NW CSC - Columbia River Basin Tribes Climate Change Capacity Assessment

Tsagaglalal - "She Who Watches"

Coyote: Soon the World Will Change

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment

- Tribal communities are among the **most climate-sensitive communities** in the Pacific Northwest
- Over the next 50 years, climate change will directly **affect the abundance of culturally significant foods,** such as salmon, deer, root plants, and berries.
- These foods provide important ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial uses and hunting, fishing, and gathering rights are **guaranteed by treaty, executive order, and trust obligations of the federal government.**

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment

- **Increasing the climate resilience of tribal communities is critical** to ensuring access to resources protected by right and vitally important to the cultural existence and economic vitality of these communities.
- However, most **Tribes have limited information, technical capacity, and resources** to adequately plan and adapt to Climate Change impacts on these critical resources.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment

- So **what is the strategy for federal agencies** to help Tribes achieve these goals and **comply the Presidential Order 13175 and Secretarial Order 3289**?
- How do federal agencies determine what the impacts of Climate Change are on Tribal governments, **what is the Tribes capacity, and what are their needs?**
- **This project will help assess capacity and identify needs**

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment

Project Summary:

Conduct a Tribal capacity assessment of **15 Columbia Basin Tribes and 3 Inter-Tribal Organizations** related to their technical, scientific, policy, and programmatic funding for Climate Change preparedness and adaptation.

The 6 objectives of the project are to:

1. Assess the level of Columbia Basin Tribes **awareness** of the federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies climate change plans, scientific analysis, policies, and initiatives;

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment

Project objectives (cont'd):

2. Assess the **climate-change expertise** of each Tribal and intertribal organization and their **ability to** use that expertise to **implement actions** and policies related to climate change impacts;

3. Identify **existing or planned** tribal and Inter-tribal **efforts** and innovative methods to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate change;

4. Identify opportunities to foster and facilitate **cross-tribal, state, and federal agency collaboration** on and dissemination of effective and innovative climate change practices;

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment

Project objectives (cont'd):

5. Determine the **level of participation** in strategic and programmatic operations to address **national and regional** climate adaptation and mitigation issues; and

6. **Identify the** policy, technical, scientific, legal, and programmatic **needs** of Columbia Basin Tribes.

Tribal Partners

Oregon (3)	- Burns Paiute Tribe (Burns, OR) - Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Pendleton, OR) - Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (Warm Springs, OR)
Idaho (4)	- Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Plummer, ID) - Kootenai Tribe (Bonners Ferry, ID) - Nez Perce Tribe (Lapwai, ID) - Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation (Fort Hall, ID)
Montana (1)	- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (MT)
Nevada (2)	- Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribes (McDermitt, NV) - Shoshone Paiute Tribe of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation (Owyhee, NV)
Washington (5)	- Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Nespelem, WA) - Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Toppenish, WA) - Cowlitz Indian Tribe (Longview, WA) - Kalispel Tribe of Indians (Usk, WA) - Spokane Tribe of Indians (Wellpinit, WA)
Inter-Tribal Organizations (3)	- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (Portland, OR) - Upper Columbia United Tribes (Spokane, WA) - Upper Snake River Tribes (Boise, ID)

Intertribal Partners

3 Intertribal Organizations:

- **Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission:**
  Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama & Warm Springs Tribes
- **Upper Columbia United Tribes:**
  Colville, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispel, Spokane, & Kootenai Tribes
- **Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation:**
  Shoshone-Bannock, Shoshone-Paiute, Burns-Paiute, Ft. McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment - Methods

The Tribal Leadership Forum conducted 3 levels of inquiry:

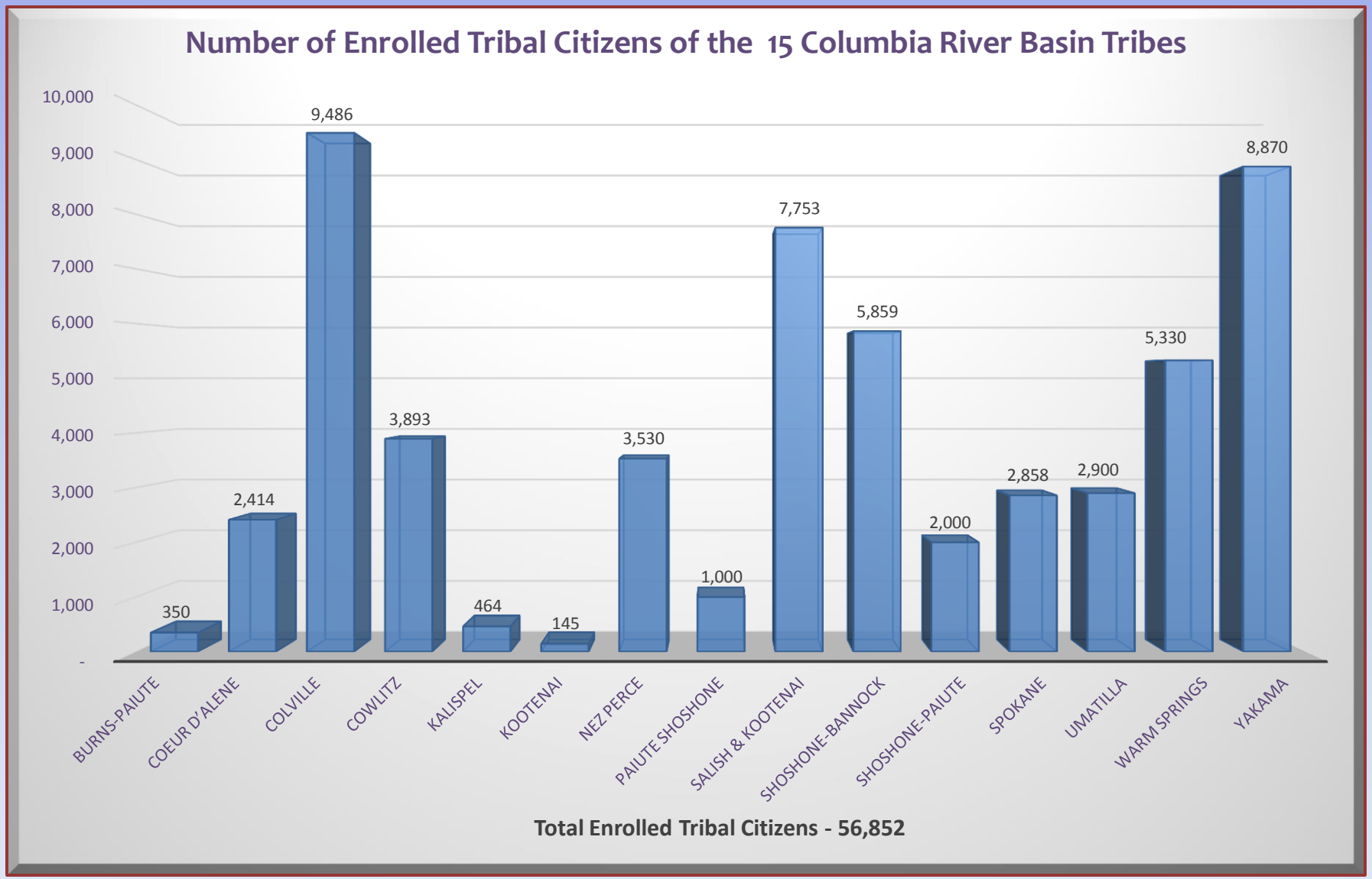
- electronic survey questionnaire,
- phone interviews, and
- when possible, on-site meetings and interviews

Project Duration – 12 months: Oct. 2014-Oct. 2015

This assessment of Tribal capacity and needs will inform federal agencies, such as the NW CSC, to more effectively support climate resilience planning and implementation priorities in tribal communities of the Columbia River Basin.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
ALBERTA
Kootenai
Colville
Kalispel
Flathead
Spokane
UCUT
WASHINGTON
Coeur D'Alene
MONTANA
Cowlitz
Yakama
Nez Perce
CRITFC
Umatilla
USRT
Warm Springs
IDAHO
OREGON
WYOMING
Burns Paiute
Fort Hall
Duck Valley
Fort McDermitt
Paiute Shoshone
CALIFORNIA
NEVADA
UTAH

Columbia River Basin Tribes



Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Surveys, Interviews, and Meetings

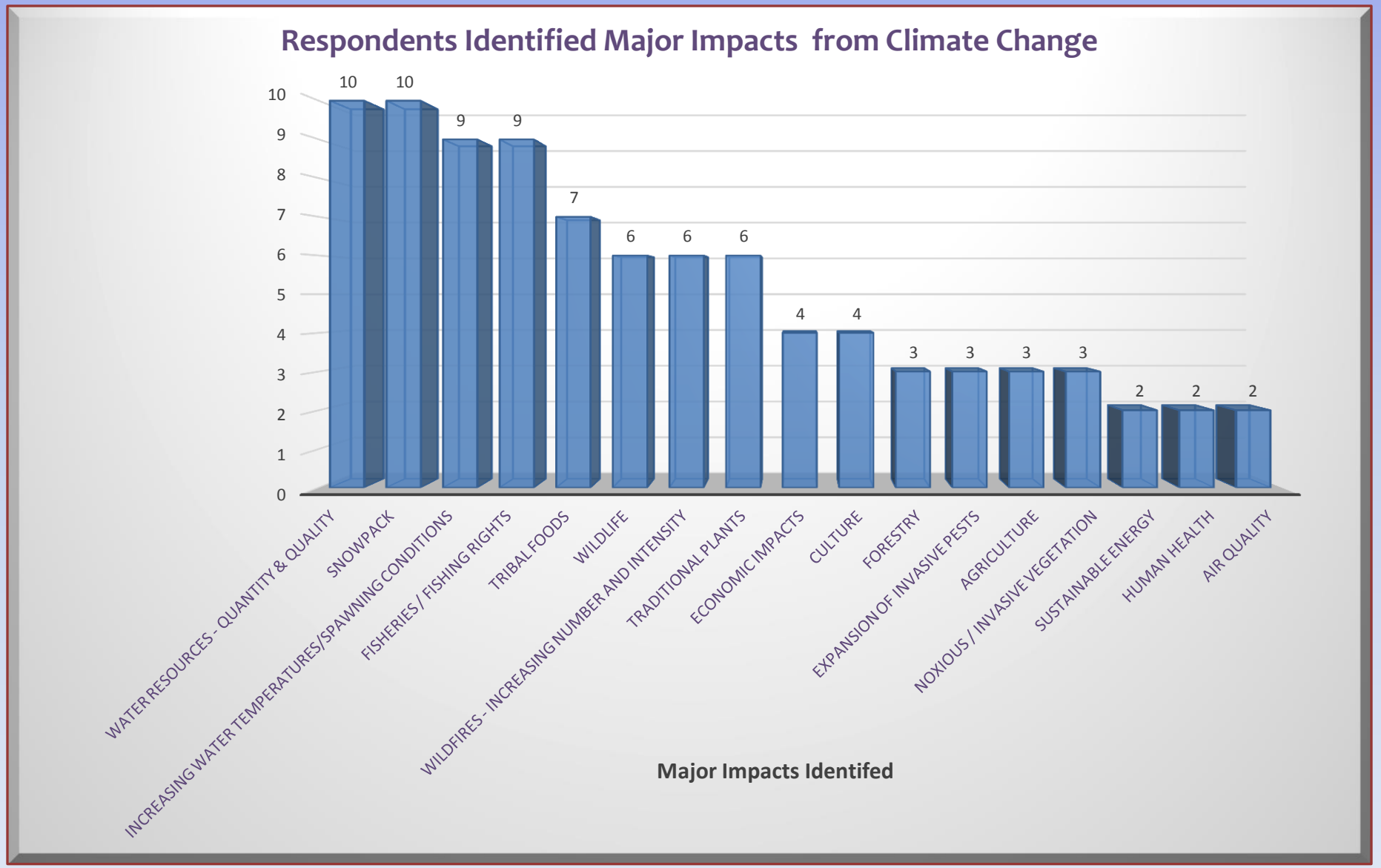
- Worked with Tribal Natural Resource Directors, Environmental Managers, Fish and Wildlife Managers, or Climate Change leads and Tribal Council & Committees
- Survey responses from 12 Tribes (80%) and all three (100%) Intertribal organizations.
- Overall our response rate to the survey questionnaire was 83%.
- 3 Tribes (Spokane, Shoshone-Bannock, Paiute-Shoshone) that did not respond to the surveys - were swamped addressing wildfire impacts, lacked staff resources, or were uncertain of the benefits of the climate assessment.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Survey Participants

Burns Paiute Tribe - Brandon Haslick, Jason Kesling, and Erica Maltz
Coeur d'Alene Tribe - Alfred Nomee and Tiffany Allgood
Colville Tribe - Rhonda Dasher
Cowlitz Tribe -Taylor Aalvik
Kalispel Tribe - Kenneth Merrill
Kootenai Tribe - Kevin Greenleaf
Nez Perce Tribe - Aaron Miles and James Holt
Salish and Kootenai Tribes - Mike Durglo
Shoshone Paiute Tribe - Duck Valley - Heather Lawrence and Jinwon Seo
Umatilla Tribe - Rod Skeen, Carl Scheeler, Carl Merkle, and Patrick Mills
Warm Springs Tribe - Robert Brunoe, Jonathan Treasure, and Pah-tu Pitt
Yakama Nation - Phillip Rigdon
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission - Paul Lumley and Laura Gephart
Upper Columbia United Tribes - D.R. Michel and John Sirois
Upper Snake River Tribes - Heather Ray, Scott Hauser, and Robert Austin

Numerous Tribal Council, Tribal Committee, and Tribal staff representatives which attended meetings on the assessment

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Impacts



Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Impacts

Yakama Nation views these impacts comprehensively

"climate change is having a major impact, drought this summer has exacerbated problems on the reservation including catastrophic fire, warm water, water quality, low flows, timing of traditional foods, habitat for wildlife, water rights, air quality, and agriculture within the reservation".

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Economic Impact

Impact to forest/timber sales from wildfire, disease, insects, and/or reduced growth

- The impacts of increasingly dangerous and extensive wildfires manifest themselves economically in damage to property, to furnish the salaries of wildland firefighters, and potentially in decreased tourism dollars.
- Large fires impact our forest economy and two fires in the last three summers will have a major impact on timber available in the long-term.

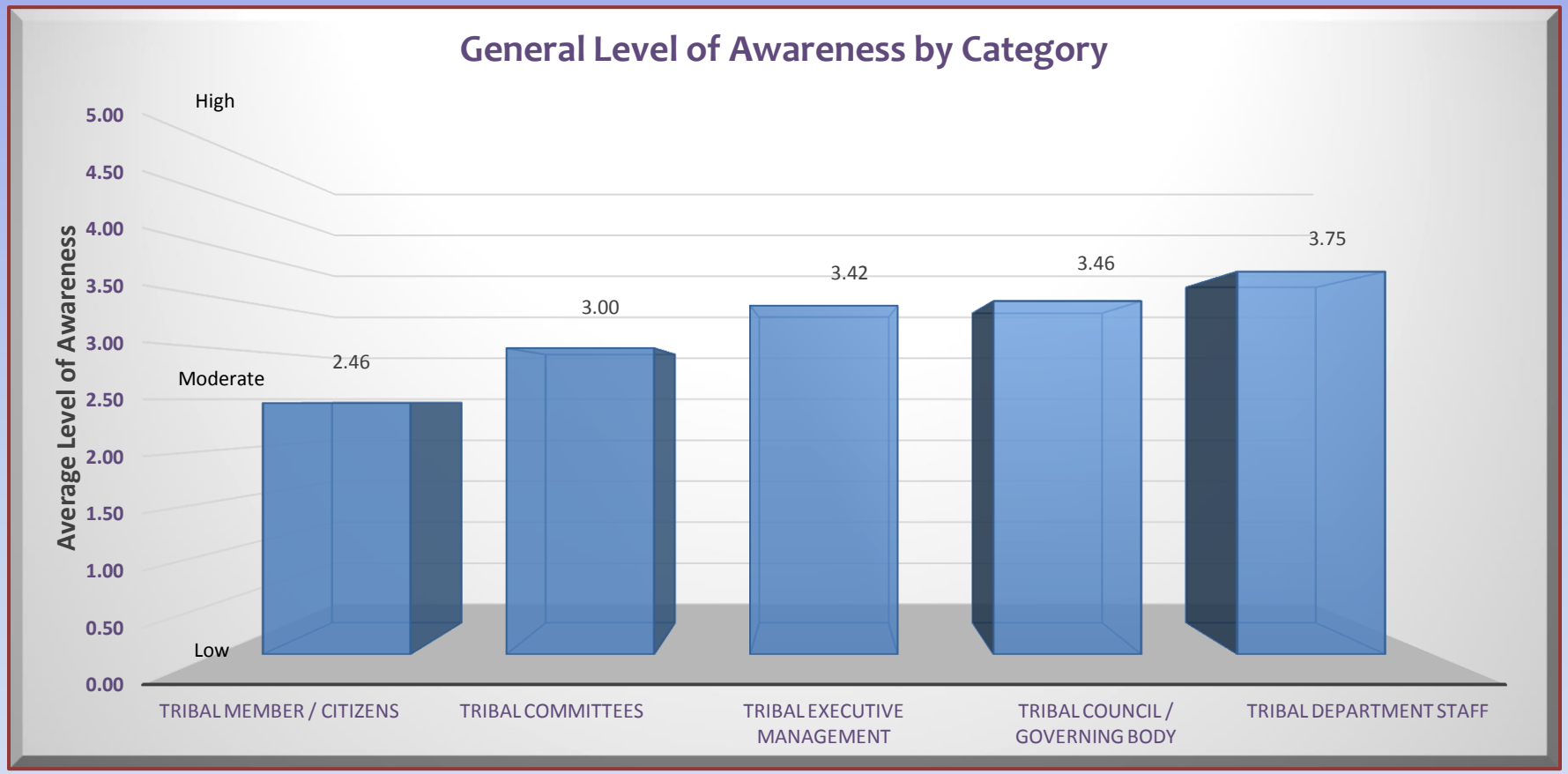
Impact to Traditional Foods

Fewer resources would be available for harvest with much more effort for our people to collect resources; there would be a noticeable impact associated with the economies of tribal members. It is almost impossible to put a number on what value is lost to the coming generations and their ability to fish for salmon or access their First Foods.

Impact to Agricultural production

Other Impacts -Tourism, Fish & Wildlife Permits, etc.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Level of Awareness



Nez Perce Tribe: *"The tribe needs to collectively understand the climate change impacts and not leave it up to one employee or several employees to guess at what changes are coming. Information and education is key for the tribe to begin tackling this issue."*

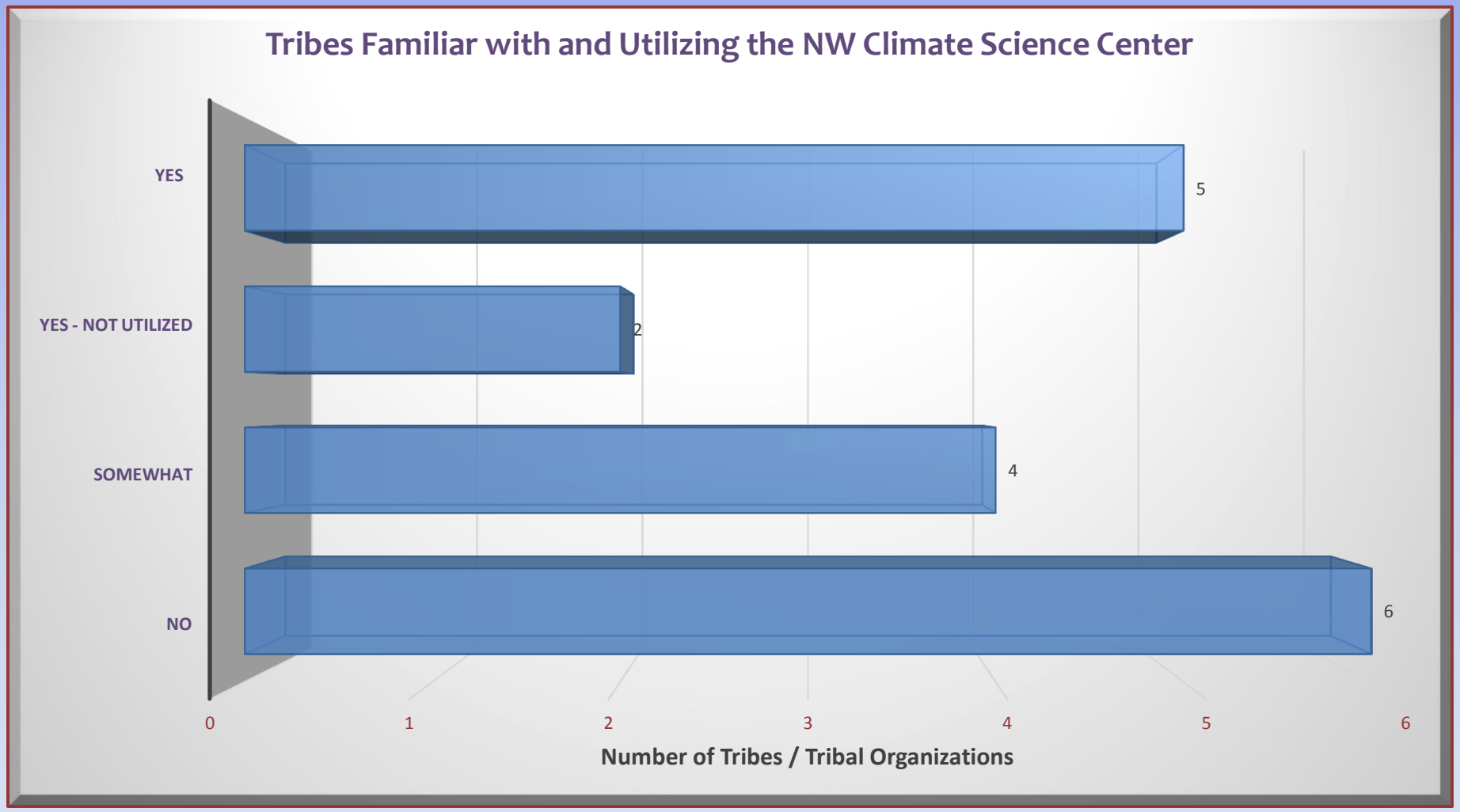
Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Level of Engagement

- **OVERALL - Less than 50%** of the 15 Columbia River Basin Tribes and 3 Intertribal organizations **are aware of and engaged** in federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies climate change planning efforts
- **CRT - Nearly all 15 Tribes and 3 Intertribal organizations** formed **the Columbia River Basin Tribes Coalition (Coalition)** and actively use this Coalition to coordinate their participation in the **U.S. – Canada Columbia River Treaty (CRT) review process**
- **LCC's - Only five Tribes (Salish-Kootenai, Umatilla, Colville, Nez Perce, and Yakama) are actively involved in LCC's** and **only two (CRITFC and USRT) of the 3 Intertribal organizations**
- **Bureau of Indian Affairs - Tribal Cooperative Landscape Conservation Program**. This federal program is now the **primary funding source** of Tribal climate planning activities.
- **Lack of dedicated funding and staffing has been the primary limiting factor for tribal awareness and engagement**

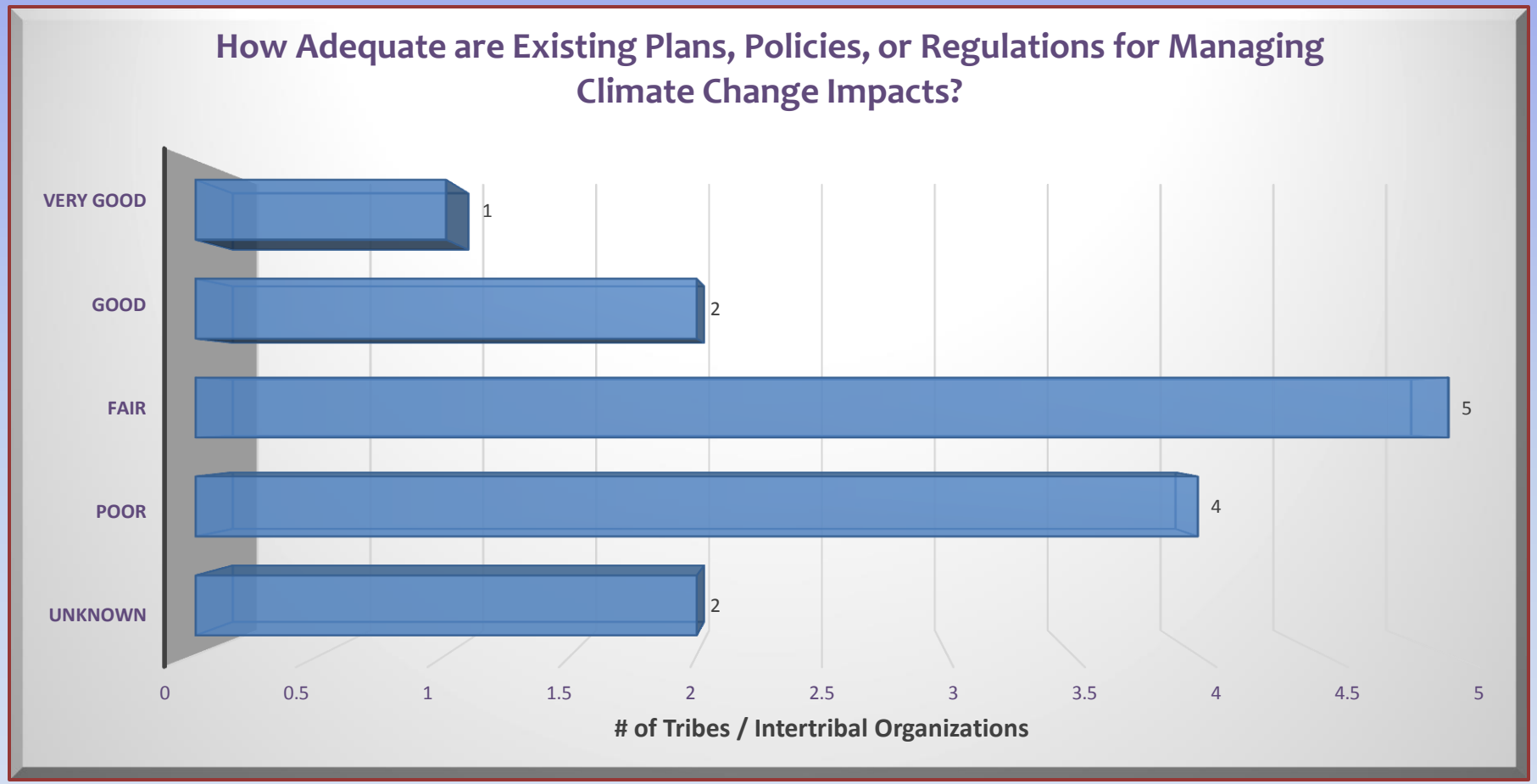
Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Level of Engagement – LCC's

Great Northern LCC Tribal Representatives – Steering Committee	
Eric Quaempts	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
Carl Scheeler (alt)	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla
Aaron Miles	Nez Perce Tribe
Steve Lozar	Salish Kootenai Tribe
Phil Rigdon	Yakama Nation
Great Basin LCC Tribal Representatives	
Ed Naranjo	Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
Kim Townsend	Duckwater Shoshone Tribe
Gaylor Robb	Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Heather Ray	Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
Vacant	
Tribal/Alaska Native/First Nations Representatives	
Alaska	
Eric Morrison	Alaska Native Brotherhood
Ray Paddock III (Alt)	Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
British Columbia	
Vacant	
Washington	
Terry Williams	Tulalip Tribes
Preston Hardison (Alt)	Tulalip Tribes
Eliza Ghitis (Alt)	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Oregon	
George Smith	Coquille Indian Tribe
California	
Joe Hostler	Yurok Tribe
Regional	
David Redhorse / Keith Hatch	Bureau of Indian Affairs – Pacific Region
Don Sampson	Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Level of Engagement

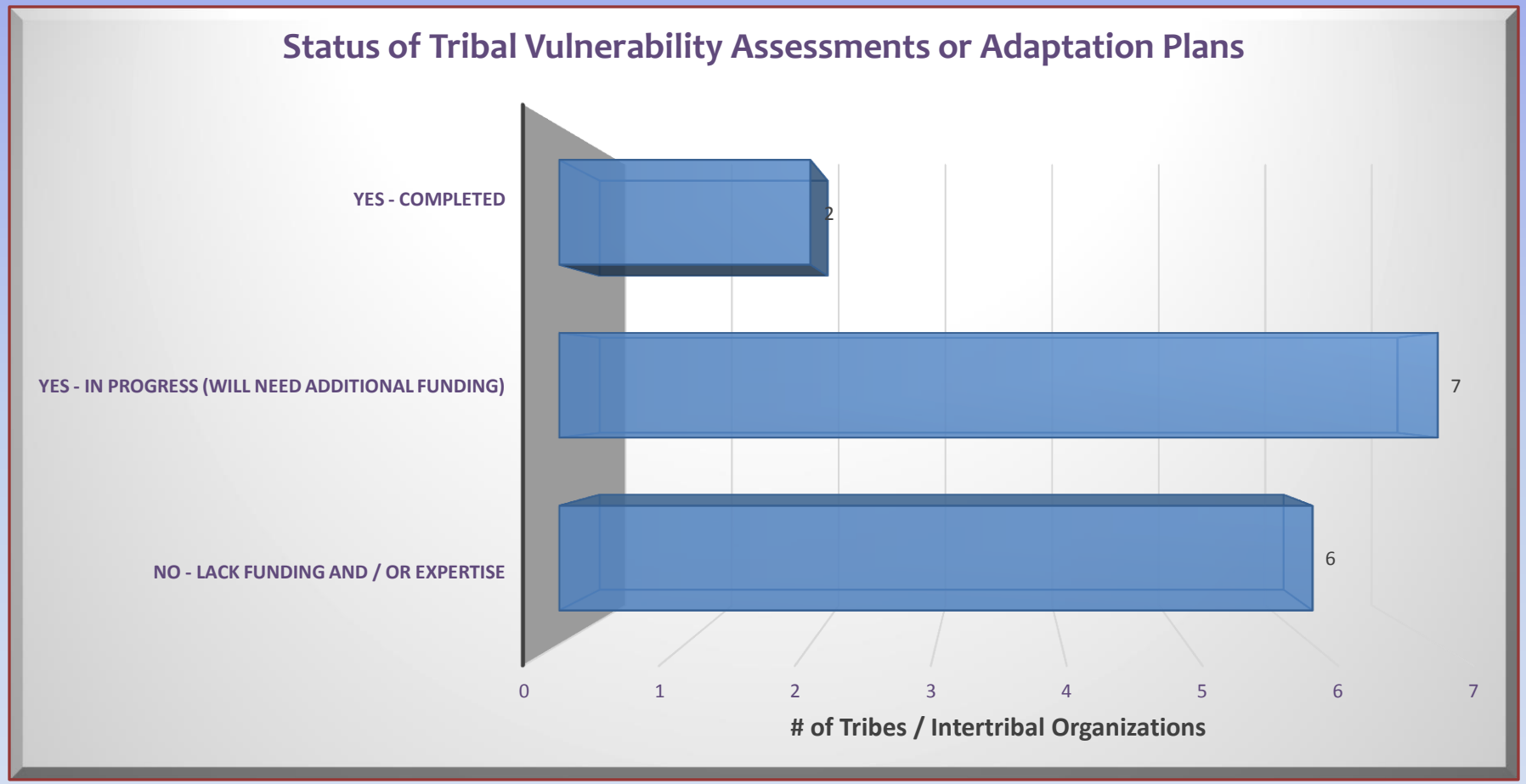


Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Adequacy of Existing Plans



Colville Tribe*: "Current Tribal plans have not been updated to include climate impacts - that is what we are in the process of doing"*

NW CSC - Columbia River Basin Tribes Climate Change Capacity Assessment

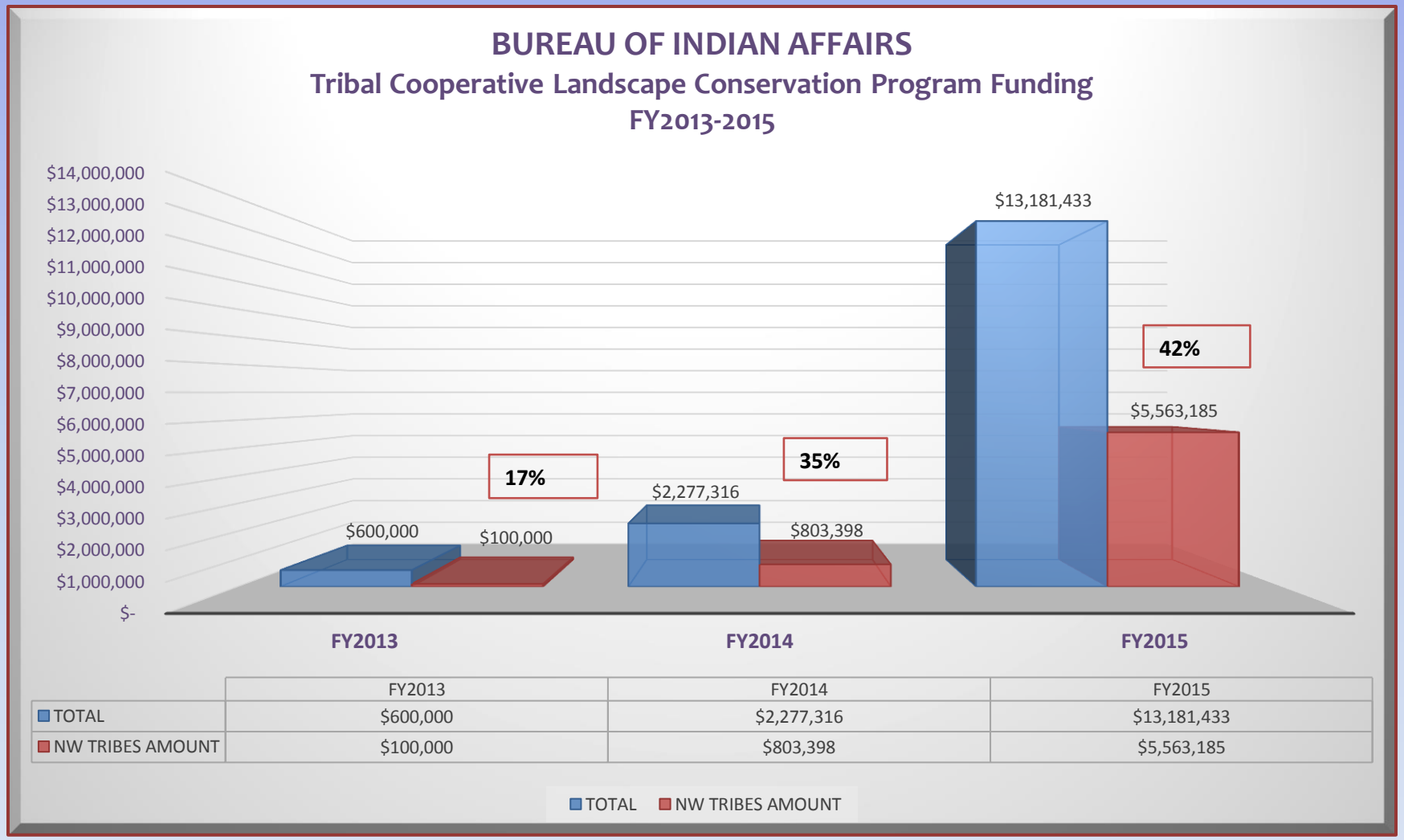


7 Tribes (Burns-Paiute, Shoshone-Paiute, Paiute-Shoshone, Spokane, Kootenai, Kalispel, and Cowlitz) and UCUT have not completed any vulnerability or risk assessments to date, primarily due to a lack of funding.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Impacts Assessments & Adaptation Plans

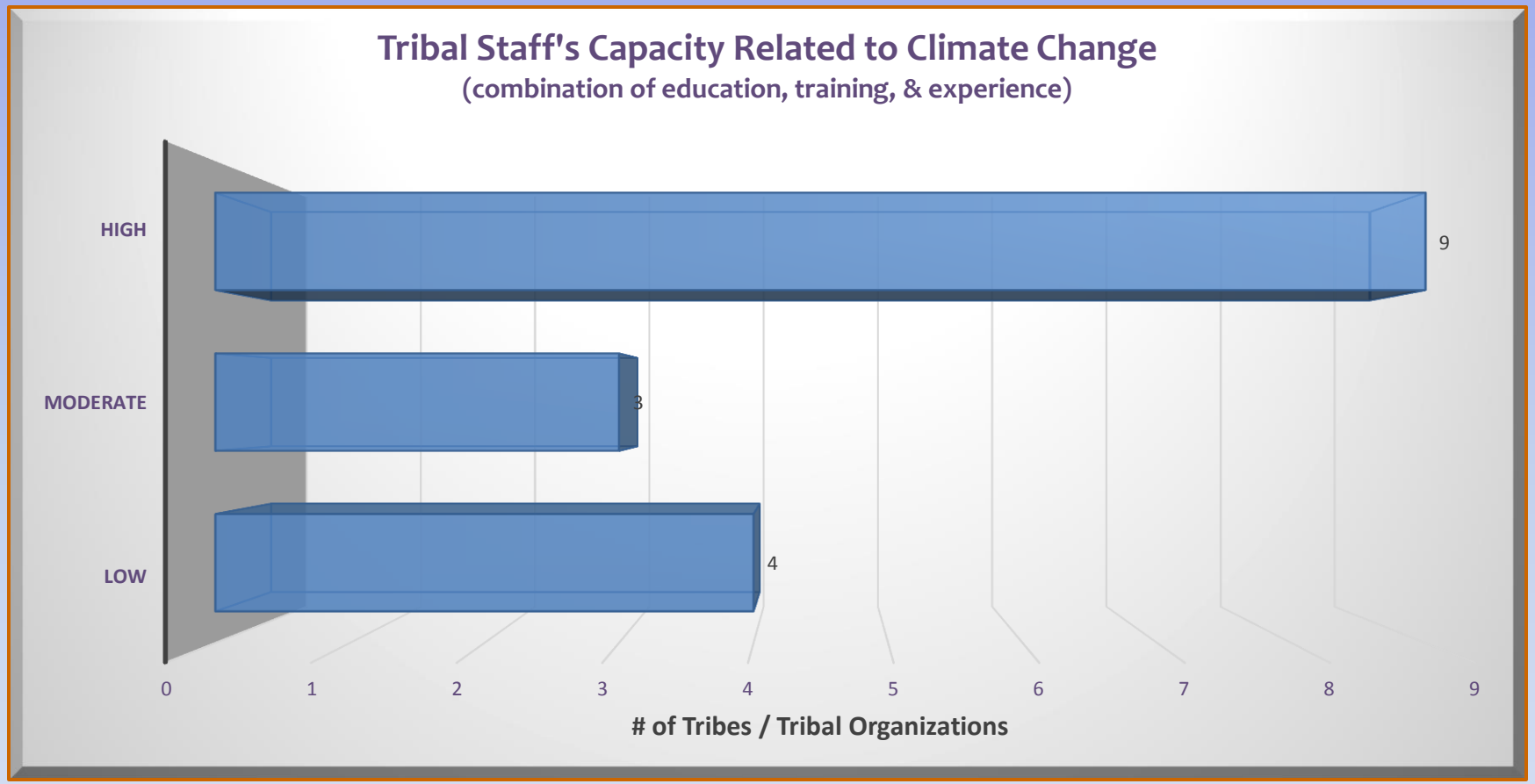
1. **Salish-Kootenai Tribe** – "Salish-Kootenai Climate Change Strategic Plan" (completed 2013), "Tribal Collaboration to Address Climate Change in the Crown of the Continent" (in development)
2. **Nez Perce Tribe** – "Clearwater River Sub-basin Climate Change Adaptation" (completed 2011)
3. **Coeur d' Alene Tribe** – "Climate Change Impact Assessment Project"
4. **Colville** Tribe – "Develop Climate Adaptation Plans, Vulnerability Assessments, and Data Analysis"
5. **Yakama Nation** – "Climate Adaptation Plan: Technical Analysis and Planning for the Future"
6. **Umatilla Tribe** – "CTUIR Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and Implementation Strategy"
7. **Warm Springs Tribe** – "Vulnerability Assessment for the Warm Springs Reservation"
8. **Shoshone-Bannock Tribe** – "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan for the Fort Hall Reservation"
9. **Upper Snake River Tribes** – "Collaborative Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment"

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Funding - BIA



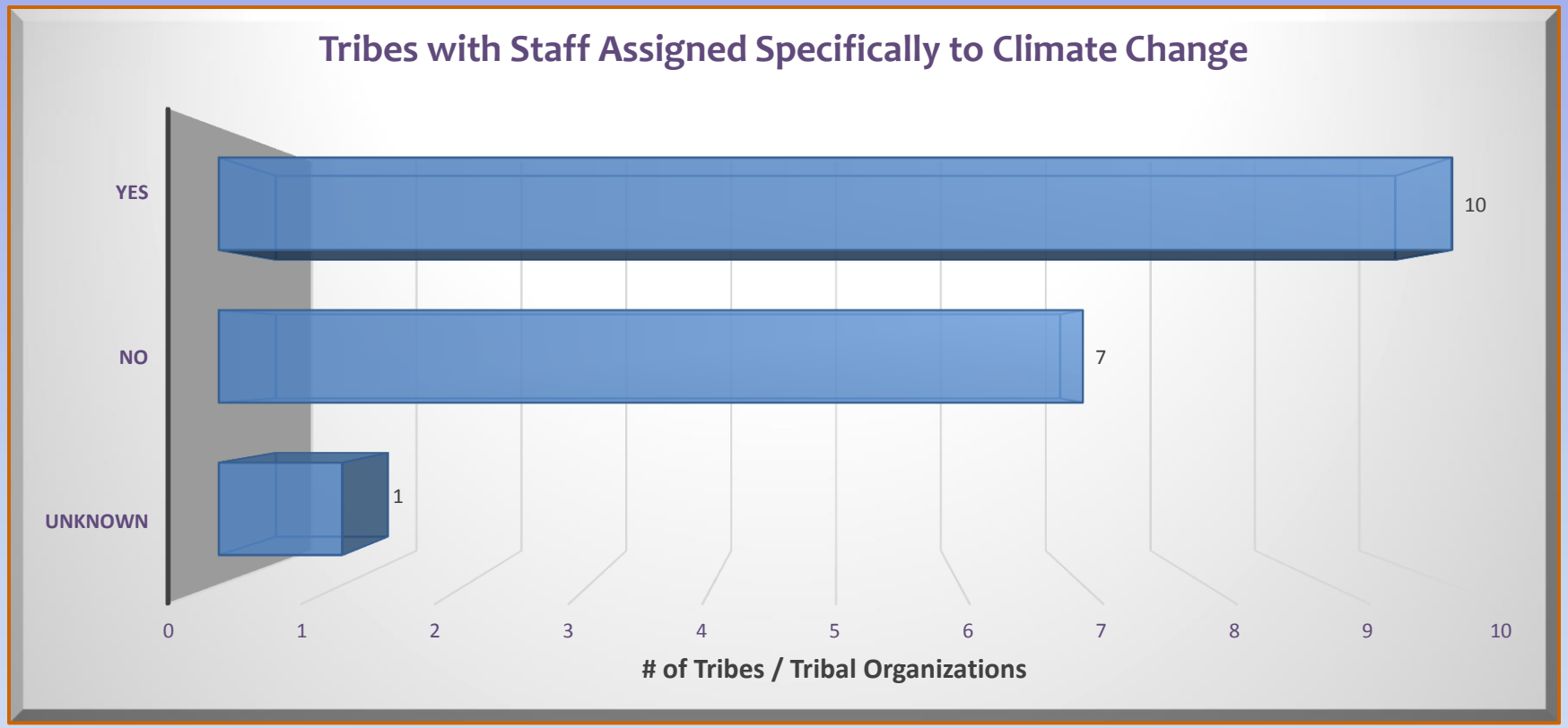
	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
TOTAL	$600,000	$2,277,316	$13,181,433
NW TRIBES AMOUNT	$100,000	$803,398	$5,563,185

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Staff Capacity



Cowlitz Tribe: ***"We currently have qualified staff. One problem is that we are a grant based department with little funding at this time to dedicate current staff on this endeavor"***

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Staff Capacity & Funding

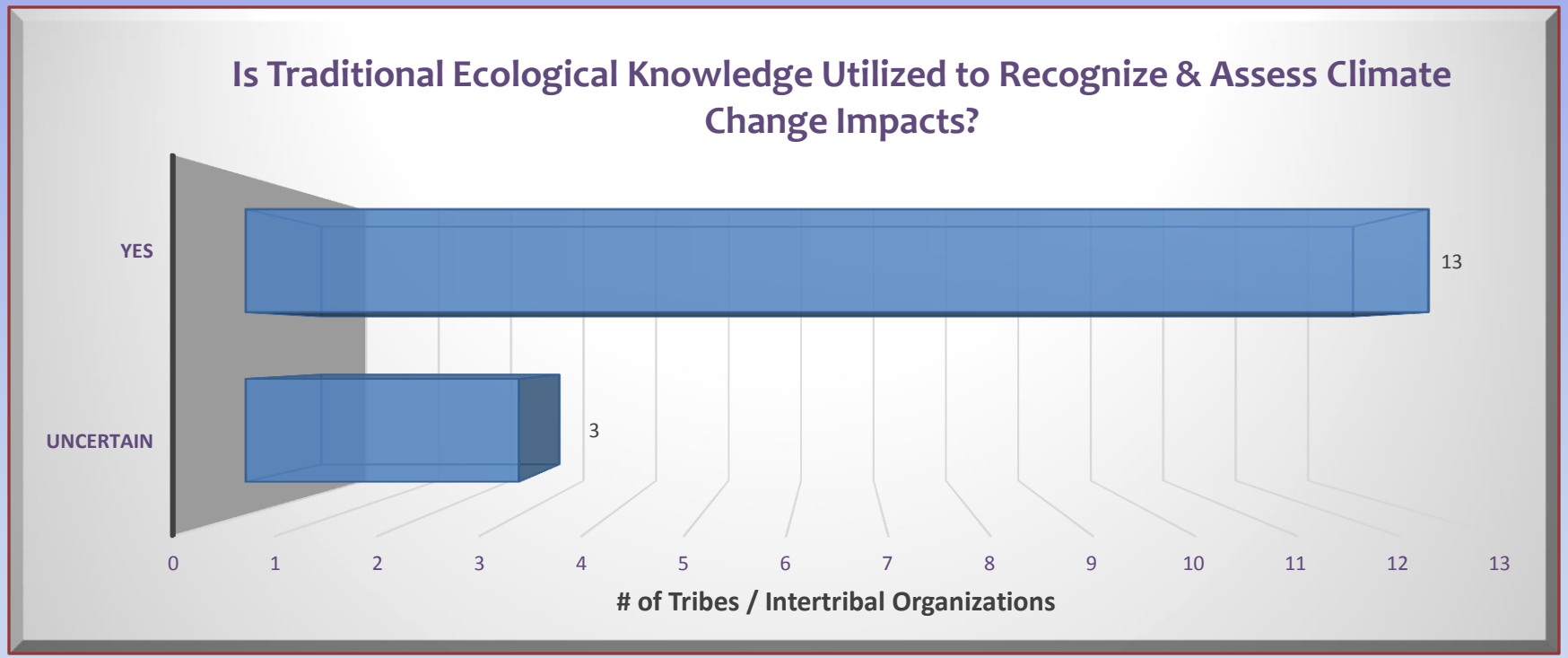


Securing stable funding for each the Tribes or Intertribal organizations to have a dedicated staff person to lead climate change planning will be an important strategy to improve Tribal planning capacity as well as engagement in regional and national climate planning forums.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Training & Technical Support Needs

- Learning from other Tribes who have developed climate impact assessments or adaptation plans;
- Training on climate vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning;
- Documenting and incorporating TEK;
- How to effectively conduct outreach and engagement of tribal communities;
- Downscaling of climate models to analyze their local resource impacts;
- Basic climate change planning education for Tribal leaders, community members, and non-natural resource department managers.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change – Traditional Ecological Knowledge



UCUT states, "*the Tribes have sensed the effects of climate change in the root gathering, berry picking, salmon fishing activities in all of their lands. The behaviors are dramatically different than the "normal" variations that the elders have experiences over the centuries*".

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment– Recommendations

1. **Protect natural resources and first foods**
    a. **Key Impacts** include water quality and quantity, fish and habitats / passage, forests and wildlife preparedness, Columbia River hydropower operations, range, wildlife, and habitat
    b. **Capacity and Resources** include the development of comprehensive vulnerability and risk assessment, adaptation plans, and effective strategies to implement climate actions plans to protect these important resources.
    c. **Treaty Rights Executive Order, and Trust Obligations:** Federal and state resource agencies must work with Tribes to develop collaborative and strategic approaches to address legal, institutional, research, and management actions and polices to restore natural and cultural resources protected by treaty rights, executive order, and trust obligations that will be impacted by climate change.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment– Recommendations

2. **Increase funding and staffing** for climate planning and climate forum participation, analysis and research, infrastructure, and building tribal staff capacity.

   a. **Federal Funding**: Lack of dedicated funding and staffing has been the primary limiting factor for tribal awareness and engagement in federal, state, tribal, and local government agencies climate change planning efforts.

      - Nine of Tribes or Intertribal organizations estimated their climate change funding needs for the period 2016 through 2020. The minimum funding need for those 9 Tribes and Intertribal organizations **exceed $30.5 million over the next five years**. Additional climate change funding will be needed for the remaining six Tribes (Kootenai, Paiute-Shoshone, Salish-Kootenai, Shoshone Bannock, Shoshone-Paiute, Spokane).

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Recommendations

b. **Specific Needs:** Seven Tribes (Burns-Paiute, Shoshone-Paiute, Paiute-Shoshone, Spokane, Kootenai, Kalispel, and Cowlitz) and UCUT have not completed any vulnerability or risk assessments to date, primarily due to a lack of funding.

c. **BIA**: CRITFC recommends that within BIA an Office of Climate Change Adaptation be established that will facilitate information sharing and support for the tribes in the following areas, and as needed:

- Establishment of a consistent funding stream to sustain tribal capacity building for climate-related activities;
- Climate change vulnerability assessment; and
- Climate Change Adaptation Plans

3. **Increase education and outreach** to the Tribal community and within Tribal government on the causes and impacts of climate change, vulnerability and risk assessments, utilization of TEK in climate planning, and climate adaptation strategies.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment– Recommendations

4. **Improve partnerships, training and technical support, and effective regional coordination with federal, tribal, state agencies, and other organizations** to improve cooperating agencies/organizations ability and willingness to work with the Tribes and develop comprehensive plans, climate change data, research, and analysis.

    a. **Tribes learn from each other**: The capacity to address climate change varies by tribe. It is important Tribes learn from each other, especially from Tribes who have developed climate impact assessments or adaptation plans;

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Recommendations

b. **<u>Partner organization support</u>**. The 15 Tribes and 3 Intertribal organizations identified the **Pacific NW Tribal Climate Project, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional (ITEP), Northwest Climate Science Center (NW CSC), and the North Pacific, Great Northern, and Great Basin LCC's, and ATNI** as external organizations with the expertise, training resources, data, and analytical capacity to support them in climate resiliency planning and capacity building. These partner organizations can help increase Tribal climate change capacity and resiliency by:

    1. **Providing training on climate vulnerability and risk assessments and adaptation planning**, propose **common formats** for developing those plans, and innovative strategies to fund implementation of those plans;

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Recommendations

2. Tribal models for **documenting, preserving, protecting, and incorporating TEK**;
3. How to effectively conduct **outreach and engagement of tribal communities;**
4. **Downscaling of climate models** to analyze their local resource impacts;
5. Provide access to **data and tools**, and develop or disseminate guidance to support Tribal decision-making; and
6. **Basic climate change impacts and planning education** for Tribal leaders, community members, and non-natural resource department managers including workshops, community conferences, informational videos and brochures, etc.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Recommendations

- It is recommended these organizations **meet with each of the respective Tribes and Intertribal organizations to develop action plans** to provide specific training, technical support and climate modeling analysis and data.
- NW CSC (and North Central CSC) **provide more specialized expertise, analysis, and support** to the Tribes or Intertribal organizations who have **completed or are now developing vulnerability assessment or adaptation plans**.
- Tribes or Intertribal organizations that have not developed vulnerability assessments, the respective **LCC's, ITEP, the NW Tribal Climate Project, and ATNI** should **provide webinars, workshops, and outreach strategies as a first step** to help prepare them to conduct vulnerability assessments.
- **Improving outreach** to Tribes, **funding participation (travel)**, and increasing the level of Tribal and Intertribal organization engagement in each of these forums will help improve Tribal and interagency collaboration.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Recommendations

- The **Columbia River Basin Tribes CRT Coalition** could **serve as a forum** for cross-tribal collaboration to address **Columbia River Basin-wide policy and technical issues related to climate impacts**.

- **Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (**ATNI) provides important region-wide Tribal policy level events including the Tribal Leaders Summit and three ATNI conventions each year. ATNI could serve to provide a regional forum to **coordinate and promote climate change policy issues** with the 15 Columbia River Basin Tribes and 3 Intertribal organizations as well as **address national and international climate policy.**

- **Northwest Climate Science Center** (NW CSC) has a specific Tribal Engagement Strategy which identifies opportunities to support tribal, state, and federal agency collaboration. Will soon recruit a tribal Climate Extension Support Liaison who will work with Northwest tribes to identify priority climate information and knowledge needs of tribes and develop relationships with partners to address those needs.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment - Recommendations

- **NW CSC** - Develop **data and information sharing protocols** which respect sensitive Tribal data and TEK while also meeting grant reporting and project deliverable requirements. The **Intertribal representatives to the Executive Stakeholder Advisory Committee (ESAC)** of the NW CSC will also need **to increase outreach** to the Columbia River Basin Tribes so they better use the various services of the NW CSC.
- **North Pacific, Great Northern, and Great Basin LCC's** It is recommended that to more effectively utilize these LCCs in **coordinating Columbia River Basin Tribes climate issues**, the LCC Tribal representatives and the 15 Columbia River Basin Tribes and 3 Intertribal organizations **should convene semi-annually**.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment – Recommendations

- **LCC Governance** - The **Tribal/First Nations Committee is a unique component** of the governance structure of the NPLCC as compared to the Great Northern and Great Basin LCC governance structure where this Tribal/First Nations standing committee does not exist. **This model of Tribal participation in the governance and decision making of the NPLCC has established an effective Tribal/First Nations engagement strategy** that the Great Northern and Great Basin LCC's should adopt to improve Tribal engagement and effectiveness, as well as providing equitable representation and recognition of sovereign status of Tribal governments.
- **NW Tribal Climate Change Project, ITEP, and ATNI** should more closely coordinate on the dissemination of climate change resources, profiles, publications, and collaborate on developing specific training opportunities to meet the needs of the Columbia River Basin Tribes and Intertribal organizations.

Columbia River Basin Tribes
Climate Change Capacity Assessment - Recommendations

5. **Effectively engage Tribal leadership and executive management** in Tribal climate change planning efforts in order to improve coordination and get support for climate planning, adaptation, and management actions.
6. **Address Tribal, community, and individual health** related to climate change by identifying and demonstrating the potential impacts to individual and community health and incorporating this information into climate adaptation strategies.
7. **Utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge.** The Tribes and Intertribal organizations should clearly identify a strategy and process on how to best incorporate TEK in their climate change assessment and adaptation efforts including, but not limited to:
    - Local-scale expertise
    - A source of climate history and baseline data
    - Formulating research questions and hypotheses
    - Insight into impacts and adaptation in communities

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