Survey Results: Funding Priorities, Caps and Minimums

Karen Carney, Abt Associates
January 17, 2024

Funding Allocation Principles

- To meet the settlement language and the three Priority 2 goals, the Co-Trustees will allocate specific amounts of funding to different project types (e.g., wildlife/habitat restoration, outdoor recreation)
 - Will help ensure that Priority 2 funding addresses all three goals and supports multiple project types
 - Will ask proposer to identify the project's primary purpose to determine its allocation 'bin'
- During the evaluation, projects will be compared against other projects within the same allocation
 - ➤ Wildlife/habitat restoration projects will compete against other wildlife/habitat restoration projects and outdoor recreation projects will compete against other outdoor recreation projects

Funding Priority Principles (cont.)

- ➤ If a situation arises where funding remains under a certain allocation after all proposed projects have been considered, remaining funds can be re-allocated to other project types.
- Funding caps for individual projects may or may not be used, depending on how funding is allocated across project types.

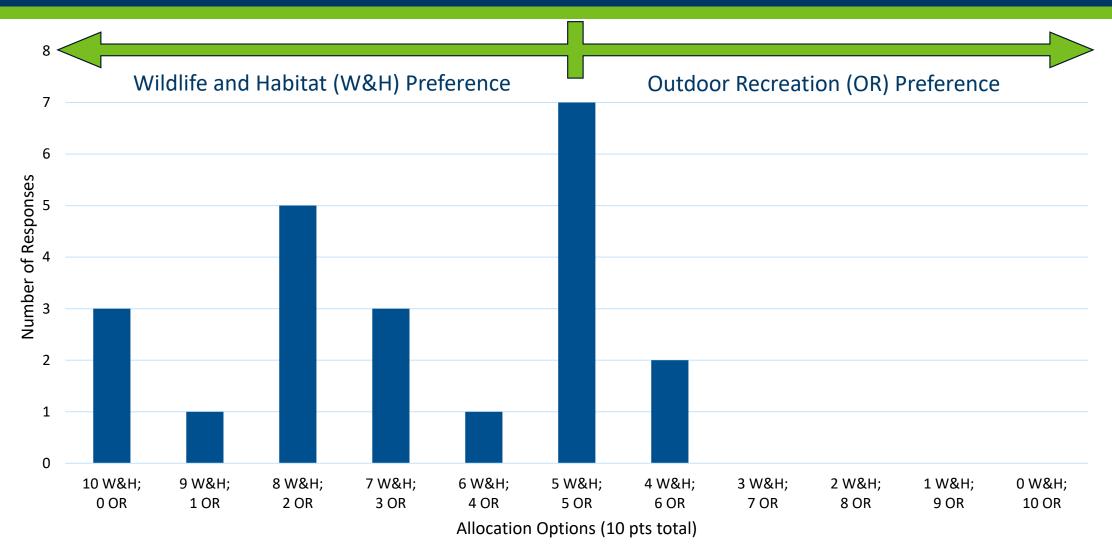
Work Group Survey

- Survey Sections
 - > Funding Priorities
 - ➤ Wildlife and habitat restoration vs. outdoor recreation
 - > PFAS-sensitive vs. non-PFAS sensitive
 - > Recreational fishing vs. other outdoor recreation
 - ➤ Project Funding Caps and Minimums
- 22 responses from Work Group members

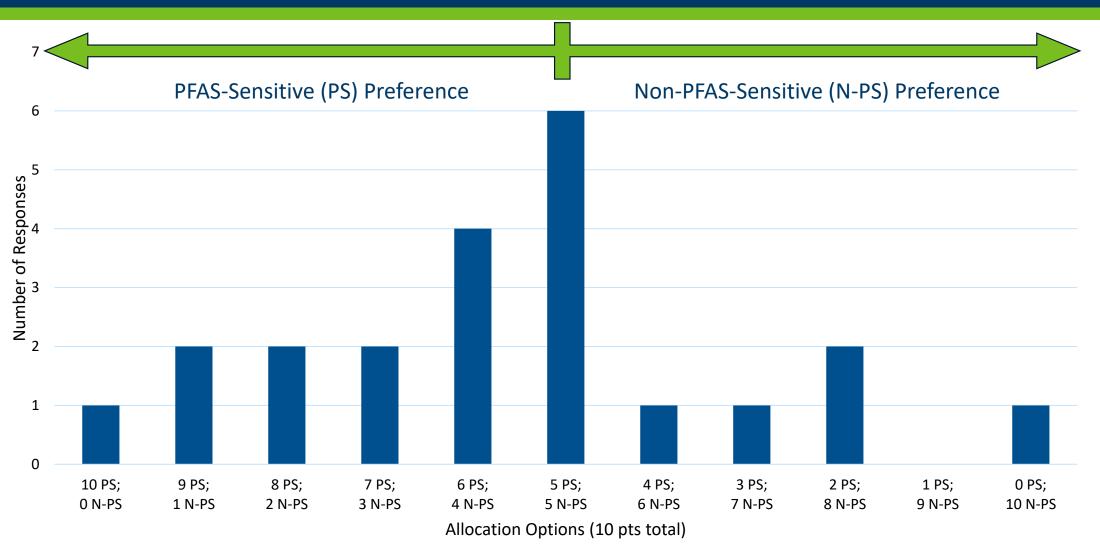
Survey Question Example

2.	Comparison 1: Wildlife and habitat restoration vs. outdoor recreation. Please indicate how you would allocate 10 points between these two project types. Higher points should be given to the category you think should be more highly prioritized for Priority 2 funding. *
	<u>Wildlife and habitat restoration examples</u> : habitat protection, wetland restoration, aquatic connectivity <u>Outdoor recreation examples</u> : recreational trails, bird viewing platforms, fishing piers
	10 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 0 points to outdoor recreation
	9 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 1 point to outdoor recreation
	8 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 2 points to outdoor recreation
	7 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 3 points to outdoor recreation
	6 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 4 points to outdoor recreation
	5 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 5 points to outdoor recreation
	4 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 6 points to outdoor recreation
	3 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 7 points to outdoor recreation
	2 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 8 points to outdoor recreation
	1 point to wildlife and habitat restoration; 9 points to outdoor recreation
	0 points to wildlife and habitat restoration; 10 points to outdoor recreation

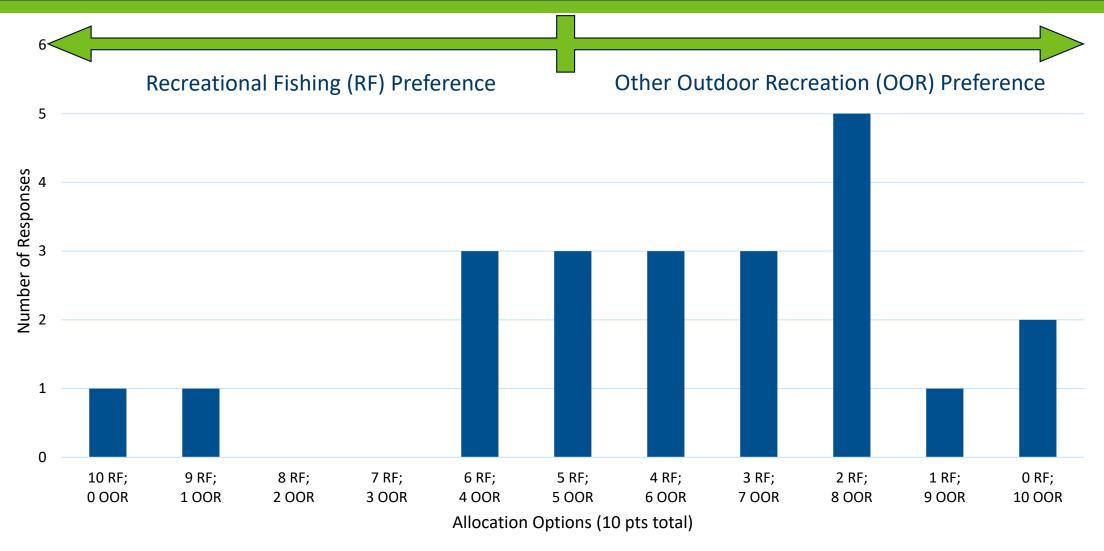
Comparison 1: Wildlife and Habitat Restoration vs. Outdoor Recreation



Comparison 2: PFAS-sensitive vs. Non-PFAS-sensitive



Comparison 3: Recreational Fishing Projects vs. Other Outdoor Recreation



Funding Priority Survey Take Homes

Take homes:

- Comparison 1: Wildlife and habitat restoration vs. outdoor recreation
 - Preference toward wildlife and habitat restoration
 - 5/5 split was the most frequently selected
- Comparison 2: PFAS-sensitive vs. non-PFAS sensitive
 - Slight preference toward PFAS-sensitive
 - 5/5 split was the most frequently selected
- Comparison 3: Recreational fishing vs. other outdoor recreation
 - Strong preference toward other outdoor recreation
 - 2/8 (RF/OOR) was the most frequently selected

Qualitative Work Group Feedback

Respondents noted:

- "I allocated points based on my concern that the most important focus of this funding should be towards wildlife and not human recreation. Anything that we can do to restore the health of the wildlife also improves our lives."
- "Correcting the wrong should be the highest priority. Fishing is a significant issue, but not the only one."
- "It should focus a great deal on public awareness and education. With the amount of funding available, costly habitat projects may use up the funding quickly, minimizing the potential reach to the public. Educational projects may be less costly and can reach a larger audience."



Funding Caps and Minimums

Overall Work Group Feedback

Funding Caps

- Had a wide-ranging mix of thoughts and feedback
 - No project caps
 - Varying caps based on project type
 - Equal caps for all projects

Funding Minimum

- Recognition of burdensome administrative cost for small projects
- Desire to have projects provide a meaningful impact

Project Funding Cap Qualitative Work Group Feedback

Respondents noted:

- "No funding caps for individual project. The viability of a good project should not be limited by a funding cap."
- "As a former Grants Administrator, I believe the caps should be different by project types and impacts. Some projects are going to be inherently more expensive, but if the outcomes are also greater, they should be considered."
- "Within major project categories, I think individual projects should also have funding caps in order to ensure that multiple organizations (6-10, at least) could get funding."

Project Minimum Qualitative Work Group Feedback

- "The key issue is what is a minimum cost that would still enable a high value project in terms of benefits to meet priority 2 goals. Secondarily is the amount of administrative effort required to review a potentially larger number of grant applications and to administer the grants."
- "I think the projects should be larger and meaningful. Maybe a \$100,000 minimum.
 Anything less would be lost in the noise. Also, if we are going to have follow-up on projects, I think a few larger projects would be more manageable just because of number of projects to review."
- "Project funding should be sufficient to make it worth the applying organizations' time and effort to apply, and to be sure that projects are big enough to make a difference."

Questions?

Questions on the survey results?

