

# 2026 Tennessee Coldwater Summit

35th Anniversary!

## Taking Stock: Who are we and... where are we headed?



**Tennessee  
Council**

Farragut Event Center  
239 Jamestowne Blvd.  
Farragut, TN 37934  
7 February 2026



# 2026 Tennessee Coldwater Summit Agenda

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# 2026 TN Coldwater Summit

# Framing the Dialogue

**Sherrell R. Greene, PhD**

Science & Technology Advisor  
TN Council Trout Unlimited  
*TCTUScience@proton.me*



**Tennessee  
Council**



# 2026 Summit is third waypoint in five-year vision to revitalize our annual **conclave**

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- **More STRATEGIC focus**
- **Expanded ENGAGEMENT by TN Coldwater Stakeholders**
- **Higher VALUE for all participants**
- **Greater coldwater stewardship IMPACT**
- **REBRANDED consistent with new vision**

# Summits are organized around **THEME** and **FRAMING QUESTIONS**

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- **SUMMIT THEME**
  - Summit's topical focus
- **FRAMING ("CHALLENGE") QUESTIONS to**
  - Focus dialogue
  - Establish facts (knowns)
  - Probe limits of understanding & identify knowledge gaps (unknowns)
  - Illuminate differing perspectives
  - Leverage diverse expertise and knowledge base of Stakeholders
  - Identify opportunities for consensus and collaborative action

# Reminders...

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- This is an *historically-informed, forward-looking DIALOGUE*
- We have much to learn: there may be no satisfying answer to a specific Framing Question
- Diversity of opinions is **HEALTHY**
- Progress is a **PROCESS** empowered by fact-based consensus
- We are all in this *TOGETHER*

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# ***KEYNOTE ADDRESS***

## Partnerships in the Citico Dam Removal

Lucas Clawson

Watershed Restoration Engineer  
Tennessee Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

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# Session 1

***Who do I say I am and  
who do you say I should be?***

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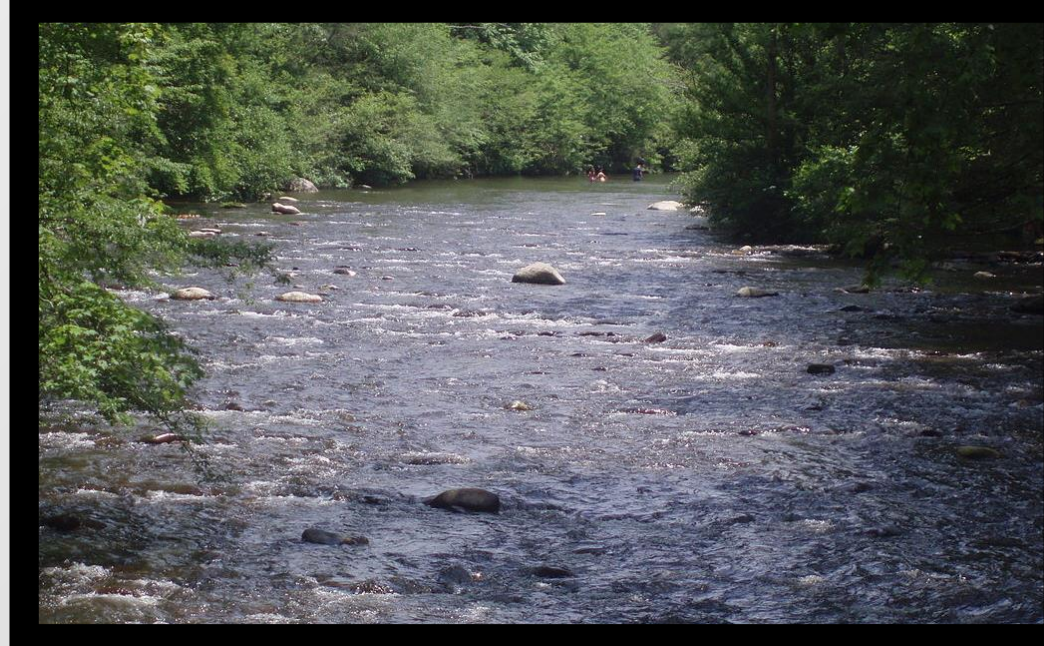
# Stewardship of Tennessee's ~ 1000 stream miles of coldwater habitat requires constant diligence

## STRESSORS

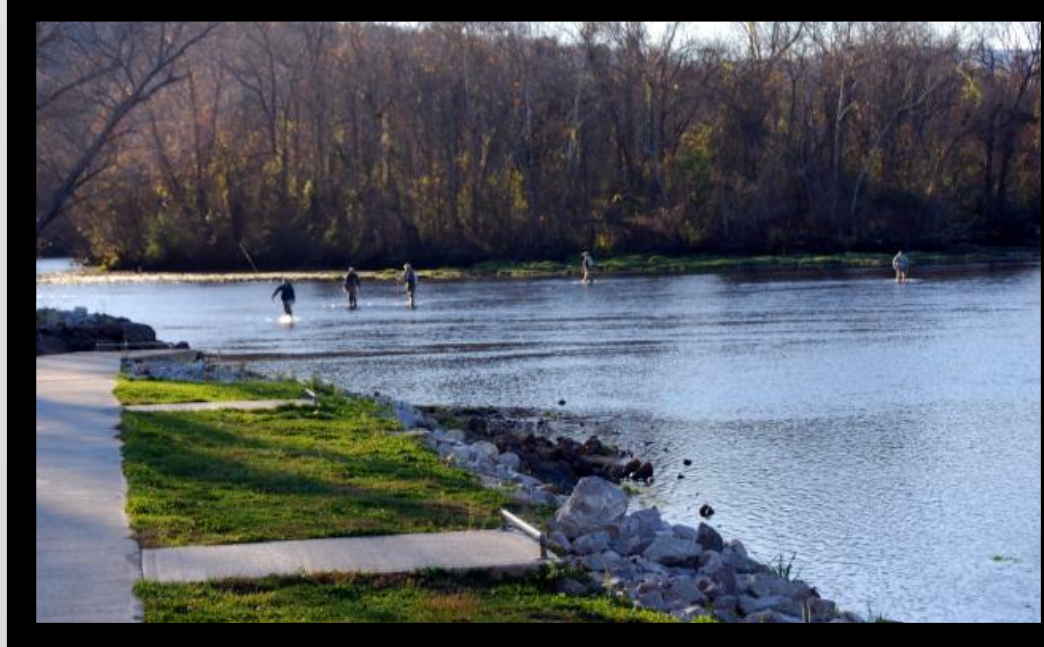
- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Wildfires
- Invasive species
- Population Growth
- Land Development
- Angling Pressure



Small, high-elevation brook trout streams



Transition-elevation streams/ivers with mixed populations of wild rainbows and browns



Large tailwaters with mixed populations of wild and stocked rainbows and browns

# Stewardship of Tennessee's coldwater resources is shared privilege & responsibility

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## TU Partners & Relevant Agencies

- TWRA – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- NPS – National Park Service
- USFS – U.S. Forest Service
- TVA – Tennessee Valley Authority
- TDEC – Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation
- USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Other Conservation Organizations & the Public



*Tennessee  
Council*

# Mutual understanding of our missions, programs, cultures, capabilities & constraints is essential

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- **What our organizations are and are not chartered to do**
- **Our priorities**
- **Mission overlaps and gaps**
- **Mission execution methods**
- **Organizational interdependencies**
- **Organizational challenges**
- **How we can help each other in our shared Mission Space**

# Speaker Introductions

# 2026 Framing Questions – Session 1

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## Who do I say I *am* and who do you say I *should be*?

- Our Mission Statement – origins and intent
- How our Mission Statement translates to our Program Areas
- What our Key Initiatives are for each Program Area and how they enable/reflect our Mission
- Our greatest needs and challenges in Mission Execution
- Program Area Prioritization Aspirations - our thoughts and yours?
- How we can work together to overcome our Mission Execution challenges

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LUNCH  
&  
Session 1 Q&A

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# Session 2

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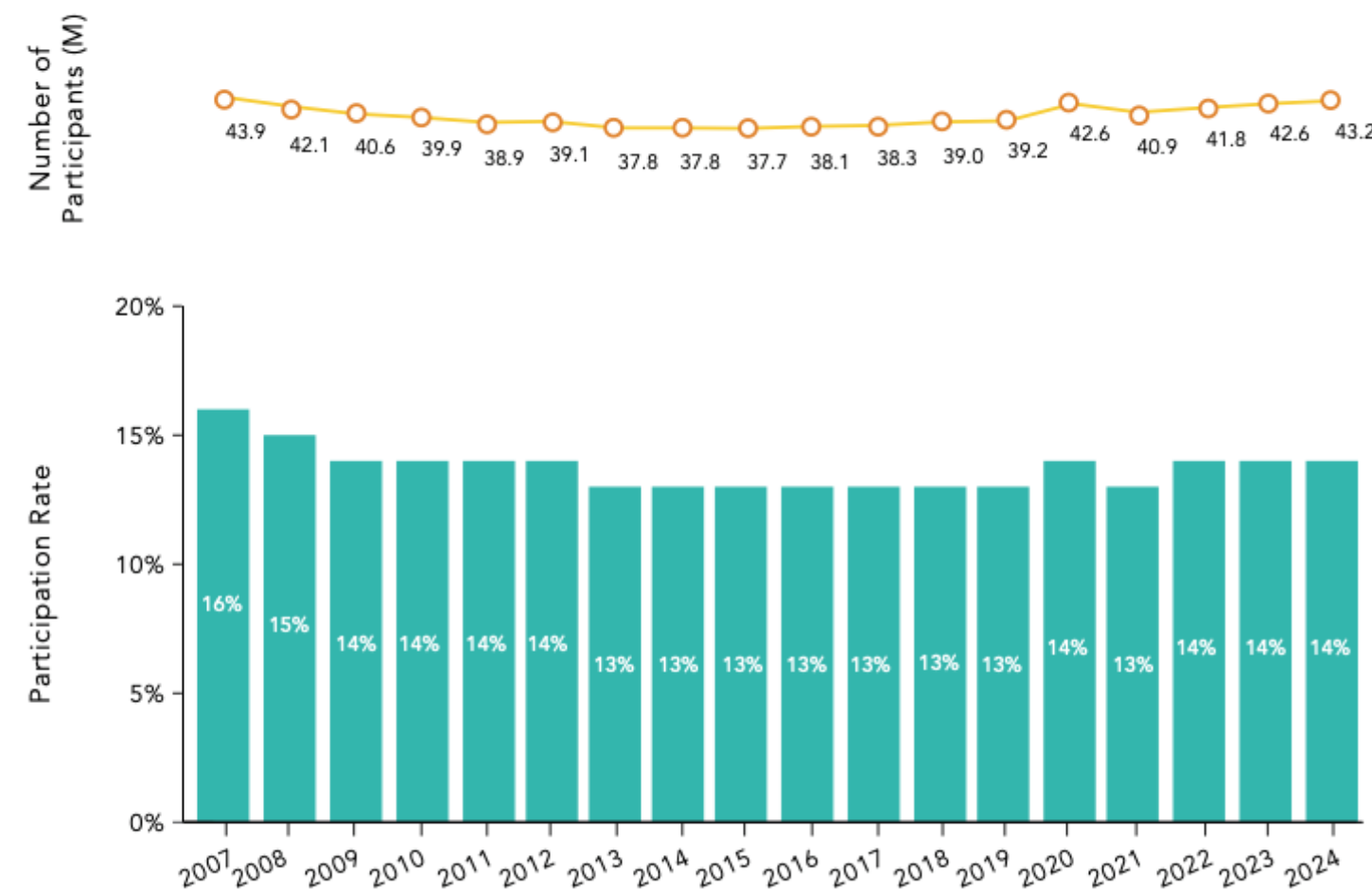
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# Fly fishing participation is trending upward (Surrogate for coldwater resource usage)

- **Freshwater Anglers**

## PARTICIPATION OVER TIME

Freshwater remained fishing's most popular format in 2024. 71 percent of fishing outings were freshwater trips. 60 percent of participants reported they only freshwater fished, 3 percent more than the year prior. Over 5 million more Americans participated in freshwater fishing in 2024 than a decade earlier, though the national participation rate has hovered at 13 to 14 percent since the Great Recession.



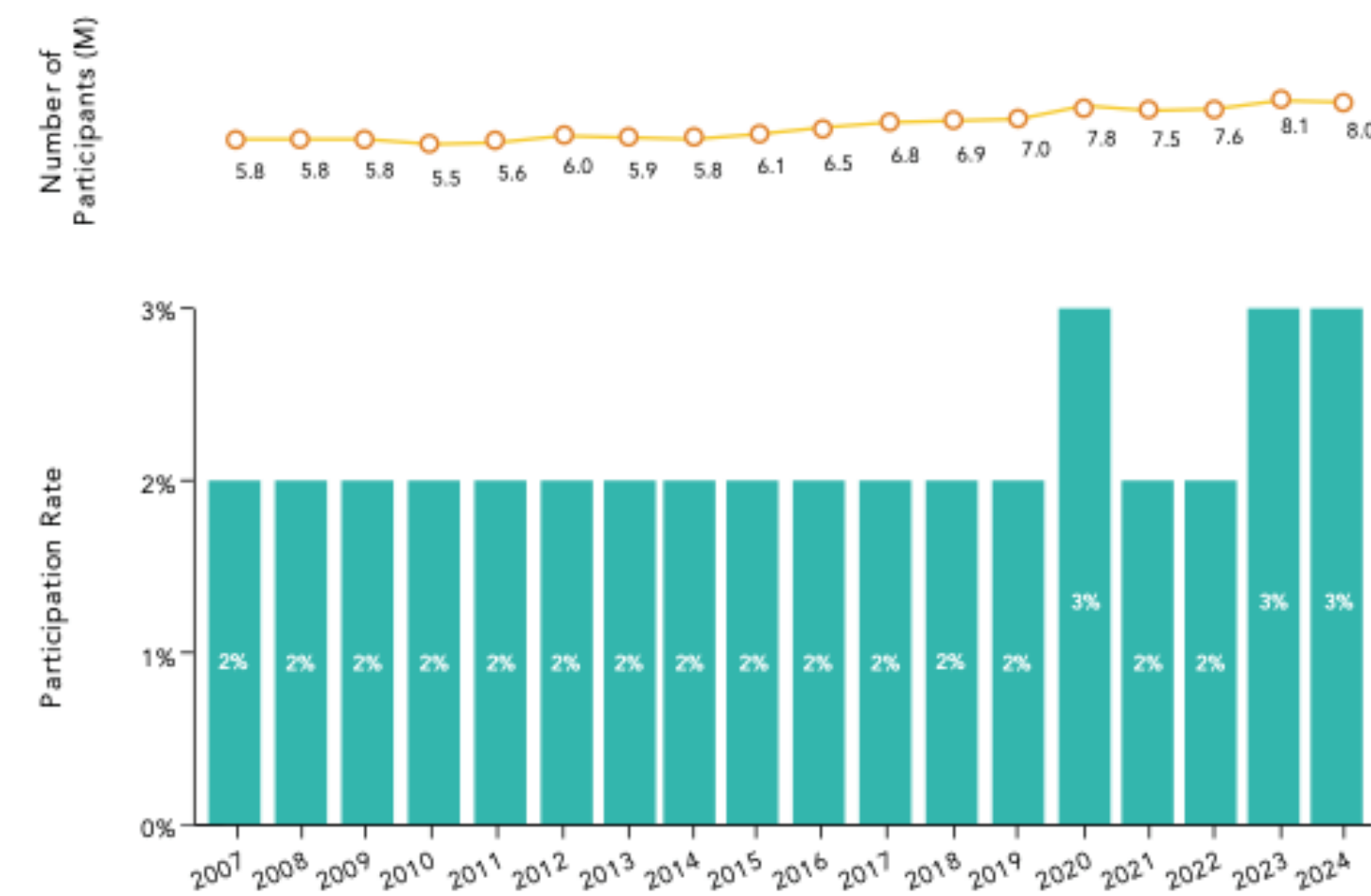
**43.2M**  
FRESHWATER PARTICIPANTS

**14%**  
NATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATE

- **Fly Fishing Anglers**

## PARTICIPATION OVER TIME

With 8 million participants in 2024, fly fishing held onto last year's gains when participant numbers hit a record 8.1 million. Over 2 million more Americans went fly fishing in 2024 than did a decade earlier. The national participation rate remained at 3 percent. Average annual outings were unchanged at 10, while total outings declined from 80 million in 2023 to 78 million in 2024.

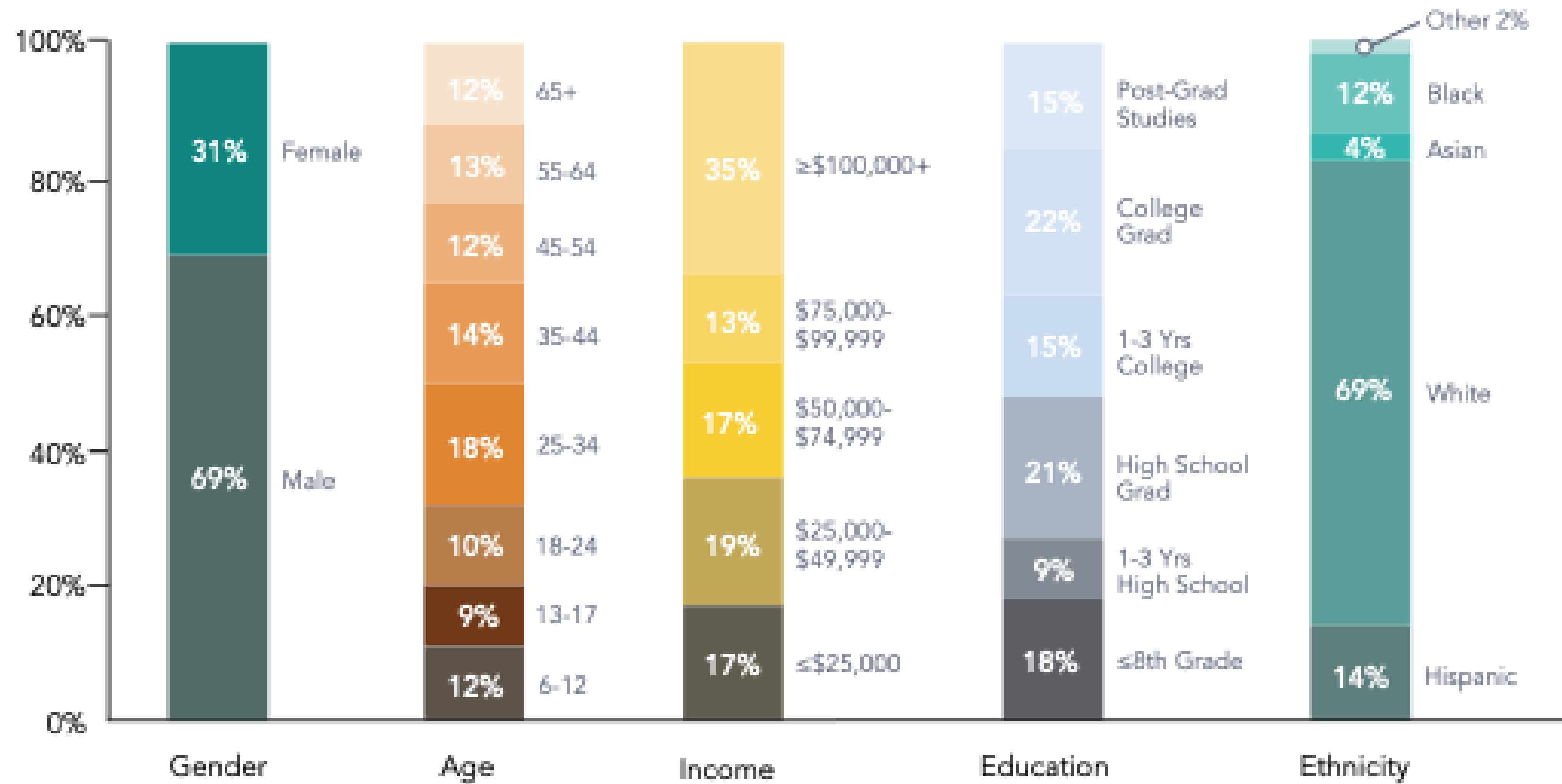


**8M**  
# OF FLY FISHING PARTICIPANTS  
vs. 5.8M a decade ago

**3%**  
NATIONAL PARTICIPATION RATE

\*Outdoor Foundation, "2025 Special Report on Fishing"

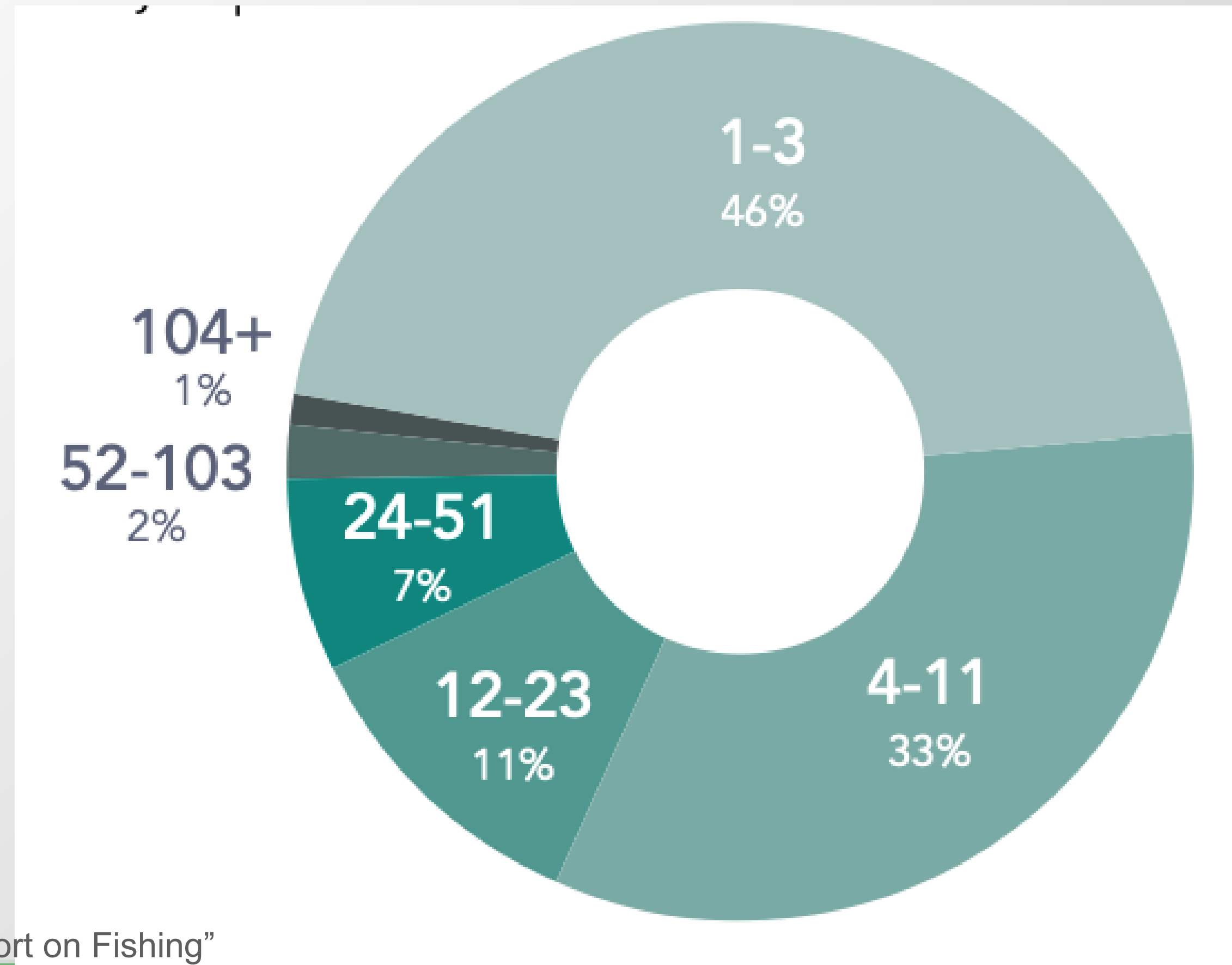
# Who are fly fishers?\*



\*Outdoor Foundation, "2025 Special Report on Fishing"

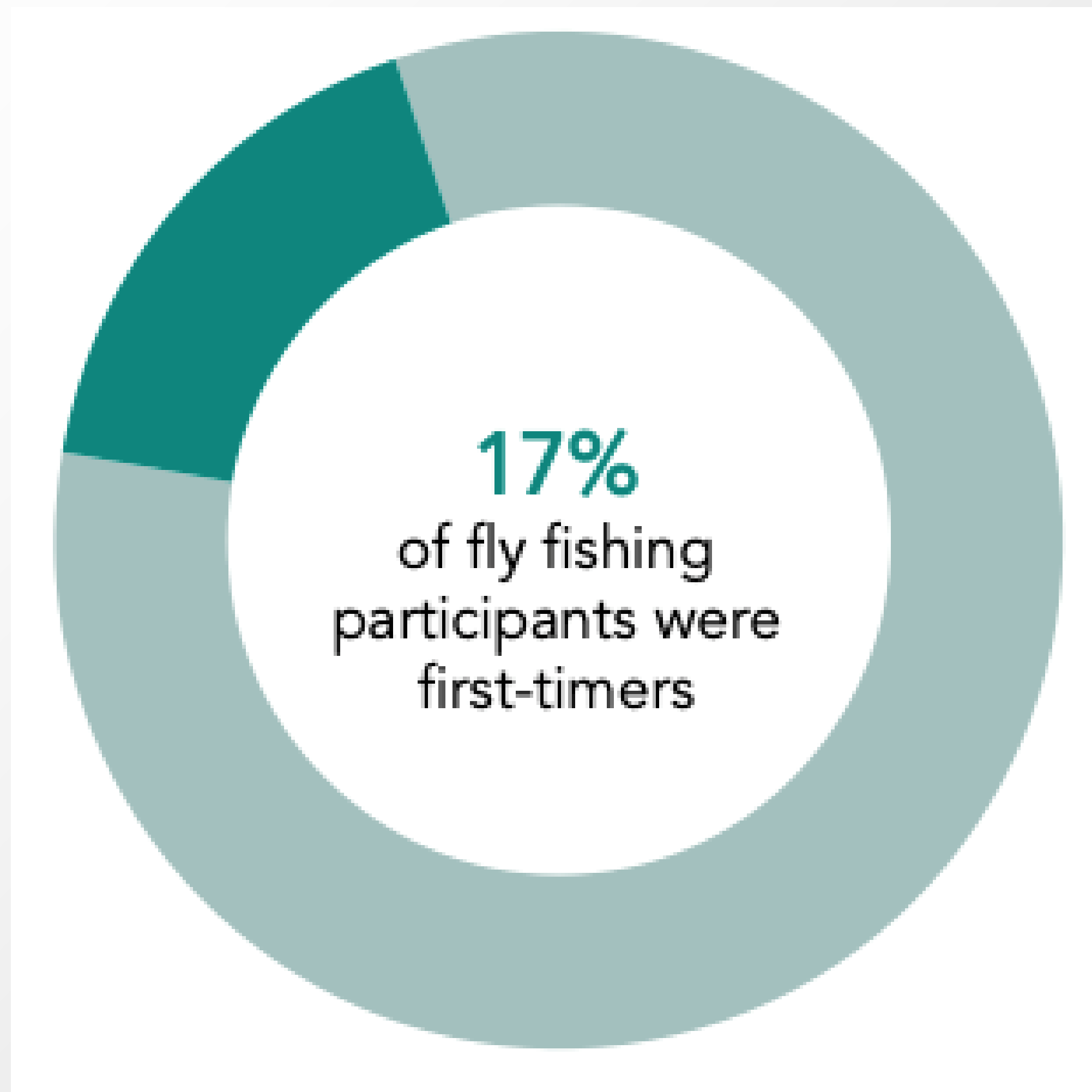
# 79% of fly fishers (vs 68% of all anglers) fish less than once a month

- Annual Outings



\*Outdoor Foundation, "2025 Special Report on Fishing"

# 17% of fly fishers (vs. 11% of all anglers) were first timers in 2024



- **19% of female fly fishers were first-timers**
- **16% of male fly fishers were first-timers**

\*Outdoor Foundation, "2025 Special Report on Fishing"

# Angler dynamic raises many questions...

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- **Who's on the water now?**
- **Who's coming in the future?**
- **What is our/their value system?**
- **What do we/they want and expect?**
- **What coldwater stewardship issues, challenges, and opportunities accompany the angler dynamic?**
- **How will we engage with them?**

# 2026 Framing Questions – Session 2

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## Looking Ahead – The Changing Angler Dynamic and Our Mission

- **What role does angling play in our organization’s mission and how does angling influence our Mission Implementation?**
- **What do we know about angler expectations and behaviors?**
- **What are the most important gaps in our knowledge of angler behaviors and their impact on the coldwater resource?**
- **What angling groups/opportunities/demands do you see growing and which are not?**
- **How can we work together to fill knowledge gaps?**

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3:30 (30 m)	<b><i>Open Mic: Speaker &amp; Attendee Observations, Insights, &amp; Takeaways</i></b>	<b>All Participants</b>	
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# 2026 Tennessee Coldwater Summit Agenda

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# OPEN MIC & RECAP

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***Save the date:***

***2027 TN Coldwater Summit***

***6 February 2027***

***Farragut Community Center***

Image: Tennessee Aquarium