

Vive la résistance

Managing wilding
conifer re-invasion

Stakeholder Perceptions

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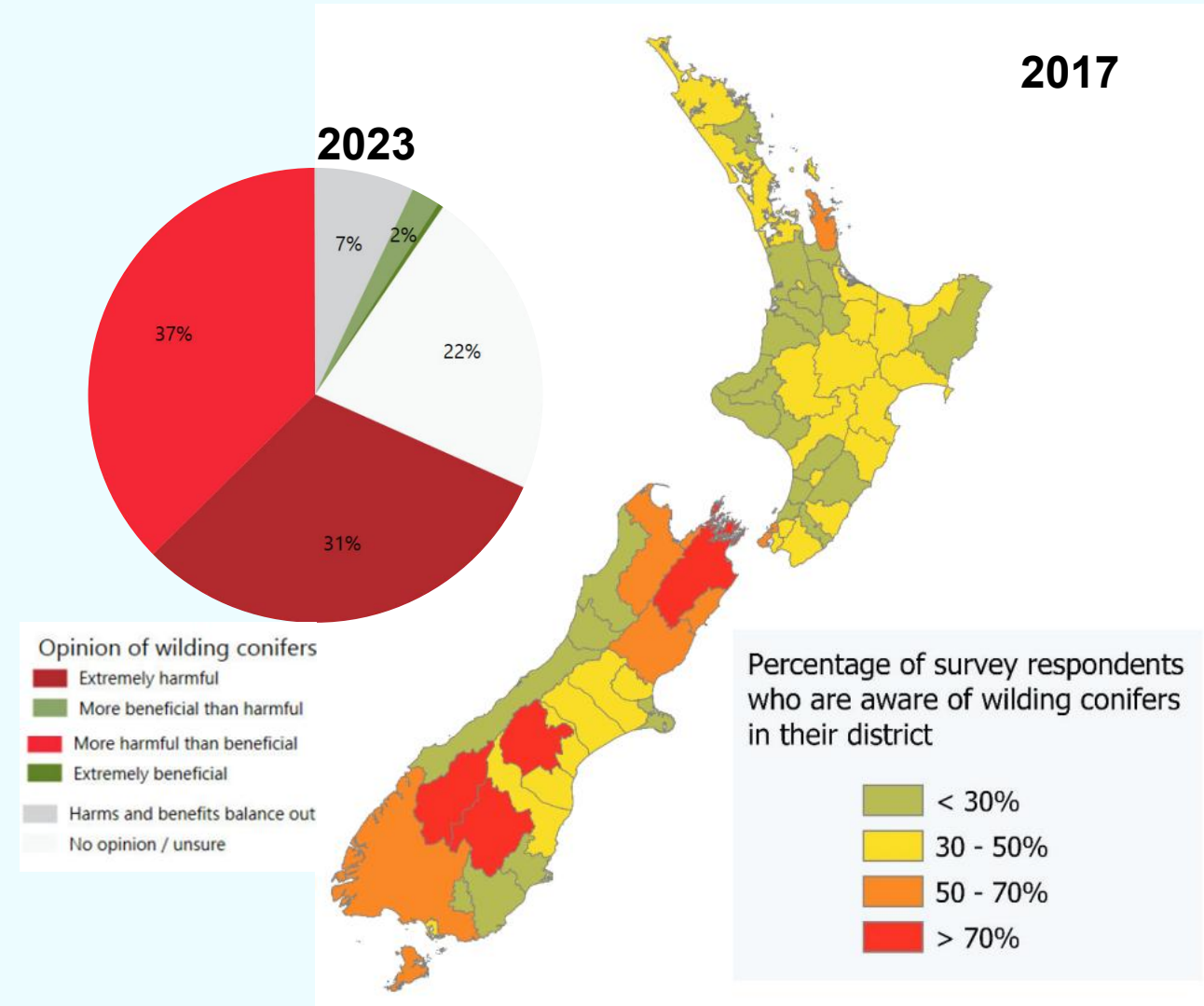
16th October 2025



Previous Work – Survey of Rural Decision Makers



- Wilding conifers small part of much bigger survey
- Focussed on awareness + general opinions, not regional breakdowns
- Only covers rural landowners





The forestry sector has moved to correct media claims that commercial pine trees are the main source of the country's burgeoning wilding pine problem now claiming over 2 million hectares of land area.

ster' - Wilding pines out of control

Councillor Eric Roy said the battle was being lost, and called for immediate action such as limiting where trees could be planted.

But who is responsible for stopping them? When a

"It's an issue we've been talking about for a long time. This DOC estate that's been taken out of farming leases has not been managed properly," he said.

Under the revised Rule B, forestry plantation owners will be liable for the removal of new wilding conifers on adjoining land within 200m of the plantation's property from July 1, 2024.

Some of those plantings were linked to historical government policy settings and forest planting strategies, including forestry research trials

Survey Focus – Multi-Stakeholder, Multi-Species, Conifers versus...



- Farmers, Researchers, Foresters, Ecologists, Biosecurity Specialists, Consultants, Volunteers, Government, Tourism etc.

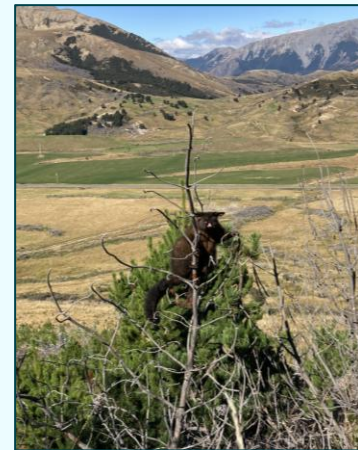
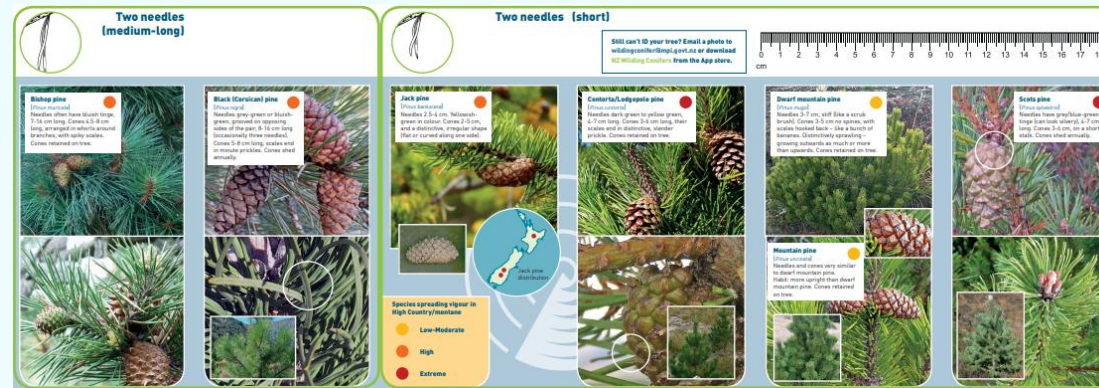


- How viewpoints vary across NZ

- How views vary by species

- How opinions on conifers relate to other invasives?

- *Who* is responsible?



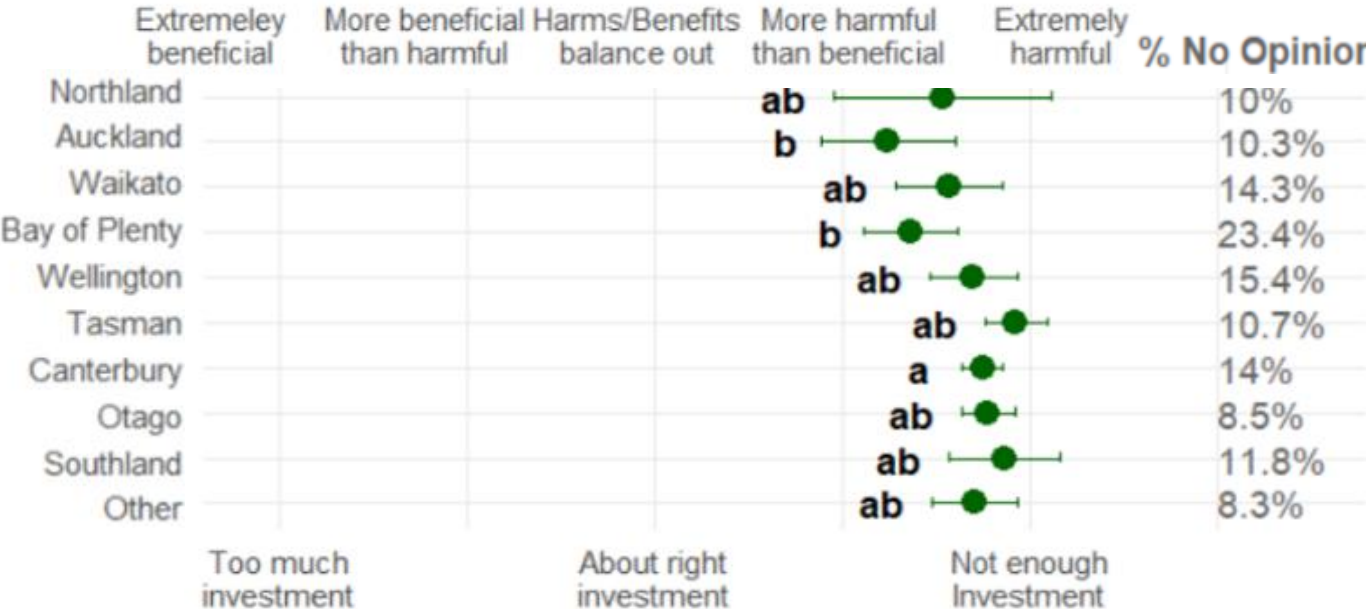
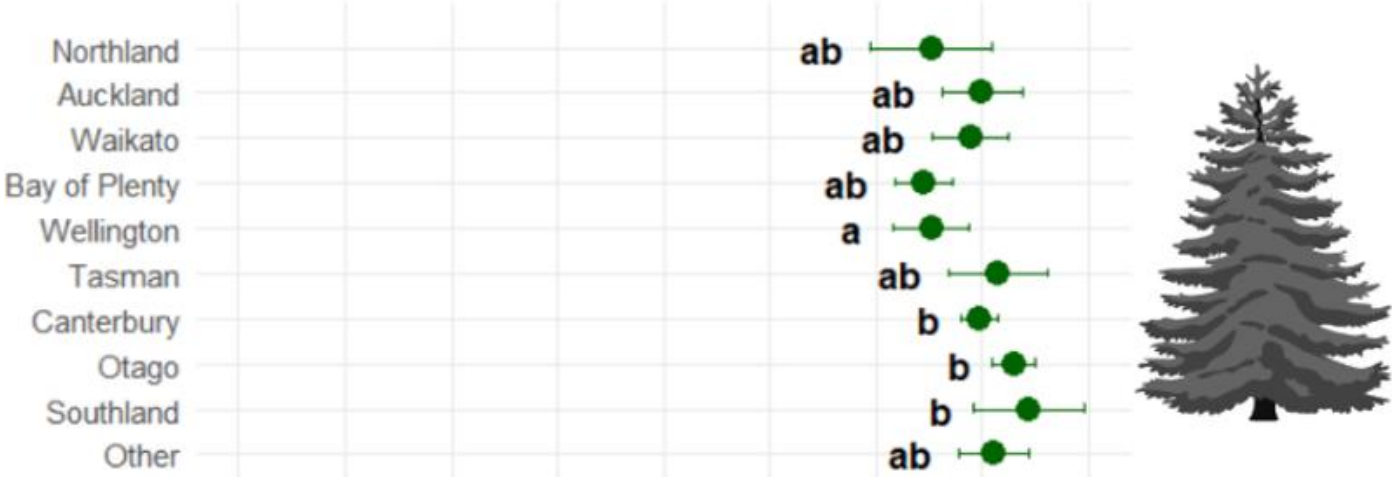
850 Responses



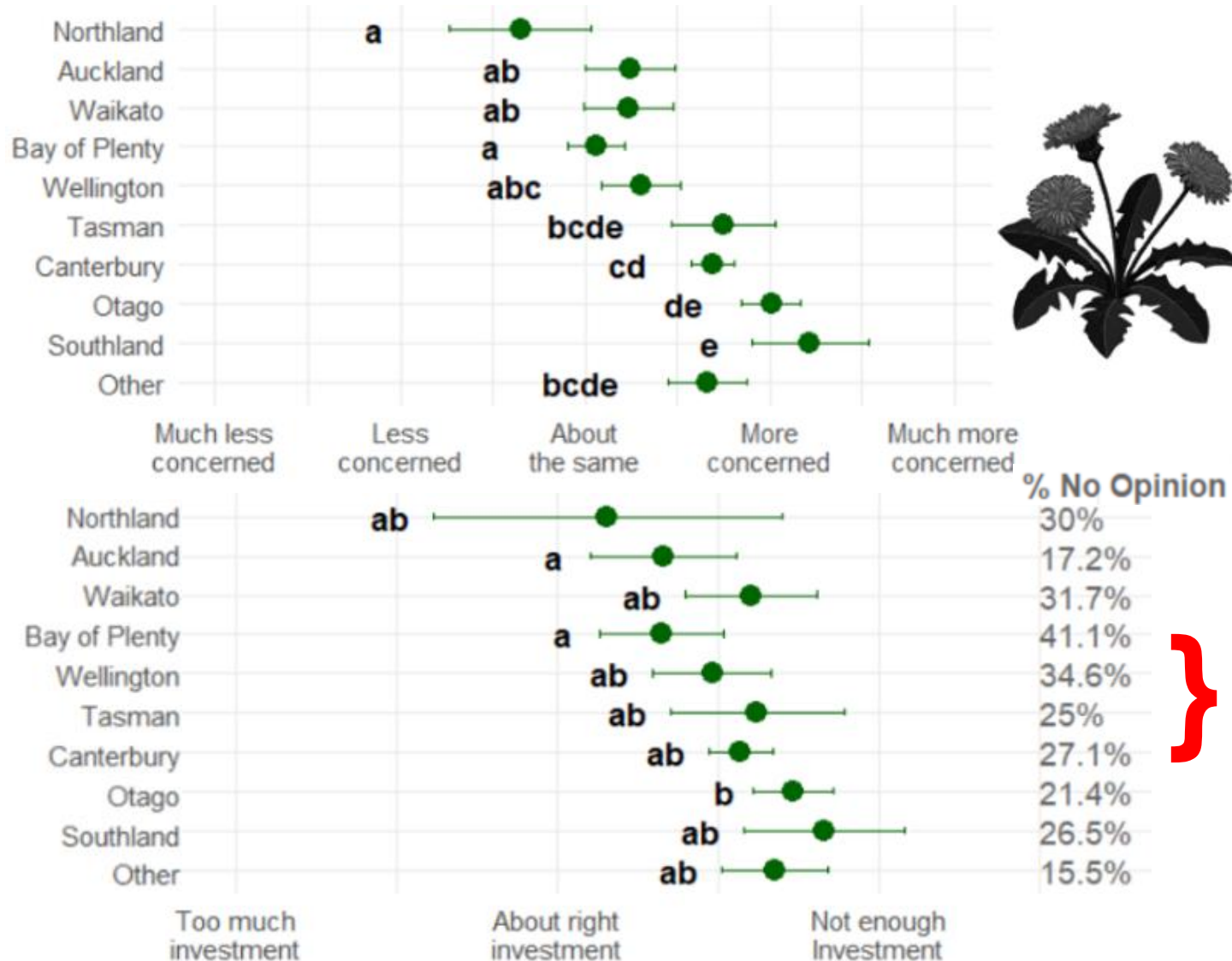
- Shared with CRIs, Botany departments, Biosecurity scientists, local/regional councils, MPI, MfE, TourismNZ, Farm/Forest Industry groups, Ecology/Botany/Biosecurity Societies, Tramping/Mountaineering groups, Wilding Pine Groups, etc.
- Dynamic questioning – not all questions shown to all respondents
- **However** – Wilding conifer focus attracts people interested in wilding conifers



All regions/professions consider wilding conifers harmful, need more investment

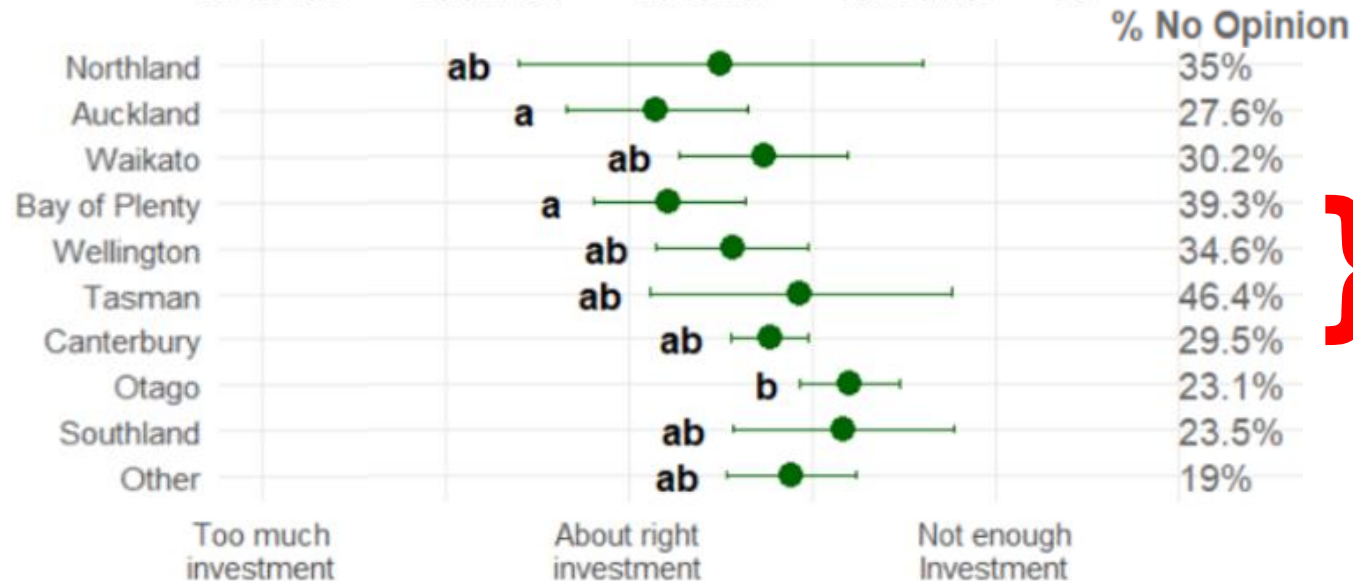
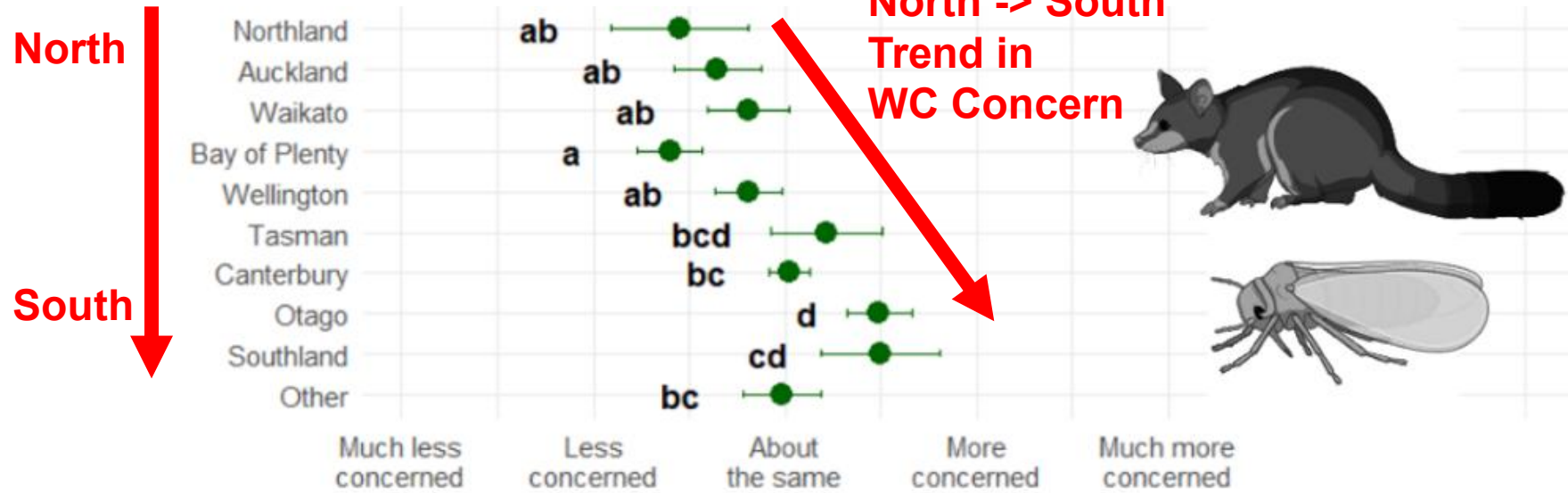


Most regions (excl. some NI) more concerned about WC than other weeds – want more \$\$\$



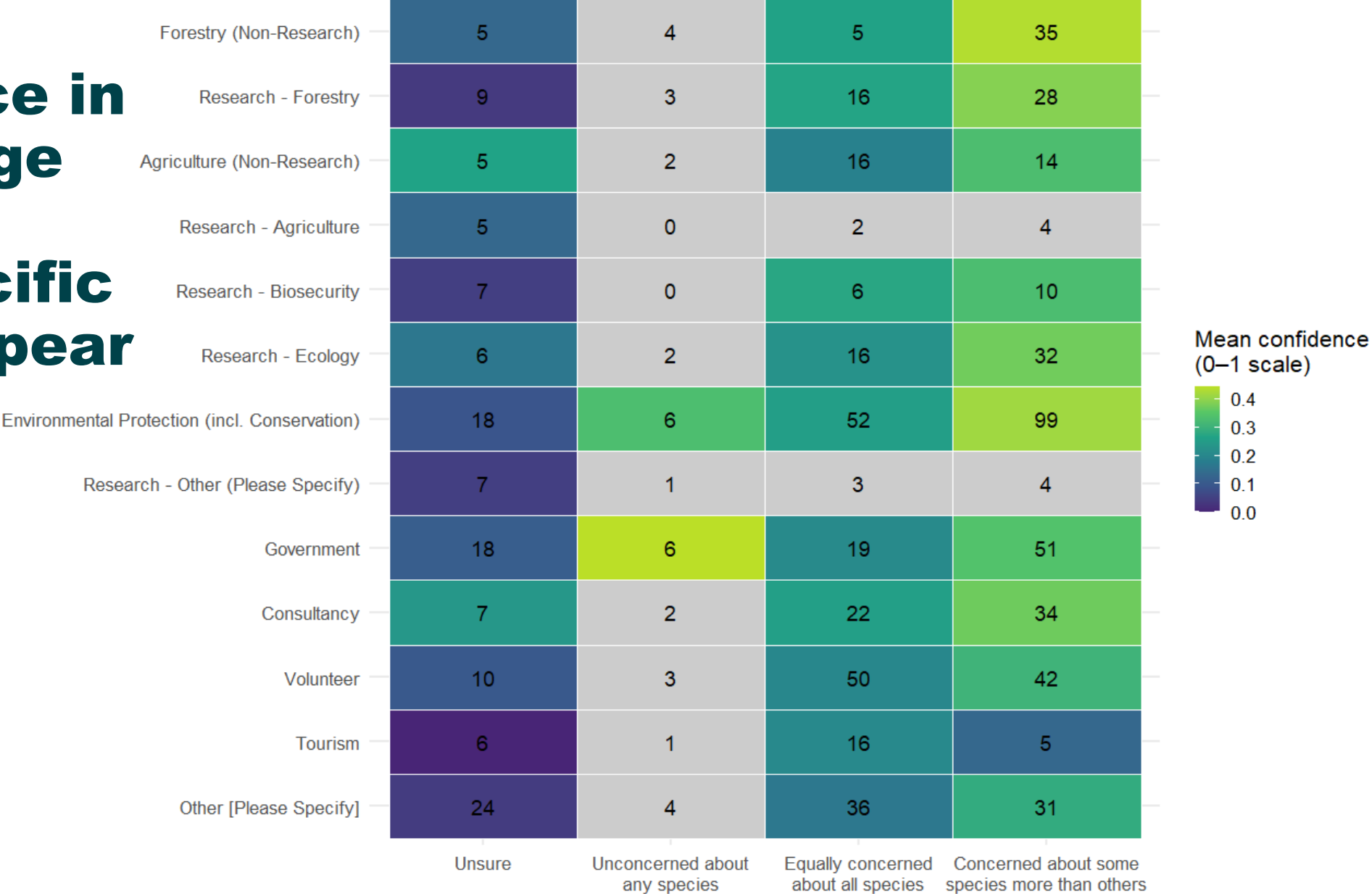
Proportion of respondents with no opinion on \$\$ increasing

Most regions similarly concerned by WC and other invasives BUT many think WC underfunded



Proportion of respondents with no opinion on \$\$ high

As confidence in WC knowledge increases, species-specific concerns appear

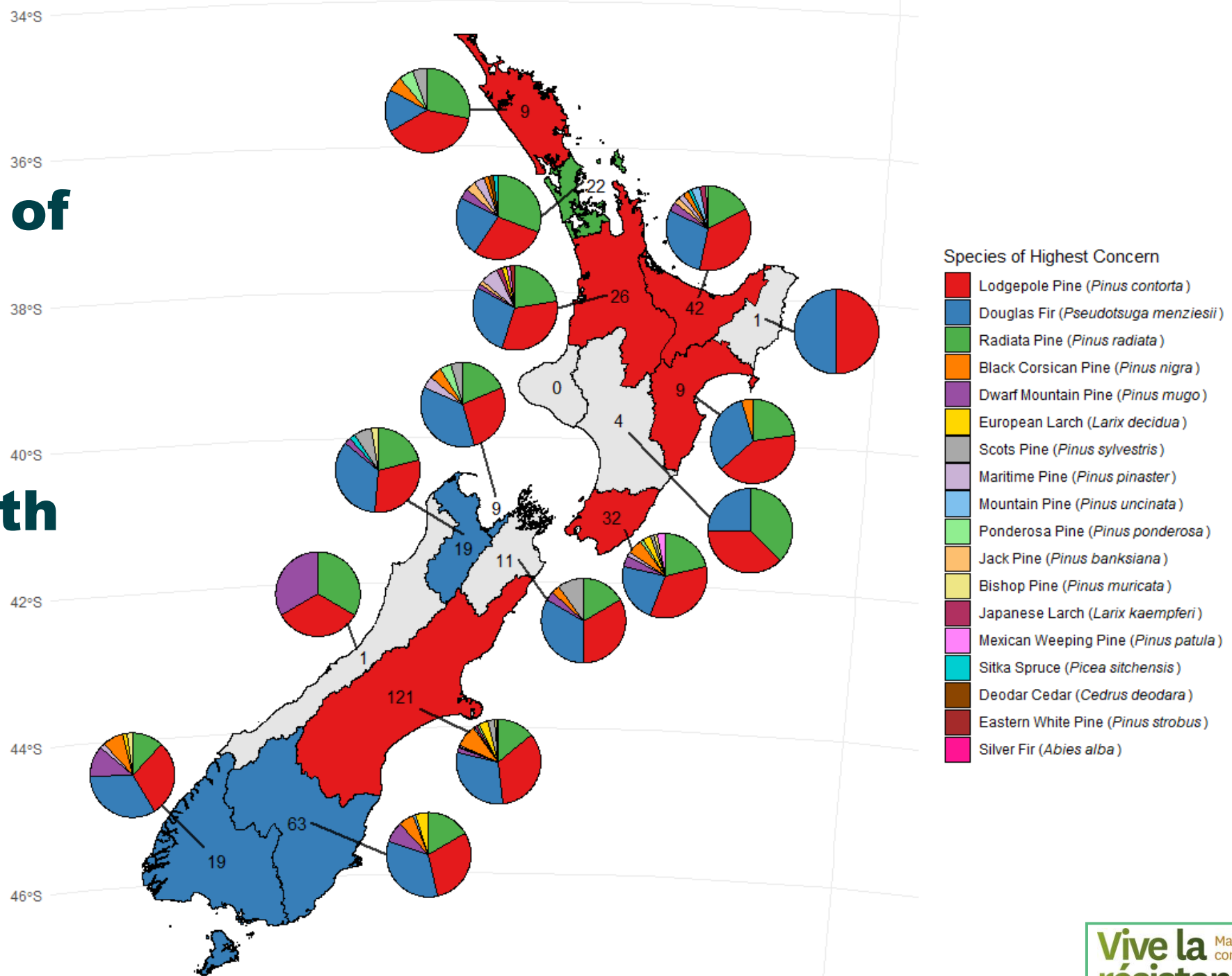


Greyed out = not enough responses



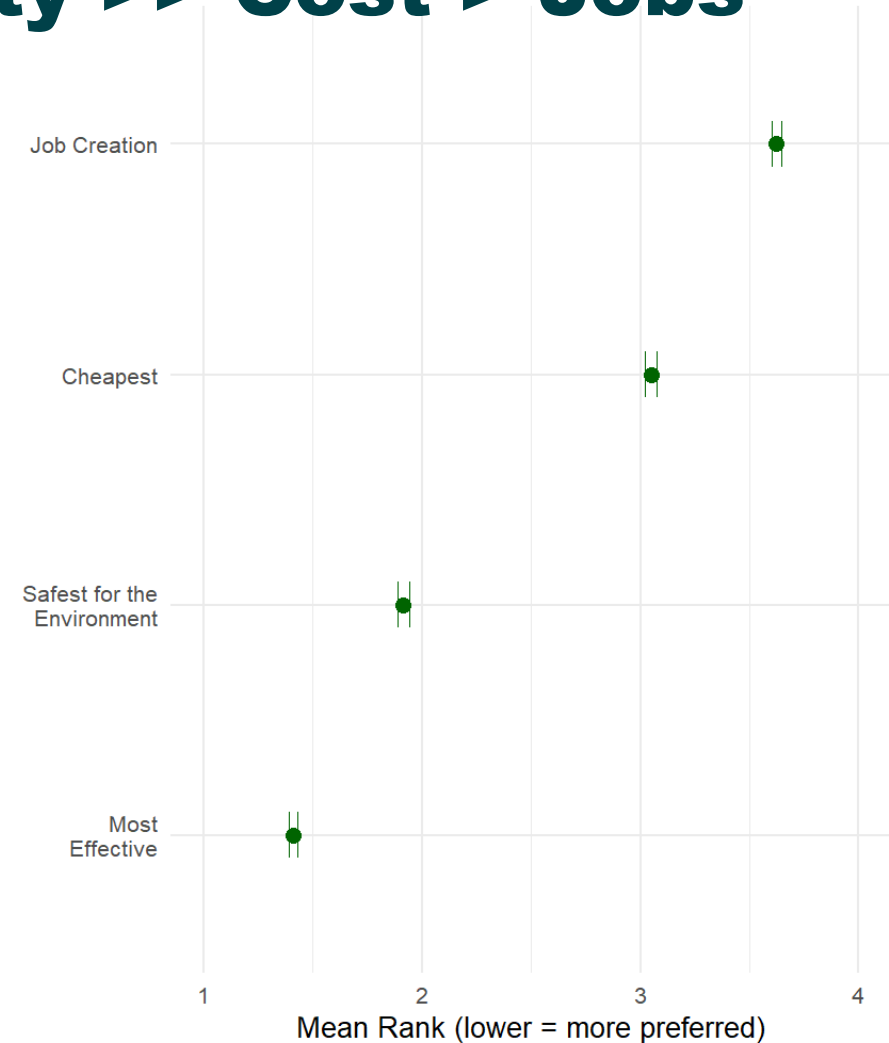
3 Species of Concern

Slight North/South Shift

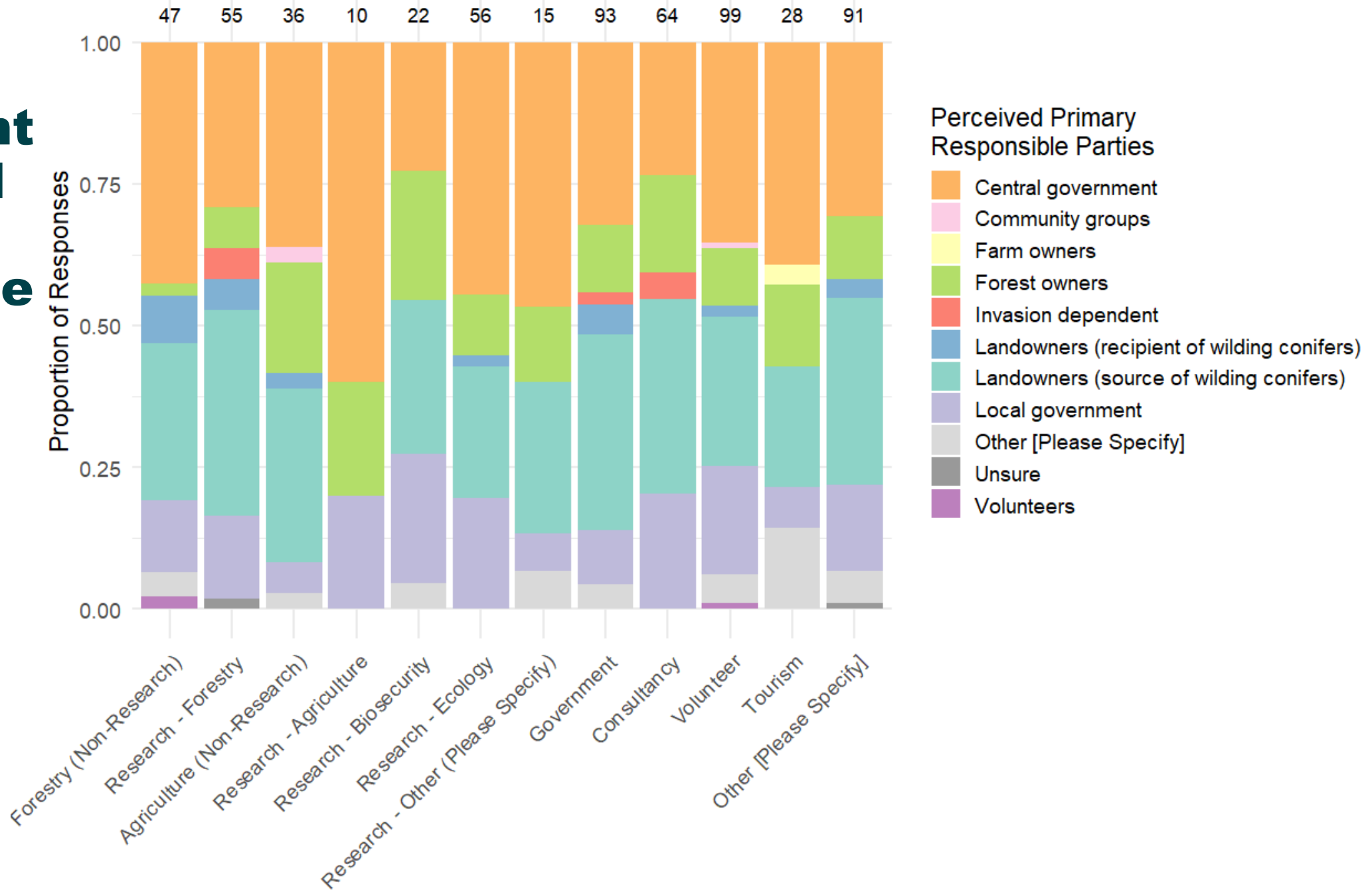


All professions agree with WC control

Preference in treatments goes: Efficacy > Environmental Safety >> Cost > Jobs

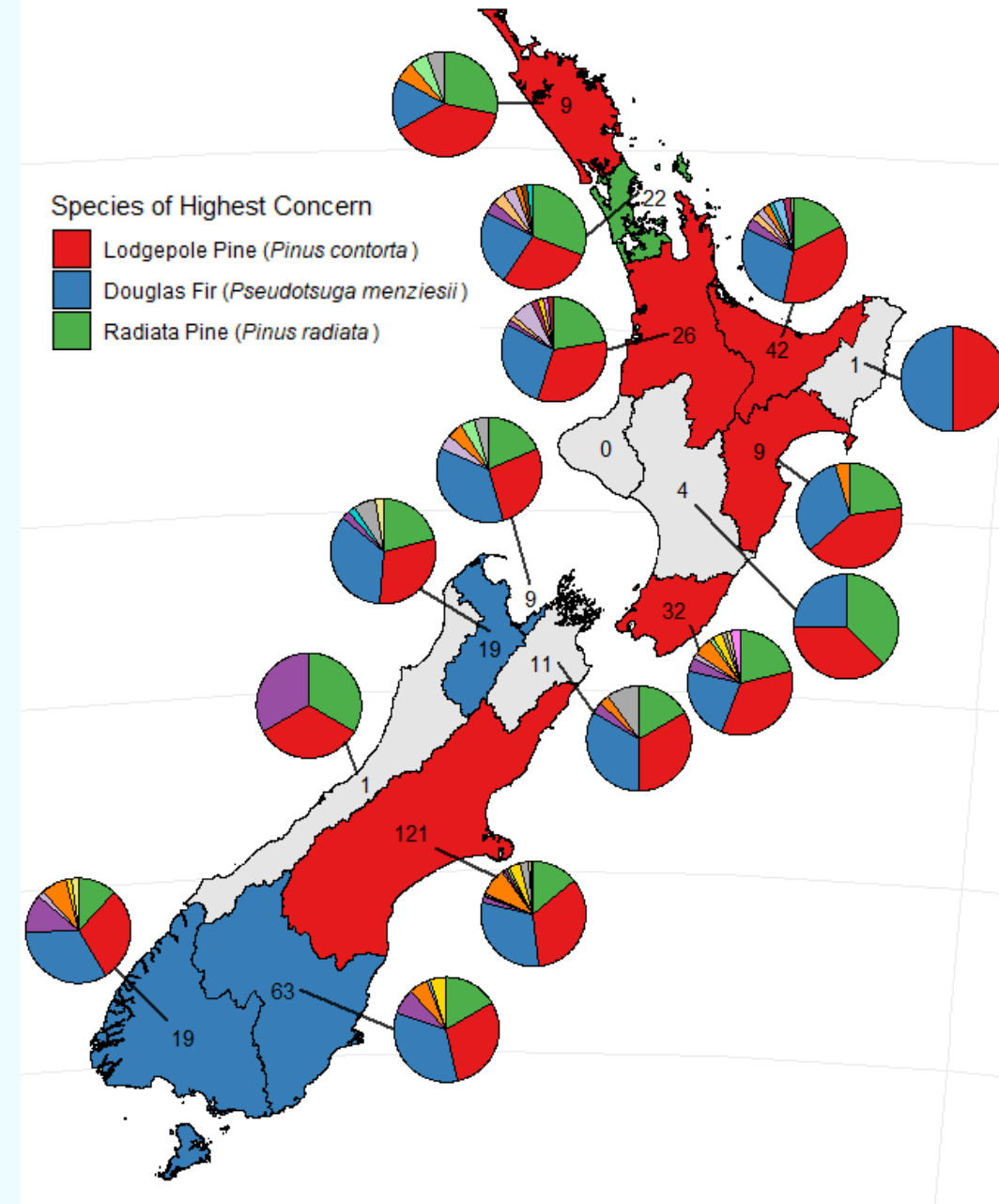


Central Government considered Primarily Responsible



Take Home Messages

- All professions/regions think wilding conifer control is cripplingly underfunded
 - **Both** generally and compared to other weeds/invasives
 - **Even** in some regions where other invasives are of greater concern!
- As education increases, so does understanding of species differences
- Species of concern are: Lodgepole > Douglas fir >> Radiata >> Others
- Treatment effectiveness is highest priority
- Responsible parties are Central Gov. > Source Landowners > Local Governments



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Thank you