



Sandpoint Forward! Planning for Resilience Project Overview for Planning Team and Other Participants

Sitting on the shores of Idaho's largest lake, the community of Sandpoint is already feeling the impact of climate change. More frequent and more intense extreme weather events and temperature fluctuations threaten the forest, lakes, and streams that underpin the town's world-class recreation industry and natural resource-based economy. Grant support from the Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) to the Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) will enable local officials, community groups, and vulnerable populations to work with MFPP to develop a climate resilience plan that delivers effective, durable, and fundable adaptation strategies.

Why: Rapidly changing climate conditions pose dire risks to the people, infrastructure, and natural resources of Sandpoint and surrounding forests, lakes, and streams. Proactive steps are needed to identify the risks and develop solutions that protect human health, economic welfare, and the natural systems that the tourism economy of the region depends upon, with special attention to the disproportionate impacts to the more vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

What: The overall project goal is to build a durable climate resilience capacity for Sandpoint by facilitating the Steps to Resilience Framework and completing the Sandpoint climate adaptation planning process. The outcomes will include more resilient decision making by the community and readiness to implement adaptation projects that benefit all sectors of the community.

Who: A three-way collaboration makes up the core team that leads the project. Gwen Griffith, MFPP Climate Practitioner, facilitates the climate planning curriculum using the Steps to Resilience Framework. Makayla Sundquist serves as a part-time Co-Leader and Coordinator of the Bonner County Climate Coalition. Pam Duquette is a Sandpoint City Council Member, who serves as the liaison with the Sandpoint Mayor, City Council Members, and the Sustainability Committee. The Planning Team, Advisors, and other community members play a vital role by engaging and supporting the planning process.

When: The one-year project period is August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, with Kickoff Meetings to initiate the planning process in the September / October 2024 time frame. .

Where: The focus of the adaptation plan is the community of Sandpoint and the surrounding areas of mountains, forests, lakes and streams that impact the conditions of Sandpoint directly or indirectly.

How: The project participants will lead a 10-month virtual planning curriculum with monthly training webinars to build resilience capacity and monthly working sessions to create the risk assessment and resilience planning steps.



Graphic adopted from U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit:
<https://toolkit.climate.gov/etars-to-resilience/etars-resilience-overview>

The successful project depends upon the participation of members of the community from a variety of sectors and backgrounds. If you are interested in contributing to this project and building a more resilient community, please read on about how you can make a difference for the community of Sandpoint.

The following are potential opportunities to contribute to the project planning process:

- **Community Co-Leader Positions:** Two part-time Co-Leaders (10 hours per week) will be hired to represent the community, support delivery of the planning curriculum, assist with data collection and analysis, and coordinate community outreach and engagement. One Co-Leader position is already filled with Makayla Sundquist. The second Co-Leader position is currently open for applications. Contact gwen@mfpp.org for more information.
- **Planning Team Members:** A group of 8-10 Planning Team Members will be invited to join the project and support the planning process. Volunteers are needed with expertise and experience in planning and various other sectors of the community, such as weather, water management, emergency management, energy, agriculture, forestry, public health, housing, tourism, communications, economic development, social services, transportation, local government, fundraising and more. Every sector of the community is at risk from the escalating extreme weather impacts. The project needs to draw upon a wide variety of representatives to develop the most effective resilience plan with actionable solutions and durable resilience results.

The Planning Team members will contribute 4-6 hours per month to offer their expertise and network connections to the resilience planning process. They will attend one monthly 90-minute educational webinar based on the NOAA Steps to Resilience Framework and facilitated by MFPP Climate Practitioner, Gwen Griffith, other MFPP staff, and guest experts. Planning Team members will also gather for a second monthly virtual working group that are focused on their areas of expertise. They will help with gathering information, understanding and prioritizing the risks, researching adaptation solutions, drafting the plan, and preparing for taking action.

- **Advisory Group Members:** A group of Advisors is also needed to share their particular experience or expertise with the Planning Team as needed. The Advisors will offer 4 to 6 hours of consultation time over the project period to respond to specific questions in their field, offer consultation time to the Planning Team, and review sections of the plan as it is being drafted. Advisors will play a key role in guiding the planning process with only a limited time commitment to the process.

Participating in any of these project roles will be highly educational to the participant and contribute significantly to the health and welfare of the people of Sandpoint and the natural environment the community depends upon.

If you're interested in these potential project opportunities contact Gwen Griffith at gwen@mfpp.org for further information.

Want More? A second round of CRF [Climate Smart Communities Initiative](#) grant funding is expected in Fall 2024. Interested local officials, community representatives, and adaptation professionals are encouraged to follow the [Climate Smart Communities Initiative on LinkedIn](#) and join the [CSCI mailing list](#) (<https://climatesmartcommunity.org>).