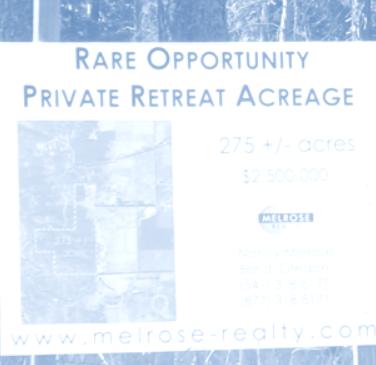
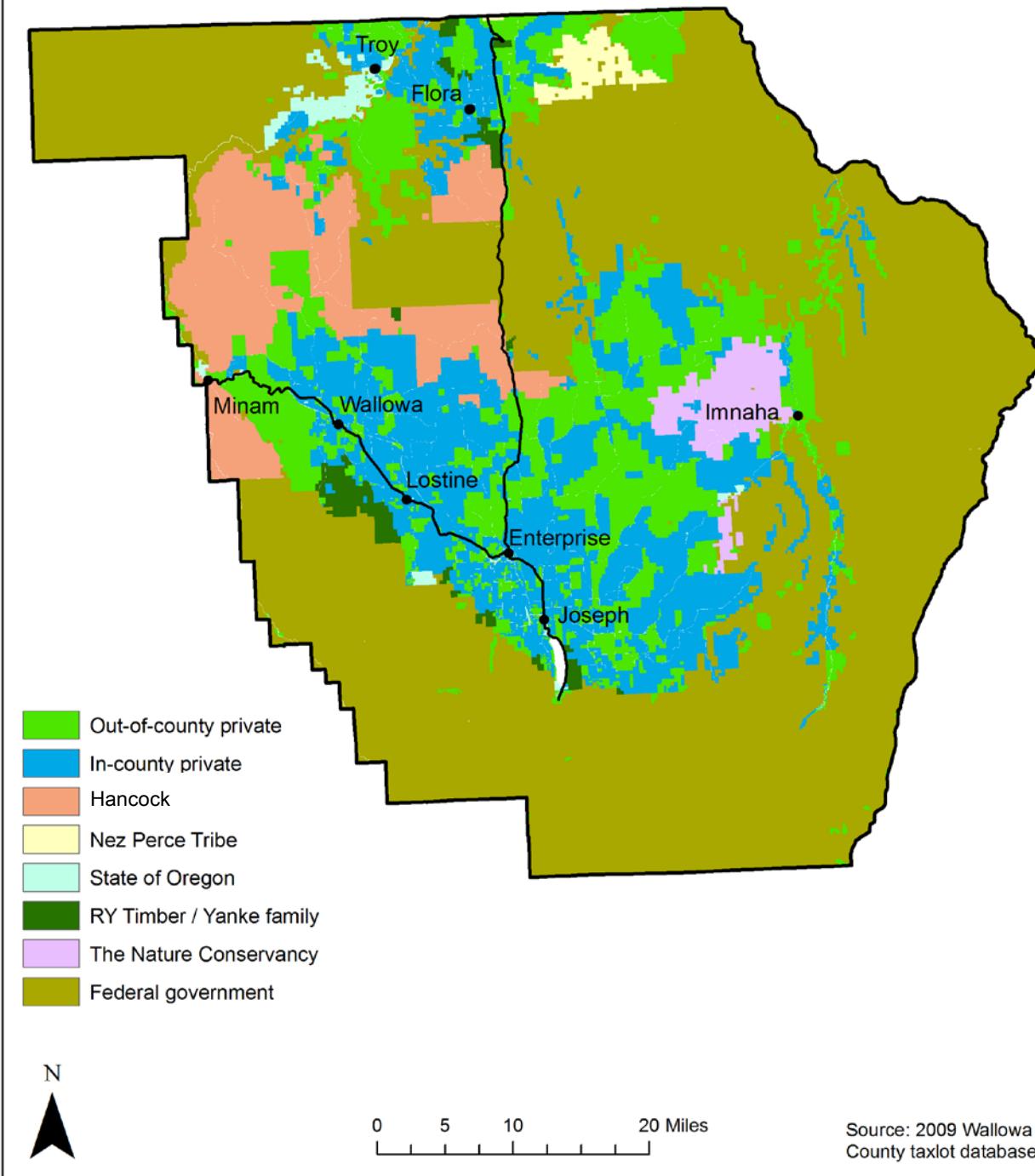


Wallowa County Land Ownership and Land Use Change

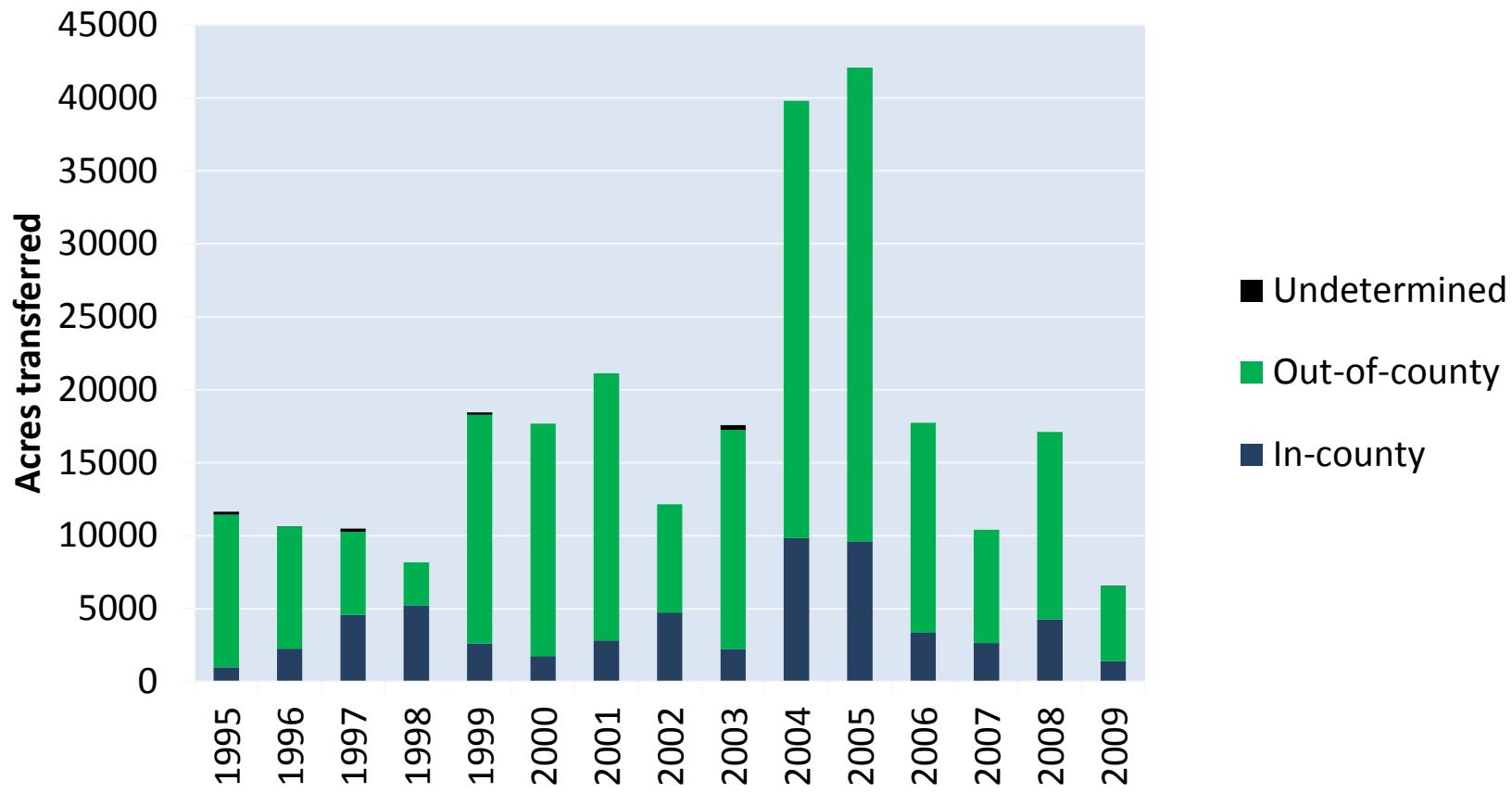


Jesse Abrams
Whitman College
April 24, 2013





Nonindustrial Land Turnover, 1995-2009



261,571 acres transferred through 1446 individual transactions

Nonindustrial Landowner Survey

- Conducted January-April 2010
- Owners of at least 20 acres of private,
nonindustrial Wallowa County land
- 400 owners sampled; 209 returned surveys
- Effective response rate: 53.3%
- Margin of error: 5.99%

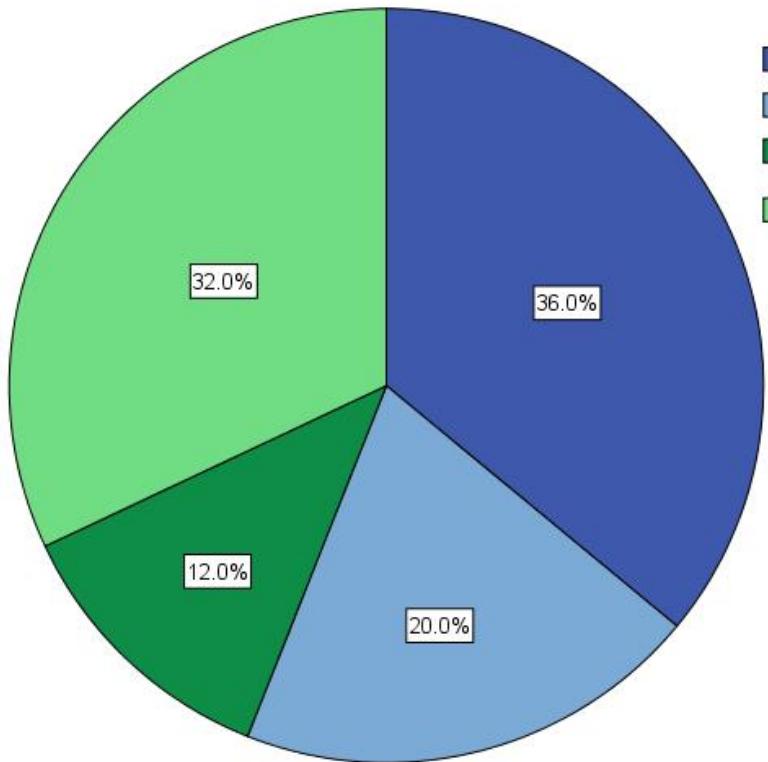
Results: Forest Ownership

- 56.9% of respondents owned at least 1 acre of forest
- 12.9% owned only forest...
- ...meaning that around 77% of forest owners also owned farm, range, or other non-forest land



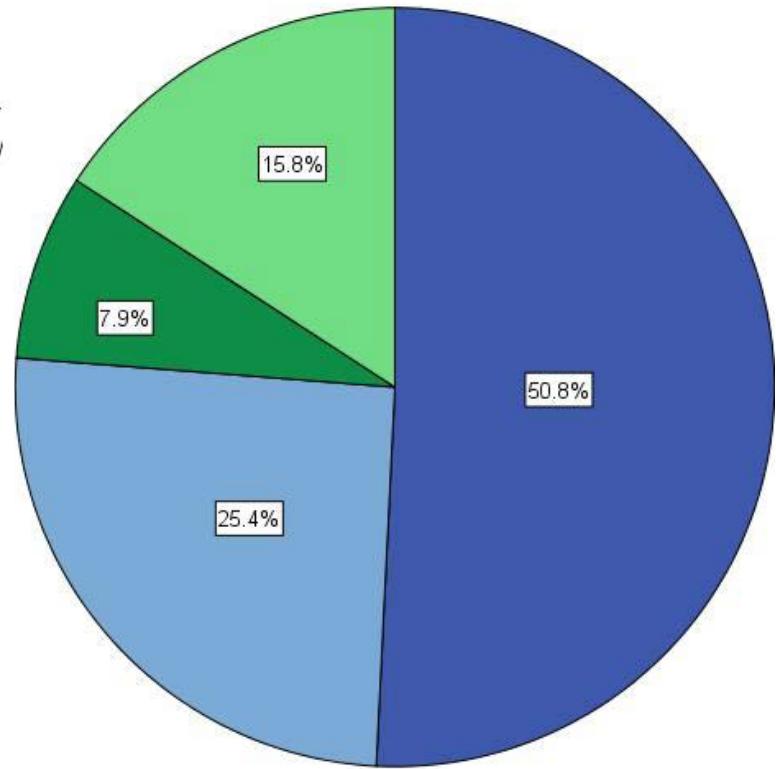
Seasonal vs Year-round / Amenity vs Production Orientation

- Seasonal: Primary residence is outside Wallowa County
- Amenity: Average of scores for “scenic residence” + “hunting and fishing” + “other outdoor recreation” + “vacation spot” > score for “produce agricultural or forest products for sale”



**Proportion of
forest owners**

■ Year-round
producer
■ Seasonal producer
■ Year-round amenity
owner
■ Seasonal amenity
owner



**Proportion of
forest owned**

	Year-round resident	Seasonal resident
Keep fire risk low	4.39	4.32
Maintain tree health and vigor	4.42	4.19
Provide wildlife habitat	4.06	4.32
Maintain natural ecosystems	4.08	4.04
Provide scenic beauty	4.17	3.94
Restore degraded ecosystems	3.62	3.27
Produce livestock forage**	3.63	2.74
Produce timber for sale*	3.04	2.43
Provide a visual buffer from neighbors	2.57	2.21

* means significantly different at $p \leq .05$

** means significantly different at $p \leq .01$

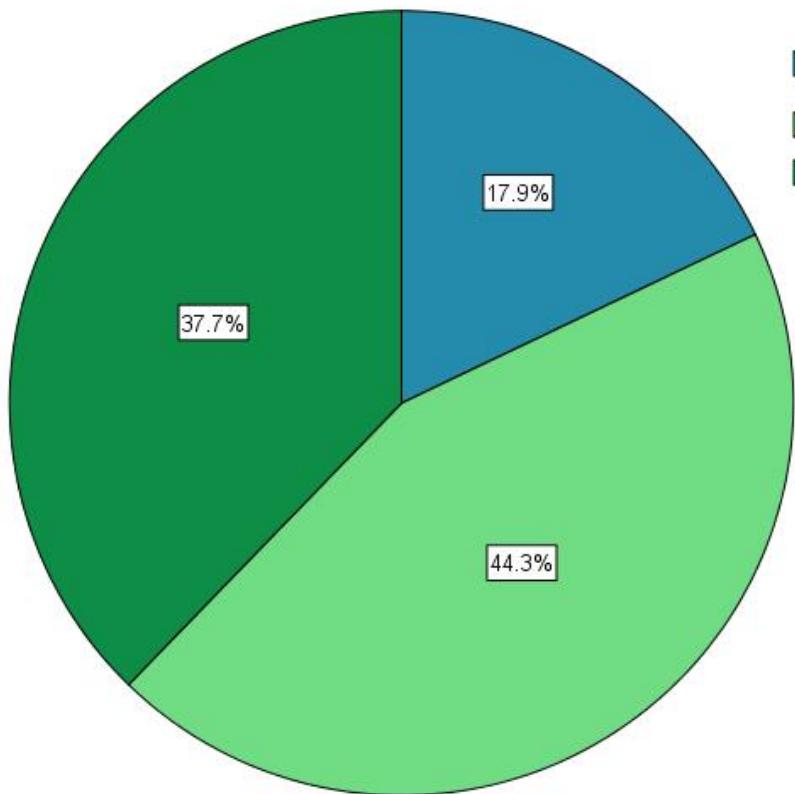
Scores range from 1 = not at all important to 5 = very important.

	Production-oriented	Amenity-oriented
Keep fire risk low	4.40	4.42
Maintain tree health and vigor	4.38	4.12
Provide wildlife habitat**	3.90	4.48
Maintain natural ecosystems*	3.79	4.37
Provide scenic beauty*	3.76	4.29
Restore degraded ecosystems	3.24	3.59
Produce livestock forage*	3.40	2.68
Produce timber for sale**	3.23	1.95
Provide a visual buffer from neighbors*	2.10	2.90

* means significantly different at $p \leq .05$

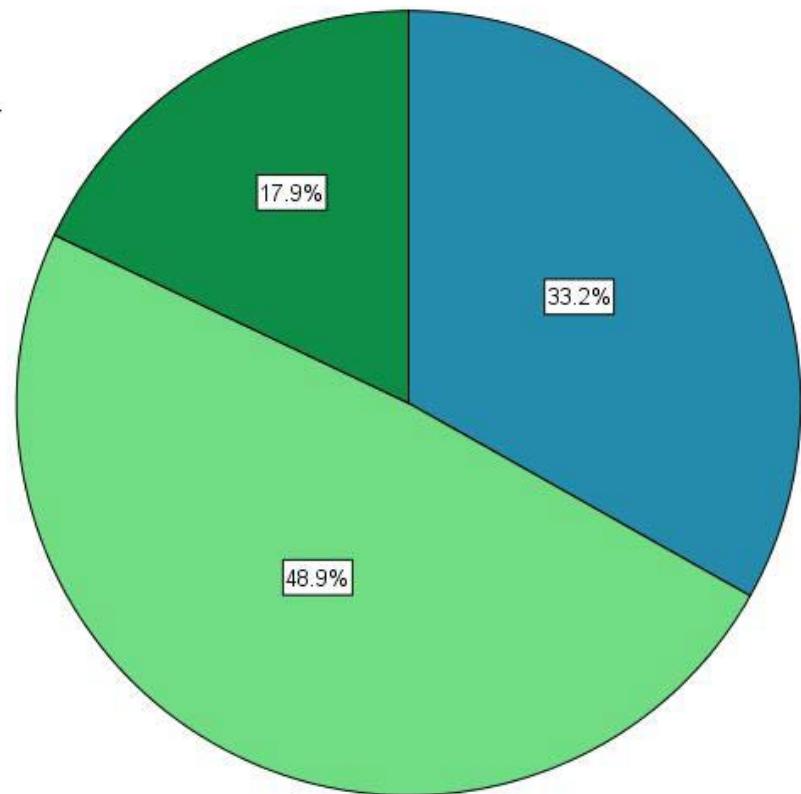
** means significantly different at $p \leq .01$

Scores range from 1 = not at all important to 5 = very important.



**Proportion of
forest owners**

Harvest all size
trees
Harvest smaller or
unhealthy
No harvest



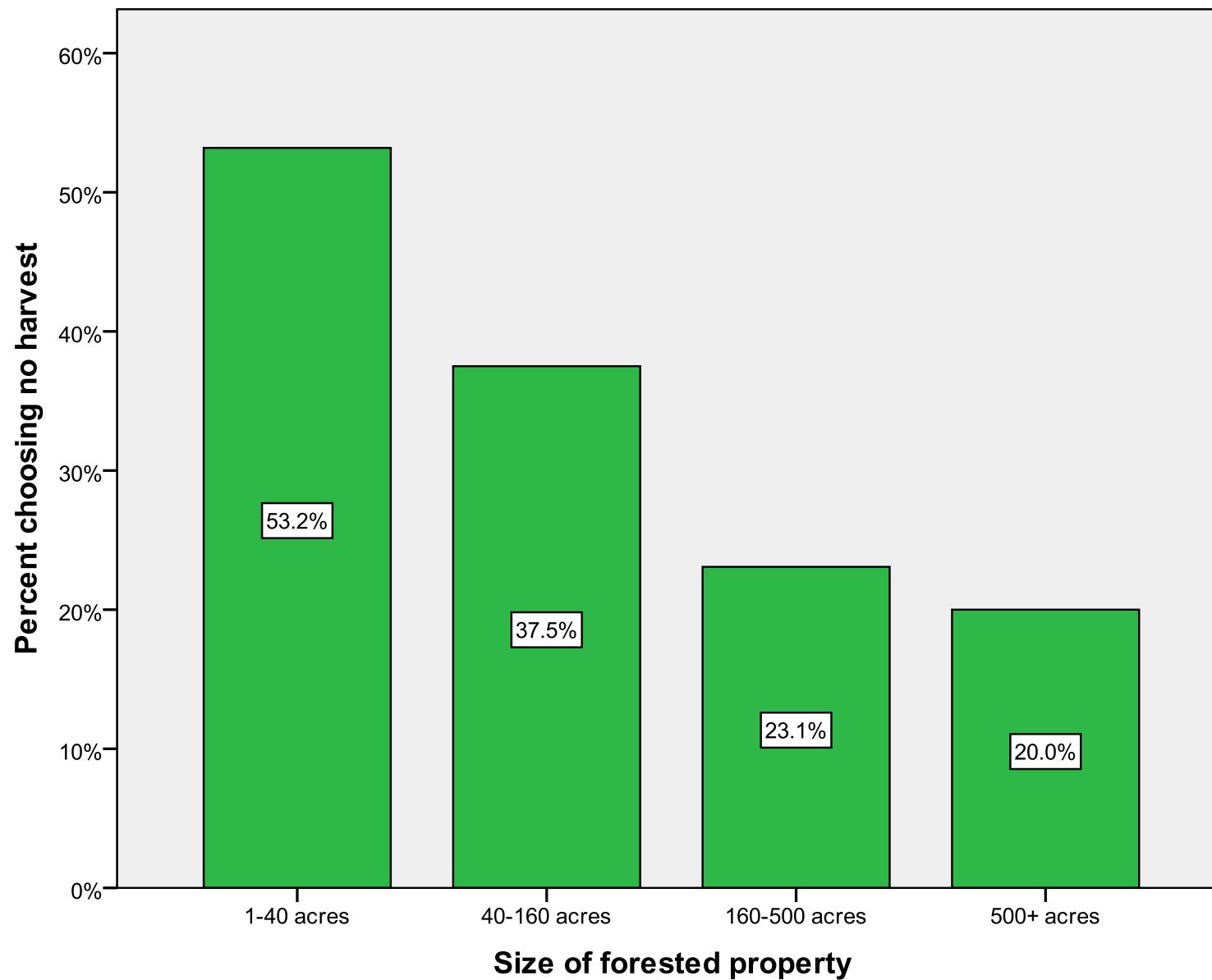
**Proportion of
forest owned**

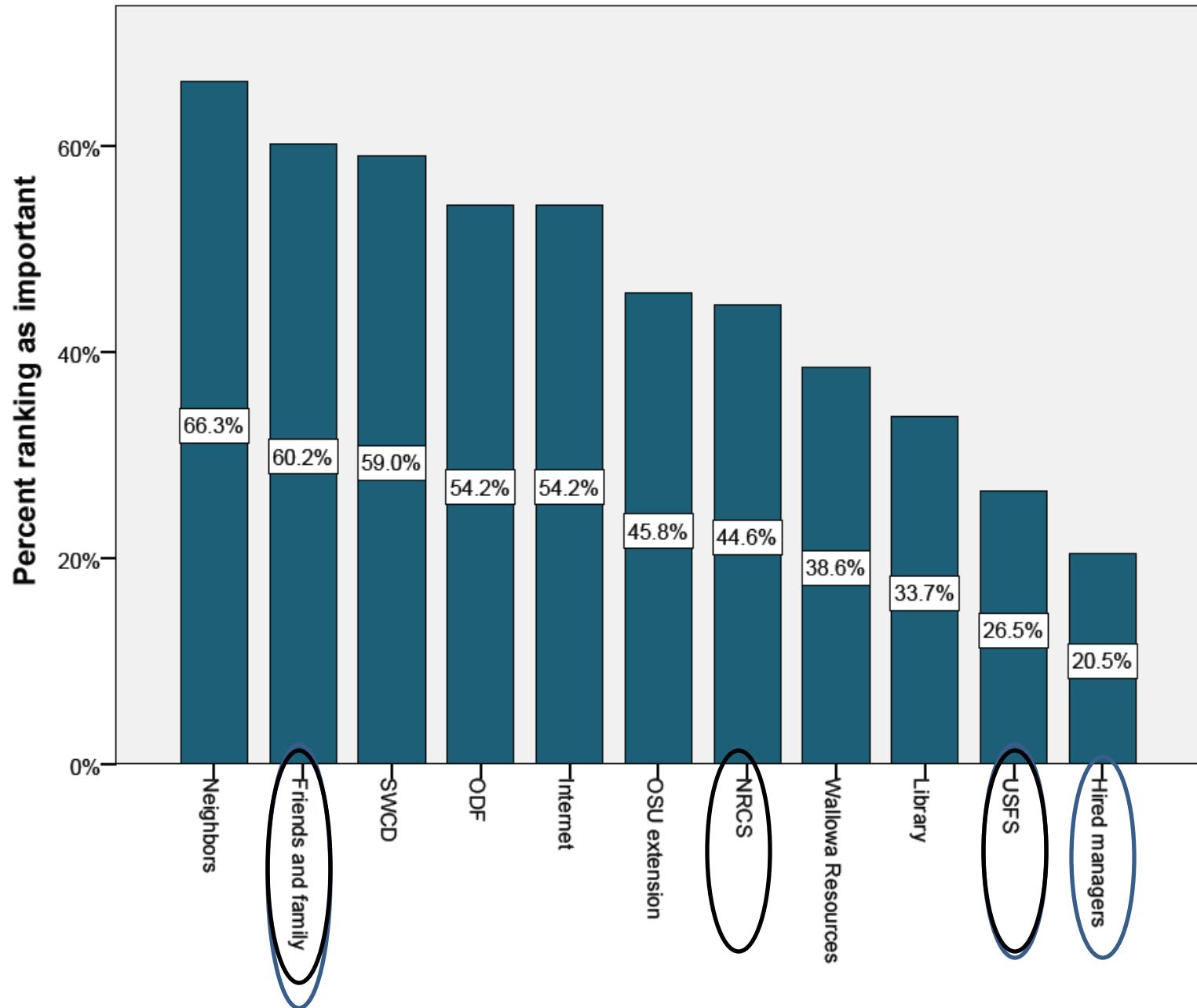
	Year-round resident	Seasonal resident
Harvest all size trees	19.2%	16.0%
Harvest smaller or unhealthy trees	46.2%	44.0%
Harvest no trees	34.6%	40.0%

Chi-square = 0.425 on 2 d.f., 2-sided $p = .809$

	Production-oriented	Amenity-oriented
Harvest all size trees	28.8%	5.0%
Harvest smaller or unhealthy trees	40.4%	50.0%
Harvest no trees	30.8%	45.0%

Chi-square = 8.712 on 2 d.f., 2-sided $p = .013$.





Typical “New” Forest Owner

- Middle aged
- From urban / suburban areas
- Well educated
- Disposable income
- Cautious about forest management
- Little prior experience with land management
- Looking for models of forest management—but selling timber is a low priority
- Open to learning and adapting

Challenges

- More trees = healthier forest
- Seasonal residence
- Rate of property turnover
- Culture clash
- Extension and Outreach

Promoting Working Landscapes

- Need for intermediaries
- Need for models that speak to values of new owners
- Encourage learning



Acknowledgements

- Wallowa Resources and Wallowa Mountain Institute
- OSU College of Forestry and Rural Studies Program
- Starker Program in Private and Family Forestry
- Wallowa County Clerk's and Assessor's Offices and Planning / GIS Department
- The hundreds of Wallowa County residents and landowners that responded to surveys and interview requests

Questions?



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