



# Clear Creek BoCC Update

Clear Creek County

Recreation in the Outdoors Management Plan

Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023



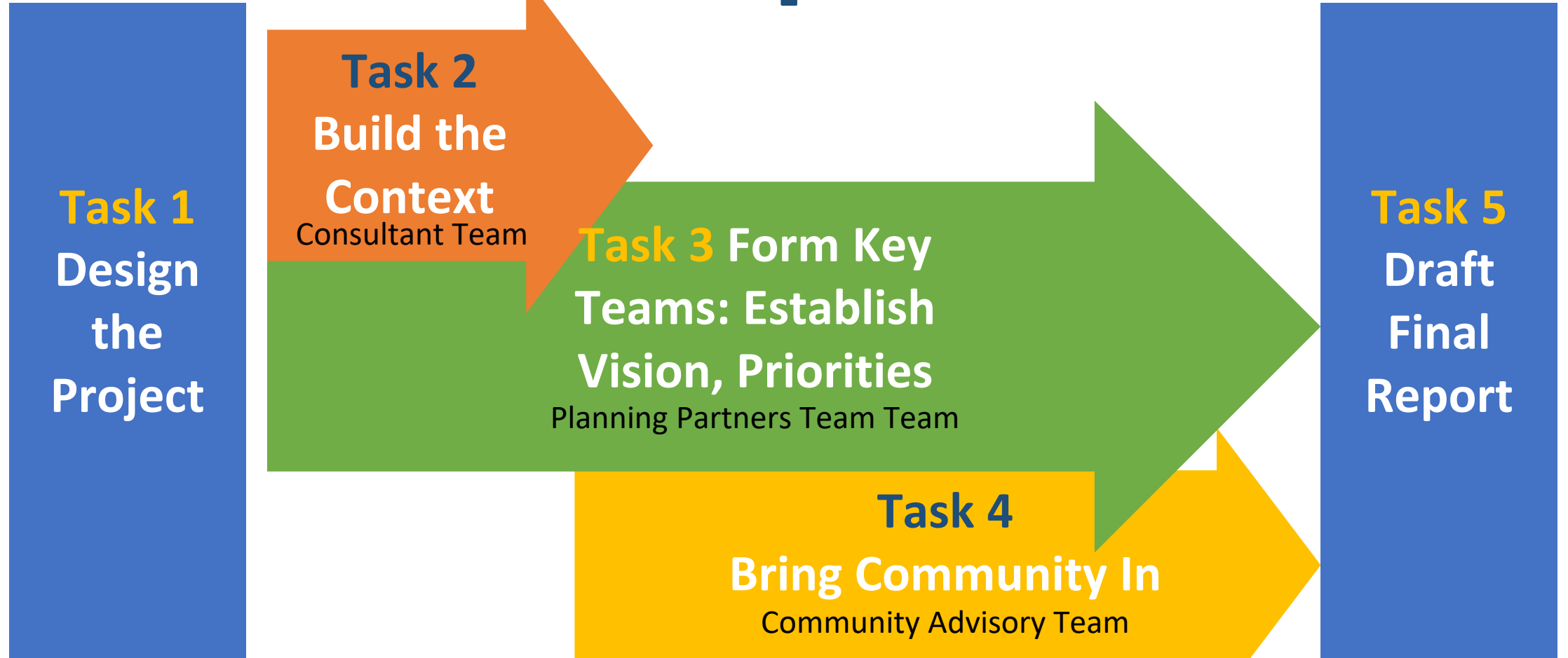
KEYSTONE  
POLICY CENTER

# Presentation Outline

- Intro/Brief Process Refresh
- Community Survey Results
- Possible Projects List
- Discussion

# Intro/Brief Process Refresh

# ROMP Scope of Work



Interagency Team guiding the project, adding resources, managing scope, pace, etc.

# ROMP progress to date

## Actions

- User survey
- X# 1-1 interviews
- Draft research report compiling current context
- **3 half-day Planning Partners Team meetings (#4 occurs this week)**
- **3 Interagency Team meetings**
- **Community Advisory Team Meeting**
- **Community Survey (400 participants)**

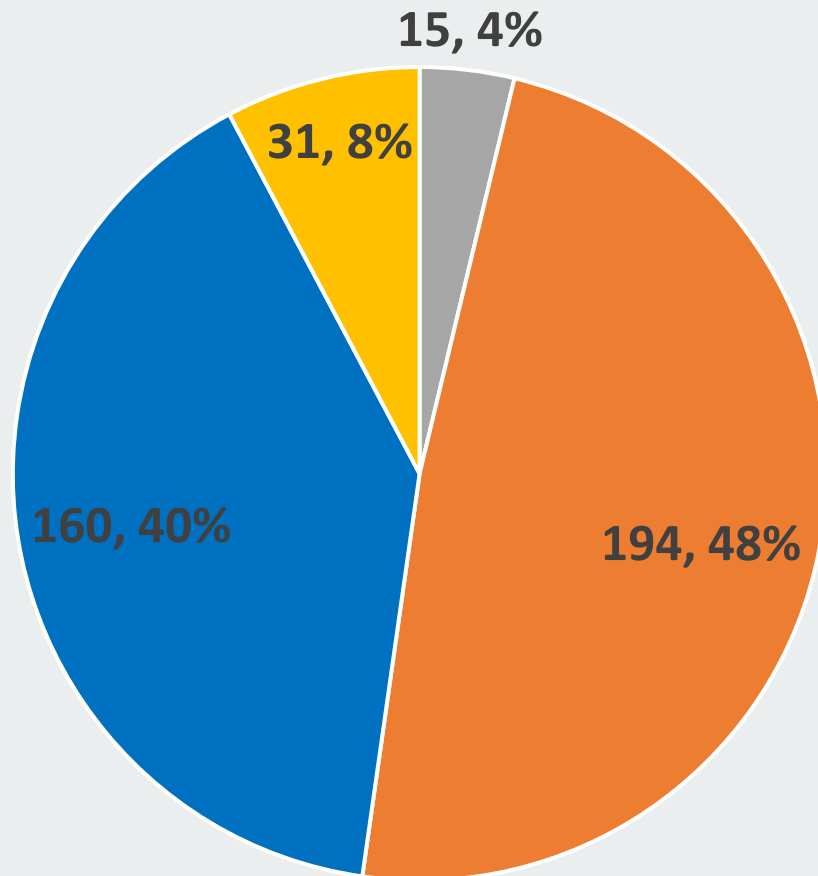
## Content

- Draft Vision Statement
- Draft Values, Goals, Needs and Opportunities
- Draft Possible Projects

# ROMP Community Survey

Preliminary Findings

# Where do you live in Clear Creek County?

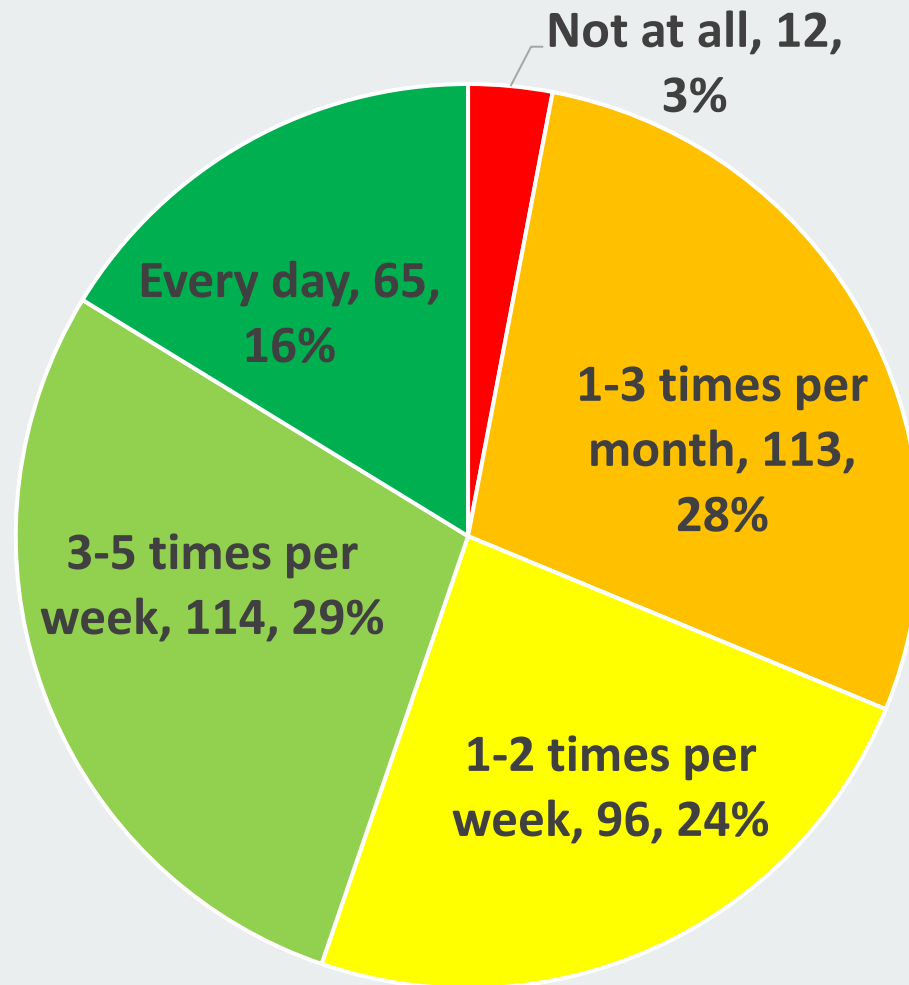


- Not in Clear Creek County (please note, this survey is for part- and full-time residents of Clear Creek County)
- In one of the municipalities (Empire, Georgetown, Idaho Springs, Silver Plume)
- In an unincorporated area of Clear Creek County near or along an access point to a popular recreational amenity
- Elsewhere in unincorporated Clear Creek County in a secluded area without popular recreation access points

N=400

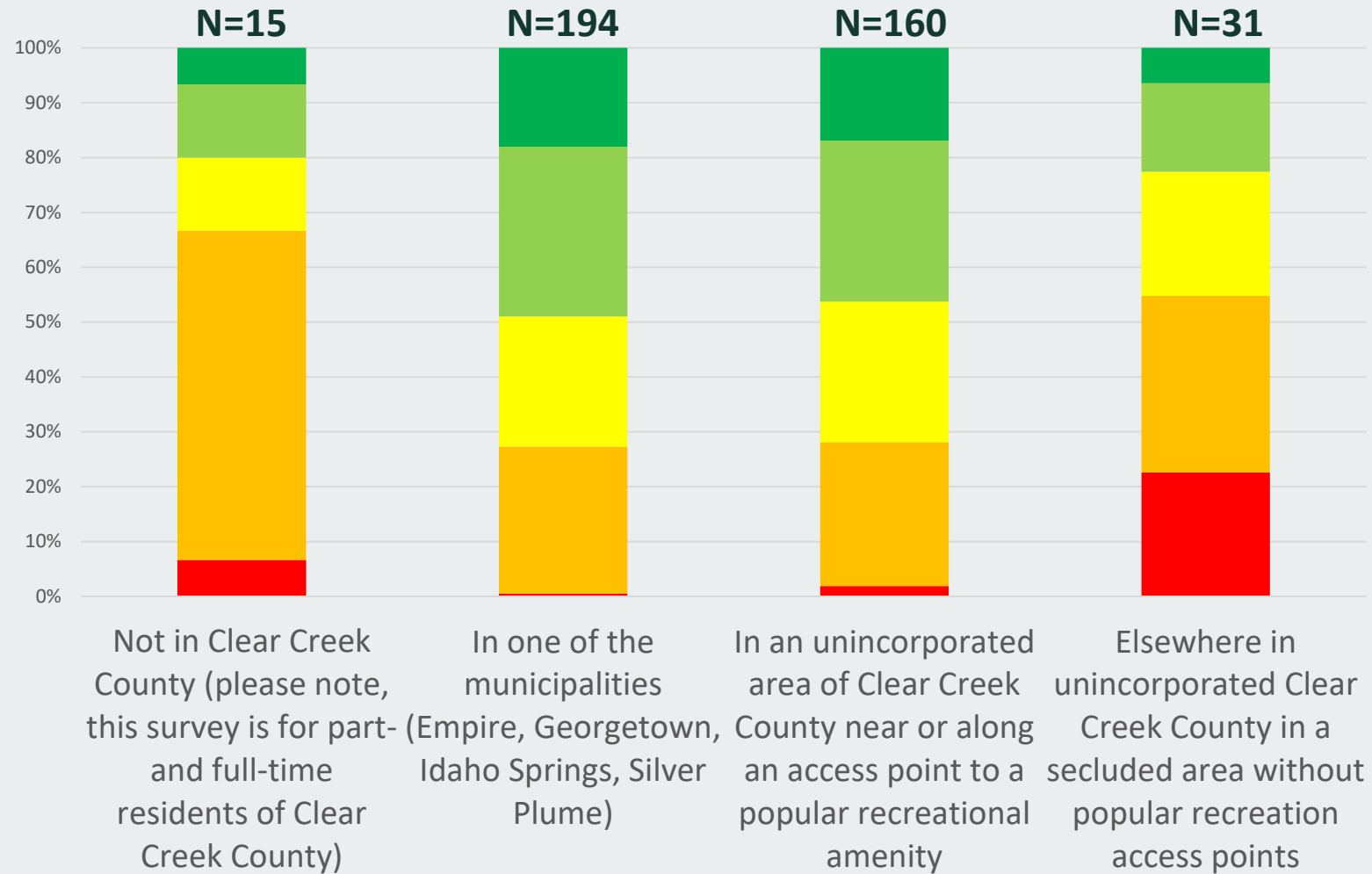
Residents = 385

# How often do you recreate in the County?





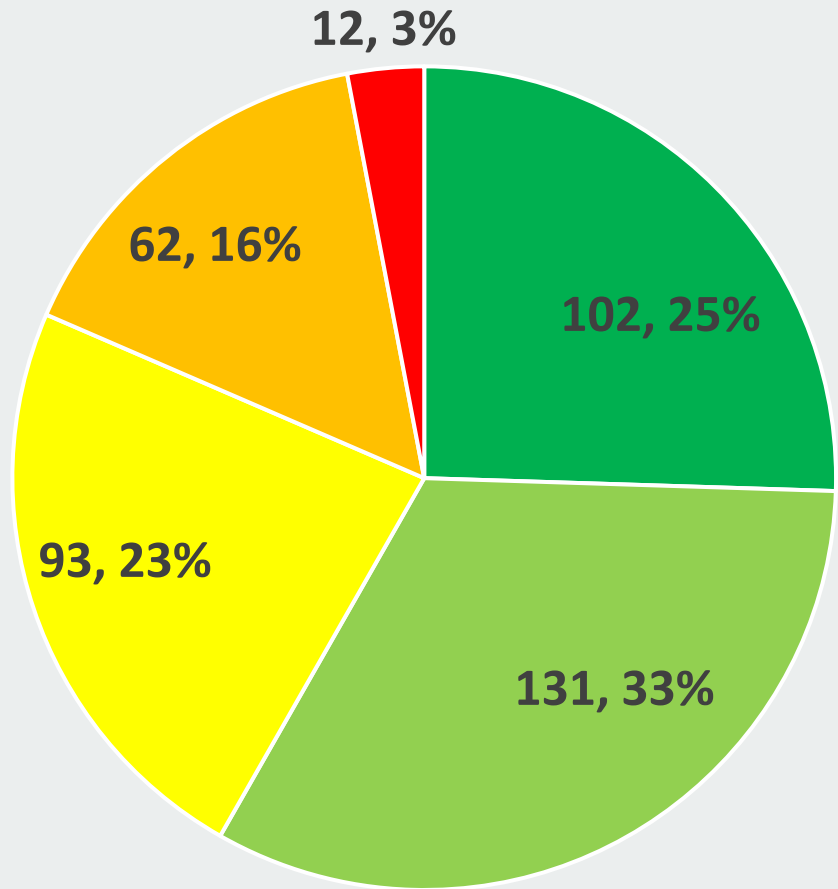
# Residence Type X Recreation Frequency



Unincorporated residents not near a popular recreation access points are most likely to not recreate at all (20%)

■ Not at all 
 ■ 1-3 times per month 
 ■ 1-2 times per week 
 ■ 3-5 times per week 
 ■ Every day

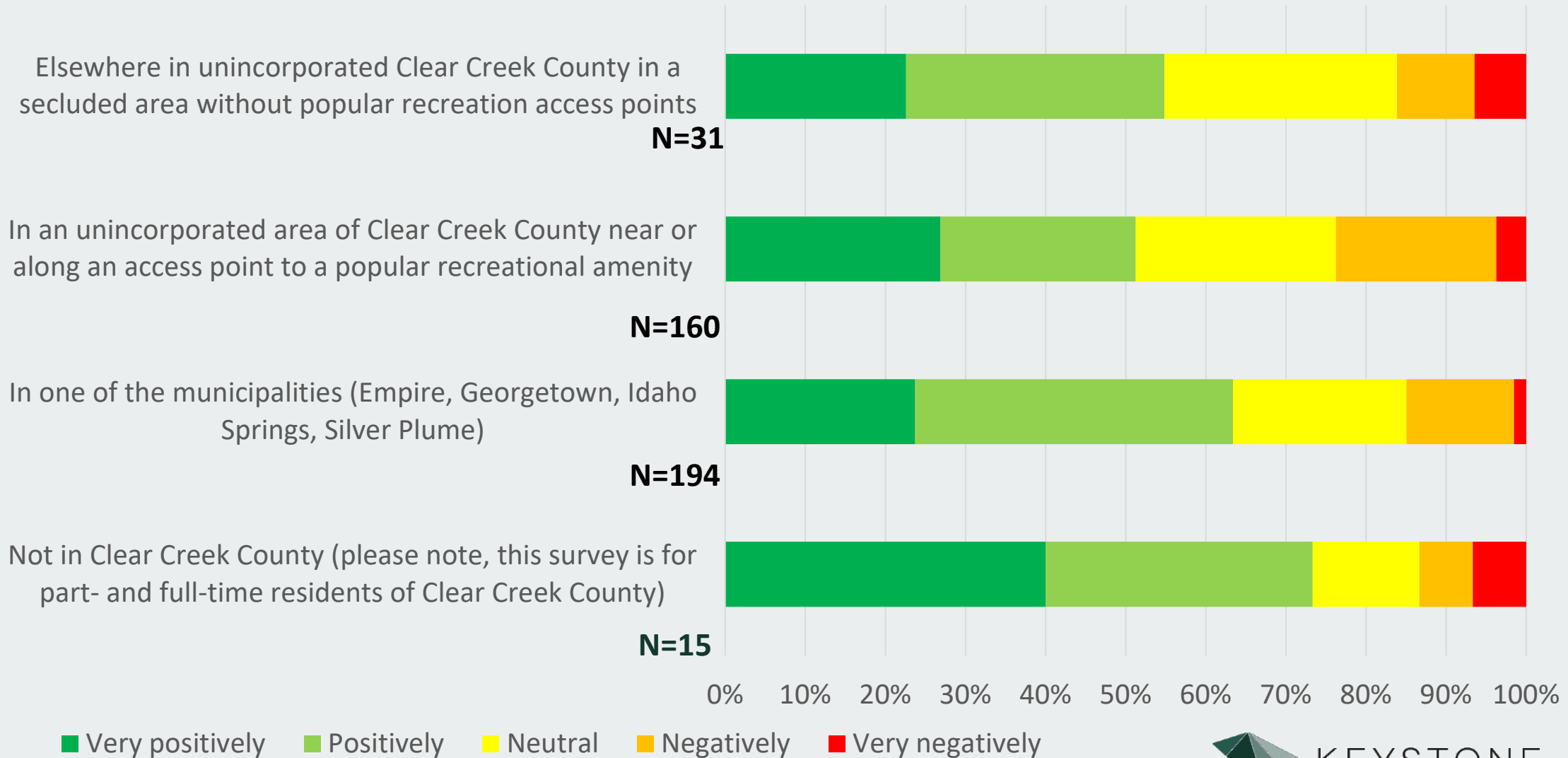
# How does CCC's role as an outdoor recreation destination affect your quality of life?



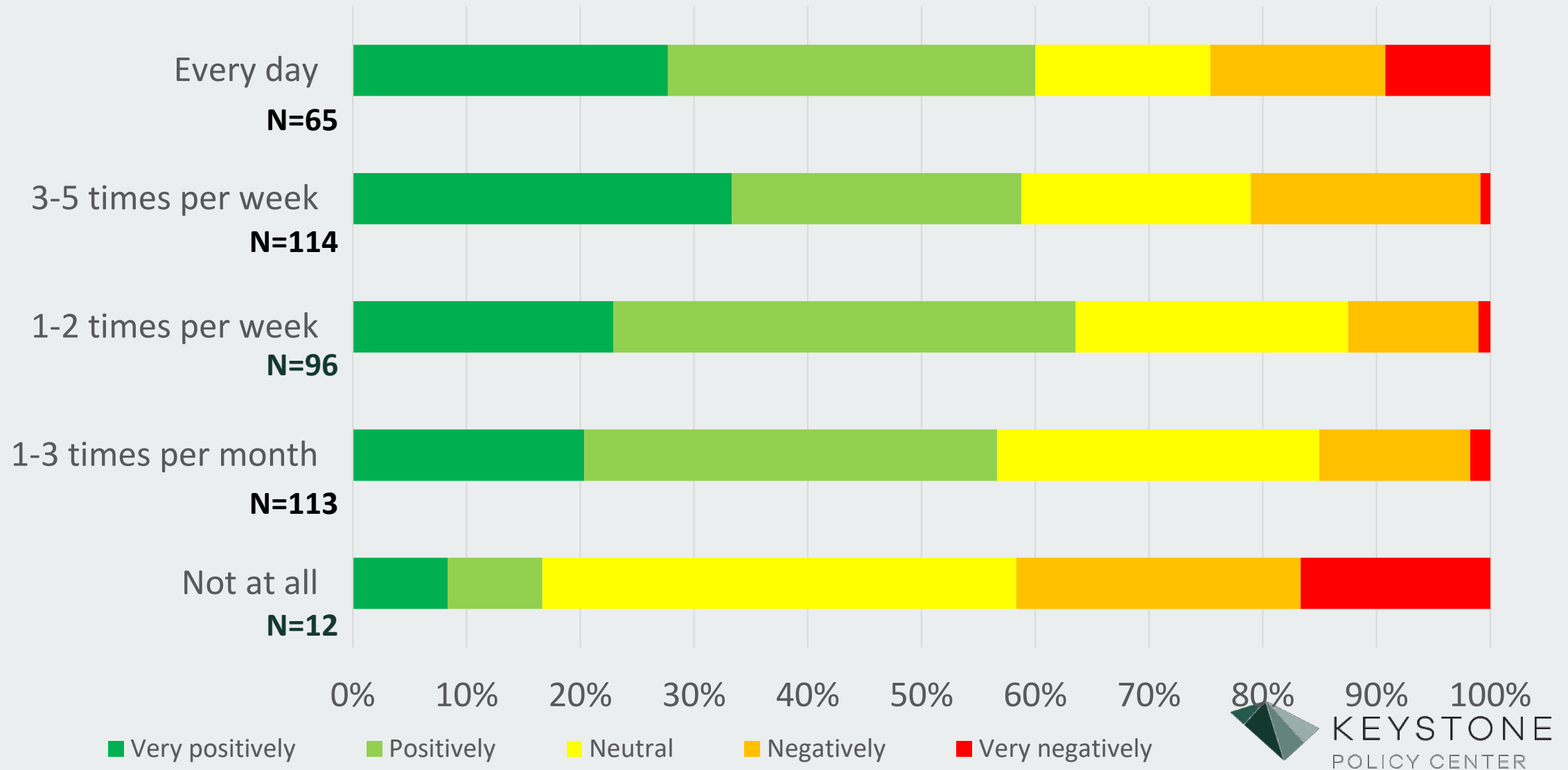
- Very positively
- Positively
- Neutral
- Negatively
- Very negatively

Very/Positively = 58%  
Very/Negatively = 19%

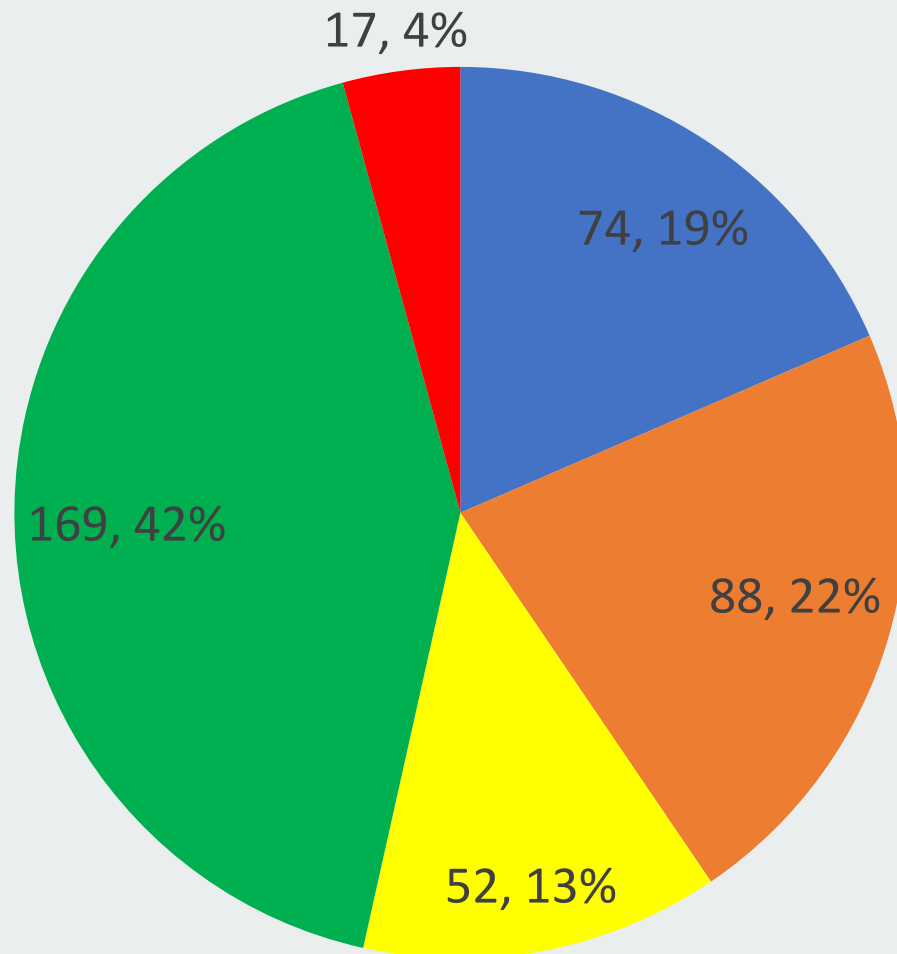
# Residence Type X Recreation Perception



# Recreation Frequency X Recreation Perception



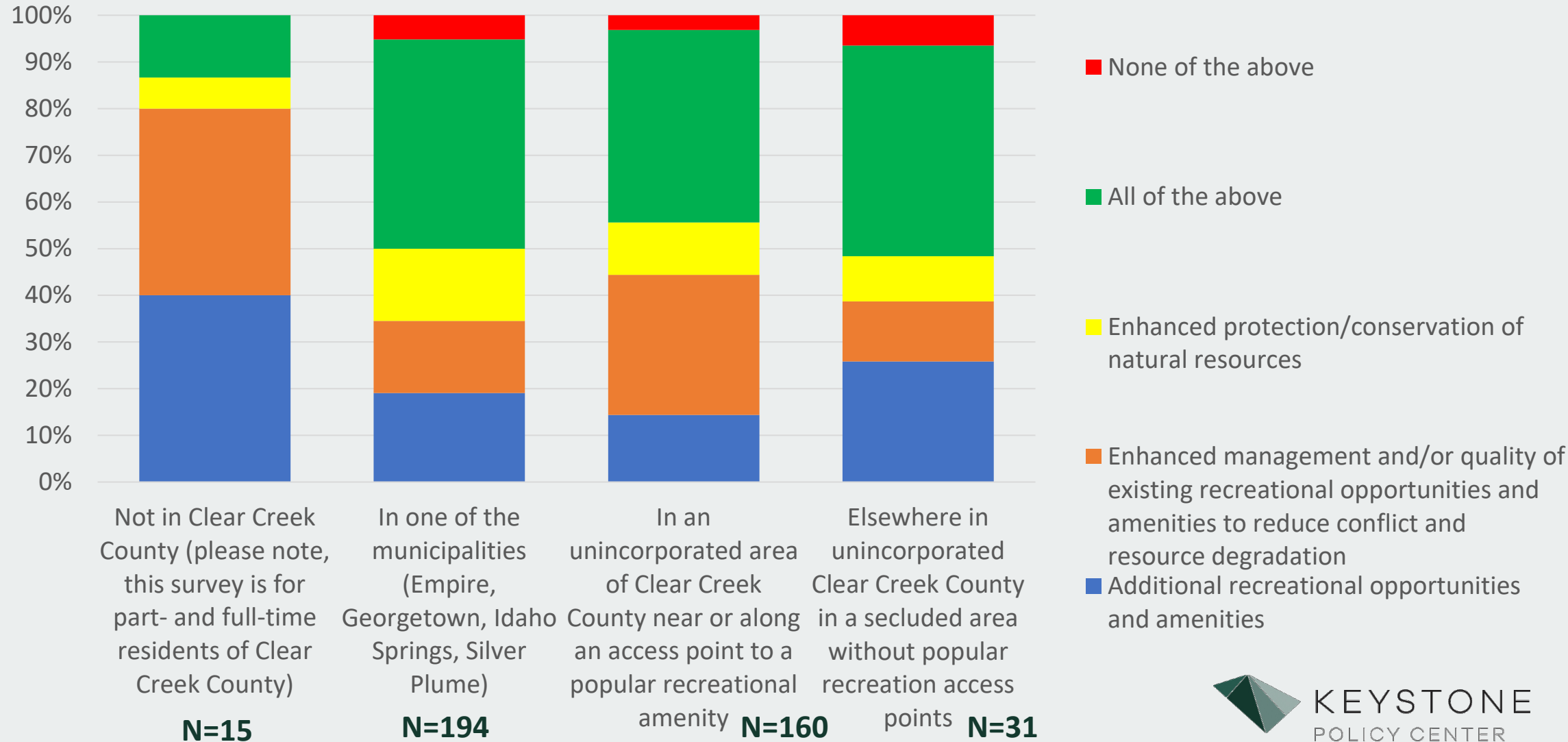
# What is most needed for recreation in the County?



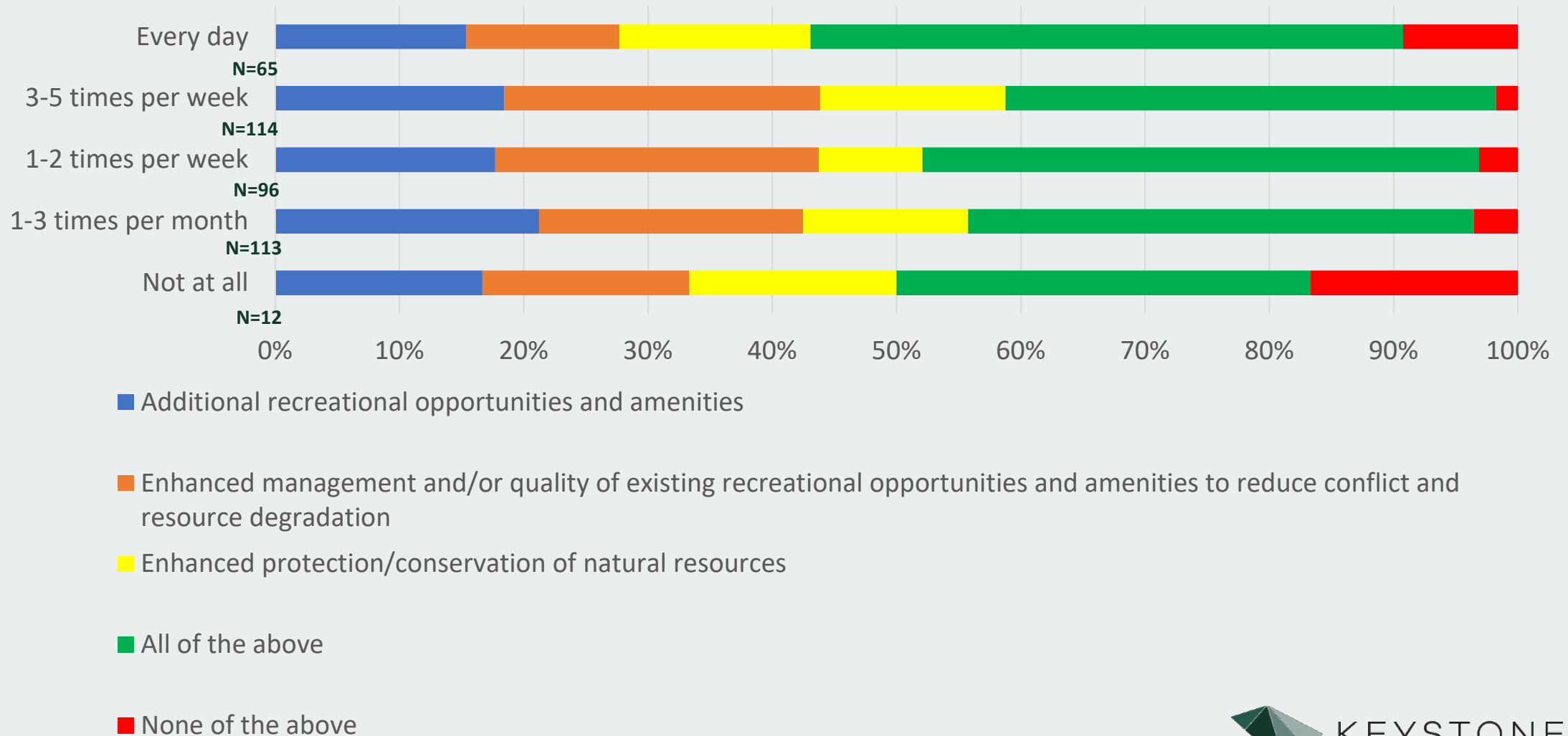
- Additional recreational opportunities and amenities
- Enhanced management and/or quality of existing recreational opportunities and amenities to reduce conflict and resource degradation
- Enhanced protection/conservation of natural resources
- All of the above
- None of the above

- **There is a plurality of support for an “all of the above” approach**
- **A minority support a “none of the above”**

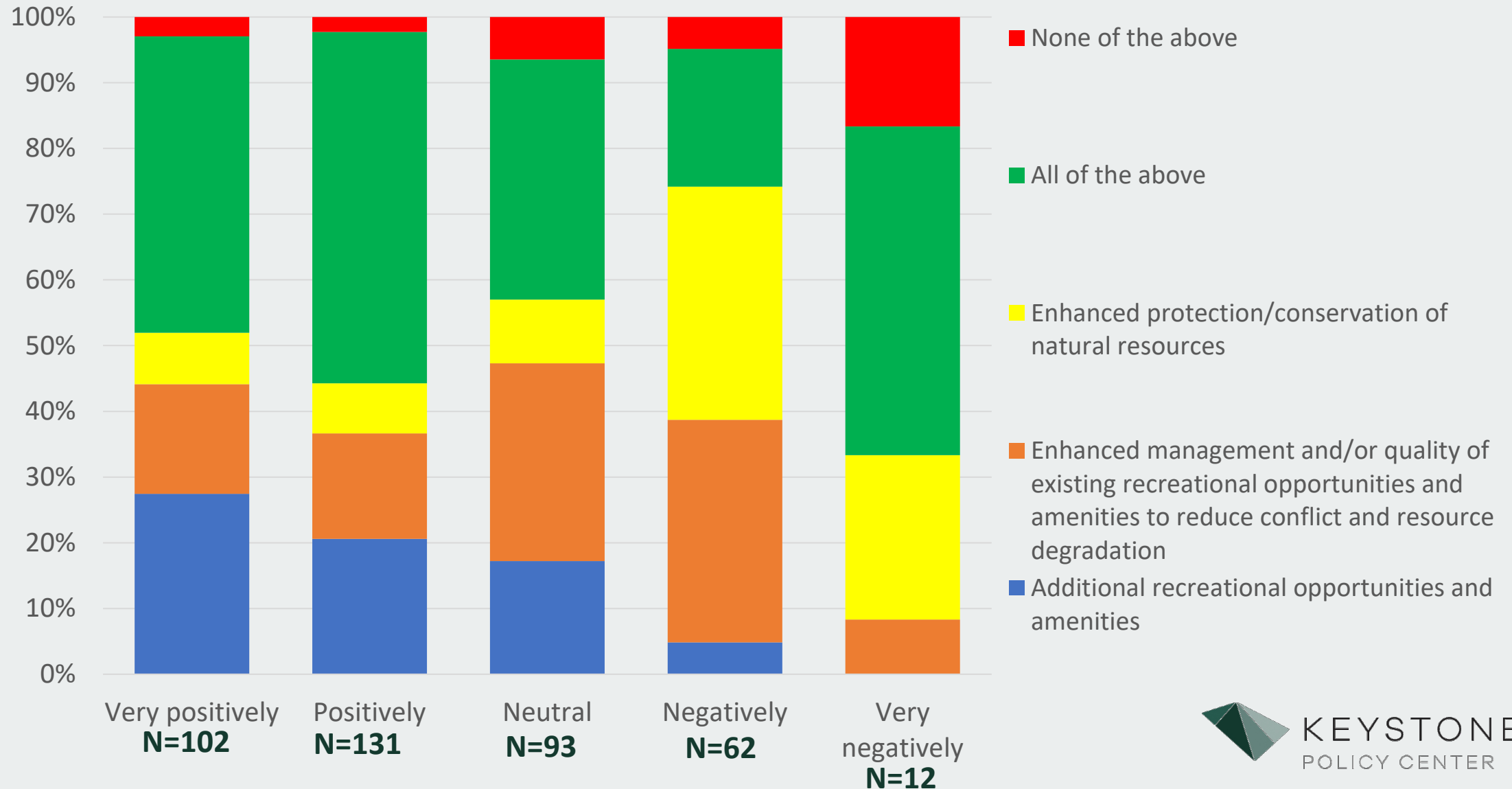
# What is most needed? X Residence Type



# What is most needed? X Recreation Frequency

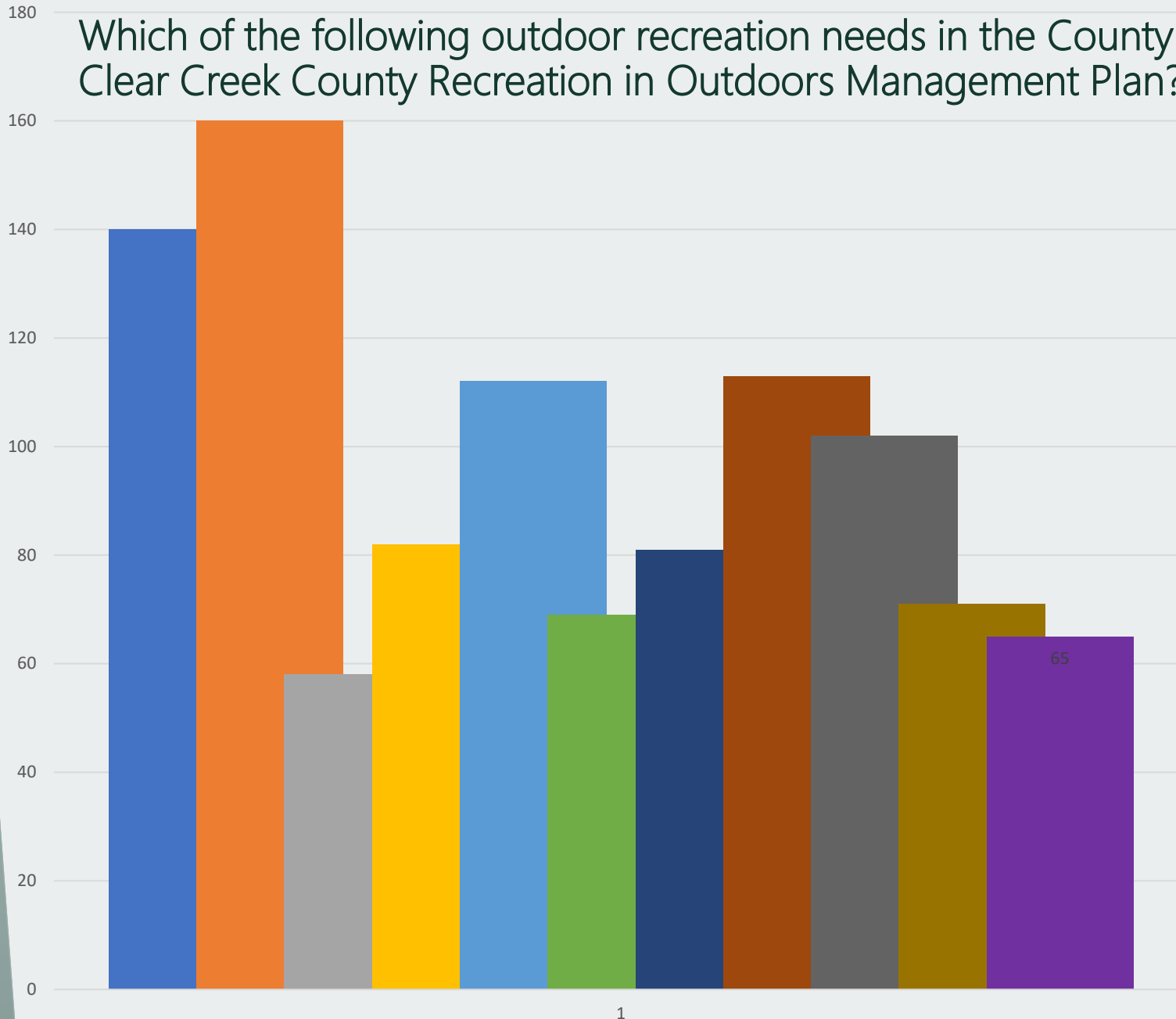


# What is most needed? X Recreation Perception





# Which of the following outdoor recreation needs in the County are the highest priority for the Clear Creek County Recreation in Outdoors Management Plan?



- Limiting human impacts in fragile natural areas
- Addressing recreationist impacts on local neighborhoods, resident safety, and quality of life
- Reducing conflicts between recreational users on trails and at destinations
- Acquiring or conserving lands for the purpose of protecting natural resources and limiting recreational access
- Expanding recreation access through land acquisition and/or development of new recreational amenities on existing lands
- Making recreation more accessible to all with easy/beginner trails and facilities
- Creating opportunities for winter outdoor recreation
- Providing Clear Creek residents with access to trails and parks within walking and biking distance of where they live
- Improving the condition of existing trails and recreational amenities for quality and safety, for example through making existing popular trails and amenities more durable
- Developing a coordinated wayfinding signage, parking, and visitor information strategy
- Providing better connections to and between existing trail networks and recreation destinations

# Recreation Priorities X Residence Type

Elsewhere in unincorporated Clear Creek County in a secluded area without popular recreation...

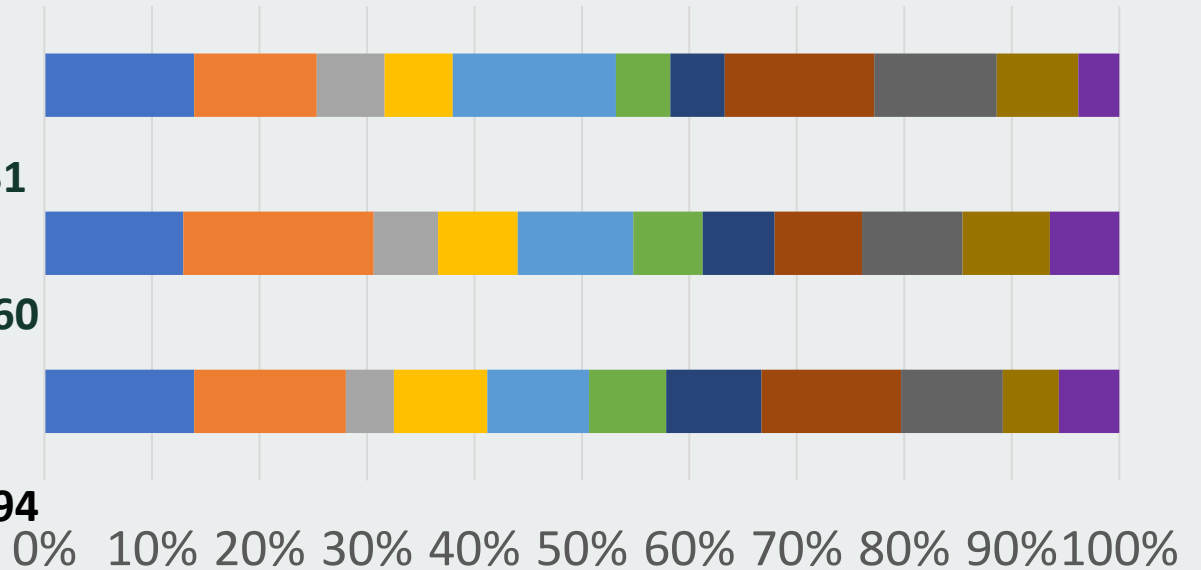
N=31

In an unincorporated area of Clear Creek County near or along an access point to a popular...

N=160

In one of the municipalities (Empire, Georgetown, Idaho Springs, Silver Plume)

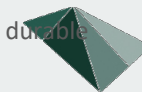
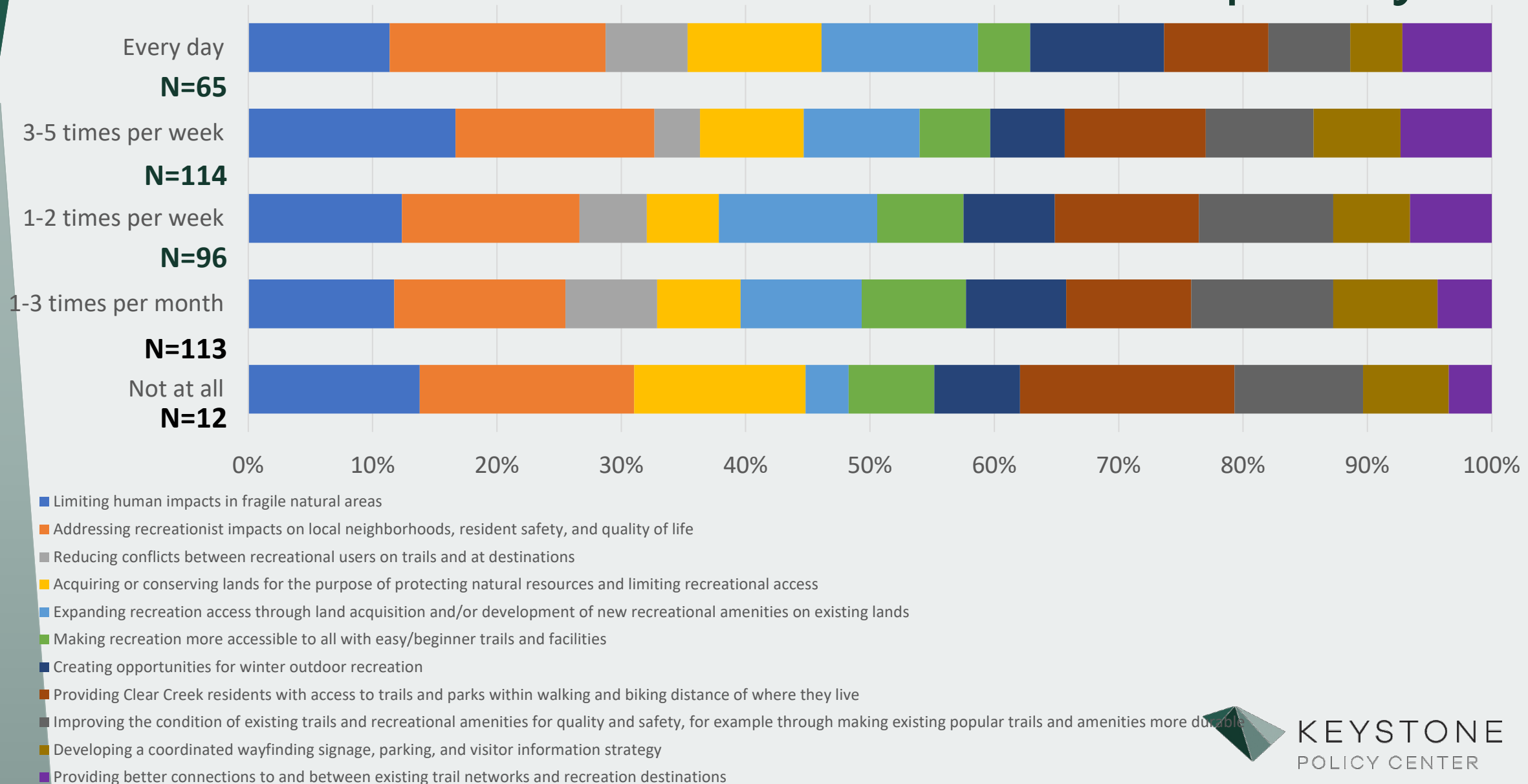
N=194



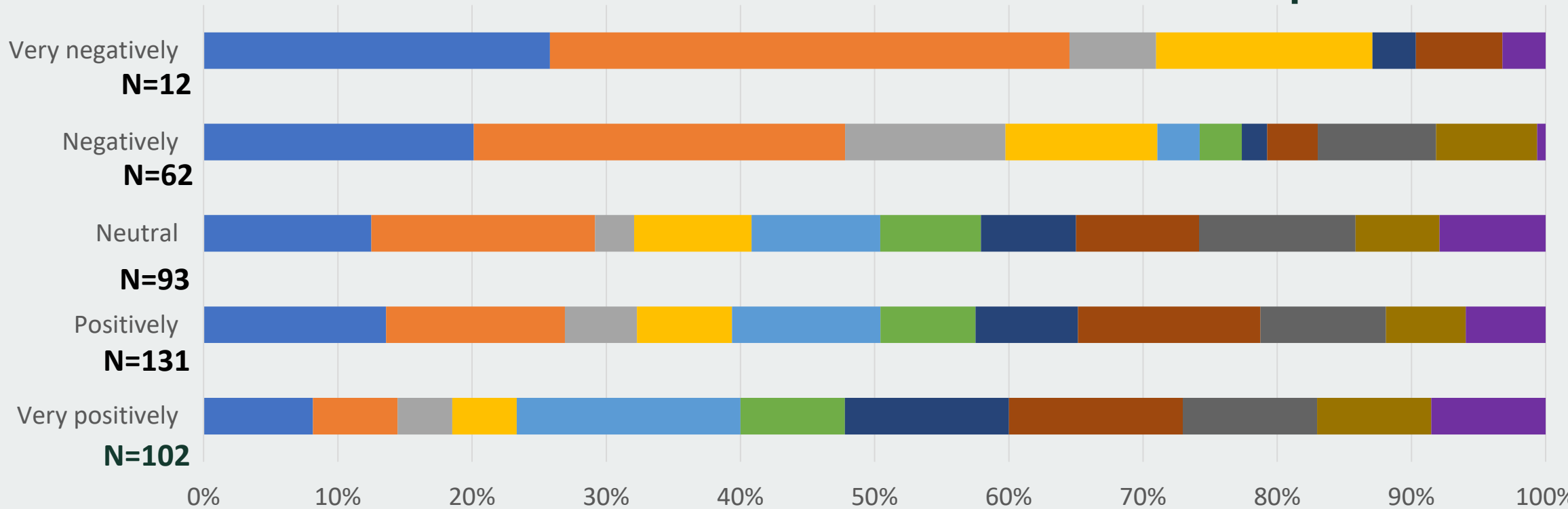
- Limiting human impacts in fragile natural areas
- Addressing recreationist impacts on local neighborhoods, resident safety, and quality of life
- Reducing conflicts between recreational users on trails and at destinations
- Acquiring or conserving lands for the purpose of protecting natural resources and limiting recreational access
- Expanding recreation access through land acquisition and/or development of new recreational amenities on existing lands
- Making recreation more accessible to all with easy/beginner trails and facilities
- Creating opportunities for winter outdoor recreation
- Providing Clear Creek residents with access to trails and parks within walking and biking distance of where they live
- Improving the condition of existing trails and recreational amenities for quality and safety, for example through making existing popular trails and amenities more durable
- Developing a coordinated wayfinding signage, parking, and visitor information strategy
- Providing better connections to and between existing trail networks and recreation destinations



# Recreation Priorities X Recreation Frequency



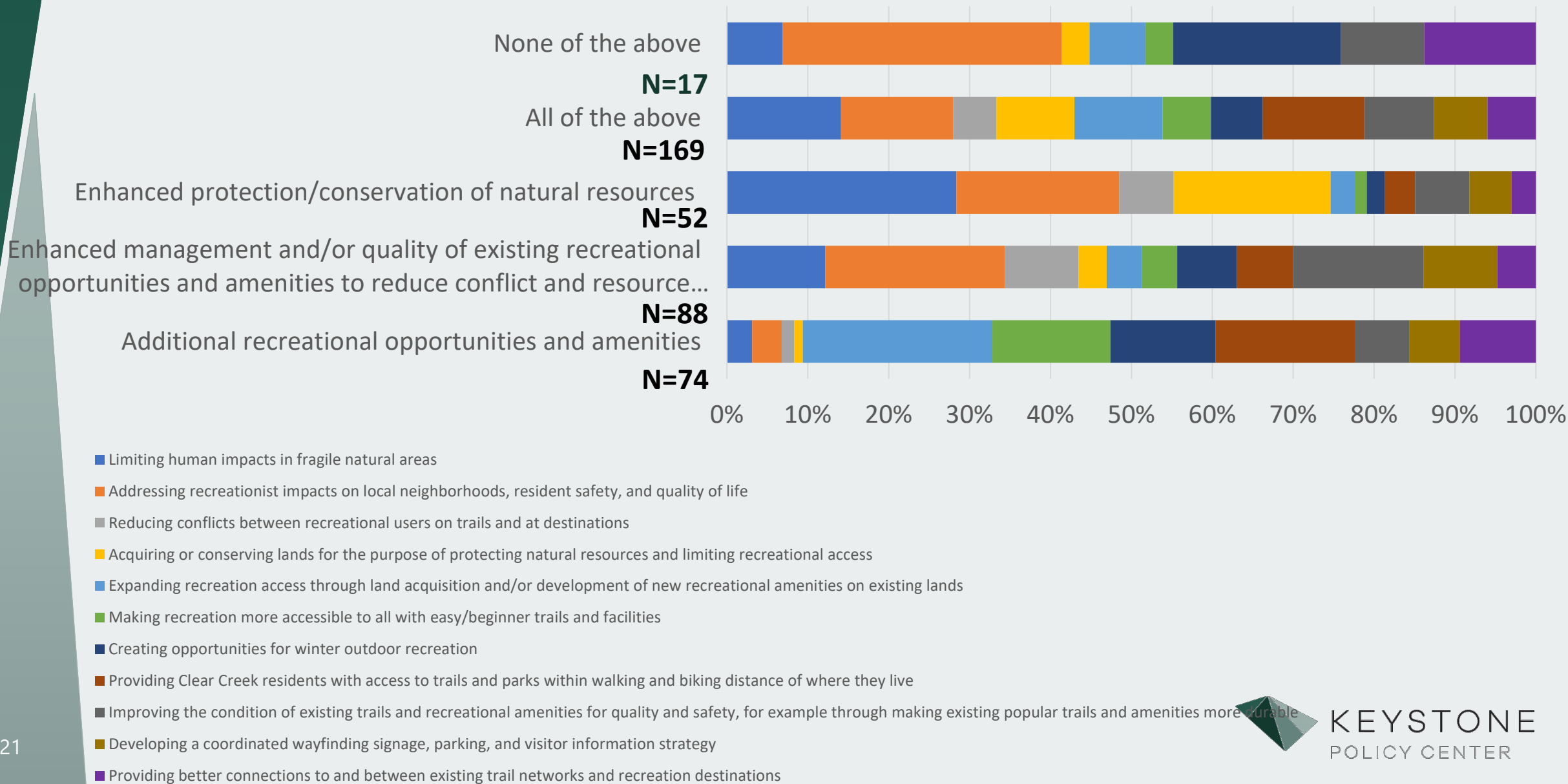
# Recreation Priorities X Recreation Perception



- Limiting human impacts in fragile natural areas
- Addressing recreationist impacts on local neighborhoods, resident safety, and quality of life
- Reducing conflicts between recreational users on trails and at destinations
- Acquiring or conserving lands for the purpose of protecting natural resources and limiting recreational access
- Expanding recreation access through land acquisition and/or development of new recreational amenities on existing lands
- Making recreation more accessible to all with easy/beginner trails and facilities
- Creating opportunities for winter outdoor recreation
- Providing Clear Creek residents with access to trails and parks within walking and biking distance of where they live
- Improving the condition of existing trails and recreational amenities for quality and safety, for example through making existing popular trails and amenities more durable
- Developing a coordinated wayfinding signage, parking, and visitor information strategy
- Providing better connections to and between existing trail networks and recreation destinations



# Recreation Priorities X Recreation Needs



# Putting it all together: Key findings

- **A majority of residents feel positive** about CCC as an outdoor recreation destination (Very/Positively = 58%)
  - Important minority: Very/Negatively = 19%
- There is a **plurality of support for an “all-of-the-above”** approach to recreation management (42%)
  - Unincorporated residents near a popular recreation amenities place most emphasis on **managing existing recreational opportunities** (30%)
  - Those who viewed outdoor recreation **negatively** were **more likely to support a “none of the above”** approach and **less likely to support additional recreation opportunities**, although each group mostly supported an “all of the above approach”
- Unincorporated residents NOT near a popular recreation amenities are:
  - most likely to not recreate at all
  - and place most emphasis on “all of the above,” (45%) or more rec opportunities (25%)

# Possible Projects List

# PPT Possible Projects Background

- Started with a ‘Needs and Opportunities’ PPT sticky note brainstorm
- Very specific suggestions from the PPT brainstorm were grouped thematically by staff into potential projects/categories
  - All the original suggestions are addressed through the thematic groupings you will see today
  - All is still on the table in terms of possible projects – the BOCC is seeing the same list as what the PPT provided feedback on
- Initial review of community survey qualitative/write-in feedback shows substantial overlap with needs and opportunities brainstormed by PPT
- We are looking for BOCC feedback to help further inform prioritization and workshopping of projects



# PPT Possible Projects Background

- PPT discussed the potential projects/categories at December meeting against various considerations
  - Enriches local communities
  - Welcomes diverse range of visitors
  - Has positive effect on natural environment
  - Has positive effect on cultural resources
  - Builds capacity and partnerships
  - Builds on proven successes
  - Addresses existing problems without creating new ones
  - Builds on jointly held values

# PPT Possible Projects Background (cont.)

- Many (all?) projects could incorporate discussion of types of needs
  - Conservation
  - Enhanced Management
  - Additional recreational opportunities and amenities
- Next steps for prioritization
  - PPT will continue to discuss and provide suggestions on priorities at its January 26 meeting; note: PPT input is advisory, not decisional
  - Review community survey feedback and priorities identified through the survey
  - Incorporate BOCC 1/24 direction on priorities
- Staff will solidify projects & priorities for further workshopping Q1-Q2 based on the above input
  - Some projects may be under discussion elsewhere, whereas some may benefit more from PPT workshopping
  - Each represents a first step; priorities and projects identified in the ROMP will help frame future needs for partnerships, planning and resources

# PPT Possible Projects List (Draft)

- A project to identify **conservation and/or sustainability priorities**. For example, identify specific challenges and solutions for recreational impacts to conservation, coexistence strategies, and potential opportunities related to education, enforcement, engineering, and/or acquisitions/easements.
- A project for **wayfinding, parking, signage and educational/stewardship messaging** that creates a unified environment in CCC and provides a bigger canvas for work of the tourism board and consistent quality messaging across the county.
- A project to envision **alternative transportation** within the County to and from recreational amenities; update prior studies given the recent developments in transit.
- **Water recreation planning**, with significant emphasis on rafting access and permitting: A project to coordinate a possibly unify CCC and Idaho Springs Permit programs, assess and add creek entry points as needed to reduce conflict in CRC park in Idaho Springs, establish an MOU with CDOT for recreational access in the coordinator, and consider creek conservation needs.
- A project to consider whether to focus on **making 14ers more resilient or driving people to the 13ers** instead, emphasizing management coordination with FS at peaks and management for cascading effects of 14ers on County lands.
- A project to assess the **connectivity, resilience, and condition of the trails network** overall identify location for new trails or trailheads. Consider overall access via trailheads.

# PPT Possible Projects List (Draft) (Cont.)

- A project to review the current **Greenway alignment**, recommend alignments, or steps to determine alignments in areas of indecision, review of current plan, reaffirm, recommend changes if any, overall update of nodes to develop and prioritization of nodes
- A project to evaluate **winter visitation non-alpine activities**, including Echo Lake Lodge, county trails, visitation spread, and community impacts.
- A project to create an **OHV mini master plan**, a plan to discuss the big picture goals for OHV users, the land, the existing conflicts and opportunities.
- A project to coordinate on **front country parks and facilities**, like Shelly Quinn park, Georgetown rec plan, Empire plans, etc., also to coordinate on programming and maintenance for trails and restrooms etc.
- A project to plan for a **permanent group or committee to manage rec plan**, this could also include enforcement, revenue ideation, a citizens commission, deployment of messaging or management of speed feedback signage or VMS, a system for responsiveness and management.
- A project or process to conduct **visioning and futuring to discuss some Pie in the Sky, potential longer-term ideas**, such as 1) A reservoir in Empire, or 2) Convening a project to create a CDOT USFS rest area/nature center Grays & Torreys trail head visitor center and the Bakerville parking area

# Next Steps & Upcoming Milestones

## **Vision/Values, Goals & Priority Projects (through January 2023)**

- BOCC discussion of community survey and feedback on draft possible projects list (January 24)
- Planning Partner Team (PPT) meeting 1/26 to apply community survey initial findings and BOCC feedback toward discussion of priorities
- Community survey report incorporated into final research report (February-March)

## **Workshops on Priority Project Concepts (Q1-Q2 2023)**

- Clear Creek staff to solidify projects for workshop
- PPT workshops on priority projects- consider ideas, options, partnership and funding needs, further design and outreach needs (3 total)
- Community Advisory Team input on projects
- Active Forum page

## **Draft and Final ROMP (Q3-Q4 2023)**

- BoCC and Community feedback; Community Advisory Team Meeting
- Final PPT meeting
- Plan will include:
  - Research and community engagement results and current landscape/trends
  - Outreach/process
  - Vision, values, goals
  - Priorities and profiles of each proposed priority project

# Discussion

- Questions on Community Survey Results
- Feedback on Potential Projects Lists
  - Projects you would prioritize?
  - Projects you would de-prioritize or remove?