



ACEP Training BE-Team Strengths Assessment



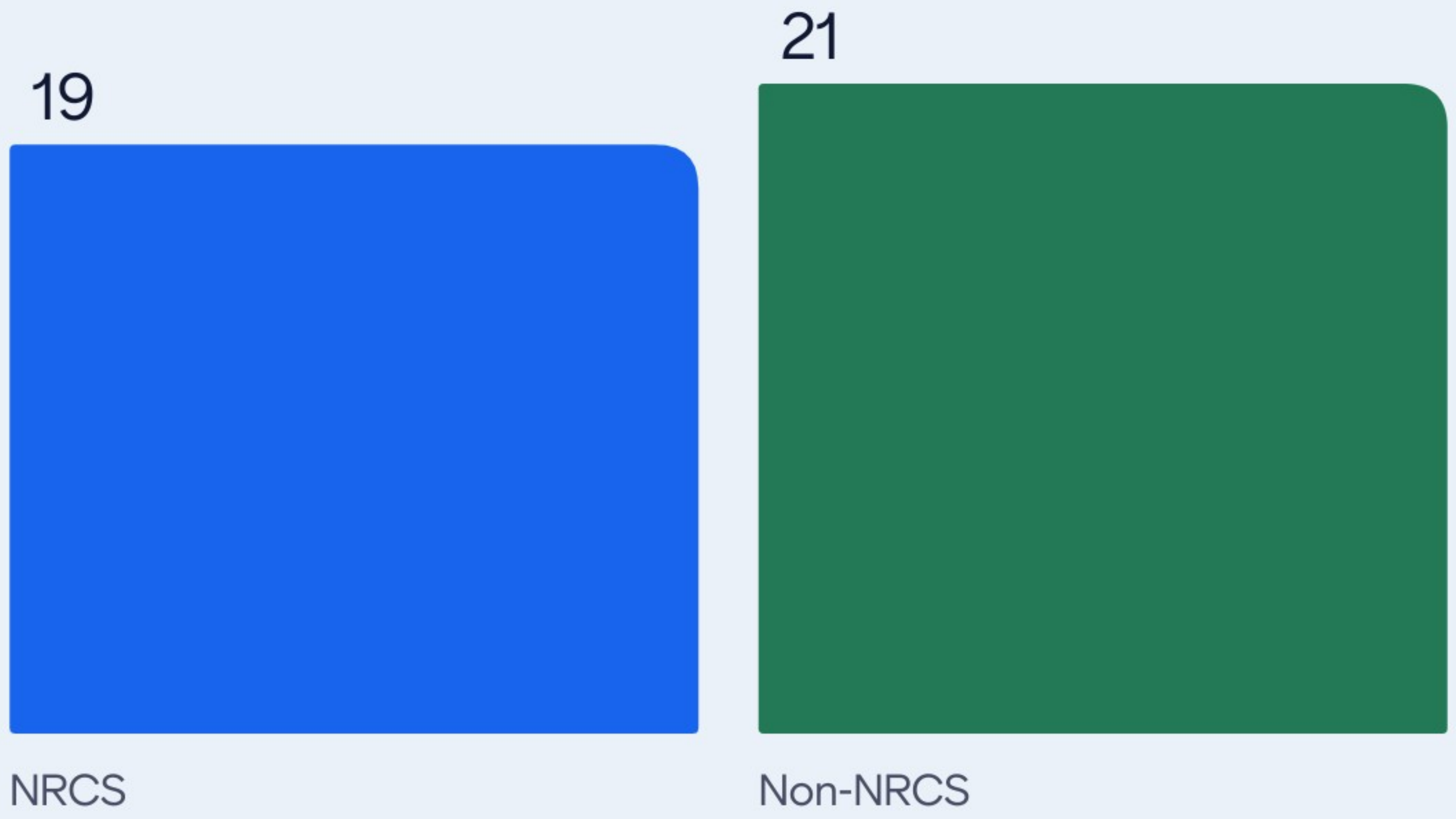


Instructions





Are you.... ?





Non-NRCS Participants



Non-NRCS Participants... What is working well with the program?

I'm too new to know...

Perpetual protection

Organized

Restorations

Partnerships and contributions

It's delivering strong products that have long and valuable futures

Critical habitats are getting protection and recognition

Appears that emphasis on management is occurring

2



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Non-NRCS Participants... What is working well with the program?

Get to see sites and learn about areas that I have not seen before

Still learning

Inceased funding through IRA

Flexibility of the program to accomidate the producer.

Permanently protected corridors.

Planning and initial involvement

Funding

Seems like a good concept, but unsure of the effectiveness



Non-NRCS Participants... What is working well with the program?

The collaboration
between partners

Scheduling
communication
Materials provided by
team lead

Opportunity to educate
private landowners

There are some awesome
wetlands that have been
restored with great program
benefits by working as
wetland teams . Very proud

Learning who is the best
contact across the state to
enroll new land owners

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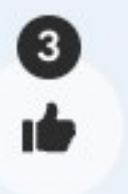


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Non-NRCS Participants... What primary areas of expertise do you bring to support ACEP delivery?
(Pick two)





Non-NRCS Participants... When during the ACEP delivery process would you like to be engaged?
(Pick all that apply)





Non-NRCS Participants... Of these, which two ACEP delivery elements do you have the greatest strength? (Pick two)



Outreach



Enrollment



Restoration planning



Restoration design

0

Construction



Monitoring



Stewardship



CUA development

4

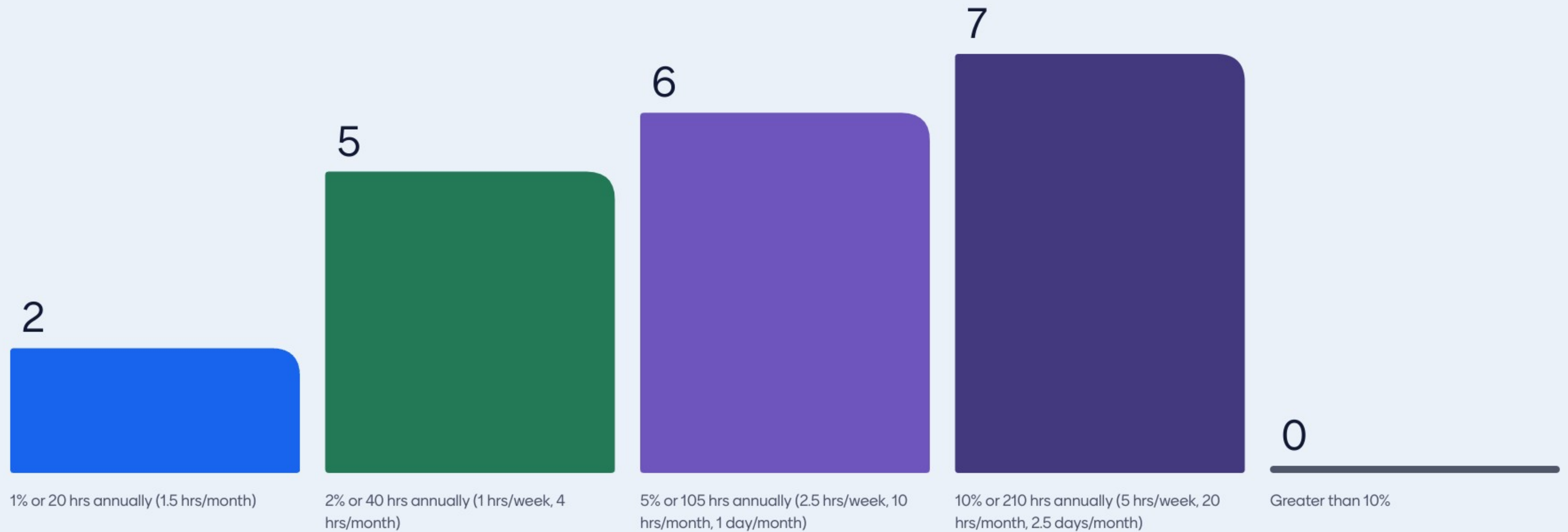


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Non-NRCS Participants... How much time can you provide to support NRCS in ACEP delivery?
(Across 52 weeks, 40 hrs/week, 2080 hrs total/year)





Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Better communication.

Clearly defined roles.

Bring us in prior
to designing restoration
plans

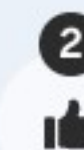
Continued team building

Don't have enough
experience to say.

Ample prior notice of
meetings/discussions.

Feedback on progress
throughout the process.

More lead time for site
visits





Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Meet more regularly -
uncertain who team
members are now or what
each has to offer

Actually listen to input
rather than saying a plan is
already in place

Too new to answer

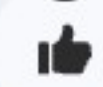
Attend relevant trainings
as a team.

More data on the
potential economic
benefit for the producer.

Communicate earlier,
with background info.

Greater lead time on new
enrollments More time
spent together looking at
existing easements and
discussing successes and
failures

Communication and
collaboration beginning
with efforts like this where
we get better acquainted
with each other and roles





Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Providing information to team before visits so they may prepare

More consistent valuation of partner input.

Have more consistent followup

Sub-committee meetings

Involve partner input more

Better communication
Being involved in the upfront process could help with better applications

Reach out for help

Haven't met since pre covid





Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Determine sub committees that would meet on a regular basis before coming together for an annual meeting

More access to NRCS policy and internal guidance information for partners.

Continued investment in BE Team concept.

Not sure yet

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Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements would you like to see made to WRE?

More intensive management

Too new to know...

Not sure yet.

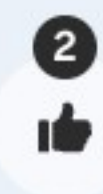
Better training or education on ranking criteria and why some projects aren't accepted

Earlier involvement in all aspects

Emphasis on high diversity local eco type seeding where appropriate.

Some recent policies are harmful to the restoration potential of a wetland

Less delay in stewardship practices





Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements would you like to see made to WRE?

More follow-up on post-restoration management

More consistent communication

A better understanding in ranking to get the right landowner in the door.

Our be team is basically non-existent, know who leader is but no communication in years. We are stronger together

Be better about communicating with partners

Reevaluate goals of program and make those clear to everyone integrate management with neighboring properties when feasible

Increased roles of partners in multiple aspects including ranking and restoration design.

More management education

2



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Non-NRCS Participants... What improvements would you like to see made to WRE?

More frequent management

More opportunities for partner agreements to help with implementation.

This session has been great

Shared focus on positive outcomes by working together

Historic imagery we may not have access to.

Imagery on site/proximity to other wetlands, soils, really anything relevant

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Non-NRCS Participants... What materials would you like NRCS to provide you ahead of a site visit with the BE-Team?

Map of project area with boundary

Short summary of why landowner decided to apply

Landowner info

Location

Lots of maps

Historic imagery we may not have access to.

Doesn't apply to us.

Site map, soils map, meeting with landowner at visit would be helpful too

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Non-NRCS Participants... What materials would you like NRCS to provide you ahead of a site visit with the BE-Team?

Landowner info and maps

Any current plans or designs that have already been made

Landowner information

Maps and any notes from conversations with landowners and current idea of plan

Summary of where we are in the process. If there has been any pre visit work it would be nice to have some of that prior to the site visit.

maps and property info

Maps

Historic imagery that isn't easily available to non-NRCS staff

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Non-NRCS Participants... What materials would you like NRCS to provide you ahead of a site visit with the BE-Team?

Maps, soil types and landowner information.

Enough lead time for scheduling

History of the site

Background-landowner motivations and direction, maps

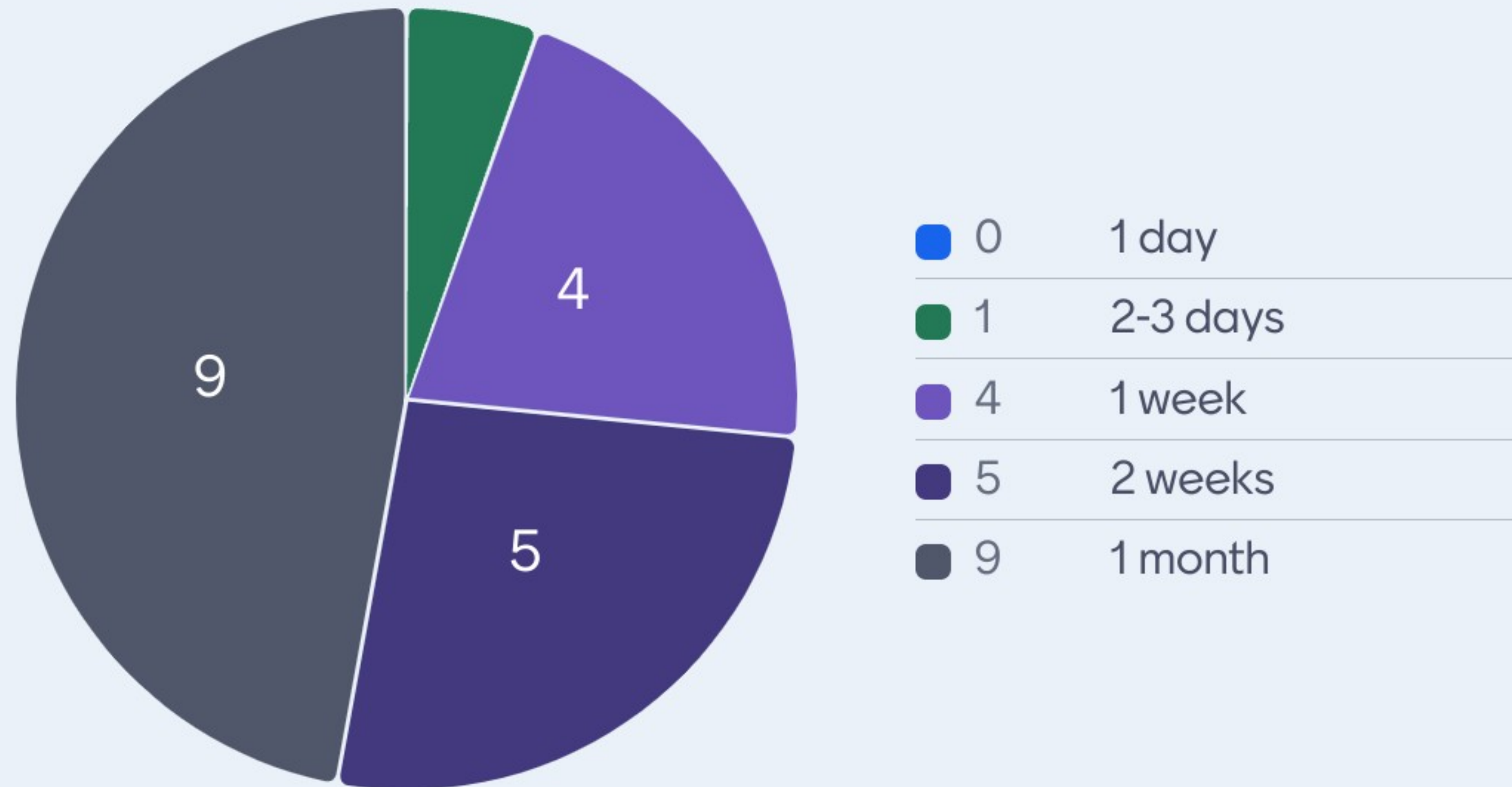
For existing sites, perhaps any existing CUAs and the original restoration plan. Many new people don't have site histories on file.

Any information they have that they'll be using to make their assessments/determinations/recommendations...





Non-NRCS Participants... How much lead time do you ideally need for scheduling a site visit?





NRCS Participants



NRCS Participants... What is working well with the program?

Uncertain

Good input from partners on applications

Partners provide input on topics NRCS lacks knowledge in

More emphasis on easements from the agency.

Willingness from partners to provide input.

Partner involvement

Restoration and program requirements including monitoring is being met

Recruiting of new landowners to the program

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NRCS Participants... What is working well with the program?

Renewed interest in connecting with partners. And new focus via staffing structure to accomplish task.

Improved leadership.

Collaboration in determining eligibility and how to proceed with the preliminary design.

Partner involvement is good

Working relationship with the RWBJV

Partner collaborations and increased stewardship on the easements.

Onsite planning and design discussions

The combination of engineering and biological influences are in a good state right now

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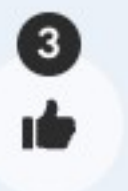


NRCS Participants... What skill sets could partners bring that would be most beneficial to support NRCS delivery of ACEP? (Pick two)





NRCS Participants... Of the skills listed, which two does NRCD need the most input? (Pick two)





NRCS Participants... When during the ACEP delivery process are you engaged? (Pick all that apply)



Outreach



Enrollment



Restoration planning



Restoration design



Construction



Monitoring



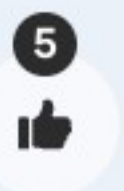
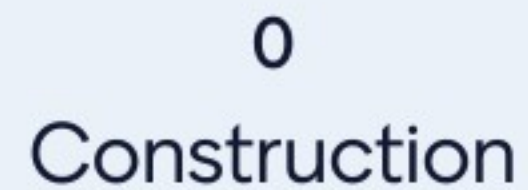
Stewardship



CUA development



NRCS Participants... Of the ACEP delivery elements listed, which does NRCS need the most assistance with? (Pick TWO)





NRCS Participants... What would be the most beneficial assistance partners could provide?

Outreach

OUTREACH

Being available.

Outreach

Collaboration

Coat share on things NRCS can't pay for.

Provide input on effective restoration and ongoing management to meet ecological objectives of program on individual sites.

Ecological expertise



NRCS Participants... What would be the most beneficial assistance partners could provide?

Restoration concepts

Collaboration

Outreach and assistance with recruiting new easement applicants.

Ecological assessment of what the wetland would have historically been

Collaboration when planning

Outreach and collaboration.

History of sites and/or past conservation activities in the area.

Outreach

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NRCS Participants... What would be the most beneficial assistance partners could provide?

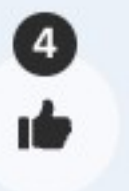
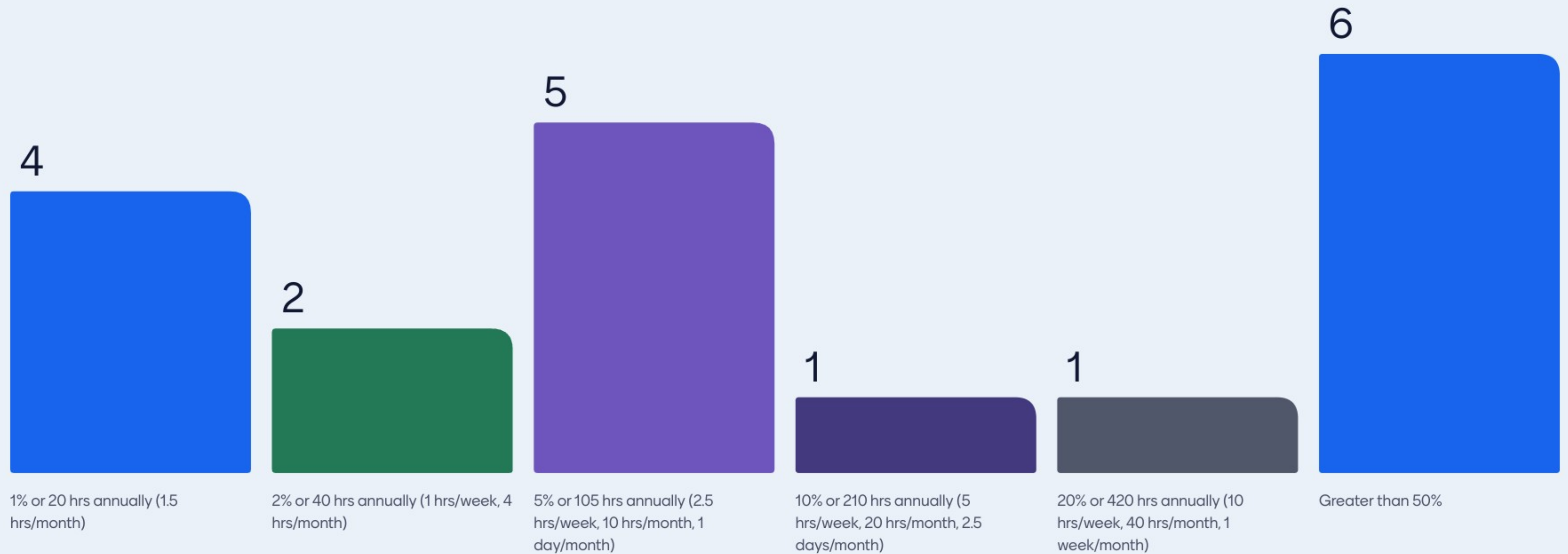
Management input

Help make the NRCS monitoring more efficient by assisting with input and recommendations -

Concise collaboration



NRCS Participants... In your position, how much time do you spend on ACEP delivery? (Across 52 weeks, 40 hrs/week, 2080 hrs total/year)





NRCS Participants... What is the most productive input the partners provide during BE-Team site visits?

Restoration planning

Ecological expertise

Design considerations
for wildlife

Promotion of the
program

Have not participated in
BE-Team site visit.

Restoration/enhanceme
nt planning

Concept plans

Ecological
considerations

5



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NRCS Participants... What is the most productive input the partners provide during BE-Team site visits?

Opinions from different perspectives on restoration and management.

Their knowledge specific to their discipline

Ideas from a different point of view

Restoration planning

Ecological expertise

Access to other tools that are beneficial .

Information on environmental aspects of the project

Recommendations on restoration techniques and ongoing management to meet program objectives and assist landowners with meeting their goals.

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NRCS Participants... What is the most productive input the partners provide during BE-Team site visits?

Brainstorming

How they can fill gaps with their funding to certain areas of the easements

Wetland management

Past experience with landowners, the public.

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NRCS Participants... What would be most beneficial assistance BE-Team members could provide?

Technical assistance

Expertise and ecological knowledge

Wetland management

Varied perspectives and experience.

Assistance and planning for the restoration

Input in their area of expertise.

Open mindedness

We fall short in communication after a site visit. Maybe notes in an email afterwards on thoughts you had on site.

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NRCS Participants... What would be most beneficial assistance BE-Team members could provide?

Constructive input from their experiences.

Providing input on how the wetland would have historically functioned to aid in planning

Assisting with recruitment of landowners to engage in stewardship activities.

TA and alternative funding

Concise biological recommendations to streamline planning and design process

On site evaluations.

Ecological knowledge and restoration plan brainstorming

Ideas for how restoration methods match targeted site conditions. Same with management.





NRCS Participants... What would be most beneficial assistance BE-Team members could provide?

All the disciplines coming together on ideas and plans

Helping us to better understand how the project fits in to the established projects in the area

Better communication and update of changing personnel and contact information





NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Having information reviewed before site visit

Better communication throughout restoration process

Follow up meetings either online or in person to increase collaboration

Quicker response for site visits.

Find ways for involvement that are efficient. A joint site visit is useful but may not always be necessary.

Site visits planned as soon as the application comes in the door.

Uncertain.

Incorporating additional partners where possible.





NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Consistent communication platform utilization i.e. Teams

An understanding of the program's limitations

Detailed emails, including notes and maps about the site we plan to visit.

More flexibility in scheduling

More organization and planning ahead of time so we are all on the same page on the day of the site visit

Provide as much information as we can or they ask for.

Providing information to review prior to the meetings and keeping all partners involved throughout the project

More meetings





NRCS Participants... What improvements could be made to maximize BE-Team efficiency?

Create a list serve alias for Teams

Pre site meeting teams meeting to review upcoming field visits





NRCS Participants... What is your top priority to improve BE-Team efficiency?

Communicate

Organization regarding site visits

Uncertain.

Better communication

Communicate more often and effectively

Communication at all levels on program information, individual sites, etc.

Keeping partners engaged even after the initial site visit.

Better communication between team members prior to final design

3



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NRCS Participants... What is your top priority to improve BE-Team efficiency?

Open minded collaboration across the board

Providing as much information as we can prior to site visits

Quicker flow of information between NRCS and the BE-Team.

Communication

Find out who the BE teams are

3



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NRCS Participants... When you request partner feedback, when is your desired response time to ensure feedback can be integrated?

