

# The Wetland Lens: Private and Public Drivers for Investment



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# Guiding Questions

- 1) What is the lens with which we view wetlands?
- 2) What drives how wetlands are valued?
- 3) What drives producer decision-making?
- 4) What are acceptable reasons for farmers to accept BMP or wetland regulation?

# Constructed

# Natural

Biophysical values:

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- Shoreline slope
- Chloride
- Nitrate + nitrite
- Env. stress

- Nutrients
- Hydrograph
- Groundwater connectivity
- Native biodiversity
- Biotic integrity

Perceived social values:

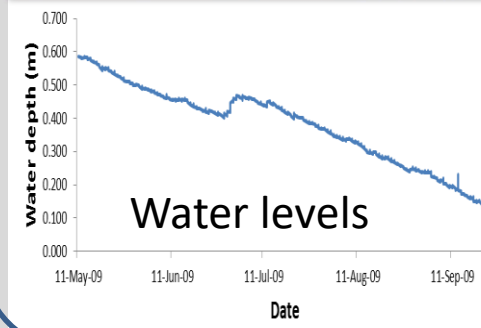
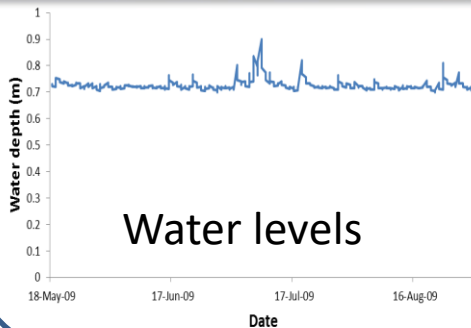
Perceived social values:

- Aesthetics
- Flood control
- Cultural heritage

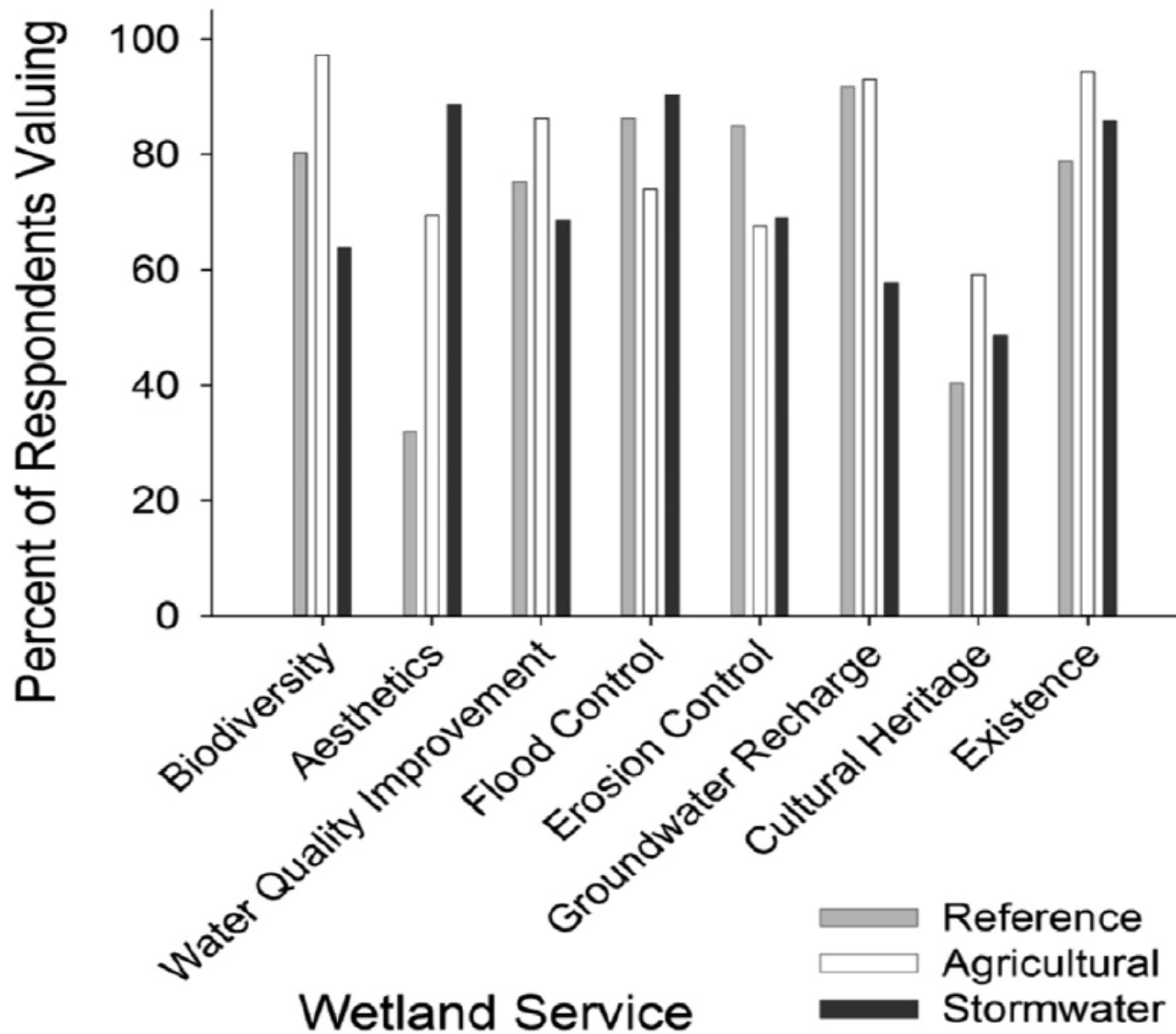
- Biodiversity
- Erosion control
- Water quality improvement
- Groundwater recharge



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# Perspectives on Wetland Services in Central Alberta



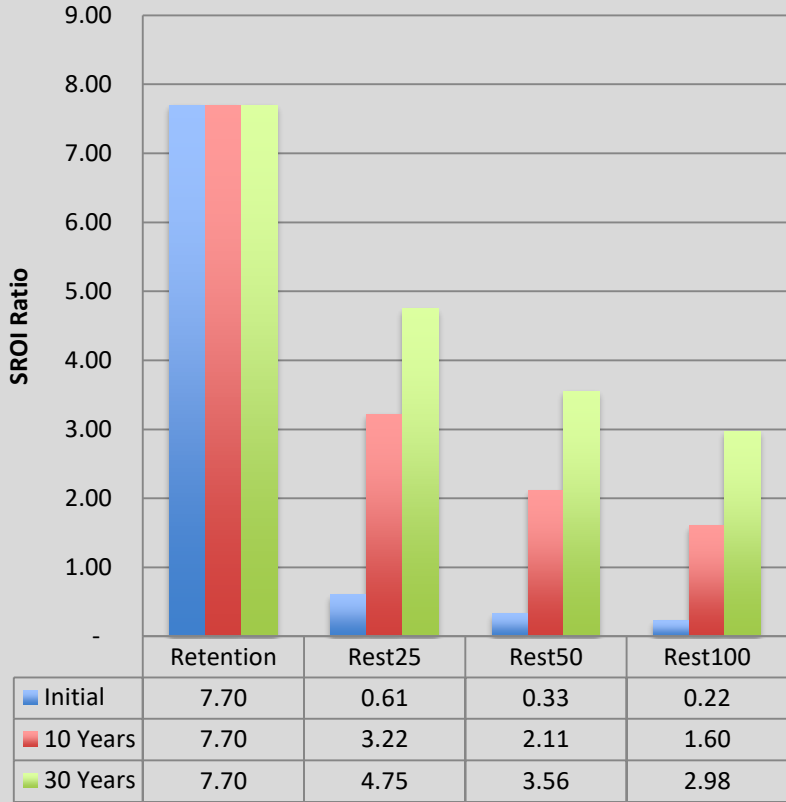
# Case Study: Smith Creek, Saskatchewan

$$PV = \sum_{i=1}^T \frac{TC_i}{(1+r)^i}$$

## Flooding Only

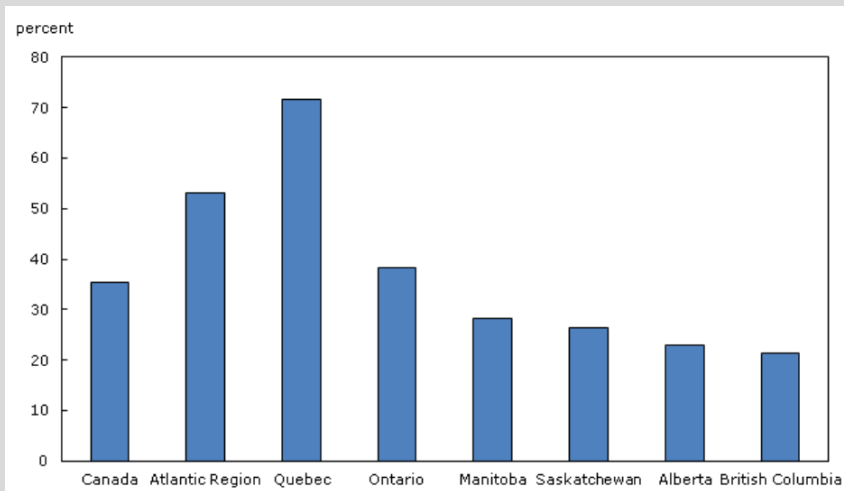


## Suite of Ecosystem Services

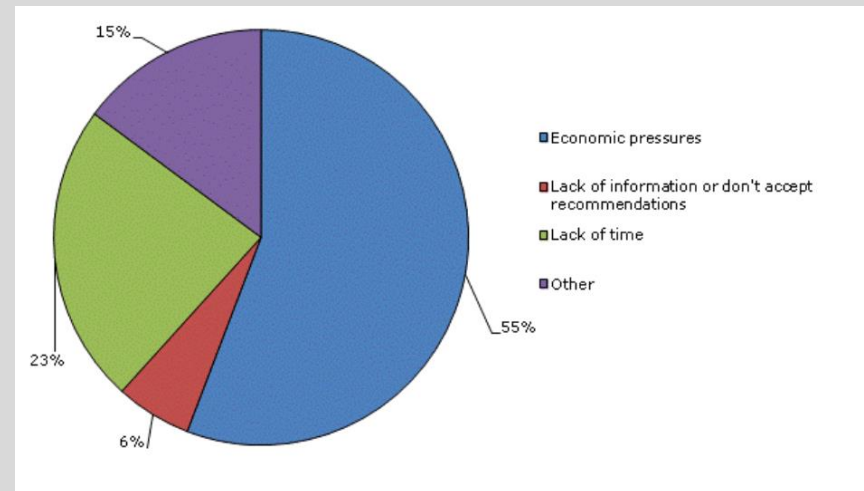


# Environmental Farm Plans (EFP)

## Participation Rates



## Reasons for Not Adopting





# Conclusions

- Our lenses are different – but not *that* different. Communication and education is essential.
- Wetlands are incredibly valuable ecosystems from economic, social and environmental perspectives. Public demand drives valuation approaches.
- Farmers are driven by economic incentives which often trump other values, whether they want them to or not.
- Private costs and public benefits can align through regulation and market based incentives.

# Acknowledgements and References

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# Questions

