



Oregon's Kitchen Table – South Wasco County Parks and Recreation District Survey

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

From October 26th – December 7th, the South Wasco County Alliance, Rural Fire Foundation, Wamic Boating Access Improvement Committee and Wasco County invited individuals who recreate, live, or own property in South Wasco County to give input on recreation in the region. The consultation instrument was developed by Oregon's Kitchen Table (OKT) in collaboration with South Wasco County Parks and Recreation Group.

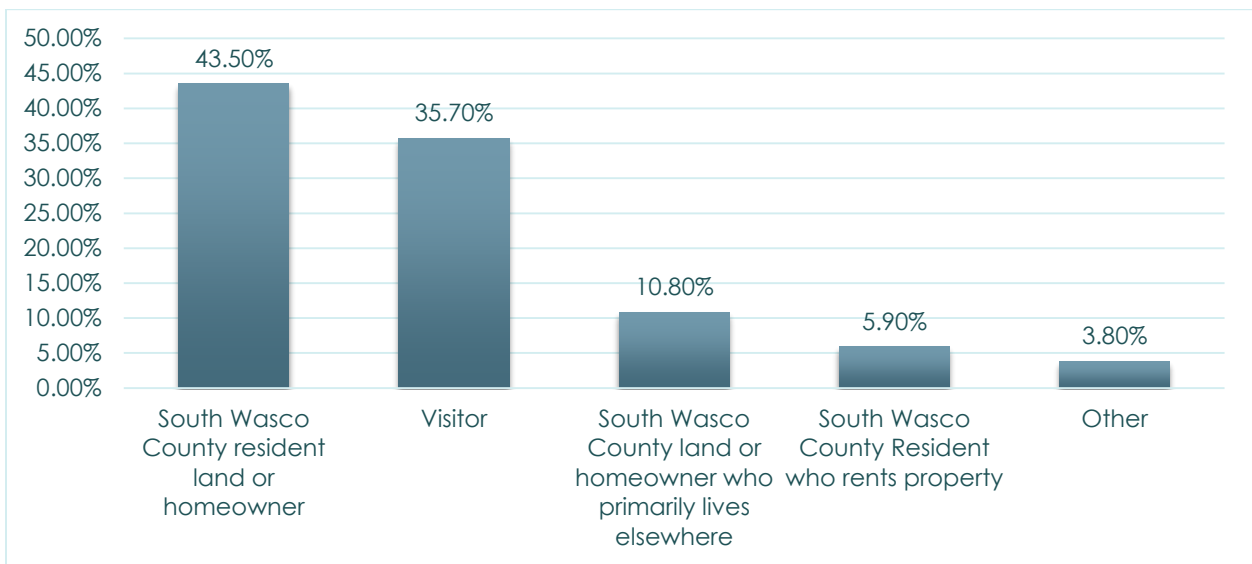
A total of 289 respondents took part in the consultation across 81 unique zip codes. The responses to open-ended questions are reported at the end of this report. Results in the annotated questionnaire may add up to 99% or 101% due to rounding.

For online distribution, the consultation was made available to OKT's entire membership of 16,000 Oregonians across the state, as well as through the South Wasco County Parks and Recreation Groups' contact lists and social media platforms. Outreach of the survey in South Wasco County was performed by members of the South Wasco County Parks and Recreation Group for both online and paper copies. Data-entry of paper copies was conducted by OKT staff in mid-December.

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of 289 individuals across 81 unique zip codes participated in the survey. It should be noted that 60% of respondents considered their primary community to be in South Wasco County and 40% consider their primary community to be elsewhere. Participants were also asked to specify what they consider to be their primary community in South Wasco County. Of those that selected communities in South Wasco County, the largest number of respondents considered Pine Hollow (N=81) to be their primary community, followed by Wamic (N=36), Maupin (N=34) and Tygh Valley (N=29).

How would you identify yourself (Q13)?

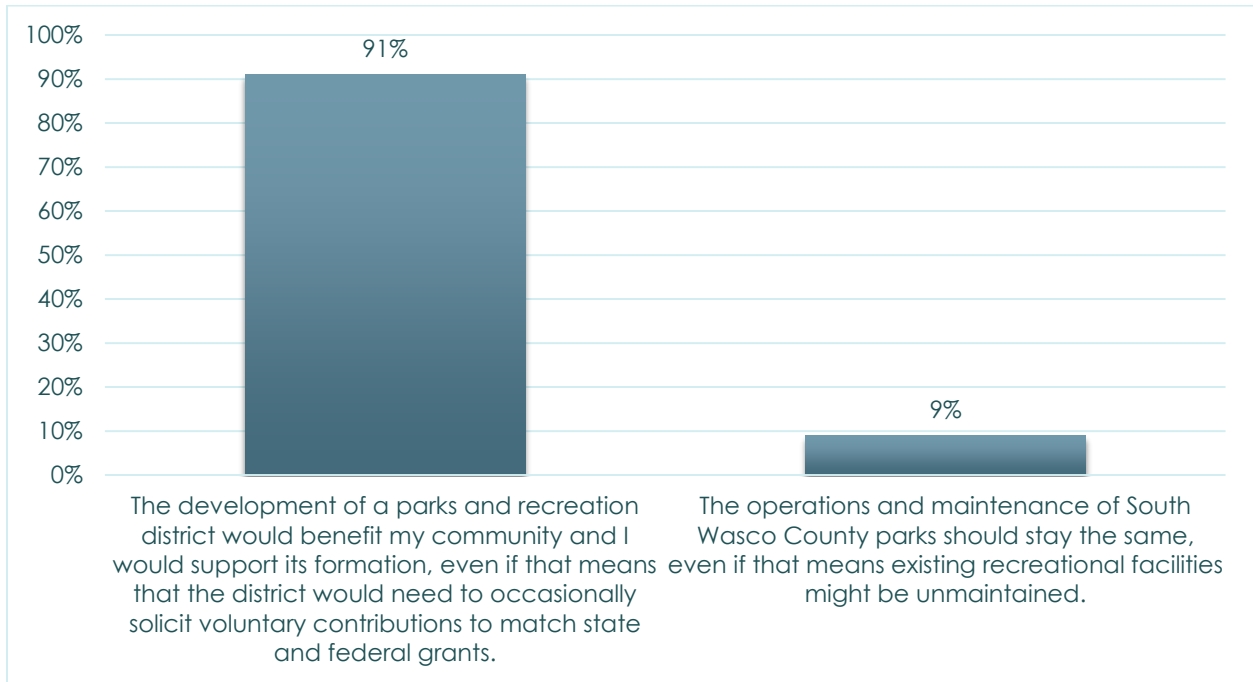


What do you consider to be your primary community in South Wasco County (Q14)?



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed (91% N=249) that a development of a parks and recreation district would benefit their community and would support its formation, even if that means that the district would need to occasionally solicit voluntary contributions to match state and federal grants (Q10).



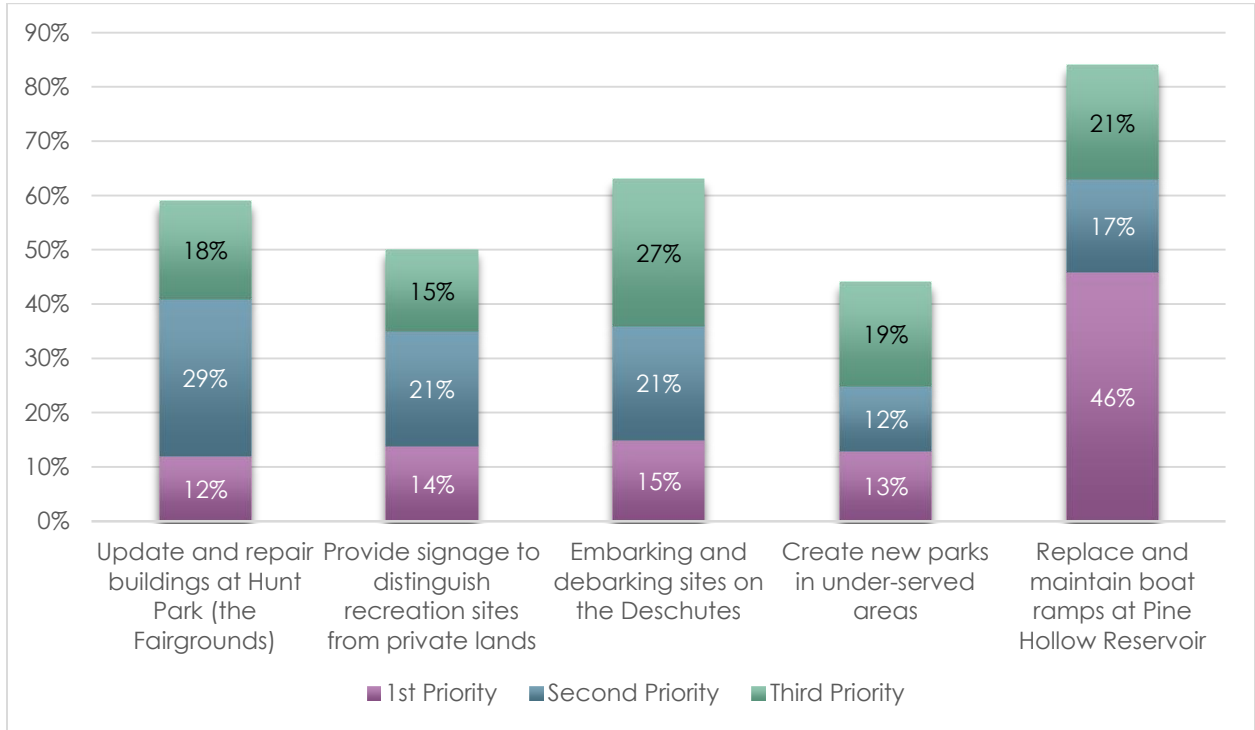
Participants were then given the opportunity to choose what they thought should be the first priority of a potential parks and recreation district, should the County create such a district.

Nearly half of respondents stated they would want to see the Pine Hollow boat ramps be replaced and maintained.

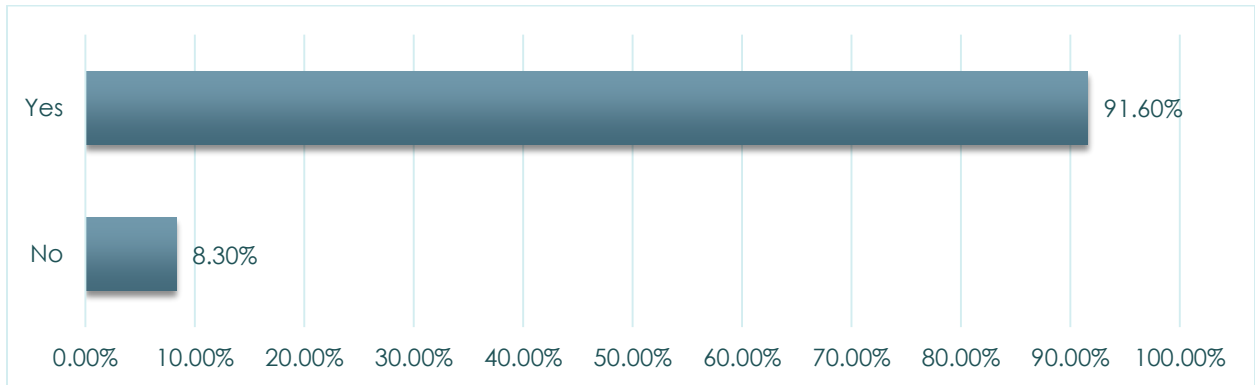
- 46% selected replace and maintain boat ramps at Pine Hollow
- 15% selected embarking and debarking on the Deschutes
- 14% selected provide signage to distinguish recreation sites from private lands
- 12% selected update and repair buildings at Hunt Park
- 12% selected create new parks in under-served areas

Participants' top three priorities for a newly formed South Wasco County parks and recreation district were:

- 1.) Replace and maintain boat ramps at Pine Hollow Reservoir
- 2.) Embarking and debarking sites on the Deschutes
- 3.) Update and repair buildings at Hunt Park (the Fairgrounds)



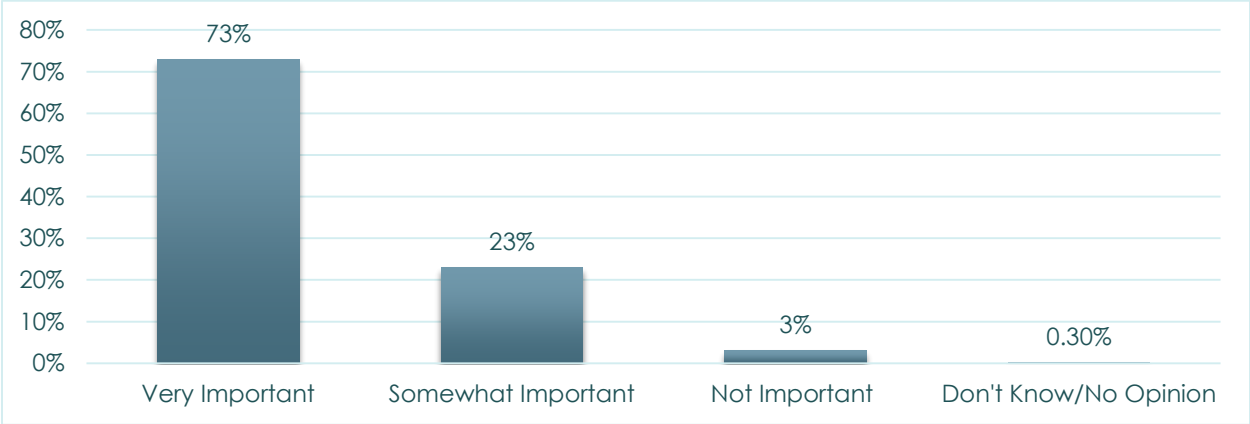
Over 90% of respondents have recreated in South Wasco County within the last 12 months.



When describing how important recreational activities in South Wasco County are to participants and their families, respondents overwhelmingly stated recreational activities were important.

- 62% said it was very important to them and their family
- 33% said it was somewhat important to them and their family

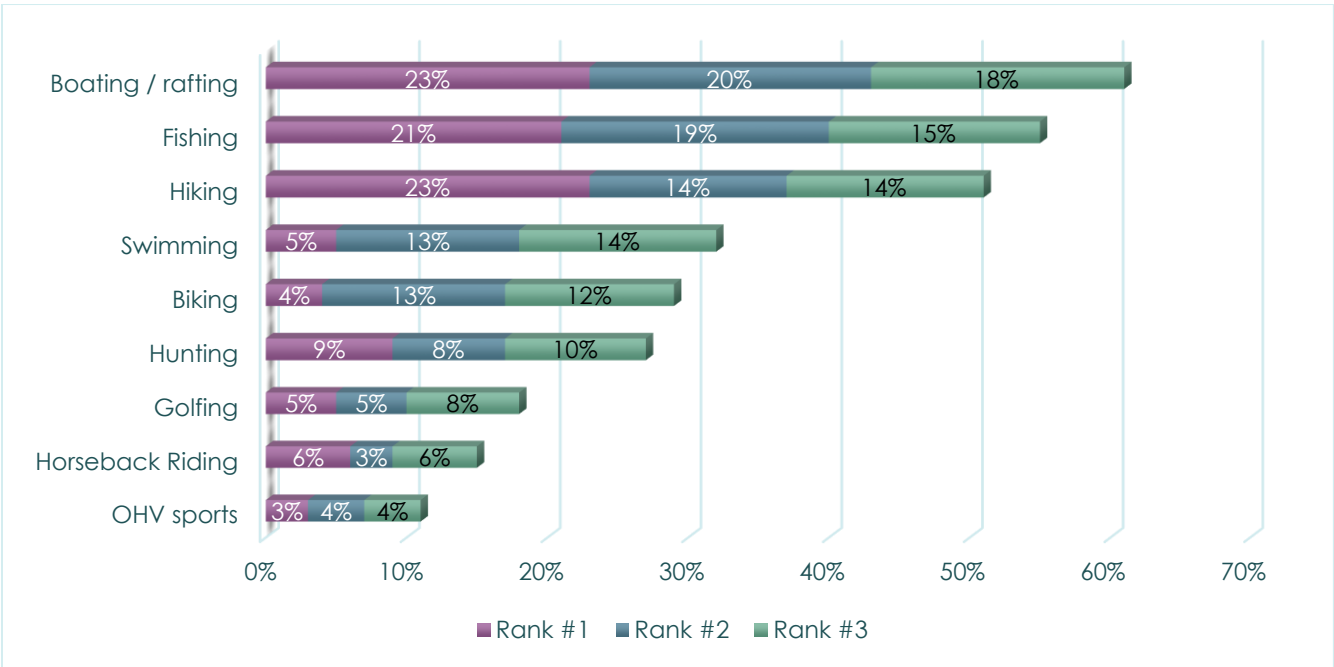
Nearly three-fourths of participants thought ongoing maintenance is very important and virtually everyone else thought it was somewhat important.



Over 30% of respondents do not feel like they have sufficient access to recreational opportunities in South Wasco County.

- Qualitative responses to this questions often cited the Pine Hollow boat ramp blocking access to recreation as a barrier to access.
- Several respondents stated they would like to see handicap accessibility to access recreational opportunities.

When asked to rank which recreational activities were most important to them from 1 to 9, respondents selected boating / rafting, fishing, and hiking as their top three recreational activities (Q4).



ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

Oregon's Kitchen Table Survey—Online South Wasco County Parks and Recreation District Survey; N=289 December 2015

Introduction

The South Wasco Alliance, along with the Wamic Rural Fire Foundation, the Wamic Boating Access Improvement Committee, and Wasco County have formed a workgroup to consider how best to develop and maintain recreational facilities in South Wasco County. That workgroup wants to hear from you about your values and priorities regarding recreation in South Wasco County. Please take a few minutes to provide your input. This survey should take you less than 5 minutes to complete.

Information

For many years, outdoor enthusiasts (both residents and non-residents) have enjoyed hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, golfing, boating, and swimming in South Wasco County. That part of the county hosts tens of thousands of recreational visitors every year. As recreational use across South Wasco County has grown, safety, maintenance, governance, and funding of recreational sites have become more complex. Some of the more acute issues include safety concerns regarding broken boat ramps in Pine Hollow Reservoir, unclear landing and debarking areas on the Deschutes, and buildings in disrepair at Hunt Park (the Fairgrounds). Private land owners have also expressed concerns regarding trespassing on private land and would like to see more clarity around recreational boundaries.

Though communities in other parts of Wasco County have formed parks and recreation districts to cover recreational facilities, South Wasco County does not have such a district. In an effort to protect existing private lands from unwanted trespassing, preserve recreation and gain access to state and federal funding, a work group was formed to explore the possibility of developing a non-taxing South Wasco County Parks and Recreation District.

But we need to hear from you! We need as many South Wasco County residents as possible – as well as people who visit and recreate here – to share their opinions. A report summarizing your input will be provided to the workgroup, Wasco County Commissioners, and will be open and available to the public on Oregon's Kitchen Table's website (www.oregonskitchentable.org). All answers will be confidential and will not be associated with your name or contact information, per the privacy policy.

1. How important are recreational activities in South Wasco County to you and your family?

Very Important	62%
Somewhat Important	33%
Not Important	4%
Don't Know/No Opinion	1%
Total	100% (N=286)

2. How important is the ongoing maintenance of existing restrooms, grounds, and facilities to you?

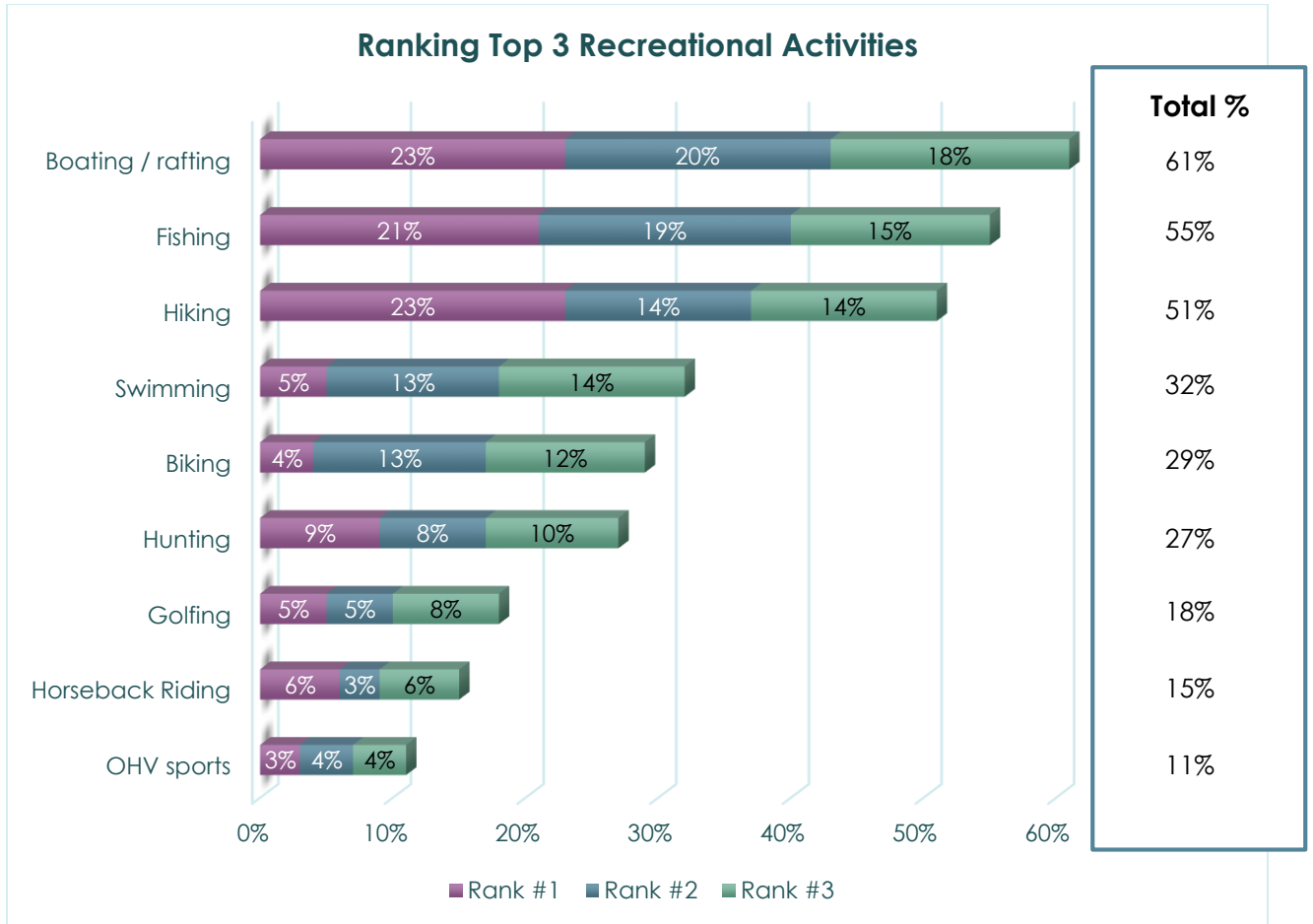
Very Important	73%
Somewhat Important	23%
Not Important	3%
Don't Know/No Opinion	0.3%
Total	99% (N=287)

3. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statement:

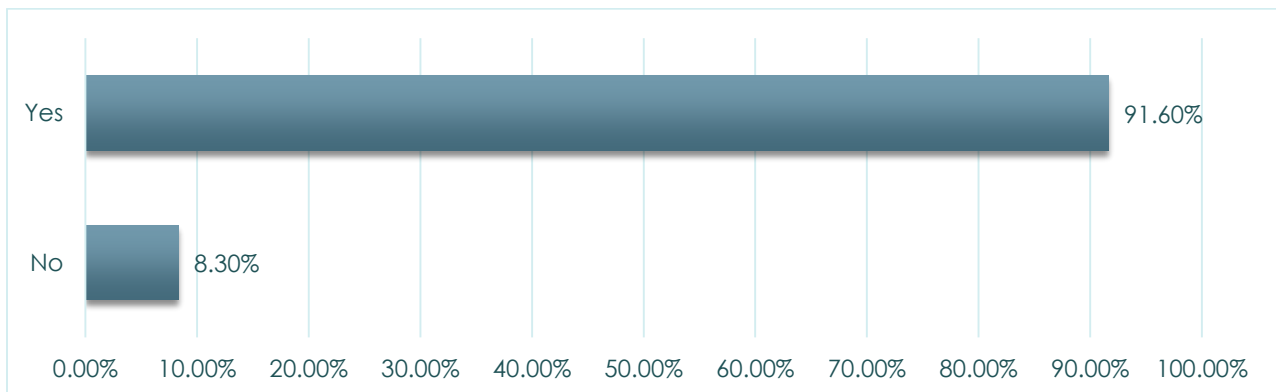
The existing facilities and recreation sites in South Wasco County currently meet my and my family's needs

Strongly Agree	5%
Agree	41%
Disagree	31%
Strongly Disagree	16%
Don't Know/No Opinion	7%
Total	100% (N=287)

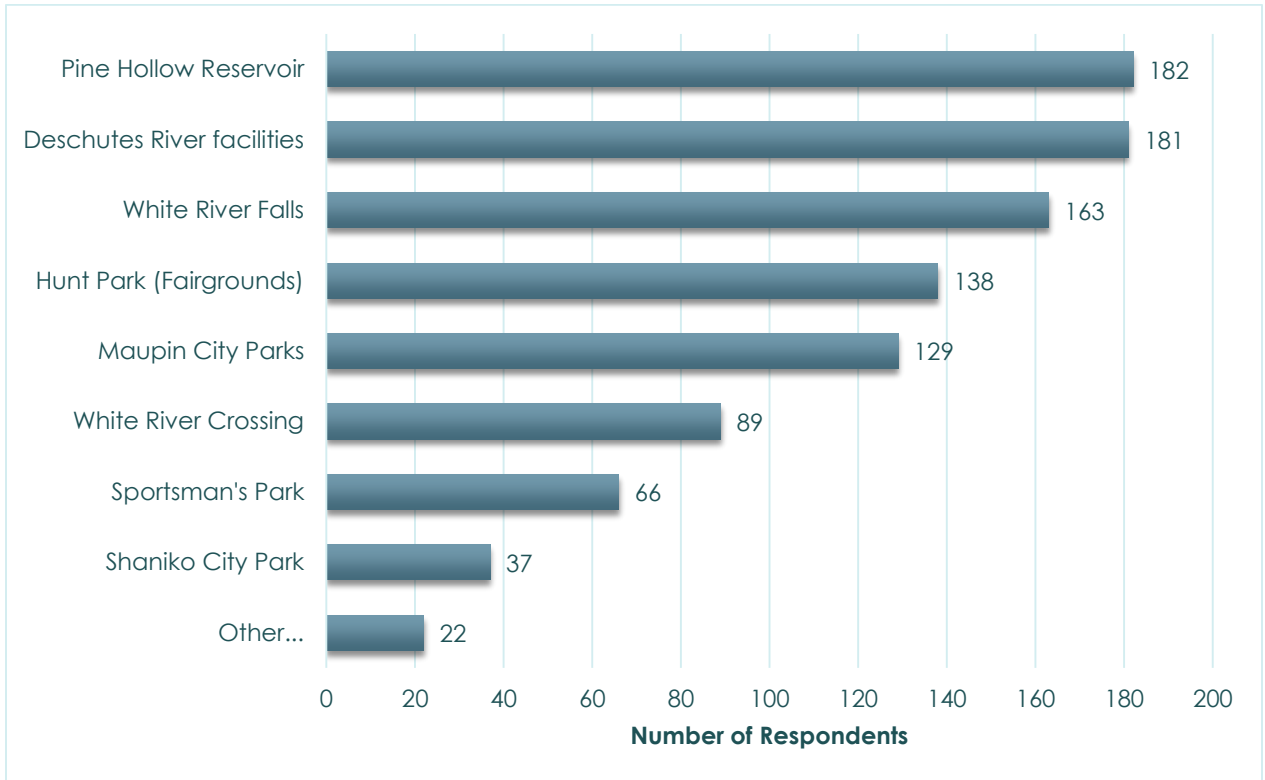
4. We would like to know which recreational activities are most important to you. Please rank which types of recreational activities you value most in South Wasco County, with 1 being most important to you and 9 being least important:



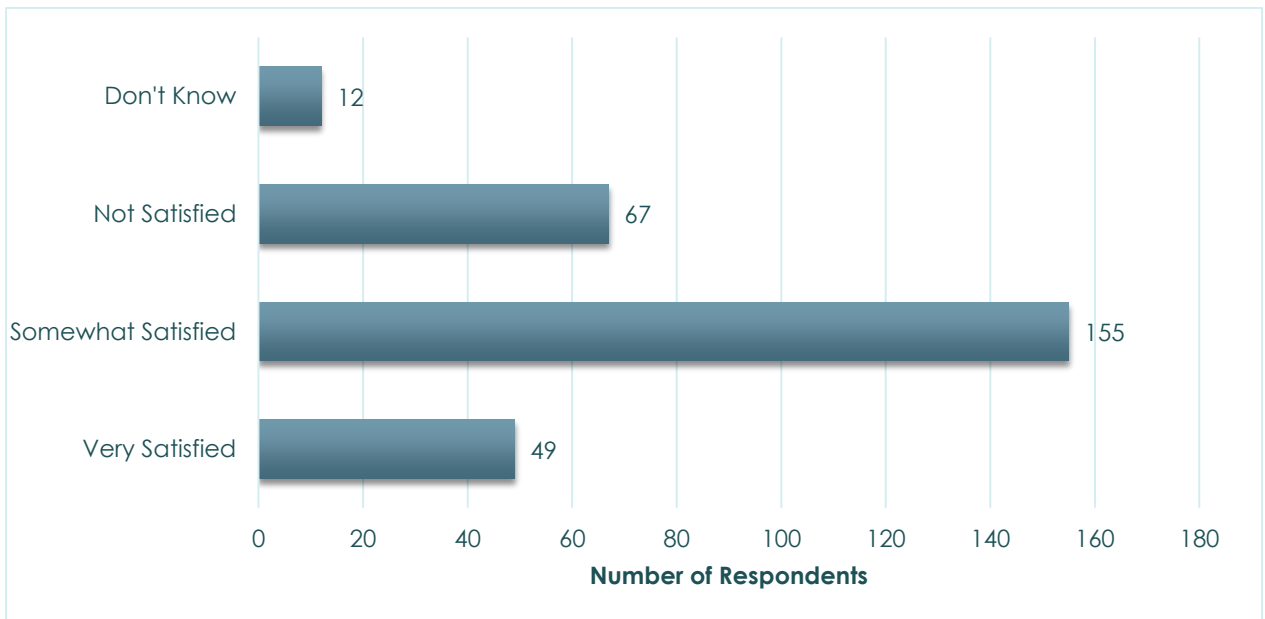
5. Have you / or members of your household visited any recreational sites in South Wasco County during the last 12 months?



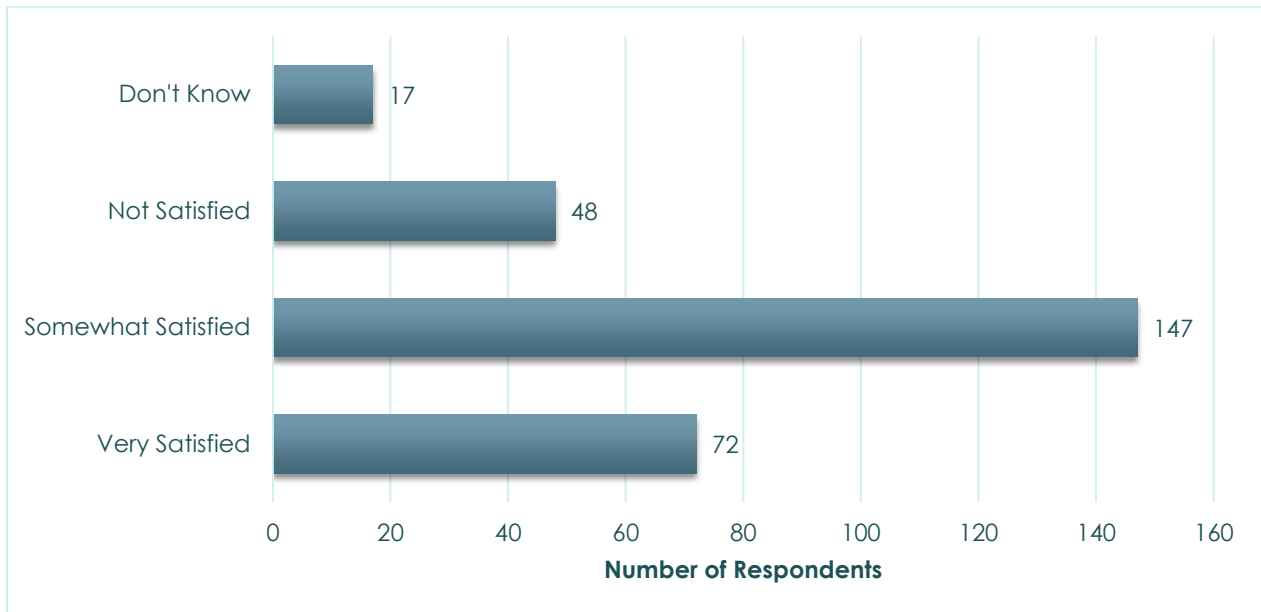
6. If yes, please check all the sites you have visited in the past year:



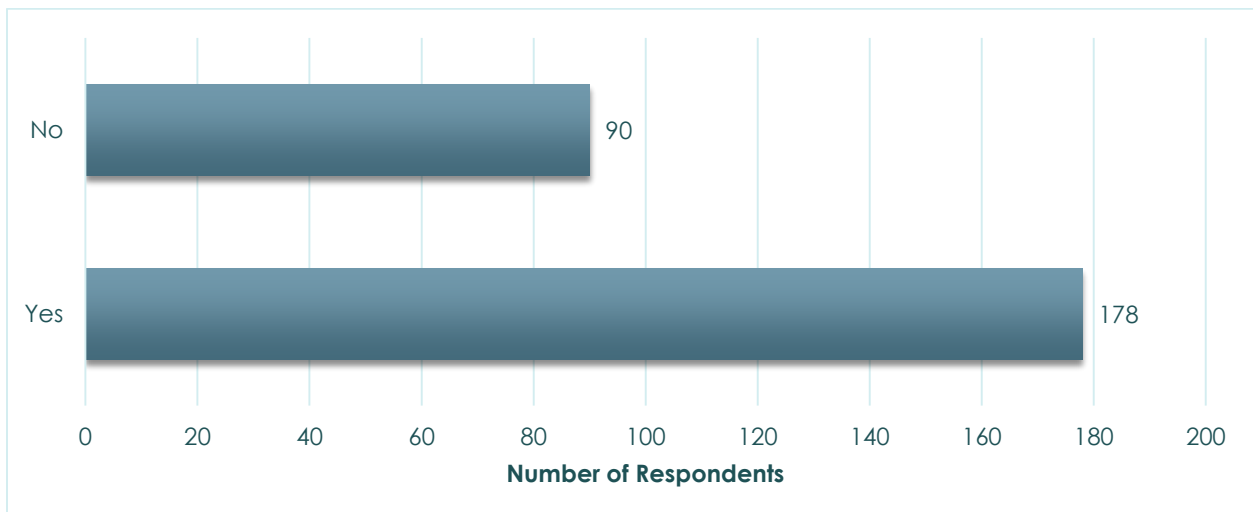
7. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the level of maintenance of the parks and other recreation sites that you have visited?



8. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with the level of safety of the parks and other recreation sites that you have visited?

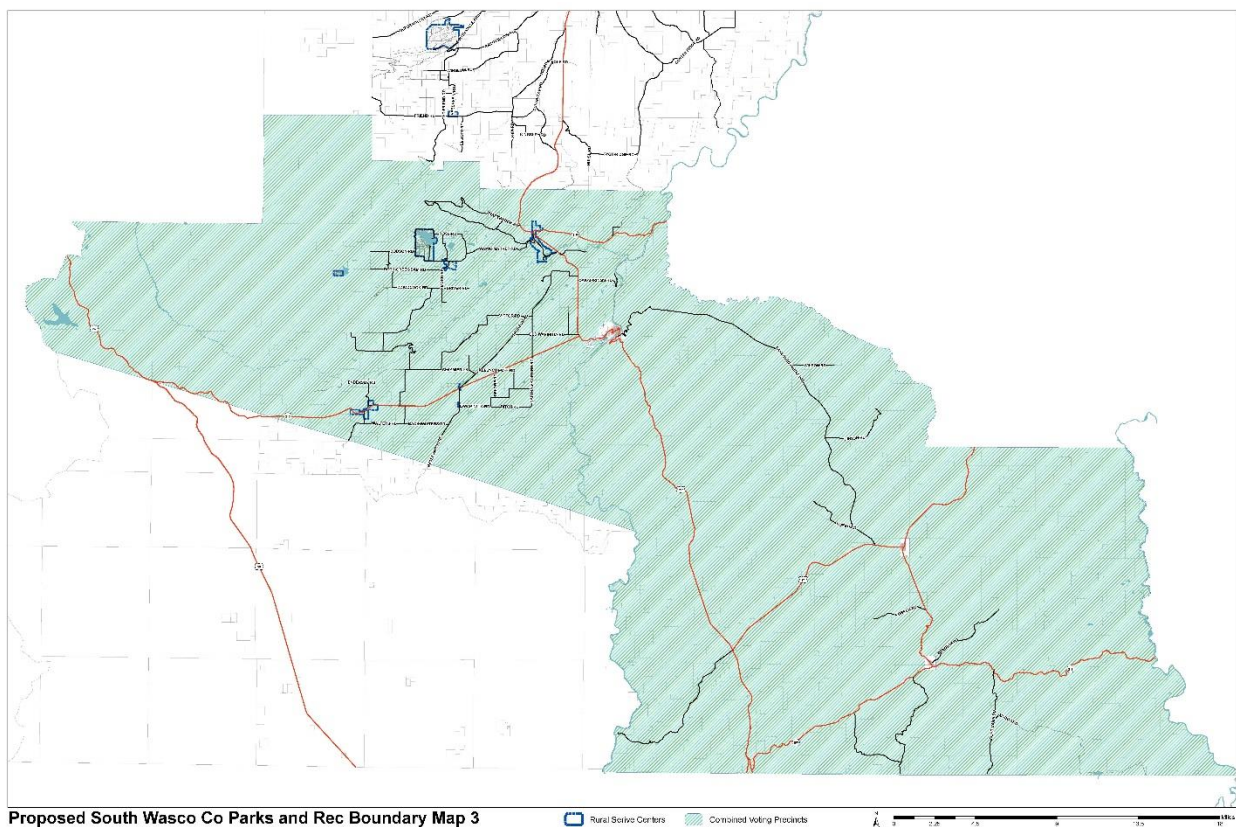


9. Overall, do you feel like you have sufficient recreational opportunities in South Wasco County?

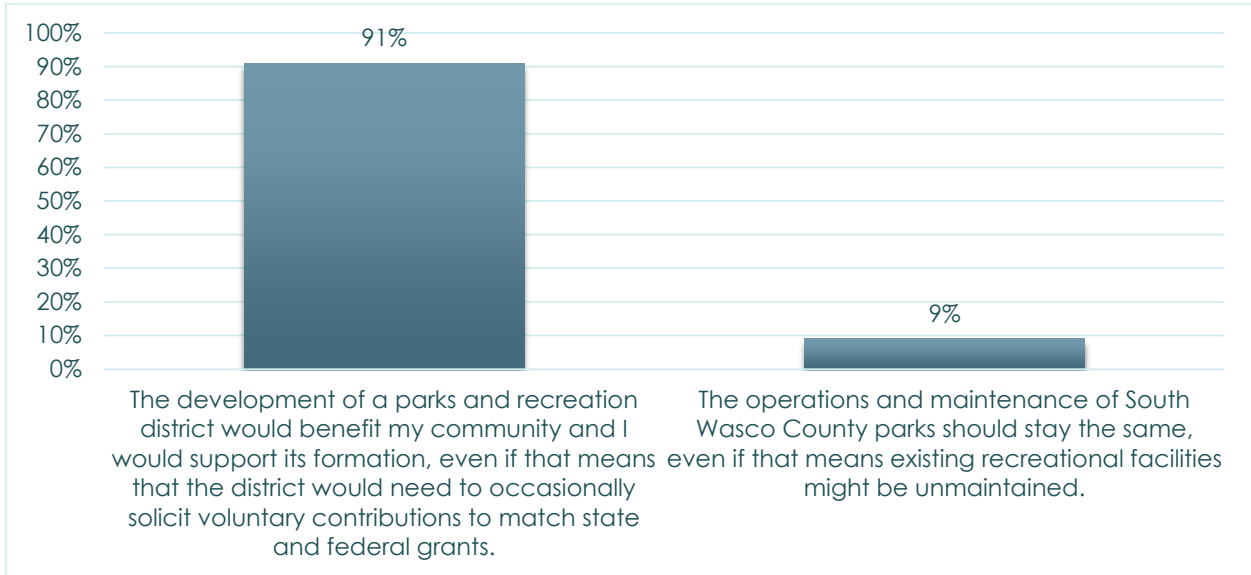


Participants were then given the opportunity to share any thoughts or comments regarding access to recreational opportunities in South Wasco County. All responses to this question were provided to Wasco County and are available upon request from Oregon's Kitchen Table. (OPEN)

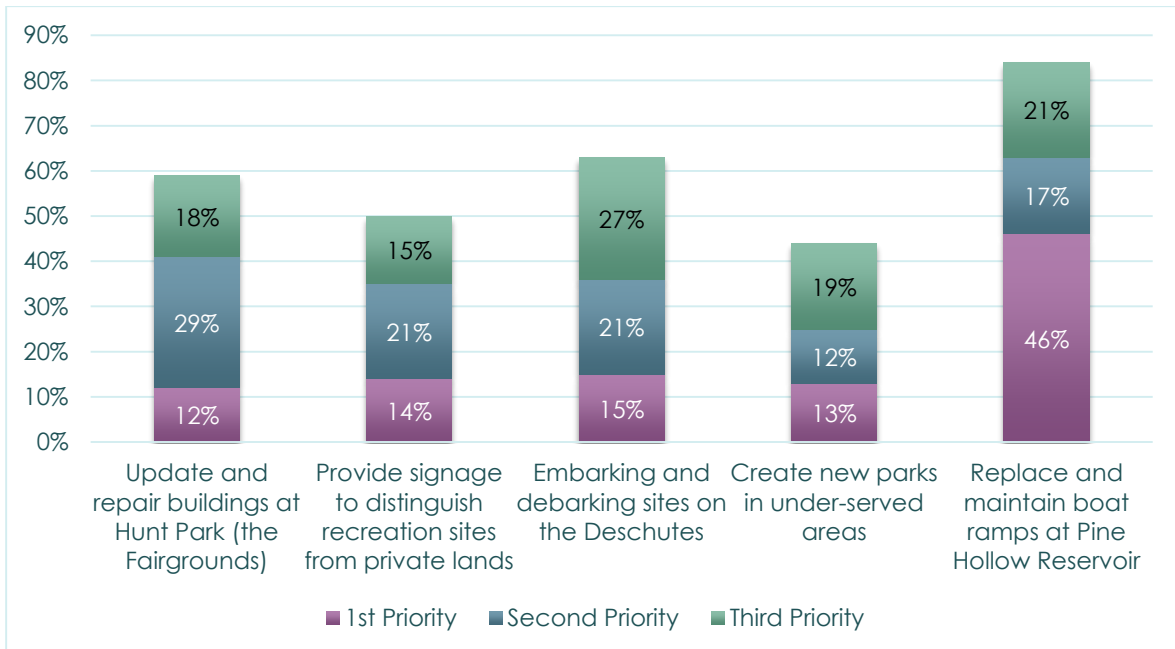
Now we would like to have you share your opinion specifically about the option of a non-taxing South Wasco Parks and Recreation District. The working group is considering proposing to the Wasco County Commissioners that they create such a district in order to provide locally controlled development and maintenance of recreation sites in the southern part of the county. The district would be governed by a locally elected board, which would oversee maintenance of existing assets and future projects. A Parks and Recreation District would not tax local residents but would have access to state and federal funding designated for recreation. The district might also be funded through user fees and supported by voluntary contributions to match state and federal grants.



10. Based on the information above, which statement is closest to your beliefs, even if neither is exactly what you believe. (Check one)



11. If a parks and recreation district were formed for South Wasco County, what would you see as its first priority, 1 being most important and 5 being least important.



12. If a parks and recreation district were formed for South Wasco County, where would you most like to see new recreational sites developed? All responses to this question were provided to Wasco County and are available upon request from Oregon’s Kitchen Table. (OPEN)