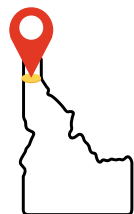


Sandpoint Forward!

Planning for Resilience



Community of Sandpoint, Idaho

Project Team: Project 7B, Bonner County Climate Coalition, Liaison to Sandpoint City Council, and Model Forest Policy Program

Funding Amount: \$122,629



Project Summary

The Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) facilitated the Sandpoint Forward! Planning for Resilience project to build climate resilience for the small, rural community of Sandpoint, Idaho. Guided by MFPP in collaboration with local partners, this community-based team used the Steps to Resilience framework to facilitate a participatory climate adaptation planning process. The project resulted in a locally driven Resilience Plan that integrates nature-based and policy-oriented solutions while addressing the socioeconomic challenges faced by underrepresented residents. Through collaborative leadership, participatory engagement, and cross-sector knowledge-sharing, the project strengthens community capacity, increases awareness of climate risks and opportunities, and enhances local fundraising ability for future resilience initiatives.

Project Goals



Increase climate resilience through an adaptation planning process aligned with the Steps to Resilience.

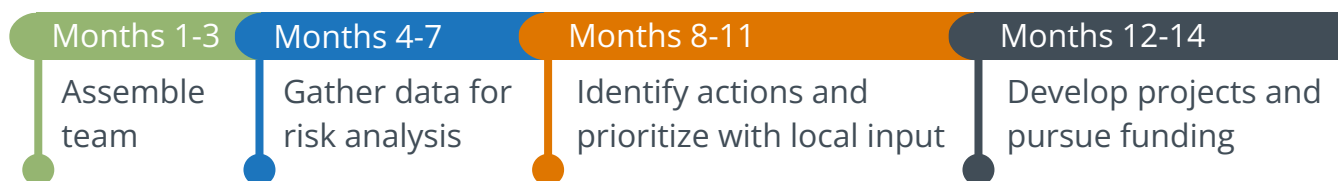


Demonstrate and evaluate the Steps to Resilience framework in an under-resourced, climate-impacted rural community.



Overlooking Sandpoint and Lake Pend Oreille
Photo courtesy: Rod Barclay

Project Timeline



Additional Collaborators

Kalispel Tribe • Selkirk Fire Rescue & EMS and Northside Fire District • Resilience planning team and expert advisors • Liaison to Sandpoint Sustainability Committee • Fernleaf consultants

Community Challenges



Wildfire Risk

Longer and more severe wildfire seasons with double the extreme fire danger days by mid-century.



Wildfire Smoke & Heat

Increased risks of smoke-related illness and reduced fire-season tourism income.



Extreme Heat & Drought

Increased frequency of drought and heat waves.



Economic Challenges

Prevalence of low-wage tourism jobs and lack of affordable housing.



Ecosystem Health

Increased early spring floods followed by intense summer drought; impaired lake health and threats to fisheries and recreational economy.

Project Approach

The project team engaged with Sandpoint community stakeholders to conduct a climate risk assessment, develop a resilience plan, and prepare for implementation by:

- ★ Forming a steering committee and organize a stakeholder group to represent local community needs.
- ★ Assessing local extreme weather exposures, vulnerabilities, and risks through research and community input.
- ★ Engaging community members, including underrepresented groups, to gather concerns and solution ideas.
- ★ Identifying and prioritizing adaptation strategies, with a focus on nature-based solutions.
- ★ Building implementation readiness by identifying funding opportunities and preparing outreach materials.
- ★ Drafting a resilience plan with clear goals, actions, and timelines.

Impact

This project increased the climate resilience capacity of Sandpoint, Idaho and worked to achieve the following outcomes:

- ✓ Improve public understanding of climate-related risks and preventative actions.
- ✓ Strengthen support for resilient land use that protects ecosystems and increases the adaptive capacity of people infrastructure.
- ✓ Identify and empower vulnerable populations to address climate risks.
- ✓ Reduce high risk development in hazard areas.

Next Steps

- Continue seeking funding opportunities to implement resilience projects developed during this project.
- Develop plan for ongoing coordination and funding for plan implementation.
- Integrate results with other community planning processes such as the Comprehensive Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

More Information

Sandpoint Forward! Project 7B

<https://project7b.org/project-7b-and-sandpoint-forward-team-up-on-resilient-land-use/>