



Identifying Water Research Priorities And Building Collaboration

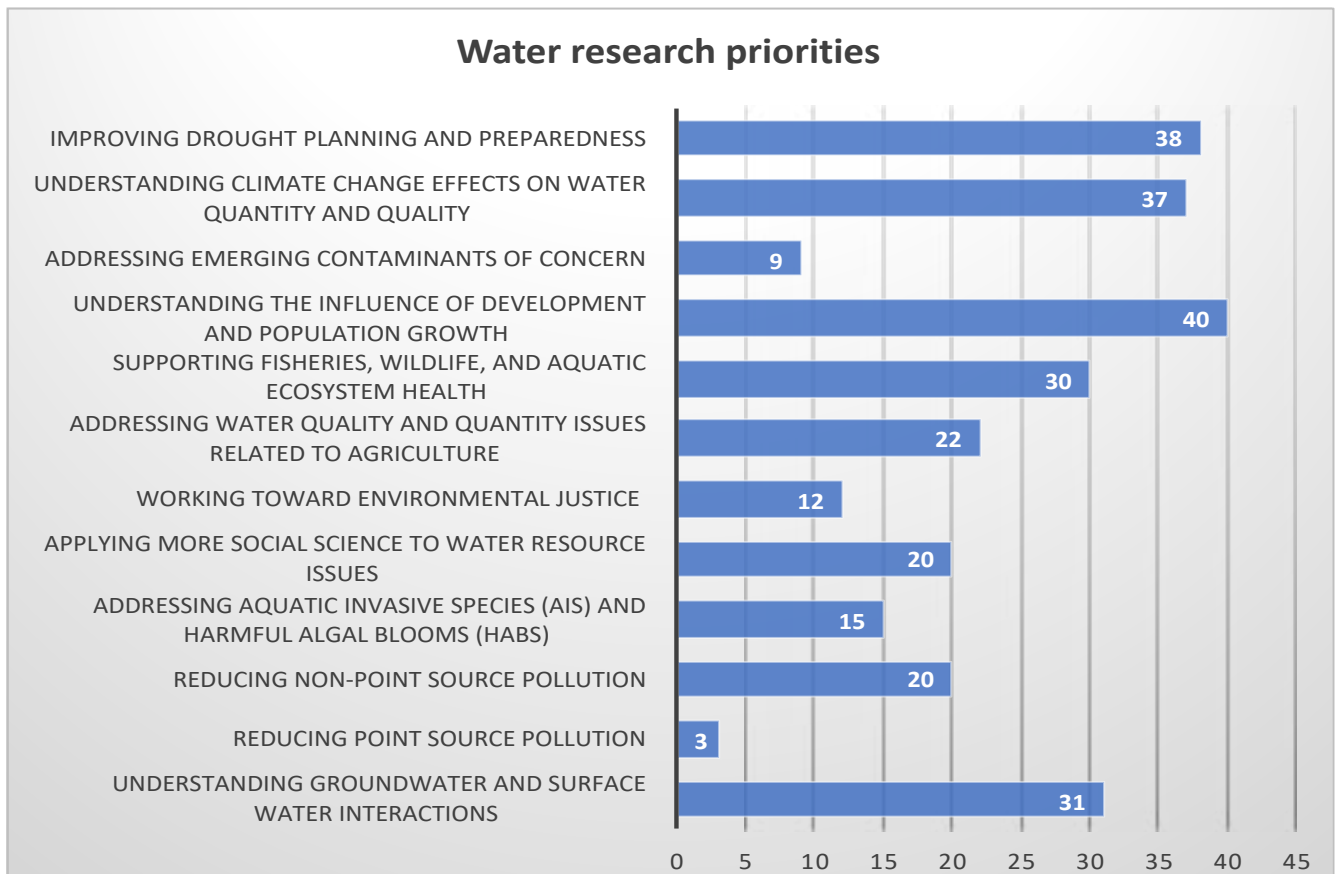


Summary of Survey Results

During the month of Montana AWRA meetings in October 2021, the Montana Water Center and MT AWRA held a survey to help identify the most important water research priorities in Montana, and to assess the perceived need for increased communication and collaboration among water resource professionals and entities in the state. Survey results are summarized below, and full results are available upon request.

Water Research Priorities For Montana

Q1: In your opinion, what are the top 5 water research priorities for Montana over the next 5-10 years? Please select only 5 priorities.



Water Research Priorities For Montana (continued)

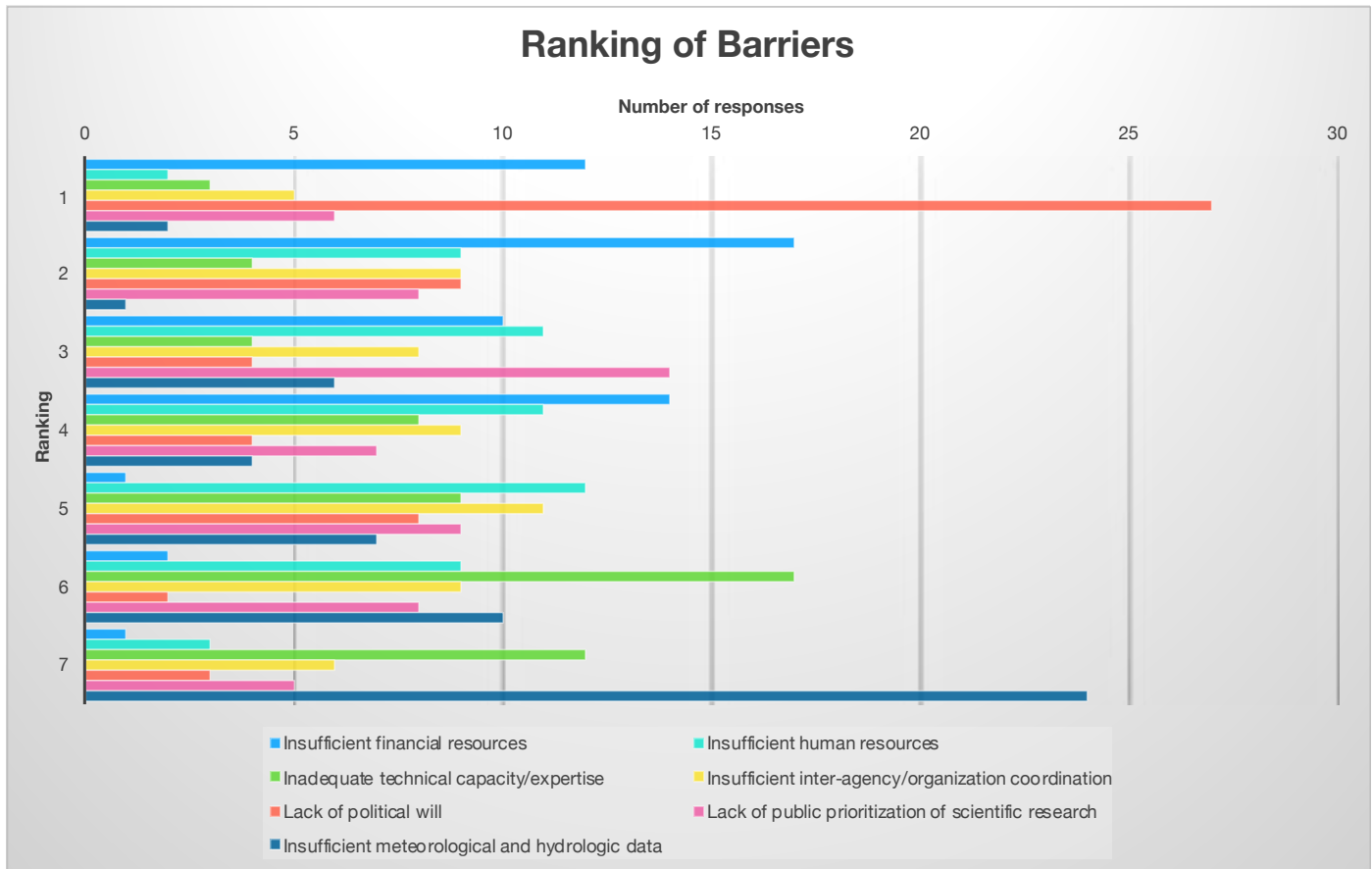
Q2: Are there important water research priorities that are not listed here? (open response)

Responses covered a wide variety of topics, but two overall themes emerged:

- **Use and relevance of scientific information**, including creating actionable science, addressing the disconnect between science and policy makers and understanding what kinds of drought and climate information water users need.
- **Digging deeper into understanding the impacts to water supply from climate change**, including quantifying the economic risks of water shortage and identifying ways to store earlier runoff and increase groundwater retention.

Barriers to addressing critical water issues in Montana

Q3: What are the biggest barriers to addressing the state's most critical water issues? Drag and drop barriers to rank in order of importance.

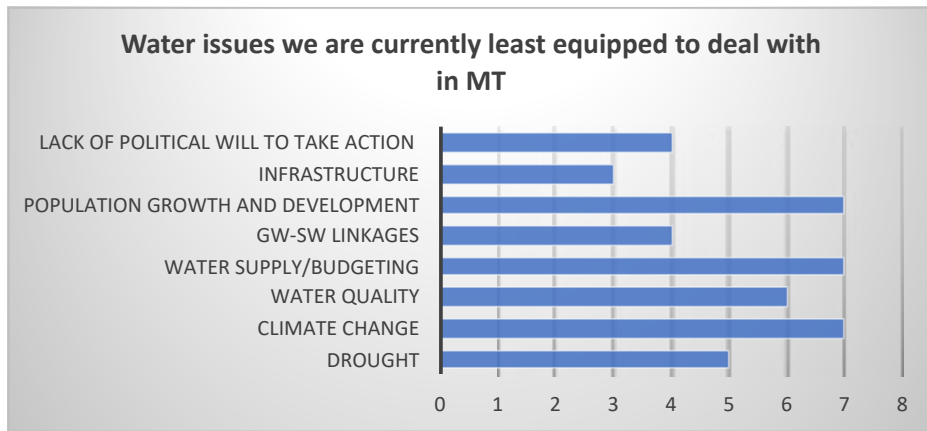


Q4 - Are there important barriers that are not listed here? (open response)

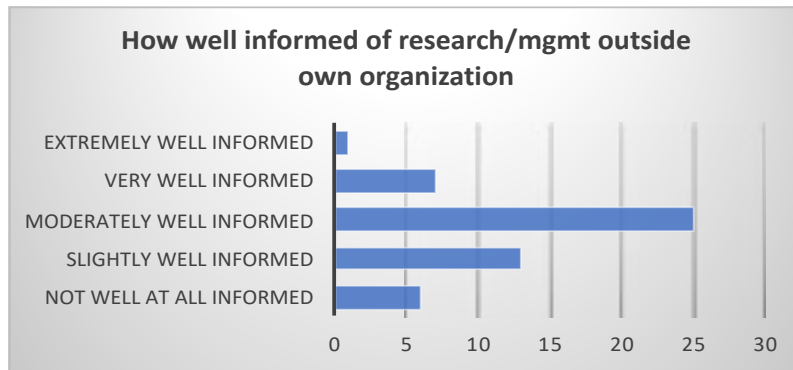
There were fewer responses to this question than other open response questions, but two themes that emerged were:

- **Political divisiveness and resistance**
- **Poor communication** between the various water-focused entities and stakeholder groups in the state.

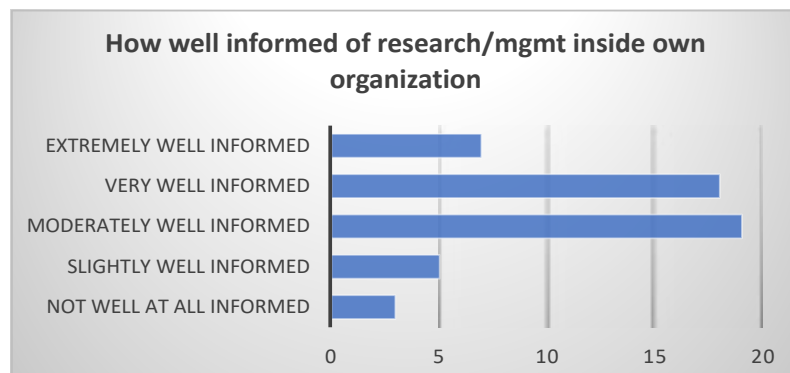
Q5 - What, if any, water resource issues are we least equipped to address right now in Montana? (open response)



Q8 - How well informed are you about water research projects taking place outside your organization that relate to your area of expertise?

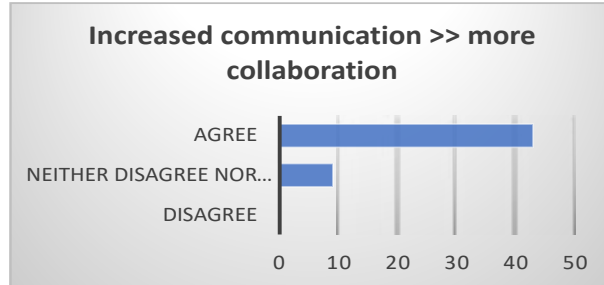


Q9 - How well informed are you about water research projects taking place within your own organization, either within or outside your area of expertise?

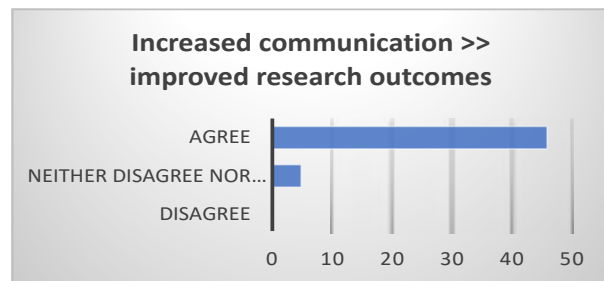


Perceived Benefits of Increased Communication

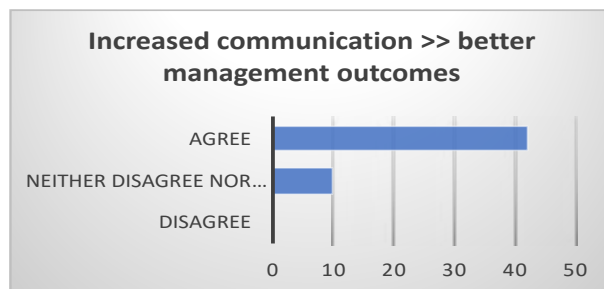
Q11 - *Increased communication among water professionals would lead to more collaboration among individuals and organizations.*



Q12 - *Increased communication among water professionals would lead to improved research outcomes.*

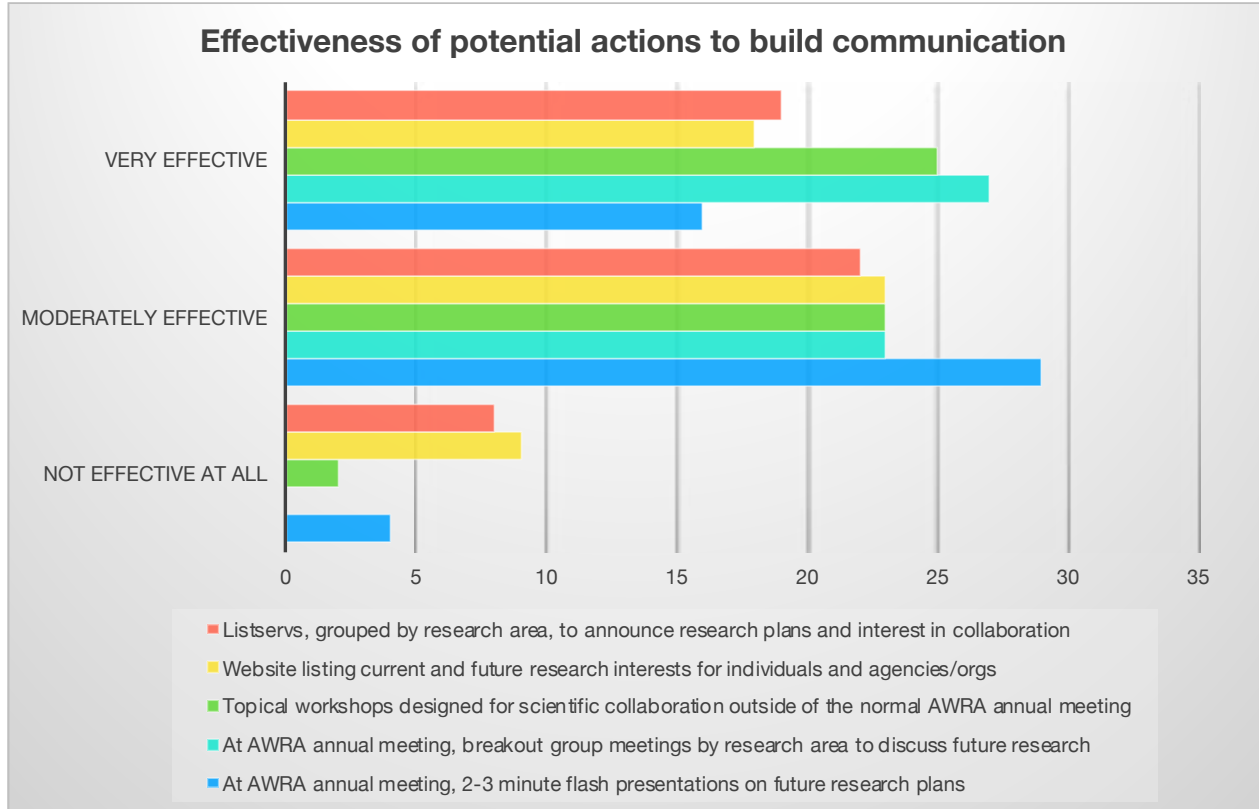


Q13 - *Increased communication among water entities would lead to better management outcomes.*



Building Increased Communication Among Water Professionals

Q14 - How effective might the following actions be in building increased communication among water professionals in Montana?



Respondents' professional areas of focus/interest and category of work

