

**CURRENT USE PRACTICES
IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Project Report

for

S.P.A.C.E.

by

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CURRENT USE PRACTICES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New Hampshire Current Use program was established on a statutory basis with the enactment of NH RSA 79A in 1973. The declared intention of the Current Use program is to encourage the preservation of open space, to provide an outdoor environment for work and recreation, to maintain the character of the state's landscape, to conserve natural resources, to reduce municipal costs associated with developed land, and to encourage management of open spaces. Current use laws and administrative rules reduce property tax assessments for owners of qualified farmland, forest land, unproductive land, unimproved wetland, undeveloped land on which agricultural or horticultural crops are grown, certified tree farms, and parcels comprised of a combination of qualified lands.

The University of New Hampshire Survey Center conducted a survey of Current Use landowners in New Hampshire for the *Statewide Program of Action to Conserve Our Environment (S.P.A.C.E.)*. The purpose of the survey was to assess the present status of the NH Current Use program, as well as the potential impact of regulatory, administrative and land management practices on enrollment and maintenance of lands in Current Use. The survey questionnaire included questions about land in Current Use and Current Use assessment practices, as well as future land use plans and the land use change tax structure. This survey replicates portions of a similar survey conducted by the UNH Survey Center in 1993. A random sample of 460 owners of Current Use land in New Hampshire was interviewed by telephone between July 12 and 21, 2001. The margin of sampling error for a survey of this size is +/- 4.7%. Information, charts and tables presented herein are based on the 2001 survey, unless otherwise noted. Percentages in tables and charts may sum to more than 100% due to rounding, or reporting of multiple responses.

Major 2001 findings include:

- Land has been enrolled in Current Use for 20 years, on average, and the median plot size is 45 acres.
- People with land in current use are significantly older than the adult New Hampshire population. The median age of Current Use landowners is 66 years old.
- Current use land is a source of income for 27% of landowners, compared to only 15% in 1993. 21% of forestland owners have written management plans.
- More than half (51%) of landowners say they could not afford to keep their land if it were taxed at regular rates. In addition, 4% said they could keep only a portion of their land and another 7% said they did not know if they could afford to keep their land. When asked about this issue another way, 40% of Current Use landowners said that they would have to sell some or all their land if the Current Use program was eliminated.
- Three major reasons why land is placed in Current Use are for personal enjoyment of land, property tax savings, and maintenance of legacy/family lands.
- Over 50% of landowners value their Current Use property for recreation, and 44% of them actually use their land for that purpose.
- Of those respondents who have farmland in current use, 50% said that the farmland is no longer active pasture or cropped.
- Landowners oppose mandatory management practice standards for current use land. More than half (51%) of landowners oppose mandatory agricultural standards, and 44% oppose mandatory forestry standards.
- Landowners are familiar with land assessment values set by the Current Use Board, as well as the Land Use Change Tax. However, there is considerable confusion about criteria for placement of Current Use land within assessment ranges, and only one-third of owners know the current Land Use Change Tax rate.

TECHNICAL REPORT

How the Sample Was Selected

The sample used in this survey was drawn at random from a list of Current Use landowners provided by S.P.A.C.E. Four hundred and sixty (460) landowners were interviewed.

When the Interviewing Was Done

Respondents in the 2001 S.P.A.C.E. Current Use Practices Survey, were interviewed between July 12 and July 21, 2001. A professional UNH Survey Center interviewer contacted each landowner from a centrally supervised facility at the UNH Survey Center. Telephone calls during the field period were made between 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Attempts were made to contact 998 Current Use landowners. Table 1 shows the percentage of these contacts which resulted in completed interviews (46%); refusals (6%); failures to interview because the telephone was busy, the phone was not answered, the telephone was answered by an answering machine, appointments were broken, or the contact was away on business, on vacation, or otherwise unavailable during the interviewing period (25%); or, because the sampled respondent number was changed or disconnected, or rang a fax machine or computer (23%).

TABLE 1
Response Rates for the Current Use Practices Survey

	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Completed Interviews	460	46.1%
Refusals	62	6.2%
Unable to Interview -- (no answer, busy, answering machine, broken appointment, or the respondent was away on business, vacation, illness, etc.)	250	25.1%
Not Eligible -- (Not the contact, phone disconnected, no telephone number, changed number, fax/computer)	226	22.6%
TOTALS	998	100.0%

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF CURRENT USE LAND AND LANDOWNERS

Enrolled Acreage

Parcels enrolled in Current Use in 2001 range in size from 4 acres to 113,000 acres (compared to 10 acres to 180,000 acres in 1993). The median acreage for plots enrolled in Current Use is 45 acres (up from 40 acres in 1993), with over one-third (35%) of landowners reporting Current Use plots between 11 acres and 30 acres in size. **Chart 1.1** shows distributions for land enrolled in Current Use today and in 1993.

Years Enrolled

On average, lands have been in Current Use for 20 years, with just over one-half (51%) of landowners reporting land in Current Use between 20 and 30 years. It is not surprising that the length of time land has been in Current Use has increased significantly since 1993, at which time the Current Use law had only been in effect for 20 years (since 1973). **Chart 1.2** shows the duration of enrollment in the Current Use program.

Two-thirds (68%) of landowners enrolled their land in Current Use on their own, 18% purchased land already in Current Use, and another 12% inherited enrolled land. See **Chart 1.3**.

Current Use Enrollment Categories

Chart 1.4 shows the categories in which Current Use lands are and were enrolled. Over one-half (56%) of 2001 respondents own land classified as forest, a 14% enrollment increase for this category since 1993.

Land in Current Use is less commonly categorized as farmland (14%), unproductive (27%) or a combination of land types (28%). Owners with Current Use farmland split evenly when asked about the purpose of mowing; 50% of farmland owners mow just to keep their land open, while the other 50% mow for pasture and crops.

Owners

Chart 1.5 shows the distribution of ownership of Current Use land over time. In excess of three-quarters of 2001 respondents (82%) are individual or family Current Use landowners, a slight decline in this category since 1993. A new category, the trust (12% of respondents) emerged this year, while numbers for corporate (2%), partner (1%) or combination (2%) landowners remained largely unchanged since 1993.

Reasons for Owning Current Use Land

When asked about their motivations in enrolling or keeping land in Current Use (**Charts 1.6 and 1.7**), 39% of 2001 respondents say they own their land for personal enjoyment, 27% wish to protect their land from development, and 25% keep their property enrolled because it is their legacy or family land. One in five (18%) Current Use landowners enjoys the property tax savings on land in Current Use, but only 6% look to their Current Use land for income. When compared to 1993 data, personal enjoyment, maintenance of legacy/family lands, and property tax savings all emerge as strong new reasons for owning Current Use land.

Demographics Current Use Land Owners

Charts 1.8 and 1.9 illustrate the differences in age and family income levels for 1993 and 2001 respondents. As shown in Chart 1.8, family income levels have increased since 1993. This population is also ageing with more respondents placing themselves in the older age categories.

CHART 1.1

N=403/451

Acres in Current Use

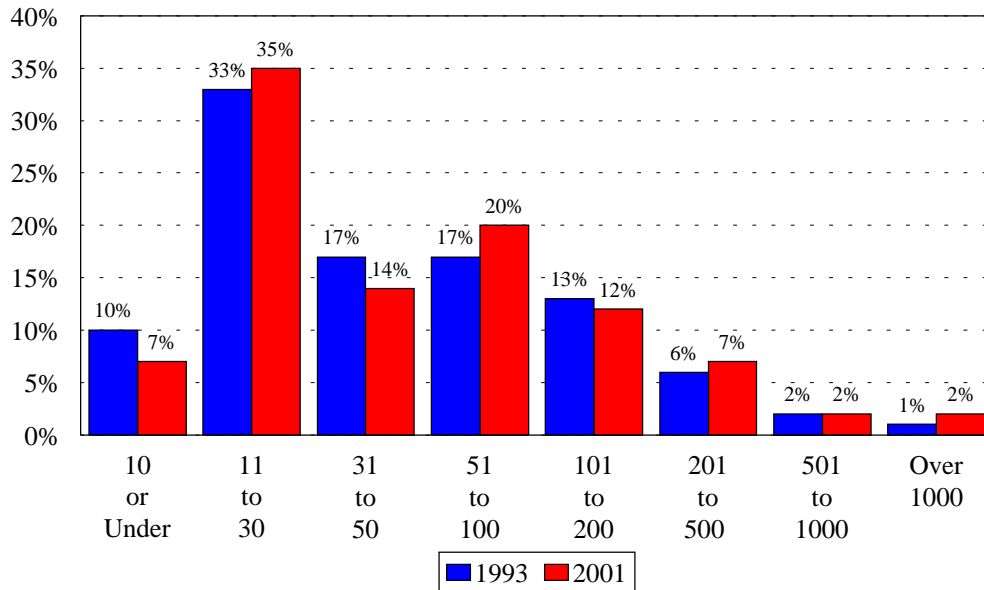


CHART 1.2

N=403/427

Number of Years Land has been in Current Use

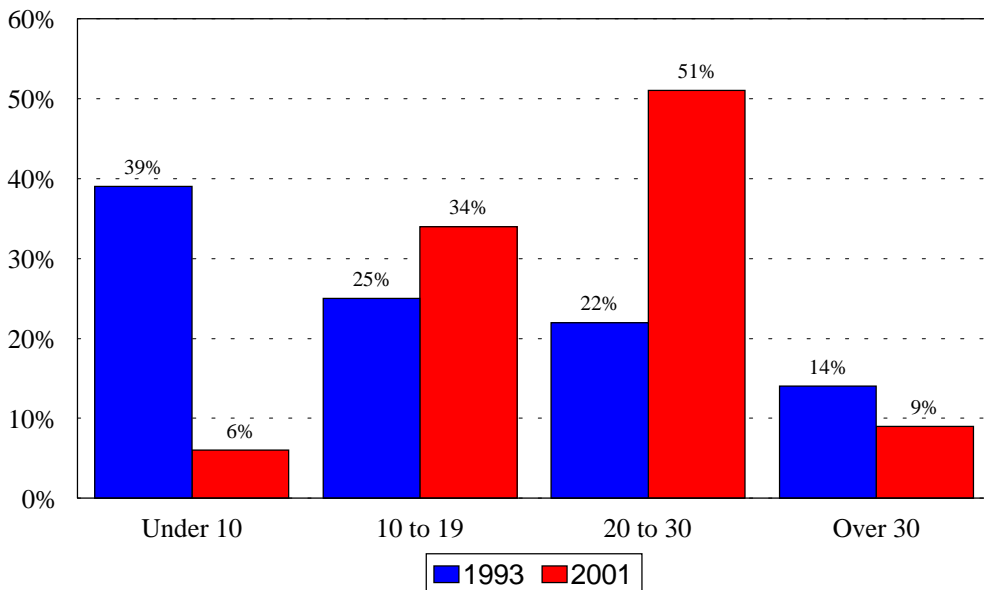


CHART 1.3

N=459

**How Land Was Enrolled in Current Use
(New Question - 2001)**

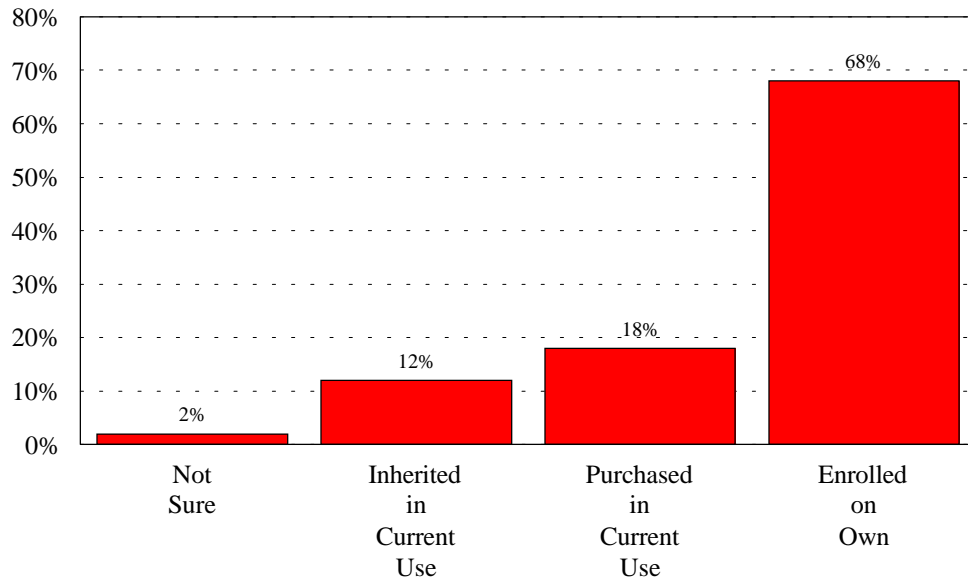


CHART 1.4

N=403/436

**Category of Current Use Land
(Multiple response question. Percentages sum to more than 100%.)**

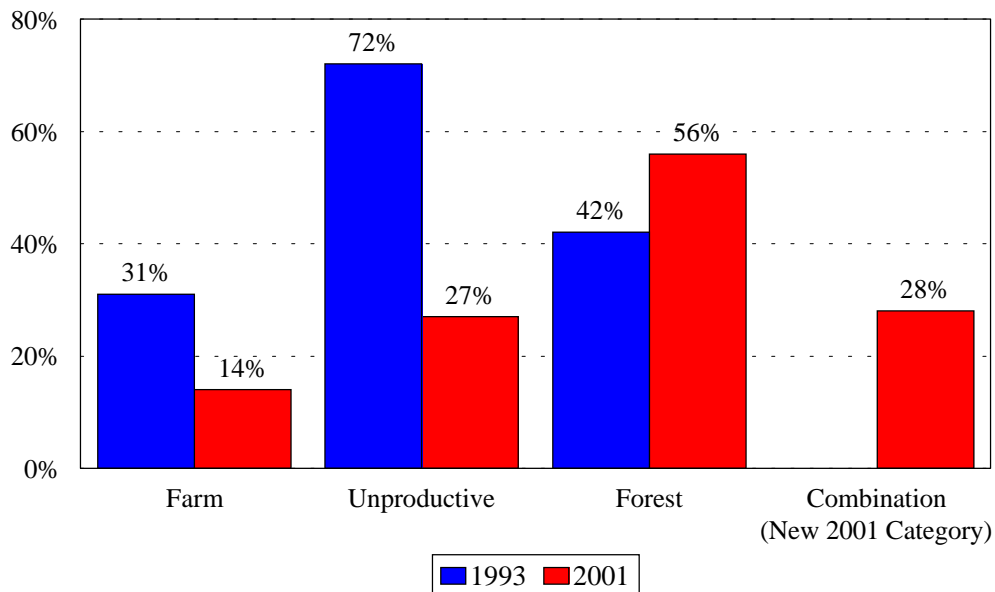


CHART 1.5

N=403/460

Type of Current Use Landowner

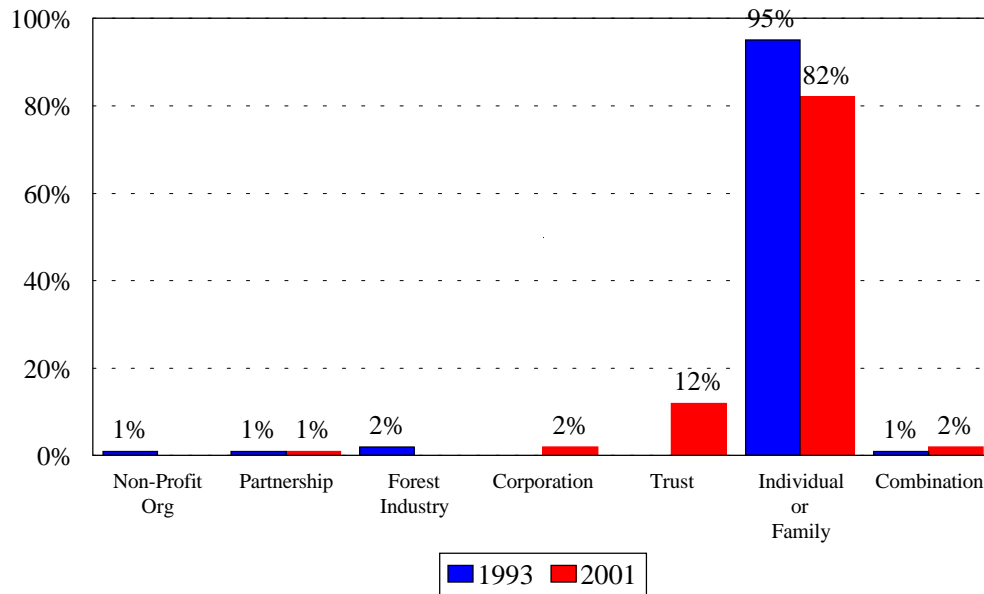


CHART 1.6

N=457

Reasons for Owning Current Use Land - 2001

(Redesigned multiple response question. Percentages sum to more than 100%.)

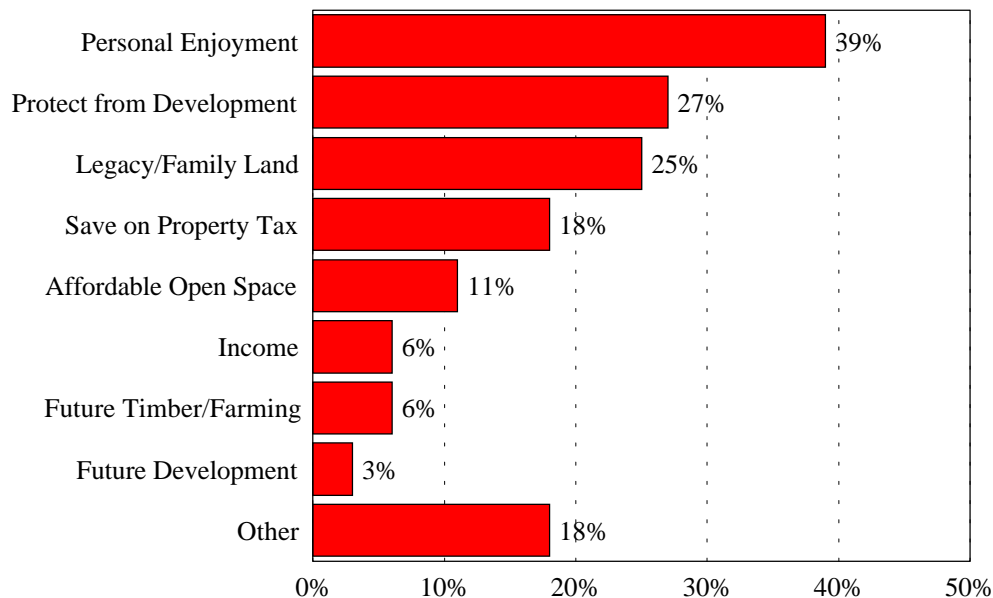


CHART 1.7

N=403

Reasons for Owning Current Use Land -1993

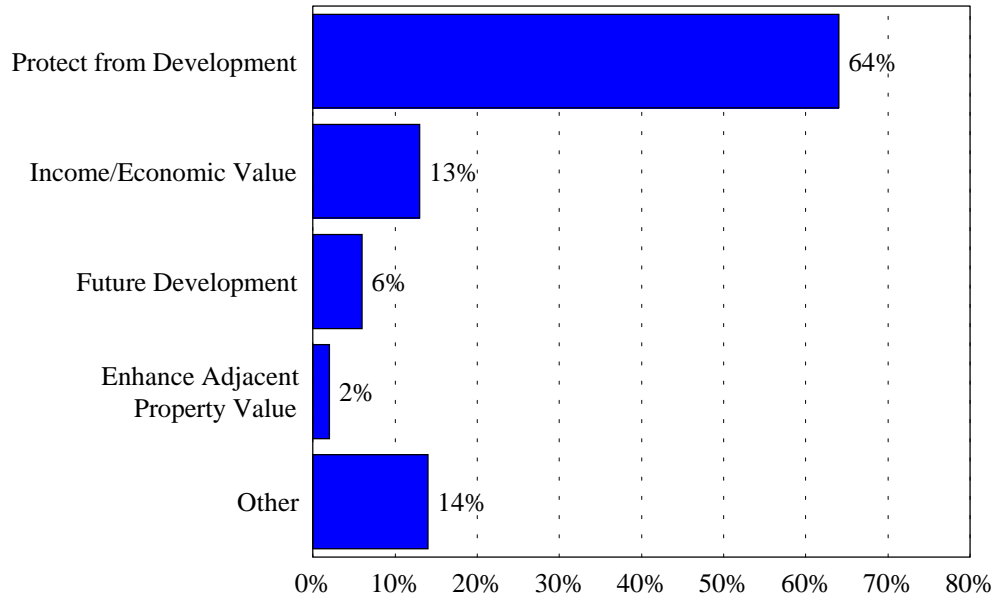


CHART 1.8

N=301/352

Family Income

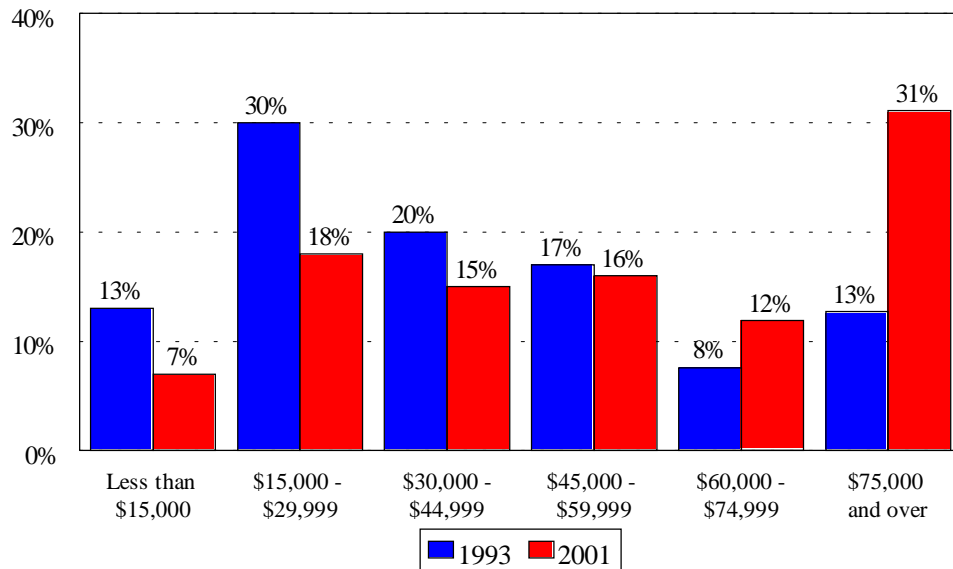
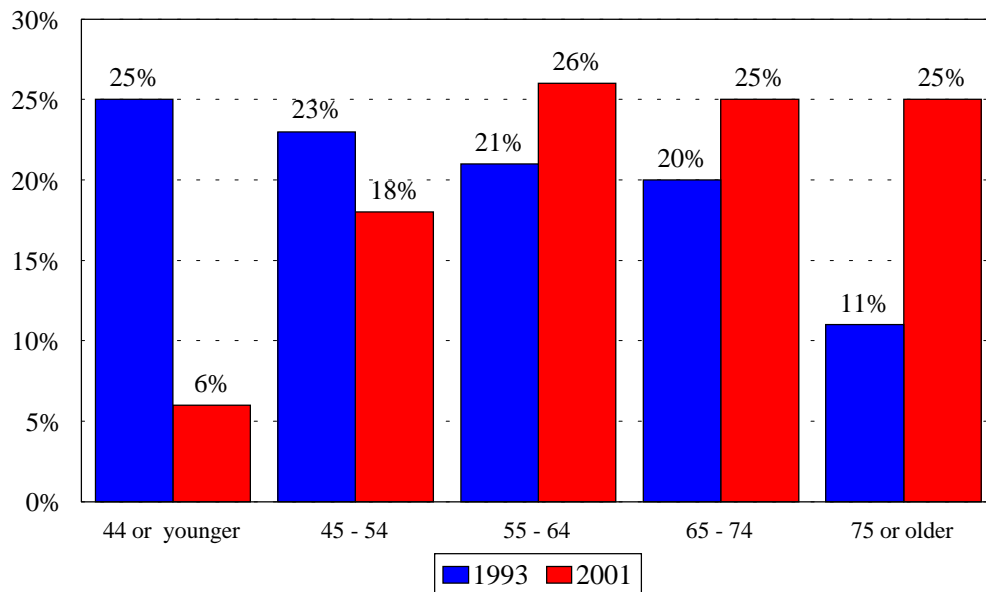


CHART 1.9

N=403/451

Age of Respondents



II. ACCESS TO CURRENT USE LAND

Perceived Public Benefits

Landowners see their land as a resource to the community. When asked to name specific benefits their land provides the public, owners identified several, as detailed in **Chart 2.1**.

2001 Current Use landowners do not cite prevention of development as a reason to own Current Use land at the same rate their 1993 counterparts did, but they do recognize the recreational value of their property. Over half (55%) of 2001 landowners name recreational use as a public benefit, 47% say the aesthetics of open space are good for the community, and 40% cite the positive aspects of open space in relation to maintenance of habitat and biodiversity.

Though landowners are able to identify many and varied public benefits to keeping Current Use land open, more than half (54%) are opposed to any *requirement* to do so. **Chart 2.2** shows the support for and opposition to mandatory access. Landowner positions have not changed significantly from 1993 to the present.

Posting and Restrictions on Land Use

Chart 2.3 shows that 59% of today's Current Use landowners do not restrict access to any part of their land in any way. Those who restrict access to part of their land allow access for some uses such as fishing, snowmobiling, and hunting by permission only. Others routinely deny access for any purpose. In 1993, access to Current Use lands was freer, with 79% of landowners leaving their land completely unposted. **Chart 2.4** shows access limitations set by 2001 owners and by owners with land posted in 1993.

More Current Use landowners bar certain access to their land despite the fact that more than half (59%) of 2001 Current Use landowners say that the 20% reduction in assessment for unposted properties is an incentive not to place restrictions on use of their land (**Chart 2.5**).

Actual Uses of Land

When asked how they or others specifically use their land, landowners today identify many passive (19%), extractive (37%) and recreational (44%) uses (**Chart 2.6**). Passive uses include keeping open space for scenery, habitat, wetland preservation, wildlife observation and/or education. Extractive uses include harvesting timber or firewood, farming, using land as pasture, hunting and fishing. Recreational uses include camping, walking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, biking, and picnicking, for example.

Among respondents, 27% in 2001 say that their Current Use land generates income for them, a higher percentage than that reported in 1993 (**Chart 2.7**). Most respondents reporting income from Current Use land in 2001 say that income is under \$10,000 (**Chart 2.8**). Gains in Current Use land income in 2001 were realized through higher income, not a marked increase in landowners reporting income. Among landowners who presently derive income from their Current Use land, 65% do so by harvesting timber (**Chart 2.9**).

CHART 2.1

N=365/427

Perceived Public Benefits of Current Use Land
(Multiple response question. Percentages sum to more than 100%.)

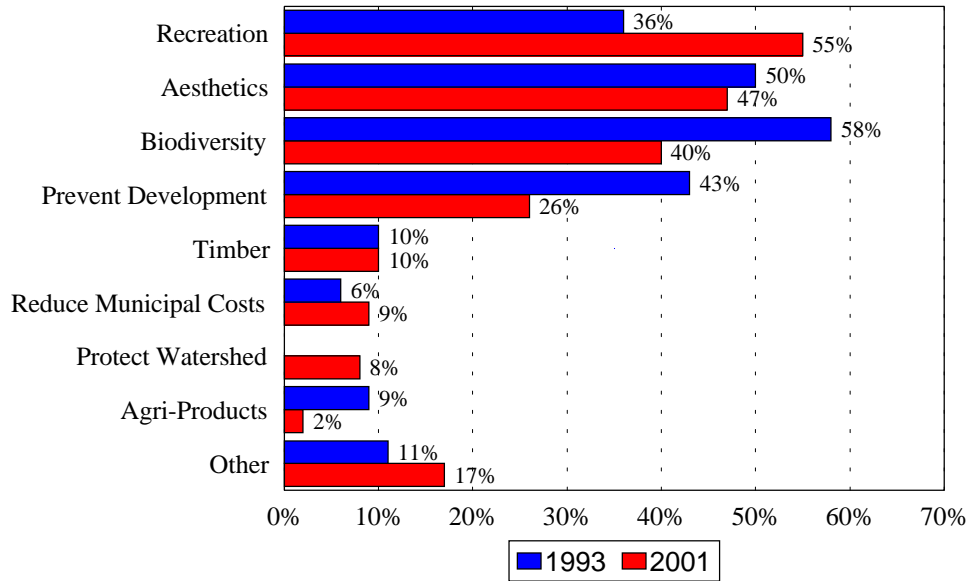


CHART 2.2

N=403/459

Support for Requiring Current Use Landowners to Keep Land Open for Public Access

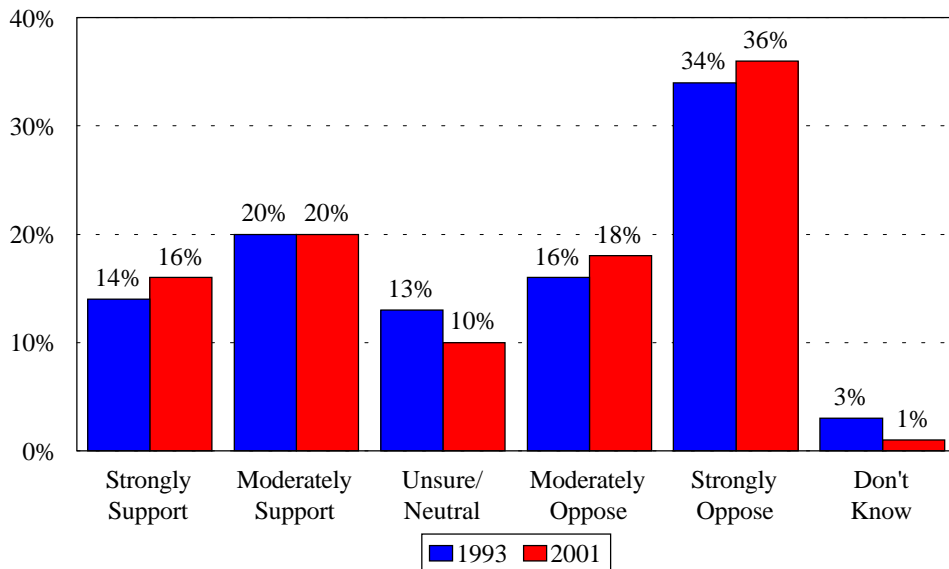


CHART 2.3

N=403/459

Land Posted Against Any Type of Public Access

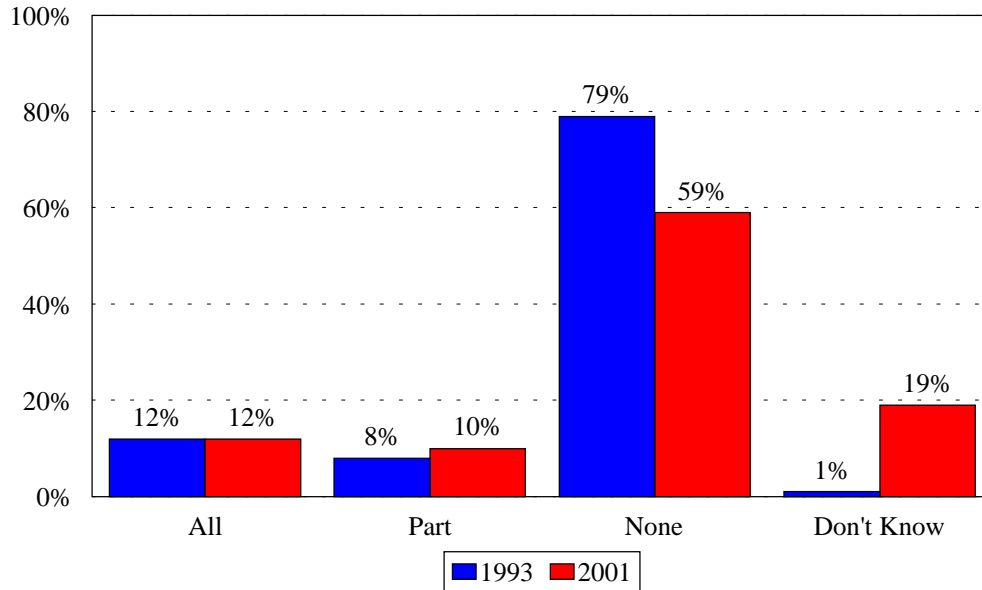


CHART 2.4

N=82/93

Kind of Public Access Controlled by Posting
(Multiple response question. Percentages sum to more than 100%.)

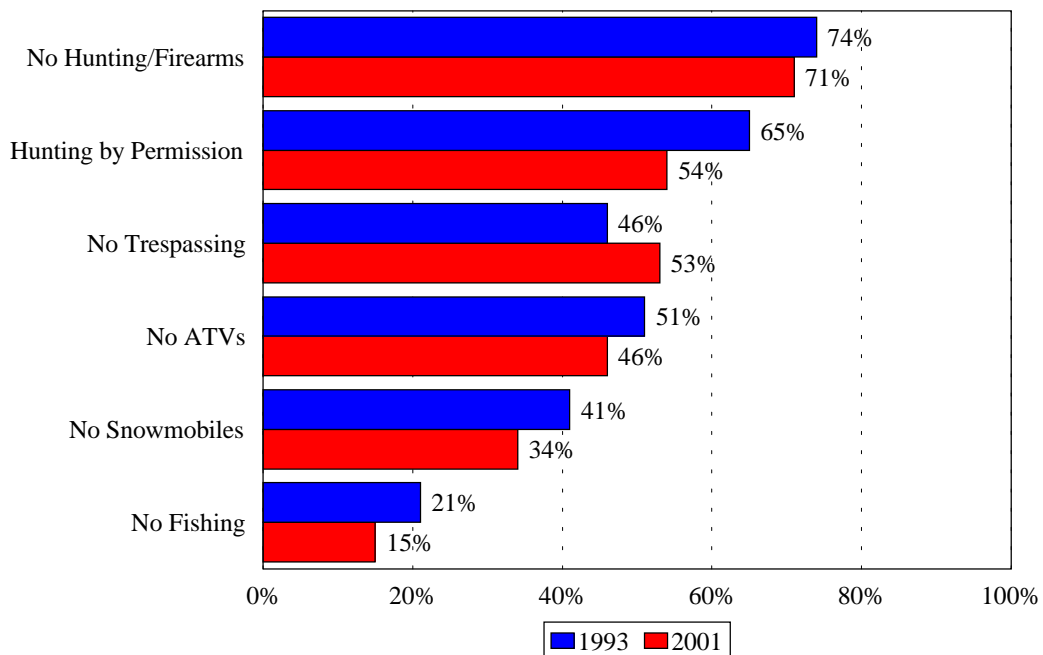


CHART 2.5

N=459

20% Reduction in Assessment Effective
as Incentive to Keep Land Unposted
(New Question - 2001)

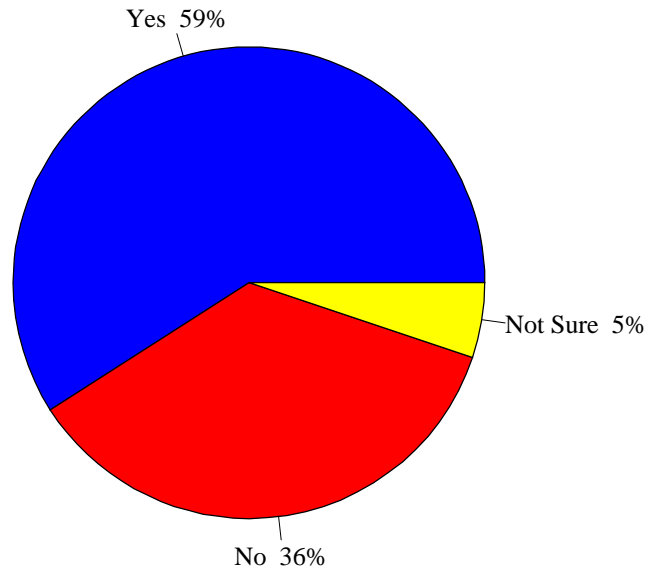


CHART 2.6

N=447

How Current Use Land is Used
(New Question - 2001)

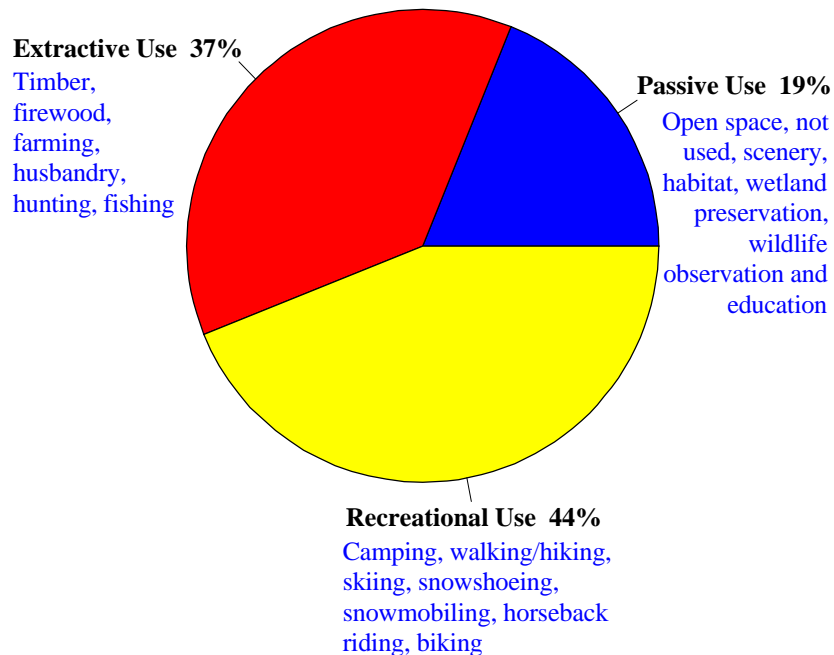


CHART 2.7

N=403/460

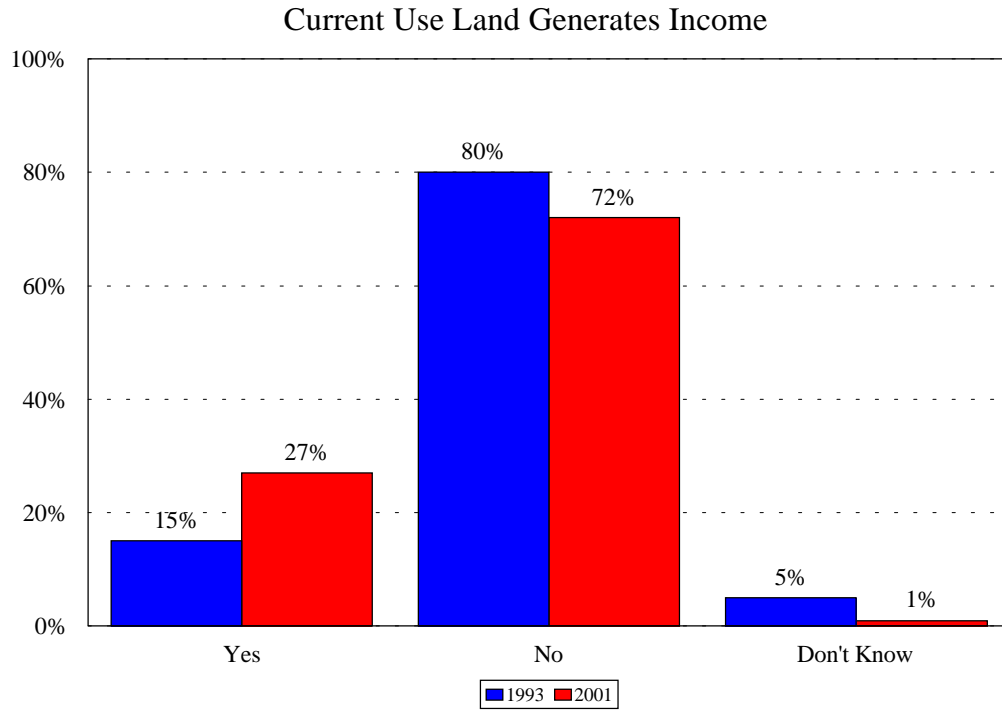


CHART 2.8

N=61/88

Annual Income from Current Use Land

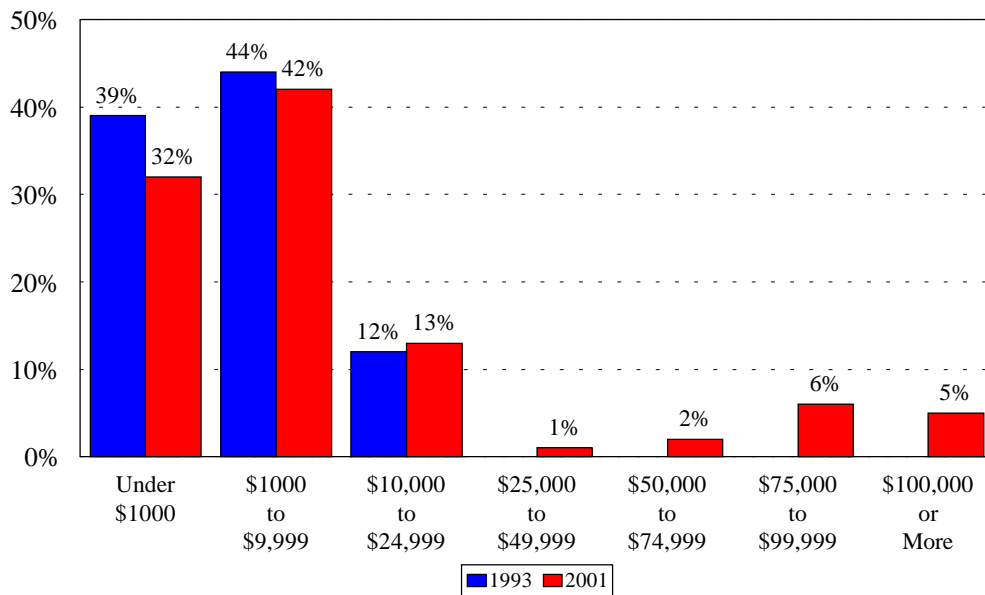
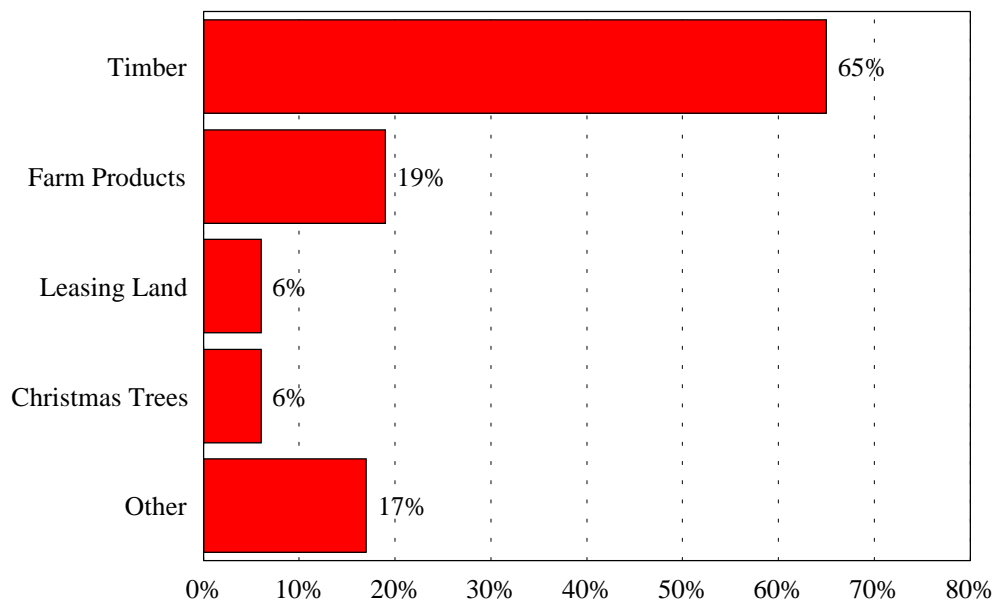


CHART 2.9

N=124

How Income is Generated from Current Use Land
(New Multiple Response Question - 2001. Percentages sum to more than 100%.)



III. LAND MANAGEMENT

Stewardship and Voluntary Compliance with Land Use Standards

Many landowners are actively engaged in the management of their Current Use land. **Chart 3.1** shows that only 19% of Current Use landowners have their land categorized as “forest land with documented stewardship”.

Among Current Use landowners whose land is enrolled in the “forest land with documented stewardship” category, 60% have a written management plan signed by a licensed forester (**Chart 3.2**). Almost half (47%) of the landowners in this category (**Chart 3.3**) believe stewardship plans should be written or approved by a licensed forester, even though reduced assessments for landowners with documented stewardship does not appear to be an incentive to manage land (**Chart 3.4**).

While 2001 landowners may voluntarily seek assistance in managing their Current Use land, more than half (51%) are opposed to any requirement to meet agricultural practice standards. Similarly, 44% of landowners are opposed to any requirement to meet forestry practice standards. Most landowners (69%), however, support reduced assessments for landowners who voluntarily meet practice standards. **Charts 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9**, show that opposition to mandatory standards has increased since 1993, while during the same period support for voluntary standards has increased only slightly.

CHART 3.1

N=423

Land is Forest Land with Documented Stewardship
(New Question - 2001)

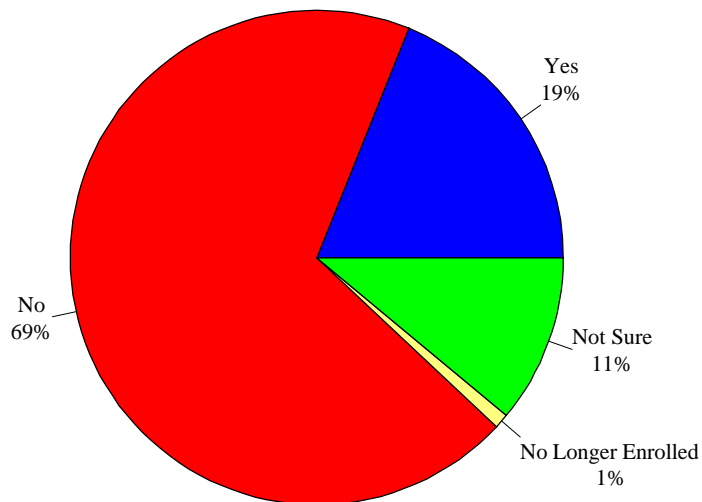


CHART 3.2

N=161

Forest Landowner has Written Management Plan
Signed by a Licensed Forester
(New Question - 2001)

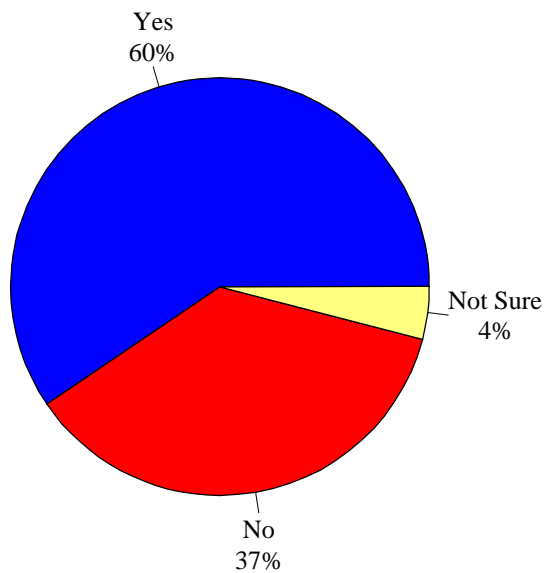


CHART 3.3

N=159

Should Stewardship Plans Be
Written or Approved by a Licensed Forester?
(New Question - 2001)

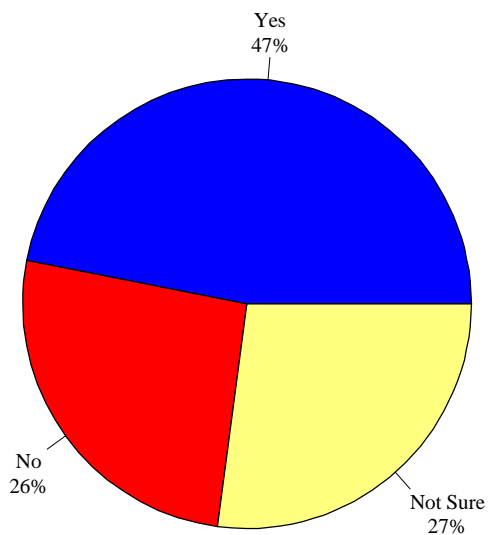


CHART 3.4

N=456

Is A Reduced Assessment for Documented Stewardship
Effective as an Incentive to Manage Land?
(New Question - 2001)

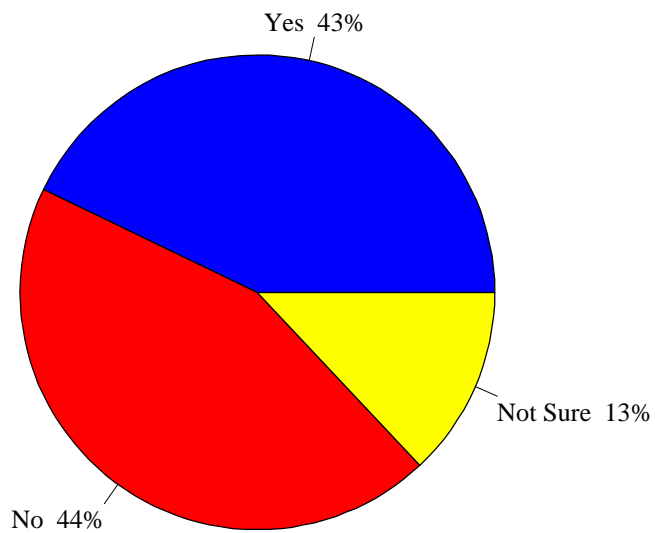


CHART 3.5

N=403/459

**Support for Requiring Landowners to Manage Land
According to Agricultural Practice Standards**

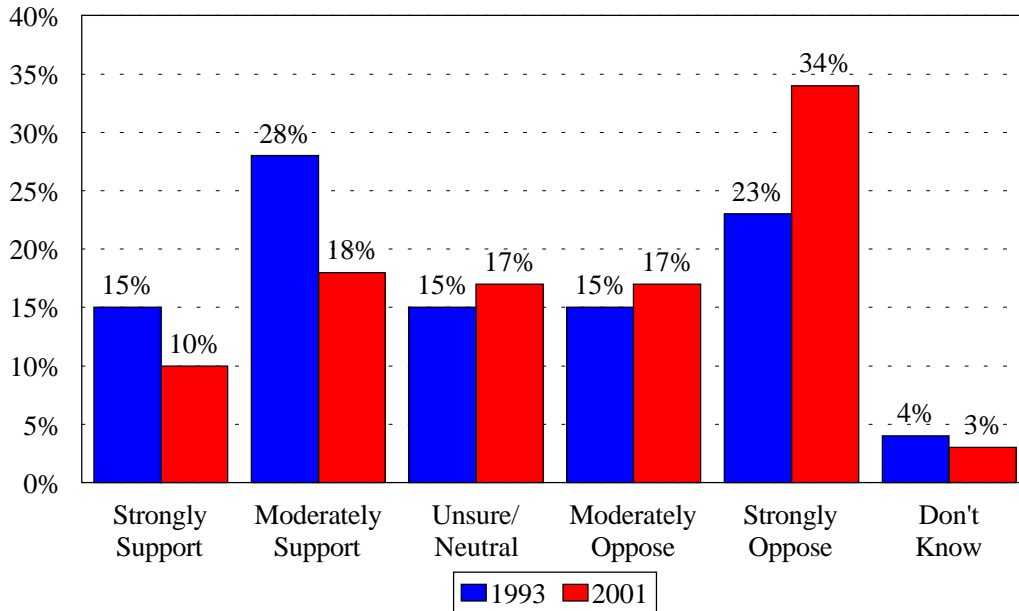


CHART 3.6

N=403/458

**Support for Requiring Landowners to Manage Land
According to Forestry Practice Standards**

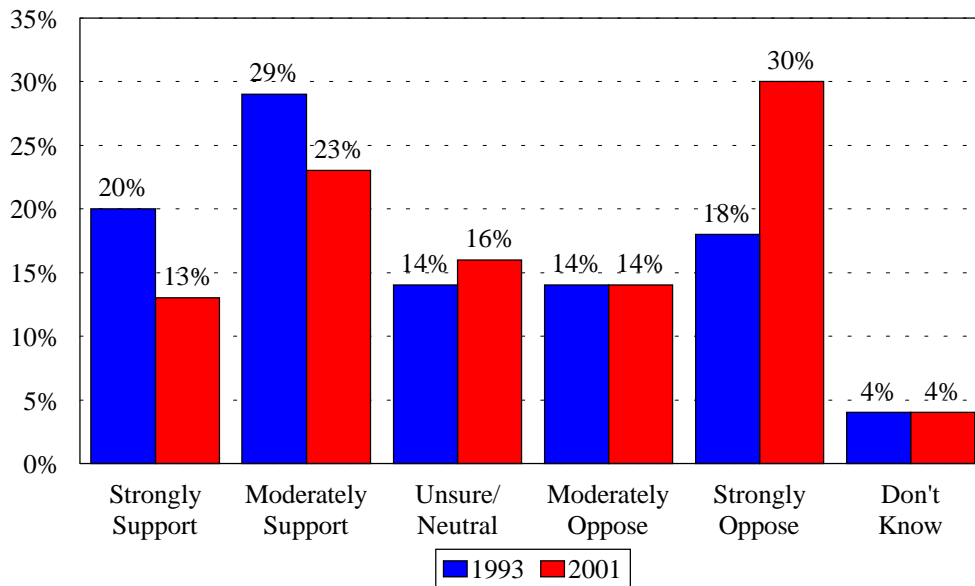


CHART 3.7

N=403/455

**Support for Reduced Assessment for Voluntary Compliance
with Agricultural or Forestry Standards**

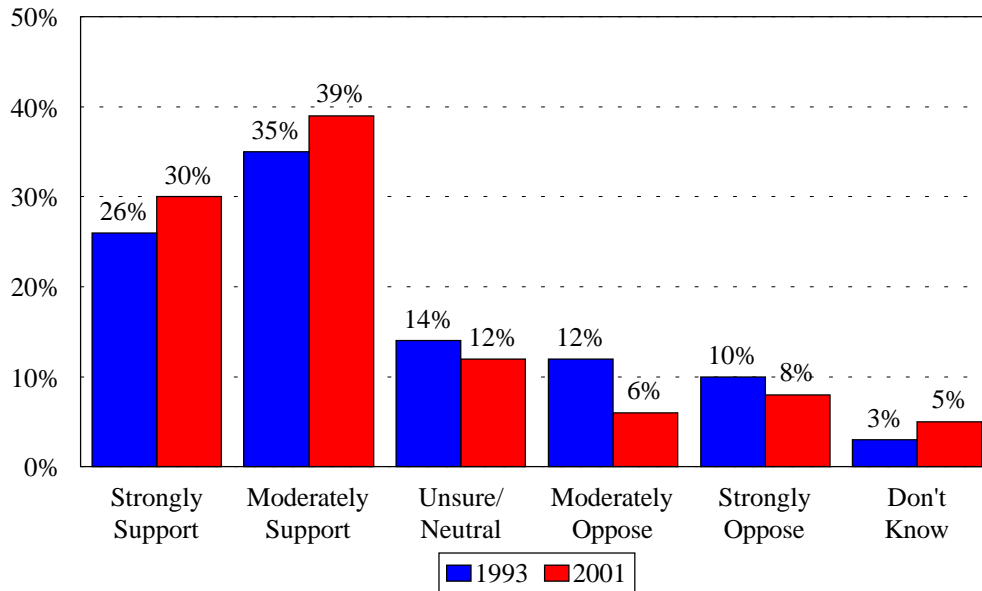


CHART 3.8

N=455

**Support for Compliance with Land Practice Standards
for Reduced Assessment
(2001)**

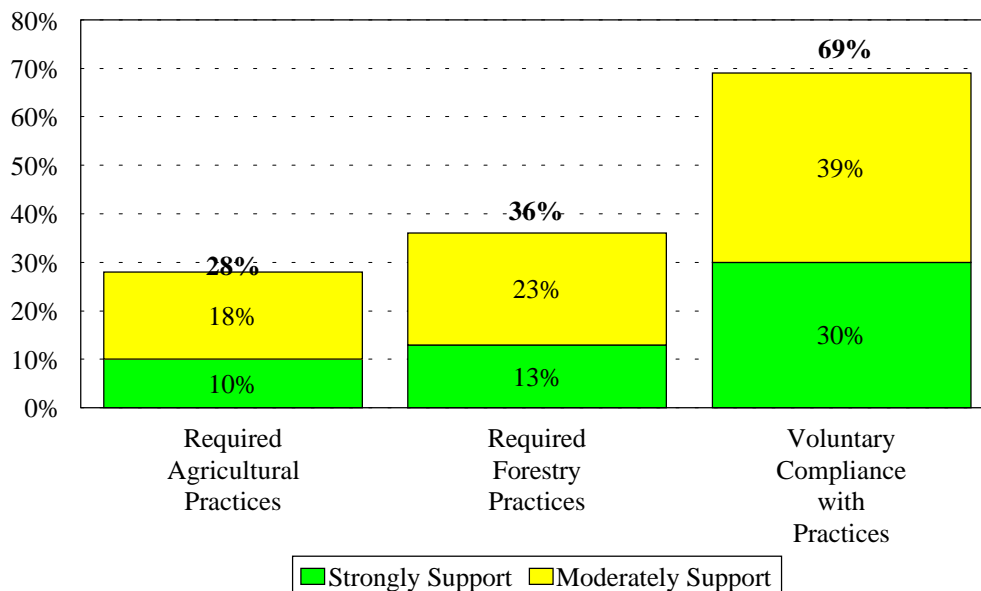
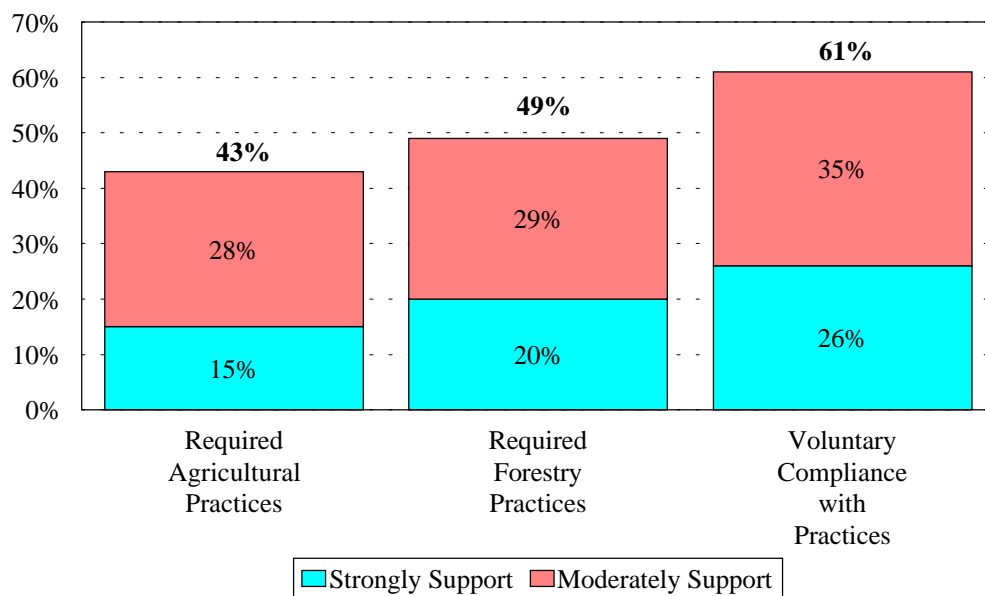


CHART 3.9

N=403

**Support for Compliance with Land Practice Standards
for Reduced Assessment
(1993)**



IV. ASSESSMENTS, TAXES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRENT USE LANDOWNERS

Assessment

Many 2001 landowners (64%) say they are at least “somewhat familiar” with land assessment values as set by the Current Use Board, and 62% of them feel the assessment values are “about right” (**Charts 4.1 and 4.2**). Present-day landowners are more aware of Current Use assessments than their 1993 counterparts (**Chart 4.1**). Two-thirds of landowners in 2001 (as in 1993) believe that their Current Use land is assessed appropriately (**Chart 4.2**). There is considerable confusion about the criteria for placement of Current Use land within the assessment range. Only 48% of Current Use landowners say they understand how land is placed within the range, 46% do not, and 5% are unsure (**Chart 4.3**).

Over two-thirds (69%) of landowners feel their towns assess their properties appropriately (**Chart 4.4**), even though only 22% know the assessed per-acre value of their land enrolled in Current Use (**Chart 4.5**). Knowledge of the per-acre value has remained consistent since 1993, that is, landowner knowledge of per-acre values has neither increased nor decreased significantly (**Chart 4.5**).

More than half (59%) of landowners say they would not sell any part of their land presently under Current Use if Current Use taxes doubled (**Chart 4.6**).

Land Use Change Tax

In this area, as in Current Use assessments, 2001 landowners say they are more familiar with tax rates than those in 1993 said they were. Well over three-quarters of landowners (81%) are at least somewhat familiar with the Land Use Change Tax. However, only one-third of them correctly identified the current tax rate when asked. Many landowners (41%) feel the tax rate is “about right”, little change since 1993 (**Charts 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9**).

Almost three quarters (73%) of today’s landowners say they would not sell any part of their land presently in Current Use if the Land Use Change Tax increased to 15 or 20 percent (**Chart 4.10**), a slightly higher percentage than that reported in 1993.

Current Use Program

If the Current Use program were eliminated altogether and land was taxed at normal rates, 55% of respondents say they could not afford to keep all their land (**Charts 4.11 and 4.12**).

At today’s Current Use rates, most landowners will neither sell (88%) nor develop (95%) their land in Current Use (**Charts 4.13 and 4.15**). Among those who do plan to sell their land, over half (52%) plan to sell all their land (**Chart 4.14**). Retirement is the most common reason landowners give for selling property in Current Use (**Chart 4.16**). In open-ended responses, an additional 8% of selling landowners state that advancing age coupled with the inability to manage their properties to their satisfaction also informed the decision to sell (**Chart 4.17**).

CHART 4.1

N=403/460

Familiarity with Land Assessments Set by Current Use Board

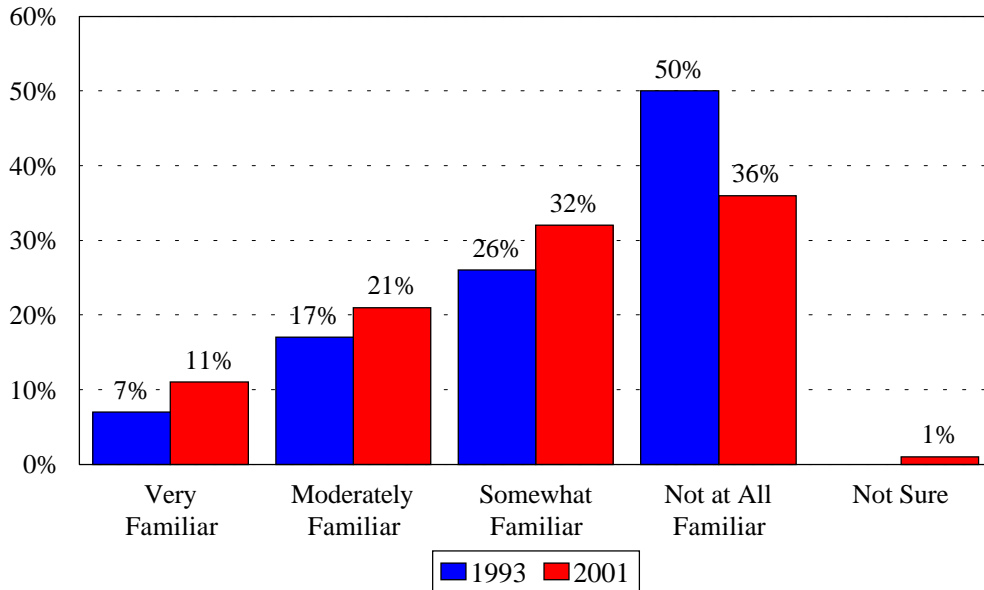


CHART 4.2

N=403/424

Landowner Opinion of Current Use Land Assessment Values

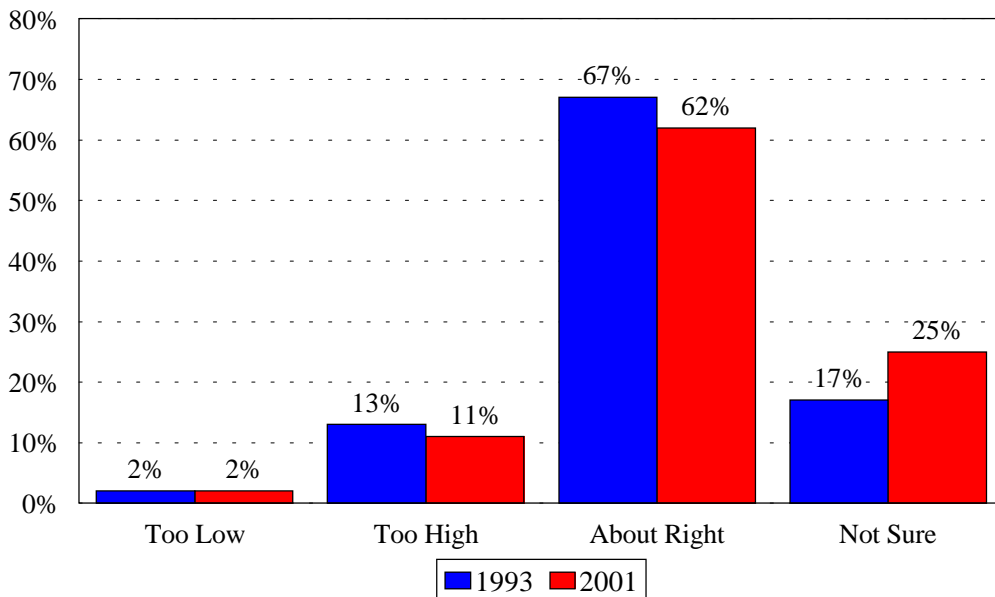


CHART 4.3

N=458

Are Landowners Familiar with the Placement of
Current Use Land in Assessment Range?
(New Question - 2001)

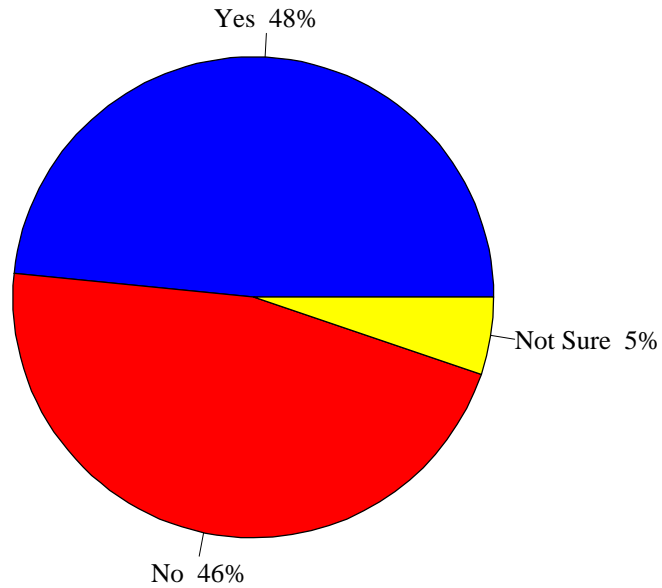


CHART 4.4

N=435

Has Town Placed Current Use Land
in Appropriate Assessment Range?
(New Question - 2001)

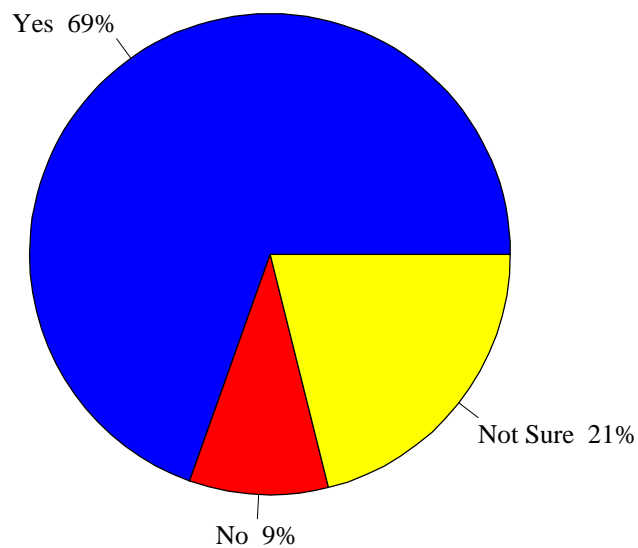


CHART 4.5

N=403/454

Landowners Who Know the Assessed Per Acre Value
of Their Current Use Land

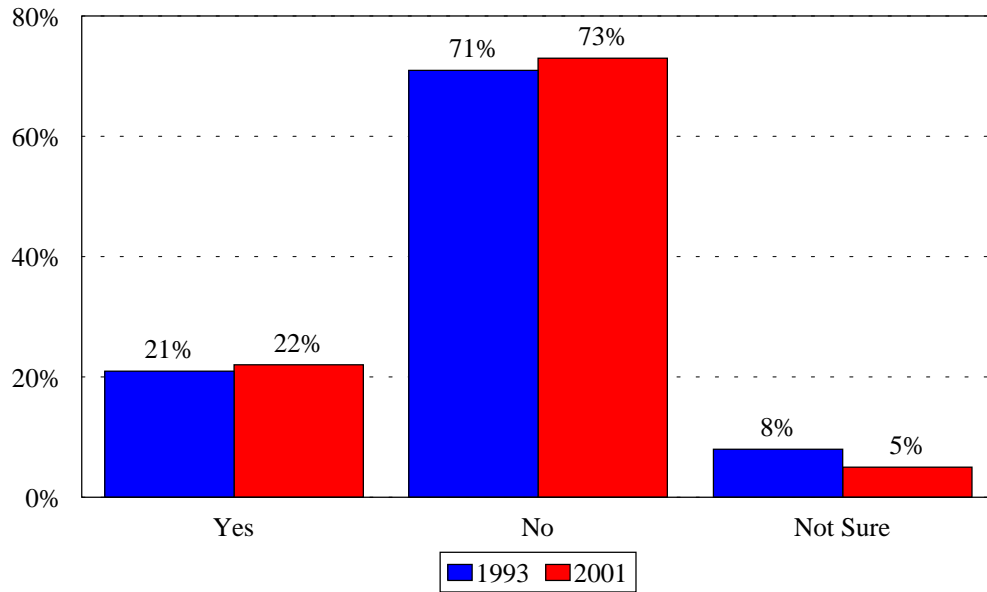


CHART 4.6

N=459

Would Sell Current Use Land if Taxes Doubled
(New Question - 2001)

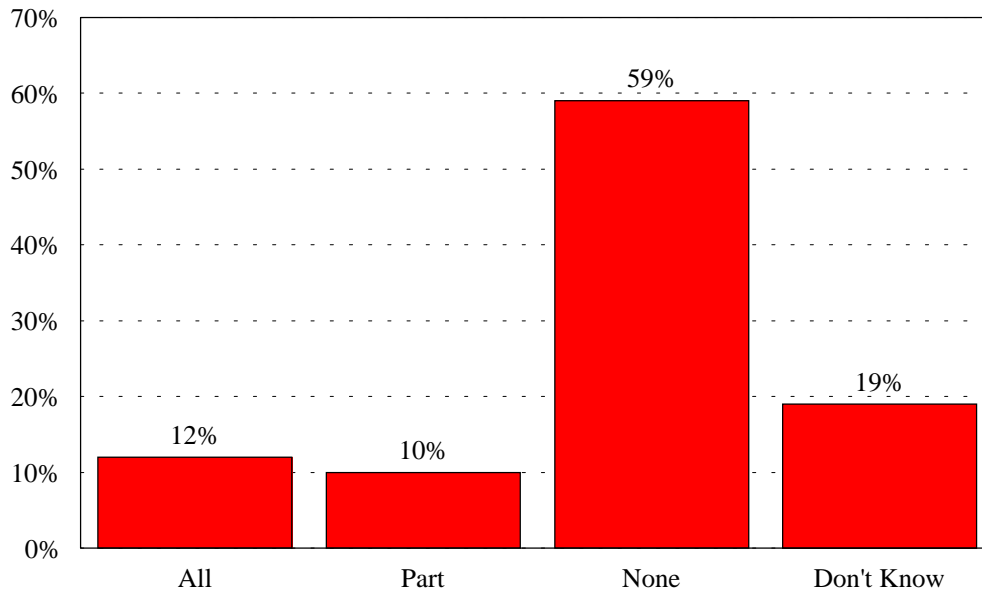


CHART 4.7

N=400/460

Landowners Familiar with Land Use Change Tax

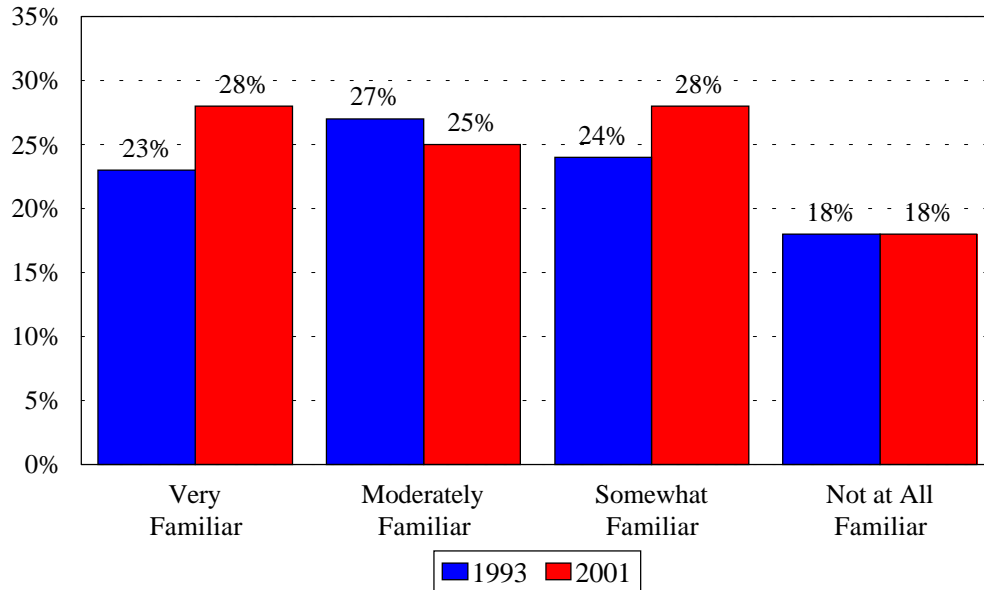


CHART 4.8

N=403/458

Does the Landowner Know the Current Land Use Change Tax Rate?

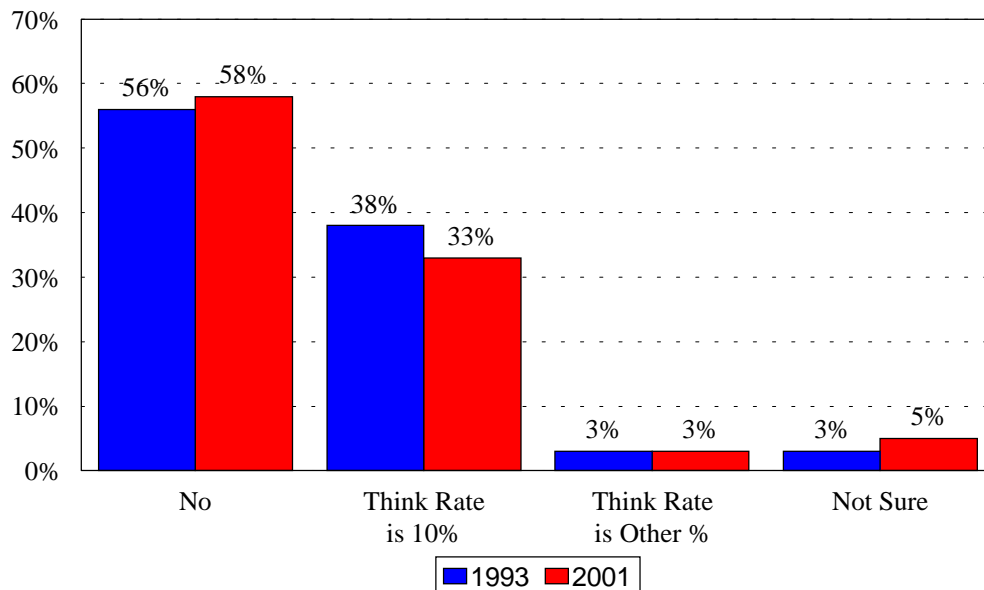


CHART 4.9

N=403/422

Landowner Opinion of Land Use Change Tax

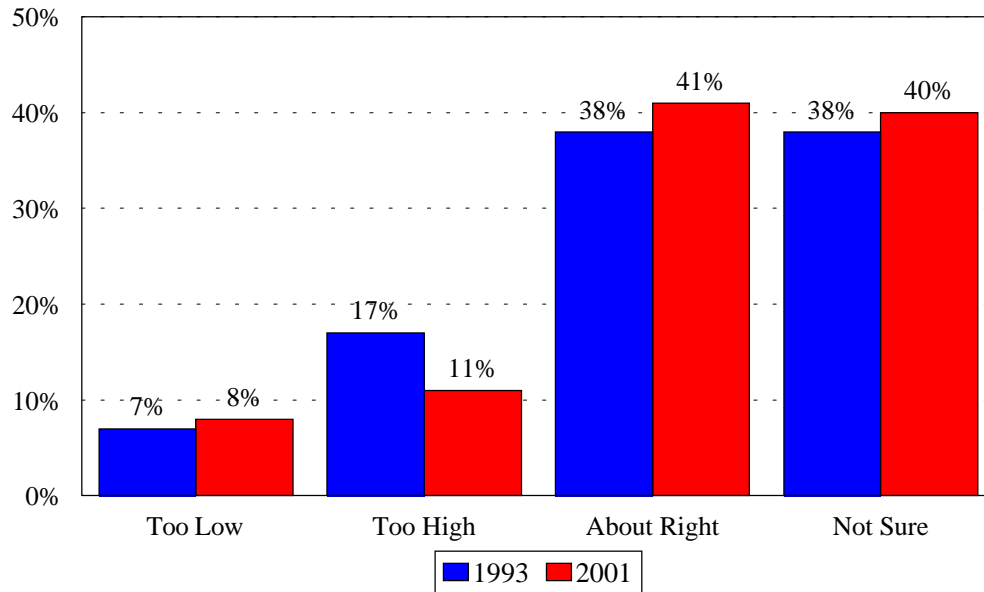


CHART 4.10

N=403/458

**Plan to Sell Current Use Land if
Land Use Change Tax Increases**

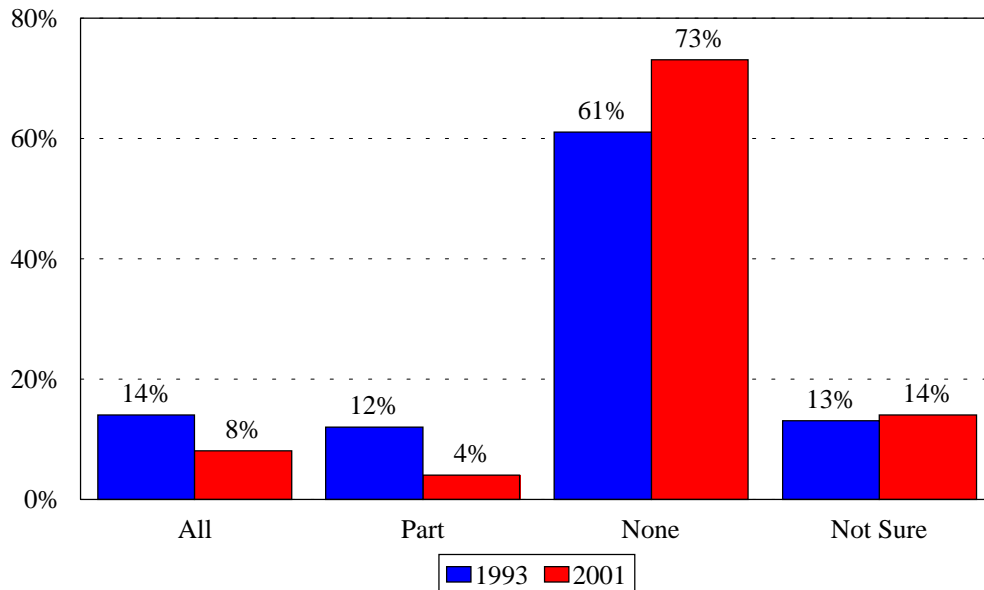


CHART 4.11

N=457

Could Afford to Keep Land if Current Use Eliminated
and Taxed at Normal Rates
(New Question - 2001)

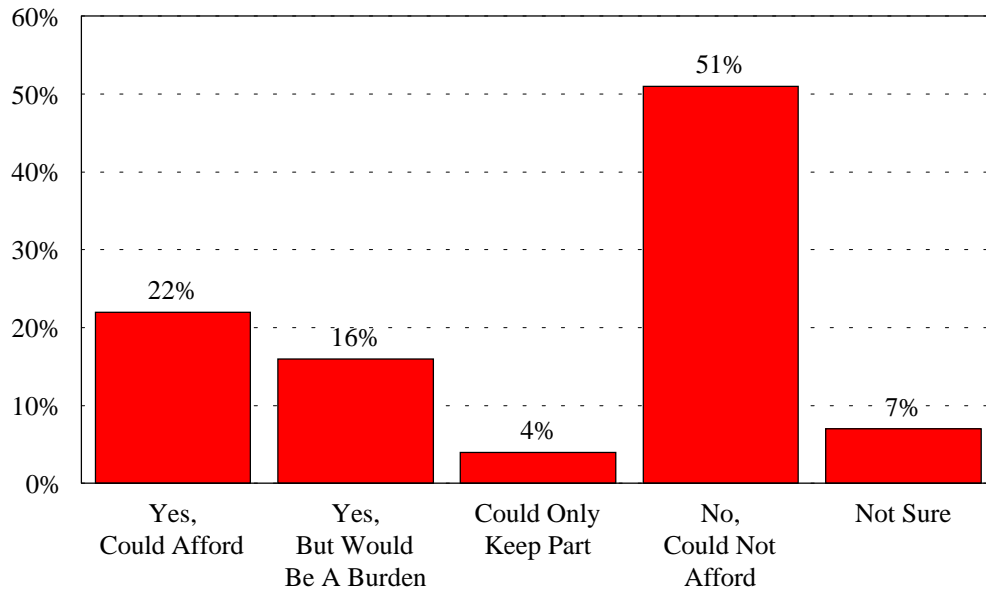


CHART 4.12

N=458

Percentage of Land Owner Would Sell if
Current Use Eliminated
(Redesigned Question - 2001)

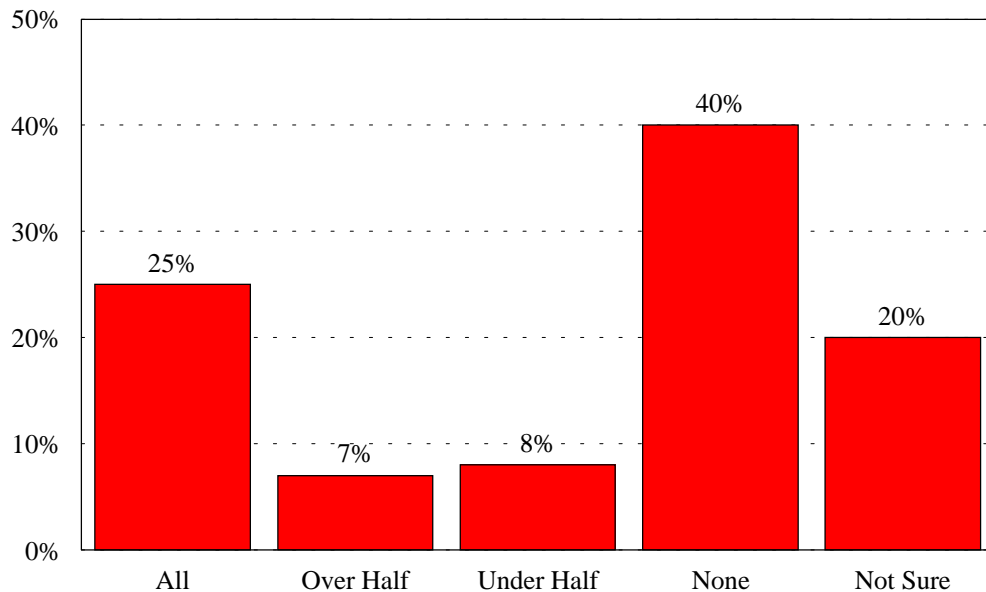


CHART 4.13

N=403/459

**Landowner Plans to Sell All or Part
of Current Use Land in Future**

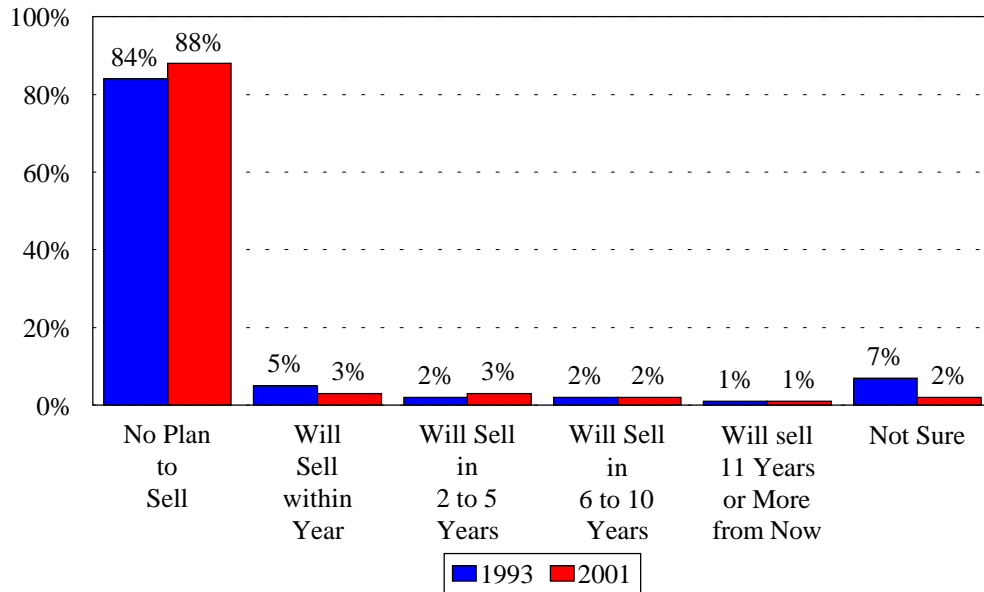


CHART 4.14

N=55/44

**Percentage of Land Owner Plans to Sell
(Assuming No Changes to Current Use Structure)**

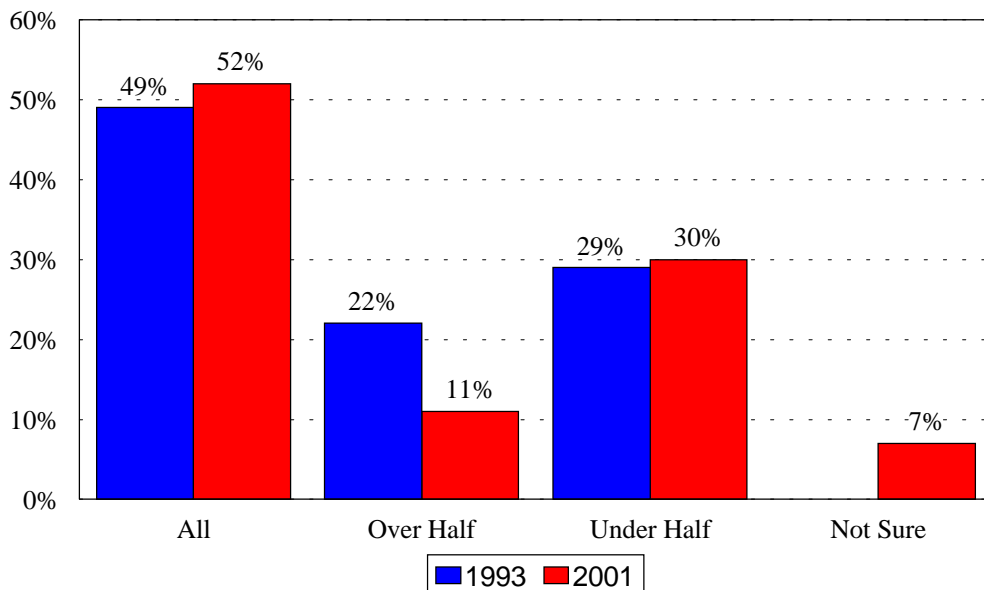


CHART 4.15

N=403/458

Owner Plans to Develop All or Part of Current Use Land in Future

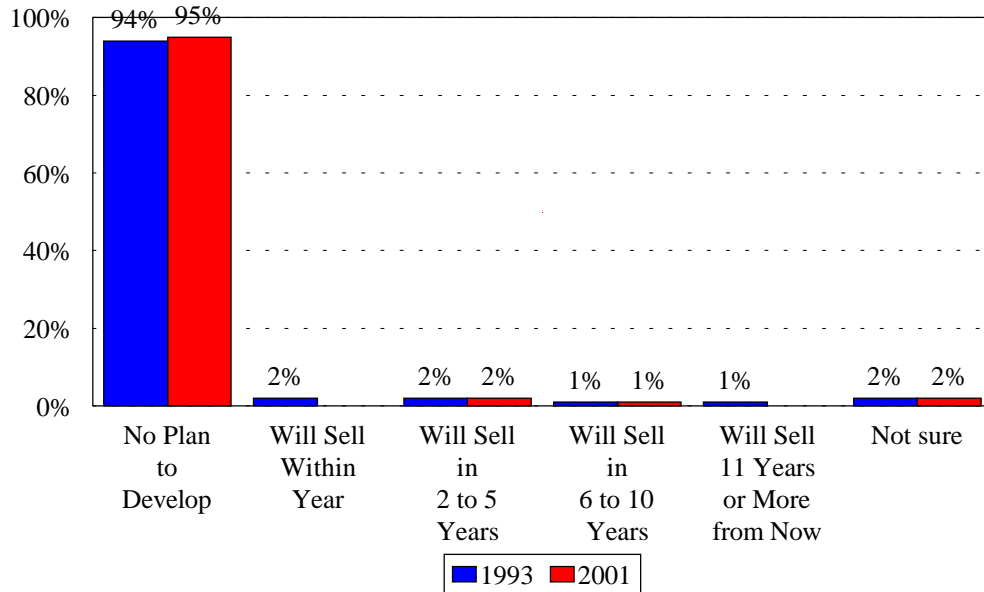


CHART 4.16

N=44

**Most Important Reason Why Landowner Plans to Sell Current Use Land
(New Question - 2001)**

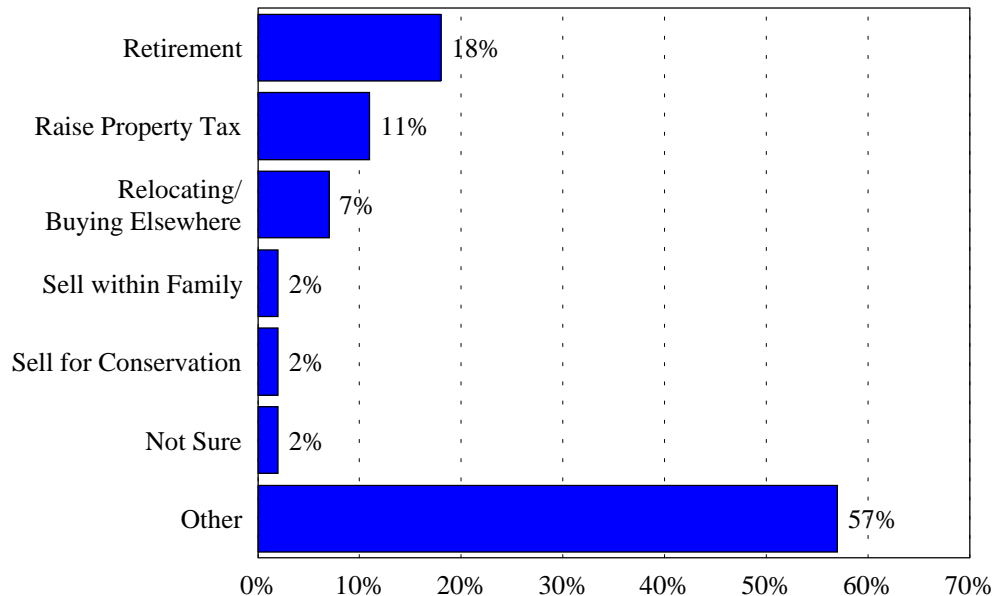
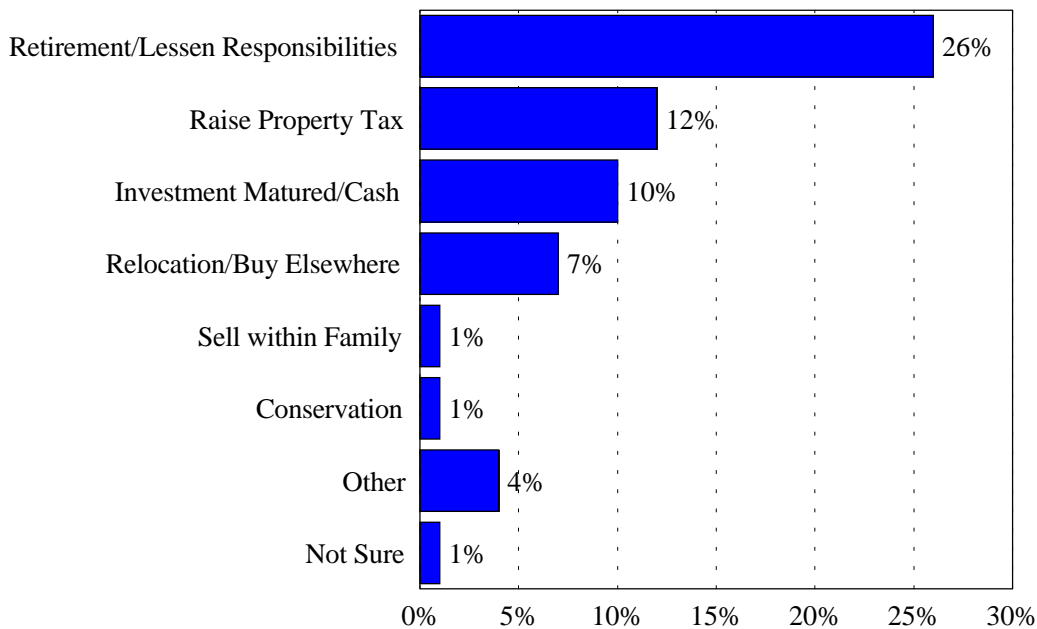


CHART 4.17

N=44

**Most Important Reason Why Landowner
Plans to Sell Current Use Land - "Other" Responses Recoded
(New Question - 2001)**



APPENDIX A:
DETAILED TABULAR RESULTS

APPENDIX B:

QUESTIONNAIRE AND CODEBOOK

This appendix contains the questionnaire used in the S.P.A.C.E. NH Current Use Practices Survey. It also includes the following information about the data:

1. The numeric codes used to categorize the answers given by survey respondents.
2. The variable names and numbers of the variables in the SPSS file of the data.
3. The missing data codes used in the SPSS file (indicated by an asterisk [*])

S.P.A.C.E. Current Use Survey

“Hello, I’m calling from the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. We’re conducting a survey of people who currently have land enrolled in New Hampshire’s Current Use program.”

“Are you familiar with your Current Use land?” IF NO, ASK TO SPEAK TO THE PERSON WHO IS.

- 1 CORRECT RESPONDENT
- 2 GETTING CORRECT RESPONDENT
- 3 DON'T HAVE LAND IN CURRENT USE-----SKIP TO END
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE -----SKIP TO END
- *9 REFUSED -----SKIP TO END

Q1: “First, approximately how many acres of land do you currently have enrolled in the Current Use program in New Hampshire?”

- 0 NONE-----SKIP TO END
- 1-900000 - ENTER NUMBER OF ACRES MENTIONED
- 900000 900,000 ACRES OR MORE
- 999998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE -----SKIP TO END
- *999999 NA / REFUSED -----SKIP TO END

Q2: "Approximately how many years has this land been enrolled in Current Use, either by you or by a previous owner, or owners?"

- 1 -90 YEARS
- 90 90 OR MORE YEARS
- 98 DK / NOT SURE
- *99 NA / REFUSED

Q3: "Did you enroll land in Current Use yourself ... purchase land already in Current Use, or ... inherit land in Current Use?"

- 1 ENROLL LAND IN CURRENT USE YOURSELF
- 2 PURCHASED LAND ALREADY IN CURRENT USE
- 3 INHERIT LAND ALREADY IN CURRENT USE
- 8 DK / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q4: "Which of the following best describes the ownership of your Current Use Land?"
(READ RESPONSES)

- 1 by an individual or family,
- 2 a trust,
- 3 a corporation,
- 4 a non-profit organization,
- 5 a real estate or development concern,
- 6 a forest industry concern, or
- 7 a partnership?"
- 8 COMBINATION (VOLUNTEERED)
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q5: "What town towns is your Current Use property located in? ENTER NUMBER FROM SHEETS, RECORD UP TO 3 RESPONSES

Q6: "Is your Current Use land in the Forest, Farm, or unproductive category or in a combination of categories?" (CLICK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 FOREST
- 2 FARM
- 3 UNPRODUCTIVE
- 4 COMBINATION
- 5 UNSURE / NOT SURE
- *6 REFUSED
- 7 CLICK TO CONTINUE
(IF ANSWER = 2) ASK Q7

Q7: "Is the farmland you have in Current Use being mown just to keep it open ... that is ... is it no longer pasture or cropped?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED
(IF ANSWER TO Q7 = 1) ASK Q8

Q8: "If you have forestland, is it enrolled in the 'forest land with documented Stewardship' category?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO -----|----> SKIPTO Q11
- 3 NO LONGER ENROLLED IN STEWARDSHIP CATEGORY
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q9: "Do you have a written management plan signed by a licensed forester?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q10: "Do you believe stewardship plans should be written or approved by a licensed forester?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q11: "Does your Current Use land generate any income for you?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO -----> SKIPTO Q13
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE -----> SKIPTO Q13
- *9 NA / REFUSED -----> SKIPTO Q13

Q12: "Approximately how much income is generated from your Current Use land each year?"

- 0 NONE
- 1-500000 ENTER AMOUNT PER YEAR
- 888888 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *999999 REFUSED

Q13: "How is income generated?" DO NOT READ RESPONSES, CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- 1 TIMBER
- 2 CHRISTMAS TREES
- 3 FARM PRODUCTS
- 4 LEASING LAND
- 5 OTHER (SPECIFY)
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q14: "What are your reasons for owning your Current Use land? DO NOT READ RESPONSES, CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- 1 ECONOMIC VALUE IN ITS - FARM OR FORESTRY INCOME,
- 2 NON-ECONOMIC VALUE, - PROTECTING LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT,
- 3 INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
- 4 SAVING MONEY ON PROPERTY TAXES
- 5 MAKING OWNING OPEN SPACE LAND AFFORDABLE
- 5 INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE TIMBER OR FARM VALUE,
- 6 PERSONAL OR FAMILY ENJOYMENT OF LAND
- 7 LEGACY OR FAMILY LANDS
- 8 OTHER {SPECIFY}
- 98 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *99 NA / REFUSED

Q15: "Now on another matter. As you may know, each year the Current Use Board in the state sets the land ASSESSMENT VALUES for land enrolled in Current Use. The taxes you pay on your Current Use land are then based on the assessment ranges the BOARD sets. How familiar are you with the land assessment values set by the Current Use board ... would you say you are very familiar ... moderately familiar ... somewhat familiar ... or not at all familiar?"

- 1 VERY FAMILIAR
- 2 MODERATELY FAMILIAR
- 3 SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR
- 4 NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q16: "Do you happen to know the assessed per-acre value of the land which you have enrolled in Current Use?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q17: "In your view, are the Current Use Land assessment values as set by the Current Use Board too high ... too low ... or about right?"

- 1 TOO HIGH
- 2 TOO LOW
- 3 ABOUT RIGHT
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 REFUSED

Q18: "Are you familiar with the criteria for the placement of Current Use land within the Assessment range?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q19: "In your view, has the town the Current Use land is located in placed it appropriately within the assessment range?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q20: "If the Current Use taxes doubled due to a change in the Current Use law, would this cause you to sell any of your Current Use land?" IF YES ASK: "Approximately what percentage of your Current Use land would you sell?"

- 0 NO, NONE, 0%
- 1 - 100 ENTER PERCENT OF LAND THAT RESPONDENT WOULD SELL
- 998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *999 REFUSED

Q21: "Now I'd like to ask you about the Land Use Change Tax- which is the penalty you pay when you take all or a portion of your land out of Current Use. How familiar are you with the Land Use Change Tax, would you say very familiar ... moderately familiar... somewhat familiar... or not at all familiar?"

- 1 VERY FAMILIAR
- 2 MODERATELY FAMILIAR
- 3 SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR
- 4 NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 REFUSED

Q22: "Do you happen to know what the current Land Use Change Tax rate is?" IF YES: "What is the tax rate?"

- 0 NO
- 1 - 100 ENTER THE TAX RATE
- 998 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *999 REFUSED

Q23: "In your view, is the current Land Use Change tax rate too high ... too low ... or about right?"

- 1 TOO HIGH
- 2 TOO LOW
- 3 ABOUT RIGHT
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q24: "As a way of generating additional local or state revenue, some people have proposed increasing the Land Use Change Tax-or penalty-from 10 percent of the total value of the land to 15 or 20 percent of the total value. If the Land Use Change Tax were increased from 10 to [15/20] percent, would you sell any or all of your land?" IF YES, ASK: "Approximately what percentage of your Current Use land would you sell?"

- 0 NONE
- 1 - 100 ENTER PERCENTAGE THAT RESPONDENT WOULD SELL
- 998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *999 NA / REFUSED

Q25: "Some people argue that people who pay reduced taxes because their land is enrolled in Current Use should be required to manage their land according to certain standards of appropriate agricultural and forestry practices. Do you support or oppose requiring Current Use landowners to meet agricultural practice standards? IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: "Do you feel that strongly or moderately?"

- 1 STRONGLY SUPPORT
- 2 MODERATELY SUPPORT
- 3 UNSURE
- 4 MODERATELY OPPOSE
- 5 STRONGLY OPPOSE
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 REFUSED

Q26: "What about Forestry practice standards? Would you support or oppose requiring Current Use Landowners to meet Forestry practice standards?" IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: "Do you feel that strongly or moderately?"

- 1 STRONGLY SUPPORT
- 2 MODERATELY SUPPORT
- 3 UNSURE
- 4 MODERATELY OPPOSE
- 5 STRONGLY OPPOSE
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 REFUSED

Q27: "Currently, Forest landowners have the option of qualifying for reduced assessment under the Forestland with Documented Stewardship category. Is this incentive for you to manage your land?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q28: "Apart from requiring ALL Current Use Landowners from meeting the standards and practices we just discussed, would you support or oppose reductions in land assessment values for those landowners who VOLUNTARILY meet agricultural or forestry standards, or keep their land open for public access?" IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: "Do you feel that strongly or moderately?"

- 1 STRONGLY SUPPORT
- 2 MODERATELY SUPPORT
- 3 UNSURE
- 4 MODERATELY OPPOSE
- 5 STRONGLY OPPOSE
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 REFUSED

Q29: "Now I'd like to ask you some questions about public access to your Current Use land. Do you support or oppose requiring Current Use landowners to keep their land open for public access?" IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: "Do you feel that strongly or moderately?"

- 1 STRONGLY SUPPORT
- 2 MODERATELY SUPPORT
- 3 UNSURE
- 4 MODERATELY OPPOSE
- 5 STRONGLY OPPOSE
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *9 REFUSED

Q30: "Currently, those who do not post their land against some kinds of access qualify for a reduction of 20 percent of their assessment. Is this incentive to keep your land un-posted?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q31: "Is any or all of your Current Use Land posted against any type of public access?" IF YES, ASK: "Approximately what percentage of your Current Use land is posted against any type of public access?"

- 0 NO - NONE -----> SKIP TO Q38
- 1-100 PERCENT OF LAND THAT IS POSTED
- 998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE -----> SKIP TO Q38
- *999 NA / REFUSED -----> SKIP TO Q38

Q32: "First, do you post against public use of any kind, including trespassing?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q33: "Do you post against fishing?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q34: "Do you post against wheeled, motorized vehicles or ATV's?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q35: "Do you post against snowmobiles?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q36: "Do you post against hunting, firearms and/or bow use?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO -----> SKIP TO Q38
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE -----> SKIP TO Q38
- *9 NA / REFUSED -----> SKIP TO Q38

Q37: "Do you allow hunting by personal permission?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

Q38: "What public benefits, if any, do you believe your Current Use land is providing?" DO NOT READ RESPONSES. CLICK ALL MENTIONED.

- 1 PREVENTING DEVELOPMENT
- 2 RELIEVING MUNICIPAL TAX BURDEN BY REDUCING DEMAND FOR SERVICES,
- 3 PROVIDING OPEN SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY - (AESTHETIC VALUE)
- 4 PROVIDING OPEN SPACE FOR PUBLIC USE - (RECREATION)
- 5 PROVIDING WILDLIFE HABITAT - (BIODIVERSITY)
- 6 PROVIDING TIMBER
- 7 PROVIDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
- 8 PROTECTING WATERSHED OR WATER SUPPLY
- 9 OTHER (SPECIFY)
- 10 NONE-NOTHING MENTIONED
- *11 REFUSED
- 12 CLICK TO CONTINUE

Q39: "Think for a minute about all the ways you or anyone else uses the land you have in Current Use. Please tell me all the ways that the land you have in Current Use is used." RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSES. RECORD AS MANY RESPONSES AS GIVEN.

Q40: "Assuming there are no changes in the Current Use law, do you have any plans to sell any or all of your land in the future?" IF YES, ASK: "Approximately when do you plan to sell all or part of your land?"

- 0 NO-DO NOT PLAN TO SELL ANY LAND -----→ SKIPTO Q43
- 1 YES-WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR
- 2 YES- WITHIN 2-5 YEARS
- 3 YES-WITHIN 6-10 YEARS
- 4 YES- 11 YEARS OR MORE
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE -----→ SKIPTO Q43
- *9 NA / REFUSED -----→ SKIPTO Q43

Q41: "What is the MOST IMPORTANT reason why you plan to sell your Current Use land?" DO NOT READ RESPONSES

- 1 RETIREMENT
- 2 RELOCATING OR PURCHASING LAND ELSEWHERE
- 3 THE INVESTMENT HAS MATURED
- 4 SELL TO FAMILY MEMBERS
- 5 TO RAISE MONEY TO PAY PROPERTY TAXES
- 6 TO DEVELOP THE LAND
- 7 TO SELL FOR CONSERVATION
- 8 OTHER
- 98 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *99 NA / REFUSED

Q42: "Approximately what percentage of your Current Use land do you plan to sell at that time?"

- 1 - 100 ENTER PERCENTAGE PLAN TO SELL
- 998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *999 NA / REFUSED

Q43: "Do you have any plans to develop any or all of you Current Use land in the future?" IF YES, ASK: "Approximately when do you plan to develop all or part of your land?"

- 0 NO, DO NOT PLAN TO DEVELOP ANY LAND -----→ SKIPTO Q45
- 1 YES -WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR
- 2 YES - 2-5 YEARS
- 3 YES - 6-10 YEARS
- 4 YES - 11 YEARS OR MORE
- 8 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE -----→ SKIPTO Q45
- *9 NA / REFUSED -----→ SKIPTO Q45

Q44: "Approximately what percentage of your Current Use land do you plan to develop at that time?"

- 1 - 100 ENTER PERCENTAGE PLAN TO DEVELOP
- 998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *999 NA / REFUSED

Q45: "If the Current Use program were eliminated today, would you sell any or all of your Current Use land?" IF YES, ASK: "Approximately what percentage of your Current Use land would you sell?"

- 0 NONE
- 1 - 100 PERCENTAGE OF LAND WOULD SELL
- 998 DON'T KNOW / NOT SURE
- *999 NA / REFUSED

Q46: "If the Current Use program were eliminated today, could you afford to keep the land if it were taxed at normal rates?"

- 1 YES
- 2 YES, BUT WOULD BE A BURDEN
- 3 COULD ONLY KEEP A PORTION OF IT.
- 4 NO
- 8 DON'T KNOW./ NOT SURE
- *9 NA / REFUSED

D1: "Now a few questions for statistical purposes." "What year were you born?"

19_____ ENTER LAST 2 DIGITS OF YEAR OF BIRTH

- 97 1900 OR EARLIER
- 98 DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE
- 99 REFUSED

D2: "How much TOTAL income did you and your family receive in 2000, not just from wages or salaries but from ALL sources -- that is, before taxes and other deductions were made? Was it ... (READ CATEGORIES)

- 1 Less than \$15,000
- 2 \$15,000 - \$29,999
- 3 \$30,000 - \$44,999
- 4 \$45,000 - \$59,999
- 5 \$60,000 - \$74,999
- 6 \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 7 \$100,000 and over
- 8 DK
- *9 NA / REFUSED

D3: "That was my last question, Thank you very much for your time." ENTER GENDER OF RESPONDENT.

- 1 MALE
- 2 FEMALE
- *9 NA/REFUSED