



Western Washington University  
**Western CEDAR**

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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Seattle, Wash.)

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Apr 5th, 3:45 PM - 4:00 PM

## **Floodplains by Design: Advancing a new generation of holistic floodplain practices and projects**

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Carey, Bob and Morse, Julie Anne, "Floodplains by Design: Advancing a new generation of holistic floodplain practices and projects" (2018). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 384.  
<https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2018ssec/allsessions/384>

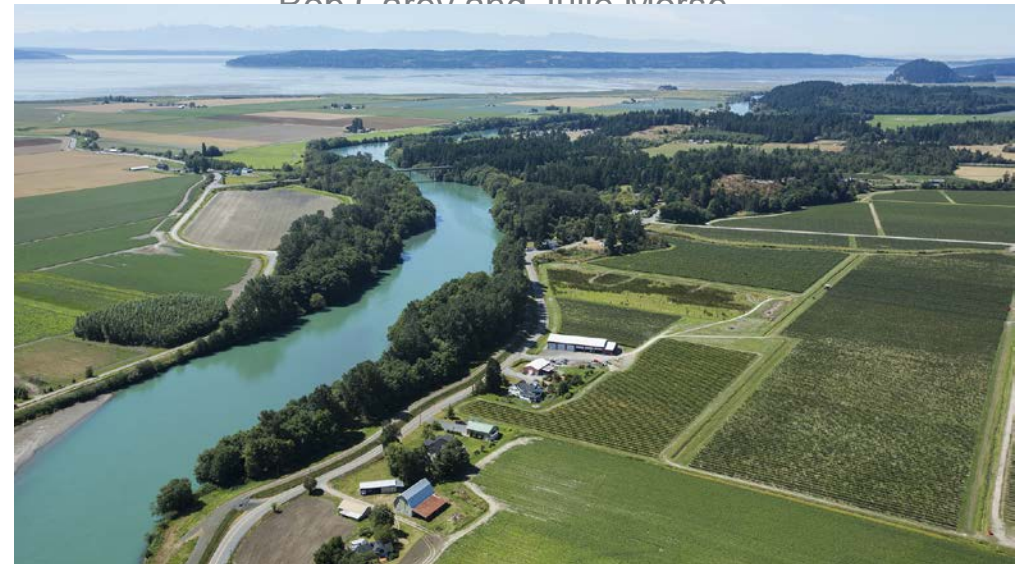
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# Floodplains by Design

2.0 Advancing a new generation of floodplain management

Bob Carey and Julie Morse



**Floodplains by Design**

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The Nature Conservancy 



**Floodplains by Design**

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# Floodplains by Design

## Partner Survey 2017 Results



**Floodplains by Design**

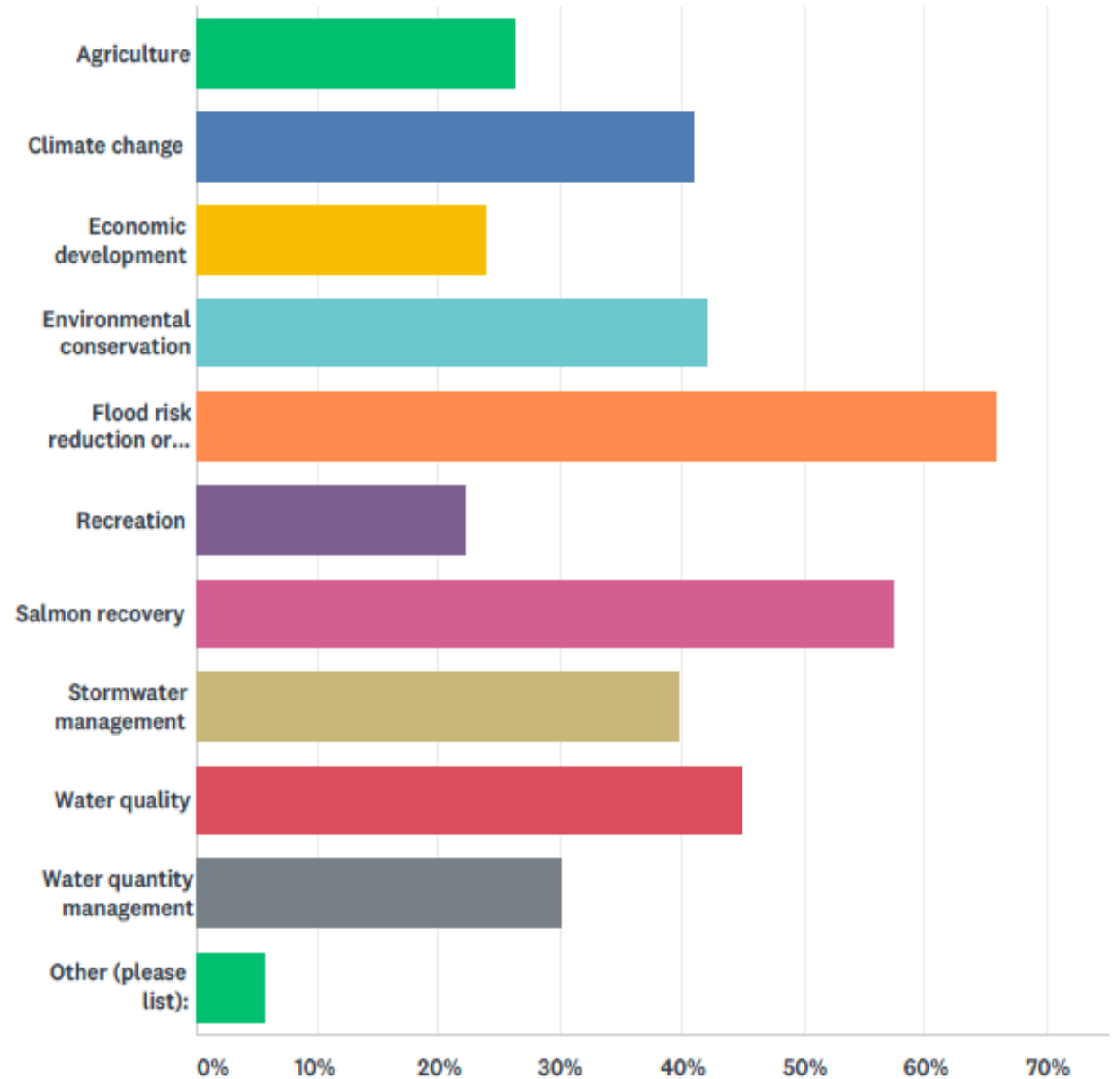
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# Partner Survey

181 respondents

from **20+ watersheds**  
with diverse perspectives



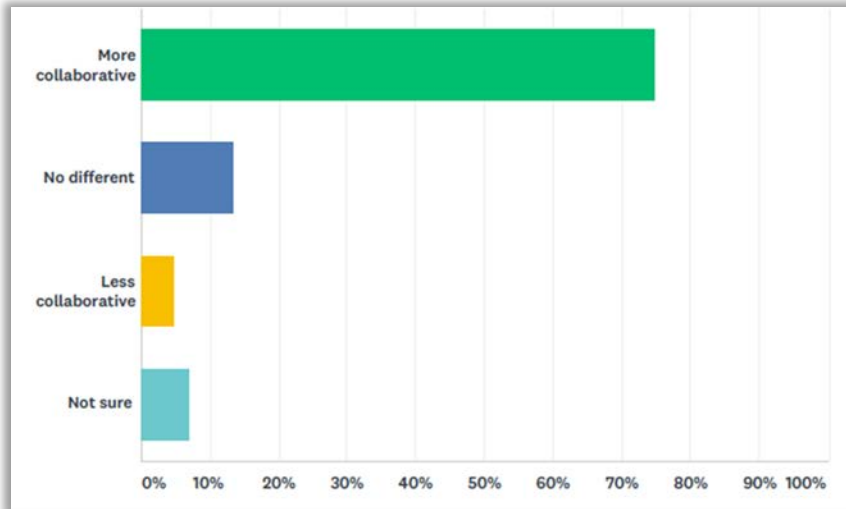
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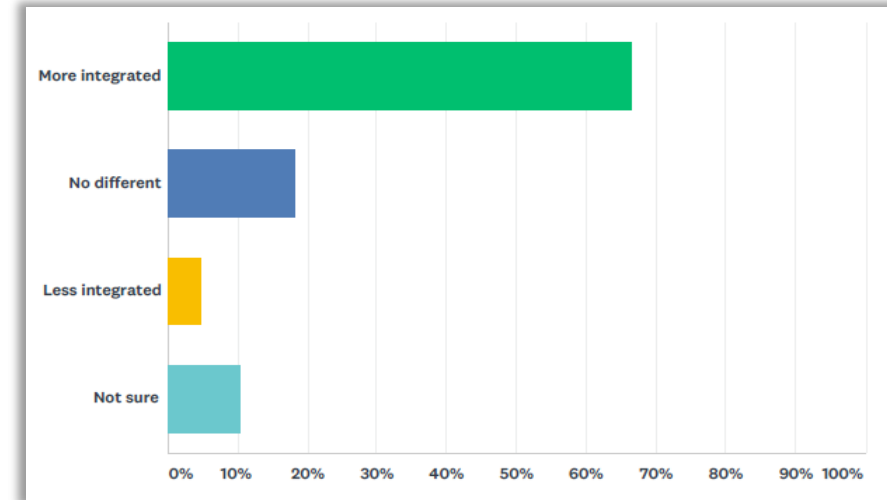


# Partner Survey - 5 Year Trends

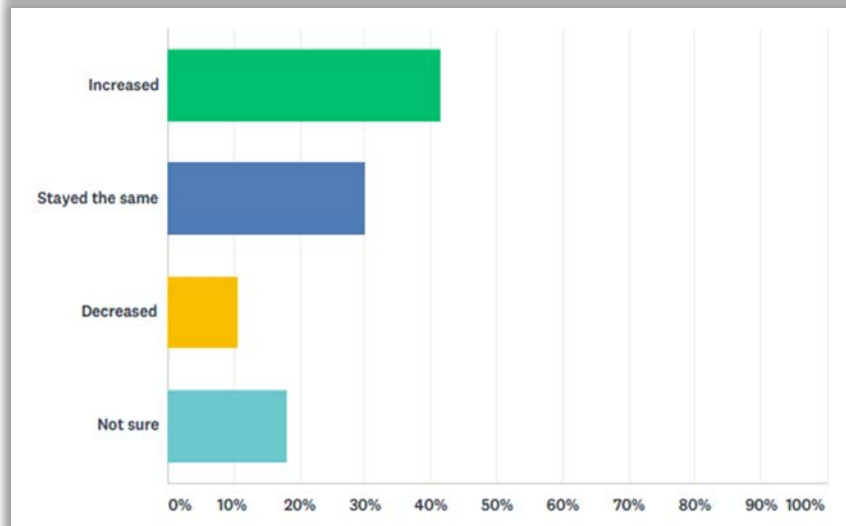
## Collaboration



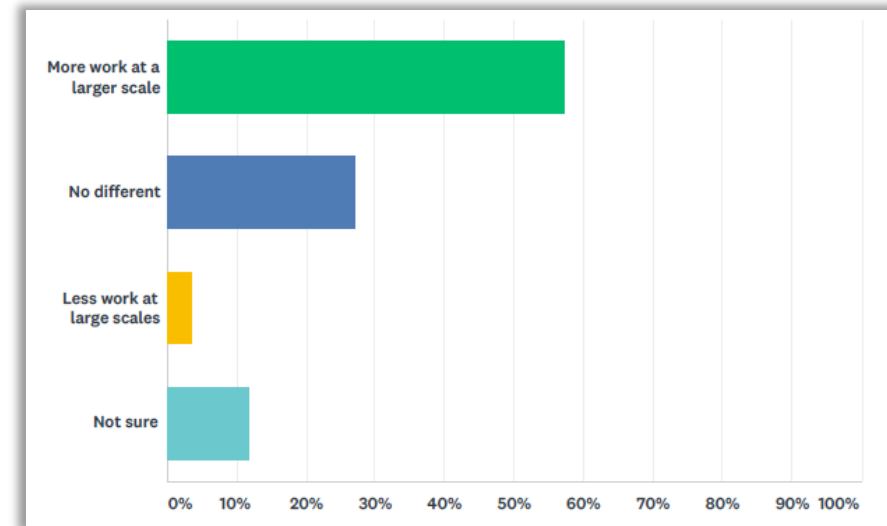
## Integration



## Support for Green Infrastructure



## Scale



# Flood risk and Salmon habitat

~Half of respondents say flood protection and salmon habitat are **better than it was 5 years ago**, due to habitat restoration projects.

**But...**

*“Despite restoration actions, there is so much development pressure in the region it is hard to say things are getting better.”*



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# Vulnerability of farms

~Half of respondents say farms are **more vulnerable** now than they were 5 years ago.

Respondents with a particular interest in farms were even more worried, with **72% saying things are getting worse.**



# Floodplains by Design: past and future

## 2013-2017 *Prove its Possible*

### DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING

- know-how,
- FbD grants program,
- pilots & projects,
- collaborative processes,
- initial management structures, and
- workshops

## 2018-2023 *Make it the Norm*

### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



Broaden and deepen  
**REACH**



Increase  
**RESOURCES**



Increase **CAPACITY** and  
improve management  
systems



Document and  
**COMMUNICATE**  
benefits



Improve  
**REGULATORY/POLICY**  
framework

# How Integrated is our Floodplain Management ?



**SHARED VISION**

- + No shared vision or very general shared vision
- ++ Multi-interest shared vision not yet tightly linked to actions
- +++ Multi-interest shared vision directly linked to actions



**GOALS**

- + Some interests have clearly articulated needs and goals, others may not
- ++ All interests have needs and goals that are known by other interests
- +++ All interests have needs and goals that are integrated and actively shared



**INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES**

- + Collaborative efforts are unstructured and ad-hoc
- ++ Efforts are staffed, structures are clear, and decision-making is defined
- +++ Collaboration is institutionalized with organizational support



**COLLABORATION**

- + Collaboration may result in mutual support for individual actions
- ++ Mutual support for actions coordinated on the landscape
- +++ Multi-benefit and individual interest actions coordinated on landscape



**PARTICIPANTS**

- + Actions are defined by one or two agencies with multiple interests in mind
- ++ A variety of stakeholders are at the table and participating
- +++ All people affected by the decision are participating



**TECHNICAL STUDIES**

- + No understanding of the river system dynamics
- ++ Technical studies have been done but don't yet lead to integrated and prioritized actions
- +++ Technical studies have led to integrated actions and sequencing



**ACTIONS**

- + Package of site-specific individual interest actions; may or may not conflict
- ++ Package of individual interest actions that don't conflict
- +++ Package of single interest and multi-benefit actions that don't conflict



**SCALE**

- + Actions are coordinated at the site-scale only, at one or more discrete sites
- ++ Actions are coordinated at a large-site or small-reach scale
- +++ Actions are coordinated at a reach or watershed scale



**CLIMATE IMPACTS**

- + Watershed-specific climate impacts are not understood or addressed
- ++ Climate impacts may be addressed in individual project designs
- +++ Climate projections addressed through location, sequence, and design of durable projects



**MEASURING SUCCESS**

- + No tracking in place to assess change over time
- ++ Limited ability to measure success within certain interests, actions, or reaches
- +++ Sophisticated ability to measure success across landscape



# Vision

*By 2030, integrated floodplain management becomes the preferred way of resolving **interrelated water, flood, and fish issues** across Washington's floodplains, leading to resilient communities and ecosystems that **sustain nature, people, fish, farms, and the economy.***

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