

Hopi Long-term Monitoring Trip 2024

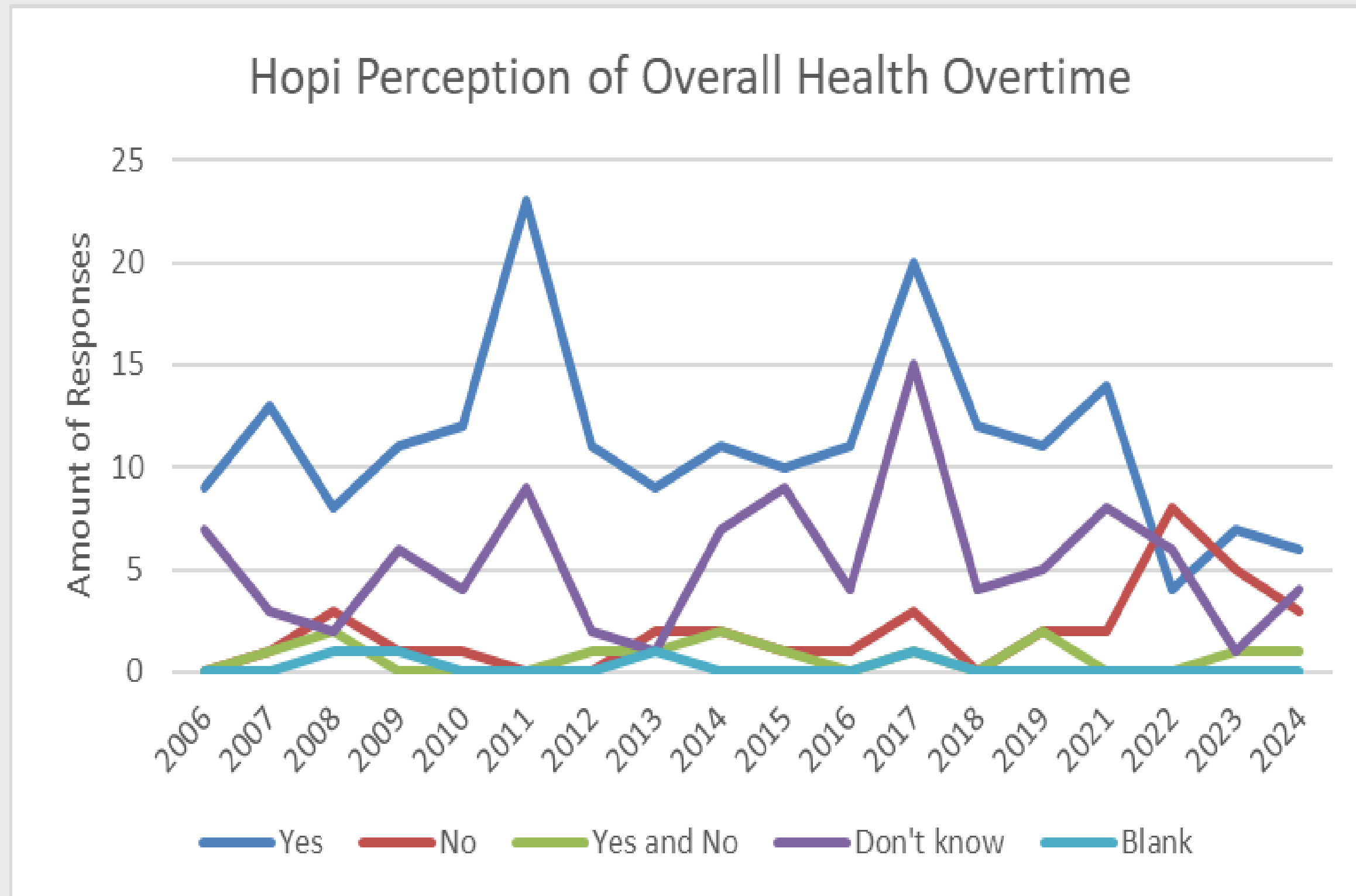


Kristin Huisinga

Paayu or Little Colorado River

A program conducted by the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
under the guidance of the Cultural Resources Advisory Task Team

Management Actions: Fish Removal

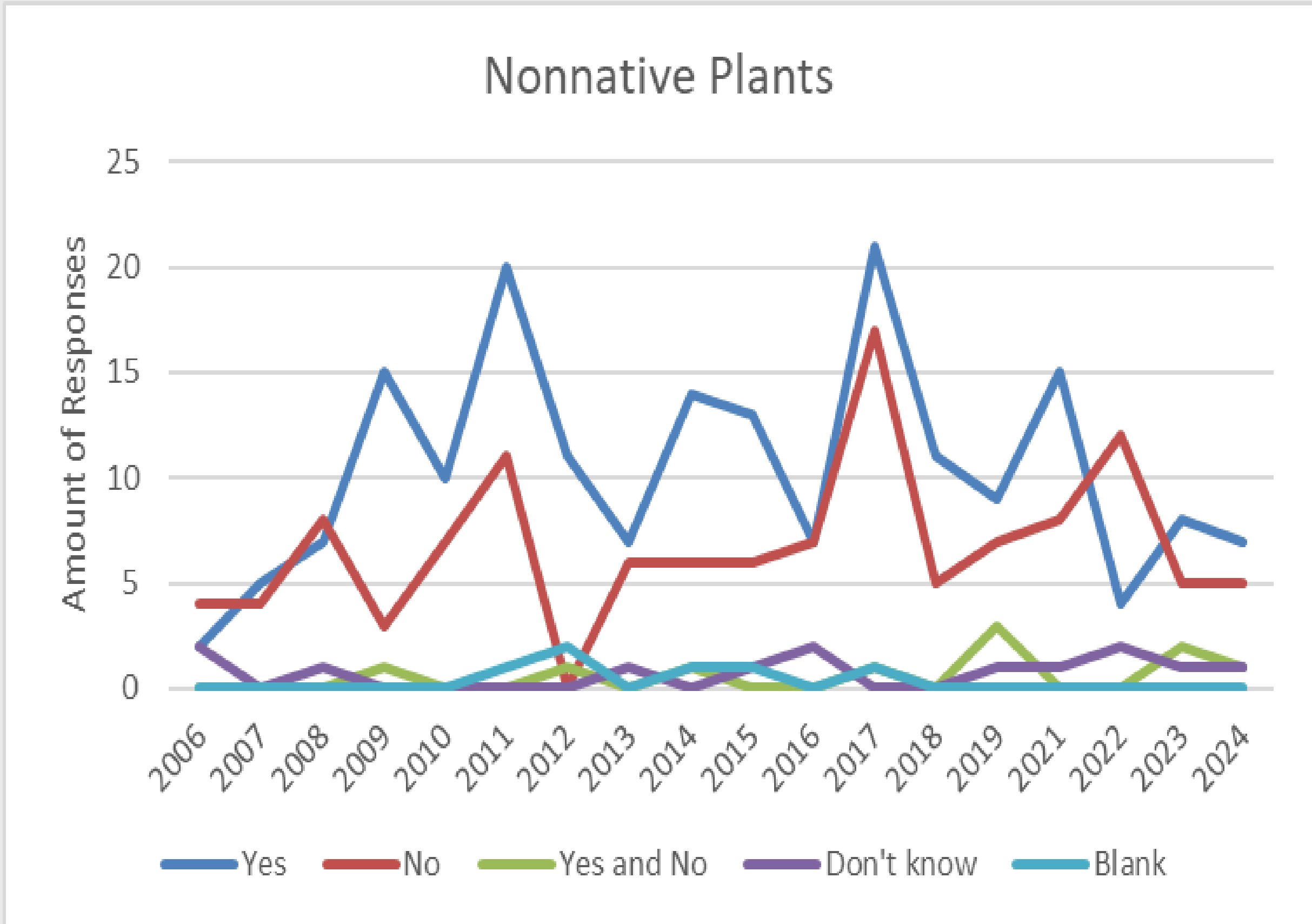


A Change in Perspective: What else can we be doing? Thermal curtains? Does Mechanical Fish Removal Work?

The slough needs to have mitigation efforts.

Hopi does oppose nonenative fish restocking.

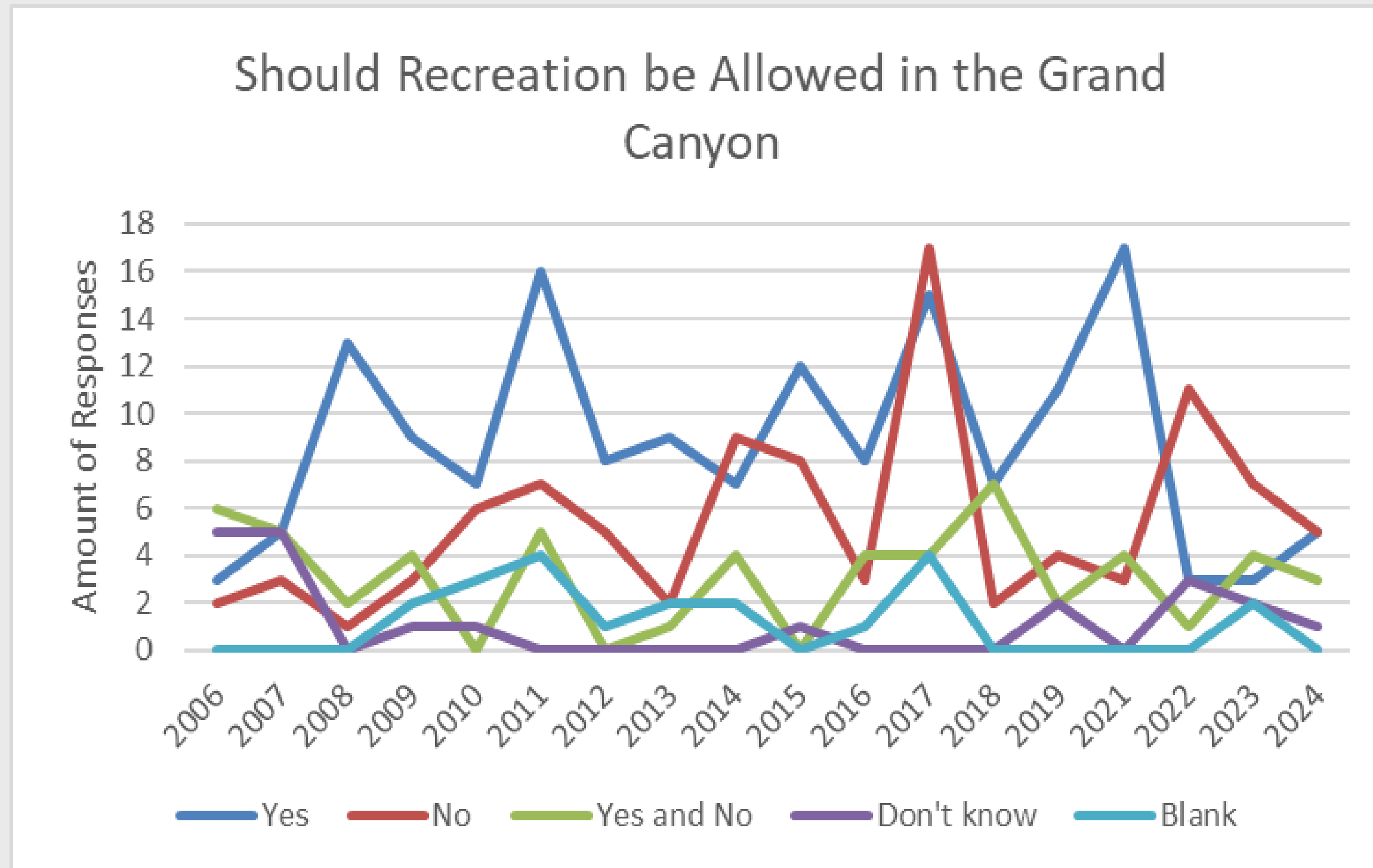
Management Actions: Tamarisk and Non-natives



Continued Mix Perspective

Tamarisk provides habitat for other animals, especially sacred birds.
Tamarisk and other invasive plants pushes out native plant species and can impact wetland and springs.

Management Actions: Is Recreation in The Grand Canyon Appropriate

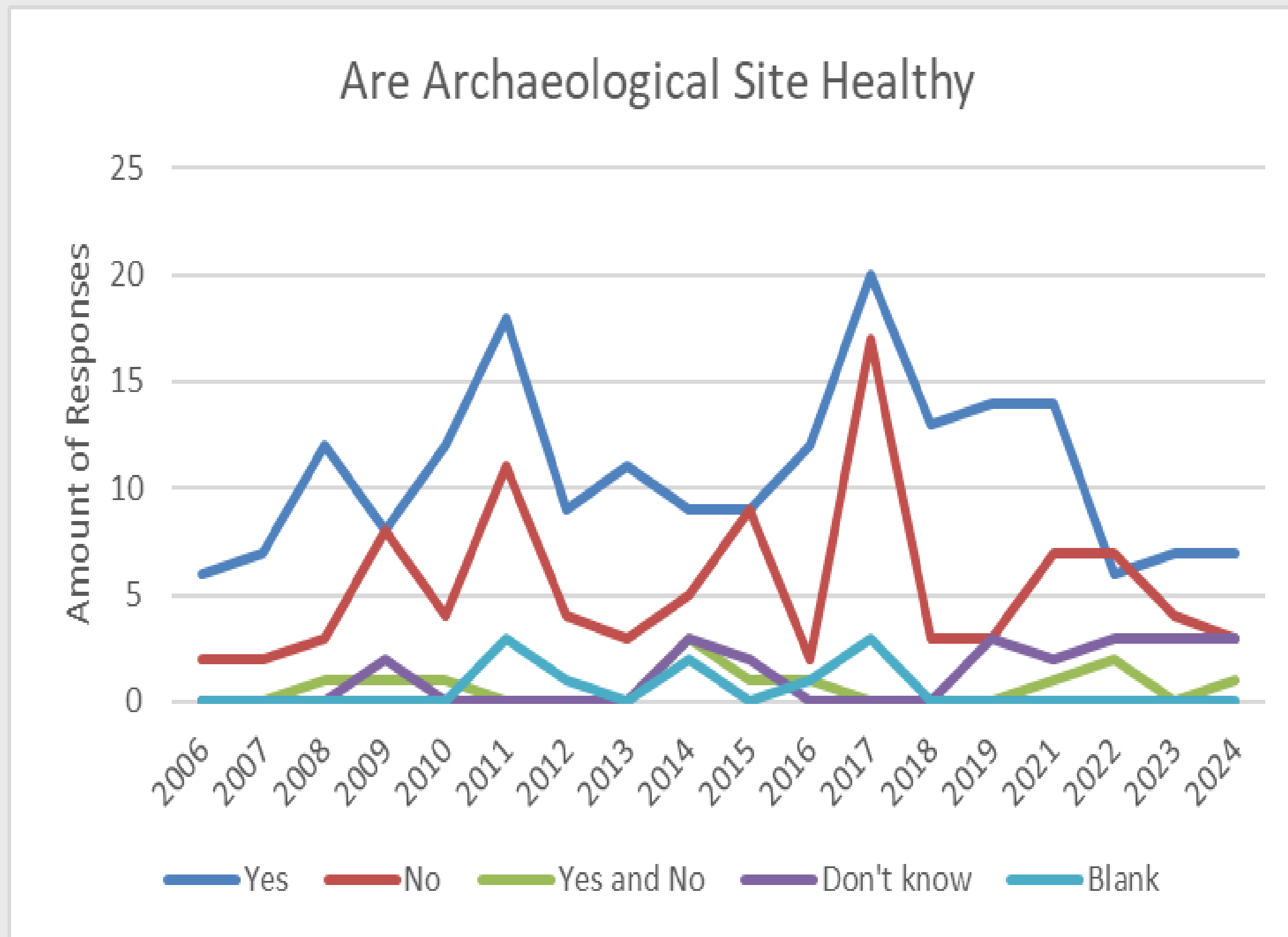


Visitation is seen mixed this year.

Sites need to have a recreation off time.

Changes in good faith with Park Service and River Guides.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Archeological Sites



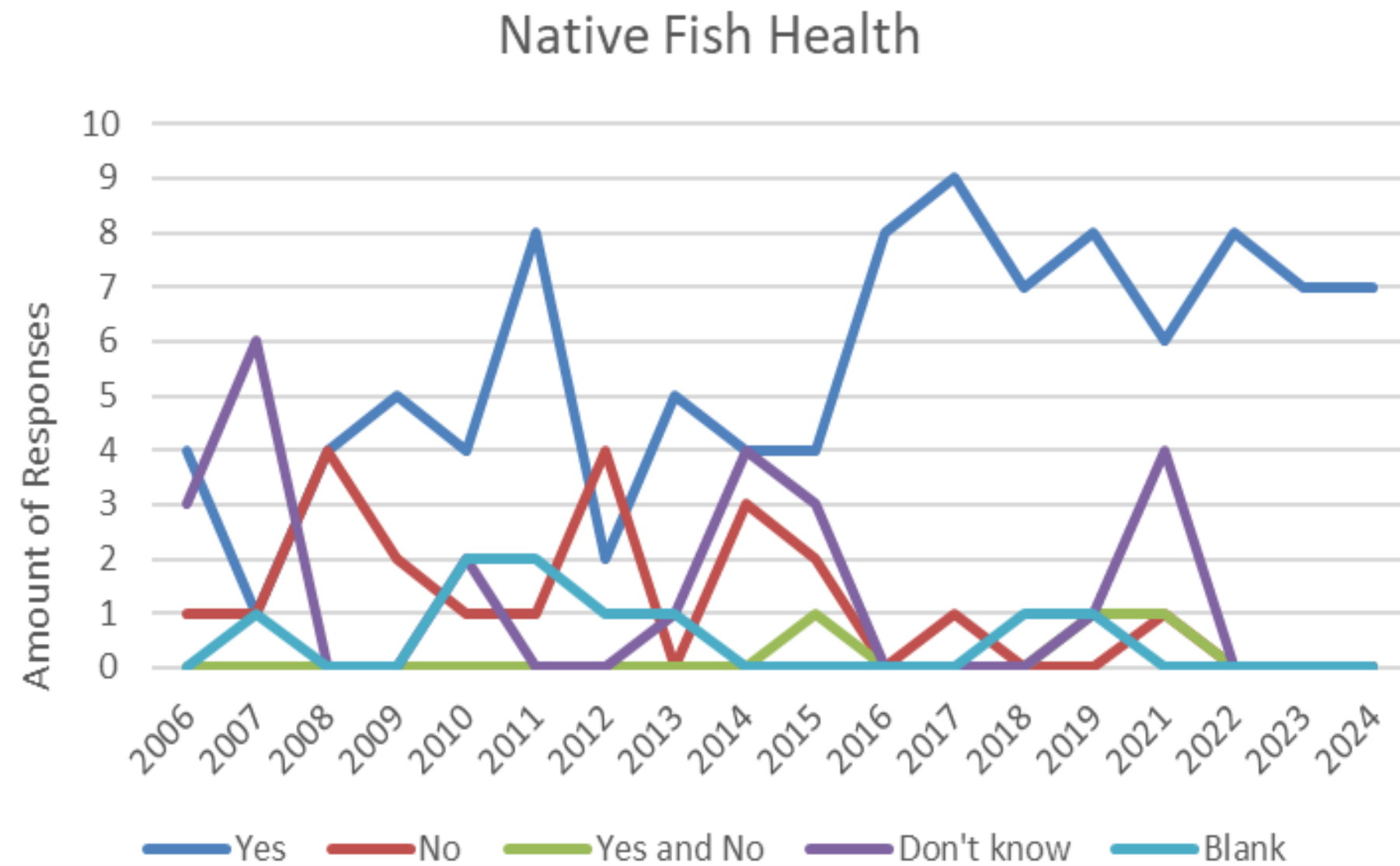
Slightly healthier than last Year. Biggest worry is visitor impacts.

No visitor impacts observed on this trip.

Concern over eroding sand and long-term stabilization at sites throughout the canyon.

Sipapuni seems unchanged from last 2018 visit.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Health of Native Fish



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Continued Healthy Native Fish



50 chub



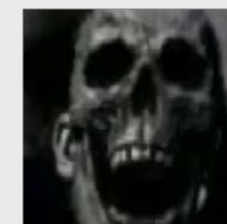
2 Rainbow Trout



2 Walleye

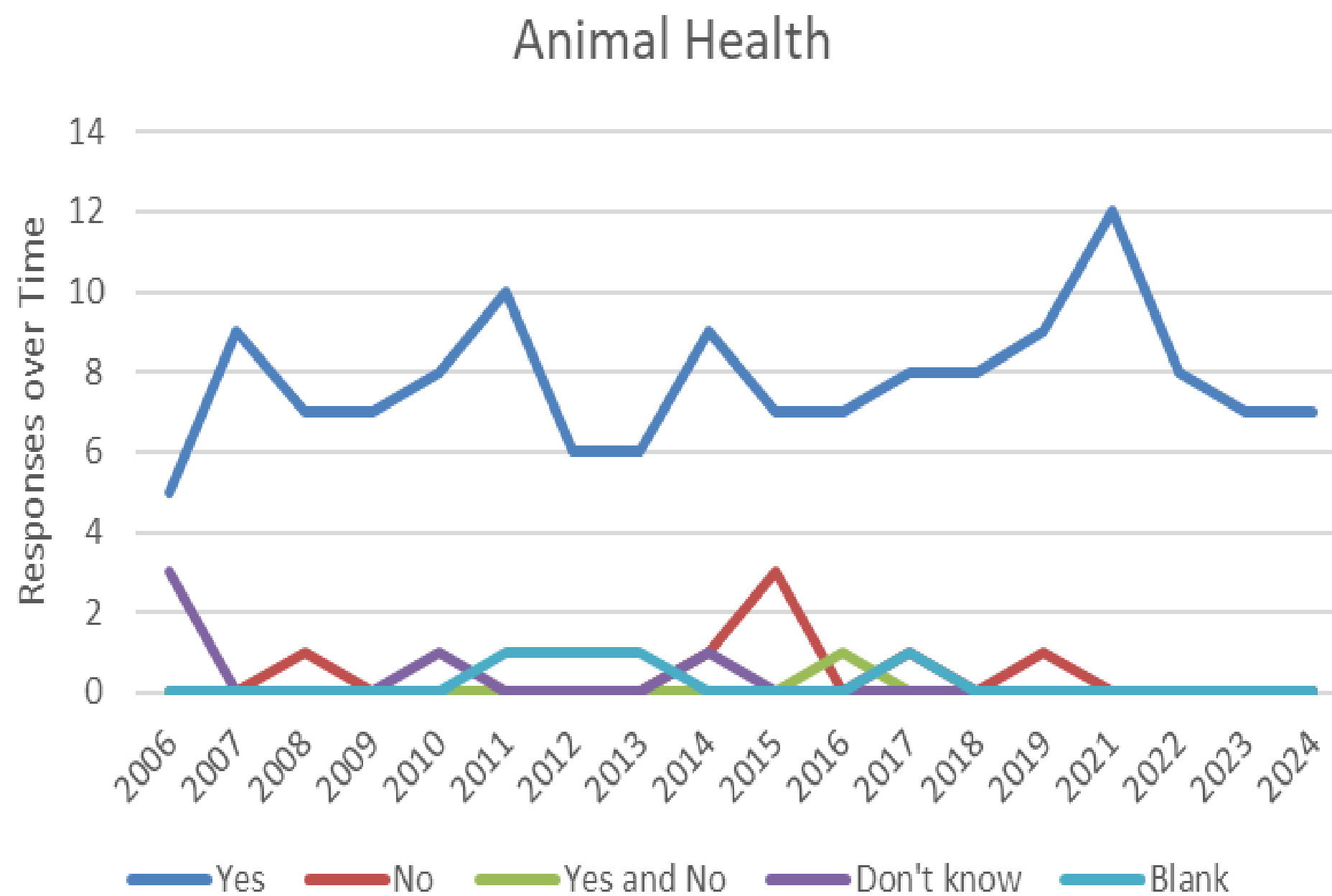


1 Carp



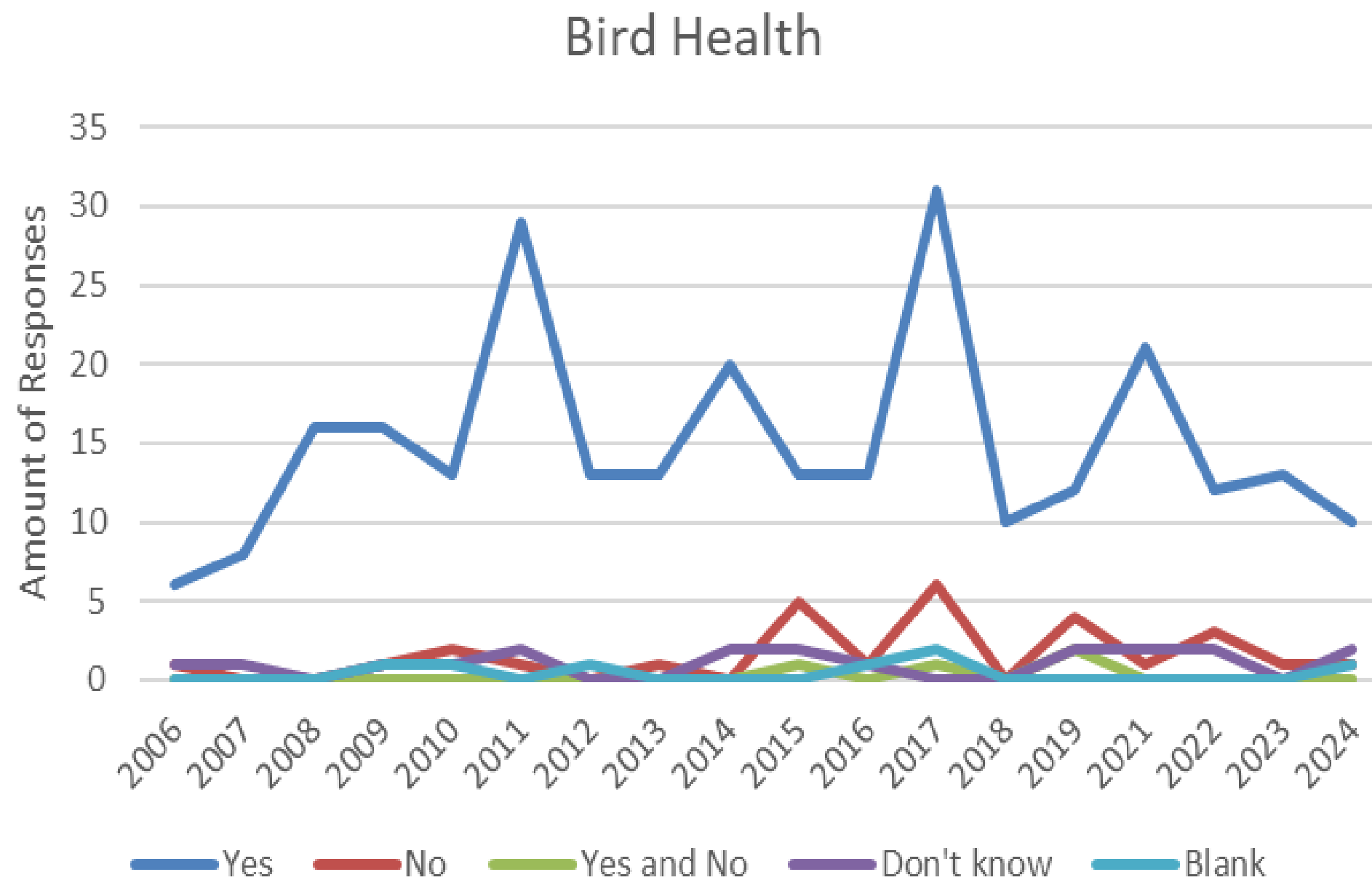
1 Catfish

Culturally Important Resource Health: Animal Health



Hopi continued to see animal health as very good. Big Horn sheep and Deer were plentiful.

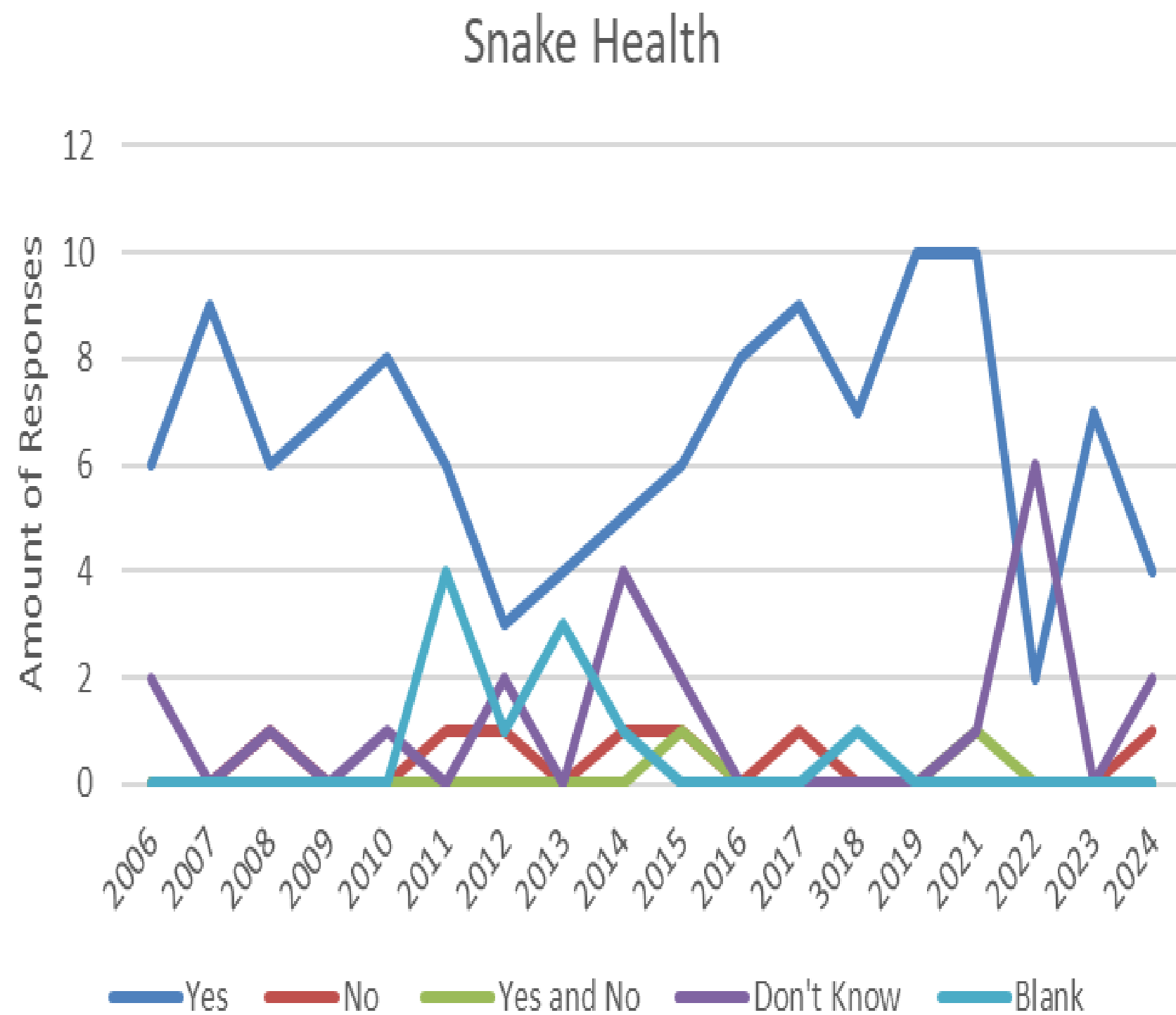
Culturally Important Resource Health: Bird Health



Birds seem to be doing well. The nests in the early section of the canyon were abandoned. The Hopi tribe argues this is due to the fishery collapse. One new was noted near the salt mine.

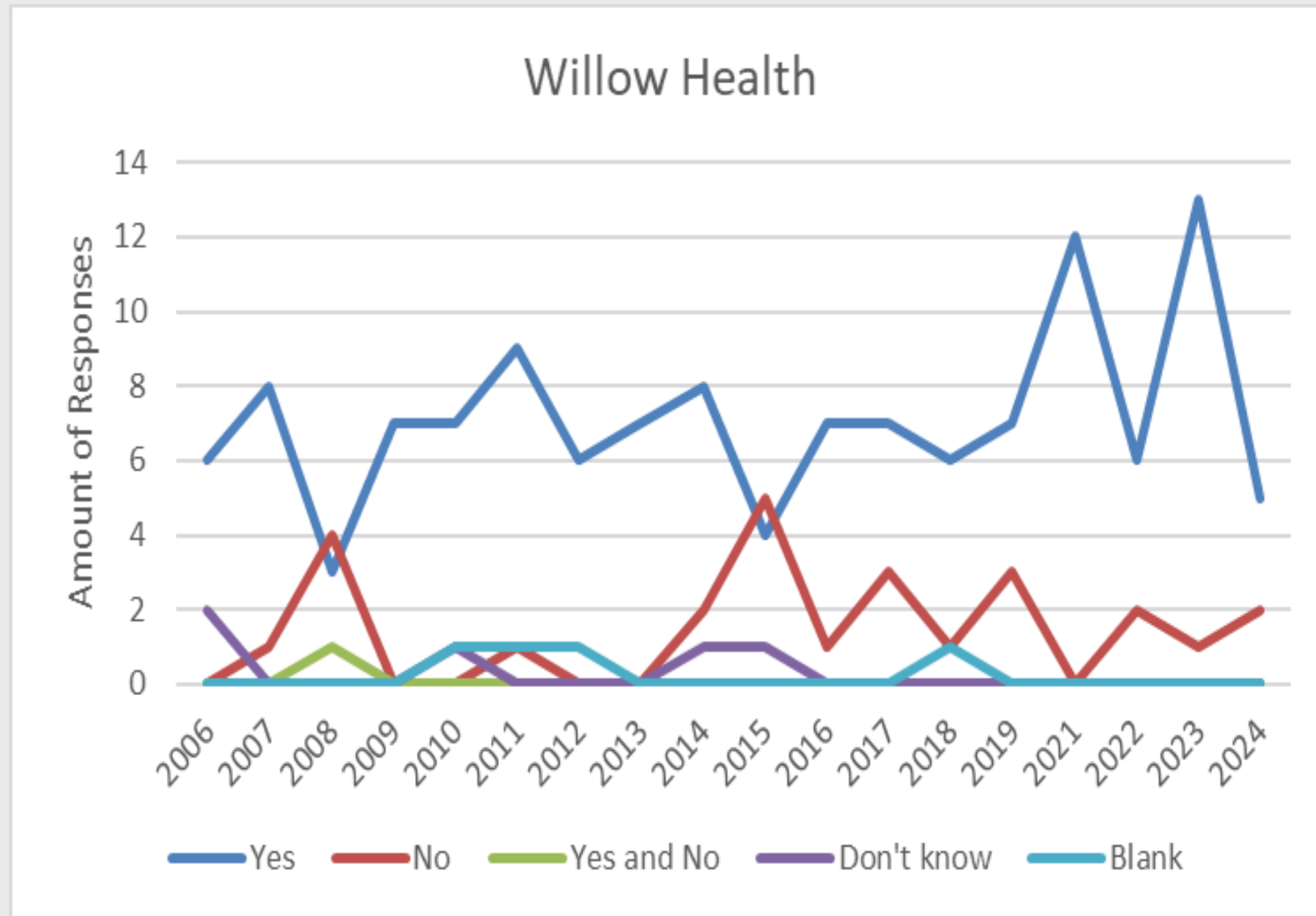
Birds are very sacred to the Hopi, especially golden eagles as they help deliver prayers and are collected to foster ceremonies.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Snake Health



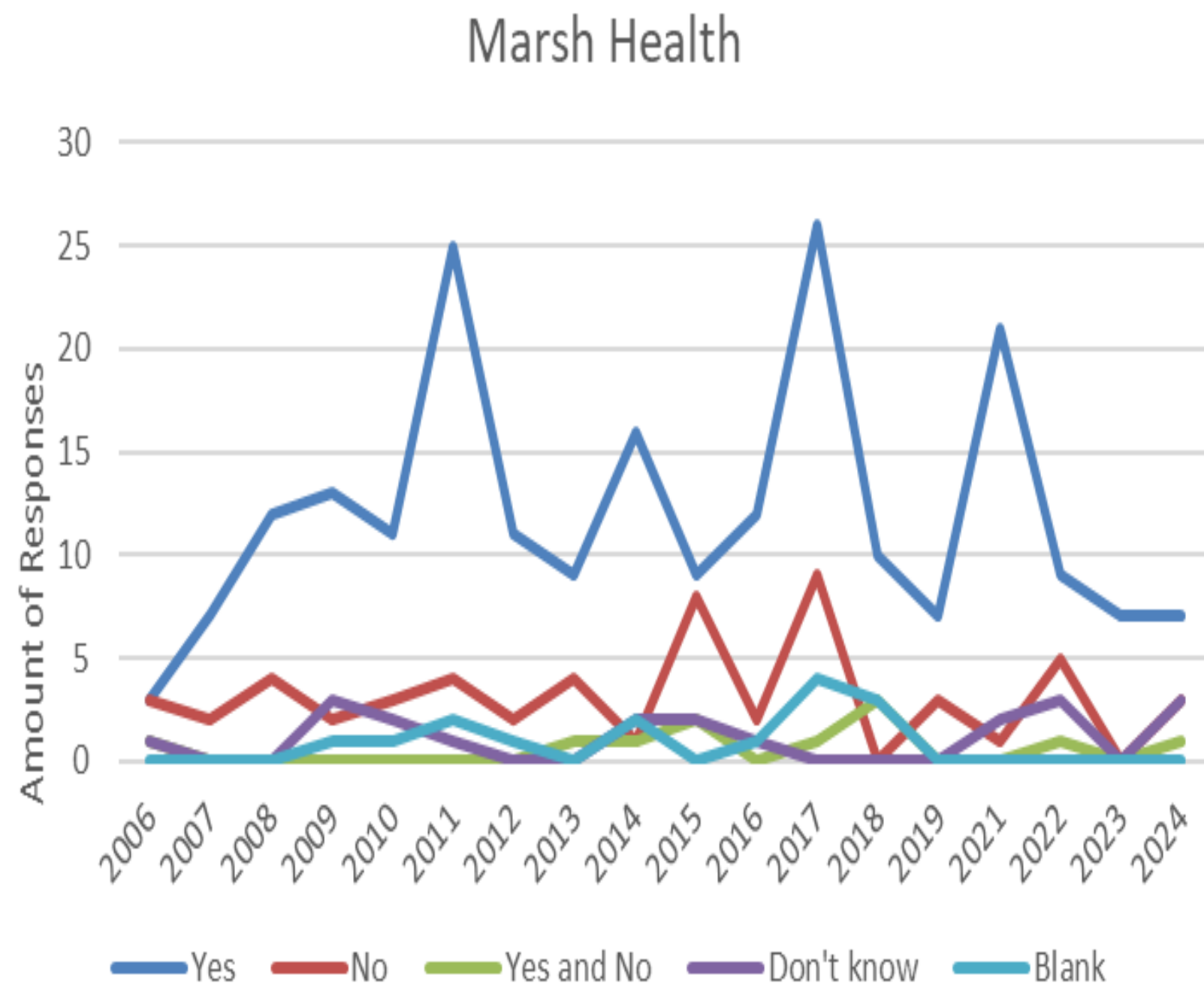
The perception that snakes are healthy has remained high, participants saw a few on the trip. Concern though of rising temperatures leading to more bites.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Willow Health



Willow was seen to be healthy this year.

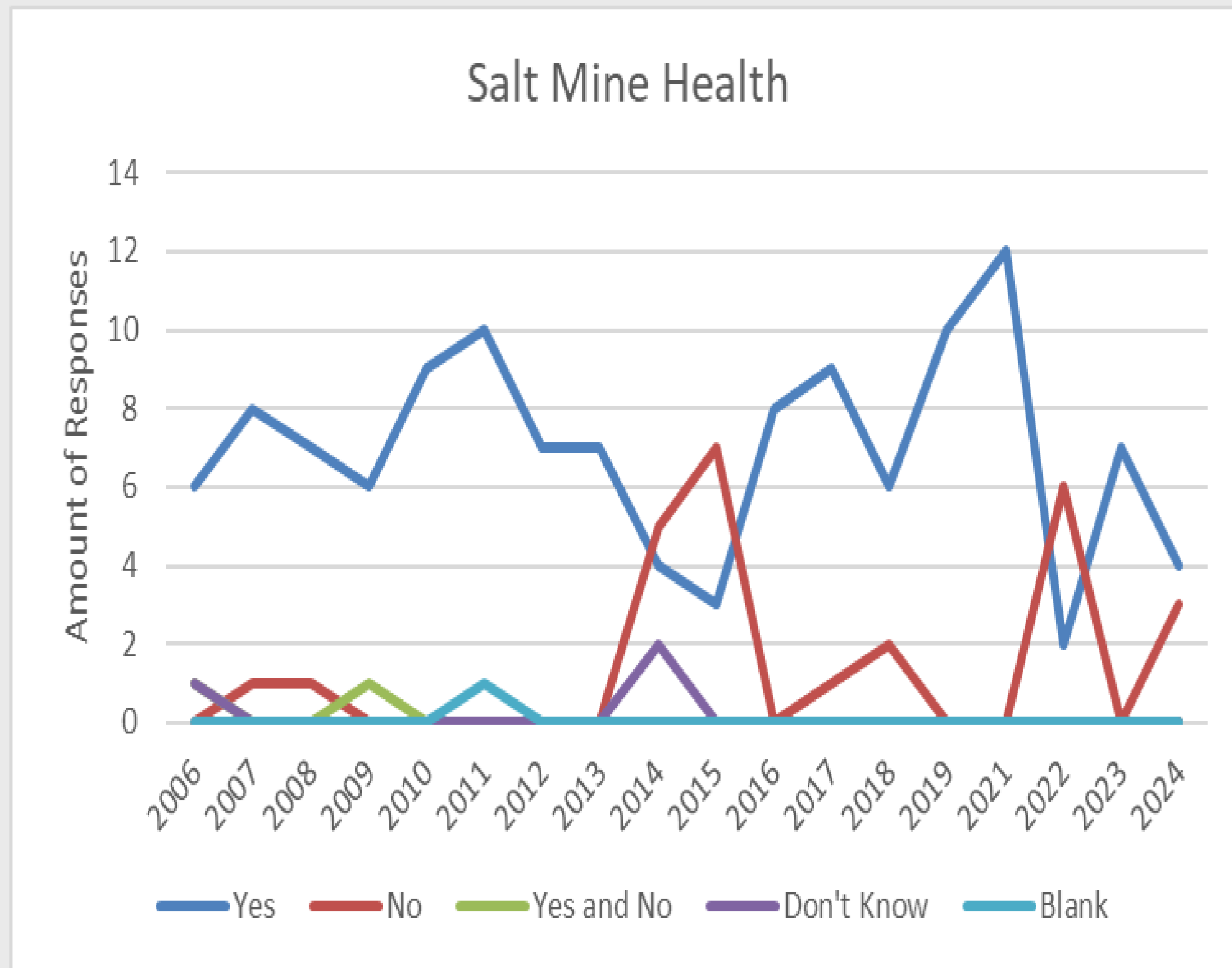
Culturally Important Resource Health: Marsh Health



This year marshes were seen as healthier, very green with healthy reeds.

Concern over aridification limiting the wetland pockets further, becoming a rarer in the canyon.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Salt Mine (Öönga) health



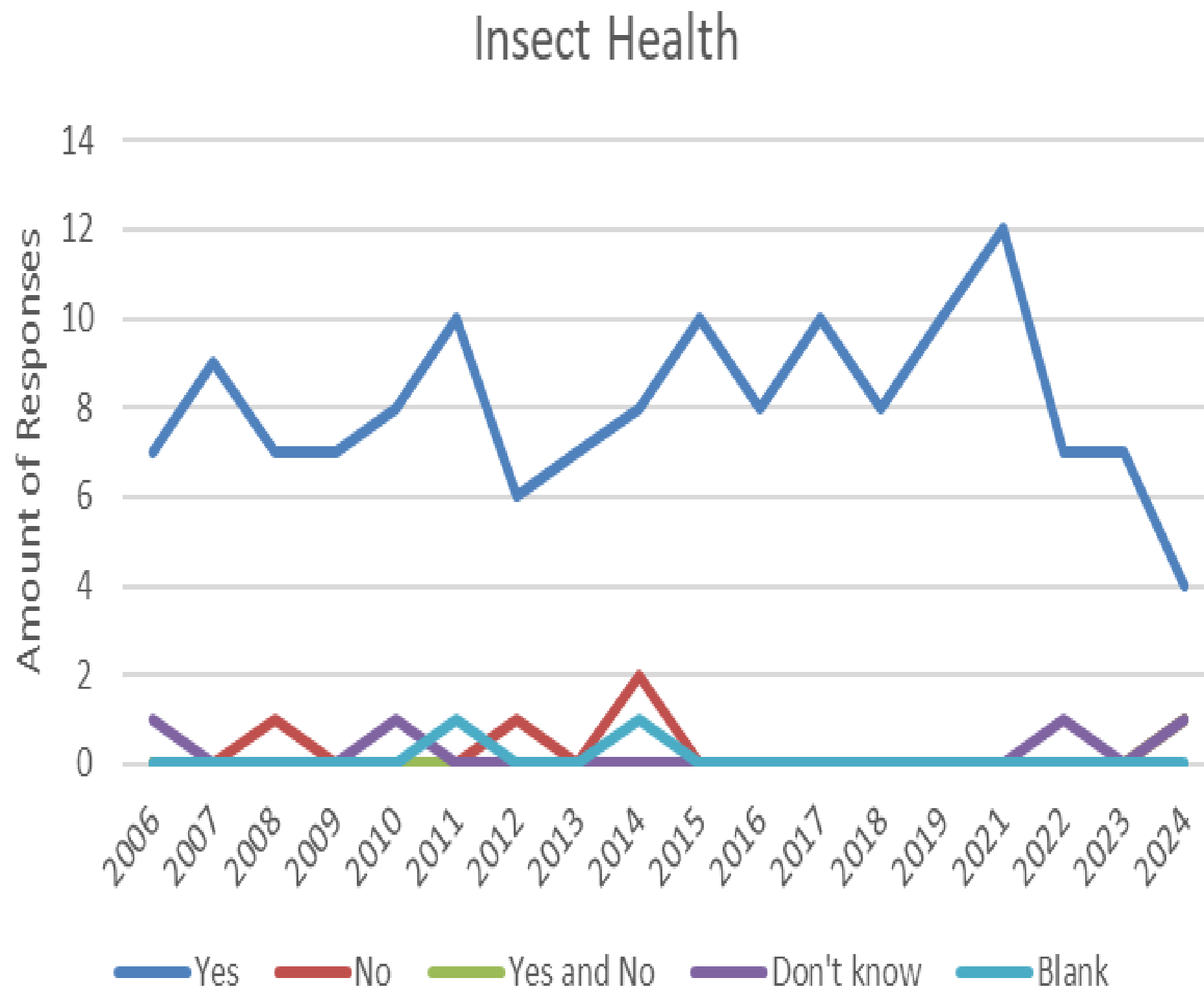
The Hopi felt the salt mine was less healthy this year.

Not collect, but monitor. See if it is monsoon washout or overcollection.

A site of immense sacredness to the Hopi and other tribes for ceremony use and shared stewardship.

The Shrines and petroglyphs were undamaged.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Insect Health

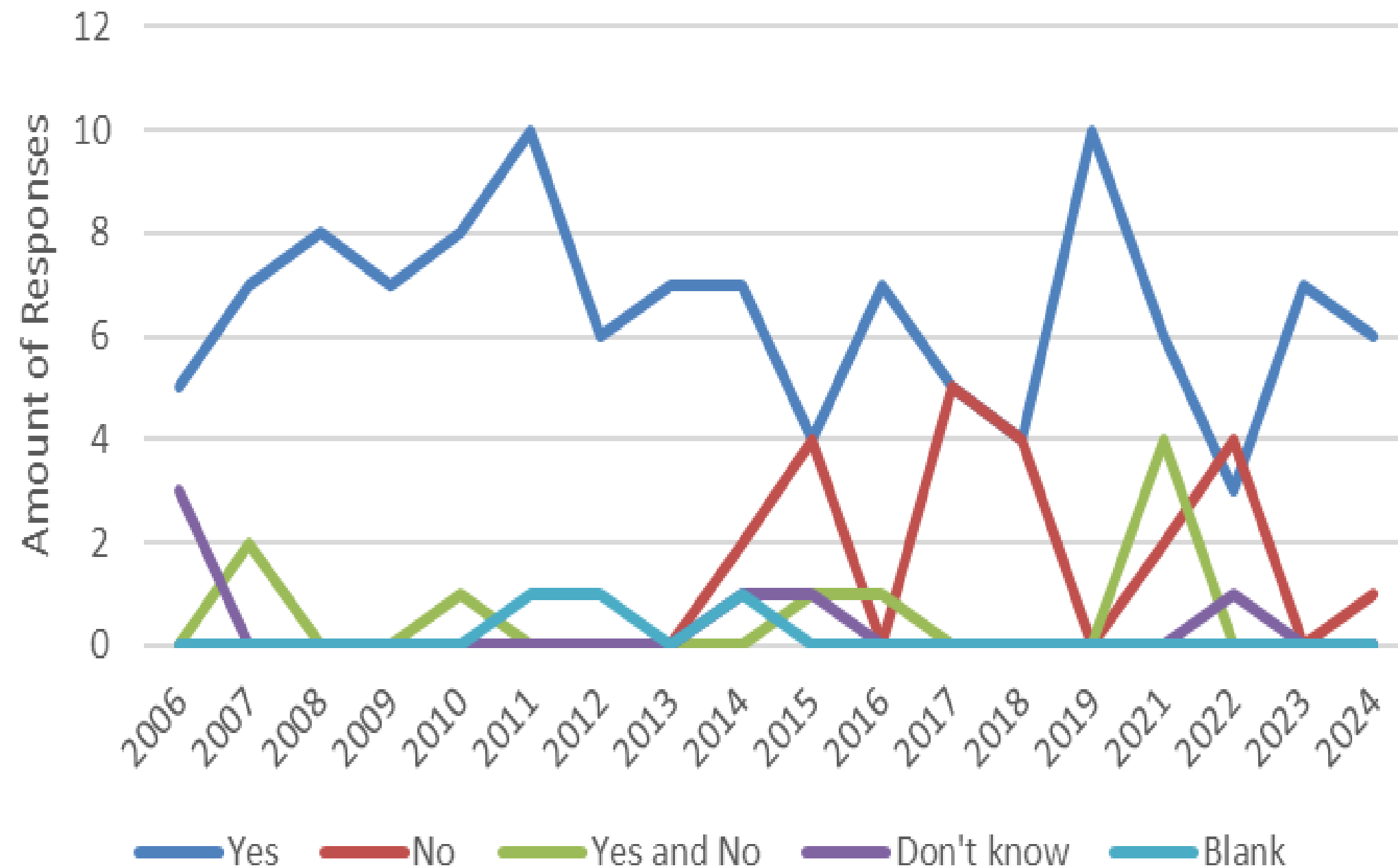


Like always Hopi have continued to view insects as being healthy.
Honeybees at Unkar.

Most observed at Lee's Ferry and then between the Little Colorado and Havasu.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Spring Health

Spring Health



Springs were the healthiest since 2019.

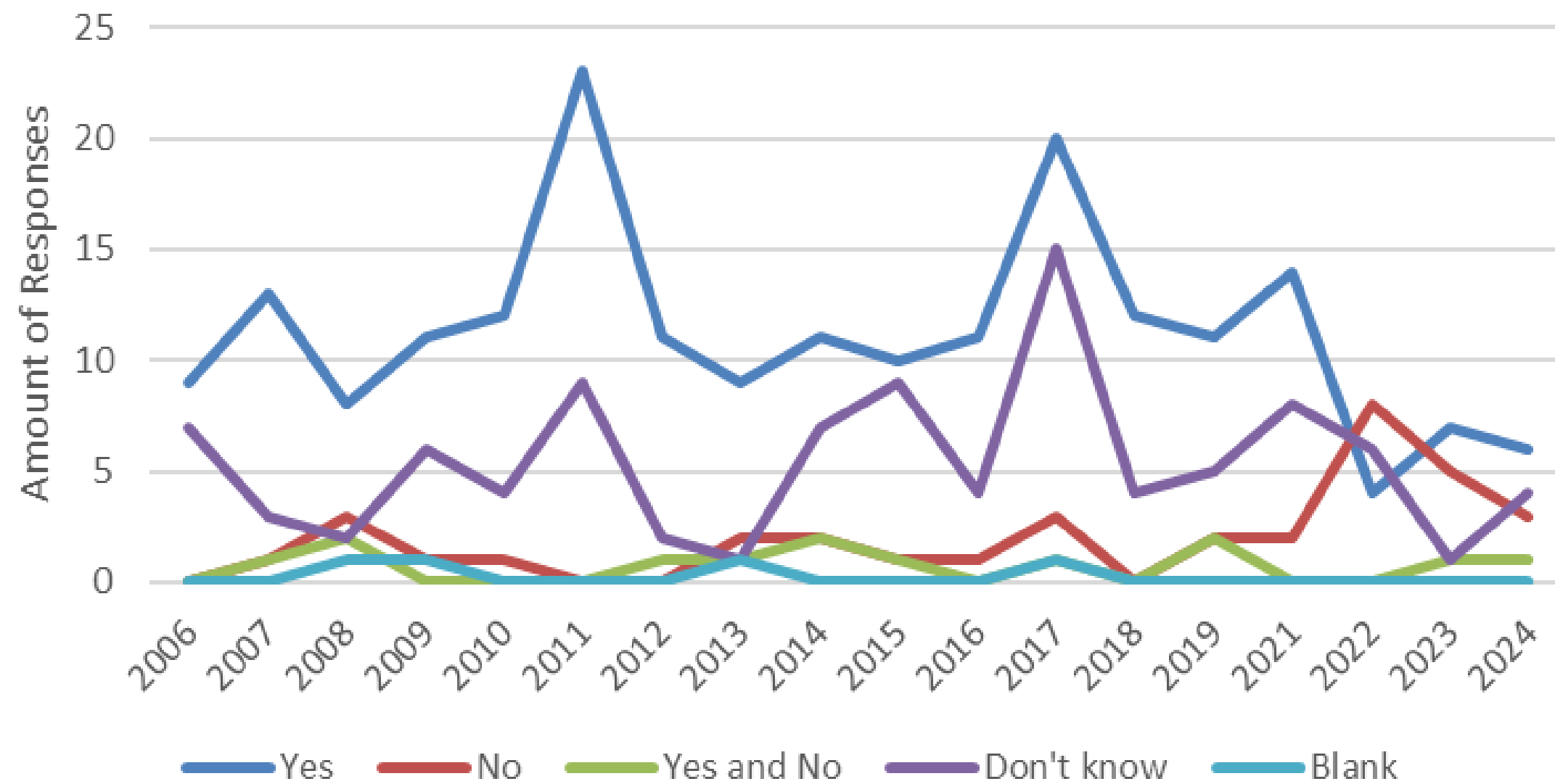
Vasey's spring was flowing the most since 2003.

Whales/Ernies is recovering from the HFE .

Worries on climate change.

Culturally Important Resource Health: Overall health of the Grand Canyon

Hopi Perception of Overall Health Overtime



Overall the canyon was seen as healthier compared to previous years.

21% found the overall health negative compared to last year.

What is Next

1. The archivist research assistant has been hired and begun work prepping interviews and digitizing the old reports.
2. The next river trip is September 2025.
3. The Dam Management team needs to continue to update their climate change and water management goals and projects as those are the greater long-term issues we all will be facing.
4. Mitigation projects with the Slough.

A Healthy Landscape

“As a cultural landscape, *Hopitutskwa* [Hopi land] is defined by landforms associated with deities and historical events, rivers, springs, trails, shrines, and what the Hopi people call *itaakukuven* or “our footprints.”

--from *Ang Kuktota*: Hopi ancestral sites and cultural landscapes

