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CFLRP collaborative governance survey: Summary of findings for the Zuni Mountains Collaborative

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Objectives for Today

- Background on the survey development and rollout
- Show survey results on a few key themes:
 1. Motivations for involvement
 2. Aligning expectations
 3. Capacity for joint action
 4. Perceived outcomes of the collaborative process
 5. Challenges and disruptions
 6. Factors that contribute to collaborative success
 7. Acceptable forest management strategies
- Next steps and deliverables
- Discuss if/how results resonate with the collaborative and feedback on the survey



Background and Context

CFLRP Common Monitoring Strategy



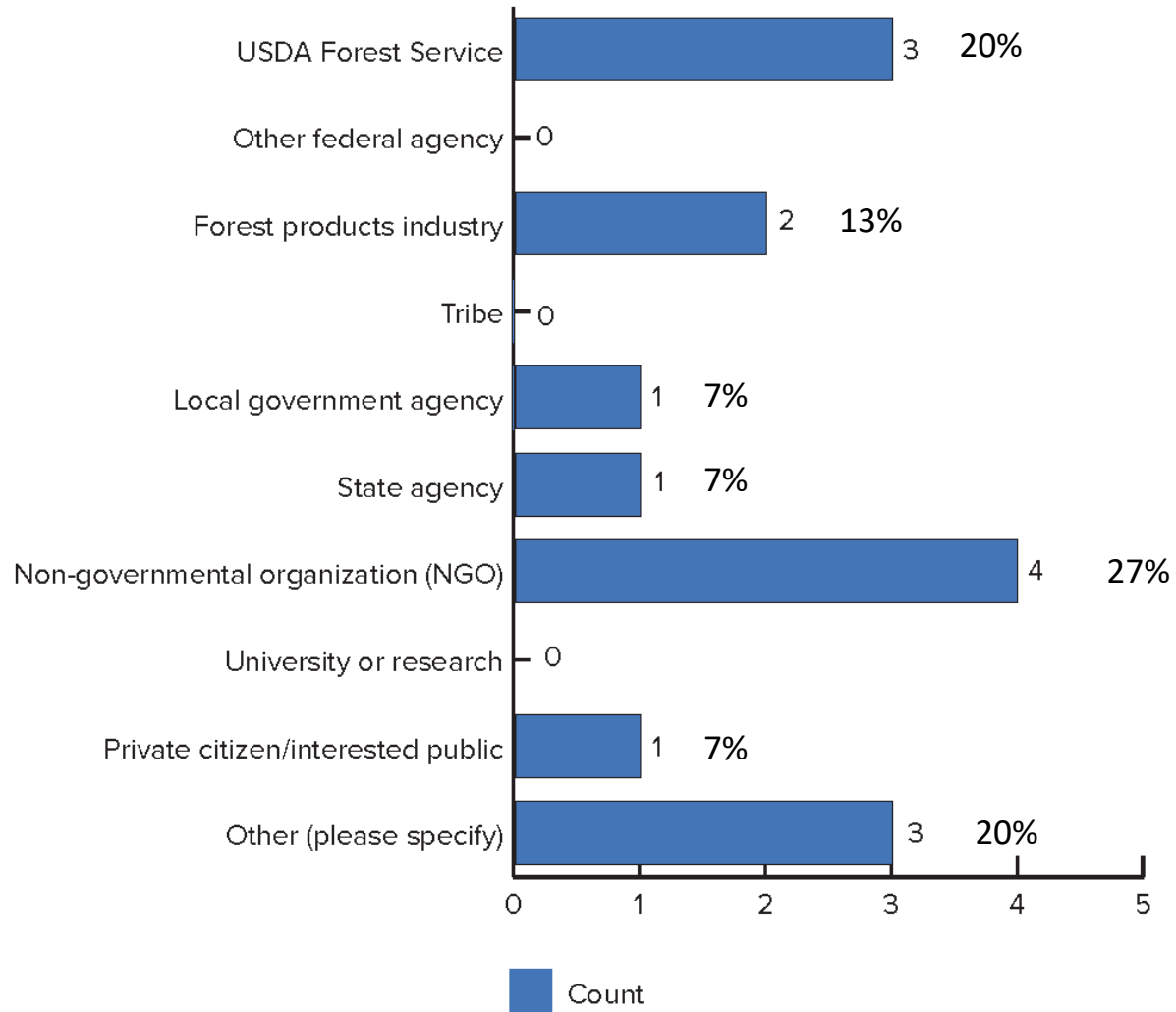
- 2021 – USFS led a collaborative process to develop national common monitoring strategy
- Core set of social, ecological, and economic indicators
- Required of all newly authorized and extension projects
- Meant to:
 - Supplement but not replace local multi-party monitoring
 - Provide standardization across projects
- This survey addresses core monitoring indicator question 12: *How well is CFLRP encouraging an effective and meaningful collaborative approach?*



Respondents



Group Representation

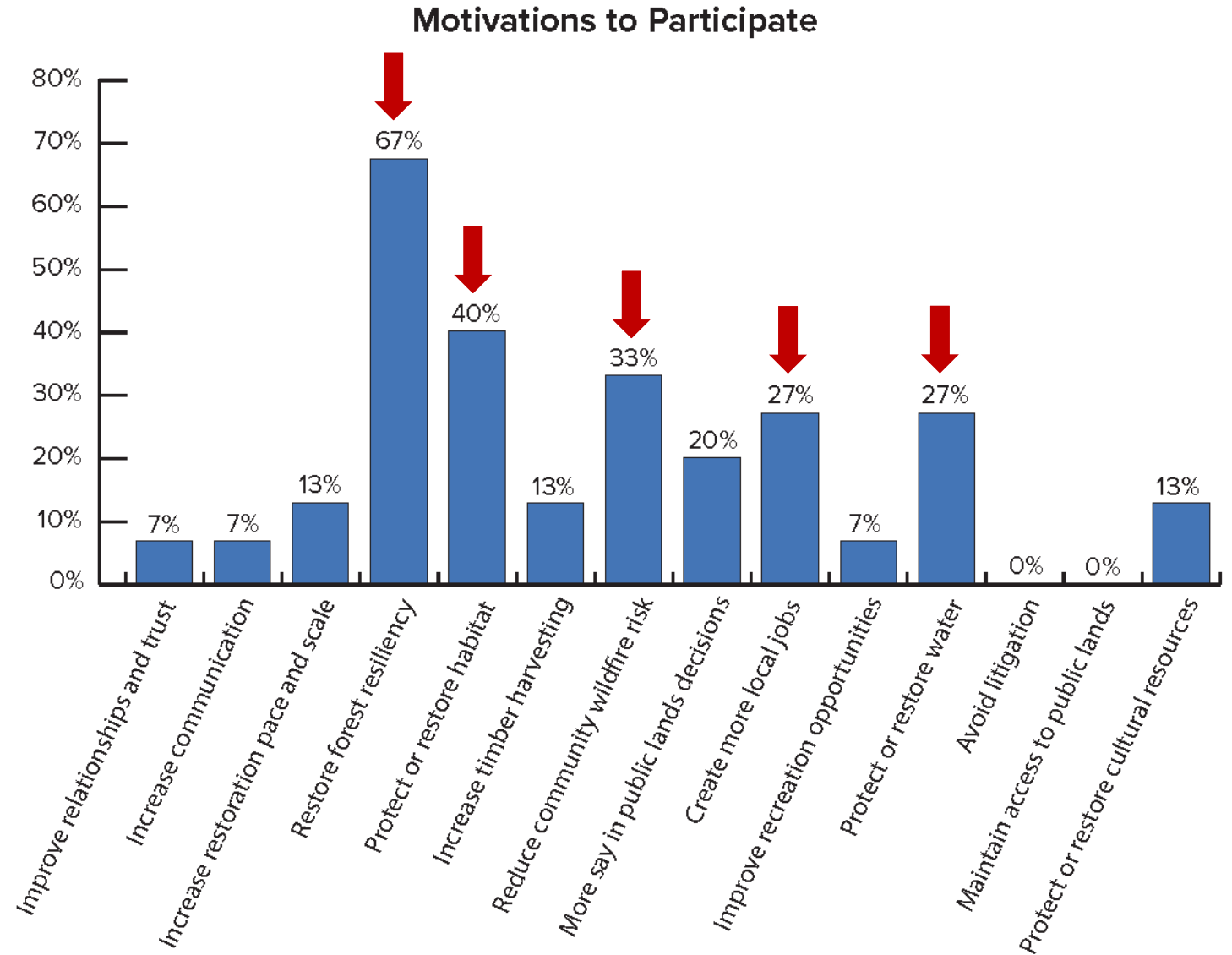


- Discussion:

- Did most of the major players take the survey?
- Increase engagement with those not represented?

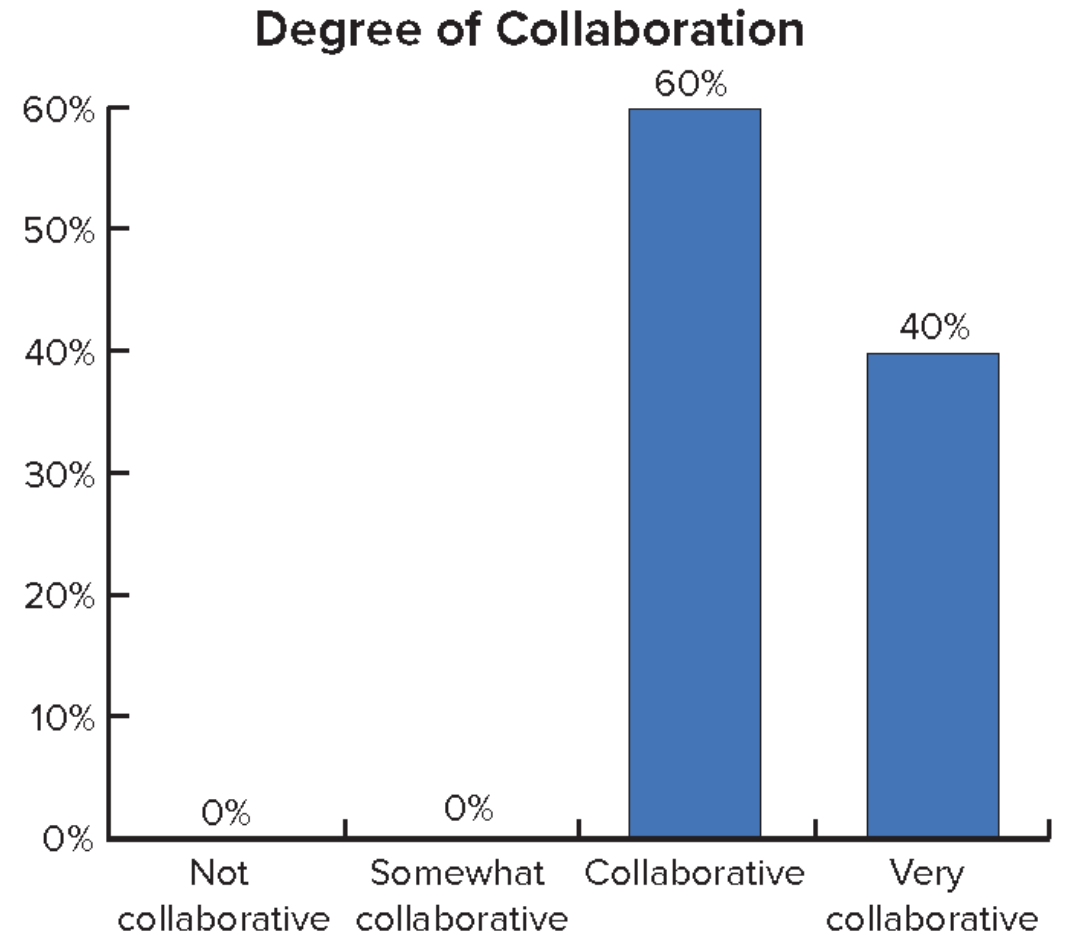
1. Motivations for involvement

- Primary motivation: to restore forest resiliency
- Other common motivations:
 - To protect/restore fish and wildlife habitat
 - To reduce community wildfire risk
 - To create more local jobs
 - To protect or restore water resources



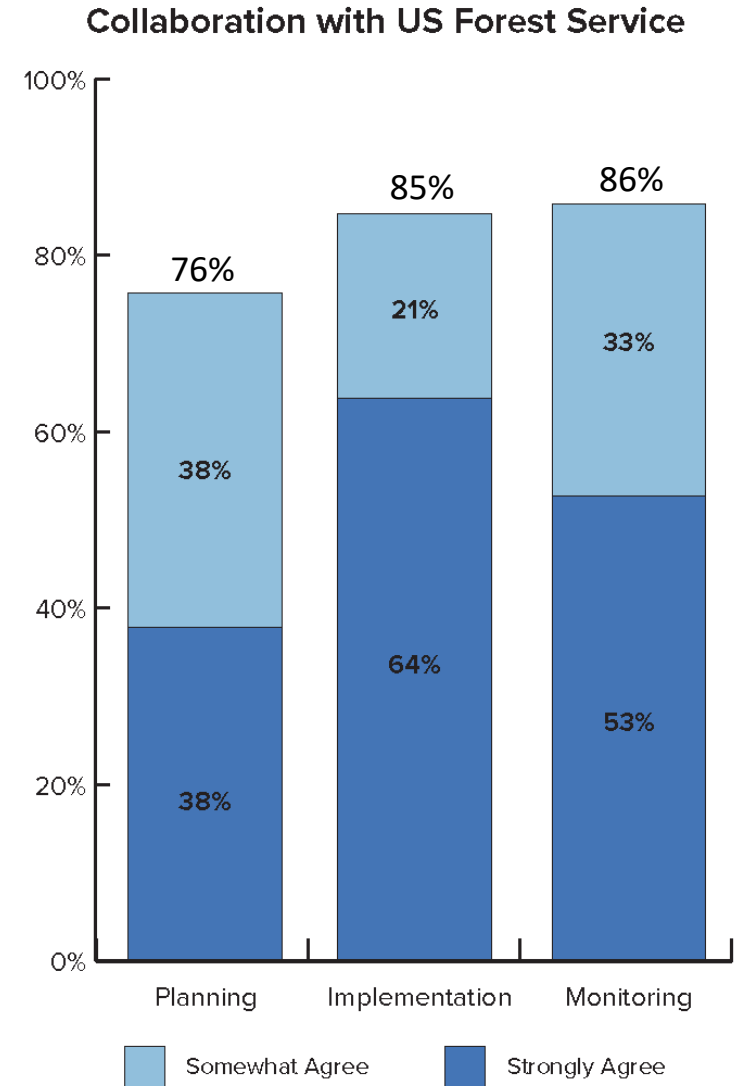
Overall, how collaborative?

- 100% of respondents say this CFLRP is collaborative/very collaborative!



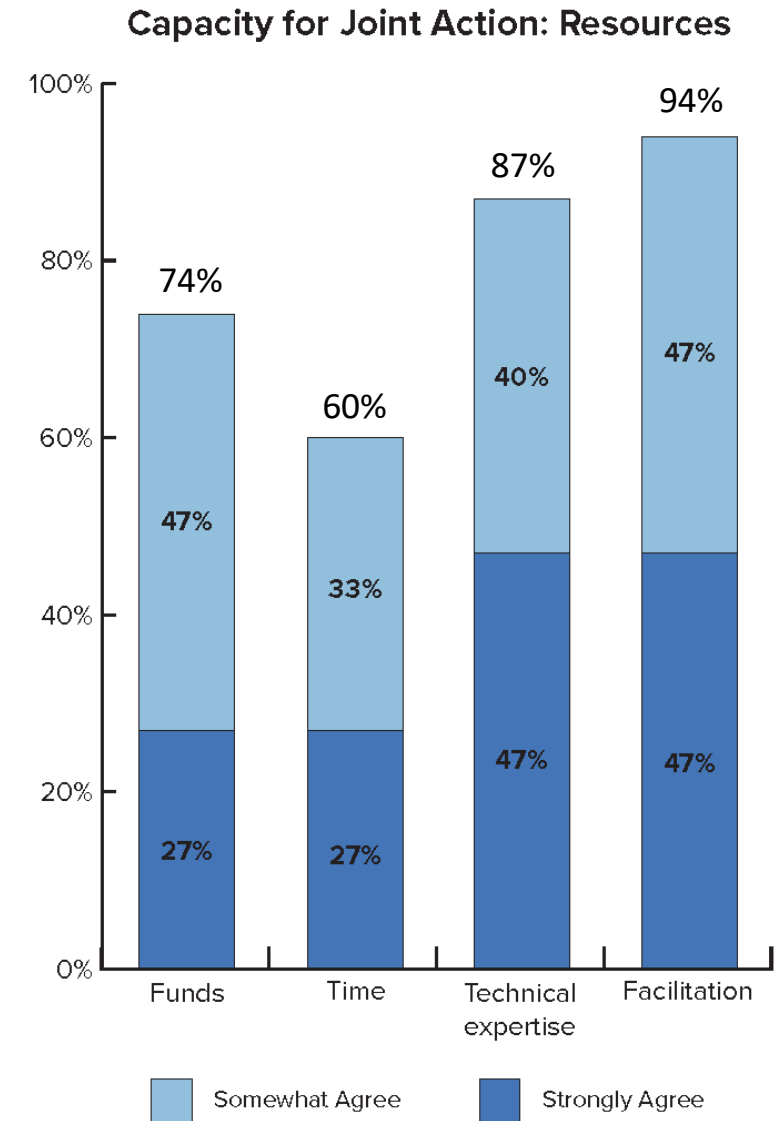
2. Aligning expectations: USFS collaboration

- Collaboration between CLFRP participants and the USFS has met expectations during:
- Planning (e.g., environmental analysis, NEPA): 76% agreed
- Implementation (e.g., post-NEPA, operations): 85% agreed
- Monitoring: 86% agreed
- Collaboration is required in all of these, yet not defined in CFLRP/FLRA
 - Expectations may differ



3. Capacity for Joint Action: Resources

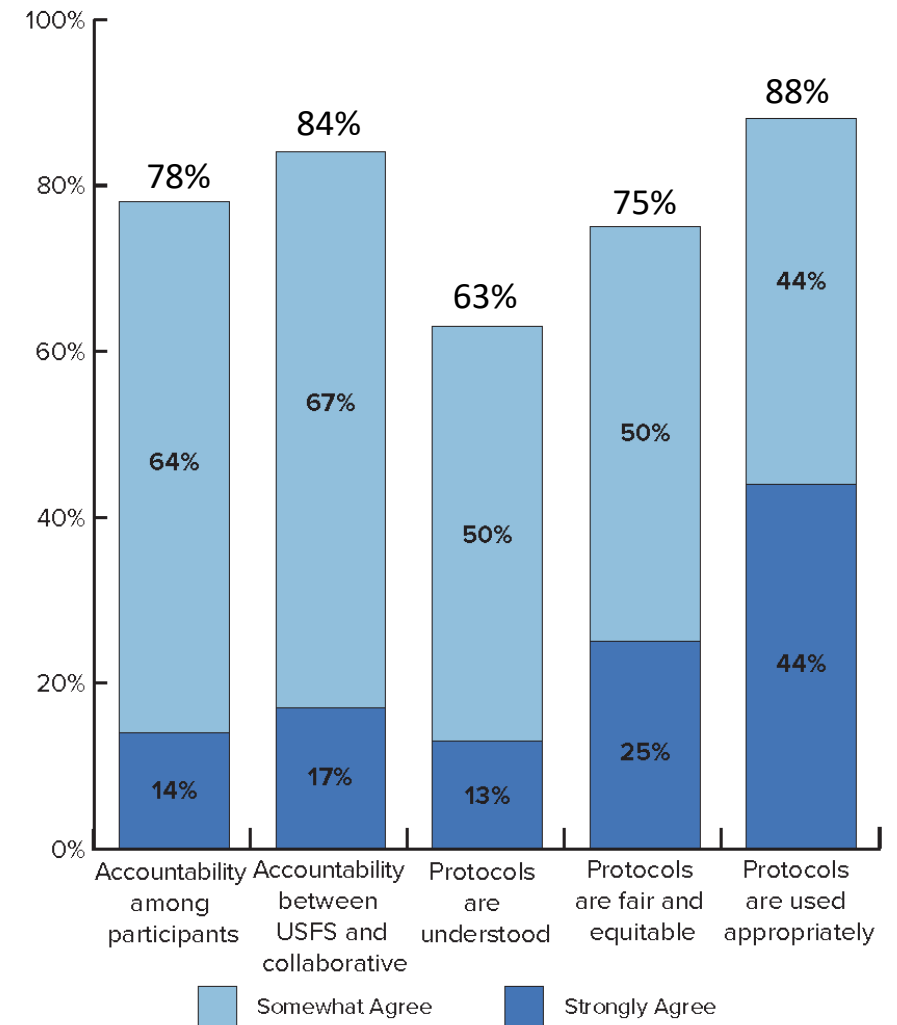
- The CFLRP project has adequate...
- Time to carry out tasks and accomplish work: 60% agree
 - Most limiting resource
- Funds: 74% agree
- Technical expertise: 87% agree
- Skills to facilitate collaborative engagement activities: 94% agree



3. Capacity for Joint Action: Process and Accountability

- There are protocols in place that promote accountability (e.g., decision rules, charters, MOUs)
 - *Among* CFLRP project participants: 78% agree
 - *Between* CFLRP project participants and the USFS: 84% agree
- Collaborative protocols
 - Are clearly understood: 63% agree
 - Are fair and equitable: 75% agree
 - Are used appropriately: 88% agree

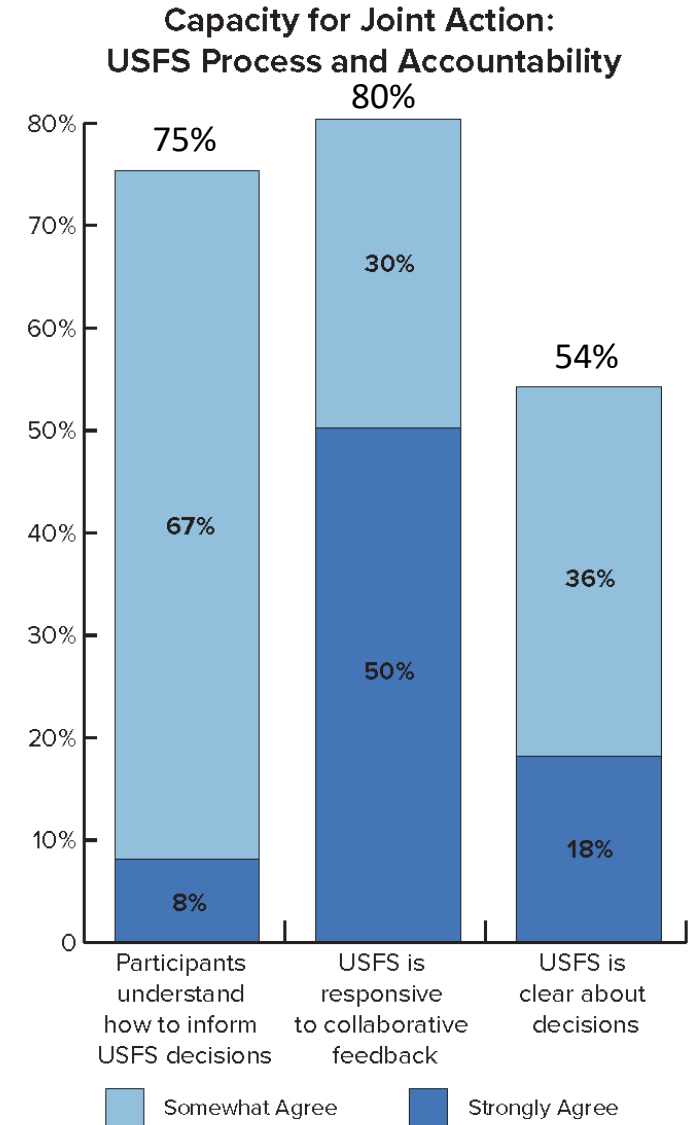
Capacity for Joint Action: Process and Accountability



3. Capacity for Joint Action: USFS Process and Accountability



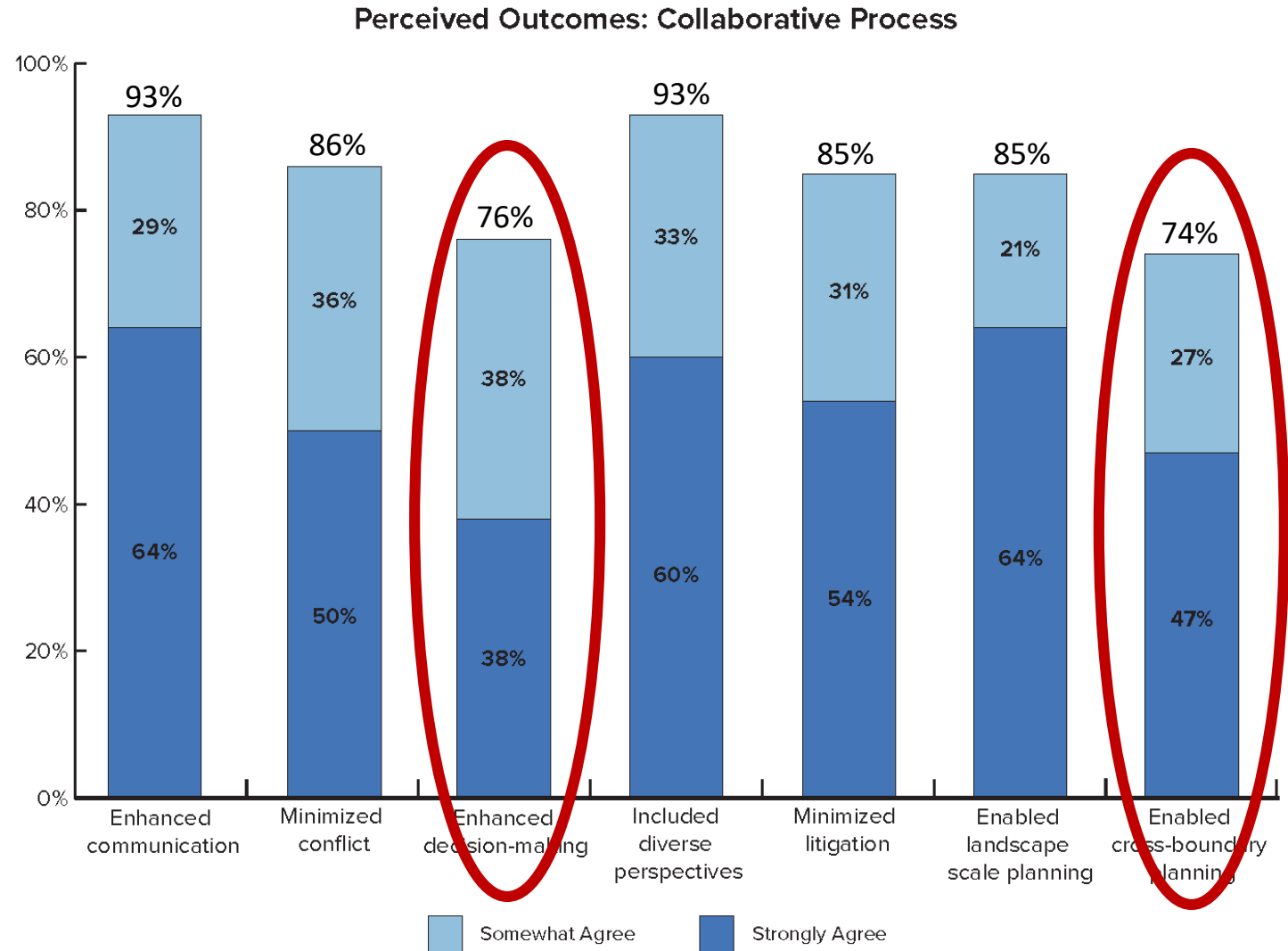
- Project participants clearly understand when and what collaborative input is useful to inform USFS decisions: 75% agree
- The USFS is responsive to CFLRP project participant feedback: 80%
- The USFS is clear with project participants about the decisions they make and why: 54%
 - Lowest



4. Perceived Outcomes: Collaborative Process



- The CLFRP collaborative process has...
- Mostly 80% agreement
- Two lowest:
 - Enhanced decision-making (i.e., a more transparent, equitable, and fair process): 76% agree
 - Enabled cross-boundary planning: 74% agree



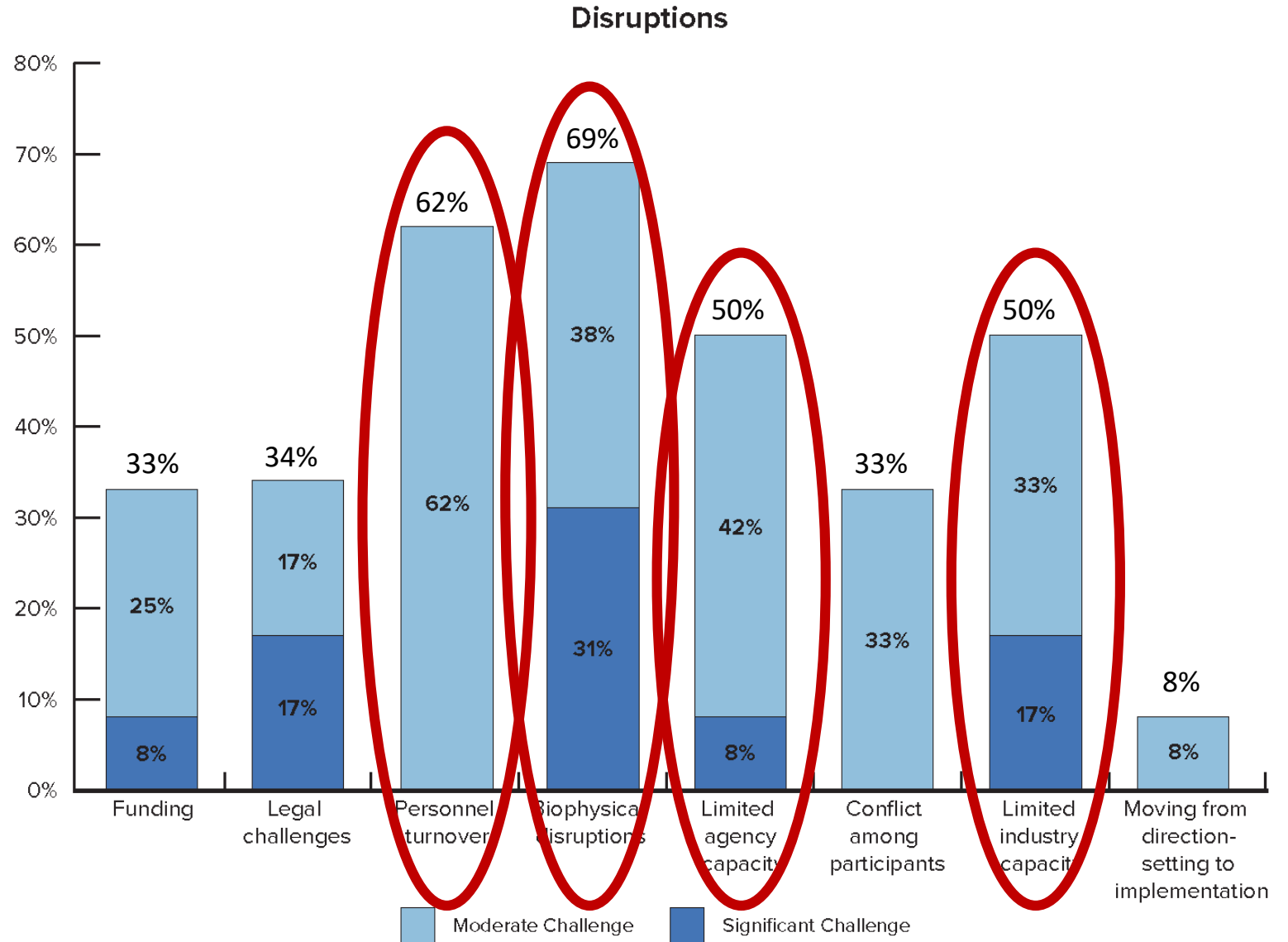
4. Perceived Outcomes: Recommendations to Improve or Maintain Collaborative Progress



- Increase participation/engagement from others:
 - Reach out to local residents (recognizing there are challenges to motivation and internet access)
 - Increase participation from stakeholders on volunteering and monitoring
- Enhance understanding:
 - Lack of clarity on converting USFS seasonal to permanent employees and how that affects fuels crews
 - Lack of clarity of processes of moving materials off the forest
- Staffing: increase staff or develop staff skills
 - Young staff could develop more leadership skills
 - There should be more staff botanists and biologists for the USFS and/or FSG for monitoring
- Increase spatial scope: move beyond borders
- Keep decision-making local: shutting down forest restoration projects should be a local decision (criticism of 2022 shutdown because of distant fires)
- No recommendations (1 respondent)

5. Challenges and Disruptions

- Did these disruptions pose challenges to the CFLRP's performance and durability?
- Additional disruptions in comments:
 - MSO injunction
 - Seasonal closures due to fire restrictions



6. Appended Question: Factors that Contributed to Collaborative Success



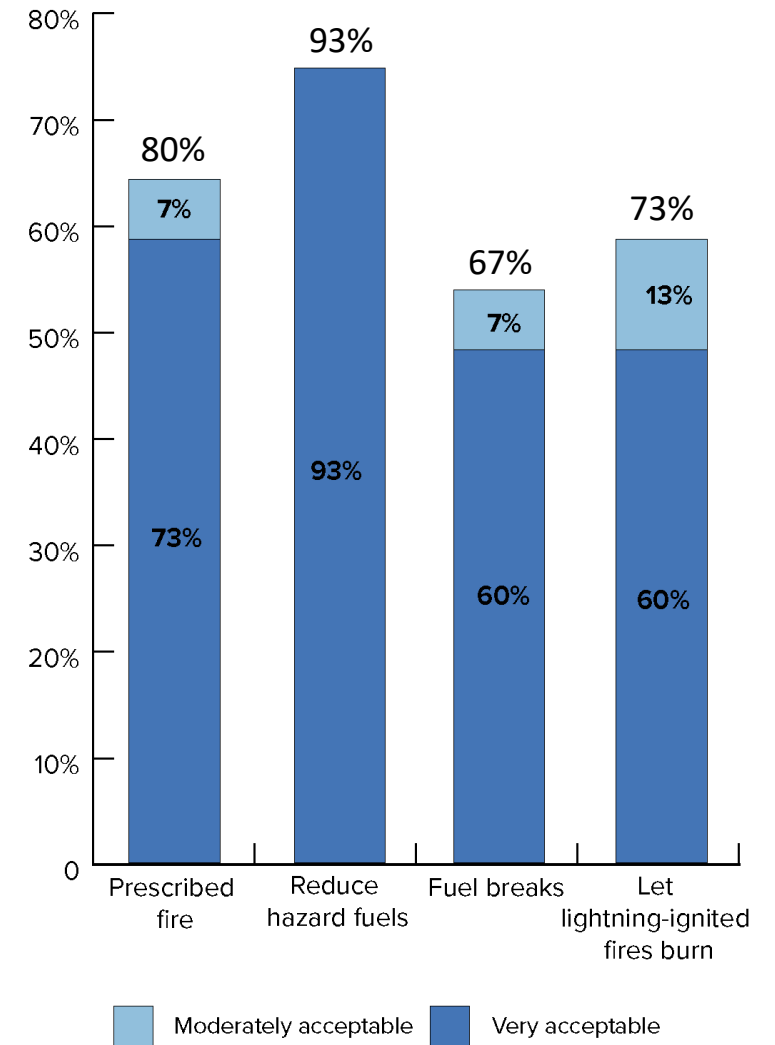
- Good people in the partnership (i.e., FSG, USFS staff, citizens, nonprofits) with open communication (4 respondents)
 - FSG has been invaluable to maintain support of the collaborative
- Common goal and desire for the project to succeed (2 respondents)
- Coordination between USFS, logging companies, and local mills (2 respondents)
- Steady staffing and funding
- Monitoring agreement involves multiple parties and gives credible feedback
- Biannual meetings and updates and at least one field trip per year have maintained stakeholder involvement and interest

- *“the acres that are being treated and the restoration that is taking place is fantastic”*
- *“our local timber business would not be functioning if the CFLRP were not thriving”*

7. Appended Question: Acceptable Forest Management Strategies

- Highest approval (93%) for strategic removal of trees to reduce hazardous fuels
- Followed by 80% approval for prescribed fire
- 73% approval for “managed fire”
- 67% approval for fuel breaks (removal of vegetation to halt fire spread)

Acceptable forest management strategies



- Our final report will include responses to other survey questions about:
 - Stakeholder engagement and agreement
 - Shared motivations: trust and commitment
 - Capacity for joint action: leadership and knowledge
 - Perceived outcomes: ecological and socio-economic goals
 - Appended questions: preferred forms of communication, work group structure
- Conclusions:
 - High level of agreement
 - Some challenges (time, capacity, turnover, clarify USFS decision-making process, biophysical disruptions) but not major roadblocks to collaborative health
 - Who isn't at the table? Could they add resources/capacity?
 - Strong baseline to build upon and continue to learn from

- Short-term
 - Presentation slide deck
 - 2-page fact sheet of Zuni Mountains findings
 - Report on Zuni Mountains responses
- Longer-term
 - Larger report/publication on responses across CFLRPs
 - Peer-learning among CFLRP community of practice
- Happy to engage in follow-up conversations and/or provide support if/when needed!

- We will complete this assessment every 2-3 years
 - Needs, capacities change – iterative process
- What worked well?
- What could we improve?
- Is there anything we did not ask that we should have?

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- Do these results resonate with you?
What might we be missing?
 - Do any recommendations mentioned seem feasible and desirable? What help is needed?