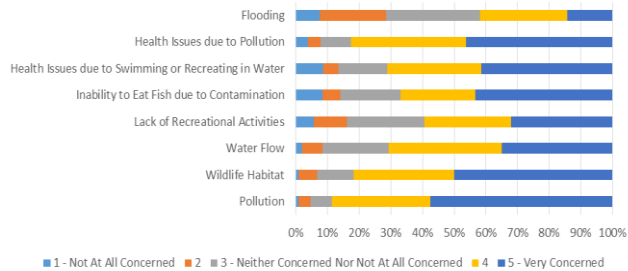


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Summary

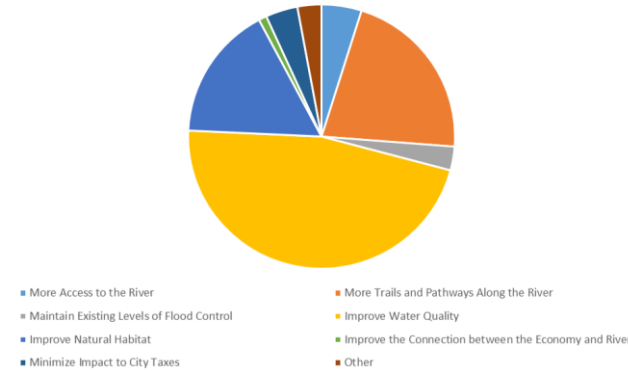
Policymakers typically adopt policy that reflects the will of the people. The Portneuf River, as it flows through Pocatello, faces several ecological challenges in addition to the levees protecting the city having been declared out of compliance by the Army Corps of Engineers. Facing many important river management decisions, theory suggests that it is important for policymakers in Pocatello to understand the public's attitudes toward a variety of river issues. By understanding public attitudes, policymakers will be in a better position to gauge which policy alternatives the public will likely support. Perhaps more importantly, this information can identify areas where policymakers will need to focus their attention if they want to convince a potentially skeptical public to support their policy recommendations. This project reports preliminary results from a survey of the residents of Pocatello.

Public Concern for Portneuf River Issues



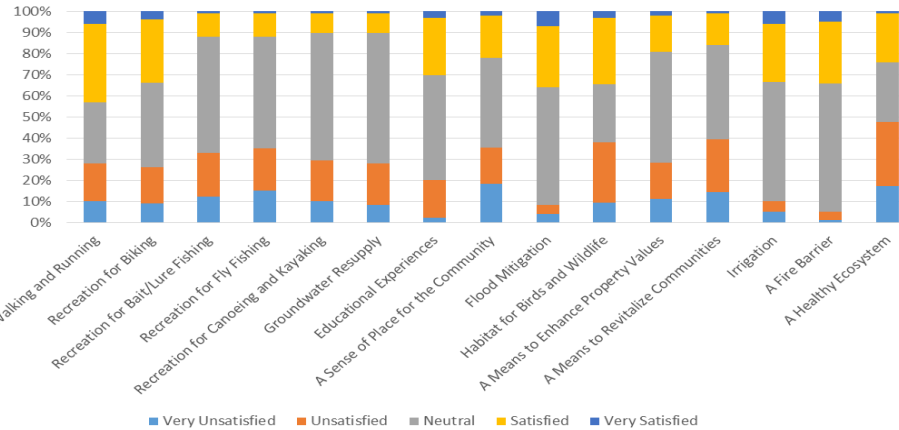
The public generally believes all of these issues are risky, except flooding.

The Public's Top Priority for Modifying the Portneuf River



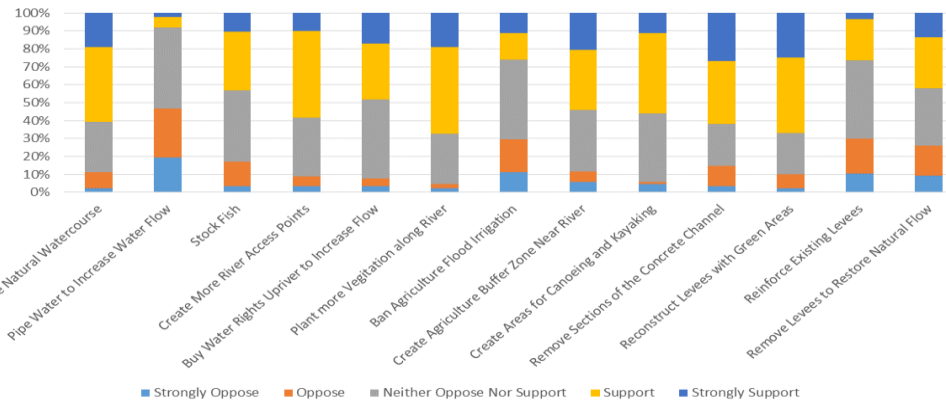
The public generally believes the priority should be to improve water quality, followed by creating more trails and pathways along the river.

Public Satisfaction with Ecosystem Services Provided by the Portneuf River



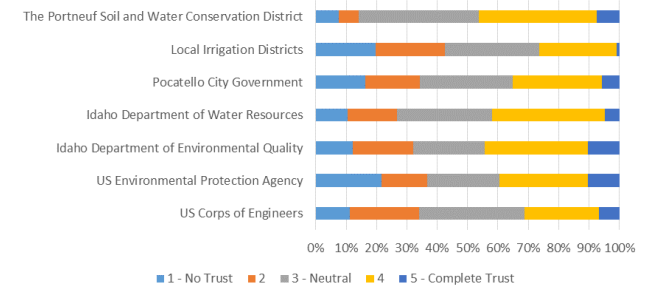
The public is generally undecided on how satisfied they are with the ability of the Portneuf to provide various ecosystem services. Levels of dissatisfaction, however, tend to be larger than levels of satisfaction with many of these services. If policymakers want to convince the public to support policy, they will need to convince the public that the Portneuf is not providing these services to a level that is acceptable, and that it is important that it does. Unless the public recognizes that they need these services, they will be more hesitant to support policy.

Public Support for Policy Proposals



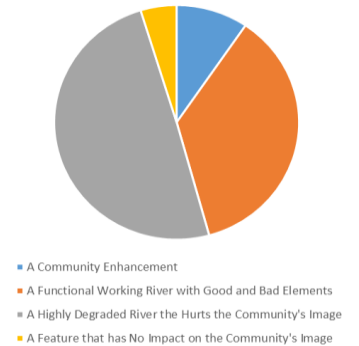
The public is split on their support of river management policy. However, with the exception of piping water, they generally appear to trust that the government will do what is best, as they do not fundamentally oppose these policies. A majority of the public appears to support 7 of the 13 policy proposals. Though hesitant to ban the use of flood irrigation, the public is willing to require a buffer zone between the river and farmland. The public does not like the current flood control system, supporting removing sections of the concrete channel and completely reconstructing the existing levees.

Public Trust in Relevant Governmental Institutions



The public generally does not trust the governmental institutions involved in the management of the Portneuf River. This could make it difficult for policymakers to build public support for specific policy proposals.

The Portneuf River Near Pocatello Is:



The public generally recognizes that the river is highly degraded, which is consistent with the scientific research. However, many still believe that the river is functional, suggesting that these individuals do not believe the Portneuf is any worse than any other river. These individuals, along with those of the remaining two responses may represent potential opposition to river management policy.

Still To Do

- Code the Paper Surveys (< 300 Paper Surveys)
- Fully Merge all Datasets
- Analyze Using Statistical Methods
- Compare to the Stakeholder Survey
- Eventually Compare to the Shoshone Bannock Tribal Survey