

Benzie County

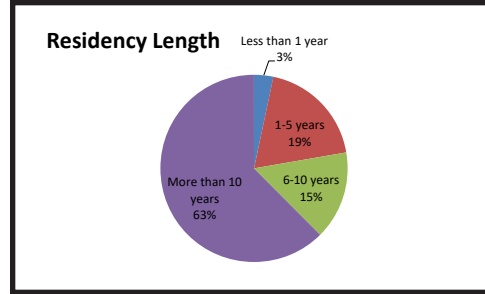
Natural Resource Assessment

2022



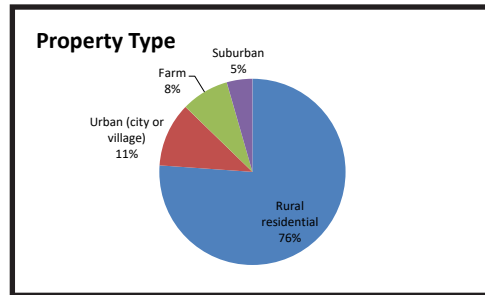
How long have you lived in Benzie County?

More than 10 years	188
1-5 years	57
6-10 years	46
Less than 1 year	10



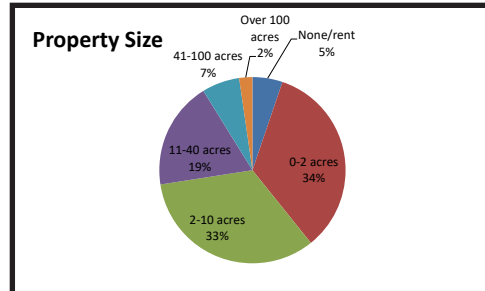
How much property do you own in Benzie County?

0-2 acres	104
2-10 acres	102
11-40 acres	57
41-100 acres	20
None/rent	16
Over 100 acres	7



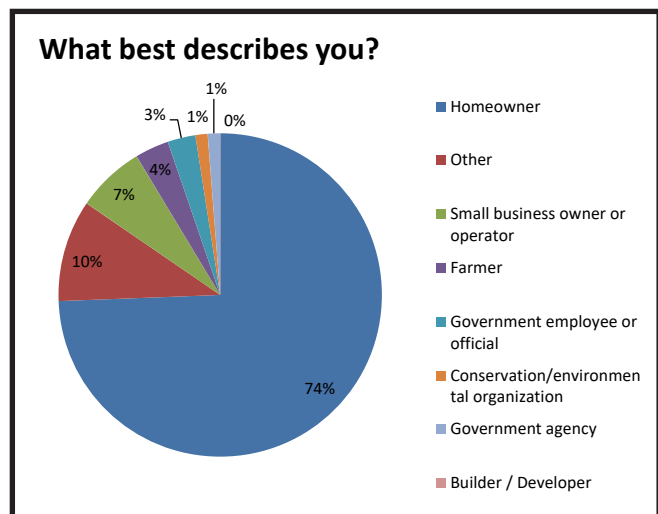
How would you describe the setting in which you live?

Rural residential	239
Urban (city or village)	35
Farm	26
Suburban	14

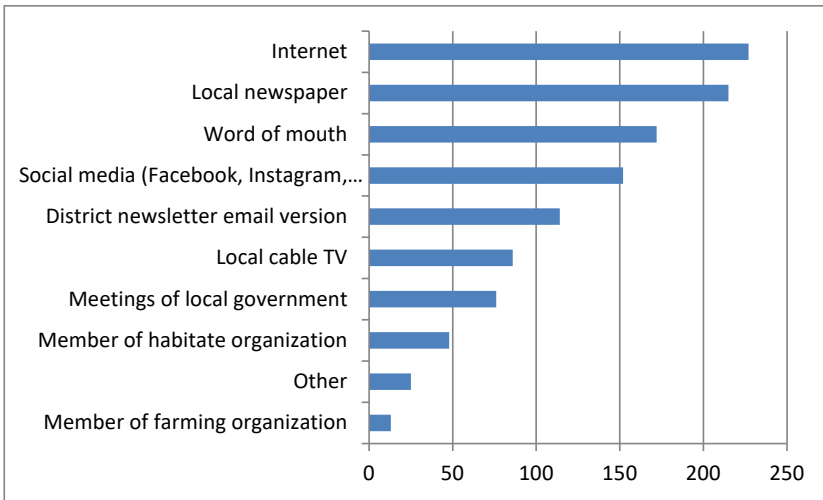


Which category best applies to you?

Homeowner	241
Other	33
Small business owner or operator	22
Farmer	11
Government employee or official	9
Conservation/environmental org	4
Government agency	4
Builder / Developer	0



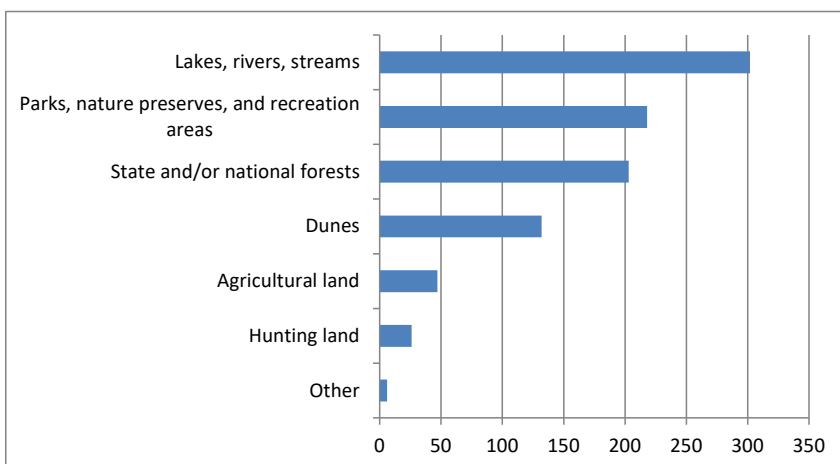
What sources do you use to keep informed about news and information concerning natural resource issues in Benzie County? You may select multiple options.



Internet	227
Local newspaper	215
Word of mouth	172
Social media	152
District newsletter email	114
Local cable TV	86
Meetings of local govt.	76
Member of habitate organization	48
Other	25
Member of farming organization	13

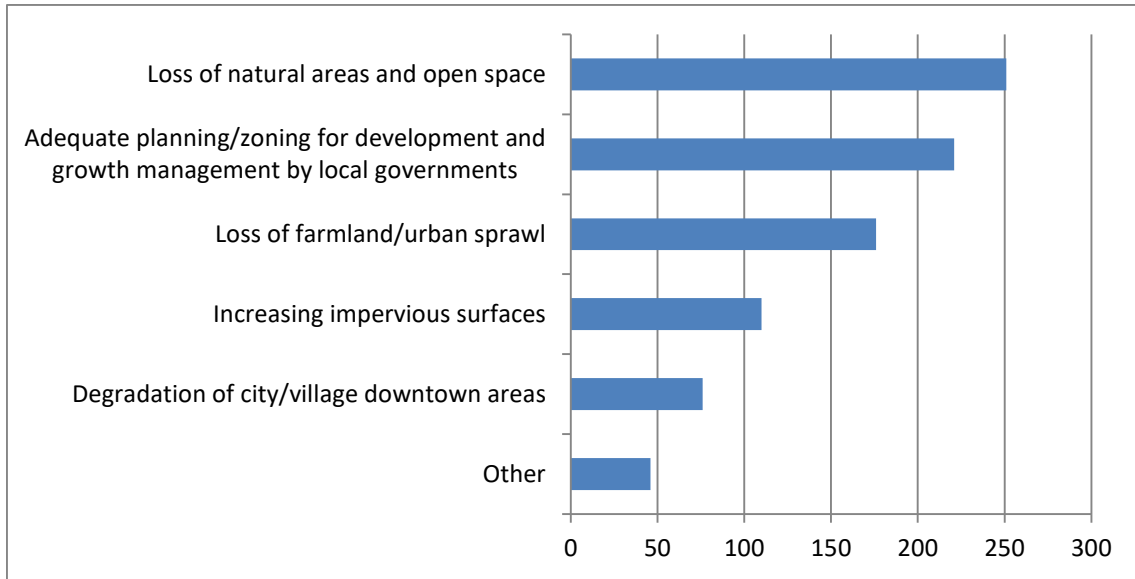


Please select three natural resources that you value the most in Benzie County:



Lakes, rivers, streams	302
Parks, preserves, recreation areas	218
State and/or national forests	203
Dunes	132
Agricultural land	47
Hunting land	26
Other	6

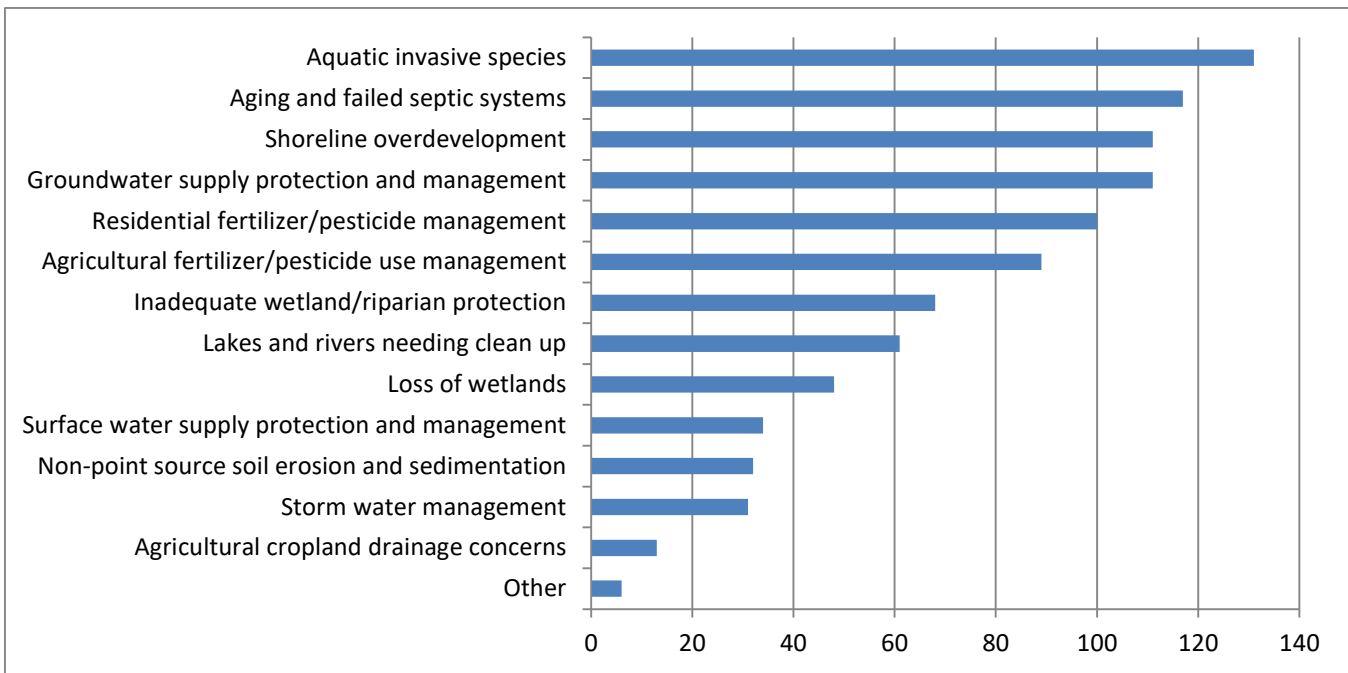
Please select the top 3 Land Use issues that you think will be of concern over the next 5 years in Benzie County:



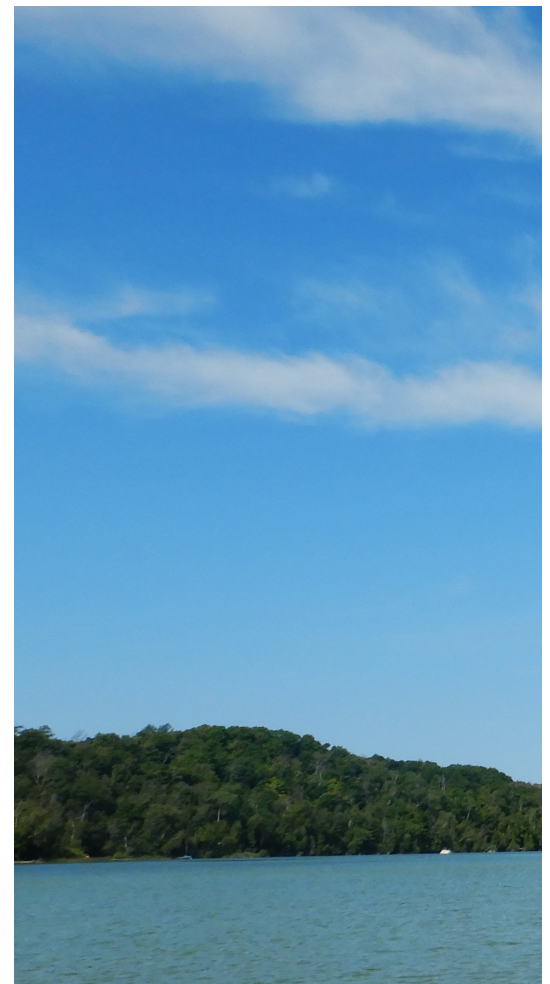
Loss of natural areas and open space	251
Adequate planning/zoning for development	221
Loss of farmland/urban sprawl	176
Increasing impervious surfaces	110
Degradation of city/village downtown areas	76
Other	46



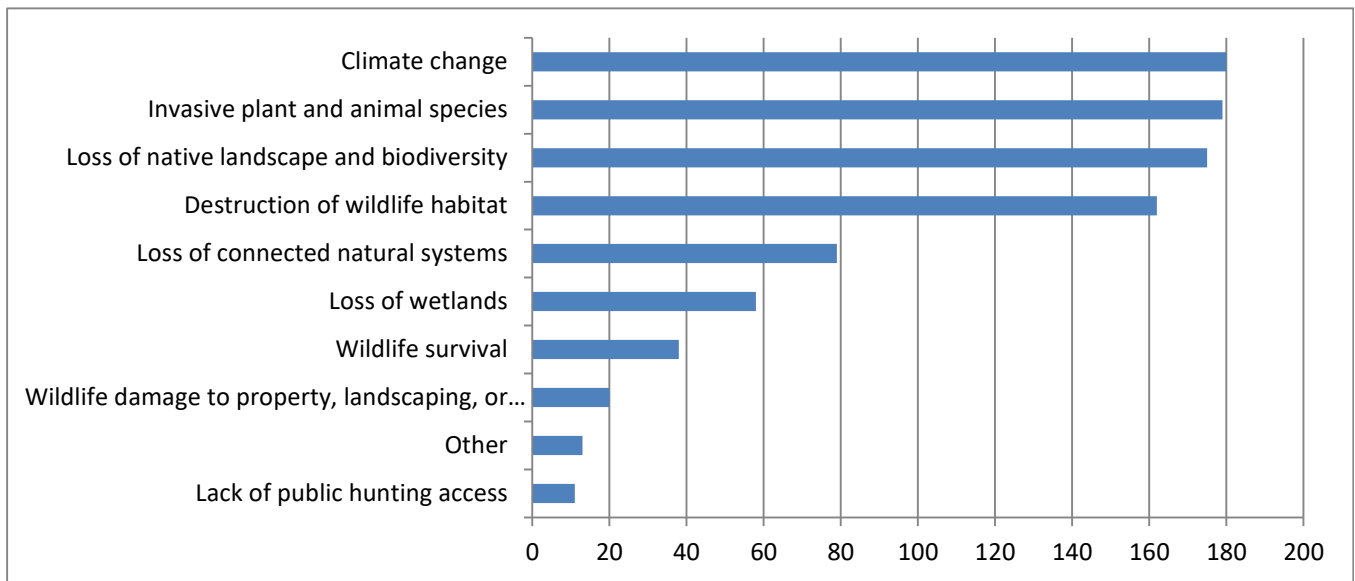
Please select the top 3 Water Quality issues that you think will be of concern over the next 5 years in Benzie County:



Aquatic invasive species	131
Aging and failed septic systems	117
Groundwater supply protection and management	111
Shoreline overdevelopment	111
Residential fertilizer/pesticide management	100
Agricultural fertilizer/pesticide use management	89
Inadequate wetland/riparian protection	68
Lakes and rivers needing clean up	61
Loss of wetlands	48
Surface water supply protection and management	34
Non-point source soil erosion and sedimentation	32
Storm water management	31
Agricultural cropland drainage concerns	13
Other	6



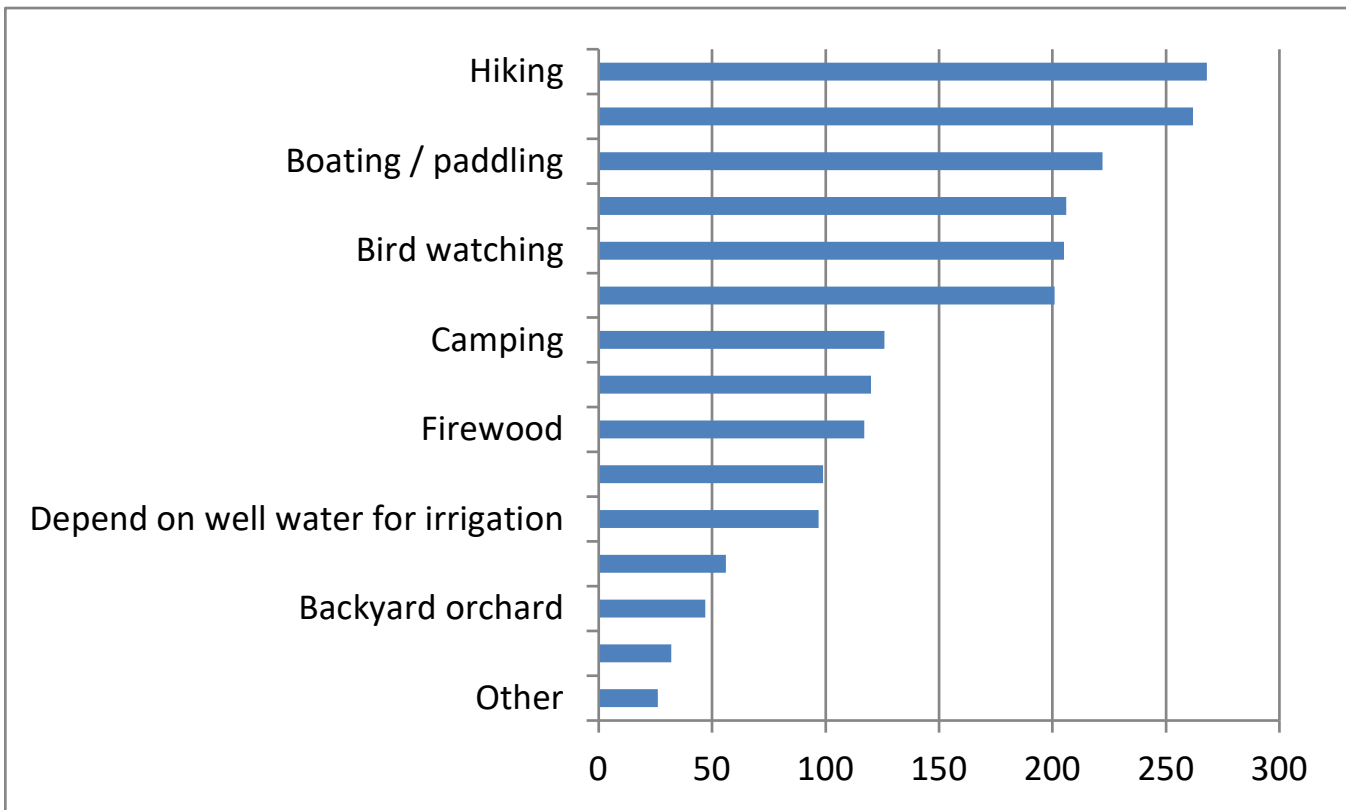
Please select the top 3 Wildlife and Habitat issues that you think will be of concern over the next 5 years in Benzie County:



Climate change	180
Invasive plant and animal species	179
Loss of native landscape and biodiversity	175
Destruction of wildlife habitat	162
Loss of connected natural systems	79
Loss of wetlands	58
Wildlife survival	38
Wildlife damage to property, crops, landscapes	20
Other	13
Lack of public hunting access	11



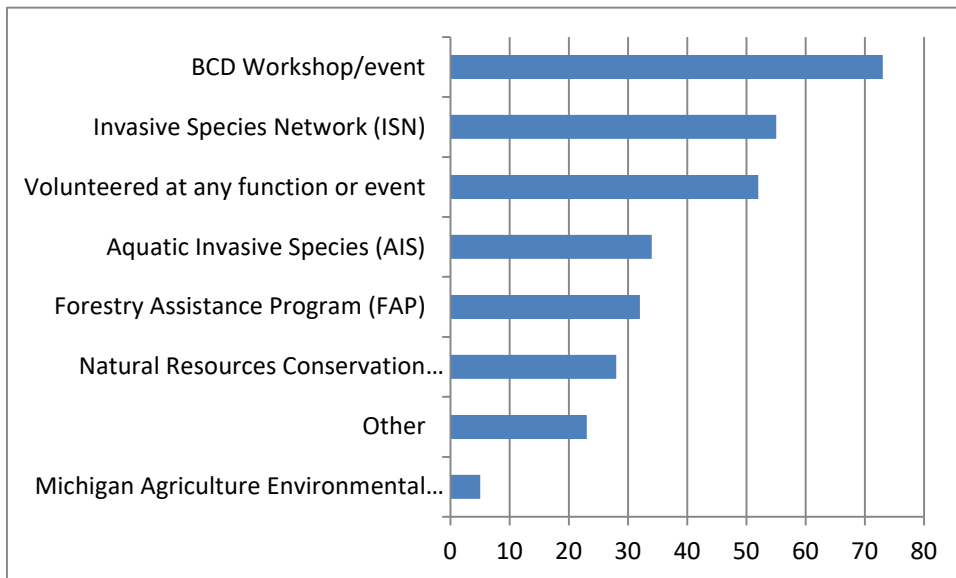
Many people utilize natural resources for recreation or other purposes. Please select from the ones available below. You may select multiple choices.



Hiking	268
Depend on well water for drinking supply	262
Boating / paddling	222
Swimming	206
Bird watching	205
Home gardening	201
Camping	126
Fishing	120
Firewood	117
Foraging	99
Depend on well water for irrigation	97
Hunting	56
Backyard orchard	47
Farming	32
Other	26



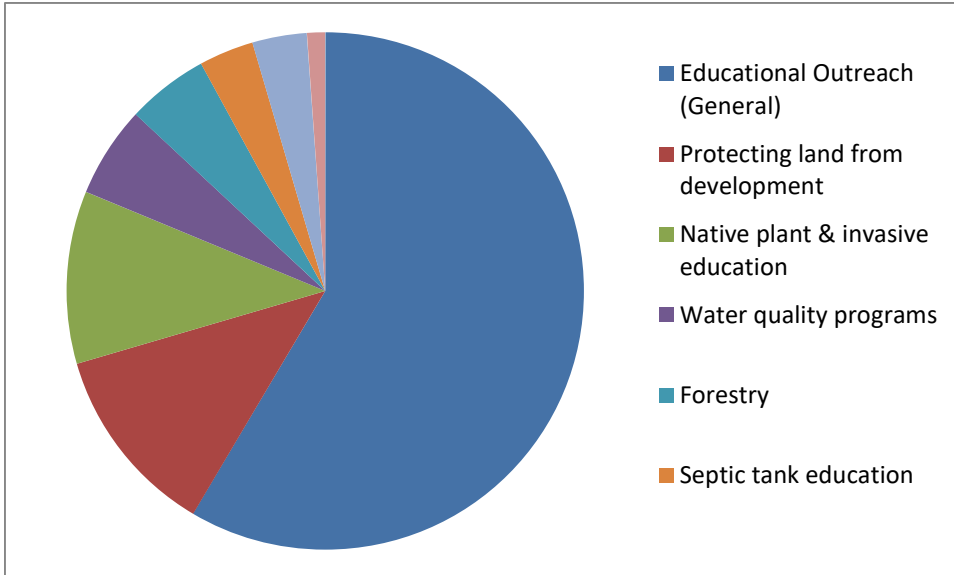
Have you participated in BCD programming? You may select multiple choices.



BCD Workshop/event	73
Invasive Species Network (ISN)	55
Volunteered at any function or event	52
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	34
Forestry Assistance Program (FAP)	32
Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)	28
Other	23
Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assistance Program (MAEAP)	5



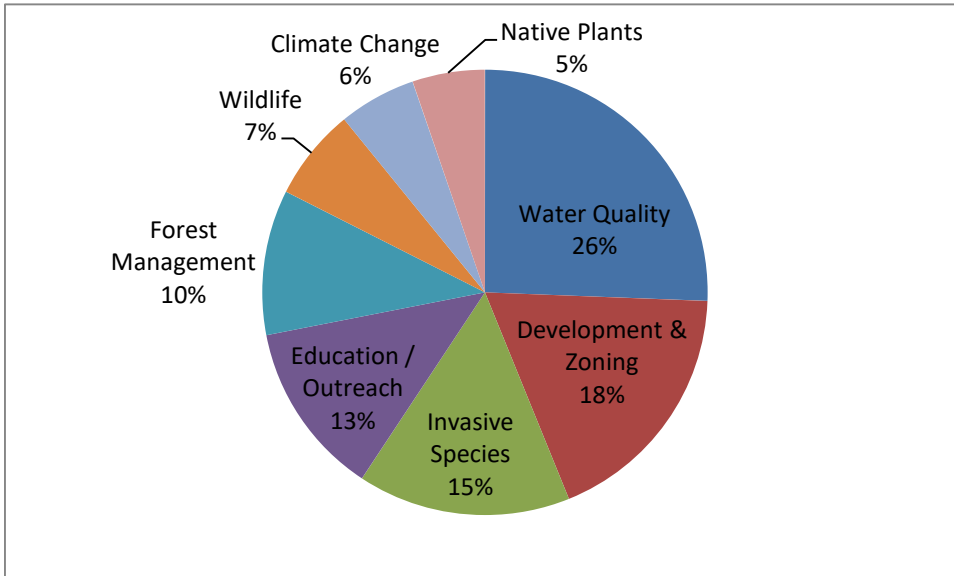
What is the most important change or improvement in service you think Benzie Conservation District should do to help you on your land or in your community? (Programs, activities, information, etc.)



Educational Outreach (General)	103
Protecting land from development	21
Native plant & invasive education	19
Water quality programs	10
Forestry	9
Septic tank education	6
Shoreline protection	6
Hikes & other programs	2



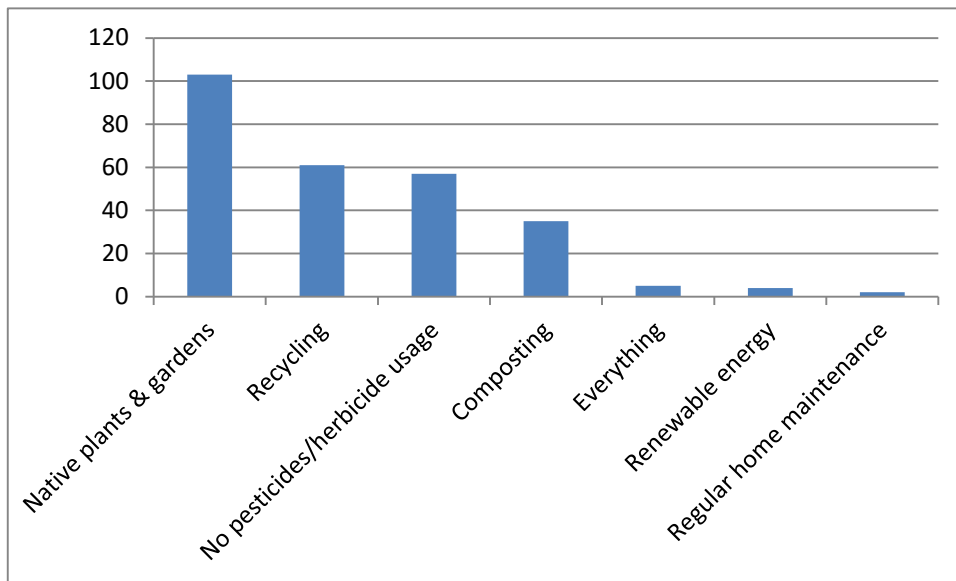
What do you feel are the most important conservation practices offered or services you feel the Benzie Conservation District should focus on in the next 5 years?



Water Quality	73
Development & Zoning	52
Invasive Species	44
Education / Outreach	36
Forest Management	30
Wildlife	19
Climate Change	16
Native Plants	15



What conservation activities do you practice on your land or in your home?



Native plants & gardens	103
Recycling	61
No pesticides/herbicide usage	57
Composting	35
Everything	5
Renewable energy	4
Regular home maintenance	2

