TAC and Applicant Survey Results and Recommended Updates

LCFRB Meeting

November 4, 2022

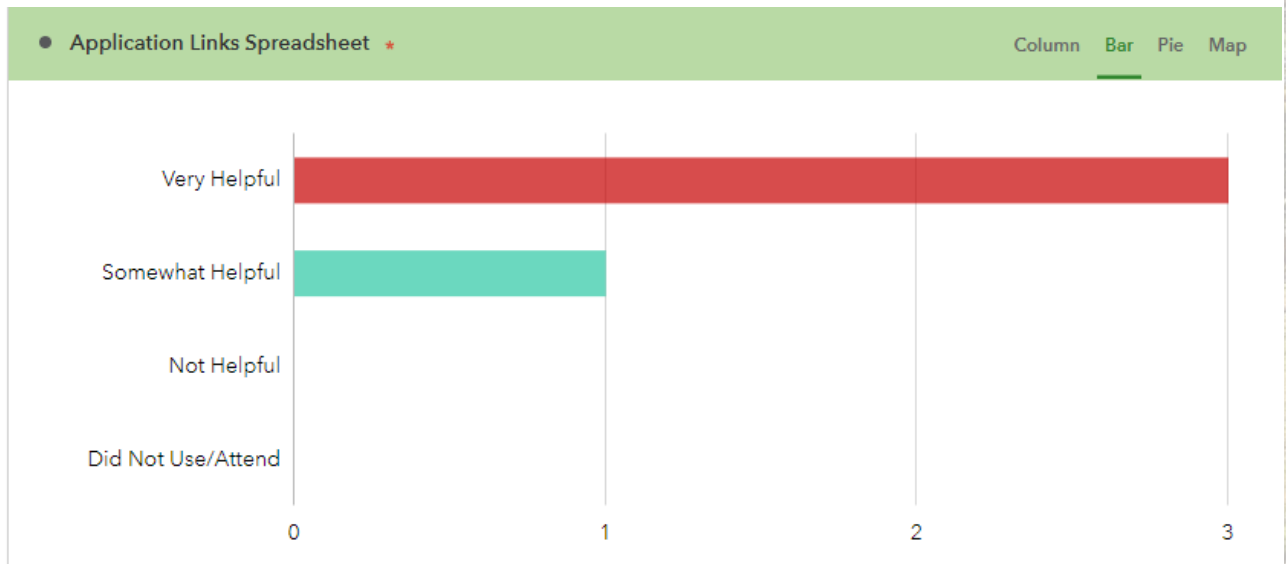
Survey Results

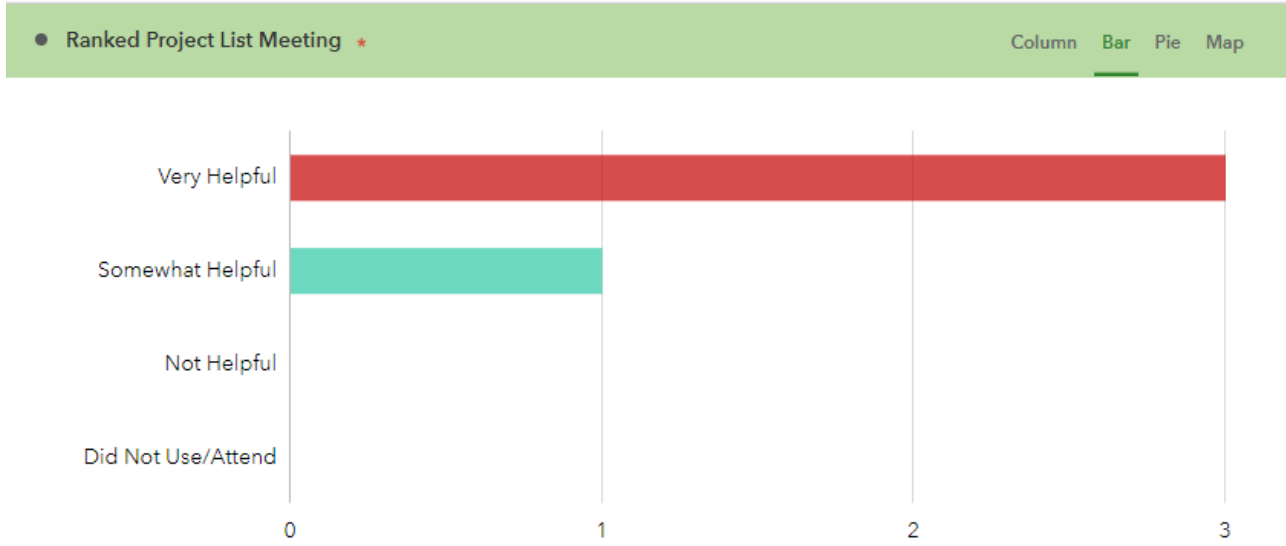
TAC respondents = 4

Applicant respondents = 6

TAC Results

Q1: What resources were helpful for developing applications?





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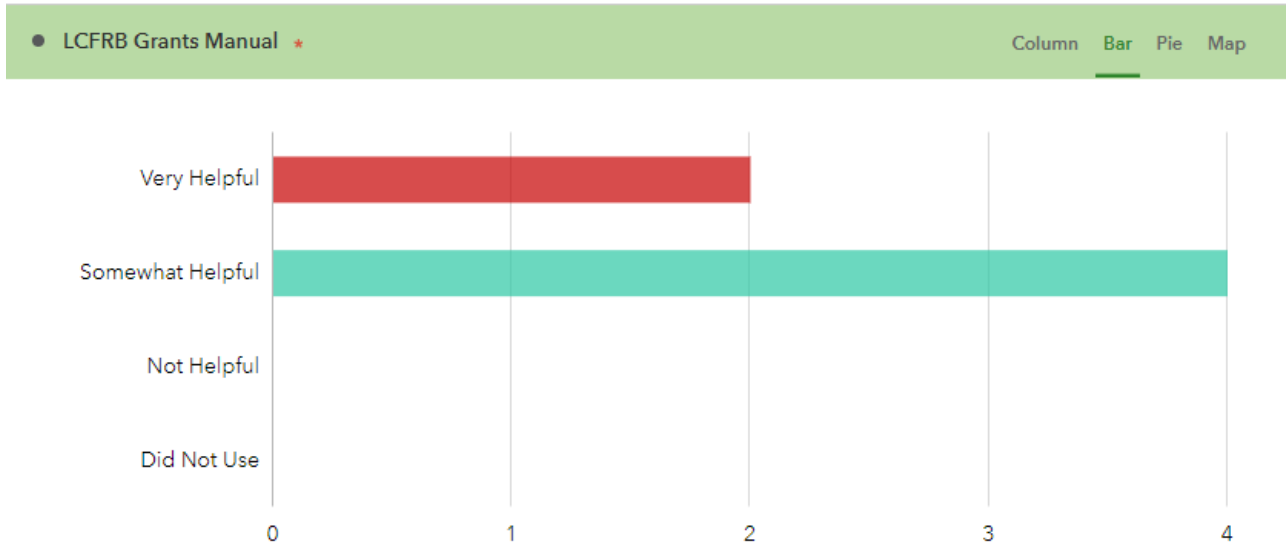

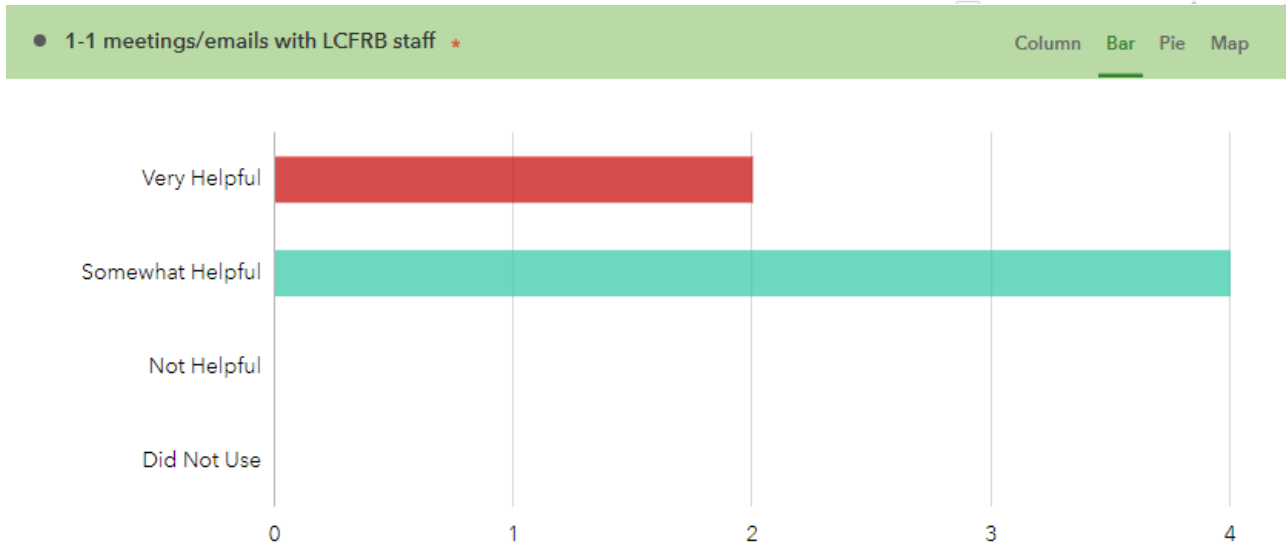

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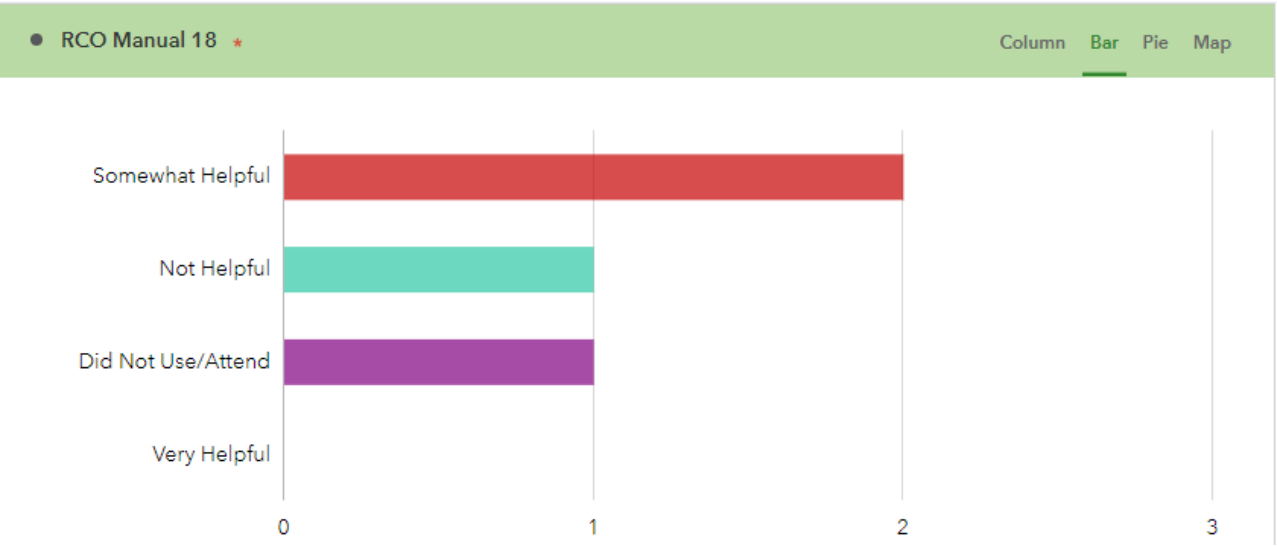

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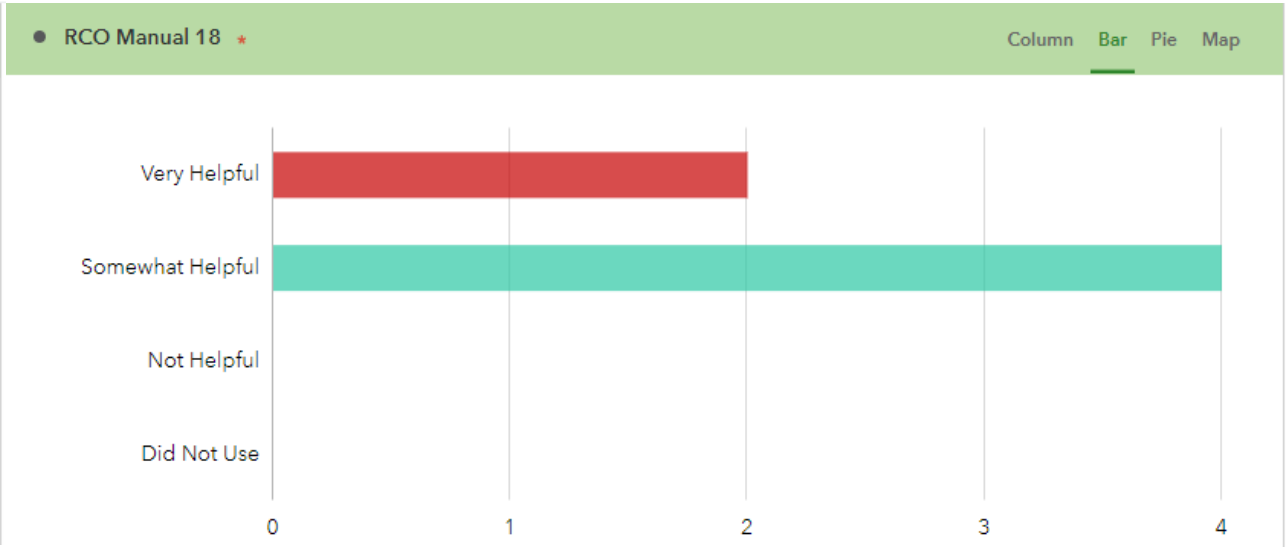

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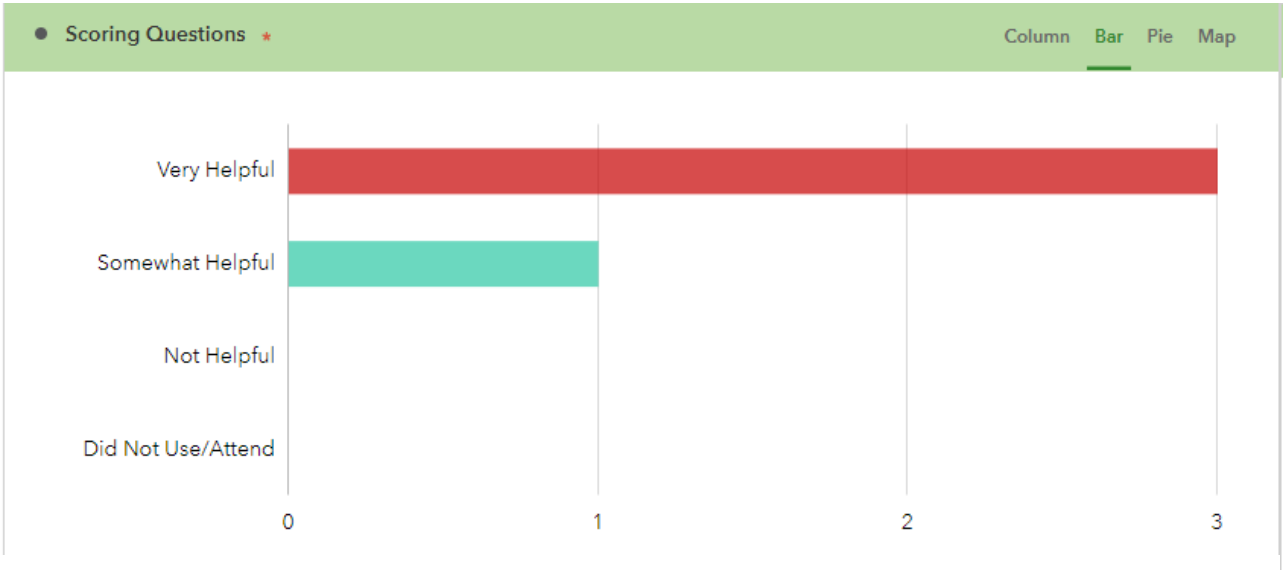

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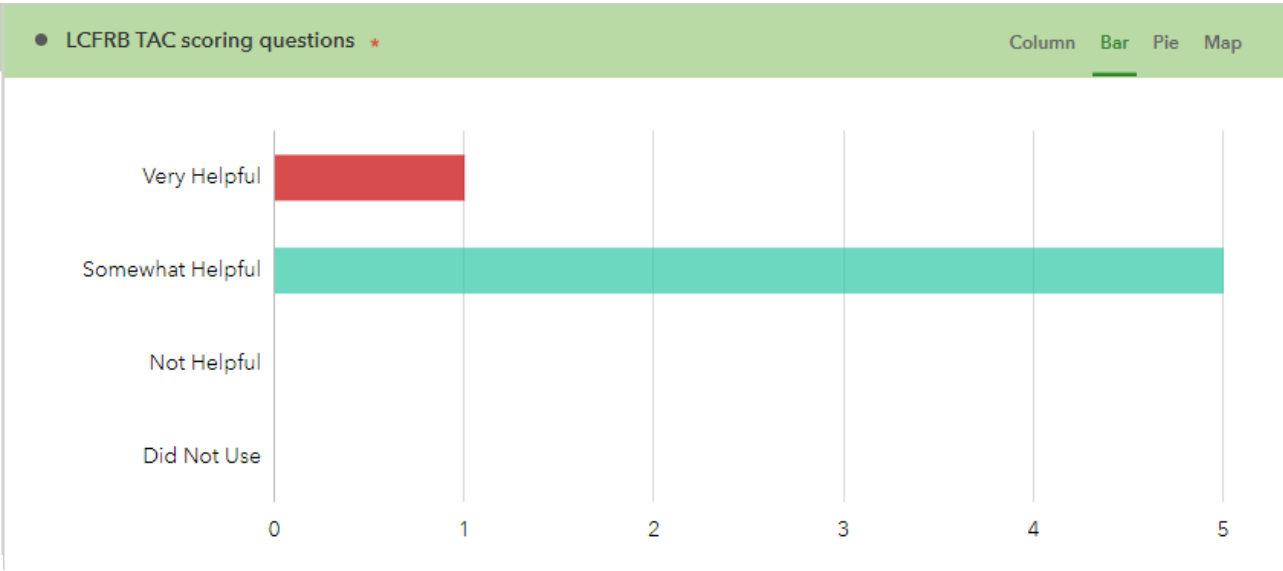

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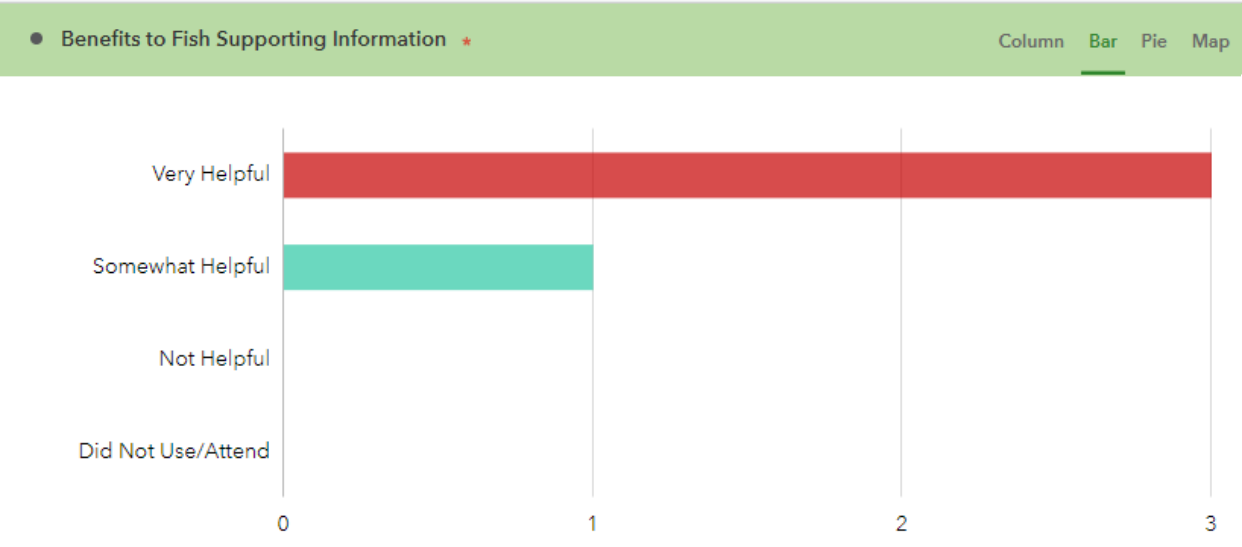

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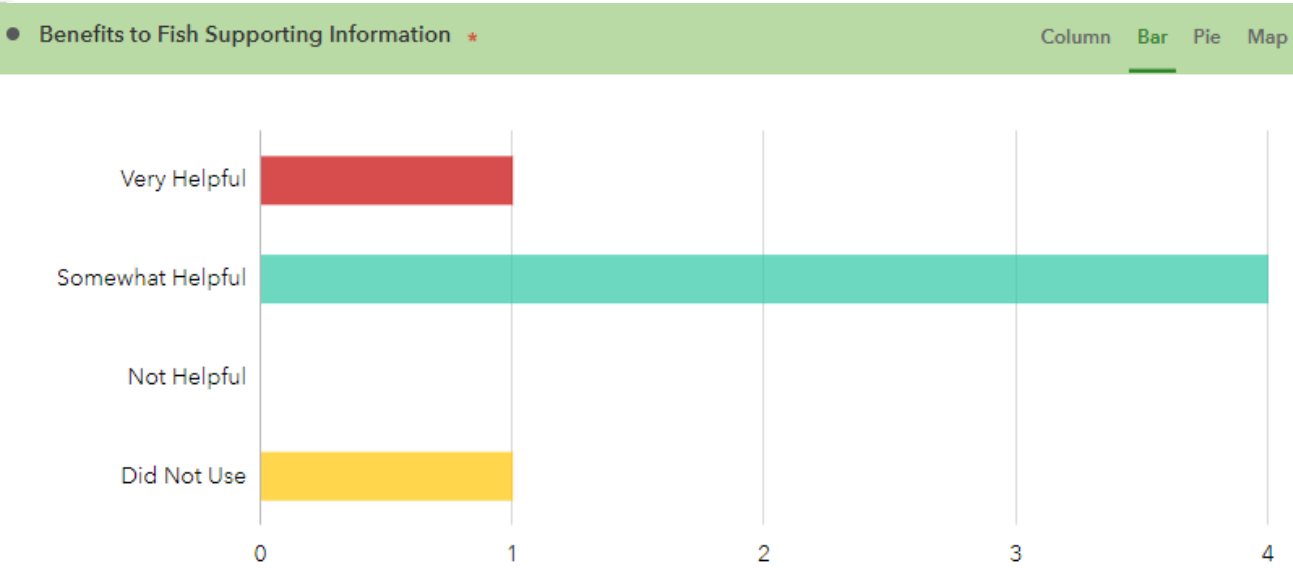

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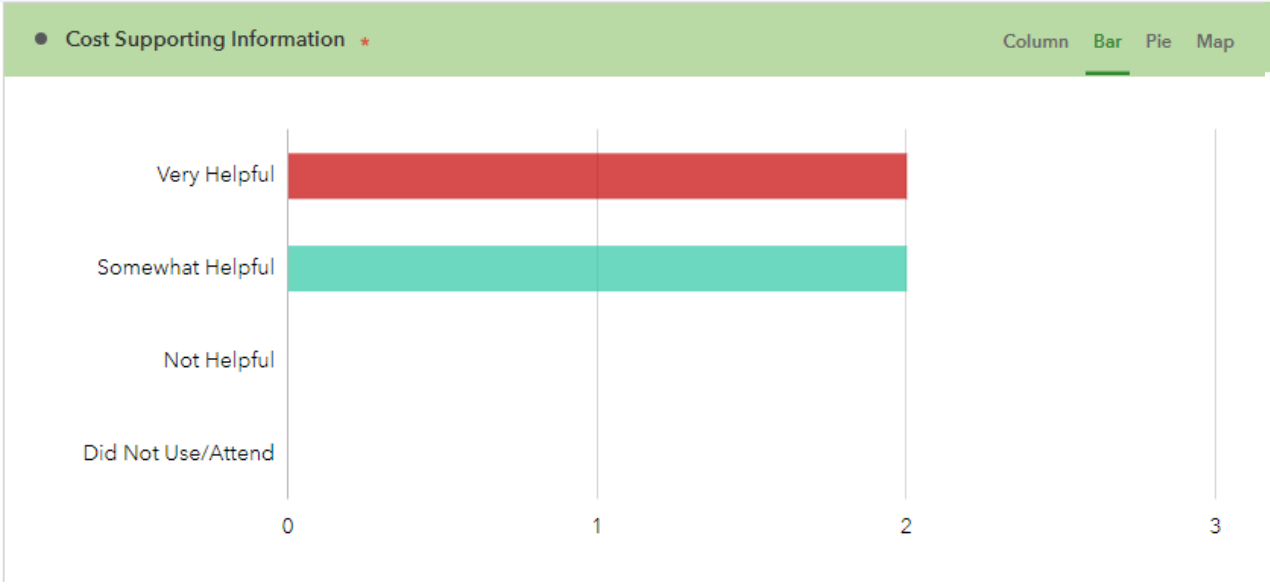

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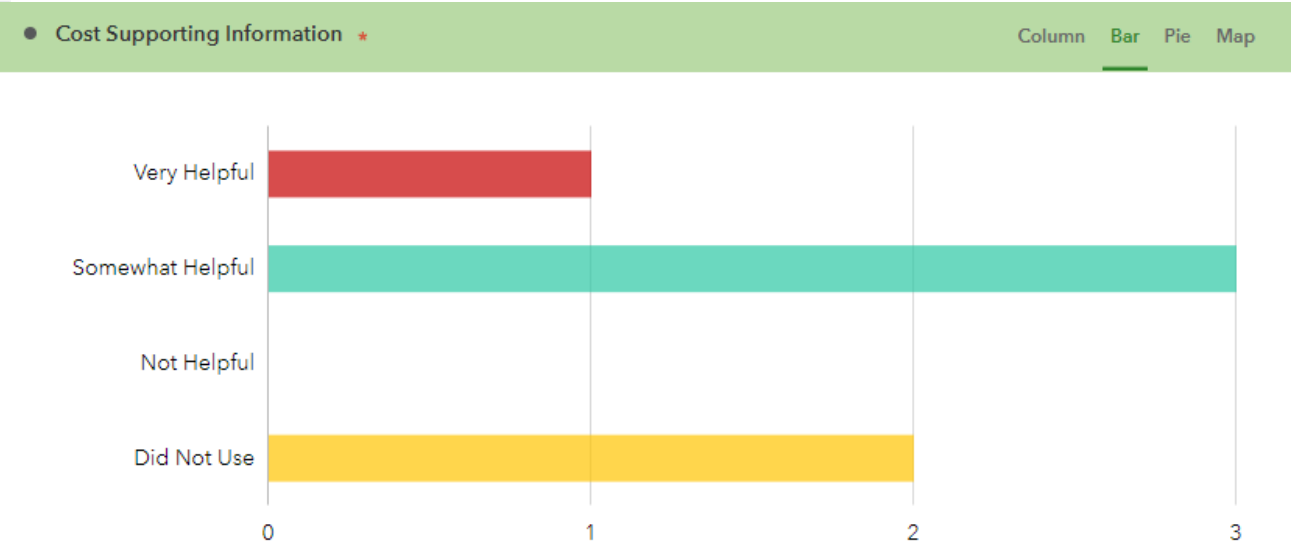

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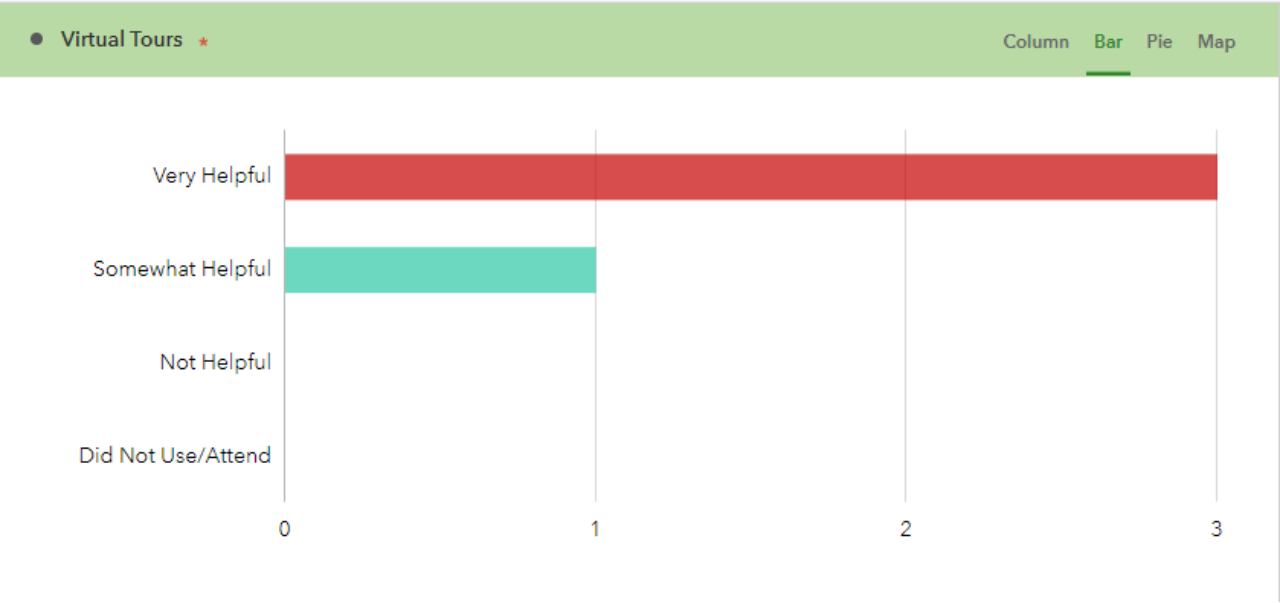

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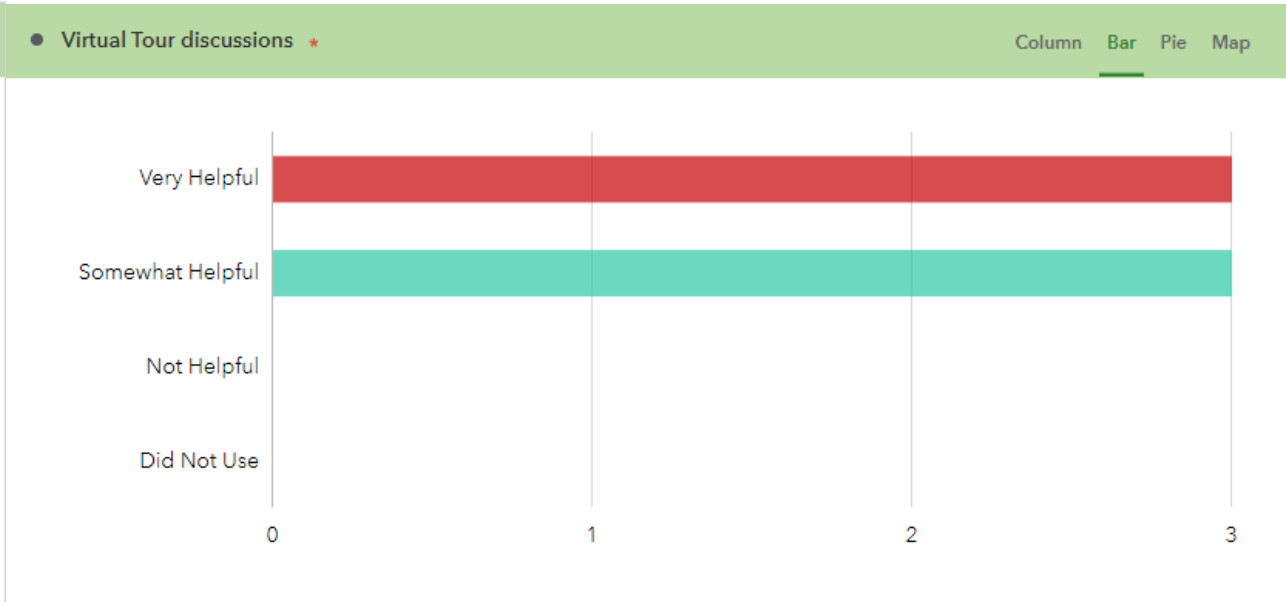

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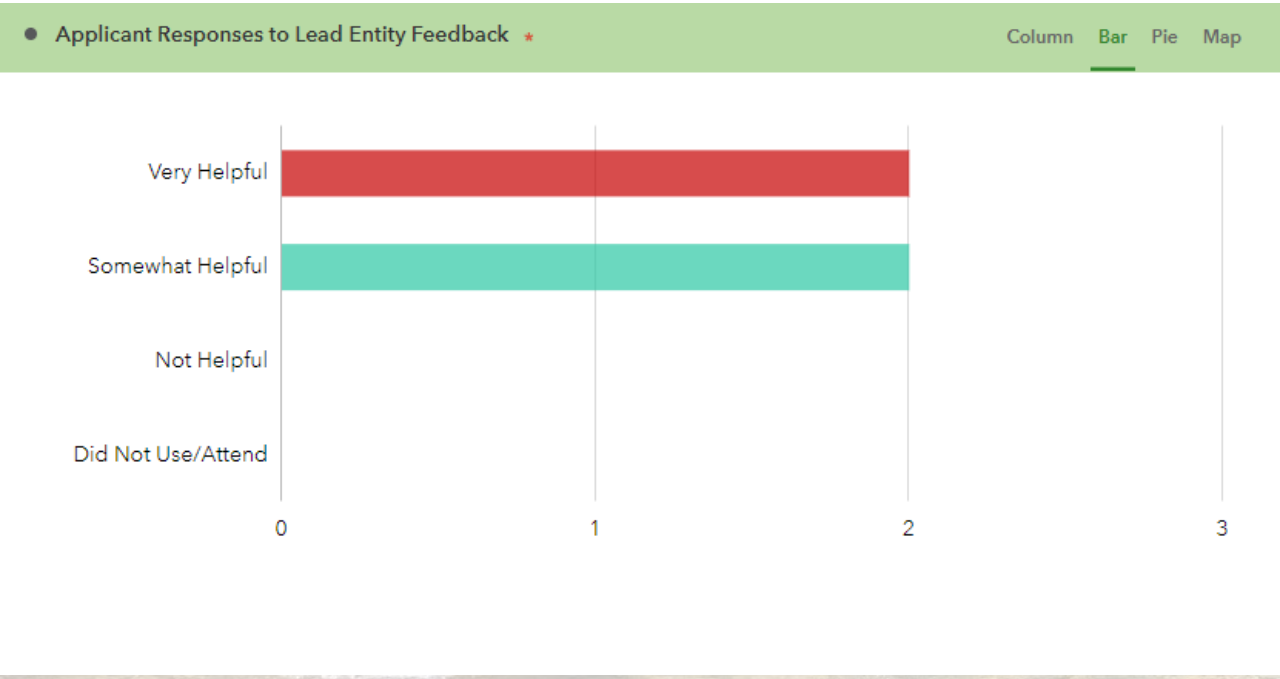

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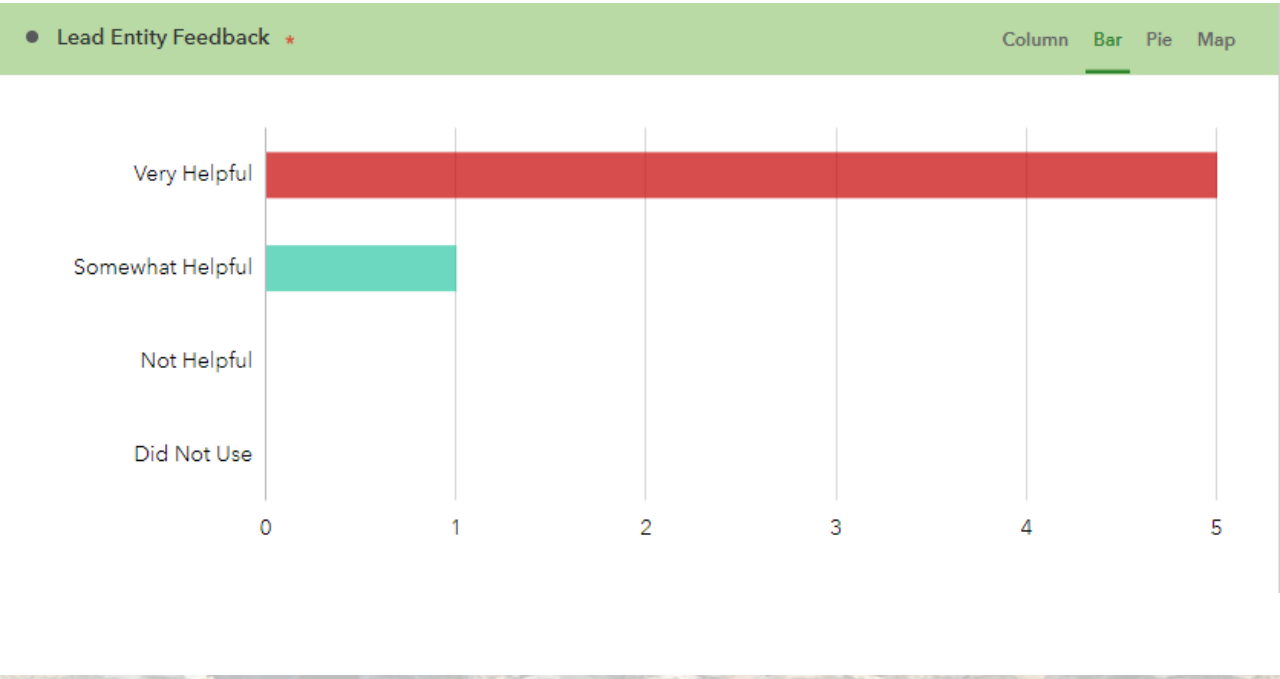

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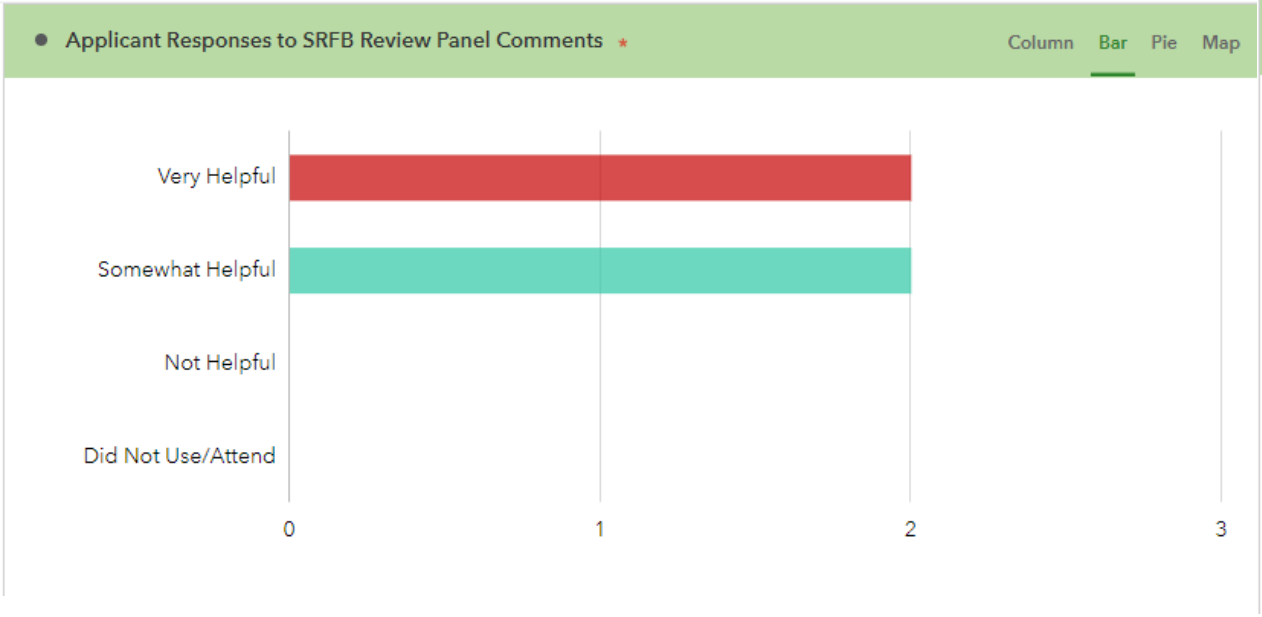

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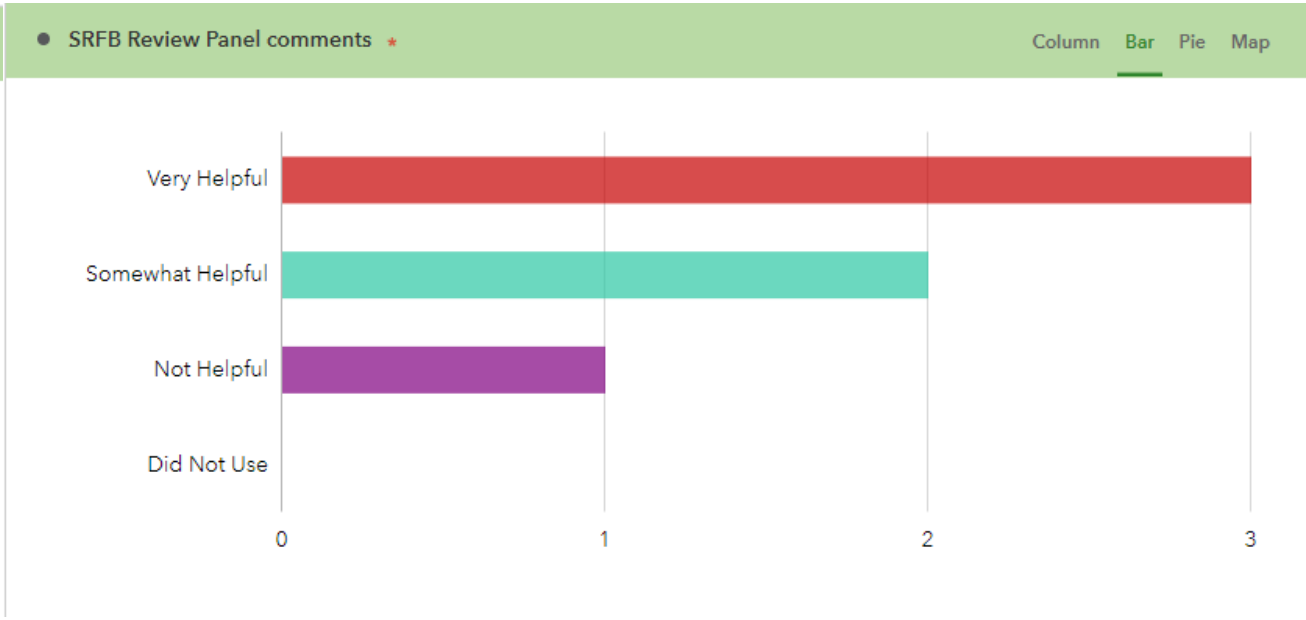

Q2: What sections of the Benefits to Fish Supporting Information document did you find most helpful?

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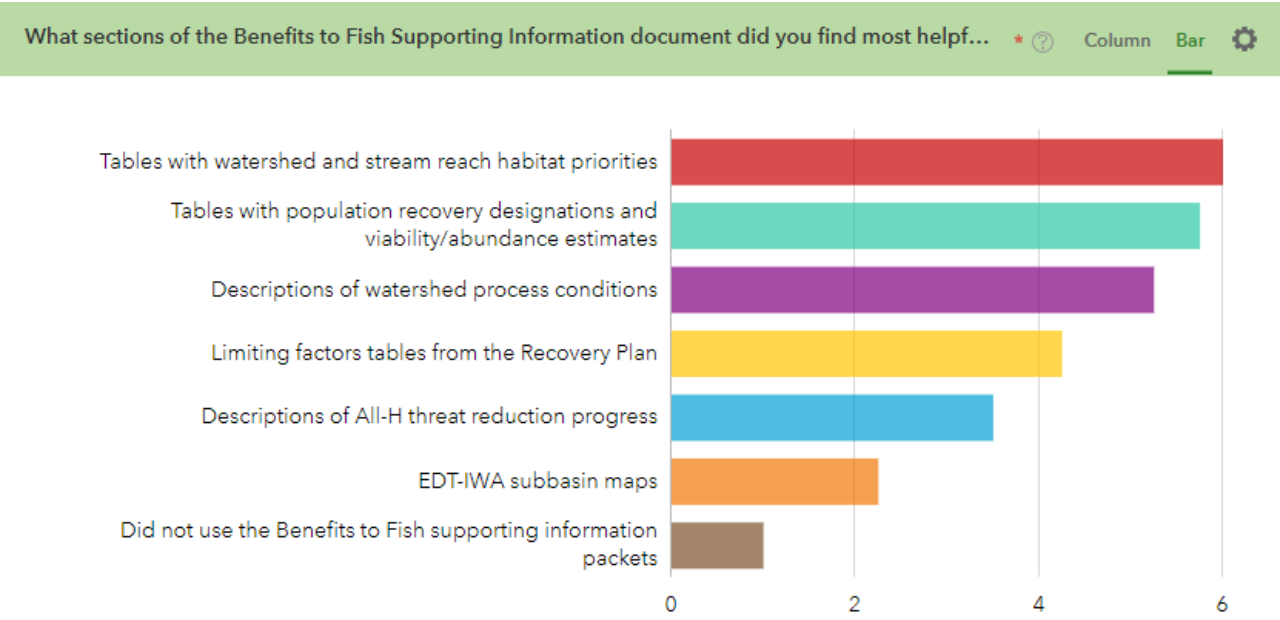

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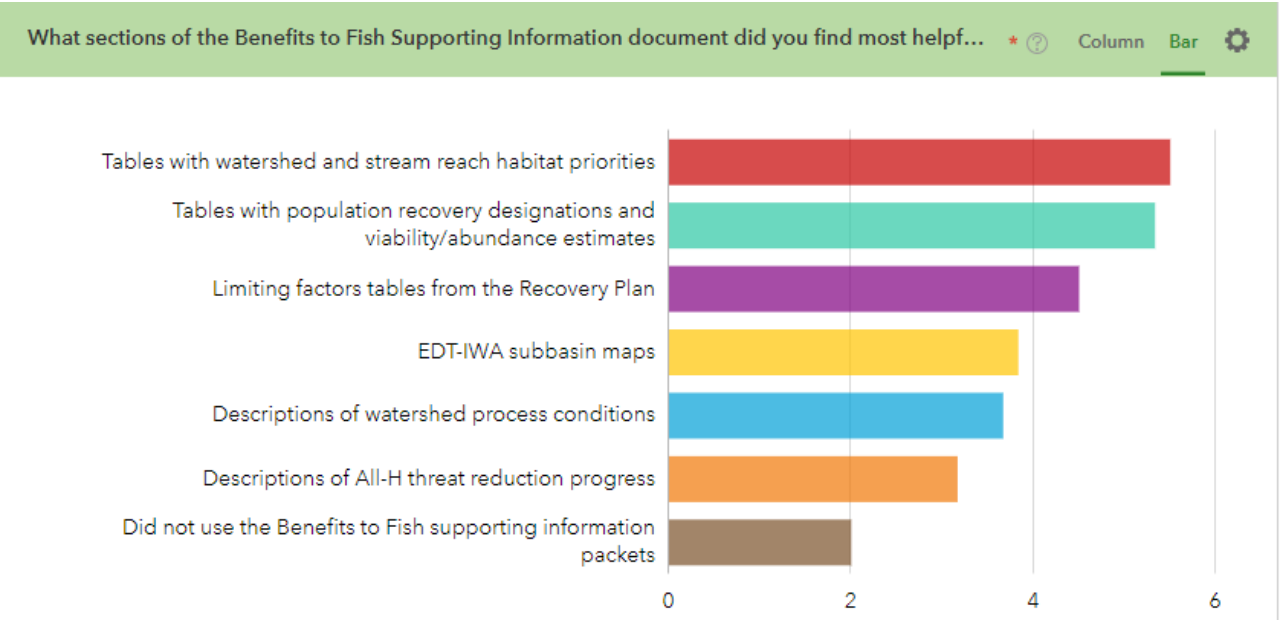

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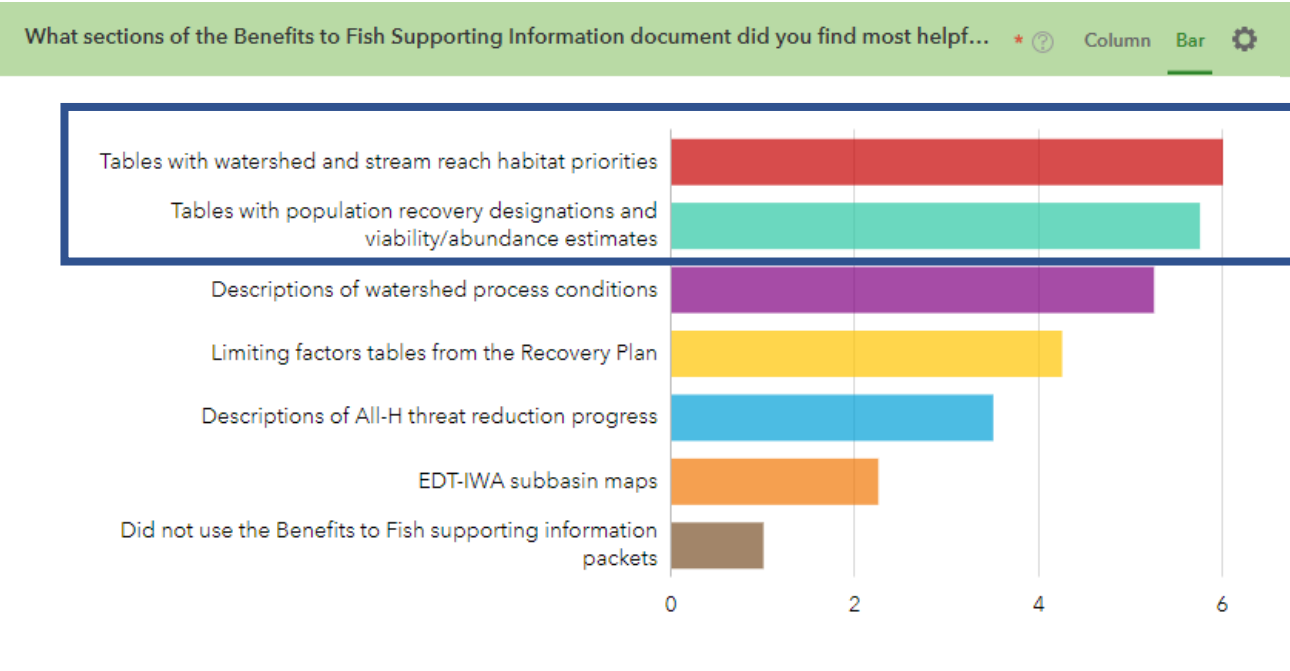

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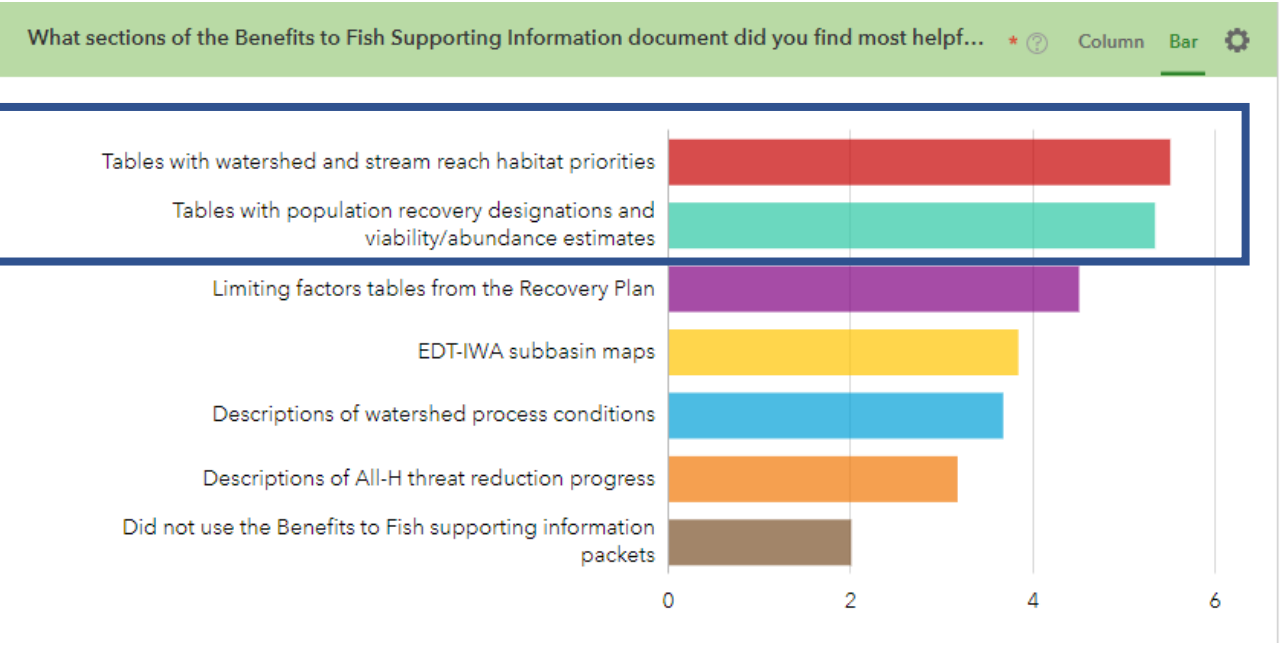

Q3: What are your preferred ways of tracking information and events related to the grant round?

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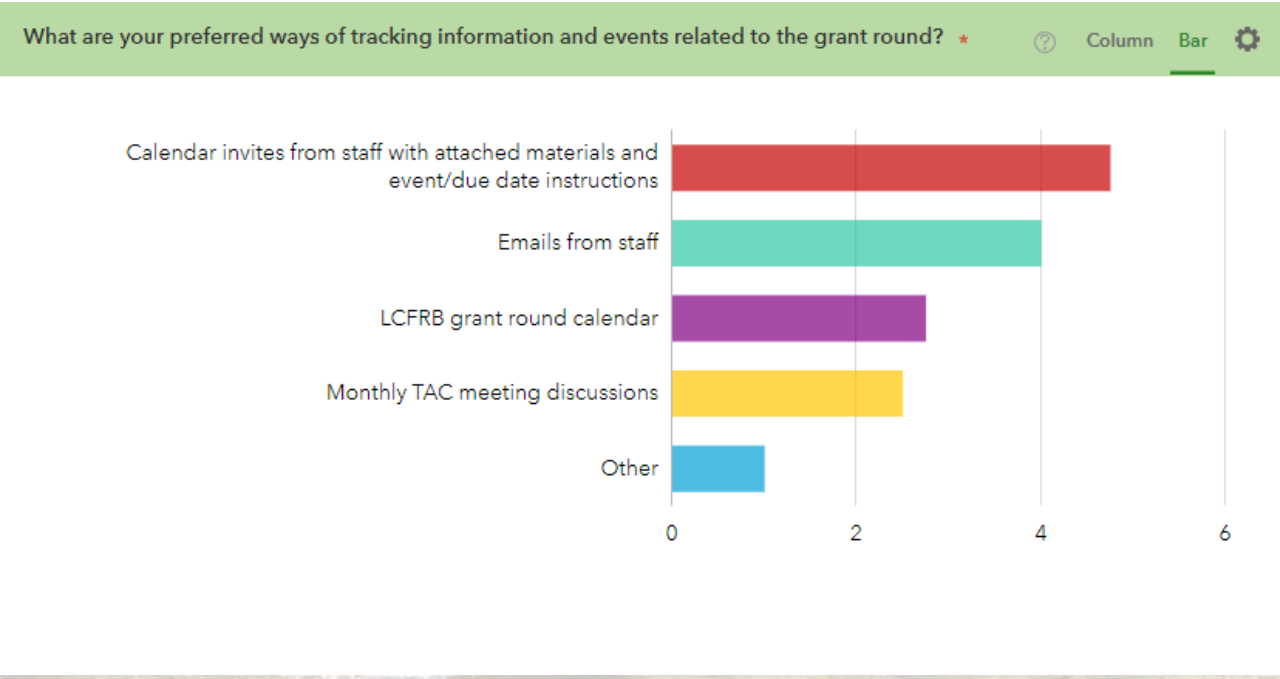

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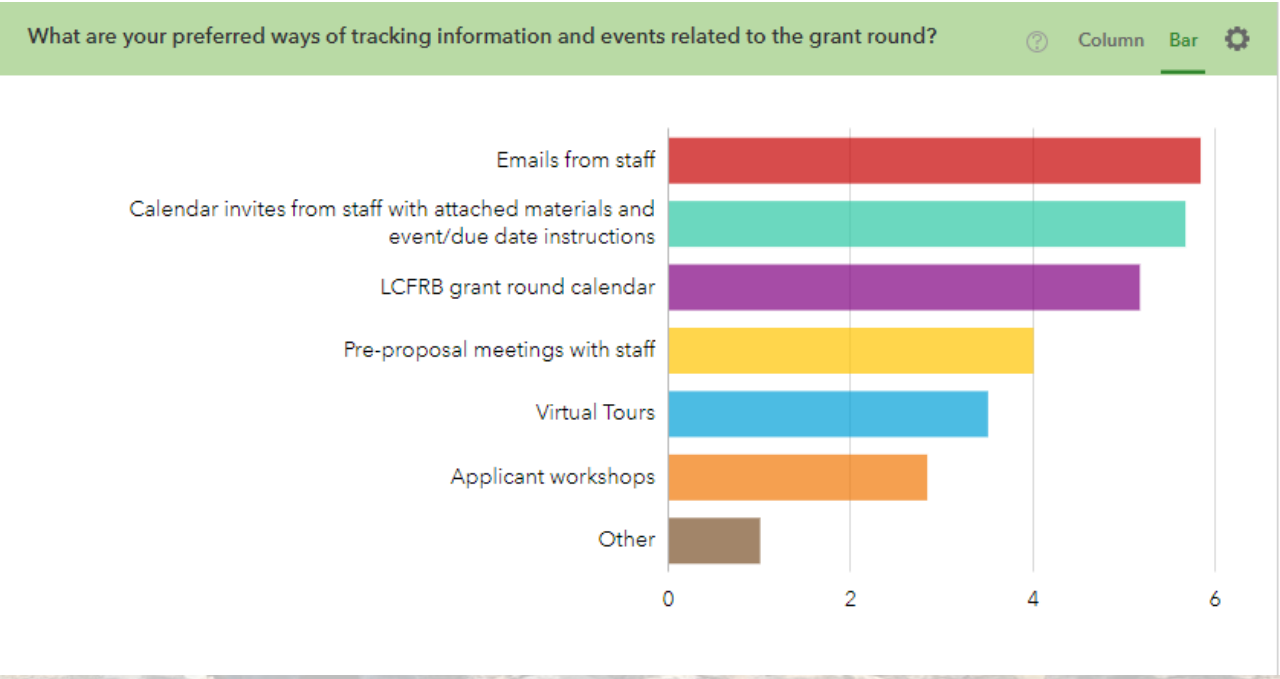

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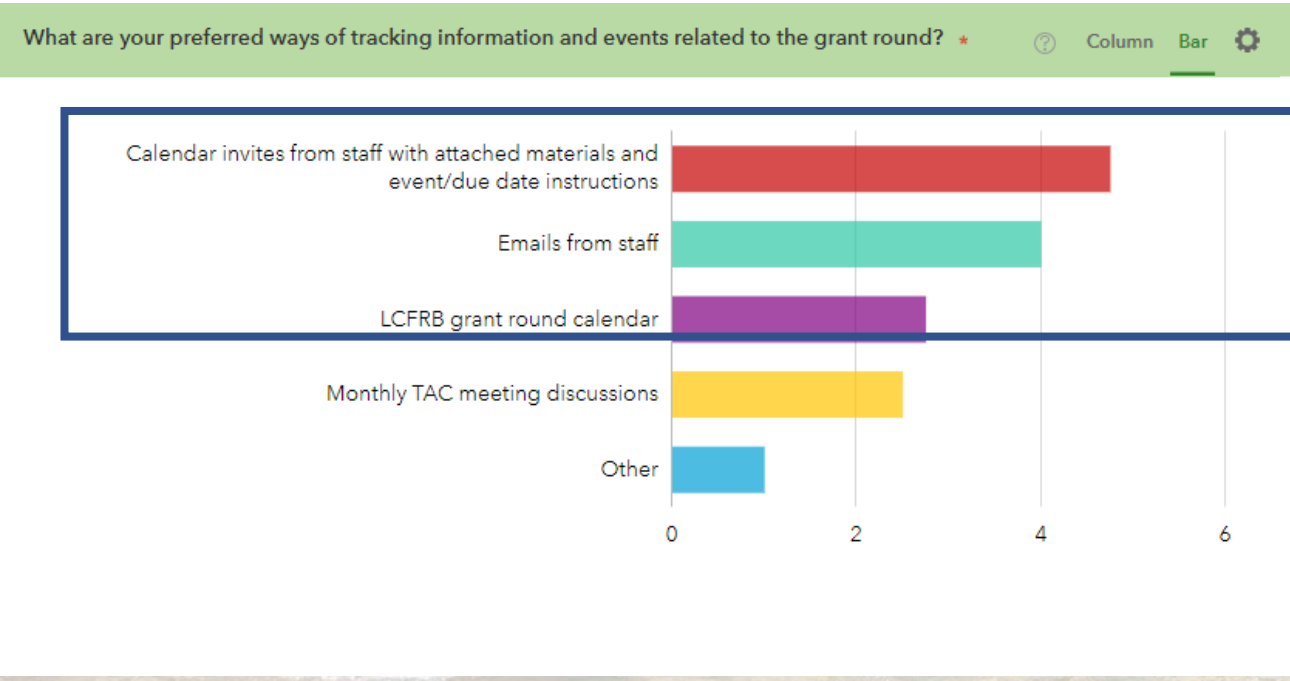

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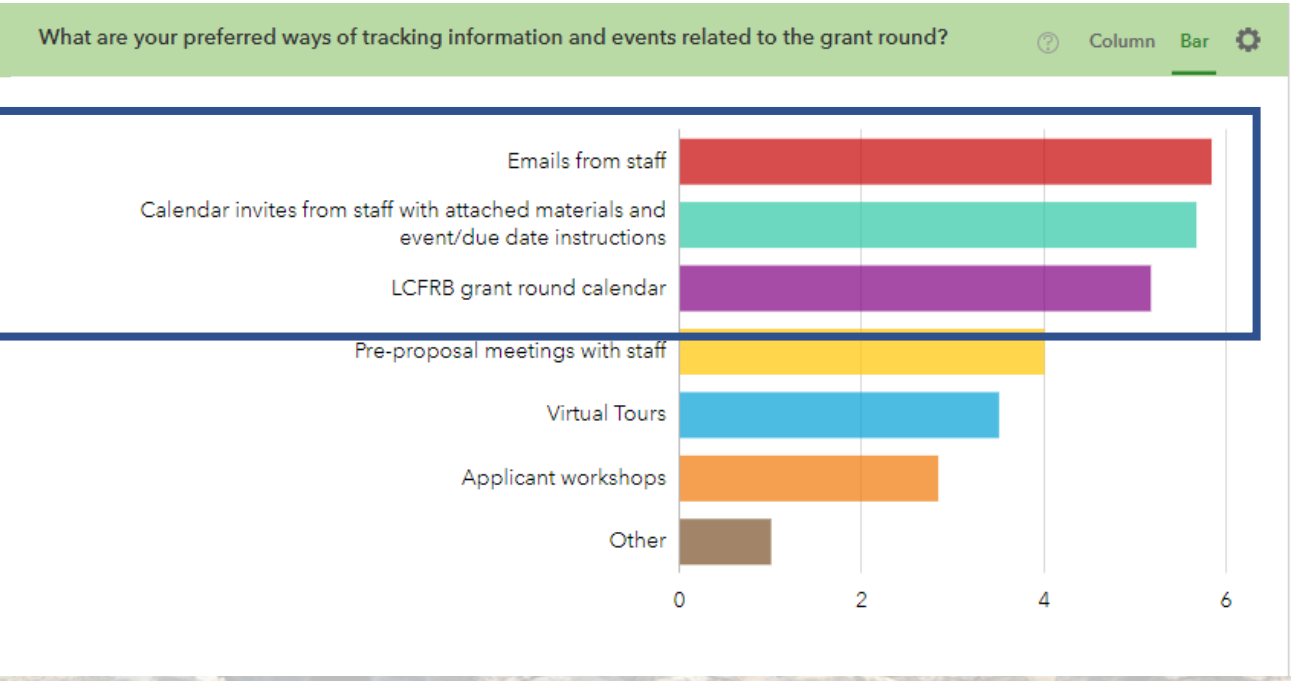
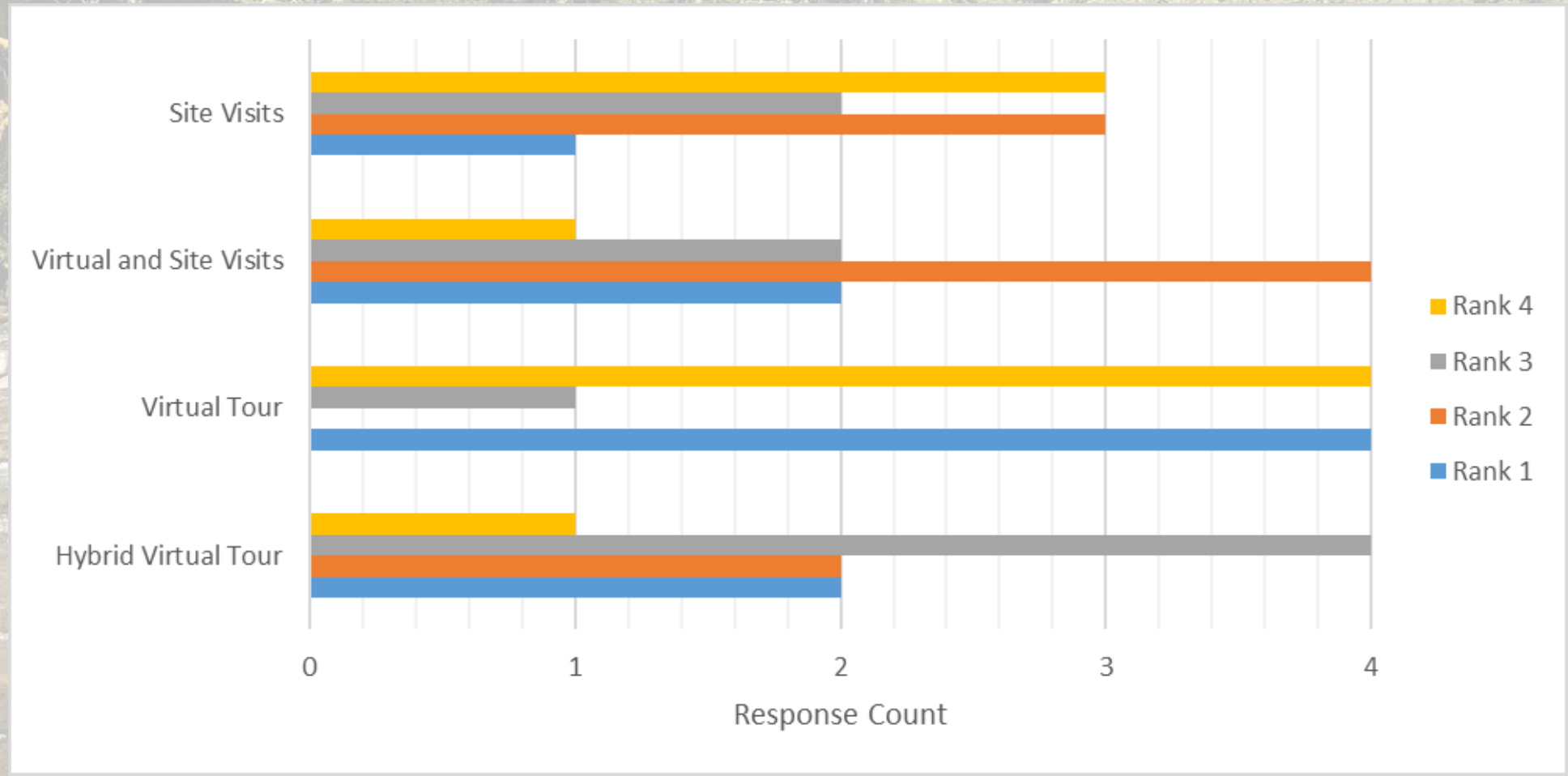


Q5: What is your preferred approach for site visits?

TAC and Applicants results combined



Applicants: are there any resources you could use more of to help develop and submit grant applications?

WDFW's priorities for specific species. Are there areas they would like to see work completed, such as Crazy Johnson Springs for chum salmon production?

Does the TAC support BDA-based projects?

SalmonPORT is out of date

A list of projects to choose from for applying.

Capacity/funding to develop grant proposals.

More online mapping tools with habitat actions, scientific articles/databases on emerging river engineering, ecology and other resources.

Applicants: Do you think anything worked particularly well during the 2022 grant round?

Workshop and pre-application meetings were very helpful.

Good communication, especially with multiple funding pots and balancing of TI grant requests with no bias (kudos to Steve West!).

Staff are very responsive.

Applicants: Do you think anything worked particularly poorly/overall feedback for the 2022 grant round?

Working with the SRFB Review Panel on comments. Missed opportunities to discuss how to change proposals – would be helpful to have informal discussions earlier in the process.

Virtual tours do not support applicant engagement with TAC. More field based visits would help, with virtual tours still for larger sites. Virtual tours but with in person TAC engagement would help.

It is time to update subbasin plans with new watershed strategies/guidance on habitat work. Current information is old and doesn't include climate change.

Recent improvements have been very helpful.

Consider holding grant rounds every 2 – 3 years instead of every year to reduce stress.

TAC members: Do you think anything worked particularly well during the 2022 grant round?

Virtual tours continue to work well, and are cost effective for TAC and sponsors

Spreading out virtual tours helped, but tours could still be longer.

Difficult to assess given abundance of resources.

TAC Members: Do you think anything worked particularly poorly during the 2022 grant round? Plus, overall suggestions or feedback.

Virtual tours should include more background and specific details on each project, including fish use information from WDFW or others. Baseline facts will help TAC members score.

CRR questions were not enough to parse out differences between the projects. This could be a bigger issue if there is not enough funding for all proposals.

Consider assigning points based on some more Yes/No types of scoring questions, like the number of targeted populations or types of populations. The TAC could then score separately based on perceived impacts of the project.

Without baseline habitat information, it is difficult to assess cost-benefit as budgets continue to increase.

Proposed Changes

Communications

Delay spring deadlines and events to provide more time for applicants to develop preliminary applications.

Provide TAC members calendar invites with goals at the beginning of the grant round. Agendas and other resources will be added closer to each event.

Continue to email applicants and TAC members reminders about upcoming events and any policy/management changes that occur.

Email TAC describing any substantial proposals changes between preliminary and final application submittals.

Attach more resources to PRISM when possible to centralize more resources.

Communications

Host hybrid virtual tours: in-person TAC meeting option for presenters and reviewers, but virtual attendance option included. Will include more discussion time.

Consider site visit option for subset of proposals after funding for 2023 is finalized and applications are submitted.

Delay TAC scoring until end of July to avoid deadlines around the 4th.

More TAC meeting time devoted to restoration strategies and past projects (BDA discussion request!).

Resources

Early coordination with WDFW on current habitat priorities and specific applications.

Review Salmon Recovery Portal map page once published

Share results from High Resolution Change Detection and other recent projects

More presentations and discussions focused on past projects, strategies, and techniques

Long Term Considerations

Replace SalmonPORT with new map resources:

(2023) Salmon Recovery Portal database map

(2024) Lower Columbia barrier priority map

(TBD) Focused Investment Strategy for Habitat watershed assessment, climate change indicators, and habitat actions

Coordinate with WDFW on completing fish distribution updates

Refine BTF Supporting Information as more habitat and fish resources are published

Update SRFB and CRR scoring questions – simplify, consistent, reflect new information