September 23, 2026

Stevens County: Climate Policy Advisory Team





Objectives

- Review Assets and Impacts Memo
- Update on County work related to Climate Resilience

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, and Recap
- Assets and Impacts Memo Review
- Discussion
- Post-Fire Recovery Efforts and Opportunities
- Hazard Mitigation Update
- Floodplains by Design
- Next steps



Assets and Impacts



Memo Outline

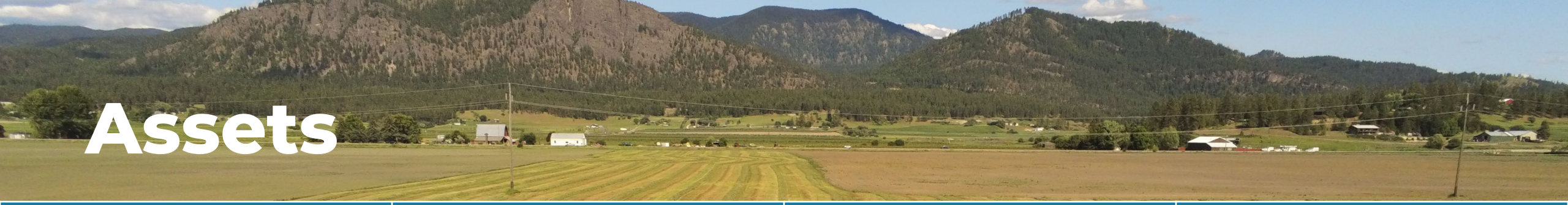
- Climate Planning Background
- Assets, Hazards, & Local Findings
- Areas of Lower and Higher Adaptive Capacity
- Next Steps



Climate Planning Background



- This memo addresses Step 1 of the climate planning steps under the Growth Management Act
- Step 3 (Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment) will build on this memo and identify areas of greatest vulnerability and risk



Assets

Community Wellbeing	Cultural & Natural Resources	Buildings & Infrastructure	Land Use & Economic Development
Health & Wellbeing *Emergency Management*	*Agriculture & Food Systems* *Cultural Resources* *Ecosystems* *Water Resources*	*Buildings & Energy* *Waste Management* *Transportation*	*Zoning & Development* *Economic Development*
• Population health • Medical facilities • Social services • Emergency response • Evacuation routes	• Food production • Food distribution • Historic and cultural resources • Community resources • Natural areas and resources • Plants and animals • Water resources • Water infrastructure	• Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings • Government facilities • Educational facilities • Energy infrastructure • Solid waste services • Wastewater infrastructure • Stormwater infrastructure • Major transportation • Local transportation	• Resource lands • Residential uses • Agriculture • Forestry • Outdoor workers • Employment • Local businesses and industries



Hazards

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



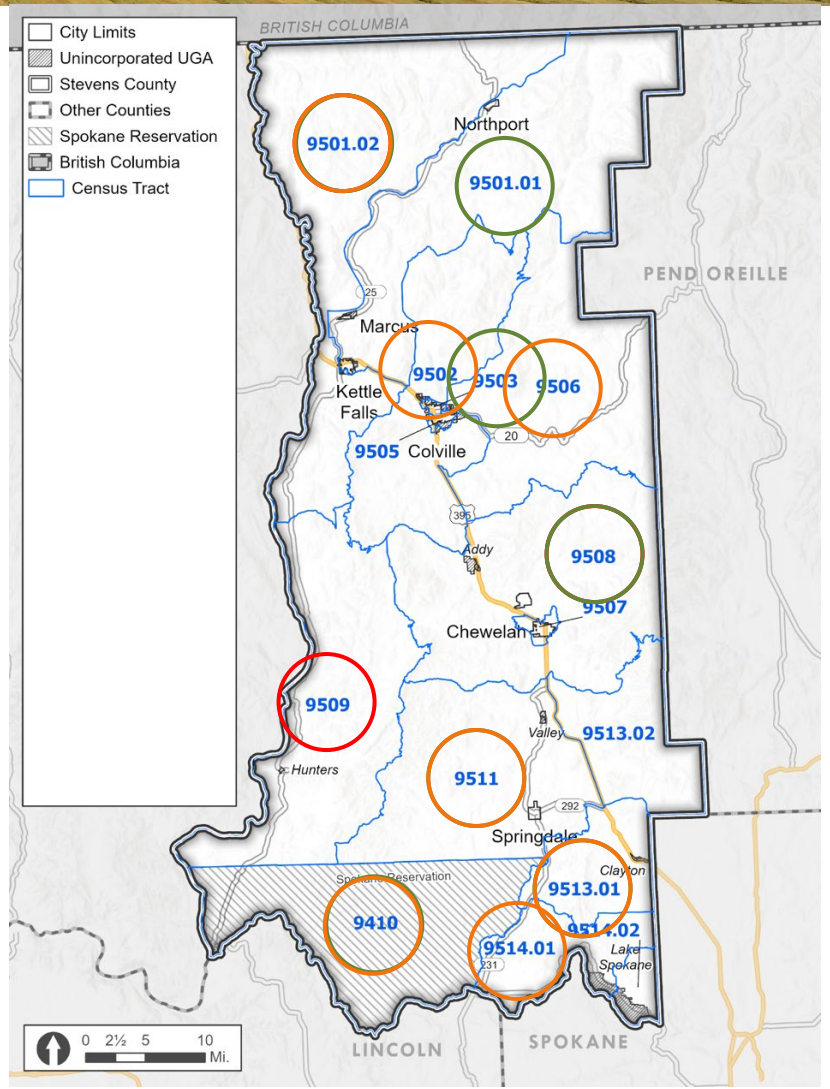
Indicators of Adaptive Capacity

- Adaptive capacity is the ability of a person or community to adjust to a hazard, take advantage of new opportunities, or cope with change
- **Low adaptive capacity indicators:**
  - Living alone
  - No vehicle access
  - Disability
  - No health insurance
  - Poverty
  - No high school degree/GED
  - Unemployment
  - Older housing
  - Renters
  - Racial disparities and linguistic isolation

Highlights indicate where Stevens County has higher rates than the state average

Potential Isolation

- Indicators above Countywide Average:
  - **Older adults**
  - **Disability**
  - **Manufactured homes / older homes**

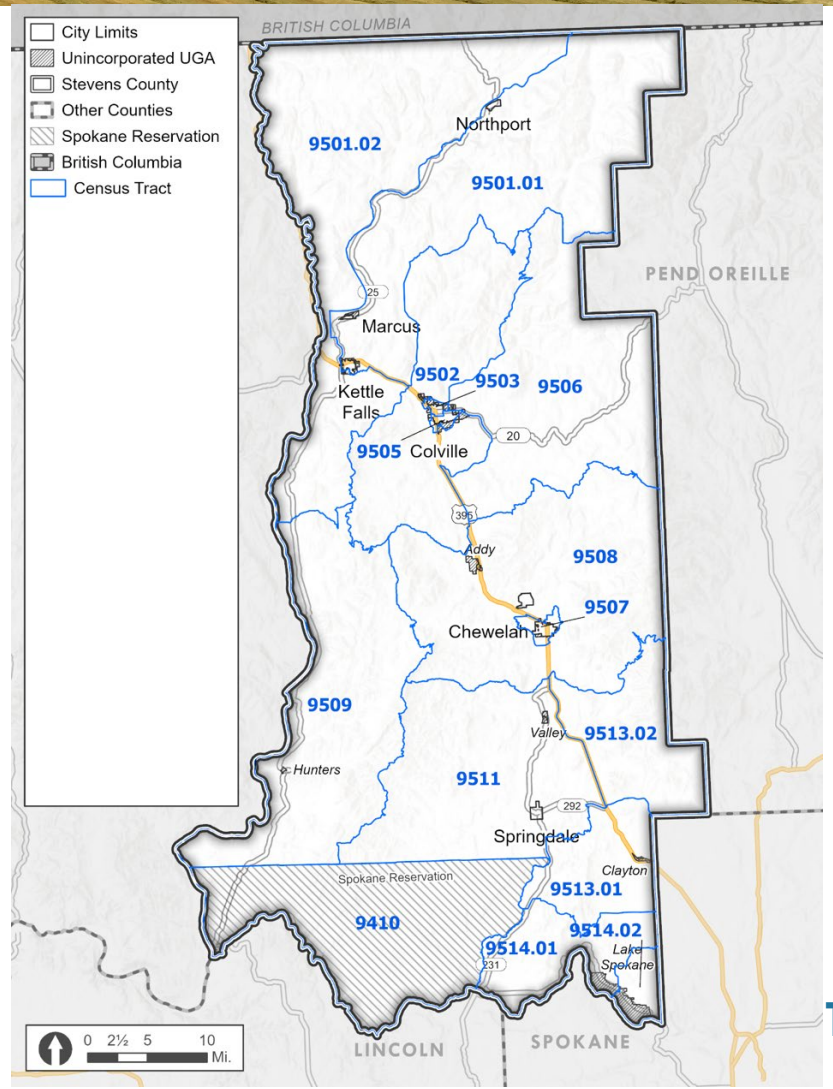




Potential Isolation

Areas with compounding isolation

- Older/Manu. Homes and Disability
  - SW County (Spokane Reservation) 9410
  - SE County (N & S of Springdale) 9511 & 9513.01
- Older Adults and Disability
  - Central County (E of Chewelah) 9508
- All three indicators
  - NW County (W of Northport) 9501.02



Previous input from CPAT

Community Wellbeing

Challenges

- Concerns about tick-borne diseases increasing
- Lack of community hubs for emergency shelter
- Some residents don't want to or can't travel to a hub in an emergency
- Communication barriers
- Lack of funding/staffing/volunteer resources
- Lack of EMS services and ambulances
- DNR firefighters do not go into structures
- Lack of addressing for all homes
- Private road conditions





Previous input from CPAT

Community Wellbeing

Opportunities

- Air quality monitoring
- NETCHD air purifiers and AC units, opportunity for mobile units
- Public libraries, schools, grange halls and other hub opportunities (if upgraded)
- Early alert systems
- Public education campaigns
- Potential for a Community Resource Center
- Broadbands communications upgrades
- Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps

Previous input from CPAT

Cultural & Natural Resources

Challenges

- Increasing insect populations, pests
- Harmful algae blooms increasing
- Climate impacts to water quality
- Water levels lower than normal
- Supply issues with some bedrock wells



Opportunities

- Additional groundwater supplies in lower aquifer
- Potential for a water truck and fill stations
- Continued development of WRIA 59 Water Bank
- Restored floodplains and wetlands in valley bottoms
- Coordinated land use planning and drought and water supply planning
- Cooperation between county officials and federal land management agencies



Previous input from CPAT

Buildings & Infrastructure

Challenges

- Impacts from Upper Columbia River Superfund Site and Teck Smelter
- When people lose homes to fire they depend on County social services that are already stretched

Opportunities

- Upper Columbia River Superfund site cleanup could be an opportunity
- Could add more communication towers and bridges and culverts
- Could create stronger connections between building codes and allow alternative energy sources
- Could create a new landowner packet about making property more resilient



Questions

- What stood out to you in the draft impacts and assets memo?
- Are there other challenges regarding resilience to climate hazards?
- What are other compounding factors (community conditions + climate hazards) you would like addressed?
- What additional resilience strategies should be considered?



Next Steps

- Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment will build on the Climate Impacts Memo
- The assessment will show what areas and assets are the most at risk and will inform policy development

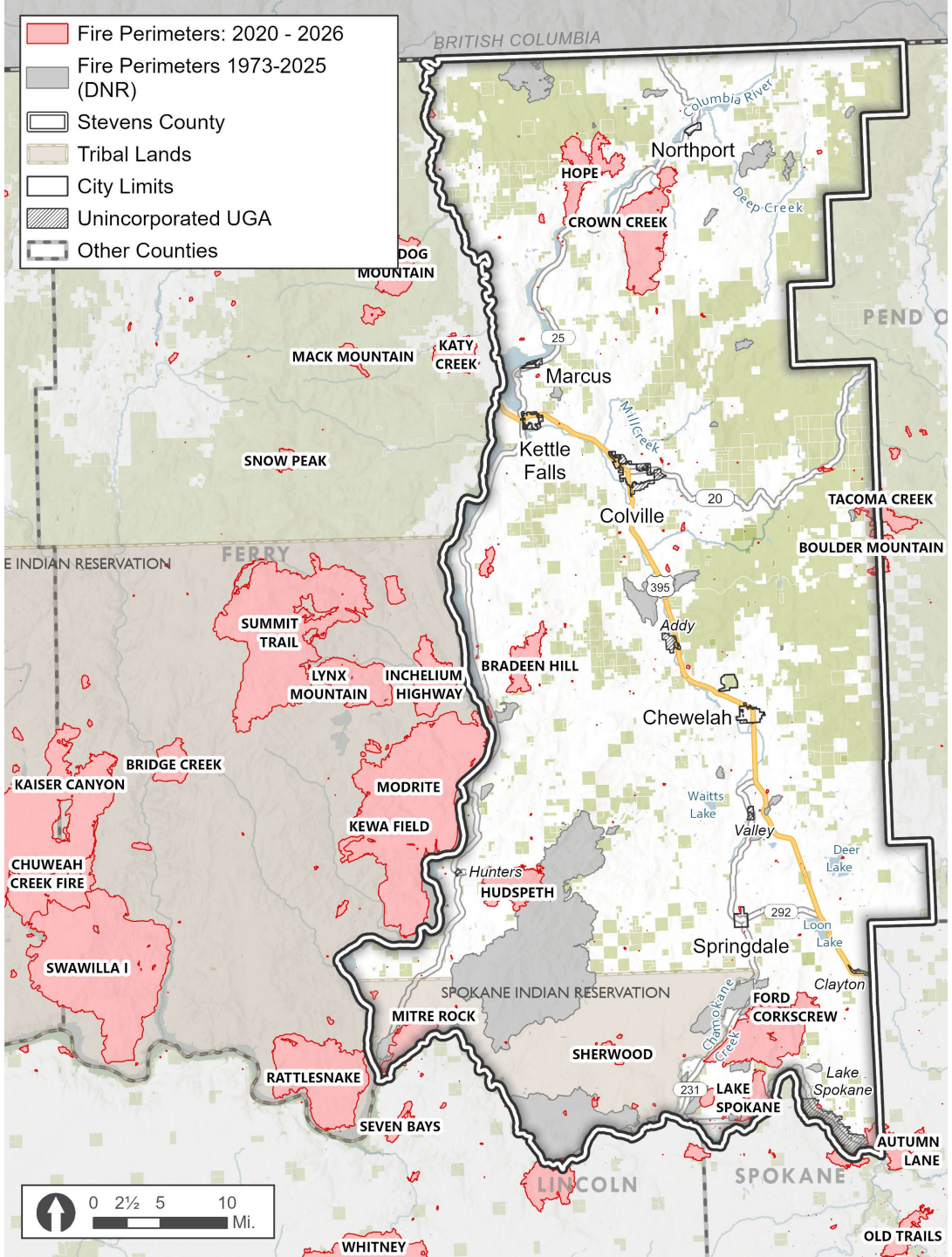


Discussion Questions

- What other considerations for adaptive capacity should the Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment include?
- What opportunities are there to support people and areas that might be more isolated in an emergency?
- Who will be important partners in improving climate resilience in Stevens County?

Post-Fire Recovery & HMP

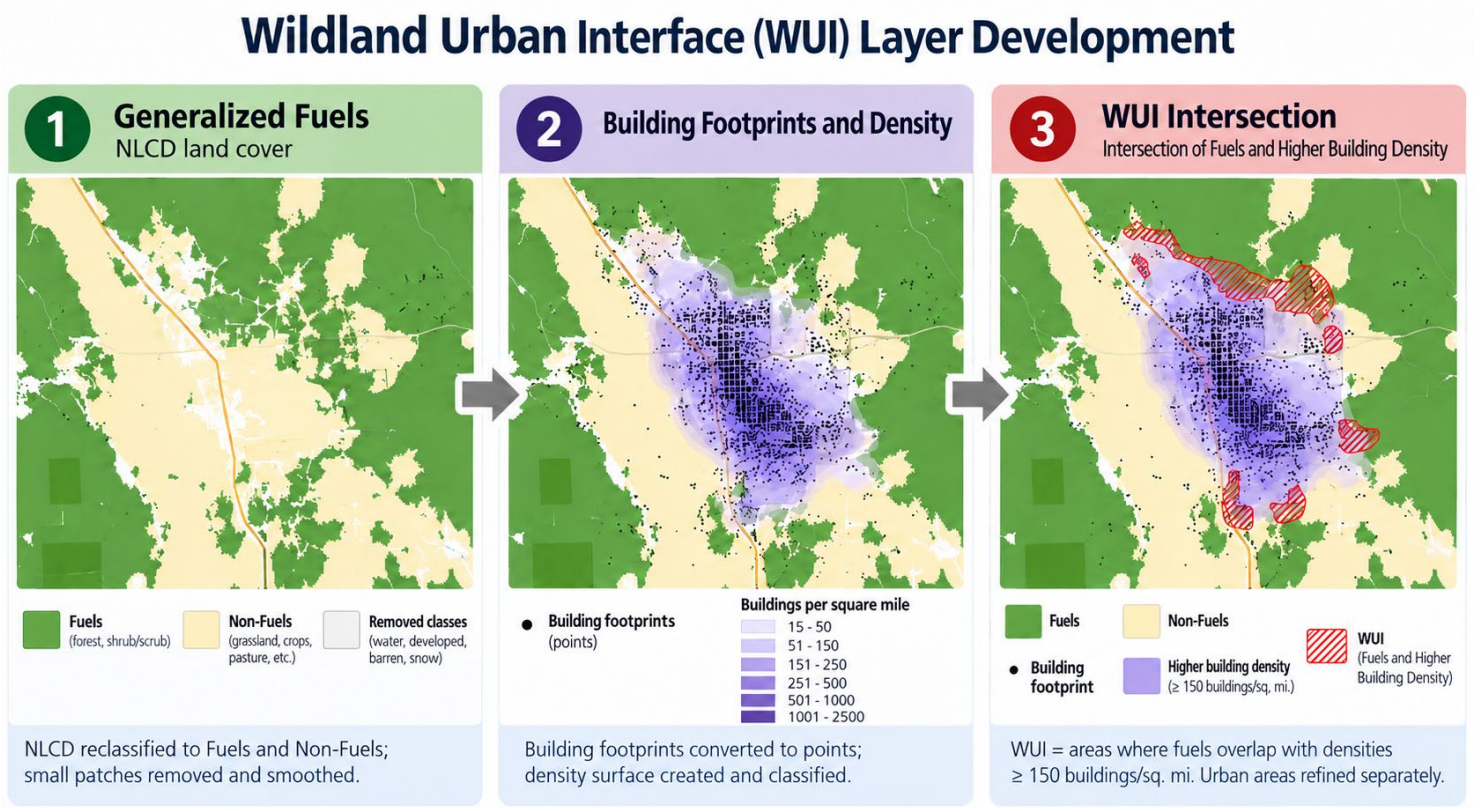
Share current priorities and past lessons that may assist in post fire recovery planning efforts



Wildland Urban Interface Mapping Follow Up

Guidance expressed in past CPAT meeting:

- Locally informed WUI mapping can parallel DNR risk and hazard mapping efforts
- Based on intersection of wildlands with a more narrow definition of “urban” areas (cities, UGAs, densely populated lake communities)
- Use a relatively simple method that can be further refined and supplemented by other datasets from DNR, USFS, etc.



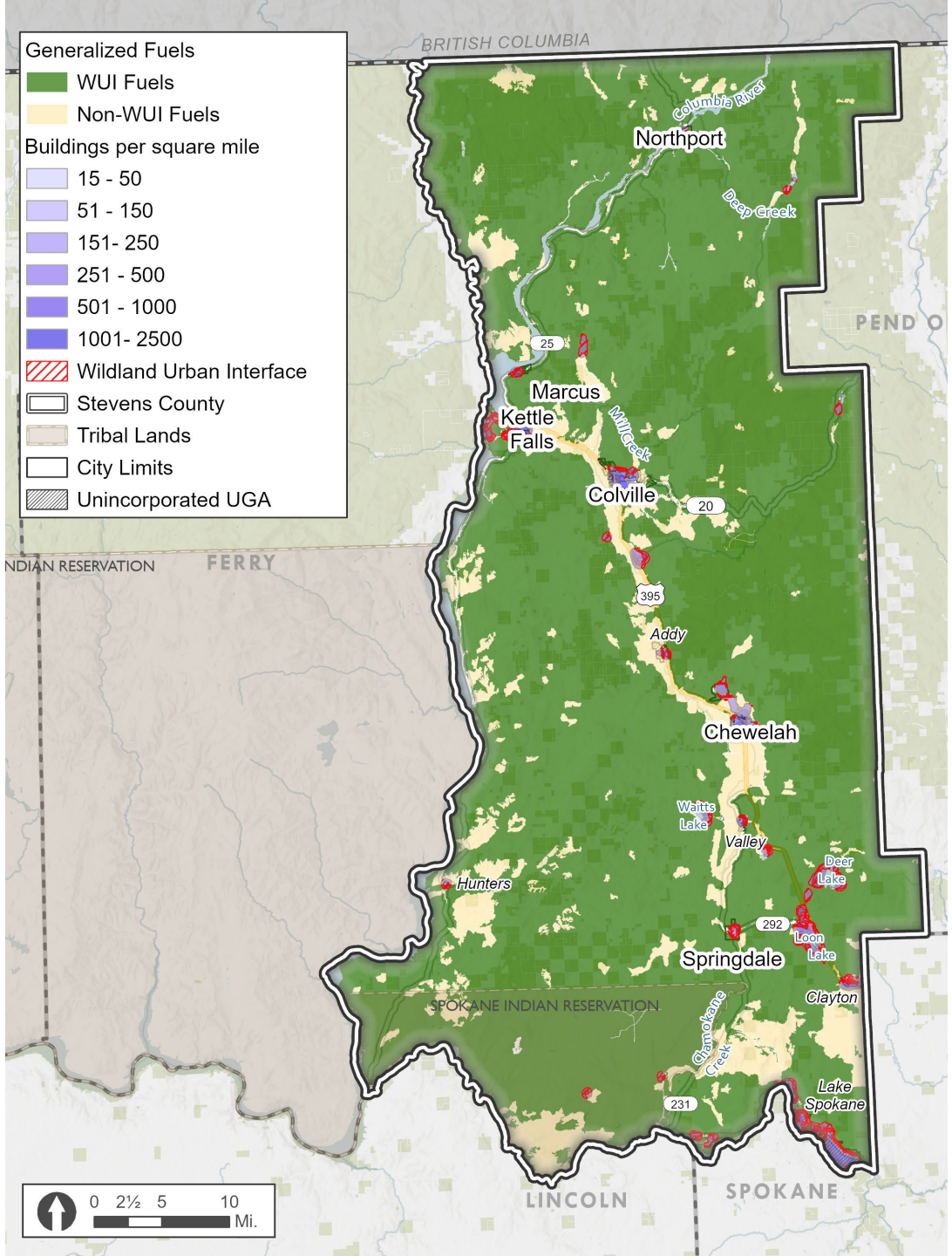
The draft WUI data and maps are non-regulatory and for planning purposes only. They do not define wildfire hazard or risk areas used for application of building codes, insurance, or other programs.

Wildland Urban Interface Mapping Follow Up

Next steps:

- Additional discussion with Stevens County Emergency Management
- Meeting with fire chiefs end of October

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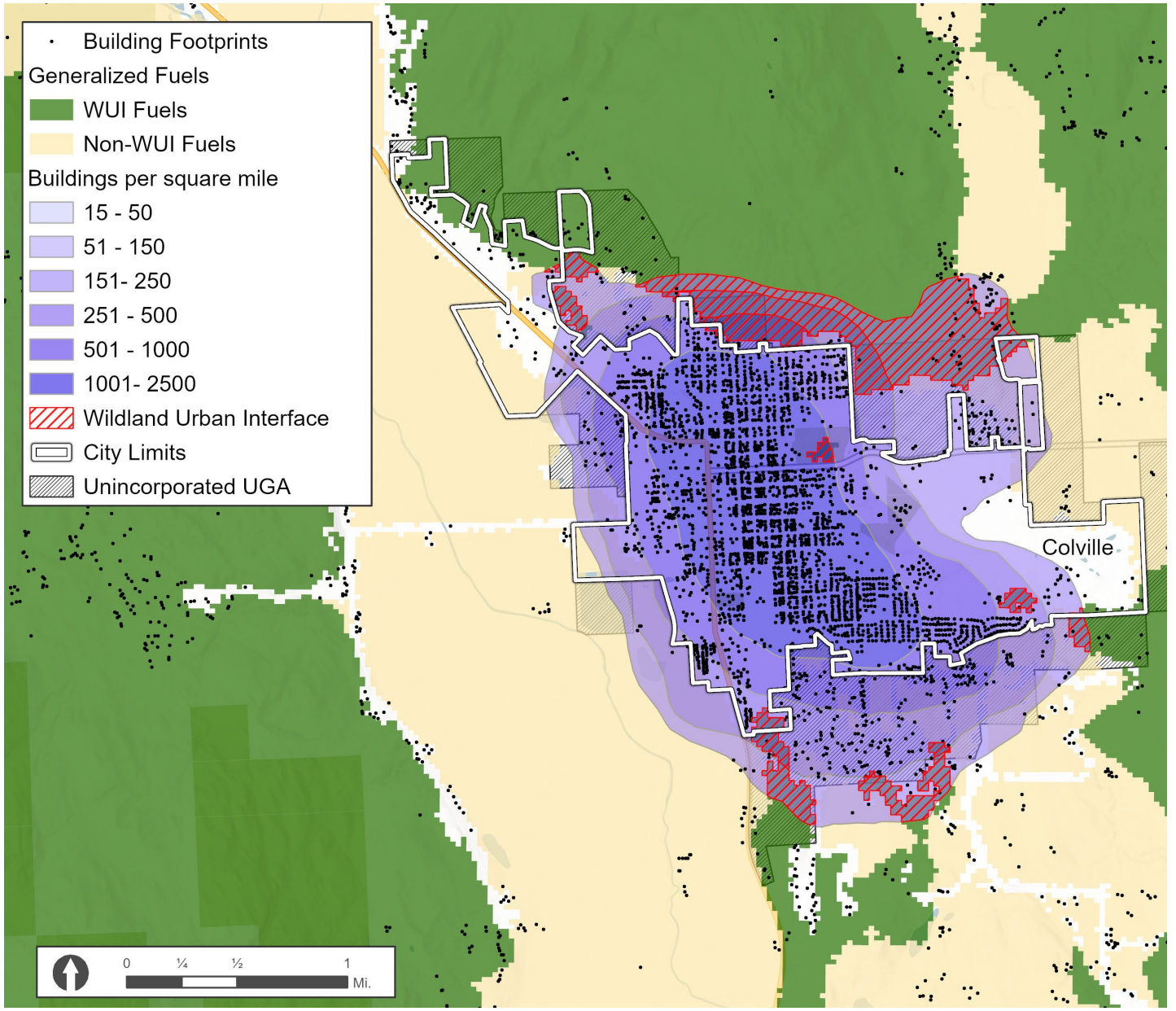
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Floodplains by Design

- 40-acre berm setback project along the Colville River opens up the floodplain while containing the 10-yr flood event
- Floodplain regrading and new secondary channels contribute to greater flood storage, hydraulic stability, and aquifer recharge
- Replanting of riparian and wetland vegetation will contribute to improved habitat, water quality, reduced erosion
- Revegetation and monitoring will be funded through June 2029







Your Voice Matters

Stevens County is updating its Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. The Comprehensive Plan will help guide growth and development through 2047. **Your input will help shape policies and priorities for the next 20 years!**

Join a Conversation Near You

Public Listening sessions are coming to communities across Stevens County in late September and early October. Look for listening sessions in Colville, Chewelah, Lake Spokane, and Marcus. Come find out what is changing and share what you value and the priorities that you think should shape the County's future.

Topics include:

- Growth and land use
- Housing and jobs
- Transportation and public services
- Natural resources and resilience

To learn more, sign up for updates, and get details on these listening sessions visit: **stevenscounty2027.com**



Action Items/Next Meeting

Next Meeting

- Late Fall/Early Winter share Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Other To Dos

- Fire Focus Group