

# WESTERN MONTANA CLIMBERS COALITION

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Qualitative Results from the 2021 Survey Report

# Questions

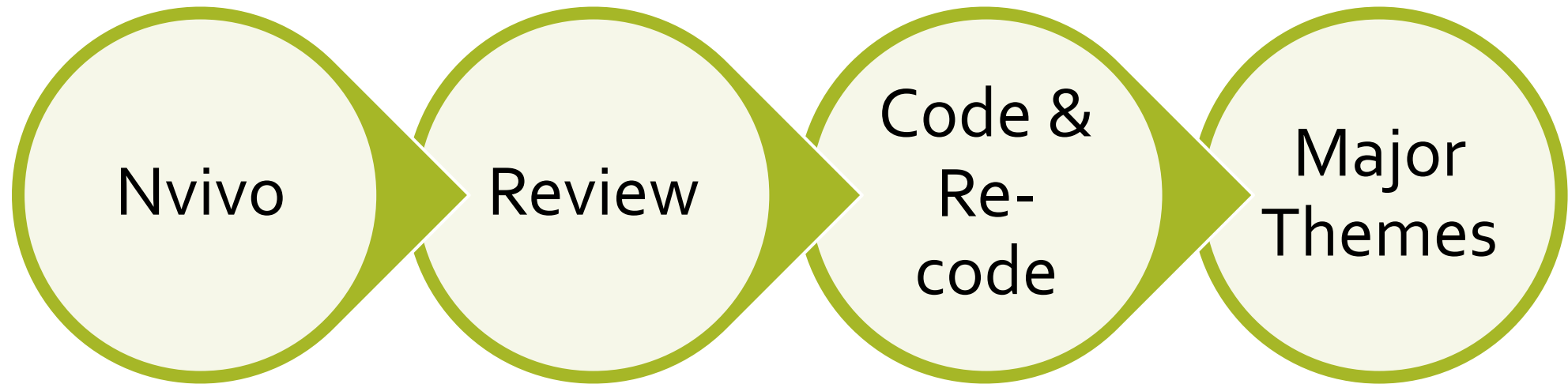
Question 71:

List up to three things that land managers could do to increase the trust of the climbing community

Question 73:

List up to three things that the climbing community could do to increase the trust of land managers

# Research Methods



# Results:

Question 71  
What can  
land  
managers  
do?

- **Codes and sub-codes**
  - **Communication**
    - Learn from/Work with climbers
    - Transparency
  - **Systematic Process**
  - **Fair Treatment**
  - Allow Development
  - Inclusion in Maintenance
  - Access
  - Research
  - Legitimize Climbing
  - Recognize Efforts of Climbers
  - Protect Resources
  - Not Sure
  - Don't Intervene in Climbing
  - Nothing, Trust is Fine as is

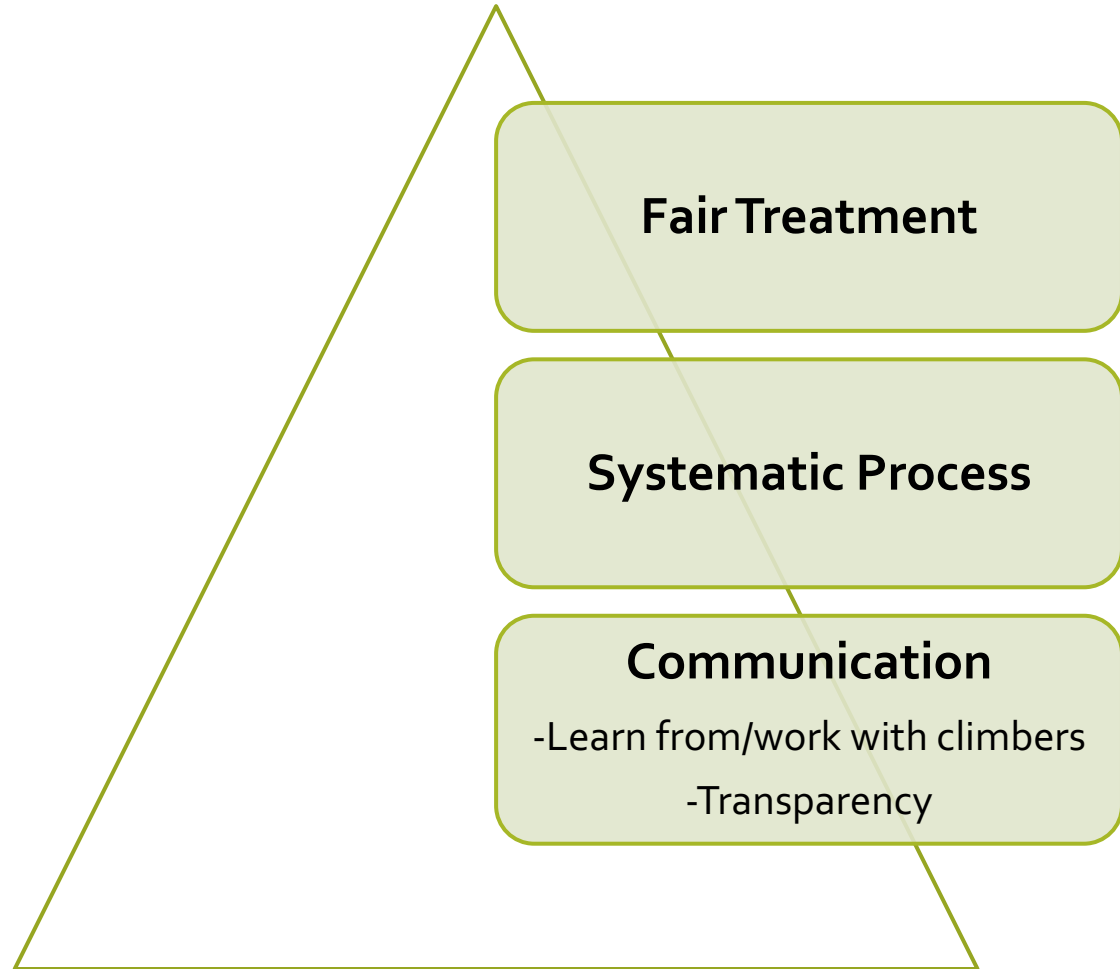
# Results:

Question 73:  
What can  
climbers  
do?

- Codes and sub-codes
  - **Maintain the land**
    - LNT
  - **Follow the Rules**
  - **Unite the Climbing Community**
    - **Police the Climbing Community**
  - Respect
  - Engage
  - Organize Events to Give Back
  - Practice Discretion
  - Work with Land Mangers
  - Respect other User Groups
  - Protect Wildlife
  - Build Relationships
  - Be Considerate
  - Don't Overcrowd Climbing Areas
  - Don't Assume Land Managers...
  - Camouflage Hardware
  - Be discrete
  - We've Done Them All
  - Privilege not a Right
  - Dogs
  - Collaborate with Other Users
  - Be Safe

# Results:

List up to three things that land managers could do to increase the trust of the climbing community



# Communication to increase trust

## **Communication:**

Instances where participants suggested the need for an increase in land managers sharing & receiving information with/from the community

## **Learn from/work with Climbers (72):**

Listening to and engaging with climbers to better understand the sport and ethics

## **Transparency (25):**

Providing clear, robust, and accurate information about land manager intentions and climbing management plan progression in a timely fashion

# Communication: Learn from/work with climbers

- “Increase communication with climbers; ideally go climbing with someone from WMTCC”
- “Learn more about climbing as a user group, don't suddenly close climbing areas, involve climbers more in the decision process”
- “No sudden changes to regulations without the input and exploration of community”



# Communication: Transparency

- “Transparency in actions, accept and review public comments, use science and data to make informed decisions”
- “Provide transparent decision making and solicit user input”
- “Have open communication about climbing access and issues before totally making a ban. Working with both the climbers and land managers in an open communication helps understand both sides and can help resolve a lot of issues.”

# Systematic Process to increase trust

Systematic  
Process (46):  
Instituting a  
decision-making  
process that is  
consistent and  
trackable

- “Produce guidelines for climbing/development on public lands that are clear and show a nuanced understanding of what the activity entails.”
- “Allow for more public input during decision making processes. Support decisions with evidence/studies whenever possible. Communicate purpose behind decisions being made.”
- “Learning more about climbing on the BNF, gather more data, consider and communicate with local climbers more on a broader level before implementing strong climbing management plans.”

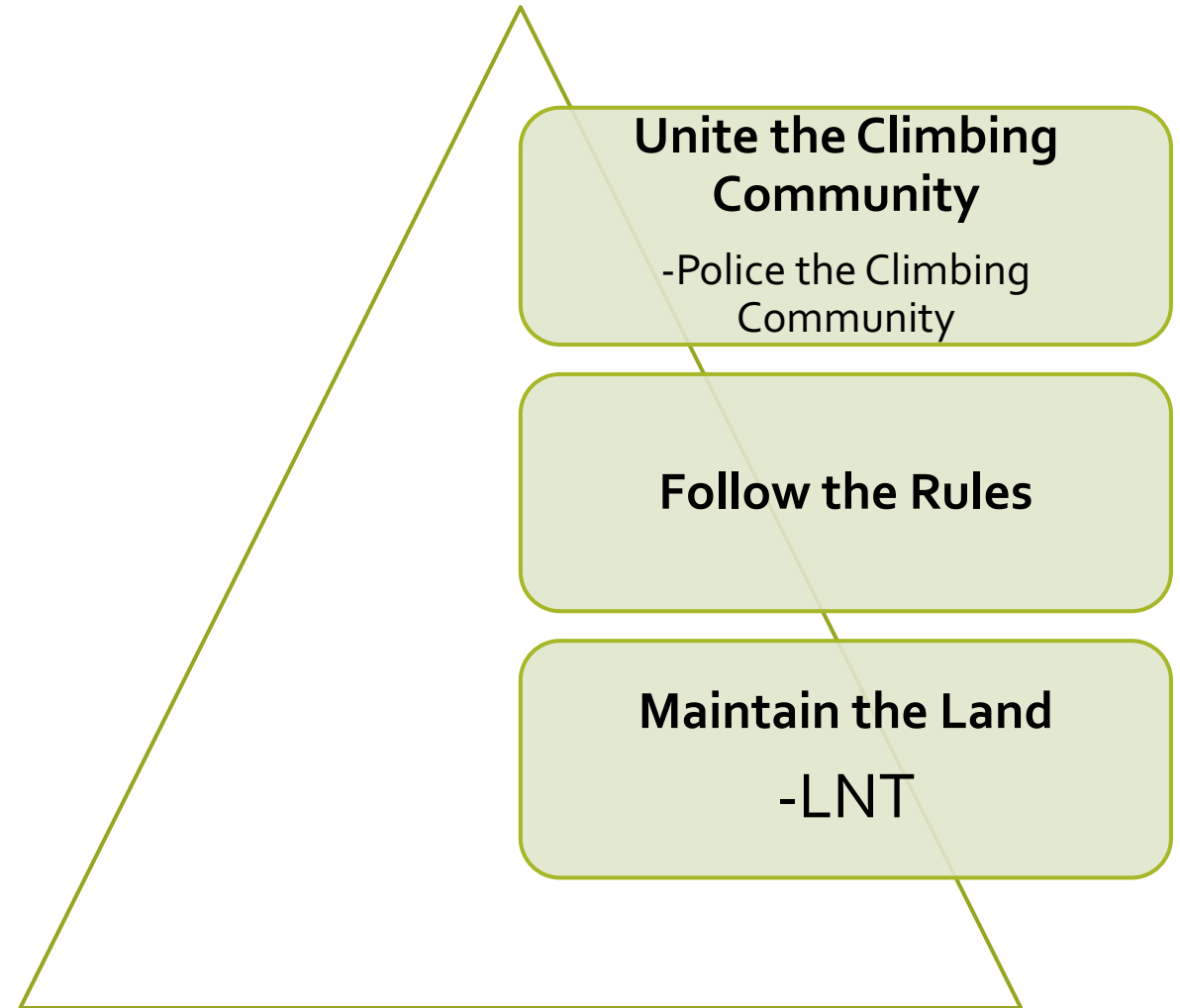
# Fair Treatment to increase trust

Fair Treatment  
(37): Ensure that  
climbing/climbers  
are treated  
equally to other  
public land users

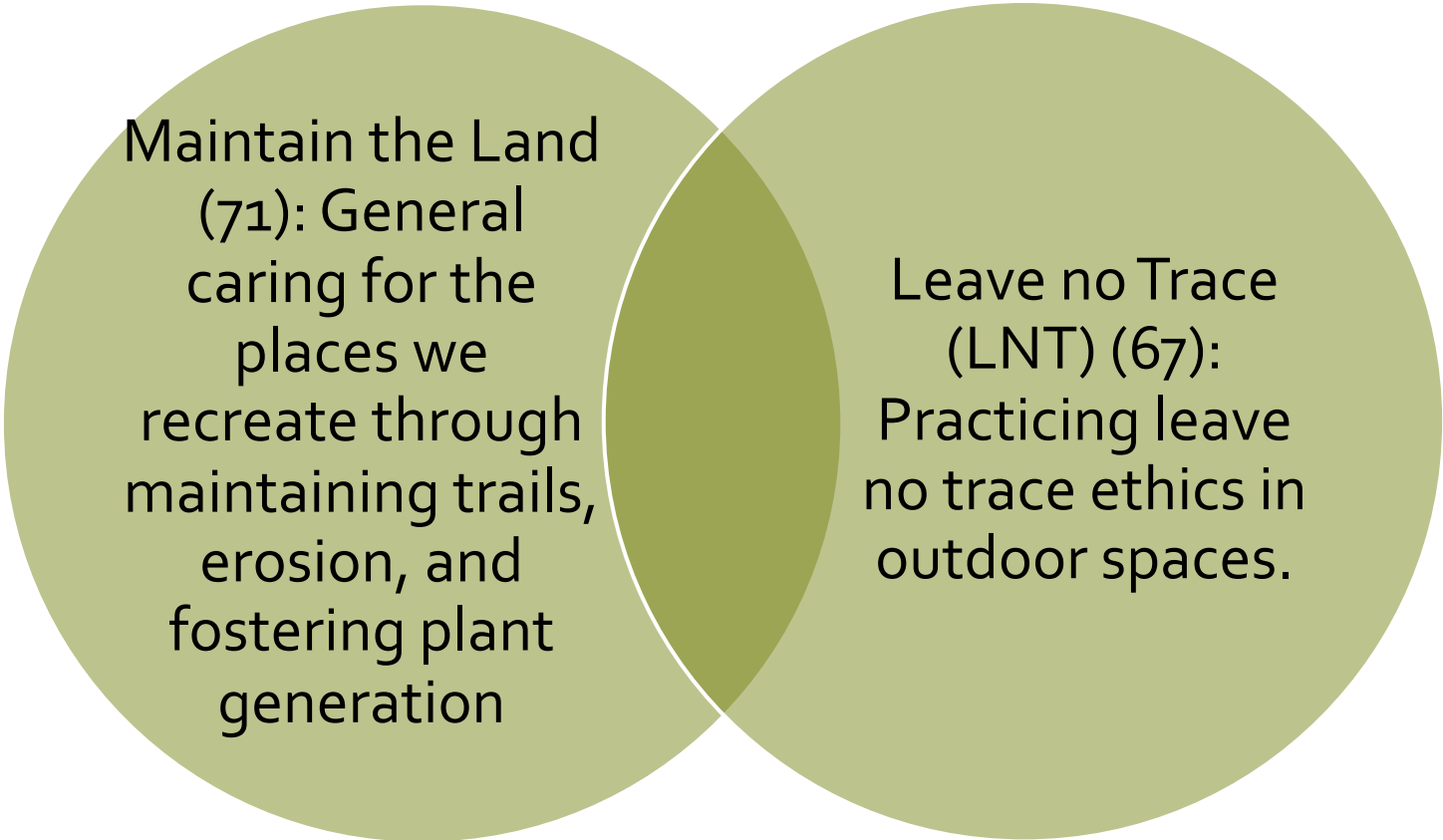
- “Learn more about outdoor climbing, don't single out climbers as the only problem in forests where there are so many different types of recreation that have just as much of an impact to the land, continue to be open about the land management process. Recognize that there aren't that many climbing management plans in the country and the places that have one, are highly trafficked climbing destinations. The vast majority of climbers are respectful of the land, environmentally conscientious, and practice LNT.”
- “Public statements expressing the right climbers have to climb in public spaces.”
- “Post more neutral information/signage regarding climbing (as you might for equestrians or any other user group).”

# Results:

List up to three things that the climbing community could do to increase the trust of land managers



# Maintain the Land to increase trust



Maintain the Land  
(71): General  
caring for the  
places we  
recreate through  
maintaining trails,  
erosion, and  
fostering plant  
generation

Leave no Trace  
(LNT) (67):  
Practicing leave  
no trace ethics in  
outdoor spaces.

# Maintain the Land to increase trust


- “Strive to have as little impact on environment while climbing and developing new routes”
- “Be more aware of vegetation destruction around crags/unauthorized trails.”
- “Leave no trace, especially human waste. “
- “Leave all areas better than we found them”

# Follow the Rules to increase trust

Follow the Rules (6o): Adhering to the rules and regulations put into place by land managers.

- “Follow F.S. guidelines to the T. Voluntarily report new climbing routes and propose voluntary management for new areas. “
- “Clear and Open Communication, following closures and moratoriums while they are in place, respect for lands (wildlife, practice LNT, etc.)”
- “Respect all closures related to ecological and/or managerial goals.”

# Unite the Climbing Community to increase trust



**Unite the Climbing Community (41):** Bringing the climbing community together to develop succinct climbing ethics and best practices and educating new climbers. Ensuring that the climbing community is working together in communicating and addressing local issues as a united user group.

**Policing the Community (18):** Climbers holding other climbers accountable to best practices and ethics through community policing, redirection, and education.



# Unite & Police to increase trust

- **Unite the climbing community:**

- “Be clear and unified in our voice w/out disregarding divides in perspective within our community.”
- “Provide free gym to crag orientations for folks getting into the outdoors, provide free mentoring, and end gatekeeping mindsets that alienate new people and help them learn how to have better climbing etiquette.”
- “To bolt with good ethics, and to have competent climbers. To integrate outside climbing skills into gym climbing so that new climbers are responsible land users.”

- **Police the climbing community:**

- “Self-police, debate internally but maintain a common message in negotiations”
- “Abide by agreements, LNT ethics, control rogue climbers”
- “Self-regulate and communicate”