

Public Water Supply Protection, new laws and opportunities

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An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

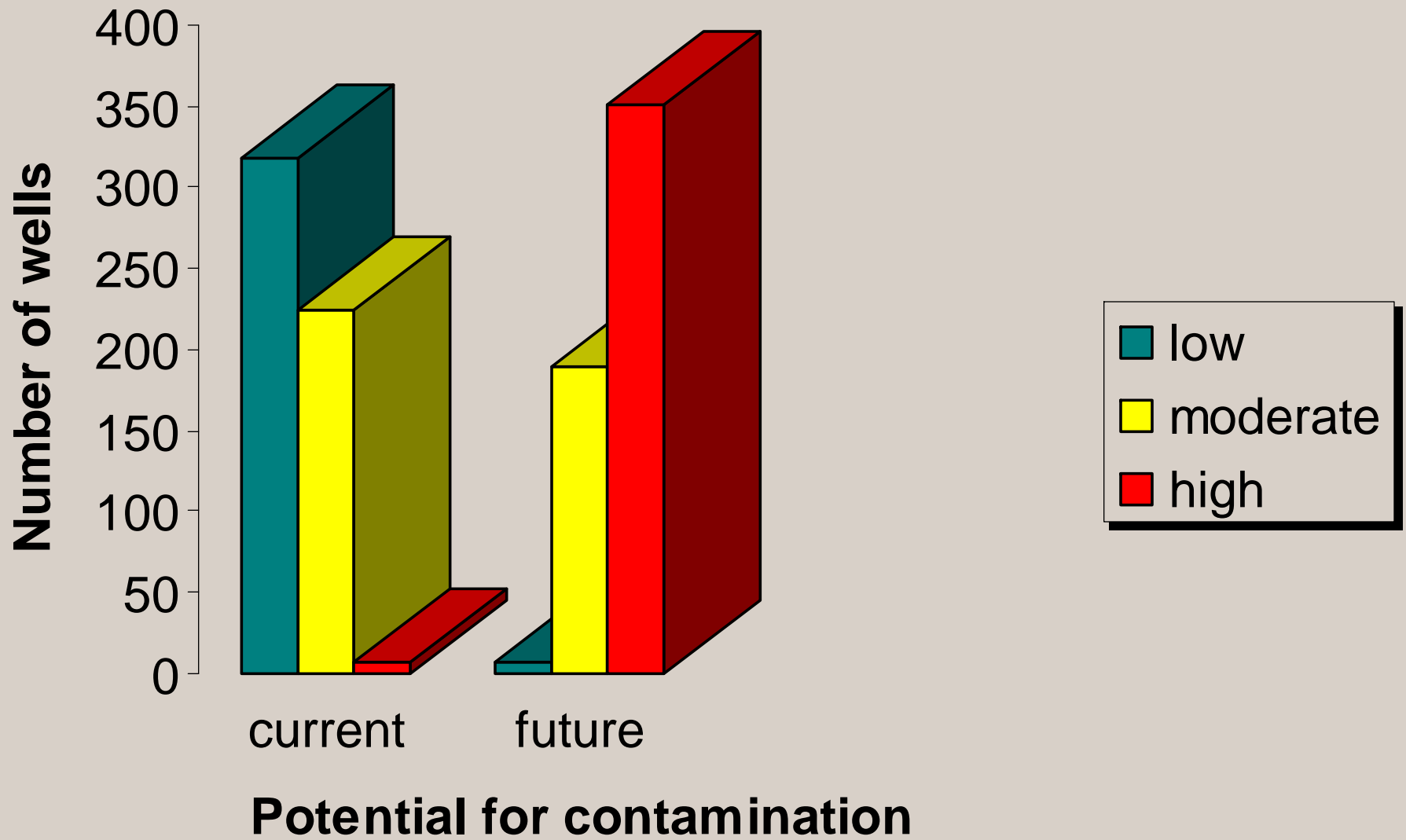
John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

What's new

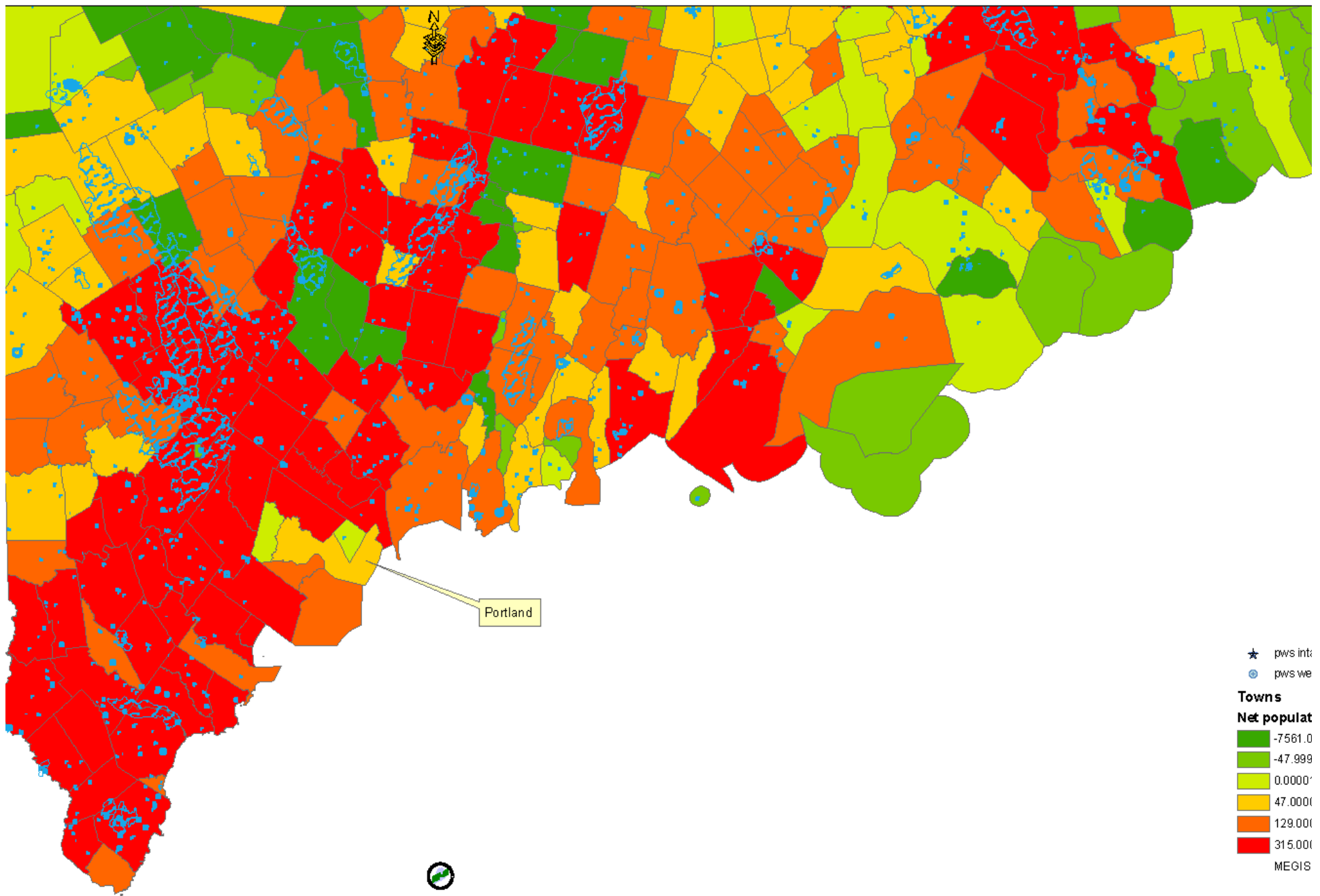
- **Resolve 029 (2004): gap analysis of source protection laws**
- **Resolve Chapter 140 (2005): public process to verify Resolve 029's recommendations**
- **2006 Stakeholder process.**
- **2007 Legislature passed Chapter 353 to strengthen the network of source protection**

Community Water Supply Wells

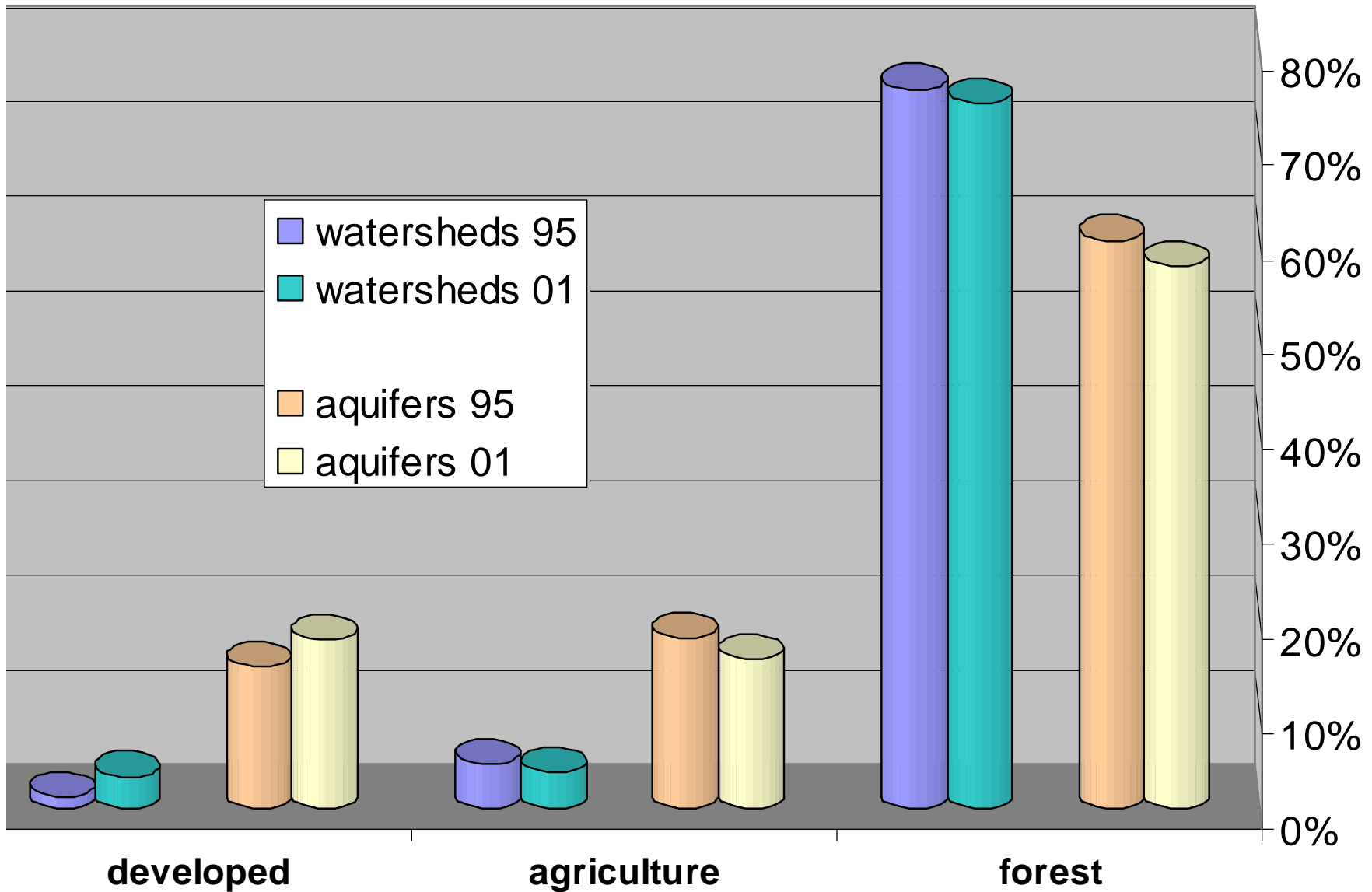


What are the big risks?

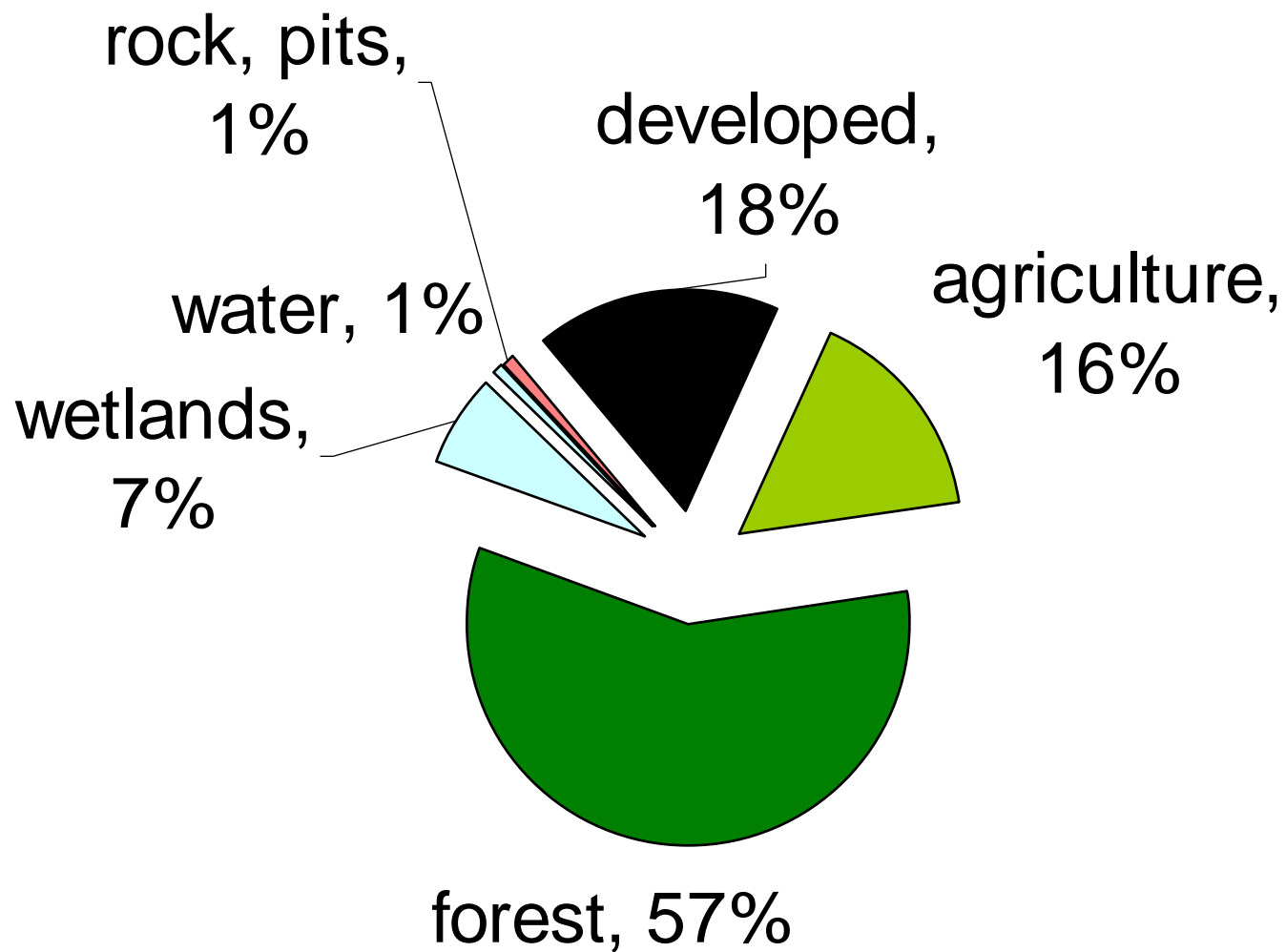
- Future development in source protection areas
- Current (Residential) development
 - Septic systems
 - Petroleum storage (heating oil and gasoline)
 - Lawn maintenance
 - Sewer lines
- Industrial/commercial rare but significant .



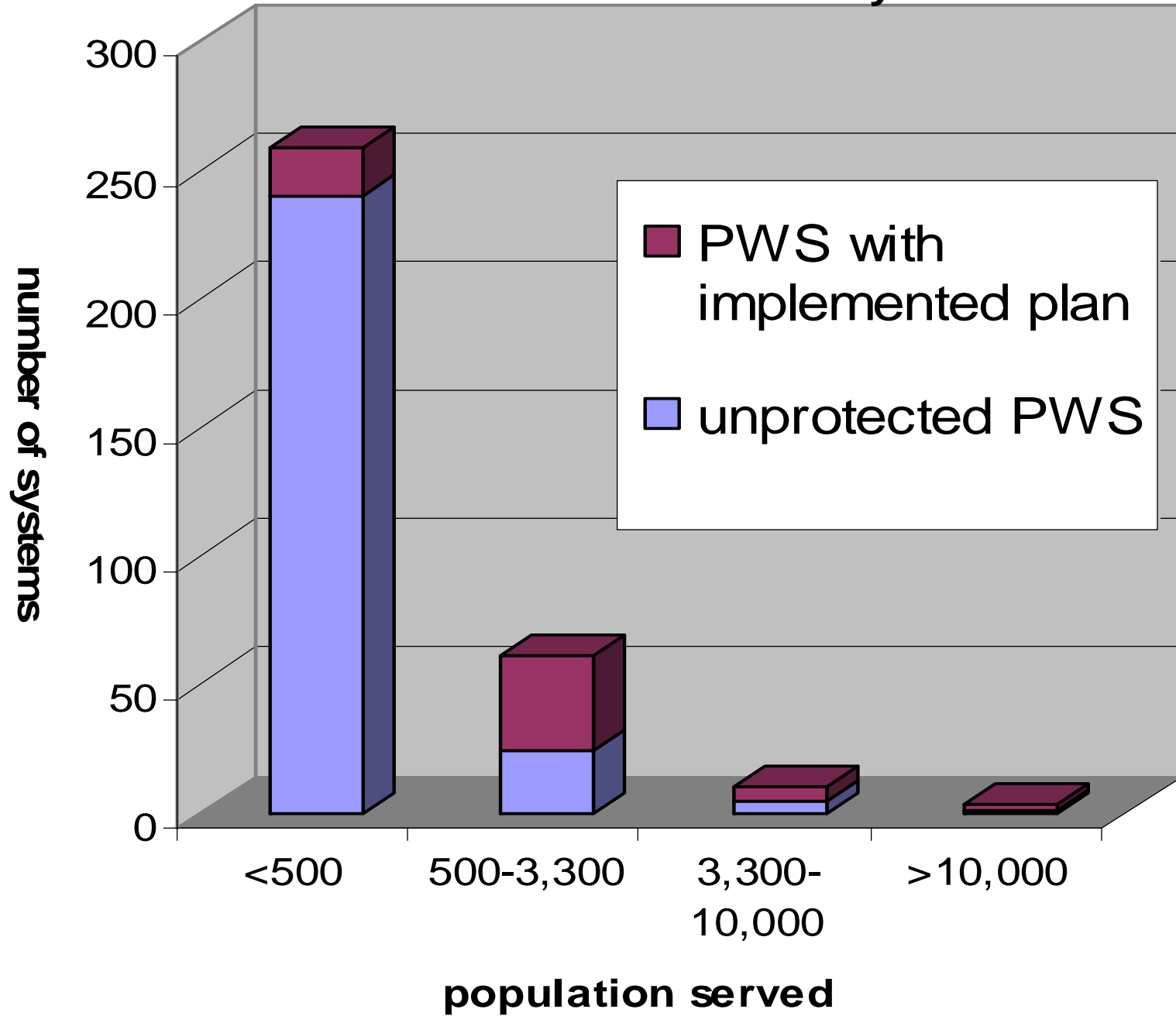
Changes in Land Use, PWS Areas



2001 Land Use Groundwater PWS areas



Source protection status Groundwater Community PWS



New Legislation

- All state agencies will consider water supply protection in all their decisions and actions.
- Land for Maine's Future and DWP allowed to give 'extra credit' to applications for land conservation that also protect water supplies.

Interagency Coordination

- Forest Conservation
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Highway maintenance and development
- Surface use of lakes and ponds
- Comprehensive planning
- And many more

Primary Protection areas

- Chapter 353 indicated that the primary protection areas of community PWS's would be subject to the Natural Resources Protection Act
- This permitting will only take effect after rules are ratified by the Legislature.
- DWP and DEP are working with MRWA to identify who owns the land (other than the PWS) in these areas before drafting rules.

Questions for the Panel

- Several studies have identified poorly planned growth as the major threat to water resources and public water supplies.
- Which state-level programs have the most potential to help reduce this threat?
- For programs identified as having high potential, how do you think we can best realize that potential?

Questions, continued

- What can we do together to protect water resources, particularly drinking water resources?
- How can we make those activities part of our normal processes?

