



Beavers Beyond Boundaries: Perceptions of Beaver-Related Restoration

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Background

This urban-focused research explores the multifaceted aspects of Beaver-Related Restoration (“BRR”) within the Tualatin River watershed:

- Analyzing social and cultural dimensions associated with BRR.
- Informing effective Beaver management strategies for urban watersheds.
- Addressing stakeholder concerns and conflicts
- Promoting sustainable coexistence between humans and beavers.
- Exploring the social, cultural, and environmental dimensions of beaver restoration in urban settings.

Questions

- How do people's perceptions of a Beavers impact on the surrounding environment vary based on their proximity to watercourses?
- What are the preferred BRR management practices across distances from watercourses?
- Do those who live closet to the water course support Beaver reintroduction?

Methods

- Conducted a voluntary survey at three Tualatin urban watershed study sites (Fanno Creek, Chicken Creek, Springville) during summer and fall of 2022 with 187 participants.
- Utilized Likert-scale variables to measure participants' perceptions of beavers and their impacts on the surrounding environment.
- Analyzed survey responses to assess the relationship between distance from watercourses and perceptions of beavers, focusing on residents' support for BRR efforts.



Chicken Creek

Fig. 1 Beaver Impacts on Surrounding Environment

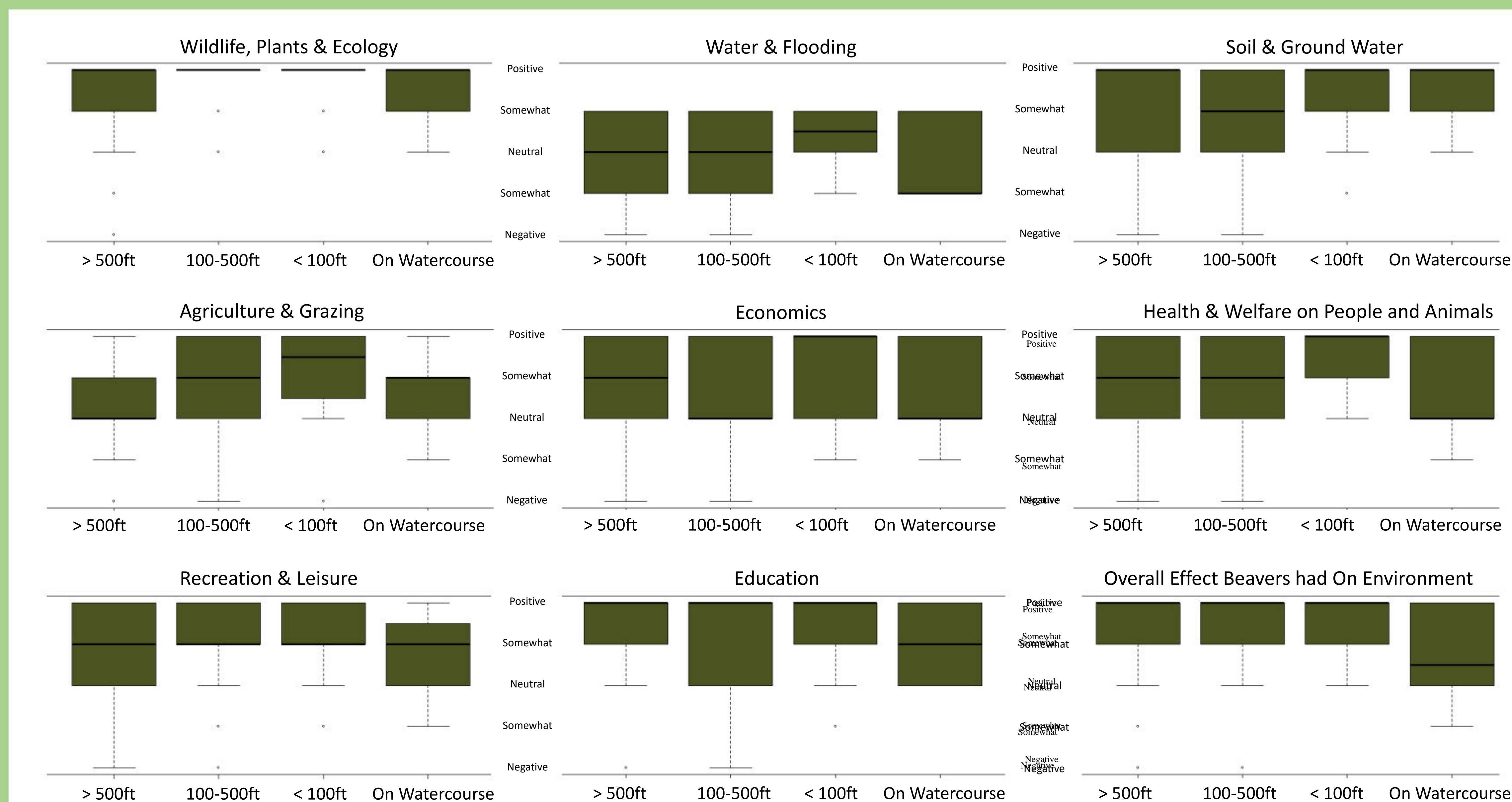
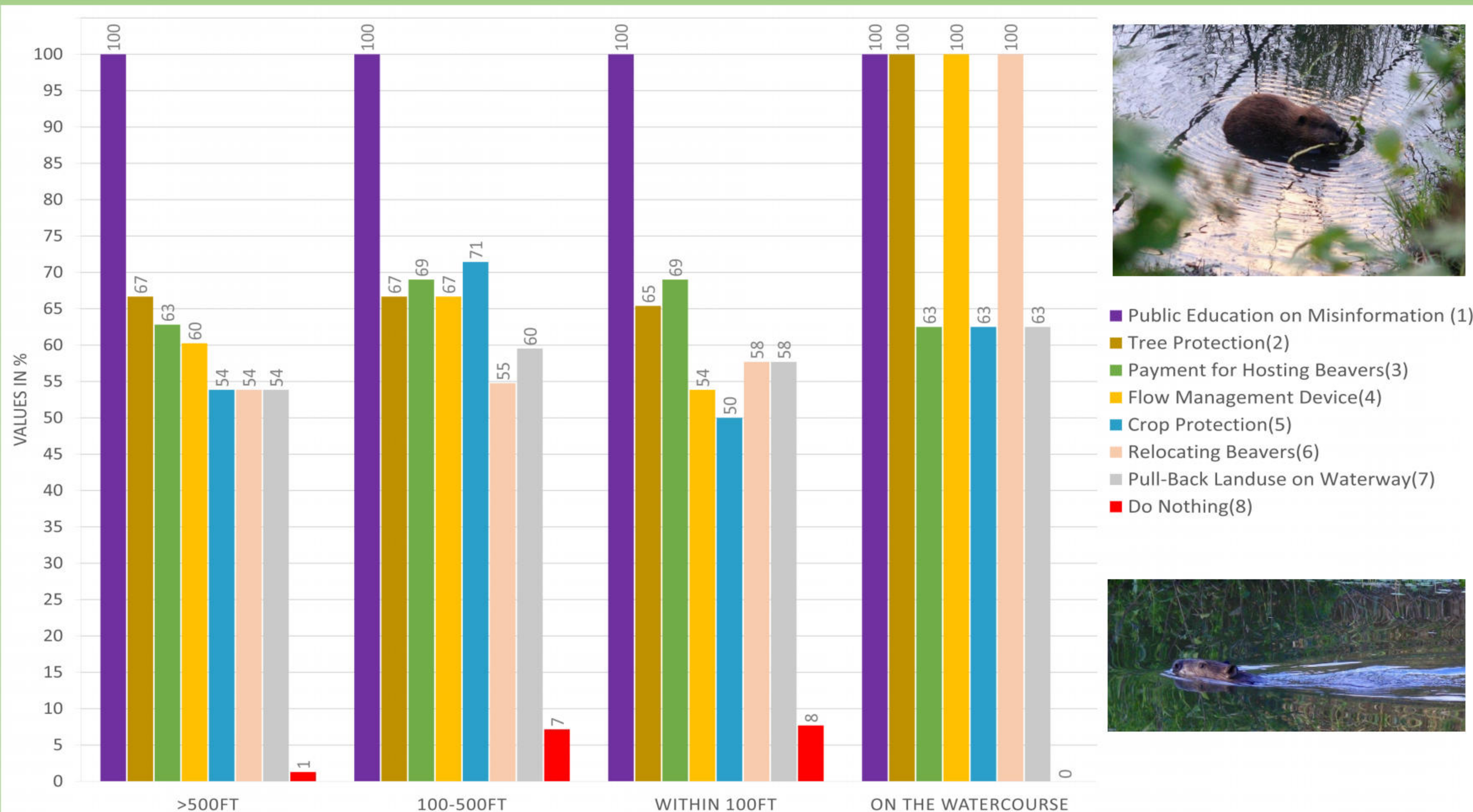


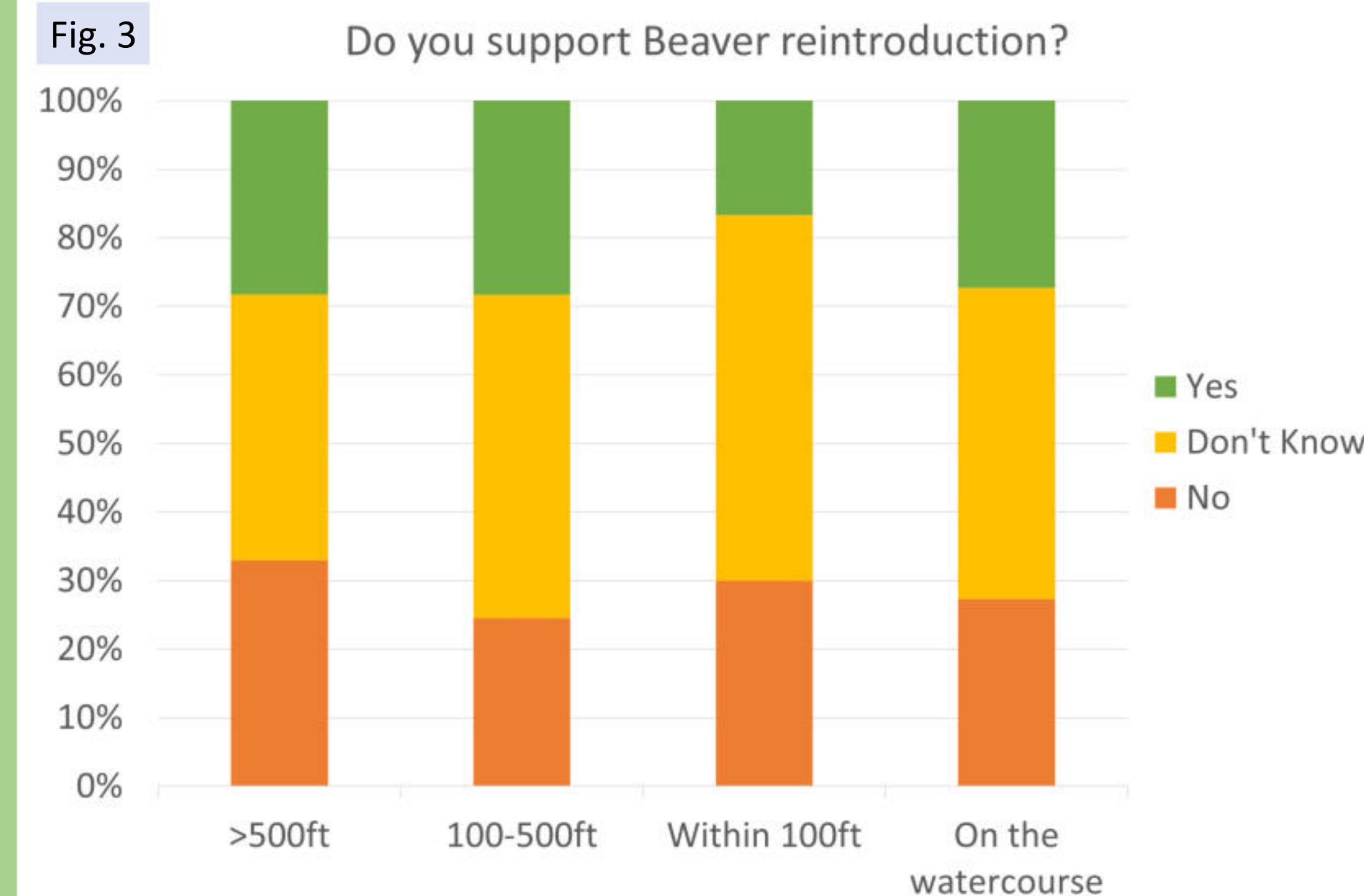
Fig. 2 Preferred BRR Management Practices Across Distances From Watercourse



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Fig. 3



Springville

Main findings

Relationship between Distance from Watercourse and perceptions of Beaver Impacts on the surrounding environment(Fig 1) :

- Distance from the watercourse had a slight impact on the perceptions of beavers on the surrounding environments, indicating attitudes may vary based on proximity to the watercourse.
- Individuals living within 100 feet of the watercourse tended to have a more positive perception on more variables compared to those living farther away.

Management practices(Fig 2) :

- On The Watercourse shows the least variance in answers, with strong support (above 62.5%) for almost all strategies.
- There is a consistent high level of support for public education on misinformation(1) across all distances from the watercourse, with all percentages being 100%. Followed by Tree protection (2), Payment for hosting Beavers (3), and Flow management devices(4).
- Residents living closer to watercourses overwhelmingly support beaver reintroduction, with over 86% expressing support within 100-500 feet and 100% within 100 feet(Fig 3). This highlights proximity as a significant factor.