



## What are community leaders saying about climate readiness?

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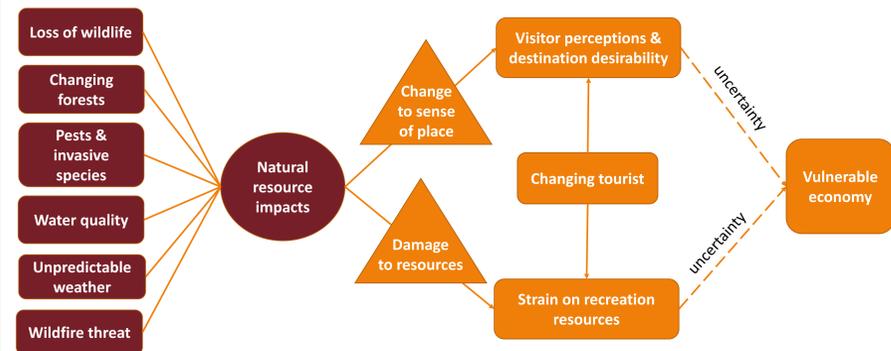
### What concerns community leaders?

#### Observed changes to natural resources

- “[Someone once asked] ‘you’ve lived here your whole life, when is the skiing reliable?’ and I said ‘oh, by Thanksgiving, no question’...and now I mean, **Thanksgiving we’re still paddling.**”

#### Connection of these changes to the economy

- “People feel that the North Shore is less attractive [with] the **dead birch trees**. And their perception is that it may impact tourism.”



#### Uncertainty about connections to climate change

- “The **moose population has dropped**, considerably in the last five years. Why? Is it climate? Is it climate change? I don’t know, but moose are really important resource to our community; tourists love moose. I mean it’s a small thing but...is that climate change? If it is then I’m concerned.”

This suggests a need for conversations that put climate change into a local context.

“This was the first year where I actually felt fear from climate change...It could literally put this place out of business...Am I setting my kids up for this really bad experience, trying to keep up with this family tradition...[to] just have it blown away by one big wind storm? It’s scary.”

### Engaging the community: what works?

#### Why is it important to think about community engagement?

- Change involves the whole community, not just a few individuals.
- People who live, work and play on the North Shore vary in their climate beliefs.
- Climate readiness is more than just being educated about climate change; it is being engaged and motivated to act.
- Past strategies of engagement that have been successful on other topics will likely work on the topic of climate change in the future.

What motivates individuals?	What has worked in the past?
<b>Commitment to community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility to community members</li> <li>• Responsibility to ecological community</li> <li>• Culture of volunteerism</li> </ul>	<b>Community collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grassroots organizing</li> <li>• Leadership by agencies</li> <li>• Neighbors helping neighbors</li> <li>• Participatory planning</li> </ul>
<b>Excitement about an issue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactive response</li> <li>• Individual interest</li> <li>• High urgency and profile</li> </ul>	<b>Using human capital</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local knowledge</li> <li>• Lessons from past experiences</li> </ul>
<b>Awareness of an issue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and firsthand experience</li> </ul>	
<b>Directly affects personal or professional interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connection to business or agency</li> <li>• Concern for recreation</li> <li>• Concern for safety/property</li> </ul>	

“We need a **more collaborative approach**, and I think we are working on that quite hard on the North Shore.”

### How prepared is the community?

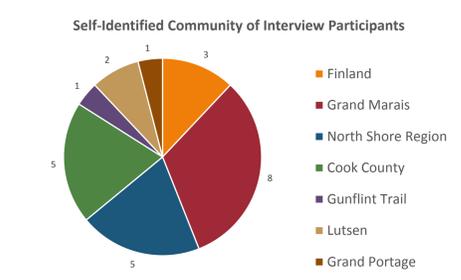
#### What are our strengths and weaknesses as a community faced with change?

Community Readiness	Community Vulnerability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active and engaged community members</li> <li>• Abundant local knowledge and expertise</li> <li>• Visitors’ North Shore attachment</li> <li>• Community committed to finding solutions</li> <li>• Good track record of responding to change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited collaborative visioning and strategic planning</li> <li>• Difficulty in making decisions under uncertainty</li> <li>• Lacking efficient and consistent information sharing</li> <li>• Need economic diversification</li> <li>• No clear leader in community preparedness</li> </ul>

#### What should our priorities be to prepare the community for change?

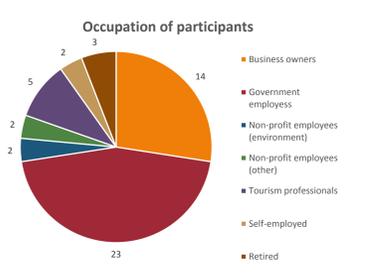
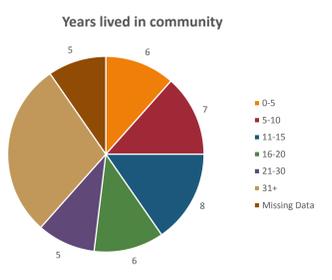
Act now, to prepare for the future.

“The **benefits of countering climate change are all beneficial**. We should just do that anyway because what is the worst case scenario...we have more solar...more independence...There is no reason we shouldn’t be addressing climate change because from my perspective, it’s all good, what comes from it.”



#### Who are community leaders and how were they involved?

We defined a **North Shore community leader** as someone who is familiar with and knowledgeable about natural resource, recreation, and tourism resources in the area. We conducted **25 interviews** and **3 focus groups** with community leaders about community assets, concerns about natural, recreation, and tourism resources, and the community’s preparedness for climate or ecological change. **Though study findings only represent the perspectives of a small sample of community actors, we aimed for diversity in perspectives and experiences.** We analyzed the data using standard qualitative thematic analysis procedures.



#### Example interview question

Have there been any significant changes or impacts to natural resources on the North Shore in the past 5 years? Please explain.



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This work is the result of research sponsored by the Minnesota Sea Grant College Program supported by the NOAA office of Sea Grant, United States Department of Commerce, under grant No. R/CC-05-14.

**Acknowledgements:**  
Thanks to Bree Duever, Alexandria Felix, Sarah Fellows, Andrew Weeldreyer and Jenna Yanish for help with data collection, management and analysis.