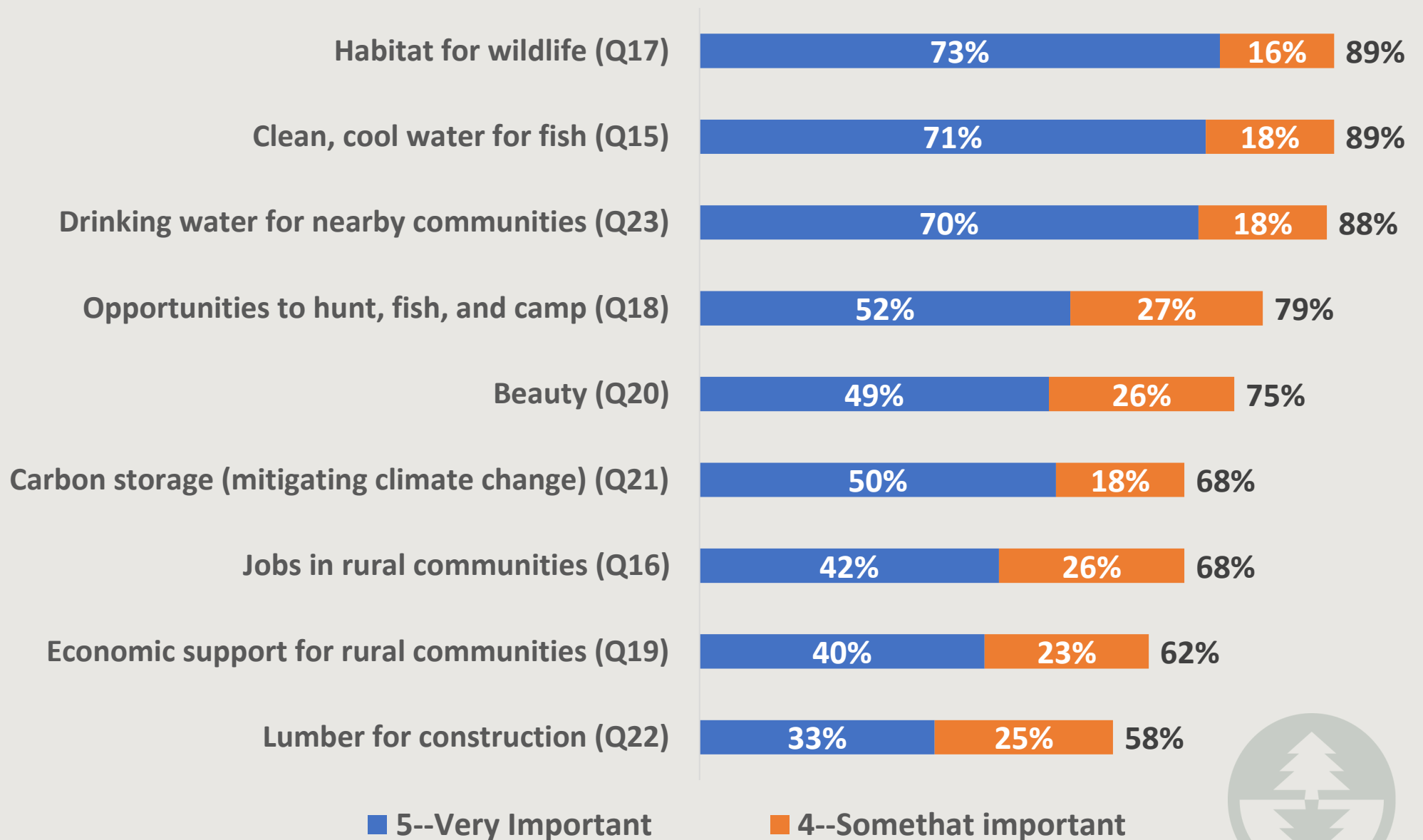
AREA	N = 1,554	Census
Central Oregon	9%	5%
Eastern Oregon	4%	4%
Metro Portland	43%	47%
North Coast	5%	3%
Northern Willamette Valley	12%	13%
South Coast	2%	1%
Southern Oregon	8%	7%
Southern Willamette Valley	17%	20%



State Forest Management

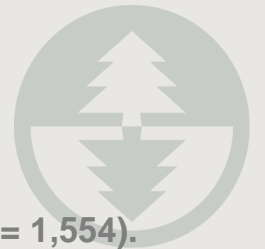
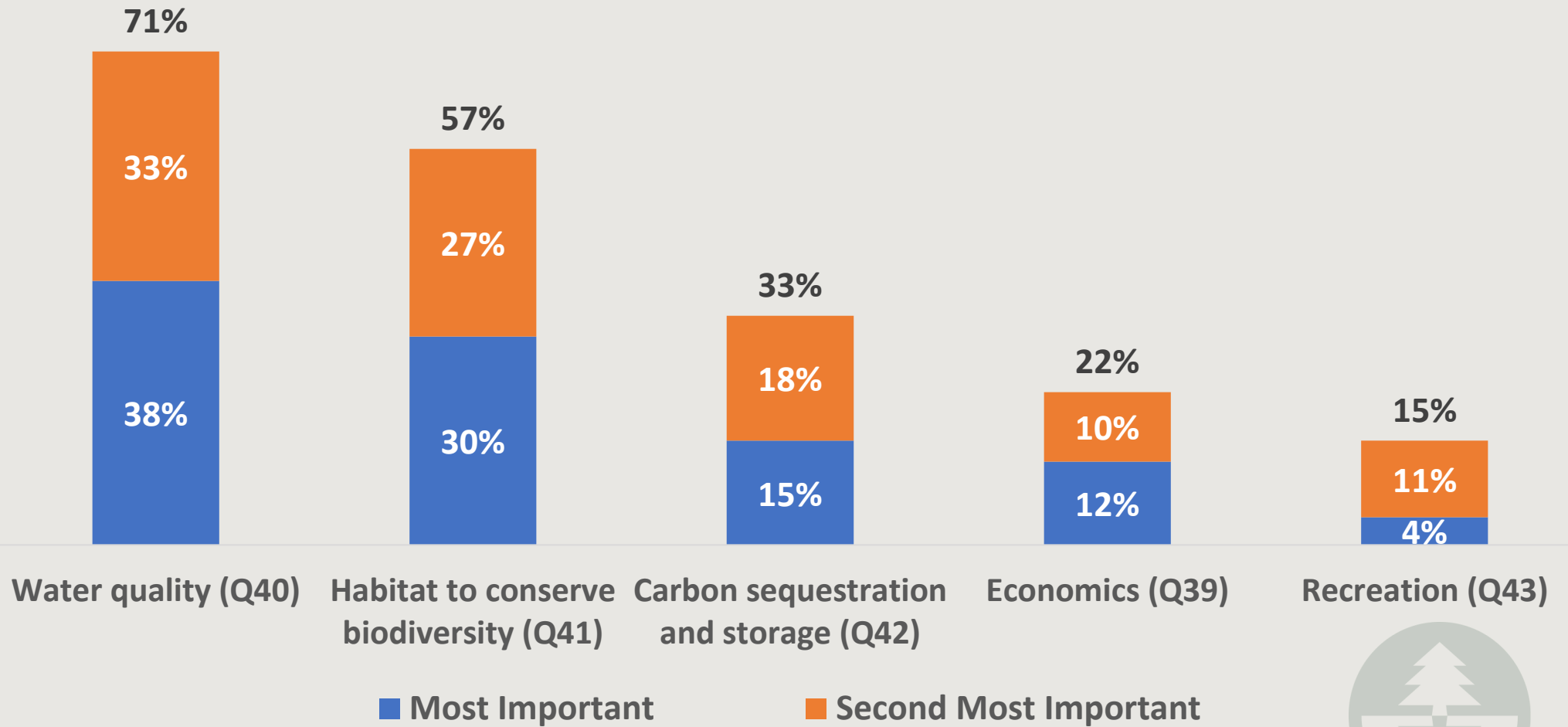


Importance of Forest Benefits



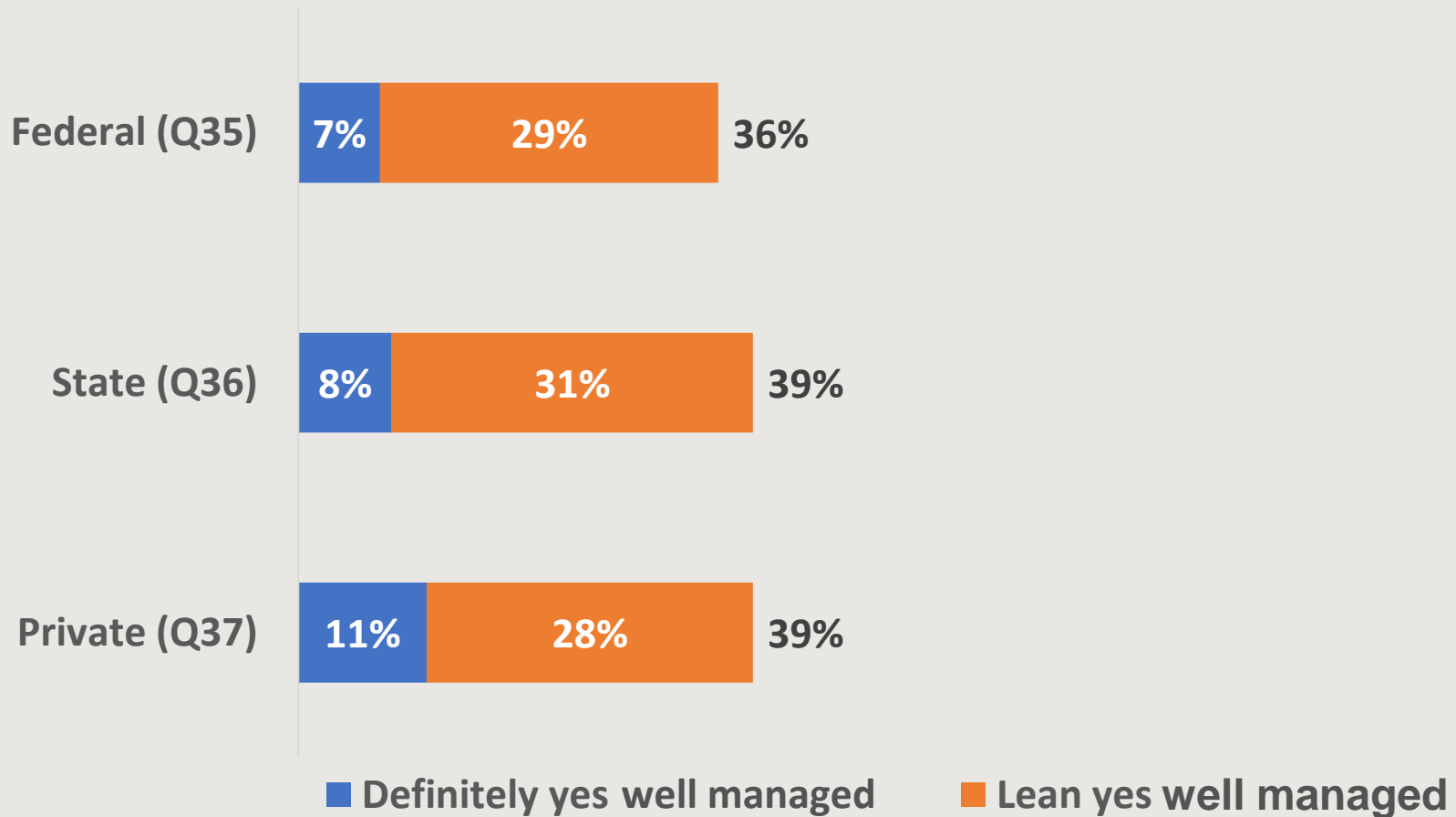
Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, N = 1,554).

Forest Management Priorities



Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, N = 1,554).

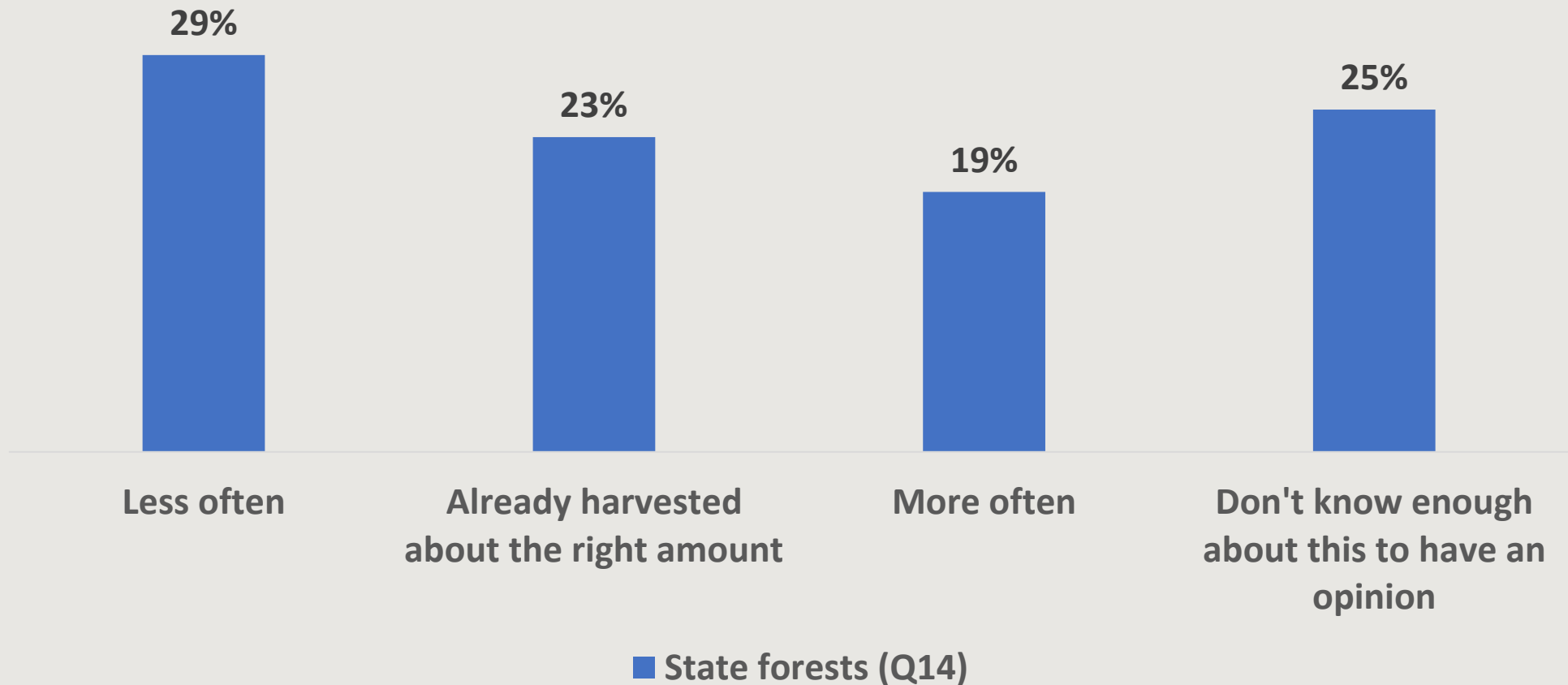
Forest Management Job Performance



Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, $N = 1,554$).

Perceptions of Logging Amount

Q. Do you think trees in forests owned by the State of Oregon (example: Tillamook State Forest) should be harvested:



Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, $N = 1,554$).

Key Findings

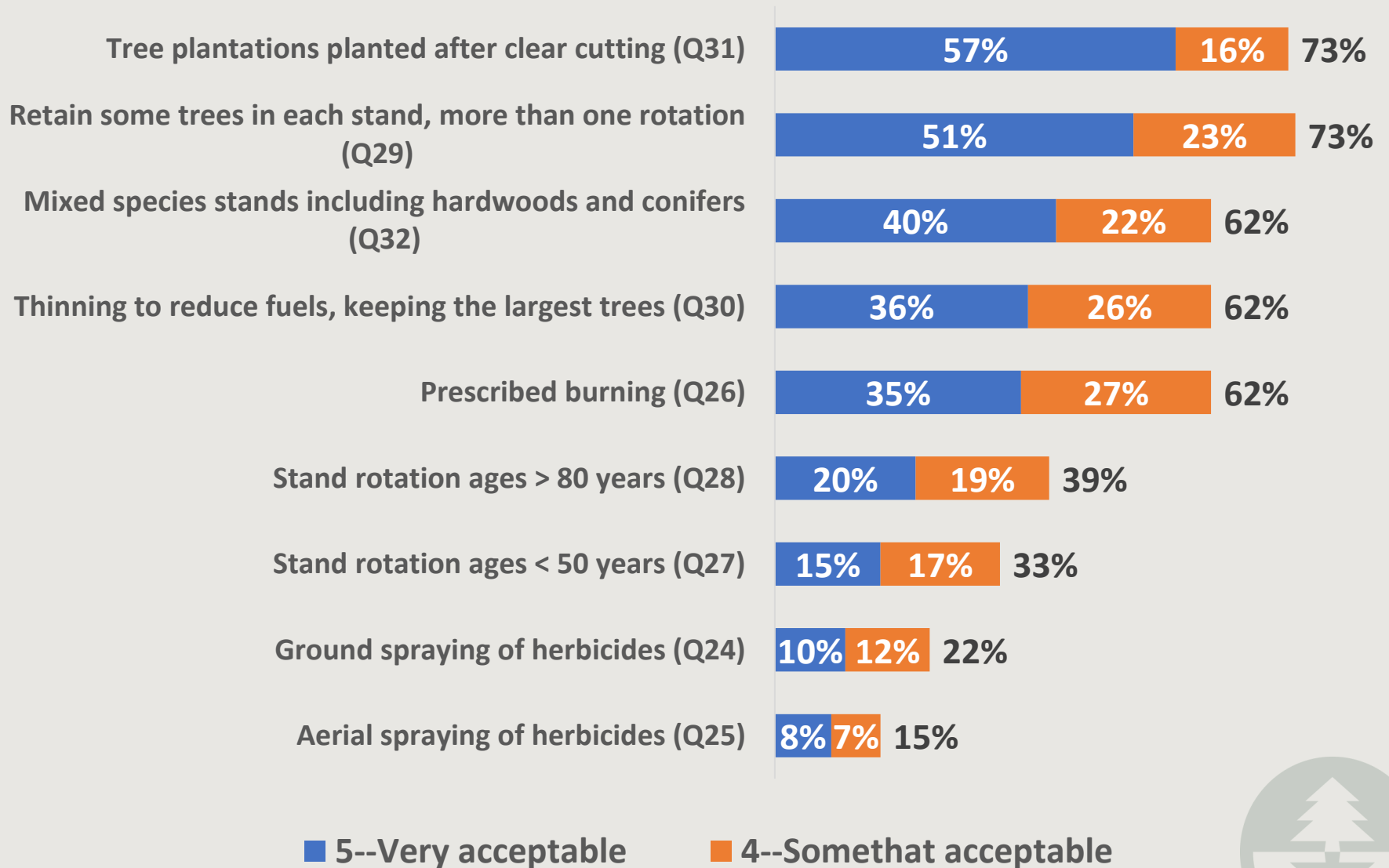
- **Balancing environmental benefits**—especially clean water—with the **economic benefits** of forestry continues to resonate with Oregonians.
- Oregonians are **united in their concern about future access to clean water**. Nine in ten express concern that access to clean water is not guaranteed for future generations.
- Seven in ten **Oregonians believe climate change is affecting Oregon's forests**.
- **Less than a majority of Oregonians believe forests are well-managed** and this may be a decline since 2019.
- Rural residents, men, and those 30 or older are all more critical of state forest management, compared to their peers. Residents in each of these three demographic groups are also notably less likely to say they don't know enough about the issue to answer.



Forest Practices



Acceptability

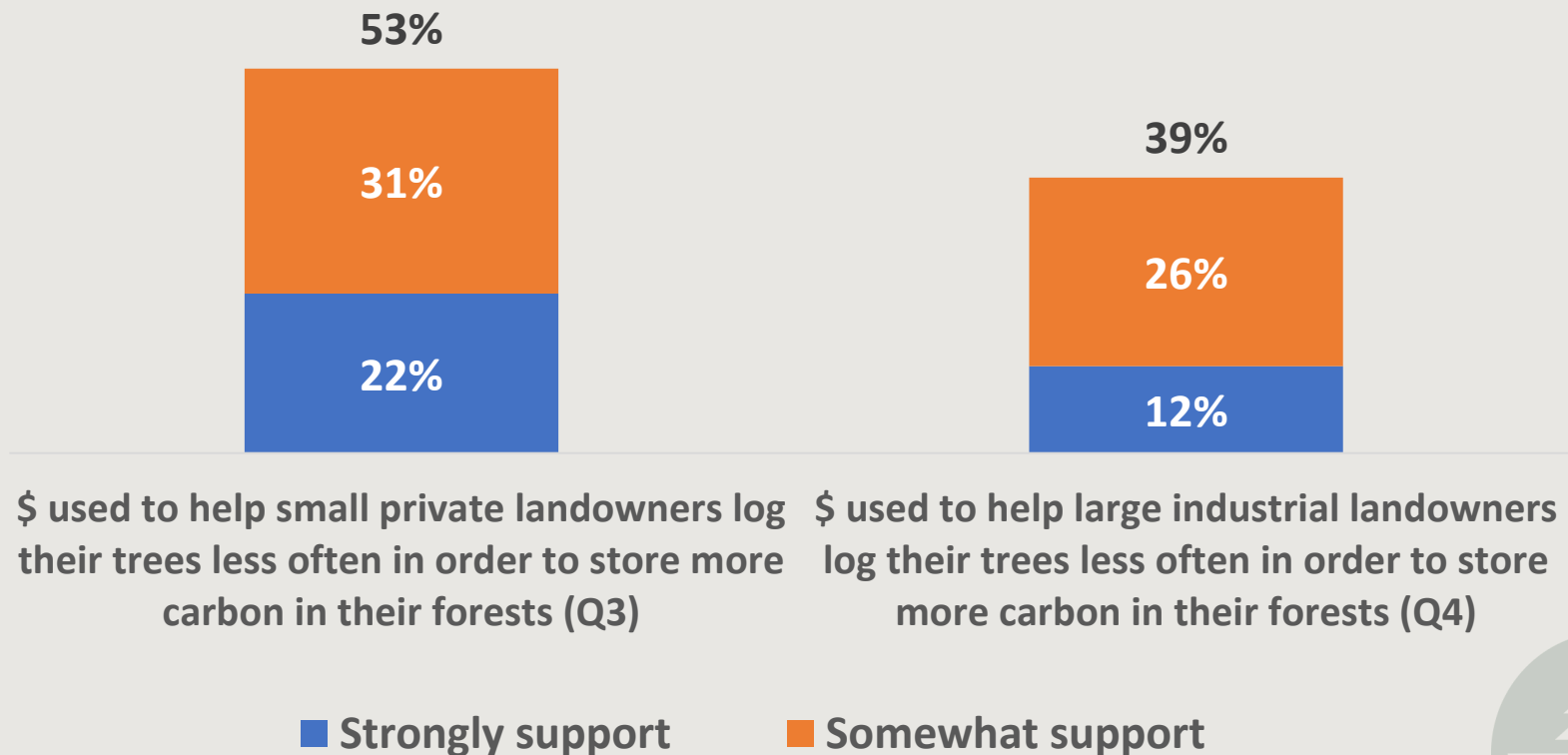


Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, N = 1,554).

Public Dollars For Carbon Storage

As trees grow, they take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen, storing the carbon in their trunks, branches, leaves, and roots. This process keeps carbon from being released into the atmosphere, therefore mitigating climate change.

Considering this information, how much would you oppose or support the two options below?



Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, $N = 1,554$).

Key Findings

- The vast majority of Oregonians—and especially those 30 and older—believe that **commercial timber harvest plays a role in actively managing healthy forests.**
- While four in ten residents believe that, generally, there is too much **logging in Oregon forests** (i.e., “what is your gut opinion”), far fewer believe there is too much logging in forests owned by the State of Oregon (about one in four). One in five believe these forests are already harvested about the right amount and another one in five feel they don’t know enough about the topic to have an opinion.
- At least six in ten residents **accept a variety of forest management techniques**, including thinning, prescribed burns, replanting, and retaining some old-growth trees during harvest.



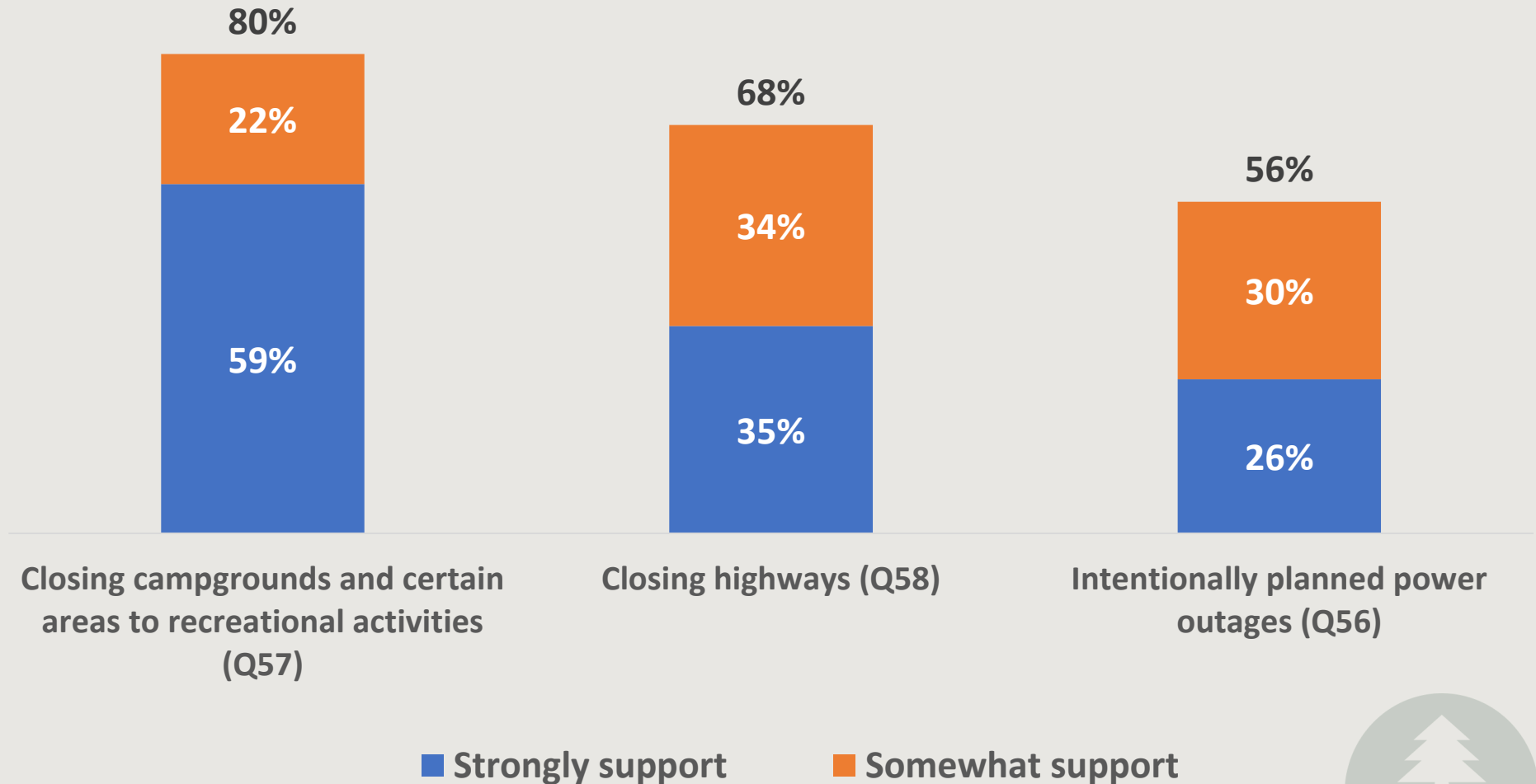
Wildfires



Wildfire Mitigation Support

Around Labor Day 2020 we had a major wind event in Oregon that caused multiple fires to quickly become infernos that burned through forests, fields, and communities, with significant loss of life and property. We had a similar wind event in 2022 but escaped major damage and loss of life.

Do you oppose or support the following measures when fire risk is deemed to be at the top end of extreme, due to forest conditions and a predicted wind event?

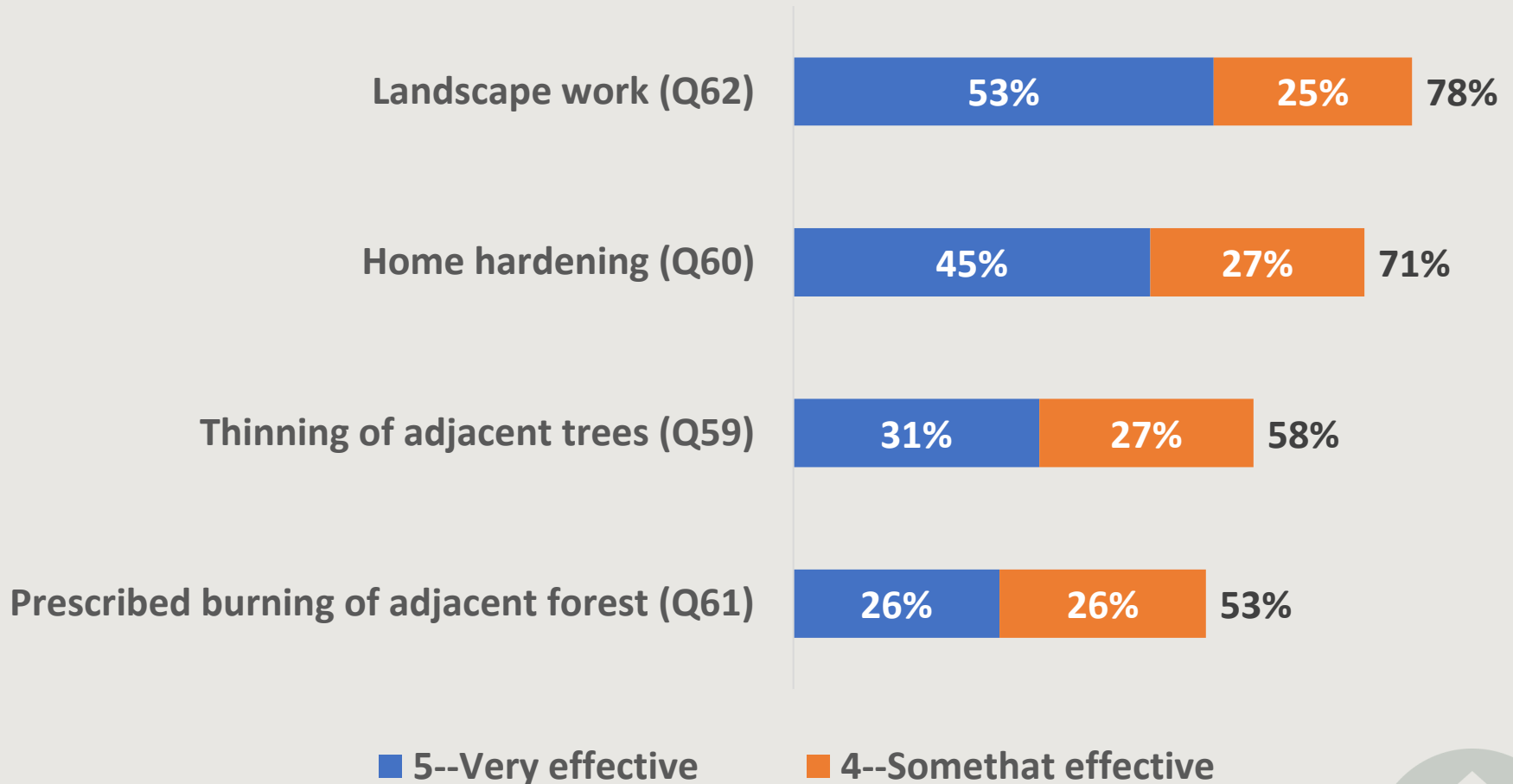


Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, $N = 1,554$).



Wildfire Prevention Tactics Effectiveness

Please indicate how effective you believe each of the following methods is for protecting the homes of people who live near forests from burning in a wildfire.



Source: OVBC survey conducted November 10–19, 2022, among Oregon adults (representative sample, $N = 1,554$).

Key Findings

- Most residents are **happy to play their part in reducing wildfire risk** by supporting regulations on their own activity. At least half of residents support pre-planned outages, and eight in ten support closing campgrounds and highways.
- A large majority of Oregonians **support prescribed burns to mitigate wildfires and their impacts**. However, support for this practice is tepid in intensity.
- Oregonians believe a variety of **tactics used to prevent wildfires from burning down homes are effective**, and that home hardening and making smart landscaping choices are the most effective.
- There is nearly a consensus that **fire-resistant materials should be required to build homes in high-risk areas**, and half of Oregonians feel strongly about that. Oregonians lean in favor of prohibiting builds in high-risk areas, but there is minority disagreement from some groups, including rural residents.



Involvement and Communications



By the Numbers

- 40% of residents **would like to learn more about forests in Oregon**, especially younger people 18-44 and urban residents.
- About one in three residents would be **open to engaging more directly through committees on forest policy in Oregon**. Those most interested include men and Oregonians under 45.



Thank You

Discussion?

