



## **Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Program updates and FAQs**

### MFTIP Team

Rheanna Leckie- Administrator

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1-855-86MFTIP

# Session overview

**Rheanna Leckie, Administrator, MFTIP:**

Program updates

FAQ (common questions and issues)

**Erin Jennings, Manager, MPAC and Rheanna Leckie, MFTIP**

Processing severances and consolidations

**Ingrid Baxter, Manager, Quality Services, Valuation & Customer Relations and James Harvey, Account Manager – Government Relations, MPAC:**

AboutMyProperty.ca

**Rob Keen, CEO, Forests Ontario**

2 Billion Tree Opportunities

**Fred Pinto, Executive Director, Ontario Professional Foresters Association**

Potential Changes to the Professional Foresters Act and its Regulation

**John Pineau, Executive Director, Ontario Woodlot Association**

Positive Changes at the OWA

**Ngairé Roubal, Policy Advisor, MNR Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch**

Ontario Tree Seed Transfer Policy 2020

**Rheanna Leckie, Administrator, MFTIP:**

Highlights from survey of MFTIP landowners

# Updates: Program Statistics

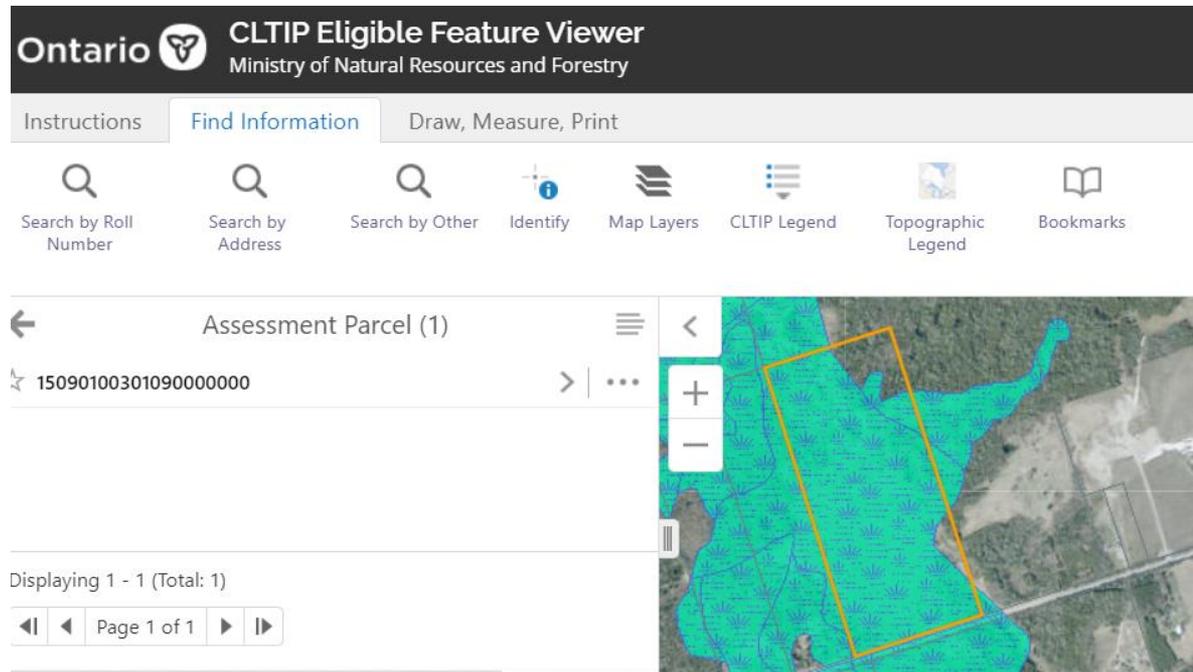
- ~19,300 properties participating for 2021 tax year
- 3,094 parcels submitted in 2,331 plans last year for 2021
  - 856 new
  - 176 ownership changes
  - 1302 renewals
- 1,330 plans due for renewal this year
- 232 Requests for Reconsideration last year – up from approx. 15/year normally
- Welcome to 17 new MFPAs - total is now 201
  - Exams being administered remotely through an online service and proctoring by MFTIP staff
- 4 new staff joining our team for the summer

# Updates: program improvements

- Policy evaluation is ongoing – data analysis stage
- Working on database improvements with the goal of offering more self-service options to landowners in future
  - Initial steps are internal improvements
  - Goals are to improve data quality and reliability, fix errors, allow for more communications with landowners, and provide for better statistical data collection
  - MFPA's will be consulted about any new services for the public or MFPA's
- Purchasing new ownership change data to improve notifications to landowners

# Updates: mapping

- New mapping application in development to show CLTIP eligible areas
  - Will show only parcel boundaries, District boundaries, and CLTIP eligible areas
  - Highlights property boundary rather than whole property
  - Allows you to identify a roll number
  - Allows (limited) export and import of markup
  - Contact us if you are interested in helping to test and provide feedback on the application



# Updates: emailed notices and progress reports

- Landowners now have the option to complete 5-year progress reports online using an access code sent to them by mail or an individual link sent by email
- Reminders and confirmation notices are sent first by email for landowners with email, then by mail to MFTIP primary contact, then by mail to MPAC address

## Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program



### 5-Year Progress Report

A 5-year Progress Report for your Managed Forest Plan is due by July 31st of the fifth year of your plan. Progress reports are due in 2021 for plans that began Jan 1, 2017. A copy of this form will be emailed to you; please keep it for your records. If your Progress Report is not submitted by July 31, 2021, the properties identified below will be removed from the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.

### Landowner Information

**Primary contact:**

Rheanna Leckie  
Rheanna.Leckie@ontario.ca

Do you need to update your mailing address and/or email address?

Yes

# MFTIP FAQ: Requests for Reconsideration

- Used if a landowner misses the deadline to submit a plan or progress report and there are mitigating circumstances explaining why
- The Administrator will review and determine if there are mitigating circumstances (e.g. pandemic-related, illness, legal circumstances), and approve or decline the request
- If a request is approved, the plan will be accepted as though it had met the deadline – we will change the start date in the portal
- If a request is declined, the plan will be accepted for the next year
- When preparing plans with an RfR, prepare the plan dates as though the request is approved
- Deadline for RfR is the March 31<sup>st</sup> after the missed deadline (i.e. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for RfRs for 2021 plan start date)
- The plan should be submitted first, then RfR sent by email to [MFTIP@Ontario.ca](mailto:MFTIP@Ontario.ca)

# MFTIP FAQ: Conservation Land

- Use the CL Inquiry tool on the portal to check if there is eligible area – if result shows eligible area, but says ‘Not Eligible’, contact [CLTIP@Ontario.ca](mailto:CLTIP@Ontario.ca)
- Use MNRF mapping tools to see where the eligible area is (Make a Natural Heritage Map, CLTIP Eligible Areas Viewer when available)
- If there is eligible CL area which is also eligible for the MFTIP, discuss with the landowner which one they want that area to participate in. The remainder of the property can still participate in MFTIP if there is enough area.
- No partial participation in CLTIP
- Make a note of the landowner’s choice in the plan and be sure they know that they cannot apply for CLTIP if they enroll the area in MFTIP
- If the landowner changes their mind during the term of the plan, the plan will need to be amended

# MFTIP FAQ: Joint plans

- Multiple properties with different owners can be jointly managed under a single plan
- Consider circumstances carefully and discuss with landowners to ensure this is viable.
- Joint plans may make sense if:
  - One person can act as the primary contact
  - Goals & objectives are consistent
  - Properties are adjacent or close
  - Suggested by landowner relationships (e.g. shared family properties)
- Ensure all participants understand the implications of a single plan (i.e., primary contact for reporting, reminders)
- All landowners must sign an application

# MFTIP FAQ: Submitting amendments

- Amendments are needed when Managed Forest area changes, roll number changes, or significant changes to activities in plan
- If adding new lands, amendment should be submitted by the new plan deadline (June 30) to be effective the following year
- Amendments which don't add new area can be submitted anytime
- Provide updated basic property information (i.e. roll numbers, total area, Managed Forest area, landowner information)
- To increase, inventory and relevant information (i.e. Section 7) for new area is required
- To remove areas, provide report of activities for the area being removed
- Updated maps are required for any change in managed forest area or property boundary
- Submit with Area Verification and Approval forms (blue & green forms) – now available in fillable PDF
- Submit by email

# MFTIP FAQ: tips

- Double check roll numbers
- Ownership change plan start year is the year after the ownership change (e.g. if a MFTIP property is sold in 2021, new plan begins January 1, 2022).
- Keep your MFPA listing up to date – suspend your listing if you are not accepting clients
- Contacts for support of mapping applications:
  - Make a Natural Heritage Map: [naturalheritage@ontario.ca](mailto:naturalheritage@ontario.ca)
  - Agmaps: [omafra.gis@ontario.ca](mailto:omafra.gis@ontario.ca)
- Include email address if possible in portal (not just on attachment).
- New landowners will see change on next year's mid-year or final tax bill (usually around June).
- Landowners can find out about assessment at AboutMyProperty.ca once enrolled – shows acreage and value of MF and residential components
- Renewing early? Send us an email to let us know

# Handling severances and consolidations

- Updated roll number and Total Area is required before submitting
- Landowner can contact MPAC for this information – MPAC customer service agents will have information for pending severances/consolidations
- MNRF also receives this information from MPAC and the MFPA can contact MNRF for the information if the split has been processed and we have received it
- New plan required for a severed portion with a new owner
- Amendment required for a severance that affects MF area with same owner
- Can also submit a new plan for same owner if preferred – **email** [MFTIP@Ontario.ca](mailto:MFTIP@Ontario.ca) to let us know



# Handling severances and consolidations

## Examples:

Property split, MF divided between new properties, new owners for the severed property

- Submit amendment for the original plan, and new plan for the severed property

Property split, all MF remains on parent, same owner

- Roll number and MF remain the same - no amendment needed

Property split, MF divided, same owner

- Submit amendment for the original plan to include both roll numbers

Property split, MF all on new roll, new owner

- Previous roll will be automatically removed. New plan required for new owner

# Determining Eligibility – Forested Areas

- Two main factors to consider to determine if an area of land can be included in the forested area of a managed forest plan
  1. Does it meet minimum tree density requirements?
  2. Is it managed in accordance with good forestry practices?
- Some areas may meet tree density requirements but are not managed in accordance with good forestry practices – not eligible
  - E.g., hydro corridors, orchards
- Some areas may be managed in accordance with good forestry practices but not meet the tree density requirements. These may be included within the open area provisions
  - E.g. regenerating areas, rocky areas
- What is a tree is determined by Trees in Canada – look at both tree definition and species description

# Determining Eligibility – Open Areas

- Two types of eligible open area allowances:
  - Natural areas, such as forest openings or abandoned farm fields (max area 10% of forested area); and
  - Natural areas that **could not support trees** through normal forest management activities because of **natural constraints** (max area 25% of forested area).
- Besides whether or not the area can reasonably be considered a “natural area”, there are two criteria that must be met for an open area to be eligible:
  1. It must contribute to the objectives of the managed forest plan
  2. It must be managed in accordance with good forestry practices

# Eligibility – Important Consideration

- Natural areas that cannot support trees because of non-natural constraints, such as herbicide application or mowing, are not eligible for the second category.
- They may be eligible for the first category only if they follow good forestry practices and contribute to the objectives of the plan
  - E.g., land being pastured or hydro corridors being maintained with herbicide are not eligible, as they are developed rather than natural areas and do not follow good forestry practices
  - However, land where prescribed burning is taking place for a time to manage invasive species may be eligible
- If you are unsure, contact MFTIP staff for assistance or confirmation

# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

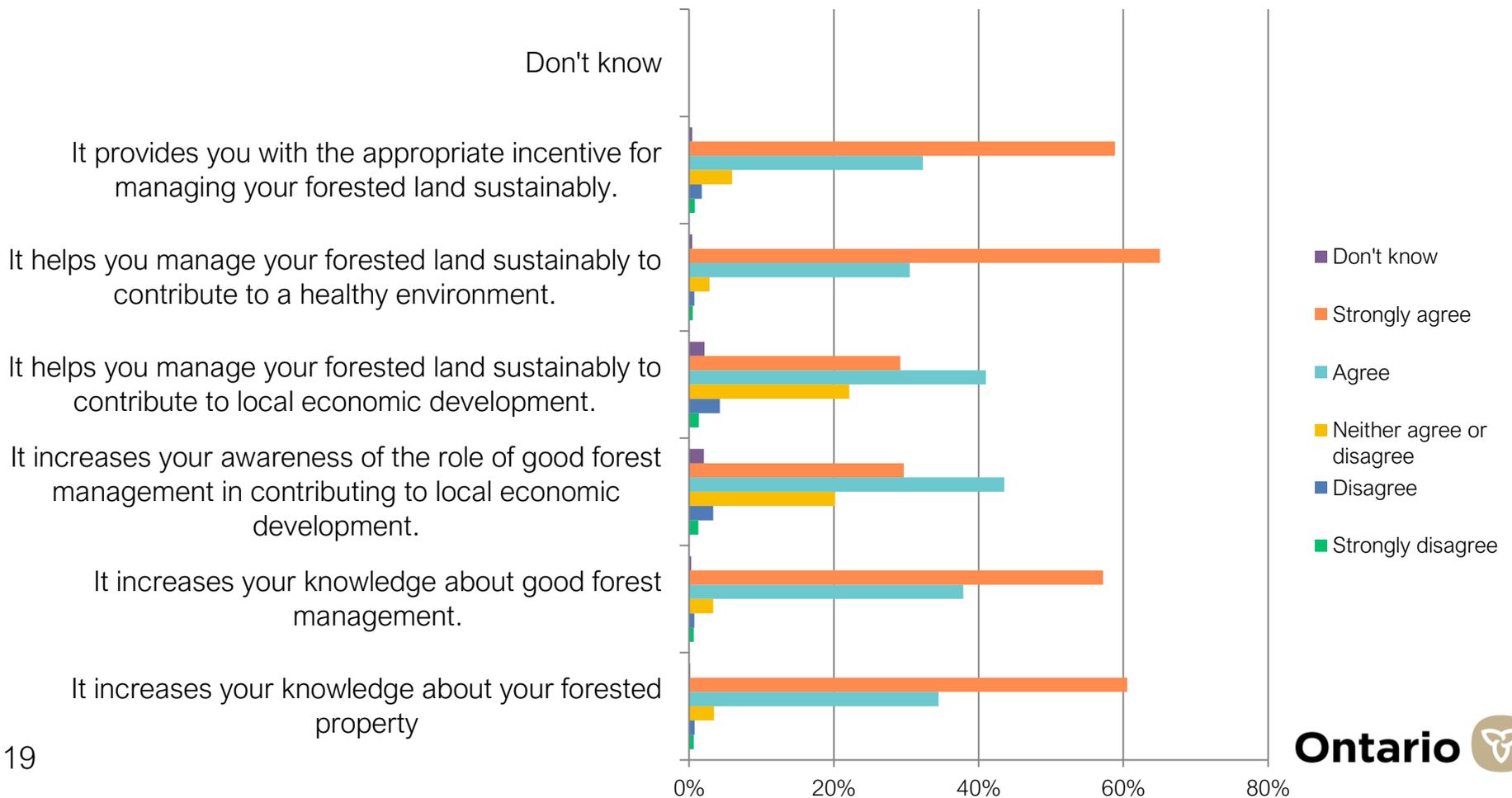
- MFTIP and CLTIP were selected for a program evaluation by MNRF Economics and Evaluations Section
- Goal is to assess effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of the programs as well as satisfaction
- Surveys of MFTIP/CLTIP participants were conducted in 2019/20 to gather evidence for the evaluation
- Survey sent to all MFTIP participants with email addresses and a random sample of participants by mail – approx 5000 landowners
- Approximately 1,500 MFTIP surveys returned
- CLTIP survey sent in 2019 to all CLTIP eligible landowners with their application package (approx. 25,000 participants)
- Approximately 1,500 CLTIP surveys returned

# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

- 37% of survey respondents reported being from Eastern Ontario, with 26% from Central Ontario, 23% from Southern Ontario, and 13% from Northern Ontario
- Nearly 95% of survey respondents were private landowners. Less than 2.5% of respondents were corporate entities/ private businesses
- 37% of respondents reported hearing about the program via word of mouth followed by other (16%), Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program notice/mailout (15%) and previous property owner (15%). 30% of respondents heard about the program from municipal (2%), provincial (9%), conservation authority (14%), or MPAC staff (5%)
- 52% of participants enrolled in the program during the past 10 years and 41% of participants have been with the program for 11 years or more

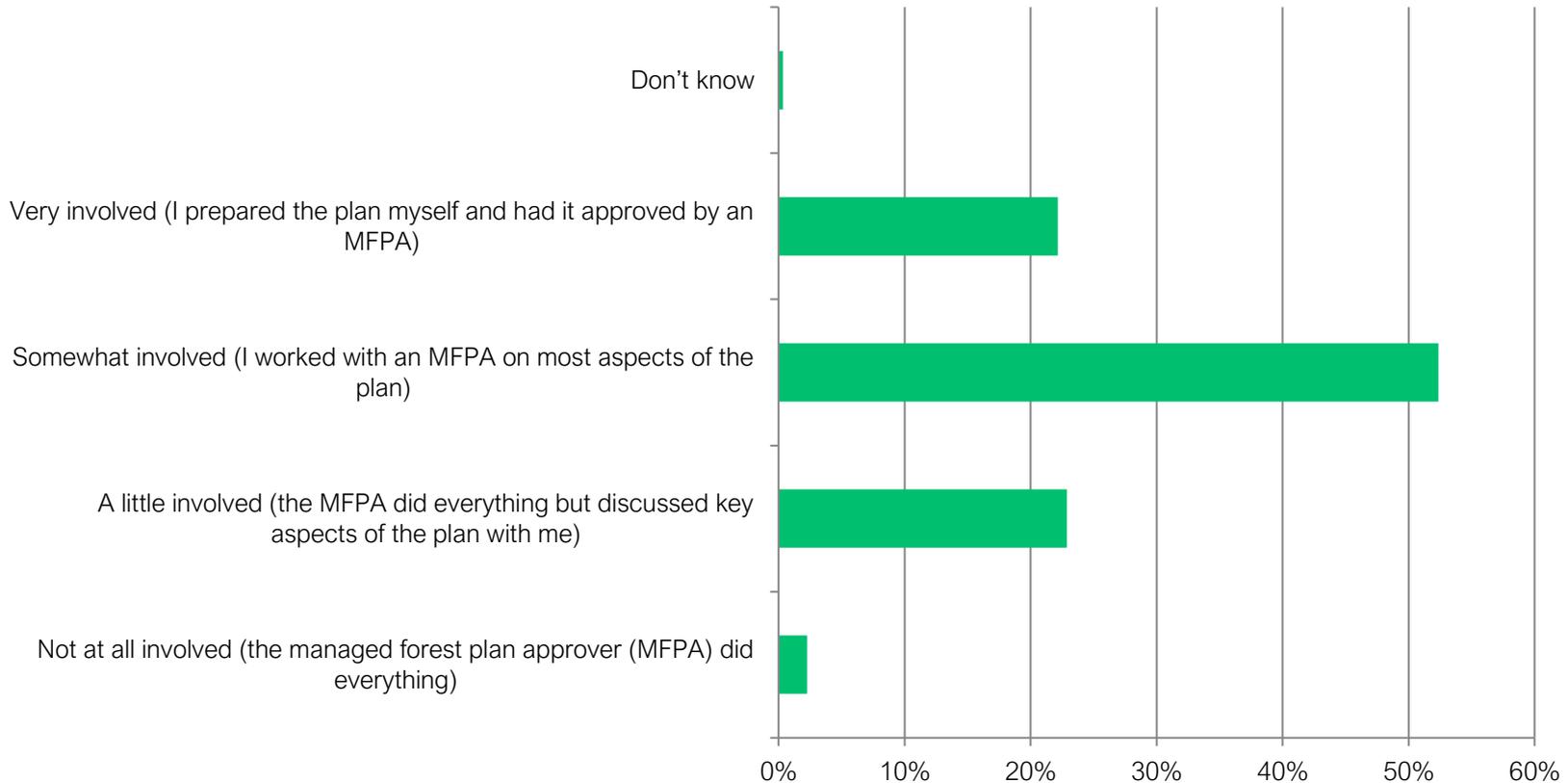
# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements about the benefits of participating in the program:



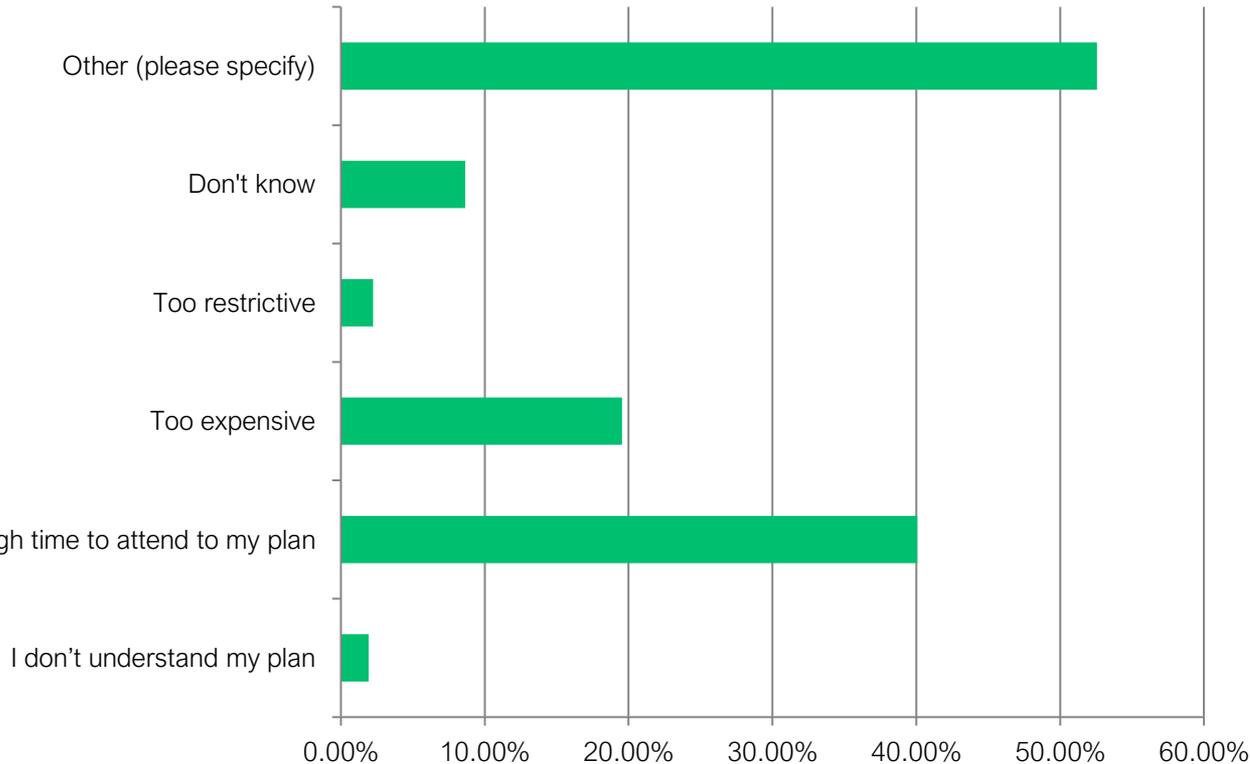
# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

What was your level of involvement in the development of the managed forest plan for your property?



# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

You mentioned in the previous question that you feel you have not been able to fully achieve the objectives of your managed forest plan to date. Please tell us why you feel this way. Please select all that apply:

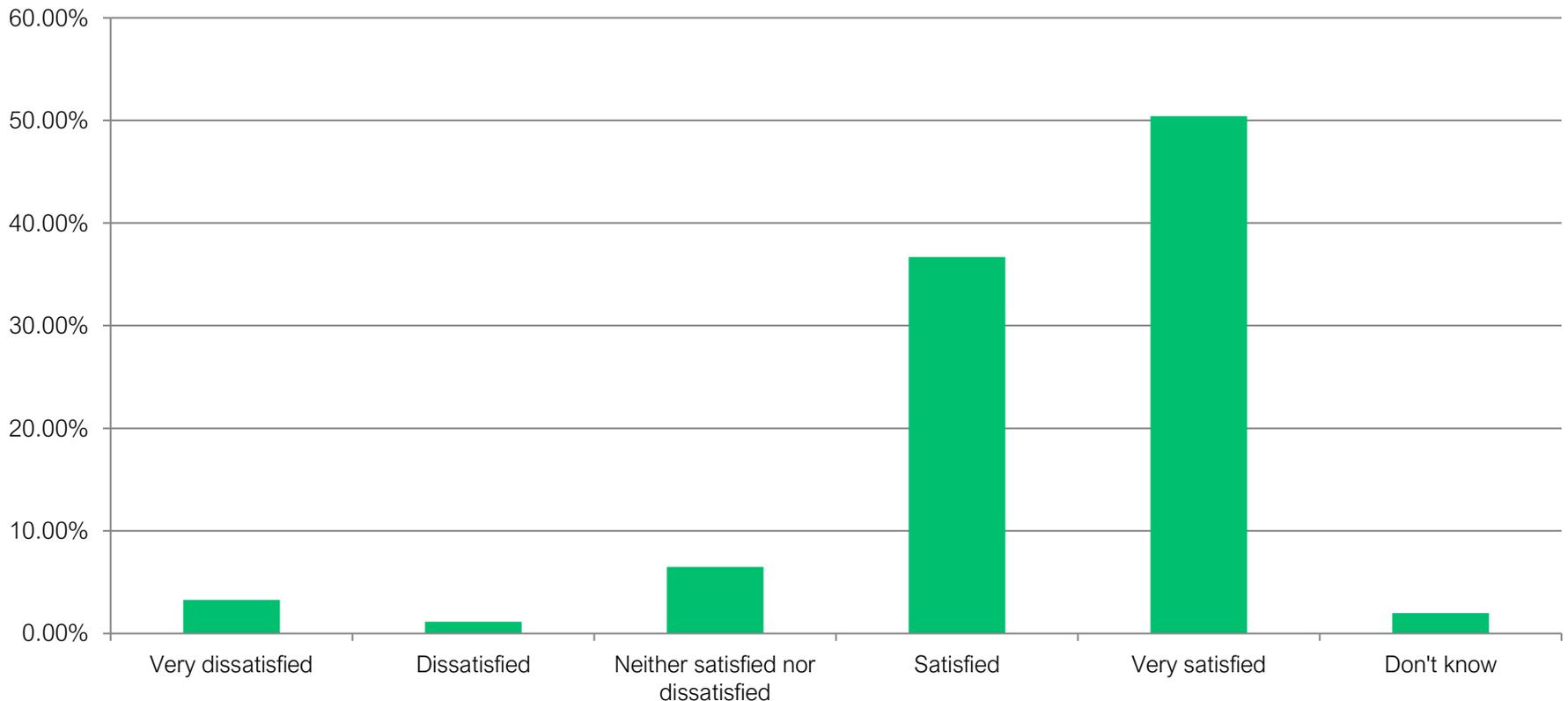


Most common 'Other' reasons:

- Too early in the plan
- Health
- Difficulty finding contractors
- Lack of resources

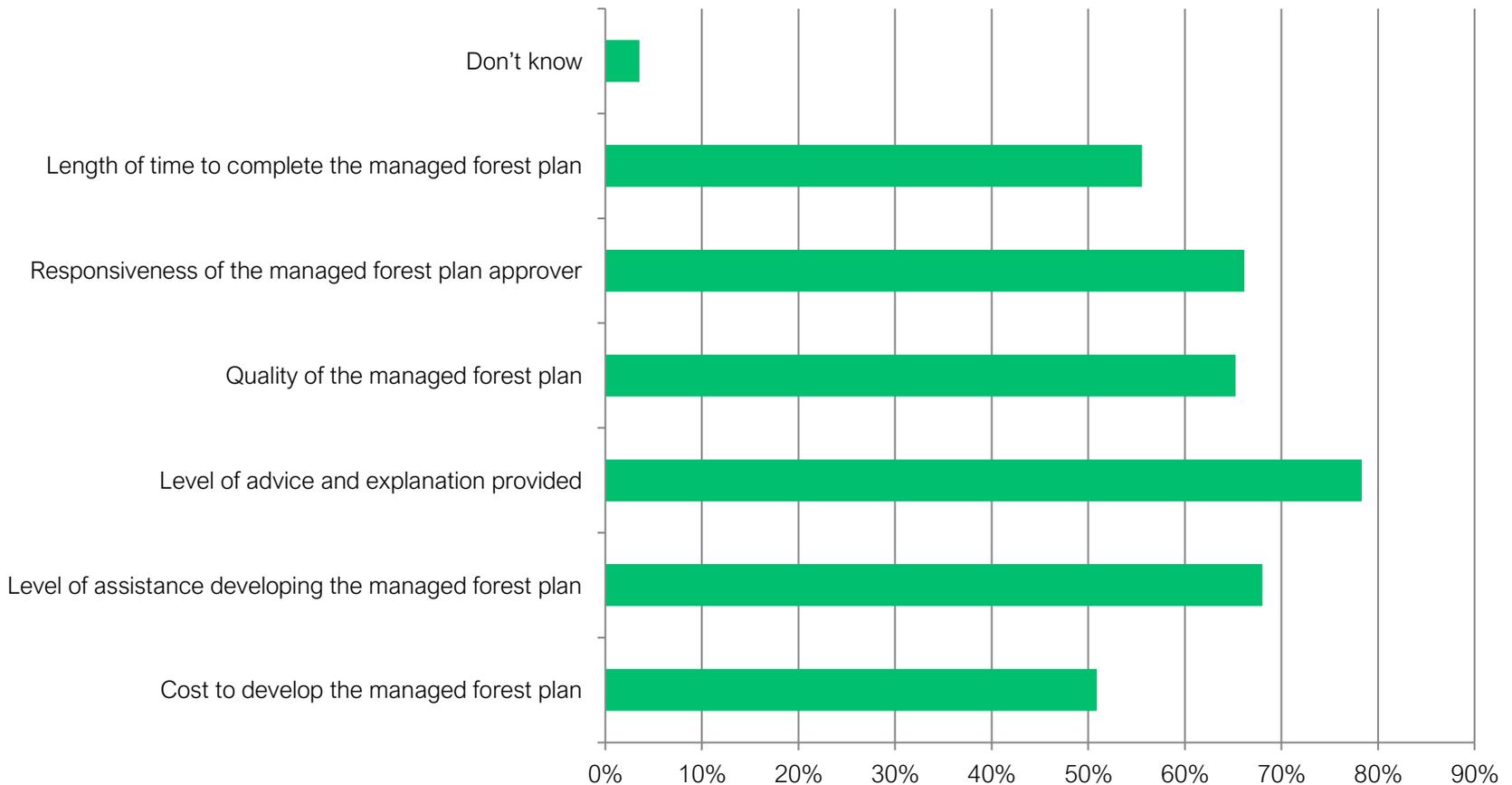
# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

How satisfied are you with the role of managed forest plan approver in the development, review, and approval of your managed forest plan?



# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

What factors affected your satisfaction with your managed forest plan approver? Please select all that apply.



# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

## Satisfied landowners (1194)

- Primary factor:
  - Level of advice and explanation provided (82%)
- Comments:
  - ...spent a lot of time with us to enlighten us on issues facing our forests, species, and management aspects. He was very informative and helpful.
  - The MFPA gave me the basic training and advice to develop the forest inventory and plan by myself.
  - ...walked the entire property with us two separate times. He took time to explain what he was looking for, and why... helped us determine which species and areas could and or should be harvested for small quantities of firewood.
  - She was educated and informed -- as well as having a career in forestry! We valued her knowledge, science, and the education she afforded us, immensely.
  - The managed forest plan approver was very helpful and knowledgeable in guiding us through the process. Considering the detail of this plan and the time he spent educating us the cost was justified.
  - It was worth the money....The MFPA not only helped me tremendously with the application, but I learned a lot about my property and other things I should do to increase the health of the forest overall.
  - ..took the time to speak with my parents about what he saw and pointed out specific aspects of the property that were unique. I appreciated the fact that the plan was tailored specifically to my property and the assessor took their role seriously.

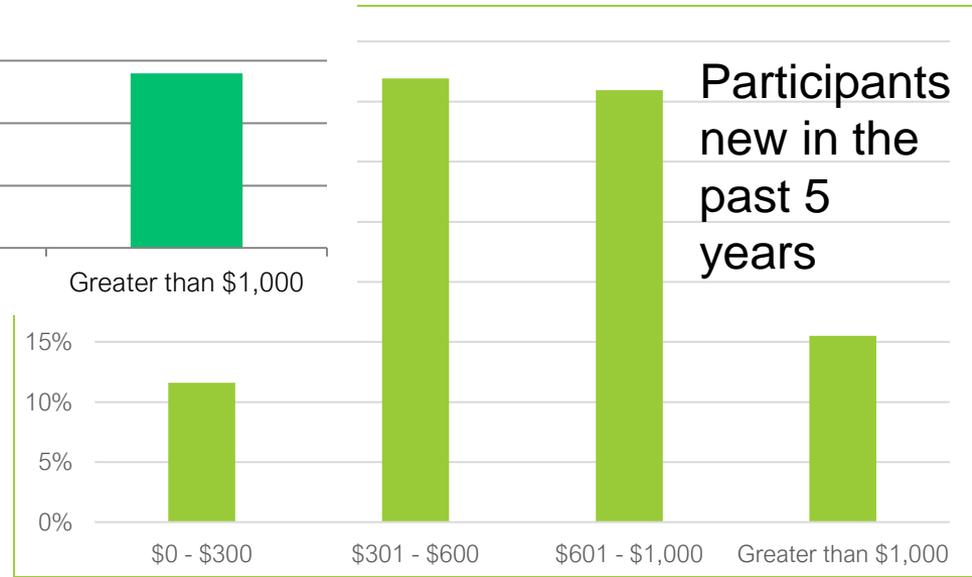
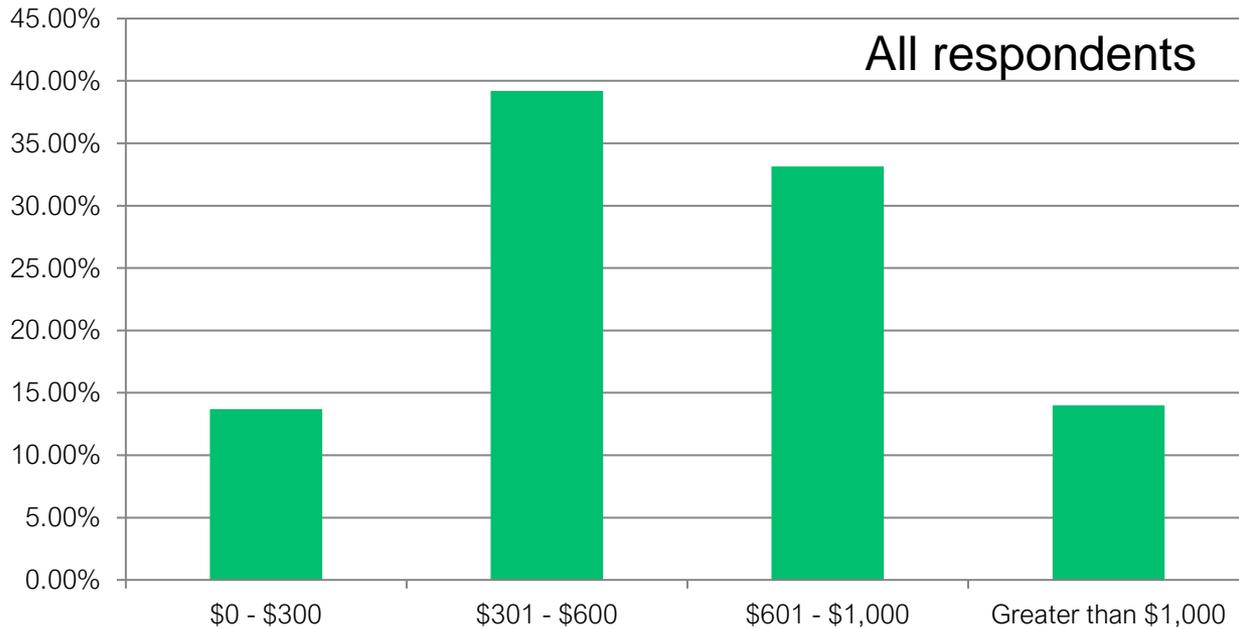
# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

## Dissatisfied landowners (60):

- Primary factors:
  - level of assistance provided;
  - level of advice and explanation
- Comments:
  - Our plan looks “cut and paste”, repetitive and not really unique. He asked for zero input and mailed it to us, so no consulting at all and no follow up
  - I think more advice would have been more helpful.
  - Little or no direction from approver
  - No on-site visit
  - MFPA did not submit plan on time
  - These plans are too complicated...It would be much better if a less detailed plan could be completed by the landowner .. then a plan approver could be hired at a lower cost to finalize and submit the plan.

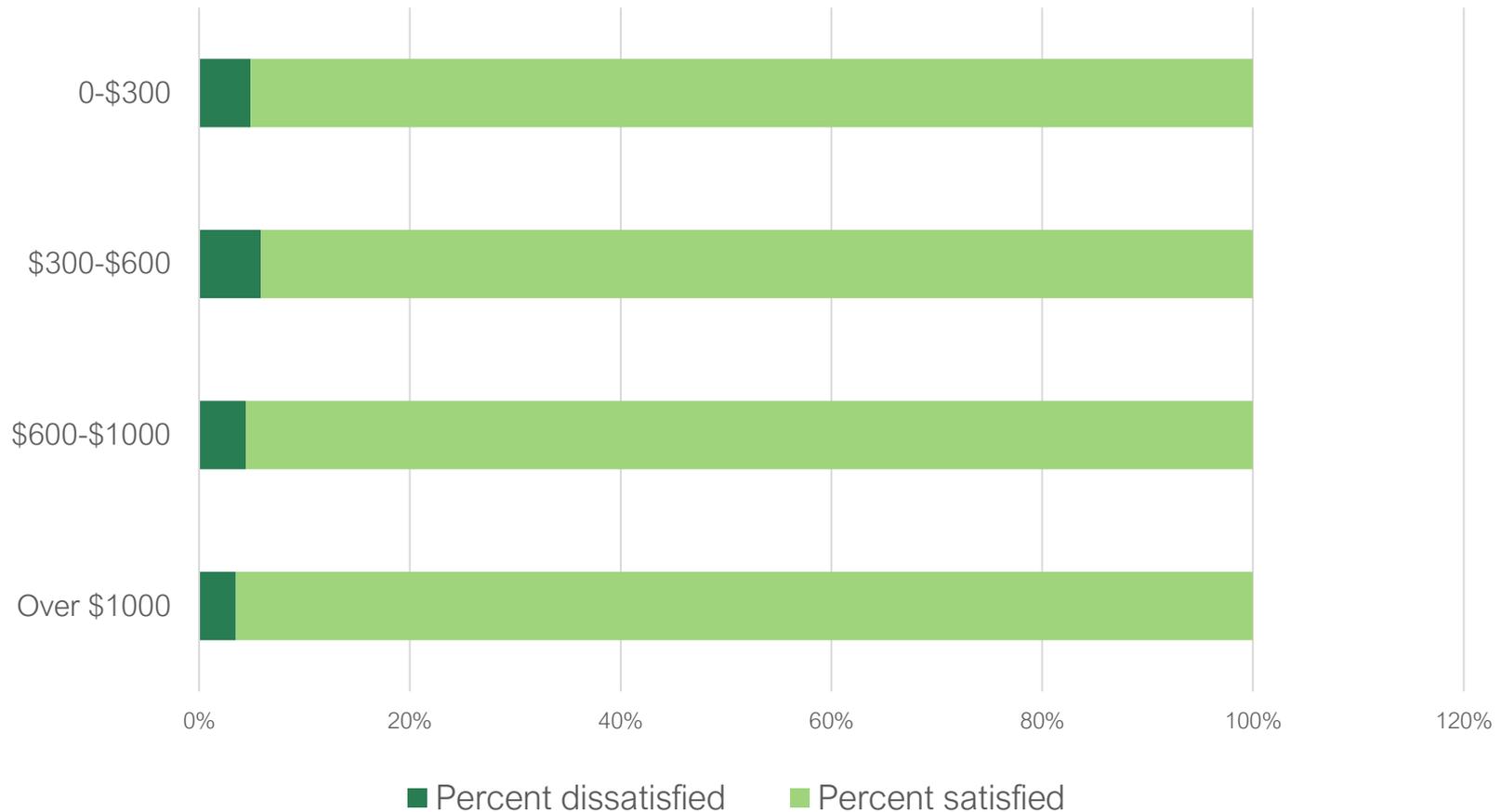
# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

If you are comfortable, please tell us approximately how much you paid for your approved managed forest plan.

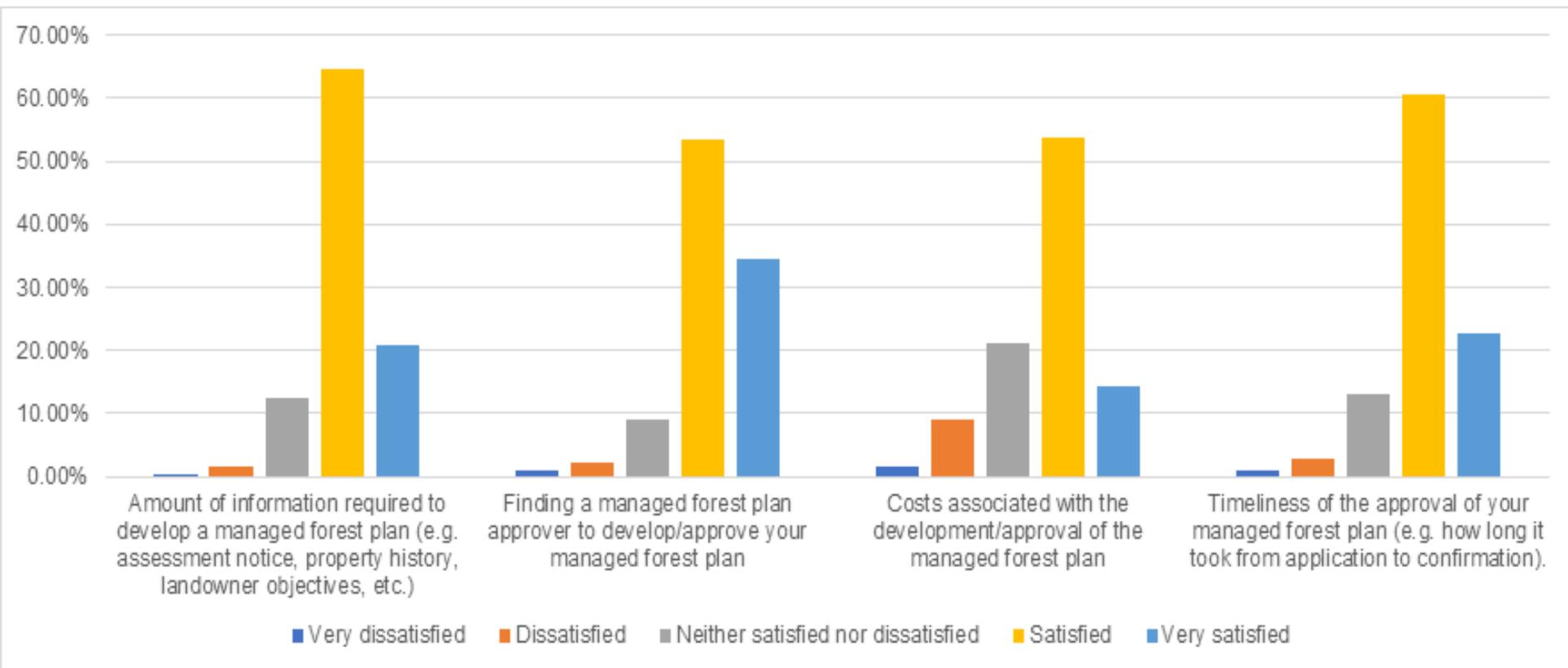


# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey

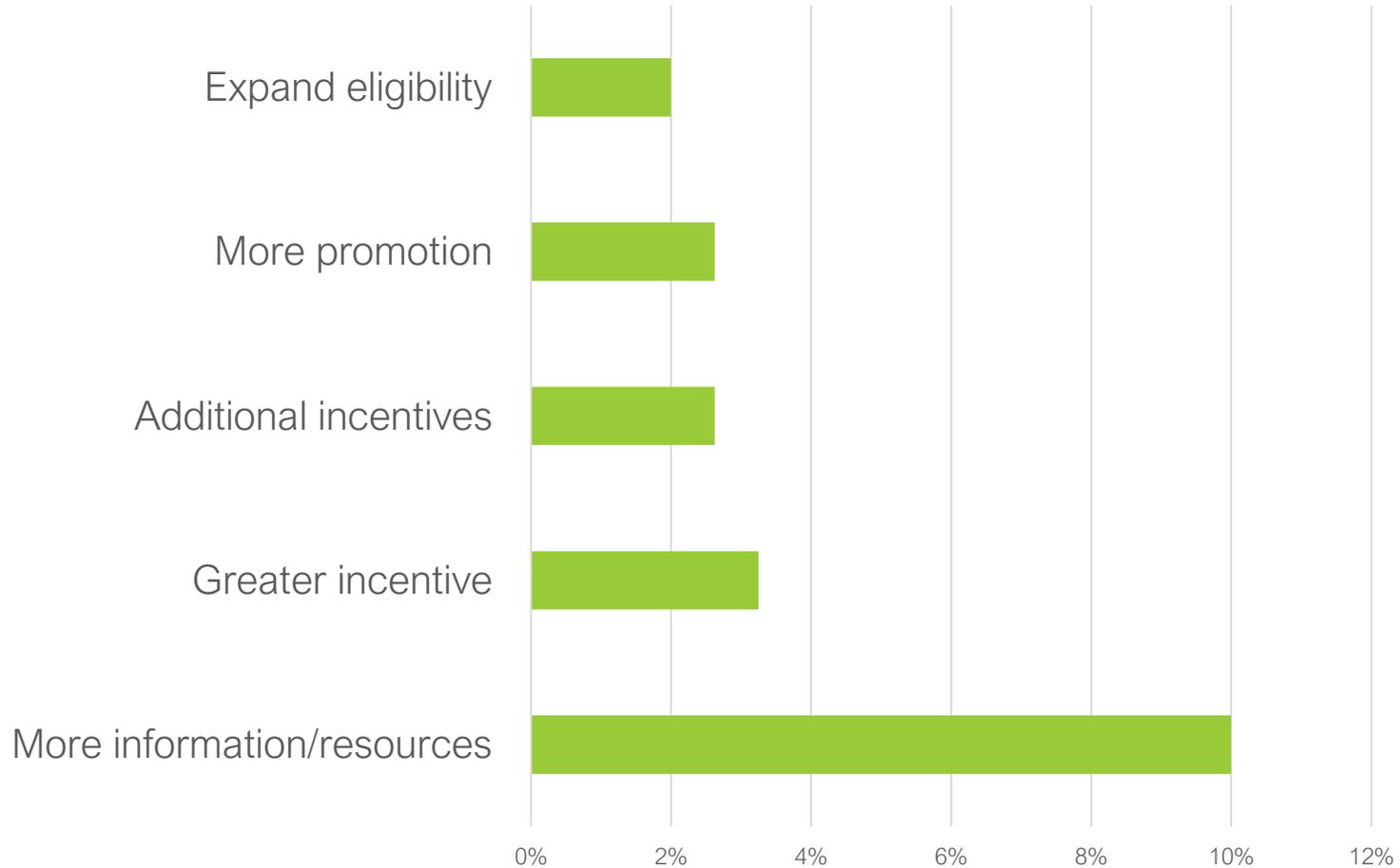
Plan cost and satisfaction with MFPA role



# MFTIP/CLTIP Evaluation Landowner Survey



# Suggestions for improvement



**Thanks for your work in helping to promote and foster good  
stewardship of private forest lands!**

**If you have any questions, please e-mail MFTIP at [mftip@ontario.ca](mailto:mftip@ontario.ca).**