



Participant Perceptions of the Regional Workshops on Sustainable Forests

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4 Objectives for Regional Workshops

Objective One: **Greater regional understanding**

Objective Two: **Catalyze dialogue**

Objective Three: **Identify regional C&I**

Objective Four: **Regional-national communication**



Workshop Distinctions

	When	Where	Forest Service Lead
South	Nov '03	Charleston, SC	Southern Research Station
Indian Country	Dec '03	Portland, OR	Region 4 NFS & S&PF
West	Feb '04	Phoenix, AZ	Region 4 NFS & S&PF
North	Mar '04	LaCrosse, WI	Northeastern Area S&PF



Goals of the Perceptions Analysis

- Continue dialogue about opportunities and challenges.
- Identify effective strategies and approaches.
- Inform RSF leadership and participants about future directions of RSF activities.



Methods

- Reviewed workshop documentation
- Classified attendees and invitees by stakeholder group
- Conducted interviews
- Compiled, analyzed, and reported on results

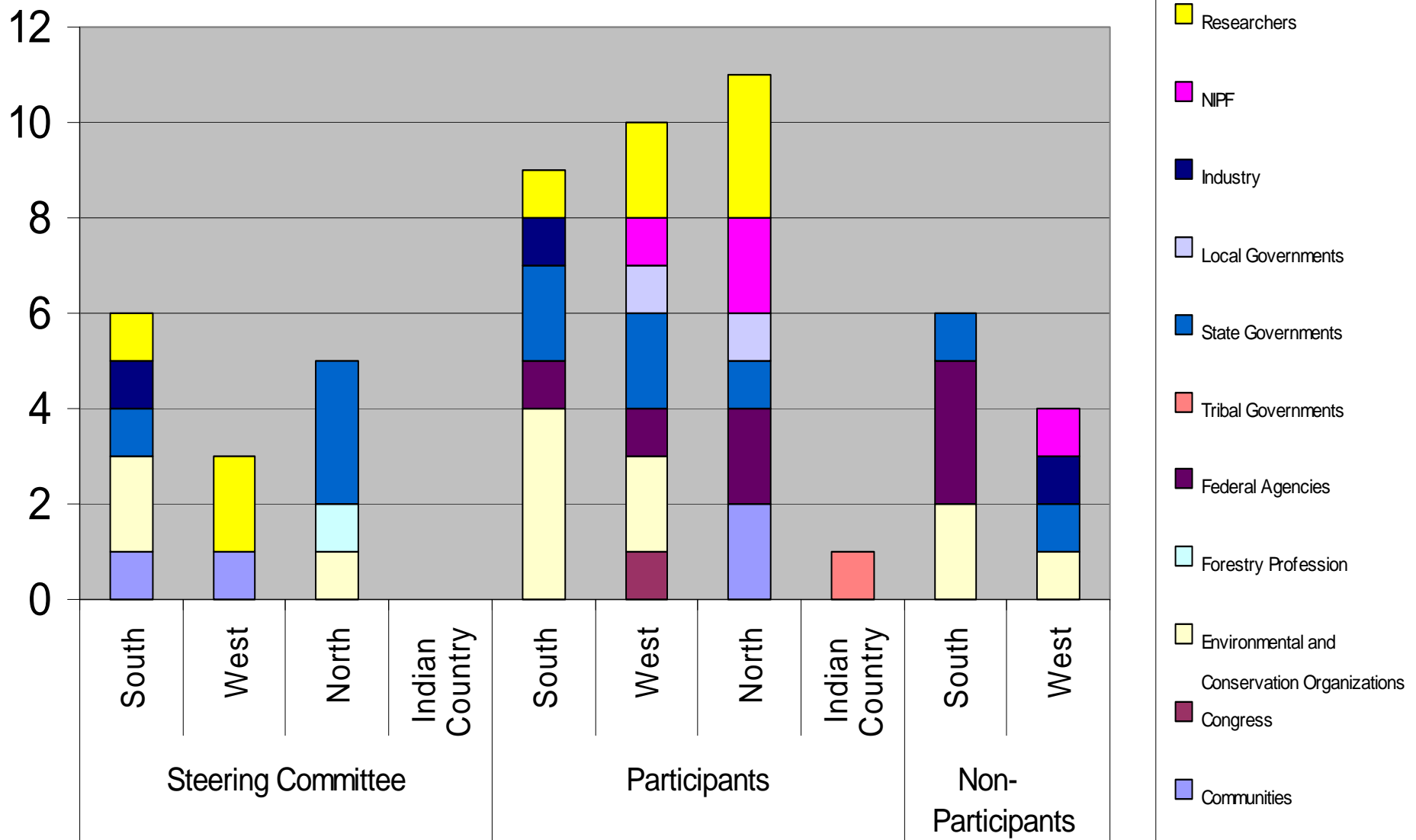


Stakeholder Groups

- Federal agencies
- State governments
- Environmental and conservation organizations
- Researchers
- Tribal governments
- Forestry professionals
- Non-industrial private forest landowners
- Communities
- Local governments
- Industrial private forest landowners
- Congress

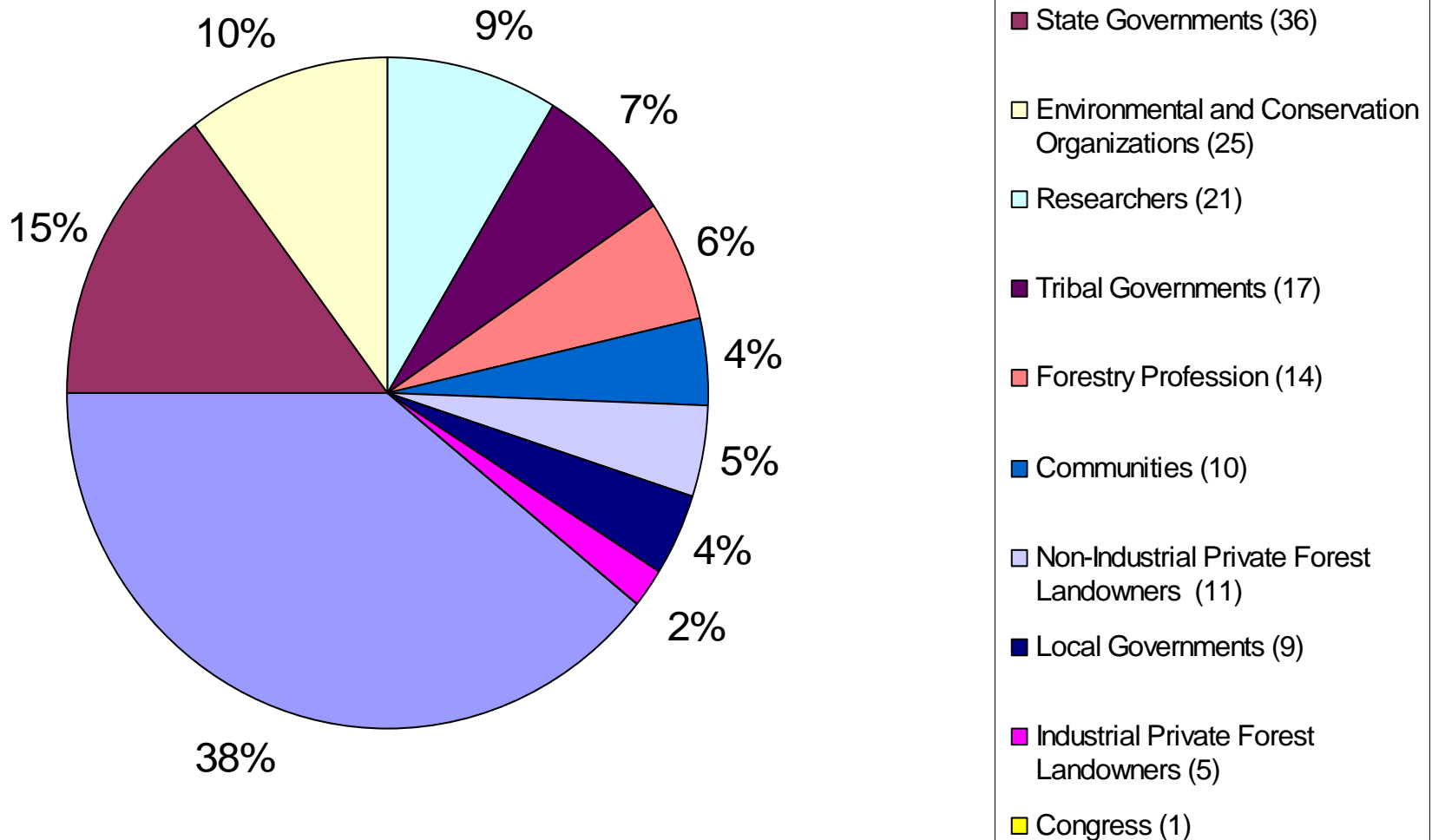


Whose Perceptions?



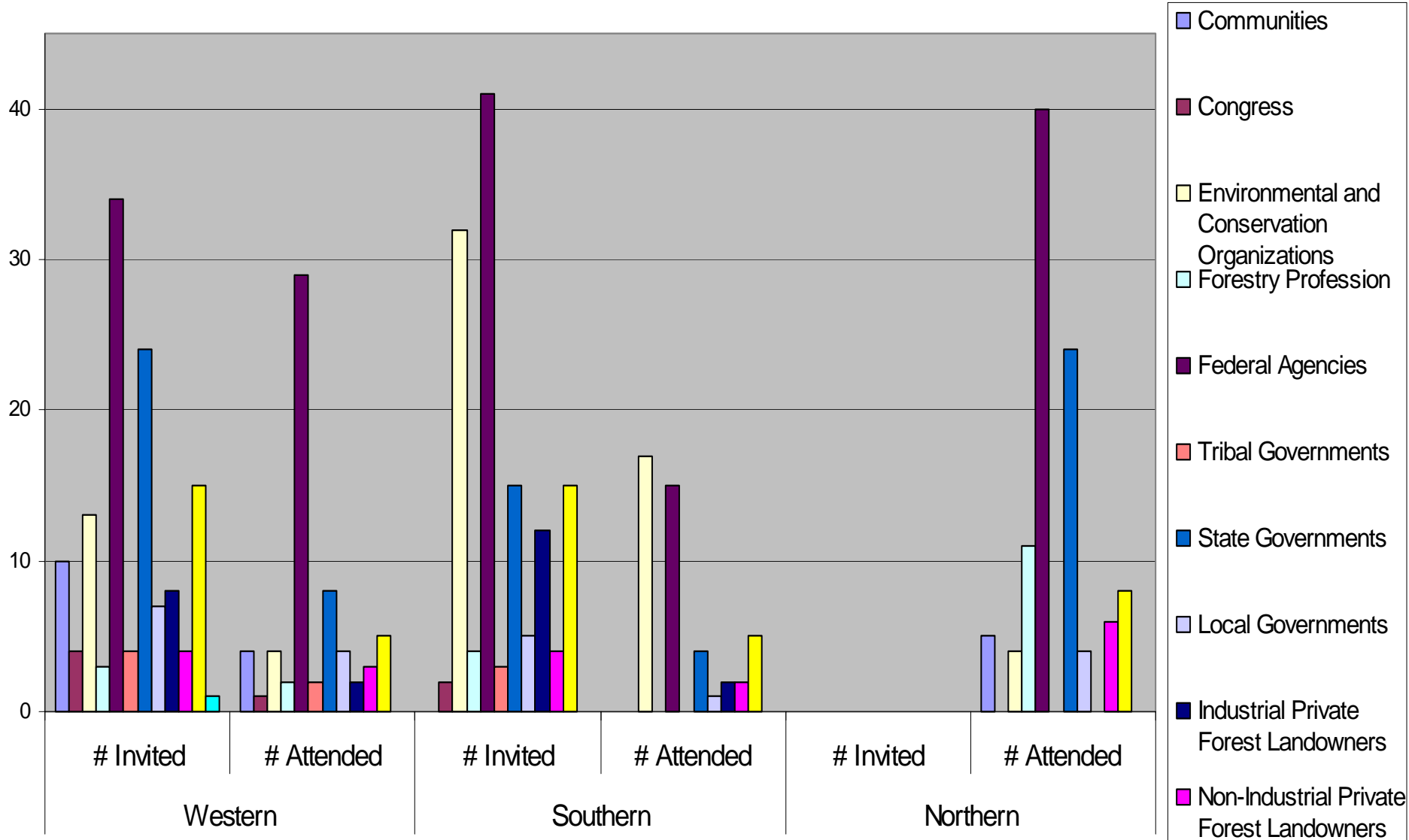


Workshop Participation





Invitations vs. Participation





Workshop Outcomes

Long Term Visions

- No specific long-term visions emerged from the workshops.
- Many felt these workshops were the first step and that a vision would evolve over time.



Workshop Outcomes

Next Steps

- No defined next steps in West and North
- “Hot spot” or sub-regional studies expected in the South.
- Need to emphasize local or community-based activity.
- Participants expect follow-up.



Workshop Outcomes

Visions and Next Steps

- Why the **lack of** visions or next steps?
 - “The Forest Service isn’t taking the lead.”
 - “The process is top-down and heavy-handed.”
 - “A bottom-up model is needed, but there is no vision, nothing to get on board for.”
 - “How will this get done?,” “Who will pay?”



Workshop Outcomes

Applying the Experience

- *Will apply* learning to subsequent work

- *Will not apply* to work because:
 - not in a position to act
 - no mechanism or funding to support the efforts



Workshop Outcomes

Focusing on C&I

Responses to C&I as a model:

- 1/3 → Good model
- 1/3 → Good starting point for discussions, but need more work
- 1/3 → Not an effective model



Workshop Outcomes

Focusing on C&I

Why not?

- More effective to focus on a few indicators in a defined region (e.g. watershed).
- “You cannot bring C&I down to the landowner level in a day and a half.”



Workshop Outcomes

Interest in Future Workshops

- Almost all would attend another regional workshop IF it:
 - Had a clear purpose and specific outcomes
 - Focused at the issue level
 - Concentrated on regional impacts of local decisions
 - Were smaller with focused groups
 - Were more localized



Interpretation *RSF Challenges*

1. Translating the dialogue to action
2. Communicating the value of RSF participation and the Montreal Process C&I framework



Interpretation

USDA Forest Service Challenges

1. Clarifying for all stakeholders what the USFS is prepared to do—and *not* prepared to do—to follow up.
2. Fostering internal collaboration to pursue sustainable forests as an agency-wide, overarching priority.



Interpretation *Key Strategies*

1. Encourage participation from underrepresented groups.
2. Identify and focus on regional/local issues.
3. USDA FS and RSF engage as technical and policy resources.



Interpretation

Effective Workshop Processes

1. Allow 6-12 months for planning.
2. Clearly articulate focus area, purpose, and expected outcomes.
3. Expand outreach and active recruiting.
4. Provide background information in advance.
5. Plan for active follow-up.



Conclusions

- Most workshop participants valued the experience and would participate in future workshops.
- The RSF needs to determine how to make itself more relevant at the community level.



Conclusions

- This perceptions analysis is part of a larger “lessons learned” report that will also include:
 - Four workshop summaries
 - Feedback and suggestions from this meeting

Guiding Questions

1. Which lessons are most applicable to fostering ongoing regional dialogue on sustainable forest management in your region? How would you begin to apply them?

Guiding Questions

2. How do you think the Roundtable could most effectively address the challenges identified by the lessons learned analysis? What should be its role and focus? Do you perceive additional challenges for the Roundtable in its attempt to catalyze dialogue on sustainable forests at the regional (or sub-national) level?

Guiding Questions

3. How do you think the USDA Forest Service could address the challenge identified in the lessons learned analysis? Do you perceive additional challenges that were not addressed in the report?



Thank You!