COMMUNITY IN NATURE
CLEAN WATER FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Community Values Survey Summary Report for the Sandy Creek Watershed in Area E in the Regional District of Central Kootenay

WEST KOOTENAY EcoSociety

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The West Kootenay EcoSociety is honoured to have had the opportunity to have commissioned expert consultants to lead and inform this Nature-Directed Planning project.

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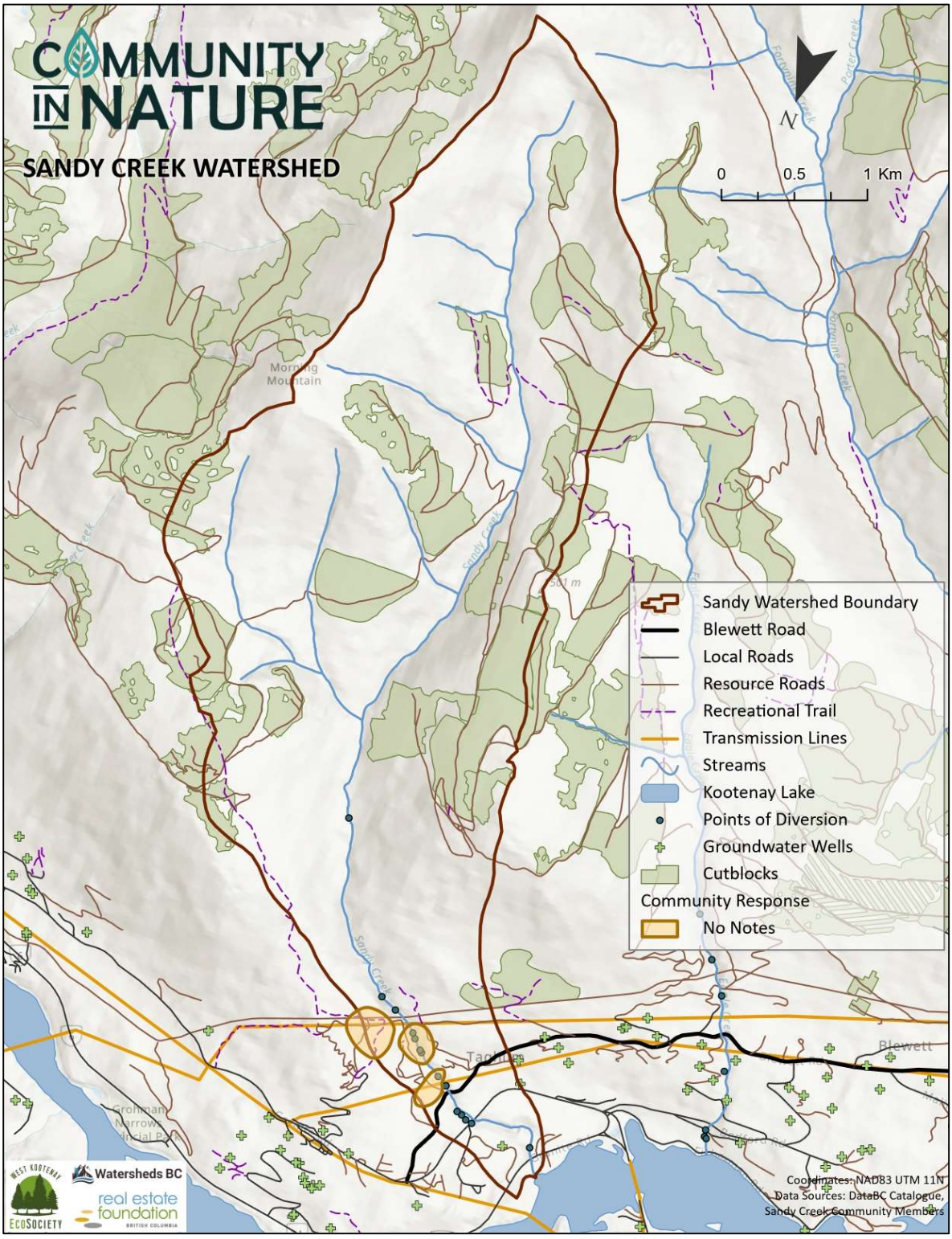
Community Values Map

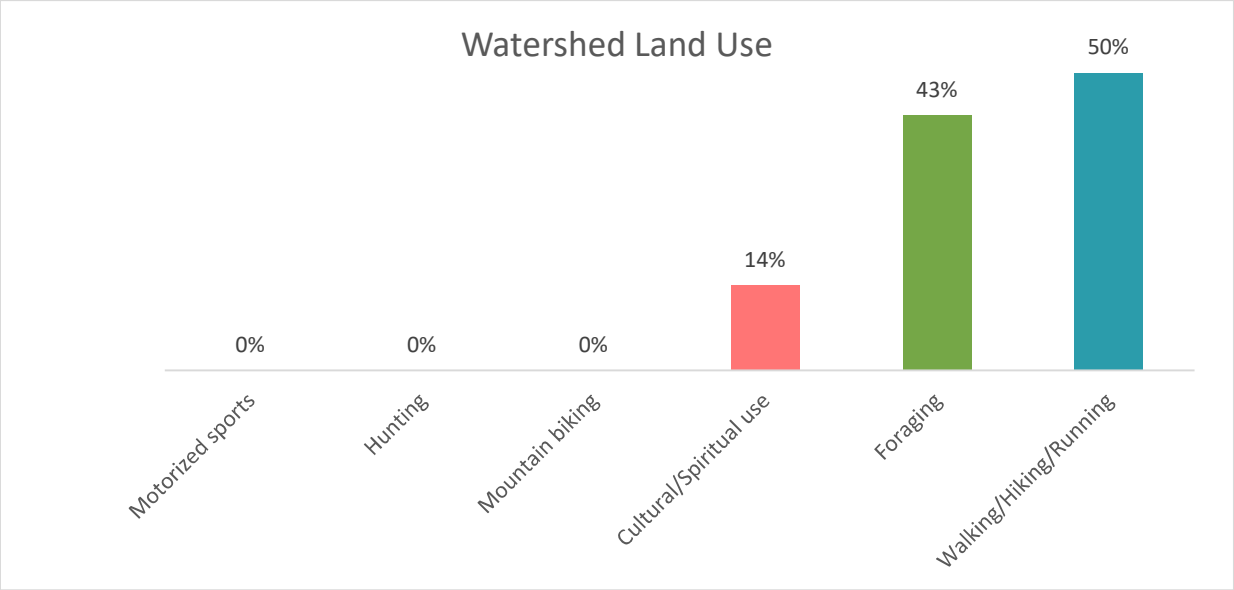
This map illustrates areas where community values exist within the watershed from responses from community members. There are three areas circled in the lower watershed but no notes were provided.



Overview of water and watershed uses

All seven respondents get their water from the stream surface or spring.

Ways community members interact with their watershed (usership) varies greatly and shows most people do interact with their watershed in some way. The other use reported was the maintenance of water intake/supply. One person reported difficulty accessing the watershed.



Q: *If you spend time in your watershed, what activities do you take part in? Check all that apply.*

Land-use preference for land base providing resident drinking water

Land-use or land-management preferences exclusively represented a desire for the subject watershed to be closed to any resource extraction, to protect water quality and present rural way of life.

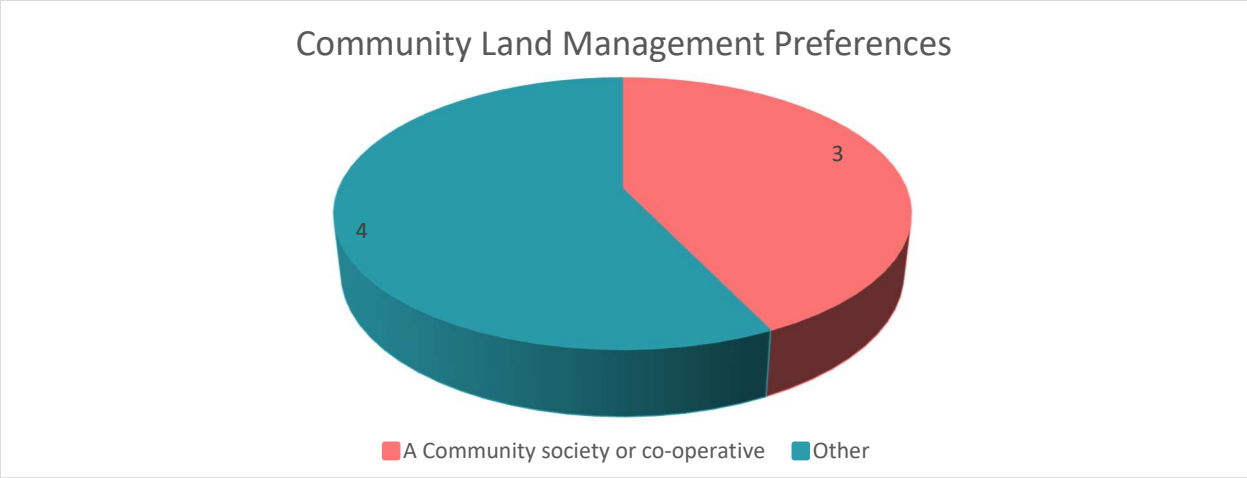
Q: *I prefer that the land base that provides my drinking water be…*	responses
Closed to any resource extraction development thereby protecting our water quality and present rural way of life.	7
Managed by the First Nations and community steering committee, using nature-based planning with the possibility of sensitive logging.	0
Open for development by current Ministry of Forests standards, which has traditionally included clear-cuts, partial cuts and slash burning with public consultation at industry discretion.	0

Community involvement in watershed planning

All seven respondents believe planning for human use of the watershed should include a meaningful role from the community living within the watershed.

Decision making in consumptive watersheds

Three of the seven respondents want a community society or co-operative to be responsible for resource use decisions in the Sandy watershed, two of the other four prefer a collaboration with community members and an elected body, the other two respondents suggested a collaborative effort from the RDCK, and the community, one of whom also suggested involvement from the Ministry.

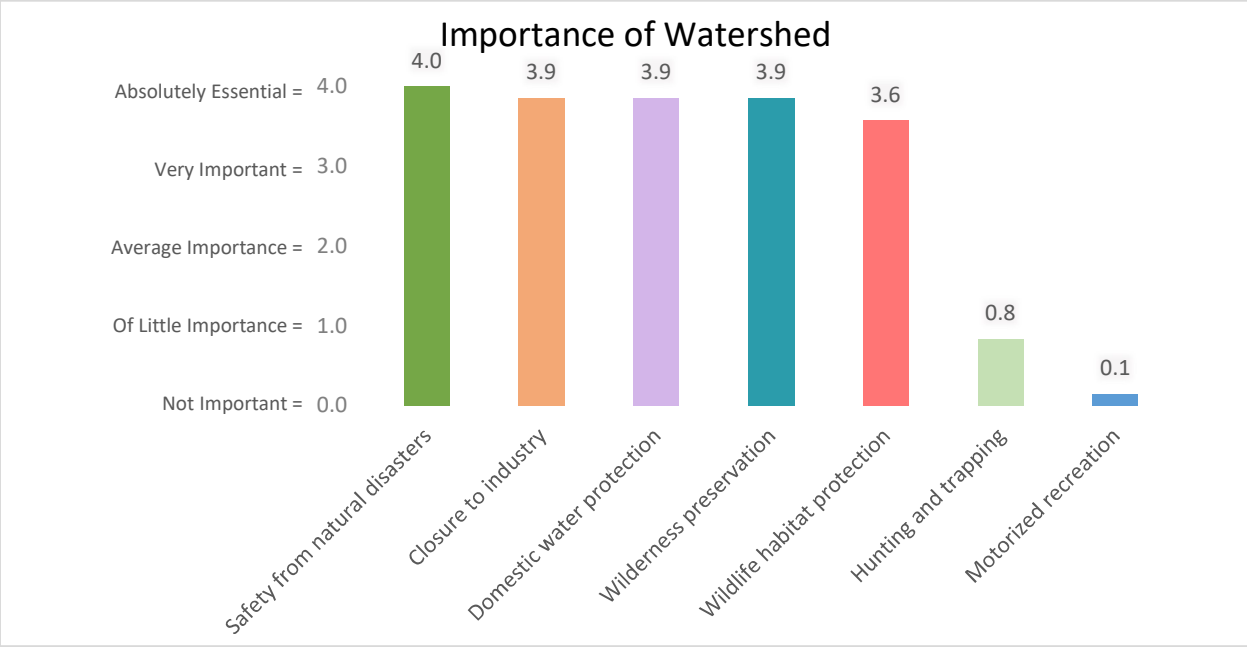


Interested in Community Engagement

Only one person showed interest in being involved in a community society or cooperative, and provided their contact information.

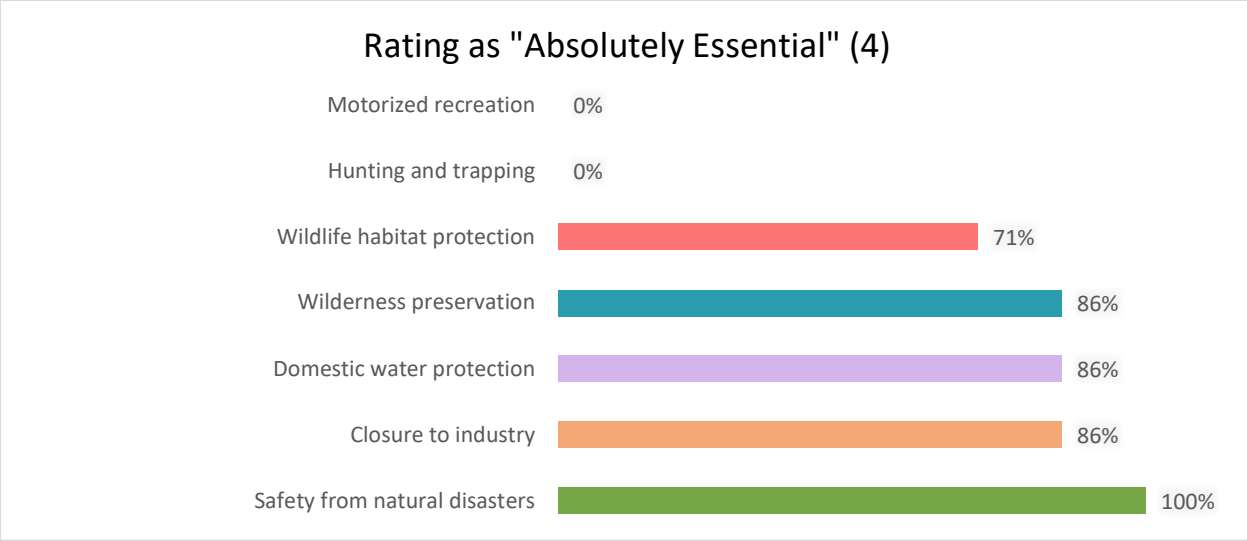
Community watershed values

The following shows the top 5 responses and the lowest two both weighted and ranked. Scenery, the next most popular selection, had a mean ranking of 3.0.



Q: *On a scale of 0 to 4 (0 being lowest, 4 being highest) give the importance of the following and list any others you think are absolutely important (4's). Weighted values averaged for all respondents; 4-point ranking system shown on y-axis.*

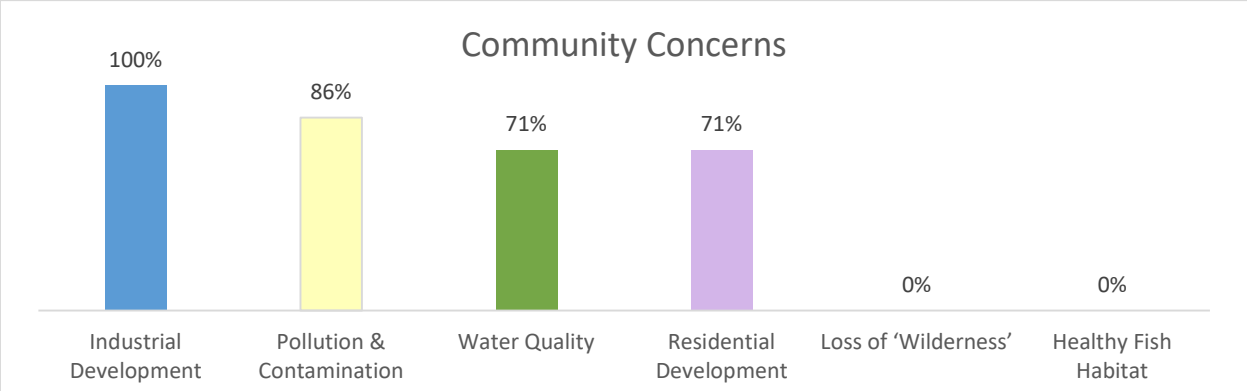
Other categories with no "Absolutely Essential" rankings were Non-logging jobs dependent on forests, Forestry, mining, industry, and Logging according to a nature-based plan.



Q: On a scale of 0 to 4 (0 being lowest, 4 being highest) give the importance of the following and list any others you think are absolutely important (4's). Motorized recreation was ranked lowest; 76% of respondents ranked motorized recreation of little (1) or no importance (0).

Community watershed concerns

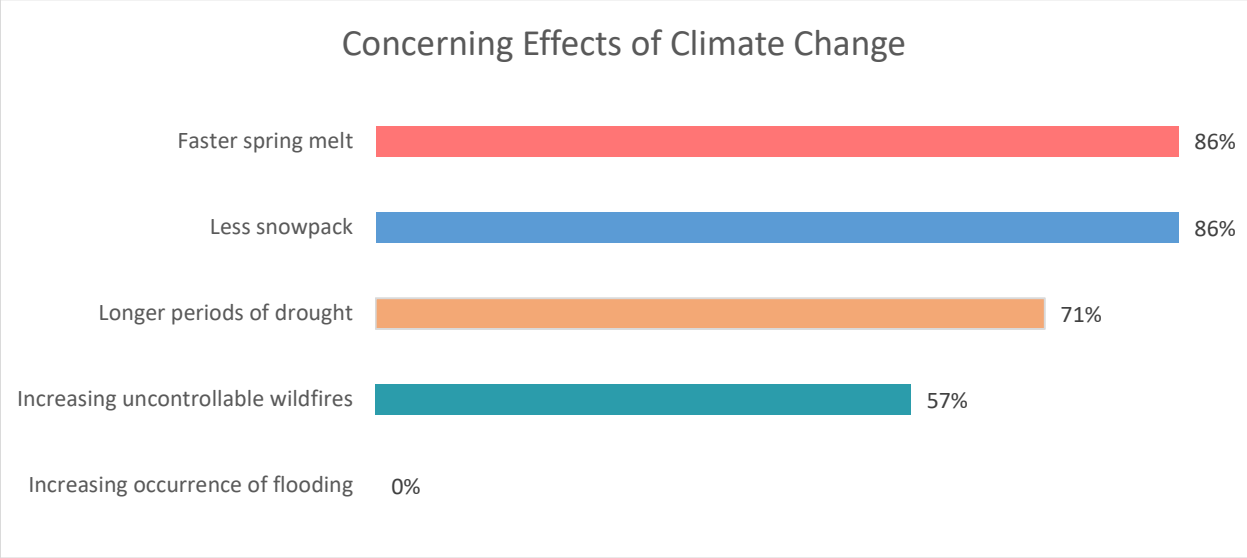
The following graph shows the top communal concerns about respondents' watersheds and the percentage of respondents selecting each category (could choose up to 5 categories). The lowest ranked options not shown (with no selections) were "Not Enough Public Access to Nature", "Loss of Indigenous Cultural, Ecological and Archaeological Values", "Agriculture", and "Trespassing on Private Property".



Q: *What are the top 5 greatest concerns when it comes to the watershed where you live, and list any other top 5's not included in the list.*

Concerns relating to climate change

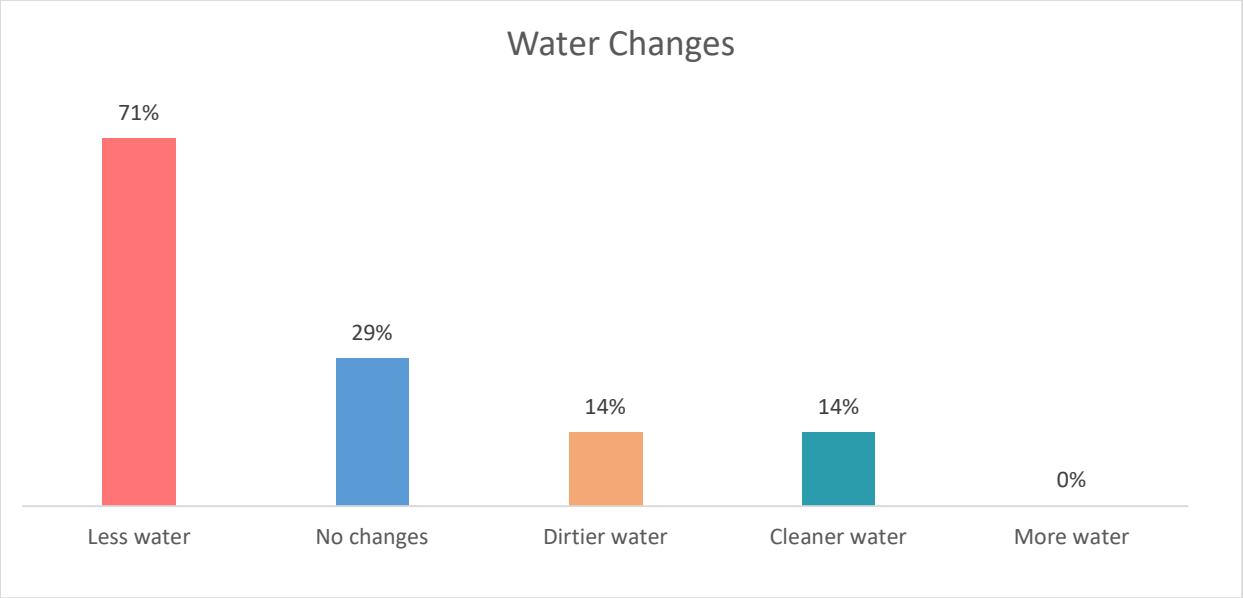
Responses show a clear concern for the effects of climate change; no respondents selected "I am not concerned".



Q: *If you are concerned about the effects of climate change on your drinking water, which concerns you most?*

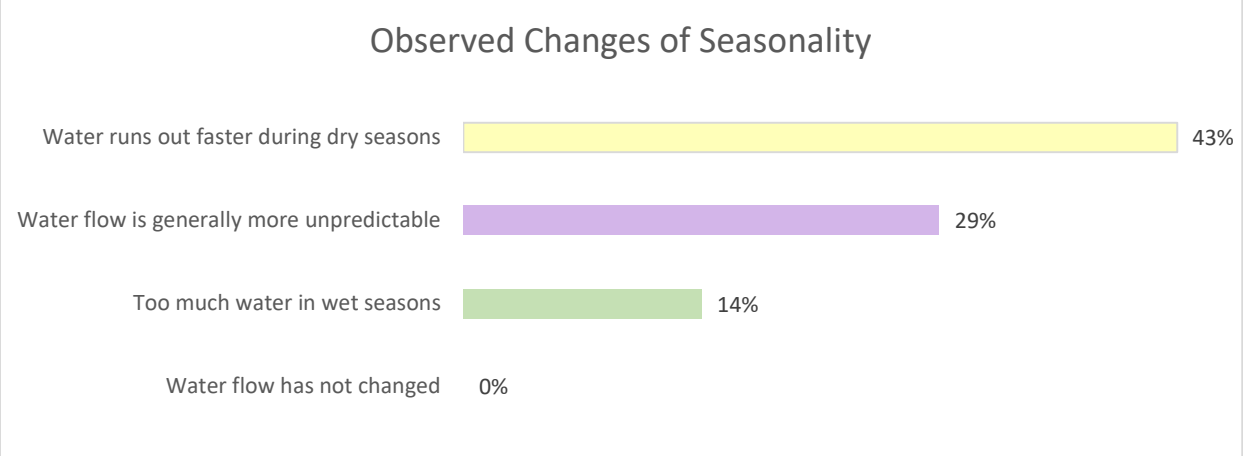
Changes to water supply

Most respondents have experienced less water in their water supply. Few have experienced more, or cleaner water (one selection each). To people have not observed any changes to their water supply. The highest response reflects the current general scientific understanding of how climate change and industrial activity can affect the ability of watersheds to function to manage water *quantity*. This was the only watershed in which the same number of respondents observed either dirtier or cleaner water.



Q: If you have experienced any changes to your water supply, what are they?

The two highest responses reflect the current general scientific understanding of how climate change and industrial activity can affect the ability of watersheds to function to manage water *quantity* and *timing of flow*. Flashiness (response time) of flow can be greatly influenced by forest cover changes.



Q: In addition to the previous question, are you also finding that…