Environmental Windows Survey **Results**

Not a vote: information to aid process of moving forward

Not a discussion of the merits of the survey statements: a discussion of our reaction to them

Structure

Strong Agreement: Set aside statements as broad common ground

Disagreement: Areas to look for common ground and accept different points of view

Uncertainty: Areas with a need for more information

Reactions to the survey: If answers are not easy, there is room for discussion

Process: What changes do we want to see?

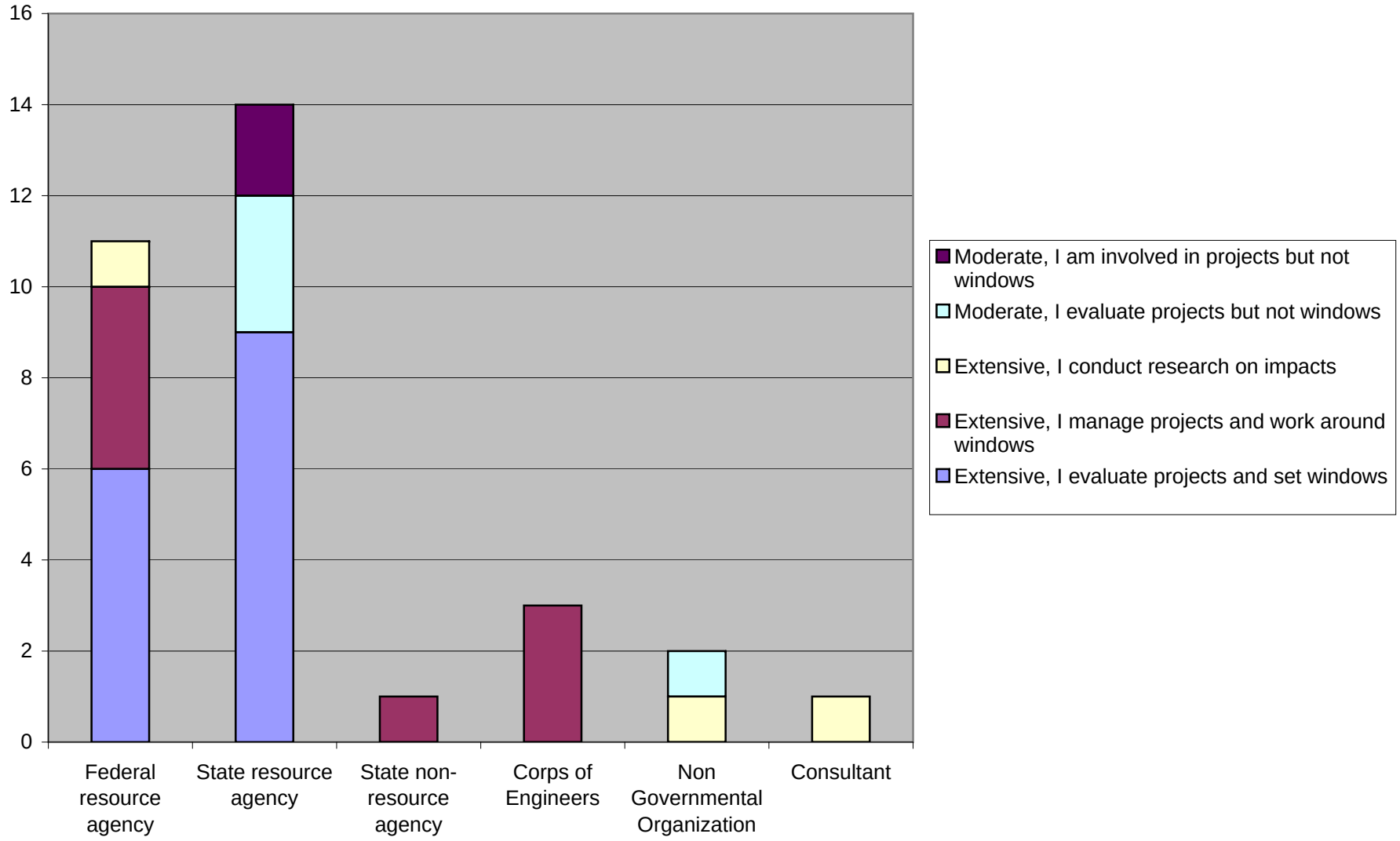
What knowledge gaps could be filled in with low/moderate effort?

What knowledge will take greater effort?

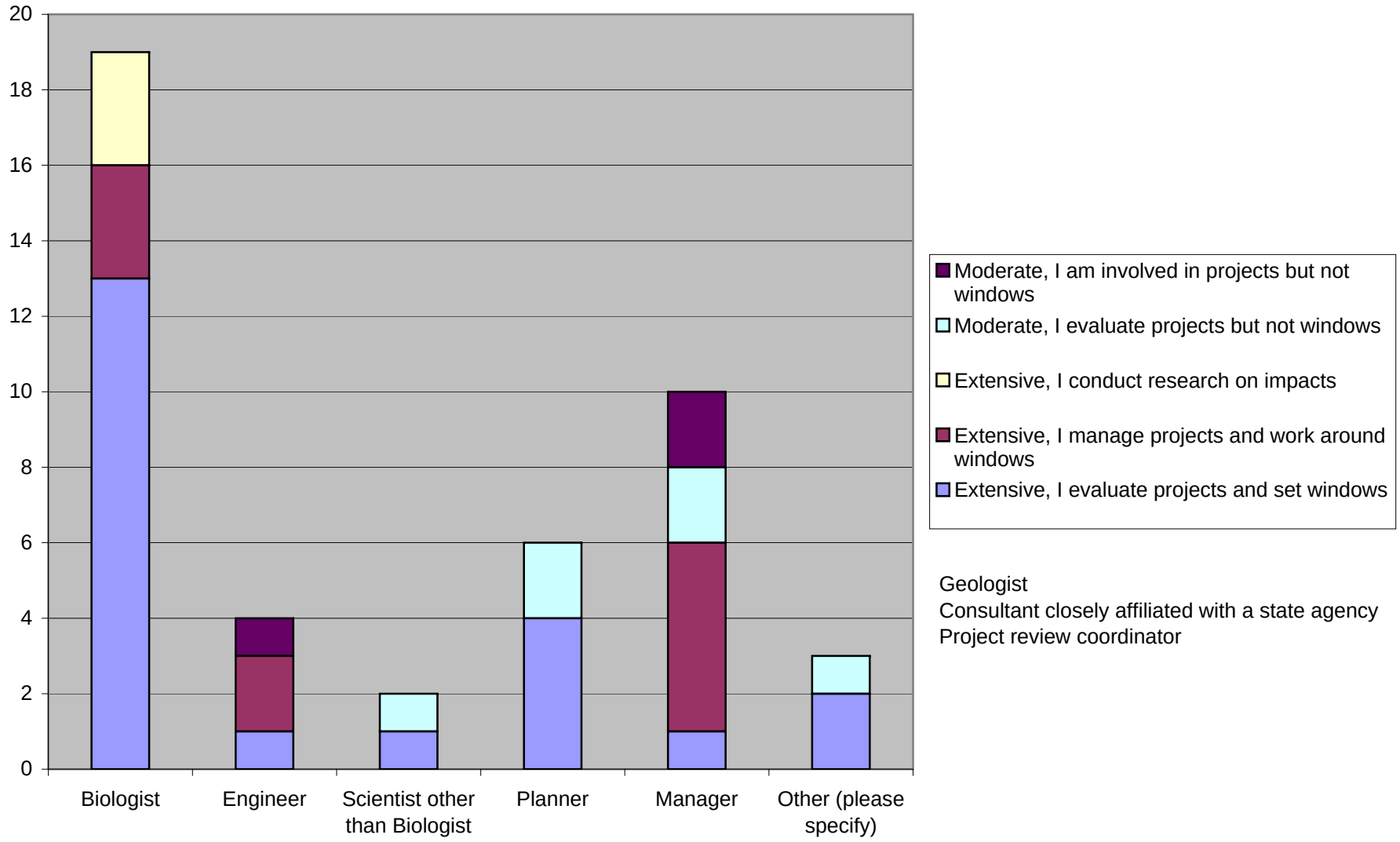
What can be done as first steps?

Who took the survey?

My knowledge of Environmental Windows is



I am a/an....



Geologist
Consultant closely affiliated with a state agency
Project review coordinator

Statements with strong agreement

Environmental Windows provide substantive protection for target species

Environmental Windows lengthen project duration

Projects should be scheduled around environmental windows

Dredging plumes typically [do not] occlude the entire cross section of a waterbody

Dredging impacts on resources in sandy sediments are not as substantial as in silty sediments

Resource manager's use of the precautionary principle in assigning windows is justified

Statements with agreement

Environmental Windows are the best management tool to minimize impact to resources

Environmental Windows are [not] too broad to be an effective management tool

Resource managers are willing to evaluate windows on a case-by-case basis

Resource managers use the precautionary principle in assigning windows too often

Resource managers are afraid to set precedent with modifications

Statements with strong differences

Environmental Windows are too broad to be an effective management tool

Environmental Windows markedly increase worker safety risks

Existing research provides sufficient evidence that typical suspended solids levels from dredging operations are injurious to target species

Statements with uncertainty

[Dredging may benefit target species through reduced predation or refuge]

Resource managers do not have the time to adequately evaluate modifications to windows

[Impacts of dredging plumes on the target species are lessened due to impacts on predator species]

[Noise and light disturbances to migrating resources are sufficiently well studied to be part of the process of defining Dredging Windows]

[Research studies of impacts have examined target species at concentrations and durations typical of dredging operations]

Statements with agreement but some uncertainty

Environmental Windows result in substantial monetary project costs

Monetary costs of compliance with Environmental Windows have not been well established or documented

Monetary costs of compliance with Environmental Windows are justified by resource benefits

Process statements with strong agreement or {uncertainty}

The process used to evaluate windows needs to be improved

The process used to evaluate projects needs to be improved

Windows proponents are entrenched in their positions

There is room for give and take in the process

I believe the process should be based on scientific information

If scientific information is inadequate I support the use of the precautionary principle (if in doubt, restrict dredging)

{Dredging proponents are entrenched in their positions}

Things I would most want to change

Process for coordination/compromise	9
More funding/research on impacts of dredging on resources	8
More site specific information on resources	7
More attention to cost minimization, consideration of impact of windows	4
More attention to impact minimization, environmental concerns higher priority	3
More flexibility in application of windows, fine tuning for specific projects (see MA)	7
More specific information in project plans/after projects completed	2
More specific criteria/protocol for windows	3

Next steps

- Resource managers use of windows
  - Case by case vs setting precedent
- Monetary costs: reduce uncertainty
- Dredging impacts: reduce uncertainty
- Safety risks: assessment
- Develop working groups?