

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP OHV FEASIBILITY STUDY

# Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 4, 2021 • 5:00-7:00pm  
Luzerne County Community College • Nanticoke, PA

---

*Funded by a grant from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources*



❖ PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED





**WELCOME**

**PROJECT  
OVERVIEW**

**STUDY  
PROGRESS**

**Q&A**

**NEXT  
STEPS**

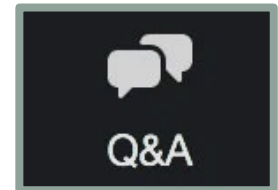
**CLOSING**

**AGENDA**

# Welcome!

---

- Second public meeting for the OHV Feasibility Study (first meeting held February 11, 2021). Tonight's public meeting is being recorded.
- Virtual attendees will be placed on mute and video will be turned off.
- Questions and comments will be taken after the presentation. Each speaker has two minutes. We'll answer as many questions as possible before 7:00pm. Additional answers will be posted on the project webpage following the meeting.
- **Virtual attendees can leave** questions or comments by typing into the Q&A box by clicking on the icon.





**PROJECT  
OVERVIEW**

**WELCOME**

**STUDY  
PROGRESS**

**Q&A**

**NEXT  
STEPS**

**CLOSING**

**AGENDA**



# Newport Twp. Master Plan

Taking into account the aforementioned remaining mining reclamation efforts, hydrology, topography, utilities, and existing transportation network, the following generalized development land uses have been delineated. The project boundary has been broken into three distinct areas: land suitable for development, lands with limited suitability, and lands best suited for conservation / recreation.

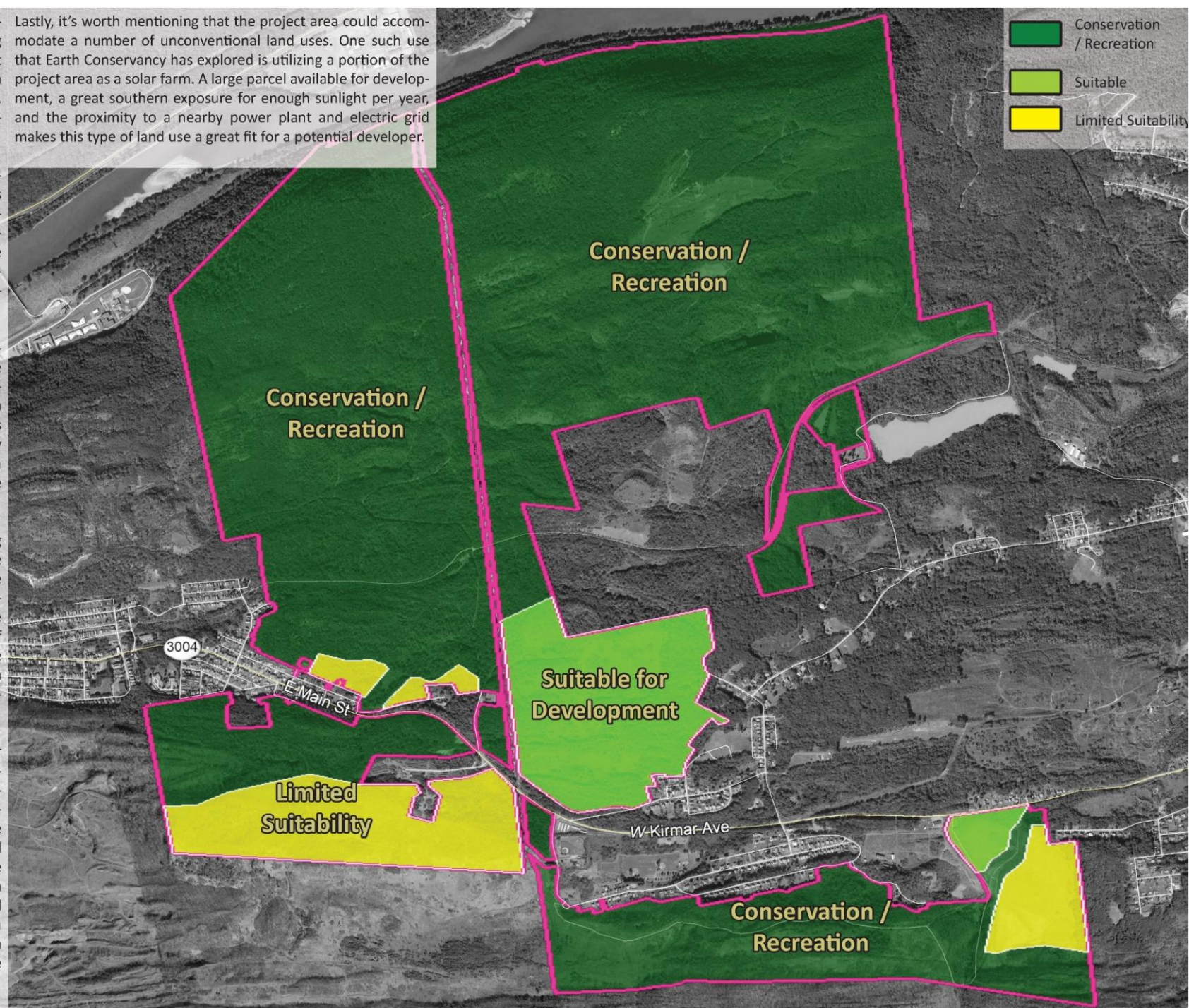
Two distinct areas have been delineated “suitable for development” which total approximately 200 acres. Both areas possess good access to Kirmar Ave, gentle or workable topography, access to utilities (with the exception of natural gas) and have limited mining and hydrologic constraints. The larger area of the two areas has potential to accommodate many types of development including, but not limited to, industrial, distribution, manufacturing, and a large lot residential community.

The smaller area is well-suited for small scale commercial applications. Small-scale commercial applications often tend to place a higher burden on existing infrastructure based on their development size. For example, a two acre restaurant site places a higher demand on water, sanitary, and transportation services on an acre per acre basis than a 100 acre distribution facility site. Therefore, due to the adequate existing infrastructure in this area, little additional work is needed to accommodate these specialized land uses.

Approximately 150 acres of land has been deemed as having “limited suitability for development”. Although similar to the “suitable for development” areas these lands are more remote than their counterparts and therefore will need a greater infusion of capital to prepare the site, extend utilities, and create transportation routes to the area. It must be noted that one of the areas identified as having limited suitability is atop the mine fire area. As noted earlier, the area gives little evidence of an existing mine fire, but further investigation is recommended before the area is developed.

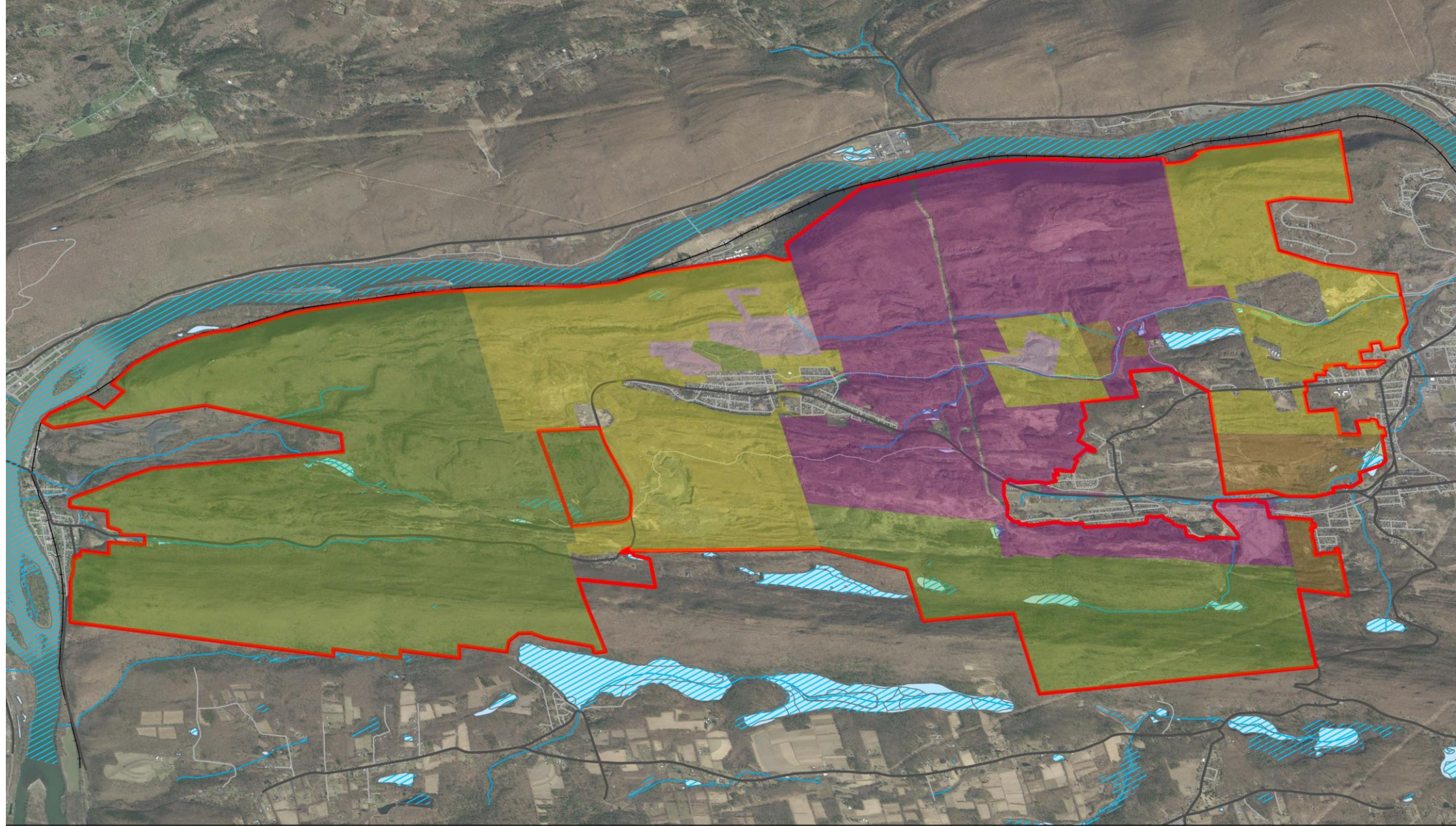
A majority of the proposed project area has been set aside for conservation / recreation. Although these lands could accommodate many types of potential development, large capital infusions would be necessary to make these lands suitable for construction. It also must be noted that since the finalizing of the 1996 Land Use Plan, there has been little development demand in Newport Township. Not only will the setting aside of a large portion of the land for conservation / recreation coincide with Earth Conservancy’s mission statement, the proposed areas will fit nicely into the local and regional context. As will be seen in subsequent sections of this report, recreation and conservation in particular, have seen exponential growth in the area since the finalizing of the 1996 Land Use plan.

Lastly, it’s worth mentioning that the project area could accommodate a number of unconventional land uses. One such use that Earth Conservancy has explored is utilizing a portion of the project area as a solar farm. A large parcel available for development, a great southern exposure for enough sunlight per year, and the proximity to a nearby power plant and electric grid makes this type of land use a great fit for a potential developer.





# Study Area

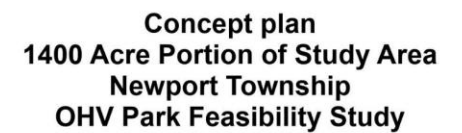
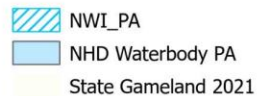




Rice Township

udes

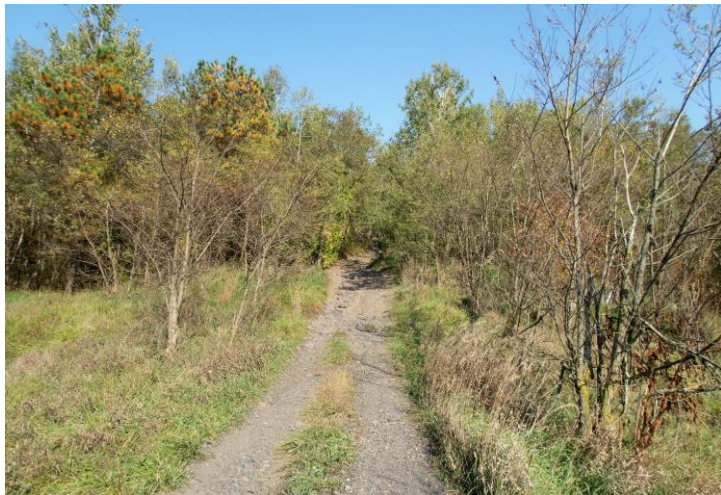






# Project Goals

---



- Investigate wants and needs of ATV/OHV riders and other outdoor recreational enthusiasts in community;
- Investigate challenges and benefits of an outdoor motorized recreational area;
- Develop conceptual plan(s) for 10,000-acre study area;
- Investigate ownership models (public and/or private);
- Prepare report and outline permitting, funding opportunities, and next steps towards planning/construction.
- GOAL: Business Plan for Potential Park Developer



**STUDY  
PROGRESS**

**WELCOME**

**PROJECT  
OVERVIEW**

**Q&A**

**NEXT  
STEPS**

**CLOSING**

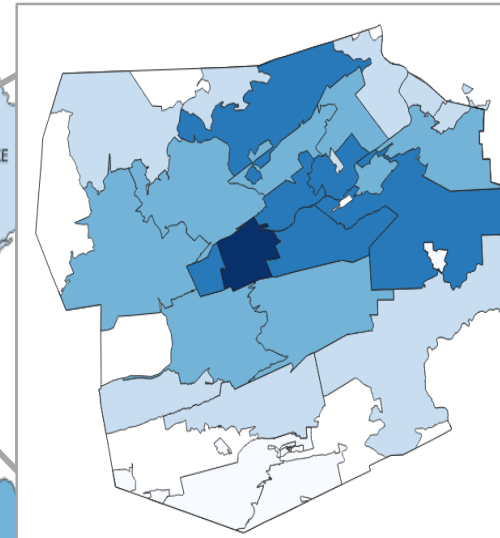
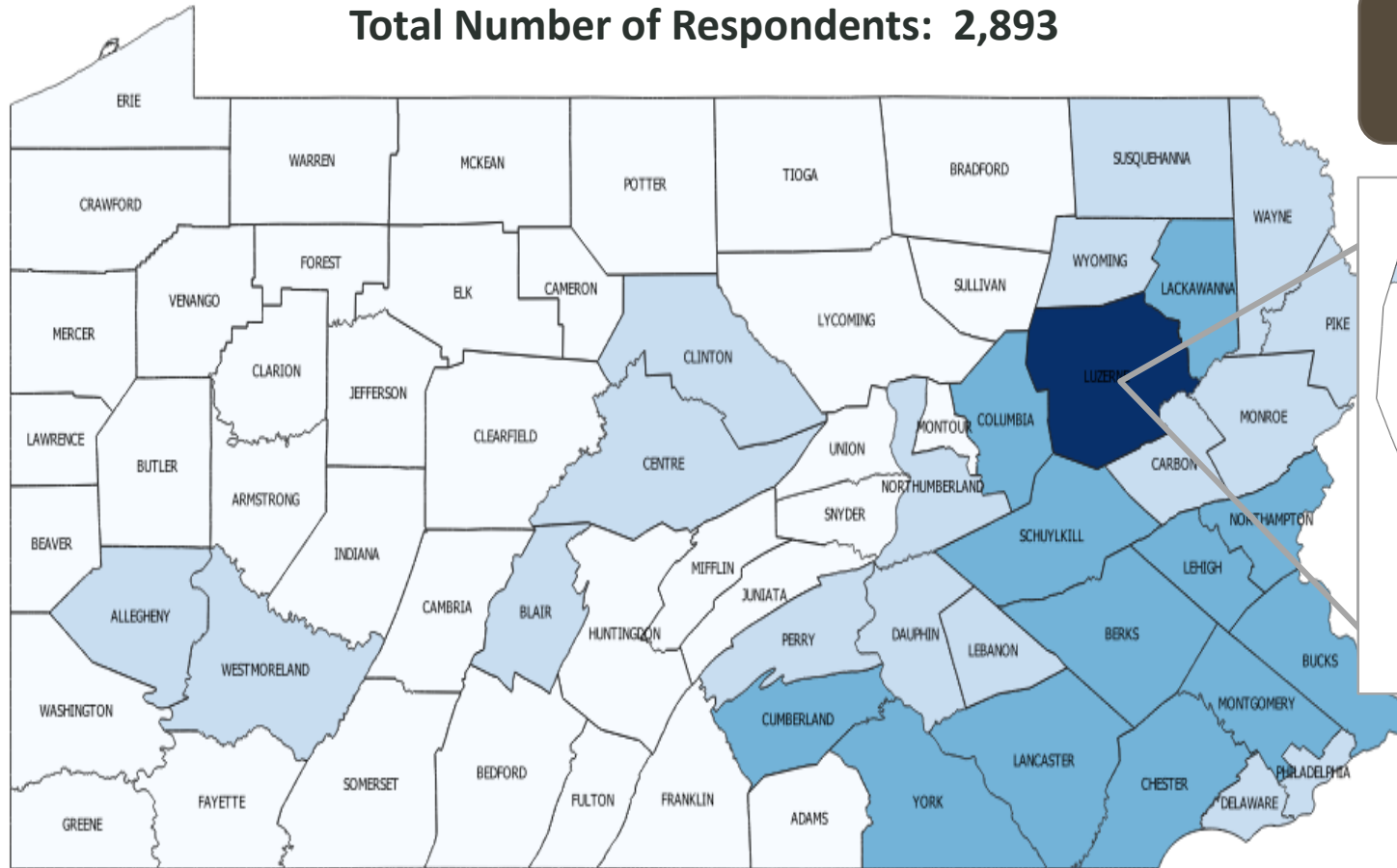
**AGENDA**



# Goal #1: Gauge Public Interest

Total Number of Respondents: 2,893

39% of Responses in PA are from Luzerne County



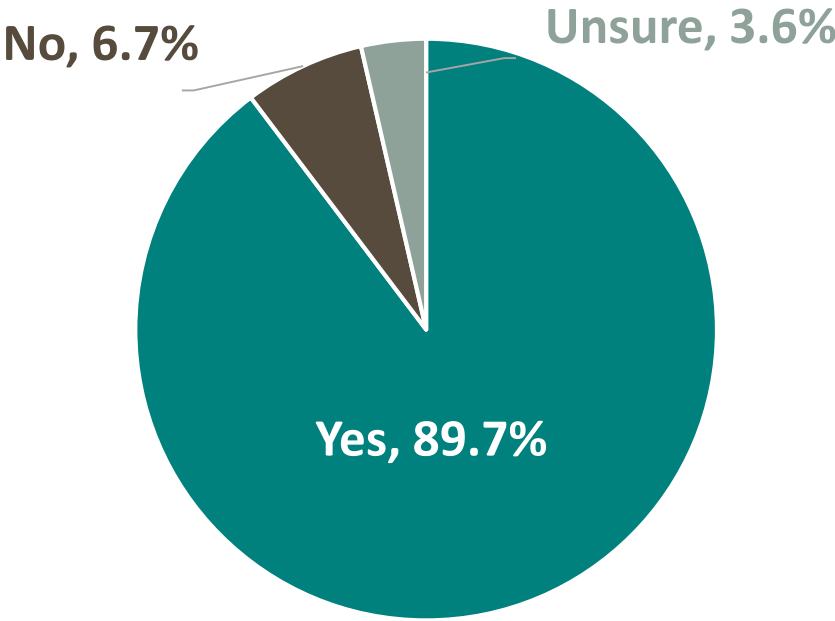
## Luzerne County Zip Codes


### % of Responses

	0 – 0.5%
	0.51 – 2%
	2.1 – 5%
	5.1 – 10%
	More than 10%

# Support for OHV Recreational Area

Would you be in favor of an OHV Area in Newport Township?  
(All Respondents)



 <div>Luzerne County</div>	Support among Luzerne County Respondents		
	In Favor of OHV Area?		
	Yes	No	Unsure
	82%	12%	6%

Support among OHV Riders / Non-Riders			
Current Rider?	In Favor of OHV Area?		
	Yes	No	Unsure
	80%	2%	2%
No	10%	5%	2%



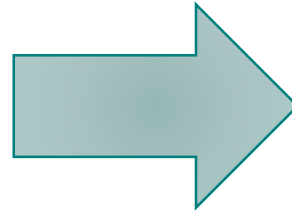
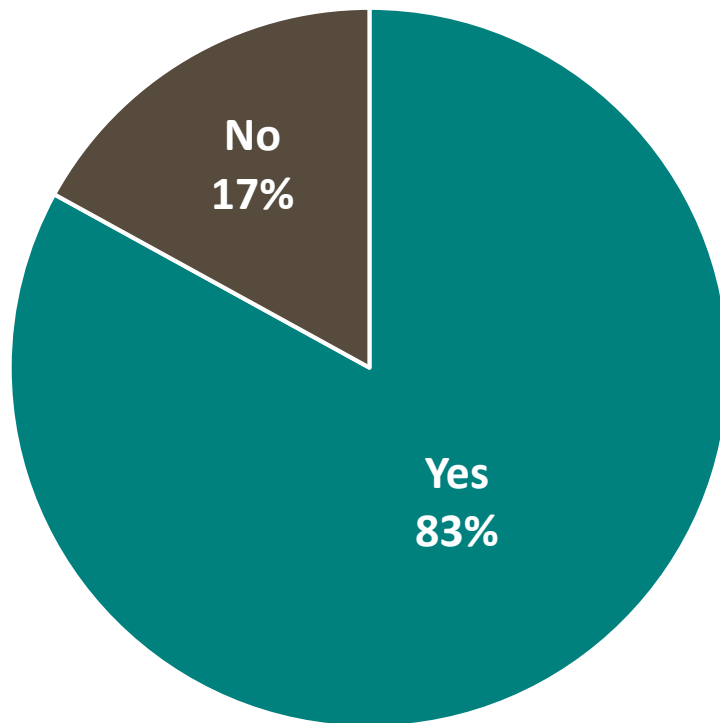
# Goal #2:

---

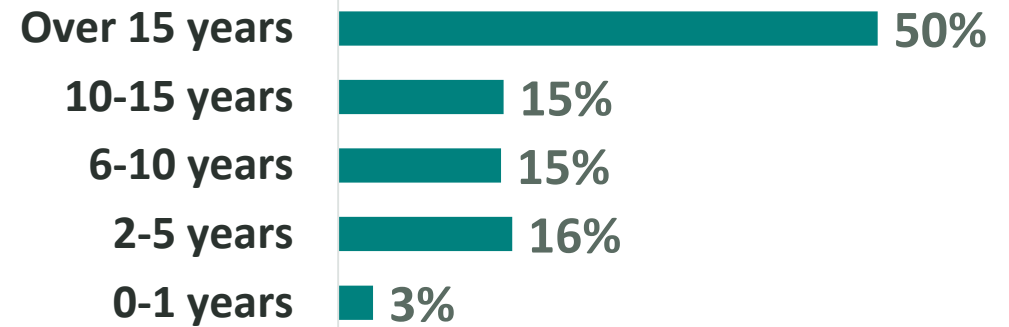
Investigate Needs, Wants, Challenges, & Benefits

# Need: Legal Area for Large Riding Population

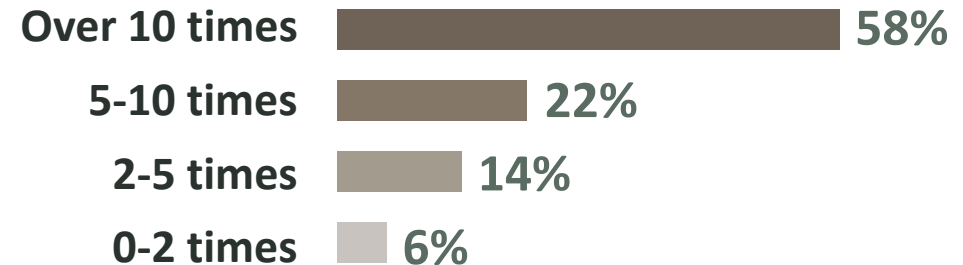
Are you an OHV rider?



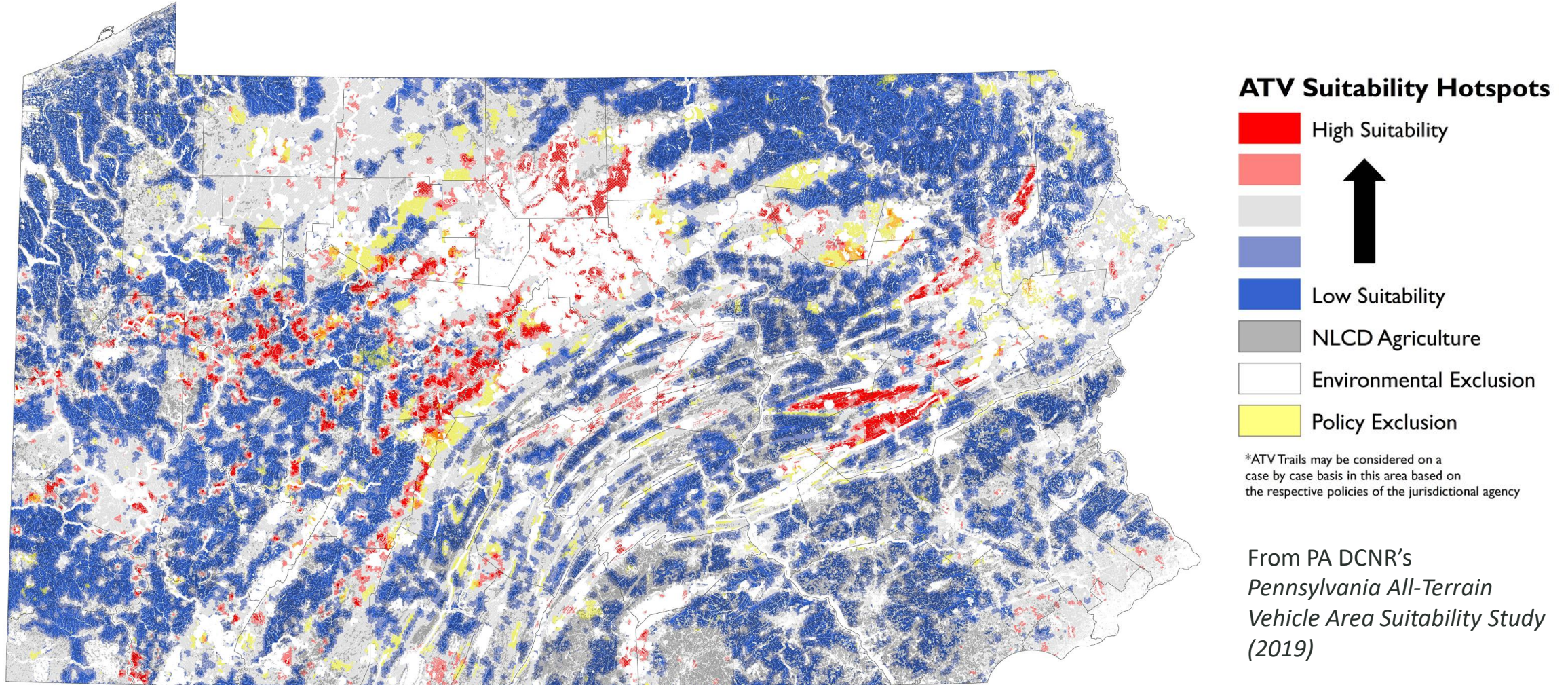
If yes, for how many years have you been riding?



How many times have you gone riding in the past year?



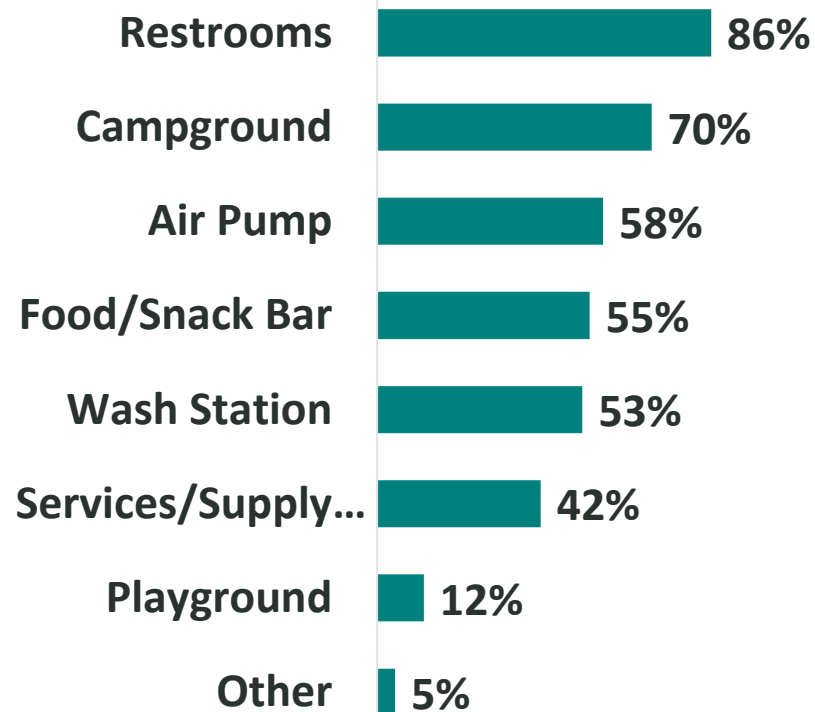
# Need: Suitable Area for Riding Population



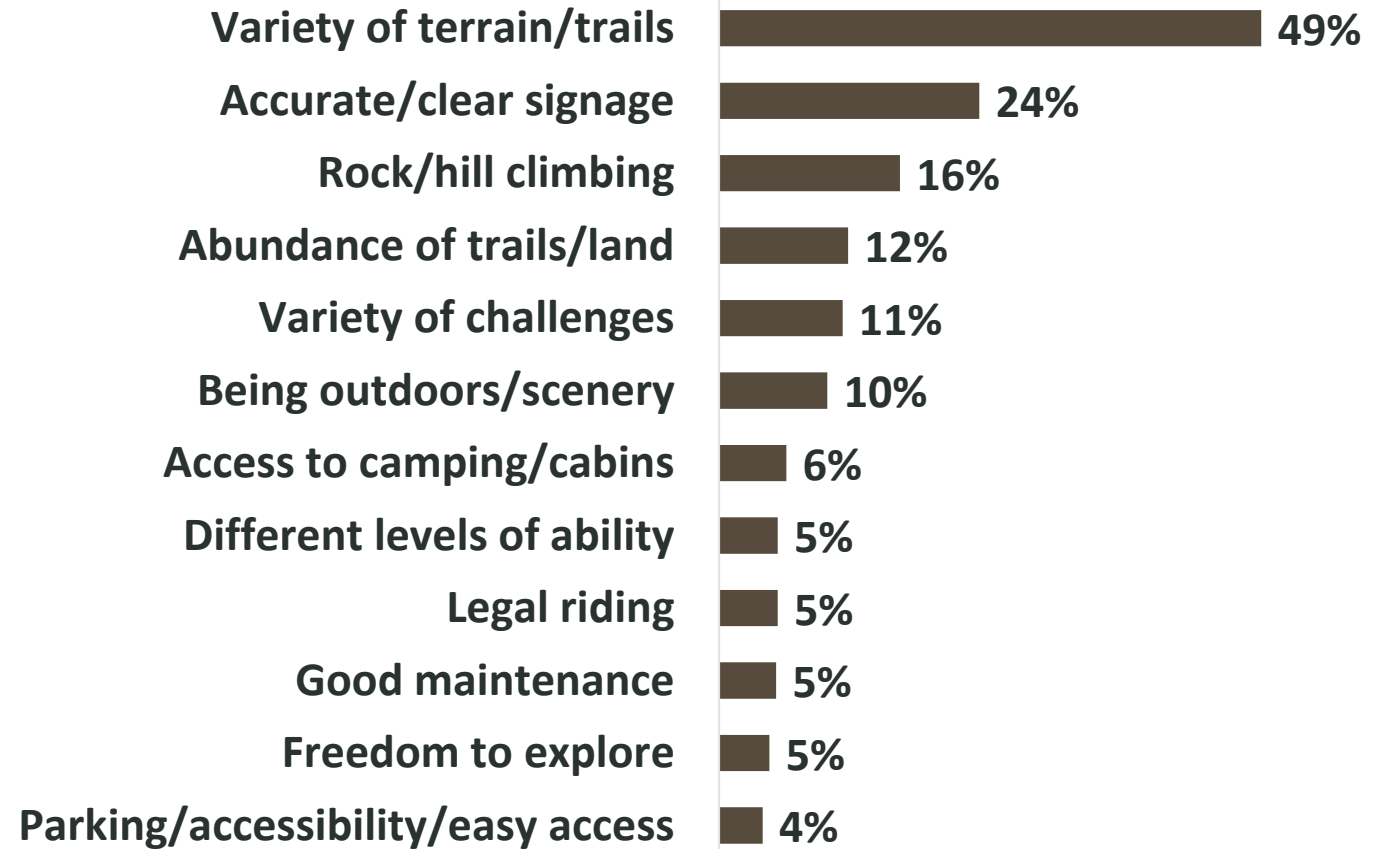


# Wants: Facilities & Activities

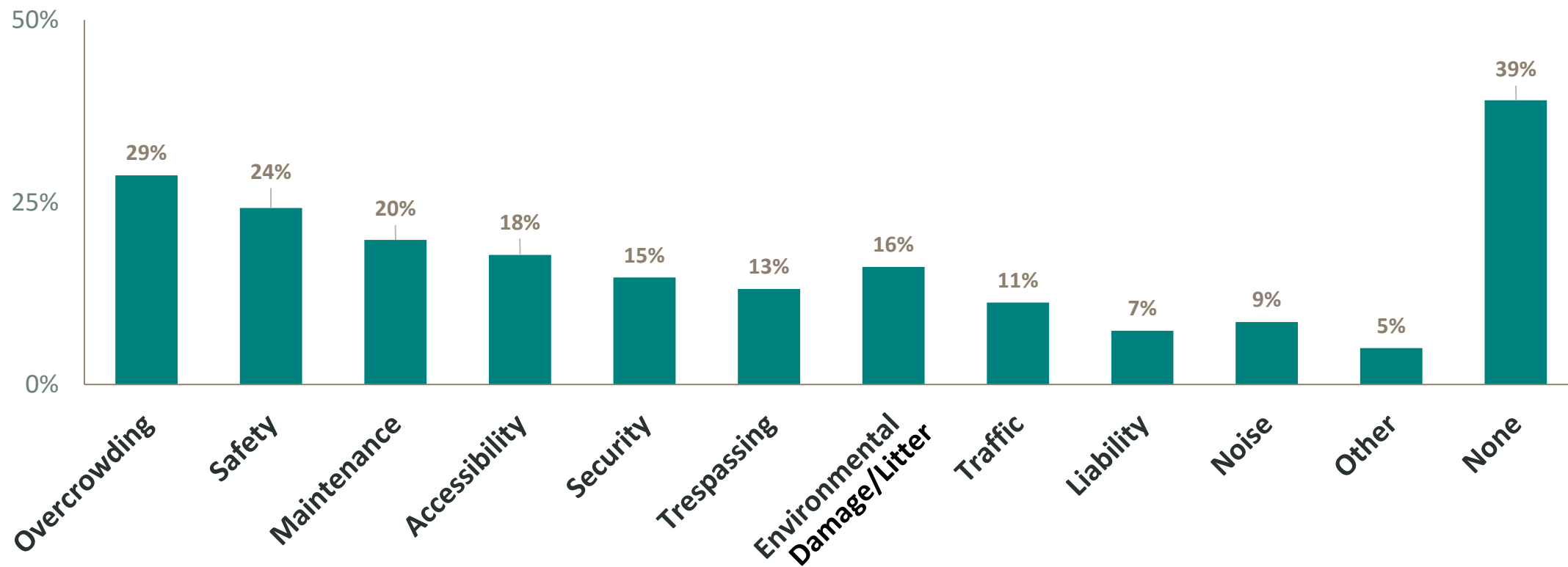
## Facilities/Amenities



## Favorites Aspects of Other Parks

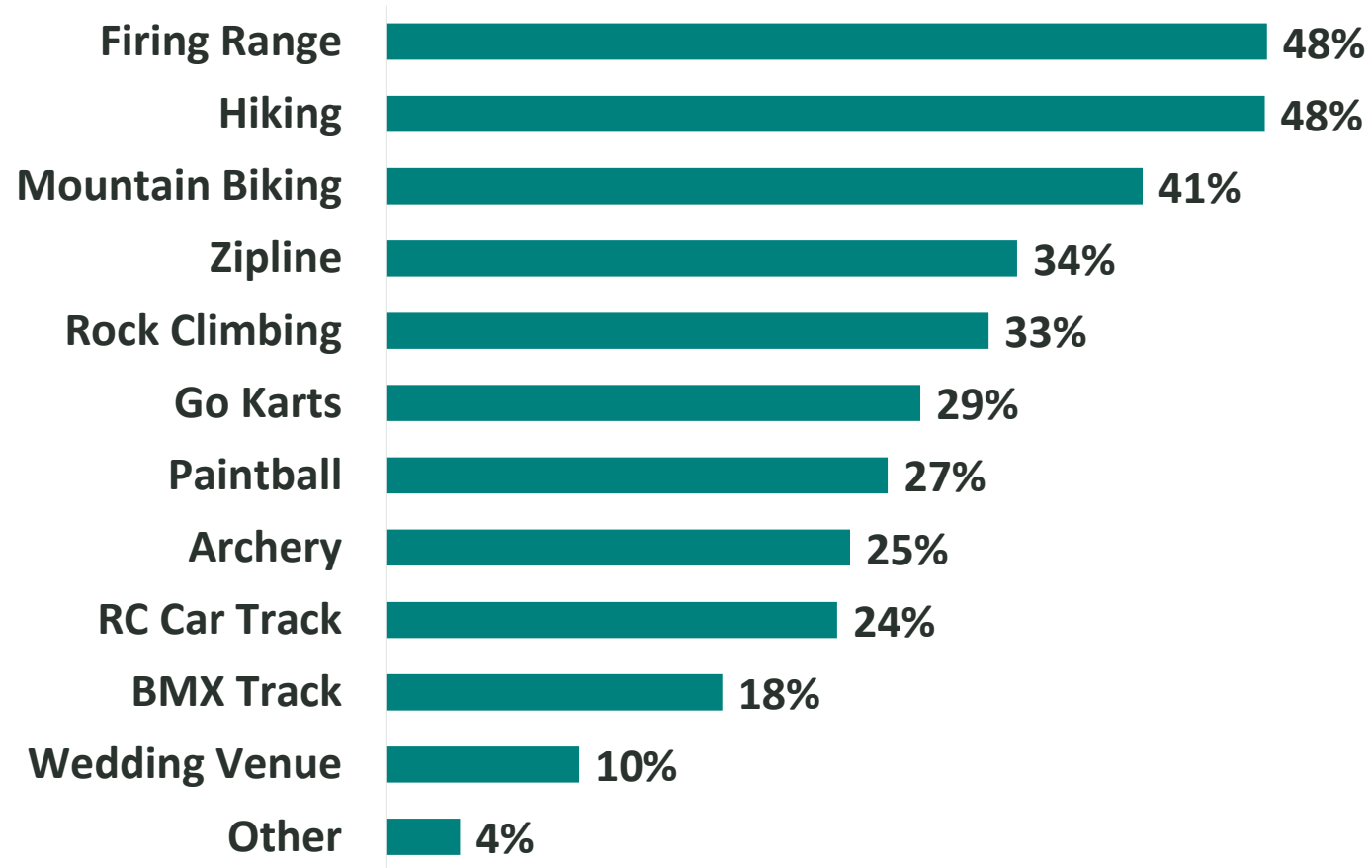


# Challenges: Areas of Concern



# Benefit: Accommodation of Multiple Activities

## Survey: Other Activities Desired in an Outdoor Recreation Area

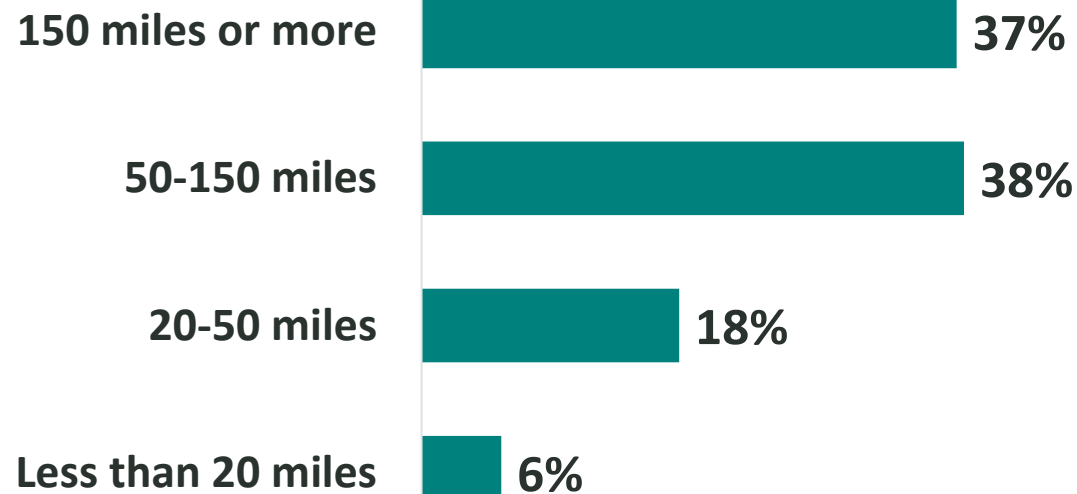




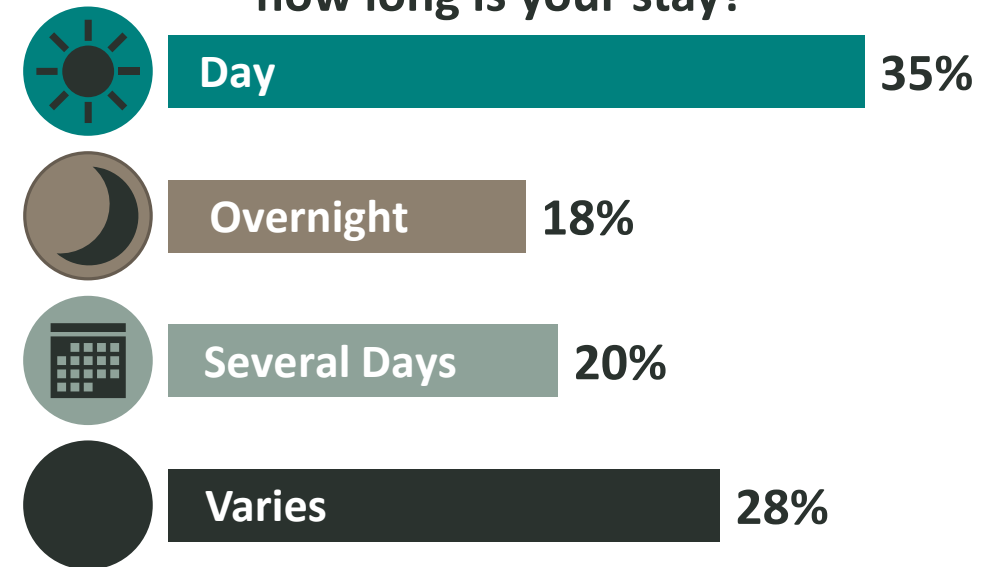
# Benefit: Outdoor Adventure Tourism

**83%** Have been to an OHV park or riding area

How far are you willing to drive from your home to visit an OHV park/riding area?



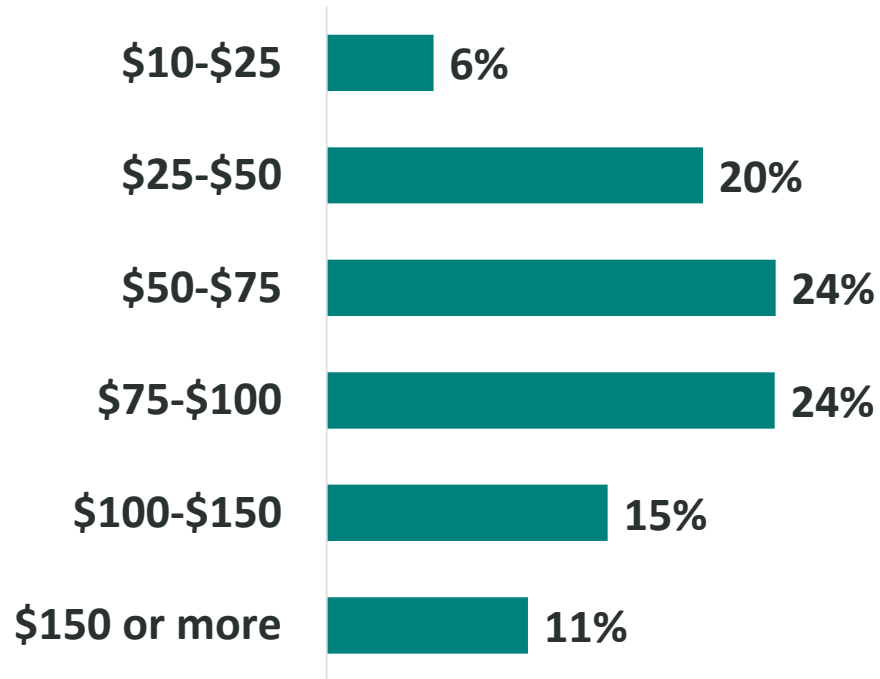
When you visit an OHV destination, how long is your stay?





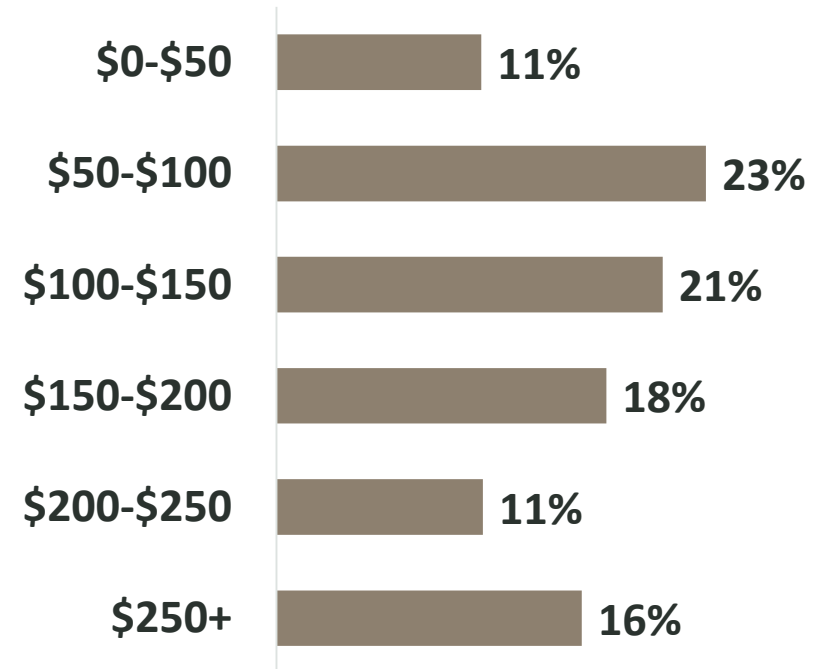
# Benefit: Spending on OHV Destination Trips or Events

## Amount typically spent on [fuel](#)



**Average Fuel Expenditure: ±\$82**

## Amount typically spent on other expenses



**Average Other Expenditures: ±\$147**



# Solution: Create a Safe, Family-Friendly Experience

## A successful facility & trail system should include:

- Clear policies & procedures (hours, registration, safety gear)
- Well-planned routes, hierarchy of trails, & designated skill development/challenge areas (like ski resorts, IMBA, etc.)
- Good signage (direction, speed, difficulty)
- Monitoring & Maintenance
- Consideration of sensitive areas (environmental, residential)
- Use of buffers (natural or man-made)
- Options for activity

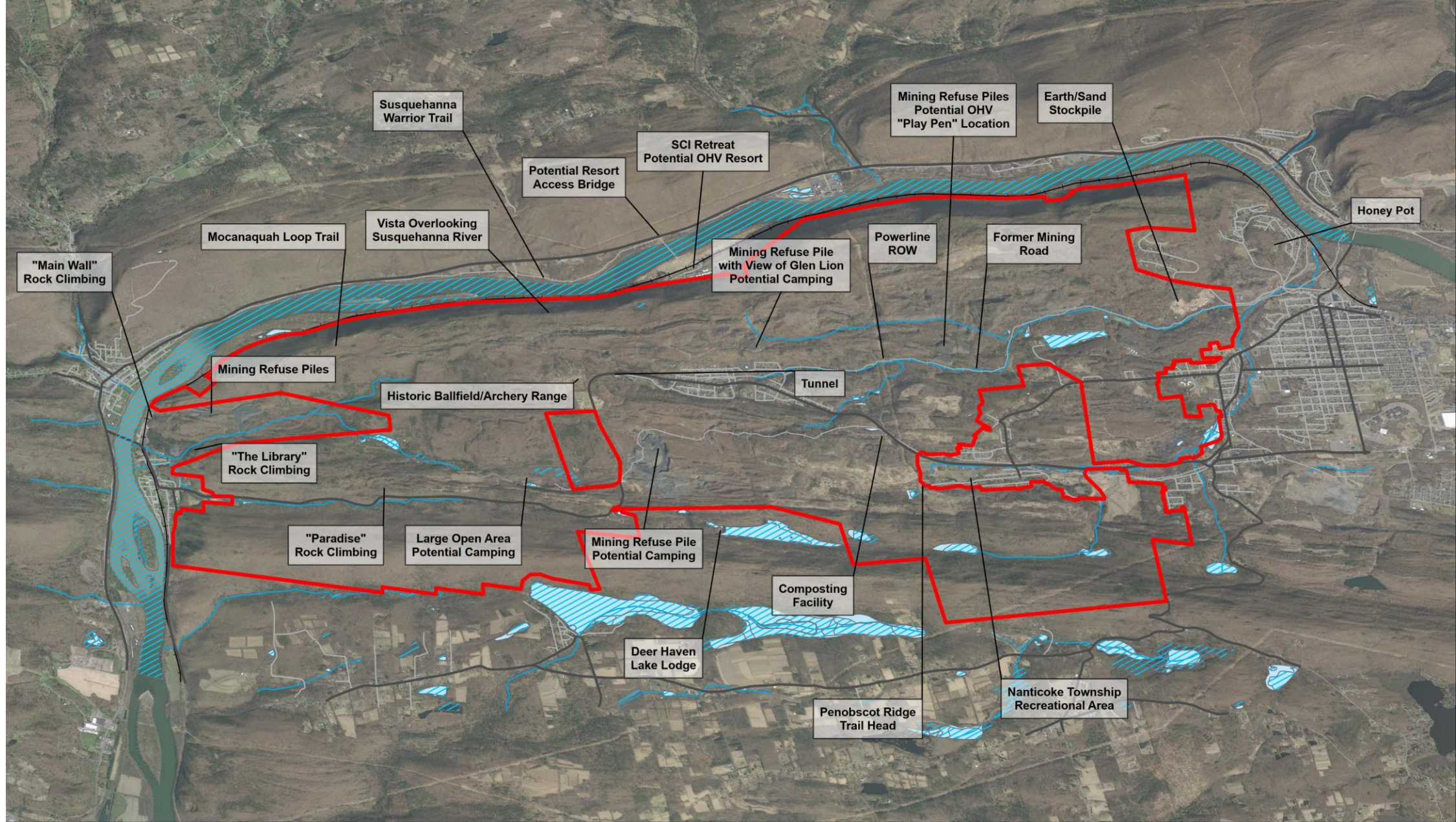
# Goal #3:

---

Develop Conceptual Plans



# Prelim. Inventory of Study Area





<https://www.yellowstoneadventures.com>



Laird family at Dublin Gap MX (PA)



[newyorkupstate.com/outdoors/](http://newyorkupstate.com/outdoors/)



[bostonseaport.xvz](http://bostonseaport.xvz)

<https://mudslinger.rumbleon.com/plan-atv-trip>



[bicycling.com/rides](http://bicycling.com/rides)



[kkday.com/en/product](http://kkday.com/en/product)



[rocknwater.com](http://rocknwater.com)



[www.rivertrail.com/tubing/](http://www.rivertrail.com/tubing/)



Example – PA OHV Park



Rock Run Recreational Area | Patton, Clearfield Co., PA



# Example – PA OHV Park



© 2021 Google

**ROCK  
RUN**

PATTON, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PA





# Example PA OHV Park

MOUNTAIN RIDGE ATV PARK  
SOMERSET COUNTY, PA

Legend



Google Earth

© 2021 Google

700 ft





# Example – PA OHV Park



Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area | Coal Twp., Northumberland Co., PA



# Example – PA OHV Park

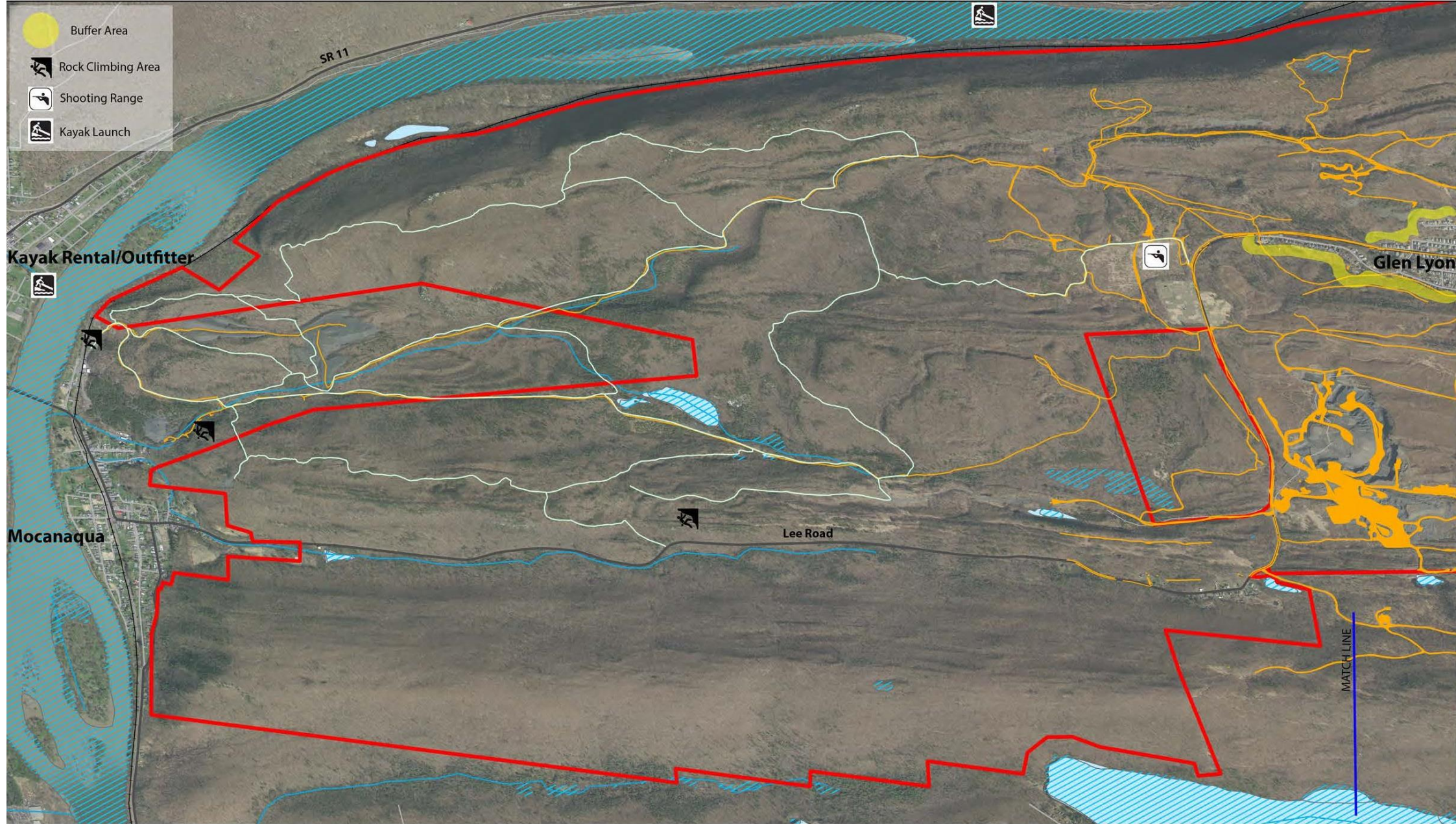


Coal Twp., Northumberland Co., PA

Google Earth



# Prelim. Inventory of Trails





The map displays the Nanticoke River area with various landmarks and facilities. Key locations include SCI Retreat, The Plateau, Glen Lyon, Main Street, Pinnacle Rocks, Hawaii, Protect Cemetery, Wanamie, West Kirmar Ave, Honey Pot, and West Nanticoke. The map is overlaid with a red boundary line, a yellow buffer area, and a blue hatched area representing the river. A 'MATCH LINE' is indicated on the left and right sides of the map.

**Legend:**

- Single Track
- Campground
- Parking
- Trail Head
- Access Road
- Access Point
- View Point
- Main Campus Building
- Buffer Area
- Kayak Launch



# Prelim. Inventory of Trails





# Goal #4: Investigate Land Ownership Models

## Private Ownership

- Non-Profit
- For-Profit
- Non-State Pass System
- Private Rules and Schedule (riding hours/ season duration)
- Private Insurance

## County Ownership

- Managed by county
- Managed by non-profit or for-profit entity
- Could establish an Authority like AOAA
- Authority or County Rules

## State Ownership

- Managed by State
- Managed by non-profit entity
- State Pass System
- State Rules and Schedule
- State Indemnification /Insurance

(In each scenario, activity/event/use waivers, registration and insurance should be required for all participants and spectators who enter the properties.)





**WELCOME**

**PROJECT  
OVERVIEW**

**STUDY  
PROGRESS**

**Q&A**

**NEXT  
STEPS**

**CLOSING**

# **AGENDA**





# Q&A

---

- two-minute limit
- keep comments respectful, courteous, and related to the topic at hand.
- answers to unanswered items will be posted on [www.earthconservancy.org](http://www.earthconservancy.org)
- EC Contact: [e.hughes@earthconservancy.org](mailto:e.hughes@earthconservancy.org)
- LAIRD Contact: [jim@lairdla.com](mailto:jim@lairdla.com)



**WELCOME**

**PROJECT  
OVERVIEW**

**STUDY  
PROGRESS**

**Q&A**

**NEXT  
STEPS**

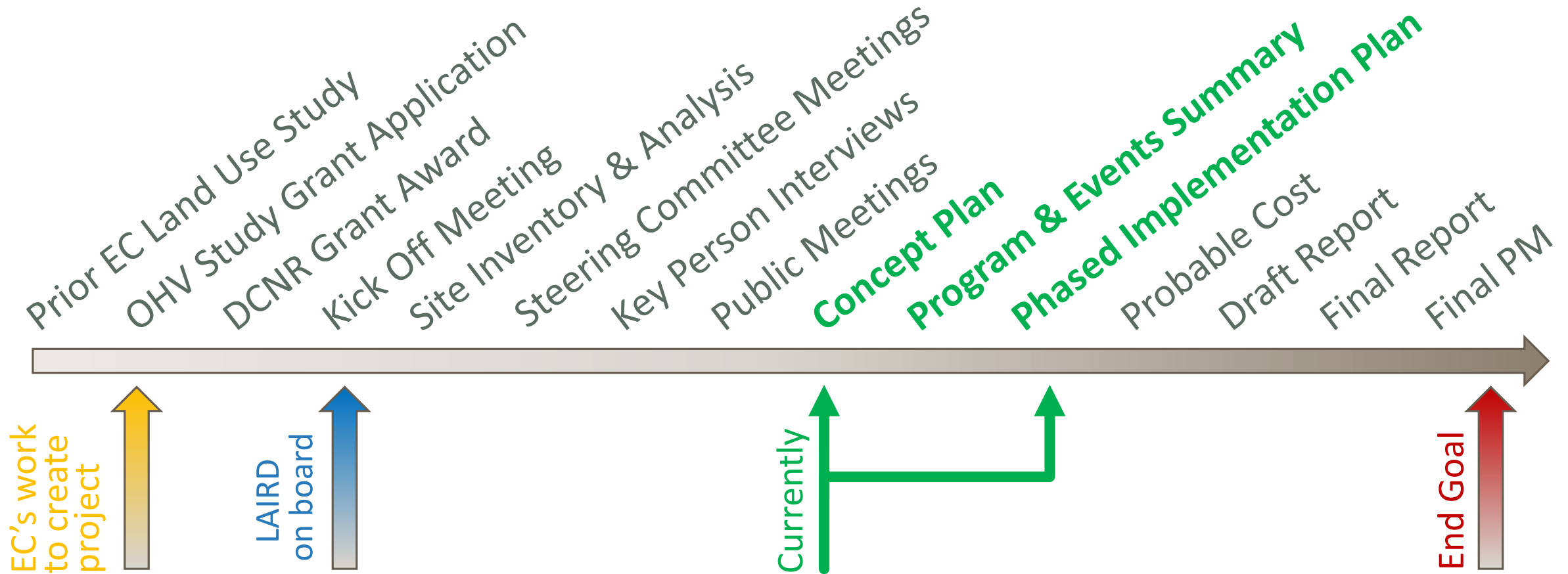
**CLOSING**



# **AGENDA**



# Study Tasks & Timeline







# Thank You!

---

- We continue to want your input!
- Email us with additional comments:  
EC Contact: [e.hughes@earthconservany.org](mailto:e.hughes@earthconservany.org)  
LAIRD Contact: [jim@lairdla.com](mailto:jim@lairdla.com)
- Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates