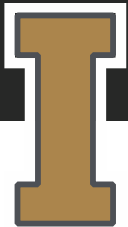


*6th National Conference on Grazing
Lands*
Grapevine, TX December 13-16, 2015

RANCHER AND COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO: CHANGES AND COMMONALITY THROUGH TIME

NEIL RIMBEY, J.D. WULFHORST, K. SCOTT JENSEN, &
PAUL LEWIN



CURRENT STUDY OVERVIEW

1. Input / Output model (Lewin, Rimbey, Jensen, 2014)
2. Qualitative assessment (Wulfhorst, 2014-15)
 - The 'wandering'
 - 24 of 27 interviews completed
3. 4-County social survey (Wulfhorst / all, 2015)
 - 3 sub-samples: Owyhee Co, urban 3-Co, rural 3-Co
4. Ranch-level analysis (Rimbey, Jensen, 2016)

STUDY AREA

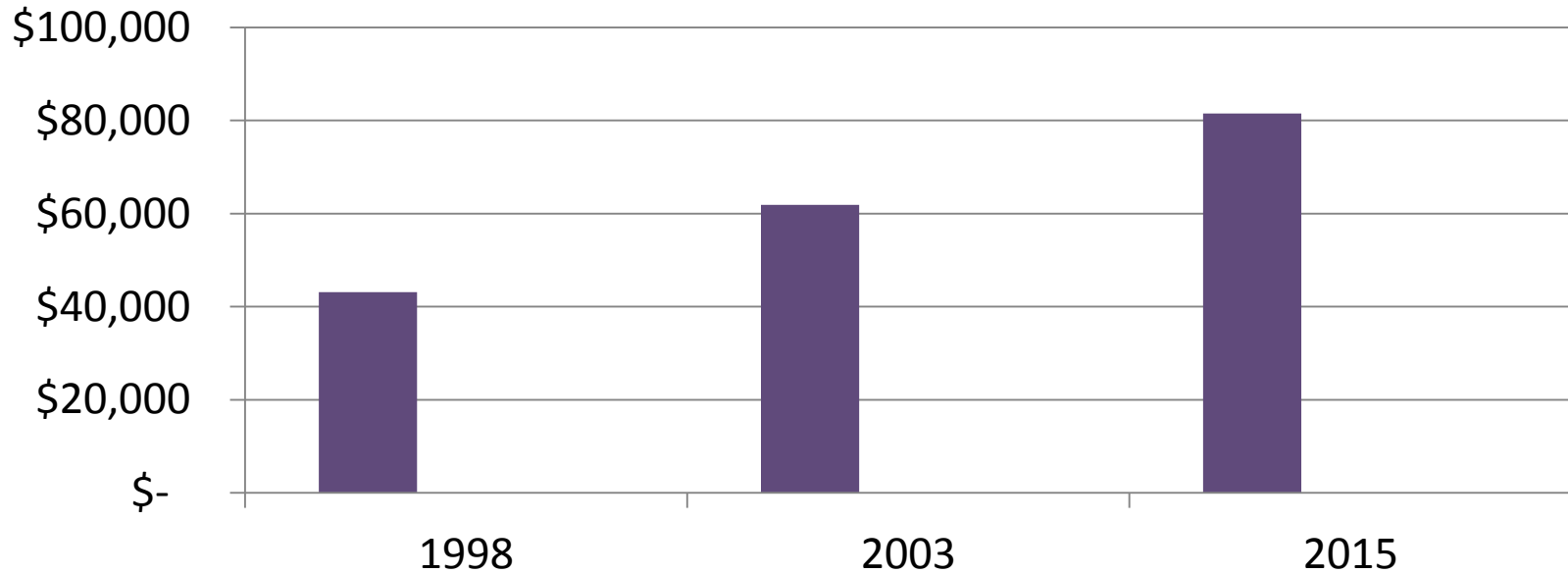


FIGURE 1. Map of Southwestern Idaho

UI OWYHEE STUDIES

- 1979-80: Original Grazing EIS settlement. Strictly local and regional economic impacts.
- 1998-99: BLM RMP driven study. Social and Economic impact analysis. (Owyhee only)
- 2002-03: Another BLM RMP driven study. Social and Economic impact analysis. (Owyhee and 4 SW Idaho counties)
- 2014-16: Owyhee County Commission funded study over 3 years. Social and Economic impact analysis. (Owyhee and 4 SW Idaho counties)

UI OWYHEE STUDIES AND \$ SOURCES



1998 sources: Boise District Grazing Board, Bureau of Land Management, Owyhee Cattleman's Association, Owyhee County Commission

2003 source: Bureau of Land Management (ID State)

2014-16 source: Owyhee County Commission

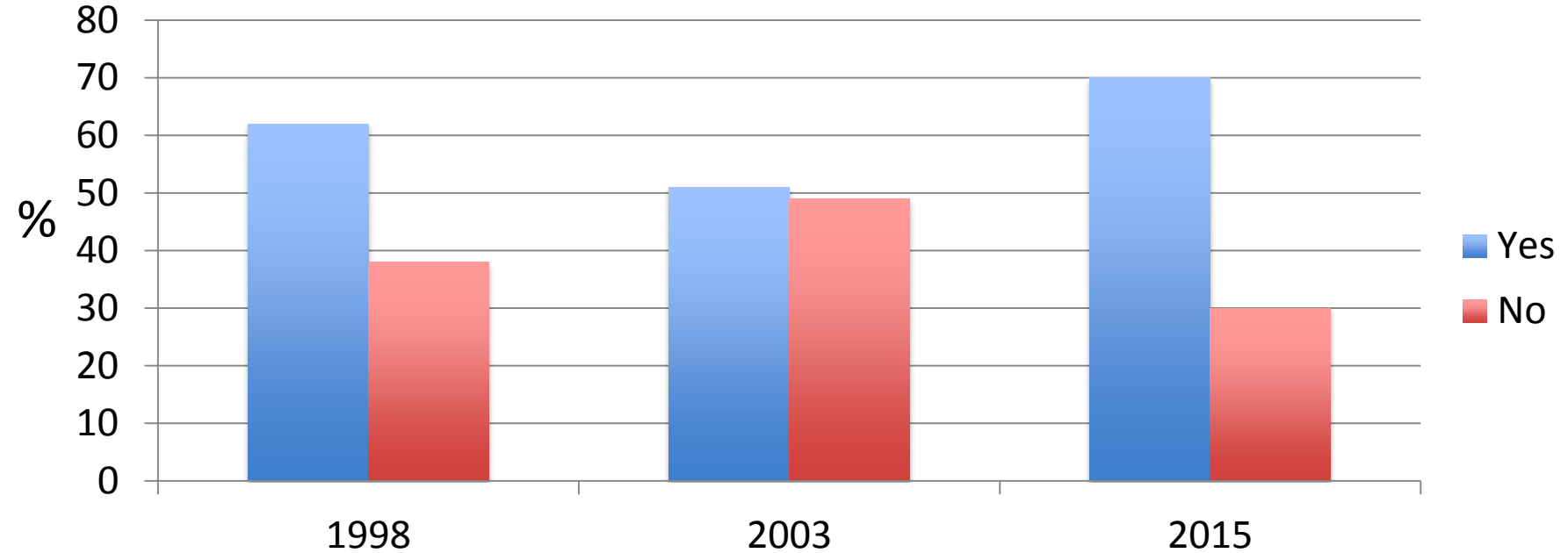
SURVEY METHODOLOGY (OC-ONLY)

	1998-1999	2002-03	2015
Completed surveys	N = 553	N = 385	N = 166
Response rate	76%	64%	21%
Sampling frame / structure	Single-frame (LLines), simple random sample	Single-frame (LLines), simple random sample	Dual-frame, random-digit dial frame (cell & LLines) / simple random sample

OVERVIEW OF COMPARATIVE DATA

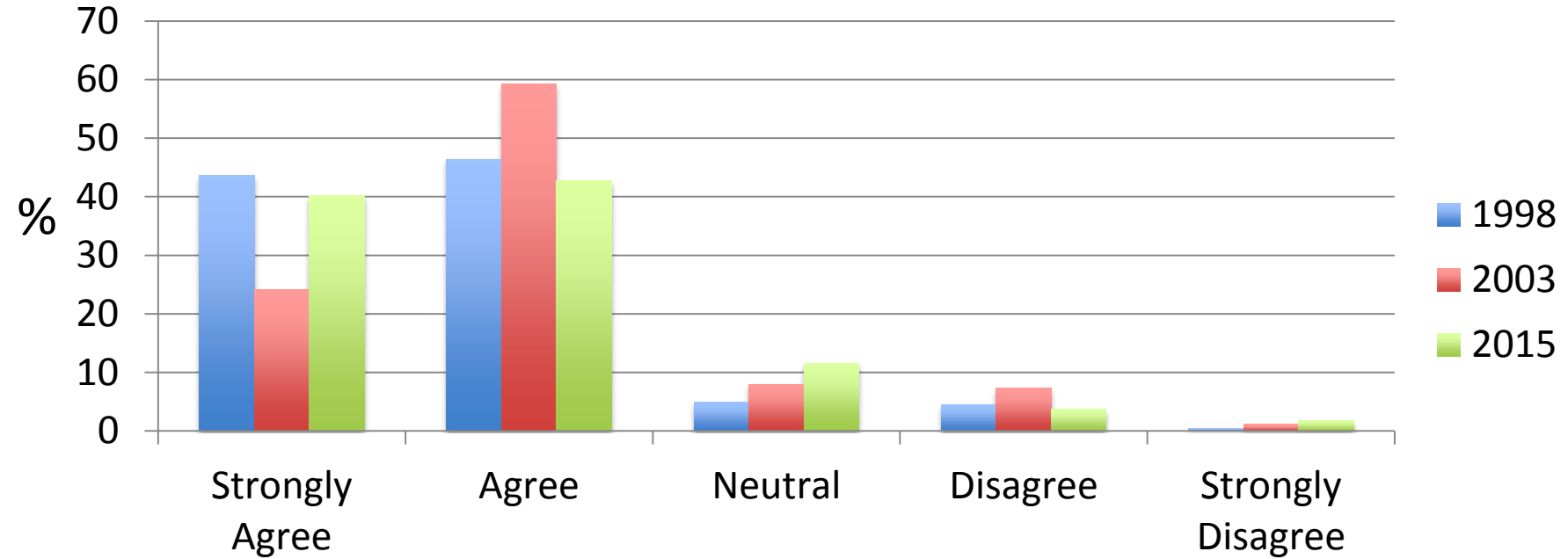
Measure	1998-99	2002-03	2015
Do any of your close friends run cattle ranches?	✓	✓	✓
Cohesion: 1) belong to community; 2) people similar	✓	?	✓
Cohesion: 1) loyal to community; 2) borrow / exchange favors	✓	✓	✓
Cohesion: 1) rare to visit neighbors; 2) feel connected in comm.		✓	✓
Cohesion: 1) live here gives sense of comm.	✓	✓	
NR / Public lands use: 1) enough Wild.; 2) grazing on PL; 3) wildlife protection on PL		✓	✓
ORV use on PL, Public particip. NR mtgs, recreational use		✓	✓

DO YOU HAVE CLOSE FRIENDS THAT RUN A RANCH?



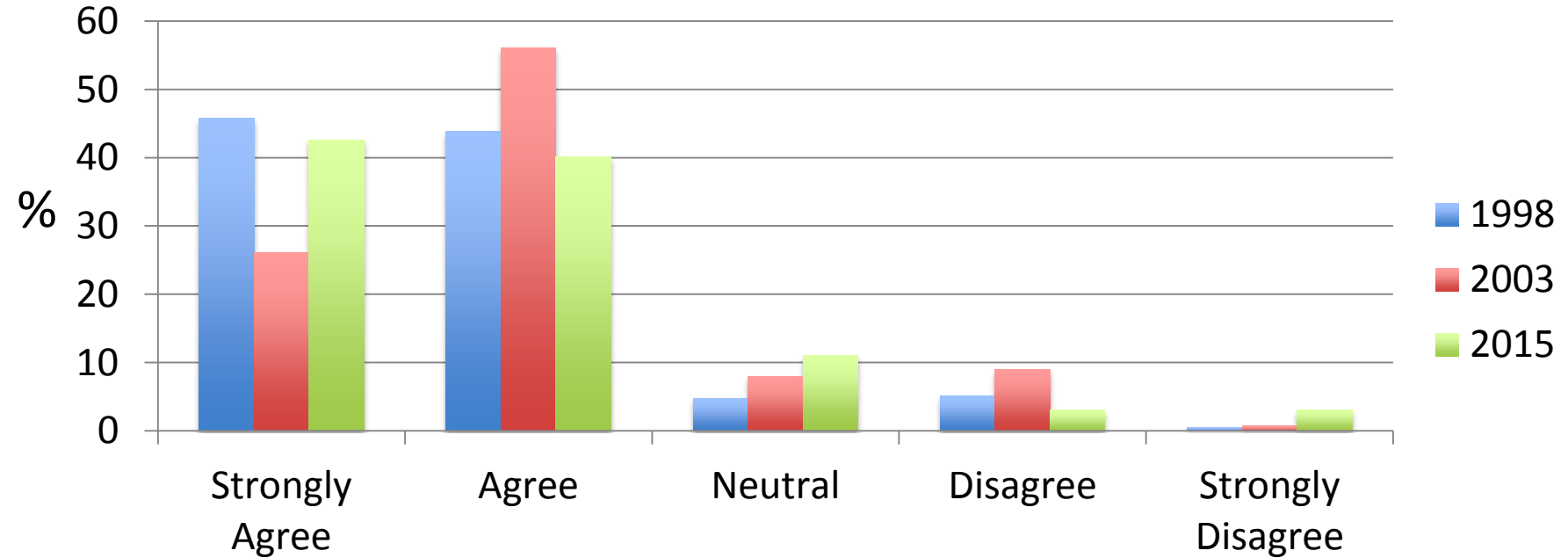
COHESION:

LIVING HERE GIVES SENSE OF COMMUNITY



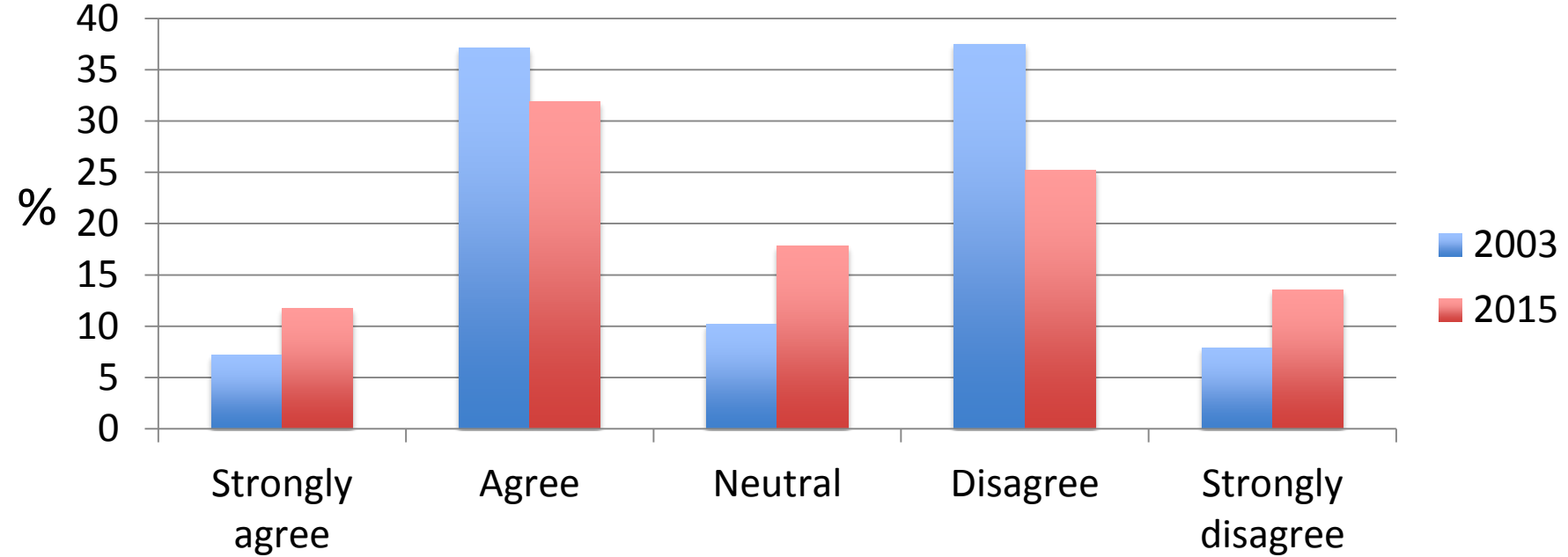
COHESION:

I CAN BORROW THINGS AND EXCHANGE FAVORS WITH NEIGHBORS



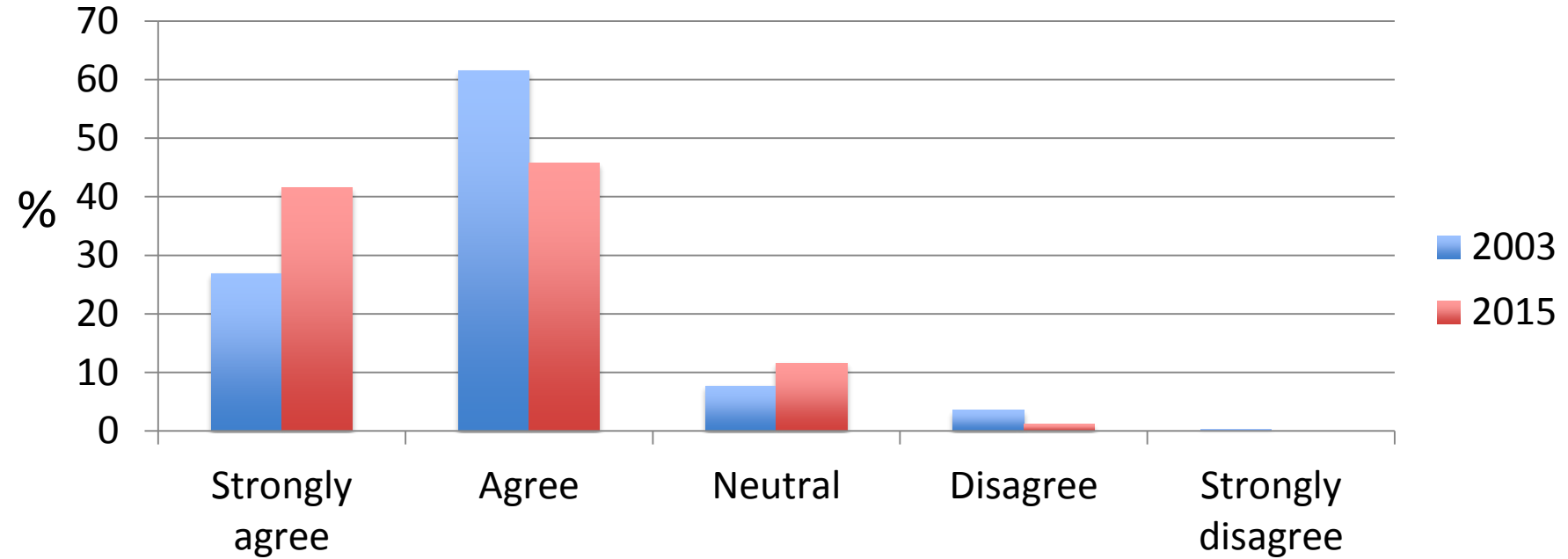
COHESION:

I RARELY HAVE NEIGHBORS OVER TO MY HOUSE TO VISIT



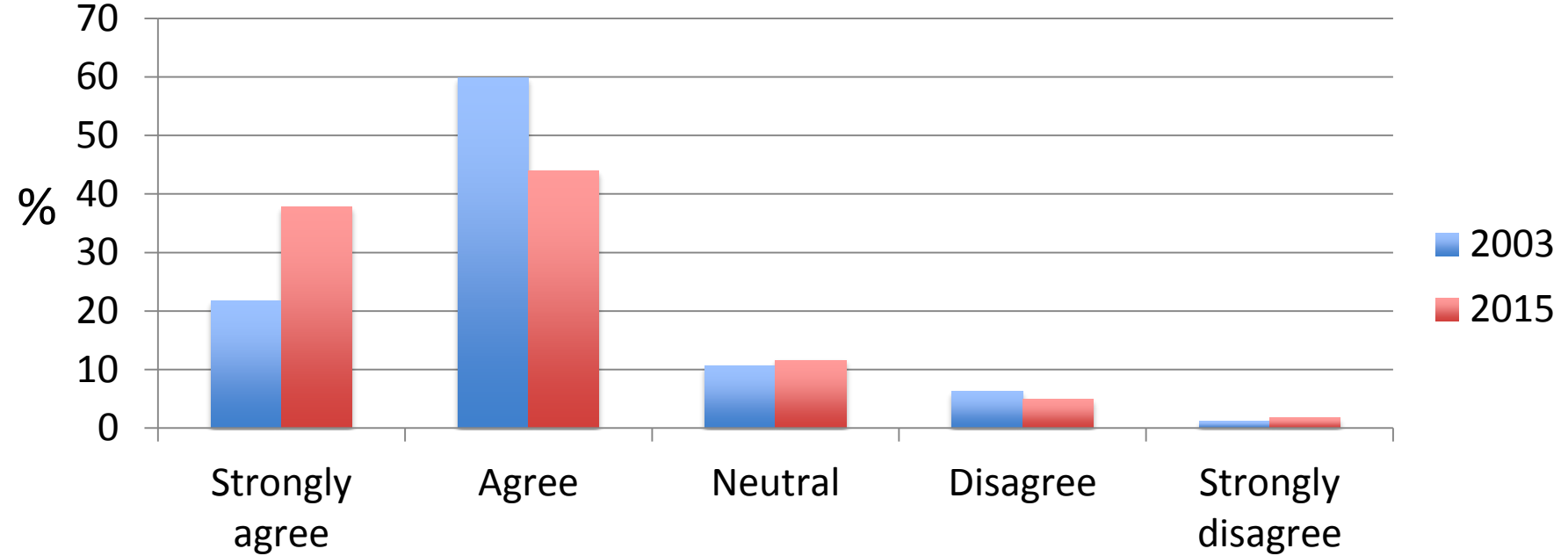
COHESION:

I FEEL LOYAL TO THE PEOPLE IN MY COMMUNITY



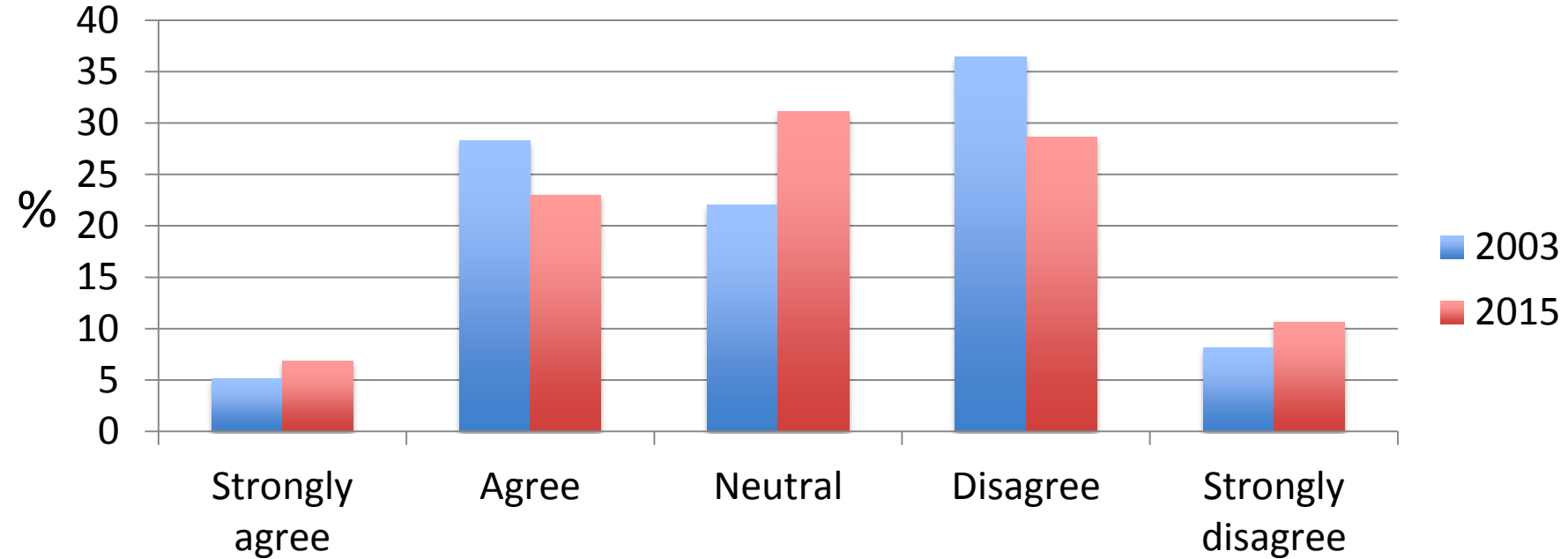
COHESION:

I FEEL A PART OF THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THE FRIENDLINESS



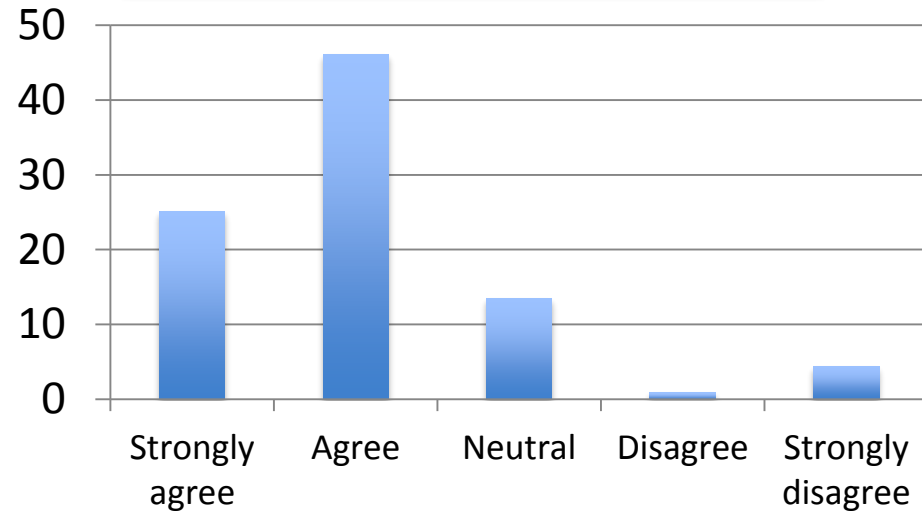
ORV USE ON PUBLIC LANDS:

“IDAHO NEEDS MORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORVs ON PUBLIC LANDS”

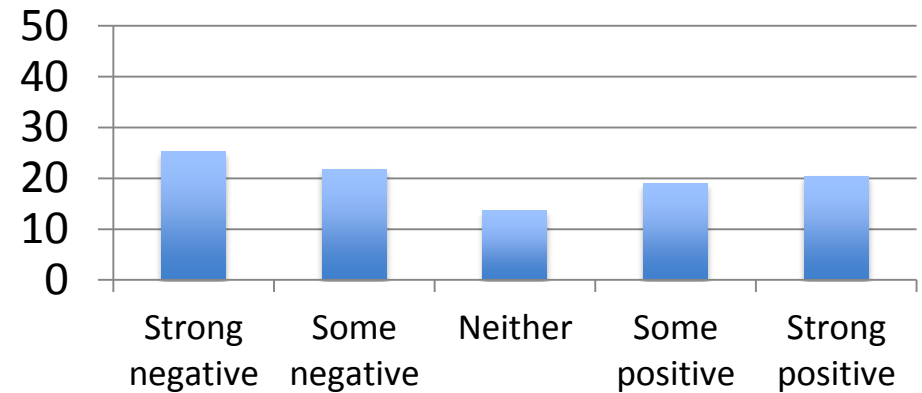


EFFECTS OF LEGALLY DESIGNATED WILDERNESS

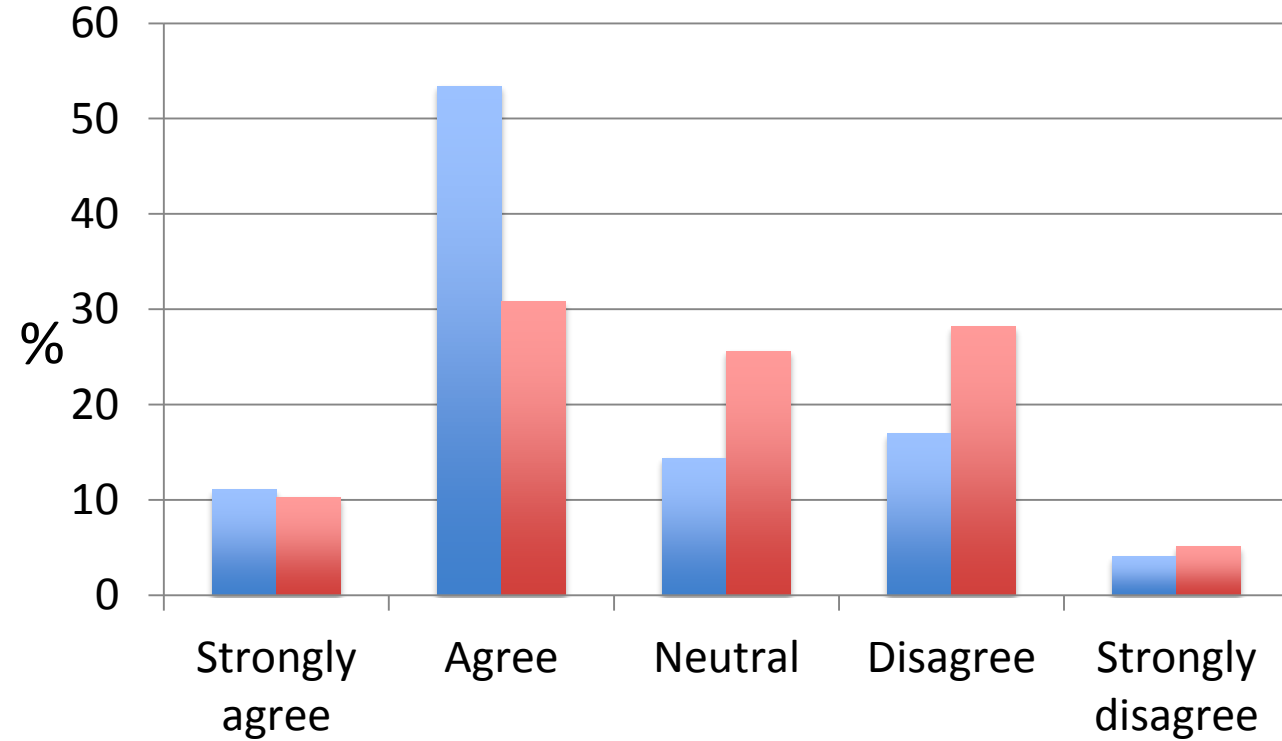
2003: "we have enough legally designated wilderness areas in Idaho"



2015: "do you think the legally designated wilderness areas in Owyhee Co have a '+' or '-' impact to local communities?"

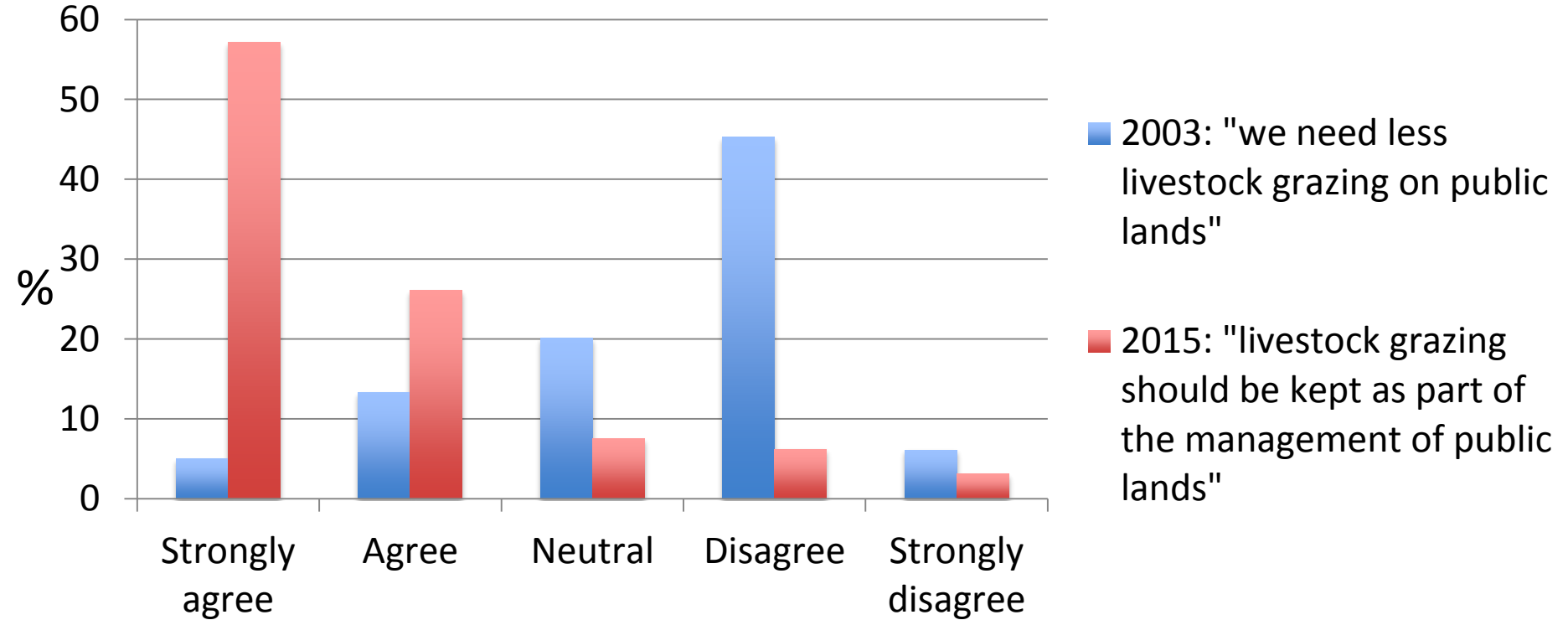


WILDLIFE PROTECTION



- 2003: "we have enough wildlife protection in ID"
- 2015: "ID needs greater wildlife protection"

LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS



IMPLICATIONS...

- Social science data trends can be measured and are equally important as range or production trends (proper/consistent design of study over time)
- Livestock grazing use of rangelands is strongly supported in the county/region
- There remains a strong sense of community in the county
- Perceptions appear to be affected by current issues facing the public (e.g. wilderness, ORV use, and wildlife protection)
- Environmental vs. Conservation concerns