

CCA / Partners for Western Conservation Ag Water NetWORK

Goal: Keeping Ag Water Connected with
Ag Land

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What Colorado town is this?

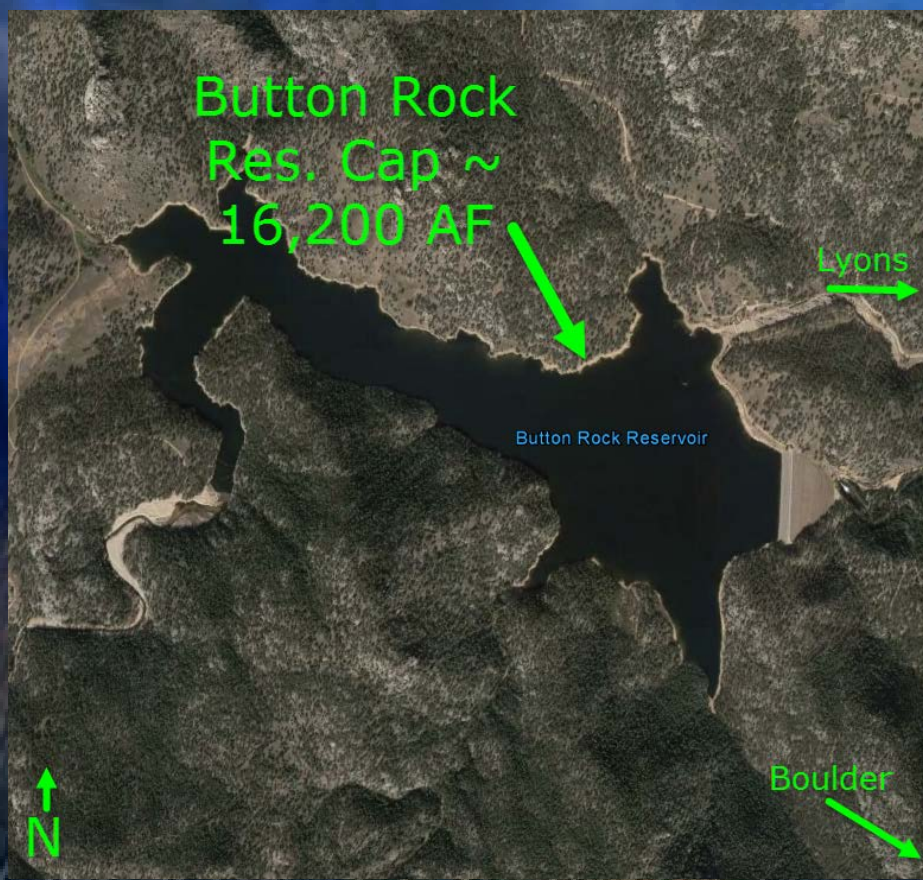
Hints: It's named after a mountain, and it's home to about 100,000 residents.



Longmont Water Use: 2010 = 16,258 AF

Approx. equal to:
Button Rock Res.

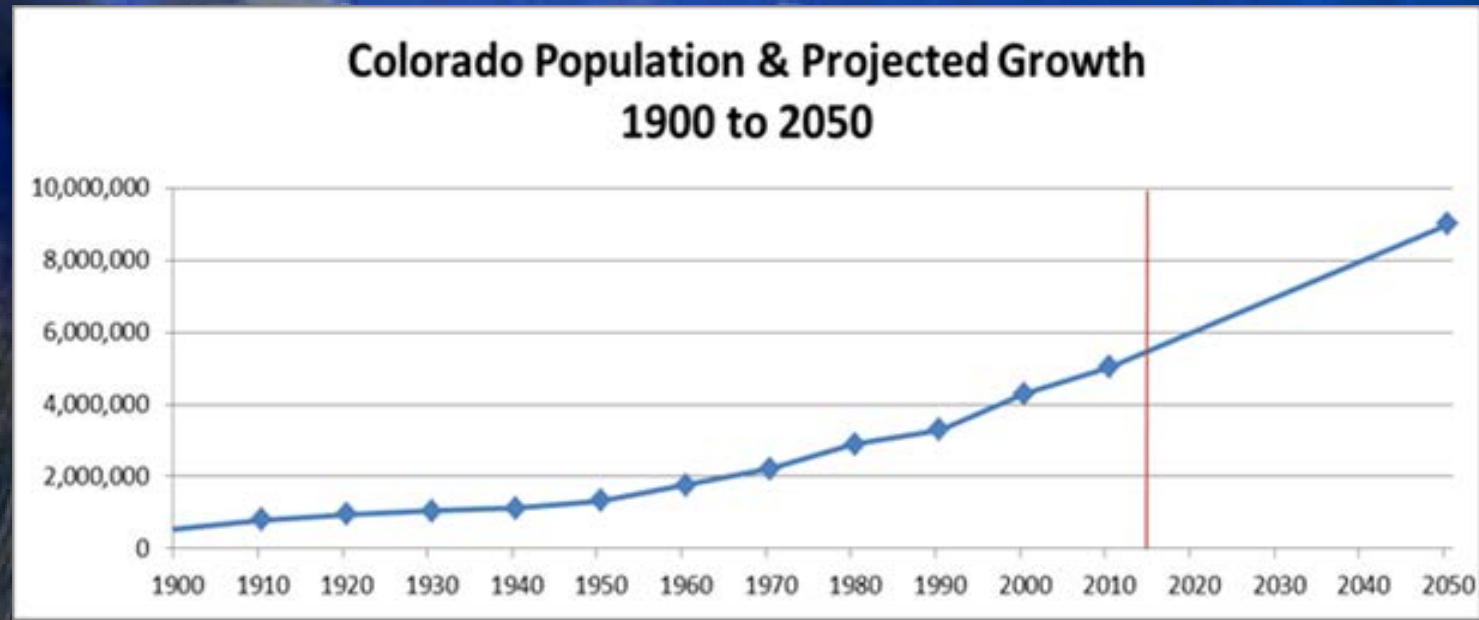
Approx. equal to:
Windsor Res.



* Source: City of Longmont Water Demand Evaluation report; Jan. 2012

State Water Plan – November, 2015

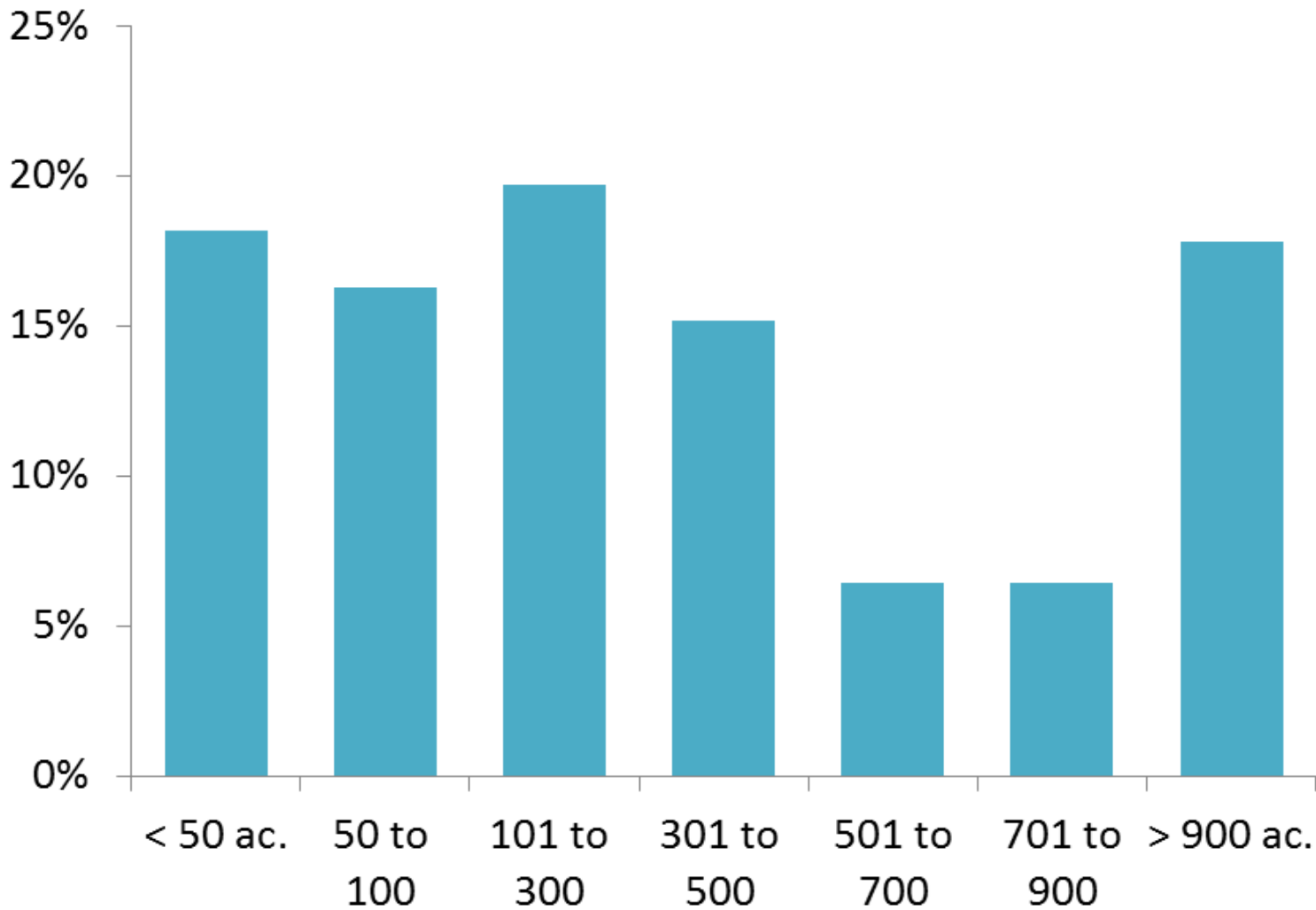
- Population: up to 10M by 2050
- M & I water gap: 560,000 AF
- 500K to 700K irrig. acres lost if no changes
- Water Plan calls for ag water leasing to help meet demand-supply gap.



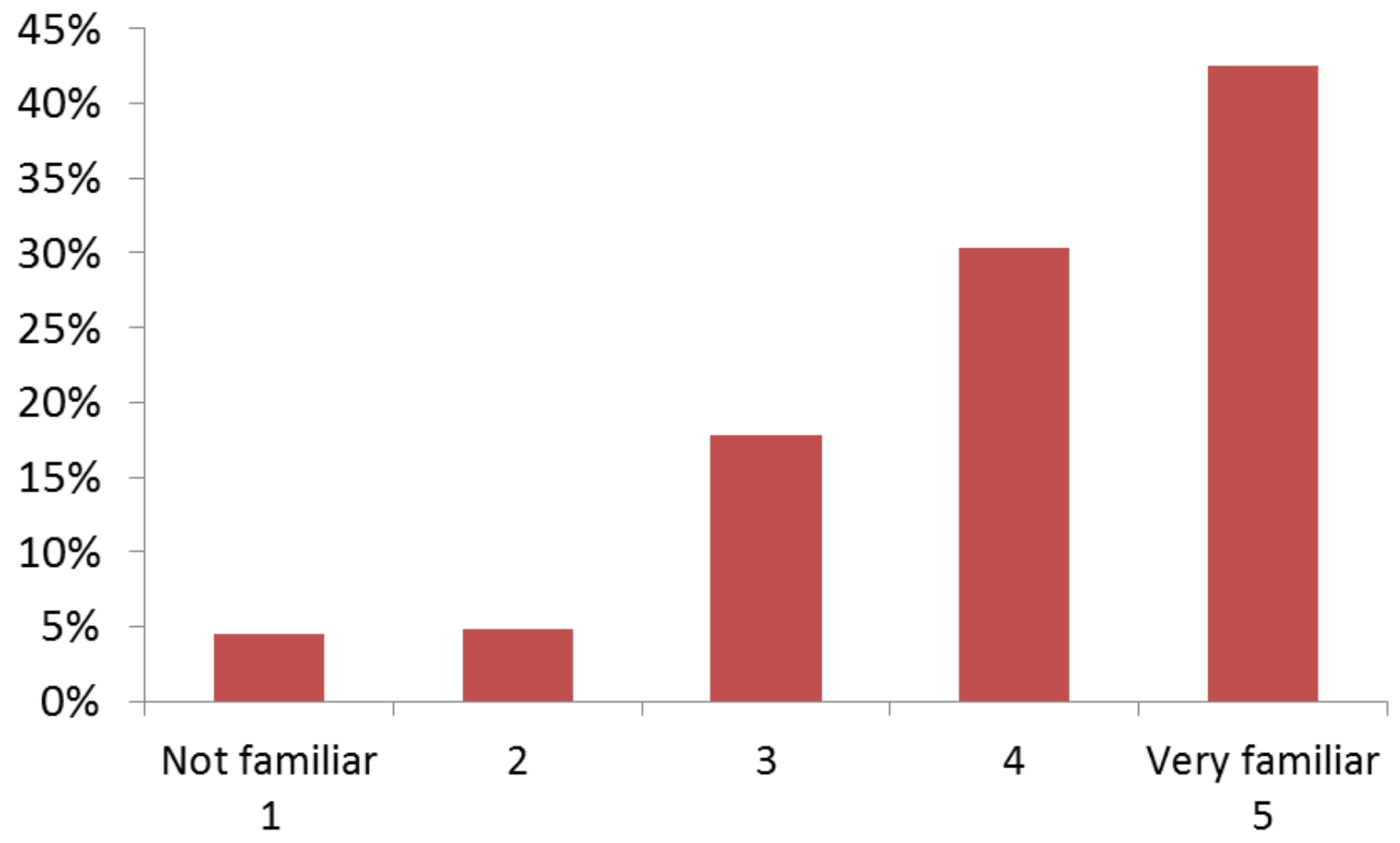
Background on ag water survey:

- Web-based
- Collaboration with Colorado Corn, CLA, CPPC, Ag Council, CAWA, individuals
- 25 questions + comment section
- 250+ returned surveys

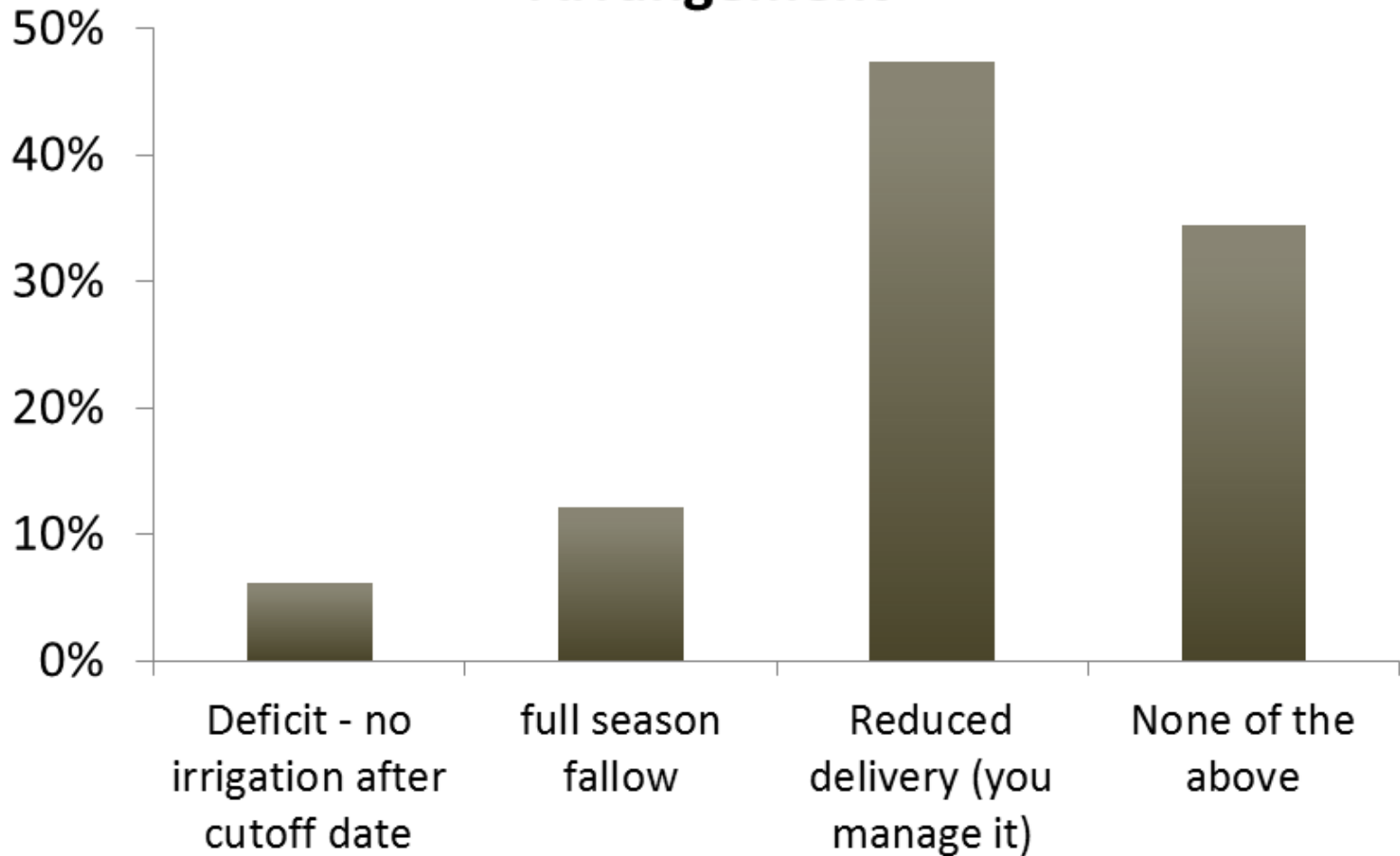
Acres Irrigated



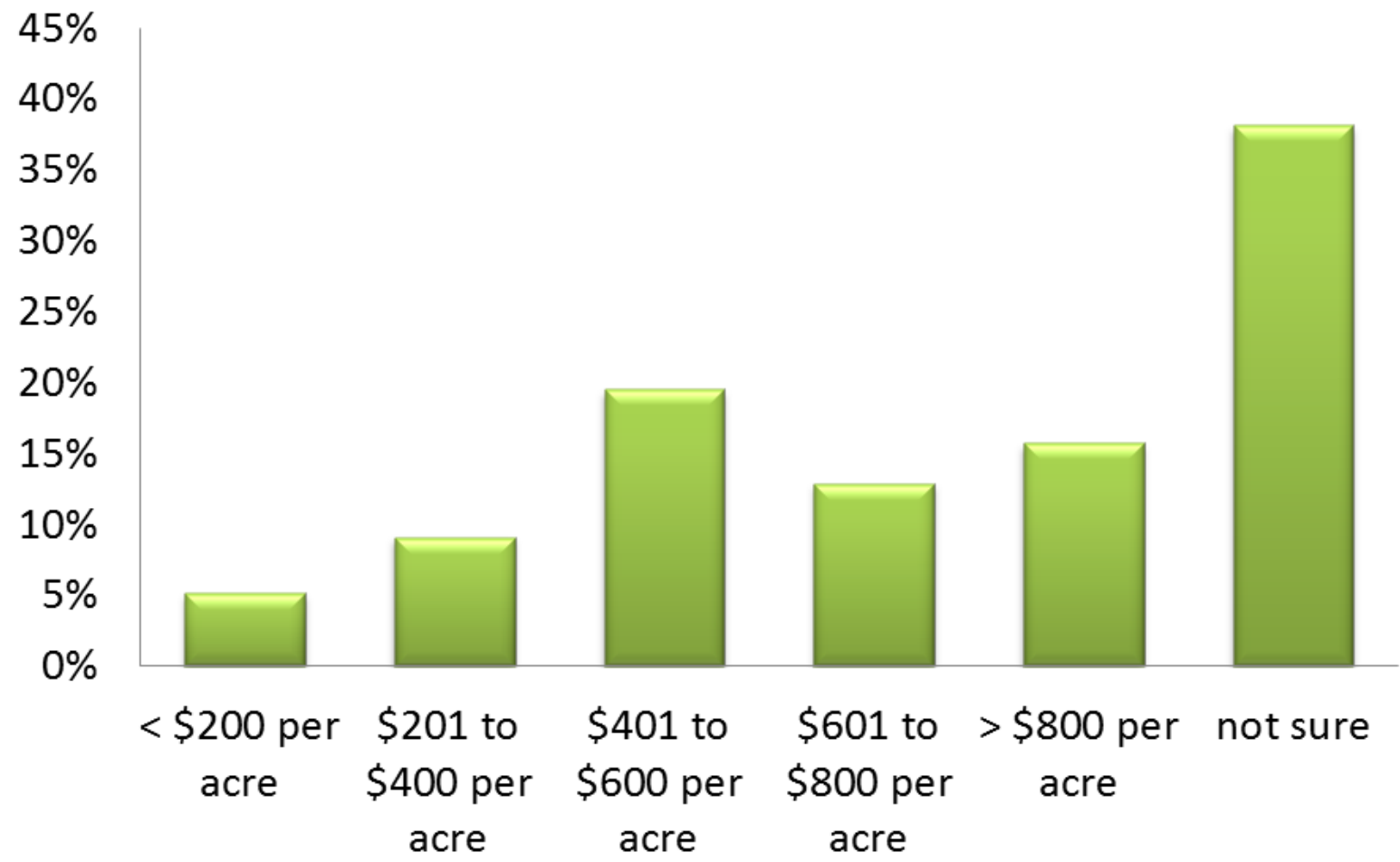
Familiarity with "Consumptive Use" Concept



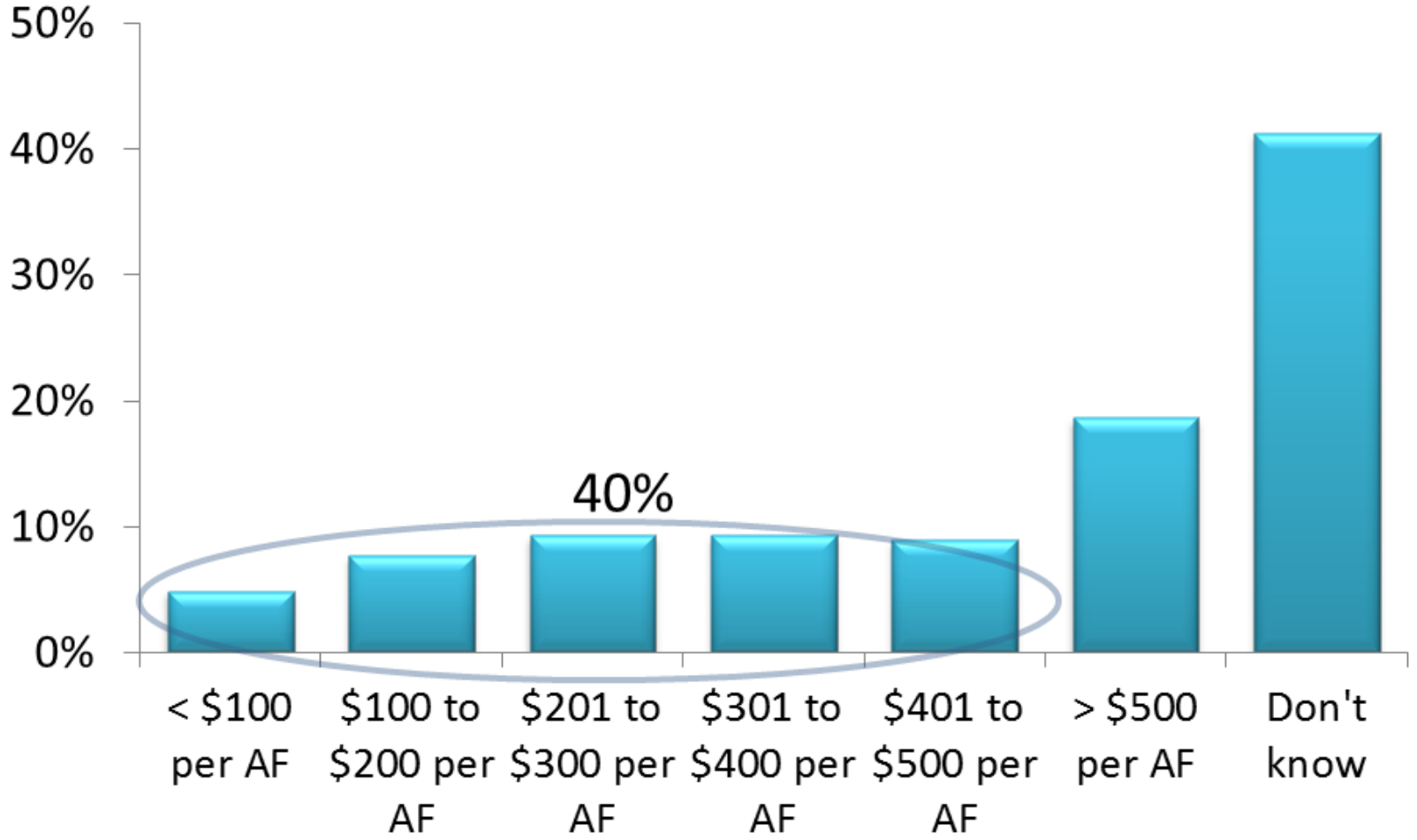
Preferred Type of Ag Water Lease Arrangement



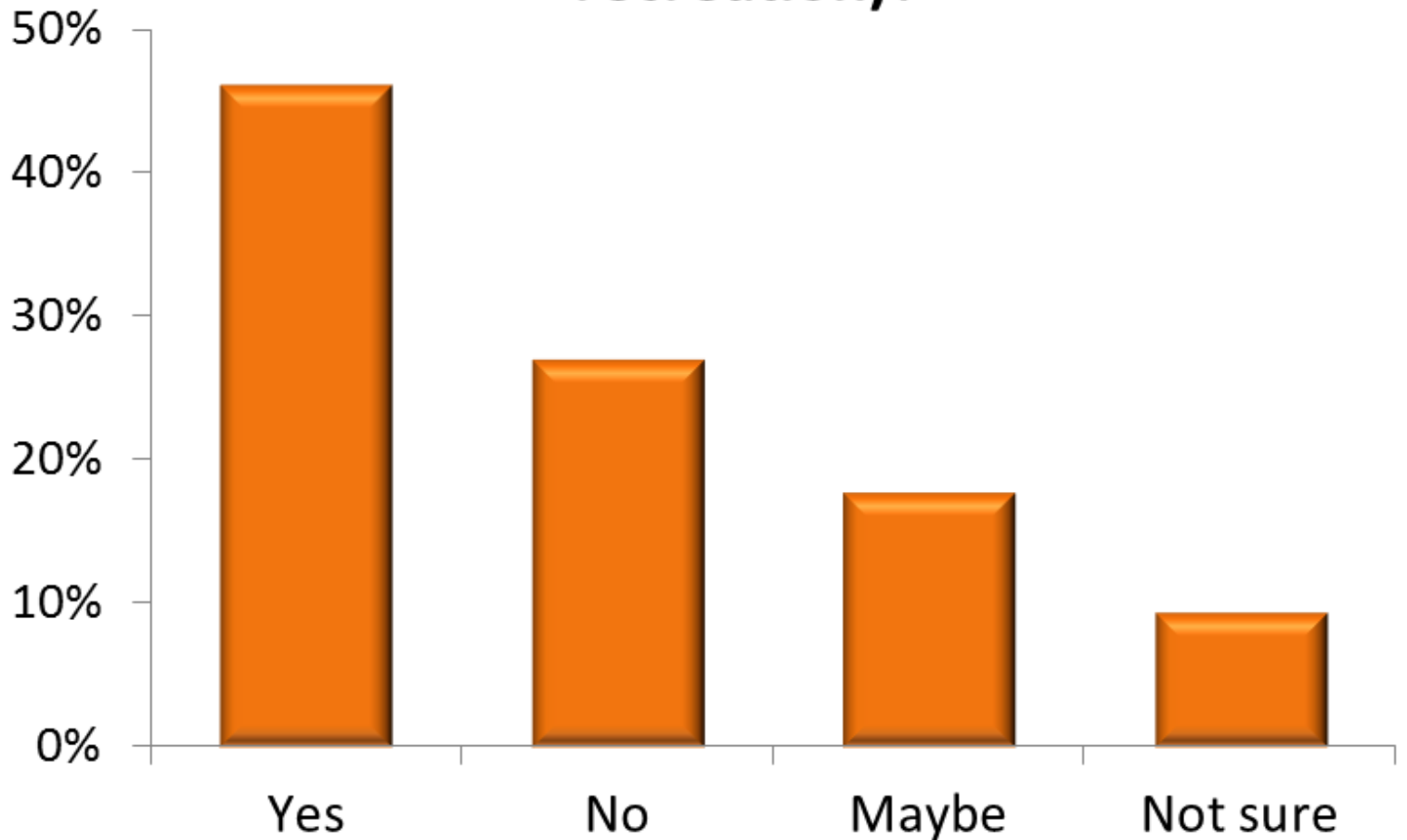
Fair Payment for Leased CU Water on a per Acre Basis?



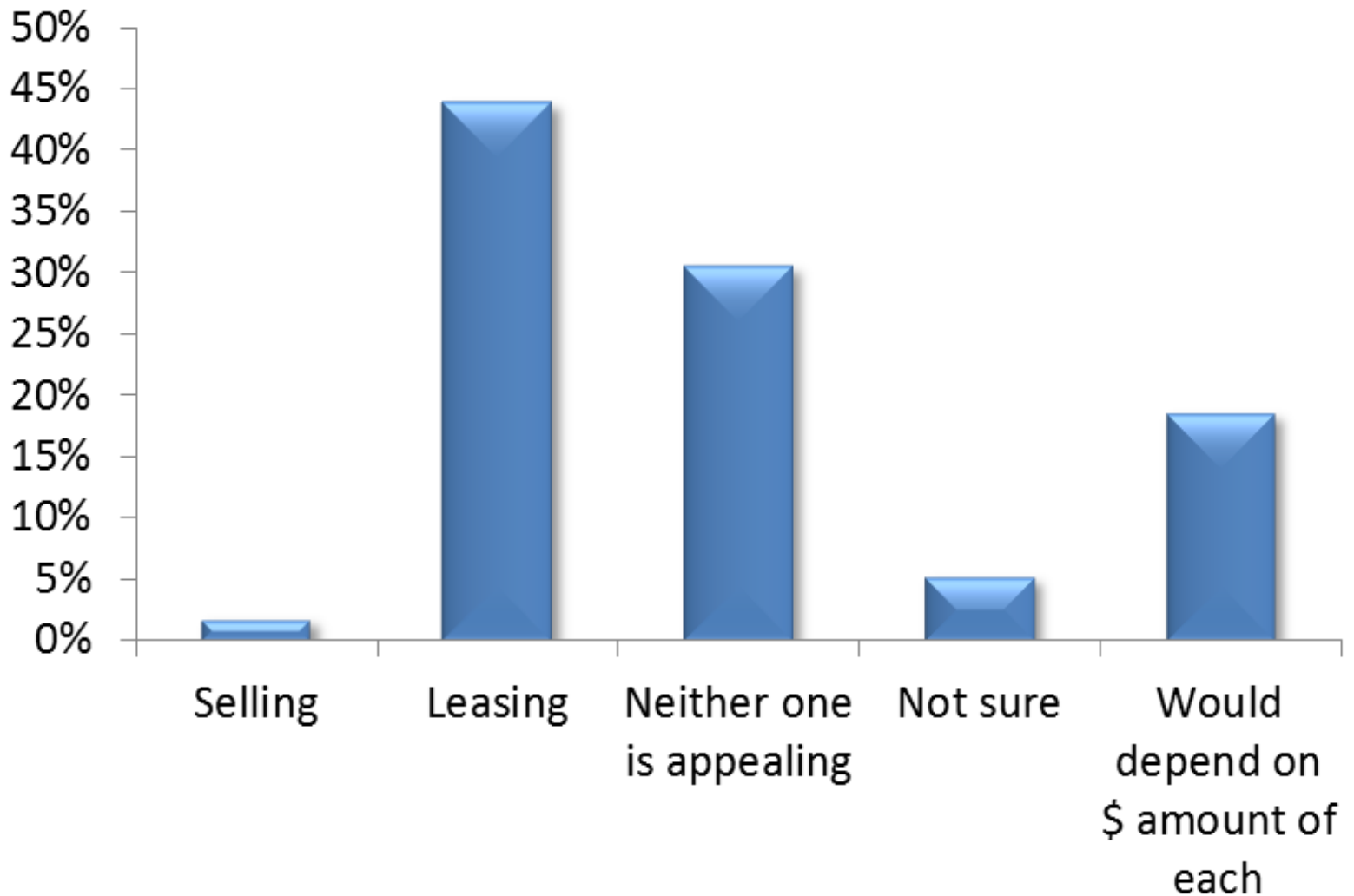
Fair Payment for Leased CU Water ? (per Acre-Foot Basis)



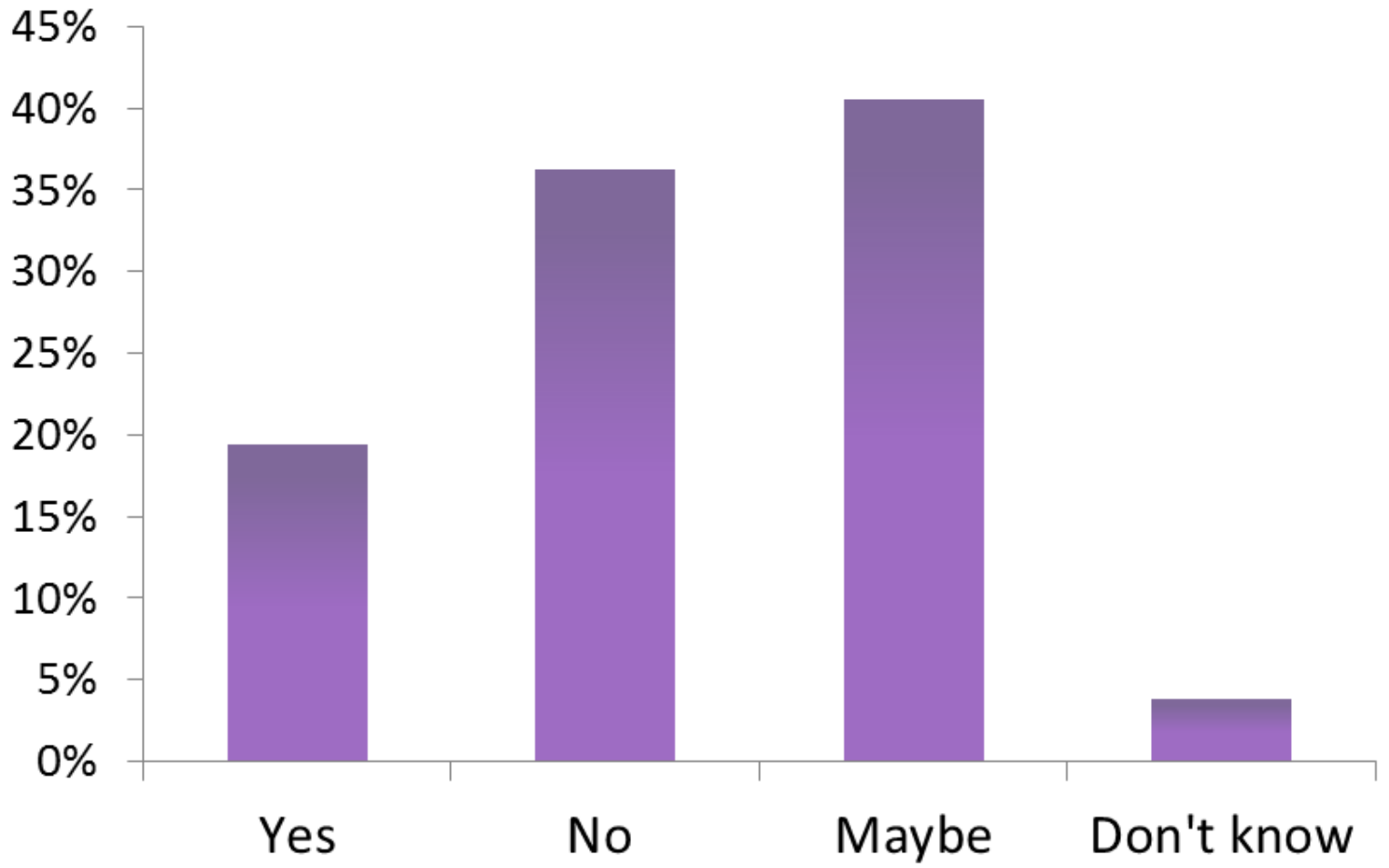
Does it Matter How the Leased Water is Used (ie. M & I, environment, recreation)?



Which Option is More Appealing?



Would You Participate in an Ag Water Lease if Asked Today ?



Examples of Comments Received

- Not sure how small producers could participate.
- More information is needed on risks / benefits.
- How can we get water near KS border to the Front Range?
- Leasing is appealing now, but will be less so when crop prices turn around.
- If they see that I can use less water, they will take the “extra.”
- How can I feed my livestock if I don't grow feed for them?
- Need pros and cons for my particular operation.
- The bottom line is: control population growth.

Survey Summary

- About 2/3rds of respondents expressed interest in leasing.
- Reduced total delivery was preferred over other practices.
- There is concern that water rights could be put in jeopardy.
- Acceptable lease rates will vary with location.
- More research and information is needed about cropping systems and soil quality under reduced or fallow irrigation.

Ag Water NetWORK

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCAagwatersurvey>

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