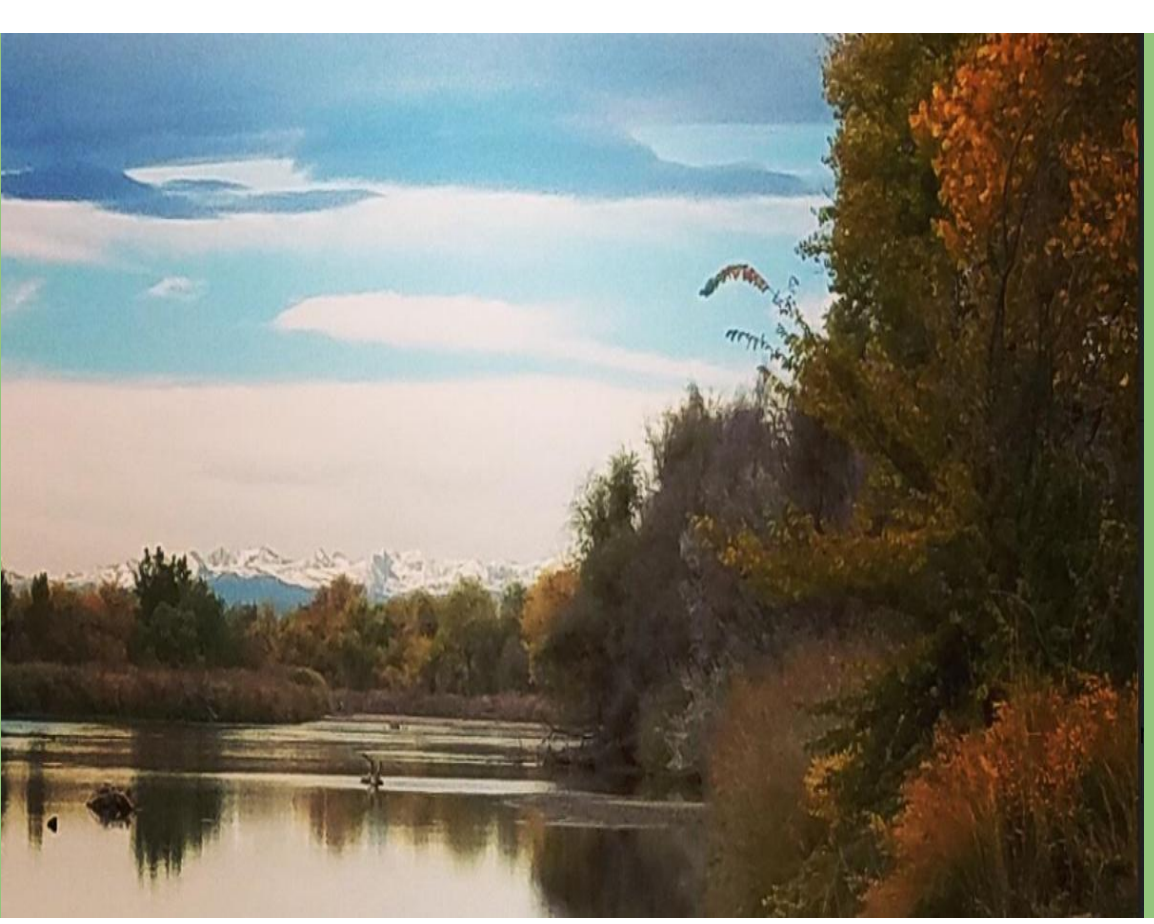




Gauging Landowner Participation in Healthy River Alliance

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Clearing The Channel

Along the Middle South Platte River, there are dairies, cattle feedlots, and crops that may require additives. With each of these land uses, there is a potential for nitrogen and phosphorus runoff directly into the watershed. However, to maintain healthy crops and livestock, clean freshwater needs to be consistently available for years to come.

During the flood of 2013, river banks and farmland were damaged. Our team's community partner, the Middle South Platte River Alliance, is focused on ecological restoration, water quality improvement and maintenance.

There is a need to establish communication with riverfront landowners that are willing to participate, and our group's objective is to provide the MSPRA with an outreach method.

Making Connections

The process to open this communication will involve data collection through a survey instrument consisting of Likert scales and open-ended questions to yield a better understanding of our stakeholders' values and concerns, in hopes of obtaining their support and willingness to participate in a water quality monitoring network. The survey, performed via Qualtrics, is broken into the following sections:

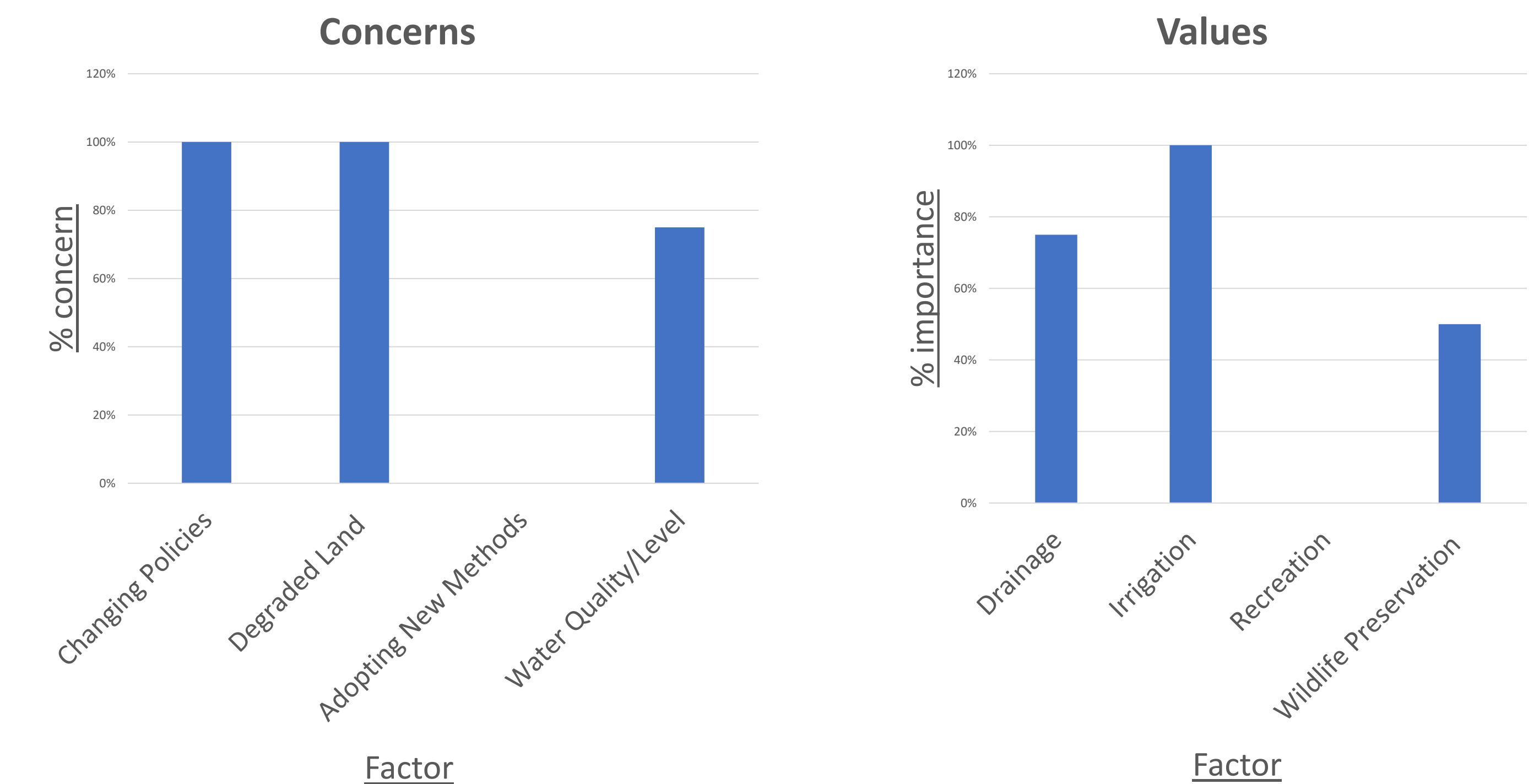
Section I: Personal Practices

Section II: River Usage

Section III: MSPRA Related Questions

Section IV: Concerns and Comments

Survey Says



Around The Bend

UNC students will continue to work with the MSPRA to interview landowners, and compile the survey results. Involvement of stakeholders' values in decision-making can garner high levels of support, making future projects even more successful. Working together, our community can have a healthy waterway; for wildlife, agriculture, recreation and conservation.

Pilot Survey Responses

How can MSPRA aid and protect your interests?

“I would like the big-picture to be kept in mind. The entire water-shed, not just a piece.”

What are the most pressing issues along the South Platte River?

“Rising population and how development plays a role.”

References <https://www.genigraphics.com/templates>

1. MSPRA website, <https://www.middlesouthplatte.org/>
2. Felix Kwame Yeboaha, Frank Lupi b,c, Michael D. Kaplowitz,, Agricultural landowners' willingness to participate in a filter strip program for watershed protection. Land Use Policy 49(2015) 75-85.

