



U.S. Non-collegiate Golf Course Superintendent's Perception of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

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Introduction

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) is administered by Audubon International (Troy, NY) and is a partnership with the United States Golf Association which recognizes sustainable golf course management practices. There are six categories of the ACSP certification (Figure 1). Currently, 13% of the estimated 15,000 golf courses in the U.S. have achieved some level of ACSP certification, while only 5% of U.S. golf courses have achieved certification in all six categories (1).

Figure 3. ACSP certification status of U.S. non-collegiate golf courses.

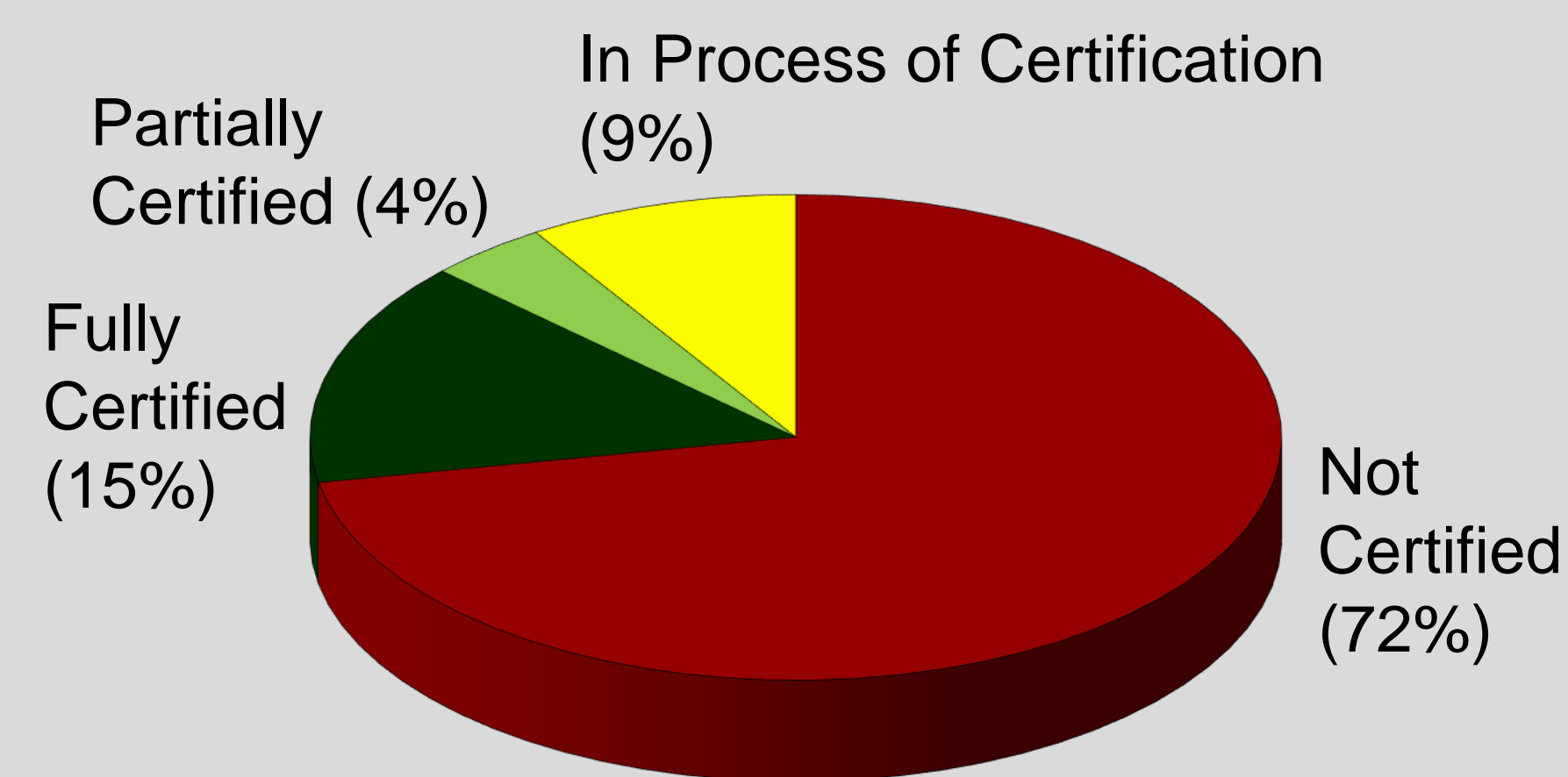


Table 1. Number of superintendents who rated each ACSP Certification category as either; very easy, easy, neutral, difficult or very difficult to achieve on their course.

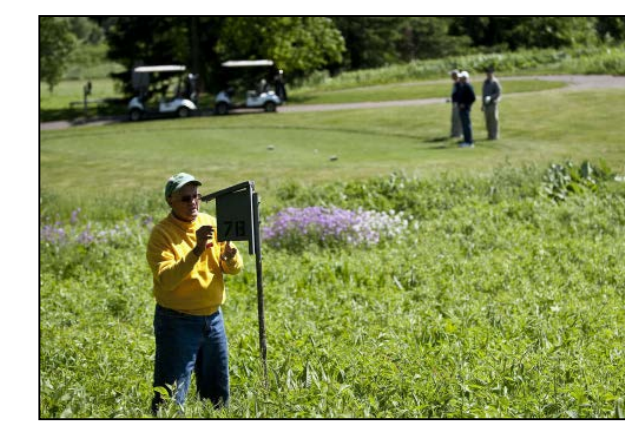
ACSP Category	Very Easy	Easy	Neutral	Difficult	Very Difficult	No Certification
Environmental Planning	1	13	27	7	0	1
Wildlife and Habitat Management	1	16	23	5	0	3
Chemical Use Reduction and Safety	0	14	22	9	1	2
Water Conservation	5	14	20	5	1	3
Water Quality Management	2	14	19	8	3	2
Outreach and Education	1	5	25	11	4	3

There were a total of 49 superintendents with either partial or full certification that responded to this question.

Figure 1. Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification Categories (1).



Environmental Planning



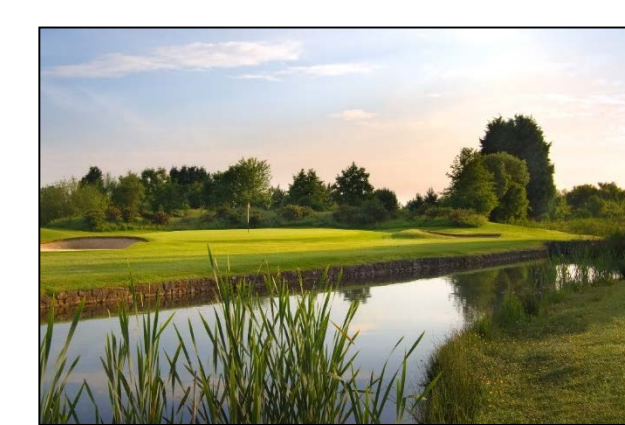
Wildlife & Habitat Management



Chemical Use Reduction & Safety



Water Conservation

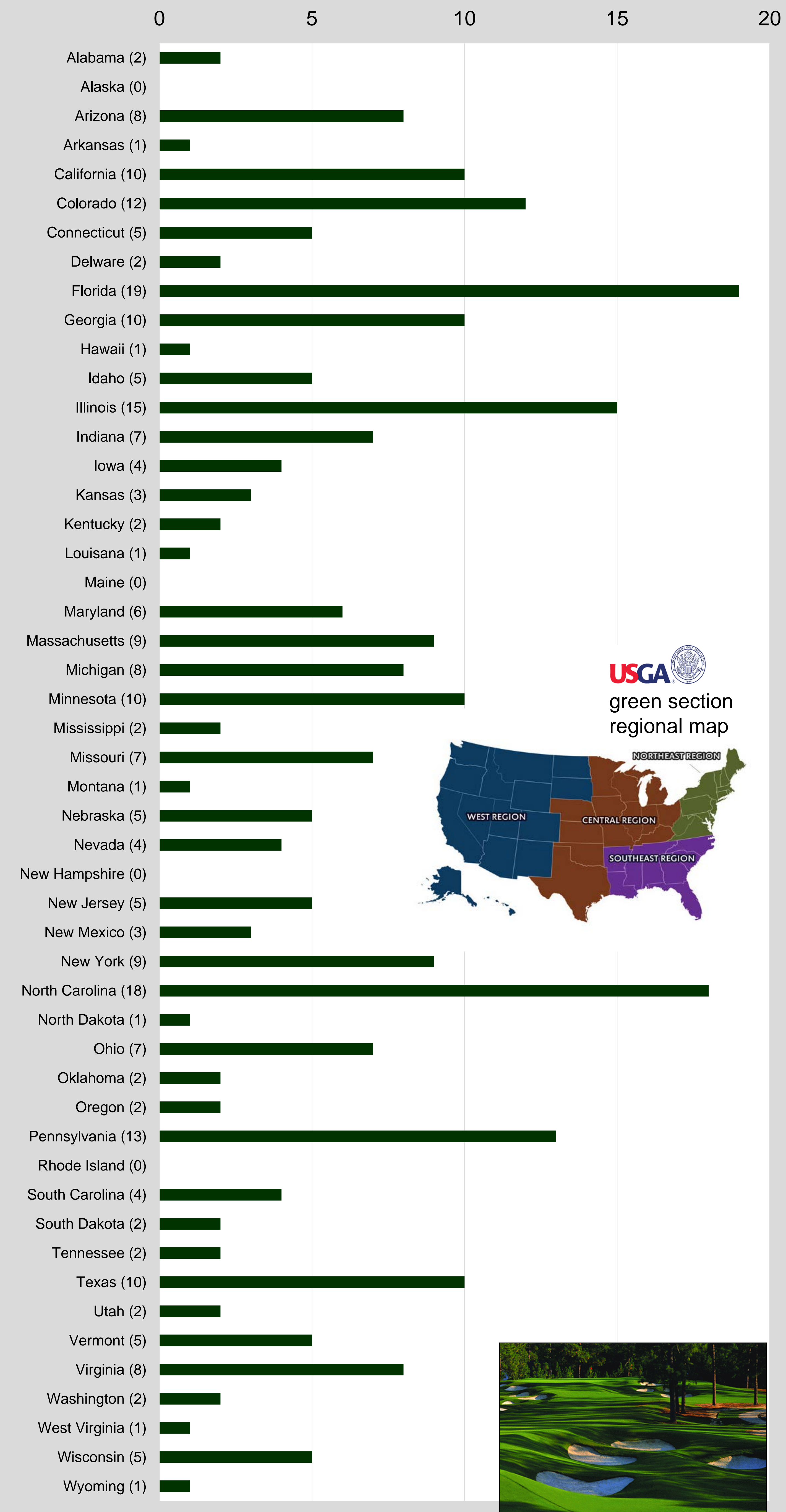


Water Quality Management



Outreach & Education

Figure 2. Number of GCSAA superintendent survey responses by U.S. state.



Conclusions

Interest exists in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program at U.S. golf courses. There is also interest in student assistance from superintendents in the ACSP certification process. While cost was the biggest reason for not being certified, it was reported by superintendents at ACSP-certified courses that time and labor involved in certification are actually the most difficult obstacles to overcome.



Cited References

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