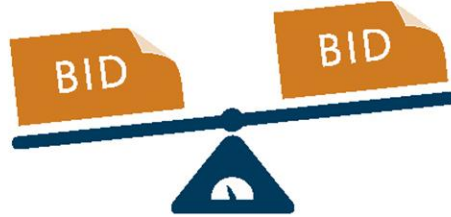


Step 1: Bid



Step 2: Compare



Step 3: Select



Step 4: Restore



LOW PARTICIPATION IN WETLAND RESTORATION AUCTIONS: WHAT GIVES?

Anna Kauffman, Department of Resource Economics and
Environmental Sociology

Supervisor: Dr. Peter Boxall

EVIDENCE OF LOW PARTICIPATION



A: Rocky View
County Auction
(2015-2016)

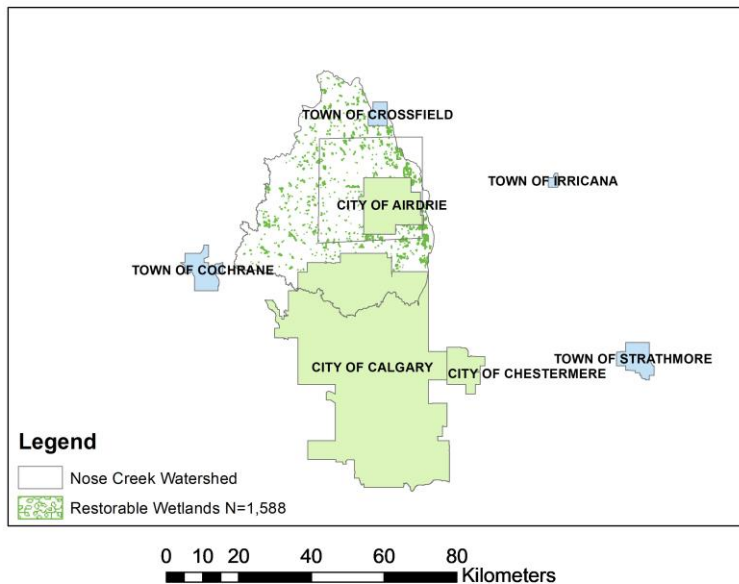
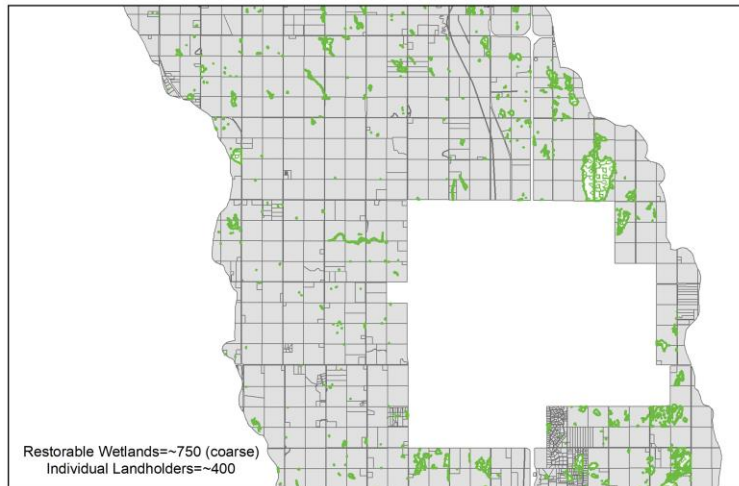
6%

B: Wheatland
County Auction
(2015)

9%

C: Assiniboine River
Watershed Auction (2008-
2009)

?



Opportunities are present from a biophysical standpoint.

INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICIPANTS (6)

Why did you want to participate in [wetland restoration]?

"I wanted to because I like to see ecosystems maintained. You know? [W]hen you start draining these things you disrupt the ecosystem and if you keep it intact you maintain a healthy ecosystem."

-Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

"I see a lot of value in wetlands themselves. I see some of the current trends in agriculture going against our environment and I think protecting the wetlands and getting away from a monoculture in certain areas is a good thing."

-Participant, Mixed Farm Operation



A restored wetland on cropland.
Photo Credit: Campbell, 2017

"I should be able to crop the whole thing, but I can't anyway: it's too wet."

-Participant, Crop farmer

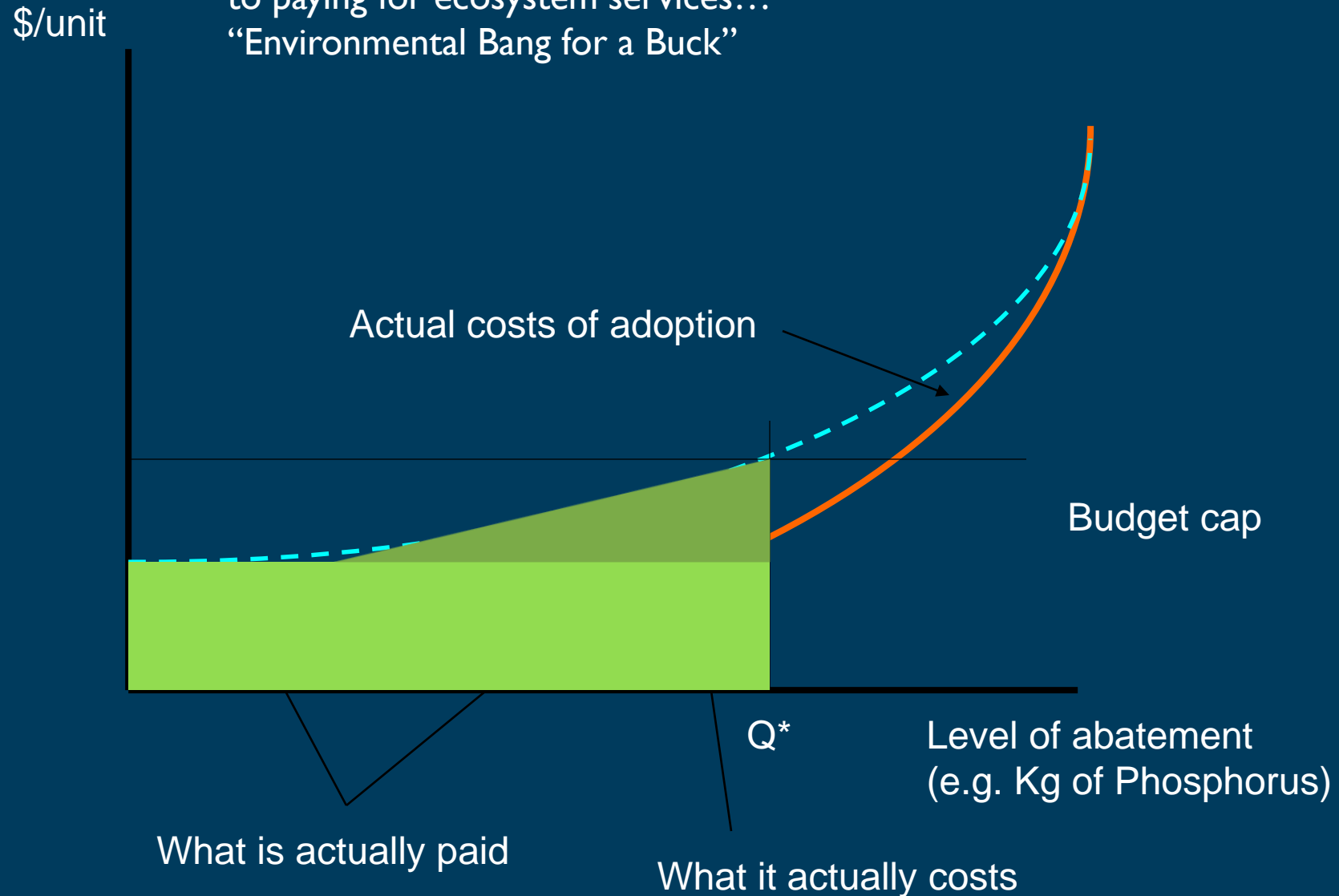
**"I didn't want to be paid...
I am doing it anyways and [I] wouldn't mind the help."**

-Participant, Ranch Hobbyist

"Could use the money. No reason to say no."

-Participant, Rancher

Low competition results in inefficiency when it comes to paying for ecosystem services...
“Environmental Bang for a Buck”



NON-PARTICIPANTS (PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION)

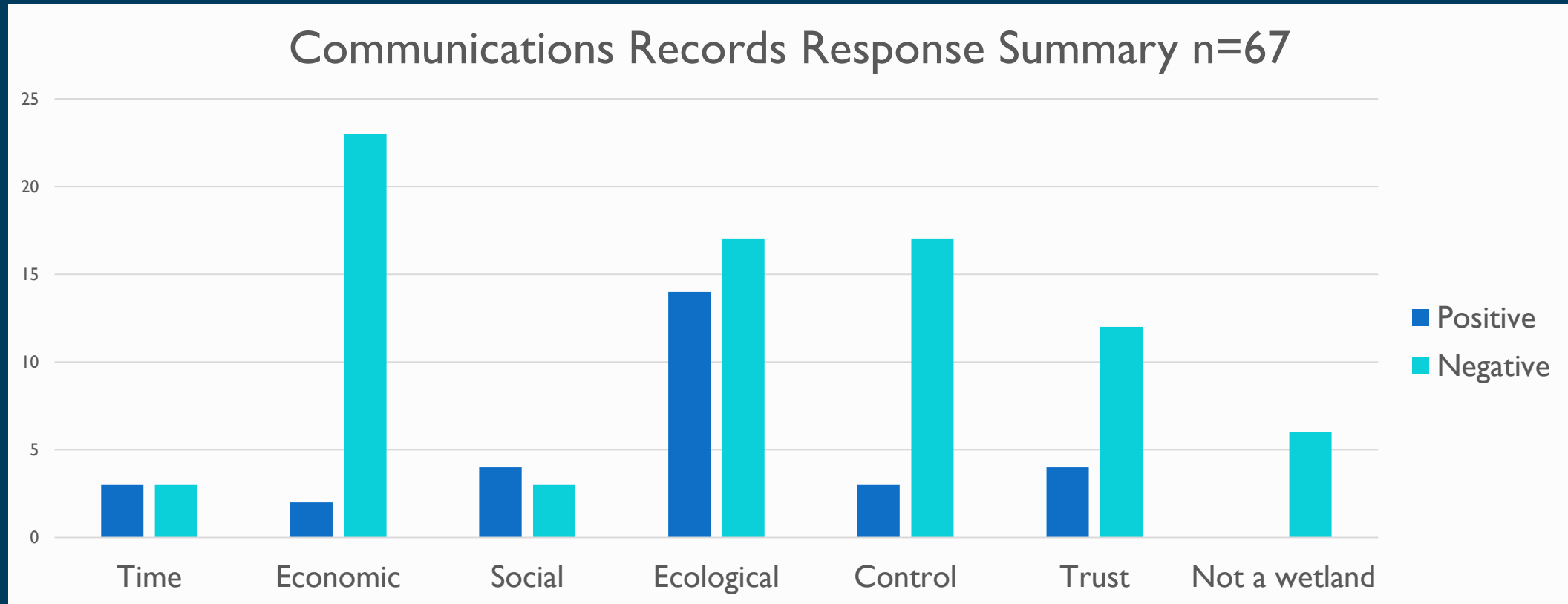


Table 7: Response Types for n=67 respondents in Assiniboine River Watershed and Rocky View County

Factor	Response Type	
	Positive	Negative
Auction Parameter	Compensation	Payment Method
Economic	Benefit	Cost
Social	My neighbours	My neighbours
Ecological	wetlands and wildlife	wetlands and wildlife
Control	Conservation easement	Property rights/contracts
Trust	The Government/Special Interest group	The Government/Special Interest group
Not a Wetland	Not defined	Not defined

INTERVIEWS WITH NON PARTICIPANTS (9)

Why don't you want to participate in [wetland restoration]?

"I don't want to lose control of my land. Say I want to do something different with it, sell it, build something beside it....They want to save wetlands? Why don't they come to me and figure out a plan to manage the water. Make the process simple and cost effective and you would have way more people just on board.

-Non Participant, Crop Producer

“No, no matter what the price is. It seems like the city [of Calgary] can drain whatever they want but farmer’s can’t. I don’t think we are ruining wetlands- the water’s still there.”

-Non Participant, Crop Producer

“Because I didn’t drain the wetlands. I didn’t mismanage the wetlands. And yet, I seem to be holding the bill. I just wish sometimes that the government would realize that [farmers] are trying to do better.

-Non Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

CONTROL/PROPERTY RIGHTS

“No, I wouldn’t do it. Because then I would lose control. I have friends with conservation easements on their property—they have to get permission to fence. They have to get permission to do just about anything. It doesn’t work.”

-Non Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

“Because it’s our land. Why should we give it up for conservation? These conservation projects aren’t any good for the farmer.”

-Non Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

PROPERTY RIGHTS

“No, I wouldn’t do it. Because then I would lose control. I have friends with conservation easements on their property—they have to get permission to fence. They have to get permission to do just about anything. It doesn’t work.”

-Non Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

“Because it’s our land. Why should we give it up for conservation? These conservation projects aren’t any good for the farmer.”

-Non Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

TRUST/CREDIBILITY

“Ducks Unlimited has too much power... They have their own interests...They are not good for business.”

-Non Participant, Crop Producer

“[The process of getting a water act approval] is sticky. We deal with Alberta Environment. I don't think they know what they are doing.”

-Non Participant, Mixed Farm Operation

MOVING FORWARD

- We need to encourage conservation and restoration by facilitating the mitigation of landowners nuisance costs.
- Relationship building through ongoing communication with landowners. Also, the ability for other restoration agents to work with landowners on wetland restoration projects.
- Ensure that Non-restorative replacement measures are being taken, as noted in the Alberta Wetland restoration directive. Education and research opportunities remain.