

Preliminary Results of the Users' Evaluation of the California Rapid Assessment Method

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CRAM User's Survey

Purpose:

- To evaluate how CRAM is currently implemented in a regulatory setting
- Develop recommendations for improving the CRAM assessment methodology

Survey Design

- SWRCB staff developed 45 survey questions (~20minutes)
- Survey reviewed by the L2 Committee
- SurveyMonkey software was used to power survey and analysis



Survey Participants

The “User Group” consist of :

- All trained CRAM practitioners and trainers
- Federal Agencies (EPA, ACE, FWS)
- State Agencies (WBs, DFW, DWR, Calfire, Caltrans, CCC, Parks)
- Local agencies, NGOs, and other agencies
- Tribes
- Academic and Research
- Consultants and others

Questionnaire

- Both open- and closed-ended questions
- Four categories of questions:
 - *CRAM users
 - *CRAM acceptance
 - *CRAM uses
 - *CRAM performance
 - *CRAM training
 - *Recommendations

Survey Mailout

- Contacted **1442 people** via email due to problems with spam filters
- Set up **13 collectors** to track respondents: EPA, ACE, FWS, WBs, DFW, DWR, Calfire, Caltrans, CCC, Parks, SFEI, TRPA, Other
- Sent out survey on October 3
- Survey ended on October 28
- **397 responses** (39% response rate)

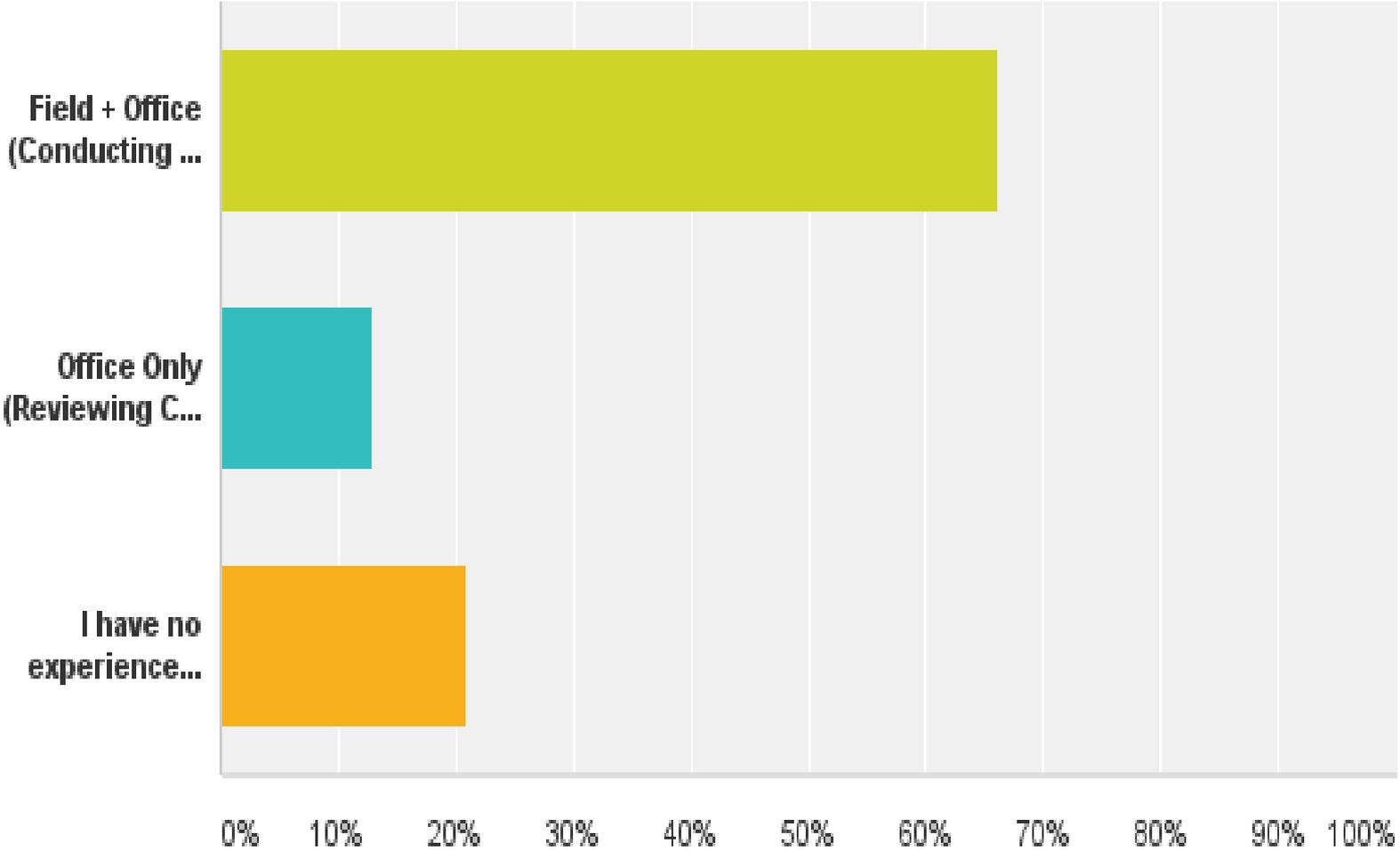
Q1: Current employer?

Answered: 397 Skipped: 0

Answer Choices	Responses	
Environmental Consulting Company	28.97%	115
Private Industry (Not consulting)	1.26%	5
Federal Government	10.83%	43
State Government	33.00%	131
Local Government	11.84%	47
Tribal Government	5.04%	20
Non-Government Organization (NGO)	2.27%	9
Academic or Research Institute	3.02%	12
Other	3.78%	15
Total		397

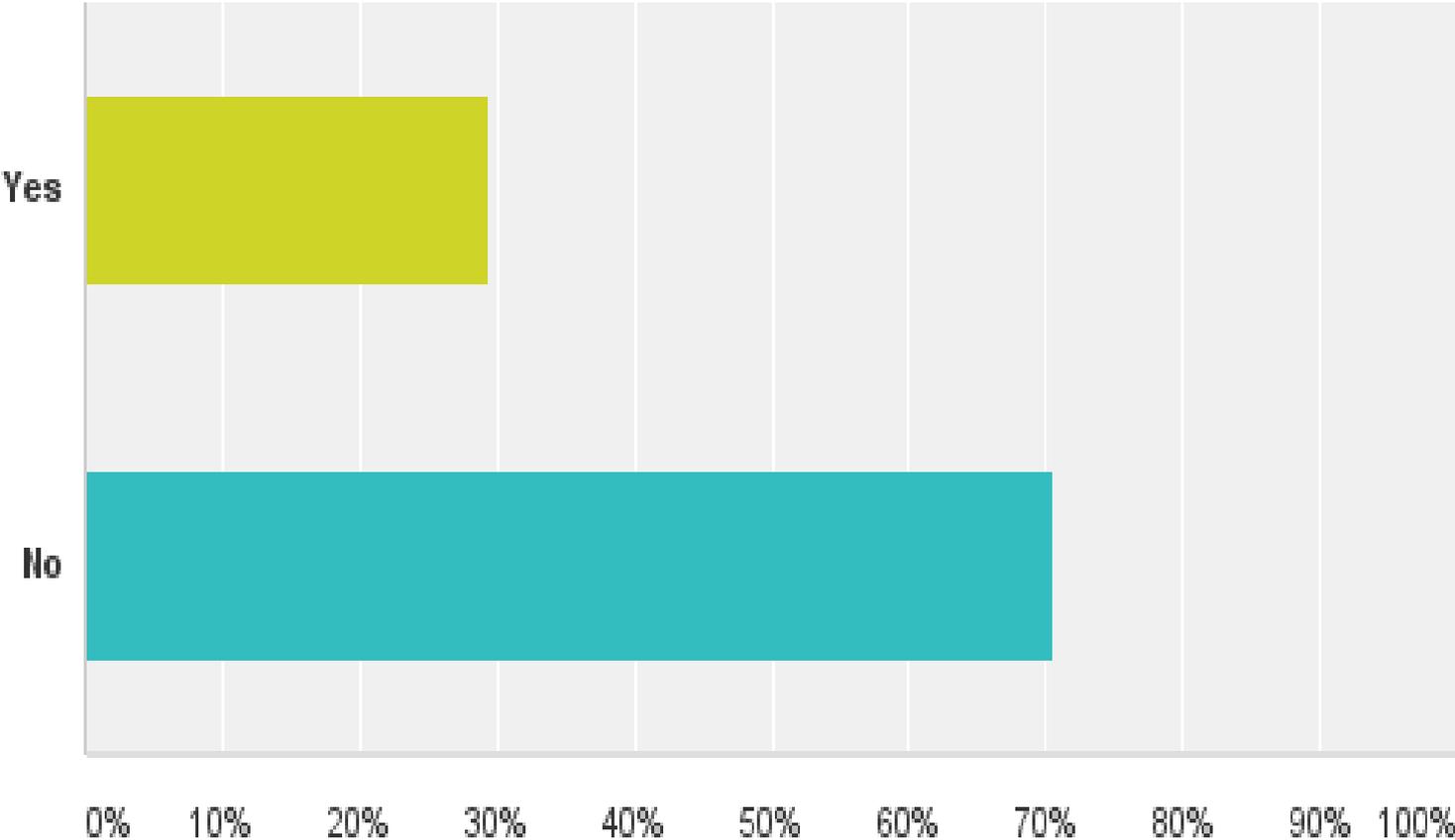
Q2: What is your primary experience with CRAM?

Answered: 394 Skipped: 3



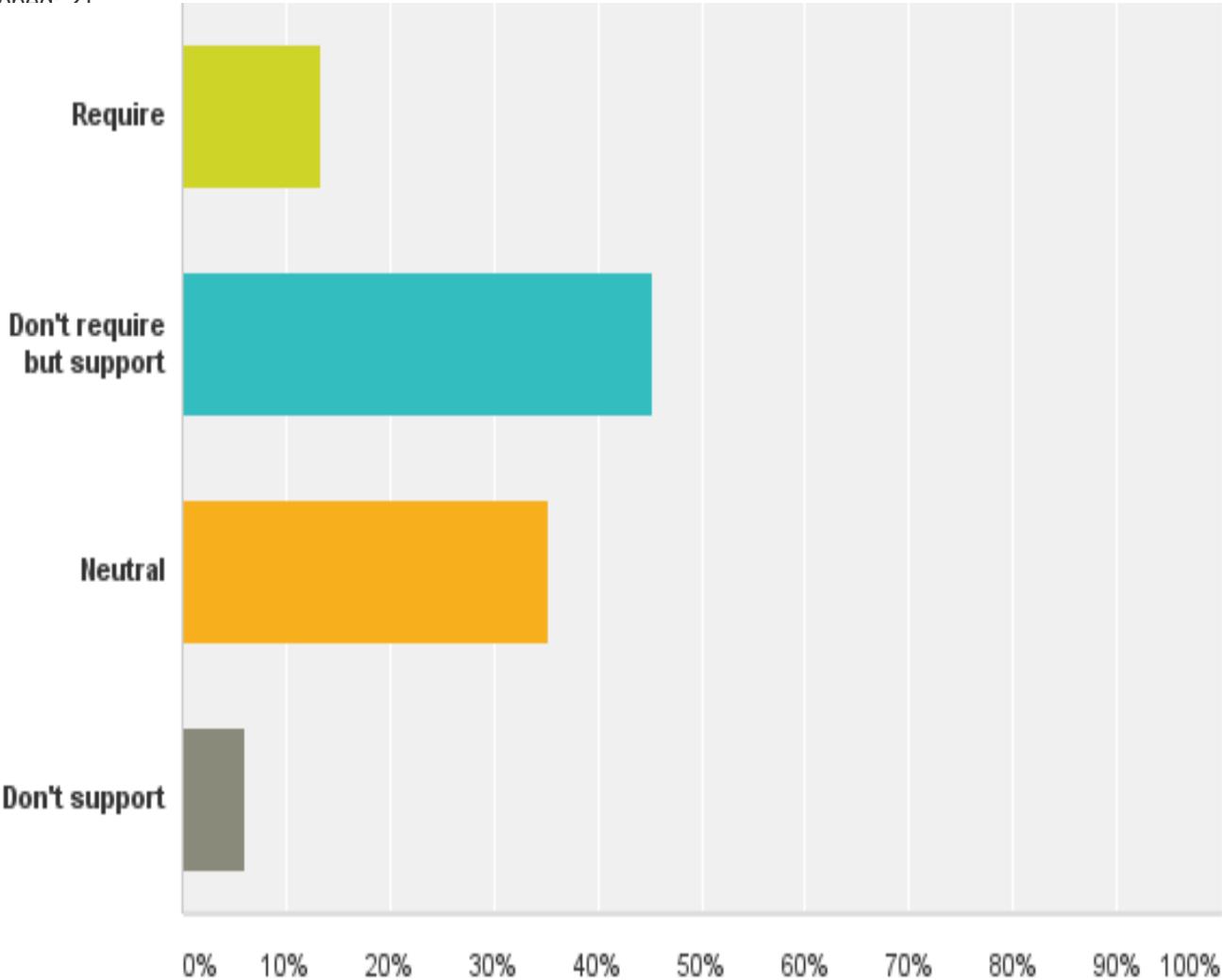
Q3: Do you identify as a regulator (e.g. do you issue permits)?

Answered: 394 Skipped: 3



Q4: What is your organization's view of the use of CRAM for regulatory purposes (e.g. permit applications or conditions)?

Answered: 376 Skipped: 21



Q7: Based on your experience in your CRAM Practitioner training course(s), how would you rate the training in terms of its ability to fully prepare you to conduct assessments using the methodology?

Answered: 303 Skipped: 94

	Very good	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Very poor	Total
Riverine	45.23% 128	41.34% 117	12.01% 34	1.41% 4	0.00% 0	283
Estuarine	39.66% 46	43.97% 51	14.66% 17	1.72% 2	0.00% 0	116
Bar Built Estuarine	34.38% 11	40.63% 13	21.88% 7	3.13% 1	0.00% 0	32
Depressional	48.62% 88	37.57% 68	12.15% 22	1.66% 3	0.00% 0	181
Slope	35.85% 19	45.28% 24	18.87% 10	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	53
Individual Vernal Pool	44.26% 27	32.79% 20	21.31% 13	1.64% 1	0.00% 0	61
Vernal Pool Systems	42.37% 25	38.98% 23	16.95% 10	1.69% 1	0.00% 0	59

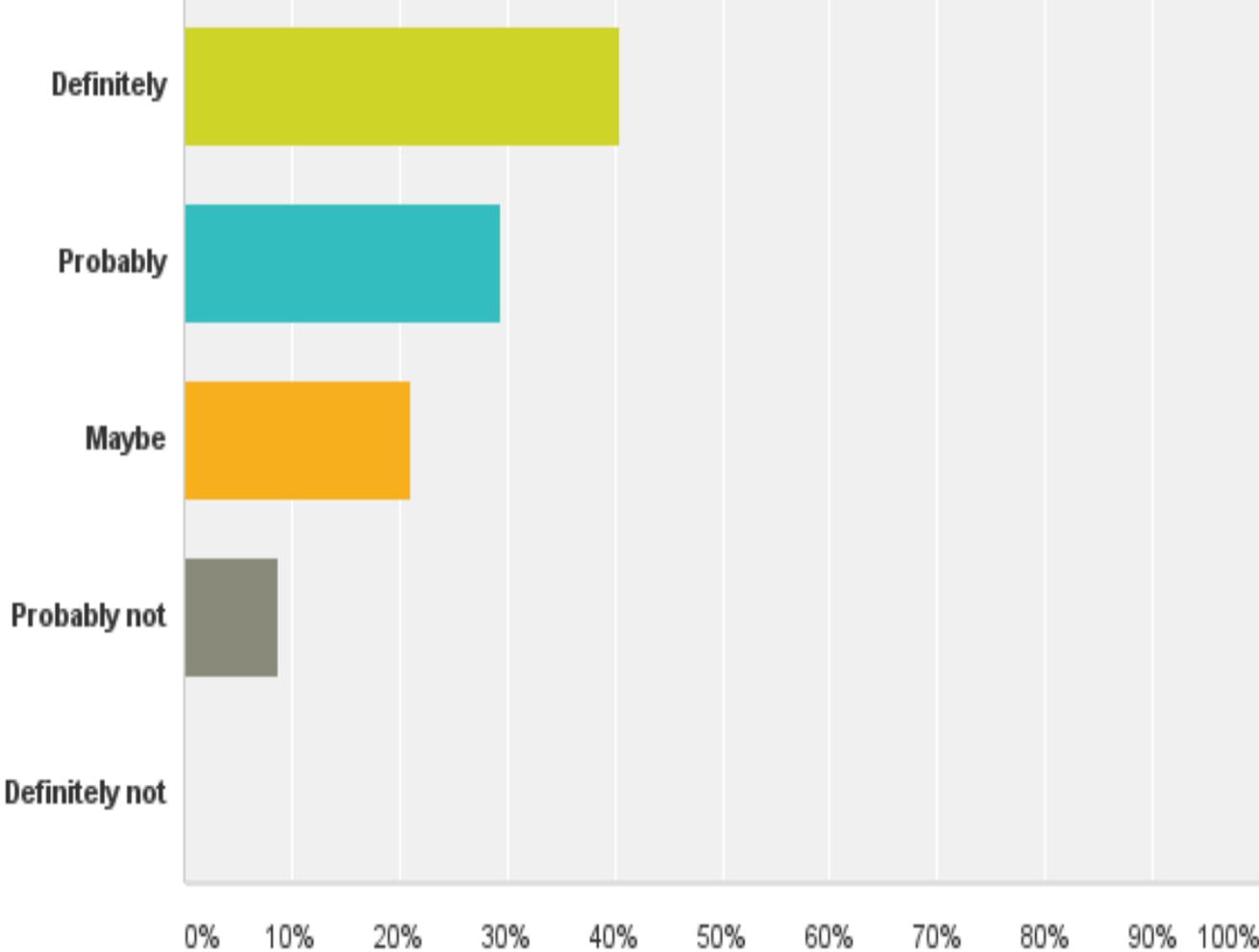
Q9: Based on your experience in your CRAM Manager 2-Day training course(s), how would you rate the training in terms of its ability to improve your understanding on the following topics?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 339

	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Evaluating the completeness of CRAM assessment reports	77.59% 45	22.41% 13	0.00% 0	58
Understanding the meaning of CRAM scores at individual sites	74.14% 43	22.41% 13	3.45% 2	58
Understanding the meaning of CRAM scores at a watershed or regional scale	60.34% 35	32.76% 19	6.90% 4	58
Using CRAM as a component in evaluating compensatory mitigation site proposals in relation to impact sites	53.45% 31	32.76% 19	13.79% 8	58
Understanding the purpose of CRAM reference sites for setting performance standards	60.34% 35	31.03% 18	8.62% 5	58

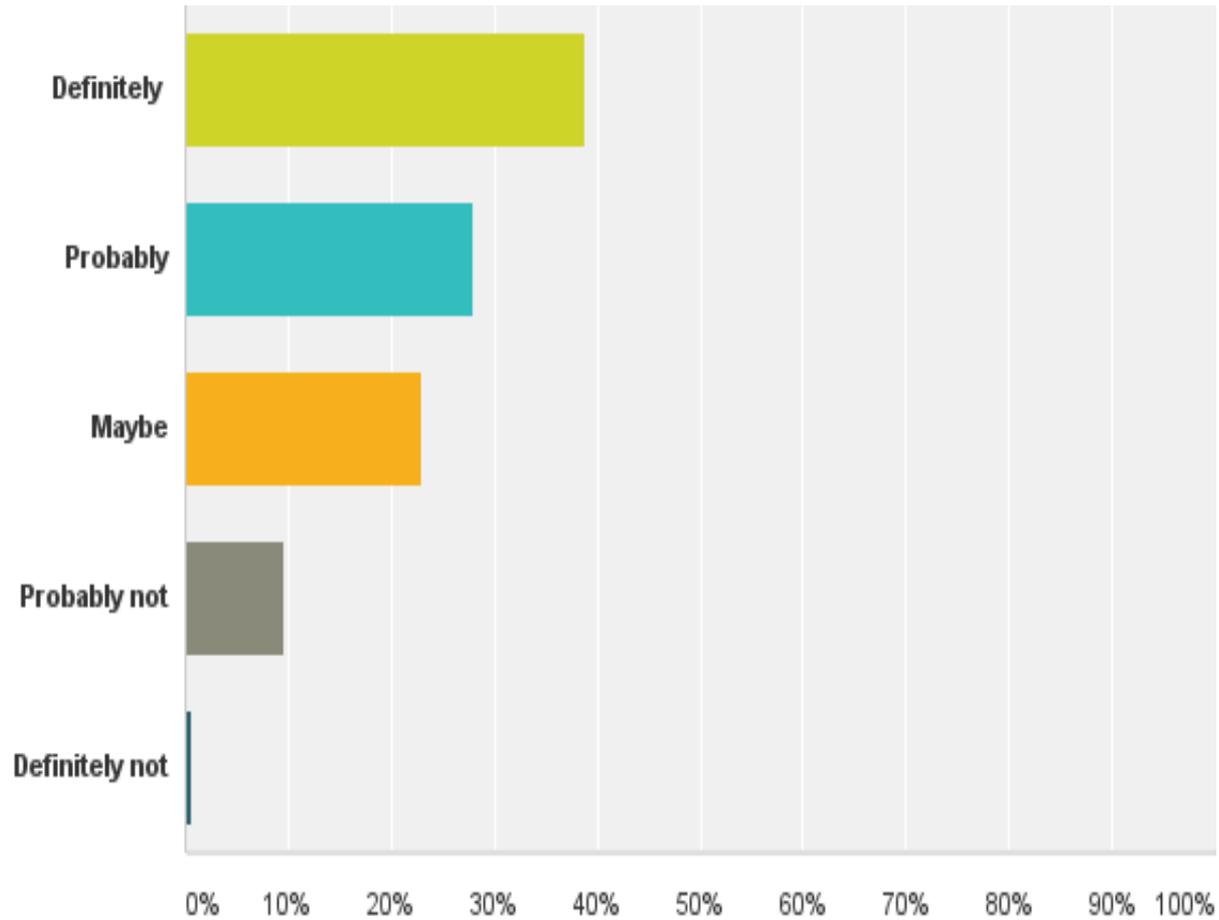
Q10: How likely are you to enroll, or encourage your colleagues to enroll, in future CRAM training?

Answered: 361 Skipped: 36



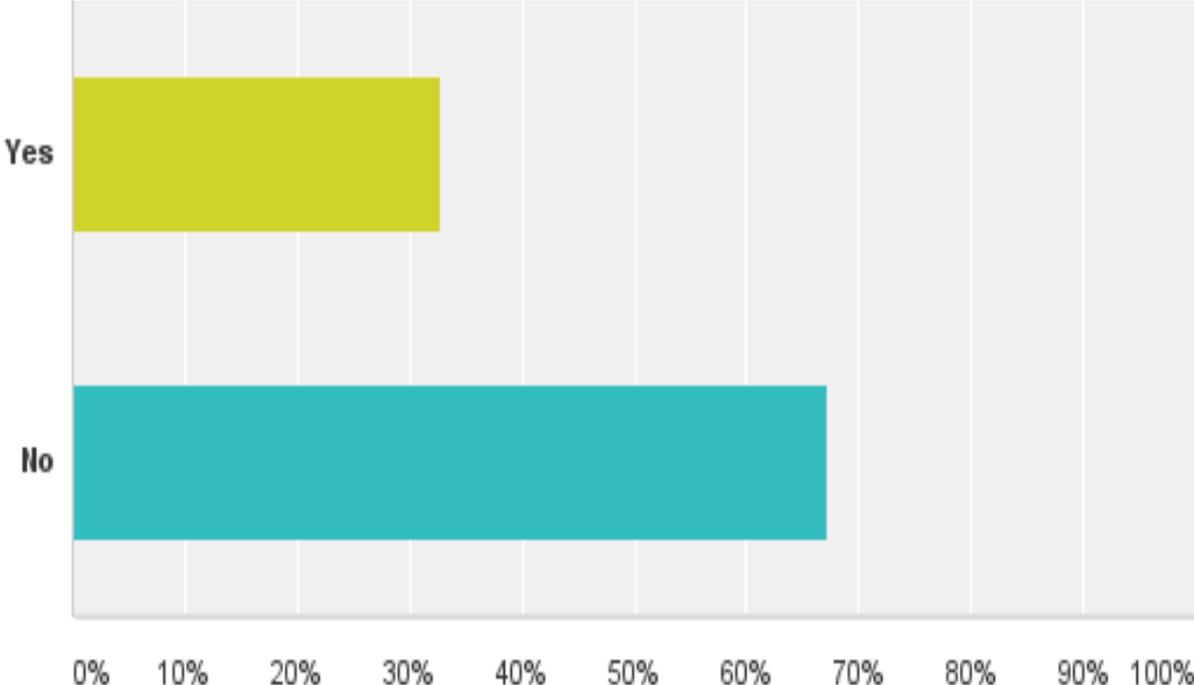
Q11: Would a specific training on how to use CRAM for regulatory/permitting purposes be beneficial to you?

Answered: 361 Skipped: 36



Q13: Did you upload all Assessment Areas to eCRAM in the last year?

Answered: 171 Skipped: 226



Q22: What have been your primary field and/or office uses of CRAM assessments in the last year (Select no more than three)?

Answered: 352 Skipped: 45

Answer Choices	Responses
Ambient assessment of wetland condition in a watershed	27.56% 97
Monitoring compliance with performance standards of mitigation banks or sites	21.02% 74
Evaluation of potential or actual impact sites	24.15% 85
Evaluation of pre-or post-project project restoration or mitigation sites	44.03% 155
Restoration planning and site evaluation	22.16% 78
Research	5.68% 20
Educational or training	11.08% 39
Did not use CRAM	32.39% 114
Total Respondents: 352	

Q24: For your primary field and/or office use in the last year, how would you rate the performance of CRAM modules to provide you with consistent results?

Answered: 241 Skipped: 156

	Works Well Always	Mixed Results	Works Well Most of the Time	Works Poorly	Did Not Use	Total
Riverine	23.24% 56	21.99% 53	32.37% 78	3.32% 8	19.09% 46	241
Estuarine	7.88% 19	4.98% 12	9.96% 24	2.07% 5	75.10% 181	241
Bar-Built Estuarine	2.07% 5	2.07% 5	1.66% 4	1.24% 3	92.95% 224	241
Depressional	15.35% 37	10.79% 26	17.43% 42	1.24% 3	55.19% 133	241
Slope	2.49% 6	2.90% 7	3.32% 8	1.66% 4	89.63% 216	241
Individual Vernal Pool	4.15% 10	4.15% 10	4.56% 11	1.66% 4	85.48% 206	241
Vernal Pool Systems	4.15% 10	4.56% 11	5.81% 14	1.66% 4	83.82% 202	241

Analysis of Results by User Group

- Usefulness of CRAM training
- Training needs
- CRAM use
- CRAM acceptance for various uses
- Rating of CRAM performance
- CRAM usefulness as a regulatory tool
- Recommended improvements and tools

Next Steps

- Send out summary results to respondents
- Develop list of Interviewees
- Develop interview questions (needs, practices, perceptions)
- Interviews (February 2017)
- Final report (March 2017)
- Contact respondents again?



QUESTIONS?

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