

Building Resilience Against Smoke and Heat (BRASH)

Sue Sullivan

November 8, 2023

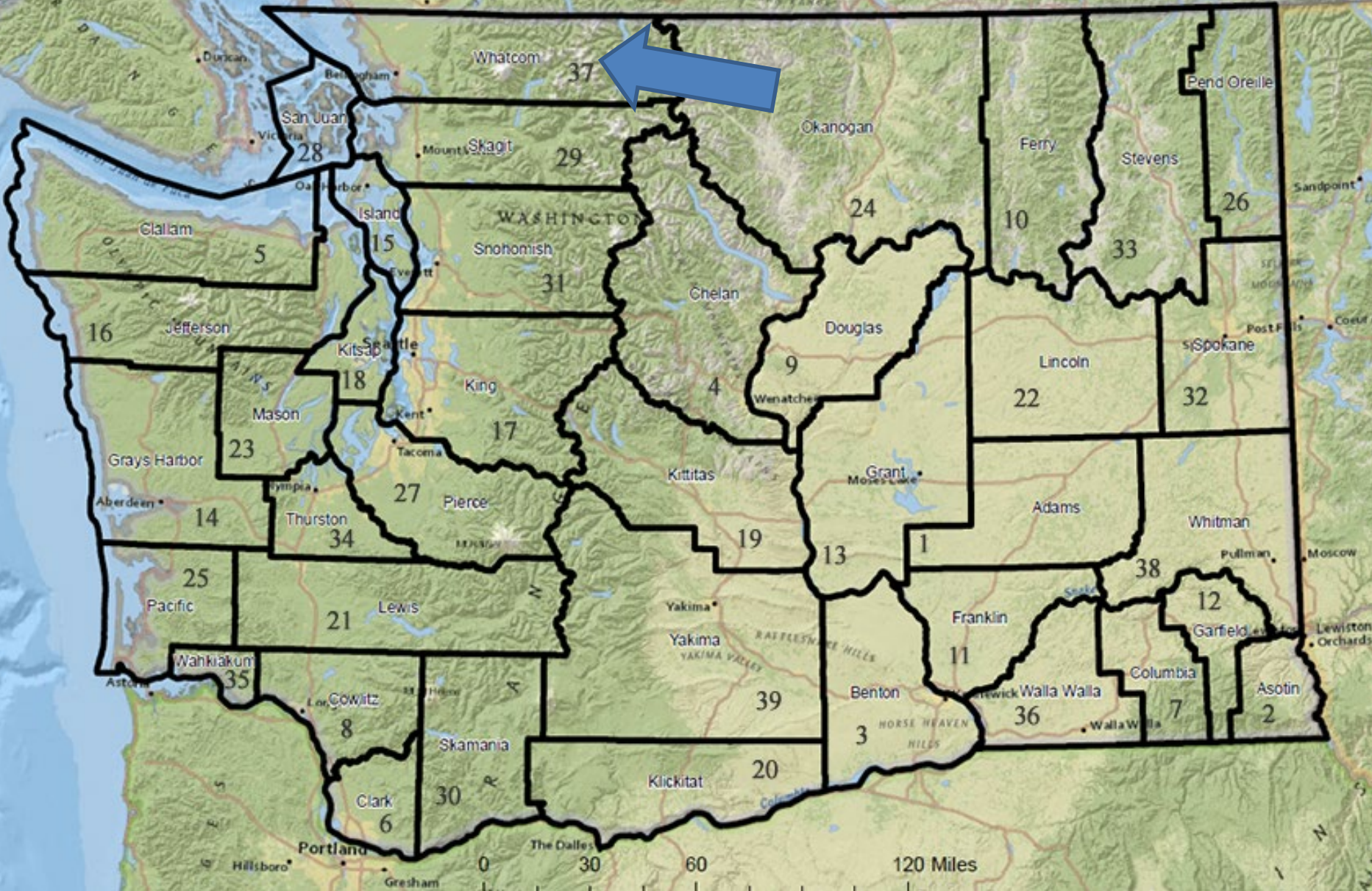
WA State Board of Health



WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



Washington Counties





Environmental Health Division

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Whatcom County, is shown. The city is almost entirely obscured by a thick, greyish-white haze or smoke that fills the sky and the lower atmosphere. Only the silhouettes and some details of buildings and structures are visible through the haze. The overall tone is somber and atmospheric.

BRASH: Building Resilience Against Smoke & Heat

Identifying public health impacts of extreme heat and wildfire smoke
on residents of Whatcom County

BRASH Goals

- Engage frontline communities
- Build lasting relationships and partnerships
- Operationalize equity in County's climate planning work



Project Planning



Steering Committee



Project Planning



Qualitative Assessment

Identification of stakeholders

- Frontline communities
- Local government organizations
- Community partners

Community Engagement

- Focus groups and stakeholder interviews

Project Planning



Quantitative Assessment

Evaluate 3 components of vulnerability

- Exposure
- Sensitivity
- Adaptive capacity

Development of Story Map

- Engaging narrative and accessible display to communicate results to the public



BRASH TIMELINE

At-a-glance

DATA & EVALUATION

Identify specific areas at higher risk for smoke and heat. Conduct asset inventory.

2023

Sept to December



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hold several community events and collect input

23-24

October to Feb.



ESRI STORYMAP

Compile and present existing spatial data, including maps, photos, stories

23-24

Nov.- March



FEEDBACK

Connect with stakeholders and steering committee on final report draft

23-24

Dec. to April



CLOSURE AND PHASE II

Present final report including recommendations to Council, plan for implementation phase

2024

April and Beyond





Phase II: Infrastructure, Program and Policy Development



Thank you

WHATCOM COUNTY
HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES