May 20, 2026

Stevens County:
Climate Policy Advisory Team





Objectives

- Overview of the CPAT process
- Discuss climate hazards and impact

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Overview & Process
- CPAT Roles & Responsibilities
- Integration with Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Preliminary Info on Climate Analysis
- Discussion
- Action Items/Next Meeting



Introductions

Order

- County representatives
- Consultant team facilitators
- Advisory team members

What to Share

- Name
- Organization
- What you are doing over Memorial Day Weekend

Teams Participation Tips (for virtual participants):

- Raise your (Teams) hand to speak
- Use the chat
- Keep your mic on mute (unless you are speaking)
- Turn your camera on if you can



Project Overview

Comp Plan 101 and Regional Climate Change Approach

State Climate Element Requirements

Project Timeline



Comprehensive Planning 101

What is a comprehensive plan?

- A plan to guide growth and decision-making over the next 20 years, consistent with the community's vision.

Why do we plan?

- Guide decision-making, regulations, and investments toward meeting community goals.
- Fulfill requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA).
- **Overall goal is to maximize everyone's health, safety, and economic wellbeing.**



Comprehensive Plan Elements

Comprehensive Plans cover a wide range of topics called “elements.” Each element has topic specific goals and policies, along with supporting background information.

Stevens County Comp Plan Elements

- Economic Development
- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Rural
- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Capital Facilities
- **Climate Change and Resiliency Element**

This group is building toward this!

Climate Element:

- Is required under **HB 1181** and this work is funded through a Washington state Commerce grant.
- Is focused on building resilience to climate hazards including:
  - Wildfire and Smoke, Extreme Heat, Extreme Precipitation, and Drought
- Will include goals and policies to improve preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- Must maximize economic, environmental, and social co-benefits and prioritize overburdened communities to avoid worsening environmental health disparities.

An important term to know:

“Climate Resilience”

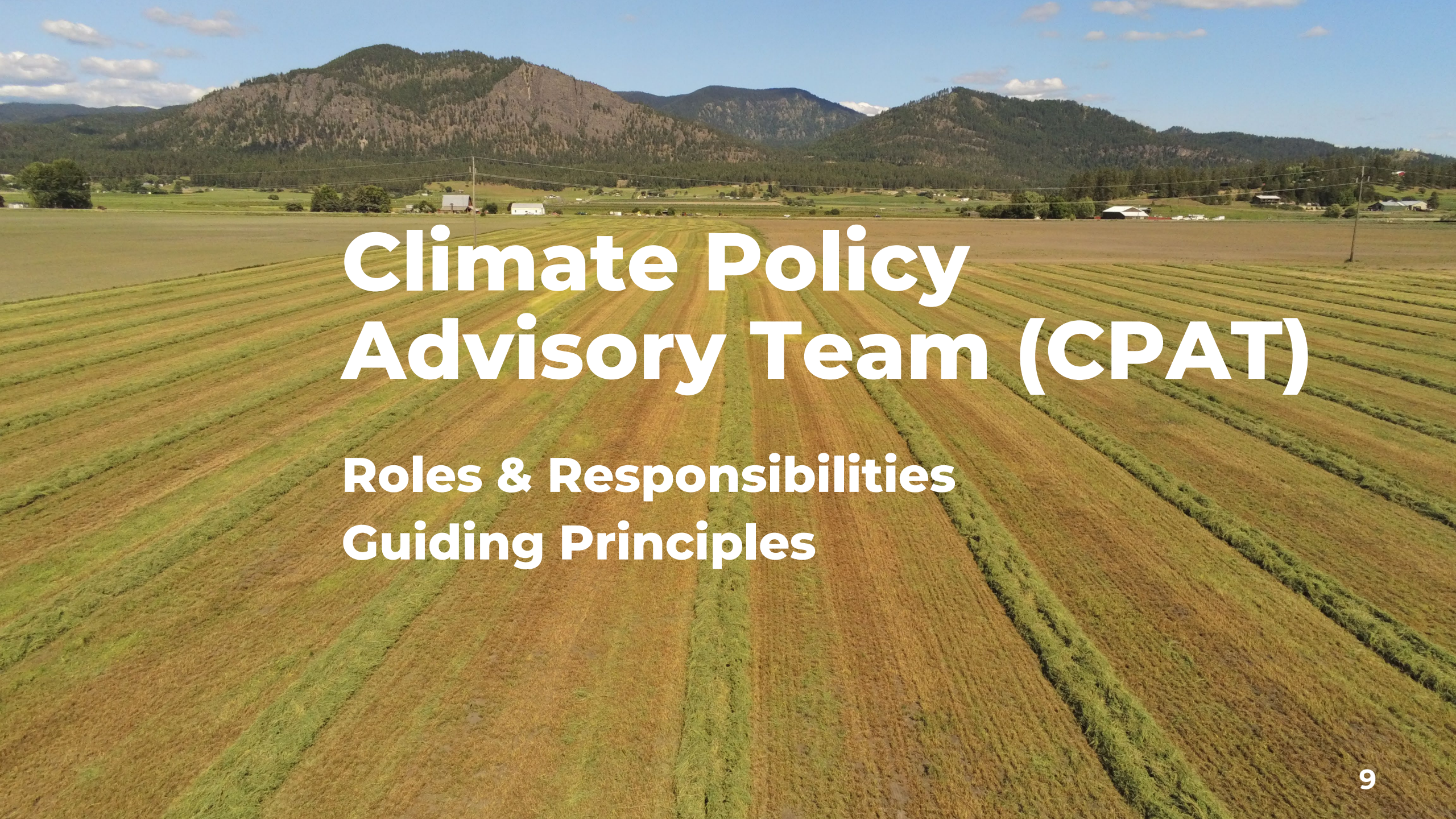
Building resilience means reducing risk, increasing preparedness, and strengthening the community’s ability to recover from climate impacts.

- **Build resilience to natural hazards** related to climate including wildfire and smoke, drought, extreme heat, and extreme precipitation.
- Identify, protect and **enhance natural areas**.
- **Prepare communities and infrastructure** to be resilient to extreme weather and hazards.
- **Prioritize environmental justice** and actions that benefit overburdened communities most impacted by natural hazards.



Process and Timeline

Project Launch (May)	Early Analysis & Public Outreach (Q2/Q3)	Draft Approach & Public Review (Q4/Q1 2027)	Ready for Comp Plan Inclusion (Q2 2027)
Meeting 1 ▪ Launch CPAT ▪ Discuss climate hazards and assets	**Meetings 2, 3** ▪ Policy Audit ▪ Climate Impacts memo ▪ Preliminary Climate Vulnerability	**Meetings 4, 5** ▪ Vulnerability Assessment findings ▪ Strategies for resiliency ▪ Draft policies review & revisions	**Meeting 6** ▪ Final draft recommendation ▪ Updates on early actions



Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT)

Roles & Responsibilities
Guiding Principles



Roles and Responsibilities of CPAT

- Attend 5 to 6 meetings (with virtual options) over the next 1.5 years.
- Review and discuss climate findings, outreach strategies, and draft goals and policies.
- Help identify locations and people most vulnerable to wildfires, drought, extreme heat, poor air quality, flooding, and water quality issues.
- Ensure the Climate element reflects Stevens County's unique context and needs.
- Promote participation in this regional planning effort.



Participation Guidelines

Engage

- Listen attentively with an open mind and allow others to speak and be heard.
- Use “I” statements to express personal perspectives and avoid assumptions.
- As meetings are hybrid, turn on your camera if you can.

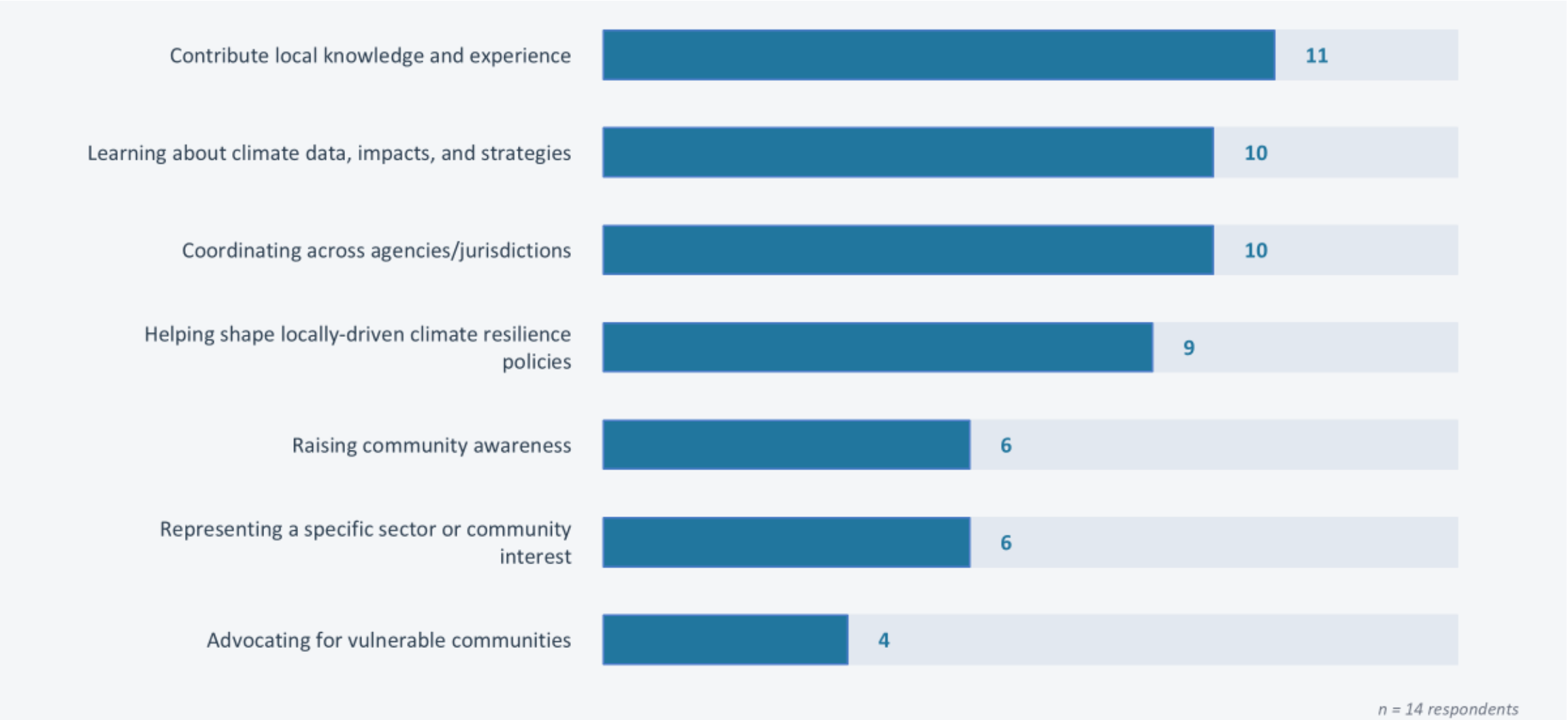
Constructive Dialogue

- Respect different viewpoints and lived experiences.
- Acknowledge that differing perspectives exist, while recognizing that everyone is engaging in good faith.

Come Prepared

- Review relevant materials in advance to contribute to an informed discussion.
- Stay on point and be mindful of time.

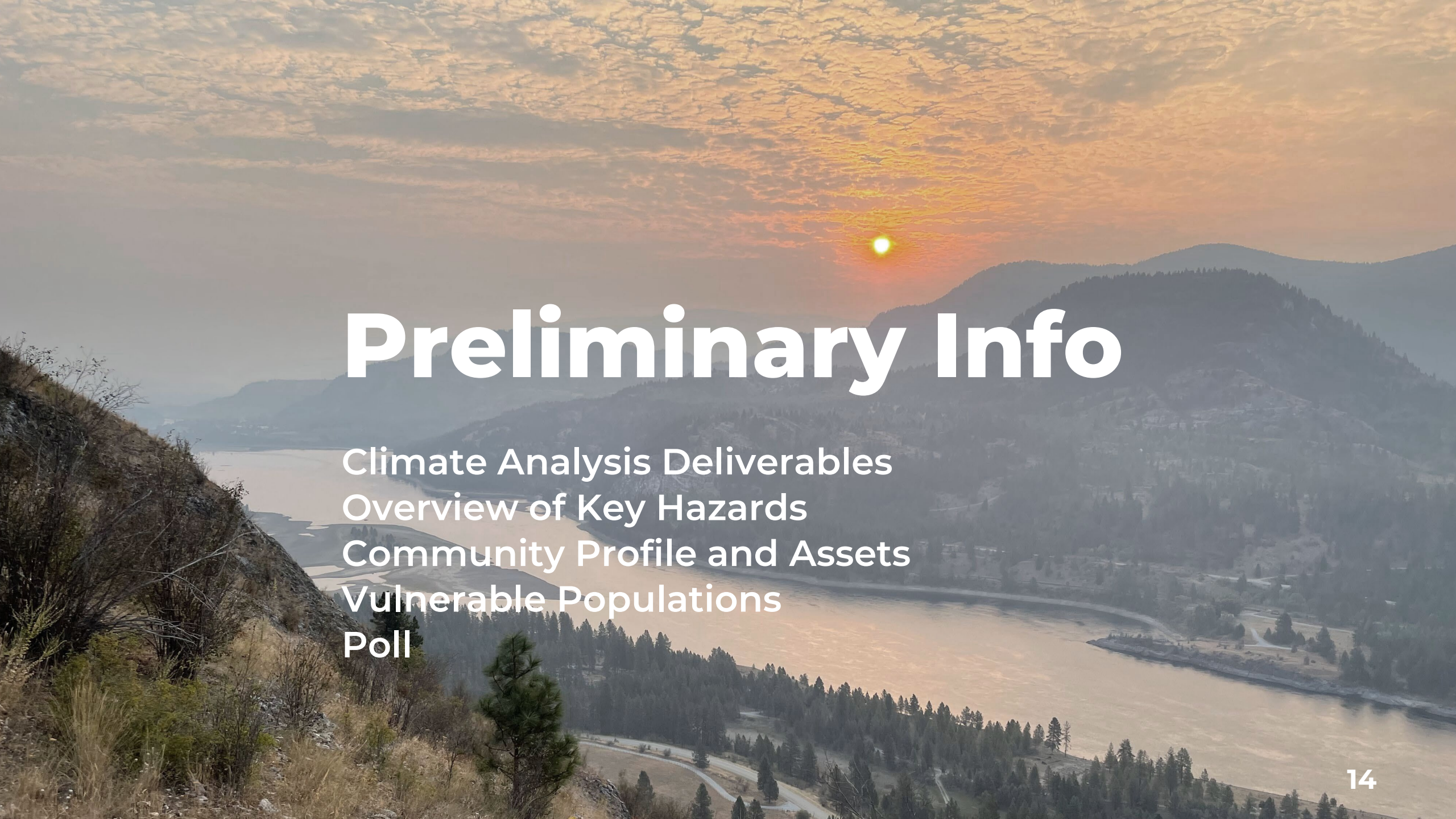
Q1: What are you hoping to get out of participating on this advisory team?





Integration with Hazard Mitigation Plan

Adenea Sellars, Stevens County Emergency Management Director



Preliminary Info

Climate Analysis Deliverables
Overview of Key Hazards
Community Profile and Assets
Vulnerable Populations
Poll



Climate Analysis Deliverables

The analysis will study holistic and overlapping impacts of climate change facing Stevens County. The information will be based on future projects from national and state data. Findings will inform the policy focus areas and strategies.

1. Climate Impacts Memo

This memo will review climate hazards and identify community assets. Assets are social, economic, and environmental resources, places, services and infrastructure that are important and valued across the County.

We will share our draft with you and get your input for next meeting.

2. Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

- Builds on the Climate Impacts Memo
- Organized by Climate Hazards - include extreme heat, wildfire & smoke, drought and extreme precipitation.
- **Assets and potential exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity**
- Analyzes **-**how different climate hazards are likely to affect County's assets



Sectors to be addressed – assessment and policies

- Agriculture & Food Systems
- Buildings & Energy
- Cultural Resources
- Economic Development
- Emergency Management
- Health & Well-being
- Ecosystems
- Transportation
- Waste Management
- Water Resources
- Zoning & Development

Key Climate Hazards Facing Stevens County



Flooding

- Increased flooding due to increases in peak streamflows



Extreme Precipitation & Storms

+ landslides

- More intense storms
- Higher total annual precipitation



Wildfire, Smoke, and Air Pollution

- Increased wildfire frequency and severity
- Increased smoke and poor air quality



Extreme Heat and Drought

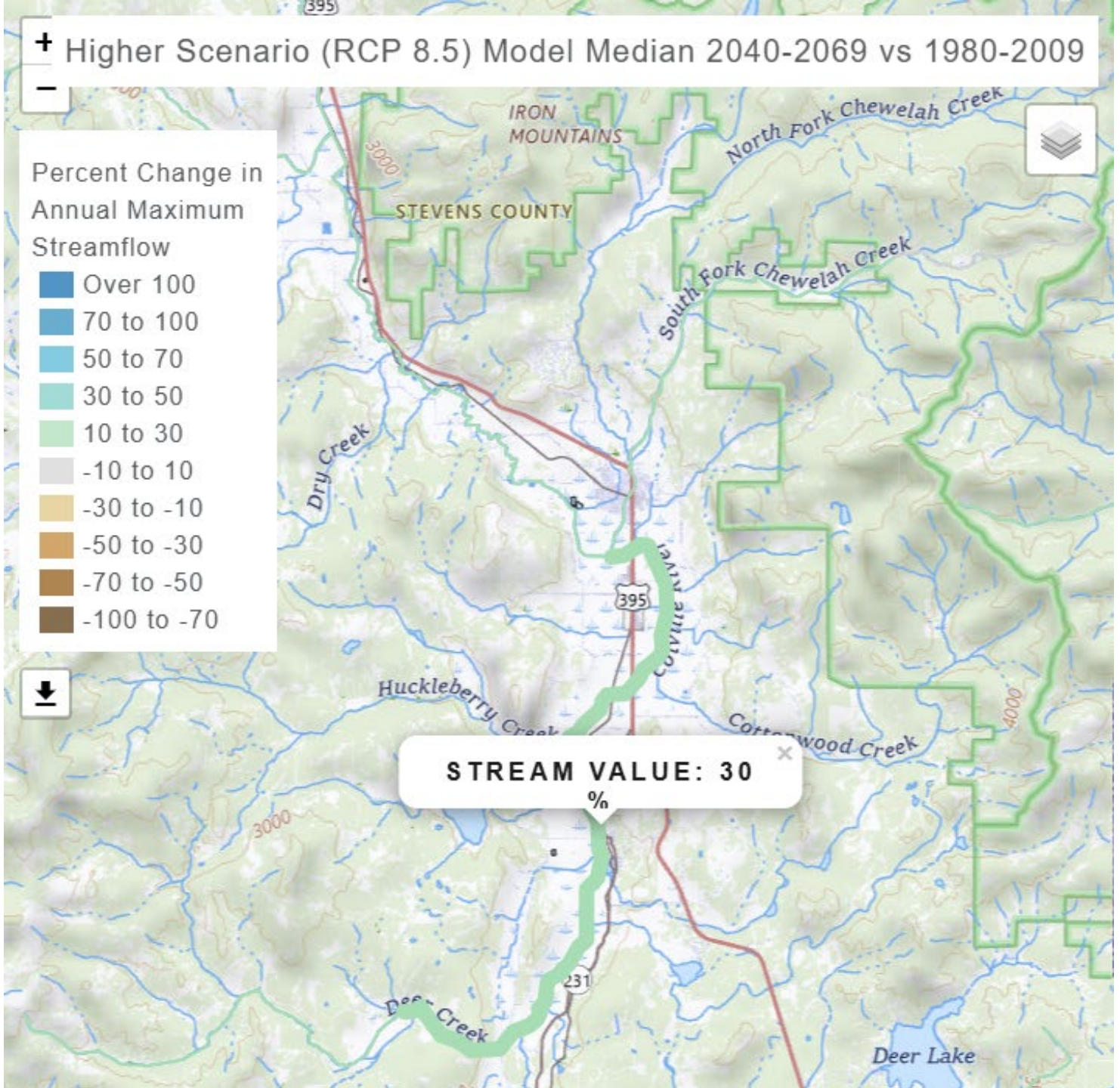
- Declining summer precipitation
- Regional droughts
- Higher annual average temperatures
- High summer temperatures

Flooding

Major flooding has occurred in the past.

Climate projections, available by stream reach:

- **+13-30% increased peak streamflow** for the Colville River

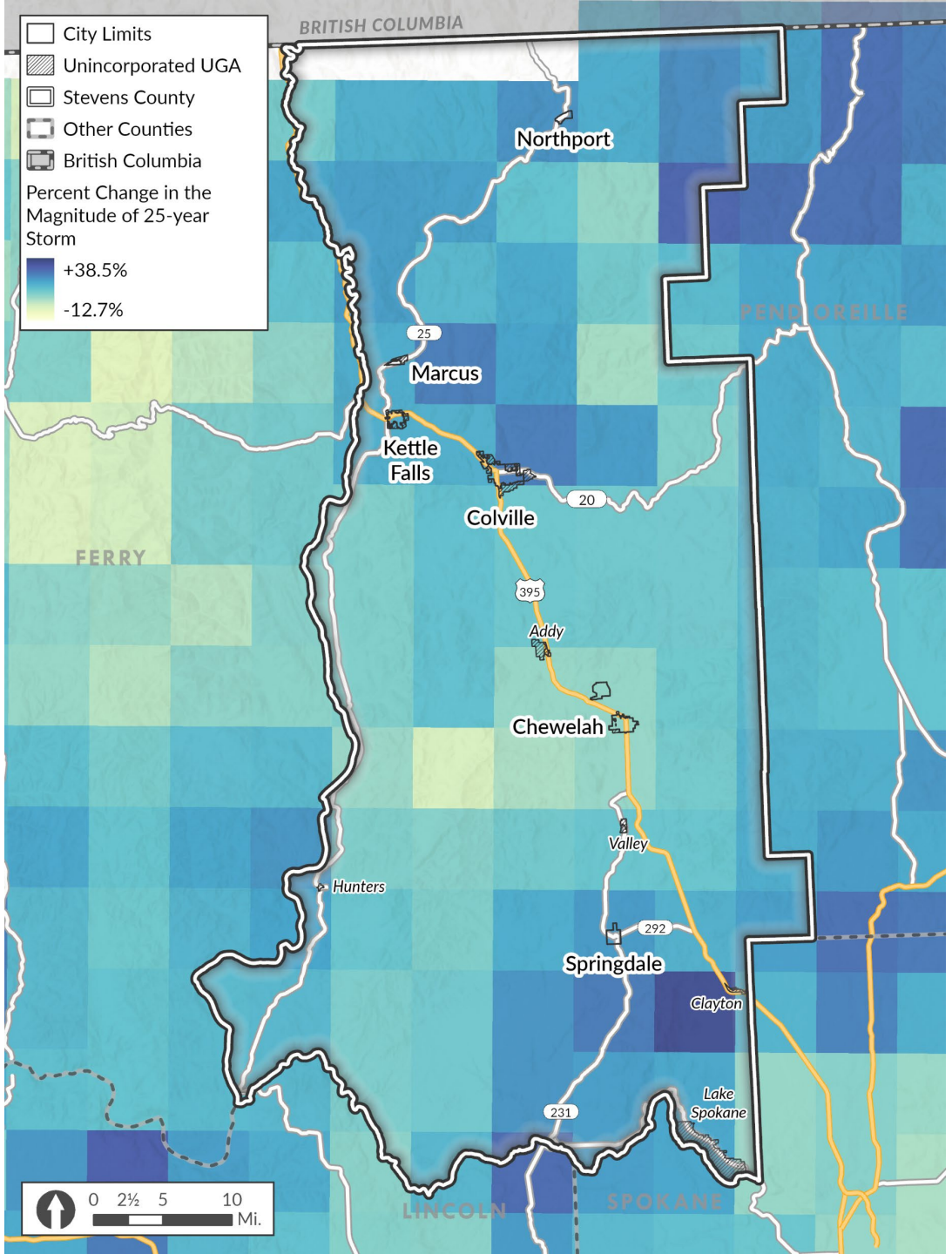


Extreme Precipitation and Storms

Precipitation impacts to streamflows and winter storm disruptions to connectivity have occurred in the past. Wet weather also raises risk of landslides.

Climate projections:

- **+16%** increase in heavy precipitation magnitude (2-year storm)
- **+17%** increase in extreme precipitation magnitude (25-year storm)
- **+ 12.1%** in total annual precipitation

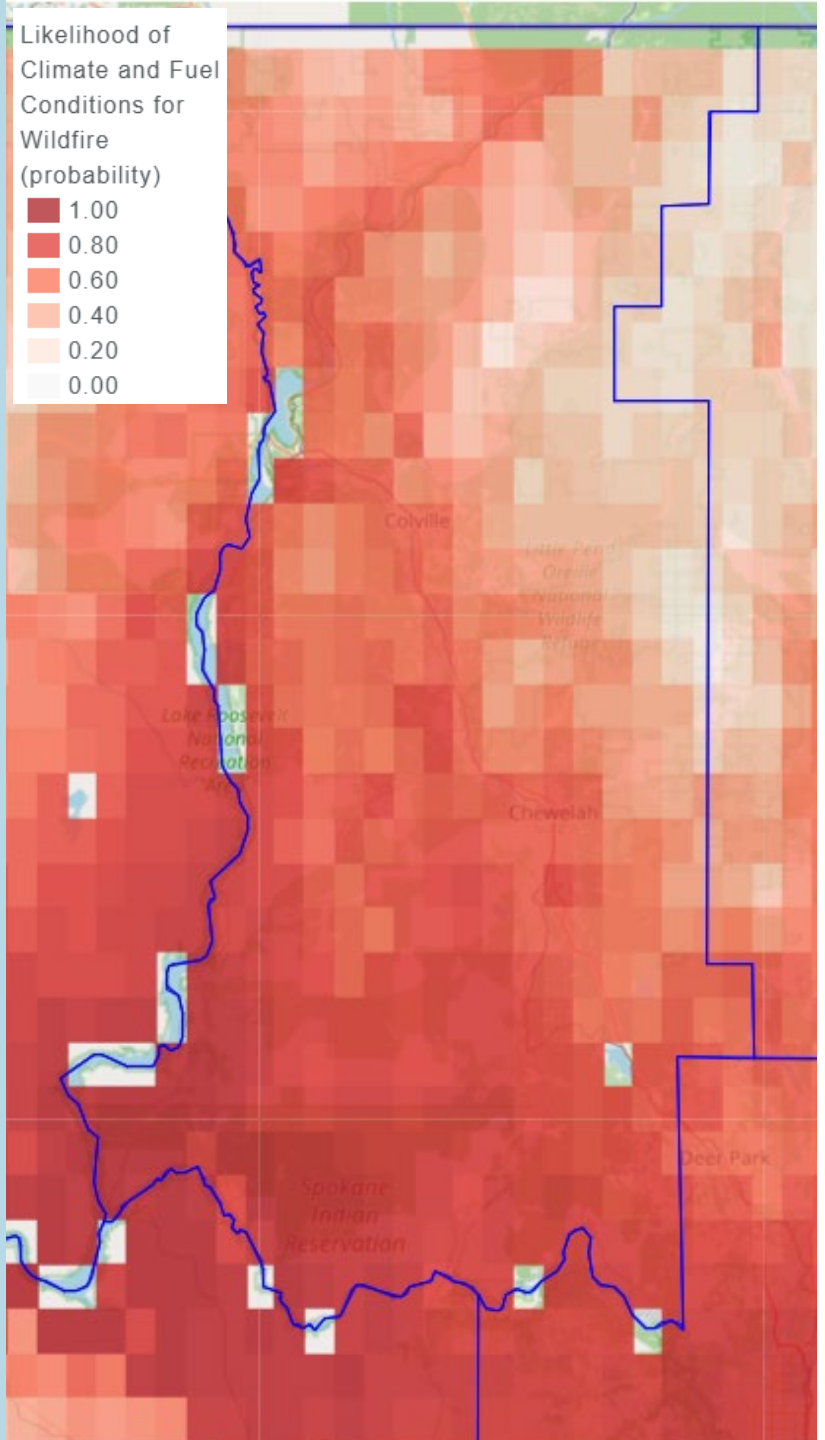


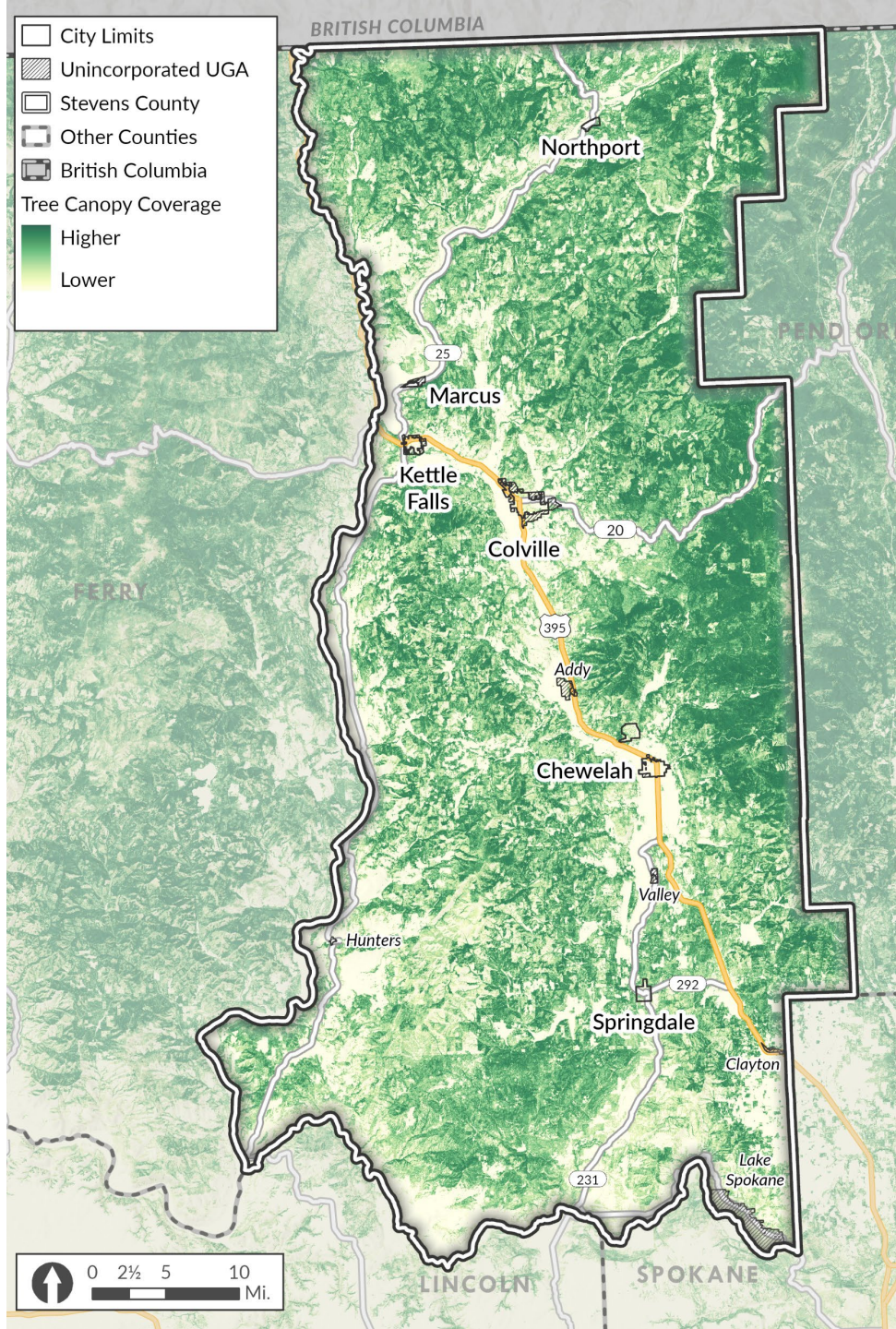
Wildfire, Smoke, and Air Pollution

Burned areas are also more prone to landslides in wet weather.

Climate projections:

- **+9** high fire danger days annually
- **64% chance** of climate and fuel conditions optimal for wildfire



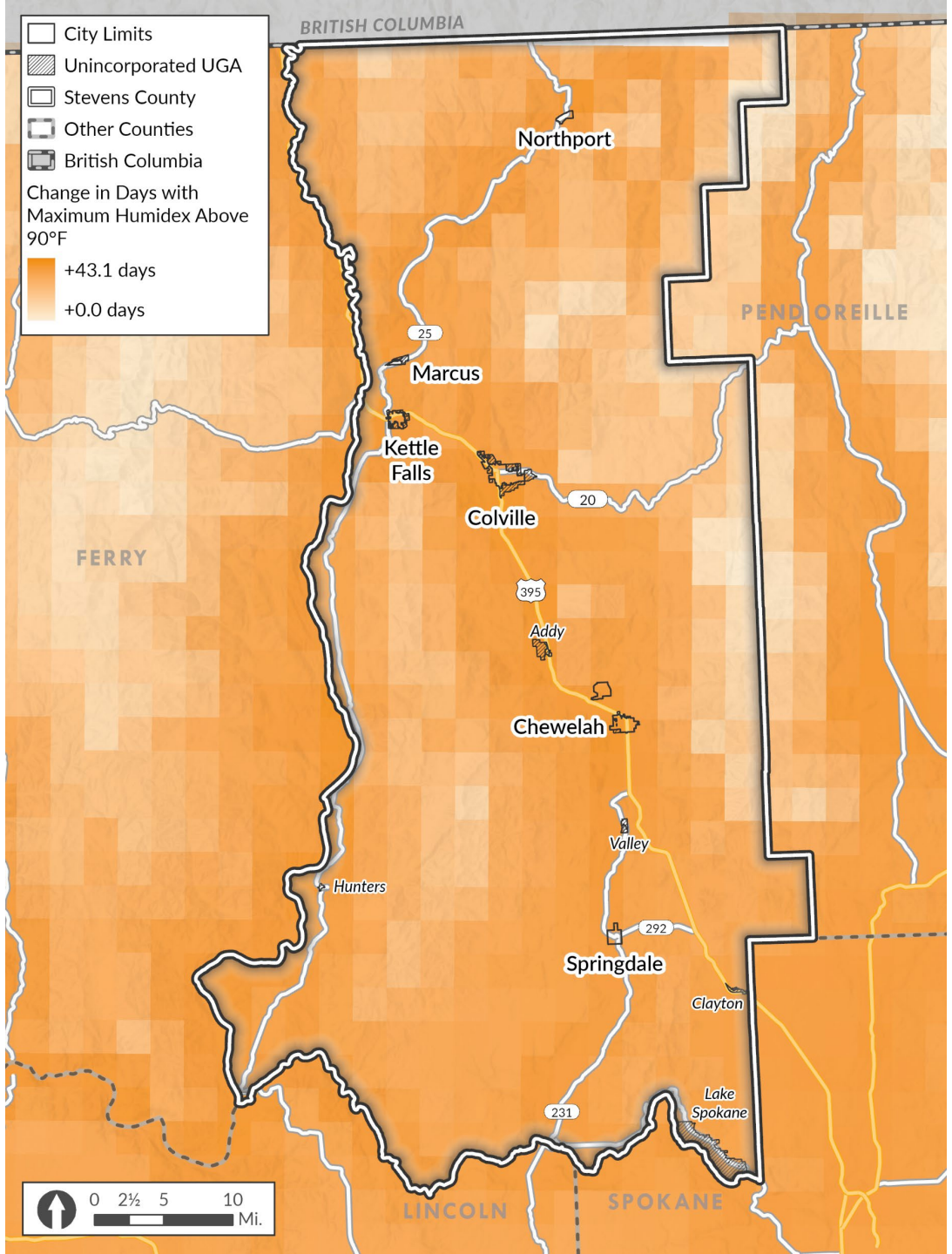


Extreme Heat and Drought

Heat and drought have major implications with agriculture and recreation as main industries. This also contributes to wildfire conditions.

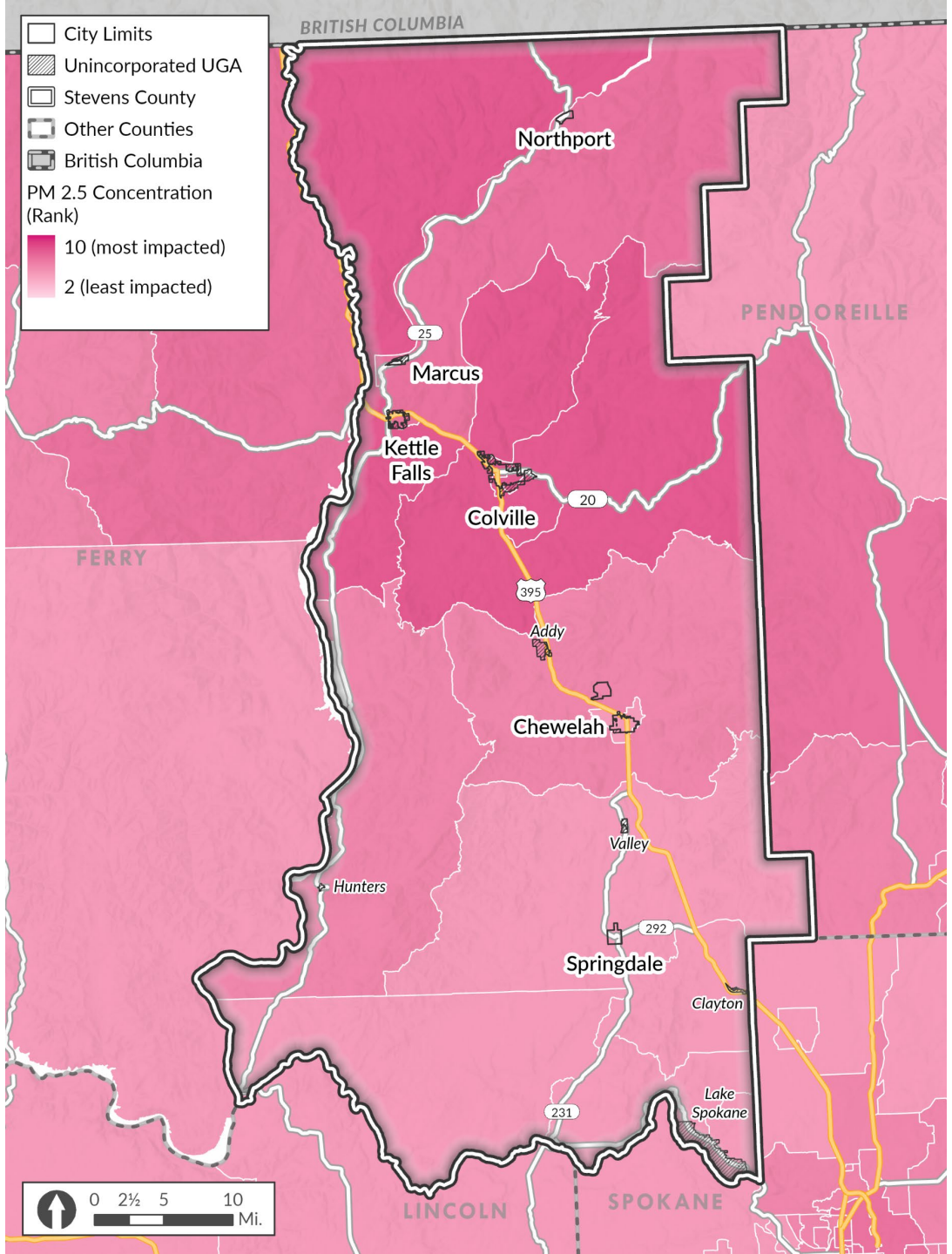
Climate projections:

- **+25.8 days** annually over 90° F Humidex
- **+6.7° F** average summer maximum temperature
- **-84%** April 1 snowpack
- **-10.1%** in late summer precipitation
- **-25%** summer streamflow in Colville River

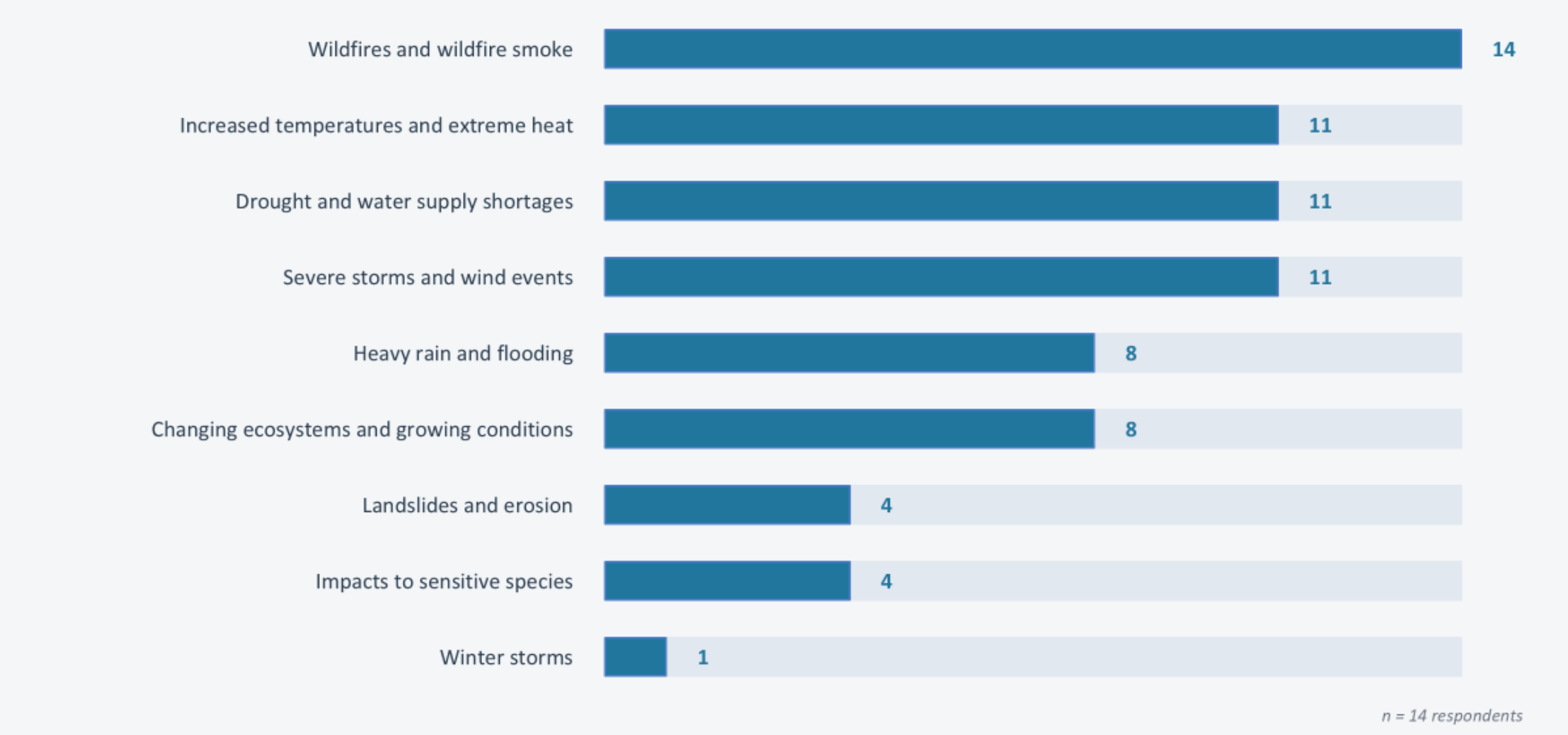


Air Quality

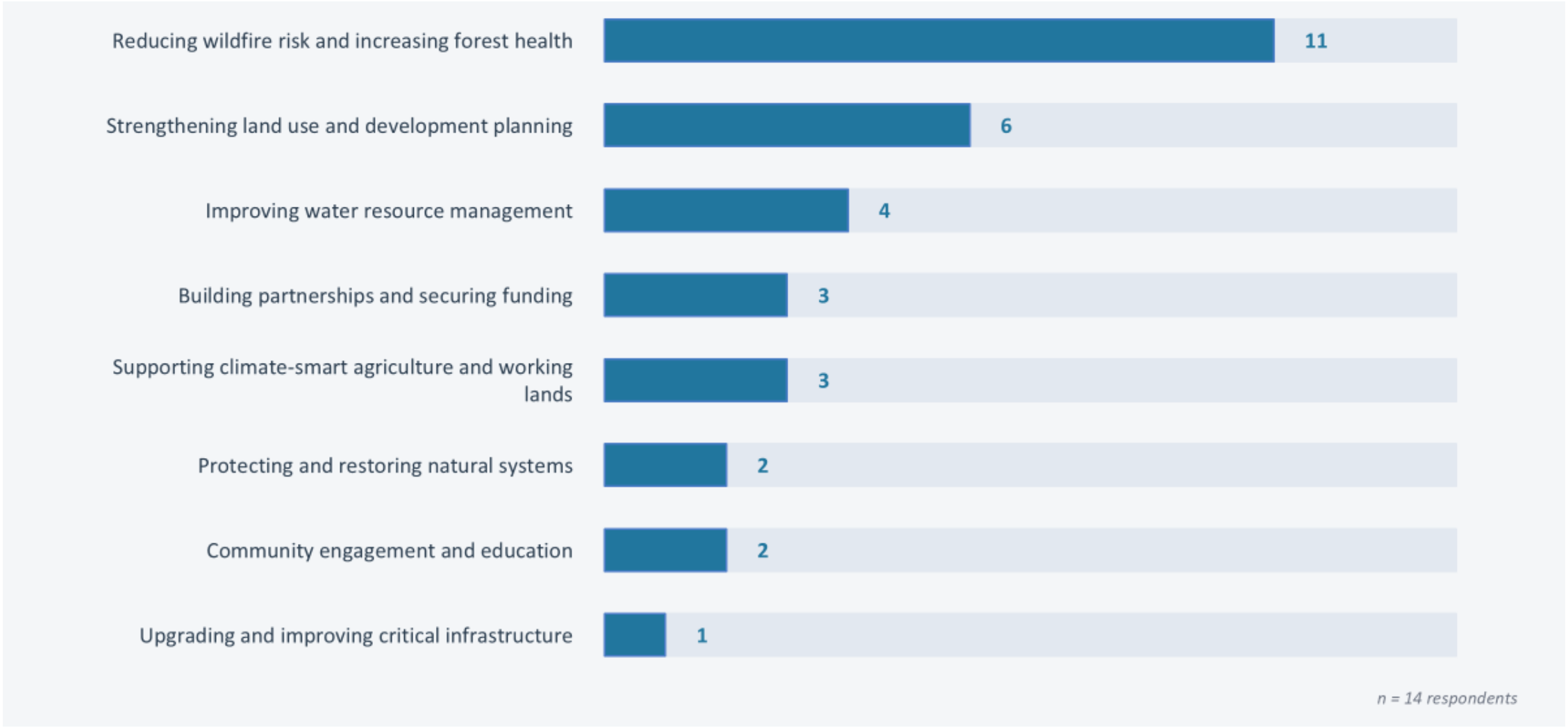
- Extreme heat and wildfire smoke can exacerbate air pollution
- County has moderately-higher level of PM 2.5 concentrations compared to other counties (8 out of 10 around Colville)



Q2: What weather and climate hazards have you experienced in Stevens County?



Q4: If you had to choose one or two priorities for address climate resilience in your area, what would they be?





Community Profile

- **Total population:** 47,800
- **Age:** 25% over 65, 5% under 5, 23% under 19
- **Race and ethnicity:** Predominantly White and non-Hispanic (85%). 8% two or more races, 4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 4% Hispanic or Latino
- **Mostly homeowners**, only 20% renters
- **Households:** 25% have one or more children under age 18, 45% have one or more people over age 65, 13% live alone, 8% are over 65 and live alone
- **Median Income:** $69,327

Compared to Washington State, Stevens County has:

- Greater proportion of people over age 65 and over 65s living alone
- Lower median income
- Higher homeownership rate

Community Assets

Theme	Sector
Community Wellbeing	Health & Well-being
	Emergency Management
Cultural & Natural Resources	Agriculture & Food Systems
	Cultural Resources
	Ecosystems
	Water Resources
Buildings & Infrastructure	Buildings & Energy
	Waste Management
	Transportation
Land Use & Economic Development	Zoning & Development
	Economic Development



Community Assets - Questions

What community assets are most important to you?

In the context of climate impacts, what community assets are you most concerned about and why?

Community Assets – Community Wellbeing

Assets:

- Hospitals and other health facilities
- Adult and long-term care
- Childcare and afterschool programs
- Population health
- Fire and police stations and equipment









Community Assets – Community Wellbeing

Assets:

- Hospitals and other health facilities
- Adult and long-term care
- Childcare and afterschool programs
- Population health
- Fire and police stations and equipment

Impacts:

- Direct impacts to human health (illness, accidents)
- Greater pressure on medical providers and emergency response
- Impacts to roads and other infrastructure for emergency response, medical care, and social services
- Impacts to evacuation routes

Community Assets – Cultural & Natural Resources

Assets:

- Agriculture
- Community & private gardens
- Grocery stores & supply chains
- Food pantries
- Historic/cultural sites
- First Foods
- Archeological resources
- Parks, open space, recreation
- Senior centers and libraries









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Impacts:

- Health and/or income impacts to outdoor workers
- Crop damage
- Impacts to food access and supply chains
- Damage to buildings and sites
- Habitat impacts to First Foods*
- Disruption to cultural practices

**such as water, salmon, deer, roots, and huckleberry*

Community Assets – Buildings & Infrastructure

Assets:

- Residential, Commercial, Industrial Buildings
- Government buildings
- Schools
- Powerlines & Substations
- Transfer Stations
- Roads, Highways, Bridges
- Sidewalks
- Water Treatment Plants
- Sewers









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- Government buildings
- Schools
- Powerlines & Substations
- Transfer Stations
- Roads, Highways, Bridges
- Sidewalks
- Water Treatment Plants
- Sewers

Impacts:

- Demand for electric utilities
- Damage to residential and commercial buildings
- Debris clearing and demand on solid waste services
- Buckling or washed-out roads, highways, and bridges
- Increased WWTP flow and possible sewer overflow
- Utility infrastructure and conveyances (pipelines)

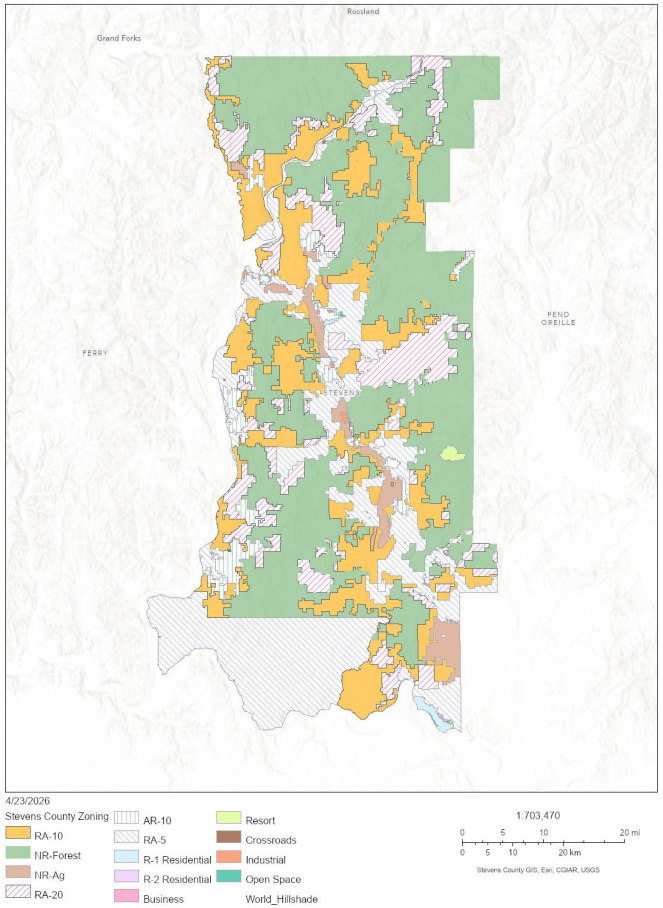
Community Assets – Land use and Economic Development

Assets:

- Commercially Significant Agriculture
- Forestry
- Residences
- Businesses

Tri County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT







Community Assets – Land use and Economic Development

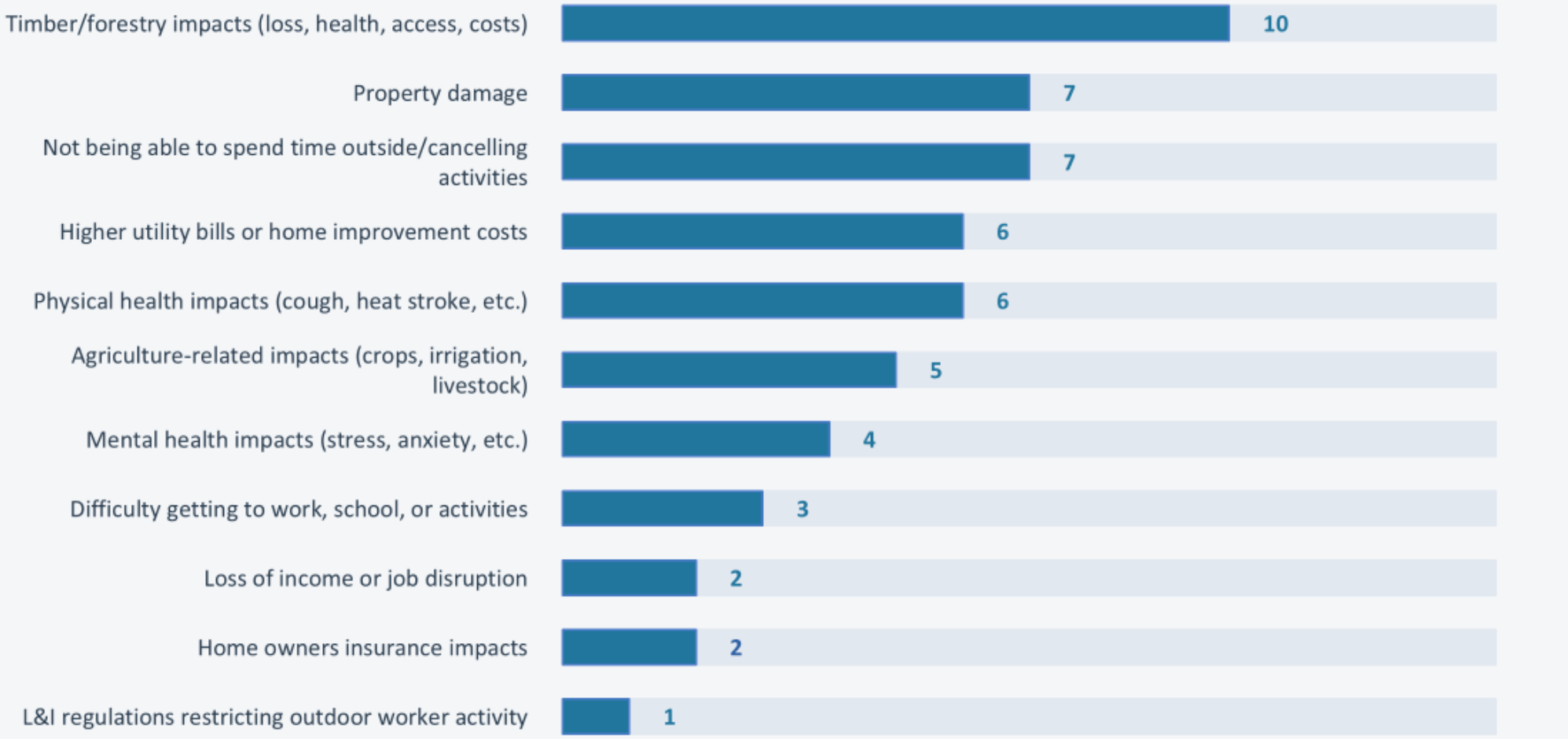
Assets:

- Commercially Significant Agriculture
- Forestry
- Residences
- Businesses

Impacts:

- Cost of retrofits for existing building stock
- Wildfire risk on buildings in the WUI
- Flooding risk to employment centers and farms
- Disruptions of business continuity
- Lost revenue and wages
- Impact to warm-season and tourist activities that are important economic drivers

Q3: Did you experience any of these impacts from natural hazards in Stevens County?



Q5: What programs or policies are currently in place that help with community resiliency against climate hazards?

DNR

Landowner Assistance Program, 20-Year Forest Health Plan, Wildfire Hazard Mapping Initiative, understory fuels reduction

Stevens CD / County NR

Watershed & riparian restoration, Floodplain by Design, forest health & wildfire mitigation support

NRCS / SCCD

EQUIP program, Sustainable Farms & Fields fund, agricultural conservation grants

FCAAP / Firewise / DNR

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Firewise USA, Community Wildfire Defense Grant, Wildfire Ready Neighbors

Public Health / Health District

Air quality monitoring network, air purifier and AC loaner programs, DOH guidance for smoke events

County Emergency Management

Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan

WSU Extension

Community education programs, agricultural outreach

Open-ended question — key programs mentioned by respondents

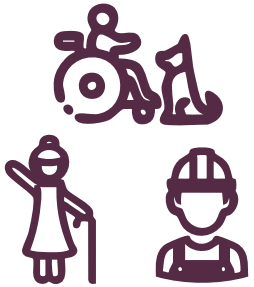
Who is most affected by climate hazards?



People under 5 years old (5% of county population), over 65 years old (25%)



People with health sensitivities affected by heatwaves, pollution



People with less socioeconomic resources, those living alone, those with disabilities, outdoor workers, and others

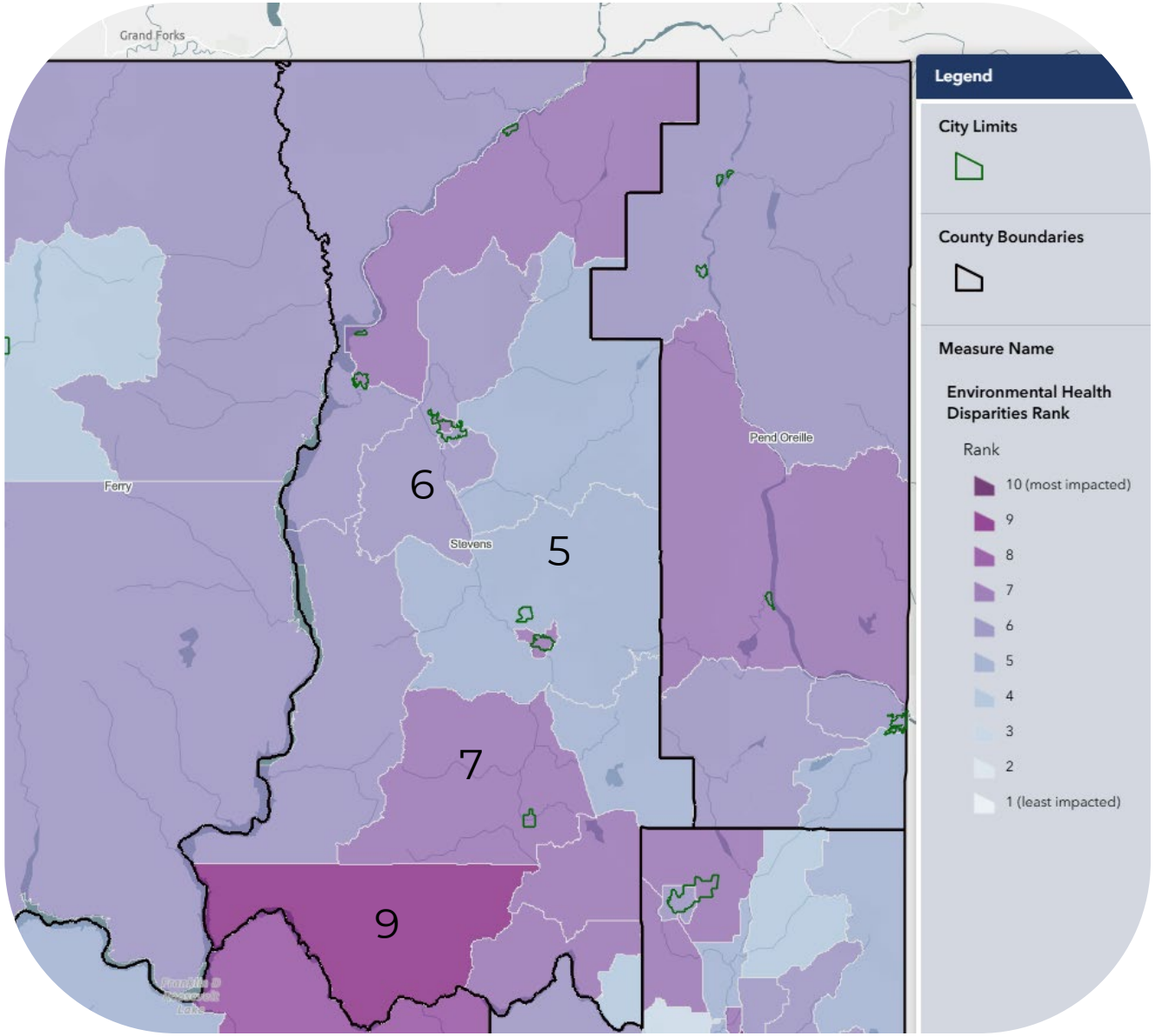
Health Hazards

- Aggravated cardiovascular illness
- Aggravated respiratory illness
- Increased allergy-related illnesses
- Waterborne illness
- Dehydration
- Heat stroke
- Mental health

Environmental Health Disparities

This rank is calculated by averaging the ranks for 25 different topics, or measures.

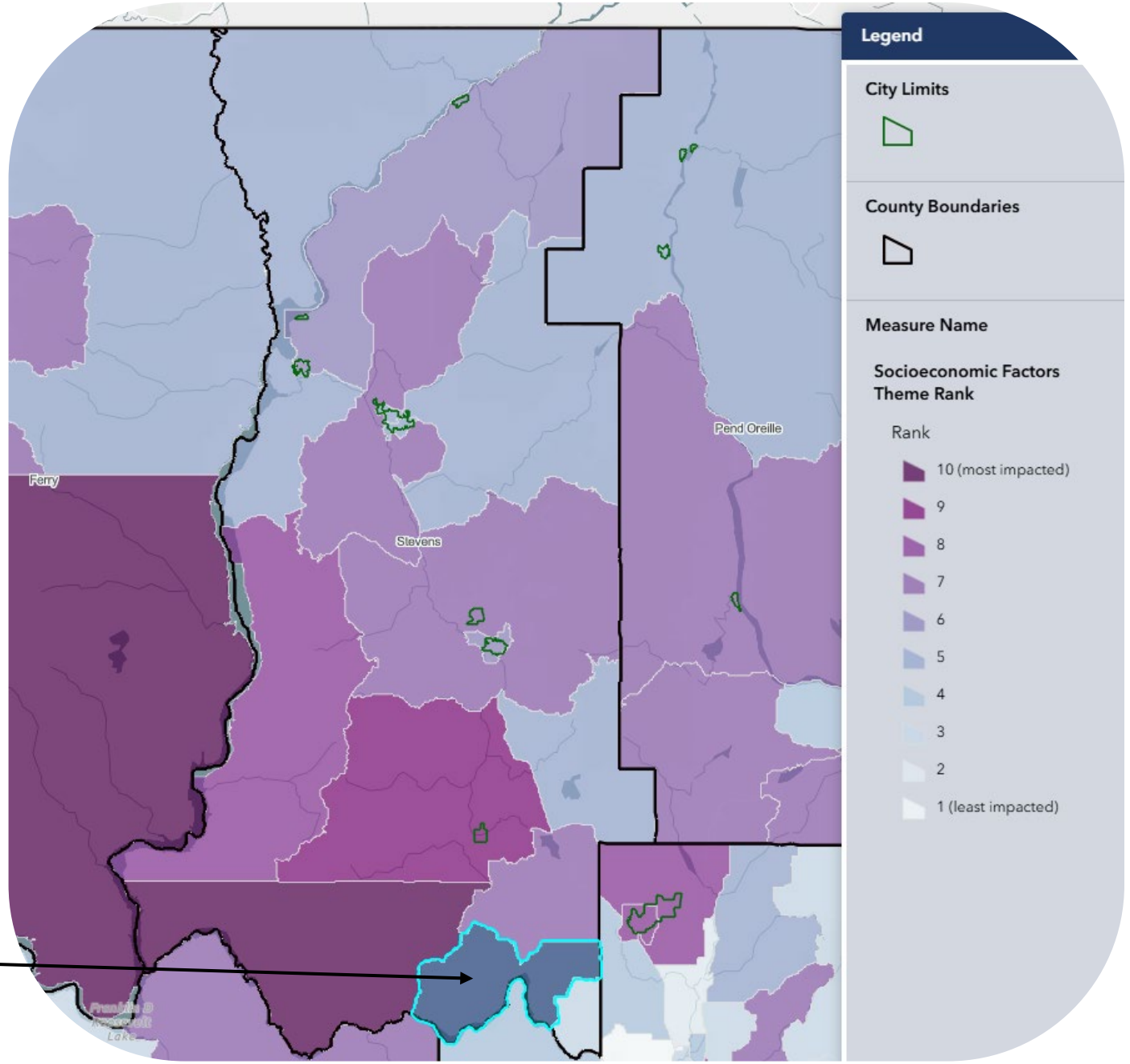
These include data on pollution, socioeconomic factors, and health data.



Socioeconomics

Census Tract 53065951401, Stevens County

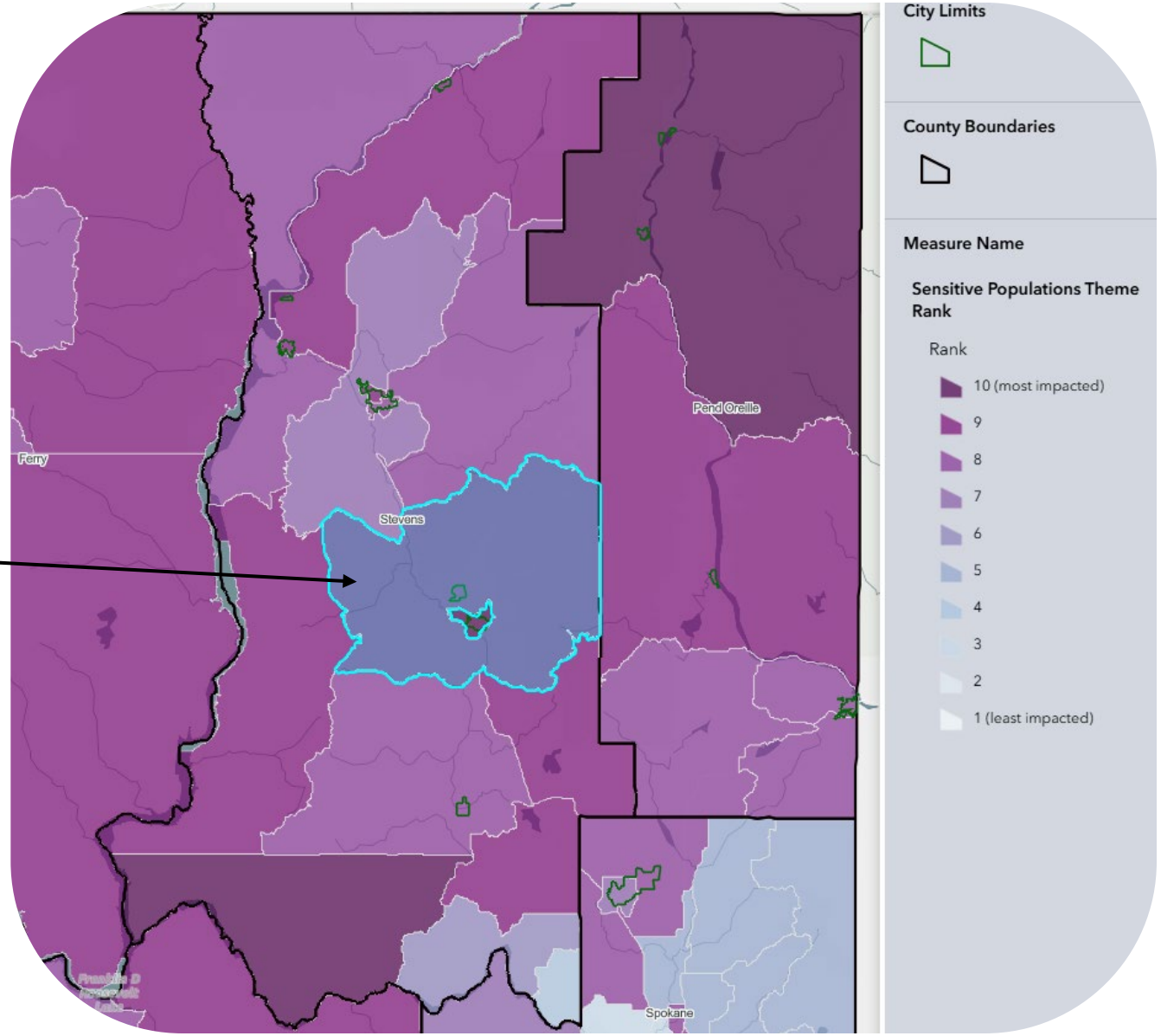
Socioeconomic Factors	
Measure Name	**Rank**
Socioeconomic Factors Rank	10
Community Retail Food Environment Rank	10
Digital Infrastructure Rank	10
No High School Diploma Rank	8
People of Color Rank	1
Population Living in Poverty Rank	9
Primary Language other than English Rank	7
Transportation Expense Rank	10
Unaffordable Housing Rank	8
Unemployment Rank	7



Sensitive Populations

Census Tract 53065950800, Stevens County

Sensitive Populations	
Measure Name	**Rank**
Sensitive Populations Rank	9
Air Quality Related Respiratory Disease Rank	8
Death from Cardiovascular Disease Rank	8
Low Birth Weight Rank	5
People with a Disability Rank	9



Vulnerable Populations – Discussion

Who in the community is already most impacted by heat, fire, smoke, flooding, and extreme precipitation?

What programs are in place now to support these populations?



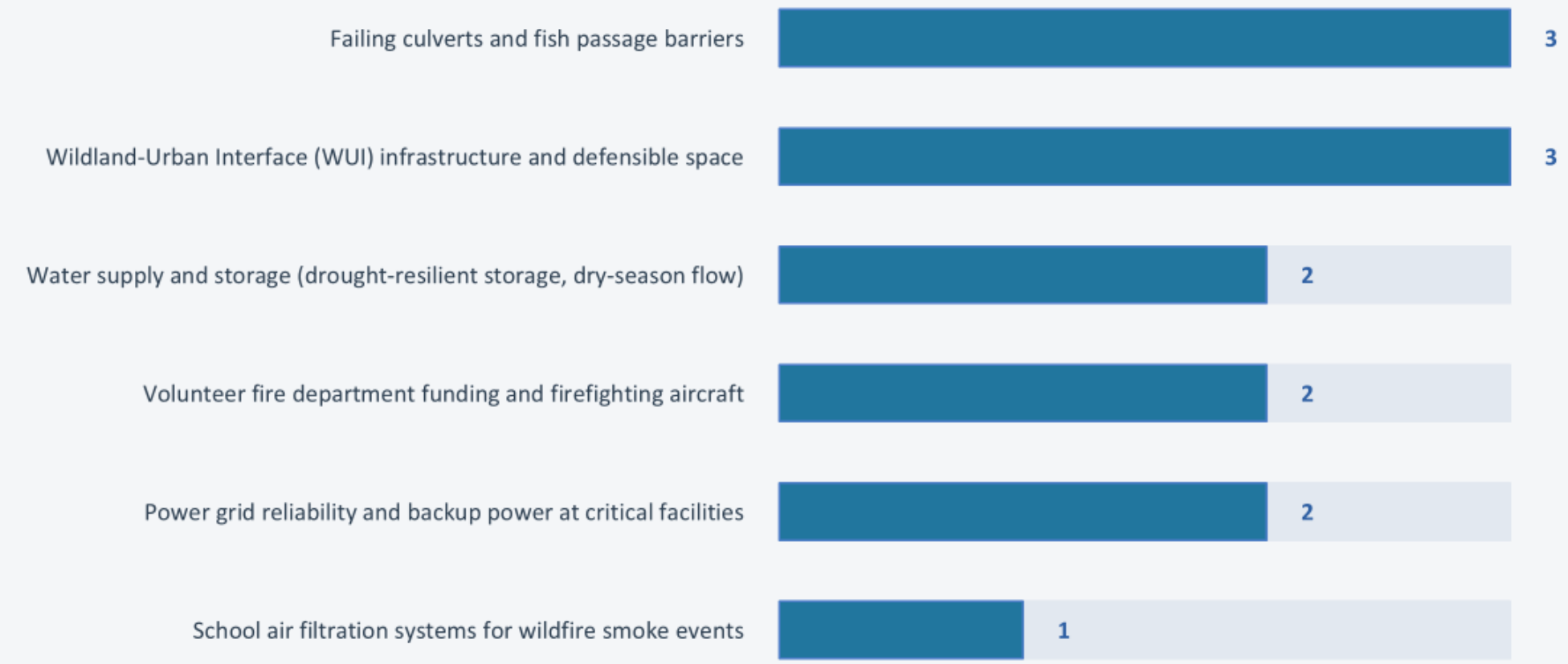
Policy Audit

- Under review: 510 policies, strategies, and actions from the six plans at right
- Reviewing coverage and strength of policies and ability to address 11 sectors

- Comprehensive Plan, latest
- Shoreline Master Program, 2023
- Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2019
- Countywide Planning Policies, 1995
- 2007 WRIA 59 Watershed Plan and 2019 Addendum
- NE Washington Regional Transportation Plan, 2021

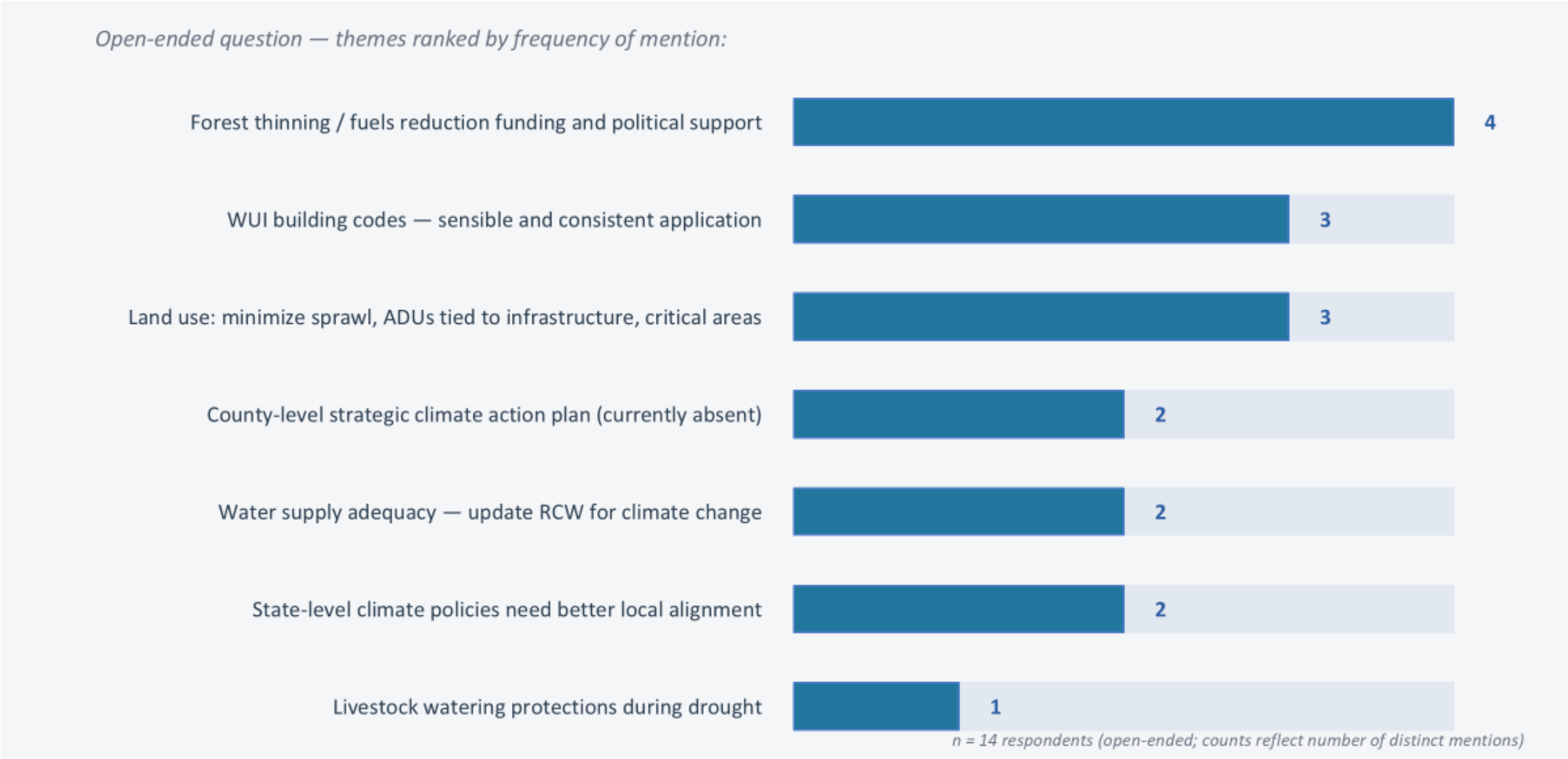
Q6: Where do you see the greatest gaps or needs in terms of infrastructure when it comes to climate resilience?

Open-ended question — themes ranked by frequency of mention:



n = 14 respondents (open-ended; counts reflect number of distinct mentions)

Q7: Where do you see the greatest gaps or needs in terms of policies when it comes to climate resilience?



Q8: Where do you see the greatest gaps or needs in terms of public awareness when it comes to climate resilience?

Open-ended question — themes ranked by frequency of mention:



n = 14 respondents (open-ended; counts reflect number of distinct mentions)



Next Steps

How to Use Results Moving Forward?

1. We plan to include in the planning process all the items that you are looking forward to, including developing a set of Climate Resiliency goals and policies to be adopted into County Comprehensive Plan
2. We plan to address all the identified risks
3. We have heard your desire to make wildfire risk and forest health and strengthening land use planning a priority and will dedicate resources to these.
4. We will work with you to identify ways to strengthen existing programs and regulations, and identified gaps
5. We will work with you on a more extensive education and outreach effort that aims at increasing awareness both in risks and what is happening or can be done to address, including at the individual level.
6. Other?

Potential Focus Topics

You are invited to share which topics you would like to join in for upcoming meetings

Wildfire & Smoke

Outreach

Flood/Extreme Precipitation

Public Health

Water Resources



Action Items/Next Meeting

Next Meeting

- Topic
  - Climate Impacts Memo
  - Fire focus
- Scheduling & Logistics 2026-2027
  - Any virtual meeting IT issues?

Other To Dos

- CPAT Members
  - Others to invite?
  - Participate in focus groups – fire, etc.
- County/Consultant Team
  - Questions to explore?
  - Resources to check out?
  - People to follow up with?



Appendix

Where are we getting the climate data and information?

Resource	Publisher/Data Source
Climate Toolbox	National Centers for Environmental Information MACAv2-METDATA
Climate Mapping for a Resilient Washington	Salathé et al (Drought) Chegwidden et al (Extreme Precipitation)
Climate at a Glance Tool	NOAA
National Climate Assessment Interactive Atlas	Pierce et al. (Extreme Heat) Hayhoe et al. (Extreme Precipitation)
Wildfire Risk to Communities	USDA US Forest Service
Washington Drought Monitor	US Drought Monitor
CDC ASTDR Social Vulnerability Index	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AirNow	EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) Data Mart.